

Chairboys Chat with Ryland James

I'm staying put, Devine

BLUES' three-goal hero Sean Devine pledged his future to Wycombe while having an eye on an Ireland call up after scoring his first hat-trick in eighteen months.

On-form Devine hit three second half goals against Reading on Saturday, his first hat trick since scoring all three goals for his old club Barnet against Darlington in a 3-2 win on April 4 1998.

Devine, 27, was brought to Wycombe from Barnet reserves in March and has vowed to help the club push for Division One promotion.

He certainly thinks they are good enough.

He said: "I am happy enough here and I want to try to break my record of 20 goals in a season."

He added: "We are flying at the moment, there's definitely more to come from this team and I think we're good enough to go up automatically."

"If you look at our last 12 games last year and put that with the first ten this season, we could be amongst it."

The striker who has already scored eight goals this season, dismissed any thoughts of a move to a bigger club, adding he wants to try and break his record goal total to help Wycombe push for promotion.

Now, the hot shot striker hopes to win a call up for Ireland, adding to his one Eire B appearance against Northern Ireland in February 1998, after qualifying through his Dublin-born dad.

He said: "It's what I hope for, if I can get a B cap, then there's no reason why I can't add a senior cap, especially as I am playing in a league higher than at Barnet."

Devine paid tribute to fellow forward Paul Emblen, who received a standing ovation when he was substituted for Andy Baird after 77 minutes of Saturday's game.

He said: "Paul played a big part in the hat trick, he worked hard all afternoon and I was disappointed for him that he didn't get on the score sheet."



● VICTORY HUDDLE: Blues players mob Dave Carroll after his stunning 25 yard goal

Sanchez calls for fan consistency

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez has paid tribute to Wycombe fans who packed out Adams Park with 7,000 fans - but said he expects the same for the rest of the season.

Sanchez was speaking after the fans dedicated Saturday's Reading game as Lawrie Day, to show the Blues boss that they are serious about Wycombe's chances of getting into the first division.

Now the Wycombe boss said he wants to see the fairweather fans turn up regularly to boost Wanderers revenue, enabling him to buy players to strengthen the squad.

He said: "I have given the crowd plenty of stick in the press, but they turned out in numbers. Reading brought along 1500 fans and we had the other 5,500 fans.

"That's fine for a local derby, but I expect to see them

all here again next week, they did it for one game, but like I say to my players, it's not just about one game, it's the whole season.

"The fans have seen a real game of football out there today and nobody could say they didn't get their money's worth."

Sanchez said he wants Wycombe fans to be as strong in their attendance until the end of the season in May.

He said: "I expect them to turn out in numbers again for the Cambridge, that'll be a test for them."

But Blues fans will be relieved to hear that Sanchez has buried any speculation about a possible move to Reading.

He said: "I have signed a three year contract which I intend to honour."

McCarthy on the way back

DEFENDER Paul McCarthy missed his first game of the season after damaging his ankle in training last week.

Manager Lawrie Sanchez expects him to be fit for Saturday's match against Cambridge United at Adams Park.

● FORMER Wycombe favourite Keith Scott returned to Adams Park on Saturday - but did not play for Reading after injuring his thigh in training on Friday.

The big centre-forward, left Adams Park last season, but took his place in the stand to watch his side go down 5-3.

● WYCOMBE Wanderers youths got their first win of the season beating Brentford 2-1 with goals coming from Nick Leach and Daniel Senda.

● WYCOMBE Wanderers Ladies, missing five of their first choice players lost 4-1 to Denham.