

MAHER MOVE

Wanderers boss looks at Bohemian defender in a bid to replace Bates

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez is stepping up his bid to improve both ends of his team following their double defeat in Dublin.

The weekend's 2-0 loss against Shelbourne and the 2-1 reversal against Bohemian re-emphasised Wanderers' shortcomings in attack and defence and Sanchez hopes to put that right this week by delving into the transfer market.

He said: "Finding a centre half and a centre forward are both priorities."

He plans to open talks with

FOOTBALL By Dave Peters

Bohemian defender Shaun Maher in a bid to tighten up a defence which is still reeling from the shock retirement of Jamie Bates in the summer.

And he is planning further talks with Northampton goal ace Jamie Forrester in an attempt to complete his long drawn out £200,000 transfer from Sixfields.

The two clubs have agreed the fee but the move has been held up by the 26-year-old's pay demands and Sanchez won't break the club's

wage structure.

Sanchez said: "I will be speaking to him this week and we should know one way or the other by the end of the week."

The boss also looks set to offer triallist striker Gavin Holligan - who has weighed in with half of Wanderers' four pre-season goals so far - a passport back into the Football League following his release from West Ham.

He said: "I'm hoping we can sort something out with him. He looks lively, he punches his weight and he's got a couple of goals and I'll be talking to him this week."

But it is the hunt for a defender which is now occupying much of Sanchez's time with Maher Blues' latest target.

Sanchez watched the former Fulham defender in Champions League action earlier in the month and had looked forward to seeing him again when Blues played Bohemian on Sunday.

But Wanderers' lightweight attack failed to put him under any pressure and Sanchez learned nothing more about the 23-year-old than he already knew.

He said: "I was hoping we might put him under a bit of pressure but

we were unable to."

Maher is in Sweden this week for Bohemian's Champions League clash against Halmstaad and Sanchez is hoping they get knocked out paving the way for Maher to move to Bucks.

He said: "I will be speaking to his agent this week."

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