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Glamour of the cup — and a week of glory for Wanderers



And juvenile jubilation after the game.

IT HAS been a week that will be recalled and debated with relish by Wycombe Wanderers' fans so long as football is played.

As the topic of the week, the glamour of the F.A. Cup banished all other preoccupations as the Wanderers, in the third round of the national competition for the first time in their 90-year history, confounded all the pundits — and their own manager — by holding the first division championship challengers Middlesbrough to a goalless draw at Lookes Park, after outplaying the professionals for most of the game.

And in the replay, with a home draw against Sunderland as the prize at stake, the astonishing Wanderers all but made it, only a last-minute goal giving hard-pressed Middlesbrough victory after a thrill-packed game.

'Magnificent Wycombe' was the sporting tribute of the 30,000 Middlesbrough crowd in an unprecedented demonstration after Tuesday night's match.



That cup-tie feeling at Lookes Park on Saturday.

Free Press For



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Jack Charlton presents the Bucks Free Press 'Killer Cup', specially donated to mark the Wanderers' F.A. Cup achievements this season, to Wycombe manager Brian Leo, while the 'Free Press' glamour team look on, just before Saturday's match.

HATS OFF TO THE HEROES!

A PROLONGED standing ovation from the 30,000 crowd acclaimed another heroic display by a hat — Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup third round replay against first division Middlesbrough at Aylesome Park on Tuesday night — when only a last-gasp, last-minute goal saved the professionals from another humiliation.

The frantic cheering from the home supporters as well as from the hundreds of Wycombe fans was a well-deserved tribute to 'magnificent Wycombe', whose great-hearted display again confounded the critics and put the professionals on the rack before the dramatic goal in the 90th minute ended the epic.

After the drama and triumph of the Wanderers' achievement in the first game at Lookes Park on Saturday, more than 800 Wycombe fans flocked by plane, coach and car to Middlesbrough to back the Blues' second-chance bid — to be rewarded with another pulsating encounter in which the professionals had to fight all the way.

And back in Wycombe it was 'Hats off to the heroes' when the Wanderers, who had flown up to Tescote from Heathrow on Monday night, returned by coach on Wednesday morning after their busiest, bravest two games in four days in the club's 90-year history.

Cash boost

'We'll murder them' had been the rash forecast for the replay of Middlesbrough manager Jack Charlton after he had confessed that the Wanderers had 'frightened him to death' in the first game.

But so far from any slaughter of the innocents, the Wanderers, running and challenging with renewed

resolution, had Charlton biting his nails again until the last agonising minutes.

Apart from the glory of achievement, enhancing the Wanderers' reputation as never before, these two games will give a big boost to the club's finances — with something like £6,000 from

After 80 years Saving

The return flight was made to Heathrow — and cars were laid out there by friends at midnight to bring the fans back to Wycombe. Stuart, who works at Rye Engineering, Lancaster Road, High Wycombe, reckons they actually saved money by chartering an aircraft for the trip.

'If we had travelled by road none of us would have been fit for work the next day and we would have lost money there, quite apart from the cost of the journey by road', he said.

He and his pals, including Donald McFarlane, who lives at Grove Road, Sands, teamed up together some years ago on the terraces at Lookes Park.

'In style'

'We feel we owe the Wanderers quite a lot', he said. 'We are all good mates together, and enjoy the matches.' They have travelled to most of the team's away

Watch for details of our **FREE** new reader service — and New Year extra features.

TO MAKE YOUR 'Free Press' even more attractive and helpful we will be introducing an inquiry bureau to give guidance on such problems as finance and tax, social services and consumer difficulties.

In addition there is to be a regular information guide on local services, emergency 'phone numbers, useful contacts and addresses, etc., and, for your leisure interest, a weekly guide to the cinema programmes over a wide area.

All this is part of a progressive policy to supplement the comprehensive news, features, sports and picture coverage already achieved by the 'Free Press', unequalled in its circulation area.

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ARSON CHARGE
THREE boys appeared before Wycombe juvenile court on Monday charged with arson at First Hall Farm, West Wycombe, on Saturday.
Two were remanded under interim care orders until Tuesday.
The third was bailed until February 17 with a surety of £100 from an adult.
With them in court was a fourth boy charged with burglary to the value of £400. He was also made the subject of an interim care order.

