

Suddaby seeks

WYCOMBE manager Peter Suddaby has made a formal approach to speak to two non-Conference players as he continues his search for fresh talent this week.

"I have given seven days notice of approach so I can talk to a couple of players," he revealed. "Obviously, I can't say which clubs they belong to."

But I understand the players in question are with a side in the Vauxhall-Opel League.

Meanwhile Suddaby is continuing negotiations with a top Conference striker.

The deal, worth a reported £5,000, has hit a snag because the player is due to serve a two match suspension.

"I am hopeful of completing a signing very shortly," said the Blues' boss.

Suddaby, meanwhile, was at a loss to explain his side's lifelessness against Kettering on Saturday.

"What annoys me is that they don't look as though they want to enjoy themselves. There are no smiles, nothing, out there," he said.

"This lack of confidence, for whatever reason, is infecting everyone. Even the better players are playing badly.

Selective

"This squad is not good enough for the Conference at the moment. Whether they will be good enough, only time will tell, but unfortunately we don't have time to wait.

"We know the situation and we know the side must be strengthened," he added. "Up until now we have been very selective.

"I think know we have to be realistic and draw up a list of around 10 players and go for them all. That way we might get three or four at one time.

"This is a good test of Wycombe Wanderers as a club and we have all got to work hard to rectify the situation."

Injured left-back Neil Price looks certain to miss the trip to Welling, while Kevin Durham is also doubtful after limping off against Kettering.

Welling, who dumped Burnham out of the FA Cup last midweek, are only three points above Blues but occupy a healthy midtable position.

Manager Graham Hobbins has been chasing a defender from Scottish Premier club St Mirren.

"The fact that Paul Collins has agreed to play for us in midfield on a match-by-match basis is a boost but this is only temporary.

"He will continue to play for us until he sorts out his future."

Collins, who turned out 42 times for Gillingham, will be available for the trip to Welling United tomorrow night (Wednesday) in the Conference.

made 42 first team appearances for The Gills, showed some superb touches but with scant assistance was always under pressure.

While Wycombe continue to hover just above the relegation zone, Kettering move to second place on goal difference thanks to two goals by Ian Crawley and one from Billy Kellock.

It was certainly a day for the old timers with ex-Manchester City defender Arthur Mann, former Aston Villa and Brighton ace Dennis Mortimer and Kellock running the show at Loakes Park.

The Poppies nearly took the lead after 11 minutes when Doug Keest turned Blues skipper Keith Barrett brilliantly before firing wide.

Then Kevin Day missed a crucial tackle in 16 minutes, allowing Mark Smith to surge clear. But Gary Lester sprinted out of his area and forced the former Sheffield United man to shoot wide.

Smith got past Barrett in 24 minutes but his pass to Crawley was wayward and Kirk Corbin cleared.

Luck

There was an amazing let-off for Wanderers in 26 minutes.

Kellock rolled a pass to Smith out on the right. He beat Barrett and squared to Keest who incredibly rolled the ball straight at Lester.

Continued on page 31