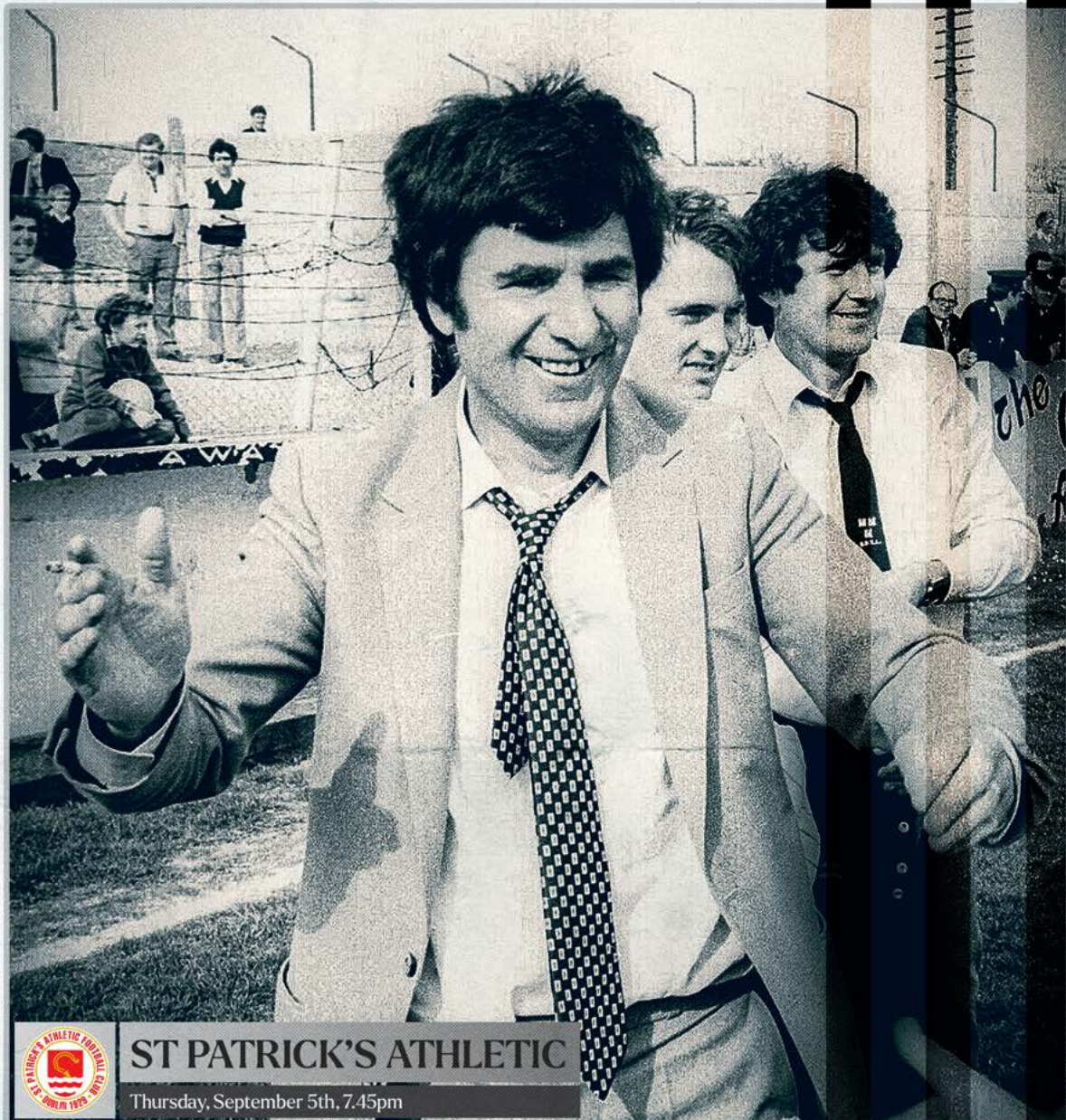




The Official Matchday Programme

DUNDALK FC

JIM MCLAUGHLIN (1940-2024)



ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC

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FRONT COVER

The late Jim McLaughlin celebrates Dundalk FC's league title win in Athlone in 1982. Picture: Arthur Kinahan.
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Match Preview

In association with Head In The Game

By Keith Wallace

Dundalk are targeting a first win in eight weeks against a Saint Patrick's Athletic side without an away top-flight win in almost seven months when the two clash this evening.

This fixture was controversially called off 46 hours before it was due to take place last Sunday week, a call made by FAI bosses to aid Stephen Kenny's Saints in their bid – which failed – to qualify for the league phase of the UEFA Conference League.

That left Dundalk without a game in three weeks but they returned to action with a disappointing 1-0 defeat at home by title chasers Shelbourne last Friday, where they gifted Aiden O'Brien a fourth-minute goal as the Reds returned to the top of the table.

Jon Daly's men showed improvement in the second half against Shels and hit the post through substitute Ryan O'Kane, but the outcome means they have won just once – against relegation rivals Drogheda United on July 12th – in eight games in all competitions since returning from the midseason break in late June.

The Lilywhites had earlier this season set a new club record for consecutive clean sheets at Oriel Park, rattling off eight on the spin between March and the final game before the break. However, since that win over Sligo Rovers, they have lost three of their last four on the Carrick Road.

Goals continue to be a problem

for Daly's side, who failed to score in any of those three defeats, but they could be boosted by Jad Hakiki – who netted in that victory over Drogheda – as he is available for selection once again having missed the match with Shels due to the terms of his July transfer.

Dundalk have scored just 19 goals in their 28 league games this season and have only netted in four of their 14 games at Oriel Park. Despite that, they have collected 17 points at home from their total of 24 and they will need to make the most of their four remaining games in North Louth.

Dundalk trail Drogheda by one point, and two goals, at the bottom of the table but Thursday night is the Lilywhites' game in hand on their local rivals and a chance to regain ninth spot. Indeed, Dundalk will play twice before Drogheda are next in league action due to the Boynesiders' FAI Cup progress.

Seventh-placed St Pat's, meanwhile, still have outside hopes of qualifying for Europe next season, which may well require a top-three finish. But they have not won away in the league since the opening day of the season on February 16th when Jamie Lennon's third-minute goal earned them a 1-0 victory in Galway under Daly.

In their 12 games on the road since then, they have drawn six and lost six, although four of those draws have come in their last five trips, losing only narrowly to Waterford in that period. The Saints' form at Richmond Park has just about kept them in the race for Europe, with 26 of their 35 points coming at home.

Dundalk, though, recorded their sole away win of the season in Inchicore back on the June Bank Holiday when an early blitz was enough to see them over the line 3-2, a success which will give them confidence going into this week. Subsequently, Kenny's side have lost just one in seven in the Premier Division.

