

Wanted: A Devine mate



Boss admits he needs another like the club's prolific scorer Sean

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez has blasted his side's lack of firepower and says he needs another front man who can find the net like striker Sean Devine.

He rested his top hitman from Tuesday's Auto Windscreens Shield clash and then saw his toothless Blues crash out on penalties to an Oxford side who played for 88 minutes with ten men.

And he admitted afterwards he wanted to find a perfect strike partner for Devine.

Sanchez said: "We've got one person who can score goals and unfortunately nobody else can. Sean would have scored a dozen tonight.

"Without him we're half the side we are with him. I need another goalscorer to play alongside Sean.

"If we had one we'd be a very decent side. We haven't got anybody who can head the ball in the goal. That was our only problem. There wasn't a problem at the back, the problem was in the final third.

"If you don't take your chances when you get them you're always going to get kicked in the pants."

Sanchez left Devine out of the side that drew 1-1 after extra time before the shootout drama and wrapped him up in cotton wool because he says he wouldn't run the risk of his marksman getting injured with the season only at the midway point.

He said: "We're in a situation where if we put a little run together we could go one way or if we have a bad run we

could get sucked in trouble. I want to make sure we get 51 points to be safe as soon as possible.

"I dread to think what would happen if Devine got a serious injury."

Devine has scored more than half of Wanderers' 31 league goals and Sanchez says it's remarkable Wycombe are 11th in the table when they are so reliant on one player.

He even joked that players will have to stop tackling Devine in training because he can't risk his £200,000 record buy getting injured.

He said: "It's a flippant remark with a touch of truth. The Oxford game showed what it would be like if we were without him.

"Andy Baird has everything you would want in a centre forward apart from the final product and McSporran, for all his strengths, does not score enough goals either."

But Sanchez will have to get by with what he's got until the end of the season because he hasn't got any money to spend.

He said: "I'm window shopping without any money. Maybe if we're in the top eight come transfer deadline day the club will decide it's worth a punt to give me a bit of money."

But Sanchez may have to worry more about keeping Devine. Burnley are believed to be lining up a bid for him.

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Hot-shot: Sean Devine is on course to break Blues records

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