

Triallists catch Sanchez's eye



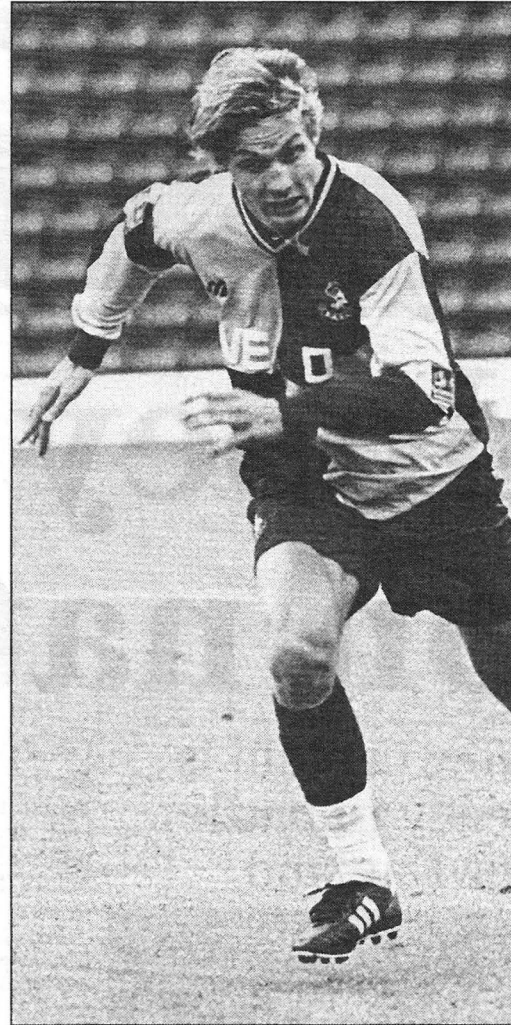
Stowell: Ex-Slough now Bristol

Ref: 99-670F24



Thompson: Debut goal

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Grahn: Skillful Swede

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SWEDISH Under-18 international Tobias Grahn is on trial at Adams park after turning down a two-year deal with Premiership Middlesbrough because they couldn't guarantee him first team football.

Grahn, who is 19 today, showed his class as he joined fellow trailists, Matt Stowell from Bristol City and Richard Thompson from Crawley, in the reserves' 1-0 win over Brentford on Wednesday.

Grahn was 16 when he made his Swedish Premier League debut with Osters and is desperate to play in England. He sees Wanderers as a stepping stone to the Premier League.

He turned down Boro, after a month training alongside Paul Gascoigne and their first team stars because he didn't want to serve his apprenticeship in the reserves.

The striker also had a trial with Charlton, but was unlucky that it coincided with the arrival of

Swede looks tasty but is he too exotic for Blues?

Benfica's Martin Pringle who is now in the first team at The Valley.

Grahn paid his own way from Sweden to link up with the Blues on Tuesday and Sanchez was impressed with what he saw.

His skills were worthy of Middlesbrough's offer, but there is a question mark over his fitness and desire and whether he could apply his undoubted talent in the rough and tumble second division.

Sanchez said: "He's got good feet, excellent skills but he's a little laid back. He needs to work harder but he's definitely got something about him, but how we can incorporate it I don't know."

"I'll be interested to see how he goes in training with us."

Osters want him to stay with them but Grahn, who could be described as a luxury player, has rejected their four year contract after playing nine Swedish Premiership matches this season and hammering 34 goals in 33 reserve games.

He said: "It's always been my dream to play in England. It wasn't my original plan to play in Division Two but I want first team football on a regular basis. I'd be interested in Wycombe if the contract is right and wasn't for too many years."

"I like to keep the ball on the floor. I don't like kick and rush. I'll have a look at Wycombe and they're looking at me."

The other triallists, Stowell and

Thompson, also impressed in the win, which maintained the reserves unbeaten run under Sanchez, and he wants another look at all three.

Hard-working Thompson got the winner with a quality goal hooked in from a long kick from goalkeeper Mark Westhead, which bounced just once. And Stowell looked much better as a defender than he did in midfield in his previous trial against QPR.

Sanchez said: "All three did well and they've given me something to think about."

He already knows a bit about Thompson. The 24-year-old striker is having his third attempt at getting into the pro game after spells at Orient and at Wimbledon where Sanchez knows him from.

He has scored 16 goals this season in non league circles for Dulwich Hamlet and Crawley and asked Sanchez for a trial.

Sanchez admitted he was impressed: "He's got good pace, he's strong and he's a good leaper."