

ANTONIO IN A RACE TO FACE VILLA



WEST HAM v ASTON VILLA

Monday: 8pm

BY PAUL BROWN

DAVID MOYES hopes to have Michail Antonio back in time for West Ham's clash with Aston Villa on Monday.

Star-man Antonio, who has scored 11 goals for the Hammers since June, has missed three Premier League games with a hamstring injury.

It was first feared he could face a lengthy lay-off, but the 30-year-old (above) is already back in training and battling to return against Villa. Boss Moyes

said: "He's got a chance of making it, but I still have a couple of days to see how he is and what we think."

"He's made good progress, we're pleased, and he's looking as if he's on the way back. We'll just have to wait and see if he's available."

"He's joined in with training a couple of days, we're trying to see how his hamstring is and how he is. "It's great to get him back out on the training pitch."

After the Villa game, West Ham host Manchester United next Saturday in the first Premier League game to allow fans back in.

Moyes added: "I'm looking forward to them coming back and seeing a hungry,

positive, energetic team, who have been picking up some really good results."

"Hopefully, we'll see that clubs can manage it and we can start to get to bigger numbers quicker. Our stadium will seem extremely empty with only 2,000 supporters in."

Villa boss Dean Smith has tipped 23-year-old defender Ezri Konsa for England and said: "I've seen continual improvement from him and a desire to get better. He certainly has the potential to be an England player. Nothing fazes him."

"And he's one of the best as well in the opposition box. Ezri's game is coming on in leaps and bounds."

IT'S NOT ABOUT AWARDS, THE REAL TROPHY IS THE CHILD WHO COMES BACK & SAYS 'THANK YOU'

Albion star Sawyers and his mother are 'doing a Rashford' for Brum kids

WEST BROM v SHEFFIELD UNITED

The Hawthorns: 8pm

EXCLUSIVE
BY JAMES NURSEY
@JamesNursey



ROMAINE SAWYERS reckons England star Marcus Rashford is inspiring a new generation of footballers to help communities.

But the West Brom midfielder says that outlook has been embedded in him – because his mum Diane is so heavily involved helping others.

Diane was this week recognised on the Football Black List for her outstanding voluntary work in Birmingham. She helps run the Hol-

ford Drive Community Sports Hub which offers football, boxing, tennis and cricket for kids seven days a week.

Diane took the keys in 2013 and the venue has since been visited by Prince William and won a Queen's Golden Jubilee Award.

She has devoted herself to the project after raising Sawyers and his older brother and sister, plus foster children, as a single parent. Sawyers, 29, credits her as his inspiration and has been a long-term contributor at the hub, which hosts up to 4,000 kids over normal summer holidays.

Now he is pleased to see other sports people making a difference, too, after the phenomenal recent efforts of Manchester United striker Rashford in trying to end UK child

food poverty. Sawyers reckons promoting good causes is the perfect antidote to the pressures of Premier League football.

"I have a job to do on a match-day and every day in training," he said. "But helping the community gives me greater satisfaction."

"I am going to be a footballer for 10 to 15 years. I hope to be a human for 70 or so."

"Rashford doing it as a Manchester United and England player is great because it gets highlighted."

"When there are people sitting on the fence, people like Rashford will make them think: 'I need to get up and do my bit.' It is not about



WINNING TEAM

Proud son Romaine Sawyers credits mum Diane as his inspiration



BILIC: NO ROOM FOR THE GLOOM

BY DAVE ARMITAGE

SLAVEN BILIC says there are no relegation black clouds at West Brom, even though they've picked up just three points from nine games.

The Baggies, second from bottom, tonight host Sheffield United, the only team below them, with both searching for their first win of the season. But Bilic (above) says he has seen enough in a 3-3 draw with Chelsea and 1-0 defeats by Tottenham and Manchester United to believe his strugglers can end their winless streak.

"If anyone thinks the atmosphere here is dark and miserable, let me tell them it's anything but," said Bilic.

