

Striker heads to Liverpool with ringing endorsement

HE PLAYED a big part in Elizabeth College's lengthy run in this season's Guernsey FA Cup and now Adam Bates has been tipped for a strong footballing future. The 18-year-old is a tall out-and-out striker who has led the line alone for College in a number of those games that saw them go all the way to the semi-final stage. And he has had to work hard to fight back from a serious knee injury midway through the campaign that sidelined him. Before that setback, he had played some games for his club – St Martin's – at Priaulx League level the season before last and has been an integral cog of the black-and-whites' under-18 side. The coach of those youngsters at Blanche Pierre Lane is Andy Graham and he rates Bates highly as a goalscorer of genuine quality. 'Adam is a natural goalscorer who can score from inside and outside the box,' said Graham. 'You only have to look at a number of the goals he has scored to see that and he is particularly adept in the air, shown by a fantastic header he scored against North this season. 'Unfortunately for us, we weren't able to see the very best of him enough this

season because of his injury lay-offs, but he has plenty of ability. 'He is going away to university in Liverpool in September, so we won't see much of him playing locally, but if he applies himself to it then I am sure he can play university football.' Bates may be his team's focal point when it comes to putting the ball in the back of the net, but he is also a strong team player, as Graham explains. 'Whenever possible, I have played him as one of two strikers at Saints, the other person benefiting from his flick-ons and knock-downs. But at the same time, I can see why Adam has been such a good lone striker in a team set-up like the College team has been. 'He is very good at holding the ball up and importantly, he is not a selfish player and he is somebody who most of the time makes the right decisions. 'So he will bring players into play at the right times, whether it be supporting midfielders or wingers, so he is a great option to have. 'Adam is an intelligent lad as well and is willing to listen to advice and act upon it. So as long as he continues like that, he will be a fine player.'



Strong in the air: Adam Bates wins an aerial ball in the FA Cup semi-final between Elizabeth College and Rangers. (Picture by Adrian Miller, 3876779)

HalfTIME TALK

This week footballer ADAM BATES answers our questionnaire...

Name: Adam Bates
Age: 18
Nickname: Bates
School: Elizabeth College
Brothers or sisters: Two brothers – Chris and Scott
What would you like to be in adult life: Not totally sure, possibly something to do with business management
Favourite TV show: How I Met Your Mother
Favourite music: Rock
Favourite film: Batman
Favourite food: Burger and chips
Favourite teacher: Mr Huxtable
Sports: Football, softball
Position: Centre-forward
Club: St Martin's
Best friend in sport: Adam Rawles
Sporting hero: Ryan Giggs
Sporting hero locally: Ross Allen

Local sportsperson to watch out for: Sam Hale
Least favourite professional sportsperson: Luis Suarez
Favourite local coaches: James Le Gallez, Andy Graham
Favourite local sports arena: Blanche Pierre Lane
Sporting highlight: Playing in the Guernsey FA Cup semi-final against Rangers for Elizabeth College recently
Sporting lowlight: Haven't got one yet
Sports ambition: To play for Guernsey at some point
Funniest moment in sport: Beating Sylvans 5-0 in an under-18 friendly at the start of this season
What would you like done to improve our sport: More away games in the UK
Teams supported: Manchester United