



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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CELTIC
v.
AYR UNITED

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
March 21st, 1970

Kick-off 3 p.m.



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Jock Stein's Page

THIS afternoon we play our third last home league game of the season—against Ayr United, who some five months ago provided us with very stiff opposition in the semi-final of the League Cup. Curiously enough, the only other club we have yet to play in the league at Celtic Park on a Saturday are Motherwell, who like Ayr were promoted from the second division at the end of season 1968-69.

Ayr have done very well this season, especially for a team containing so many young, comparatively inexperienced players.

They have had two players honoured in the national under-23 eleven — goalkeeper David Stewart and right back Dick Malone—and they have shown skill and enthusiasm right from the start of a season which they must have known was not going to be easy for them.

They have proved, both against Celtic and against Rangers, that they are not scared of big name opponents. For our part, we have no intention of treating them lightly. As a matter of fact the Ayr team whom we welcome today will be treated as seriously as we treated Fiorentina in the European Cup quarter-final.

It we beat Ayr today the league championship will be more than ever ours for the taking.

Not from the start of 1970 have we had much doubt that we would win the title. It has been the case for some time now that irrespective of what any of our rivals did the championship would be won by a club other than Celtic only if we threw it away.

With all due respect to Ayr United we have no intention of being foolish this afternoon.

CUP FINAL

I wonder how many football enthusiasts realise that Celtic have now reached the final of the Scottish Cup on an average of almost once in every two attempts. When we meet Aberdeen at Hampden on April 11 we shall be taking part in our thirty-



fourth final and it will be the seventieth time that our great club have played in the competition.

Aberdeen are, of course, well known Scottish Cup final opponents of ours. Three times we have met them in the final—in 1937, 1954 and 1967—and three times we have won. On every occasion the Dons played well and took their defeat in most sporting manner. I am sure this year's final will be played in the same splendid spirit.

Despite the loss of a first-half goal against Fiorentina our place in the European Cup semi-final was never in serious doubt. The main job was to safeguard our lead from the first match and I'm sure every supporter who watched the game both in Italy and on television admired the composure of the team as they did just that. In recent years we've had some eventful and memorable matches in European football. I would consider the midweek performance among the finest.

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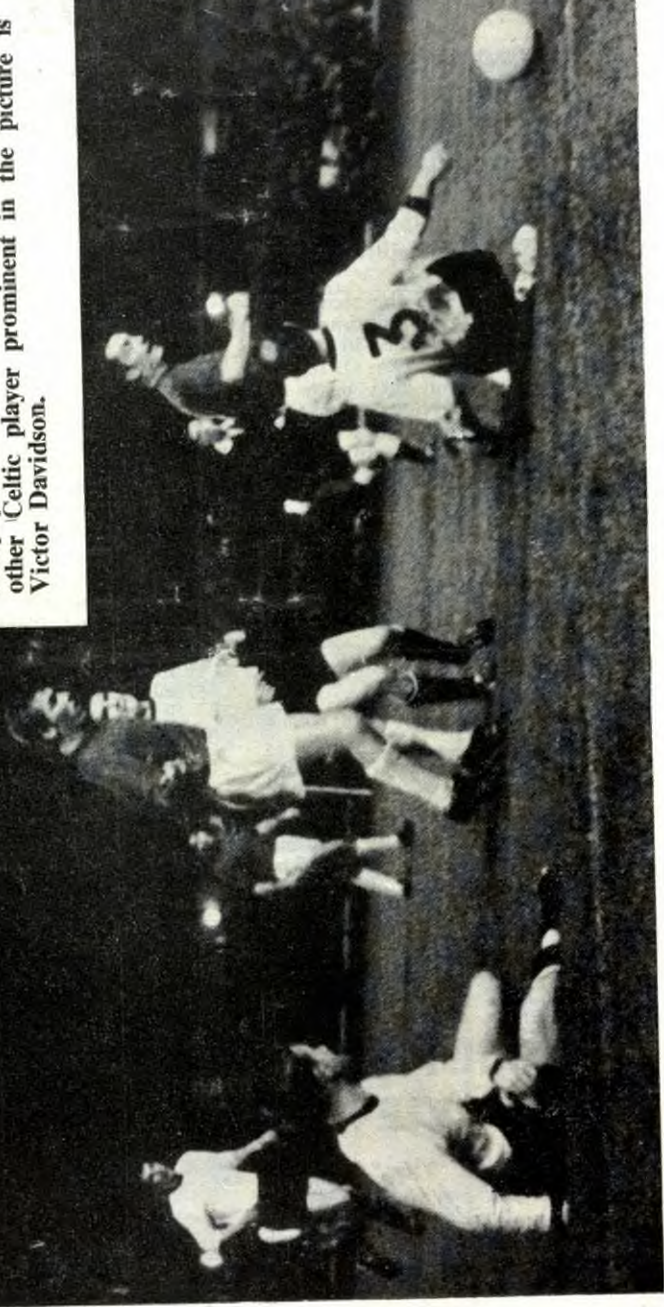
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Steve Chalmers scores the winning goal in the League Cup semi-final replay with Ayr United at Hampden Park last October. Ayr left back John Murphy is just too late in making his tackle. The other Celtic player prominent in the picture is Victor Davidson.



