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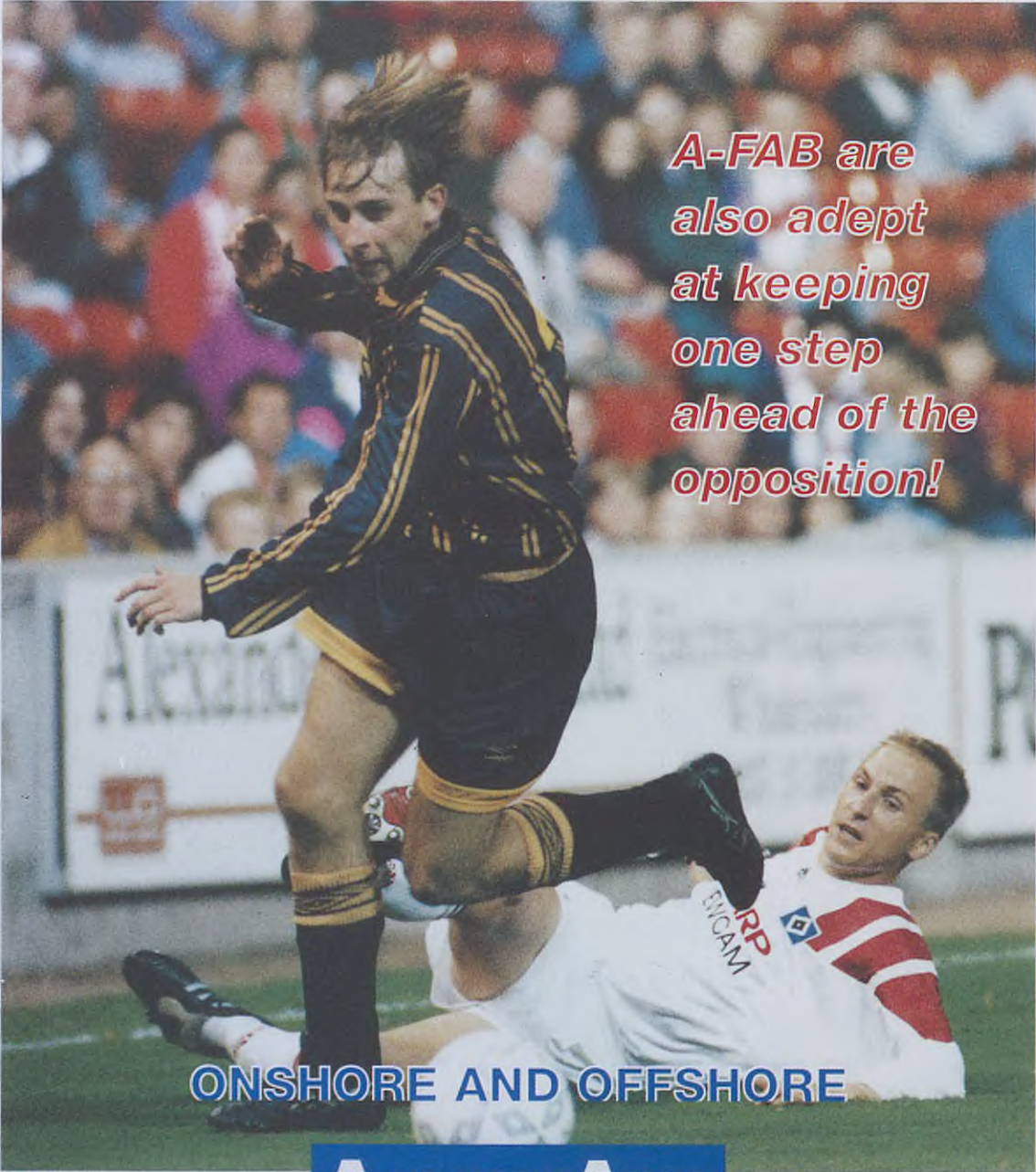
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Scottish League Premier Division • ABERDEEN v CELTIC • Saturday 14th May 1994 • Price £1



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Willie Miller

MANAGER'S REVIEW

Determined to end on a high

The final match of the season sees us welcoming Celtic to Pittodrie. These games are normally open and attractive and I hope we are in for a good match today. A win for Aberdeen will assure us of second place in the league.