MOTORWAY crash hold-up
TRAFFIC on the westbound carriageway of the M40 motorway was held up for a time on Monday afternoon when two lorries were in collision.
High Wycombe firemen, called to the scene of the crash between Louisa St and Hinds Cross, helped to extricate one of the drivers, Mr. Donald Wilde, of Firlongs Road, Pershore, Worcester, who was trapped in his driving cabin.
He was taken to Wycombe General Hospital suffering from cuts and shock.
The driver of the other lorry, Mr. Peter Hudson, of Wixom House, Kidbrooke, London SE3, escaped injury.

Rates — it's 'grim'

MASSIVE cuts will have to be made by committees of Bucks County Council in their draft estimates if the county rate for 1975-76 is to increase throughout the country should be 25 per cent.

Mr. Ravens said that if the rate was not to go up by more than 25 per cent — already a grim prospect for ratepayers — committees would have to chop their estimates by 14 per cent. This means that £10,500,000 would have to be slashed off the total draft estimates of the committees of £75,000,000.

This follows the shock news a few weeks ago that because of inflation and pay awards, the council was not only running short of cash but would be £1,600,000 in the red by the end of the present financial year on March 31.
Since then there have been several more pay awards, including the Houghton Committee award of a 30 per cent rise for teachers, to be backdated to last May. That will cost the council several million pounds for which it did not budget this year and will swell the wages bill of the council in 1975-76.
Said Mr. Ravens: 'A grim prospect faces the council despite careful framing of the draft estimates on the basis of a virtual standstill in services, except where growth is inescapable, as — for example — in Milton Keynes, where families must be provided with essential services.'
'The county council chairman, Mr. James Ireland, and the chairman of the policy and resources committee, Mr. John Routly, have discussed this serious financial situation with the chairman of the main committees and the chief officers.'
'Arising from these discussions the chief officers have been asked to report on the effect on their services if the council was to decide that the rate increase should be kept within 25 per cent.'



A 'Free Press' special four-page supplement on the big match added to the interest at Lookes Park — and here 'Free Press' reporter Lindy Brookling is helping to distribute it — free.

the replay and £3,000 from the first game.

Altogether Wycombe's record-breaking FA Cup run this season should net them not far short of £12,000.

Nine coaches, many cars and several privately-chartered planes carried the 800 Wycombe supporters to Middlesbrough for the replay.

The enthusiasts were determined not to be balked after learning that their hopes for a special train had been dashed — because British Rail could not find sufficient crews.

A British Rail spokesman had explained that laying on a long-distance train re-



The flying fans, all set for their trip for the Middlesbrough replay.

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sizes 12 to 20, from £12.00

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AND on Wycombe Wanderers' F.A. Cup run is finally over. The club, who have recorded a new milestone in their 90 year history, finally bowed out of the competition on Tuesday night at Aylesbury Park, Middlebury. The generous ovation they received from the crowd was a fitting end to four months' football that has captured the imagination of thousands.

Had anyone even mentioned the name of Middlebury on that sunny day at Marlow on September 14 in the first qualifying round, it would have been regarded as nothing but a joke. The Blues, however, worked their way through some marvellous matches to finish at Middlebury, having beaten Bourne and the way.

The club will have reaped themselves a bumper financial reward for their exploits, probably in the region of £2,000 from the nine matches, the bulk coming from Middlebury and Bourne. But apart from the cash, the success achieved by the club itself, Wycombe have also put the town of High Wycombe firmly on the map. They have won praise nationally from many sources as a club — praise that is surely richly deserved.

The amount of work involved with these big cup matches is often taken for granted by the general public who are not aware of the big hand for their efficiency. Every one of the committee and treasurer Roger Lee in particular have put in long hours over the last few weeks, sometimes over six hours a day on top of their normal work. Every member of the club, from the chairman to the stewards and tea ladies, has done a tremendous job.

Wanderers the price of High Wycombe

Wycombe too, are full of praise for the public. They had full cooperation over ticket sales and on the two big days against Middlebury and Bourne.

