

MATCHDAY



MANAGER DANNY SMITH GIVES US HIS THOUGHTS **AIDAN KEMP INTERVIEW: MIDFIELDER DISCUSSES THE SEASON SO FAR**



OPPOSITION PREVIEW: HADDINGTON ATHLETIC

THE EX-PACE PLAYER WHO HAD PELE IN HIS BACK POCKET

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WESTFIELD PARK
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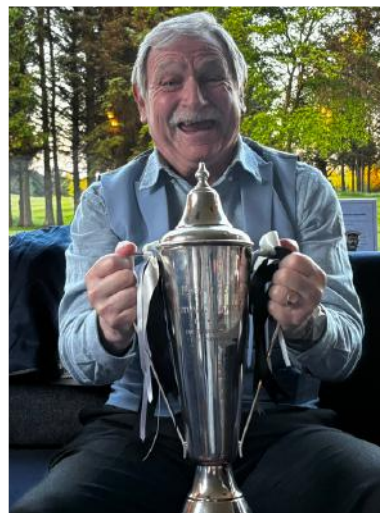
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LOC HIRE

THE GAFFER

Manager Danny Smith gives his view ahead of this afternoon's Premier Division clash with Haddington Athletic

Welcome back to Westfield for the third of three consecutive home games - and our last before Christmas - as we welcome Haddington Athletic to Denny.

Today should prove to be another tough test against a side with their sights set on silverware this season, and it's one we're looking forward to as we approach the halfway point in the season.

Haddington are a side we've come up against a number of times since moving to the EoSFL, however, it's been three years since we last met and hopefully, we can come away with three points to maintain our place in the top half of the table.

With three tough away games to come for us before we return home to face Sauchie in December, it would be fantastic if we can end this run of home fixtures with a win and make it seven points from nine.

It won't be easy though and there's absolutely no doubt that we need to right at it if we are to take anything from the game, with Haddington looking for an important win that would push them a little bit closer to the sides challenging for the title and a potential promotion to the Lowland League.

Last weekend's 2-2 draw with Dundonald Bluebell looks like a result that, on paper, we should maybe be a wee bit disappointed with having conceded twice within a few minutes of our own goals - but the truth is we could have ended up coming away from that with nothing at all so we're fairly happy with the outcome; Dundonald will probably feel they could have taken the win themselves and I wouldn't necessarily disagree with them either.

That games in the history books now and our focus is very firmly on today and getting three points and putting in the sort of performance we're capable of, regardless of opposition, and maintaining our excellent home record in the league.



After a couple of good nights of training this week, we're continuing to get bodies back fit with Sam Colley and Logan Downie both closing in on a return to action after spells on the sidelines through injury - with the others like Morgan Galloway, David Kane and Tristan McArtur working hard to get themselves back in contention for selection.

The addition of Kyle Ewing and Warren Paterson in recent weeks to the squad has given a little bit of breathing space to the guys who are injured to make sure they are properly ready to go and aren't rushing themselves back - potentially risking more long-term damage - and their performances since arriving have impressed.

Both look like they've been here for years and have very quickly settled into the side and can help push the standards here even higher.

All that's left to say is thanks again for your support today and, hopefully, we can send you all home happy.

WE GO AGAIN!



AIDAN KEMP

PACE MIDFIELDER REFLECTS ON THE SEASON SO FAR AHEAD OF TODAY'S HADDINGTON CLASH

Dunipace midfielder Aidan Kemp has had an impressive start to the season with a string of eye-catching performances in black & white and is confident the opening half of the campaign can be a great platform to build from going into the rest of the Premier Division season.

Kemp put in a man-of-the-match showing against Dunbar United two weeks ago and the all-action midfielder is looking to translate our home form into wins away from Westfield.

This weekend, Kemp will likely take his usual berth in the Pace number 10 jersey as we welcome Haddington Athletic to Denny looking for another vital three points in our maiden Premier Division challenge.

With only one league defeat at Westfield in the last 18 months, home has become something of a fortress for Danny Smith's side and Kemp wants to keep that going this afternoon against the Hi-Hi's and keep within touching distance of the sides at the top of the table.

