

Mac impresses

JERMAINE McSporrnan has forced his way into boss Lawrie Sanchez's first team plans after a string of impressive pre-season performances.

Sanchez said: "Jermaine has really impressed me. He's added tackling to his game, he's heading the ball, he's chasing back and he's a different player.

"He's been tremendous and you want to get him in the team somewhere and one option is to play three up front at home."

Competition for striking places is hotter than ever with McSporrnan, Sean Devine, Andy Baird and Paul Emblen all vying for roles.

Defence assault

BLUES will spend the countdown to next Saturday's big kick-off working on set pieces and defensive play this week.

Lawrie Sanchez said: "We will always score goals but now that the league has reverted to goal difference [instead of goals scored] there will be credit for good defending and we will be working on that."

No to Slough

WANDERERS have turned down a friendly with Ryman League side Slough next week.

The Blues said no to the Monday game because they want to concentrate on training and do not want to risk any injuries.

Posh at the Park

FORMER Wanderers striker Paul Read has joined Swedish second division side Ostersunds, just when he thought he would be making a quick return to Adams Park with tomorrow's visitors Peterborough (ko 3pm).

Read, who was released by Wanderers in Lawrie Sanchez's summer clearout, had been training with Barry Fry's Posh but when they couldn't agree financial terms the Swedes offer came out of the blue.

The striker said: "It's a new challenge for me and the girlfriend and we're looking forward to it. Not many people get the chance to play abroad, this is a great opportunity for me."

But while Read will not be in the Peterborough side that visit in tomorrow's friendly another former Blue, winger Dave Farrell, is expected to play.

Three for Leon

LEON Phelan hit a hat-trick as Wanderers' youth team continued their impressive pre-season form with a 4-2 win at Swindon on Tuesday.

Fifteen-year-old schoolboy Johnny Dixon hit the other as Wanderers followed up their 5-0 hammering of Brighton and Hove Albion's youngsters.

The Blues youngsters have suddenly found the net since their trip to Norway where only a lack of firepower stopped them from finishing higher than sixth in the 24-team tournament.

Youth team boss Gary Goodchild said: "We reached the quarter finals, but scoring was our problem,"