

# Player Interview

## ***How did you come to be at Hibernian?***

I approached the club directly sending a "football CV" of what I have achieved with in NZ to the clubs director of youth. I was offered a trial and after a successful couple of weeks they offered me a place in their youth set-up. I chose Hibernian as I was born and raised in Edinburgh before moving to New Zealand and Hibernian have a very good reputation for developing youth players with several players now representing the current Scotland National side that have come through the youth structure.

## ***Describe your contract (how long is it for).***

After being with the club for a season as a U-17, I signed a 2 year pro youth contract committing me to the club until May 2012.

## ***Outline the length of the season.***

Preseason starts in July and the season finishes in May. We get around 4–6 weeks off in summer and 1–2 weeks off over Christmas. The season has a mid-winter break with no games being played in January but we are still required to train. We had a two week training camp last January in Portugal to get out of the snow and train in some warmer weather!

## ***Describe training facilities.***

The training facilities at Hibs are as good as you get within Scotland. There are several outdoor pitches, an Astroturf pitch, Gym, Medical and physio rooms, Hydrotherapy pool, steam rooms, an Indoor pitch as well as dining and relaxation areas.

## ***Describe a typical week at the youth academy.***

I am with the club full time so a typical day will be a football session in the morning followed either by another football session or a strength and conditioning session working on developing speed and making us stronger. We usually train Monday–Friday with a game on a Saturday although if we have a match mid-week we occasionally get a day off or a lighter recovery session. As well as training we have jobs around the club to keep the training centre running smoothly.

## ***Duties of a pro-youth player?***

All the fulltime youth players have jobs at the training centre to help run it. The under-17s also have duties at the main stadium on match days like preparing the changing rooms.

## ***Team structure at Hibernian?***

The first team squad has about 25 players. There was no reserve league in Scotland last year so if first team squad players are not in the team then friendlies are arranged with other clubs to keep them match fit. The under-19 side has 16 or 17 players in the squad. Some of the 19s will occasionally play in the first team friendlies.

## ***Interaction with senior players?***

The under-19 and senior players sometimes train together and use all the same facilities so there is a lot of interaction with them.

# Jamie Doris



## ***Relationship with coaching staff?***

The coaching staff are all excellent and get on well with the players.

## ***Have you suffered any injury since being in Scotland?***

Unfortunately I got injured in January which meant missing a few games and not being 100% fit for the rest of the season. The medical treatment is very good but it is still extremely frustrating being injured.

## ***Accommodation arrangements?***

The club has an arrangement with a local university where they use some of their halls of residence for the Hibs youth players. There are ten of us who stay at the Uni in two units. We have our own rooms and share a kitchen and lounge.

## ***Weather in Scotland?***

It was pretty cold in the winter, but I got used to it. The summer has been pretty wet so far.

## ***Do you have time for a social life/if so what do you normally do?***

The football and the training is very hard work and takes up most of the time. The boys staying at the Uni go into town at the weekends to get something to eat, go to the shops or the movies. The club is very clear about the expected behavior of players so we are careful not to do anything that the club wouldn't approve of. I have been able to meet up with my old mate Jordan Maxwell from Suburbs who is in Edinburgh just now.

## ***State of the pitches you play on?***

Most of the pitches are very good but in the winter they can get pretty muddy.

## ***Difference between Scottish and NZ Football?***

Football in Scotland is faster than in New Zealand and more aggressive, and you have much less time on the ball. People take it very seriously and players have to show how committed they are when they play or the fans will get on their back. The technical standard is generally higher and there are no weak players in the teams at the professional youth level.

## ***Future for Jamie Doris?***

This season is my first in the under-19 squad so I want to secure a starting place and keep working hard at improving my overall game as much as I can.