



**Scottish Premier
League**

**CELTIC
versus
ST. MIRREN**

**CELTIC PARK
SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY, 1978
KICK-OFF 3 p.m.**

PROGRAMME 10p

SAINTS MARCH IN

ST. MIRREN are the visitors to Celtic Park this afternoon and the Celtic players will be anxious to get revenge for the defeat inflicted on them by the Paisley team in the Premier League last October.

The fans turned out in strength to see the Premier League "new boys" taking on the champions and most of the 29,000 crowd left at the end feeling disappointed as the Celts floundered to a defeat by the odd goal in three.

Frank Munro, on loan from Wolves, and Alfie Conn, back after his cartilage operation, were in the Celtic line-up but the overall performance of the team matched neither the weather or the big crowd.

The team certainly tried hard enough to get going and it was obvious that Alfie Conn had lost none of his skill but as a whole unit they just didn't seem able to play with any real confidence in themselves.

Certainly Celtic started the game with a pace and determination that had the visitors with their backs to the wall, but careless finishing and stubborn defensive play kept them from turning their outfield play into goals.

As a matter of fact Saints came more into things as the first half progressed and if anything they looked the likelier team to score as the interval ended a goalless first 45 minutes.

About ten minutes after the interval Ronnie Glavin had a scoring attempt

cleared off the line but two minutes later disaster struck for Frank Munro.

The Celtic captain of the day, Frank, in attempting to clear a St. Mirren raid had the misfortune to place the ball into his own net to give the visitors the lead.

St. Mirren's lead was short lived however and five minutes later Celtic got an equaliser.

A tremendous Ronnie Glavin shot from a free kick was only blocked by the goalkeeper and Tom McAdam following up hit a low shot past the helpless goalkeeper.

After this goal Celtic played their best football of the match as they sought to take the lead. At the end of one attack Tom McAdam headed the ball beyond the keeper's reach but unfortunately past the wrong side of the post.

Almost immediately after this St. Mirren scored what was to prove to be the winning goal.

Although the game was a hard fought one both teams played cleanly from start to finish. The teams were:

CELTIC: Latchford; Kay and Burns; Edvaldsson, McDonald and Munro; Wilson and McAdam; Glavin; Aitken and Conn. Subs. Lennox and Casey.

ST. MIRREN: D. Hunter; Young and Beckett; Fitzpatrick, Reid and Copland; Abercromby and Stark; McGarvey; Richardson and Docherty. Subs. Dunlop and Sharp.

Referee: Mr. T. R. Kyle (Glasgow).

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DESPITE A LOT of effort our Scottish Cup tie with Kilmarnock couldn't be played off this week and that plunges the club into as hectic a spell as we've experienced in a long time.

Of course that assumes that the weather hasn't any further tricks up its sleeve for us! If it really has relented Celtic now face **FOUR GAMES IN EIGHT DAYS!**

Today—St. Mirren (Parkhead)
Monday—Kilmarnock (Parkhead)
Wednesday—Hearts (Hampden)
Saturday—Dundee United (Tannadice)

Even if the team had been playing regularly it is a schedule of formidable proportions. But fretting over it accomplishes absolutely nothing.

We'll get on with the job all right. It will take extra effort from everybody on the staff, and I'm certain it will be forthcoming.

The immediate task is St. Mirren at Parkhead this afternoon. Like ourselves they want points to push themselves up the Premier table, a competition in which they are anxious to stay.

They had a bad spell recently, but they are a clever side and under the management of Alex Ferguson they've provided a lot of entertaining football this season.

Now they've added the experienced Jimmy Bone to their ranks to increase scoring power. While we wish them well in their efforts to continue in the Premier League **WE WANT THE POINTS TODAY.**

Celtic looked good in the Scottish Cup tie against Dundee and I hope they slip into that rhythm quickly again.

It would be good enough to take us through against Killie to a tie with Rangers at Ibrox, and also overcome Hearts at Hampden on Wednesday evening in the semi-final of the League Cup.

Beating Hearts would take us into our 14th League Cup final in a row with another last stage joust with Rangers in prospect. They meet Forfar Athletic in the semi.

But that's future. Our current priority is get the team into a winning groove today and build on that for the rest of this demanding programme.

JOCK STEIN

CELTIC



FOUNDED 1888

Directors:

Desmond White, C.A.
(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 (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.

