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Celtic v. Ayr United

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JOCK STEIN says...

Ayr United are our visitors to Celtic Park today and yet another good match is in prospect for the fans.

The Somerset Park team are currently sitting in fourth top position of the league and in their twelve games away from home they have scored 17 goals and conceded 15. This proves that the Ayrshire team look for goals even at the risk of losing some.

Ally McLeod's team will be disappointed at losing their Scottish Cup quarter-final tie with Hearts in mid-week and will be all the more determined to give a good account of themselves this afternoon.

Our own Cup tie replay at Fir Park on Wednesday night produced yet another outstanding game between two teams wanting to go forward at all times. I'm sure everybody who saw the game would agree that the only goal of the game was one worthy of winning any match.

That was our seventh game with the Fir Park team this season and each of them has been a great advert for attacking, exciting, all action type Scottish football and crowds have increased at both grounds for each match.

Some people feel that the proposed new top league set-up with ten clubs playing each other four times in a season would become boring for the fans.

I'd like to bet that if Celtic were playing Motherwell again next month in a competitive match, another bumper crowd would turn out to watch the game. When it comes to attracting and entertaining football crowds it isn't the quantity of games that counts, it's the quality of the matches.



On Wednesday night a great match at Motherwell was marred by bad behaviour on the terracings and chants which have nothing to do with football or Celtic.

The Celtic Football Club won't tolerate this sort of behaviour and we serve notice on troublemakers now—stay away from football or we'll root you out irrespective of expense or inconvenience.

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 co-operate with police and stewards in the interest of safety.

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AYR UNITED PEN PORTRAITS

Alistair McLean was called up from Ardrossan and got a fairly quick chance when Stewart left for Leeds. He is 23 years of age. His natural skill and fast reactions make up for his lack of experience.

Joe Fillipi is a 20 year old local youngster and United supporter who joined the club via Coventry City. He is a versatile player, and ex-member of the Professional Youth side. He is serving an apprenticeship away from football.

John Murphy. Now the club's longest serving player, having joined them from Darvel in 1963. An ideal club man, always giving 100% effort. He was an ever-present last term.

Alex McAnespie clinched his regular spot last term though he has been with the club several seasons. He is a big strong defender, sound in the tackle. He was signed from Ayrshire side Craigmark in '64.

Rikki Fleming is a tall skilful player who can play equally well in mid-field. He is now playing as centre-half. He joined Ayr from Rangers in 1969. Ayr were reputed to have turned down a £50,000 bid for him a year ago.

Doug Mitchell has been a first team member for most of his time on the staff, a skilful distributor, he likes to move up in support of the attack.

John Doyle joined Ayr from Viewpark Boys' Guild after playing a couple of trials. Only recently back in action after a lengthy injury absence. Although just 21 has played for under 23's and was in Scotland's Wembley player pool last season.

Johnny Graham was snapped up for his experience when he was surprisingly released by Hibs. He

has twice been capped by the Scottish League. A dangerous player around the goal area who has scored a lot of goals in his time.

George McLean was previously with St. Mirren, Rangers, Dundee and Dunfermline. He is always a danger in front of the goal, capable of converting a half-chance into a goal. He is now in the Turf Accountancy business.

Alex Ingram is in his second spell with United, re-joining them from Notts Forest. Now the club captain, he is a good header of the ball. He is a motor trade manager in his everyday job.

Bert Ferguson, another of the McLeod "Babes" to break through. Brother of former Ayr player Jackie. Joined the club from Maybole just over a year ago, and has graduated into first team reckoning although still only 17 years old.

Davie McCulloch is a skilful mid-field player who stepped up from Kilsyth Rangers. His ability to "read" a game is exceptional. A vital link in the Ayr playing scheme this season.

Brian Bell, a young exciting striker who made his breakthrough this season, he stepped up from Kello Rovers, the Ayrshire junior side.

Alex Ferguson joined up at Somerset from Falkirk, he is another ex-Ranger who links up effectively in attack with George McLean.

Bobby Tait snapped up from local, amateur side Crosshouse Waverley about 2 years ago. His consistency in the reserve team has now brought him into the first team scheme of things just turned 19, manager McLeod reckons him a very good prospect for the future.

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
HAY
BROGAN
CONNELLY
McNEILL
McCLUSKEY
JOHNSTONE
MURRAY
DEANS
DALGLISH
HOOD
CALLAGHAN
WILSON

Ref
R. H. DA
(Airo

Lines
W. L.
(Fauld

J. M.
(Kilma

HALF-TIME S

A ABERDEEN FALKIRK	E DUNFERMLINE CLYDE
B ARBROATH EAST FIFE	F HIBERNIAN MOTHERWELL
C DUMBARTON DUNDEE	G MORTON RANGERS
D DUNDEE UNITED HEARTS	H PARTICK THISTLE ST. JOHNSTONE

FOR TODAY'S GAME

CELTIC HONOURS

AYR UNITED

(from)

McLEAN (A.)

