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Celtic v. Partick Thistle

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LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, 17th November 1973 Kick-off 2.15 p.m.

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JOCK STEIN says...

To-day's match with Partick Thistle follows what could be described as a rest week compared with the recent programme in which we played seven games in a little over a fortnight.

During that period we won five games and shared the spoils in the other two. These are the bare statistics of the games but what we did in the process was move to the top of the Scottish League, qualify for the quarter final of the European Cup and take a lead in the League Cup quarter final tie with Aberdeen.

On the subject of the League Cup, a lot has been written and said about the decision to play the second leg ties on Wednesday afternoon next week. It is easy to say cancel the tournament until the spring but at that time you are faced with the playing of Scottish Cup ties and postponed league fixtures and, as far as Celtic are concerned, European Cup ties.

It's unfair to expect anyone at the start of a football season to legislate for an economic crisis or emergency Government power regulations. In future however, I hope that we revert to the old League Cup formula of sectional matches in August, quarter finals in September, and semi-finals and final in October because the competition has become too long drawn out to retain interest.

Today we meet Partick Thistle and it should be remembered that the corresponding game last season we scored a late goal to win a point in a 1-1 draw.

Matches with Thistle in recent seasons have been entertaining and have produced a great many goals and there is every reason to hope



that today's game will have the emphasis on attacking football.

Thistle had a somewhat disappointing start to the season but with three points won out of four in the last fortnight against Ayr United and St. Johnstone they will be accorded every respect by us in today's game.

The League Championship title is always our main target at the start of the football season; we can take another step towards fulfilling that objective by winning the game this afternoon.

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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Highlights of Previous Matches with Partick Thistle

Celtic's matches with Partick Thistle over the years have proved exciting encounters and provided goals in abundance. Although Thistle have had a fair record of successes against Celtic at Parkhead since the war they haven't managed to win the league fixture since 1965.

The line-ups for Celtic's last home league fixture of 1964-65 were :—

Celtic—Fallon; Young and Kennedy; Murdoch, McNeill and Clark; Johnstone and Lennox; Chalmers, Auld and Hughes.

Partick Thistle—Gray; Campbell and Muir; Gibb, Harvey and Cunningham; Cowan and Harvey; Hogan, Ewing and McParland.

Referee—Mr. J. Callaghan (Glasgow).

After a goal-less first half, Thistle struck twice after the interval through Tommy Gibb and Joe Hogan and although Steve Chalmers got one back for Celtic with nine minutes to go, the game ended with Thistle the winners by two goals to one.

A week later Celtic defeated Dunfermline by 3-2 to win the Scottish Cup for the first time in eleven years.

BIG WINS

In recent seasons Celtic have recorded some big wins over the Jags, and the biggest of these was on December 27th, 1969 when the Celtic team really fired on all cylinders. The teams were :—

Celtic—Williams; Craig and Hay; Murdoch, McNeill and Brogan;

Johnstone and Hood; Wallace, Auld and Hughes. Lennox was 12th man.

Partick Thistle—Ritchie; Campbell and Holt; Johnston, McKinnon and Hansen; Rae and Smith; Bone, Flanagan and Duncan. Gray was the substitute.

Celtic opened the scoring after 17 minutes when John Hughes passed the ball to Willie Wallace, accepted a through ball in return and blasted a great shot past Billy Ritchie.

Nearing the half hour mark Celtic struck again. Once again John Hughes figured in the build up and his final pass to Bertie Auld was quickly hammered into the net. One minute from half-time, Billy McNeill added to the score when he shot the ball home following a Bertie Auld corner.

After the interval it was one way traffic towards Thistle's goal and it only took seven minutes for Willie Wallace to add to Celtic's score from a fine Hood pass. John Hughes made the Celtic tally five before Smith got a consolation goal for the Firhill side.

With thirteen minutes to go Willie Wallace was brought down in the penalty box and when he scored with the resultant penalty kick he also recorded his hundredth goal for the club.

In the last ten minutes of the game Celtic added another two goals through Hughes and Auld to finish the game winners by eight goals to one.

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)

HUNTER
McGRAIN
BROGAN
McCLUSKEY
McNEILL
CONNELLY
LENNOX
MURRAY
DEANS
DALGLISH
CALLAGHAN
HOOD
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FOR TODAY'S GAME

CELTIC HONOURS

PARTICK TH.

ree:
ENZIE
bert)
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DBBS
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GRAW
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(from)
ROUGH
HANSEN
KELLACHAN
GLAVIN
CAMPBELL
CLARK
GIBSON
CRAIG
RAE
COULSTON
HOUSTON
McQUADE
LAWRIE

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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Some facts about Partick Thistle...

