

Blues sign up fab four

FOUR Wanderers players have been rewarded with new contracts as boss Lawrie Sanchez shapes his team for the future.

Jamie Bates and Steve Brown have both signed one-year extensions to their pay deals, which were due to expire in the summer, and youngsters Ben Townsend and Martyn Lee have also put pen to paper on contracts tying them to the club until 2003.

Sanchez said: "Batesy and Brown have both been given one-year deals because they will be 33 and 35 at the start of next season but they both know that if they carry on doing the job it will be extended.

"Bates has been outstanding since he's been here and this season he's been better than ever, while Brownie is enjoying a new lease of life.

"They are both very important to us and I'm pleased that they are both staying."

At the other end of the age scale, Sanchez is equally delighted to have snapped up two of his young starlets on improved pay deals and two-year contracts.

He said: "Ben Townsend has come into the first team and done very well and he deserves his two-year extension.

"Martyn Lee has also done very well and I see him as understudy to Michael Simpson in midfield."

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But as those four put pen to paper, Sanchez warned some of the others, who are nearing the end of their contracts, that their days at Adams Park could be numbered.

He is losing patience with players who spend more time in the treatment room than they do on the pitch and has warned others who are not in his first team plans at the moment to expect the worst.

He said: "I want everyone in my squad to be available for the first team when called upon. I don't want to speculate about players' futures, other people can do that. I've signed four. I've got more to sign and I'll make decisions between now and the end of the season."

His words will worry Matt Brady, Alan Beeton and Mark Westhead who have found their chances limited this year and will also ring alarm bells among injury prone stars like Dave Carroll and Andy Baird.

The full list of players out of contract this summer is: Andy Baird, Alan Beeton, Matt Brady, Dannie Bulman, Dave Carroll, Paul McCarthy, Mo Harkin, Keith Ryan, Michael Simpson and Mark Westhead.

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