"We've been in every game. It's not as if we're miles from it."

Sheffield United manager Chris Wilder is taking inspiration from the Blades' great escape 30 years ago.

Wilder was part of Dave Bassett's side that were bottom at Christmas 1990 with four points before they reeled off seven straight wins to finish 13th. "We didn't get our first win until Nottingham Forest over Christmas and then a fabulous run into the New Year," he said. "There's always a chance to buck the stats and we still believe we can turn things around."

awards or accolades, the real trophy is the child that comes back the next day or the child that says thank you.

"In football most of the work is done on the grass but other skills have been embedded in me from an early age."

"Whenever I come here I am not Romaine West Brom, I am son. It humbles me."

But despite Sawyers' generous nature, Sheffield United, tonight's visitors to West Brom for a real relegation showdown, should not expect to find him a

soft touch. He said: "If I lose on a Saturday I will be grumpy until Wednesday. But within that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I can put another face on and realise there is another objective."

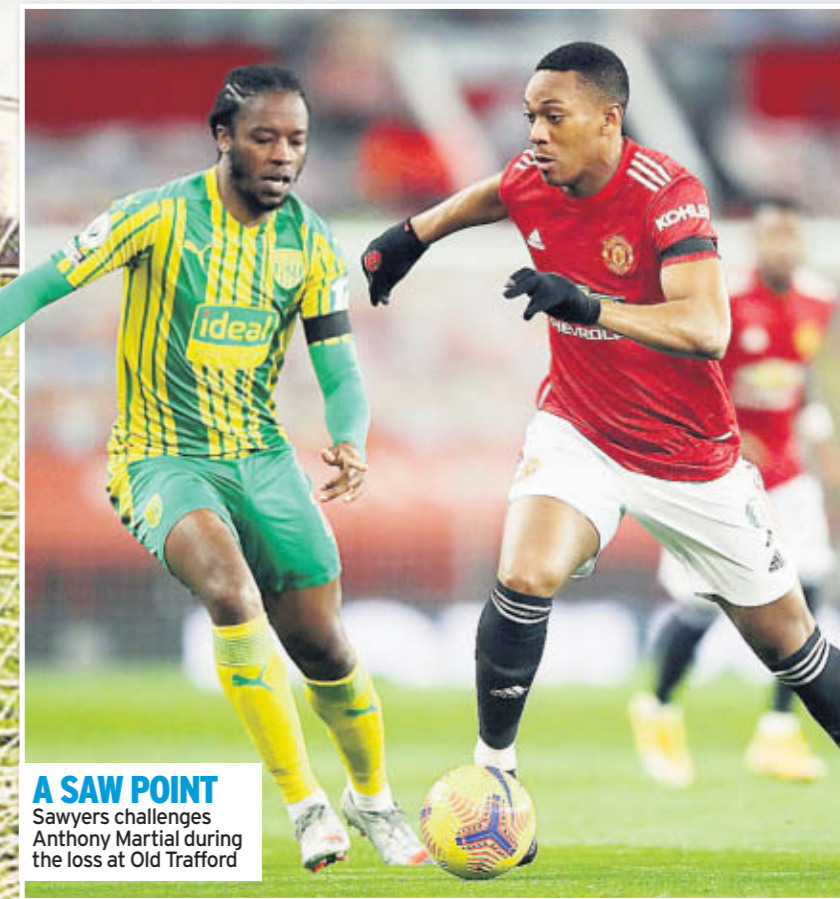
The hub is home for 18 junior and adults football teams called Continental Star.

Sawyers has covered kit costs for all the teams and even bought coats for all the managers.

But the set-ups most important goal is changing lives – and sometimes even preserving them.

Diane, who has a memorial wall at the hub, said: "We have saved some lives and have always tried to help in one way or another."

"Hopefully we can be here to help the next person through the door."



A SAW POINT

Sawyers challenges Anthony Martial during the loss at Old Trafford

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