

RAM

Magazine

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VERSUS

LUTON TOWN

BARCLAYS LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

**TODAY'S GUESTS:
DERBY CITY TRANSPORT
VENUS FLEXIBLE PACKAGING**



M T W T F S

RAMS IN COLOUR SIX DAYS A WEEK

Team News, Previews and Match Reports
plus all the latest national
and local sport

Telegraph Sport
AUGUST 5, 1992

FOOTBALL COUNTDOWN
Derby County manager Arthur Cox marshalls his troops while Paul Kitson, and Mark Pembridge check their hair at the Rams' photo-call yesterday

SWIMMING
Water carry on!
AFTER spending 17 hours in the freezing waters of a Scottish loch through the night, Derbyshire swimmer Peter Hawksworth was still able to say: "It was worth it."
Repton-based Peter emerged as the winner of the British Long Distance Swimming Association's Loch Lomond Championship over the seven hardy with only two of the seven able to complete the 22-mile course. Despite hampered progress severely hampered his progress in the final five miles, he in the time of a time of 17 hours and six seconds — over six hours outside the championship record.
"They virtually had to drag me out of the water at the end. I ached from head to foot but I lived to tell the tale."
"It was a miserable experience from the moment I stepped into the water," he added. "I don't even know what attracted me to do it in the first place."
Sarah Hunt from South — the women's record

**READY
TEDDY GO**

TED McMINN McMinn could start Derby County's against set to



UPFRONT...

We travelled to Ashton Gate, the home of Bristol City, last Tuesday evening and only hurried finishing by us and committed Bristol defending prevented us from leaving with our ninth away League win of the season.

As it was we had to settle for a share of the spoils from a goalless game, but that was because we could not put away one of half a dozen good opportunities to score.

The point won takes our total to 59 and therefore - with four games and 12 points to play for - we still have a chance, however slim, of finishing in a top six place to qualify for the play-offs.

While that mathematical chance exists we will be doing all in our powers to take it, and I say that not just through blind optimism. We accept that our chances are slim but would you accept anything less than 100 percent commitment from us in our attempts to take it?

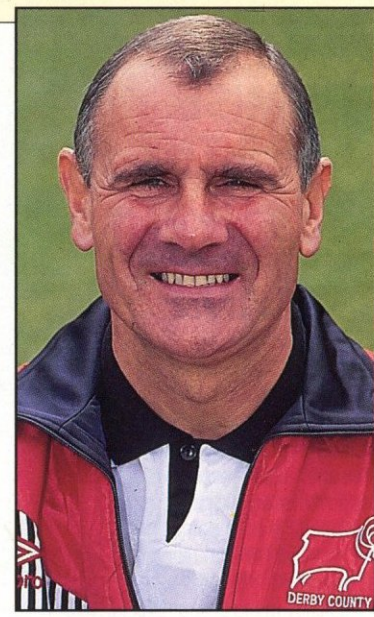
Even if we fail to win today, or if other teams contrive to shut the door for us, the season is not over until the last ball is kicked because we want to win every game that we put a team out to play in and we want to finish as high in the table as we possibly can.

That applies as much for the first team, as for our Pontins League side, Midland Senior League side and youth team and has been the aim ever since Roy McFarland and I began working together nine years ago.

The line between success and failure is so very thin. The longer I am in football and the more I study the game the truer this saying becomes.

An official's decision; an unforced elementary error, a moments loss of concentration in dealing with a situation that players would regularly deal with comfortably: these things can be so costly in the quest for a successful season.

Yet in the League this season, we can



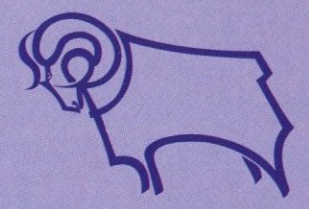
With Arthur **COX**

certainly point our finger to many of the previously mentioned situations.

I have always believed that the most important word in all professional sport is consistency and this season, individually and collectively, we have not been anywhere near consistent enough in our performances.

Our cup displays have been acceptable but, when reliving these occasions, even these could have been so much more fruitful and successful.

Football is a game played by humans not machines and therefore the experience gained from this season will prove invaluable in the careers of the individuals concerned as well as in our quest for success in coming seasons.



Derby County Football Club
The Baseball Ground
Shaftesbury Crescent
Derby, DE3 8NB.

Ticket Office: 0332 40105
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Lotteries: 0332 360725
Clubcall: 0898 121187
Ticketcall: 0898 332213

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In today's
award winning
Ram Magazine



COVER STORY...

"Corporal Punishment" inflicts more pain... Not even Craig Short could stop Portsmouth's Guy Whittingham at Fratton Park. Action pictures on pages 12 & 13

MELVYN IS BACK!

Mel Sage talks about his two year injury nightmare in our profile feature on pages 20 & 21...

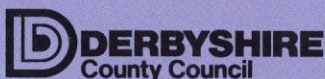
THE HATTERS...

Read about the Hatters' season in The Isostar Match section starting on page 27...

Credits

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RAM TOPIC

RAMS PRICE PROMISE KEEPS THE COST DOWN FOR NEXT SEASON

The Rams announced last week that the club's strenuous efforts for Premier League status will continue next season... and it won't cost supporters an extra penny!

Despite the disappointments of a season that has seen the club reach Wembley for the first time in 18 years but struggle for consistency in the League, the board of directors has pledged to continue the all-out assault on gaining promotion yet they have announced that admission prices for the 1993-94 season will not be raised at all.

Our near 9,000 season ticket holders will be offered the chance to renew for next season at the same cost as for this campaign, while the cost of matchday seating will remain fixed in the current £7 to £11 price band.

Even the cost of terracing admission on the Popular Side, amongst the cheapest in the First Division, will stay at this season's price of £6, and the club will also continue to promote itself as a winner with the families with continued reduced prices in the Family Seating Enclosure.

"We are able to make this announcement thanks to the continued financial backing of Lionel Pickering and the sound financial management of the club's day to day affairs," said chairman Brian Fearn.

"The club is operating within the budget set down at the start of the current 1992-93 season when it was hoped the club would achieve Premier League status and, whilst this has not yet been achieved, our aims and ambitions have not wavered.

"The management will be under no necessity to sell players to balance the books and, thanks to the loyalty shown by our supporters this season, there is no need to raise admission prices either.

"On behalf of all of the directors, I would like to place on record our appreciation of the backing given by our supporters this season. It has been quite magnificent and we are happy to be able to repay them in a small way by keeping prices down."

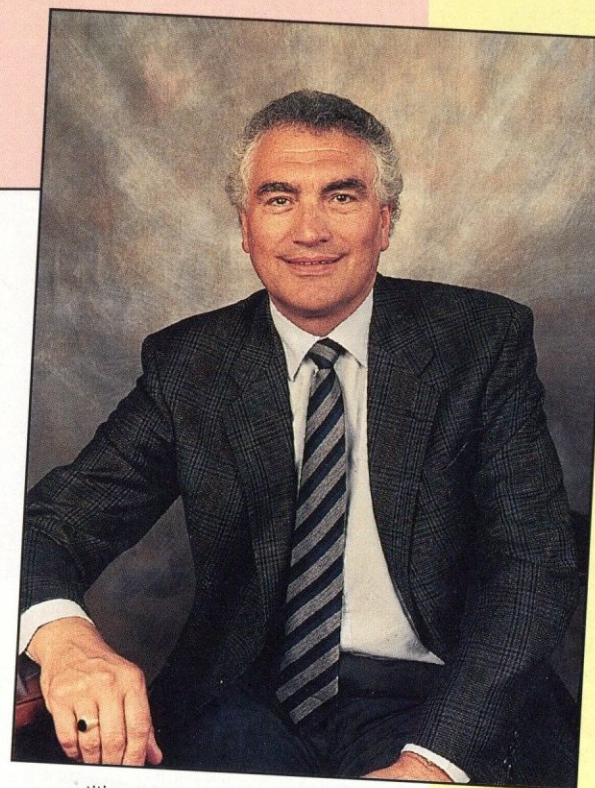
Despite the money spent on team rebuilding, as well as the prospect of large capital outlay over a possible new stadium, Baseball Ground prices are already very

BRIAN FEARN BLASTS REPORT AS 'MALICIOUS TITTLE-TATTLE'

An anonymous document questioning the Club's financial affairs that has been circulated to newspapers and radio stations has been blasted by chairman Brian Fearn.

The two-page letter, titled "What is happening to our club?" claims to represent profit and loss figures for the club since the mid eighties, but has no indication of its origination or on what facts the estimates have been based.

It contains unfavourably financial figures for the current management structure at the club compared to those years under Robert Maxwell's stewardship, yet fails to



competitive in First Division terms, with very few clubs offering cheaper seated or terrace accommodation than the Rams have charged this season.

The season ticket renewal period will start on May 17th with existing ticket holders having until July 3rd to buy their seat for next season. Full details will be published in our next edition of Ram Magazine.

acknowledge that during those years star players were leaving the Baseball Ground far more frequently than they were arriving.

It has enraged chairman Brian Fearn who commented: "They are patently inaccurate and our advisors consider that they inflammatory to the Club and directors. Anybody repeating them could be in trouble.

"I regard the whole thing as malicious tittle-tattle and it makes me very suspicious about whoever is putting it about.

"Perhaps they would like to step forward. It seems to me a gutless and spineless performance, aimed solely at disruption."

HOW THEY LINE UP

When it comes to seeing First Division football, you'll pay less to see it at the Baseball Ground than almost anywhere else in the country, a Ram Magazine survey has revealed.

Although some clubs have cheaper accommodation for limited numbers of members, very few Division One outfits undercut the Rams when it comes to general admission costs.