All in all, Wycombe Wanderers Football Club have done themselves proud. THE Rothmans Isthmian League Council meets this week to decide on the four clubs who are to be elected to competition next season. They have had 24 applications, but Bexley United, the only Southern League club officially to apply, has subsequently withdrawn. They found they faced a £500 fine if they resigned after the end

December and, in addition, there was no guarantee they would be elected. Three other Southern League clubs made tentative inquiries but they came to nothing for the same reasons.

All four vacancies are expected to be filled by Athenian League clubs and the four selections are expected to be: Haringey, Haringey — Harrow Borough, Wembley, Ware, Erith and Belvedere and Chesham.

If this assumption is correct it will cut the Athenians down to 29 clubs and their vacancies in turn will be filled from the Metropolitan League, Spartan and Surrey Senior Leagues. The Spartan has suggested amalgamation but it is extremely doubtful

if this will ever get off the ground. So many of their best clubs have left in recent years that the Athenians could even decide to have only two divisions of 16 clubs, leaving only three vacancies to be filled.

AYLESBURY United F.C.'s secretary, Mr. R. E. Collins, has invited George Best, once the idol of the Manchester United fans, to invest money into the local Athenian League Division Two club. Mr. Collins wrote a letter to the Daily Express inviting Best to become involved in the club, which has had its ups and downs this season.

In the letter the Aylesbury secretary states that the club has enjoyed success in the past to the extent of playing Watford in the first round of the F.A. Cup in the 1950's. He rounds off the letter by saying that this can be achieved again if the club receives his financial support.

Things were looking up for Aylesbury during the close season when former Everton striker Paul Bates took over as manager. But the season was only three weeks old when Bates was given the sack because the first team made a poor start to the term.

The first team, however, have been enjoying a good run in the league recently but this came to a halt when Bates was given the sack. The team, however, have been enjoying a good run in the league recently but this came to a halt when Bates was given the sack because the first team made a poor start to the term.

Onlooker's Diary



The final whistle has gone and the fans stream on to the pitch to congratulate the Wycombe Wanderers players for holding Middlebury to a goalless draw in the F.A. Cup third round tie at Loakes Park on Saturday.



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Hithercroft pay penalty

Hithercroft Colts 1, Glory Mill Colts 2. After the interval, play became scrappy but once Gerald Dowling had hit the equaliser for Hithercroft, the visitors were put under heavy pressure. However, Glory Mill clinched the result when a shot by Eugene David was only parried by the home keeper and Jack Robinson followed up to tap the ball home.

Searle Colts made an easy start to the year in their under 13 match when they thrashed Great Kingshill 8-0. The Colts were always far quicker on the ball and their midfield three of Langley, Burgess and Walker were outstanding. Searle scorers were Hill (2), Burgess (2), Findlay, Crowley, Walker and Carvey.

In the under 12 section of the league, Loudwater crashed to a 6-1 home defeat against Searle Scorpions. If Glasgow was in tremendous form for the home side and produced their only consolation when scoring in the closing minutes.

Loudwater were under pressure for most of the first half and trailed to goals from Kenney and Sloane. After the resumption, they came over into the pitch but the goal and added further goals through Newman, Roberts, Shrimpton and Kenney.

Bourne End Juniors were involved in two matches in the Slough Boys Combination over

Tanco Sports 0, St. Johns 5.

THE superb finishing of Twiggy Bowler tore Tanco Sports defence apart when St. Johns romped to an impressive 5-0 away victory in the Wycombe League Division One on Saturday. Bowler practically took on the home side as he rattled in all five goals to maintain his side's unbeaten record and push them into second place.

In the first half the Saints, who are the only unbeaten side in the league, were made to struggle against their lowly placed opposition. However, a brilliant solo goal by Bowler broke the deadlock to give the visitors a 1-0 advantage at the break.

Early into the second half, the Saints' prolific goal poacher continued the rout. Bowler completed his hat-trick with two more well taken goals and then near the end of the match he pounced on two defensive errors to punish the now demoralised home side.

half substitute, made full use of his short time on the field by bagging a hat-trick.

Glory Mill made a good start and after 45 minutes were leading 3-1. They kept up the pressure in the second half, using the width of Riborough's big pitch and found the net with considerable ease to record their best win of the season.

Three other scorers were Victor Rockell (2), Des Clarke and Peter Stammers.

