

LAMBERT DEFIANT DESPITE DEFEAT

Own goal casts Wycombe ten points adrift

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert is refusing to write off his team's hopes of automatic promotion despite Russell Martin's own goal in Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Hereford United casting them ten points adrift.

His team have got just eight matches left to try and muscle their way into the top three and snatch the last guaranteed promotion berth, which is currently occupied by United.

But Lambert, whose team repeatedly defied the odds to reach the Carling Cup semi-finals last year, says they can do it again.

Lambert said: "Until someone tells me mathematically we can't do it we will still strive for it.

"There isn't any part of me that thinks we can't do it. I'm not a negative person.

"I always think we can win and I will keep believing we can."

Martin's own goal - headed in from a free kick by former Wanderer Clint Easton - proved to be the only difference between Wanderers and The Bulls on Saturday.

But what a difference it made. Wanderers began the day knowing that if they won they could

have trimmed the gap between the two teams to just four points but instead they are now ten points behind United, who even have a game in hand.

Lambert said: "We never deserved to lose that but you can't legislate for an own goal.

"Whether he had a shout or not he should have done better with the header and he knows that.

"We have got to pick the boys up again and I have never had a

problem with that.

"They have always responded brilliantly and they will do it again.

"Until someone tells me we can't go up automatically I will believe we can because the way we are playing we are certainly capable of winning games."

But although Wanderers fell to their second successive away defeat, the performance of new-boy Chris Herd on the right flank was a major boost.

Lambert only signed the 18-year-old on a one month loan deal from Aston Villa but he illuminated Wycombe's performance and proved that he has got what it takes to be a major boost for Wanderers.

Lambert said: "He only met us a few hours before the game but he was excellent with his drive and enthusiasm.

"He was driving with the ball and making things happen.

"We have got him for a month and he can play a big part."

Twisting the knife: Ex-Wanderer Clint Easton, seen here beating Gary Holt to the ball, sent over the free-kick which Russell Martin headed into his own net



LEAGUE TWO

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P	S
MK Dons	37	10	3	5	31	12	14	3	2	35	16	78	
Peterborough	38	12	4	3	41	17	12	2	5	30	19	78	
Hereford U	37	9	4	5	28	16	13	3	3	33	20	73	
Darlington	37	11	6	2	31	13	10	3	5	27	14	72	
Stockport	37	7	5	6	32	26	12	3	4	30	22	65	
Wycombe	38	11	4	4	24	12	7	5	7	23	24	63	
Rotherham	38	10	3	6	32	25	7	7	5	21	20	61	
Chesterfield	38	7	6	6	32	24	9	3	7	30	24	57	
Rochdale	35	5	3	8	19	22	11	5	3	36	23	56	
Morecambe	37	8	4	6	25	26	7	4	8	23	26	53	
Grimstey	38	7	5	7	24	26	7	5	7	25	24	52	
Brentford	38	6	4	9	21	28	8	3	8	22	29	49	
Bradford City	36	7	3	8	24	26	6	5	7	25	23	47	
Lincoln City	38	7	3	9	25	30	7	1	11	21	28	46	
Accrington	38	6	1	12	19	34	6	2	9	23	36	45	
Shrewsbury	37	8	4	7	28	21	3	3	10	20	33	42	
Bury	38	5	9	24	28	6	4	9	25	28	42		
Barnet	35	6	5	7	24	25	5	4	8	14	23	42	
Chester City	38	4	3	12	16	27	7	4	8	28	34	40	
Dagenham	38	5	5	9	23	27	6	2	11	18	33	40	
Macclesfield	38	3	7	9	21	30	5	7	7	19	29	38	
Notts County	37	3	4	10	16	23	21	5	14	22	36		
Mansfield	36	4	2	12	22	31	5	4	9	17	23	33	
Wrexham	35	5	5	9	13	24	3	3	10	14	24	32	