

Janos hungry for derby win



HEARTS LOOK TO REVIVE EURO HOPES

By **Michael Robertson**

Hibs every time'

HEARTS goalkeeper Janos Balogh believes defeating Hibs in Saturday's Edinburgh derby can rekindle the club's hopes of storming into the top four and booking a passport to Europe next season.

The 27-year-old Hungarian is relishing the prospect of his sixth instalment of the capital contest when Hibs visit Tynecastle in the lunchtime meeting.

It is Jim Jefferies' first derby since he returned to the Gorgie hotseat, but the feelgood factor he initially generated has dipped of late after back-to-back defeats to Dundee United and Motherwell.

Hearts now trail fifth-placed Hibs by 10 points and are 11 points behind Motherwell and Dundee United in joint third.

But Balogh says reaching the Europa League is still not beyond Jefferies' men, especially if they can defeat their arch-rivals on home soil.

Fifth place in the SPL could also yet secure a trip to the continent next season should the Old Firm, for example, contest the Scottish Cup Final.

Speaking at Niddrie Mill and St Francis Primary School as Nairn's Oatcakes became the latest business to

support the club's Breakfast Club initiative, Balogh said: "We want to be in the top six and I hope we can be in the top four at the end of the league season. If we do that, we can go to the Europa League."

"We can be closer if we beat Hibs. We have nine games left so a lot can change."

"I believe we can be in the top four, but our team this season has had two faces - sometimes we win three games in a row, sometimes we lose."

"It's up to how we play in the next nine games."

Balogh has only won one of his five derbies - coming in the Scottish Cup win in January 2009 - and is eager to taste more joy to earn local bragging rights on Saturday.

He said: "The Edinburgh derby, I think for the fans and the players, is the biggest derby."

"We have lost our last two SPL games and we want to change the feeling."

"The derby is a one-off game. We know we have to win against Hibs every time. It's the most important."

"It doesn't matter how we play, if it's nice or not, the win is most important. I like these games. I've made a few good saves in derbies and hope I continue this on Saturday."

Balogh is back in favour after Marian Kello fractured his wrist, and has played the last three games. Former boss

Csaba Laszlo chopped and changed between Balogh, Kello and Jamie MacDonald, but the former insists he is now the No 1.

Balogh said: "I waited for my

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opportunity to play and I've got it.

"I think Jim Jefferies is not a manager who changes the keepers all the time. He told Marian he played well and I had to wait. It's lucky for me, but back luck for Marian that he got his injury.

"Now I feel I am the No 1 keeper, of course. I believe in the team and myself."

APPETITE FOR SUCCESS: Janos Balogh, Jamie Robertson and Elesha George launch the **AEGON Breakfast Club** at Niddrie Mill and St Francis Primary in Craigmillar

