

I HAVE COME TO SAVE THE BLUES

Manchester United keeper swaps shootouts with Rooney for relegation scrap

WANDERERS
By Dave Peters

MANCHESTER United reserve keeper Tom Heaton says he has joined Wanderers on loan with one intention – to keep the Blues in League One.

The 23-year-old glovesman, who was part of United's 24-man winning squad for the 2008 Champions League Final in Moscow, made his debut in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Brentford after joining on loan until the end of the season.

And he says he had no hesitation swapping Old Trafford for a relegation scrap.

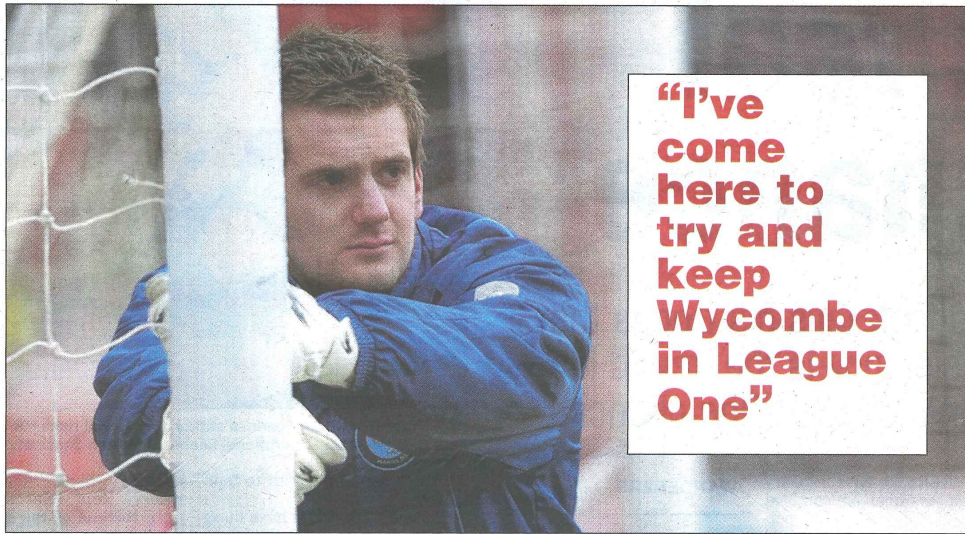
He said: "Make no mistake I have come down here to try and keep Wycombe in League One."

And, after trying to keep out Wayne Rooney every day in training, facing up to League One strikers holds no fear for the England U21 international.

He said: "It's nice to have that in the back of your head, that you've been facing people like Rooney in training and it gives you a bit of confidence."

But the ambitious shot-stopper, who has had previous loans at QPR, Cardiff, Swindon and Rochdale, craves first team action.

He said: "I've had some great experiences at United. I was part of the squad that went to Moscow and won the Champions League. I didn't make the bench but I was sat in the stand and it was a fantastic experience being in the



LEAN ON ME: Tom Heaton has taken over the gloves at Adams Park after joining on loan from Manchester United

dressing room afterwards.

"But I want to be playing. You want to be out there at 3 o'clock on Saturday and I am looking to play every game."

"I'm ambitious. I feel I can play at the highest level and if I can help keep Wycombe in the division it will be another string to my bow."

"The manager believes they can do it and from what I have seen so far there is every reason to believe we can."

The keeper exuded confidence on his debut but could do nothing about Myles Weston's 75th minute equaliser.

And afterwards the keeper tipped Blues to beat the drop.

He said: "If I am honest I expected to be busier. When you join a team that's second from bottom you think you are going to have a lot to do."

"But the defence was brilliant. I think we've got a real chance of staying in the division and I want to help them do that."

BLUES SIGN READING DEFENDER ON LOAN: PAGE 47