

Sanchez ponders his sub keeper policy



Disbelief: Frank Talia can't believe it as he is sent off after just three minutes at Rushden

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez is considering putting a substitute keeper on the bench as Blues prepare to take on Queens Park Rangers tomorrow.

Sanchez doesn't normally have a reserve glovesman in his squad but the plan backfired on Saturday when Frank Talia was sent off after just three minutes of Wanderers 2-0 defeat at Rushden forcing the gaffer to rethink his policy.

Sanchez said: "I'm having a big think about it. It's happened once in about 250 games and if it were to happen just once in another 250 games I would be happy."

Sanchez prefers to have five outfield players on the bench because he feels it gives him greater flexibility to change the game.

He does play a sub keeper in cup matches but ironically the only time he needed to bring the sub keeper on – during Blues 4-1 cup defeat at Sheffield United last season – he couldn't because he had already used his three substitutions.

He said: "I've got to weigh things up."

But he is convinced Wanderers didn't lose at Rushden because they had the keeper sent off.

He said: "It wasn't losing Frank that was the problem. The problem was being down to ten men and then nine men when Chris Vinnicombe was sent off."

Talia saw red for charging out of his box and clattering Rushden striker

Onandi Lowe, while Vinnicombe took an early bath for kicking the ball away.

Both players will be fined.

But Sanchez praised the performance of the rest of his team who gave Rushden a tough test.

And he looks set to keep faith with the same starting 11 as Wanderers bid to stop an alarming slide of just one point out of the last 15.

That run has seen the Blues drop into the bottom four, but Sanchez remains upbeat about the visit to fourth placed QPR.

He said: "We are playing well and it is just silly individual errors that are costing us."

"But if we continue doing the right things right and eradicate the mistakes we will be fine."

"I'm looking forward to going to QPR and so are the players. Everyone thinks it is a home banker but we are playing well enough to surprise a few people and once we start winning I think we will win a lot of games."

Meanwhile Sanchez called on the fans to repeat their tremendous vocal support at Loftus Road.

He said: "They were fantastic at Rushden."

"They were the best they have been in the four and a half years since I've been here. I don't know where it came from but it was outstanding. It really lifted the players and it would be tremendous to get the same kind of support from them at Queens Park Rangers."