



**BETFRED** CUP 

# MATCHDAY



INVERNESS CT V COWDENBEATH, 13 OCTOBER 2020, 6:30PM KICK-OFF



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# JOHN ROBERTSON

Good Evening Everyone,

The performance on Tuesday, in terms of what we were after, plenty of energy, getting about the pitch and making it hard for them was bang on.

Hearts probably played about 10 games more than us before Tuesday, we had to find ways of negating their good players and getting our guys on it.

I thought we did that very well, created some good chances and defended stoutly. We were a little bit disappointed with the penalty, we still don't think it is one but that's going to happen.

I felt for the way we went about, the chances we created we were worth something from the game. We said that to players, if we show that desire and work rate then we'll win more games than we lose.

The key now is to pick up from that, we were quite glad that we didn't have a game at the weekend because we have a lot of injuries. It's allowed two or three lads to be available for the game today, and we have to look at that in regards to Saturday where we have a very important match against Dunfermline.

Danny Devine, James Vincent and Wallace Duffy were back in training on Monday which gives us options. Cowdenbeath showed on Saturday they will be a tough nut to crack, they had a good season last year, they are well organised, Gary Bolland has some good players there and they'll be difficult to break down.

But that is what we are going to have to be ready to do today, the important thing is to win the game and keep ourselves involved in the group

**Robbo**

# DANNY DEVINE

**Danny Devine was one of six new faces to join Caley Thistle this summer and he is now buzzing to get back to action again.**

The centre-back missed out on the Group opener against Hearts with a slight ankle injury he picked up against Elgin in pre-season action but he is now raring to go.

He said: "Before the Hearts game I managed to play in a few of the Pre-Season games. I just picked up a little niggle in the Elgin game on the Saturday which caused some swelling on my ankle."

"I think it was the right decision to sit out the Hearts game so I was fully ready to go against Cowdenbeath and look forward to the start of the league season on Saturday."

The defender was 'gutted' to miss out against Hearts but thought the young Caley Thistle side gave a great account of themselves and could have got something from the game.

Devine said: "I was gutted to miss out on the Hearts game but I thought the boys gave a great account of themselves as I watched the game from home."

"I thought they gave a great account of themselves, it was well documented that we had a few injuries but I thought the boys who did play were excellent and possibly deserved something from the game."

"I think the young players will be massive this season for us. I think some of them might be asked to grow up a little quicker than usual but I think they are well up for the challenge."





He added: "They train with us everyday and they don't look out of place at all. I think also that the older boys in the squad have to try and bring them on and encourage them as much as we can."

"We will need them through this year and against Hearts I thought they were outstanding."

Danny is also looking forward to getting back into competitive action after a long six months without it. The defender last played competitively on the 10th March.

He said: "I'm very excited to be back playing again, obviously it has been a very frustrating six months. It didn't help last week when I picked up the injury as I was champing at the bit to get back. In my mind I was looking to the start of the league campaign and making sure I'm right for that."

"I'm very excited for the start of the season, whenever I've come up against the Manager's teams in the past it's always been a tough challenge and we can push on this year.

Danny also thinks that Sean Welsh is a great choice as the club's new captain and is looking forward to the upcoming season with the midfielder in that role.

Devine said: "Welshy has been given the captaincy, he's a great pro and I've played with him before. He'll be looking towards the other experienced lads to chip in. Nothing will be left to one player, we're all here and all behind him."

"Going forward it is great to have someone like Welshy leading us forward, with his experience and I'm looking forward to it."



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# MATCH REPORT

## HEARTS 1-0 ICTFC

**Hearts narrowly beat Caley Thistle 1-0 at Tynecastle Park thanks to a controversial Jamie Walker penalty in the second-half.**

Hearts were awarded the penalty as Ginnelly's shot hit Harper from close range and the referee judged it to be handball but the replays showed it to be a harsh call.

John Robertson named four new signings in the first starting eleven of the 2020/21 season as Wallace Duffy, Robbie Deas, Scott Allardice and Shane Sutherland started.

Seven Academy Graduates made the squad with Ryan Fyffe, Lewis Hyde, Shane Harkness among the subs.

The game started quickly as Ridgers had to be alert to produce a fine double save as he denied Craig Wighton from close range.

The Hearts keeper Craig Gordon then produced a fine save of his own after 5 minutes on the clock. Shane Sutherland picked out Daniel MacKay in the box but his header from about 8 yards was somehow kept out by Gordon.

With twenty minutes on the clock, Ridgers had to be alert to save Josh Ginnelly's shot after he cut inside on the right.

Craig Wighton almost opened the scoring after 32 minutes, the striker saw his close range effort rattle the crossbar.





Robbie Deas had a big chance to open the scoring just before the break, a corner from Scott Allardice found him at the back-post but his effort was just wide.

On the stroke of half-time, Shane Sutherland went down with a hamstring issue and had to be replaced by Nikolay Todorov.

The first chance of the second-half fell to Steven Naismith but the Hearts attacker saw his effort blocked by Robbie Deas.

After 54 minutes, Ridgers had to be alert as he turned Jamie Brandon's powerful close range effort behind.

Two minutes later, Ridgers turned Olly Lee's long range strike behind for a corner.

After the hour mark, Hearts were awarded a penalty as Ginnelly's shot hit Harper from close range and the referee judged it to be handball but the replays showed it to be a harsh call.

Jamie Walker stepped up to take the penalty and put it in the bottom corner to make it 1-0.