In fact, only today's opponents Luton Town, who have a system which varies terracing admission between £5.50 and £6, can claim a lower terracing charge than the Rams and only Wolves, Southend, Oxford and Cambridge gave us figures that made it cheaper to watch their home games from a seat than it does to watch Derby County's.

The prize for the most expensive seat goes to West Ham United, who ask for £15 in exchange for their best viewing areas, with fellow London clubs Millwall, Brentford and Charlton joining Newcastle, Luton, Cambridge, Portsmouth and Bristol Rovers with top prices that easily out strip Derby's highest charge. And remember, the table below is for 1992-93 prices. Unlike Derby, many clubs will be putting prices up next season.

	SEATS		TERRACE	
	HIGH	LOW	ADULT	JUV
Barnsley	£10	£6.50	£6	£4
Birmingham City	£10	£10	£7	£5
Brentford	£13.50	£10	£7	£5
Bristol City	£9.50	£6	£6	n/a
Bristol Rovers	£13	£6	£6.50	£4.50
Cambridge United	£13	£3	£7	£3
Charlton Athletic	£14	£12	n/a	n/a
Derby County	£11	£6	£6	£3
Grimsby Town	£8.50	£8.50	£6	£3.50
Leicester City	£9	£9	£7	n/a
Luton Town	£13	£6.50	£5.50	£3
Millwall	£13	£11	£8	£7
Newcastle United	£12.50	£8.50	£7	£3.50
Notts County	£11	£9	£7	n/a
Oxford United	£10	£4.50	£7	£3
Peterborough United	£12	£12	£8	£4
Portsmouth	£14	£10	£7	£5
Southend United	£12	£4	£7	n/a
Sunderland	£10	£10	£7	£3
Swindon Town	£10.50	£7.50	£7.50	£4
Tranmere Rovers	£8	£8	£6	£5
Watford	£10	£8	£7	£3
West Ham United	£15	£10	£8	£5
Wolves	£8	£5	£6	£4

DCC HAS TEAMED UP WITH THE RAMS TO PROVIDE... FREE TICKETS >> FOR VOLUNTARY



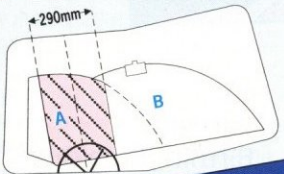
ORGANISATIONS... FREE ENTRY TO SELECTED GAMES FOR UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

Auto Windscreens

MOT 93 Screen FACTS

PICK UP YOUR FREE AUTO WINDSCREENS "SCREENCHECK" GAUGE AT RAMTIQUE TO AVOID POSSIBLE MOT FAILURE!

MOT SCREENCHECK - THE FACTS

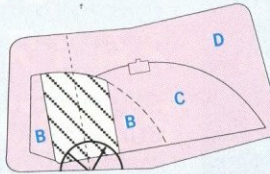


- From 1st January '93 your windscreen will be assessed in the MOT test.
- Zone A indicates an area measuring 290mm wide, the centre line being the centre of the steering wheel.
- Zone B is the remainder of the swept area.
- In addition to the limitations described for Zone A and B below, any damage that impairs the driver's vision or interferes with the function of the wipers will result in failure.

ZONE A
Damage not contained within a 10mm circle will fail

ZONE B
Damage not contained within a 40mm circle will fail

REPAIR vs REPLACEMENT



Repairs can be carried out in areas B, C and D providing the size of the area of damage, and type of damage, falls within those guidelines set out in the British Standard Code of Practice AU 242.

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NEWSDESK

RAM COMMENT

THE POLLS ARE OPEN

The polls have opened in this year's Derby County Player of the Year Award and already the votes are starting to pour in.

Today you will have been handed a voting form as you passed through the turnstiles, be sure to use it to have your say on the destiny of this coveted award.

Will it be Marco Gabbiadini, Paul Kitson or Mark Pembroke who receives the Jack Stamps Memorial Trophy as the Rams top man of 1993?

Or will it be Craig Short, Simon Coleman or Martin Taylor receiving the honour in our on-the-pitch ceremony before the Wolves game on May 8th?

Only you have the answers, so have your say now. Return your voting form by Wednesday May 5th and help decide the destiny of the 1993 Rams Player of the Year Award.

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS TODAY...

We welcome as our match hosts this afternoon our supporters from Derby City Transport Limited and from Venus Flexible Packaging Limited.

Sponsoring the Mitre Delta match ball this afternoon is Today newspaper, the newspaper of the year and tops for soccer coverage.

We hope all of our sponsors enjoy their day with us.

Today NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

hours from the Tuesday evening, presenting the latest set-back to our Road Show plans.

With well over 60 senior games this season, as well as the successful Pontins League campaign, the management and senior players have hardly had time to stop, which is why we haven't been able to schedule the two remaining Road Shows planned for this season; at Long Eaton and Matlock.

We still haven't given up trying but time now is running out on us and we may have to hold them over for next season.

ROAD SHOW OFF ONCE AGAIN...

Our congested fixture list has struck again!

We had hoped to stage a Road Show evening in Long Eaton on Monday night but the change of a reserve team fixture has forced us to cancel again.

Our Pontins League game at home to Preston has been brought forward 24

HELP TO BARNARDOS...

Steve Hayward helped out with a very welcome cheque presentation last weekend as Junior Rams helper Chris Harrison (centre back) handed over a cheque for £210 to local Dr Barnardos fund raiser Anna Simms. The cash represents the entry money from the Derby heats of the national Reebok Fives soccer competition.



How to enter... see page 8

Will he stay or will he move on? Will he take to make his decision from the heights of the Premier League or from the middle ground of the League Division One? Will he stay and play for Dad or will he stay and play for another manager if Dad calls it a day? The questions abound for Nigel Clough, born in Sunderland, coached and developed in Derby, blooded as a League professional at the City Ground in Nottingham, capped for England and wanted by top managers just about everywhere. I like the lad, and not just because of his sure touch and excellent reading of the game. I reckon it takes guts to play for Dad, to brush off the taunts of "Daddy's boy"; to call Dad "Gaffer" and to prove, on the field, that you are in the side on merit and not because your name is Clough and your Dad is one of the greatest managers of all time.

Something of the dilemma facing Nigel emerged in his steady-the-boat column in the Nottingham Evening Post. This inspired the headlines "Forest come first for me" and "A new deal couldn't be further from my mind". Of course, if you believe the second of those headlines, you will believe just about anything. This talented lad is mid-career and his next move is the most important decision of his life. I do not doubt his loyalty to Forest. It is on a par with the loyalty of the Powells, Tommy and Steve, to Derby County. But the need to decide is imminent, and the events of the next few weeks will show Nigel the way forward. I wonder what Dad thinks?

by Peter Stephens

The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Derby County FC.

NEWSDESK

NEW SMOKE SIGNAL FOR BASEBALL GROUND...

The no-smoking zones, imposed on the Baseball Ground last summer, have been relaxed in some areas.

It was decided last close season that smoking would be banned from all areas in or under one of the Baseball Ground's three wooden stands; that is in the Main Stand and Paddocks, the Osmaston Stand and the Normanton Stand.

However, due to problems faced since the ban was introduced, the restrictions have been eased so that smokers may now light up in the access areas to the stands and in the hospitality areas under the

stands concerned.

But it is stressed that smoking is still not permitted in any seated area other than the Toyota Stand and that includes both the Normanton and Osmaston Paddock areas. This rule will still be strictly enforced.

If you are spotted smoking (and our closed circuit cameras are 'all-seeing' remember) you will be politely requested to immediately extinguish your cigarette by one of our stewards.

Please do not give them a hard time as they are only complying with the safety certificate requirements which govern the use of the Baseball Ground.

If you refuse to stop smoking, you may be requested to leave the ground immediately or even ejected by the police; a course of action we wish to avoid.

PAUL TAKES HIS HAT OFF TO OUR CAPITAL SUPPORTERS

Former Young Player of the Year Paul Williams has offered his own accolade to a band of Rams fans he considers to be among the best.

For the injured midfielder believes that the work that goes in to supporting Derby County by our supporters branch in London deserves a pat on the back. Paul, who is the section's Honorary Branch President commented: "I haven't had many chances to go and see them this season with my injuries and the number of games we've played. "But I know they are doing great work promoting the club in London, as well as trekking up and down the country to see us play."

McDONALDS JUNIOR RAMS DIARY

Calling all budding Marco Gabbiadinis and Martin Taylors...your services are required for a football competition taking place at the end of the season.

Any McDonalds Junior Ram aged between nine and 13 who sees him or herself as the next Derby County star has a chance to show off their skills in the 'Reebok Spirit of the Street' 5-a-side competition.

Taking place on Sunday May 2nd the competition will give junior Rams fans the chance of a lifetime because all matches will be held on the Baseball Ground pitch itself. There will be two age groups: the 9-11 age group, for those who were under 12 on September 1st 1992 and the 12-13 age group, for those who were under 14 on September 1st 1992.

The matches will begin in the morning and continue into the afternoon and will include the McDonalds Junior Rams knock-out Cup Final. If you want to enter you must have an adult 'manager' as the

winners will go on to the Midlands Championship and hopefully the National Championships.

In the last two seasons we have been represented at the final stages, winning one age group last year. There are individual awards, team trophies and Reebok gear to be won and last years winners even enjoyed a holiday at Centre Parcs.

If you don't want to miss this amazing opportunity write to:

STEVE STONE, McDONALDS JUNIOR RAMS CLUB, c/o DERBY COUNTY FC, THE BASEBALL GROUND, DERBY DE3 8NB.

Please include a stamped addressed envelope so full details and application forms can be sent.

