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Luton Town

Monday
26 December 2005
kick-off 3.00pm



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- Operations Director Paul Clouting
- Director of Football Murdoch Mackay
- Club Secretary Marion McMinn
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With all that Christmas cash rattling around in your wallet or purse there's never been a better time to check out the great range at shopDCFC – and now you can do it from the comfort of your own home.

There's no need to brave those Baltic winter weather conditions, sim-

ply log on to Derby County's official website at www.dfc.co.uk then click on the shopDCFC link and you'll be taken to a whole new retail world.

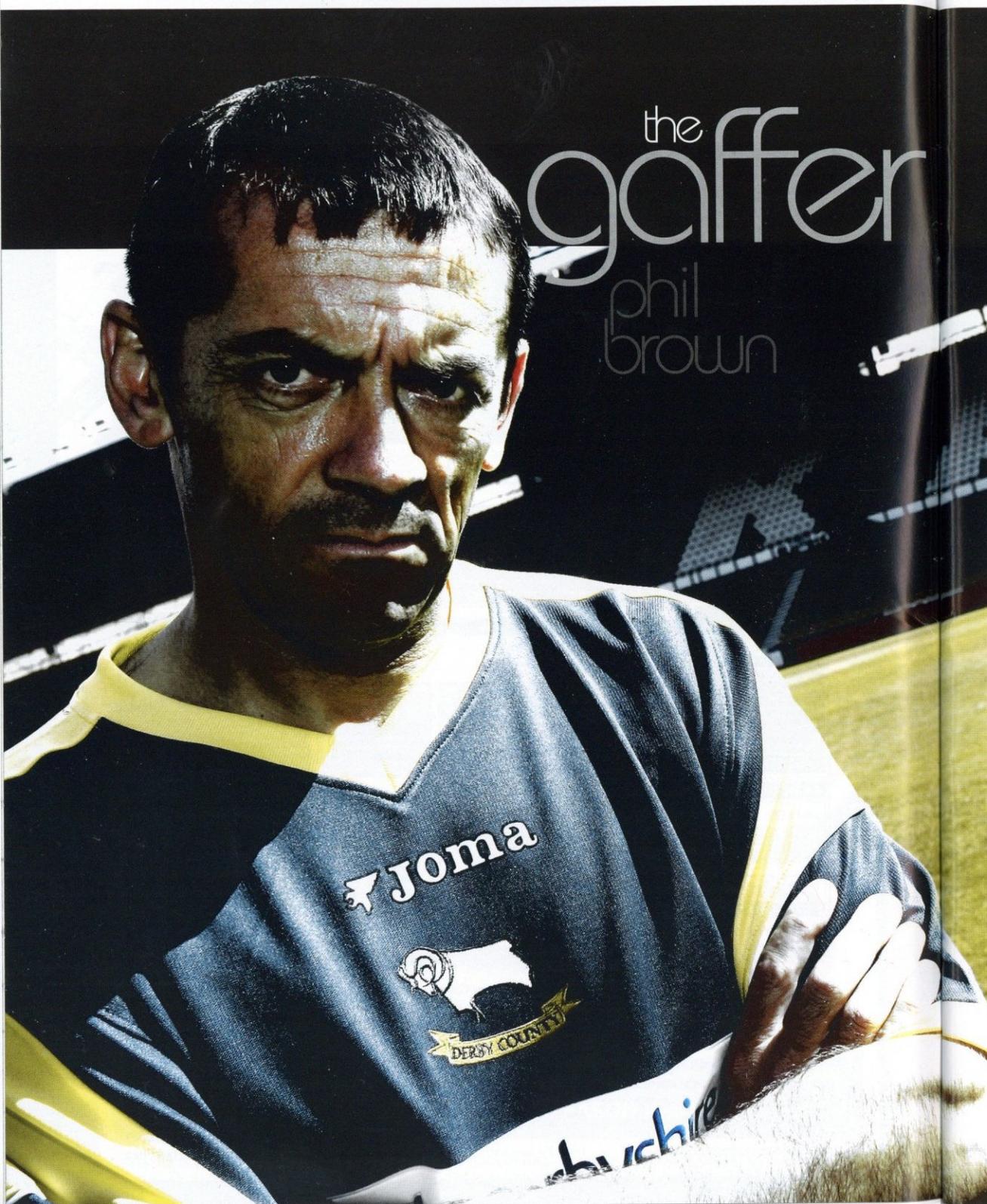
Rams fans have placed over 2,000 orders since the on-line shop launched in September and the success has been down it being a new-look, much more user friendly site with a wider range

of product lines, including the fantastic winter collection.

And there's even better news in that some of the clothing and merchandise you'll see when you log on will be coming down in price when the shopDCFC sale – both on-line and in-store – begins on 7 January, with up to 50 per cent off selected lines.

Great footie gear - kit yourself out at shopDCFC





the gaffer

phil brown



HTC (UK) Ltd are proud to sponsor Rams boss Phil Brown's car. For a great deal on new and used cars call 0844 8400500.



The perfect Christmas present for Rams boss Phil Brown would be to see his players continue their unbeaten run. With a hectic festive season schedule set to begin this afternoon, he's looking for his side to pick up a result against Luton.

First of all can I say season's greetings to you all. I hope you had a great Christmas Day and are in good spirits to roar us on to a result this afternoon.

We go into an extremely busy period of the season in good form and unbeaten in five matches. We've become very hard to beat, and that's something I'm extremely proud of.

What is important now is that we keep that going. We picked up a clean sheet and an excellent draw against an attack-minded Cardiff side last weekend and that should give us confidence.

Over Christmas and New Year all leagues really start to take shape, so it's imperative we keep producing the goods and remain in there with a fighting chance of making an impact at the top end of the table.

Ongoing belief is the key. That was the subject of my half-time teamtalk at Ninian Park because, though we were arguably the better team in the first period, we knew they would come out and throw everything but the kitchen sink at us.

But we had the desire and determination to come away with a result and our goalkeeper and defence – who came in for a bit of stick earlier in the season – were magnificent in helping win us a deserved point.

We've kept three clean sheets in the last five games, and no-one can doubt that is certainly an improvement. However, I want us to keep that going and remain unbeaten through the

Christmas period to prove we've really turned the corner.

Unfortunately we lost the services of Marc Edworthy with a knee injury going into the Cardiff fixture but it's a squad game and Michael Johnson, who has been waiting patiently on the sidelines for his chance, came in and did well for us at left-back.

Last time out at Pride Park we were forced to settle for a draw against a dogged Preston side, but showed great character to come from one behind and grab a point, thanks to Tommy Smith's penalty. He took over the spotkick responsibility from Inigo Idiakez and came up with the goods in clinical fashion.

Of course we want to win all of our games – especially at home – but we do have to accept that sometimes good teams like Preston are going to come here and frustrate us. They man-marked Inigo to nullify his threat and made life difficult for us.

But there's still a strong belief amongst this playing staff and squad that we can beat anyone on our day. We have become a much stronger unit, are tougher to play against and feel it's only a matter of time before the draws turn into wins.

Since I arrived at this club I've been nothing less than proud of the attitude of all the players, and that continues to this day. I only hope they can go out there and give you the perfect Christmas present this afternoon – three points.

As the transfer window fast approaches we continue to work hard to

strengthen the squad and give ourselves the best possible chance of doing well in the second half of the season.

We'll be looking to bring in new faces to freshen up the playing staff and keep everyone on their toes and, though it's no secret that the financial situation at the club does make it harder, those who do come through the doors will be players who, in my opinion, have the necessary quality.

Two loan players who returned to their clubs ahead of the Cardiff match were Stern John and Johnnie Jackson. I thank them for working hard during their time here at Derby County and wish them all the best for the future.

I'd like to welcome Mike Newell, his staff, the players and fans of Luton Town to Pride Park Stadium today and congratulate them on how they've acclimatised to life in the Coca-Cola Championship. We wish them all the best for the rest of the season – after today of course!

After today's game we face a journey south to Crystal Palace, which will be another stern test, and then are back here at Pride Park to take on Reading in front of the TV cameras on New Year's Eve.

Your support, which is always superb, is just as important as anything else during this busy time, and with the type of backing you continue to give us I'm sure we can go a long way.

Once again, a happy Christmas to you all, and hopefully we can deliver you the perfect present this afternoon in the form of three points!



camp in top team

Lee Camp has made the latest Coca-Cola Championship team of the week after an outstanding performance in Derby County's 0-0 draw at Cardiff City.

The 21-year-old goalkeeper made a string of fine saves in the second half of last Saturday's Ninian Park encounter to keep out the Bluebirds and help extend the Rams' unbeaten run to five games.

The shut-out meant that Academy product Camp, Derby-born and an England Under-21 international, kept his third clean sheet in his last five games.

paul's goal haul

Striker Paul Peschisolido was on the mark with a first-half hat-trick as Derby County romped to a 7-0 friendly win over Chesterfield last Tuesday.

The Canadian frontman netted his side's first three goals in the Moor Farm encounter and proved a constant menace to the Spireites, who fielded a line-up mixing senior stars and young players.

Derby were four-up by the interval when Lee Holmes netted, and then Holmes was again on target just after half-time with his second.

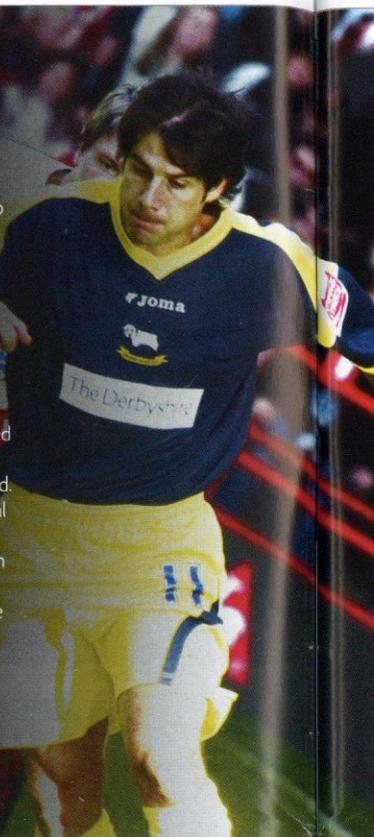
Chesterfield had the chance to pull one back when they were awarded

a penalty but Kevin Poole produced a fine save low to his right to keep out Tcham N'Toya's spotkick.

Morten Bisgaard added the sixth for a strong Derby side and the scoring was completed with a minute to go when a Holmes shot, which looked to be going wide of the target, deflected in off an unfortunate Chesterfield defender's head.

Derby fielded two on-trial centre-backs, an Australian in the first half and a Pole in the second.

They also gave 90-minute appearances to Poole, Nathan Doyle, Jeff Kenna, Paul Boertien, Bisgaard, Adam Bolder, Giles Barnes, Holmes, Peschisolido and Danny Graham.



welcome matt

As one young product continues to shine Rams boss Phil Brown has sent out a clear message to the stars of tomorrow.

Lewin Nyatanga has cemented his place in the centre of Derby County's defence at the age of just 17 and is already a Wales Under-21 record-breaker.

The Burton-born ace has followed in the footsteps of the likes of Lee Camp, Marcus Tudgay and Lee Holmes in rising through the Academy ranks to play senior football.

And in Cardiff last Saturday another youngster was present to soak up the first team environment for the first time.

Derby-born schoolboy Matt Richards, an England U-17 midfielder who only turned 16 at the start of December, travelled to the Welsh capital after playing a starring role for the club's U-18 side in the 3-1 FA Youth Cup win at Cogenhoe United. Along with Holmes and 17-year-old Giles Barnes, Matt took part in the pre-match warm-up.

Already this season Brown has given senior debuts to Nyatanga and Barnes, who had both only recently turned 17.

Holmes and Nathan Doyle, both only 18, have also both been in and around the first team picture.

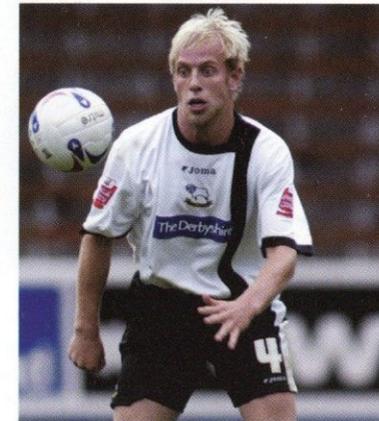
birthday boy's gift

Andy Davies celebrated his birthday in style with another clean sheet as the Rams maintained their unbeaten run at Cardiff last Saturday.

The defender (right) turned 21 on the day of the match and boss

Phil Brown was delighted with the performance of a young backline that has only conceded twice in five games.

"It was certainly a happy birthday for Andy," said Phil. "It was a hard-fought and well-earned point against a side in the top six.



extension granted



Derby County goalkeeper Lee Grant will remain on loan at Coca-Cola Championship rivals Burnley for a second month.

The 22-year-old joined the Clarets on an initial month's deal in mid-November and made his debut for them in a 1-0 win over Leicester City.

Grant will remain at Turf Moor until the middle of January but he will not be able to play for Burnley against Derby when the two teams meet in the FA Cup third round on 7 January.

smith and preston

Tommy Smith had no hesitation about stepping up to the spot for a high-pressure penalty against Preston North End.

There were nine minutes on the clock when the Rams were given the chance to equalise from 12 yards after the visitors had gone in front through Claude Davis's 54th-minute goal.

Inigo Idiakez has been the Rams' regular penalty-taker this season but after his last two were saved, the task was passed over to Smith.

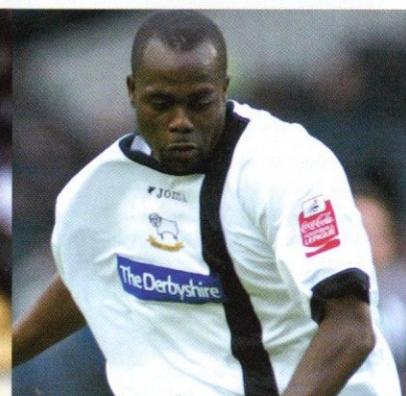
"After Ini missed a couple on the bounce I thought it was time for a change, it's always nice to try and get your goal tally up," Smith said after netting for only the second time this season.

"You try and put the situation out of your mind, focus on the ball and try to put it away.



"You're always a little bit hopeful that the goalkeeper goes the wrong way and it worked out for me.

"A couple of their players had words as they thought it was a tough decision. To be honest I didn't really see it but I was pleased for it to be given, and you've got to put all that out of your mind."



turkish delight

Academy duo Karl Ashton and Matt Richards helped England Under-17s finish their 2005 fixtures on a high with a 1-0 victory over Turkey the week before last.

loan duo depart

The loan spells of Stern John and Johnnie Jackson have been ended early and the pair have returned to their clubs.

Striker John (left), 29, joined the Rams on a three-month deal from Coventry City in September but didn't find the back of the net in his six starts and one substitute appearance.

Derby-born striker Ashton, 16, made his second start for the U-17 side and was a danger to the visitors until he was replaced with ten minutes to go.

Midfielder Richards, 15, came on as a half-time substitute in

The Trinidad and Tobago international's spell at Pride Park wasn't blessed with good fortune and he saw two goals ruled out in the space of two games at one stage.

Midfielder Jackson, 23, completed his switch from Premiership side Tottenham Hotspur on the same day as John but started just three games, with another three outings as a substitute.

the friendly at Notts County's Meadow Lane.

The game was won thanks to a goal from Manchester City forward Daniel Sturridge - the nephew of former Rams frontman Dean Sturridge - in the last minute.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE AWARDS



Darren Bent and Nathan Ellington are banging in goals in the Premiership. Jimmy Bullard and Teddy Sheringham are playing starring roles for their newly-promoted clubs. And Reading's Steve Sidwell is on course to be gracing the top flight next season.

What do these players have in common? They were all among the '50 Top Football League Players' in last April's edition of *FourFourTwo* magazine. And now, following the success of that survey, The Football League has announced a

glittering annual awards ceremony to champion the achievements of its players and clubs.

The Football League Awards will be handed out at the London Hilton on March 5 2006, when *FourFourTwo* will also announce its annual 'Top 50 Football League Players' to coincide with our April edition - and now's your chance to get involved.

For details of how to nominate someone for the 'Fan of the Year Award' and to vote for the 'Best Away Ground', visit www.fourfourtwo.com or check out your matchday programme.

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE AWARDS

- ✦ Championship Player of the Year
- ✦ League 1 Player of the Year
- ✦ League 2 Player of the Year
- ✦ Young Player of the Year
- ✦ Top Apprentice Award
- ✦ Goal of the Year
- ✦ Most Admired Club
- ✦ Community Club of the Year
- ✦ Fan of the Year
- ✦ Best Club Sponsorship
- ✦ Best Club Marketing Campaign
- ✦ Best Kit Design
- ✦ Matchday Programme of the Year
- ✦ Best Club Website
- ✦ Best Away Ground - voted for by fans
- ✦ Contribution to Football

For more information on The Football League Awards contact nicky.lusignani@haynet.com



memories of super fan gerald

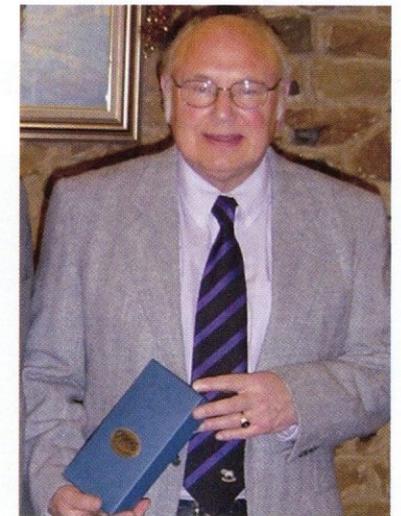
Rams fans will be sorry to hear that Gerald Newton, a founder member and former Treasurer of the Derbyshire Dales branch of the Supporters Club, passed away on 15 December 2005.

