

ENGLAND CALL-UP INCREASES VALUE

- North End reported to be lining up a £450,000 bid for teenager Matt Phillips
- But his value could rise as he gets called into the full England U19 squad

WANDERERS

BLUES boss Gary Waddock admits the club could cash in on teenage star Matty Phillips, who was yesterday called into the England U19 squad.

Preston are reportedly lining up a £450,000 bid for the 19-year-old winger who was yesterday upgraded from the standby squad to the full England U19 squad.

Championship side Preston have been the first to declare their interest in the Aylesbury-born ace and the *Midweek* can reveal that they made an enquiry about him last season.

Now North End boss Darren Ferguson is reportedly ready to turn that interest into a £450,000 bid, although Wycombe say they have not yet received any offers from Preston or anyone else.

And with Phillips set to sparkle on the international stage at the Elite Tournament in Ukraine this summer, Waddock says his value is going up.

Waddock said: "He's an international player now.

"He's a young player that's



just been called into the England squad and we don't want to lose a player like that.

"The money that is being talked about is decent money and you don't get offers like that at League One or League Two clubs often, but it

is not an offer yet.

"Until it is in black or white or a written offer we cannot say yes or no.

"He's a talented player with lots of potential so I wouldn't be surprised if there is interest."

Phillips is contracted to Blues until next summer.

Waddock said: "I don't really want to speculate on it any further. Until a written offer comes in no one can take it further."

"He's a talented young play-

er, I like working with talented players and I want him around the place."

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CENTRE OF ATTENTION: Blues winger Matt Phillips has caught the interest of Championship side Preston North End who are reportedly lining up a £450,000 bid for the teenager who was put on standby for the England U19 squad last week for the Elite Tournament in Ukraine later this month

Picture by ANITA ROSS-MARSHALL