

## County mark milestone with draw

A DRAMATIC comeback saw Nairn County salvage a draw against Fraserburgh – just when it looked like their centenary party would be ruined.

County, who were marking 100 years in the Highland League, found themselves 2-0 down as Paul Campbell and Sean Butcher struck for Broch.

However, they pulled one back via a Fraser Dingwall header before Gordon McNab's stunning long-range effort secured a point.

Nairn boss Ronnie Sharp said: "Gordon scored a cracker. Even though Fraserburgh put on the pressure at the end it was just reward for us to get a draw."

Fraserburgh were reduced to 10 men in the closing stages when Willie West was sent off after he elbowed Ryan MacDonald in the face.

Broch slipped down to second in the table after being leapfrogged by Buckie Thistle. The Victoria Park side sit at the top after goals from Jack Murray, Sam Urquhart (penalty), Shaun Wood and Scott Adams sealed a 4-0 win against Fort William.

Brora are in third spot after they won 2-0 at Deveronvale thanks to goals from Dale Gillespie (penalty) and Greg Morrison.

Inverurie slumped to a 2-0 loss at Rothes who gave new manager Ross Jack a flying start. The Mackessack Park side's goals came from Craig Cormack and Steven Anderson.

Andrew Greig, Scott Lisle and Graeme Rodger were all on target as Formartine United defeated Forres Mechanics 3-0.

Huntly, with goals from Kai Ross and Declan Milne, came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at home to Keith who had led through a Michael Selfridge brace.

Eachainn Miller grabbed a late equaliser as Clach came from behind to earn their first point of the season in a 2-2 draw with Turriff.

Michael Ewen and a Robert Ward penalty had put Turriff in charge only for Michael Finnis to reduce the deficit from the spot before Miller levelled it up.

# Scorries storm to victory over Lossie

**Football**  
by Ken Wood

THE heavy rain and 45mph gale forecast for Wick at 3pm on Saturday failed to materialise. However, after an early setback Academy served up a storm of their own for the Harmsworth Park faithful.

The Scorries found the net five times and also hit the woodwork three times

Ryan Stuart shocked the home fans in the fifth minute when he controlled a through ball and drilled it low into the net at the bottom end.

Academy came close to an equaliser on the quarter-hour when the ball struck Jack MacArthur's arm and Craig Gunn fired the free kick past the Lossie wall only to see it bounce down off the bar.

After a careless back pass deceived keeper Trevor Dear, Gunn sent a corner from the left over the heads of players jostling near the penalty spot. Ross Elliot was booked for pushing as Gary Manson prepared to take the spot-kick.

Dear moved too quickly to save at the base of his left post and, after consulting his assistant, referee Alan Proctor ordered a retake. This time Manson drove it to the keeper's right for a 27th-minute equaliser.

The Scorries went ahead after 39 minutes when Davie Allan steered the ball low past Dear. A minute before the break Allan set up a chance for Gunn, who



Craig Gunn takes control in midfield during Academy's 5-1 victory over Lossiemouth.

netted from the six-yard line.

For the restart, Richard Macadie replaced Ross Allan who had been both injured and cautioned late in the first half.

The first chance came at the top end where Sean McCarthy saved a Connor Macaulay drive at his left-hand post.

Manson was eager to attack down the left and the Academy veteran had a shot deflected for a corner before delivering a cross past the face of the goal.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was Ryan

Campbell's swerving left-foot 30-yard thunderbolt which rebounded off the junction of post and bar.

Desperate point-blank blocks denied Gordon MacNab and then Macadie's rebound effort.

However, Academy's fourth goal arrived in the 63rd minute, MacNab volleying the ball low to Dear's right. Ten minutes later MacNab's cutback was joyfully converted by Macadie to complete the nap hand.

Alan Hughes was racing down the right beating opponents at will during his

first 10 minutes on the park before moving inside to lash a 20-yard effort against the face of the bar.

Mark Macadie, introduced on the left, also relished the opportunity to run at the Lossie defence, though he was floored by a sliding tackle. Gunn's free kick flew past the back post.

The win will boost the squad's confidence for Saturday's Scottish Cup tie at Inverurie, though the management team will no doubt be hoping for the return of a few of the more experienced players to bolster

the defence.

Wick Academy: McCarthy, Campbell, Manson, D Mackay, R Allan (R Macadie 46), S Mackay, Sinclair, Koziol (Hughes 66), Gunn, MacNab (Mark Macadie 78), D Allan. Subs not used: R Mackay, Martens, Aitkenhead, Clark.

Lossiemouth: Dear, Wilson, Archibald, Gordon, MacArthur, Stuart, Leslie (Weir 74), Macaulay, Elliot (Sewell 62), B Campbell, Duncan (Allen 84). Subs not used: Clark, S Campbell, Black.

Referee: Alan Proctor.

## Mixed fortunes for Academy's youth teams



Scott Macdonald, of Wick Academy under-17s, is upended by Clach's Aidan Mackinnon during Sunday's match. Picture: Mel Roger

WICK Academy's under-15s were beaten 4-1 by a physically stronger Clach side at Wick's Upper Bignold on Sunday.

The first third was quite even, with Aidan Miller and Andrew Brims showing up well for Academy. Leo Shearer had a couple of good saves.

At 2-0 down, the home side had a chance to get back in the game when Brims put Kieran Macgregor through but the shot was well saved.

Clach extended their lead before Aidan Miller pulled one back with a free kick from about 25 yards out.

The visitors added another to complete the scoring.

Coach John Suttar said: "It was a hard game against a bigger and more physical team but all credit to our lads, especially Lewis Gill who worked tirelessly at the back. It was great to see a loads of parents cheering on the team."

In the SHFL Under 17 North, Academy came back from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw with Clach at Harmsworth Park. Sam Barclay and Liam Bain got the Wick goals.

The squad has many new faces in it this season but they are already showing a lot of promise.

The young Scorries are aiming for a third north championship in a row at this age group, although coach James Robertson has said the main focus is on developing and improving the players.

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