

DUNDEE United

PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR



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D.C. Thomson



Today's Profile -
Goran Marklund



Celtic's Swedish striker -
Henrik Larsson

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CEL TIC



Bell's Premier League, Saturday, September 27, 1997. Kick-off 3.00pm

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TOMMY MCLEAN

“

The last couple of games have ended in narrow defeats, but in each match we only have ourselves to blame for losing because in both games we took far too long to get into our stride.

For example, against Kilmarnock in our last home game, it wasn't until we were trailing by two goals that we showed the urgency, determination and willingness to compete and only when we pegged back a goal did we start really hem back the opposition.

In my opinion, presently we have too many individuals expecting things to happen, rather than working as a group. Not until we collectively work together will things show an improvement.

To be fair to the players, the flu virus which has been hanging about the dressing room for the past fortnight or so hasn't helped. Six or seven of the players have been affected and some suffering from it have still played. Hopefully, this is now

under control and spread no further.

Those defeats at home to Kilmarnock and away to Hearts have cast us to the foot of the table. Some people may say that we are in a false position, but that the fact is we are sitting second bottom and only on goal difference. As I have stressed earlier in the season, we simply haven't played with any real consistency even in individual matches which has proved all too costly so far. The warning must be heeded and quickly if are to lift ourselves away from the wrong end of the table.

Perhaps reaching the semi-final of the Coca-Cola Cup has camouflaged our showing in the league, which is the true indicator of how a club is performing, and presently, that



can only be described as poorly!

Any match against Celtic is a difficult one, but this afternoon, we are

facing a very much in-form Parkhead side who appear to be going from strength to strength. With so many newcomers in their ranks, it was understandable that they made a hesitant start to the season, but the side has gelled and is now playing some very exciting football.

It is exactly the type of match which we need at this moment in time because the one thing you can always expect in opposition to Celtic is ninety minutes of commitment and unlike the last two games we must compete with the Glasgow side from the very start if we can expect to take anything from the match.



DUNDEE
United

DUNDEE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

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PROGRAMME EDITOR: Peter Rundo



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The Manager REPORTS



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UNITED

Monday, 1st September

After being left out at Pittodrie because he still lacked match sharpness, Swede Goran Marklund would get a chance to show his paces against Aberdeen reserves the following evening whilst Davie Sinclair and Ray McKinnon could also put forward their cases for inclusion at Ibrox. Meanwhile, Kjell Olofsson's ankle injury wasn't as bad as feared and he may not require to be out for a fortnight.

Tuesday, 2nd September

Ray McKinnon headed a late winner against Dons reserves in a 2-1 victory in which Swede Goran Marklund duly impressed.

Wednesday, 3rd September

With no match at any level at the weekend, it was a rare day off for the coaching staff as well as the players.

Thursday, 4th September

A closed door friendly at Firhill was arranged so that Scandinavians Goran Marklund and Thomas Tengstedt could get further match practice. They were to be joined by another foreign trialist, but manager Tommy McLean was giving away no more than that. "I do not want to give out any details of the player, but the game with Partick will give us a chance to see how he shapes up." One player the United boss wasn't be able to rule his eye over was a trialist from England who couldn't make it because of injury.

Friday, 5th September

United beat Partick Thistle 2-1 in their closed door friendly in Glasgow with Ray McKinnon scoring twice. Reserve striker Marino Keith rejected a move to Falkirk after a fee of £50,000 was agreed between the clubs.

Monday, 8th September

Due to Achilles tendon and thigh problems Ray McKinnon hadn't figured in the first team, but a good display, not to mention his two goals against Partick Thistle, thrust the

midfielder back into contention for the Coca-Cola Cup tie with Rangers at Ibrox.

Tuesday, 9th September

Coca-Cola Cup

Quarter-final

RANGERS (0) 0

UNITED (0) 1

McSwegan 98

After extra-time

A quite

astonishing

strike by Gary

McSwegan

halfway through

the first period

of extra-time

carried United

into the semi-

finals of The

Coca-Cola Cup.

It was also sweet

revenge

after the 5-1

mauling in the

league game 17

days earlier with

United's disciplined

performance being

the bedrock for

this first

ever League Cup

success over the

Ibrox

Club.

Rangers - Goran,

Cleland, Stensaas,

Parrini

(van Vossen 98),

Moore, Vidmar,

Miller

(McCoist 76),

Ferguson,

Negri, Albertz

(McCall 101),

Gattuso.

