



PREMIERSHIP



RANGERS v ST MIRREN 1 DAY TO GO



NOTHING DOING . . . McLeish doesn't enjoy pre-match

It's such a bore being the boss

CRAIG McLEISH has revealed he feels **BORED** before **St Mirren** go into action.

The rookie gaffer will take charge of his 23rd Buddies game tomorrow night at Ibrox, with his side sitting third in the Premiership.

McLeish started his interim spell as manager last season with a 1-0 defeat to Rangers in March and had a fraught final hour before kick-off.

He admitted: "It's easily the worst part of the week - I hate it.

"I remember the first game against Rangers. I went out and said, 'Right, I'll take the passing' or whatever in the warm-up.

"And the guys were going, 'Get away, don't even think about it, you don't do that any more'.

"I just wanted to do something. But they told me to go and sit down.

"I just can't do it. You get bored, because you feel like your bit is done.

"I try and keep myself busy with other things, maybe just watch the TV in the office. I try and stay off my phone.

"But away games are tougher because you are sometimes stuck in a changing room.

"You'll see me end up going and sitting in the dugout.

"But I don't like being out when the boys are warming up either, so when they come out, I'll just wander inside and talk to the kitman or read the programme.

"You do feel helpless and hope that you've done all your work and got everything right for the game ahead."

The Buddies have won three and drawn one of their five league games so far to sit above Gers on goal difference. They

Dani's new job is 'greatest honour'

FORMER Rangers star **Brahim Hemdani** admits being appointed **Algeria** manager is the greatest honour in his life.

The 48-year-old (below) was only named Under-21s boss in July.

But after leading them to a gold medal at the Mediterranean Games in Italy, he was a shock choice to take charge for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers.

And Hemdani, who won two caps as a player, can't wait to take charge of his country.

He said: "Being appointed as coach is the greatest honour in my life.

"We were all delighted we were successful at the Mediterranean Games. I



By **MARK WALKER**

would like to thank the Algerian Federation for the trust that they placed in me."

Hemdani, who was Gers' player of the year in 2007 before helping them to the Uefa Cup final the following season, replaces Bosnian Vladimir Petkovic, who left the job after leading Algeria to the last 32 at the World Cup.

The ex-Marseille and Strasbourg star will be in the dugout for the first time for this month's Cup of Nations qualifiers against Zambia and Burundi.

The Algeria FA stated: "We wish Brahim and his staff every success and assure them our full support in the future."

PETER HEIDLER remembers seeing **Ryan Naderi** perform heroics to **STOP** goals being scored.

But he always knew his ability to put the ball in the back of the net would see him reach the top.

Rangers striker Naderi was just three years old when he joined Heidler's academy in Dresden where his nose for goal and team ethic were quickly recognised.

But that didn't stop Heidler from doing what he did to all the youngsters who came through his programme - picking him as a goalkeeper.

And Heidler reckons he even excelled at that.

He said: "Ryan was at my academy for nine or ten years and the whole time I was his coach. He is the same age as my son, Finn, and they arrived at the same time.

"I quickly saw Ryan was different. He was alert and inquisitive and always wanted more information.

"I had a lot of talent in my soccer school. They needed games, but in Germany you can't play games with an academy like I had.

"I started my own club and called it Soccer for Kids. Ryan

By **GARETH LAW**
EXCLUSIVE



was amazing. We beat Dynamo Dresden, the biggest club in town.

"In tournaments and games, Ryan was the best player.

"He was even the best goalkeeper when I played him there. We'd switch the keeper, so the guys had experience of that position.

"But his heart wasn't in goal, it was scoring goals - and he scored a lot.

"He had, and still has, a real nose for it.

"He's not the quickest, but he was dangerous in the box.

"If Ryan gets on the end of a second ball, he hits the net. That's in his blood. He has that instinct. With the ball, Ryan was special."

Naderi, 23, joined Gers in a £4.7million deal from Hansa Rostock in January that made him the most expensive player sold from Germany's third tier.

Back in Dresden, Heidler was delighted - but he feared it might be a step too far.

Three goals followed last season as Naderi took time to

adapt to the physicality of the Scottish game.

But on Saturday he netted the winner against Motherwell - his third goal of the season - after replacing the injured Lawrence Shankland.

With fears the Gers skipper could be out until December with a hamstring injury and Youssef Chermiti sidelined with a damaged cruciate, the onus on Naderi to perform will be greater than ever.

After tomorrow's visit from St Mirren, Celtic arrive at Ibrox for Sunday's Premier Sports Cup quarter-final.

Heidler doesn't see Naderi being fazed, just as he wasn't when he suffered growing issues as a kid.

Back then he was patient with his protege - and he believes Derek McInnes will also see the benefit of time.

Now overseeing a set-up of 400 kids, Heidler, 50, said: "Ryan always had these long, thin legs. We had to do a lot of coordination stuff with him.

"He was a bigger player, but he had no muscles - he was just bones and legs!

"He wanted to play soccer every day and he would sometimes scream when something went wrong, but he worked on

himself. He grew up really quickly, then had problems with his muscles.

