

HALF A CHANCE

Blues face Wigan with only half a squad tonight

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

WANDERERS entertain promotion chasing Wigan at Adams Park tonight (ko 7.45pm) with boss Lawrie Sanchez struggling to find enough fit players to pick a squad.

His injury-ravaged Blues are down to the bare bones for the visit of John Benson's team, who are protecting the division's only unbeaten away record.

Chris Vinnicombe is out and faces up to three weeks on the treatment table after sustaining ankle ligament damage in Saturday's hard-earned draw at Stoke.

Jason Cousins looks likely to join him on the sidelines after aggravating his back in the Potteries. He saw a chiropractor yesterday and Sanchez does not fancy his chances of making it.

Blues will also make a late decision on keeper Martin Taylor. He spent yesterday in bed trying to shake off the bug which struck him down in the dressing room at Stoke. He managed to pull through that game and Blues need him to do it again because his understudy, Mark Westhead, is ko'd on doctors orders, after being knocked out by a shot in the reserves. That leaves teenager Mark Osborn as the only other option.

Blues must again do without main goal hope Sean Devine. He saw a specialist yesterday to discuss his injured groin and he will not play again this month while Paul McCarthy, Jamie Bates and Paul Emblen are still not ready.

But Matt Lawrence returns tonight following his five-match lay-off and Andy Baird could also feature after recovering from the bruised back and ribs sustained at Bristol Rovers.

Wigan arrive with no such problems and have strengthened their big squad with the signing of Premiership midfielder Neil Redfearn and Manchester City winger Terry Cooke on loan.

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HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Preston	36	12	3	4	32	21	10	6	1	32	11	75
Bristol R	36	12	5	1	27	11	10	3	5	33	17	74
Millwall	37	11	6	2	32	16	8	4	6	25	22	67
Wigan	35	12	3	3	32	12	5	12	0	26	17	66
Burnley	36	13	2	3	32	14	5	9	4	17	18	65
Gillingham	34	11	3	4	35	19	7	5	4	24	19	62
Notts Co	37	8	4	6	27	21	9	5	5	27	20	60
Stoke	36	8	7	3	27	17	8	4	6	23	18	59
Brentford	37	8	5	6	24	23	5	5	8	19	25	49
Bour'm'th	37	9	4	5	29	15	5	2	12	20	38	48
Bristol C	37	5	12	1	22	12	5	5	9	20	32	47
Wycombe	36	8	4	5	25	19	3	9	7	19	23	46