

Hamstrung by hamstrings

GARETH Ainsworth has everything crossed his players don't pick up any more hamstring troubles after a spate of injuries hit his squad.

The Blues boss blamed his side's gruelling schedule of eight matches in the space of a month for so many players picking up hamstring injuries.

Anthony Stewart, Leon Johnson and Matt McClure have all had to sit out in recent weeks, while Marvin McCoy had to be included among the substitutes at Scunthorpe despite suffering from the same ailment just so Wanderers could name a full bench.

Ainsworth said the strains are all relatively short term and doesn't want to risk his players until they're fully fit in case they pick up a similar injury to the one that's likely to keep Champions League star Zlatan Ibrahimovic out for the rest of the season.

He said: "The eight games in four weeks didn't help and the ones who picked up the injuries all seem to be the ones who played the majority of the games. I think it's fatigue. It's not a major pull with six to eight weeks out, it's only two or three.

by **ANDY CARSWELL**

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That tends to be fatigue and a strain rather than a massive trauma.

"We are all worried about picking up these hamstring injuries – we need to be careful.

"It's at the stage of the season where in three or four weeks it's the end of the season, so it's really important we don't pick up hamstring injuries.

"Ibrahimovic picked one up on Wednesday night so that's his season gone. I can't have that happen to any of my players.

"There's been three or four in the last two weeks. It's tough on Theo [Farley, physio] but he's going to have to deal with this and get these players back as soon as he can."

But he added: "This is probably the last game they'll miss. The hamstrings will be back for Newport next week, it will be a risk for this week."

Matt McClure is one of four Blues players who have suffered hamstring injuries lately.



Battling Blues thwart the record-breakers

Scunthorpe 0 Wanderers 0

ANDY CARSWELL reports

A BATTLING defensive display enabled Wanderers to pull off a surprise as they held free-scoring Scunthorpe United to a goalless draw.

Although Wycombe were set up not to lose as they packed the midfield, it was the visitors who had the clearest scoring opportunities in a keenly contested game which saw Scunthorpe set a new record for an unbeaten sequence under a new manager of 24 matches.

The five-man midfield protected the least experienced centre back pairing in Wanderers history, snuffed out the attacking threat of the high flying hosts and worked in tandem with lone striker Steven Craig to create chances.

And the better opportunities came Blues' way as 18-year-old debutant defender Danny Rowe had a shot blocked, Craig headed over from a Matt Bloomfield cross and Max Kretzschmar wasted a golden chance as he blazed Josh Scowen's pass over from six yards.

Set pieces proved Scunthorpe's best passage into the game as Matt Ingram saved superbly from David Mirfin's header before blocking a second chance from the rebound, and Eddie Nolan missed the target from another corner routine.

Ingram saved well from former Blues loanee Paul Hayes but Blues had late chances of their own as Kretzschmar and Sam Wood were both denied by keeper Sam Slocombe.

Wanderers: Ingram, Arnold, Pierre, Rowe, Wood, Togwell, Bloomfield, Lewis, Scowen, Kretzschmar, Craig.

Attendance: 3,867 (116 from Wycombe)

Twitter Man of the Match: Josh Scowen

Pierre joins the cause

AARON Pierre this week agreed to remain a Wanderers player until the end of the season.

The central defender initially joined Blues on a one month loan deal from Brentford at the end of February but had to wait until last Tuesday to finally be given his first taste of the action.

His starred on his debut in the 1-0 loss at Burton and helped Blues to a point by keeping a clean sheet in a goalless draw at high flying Scunthorpe on Saturday.

Pierre agreed to stay with the club until the end of the campaign on Monday and manager Gareth Ainsworth said he's a player with a bright future ahead of him.

He said: "He's growing in stature, even though he's a big lad anyway. His experience is greater, he's organising people and talking more. He's got the raw components to be a really good centre half – he's got pace to burn, he's fit and he's willing to learn."

No time to settle in for Rowe

DANNY Rowe was thrown in at the deep end after making his Wanderers debut without having had time to learn his new team mates' names.

Just ten minutes of the loan window were left last Thursday when the 18-year-old Rotherham United defender confirmed his move to Adams Park.

He was pitched straight into the action, starting Saturday's game at Scunthorpe United despite only having met the rest of the Wanderers squad a matter of hours before.

But if Rowe was feeling nervous he didn't show it, as a calm and composed display kept League Two's 21-goal top scorer Sam Winnall quiet.

He said: "It was quite hard, I wasn't quite sure of all the names. They all supported me in the game and helped me through it."

The youngster had been on loan at Conference North side Staly-

bridge Celtic but Rotherham recalled him on Thursday before immediately sending him back out to Wanderers.

He said: "After training at Rotherham our assistant manager rang me up and said, 'We've got a loan move for you at Wycombe'.

"I went over to the stadium and signed as quickly as I could because the deadline was going to finish. It was really late and it went through quite quickly.

"I came down Thursday night and trained with the team Friday.

"I'm trying to get as many games as I can and learn from League football. I haven't had many games under my belt so it will be beneficial to me in the long run. It's a good move for me."

Rowe added: "I'm quite laid back – maybe too laid back sometimes. I try to pass the ball out from the back – I used to be a midfielder three or four years ago so I've got good technical ability."

No time to settle in for Rowe

BLUES boss Gareth Ainsworth is expecting a tactical battle as he bids to improve Wanderers' home form against Dagenham and Redbridge tomorrow.

Ainsworth believes his team's final six matches of the season are all winnable but has warned his players to expect a challenge against a Daggers side who haven't given up hope of snatching a late play-off place.

While the Eastenders are unbeaten in eight, Wycombe have lost the last two in front of their own fans.

Ainsworth plans to go on the offensive but expects his opposite number Wayne Burnett to come up with a plan to stop Blues ending a run of six games that's brought with it just two points and one goal.

He said: "I want to score some goals in the next six games. It's the only way you can win games – you can't win games with nil on

WANDERERS v DAG & RED

League Two
Tomorrow, 3pm

your own score. We have to start scoring and find a combination up front that will start that.

"I keep harping on about this – we need someone to step up to the plate and say, 'I'll be your goalscorer'.

"It'll be interesting to see how we line up and it'll be interesting to see how they do. They have swapped players around in the last couple of weeks.

"They've got strength in their team. It'll be a good game tactically but I believe we can get all three points."

Ainsworth added: "They are all winnable now until the end of the season.

"Our home form's not been great under me, not just this season but my whole tenure. I need to be changing that."