

Smillie Jr joins the Wanderers

WYCOMBE Wanderers have signed Jack Smillie on a three-year scholarship just 14 months after his father Neil was sacked by the Adams Park outfit.

Smillie, 15, who can play on the right or at fullback is one of four youngsters Blues have taken on.

The others are 16-year-old Wycombe schoolboy Lewis Cook, who played in the club's run to the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup; Johnny Dixon, 15, who has scored 13 goals in the youth team this season and left-sided midfielder Pat Lynott who hails from Denham.

Youth boss Gary Goodchild is delighted with the recruits who have all come through the club's centre of excellence.

He said: "They are quality additions. I have seen other clubs intakes and these are as good as any of our rivals if not better."

Blues are also running the rule over Chelsea youngster Ronnie Girvan who has been released from Stamford Bridge.

Meanwhile, Goodchild praised both the independent and official supporters clubs for raising around £3,000 for the youth team this season which will be used on a pre-season trip to Norway.

The youngsters went to Norway last season and it proved so successful, Goodchild, who worked in the country for ten years, wants them to return again.

John Major to Bill Clinton in a year

DANNIE Bulman has gone from being Wycombe's own John Major to bright and bubbly Bill Clinton in the space of a year according to assistant boss Terry Gibson.

He said: "Last season he was the John Major of our midfield. He was grey and quiet and didn't do much to get noticed, he didn't hit us with anything but this year he's much more like Bill Clinton. He's made people take notice and he's pushing people like Steve Brown, Michael Simpson and Keith Ryan for a place in the midfield."

"His attitude is totally different. He's taken the bull by the horns and really staked a claim."

● Football landlady Alison Burnham raised £800 for cancer research when she allowed midfielder Keith Ryan to shave her head for charity.

Alison, who used to be Mark Rogers' landlady and now looks

after youth teamer Ian Simpemba, went for the trim during the course of her own radiotherapy treatment after being diagnosed as suffering from a brain tumour.

● Jason Cousins has been carpeted by boss Lawrie Sanchez following his X-rated high tackle on Bury striker Paul Barnes which was missed by the ref but not Sanchez.

The boss said: "Jason has a propensity to make silly challenges at the wrong time. There was no need for it and he could quite easily have been sent off."

"The ball was dead, they were going nowhere and for whatever reason he ploughed in there. He's got to learn. I've had a word about it and you saw me remonstrate with him at the time. We give away too many free kicks around the box and sooner or later we'll be punished by teams scoring off them."

● Sanchez has poured cold water

on fans' hopes that former Wimbledon owner Sam Hammam could be romanced onto the board now he's sold his stake in the Dons.

Sanchez said: "I don't think he'd want to get involved again at this level anything would be a pale comparison to what he achieved at Wimbledon. Nothing like that will ever happen again."

No approach has been made to Hammam.

● The Football Grounds Improvement Trust will decide this month whether to fund plans to double the away end capacity at Adams Park. Blues want to double it after admitting defeat in their fight to fill the ground with home fans.

● Two young Blues got on the scoresheet as the FA Youth X1 beat the Combined Services 3-0 at Portsmouth. Leeyon Phelan and Rohar Johnson both netted and Ian Simpemba also played.

Ellington gets the elbow after Norwich defeat

BLUES have rejected released Hull City striker Lee Ellington after he failed to impress during the reserves 2-0 home defeat by Norwich on Wednesday.

Reserve boss Terry Gibson said: "Everyone knows we're looking for a big man to partner Sean Devine up front and he wasn't that and was no better than what we've already."

Matt Brady went closest for the Blues with a header which was cleared off the line in a game which saw keeper Mark Westhead taken off with a migraine at

half time and replaced by young Steve Williams. Martyn Lee picked up his sixth booking.

Same-again Blues are aiming to shoot down the Bluebirds tonight

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez plans to keep faith with the same 11 who started last week's 3-0 victory against Bury for tonight's trip to Ninian Park to take on Cardiff City (ko 7.45pm).

The boss said yesterday: "We will probably start with the same team as last Saturday. We were solid at the back with pace up front."

That means striker Jermaine McSporrnan will keep his place ahead of Andy Baird who came on as substitute.

Sanchez said: "McSporrnan's pace is an ideal weapon away from home."

But there could be a change on the bench after defender Alan Beeton twisted his knee in training this week. Matt Lawrence (foot), Jamie Bates (ankle) and Paul Emblen (ankle) are still ruled out.

Cardiff have not won in ten matches and are in the bottom four of the second division, but the Wycombe boss is not taking anything for granted.

He said: "I'm surprised they're down there. I've seen them play two or three times this season and each time they have been the better team."

Wycombe beat them 3-1 at Adams Park earlier in the season but only after The Bluebirds had given them a football lesson in the first half.

Sanchez said: "They mullered us and played us off the park. People will look at the league table and perhaps on paper it might look like an easy game. But it will be a difficult, they pass the ball very well."

Cardiff have changed managers since the last meeting with Billy

Ayres coming in for Frank Burrows.

The Welshmen have doubts about dangerman striker Kevin Nugent (groin) and midfielder Richard Carpenter (ankle).

Because of that they have recalled striker Dai Thomas and Seamus Kelly back early from loan spells at Drogheda and Merthyr, respectively.

They are also hoping to sign a loan striker in time for tonight's match which has been moved forward from its original Saturday slot because of the rugby international on Saturday.

After the match at Cardiff tonight, which is all ticket for Blues followers, the Blues are back on the road again on Tuesday when they repeat the journey west down the M4 to take on the second division leaders Bristol Rovers.

Tonight's
opponents (ko
7.45pm) are ...

Cardiff (a)

... you can get
7-1 with William
Hill on a 1-0
Wycombe win