

Blues fire out warning to rivals

ANDY RAMMELL, Wanderers' new front-man and scorer in last weekend's 3-1 win over Notts County, says that result has sent out a warning to Blues' second division rivals.

Rammell said after Friday's victory, when Blues came back from behind: "I think we're throwing more balls into the danger area now. The lads are gambling now and thinking they can win."

"It shows you that we mean business this year. We've just got to keep the ball rolling."

It took a goal from Wycombe old boy Mark Stallard to spark Blues into action.

Stallard gave County an 18th minute lead after racing past defender Jamie Bates and cutting along the byline to squeeze the ball between goalkeeper Martin Taylor's legs.

It was no more than a bright County side deserved against a Wycombe outfit who looked as if they had been caught up in the hullabaloo of BBC Watchdog and Lionel Richie broadcasting live from the ground before the kick off.

With right back Mark Rogers away on international duty with Canada and Mo Harkin part of the Northern Ireland under-21 squad beaten 3-0 by Denmark, Wanderers were forced into changes.

Attacker Jermaine McSporran dropped into the midfield and teenager Ben Townsend came in for only his second ever match at right back and it took time for the team to gel.

But just two minutes after Stallard had given Notts the lead, Wanderers drew level. Alex Dyer cleared Andy Rammell's header off the line and in the ensuing melee Andy Baird forced the ball over the line.

Six minutes later Baird played a painful and final

part in the game as Wycombe took the lead.

He injured himself winning the ball in the move that saw Rammell bring the ball down on the far post before steering it home after nervous keeper Lindley woefully misjudged the cross.

Lindley had a right to look nervous. The teenager conceded five on his debut at Walsall a week earlier and here he was conceding two in the space of half-a-dozen minutes.

He recovered and, in the second half particularly, kept the score down when he denied McSporran at close range.

But he was beaten again 11 minutes from time as Wycombe made the game safe. Substitute Danny Senda's cross appeared to be going out of play but Steve Brown somehow pulled it back into the path of defender Paul McCarthy who walked the ball into an empty net.

Afterwards boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "It was a night when we ground out a result. We've got to take credit for that, good teams grind out results as well as win games."

"We were missing two players and we showed a lot of character to come back."

"We missed a bit of link-up play and they caused us problems by changing their shape."

Sanchez also praised rookie right back Townsend after his home debut, which ended with the youngster picking up the sponsors man of the match award.

Sanchez said: "Ben has done very well. I thought he looked very competent while at the other end Rammell led the line well and created havoc in their defence."

Wycombe: Taylor, Townsend, Vinnicombe, McCarthy, Bates, McSporran (Castledine 71), Bulman (Cousins 83), Simpson, Brown, Rammell, Baird (Senda 30). Subs not used: Lee, Brady.
Notts County: Lindley, Hughes (Ramage 46), Fenton, Warren, Pearce, Hamilton, Bolland (Farrell 72), Owers, Dyer, Joseph, Stallard. Subs not used: McDermott, Jacobson, Liburd.
Attendance: 5,080 (188 Notts)

Emblen, Ryan and Carroll on the way back

BLUES' Paul Emblen was due to return to action in the reserves' clash at Norwich yesterday evening after an 11-month injury lay-off.

Emblen admitted he has been dying to get back among the action with Wanderers currently riding high in Division Two.

He said: "I'm just happy to be back and in amongst the team spirit. It's such a great team spirit at the moment."

The 24-year-old suffered a broken ankle after coming on as a substitute against Brentford last November.

"I want to get a couple of games under my belt and see how it goes."

"I haven't had a good time really. It's been 11 months now and I just want to get out there."

Keith Ryan was also due to travel to Carrow Road last night.

Another injury-hit victim Dave Carroll is also on his way back.

The Blues favourite is back kicking a ball and is hopeful he can return to action shortly.

He said: "Touch wood, everything is OK at the moment. I hoping a few weeks down the line maybe I can have a game in the reserves."

● **Blues defender Mark Rogers is now the first Wycombe Wanderers player to win a full international cap after turning out for Canada in their 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Panama on Monday.**

But for Rogers the accolade was tinged with disappointment that he didn't get to play the full 90 minutes for his national side.

The Wycombe player was brought on for just four minutes and he admitted: "I was a good experience but I would have liked to play 90 minutes."

"Still it's an honour to play and I have to remember that."

Meanwhile, Blues' Mo Harkin was in action for Northern Ireland Under-21s and he scored twice in their 5-2 win over Iceland after the side had lost out 3-0 to Denmark.

● **Former Wycombe boss Martin O'Neill was at Adams Park last Friday evening to watch the Blues beat Notts County 3-1.**

And the Celtic boss took time to catch up with some of his former players, among them, Dave Carroll.

Carroll said: "He was in great form, he's got a great memory of things from the past. It was great to see him, he's looking well."

● **Wycombe are looking for staff for matchdays at Adams Park.**

The club need extra help in the bars, teabars and at the turnstiles and are also looking for stewards.

For details call the club on (01494) 472100.

● **Wanderers' youth team have been drawn against Brighton and Hove Albion in the first round of the FA Youth Cup.**

That match will be played at Bognor's ground on Wednesday, October 25 (ko 7.30pm).

● **Wycombe have opened an on-line store, allowing fans around the world to buy Blues merchandise.**

And fans in the UK are promised free delivery.