Gerald, who was 68 and from Matlock, had been a supporter of Derby County for 57 years, and was a long time season ticket holder in the Ley Stand at the Baseball Ground and in the East Stand at Pride Park. He was a regular follower of

Derby at away matches, and an avid listener to the Radio Derby commentaries, especially after his diabetes induced ill-health prevented him attending matches.

Gerald was a former Director of William Twigg in Matlock where he worked for 43 years until he retired in 2002.

Gerald will be greatly missed by friends and family, and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife Mary, children David, Elaine and Paul and his grandchildren Josh and Thomas.



girl power

Sisters Chloe and Georgia Smith are looking forward to playing their part in the Rams keeping their unbeaten run going over the festive season.

The Derby-mad pair, who live in Chellaston, warmed up for Christmas with a family holiday in Gran Canaria.

Chloe (8) and Georgia (4) are season ticket holders in the West

Stand, alongside their parents and their granddad.

Having been pictured on the harbour in Gran Canaria the youngsters are now hoping the Rams can sail through the Christmas campaign.

Their dad Nick said: "The girls are both massive Derby fans, as are most of the family. They would be thrilled to see themselves in The Ram - it would be the perfect Christmas present."

christmas opening hours

Here are the Pride Park Stadium ticket office and shopDCFC opening times for the Christmas and New Year period.

From tomorrow (27 December) through to 30 December they are open from 10am to 4pm and from 9am to 5.15pm (kick-off time versus Reading) on New Year's Eve.

The ticket office and shopDCFC are closed on Sunday 1 January and open

from 9am to 3pm on Monday 2 January.

Tuesday 3 January until Friday 6 January sees the normal opening hours of 9am to 6pm, and both are open 9am to 5pm on Saturday 7 January and 10am to 4pm on Sunday 8 January.

it's your call

If you are experiencing domestic violence then please be aware that support and advice is available.

Earlier this year Derby boss Phil Brown and first team players got behind a Derby Community Safety Partnership White Ribbon campaign highlighting the issues surrounding domestic violence.

Christmas and New Year can be a stressful time of year for many families, but did you know it is also one of the peak times for incidents of domestic violence - against both women and men?

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic violence, there are local and national organisations that will



give practical advice and support.

You can call Hadhari Nari locally on 01332 270101, Women's Aid - National 24 hour helpline - on 0808 2000 247 or Derby Police domestic abuse unit on 01332 613053/613052. In an emergency, dial 999.



academy dinner is really grand



Rams boss Phil Brown said a few words about the strong links between the first team and Academy



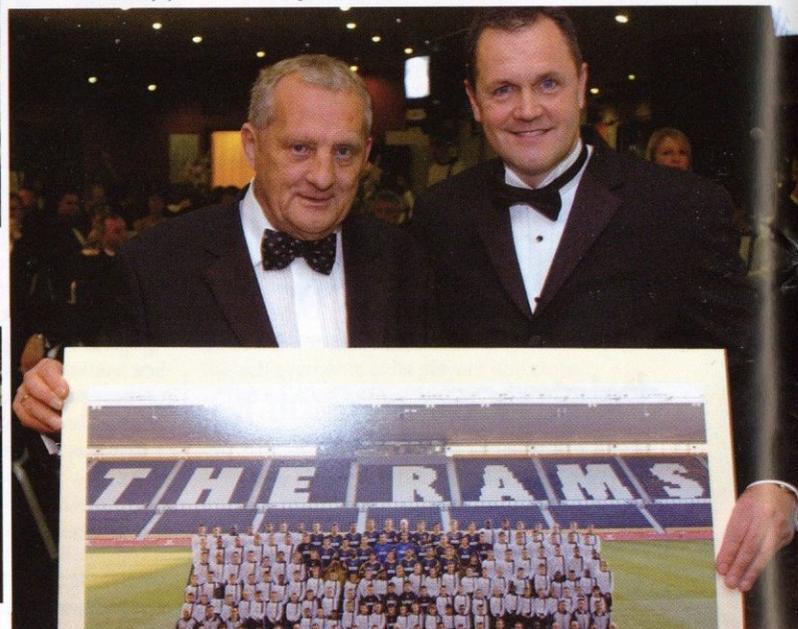
Academy education and welfare officer Bill Morley, his wife Pat (centre) and a friend enjoyed the evening



Director of Football Murdo Mackay, aptly dressed in tartan, helped the sales team conduct the raffle



Academy players entertained the audience with 'keepy-uppy', won by Jason Beardsley (front)



Noel Sweeney, of Academy sponsors Chasetown Civil Engineering, was presented with a print by Academy manager Terry Westley

Over £15,000 was raised for the Derby County Academy at their prestigious annual dinner at Pride Park two weeks ago.

Rams boss Phil Brown, Academy sponsors and other VIP guests were greeted by carol singers and wined and dined in the stadium's assa T+L Suite before an auction helped

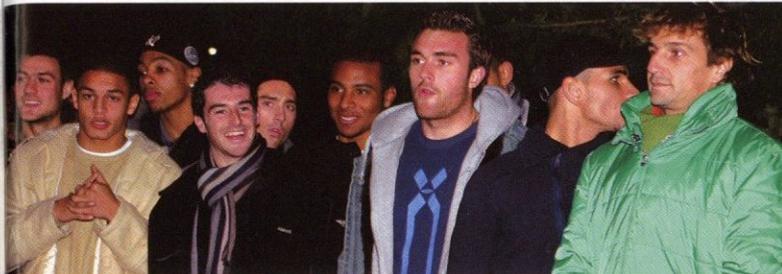
raise the significant sum for the youth set-up. Shirts signed by football legend Pele and Chelsea star John Terry were amongst the items bid for by an excited audience, who then listened to rousing speeches from gaffer Brown and Academy manager Terry Westley.

Westley said: "The annual Academy Dinner is an event that gets bigger and

better every year. A great night was had by all and I thank everyone who attended for their support.

"The money raised will be invested back into the Academy and is an enormous help for us as we work hard to achieve our goal, and that is to keep bringing the best young players through the set-up and into the first team."

a tree-ly good christmas



The Rams' squad were out in full force to join in the Christmas celebrations at Pride Park



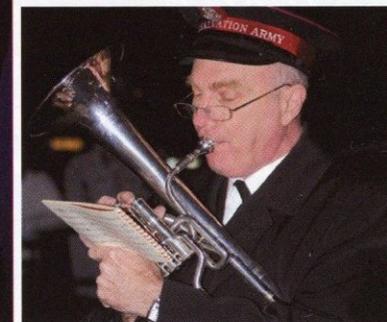
Manager Phil Brown officially blessed the Christmas tree before the lights were turned on



Midfield maestro Inigo Idiákez and his family helped Rammie and Santa officially open the club's Grotto



Rammie signed autographs to help excited youngsters get in the festive spirit



The Salvation Army band entertained the crowds with festive songs

A 45-foot tall tree was the centrepiece of the Rams' Christmas celebrations as hundreds of supporters attended the big 'switch on'.

Rams manager Phil Brown and the entire first team squad were also on hand and Ram FM broadcast live from Pride Park as the lights on the giant tree were turned on.

Carol singers and a full band created the perfect festive atmosphere as fans mingled with players on a cold but fun

evening at the stadium.

The tree blessing and service kicked off Derby County's festive events and was the preview to the club's Academy Dinner and the official opening of the Christmas Grotto.

Over 500 excited kids came along to meet Santa, and of course cuddly club mascot Rammie, after the red tape was officially cut by Rams star Inigo Idiákez and his family on 13 December.

One mum e-mailed the club with her views after visiting the Grotto with her two young sons.

She said: "I'm writing to say what a great experience my family had. Not only did they get to meet Santa and Rammie but also their favourite player, Inigo Idiákez.

"I'm sure in this day and age not enough people have time to say thank you when something has been done so well, but both my children went to bed in their Rammie t-shirts and immediately put their Rams posters on their bedroom walls."

We hope all Rams fans had a great Christmas Day yesterday and wish you all the best for the rest of the festive season.



72 Clubs. The 'Coca-Cola' Football League. The Real League.

good friends by miles

There may be 550 miles between Cornwall and Derby, but even a four-and-a-half hour drive hasn't prevented supporters Jeff Nash and Gary Westlake from becoming pals.



Rams fan and Derby County Ladies coach Jeff Nash was holidaying in Bude with his partner and their baby daughter back in August and found a pub in which to watch the televised game against Preston.

Naturally Jeff expected them to be the only Derby supporters in the place. But they were in for a little surprise when Gary (left of pic) and his girlfriend Reanne (centre), who live close to the bar, came walking in wearing their replica shirts.

Gary, a member of the Cornish branch of the Derby County Supporters Club who first started supporting the club as an eight-year-old who would sit on his front wall listening to his radio as the Rams romped to the 1972

League Championship, struck up a conversation with Jeff and the pair have been great mates ever since.

Just a few days after meeting, Gary arranged for Jeff and his family to travel down to the Plymouth game at Home Park – a special day for four-month old Kayleigh-Anne, for whom it was her first away game.

Jeff says: "The last thing I expected to happen was to bump into any Rams fans in Cornwall when I was down there with the family on holiday. But I'm over the moon that we did because Gary, and his partner Reanne, are lovely people and we've become good friends."

In all the time he has followed Derby, Gary, who has another connection with Jeff in that he coaches a ladies team on the South Coast, only

made it to the Baseball Ground twice for games, but has seen more than 20 matches at Pride Park Stadium.

He was back in the East Midlands for the recent home fixture against Preston North End and was also treated to a tour of Moor Farm. Gary told The Ram: "I love coming up here. It's a long way, but always worthwhile. I've supported Derby since I was eight, and you should never ever change your allegiances.

"It's also been fantastic to catch up with Jeff and it's thanks to him that we could all sit together and watch the match and that I got to look around the amazing training ground, which was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"It's great that football, and supporting the Rams in particular, has helped forge such a good friendship."

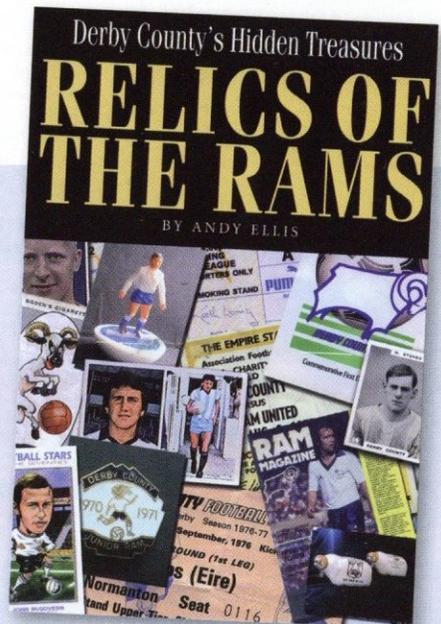
a raft of ramorabilia

If you're looking for something to spend that Christmas money on then why not get your hands on memorabilia-packed book *Relics Of The Rams*, writes The Ram editor Chris Kershaw.

The new publication, written by memorabilia expert Andy Ellis, is available now from shopDCFC priced £16.99, a reasonable price for a hard-backed, 200-page publication.

This is no ordinary book, it's the first time a plethora of historic and, in many cases, rare or unique Derby County programmes, pennants, photographs, cigarette cards and whole host of other items have been put together in a fascinating display that charts the club from 1884 to present day.

Broken down into user-friendly chapters focusing on each decade since the first ball was kicked by a Derby player, *Relics of the Rams* transcends the divide between 'anorak' supporter and normal fan, making it a must for everyone.



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Derby County v. Luton Town



Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Cardiff	A	0-0
Preston	H	1-1
Norwich	H	2-0
Brighton	A	0-0
Stoke	A	2-1
Wolves	H	0-3



Last 6 results

Opponents	H/A	Score
Stoke	H	2-3
Southampton	A	0-1
Reading	A	0-3
Palace	H	2-0
Crewe	H	4-1
Norwich	A	0-2

Swings

Won when Behind	1
Drawn when Behind	9
Drawn when Ahead	4
Lost when Ahead	2

Last meeting at Pride Park on 21/2/96

Derby County		Luton Town	
Score	1-1	Score	1-1
Top Scorer	Powell D 51	Top Scorer	Marshall 57
Attendance	14,825	Referee	Riley
Lineup	Hoult, Rowett, Powell C, Powell D, Yates, Stimac, Van der Laan (Flynn), Sturridge, Willems, Simpson (Hodges), Carsley (Gabbadini)	Lineup	Feuer, James, Thomas, Waddock, Davis S, Patterson, Marshall (Riseth), Hughes, Oldfield, Alexander, Thorpe (Guentchev)
Booked	Willems	Booked	Guentchev
Sent Off	none	Sent Off	none

Swings

Won when Behind	2
Drawn when Behind	2
Drawn when Ahead	2
Lost when Ahead	3

Discipline

Fouls committed	301
Average per game	12.54
Yellow cards	42
Red cards	3

Discipline

Fouls committed	305
Average per game	12.71
Yellow cards	28
Red cards	3

Set piece goals

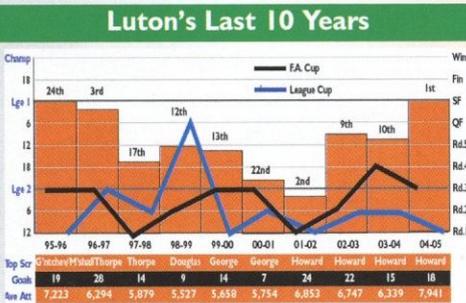
Scored from free kick	7
Conc from free kick	6
Scored from corner	2
Conc from corner	5

Set piece goals

Scored from free kick	5
Conc from free kick	6
Scored from corner	2
Conc from corner	3

Strike ratio

Shots on target	152
Goals scored	30
% shots scored	19.7
Divisional rating	18



Strike ratio

Shots on target	157
Goals scored	35
% shots scored	22.3
Divisional rating	12

Top scorer

Inigo Idiakez	
Goals Scored	6
Games Played	23
Points Won	7

Top scorer

Steve Howard	
Goals Scored	7
Games Played	21
Points Won	5

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“Mike Newell, who was a top class striker who I played alongside in my Blackburn days, has done an excellent job at Kenilworth Road and the Hatters are on the fringes of the play-offs having acclimatised well to life in the Championship, but that shouldn't deter us from the job in hand – winning the match.”



captain Kenna

Rams club captain Jeff Kenna was proud of the way the lads played in picking up a deserved point at Ninian Park last weekend. And he's looking for the unbeaten run to continue as the side start the hectic festive fixture list with today's home match against Luton.

hope Santa brought you everything you wanted yesterday – today we're looking for the perfect present of three points in the bag.

The best way for everyone connected with the club to celebrate the festive season would be for us to keep the unbeaten run going, a sequence that has now stretched to five matches.

The lads performed excellently in picking up a deserved 0-0 draw at Ninian Park last weekend. The side kept another clean sheet – the third in five games – and that's always a good platform to build on.

Teams like Cardiff and Preston – who we played last time out at Pride Park – are always going to put you under pressure in spells of the game and it's how you defend the pressure as a team that counts.

I think it's shown in recent weeks that we've become very,

difficult to beat and twin that with the fact that we always pose a threat up front as well and it's not difficult to see why we have been doing well in recent times.

But this division is about ongoing consistency. Reading have not produced their superb rise to the top of the league without a good run, in fact the Royals, who are our opponents here on New Year's Eve, have not lost a single game since the opening day of the season.

Of course that is easier said than done, and Luton will be the latest team to pose us a big challenge this afternoon.

Mike Newell, who was a top class striker who I played alongside in my Blackburn days, has done an excellent job at Kenilworth Road and the Hatters are on the fringes of the play-offs having acclimatised well to life in the Championship, but that shouldn't deter us from the job in hand – winning the match.

We are more than capable of beating any team in this division on our day, as we have proved in the recent weeks and months, not least with a double over Stoke City, a side who are in the play-off positions.

I guess with the lads defending so well it does create a bit of a catch 22 situation for me, because I'm working extremely hard to win back my place in the starting eleven, but of course accept that the manager has to stick with a winning team.

But it's a squad game and there will hopefully be opportunities during a busy period that sees us play five fixtures in 12 games. I'm ready and prepared to pull on that shirt again when required.

I hope you all enjoy what's left of your Christmas and that we can send you home to what's left of your turkey and wine this evening with a smile on your faces, having seen us beat Luton. Season's greetings to you all.





luton town

newell cool about chances

With only three years of managerial experience under his belt, Hatters chief Mike Newell has already built a reputation as one of the country's up-and-coming young managers.

Following a playing career that included a Premiership title and Champions League experience with Blackburn, Newell - as a manager - has won promotion twice with different clubs and was last season's Coca-Cola Football League One Manager of the Year.

