

Injury crisis

Picture: LOUISE MARCH



OUT: Tommy Doherty limps off with an ankle ligament damage

Picture: ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL



OUT: Ian Westlake collapses with a hamstring pull

- Doherty and Westlake out for a month
- Six more players in treatment room
- Boss may seek on-loan replacements

WANDERERS are facing an injury crisis eight days ahead of their first season back in League One.

Midfield duo Tommy Doherty and Ian Westlake became the club's latest casualty victims when they hobbled out of Tuesday's 2-1 defeat against QPR.

Westlake will be out for a month while boss Peter Taylor fears Doherty's injury could sideline him for even longer.

Doherty damaged his ankle ligaments in a tackle with Wayne Routledge, while impressive new signing Westlake pulled his hamstring in the final minutes.

Taylor said: "I wish the season was still three months away. It's a nightmare. I can't believe it."

"It is a big blow for us and they might not be fit for the first two or three weeks. We will have to wait and see how serious they are."

The double blow brings the number of injured players in the camp up to eight and the club are monitoring a ninth after striker Jon-Paul Pittman was forced off with a groin complaint in midweek, although he was

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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expected to train with the squad again yesterday.

The injury crisis forced Taylor to downgrade last night's first team friendly away at Hampton and Richmond to a largely youth team affair because he couldn't risk losing any more players, with the big kick off just around the corner.

And he says he may now have to try and get players in on loan to plug the gaps.

First choice full backs Lewis Hunt and Craig Woodman haven't featured at all this summer.

Hunt's foot injury will keep him out for a few weeks more at least but the club are hoping Woodman, who had a scan on his troublesome thigh, might have an outside chance of appearing at some stage in tomorrow's friendly at his former club Bristol City.

In addition, centre half Leon

Johnson and new signing Stuart Green are nursing thigh strains, TJ Moncur has strained his hamstring and Lewwis Spence's injured heel has meant he has not kicked a ball in anger since last season.

Taylor isn't expecting any of those to feature at Ashton Gate tomorrow but he says he will still press ahead with that game as he prepares for next week's opening clash at Charlton.

Taylor said: "We've just got to get on with it and hopefully we can catch up a decent team for Charlton."

The injury woes have torpedoed Taylor's bid to sign a new striker right out of the water.

The boss admitted he was now having to change his priorities.

He said: "I've got no news on a striker at the moment. I think I might be looking at other areas now."

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