

FITNESS RACE FOR HOT-SHOT



Busy day: Physio Dave Jones treats Andy Baird and was back on later to see Sean Devine Ref: 00-357F22

WYCOMBE Wanderers are sweating on the fitness of leading scorer Sean Devine for the visit of Oxford United on Saturday, after the hitman left Wrexham's Racecourse ground on crutches.

Sixteen-goal Devine limped out of the action just 27 minutes into Wycombe's 3-1 win in Wales last Saturday after taking a heavy blow to his ankle.

The injury threatened to put a real dampner on manager Lawrie Sanchez's first anniversary in charge of The Chairboys.

But early reports from the Adams Park treatment room suggest that the injury is nowhere near as bad as was first feared.

Club press officer Alan Hutchinson told Midweek yesterday that Devine had only bruised or sprained his ankle and said that the player even had a slim chance of making Saturday's derby against a struggling Oxford side who have just re-appointed Dennis Smith as their manager.

Devine spent yesterday with his foot in a bucket of ice cold water.

Even though Wycombe won 3-1

FOOTBALL By Dave Peters

without him on Saturday, with stunning goals from Dave Carroll and Danny Senda, allied to Matt Brady's second goal in as many games for the club, Devine's importance cannot be overstated. He has scored 16 of Wanderers 38 league goals this season.

Tonight, weather permitting, Wanderers reserves go to Thatcham Town in the Berks and Bucks Cup (ko 7.30pm). Steve Brown, Michael Simpson and Jason Cousins will all get a run-out after missing Saturday's victory through suspension.

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HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	L	F	A	Pt	
Preston	28	10	2	2	25	14	7	6	1	27	11	59
Bristol R	29	10	3	1	21	8	8	2	5	25	15	59
Wigan	28	10	3	1	25	8	5	9	0	24	15	57
Millwall	30	9	5	1	23	11	6	4	5	21	20	54
Burnley	28	12	1	1	29	9	2	8	4	11	15	51
Stoke	29	6	6	3	20	15	7	3	4	20	14	48
Gillingham	27	9	2	3	29	15	4	5	4	18	18	46
Notts Co	29	6	3	5	21	16	7	4	4	20	14	46
Brentford	30	8	3	4	23	18	4	4	7	16	22	43
Luton	29	8	4	2	29	18	3	3	9	12	23	40
Wycombe	29	7	3	4	22	18	3	6	6	16	19	39
Bour'm'n	30	8	4	3	27	13	3	2	10	15	32	39