

Daley's in, so who's out?

Boss gets Olympic winner but others must go to balance books

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez added Daley Thompson and goalkeeping guru Garry Phillips to his coaching staff this week, even though he has been told he must raise £200,000 by selling players.

Blues directors want to recoup the money Neil Smillie spent earlier this season and with 13 players

REPORT By Dave Peters

out of contract this summer, Sanchez could be tempted to sell before transfer deadline day. But the directors have backed Sanchez's decision to bring in fitness coach Thompson and Phillips part time and will sanction loan signings.

Sanchez said: "The directors have been good as gold but the books have got to be balanced. It's no secret they overspent and it doesn't take a great economic mind to work out that in a members club there's no-one who is going to put their hand in their pocket.

"I haven't been told I've got to sell any particular player but rather than perhaps losing someone on a

free transfer you'll attempt to raise some money for someone who is determined to go on a free."

The 13 players whose contracts will run out are: Andrew Baird, John Cornforth, Jason Cousins, Michael Forsyth, Lee Holsgrove, Jason Kavanagh, Paul McCarthy, Paul Read, Keith Scott, Mark Westhead, Mark Stallard, Michael Simpson and Aaron Patton.

Blues get their backroom right

... and boss says fitness will improve

LAWRIE Sanchez believes his appointment of Olympic winner Daley Thompson could save the Blues from the drop, by drastically improving players fitness.

Thompson will act as fitness coach, he joins the club along with former Barnet keeper Garry Phillips, who takes up the role of Wanderers' goalkeeping coach.

Sanchez said: "Daley came down on Tuesday and did a fitness session with the lads for two and half hours. It will be the first of many. I'm trying to improve the fitness level. If we're going to play high tempo football for the next 16 games like we have for the first two, we need to be fitter.

"Garry Phillips came in on Monday and will come down one morning a week to work on the goalkeepers because they need specialist coaching."

● Sanchez is still hoping to bring Reading striker Neville Roach in on loan after talks with the player's agent. Roach is with Bury at the moment but Wycombe would be a more convenient move for the Berkshire based player.

● Jason Cousins believes Sanchez is the right man for Blues. In just two weeks he has raised the players self belief and turned them into a side that looked as good as leaders Fulham and Preston.

Cousins said: "He's got people believing 100 per cent in their ability."

Sanchez said: "I've raised their horizon levels. It was done to me when I joined Wimbledon. That's why people like Daley coming in are important, so people can see what winners are like



Up the work-rate: Michael Simpson worked hard at Preston, but the Blues boss wants his players to sustain it with improved fitness

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and it rubs off on them."

● Blues reserves responded to a half time talking to, recovering from 2-0 down to draw 3-3 with West Ham Reserves.

● The Blues boss performed last week's FA Cup quarter final draw with Trevor Brooking. They were both chosen because they

headed winners in previous finals.

● Keith Blagbrough, secretary of the Official Supporters Club, has written to Preston and the Chief Constable of Lancashire to complain about the 'heavy-handed' treatment of Blues fans at Deepdale last weekend.