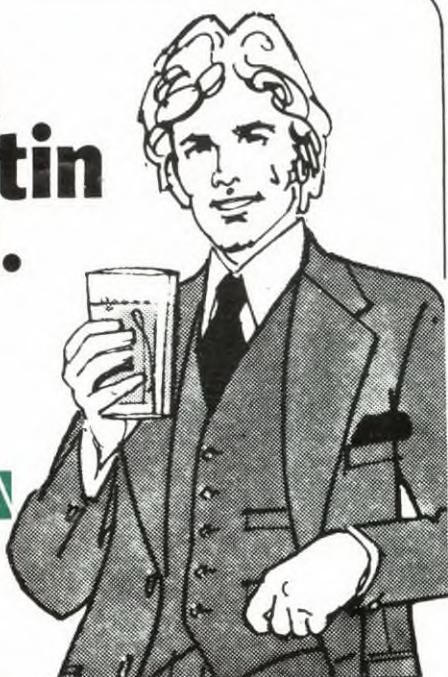
Empire Exhibition Cup 1938

Coronation Cup 1953

European Cup 1967

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Tom Martin
near you.**

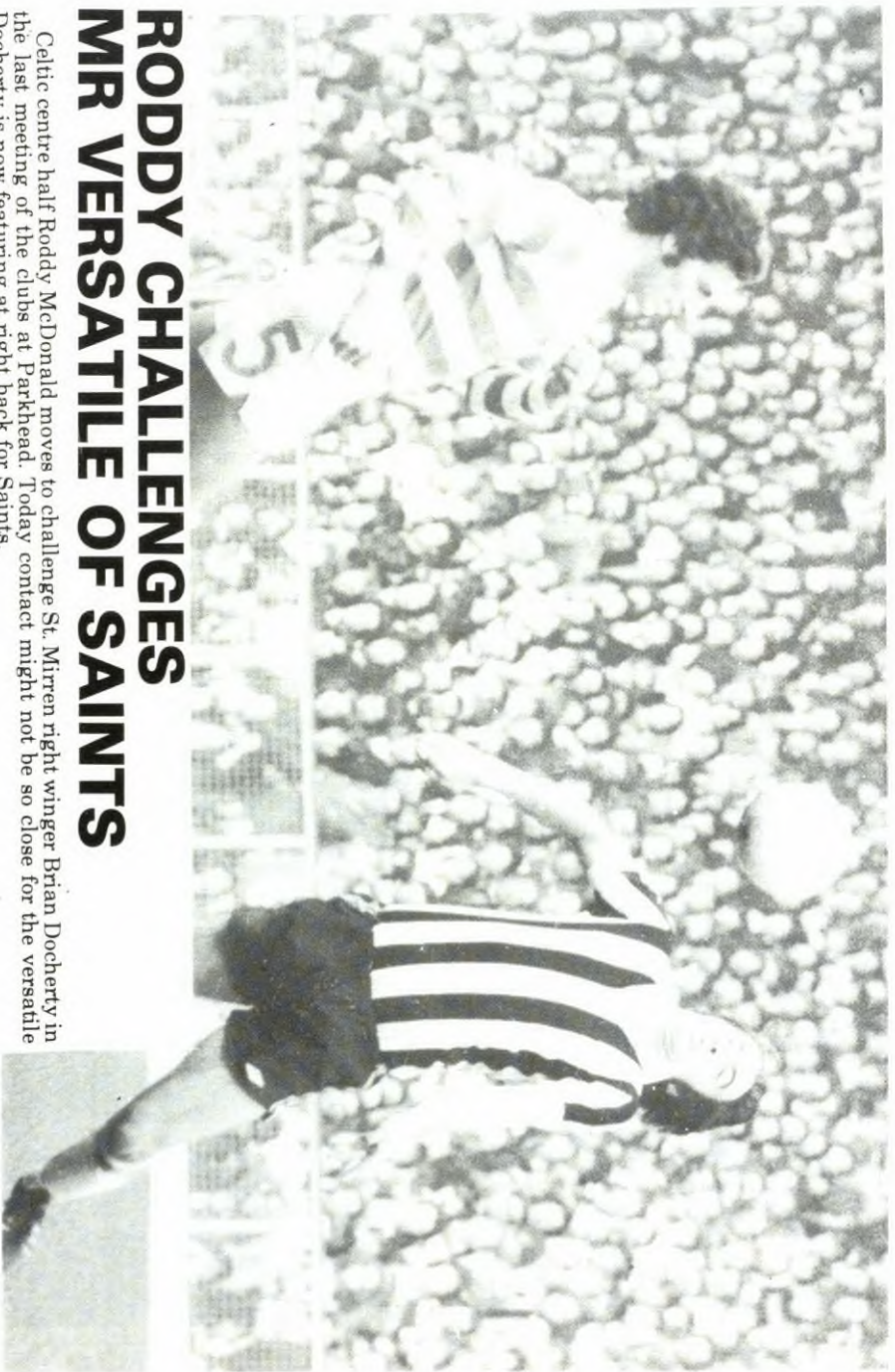
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RODDY CHALLENGES MR VERSATILE OF SAINTS

