

Pictures: ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL

Sometimes you have to back your ability

FOR cynical fans of modern day football and footballers, Danny Spiller is a refreshing change.

The midfielder is playing for nothing and if his future in the game depends on his form in the next few weeks it doesn't show.

On Tuesday he marked his Wanderers debut with a Man of the Match performance but despite the circumstances his first thought was about the team.

He said: "It's nice to get a bit of recognition out of the game, but I don't know if it really counts on a 4-0 home defeat."

Spiller is in a situation worlds away from the mega earners that strut through the

Premiership. He is without a contract, travelling from Kent to train and play for Blues without any compensation – yet he counts himself lucky for the opportunity.

He said: "With the recession, work is hard to come by at the moment, even in the football industry."

"There are a lot of players out of contract and this is my way of trying to earn a contract."

"I've never had to play for nothing before, but sometimes you have just got to back your own ability and have some belief in yourself and if this is what I've got to do then I'm happy to come down to Wycombe."

"It's nice the manager has given me an opportunity to come down here. There are a lot of midfielders here and he didn't have to do it so I appreciate everything he is doing for me."

"Hopefully I can repay him a little and if there was something for me here at the end of it I'd be delighted."

"I really like Wycombe so it would be nice if it was here, but if there is no room and I have to go elsewhere obviously I'll have to do that."

After an injury-plagued spell at Millwall, Spiller was looking for a club this summer and despite the unusual

circumstances, he jumped at the chance to come to Adams Park.

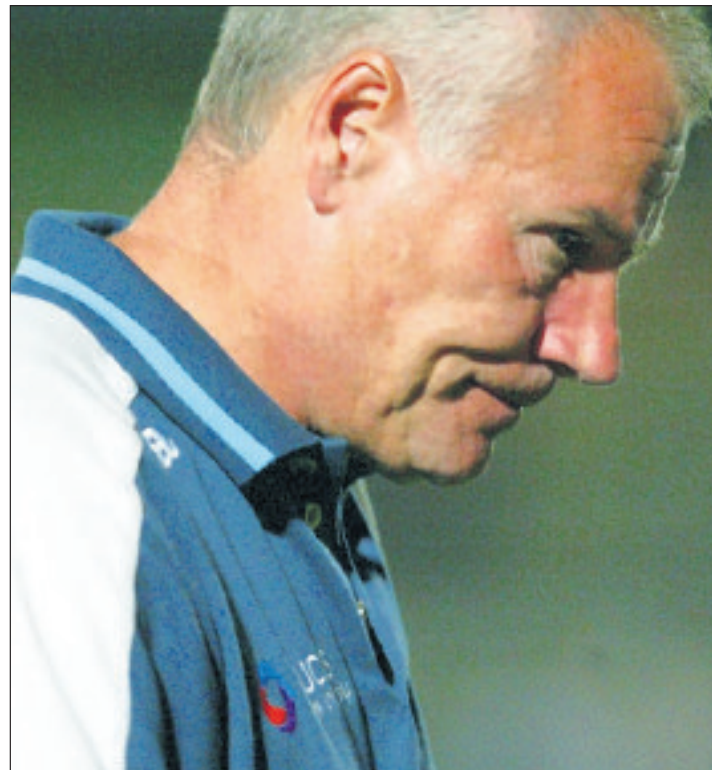
He said: "It wasn't a difficult decision at all. As soon as my agent had spoken to Peter Taylor and he said there was 45 minutes for me at Bristol City I couldn't get on the bus quick enough."

"And I've had a great week so far. The boys have been very welcoming and it's nice to be playing under Peter Taylor again. He was my manager at Gillingham and while I was there I used to clean Junior Lewis' boots as well."

"It's nice to be involved with a few old faces that have helped me in my career."



League One is as tough as it is ever going to be



TOUGH TEST: Peter Taylor know how competitive League One is this year

ON the eve of tomorrow's visit from Leeds United and just six days after playing Charlton Athletic, Blues boss Peter Taylor has admitted that League One will never be tougher than it is this year.

