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Celtic v. Aberdeen

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JOCK STEIN says...

It seems strange to be playing our first league game of the season against Aberdeen on the second last Saturday of April, but our away fixture, scheduled for league cup final day, was postponed and is still to be played.

The Pittodrie side have not been challenging us in the league this season in the way they have contested it in recent seasons.

Nevertheless, they are still in the top four and playing for a UEFA Cup place in spite of the fact that they are coming through a period of transition that has seen many changes in player personnel.

We are also very interested in winning two points today, however, in our efforts to retain the league championship.

With five games to be played we have a six point lead in the title race and a victory today would put us in a virtually unassailable position at the top.

Our last two league wins, both away from home at Tannadice and Methil, were achieved in convincing fashion and most of the eight goals we scored in these matches were of the highest quality.

Just as pleasing as the results, was the successful return to form of Danny McGrain and Bobby Lennox.

Bobby scored the equalising goal at Methil on Wednesday night and Danny brilliantly created the chance for Kenny Dalglish to score our third goal.

With today's game under their belt these two players will strengthen our player pool for the European Cup tie in Madrid next week.

I don't want to say anything here about the first leg game with Atletico



at Celtic Park or the findings of UEFA following the various reports of that unhappy match. What I would like to repeat, however, is that if the game on Wednesday night is played as football should be played then I think we could still win a place in the European Cup final in Brussels on May 15.

Spectators are requested to avoid undue haste in and around the ground and especially when leaving at the end of the match.

They are also requested to cooperate with police and stewards in the interest of safety.

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Aberdeen Player Profile

Today's visitors, Aberdeen, have twice been runners-up in the League Championship in the last three seasons and have provided Celtic with some stern matches in the process.

Manager Jimmy Bonthron has been ringing the player changes at Pittodrie during this season and almost a complete team has moved on from the club.

The players most likely to wear Aberdeen's colours this afternoon are :-

Bobby Clark—Joined the Dons from Queen's Park in 1965 and apart from a spell playing in the outfield has been the regular keeper at Pittodrie. Club's most capped player having played 14 times for Scotland.

Billy Williamson—Signed as a forward from Kirkconnel Amateurs in 1969 but came into the first team in the last couple of seasons as a full back.

Jim Hermiston—One of the veterans of the team having been nine years at Aberdeen since joining up from Bonnyrigg Rose in 1965. Missed only one game for the club last season.

Charlie McLelland—Joined Aberdeen from Eastercraigs Youth Club in 1970. Has been a regular member of the reserve team for a couple of seasons and recently has played several times in the first team.

Eddie Thomson—Transferred from Hearts in March, 1973 for a fee in the region of £50,000. Strong player who can play in midfield or in defence.

Willie Young—Has been four seasons with Aberdeen since joining them from minor grade team Seaton Athletic. The captain of the team, he has won under-23 honours and has been in the reckoning for a full cap.

Willie Miller—Another product of Eastercraigs Youth Club who joined Aberdeen in 1972. Has come into the top side this season and taken the chance to establish himself.

Joe Smith—Went to Pittodrie from St. Gregory's School in 1969 and having served his apprenticeship with the reserves came into the first team midway through last season.

Davie Robb—A product of Newburgh Juniors he joined Aberdeen in 1965 and has been a regular, apart from a lengthy injury absence, for a few years. Has won four full Scottish caps.

Billy Pirie—Signed from Arbroath just a few weeks ago for substantial fee. Was the top scorer at Gayfield and should prove a valuable asset.

Jim Henry—Was signed this season from Dundee United having been out of action for some time because of illness. A classy midfielder player who is playing well for the Pittodrie side.

Drew Jarvie—Was purchased from Airdrie in 1972 for £70,000 (the biggest fee ever paid by Aberdeen) and was the club's highest scorer last season with 26 goals.

Arthur Graham—Joined up at Pittodrie from Cambuslang Rangers in 1970 and won a Scottish Cup medal in his first season. Normally a left winger but occasionally plays in the midfield.

