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PREMIER DIVISION

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Runners-up: 1939-40.

# JIM McLEAN



From time to time managers make some classic comments, but equally my good friends in the media, on occasions, really do take the biscuit as last week's match at Easter Road proved.

Take Bob Cramsey on radio for example and his quote, "Already this early in the season Dundee United have left themselves far too much to do to win the Premier League".

Would he have said the same about Rangers who stand on the same pointage as ourselves, all of two points behind the leaders.

Then on television at night we had Archie McPherson expounding at length about a boob by Dave Narey, which led to Hibs first goal. If you asked anyone involved in football coaching or playing they would tell you that a goalkeeper must stay back if the defender is winning the ball.

When the keeper advances as Billy Thomson did last Saturday it will always create a problem. Only if the defender is not going to get the ball first should the 'keeper come forward. Fortunately the players concerned know the answer to the problem. In a newspaper article there was also criticism of more changes in the side of which the selection of Jim McInally at left back and Freddy Van Der Hoorn in midfield were quoted. Yet if the reporter concerned had been at the previous match he would have seen both Jimmy and Freddy turn in outstanding performances in these roles.

Being criticised for making changes is fair comment but what do you do when the side is losing — making no changes!

Within our current playing staff we have at least four or five players, who to be fair, have not had much of a chance, but who, there again, are not good enough for Dundee United's first team. Therefore to allow players a bit more chance to establish themselves in the first team we must, if at all possible allow some to move on. The players in question would be good enough for a lot of other teams, but we have too many in the middle category and not enough playing to international class.

Pruning the staff in certain areas would at least mean that one player would get more first team opportunity and prevent us having two unhappy players for one available position.

Wednesday's result in Belfast was obviously very pleasing and at the end of the day the side can only gain confidence from that match and confidence is a department in which we have been struggling of late.

Any win away from home in Europe is a tremendous result because there is no such thing as an easy tie in Europe these days.

Hopefully we can now begin to improve our home record starting straight away with the visit of Celtic this afternoon.

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# TANNADICE TOPICS

## MR. JAMES LITTLEJOHN

It was with deep regret that we all learnt of the death of Director James Littlejohn.

His connection with the club spanned half a century as player, manager and director.

A Scottish Amateur internationalist his senior playing career saw him give service to Cowdenbeath, St. Johnstone and Dundee United with whom he finished his playing days. He captained the United side which reached the final of the Scottish Wartime Cup and lost 1-0 to Rangers in 1940.

Mr Littlejohn then went on to become manager of the club for a brief spell during 1944. Although by this time he was already on the United board, having been appointed a director in 1942. He resigned from the post 15 years later due to pressure of work. Three years later, however, he rejoined the board on which he served until his death.

Chairman Jim McLean summed up everyone's feelings when he said, "I'd like to pay tribute to Mr. Littlejohn's contribution over the many years he was associated with Dundee United and on behalf of everyone connected with the club extend their condolences to his wife Betty, daughter Helen, son Bill and his two grandsons".

## BILLY'S BACK



This is the first opportunity we have had of welcoming back Billy Thomson to the fold.

The popular goalkeeper was out of contract at the end of last summer, but by the time the new term had started Billy still had to find a new club.

Over the course of the summer his name was linked with a number of European and English clubs but nothing concrete materialised.

He did return to Tannadice for pre-season training but when negotiations broke down Billy was told to stay away, but con-

tinued to train on his own so when Billy got in touch again and agreement was reached, it was decided Billy would play at Hamilton.

Billy is very happy the issue has been resolved stating, "the new contract ties me to United until I am 35 years old and although I'd hope to go on playing after that, now I wouldn't mind finishing my career at Tannadice".

Billy immediately went back into the first team at Douglas Park and if the Skol Cup exit at the hands of Hamilton wasn't exactly the perfect return at least Billy celebrated his return to Premier football in style. Playing in his 150th League game for the club, Billy produced a wonderful piece of acrobatic goalkeeping to deny Ross Jack late in the game and ensure that he celebrated his Tannadice return with a victory.

## GARY EXTENDS HIS CONTRACT



Defender Gary McGinnis has come off the transfer list and signed an extension to his existing contract which had less than a year to run.

Gary hasn't figured in the first team this season and recently he has been out of action with a hamstring strain, but Gary was due to start training again last Monday.

