RAITH ROVERS v DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC Bell's Scottish League Division 1 Monday January 3rd 2000

RAITH ROVERS

Guido VAN DE KAMP
Craig McEWAN
Steven HAMILTON
Marvin ANDREWS
Paul BROWNE
Kenny BLACK
Didier AGATHE
Steven TOSH
Mark ROBERTS
Alex BURNS
Brian HETHERSTON

Greig McCULLOCH Jay STEIN Yannis BEGUE

Referee

A. FREELAND

Assistants

C. MURRAY (Main Stand)

M. MACGREGOR (Railway Stand)

Next match at
Stark's Park
Saturday
January 8th 2000
First Division
v AYR UNITED
Kick off 3pm

DUNFERMLINE ATH.

lan WESTWATER
Hamish FRENCH
Chris McGROARTY
Andy TOD
Brian REID
John POTTER
Justin SKINNER
David MOSS
Stevie CRAWFORD
Owen COYLE
Stewart PETRIE

David GRAHAM Colin NISH Scott THOMSON

211

92

Rovers all-time Leading Goalscorers (all First Team matches)

Willie Penman

Jimmy McEwan

202	Condend D. L. L.	
	Gordon Dalziel	
150	Ernie Copland	
141	Andy Young	
112	Jimmy Gourlay	
112	Tom Jennings	
110	Gordon Wallace	
109	Opponents (og's	
109	Bernie Kelly	
106	Joe Cowan	
104	Gordon Wallace	
96	Keith Wright	

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Today's Fixtures

League Division 1
Airdrie v Falkirk
Clydebank v Ayr United
Livingston v Inverness CT
St Mirren v Morton

League Division 2
Partick Thistle v Hamilton
Ross County v Clyde
Stenhousemuir v Arbroath
Stirling Albion v Alloa
Stranraer v Queen of South

League Division 3
Cowdenbeath v East Fife
East Stirling v Dumbarton
Forfar Athletic v Berwick R.
Montrose v Brechin City
Queen's Park v Albion Rov.

Next Saturday's Fixtures
(January 8th)
Falkirk v Clydebank
Inverness CT v Morton
Livingston v Dunfermline
Raith Rovers v Ayr United
St Mirren v Airdrie

Rovers all-time Leading First Team Appearances

Willie McNaught

Andy Young

497	Donald Urquhar
494	Murray McDerme
488	Andy Leigh
385	Malcolm McLure
371	Gordon Dalziel
367	Johnny Maule
350	Brian Cooper
343	Arthur Cumming
328	Willie Penman
328	Willie Polland
327	Jock McStay
324	Bobby Reid
320	Ronnie Coyle
318	Bobby Stein
316	Matt Hoggan
316	Gordon Wallace











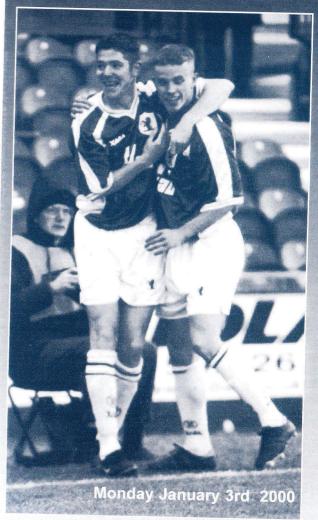


Official Programme £1.50

Bell's Scottish League Division One

RAITH ROVERS -v-DUNFERMLINE ATH.

Stark's Park, Kirkcaldy



kick off 3.00pm

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Pat McAuley

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John Murray

WELCOME to STARK'S PARK

Football fans are not slow to react in anger to

something which displeases them; after all, generations of supporters have

used a Saturday afternoon at the football to release the pent-up frustrations and emotions of a stressful week at work and/or home. Refereeing decisions; players performances; managers tactics and substitutions - all these and many more bring out the alter ego of many a pillar of the community.

Anger is also a means of venting one's frustration over something that is outwith one's control or influence, and there is nothing more uncontrollable than the weather. When that conspires to prevent a fan from watching his football team, then the first reaction is a seething anger, a quite irrational response to the inevitable forces of nature.

That's been the lot of the Rovers fan in recent weeks. Heavy, persistent rain on top of a partially frozen pitch accounted for the Clydebank match at Stark's Park on 11th December; the rain stopped but the frost got worse when the game was called off for a second time three days later, and Jack Frost wreaked his havoc the following Saturday when the match at Livingston was called off - about an hour before the 12.30 kick off time.

It could be a while before we see that match - Livingston's construction works which have seen two of their floodlight pylons dismantled will presumably preclude evening matches from the West Lothian Courier Stadium for some months. At the time of writing, it was hoped to play the Clydebank postponed match on the Tuesday before Christmas, and on the Monday after Santa called we were due to travel to Greenock.

The sublime irony of the first Clydebank postponement was that on a day when torrential rain cancelled every single match in Fife - senior, junior, amateur and juvenile - Greenock was dry and sunny. Can anyone remember the last time we played Morton at Cappielow when it didn't rain? Ironically, when we visited the Tail of the Bank to play Clydebank earlier this season, it was gloriously sunny day, but with three sides of the stadium open to the elements, all of the spectators were confined to the covered main stand. Perhaps the hundred-or-so who watched the game from the car park embankment had the right idea.

You will have noted, from the above, that there has not been very much football to comment upon in recent weeks, and printers' holiday deadlines dictate that this programme had to be printed before the re-arranged Clydebank match and the fixture at Greenock. One thought occurs - has anyone considered a winter shutdown in December? Not only is the weather as bad - if not worse - than January, when the SPL have decided to take four weeks off, but attendances are historically lower as people take to the High Streets on Saturday afternoons, and money is generally tighter. Just a thought. We trust Santa was good to you, and have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.







