



**Jermaine McSparran**

# Sanchez considers bench gamble

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez will decide today whether to gamble on the fitness of strikers Jermaine McSparran and Gavin Holligan for tomorrow's mid-table battle at Swindon Town.

The pair have only had an hour of reserve action all season since recovering from serious knee injuries.

They were due to play the full 90 minutes of a specially arranged reserve game against QPR on Tuesday but Rangers called that off at the last minute because of a waterlogged pitch.

Instead, Sanchez put the pair through their paces on the training field yesterday in a full-scale practice match.

Depending on how they

came through that, they could be promoted to the substitutes bench as Sanchez looks to pep up a strike force that has only managed to bag 12 goals on its travels, and five of those came in one game.

But with Craig Faulconbridge having shaken off his dead leg, Sanchez insists he will not consider either for a starting place at the County Ground.

In-form Swindon have no such striking problems. Former Wanderers loanee Sam Parkin has plundered 18 goals so far this term – including two in the Robins' 3-2 win at Adams Park.

Parkin has fond memories of The Blues but is still out to sink his former teammates.

He said: "I spent three very enjoyable months on loan at Adams Park back in the 2000/01 season and, being a part of their fantastic cup run, that year still ranks as my favourite footballing memory to date.

"I still have a good relationship with the people at the club and their supporters, who up to now have always given me a lovely reception."

"This may have changed since my brace against them in November and, with three points separating the teams, it is a chance to put some daylight between us."

Swindon are unbeaten in seven, have lost just two of their last 16, have beaten leaders Wigan, and – even though they are just one

place and three points ahead of Wycombe – they are harbouring thoughts of the play-offs.

Swindon's boss Andy King has even cancelled his golfing holiday in May in case his side are involved in the play-offs.

But Sanchez is hoping that come 5pm tomorrow afternoon, King can dust off his clubs again.

He said: "We owe Swindon for the defeat they inflicted on us [3-2] earlier in the season."

"They are on a very good run but so are we. We have only lost one in seven since the New Year."

"They think they are in the promotion hunt but if we beat them we go above them."