United - Dykstra,

McKinnon, Malpas,

Pressley, Perry,

Pedersen, Olofsson

(McSwegan 79),

Zetterlund,

Winters (Easton

100), Dolan,

McLaren. (Sub

not used -

McKimmie).

Referee - S Dougal

(Glasgow)

Crowd - 44,440

MATCH FACTS

Shots on target

RANGERS - 4

UNITED - 4

Shots off target

RANGERS - 22

UNITED - 6

Corners

RANGERS - 8

UNITED - 2

Offside

RANGERS - 1



Sending offs - None

Bookings -

RANGERS - Vidmar (Holding back

McSwegan 83).

UNITED - McLaren (Foul on Stensaas 74).

Wednesday, 10th September

Kjell Olofsson whose fitness was gambled on at Ibrox because he wasn't 100% came through the match unscathed.

Thursday, 11th September

Ray McKinnon was the most doubtful for the visit of Kilmarnock after taking a kick on the knee early on in his first game of the season against Rangers. Others who would require late fitness tests were Dave Bowman, Kjell Olofsson and Neil Duffy.

Friday, 12th September

Goran Marklund and Paul Walker were added to the squad, but Dave Bowman was ruled out through injury for the home clash with Kilmarnock.

Saturday, 13th September

Premier Division - 5th match

UNITED (0) 1

KILMARNOCK (1) 2

Wright 2 (16 & pen 53)

That first league victory still proved elusive. It took the award of a controversial second half penalty from which we went two behind to really stir the team into action. Kjell



Olofsson pulled one back with a header, but we just couldn't summon up an equaliser despite dominating the final half hour. United - Dykstra, McKinnon (Easton 84),

Tangerine & Black

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UPDATE



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Photo courtesy of D.C. Thomson

Dean Windass' shot is blocked by United's Steven Pressley in the 1-1 draw at Pittodrie

Malpas, Pressley, Perry, Pedersen, Olofsson, Zetterlund, McSwegan, Dalan (Marklund 81), Walker (McLaren 53).

Kilmarnock - Meldrum, Montgomerie, Baker, Whitworth, McGowne, Reilly, Nevin (Bogan 76), Findlay, Wright (Roberts 80), Mitchell, Voreille (Vincent 89).

Referee - I Taylor (Edinburgh) replaced by J Underhill (Edinburgh) at Half-time.

Crowd - 6883

MATCH FACTS

Shots on target

UNITED - 7 KILMARNOCK 4

Shots off target

UNITED - 8 KILMARNOCK 3

Corners

UNITED - 14 KILMARNOCK 5

Offside

UNITED - 2 KILMARNOCK 1

Sending offs - None

Bookings -

UNITED - Perry (Foul on Baker 87).

KILMARNOCK - Baker (Foul on Olofsson 78)

Monday, 15th September

After damaging a foot muscle against Kilmarnock, key defender Maurice Malpas was already very doubtful for the following weekend's match at Tynecastle. At night the reserves drew 0-0 with Killie at Rugby Park.

Tuesday, 16th September

A flu-like virus threatened to further upset team plans with Erik Pedersen and Goran Marklund affected, whilst Lars Zetterlund suffered delayed reaction to a back strain.

Wednesday, 17th September
Goran Marklund shrugged off the effects of flu to play in a closed door friendly against Raith Rovers. Two trialists took part, one of whom was Magnus Skoldmark.

Skoldmark.

Thursday, 18th September

Magnus Skoldmark was poised to swell the ever increasing numbers of Scandinavian players at Tannadice after impressing in the closed door match against Raith Rovers.

Friday, 19th September

The transfer of Magnus Skoldmark was completed with the Swedish defender likely to step in for the injured Maurice Malpas at Tynecastle, while Lars Zetterlund and Dave Bowman were both available, but winger Paul Walker was out and Erik Pedersen, the sole doubt.

Saturday, 20th September

Premier Division - 6th match

HEARTS (1) 2

Pressley own goal 43, Robertson 60

UNITED (1) 1

Olofsson 45

Having weathered Hearts early storm, it was somewhat ironic that we should fall behind

to our own goal just before the interval. But the immediate reply through Kjell Olofsson's goal was no less than we deserved. Had it not been for a magnificent save by McKenzie from newcomer Magnus Skoldmark's header three minutes from the end, we would have taken a point. As it was a low-level header from John Robertson on the hour mark decided the issue in the home side's favour.

