

Sanchez full of praise for defence as they keep out QPR and then score the winner

LAWRIE Sanchez praised his defence after Wycombe kept their first clean sheet of the season in the 1-0 win over QPR on Monday.

Central defender Paul McCarthy even helped out the attack as he scored the only goal of the game in injury time just when QPR looked as if they would hold on for the draw.

The Blues manager said: "I thought the back four were excellent today. Mark Rogers was excellent at right-back, McCarthy and Cousins tackled everything and Vinnicombe played his usual game."

Sanchez, who stood in the director's box throughout the game, said Wycombe were good money for their victory.

He said: "It was a scruffy goal but we deserved it."

McCarthy pounced to score after QPR had twice failed to clear the ball from a corner, sending Wycombe's highest-ever league attendance home happy.

Sanchez praised both sets of fans, with more than 2,000 QPR fans making the trip.

He said: "The crowd was

excellent today. It felt like a proper football game."

But it looked as if Wycombe fans were going to have to leave the game disappointed after the Blues failed to put away earlier chances.

Substitute McSporrnan was the main culprit, volleying well wide after a flick-on by fellow sub. Keith Ryan, put him through on 68.

Ten minutes later, McSporrnan raced clear again but his shot was saved by Chris Day in the QPR goal.

Day was in the thick of the action, throughout the match, with Martin Taylor able to have a fairly quiet game.

Sanchez said: "We offered more threat on goal but everything we hit went straight down their goalkeeper's throat."

Even when Day messed up a clearance to Darren Currie, the midfielder failed to take advantage and dithered too long.

Referee Dermot Gallagher also failed to help out Wycombe when he failed to spot a hand-ball late in the game, with Sanchez, saying it should have been a penalty.

Earlier, it had looked as if the game might get out of hand when Gallagher failed to book Marcus Bignot for pulling Currie's shirt, and waved play-on when Cousins brought down Eboli M'Bombo. QPR's diminutive midfielder.

M'Bombo, a former Monaco player, was the star of the QPR side, producing snaking runs and clever turns.

His run at the start of the second half forced the only booking of the game when Vinnicombe went in late and the resulting free-kick by Karl Connolly was Taylor's hardest test of the afternoon, having to stretch to tip it over.

But it was mostly Wycombe's game with a good, solid team performance, enabling the Blues to pick up four points out of a possible six from the bank-holiday fixtures.

Sanchez said: "I'm very pleased to have gained four points over the bank-holiday. I was hoping to beat Blackpool and get a draw here but to do it the other way round is nice."

"To beat QPR is something we have to do if we want to compete at the top."



Behind you: Defender Paul McCarthy surprised QPR on Monday