

The future's bleak admits Blues boss

But Wycombe's young players are a silver lining for Sanchez

LAWRIE Sanchez has given a bleak assessment of next season's prospects after watching his team lose to Plymouth in their last match of the season.

The Blues boss admitted this season was poor and reckons survival will be uppermost in fans' minds for next year.

He said: "I'd give us two or three out of ten for the season at best. It hasn't been the season we hoped for. We've fallen away and there are reasons for that.

"We've let people like [Andy] Rammell and [Paul] McCarthy go to cut our wage bill. We've stopped scoring goals but it hasn't been the season we hoped for and we can only hope for a massive improvement next year.

"The major thoughts will be about survival for this football club and surviving in the second division will be a major part of that.

"We're now in a rebuilding process. We've taken apart the

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old team and we've rebuilt it on youngsters and next year will be interesting for all concerned.

"I'm speaking to the chairman in the latter part of this week. The board knows the squad we've got in this moment in time is as young as it has ever been.

"It's going to be a really testing time for them.

"It would be good even if we just strengthen it in numbers by bringing in a few youngsters."

And Sanchez believes his youngsters are a silver lining.

He said: "The semi-final team has had to be taken to pieces and it's down to the youngsters.

"The positives have been the young players who've come in. Players like [Jonny] Dixon have been a big bonus.

"Jonny's one for the future. He's had that bedding-in process and I'm hoping that next

year he can push on and reach double figures at least.

"The youngsters didn't do badly against Plymouth but they don't know the game and we need to teach them the game in a very short space of time and get us off to a very good start."

And Sanchez believes his side will always have a chance while Player of The Year Michael Simpson, who came off against Plymouth with a hamstring injury, stays in the side.

He said: "He's like a Duracell battery. He's always in training, always playing so to have an injury on the last day of the season is amazing.

"I'd hate to think what we would do if Simmo got injured for any length of time.

"He's by far and away our best player, and only now has it been recognised by the fans.

"I can't speak too highly of him and I'm just amazed he's still here."

● Match report: page 35.



Downbeat: Lawrie Sanchez believes next year will be about survival