

Injuries and bans hit Blues boss

WANDERERS will be without the suspended Jamie Bates and Paul Emblen for tomorrow's all-ticket match at Manchester City, while Jason Cousins has lost his battle for fitness and Dave Carroll is struggling.

It means boss Lawrie Sanchez will include Michael Forsyth for the first time in his squad as Wanderers try to do the double over the once proud sky Blues.

Wanderers had hoped that Cousins would be fit to take over from Bates, whose booking at Wrexham took him over the limit and earned

Emblen and Bates out

him a one match ban.

But Captain Cousins has taken longer than expected to recover from the foot injury he sustained scoring Wanderers' opener at Bristol Rovers a month ago when he sprained the ligaments in his left foot.

He said: "I'm a week or ten days away. It's deeply disappointing to be missing as things are really hotting up, but I haven't got a chance

I'm only doing light jogging.

"It's disappointing because it would be difficult enough going to Manchester City with a full squad."

Carroll's groin injury, sustained in the first half of the draw at Stoke, is also taking time to heal and Sanchez does not expect to see him until the last game of the season when Blues face crucial matches at home to Wigan and away to Lincoln.

The injury and suspension crisis means Sanchez may have to put reserve keeper Mark Westhead on the bench again and be prepared to use him as an outfield substitute.

Manchester City still harbour hopes of an automatic promotion place but victory tomorrow will guarantee them a play-off spot.

Sanchez made use of last week's fixture-free Saturday to spy on City at Gillingham and saw nothing in their 2-0 victory to frighten him.

He said: "We can get something there. They are not brilliant. I'm looking to complete the double."

● The Official and Independent supporters club are running travel to tomorrow's game and the mid-week game at Notts. To book call (01494) 536270 (Independents) or (01296) 429307 (officials).