

Blues ready to bury hopes of a double

WYCOMBE Wanderers will be bidding to win only their second quid-a-kid game when Bury visit Adams Park tomorrow looking to become the first team to do the double over the Blues this season.

But Wycombe boss Lawrie Sanchez is in no mood to surrender his team's record.

He said: "No-one has beaten us twice this season and I intend us to keep that record until the end of the season."

And, with all the players on

performance-related contracts, he promised Blues won't be in easy-street tomorrow as they play the rest of the season in a comfortable mid-table position.

He said: "We won't be taking it easy. I want to get to 51 points as soon as possible and I'm already planning for next season. I want to finish this one well so that we start next season with a running start."

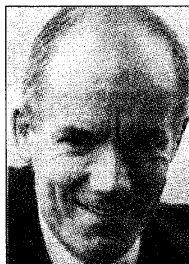
Tomorrow, Mark Rogers will continue as centre back alongside Paul McCarthy as Jason Cousins shuffles

across to right back in place of the injured Matt Lawrence.

Andy Baird also comes back into the squad after resuming training yesterday following his neck injury, while Chris Vinnicombe should also be ok after having four days rest on his twisted knee.

The boss is also backing 16-goal top scorer Sean Devine to end his six-game scoring drought and still fancies him to hit 25 this season, while he has set fit-again Jermaine McSparran a target of ten goals.

Ref Dermot says 'change the rules'



Dermot Gallagher

PREMIERSHIP referee Dermot Gallagher has welcomed the FA's plans to introduce a ten-yard dissent rule next season and said it is time something was done to stop players arguing with officials.

The FA admitted last Saturday that they are on the brink of introducing the rugby-style rule which will see players pushed ten yards further back towards their own goal if they show dissent.

Gallagher, the commercial manager at Ryman League Thame United, said: "It's like having a police car on the motorway. You see it and reduce speed without actually having to be told. Hopefully this rule will have the same effect on players and will stamp out the backchat."

"They've had this rule in Jersey for four years and it's been very successful and it

works in rugby."

Gallagher, who was in charge when Leeds and Spurs' players interrupted their Premiership match for a mass brawl two weeks ago, said: "It makes me laugh that players are being paid £20,000 a week and can't control their tempers. Players dissent has got worse and it is also being highlighted a lot more."

"No-one likes to see players bad mouth referees and if this rule rids the game of the problem then it's got to be worth it."

Royal Grammar School and England schoolboys rugby coach Colin Tattersall believes footballers could benefit from the rugby-style rule.

He said: "I think it's terrific. You don't see dissent like that on the rugby field because the players know that if they show it they will be pinned back."

LETTER

Forgive and forget

IN response to John Freeman's letter in the BFP, dated January 28, I think it is completely unfair of him to punish Lawrie Sanchez and his staff, for an incident, which occurred more than a quarter of a century ago, and before many of them were involved in running the club.

I know it must have been disappointing to be refused the opportunity to play at Loakes Park at the time, but there is no point bearing a grudge against people who had no involvement in the club at the time.

Lawrie is simply trying to do his job and drum up as much support as possible, to help the club survive. I would urge John to please give Wycombe Wanderers another chance. Go and see a game and forgive and forget.

On the subject of stay away fans, I have a perfectly

valid excuse for not attending, myself. I was a regular, and season ticket holder, less than two seasons ago.

Unfortunately, I can't make it to as many games nowadays, as I am studying at university, over 70 miles away. Having said that, this season, I have still been to see the Blues face Burnley, Preston, Wrexham, Blackpool, Bournemouth and Chesterfield at home, as well as Oxford away.

I also made it to see the thrilling 4-3 defeat by West Brom in the Worthington Cup and the heart-stopping victory over Wigan in the penultimate game of last season (the one that made the survival game at Lincoln possible).

In summary, if more 'fans' made the sort of effort I have, to support their local club, we would not be playing to half a stadium of empty seats each week and would be somewhere near being a financially stable football club.

Roland Dopson
Lower Weston, Bath

Vinny: 'Boss made me stay'

FORMER Glasgow Rangers defender Chris Vinnicombe said boss Lawrie Sanchez was the major reason behind his decision to sign a new two-year contract at Adams Park.

Vinnicombe said: "He was a big factor in me signing. Since he's been here things have really changed. He's brought in Terry

Gibson and Terry's experienced and good on the training pitch and makes the guys laugh and then the gaffer comes over and it's all serious. It's a bit like the good cop, bad cop routine."

"You need a pair like that, one who likes a laugh with the lads and the manager who gets down to business."