

Philo signs and is set to make debut

MARK Philo looks set to celebrate signing a new contract by making his first professional start for the Blues at Bournemouth tomorrow.

The youth teamer put pen to paper on a one-year extension to his contract this week, which will keep him at the club to 2005.

And he looks set to mark the occasion by making his first senior start against The Cherries after coming on as a substitute in the last three matches.

Adams rates the midfielder-cum-striker highly and says he is

ready to be unleashed from the start now.

He said: "Technically he's the most gifted player we've got at this club. He's intelligent he's athletic, he floats, he gets around the pitch, he links up well with people and holds the ball up well."

And Adams is convinced the Blues fans will like what they see once he gets established in the side.

He said: "I'm going to be here for two years and I've got to watch the football and I want to

be entertained. His pace and movement can kill teams."

Philo gets his chance because midweek dead-leg victim Matt Bloomfield seems certain to miss out, while the virus which kept skipper Michael Simpson out at Bristol City, looks set to do so again.

Simpson reported for training on Wednesday but was sent home again by Adams because he had not fully recovered.

Darren Currie could also be rested tomorrow as Wanderers hunt their first away win since

March 18 last year when they won at Peterborough.

But Wanderers are unbeaten in four away matches now.

Adams said: "I've been very pleased with the away form but we need to take it one step forward and get that elusive win.

"I can sense it coming and I would love to get it for the supporters who have been brilliant following us all around the country.

"We've got 14 games to go and we will give it a real blast."

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Mark Philo