

Blues boss turns down chance to fill free Saturday

Enjoy the break lads

REPORT

By Dave Peters

WANDERERS boss John Gregory turned down York City's request to play the Blues tomorrow, because he wanted to give his players an extended Christmas holiday.

York and Wycombe are both without a match tomorrow after being knocked out of the FA Cup and Alan Little's side tried to bring forward their midweek March trip to Adams Park to tomorrow. But Gregory said no.

He wanted to give his players time off to recharge their batteries for a promotion push in the New Year.

The unpredictable Blues boss, whose trick of giving the players Christmas Day off paid off as the team stalled Watford's title charge on Boxing Day, is hoping for a similar pay-back this time.

He will see his players for the first time this morning since Sunday's 2-1 win at Southend and he will tell them they can afford to lose just four more of their 21 remaining matches if they are to reach the play-offs.

Blues' December revival has put them on 30 points, seven short of the play-off zone but Gregory says the hard work is just beginning.

He said: "We're going to need 72 or 73 points. It's a big ask. We cannot afford to lose more than four matches. It's going to take some doing but looking at what we've done in the last month there's no reason why we can't do it. We're good enough now, we weren't before, but there's a lot of belief in my side now. We've got four months hard work ahead.

"We had a few holes in our team before and I don't think we've got those now. We've tightened up at the back. We've conceded three goals in the whole of December which is a major improvement. We don't have to score four to win now."

He believes Blues are better now, than when they challenged for the top earlier this season.

He said: "I'm much happier now than I was when we were third in the table. We can go into the New Year full of confidence."



GREAT SCOTT: A month ago his saved penalty put Blues fans in the depths of despair as Wanderers went out of the FA Cup to Basingstoke, but last weekend Keith Scott helped put a smile back on supporters faces. Report: Page 13

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