Three other players **Ian Hair** (East Kilbride Thistle), **Walker McCall** (Hurlford United), and **Duncan Davidson** (Lewis United) have all graduated from reserve team football into the first team pool in recent months.

The players who have departed the Pittodrie scene in the last year or so include:- Steve Murray (Celtic), George Buchan (Manchester Utd.), Joe Harper (Everton, Hibs), Ian Taylor (M'well), Bertie Miller (East Fife), Jim Forrest (Hong Kong), Zoltan Varga (Ajax) and Barry Mitchell (Tranmere Rovers). George Murray is now a coach, and Henning Boel is returning to American football.

TEAMS AND OFFICIALS

CELTIC HONOURS

Scottish League

Champions (28 times)

1893, 1894, 1896,
1898, 1905, 1906,
1907, 1908, 1909,
1910, 1914, 1915,
1916, 1917, 1919,
1922, 1926, 1936,
1938, 1954, 1966,
1967, 1968, 1969,
1970, 1971, 1972,
1973.

Scottish League Cup Winners (7 times)

1957, 1958, 1966,
1967, 1968, 1969,
1970.

CELTIC

(from)

CONNAGHAN
McGRAIN
BROGAN
MURRAY
McNEILL
McCLUSKEY
JOHNSTONE
HOOD
DALGLISH
DEANS
HAY
LENNOX
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B AYR UTD. HEARTS		F HIBERNIAN DUNFERMLINE	
C DUMBARTON MORTON		G PARTICK THISTLE FALKIRK	
D DUNDEE CLYDE		H ST. JOHNSTONE RANGERS	

FOR TODAY'S GAME

CELTIC HONOURS

ABERDEEN

(from)
 CLARK
 HERMISTON
 McLELLAND
 THOMSON
 YOUNG
 MILLER
 SMITH
 ROBB
 PIRIE
 JARVIE
 GRAHAM
 HAIR
 McCALL
 DAVIDSON

Scottish Cup

Winners (22 times)

1892, 1899, 1900,
 1904, 1907, 1908,
 1911, 1912, 1914,
 1923, 1925, 1927,
 1931, 1933, 1937,
 1951, 1954, 1965,
 1967, 1969, 1971,
 1972.

European Cup

1967.

Coronation Cup

1953.

Empire Exhibition

Cup

1938.

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Two previous league matches with Aberdeen

Today we recall two previous league encounters at Celtic Park between Aberdeen and Celtic and, even allowing for the fact that one was six years ago, both teams show a great many changes.

The first game we recall was played on Saturday, March 6th, 1968 and the teams lined-up as follows:—

Celtic—Simpson, Gemmell and O'Neill, Murdoch, McNeill and Brogan, Johnstone and Lennox, Wallace, Gallagher and Hughes. Substitute—Hay.

Aberdeen—Clark, Whyte and Shewan, Peterson, McMillan and Murray, Johnstone and Smith, Watt, Buchan and Craig. Twelfth man—Robb.

Celtic were in rampant form straight from the kick-off and in just over half an hour they led the Dons by 4-0. Bobby Lennox, with two great headers and a tremendous shot,

scored a hat-trick and a Billy McNeill header produced the fourth goal.

In the second half Dave Johnston scored a consolation goal for Aberdeen and the game finished 4-1 in Celtic's favour.

Last season the two clubs met on March 3rd with Aberdeen 'defending' a fair run of successes against Celtic at Parkhead.

The team selections were:—

Celtic—Hunter, McGrain and Quinn, Murdoch, McNeill and Connelly, Johnstone and Dalglish, Deans, Hood and Lennox. Twelfth man—McCluskey.

Aberdeen—Clark, Williamson and Hermiston, Murray, Young and Willoughby, Varga and Graham, Forrest, Jarvie and Purdie. Twelfth man—Smith.

Celtic won the game by 2-0 with goals from Lennox (again) and Dalglish.

