

'I'm not going to be panicked'

☐ Smith looks to stem Blues' slide

☐ Fans put manager in the dock

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Alan Smith has confirmed that he is looking around for new players to try and halt what is threatening to become an undignified plummet to the depths of Division Two.

But with little, if any, money left in club coffers, it is clear that Blues will need to sell to buy.

Smith believes new players may not necessarily be the answer. But he has spent the past week looking at possible buys. "I have people in mind who I want to bring in. But I'm not going to be panicked into anything. There are certainly players here who I don't want to sell," he said.

Smith has already spent £300,000 on new players this term.

With Wycombe preparing for a tough game against Stockport County at Adams Park tomorrow, followed up by a trip to Peterborough on Tuesday, Smith knows that the club's supporters want to see a marked improvement on last weekend's dire display against Chesterfield.

Blues lost 3-1 and dropped to 14th in the table as a result.

Fans have written to the Bucks Free Press this week to sum up their frustration after Wycombe's second consecutive defeat, which has underlined on-going inconsistency in the league.

The postponement of the mid-week home game against Bradford stopped Blues from having an early chance to try and redeem themselves.

Smith said that he knows he is in

REPORT

By Claire Nash

the firing line, saying: "I am the manager. I will bear the brunt of the criticism."

But he concedes he is nonplussed by his players' inability to play his way positively. "At the moment I have got a good relationship with the players. I don't want to criticise what they are doing. But at the same time, I don't want to condone it either," he said.

■ Former Wanderers goalkeeper Paul Hyde's debut for Leicester City reserves was cut short on Monday because of the weather.

Hyde, who joined old boss Martin O'Neill's Division One club last week, stayed in the Midlands, however, to sit on the substitutes' bench for Wednesday's Division One match against Wolves.

Leicester earned the sweetest of victories for O'Neill, a 3-2 win being his first since taking over last December.

■ Wanderers forced a draw in the Capital League at Leyton Orient on Tuesday with two Paul Hardyman penalties.

Matthew Lawrence, who had played only one game for Wanderers before hurting his knee in training, reopened the wound after 30 minutes.

■ Former Blues striker Keith Scott has got the chance to stay sharp with a month's loan from Norwich at Division Two club Bournemouth.

■ Letters: Page 30



Under pressure: Alan Smith is the target of Blues fans' criticism because of the team's current poor form