
BLUES' STRIKER QUEST

By **CLAIRE NASH**

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager Alan Smith is scouring the country for a new striker to bolster Blues' flagging forward line.

He is already short on options with John Williams missing Saturday's 0-0 draw at Woking with a ricked neck.

And with limited spending power – set to be strained further by today's tribunal decision on the fee for central defender Paul McCarthy from Brighton – it will be a tall order to bring someone in. Smith had made enquiries about Swansea City striker Stephen Torpey but the Welsh club's 25-year-old arch goal poacher has signed a new contract with the Division Three club.

Smith admitted after Saturday's friendly: "I was disappointed we didn't create many chances. We need a new striker. It is a problem."

The Blues boss was pleased, however, with the team's pre-season progress.

"We were solid enough. We had an opportunity to try things out. I was quite happy for us to get through the game without injury," said Smith in reference to the long-term absence of Keith Ryan.

Notable changes in Wycombe's pre-season line-up include Matthew Lawrence's presence at right back. The midfielder is set to start the season in his new position, with Smith saying: "He is going to be very, very good."

The switch leaves Jason Cousins on the substitutes' bench. Another right back Jason

Rowbotham is set to join home town club Plymouth after lining up for their friendly against Tiverton on Saturday and he is set to play against Manchester City tonight.

Jim Rodwell, a trialist from Halesowen, is set to play his second game for Blues in tonight's friendly against Southampton at Adams Park (ko 7.45pm). New Saints boss Graeme Souness is expected to bring a strong line-up featuring midfield maestro Matt Le Tissier. The teams last met when Wycombe beat Southampton 2-1 last summer.