Celtic centre half Roddy McDonald moves to challenge St. Mirren right winger Brian Docherty in the last meeting of the clubs at Parkhead. Today contact might not be so close for the versatile Docherty is now featuring at right back for Saints.

TODAY'S VISITORS

YOUTHFUL SAINTS AIM TO BOUNCE BACK UP TABLE

MANAGER ALEX FERGUSON sent St. Mirren teams into action **FIVE TIMES** last week . . . in spite of the weather. The reserves took on Rangers and Aberdeen at Paisley in League and Cup tests. The "big" team had challenge matches with Morton (at Cappielow) and Ayrbroath and Dundee (Love Street).

It brought the Paisley players to Parkhead this afternoon in sharp competitive shape.

"Mark you, we always compete with Celtic and Rangers. The results this season with the Old Firm prove that. And whether you have played five games or just one game the week before it is easy for a manager to have his players keen to play Celtic. They generate their own enthusiasm for the fixture.

"Last week's games ensure that they'll be fit for this afternoon's. Celtic haven't been too heavily engaged in recent weeks but I'm not accepting that this will make them less formidable.

They'll be keen to get back into the swing of things again and the enforced rest could have had a refreshing effect on them."

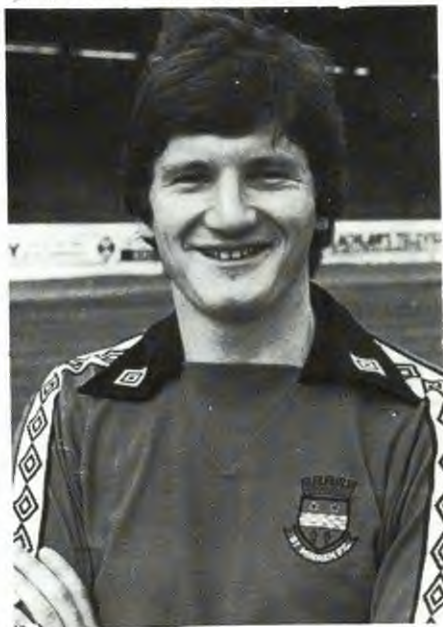
The remarkable revival that manager Ferguson has accomplished at Love Street is reflected in fan appreciation from all over the country of the play of his youthful Saints.

The team is rated as one with a positive outlook all the time. Attacking and winning is the spur, and in this objective they provide a measure of refreshing entertainment that is not always seen in the pressure pot of the Premier League where survival often dictates negative tactics.

Yet Saints still need a few points to get themselves into what might be considered a "safe" spot in the table.

"A win I'm sure would set us off on a successful streak again. What better place to get going again than at Parkhead. We've taken three points from four in our two league games so far," says the Paisley team boss.

Contemplating the earlier portion of the season manager Ferguson commented: "Just a few weeks back people were saying to us: 'My, you are



DONALD HUNTER

having a marvellous season. In the final of the Anglo-Scottish Cup, looking good in the League and the Scottish Cup to come.'

"And what happens? We lose four games in a row we're out of the Cup and I've got a pretty young side to overcome these blows. It can be a cruel life, but don't let anyone get the idea that we're despondent."

With Alex Ferguson around a football ground that would be impossible. He bubbles with ideas and to give the young, talented squad depth he came up with the transfer of the highly experienced Jimmy Bone from Arbroath to Love Street.

Through a career with Partick Thistle, Norwich, Sheffield United, Celtic and Arbroath he has been a goal-scorer and that was the problem department when Saints struck the heavier going of winter.

The experienced Bone is just type to give the work of the clever St. Mirren youngsters its full reward.

"I'm sure Jimmy Bone will do a good job for us", says manager Ferguson. And that "good job" is staying in the top league.

