

Antwi pulls holiday to get fit for Blues



'It's no trouble, football is my job and I'm counting my blessings'

WILL Antwi has scratched his summer holiday to get himself fit for Wycombe.

The centre back has not played for the Blues since the Carling Cup semi-final second leg against Chelsea but he is determined to shake off injury in time for pre-season.

He said: "I'm not crying about not going on holiday. Football is my job, it's what I live for.

"I'm not doing a 9-5 office job every day. There are probably other jobs out there that pay higher, but I get to play football every day so I count my blessings.

"I enjoy what I do and the longer I can do it the better. Missing one summer holiday is no trouble."

Antwi played just seven games during the 2005/06 season due to a groin injury and missed all of the second half of last season with a similar problem.

Fellow centre back Mike Williamson got injured shortly after him and without the cornerstone of their defence, Blues' season fell apart.

Antwi said: "I watched every game and felt like I could have made a difference in all of them. I can't even articulate the frustration. We know we're a much better team than 12th."

**Wanderers
by Alan Feldberg**

a.feldberg@london.newsquest.co.uk

Boss Paul Lambert hopes to prove that next season with a raft of new signings. Centre backs are on the list, and Antwi welcomes the competition.

He said: "I hope the manager does get some good quality centre halves in. Even before we [he and Williamson] got injured we needed another centre half.

"We need to have three or four of the same quality because it's good for the club to have options."

Lambert has already spoken to Brentford stopper Matt Heywood, has plans to speak to Dundee United defender David McCracken and is also chasing a centre back from the Championship.

Antwi said: "The manager may bring in another player who he rates highly.

"We might sign John Terry, but even if we don't I won't begrudge anyone who plays in the team ahead of me.

"If I'm not in the starting 11 it means I'm not good enough for Wycombe, but I have belief in myself and am ready for the challenge.



Happier times: Will Antwi and Mike Williamson celebrate against Swansea at the start of Blues' Carling Cup run. Both centre backs would miss the second half of the season with injury

"If there was no challenge then what's the point? If I wanted to play for fun I'd go play football in the park. I play football to win and I like it that we're expected to win every game.

"I hope the manager does improve the squad because we're

not far off being a promotion-winning team. We just need a few more players to kick on and hopefully next season we will do that."

■ Blues will resume talks with McCracken shortly after he returned from holiday in Mexico today