

BAKER'S BLUES

WITH IAN BAKER

Blues are the new Arsenal

One-nil to the Wanderers. Wycombe have ground out two fantastic 1-0 wins over promotion rivals in recent weeks and any more 1-0 victories may cause Wanderers fanzine One-One to change its name.

Have those victories over Rotherham and Rochdale been entertaining? Certainly not. But I couldn't care less. They've been extremely effective with Paul Lambert and his side learning the lessons of previous weeks and the Bury game in particular. Everyone would much rather win in style every week but that just does not happen. Give me the result over the performance any day.

It has been our fantastic defence that's partly responsible for the strong recent form. I'm not sure if they have got the credit they have deserved. The biggest compliment you can pay Russell Martin, Craig Woodman, Leon Johnson and David McCracken is that goalkeeper Frank Fielding has had little to do in 2008. Johnson and McCracken have continued the excellent central defensive partnership that is making the life of Mike Williamson, and very soon Will Antwi's, very difficult.

I said it at the time and I say it again, the embarrassment at Stockport in December could be such a key moment in Wycombe's season. After conceding six goals in one game, the Blues have conceded just nine goals in the next 15. A quite incredible record.

True, Wycombe have not done quite so well further up the field, but I think it is time to acknowledge how well the defence has played since Christmas in particular.

So can we do it? At the risk of tempting fate, I think Wycombe should be assured of a play-off spot at the very least – providing we do not get complacent. With four of the final 12 games against the top four, there is every reason to believe that the Blues still have a great chance of automatic promotion if they can continue the promise of recent week.

Every game remains big from here on in, starting with tomorrow's trip to Lincoln City, a happy hunting ground for the Wanderers.

I'm sure I speak for every Blues fan when I wish Lincoln boss Peter Jackson all the best. Saturday's game is Jackson's last before he starts radiotherapy on his throat cancer. It puts football into perspective.

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