The extension to Gary's contract now means that there isn't a single player on the Tannadice staff with a contract of less than three years duration.

Such a situation is very important in so far as long term planning is concerned.

## ACCIES REVENGE

For years we have enjoyed almost complete success over Hamilton Accies. In fact, Hamilton's win at Tannadice in the final match of last season was their first victory over us for almost 30 years. During that spell the best the Douglas Park side could manage was a solitary 0-0 draw in 1986-87.

Now following our exit from the Skol Cup at their hands they have two consecutive victories over us under their belts!

Incidentally our failure at Douglas Park meant it was the first time we had failed to reach the quarter-final stage of the League Cup since 78-79.

## ALAN IRVINE BEING ALLOWED TO LEAVE

It is an open secret that we currently have too many players on the staff and winger Alan Irvine is available and the club 'won't

be too difficult to deal with', is how Alan himself described his situation.

Misfortune dogged Alan last season with a back injury ruling him out for the greater part of the season.

He was asked during the summer and again recently if he was interested in a coach post at the club, but Alan feels that at 31, it was too early to think about giving up playing.

"I honestly feel I still have something to offer on the playing side," Alan explained, "and believe I can still play at a good level in the game".

"With competition here for midfield and front places it means going in and out of the first team and that isn't what I want at this stage of my career".

Alan does not wish to go part-time which clearly limits the number of Scottish clubs who may show interest in him and consequently Alan has informed the Professional Football Association in England that he is available and clubs down south will be circularised.

Alan who had spells with Everton and Crystal Palace still has a house in West Sussex which he kept as an investment when he moved to United.

## HIGHLAND DOUBLE

We took advantage of the early break in fixtures prior to Scotland's World Cup tie in Zagreb to fulfil a very worthy testimonial match in aid of former Peterhead defence Ali Buchan.

The Highland club's choice of opposition was not solely because of our crowd appeal. The night before Ali so tragically broke his leg which ended his playing career at only 21, he received a phone call from the Peterhead manager inviting him to Tannadice for a week's trial.

We were obviously very happy to accept the invitation to play in his testimonial and as the qualifying Cup draw had left Peterhead fixture-less that Saturday, both clubs took advantage of the free date to get some match practice and at the same time raise money for this very worthy testimonial.

## NEXT HOME MATCH

E.U.F.A. CUP 1st Round 2nd Leg  
WEDNESDAY, 27th SEPT., 1989  
v GLENTORAN  
Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

## MASCOT



Today's Mascot is Iain Reid. Iain who is aged 7 attends Caldside Primary School, Dumfries.

# ON INTERNATIONAL DUTY

The recent spate of World Cup ties certainly brought a very varied mixture of fortunes for the United players involved.



Maurice Malpas... praised by Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh

As most of you will have seen Maurice Malpas, who earned his 30th Cap for Scotland in Zagreb, was once again one of Scotland's top performers. His display drew this special praise from Andy Roxburgh, "Maurice was absolutely magnificent for us — he just gets better and better as an international player".

Of course, skipper Maurice Malpas wasn't the only United player on duty in Yugoslavia.

Goalkeeper Alan Main was a late call-up to the U21 squad in the wake of Hamilton's Alan Ferguson's withdrawal. However, Alan's role in the U21 international was confined to a seat on the substitute's bench. Meanwhile, our other two representatives in the U21 squad both started the game in the Slavovski Brod Stadium.

Scotland may have gone down

4-1 to their slick Yugoslavian counterparts, however, Kevin Gallacher was on target with a quite breathtaking volley which put the U21s back in the frame, albeit temporarily, at 2-1.

"That goal was good for Kevin's confidence and for the club.



Kevin Gallacher... scorer of a fabulous goal for the U21's.

"We are always delighted to see United players feature at international level and he certainly did that with the shot", was how assistant Steve Murray summed up Kevin's contribution.

Billy McKinlay also gave account of himself in the match, though he did incur a slight knock, but this fortunately, didn't keep him out of contention of last weekends action.

Of course, with so many nationalities on the staff at Tannadice these days it isn't only Scotland who call upon United players.



Mixu Paatelainen... injured in action for Finland against Wales.