Speaking earlier this week, Kemp hailed the 'incredible' home form over the last 18 months but wants to pick up more points away from home, saying: "Obviously, you want to take care of your home games. I think there's a real confidence around the club, because the last 18 months, our record at home's been incredible.

"I think we really believe in ourselves. I think these away games that can become a bit more of a battle. It's kind of the games are stop, start; it's back to front; it's always winning flick ons and killing the game are a bit more of a challenge for us. Away from home, I think we could definitely be better.

"Our home form has been absolutely outstanding, but I think we need to build on that away from kind of moving forward. Because if you can take we take we do, as you've seen, we do take care of our home games. But I think for us to kick on, I think we really need to start getting more points away from Westfield."

While Kemp maybe doesn't quite get the focus that others in the squad do, despite the importance of what he does on the park, he's happy to keep flying under the radar a little, adding: "These games suit me, I think, because when teams come here and try to play, we get a little joy at them, and usually I'm the one that will set the trigger for the press.

"I usually like these sorts of games, because I feel like the players and the team kind of feed off my energy sometimes, and I just kind of look to keep getting going and getting better every week."

While there's been some turnover in personnel lately, Aidan has been impressed with new faces like Kyle Ewing, Warren Paterson and Ewan Sutherland, and thinks they have quickly bought in to what Danny Smith is trying to do as well as contributing to the positive atmosphere around the squad and the club in general.

“ I think there's a real confidence around the club, because the last 18 months, our record at home's been incredible. ”

With the season approaching the halfway point, Kemp is happy with the club's position in the table

After winning promotion last season, it was always going to be a tough challenge stepping up a division; every team can beat each other and you can see that from some of the results.

"If we're being realistic, I think we're doing pretty well. Again, as I said, anyone can beat anyone in this league so I think where we're sitting in the tables probably quite fair.

"Some results maybe haven't gone our way but we see we've shown that we can compete with the teams at the upper end of the table. We've beaten Musselburgh and Dunbar, who were both in amongst it last season so I think it's been a pretty good start to our first season at this level."

"I think Danny said that a lot; the guys he brings in, he wants to create a kind of a good kind of feel about the place. And I think the character of the boys is really, really good.

"I think there's a good camaraderie in the group, especially coming to the Tuesday, Thursday nights when the weather and stuff gets a bit colder.

"I think it's a good time to be at the club. Boys are looking forward to coming to training. Numbers are good at training. So again, that just speaks for itself in terms of where the clubs at and these boys are good on the park as well, which is important as well."

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V



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2PM**



LOC HIRE

HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. Who won the first UEFA Champions League in 1992/93 following the rebranding from the European Cup?
2. Who became the first player to win the UEFA Champions League with three different clubs?
3. Who became the youngest player to score a UEFA Champions League hat-trick in October 1995?
4. Chelsea won the UEFA Champions League in the 2011/2012 season, who started that season as their manager?
5. In which city did Manchester City beat Inter to win the UEFA Champions League?
6. Which Spanish team lost consecutive UEFA Champions League finals at the start of the new millennium?
7. Who did Manchester United play in Sir Alex Ferguson's final UEFA Champions League game as manager?
8. Who became the first club to play in the UEFA Champions League having never previously won their own domestic league?
9. Which player has played for seven different clubs in the UEFA Champions League but has never won it?
10. Which player was sent off in the 2016/2017 UEFA Champions League final?
11. Who were the last team to win the Scottish Premiership before Celtic and Rangers?
12. Which lower league side did Celtic lose to when Roy Keane made his debut for the club?
13. Who scored Scotland's last goal at a World Cup?
14. Which former Premier League player is the record signing in Scottish Premiership history?
15. Which Scottish manager led Derby County to promotion to the Premier League in 2007?
16. Which team did Graeme Souness manage in the Turkish Super Lig?
17. Which Scottish club won two trophies in the 2020/21 season?
18. Who scored the winning goal for Scotland when they won away at France in a Euro 2008 qualifier in September 2007?
19. Which Russian team beat Rangers in the 2008 UEFA Cup final?
20. Which club did Caroline Weir sign for in 2022?
21. True or False? Paris Saint-Germain have won the most Ligue 1 titles.
22. True or False? Arsene Wenger has managed the most games in the Premier League.
23. True or False? Brazil have won the Copa America more than any other nation.
24. True or False? Egypt have won the Africa Cup of Nations more than any other nation.
25. True or False? The Mazuma Mobile Stadium is the home of Colchester United.
26. True or False? Gareth Bale is the most capped player in Wales' history.
27. True or False? Chelsea were the winners of the first FA Cup final at the new Wembley.
28. True or False? Robert Lewandowski is the top goalscorer in Bundesliga history.
29. True or False? Lee Carsley has played at a World Cup.
30. True or False? A goalkeeper has previously won the Ballon d'Or.

