

KICK UP THE BAND BAIRN

Blues lose another front man to injury

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

ANDY Baird limped out of Friday's 3-1 win over Notts County with suspected ankle ligament damage as Wanderers' striker jinx continued.

The 21-year-old picked up the injury bravely winning a tackle that led to Blues' second goal and moved them up to third in Division Two. But those heroics came at a high cost.

Baird will miss this Saturday's top-of-the-table derby at Reading and could be in line for a lengthy lay-off.

The young forward is the third Blues striker to be crocked this season.

Last season's leading marksman Sean Devine has not played at all because of a knee injury while on-loan Bristol City striker Steve Jones lasted less than two thirds of his three-month loan before breaking his foot.

Devine is out until after Christmas and Jones' injury ended hopes of his moving to Adams Park permanently.

Baird is nicknamed the Crash Test Dummy by his Wanderers team-mates because of all the injuries he picks up through his bravery.

And it leaves Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez with another problem.

He said: "We seem to lose forwards every time they put on a shirt - Sean Devine, Steve Jones and now Andy Baird.

"It is disappointing because for the time he was on the field he caused them all sorts of problems, looked very lively and he scored a goal as well."

Earlier in the week, Sanchez had tipped Baird to break into the Scotland Under-21 squad but his latest setback in a long line of injuries is a big blow to him and the club.

Sanchez said: "He never seems to have a run of games without getting himself injured because of his bravery and you can't fault that.

"He's sore now but it is a waste of time speculating, we will have to see how it settles down."

Baird said: "It's really getting to me. I'm at my wits end. I've always played the game like that. People say I'm brave but I sometimes wonder if I am just stupid.

"It's frustrating because I'm going to be out again. There have been times when I've been left out when I don't think I should have and now I'm going to have to win my place back again."

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