



Background Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eDNvfhCmz0>

Oh, Scotland, Scotland, Scotland. Never has there been a country with such historic origins only to have international ineptitude that makes US Soccer blush. Don't believe me? Let's go over some history

1872

Scotland plays the first ever international match against England. A 0-0 draw makes for a humble start, only bigger and brighter things ahead, right?

Early 20th Century

You play consistent matches against England, Wales, and Ireland, proving to be among the better teams in regards to the home Nations. However, you have a dispute with this FIFA organization and you choose to withdraw. Some of your better players end up moving and playing for the USA in 1930. That team finished 3rd at that World Cup, but that tournament doesn't mean much. You're above it like England is.

1950

After WWII you resolve your disputes with FIFA and choose to attempt to qualify for your first ever World Cup. However, you only decide to send a team if you beat England in the Home Nations Championship. Get it done

1950 Home Nations

And you lose 1-0 and decide not to send a team despite qualifying. That England team goes on to lose to.....the USA? What?

1954 World Cup qualifying

Alright, you've qualified for your first ever World Cup *and* chose to participate. It's time to go to Switzerland and make Scotland proud

1954 World Cup

You go out without scoring a goal, losing 1-0 to Austria and getting obliterated 7-0 by defending champions Uruguay. *Ouch*.

1958 World Cup

Alright, you've qualified once again. Try not to embarrass yourselves, lads. Do it for Matt Busby.

Ok, you got a point against Yugoslavia, your first ever World Cup point, a great start!

Unfortunately the team sleepwalks through the next two matches and you finish bottom after losing to Paraguay and France.

1960's

Your reward for such failure? Failing to qualify for both the 1962 and 1966 World Cups. Salt in the wound arrives as your hated rivals England win the World Cup. Least you were the first team to beat them after that? Try not to waste the international careers of Dennis Law and Billy Bremner any more than you already have, please. You already wasted the international career of James Baxter and most of the great Celtic team from that era.

Oh, and you also entered the qualifying for that newfangled UEFA European Championships thing. And failed at that as well.

1970

Fail to qualify as you are stuck behind a West German team looking to qualify and avenge their 1966 World Cup final defeat.

1972

Oh look, you miss out on the Euros again

1974 World Cup

Alright, you're back at the World Cup for the first time in 16 years. Please at least do something of note.

Holy mother of god, you actually didn't lose a game. You beat newcomers Zaire, you hold Yugoslavia *and* defending champions Brazil to a draw. You've got 4 points! I say this as if there is a catch. You bet your sweet ass there is. Brazil and Yugoslavia not only had the same amount of points that you did, but also had better goal difference. You miss out on the next round by a fucking goal.

1976

You only lose one game in Euro '76 qualifying. However, the Spanish run roughshod on the group and you miss out on the Euros again.

1978 World Cup

You've got a great squad led by Kenny Dalglish. You've got a charismatic manager in Ally McLeod. You're a potential dark horse for the World Cup. You can laugh as England failed to qualify again. [You've even got a song about how you're going to win it.](#) Don't let us down, lads.

You finished tied with the Netherlands on points for second in the group. Unfortunately they've also got a tiebreaker and you miss out on the next round again. That's what happens when you fail to beat newcomers Iran. Least we got a nice reference in Trainspotting out of it.

1980

Despite an expanded Euro field you sleepwalk through qualifying and miss out by a whopping five points.

1982 World Cup

You finish with three points, tied for second in your group with the USSR! You know the drill the other team has better goal difference Scotland doesn't make the next round blah blah blah blah.

1984

Finish bottom of your Euro qualifying group, behind....*East Germany?* Seriously?

1986 World Cup

You qualify with the skin of your teeth in dramatic fashion. Unfortunately, tragedy strikes as your manager Jock Stein suffers a heart attack near the closing stages of the deciding match. He would pass away not long after. Despite this, Scotland needs a replacement to carry on his legacy in Mexico in 1986. This Alex Ferguson guy from Aberdeen will do.

No need to worry about going out on goal difference this time! You instead get knocked out finishing with a measly one point. Know what would have prevented this? Scoring against a 10-man Uruguay. After they had a man sent off in the first goddamn minute.

Shortly afterwards Alex Ferguson sees the writing on the wall and fucks off back to Aberdeen.

1988

You finish qualifying with 9 points. Unfortunately, three other teams are ahead of you and you still have never qualified for the Euros

1990 World Cup

Ok, you lost to a newcomer Costa Rica team, but you recovered nicely and beat Sweden! All you need to do is hold Brazil to a draw and you finally reach the knockout stages! Hell, you're even earning that point nicely, it's 0-0 in the 81st minute and.....what are you doing Jim Leighton? Don't worry, he's not going to score from that angle

[Muller Scores. Brazil 1-0 Scotland](#)

Sigh.....pass the Glenlivet please

UEFA Euro 92

You actually did it. YOU'VE QUALIFIED FOR THE EUROS!

....only to lose to more talented teams in Germany and the Netherlands. Least you pounded a team made up of the former Soviet states.