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AROUND STARK'S PARK

Junior Rovers News

Junior Rovers would like to thank SMITH BROTHERS of Southampton for their considerable support this season. Thanks are also due to DURABLAST LTD of Rosyth 2000 Europarc for their kind support.

80 Junior Rovers members attended their Christmas Party on Sunday 19th December and a good time was had by all. Santa Claus visited and had presents for all the children. Roary was there and Steve Tosh, Marvin Andrews and Guido Van De Kamp all came along to ensure that the boys and girls all had a great time. Junior Rovers would like to thank the following for their kind support of this function:

A.G. BARR, ASDA, McDONALDS, J. SAINSBURY, TESCO, W.H. SMITH and JOHN VALENTE.

Thanks also to Sylvia Forrester and Elaine Duff for their invaluable help on the day.

Today's Mascots

..... are 13 year old Ross Gilby from London, and 11 year old Liam McArthur from Kirkcaldy.

Ask the Anorak

A. King of Gallatown asks: "What was Rovers last match of the 19th Century?"

There is of course a great debate about when the century (and even millennium) starts and finishes. The Victorians celebrated the start of the 20th Century on 1st January 1901, and arithmetically, it is correct to state that the second one thousand years does not end until 31st December 2000.

Notwithstanding these semantics,

the Rovers actually played two "first team" matches on 30th December 1899. The recognised first team was mixed with the reserve eleven (otherwise known as juvenile side Raith Athletic) and half journeyed to Peebles to beat the local team 3-1 in King Cup semi final.

The remainder stayed at home to beat Camelon 6-0 in a Friendly match: Hutchison, Fisher, Bell, Mackie, Drummond and Cowan (penalty) were the scorers.

Next match

The first team are back in action at Stark's Park on Saturday (8th January), when the visitors will be Ayr United on First Division business. Next Saturday is also the scheduled date for the second round of the Tennents Scottish Cup, so we will shortly learn where the Third Round draw takes us (or brings here). The cup ties are scheduled for Saturday January 29th.

Our next away match is at Airdrie, on Saturday January 15th. Full travel details will be given in the Ayr United programme.

Please Get in Touch

We are keen to involve Supporters in the content of the match programme and would welcome your letters, opinions, news (of birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions etc.)

We have a pro-forma for completion by any fans wishing to be included in the Fan Fare feature, and our resident anorak "Auld Bore" will be pleased to answer any queries on any aspect of the club's history.

To contact us, fax on 01592-595069, e-mail on progm@hotmail.com, or write to RRFC Programme, c/o 46 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1TL

We apologise for some of the normal matchday programme features being omitted from today's issue, and for the lack of up-to-date statistics and news. Printer's holidays meant a very early (pre-Christmas) deadline date. Normal service will be resumed with next Saturday's programme

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HALF TIME REPORT

Today's derby is Rovers first home game of the second half of the league season, and once again in the time-honoured tradition, is the perfect excuse to allow programme contributors to make a personal assessment of the other teams in Division 1 of the Bell's Scottish League.

AIRDRIEONIANS The move back home to Airdrie after the exile in Cumbernauld has not worked out entirely as expected in many respects not least the fact that the fans who stopped going when Broomfield closed down have not returned. In December. two successive home matches against Morton and Livingston were called off due to bad weather - and when they were played on the subsequent Tuesday evenings less than 1000 spectators turned up. Off the field, there is much turmoil with mass resignations from the board and the council pressing for promised community facilities as part of the stadium development. On the field there is no consistency and no money to spend on new players, so Gary Mackay will have to hope he is given more than just this season to prove whether he can cut it in management.

AYR UNITED.
Recent results (not withstanding their surprise win over the league leaders) have seen the supporters turn against Gordon Dalziel for the first time since he took over the hot seat from Simon Stainrod (and whatever happened to him?) No club has taken the Bosman ruling and the loan

system to s u c h extremes which has s e e n dozens of players come all over the place cm deals, play a commes down in

from all over the place on short-term deals, play a dozen or so games down in Burns Country and go back to where they came from. At the moment, for example, they are fielding internationalists from the Faroe Islands and a strike force of players from St Johnstone and Aston Villa. After last season's high finish the management may have been better off sticking with the squad and who knows, maybe they would again have been challenging instead struggling - but then again, given the state of Somerset Park would they really have had anything to play for ?

CLYDEBANK. The club has now officially been put up for sale but the future is still uncertain. One glimmer of hope is the talk, justified or not no one can say, that certain parties are interested in taking the club back home on a permanent basis - but as the case of Airdrie has shown, this would be no guarantee of an immediate turnaround in fortunes. It is fairly safe to predict that Clydebank will finish bottom of the table, but I've still got a nagging feeling that somewhere along the line they will do serious damage to the aspirations of those seeking promotion by pulling off a couple of shock victories between now and May - our visitors today still recall with horror the defeat by the doomed Cowdenbeath a few years back which ultimately handed their promotion spot, behind champions Raith Rovers, to Kilmarnock

DUNFERMLINE
ATHLETIC. The departure of
Dick Campbell surprised many.

but perhaps the Directors felt his insistence on a powergame based on aerial ability. set pieces and brute strength wasn't enough to take them back up to the SPL. Rovers fans will today see if the new man in charge has changed anything. The Pars will be there or thereabouts come the end of the season. I don't think however, they will fancy the play-offs for it might be one test too far for a team who have failed in recent times when the pressure is full-on.

