

Blues say maybe to one and no to another

WYCOMBE Wanderers have said no to one triallist and maybe to another after seeing them both in action for the reserves this week.

American right back Ben Benditson, who has previously played for LA Galaxy in the Major Soccer League, was told there is nothing doing for him after the game which saw Wanderers lose 3-2 at Bournemouth.

But former Wolverhampton Wanderers defender Conor Rafferty has been given more time to stake his claim.

The teenager has been invited to carry on training with the Blues and is expected to feature in the reserves again.

Lambert said: "He's got something about him. He's not

one for the first team just yet but he is still training with us and could have a future."

Blues lost the game 3-2 despite twice taking the lead through Steven Gregory (pictured right) and youngster Gavin James.

The game also saw the return of Ian Stonebridge for the first time since he was injured in a pre-season friendly away at Basingstoke Town.

Stonebridge played for the final half hour and came through unscathed. But he is unlikely to be considered for even a spot on the substitutes bench for tonight's home clash against Torquay.

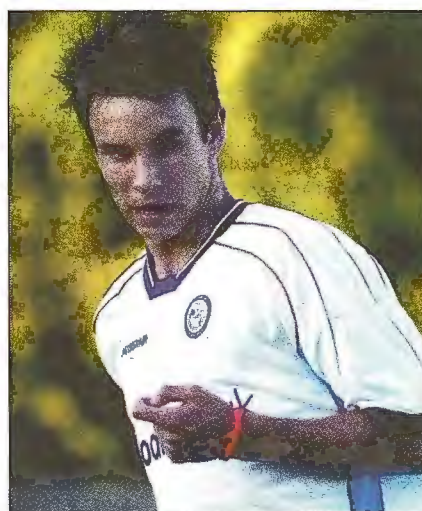
● Graham Smith has resigned as chairman of the Official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters

Association because fellow committee members refused to discuss, or put to the membership, his proposals of merging the Association with the Supporters Trust.

He said: "Since becoming Chairman of OWWSA in 2005, it has become clear that Wycombe Wanderers Football Club no longer needs four separate supporter groups in the form of OWWSA, WWISC, the Supporters Trust and the Founders Trust.

"If our Club is to thrive and grow, it needs fewer, stronger supporters' organisations."

● Striker Tommy Mooney is one of four nominated for the League Two Powerade Player of the Month to be decided on Sunday.



VIEW FROM THE STAND

WITH RON BARNETT

Time for all to chip in

DESPITE only taking one point from the last nine on offer, Wanderers are still clinging on to third spot in the table.

However we must beat Torquay tonight, otherwise we will be overtaken by the chasing pack.

Although we have made a great start to the season, I'm concerned about our inability to beat other top teams and the lack of names on this season's scoresheet.

In our three games against teams in the top six we have lost two and drawn one. If we are going to win promotion these are the sides we must beat to climb to the top of the table. All our seven victories have been against teams in the bottom half of the table. While it's vital we win these games we must start shooting down some of the top guns as well.

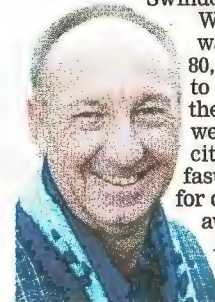
Will Antwi's equaliser against Stanley was Wanderers' first league goal from a defender this season and goalscoring has been no easier for our midfielders, with only Kevin Betsy scoring so far.

With Jermaine Easter out for several weeks it's time for other members of the team to chip in with a few goals, we can't keep relying on Tommy Mooney.

The ideal solution, finances permitting, would be to bring in another striker as soon as possible. Playing Kevin Betsy up front is not the best use of his skills and Jonny Dixon continues to struggle to make any sort of impact.

While Blues headed to Accrington on Saturday, we went to Spain to see the Madrid derby. With 80,000 crammed in the Bernabeu the atmosphere was almost as good as Blues against Swindon.

What amazed me was how quickly 80,000 were able to leave and get on the Metro. We were back in our city centre hotel faster than it takes for our coach to get away from Adams Park and arrive in Stokenchurch.



Finished? We have only just started say Blues

Wanderers
by Dave Peters

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WYCOMBE Wanderers did not get carried away when they set a new club record with eight straight wins earlier in the season.

And, just like they did not get excited then, they won't start panicking now they have gone three matches on the trot without a victory.

Paul Lambert's Wycombe have taken just one point out of nine following their record-breaking run of eight straight league and cup victories, but the players insist the recent run is just a blip.

They haven't won since they dumped Fulham out of the Carling Cup in the Premiership club's own back yard last month, a run that culminated in last Saturday's injury-time 2-1 defeat at Accrington.

But assistant boss Steve Brown insists there was never a bubble to burst - saying that the hype over the club's great straight eight was just a media thing which no-one at Adams Park got caught up in.

He said: "Who inflated the bubble? Football is not about bubbles, it's about winning matches over a season.

"We know we have only taken one point out of the last nine but prior to that we have taken a helluva lot of points. There's nothing seriously wrong."

Midfielder Kevin Betsy also came out fighting.

He said: "If people want to say the wheels have come off that's up to them but it is very harsh.



Falling behind: Ricardo Batista is beaten by Ian Craney's free kick for Accrington

"People have got to take the rough with the smooth. You can't jump on the bandwagon when we put eight wins together and then say the wheels have come off because we've lost a game in injury time. That is very harsh."

And he added: "The wheels have definitely not come off.

"We would have won the game at Accrington if the referee had not missed two blatant penalties on me. We've just got to hope that these things even themselves out over the season.

"The manager was very angry after the Accrington game and rightly so because we lost a goal in the 92nd minute when they hardly had a kick in the game. We've got to learn from it and we will learn from it.

"We will just be going all-out to make sure we win the next game and the next game after that."

Defender Mike Williamson was inconsolable after Stanley supersub Andy Mangan sunk the Blues with his first ever league goal.

He said: "We switched off and we paid the price. It was devastating. We are all very disappointed to come away with no points. As defenders we are paid to defend and we should be keeping the ball out of the net. We haven't and we paid for it.

"It's gone a bit pear-shaped since the cup win at Fulham. We've got to show our character now and turn it round before it gets worse.

"We've got the characters, the ability and the determination to do that starting on Friday."

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so far this season?

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