

Defender profits from value added loan

RESERVE team boss Peter Cawley reckons Ian Simpemba's three months on loan at Conference club Woking have done him the world of good and given him a decent chance of earning a new contract.

Cawley said: "He has developed a lot over there and come back a more confident player. He understands the game better now and has grown up.

"He works hard in training and when he plays and he's reaping the rewards in his performances.

"He's still a raw centre half but he's a willing student and he will get better. With his physique and size he has got a chance."

The Eire U19 international has come on since being converted to a centre

back. He caught the eye in that position in the reserves' 1-1 draw with Brighton on Wednesday in front of first team boss Lawrie Sanchez.

Sanchez said: "We've found his position now. We've used him as a midfielder before but I see him as a centre back now and that's the route we'll be pushing him down. He's got all the attributes to play in that position.

"We know the Irish think highly of him and he did very well when he was at Woking."

Simpemba has been a regular member of the Republic of Ireland U19 squad. Now he is harbouring hopes of a place in the Republic's U20 squad for the FIFA World Youth Championships in the United Arab

Emirates.

But Cawley was disappointed Simpemba didn't finish on the winning side on Wednesday as Brighton equalised with a penalty against a Wycombe side who finished with ten men when Ryan Parsons was sent off for a professional foul.

Cawley said: "We didn't finish them off when we had the chance and we paid the price. With all the possession we had we didn't create a huge amount of chances.

"After they equalised we gave the ball away too cheaply. We had players who are lacking in a bit of confidence. They didn't want the ball and when you don't want the ball you tend to give it away."