

# Baird sent home on study leave

LAWRIE Sanchez has sent goal-shy striker Andy Baird home for the summer with a copy of the Carling Opta Statistics to study – and told him to learn from it or risk losing his place.

Baird only scored five goals last season and boss Sanchez says the reason is in the stats.

He says his striker doesn't shoot enough and now his unselfish attitude could cost him his place.

Sanchez told an elevenSEVENTY phone-in that 25 goal Sean Devine and 12-goal Jermaine McSparran are now his preferred striking duo and that he'll spend his summer hunting a big target-man to complement them in a three-pronged attack next season.

He said: "Strikers have to be selfish to score. Baird is the most unselfish player in the team. He creates penalties for Sean, he knocks people out of the way so Jocky can score but he doesn't score enough himself and I'm looking round now for someone who can score more than Baird."

"In being unselfish, Baird is

putting his position at risk.

He added: "You only have to look at the stats, Sean's got more shots on target than anyone in this division and the only way you're going to do that is by shooting. He shoots every time he gets the ball."

"I'm a great fan of Baird's but he's only got five goals. He's got five or six penalties and made probably 70 per cent of our free kicks around the box. He does contribute. He works hard, but as a forward you've got to do that and still come in with goals."

Sanchez is desperate to inject some goals.

He said "We were about 20 goals short of the play-offs which is a lot. If you take Sean's 23 league goals out of the 56 we scored it looks even worse. We need another option, a big front-man who can head goals."

He admitted that McSparran and Devine aren't a natural pairing but believes they would thrive alongside a big man with Baird as cover.

Reading's transfer listed Wycombe old boy Keith Scott has been linked with the role.

But Sanchez said: "I must admit I'm looking for someone younger

than Scott. We've got an ageing team and we need younger legs but I'm not saying that if the situation came up and there were no other centre forwards about that I wouldn't be interested in him because I've got great appreciation for what he can offer."

● Midfielder Mo Harking has been selected for the Northern Ireland under-21 squad for a triangular Home Nations tournament following his goalscoring appearance on his previous outing with them. Harkin has been called up for the matches against Scotland on May 29 and Wales on June 2.

## Boss takes lessons from Italian master

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez has been taking tips from former Italy and AC Milan manager Arrigo Sacchi this week.

Sacchi was one of the guest speakers at the managers' conference at Manchester's Mottram Hall that Sanchez has been attending.

Meanwhile, the ambitious Blues boss has told Blues fans that he is

not about to get on the managerial merry-go-round this summer following speculation linking him with a return to his former club Wimbledon.

He said: "I see my job as getting this club into the first division. Once I've done that then I would start looking around if other opportunities arose."

"I want to manage at the highest

level, I make no bones about that and I've been criticised by some fans who say I'm using Wycombe as a stepping stone. That isn't the situation. I want to do the best for Wycombe while I'm here. I have an emotional feeling to this club after the emotional outpouring of us avoiding relegation and I'm focussed on getting this club into the first division."

## Westhead is told he can leave on a free transfer

RESERVE keeper Mark Westhead says he doesn't expect to be at Adams Park next season after being told he can go on a free transfer if he finds a new club this summer.

Westhead, 24, is frustrated at being behind Player of The Year Martin Taylor and is hoping to get fixed up with another League club.

He said: "My agent is talking to a couple of

clubs. I know I'm more than good enough to stay in the Football League but I am behind the best goalkeeper in the second division here. I've had a rotten season and maybe a fresh challenge would be best."

Boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "At Mark's age he needs to be playing first team football. I understand his frustration. We had a chat and he

knows his chances would be limited here."

Westhead has been plagued by injuries since taking the number 13 shirt last summer and will be competing with young Mark Osborn in the battle to dislodge Taylor if he stays.

Meanwhile, released Lee Holsgrove has joined Ryman League Aldershot where he previously had a spell on loan.