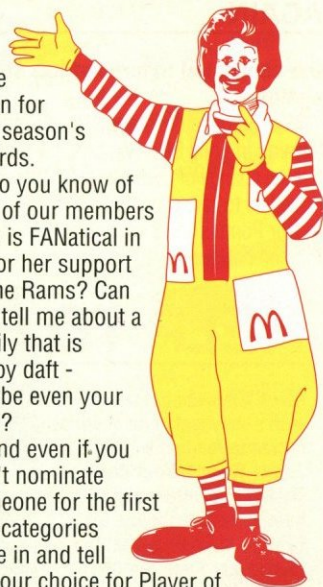
Last season we instituted our own McDonalds Junior Rams Awards with honours for the top Member of the Year, the Family of the Year and, of course, the player voted number one by our thousands of members.

Now we are inviting nominations

once again for this season's awards.

Do you know of one of our members who is FANatical in his or her support of the Rams? Can you tell me about a family that is Derby daft - maybe even your own?

And even if you don't nominate someone for the first two categories write in and tell us your choice for Player of the Year. We will draw out one of those who nominated the winner and ask them along to the presentation as our VIP guest, so we will need your name and address as well.



RAMS PROVE YOU CAN HAVE SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE!

As smoke billowed out of the corridors under the Main Stand and seven Derbyshire Fire Service appliances rushed to the Baseball Ground, you could be forgiven for thinking disaster had struck our famous home.

But, to the amazement of onlookers, it was all part of the disaster drill put into practice here last Monday evening.

As part of the annual safety certificate requirements, the club staged a mock explosion underneath the Main Stand to test the reactions of our trained stewards as well as the emergency services.

And although all present knew it was only an exercise, the life-like volunteer 'casualties' certainly stopped anyone taking a light hearted approach.

"As I have said before, I hope we never have to witness the scenes recreated last Monday evening for real," commented general manager Michael Dunford.

"But I'm sure all present will have learned a lot from the exercise and I thank the supporters who turned up to form the crowd for their time."

There may have been plenty of make-up and play-acting going on, but the disaster drill was certainly no game. The 'casualties' were treated like real victims and were given appropriate treatment by the medical teams on the spot (top).

As our picture right shows, you could have been forgiven a chill down your spine, so realistic were the scenes.

PICTURES BY
RAYMONDS PRESS
AGENCY





are proud to support
**DERBY COUNTY
FOOTBALL CLUB**
and wish them
every success for
the season
1992 - 1993



BOX OFFICE

"ALL-TICKET" THREAT FROM COLUMBO END CAPACITY DROP...

The board of directors is to review our accommodation for visiting supporters over the summer after a further reduction in Pop Side capacity.

The Columbo section, currently used to house opposition supporters at the Baseball Ground, has had its capacity reduced from 2,600 to 1,800 following notification from the Derbyshire County Council Public Protection Committee, and that limit is likely to be too small for many games next season.

The indications are that we will be playing a high number of local derby games next campaign with larger numbers of travelling supporters likely to visit the Baseball Ground, making the 1,800 places inadequate.

"If we do nothing and leave the visitors in the Columbo terracing we are likely to face a high number of all-ticket games next season which makes life difficult for our supporters and the club itself," admitted general manager Michael Dunford.

"We are therefore going to consider a number of options on how to accommodate opposition supporters, although using the

Osmaston Lower Tier, as has been rumoured in some quarters, is not an option we will consider.

"The transfer of that area to home supporters has been very well accepted this season and I can assure supporters it will remain home territory for the foreseeable future."

CHARLTON v DERBY

The 400 tickets allocated to Derby supporters for next weekend's game at Charlton go on sale to season ticket holders ONLY after today's game.

The £14 seats (£7 juveniles) will be sold on a first-come first-served basis at one per season ticket book until sold.

This game is all-ticket and there is no further accommodation available to Derby County supporters on the day.

Supporters travelling by car to the Valley are advised that street parking restrictions are strictly enforced around the ground.

**TICKETCALL
0898 332213**

Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times

THE RAMS SOCCER DIARY...

MONDAY, APRIL 26TH
Pontins League 7pm
Derby County Reserves vs
Preston North End Reserves
(Adults: £1.50. Concs: 50p)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH
Purity Yth Lge 12noon
Derby County Youth vs
Nottingham Forest Youth
(Raynesway. Free to all)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28TH
Mid Snr Cup 2pm
Derby County A vs
Northampton Town A
(Baseball Ground. Free to all)

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST
Purity Yth Lge 10.45am
Derby County Youth vs
Shrewsbury Town Youth
(Raynesway. Free to all)

SATURDAY, MAY 1ST
Barclays League 3pm
Charlton Athletic vs
Derby County
(ALL-TICKET GAME)

MONDAY, MAY 3RD
Pontins League 7pm
Derby County Reserves vs
Scunthorpe United Reserves
(Adults: £1.50. Concs: 50p)

ARE
YOU
GOING
TO...

Charlton



Take the M25 from the M1, going through the Dartford Tunnel before leaving at junction 2. Take the A2 towards London which becomes the A102(M) after 4-5 miles. Exit at Woolwich Ferry, turning right at round-a-bout for A206. At first traffic lights turn right then left into Floyd Rd for ground.

ARE
YOU
GOING
TO...

**European
Under 18
Championships**



The Baseball Ground is to host a match in the European under 18 Championships to be staged in England this summer. The game, which will involve Rumania or Iceland against Italy or Hungary, will be played on July 22nd and will have an evening kick off.

RAM
Magazine

20,000 SUPPORTERS GAINED FREE ENTRY TO HOME MATCHES LAST SEASON!

Ticket and Travel Details...

page eleven



IN ACTION

It was a rearguard action at Fratton Park with young full-back (right and above) in the thick of the action along with the rest of the defence. Martin Taylor (below) had to make several fine saves.

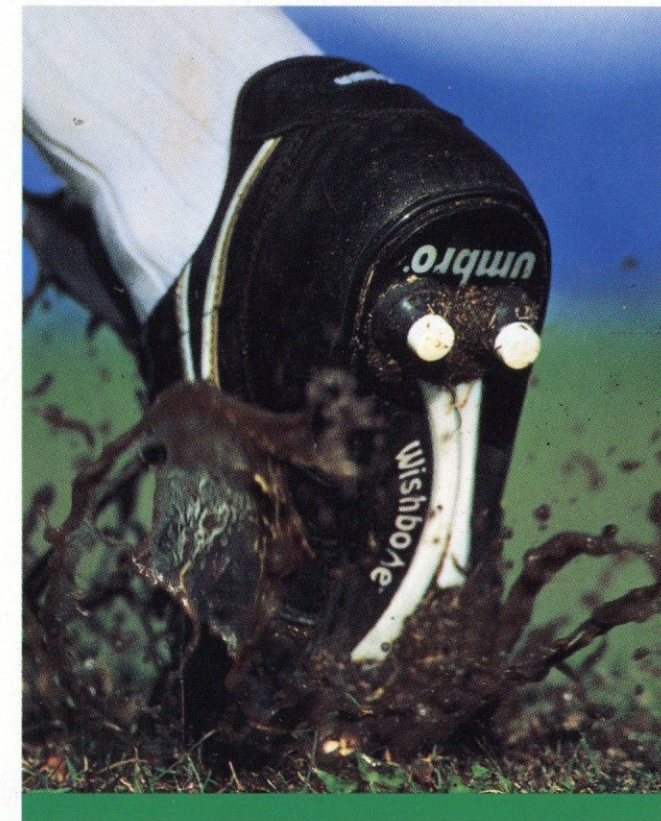
RAMS FALL VICTIM TO 'CORPORAL PUNISHMENT'...

Guy Whittingham, the League's most prolific marksman this season, needed only 83 seconds to write his name in the Portsmouth history books against Derby at Fratton Park 12 days ago. Needing just one League strike to match Billy "Farmer" Haines record of 40 during Portsmouth's 1926-27 season, the former soldier fastened his sights on Bjorn Kristensen's second minute free-kick to head home unmarked from close range. It was a nightmare start by the Rams against a side gunning for direct promotion and with only two defeats and eight goals conceded at home all season.

Paul Walsh made it 2-0 on the half hour yet, before the former Liverpool and Spurs' sharp rounded off a fine display with his second and Portsmouth's third 17 minutes from time, Derby did have the ball in the back of the net.

Dean Sturridge thought that he had netted his first senior goal for the Rams just before half-time but was judged, rather harshly, to have pushed Andy Awford as he raced through on Simon Coleman's pass.





Our boots are comfortable, whatever your position.

Incredibly flexible. Extremely lightweight. The revolutionary Wishbone® sole system. The Umbro Classic Gold.



UMBRO
The heart and soul of football.

TEAMTALK

MICKEY MAKES IT INTO THE "300 CLUB"...

After almost a four week wait, Michael Forsyth finally gained membership to the "300 Club" last weekend.

For the Rams defender made the 300th League appearance of his career when he returned to the side against Grimsby Town last Saturday, having spent the best part of a month hanging on 299.

Suspension and a hamstring injury caused Mickey to miss four games - the longest absence of his Derby County career - although his ever-present status was lost when he missed the FA Cup quarter-final replay at Sheffield Wednesday with an eye infection.

Although Liverpool born Forsyth (pictured) has been at the Baseball Ground for seven years, he made his League debut for his first club West Bromwich Albion in December 1983 when, as a 17 year-old, he played against Arsenal at Highbury. The Baggies actually won the game 1-0.

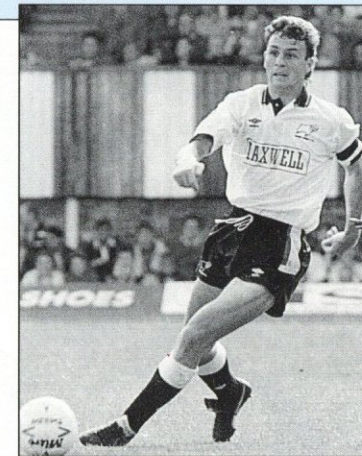
He made a further seven appearances in the number six shirt that season but started the next campaign as substitute, although he started nine games in the centre of defence too.