FALKIRK. The Bairns played some superb football in the first half of their win over Rovers at Brockville last month and it must be totally frustrating for their fans to watch this knowing that Season 1999/2000 is totally irrelevant given there are no circumstances under which they can be promoted. I've personally run out of sympathy for their plight as the continued lack of investment on the ground has allowed the manager to offer favourable contracts with higher than average wages and bonuses. As an aside, I also hate the fact that Alex Totten always talks up his team after any sort of win even when they have been played off the park. Oh and one other thing, it is thanks to Falkirk FC that a team as poor as Aberdeen FC still have a chance of avoiding relegation - so the best I hope they finish this season is fourth

INVERNESS
CALEDONIAN THISTLE. The
only side whose defence looks
less secure and more
haphazard and accident prone
than our own. Steve Paterson
has stated his main objective
for the season is to consolidate
after last season's promotion,
which they look very likely to
do. Nevertheless, he must
have been very disappointed
at losing out in the final of the

Challenge Cup to Alloa. Recent reports indicated some financial problems as a result of building the new stadium, so it might be that ICT will have to serve a lengthy apprenticeship in the 1st Division before making a serious and concerted effort at becoming the most northerly member of the SPL - assuming Ross County don't make it first, ICT seem to have a bit of a hoodoo sign over St Mirren which hopefully will last in the two remaining league games between the sides

LIVINGSTON. There are some serious money men involved in the New Town club and they are determined to get into the SPL at the earliest opportunity. The media darlings of the division, they lost their way for a spell before a recent mini-revival, but would appear perhaps to be too far off the pace to go up automatically as champions (especially if we can beat them in the re-arranged match postponed a couple of weeks ago). Given the ambition of the board, there is enormous pressure on Ray Stewart to get success this season.

MOPT

days of Cappielow ...

enjoying a good day out are long gone. The Cowshed may sometimes have been cold. but it was still a great place to watch the game, and now that is has been demolished you either have to stand in the open behind the goal (or catch piles from the damp benches) with the alternative being cramped in the corner of the main stand with your knees up at your chin - not forgetting the fact that the local police will do everything in their powers to stop opposition fans enjoying themselves. Yet again, Morton have struggled pre-Xmas, but in the last two seasons the results from January to May have not only kept Billy Stark in a job but raised expectations



Pictured with Alex Burns, the referee and the Inverness Caledonian Thistle 'skipper are 7 year old Robert Hunt and 5 year old Paula Henderson

for the following season. The difference this season however, just might be the recent departure of Frank Connor.

ST MIRREN. Even their own fans are not convinced that they are the best team in the league for many of their eight wins in a row were somewhat on the fortunate side, while the recent

sal to Avr United showed ...w vulnerable they are when hit by injuries and suspensions to key players. Having said that Tom Hendrie seems to be a most able, enthusiastic, determined and so far successful vound manager who will work hard to keep his team going, but the next quarter is going to be crucial. A crunch match might be their visit to Stark's Park on 26 February where we will be out for revenge for the controversial and unjustified defeat we suffered in Paisley.

Overall, there can be no question that this season, Division 1 is

proving to be far more interesting and competitive than the SPL, even despite the fact that St Mirren and Dunfermline are ahead of the others while Clydebank have less points than the driving license of a Man Utd player.

Five clubs still have highly realistic hopes of finishing in the Top 3 from which next season's SPL will draw either directly or via a play-off. Today's game is very important to both the Rovers and the Pars, and not just because it is the first Fife derby of the new century. But come quarter to five, I'm hopeful and indeed confident, that the home side will have taken a further step forward in our bid promotion while simultaneously making a dent in the aspirations of one of our main rivals.

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Dom Migele **Hair Salon**

the semi final. The joy FAN FARE when Brian Potter saved that penalty has to be my favourite Rovers moment ever - even better than the McStav penalty miss. I could have cried."

Steven Lawther is a 29 year

old Research Manager for

the Scottish Tourist Board

in Edinburgh, where he

Glenrothes and "wanted to

support my local team

rather than taking the easy

option of supporting

Rangers. Once I had been

the mascot there was no

turning back - even if we did

lose that game - 4-2 to

Clydebank in 1979. I can't

remember too much of it -

Steven's favourite

Jay Stein

"Aside from the

Rovers player of the past is

'Gordon Dalziel by a mile. A

true striker who scored at

every level with Raith and

had a sense of humour too.

My favourite Rovers player of the present has to be

Craig McEwan because we

deserves great praise for

obvious matches at Ibrox

and Munich, my most

memorable Rovers match is

a close call between the

semi final v Airdrie and the

away game in Akranes. If

have to choose it has to be

his performances

sponsor him!

season.

was only nine!"

He grew up in

Asking a Rovers supporter for their worst moment tends to spoil them for choice. "There have been a few bad ones.' admits Steven. "but watching Raith lose 6-0 to Meadowbank particularly cruel, especially as it came the week after we had beaten Stenhousemuir 9-2!"

Best Goal "Having been born in Belfast, my favourite of all time was Gerry Armstrong's goal against Spain in the 1982 World Cup, Even my Dad who hates football was leaping around the room. Raith wise, it was Martin Nelson v Motherwell in the League Cup.

"I should say Hearts as my favourite away ground, as it's only a ten minute walk from home, but you can't beat Ibrox, with great memories of sneaking a 2-2 draw in 1993, and a certain Cup Final. I've spent most of my years at Stark's Park watching from the Railway stand, but now you can't beat the view from high up in the South Stand."

