

Misfit striker fires his parting shots

FOLA Onibuje launched a swipe at boss Paul Lambert after finally ending his unsuccessful Adams Park career last week.

The striker who had his contract paid up by mutual consent after making just one start claims he was squeezed out of the club and told he'd never play for them again.

He is now on trial at Blues' League Two rivals Shrewsbury.

The lanky Nigerian U23 international says he wishes he had never left Swindon to pen an 18 month contract at Wycombe.

The former Great Britain sprinter says he never felt he was in Lambert's plans and believes it was coaches Steve Brown and Keith Ryan, who have subsequently been sacked, who drove his transfer last January.

He accused Wycombe of not giving him a chance and feels that he and the club's other New Year recruits are unfairly paying the price for Wanderers' failure to win promotion.

He said he knew the writing was on the wall long before he was left out of Blues' pre-season training camp in Germany and left to train alone with Leon Crooks.

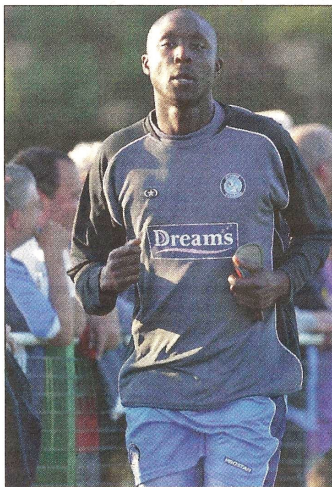
And his patience snapped last week when he discovered Wanderers had blocked Shrewsbury's bid to take him on loan.

He said: "Wycombe didn't want me but they wouldn't let me go out on loan.

"I knew I had to get out. I asked if we could come to an agreement and it was mutually agreed to terminate my contract."

"There was no point in doing anything else. It was clear I was wasting my time.

"He [Lambert] told me if I stayed I wouldn't play any games, not even reserve games. It got to the stage where I had to leave. I could have sat there and taken the money for the rest of my contract but it was pointless. I just wanted to



On his way: Fola Onibuje

get away.

"I scored six goals in seven reserve matches last season but I knew whatever I did in the reserves or in training wasn't going to make any difference.

"When I signed I understood that Tommy Mooney would need resting and that he'd be

coming off in games and not travelling to some away games and that I'd be taking his place.

"I cannot put my finger on what went wrong but it never seemed as though I was in the gaffer's plans.

"I think it was more Brownie and Rhino that were behind signing me. I don't think the gaffer ever really fancied me.

"The new signings were supposed to help the club push for promotion, but we weren't played."

Lambert did not want to be drawn into the inquest.

He said: "He's not a Wycombe player any more. It's immaterial what he says, it doesn't bother me. The most important people at the football club are the ones in the dressing room now.

"Fola knew the situation. The reason he didn't go to Shrewsbury was that they only wanted him for a couple of months. He could have gone there and got injured and then we would have had to pay someone who got injured at another team."

Shrewsbury boss Gary Peters is now running the rule over him.

He said: "He has kept phoning me to see if he can train with us. He's not got a club so we've said we'll have a look at him. I know him from when he was at Preston as a kid. He has still got a bit to learn but can be a handful.

"He's different to what we've got. He's 6ft 7ins and very quick. It's unusual to get those two attributes together."

Onibuje began his career at Preston North End, and also played for Huddersfield Town, Barnsley, Peterborough United, Cambridge United, Swindon Town, and Brentford before joining Wycombe but has only got 35 starts to his name.

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