

THE PARS



PREMIER DIVISION
Saturday 28th October
1989
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
versus

CELTIC



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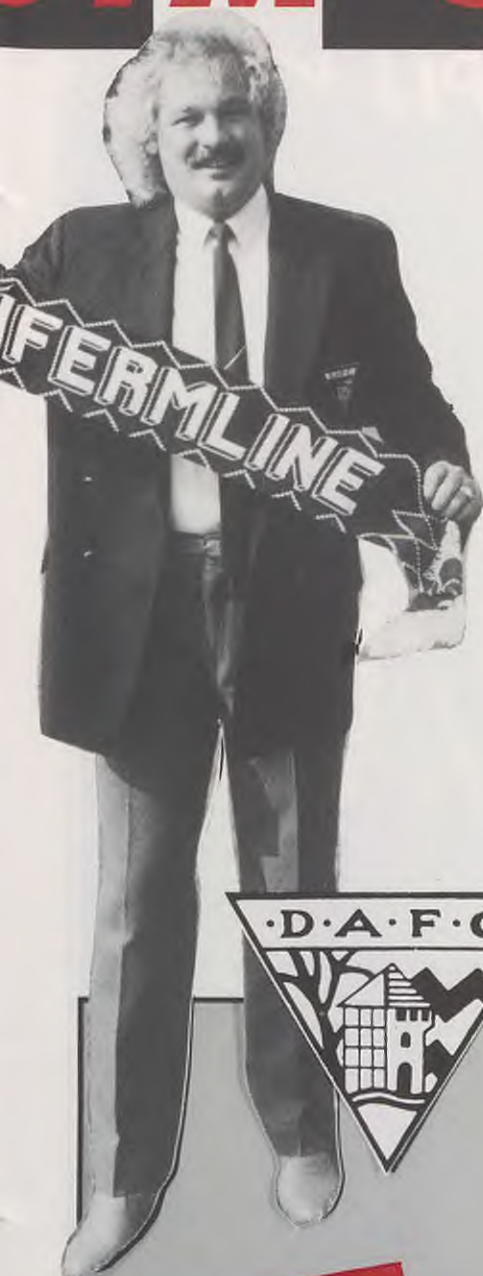
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JIM'S VIEWS



I can hardly believe the way things have been going for us recently. To take eight points out of ten and be sitting third in the table is magnificent.

I have to say, however, that I think we thoroughly deserve it. We have played really well and our team spirit and commitment has been superb.

As you know my position has always been that second bottom at the end of the season will be good enough for us and anything more would be a real bonus.

Nothing has changed my mind. We must continue to play the way we have been playing and avoid complacency at all costs. Today's game against Celtic gives us an opportunity to have a real go at a side who are at the top of the table. The match holds no fear for us, as it might have done if we had struggled over the last month. We are expected to lose and thanks to our league position a defeat would not be catastrophic.

It goes without saying that we are as keen to beat Celtic as any other side and I am sure that our recent form and confidence will mean that it is the Celtic players who are nervous before the game.

I am very proud of the fact that we are unbeaten at home so far this season and a lot of credit for that must go to the fans for their support.

There will be a great atmosphere this afternoon and it is always a real buzz for everyone when there is a big game like this at East End. We aim to make sure that there are plenty more big games like this for you to enjoy, I know the players are good enough and so far they have shown that they really want to do it, for themselves and for the fans.

ON THE COVER: How do you say 'Hooray' in Hungarian? Stuart Rafferty congratulates an ecstatic Istvan Kozma after his 2nd goal against St. Mirren.