SENIOR SECTION After being held to a goalless draw at home to Wycombe United on Thursday, Flackwell Heath travelled to Henley Town on Saturday and notched an impressive 4-0 triumph. The Heathens were held for the first 30 minutes and were fortunate when a shot by Henley's Malcolm Spiers rolled just wide of the upright.

Wags had of recording their second successive league victory. Chinnor scored twice in the first half, once in their own net to leave the teams all square at the break, but Wags were bemused in the second half to record a 2-1 reverse.

Stone United emerged as Ser Green in the first half with accurate passing and superb running from their forward line. Ser Green never recovered from this pounding but offered more resistance after the interval and eventually went down 0-2.

PREMIER DIVISION Prestwood's depressing run continued when they suffered a 2-0 defeat away to Sands Rovers. Defences were on top for most of the game but it was Sands who looked more dangerous in front of goal. Billy Gallacher and Colin Cooper both had good chances for Prestwood before they conceded two goals in the last 15 minutes.

PREMIER DIVISION A goal by Worley in the dying minutes of the match gave Hithercroft Rangers a 2-1 success at Penn and Tylers Green. Penn took the lead against the run of play when they made the most of a poor back pass and then both sides hit the woodwork before Stallwood struck the equaliser.

after the resumption but they failed to capitalise on the many chances they had.

Ken March grabbed his 12th goal of the season for Stallwood Wags Res but he still failed to stop his side slipping to a 3-2 defeat. Ser Green's goalkeeper Ser Green, who now take over the league leadership, Malinowski and Robert Cross both hit the lead before Chalfont hit back with a penalty, appropriately converted by Mick Stone. Pat King made it 3-1 before March netted his late goal.

Chalfont Wags 'A' lying second in Division Four, slumped to their third defeat on the trot when they were crushed 5-0 at home to Tully. Pleading a goalless draw, Tully's defence was superb and they dominated the second half and scored further goals from Bates, Lansdown, Atkins and Barnard.

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Booker Rangers 2, The Gate 4

AFTER conceding a shock early goal away to bottom club Booker Rangers, The Gate recovered to run out easy 4-2 winners in their Wycombe Sunday Competition, Division One match on Sunday. This result pushes The Gate into second place with a game in hand on the leaders Irish Club.

Rangers' lead only lasted 10 minutes when Graham Whingham put the visitors on level terms by hammering home a glorious 20 yard drive. Before the interval, Dave North put The Gate 2-1 up when he slotted home after rounding the keeper.

A mistake by full back Pat Ryan allowed Rangers to equalise but this error was soon corrected by North who netted his second goal following a Graham Pritchard corner. Geoff Roberts sealed the result for The Gate with a glorious 30 yard shot five minutes from time.

Irish Club maintained their lead at the top of the division with a superb 8-2 crushing of Molins. Again it was Clive Atkins who led the visitors with four goals for Molins, Albert Crabtree was outstanding and was capped for his performance by netting his side's only two goals.

In an even first Irish Club only held a 2-0 advantage in the first half. The visitors' defence crumbled under the onslaught. The rout was completed by a superb strike from Peter Hudson and Kevin Webb.

GREAT FINISH By a tremendous finish by a Spartan Athletic, which included two brilliant goals by Ian Hopson, brought them a 2-2 draw at home to Chinnor Exiles. The visitors' defence also managed to clear a Peter Hopson drive in the dying seconds.

Spartan's wanted side were a goal down after five minutes and before the break Exiles netted again. The home side fought back with great spirit and it was no surprise when they pulled a goal back thanks to a tremendous 25 yard effort from Hopson.

The same player levelled the scores with a magnificent header 10 minutes from time. Mal Bucks Slants hammered their way to a 2-0 victory at home to record a convincing 2-0 win. The home side placed up the table. After the resumption it was one way traffic with the young Saints side dominating the play. Saints scorers were Andy Watkins (3), Phil Robinson (2 penalties), Nick Hall and Dave Clark.

PREMIER DIVISION Lawold Athletic claimed an impressive victory at home to Royal British Legion after a dramatic second half. In the final 45 minutes of the game a goal back to make it 3-2. Keith Lane missed a penalty for Lawold but then his team-mate John Reyer had a goal disallowed. Finally, Lawold made it 3-2 when they scored a goal.