1994

Sleepwalk through qualifying and miss out on the World Cup for the first time in 24 years. Least you didn't wait until the group stages to disappoint this time.

UEFA Euro 96

Alright, you held a talented Dutch side to a goalless draw, and there was no shame in losing a close game to hosts England even if they are your hated rival. You're beating Switzerland in your final game and England is pounding the Netherlands, you're finally doing it! You're making the knockout stages! [WE'LL BE COMING! WE'LL BE COMING! WE'LL BE COMIIIIIIING DOOOOOOOWN THE ROAD! WHEN YOU HEAR THE NOISE OF THE TARTAN ARMY BOYS WE'LL BE COMIIIIIIING DOOOOOOOWN THE RO-](#)

[Kluivert scores for the Netherlands](#)

That Dutch goal gives the Netherlands the tiebreaker on goals scored. Once again, you get knocked out in the group. Congratulations, the entire country has run out of Tennants

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt8O0coajFw>

1998 World Cup

You're in a group featuring Brazil, Morocco, and Norway. Sure, you won't beat Brazil, but Norway and Morocco should be easy enough. This is probably the last time you can really do something with your current core.

Ok, a hard fought loss against Brazil isn't the end of the world. You fought back bravely to draw with Norway. All you have to do is beat Morocco and you've got a good chance.

[....you instead get obliterated by Morocco 3-0](#). Wouldn't have mattered as Norway pulled victory out of nowhere against Brazil, but what a way to finish yet another disappointing tournament

1999

[How's that Alex Ferguson guy doing anyway?](#)

2000

You actually beat England at Wembley in the second leg of the Qualifying playoffs! Unfortunately it was not enough as they beat you 2-0 at Hampden. Better luck next time

2002

You finish with 15 points in qualifying. Unfortunately, Belgium and Croatia are ahead of you and you miss out on the World Cup

2004

You may get back to the Euros again. You're up 1-0 on the Netherlands after the first leg of the playoffs. Finish them off.

Or you could just get destroyed 6-0 and fail to qualify again

2006

Oh look, you finish behind two other teams in qualifying. Again.

2008

Alright, despite having the 2006 World Cup finalists in your qualifying group, you've performed admirably and are looking to make your first major tournament in 10 years. A point vs. Italy in your final match will help a lot.

Sadly, you get backstabbed by Italy in the 91st minute. *Ouch*

2010

You tie for second in your qualifying group! You can guess where this is going. Norway is ahead of them on goal difference and even then they would have needed more points to be among the best second place teams to move on. Woof.

2012

Needing a last-gasp winner at home against tiny Liechtenstein sums up the Levein era nicely. You miss out on qualifying for Euro 2012.

2014

You become the first European team to be eliminated from qualifying for the World Cup that cycle, Levein is told to go away. You recover nicely under Gordon Strachan. Consolation, I guess?

2016

Despite yet another expanded Euro field, you become the only nation from the British Isles to fail to qualify for Euro 2016. At least it can't get worse, right?

2018

You've made a valiant effort to qualify for your first major tournament in 20 years. Harry Kane needed a miracle goal to make sure England got a result in Scotland. Full steam ahead.

....right into an iceberg as they fail to get important results down the stretch and they miss out again

Euro 2020 qualifying

Despite finishing third behind Belgium and Russia, you get a playoff spot by virtue of winning your group in this newfangled Nations League thing. I'm expecting disappointment.

Wait.....you're leading against Serbia? THIS IS I- oh look, Luka Jovic just had the most accurate Serbian shot since Gavrilo Princip, it's going to pen- *glass shatters* wait.....you won? You're going to another major tournament? Sure you're predicted to get destroyed, but there may be hope for once?

Euro 2020

Ok, you're in a group with the Czech Republic, Croatia, and your old enemies the English. The four best third-place finishers move on. This is doable for you. Tough, but doable. You've got the most talented squad you've had in decades. Andy Roberston, Kieran Tierney, John McGinn, this looks like a team that could finally get over the hump

vs. the Czech Republic

What the everloving fuck was that? All those chances and you have the aim of a drunk Imperial Stormtrooper. [The Czechs make you pay as Patrick Schick scores from midfield.](#) It's beginning to look like deja vu again...

vs. England

Wait, you snatched a point from them causing panic in the English media? Sure it was a slog, but it's a performance to be proud of. Billy Gilmour is the shining beacon! He's going to help lead Scotland to the ne-

(Billy Gilmour tests positive for COVID-19)

...It's happening again isn't it?

vs. Croatia

1-0 Croatia: Oh boy, here we go again

1-1: YAAAAASSSSS YES SIR I CAN FUCKING BOOGIE! IT COULD BE HAPPENING!!!!

Croatia scores two unanswered to win 3-1. Getting knocked out in the first round. It's just like old times.

Static

Seriously, Scotland. All those opportunities you had in the 20th century. All that history domestically, and yet you can't even make the knockout stages of a major tournament? You've qualified for *11* major tournaments only to get knocked out in the first round *every single goddamn time?!?!* For fucks sake, do you know what other countries with not nearly as much history in the sport have accomplished more than you? The Tartan Army deserves better than this.

[END CARD:](#)