The following campaign he made 11 appearances for West Brom and would have added loan games with Northampton if Derby had not stepped in to sign him on Deadline day with the 26 year-old already heading for the London Road club.

No League outing in Derby colours for him that season but he did help the second team win the Central League

AND A RAMS' RECORD...

Michael Forsyth's 269th League appearance for Derby, against Swindon Town at the Baseball Ground, took his overall total to 335 appearances for the club and put him in the top 20 of all time competitive appearances by Derby County players. The next target is Colin Boulton's 344 game tally.



Championship and, when Steve Buckley was sold to Lincoln that summer, Mickey was unveiled as Derby's new left back at the start of the 1986-87 Second Division Championship season.

His debut came in the first match at home to Oldham and immediately he set the high standards of consistency that we now know him for; even to the extent of hardly ever missing a game through injury.

He missed just one League match that season, away to Oldham, and the following season, in the old First Division, he missed only one League fixture again, at home against Southampton, and was voted Player of the Year.

The next two seasons Michael was an ever present in the side, but he did miss three games in the relegation season of 1990-91 and suffered a similar set back last season.

Even so, an absence of only eight League games in six and a half years of first team football is some achievement, even if his recent absence has marred his record a little. It is such consistency that has allowed Michael to reach the 300 League game milestone so early and, barring injury, he ought to be able to more than double his tally by the time he has to hang up his boots.

Michael's record:

	Games	Goals
West Bromwich Albion	28(1)	-
Derby County	272	6
Total	300(1)	6

Clubcall

Quotes of the week

0898 121187

"I feel confident in those sort of areas with free-kicks and fortunately the ball went where I wanted it to go."

Paul Simpson on his growing stature as a free-kick specialist.

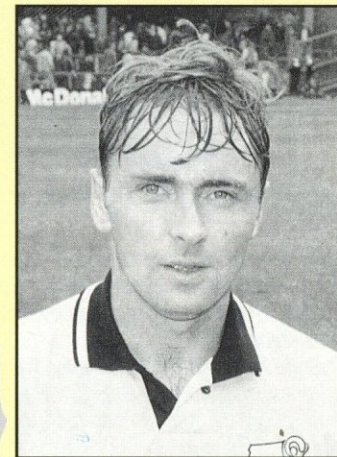
"I've not thought over much about the play-offs, but at least we've got a lot better chance than about 16 teams below us"

Grimsby's likeable manager Alan Buckley last weekend.

"I had a good chance just before half time with a header but I lost the ball in the floodlights... That's a good excuse, isn't it!"

Derby's top marksman this season Paul Kitson after the 0-0 draw at Bristol City.

0898 121187



"I feel confident with free-kicks," said Paul Simpson.

Clubcall

Your team talking



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First Team, Reserves & Youth News and Comment

IN ACTION

DERBY COUNTY 2 GRIMSBY TOWN 1



PERSISTENCE IS THE KEY TO RAMS WIN...

The Rams chalked up their fourth consecutive home League win - something not achieved since the Second Division Championship days of 1986-87 - with a 2-1 success over Grimsby Town that owed everything to persistence.

Despite having 90% of the play, we found ourselves a goal down after 21 minutes when former Glasgow Rangers striker Neil Woods buried a shot from 20 yards after we had lost possession on the edge of our own penalty area.

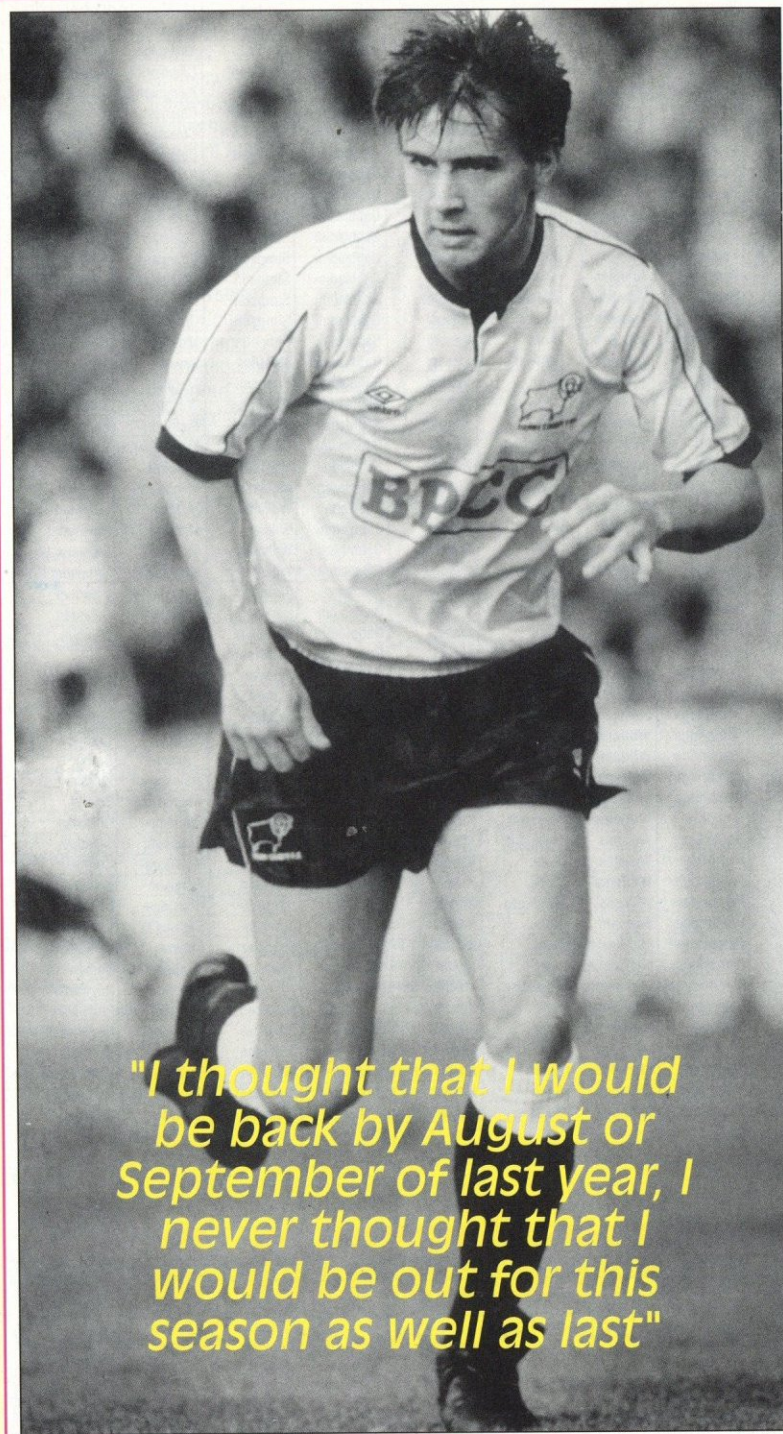
That set back didn't stop the team unleashing attack after attack on Grimsby's goal, but with former Ram Paul Futcher marshalling his troops superbly, it looked as if there was no way through.

Not until Paul Simpson let fly with one of his speciality free-kicks 18 minutes from time! With a carbon copy of the dead ball play that earned our goal at Tranmere, the 15 goal midfielder curled the ball over the wall and into the net for the equaliser, allowing Paul Kitson to bag all three points with his looping header from Mark Patterson's cross in the final ten minutes of the game.

MAIN PICTURE: Marco Gabbiadini battles with Grimsby's Dave Gilbert.
INSET PICTURE: Paul Kitson gives Derby old-boy Paul Futcher a run.



RAM PROFILE...



"I thought that I would be back by August or September of last year, I never thought that I would be out for this season as well as last"

MEL CAN SEE THE LIGHT AT LONG LAST...

There have been more than a few false dawns on Mel Sage's long and winding road to recovery, but he is now convinced he can see the golden shafts of morning sunlight for real.

The 29 year-old full-back, out for the last 18 months through knee problems that even Paul Gascoigne's surgeon would wince at, is back where he belongs at last... in a Derby County number two shirt.

At the moment it is with Richie Williams' young pro's in the Midland Senior League side, but at least Mel is back playing football again after so long on the sidelines.

And, despite a catalogue of hold-ups in his fight to regain fitness, Mel himself now feels confident that he can recapture the form that made the Derby right-back slot his for so long.

"It's right this time, the best it has felt for ages," was the analysis Mel put on his knee last week as he reflected on his year-and-a-half nightmare for Ram Magazine.

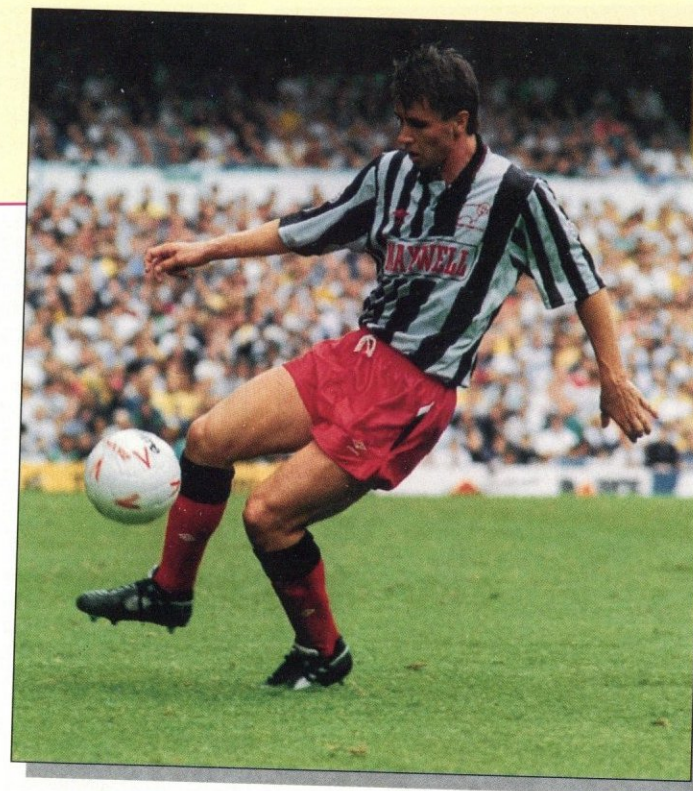
Going back to November 1991, he first recalled the problem: "I had been having a few problems with my knee for a while, perhaps five or six games before it finally went," he revealed.

