

Players reactions

Sanchez was as good as Souness

"I'VE played under Graeme Souness and he [Sanchez] is up with the best managers I've worked with. Every manager has their own different style but he is up there with his best.

"He's been a great manager. We were in the doldrums when he came but he picked everyone up, changed everything and got us to the semi-final of the FA Cup.

"That will always be on his cv and I don't think he will have any problems getting another job.

"I thought the board would have given him more time to try and get it right within the next five or six games.

Chris Vinnicombe Wanderers' former Glasgow Rangers and England U21 defender

"HE took over the club when we were in dire straits and going nowhere. I think the bookies had stopped taking bets on going down but the gaffer convinced us we could stay up and we got out of it.

"I wish the gaffer well. I've got no bitterness or animosity to him.

"I didn't see it coming tonight but once one manager gets sacked it becomes fashionable. Since Carlton Palmer got sacked it has been like a domino effect.

"Some of the fans will be happy but they are people with short memories. He put the club on the map and there have been a lot of good times here with the gaffer.

Steve Brown

Players reactions

It's the end of an era for Blues

"IT is the end of an era.

"He could have turned it round. We are a good team but we have let ourselves down.

"The record is not a good record but it still came as a shock when we were told.

"I can't thank him enough. He gave me a three-year contract. He bought me through the youth system. He played me, had faith in me and he kickstarted my career.

"I didn't have a clue what was going on. We were called down to the dressing room and it was very quiet when we got there. It was a bit weird but it still didn't trigger what he was going to say.

"He just said 'I've been sacked.' It was greeted by a lot of silence and he just went on to say a few words. He shook everyone's hand and wished us all the best."

Defender Roger Johnson

"I'M lost for words. I just want to thank him. He gave me my break and I'll never forget that. Now that he has moved on I've got to start again with whoever takes charge.

"He started my career in league football and you will never know how much that means to me.

"I've tried to impress lots of managers but he is the only one who saw what I am about and he brought the best out of me.

"You can't blame it all on the manager. Hopefully we can liven up now and get up the table. I will be doing it for him because I owe him a lot."

Charlie Mapes - Blues' summer signing from Berkhamsted

"I'm gutted. No-one else has given me the chance. He did and I was looking forward to him coaching me and helping me through it but that has all gone now.

"He told us in the dressing room before the Oldham game that he wouldn't go and that he would be here for a long time and now he has been sacked.

"I wouldn't have sacked him but it's not down to me. He's been at the club around five years, he's one of the longest serving managers and he's had a bad run. It's not really his fault. He's had to let a lot of players go because of the club's finances.

Andy Bell - Lawrie Sanchez's last signing and the player who scored the last goal of his reign.

"THE chairman felt it was right to change things and it may be that it will be a good thing. With new people coming in everyone will be fighting for their place and their contracts. I'm disappointed to see him go but sometimes a change is just what's needed."

Jermaine McSparran