

Luton exploit Wycombe gaps

THAT unlikely combination of Ray Wilkins and Wycombe Wanderers will today go their separate ways after Saturday's brief alliance failed to prevent Luton dousing heightened expectancies at newly-expanded Adams Park with a 1-0 victory.

While manager Alan Smith prepares Wycombe, without a win in five Second Division starts, for tomorrow's trip to Walsall, Wilkins will attempt to propel an illustrious playing career spanning Manchester United, AC Milan and 84 England caps, beyond next Saturday's 40th birthday.

Wilkins, who departed abruptly as Queens Park

Ben Findon reckons midfield is not Smith's only problem area

Rangers player-manager in midweek, is having talks in Scotland today and in the north of England tomorrow.

It is possible that Wilkins' friendship with Smith, who in a Friday morning call persuaded him to plug a hole in Wycombe's midfield, could bring an appearance at Burnley on Saturday. Wycombe's deficiencies, however, are further forward, where goalscoring has ground to a standstill in the last three League games.

Michael DeSouza waltzed the ball around Luton goal-

keeper Ian Feuer on the half-hour yet hit Wycombe's best chance against defender Steve Davis. A sense of anti-climax was soon sweeping down from Wycombe's impressive 5,000-seat stand.

Luton's 52nd-minute winner came from the best move of the match, started and finished by David Oldfield. He swept a loose ball away from Wilkins in midfield and out to Bontcho Guentchev on the left.

The Bulgarian set free the overlapping Mitchell

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Thomas, whose deep cross was headed back by Andrew Fotiadis, making his full League debut, for Oldfield to drive in.

"I wish I could have contributed more," said Wilkins, who has ruled out a quick return to management. "It was strange when the two centre-halves were having a game of head tennis midway through the first half, but if I play again I will become accustomed to it."

Wycombe: Parkin, Cousins, Evans, McCarthy, Bell; Carroll, Lawrence, Wilkins, Farrell; DeSouza, Williams (Mahoney-Johnson 64). **Subs:** Patterson, Crossley. **Booked:** Lawrence, Bell.

Luton: Feuer; James, Johnson, Davis, Thomas; Alexander, Waddock, Hughes, Guentchev; Oldfield, Fotiadis (Thorpe 77). **Subs:** Showler, McLaren. **Goal:** Oldfield 52.

Referee: E Lomas (Manchester).