

No midfield Fear for boss Sanchez

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez will turn down a 'come and get me' plea from a Premiership midfielder he tried to sign on loan last season - because the ones he's already got at Adams Park have won him over.

Sanchez tried to sign Wimbledon's Peter Fear when he first arrived at the club, because he did not think the middlemen he had were good enough.

But he has changed his mind and the players he was writing off four months ago are now making him turn 25-year-old Fear, with his 71 top-flight performances for the Premiership Dons, away.

Sanchez said: "Peter Fear, no. I don't feel I need any midfielders now. We're strong there. Everything is looking positive. It's a strong area of the field we've got enough players who can do a job."

His decision not to go back for Fear, who confirmed this week that he was hoping Wycombe would renew their interest in him, is a massive pat on the back for the Blues midfielders who won Sanchez over with a string of much-improved performances.

Keith Ryan moved up from the back, Michael Simpson played his way into a new contract, Dave Carroll enjoyed an Indian summer alongside the combative Steve Brown, while the energetic Paul Emblen saved his best for last as they showed Sanchez that he didn't need to look elsewhere.

And the healthy situation should get even better with youngsters Lee Holsgrave and Martyn Lee pushing at the first team door and Maurice Harkin returning to the fold after a year out injured.

Fear said: "I could have gone to Wycombe on loan last season but Wimbledon weren't interested in that."

Wimbledon offered him a new deal which he has turned down because he wasn't in their first team picture last year and he could now end up

Keith Ryan and co have won him over

at Blues' Division Two rivals Brentford or Oxford. Wolves have also spoken to him.

● Blues reserves will kick off their pre-season friendly campaign with a trip to Ryman League neighbours Marlow on July 20.

They then travel to FA Vase semi-finalists Thame United on July 27 and are away to Conference side Hayes on July 30. They finish off on August 4 with a game at Aylesbury.

● Assistant boss Terry Gibson has accepted the club's invitation to stay on next season.

Gibbo was appointed on a short-term experimental basis last February and boss Sanchez was so pleased with the way it worked that he has now cemented their relationship for the forthcoming season.

He said: "I've spoken to Terry and he's going to stay. He's been excellent and he balances my personality. He's a good bridge between me and the players."

Elsewhere in the dugout, Terry Evans will revert back to his original role as youth team physiotherapist.

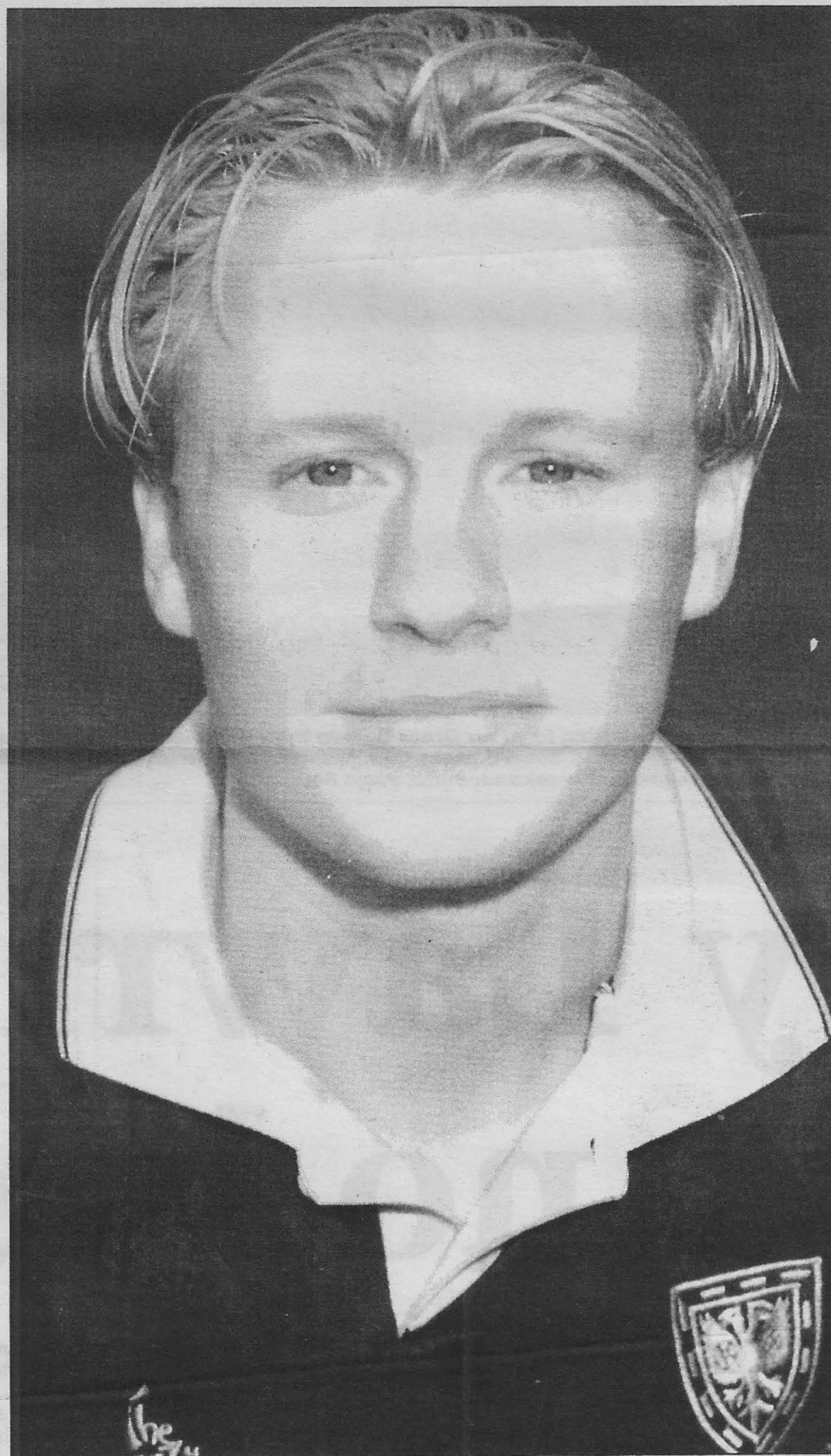
● Wanderers are selling special Mission Accomplished t-shirts celebrating the team's last-day escape from relegation.

The shirts are now available priced at £8.99.

The club are also releasing a Mission Impossible video next month.

● Former Blues striker Steve McGavin has been released by third division Southend United after just four months.

● A signed Wycombe Wanderers football fetched £200, twice as much as an autographed England football, when the two were raffled at the Wycombe Heights Golf Club captain's charity day.



Off the wanted list: Peter Fear is no longer a Wycombe target