"I tried to play through it and get on with my game but it finally went against Ipswich Town. I went up and headed a routine clearance but when I landed it just gave way and I knew that something serious had happened."

Serious indeed. But even the worst cruciate ligament damage - which was Mel's main injury - can now be repaired with confidence... unless there are complications.

And poor old Mel has had more than his fair share of those.

"The first operation I had was to repair my cartilage which had been damaged along with the ligaments but they thought



they could save it," mel continued.

"But unfortunately I suffered a blood clot after the operation so I was left in plaster for much longer than would normally be necessary.

"Then, once that had all gone down, I had my cruciate repaired and it was then that they took another look at my cartilage and decided that it wasn't going to be strong enough, so I needed another operation to have that removed as well.

"Things didn't go smoothly to say the least but the biggest problem was probably the blood clot because that forced my leg to be in plaster for so long, and being immobile, it created adhesions to form and debris to collect in my debris, which caused problems later on."

Those problems seemed a million miles away when Mel first set his sights on a return to action - "I thought that I would be back by August or September of last year, I never thought that I would be out for this season as well as last" - and he was only just behind his comeback schedule when he pulled on his boots again last October.

He played three or four matches, making it back into the Pontins League squad, but he knew things weren't right in his knee joint and, yet again, it was back to the specialist for treatment.

"I knew it wasn't right, you can just tell, and I was still getting a sharp pain inside my knee with any turning or sudden movements.

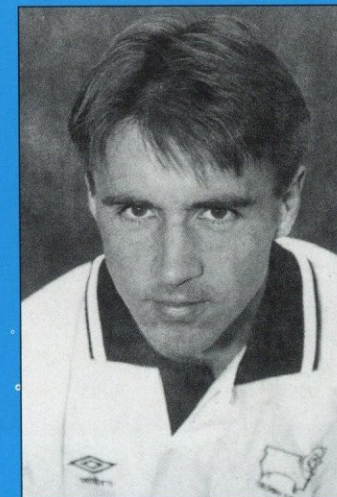
"I played on to see if it would go, or if exercising it would wear down the problem but it wouldn't go so I had to go back for more surgery. It was only a 'clean up' job really as they removed the debris I was talking about from behind my knee cap and since then things have gone smoothly," added Mel as he looked around for a piece of wood to touch.

"That has been a massive weight off my shoulders as people can probably imagine. I was always confident that I would come back but when you have been out for so long I suppose a few doubts can creep in to your mind whether you ever will return.

"The operation is actually quite straight forward really and a lot of players have come back from cruciate operations without problems, it is just the set-backs which cause the problems.

"But Ted McMinn has shown that it is only a matter of time with these things, and his recovery gave me a lot of heart. They say that no knee is the same but when you see a player come back from a bad one like Ted has done you feel that you can make it back yourself too."

MELVYN SAGE

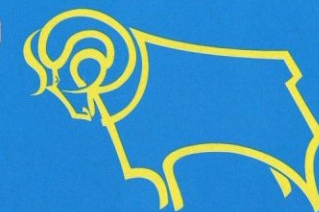


Born: Gillingham, March 1964
Height: 5'8"
Weight: 10st4lb
Source: Gillingham (£62,500)

After the offer of trials with the majority of London's big clubs, Mel opted to join his home town club Gillingham as an apprentice and went on to make more than 130 League appearances for the club.

He joined Derby in 1986 and, despite being unlucky with injuries early on, had developed into Derby's first choice right back before damaged knee ligaments early last season sidelined him for the last six months of the campaign.

Set backs on the road to recovery postponed his come back, but he completed his second game for the A-team last Wednesday and is now confident that his worst days are behind him.



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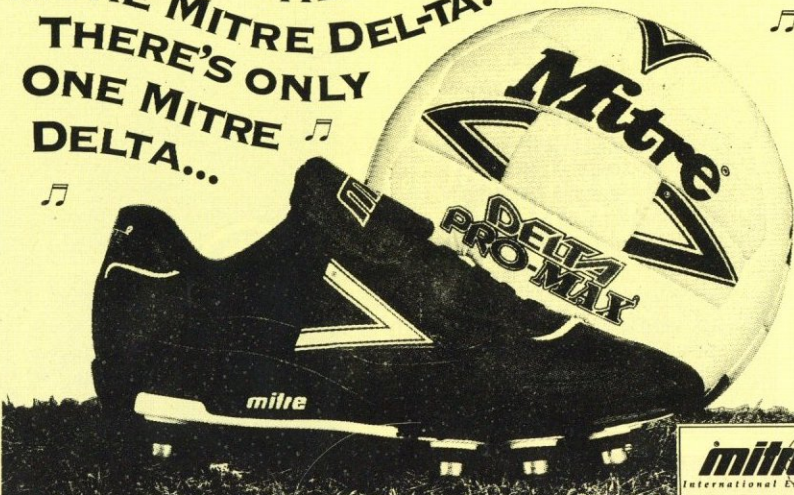
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PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO FIXTURES 92-93

Date	Opponents	Res.
Aug 19	Wigan Athletic	4-1
Aug 25	Bradford City	5-1
Sept 3	Mansfield Town	0-4
Sept 8	West Brom	6-0
Sept 16	Huddersfield Tn	5-1
Sept 24	Scunthorpe Utd	2-0
Sept 30	Hull City	1-1
Oct 6	Preston N E	5-0
Oct 13	York City	4-1
Oct 20	Everton	2-2
Oct 27	Burnley	5-1
Nov 12	Middlesbrough	3-0
Nov 17	Blackpool	6-0
Nov 26	Coventry City	0-2
Dec 10	Grimsby Town	2-1
Dec 17	Oldham Athletic	1-2
Dec 22	Grimsby Town	2-0
Jan 6	Huddersfield Tn	4-0
Jan 19	Wigan Athletic	5-0
Feb 4	Bradford City	3-2
Feb 11	Mansfield Town	4-0
Feb 17	West Brom	1-1
Feb 25	Everton	10-3
Mar 4	Hull City	3-1
Mar 18	Blackpool	3-0
Mar 30	Middlesbrough	2-1
Apr 8	Oldham Athletic	0-0
Apr 14	Port Vale	2-0
Apr 21	York City	1-0
Apr 27	Preston N E	
May 3	Scunthorpe Utd	
May 6	Burnley	
May 10	Coventry City	
May 12	Port Vale	

All home games are marked in bold type

PONTINS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO TABLE 92-93

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Derby	29	22	4	3	91	25	70
Everton	29	17	9	3	68	43	60
Coventry	28	18	4	6	46	22	58
York City	29	16	7	6	42	24	55
Oldham	29	15	5	9	60	41	50
West Brom	29	15	5	9	47	42	50
Bradford	27	12	6	9	50	48	42
Blackpool	31	12	6	13	38	51	42
Port Vale	29	11	7	11	44	44	40
Grimsby	29	11	6	12	44	39	39
Mansfield	29	11	5	13	35	37	38
Huddersf'd	29	11	3	15	50	52	36
Midd'sboro	29	10	4	15	36	47	34
Burnley	27	9	6	12	37	46	33
Hull	28	7	5	16	32	62	26
Scunthorpe	27	7	4	16	35	51	25
Preston	28	3	6	19	36	71	15
Wigan	28	3	4	21	17	61	13

(As at 22nd April 1993)

RESERVES

As Manchester United and Aston Villa supporters will tell you, at this stage of the season it is the result, not the performance, which matters if you are chasing for honours.

And, just as those two clubs are chasing the Premier League title, we have our eyes firmly set on winning our division in the Pontins League; maybe not quite as illustrious an honour but very important to us.

Which is why we were happy to come away from York last Wednesday evening with three more points in the bag from a 1-0 win even though it was far from being a vintage performance from the team.

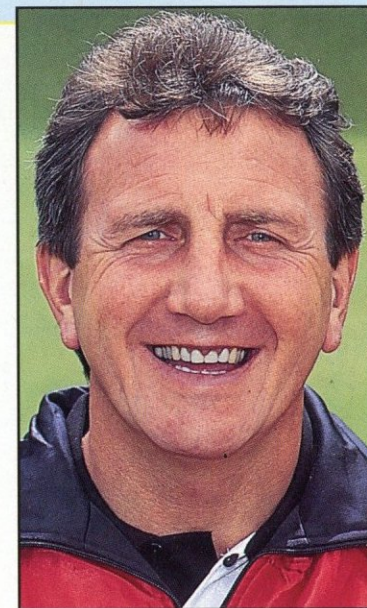
It was a game that we were always in control of but our football throughout the 90 minutes was not at all fluent. Played on a hard and bumpy pitch, the game was a poor spectacle with our passing style made difficult by the conditions.

When we did put together some patches of good football our finishing, which has been very good overall this season, was not of the required standard.

The one good bit of football that produced the goal which won the game involved Steve Hayward attacking down the right flank. He clipped in an excellent cross and Mark Stallard made sure he got to the near post first to beat the keeper with a powerful shot.

That was a worthy winning goal but for the large majority of the time the football from both sides was scrappy.