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Ground and Address:

East End Park, Halbeath Road

Dunfermline, KY12 7RB

Training Headquarters:

Eagle Glen, Kingseat, by

Dunfermline

Telephone:

General Office 0383-724295

Commercial Department and Shop

0383-721749

Training Headquarters 0383-730728

Clubcall: 0898-121556

Size of Ground 115yds x 71yds

Present Capacity 23,090

Record Attendance 27,816 v Celtic,

30th April 1968

HONOURS

Scottish League Division One Champions
1988/89

Scottish League Division One, Runners Up
1986/87

Scottish League Division Two Champions
1925/26, 1985/86

Runners up 1912/13, 1933/34, 1954/55, 1957/58,
1972/73, 1978/79

Scottish Cup Winners 1961, 1968
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THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

Opening Shots

LATE OCTOBER



1987 style Ross Jack

There is no particular reason for it, but this time of year seems to have provided Dunfermline Athletic with some of the club's most inspired signings. Today, we want to pay tribute to three October events of the 1980s which we think have significantly contributed to Dunfermline finding itself in late October 1989 in its best league position since October 1969 — all of twenty years ago.

The first took place on 24th October 1981. Dunfermline traveled to Somerset Park minus

experienced midfielder Kevin Hegarty who had been injured the previous week. In his place, manager Pat Stanton drafted in a 20 year old untried player. The player had come to East End Park a couple of months earlier in a player swap involving Craig McFarlane going to Cowdenbeath. Dunfermline drew the game with Ayr United 1-1 and Norrie McCathie, the player in question has gone on to play 300 first team games with the Pars, scoring 38 goals. It is fair to say that Dunfermline got the best of that deal — just ask manager Jim Leishman:

"He is having his best season ever and has done really well in taking over from Jimmy Nicholl and showing himself to be a worthy captain". Jim did add, somewhat with tongue in cheek, that "Norrie still has a lot to learn"!

The second event took place on 22nd October 1983. In their opening ten games of the season in the Second Division Dunfermline had managed to secure a mere nine points and were well and truly stuck in the bottom half dozen clubs in Scotland. Presumably disillusioned by this state of affairs, manager Tom Forsyth and coach Cammy Murray walked out on the club. This left part-time Reserve Coach Jim Leishman to take charge of the side against Queen's Park and the following week he was in charge for his first home game against East Stirling in front of a crowd of 958 spectators. The 1-1 draw was enough to convince the Board that this fellow Leishman had potential, and his appointment as Manager was confirmed before the next match. The rest, as they say, is history. Jim's six years in charge have produced quite possibly the most remarkable recovery in the history of any Scottish football team. It also now makes him Dunfermline's longest-serving post-war manager. This week Jim said, "I am delighted, but I could not have achieved this without the back-up

of some great people around me."

The third of our important events happened only two years ago. On 24th October 1987, Dunfermline visited Fir Park, Motherwell desperate to halt a losing streak. The club had just signed an experienced striker, and his overhead kick in the opening minutes produced Dunfermline's first goal in six League matches. If this was a

sign of things to come, it didn't exactly happen there and then for Ross Jack. But he did work hard, improved his fitness, started to score goals and is now among Dunfermline's most popular players. That comes as no surprise when you consider that in only 82 outings (76 + 6 as sub) for the Pars he has rattled in 35 goals. It's all the more impressive when it's noticed that 27 of them have come in only 43 appearances during the past 12 months. The manager had this comment to make about his star striker:

"Everyone knows about the problems at the start of the season but that's all over now. Ross Jack has responded magnificently and it is a great credit to him that he has scored all those goals. His work rate and enthusiasm are first-class and he's now a Dunfermline player in heart and mind."

Norrie McCathie, Jim Leishman and Ross Jack may be three different characters but together they represent the kind of spirit which has brought Dunfermline to the end of this decade in a great deal better shape than it started it in.



The new-look Norrie McCathie

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Present Pars

Norrie McCathie

At a time when Dunfermline Athletic are being given a well-deserved pat on the back for the team's performances this season, there is perhaps nobody who has deserved the praise being dished out more than Pars sweeper Norrie McCathie. A careful look at his career record will reveal that Norrie has made 295 (290 + 5 as sub) first-class appearances with Dunfermline. The fact that he is nearing his milestone 300th appearance — all things being equal he should reach it at Ibrox on 25th November — also happily coincides with Norrie's eight years of playing first-team football at East End Park. During that spell, Norrie has made steady improvement and most observers would agree that this season is proving to be his best ever. His strength, tackling and aerial ability have never been in doubt but this season his fitness and distribution seem better. Whilst acknowledging that most people seem to think he is fitter, Norrie feels that it's unfair to compare his present performances with last season.