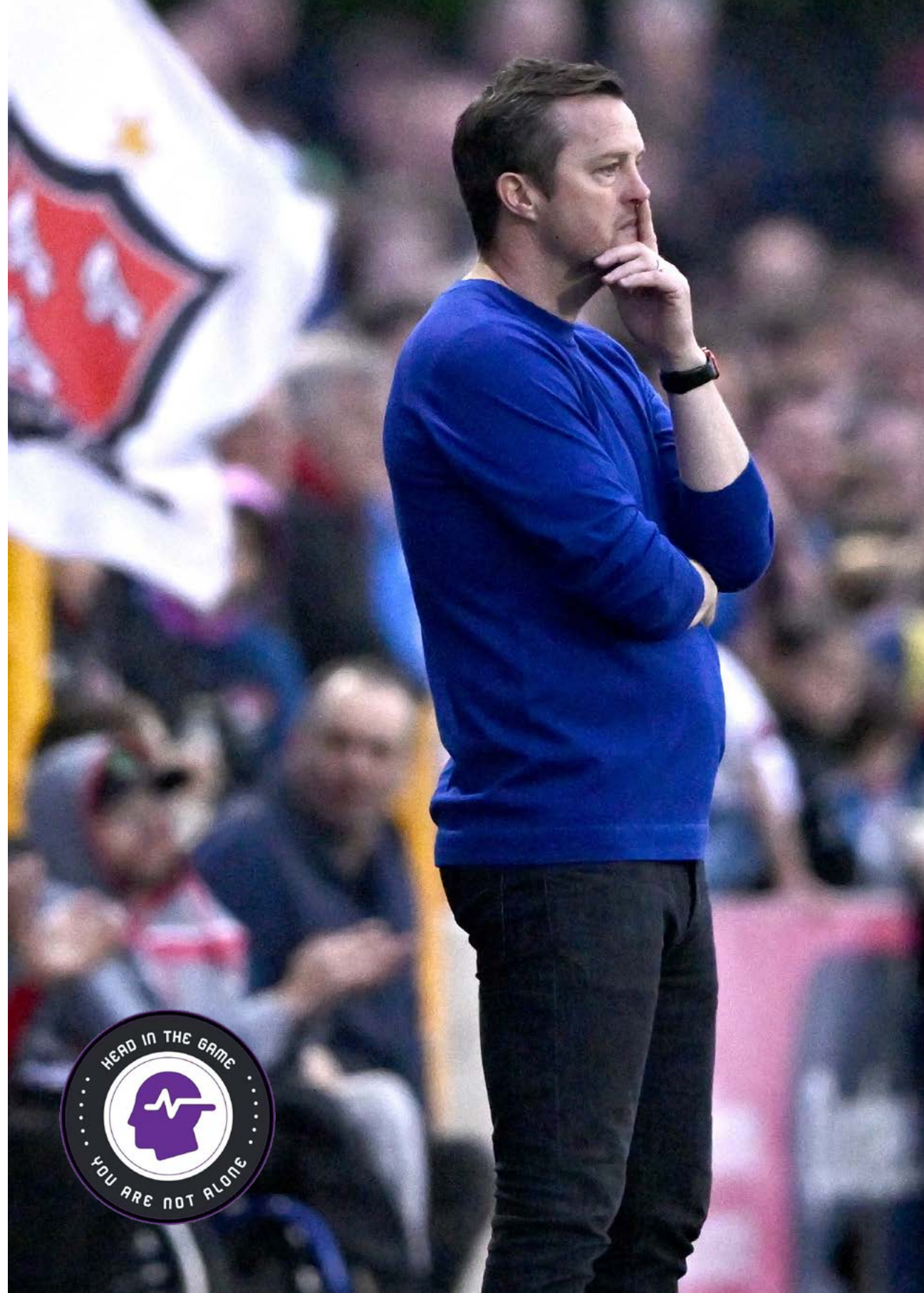
St Pat's did Dundalk a huge favour on Sunday with a 4-1 win over Drogheda in the capital, where a 29th-minute red card for Luke Heeney – who was also sent off at Oriel this year – proved costly, with Chris Forrester's resulting penalty added to by a double from Jake Mulraney and a fine injury-time strike from youngster Mason Melia.

That eased any fears for Kenny – who will on Thursday return to Dundalk as a manager for the first time since departing in late 2018 after a trophy-laden spell – that his team may be dragged into a battle at the bottom, with their eyes instead focusing in on Shamrock Rovers four points above them in sixth.

Along with Bohemians' win over Rovers on Sunday, it now looks like a straight shootout between the two Louth clubs to avoid the automatic relegation spot, with the pair hoping to put themselves in a strong position to do just that before the final day of the season when they do battle on the Boyne.

"We had a week's prep on St Pat's before the game was postponed so we have just added to that," said Daly.

"We'll probably face a stronger Pat's than we would have done last week but we'll have the belief of getting something out of it."





Dermot Keely

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Keely to launch autobiography with Q&A Night at Oriel Park

Former Dundalk FC captain and manager Dermot Keely will launch his new autobiography with a Q&A Session in the Enda McGuill Suite at Oriel Park on Thursday, September 19th at 7.30pm.

'Better Without The Ball', which was written alongside Neil O'Riordan, the Chief Sports Writer with the Irish Sun, tells the story of the 70-year-old Dubliner who went on to become a Dundalk FC - and League of Ireland - legend.

Keely made his debut in the League of Ireland as a teenager with Home Farm, and had just turned 21 by the time he helped the all-amateur side win the FAI Cup in 1975.

It set the tone for a hugely-successful career on either side of the border and he took his winning formula into management, leading three different clubs to league titles, before walking away for good in 2010.

After subsequently relocating to Lanzarote, where he opened a bar in his name alongside his wife Jane Martin, he discovered from a customer that, just like he had done with Celtic, his father Peter had turned down a cross-channel move, to Leeds United. That stirred an interest in having a record of his own career, with that desire further fuelled by the sudden



Yvonne Waring, pictured with Jon Daly, Liam Burns and Graham Kelly at the Open Training Session at Oriel Park recently

passing of his son Alan in May 2021.

Despite playing for and managing a host of clubs, Dundalk FC holds a special place in his heart and, indeed, he lived in the town for a time, as did Alan. Dermot won four major trophies in three years as a player and later, in 1995, led the club to what is regarded as the most unlikely title win in modern times.

Admission to the event is free. The book will be available to buy on the night, priced at just €20. Cash and Revolut will be accepted.

Welcome back to Oriel, Joanne!



After spending four months in hospital, diehard Lilwhites supporter Joanne Duffy returned to Oriel Park for the game against Galway United on August 2nd. Joanne fell ill during our home game against Waterford in March but is happily on the road to recovery and Dundalk FC manager Jon Daly and Event Controller Regina O'Hare were on hand to present her with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of everyone at the club. Welcome back, Joanne!

Junior Match Reporter Competition

Ryan McKeown, a fourth class student from Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Kilcurry, was the winner of our Junior Match Day Reporter competition. Ryan penned this report from our win over Sligo Rovers at Oriel Park on June 13th.

Dundalk took a deserved three points following an impressive display on a damp night at Oriel Park against a rattled Sligo side.

The Lilywhites bossed the first half and scored within the first 20 minutes as former Warrenpoint Town winger Ryan O'Kane ghosted through the Sligo Rovers defence to leave goalkeeper Edward McGinty with no chance.

That appeared to set the tone for

a goal laden match however this failed to materialise in the opening 45 minutes. McGinty was a busy man in the first half as he saved well from Daryl Horgan and Jamie Gullan in quick succession.

Just on the stroke of half time, Dundalk almost extended their lead as Daryl Horgan whipped an inswinging corner into the Sligo Rovers box which Andy Boyle got his head on but it hit off a Sligo defender and the visitors were lucky to escape further punishment.

The second half began in a subdued manner as Paul Doyle departed the field on a stretcher in the 54th minute and Koen Ostenbrink came on to replace him. He was one of the four Dundalk and



Sligo Rovers booked in the second half.

Daryl Horgan put the game to bed in the 78th minute when he rifled the ball into the net from 13 yards following Dundalk pressure down the left side.

Game set and match to Dundalk as John Daly secured his first win at Oriel Park.

The Town End

Stephen Kenny's return to Oriel Park has Dónal Hanks reflecting



Stephen Kenny with the SSE Airtricity Premier Division trophy in 2014

Truth be told, I didn't think this venture would be as difficult as it turned out to be. This column was never meant to be a chore; it was never meant to be something I dreaded each week. It was supposed to be uplifting, it was supposed to be fun, it was supposed to be funny

from time to time.

I was pretty optimistic in the beginning. I thought we would turn things around after a rocky start and I could spend a few hundred words each week lavishing high praise on our performances. The reality is we've spent most of the season picking ourselves up and dusting

ourselves off, getting ready to go again.

This is not fun anymore. This is not funny anymore. I picked one of the hardest seasons in modern memory to contribute to this programme on a weekly basis.

Things have not turned out the way I thought they would. Don't get me wrong, I didn't think things would be sunshine and roses, but

I also didn't think it would be, well the opposite of that, darkness and dead flowers or whatever the opposite of roses are.

We have had some good moments, some great nights, some fantastic wins, but it's obviously not what we thought it was going to be or what we wanted it to be. Some of us might have envisaged a struggle this year, some of us maybe thought a run at the European places was possible, or even a cup run.

But even if you thought that our struggles this season were predictable, you surely must marvel at the unpredictable elements of that predictable struggle. Did anyone have Stephen Kenny coming back to Oriel managing St Pat's on their bingo card?

Although we had a successful - almost historically successful - season in the immediate aftermath of Kenny leaving the club, most people will point to that point in time as the moment when things started to turn.

When he left, he left behind a football club littered with title winning players that had achieved



unparalleled success in European football. He raised the bar and smashed all our expectations to the point where we thought that anything was possible. The bar had been raised to unreasonably high expectation levels and unfortunately, inevitably, those levels were too incredible to sustain.

We had to come back down to earth and build again. That rebuilding has not been easy and it is still a work in progress. And even though it's been tough, no one here is going to give up, no one here is going to forget the

glory that came before, no one here is going to stop until we're back where we belong again.

So maybe this column isn't fun, or funny, maybe this column is hard work because that's what this season has been. Maybe this column is here to remind you and myself and everyone at this football club to pick ourselves up again and dust ourselves off.

The season hasn't been fun but it's not over yet. We need a few more of those special nights that we've already had this season and we need one of them today.



