

SANCHEZ RETURNS TO THE FRONT LINE

Back in the dugout after touchline ban

FOOTBALL

LAWRIE Sanchez returns to the dugout for the first time tonight following his six-match touchline ban.

The award-winning Blues boss will go pitchside as Wanderers bid to keep their unbeaten home league record intact against Brian Flynn's Wrexham.

He was forced to watch Wanderers' bright start to the league campaign, and their Worthington Cup triumph, from the stands after the Football League hammered him with a six-match touchline ban following his sending off and row with referee David Laws at Preston last season.

Sanchez, who last week won the League Managers Association Performance of the Week trophy for masterminding the cup win at Woves, had been getting around the ban by using walkie-talkies to communicate with Terry Gibson and the rest of his benchmen, but he is delighted to be back with the action.

"It will be nice to be back. But we've done quite well since I've been away from the dugout, I just hope that doesn't change now I'm back," he said.

Wycombe have not lost a league match at Adams Park since April 5 and Sanchez has already been working overtime to ensure that Wanderers preserve that unbeaten record at the expense of the Welshmen who they did the double over last season.

The match was originally scheduled to take place on yesterday's Bank Holiday, but Sanchez sacrificed a potentially bigger crowd, for the benefits of giving his players an extra day's rest following Saturday's battle at Gillingham.

The shrewd boss demanded the date change after remembering how Gillingham successfully pulled the same trick on him last season.

The Gills brought their Easter Saturday fixture forward to a Thursday and were then as fresh as daisies by the time they played a leg-weary Wycombe side, who had played on the Saturday, on Easter Monday.

Blues held their own until the final hour, when Gillingham's extra freshness made all the difference as they scored two goals in the final 30 minutes to emerge victorious.

Sanchez has never forgotten that and vowed that Blues wouldn't be out-thought like that again. He moved to change the date before the ink was dry on the original fixture list.