

# Shankland double sinks Dundee

**A glory double from skipper Lawrence Shankland in ten, first-half minutes, secured a welcome three points for a Hearts side who now move off the bottom of the William Hill Premiership.**

His strikes after 21 and 31 minutes ended the goal drought for the Scotland striker and the 29-year-old admitted: "It has been a long time coming."

Jambos fans in the 18,737 crowd celebrated when the Glasgow-born forward netted his opener from a header following a cross from James Penrice.

The second came from a rebound from Dundee goalkeeper Jon McCracken and the Jambos are now 11<sup>th</sup> in the 12-strong table with Edinburgh rivals, Hibs, now bottom after a 3-0 defeat at pace-setting Celtic but, in fairness, they did have their chances which they failed to take.

Hearts have 13 points and have closed the gap between them and tenth-placed Kilmarnock and St Johnstone, who are ninth, to one point.

Shankland told BBC Sport Scotland: "Its been a frustrating period and you just need to dig in a get through it."

Hearts fans naturally hope that he can add more goals and the Men in Maroon take more points in the busy schedule pre-Christmas.

Dundee rarely troubled Hearts' veteran goalkeeper Craig Gordon and Neil Critchley the club's head coach said: "Even though we won, second half we could and should have played better."

The Dens Park side's manager, Tony Docherty, whose men beat Motherwell in midweek, Hearts did not have a game, said: "The overriding feeling is one of frustration. We weren't at it at all in the first half. Some of our decision-making was poor."

PICTURE: Lawrence Shankland by ***David Mollison***