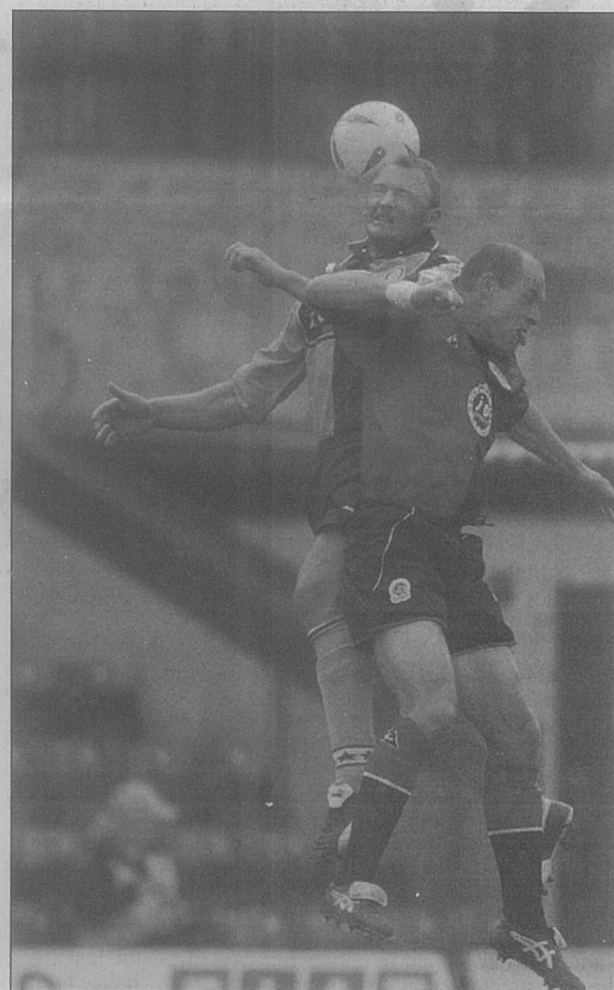


Boss counts cost of QPR thriller

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BFP



Banned: Danny Senda against QPR



Banned: Andy Rammell before his dismissal

Ref: 02-2148 63

Rammell and Senda land three match bans

BLUES banked their first win of the season with Monday's blood and thunder clash against QPR but the repercussions will last much longer.

Andy Rammell and Danny Senda will now both be banned for three matches following their red cards in the battle which finished nine-a-side.

Rammell and Senda will sit out the two home league games against Blackpool and Crewe as well as the Worthington Cup first round tie at Swindon sandwiched in between.

The two miscreants will also be fined by the club.

Sanchez said: "It will cost them money and they are going to miss three games. The repercussions of this game will last for a long time. Rammell and Senda are players that need to be part of the first team. To lose Rams straight after he's come back from injury is disappointing but we'll get on with it."

Both managers criticised Styles as he turned a competitive match into an explosion of red cards and disallowed two Rangers goals, which even Wycombe substitute Steve Brown felt should have counted.

Rangers' Marc Bircham was the first to go on 38 minutes for swinging an elbow at man-of-the-match Michael Simpson, who was lucky to escape any action for his violent reaction.

Then Rammell and Rangers sub Marcus Bean did the walk of shame in the 77th minute for fighting.

Just one minute later Senda joined them in the early bath after chopping down Tom Williams.

The dismissals followed last season's battle of Shepherds Bush when Jermaine McSparran and Senda were both dismissed for Wycombe and it continued a long-running rift for Rangers with the referee.

But the shenanigans could not detract from a magnificent high-energy Wanderers' performance and Rangers boss Ian Holloway was the first to admit it afterwards.

He said: "I'm more upset at my team than I am with any refereeing decision. Some of my lads are incensed by the referee but I'm incensed with them. It wasn't the ref who scored the goals against us.

"Our defending was absolutely

pathetic and if we'd have kept our heads we would have won it."

Goals from strikers Craig Faulconbridge, Andy Rammell and Sean Devine, and a late fourth from midfielder Michael Simpson tore the Londoners apart as manager Lawrie Sanchez's bold decision to play with three strikers paid off big time.

Sanchez went for the aggressive approach after seeing his slow starters drop into the bottom five after Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Bristol City.

He locked his troops in the Ashton Gate dressing room for more than an hour after that defeat and the heart-to-heart had the desired effect as just 48 hours later Wanderers went off like tightly coiled springs to send Rangers back up the M40 with their tails between their legs.

Sanchez roared: "We're up and running now. I didn't think it would take us this long to get our first win under our belts but now we've done it in an emphatic manner.

He added: "We went positive with three centre forwards and it worked with all three scoring.

"We had to be positive. If we had

lost we'd have been two off the bottom of the table. We've now lifted ourselves into the middle of the table which takes a little bit of pressure off.

"When the players needed to be counted they stood up and were counted.

"You could see from the first minute that we wanted it. It still isn't right at the back but if we sort that out we've proved we've got goals in the team."

● Sanchez hailed Michael Simpson as one of the best midfielders in the second division after his super show against QPR.

He capped his man-of-the-match performance with a goal and an assist as The Chairboys ran riot.

Sanchez said: "I would put Simmo up against any midfielder in this division and whenever he's stepped up to play against first division sides he hasn't looked out of place.

"He has been a super player for me and I find it hard to believe that he used to get booed by the fans here.

"His performance was as good a midfield performance as you will see. He was outstanding."