

HIGHLAND LEAGUE

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 1999



Keith fire title warning

HUNTLY.....4
NAIRN COUNTY.....0
CHAMPIONS Huntly drew level on points with Peterhead at the top of the Press and Journal Highland League with a hard-earned victory over a youthful Nairn County outfit, who played bravely for caretaker manager John Tosh.

hand over the Strathgobio outfit, Huntly boss John Gardner feels his side are right back in the hunt to retain their title.
"We need to keep on winning every game and hope that Peterhead slip along the way, but there is a awful lot of football still to be played," said Gardner.

side than at the start of the season. They did extremely well but missed a few chances in the first half.
Nairn held out until a minute from the interval when central defender Andy Paterson scored the first of his two goals, getting on the end of a Wayne Adcock free kick to give Kenny Wood in the Strathgobio goal no chance.

before Paterson slammed home a beauty from the edge of the box.
Eddie Wolcki hammered in another Adcock cross with seven minutes left on the clock for Huntly's fourth corner.

level of performance the senior scouts will take a look at him," said Tosh.
He added: "I now feel that our goalkeeper and back four are playing the way I want them to but I've still got to sort out our midfield and strikers."

Veteran scorers scores for 16 years on

BUCKIE THISTLE.....2
WICK ACADEMY.....2
by Dave Edwards
VETERAN Buckie central defender Alan Forbes scored the points with a 74th-minute bullet headed 16 years after his last goal for the Jags.

although Jags keeper Dunbar brilliantly blocked Martin Gunn's spot-kick, the midfielder followed up to score the ball home at the second attempt.
Forbes' header denied Academy boss Peter Budge his first point since taking over from John Black 11 games ago.

before he was replaced by Alan Mackenzie.
Budge said: "The first goal was a bad one to lose as we lost possession from a throw-in and we didn't pick up the lad at the back post. The winner came from a free header and that should never happen. We really should have equalised when substitute Derek Shearer was through one on one with the keeper."

Wood performed heroics in the County goal to keep Huntly at bay and Tosh predicts a bright future for the 22-year-old.
"I honestly feel that young Kenny can go a lot further in the game. If he keeps up this

level of performance the senior scouts will take a look at him," said Tosh.
He added: "I now feel that our goalkeeper and back four are playing the way I want them to but I've still got to sort out our midfield and strikers."

danger at set-pieces with his strength in the air. I'm more relieved that we got all three points, having squandered a few opportunities in the first half. From a morale point of view, we're now looking to pick up points to give us a platform to build on for next season. Wick may feel a wee bit aggrieved that they didn't get a share of the points with their second-half display."

good fortune
Buckie's 61st-minute opener would be more good fortune than anything else when substitute Steve Bruce's miscued shot landed at the feet of fellow substitute Alan Bates at the back post and he calmly tucked the ball behind Michael Rae in the Academy goal.

the visitors drew level five minutes later when Forbes finished Sanderson in the box and

Goals by Colin Mavor and Kenny Henry in the final three minutes of the half sealed the points. Henry and Mavor were on the mark again in 71 and 83 minutes respectively to complete the rout.

Keith could have scored more but Foroo might have had three goals. Graham McKenzie missed a great chance in the first half and after the interval Finlay Steamer had a header and rocket shot superbly saved by Ian Thain.

Duncan won't buy

ELGIN CITY.....1
FRASERBURGH.....0
BOSS Charlie Duncan insists Fraserburgh's title aspirations were gone long before this defeat.
And although a lack of depth to his injury and suspension-hit squad cost him the club at Borough Briggs, Duncan says his club will never look to the transfer market to get themselves out of a corner, but will strengthen from their impressive youth structure.

Keith was clearly only semi-fit. When one of his young replacement players was found to have a hamstring injury, Duncan was forced to list highly-wounded Marco De Barros as one of his substitutes.

Delighted
Within a minute of De Barros taking the field, Elgin John Polworth headed in the winner, his 20th goal of the campaign.
Delighted home boss Graham Tatters said: "I'm really pleased with the result and the manner with which we won the battles in all the important areas of the field."

the ex-Huntly winger, due to play for Forra against Cove Rangers until the game was postponed.
Duff said: "I was given a 25-minute run for my third club in as many weeks."

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Super Duff grabs his third hat-trick in just seven games

BORRA RANGERS.....6
ROTHES.....0
A HAT-TRICK by Borra's evergreen striker Alan Duff set the seal on a comprehensive victory against an understrength Rothies.

"I've only played in seven games this season, but that's my third hat-trick," said Duff.
The former Ross County striker added: "Although my first goal against Rothies was a bit lucky - through the keeper's legs - the third strike was a good goal from 10 yards

after great leading up work from Keith Claxter and Ritchie Hart."

conditions more than Rothies. I'm really pleased that Alan Duff came in to score a hat-trick as we've missed his natural goal-grabbing instincts inside the six-yard box in the last few games. It was great to see Donald Allan come off the bench late on to score a fairly untypical goal with his first touch."

big central defender, more renowned for his aerial ability, showed a deft touch when he powered his way through the Spedliders defence to drive home an 86th-minute header.
Borra's Paul Bradshaw made it 5-0 in the 70th minute and a last-minute Chris Stone effort completed the rout.

Paterson treble as five-star Turriff advances

by Dave Macdermid
Matthew Merchant's second half strike was sufficient to see Banchoy St. Ternan progress in the Acorn Heating Cup at the expense of Fraserburgh United.

Banks O' Dee won at Buchan-Hearts in the Morrison Trophy thanks to goals from Alan Leslie and Canny Ross. Alan Chalmers scored for Fraserburgh.

Bottom of the table Lads Club picked up three valuable points in the Stewart Milne Homes Premier and Grange Alexander competition.

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Read Paul Lawrie's latest tip