"We are a Premier League side," asserts "Fergie", and Jimmy Bone, captivated by the high footballing standards and depth of the youthful resources agrees.

Of course, English eyes have been kept on Paisley this season but the manager had told all clubs South of the Border: Hands off. A stance that has the full backing of his board.

Manager Ferguson has introduced some dandy players to the Paisley squad. Take midfield player Billy Abercromby. He was in the reserve side last season and without the benefit of a First Division "schooling" he has made an impact in the Premier League this term.

He says of the 19-year-old: "He's been our best player this season. He's come through in such a fashion that even a fine player like Lex Richardson cannot get into the midfield."

Manager Ferguson sees Abercromby as "one of the most exciting prospects in Scottish Football."

Abercromby came through the St. Mirren Boy's Club formed three years ago. Others are Bobby Torrance and Brian Docherty.

Docherty is an all-position player. "He'll give you a game no matter where you place him" says his boss. "He's been at midfield, centre back, even goalkeeper. He came to us as a striker (from Arthurlie last year) and we played him on the right wing.

"There was a cooling off period that occurs with young players but now we've brought him back as a FULL BACK."

The 17-year-old was in the position for the first time against Morton in a friendly last week. He had the No. 2 shirt in a week-end challenge game with Dundee at Paisley.

Right back has been a problem spot recently through injury and Docherty was listed to make his third appearance in the role this afternoon.

Docherty accepts the switch calmly. "I'm just happy to be in the St. Mirren set-up". It is a viewpoint that goes right through the club which has sufficient young resources to keep it going for seasons ahead.

"In the Premier Division, of course", says Alex Ferguson who works with great enthusiasm and skill off the field to give Paisley a winning team on the field.



ALEX BECKETT

TODAY'S TEAMS AND OFFICIALS

CELTIC (from)

PETER LATCHFORD
 ALAN SNEDDON
 ROY AITKEN
 FRANK MUNRO
 RODDY McDONALD
 TOMMY BURNS
 RONNIE GLAVIN
 JO EDVALDSSON
 GEORGE McCLUSKEY
 TOM McADAM
 ALFIE CONN
 PAUL WILSON
 JOE CRAIG
 JIM CASEY

Referee:
 Mr. R. B. VALENTINE
 (Dundee)

Linesmen:
 Mr. K. CAIRNS
 (Stenhousemuir)
 Mr. H. DEMPSEY
 (Erskine)



Spectators are requested to take care — particularly leaving the ground after the match.

ST. MIRREN (from)

DONALD HUNTER
 FRED JACKSON
 BRIAN DOCHERTY
 ALEX BECKETT
 TONY FITZPATRICK
 BOBBY REID
 JACKIE COPLAND
 PHIL McAVEETY
 FRANK McGARVEY
 BILLY STARK
 BILLY ABERCROMBY
 JIMMY BONE
 BOBBY TORRANCE
 IAIN MUNRO
 PETER LEONARD

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SIDELINES

Andy's birthday

Andy Lynch, making progress after his recent appendix operation, has a birthday next week (Friday). One gift he'd like to mark the occasion . . . a speedy return to full-time training and his left back role in the team.

Premier League

| | P | W | L | D | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|-----|
| Rangers | 24 | 17 | 4 | 3 | 53 | 25 | 38 |
| Aberdeen | 24 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 38 | 21 | 32 |
| Dundee Utd. | 22 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 17 | 24 |
| Partick This. | 22 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 31 | 33 | 24 |
| Motherwell ... | 24 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 30 | 29 | 23 |
| Hibernian | 21 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Celtic | 21 | 8 | 10 | 3 | 31 | 31 | 19 |
| St. Mirren ... | 23 | 7 | 11 | 5 | 33 | 37 | 19 |
| Ayr Utd. | 23 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 24 | 42 | 18 |
| Clydebank ... | 22 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 12 | 42 | 9 |

HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. Where is the Open golf championship being held this year?
2. European lightweight champion Jim Watt wants a world title bout with whom?
3. Which St. Mirren player was called into the Scotland squad v Bulgaria?
4. Name the Scot who referees in the World Cup finals in Argentina?
5. Who was the ex-Celt who recently joined St. Mirren from Arbroath?

1. St. Andrews.
2. Roberto Duran (Panama).
3. Tony Fitzpatrick.
4. J. R. P. Gordon.
5. Jimmy Bone.



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