

Blue's the colour again for Parkin

WYCOMBE Wanderers have signed Chelsea's teenage scoring sensation Sam Parkin on a month's loan.

They snatched him yesterday from under the nose of first Division Queen's Park Rangers who were preparing a £500,000 bid for the 19-year-old striker.

Wanderers nipped in when it emerged that Chelsea did not want to sell, because they believe Parkin will be a big star in the future.

Blues' newest recruit will start on the substitute's bench for tomorrow's eagerly-awaited second division grudge clash at bitter rivals Colchester United. If he impresses during his month's spell at Adams Park, Wanderers will try and extend his loan to three months.

The Bucks Free Press exclusively revealed last week that Wanderers were on the tail of

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

the 6ft 2in hitman who scored four goals during a recent loan spell with Wycombe's Division Two rivals and FA Cup opponents Millwall.

And Chairboys chief Lawrie Sanchez is delighted to finally land him.

He said: "He's a tall lad who looks tidy on the ground. He's scored goals at this level as he showed at Millwall. He's rated very highly and if he lives up to his £500,000 price tag while he is here I will be very happy."

Sanchez swooped for the player after speaking with former Wanderer Matt Lawrence who got to know Parkin during his loan spell at Millwall.

The Wycombe boss said: "I spoke to Matty and he was very impressed by him."

Parkin's arrival could not be better timed. Striker Andy Baird suffered a reaction to his ankle ligament injury when he resumed training this week and is now not expected to be

available until the Christmas programme, while fellow marksmen Sean Devine and Paul Emblen are out for the season.

Canadian international

striker Niall Thompson will start tomorrow's match ahead of Parkin. It is the last match of his month's trial and Sanchez will make a decision on his future over the weekend.

Interest varied in cash plea plan

HARD-UP Wanderers this week sent out letters to supporters asking them to give the club interest free loans.

The club which lost £258,000 last year is asking fans for the minimum £1,000, ten-year loans, before New Year's Eve.

But the scheme has received a mixed reception from supporters, who already spend between £12 and £16 each week to watch the team. Many are unhappy their cash is being earmarked for long-term capital projects rather than for buying players.

But chairman Ivor Beeks defended the scheme – believed to be the first in the country – and the decision not to spend it on team strengthening.

He said: "It has crossed my mind to use supporters' money on a striker who might get us 20 goals a season but level headedness has got to take over."

"If we put all our eggs into one basket and it didn't come off we'd be back to square one. We're planning to use the money on projects that will generate money and benefit the

club for many years to come.

"When John Gregory was here we spent a lot of money on players and didn't see much return."

Beeks is hoping half the club's 500 members take up the Loan Notes scheme which will be opened up to season ticket holders and other fans soon.

He said: "Supporters have always told us they want to get more involved in the club, now they've got the opportunity."

Fans will get their loan paid back over the second five years.