But former Hartlepool boss Newell would rather deflect the attention to his team and let them pick up the credit they deserve from their Coca-Cola Championship rivals, given they are just a point off the play-offs.

"Sometimes they don't get the praise they merit and it seems to be that teams have put in their worst performance of the season when we turn them over," said Newell.

"When we have a full squad we feel we're as good as anyone in this league."

Luton Town travel to Pride Park looking to put an end to a run of six successive away defeats, and give their travelling fans a belated Christmas present. Three points are something they haven't seen in a while away from Kenilworth Road, writes Matt Reeder.

The Hatters have not scored on their travels since mid-October, in the 2-1 defeat at Crewe - the starting point of this winless away streak - and that's something they will be looking to rectify this afternoon.

A former striker himself, manager Mike Newell has brought together a crop of frontmen who have all chipped in with a goal or two this season.

Steve Howard, 29, has been something of a bargain. Since signing from Northampton for £50,000 in March 2001, the bustling striker has been the Hatters' leading marksman in the last four seasons and he again tops their current scoring charts.

Not far behind him is **Warren Feeney**, 24. The Northern Ireland man started as a trainee at Leeds before a successful spell at Bournemouth, but it was his one season with struggling Stockport County - where he bagged 17 in 33 starts - that secured a move to Kenilworth Road in March.

If available for today's encounter, Nigerian 23-year-old **Enoch Snowunmi's** six foot five frame will be an imposing figure to the Rams' young backline.

Former Portsmouth striker **Rowan Vine**, 23, has been limited to only three starts this season but a return of three goals and starring roles in the recent wins

over Crewe and Crystal Palace Vine will be in the manager's thoughts.

Dean Morgan, 22, moved to Kenilworth Road in the summer from Reading after seeing his opportunities limited following the arrival of Leroy Lita. Morgan, who can use both feet effectively, can play in midfield or attack.

Croatian midfielder **Ahmet Brkovic**, 31, is a tidy and hardworking member of the squad, whose goals from the engine room have been vital. He is in his fifth season at Kenilworth Road, after spells with Leyton Orient and HNK Dubrovnik.

Captain **Kevin Nicholls**, 26, has huge enthusiasm and ferocious tackling, assets that have made him a big favourite with Hatters fans, although opponents don't always view his all-action style with similar relish. If available he will certainly be the driving force in the centre of the park.

Newell can call upon the experience of former Bournemouth and Preston midfielder, **Steve Robinson**, 31.

The versatility of **Peter Holmes**, 25, is a useful commodity to Luton, but this teamed with injury has seen Holmes' opportunities limited at times. But when called upon he rarely lets the Hatters down.

Right midfielder **Carlos Edwards**, 27, is the talk of the Town at the moment, with qualification to next summer's World Cup and interest from the Premiership (see above right).

On the opposite flank, **Paul Underwood**, 32, offers a solid option, given that he can also play at full-back. The former Rushden and Diamonds man has formed a formidable partnership with Sol Davies, 26, on the left-hand side in recent campaigns.

Former Swindon Town left-back Davies has missed the last two games due to a knee injury,

Luton winger **Carlos Edwards**, 27, is not getting carried away with recent reports linking him with a move to the Premiership with West Brom.

The 27-year-old joined the Hatters just six months ago from Wrexham - but has been one of the key figures in Mike Newell's side's impressive start to life in the Championship.

Albion boss Bryan Robson is reportedly keen on a second raid on Kenilworth Road after buying defender Curtis Davies for £3million in the summer.

"It's very gratifying to hear that clubs in the Premiership are tracking my progress," Edwards told hattersworld.co.uk

"I'm not getting carried away by the rumours, because I'm contracted to

Luton for three years.

"If a bid comes in and the club accept it, it's a different story and we will talk about it, but at the moment I'm happy playing for Luton."

Trinidad & Tobago international Edwards also took time to reflect on his country's draw for the World Cup finals in the summer, a draw that could see the Hatters midfielder appear against England

"Our job is not finished just by qualifying. We have three matches to play and hopefully those games will extend into more matches if we do qualify through the group stages.

"If I am involved in will be an honour to be on the same pitches as players like David Beckham, Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney."



Carlos Edwards



Ahmet Brkovic

but should be in contention for a place in Newell's 16-man squad if he can shrug off the problem.

Youth product **Kevin Foley**, 21, has been a regular in the Luton defence since being thrown into the first team in the 2003-04 pre-season.

Another youth product, Under-19s star **Leon Barnett**, 20, is a versatile player, whose preferred position is central defence, but can also fill in as a full-back or makeshift striker.

Markus Heikkinen, 27, signed for the Hatters at the start of the season from Aberdeen. The former Portsmouth and HJK Helsinki man is commanding in the air and a good reader of the game.

Australian centre-half **Chris Coyne**, 27, has become a crowd favourite at Kenilworth Road since signing from

Dundee in September 2001 and has established himself as a formidable rock at the heart of the defence.

Former Portsmouth and Cardiff central defender **Russell Perrett**, 32, signed a new one-year contract in the summer and is looking to make up for lost time this season after a frustrating spell on the sidelines last year.

Dean Brill, 20, could continue in goal for the fourth consecutive game. The Luton youngster was recalled for action in the 1-0 defeat at St Mary's after first choice keeper **Marlon Beresford**, 36, missed the game with a back injury.

If former Burnley and Middlesbrough man Beresford is still unable to take his place between the sticks **Rob Beckwith**, 21, will again deputise for Brill on the Hatters' bench.



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championship shorts

newell: jose a jolly good fella

After finishing 10th in League One, while in administration, then running away with the division by 12 points last season, Luton boss Mike Newell is being talked about and is also happy to talk about himself.

With the Hatters sitting in a healthy position just outside the promotion places, Newell recently lifted the lid on what he told the players the day he took over 30 months ago, and gave an interesting insight into the mind of one of the Championship's hottest young managers.

"The first thing I said," Newell (above) explains, "is that I was just an average player - I believe that's all I was - but I managed to play at the highest level because I was a good professional. Nobody trained harder. Nobody.

"There were better players, but I knew what was required. And that's all I asked of them. Not to be the best player, but to be the best professional and give everything. I can accept failings and not being able to do certain things. But don't leave anything behind. Come and give everything."

It was a speech that can be seen as an inspirational moment in the club history considering Luton's promotion to the Championship and the fact they did it with a record points total.

It was also made in the 'strangest' of situations

with the new man taking over, following the sacking of Joe Kinnear and Mick Harford, through a bizarre phone poll organised by the then chairman, John Gurney, and just weeks after Newell had been dismissed by Hartlepool.

Newell's rise in the managerial ranks has happened on his terms and he laughs off any scepticism thrown his way.

"I'm not advocating that I'm a great coach. All we do is what I believe in. I can't be swayed by someone telling me I need a Pro-Licence, I need an A-Licence (coaching badges). No one will sway me. You can't get on a six-week course the experience I have had over 34 years watching football. All my life I've been in it."

That is why he dropped the prestigious applied management course at Warwick University. The final straw was studying about an imaginary club in administration - while handling Luton's problems. "And I just thought, 'What's the point? I'm dealing with it in the job,'" Newell says.

It is no secret that Newell wants to manage in the Premiership, and pit his wits against a man he likens himself to.

"Why shouldn't I be able to compete with them?" Newell says. "I know Jose Mourinho calls himself the 'Special One', but I don't think he believes that. He comes across as a top bloke. And I bet he's great fun. He's got an edge, but I believe I've got that as well."

→ Plymouth's on-loan defender - from West Ham - Elliott Ward, had the last laugh on his big brother, Crystal Palace's Darren Ward. The siblings faced each other recently and ahead of the game Darren told how he turned down a move to the Hammers as he didn't want to leave his brother on the bench. Plymouth ran out 2-0 winners.

→ There was no festive spirit at The Madjeski Stadium this year as Steve Coppell banned his players from going shopping in the run-up to Christmas. A memo was sent to them stating that shopping "kills minds and legs".

→ Neil Warnock has stunned Rotherham after telling them he will ban Sheffield United players from going there on loan if old adversary Stan Ternent becomes their new manager. The pair's animosity dates back to when Ternent was manager of Burnley.



with Matt Reeder



quote of the week

"The man of the match was Lucas the Kop Cat - at least he did his job. So he took the prize."

Annoyed Leeds manager Kevin Blackwell decided to name the club mascot man of the match after his team's 1-0 home defeat to Cardiff.



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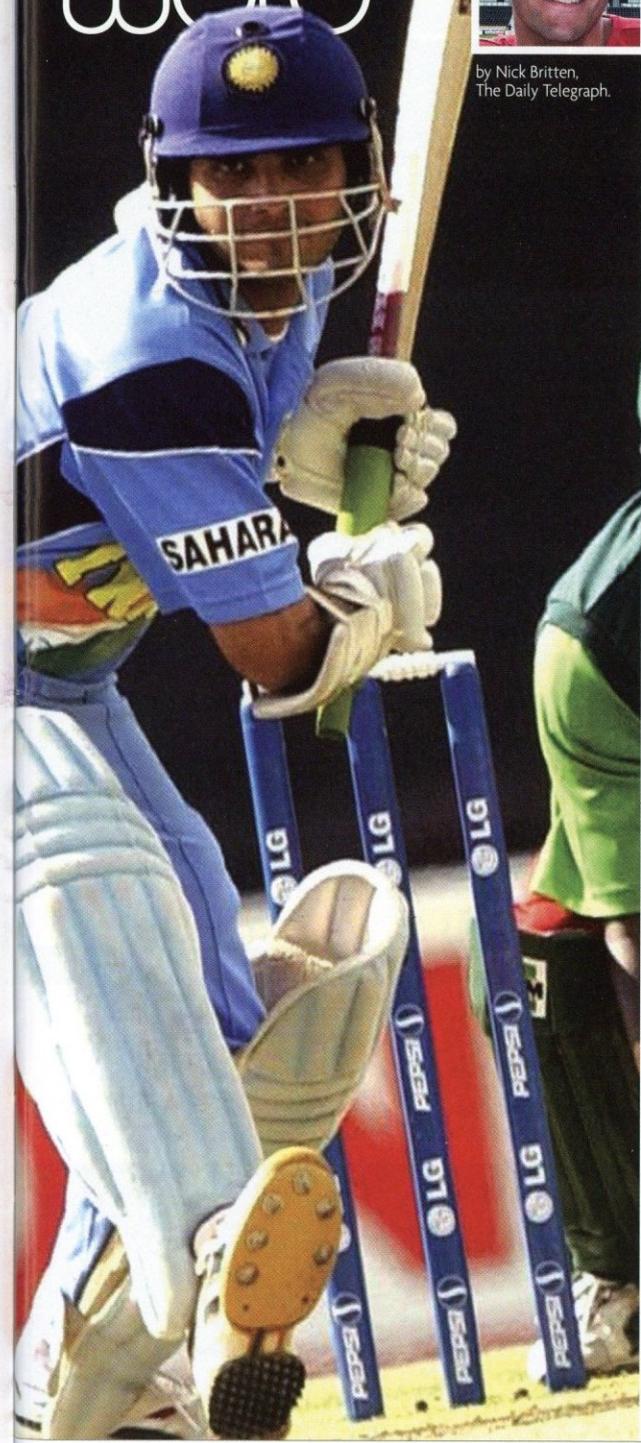
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by Nick Britten,
The Daily Telegraph.



Recently supporters of the former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly greeted the decision that he had been dropped from the national team by blocking railway lines and major roads for two days, causing absolute chaos.

As a nation, we're rubbish at protesting. You might see the occasional placard calling for the removal of the manager or the board, or a small gathering outside the front of a stadium after a game, which normally disperses the minute it starts raining, but that's about it. If the star player gets dropped, we'll grumble into our pint and get on with it.

Manchester United fans showed a touch of militancy when the Glazers took over this year, but the proposed boycott of the club failed to materialise.

Not so elsewhere. In Italy, football fans greet a string of poor results by burning directors' cars, or in one famous case, torching the training ground.

In March hundreds of Chinese football fans in the northern city of Xian set fire to their seats in protest against match fixing that is allegedly rife in the game when a referee awarded a late penalty against them.

Recently supporters of the former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly greeted the decision that he had been dropped from the national team by blocking railway lines and major roads for two days, causing absolute chaos.

Fans went on hunger strike, others conducted mock funerals in the eastern city of Calcutta, and effigies of the coach and team selector were set alight and paraded. Now that's protesting, although it should be noted that Ganguly (pictured) has remained excluded from the squad for the test against Sri Lanka.

So we're rubbish, but you know what? We're in the right. It is only a game and whatever Bill Shankly said about matters of life and death, he should never be taken at his word.

davis made taipei

A conservative estimate put the number of people living in China who watched Sunday's final of the UK Snooker Championship from York at 300 million.

I don't suppose many were tuning in to watch Steve Davis, whose fairytale finale was halted by Ding Junhui, a sportsman so revered in his home country that he's even putting the footballers in the shade.

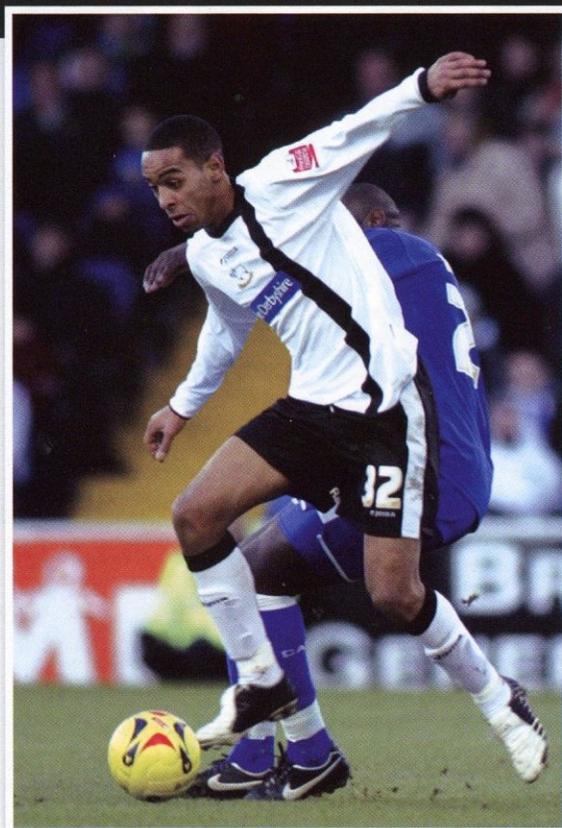
At only 18 and already one of snooker's hottest properties, Ding showed the ability to compete with the very best, something China demands of its top sportsmen and women.

Davis and his Matchroom colleagues were the pioneers who introduced the game to China 20 years ago, the first world class product of which is Ding.

I bet on Sunday night he wished he hadn't bothered.

These are Nick Britten's views - they're certainly not those of the club!



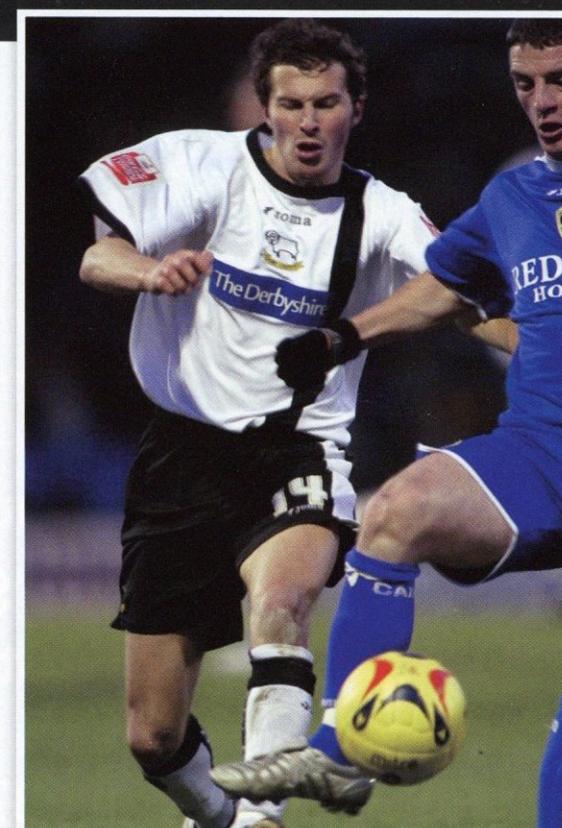


Dexter shows nimble feet to get past his man



Substitute Bisgaard runs at Koumas

Full-back Jacko puts the pressure on Cardiff



Venue: Ninian Park
Date: 17 December 2005
Attendance: 12,500
Referee: P Crossley

cardiff city 0 rams 0

rams

Camp, Jackson, Davies, Nyatanga, Johnson M, Thirlwell, Idiakoze, Johnson S, Tudgay (**Bisgaard 63**), Smith, Blackstock (**Graham 66**)

Other Subs: Poole, Bolder, Doyle

cardiff city

Alexander, Weston, Purse, Loovens, Barker, Cooper, Whitley, Ledley, Koumas, Ricketts, Jerome

Other Subs: Margetson, Cox, Ardley, Lee, Boland



derby telegraph...

"The Rams have regrouped in determined fashion and the goalless draw against Cardiff at Ninian Park was Derby's fifth match unbeaten, equalling their best league run of the season. The side is no longer leaking like a sieve."

tommy smith...

