

GIVE ME ANOTHER EIFFEL OF CYRIL

Blues boss looks at Frenchman again in bid to bolster back

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert is preparing to cross the Channel as he bids to bolster his defence ahead of Saturday's League Two curtain-raiser against Wrexham.

Frenchman Cyril Ramond will be given 90 minutes in tonight's reserve team friendly at Nuneaton Borough as he tries to win the left back's jersey at Adams Park.

The 25-year-old, who was playing top-flight football in Belgium last year for St Truiden and has also served Montpellier, Brest and Nancy in France, arrived at Wycombe after a recommendation from a former professional player now working as an agent.

And the full back impressed Lambert enough in training and during Saturday's behind-closed-doors friendly at Nottingham Forest to persuade Wycombe to give him another shot as they seek a replacement for Clint Easton.

Lambert said: "He's been about the block. He's got a good pedigree and he knows the game. He's a solid defender and his use of the ball is excellent."

But Lambert wants to have another look tonight before deciding whether to take the plunge.

He said: "Any new signing is a gamble especially when they're foreign. His English is not the best but he knows football."

Signing a left back is a top priority for Lambert so that he can push new signing Chris Palmer into his favoured wide mid-field role.

Continued on page 31



Entente Cordiale: Paul Lambert has taken a fancy to French defender Cyril Ramond

Lambert said: "I bought Palmer as a midfielder. He's done us a good turn in the friendlies as a full back but that's not a place where I really want to see him."

Ramond was one of three trialists on show as Wanderers played two friendlies on Saturday with goalkeepers Michael Poke and Jamie Young also on parade.

Poke, a youngster at Southampton, played in the first team's 2-2 draw against Forest reserves, while Young from Reading was between the sticks in the club's other game against Staines, which also finished 2-2.

Lambert is keen on both glovesman – possibly on year-long loan deals – but that could mean the end of the road for Frank Talia or Steve Williams. Williams who finished the season by displacing Talia as Wycombe's number one has just been offered a year-long deal, while Talia still has a year left on his contract.

Lambert said: "Poke and Young have done fine but there's one or two things I need to sort out first. It would be too many to have four goalkeepers."

Meanwhile, Wanderers are continuing to run the rule over released Aston Villa youngster Shaun Paul.

The striker, who is also interesting Lincoln City, featured in last week's draw with Watford but never got off the bench against Staines on Saturday.

He will play at Nuneaton tonight and Lambert said: "Whether he's better than what we've got here, we'll have to wait and see."

Meanwhile the boss is still hoping to make another signing ahead of the big kick off.

He said: "Until someone signs on the dotted line there is no point in me saying anything. It's still early days. There is one player I am talking to and that's all I can say."