

Sparky is man of match

Dakin gets the game on after power failure

ELECTRICIAN Dave Dakin was Wanderers' man of the match as the Blues beat a massive power blackout to stretch their unbeaten league run to ten games with a 3-0 victory over Peterborough United last Saturday.

The spark upstaged Blues' two-goal hero Gavin Holligan on an afternoon of high drama at Adams Park and won glowing praise from delighted boss Lawrie Sanchez.

Ref Alan Butler was just two minutes away from abandoning the match when Dakin put the floodlights back on after a 40-minute dealy.

Wanderers were 1-0 up at the time and the two managers had already agreed that the match would be replayed on Tuesday if Dakin had not come up trumps.

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez was full of praise for his unlikely man of the match.

"You've got to praise the electrician who pulled it off just as we thought we were going home," he said.

"We'd already agreed that we were going to replay the game on Tuesday night. That's how close we thought it was to being called off.

"But he got the lights back on and we went on and got the second goal and we were excellent after that.

"It's an excellent victory and we're up to fifth in the table. If the game had been called off we would have gone down to ninth or tenth. I cannot emphasize how important that win was."

Dakin, the club's 45-year-old resident electrician said: "I was just doing my job. It was a bit nerve-racking because I knew time was against me. It was a process of elimination but I found the problem in the end and got the power on just in time."

The blackout was caused by a power overload which triggered a

massive trip switch to turn itself off.

Dakin said: "I didn't think too much about how much was riding on it because I didn't have time to think about it. Once I found the problem it was easy to cure.

"It's nice that people are saying I'm the man of the match but I think Gavin Holligan might have something to say about that."

Sanchez also heaped praise on Holly's performance as the former West Ham frontman, back in the side because of Richard Walker's suspension, grabbed his chance with both hands to double his Wycombe goal tally.

Holly was released by the Hammers in the summer and Sanchez believes the Premiership side's loss is Wycombe's gain.

He said: "Gavin's been championing at the bit. He's had a hit and miss season so far but when he has played he's scored.

"He's a kid I've got a lot of belief in and he's starting to show what, I believe, he is capable of.

"He fell out of the West Ham situation because they've got too many forwards. When I spoke to Harry [Redknapp] about him, he said he'd never seen him play as he was always injured or he just didn't catch the games."

The 21-year-old sparked Wanderers into life with two spectacular strikes with Paul McCarthy's goal sandwiched in between.

But afterwards Blues midfielder Steve Brown admitted it was hard to get going again after the long delay.

He said: "The break was not good, if we had been 1-0 down maybe it would have helped us more. But for the first 15 minutes I was finding it really hard to get going. I thought when we scored the second goal it really helped."

Peterborough boss Barry Fry refused to blame the delay for his side's defeat.

He said: "I think we had already lost by half time. I don't think it made any difference."



Raising his sight: Gavin Holligan put in an impressive performance last Saturday

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