

Sean strikes back at last

GOAL MACHINE Sean Devine has been given the all-clear to resume training after 18 months in the wilderness.

A specialist gave him the green light to relaunch his career on Wednesday and Wanderers' record scorer immediately set himself a goals target of double figures for the second half of the season.

He joined in full training with the rest of the squad for the first time this week since he injured his right knee at the tail end of the 1999-2000 season and is now targeting a first team comeback in the New Year.

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

Devine's return comes just three months after worried boss Lawrie Sanchez expressed fears that he might never play again.

Devine said: "What he said just made me more determined. I'd had those same thoughts myself earlier on and hearing him say it just made me realise what was at stake.

"I expected the specialist to say I could come back this week because I've been feeling a lot better, but it was still a relief to be told I've got the

all-clear."

Devine's injury baffled surgeons. It was diagnosed as bone bruising around the knee, but that caused his cartilage to die and he needed three operations before the problem was resolved.

He said: "It was a nightmare. After each operation I had to go back because it still wasn't right and that was the lowest time.

"There were times when I thought I might never play again, but I kept going and knuckled down."

He missed all of last season and the epic run to the FA Cup semi-final and now Wanderers'



Smiling again: Sean Devine

record signing is determined to make up for lost time.

He said: "There's things I

still want to achieve in the game and hopefully in the second half of the season I can start doing that by helping the lads get promotion."

And the 29-year-old former Barnet striker is convinced he's still got the goalscoring knack.

He said: "I won't lose that. I was injured when I was at Barnet but still came back and scored goals. It might take me a bit of time but I'll be back."

Sanchez said: "I watched him training and his finishing was different class. I've pencilled him in for the QPR reserve game on January 2 and then it could take another month before he's ready."