

Williams upstages England's number one



David James

ROOKIE keeper Steve Williams upstaged England keeper David James just ten days after Wanderers insisted he wasn't good enough for the first team.

The 21-year-old glovesman was controversially overlooked for the Spurs friendly as Blues boss Sanchez wheeled in 44-year-old guest keeper Dave Beasant because he didn't want to risk a morale-sapping hammering.

But he was given his chance against West Ham on Tuesday and grabbed his chance with both gloves, following up his confident display and clean sheet against Aylesbury just three days earlier.

He produced three first class saves while at the opposite end 'Calamity' James gifted Wanderers their opener and had an uncomfortable night.

Williams said: "I had to chuckle to myself when the crowd were singing England's number one at me."

But the young keeper says Sanchez was right not to trust him against Spurs - but insists he is ready now.

He said: "The manager didn't feel I was ready to play against Spurs and that it could have been a rugby score if I'd played.

"In some ways it hurt, but he explained the situation and I think it was probably the right decision.

"Experience counts as a keeper and they don't come much more experienced than Dave Beasant."

Now Willo says he's ready to deputise for crooked Frank Talia, who is racing to make the big kick off after injuring his neck in training.

He said: "If Frank isn't fit for Stockport I would feel confident going in there. I know I can compete with the top players after playing against West Ham. I've had a taste of this I want more."