

Griff takes time out to care for mum

CHARLIE Griffin says he will prove he is good enough to play professional football again when he has taken time out to care for his mother who is seriously ill.

The striker was released from his Wycombe contract six months early after his loan at Conference club Forest Green Rovers was brought to a premature end.

He was sent back to Adams Park by new Green boss Jim Harvey who has brought his own players in and his Wycombe contract has also been cancelled by mutual consent.

Griff now plans to take time out to be with his mother.

He said: "I need to be close to my mum at the moment."

He has got the offer of a trial with a League Two club near her home but he could put that on ice at the moment.

He said: "I know I can score goals in League Two and hopefully one day I will get the chance to come back and play against Wycombe. I will always have fond memories of the club and its fans. They were very good to me when I had my head injury and I would love to get the chance to go back and play a game there."

Fola's double

FOLA Onibuje scored twice as Wanderers chalked up their first win in their Pontins Holiday League campaign.

The new recruit from Swindon Town also laid on Wanderers third goal for James Faulkner in a 3-1 win.

It made it three goals in two games for former Great Britain sprinter Onibuje. The ex-Swindon man, who has signed on an 18-month deal also notched the winner last week to see off the challenge of Aylesbury United in the Berks and Bucks Cup.

Blues assistant manager Steve Brown was delighted with his performance.

He told Wanderers official website: "Fola had his best game in a Wycombe shirt. He was outstanding."

Wanderers also used the match to run the rule over two trialists from Championship clubs.

Nineteen-year-old Norwich keeper Joe Lewis appeared in goal with QPR's 20-year-old full back Matthew Hislop also turning out.

Ref blamed for Batista madness

BOSS Paul Lambert has blamed the referee for Ricardo Batista's sending off at Wrexham on Saturday.

The Portugal U21 shot stopper was red-carded for booting the ball at a section of Wrexham fans during Saturday's 2-0 win in North Wales.

The keeper, who has been away on international duty this week, flipped after seeing team-mate Stefan Oakes laid out by a two-footed lunge from Chris Llewellyn.

Wanderers apologised to Wrexham for Batista's actions but Lambert has not publicly condemned him and yesterday deflected the blame to the ref instead.

He said: "The tackle on Oakes instigated the whole thing."

Mooney signs on

WANDERERS skipper Tommy Mooney has signed for the FA as one of their columnists.

The 35-year-old's first article appeared on the FA.com website this week and in it he talks about the emergence of Jermaine Easter.

International status won't change Easter

MANAGER Paul Lambert says international status won't change star striker Jermaine Easter.

The 25-year-old striker made his Wales bow against Northern Ireland on Tuesday when he was called off the bench for

the final 20 minutes of the 0-0 draw.

Lambert said: "I'm delighted for him. It is terrific that he got picked, terrific that he came on and terrific that he earned his first cap."

"But I don't think it

will change him. He is not that type of lad."

And Lambert, a former Scotland international was delighted to see him get his chance against Lawrie Sanchez's side at Windsor Park.

"He fully deserved his

chance and it will have given him a great boost.

"Last year people were telling me that he was struggling but this year he has scored at every turn."

"I told him he had to use his strengths which

are getting in behind people and using his pace and his strength which are great assets."

"He has worked well with Tommy Mooney and learned a lot from him and a lot of his goals are because of Tommy."

Wales' new-boy wants to build on the experience



Above: Jermaine Easter's international career gets underway as he replaces Wigan's David Cotterill and below the Wycombe man revels in his surroundings as he shields the ball from two Northern Ireland players and right goes on an attack



**Wanderers
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JERMAINE Easter won his first Welsh cap on Tuesday and then vowed to make himself a permanent fixture in John Toshack's squad.

The 25-year-old Wycombe hotshot made the step up from League Two to international status when he came off the bench for the last 20 minutes of Tuesday's friendly international against Northern Ireland which finished 0-0.

Now he is hungry for more after his Belfast bow.

He said: "It was a great honour to get my first cap and to play with players like Craig Bellamy, Ryan Giggs and Jason Koumas."

"I enjoyed the whole thing massively and I want this to be the start of something for me. I don't just want one cap, I want to win more."

Easter earned his call-up on the back of a 21-goal rush for Wycombe this season and is now targetting a place in Wales' next squad for the European Championship qualifiers against The Republic of Ireland and San Marino.

He said: "I really want to be there for those games. It meant so much to me to pull on that Wales shirt. I was so proud for myself and for my family but I know the only way I can do it again is to keep scoring the goals for Wycombe – and if I keep doing that hopefully I will stay in John Toshack's plans."

The Cardiff-born hotshot had to wait until the 70th minute to get his chance at Windsor Park.

He said: "It flew by when I was on the field. I was itching to get on. I wasn't nervous I just wanted to get off the bench and on the pitch."

But he admits he was nervous as he walked into the team hotel for the first time on Sunday.

He said: "When we were having lunch I was on a table with Ryan Giggs and I thought Jesus Christ what is all this about. But Giggsy welcomed me to the squad and I got more relaxed as the week went on."

And Easter paid tribute to his Adams Park strike partner Tommy Mooney as he celebrated winning his first cap.

He said: "Tommy has been massive for me. I have learned such a lot from him and I will continue to learn from him."

"At the start of the season I couldn't have dreamed all this would happen to me. It was so far off that I didn't even think about it."

The Wales new boy had just one goal chance on Tuesday when Bellamy slipped the ball through to him but he was offside.

