

Blues chasing Sutton

■ Saints top-scorer set for talks with Lambert

BLUES boss Paul Lambert is planning his second raid on Scotland in as many weeks as he bids to pep up his strike force before the big kick off at home to Accrington on August 11.

The Scot, who lured Dundee United defender David McCracken south this week will now try and persuade Chris Sutton's brother John to join his Adams Park revolution as well.

The 23-year-old targetman has top-scored for Scottish Premier League side St Mirren for the last two seasons and will hold talks with Lambert this week after rejecting a two-year contract at Love Street.

His 13 goals helped keep the Saints in the SPL last season but the striker wants to follow brother Chris in moving South.

And his agent Tony McGill reckons he is a gift. He describes him as a carbon copy of his famous brother, who won English and Scottish league titles with Blackburn and Celtic.

He said: "John has been top scorer at St Mirren for the last two years. He has got a lot better and sharper – he is the same size as Chris and I think he will have a major impact when he moves to England."

Lambert has also been linked with a loan move for young Celtic reserve striker Nicky Riley but it is Sutton who he really wants. He

Wanderers by Dave Peters

dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

has also enquired about 19-year-old Celtic reserve midfielder Simon Ferry but again Celtic are only interested in a loan.

Lambert has already made it clear that he wants players of his own this term after relying on loanees last season.

And he is clearly determined to stamp his authority on the squad this season after previously leaving most of the signings to assistant boss Steve Brown.

In addition to McCracken he's already signed goalie Scott Shearer and landed ex-Premiership midfielder Martin Bullock and defender Craig Woodman from Bristol City.

And with last year's loanees Anthony Grant, Ricardo Batista and Scott Golbourne all going back to their clubs – and Tommy Doherty's switch from QPR still in the balance because of money – it will be a new-look Blues who kick off with a double-header against the last two Conference winners.

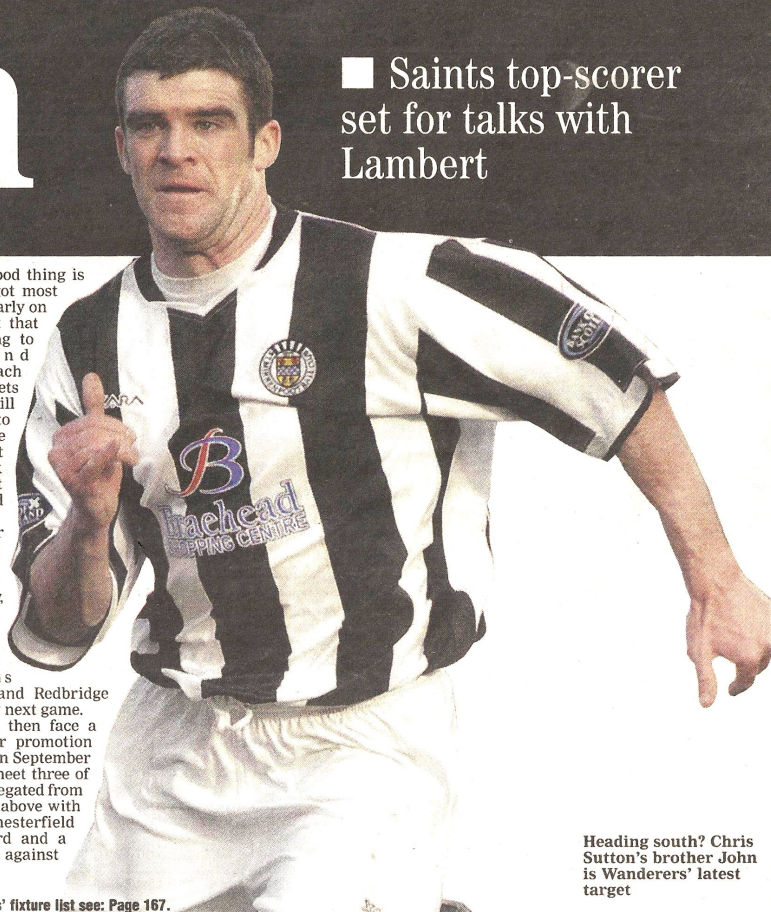
Lambert said: "Obviously it's going to take time to settle. We have got four new players in already and there will be others joining and the fans have to accept that it will take time for a new team to gel."

But the good thing is that we've got most of them in early on and the fact that we are going to Dortmund living in each other's pockets for a week will be good to create some team spirit and to work on some set pieces and routines."

After hosting Accrington on the opening day, Wanderers visit this year's Conference champions Dagenham and Redbridge in their very next game.

They will then face a test of their promotion credentials in September when they meet three of the clubs relegated from the division above with visits to Chesterfield and Bradford and a home game against Brentford.

For Wanderers' fixture list see: Page 167.



Heading south? Chris Sutton's brother John is Wanderers' latest target