

Matt's a young man in a hurry to grow up in the game

Wanderers by Dave Peters

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MATT McClure is a young man in a hurry – but even he admits he is beating his own tough targets.

The first year professional marked his third substitute appearance for the first team by setting up Kevin Betsy for Blues' opener in Tuesday's 2-0 win over Colchester United after coming off the bench to replace Stuart Beavon.

He showed no fear and looked totally at home on the big stage.

But, after claiming his first senior assist, he immediately set himself another target.

The 18-year-old said: "I want my first goal for the first team now. I'm desperate for that and when I get it hopefully I will be a bit more relaxed and things will come easier for me."

And in typical striker fashion, The Northern Ireland U19 international puts that aim ahead of starting a match for Gary Waddock's side.

He said: "I really want a goal. I can't wait for that."

"I'm confident in myself and if

the gaffer likes what I'm doing then happy days.

"I've had three appearances as a substitute and it has come earlier than I thought it would to be honest.

"But I made my mind up at the start of the season that I didn't want to just be a reserve team player this year. I made sure during the summer that I came back ready for pre-season and firing and that my fitness was better than it has ever been.

"It was a bit nervewracking going in during the summer for my first day with the first team. I knew I would have to feel my way in to get within the group but I was excited at the same time and knew I wanted to be part of a promotion pushing side in my first year as a pro.

"It is a big step up from reserve football, totally different, but I am loving it.

"I love coming into work each day with a big smile on my face, it is great.

"My mates are at uni or working as electricians but for me I want to be a footballer all day long."

Boss Gary Waddock said: "He's done very well. He's shown no fear and taken it in his stride. He showed his confidence and is



NO FEAR: Matt McClure has risen to the challenge of first team football

beginning to settle in at this level.

"He's got his debut under his belt and now he needs to get his

first goal as well. He has got things still to work on but for a young man he's done extremely well."

Davies: I deserved to be dropped from side

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SCOTT Davies says he deserved to be dropped by Wycombe Wanderers but hopes his goalscoring performance in Tuesday's JPT win at Colchester will be the first step towards reclaiming his place in the side.

The on-loan Reading midfielder scored one and hit the post with another sparkling effort as Blues became the first visitors in six months to win at higher league Colchester's Weston Homes Community Stadium.

Davies had been axed for the two previous league matches but was one of five changes for the trip to Essex as manager Gary Waddock rested players with tomorrow's League Two match at Burton Albion in mind.

And Davies took his chance with his best performance since returning to Wanderers after a highly-successful loan spell last season.

The 22-year-old said: "I needed that goal and hopefully it will do my confidence the world of good and I will be able to kick on now."

"I deserved to be dropped. I haven't deserved my place and it is up to me to show the manager that I'm up for the challenge of trying to get back in the side."

"It was horrible when the manager sat me down and told me he was leaving me out against



LOOKING UP: Scott Davies is hoping his goalscoring performance on Tuesday will be the start of better times for him

Barnet because you train every day for the Saturday.

"But I had to take it and I can't complain because I know the manager was fully justified."

Without Davies, Blues won their next two league matches before bringing him back on Tuesday.

He said: "The team have made it very hard for me to get back in because they have been winning

without me.

"I got my chance against Colchester and I was a lot more pleased with how it went."

"I kept things simple and tried to keep my pass completion rate to a decent percentage because in recent weeks it hasn't been good enough."

"My first half against Shrewsbury was probably the worst I have played in my career."

It wasn't nice going home knowing I had let myself and the team down.

"I was expecting to be dropped but it still hurt when I was told."

But Davies, who had an unsuccessful spell on loan at Yeovil last season, believes he was simply trying too hard to make a big impression.

He said: "I think I was over complicating things, trying to set the world on fire when I should have been doing the basics."

"I was trying to run before I could walk."

"Hopefully the goal will bring me a little bit of confidence."

Davies sniffed out Blues' second goal in the 2-0 win, following up after keeper Ben Williams could only push out Ben Strevs' shot.

He said: "I'm very disappointed for Strevs because he deserves a goal. I don't think I have ever seen anyone work so hard. He is an absolute team player and he's quality as well."

"But I'm very grateful the ball fell to me."

"I'd like to think I've given the manager a headache for Saturday but if it's not meant to be I will keep working away to get back in."

"But it is going to be very difficult because Matt Bloomfield and Lewis Montrose have arguably been our best two players this season and it's going to be hard to shift them and I know that if I am not playing to the best of my ability I haven't got a chance of shifting them."