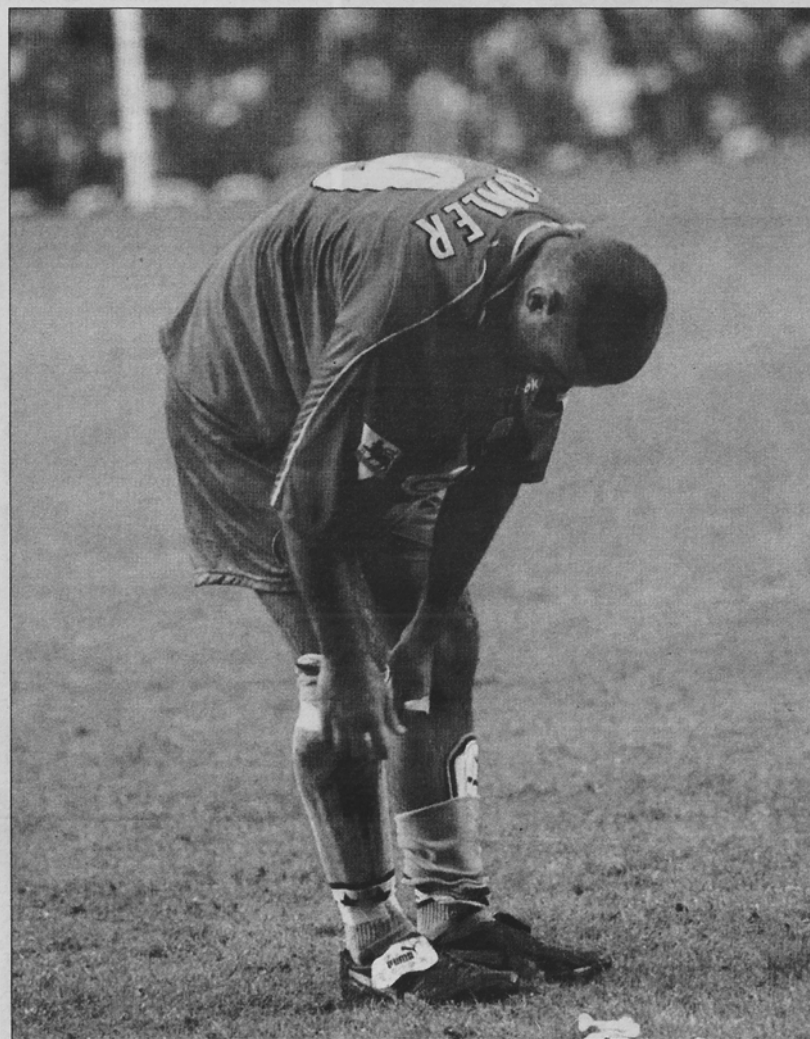




# NOW IT'S BACK TO BASICS

## Blues return to league tonight

MANAGER Lawrie Sanchez must try and lift his players as they prepare for their alternative date in Wales tonight.

Less than 48 hours after Liverpool pipped them to an FA Cup Final place in Cardiff, Wanderers must travel to the principality tonight for a league match against second-from-bottom Swansea.

Sanchez said: "We've got our trip to Wales but it's not the one we wanted. We really believed we would be going there for the Cup Final. The lads are devastated at missing and it's going to be a big job to lift them."

The Wycombe boss herded his dejected players together on the Villa Park pitch within seconds of their semi-final disappointment to tell them how proud he was of them and then the heartbroken Blues continued the slow healing process with 'a wake' at the Belfry Hotel.

Sanchez said: "There were a lot of hurting people in there. The mood was one of disappointment. The players have done brilliantly to get this far but they wanted the whole cake."

He said: "Players are hurting

FOOTBALL  
By Dave Peters

mentally and physically and I'll freshen it up a bit with a few changes."

"A win won't take the pain away but it will help," he added.

### HOW THEY STAND

| Team             | P  | W  | D  | L  | F  | A  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | Pt |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Millwall         | 41 | 14 | 2  | 4  | 42 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 5  | 34 | 25 | 80 |
| Rotherham        | 40 | 14 | 4  | 3  | 47 | 25 | 9  | 4 | 6  | 25 | 28 | 77 |
| Reading          | 40 | 14 | 3  | 3  | 49 | 20 | 8  | 6 | 6  | 23 | 23 | 75 |
| Walsall          | 39 | 13 | 5  | 3  | 46 | 20 | 6  | 5 | 7  | 21 | 23 | 67 |
| Stoke            | 41 | 10 | 5  | 5  | 32 | 19 | 8  | 8 | 5  | 33 | 26 | 67 |
| Wigan            | 41 | 11 | 8  | 1  | 26 | 14 | 5  | 9 | 7  | 21 | 23 | 65 |
| Bristol City     | 41 | 10 | 6  | 5  | 43 | 26 | 7  | 7 | 6  | 21 | 23 | 64 |
| Bournemouth      | 39 | 8  | 6  | 5  | 31 | 21 | 7  | 6 | 7  | 35 | 28 | 57 |
| Notts Co         | 38 | 8  | 5  | 5  | 31 | 25 | 7  | 5 | 8  | 19 | 29 | 55 |
| Wrexham          | 39 | 9  | 4  | 7  | 28 | 25 | 6  | 5 | 8  | 29 | 35 | 54 |
| Northampton      | 40 | 8  | 6  | 5  | 24 | 21 | 6  | 6 | 9  | 20 | 28 | 54 |
| Bury             | 41 | 10 | 5  | 6  | 24 | 20 | 5  | 4 | 11 | 16 | 29 | 54 |
| Brentford        | 38 | 8  | 7  | 3  | 26 | 23 | 5  | 7 | 8  | 19 | 29 | 53 |
| Colchester       | 39 | 9  | 4  | 8  | 28 | 20 | 5  | 5 | 8  | 19 | 27 | 51 |
| Oldham           | 41 | 10 | 5  | 6  | 33 | 24 | 3  | 7 | 10 | 16 | 33 | 51 |
| Peterborough     | 39 | 10 | 5  | 4  | 32 | 23 | 2  | 7 | 11 | 18 | 34 | 48 |
| Port Vale        | 36 | 7  | 8  | 4  | 31 | 17 | 5  | 3 | 9  | 12 | 23 | 47 |
| Wycombe          | 37 | 8  | 4  | 8  | 22 | 21 | 4  | 6 | 7  | 14 | 22 | 46 |
| Cambridge United | 40 | 7  | 6  | 7  | 28 | 23 | 5  | 3 | 12 | 24 | 43 | 45 |
| Swindon          | 40 | 5  | 8  | 8  | 27 | 32 | 6  | 4 | 9  | 15 | 25 | 45 |
| Bristol R        | 37 | 3  | 10 | 4  | 14 | 17 | 6  | 5 | 9  | 24 | 27 | 42 |
| Luton            | 38 | 5  | 3  | 10 | 21 | 30 | 4  | 6 | 10 | 24 | 37 | 36 |
| Swansea          | 38 | 3  | 7  | 7  | 15 | 19 | 3  | 4 | 14 | 20 | 45 | 29 |
| Oxford U         | 39 | 4  | 3  | 13 | 19 | 30 | 2  | 1 | 16 | 24 | 54 | 22 |

Down and out: Jason Cousin, in Robbie Fowler's shirt, after Sunday's Liverpool defeat. He and the other players now need to lift themselves for tonight's clash at Swansea

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