

Has Lewis got the cure after a week in hospital?

A WEEK in hospital with a virus left Stuart Lewis desperate to get back into first team action for Wycombe Wanderers.

The midfielder made his first appearance of the season for Blues as they bowed out of the Carling Cup against Nottingham Forest on Tuesday night.

And he said being unable to shake off the virus that had laid him low had been particularly frustrating.

He said: "Everything feels normal but you're not well. It's been a bit of a weird one. It

makes you realise and appreciate when you get a chance to play, you want to take that chance.

"Before the Northampton game [in pre-season] I wasn't feeling too good and I was in hospital for a week. It's been a slow progress because of what I had but I'm feeling a lot better now.

"It was really good to be back out there. It's been a tough road to get there so to put that shirt on after a long wait was brilliant.

"I felt pretty good, surprisingly. I spoke to the gaffer

and [physio] Stuart Ayles to gauge where I've been over the last week or so. Tonight I felt I could have carried on but it's got to be a slower recovery and hopefully I can kick on from here."

The combative midfielder showed Wanderers fans what they'd been missing in the middle of the park with a couple of crunching tackles early on.

Lewis said: "I've missed that. I was looking forward to doing that and stamping my authority on the game. We're just a bit

disappointed with the result."

He added: "To play against Championship opposition and to pit your wits against them was really good. When you play these teams you want to start well and put your onus on the game. Their quality showed at times. I thought we showed we were more than capable of matching them, but it wasn't our night.

"We've got to take the positives out of it and when we did move the ball and pass it we did cause them problems, especially in the second half."

It's time to exorcise the ghost of Galpharm past

LAST time Wycombe Wanderers played Huddersfield Town away was one of Gary Waddock's worst days in management.

A Blues side low on confidence after going a dozen matches without a win saw that run extended to an unlucky 13 when they were hammered 6-0 by a rampant Terriers side.

To make matters worse the game was broadcast live on national television as Wanderers equalled their record Football League defeat.

Waddock said: "It was a bad day, a very tough day against an extremely good side. They played right at their maximum that particular day and we didn't.

"It's there with the Orient game when we went down. It was a low point for sure."

Two years is a long time in football however and only Matt Bloomfield, Kevin Betsy and Stuart Beavon remain from the matchday squad that suffered that thrashing.

Waddock said: "I was able to use that to make my mind up on players and make certain decisions."

Blues went down after a season of struggle before

Huddersfield v Wanderers League One Tomorrow, 3pm

bouncing back into League One at the first attempt but Waddock admitted he wouldn't be able to say how far his side had come since then until 5pm on Saturday.

He said: "We'll only know that after the game against Huddersfield really. In the period of time since the last game we've experienced relegation and we've experienced promotion but we won't know how we compare with Huddersfield until we actually play them."

Wanderers lost their long unbeaten run against Bury last week. That 14 match streak was the second longest in the Football League – the only side ahead of them in the form table at that point were Huddersfield, who extended their unbeaten spell to an incredible 29 games with a 3-2 win over Colchester United on Saturday.

They came unstuck with an extra time defeat against Championship side Cardiff City



SIX AS A PARROTS: One of six Huddersfield goals to go in when Blues last played at Huddersfield, back in 2009

in the Carling Cup on Tuesday but they haven't lost a league match in 2011.

The Terriers are favourites for the League One title and Waddock said: "They're a team striving for the Championship.

"They want to gain promotion and they've been close in terms of going up. We know how tough a game it's going to be.

"They've been very close and it'll be no different this year I'm sure. They'll be up there fighting for promotion.

"They have a good attacking

side. They play with out and out wingers, they have forwards who can score goals, which on occasions can leave them open.

"When they are on their game with their attacking they put you on the back foot so it's very difficult to get at their back four."

Waddock and his opposite number Lee Clark both have fully fit squads to choose from, but after making seven changes for the Nottingham Forest tie on Tuesday the Blues boss may be tempted to make changes.

Waddock leaning towards a midfield three for Huddersfield clash

GARY Waddock has hinted he could go with three men in midfield again at Huddersfield tomorrow.

The Wanderers boss removed striker Scott Rendell and brought on an extra midfielder in Ben Harding as Nottingham Forest threatened to run riot on Tuesday night.

The change stemmed the tide and

Waddock may go with the same formation again at the Galpharm Stadium.

He said: "We wanted to get an extra body into the middle of the park but also when we had the ball we had three up top. With the introduction of Jordan [Ibe] and Kadeem [Harris], it gave the crowd a lift as well but by

that stage Forest were in command.

"I like to think of it as three up front. We'll have to look and see which personnel we go with and decide what formation to go with. Selection is going to be tough."

Waddock will also be hoping for a brighter start to the game after seeing his side fall two goals down inside the

first six minutes of Tuesday's Carling Cup tie.

He said: "We want to get off to a good start in every game. It was unfortunate on Tuesday that we conceded two early goals and weren't able to get ourselves into the game. Hopefully we can be a little solid going into the game on Saturday."

Bloomfield: Forest are Premiership class

MATT Bloomfield believes Wycombe Wanderers played a future Premiership side this week.

Nottingham Forest beat Blues 4-1 in the Carling Cup and Bloomfield thinks, based on their Adams Park display, Steve McClaren can lead the side to promotion.

The midfielder said: "I think they're a very good team. They've been there or thereabouts in the last couple of years and I wouldn't be surprised if they got promoted this year.

"We came up against a better team who on the night passed it and were better than us. There's no grumblings on our behalf, I think they were better than us and we have to accept that but equally we have to learn from the experience and move on to the league on Saturday.

"They have got a lot of good Premiership players in waiting or ex Premiership players. They've been there and done it and they're good footballers."

Bloomfield added: "It was still a good night for us. Obviously we're disappointed with the result but to play against these kind of players, you can only try and pick things up yourself and try to improve yourself."

Back to school for Ibe

WONDERKID Jordan Ibe will be doing what every other 15-year-old does at the start of September – going back to school.

He came close to grabbing the headlines again on Tuesday night when he narrowly missed a chance to score for Blues against Nottingham Forest.

And whilst his friends have probably been sunning themselves on holiday, Ibe has spent the summer break training with the Wanderers first team squad.

But he'll be back in the classroom at the start of next month.

Blues boss Gary Waddock said: "He'll be going back to school when they return but he comes here on day release and trains with the first team when he's around the club. He'll probably come in once a week but that won't impact on his playing side at all.

"We can't play him week in, week out. We have to introduce him slowly. Let's not forget he's only 15 – everybody's expecting a lot from him. We'll put him in and take him out at the right time."

New dates released

NEW dates have been set for Wanderers' home matches against Preston North End in the league and Bristol Rovers in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy.

Blues will now host North End on Tuesday September 27 after the original tie, scheduled for September 3, was postponed when the Lancashire side had four players called up for international duty.

The Johnstone's Paint Trophy match has been moved back a week due to Bristol Rovers' continuing involvement in the Carling Cup.

On Tuesday the Gas beat Watford in a rearranged first round match, with their second round tie taking preference over the JPT game on the scheduled date of Tuesday August 30. They will instead meet at Adams Park a week later on September 6.

Any pre-booked tickets for the two ties will apply for the rearranged fixtures.

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