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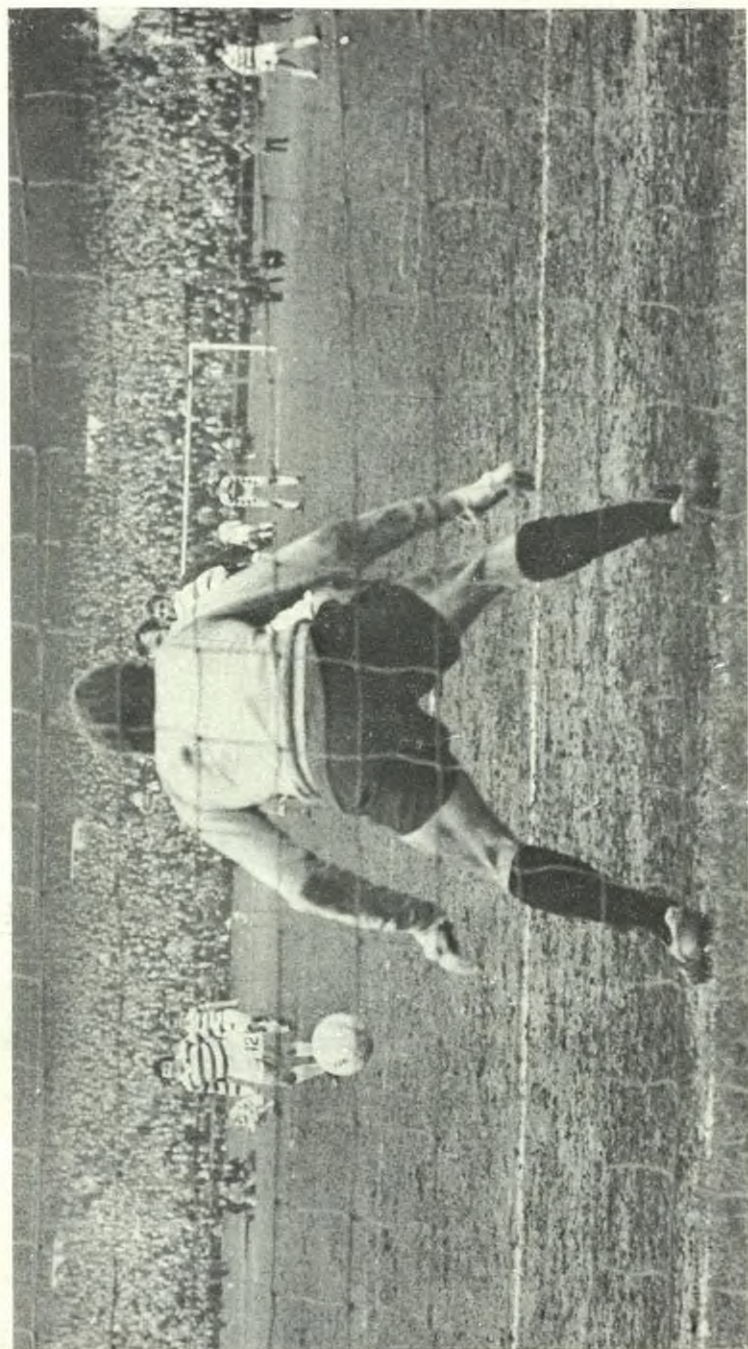
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Bobby Lennox (partially hidden by 'keeper Bobby Clark) scores from the spot to give Celtic the lead in the last league game with Aberdeen at Celtic Park.

