

BLUES TO STAND BY BATISTA

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert will keep faith with keeper Ricardo Batista for tonight's visit to Bristol Rovers.

The Portuguese U21 international cost the new gaffer a winning start to his Blues managerial reign when he gifted Mark Jones an equaliser in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Wrexham by going walkabout 30 yards outside his goal.

But Lambert will stick with the on-loan Fulham glovesman as he takes his side west to face a Pirates side still smarting from Saturday's 4-1 defeat at Peterborough United.

He said: "Ricardo will play at Bristol. He knows he made a bad mistake and nobody was more disappointed than he was but he will come back stronger and he will be fine.

"There is no time for him to dwell on it. He will make saves for us this season when people don't expect him to.

"I'm not at all worried about him. I am pretty sure I have got the right man and that he will do well for us."

He insists he has no worries about putting Batista back in against a Rovers side who are determined to give Wycombe the backlash following their London Road drubbing.

And he knows his keeper will be bang in the firing line tonight as Rovers look to put right the wrongs of Saturday in front

WANDERERS

of their home crowd.

He said: "Rovers will be dangerous because of that result on Saturday. Their pride will be hurt and they will be trying to put that right in front of their own fans."

Wanderers have just a slight doubt over on-loan Chelsea midfielder Anthony Grant who was substituted on Saturday with a recurrence of his back injury but Lambert is optimistic he will be fine for the trip west.

All the players jumped straight into an ice bath after Saturday's opening match of the season to help speed up their recovery and then they all came in on Sunday for a swim as well.

Lambert said: "It all help the players recover quicker. It's important because you may as well give yourself every little bit of extra help you can get."

The new boss was pleased with the performance in Saturday's curtain raiser and happy to net a point.

He said: "We are off and running and now we will try and build upon it at Bristol. We're going down there hoping to get a win."

At the time of going to press, Lambert was still hoping to boost the travelling party with a loan signing.



Back in the firing line: Ricardo Batista will be back between the posts at Bristol tonight