

Lee looks to hold his place

POCKET-SIZED midfielder Martyn Lee is plotting an extended run in the side after his star performance in Wanderers' 2-1 defeat at home to Bristol City on Saturday.

The youngster who was released by West Ham, partly because of his size, now wants to have a big part at Wycombe Wanderers in the final year of his contract and add to his handful of games so far.

He came into the side because of Steve Brown's suspension and Dannie Bulman's toe injury and made the most of his chance.

He said: "I've been around the first team on the bench all season all season. Saturday was my first start this season and I want to stay in there. I need to get a little run of games going. I've got a lot of confidence now."

The 5'6 inch midfielder has been working hard on the weights with man mountain Terry Evans in the gym in a bid to build up his physique.

His performance against City drew praise from boss Lawrie Sanchez and was one of the brightspots of a disappointing afternoon in which Sanchez accused his side of being big on heart but short of brains.

Wanderers created a plethora of chances which they failed to take and they lost the game because of two uncharacteristic defensive blunders.

Jamie Bates conceded a penalty after just 35 seconds as he sent former Wanderer Mickey Bell sprawling on the turf. Tony Thorpe made no mistake from the spot-kick to give The Chairboys an uphill task from the very beginning.

But Sanchez's side recovered from that early hammer blow to hit back. On the stroke of half time Andy Rammell hit his sixth goal in ten league starts since his arrival from Walsall in a £75,000 deal last month.

On a sodden pitch, Wanderers battered City in the second half but could not score a second goal, while City snatched the points with their only effort of the second half from Thorpe again after slipshod defending.

Sanchez said: "We gave them two goals but we still had enough chances to win two or three matches out there. It was game that was there for the taking. We need a goalscorer."

Sanchez returns to his old stomping ground

MANAGER Lawrie Sanchez returns to the club where he finished his playing career tomorrow, hoping for better fortunes than he enjoyed when he was playing for Swindon.

Sanchez played the last ten games of his career in Swindon's unsuccessful fight against relegation from the top flight and made his debut for the club marking Manchester United's Eric Cantona in front of 18,000 fans.

Sanchez said: "I was only there for a short time and everyone seemed to be resigned to going down. I couldn't understand their losing mentality."

Bizarrely, Sanchez almost joined Swindon a few years earlier instead of going to Wimbledon.

He said: "I was going to go there when Lou Macari was the manager. I was at Reading and I was going to be swapped for another player but the player I was being exchanged for failed his medical and I spoke to Wimbledon the following day."

The rest is history, with Sanchez

scoring the goal which got Wimbledon promoted into the top flight and their winner in the FA Cup final as well.

Sanchez returned to the County Ground to watch Swindon on Tuesday and said: "It was depressing. There were empty stands and scaffolding and it's quite amazing to think how far they have fallen and how far Wycombe have risen."

Wanderers will be hoping to continue their climb at the Robins' expense tomorrow.

Swindon are struggling at the wrong end of the table, but they beat Cambridge 3-1 in midweek.

Blues could be without Mr Consistent, defender Chris Vinnicombe, who had a scan on the ankle he injured in last week's defeat against Bristol City. He has not trained this week and Blues will check his fitness today.

Midfielders Dannie Bulman and Steve Brown are again ruled out through a sore toe and a suspension respectively but loanee Niall Thompson joins the squad.



Mr Consistent: Chris Vinnicombe is doubtful tomorrow

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Triallists both score as Rod Stewart's nephew turns out for Wanderers

CANADIAN international striker Niall Thompson opened his account for Wycombe Wanderers with a debut goal in Tuesday's reserve match against Southend.

The 26-year-old, who is on a one-month's trial struck a late goal, after fellow triallist Marcus Richardson had given Wanderers a 1-0 half time lead with a crisp shot. But Southend came back to snatch a point with two goals in the last four minutes.

The match was also notable for the appearance of Rod Stewart's nephew, Kevin Stewart. He answered a call from Wanderers' reserve team boss Terry

Gibson who was short of defenders for the Avon Insurance Combination League clash.

The pair play together for Rod Stewart's team so Gibbo called him up to help him through Blues' defensive crisis.

Gibbo said: "We were short of defenders so I gave him a call. I knew he would do a good job for us and it meant we didn't have to change our formation."

But it was the performance of the two serious triallists that created most interest.

Thompson, who has got eight Canadian caps, had a quiet first half but he

improved and netted as Wanderers improved after the break.

Gibson said: "It was our first chance to have a look at him in a match. He looked quite tidy. He scored a good goal and held the play up well. We've had some good reports about him."

He also reckons Richardson is worth another look.

The young striker has been collecting trials like other people collect stamps. He has had games with Reading, Walsall, Cambridge and Swindon.

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez invited the former Burnham and Slough marksman to add Wycombe's name to that list

after he saw him score twice on an outing for Reading reserves.

But his Wycombe trial was cut short when he pulled up with a slight groin strain late on and was replaced by reserve player/boss Gibson.

Gibson said: "I would imagine we would have another look at him."

Gibson was disappointed with the way Wanderers chucked away the points after their two triallists had put them in command.

He said: "We went 2-0 up with about five minutes to go and then gave them a goal back almost immediately. It's a lesson we must learn from."