

SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION



RAITH ROVERS



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SATURDAY 11th September 1993

Kick off 3.00pm

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Official Match Programme - 1993/94

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JIMMY

NICHOLL



There should be a great atmosphere at Stark's Park this afternoon as we welcome to Kirkcaldy the players, management and supporters of Celtic Football Club. On their day, Celtic are a class side and they will certainly provide one of our biggest tests in the Premier League. I admire their passing style of play and we hope to contribute to a very entertaining match this afternoon.

Looking back to last Saturday's match against Dundee United, the players enjoyed the game and I am sure our fans did too. The display of the team showed they were not disheartened by the previous week's result at Motherwell and their play indicated they are steadily growing in confidence. The 'manager's' job is also proving much tougher in the Premier League and I was faced with some difficult decisions with team selection. I decided to try and introduce more width up front with Jason Dair featuring in our line-up. Jason Rowbotham was also introduced in defence. These changes resulted in a place on the bench for Gordon Dalziel and no jersey for David Sinclair. I appreciated the way both players accepted the situation. Their attitude was great and is exactly what we are going to require in the months ahead as we build up our squad to compete at this level.

This week we have signed Scott Thomson from Forfar to provide more competition for the number one jersey!

Our efforts to improve the squad are ongoing but in watching several 'candidates' I have been conscious they are no better than players we already have at the club. Several of our own young players undoubtedly have great potential and the more games they play the more confidence they get.

When we lost that early goal last Saturday the fans again got behind us in great style and the team came back strongly to earn the point we deserved at the very least.

With a full house today the fans again have a very important part to play. We welcome their encouragement and hope to give them cause to cheer this afternoon with another exciting and enjoyable match.



McDonald's Mascot

Today's mascot is 8 year old Ben Horsburgh of Alexandra Street, Kirkcaldy. Ben attends Dunnikier School and his favourite Rovers player is Shaun Dennis.



MATCH REPORT

Saturday, 4th September, 1993.

Raith Rovers 1 - Dundee United 1.

Teams -

Raith Rovers - Carson, McStay, Rowbotham, Coyle, Dennis, McGeachie, Nicholl, Crawford, Hetherston, Cameron, Dair. subs. Dalziel, Broddle, Potter.

Dundee United - Main, Clark, Bolland, McNally, Welsh, Van der Hoorn, Bowman, McKinlay, McLaren, Dailly, Myers. subs. Brewster, Crabbe, Van de Kamp.

Scorers -

Raith Rovers - Jimmy Nicholl (90).

Dundee United - Billy McKinlay (4).

Attendance - 4871

Rovers made a bright start but United scored in practically their first attack. From a corner kick the ball was only partially cleared and returned high into the left hand corner of the penalty area. McKinlay controlled it well and fired home a powerful shot which Tom Carson just got a touch to.

Shaun Dennis came close with a shot which curled just wide as Rovers fought back.

Tom Carson fell foul of the pass-back rule when Jock McStay touched back a through ball but the big keeper redeemed himself with a spectacular save from another fierce McKinlay shot.

Rovers really took the game to United in the second half, playing some delightful football as they battled for an equaliser. Jason Dair missed a good opportunity when he scooped over from close range. Jason almost made amends when he took a great pass from Ronnie Coyle, cut inside to wrong-foot the defence, and crashed in a tremendous shot which beat Alan Main but rattled down off the underside of the crossbar.

The Rovers defence now had an iron grip

on the United forwards and Raith were dominant in their efforts to find the elusive equaliser. Justice was done in the final minute when Jason Dair touched back a throw-in to Colin Cameron. Mickey rolled the ball into Jimmy Nicholl's path and the gaffer bulletted his 27 yard shot past Alan Main. 'It was a classic strike' said Jimmy, 'head down, backside up and knee over the ball!!!'

It was a dream finish to a very exciting match and a thoroughly deserved point to Rovers. It also underlined the old soccer saying:- 'The game is not over until the final whistle!'



Jimmy Nicholl. Last minute equaliser



ACTION REPLAY



Alan Main plucks the ball off John McStay's head to deny another Raith attack.



Peter Hetherston and Scott Crabbe in determined mood as Paul Sturrock watches the action from the touchline.

SIDELINES

Disappointing news for young Raith defender, Robert Raeside, last week when a further scan on his injured knee revealed some ligament damage. Robbie now faces a further operation and obviously another delay to his return to action.

Jimmy Nicholl was back on International duty in Belfast this week. Northern Ireland manager, Billy Bingham, invited Jimmy to assist in the preparations for the match against Latvia on Wednesday. Northern Ireland's prospects of qualifying for the World Cup finals in the U.S.A. next year are somewhat slim in a very difficult section where Eire, Denmark and Spain appear to be making the running.

Jimmy will be returning to Northern Ireland again next week as Rovers have been invited to meet Glenavon on Monday in a friendly match.

Rovers next home match, on October 2nd, is against the other half of the 'Old Firm', Rangers, and this will again be an all-ticket game.

Tickets for the Rangers match will go on sale at the Club office on Sunday 19th September between 10.30am and 1.00pm.

Thereafter tickets will be available Monday to Friday during office hours.

The BP Youth Cup tie between Raith Rovers and Rangers will take place at Stark's Park on Tuesday, 28th September, kick-off 7.30pm. Admission to this match is free.

