

Keeper bids to save place

Westhead says he'll consider move if boss doesn't change subs plan

RESERVE glovesman Mark Westhead says he will have to consider his Wanderers future if boss Lawrie Sanchez doesn't abandon his policy of having no keeper on the subs bench.

Westhead, 25, was told in the summer that Sanchez would only be putting outfield players on his bench this season because he only needed a sub keeper once last year.

But the attack-minded plan almost backfired during last Saturday's opening game at Stoke when first choice Martin Taylor had to play with concussion because there

FOOTBALL

By Dave Peters

were no keepers on the bench.

Westhead was doing an eleven-SEVENTY commentary while third choice Mark Osborn, who looks set to join Marlow on loan today, was in the stand.

In the light of that match, Sanchez is now rethinking his plan and Westhead is hoping he'll side with the goalies.

Sanchez said: "It's not a hard and fast rule. I'll have to judge it every game. It may be we've got away with our one goalkeeping

injury in the first game. I had outfield subs at Stoke because I knew it was going to be very hot and I wanted plenty of options."

The situation came to a head on Wednesday when Westhead played the first half of the reserves win over Swindon but then had to make way for third choice keeper Mark Osborn in the second half because Osborn is now too old to play for the youth team.

Westhead said: "I'm not on the transfer list and I don't want to ask for one because that would be giving up on my career here which I don't want to do. But if the opportunity came to go on loan or the

right permanent move came up I would want to take it because I need to be playing.

"I'd like to stay here, if I'm playing, but it's no good for me just playing a half for the reserves and doing radio work on Saturday's. It's got to the stage where people know me more for what I do on the radio than what I do on the field."

Westhead is hoping his luck will change now that he has got rid of his jinxed number 13 shirt - in which he had four injuries last season. He has now swapped that unlucky number and is currently wearing the 35 shirt.