

KELMAN EYES UP POMPEY PAIR!

By Rolf Niven

PORTSMOUTH pair Liam Daish and Simon Stapleton are top of Jim Kelman's end of season shopping list we can reveal this week.

The Wycombe boss is known to be very interested in the two 19-year-olds and is keeping a close eye on developments down at Fratton Park.

Both were made available by the First Division strugglers back in October although Daish turned down a move to Carlisle during transfer deadline week.

Stapleton looks certain to be given a free transfer but Blues would have to dig deep into their pockets to afford Daish who has a reported £30,000 price tag on his head.

Both youngsters play regularly for Pompey Reserves in the Combination League.

"I am talking to Portsmouth about possible moves at the end of the season and I am looking at these two in particular," revealed Kelman as he prepared his team for their final two GM Vauxhall Conference games at home to Altrincham tomorrow (Saturday) and at title contenders Lincoln City on Monday.

The Wanderers chief, who has guided his side to safety since moving in at Loakes park in early January, is keen to begin an early rebuilding process for next term.

He looks certain to push through a deal over Ruislip Manor midfielder Dave Carroll who impressed again in Wycombe's 1-1 Capital League draw at Welling United on Monday night.

"Carroll did extremely well and I will be having further talks with Ruislip over his future," he stated.

But Kelman will reserve judgement over Trowbridge Town man Martin Blackler. He had a wasted journey to Atherstone on Tuesday to watch Blackler's side crash 6-0.

However the Glasgow-born manager is looking forward eagerly to the final weekend of the Conference season and in particular the clash against second-placed Lincoln City.

Depending on Saturday's results, Wycombe could find themselves standing in the way of The Imps immediate return to the Football League.

"We are all looking forward to it," explained Kelman. "The pressure is off us so we can go out there and enjoy ourselves. The pressure is obviously getting to Lincoln and they will probably play their 'fright football' style of pumping the ball in the air and chasing it. We want to get the ball on the floor and play if we can.

"They know we won't be pushovers.

"But before that we have to play Altrincham and it would be nice to say thank you to our marvellous fans with a win in our last home game," he added.

He was hoping that right-back Kirk Corbin and midfielder Lawrence Osborne came through Thursday night's training unscathed.

● Blues made virtually sure of the Capital League title when a late Mark West goal earned them a 1-1 draw at Welling on Monday evening.

The home side took the lead from the penalty spot against the run of play.

Set Young hit the post for Wanderers in the second half before West struck after Kevin Durham had headed forward.

Dave Carroll had a chance to snatch the match when he burst through with only the keeper to beat but his shot was blocked.

● Former Wycombe midfielder Graham Bressington is unlikely to line-up against his former club at Sincil Bank on Monday as Lincoln chase for the championship.

The former Beaconsfield United powerhouse was snapped up by City for £10,000 in November and Imps manager Colin Murphy claimed he could have Bressington playing for the Welsh senior side within a year.

But the move seems to have gone wrong for 'Rambo' whose hopes of a regular first team slot have been disrupted by suspensions and injury. There are even rumours of a rift between Bressington and Murphy.

Lincoln's hopes of moving above Barnet in the title race were dashed when they were held 1-1 at home by Maidstone on Wednesday night.

Their title charge has fizzled out in recent matches and they have picked up only five points from a possible 18 in their last six games.

● Altrincham meanwhile hope to extend their unbeaten run to seven games at Loakes Park tomorrow after four wins and two draws.

Their only injury doubt is over ex-Rochdale midfielder Ian Johnson who will undergo a late fitness test. Youngster Lawrence Iro is standing by to take over.

New boss Jeff Johnson, who took over from Tommy Docherty, commented: Now we are safe we can go to Wycombe and enjoy ourselves."

But price tag may put off Blues manager