RIP JIM MCLAUGHLIN (1940-2024)

THE MAN WITH THE MIDAS TOUCH



1977; Dundalk FC player manager Jim McLaughlin lifts the FAI Cup after the win over Limerick



1982; Barry Kehoe and Jim McLaughlin pictured with nine-year-old Brian Smyth from Crossmaglen, his brother Declan (right) and Vincent Cranny (centre) from Kilsaran, at the Imperial Hotel following Dundalk FC's League of Ireland title win

Thursday, August 15th was a sad day for everyone associated with Dundalk FC, and indeed League of Ireland football, as it marked the passing of the legendary Jim McLaughlin at the age of 83.

Born in the shadow of The Brandywell in Derry on December 22nd, 1940, James Christopher McLaughlin signed for Derry City as a teenager and made a scoring debut for the club, a couple of months short of his 17th birthday, against Crusaders in September 1957.

A return of 16 goals in his first season with The Candystripes saw him move to Birmingham City for a transfer fee of £4,000 in the summer of 1958 and he spent 14 years in England as a player, having spells at another three clubs Shrewsbury Town, Swansea City and Peterborough United, making a total of 431 appearances, scoring 126 goals.

International honours also came his way and in October 1961, he took over the left wing spot on the Northern Ireland team from former Dundalk FC

attacker Peter McParland, scoring against Scotland on his debut. In total, Jim won 12 caps, scoring six goals.

During his second spell at Swansea City, and his last in the UK, he accepted manager Harry Gregg's invitation to become player-coach and in November 1974, he returned to Ireland, accepting the position of player-manager at Oriel Park.

Little did anyone know what was about to unfold...

Over the following quarter of a century, McLaughlin provided the material that would re-write the history of several League of Ireland clubs, notably Dundalk Football Club.

During his nine seasons at the helm at Oriel Park, Dundalk won three league titles, three FAI Cups, two League Cups, two Leinster Senior Cups and three LFA President's Cups.

Famously, Dundalk also became a recognised name in European circles. In his nine European ties at Oriel Park, against some of the continent's leading clubs like FC Porto, Glasgow Celtic, PSV Eindhoven and Tottenham Hotspur, the Lilywhites lost just once, against Liverpool in 1982, with the opposition

managing just three goals in five years.

Undeterred by a low budget, McLaughlin delivered instant success at the club, guiding Dundalk to the league title in his first full season, and Dundalk's 50th in the League of Ireland, in 1975-76, followed by the club's first FAI Cup success in 19 years when they beat Limerick in the 1977 final.

A league and FAI Cup double followed in 1979 with McLaughlin's 'Mean Machine' going within an inch of beating Celtic and booking a place against Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the European Cup!

Always striving for improvement, he tweaked that great side and Dundalk went on to win another FAI Cup in 1981, subsequently pushing Tottenham Hotspur all the way in an epic European Cup Winners Cup tie, before leading the club to their third league title in six years, and his final trophy at Oriel Park, in 1982.

The McLaughlin era, as it came to be known, ended at The Showgrounds in Sligo after the final game of the 1982-83 season. During his nine seasons at the helm, Dundalk played 355 games, winning 194, losing 83 and drawing 78. The team scored 611 goals during his spell at the club and conceded 345.

His departure from Oriel Park shocked everyone in Dundalk but he went on to wrack up a host of trophies, winning a further five League of Ireland titles, a record that will take some breaking.

Three of those came with Shamrock Rovers, where he won two back-to-back league and FAI Cup doubles, while in 1989 he led his hometown club, Derry City, to an unprecedented league, FAI Cup and League Cup treble.

Subsequent managerial stints further enhanced his status as a giant of the League of Ireland scene, first at Shelbourne whose 1991-92 Championship victory filled a 30-year gap since their previous win, and then leading Drogheda United to promotion from the First Division in 1994-95.

Already retired for many years, he answered a crisis call from Dundalk FC following the sudden departure of Eddie May at the beginning of the 1997-98 year but he couldn't help the club from spiralling to relegation for the first time in 1999.

Twenty-five years after walking into the dugout at Oriel Park, Jim finally walked away.

The greatest?

It will be hard to ever find better.

RIP JIM MCLAUGHLIN (1940-2024)

Keely pays tribute to his 'Football Da'

By Paul Byrne

Former Dundalk FC captain and manager Dermot Keely has described the late Jim McLaughlin as his 'Football Da'.

The teak tough defender enjoyed a fruitful spell under McLaughlin at Dundalk, winning the double in his first season with the club, and went on to play under the Derryman again at Shamrock Rovers where he won a further three league titles.

"There would be no Dermot Keely without Jim McLaughlin," stated an emotional Keely. "He was an absolute genius and an absolute gentleman.

"He helped me so much, not just on the pitch but off it too. He was one of a kind and in all of the years I knew him I only ever heard him curse once. Of course, that curse was directed at me," laughed Keely.

"Jim took me, Sean Byrne and Leo Flanagan from St Pats when he was rebuilding at Dundalk and from nothing he created a fantastic side who won the double in my first season with the club.

"He just had an eye for a player and he was able to give them confidence and make them run through walls for him.

"This week people will be arguing over his greatest achievements in the game but for me, by far his biggest achievement was being able to manage myself and Tommy McConville. We were hard going! Tommy thought he was always right and I knew I was always right!

"I left Dundalk in 1981. I wasn't happy with the players that Jim



brought into the club during that summer. I thought we were slipping and I told him that he didn't know what he was doing.

"He never said a word to me. He just stood there and let me rant. I departed for Glentoran thinking Dundalk were going to have a tough season but of course, Jim being Jim, he won the league with them that year. He just had this unbelievable knack of bringing in the right players at the right time.

"A measure of the man was that he never held a grudge against me for my stupid tirade against him before I left the club. Me saying he had lost the plot and all that. He never uttered a bad word about me in public after I left and he had every right to do so.

"He moved on to Shamrock Rovers, and I was at UCD at the time, and he called me and asked me to join him there. He bore no grudges whatsoever. He just got on with the job. I can't put into words how much he helped my career both as a player and as a manager. As I said before there is no me without him.

"I went to Dundalk as raw as ropes but he saw something in me and he gave me this huge belief. He trusted me 100% and he told me that if I saw something that needed changing on the pitch to change it. What other manager does that?

"He used to always say to me 'Don't mind about the attributes that you don't have. Concentrate on what you have got.' He just had a lovely way about him. Quiet and unassuming but he had this quiet confidence.

"As I said earlier, the only time I ever heard him curse was when we were playing Glasgow Celtic in the European Cup. We had been playing the offside trap all season in the league to great effect. We'd step up and always catch the striker offside.

"Celtic had their homework done, though. They had runners from midfield and they were destroying us in the first half getting behind us at every opportunity.

"One of our players went down injured and Jim runs on with a sponge. As he's down on his knees with the sponge he looks over at me and says quietly 'See if you step up again? I'll fucking kill you!'. I just looked at Paddy Dunning and he said 'Edge of the box from here on in?' and I replied 'Edge of the box', laughs Dermot.

"We've kept in touch down through the years and he came over to me in Lanzarote, where I live now, a few years ago and we had a lovely walk and reminisced over a few pints. I loved meeting up with him.

"He was an absolute gem. He grew me as a person. He was the master. One of a kind. Simply the best," concluded Dermot.



2011; Dermot Keely and Jim McLaughlin, pictured at the FAI Cup final between Shelbourne and Sligo Rovers at the Aviva Stadium

McLaughlin was Ireland's answer to Alex Ferguson

By Aidan Fitzmaurice

A heavy smoker with no UEFA badges, and someone not particularly known for his coaching abilities, it's hard to picture Jim McLaughlin surviving, never mind thriving, in modern-day football management.

But across the football scene on this island, since news broke last Thursday morning that McLaughlin had died at the age of 83, Irish football spoke with one voice: McLaughlin was the greatest manager the League of Ireland has ever seen and probably will ever see.

Mick Neville, who is regularly at Oriel Park these days in his role as FAI Football Development Officer for Louth, owes McLaughlin a particular debt: he won all six of his league titles, and most of his seven FAI Cup medals, under the guidance of the man from Derry.

In times of grief, it's easy to push too hard with superlatives, but Neville doesn't hesitate when asked if McLaughlin was Ireland's version of Alex Ferguson, in terms of multiple successes across the decades.

"I'd easily say he was the Irish Ferguson," says Neville, who played under McLaughlin in title-winning sides at Shamrock Rovers, Derry City and Shelbourne.

"He was very clever as he always topped his squad up, as Ferguson did, to keep players under pressure, not let standards drop. Everyone in a Jim McLaughlin team knew their job and that was down to Jim.

"Jim rarely talked about the opposition, his focus was on his team, what we could do, he expected every player to know their role walking out onto the pitch. I know that might sound very simple to people, but it was a gift he had. He kept it simple. But he was brilliant.

"He wasn't a coach and never claimed to be, Noel King did most of the coaching. But the players we had were player/coaches in effect, lads like Pat Byrne who just knew the game. They were all leaders.

