

# Hearts woeful run continues with defeat at Pittodrie

Aberdeen 2 Heart of Midlothian 0

Ladbroke's Premiership, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
2018 – Pittodrie

Hearts recent woeful run of results continued on Saturday when they lost 2-0 to Aberdeen in the Granite City. A goal in each half from Cosgrove was enough to secure victory for the Dons and Hearts misery was compounded when Demetri Mitchell was ordered off after receiving two yellow cards.

After last week's humiliation at Livingston it was no surprise to learn Hearts boss Craig Levein had made five changes to the team. Goalkeeper Colin Doyle made his first appearance of the season – Bobby Zlamal literally paying the penalty for his howler in West Lothian eight days ago. But there was some much-needed good news with the first appearance of Steven Naismith since the striker limped out of

the Betfred Cup  
semi-final defeat to Celtic at the end of October.

However, any optimism Naismith's  
return may have been felt by the large travelling support  
evaporated inside two  
minutes. A cross from Lowe found the head of Cosgrove who  
headed past Doyle and  
the hosts were ahead before many fans had taken to their  
seats.

Things looked ominous for the  
visitors and Doyle had to save from McGinn before the home  
side had a goal  
disallowed after a foul by Ferguson.

Hearts thought they should  
have had a penalty when Naismith appeared to be fouled by Lowe  
in the penalty box,  
but referee John Beaton was having none of it.

After a disappointing first  
half Hearts looked livelier in the second period with Lee and  
Naismith linking  
well with the latter heading wide.

Midway through the second  
half Aberdeen doubled their lead. Christophe Berra was  
adjudged to have fouled  
McKenna in the penalty box. Referee Beaton awarded a spot  
kick, but it appeared  
to be of the 'soft' variety. Cosgrove duly stroked the ball  
home and it was  
game over.

This was confirmed when Demetri  
Mitchell brought down McLennan to receive his second yellow  
card of the  
afternoon and Hearts played out the rest of the game with ten

men.

Overall, another disappointing performance and result for Hearts whose season appears to have come hurtling off the rails. They now play Hamilton Academical at Tynecastle on Boxing Day before heading to Easter Road next Saturday evening. After those two games comes a much-needed break for the Maroons to lick their wounds and to attempt to bounce back in the Ladbrokes Premiership at the end of January.

**Aberdeen:** Lewis, Logan, Considine, McKenna, Lowe (Campbell, 48'), Shinnie, Ferguson, McGinn, May (Gleeson, 60'), Cosgrove, McLennan (Wright, 86').

**Hearts:** Doyle, M. Smith, Haring, Berra, Bozanic, Lee, Clare (Morrison, 83'), Mitchell, Naismith (McDonald, 77'), MacLean, Godinho (Brandon, 87').

**Referee:** John Beaton

**Attendance:** 16,451

**Top People:** The travelling Hearts support who made another fruitless long journey north three days before Christmas. Their loyalty deserves a much better reward.

Thanks to Ian Bell for the photo.