

TUFFLEY ROVERS



FA Youth Cup
Second Qualifying Round
TUFFLEY ROVERS V
RADSTOCK TOWN



MANAGER'S COMMENT

I couldn't have asked for a better start with Tuffley Rovers, from the supporters, parents, coaching staff and the team.

We have faced some incredibly tough times with COVID-19, but thanks to the club and everyone behind the scenes we have been able to start enjoying football together again.

So far we have had a fantastic start to the season with two FA Youth Cup Wins and two league victories. Morale is high and we are excited and hungry for our game today against Radstock Town.

Our visitors are a team we must show respect and we know are as hungry as we are for an opportunity to keep playing in the FA Cup, with a game against Torquay United potentially up for grabs.

My team will be putting their game faces on and best foot forward to not only win but to continue playing great football as they have done so far this season.

I am confident tonight that our boys will put on a great show for you and we will continue to work together, on and off the pitch, to secure our best possible chance of playing down by the seaside!

Bucket and spades at the ready supporters! Dare to dream!!

Thank you for your support this evening.

- Michael Palmer



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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Welcome to everyone visiting Glevum Park for tonight's FA Youth Cup tie against our visitors from Radstock Town.

I've had a few people ask about the identity of tonight's opposition, as we had originally been due to play Bridgwater Town. Unfortunately for our original opponents, they were found to have committed a breach of the competition rules and were eliminated as a consequence. That was good news for Radstock Town and so they visit us this evening for the opportunity to compete to play Torquay United or Elburton Villa in the next round.

It has been a tough start to the season for many of our teams, but the U18s have been a real beacon of positivity and their win against Bath City, in the last round, has helped sustain an air of positivity around the club and amongst our supporters. Michael Palmer and Craig Darkin have assembled a good, young squad and they have now won more games in this year's competition that we had won collectively in our entire competition history.

We had a crowd of 147 at our last game, against Bath City, and if there is anything like that number here this evening that will be great, but also a real test for our volunteers. Please do make sure you help them to help the club and that starts with our spectators/visitors ensuring they practice safe habits (using the hand sanitiser, wearing face masks in the indoor spaces, and socially distancing, for example) and respecting any reminders where that might prove necessary. The short-term future of football is reliant on everyone doing their bit to make the environment safe for those visiting us.

I sincerely hope our boys can secure another memorable result this evening. The potential for a trip Torquay United (if they overcome Elburton) would be a truly wonderful experience for either set of players.

I wish all spectators and our visitors a pleasant visit to Glevum Park and a safe journey home. Thank you for your support.

#uptherovers

FORTHCOMING GAMES AT GLEVUM PARK

We have quite a few games coming up at Glevum Park in the next couple of weeks:

Saturday, 10 October 2020 (3pm)

Uhsport Hellenic League, Premier Division

First XI v Fairford Town

Tuesday, 13 October 2020 (7:30pm)

Bluefin Sports Hellenic League Challenge Cup

First XI v Swindon Supermarine Development

Saturday, 17 October 2020 (3pm)

Uhsport Hellenic League, Premier Division

First XI v Virginia Water

Thursday, 22 October 2020 (7:30pm)

Cheltenham Floodlit League

U18s v Chipping Sodbury Town

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TUFFLEY ROVERS PLAYER PROFILES

Louis Evans: Goalkeeper

A commanding first year keeper who is new to the squad. He brings some great qualities to this position while he looks to gain some valuable experience.

Alex Fulford: Goalkeeper

One of the second year U18s, Alex has joined the squad this season. Upon his arrival he has exhibited nothing but the highest standards of himself and his team mates. A top communicator who brings great experience.

Jack Copland: Goalkeeper

A first year U18, Jack has arrived at Tuffley Rovers this season after returning to the UK from Spain. A young and hungry keeper who has shown good qualities since his arrival at the club.

Finlay Kent: Defence

Second year U18. Fin brings a lot of hard work and pace to the left hand side. Works for the team, stopping goals and scoring them too. One of the seniors in the team he leads by example. Another player who has featured in the first team squad.

Laurie McNally: Defence (pictured)

First year U18, Laurie is a high quality and very consistent full-back. Adds great balance to the team and works hard both in and out of possession. Intelligent defender and potent in attacks. Deserved his recent call-up to the first team squad.



Scott Nicholls: Defence

Second year U18, Scott is new to the team this season and has worked hard to understand the squad's philosophy. Strong in the air and difficult to get past. Watch out for his diagonal pass and bursting runs from the back.

Jacob Geddes: Defence (pictured)

Although he is a first year U18, Jacob is a natural born leader and colossus at centre-back. He has already broken into the first team and his ability is plain to see. Very strong and organises the back line to create a solid unit. One to watch.

