



**Scottish Premier
League**

Celtic

versus

DUNDEE UNITED

**CELTIC PARK
SATURDAY,
16th DECEMBER, 1978
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.**

10p

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Lesson from a bitter League Cup Semi defeat



UNDERSTANDABLY there was disappointment in the camp at our League Cup exit in the midweek semi-final tie with Rangers.

There are occasions when one can say the team didn't play well enough to win or that they didn't put enough into the game to secure it . . . but in no way could that be said about the Celtic side at Hampden.

They played out their roles with great credit and I felt they were particularly good when the side was reduced to ten men. Everybody buckled down to it and they showed ability as well as courage.

The result (after 30 minutes of extra time) was a cruel one on the players for I honestly did not feel immediately after the match — or now — that we had gone out to a better team.

Perhaps the slightly bitter taste of defeat stemmed from the fact that we've not enjoyed much luck in the breaks of the game against our last two opponents — Aberdeen and Rangers.

Hard as it is, they have to be endured and the good thing which emerged from our midweek performance was this:

The standard of play shown at Hampden must be the Celtic standard from now to the end of the season.

This afternoon we'll have to continue it against the Premier League leaders Dundee United . . . and pick ourselves up with a victory.

All games with manager Jim McLean's side are well contested and today's I expect will maintain the pattern. United are a fine side but our midweek display proved Celtic have the will and the talent to come through. Davie Provan and Johnny Doyle have been receiving treatment for injuries since Wednesday and their fitness was in doubt right up until match time. And, of course, Tommy Burns, wasn't available for this one, though Murdo MacLeod makes a welcome reappearance.

Much has been made of the ending of Celtic's long run in the Scottish League Cup competition. Of course we would have liked to be in this year's final as well, but it is not an occasion for moping over what might have been.

Perhaps we should remember instead all the entertainment the club has provided in the 14 years of continuous participation in the tournament.

BILLY McNEILL

CELTIC



FOUNDED 1888

Directors:

Desmond White, C.A.
(Chairman)
Thomas L. Devlin
James M. Farrell,
M.A., LL.B.
Kevin Kelly

Manager:

Billy McNeill

Address:

Celtic Park,
95 Kerrydale Street,
Glasgow G40 3RE

HONOURS:

League Champions (30 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, 1977.

Cup Winners (25 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,
1977.

League Cup Winners (8 times)

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

Empire Exhibition Cup
1938

Coronation Cup 1953

European Cup 1967



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GEORGE FLEMING, who played a big part in Dundee United's victory over Rangers last week, keeps a close watch on Tom McAdam, Celtic's leading scorer.

OUR VISITORS

United's young replacements stake claims

DUNDEE UNITED'S young squad sit at the top of the Premier Division . . . but it hasn't been easy getting there.

Only when manager Jim McLean rhymes off his list of Tannadice casualties is it fully realised just what a tremendous job he's done in blending this team of youthful local talent into championship contenders, and just what a great job the players have done for the club.

"This has been a bad, bad season for us in the shape of injuries. The worst I can remember", says the team boss who has been seven years at Tannadice.

"We couldn't even consider Walter Smith, Bobby Robinson, Alex Rennie and Gordon Wallace for today's match with Celtic at Parkhead. There's a fair bit of football and experience in that group.

"They've had long-term injuries. Indeed, Rennie and Wallace have been out of things since the start of the season.

"So there had to be changes and the boys who have

come in have done splendidly. And some of them are not much more than boys.

"I'm very happy with them, but we haven't won anything yet. There is a long way to go and I'll be happier when some of the experienced players are ready for action again."

United's defeat of Rangers last week-end — the first Tannadice win over the Ibrox men for about 10 years — has increased Dundee confidence.

However, manager McLean admits "Celtic will be an awkward fixture", this afternoon. "The hardest games of the season for pretty well every club are those against the Old Firm".

Having disposed of one half of it, United are poised to make it a double.

"Certainly," says the Tannadice team boss, "if Celtic didn't realise they had a game on their hands before it they know it now after our show against Rangers."