"A draw at Cardiff was a good point for us and we are now unbeaten in five matches and that is good for confidence going into the busy Christmas programme. Personally, I'm really happy at Derby and playing some of the best football of my career."



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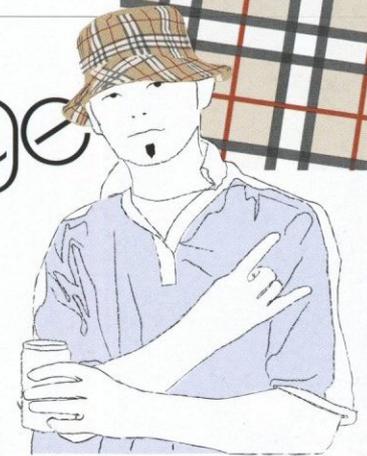
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chav challenge



When it comes to style footballers often lead the way. But just who amongst the Derby squad lets the side down in the fashion stakes, and whose antics make them king of the Chavs?

This afternoon young midfielder Giles Barnes, the man dubbed by many of his team-mates as 'The King of Bling', has a right to reply as he singles out some of his colleagues for a bit of a makeover.

Seriously though, he's a great professional and a top guy to have around the place

Embarrassing wheels?

I know this is a bit predictable and it's what most of the lads have said, but I'd have to go for Morten Bisgaard and Inigo Idiakéz because of their 'caravans'. With all their money I'd have thought they'd have decent cars on their drives, but they haven't.



Horrendous hair?

There's only one player who has an horrific haircut because of his receding hairline – and that's Andrew Davies. Everyone is always on at Dava to get him to change his style, but he doesn't seem to want to do so. He's stubborn, I'll give him that!

Worst banter?

This one would have to be Morten Bisgaard again, purely because he has no banter at all and is always straight down the line with everything he says. Maybe if he took his iPod out of his ears for more than five minutes he'd be more involved with the lads.

Busy body?

There's two top candidates for this one – Lee Holmes and Lewin Nyatanga. They are the busiest players ever. They will play a game and then head straight to the gym to do a session on the weights. What the point of that is I'll never know!

Dodgiest gear?

For bad colour selection I'd have to highlight Morten again – his clothes just never match. However, the same could be said for Inigo, who owns the most horrendous green puffa jacket. He needs to stay at home and never leave the house again!

Overall chav?

As everyone seems to pick Morten as the champion Chav it does seem a bit unfair to select him – but he is the stand-out choice, so it will have to be him! He's a smashing lad really and everyone gets on well with him. I guess Chav is a bit of a strong term, but what the heck!



Stingiest player?

That has to be Marcus Tudgay because he never spends any money on anything! If he had the chance to save someone's life by donating a few quid he probably wouldn't do it. I've never seen anyone quarrel so much over a fiver in all my days!

Lazy ar*e?

I would probably have to say Marc Edworthy, not really because he's particularly lazy, but more because he's always injured so never does anything!



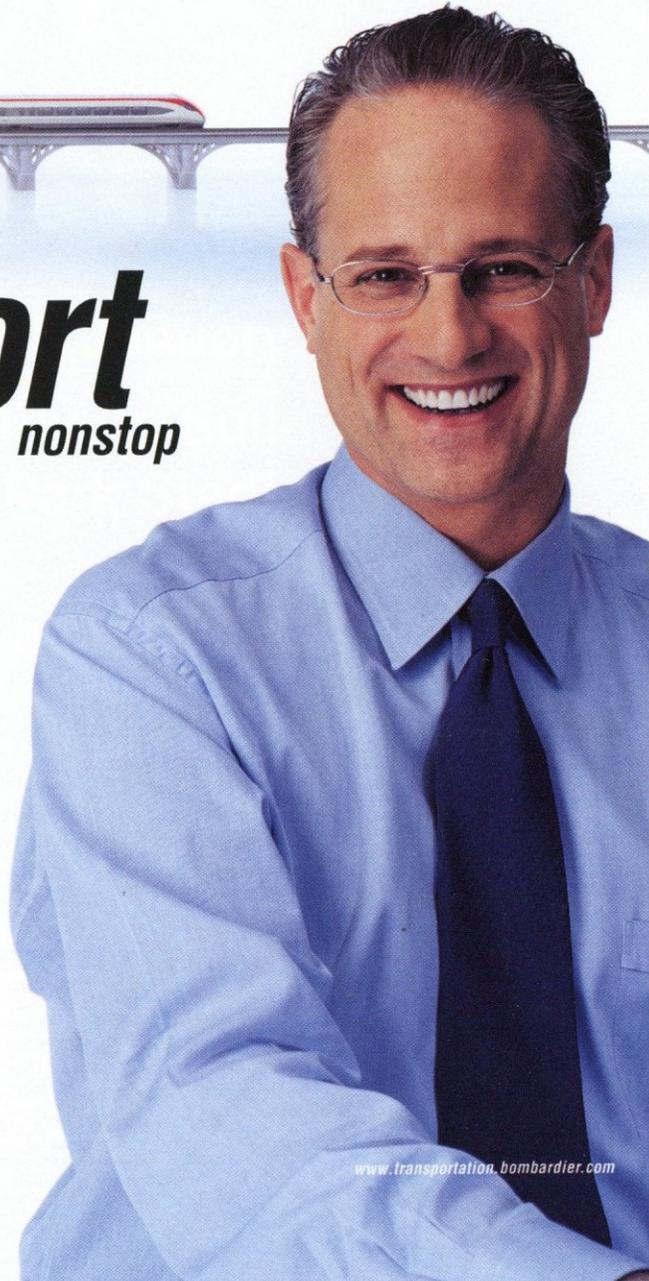
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GIORGIO REGGIANI

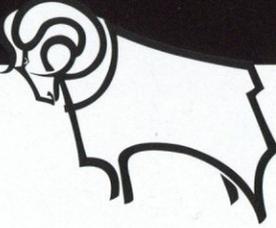
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this day then



Middlesbrough were the visitors to the Baseball Ground on this day in 1968 and both sides served up a festive feast, with the Rams running out 3-2 winners in a five-goal thriller that had a little bit of everything.

On Boxing Day 1968 it was a top of the Division Two table clash as the Rams played Middlesbrough at the Baseball Ground.

Tensions were high in front of the biggest crowd of the season with the pitch, greasy in parts and hard in other areas, making football difficult. Both teams were out to win the game at all costs, and it made for an exciting match.

Dave Mackay led by example, relying on long accurate passes through the middle in an effort

from the right was met by a leaping Roy McFarland and the Rams' centre half buried a great header.

On the half hour John Hickton went off to change his boots, and then returned to turn the game on its head.

With 40 minutes played Dave Mackay's attempt to clear was met by an awkwardly bouncing ball, which caused him to control with his hand. Hickton cracked the ball into the corner of the net with relish.

Derby hardly had time to take breath before, from the re-start, Ron Webster hesitated and as Hickton

stubborn Middlesbrough rearguard, in which George Kinnell was outstanding in cutting out any potential danger.

The Rams attacked and were rewarded on 70 minutes, when Willie Carlin floated over a free-kick. Kinnell mistimed his leap over Mackay when attempting to head the ball away and was forced to handle. Alan Hinton roused the crowd by crashing home the penalty, which left them roaring as Derby went all out for a winner.

With 15 minutes remaining the Rams took the lead for the second time in the game, with what proved to be the decisive goal.

Carlin was being pressured out on the right flank, but managed to swing the ball over into the penalty area. Hinton (above right) was outnumbered two to one by defenders, but threw himself forward to plant a header wide of Willie Whigham in the Boro goal and just inside the post.

Boro tried to hit back but the Derby defence, splendidly marshalled by Mackay, did not buckle. There was only one real scare, when McFarland was in difficulty, leaving Chadwick to

challenged the clearance struck him and landed in his path for him to take on and beat the advancing Green. Middlesbrough had struck at the right time, with the Rams having little opportunity to hit back before the interval.

The home side came up against a

to turn the defenders on the awkward surface.

Although Middlesbrough attacked with skill and verve when they broke away, it was Derby who gained in the ascendancy and took the lead on 19 minutes.

Alan Hinton's inswinging corner



head towards an empty net, but he recovered to get back and head the ball off the line.

On a better pitch the Rams would probably have won more easily against a very physical team who saw Spraggon and McMordie booked for crude tackles.

Alan Durban produced a classy display in midfield in a fine team effort which saw Derby extend their one point lead over Middlesbrough to three, as a result of the 3-2 win.

DERBY COUNTY Green, Webster, Robson, Durban, McFarland, Mackay, Walker, Carlin, O'Hare, Hector, Hinton. Sub: Richardson

MIDDLESBROUGH Whigham, Gates, Jones, Spraggon, Rooks, Kinnell, Allen, Hickton, Chadwick, McMordie, Downing

REFEREE Mr F M Nicholson (Manchester)

ATTENDANCE 34,481

same day stories...

The Rams' reserves drew 0-0 with Nottingham Forest Reserves, at the City Ground.

Mick Jones hit the bar with a fierce drive and Ricky Marlowe hit a post from the rebound. Eighteen-year-old trialist David Hardy had a fine game.

Mr J H Archer, the Head Postmaster, announced that the Christmas postal figures were 833,980 down on the previous year, a drop of 19.4%.

Up to Christmas Eve, 3,458,242 postings were recorded through the Derby cancelling machines, compared with 4,292,222 in 1959. The fall was attributed to household economies and self delivery.

Derby had a white Christmas for the first time in years, fine for the children, but hazardous for the elderly and motorists. East Midlands airport was closed for two days.

Mrs Doris Harrison of Shobnall missed her bus, so then decided to go to Top Rank Bingo Club at Curzon Street, Burton.

Her decision was worthwhile as she won the Christmas Box in Rank's National Livewire competition. Her prize was £1,216.

Space pioneers Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders were preparing to face the final hazard of their historic journey round the moon and back - the re-entry into the earth's atmosphere before splashdown in the Pacific.



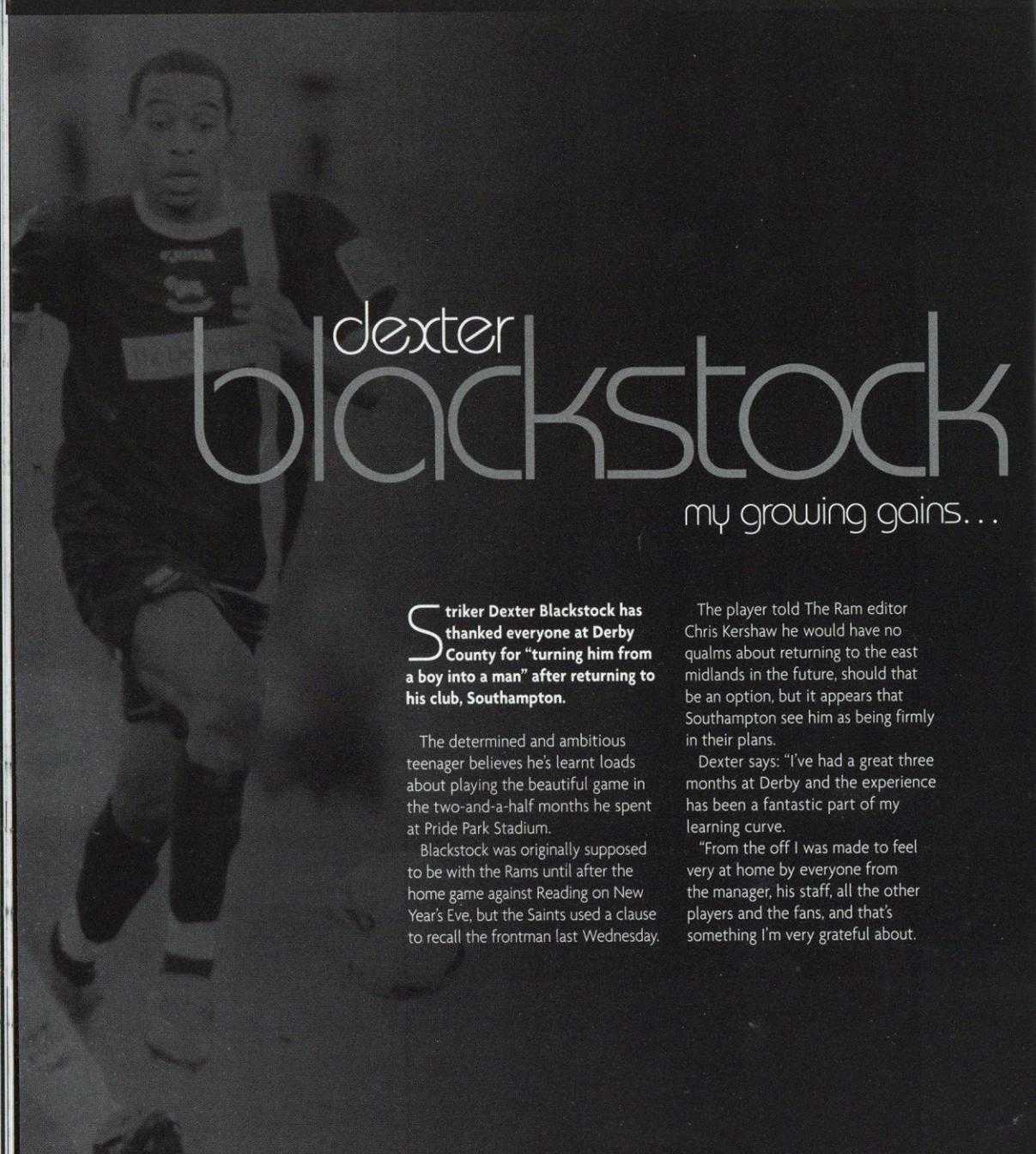


LITTLE COMMERCIAL CENTER



The Davenport
LITTLE COMMERCIAL CENTER

INDEX



dexter blackstock

my growing gains...

Striker Dexter Blackstock has thanked everyone at Derby County for "turning him from a boy into a man" after returning to his club, Southampton.

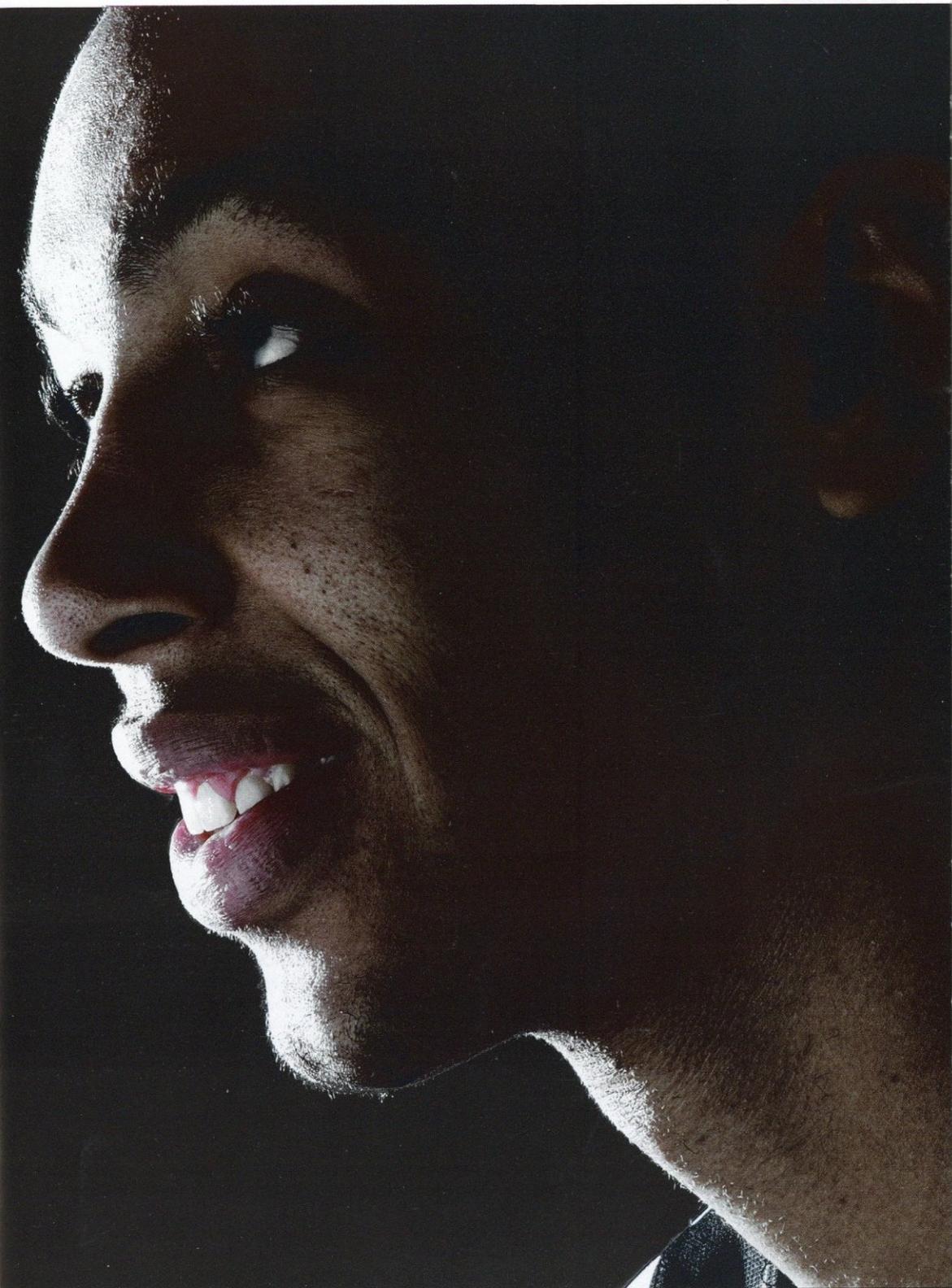
The determined and ambitious teenager believes he's learnt loads about playing the beautiful game in the two-and-a-half months he spent at Pride Park Stadium.