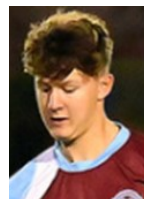


Harry Wiltshire: Midfield

Another second year U18, Harry has proven himself as the most versatile player in the squad. Has played in midfield, defence and even a clean sheet in goal during a league fixture. He works hard and gets on with the job in hand.

Mackenzie Wilson: Midfield

Although a second year U18, Mac is new to the squad this season and brings a hard working engine to the centre of the pitch. A good link between defence and attack; can cause problems with his shooting from outside the box.



Jayson Watkins: Midfield

Captain this year, Jayson has proved his importance in the middle of the pitch. Breaking down the opposition attack and quickly turning it to Tuffley's advantage. A regular last season and looks to continue his quality development this season as a senior. A very smart player.



James Sunley: Midfield (pictured)

Another second year U18, James is a real talent. A player who likes to pick up the ball and drive into dangerous areas. Drawing in opposition players to create space for his team mates, that he can exploit with his range of passing. A threat in front of goal and already called up to the first team squad.



Ayomide Ajibola: Midfield

In his second season with the U18s, Yomi brings lots of ability to the pitch. Intelligent feet and is able to find a pass that can unlock defences. Helps out with goals and winning free kicks in dangerous areas.

Connor Stalley: Midfield

One of the newest players in the squad and a first year U18, Connor has arrived this season to continue his development. A clever player who finds little areas of space to revive the ball and feed the attack. Uses the ball well to maintain team procession.

Joshua Bird: Forward

In his second season at the club, Josh is a deceptively quick and has the speed to take on most players. At his best when being direct and beating his man getting his crosses in to the box. A goal scorer and assist creator. Called up to first team last season and should look to do the same again in 2020/21.

Alex Roder: Forward

A new addition and another first year U18, Alex has made a very big impression at Tuffley Rovers already. Works extremely hard out of possession and a very talented finisher, with great pace. Scored a hat-trick for the Thirds' squad on his senior football debut.

Nathan Kay: Forward

Signed for the 2020/21 season, Nathan has already shown his capabilities and is a genuine team player. Working hard out of possession to keep the press high and winning the ball high up the pitch. Creating chances and being direct with the ball.

Rudi McKinnon: Forward (pictured)

Rudi knows where the goal is. High standards, quick feet and intelligent at finding dangerous space. Works extremely hard as the first line of defence turning out of possession to in possession. 1st team call up and has already made an impact.



Half-time quiz: Break for five

Grab a cup of tea and something to eat, then spend the five minutes of your half-time break trying to answer these questions. As ever, there is a theme and for this edition, we're looking back at previous FA Youth Cup winners.

1. Norwich City won the FA Youth Cup in 1983 and then again in 2013. Which twin brothers played for Norwich City in the 2013 final?

2. In 2018 Chelsea won the FA Youth Cup final against Arsenal. Which two current England squad members are pictured celebrating one of their goals in the first leg?



3. Manchester United were the first team to win the FA Youth Cup and went on to win the first five competitions. Who were the first team to win other than them, in 1958?

4. In the 1988/89 final a team featuring David James, Jason Drysdale, Jason Soloman and Rod Thomas defeated a squad featuring Neil Lennon, Gerry Taggart, Ashley Ward and Mike Sheron. Who were the two clubs playing in that year's final?

5. This player, a current Tuffley Rovers Veterans squad member, played in the Manchester United squad that beat Spurs in the 1995 final. Who is he?



Quiz Answers: (1) Jacob & Josh Murphy; (2) Callum Hudson-Odoi & Reece James; (3) Wolverhampton Wanderers; (4) Watford beat Manchester City; (5) Neil Mustoe.

Radstock Town FC a condensed club history ...

The club's official establishment year, as recorded by the FA was 1895 but there is strong evidence that indicates a Radstock team was actively competing against other local villages up to 35 years before that in 1860!



The club was closely associated with the local mining and railway industry, where the majority of the team were recruited from, but they were in the fortunate position of being able to supplement their numbers with lads from Bristol because of the excellent railway system that existed at the time. One such player was Bill Holloway, father of the former Bristol Rovers star and long-time manager and TV pundit Ian Holloway.

The club first competed in the Western League in 1897 but resigned at the end of 1910/11 season to play in the Somerset League. The club next appear in the Western League after the First World War and the 1920's proved a particularly successful period for the team, in fact in 1923/24 the team finished as runners up to Lovell's Athletic, who finished six points ahead of them, to this day the 'miners' highest finishing position in the Western league.

In the early days the club played its home games at Round hill, where the club's junior section still play their home games, before moving to Southfield, the club's current home in the 1920. The ground was purchased from Lord Waldergrave and a company formed to raise the funds through a £5 each share issue, for which the participating miners paid 2/6d, (30p), per week. Unfortunately, it appears that the issue was not entirely successful and following the winding up of the company in 1929 the local mine managers association adopted responsibility for the ground and when the mines closed it passed into the control of the Charity Commission with the local council acting as trustee's.

