

Currie set to earn his Spurs

New £200,000 signing is out to impress on his Blues debut

DARREN Currie will make his Wanderers debut when Blues kick off their pre-season campaign with a glamour game at home to Tottenham tomorrow (ko 3pm).

The £200,000 summer signing from Barnet will start the battle of last year's two beaten FA Cup semi-finalists, but Andy Rammell, Keith Ryan, Jermaine McSparran and Martyn Lee are all carrying injuries and look set to miss out.

Right back Chris Marsh is also doubtful for the visit of a Spurs side expected to include Footballer of The Year Teddy Sheringham, Sergei Rebrov and new £4 million signing Christian Ziege. Marsh reported ill this week and missed two days training.

Rammell also missed training this week after pulling his calf, while Ryan won't return to

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training until Monday following his torn hamstring.

Lifelong Spurs fan McSparran is in full training again following his cruciate injury and subsequent tendonitis problem, but Sanchez is reluctant to risk him in a match situation.

Ryan, Rammell and McSparran are all expected to be fit for the first league game at Cardiff on August 11, but Lee's problems look more serious. He saw a specialist yesterday and could need a hernia operation.

In addition, strikers Sean Devine and Andy Baird are still some way off fitness while Sanchez does not want to risk fit-again Paul Emblen from the start tomorrow after his two-year injury lay-off.

The situation is so desperate that Sanchez is even contemplating asking Bristol City for



Darren Currie: Will make his debut for Blues

permission to play striker Steve Jones, who is training at Adams Park.

But the Blues boss is reluctant to play Jones or Michael Gilkes - who are both training at Adams Park while they try and get themselves fixed up with

other clubs - because he doesn't want to raise their hopes of getting a contract at Wycombe.

Sanchez plans to involve every fit first team player tomorrow.

He said: "The injury situation is something we're getting used to. It's like last year with all the strikers being affected again. It is a waste of time losing sleep over it. It gives other people a chance to stake their claim."

"Positions are up for grabs and a lot can happen between now and the first game at Cardiff."

Wanderers are expecting a crowd close to the reduced capacity of 8,000 for the only home game of their five-match pre-season build-up which continues on Tuesday with a trip round the M25 to Crawley Town before moving onto Dublin next weekend.

Sanchez said: "The Tottenham game has come a bit early for us. This time last year we



Teddy Sheringham: Turning out for Tottenham

were starting with Boreham Wood and Tottenham will be a different kettle of fish.

"It's an exciting one for the fans. It has captured the public imagination but for me it is a training exercise and the result will be irrelevant to us."