

It's game, set-piece and match to brilliant Blues

WANDERERS continued their astonishing strike rate from set-pieces as they dumped non-league Harrow Borough out of the FA Cup last Saturday, to set up a second round clash at Millwall on Sunday, December 11.

All three of Wanderers' goals in the 3-0 win came from set plays and Lawrie Sanchez's side have now scored more goals from dead ball situations than they have managed in open play this season.

Eleven of their 20 league goals have stemmed from set pieces and they continued their deadly dead-ball prowess into the FA Cup to see off Harrow Borough

and their ageing star turn, 48 year-old Barry Silkman.

Big defender Jamie Bates – who scored two goals from a free kick and a corner to sink Bury last week – scored another brace of set-piece goals to punch a hole in Harrow's dream and take his own tally to six for the season.

He is now just one goal behind Wanderers' leading scorer Ansy Rammell.

Bates volleyed home after Boro keeper Dave Hook punched Michael Simpson's corner to him and then headed in Steve Brown's teasing free kick to make it 3-0 after Michael Simpson had scored a penalty in between.

Manager Lawrie Sanchez said:

"When I first came to the club I said we had to work harder to score from set plays but I didn't expect that we'd get 60 per cent of our goals from them."

If Wanderers had not heeded Sanchez's demands for more goals from free kicks and corners Wanderers might have been looking at a replay at Earlsmead

on Tuesday.

Harrow's collection of barristers, students and an old man, created more opportunities in free play than Wanderers.

Sky bosses say no to a new Rambo

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez saw his chances of buying another Andy Rammell disappear when SKY television bosses overlooked his team's FA Cup second round match at Millwall for live coverage.

Wanderers were convinced that their trip to The New Den would be screened live on Sky and were drooling at the prospect of a £75,000 appearance fee – exactly the fee they paid Walsall for hot-shot Andy Rammell.

But their hopes were dashed when the satellite station opted to show the matches between Blackpool and giantkillers Yeovil and the Walsall/Barnet fixture instead.

Sanchez said: "I can't understand it. Millwall are fourth in the second division and we're sixth. It is the match of the day and we were all expecting it to be shown live. I can see why they've chosen Blackpool and Yeovil but I don't understand the other one."

"It's a massive disappointment for us that we have not been chosen and to miss out on £75,000 is a massive loss."

Even though it is not being shown live the match has still been switched to Sunday, December 10 at 1pm on police instructions.

They moved the game for operations reasons because the original Saturday date clashes with nearby Charlton's Premiership game against Man Utd.

Bulman: 'I'm fit for action'

DANNIE Bulman played 90 minutes for the reserves against Cheltenham on Wednesday and then declared himself fit to face Colchester tomorrow.

The midfield battler suffered no adverse reaction to the toe injury which has sidelined him for the past eight matches.

Bulman, who went to Aston Villa, to have special insoles fitted into his boots to help speed up his recovery, only resumed training on Friday but was the outstanding player on view in the reserves 4-0 defeat.

But he suffered a 90th minute injury scare when Bob Bloomer's late challenge

left him with a gashed shin but Bulman got up and continued.

He said: "I feel ready to come back. The toe was fine."

Bulman is in the squad for tomorrow's game but Sanchez looks likely to start with him on the bench.

He said: "He played as though he hadn't been away and we have certainly missed him in the midfield."

Defender Mark Rogers, who aggravated his dodgy ankle in the reserves match, missed training yesterday but is expected to be passed fit for the trip to Laxey Road.

Thompson's last big chance

CANADIAN international Niall Thompson has got 90 minutes left to prove he's worth a contract at Adams Park.

The 26-year-old will be handed his third start up front tomorrow in the final match of his month's trial and Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez will make a decision on his future after that.

It is ironic Thompson's future should come down to a game against Colchester as they are one of four British clubs he has played for and been released by.

Thompson has played in Wanderers' last two matches alongside Andy Rammell, holding the ball up well and linking

the play without ever really threatening to be the prolific scorer Wanderers need.

Blues are hoping new loanee Sam Parkin can do that. He has scored consistently for Chelsea reserves and bagged four goals in five games on loan at Millwall, but there is no prospect of Wanderers buying him.

● Playmaker Dave Carroll has suffered another injury setback and boss Lawrie Sanchez admitted: "He is nowhere near a return."

Sanchez said: "It's a recurrence of the original pelvis injury and I don't think he'll back for a few weeks."