

BREATH TAKINGLY naive was how manager Lawrie Sanchez described his team's defending after Wycombe Wanderers lost 2-1 at home to Millwall on Saturday in Nationwide Division 2.

Sanchez kept his players in the dressing room for 45 minutes after the Blues let themselves down with some poor defending against a side gunning for promotion.

The boss said: "We are a very naive team, a lovely bunch of players who work hard in training, but you can't legislate for the naivete of the team's defending. It's breath-taking at times."

Sanchez knows he has to stop Wycombe's recent dire run of results which has seen them take just three points from the last five games.

Millwall's Neil Harris was the danger man, setting up the two goals, and the Lions opened the scoring after 51 minutes when Paul Ifill fed Harris down the wing who returned the favour with a cross which Ifill buried past goalkeeper Martin Taylor, who otherwise had an outstanding afternoon between the posts.

Wycombe battled hard and got back on level terms when Andrew Baird won a free-kick which was laid on for skipper Keith Ryan to drive low into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

The good work was wasted as Millwall were gifted the winner when Harris again raced down the flank before passing to Paul Moody, continually testing the Wycombe defence, who shot home from 12 yards out.

Wycombe travel to fellow mid-table Bristol City on Friday night hoping for three points as an early Christmas present, before having an eight-day break until they play Bournemouth at Adams Park on Boxing day.

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WYCOMBE have been drawn away to arch-rivals Oxford United in the second round of the Auto Windscreens Shield, with the tie due to be played on Tuesday January 11.

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WANDERERS are launching a brand-new attendance boosting initiative which has proved successful for Crystal Palace. With the backing of Bucks County Council, Wycombe are offering all schools in the area the chance to sell tickets with the money raised going towards school-books. Schools will be selling tickets for the game against Scunthorpe United on January 15. Under the scheme, funded by a grant from Nationwide Building Society, the club will be refunded for the cost of any tickets sold.

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WYCOMBE Youth team have drawn Premiership side Newcastle

Boss attacks naive players as they give Millwall all the points

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez threatened a major summer clear-out after seeing Wanderers crash 2-1 at home to Millwall last Saturday.

He blasted his players for being naive and warned them they are living on borrowed time after Millwall's Paul Moody, who Sanchez had once tried to buy, hit the winner.

His green Blues have now taken just six points out of a possible 30 in the league and the angry Wycombe boss says he is preparing for a summer of rebuilding.

He said: "Six points out of thirty is absolutely abysmal."

Although, in mitigation, he added that Blues had played all the top sides in that period.

The former Wimbledon player was furious that both Millwall's goals came from Wycombe mistakes.

He fumed: "We're naive. They're a lovely bunch of lads who give their lot but they're naive week-in, week-out. The fact that they scored from our two set plays sums up our naivety."

"I've explained the facts of life to them. They can compete on a football-basis with any team in this division but they can't think quickly enough. They can't defend set plays well enough and now we've been beaten on our own set plays."

"They need to have a long look at themselves. Those that can turn that corner and stop being naive will be the ones that stay here and those that don't will be the ones that change."

Sanchez says he needs to change the mentality of the team.

He said: "I was at a club where you didn't last five minutes if you were naive and I find it a real shock to the system that our players are continually as naive as they are."

"We need a few more winners in our team. They accept when things go wrong. The players accept losing games instead of doing something to stop it."

"It's a matter of getting through this season the best I can with this group of players and trying to keep them above those bottom four places."

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