

# Shear hell for Scott as Smith finally ends his brave resistance

FORMER Blues boss Paul Lambert brought Scott Shearer to Wycombe and then spent most of Saturday wishing he hadn't as the glovesman produced save after save to frustrate Lambo's new side Norwich City.

It looked as though Shearer's saves were going to earn the Blues a hard-earned point until Corey Smith finally broke his resistance with a 77th minute goal which handed the Canaries a 1-0 win.

Lambert said: "Scott Shearer was excellent. I thought he was going to frustrate us today because of some of the saves he was pulling off."

Lambert went straight up to the keeper afterwards to congratulate him on his performance but kind words were no consolation to the Glaswegian after Blues' third defeat on the spin.

He said: "I'm gutted we lost



**NOT THROWING THE TOWEL IN:** Scott Shearer was Man of the Match against Norwich but it wasn't enough

and being the Man of the Match is no consolation.

"I just feel sick and so do all the lads because we put so much into that game.

"It was probably my best game for the club but it doesn't

mean anything because we have lost again and I don't think we deserved that."

It was double agony for Shearer who had looked set to keep a welcome clean sheet after conceding nine in the

previous two games.

He said: "I thought it was going to be one of those days when I wasn't going to be beaten. I had made some good saves and was feeling very confident."

Shearer and his stubborn defence, which included new signing Adam Hinshelwood, blunted Grant Holt who had scored five times on a previous visit to Adams Park while also denying former team-mate Russell Martin twice and namesake Chris Martin on three occasions before teenager Smith finally beat him.

Shearer said: "It was the worst feeling in the world when that went in."

And it gets even tougher this weekend as Shearer and his side travel to League One leaders Leeds United, who knocked Manchester United out of the FA Cup at Old Trafford on Sunday.

# Blues face battle to keep Davies

by DAVE PETERS

WANDERERS face a battle royal to keep hold of on-loan Reading midfielder Scott Davies – even though the Royals say they don't want him for their relegation battle.

Royals caretaker boss Brian McDermott has told the 21-year-old that he will be using experienced players as he bids to steer the Berkshire men to Championship safety and not rookies like Davies who has spent the last three months on loan at Adams Park.

He has told Davies that he would be happy for him to continue his footballing education away from the Madejski.

But while that may sound like the green light for him to stay at Wycombe until the end of the season, Davies' performances for Blues have created a flurry of interest so far and Saturday's match at table-topping Leeds could be his last in the Wycombe blue.

Davies said: "I can play at Leeds and then after that we will have to see what happens.

"Ideally I would like to be in the team at Reading but I've got to be realistic and at the



**HEADING AWAY:** But will Scott Davies end up at Wycombe?

moment that's not going to happen.

"With the mess they are in at the moment they are going to go for experience and I'm going to have to accept that.

"I would love to play a part in it and try and get them out of the trouble that they're in – but people have been honest with me and I appreciate that and hopefully I can crack on elsewhere."

Davies says he is happy at

Wycombe but admits that there is also interest from elsewhere.

He said: "I will have to see what comes up and then a decision will be made from there.

"If it's a loan deal it's a loan deal or if it means moving to another club permanently so be it."

Davies is contracted to Reading until 2011 and any permanent deal would involve a compensation fee.

He said: "If I have to move to

carry on progressing then I don't mind."

Davies would not disclose which clubs are showing interest but he says he certainly hasn't ruled out Wanderers.

He said: "Playing under Gary Waddock and Martin Kuhl appeals to me, they have been superb for me but I will have to wait and see.

"I will have to sit down and see what January brings."

Blues chief Waddock is hoping he can win the race to keep him at Adams Park.

He said: "There is bound to be interest in him because he is a good player. We've got him until after the Leeds game and then we'll see what happens."

If Leeds is his last game, Davies says he couldn't wish for a better farewell.

He said: "My dad is a massive Leeds fan and I have been to a few games up there."

Meanwhile Waddock has warned fans not to expect a sudden influx of players now the transfer window has opened although he is working on one deal.

He said: "We're working towards someone coming in but I may not have any more news this week."

## Minute that changed the game's outcome

GARY Waddock was left cursing a 60 second segment where Wanderers went from almost winning Saturday's match against Norwich City to losing it.

Blues' Matt Phillips saw his 66th minute shot hit the post and bounce back into the arms of City keeper Fraser Forster.

Then, within a minute later the Canaries went down the other end and snatched victory through Corey Smith's strike.

Waddock cursed: "Things are not going our way at the moment. "But we didn't take our chance when it came. "If Matt Phillips hadn't hit the post and the ball had gone in it would have been a different game. "Matt did everything right. And if you are top of the league those go in but when you are where we are they don't run for you."

"Everybody is devastated not to get anything out of the game because they worked extremely hard."

But the gaffer was encouraged by the gritty response his team showed after Christmas 4-0 and 5-2 defeats against Yeovil and Brighton.

He said: "There had to be a response from the players and, credit to them, they did that. "There were a load of positives for me. They showed the commitment I am looking for in the position we are in."

"We are frustrated but we have to soldier on. We can't feel sorry for ourselves and we have to get on with it and look forward to the next game."

"We've got to roll our sleeves up and fight and scrap again."

"We are not going to lie down and die." Waddock believes Norwich are certain to go up but that was no consolation to him afterwards as Blues finished pointless for the third game in a row.

## Betsy back at Southend

KEVIN Betsy was back training with Southend United yesterday after his loan spell at Adams Park came to an end after Saturday's defeat against Norwich – but Blues haven't given up getting him back again.

Boss Gary Waddock said: "We're in discussions with Southend over a permanent or loan deal."

Disappointed Betsy said: "The loan is up and I've got to go back."

"Everyone knows how much I love Wycombe but nothing has been done yet so I am going back to Southend where I will fight for my place."

Negotiations between the two clubs have been going on for two months with nothing sorted.

Betsy said: "I'm disappointed. I wanted to come here permanently in the first place but nothing was done in time then and I had to come on loan."

## Fans disappointed me

FORMER Blues boss Paul Lambert slammed the Wanderers fans who jeered him on his first return to Adams Park.

The Norwich City chief who led Blues to a League One play-off semi-final and a Carling Cup semi-final said: "I was disappointed with Wycombe's reaction but that's the nature of the game."

"We did great when we were here [Wycombe] and I was disappointed to hear some of the chants that went on."

"I did everything I could to give this club [Wycombe] success. I had a brilliant time getting to the semi-finals of the Carling Cup."

And he had a little dig back at the Wycombe fans who jeered him as the Norwich travelling contingent of 2,000 fans swelled the Adams Park gate to 7,171.

He said: "Without them this place would have been empty. Our fans were terrific."