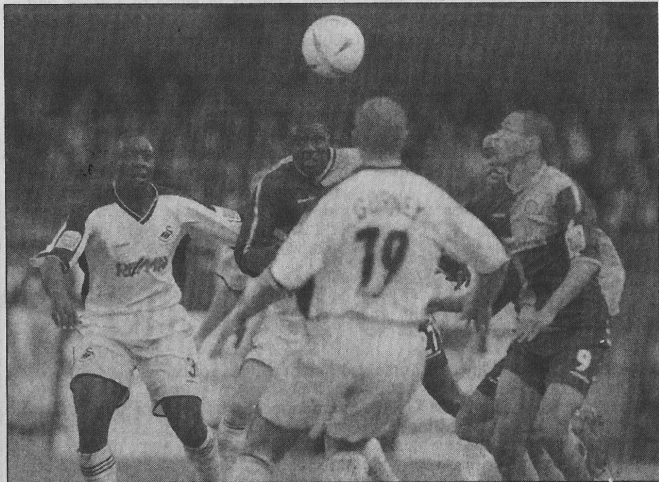


Savage told he must improve or else



Looking to breakthrough: Bas Savage struggled to impose himself against Swansea on Saturday

BLUES boss Tony Adams has warned striker Bas Savage he needs to show a big improvement or collect a one-way ticket back to Reading.

The burly frontman, who is on a month's loan from the Madejski Stadium, hasn't made the impression Adams has been looking for so far and the gaffer laid it on the line in a frank discussion this week.

Savage played from the start in Saturday's home reversal against Swansea but was substituted before the hour mark and replaced by Ian Stonebridge.

Adams said: "He's struggled to make the transition from Reading's reserve team to first team football. He has been a bit disappointing so far and I have told him that. He needs to do more if he wants to stay for a second month.

"It's difficult for him because he's gone from playing in the reserves against nobodies to some serious stuff.

"It's a bit unfair to expect him to come in and do brilliantly straight away but he has got to do a lot more if he wants to

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impress me."

Savage's awkward and unorthodox style could be a useful weapon coming off the bench but Adams says he doesn't have the finances to carry specialist substitutes.

He said: "I don't think we can afford to keep him as a substitute. He's got to do better than that. I need people at this football club who are going to take it through the divisions and, at the moment, Bas is not doing that."

Adams is planning to give Savage another chance to impress this week and is thinking of starting with him in tomorrow's league match at Cheltenham and again in the LDV Vans clash at Conference side Aldershot on Tuesday.

Adams said: "He has still got time. He is probably going to start on Saturday and again in the LDV match on Tuesday. He's got opportunities and if he is not going to deliver we are going to move onto someone else."