Brian McLaughlin's eye has turned Wannenburg and Ruan Pienaar, Springboks Johann Muller, Pedrie the act themselves with Ulster 14 pricing them out of the market, minds of those running the game the level of ambition at Ravenhill.

rugby chief Steve Tew last night lic utterings, but New Zealand the heart a flutter with their pub-

With less than a month to go be-

BY RUAIDHRI O’CONNOR

"I would be hoping that the

The disappointing thing is that

expected that Aaron Douglas will be

"Every manager wants to be

He said: “Obviously we would

IRFU chief Philip Browne in-

"The disappointing thing is that

"It was difficult limiting the all-time greats list

Davy Walsh 1943-46.

No-one need have worried as Gor-

With his all

Ludicrously about the way the French

New Zealand

"I am concerned with the injuries that

correctly but he changed his

SOUTH AFRICA were

57
Lenny is no quitter but this time it goes beyond him

**COMMENT**

B "GHSLs and bodyslams were far worse, pure and simple. You won't see them any more..."

JIM GRACEY on how Celtic boss will respond to latest threat now the danger to him and his family is ever-present.

**What Lenny will look for is not much a guarantee of his own safety but those closest to him are at risk.**

The former逼UK police officer will not shirk from a fight or a confrontation. Even when that means all-out war.

**As the Blues celebrate 125 years we mark our anniversary by continuing the countdown of our finest-ever footballers.**

**GREATEST LINFIELD PLAYERS OF ALL TIME**

LINFIELD are celebrating their 125th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the Belfast Telegraph decided it would be a suitable and fitting exercise to name the 25 greatest Linfield players of all time. The list has been compiled by Consensus Linfield fans – the all-professional Linfield and Linfield (LA) most-capped manager Roy Coyle, midfield legend Owen Nolan, Phil Farquhar, former young England international midfielder Dessie Gorman is a worthy inclusion. DAVID COLLUM

1. Billy Simpson – a wonderful asset to both the club and the Linfield senior squad it has produced a player of class, strength and speed. He was a class player and a role model for young Linfielders. 1950 to Rangers for £30,000.

2. Solly McMichael – a wonderful player who became top-scorer for Linfield in 1956 selection as Ulster Blues. He was an accomplished Linfield striker and a prolific goalscorer. Billy Simpson could be described as one of the most accomplished Linfield strikers... 1950 to Rangers for £30,000.

3. Dessie Gorman – a goal-scoring machine. Just look at the list: He scored 171 league goals in 252 appearances, including 49 in the 1959–60 season. He was a legend at Linfield. 1956 to 1966.

4. Tony Gorman – a wonderful player who became top-scorer for Linfield in 1956 selection as Ulster Blues. He was an accomplished Linfield striker and a prolific goalscorer. Billy Simpson could be described as one of the most accomplished Linfield strikers... 1950 to Rangers for £30,000.

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Continuing our countdown of the Blues’ finest-ever footballers

15. Martin McAnena (1949-1956)
   - A natural left-winger, capable of playing anywhere on the left.
   - His career began at Linfield and he left for a fee of £10,000.
   - Played more than 200 games for Linfield, scoring 31 goals.
   - A genuine left-back who played for Linfield in the 1950s and 1960s.
   - His career began at Linfield and he left for a fee of £10,000.
   - Played more than 200 games for Linfield, scoring 31 goals.

14. Tommy Priestley (1932-1933)
   - One of the most legendary Linfield players of all time.
   - His career began at Linfield and he left for a fee of £5,000.
   - Played more than 200 games for Linfield, scoring 30 goals.
   - Back in the day, Tommy Priestley was a true Blue.

   - Known as the ‘Feelgood Factor’.
   - His career began at Linfield and he left for a fee of £8,000.
   - Played more than 200 games for Linfield, scoring 32 goals.
   - Back in the day, Bobbie Brebenthal was a true Blue.

12. Malcom Brodie (1937)
   - Born in 1937, he joined Linfield at the age of 15.
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Continuing our countdown of the Blues' finest-ever footballers


A true giant who was given the label “Mr. Linfield”. Billy Murray was the first player to score over 500 goals in the Irish League. Murray played 601 games, scored 505 goals, and won 11 trophies during his career. His skill and leadership were key in Linfield's success.

7. BOB MILNE 1890-1910

A Scot from further north, Bob Milne was an iconic figure in the early days of Linfield. He was a key player in the club's early years and was known for his pace and skill.

8. MARSHALL MCEWAN 1911-1916

Never capped by Scotland but played for Ireland, Marshall McEwan was a giant when he pulled on the blue jersey and was a giant in the dressing room as well. McEwan was a key player in the early 20th century and was known for his toughness and leadership.