Celtic fans are familiar with a number of the clever United players, but young 'uns like full backs Raymond Stewart and Derek Stark and strikers David



DAVID NAREY . . . a full Scotland cap man now.

Dodds and Billy Kirkwood are "new" products from the McLean "school" ready to carry the club's challenge for a good few seasons ahead.

NEW SPIRIT

The "veterans" like goalkeeper Hamish McAlpine and midfielder George Fleming are playing their part in the United run and the new spirit that runs through the side had several players eager and willing to take a penalty award against Rangers last week . . . an art in which United had shown grave deficiencies in the past.

Perhaps because the Dundee public are still reluctant to get behind the team in sizeable numbers, manager McLean was musing the other day and wondering whether or not he had gone as far as he could with the team. That perhaps the players required a new figure to lead them.

HAPPY TO STAY

Now he says: "I am happy to stay here for a while. Not because of the win over Rangers and our place at the top of the league. Results have been coming all season. That's why we are in front."

There are dozens of managers who would be delighted to be in Jim McLean's shoes right now . . . as all his efforts at Tannadice look like bringing a reward in the shape of a big prize.

Certainly, a lot of football people who might have had doubts about United's ability to stay the Premier course are having second thoughts.

MATCH TEAMS

CELTIC

(from)

ROY BAINES
 JOE FILIPPI
 ANDY LYNCH
 ROY AITKEN
 RODDIE McDONALD
 JO EDVALDSSON
 DAVIE PROVAN
 MURDO MacLEOD
 TOM McADAM
 JOHNNY DOYLE
 ALFIE CONN
 JIM CASEY
 MIKE CONROY
 BOBBY LENNOX

Refer
Mr G. B.
 (Edinb)

Lines
Mr J. CA
 (Kilma)

Mr. W. C
 (Edinb)



Spectators are r
 care — particul
 ground after

HALF-TIME S

A	ABERDEEN ST MIRREN		E	ARBROATH AIRDRIE	
B	HIBERNIAN PARTICK THISTLE		F	AYR MONTROSE	
C	MOTHERWELL MORTON		G	DUNDEE STIRLING	
D	RANGERS HEARTS		H	HAMILTON CLYDE	

BELL'S SCOTCH

AND OFFICIALS

ree:
SMITH
 urch).

men:
MPBELL
 urs)

ROMBIE
 urch)



requested to take
 early leaving the
 r the match.

DUNDEE UNITED

(from)

HAMISH McALPINE
RAYMOND STEWART
DEREK STARK
GEORGE FLEMING
PAUL HEGARTY
DAVID NAREY
DAVID DODDS
PAUL STURROCK
JOHN HOLT
GRAEME PAYNE
BILLY KIRKWOOD
DEREK ADDISON
FRANK KOPEL
IAIN PHILIP

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SIDELINES

WHAT A RECORD!

Celtic's record-breaking run in the Scottish League Cup ended at their 156th successive game in the tourney at Hampden in mid-week.

It started in August, 1964, against Partick Thistle and was ended by Rangers (3-2 after extra time) in December, 1978, during which time they contested 14 finals in a row.

The total of 156 successive games included one sectional decider, one quarter-final replay and three semi-final replays.

NO TICKETS

Next week's Premier League fixture with Morton at Cappielow is NOT all-ticket.

TOP SCORERS

Only Aberdeen (28) and Celtic (25) have scored more Premier League goals than Dundee United. Topping the Tannadice list is Billy Kirkwood with six and David Dodds with four.

Tom McAdam of Celtic lifted his League and League Cup tally to 13 against Rangers in mid-week.

DEFLECTED SHOT

Celtic 'keeper Roy Baines did not err when Rangers scored their second goal in the League Cup semi-final at Hampden in mid-week. Colin Jackson's shot was deflected by a Celtic defender and caused a change of direction in the flight of the ball.



Let's face it . . .

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JOHNNY DOYLE . . . puts Dundee United's goal under threat despite covering action by Paul Hegarty.