

BAKER'S BLUES

WITH IAN BAKER

Bloomfield sets the standard

AN hour after Wycombe clawed themselves back from the dead last Saturday I bumped into Man of the Match Matt Bloomfield at Dagenham East tube station.

Dressed in Wycombe Wanderers tracksuit and accompanied by a striking female, it is not usually the way modern day footballers return from matches.

But Bloomfield seems to go against the grain – the most hard-working player in the side deserved a luxury limousine to take him home that night, not a dirty London tube. Bloomfield seemed to cover every blade of grass, defence, attack, midfield and out wide. He was everywhere – perhaps doing jobs others should have been doing.

I praised him for his performance and pointed out he deserved a few drinks. His reply: "I don't know about that." A typically professional answer from a very professional player, Bloomfield deserved to do the Monopoly Board Pub Crawl on his way home. His performance certainly contributed to getting Wycombe out of jail.

The rest of the Blues' starting line up at Dagenham need to have a look at themselves. Their performances were certainly not up to scratch. But Paul Lambert got it totally wrong with his tactics too. I can't understand why he decided not to play any full backs or wingers and play two diminutive forwards.

Lambert signed three left sided players in the close season and not one of them was on the bench. His team selection seemed nonsensical and so it proved. Fortunately Bloomfield and substitutes Sergio Torres, Martin Bullock and John Sutton were able to correct the selection mistakes by performing admirably.

But make no mistake, Wycombe were lucky. They deserved nothing out of a game against a side who had little skill but worked hard and were up for it.

It could prove to be a vital comeback. Wycombe would be in the bottom two at the moment if it was not for the two late goals, which must have done wonders for confidence.

Wycombe versus Bury does not sound like a big game on paper but it is now massive, with the Blues still looking for their first win since March. Nothing less than three points will do.

Ian Baker is on the Board of Wanderers Supporters Trust. For details about the Trust and how to join see www.wvst.org