Blackstock was originally supposed to be with the Rams until after the home game against Reading on New Year's Eve, but the Saints used a clause to recall the frontman last Wednesday.

The player told The Ram editor Chris Kershaw he would have no qualms about returning to the east midlands in the future, should that be an option, but it appears that Southampton see him as being firmly in their plans.

Dexter says: "I've had a great three months at Derby and the experience has been a fantastic part of my learning curve.

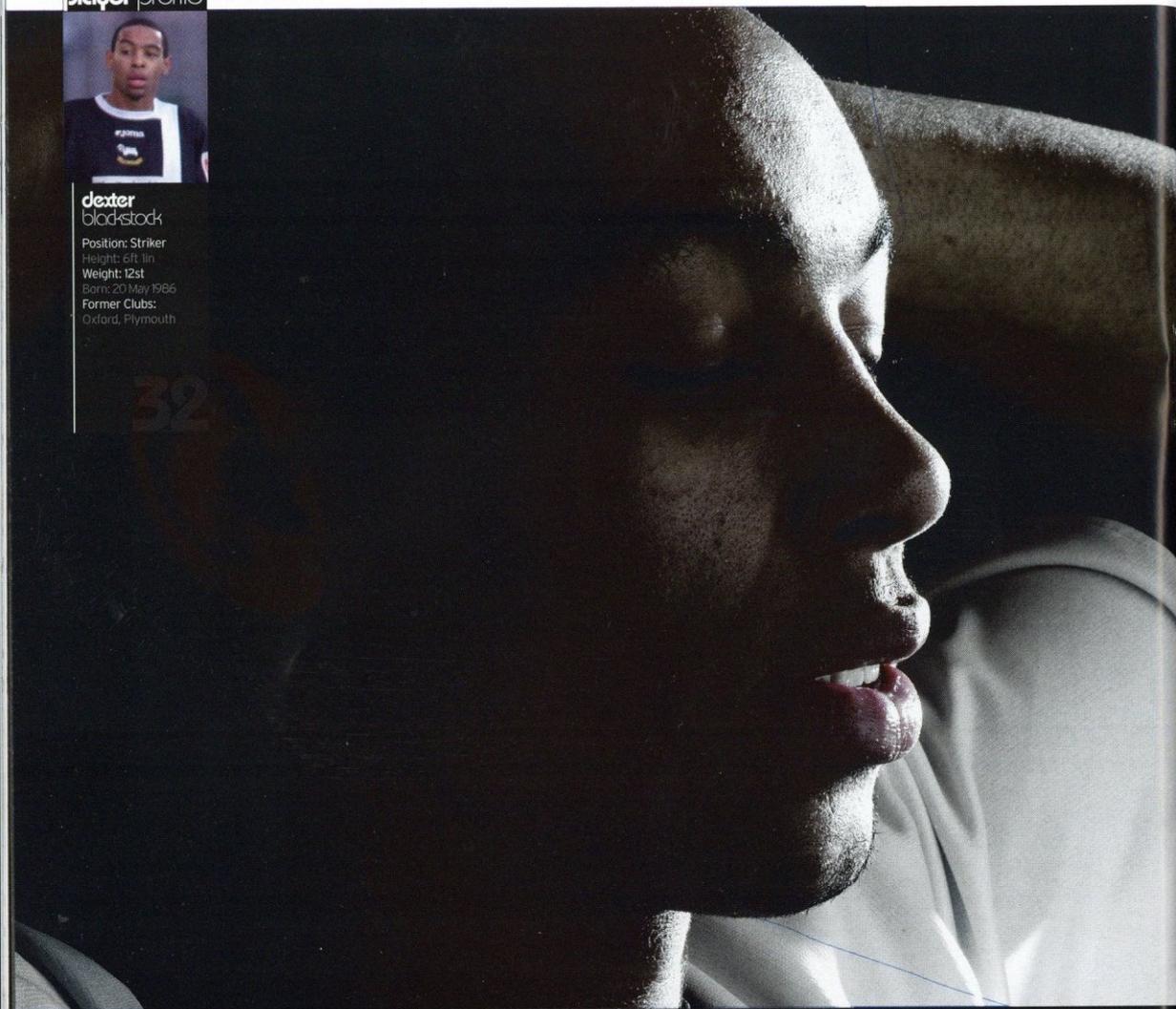
"From the off I was made to feel very at home by everyone from the manager, his staff, all the other players and the fans, and that's something I'm very grateful about.





dexter
blackstock

Position: Striker
Height: 6ft 1in
Weight: 12st
Born: 20 May 1986
Former Clubs:
Oxford, Plymouth



"To be playing regularly – in some vital positions in vital games – has been great for my development and I feel it's improved me as a player, playing consistently for a tremendous club like Derby.

"Scoring my first goal and backing that up with a brace in my next game were proud moments for me, but at that time we weren't picking up results regularly, so I'm just as proud to have been part of a change in formation that saw us do better results-wise."

That switch from a 4-4-2 line-up to a 4-5-1 formation saw Blackstock adapt

from being a striker in a partnership to playing the lone frontman.

With tireless workrate often highlighted as one of the main assets of his game, Dexter slotted into the role well and was more than happy to sacrifice personal glory for team success.

He adds: "As a striker you always want to score goals, but it's far more important that the team do well and going to a 4-5-1 formation made us a much tougher unit to breakdown.

"To be honest I can only see a bright future for Derby, what with the facilities, a good young manager,

an excellent squad of players, great fans and the confidence gained from the recent unbeaten run.

"The Championship is such a tight division that a few wins over Christmas would put the Rams right back into the reckoning in terms of the play-offs, and with the experience the club gained in getting to the semi-finals last year, who's to say they can't go a couple of steps further?"

"All of the lads at Moor Farm are talking about promotion, that is very much the main topic of conversation. There's a real desire in the squad for

"All of the lads at Moor Farm are talking about promotion, that is very much the main topic of conversation. There's a real desire in the squad for Derby to be back in the Premiership next season, and a belief that can be achieved."



Derby to be back in the Premiership next season, and a belief that can be achieved."

In his fledgling career so far Blackstock has already achieved quite a lot. Not only has he played in the Premiership for Southampton, but he was also a hat-trick hero when coming on as a half-time substitute in the Carling Cup against Colchester.

The striker with a burgeoning reputation has also played for England Under-20s and harbours ambitions of one day going on to pick up full international caps.

But it's credit to all connected with Derby County that it was his time here that he believes to have been the most significant part of his development so far, as he explains.

"In many ways coming to Derby was about Dexter Blackstock the boy becoming Dexter Blackstock the man.

"Bursting onto the scene and making a name for yourself is all well and good, and is very important, but it's backing that up and going on to enjoy a long career in the game that's more important.

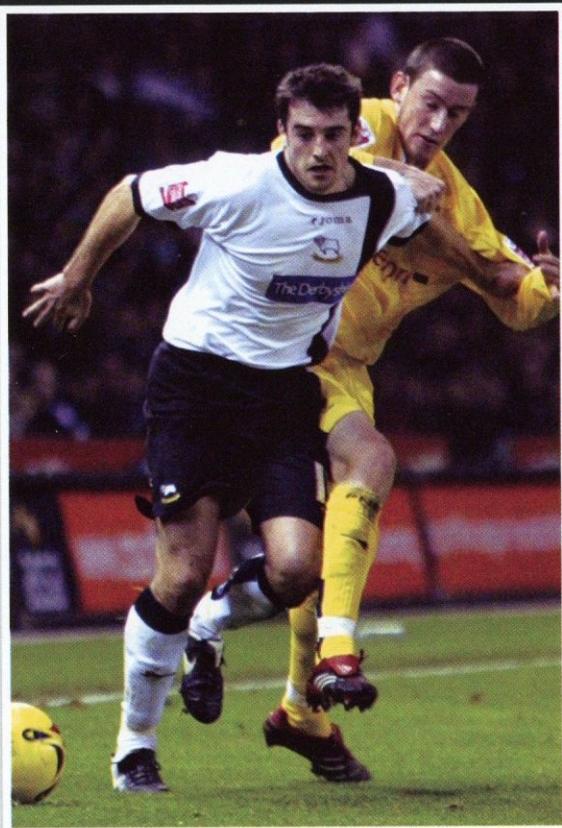
"Having had a few pats on my back early on and had a few people

say nice things about me, it was nice to take on a new chapter in my career, one that I would enjoy and be successful with.

"Playing under a manager like Phil Brown, who has a very modern approach to training schedules and matches, was great for me and I was extremely proud to pull on the Derby shirt too.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to wish a very merry Christmas to all the Rams fans that were so supportive of me - you deserve the success this club is no doubt going to get soon as much as anyone."



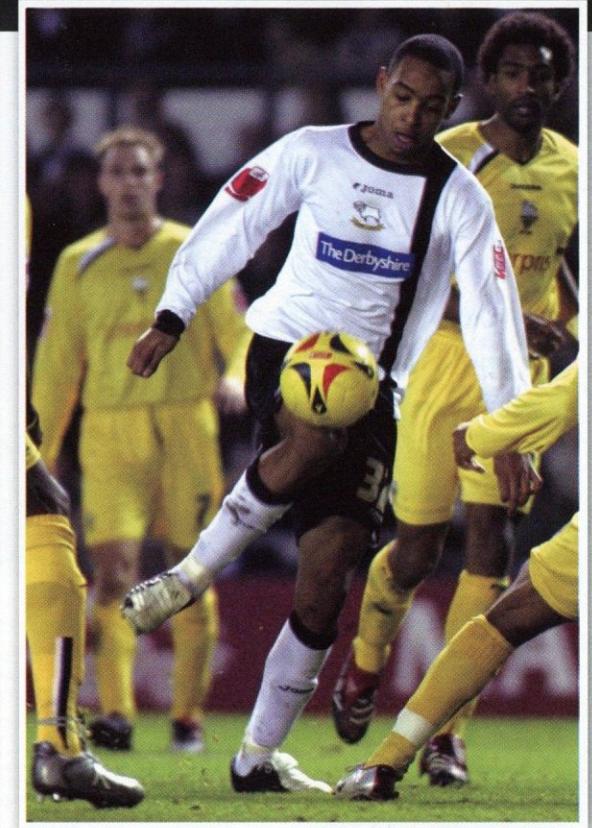


Feisty midfielder Bolder bursts forward



On-the-spot Tommy fires home his penalty

Blackstock forces his way through a Preston sandwich



Venue: Pride Park
 Date: 10 December 2005
 Attendance: 22,740
 Referee: E Ilderton

rams 1 preston 1
 Smith pen 81

rams

Camp, Edworthy, Davies, Nyatanga, Jackson R, Tudgay (**Bisgaard 56**), Bolder, Idiakez, Thirlwell (**Johnson 5 61**), Smith, Blackstock (**Graham 74**)

Other Subs:
 Poole, Johnson M

preston north end

Nash, Alexander, Davis, Mawene, Hill, Sedgwick, Jones, McKenna, Neal (**Mears 69**), Nowland (**O'Neil 78**), Nugent (**Dichio 82**)

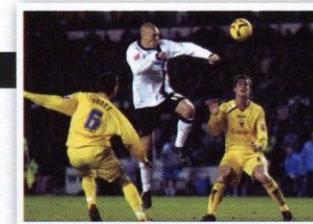
Other Subs:
 Ward, Hibbert

sunday telegraph...

"A penalty scored by Tommy Smith gave Derby a draw after Preston had led through Claude Davis's volley. Former Ram Youl Mawene was adjudged to have handled for the spot kick. 'It was blatant,' said Derby manager Phil Brown."

tommy smith...

"I don't mind taking penalties, I've taken them before in my career. What's the secret of taking a good penalty? You just try to focus, decide where you want to put it and make sure you hit the target. I thought we showed a lot of character."



derby 'til I die

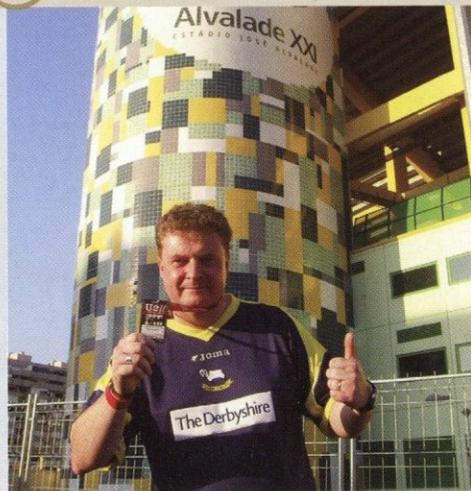
The page for supporters' news and forthcoming events

It was a case of 'with or without you' when top toggy Stuart Wood asked his friends if they wanted to go with him to watch top band U2 in Portugal back in August.

Stuart, who lives in Chaddesden, described the concert as "out of this world" and, deep down, is hoping his idols can one day strut their stuff at Pride Park Stadium.

Nothing was going to stop avid Derby fan Stuart, who takes the superb photos that adorn the front cover, poster and main interview spread in The Ram, from being part of the crowd at the gig which took place in Sporting Lisbon's Estadio Jose Alvalade Stadium.

Editor's note: I'd like to take this opportunity to wish Stuart and his family all the very best for the festive season and an extremely happy and prosperous 2006. Thanks for your continued efforts in helping our award-winning matchday magazine improve year on year.



by Ramorabilia expert Andy Ellis

models

There have been a number of models made of Derby players and stadiums over the 120-plus years of our playing football.

As well as the players there have also been models of our stadia. The first of these was a thin cardboard set of the Baseball Ground, produced in 1987. Inside the box the pieces were stuck together to make the stands and then placed on the underside of the box to complete the model. As it is fairly flimsy I would not expect many of these to have survived this long.

Our move to Pride Park prompted a small model to be made and came either as a finished model, ready painted or in a box ready to assemble and paint yourself.

Both models were recreated as scale wooden models by father and son Chris and Steve Hudson of Long Eaton and took many months of work to complete. These models are a significant size and you will probably have seen them at some point.



fans' contacts

For our Rams fans around the world
To join any of the branches listed below please call the contact - membership starts from as little as £1 at some branches. If you live outside these areas and want to become a National member (GB-based Rams supporters living outside Derbyshire), the cost is £5.

International membership (overseas supporters) costs £10. Please call Ron Stevenson on 01623 487877 or write to him c/o Derby County, Pride Park Stadium, Derby, DE24 8XL for details. Enclose a SAE for membership form. Phone Val Richardson (secretary) on 01332 515184 for hotels or tickets.

NATIONAL BRANCHES
Alfreton Secretary: Malcolm Bagley - 01773 606174. For away travel call Josie Sheppard - 01773 607615.

Ashbourne Philip Etherington, Haywood Farm, Buxton Road, Ashbourne. 01335 348071.

Burton-upon-Trent Barry Smith - 01283 815003.

Castle Donington Mr M Varty - 01332 810542.

Chesterfield Secretary: Karen White, 181 Thanet Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Derbs. 545 9JU. 01246 865073.

Derby City Mr M Kellett - 01332 364120
Derbyshire Dales Secretary: Carl Howsley, 22 Northwood Lane, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbs. DE4 2HQ. 01629 733443.

Disabled Supporters

Ian Twells - 01332 754518.

Heanor Mr I Buxton - 01773 765352.

High Peak A Rixon - 01298 815886.

Ilkeston Mr P Robinson, 198 Little Hallam Hill, Ilkeston.

London Peter Roe, PO Box 36683, London, SE1 4ZR. Tel 020 7403 5889/07745 405399.

Loughborough John Hemsworth 01509 413979.

Nottingham J Woolley - 0115 9197301.

Ripley Secretary: Rob Green, 7 Calke Rise, Ripley. 01773 748872.

South Derbyshire Steve Wilson - 01283 210484.

West Country Justin Ratcliffe, 7 The Willows, Dymock, Gloucs, GL18 2AY. 07970 735689.

www.dccscwb.derbycounty.co.uk

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USA Jeff Willits. e-mail: jeff@dcfc.net.

RAMSTRUST

RamsTrust is an independent and democratic co-operative trust of Derby County fans and is under the umbrella of Supporters Direct, a government backed initiative to bring football clubs closer to their communities.

To find out more about the trust's aims and objectives or to join, go to www.ramstrust.org or write to RamsTrust, PO Box 6377, Derby DE1 9XP or telephone 0870 4321 871 and leave a voicemail message.

We also have a Rendezvous in the Eagle Centre Market where you can meet other Rams fans and talk to trust members, buy our merchandise and join up on most Saturdays between 10.30am and 2pm.

DCCC

The Derby County Community Partnership is focused on uniting Derby County Football Club with the community it serves.

For more information log on to their website at www.derbyportal.org, email thedccc@tiscali.co.uk or call 0870 977 0555.



Derby County Academy's Football Foundation is kindly sponsored by...



