

Can Hammer hit the spot?

WEST HAM reject Gavin Holligan jets off on Wanderers' pre-season tour to Ireland today determined to earn himself a contract at Adams Park.

The 21-year-old striker scored both goals in Tuesday's 3-2 defeat at Crawley to book his place on this morning's flight out of Heathrow.

The triallist barged his way into boss Lawrie Sanchez's plans by drilling in Blues' opening goal after just two minutes at Broadfield Stadium before notching his second 20 minutes later.

Sanchez has been hunting a hitman all summer and now wants to have another look at the striker, who says God plays a big part in his life, to see if he can be the answer to his prayers.

Former West Ham striker out to impress the Blues boss

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FOOTBALL

Sanchez said: "I'm taking him to Ireland with us. He had two chances all night and took them both. I want to see more of him. He scores goals and we need goals."

Holligan's career went sour after he joined West Ham in a blaze of publicity from non-league Kingstonian for £150,000 two-and-a-half years ago.

He made his Hammers debut as substitute against Liverpool but then fell out of favour and last season was farmed out to third division Exeter and Leyton Orient for unspectacular loan

spells before being released in the summer.

But Sanchez remembered what he could do from when he used to coach the youngster at Wimbledon and invited him to Adams Park for a trial.

Sanchez said: "He did himself the world of good at Crawley with two goals from the only two chances he had."

"He lost his way a bit at West Ham, but he's got pace. He leaps well for someone of his size and he holds the ball up quite well. And he's left footed, which is quite nice."

"We need people who can put the ball in the back of the net. We haven't got enough of them at the club. He is quick, he's tidy

and he might be someone that we take a chance on."

Holligan is determined to use the Irish trip to seal a deal.

He said: "I've been anxious to get my scoring boots back on. I had a lot of problems at West Ham but I'm over them and back on a steady climb towards getting back to what I know I can do."

"It was tough at West Ham. I started really well but then got a few injuries and trying to catch up with top class internationals was tough. I went through a lot but I've developed spiritually, mentally and physically and I feel I'm coming out of it stronger and a better player than when I joined West Ham."

"There were a lot of positives

and a lot of negatives, but I believe the time has come for me to really establish myself as a professional and I will work as hard as I can to do that."

"It is do or die for me. I will give 100 per cent and I can't do much more than that. God has a big part in everything I do which gives me another edge."

The striker added: "I've got off to a good start but I know I've got to do more than that. Ireland is a big chance for me to work the hardest I can and see if I can shine."

"I love the club and it would be an honour for me to be at the club's service."

Blues play Shelbourne tonight and Bohemian on Sunday.