Finnish striker Mixu Paatelainen was in the Finland side which effectively ended Wales World Cup campaign. The Finns too are out of contention in a section in which West Germany and Holland are scrapping for the leadership.

Unfortunately, Mixu picked up an ankle injury during his side's 1-0 win. Because of travel difficulties, Mixu was only able to report back to Tannadice for treatment on Friday morning and caused him to miss out on last Saturday's match at Easter Road.


Over in Belfast Michael O'Neill was the third member of United's personnel on World Cup duty. He began the tie on the bench, but was called upon in the second half to replace Jimmy Quinn when Northern Ireland were trailing 2-0 to Hungary, who eventually won 2-1 and so still pose a threat to the Republic of Ireland's qualification.



Miodrag Krivokapic

Yugoslavia's 3-1 win over Scotland found few fans in this country, but there was one exception. Miodrag Krivokapic had predicted that Yugoslavia would win because as he said, "we have too many good players for Scotland".

Unfortunately, events proved his prediction all too accurate!



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# MATCH REVIEW V HAMILTON ACCIES · DUNFERMLINE

Douglas Park was wet and wind-swept for this Skol Cup tie, which proved such a disappointment.

There was early warning of the danger in prospect when the unmarked McKee headed past from a MacDonald cross after 20 minutes. Four minutes later there was no such luck when Carr hampered in a 25 yarder and the greasy ball slipped through Billy Thomson's hands.

By way of reply Kevin Gallacher headed a Jimmy McNally cross past the near post. Three minutes later Freddy Van Der Hoorn brought out a fine save from Ferguson after his first effort from a free-kick had been blocked.

The best chance to fall our way in the first period came two minutes before half-time. Maurice Malpas hoisted a high ball into the Accies half. Jim McNally sprung the off-side trap but Ferguson advanced from goal to block Jimmy's shot on the edge of the box.

Despite the advantage of wind and slope in the second half, it was Hamilton who increased their lead six minutes into the second half. Colin Harris's long slanting cross was headed in by McKee.

Peter Hinds immediately came on to make his debut, replacing Mixu Paatelainen.

Accies U21 'keeper, however, was in superb form as he clearly demonstrated with a finger-tip save from a racing 25 yard by Maurice Malpas.

We finally pulled back a goal in injury time when a cross from Freddy Van Der Hoorn arrived at Peter Hinds' feet and the substitute drove the ball home from close range.

## PRESS CUTTINGS

### THE COURIER

"The Tangerines bid to reach the quarter finals of this competition for the 11th successive season were shattered by tenacious First Division Hamilton on a dreich Lanarkshire evening.

### DAILY RECORD

"This was not the usual United. Not by a long way! But Accies deserve the highest praise for never allowing the opposition to establish any grip.

Newcomer Peter Hinds made his Premier debut in this match and although his name doesn't appear on the scoresheet, he was very impressive and had a big hand in our winning goal.

We started off like a train and created numerous chances before taking the lead after only seven minutes. **Freddy Van Der Hoorn** collected a loose ball some thirty yards out and powered in a low drive which beat Westwater and went via the inside of the far post.

It might have been two nine minutes later when Westwater appeared to drop a cross and Peter Hinds knocked the ball into an empty net, but the referee ruled that Westwater had been fouled.

There was a rude awakening for us in the 33rd minute when Sharp crossed for **Ross Jack** to head in strongly.

Five minutes later we were back in front. Freddy Van Der Hoorn's cross from the right was headed down but blocked by Westwater,

but Michael O'Neill was following up and had the simple task of netting.

Saturday, 26th August, 1989  
PREMIER DIVISION — 3rd Match



UNITED (Van Der Hoorn 7, O'Neill 38) (2)2  
DUNFERMLINE (Jack 33) (1)1

Crowd: 9,158

United: W. Thomson, Van Der Hoorn, Malpas, McNally, Clark, Narey, Krivokapic, Bowman, O'Neill (Paatelainen 75), French, Hinds. (Sub not used — Jackson)

Dunfermline: Westwater, Nicholl (Sharp 30), Rougvie, McCathie, Tierney, Abercromby, P. Smith, Rafferty, Jack, O'Boyle, (Gallacher 75), Irons.

Referee: G. Evans (Bishopbriggs)

Bookings: United — Krivokapic (kicking ball away — 36 mins)  
Dunfermline — Rougvie (late tackle on Malpas — 63)

Newly promoted Dunfermline fought tooth and nail in the second half in a match which looked more like a cup-tie than a League encounter.