"Jim was a one-off. Jim was miles ahead of everyone else. He was very calm, I never once saw him lose the head. Now, he smoked like a trooper in the dugout but was always calm in the dressing room. He would just tell you, go out and play, go out and perform."

Domestically, two league-winning managers had major success in Europe last week as Shamrock Rovers, under Stephen Bradley, and Stephen Kenny's St Patrick's Athletic advanced to the play-off round of their respective European competitions, those games kicking off hours after news of McLaughlin's death had spread. Rovers did honour their three-in-a-row-winning boss at their game.

"It's ironic, with the two teams winning just the other night, Jim would have been delighted to see Rovers and Pat's go through as he was such a League of Ireland man," says Neville.

McLaughlin's gift was to make history by ending famines: his first title ended a near-decade wait for Dundalk; guiding Shamrock Rovers to the league in 1983/1984 finished a 20-year title drought; Derry City's league win in the treble season of 1988/1989 was the first title, north or south, since 1965; and McLaughlin was there with Pat Byrne when Shelbourne were crowned champions in 1991/'92, a first league win in 30 years.

And yet the accusation that McLaughlin was a chequebook manager, that anyone could have had success with the financial might to sign all the best players in the league, especially as certain players (like Neville, Kevin Brady, Paul Doolin, Noel Larkin) followed him from club to club.

"I'd hear that all the time about Jim, and it makes me angry," says Neville. "You look at Eric ten Hag at Manchester United, all the money in the world and he can't get near winning a title, so it's not about just money. People take it for granted that a manager who has money will automatically win the league, you need the right people, the right blend," adds Neville, who joined McLaughlin's Rovers in 1983 after his breakthrough season with Drogheda United, new boss McLaughlin effectively dismantling the Hoops side built by John Giles with an influx of fresh talent



Clockwise from top left. 1990; Jim McLaughlin and Derry City chairman Ian Doherty chat with Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson at The Brandywell, 1989; Derry City celebrate after completing the treble, Mick Neville is in the front row on the left, Jim McLaughlin pictured with Derry's haul of trophies

that would dominate for the next four years.

"The press called us the Magnificent Seven, the seven players who'd signed, I was only 22. I didn't drink, but Jim would bring these trays of Harp lager, get the players and their wives or girlfriends into this small room in Milltown, to get us to mix and blend, and that's where the winning Rovers team started, in that room.

"After a few games, you could see us bonding," he says of a Hoops side that won three leagues and two cups under McLaughlin (Dermot Keely was in charge for the fourth league in 1986/'87 as McLaughlin had moved to Derry, where he would win a treble in 1989).

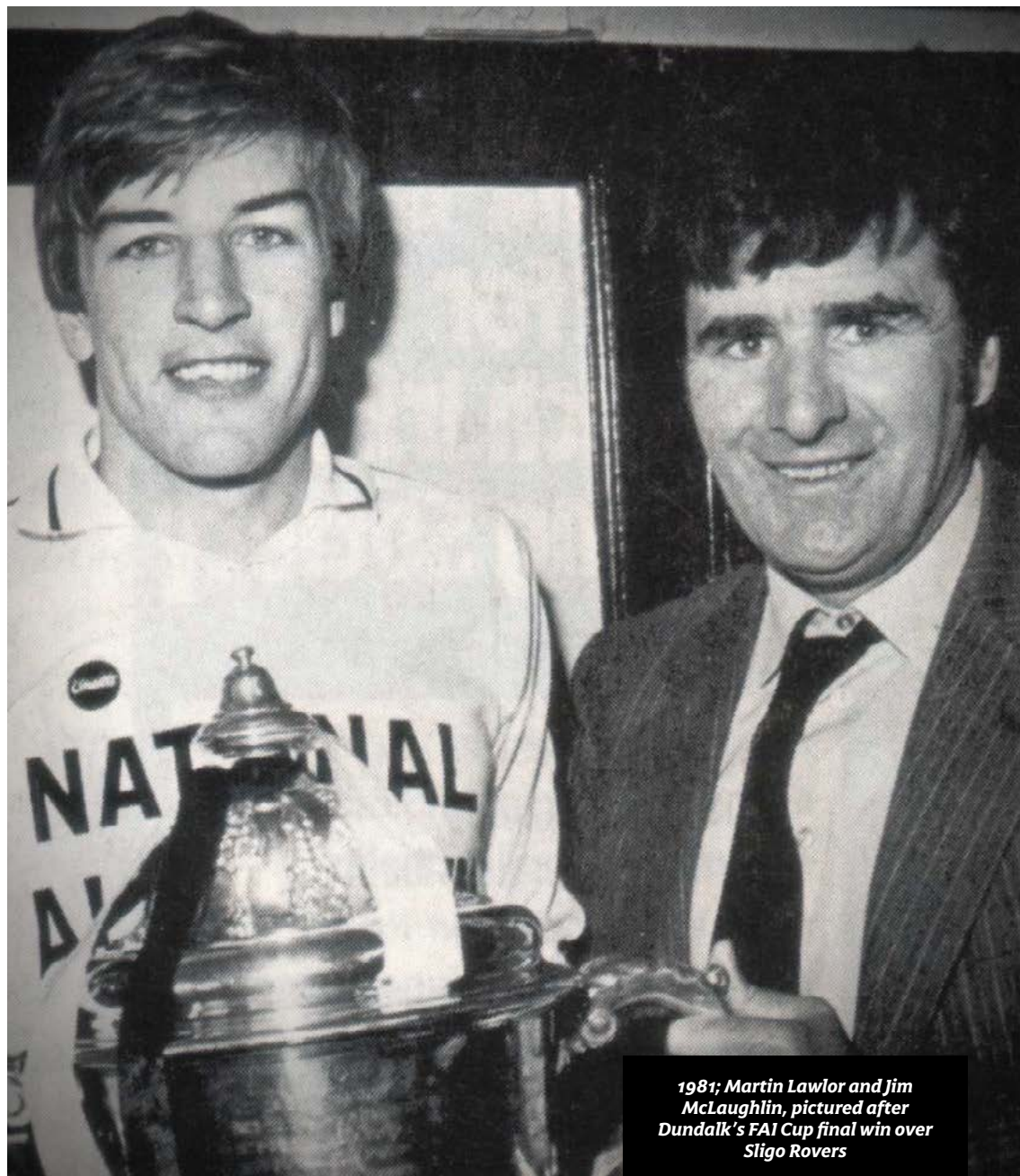
"Early on, he took us up to Ravensdale for a day, we ran the hills. I remember Jacko McDonagh saying, 'They were right about this man, he's nuts' as Jim had us running up these forest trails and told us to follow him, we had no idea where we were going, we did

this U-shape run in the forest, we went back to the Ballymascanlon Hotel for a meal then played a game that evening in Dundalk. That was the bonding that Jim had."

There were tests for McLaughlin: local football politics hampered his start (1985) and finish (1991) at Derry, where he went in as general manager with long-time lieutenant Noel King as manager, came out on top in a Derry civil war and became manager, but left just 18 months after that historic treble citing "personal abuse", though he revived his spirits for one last title success, with Shels, in 1992.

His last two jobs in management, rescue missions with an under-funded Dundalk (again) and Drogheda United in the late 1990s, were more testing and less successful. "I think he saw the end coming, he had those spells with Drogheda and Dundalk, but he'd had his time at the top. And he'll never be forgotten," says Neville.

LAWLOR HAILS THE LOI'S 'BEST EVER'



1981; Martin Lawlor and Jim McLaughlin, pictured after Dundalk's FAI Cup final win over Sligo Rovers

By James Rogers

Club legend Martin Lawlor has described his old Dundalk boss Jim McLaughlin as Irish football's best ever manager following his sad passing last week, aged 83.

Lawlor, who lined out for the Lilywhites on 570 occasions across 17 seasons, was handed his debut by McLaughlin in October 1977 with the Derry native converting him from a left winger to a left back.

The pair enjoyed huge success together, winning two league titles, two FAI Cups and a League Cup, as well as taking part in nine memorable European ties – the most notable of which came in 1979 when Dundalk went agonisingly close to knocking Celtic out, a result which would have booked a European Cup quarter-final tie with Real Madrid.

Speaking on Friday, Lawlor paid an emotional tribute to his old gaffer.

"It's always sad to lose someone who has become an iconic figure in their sphere and their community and I think we can all say that Jim reached that status quite easily in the Irish football community.

"He was a wonderful man that we all loved and held in reverence for his contribution to Irish football."

The 66-year-old said he had no doubt that McLaughlin was the "best ever."

He said: "There's an old saying that the league table doesn't lie and if you transfer that analogy into Jim's career then he has gone and done it across the board.