1 Marseille, 2 Clarence Seedorf, 3 Raul, 4 Andre Villas-Boas, 5 Istanbul, 6 Valencia, 7 Real Madrid, 8 Bayer Leverkusen, 9 Zlatan Ibrahimovic, 10 Juan Cuadrado, 11 Aberdeen, 12 Clyde, 13 Craig Burley, 14 Tore Andre Flo, 15 Billy Davies, 16 Galatasaray, 17 St Johnstone, 18 James McFadden, 19 Zenit St Petersburg, 20 Real Madrid, 21 True, 22 True, 23 False, 24 True, 25 False, 26 True, 27 True, 28 False, 29 True, 30 True.

OPPOSITION PREVIEW

Today sees Haddington Athletic make the trip from East Lothian to Denny as they visit on league duty for the first time since 2021.

The Hi-Hi's have been familiar foes since both clubs left the Junior ranks to join the East of Scotland Football League in 2018 and we look forward to renewing our on-field rivalry with them.

Scott Bonar's finished last season in eighth place in the Premier Division but did get their hands on some silverware, picking up the EoS League Cup with a win over Sauchie at Westfield back in June.

The summer saw several new arrivals at Millfield, with Luke Kennedy, Ben Bathgate, Grant Rose and Craig Reid arriving at the club as they looked to build on last season's mid-table finish.

This season, Haddington have had something of a difficult start, with their manager recently opening up on recent results, including a 2-2 draw with St Andrews United having been 2-0 up in the closing stages.

"We've had a right hard start to the season with the teams we have played," said Bonar. "The only disappointment was against St Andrews when we were 2-0 up with about 18 minutes to go and we were comfortable, then they scored a wonder goal out of nothing, and you could just sense that another goal was coming.

"It was game which we were more than capable of getting three points out of, so it felt like we had thrown three points away a little bit.

"If we can compete in the top half then we are doing well. Just to stay in this league is an achievement for Haddington, because it's a hard league. It's just about managing expectations, when we do lose games it's disappointing but don't get too down."

Currently, Haddington sit three points ahead of Dunipace in the league table, drawing 1-1 with Whitburn in their last game, in somewhat controversial fashion, having suffered a 4-1 defeat the week before at the hands of Robbie Raeside's Hill of Beath Hawthorn.



FACTFILE

YEAR FOUNDED - 1939
MANAGER - Scott Bonar
HOME GROUND - Millfield
LAST SEASON - 8th in Premier Division



