

Shhh... Doing well but don't mention the play-offs

WANDERERS players have banned all talk of the play-offs despite their surge up the table.

The Blues have clicked into form since the New Year with just one defeat in eight matches. And their run has hoisted them to within 11 points of the play-off zone.

Last week they ended Swindon's unbeaten record this year to leapfrog the Robins in the table.

In the week leading up to the match Swindon had been talking up their play-off chances and their boss Andy King even cancelled his end-of-season golfing holiday just in case his side gate-crashed the play-off party.

But Wanderers are not getting carried away.

Boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "We have got a hell of a lot of work to make up.

"If we keep playing like that game in game out we will try and get as close as we can and if the top sides start to slip we want to be in a position to take advantage.

"We've only lost one in eight this year and if we can translate that over the last 14 games we won't be a million miles away from it.

"We are making a run from a helluva long way back in the field and we can't afford too many slip-ups."

And the players aren't getting excited either.

Aussie keeper Frank Talia said: "We're not talking about the play-offs yet. It is too early to get carried away just yet but we are heading in the right direction.

"Since the New Year we have been in top form. We have fought hard and won games and picked up points at home and away."

Striker Craig Faulconbridge said: "I think we should just carry on playing and keep trying to pick up points and see how far that takes us.

"We certainly won't be talking about the play-offs yet."

● Ben Townsend, who played for Wanderers in the FA Cup semi-final defeat at Villa Park, has been signed by Woking.

Townsend, 21, who had been on loan to the Nationwide Conference club, will still train with the Blues until Woking turn full time in the summer.

Sanchez said it was tough on Townsend but there was no alternative.

He said: "I didn't think he was

going to play many games for the first team. Football's about moving forward and not standing still and Danny Senda had overtaken him."

● The reserve team kept up their unbeaten run this year with a 2-1 win away to Northampton.

The Cobblers took the lead through Chris Hargreaves before Gavin Holligan scored his first goal since his return from injury, scoring from Lewis Cook's cross.

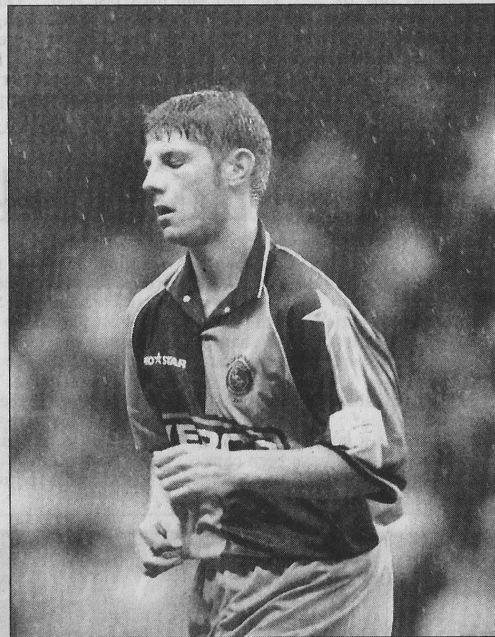
Darren Currie then set up the winner for Paul McCarthy from a free kick.

Team: Gott, Smillie, Cook, Simpemba (sub 83 Warner), Oliver, McCarthy, Currie, Philo, Holligan (sub 70 Griffiths), McSpörran (sub 38 Harding), Lynott

● Sanchez has hailed the youth team set-up as a success after three youngsters, Lewis Cook, Jonny Dixon and Luke Oliver were given contracts.

He said: "We've signed three out of the six available, and not many clubs do that. That's a good return but the proof will be how many games they play for the first team.

"Roger Johnson is coming on and Danny Senda had definitely made it but for those two, we also have the Mo Harkins who were kept on but then didn't make it."



Released: Ben Townsend pictured here in the FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool