

01/04/03

VINNIE SET TO BE THROWN BACK IN

CHRIS Vinnicombe will play his first game in almost five months when he turns out for Wanderers reserves at home to Leyton Orient tomorrow (ko 2pm).

The former Glasgow Rangers and England U21 left back will play for an hour at Adams Park after recovering from a complex groin injury.

And if the 32-year-old comes through that test without any problems he could be thrown straight back into the side for Saturday's Nationwide League second division game at home to Stockport.

Blues assistant boss Terry Gibson said: "It will be great to see him back. He gives our team good balance and he is a key player for us."

Vinnicombe has battled his way back to fitness after a bizarre recovery programme - which included him being ordered to wear a special pregnancy belt by the world top groin specialist.

The Aussie expert, who

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was visiting Britain, diagnosed Vinnicombe's groin and tendon problem as being related to his back.

And he ordered Vinnicombe to wear the same corset-type belt that some women have to wear during a w k w a r d pregnancies.

Vinnie said: "I had to wear it around my waist for about a month. It's the same belt that some women have to wear to keep the baby high during pregnancy."

"It's been very frustrating not playing and I'm just glad to be back playing again after being out for so long."

The unusual treatment helped get to the root of the problem and the defender has now got two weeks of problem-free training under his belt for the first time.

But Gibson warned the returning star that he may have a fight on his hands to dislodge emergency right back Keith Ryan who has done an

excellent job deputising for him in the first team.

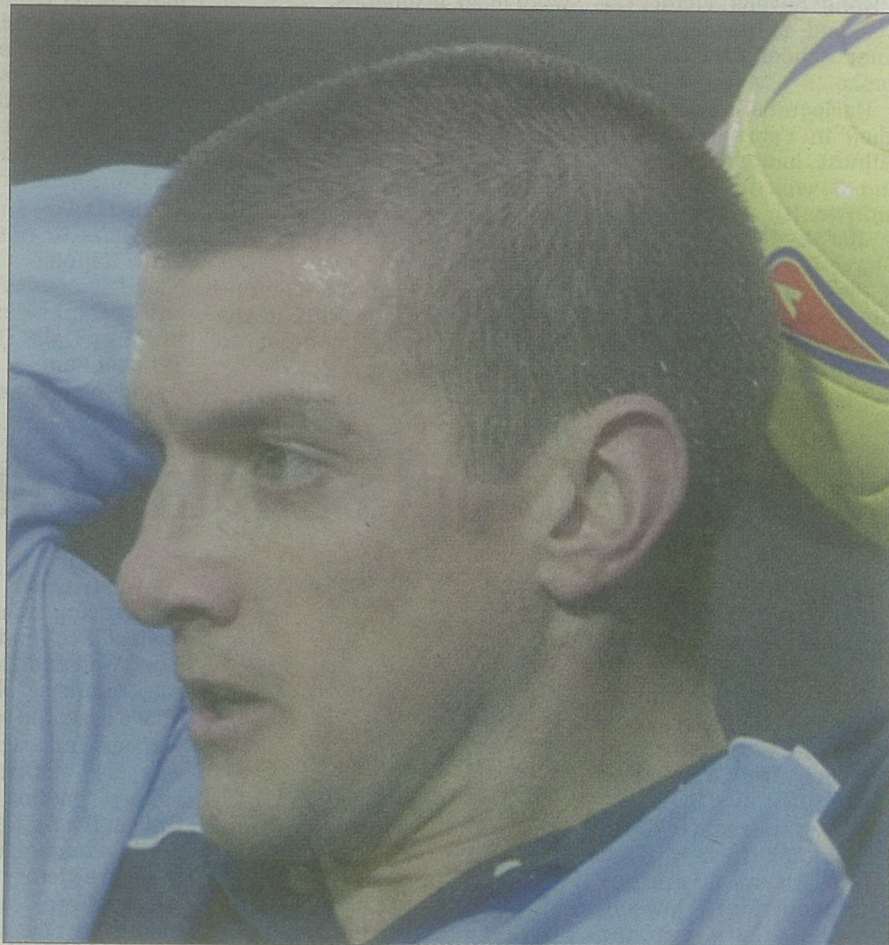
Gibson said: "When we first lost Vinnie we wondered how we would cope. We got Ijah Anderson in on loan for a time but then we put Rhino there and he has done better than any of us could have expected and it would be hard to take him out of the side."

And Wanderers received a second dose of good news yesterday as Welsh winger Stuart Roberts returned to full training after his ankle ligament injury.

But tomorrow's reserve game has come too early for him and too early for striker Richard Harris who has not yet returned to training following his hamstring injury.

● Defender Mark Rogers failed to add to his collection of caps for Canada last weekend.

The Blues star was called into the squad for their international in Estonia but wasn't needed as the Canadians went down to a last-minute 2-1 defeat



Thrown back in: Chris Vinnicombe returns for the reserves tomorrow after wearing a pregnancy belt to speed up his recovery