

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Saturday, 3rd April, 1976



Celtic v St. Johnstone

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 10p

BOBBY EVANS

**SPEAKS OUT ABOUT
TODAY'S PLAYERS**

DON'T MISS THE FORMER
CELTIC STAR IN OUR
GREAT SERIES

THE PAST MASTERS

EXCLUSIVE IN TOMORROW'S

SUNDAY
mail

IT'S GREAT TO SEE OUR EFFORTS REWARDED



THE last time St Johnstone visited Celtic Park, on November 22 of last year, we had lost 2-0 to Motherwell at home the previous week.

In commenting on the Motherwell defeat in the programme, I said: "Celtic's one obvious requirement these days is consistency of performance and the taking of chances — particularly chance-taking.

"Take the Motherwell match — and it was hard to take, I know. The team had 80 per cent of the game and made sufficient goal chances to win it. Motherwell had three chances and took two of them."

What a difference in performance when we played Motherwell at Celtic Park last Saturday!

From the first kick of the ball the players went about their business with the right attitude, and Motherwell found themselves unable to mount telling attacks.

It was a different story at the other end where the 'Well goal had a few narrow escapes before we finally took the lead after quarter-of-an-hour.

In the next 25 minutes we scored three more goals and had just as many near misses, and although we didn't add to our tally in the second half, we never released the firm hold we had on the game from the first whistle.

ENCOURAGING

Considering the careless goals we have lost in some games this season, it's most encouraging to see that all our efforts are being rewarded with far more consistent and reliable defensive play. Let's hope it stays that way until the end of the season.

We should have played Ayr United at Somerset Park on Wednesday night, but weather gremlins conspired to render the ground unplayable due to flooding. This latest postponement further clutters an already congested end-of-season fixture pile-up which, in theory, leaves us eight games to be played this month.

Today's visitors, St Johnstone, have not had the sort of season that they'll want to remember, but in the three games against us this season, they've made us go all out to win the points.

On each occasion, twice at Muirton and once at Celtic Park, we only got a win by a single goal margin, so our players will be reminded that, despite Saints' lowly position, only a good performance on the park can produce the vital points that are at stake.

SEAN FALLON.

CELTIC



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(Chairman)

Thomas L. Devlin

James M. Farrell,
M.A., LL.B.

Kevin Kelly

Manager:

John Stein, C.B.E.

Address:

Celtic Park,
95 Kerrydale Street,
Glasgow, G40 3RE

HONOURS:

League Champions (29 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, 1974.

Cup Winners (24 times)

1892, 1899, 1900,
1904, 1907, 1908,
1911, 1912, 1914,
1923, 1925, 1927,
1931, 1933, 1937,
1951, 1954, 1965,
1967, 1969, 1971,
1972, 1974, 1975.

League Cup Winners (8 times)

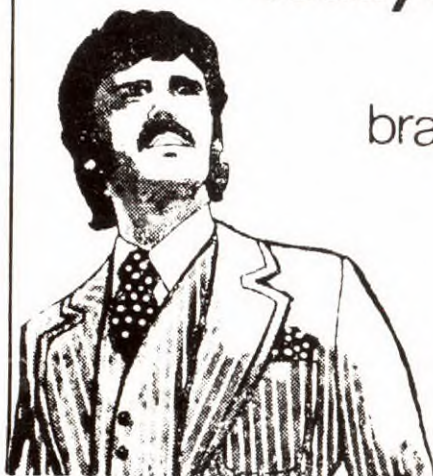
1957, 1958, 1966,
1967, 1968, 1969,
1970, 1975.

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1938

Coronation Cup 1953
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WHAT A DIFFERENCE FIVE YEARS CAN MAKE

ST JOHNSTONE's fate may be sealed as far as this season's Premier League competition goes, but the Perth team will nonetheless be accorded the same respect as any other side visiting Celtic Park to contest two championship points.

It's always sad to see a team facing relegation in football, and it's even more saddening to think that just five years ago the Muirton Park team finished third behind Celtic in the Scottish First Division title chase. Aberdeen occupied second place, and St Johnstone collected three points more than Rangers in third place.

As a matter of fact, the Perth side have occupied some respectable final league positions since they won the Second Division championship in season 1962-63, and have never been in serious relegation trouble in that time.

In those years, also, they have recorded a couple of league victories at Celtic Park, and shared the points on two other occasions.

Indeed, in the 1964-65 season, they completed a league double over Celtic without conceding a goal, winning 3-0 at Muirton Park, and 1-0 at Celtic Park. The latter match was the first defeat Celtic suffered under manager Jock Stein.

