

Sanchez: Devine can still be my chief goal grabber

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez is backing Sean Devine to get over his goal drought and hit 20 goals next season.

Sanchez relegated Devine to the bench for Monday's game against Tranmere Rovers after the striker's penalty miss in the Easter Saturday clash at Peterborough extended his barren run to ten games.

But the Wanderers chief is convinced that the former Barnet striker will be Blues' top man again next season when he has got a full pre-season under his belt.

Sanchez said: "I wouldn't bet against him scoring 20 goals next year. He's come in towards the end of the

season after having two years out injured and it's been very difficult for him.

"He's come into a team that's needed his goals to get promotion and without having anyone to play alongside him.

"That was a helluva lot to ask of him and he's been beating himself up because the goals haven't come and his performances have dipped and dipped and dipped."

Sanchez said he dropped him for the Easter Monday clash for his own good.

He said: "What he needed was to be taken out of the firing line for a bit.

"But when he's got a pre-season under him I've

got no worries that he will score goals again.

"He knows where the goal is and if you see his finishing in training you will see that he's a natural finisher."

Devine scored eight goals in 12 games to keep the Blues in the second division when he first arrived at Adams Park and then broke the club's scoring charts with 23 goals the following season.

But he has spent the last two seasons battling against a career-threatening knee injury and only returned to the first team in January.

He scored in three consecutive games in February but has dried up since then.



Begging for a goal: Sean Devine taken out of the firing line