

Wanderers boss looks for loan to cover suspension crisis

JAMIE Bates misses tomorrow's clash at high flying Burnley following his angry altercation with officials in the tunnel at Notts County.

Bates was fined £200 and banned for one game following the incident at the end of Blues' 2-1 defeat at Meadow Lane.

His absence has left Blues with a central defender crisis which boss Lawrie Sanchez is hoping to plug with a loan signing ahead of tomorrow's Turf Moor trip.

He has lined up a month's loan deal with a stopper from a higher division and was hoping to seal it in time.

Sanchez is not a fan of short-term replacements but Blues' defensive crisis has forced him to think again.

Central defenders, Paul McCarthy and Mark

Rogers, are on the long-term injury list and won't play again until Christmas.

Blues travel to the in-form Clarets with another big problem looming on the horizon.

An amazing seven players at the club are walking a disciplinary tightrope.

Matt Lawrence, Michael Simpson, Steve Brown, Jason Cousins, Sean Devine, Paul

Emblen and Bates are all on four bookings – just one yellow card away from a ban.

Burnley, who had the better of last week's draw at Wigan, have a full squad with the exception of defender Peter Swan, who hasn't played since he was injured at Wycombe last term.

He stepped up his comeback this week by playing his first reserve game of the season.

Sanchez said of the game: "Burnley are a big strong side but we can get something out of the game if we carry on where we left off against Wigan and Brentford."

If the loan bid doesn't come off, Alan Beeton can play in the middle of the back four or Mr Versatility, Keith Ryan, could revert to the centre back position he performed with honours during the John Gregory management era.

Tomorrow's opponents ...

Burnley (a)

You can get odds of 22-1 from William Hill on a 2-0 Blues win

LETTERS

You need more than just football

I AM not a fan myself, but my three sons go to the majority of Wycombe Wanderers home games and some of the away games.

If you look at the gates of all the

first, second and third division sides, the majority have smaller crowds compared to 20 years ago.

I think this is the fault of the Football Association, they have sold their soul to television and as a consequence have shot themselves in the foot.

We have now reached saturation point as regard to football games,

there is hardly a day goes by when there isn't a first class game on television, so why pay to go and see smaller sides play.

I think there are two answers to this problem.

1. The FA take a bigger slice of the television money and pass it down to the smaller clubs to keep them going because, without the

lower divisions, the Premium League would also die.

2. The smaller clubs should give better value for the fans, why not give them two games on the same day, play the reserve games on the same day prior to the main match. If you went to a boxing match you would see several bouts not just one.

They could provide entertainment

before the games and during half-time, this would encourage family watching, also have cheerleaders for the sides it would make a more entertaining day and while the fans are there longer, they spend more on food. At least it would be worth trying.

Mr S Mayor

Bridgebank Close, Loudwater