The newspapers





and magazines have been full of people making their "all time great/ famous/ infamous" selections in recent weeks. Steven selected his best-ever Rovers eleven with some relish.

"In goal I would have Hamish McAlpine, who used to swing on the bar to entertain the supporters, and no doubt himself, when the game was dull. I would have a back four of Donald Urquhart, Jock McStay, David Narey and Shaun Dennis.

"In midfield, it would be Colin Cameron true class - Peter Hetherston and Jimmy Nicholl, and up front I would have Gordon Dalziel, Craig Brewster to score superb goals from outside the box, and Stevie Simpson, an old fashioned winger and entertainer.

"Substitutes would goalkeeper Scott Thomson for that save, the 80's version of Keith Wright, and Jason Dair, who was much criticised but it was his shot that Gordon Marshall fumbled in the 86th minute at Ibrox.

"Don't ask me who would play where - it's basically just a list of my favourite Raith players, obviously a bit biased by recent success. Thanks for the opportunity reminisce!"



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EVERY GAME	
Career lowlight to date SURY	
	Favourite food CHINESE.
Best stadium played in .C.E.L.T. 1 C. PARK	ITALIAN
	What newspapers do you read?
Most difficult opponent faced	SUM PAILY SPORT
PAUL GASSCOINE (CLOSE DOOR)	What was the last book you read?
Best player you have played with	
NORMAN MC WHIRTER (MIRREN)	What would you spend your last tenner on?
Bqyhood footballing hero	LAPBROKES, MILLIE HILL
KENNY DAL	Your ideal day off SAME OF SOL
Tam supported as a boy	
CELTIC	You can go anywhere in the world, where?
Favourite other sport	AUSTRIALIA
	What annoys you?
Most prized possession	DANNY SMITH'S BAP HORE
SCOTLAND U/21 SERSEY'S.	Your most admirable quality
Last CD bought	I'M VERY SHY
STEREOPHONICS	Your autograph, please

DEDCOMMEL DOOF!! F



PAST ENCOUNTERS

Dunfermline
Athletic. In
1905/06, Rovers
eliminated the Pars from both
the Fife Cup and Wemyss
Cup, and a scorer on both
occasions was outside right

John McDonald (pictured on page 9). The Kirkcaldy born right winger was signed in 1901 from Vale of Wemyss and went on to feature in all of Rovers successes over the next six years. He was the subject of what may have been Rovers first-ever transfer fee when he joined Rangers in February 1907. After two

In this first match of the new Millennium, we have

suspended our normal examination past matches, and our regular match action photographs from recent games. and combined the in Millennium Memories feature which covers century matches between Raith Rovers and



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years at Ibrox he joined Liverpool, and then Newcastle United in 1912.

Outside left Fred Gibson was signed by Rovers from his native Sunderland in 1910, and after a season at Stark's Park he spent a year at End End Park, where he won a Scottish Qualifying Cup winners medal (he is pictured on page 9 with the trophy). He returned to Rovers in 1912 and helped them to the 1913 Scottish Cup Final. He moved to Coventry City in 1917.

Rovers first goal against Dunfermline in the 1920's was scored by Tom Jennings, in a Wemyss Cup tie in April 1921. The club's sixth top all-time scorer with 112 goals in 183 games, between 1921 and 1925. Lanarkshire man had seven very successful years at Leeds United. He was, of course, a member of the famous £50,000 forward line of Bell. Miller, Jennings, James and Archibald.

Sandy Archibald returned to Raith Rovers after 16 years of great success with Rangers. He led Rovers to the 1937/38 League Championship and surprisingly resigned as Manager two years later to take over at East End Park. A strong, skillful outside left, Rovers signed him from the Pars in 1916.

On page 25, our Raith v Dunfermline action from the 1940's is from the match at Stark's Park on 1st May 1949. Dunfermline had to win to clinch promotion, but they lost goalkeeper Michie after an early collision with Willie Penman. Two goals apiece for Jim Stirling and Allan Collins resulted in a comfortable 4-0 win for Rovers and the League Championship. 24,000 packed into Stark's Park for the vital match, which, largely to Dunfermline's handicap, was something of an anti-climax.

Rovers and Dunfermline drew 2-2 in a First Division fixture at Stark's Park on 29th September 1956, Ernie Copland scoring twice and McWilliams and Dickson counting for the visitors. The picture on page 25 shows Johnny Urquhart take to the ground in an attempt to score.

five minutes before the end. The attendance for the Second Division match was 2937

Keith Wright shoots for goal against the Pars in August1984, and although he later scored, two goals from Norrie McCathie and one from Grant Jenkins gave Dunfermline the points in a



On the opposite page, Dunfermline goalkeeper Willie Duff dives to turn a Jim Gillespie shot round the post in a New Years Day match at Stark's Park in 1969. Roy Barrie and Gordon Wallace are pictured to the left. A year later, outside left Gillespie had just signed for Dunfermline and scored two and made another for Alex Edwards in a 3-0 Pars win over Rovers at East End Park.

From 1977/78, and Davie Hunter is pictured on page 25 at the end of a mazy run into the Dunfermline penalty area, just failing to beat goalkeeper Hugh Whyte at the near post. The match was played on Christmas Eve and Dunfermline won 1-0,

R o d d y
Georgeson
scoring
against
h i s
former

t e a m

Second Division fixture at Stark's Park. The Raith team was: Alan Blair, Tom Houston, Chris Candlish, Donald Urquhart, Steven Corstorphine, Iain Philip, Paul Smith, Jim Marshall, Craig Robertson, Jim Kerr, Keith Wright. Subs not used were Brian Ritchie and Ian Livingston.