Honours

East Of Scotland Football League First Division Conference A champions: 2021/22

East Of Scotland League Cup winners: 2023/24

East Region South Division champions: 2014/15

Lothians District League Division Two winners: 1998/99

Edinburgh & District League champions: 1956/57

East of Scotland Junior Cup winners: 1940/41, 1956/57, 1972/73

Fife and Lothians Cup winners: 1940

Brown Cup winners: 1958/59

Thornton Shield winners: 1939/40, 1940/41, 1946/47

St Michaels Cup winners: 1949/50, 1958/59

Laidlaw Cup winners: 1978/79

FIXTURES & RESULTS

All dates and times subject to change

July 27	St Andrews United	H	Premier Division	2-0	Nov 9	Haddington Athletic	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
July 30	Oakley United	A	EOS Qualifying Cup	1-3	Nov 23	Whitburn	A	Premier Division	2.00pm
Aug 3	Penicuik Athletic	A	Premier Division	1-3	Dec 7	Hill of Beath Hawthorn	A	Premier Division	2.30pm
Aug 7	Jeanfield Swifts	A	Premier Division	0-3	Dec 14	Dunbar United	A	Premier Division	2.30pm
Aug 10	Musselburgh Athletic	H	Premier Division	3-2	Dec 28	Sauchie	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
Aug 13	Glenrothes	A	Premier Division	2-4	Jan 4	Luncarty	A	Premier Division	2.00pm
Aug 24	Luncarty	H	Premier Division	2-0	Jan 11	Jeanfield Swifts	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
Aug 31	Burntisland Shipyard	A	Scottish Cup	1-2	Jan 25	Glenrothes	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
Sep 4	Hill of Beath Hawthorn	H	Premier Division	0-5	Feb 8	Penicuik Athletic	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
Sep 7	Letham	A	Scottish Junior Cup	1-2	Feb 15	St Andrews United	A	Premier Division	2.30pm
Sep 11	Sauchie	A	Premier Division	0-3	Feb 22	Tynecastle	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
Sep 14	Albion Rovers	A	South Challenge Cup	1-2 ET	Mar 15	Musselburgh Athletic	A	Premier Division	2.30pm
Sep 21	Tynecastle	A	Premier Division	1-0	Apr 4	Hutchison Vale	A	Premier Division	7.45pm
Oct 5	Hutchison Vale	H	Premier Division	5-0	Apr 12	Edinburgh Uni	H	Premier Division	2.30pm
Oct 19	Edinburgh Uni	A	Premier Division	1-1	Apr 26	Dundonald Bluebell	A	Premier Division	2.30pm
Oct 26	Dunbar United	H	Premier Division	4-1	May 3	Haddington Athletic	A	Premier Division	2.30pm
Nov 2	Dundonald Bluebell	H	Premier Division	2-2	May 10	Whitburn	H	Premier Division	2.30pm



FIXTURES

HILL OF BEATH HAWTHORN	V	MUSSELBURGH ATHLETIC
GLENROTHES	V	LUNCARTY
WHITBURN	V	HADDINGTON ATHLETIC
DUNIPACE	V	DUNDONALD BLUEBELL
JEANFIELD SWIFTS	V	HUTCHISON VALE
PENICUIK ATHLETIC	V	EDINBURGH UNI
SAUCHIE	V	DUNBAR UNITED
ST ANDREWS UNITED	V	TYNECASTLE

TOP GOALSCORERS

ALL COMPETITIONS

CONOR KELLY - 6
MARTIN FRANCE - 5
KAI WILSON - 4
JOE MCGUCKIN - 2
EWAN SUTHERLAND - 2
JORDAN HERRON - 2
KIERAN ANDERSON - 2
AIDAN KEMP - 1
RYAN FLEMING - 1
DYLAN TENNANT - 1
KYLE EWING - 1



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THE EX-PACE PLAYER WHO POCKETED PELE

There aren't many Scottish players who can say they came up against a certain Brazilian icon named Pele, and even fewer who can say they kept him in their back pocket - but for one ex-Dunipace player, that claim became a reality.

Ronnie MacKinnon, who would go on to make over 450 appearances for Rangers and earn 28 Scotland caps having played for the Pace early in his career, would line up opposite the man born Edson Arantes do Nascimento when Scotland hosted Brazil in 1966, in a warm-up game for that year's World Cup.

The game would end in a 1-1 draw, Celtic legend Stevie Chalmers opening the scoring in the first minute before being pegged back thanks to Servilio's 15th-minute goal.

Having been on the receiving end of some typical Billy Bremner challenges, the game would spawn an iconic photograph showing Pele pleading with MacKinnon - arms outstretched - for some respite from the physical Scots.

However, it doesn't tell the whole story as Scotland would have their own mercurial genius playing that day - and he was even given the number 10 jersey rather than his usual 6 as a special nod to his own talent - Jim Baxter.

Prior to his death last year, MacKinnon would discuss that afternoon, calling it a 'privilege' to share the pitch with the deified Brazilian, but insisted it was the number 10 wearing Dark Blue that was the 'stand-out player' that day.

