

David Gray expects tough game at Rugby Park

Hibs head coach David Gray has set his side the challenge of extending their unbeaten run in the William Hill Premiership.

The team have gone 13 games in the Scottish top-flight without defeat, and have only lost two outings in their last 19 matches – both of those coming away at Celtic Park.

Gray's men, though, do come into this game off the back of a defeat, having been beaten by the Hoops in the Scottish Cup.

"The players had a reminder of that feeling at the weekend, and it's not a nice one," said Gray when speaking to Hibs TV. "We will never accept losing games of football, but we can't dwell on that."

"We have everything to play for in terms of our league form. Our full focus is on that. We want to extend our run and get as many points we can before the split. They're all massive games now.

"Every team in the league has something to play for, so it'll be really interesting moving forward.

"We've got ourselves in a good place and we need to capitalise on that and finish the season strongly.

When we made the trip to Rugby Park earlier this season, we drew 1-1 with Kilmarnock, conceding from a late spot kick.

Gray expects another challenging afternoon this time around.

“It’s a tough trip, but the players are well aware of what they’re going to face.

“We went down there already this season, they play on an artificial pitch, which isn’t an excuse, but it changes things slightly. It’s the same for both teams.

“It’s a difficult place to go but we’re on a brilliant run of form in the league, 13 games undefeated, and we want to make that 14 when we come back up the road.”