After Rovers success in the recent Manchester United Youth tournament the youngsters are looking forward to their encounter against the 'Gers. Do come along and give the lads every encouragement.

RAITH SUPER 10

This week's £100 winners are :-

Monday D 0067 M Anderson, Glenrothes. Agent: J Sinclair.

Tuesday E 6102 S Tall, Glenrothes. Agent: Cath Cassells.

Wednesday E 9241 Jenny Copland, Glenrothes. Agent: Rod Scott.

Thursday A 0852 S Ferrie, Kirkcaldy. Agent: Bowhouse.

Friday H 8138 Brian McArthur. Agent: Martin Hutton.

Saturday A 0502 D. Wilson. Agent: B Parker.

SOCCER QUIZ

1. Who knocked Celtic out of Europe last season?
2. What was the result last time Raith met Celtic in the Scottish Cup?
3. With which English side did Liam Brady make his name?
4. Last time Celtic were here on league business, they reached the European Cup Final that season, who beat them?
5. Which former Celtic player currently plays for Barnsley?
6. Which South American country qualified for the World Cup with a 5 - 0 win in Argentina?
7. Name the only British club yet to win a point.
8. What was significant about defeats suffered by top Highland teams Elgin and Inverness Caley last Saturday?



Robert Raeside with physio Gerry Docherty





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Football's biggest fan is its £36m supporter



PHOTOGRAPH BY STUART CLARKE

By August 1994, standing to watch the match will be a thing of the past at Hampden Park and at many of Scotland's Premier Division football grounds as the clubs meet the Taylor requirements.

Clubs in the First and Second Divisions who choose to retain some standing accommodation will have to make sure that their terracing is safe –

for many, an expensive commitment.

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FACE TO FACE

COLIN CAMERON
Interview by Marie Kyme

This week's player interview is with local lad, Colin Cameron - so why does he get called Mickey?
NAME: Colin Cameron AGE: 20

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Raith Rovers Boys Club
HOW DID ROVERS 'DISCOVER' YOU?

"A scout spotted me. I was playing for the boys' club, a team that used to be known as Glenrothes Strollers. That was when I was fifteen - they put me on 'S' form, and I worked my way up to the first team."

WAS BECOMING A FOOTBALLER A LONG-TERM AMBITION?

"Yeah, from as long as I can remember. My family encouraged me all the way - I was always playing in some team or other. In fact, I very rarely got to see a Rovers match when I was young - I was too busy playing football myself!"

WHERE DOES YOUR NICKNAME, MICKEY, COME FROM?

"I have no idea! I've been called Mickey since I was at primary school, and the name has followed me wherever I've gone! It didn't used to bother me, but now that I'm a bit older, I feel I've outgrown the name. My mum hates it!"

DO YOU GET SCARED PLAYING BIG TEAMS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE?

"There's no time to get scared. Anyway, I always look forward to playing, no matter who the opposition is. I don't normally get nervous, except in the last few seconds before kick-off, but once the game starts, I soon settle down."

IS THERE ANY ONE PLAYER YOU'D BE SCARED TO GO UP AGAINST?

"No, there's nobody who terrifies me. I may only be 5'7", but it doesn't bother me, having to fight for the ball against some big centre half. I just do what I have to do to win."

WHAT'S YOUR BIGGEST SKILL IN FOOTBALL, AND WHAT COULD YOU IMPROVE ON?

"I think I could improve my passing, though in a fast game, it can be difficult to find a player available. I'd say my good point is my stamina - I can run all day, if I have to."

WHAT'S THE BEST GAME YOU'VE PLAYED IN?

"For me personally, I think it was a match against Stirling Albion that we won, 2 - 0. I felt I played well, and I got the Man of the Match award! Another good game was the League Championship winner, here at Stark's Park last season. I was really lucky to be playing that day."

DO PEOPLE RECOGNISE YOU IN THE STREET, AND DOES IT BOTHER YOU?

"I occasionally get stopped by fans, but it doesn't bother me at all. The other day, I was at an amateur match, watching my brother play, and there was a couple of boys standing just along from me. I could hear them talking about me, trying to decide if I was who they thought I was! Eventually, they approached me and asked me if I was Colin Cameron. When I said that I was, they started demanding to know what had gone wrong at Motherwell the previous week!"

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

"I see my girlfriend a lot, and I usually go out for a couple of drinks on a Saturday night. I've got a set of golf clubs, but I don't actually play that often."

WHO HAS GIVEN YOU THE MOST ADVICE DURING YOUR PLAYING CAREER?

"I'd say the manager has helped me more than anyone. (Crawler!) When I was in the reserves, I played as an out and out striker and it didn't really suit me. Then the manager gave me a chance to break into the first team, playing in midfield, off the front two, and I felt much better. If it wasn't for that move, I probably wouldn't even be getting a game these days. I'd also say that Ronnie Coyle has been a big help to me. He's got a lot of patience, and is good with all the younger players."

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

"Hopefully, still playing, either at Starks Park, or down south, though that doesn't mean I want to leave Raith Rovers. There's a great bunch of lads here, and I'm really happy, but if a top club came in with an offer, I'd have to consider it..."



Colin Cameron



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