On this page, Craig Brewster, a star scorer for the Rovers over two seasons in the early 1990's, dives to head the ball watched by Dunfermline players Rab Shannon and Davie Moyes, in a First Division fixture in March 1993, won 2-0 by Rovers.

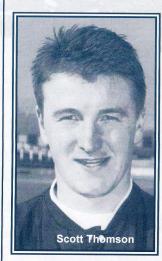
ROVERS V DUNFERMLINE



TOWN TODAY

A run of victories for today's opponents closed the gap at the top of the First Division to just three points prior to last Monday's scheduled meeting of the top two.

Dunfermline's determination to escape this Division was re-



iterated when they explained the reasons for changing their manager earlier this season. and it will be a major surprise if they are not in the promotion/play-off frame come

With Lee Butler's return south of the border. veteran lan Westwater has been re-acquainted with the No.1 jersey. Now 36 years old, he is the veteran of many years service at East End Park, having started with Hearts with only brief spells at Falkirk and Dundee interrupting his Pars career. Scott "Nipper"

Thomson has been battling to overcome an injury over the last few weeks, but the versatile

Aberdonian

team regular

since he left

Stark's Park

under freedom

of contract in

1998. As for

which position

he will play ...

longer term

injury has

interrupted

town team.

Jason is no

Jason Dair's

with his home-

stranger to the

Rovers support.

Dalziel's late

equaliser in

League Cup

Final, before

moving on to

Millwall. He

returned to

Stark's Park

for 18 months

before joining

Dunfermline

for a modest

February last

vear old Chris

McGroarty has

taken over the

No.3 iersev in

the absence of

both Thomson

and Dair. He

second year

with the club

following his

capture from

is in his

fee in

year.

the 1995

graduating from the youth

team to set up Gordon

prolific local nursery Rosyth Recreation

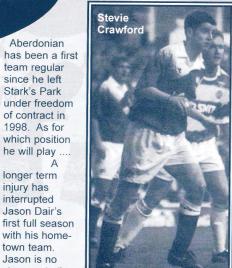
Andy Tod is a former Rovers trialist whom Dunfermline signed from Kelty

Hearts in November 1993. The tall defender popped up in the Inverness Caledonian Thistle penalty area to score an injury time winner a fortnight ago.

Brian Reid returned to Scottish football in the summer after a spell at Burnley. The former Morton player has overcome a serious injury sustained in his spell at Ibrox.

Londoner

Justin Skinner was signed earlier this season from Hibs.



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for whom he signed, pre transfer deadline 1998, from Bristol Rovers

Another recent injury victim has been Eddie May, signed from Motherwell last summer. The versatile defender/midfielder was previously with Hibs and Falkirk.

In midfield the familiar and distinctive figure of Hamish French is entering his ninth year at East End Park. Dundee United plucked him from Highland League Keith, where his manager was former Rovers boss Bobby Wilson.

Jamie Dolan, signed early last year from Dundee United, has been out injured recently. He followed his former Motherwell manager Tommy McLean to Tannadice. and the 30-year-old is a crafty midfield performer.

Former Partick Thistle goalscoring midfield player David Moss was a bigmoney signing from Falkirk earlier this season. The powerful Englishman was a late convert to full time football, and he is a real threat in the opposition penalty box.

John Potter is a locally-reared young player who has featured in the Dunfermline midfield this season. Just turned 20, he was previously on Celtic's



books.

Owen Coyle is a familiar figure in Scottish football. The 33 year old started with Dumbarton, went on to Clydebank and Airdrie before a two year spell in England with Bolton

David

Moss

Wanderers. He returned to Scotland with Dundee United. moved to Motherwell, and then to Dunfermline in March last year. David

Graham was a big money signing from Rangers in November 1998. but he has found goals hard to come by at East End Park. scoring 2 in 14 (plus 7 substitute) League games last season.

Stewart Petrie is a

Unlikely to be seen

long servant with Dunfermline.

signing from Forfar Athletic in

this afternoon is the club's top

scorer in the last two seasons.

Scotland B cap Andy Smith.

who has been out of the first

so far this term. The former

loan at Kilmarnock for the last

few weeks, and Hearts have

also expressed an interesting

Arriving at

Crawford. He burst onto the

Scottish football scene with a

Pars, for Rovers, in 1992/93.

and showed great promise in

debut season in 1993/94. A

Dunfermline on loan is the

familiar figure of Stevie

winning goal against The

a difficult Premier League

in signing him.

Airdrie striker has been on

team picture at East End Park

August 1993. He was top

scorer in his first two full

seasons at the club

year later, he scored the opening goal in the League Cup final, won a winners medal and a second First Division Championship medal. An ill-fated move to

Millwall in the summer of 1996 ended when he signed for

Hibs in July 1997. He could not help the Edinburgh side avoid relegation that season, but he was their top scorer (with 14 goals) as they ran away with the First Division championship last season. Apparently out of Alex McLeish's first team plans, he has spent the last two months on loan to his home-town team, and has recovered much of his old form

and scoring touch. Naturally, the Pars are keen to make his transfer permanent.

Young players on the Pars books who may also make an appearance this afternoon are 19 year old defender Steven Boyle, signed last year from Ratho Colts; 18 year old Colin Nish. another recruit from Rosyth Recreation, and tall striker Chris Templeman. Others who may feature are former Burnley midfielder Richard Huxford, and Steven Hampshire, currently on loan from Chelsea.