Hearts - McKenzie, McManus, Pointon, Weir, Salvatori, Ritchie, McCann, Fulton, Hamilton, Adam (Robertson 40). (*Subs not used - Frail, Locke.*)

United - Dykstra, Bowman, Skoldmark, Pressley, Perry, Pedersen, Olofsson, Zetterlund, McKinnon, Dalan (Marklund 57), McLaren (Easton 88). (*Sub not used - McKimmie.*)

Referee - H Dallas (Motherwell)

Crowd - 13,415

MATCH FACTS

Shots on target

HEARTS - 5 UNITED - 5

Shots off target

HEARTS - 6 UNITED - 5

Corners

HEARTS - 10 UNITED - 7

Offside

HEARTS - 3 UNITED - 2

Sending offs - None

Bookings -

HEARTS - McCann (Kicking ball away 58), Hamilton (Challenge on Pressley 74).

UNITED - None



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THEN THERE WERE SIX

Prior to last week's match at Tynecastle, former Swedish international defender Magnus Skoldmark became the sixth Scandinavian on the Tannadice books after playing in a closed door friendly against Raith Rovers Signed from Chinese Club Dailen Wanda, the 26

year old was previously a colleague of Lars Zetterlund at Orebro where Magnus spent seven seasons. His move to Tannadice came out of the blue as

the player explained, "The Chinese season does not start again until November 15 and I had been thinking about coming back to Europe for a spell to train, but then got a surprise call from an agent telling me this move could be on and I am just delighted to have this opportunity," revealed the newcomer.

"I have known of Dundee United ever since they played Gothenburg the UEFA Cup final and although they are struggling in the league at the moment, I know they are one of the best sides in the country and if everyone works together we will definitely turn things round because there are too many good players at the club for that not to happen," concluded Magnus.

Manager Tommy McLean makes no apologies for once again turning to Scandinavia to strengthen the Tannadice playing squad. As he pointed out, "Players from Norway and Sweden are very much suited to our game here so can settle in well. Skoldmark has qualities which will strengthen our squad and as a manager that is something you are always looking for."

Magnus duly made his debut in tangerine at Tynecastle last Saturday and whilst the Swede didn't get off to a winning start, he duly impressed and would have been United's saviour had McKenzie not pulled off a magnificent one-handed save to keep out the Swede's header three minutes from time.

ANOTHER RECRUIT

The signing of Magnus Skoldmark



overshadowed the arrival of another defender at Tannadice. Eighteen year old Steven Barr, a left-back from Stonehouse Violet was signed on a delayed transfer form. Recruited for the future, initially, he will figure in the youth team and the reserves.

FOREIGN NUMBERS

It is common-place at Ibrox these days, but when Goran Marklund came on to replace Jamie Dolan just before the hour mark at Tynecastle last Saturday, a little bit of history was made because for the first time ever, foreign players out-numbered Scotsman in a United eleven.

With Sieb Dykstra, Magnus Skoldmark, Erik Pedersen, Kjell Olofsson and Lars Zetterlund already on the park, Goran's arrival meant more than half the team were non-Scots!

COCA-COLA CUP SEMI

The meeting with Aberdeen takes place at Tynecastle Park on Wednesday 14th October, kick-off 7.45 pm. The match is all-ticket and tickets will go on sale sometime next week. Please watch the local press or refer to the Tannadice Hotline for details.

This will be the fourth meeting between United and the Dons at this stage of the competition. The first two were two legged with United winning 3-1 on aggregate in 1981 after losing the first leg at Tannadice 1-0. Four years later, Aberdeen gained revenge winning both legs to clock up a 2-0 aggregate. However, the last clash at the penultimate stage was also the last time the teams faced each other in this tournament. That was in 1987 when Aberdeen won 2-0 at Dens Park.

WANT TO REPRESENT UNITED IN THE 1998 FLORA LONDON MARATHON?

The Flora London Marathon will be run on Sunday 26th April 1998. Within the event is the football challenge with runners in the colours of all the major clubs in Britain taking part.

If you would like to represent United in this prestigious event then please write telling us why to the Commercial Department, Dundee United Football Club, Tannadice Park, Dundee DD3 7JW.