It was disappointing to drop a point at home in our last match with Dundee. This particularly so, because of the way we lost the goal at an important time. We had just made the breakthrough, but a lapse in concentration allowed them right back into the game.

We followed that up with two good victories away from home. I thought we played really well in our 2-0 win against Raith Rovers. Andy Roddie scored the opener and Duncan Shearer then secured victory with his 26th goal of the

season and that kind of scoring rate will satisfy any manager.

In the first half against St. Johnstone our play did not reach the standards expected. Our hosts enjoyed most of the possession in midfield to the extent that our positive approach was to blame. Playing three forwards does not always work.

At half time I changed things and brought Lee Richardson on for a four man midfield with Shearer and Roddie up front. We controlled the game after that although neither team created too many chances. Brian Irvine popped up at the end with a brave header to score another valuable goal for us.

The two points secured a European

place for us again next season and this is a feat that should not be taken for granted. We can now look forward to our involvement in the UEFA Cup and to some foreign opposition.

Today's match is at the end of a long hard season for all of us. There has been a great deal of travelling involved for the fans and we really appreciate the miles you have put in to support the team.

Unfortunately we have no silverware to show for our efforts but look forward to next season when we hope to have some more tangible rewards.

I hope you all have a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you again in August.

WILLIE MILLER

ABERDEEN FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded 1903

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MAJOR HONOURS

European Cup-Winner's Cup: 1983 • Super Cup: 1983
Scottish League Championship: 1954-55, 1979-80, 1983-84 and 1984-85
Scottish Cup: 1947, 1970, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1990
Scottish League Cup: 1955-56, 1976-77, 1985-86 and 1989-90 • Drybrough Cup: 1971 and 1980

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MANAGERS INTERVIEW

EXPECTATIONS

After coming so close last term, I know all our expectations were high to go one better this season and win a trophy. This has not happened and although we will finish closer in the league to Rangers and were just 90 seconds from meeting them in the cup final we are all disappointed at not having won silverware this season.

Rangers still dominate the game in Scotland and my target is still to overcome this. The financial clout they have is well documented and I'm not going to get into that other than to say that it has been frustrating not being able to strengthen the squad to the extent I would have liked but I am optimistic the team can be improved upon before the start of the new season.

Looking at the season as a whole, on the positive side, we have conceded the fewest number of goals so far in the league and have lost the fewest number of games. However, we have drawn too many matches that we had chances to win, by not being clinical enough in front of goal.

We have not been out of the top three in the championship race all season and sit only three points behind Rangers. Matches with the champions have been even this term, but it is against teams like Hibs, St Johnstone, Dundee and Partick Thistle that we have let ourselves down.

In Europe, having beaten Valur in the first round, we enjoyed a terrific tie with



Willie Miller

Torino. Our first half in Italy in particular was outstanding. The return leg was a great European night for us, with a full house and electric atmosphere. We went one up and were playing well, but lost it a little later in the game. Perhaps if we had been tighter in defence over the two games we could have made it through, but special skills from the Italian striker Carbone turned the game in their favour.

The League Cup tie at Ibrox was another top match. We came back from an early penalty and took Rangers to extra time, put in a very good performance and probably deserved more.

The Tennents Scottish Cup was a major

blow. We were 90 seconds away from the final in a game that I felt they would never score. Unfortunately I was wrong and although we were the better side over the two games, we lost out on our chance to reach our second consecutive cup final.

Since that match a little despondency has set in with our supporters. Of course we were all disappointed, but we must not lose sight of the positive aspects of the season.

Next season I am looking for our younger players to eliminate the "young" tag. Jess, Booth, Wright, Smith, Roddie and Watt are all becoming experienced players now, most with over 100 first team games to their credit. They are no longer "youngsters" and must take more responsibility in games to stand up and be counted and make their presence felt.

In addition to them, I will be trying to bring in some new players to add to our first team squad. There will be a number of departures from Pittodrie to make this possible and I anticipate movement during the close season.

Last term I brought in Joe Miller and Ray McKinnon, having sold Paul Mason and I believe the best is to come from both players once they have had pre season training with us.

We also have some great young players. The youth team have won their league in its first year, and I am looking for these players to become regulars in the reserve team next season.

Our scouting system is the way forward and we will make room for the next generation of young players. They are a super bunch of lads with a wonderful appetite for the game and a great deal of potential.

