

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Lawrie Sanchez has attacked fans who missed Tuesday's epic cup-tie in an amazing outburst questioning their ambition of seeing the team in football's top flight.

Sanchez hit out after a tiny crowd of just over 5,000 barely half-filled Adams Park where the Blues went down 4-3 to West Bromwich Albion in the Worthington Cup - the Blues' biggest home game so far this season.

He described the number of fans at the match as "abysmal."

The popular boss fuelled speculation about a possible move to rivals Reading, who are managerless after last week's sacking of Tommy Burns, by praising their fan base.

He said: "I know Reading fans turn up in bigger numbers than that, they come out in tens of thousands."

"We are a community based club and we need the fans to generate the revenue."

"We have got some superb players here, but we may need to sell them to create cash to make up for the fans not being here."

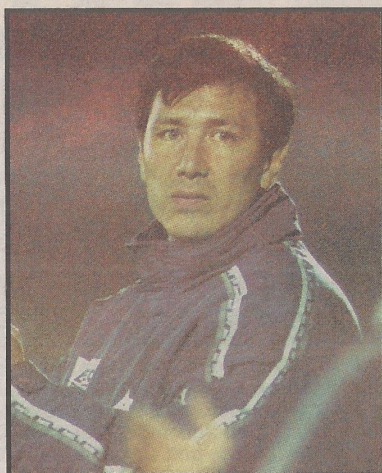
"If that's their ambition then don't complain if we stay in the second division."

Sanchez, who has signed a three year deal with Wycombe, stressed that he had not been approached by Reading.

A full house would have boosted the club's funds and Sanchez said he wanted regular high attendances.

He fumed: "It makes me question how far this club can go. If Wycombe want to be a first division club, then the fans have got to turn up."

"They don't deserve success, if that's all that's going to come to the games."



● **ABOVE** : Outburst - Lawrie Sanchez looks disheartened during the match
RIGHT: Bandaged, Lawrence and Jones leave the field
BRAVE: Wycombe's Matt Lawrence is treated by team physio Dave Jones after receiving a cut to the head

Despite his anger Sanchez stressed die-hard Wycombe fans who pack the terrace in the Syan stand have been a huge boost to the team - even spurring the team on to equalise on Tuesday taking the game into extra time.

He said: "I want to differentiate between the regular fans and those who only watch when we are near promotion or battling relegation."

"The fans at Adams Park on Tuesday were magnificent and their noise levels have risen ten-fold since I arrived, but where are the rest?"

Sanchez pleaded with the fans to back the team, both vocally and financially.

He said: "We are putting a good team out there, I don't know what more they need to see, so come and support us now."

Spokesman Alan Hutchinson added he was worried about keeping the ambitious Sanchez at the club if the fans do not help create a team to compete for a place in football's First Division.

Keith Blagborough, chairman of the supporters club, said he shared Sanchez' disappointment.

Full match report page 2.



FOOTIE INDEX

WYCOMBE boss Lawrie Sanchez says terrace apathy may prompt him to apply for the vacant Reading job. He said: "I know their fans would turn up in bigger numbers. They want to see their team succeed."

CHARLTON plan to move for £1m-rated Grimsby striker Jack Lester. He is out of contract at the end of the season and is interesting Southampton, Wolves and Ipswich. **BARNESLEY'S** Geoff Tho-

mas will be out for two weeks with a badly-gashed knee. The former England midfielder had 15 stitches in the wound, suffered in the Worthington Cup against Stockport.

BRAZILIAN striker Marcos di Giuseppe, on trial at Sunderland, is waiting to see whether his midweek appearance against Walsall has won him a job. Boss Peter Reid said: "He showed some exquisite touches."