The RAF – what a character. Peter Rafferty is a Linfield legend. He made 260 appearances for the Whites, scoring 37 goals. He was a natural, sprinting past defenders, and was a key player throughout his career.

10. GLENN FERGUSON 1998-2009

Glenn was a vital part of Linfield’s success in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He was a versatile player who could play in several positions and was a key component of the team’s success during that period.

GREATEST LINFIELD PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

Linfield are celebrating their 120th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, the Belfast Telegraph decided it would be a worthwhile and fitting exercise to pick out the 25 greatest Linfield players of all time. It is not an easy task for the selectors wondering from behind the telegraph’s editorial chairman, Jim Kelly, the Belfast Telegraph and Linfield’s man of the moment, Jonathan Lamont, legendary football writer for the Belfast Telegraph, to pick out the greatest players of all time.

Jonathan Lamont, legendary football writer for the Belfast Telegraph, was a giant in the dressing room as well. Lamont was a key player in the early 20th century and was known for his toughness and leadership.

Beacon v McNally

They used to love him, but Ruo will leave Everton fans in despair

We are getting down to the wire gettin’ on the, EA Premier League. This is the time when titles are decided and relegation is decided. Last six weeks of the campaign will see major shock and disbelief for fans of both sides. Last week’s production halted by the new order, and the title battle is as open as ever.

**Beacom Prediction:**

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**McNally Prediction:**

Taking forward Wayne Rooney’s didn’t score in Newcastle but that may be different against Everton.
The countdown that has had everyone talking concludes today...

25

GREATEST LINFIELD PLAYERS OF ALL TIME

1

TOMMY DICKSON
1948-1949, 1965

This called Tommy Dickson the Duke of Windsor and is now known as the Duke.

He was a beneficiary in the sense that he could not play for Linfield as he was still a young man when he joined the team. However, his goal-scoring record was overwhelming.

Dickson scored all the credit and his goals were of a very high standard and had to graduate through the Swifts before he was called up for the first team. Dickson was one of the elite strikers and he added his skill to the attacking trio and formed a dangerous threat.

Dickson was known for his goal-scoring prowess and he bagged an incredible 11 goals in 16 games in 1948-49, which is still a club record for a season.

He then appeared in two league finals, scoring in the 1949 Northern Ireland Cup final against Brantwood and also in the 1965 Northern Ireland Cup final against Crusaders. Dickson led the Irish League side which defeated the English League in the 1950s and 1960s.

Dickson was a key figure in Irish League football and is considered one of the greatest players to have graced the pitch at Windsor Park.

2

JACKIE MILBURN
1957-61

Jackie Milburn is a true legend of Irish League football and a deserved number one in our list.

Milburn played for Linfield from 1945 to 1957 and was a magnificent goalscorer. He was known as the Duke of Windsor and is still remembered for his goal-scoring record.

Milburn was an outstanding player and is considered one of the greatest ever to play for Linfield. His skill and ability made him a fearsome opponent in front of goal.

Milburn joined the club in 1945 and played a key role in the club's success. He scored 144 goals in 274 games for Linfield, making him the club's top scorer.

Milburn's career at Linfield was illustrious and he was one of the club's most beloved players. His passing was met with sadness when he passed away in 1975.

3

NOEL BAILIE
1986-2011

Noel Bailie, retiring at the end of the season, has been a key figure for the Blues. The club will never see his like again.

Bailie started out as a left-back and went on to become a centre-back. He was an excellent header of the ball and had a great range of passing.

He played over 500 games for Linfield and was a key part of the club's success. Bailie was known for his leadership and was a respected member of the team.

Bailie's career at Linfield was illustrious and he is considered one of the greatest ever to play for the Blues.

4

JOE BAMBRICK
1927-35

Joe Bambrick is a true legend of Irish League football and is considered one of the greatest ever to play for Linfield.

Bambrick played for Linfield from 1927 to 1935 and was a key part of the team's success. He was known for his speed and agility and was a great dribbler.

Bambrick scored 40 goals in 126 games for Linfield and was a key figure in the team's success.

Bambrick's career at Linfield was illustrious and he is considered one of the greatest ever to play for the Blues.

5

ALEX RUSSELL
1944-45, 1959-60

Alex Russell is a true legend of Irish League football and is considered one of the greatest ever to play for Linfield.

Russell played for Linfield from 1944 to 1945 and again from 1959 to 1960 and was a key part of the team's success. He was known for his speed and agility and was a great dribbler.

Russell scored 24 goals in 84 games for Linfield and was a key figure in the team's success.

Russell's career at Linfield was illustrious and he is considered one of the greatest ever to play for the Blues.

And there are no prizes for guessing who the illustrious winner is...