We are ambitious, will strive for honours and will represent Aberdeen to the best of our ability, but this must be balanced with our resources. Your continued support is vital to our future ambitions and I am sure we can all look forward to great success in 1994/95.



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Thank You

Everyone at Pittodrie would like to pass on their sincere thanks to our supporters for the backing we have received this season. We are currently second in the league, only three points behind Rangers, were semi finalists in the Tennents Scottish Cup and quarter finalists in the League Cup. Our Youth team won their league convincingly and we have a great deal to look forward to next season. Your support this season is most appreciated and your continued backing is vital to our future success. We look forward to seeing you all again next season.

Association AGM

The Association of Aberdeen Football Supporters Clubs will hold their AGM at Pittodrie Stadium, on Thursday 2nd June, within the AFC Club Lounge. The meeting will start at 7.30pm.

Portknockie Dinner Dance

The Portknockie Branch held their annual Dinner Dance last Saturday when Brian Irvine was presented with his Player of the Year award. Derek Stillie who unfortunately was suffering from a migraine and Eoin

Deveron Branch

Sandy Grant, Chairman of the Deveron Branch and Secretary Elizabeth Wilson, are seen presenting Duncan Shearer with his Player of the Year award at their recent function. John Burrige was also in attendance at the most enjoyable evening.



SUPPORTERS NEWS

Jess were unable to attend. Any disappointment felt by the guests was soon overcome by Brian who proved to be a tremendous ambassador for the Club and impressed everyone with his enthusiasm and willingness to meet with the fans. The result was a great evening enjoyed by all. Brian you are welcome back any time.

Busy Players

Aberdeen F.C. players make an average of 30-40 public appearances each month. These include, coaching sessions, supporters club events, charity occasions, hospital visits, youth team strip presentations, boys club evenings, local event support, promoting healthy living with Grampian Health Promotions, opening new businesses and meeting the public. In addition, many youth, school and junior teams visit Pittodrie to meet the players and be shown round. The massive demand on players time means that we

cannot accommodate every event, but thanks are due to all our players who give up their time to take part in as many activities as possible.

Attention Collectors

Finlay Hall from Aberdeen has an extensive collection of Aberdeen programmes, dating back 25 years. He has around 750 in total with 500 relating to Aberdeen. He is soon to move house and is trying to sell the collection complete, but is open to any reasonable offer. You can contact Finlay at 86 Sluie Drive, Dyce, AB2 0LQ.

Quiz Final

The final of the Stewart McKimmie testimonial quiz will take place before next season and the testimonial match on 6th August. The date is still to be confirmed but is likely to be the 31st July.

Elgin Branch

Over 130 members and guests enjoyed the Elgin Branch Dinner Dance. Branch Secretary Hugh McAndrew is pictured presenting Lee Richardson with his Player of the Year award. Chairman Jim Angus looks on, with Roy Aitken and Martyn Milne.



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We welcome our guests and hope they have an enjoyable afternoon at Pittodrie Stadium.

38 Club

Well done to Melvin Piasecki, Eric Wint and Ron Fuller who today will complete a tour which involves watching a match at every one of the 38 Scottish League grounds.

Thanks Sponsors

Aberdeen F.C. would like to thank all our sponsors for their valuable support this season. In a year when we more than

AROUND ABERDEEN

doubled our facilities, it has been encouraging to see the place full most weeks. Our aim is to build on this success and look towards next season. We hope to be able to count on your support once again.

Sponsored Sit

On Monday, every seat in the stadium was sat upon in a six hour fundraising event. Five geography students at Aberdeen University are planning an expedition to the Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies and are in need of funding. This event has helped towards the target. Kathryn Doake, Susan Finch, David Hetherington, Frances Houdsen and Gayle Reynolds are still in need of sponsorship to make the trip possible and anyone who wishes to help should call David on 481417.

Man of the Match



International defender Brian Irvine is seen receiving his man of the match award from John Downing of Cooper Oil Tool who sponsored Aberdeen's last home game with Dundee.

Sword (Aberdeen) Ltd.



Representatives from Sword (Aberdeen) Ltd. are presented with their autographed football by Dons full back Stewart McKimmie after the last game. Apologies to them for the inaccurate naming of their company in the last programme.