

Goals famine causes concern

Blues fans clamour for new striker

TIME is running out for Martin O'Neill to find a player who can put Wycombe Wanderers back on track.

With the transfer deadline just six days away, and crunch matches coming up against Division Two highflyers Birmingham City (tomorrow) and Brentford (Tuesday, 7.45pm) ninth-placed Blues need a new striker to help them reach the play-offs.

Just nine goals in ten games, six of them scored by Miquel Desouza before he was ruled out for the rest of the season through injury, have earned only 11 points out of a possible 30.

A handful of new players by 5pm next Thursday would be the clearest indication of manager O'Neill's intent – if the Blues boss wants to achieve promotion, as he set out to do before the start of the season. The club's supporters obviously also want what their manager desires and they understand that bad luck has dealt Wanderers' a series of cruel setbacks in recent weeks.

"We wouldn't be in the situation we are in now if Miquel Desouza wasn't injured," said Bob Officer, chairman of Wycombe Wanderers Independent Supporters' Club.

"With the front two finding it difficult to score at the moment, I think Martin [O'Neill] doesn't have any option but to scour the market

By Claire Nash

and get someone as soon as possible.

"As far as we are concerned, Wycombe are battling their hearts out, but we haven't been helped by not getting the breaks or any luck." Officer suggested that one rip-roaring result in one, or both of the forthcoming clashes against the major promotion contenders, could help turn the tide.

O'Neill, meanwhile, was disappointed with Blues' general performances at York in Tuesday's 0-0 draw and at Bristol Rovers on Saturday where they lost 1-0. He said of Tuesday's point: "The game was there for the taking. York are not playing too cleverly, but neither are we in terms of our performances over 90 minutes."

■ Tickets for the Brentford match are on sale until noon tomorrow. There are about 400 out of a 2,000 allocation left.

Terrace prices are £7.80 adults (£5.50 concessions), while seats are £12 (£9 concessions).

The Oxford game at Adams Park on Saturday, April 15, is also all-ticket. The general public can buy theirs from next Wednesday.

■ Striker Tim Langford has gone on a month's loan to GM Vauxhall Conference club Kidderminster. Terry Skiverton's loan from Chelsea has been extended by a further month.