

CRUNCH TIME

Boss says Blues need 24 points ... and a new belief means they may just do it

LAWRIE Sanchez steered Wanderers to their first win of 1999 with a 2-0 success over Burnley and then said another 24 points should see them to safety.

He thinks Blues need 51 points to stay up and after taking four points from his first three games in charge that target suddenly seems possible.

Before Sanchez arrived, 19 days ago, Wanderers had not managed 24 points all season, but now he has come in and got the players believing in themselves, that target looks more obtainable.

And, on the week of the first anniversary of John Gregory's departure to Aston Villa, fans can only dream of what might have been had Sanchez been appointed then instead of Neil Smillie who had an unhappy eight months in charge.

Using exactly the same players that Smillie had at his disposal, Sanchez has transformed Wanderers from relegation certainties

FOOTBALL By Dave Peters

into a team that now has half a chance of completing the great escape.

In Sanchez's first game, Blues drew with part-time England boss Kevin Keegan's Fulham, then were unlucky to lose at leaders Preston before derailing Burnley's five match unbeaten away run last Saturday.

The Blues boss said: "The confidence has been built. The lads are going to Bournemouth next week confident that they will get something there and a couple of weeks ago that wasn't the case.

"The lads are flying in there. I've made them believe they can do it.

THE BOTTOM TEN

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
York City	32	9	9	14	40	52	36
Colchester	31	8	12	11	34	45	36
Wrexham	30	9	8	13	30	45	35
Burnley	32	8	10	14	36	52	34
Oldham	31	9	6	16	30	41	33
Lincoln	30	8	6	16	30	47	30
North pton	30	6	11	13	25	34	29
Wycombe	31	6	9	16	29	40	27
Notts Co	29	6	7	16	28	44	25
Macc'field	30	5	9	16	21	39	24

When I came in before the Fulham game I told them I expected to get something out of the match and they looked back at me as if to say they didn't expect to.

"The Preston game was the same, I told them I expected to win and they looked at me thinking a draw would be good. And against Burnley I was saying I was looking to win by three or four and they were thinking they were just looking to win.

"It's about mental attitude. At this level the difference between players at the top and bottom of the league is minimal. The difference is belief.

And striker Keith Scott was more than ready to heap praise on Sanchez. He said: "The gaffer has lifted the belief of the whole club and we now believe we can win matches.

"We've got 15 games left and with the confidence that the gaffer has installed into the players I think we can upset a lot of people and get out of trouble."

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Ouch: Jason Kavanagh gets stuck in against Burnley

Picture by MARK SAMMONS Ref: 99-533A18