

Wanderers make it a flying start

Blues get off to their best beginning for five years to go eighth

DEFENDER Paul McCarthy paid tribute to boss Lawrie Sanchez as Wanderers took just 90 minutes to do what it took them eight months to do last season – and won away.

Macca said after Saturday's 1-0 win at newly-promoted Scunthorpe which ensured Blues best start for five years: "We're a lot more organised and hard-working than we were last season and the manager has signed some good players."

"Last year was unbelievable, god only knows how we stayed up after failing to win any of our first 12 games, but the manager came in and turned it round and got the players believing in themselves."

One of the things Sanchez has done is take Keith Ryan out of the back four and stick him back in midfield and Macca believes that was a winning move.

He said: "Having Rhino in front of us is a great help because we don't always have to come through and win the ball in the air because we know Keith is going to win it and he picks up so many seconds as well."

"It's a real team effort the forwards are tackling back and Rhino and Michael Simpson ran their socks off."

Sanchez pulled off another masterstroke on Saturday when he took striker Sean Devine to one side before the kick off and reassured him that there wasn't any pressure on him just because he hadn't scored in his opening two games.

Sanchez said: "I told him I paid a lot for him because he's a goalscorer and that the only way he could score was by being on the field."

"He'd gone two games without scoring which is a drought for him, so we had a little chat and I told



Midfield master: Keith Ryan's move into the middle has eased pressure on the defence Ref: 99-2437AF7

him not to panic

"It was probably his least effective performance, but he scuffed his goal in and now he's up and running. That should give him the confidence. He's a natural predator and he'll get goals."

Devine, who scored eight in 12 games to keep the Blues up last

season, said: "It was a relief to get off the mark again this season. I was beginning to snatch at chances a bit. The gaffer told me to relax before the game and it helped. Now I'm up and running I'm quietly confident again."

Blues, who bossed the first half then sat on Devine's 42nd minute

goal, were hanging on at the end.

Sanchez said: "After three years of fighting relegation they don't have the belief they can hold onto games."

"They panicked when they got in the lead. If they'd continued doing what they'd done in the first half, they'd have won comfortably."