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**TUESDAY 9TH
DECEMBER 1997**



Issue No. 10



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The Dons matchday programme is published by
Aberdeen Football Club Ltd.
and printed by Gilcomston Litho (Aberdeen) Ltd.

Cover Picture: Billy Dodds



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combination.



YOUNGSTARS PAGE

SHELL OPEN DAY

TONIGHT'S MASCOT



Tonight's mascot is 14 year old Sarah Coghill from Thurso, Caithness. Sarah is a pupil of Thurso High School and her favourite player is Billy Dodds.

Tzanko and Toni pose for photos at the recent Open Day in The Richard Donald Stand



Participants at the Open Day at Shell's Woodbank Fitness Centre. More pictures on Page 33

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, UNCLES, AUNTIES, FRIENDS!!!

HERE'S A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT AND IT WILL ONLY COST YOU £4.

Yes! Believe it or not that's all it will cost you — £4 — to enrol your favourite kids in the **SHELL DON'S YOUNGSTARS CLUB**, Aberdeen Football Club's exclusive club for young supporters aged 0-16.

This **SPECIAL** half price Christmas offer provides all new members with a special **NEW MEMBERS JOINING PACK** containing a scarf, pen and pencil set, and a Dons Youngstars passport **PLUS** many exciting other extras throughout the season including a quarterly magazine called "Starshoot", signed team poster **PLUS** an invitation to take part in the club's October Funweek and May Open Day.

Members also receive personalised Birthday and Christmas cards together with free entry to all Reserve and Youth games at Pittodrie.

THEY ALSO GET 10% DISCOUNT
on all non-sale goods at Aberdeen FC's Clubshop!

Probably one of the best value Christmas presents you come across. **DON'T DELAY** — contact us on the "Shell Dons Youngstars Hotline" and ask Wendy for an application form.

HOTLINE: 01224 650432.

MILLER'S ANGLE

POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES

Whilst it was obviously very disappointing not to have taken all three points on Saturday, I felt there were positives and negatives to take out of the game against St. Johnstone.

Although I thought we started well, displaying good movement and using the width of the pitch to our advantage, there is no doubt we do lack a cutting edge at the moment and we need to be more penetrating when we go forward.

There is also work to be done with the mental toughness of the players although I could not in any way fault the players in terms of the effort they put into the ninety minutes.

You have shown great patience during a time when you have had not much to cheer and all I am asking is



that you continue to get right behind the lads as we get things sorted out.

I have now had a couple of weeks to assess the players at my disposal and

I am well aware we need to quickly supplement the squad with the acquisition of some more experienced players. We have some tremendous young players here with superb potential but right now we are asking them to do too much, too soon and moves are already underway to bolster the squad.

Our more immediate priority however is this evening's visit of Celtic. The newly crowned Coca-Cola Cup winners are having a good season and by all accounts, were well worth their win over us at Parkhead a couple of months back. Any game against the green and whites is an occasion to savour and there will certainly be no problem whatsoever in lifting the squad for this one. Everyone at the Club is well aware that a good performance tonight is absolutely crucial if we are to start pulling ourselves away from our current spot in the league.

Brian O'Neil returns to the squad after suspension although Tzanko Tzvetanov and Dean Windass remain absentees and we have a few players who, having picked up knocks at the weekend, will have late fitness tests.

Here's to what should be an exciting and enjoyable match and fingers crossed it's ourselves who will be picking up the three points on offer.

ALEX MILLER

CAPTAIN'S LOG

Well, would you believe it! Brazil - again!! Having said that, there was almost a sense of inevitability as Scotland's name emerged as the first European one out of the hat in Marseilles last Thursday evening, to join Brazil and Morocco in Group A for France '98, with Norway then being picked as the final piece for that particular jigsaw.

If there was ever going to be a tie to capture the imagination of not only the Tartan Army, but further beyond, then Brazil against Scotland to officially open the World Cup is it! Estimates are that there will be a television audience in excess of one billion, which is quite daunting when you actually think of the scale we are talking about here!

And now that the draw has actually been made, what an incentive for all Scottish players to try and catch the eye of Craig Brown between now and the end of the season by showing the kind of form which will make it impossible for the national coach to overlook them. With several of my Pittodrie teammates falling into this category, naturally I am hoping

they will be the ones to do just that!

The game with Brazil will obviously also give us the opportunity to gain some belated revenge for the defeat back in 1990 in Italy and, as one of the few survivors from that occasion, nothing would give me greater pleasure on a personal level. However, like everyone else in with a shout of making the squad, I am well aware I must keep my form at the

highest level possible and that is exactly what I intend to do.

Whilst we know all about the capabilities of the Brazilians, and indeed, Norway, who have several squad members competing down south in the Premiership, Morocco are something of an unknown quantity although you can be sure that come next June, we will be aware of every minute detail pertaining to their team, such is the thoroughness of Craig and his team's preparation.

The hype between now and next summer will, I am sure, be nothing short of monumental and I, for one, am looking forward to every minute of it!

Here's to three points this evening.

JIM LEIGHTON



Trust us to help the game

The Football Trust has been providing support for the game at every level throughout the UK for over 22 years. Its present priority task is to help League clubs to complete the implementation of the Taylor Report recommendations.

The Trust has distributed over £67m of pools derived income for the benefit of Scottish football at all levels. Four new grounds have so far been built and over 50 new and refurbished stands have been made possible thanks to the vital contribution of the Trust and the determination of clubs throughout the Scottish Football League.

Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing CCTV and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators to enjoy. The Government's commitment to the vital work of the Trust will have the support of everyone who cares about the future of our national game.

The Football Trust will continue to support football in Scotland.



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