



SKIPPER: DON'T BLAME ADAMS

Rhino backs under-fire boss

SKIPPER Keith Ryan has pleaded for unity and said: 'Don't blame Tony Adams for us being bottom of the league.'

The captain has thrown his support behind the gaffer and told the knockers to look elsewhere when they are dishing out blame for the club's perilous position nine points shy of the safety line.

He said: "People can try to point the finger at the manager but I really don't think any problems can be labelled on him. The problems started a long while before he got here."

Rhino spoke out after the team succumbed to their eighth home defeat of the season, going down 3-0 to Blackpool.

He said: "Tony has been a fantastic player. No-one can ever knock what he has achieved and I think he will be a good manager."

"This has been a mess of a season. The club has not been in the best state from the first day of pre-season when we were asked to take a wage deferral."

"It has been one thing after another, not getting off to a good start, losing a manager, having a caretaker manager and Tony being employed."

"There's no money at the club. You look through the Blackpool

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

side and they are littered with good professional players. We've got a lot of young lads who are still learning."

Ryan, who has played under Martin O'Neill and John Gregory in an 11-year Blues career, says Adams is working harder than anyone to turn it round.

He said: "He's out there more than any manager I've ever worked with on the training field and he's trying to put things right."

Ryan was among the fans' favourites to get the Wanderers manager's job before it was given to Adams, and he insists he would have done no better.

He said: "I don't know what the answers are. I don't know what I would do if I was the manager. I really don't."

"We've got to get on with it. There's no point raising the white flag and the manager certainly hasn't."

"A lot of good players have gone from here without being replaced at the start of the season and when you haven't got money it has got to be difficult."

● Fans back Adams: Page 8