

Blues punished for farewell flop



Making a run for it: But Wanderers couldn't out pace Luton at Adams Park last weekend

Ref: 00-1312BF23

Sanchez orders extra training as Luton spoil the party

ANGRY boss Lawrie Sanchez ordered his players in for Sunday training after they failed to provide the fans with a farewell victory in Blues' final home game of the season.

He called the 10am training session and refused to talk to the press after Matthew Taylor's 87th minute goal gave Luton a 1-0 win.

Assistant boss Terry Gibson, who was left to do Sanchez's talking said: "He's furious. He's upset because we wanted to end the season on a high. It's been a good season but losing your last home game leaves a bad taste. It's a shame that we said goodbye to our home supporters with a defeat.

"We were wasteful in attacking situations and then we gave away a sloppy goal at the end.

"Lawrie will not accept being mid-table and people accepting defeat too easily and that's why they're in on Sunday. We're not going to let them think the season is over. We've got high standards and the players have got to have them as well, otherwise they won't be here."

In the Spring sun heat, it was a match between two even teams and the fact Wanderers lost it, as they have done recently against similarly matched opponents Bournemouth and Reading, got the management team's goat.

Gibbo said: "There's a group of teams in the middle of the table that are very similar. We've got to strive to get out of that group. We've done enough this season to keep away from the bottom group, but next year our intention is to

join the group at the top."

He also criticised attackers, Sean Devine, Jermaine McSparran and Danny Senda, who was replaced by Andy Baird, for the number of times they were offside.

He said: "We got caught offside so many times and that's got to improve. We get caught against teams that don't even play offside."

But, on the plus side, Jamie Bates was back to his best after Sanchez tore into him, blaming him for Reading's two goals a week earlier.

Gibson said: "He was excellent today. He was the Jamie Bates we want and more often than not we've had. He accepted the criticism and went out and gave an outstanding performance."

Sanchez was still sulking an

hour later when he addressed sponsors and fans in the Vere Suite.

He said: "As you can probably see I don't like losing football games. It doesn't matter how bad you feel after we lose, you can guarantee I feel a lot worse."

But he added: "That said. It's the same group of players we had this time last year and who avoided relegation by the scruff of their neck last year and you've got to give them credit this season.

"But I won't let them rest on their laurels as they will find out tomorrow morning."

Luton won it when Matthew Taylor rammed home after Blues keeper Martin Taylor had done well to parry a fierce drive from Liam George which came at the end of a breakaway move.