

Vinnie hit by new setback

CHRIS Vinnicombe will see a specialist on Monday in a bid to get to the root of the groin problem which will keep him out of Blues' Christmas programme.

The Wycombe left back and ex-Glasgow Rangers star had a setback this week and was due to have a scan yesterday.

He said: "It's very depressing. The pain has shifted and I'm now getting a pain higher up in my pelvis.

"I don't know what it is. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I won't need an operation. It's a blow because when I got the injury I thought it was just a simple groin strain."

Vinnie originally targeted tomorrow's crunch clash at

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

home to Port Vale for his comeback when he got the injury three weeks ago.

Wanderers go into tomorrow's match in the grip of a suspension crisis.

Defenders Roger Johnson and Danny Senda are both banned from the clash, while midfielder Steve Brown is also suspended after picking up his fifth booking of the season in the 2-1 reverse at Stockport.

Senda is serving the last game of a four-match ban following his second red card of the season, while commanding centre half Johnson is starting a three match ban following his

dismissal for an ugly two-footed challenge in a reserve match against Millwall.

But on-loan left back Ijah Anderson, signed as a replacement for Vinnicombe, does come back into the picture following his absence from the side for Wednesday's 3-0 defeat at Division Two rivals Bristol City in the LDV Vans Trophy.

Anderson was forced to sit that defeat out because his club, Brentford, did not want him cup-tied.

Midfielder playmaker Darren Currie could also feature following his quicker-than-expected recovery from a shoulder injury which he sustained in training.

Wanderers, who have dropped to 17th in the second

division table, go into the clash looking to avoid a fourth straight home defeat following setbacks against Swindon, Rovers and Brentford.

But Vale, who have won just one of their last seven matches, also have problems.

They are the latest troubled Nationwide League club to apply to go into administration and they went out of the LDV Vans Trophy at third division Shrewsbury in midweek.

The Valiants, who are £2.4 million in debt, have seven players in the treatment room.

Defenders Mike Walsh, Ray Ingram and Steve Rowland and midfielder Neil Bruce are all ruled out, while midfielders Marc Bridge-Wilkinson and Michael Cummins as well as

striker Billy Painter are rated doubtful.

Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez knows victory is vital to silence disgruntled fans as Wanderers hover just four points clear of the drop zone.

Sanchez said: "It's a game we need to win. We need to get three points on the board and get ourselves up the table.

"It's getting to that must-win stage now but a couple of wins over the Christmas period will put us right back up the table.

"It's doom and gloom at the moment because we're not winning matches but we will get change that and we will get going again."

● **Brown hits the decks; Simon Garner's book review: See Freetime.**