FILIPPI

MURPHY

McANESPIE

FLEMING

MITCHELL

DOYLE

GRAHAM

FERGUSON (A.)

McLEAN (G.)

McCULLOCH

INGRAM

FERGUSON (B.)

TAIT

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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TODAY'S VISITORS AYR UNITED

Ayr United, enjoying one of their best ever seasons in the first division, are the visitors to Celtic Park for today's league game.

A lot of the credit for the Somerset Park team's consolidation in the top league must go to Manager Ally McLeod who has worked with boundless energy and enthusiasm to put Ayr on the football map.

Games between Ayr United and Celtic are generally entertaining spectacles, and today's encounter should be no exception.

Looking back over previous matches we highlight here one which took place in Celtic's all conquering season, 1966-67, when they were playing as league champions for the first time in twelve years.

The game in question was played on October 24th, 1966 and the teams lined up as follows :—

Celtic—Simpson; Gemmell and O'Neill; Murdoch, McNeill and Clark; Johnstone and Lennox, Chalmers, Auld and Hughes.
Twelfth man—Craig.

Ayr United—Miller; Malone and Murphy; Quinn, Monan and Mitchell; McMillan and McAnespie; Black, Hawkshaw and Grant.
Twelfth man—Ingram.

It's astonishing to discover that only seven of the 24 players of just under eight years ago are still with their respective clubs.

Bobby Lennox opened the scoring for Celtic but Ayr came back to equalise through Bertie Black.

A goal by John Hughes restored Celtic's lead before the interval.

After the break two goals from Jimmy Johnstone and one from Tommy Gemmell gave Celtic a 5-1 win.

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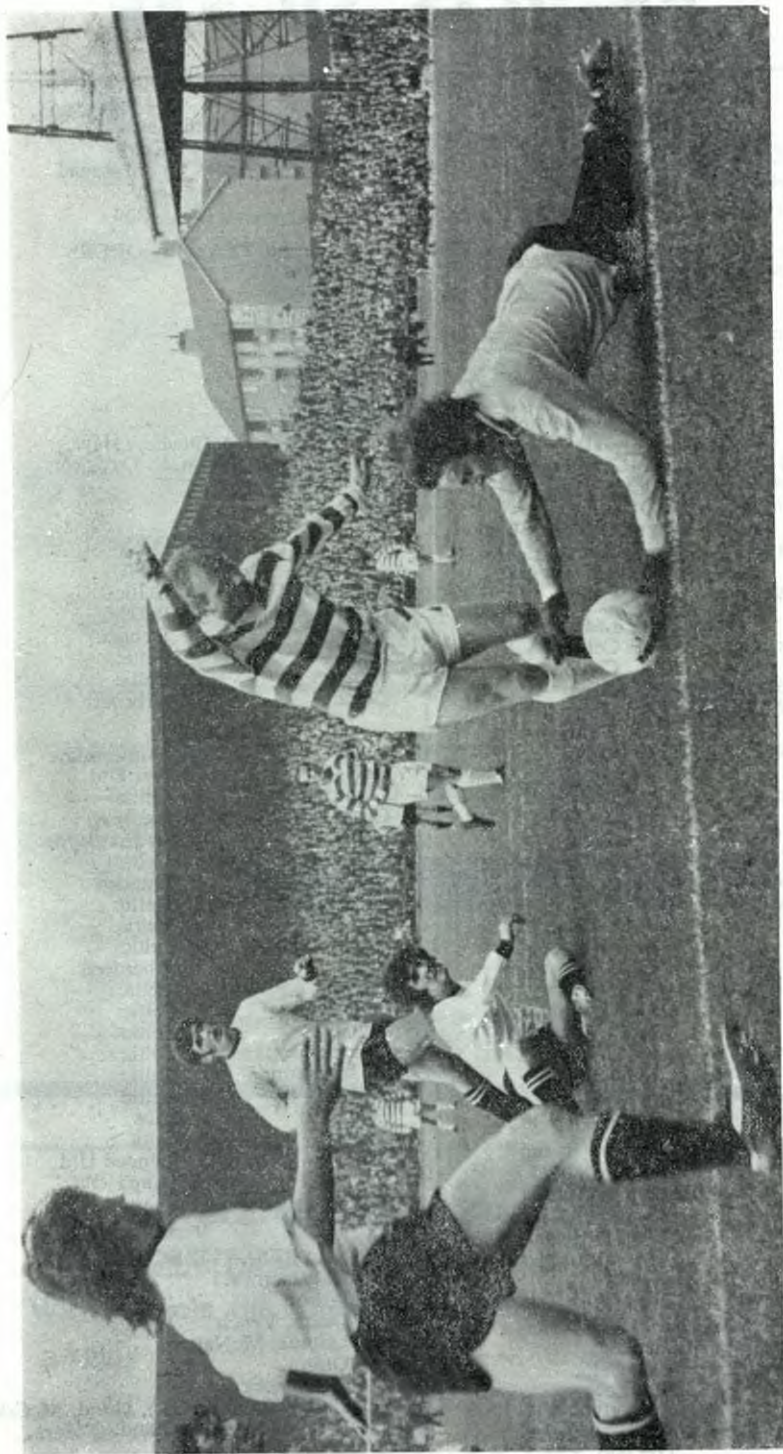
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Ayr goalkeeper Davie Stewart (now with Leeds United) robs Jimmy Johnstone after a mazy run through the United defence. The match, played in September 1972, ended in a 1-0 win for Celtic.

