

Sanchez's envy at City's Legg up

... but long throw is not everything

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez watched Cardiff's long throw expert Andy Legg put his team on the defensive with a series of long throws and admitted he wouldn't mind someone like that in his team.

Sanchez, who made his name in Wimbledon's infamous long ball team, said: "He must have put about ten throws straight into our penalty area and if you had a winger like that you would say he has had a good game.

"It is a fantastic weapon to have and it would be nice to do but there are only a few freaks who can throw a ball like that.

But Sanchez, who famously introduced Olympic decathlon champion Daley Thompson to the Wycombe coaching staff last season as a part-time fitness trainer, has no intention of persuading javelin stars Fatima Whitbread and Tessa Sanderson along to turn his players into missile launchers.

He said: "You can't teach someone to do it. There are only a few out there who can do it.

"It is nice for those teams who have got someone like Legg but we haven't and it's not something you can manufacture. If I was to try and get our players to do it I don't think they would get it in the penalty area.

"Jason Cousins has probably got our longest throw but he's not in the same league."

Cardiff, who have even taken out some of the pitch-side fencing to give Legg extra room for his long run-up, exploited a tactic which has been made famous this year by Tranmere's Dave Challinor whose massive throws were a huge feature of Tranmere's journey to the Worthington Cup Final this season.

But Sanchez, while being a big fan of getting the ball into the box early, doesn't want a collection of muscle men writing in to him saying they can throw the ball further than other players can kick it.

He said: "I wouldn't go after a player just because they can chuck it a long way. They would have to be able to get into the team on their football ability."

Legg put Wycombe under an aerial bombardment as he launched a succession of throw ins from either side of the pitch in last Friday's 2-2 draw at Ninian Park.

Dave Carroll, who emerged with flying colours from his emergency position as right back in Blues injury hit defence said: "It was very hard it was like defending a corner every time. No matter where the ball went out whether it was 50 yards away from goal he could get it in the box.

"I wish I had a weapon like that. It's like a free kick or a corner every time the ball goes out. He caused us problems with it but overall we defended very well against it."

But Cardiff showed there was more to them than sheer brute force when they opened the scoring inside the first five minutes with a well-crafted goal, creating by Matthew Brazier's weaving run and finish.

But Blues turned it round with an equally good goal headed in on the near post by Jermaine McSparran.

Devine then put Blues ahead with his 20th league goal of the season and his 22nd in total this term as he stroked home a 55th minute penalty after being shoved by strong-arm Legg.



Mo Harkin: Completed his first league 90 minutes at Cardiff

Ref: 00-672F9

But Cardiff sub Josh Lowe fired an injury time equaliser to deny Wanderers victory as Blues' habit of conceding goals in the last five minutes of halves reared its ugly head again.

It was the 14th goal Blues have

conceded in that period and their inability to shut up shop has now cost them 14 points this season and any hopes of a Division Two play-off place, a fact which boss Sanchez did concede several weeks ago.