He said: "I've been fortunate enough to get a couple of promotions in this division but I think this year League One is as tough as it's ever going to be."

"I can't believe Charlton Athletic are in League One. I can't believe Leeds are in League One."

"It just shows you that you can't stand still. It's going to be a test for us. It's going to be a very, very tough division but hopefully we hang in there."

Wycombe will feel the full force of it in the opening month but Taylor says his players are not daunted by reputations.

He said: "That's one of the reasons we were so pleased to get into League One."

"We know what an exciting division it's going to be. I hope people really enjoyed the atmosphere on Saturday against Charlton. It was very different to last season and I think against Leeds it will very different again."

"They are a fantastic football club and there will be a tremendous atmosphere here."

**Wanderers v Leeds
Adams Park
Tomorrow, 3pm**

There is no doubt about that.

"I think the fans will enjoy it and hopefully they can come up with a nice bit of banter because I'm sure the Leeds fans will."

But after losing to Charlton and Peterborough in the opening days of the season, the timing might not be good to be welcoming one of the biggest clubs in the country.

Taylor is not worried.

He said: "The confidence is fine. On the ball we've done some good things."

"We are creating more this year than we did last year, so that is a positive. In open play on Saturday we created a few and tonight [against Peterborough] we created a few."

"I've deliberately rested a few bodies and there will be some fresh legs now for Leeds."

"There is no problem. I'm very confident we will put in a good show and hopefully we can take some points."

[Read the match report of Blues v Leeds after the final whistle at bucksfreepress.co.uk](#)

Play-offs on

MICHAEL Duberry insists he is still confident Blues are play-off material after the first two games of the season.

He said: "I'm even more confident we can reach the play-offs. Charlton are supposed to be one of the stronger teams in this league and we showed we can compete and we can play."

"If that's the benchmark for this League then the play-offs aren't an unrealistic prospect."

"We just have to get some continuity and make sure we get points from good performances."

"I think we can take great pride from our performance at Charlton."

"The only thing we want to do is start better. If we do that it gives us a much better chance over 90 minutes rather than starting half an hour into the game and being 2-0 down."

Injury blow

MATT Bloomfield, below, faces an uncertain period on the sidelines after suffering a broken nose and fractured cheekbone in an aerial challenge with Peterborough's Charlie Lee on Tuesday night.

The midfielder will need an operation now, and manager Peter Taylor is not sure when he will be back.

He said: "It's not good. I didn't think the fellow should have gone in for that. I thought he was never going to win the ball."

"I'm not saying he went in to smash Matty, but it was a poor decision to go in for it."

Meanwhile, right back Adam Smith could return for Leeds after picking up a dead leg against Charlton last weekend.



Manager believes his defence has a case to answer

PETER Taylor has told his defenders to get their act together after seven goals conceded in two games, three of which have come from set-pieces.

Speaking after his side shipped four to Peterborough, the manager said: "The things we did wrong defensively against Charlton we did wrong again tonight."

"We conceded from a corner again. They got the first touch from the corner on about three occasions and we've got to defend that better."

"If we don't put that right we're going to concede from a lot of set-pieces."

And Taylor refused to blame the change in personnel at the back.

He said: "I don't think it makes a difference. If you are marking someone from a corner you have got to mark him."

"It might be how certain individuals are marking and I'm not sure we're giving ourselves enough chance to get the first ball."

"I haven't complained about the work rate. I haven't complained

about some of the things on the ball. I've just complained about the defending."

"Whoever starts on Saturday has got to be much better at defending set pieces."

"It is basics. It's not drastic what is happening, but there are little areas where we can improve on it. A few things have been pointed out just now and we will learn from that."

Defensive lynchpin and captain Michael Duberry says they will sort out the errors.

He said: "I don't think the goals reflect our performances over the two games."

"I think it reflects that we've started slow and sloppy and certain aspects of our game needs work."

"But in general there are a lot of positives. It's two games in. If it was 20 games in and we were doing the same things then you've got a problem."

"There are things that need fine tuning but it's good it's happened so early in the season."