

Penalty novice Sanchez is spot on with advice

BOSS Lawrie Sanchez has never taken a penalty in his life but it did not stop him coaching his players to Tuesday's spot kick triumph.

He made them all take five penalties in training on Monday and ordered them not to vary their style and to put them all in the same place.

Chris Vinnicombe, who scored one on the night said: "As I walked up all I could think about was what he said. It was good advice. All I was concentrating on was putting the ball left as I had done in training."

Sanchez said: "My job as a manager is to foresee problems. I've never taken a penalty but I can imagine it and I know the the worst thing to do is to change your mind."

"I told the players that they had five penalties and to take them all the same way and no matter what happens in the shootout they were to do exactly the same and I'd take responsibility for anyone

that missed."

● Sanchez earned his third managerial trophy after leading Wycombe to their Wimbledon knockout win.

He scooped the League Managers Association performance of the week award for the third time – but this time had to share it with Tranmere's John Aldridge who guided the Mersey men past Southampton.

● The police refused to delay Tuesday's kick off by 15 minutes to allow the coach loads of delayed Wycombe fans to get in on time and hundreds of Blues fans missed Wimbledon's first goal. Fans who missed it can catch a video in the Vere Suite at 7pm on Monday.

● Tuesday night's postponed league match at Bristol Rovers has now been re-arranged for May 1.

● Arch rivals Colchester United were the first to fax congratulations to Wycombe on their epic cup win.

Back to earth with Posh

LAWRIE Sanchez will have to demonstrate his managerial skills again tomorrow as Blues return to league combat at Peterborough United with only half a team.

He is expected to leave out cup stars Steve Brown, Chris Vinnicombe and Dannie Bulman because if any of them were to get booked tomorrow they would miss the Cup quarter-final at Filbert Street.

Sanchez said: "The Cup is the big thing now and I think we have got to protect the players for the biggest game in the club's history."

Wanderers will also be without the inspirational Jason Cousins at London

Road tomorrow. He is serving a one-match ban for totting up five bookings.

Wanderers' squad is trimmed down even further tomorrow with Andy Baird, Andy Rammell and Dave Carroll, from last Tuesday's cup squad, all ruled out through injury.

Mark Rogers also misses out with ankle ligament damage sustained in the first game against Wimbledon.

On-loan Gerard Lavin could be in for a surprise return. He is being called back from Bristol City, where he has been rehabilitating from his own injury, to see if he is fit enough to play.

Much better than Melchester Rovers

EAT your heart out Roy of the Rovers!

Even the heroic comic strip star never played in such an exciting match, with so many twists and turns. His script writers would never have had the nerve to write so many fantastic moments into just one football match.

Two goals shared in normal time plus a penalty saved in the 90th minute. One red card and more yellows than you could shake a stick at. Two Wycombe strikers carried off within minutes of each other. A goal in the first minute of extra time, equalised by another in the last minute.

Then as a finale, 20 spot kicks in the penalty shootout.

They're highlights but they only tell half the story. The real magic was the way the team refused to give up even when they were staring defeat in the face.

I don't know what Lawrie Sanchez does to build such enormous self-belief in his team but if he could bottle his magic he would make a fortune.

I've been lucky enough to go to many major matches including cup finals, internationals and even the Milan derby, but I've never experienced a game with so many dramatic moments.

RON BARNET

VIEW FROM THE STAND

On such a sensational night it is almost impossible, and even unfair, to pick a man-of-the-match. However, if pushed I would have to go for Martin Taylor.

And all the travelling Wycombe fans deserve a special mention for their part in the victory.

In the post-match euphoria, walking to the car celebrating with a bag of sausage and chips, we suddenly realised we did not know the way back to where we had parked.

As we were late arriving and were stuck in heavy traffic we had ditched the car and legged it to the ground. After a fruitless half-hour search through deserted streets we finally discovered our motor just as the midnight sports news relayed the Blues victory.

Everyone involved in the club can take great pride for their part in our magnificent cup run. However there is one unsung hero – my lucky pants!

These stylish navy and sky checked boxers have appeared at all our unbeaten cup ties.

Like some of our players, they will now be rested so that they are fresh for the trip to Leicester.

Gupps is up for the Cup

LEICESTER winger Steve Guppy can't wait for the dream quarter-final clash against his former club.

The England winger, who began at Wycombe, said: "The only thing that could have been better would have been playing them in the final."

He added: "Keith Ryan rang me straight after the draw and I was with the Leicester lads at the time and we reeled off a bit of abuse to him."

"This is the furthest I've ever been in the FA Cup and to play against my old club is a dream."