During the Second World War and for a few years after the club were forced to play games at Southill Park, now the site of the local Bath College campus. This was because an American tank division were billeted at Southfield! The club did enjoy a legacy from the occupancy though as the 'yanks' left a mizzen hut behind, which was converted to dressing rooms and replaced the very aged railway carriage that the teams had been previously using!

The club dropped out of the Western league at the end of the 59/60 season and along with Clandown and Frome Town joined the Wiltshire Premier League, this move heralded a successful period for the club which saw them win the championships in both 1965/66 and 66/67, the former saw the team beaten only twice during the campaign and also win the Somerset Senior and Wiltshire Subsidiary cups.

The club moved again in 1971 this time to the Somerset County League and again it brought success with the first team winning the championship twice in 76/77 and 78/79

following which they were promoted back to the Great Mills Western League first division. In 84/85 under the leadership of Steve Gay they were promoted again to the premier division after finishing runners up to Portway Bristol. Unfortunately, the club failed to adjust to the higher level and after a few difficult seasons were relegated back to the first division.

Sadly, the troubles within the club continued and the unthinkable happened in 1994 when the club were relegated back into the Somerset County League. Even worse was to follow though as the club were relegated again the following season and the first team found themselves playing at the lowest level in their history!

It took two seasons to get back to the Premier division and for the next five years the side were decidedly mid-table before former player Nigel Bryant took over the management reins in 2000 and his influence saw the club sustain year on year improvement which culminated in promotion back to the Western League first division in 2004.

A second promotion followed at the end of the next season when the side finished third, (on goal difference), but were able to go up because of vacancies in the Premier Division.

The years following promotion were not easy though and far too many seasons were spent fighting relegation battles, which they eventually succumbed to at the end of the 2013/14 season. That year was a particularly difficult one for the club. It started with a genuine sense of optimism about our chances but it quickly became evident that there were problems in the camp and manager Ben Newby left the club in September to be replaced by Andy Crabtree but his reign was also short lived, as new chairman, Mike Hibbard, was forced to face up to the true extent of the club's financial problems and axe the playing budget. Player and former soldier Lloyd Edgell took on the role but despite his best efforts the team failed to avoid the drop.

The first season back in division one was not as successful as many hoped for and it saw the chairman step down to be replaced by Simon Wilkinson and Edgell leave to be replaced by the experienced pair of Shane Smith and Scott Armstrong, with 'A' licence coach Terry Webb also joining the dug-out team.

That season, despite being a bit of roller coaster, Shanes new and young side adapted well and finished in 13th place and the 15/16 season saw the boys again finish in 13th but 16 / 17 saw an improvement and a 5th place finish but the anticipated kick on to a promotion fell flat in the final weeks of last season and the team finished in 6th place.

Following a poor start to last season and with the side looking likely relegation candidates the club parted company with manager Shane Smith in the autumn and appointed Brett Partner to the role. His style of play and organisation soon started to pay dividends and although the team never rose higher than fifteenth a run of five wins from the last six games ensured relegation was just a bad dream!

Elsewhere in the club the reserves are still being overseen by the ever-young Rich' Bowring who will be in charge for the sixteenth successive season! The boys play in the Somerset County League and with an ever-increasing number of players getting first team chances the value of the side can't be questioned.

This season see's the Under 18's moving leagues to play in the Wiltshire Floodlight competition where they will be led by Ian Lanning and Jamie Purnell. We have continuously seen this as a pathway for players to progress from into the First Team.

Who will you be today?



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FA Youth Cup Second Qualifying Round

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2020 – 7:45PM KICK OFF

TUFFLEY ROVERS

V

RADSTOCK TOWN

Claret & Blue shirts; Claret & Blue shorts;
Claret & Blue socks (GK: Orange).

(from)

White shirts; White shorts; White socks
(GK: Green).

Louis Evans

Alex Fulford

Jack Copland

Finlay Kent

Laurie McNally

Scott Nicolls

Jacob Geddes

Ayomide Ajibola

Nathan Kay

Connor Stalley

Jayson Watkins

James Sunley

Harry Wiltshire

Mackenzie Wilson

Alex Roder

Rudi McKinnon

Joshua Bird

Damarai Bryan

Lucas Purnell

Cory Maggs

Jack Gould

Alfie Williams

Toby Vining

Fin Hopkins

Harley Morse

Tom Ellis-Ricketts

George Rowe

Oliver Brooks

Joshua Singtothong

Daniel Orford

Zak Rosenfeld

Lewis Wheeler

Benji Sims

Jack Peters

Harrison Wilkins

Steven Johnson

Oliver Cox

Thomas Williams

William Smith

Harry Matthews

Michael Palmer

Craig Darkin

Matt Liddiard

Manager

Asst. Manager

Other occupants

Ian Lanning

Jamie Purnell

Officials: Sam Williams; Andrew Kennedy; James West