Bruce Jenner took just five minutes to beat Legian in front. And immediately, the home side squared matters when Reyer scored a great shot. Lawold then stepped up their pace and Ray Fisher, who was outstanding, laid on the second goal for Mick McKewon and the home side made it 3-1 just before half time.

The lead changed hands no less than five times during the game. The home side were 4-3 triumph away to D.M.P. in a closely contested match. In front of D.M.P. in front and Worley and Atkins hit the woodwork for Foresters before the break. While levelled the scores before the break.

Midway through the second period the home side regained their advantage when McKnight scored a goal. Foresters 4-3 triumph away to D.M.P. in a closely contested match. In front of D.M.P. in front and Worley and Atkins hit the woodwork for Foresters before the break. While levelled the scores before the break.

RESULTS

Table with 4 columns: League, Home, Score, Away. Includes Football Wednesday, Wycombe League, F.A. Cup, and Football Saturday results.

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Saturday's F.A. Cup highlights



One of the many Wycombe Wanderers' mascots in full 'Blues' colours at Saturday's game.



All set for Saturday's big game. Wycombe Wanderers' skipper Alan Phillips shakes hands with Middlesbrough captain Stuart Boam before tossing the coin. The referee is Mr. A. Porter of Bolton.



Steve Perrin (left) beats Frank Spraggon to set up another Wanderers attack.



Wycombe veteran Tony Horseman leaves Stuart Boam standing as he soars up to head this ball during Saturday's Cup match.



Alan Phillips beats off the challenge of Middlesbrough strikers David Mills (9) and Alan Foggon with Stuart Boam (left) and Graeme Souness looking on.

CUP HIGHLIGHTS

A full page of photographs from Saturday's F.A. Cup third round tie between Wycombe and Middlesbrough. Pictures by Bob Mead, Geoff Gomme and Alan Holmes.



Above: Wanderers' centre forward Keith Searle chases after the ball with Boro' full back Frank Spraggon in the second half. Below: John Craggs (2) attempts to clear from Tony Horseman with Mick Hollifield running into position near the flank.



The two managers, Brian Lee (left) and Jack Charlton before the presentation of the 'Bucks Free Press Killer Cup' donated to the club at Saturday's game to mark their first ever appearance in the third round.



One of Wycombe's top players on Saturday, Keith Mead (right) about to pass back to goalkeeper John Maskell with David Mills giving chase.



The Wycombe 'Kop' who gave their club such excellent vocal support throughout Saturday's Cup tie against First Division Middlesbrough.

Tribute

TRIBUTE to the Bucks Free Press for its sports coverage was paid in a Sunday morning radio interview by Wycombe Wanderers manager, Brian Lee. In a question and answer session on Radio London, a listener asked Mr. Lee what was the significance of the cup presentation before the game, because the crowd noise was so great it was difficult to hear the announcer on the ground. Mr. Lee explained that the cup was given by the Bucks Free Press to honour the club's achievement in the F.A. Cup this year and he added: "I don't know of any other local paper which gives such support and coverage to its local team than the Bucks Free Press."

ACTION FROM AYRESOME PARK



Perched on the TV links communications van at Lookes Park on Saturday, Ron Gristwood (foreground) of Downley with the aerial which "shot" the signal on the first stage of its journey to London. In the background are fellow engineers Dave Fry of Pinner and Eric McLeod of Ruialip.

'Home match' for the technicians

PUTTING London Weekend Television's soccer features, On the Ball and The Big Match, on the air from Lookes Park on Saturday was a "home match" for three technicians who are normally miles away from Wycombe with the outside broadcast unit.

Links engineers Ron Gristwood of Ford Way, Downley, and Bob Hardy, of Brands Hill Avenue were working behind the scenes while cameraman Steve Jellyman, of Hedsor Road, Bourne End, was perched high up on the seventh floor of Wycombe General Hospital.

They were part of the 35-man television team which showed the full drama of Wycombe Wanderers' goalless draw against Middlesbrough in the third round of the FA Cup. Most of Sunday's programme, The Big Match, was devoted to the tie.

It was Ron's job to work out how to send the microwave signal from Lookes Park to London on a line-of-sight path which avoided the hills around the town. He eventually beamed the pictures from the football ground to a mid-point at Downley where a receiver and transmitter mounted on a vehicle turned the signal towards a 100-foot tower at Christmas Common.

