

Devine's gift for heart attack dad

SEAN Devine scored twice in Monday's 3-0 win over Chesterfield and dedicated his goals to his dad who suffered a heart attack on New Year's Eve.

Father Tommy, who is now recovering in Greenwich Hospital, told Sean to score two goals to make him feel better.

Devine did just that, taking his tally to 15 league goals and 17 in total this season with a brace in the win over the division's bottom club.

The Wycombe marksman is now three goals short of Miquel Desouza's all-time league record of goals in one season for the Blues.

He told the Bucks Free Press: "Those goals were for dad."

Devine's dad, who runs a pub, suffered the attack just as the Wycombe striker was preparing to join him to see in the new millennium.

He said: "It was a real shock to me. I was meant to be going to his pub to celebrate New Year's Eve when I got the news he'd been rushed to hospital.

"I couldn't get into Greenwich to see dad because the area was shut off so I had to just keep on ringing.

"I got to see him on New Year's Day and saw him on Sunday as well. It was a big shock to me because me and my dad are really close. He told me to get two goals for him and I've done that for him."

Devine, the club's record £200,000 buy from Barnet, has now bagged an astonishing 25 goals in 40 appearances for Blues and boss Lawrie Sanchez rates him as the best striker in the second division.

He said: "His strike rate is phenomenal. I didn't think he played that well today and he's ended up with two goals. I look at him sometimes and think how do you do it. He's just a goalscorer and I'm very pleased to have him.

"He's resurrected his career here. He is one, if not the best, striker in this division and if he keeps scoring goals and working consistently then he can play at a higher level and hopefully that'll be with us."

Devine has not looked back since Wanderers plucked him from third division Barnet's reserves.

Sanchez said: "He was Barnet's fourth choice striker. He played for Barnet reserves against our reserves in my first week here and looked overweight and a shadow of what he was a few years ago when people were looking at him with figures of a million pound being quoted.

"He's a bit like John Travolta his career went down the pan but now

he's back up there knocking on the door again.

"You can offer people chances but not all of them take them. He's taken his with both hands and with him I think we can do good things."

Devine was the difference as

Wycombe saw in the New Year with a flattering 3-0 win over the division's basement boys.

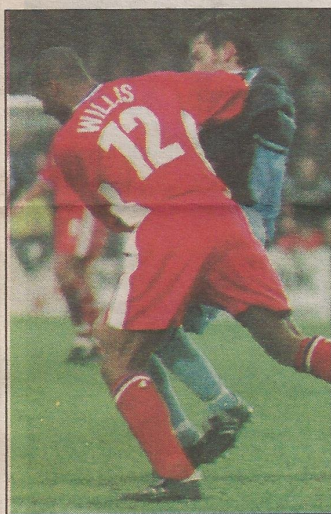
His goals, and sub Dannie Bulman's injury-time diving header, left Chesterfield fans calling for their manager John Duncan to go.

Devine thought that was harsh.



Hat-trick: Boss Sanchez plucked Sean Devine from Barnet

Ref: 0014AF37



Top tussle: Blues battle with Chesterfield

Ref: 0014AF4