

# Boss takes a goalie gamble

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert is set to continue with his eight-game goalkeeper gamble when Blues entertain Barnet at Adams Park tomorrow.

He has decided not to recall Steve Williams from his loan at Forest Green even though he now has just one senior keeper on his books following the loss of number one Ricardo Batista this week.

The Portuguese U21 stopper was called back from his loan early by Premiership outfit Fulham last weekend leaving just Jamie Young on the goalkeeping roster at Wycombe - and rookie Dean Thornton, who is considered too inexperienced.

Lambert got away with his gamble of having no substitute keeper on the bench in the last two matches and he will spin his wheel of fortune again tomorrow.

He said: "I'm not normally a gambler, but we've got away with it so far and hopefully, touch wood, we will continue to get away with it until January."

Lambert cannot sign or borrow another glovesman until the transfer window reopens in the New Year. His only other options are to bring Williams back from Forest Green, and he says he doesn't want to do that, or, he could drag an unemployed keeper out of retirement which he says

## Wanderers by Dave Peters

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he doesn't fancy either.

That means Young will go into battle each week, including in the Carling Cup quarter-final, with Blues keeping their fingers crossed he doesn't get injured.

Lambert said: "It is a gamble, there's no question about that. But we've done it before, we've done it in the cups and got away with it so far. You create your own luck and hopefully our's will continue."

"Jamie has been excellent for us, he was excellent against Darlington the other night and we just hope that he stays fit."

Wanderers admit they don't know who they'd stick in goal if Young is crocked during a match.

Lambert said: "I haven't got a clue which outfield player would go in goal. It would be whoever is big enough and ugly enough to go in there."

Wanderers have not been practicing for that eventuality either. They have not put any of their outfield players in the firing line in training this week.

Meanwhile, Lambert has admitted that he has not given up hope of Batista returning in January on loan again.

