

Easter recall a boost for Blues

JERMAINE Easter believes his reincarnation into the Welsh squad was just what he needed and says Wanderers will reap the rewards.

The Blues hitman has admitted his head has not been right since Wanderers blocked his dream move to Championship side Plymouth Argyle in transfer deadline week.

But he says being recalled to John Toshack's squad for Wednesday's match in Slovakia was just what the doctor ordered.

He said: "It's been a big boost and was just what I needed to get back on track. My head has been a bit messed up recently and I wasn't myself.

"I was disappointed not to get the chance to join Plymouth but that has gone now. Getting back into the Welsh squad has given me a massive lift at the time I needed it most.

"It has been good for me and it will be good for Wycombe.

"Hopefully I can now kick on and beat my tally of 24 goals last season."

Blues boss Paul Lambert said: "His head is clear after the discontent of not going, and I'm sure he'll come back from the Wales squad ready to go again."

Easter has two goals to his name already – both penalties – after scoring the only goal of the game in Sunday's televised win over Brentford.

Lambert admits he'd like to see Easter score his first goal of the season from open play sooner rather than later, but says the penalties proved his ace striker has not lost his confidence.

He said: "They were pressure penalties he's taken. It's not as if they were in the first minute of the game – Sunday was the 82nd minute and against Dagenham it was the last kick of the game.

"People think it's easy to score penalties. It isn't. You've got a lot of pressure on you. You've got everything to lose and the burden of your team and the fans on your shoulders.

"It takes big players to score penalties and he's

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stepped up to it and put them away."

Easter's two spot-kicks are the only goals scored by a striker this season.

Scott McGleish and John Sutton are both waiting to get off the mark after six appearances each, but Lambert says there is no need to worry.

He said: "We're looking dangerous and making chances in abundance. Somewhere along the line they'll go in."

Reuben in the frame

Reuben Reid could be drafted into the side as Wanderers look to open the scoring floodgates against Macclesfield tomorrow.

The loanee from Plymouth scored for the Reserves against Watford in midweek and manager Paul Lambert says the young striker is in his mind.

He said: "Reuben was excellent against Watford and day by day is getting better and stronger. We'll have a look at him but he'll be in the squad, no question about that."

Defender Will Antwi will not be considered yet after ending eight months on the sidelines with 45 minutes against Watford, but Lambert is confident his team can do the job.

He said: "Macclesfield have changed their style from last year. They try and pass it more and had a good result last week, but we're playing well and will go up there to try and win it.

"The home team always has to make the running so hopefully we'll capitalise on the space."