

KNIGHT STAR

■ Lambert swoops for hot-shot striker ■ Wycombe ready to play him tonight

WANDERERS' new signing Leon Knight will go straight in the squad for tonight's match at Mansfield Town.

Blues snatched the 25-year-old former Chelsea youngster in a £50,000 deal from League Two rivals MK Dons on Friday.

But the 5ft 5ins striker, who has scored 81 goals in 227 starts at Chelsea, Huddersfield, Brighton, QPR, Swansea, Sheffield Wednesday and MK Dons, looks as though he will have to launch his Blues career from the bench after penning an 18-month deal.

Assistant boss Ian Culverhouse said: "He's lacking a bit of match fitness but he trained on Saturday with us and looks really hungry.

"But he has got to earn the right to get in there and he knows that. John Sutton and Scott McGleish have been doing really well for us and the gaffer has made it quite clear to him that he is not guaranteed the right to start and that he has got to earn the right to play.

"But Leon will be a great asset for us. He has got a great goal pedigree and will give us that extra dimension which we haven't got. He's the fox in the box that we've been missing."

But Wanderers believe it doesn't have to be a case of two from three strikers.

Knight has played out wide before and also just behind the main strikers.

Culverhouse said: "He gives us new options and when his name became available we knew we wanted him."

**Wanderers
by Dave Peters**

Knight burst onto the scene as a youngster at Chelsea and played for them in the UEFA Cup and was a revelation at Brighton and Huddersfield.

Culverhouse said: "He knows that he should have made more of his opportunities and he just wants to get his career back on line.

"He's got the best years ahead of him and we think we have got a really good deal. We were quoted a lot more money for players in the Conference but Leon is a proven one and someone who has scored goals at a higher level than now.

"We think he's a massive steal but only time will tell."

And having snapped him up, Culverhouse revealed that Wanderers are still chasing another forward as they bid to stretch their five-game unbeaten run and maintain their promotion push.

Culverhouse said: "It shows our intent. We are here to get out of this division this year. We've had a great Christmas but we've really got to kick on now and build on it."



Is Leon Knight the man to fire Wycombe Wanderers to promotion this season? Tell us what you think at www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport



Leon king: Blues boss Paul Lambert hopes Leon Knight will provide the goals to fire his team to promotion

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