

STRIKER BANNED



SENT OFF: Chris Zebroski was also dismissed against Darlington earlier in the season, although the card was later rescinded

Attacking options cut again as Zebroski gets a three-game ban, but Taylor is not panicking yet

BLUES boss Peter Taylor has resisted the temptation to bring in a short-term loan signing – even though he will be without Chris Zebroski for three matches.

Zebs will miss tonight's promotion dust-up at Dagenham and the next two matches after that following his red card in Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Bradford.

But despite letting Scott McGleish join Leyton Orient on loan last week, Taylor believes he saw more than enough in the debut performance of Jon-Paul Pittman to stop him going into the market for a stop-gap solution.

Zebroski was sent off for a neck-high tackle on City defender Matt Clarke and has been fined by Wanderers.

Taylor accepts there was no malice behind Zebroski's 77th minute horror challenge but says the striker should've pulled out long before his studs buried themselves in Clarke's neck.

He said: "It was definitely a sending off. I've got no arguments with it. Chris didn't go to do anybody. He was just too high. I think he tried to nick it over their player but he should have pulled out.

"He will be fined because he is no good to me now for three matches. They are the rules here. If players are injured that's fine, but if they can't play because they have been sent off for silly challenges then they get fined."

WANDERERS

Pittman and Matt Harrold will occupy the striking berths tonight as the Blues look to muscle their way back into the title race after a miserable run of just one win in five games.

They will spearhead the attack with Taylor set to give one of Nathan Ashton, Matt Phillips or John Mousinho the Zebroski role.

The Daggers, who are nestled just one place outside the play-off zone, also have striking problems ahead of tonight's re-arranged game in East London.

Paul Benson is a major doubt so Ben Stevens, the man Taylor made two bids to sign in January, will partner Jon Nurse in attack.

Taylor is a huge admirer of the Daggers and has warned his defence – which could be without ever-present Craig Woodman – to expect one of their busiest nights of the season. Woodman didn't train yesterday after picking up a bug but Blues are confident he will make a recovery.

Taylor was encouraged by his side's performance in defeat at Bradford at the weekend and has called for a repeat performance tonight.

He said: "If we play like we did at the weekend we will win more games than we lose."