"He went to Shelbourne and won a Cup, beating us in the Cup final, so he has won silverware at Dundalk, Rovers, Derry and Shelbourne and he won a First Division with Drogheda to get them up into the Premier so his whole career is really only marked with winning solutions.

"From that perspective, he would be regarded as the best ever manager purely and simply because of what he achieved in terms of success – and success across a broad stream of clubs. That's the proof – his delivery of titles and success. If you add to that success the number of teams he put into Europe and how they competed, that's an outstanding achievement and it gave European experience to so many players.

"He launched several careers too so when you widen out the plaudits for his achievements over the years, it's just incredible."

Lawlor admitted the pair didn't always see eye to eye but feels that was only due to them driving each other on to reach new and greater standards.

"We used to box the head off each other," he laughed. "I'm not going to be untruthful. We fought a lot to be honest but it was always about standards. We fought about standards, about getting things right, about always demanding that you did things better.

"I ran away to America after a row with him at one stage but I'm sure I wasn't the only one who crossed paths with Jim. The good thing is it always healed itself.

"I came back under certain conditions and he met the conditions that we both agreed to and, as they say, the rest is history. I went on to have a very long love affair with the club which I had always wanted. Jim was true to his word, he said he'd put me in the team but it was up to me to stay there and I said 'that's all I need from you'. I went into the team and that was it but that's only a very, very minor particle of Jim's contribution to football.

"His contribution to people's football lives and their lives in general is enormous."

Lawlor said it was Jim's way of making players believe in themselves that set him apart.

"Jim had this incredible ability to look at players who maybe weren't seen as the top rated players at the time but he had this uncanny ability to look at a player and say he's the perfect fit for what I want to do – as he went on to prove in massively successful periods with Rovers and Derry. They weren't players with top reputations but by the time they established themselves they were known as top players. They might not have come with top reputations but Jim just had this ability to create winning teams and that's what it's all about. I think that was his greatest attribute.

"I used to fight with people about standards but Jim took that personality along with the other personalities of all the other great players and brought them together as teams and you only have to look at the Rovers team he had to see the level of standards he had there and the individual players that he brought together.

"We almost got to a quarter-final of a European Cup with a part-time team. We went on a run and believed in ourselves and a large part of that belief came from him.

"I remember sitting in front of Jim ahead of a Cup final for the pre-match talk and he had two sheets of A4 paper which he unfurled as if he was about to read them out but next of all he tore them up. Everyone was wondering what was going on but he just said 'That's all for today. Go out, you know what you can do and enjoy it.' We won that Cup final."

One of Martin's last meetings with McLaughlin came last summer when he and Tom McNulty visited him in The Birches Alzheimer Day Care Centre as guests of The 1903.

"I got on to the FAI and asked them for a loan of the FAI Cup and the guys in Abbotstown thought it was a fantastic idea so I brought it up and went into the room and he was looking at it and smiling.

"I remember saying 'Do you recognise that gaffer?' and he just said 'I do'.

"As much as he was struggling with the condition, you knew he was looking at it reliving some old memories."

Jim McLaughlin leaves behind so many great memories. A legend on the pitch, a legend off it. A small man in stature who was a giant of Irish football. He might be gone but his contribution to our game, our club and our town won't be forgotten in a hurry. May he Rest In Peace.



The McLaughlin Era
(November 1974 to April 1983)

P355 W194 D78 L83 F611 A345

League of Ireland champions 1975/76, 1978/1979, 1981/1982

FAI Cup winners 1977, 1979, 1981

League Cup winners 1977/78, 1980/81

Leinster Senior Cup winners 1976/77, 1977/78

LFA President's Cup winners 1979/80, 1980/81, 1981/82

European Record

P18 W4 D5 L9 F16 A26



JIM IS LAID TO REST



The Dundalk FC players form a guard of honour as Jim McLaughlin's remains are brought to St Fursey's Church. Right: Richie Blackmore arrives for his old manager's funeral. Pictures by Arthur Kinahan



Legendary Dundalk FC manager Jim McLaughlin was described as a 'humble man, who made the lives of many brighter' at his funeral mass in Haggardstown last Sunday morning.

Current Dundalk FC manager Jon Daly and his first-team squad formed a guard of honour as the hearse bringing Jim's remains arrived at St Fursey's Church for the requiem mass while members of McLaughlin's all-conquering teams from the late seventies and early eighties such as Dermot Keely, Mick Fairclough, Richie Blackmore, Mick Lawlor and Willie Crawley were on hand to pay their respects.

Some of Jim's former players from Shamrock Rovers, Derry City, Shelbourne and Drogheda United, including Liam Coyle, Felix Healy, Paul Carlyle, Noel King, Harry Kenny, Paul Curran, Paul Doolin and Mick Neville were also there to bid farewell to a man recognised by many as the greatest League of Ireland manager of

all time.

Five symbols reflecting Jim's life were brought to the altar by his family members. These included a family photograph, a football, one of his Northern Ireland international caps, a book about his native Derry and a presentation from the Birches Alzheimer's Centre, who offered great support to Jim in his latter years.

In his homily, Fr Pádraig Keenan, the parish priest of Blackrock and Haggardstown, paid tribute to McLaughlin, described by Irish football journalist Philip Quinn as 'the quiet man whose teams roared.'

"I want to know, when day is done, that life has been worth living. That I have brought somebody joy, someone's life is brighter. Those words go some way to reflecting Jim's life in so many ways," said Fr Keenan.

"All of those who connected with him can truly say that his life has been worth living. In the challenging times of the seventies and eighties, he brought joy to many lives and made the lives of many brighter. Although maybe the opposition was not too

pleased at times!

"For those of us who knew Jim, he was not one to claim the spotlight. he was a very humble man in his own way. As his wife Reina said to me, he was always in good form and wanted others, to be happy. But I added a little anecdote...I know for a fact, he was never happy when he lost a soccer match!

"As one of those who followed Dundalk in the seventies and the eighties, and as one who got to know him in the last 14 years in this parish and community, there was always a presence about him. A good presence.

"He had three very simple mottos in life. The first was, to treat others the way you would like to be treated, take people for what they are and, finally, do your best.

"Thus, it is not surprising that no matter where he was, wherever he played or managed, he had a wonderful rapport with people. He was a player's manager. A player's leader. A player's person. A people person.

"The foundation for that came from his roots and his family in Derry. He was the youngest and explored his talents beyond the walls of Derry. Across the water, challenging it was at various times, from home sickness to injuries. But above all, he succeeded.

"That success was captured in the wisdom of those who invited him to Dundalk as player-manager in

1974. A town, a county that became home to himself, Reina and his family since. From Dundalk to various other clubs, wherever they are on this island, It is suffice to say, the rest is history.

"A wise manager in the congregation had a little laugh to himself when he saw me carrying in the football for the presentation of the gifts at the beginning. He said: 'Where are all the cups?' With that, we agreed, Jim would not wish for any fuss.

"Jim brought glory and success, wherever he was. He was the face of the League of Ireland. Some have described him as a legend, and rightly so, and no doubt when the annals of history finally come to be written, Jim will have a major contribution.

"Sport, however, didn't define the individual. Not alone was he successful from a sporting perspective, but also from a working perspective and, more importantly, as a husband, a brother, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a relative and a friend. In the memories of family life, he was a family man.

"On many a cold, windy day at Oriel Park in the seventies and eighties, the final whistle would blow and you would give a round of applause, no matter what result it was. Under Jim, 99 percent of the time it was the right result.

"Today, Jim McLaughlin has captured the perfect result. All in heaven. I think we should give him a round of applause."

The Dispatch

Barry Landy on the League of Ireland's relationship with RTÉ and why the relegation battle will probably not be televised



He's a regular - and welcome - visitor regardless but as Stephen Kenny comes home this afternoon to renew his acquaintance with the Oriel Park touchline, it's another one of his former clubs that has been in the news last week.

In protest against none of their European games this season being broadcast by RTE - the national broadcaster - Shamrock Rovers have threatened to pull down the shutters of Tallaght Stadium and put a padlock on the door of the TV gantry.

"The club exhausted every avenue across the four rounds of European matches to deliver matches on a free-to-air national broadcaster, but to no avail," a Rovers statement read on Monday last. "Live streaming has provided fans with the option to follow the Hoops home and away in Europe in July and August.

"It has been a disappointment that these thrilling games have not been showcased to a wider Irish audience. And now, the visit

of PAOK will not be broadcast on terrestrial Irish TV."

"The club is considering if it will facilitate any future requests from the national broadcaster to show SSE Airtricity Premier Division fixtures from Tallaght Stadium in 2024."

Given the Hoops struggles domestically in this campaign, it's a little presumptuous to think broadcasters will be flocking back to see Stephen Bradley's team in action as they scramble to even qualify for continental competition next year. Other clubs have the opposite problem.

