



● **IT'S A BEAUTY:** Paul Cobb, the Purfleet No 8, watches as his free-kick bends just under the bar to cancel out Yeovil's first goal in Saturday's thriller at Huish Park. Below, Town midfielder Paul Turner, sporting a new haircut, forces goalkeeper Micky Desborough to make a save. Turner did get the third goal in a 4-3 Yeovil win. *Pictures by Len Copland.*



● **PAUL WILSON** – the former Yeovil Town striker who rewrote the record books when he became the oldest player in 68 years to make a Football League debut. He left Huish Park to be Scunthorpe's youth coach.

# Wilson, 36, makes a League debut

**WHEN** striker Paul Wilson left Yeovil Town 18 months ago to be youth coach at Scunthorpe United he didn't expect to be rewriting the football history books.

The former England non-league international thought his chance of appearing in the Football League had long gone. But last Tuesday he came on as substitute for Scunthorpe for the final 35 minutes of their match with Cardiff City, at the age of 36 years and 151 days.

According to the Association of

Football Statisticians, Paul is the oldest player to make his Football League debut for 68 years, and is believed to be the second oldest in the history of the League.

The only player on record to have been older when he made his League debut was Andrew Cunningham, who played for Newcastle at Leicester in February 1929 when he was 38 years and two days old.

Wilson said: "I thought our manager Brian Laws was winding me up when he said 'you're on' because he

usually likes to wind me up. But when I realised he was serious I was very pleased.

"When I was in non-league football it did not bother me that I had not played in the League I realised when I went to Scunthorpe that it was something I had missed out on.

"But I thought my chance had gone. Last season I was substitute for the final match against Darlington and got stripped off to come on for the last two minutes when one of our players was

injured. But he got back up again and was able to carry on".

Paul, whose Yeovil career came to an unhappy end when injury sidelined him during Graham Roberts' early months at the club, has been playing regularly for Scunthorpe reserves, switching to the centre of defence where he has been able to help out the club's youngsters.

"It was strange to go on up front at Cardiff because I had played only two games at centre forward for the reserves".