Foundation courses are run over ten week blocks to provide structured coaching, games and an award scheme

Holiday Club

Holiday Club courses take place each school holiday at Moor Farm Training Centre as well as other venues around the county

Saturday Morning Fun Club

Saturday sessions at Moor Farm Training Centre involve coaching, fun activities and small sided games

Mini Kickers

The perfect sessions for young children to be introduced to the game of football

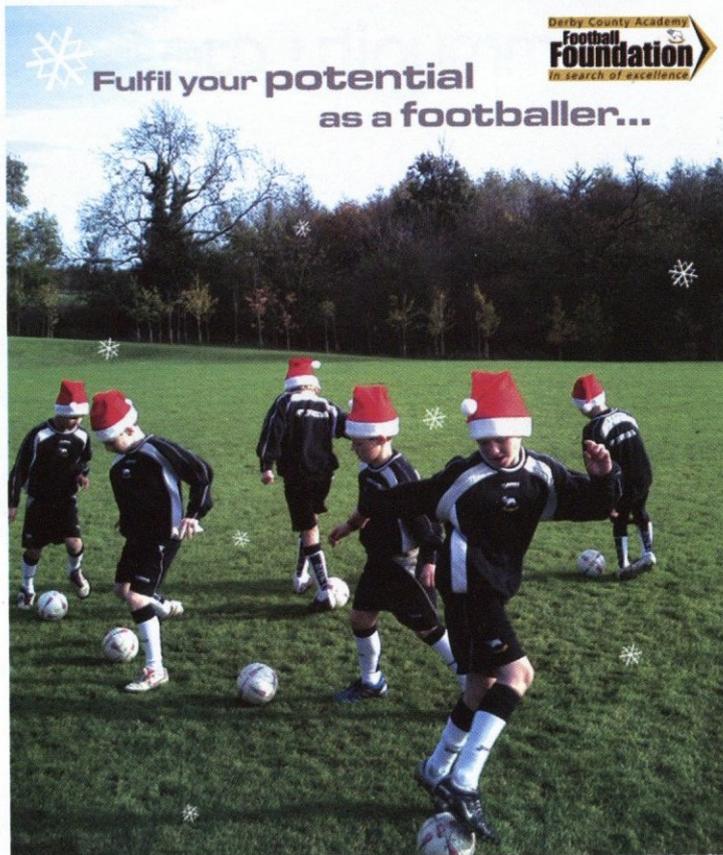
Shot Stoppers

Goalkeeping sessions are offered in the evening and holiday periods for young and advanced shot stoppers

Pro Team Coaching

Bring your junior team, school or youth club to Moor Farm Training Centre for training and a tour of the facilities

building a
foundation



Fulfil your potential
as a footballer...



Moor Farm Training Centre - 28th, 29th, 30th December
Holiday Club Coaching and Shot Stoppers Goalkeeping Coaching
10am to 3pm. £12 per day or £36 for 3 days. (Age: 6-12 years)



Tel: 01332 299924 Email: denise.kirby@dcfc.co.uk

The Foundation's hugely successful Holiday Club is again running this winter between Christmas Day and the New Year, giving children the chance to get out the house and participate in a fun football environment.

The course is held at Moor Farm Training Centre in Oakwood on the 28,

29 and 30 December from 10am to 3pm. The price for each day is £12.

The Holiday Club also features the Shot Stoppers goalkeeping courses, which work on all aspects of goalkeeping skills.

For any holiday club or Shot Stoppers information please contact the Foundation office on 01332 299924.



bt community cup



Derby County Football in the Community was proud to once again host the Primary Schools Under 11s 6-a-side tournament, a nationwide competition for boys and girls run by participating FITC schemes.

On Wednesday 7 December 2005, BT kindly sponsored the 6-a-side football event at JJB SoccerDome.

It was the sixth year that FITC has held the PFA competition, and this year it attracted a record number of schools from all over Derbyshire. No less than 62 teams contested the prestigious BT Community Cup in a sporting manner that was a credit to their schools.

Schools travelled from as far away as Sheffield, Matlock and East Staffordshire and competed in either a four, six or seven team format. The top teams from each group qualified for the knockout stages, as well as

the runner-ups from the six and seven team formats.

The standard of football was very high which resulted in a very competitive tournament, with a number of players being recommended for the Derby County Academy.

Dale 'A' played Grassmoor Primary and Sawley Junior took on St Peter's School in the semi-finals.

The final was contested in a great spirit between Dale 'A' and St Peter's, with fantastic support from many of the other pupils, who stayed to spectate. St Peter's ran out winners by 4-0, which didn't accurately reflect the contribution made by Dale 'A'.

St Peter's were presented with a trophy and also the Farook Madarbakus Shield, which has been launched in tribute to a friend of the Community Scheme and Derby County Football Club who passed away earlier last year.

Mr Madarbakus enthusiastically supported his son Reshad's football, as well as many Community events in and around Derbyshire. It was felt by his family and FITC that this would be an appropriate means to honour his passion and enthusiasm.

St Peter's will now go on to represent the Rams in the regional event against other competing FITC Schemes in the midlands. The national final is to be played at the Wembley Stadium, London, prior to the FA Cup final.

Congratulations to all the competing teams and thank you to all the teachers and helpers who contributed to a fantastic day.

The winners and runners-up are pictured with Mrs Madarbakus. The full St Peter's squad was: Robert Bettison, Mathew Palmer, Danny Clarke, William Hughes, Alex Smith, Manveer Sangera, Aaron Chan and Oliver Baugh.





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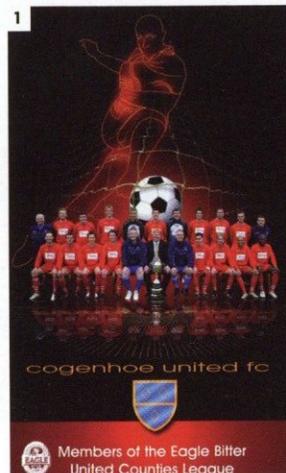
cup victory sees rams roll on

2005-06 u-18 fixtures

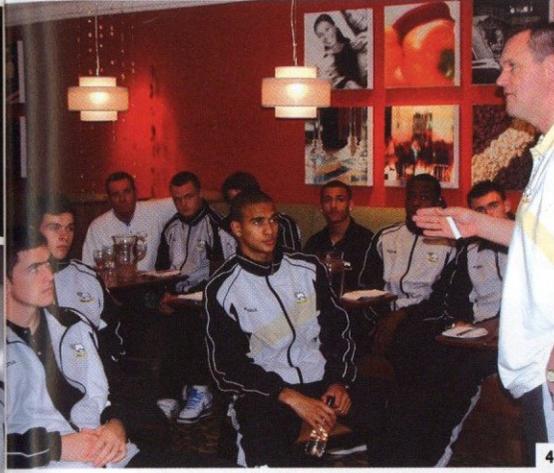
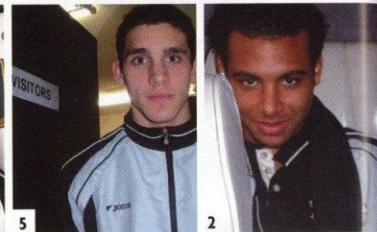
Sat 20 Aug	Norwich City	H	0-3
Sat 27 Aug	Millwall	A	1-2
Sat 3 Sep	Bolton Wanderers	H	1-1
Sat 10 Sep	Crewe Alexandra	A	1-1
Sat 17 Sep	Everton	H	0-0
Sat 24 Sep	Huddersfield Town	H	3-0
Sat 1 Oct	Sheffield Wednesday	A	1-1
Sat 8 Oct	Middlesbrough	H	2-0
Sat 15 Oct	Nottingham Forest	A	2-0
Sat 22 Oct	Sunderland	H	2-0
Sat 5 Nov	Sheffield United	A	3-3
Sat 12 Nov	Leeds United	A	2-1
Sat 19 Nov	Newcastle United	H	2-0
Sat 3 Dec	Barnsley	H	2-1
Sat 10 Dec	Huddersfield Town	H	4-1
Thu 15 Dec	Cogenhoe (FAYC 3)	A	3-1
Sat 7 Jan	Middlesbrough	A	
Sat 14 Jan	Nottingham Forest	H	
Sat 21 Jan	Sunderland	A	
Sat 4 Feb	Sheffield United	H	
Sat 11 Feb	Leeds United	H	
Sat 18 Feb	Newcastle United	A	
Sat 25 Feb	Barnsley	A	
Sat 4 Mar	Sheffield Wednesday	H	
Sat 11 Mar	Liverpool	A	
Sat 18 Mar	Manchester United	H	
Sat 1 Apr	Stoke City	A	
Sat 8 Apr	West Brom	H	
Sat 22 Apr	Wolves	A	
Sat 6 May	Semi-final		
Tue 11 May	Final		

photo captions

1. The Rams got with the programme at Cogenhoe
2. Midfielder Giles Barnes in relaxed mood on the coach
3. Centre-half Danny Young at the Northampton Hilton
4. Academy manager Terry Westley gave an inspirational team talk
5. Striker Karl Ashton on arrival at the Cogenhoe ground
6. Winger Matt Richards focuses on the match ahead
7. Pros Nathan Doyle and Lewin Nyatanga cheered the lads on
8. The lads all pitch in for a celebration



Members of the Eagle Bitter United Counties League



This time last season I boarded the bus with a squad of excitable Academy starlets as they set off for Premiership Fulham, writes The Ram editor Chris Kershaw.

Twelve months later the prize on offer was exactly the same - a place in the FA Youth Cup fourth round - but this time the challenge was a very, very different one.

Cogenhoe (pronounced cook-no) is a hilly location about 15 minutes drive from Northampton. Their non-league ground couldn't be any more different to Craven Cottage with its tiny, tin-covered dug-outs and 100-seat main (and only!) stand.

But, even from the team meeting at Moor Farm at 2.15pm that afternoon - which saw Rams boss Phil Brown urge the lads on with some encouraging words - it was clear to me that this group of fiercely determined players were not about to allow themselves to be on

the wrong end of a cup shock.

Preparation, twinned with attitude and desire, is everything to Academy manager Terry Westley and he and his coaching team were impeccable in their planning for the potential banana skin. Not a base remained uncovered.

And the lads themselves were brimming with confidence on the back of a 13-match unbeaten run that had taken them to joint top in the Academy league.

The day threatened to get off to a bad start when news filtered through that the M1 was closed due to a nasty accident. When the texts arrived to say it had re-opened it was time to hit the road and do the business.

This was, for most of the youngsters on the bus, the biggest day of their footballing lives so far. Yet you wouldn't have guessed it as they relaxed into a game of cards, talked amongst themselves or listened to their iPods.

England legend Alan Shearer once said that the key to his success was his pre-match snap of chicken and beans - which is exactly what the lads all tucked into at the Northampton Hilton en-route.

Westley then held another team meeting in the hotel restaurant, under the heading of 'Cogenhoe v Derby. BIG TEST'. He was leaving no stone unturned and said: "You've done everything asked of you this season so far. You've got yourselves to the top of the league, now go out there and win us a place in the fourth round of the FA Youth Cup."

With those inspirational words ringing in their ears the squad had half an hour to relax in the sumptuous surroundings of the Hilton's lounge before embarking on the short journey to Cogenhoe.

After an hour to familiarise

themselves with the 'stadium' there was the small matter of a match to play. It was time to see if all the preparation, the dialogue and the fierce determination to succeed could come together. And no-one let Derby County down.

The Rams controlled proceedings from the off and went ahead thanks to a stunning Giles Barnes free-kick from just outside the area on 25 minutes.

The skilful midfielder was involved again 13 minutes later, as the visitors made it 2-0. He sent in a setpiece from the right that evaded everyone except for centre-half Miles Addison, who gleefully smashed the ball into the net from close range.

With keeper Steven Cann in dominant form between the sticks and defender Danny Young in control of everything, Derby had a very solid look

about them and the outcome of the tie was never in doubt from here on in.

Substitute Scott Wells guaranteed a fourth round tie at Blackburn with a looping header, following a pinpoint James Meredith cross, with just four minutes remaining and Cogenhoe's headed goal from a corner deep in injury time was merely a consolation.

So the lads went into a deserved Christmas break top of the league and in the next round of the cup. I for one was proud to be part of their Cogenhoe journey.

And I know I wasn't the only one.

U-18s v Cogenhoe: Cann, Cumberworth, Meredith, Booth, Addison (Streete 46), Young, Arnold, Simmons (Fleming 73), Ashton, Barnes (Wells 66), Richards



rams in the community

matchday mascots

...in association with our community team sponsors The Film Studios Ltd of Duffield

This afternoon's home match mascots are brothers Christopher and Scott Slowik, from Long Eaton.

Eleven-year-old Christopher goes to Long Eaton Community School and is a huge fan of Tommy Smith and Lee Camp. He lists his hobbies as swimming, football and boarding.

His younger brother, Scott, is eight and is a pupil at St Laurence School. He also idolises Campy and has another favourite, Spaniard Inigo Idiakez. He also enjoys football and swimming.

We'd also like to give out a warm welcome to our visiting mascot today, 14-year-



old Thomas Tillier from Dunstable. Weatherfield School student Thomas lists Steve Howard as his favourite player, and in his spare time enjoys football, playing computer games and watching TV and films.



bmi baby shoot-out

Pictured are the Platinum and Gold Junior Members who took part in the half-time BmiBaby Shoot-Out against Rammie at the Preston home game.

All qualified to have a go at scoring a goal on the hallowed Pride park turf from the pre-match Ramtastic Play & Stay Session at JJB SoccerDome.

Youngsters taking part were Simon Cripps, Lucas Carter, Ashley Tomlinson, Ryan Murfin, Luke Oates, Will Watson, Thomas Mycroft, Jon

Mee, Toby Waldron-Clarke, Ashley Shaw, Purkash Jandu, Lucy Marriott and Daniel Lemon.

Ramtastic Play & Stay sessions on Saturday home match days at the SoccerDome include football competitions and gameplay. The youngsters compete in teams, with the winning team earning the honour of taking part in the BmiBaby Shoot-Out.

Today's half-time kids were selected from our Junior Club Christmas party and from today's Ramtastic Boxing Day in the Assa Suite.



rams' fair play

The Rams have pitched in to help Morley Primary School raise funds to buy equipment for a new outdoor play area and classroom.

Midfielder Adam Bolder last week joined Rammie to draw a raffle for prizes donated by Derby County to the school, which is situated near our Moor Farm Academy.

These included two signed footballs won by pupils Dana

Robinson (left) and Sarah Vallis, who are pictured here with their prizes and Adam.

Also pictured with Rammie, Adam, Dana and Sarah is the Morley School 5-a-side squad.

Photographs: Jeanette Brennan

question time for fans

Two hundred Rams fans had the chance to quiz Rams boss Phil Brown and the board of directors at an Ashbourne forum recently.

The club hit the road to meet supporters at the town's Empire Hall for a night of chat about football and finance.

Boss Brown was joined by chief executive Jeremy Keith, operations director Paul Clouting and finance director Andrew Mackenzie for the event, hosted by the Ashbourne Supporters' Club.

The evening was one of a number of events designed to take the club into

its community and follows on from a summer forum in Matlock.

Derby County is planning to take the Rams on the Road again over the coming months so if you think we should stage a fans' forum where you are, email jim.earn@dcfc.co.uk and, if possible, suggest a suitable venue.

rammie's special guests

Sisters Emma and Lucy Howe are two of Rammie's Special Guests today, and everyone at Derby County hopes they have a fantastic afternoon with the Rams.

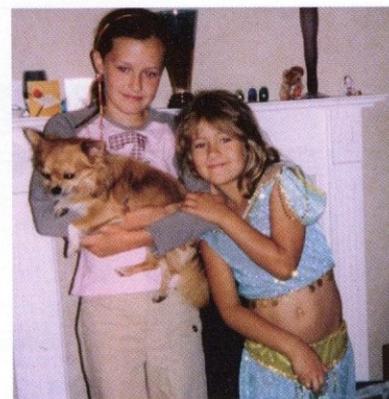
Both attend Walter Evans CE Primary School and Emma, aged 11, enjoys shopping with her friends, ballet and acro as well as tennis, netball and, of course, football.

Eight-year-old Lucy enjoys cycling, football, football and football! When she has time she also likes ballet, acro and tennis.

Another of Rammie's Special Guests is Tia Owen. Rammie attended Tia's sixth birthday back in August and she says it was the best party ever and a day she will never forget.

A massive Rams fan, Tia was born at 28 weeks weighing under 2lb, but even in the Derby Special Care Baby Unit she sported Derby County baby clothes!

Tia also likes Michael Owen and David Beckham and would love them



to play for Derby - but so long as Rammie is at Derby, she's happy!

To find out more about how to become one of Rammie's Special Guests, please call the Community Team on 01332 667578.



plus bus sell out

Please note our Plus Bus to Millwall on 2 January is now sold out thanks a brilliant response from 0>16 Junior Club members.

Thanks to everyone who has supported 0>16 Junior Club activities so brilliantly throughout 2005!



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cracking rams dvds this festive season

There are two great new dvds available now from shopDCFC - both great ways to spend some of that Christmas cash.

