

Grimsby comes before glamour

Lambert's stark warning as Blues return to league action

BLUES boss Paul Lambert has told his players to start from scratch tomorrow.

Quarter-finals and FA Cup ties have been at the forefront in recent weeks, but Lambert has warned his players they need to wipe the slate clean ahead of tomorrow's League Two visit of Grimsby.

He said: "The league is the priority. Just because we've won two cup games doesn't give us a divine right to take the three points.

"The focus is there but it's important we don't lose track of our league progress."

And the European Cup winner says his player don't need his lectures on how to refocus.

He said: "Their careers have been fantastic since I've been here, they don't need me harping on about my days because they're over.

"They are learning themselves and unless they come to me I'll be letting them get on with it.

"There is a little rule in football - when you stop playing - never tell anyone about what you've done.

"I never have and I never will because it'll send them to sleep because it's boring."

**Wanderers
by Mark O'Haire**

mohaire@london.newsquest.co.uk

But Lambert says his players have earned his faith.

He said: "After a game has gone they've put it behind them, put it on the back burner. They wiped the slate after the cup games and moved on and that's how it needs to be."

Anthony Grant and Russell Martin will be suspended after collecting five yellow cards but Jermaine Easter and Scott Golbourne are both available again for the visit of Grimsby, who appointed Alan Buckley as their new manager for the third time last week.

Lambert said: "Grimsby will be tough, they've a new manager and like every club when they get a new man in it raises the squad."

Confidence is high though, and after the fantastic start Blues have made to the season Lambert is determined they won't fall away.

He said: "All these players can play - make no doubt about it - they are a very talented bunch at this level.

"They have their destiny in their hands."



Smiles all round: But boss Paul Lambert is determined not to let his players get carried away with cup successes