AYR OUT TO GAIN NEW REPUTATION

AYR UNITED, guided by their enthusiastic young manager **Ally McLeod** and encouraged by a modern-thinking board of directors, are promising to put an end to the reputation of the club as more of a second League side than a first.

Ayr's first season in the top league was 1913-14 after they had won the second division championship two years in succession. (There was no automatic promotion or relegation in these days). They continued in the first division until 1925.

In 1928 they won the second division title for the third time. Then followed eight seasons in the top league. After one season (1936-37) in the second division they again won promotion and played first-league football until the Second World War.

Since the resumption of the Scottish League competitions proper in 1946-47 Ayr have spent more time in the second division than in the first. Since promotion and relegation began in season 1921-22 they have been relegated five times and promoted six times.

Altogether Ayr have won the second division championship (including the years before automatic promotion) six times.

SWITCH

Ayr's last league game at Celtic Park was on October 22, 1966, and it was played in curious circumstances. Their home game with Celtic had been scheduled for Saturday, October 22, but this fixture could not be played because of Celtic players' commitments in the Wales-Scotland International at Cardiff that day.

"THE CELTIC VIEW"

"The Celtic View," more popular than ever since its size was increased to eight pages is on sale every week on Wednesday—price 6d.

In normal circumstances the match should have been played in the following midweek, but Ayr had no floodlighting and it was agreed to bring forward the Celtic Park fixture between the clubs from February 11, 1967, and play the Somerset Park game on that date with a middle-of-the-day kick-off so that there would be no clash with a Kilmarnock-Rangers match on the same day at Rugby Park.

Celtic won the match on their ground by 5-1, Johnstone (2), Lennox, Hughes and Gemmell scoring for Celtic and Black for Ayr. The teams were:

CELTIC—Simpson; Gemmell and O'Neill; Murdoch, McNeill and Clark; Johnstone and Lennox; Chalmers; Auld and Hughes.

AYR UNITED—Miller; Malone and Murphy; Quinn, Monan and Mitchell; McMillan and McAnespie; Black; Hawkshaw and Grant.

Referee—W. Elliot (Barrhead).

TRANSFER

This season's league game between Ayr and Celtic at Somerset Park in November resulted in a 4-2 win for Celtic. The teams were:

AYR UNITED—Stewart; Malone and Murphy; Fleming, Quinn and Mitchell; Young and Hood; Ingram; McCulloch and Rough.

CELTIC—Fallon; Craig and Hay; Murdoch, McNeill and Brogan; Johnstone and Callaghan; Hughes; Macari and Auld.

