

Lambert backs keeper after his costly error

... but will he be in goal on Sunday?



In a flap: Scott Shearer is caught in no man's land against Chesterfield

Picture supplied

Blues lose their game of Deal or No Deal

WANDERERS pulled out of their move for former Northern Ireland midfielder Tommy Doherty on transfer deadline day because Queens Park Rangers were insisting on a £50,000 transfer fee.

Blues had hoped to pick up the player on a season-long loan, but Rangers wouldn't entertain it even though the Doc is some way down the pecking order at Loftus Road.

Doherty walked off with the the Player of the Year title while on loan as a Wanderer last season and manager Paul Lambert is disappointed he was unable to pull the deal off.

He said: "It's a pity. They wanted money and we couldn't do it. It's a shame that we couldn't do it because I think he is well out of the picture at QPR. We worked on it as late as we could, it went right to the wire but they wouldn't budge."

PAUL Lambert has backed keeper Scott Shearer to get over his Saltergate howler – but he won't say whether the glovesman will be between the posts again this weekend.

Shearer was caught in no-man's land as he flapped at a David Niven cross but got nowhere near it allowing Jack Lester to score Chesterfield's second in Blues' 2-0 defeat last week.

Shearer then went on to produce two top saves but the damage had already been done by then.

Lambert said: "That's a goalkeeper's life. He can make 20 great saves in a game and the one mistake you make you get punished and it gets highlighted. I remember Ricardo Batista did it last season and came back stronger for it."

Lambert hasn't spoken to Shearer about his error.

He said: "I don't need to. He knows. He doesn't need me to go into detail, it was there for everyone to see. He's been good in training and he's good on crosses. He made a mistake last week and football is littered with mistakes."

Apart from Shearer's mishap, Lambert was pleased with what he saw last weekend.

He said: "We're playing really well, we just need to convert the chances, that's all we're missing."

Lambert has also backed midfielder Gary Holt to win over the fans.

Some supporters cheered when the former Scotland, Nottingham Forest and Norwich midfielder was subbed off on Saturday.

Lambert said: "He's always going to be one of those players that people don't realise what he does for the team. He's not the most spectacular player. He keeps things simple and does what he does really well."

Meanwhile, fans may have to wait to see new loan signing Reuben Reid in action.

Wanderers signed the striker on a season-long loan after seeing him sparkle against them for Plymouth in the Carling Cup earlier this season.

Lambert said: "My defenders didn't like playing against him. He's quick and he reminds me a lot of our own Jermaine Easter."

But he may have to be held back. He has spent the week suffering from flu and although he played in a behind-closed-doors game against Aldershot for the reserves, his best hope appears to be a bench role this week.

He had disciplinary problems at Plymouth and was sent back from a previous loan but Lambert is not worried.

He said: "It's a chance for the kid. Plymouth rate him highly, there was never a chance of us signing him but he's got a chance here."



Sunday's match at home to Brentford has been designated a Safe Standing Day with fans from clubs all over the country invited to stand together on the home terrace. Tell us after the game what you thought of the day at www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport