

WANDERERS captain Jason Cousins will miss the start of the season after tearing his cartilage during the Blues 5-0 defeat at home to Aston Villa on Friday night.

He collapsed in agony just 36 minutes into the pre-season friendly, twisting his knee as he prepared to cross the ball.

He left the field on a stretcher and now needs an operation to repair the damage. He is expected to be out for about eight weeks.

It was a bitter blow to Cousins, who signed a new two year contract this summer and was delighted to be named captain for the first match of the season.

He made it clear that he wants the role for good, but his injury means that Blues boss John Gregory now needs to find a new right back and a new captain for the big kick off which is now just three weeks away.

Gregory said: "It's a big blow to us. Jason has worked very hard in pre-season and he is very disappointed at the moment.

"He is our number one right back and we are going to miss him. But these things happen in football, you are going to get injuries and we'll get more as the season progresses."

Gregory now has to decide whether to buy or look in-house for a replacement.

He said: "We have got people within the club who can play there but I am always looking to add to the squad. One of the avenues we could explore might be a loan signing."



Great start: A proud moment for Jason Cousins as he gets the team's autographs before the Blues friendly at Adams Park last Friday. But