

Magic Johnson leading by example

ROGER Johnson said he will not be fazed by having to bawl out his teammates after being handed the captain's armband.

The teenager was made captain for the Stockport game on Saturday and took the armband again on Tuesday after Keith Ryan went off.

He said: "I was a bit surprised when I heard I would be captain. It's always the older players but the gaffer's talked about going with youth and he's looked to me and I've grabbed it with both hands.

"It was brilliant when I heard. The gaffer called me in and said, 'I'm going to make you captain. How do you feel?' and I said, 'Brilliant, I'll take that. Thanks a lot.'

"It's a really good achievement at 19 to be captain of the club.

"He just said to be responsible and get the lads geed up. I tried to do that but unfortunately it didn't work out."

And Sanchez had no doubts about making his young centre half captain.

"Roger's done well when he's come in. He's been the best of the

centre-halves by a mile and we wondered if he could be a future captain of the club.

"He's always been earmarked as a future captain and has been captain of all the team's he's played for. Against Stockport, we thought Simmo would lead by example but with Rhino out, we thought we'd give Roger the armband.

"We're lacking natural leaders and have been since Terry Evans, from what I understand.

"Roger's a little bit in his mould and hopefully, he can point one or two fingers at people and be vocal and that's why we thought we'd go with him."

And Johnson has no qualms about pointing his finger at pals.

He said: "I'm like that as a young player, getting them geed up. That will never change.

"I don't know whether it's upset anyone. The gaffer's chosen me and I'm grateful for the chance."

Johnson is Blues' youngest captain since they joined the Football League and also holds the record of being their youngest player, aged 17 and eight days in May 2000.



Dancing to the captain's tune: Roger Johnson