The teams for that Celtic Park fixture on March 13, 1965 were:

Celtic: Fallon; Young and Gemmell; Clark,

McNeill and Brogan; Chalmers and Murdoch; Hughes; Lennox and Auld.

St Johnstone: McVittie; McFadyen and Coburn; Richmond, McKinven and Renton; Kerray and Whitelaw; McCarry; Duffy and McGrogan.

Only Celtic's longest-serving player, Bobby Lennox, has survived the intervening years.

It was a different story when the teams met on February 28, 1973 when Celtic were pushing to surpass their own record of six consecutive league championship wins.

The team selections for that match were—

Celtic: Hunter; McGrain and Quinn; Murdoch, McNeill and Connolly; Johnstone and Dalglish; Deans; Hay and Lennox. Twelfth man, McLaughlin.

St Johnstone: Donaldson; McManus and Argue; Rennie, McDonald and Rooney; Muir and Hall; Pearson; George and Aitken. Twelfth man, Kinnell.

Celtic took the lead through Bobby Lennox after quarter-of-an-hour but, despite their efforts, they couldn't add to that lead before the interval.

Then, in the second half, when it looked like staying that way, Celtic scored three further goals in the last 20 minutes. Davie Hay started the fireworks, and late goals from Bobby Lennox and Kenny Dalglish allowed Celts to run out convincing winners by a 4-0 margin.

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TODAY'S VISITORS

SAINTS HAVEN'T HAD THEIR SORROWS TO SEEK

ST JOHNSTONE, who have been in the doldrums all season and have been aware of their relegation fate for some time now, have not had their sorrows to seek in this, the first Premier League season.

Having received a great many defeats by a single goal margin, they've also suffered the loss of a manager and then, only a week or so ago, had to face economic facts and tell their playing staff that they'll be reverting to part-time football next season.

On the question of odd goal defeats, Celtic have beaten the Muirton men 2-1, 3-2 and 4-3 in the three league meetings this season. If that sequence progresses a stage further this afternoon the two goalkeepers will be the busiest men on the park.

The Muirton Park players are—

Derek Robertson (goalkeeper). Signed in 1967 from Petershill Juniors, the big keeper has been a regular for Saints since the forced retirement of Jim Donaldson, and has been in brilliant form this season, despite the bottom of the league placing.

Gordon Smith (right-back). An outstanding member of the side and a regular in the Scottish Under-23 team. Signed from Glasgow United in 1971, Smith's speed and fine distribution will trouble any defence.

Billy Ritchie (left-back). Signed from Largs Thistle in



Jim O'Rourke

1970, Ritchie has given great service as an all-rounder in attack as well as his current defensive role and, like his full-back partner, likes to join in with the attack.

Andy Kinnell (wing-half). Appointed skipper this season, Andy has given valuable service to Saints since he was bought for £8,000 from Cowdenbeath in 1972. He is a strong player who gives of his best at all times.

Ian Anderson (wing-half). A mid-season £8,000 buy from Dundee, Anderson has added strength and skill to the Perth midfield. Many Muirton fans think that they would have been a different outfit if he had been in the side from the start of the season.

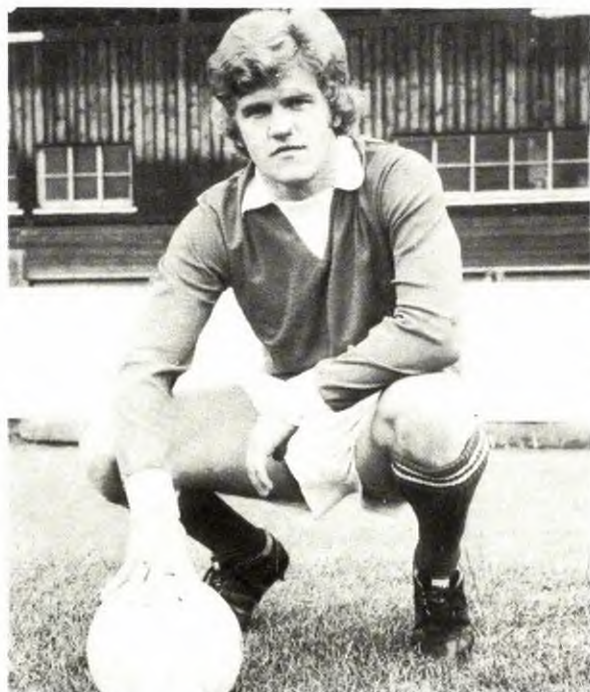
Ian Macdonald (centre-half). Bought from Elgin City for £7,000 in 1972, the former Under-23 international forms the heart of Saints defence. The powerful Highlander is 6' 2" tall. He has never made any secret of the fact that he would like to join a big club in Scotland or in England.

