

The curse of Smillie strikes once more

LIGHTNING has struck twice for the Smillie family after Wanderers reserve team player Jack was released by Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez, four years after his father Neil was sacked by the club.

Jack had been hoping to sign for the Blues but refused to be bitter about the latest Smillie set back.

The full back said: "I got called into Lawrie's office on Friday and he and Bruce [Youth team boss Mick Forsyth] explained the situation to me.

"At the end of the day, they judged that I wasn't good enough to be a footballer.

"I'm absolutely gutted by the decision. I'd have loved to have had a chance in the first team to show what I can do.

"I felt I was capable of pushing for a first team place.

"Danny Senda's a good player but if he was injured, I would have been capable of stepping in."

Smillie has been released along with fellow reserve teamers Pat Lynott and Ryan Parsons, with Sanchez saying having to let players go is always a difficult decision.

He said: "It's the most difficult thing to do as a manager.

"You can see the disappointment in their eyes. It's very tough but we don't do it lightly. It's now up to them to prove me wrong."

But Smillie is refusing to let the

decision affect him.

He said: "I'll use it as a spur to prove them wrong.

"I'm going to explore the possibility of other clubs in the league."

And Smillie has also looked to his father for inspiration.

He said: "My Dad's helped me a lot since the decision. He's been brilliant for me and I've appreciated him being there."

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