The Partick Thistle Football Club was formed in 1876 and the original ground was Kelvingrove Park.

Indeed the 'Jags' played at three other grounds around the Partick district before finally moving to Firhill Park in Maryhill in 1909.

Although Thistle have never won the Scottish League Championship they have had their name inscribed on both the Scottish Cup and League Cup.

The Scottish Cup success was in 1921 when they defeated Rangers 1-0 in the final at Celtic Park.

It was fifty years later that they recorded their League Cup success and Celtic fans won't need reminding that the Parkhead men were beaten by 4-1 on that occasion. During the 'fifties Thistle were beaten finalists three times in the League Cup and

on one of these occasions, 1956-57 Celtic were the victors to record their first success in the competition.

When Partick Thistle were relegated in season 1969-70 it was the first time such a fate had befallen the club since promotion and relegation was introduced in 1921. Thistle's winning of the second division championship the following season gave them a hat-trick of title successes having previously won second division titles in 1897 and 1900.

Firhill Park has a capacity of 36,000 but the record attendance for the ground (v. Rangers in 1922) stands at 49,838.

Most capped Thistle player was outside-right Johnny McKenzie who played nine times for Scotland and most league goals scored by one player in a season was 41 by Alec Hair in the 1st division in 1926-27.

GOLDEN GOAL

Starting to-day the "Golden Goal" rules have been changed by the Celtic Supporters Association to provide a prize for every goal scored.

The prizes will now be 1st Goal — £50 Every other goal scored — £5

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In this action from Thistle's last visit to Celtic Park, keeper Rough saves a Kemy Dalgligh header, but Bobby Murdoch following up scores for Celtic. This was Celtic's equaliser in the 1-1 draw and it was also the Club's 6000th League Goal.

RESULTS SO FAR

FIRST TEAM League Cup

Celtic (Lennox, Lynch)	2	Arbroath (Butler)	1
Falkirk	0	Celtic (Hay, Lennox)	2
Rangers (McNeill o.g.)	1	Celtic (Lennox, Hood)	2
Celtic (Wheatley o.g. Lennox pen.)	2	Falkirk (Somner)	1
Celtic (Lennox)	1	Rangers (McDonald, Parlane, Conn)	3
Arbroath (Yule)	1	Celtic (Dalglish, Lennox, Wilson)	3

League Cup 2nd Round (1st Leg)

Motherwell Goldthorp)	1	Celtic (Hood, Murray)	2
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(2nd Leg)

Celtic	0	Motherwell (Goldthorpe)	1
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2nd Round Decider

Celtic (Murray, Deans Johnstone)	3	Motherwell (McClymont Graham)	2
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Quarter-final—(1st leg)

Celtic (Dalglish 2, McCluskey)	3	Aberdeen (Jarvie 2)	2
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Scottish League

Dunfermline (Kinninmonth, Sinclair)	2	Celtic (Hood, Wilson Leishman o.g.)	3
Celtic (Lennox 3, Dalglish, McGrain)	5	Clyde	0

Rangers	0	Celtic (Johnstone)	1
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St. Johnstone (Muir, Pearson)	2	Celtic (Deans)	1
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Celtic (Deans, Wilson)	2	Motherwell	0
Dundee	0	Celtic (Callaghan)	1

Celtic (McCluskey)	1	Hibernian (Gordon)	1
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Hearts (Ford)	1	Celtic (Dalglish 2, Connelly)	3
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Celtic (Deans 2, Dalglish, Hood)	4	East Fife (Hamilton, Hegarty)	2
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Ayr Utd.	0	Celtic (Dalglish)	1
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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
Motherwell	0	Celtic	2
Celtic	2	Dundee	1
Hibernian	1	Celtic	2
East Fife	1	Celtic	3

2nd XI Cup

Q.P. Strollers	1	Celtic	5
Ayr United	0	Celtic	5

European Cup 1st Round

(1st Leg)

TPS Turku (Andelmin)	1	Celtic (Callaghan 2, Hood, Johnstone, Connelly, Deans)	6
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European Cup 1st Round

(2nd Leg)

Celtic (Deans, Johnstone 2)	3	TPS Turku	0
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European Cup 2nd Round

(1st leg)

Celtic	0	Veje B.K.	0
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(2nd Leg)

Veje BK	0	Celtic (Lennox)	1
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