DUNFERMLINE -THE STORY SO FAR

In 1874 members of Dunfermline Cricket Club decided they needed some exercise in the winter months and formed a football section. playing out of Ladysmill (now McKane Park). Dunfermline. as they were simply known, became the pre-eminent amateur team in the town until a dispute saw them split with the cricket club in 1885. Dunfermline Athletic Football Club was formed that summer and they moved to East End Park, just to the west of the present day stadium.

The club won the Fife Cup in 1887, but the following year, over rivalry with the surviving Dunfermline F.C. at Ladysmill, Athletic were suspended from the Fife Football Association. Eventually, they turned junior in 1892, but by the turn of the century they were senior again and turned professional.

They joined the Scottish Central League on its foundation in 1909 and won the championship in 1910/11; the Qualifying Cup followed in 1911/12 and they made their debut in the Scottish League Division Two the following season, finishing second to Ayr.

The Scottish
League were in no hurry to reform the Second Division after
the First World War ended,
and impatient Dunfermline
were leading lights in the
formation of the Central
League. Outwith the control
of the Scottish League, the
member clubs were able to
sign players without comp-

ensation. Scottish internationalist Andy Wilson, in dispute with

Middlesbrough, was signed by Dunfermline, and marked his debut with four goals. He was capped for Scotland whilst at East End Park - the last Pars player to play for his country until Willie Cunningham was capped for Northern Ireland in 1961.

The high profile success of the Central League motivated the Scottish League into forming the Second Division in 1921/22 with, for the first time, automatic promotion and relegation.

Dunfermline won the Second Division Championship in 1925/26 and enjoyed a two year spell in the First Division, returning again in 1934, to stay for three seasons.

It took until 1955 for the Pars to return to the First Division, by which time they had played in their first national final - losing 3-0 to East Fife at Hampden in the 1949/50 League Cup Final.

Relegation came two seasons later, but Dunfermline bounced back, only for relegation to loom again in 1958/59. Falkirk and Aberdeen were the other contenders for the second relegation place but Dunfermline secured their status - on goal average - with an improbable 10-1 last-day victory over Partick Thistle.

The club were in deep relegation trouble the following season, but under newly appointed manager Jock Stein, they won their last six League matches - and never looked back.

Their League form in 1960/61 was unremarkable,

but they won the Scottish Cup, beating Celtic after a replay. The following season, they reached the quarter finals of the Cup Winners Cup and soared to fourth in the League, behind Champions Dundee, Rangers and Celtic.

In 1962/63, having lost the first leg of their Fairs Cup tie 4-0 in Valencia, they beat the Spaniards 6-2 at East End Park, only to lose in Lisbon in a play-off. The following season they finished fifth in the League and reached the Scottish Cup semi final, a feat they repeated the following season, when they were third in the League - only one point behind Kilmarnock, who won the League on goal average over Hearts.

Under Willie Cunningham's management, they reached the Fairs Cup quarter finals in 1965/66, were fourth in the League and a year later they were beaten by a late Billy McNeill goal in the Scottish Cup Final. In 1967/68 they returned to Hampden, under former Rovers manager George Farm, and beat Hearts in the Scottish Cup Final. The following season, they reached the semi finals of the Cup Winners Cup.

A decade of virtually constant European competition came to an end in 1969/70, and in 1971/72 Dunfermline were relegated. Most of the 1970's and early 1980's were spent in the lower leagues, although the last decade has seen the club occilate between the First and Premier Divisions. Their latest spell in the top League ended last season, and they are making a concerted effort to return to the SPL at the end of the current campaign.



We are quite envious of those clubs who have cartoonists contributing to their matchday programmes (if anyone out there would like to give it a bash, please get in touch) so we knicked this one from an old programme!

The Reserves and Youth teams have been quite inactive in recent weeks due to the inclement weather, so there is little fresh to report. Supporters will have noticed that home reserve matches are once again being played at Stark's Park, despite early season arrangements to use





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ACROSS THE AIRWAVES

Well here we are again, a new year, a new decade, a new century, a new linoleum (well - it is Kirkcaldy you know) and hope above hope that we're in the Premier League by the start of next season and that we've won a major European trophy by the year 3000. Okay, you may accuse me of partaking in too much of the amber nectar over the past week or so but you cannot deny that for most people New Year is the time to put all the excesses and gloom of old behind and start afresh.

That was the way I felt last January when travelling to Easter Road for the 'derby' clash against Hibs. Roughly 15 seconds of the game had passed before I realised that 1999 would be one hell of a year for followers of the once mighty Rovers.

That day I had to sit beside the sportswriters of the nation's press including two scribes who wrote for a well-known Edinburgh broadsheet. We'd hardly sat down when the first goal went in. casually noted the scorer and the time. The second goal didn't take much longer. This time I put my head in my hands slightly and carried on writing. When the third hit the back of the net I slammed my pencil down and shouted exactly where the team selection was going wrong.

This was then the cue for the Edinburgh reporters to have a field day at my expense. For the rest of the match they never missed a trick. "Oh look it can't be all bad for

Raith..they've got a throw" was just one of

the jibes that was aimed in my direction and there were a lot more unprintable ones. At least they enjoyed themselves.