RESULTS SO FAR

FIRST TEAM			European Cup Semi-final						
League Cup			(1st Leg)						
Celtic	2	Arbroath	1	Celtic	0	Atletico Madrid	0		
Falkirk	0	Celtic	2	1st TEAM SCORERS					
Rangers	1	Celtic	2	31—Deans					
Celtic	2	Falkirk	1	25—Dalglish					
Celtic	1	Rangers	3	21—Lennox					
Arbroath	1	Celtic	3	17—Hood					
League Cup 2nd Round									
Motherwell	1	Celtic	2	8—Wilson, Murray					
Celtic	0	Motherwell	1	6—Johnstone					
2nd Round Decider									
Celtic	3	Motherwell	2	5—Callaghan					
Celtic	3	Aberdeen	2	3—Hay					
Aberdeen	0	Celtic	0	2—Connelly, McCluskey,					
Scottish League Cup Semi-final			1—Lynch, McGrain, V. Davidson						
Rangers	1	Celtic	3	2—O.G.'s.					
Scottish League Cup Final			<u>127</u>						
Dundee	1	Celtic	0	RESERVES League Cup					
Scottish League									
Dunfermline	2	Celtic	3	Arbroath	0	Celtic	0		
Celtic	5	Clyde	0	Celtic	4	Falkirk	0		
Rangers	0	Celtic	1	Celtic	1	Rangers	3		
St. Johnstone	2	Celtic	1	Falkirk	1	Celtic	4		
Celtic	2	Motherwell	0	Rangers	2	Celtic	0		
Dundee	0	Celtic	1	Celtic	1	Arbroath	1		
Celtic	1	Hibernian	1	League					
Hearts	1	Celtic	3	Celtic	0	Dunfermline	1		
Celtic	4	East Fife	2	Celtic	1	Ayr Utd.	1		
Ayr Utd.	0	Celtic	1	Clyde	0	Celtic	1		
Celtic	7	Partick Thistle	0	Celtic	2	Rangers	0		
Dumbarton	0	Celtic	2	Celtic	4	St. Johnstone	0		
Arbroath	1	Celtic	2	Motherwell	0	Celtic	2		
Celtic	3	Dundee Utd.	3	Celtic	2	Dundee	1		
Celtic	6	Falkirk	0	Hibernian	1	Celtic	2		
Celtic	6	Dunfermline	0	East Fife	1	Celtic	3		
Clyde	0	Celtic	2	Partick Thistle	1	Celtic	0		
Celtic	1	Rangers	0	Celtic	4	Aberdeen	1		
Celtic	3	St. Johnstone	0	Falkirk	2	Celtic	6		
Motherwell	3	Celtic	2	Dunfermline	0	Celtic	2		
Celtic	1	Dundee	2	Rangers	2	Celtic	0		
Hibs	2	Celtic	4	Dundee Utd.	2	Celtic	1		
Celtic	1	Hearts	0	St. Johnstone	1	Celtic	1		
Celtic	4	Ayr United	0	Morton	0	Celtic	4		
Partick Thistle	2	Celtic	0	Celtic	1	Hibs	1		
Celtic	3	Dumbarton	3	Hearts	2	Celtic	0		
Celtic	1	Arbroath	0	Celtic	0	Dundee Utd.	1		
Dundee Utd.	0	Celtic	2	Ayr United	1	Celtic	2		
East Fife	1	Celtic	6	Dumbarton	2	Celtic	3		
Scottish Cup 3rd Round			Arbroath				3	Celtic	3
Celtic	6	Clydebank	1	Dundee	0	Celtic	1		
Scottish Cup 4th Round			2nd XI Cup						
Celtic	6	Stirling Albion	1	Q.P. Strollers	1	Celtic	5		
Scottish Cup 5th Round			Ayr United				0	Celtic	5
Celtic	2	Motherwell	2	Dumbarton	0	Celtic	4		
Motherwell	0	Celtic	1	RESERVE SCORERS					
Scottish Cup Semi-final			15—Davidson (V.)						
Celtic	1	Dundee	0	10—Wilson					
European Cup 1st Round			8—Lynch						
TPS Turku	1	Celtic	6	7—Ritchie					
Celtic	3	TPS Turku	0	6—Deans					
European Cup 2nd Round			4—Lennox, McNamara						
Celtic	0	Veje B.K.	0	3—Quinn					
Veje BK	0	Celtic	1	2—McCluskey, Bone					
European Cup Quarter Final			1—Casey, Davidson (J.), Hood, McCool, McDonald, Mulholland, O'Hara, Johnstone, Little.						
Basle	3	Celtic	2	<u>70</u>					
Celtic	4	Basle	2						



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