At the tower, Bob Hardy sent the signal on its final 23 miles to the studios at Kent House, Waterloo, where The Big Match was recorded. On the Ball was partly recorded but had live links from Wycombe.

Camerasman Steve Jellyman's work received more exposure than the average footballer, an organisation which covered major sporting events on a contract basis. His work

has taken him all over Britain and the Continent and Saturday's outside broadcast was his first programme in the Wycombe area. He was full of praise over the amount of local co-operation received, from council officials and police down to the Downley resident who happily provided an extra power socket!

DELIGHTED

Producer Bob Gardam told the Free Press that the Wycombe Wanderers and Middlesbrough tie was first offered to the BBC, who declined — "So we were delighted to get this match", he said.

The Big Match team set out to give Wycombe the big treatment, using six cameras instead of the usual four. Bob, too, was pleased with the local co-operation — particularly from Wycombe General Hospital.

"When I arrived here, a camera on the hospital was the obvious place for getting a good view and catching the atmosphere of the whole ground," he said.

From the club itself, co-operation was "superb", he said. "We had the feeling all the way that they were delighted to have us".

Camerasman Steve Jellyman's work received more exposure than the average footballer, an organisation which covered major sporting events on a contract basis. His work



TV cameraman Steve Jellyman of Bourne End gave viewers a bird's eye look at the game from his position on the seventh floor of Wycombe General Hospital.



Goalkeeper Jim Platt fists the ball between Madden and John Craggs to clear this moment of danger.



An airborne Stuart Boam (5) launches himself in front of Keith Searle to halt a Wycombe attack at Ayresome Park.



Above: Mick Holfield is stopped by a Middlesbrough defender during the second half of Tuesday's game. Below: Wanderers' top striker on Tuesday, Steve Perrin, gets in a shot despite the close attentions of Willie Maddren. Perrin went closest to a Wycombe goal but his effort was saved by Jim Platt in the first half.



Wanderers centre forward Keith Searle appeals for a corner off Stuart Boam (right).



Middlesbrough's star centre back Willie Maddren slides in to halt a Wanderers attack.



Terry Reardon lofts a cross over the Middlesbrough defence during the first half on Tuesday night's FA Cup third round replay

A STAINLESS INNOVATION

30,000 crowd salutes Wanderers as epic run comes to an end

COURAGEOUS Wycombe Wanderers finally bowed out of the F.A. Cup on Tuesday night — in the best possible style. After holding mighty Middlesbrough for 89 minutes they succumbed to a Dave Armstrong goal and then a minute later were given their biggest ever ovation from the 30,000 crowd.

As the players — absolutely exhausted, having played their hearts out for the second time in a few days — gathered on the half-way line, the crowd rose to their feet and applauded them from the field. The chants of "Boro! Boro!" from the mass of red scarves behind one goal tapered to "Wycombe! Wycombe!" as the partisan supporters paid their tribute having watched one of the bravest displays for many a year. The Middlesbrough players, through at last after battling for 179 minutes against a team of amateurs, formed a tunnel to avoid their tributes.

It was a fitting finale for Wanderers who had succeeded beyond their wildest dreams in getting this far in the F.A. Cup. Never before had they reached the third round but after giving the First Division joint leaders a real run for their money on Saturday, they came to Ayresome Park and showed more courage, stamina and bravery than anyone could have expected.

Boro chairman, Mr. Charles Amer, breaking open the champagne in the changing rooms afterwards, told me he had never seen such an ovation given to the opposing side in his 30 years with the club. You can't get higher praise than that. Jack Charlton, the Boro boss

who had stated before the game, "We'll murder them" had nothing but praise for the Wycombe men. "They made us fight all the way. It was a great performance and they fully deserved that applause at the end."

Wycombe president Mr. Monty Seymour described the Blues' display as "magnificent." "I have never seen Wycombe give a finer performance in my 50 years with the club. They all played their hearts out. The support, too, was terrific."

And Brian Lee, Wanderers' reliable saves. Not far behind him were the two centre backs, Alan Phillips and Keith Mead who bore the brunt of the Boro blitz. Gary Hand, too, had a game to remember.