Leaving Leith after that 5-1gubbing sobered me up completely and made sure that I wouldn't enjoy any party I was due to attend for the foreseeable future. The reason - Among my circle of friends are one or two Dunfermline Athletic supporters who also love it when the Rovers are going through a crisis. I'm an easy target. My message to them is remember January 1983, remember lan Ballantyne and remember a 6-0 Rovers win at Stark's Park. I don't know about Cliff Richard but my Millennium Prayer is to start 2000 off with a hefty win against our West Fife neighbours, if only to make my New Year parties more enjoyable, not to mention my return to work where also it is infested with Pars fans.

As for 1999 it didn't get any better. Knocked out of the Scottish Cup by Clyde (a team of ex-Juniors) by four goals to nil was embarrassing. The club was skint and knackered.

In the past twelve months the club has clawed its way back from the brink of the abyss. Two managers have left the club and now Peter Hetherston, one of the most popular Rovers' of the nineties is in charge. Add to that a succession of people who have come and gone behind the scenes to try to steady the ship. Many theories have been put forward as to why

forward as to why the club has got to the position it is in now.

There

were theories why we almost went bust earlier in the year. Some of them hold many grains of truth while others are completely wide of the mark.

And so we look to the future. There are those among us who didn't think that Rovers would have been around to celebrate the dawning of the third millennium. But here we are. Let's put the baggage of the last few years behind us and get behind the team and all those who are working to ensure that the club has a future. Keep thinking about John McVeigh. Regardless of the reasons for his departure he picked the club up in the summer, cleaned it out and turned it around. We maybe weren't playing well latterly but there's no denying we were picking up points from matches that last year would definitely have been lost. We've a lot to thank John for.

Now it's Silky's turn. Get behind him and give him every help and encouragement. Be vociferous in your support and do your bit to ensure Raith Rovers are a club to be proud of. Be positive and remember this. You need only look to Jay Stein to see how much a player can improve with the right encouragement.

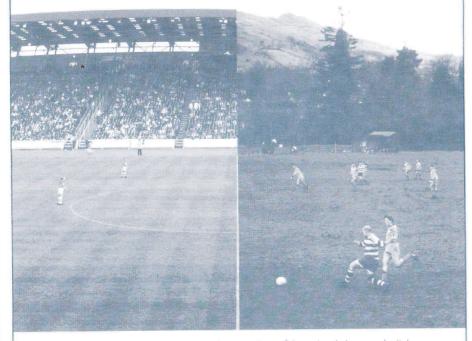
Finally may I wish all readers of the match programme and all supporters, players and officials of Raith Rovers F.C. a very happy and prosperous 2000.

Oh and Happy New Year to Dunfermline Athletic too.

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Today sees the 35th first team fixture to be played by Rovers on 3rd January, starting in 1885, when we won a Friendly match at Robbie's Park against the 2nd Blues of Wemvss.

The last of the century, in 1998, was a 1-1 draw against Dundee, Kelly scoring an own goal for Rovers just before the interval and Anderson equalising two minutes after the re-start. 5.241 was a remarkably good crowd given the driving rain which marred the afternoon.

Before we pick out some of the holiday fixtures from the past. today is the birthday of three players to wear the dark blue in recent seasons. Stevie Kirk was born on 3rd January 1963; Jason Rowbotham, now back at Plymouth Argyle, was born six years later and never let it be forgotten that Jason scored the winning penalty in the 1995 League Cup Final - and Craig Dargo is 22 today.

Rovers, and their late 19th century rivals Kirkcaldy Wanderers, endeavoured throughout the 1890's to attract either top Scottish or visiting English teams to the Lang Toun over the New Year Holidays.

On 3rd January 1895 Rovers played Sheffield United at Stark's Park, and lost 4-2. By 1903, we were in the Scottish League and the date was filled by a League fixture - on that occasion a 2-0 defeat at Hamilton.

Dunfermline and Rovers did not get together on this date until 1942, when the Pars won a war-time North Eastern League match 3-2 at East End Park. Hunter. Smeaton and Kinnear scored for the home side. **Jackie Stewart and Willie** Hurrell for Rovers.

The only other time Dunfermline have been played on this date was in 1989, when 8981 saw a 3-1 Pars victory at East End Park. Ross Jack opened the scoring in 16 minutes but Gordon Dalziel equalised 20 minutes later. An Alex Brash own goal put the Pars ahead three minutes after the re-start and Trevor Smith completed the scoring in 66 minutes.

At least Rovers avoided the ignominy of the 1966 result - an 8-0 home defeat by Airdrie. **Dave Marshall and Tommy** Murray (later to play for Rovers) each scored a hattrick, with Ferguson and Phillips scoring one each against a Rovers side which lined up: Bobby Reid, Tommy McKeown, Alex Gray, Bobby Stein, Bobby Evans, lan Porterfield, Terry Christie, Pat Gardner, Jocky Richardson, George Lyall and Willie McLean. There have been worse Rovers elevens than that one in the last century!

3rd January has not been the happiest of dates for Rovers, winning only 2 of the 14 post war League fixture on that date. The first came in the

promotion season of 1948/49, when a Tommy Brady hat-trick in front of 12,000 at Stark's Park saw a 3-0 win over Hamilton Accies.

The last came in 1976, another 3-0 win, this time at Stenhousemuir with two goals from Gordon Wallace and one from John Hislop on the road to another promotion. Could a win today be a similar omen, particularly as the last pre-war victory came in another promotion season, 1937/38, when two goals from Norrie Haywood and one from Francis Joyner gave a 3-2 win at Airdrie.

