

Pat Power, 1952-2005: an appreciation

By **CHRISTY (Buddy) BRENNAN**

Although founded as late as 1961 Hyde Rovers established a tradition in sportsmanship of which any club would be proud.

Their record of success during 12 years of competitive soccer may be attributed to such prominent sportsmen as Pat "Bomber" Sheehan, Frank Doran, Dave McGuinness, Mick Lynch, Charlie Moloney, Gerry Ryan, Charlie Alta, Paddy McMahon, Billy O'Halloran, Sean Killeen, Denis McGuinness, Tom "Tawsie" O'Brien, John Brosnahan and many others.

After a couple of years the club had its first success when the under-13 "B" side won the Humphrey Murphy Cup while the under-13 "A" team won the Pike Shield. As success followed success the club attracted interest from players in other areas.

One such footballer of exceptional talent and ability was Pat Power from Garryowen who had a remarkable career in under age and youth football.

JANESBORO
Though prominently associated with Hyde Rovers, Pat took the first steps in a remarkable career at under age when he donned the black and white stripes of the famous Janesboro United in the under-13 grade in 1965 after being introduced to the club by classmates Seamie O'Donnell and Liam Storan.

Under the guidance of the legendary Joe McCarthy the team reached the final of the Humphrey Murphy Cup in which they defeated Summerville Rovers 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Pat himself. The winning side included Ger Cantwell, Liam Storan, Ger Clancy, Peter Clarke and Seamie O'Donnell while classmates



Hyde Minor Team 1970: Back Row; T Prendergast, D Power, T McNamara, P Power, J Markham, J Ryan. Front Row; G O'Donnell, R Boland, T Hayes, P Sheehan, L Ryan, R Walsh.

John O'Grady and Tom Prendergast played for the opposition. The following season Pat signed for Hyde Rovers.

Team manager Pat Sheehan, realising that this young player's fine physique would be ideally suited to centre half, moved him to that position. It was to be a sound decision for Pat played there with distinction at schoolboy and minor level.

EVANS CUP
The most sought after trophy at schoolboy level was the Bob Evans Cup which was introduced in the fifties for national competition at under-15 grade. In 1967 Hyde won the local area final when they defeated

Summerville Rovers by 2-1 and in the semi-final proper defeated Cork champions Everton 3-0.

The Limerick Leader reported: Hyde Rovers made a gallant effort to win the Evans Cup at Pearse Stadium on Sunday last when they lost 2-1 to the Dublin club, Rangers. Captaining the local side was Pat Power.

A brilliant and promising centre half he is in his third season with Hyde winning under-14 cup and under-15 league and cup medals. He has also won distinction on the G. A. A. front and this season helped Limerick C.B.S. to win the Munster Colleges under 15 hurling competition. Pat played at

full forward on the C.B.S. hurling team and last season was right full back on the team that won the Munster Colleges under 15 football competition. He is a regular member of Young Ireland's under-age teams and was on the C.B.S. relay team this year.

WEST HAM UNITED
Pat was voted the outstanding Clubman Sportsman in the under 15-16 grade at the annual Schoolboy Awards in 1967 and the following year was invited along with Maurice Irwin to London to play for West Ham's under 17 side against Millwall. Pat who lined out at half-back impressed the West Ham manager and was invited to

spend a further month with the club.

Irwin also had a most satisfactory game and was offered another trial in the following season. Denis McGuinness, Hyde team manager accompanied both players to London where they were guests at the West Ham v. West Bromwich league game at Upton Park.

1970 F.A.I. MINOR CUP
Having had success at all levels of Schoolboy football, Hyde now set their sights on the Youths cup. After a pulsating 3-2 extra time victory over Janesboro United in the area final they were drawn away from home with Shelbourne of Dublin. The Limerick Leader reported:

Hyde Rovers gave their best display of the season at Killester, Dublin last Sunday when they held Shelbourne to a 2-2 draw in the Youths Cup quarter final. Hyde's best player Pat Power scored both goals and without any doubt proved that he is one of the outstanding youth players in the country. He joined Hyde at 13 and achieved success at every level and has had trials with Crystal Palace and West Ham United. In a thrill packed replay on Easter Sunday at Pearse Stadium, Hyde won 1-0. In the semi-final a goal in injury time by inside forward Ray Boland helped

Hyde to a 1-1 draw with Bohemians. Despite a great performance at Dalymount Park in the replay they were unlucky to lose after two periods of extra time.

BOHEMIANS
The following September Pat and Hyde teammate Tom Hayes signed for Bohemians but Tom returned to Limerick after six months. Pat remained in Dublin and became employed by C.I.E. at their Broadstone Stores at Phibsboro' in November 1970. While working there he starred at midfield for the Broadstone team that won the C.I.E. Inter-Depot league and cup double in 1971. He finished playing with Bohemians and was transferred to the Limerick garage in March 1972 where he played Inter-Firm soccer and Inter-Estates rugby. He remained with C.I.E. until his untimely death in December 2005.

Pat lived at Garryowen Road with his wife, Vivienne, and family.

My thanks to Dave Power, Denis McGuinness, Seamie O'Donnell and Kieran Kiely for their assistance in the compilation of this article and especially to Pat "Junior" Sheehan whose late father's scrapbook was an invaluable source of information.

— Buddy Brennan



Hyde Under 16 : Back Row; T Power, P Sheehan, G Ryan, M Mullane, P Power, T McNamara, J Ryan, B Power, P Sheehan. Front Row; P Collins, M Irwin, J Slattery, T Hayes, G O'Donnell



Pat Power, Maurice Irwin and Denis McGuinness at Upton Park, West Ham's home ground in London.