

BYE BYE BARRY!



WYCOMBE manager Alan Gane dropped a major bombshell on Tuesday night by releasing Barry Silkman.

Silkman's shock departure comes only days after the departure of Paul Hackett back to Aylesbury.

Silkman was hailed as the man to inspire Wycombe to the League title when he signed just five weeks ago.

But in recent games the former Manchester City, QPR and Crystal Palace star has become virtually anonymous and Gane is adamant that he has made the right decision.

"Unfortunately Barry will only play the way he wants to and that isn't enough for me," explained Gane.

"To get the best out of him I would have had to rebuild the team around him and I am not prepared to do that.

"We need a ball winner in central midfield and Barry is not that sort of player.

"If you analyse it, he only performed well when the team was winning and he had space to move.

"But, when it came to the crunch games, he wasn't prepared to fight or defend and that made us weak and vulnerable."

Gane admitted it was a difficult task telling his for-

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mer playing partner at Hereford that he was no longer wanted.

"It was hard and Barry was a bit surprised," said Gane.

"He is a good mate but there is no room for sentiment.

"Certainly, Barry helped us in some games and he brought a smile to the fans faces with his skills.

"But we are not here to look nice — we are here to win.

Release

"Because Barry did not defend, teams were going right through our midfield and putting a lot of pressure on the back four.

"We got away with it for a while but I made my mind up a week ago that I would have to release him."

Silkman's departure coincides with the return of Kevin Durham from injury.

But, with Paul Hackett's departure back to Aylesbury, Gane has only four recognised midfielders in Andy Graham, Graham Bressington, Durham and Kevin Connelly.

"I've let Hackett return to Aylesbury because we never really saw the best of him at Wycombe," explained Gane.

"He was out of action for a long while through injury but he played at the start of the season and didn't do as well as expected.

"We can carry on with the players we have left.

"Bressington is a ball winner, and Graham has been doing very well in midfield.

"Now we have to wait for Durham to return to his old self and see if Connelly can establish himself."

Gane was understandably upset at his side's 4-1 drubbing by Yeovil.

"I was not upset at the defeat but at the way in which we lost," he said.

"We were by far the better side in the first half and then Bressington made a stupid schoolboy error.

"That goal changed the match and in the end they murdered us. We learnt they are a very good side indeed."

Top marksman Mark West, dropped for the last two matches, could be in line for a recall for tomorrow's (Saturday) League meeting with Hendon at Loakes Park.