

'You rise to it, if you crumble they win'



**Wanderers
by Alan Feldberg**

BLUES captain Michael Duberry will shield his team from much of the venom from the away stand when Leeds United arrive in Wycombe tomorrow.

As many as 2,000 away fans are expected to pack into Adams Park for Wanderers' first home game in League One this season, and Duberry expects to bear the brunt of their vitriol.

The former Leeds man said: "I know I'll get a hostile reception, but that's part and parcel of football.

"I'll deal with it. I've had it before and it will give me the strength to do better.

"I will get more stick than other players, but I'm captain of this team and my role doesn't change whether it be Leeds, Southampton or Charlton we are playing.

"My responsibility is to lead this team to victory."

Duberry says Leeds are famous for giving ex players a rough ride, but the centre back expects the Yorkshire fans to reserve an extra

decibel of derision for him.

In 2001 his then Leeds teammates Jonathan Woodgate and Lee Bowyer were among four men charged with causing grievous bodily harm and affray after fighting with Sarfraz Najeib.

Duberry gave evidence against Woodgate, his best friend and centre back partner at the time.

He said: "There are chants to do with situations in the past, but it stays on the terraces.

"There is nothing too personal and for me you can do that all day. It's an added incentive and I'm looking forward to it.

"The last time I played Leeds it was at Elland Road and it was my birthday. I got a bit of hot reception from a packed Elland Road, but we [Stoke] ended up winning 4-0.

"You rise to it, if you crumble then they win so my aim is to rise to it and as long as the chants stay within reason then I actually think it's good for football.

"I enjoy it. I hope they do it and I hope our fans respond."

But Duberry will have enough to worry about within the white lines. He will be charged with marshalling arguably the most deadly striker in the division in Jermaine Beckford.

The Londoner has scored 49 times in 74 starts for Leeds and scored both goals in their 2-1 win over Exeter last weekend.

Beckford missed Tuesday's Carling Cup win at Darlington with a knee injury, but is expected to be fit for Adams Park.

Duberry said: "I'm looking forward to the game. You always want to pit yourself against the best and Leeds have some decent players so it will be a good battle. It will be a good test for us as individuals and a benchmark for us as a back four."

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