

BAKER'S BLUES

WITH IAN BAKER

What a change in a fortnight

A lot of football managers are judged by how lucky they are. John Gorman, on the face of things looked an excellent manager who everyone respected, but I cannot think of much success he has had on the pitch.

Lawrie Sanchez may not be regarded as one of the club's best managers by many but he was certainly one of the luckiest – with the right results in our survival season of 1998-99 and the 2000-01 cup run. Lucky results have continued at other clubs.

Paul Lambert most certainly has had his fair share of luck while at Wycombe Wanderers. Whilst last year's Carling Cup was an amazing achievement, the club most certainly had all the luck in the world – last minute equalisers, extra time wins and penalty shoot-outs.

What a difference a fortnight makes. With the pressure on Lambert, Wycombe have ground out two excellent victories. I'd expect Brentford and Macclesfield to be in the top half of the table so to come away with six points without playing to our best is excellent.

It is the old cliché – to win titles or to challenge for promotion, sides need to win when they are not playing to their optimum. And without playing particularly well yet this season, the Blues find themselves in eighth place.

I still cannot understand some of Lambert's decisions such as continuing to play Sam Stockley at left back with Tom Williams and Craig Woodman available. Wycombe continue to look a bit lightweight up-front with Scott McGleish and Jermaine Easter not really causing giant defenders many problems. John Sutton and Reuben Reid certainly contributed to Wycombe's second goal against Macclesfield.

Our next two games at home to Shrewsbury and away at Bradford could potentially decide our season. It is a strange thing to say with less than a fifth of the season gone, but these could be pivotal. Four points would give the players the believe they can challenge for promotion.

Wycombe will have to be at their best now. But the new players are starting to gel and things are getting better. We just need Lady Luck to continue to smile on our Glaswegian leader.

Ian Baker is on the Board of Wanderers Supporters Trust. For further details about the Trust see www.wlost.org.

