

Harris follows in the footsteps of Phillips

KADEEM Harris won the League Two Apprentice of the Year Award at the 2011 Football League Awards on Sunday night.

The 17-year-old followed in the footsteps of former Wanderers Matt Phillips – now starring in the Premiership with Blackpool – and Ikechi Anya, who have both secured the award in the last five years.

Harris, the youngest player to represent Blues in the Football League, fended off competition from Oxford United's Aaron Woodley and Aldershot Town's Henrik Breimyr to land the prize.

On winning his award Harris said: "I am chuffed to bits. I was playing Sunday League football in West London last year and now to be up in front of all these people is a dream come true.

"I have gone from the bottom of the ladder to here and I am enjoying it. I would like to thank everyone at Wycombe for their help and support."

One of the judges, Tom Dart, said Harris was "a strong candidate whose dedication comes through in his coaching qualification and off pitch contributions".

He added: "Kadeem is a role model to all."

Players eligible for the award are those in the second year of their apprenticeship and judges looked at the player's educational attainment, disciplinary record and any other outstanding achievements.

Wanderers won the League One equivalent last season after Pietro Palladino walked off with the prize.

Delighted youth team coach Richard Dobson said: "I'm extremely proud to have two winners and a run-

By Andy Carswell

ner-up for the Apprentice of the Year award in the last three years.

"Kadeem's success again this season is testament to his hard work and endeavours, and I hope he can follow in the footsteps of our previous winner, Matt Phillips.

"I hope Kadeem uses this recognition as a catalyst to drive forward in his career with the confidence that he is the best in the country at his level of football."

Meanwhile, Wanderers captain Gareth Ainsworth missed out on winning the League Two Player of the Year gong, which went to Bury striker Ryan Lowe.

Before Sunday night's ceremony Ainsworth said: "I'm just really proud to be nominated and dedicate it to my team-mates.

"It's the first time I've been up for player of the year in a division. I've made the division team a couple of times before but never been up for an award like that.

"I'm in great company with Ryan Lowe and [fellow nominee] Adam Le Fondre, they are fantastic professionals."

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