Johnstone and Murdoch each scored two goals for Celtic. Alec Ingram, who joined Ayr from Queen's Park scored both of his side's goals. Ingram has since been transferred to Nottingham Forest.

PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS FOR TODAY'S GAME

Celtic

from

WILLIAMS
HAY
GEMMELL
MURDOCH
CALLAGHAN
MCNEILL
BROGAN
JOHNSTONE
MACARI
HOOD
WALLACE
AULD
LENNOX

Referee :

J. C. McROBERTS
(Wishaw)



Linesmen :

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H. L. STEVENSON
(Paisley)

Orange Flag

D. SMAIL
(Selkirk)

Ayr United

from

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MALONE
MURPHY
FLEMING
QUINN
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JIMMY JOHNSTONE says . . .

IT'S great to be a Celtic player these days. Perhaps I should correct that statement and say that it's even greater than before. But I could even be wrong there too, because three years ago at this time of the season Celtic were going for the "clean sweep" of League Cup, League Championship, Scottish Cup and European Cup. So it was marvellous then too.

Being involved in the big events in the later stages sometimes, of course, makes us wonder if we are liable to lose a game because we have the thought of another one in our minds. I can assure you that none of us is allowed to wonder overmuch about that. The "boss" has very strong ideas on the subject.

Every player at Celtic Park is delighted to have so many difficult tasks and commitments. I think I speak for all when I say that without being bigheaded we feel sorry for the professional footballers who through no fault of their own have gone through their career without enjoying the experience of playing in top European football.

It is a wonderful feeling to be considering as we are just now the prospects of another European Cup final. You can sense it in the atmosphere at Parkhead. European football gives me the greatest thrill of all.



CELTIC-AYR LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINAL

AYR UNITED gave Celtic two very hard games in the 1969-70 League Cup semi-final. The first match was drawn 3-3 (Hughes, Gemmell, penalty kick, and Auld scoring for Celtic and Rough, 2, and McCulloch for Ayr). In the replay, won 2-1 by Celtic, Hood and Chalmers scored for Celtic and Ingram for Ayr.

Jock Stein said in "The Celtic View" of Ayr's displays: "All credit to them for two splendid matches."

The replay was an unfortunate occasion for Ronnie Simpson. The Celtic goalkeeper suffered a recurrence of a shoulder injury and has not played since.

Out of action almost as long has been Steve Chalmers, who sustained an ankle fracture in the League Cup final against St. Johnstone.

Famous Ayr Player : J. R. Smith's Record

ONE of Ayr's most famous players has been J. R. Smith, a centre forward who played for Scotland against England in 1924 and for the Scottish League against the English League in 1926.

In season 1927-28 he scored no fewer than 66 goals in 38 games for Ayr in the second division of the Scottish League.

This remains a record and, of course, cannot be equalled or surpassed so long as Division II does not return to a competition of 20 clubs.

DIVISION I TABLE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		Pts.
					For	Agst.	
Celtic	28	23	2	3	81	27	48
Rangers	28	18	5	5	60	30	41
Hibernian	27	15	6	6	52	31	36
Hearts	28	11	10	7	42	29	32
Dundee United	29	13	6	10	52	55	32
Kilmarnock	26	11	6	9	52	47	28
Dundee	27	11	6	10	35	33	28
Dunfermline Ath.	27	11	5	11	33	34	27
Aberdeen	27	10	6	11	45	38	26
St. Johnstone	27	10	6	11	42	49	26
Morton	27	9	7	11	40	46	25
Ayr United	28	11	3	14	33	43	25
Motherwell	27	7	10	10	36	37	24
Airdrieonians	26	9	4	13	50	59	22
St. Mirren	29	7	7	15	31	45	21
Clyde	28	7	6	15	29	50	20
Raith Rovers	30	5	9	16	28	58	19
Partick Thistle	27	5	6	16	28	58	16

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