

*In the spotlight...*

# Louis Falla

## ‘A solid all-round footballer with plenty of attributes’

Now established as Rovers' first choice right-back at Priaulx level, 18-year-old Louis Falla has made great progress of late, **Matt Lihou** reports

AFTER breaking through and becoming a regular fixture in Rovers' first team this season, Louis Falla's progress in recent times has been hailed by his coach.

Now 18, and in his final year at Elizabeth College, young Falla has used the 2016-17 season as his breakthrough campaign at senior level of local football.

A Rovers lad his whole career, he has established himself as the first-choice right-back in Jez Robin's side, who currently sit second in the FNB Priaulx League.

It is a change in position for the teenager, who plays at either centre-back or in midfield for Rovers' under-18s and the Elizabeth College team.

However, Robin is delighted with the progress he is making.

‘The big attributes that Louis has are his high fitness levels and work-rate, meaning he can get up and down the touchline all game,’ he explained.

‘That really suits the way we try to play, with our full-backs bombing forward and when he gets in those positions, Louis's delivery is excellent and a real threat for us.’

‘He is also very good on the ball and is sound defensively, so I would say he is a really solid all-round footballer with plenty of attributes and qualities.’

‘This season he has been excellent and really made an impact in our Priaulx team, which has come on the back of his hard work over the last couple of seasons.’

‘In terms of the progress he has made, it has been exceptional because not too long ago he was being overlooked for the large 30-man island squads in his age group.’

‘Now, he is a really top player in that under-18s age group.’

Falla is also a talented cricketer and is in the Elizabeth College 1st XI for both of his two main chosen sports, with the football team soon completing their CI Schools League campaign.

Looking forward into the longer term, Robin is confident that Falla's purple patch will turn out to be more permanent than that and he will be a top player for years to come.

‘Like all players of that age, they can become as good as they want to become because the platform and the opportunities are certainly there for them.’

‘But if Louis continues to develop and improve the way he has over the past couple of seasons moving forward, then he will be a strong Priaulx League player – and perhaps even the next level above.’

**LOUIS FALLA****Age:** 18**Sport:** Football**Teams:** Rovers, Elizabeth College**Positions:** Right-back, centre-

back, midfield

Falla in action for Rovers' Priaulx side at Port Soif.

(Picture by Tom Tardif, 17298042)