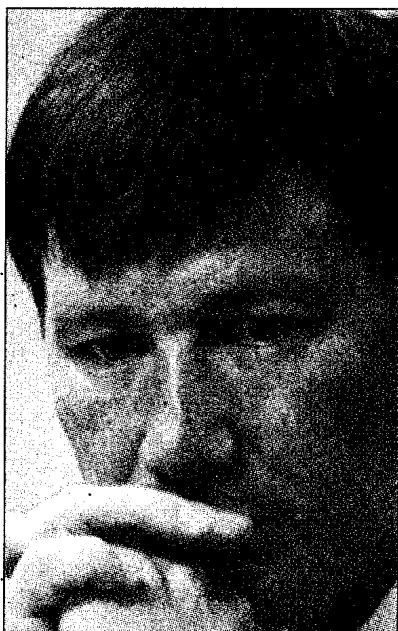


Sanchez: Happy at Wycombe



Lawrie Sanchez

LAWRIE Sanchez this week insisted he is happy as Wanderers manager despite speculation linking him with the Reading job.

He told the Free Press yesterday: "I am the manager of this football club until such time as the chairman tells me otherwise and I'm happy with that situation."

Sanchez has been tipped to return to the Madejski Stadium, where he was a hero as a player, as a replacement for Royals boss Alan Pardew, who resigned on Wednesday and now looks certain to join West Ham.

Blues chairman Ivor Beeks this week insisted that there has been no approach for Sanchez and he is keen to hang onto the manager who took Wanderers to the FA Cup semi-final just two years ago.

Beeks said: "I haven't even heard from Reading. It is all paper talk. I have a perfectly good relationship with John Madejski [Reading chairman] and he hasn't even mentioned it."

And the chances of Reading coming in for Sanchez rescinded on Wednesday when they put assistant Kevin Dillon in charge of their team for tomorrow's match, which is ironically against West Ham.

Dillon immediately put his hat into the ring and says he wants the job full time and he is expected to be given a chance to prove himself.

Reading are currently unbeaten in the first division and Madejski will want to minimise the disruption of Pardew's departure.

Players' views: Page 14

Gaffer would have to go if Reading call

BLUES veterans Keith Ryan and Steve Brown say Lawrie Sanchez would have to take the hotseat at first division Reading if the Royals come calling for him.

They believe the opportunity of replacing Alan Pardew, who resigned this week as Reading boss, would be too good to miss.

Steve Brown and Keith Ryan, who have both amassed more than 400 appearances for the club, were responding to Wednesday's news that Royals boss Alan Pardew had handed in his resignation.

Pardew now looks set to take charge at West Ham and Sanchez, a former Reading player, has been tipped to take his place in the hot seat at the Madejski Stadium.

Brown said: "It is a better job than here and it's a big club and over the last couple of years Reading have threatened [to get into the Premiership] and fallen at the last hurdle."

"Nobody at this football club would begrudge anybody going anywhere better and that is what football is about."

"We all start off at levels and we all want to better ourselves whether that be management or players."

"They talk about younger managers in the game and it would be nice for the gaffer to go on to somewhere like Reading."

"He's an ex-player there and you might see more of his managerial skills blossom."

Ryan felt it was inevitable that Sanchez had been connected with the Reading job due to his record at Wanderers.

He said: "I suppose with our gaffer being one of the brightest young managers around, he is bound to be linked with the job."

"It's going to be an interesting one to see how it pans out."

"I am sure our manager wants to better himself, he's said that all the way along, and if the opportunity arose I suppose he would have to look at it very carefully."

"I've seen a lot of managers come and go and the transition between them is difficult, but we will just have to wait and see and cross that bridge when we come to it."