

Desouza oozes goals for Blues

NEW star Miguel Desouza fired a fruitful opening salvo to blast Wycombe Wanderers back into contention at the top of Division Two this week.

With fourth-placed Blues just three points off the pace being set by Brentford, the 24-year-old striker is now looking to carry on where he left off with two goals at Chester in midweek.

Desouza believes he can improve on his performance against the division's basement side on Tuesday. He makes his home debut against Blackpool at Adams Park tomorrow.

"There's things I did in the game that I think I can improve on. I know I've got a lot to learn, but with the likes of Cyrille Regis and Simon Garner to work with, I hope

By Claire Nash

I pick up a few new tricks of the trade," he said.

Desouza, signed on-loan from promotion rivals Birmingham City last Friday with a view to joining in an £85,000 deal, is a relative novice in goalscoring. The double at the Deva Stadium represents his first two League goals.

Colourful City boss Barry Fry played Desouza out of position – wide right and full back – after signing him from GM Vauxhall Conference club Dagenham and Redbridge last year. But Desouza hinted he had talent to tap when he scored 23 goals in 18 games for Birmingham's reserves.

The Canning Town-born forward had his first taste of life up front when an injury crisis at Dagenham

forced manager John Still to use him as an emergency stop-gap.

Desouza continued as a striker until Fry bought him. He struggled to find a regular first-team place, however, which was what attracted him to joining Wycombe. Blues will pay £50,000, initially, after the on-loan period is up. Desouza turned down a similarly priced move to Division Three outfit Gillingham earlier this season.

"I'll get more of a chance to play here than I did at Birmingham. There's no point in being at a club unless you are playing week in, week out," Desouza believes.

Wycombe skipper Terry Evans, who created both of Desouza's goals at Chester, was impressed with his new team-mate's performance. "If he keeps that up he will be a great asset to the club," he said.

Looking ahead to tomorrow's battle against seventh-placed Blackpool, the stalwart centre half-cum-playmaker, said: "Both their forwards, Ellis and Quinn, are a handful. I've said to the lads, that we have got to improve our home record.

"We have got to be more disciplined. I think we go all-out too early and teams have been hitting us on the break."

■ Peter Lee, the chief executive of the Football Trust, and Tom Pendry MP, the shadow minister for sport, are special guests at tomorrow's game against Blackpool.

■ Miguel Desouza won the Bucks Free Press Away Day winner award for his debut display. His £50 prize donation will go to the Adam Langford Leukaemia Fund.

Wanderers invite BFP readers to invest in new stand

WYCOMBE Wanderers are offering a package to Bucks Free Press readers where they can sponsor executive boxes in a proposed new stand at Adams Park.

The club are currently drawing up plans for a new 5,000 plus all-seater double tier stand to replace the existing Davenport Vernon Vauxhall terrace.

The move is in line with the Taylor Report. If Blues win promotion to Division One this

season the club would have just three years to complete an all-seater scheme.

The Amersham and Wycombe College (formerly Hillbottom Road) and Bucks Free Press (Valley) stands will also need to be converted in addition to the Davenport Vernon Vauxhall stand.

The redevelopment cost of the latter will be around £2 million, a considerable part of which will be covered by a Football Trust grant. But

the cost of executive boxes for sponsors won't be included, hence the club's offer. Regular club sponsors have already been approached.

Their deadline has now passed, and the general public has been given a chance to get involved. The terms would be three years' rental paid for in advance, with the fourth year free of charge. The cost for the first three years is £24,000 (plus VAT) for centrally located boxes, and £20,000 for the others.