

'MARATHON MEN' MUST PLAY AGAIN

HIGH Wycombe Sports Council are staging a Half Marathon this summer and one collection of individuals who should excel in it are the town's football team.

The Wanderers can already start calling themselves the 'Marathon Men' following their gallant draw away to Hyde United in the second round of the FA Challenge Trophy on Saturday.

Normally four matches in this competition could have taken Wanderers to the semi-finals. But so far they have reached halfway through the second round after series of gruelling battles and testing replays.

Stiffish breeze

Wycombe needed all their determination and just a little luck to earn a draw against their talented Cheshire County League opposition and get the chance to meet them again at Loakes Park tonight (Tuesday).

By MICHAEL KNOX: Hyde Utd 0, Wycombe Wanderers 0

On chances created Hyde could well have gone through to the last 16 for the first time in their history. But by the end Wycombe, who fielded an unchanged side had done enough, to deserve a second chance.

The Blues surprisingly chose to play into a stiffish breeze during the first half and not surprisingly came under intense pressure during the opening 20 minutes.

Cheered on by their biggest crowd of the season, Hyde stormed forward from the first whistle and Gary Lester, whose bandaged knee indicted that he was not fully fit, had to be at his most alert.

In the first five minutes he was called on to make saves from Mike Lacey and former Manchester United starlet Peter Coyne. He also had to deal with some rather ambitious back passes from his own defenders!

With Jimmy Golder and David Holt outplaying a rather subdued Wycombe in mid-field, Hyde continued to

set the pace and really should have gone ahead in the 24th when top scorer George Oghani fired inches wide with the goal at his mercy.

Seconds later Coyne failed to turn in a close range shot after rebound had given him a scoring chance.

Thus reprieved, Wanderers started to string together some attractive moves. Terry Glynn only just failed to reach Jim Jacob's dangerous cross in front of the Hyde goal and Paul Birdseye saw a left-foot shot saved after neat interpassing had given him an opening.

Authority

Indeed the half ended with Wycombe captain Howard Kennedy firing just over. With the wind behind them, Wanderers looked to have every chance of sneaking the result in the second half.

But within seconds of the restart, they nearly went behind when Holt hit a good chance wide from a cross by the dangerous Oghani, who was not getting much joy from his duel with Birdseye.

Gradually Wycombe's greater ball control gave them the upper hand. Steve Long, playing with increasing confidence against a slightly pedestrian Hyde defence, twice failed to hit the target with first-time shots, while his cheeky back-heel put Jacobs in the clear. Once again the goalkeeper did not have to make a save.

With Anton Vircavs showing great authority in the air, Wycombe defence never looked like being breached in the closing stages, although there was a slight scare when Lester appeared to aggravate his knee injury when taking a high cross from Oghani.

But he battled on until the end to exemplify the determination and courage that the side has shown in this long hard race.

HYDE: C. Darcy; P. Parry, M. Lacey, G. Holder, G. Blore, T. Steenson, D. Holt, P. Coyne, S. Johnson, J. Golder, G. Oghani. Sub.: P. McMahon (not used).

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, C. Borg, S. Tolt, A. Vircavs, R. Dell, J. Jacobs, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, S. Long, K. Wilson. Sub.: R. Davies (not used).

Referee: G. Flint (Kirby-in-Ashfield).
Corners: Hyde 6, Wycombe 6.
Attendance: 1,127.