

Newell missus the Wanderers boat

WANDERERS could have signed former Premiership-winning star Mike Newell, if his wife had not gone shopping, the Bucks Free Press can reveal.

Blues boss Sanchez left a message with Newell's missus expressing interest in the star goal-getter.

But she went shopping before passing on the message and by the time she returned he'd signed for non-league Doncaster, blissfully unaware of Wycombe's interest.

Sanchez said: "He was a bit disappointed when he phoned me back because he said he'd have liked to talk to Wycombe."

Newell, 34, who won the Premier League title with Blackburn had been released by Aberdeen.

Sanchez said: "It's a pity because his track record was second to none. He was a terrific targetman alongside people like Alan Shearer."

It is the second blow Sanchez has had as he tries to find a targetman to replace Keith Scott who went to Reading for £250,000 last season.

Steve Anthrobus had been lined up but wanted too much money and has joined Oxford instead.

Now Sanchez looks set to stick with the players he's got.

He said: "It would be nice to have another striker on board but I'm not going to do it just to fill the place up."

He believes he has enough quality strikers to get by.

He said: "Sean Devine will guarantee me 20 goals a season and I'd hope Andy Baird can do that as well. Then we've got Paul Emblen, Danny Senda and Jermaine McSporran."

Sanchez now sees Emblen, Wanderers' last-day hero, as a striker rather than a midfielder.

Emblen said: "I hope I get the chance to play there because I think



Norway bound: Wanderers youth team face the camera before flying out to Scandinavia

up front is my best position."

● Chairman Ivor Beeks will join Sanchez at today's FA disciplinary hearing as they bid to explain why Blues topped the bad boys league last season.

A suspended fine looks on the cards for Wanderers who totted up 508 disciplinary points.

Steve Brown was the worst offender accounting for 74 all by himself with Michael Simpson second with 46 points and Matt Lawrence third on 44.

● Gary Goodchild and his youth team (pictured) fly out to Norway on Thursday for a pre-season tournament.

The Blues have been drawn against Goodchild's former club Viking Stavanger, Lillestrom and Start.

The squad includes the new first years as well as professionals Martyn Lee and Danny Senda.

● Wanderers returned to pre-season training yesterday without Olympic legend Daley Thompson who had been expected to give them hell as a part-time fitness instructor.

Thompson had to duck out because it clashed with his commitments at Wimbledon.

Sanchez said: "Just because Daley isn't there doesn't mean the players will be getting it any easier."

Blues won't see a football for two weeks and will begin a fortnight's fitness slog with the PTI instructors at RAF Halton on Monday.

● Blues need more matchday 50-50 draw sellers who have got two hours to spare before matches. In return they get commission on sales and free entry to the match. Contact Mike Phillips on (01494) 472100.

● Wanderers star David Carroll

has bashed Tote Bookmakers for making Blues 66-1 rank outsiders to win the Second Division.

Carroll said: "I'm very surprised. Whoever did those odds doesn't seem to have taken into account what we did at the end of last season."

Carroll believes the Blues can do a Walsall. Last season the Saddlers were among the bookies favourites to be relegated but they surprised everyone by winning promotion.

Carroll said: "Since Sanchez has come in our results have been excellent and if we get off to a good start I can't see any reason why we can't do a Walsall."

List of prices to win the Second Division as published by Tote Bookmakers: Wigan 4/1, Bristol City 7/1, Bournemouth 10/1, Brentford 10/1, Preston 10/1, Cardiff 12/1, Gillingham 12/1, Burnley 14/1, Stoke 14/1, Blackpool 16/1, Notts Co 16/1, Reading 16/1, Millwall 20/1, Bristol Rovers 25/1, Cambridge 25/1, Oxford 25/1, Wrexham 25/1, Chesterfield 28/1, Bury 33/1, Scunthorpe 33/1, Luton 50/1, Oldham 50/1, Colchester 66/1, Wycombe 66/1.