"You've got to remember that last season I took a bad injury in the pre-season game against Cowdenbeath. No matter how much training you do after that you can't get back to full fitness."

Norrie is quite clear about one thing — that the club in general, and he in particular has learned a lot from the last experience in the Premier League:

"The club have bought experience and a bit of skill — we've got a team of fighters which is important. As far as the defence is concerned, the longer we have a settled side and play with each other, the better your chances of understanding each other's play."

Norrie has also had the added bonus of regaining the captaincy this season in the absence of the injured Jimmy Nicholl. It is something which he considers an honour. As he says "Any one of us would be proud to be captain of Dunfermline Athletic"

As his superb defensive display against Hibs in the recent Skol Cup match showed, Norrie has come a long way since joining Dunfermline from Cowdenbeath as a midfielder-cum-forward all those years ago. Dunfermline's longest serving player has no desire to leave the club and its that kind of loyalty and enthusiasm which have made him a favourite among the fans.

Norrie considers that he has nothing but "good memories" of the past eight years and that's not surprising for someone who can always see the funny side of football. His latest venture is an exclusive club among the players called "The Rods". Chief Rod McCathie and 1st Lieutenant Sharp seem to get up to a few mischievous pranks in the dressing room. But it's on the football field as a "no nonsense" sweeper that Norrie will continue to earn his reputation — no doubt for quite a few years to come!



Career Profile

BORN: 23 March 1961
 PLACE OF BIRTH: Edinburgh
 HEIGHT: 6ft 0ins
 WEIGHT: 12st 0lbs
 PREVIOUS CLUB: Cowdenbeath
 DATE OF SIGNING: 10 August 1981
 DEBUT: 24.10.81 v Ayr United
 CAREER RECORD: (A = Appearances, G = Goals)

Club/Season	League		League Cup		Sco/FA Cup		Totals
	A	G	A	G	A	G	
With Cowdenbeath:							
1980/81	6(5)	-	-	-	-	-	6(5) -
With Dunfermline Athletic:							
1981/82	17(2)	4	-	-	-	-	17(2) 4
1982/83	24	3	1	-	2	-	27 3
1983/84	38	5	2	-	2	-	42 5
1984/85	36(1)	8	2	2	1	-	39(1) 10
1985/86	37	8	2	-	3	-	42 8
1986/87	44	6	1	-	1	-	46 6
1987/88	38(1)	1	2	-	4	-	44(1) 1
1988/89	19(1)	1	-	-	-	-	19(1) 1
With Ayr United (on loan):							
1988/89	2	-	-	-	-	-	2 -
With Dunfermline Athletic:							
1989/90	10	-	4	-	-	-	14 -
TOTALS	271(10)	36	14	2	13	-298(10)	38

Figures in brackets indicate appearances as substitute
 Career record correct at 22 October 1989

Other Notes:
 Career details in 'Pars in Person' 17.10.87 v Dundee
 Captain during part of season 1986/87, 1987/88, and 1989/90
 Selected for the Scottish Semi-Professional Team in the 4-Nation Tournament in 1987.

Norrie McCathie is sponsored by the Queen's Hotel, Inverkeithing. The QUEEN'S HOTEL is a comfortable family hotel with a restaurant whose high teas are a local favourite. So is the Scottish Country Music on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays!

THE FAMILY GAME



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Family stands and enclosures are a common feature of Scottish Football League grounds and form part of a major programme to improve football stadia throughout the United Kingdom. This season will see further projects including new and better toilet facilities, the provision of seating in existing covered areas and improved accommodation for supporters with disabilities.

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