

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH RON BARNETT

We've been here before

Our disappointing opening match of the new season developed into a microcosm of last season.

A bright and promising first half that gradually turned into an abject second half display. Just like last season when we began like automatic promotion candidates, only to run out of ideas and finish looking more likely to be flirting with the other end of the table.

A continuing problem with all recent Wanderers teams has been the rapid draining of confidence whenever they failed to score in their long periods of domination.

This happened on Saturday when we couldn't find a way through the Accrington defence. Although they defended well, our lack of pace and penetration up front was evident.

Jermaine Easter was certainly missed and it now appears we could well be missing his services on a permanent basis. A number of clubs have his name on their shopping list and providing the price is right, the club cannot afford to decline the money. Although, finding another proven goalscorer, with his pace, won't be easy or cheap.

Paul Lambert appears to have made some decent signings and should have the ingredients to make a good team, but the real test will be how quickly he can find the recipe for a winning team. With so many new faces it's going to take a little time, but hopefully not too long.

On a positive note, the midfield quartet of Bullock, Bloomfield, Holt and Torres seemed to gel very quickly and looked a well-balanced unit. All he has got to do now is to get the strikers scoring and stop the defence conceding from set pieces. I

The long trip to Plymouth turned into a short and sweet appearance in this season's Carling Cup. Given the effect the long cup run had on our league form last season, this may not have been a bad result.

It was very sad to hear about the death of ex-Wanderers and Marlow player Steve Thorne, aged only 48. I remember playing alongside Steve, and his elder brother Roger, when he was a teenager just starting to play for Beacons Bottom in the Wycombe Senior League.