Last year's United representative Ian

Wallace completed the 26.2 mile course in 4 hours 19 minutes and 5 seconds.

NEXT HOME GAME

It is three weeks before the next Tannadice first team fixture on Saturday 18th October when Motherwell are the visitors in the Premier Division. The match kicks-off, as usual, at 3.00 pm.

YOUNG LIONS

Today's Lucky Young Lions are:-

UNITED MASCOTS - Joshua (top) & Jonathan Ross from Dundee.

Joshua is age 6 and attends Invergowrie Primary. His fav. player is Sieb Dykstra.

His twin, Jonathan, is a big fan of Robbie Winters

CELTIC

MASCOT

(right) - Paul

McGhee aged

10 from

Glasgow. He is

a pupil at

Hutchesons

Grammar

School and his

favourite

player is Henrik Larsson.

SPECIAL GUESTS - Steven Downes

(80) from Dundee & Greg Michie

(263) from Falkirk.

BALLBOYS - David Harper (31) from

Forfar & Gordon Nicol (75) from

Dundee.

BALLPERSONS

The ballpersons for this afternoon's

match are provided by Mossiel

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GORAN MARKLUND



Position : Striker

Birthplace : Stockholm

Date of Birth : 2nd October 1975

Height : 1.81 cm

Weight : 74 kilos

Previous Clubs : Spanga, Vasalund

Date signed : 15th August 1997

Debut : 13th September 1997 as a sub v. Kilmarnock (H) in a 2-1 defeat in the Premier Division.

Club Honours : None.

International Honours: None.

Like father, like son! Well in Goran Marklund's case only up to a point, because whilst his father was a left-back for AIK Stockholm, United's Swedish import kept his sporting options open as a youngster as he explains.

"Never at any time was there any pressure on me to follow in his footsteps.

"As a teenager, I was just as interested in playing ice hockey, badminton and basketball as football.

"It was only when I was about 15 that I decided to concentrate on football and joined Spanga."

Two years ago, he moved on to Vasalund of the Swedish First Division and in his first season scored ten goals. Eight in fourteen appearances followed this year and soon the 21 year old's progress was being chartered by other clubs - Derby County and Leicester City in addition to United. Not that Goran had heard anything officially until learning of Tommy McLean's interest just before going to Cyprus on holiday.

"They asked if I could play during their tour of Sweden in July, but because of my holidays, the last game against Orebro was the only one for which I was available.

"Not that my preparations for that game were ideal. I only arrived back from holiday in Cyprus in the early hours on the morning of the game and then had a two hour car journey from Stockholm up to United's hotel. I started the game against Orebro, but only lasted forty-five minutes after all the travelling.

"Obviously, it didn't do me any harm because Tommy McLean wanted me to sign right away.

Unfortunately, I still had just over a month of my National Service to complete, so wasn't immediately available. "However, I was keen to come here and had no hesitation in joining United, although up until then I hadn't any plans to move abroad."

Although he was signed over a month ago, United fans haven't had too many opportunities of seeing the talents of Goran. His National Service commitments meant he wasn't able to join his new team-mates until 28th August and then came the hurdle of gaining match fitness.

"Part of the problem was that whilst I was doing National Service, I wasn't even able to turnout for Vasalund every week, but after four weeks full-time training at Tannadice and playing a few reserve and closed door games, my fitness is improving daily.

"I have still a little bit to go, but am working hard training morning and afternoon to reach peak fitness."

For a player with an impressive goal tally for Vasalund, strangely, he does not view himself as an out-and-out striker. "When I was younger, I also played in midfield and wouldn't say I was a typical striker. I like the ball played into feet. hold it up and look for the right pass, so perhaps my main strength is being able to link up between different areas of the team."

So far, Goran's first team exposure has been limited to nine minutes against Kilmarnock and just over half an hour against Hearts at Tynecastle. His impressions?

"Quite fast, perhaps just too fast sometimes."

Certainly, the Swede impressed last Saturday, looking pretty sharp and therefore a starting place in the first team should come sooner rather than later.

With the number of the Scandinavians at Tannadice, homesickness is unlikely to be a problem. As he says, "It is easy to feel at home, especially as apart from Kjell we all live close together in Dundee." Off the field, Goran should feel at home too, because not long before coming to Scotland, he had just taken up golf!