We created a lot of problems for ourselves through poor decision making by our midfield and defensive players, leaving ourselves bare at the back as a



...With Roy McFarland

consequence, but Steve Sutton was very solid in his handling and saved us from conceding on a number of occasions through his positional play.

We have conceded only one goal in the last five games and that owes something to the current form of Steve.

Through out the season our attitude has been right and that was the case again at York; it was just our football that let us down. But, with five games to go - four of them at home - and only another six points needed to make sure the title is ours I am sure we will be eager to put the record straight when we meet Preston at the Baseball Ground on Monday night.

We still have the 100 goals mark in our sights too, needing another nine goals from our last five games to break into three figures, which will be a remarkable achievement from a 34 game season.

FOR THE RECORD

PONTINS LEAGUE

Port Vale Reserves 0
Derby County Reserves 2

Scorers: Stallard, Chalk

Team: Sutton, Goulooze, Carsley, Patterson, Comyn, Kavanagh, Hayward, Stallard, Ramage, McMinn, Chalk

Subs: Loss (not used)
Short (on for Goulooze)

York City Reserves 0
Derby County Reserves 1

Scorer: Stallard

Team: Sutton, Round, Carsley, Kavanagh, Coleman, Comyn, Hayward, Ramage, Stallard, McMinn, Chalk

Subs: Patterson (not used)
Sturridge (not used)

RESERVE ROLL CALL

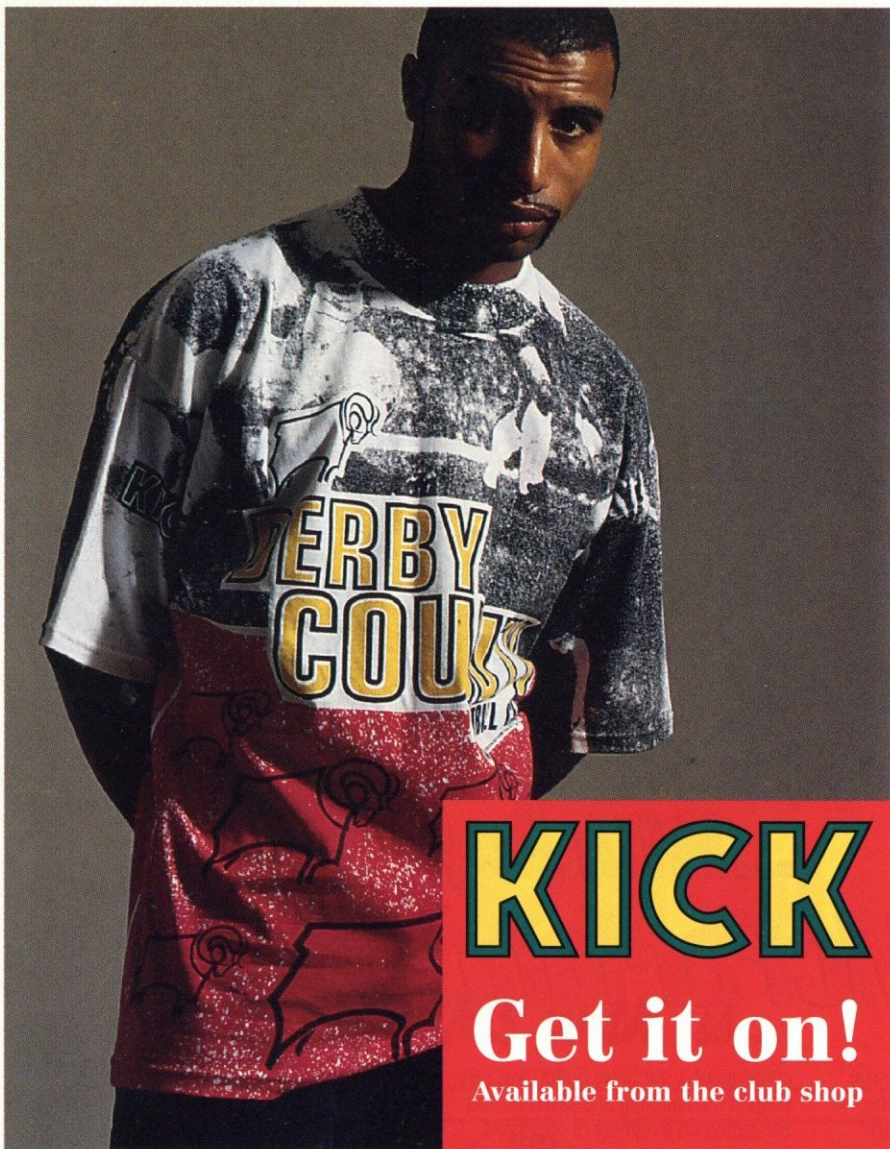
	App	Gl's
Steve Hayward	26	14
Gary Micklewhite	21	7
Martyn Chalk	20(4)	3
Jason Kavanagh	20(1)	-
Shane Nicholson	20	-
Dean Sturridge	19(5)	17
Andy Comyn	19	3
Martin Taylor	19	-
Richard Goulooze	18(1)	5
Ted McMinn	18	7
Mark Stallard	17(2)	16
Mark Patterson	15(1)	1
Simon Coleman	11	1
Steve Round	10(3)	-
Lee Carsley	10(2)	1
Steve Sutton	10	-
Paul Simpson	9	5
Paul Williams	6	1
Justin Phillips	5(2)	-
Stewart Hadley	3(6)	2
Craig Ramage	3(2)	-
Michael Moore	3(1)	-
Mark Blount	2(1)	-
Colin Loss	2(1)	-
Marco Gabbadini	2	4
Tommy Johnson	2	3
Steve Komphele	2	-
John Moshoeu	2	-
Mark Pembridge	2	-
Mel Sage	1(1)	-
Craig Short	1(1)	-
Mark Clarke	1	-



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL...TAKING FOOTBALL INTO THE COMMUNITY

Pontins League Analysis

page twenty-three



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THE A-TEAM

Since my last notes at the start of March, we have remained unbeaten in League and Cup action, recording wins over Peterborough, Carlisle and Walsall as well as drawing at Northampton.

A week last Wednesday we defeated a very experienced Walsall side thanks to a goal scored direct from a well struck free-kick by Colin Loss. It would have been a more convincing scoreline had we not missed a late penalty.

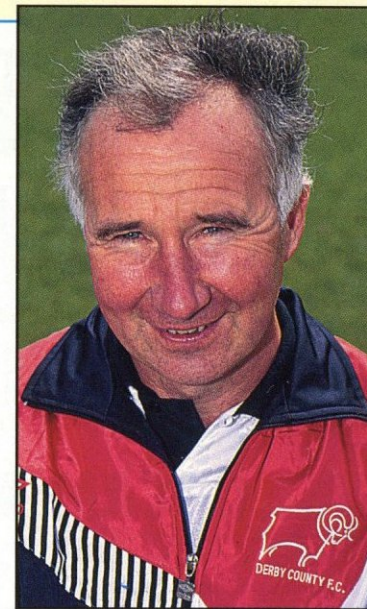
Colin has recently returned from his loan spell in Ireland and performed very well for us in midfield. He had enjoyed his football while with Derry and kept in constant touch with me over the phone regarding our results over here.

Mel Sage continued his own comeback too, playing his second game for us following his long term injury and, as before, he added to our side with his composure and passing ability.

We had another senior player in Michael Forsyth, who filled a central defensive role as he got in match practice following his suspension and hamstring injury. It is a real bonus to our younger players when experienced pros like Mel and Micky play alongside them. Justin Philips was the other central defender and was very solid in all he did.

This performance was our best for a few weeks; even though we have been winning games I do not feel we have been playing as consistently well as were in January and February.

However, during this spell we have reached the semi-final of the national Senior League Cup, thanks to defeating



...With Richie Williams

Carlisle 2-1, and the semi-final of the League Cup too. I know that sounds like the same competition but, honestly, it's not!

Kris Sleuwenhoek has continued to score freely up front even when changes to the side have been made around him. Steve Taylor has made a good contribution from a wide right position and another pleasing factor has been the way in which youth team players have slotted in and applied themselves.

Kevin Cooper, Wayne Anderson, Simon Dakin as well as first year trainee Wayne Sutton have all made the step up as squad members of late and may well now have a part to play in our concluding games.

We still have much to play for, which is how you would chose to be at this stage of the season, and I am sure that all of the players who come in will maintain the high standards that we have set this season.

MIDLAND LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Derby County	9	5	2	2	23	14	17
Walsall	5	4	0	1	14	8	12
Peterborough	6	5	0	1	14	7	15
Shrewsbury	7	4	1	2	22	10	13
Northampton	5	0	1	4	8	20	1
Chesterfield	5	0	0	5	3	23	0

(No full League table available)



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL... OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE FAMILY SEATING ENCLOSURE

Midland Intermediate League Analysis

FOR THE RECORD

MELVILLE SENIOR LEAGUE

Northampton Town	2
Derby County	2

Scorers: Sleuwenhoek, Clarke.
Team: Thomson, Dakin, Weston, Curtis, Phillips, Carsley, Taylor, Sleuwenhoek, Clarke, Ramage, Cooper.
Subs: Anderson (on for Taylor), Sutton (not used)

Derby County	1
Walsall	0

Scorer: Loss.
Team: Thomson, Sage, Weston, Curtis, Phillips, Forsyth, Taylor, Hadley, Sleuwenhoek, Loss, Clarke
Subs: Anderson (not used), Sutton (not used)

COMPETITIVE GAMES SO FAR

Aug 8	Chesterfield	5-0
Aug 26	Shrewsbury T	0-4
Sep 18	Walsall	1-2
Sep 28	Chesterfield(LC)	4-0
Oct 7	Peterborough	1-2
Oct 13	Darlington(KO)	2-0
Oct 27	Walsall (LC)	0-3
Nov 18	Peterboro(LC)	2-1
Dec 9	Chesterfield (LC)	5-1
Jan 13	Shrewsbury	1-0
Jan 19	Peterboro(LC)	3-2
Jan 27	North'pton (LC)	5-1
Feb 3	Chesterfield	6-1
Feb 17	Northampton	4-0
Mar 3	Shrewsbury	2-2
Mar 10	Carlisle(KO)	2-2
Mar 23	Peterborough	2-1
Mar 31	Northampton	2-2
Apr 14	Walsall*	1-0

Bold fixtures denote home games.
(LC) denotes League Cup.
(KO) denotes Knock-out Cup
* League and League Cup 'double header'.

