

Jacobson: We want to work hard for the manager



A battle-scarred Joe Jacobson after Saturday's game

JOE Jacobson said he and the rest of the Wanderers squad have bought into the strong work ethic manager Gareth Ainsworth has instilled into the team.

The Blues boss called for blood, sweat and tears from his side in his eve of season rallying call ahead of Saturday's trip to Newport County.

Jacobson gave the first two of those, needing stitches to cuts on his cheek and above his eye after a collision, and said that level of commitment underlined the regard the Wanderers players have for their manager.

The full back said he wanted to sign for the club after Ainsworth spelled out how hard he was expecting the former Wales U21 international to work.

Jacobson said: "You can ask managers I've played for before and they will say similar things about me. I like to come to a club and give my all on the pitch, off the pitch and help the club any way possible.

"You can see the players want to play for the gaffer. It's a great feeling to be involved in the setup and an environment like this where you can tell all the players want to be there and want to play for the manager, and listen to what he's got to say and adhere to it."

The 27-year-old had a dream debut as Blues kept a clean sheet in a 2-0 win in front of several members of the Jacobson clan who had made the short journey to Newport from their hometown of Cardiff.

He said: "There's about eight or nine of them here today. It's great for them to come along. They were commenting on how great the fans were today. Some clubs you're at the fans moan and things like that, but they were unbelievable for us.

"It was a perfect performance from us. We defended solidly, got our shape well, our attacking play was good. We got into areas where we knew we could cause them problems.

"The game plan went very well. We defended as a team, not just defence and goalkeeper. Everyone was on song.

"We've got a plan we want to adhere to this season. It doesn't matter what formation teams play against us, we know what we are doing, we are well drilled and know where we can go and press and attack."

Defender welcomes underdog tag

JOE Jacobson said Wanderers will be underestimated quite a lot this season as Blues aim to pull off a cup upset at Millwall this evening.

The defender said he expected a number of accumulators fell by the wayside on Saturday courtesy of Wanderers' 2-0 win at Newport County.

But he said that lack of recognition doesn't bother him - if anything, he welcomes it.

And he's hoping it will be another case of pulling off an against the odds victory at the home of Championship Millwall.

Jacobson said: "We're going there as underdogs, as we probably were today. We'll be underdogs a lot this season - a lot of people are writing us off but we are quietly confident about ourselves.

"Going into every game as underdog probably suits us. We've got nothing to lose."

Wanderers go into tonight's League Cup encounter at The Den endeavouring to reach the second round of the competition for the first time since 2012.

Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth faces the Lions for the first time since being sent off in a 2010 League One match between the two sides, having fractured the cheekbone of Tony Craig in a previous fixture.

His old QPR manager Ian Holloway, now in charge at Millwall, has a mini injury crisis on his hands with Nick Bailey, Richard Chaplow, Ed Upson, Justin Hoyte and John Marquis all sidelined through injury.

Ainsworth meanwhile has fitness concerns over midfield duo Josh Scowen and Stuart Lewis, who both missed the trip to Newport with ankle injuries.