

Blues midfielder Graham Bressington joined Lincoln City for a staggering £ 20,000 this week but then gave his former club the thumbs up.

Bressington, who made his debut for The Imps against Macclesfield on Wednesday, is convinced that Wycombe will win their struggle for survival this season and go on to establish themselves in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

The 21-year-old who could earn as much as £200 a week with City as a full-time professional, added he was sorry to leave Loakes Park.

"It is a big wrench for me, being a local lad but I am ambitious and I felt Wanderers were not going forward quickly enough," he told the Bucks Free Press this week. "But I honestly don't think they will go down this season because this team will fight to stay up."

"Peter Suddaby is an excellent manager but he will have his problems this season. The fellow needs a whole pre-season in which to work with the players."

"He has these two new boys from Barnet and if he can possibly retain Sean Norman then he will have a good side. They won't go around thrashing anyone but they should be able to do enough to stay up," he added after watching Blues squeeze a narrow 2-1 home win over Dagenham on Tuesday - their first win in 13 Conference matches.

"What they need more than anything at the moment is consistency. If they can take their chances and stop giving away silly goals they will be all right."

Bressington, who was signed by Blues from Beaconsfield United two seasons ago, has only blossomed in midfield this season but incredibly his sale is believed to be a new club record - bettering the £ 18,000 Barnet paid for Noel Ashford earlier in the season.

Blues officials declined to name the figure but Imps manager Colin Murphy said this week that "it was around the £20,000 mark."

Although Radnage-based Bressington is not on contract, Lincoln paid over the odds for him rather than go to a tribunal following three-way negotiations between Wycombe, City and Barnet.

Blues boss Suddaby, with the Board's approval, was able to offer Bressington a lucrative deal to stay at Loakes Park, which included a sizeable joining on fee. But the former reserves man turned down the offer - the best ever offered to a Wycombe player - to seek a future in the Football League.

Although disappointed at Bressington's departure, Suddaby wished him well.

"I hope he makes it but if he doesn't he can always come back."

Bressington then warned: "Wycombe have got to use that money wisely and buy quality players if they are going to achieve anything."

The powerful youngster, nicknamed Rambo by Wanderers fans, has set his sights on

Bressington goes for £20,000 but backs Blues to stay up

By Rolf Niven

playing in either the First or Second Division.

"The next two years will be make or break for me," he said realistically. "But I have to have a target and that is to play Second Division football. The Lincoln manager Colin Murphy has a great track record for getting the best out of players and selling them to higher clubs for considerably more than he paid. I'm hoping he can do the same for me."

Suspension

"I think the full-time training will help me considerably. I carry a bit of weight normally but if I can reduce that then I will be that extra yard quicker. Even if I don't make it I won't have lost out because I will still be a better player at the end of my two year contract."

Bressington, who picked up a leg injury playing for Wycombe at Altrincham on Saturday, was substituted after 63 minutes of Lincoln's 3-0 Conference victory over Macclesfield in midweek.

He will miss their next two matches through suspension after being sent off at Boston United a fortnight ago. He will be ineligible to play for Imps in the FA Cup on December 5.

Bressington had been selected to play for the FA against the Army on Tuesday, December 8 but will now miss the match through suspension. He would probably have lined up against Wycombe striker Mathew Carmichael who plays for the Army.

Carmichael was unavailable for both the Altrincham and

Dagenham matches as his unit, the Royal Artillery, were involved in an army competition.

But there was good news for Blues supporters this week with Barnet pair Steve Cox and Ian Ferguson both making their debuts on loan during Blues midweek success against Dagenham.

Barnet boss Barry Fry has a large squad but injury problems make him hesitant to part with any of his players.

Suddaby commented: "I'm impressed with them. They are both short of match fitness so we have not seen them at their best. We have made them both offers and they are thinking them over."

Cox, 23, played for Spurs Juniors and Cheshunt before joining Dagenham and Enfield where he played up front and in midfield.

Renowned as a touch tackler with a fiery temper, he joined Barnet at the start of last season.

Ferguson has built a reputation as a quality midfielder but is known to be lazy. He was with Fry at Barnet three seasons ago and after a brief spell with Bishops Stortford, returned to Barnet when Fry rejoined as manager.

Suddaby also revealed that influential left-back Sean Norman, whose month's loan will end after tomorrow's (Saturday) match at Weymouth, is considering a new offer made by Wycombe.

Miserly

"We have made him a good offer and he is thinking it over. I am hopeful that he will stay," added the Blues boss.

Norman has been outstanding since arriving at Loakes Park on loan from Colchester on October 31 and his departure so close after Bressington would certainly unbalance the side.

Both Kevin Day and Alan Myers picked up slight injuries on Tuesday but should both be fit to travel to Weymouth's brand new Wessex Stadium.

The news from the Dorset club is that manager Stuart Morgan hopes to name the same side for the sixth match running. The only slight doubt is over Morgan Lewis who suffered a slight ankle injury in their 0-0 draw at Lincoln last Saturday.

Blues have a real task ahead of them tomorrow as they try to break down a Weymouth defence that has conceded a miserly two goals in eight home games this season. The main reason for their unbeaten home record is goalkeeper Peter Guthrie. Signed by Morgan in the close season, Guthrie was watched by scouts from Spurs, Watford, Sheffield United and Oxford United at Lincoln last week.

Their top scorer is Andy Rowland with eight in the Conference this term and he links up with ex-Bournemouth Steve Claridge.

Blues meanwhile must fancy their chances of starting a run in the FA Trophy this season after drawing fellow Conference side Cheltenham Town at home in the first round proper on Saturday, December 19.

Blues drew 2-2 at Cheltenham in the League in September and were unlucky not to come away with the points.