"It was a rare privilege to share a pitch with the great Pele. But we were of a generation that showed no fear. Indeed, it was one of our own, the incredible Jim Baxter, who was the stand-out player on the park.

"I said to Jim, we're up against Pele, the best player in the world tomorrow. He looked up from the horse racing pages of the newspaper and said: 'Who's Pele?' It was typical of Jim, and sure enough he went out the following day and created the headlines."

Incredibly, that wasn't the high point of his international career, starting in 1967 as Scotland humbled World Champions England at Wembley - with Scotland managed by Denny native Bobby Brown, adding another local link.



Ronnie's move to Rangers came about having been watched by chance playing for the Pace against Renfrew.

Speaking about his move to Ibrox from Carronbank prior to his passing last year, MacKinnon said: "I was Rangers daft and always wanted to play for them. I dreamt it would happen but never thought it would.

"I had the luck to be playing for a junior team one day and I had a good game. I came into the dressing room after the game, it was at Renfrew Juniors stadium, and they wanted to sign me.

"I went home and the phone went, my mum answered and was all flustered. She told me it was Scot Symon on the phone and I couldn't believe it!

"I had never seen my mother so happy and I found it hard to sleep that night.

"The next day I went to Ibrox with my dad and was told Mr Symon was waiting for me.

"It was like winning the lottery. I walked in to training and there were all my heroes. I couldn't believe it; I thought I was dreaming."

Ultimately, he would go on and win two Scottish League championships, four Scottish Cups and three League Cups at Ranger but would miss the 1972 European Cup Winners' Cup triumph in Barcelona with a broken leg suffered earlier in the competition that would force a premature end to his professional career.

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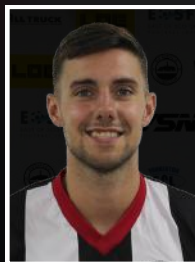
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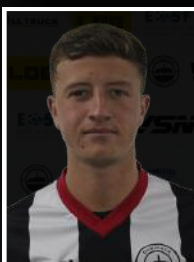
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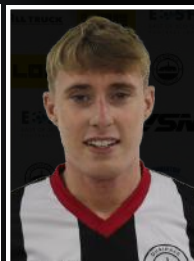


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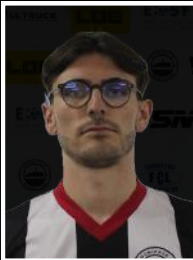
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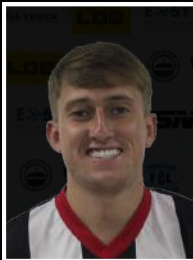


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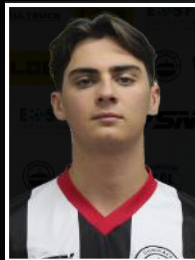
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MANAGER:
DANNY SMITH



MANAGER:
SCOTT BONAR

DAVID KANE
LEWIS MCMINN
ADAM YOUNG
MORGAN GALLOWAY
LOGAN DOWNIE
TRISTAN MCARTHUR
KYLE EWING
AIDAN MCKEOWN
KYLE TURNBULL
AARON WHITELAW
WILL GREENHORN
WARREN PATERSON
AIDAN KEMP
JORDAN HERRON
JOE MCGUCKIN
DYLAN TENNANT
LIAM CRAIG
GRANT DICKIE
RYAN FLEMING
AIDEN MCAVOY
SAM COLLEY
MARTIN FRANCE
EWAN SUTHERLAND
KIERAN ANDERSON
CONOR KELLY
KAI WILSON

CAMPBELL MCLELLAN
ROBBIE STIRLING
BEN BATHGATE
NICK AITCISON
TOM DAVIES
ROSS KING
LUKE KENNEDY
LUCAS MCGARRY
MARK MCGOVERN
WILSON NGOMO
ROBBIE PEFFERS
CRAIG REID
COREY ROBERTSON
MIKEY ROBERTSON
GRANT ROSE
KEIR RUSSELL
SEAMUS RUSSELL
ALI SIMPSON
JOE TAIT
GARY WINDRAM
RILEY HASTON

Match Officials:

Referee - Brent Falconer

AR1 - Cameron Doyle

AR2 - Darren Robertson

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