Inevitably the stars were in defence but great credit should go to their midfield men for sticking to their task while up front Steve Perrin again looked a player destined for the pro ranks sooner or later.

SAME SIDE
Wanderers kept the same 12 that had the better of the

goalless draw at Lookes Park on Saturday while Boro brought in Harry Charlton — no relation to Jack — into midfield for Peter Brine.

The nine coachloads of supporters and the many who made the five-hour journey by car certainly made their presence felt when their team took the field. And looking around the magnificent stadium at Ayresome Park, one could understand the Middlesbrough manager's criticism of Lookes Park. There was no comparison, as he said, after Saturday's game. "It's big and flat up there."

To the players it must have been more a case of "Awesome Park."

Although Boro began the match the same way as Saturday, with a back pass to goalkeeper Jim Platt, they were soon storming into attack. Only two minutes had elapsed when Armstrong set up David Mills

managed to take the sting off the ball and then save on the line.

The Middlesbrough surge was halted temporarily in the 27th minute when Wycombe produced their best move of the game. Three first time passes by Birdseye, Searle and Perrin took the ball sweeping upfield with Boro helpless. Searle crossed from the by-line as the home defenders struggled to make the ground and Perrin lashed in a short range shot at the near post. Platt, however, was perfectly positioned to save, holding the drive well.

FRESH HOPE
That gave Wycombe fresh hope and as the crowd began to bark the home team, Boro made more and more errors. Passes were intercepted and in general, Wanderers found themselves with more time.

Distribution, however, was poor and many of their attacks were broken up by the towering Stuart Roam and Willie Maddren.

There were occasional flashes of skill, like when Gary Hand chipped a superb ball over Boro for Hollifield to cross but at half-time, Wycombe's greatest feat had been to hold the score to 0-0, something few people had anticipated.

Wanderers, however, plugged away well and Kennedy's power shooting brought Platt in action in the 13th minute. Howard's drive bounced in front of the keeper who covered the effort well.

Two minutes later Perrin left Frank Spraggon lunging on the wing, but his cross was cut out and for the next 10 minutes Wanderers were subjected to a fierce battering. Stretching the ball wide with long, raking passes, the Blues left gaps in the middle as they covered the flanks and when the home side won four quick corners, it seemed only a matter of time before the defence cracked.

But thanks to some poor finishing by Boro and a couple of wonder saves from Maskell, the Blues held out. One save in the 25th minute was particularly memorable. Graeme Stewart, the Scottish international, caught the ball perfectly on the volley from 20 yards but Maskell

It was a measure of Middlesbrough's problems when they replaced Alan Foggan, the top goalkeeper, in the 61st minute with Alan Willey. The move, however, brought more danger for Wycombe.

Maskell dived full-length to save from Armstrong's cross and then held a swirling corner from Spraggon minutes later. With 70 minutes gone, Willey almost snatched the lead. From another corner, the ball came over the defence to Mills who volleyed a square ball into the centre.

Willey got up well just a few yards out but saw his header hit the upright and bounce away.

"Lady Luck" was certainly smiling on Wycombe, but they fully deserved it for the way they continued to withstand the growing Middlesbrough pressure.

Dylan Evans came on for Tony Horseman with 16 minutes to go. "I think we had a better defence. It was a shame the Middlesbrough fans did not have a chance to see his vintage skills.

Boro went close again in the 82nd minute. They easily broke up a Wycombe free kick with Craggs sending Souess clear in midfield. He found Mills who ran into the box at a narrow angle and seemed certain to score. However, he himself full-length and blocked the shot with his leg.

Middlesbrough goalkeeper Jim Platt gathers this cross safely as Steve Perrin (right) closes in during Tuesday's replay. More pictures of the match appear on page 26.

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Sports post

SIR
As one who has watched every one of Wycombe Wanderers recent F.A. Cup matches from that rather miserable day at Marlow last September, to the ultimate defeat at Middlesbrough tonight, I would like to express my appreciation of the club's achievement. I journeyed to Middlesbrough vaguely hopeful that they would not concede more than four goals. In the event they inevitably were defeated, but not before playing the most glorious rearguard action John Maskell will surely never play a better game in his entire life.

