

Aiming for target man

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez stepped up his search to find a target-man this week by bringing in former Bristol Rovers striker Guy Ipoua on trial.

Sanchez wants a big presence up front to complete his team which has started the season with two impressive performances, but only one goal.

He said: "I spent yesterday watching the tapes of the Burnley and Wolves matches and I thought we looked very good. We created lots of chances without converting them

"Things are going in the right direction but if you don't take your chances when you're on top you can get poked in a very sensitive place."

Wanderers were 'poked' by Burnley on Saturday as they came back to force an equaliser after Wanderers had created enough chances to bury them, and then the same happened against Wolves in the Worthington Cup when ten-men Blues went down 1-0.

Sanchez said: "A big presence is all we're lacking, we've got plenty of pace up front and we'll score plenty through Sean Devine, Andy Baird and Jermaine McSparran, but when we put the ball high it tends to come back. A big man would give us other options."

Sanchez ran the rule over 6ft 1in French-born Ipoua during the reserves' last-minute 2-1 defeat at Ryman League Aylesbury on Wednesday.

The triallist, who is available on a free transfer, has also been interesting Division Two rivals Luton.

He had a mixed night but did set up Danny Senda for Blues' goal and Wanderers took another look at him in training yesterday and will decide today.

Sanchez said: "He did well, he was lively and quite strong but he wasn't as big as I was told he was. He's got pace but he didn't win too many high balls against a non-league centre half."

Ipoua who has also played for Athletic Madrid's reserves said: "My strength is in the air but I didn't get too many crosses and it was a bit frustrating. I only met the players before the kick off so it was difficult."

● Keeper Mark Westhead, who was knocked unconscious after a collision with team-mate Mark Rogers in the Aylesbury game has been given the all clear to return to training on Monday.



BACK TO BASICS: Lawrie Sanchez tried to get around his touchline ban by using walkie-talkies to communicate with his dugout during the Burnley match but gave up and reverted to shouting. Match report: Page 55.
Picture by VIRGINIA COOPER Ref: 99-2374BF2