

Change of scenery is the ticket to kick-start Devine scoring

SUPERSUB Sean Devine took just 15 minutes to start persuading Lawrie Sanchez to end his Barnet nightmare.

The 26-year-old striker scored a wonder goal in Blues' 2-1 defeat at Reading as he began his campaign to seduce Sanchez into signing him full-time.

Devine who has been out of favour at Barnet joined Blues on loan last week and instantly fell in love with the club.

Two years ago he was rated in the £1 million pound bracket. His 46 goals in his first 106 games for Barnet earned him an Eire B cap and brought him to the attention of a host of Premiership clubs.

But he has struggled to get into Barnet's side this season and jumped at the chance of joining Blues on loan.

And the change of scenery seems to have done him the world of good.

He came off the bench to ignite Saturday's derby at Reading with a goal-of-the-season candidate. He twisted one way and then the other before unleashing a 30-yard left-foot bullet which almost ripped the net.

His extravagant celebration in front of the Wycombe fans revealed months of pent up anger.

And afterwards he said: "Even if it had been a tap in I'd have celebrated as I did. If the gates weren't locked I'd have carried on running."

"I never lost faith in my ability. I knew I could still score goals. I just need a change of scenery and a chance.

"I've had a bad spell at Barnet and it's nice to get a chance here. Hopefully I'll take it by getting a few

goals. I'd like a move away from Barnet. I don't seem to be in the picture there, it's in my best interest and Barnet's best interest for me to move on.

"I've fitted in straight away at Wycombe it's a great club and a big club.

"I just want to get back into the business of scoring goals again. I got an Eire B cap last year and hopefully if I get my head down and start scoring I may get a call again. That's my aim."

Sanchez said: "Sometimes a change is good for players, they get stuck in a rut. His goal was a great piece of skill."

Devine's goal was one of many bright spots on a day when Wanderers outplayed their play-off bound neighbours, but got nothing because of three mad moments, which left exasperated Sanchez calling them the suicide squad.

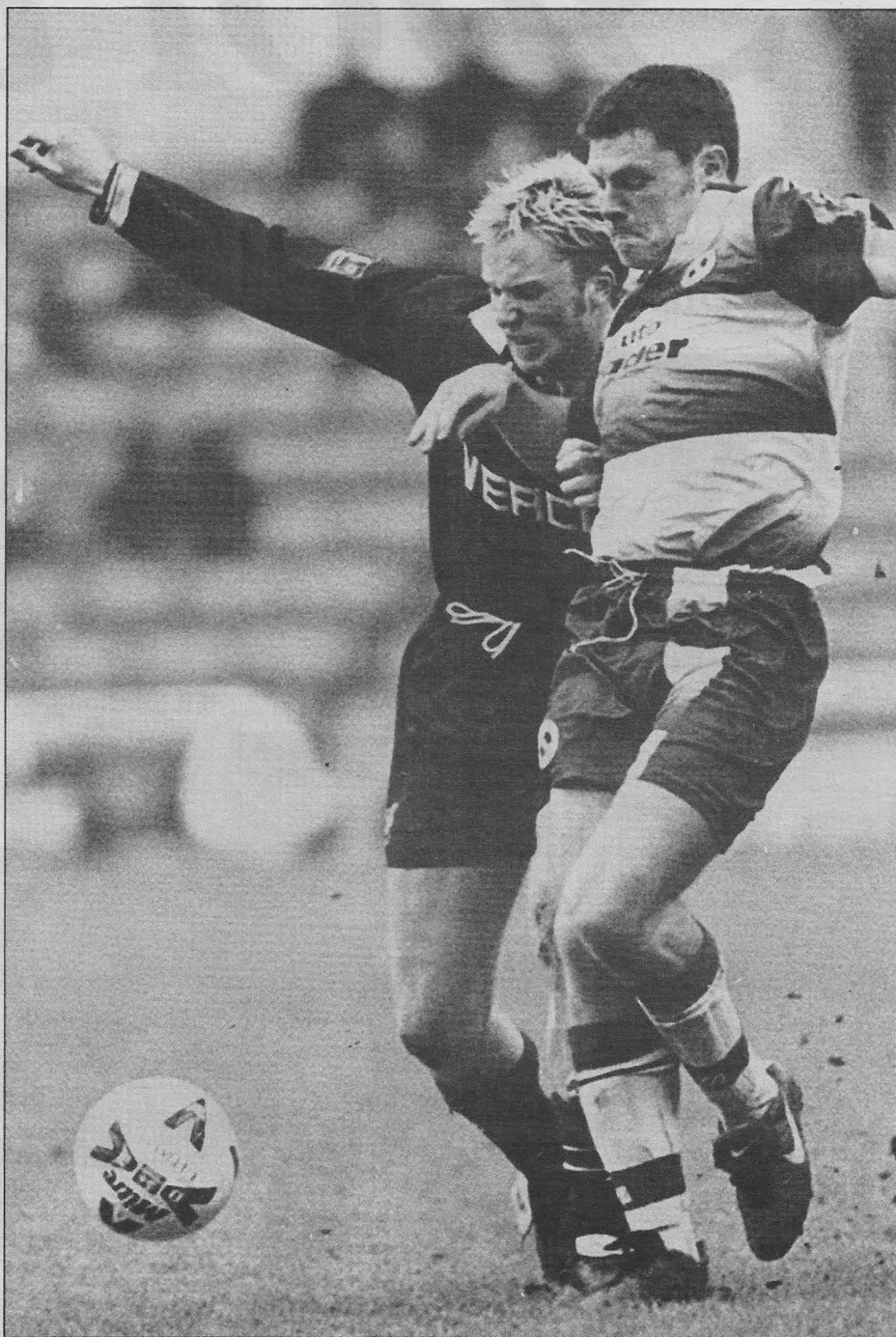
Jason Cousins gave away the first goal mistiming his jump and heading straight into the path of Jim McIntyre to open the scoring for Reading.

Then Dave Carroll repeated his midweek penalty miss in the Berks and Bucks Cup, by blasting high and wide as Reading were reduced to ten when Andy Bernal was sent off for hauling down Andy Baird.

The Wycombe defence then went AWOL to allow Reading's lofty 5ft 8in Darren Caskey to head home unmarked before Devine's strike set up a thrilling finale.

Sanchez said: "We lost it because we are naive. It's as simple as that.

"We are a suicide team. We play extremely well and then shoot ourselves in the foot and that's why we're bottom of the table."



In a tangle: Blues matched Reading but the score let them down