Amongst the post-war misery were successive defeats at Falkirk, 1-0 (Oliver) in 1981 and 2-0 (Houston and Herd) two years later: a numbing 3-1 defeat at Albion Rovers in 1972, in front of just 500 spectators, when Gordon Wallace scored our goal in 3-1 defeat : 3-0 at Hibs in 1970 (crowd, just 5,000) goals from Johnny Graham and Peter Cormack.

The Clydebank programme told of the 3-2 defeat at Kilbowie in 1967. and in 1959 Curlett and Bonthrone scored as we lost 2-0 at Dens Park. Four years earlier it was 4-1 at Celtic Park, with Bobby Evans opening the scoring (having a happier day than 11 years later) followed by Bobby Collins, Frank Walsh and Charlie Tully. Andy Young scored our goal against his former club.

It was Celtic Park on 3rd January 1950. although a Joe McLaughlin goal (again, against his former club) gave us a 1-1 draw in front of 20,000 spectators.

INPROFILE

Birthday boy Craig Dargo - who is 22 years of age today - has had a stop-start season, with illness at the start of the campaign, then a return to playing which saw him average nearly a goal-a-game, and then the bad injury sustained against Livingston.

"Didier Agathe and I were beginning to build an understanding just before I was injured, although it was difficult in his early games because he didn't speak much English. He has been taking English lessons, and now speaks the language very well.

"I don't know whether we will be reforming the front partnership when I get back into the team again, because he has been speaking up for himself and says he prefers his old position wide on the right, coming from a deeper position. I don't known what the manager will do.

"If my front partner is Alex Burns instead, that is no problem either, because I very much admire him as a

player, and would like to play off him. Toastie likes to drop a bit deeper, and then turn and face the goal so it could be an interesting contrast in styles when I get back in the team."

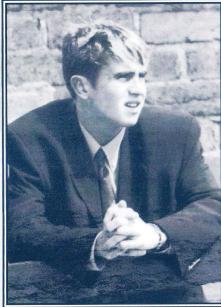
Craig made his first team debut as a substitute in the last League match of 1995/96 season at Celtic Park. "That was quite an game - I was sitting in the Player's Lounge waiting to be told that the bus was leaving, and no one came in for me. I had to get the train home! My next game was at the start of the following season, when I came on as a substitute at Ibrox.

"I have been happy with my five years at Raith Rovers, although last season

was a bit of a disappointment. It wasn't nice to be near the bottom of the league, and I can assure supporters that the players feel as bad about it as the fans. Far better to be at the right end of the table, as we are this season, when the place is buzzing again.

"The season before that was enjoyable, when we finished third and had a good Cup win at Easter Road - coming from a family of Hibees that was particularly enjoyable. I think I played quite well that day, and should have scored - mine you I am claiming one of John Miller's goal, as I insist I got the last touch. We really gave them a hammering that day - we

missed four times as many chances as we scored - and it was great to stuff their prematch predictions down the throats of friends, family and neighbours. It also showed that we could raise our game



experience, as Celtic Park was nearing completion and they had their biggest crowd of the season. It was some atmosphere, and it made me feel good. Mind you, they forgot all about me after the

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QA

Full Name:

Craig Peter Dargo Date of Birth : 3/1/78 <u>Previo</u>us clubs :

> Motherwell Boys Club Under 16s, Links United (Under 18s)

Representative honours:
Ten Scotland Under 21
caps, three goals scored in
five starts.
Birthplace/Lives:

Edinburgh
Girlfriend: Kelly
Last film watched:

Scarface, with Al Pacino
Last book read: I don't
read books!
Last Holiday: Greek
Islands
Newspapers Read: Sun
and the Record

Rovers career: Signed 11th October 1995 from Links United; 95/6 1 sub League; 96/7 1 + 4 subs League; 97/8 21 + 6 subs League, 2 Cup, 8 League goals; 98/9 21 + 1 sub League, 1 Cup, 8 League goals. First goal in 3-1 win at Morton on4th

when we wanted to

"This season I think we have a great chance, and everyone at the club thinks the same. Ideally we want to win the League, but if we can't manage that we certainly want to be in a play-off position."

Craig scored twice in the last home match against Dunfermline, a game he naturally enjoyed. "I always seem to do well against Dunfermline, whether for the first team, in Fife Cup ties or in the reserves. I was really looking for a hat-trick back in September, but a

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great save by Ian Westwater meant a 2-2 draw. Hopefully I'll keep it for the next game at home."

Three goals in five starts with the Scotland Under 21s have given the young Edinburgh striker a taste for international football, and he shared the disappointment of many at the club that he was not included in the Under 21 squad this season.

"I was scoring goals just about every week, and I thought that if you were doing well you would get picked, but it was not to be. I got off to my best-ever start to a season, and I was nearly top goalscorer in the League, but still didn't get picked so I will just have to get on with it and knuckle down. If I keep on scoring goals, that's the best way to answer any critics.

"I scored eight goals in each of the last two seasons, and at the start of this one I set myself a personal target of doubling that, so I am hoping to score at least 16 this season. I'm itching to get back into action, as you can imagine.

"The last few weeks have been soul-destroying, not being able to play. No

disrespect to the physio, who has been great with me, but it's not the same turning up every morning and not training, missing out on the patter with the rest of the boys. You see them coming back after training, and they're all muddy and soaking wet and chatting about things that happened during the training. You feel like a leper when you're not involved in that. It's such a great feeling to come back and get involved in training again.

"I was so keen to get involved again that I was concussed on my first day back in training! I was flinging myself into everything and got hit on the top of the head by a rocket shot. Last season when I came back from injury, I hit the bar in the first minute against Falkirk, and then scored one in the top corner later on. I'm hoping for a similar return this time."



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