

Marshall is handed a Wanderers life-line

SCOTT Marshall has been handed a chance to save his Wycombe Wanderers career just two months after being dumped on the scrapheap.

The injury-prone centre half, who was released in boss Tony Adams' summer clearout, has been keeping himself fit by training with Blues in pre-season and has impressed the gaffer.

Adams said: "Scott was not originally in my plans and I've told him that but if he can come through the whole of pre-season like he has started it then fantastic.

"He could be a player up my sleeve

"If we can get Scott through pre-season we will talk again but if he breaks down I think he will call it a day."

● Adams is still hoping to persuade Stuart Nethercott to sign for next season after the 31-year-old former Millwall and Spurs centre half turned down Blues' original pay offer.

● Adams has promised the fans that his new-look outfit will be fitter than ever when they take to the field for their first match of the new Coca Cola second division at home to Cambridge United on August 7.

He said: "I don't think I had a player last season who was reaching the levels they are doing now.

"We're getting a young squad together and this club has got a big future."

● Wanderers insist they are still hopeful of landing Blackpool striker Scott Taylor despite having an initial £50,000 bid turned down.

Blues boss Tony Adams said: "I've found over the last six weeks that things go and come back and go and come back.

"I like the look of Scott Taylor. His

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hold-up play is very good and he's intelligent."

Adams says he is still hoping to strengthen his squad.

● Adams is starting from the back as he bids to bring the good times back to Adams Park following last season's relegation to the basement division.

The former Arsenal and England central defender has already signed three defenders – Gus Uhlenbeek, Mike Williamson and Gary Silk – already this summer, as well as capturing Bristol City's hard tackling midfield ball winner Joe Burnell.

And Adams says he is determined to get the defensive side of the game sorted out after seeing his side leak an alarming 74 goals as they finished bottom of the pile last season.

He said: "We've only done defensive work so far. We've not touched offensive work or set-plays yet.

"We'll work on the offence next week and then set-plays during training camp week and by the Charlton game we will be getting into the serious stuff."

And Adams can't wait for the real action to begin.

He said: "Football is mad at times. All best-laid plans can go absolutely pear-shaped and backfire but I've been so excited and encouraged by the way the lads have committed themselves. They have been quite exceptional."

His players have been made to suffer in pre-season so far with a series of punishing short runs which have replaced the traditional long cross country runs of yesteryear.

Adams said: "Cross country is old hat. When have you ever done that in

football? It's all football related now – the longest running we do is 80 yards.

"You have got to do it in 13 seconds and do it for 12 minutes.

"You do 80 yards then have 13 seconds to recover and then off you go again keep on going round and round."

● A report released by the Football League detailing fees paid to players' agents has revealed that Wycombe were one of 34 clubs in the Football League who did not make any such payments during the period from January 2004 to the end of June 2004.