

for Blues as they go to leaders without their skipper



Gas: Wycombe's Jermain McSporry is one of the fully-fit night
Ref: 00-672

RYAN STAYS HOME

WANDERERS travel to league leaders Bristol Rovers tonight without skipper Keith Ryan who injured his knee during Friday's 2-2 draw at Cardiff City.

Ryan will stay behind and see a surgeon instead, as Blues take no chances with their captain who has a history of knee problems.

Rhino joins Matt Lawrence (foot), Paul McCarthy (thigh), Alan Beeton (knee), Paul Emblen (ankle) and Jamie Bates (ankle) on the unavailable list as Wycombe head west for the second time in five days.

Midfielder Dave Carroll will continue to deputise at right back after his impressive performance as an emergency defender in Wales and takes his

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

place in an unchanged defence.

Up front, Andy Baird returns to the squad after recovering from his bout of sickness and it could come down to a straight choice between him and Jermain McSporry to partner Sean Devine, who plays after being put on a course of muscle-strengthening exercises, to help his problematic groin.

Devine could find himself baring down on former Wycombe keeper Brian Parkin. The veteran glovesman is on standby for a rare appearance with regular Rovers keeper Lee Jones out with a back injury and on-loan Chelsea youngster Rhys Evans going down with a stomach bug yesterday.

Rovers, nicknamed The Gas, are also sweating on the return of top scorer Jason Roberts whose flight from Grenada, where he's been on international duty, is due back this morning.

If he makes it he'll resume his 43-goal partnership with Jamie Cureton. Nathan Ellington stands by.

Sanchez said: "A jet-lagged Roberts might be better than a fit Ellington who is out to prove something."

Rovers are expecting another big crowd tonight (ko 7.45pm) after having their first lockout since 1985 last Saturday when more than 11,000 fans squeezed in for the draw with Wigan.

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HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bristol R	33	10	5	1	23	10	10	2	5	33	17	67
Preston	32	10	3	3	26	17	9	6	1	31	11	66
Millwall	34	11	5	1	30	13	7	4	6	23	22	63
Wigan	32	10	3	3	26	11	5	11	0	25	16	59
Burnley	32	12	2	2	29	12	4	8	4	14	16	58
Stoke	34	8	6	3	26	16	8	3	6	23	18	57
Gillingham	30	10	2	3	30	15	6	5	4	23	19	55
Notts Co	34	8	3	6	27	21	7	5	5	23	18	53
Brentford	34	8	5	4	24	19	5	5	7	19	24	49
Bristol C	34	5	12	0	22	11	5	4	8	19	28	46
Wycombe	33	8	3	5	25	19	3	8	6	18	21	44