

Replacing Evans, it's a tough job.... but someone has got to do it

WHO WOULD YOU WANT BACKING YOU UP?

TERRY EVANS

Age: 32
Born: Hammersmith, April 12, 1965
Height: 6'5"
Weight: 15.7
Honours: Division Three champions 1992 with Brentford.
Clubs: Brentford, Wycombe
Total transfer value: £45,000 over two moves.
 Evans cost Brentford £5,000 when they signed him from non-league Hillingdon Borough in 1985.
 He then cost Wycombe £40,000 when he transferred to Adams Park in 1993.
Total league starts: 356
Qualities: Heading ability, leadership and never say die attitude.
Injury rating: For the last two seasons Evans has played through the pain barrier of a bad knee injury. After each match he goes straight on the treatment table.

KEITH WALKER

Age: 31
Born: Edinburgh, April 17, 1966
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 12.8
Honours: Shoot magazine's Third Division player of the Year 1996-97
Clubs: Stirling Albion, St Mirren and Swansea.
Total Transfer value: £80,000 in one move.
 Swansea paid St Mirren £80,000 for his signature in 1989.
Total League starts (including Scottish): 345
Qualities: Tough tackling defender with good distribution qualities and described as an organiser.
Injury rating: Played the whole of this season's Welsh derby against Cardiff despite breaking his arm in two places in the first five minutes. Blues boss Gregory had been considering putting in an offer for him just before he broke his arm.



Out of the picture: Evans was released by Wanderers, but how does Walker compare to the Wanderers favourite

WANDERERS boss John Gregory took his 13th look at Swansea's centre half Keith Walker during last Saturday's play off final at Wembley.

Gregory sees the 31-year-old Scot as the ideal replacement for club captain Terry Evans who is one of eight players he has released.

He tried to sign Walker, who is out of contract at the Vetch Field, during the season but pulled out when the player broke his arm in the Welsh derby just before Transfer Deadline Day.

Since then Walker has fought his way back to fitness and is the third division's player of the year according to Shoot weekly magazine's match ratings system.

When Gregory tried to snap him up last season Swansea manager Jan Molby said: "Whatever value we put on Keith he is worth more to us by being in the team."

Ironically Walker was a target of Wanderers previous boss Alan Smith he attempted to buy him but opted to spend £100,000 on Paul McCarthy instead.

But Walker will have to live up to his Shoot magazine's star billing if he is to replace cult hero Evans.

Evans was Mr Wanderers who gave blood for the cause. When Alan Smith did not do press conferences Evans was sent out instead.

The big man was also the one Neil Smillie turned to for his assistant when he was caretaker manager before Gregory's appointment.

And when the Blues lost six home games earlier in the season Evans took it upon himself to change things.

He toughened up the club's soft-touch image by getting the team running out to the thumping rock music instead of boppy chart stuff.

He said: "When you go out to play football it's a war and you want to be pumped up for it."

"You can't get pumped up listening to Lisa Stansfield."



FOLLOW THE CROWD: Wanderers' season tickets go on sale from Monday, June 2. Season tickets can be obtained for the stands and terrace with early purchases being rewarded with discounts.