For a second successive year, neither Dundalk or Drogheda United matches have been broadcast on terrestrial television this season. That comes as no surprise as the League of Ireland Director Mark Scanlon has previously declared only half of the grounds in the League of Ireland were fit for purpose in terms of broadcast purposes.

"There's certain venues that the broadcasters are unwilling to broadcast from," said Scanlon back in January.

"That's for a number of

reasons, either the broadcast infrastructure around the ground is not up to standard or sometimes it's the way the backdrop looks, be it the pitch, floodlights or the stand itself isn't of broadcast quality.

"In terms of the two grounds... Drogheda and Dundalk, clearly both present more challenges than some of the other grounds."

The issue goes beyond infrastructural limitations. At both Louth clubs, the television gantries are located directly above where the club's respective ultras sections are homed.

Employees - commentators, cameramen and engineers - have complained about the effects of flumes of flare smoke rising from below.

Now, granted the on-pitch struggles of the two teams this term, the decision to effectively remove the Louth clubs from contention of having home games broadcast this season might appear to be no great loss for either RTE or Virgin Media. But the League of Ireland is awash with storyline and narrative this season.

Today is no exception with King Kenny back prowling for touchline here at the old ground for the first time in just shy of six years. The sight of a man at the scene of so many moments that will live long in the memory of Dundalk supporters will ensure today's opposition manager gets as warm a reception as any former boss could ever expect to get.

Only Jim McLaughlin, who

passed away just 10 days ago, could rival Kenny for receiving such universal affection on a return to the club with a new team and fresh objectives. There was a time in the not so distant past that Kenny in Dundalk drew scribes, hacks and television cameras from all over. Not now, though.

As we enter the final round of fixtures, look ahead to the season's last hurrah. Dundalk travel the short distance down the M1 to face their old rivals in the final round. Should the teams be within three points of each other - and the course and closeness of the season so far suggests there is a good chance that will be the case, this seismic meeting will be confined to the relative obscurity of LOITV.

Scenes at recent games aside (that is a policing issue and should not impact the prospect of broadcast), for such a potentially consequential Louth Derby, a match for the ages, to not even be in the conversation to be shown on terrestrial television is wrong.

Atmosphere, colour, song, should stand for something, as should the footballing importance of the fixture itself. Rovers, with their European millions, can consider themselves fortunate to be in a position to be calling the shots in regards to what television cameras that welcome to Tallaght Stadium.

Most teams, include Dundalk these days, can only dream of having such an option.



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UHY Farrelly Dawe White

9: JAMIE GULLAN



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Claire, Valerie & Miriam Ward
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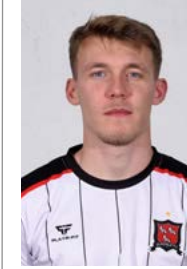
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38: HAYDEN CANN



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18: JOSH O'CONNOR



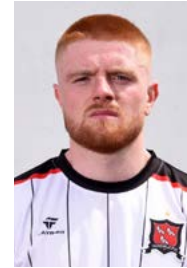
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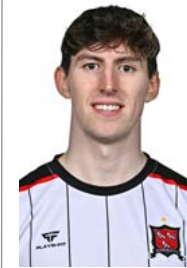
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17: DARA KEANE



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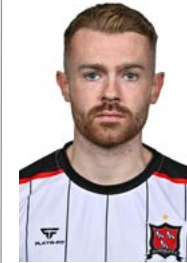
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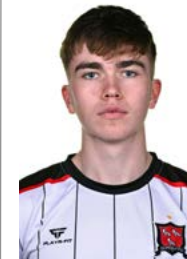
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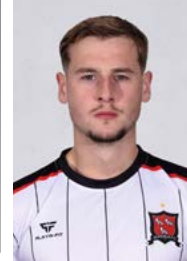
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40: JAD HAKIKI



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MANAGER: JON DALY



Dermot Hanratty
LIAM BURNS
Dermot Hanratty
GRAHAM KELLY
Dermot Hanratty

THIS AFTERNOON'S VISITORS

ST PATRICK'S ATHLETIC



St Patrick's Athletic manager Stephen Kenny celebrates his side's victory over Sabah in the UEFA Conference League third qualifying round second leg match in Azerbaijan

By Tom O'Connor

This afternoon marks the return of Stephen Kenny to Oriel Park.

Joined in the dugout by Brian Gartland, the duo have had an eventful time since they spent a fruitful period together on the Carrick Road.

Having replaced current Lilywhites boss Jon Daly in the Richmond Park hotseat, Kenny added Gartland to his coaching team after the ex-Lilywhites defender left his position as Head of Football Operations at Oriel Park earlier this year.

A successful European campaign thus far has seen the Saints

advance past FC Vaduz and Sabah to the UEFA Europa Conference Playoff Round.

At the time of writing, Pat's were due to play their first-leg tie against Istanbul Basaksehir in Tallaght on Thursday night before heading to Turkey for the return game next Wednesday where they will be hoping to make history and qualify for the group stages for the first time in the club's history.

In the league itself, Pat's still, at the time of going to press, languish in seventh position- six points behind Galway United, who have a game in hand on the Dubliners.

From the 33 points available since Stephen Kenny took over they have picked up 13,

three wins, four draws and four defeats. One of these was the 3-2 Richmond Park reverse at the hands of Dundalk in June when a double from Jamie Gullan and a Ryan O'Kane strike secured all three points for the Lilywhites in what remains their only away league victory of the season.

Pat's have invested over the summer break with Al-Amin Kaeem joining from Colchester United having excelled at Galway United in the first-half of the season, winger Zach Elbouzedi landing from AIK, former Sligo Rovers goalgrabber Aidan Keena arriving from Cheltenham Town and Joseph Anang returning from West Ham to guard the Saints' nets.



94. JOSEPH ANANG Goalkeeper

Originally signed by Tim Clancy ahead of the 2022 season, the former England U20 international kept a clean sheet on his league debut for the Saints as they beat Shelbourne at Tolka Park. His European debut for the club was against NS Mura and Pat's prevailed against the Slovenian outfit on penalties. His early return to West Ham, ahead of the Inchicore outfit's defeat to CSKA means the 24-year-old has yet to lose a European tie for the Dubliners.

4. JOE REDMOND Defender

Club skipper and Tallaght native Redmond is another underage international, lining out for the Republic of Ireland U21s in 2022. The 24-year-old centre-back spent time with Birmingham City before a short loan spell at Cork City was cut short due to the Covid pandemic. The following summer he joined Drogheda United where his impressive displays saw him follow manager Clancy from the Boynesiders to Richmond Park where he has been a mainstay of the defence ever since.



17. ROMAL PALMER Midfielder

The 25-year-old midfielder is currently on loan with the Saints from Goztepe, having originally joined the Turkish outfit from Barnsley in the summer of 2022. The Wigan-born player spent a decade in the Manchester City academy ahead of a move to Oakwell in 2017. While he has yet to get onto the goalscoring charts in the League of Ireland so far this campaign, his two strikes in Europe have been crucial in the Saints' advancement to the Playoff Round of the UEFA Europa Conference.



20. JAKE MULRANEY Attacker

The former Crumlin United youngster is a well travelled member of the St Patrick's Athletic squad having tasted first team football in England, Scotland and the United States of America, where he lined out for MLS club Orlando City, before returning home to Dublin. The 28-year-old winger is a set-piece magician and has netted a couple of sublime free kicks already this season, as well as providing some inspirational moments in Europe.



18. AIDAN KEENA Forward

The Mullingar native took his first steps in the Shelbourne academy before making the breakthrough with St Pat's a couple of seasons later. Keena sampled life in Scotland, where he was teammates with Mulreany from 2018-2020 and England. In 2022, Keena returned home and was prolific for Sligo Rovers, racking up 21 goals across Europe, league and the FAI Cup. This earned him a move to Cheltenham Town from whom Pat's signed him this summer. He scored on his second debut for the club earlier this month - a penalty against former employers Sligo Rovers.



Victory over DOS Utrecht



Derek Stokes, who scored in both legs against DOS Utrecht, in action during the second game at Oriel Park

Padraig McGowan takes a look back at Dundalk FC's debut in the Inter-City Fairs Cup when they met, and overcame, Dutch outfit DOS Utrecht in 1968.

Dundalk FC's early exploits in European competition are well documented, right from becoming the first League of Ireland team to win an away leg when they beat FC Zurich of Switzerland in 1963, to playing the Hungarian side Vasas from Budapest under the new Oriel Park floodlights in September 1967.

Despite the fond memories of those European Cup ties, the Lilywhites failed to progress

to the next round of the competition on both occasions, and the 9-1 aggregate defeat to Vasas cruelly exposed the gulf in class between the sides.

