

Blues target Villa striker

WYCOMBE Wanderers are considering spending £100,000 on striker Neil Davis – even though he has not scored in five matches on loan at Adams Park.

Blues boss John Gregory reckons the 23-year-old Aston Villa reserve could still be just what his team needs and blamed the striker's barren run on the rest of the team not creating chances for him and bad luck.

Gregory, who admits he has other strikers on his shortlist, including Swansea's Steve Torpey, is keen to take Davis on for another month before deciding whether to use his chequebook on him.

Davis' current loan expires after tomorrow's game with Preston, a fixture for which he is doubtful

REPORT By Dave Peters

after falling awkwardly on his shoulder in Tuesday night's 1-0 defeat at Watford.

Gregory said: "He is a very good player, he has been a prolific scorer for Villa reserves. He hasn't had the breaks since he came here. He has come into a side which is a bit shot shy and he has been starved a little bit of action.

"I would like to secure him for another month and who knows what will happen if we have a financial reward from an FA Cup run."

Gregory confirmed Villa want a six-figure sum for Davis who notched up 23 goals in 28 reserve games.

He said: "There's not much money at Wycombe. I even go around making sure all the lights are turned off at night. If I am going to make any signings they have got to be spot-on. I cannot afford to make a mistake because I will probably only get a couple of cheques all season.

"I would like to have a longer look at Neil. He's on my shortlist and he is the type of person I need."

Gregory has only seen Wycombe score four goals in his five matches in charge and that shortage has left Wycombe propping up the rest of the division.

Davis wants away from Villa, because despite making three substitute appearances for the Premiership side last season, he feels his chances are limited there.

He said: "I think I'm well down

the pecking order and my chances could be better off somewhere else. No-one ever really wants to leave a club like Villa but I think I need to get away because I want first team football."

Davis is not worried by his lack of goals in a Blues shirt.

He said: "I've been unlucky. I had one cleared off the line at Crewe, almost got two at York and had one disallowed against Plymouth, that would have been four goals in five games."

Hard-up Gregory, who also needs to keep £15,000 back if he is to sign his other loan player Derby fullback Jason Kavanagh, missed out on a cash injection when Plymouth returned full back Jason Rowbotham after his month's loan. He returned with a cruciate knee injury and that appears to have killed off any transfer.