

Jock stops here, for now anyway

WIMBLEDON boss Terry Burton has given Wanderers an eve-of-the-season boost by ruling out a move for Wycombe's Jermaine McSporrان writes *Dave Peters*.

Speculation was rife that the Dons were about to pounce for the Wanderers star when Burton was spotted watching McSporrان rip Irish side Bohemian apart in Dublin during Blues' pre-season campaign.

But Burton insisted this week that his visit was purely coincidental.

He said: "I went out to watch Tranmere play in Ireland and decided to take in another game during the afternoon as well."

He admitted he was impressed by McSporrان's super-show but says McSporrان is not on his shopping list.

He said: "I think he's a fine player but I'm certainly not after him or about to sign him."

The news will come as a big boost to Wanderers who have seen McSporrان's star rise with a series of blistering goals and spectacular displays.

Manager Lawrie Sanchez knows clubs have been eyeing his sprint king but to Wanderers' surprise he has not received any bids for him – and is happy to keep it that way.

He said: "People are looking at Jermaine because he's got pace that stands out a mile and he's capable of doing it at a higher level. This year is a big one for him because people will be looking to see if he can do it again."

But 23-year-old McSporrان, revealed this week that he didn't always have lightning pace and was a 'bit of a porker' at school.

He said: "I was a dumpy thing with a pot belly and chunky legs at school, but that came off when I was older."

"When I was at school I never won the 100m or 200m but I've got

Dons boss rules out move on McSporrان



Moving target: Jermaine McSporrان is happy with Wycombe

Ref: 00-2481EF25

faster as I've got older.

"I didn't realise quite how tubby I was but when I saw my old teacher at the Oxford City game last year she brought some school photos in."

Last year, in his first full season as a professional, McSporrان rattled in 12 goals, despite missing eight weeks of the season through appendicitis.

He hasn't scored in pre-season but has offset that by setting up goals for others and is convinced he will hit the net again soon.

He reckons he can get even

better this season, now that Wanderers have abandoned their long-ball approach for a more subtle play designed to accommodate the skills of the likes of Mo Harkin and himself.

And that suits McSporrان just fine. He is happier running with the ball, teasing defenders from deeper rather than chasing long balls over the top.

He said: "I think I'm better with the ball at my feet from deep rather than chasing balls over the top. I'm going to run with it even more this year. I've played a couple of games

wide in midfield and I played in the hole against Leicester and I really enjoyed it.

"I enjoy committing defenders and I'm happy taking them on, on the inside or the outside. I can't wait for the season to start because I really believe we can get into the play-offs this year."

And McSporrان, who has two years left on his contract, won't let transfer talk get to him.

He said: "I try to ignore it. If something happens it happens, but I've got two years left on my contract and I'm very happy here."