Nevertheless, the club's love affair with European competition was well and truly established and Dundalk FC supporters yearned for more!

Domestically, Dundalk finished the 1967/68 season as runners-up to Shamrock Rovers in the Shield and Waterford in the league and an FAI Cup semi-final exit at the hands of the Hoops meant that European qualification for 1968/69 was now out of our

hands.

Rovers met St Patrick's Athletic in the FAI Cup final and, for one day at least, all Dundalk fans were hoping that they would triumph! The reason was that if Rovers won the FAI Cup, they would qualify for the European Cup Winners Cup, leaving the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup place that was reserved for the Shield winners vacant - and available to the Shield runners-up, ie: Dundalk!

Rovers duly obliged, coming from behind twice to win 3-2 to win the FAI Cup for the fifth time in a row. As such, Dundalk could

now look forward to another European campaign, the third in the club's history, when they would become the first provincial participants in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, which went on to become the UEFA Cup.

In preparation for the 1968/69 season, manager Tommy Rowe added several new faces to the squad. Among them was a then 22-year-old by the name of Turlough O'Connor who had returned to Ireland after spending two years at Fulham. While Turlough's opportunities at Craven Cottage had been few and far between, he earned his first international cap against Czechoslovakia in Prague in November 1967 where he scored the opening goal in a magnificent 2-1 win for The Boys In Green.

The draw for the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup first round saw Dundalk paired with DOS Utrecht from The Netherlands, with the first leg scheduled for the Stadion Galgenwaard in Utrecht on September 11th, 1968.

The tie began in the worst possible way for Dundalk when full-back Patsy 'Tootsie' McKeown was stretchered off with a serious leg injury after just four minutes. This necessitated a re-shuffle with 12th man Ben Hannigan coming off the bench.

DOS boasted an impressive European record and Leo Van Veen gave the home side the lead on 27 minutes and, shortly afterwards, Tootsie's full-back partner Dessie O'Reilly also picked up an injury. Larry Gilmore dropped back to take his place with O'Reilly becoming a virtual passenger on the wing. The outlook was bleak for the Lilywhites and it promised to be



a backs-to-the-wall effort for the remaining hour of the game.

Utrecht, with seven past internationals in their line-up, came into the match with an impressive home European record - four years without a home loss against some serious opposition, Liege, West Bromwich Albion, Barcelona and Zaragoza - but after holding out until half-time without

conceding another goal, the away side's confidence grew and DOS failed to press home their advantage. Fran Brennan and Mick Millington gave excellent defensive performances and Ben Hannigan proved invaluable in holding the ball in the opposition half, giving the Dundalk defence time to re-organise for the next Dutch onslaught.

With 15 minutes remaining,



FRAN BRENNAN



DEREK STOKES

Acc: 3		2	
DUNDALK 2		D.O.S. UTRECHT 1	
From—	after EXTRA TIME	VELJKOVIC	VERRIPS
LAWLESS X		DE WEART	
MURPHY		G. ERRISTE	
MORRISSEY 1		PLAGEMAN WITZAND	
MURRAY		PLAGEMAN	VAN DEN OUDENALLEN
BRENNAN (Capt.)		DE KUJPR -	
MILLINGTON		VON STEIN -	
GILMORE		NIEUWENHUIYS - 1	
O'CONNOR		LAGENDYK	MARIWALD
STOKES 1		VAN VEEN -	
HANNIGAN		VELD -	
O'CONNELL			
TURNER			
CAMPBELL			
BLOUNT X			



TONY O'CONNELL



JIMMY MORRISSEY

the injured O'Reilly sent in a cross from the wing and Derek Stokes met it with a diving header to power the equaliser into the back of the DOS net. The home crowd were stunned by the goal and, despite their best efforts, the Dutch side could not find a winning goal as Dundalk defended heroically and secured a memorable away result.

The hard-fought draw came at a very heavy price, however, as the injury to Patsy McKeown, a double leg fracture, proved to be a career-ending one. It was a sad moment. After making his debut for the club in 1957, Tootsie had practically been an ever-present in the team, winning league titles in 1963 and 1967.

Three weeks later, on October 1st 1968, a crowd of 6,000 paid into Oriel Park to see if Dundalk could become only the third Irish club to win a European tie. The first half was a poor affair,

but after the break, the home supporters were left ecstatic when Stokes scored his second goal of the European campaign by tucking Larry Gilmore's pass into the back of the net with 49 minutes played. Their joy was short-lived, however, and Utrecht equalised within minutes through Tony Nieuwenhuys.

While Dundalk did create some chances after that, the scores remained level at the full-time whistle, and so the tie went to extra time. Neither team could break the deadlock during the first period of extra-time, but the decisive goal came three minutes into the second period. Tony O'Connell took a corner kick and when it was played back to him, he found the inrushing Johnny Morrissey whose 20-yard header found the corner of the net. Oriel Park erupted!

The remaining minutes of extra-time were nerve-wracking

for the home supporters but when Scottish referee Tom Wharton blew the final whistle, Dundalk had made history by winning a European tie for the first time in the club's history. In doing so, they became only the third Irish side to advance a round in Europe after Drumcondra had beaten Odense of Denmark in 1963, and Shamrock Rovers defeated Spora of Luxembourg the previous year.

The Dundalk team that created history and 'played for Patsy' that night was Pat Lawless, Fran Brennan, Mick Millington, Larry Gilmore, Jimmy Morrissey, Ben Hannigan, Kevin Murray, John Murphy, Derek Stokes, Turlough O'Connor and man of the match, Tony O'Connell.

The reward for Dundalk was a second-round tie with Glasgow Rangers. More about that in the next issue...

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The Collectible Corner

Sean De Loughry takes a look at some memorabilia associated with both of this evening's clubs. Do you have any of these lying in your attic?

2020 Dundalk FC Patreon Europa League Group Stages Pennant

With Pat's a single step away from group stage football, here's a memento of Dundalk's most recent trip to the Europa League in 2020.

It was a somewhat surreal season, with Covid throwing everything into chaos. A disappointing defeat to Slovenian champions Celje hastened the exit of Vinny Perth as manager and ushered in the Filippo Giovagnoli-era.

Though Dundalk struggled domestically, they cut a swathe through Europe, eliminating Inter Club of Andorra, winning away against Sheriff in Moldova and at home to Faroese champions K1 in the Aviva Stadium to qualify for the groups.

Sadly, supporters missed out on that journey and on group games against Arsenal, Molde and Rapid Vienna. This pennant was distributed to Dundalk FC Patreon scheme members at the time, a rather handsome reminder of matches played behind closed doors.



2009 Krylia v St Pat's Athletic Programme

With Pat's enjoying a glorious European adventure under the king of European football, Stephen Kenny, we look back at another famous Pat's win in Europe, from the 2009-10 Europa League qualifier against Russian's Krylia Sovetov.

Krylia Sovetov (literally Soviet Wings) evolved

from the aircraft industry in the city. Though not one of Russia's traditional powerhouses, Krylia had finished sixth in the Russian League, which at the time was the sixth strongest in Europe.

Pat's earned a 1-0 home win and despite trailing 2-0 in Russia, battled back to secure a

fantastic 3-3 aggregate result to progress on away goals.

Krylia produced a stunning, all-colour 32-page A4 programme for the game with a review of all Krylia Sovetov's prior European games - complete with pics of all the programmes!

Truly one for the collector.





Stephen Kenny and Jim McLaughlin, pictured together in December 2015

No doubt there will be extensive Jim McLaughlin tributes in the next couple of Dundalk home programmes, but it would be remiss of *The Spectator* not to mention the passing of the great man.

Jim McLaughlin was an extraordinary man and extraordinary manager (and a very good player in his day too). It is rare to be a legend at one club, incredibly rare to be a legend at two clubs, but to be a solid gold legend at three different clubs tells its own story.

Jim's time at Dundalk was before my time, but I was lucky enough to meet him after a Fans v Legends match just after Dundalk had installed the artificial pitch in Oriel in 2005. I approached himself and Terry Eviston for a quick hello and the two of them sat with me and my wife talking football for the rest of the evening. What a gent, what a character.

Even as his health was deteriorating and the memory going, he still had that charisma. He knew he was well known, he knew that people knew him

even if he could no longer remember who everyone was, but he had that disarming charm til the end.

His managerial career was astounding.... took Dundalk from bottom of the league to three titles, three FAI Cups, two League Cups and redefined what was possible for an Irish club in Europe.

Then, on to Rovers who hadn't won the league in 20 years - three seasons, three leagues, two FAI Cups. On to Derry, finding their feet in the First Division...promotion in his first season in charge, the treble two years later! Another league title alongside Pat Byrne at Shels in 1992. Eight league titles, six FAI Cups, four League Cups. Truly the GOAT.