Caley Thistle looked for an immediate response and Miles Storey cut inside but his effort was deflected over for a corner but Hearts got it clear.

Nikolay Todorov had a couple of chances before the end of the game.

After 81 minutes, a straight ball through found Todorov through the middle but he blasted his effort over.

The striker had another chance three minutes later as he met Storey's cross at the back-post but sliced his volley wide..



# PRE-SEASON ROUND UP

## **GAME ONE: ELGIN CITY 3-7 ICTFC - 26/09/2020**

The delayed pre-season started with Caley Thistle hitting seven past Elgin at Borough Briggs with goals coming from James Keatings (2), Miles Storey (2), Roddy MacGregor (2) and Nikolay Todorov. Kane Hester (2) and Stephen Bronsky the scorers for Elgin.

## **GAME TWO: NAIRN COUNTY 0-7 ICTFC - 29/09/2020**

Caley Thistle followed up their seven goals at Borough Briggs with another seven at Station Park against Nairn County. It was seven different scorers as Sean Welsh, Daniel MacKay, James Keatings, Lewis Hyde, Miles Storey, Shane Harkness and Nikolay Todorov found the net.

## **GAME THREE: CLACH 0-2 ICTFC - 02/10/2020**

A very youthful Caley Thistle side beat Clach at Grant Street Park, goals on the stroke of half-time from Robbie Thompson and Daniel MacKay (penalty) secured the win.

## **GAME FOUR: ICTFC 1-1 ELGIN CITY - 03/10/2020**

In the final pre-season match before the Hearts game, Caley Thistle drew 1-1 with Elgin at the Caledonian Stadium. Kane Hester gave Elgin the lead with a powerful top corner finish from close range, Nikolay Todorov levelled the game after meeting a James Keatings corner in the box.



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# OPPOSITION PREVIEW: COWDENBEATH



## GROUP A



P2 W2 D0 L0 GF2 GA0 3PTS



P2 W1 D0 L1 GF3 GA2 3PTS



P1 W1 D0 L0 GF1 GA2 3PTS



P1 W0 D0 L1 GF0 GA1 0PTS



P2 W0 D0 L2 GF0 GA3 0PTS

Cowdenbeath have started the Betfred League Cup campaign with two defeats as they lost to East Fife on the tournaments' opening night, 2-0 and narrowly lost 1-0 to Hearts on Saturday.

Gary Ballouan's side were in fourth place when League Two was ended early due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two sides have only met twice since 1998 and both meetings were in the Betfred Cup Group Stage. In 2016, goals from Ross Draper and Gary Warren earned a 2-1 win for Caley Thistle.

In 2018, John Robertson's Caley Thistle side beat Cowdenbeath 5-2 at Central Park with Tom Walsh (2), Aaron Doran (2) and George Oakley getting the goals.

**Head-to-head: Cowdenbeath 4, Draws 2. ICTFC 8**

# SQUADS

## MATCH OFFICIALS

GRAHAM BEATON, ANDREW MCWILLIAM, CHRIS PHILLIPS

## ICTFC

MANAGER: **JOHN ROBERTSON**

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> MARK RIDGERS      | <b>17</b> MILES STOREY     |
| <b>2</b> WALLACE DUFFY     | <b>18</b> SCOTT ALLARDICE  |
| <b>3</b> KEVIN MCHATTIE    | <b>21</b> CAMERON MACKAY   |
| <b>4</b> SEAN WELSH        | <b>22</b> BRAD MCKAY       |
| <b>5</b> LEWIS TOSHNEY     | <b>24</b> ROBBIE DEAS      |
| <b>6</b> DANNY DEVINE      | <b>25</b> HARRY NICOLSON   |
| <b>7</b> JAMES KEATINGS    | <b>26</b> RYAN FYFFE       |
| <b>8</b> DAVID CARSON      | <b>27</b> DANIEL MACKAY    |
| <b>10</b> AARON DORAN      | <b>28</b> LEWIS HYDE       |
| <b>11</b> SHANE SUTHERLAND | <b>29</b> SHANE HARKNESS   |
| <b>12</b> RODDY MACGREGOR  | <b>31</b> MARTIN MACKINNON |
| <b>14</b> JAMES VINCENT    | <b>77</b> NIKOLAY TODOROV  |

## COWDENBEATH

MANAGER: **GARY BALLOAN**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>GK</b> ROSS STEWART   | <b>MF</b> MICHAEL HERD    |
| <b>GK</b> MACALLAN WHYTE | <b>MF</b> KYLE MILLER     |
| <b>DF</b> CRAIG BARR     | <b>MF</b> GAVIN MORRISON  |
| <b>DF</b> ROSS CLARKE    | <b>MF</b> LEWIS OWENS     |
| <b>DF</b> JACOB GLASS    | <b>MF</b> GRAHAM TAYLOR   |
| <b>DF</b> FRASER MULLEN  | <b>FW</b> ROBBIE BUCHANAN |
| <b>DF</b> ROSS POLLOCK   | <b>FW</b> CIAN KAVANAGH   |
| <b>DF</b> JAMIE PYPER    | <b>FW</b> DAVID COX       |
| <b>DF</b> KYLE SNEDDON   | <b>FW</b> OLIVER HAMILTON |
| <b>DF</b> HARVEY SWANN   | <b>FW</b> KRIS RENTON     |
| <b>DF</b> JAMIE TODD     |                           |
| <b>MF</b> CRAIG EASTON   |                           |