

WANDERERS: Boss admits 'top strikers' are out of reach

Finite funding puts dent in promotion hopes



Gareth Ainsworth.

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Gareth Ainsworth has admitted that limited resources to bring in attacking talent may prevent the club from reaching this season's League Two play-offs.

While the Blues boss has never wavered from his original objective this season of 61 points, Wycombe currently sit two points outside the play-off positions with 13 games to play.

Wycombe's 37 goals scored is the lowest of any of the top 18 teams in League Two and the club has want-

ed for a regular scorer throughout the season.

Paul Hayes, Garry Thompson and Max Kretschmar currently make up the Blues' attacking options and Ainsworth confessed after the defeat at Cambridge United that the lack of a consistent finisher may lay between his side and an end-of-season play-off push.

"You have got to pay for top strikers. Your Jamie Curetons and Jay Simpsons are top players. The Barry Corrs of this world are out of our reach and that is why we make tar-

gets," he explained.

"You look at strikers here at the Abbey and there are players on more money than I could imagine paying.

"That's why we make these targets which say we are not going to get promoted or finish in the top three because it will be a real struggle.

"Let's give ourselves realistic targets, 61 points was 12th place last year and after nearly going out of business two years ago that is a realistic target."

Despite the clear desire to stifle

expectations in a season which is becoming increasingly tight – just three points separate Leyton Orient in seventh and Cambridge in 12th – Ainsworth is, of course, allowing himself to be hopeful of making the final cut in May.

He said: "If we can get ourselves a bonus after that [reaching 61 points], brilliant.

"It is really tight around the play-offs which is great for us, but there are plenty more teams under pressure to get promoted and we are not one of them."