

Castledine sends out a promise to Blues' patient fans

FORGOTTEN midfielder Stewart Castledine thanked the fans for their patience with him and then promised to repay them on the pitch.

The midfielder has been a major disappointment with injuries and a loss of form since signing from Wimbledon in a blaze of glory last summer.

But he showed encouraging signs of recovery with a lively performance at Peterborough when he was Wanderers' most dangerous player in his 40 minute substitute appearance.

He said: "I appreciate everyone's patience. It has been difficult for me. I haven't felt 100 per cent since I've been here. I've been working very hard and

hopefully things are getting back to what they should be.

"I know a lot of supporters were excited when I came here, because I had done well when I was here on loan before. Things were going well for me then and I was a different player."

Then Castledine rattled in three goals in seven appearances but his second coming at Adams Park has been more hellish than heavenly for him.

He said: "It's been no secret that this season has not been my best. I've had quite a few injuries and haven't played too many games. Hopefully I'm getting over that now."

"I want to push on for the rest of the season now and get back

to my best and let everybody see the real Stewart Castledine."

Castledine looked set for big things when he played in the Premiership for Wimbledon but his progress was hampered by injuries and his final year with The Dons was a write-off.

He said: "I've knuckled down, worked hard and hopefully I've got through it. I can see the end in sight and I feel as though I'm on the way back."

"I'm still enthusiastic, I'm still trying hard and I know there's an awful lot more I can offer."

"I'm still not 100 per cent fit but I'm getting there and I want to repay the supporters' patience."

Sanchez was delighted with his performance at London Road.

He said: "He looked bright and made things happen when he came on. He was a threat up

front and did very well."

But after so many disappointments over the last two years Castledine is not going to get carried away by his 40 minute show.

He said: "It was nice to get on and I did feel slightly sharper than I have done in the past but there's still a little way to go and I'm not going to make any predictions about when I am going to be 100 per cent."

Injury-hit Lavin returns home to Bristol

FULL BACK Gerard Lavin has returned to Bristol City after a one-month loan spell at Adams Park which was

plagued by injury.

Lavin injured his knee in his first match against Swindon Town where Wycombe crashed

out of the LDV Vans Trophy. He struggled through the next two matches before it got the better of him.