RESULTS SO FAR

FIRST TEAM

	(2nd Leg)		
Celtic	2 Arbroath	0 Celtic	1
Falkirk	0 Celtic	European Cup 3rd Round	
Rangers	1 Celtic	(1st Leg)	
Celtic	2 Falkirk	3 Celtic	2
Celtic	1 Rangers		
Arbroath	1 Celtic		
	League Cup 2nd Round		
	(1st Leg)		
Motherwell	1 Celtic		2
	(2nd Leg)		
Celtic	0 Motherwell		1
	2nd Round Decider		
Celtic	3 Motherwell		2
	Quarter-final—(1st leg)		
Celtic	3 Aberdeen		2
	(Quarter-final, 2nd Leg)		
Aberdeen	0 Celtic		0
	Scottish League Cup Semi-final		
Rangers	1 Celtic		3
	Scottish League Cup Final		
Dundee	1 Celtic		0
	Scottish League		
Dunfermline	2 Celtic		3
Celtic	5 Clyde		0
Rangers	0 Celtic		1
St. Johnstone	2 Celtic		1
Celtic	2 Motherwell		0
Dundee	0 Celtic		1
Celtic	1 Hibernian		1
Hearts	1 Celtic		3
Celtic	4 East Fife		2
Ayr Utd.	0 Celtic		1
Celtic	7 Partick Thistle		0
Dumbarton	0 Celtic		2
Arbroath	1 Celtic		3
Celtic	3 Dundee Utd.		2
Celtic	6 Falkirk		0
Celtic	6 Dunfermline		0
Clyde	0 Celtic		2
Celtic	1 Rangers		0
Celtic	3 St. Johnstone		2
Motherwell	3 Celtic		0
Celtic	1 Dundee		2
Hibs	2 Celtic		4
Celtic	1 Hearts		0
	Scottish Cup 3rd Round		
Celtic	6 Clydebank		1
	Scottish Cup 4th Round		
Celtic	6 Stirling Albion		1
	Scottish Cup 5th Round		
Celtic	2 Motherwell		2
	Replay		
Motherwell	0 Celtic		1
	European Cup 1st Round		
	(1st Leg)		
TPS Turku	1 Celtic		6
	(2nd Leg)		
Celtic	3 TPS Turku		0
	European Cup 2nd Round		
	(1st leg)		
Celtic	0 Vejle B.K.		0
		<u>57</u>	
Vejle BK	0 Celtic		1
	European Cup 3rd Round		
	(1st Leg)		
Basle	3 Celtic		2
	1st TEAM SCORERS		
26—Deans			
20—Lennox			
18—Dalglish			
15—Hood			
7—Wilson			
6—Murray			
5—Johnstone			
4—Callaghan			
2—Connelly, McCluskey, Hay			
1—Lynch, McGrain, V. Davidson			
2—O.G.'s.			
	<u>112</u>		
	RESERVES		
	League Cup		
Arbroath	0 Celtic		0
Celtic	4 Falkirk		0
Celtic	1 Rangers		3
Falkirk	1 Celtic		4
Rangers	2 Celtic		0
Celtic	1 Arbroath		1
	League		
Celtic	0 Dunfermline		1
Celtic	1 Ayr Utd.		1
Clyde	0 Celtic		1
Celtic	2 Rangers		0
Celtic	4 St. Johnstone		0
Motherwell	0 Celtic		2
Celtic	2 Dundee		1
Hibernian	1 Celtic		2
East Fife	1 Celtic		3
Partick Thistle	1 Celtic		0
Celtic	4 Aberdeen		1
Falkirk	2 Celtic		6
Dunfermline	0 Celtic		2
Rangers	2 Celtic		0
Dundee Utd.	2 Celtic		1
St. Johnstone	1 Celtic		1
Morton	0 Celtic		4
Celtic	1 Hibs		1
Hearts	2 Celtic		1
Celtic	0 Dundee Utd.		0
	2nd XI Cup		
Q.P. Strollers	1 Celtic		5
Ayr United	0 Celtic		5
	RESERVE SCORERS		
13—Davidson (V.)			
10—Wilson			
6—Deans, Lynch			
4—Lennox, McNamara			
3—Quinn			
2—McCluskey,			
1—Casey, Davidson (J.), Hood, McCool,			
McDonald, Mulholland, O'Hara,			
Ritchie, Johnstone.			



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