Ross Jack broke clear on two occasions but his finishing let him down, but a header in the final minute looked to have secured a point, until Billy Thomson launched himself to his left to tip Jack's header to safety and ensure our first League win of the season.

## PRESS CUTTINGS

### THE SUNDAY POST

"A powerhouse start from United seemed to have set them well on the route to victory, but in the end the Pars made them fight all the way".

### THE SUNDAY EXPRESS

"Jim McLean's Dundee United duly registered their first Premier League success of the new campaign, but had to work overtime".

SKOL CUP 3RD ROUND  
Wednesday, 23rd August, 1989



HAMILTON (Carr 24, McKee 52) (1)2  
UNITED (Hinds 89) (0)1

Crowd: 2,600

Hamilton: Ferguson, McKee (Donaghy 70), Napier, Weir, Jamieson, Miller, Harris, Gordon, Carr, (Morrison 50), Prentice, MacDonald.

United: W. Thomson, Van Der Hoorn, Malpas, McNally, Clark, Narey, Krivokapic, Adam (Bowman 66), O'Neill, Gallacher, Paatelainen (Hinds 53).

Referee: J. McCluskey (Stewarton)

Booked — United — Gallacher (54 tripping MacDonald)



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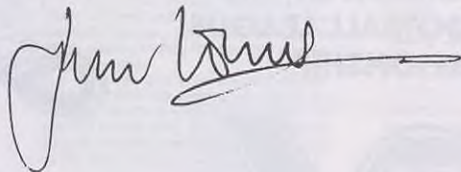
## STAKIS QUIZ

1. Which United player, now no longer at Tannadice, scored on his debut for Scotland and against whom?
2. Who was the last player to be transferred directly from Dundee United to Celtic?

The winners will each receive a ticket for two, for the day, in the superb Earl Grey Leisure Complex.

All answers to be sent to Jim Connor, Commercial Manager, Tannadice Park, Tannadice Street, Dundee, stating your Name, Address and Telephone No.

Good Luck!



The winner of the last Stakis quiz was: Mr. J. Robertson, Muirfield Crescent, Dundee.



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# MATCH REVIEW V EAST FIFE · PETERHEAD · HIBS

We found it difficult to break down the Fifer's defensive barrier on a Bayview surface left slippery by heavy rain.

It took a defensive error for us to get our noses in front in the 15th minute. Peter Hinds capitalised on a bit of slack defending and the ball broke from Michael O'Neill on to Hamish French on the left and he drilled the ball into the empty net from 15 yards.

The Second Division side should have equalised six minutes later, but a cut-back by Hunter was blasted the wrong side of the post by Mitchell.

Our second goal was a truly international affair. Mixu Paatelainen combined with Michael O'Neill down the left which ended with the Finn's cross being knocked home by Dave Narey five minutes after the interval.

## MATCH DETAILS

Friendly

Wednesday, August 30, 1989

EAST FIFE (Hunter (55)) (0)1

UNITED (French 2 (15,71), Narey (71)) (1)3

Crowd: 500

East Fife: Charles, Harrow, (Bell 74), Taylor, Collins, Reid, (Rogerson 56), Hall, Mitchell, Croila, Hunter, McGonigal, (Brown 59), Hope.

United: W. Thomson (S. Thomson 32), Van Der Hoorn, McNally, Bowman, Welsh, Narey, Krivokapic, (Paatelainen 33), Jackson (Clark 59), O'Neill (McLeod 59), French, Hinds. Subs not used — Sturrock, Preston Referee — W.A. Clark (Edinburgh)

Within three minutes East Fife had pulled one back. U21 internationalist Paul Hunter stabbed home a rebound after Scott Thomson had made a brilliant save which kept out his first effort.

Hamish French increased our lead in the 71st minute when he ran clear of the East Fife defence and scored despite Charles getting a hand to his shot.

The Fifers almost pulled one back in the final minute, but Croila hit the top of the bar with a fine header.

Highland League Champions, Peterhead provided stuffy opposition in this Testimonial match, but as our opponents bred, we ran away with the game to run out easy winners.