"Even at 15 or 16 he was like this, but I'm a youth coach and you must give players time.

"Ryan's dad is big and tall with a lot of muscles and energy. Other coaches might say he's not tall or strong enough, put him on the bench or not play him. We said it will come.

"He went to Dynamo Dresden and Rostock. Dynamo are a big club in terms of history, but they are in the second division.

"When he played for Rostock in the Dynamo stadium, I was there with his family. He scored in a 1-1 draw. It was a big moment for his family and me.

"My friends said, 'It's your fault we got only one point!', but I was happy for Ryan.

"Soccer for Kids is still in his heart too. Every year we hold a big celebration in the same youth centre and every

until he'd fall down. He'd do everything for the team.

"He scored a lot of goals, but in the right moment he would give success to his team-mate.

"In a game he was dribbling and doing stepovers. He broke through and did the same to the goalkeeper. But he passed the ball to a team-mate so he could put it in the goal. He's still like that.

"We still talk to each other and while he is a nice player, he's also a nice person.

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"My friends said, 'It's your fault we got only one point!', but I was happy for Ryan.

"Soccer for Kids is still in his heart too. Every year we hold a big celebration in the same youth centre and every

player, from five-year-olds to the under-18s, comes with their parents.

"Ryan would come, but this time I put up a big screen and played a video I'd asked Ryan to record.

"He spoke for four minutes and it was a very emotional moment.

"Ryan did it because he remembers where he comes from. He's still the same guy, but he's our biggest player.

"If he's getting games and the coach trusts him, he will score goals."

Heidler, the son of Dresden legend Cert, is so busy working on discovering the next Ryan Naderi, he's not had a chance to come to Scotland to see him play.

He added: "Every weekend I am on the field with young players. But I will come, I have to talk to Ryan when it's a good time."



ON THE BALL . . . Kelsy made his debut off the bench

Kelsy must fill Shanks' boots

CAMMY BELL last night told **Kevin Kelsy** he will have to adapt quickly to being **Rangers'** main man up front.

The Venezuelan striker, who moved to Ibrox in a £9.5million deadline-day move, made his debut in Saturday's 1-0 win against Motherwell.

With skipper Lawrence Shankland facing an extended period on the sidelines with a hamstring injury, former Light Blues keeper Bell insists Kelsy will have to make an immediate impact. He said:

"They've paid £9.5m for Kevin, so you naturally think he's going to be the one that comes in.

"He's only just in the door, so it's not an ideal scenario for Derek McInnes and Rangers.

"They'd have wanted to allow a little bit of time for Kevin to find his feet in Scottish football and at Rangers as a club, in terms of understanding what it's all about and the expectations there.

"He's not going to get that time now because Lawrence limps off after five minutes.

"It looks like a real significant hamstring injury for him, which is a real disappointment.

"Naturally you'd think Kevin would be the one for the next couple of months who is going to have to step up to the plate.

"He'll have to score those important goals because you can't rely on Shankland any more."

Scotland cap Shankland had finally hit form for Gers after his move from

By **BEN RAMAGE**

Hearts, netting a double in the victory against Falkirk following his winner against Aberdeen.

German striker Ryan Naderi replaced him against the Steelmen and scored the only goal of the game.

Bell told the Scottish Football Podcast: "Lawrence took a lot of stick at the start of the season. He had a huge amount of pressure on his shoulders after being given the captaincy.

"He didn't hit the form from Hearts immediately, but he's started to find that form.

"His two goals against Falkirk were excellent and he just started to find his rhythm.

"It was disappointing to see him step off the pitch and he knew right away it was a bad one.

"It offered Ryan the opportunity to come on and he grabbed that goal and took advantage of the goalkeeper's mistake."

Tavernier is off to a flier at Maccabi

JAMES TAVERNIER got off to a winning start at **Maccabi Tel Aviv** - just hours after signing.

The former Rangers skipper signed a one-year deal with the Israeli club after leaving Ibrox at the end of last season.

And Tavernier made a quickfire debut in a 4-1 win over Hapoel Be'er Sheva.

He played 69 minutes, with former Aberdeen striker Ester Sokler netting a double.

Tavernier (right) has linked up with ex-Gers star Kenny Miller, who has been in charge since replacing former Celtic boss Ronny Deila in June.

And the right-back, 34, said: "It's a real honour for me to join a club with such a rich history.

"Coming to a new country and experiencing a different environment

By **BEN RAMAGE**

is something I've always wanted to do in my career, so there's a real excitement about the opportunity and the challenge ahead.

"I've heard a lot about the club from Kenny Miller, especially the ambitions, the desire to compete for trophies and, of course, Maccabi fans and the atmosphere they create.

"Having played for a big club for so many years, I know how important the fans are and how much they can drive a team on.

"Maccabi is a club that wants to win and compete for trophies and that's exactly what you want as a player.

"The aim is to give everything for the club. I can't wait to get started."



LITTLE BOY BLUE . . . Ryan Naderi celebrates scoring Rangers' winner against Motherwell and (inset) with his mentor and coach Peter Heidler during their early days in Dresden



KEEPER TURNED POACHER

Ryan could stop goals...but he's far better scoring them