

Canadian striker joins the Blues

WANDERERS have signed Canadian international striker Niall Thompson on a month's loan — and the new recruit is determined to earn himself a contract at Adams Park.

He joined The Chairboys on trial on Monday but his international clearance did not come through in time for him to feature in Tuesday's goalless draw at Wrexham.

It looks as though he will also have to sit out tomorrow's home clash against fast-improving Bristol City as well, because manager Lawrie Sanchez wants to have a look at him in action for the reserves first.

That means fans may have to wait until Wednesday, when the second string entertain Cheltenham — in a match when midfielder Dave Carroll may also make his long-awaited return from injury — to get their first look at Wanderers' international import.

He becomes the second Canadian on the books following Mark Rogers, who paid his own air fare over for a trial two years ago and has now broken into Wanderers' team and the Canada national squad.

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

Thompson, 26, is determined to follow Rogers and make the most of his chance by forcing his way into manager Lawrie Sanchez's first team squad before the month is out.

He said: "I've come here to carve out a career for myself. I've scored goals at international level for Canada, now I want to do it in England as well."

But Thompson, who has scored twice in eight appearances for Canada, is running out of chances in Britain.

The Birmingham-born player, who emigrated with his family when he was one, has already had short spells with four British clubs which did not work out.

He had to quit Crystal Palace as a trainee and return to Canada for personal reasons and when he came back he had short spells with Brentford, Colchester and Airdrie. He scored goals for all three clubs but was not taken on long-term.

He said: "I've had some bad luck. I was doing well at Brentford and was playing but then the manager,

Micky Adams, left the club and things changed.

"But I'm confident I can do it. I won't give up, I know I'm good enough and I would love to make it here."

"It's a good chance for me at a good club. Mark Rogers came over here and made a career for himself and I'm determined to follow his example."

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "We will have a look at him for a month. We've brought him in because we've got Andy Baird, Sean Devine and Paul Embien injured so we are a bit light up front."

"But I want to see him in the reserves and in training before giving him a go in the first team. We're hoping he will work out as well as Mark Rogers has done for us."

Sanchez moved for the 5'11" marksman after a recommendation from Wanderers' centre half Jamie Bates, who played with him at Brentford.

Thompson has also seen service with Belgian side FC Zulte, Vancouver 86ers, Seattle Sounders and Bay Area Seals in the American A League.



New signing: Niall Thompson

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