Phil Roberts (wing-half). Signed from Grimsby Town, Englishman Roberts is an effective 'stopper' in the Perth defence. Good in the air and a most resolute tackler.

Lindsay Hamilton (wing-half). This tall Perth youngster was signed as a centre-half, but he has produced some impressive displays in midfield for Saints this season. Many people think that the young local boy could have a big future in the game.

John Muir (forward). A £10,000 signing from Alloa in 1969, Muir scored 16 goals for Saints last season. He has a great turn of speed, and specialises in snapping up half-chances. Has played in some fine Perth forward lines with players like Kenny Aird, John Connolly, Jim Pearson and Henry Hall, before they all left Muirton for pastures new.

Jim O'Rourke (forward). Bought last season from Hibs for £18,000, O'Rourke, with 15 goals, was fundamental in Saints' successful campaign to get into the Premier League. His vast experience makes him one of the most dangerous strikers in Scottish football.



Gordon Smith

Sandy Smith (forward). Signed from Perthshire Junior club Luncarty in 1972, Smith has played most of his games in defence this season, but recently has been fulfilling a forward role in the team and doing it successfully.

Gordon McGregor (centre-forward). A young forward leader with an old-fashioned bustling style. He was signed as a 16-year-old in 1973 from EausterCraig Amateurs.

Bobby Thomson (forward). Signed from Glasgow United in 1973, the tall, gangling Thomson is a very dangerous player in the penalty area. He has a powerful shot in his left foot, and is more than useful in the air as well.

Duncan Lambie (left-winger). Signed last season from Dundee for £12,000, Lambie could have been a champion sprinter had he not taken up football as a profession. Can also be used in mid-field. Skilful player with an educated left foot.

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TODAY'S TEAMS

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 ANDY LYNCH
 PAT McCLUSKEY
 ROY AITKEN
 JOHANNES EDVALDSSON
 JACKIE McNAMARA
 DIXIE DEANS
 RODDY McDONALD
 KENNY DALGLISH
 BOBBY LENNOX
 TOMMY CALLAGHAN
 PAUL WILSON

Ref
 Mr E. H.
 (Edin)
 Lines
 Mr D. J.
 (Moodi
 Mr J. C.
 (Dum



Spectators ar
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 the ground a

HALF-TIME S

A	DUNDEE		E	FALKIRK	
	AYR UNITED			ALLOA ATHLETIC	
B	HIBERNIAN		F	KILMARNOCK	
	RANGERS			BERWICK RANGERS	
C	MOTHERWELL		G	PARTICK THISTLE	
	DUNDEE UNITED			FORFAR ATHLETIC	
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 IAN ANDERSON
 IAN MACDONALD
 ANDY KINNELL
 SANDY SMITH
 LINDSAY HAMILTON
 JIM O'ROURKE
 BOBBY THOMSON
 DUNCAN LAMBIE
 GORDON McGREGOR
 JOHN MUIR

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SIDELINES

Previous Meetings

The ten meetings with St Johnstone at Celtic Park in league games before the formation of the Premier League, resulted in seven victories for Celtic.

Results of the games were as follows: 1965-66 — 3-2; 1966-67 — 6-1; 1967-68 — 1-1; 1968-69 — 2-1; 1969-70 — 2-2; 1970-71 — 1-0; 1971-72 — 0-1; 1972-73 — 4-0; 1973-74 — 3-0; 1974-75 — 3-1.

In the Premier League meeting at Celtic Park on Saturday, November 22, 1975, Celtic won by 3-2.

Penalty Contest

The penalty-kick contest held at Celtic Park last Saturday before and at the interval of the Motherwell match, proved highly entertaining for the large crowd.

Winner of the contest was Tony Bryden of Holyrood Secondary in Glasgow.

Tony, who took part as a substitute, converted all five penalty kicks to finish level with Willie McCallum of Craigbank Secondary. In the sudden death play-off, Denis Connaghan brilliantly saved Willie McCallum's kick, but he had no chance with Tony Bryden's winning shot.

Perhaps the fact that Tony's a goalkeeper in the school team helped him to baffle the Celtic keeper.

Shut-outs

Celtic haven't conceded a Premier League goal at Celtic Park since Dundee United scored a single on January 31.

Next Home Game

CELTIC
v
ABERDEEN

Saturday, April 17



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