

Harris' Blues future hangs in the balance

STRIKER Richard Harris' dreams of a career at Wycombe Wanderers are hanging in the balance after he picked up a hamstring injury on his home debut against Tranmere.

He left Adams Park on crutches and now faces an uncertain future with the club due to decide his fate at the end of the month.

The 21-year-old former Crystal Palace frontman signed in transfer deadline week and was told he had until the end of the season to prove himself. Now he faces a battle to play again this season.

He made an instant impression when he scored on his debut for the reserves and then transformed Blues' Easter Saturday match at Peterborough United after coming off the bench.

That cameo performance, aided by his gigantic long-throw, earned him a home debut against Tranmere on Monday - but he lasted just 39 minutes before limping out of the action after pulling his hamstring and could now miss the last three games of the season.

He told the Free Press: "It couldn't have happened at a worse time. I've got so much riding on this month. I just hope it hasn't spoiled my chance.

"I was devastated when I had to come off. I was distraught when I walked down the tunnel.

"The crowd gave me a standing ovation. They knew how much it was hurting me that I couldn't play-on.

"I'm desperate to stay at Wycombe. Everyone has made me feel really welcome. I've

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settled in so well and I was back with a smile on my face.

"I'm just hoping I have done enough already. But I don't want to get my hopes up. It feels as though someone up there doesn't like me."

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez swooped for the goal grabber after seeing him blast a hat-trick for Crystal Palace reserves in their 6-1 win over Wycombe's second string a fortnight ago.

Harris was only playing in that game because Palace striker Jovan Kirovski had to pull out because his wife went into labour.

And his performance alongside fellow substitute Gavin Holligan at Peterborough had Sanchez purring.

The boss said: "He came on and caused all sorts of problems. He showed a physical presence which up until that moment we had lacked.

"He knocked one or two people over and the centre halves certainly knew they had been in a game when he came on."

But Harris' luck changed in that Tranmere match.

He said: "I hope it hasn't jeopardised my chances of coming here. It is a worry because I haven't had time to show people what I can do.

"There's a lot more to my game than just a long throw and I was looking forward to showing everyone what I can do. I know what I can offer and I haven't even started yet."

And the long throw expert revealed that he doesn't want to be labelled a long throw expert.



Stopped in his tracks: Richard Harris against Tranmere before his day was cut short

He said: "I don't particularly like the long throw. It's not a tag I like.

"I'm glad to use it to help the team but it is not what I'm about. I'm a footballer first and I would like to think I've got more to offer with my feet.

"I know I'm good enough to get a club but I want it to be Wycombe."

He is now hoping to be back for the final game of the season

at Swindon Town - a match which could decide his future.

Sanchez said: "It's tough on the lad. I haven't made my mind up on him yet. I wanted to see him play a full game.

"The throw is obviously exciting, but you need the whole package. It is a waste of time just having a player who can throw the ball long - you need to be scoring goals and winning headers as well.

"He showed that against Peterborough and he really livened us up.

"Hopefully he might have a chance of making the last game and perhaps we will give him another run-out then to see how he does.

"He looked lively until his injury. I wanted to see him a few times. I'm just hoping we can re-habilitate him for the Swindon game."