Here is a run down of our eight goals.  
1-0 Alex Cleland broke up a Peterhead attack and set Dave Bowman clear on the right and his cross into the middle was nodded in by Hamish French — Time 18 mins.

2-0 Peter Hinds caught Sievwright in possession and carried on to send a shot high into the top right hand corner — Time 39 mins.

3-0 An Allan Preston corner fell to Brian Welsh who hooked the ball home via the underside of the bar—Time 61 mins

## MATCH DETAILS All Buchan Testimonial

Saturday, September 2nd, 1989



PETERHEAD (0)0  
UNITED (2)8  
French 3 (18, 83, 85), Hinds 2 (39, 75), Welsh 2 (61, 80), Preston (74).

Crowd: 750

Peterhead: Tait, Walker, Massie, (Smith 46), Masson (Lawrence 73), Sievwright, Forman, Stephen, Barclay, (Hendrie 46), Thomson, Porter, (McKenzie 46), Fraser (Guyan 73).

United: Main, Cleland, McNally, Van Der Hoorn, Welsh, Narey, Hinds, Bowman, Connolly (McKinnon 58), French, Preston. Subs not used — Bolland, Fox. Referee: I. Skene (Ellon)

4-0 A fine individual goal as Allan Preston drifted past three defenders before slotting the ball just inside the far post — Time 74 mins.

5-0 Hamish French instigated the fifth with a pass to Raymond McKinnon, who turned the ball inside for Peter Hinds to shoot low past the 'keeper — Time 75 mins.

6-0 Freddy Van Der Hoorn's free-kick was back headed by Raymond McKinnon and hit the underside of the bar, but Brian Welsh was on hand to finish the job off — Time 80 mins.

7-0 Alex Cleland made an interception deep in Peterhead's half and laid it off to Hamish French who had the simple chore of side-footing the seventh goal — Time 83 mins.

8-0 The fifth goal in an eleventh minute spell saw Hamish French complete his hat-trick. His first effort was blocked, his second hit the post, but the rebound fell back in his path and he made no mistake at the third attempt — Time 85 mins.

Not for the first time this season we got off to a great start, dominating the first half only to left it slip away.

As early as the third minute Dave Bowman clipped the ball forward to Kevin Gallacher who got to the bye-line and his cut-back was knocked over by Peter Hinds.

Dave Bowman then got on the end of a good move between Michael O'Neill and Peter Hinds, but his first time effort went

agonisingly past the wrong side of the post.

Two minutes later Kevin Gallacher shot over from another Peter Hinds cross. Apart from a Sneddon free header which went straight to Billy Thomson, Hibs had posed no threat at the other end.

## MATCH DETAILS

B & Q Premier Division — 4th Match



Saturday, September 9th, 1989

HIBS (Evans (38), Fellingner (87)) (1)2  
UNITED (0)0

Crowd: 7,000

Hibs: Goram, Kane (Hamilton 84), Sneddon, Couper, Mitchell, Hunter, Weir, Orr, Houchen, Collins, Evans, (Fellinger 81).

United: W. Thomson, McNally, Malpas, Van Der Hoorn, Hegarty, Narey, Hinds, Bowman, O'Neill (Clark 58), French, Gallacher.

(Sub not used — McKinnon)

Referee — S. Roy (Aberdeen)

Bookings — Hibs — Houchen (Dis-sent 59).

United — Gallacher (challenge on Goram 61), Bowman (holding Mitchell 87).

Another chance was passed up when Kevin Gallacher couldn't get enough power into his shot from a Dave Bowman cross from the right and a quick turn in the box by Kevin Gallacher gave him space but his curling shot went past the far post.

Tragedy struck seven minutes from the interval when Dave Narey's pass back proved too troublesome for Billy Thomson and Gareth Evans ran on to net the loose ball into a vacant net.

John Collins almost added to that opener five minutes into the second period but Billy Thomson tipped his effort over the bar. Jimmy McNally was the hero quarter of an hour later when he cleared an Evans header off the line.

Peter Hinds was twice involved in near misses at the other end. First he headed a Maurice Malpas cross past the post and then he broke clear on a quick counter-attack, but Goram blocked his shot.

Three minutes from time Hibs substitute Fellingner waved his way in front of goal and planted the ball past Billy Thomson to ensure Hibs first victory against us at Easter Road since April 1984.