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Sport: Dave Peters, Alan Feldberg and Mark O'Haire Friday, October 6, 2006 Tel: 01494 755098 Fax: 01494 534015 Email: dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

I'm out to prove Aussie rules

He's travelled 10,000 miles to feel at home with Blues

GLOBETROTTING keeper Jamie Young has been handed a rare start at home to Torquay United tonight (ko 7.45pm).

The Aussie-born glovesman, who turned Pom to win England caps from U17 to U21 level, replaces Ricardo Batista who is away with the Portugal U21 squad.

Young, who left his family Down Under when he was 15 to carve out a career in England, is determined to grab his latest chance with both hands.

The 21-year-old has made three Blues appearances so far and has a 100 per cent record with wins against higher league Fulham and Swansea in the Cup and Mansfield in the league.

He said: "With Ricardo being away I've got another opportunity to prove what I'm about. It is a big game for me and the team."

"I think I should be the number one goalkeeper here but so does every goalkeeper. All I can do is go out there, put pressure on Ricardo and try and make the manager think again."

Boss Paul Lambert knows he is fortunate to have two keepers he is struggling to separate and has told Young a good performance tonight could swing him an extended run in the side.

He said: "Jamie's done terrific every time he's played. He's unfortunate not to be playing every week. If he does well again against Torquay I will have a major decision to make."

**Wanderers
by Dave Peters**

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Young came to England when he was a schoolboy after ex-Reading player Andy Bernall invited him to join the Royals.

Young said: "It was a

that they are doing so well. I want to be out there with them and if I keep progressing and working hard my time will come.

"As a goalie you have got to be patient and I'm sure when the time comes I will make the most of it."

He managed just one appearance at Reading - making his debut as an 18 year-old - and had been number two for three seasons when he was released in the summer following the Royals' promotion to the Premier League.

wonderful opportunity.

"My parents came with me for the first month to help me settle, then it was just up to me.

"But I didn't mind. It was the realisation of a dream I'd had and an unbelievable opportunity.

"If you want to play basketball you want to do it in the US, if you want to play rugby you do it in Australia, and if you want to play football you do it in England because it's the best league in the world."

And he hasn't looked back, playing alongside the likes of Wayne Rooney and Wayne Routledge in the various England age group squads.

He said: "I have had an amazing time so far. I can't worry about what they are doing. I am just really stoked for them

He played more than 20 times on loan for Rushden last season and jumped at the chance to join Wycombe when they came knocking in the summer.

He said: "The Torquay game is another great opportunity for me to show what I'm all about."

Red alert: Jamie Young wants to give Paul Lambert a selection headache with his display against Torquay tonight

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