

Wanderers complete Doherty deal and close in on securing a proven goalscorer

BLUES boss Paul Lambert says he has got the best two midfielders in the division after completing the free transfer of Tommy Doherty from QPR yesterday.

The Doc, who had been at Wycombe on loan, has signed until June 2010.

And with Gary Holt, Lambert says he has now got

the best duo in the league.

He is delighted to finally get the Doc, who was last season's Blues Player of the Year, on a long deal.

He said: "He never gives the ball away and him and Gary are everywhere the ball is."

● Lambert is closing in on the new striker he says will be the final link in his jigsaw.

He has already held talks with the player who has a proven record in League One.

Lambert said: "He's proven. He started at the top level as a kid at a Premiership club and he's scored a lot of goals."

Lambert also revealed that he did look at Bristol Rovers' Richard Walker when the Pirates wanted Jermaine

Easter but he says there is no mileage in that one now.

He also dismissed several of the names fans have been speculating on saying Simon Yeo, Paul Mullin, John Hartson and Lee Thorpe are not on his list.

He says he wants someone with pace and craft who will complement John Sutton and

Scott McGleish rather than just serve as replacements should one get injured.

He said: "I don't want someone similar to Suttty. I'm after someone who has got something different and who'll surprise teams."

● Frank Fielding should be back in goal for Tuesday's trip to Mansfield. He looks set to

re-sign on loan after missing the New Year's Day draw against Barnet because of Football League red tape.

Lambert says re-hiring Blackburn's England U19 keeper is as important as getting a new striker in.

Ex-Scotland keeper Rab Douglas will also stay until January 21.

Blues say two players can go

WINGER Derek Duncan has been told he can leave Adams Park just six months after Blues pulled out the stops to sign him – hijacking Grays Athletic's bid to secure his services.

But he has made just one appearance, since then as a substitute in the JP Trophy defeat at Swansea and has recently been on loan to Lewes.

Lambert said: "It hasn't really worked out. It hasn't happened and I don't want to keep people just for the sake of keeping them. They have to move on for the sake of their own career. I can't see him playing in our first team."

Centre half Leon Crooks is also free to leave as Lambert looks for him to progress his career.

He said: "Leon will find it hard to get into the side which is a shame because I like the lad but if he can get another club we will let him go."

Bury and Grimsby have both shown interest in the defender, who made 11 appearances last term but has not featured this season, but both deals fell through.

But Chris Palmer will be given the chance to prove himself again. He was sent back early from his loan at Darlington after a bust-up with their manager but he wasn't available to play for Wycombe until his loan officially ended on December 31.

Lambert said: "Chris is back and available again and we will have a look at him again and see how he does."

Meanwhile Blues are happy for Jack Obersteller to stay on loan at Grays where Blues will monitor him.

Awards for riders

CYCLING: Wycombe Cycling Club riders will see out the old season by picking up awards won during 2007 when they attend the British Best Time Trial Championship awards in Nottingham tomorrow.

For the second year running, Richard Davies will be presented with bronze for his third place overall in the season long Rudy Project sponsored National Circuit Championships where he competed in the CP4 disability category. Steve Golla

I wouldn't want to watch Barnet



Grief for his friend

Pain: Paul Lambert after the emotional minute's applause for his former Celtic team-mate

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert is back in Scotland today for the funeral of his former Celtic team-mate and close friend Phil O'Donnell.

The 35-year-old Motherwell player collapsed on the pitch with heart failure during his team's match with Dundee United.

Lambert requested a minute's applause for his

former Celtic colleague before Blues' New Year's day draw with Barnet.

He said: "It's really, really sad. I'm still absolutely devastated by it. I will go up to the funeral on Friday. I know Eileen, his wife, and the four kids and it is just so devastating for a really fit lad who was only 35 years old. It is really tragic."

BLUES boss Paul Lambert launched a stinging attack on Barnet's ultra-cautious tactics and said: "I wouldn't go and watch that."

Barnet suffocated the lifeblood out of the New Year's Day meeting between the sides with a no-risk defensive display to earn a 0-0 draw as they became the first team in five matches to stop Blues' winning juggernaut.

Lambert said: "It's their prerogative to come here with just one up front but I wouldn't go and watch it myself."

He reckons Wanderers are victims of their own success now.

He says his team's run of four straight wins frightened the ambition out of their north London opponents.

He said: "They were only interested in getting a point.

"We did everything to score. We hit the post and the bar and had so much of the ball and sometimes when you have so much of the ball it can be detrimental.

"We're disappointed to take just a point but it might turn out to be a massive one at the end of the season."

But Bees boss Paul Fairclough, who has now taken four points off Wanderers in each of the last two seasons, wasn't bothered by the

Showboating led to Tom's exit

TOM Williams has joined League Two rivals Peterborough on a two and a half year deal after boss Paul Lambert told him there was no room for showboaters in his side.

The left back, who was only signed five months ago, paid for his costly clanger in the FA Cup defeat against Swindon on November 10.

He then went AWOL when he was dropped for the following game and hasn't featured since.

And his days looked numbered when, after the 6-0 defeat at Stockport, he came out of the dressing room whistling the McDonald's advertising theme I'm Loving it.

But Lambert says it was his

criticism and says Wanderers should look at themselves.

He said: "We came with a plan and stuck to it. We forced Wycombe into playing a game they didn't want to play. They lacked intelligence and just smashed the ball long, which we were hoping they'd end up doing.

"Our plan worked and it forced them to change the way they play which was just what we wanted because they are one of the best football teams in the league and especially at home.

"I am full of praise for my players. They were warrior-like and played the system beautifully. We counter-attacked well and I would imagine made a few Wycombe hearts flutter in the last ten or 15 minutes."

And he made no apology for his tactics.

He said: "It is horses for courses. We weren't going to come here and be fodder for Wycombe Wanderers Football Club. We've got our own ambitions and desires and we showed that we can play a classic counter-attack game."



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