Lee Camp Face2Face

(£11.99)



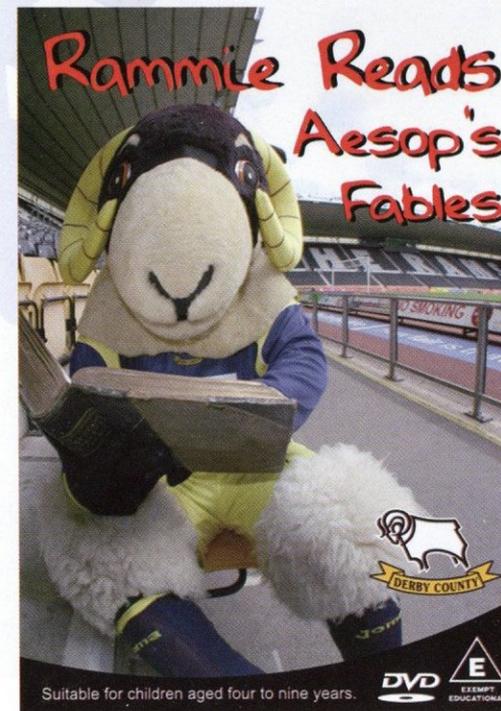
Charts his progress from cheeky Derby schoolboy to England U-21 international. It was filmed at Campy's home in Mickleover and includes family photographs from his youngest days.

In a frank interview that should

inspire other youngsters to follow their dream, Campy talks about his influences including dad Mick, his strong family ties, the mates from school and his boyhood heroes including Peter Schmeichel and Mart Poom.

It's a story of determination and

pride, and he talks about his school achievements - particularly a GCSE in Geography - gained despite the distractions of football and also how he confounded the doubters who claimed he was too heavy and short to ever make it as a goalkeeper.



Rammie Reads Aesop's Fables

(£9.99)

Designed for youngsters aged four to nine. Filmed in the picturesque Derbyshire Dales countryside - Rammie re-tells popular stories such as **The Boy Who Cried Wolf, The Hare and The Tortoise, The Dog & The Bone, The Lion and the Mouse and The Traveller and the Bear.**

There are nine fables in total and Rammie also has two important messages of his own for children on the subject of stranger danger and road safety.

Rammie's community work includes visits to approximately 200 primary schools every year, where he enthusiastically hammers home the message that Reading IS Fun! It is in these schools that Rammie first started reading Aesop's Fables - tales 2,500 years old that still have a message for young people today.

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Our gratitude to Preston North End for the use of their facilities.



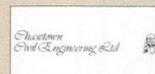
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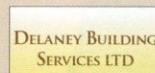
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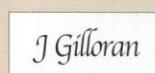
match - Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd

We welcome Noel Sweeney and his family and friends to today's game. Chasetown Civil Engineering are sponsors of our Academy and Foundation and all at Derby County would like to thank Noel for his valued and much appreciated support.



mitre matchball - Delaney Building Services Ltd

Derby County would like to welcome Pat Delaney from DBS Ltd and his guests to today's game. Pat is a valued fan of the club being a seasonal member in the Toyota Suite and all at Pride Park would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his continued support. DBS Ltd has been established for over five years, specialising in the construction of bespoke home conservatories and extensions.



associate matchball - J Gilloran

Season's greetings from all at Derby County go to James, Sara, Maureen, Rebecca, Lauren and Emily Gilloran and to Owen, Rose and Amanda Evans. Have a great time in the company of the Rams at Pride Park Stadium this afternoon.



kit - Deb Ltd

A warm welcome from all at Derby County to Jeff Bell and his guests. A huge thank-you from everyone at the club goes to all at Deb Ltd for their continued support over many years. Enjoy the game - here's hoping you can bring the Rams a victory.



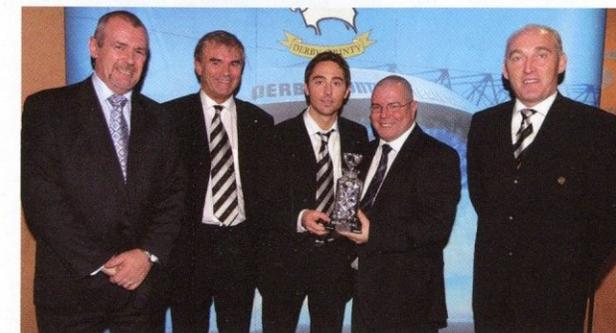
kit - Assa T + L Training and Learning

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corner commercial

Happy Christmas to all our sponsors (featured left) here at Pride Park Stadium this afternoon. Hopefully we can keep the festive cheer going for you in the form of a Rams win.

The kind support of everyone who has got behind Derby County so far this season really is appreciated and a special thank you goes out to the companies who sponsored us at our recent home game against Preston North End. They were...



match - Raygar Architectural & Engineering Supplies

Ray Garlick of Raygar is presented with a decanter by man of the match Tommy Smith, watched by (from left to right) a fellow guest, club chairman John Sleightholme and director of football Murdo Mackay



mitre matchball - Optimum Logistical Services

A guest of Optimum Logistical Services is presented with an autographed football



kit - Assa T + L Training and Learning

Excited young guests of Assa receive a signed shirt

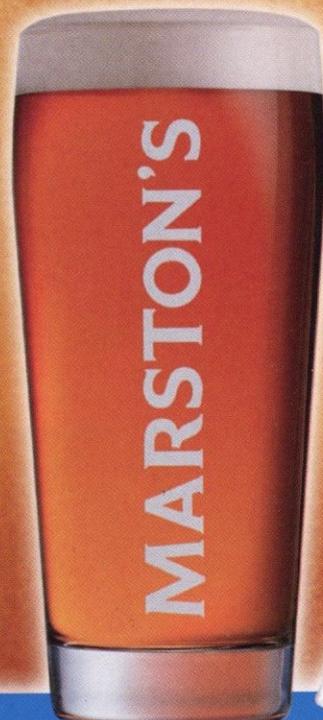
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it's a girls' game

students teach rams a lesson

After the confidence-boosting thumping of Shrewsbury a week earlier the first team travelled to in-form Loughborough Students for what turned out to be an eventful and controversial match.

Having taken an early lead through Susie Cunningham, Derby doubled their lead thanks to Katie Wilmott before conceding a sloppy goal just before half-time.

After the interval the Rams seemed to be withstanding Loughborough pressure until two penalties (one of them controversially re-taken after a great save by new Derby keeper Sarah Jones) and a free-kick handed the advantage to the home side to make it a disappointing 4-2 defeat.

Three goals in the first eight minutes, including one inside 30 sec-

onds, set the tempo of the game to come when Derby County Reserves travelled to play Crewe.

In the first half the home side took the lead three times, but Derby equalised through Kate Gray, Amy Pashley and a Jade Brown penalty.

However, Crewe hit twice more in the second half and the Rams could not match this, despite coming close on a number of occasions, and eventually went down 5-3.

The U-14 development side equalised thanks to Farrah Walker away to Rainworth but the home side hit a second late in the game to win 2-1.

The unstoppable U-12s 11-a-side team put in a great display to beat Arnold Town 6-0 with the goals coming from Chloe Flinn, Sam Smith, Olivia Bennett and a Michelle Kilmartin hat-trick.

It was a closer encounter for the

7-a-side team, but they too emerged victorious as goals from Megan Parker and Rebecca Montague, coupled with some great defending, earned a 2-1 win over Radcliffe Olympic.

The U-10 Derby girls started their match at home to Bingham Town with great football right from kick-off.

There was tireless work from both wingers Georgia Barker and Alice Walker yet again put superb balls into the area from corners.

Daisy Pridden made some excellent passes and Camilla Newton worked hard as well as scoring her hat-trick, two of which were superb volleys from corner balls.

It was 4-0 at the break but in the second period the Rams ran riot to produce a stunning 11-0 victory. The scorers were Camilla Newton (3), Emma Chatterton (3), Daisy Pridden, Lauren Humphries, Leah Smith, Hannah Blount and Lauren Bingley.

match results

Sun 4 Dec	Loughborough Students v Derby County	4-2	(Midland Combination)
	Crewe v Derby County Reserves	5-3	(Midland Combination Reserve Division)
	Rainworth Tigers v Derby County U-14s	2-1	(Notts Girls League)
	Arnold Town v Derby County U-12s	0-6	(Notts Girls League)
	Radcliffe Olympic v Derby County U-12s (7s)	1-2	(Notts Girls League)
	Derby County v Bingham Town	11-0	(Notts Girls League)



get shirty 05-06

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M Phil Brown



1 Lee Camp (GK)



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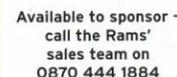
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by Mike Wilson

Defining moments of a season have often come during the holiday games at Christmas and Easter.

In 1999-2000, the season of the millennium, the Rams were still in the Premier League and were involved in two league games over Christmas. They were at home to Aston Villa, on Boxing Day, and away to West Ham United two days later.

Derby went into those fixtures in 18th place, fresh from a 1-0 away win

by a 0-0 draw at Maine Road, against Manchester City, on Boxing Day, and a 0-1 away defeat by Southampton on 30 December 2000. They began the new year with a 1-0 home win over Everton, Deon Burton scoring in the first half.

Derby beat Aston Villa 3-1 on 22 December 2000, thanks to goals from Fabrizio Ravanelli, Benito Carbone and Malcolm Christie, but lost by 0-4 on Boxing Day to West Ham United.

Recovery was instant, with a 1-0 success away to Blackburn Rovers, three days later. Malcolm Christie net-

ted the vital goal for the Rams, who were pegged back in the second half for a 1-1 draw.

Two years ago Derby were in 22nd place when they travelled to the Hawthorns on Boxing Day, and drew 1-1 with a goal from Candido da Costa. That point kept them in 22nd place, and they were still there following a 0-4 home defeat by Norwich City two days later.

The first League fixture of 2004 was not until 19 January, when the Rams lost 1-2 at Stoke, with Lee Morris scoring his last goal before moving to Leicester City.

Last season Derby were in the top half of the table following a 3-0 victory at Pride Park over neighbours Nottingham Forest, Grzegorz Rasiak scoring twice and Tommy Smith also grabbing a goal. That result was compounded with a 2-0 away success against Plymouth Argyle. Coughlan scored an own goal.

The Boxing Day fixture was a tricky one away to Wigan Athletic, who had drawn 1-1 here earlier in the season. The Rams came back from a 0-1 half time deficit to win 2-1 with goals from Rasiak (above) and Smith. That took Derby to seventh place, but they dropped to eighth with a disappointing 0-3 home defeat by Millwall, on 28 December. This year, 2005, also started badly with a 0-1 home defeat by Cardiff City.

So, in the last six seasons the Rams have struggled to make an impact at this time of year, and we can only hope for a change of fortune this time around.

at Leicester, Darryl Powell's goal having ended a run of four successive defeats.

Boxing Day provided little cheer as Villa claimed the points with a 2-0 win, but the Rams managed a 1-1 draw against the Hammers, thanks to a Dean Sturridge strike.

Derby then defeated Watford 2-0 at Pride Park on 3 January 2000, with Branko Strupar scoring a brace, including the Premiership's first goal of the new millennium.

In 2000-01, the Rams had three games over Christmas, starting with a 2-0 home win over Newcastle United, with goals from Horacio Carbonari and Deon Burton. That was followed

ted the vital goal.

This time the New Year did not start well with a 0-1 defeat, at home to Fulham. It was the start of five defeats in six games and Derby were relegated that season.

The Rams were struggling again at Christmas 2002. A 0-3 away defeat at Coventry on 21 December was followed by a 1-3 home defeat, on Boxing Day. Grimsby Town were the opponents, Lee Morris the consolation scorer.

Derby's troubles continued two days later when they were defeated 1-2 away to Reading, with Craig Burley netting a penalty. On New Year's Day, Malcolm Christie scored a first half



FL Championship stats

due to print deadlines, stats up to date at 19 December

2005/06 season

Scored & conceded in last 15 mins

FOR	76-90	Total	%	AGAINST	76-90	Total	%
Crewke	8	25	32.0	Leicester	10	29	34.5
Stoke	9	32	28.1	Southampton	7	22	31.8
Palace	9	33	27.3	Luton	11	35	31.4
Hull	6	22	27.3	Derby	9	33	27.3
Sheff Utd	12	46	26.1	Millwall	10	37	27.0
Luton	9	35	25.7	Cardiff	7	26	26.9
Brighton	6	24	25.0	Stoke	9	34	26.5
Plymouth	5	20	25.0	Watford	8	31	25.8
Wolves	7	29	24.1	Brighton	9	36	25.0
Sheff Wed	4	17	23.5	Wolves	5	20	25.0
Derby	7	30	23.3	Reading	3	12	25.0
Burnley	8	35	22.9	QPR	8	33	24.2
Preston	6	27	22.2	Preston	5	21	23.8
Reading	10	48	20.8	Palace	6	26	23.1
Watford	8	39	20.5	Sheff Wed	6	30	20.0
Norwich	5	26	19.2	Sheff Utd	4	21	19.0
Ipswich	5	27	18.5	Coventry	6	34	17.6
Leeds	5	28	17.9	Ipswich	6	36	16.7
Leicester	4	26	15.4	Burnley	5	30	16.7
QPR	4	27	14.8	Crewke	6	46	13.0
Cardiff	4	33	12.1	Hull	3	27	11.1
Southampton	2	26	7.7	Leeds	1	21	4.8
Coventry	2	28	7.1	Plymouth	1	29	3.4
Millwall	1	17	5.9	Norwich	1	31	3.2

Margins of victory & defeat

WON BY	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4+ gls	LOST BY	1 gl	2 gls	3 gls	4+ gls
Reading	7	6	3	2	Millwall	8	3	0	2
Sheff Utd	9	3	2	2	Crewke	4	4	2	2
Stoke	8	3	1	0	Sheff Wed	7	5	0	0
Leeds	8	3	0	0	Norwich	6	4	1	0
Burnley	6	0	3	1	Stoke	5	4	2	0
Luton	5	3	2	0	Hull	7	2	1	0
Watford	5	4	1	0	Luton	6	2	1	0
Cardiff	6	1	1	1	Burnley	5	3	1	0
Palace	2	6	1	0	Ipswich	4	2	2	1
Norwich	4	4	0	0	Plymouth	2	7	0	0
Wolves	3	3	1	1	Brighton	3	3	1	1
Ipswich	5	2	0	0	Coventry	4	2	1	1
Preston	3	2	1	1	Palace	6	2	0	0
QPR	6	0	1	0	Leicester	6	1	1	0
Hull	3	3	0	0	QPR	2	5	1	0
Southampton	3	3	0	0	Cardiff	5	2	0	0
Coventry	2	2	1	0	Derby	5	1	1	0
Derby	3	2	0	0	Leeds	5	1	0	0
Leicester	2	3	0	0	Watford	3	1	1	0
Plymouth	3	2	0	0	Wolves	3	2	0	0
Crewke	2	2	0	0	Preston	2	0	2	0
Sheff Wed	4	0	0	0	Southampton	3	1	0	0
Brighton	2	1	0	0	Sheff Utd	2	1	0	0
Millwall	3	0	0	0	Reading	1	0	0	0

Volleys

Most volleyed shots scored

Player	Club	Goals
Ashton	Norwich	3
Adebola	Coventry	2
Brkovic	Luton	2
Broomes	Stoke	2
Doyle	Reading	2
Elliott	Burnley	2
Ganea	Wolves	2
Healy	Leeds	2
Hulse	Leeds	2
Hume	Leicester	2
Jerome	Cardiff	2
King	Watford	2
Lita	Reading	2
Morgan	Luton	2



On the volley: Norwich's Dean Ashton has netted 3 volleys this season, more than any other Championship player.

Most scored from the spot

Player	Club	Goals
Idiakez	Derby	4
Gudjonsson	Leicester	3
Healy	Leeds	3
Kitson	Reading	3
O'Connor G	Burnley	3
Purse	Cardiff	3
Nicholls	Luton	2
Quashie	Southampton	2
Richards	Ipswich	2
Wotton	Plymouth	2



Spot kick king: Derby's Inigo Idiakez has netted the most penalties in the Championship this season.

Goalkeeping & goalscoring

Best goalkeeping ratio

Total goals conceded	12
Opposition shots on target	114
Percentage of shots saved	89.5



Best strike ratio

Total goals scored	46
Shots on target	139
Percentage of shots scored	33.1



Worst goalkeeping ratio

Total goals conceded	35
Opposition shots on target	103
Percentage of shots saved	66.0



Worst strike ratio

Total goals scored	17
Shots on target	106
Percentage of shots scored	16.0



Comebacks & throwaways

WON FROM	-3	-2	-1	TOTAL	LOST FROM	+3	+2	+1	TOTAL
Stoke	0	0	4	4	Southampton	1	0	2	3
Sheff Utd	0	1	2	3	Coventry	0	0	3	3
Norwich	0	0	3	3	Hull	0	0	3	3
Leeds	1	0	1	2	Luton	0	0	3	3
Luton	0	0	2	2	Watford	0	1	1	2
Watford	0	0	2	2	Crewke	0	0	2	2
					Derby	0	0	2	2
					Stoke	0	0	2	2

DRAWN FROM	-3	-2	-1	TOTAL	DRAWN FROM	+3	+2	+1	TOTAL
Derby	0	0	9	9	Crewke	0	1	6	7
Coventry	0	1	4	5	Brighton	0	1	5	6
Brighton	0	0	5	5	Sheff Wed	0	0	5	5
Palace	0	0	5	5	Southampton	0	0	5	5
Leicester	0	1	3	4	Cardiff	0	1	3	4
Watford	0	1	3	4	Ipswich	0	1	3	4
Burnley	0	0	4	4	Derby	0	0	4	4
Hull	0	0	4	4	Millwall	0	0	4	4
Ipswich	0	0	4	4	Preston	0	0	4	4
Preston	0	0	4	4	QPR	0	0	4	4
Southampton	0	0	4	4	Wolves	0	0	4	4

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old moore's
anorak



by David Moore

One of the most disappointing things in football these days is for a small club to progress through the early stages of a cup competition, get a dream draw at home to the likes of Manchester United, Chelsea or Arsenal, say in the third round, only to discover that your illustrious opponents turn up with a bunch of players you've hardly heard of.

