

# We're up for a Cup upset

## Boss Sanchez believes Blues can beat the odds at Filbert Street

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

BLUES manager Lawrie Sanchez says all the elements are in place for another FA Cup giant-killing when Wanderers travel to Filbert Street tomorrow (ko 3pm).

He says his side - which is decimated by injuries and has taken just one point out of the last nine in the league - is at its best when they have got their backs against the wall.

Sanchez, who has already steered Wanderers past three first division sides, believes his troops will come out fighting and claim a place in Sunday's semi-final draw at the expense of ex-Blues boss Martin O'Neill's former side.

He said: "We're a big match team. I don't think we will get beaten at Leicester, I'm pretty confident of that."

"We're better against the good sides, it's when we come up against Port Vale and Cambridge and sides like that we seem to struggle."

"I don't have to gee the players up for this game. I know they are going to perform."

Wanderers will be roared on by 3,200 fans at Filbert Street and another 3,000 are expected to watch the drama unfold on a big screen at Adams Park and Sanchez is promising them a day to remember.

He said: "We never go missing in big games. When the going gets

tough we're there.

"We're decimated by injuries, We're battered and bruised, but we'll be giving it everything."

"We're 90 minutes away from the semi-final of the FA Cup and that's phenomenal, now we've got to go that final step."

Leicester beat Liverpool 2-0 last weekend to move up to fifth in the Premiership, while Sanchez was giving Football League debuts to borrowed strikers George Clegg and Roy Essandoh because all of his own marksmen are injured.

But Sanchez says that just heaps the pressure on Leicester.

He said: "They've got to win the game, we haven't got to win it. We will try and keep it tight and see if we can nick a goal from a free-kick or a corner."

"We're not bad at being solid. We've got a good back five with the keeper and a solid midfield."

"Because we've had no forwards this season we've built our season on being good defensively and good at set plays."

Sanchez knows all about FA Cup upsets.

He scored the winning Wimbledon goal against Liverpool in the 1988 FA Cup Final to produce one of the most unlikely wins ever in the competition.

● Clegg ready: Page 18

● The teams line up: Page 18



Pictures by SALLY SWIFT Ref: 01-633BF19

**Up, up and away: Blues players Paul McCarthy and Keith Ryan prepared for tomorrow's FA Cup quarter-final against Leicester City with a go in a hot air balloon shaped like the famous cup. The Wycombe duo lived up to their FA Cup highflying image when the 120ft balloon was brought to Wycombe's Adams Park ground and inflated in the club car park. McCarthy, who is the country's joint top scorer in the FA Cup competition this year, scrambled into the balloon's basket with Rhino as regional and national press photographers snapped away.**