It came away from Middlesbrough strangely elated and although knowing that the glamour and glory is now over — for a year at least — I could not have been more proud had they won the cup itself. The fact that Wycombe received a standing ovation at the end of the game tells its own story — they gave their all and to misquote a well known phrase this was surely their finest hour and a half.

Our town has a gallant band of heroes which it can and should be justly proud, and I personally consider myself privileged to have been a witness to another page in the club's long history.

Yours faithfully,
Dennis J. Ford,
112 Telford Way,
High Wycombe

After their two epic F.A. Cup third round matches against Middlesbrough last week, Wycombe Wanderers come down to earth again tomorrow (Saturday) when they visit Oxford City in the Rothmans Isthmian League. And one of the Blues' biggest problems will be avoiding a "Cup hangover".

With Wanderers winning unprecedented coverage from press and television recently, Oxford will be pulling out all the stops to overcome their old rivals. And City's recent form could spell trouble for Wycombe.

Oxford have won their last two home games against strong opposition. Kingstonian, who beat Wanderers 3-2 recently, went down 2-0 and last Saturday City beat Tooting 2-1. These two results came at just the right time for Oxford had been going through a poor run.

After their 2-1 defeat at Lookes Park in October Wanderers lost at home to Enfield 3-1, Leytonstone 4-0, and went down at Watling 2-1 and Leatherhead 2-1. They also drew with Barkingside 3-3 and Hayes 1-1 at home and at Watton 0-0. There was one fine result during those weeks, however.

FIRST BONUS
When City entertained Bromley they registered their biggest ever win in the Rothmans Isthmian League, winning 4-0. It was also their first ever £40 bonus from the sponsors.

More Cup pictures on pages 25 and 26



Middlesbrough chairman Mr. Charles Amer joins in the champagne celebrations after Wycombe Wanderers' outstanding performance on Tuesday. Players from (left to right) Graham Mackenzie, Paul Birdseye, Dylan Evans, Mick Hollifield, Steve Perrin, Keith Searle, Gary Hand, Terry Reardon, Tony Horseman.



The naked truth exposed by Terry Reardon, Keith Searle, Dylan Evans, Paul Birdseye and Gary Hand after Tuesday's match.

BLUES MUST AVOID A CUP HANGOVER!

Last chance to win that match ball

The Bucks Free Press are offering you the chance to win the match ball used by Wycombe Wanderers and Bournemouth in the F.A. Cup second round match which ended in a 0-0 draw. The ball, which has been specially photographed by both teams will serve as an everlasting memento of the game, is the top prize in a special three week competition.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	24	14	4	6	86	32	46
Marlow	24	14	3	7	52	26	45
Dunstable	25	14	3	8	42	27	45
Thames	24	8	4	12	42	24	26
Wycombe	21	6	6	10	36	22	24
Kingston	22	6	1	17	31	29	19
Sutton	24	12	2	10	45	34	38
Barkingside	26	9	11	6	48	33	33
Slough	22	8	6	10	30	31	29
Wotton	24	8	11	5	33	41	29
Hayes	24	6	8	12	32	43	24
Watton	22	6	6	12	22	42	24
Luton	23	6	9	12	30	32	23
Woking	17	6	1	10	25	20	19
Clayton	23	8	7	9	33	48	18
Bromley	24	4	1	19	22	12	12
Watton	25	3	3	19	21	70	12

QUESTIONS

- 1) Give the names of Wycombe's 1957 Wembley team.
- 2) Wycombe scored 15 goals in an F.A. Cup replay in 1955. Name the team on the receiving end.
- 3) Who was the scorer of Hendon's winning goal in the 1972 Amateur Cup semi-final at Brentford?
- 4) Name the Bournemouth goalkeeper in the F.A. Cup second round replay last month.
- 5) Name four of the six Wycombe players who have turned professional over the last five seasons.
- 6) Now name their present clubs.
- 7) How many times have Wanderers won the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup?
- 8) A great Wycombe favourite of the fans suffered a carriage injury in a home match against Barking in 1955. This injury finished his playing career. Who was he?
- 9) What strip did Wycombe use before changing to their present colours?
- 10) Name the Wanderers' goalscorer in the 1957 Amateur Cup final.

Entrant's name and address _____

_____ Tel: _____