

BLUES SIGN CASS

Wimbledon's Castledine joins Wanderers on a free

STEWART Castledine has joined Wycombe Wanderers on a free transfer from Wimbledon.

The 27-year-old goalscoring midfielder put pen to paper on a three-year contract on Friday.

Castledine returns to the club five years after he became the most successful loan player in Wanderers' Football League history, scoring three goals in seven games under Alan Smith.

He said: "I feel like I'm coming home. The happiest time of my career

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters.

was when I was at Wycombe.

"It was great playing for Wimbledon against Manchester United and Liverpool but I was never a regular there. When I was here I played every game, scored a few goals and felt part of something."

He sees the move as an opportunity to kickstart a career which hit the rocks at Wimbledon last year when he fell out of favour with the relegated club and didn't play a Premiership game.

He said: "I've been at Wimbledon since I was eleven. I need a fresh challenge and this is it."

"I don't see it as a step down because I believe Wycombe can win promotion. I know I can play in the higher leagues and I think the players that are here are capable of doing that as well."

"I think this club can really go places. I can see us doing a Wimbledon and going up through the divisions and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Castledine's capture ends a 15-month chase by manager Lawrie Sanchez who sees the 6ft 1in right-footed player as the answer to Blues' goalscoring problems from midfield.

He said: "I've been looking for someone to score goals from midfield and I'm confident Stewart will get into double figures next season."

Sanchez knows all about Castledine. He made him captain of Wimbledon's championship-winning Avon Insurance side when he was managing their reserves and the Blues boss has vowed to make more signings.

He said: "That's one done, I now want to make another one or two."

Toulon Int'nal U-21 T'ment

Group A	
Portugal.....(1) 3	Rep of Ireland..(0) 0
Tonel 37	
Miguel 49	
Ednilson 74	1,000
Colombia.....(0) 4	Ghana.....(0) 2
U-21 Int'nal Friendly	
Ireland.....(0) 1	Scotland.....(1) 1
Kirk 65	Notman 25
300 (in Newry)	



Put your shirt on it: Lawrie Sanchez teams up again with ex-Don Stewart Castledine who was skipper of the Wimbledon reserve side Sanchez led to the Combination title when he was managing the Dons second string

Picture by NEIL SAINSBURY Ref: 00-1689BF7

Cassy cuts Blues odds

BOOKIES slashed Wanderers promotion odds to 5-1 after the Blues snapped up Wimbledon's Stewart Castledine on a free transfer.

Ladbroke's responded to the 27-year-old goalscoring midfielder signing a three-year deal by making last season's 66-1 championship outsiders, 25-1 to win it this term and 5-1 for promotion.

Ladbroke's spokesman Dave Burgin said: "We're impressed with what Lawrie Sanchez has done since he's been Wycombe manager and we fancy their chances."

"We think Castledine will be a fantastic addition to their squad and we'll be watching them very closely."

Castledine, who gets married

FOOTBALL By Dave Peters

tomorrow, returns to Wycombe five years after he became the most successful loan player in Wanderers' league history, scoring three times in seven games under Alan Smith. And, Wimbledon boss Terry Burton sees no reason why the goals should dry up now.

He said: "He'll score goals for Wycombe. He'll get in the box 20 times a game and have chances. The move will be good for him, he needs a fresh challenge."

Castledine can't wait. He said: "I don't see it as a step down because I don't think Wycombe will be in the second division next season. I'm coming here to help them get promotion."

"I think this club can really go places. I can see us doing a Wimbledon and going up through the divisions. I'm excited to be part of it."

The 6ft 1in part-time male model sees the move as an opportunity to kickstart a football career which hit the rocks at Wimbledon last year when he fell out of favour with the relegated club he joined as an 11-year-old, and didn't play a Premiership game.

He said: "I feel like I'm coming home. The happiest time of my career was when I was at Wycombe."

"It was great playing for Wimbledon against Manchester United and Liverpool but I was never a regular there. When I was here I played every game, scored a few goals and felt part of something."

Castledine's capture ends a 15-month chase by manager Lawrie Sanchez and shows the rest of the second division that Blues mean business.

Before leaving for his Spanish holiday, Sanchez said: "I've been looking for someone to score goals from midfield and I'm confident Stewart will get into double figures next season."

Castledine fitted inside Wanderers' pay structure and Sanchez is now left with around £100,000 to spend, with a targetman still his priority.

He said: "That's one done. Now I now want to make another one or two signings. We've been talking to people. It's about what we can afford but I'm hoping we will have something sorted before we return for training."