

Boss orders Blues to watch Sunday horror movie



Freeze frame: Smillie made the squad come in and watch the action against Walsall on their day off

Ref: 98-2608AF30a

FURIOUS Neil Smillie ordered his players back in on Sunday to watch a video nasty of the 2-1 home defeat against Walsall which sent Blues to the bottom of Division Two.

Blues are the only team in the division without a point and fed-up Smillie accused his under-achievers of lacking motivation and fitness.

He raged after seeing the club's worst ever start to a Football League season continue: "It was the sort of performance I don't want to see again. There was a lack of passion and desire. Some players looked as though they couldn't perform twice in a week. They gave their all in the week against Swindon in the cup and then

didn't have the necessary legs to do it again."

Blues third successive league defeat was bitterly disappointing because in this division-within-a-division of big-money clubs like Manchester City, Reading, Stoke and Fulham and the have-nots like Wycombe and Walsall – this was a game Smillie expected to win.

He said: "These are the sort of games we've got to win at home if we're going to be anything in the division.

"We showed when we beat Swindon how well we can play against a team in a higher division so I don't see why playing against Walsall it should've been any different. The players were

told to approach it in the same manner and to make things happen but they certainly didn't."

Blues were 2-0 down, to Paul McCarthy's 56th minute own goal and Andy Rammell's strike three minutes later before they woke up.

Nicky Mohan, with his first Blues goal, pulled one back in the 75th minute and Blues then threw everything at the Saddlers.

But James Walker produced a flying save to deny Paul Read before McCarthy had two headers hacked off the line as Blues did too little too late. To make matters worse, Keith Ryan went off injured after turning his ankle and substitute Andy Baird went off with a dislocated finger.