

Hard-up boss looks to loan



Fresh outlook: The Blues boss and assistant Terry Gibson have had no money to spend on players this season

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez will decide after tomorrow's match at home to Oldham (ko 3pm) whether he needs to freshen up his threadbare squad with some loan signings.

He has no money to spend but is considering going into the loan market before the March 23 transfer deadline day.

He said: "I will watch the Oldham game and reassess after that whether we need to bring anyone in before the deadline."

Sanchez's squad has been cut to the bare bones as injuries have hit hard.

He has been forced to play people out of position and the five players he had on his substitute's bench during Tuesday's defeat at leaders Bristol Rovers had only 31 first team starts between them.

He'll decide next week whether to get new blood

REPORT

By Dave Peters

He said: "It's like a casualty ward here at the moment. We've reached the time of the season where the wear and tear is starting to get to players."

Keith Ryan, Paul McCarthy, Matt Lawrence, Andy Baird, Jamie Bates and Paul Emblen are all ruled out of action tomorrow and star striker Sean Devine is a major doubt with a groin injury, while Jason Cousins and Dave Carroll have both been playing through injuries by only training once a week.

The picture could be brightened soon with McCarthy having an outside chance of inclusion for the trip to Stoke a week tomorrow and Lawrence is hoping to resume training at the end of next week.

Sanchez said: "I'll have a look at the situation on Monday and see where we are. I might think about getting someone in on loan because there won't be any money before the deadline."

Just how cash-strapped the Blues are was illustrated by the Matt Brady saga just before Christmas.

Sanchez refused to shell out £5,000 for the youngster from Ryman League Boreham Wood,

who eventually let him go for nothing.

Brady has since had two starts for the Blues and is a regular on the substitutes bench.

But Sanchez yesterday reassured fans that things are moving with the directors trying to persuade outside investors to pump money into the club which lost £250,000 last season.

Sanchez said: "There is plenty of activity behind the scenes but these things cannot be done in a month and there's a lot of talking still to be done."

He believes it could take up until Christmas time before the issue is finally resolved but is confident that plans could be advanced enough for him to be given room on his wage budget this summer to bring in new blood.

● Bristol report: Page 74