

Blues' wing squad goes into action

LAWRIE Sanchez will order his wing squadron to bomb down the flanks when Wanderers visit Tranmere Rovers for the first time ever tomorrow.

With midfield maestro Michael Simpson missing through suspension, Sanchez believes his wide men are crucial for getting behind enemy lines at Prenton Park.

He will instruct Darren Currie and Stuart Roberts to attack the wings and provide the ammunition for marksmen Richard Walker and Andy Rammell.

Midfield scrapper Dannie Bulman appears favourite to land Simmo's central role. His position will be pivotal because Wanderers can't afford to lose the central midfield battle zone like they did in the first 20 minutes against Swindon last Saturday.

But with Tranmere playing a 4-4-2 formation Sanchez is happy that won't happen.

Bulman's anticipated arrival in place of Simmo is expected to be the only change from the side which drew 1-1 at home to Swindon last weekend.

Jermaine McSporran is not fit enough to travel after his ankle ligament injury so Stuart Roberts will be given the opportunity to build on his encouraging home debut last week.

Both sides fielded much changed sides in midweek as both went out of the LDV Trophy and Sanchez is expecting a tough game on the Wirrall.

Long throw expert Dave Challinor and strikers Wayne Allison and Stuart Barlow can't get in the Merseysiders team at the moment and Sanchez says that underlines Tranmere's quality.

He said: "It will be a very difficult game for us. They can go above us if they win and that's a big incentive for them. They got relegated last season and have got a lot of first division players and we will have to be on our mettle up there.

"I spoke to Roy Evans [Swindon boss] last week and he said they were the best team they've played."

Tranmere expect to welcome back Welsh international Jason Koumas after his back injury. Rovers have turned down bids of £2.5 million from Crystal Palace and £2 million from West Brom for him.

Captain Clint Hill could also return after injury after coming through a reserve match in mid-week.

Up front, former Everton FA Cup winner Paul Rideout is expected to partner Seyni N'Diaye.