

'He's 25 not 18 – he knows what's right and wrong'



Paul Lambert on Jermaine Easter saying he's not in the right frame of mind to play for Wycombe Wanderers

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert has told want-away striker Jermaine Easter he's prepared to leave him stewing in the reserves all season unless he changes his attitude.

Lambert said: "He's 25, not 18, he knows what's right and wrong.

"We've just got to hope that maybe one day he wakes up and thinks I can't keep doing that."

Wales international Easter rocked the club last week by saying he isn't in the right frame of mind to play for Wycombe following the collapse of his £300,000 transfer to Championship side Plymouth last month.

He didn't travel to Bradford City on Saturday or Barnet in midweek and won't be considered for tomorrow's visit

Wanderers by Dave Peters

dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

of Notts County either.

Easter told Tuesday's Bucks Free Press Midweek that he isn't happy at Adams Park and wants away to progress his international career.

But Lambert says he's going the wrong way about it and insists he won't be doing anything to engineer a move for last season's 24-goal top scorer and Carling Cup goal king.

Lambert won't be ringing Plymouth or any other club in a bid to get Easter off his hands.

He says it's up to the player to come round or spend the remaining year of his contract in the reserves.

Lambert said: "I won't be considering him unless he comes to my door.

"I'm not going to be trying to persuade him. The onus is on him now.

"I can't force someone to play when I've got another 20-odd lads who are dying to play for the club.

"If he doesn't want to play there's not much I can do. I'd be prepared to leave him out and stick him in the reserves all season because he's still contracted to the club."

Easter was a firm favourite with the supporters last season but some have been quick to turn on him now and Lambert says the only one suffering is Easter.

He said: "It doesn't hurt me what he's doing but I think it will hurt him by not playing.

"He knows my thoughts on it. If it was me personally I would just knuckle down and try and score as many goals as I could and see what happens when the transfer window reopens in January. But you have to respect his decision.

"I think he's adamant on it and won't change it."

Wanderers have not fined him and will let him link up with the Wales squad next week.

Lambert said: "I'm not going to stop someone's international career. He's earned the right to be there.

"But Jermaine is not playing for us so maybe that will be a bit of a concern for John Toshack [Wales manager].

"Easter's got to hope that people don't take what he's done as a stigma and attach it to him."

Hammer blow number two

WANDERERS Boss Paul Lambert could be without both of his goalkeepers for the rest of the season.

Jamie Young is crocked with a hamstring/tendon injury while Scott Shearer has a broken ankle after catching his boot in the turf at the training ground.

Lambert said: "They are nightmare injuries. It's going to be a long haul back for both. They might make the last bit of the season but you can never say because of rehab and things like that."

Wanderers have plugged the gap by signing England U19 international Frank Fielding on a three month loan from Blackburn and Bolton's teenage reserve stopper Przemyslaw Kazimierczak for a month.

Fielding starred in the win at Bradford and performed well again at Barnet in midweek and will retain the goalkeeper's jersey at home to Notts County tomorrow.