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John Collins Launches First Scottish Platinum Group for Young Aspiring Footballers



John Collins, ex Scotland International and Hibernian Manager, was at Torgyle Regional Football Centre today (Thursday 3rd June) to lend his support to Scotland's elite young players in the hope of finding future World Cup stars.

The Platinum Group, in conjunction with Innovator Sports, has selected five of Scotland's best young football talent aged between 15 and 19 years. The group is an independent association and is fully supported by ADIDAS and the world renowned technical coaching method Coerver Europe. Players were targeted via an integrated and nationwide scouting network that aims to identify only the very best players.

The criteria for player selection was:

- Unique football talent
- Good personality
- Peer group influencer
- Responsibility and willingness to learn

All players will be represented by a group of industry professionals under the management of Innovator Sports Limited.

Gordon Craig, managing director of Innovator Sports and highly regarded football coach, says, "We have a unique and dynamic management programme to ensure each player has every chance of success on and off the pitch. John Collins will be a great mentor and key role model to these young aspiring players. The future of Scottish football is bright and we aim to help the players fulfil dreams to play for Scotland in the 2018 World Cup and beyond."

Gordon concludes, "One of the main aims of the Scottish Platinum Group is to treat each player as an individual, not just part of a team, and ready them for the psychological aspects of the game. A major focus will be on media training to ensure that the players are prepared to face the press in all eventualities."

John Collins says, "I am very passionate about football and for me the most important thing is the development of technically gifted players which at this moment our country is not producing enough of. I want our nation to be competing at World Cups and European Championships."

John continues, "To be a young man on the verge of a football career is a very exciting and privileged position. It is important that they realise the wonderful opportunity they have. This is the first stage of what could be a fantastic career."

"I wish all the young players the very best of luck and I am very much looking forward to monitoring their progress in the world of professional football. I hope to give valuable advice and support that will help during their development into becoming a future First team player."

The training scheme also sees players gain access to:

- Skills trainers
- Sports psychologist
- Goal setting - immediate and long term
- Contractual and legal advice – negotiation
- Media training
- Mentoring from John Collins and other current players
- ADIDAS boots/products

For more information visit www.innovatorsports.com

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Posting organisation: AVC Media Enterprises

Contact: Sarah Bremner

Email: sbremner@avcmedia.com

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MEMBERS

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

SCOTLAND

AVC CREATIVE LTD
WELLINGTON CIRCLE, ALTENS, ABERDEEN AB12 3JG
TEL: 01224 248007 FAX 01224 248407

www.avcmedia.com



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