FAROE ISLES 1, AUSTRIA 0.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1990

USA 1, ENGLAND 0.

WORLD CUP FINALS 1950

WEST GERMANY 1 ALGERIA 2

WORLD CUP FINALS 1982

Arbroath 36, Bon Accord 0.

SCOTTISH CUP 1885

ARGENTINA...0 CAMEROON...1

WORLD CUP FINALS 1990

BANGOR 2 - NAPOLI 0

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS CUP 1963

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LUTON TOWN 1992-93

*Back row: Darren Salton, Jamie Campbell, Des Linton, Alec Chamberlain, Marvin Johnson, Juergen Sommer, David Greene, John Dreyer, Chris Kamara.
Middle row: John Moore (first team coach), Julian James, Paul Teller, Tim Allpress, Kurt Nogan, Richard Harvey, Trevor Peake, Brian Owen (physiotherapist).
Front row: Steve Claridge, David Preece, Phil Gray, David Pleat (manager), Ceri Hughes, Jason Rees, Scott Oakes.*

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THE HATTERS...

Luton Town, relegated from the top division last May, have spent the past nine months fighting desperately to avoid what would be a traumatic further drop in status.

Recent results - a heartening 2-0 home win over promotion chasing West Ham and a 2-2 draw away to one of their closest relegation rivals Sunderland last Saturday - suggest that they have the ability to pull clear.

But the Hatters are still in grave danger, and will be looking to continue their recent good record of securing valuable relegation fight points off Derby this afternoon.

Like many other clubs, Luton have been forced to sell some of their best players to survive and while supporters were disappointed to see their star players leave, directors have to live in the real world and the £1.5million banked since last summer was needed to balance the budget.

A small amount was re-invested, but summer signing Steve Claridge did not settle at Kenilworth Road and moved back to Cambridge.

Luton's lowly position is largely due to their failure to win more games at home. Though they have drawn 12 games at Kenilworth Road this season, Luton have won only six - a low figure matched only by Brentford and Bristol Rovers in the entire division.

THE TRANSFERS...

Rams fans will need little prompting on Luton Town's biggest sale in recent times... Welsh international midfielder Mark Pembridge.

But at almost the same time that Mark was heading for the Baseball Ground in a £1,250,000 move, the Hatters also sold ex-Rams striker Mick Harford to Chelsea for £300,000. Harford has since moved on to Sunderland.

Wearing Harford's old shirt recently has been former England striker Kerry Dixon, on loan at Luton from Southampton.

Chris Kamara's return to the side was almost like that of a new signing. He was recalled to the midfield from a loan spell with Middlesbrough having previously spent time

Continued over the page >>>

LUTON TOWN..



TO ALL VISITING SUPPORTERS AT TODAY'S GAME...WELCOME TO DERBYSHIRE!

Today's Baseball Ground Action

page twenty-seven

POST WAR MANAGERS

GEORGE MARTIN	1939-47
DALLY DUNCAN	1947-58
SYD OWEN	1959-60
SAM BARTRAM	1960-62
BILL HARVEY	1962-64
GEORGE MARTIN	1965-66
ALLAN BROWN	1966-68
ALEC STOCK	1968-72
HARRY HASLAM	1972-78
DAVID PLEAT	1978-86
JOHN MOORE	1986-87
RAY HARFORD	1987-89
JIM RYAN	1990-91
DAVID PLEAT	1991 -

at Sheffield United earlier this season.

Another new face this term is that of frontman Ian Benjamin, signed from Southend for £50,000 in November. He replaced Steve Claridge, who returned to Cambridge for £195,000 only months after arriving at Kenilworth Road.

THE MANAGER...

David Pleat returned for his second spell as Luton manager in June 1991.

He was previously in charge from 1978 to 1986, when invited to take over at Tottenham.

He left Spurs in October 1987 and worked abroad for a while before taking over at Leicester in December that year. He remained at Filbert Street for three years.

It was at Luton that Pleat made his name as player and manager. He began his playing days with Nottingham Forest but played only half-a-dozen games before joining Luton in 1964.

In 1967 he was transferred to Shrewsbury and later played for Exeter and Peterborough before retiring in 1971.

It was in 1974 that he joined Luton as reserve team coach. He was promoted to first team duties three years later and, in 1978, was placed in the Kenilworth Road hot seat.

THE SQUAD...

Phil Gray's shooting form for the Hatters this season has earned him a place in Northern Ireland's World Cup squad.

Phil, who has scored 20 goals so far, made his international debut against Albania in February and collected his second cap



Striker Phil Gray

when playing against the Republic last month.

Phil was signed from Tottenham for £275,000 in 1991. He made only nine League appearances for Spurs, though he did play League soccer while on loan to Barnsley and Fulham.

Gray is partnered in attack by former England forward Kerry Dixon, who joined the club from Southampton on loan in February. Dixon joined the small band of players to score 200 goals in League football shortly before his latest move.

He was once rejected by Spurs and, after a spell with Dunstable, he started his League career with Reading. Chelsea signed him for £175,000 in 1983 and he was their leading scorer in six of his seven seasons at Stamford

Bridge. Such form earned him eight England caps as well as a £575,000 move to Southampton last summer.

Martin Williams, another forward, is often on the bench. He is a former trainee who made one brief appearance in the League as substitute last season. His first League goal was a critical one - it clinched the 2-0 home win over West Ham at Easter.

Paul Telfer, Chris Kamara, David Preece, Jason Rees and Scott Oakes are the main contenders for midfield positions. Ceri Hughes also plays in this department but has been suspended recently.

Telfer is a former Luton trainee who got his League chance two seasons ago, while Kamara began his career with Portsmouth almost two decades ago.

He moved to Swindon, then returned to Fratton Park at the start of the eighties, before linking up with Brentford, Swindon again, Stoke, Leeds and, last season Luton.

Preece was signed from Walsall for £150,000 in 1984 and played in two

Continued over the page >>>>

FORTY YEARS OF THRILLERS!

The paths of Derby County and Luton Town never crossed in League action until 40 years ago, but since then the clubs have faced each other 25 times.

And although the aggregate scored of those encounters stands all square at 33 goals each, Luton hold the honours in terms of wins with 12 victories to Derby's nine.

The Hatters obviously started as they meant to go on because in the first season that the clubs were pitted together, 1953-54, they won both games 2-1.

Ray Wilkins gave Derby the lead in the first match, at the Baseball Ground, but left winger Bert Mitchell scored twice to give the Rams' debutant keeper David Paul an unhappy afternoon. In the return Bob Morton and John Downie scored for the home side while Colin Bell netted for the Rams.

The following season Derby were relegated to the Third Division; the club's plight not helped by a 2-0 reverse at Kenilworth Road, or a 0-0 draw at the Baseball Ground. However, the strongest memory of the two games came after the match in Luton when Jesse Pye, who scored for the promotion chasing Hatters, slapped in a shock transfer request and moved to Derby!

The next League encounter did not take place until October 1960, and it was then that Derby chalked up their first win. The game finished 4-1 to Derby with Bill Curry scoring his first goals for the club - a brace - in his third appearance.

Curry scored again at Luton in a 1-1 draw later that season and the following campaign was on hand to score again in a 2-0 home win. Ian Hall, now of Radio Derby, scored twice at Luton that season but still the Rams went down 4-2.

Derby achieved the double in 1962-63, starting with the club's first League win at Luton. Bill Curry scored again, along with Barry Hutchinson, for a 2-0 win at Luton and Hutchinson scored again at the Baseball Ground as the Rams inflicted another body blow on the then relegation haunted Hatters.



MARK GIVES HIS OLD FANS A REMINDER...

It is unlikely that Luton's supporters had forgotten about Mark Pembroke's skills, but during the Rams' 5-1 FA Cup win at Kenilworth Road this season the Welsh international turned on the style to score his first ever senior hat-trick and is pictured taking the plaudits from his team mates.

With Luton dropping down a division, it wasn't until they had matched Derby's promotion to the top flight that the clubs met again, although by the time that happened in 1974-75, the Rams were heading towards the second championship success.

Even so, they came unstuck at bottom club Luton, who had only nine points to their credit after six consecutive defeats when the teams met at Kenilworth Road. Jim Ryan's penalty caused Derby's blushes.

The Rams more than made up for it in the return, winning 5-0 and by all accounts put up a performance worthy of double figures. Roger Davies was the star, bagging all five goals and becoming the first player to manage such a feat since Hughie Gallacher 40 years earlier.

Luton were sent down that season as Derby claimed their glory but the Rams were relegated themselves by the time of the next meeting in August 1980. Brian Stein, a star of David Pleat's first Luton side, gave his side the lead but Derby fought back to win 2-1.

The following January saw four goals shared with Derby's strikes coming from two Kevins that reflected the old and the new at the Baseball

Ground; Kevin Hector was moving in to his veteran years while Kevin Wilson was still learning.

In the following season the Rams lost away 3-2 with Mal Donaghy among the goals for Luton and at the Baseball Ground the game finished goalless.

It was back to the First Division for the next League meeting, in fact Derby's first game after being promoted back to the top flight. John Gregory, who scored Derby's final goal of the previous promotion season, scored the first in Division One football to set up victory.

