



In demand: Overworked physio Dave Jones takes a look at Jermaine McSparran during Saturday's draw at Brentford

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Blues queue for physio's room

BLUES star Chris Vinnicombe says the Wanderers treatment room is so busy it is just like queuing up at Sainsbury's.

Vinnicombe and his opposite fullback Matt Lawrence became the latest casualties to join the waiting list following Saturday's goalless draw with Brentford.

Vinnie joked: "You've got to go in and take a ticket off the wall and wait for the physio Dave Jones to see you because there are so many people queuing up."

But Lawrence's injury is no laughing matter. He will be out for a month after having eight stitches in his foot following a tackle with Brentford's Ijah Anderson.

The tackle split his boot and blood poured from the wound as the 25-year-old was stretchered off and replaced by Mark Rogers.

And it was touch and go

Lawrence out for four weeks

whether Vinnicombe, who signed a new two-year contract last week, would come out for the second half as well after twisting his knee in a tackle.

Vinnicombe played on and left Griffin Park with a pronounced limp and a DIY home treatment kit in his hand.

Vinnicombe said: "It's not the way I would like to celebrate a new contract but you've got to die for the shirt haven't you."

Rogers also finished in the wars and, as he and Jason Cousins were chosen for the FA's random after-match drugs test, he was wearing a huge ice pack on his thigh.

But there was better news on Jermaine McSparran, who was a surprise inclusion after six weeks

out following his emergency New Year appendix operation.

He was thrown in despite having had only two days training. He played because Andy Baird was still suffering whiplash after a clash against Oxford.

McSparran said: "I'd only had two days full training and the gaffer said he just wanted 70 minutes out of me but I felt I could have done the whole 90."

"I felt good. When you've been working with Jonah you work harder than what you do on the training field."

And the paceman warned second division defenders that he's firing on all cylinders again.

He said: "The operation has given me that little break that I

needed because I had been feeling quite physically drained after playing about 20 games on the spin.

"I've come back now and I'm ready to go for the last part of the season."

Also on their way back are ankle victims Jamie Bates and Paul Emblen who both returned to light training this week, but are still a good three weeks away.

Bates was particularly disappointed to miss what would have been his first return to Griffin Park since leaving last season.

He missed a poor goalless draw in which Blues dominated the first half but needed three top saves from Martin Taylor as Brentford bossed the second 45 minutes which bore all the hallmarks of an end-of-season game in which both sides had no promotion or relegation issues to fight for.