

Boss: We're down to the bare bones



Picture: ACTION IMAGES

GARETH Ainsworth admits Wycombe Wanderers are down to the bare bones after Aaron Pierre and Paris Cowan-Hall missed Saturday's 1-0 loss at Northampton Town – but he insists there is no panic.

The Blues boss has never had any qualms about working with a small squad and has regularly been forced to name less than the seven substitutes permitted in the Football League.

Saturday was another such occasion with centre-back Pierre and forward Cowan-Hall both missing the trip to Sixfields, leaving the Wanderers boss with just five replacements – one of which was goalkeeping coach Barry Richardson, 46.

Forward Garry Thompson is suspended while keeper Alex Lynch is injured.

However, Ainsworth knows the financial realities he has to work within at Adams Park and will continue with the 16 fit players he has.

"We're down to the bare bones but we are bare bones anyway," he said.

"We've got two on loan. Danny Rowe is coming back without a doubt and he'll bolster us for the last few games of the season. But he desperately needs games.

"Aaron Holloway was desperately unhappy and it was unfair to keep him here when he was so down and not playing. So he's gone and got games at Oldham Athletic.

"So it is bare bones but it's no panic. Garry Thompson is back after one more game and Aaron Pierre will be back very shortly. It's a dead leg and we'll assess Paris (Cowan-Hall) this week and see where he is.

"I'm pleased. We always work with tight numbers. On the edge, that's Wycombe Wanderers and that's all we can afford to be."

Ainsworth continued: "We had two match-winners missing there but we've still given them a great game. It will be up to the medical staff now to try to get those two back as quickly as we can.

"Aaron hasn't recovered from the knock he got against Exeter City at home last week.

"People will probably have seen him limping most the way through that game because he had a dead leg. He's not been able to shift it. He's tried training this week but there's been no chance.

"Paris went over on his ankle so we'll have to look at that in training. Paris is a big blow. He's on loan from a higher league club (Millwall) and he's on fire at the moment.

"He can cause all sorts of problems against any defence in League Two."