

# Martin Boyle justifies selection with 'man of the match' performance



Martin Boyle admitted that he was surprised to be named in Hibs' starting line up against St Mirren on Saturday.

Most fans assumed that top scorer Jason Cummings would replace the injured James Keatings however Neil Lennon surprised everyone by selecting the former Dundee and Montrose midfielder and his decision was quickly justified when Boyle opened the scoring in the 7th minute.

He also played a part in Hibs' second goal and deservedly won the man of the match award for his hard working display.

Lennon substituted Boyle in the dying minutes to allow him to receive a standing ovation from the 14,000 plus Hibs' fans in the stadium.

The result leaves Hibs three points clear of second place Dundee United at the top of the Championship and Boyle knows that he will have to maintain his form if he wants to retain the jersey.

Speaking after the final whistle, Boyle said: "To be honest I was surprised he wasn't playing as well! Jason is the top scorer and that shows good faith in me.

Hopefully I've repaid that by stepping up but I a'm happy as long as I am in the team.

"I thought I linked up well with Holty (Grant Holt) and I'm delighted with the way I played. I hope I can keep hold of that shirt.

"We've been working hard all week and I thought we linked up well. He's an experienced boy and he's always in your ear and, hopefully, that partnership will continue.

"It's obviously been a bit frustrating not starting, but I still enjoy coming to work every day.

"The boys are brilliant here and I'm just the type of boy who knuckles down and works hard.

"James Keatings' injury has been my gain, but I need to keep producing performances like Saturday.

" It shows how good the squad is when we have players like Jason on the bench."