

Desperate Blues turn to Posh Dan

WANDERERS are giving a trial to former Peterborough and Orient winger Danny Carter.

The 28-year-old who is comfortable on either flank played for the Blues reserves in their 2-0 defeat against his old club Peterborough United on Wednesday.

Carter's versatility could be vital to the Blues who have only 19 professionals, 20 including loan signing Nicky Mohan, and have already picked up injuries to Keith Scott and Jason Cousins.

Carter made 188 appearances for Orient before playing 45 games for Peterborough but was given a free transfer by Posh in the summer, after ironically being squeezed out by former Blues player David Farrell.

Boss John Gregory said: "I always thought Carter had something to offer and I've heard a few good things about him. A lot of people thought he was unlucky to be freed by Peterborough and he's training with us this week."

Triallists Andrew Forbes, released by Reading and Lee Quincey, freed by Leicester, also played on Wednesday.

Carter comes in on the wing to give a prayer to Wanderers side hit by injury

● Wanderers' slim hopes of signing Aussie international left back Jason Van Blerk disappeared completely on Monday when he signed for Manchester City.

Van Blerk played for Wanderers against Reading in a pre-season friendly and spent a week training with the Blues before deciding that Adams Park was not a big enough stage to relaunch his career.

● Neil Smillie's youth team are flying the flag for England in an international tournament in Holland this weekend. Wanderers have been drawn against two Dutch sides and a Japanese side in their group games.

They will have one of the youngest teams at the under-19s tournament in Amsterdam because John Gregory has stopped youngsters Alan Beeton and Maurice Harkin from travelling as he needs them for the first team.

But the touring Blues will be no

time to sample the Amsterdam nightlife. They have games on Friday, two on Saturday and another on Sunday before returning home on Monday.

● Grant Smith, son of Gordon Smith whose infamous last minute miss cost Wanderers youth coach Neil Smillie an FA Cup winners medal for Brighton against Manchester United in 1983, has joined Wanderers on the YTS.

Smith junior was on the YTS scheme at Brighton last year but was unhappy there and jumped at the chance of finishing his apprenticeship at Adams Park.

● The last time Wanderers conceded five on the opening day of the season was in 1965 when, as an Isthmian League Club, they lost 5-3 at Walthamstow Avenue. They recovered that season to finish fourth in the table.

● James Sheffield ensured the youth team got off to a winning

start scoring the only goal as the Blues beat Luton in their opening game of the South East Counties Youth League.

● Wanderers' programme was voted tenth best in Division Two and 45th best in all divisions by the Wirral Programme Club last year.

● Striker Paul Read, left out of the starting side at Wigan on Saturday in favour of Gregory's SAS force (Scott and Stallard), was delighted to get off the mark with his goal against Fulham on Tuesday.

He said: "Competition for places up there is hot between the three of us. I didn't play on Saturday so I had a point to prove and hopefully the manager thinks I've done that."

Read says he thrives on the competition. He said: "I'm one of these players that needs someone there sitting on the bench otherwise it's easy to get carried away and big-headed and your game isn't as sharp as it should be."