

Boss could miss out on defender

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez looks set to miss out in the race to sign Bohemian defender Shaun Maher.

Sanchez has seen the 23-year-old three times this summer but still hasn't made his mind up whether he is the man to replace the retired Jamie Bates. He wants to get the 6ft 2in centre-half in on trial before he commits himself.

But Luton are ready to offer the out-of-contract Irishman a deal now.

Joe Kinnear offered him a trial match against Spurs on Tuesday and saw enough in the 39 minutes that Maher played, before he hobbled off with an ankle injury, to make his decision.

Kinnear told The Hatters official website: "I thought he did very well up to getting injured. He's one I like a lot. There's more to come from him. He's a young kid, he's got great pace, he reads the game well, he's very competitive, he sticks his head in. I like him. A good lad to have around and he can only get better. He's another one I intend to sign."

Sanchez saw Maher again in that Luton match and said: "He did ok. I would like to get him here on trial. I'm still interested, but if he goes elsewhere, he goes elsewhere."

Bournemouth and Carlisle, now managed by Maher's former Bohemian boss Roddy Collins are also monitoring the situation. Maher is available on a free but he won't come cheap because he is on a healthy wage packet in Ireland.

● Stewart Castledine and Ben Townsend have joined Sean Devine, Martyn Lee and Andy Baird in the treatment room. The pair are both struggling with tendonitis.

● Wanderers have hundreds of free fixture cards and posters available.

● Season ticket holders have until 5pm on August 18 to reserve their normal seats for the Bristol Rovers Worthington Cup tie at Adams Park on Tuesday, August 21.

● Roy Essandoh and Mo Harkin's failure to find a new club has hit the Blues in the pocket. Because they had not been fixed up by August 1 Blues had to pay them their full month's salary for July.

But that marks the end of Wycombe's commitment to them.

● The youth team continued their unbeaten start to the season with a 2-2 draw against Watford on Saturday.

Today the youngsters will be hoping to maintain their unbeaten pre-season record when they face Swindon Town hoping to add their name to the scalps of Spurs, QPR and Fulham, who have all been beaten.

● Wanderers were one of 12 clubs visited by the FA Financial Advisory Unit last week. The new panel are visiting every club to advise and help them on their procedures.