Luton won a similar scoreline in the return and did the 'double' in 1988-89, Mick Harford the architect of Derby's downfall. He scored the only goal here and joined Kingsley Black and Danny Wilson on the scoresheet away.

Luton repeated that feat the following season, creating amazing scenes after their 3-2 win here on the final day of the campaign had saved them from the drop for another year. Needing to win, and Sheffield Wednesday lose, to stay up, the Hatters stormed in to a two goal lead only for Mark Wright and Paul Williams to cancel it out.

However Kingsley Black scored his second goal to give Luton the win and

when the news that Forest had beaten Wednesday at Hillsborough filtered through the visitors' dressing room went wild!

Yet, amazingly, it was a similar story the following season, although the game was a t Kenilworth Road and Derby had already been relegated.

The Rams had won 2-1 at the Baseball Ground and another win at Luton would send the Hatters down. A Mick Harford own goal and a second strike from Lars Elstrup ensured safety.

This season Derby have turned the tables a little bit, winning 3-1 at Kenilworth Road in the League and 5-1 there in the FA Cup.

The complete League record between Derby and Luton is:

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Home	28	17	6	5	64	33
Away	29	10	6	13	38	45
TOTAL	57	27	12	18	102	78



Wembley League Cup finals for the Hatters, collecting a winners medal in 1988. He has also been capped three times by England 'B'.

Rees graduated from the Hatters' youth team and, soon after making his debut three seasons ago, he won the first of three Wales under 21 caps. He also played for Wales at 'B' level and last April won his first full cap when appearing as substitute against Austria.

Oakes arrived from Leicester last season in an exchange deal, having made his debut in 1989, and Hughes is another Luton player that came up through the club ranks.

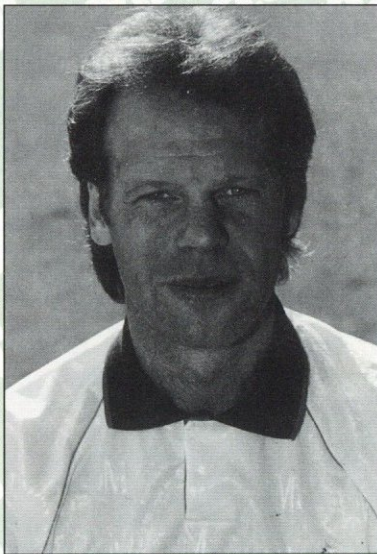
In the heart of the defence, John Dreyer and Trevor Peake fill the central positions... regardless of what numbers they may be wearing this afternoon!

Dreyer, who could have a 2 on his back, started his professional career with Oxford but, before getting his chance in their senior side, he played on loan at Torquay and Fulham. John enjoyed two seasons as a fixture in the Oxford side before moving to Luton for £140,000 in 1988.

Peake played for England's semi-professional team during his early days with Nuneaton, before joining Lincoln City. He played for four seasons in the Red Imps' first-team and then joined Coventry in a £100,000 deal in 1983. Luton paid the same figure in acquiring his services last season.

Outside Peake and Dreyer, we are likely to see Julian James and Marvin Johnson, while behind them, Alec Chamberlain is the normal goalkeeper.

James and Johnson are yet more Luton

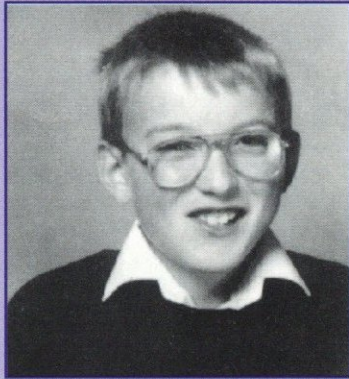


Trevor Peake, Luton's vastly experienced central defender.

discoveries, both developing in the youth team. Johnson, the left back, got his first taste of League football during 1987-88, while James was capped twice by England under-21s last term.

In between the sticks, Alec Chamberlain remained in the reserve teams at Ipswich but got his League chance after joining Colchester in 1982. He played 221 consecutive games for Colchester before being transferred to Everton for £75,000 in 1987 and on to Luton.

TODAY'S..



RAMS MASCOT...

Our McDonalds Matchday Mascot this afternoon is Christian Ratcliffe of Littleover, Derby.

Ten year-old Christian attends Gayton Avenue Junior School but in his spare time enjoys Karate - at which he is a red belt - and playing football.

He attends many of the Rams away games with his father and names winger Paul Simpson and striker Marco Gabbiadini - as his favourite Derby players.

We hope you enjoy your day.

REFEREE...

The man in charge this afternoon is 43 year-old Ian Cruickshanks from Hartlepool.

A relief roundsholder, he has been refereeing since 1972 when he started in the local Hartlepool leagues.

He progressed through the Vaux Wearside League and the Northern League to the Football League.

After ten years as a linesman, during which time he ran the line in the 1988 Charity Shield, he was appointed to the League's referees' list in 1989.

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THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game

LUTON TOWN FIRST TEAM ROLL CALL...

Player	League	Player	League
Birthdate/place	Apps Gls	Birthdate/place	Apps Gls
Alec Chamberlain (20.6.64) March	36 -	David Preece (28.5.63) Bridgnorth	28(1) 6
Andy Petterson (26.9.69) Freemantle	7 -	Jason Rees (22.12.69) Pontypridd	30(8) 5
John Dreyer (11.6.63) Alnwick	39 2	Paul Telfer (21.10.71) Edinburgh	10(2) 2
Richard Harvey (17.4.69) Letchworth	34 -	Ian Benjamin (11.12.61) Nottingham	40(5) 14
Ceri Hughes (26.2.71) Pontypridd	32(3) 7	Kerry Dixon (24.7.61) Luton	3(1) -
David Greene (26.10.73) Luton	24(3) -	Phil Gray (2.10.68) Belfast	47(2) 13
Julian James (22.3.70) Tring	27(5) -	Martin Williams (12.7.73) Luton	22(7) 4
Marvin Johnson (29.10.68) Wembley	13(3) -		
Des Linton (5.9.71) Birmingham	10 -		
Trevor Peake (6.7.57) Nuneaton	15 1		
Jamie Campbell (21.10.72) Birmingham	17(5) -		
Chris Kamara (25.12.57) Middlesbrough	43 5		
Scott Oakes (5.8.72) Leicester	42 7		

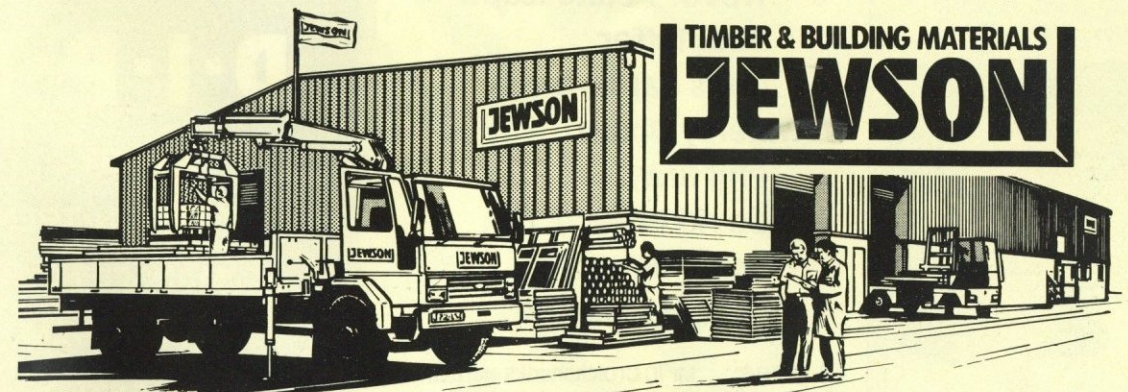
ALSO PLAYED:

Steve Claridge (now Cambridge)	19(1) app. 6 goals
Darren Salton	19 app.
Damien Matthew (loan from Chelsea)	4(2) app.

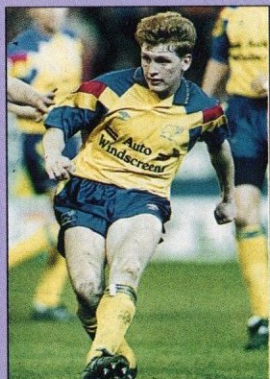
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TODAY'S TEAMS..



MARK PEMBRIDGE

Free scoring midfielder Mark Pembridge has already topped 15 goals for Derby this season, including a first ever senior hat-trick in our 5-1 FA Cup win over his old club Luton back in January.

ONE 2 ONE

DAVID PREECE

England B international David Preece is an essential cog in the Luton midfield machine. Now in his tenth season at Kenilworth Road, he has seen Luton take on the big clubs as well as play in two League Cup finals.



DERBY COUNTY |

(White shirts, black shorts)

- 1 Martin Taylor
- 2 Steve Round
- 3 Shane Nicholson
- 4 Michael Forsyth
- 5 Craig Short
- 6 Mark Pembridge
- 7 Dean Sturridge
- 8 Martin Kuhl (capt)
- 9 Paul Kitson
- 10 Marco Gabbiadini
- 11 Paul Simpson
- 12 Mark Stallard
- 14 Simon Coleman

LUTON TOWN |

(Blue shirts, white shorts)

- 1 Alec Chamberlain
- 2 John Dreyer
- 3 Julian James
- 4 Marvin Johnson
- 5 Jason Rees
- 6 Trevor Peake (capt)
- 7 Paul Telfer
- 8 Chris Kamara
- 9 Kerry Dixon
- 10 Phil Gray
- 11 David Preece
- 12 Scott Oakes
- 14 Martin Williams

Referee: Mr IG Cruickshanks (Hartlepool)
Linesmen: Mr MA Cooper (yellow)
Mr GR Hamblin (red/yellow)

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