And if that's not bad enough they then go on to win 4-0. Burton Albion fans had probably been thinking along those lines - that was until the unthinkable happened and Sir Alex Ferguson's men were dumped out of the Championship in the early stages.

Chances of them catching Chelsea in the Premiership seem remote too so, obviously, their best and perhaps only chance of collecting some silverware this season is to lift the FA Cup next May either at Wembley or, more likely, at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

After a scare against Conference side Exeter City in last year's competition it would seem highly unlikely they will take the slightest risk with team selection this time.

All of which is great news for the thousands of Burtonians who have been counting the weeks, days and even the hours until the likes of Rooney, Giggs and Van Nistelrooy arrive in town.

All of which is great news for the thousands of Burtonians who have been counting the weeks, days and even the hours until the likes of Rooney, Giggs and Van Nistelrooy (above) arrive in town.

And, thanks to chairman Ben Robinson, regular fans of the Brewers shouldn't have a problem getting hold of a ticket for the game thanks to an initiative at a recent home match in the Conference when the seventeen hundred or so at the Pirelli Stadium were informed a few minutes before the end of the game that they could collect vouchers for Cup tickets on the way out.

Football over the Christmas holiday, thankfully, is one of those traditions of the game which has survived.

At least up until now. What could be better than going to match on a crisp yuletide afternoon after an excess of turkey, and plum pudding, a

house full of noisy kids and long lost relatives? Bah, humbug!
Okay, not on the 25th December itself these days. That's not happened in Derby since 1957 when the Rams beat Scunthorpe 4-0, only to bang in another four in the return fixture at the Old Show Ground on Boxing Day.

The following season turned out to be the last with a full league programme on Christmas Day itself. The Rams travelled to Ashton Gate for a Second Division match against Bristol City.

A 2-1 defeat spoilt our afternoon (back at home) but all was well a day later in the return fixture at the Baseball Ground, the Rams winning by five goals to two including a brace from Jack Parry.

The amazing thing was there were almost 26,000 people at the match and yet there was little or no public transport, not many of us had cars, so how we all got there remains something of a mystery...



Derby County Football Club
Ticket Office, Pride Park Stadium
Derby DE24 8XL

Web - www.dcf.co.uk
Email - ticket.office@dcfc.co.uk
Tel - 0870 444 1884

Derby County Membership Scheme
Priority scheme for home and away tickets

The club will operate a ticket priority system to ensure that tickets are distributed to supporters as fairly as possible. Priority, however, does not guarantee a ticket.

Home league matches

Tickets go on sale approx one month before the date in which the fixture is to be played. Normal priority order:

1. Platinum members
2. Gold members
3. Silver members
4. General sale

Home cup matches

Normal priority order:

1. All season ticket holders to purchase their own seat
2. Gold members
3. Silver members
4. General sale

For most cup matches season ticket holders will be able to purchase an additional seat when purchasing their own seat. We reserve the right to change this if demand is likely to exceed supply.

Away matches

When the club receives a limited supply of away tickets or demand is expected to exceed supply, we reserve the right to allocate tickets to those supporters who have attended a certain number of away matches in the season. In these instances, supporters will need to apply for tickets by written application. The number of qualifying matches, dependant on how far into the season the date of the match is, will be announced should we need to use these additional criteria.

Normal priority order:

1. Rams On Tour members
2. Platinum members
3. Season ticket holders
4. Gold members
5. Silver members
6. General sale

For the club to be able to register your away matches, tickets must be purchased through Derby County Football Club. Tickets purchased from away clubs cannot be included.

ticket to pride



v reading

Saturday 31 December 2005, kick-off 5.15pm

A CATEGORY MATCH

***TICKET OFFER FOR YOUNG SUPPORTERS**

Junior tickets in seating categories C & D are reduced in price for this match.

Juniors (aged 12 to 16) - £5

Junior Junior (11 and under) - FREE

For all discounted tickets, the junior supporter must be registered as a Derby County member; otherwise normal junior admission prices will apply.

This offer is only available on tickets sold in advance of matchday. Normal matchday prices will apply on 31 January. Children aged 13 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets are on general sale

v crewe alexandra

Saturday 14 January 2006, kick-off 3pm

B CATEGORY MATCH

Tickets are on general sale

v sheffield united

Wednesday 1 February 2006, kick-off 7.45pm

A CATEGORY MATCH

Tickets are on general sale

The FA CUP

v burnley

Saturday 7 January 2005, kick-off 3pm

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

PRICES FOR ALL SEATING CATEGORIES: Adult season ticket holders £16, adult non-season ticket holders £18, concession season ticket holders £9, concession non-season ticket holders £10, all juniors (16 & under) £5.

Tickets are on general sale

IN THE EVENT OF A REPLAY: This match would be played on Tuesday 17 January, kick off 7.45pm. TICKET PRICES TO BE CONFIRMED BY BURNLEY FC. Tickets will go on sale to Platinum members on Saturday 7 January, gold members on Thursday 12 January and general sale on Monday 16 January. Season Ticket Holders: Tuesday 10 January, Silver members on Saturday 14 January.

Rams on Tour Members would have their ticket(s) sent automatically by post.

match tickets advance purchase

	Adults		Juniors/Seniors/ Young Adults	
	A Game	B Game	A Game	B Game
AA	£30	£27	£16	£14
A	£28	£25	£14	£12
B	£26	£23	£14	£12
C	£25	£22	£13	£11
D	£23	£20	£12	£10

match tickets matchday price

	Adults		Juniors/Seniors/ Young Adults	
	A Game	B Game	A Game	B Game
AA	£33	£30	£17	£15
A	£31	£28	£15	£13
B	£29	£26	£15	£13
C	£28	£25	£14	£12
D	£26	£23	£13	£11

rams on tour



v millwall

at The New Den

Monday 2 January 2006, kick-off 3pm

Away allocation 1,500

PRICES: Adults £19, Over-65s £12 and Under-16s £10

Tickets are on general sale.

Rams On Tour members will have their ticket(s) sent automatically by post.

dcfc roadrider

If you would like to travel to away fixtures in style, why not take a trip on the Derby County RoadRider. Our 48-seater executive-style coaches depart from the Toyota West Stand car park. To avoid disappointment supporters are advised to purchase RoadRider tickets when buying match tickets.

v crystal palace

Departs at 1.30pm, priced £15

v millwall

Departs at 9.30am, priced £15



v crystal palace
at Selhurst Park

Wednesday 28 December 2005, kick-off 7.45pm

Initial 1,100 away allocation

PRICES: Adults £25, Over-60s and Under-16s £15

Tickets are on general sale

Rams On Tour members will have their ticket(s) sent automatically by post.

how to get there

By car: Leave M25 at Junction 7 and follow the signs for the A23 to Croydon. At Purley bear left onto the A23 at its junction with the A235 (to Croydon). You will pass roundabouts and junctions with the A232 and A236 as you pass Croydon, after which the A23 bears left at Thornton Heath. Here you must go straight over, into Brigstock Road (B266), passing Thornton Heath Station on your left and bearing right on to the High Street. At the next mini roundabout, (Whitehorse Road/Grange Road) go left into Whitehorse Lane. The ground is on your right. Street parking, Sainsburys car park is also available for use.

By rail: The nearest railway stations are Selhurst or Thornton Heath, which are served by London Victoria main line station, Clapham Junction, London Bridge (every 30 mins) and East Croydon (every 15 mins). You can also use Norwood Junction station, which is also served by Victoria, but is a little further away. It is then a 10-15 minute walk to ground. Please note that Crystal Palace station is nowhere near the ground.





on the spot

with Mr PENalty

Top columnist (in his own head!) Pete Nalty rarely pays the penalty – or does he?! This week our man tells us all exactly how to take the perfect spotkick. And he's a man who's always on target...

As some of you might have worked out by now, with a name like mine I've got something of a special interest in spotkicks.

Well, a few weeks ago I mentioned in this column that I had started playing football for a local team and, sure enough, before long we were awarded a penalty. Obviously I was keen to take it.

In fact I'd already picked up the ball and was about to place

and scored which annoyed me no end because he didn't use the technique I'm going to reveal now.

The thing is, I've discovered that scoring from the spot is all about probability or percentages.

Now I know most of you will already be aware of what I'm going to divulge first and that is you've got to hit the target.

So here's tip number one, don't try to be clever and aim for the corner because almost exactly three times out of ten (three point

two to be precise if you're an average sort of player) you'll shoot wide or hit the post. Secondly, never attempt to loft the ball hoping it will go in just under the crossbar because just under four times out of ten it will either hit the woodwork or go flying over the top.

So, obviously, if you aim high and into the top corner the probability is you'll miss around seven times out of ten. On to tip number three. Don't think it's smart trying to fool the goalie into diving the wrong way and then place the ball to the side of him because fifty per cent of the time he'll go the right way and when that happens there's an eighty five per cent chance he'll just pick it up and not only will you have failed to score, you'll look pretty stupid as well.

So what should you do? Well, most goalies I know don't particularly enjoy bending down but they love diving about. So if you want to give yourself the best chance of converting a spot kick just shoot as hard and low and straight as you can, hope the keeper dives in one direction or the other and pray that the ball doesn't hit him on the shins. Simple really and I reckon you'll score nine times out of ten. I'm so confident about this theory which, admittedly, I've only tested at amateur level, that I was going to suggest it to Inigo but then who steps forward but Tommy Smith who proceeds to do the exact opposite of what he should have by fooling the Preston North End keeper into diving to his right, placing the ball accurately to his left and into the back of the net and we get a draw.

Here's tip number one, don't try to be clever and aim for the corner because almost exactly three times out of ten (three point two to be precise if you're an average sort of player) you'll shoot wide or hit the post.

it on the spot when the skipper pushed me to one side and said that with a name like mine there was no chance whatsoever of that happening. Which is a pity because I've been doing a scientific study of penalty taking based on hundreds of spot kicks I've seen in matches both on the telly and in local football.

But when I started to explain all about it he just grabbed the ball, re-spotted it, took the kick himself

two to be precise if you're an average sort of player) you'll shoot wide or hit the post.

Secondly, never attempt to loft the ball hoping it will go in just under the crossbar because just under four times out of ten it will either hit the woodwork or go flying over the top.

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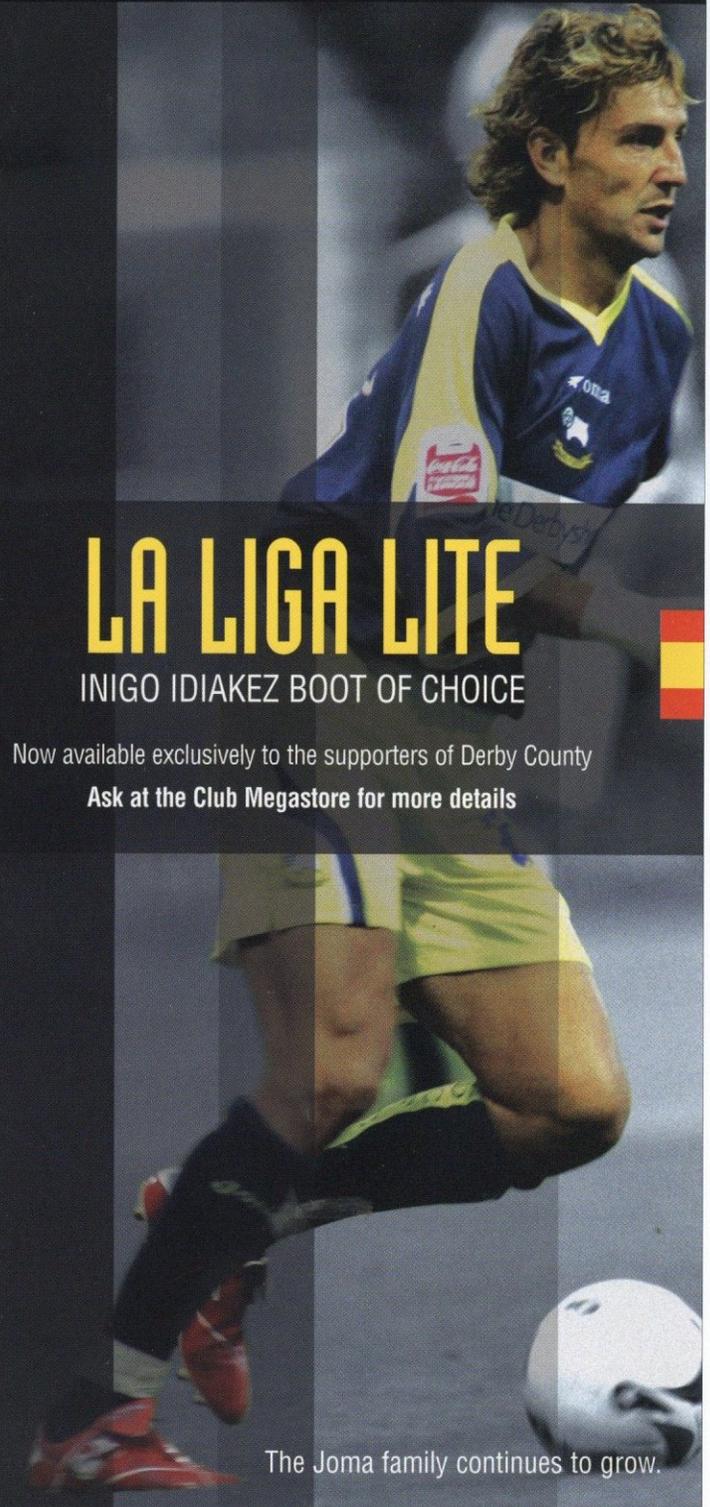
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squad check

Official Matchday Magazine

derby county

M Phil Brown 

	played	scored
1 Lee Camp		
2 Jeff Henna		
4 Andrew Davies		
5 Mo Konjic		
6 Michael Johnson		
7 Tommy Smith		
8 Morten Bisgaard		
10 Pablo Mills		
11 Paul Peschisolido		
12 Paul Thirlwell		
13 Lee Grant		
14 Richard Jackson		
15 Adam Bolder		
16 Marc Edworthy		
17 Paul Boertien		
18 Seth Johnson		
19 Nathan Doyle		
20 Lee Holmes		
21 Chris Turner		
22 Dean Holdsworth		
23 Marcus Tudgay		
24 Kevin Poole		
27 Inigo Idiakez		
28 Giles Barnes		
29 Lionel Ainsworth		
30 Lewin Nyatanga		
32 Dexter Blackstock		
34 Danny Graham		

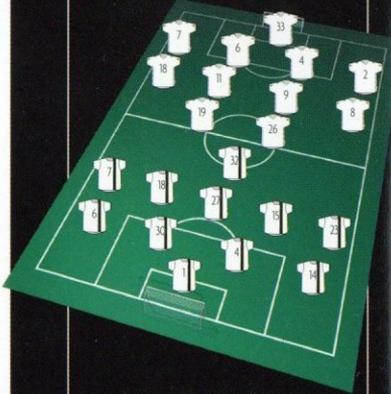
luton town

M Mike Newell 

	played	scored
1 Marlon Beresford		
2 Kevin Foley		
3 Sol Davis		
4 Chris Coyne		
5 Russell Perrett		
6 Paul Underwood		
7 Carlos Edwards		
8 Kevin Nicholls		
9 Rowan Vine		
10 Warren Feeney		
11 Steve Robinson		
15 Steven O'Leary		
16 Enoch Showunmi		
17 Paul Hughes		
18 Ahmet Brkovic		
19 Steve Howard		
21 Keith Keane		
22 Danny Stevens		
23 Dean Morgan		
26 Markus Heikkinen		
27 Peter Holmes		
29 Calvin Andrew		
33 Dean Brill		
45 Leon Barnett		
47 Rob Beckwith		

previous line-ups

Luton Town 2-3 Stoke City
Coca-Cola Championship • 17.12.05



Cardiff City 0-0 Rams
Coca-Cola Championship • 17.12.05

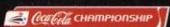


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- Burnley v Stoke
- Cardiff v Plymouth
- Crewe v Hull City
- Ipswich v C Palace
- Leeds v Coventry
- Leicester v Millwall
- Preston v Sheff Wed
- Sheff Utd v Norwich
- Watford v Southampton
- Wolves v Reading

next up @ Pride Park 

v reading
Coca-Cola Championship

Saturday 31 December 05
Kick-off 5.15pm

For tickets call:
0870 444 1884



The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Derby County Football Club or Dunwoody Sports Publishing.

-  Mr M D Messias • Referee •
-  Mr R Burton • Assistant 1 •
-  Mr A Halliday • Assistant 2 •
-  Mr R J Booth • 4th Official •