

OVER TO YOUTH

Sanchez says it's time to blood the youngsters

LAWRIE Sanchez will drop the old guard and turn to the youngsters after seeing his team drop to 17th in the second division table with Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Stockport County.

The Blues boss will put the free-falling club's future in the hands of the young guns after blasting his experienced players.

He said: "It's three defeats on the spin now. We're conceding goals for fun and it is something we desperately need to sort out.

"The older players need to take responsibility and I must admit

FOOTBALL BY Dave Peters

that, at this moment, I don't think they're doing it.

"We need some younger legs and people without the fear of losing. We're an old team."

Sanchez took off three of his over 30s - Sean Devine, Andy Rammell and Paul McCarthy - at half time on Saturday as Blues trailed 2-0 - and replaced them with two teenagers and a 24-year-old as he went for an injection of pace.

Wanderers were better after the

break and almost pulled off a memorable comeback.

Johnson, 19, cut the deficit and then 24-year-old Faulconbridge was denied a last-minute equaliser by a wonder save from Stockport keeper Lee Jones.

Sanchez said: "The second half with the introduction of Roger Johnson and Johnny Dixon [both under 20] and Craig Faulconbridge is perhaps the future for us - and perhaps we need to get to the future a little bit quicker.

"The older players have done excellently for this club, but when you field a team in its mid-thirties

against a younger side, your legs can't quite get you to where you want to go.

"That has been our problem this year. We're dependent on our older players but it makes us one-paced and one-dimensional.

Sanchez decided enough was enough after seeing his team concede two goals before half-time at Edgeley Park.

He said: "I told the players before the game that the important thing was not to lose the game but we gave two goals away and I'm thinking perhaps if they don't listen and they're going to do that every

week, we may as well play the younger kids.

"If they make mistakes and concede goals, at least it is through naivety rather than anything else."

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