It was a busy couple of weeks for the League of Ireland's second greatest ever manager too as Dundalk legend Stephen Kenny (currently on loan at St Pat's) underlined his credentials as a European football specialist, guiding the Inchicore club through tricky Liechtensteiner and Azeri ties and into an even trickier Turkish one.

The Blackrock resident has

rejuvenated a sluggish season at Richmond Park and earned enough prize money to keep Pat's competitive for at least a couple of seasons.

With progress in Europe, though, comes the challenge of managing fixture congestion. It would probably be a bit of a push to ask Pat's to play in Oriel on Friday night, 24 hours after playing Basaksehir on Thursday night, so Dundalk's fixture list was compromised to accommodate Pat's.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Pat's put in a cheeky request to the FAI to postpone the game until a later date, as they did for their recent game at Galway, but the days of arbitrary fixtures changes are behind us. As with the Galway game, Pat's were politely directed to the small print that in recent seasons formalised the rules around European postponements.

The four European qualifiers get to play each other midweek twice early in the season to free

up their weekends around the first qualifying round, minimising the impact on us non-qualifying plebs.

The understanding is then that those European qualifiers who are fortunate enough, and good enough, to progress through a round or two will fulfil their league fixtures between European ties, as is de rigueur across Europe. (Ironically the rearrangement of league games scheduled for the time of the first qualifying round were of limited benefit to Pat's who skipped the first round as cup winners.)

The Spectator may have to say it through gritted teeth, but last week was a good week for League of Ireland football with Pats' and Rovers' fine performances in Europe. The league cannot develop without continued progress in Europe, and it's up to the rest of us to hang on to the coat-tails of the Euro adventurers.

Pat's reserved most of their best performances of the season

for their European campaign, the home and away wins over Azerbaijan's Sabah was particularly impressive. In Dublin 24, once again it was decent home form that compensated for risible away form in Europe as Rovers took advantage of the Champions League double-parachute that guarantees group stage football of one flavour or another for over 30 (thirty!) European champions.

Such is the fickle nature of Irish football that a club that played group stage football with Arsenal, Rapid Vienna and Molde just five years ago might be playing group stage football with Kerry and Longford in February.

There's always hope that Dundalk's vertiginous descent could be mirrored by a glorious ascent back to 'where we belong' rubbing shoulders with the likes of Legia, Zenit, AZ, Rapid, Arsenal and Vitesse Arnhem. Actually hold that thought. Vitesse almost went bankrupt and were relegated last season. Be careful what you wish for!

QUIZ & NUMBERS

Half Time Quiz dedicated to the late Jim McLaughlin - Nine questions (one for each season at the club)

THE QUESTIONS

1. What four League of Ireland clubs did Jim McLaughlin manage to title success?
2. How many Premier Division titles did he win in total?
3. McLaughlin's grandson Ben signed for which Premier League side after a handful of appearances for Dundalk?
4. In what position did Jim McLaughlin play?
5. How many European matches did he manage at Oriel Park?
6. Jim's son Paul represented which League of Ireland sides during his career?
7. As a player, which English league side did he make the most appearances for? Shrewsbury Town, Swansea City or Peterborough United?
8. How many Northern Irish senior caps did he earn as a player? 8, 10, 12
9. In what year did he receive the freedom of Derry City?

3 The number of league titles and also FAI Cup victories Jim McLaughlin won as manager of Dundalk FC. The titles of 1975-76, 1978-79 and 1981-82 were accompanied by cup final victories in 1977, 1979 and 1981. That 1977 win was the first time the club had lifted the FAI Cup in 19 years while 1979 was the first ever league and FAI Cup double won by the club.



FAI Cup final 1977

3 At Derry City in the 1988-89 season, the league title, League Cup and FAI Cup were won by the Candystripes. This was the only time in League of Ireland history that such an accomplishment was achieved with Dundalk going within a penalty shootout of matching it 30 years later in 2019. McLaughlin won Premier Division titles at three different clubs on his own (Dundalk, Shamrock Rovers and Derry City) before joining Pat Byrne to lift the trophy with Shelbourne.



FAI Cup final 1989

12 McLaughlin won a dozen senior international caps for Northern Ireland, scoring six times along the way. One of those 12 games included an outing against Wales in 1964 in which both Pat Jennings and George Best made their debut for the Northern Irishmen. Later the same year, he found the net twice against England at Windsor Park - a game in which he broke two fingers in the first half before netting a brace in the second.



Merrion Square 2007

25 Having departed Dundalk for the second time in 1999, it marked 25 years since he first arrived at Oriel Park in 1974. Twenty-five years after his departure from the club, he passed away last week.

As well as his talent for picking up silverware as a manager, he was also well able to find the net as a player - netting in eight consecutive FA Cup campaigns and ending up with a goal shy of 25 in the competition across his playing career. (Courtesy of dundalkfcwhoswho.com)



Aviva Stadium 2016

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LEAGUE OF IRELAND



sse Airtricity



- THE ANSWERS**
- 1 Shrewsbury Town
 - 2 8
 - 3 Everton
 - 4 Winger/Forward
 - 5 9
 - 6 Derry City, Dundalk and Drogheda United
 - 7 Shrewsbury Town
 - 8 12
 - 9 1979



DUNDALK FC

- 1 ROSS MUNRO
- 3 JAMIE WALKER
- 4 ANDY BOYLE
- 6 KOEN OOSTENBRINK
- 7 DARYL HORGAN
- 8 ROBBIE BENSON
- 9 JAMIE GULLAN
- 10 ROBBIE MAHON
- 11 RYAN O'KANE
- 12 PETER CHERRIE
- 15 MAYOWA ANIMASAHUN
- 16 FELIX GODDARD
- 17 DARÁ KEANE
- 18 JOSH O'CONNOR
- 20 LUKE MULLIGAN
- 21 PAUL DOYLE
- 22 SAM DURRANT
- 23 JOHN MOUNTNEY
- 24 EOIN KENNY
- 25 SEAN MOLLOY
- 26 SEAN KEOGH
- 27 SCOTT MCGILL
- 28 BOBBY FAULKNER
- 36 DAN PIKE
- 37 NORMAN GARBETT
- 38 HAYDEN CANN
- 39 AODH DERVIN
- 40 JAD HAKIKI

MANAGER JON DALY



ST PAT'S ATHLETIC

- 1 DANNY ROGERS
- 3 ANTHONY BRESLIN
- 4 JOE REDMOND
- 5 TOM GRIVOSTI
- 6 JAMIE LENNON
- 8 CHRIS FORRESTER
- 9 MASON MELIA
- 10 KIAN LEAVY
- 11 JASON McCLELLAND
- 12 CIAN KAVANAGH
- 14 BRANDON KAVANAGH
- 15 ARRAN PETTIFER
- 16 AARON BOLGER
- 17 ROMAL PALMER
- 18 AIDAN KEENA
- 19 ALEX NOLAN
- 20 JAKE MULRANEY
- 21 AXEL SJOBERG
- 22 CONOR KEELEY
- 23 RYAN McLAUGHLIN
- 24 LUKE TURNER
- 26 ZACH ELBOUZEDI
- 28 RHYS BARTLEY
- 29 MATT BOYLAN
- 30 AL-AMIN KAZEEM
- 31 MICHAEL NOONAN
- 34 DAN McHALE
- 35 ANTHONY DODD
- 36 LUKE KEHIR
- 40 ADAM BANIM
- 94 JOSEPH ANANG

MANAGER STEPHEN KENNY



ROLL OF HONOUR

League of Ireland Champions (14)

1932/33, '62/63, '66/67, '75/76, '78/79, '81/82, '87/88, '90/91, '94/95, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

First Division Champions (2)

2000/01, 2008

FAI Cup Winners (12)

1942, 1949, 1952, 1958, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1988, 2002, 2015, 2018, 2020

Top Four Cup Winners (2)

1963/64, '66/67

League of Ireland Shield Winners (2)

1966/67, '71/72

League Cup Winners (7)

1977/78, '80/81, '86/87, '89/90, 2014, 2017, 2019

FAI President's Cup Winners (3)

2015, 2019, 2021

Leinster Senior Cup Winners (7)

1951/52, '60/61, '70/71, '73/74, '76/77, '77/78, 2015

Leinster FA President's

Cup Winners (9)

1930/31, '51/52, '63/64, '64/65, '79/80, '80/81, '81/82, '88/89, '89/90

Dublin City Cup Winners (5)

1937/38, '42/43, '48/49,

'67/68, '68/69

Women's FAI Cup Winners (1)

2005

#CmonTheTown



MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: PAUL MCLAUGHLIN

ASSISTANT REFEREES: WAYNE MCDONNELL AND CONOR HARKIN

FOURTH OFFICIAL: TBC