

Defensive competition heats up as Blues express interest in Molby's man

Walker waits for Wanderers' call

WYCOMBE Wanderers are lining up a bid for Swansea's highly rated defender Keith Walker.

The possible signing would add to the competition which already sees Blues favourite Terry Evans, the reliable Paul McCarthy and recent new arrivals Jason Kavanagh and Michael Forsyth all vying for defensive berths, alongside fullbacks Jason Cousins and Mickey Bell.

With Evans and McCarthy both having been dropped in recent months, Gregory is clearly keen on keeping competition alive in the squad.

And the Swansea player has expressed an interest in the Blues.

He said: "I spoke to Wycombe last week and they seemed keen to sign me. If they asked me to go up for talks I would probably go and there's every likelihood that I would join them. I'm really now just waiting for a phone call."

Blues boss John Gregory, who has promised 'one or two signings' before the transfer deadline on March 27, was told to make an offer for the 30-year-old Scot by Swans' manager Jan Molby last week.

The hard-up Welsh club don't want to lose their best player but he is only on a week-to-week contract at the Vetch Field and wants more security.

Molby is furious that after eight months of dithering his board have not signed Walker up on a long contract. He cannot stop the player moving and he knows he could lose out if the fee is fixed by a tribunal.

Molby said: "Whatever value we put on Keith he is worth more to us by being in the team.

"I am just hoping that

REPORT

By Dave Peters

Keith never gets the phone call he is expecting from Wycombe. For us to be without him at this stage of the season would be nothing short of disastrous.

"It is no coincidence our revival began after he returned to the team."

Gregory, who according to our source in South Wales, has seen Swansea four times, was remaining tightlipped.

He said: "I won't comment on speculation."

But the Blues boss did go on record saying he wants to rejoin the transfer market.

He said: "I would imagine there would be one or two more signings before the deadline."

Gregory wants a striker and is concerned he does not have cover for Paul Read and Miquel Desouza. Read's groin injury against Peterborough on Tuesday underlined the point.

Gregory said: "I will not be panicked. A striker has always been my aim since day one but good ones are thin on the ground. I could go out and get 20 tomorrow but I need people that are going to be good enough and will improve us for the next three seasons."

One man Gregory says he is not going after though is Neil Davis, who spent three months on loan at Adams Park, without scoring.

In the reserves' 3-0 win over Crawley on Wednesday, the Blues boss gave a trial to right back Tommy Gallagher, released by Notts County. Gregory played him in midfield and Gallagher scored.

Gregory said: "I haven't crossed him off my list yet. I might have another look."

■ Farrell