

Southend hold up Revell's switch but deal is back on

Move agreed but Blues must be patient

WANDERERS and Southend have agreed to complete Alex Revell's on-off switch to Adams Park – but the deal will face one more week-long hold-up because United don't want him to play for Wycombe against them tomorrow afternoon.

The clubs have hatched a loan deal for the 26-year-old striker which will be triggered next week.

He will join on a 93-day emergency loan after FIFA blocked Blues' initial plans to bring him in on a free transfer.

But the Shrimpers won't activate it until after the sides have met head-on at Roots Hall tomorrow.

They don't want to run the risk of Revell embarrassing them in front of their own fans by scoring against his old team.

The deal will now start on January 29 to enable Revell to make his debut in Wanderers' trip to Bristol Rovers the following day.

But the loan will run out on May 1, ruling Revell out of

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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Wanderers' final fixture of the season at home to Gillingham on May 8.

However, Waddock is still delighted to have finally got his man.

He said: "I've wanted him for a long time and I've always been impressed with what I've seen. He will suit our style, he's got pace, he's good in the air and he will improve us."

The 6ft 3ins striker was prolific in his younger days and a strike rate of 35 goals in 30 matches for Braintree earned him a move to Brighton.

He continued his rich form with the Seagulls and his transfer fee was hiked up to £150,000 by the time he switched to Southend.

But a broken leg slowed his ratio and he managed just four goals in more than 40 appearances for Southend.

They loaned him out to League One rivals Swindon earlier in the campaign and two goals in his three months in Wiltshire wasn't enough to persuade Danny Wilson to take up his option to sign him.

But Waddock believes he will get back among the goals.

He said: "Sometimes you get clubs where it works and others where it doesn't work out for you but I think he will do well with our style."

"We've got him. I would have loved for him to be able to play tomorrow but that's not possible but we've got him for a lot of other games and that's what's important."

Meanwhile Southend say reports that they have sold another striker, the in-demand 17-goal Lee Barnard to Leeds United or anyone else, are premature.

A statement on their club website read: "At the moment, we fully expect Lee to be in the starting line-up for Saturday's game against Wycombe."



MOVING ON: Alex Revell will join Wanderers at the end of the month

Beavon is a doubt

Southend v Wanderers Saturday 3pm

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WANDERERS boss Gary Waddock has told his team their survival bid starts at Southend United tomorrow.

The Blues have returned one point from their last three matches against the division's top three teams and Waddock says they must now start turning good performances into points.

Waddock said: "After the games that we've had this is a real big one to me because this starts the survival bid."

"Southend's manager would possibly say that they are inconsistent but if they hit form on a particular day they can beat anybody."

"We have to maintain the standard that we have set in the last three games. The players have been a credit in the last three but they now have to lift themselves for the remaining 19."

New signing Dean Keates will go straight into the side at Roots Hall and new keeper Steve Arnold could claim a place on the bench.

But Blues are sweating on the fitness of striker Stuart Beavon.

He missed training yesterday with a bug but is Wanderers' only fresh doubt for the game which is something of a reunion of old friends.

Winger Kevin Betsy returns to his former club just one week after leaving them in favour of Wanderers.

The 31-year-old has joined the Chairboys for the third time following a successful spell on loan earlier in the campaign.

He is one of three ex-Shrimpers in the Wycombe squad tomorrow with Lewis Hunt and Matt Harrold also having worn their colours.

Meanwhile, in the opposite camp, Southend have two ex-Wanderers with midfielders Franck Moussa and Anthony Grant both having had loan spells at Adams Park.

Young goes as Arnold signs for Wanderers

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WANDERERS have signed keeper Steve Arnold and released second choice glovesman Jamie Young to make way for him.

The Blues snapped up former Eastleigh Town stopper Arnold yesterday after a six-week trial at Adams Park.

Waddock signed him until the end of the season despite seeing him concede four goals in a 4-4 draw with MK Dons in a behind-closed-doors friendly set up to test the 21-year-old netminder.

Waddock said: "He probably came off the field thinking he had blown his chance but none of the goals were his fault."

"There were some fantastic goals but he did ok and impressed enough and it is not a gamble in my eyes."

Arnold has been training unpaid with the Blues since before Christmas in the hope of nailing a deal.

And Waddock has seen more than enough potential in the one-time Norwich City reserve to decide that he could off-load Young.

The Aussie kept goal for the Blues during their historic run to the Carling Cup semi-finals two years ago but he has been



LEAVING: Jamie Young has been let go six months before the end of his contract

forced to play second fiddle to Scott Shearer since Waddock arrived at the club.

He has played just once under the new manager and was axed immediately after that game – a 6-0 hammering in front of the live television cameras at Huddersfield.

He has been let go with six months of his contract remaining.

Waddock said: "I don't want to carry three keepers and out of

respect for Jamie I told him I wouldn't be offering him a contract for next season."

"There will be a mad rush of players in the summer so I thought it was only fair to let him know now and give him an opportunity to go out and play some football and show everybody what type of keeper he is."

"He's a good pro and a really nice bloke and I hope he gets himself another club."

He will now use the next six months to have a good look at Arnold.

He said: "We have got him until the end of the season. We have got him as one for the future because of his potential."

"He's got an opportunity here. I've spoken to a number of people about him who have given him the thumbs up."

"Steve is a young lad and goalkeepers tend to improve with age. We are looking to the future with him."

"But I don't see any reason why he couldn't come in and do a job if Scott Shearer got injured. It's a case of signing players who you think are going to improve and take you forward and he comes into that category."

● Injured duo Leon Johnson and Lewis Montrose are ahead of schedule in their bid to return from long-standing injuries.

Boss Gary Waddock is pleased with their progress but is refusing to put a date on their possible comebacks.

He said: "They have done well in their programme and are ahead of schedule."

● Wanderers were interested spectators at Wednesday night's drawn reserve match between West Ham United and Portsmouth.

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