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Celtic v. East Fife

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LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, 3rd November 1973 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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JOCK STEIN says...

Today's game with East Fife involves us in our fifth competitive match in ten days, three of them having been cup-ties and the other an important league championship game with Hearts at Tynecastle.

To have won three of these games and drawn the other seems on the face of things a most satisfactory outcome to a hectic programme.

Unfortunately, however, the game we failed to win, against Vejle in the European Cup, is the one that we would have liked to have won convincingly and by so doing remove the strain from our second leg game in Denmark next week.

We face a difficult game now for European Cup advancement but, if we can produce the goal scoring flair that has been evident in the last three games, we can still book our place in the quarter-final stage.

Supporters

Even more pleasing during the last ten days has been the tremendous lift the team has been given by our supporters. The recent glut of matches has made football speculating a costly business for our fans, but they have continued to follow the team in their thousands.

Perhaps our crowds at the present time are not as big on average as they have been in the past—but in my opinion the vocal encouragement at recent games has proved that our current followers are the most loyal any team could wish to have behind them.

I just hope that our support continues in this vein and that they are rewarded for their enthusiasm with good play and favourable results.

Organised

Turning to to-day's game with East Fife our target is the same as usual—two league points.

They won't be won easily because the Fifers are always a well organised



side as they have proved several times at Celtic Park over the last couple of seasons.

After losing the first four league games of the season the Fifers have beaten Dundee and Rangers away from home and last week they beat Thistle 2-1 after trailing by a goal at half-time.

The Celtic players will be well warned to-day to treat East Fife with respect in their efforts to consolidate our position at the top of the league.

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 cooperate with police and stewards in the interest of safety.

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Highlights of previous East Fife visits

Celtic's last two league meetings with East Fife have resulted in very closely fought contests and although the men from Methil didn't make a great start to the present league championship, they are always opponents worthy of respect.

Almost two years ago exactly the Fifers came to Parkhead and those who thought they were lambs coming to the slaughter were in for a big surprise.

The majority of the twenty two players who played that day will be on the field again this afternoon. The teams were:—

Celtic—Connaghan, Hay and Quinn, Callaghan, McNeill and Brogan, Johnstone and Dalglish, Deans, Hood and Wilson, Substitute was Craig.

East Fife—Gorman, Duncan, and McQuade, Cairns, Martis and Clarke, Love and Honeyman, Hughes, Hamilton and McPhee. Substitute was Bernard.

Referee: Mr. P. Hunter (Falkirk).

Celtic went straight into attack from the whistle and Celtic's recent signing Dixie Deans was proving a hot handful for his former Fir Park colleague John Martis.

East Fife keeper Gorman brought off two brilliant saves in the opening minutes and when he was eventually beaten by a Tommy Callaghan shot the ball whistled past the wrong side of the post.

Celtic opened the scoring after 12 minutes and, in the process, the scorer Dixie Deans maintained his goal-a-game record in a Celtic strip.

The goal resulted from a Harry Hood free kick and Deans out-jumped the Fife defence to head glance the ball well out of the keeper's reach.

Although Celtic continued to dominate they got a shock just before half time when East Fife centre Hughes headed the equaliser.

The game became a real ding dong affair after this and the only other goal of the game came when Dixie Deans headed home a Wilson corner to give Celtic the points.

East Fife's last league visit to Celtic Park was on 21st October of last year when the teams were:—

Celtic—Williams, Hay and Mc-Grain, Murdoch, McNeill and Connelly, Davidson and Macari, Deans, Callaghan and Lennox, Twelfth man Hood.

East Fife—Gorman, Duncan and McQuade, Hamilton, Martis and Clarke, Hegarty and Dailey, Green, Borthwick and McPhee. Twelfth man Honeyman.

Referee Mr. J. R. P. Gordon (Newport-on-Tay).

In spite of constant Celtic pressure the East Fife defence stood firm and things looked bad for Celtic when Bobby Murdoch had to retire with an injury after half an hour.

It was substitute Harry Hood in fact who opened the scoring for Celtic and later goals came from Dixie Deans and Bobby Lennox to give Celtic a comfortable win in the end.

We have to turn the clock back a bit further to find the previous league meeting between the two teams at Celtic Park.

That game was on March 2nd, 1958, and the teams were:—

Celtic—Beattie, Donnelly and Fallon, Fernie, Evans and Peacock, Collins and Smith, Byrne, Wilson and Mochan.

East Fife—McCluskie, Adie and Cox, Neilson, Christie and Mochan, Bonthron and Ingram, Gillon, Leishman and Matthew.

Referee was Mr. R. H. Davidson (Airdrie).

Celtic won that game by 4-0 and Alec. Byrne was the star of the match with a hat-trick.

Bobby Collins scored the other goal.

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
MURRAY
DEANS
DALGLISH
HAY X
LENNOX X
CALLAGHAN X
HOOD

JOHNSTONE.

Ref
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HALF-TIME

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

FOR TODAY'S GAME

CELTIC HONOURS

EAST FIFE

(from)

GORMAN

DUNCAN

CLARKE

McIVOR

HAMILTON

MARTIS

BORTHWICK

HEGARTY

RUTHERFORD

HONEYMAN

McPHEE

RITCHIE

LOVE

O'CONNOR

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 EAST FIFE

The East Fife Football Club was founded in 1903 and they played in the second division of the Scottish League until they won promotion in season 1929-30. Their first venture into First division football was short lived, however, and they were relegated the next season which they finished in second bottom position.

Although they didn't gain first league status again until 1948 they had the distinction of becoming the only second league team to win the Scottish Cup when they defeated Kilmarnock by four goals to two in the Hampden final of 1938.

Not only did the Bayview Park side win the Second Division title and promotion in 1947-48, they also became the first team from the lower league to win the League Cup

trophy to complete a unique double.

East Fife remained in the first division for the next ten years—(a period when Methil became a most unhappy hunting ground for Celtic)—and finished two seasons in the early fifties in third top position of the league.

At the end of season 1957-58 relegation ended the most successful spell in East Fife's history during which time they had also won the League Cup in 1949-50 and 1953-54.

East Fife's three League Cup wins have only been bettered by Celtic and Rangers.

Promotion was won once again in 1970-71 and in the two full seasons since then the Fifers have finished 16th in 1971-72 and ninth position last season.

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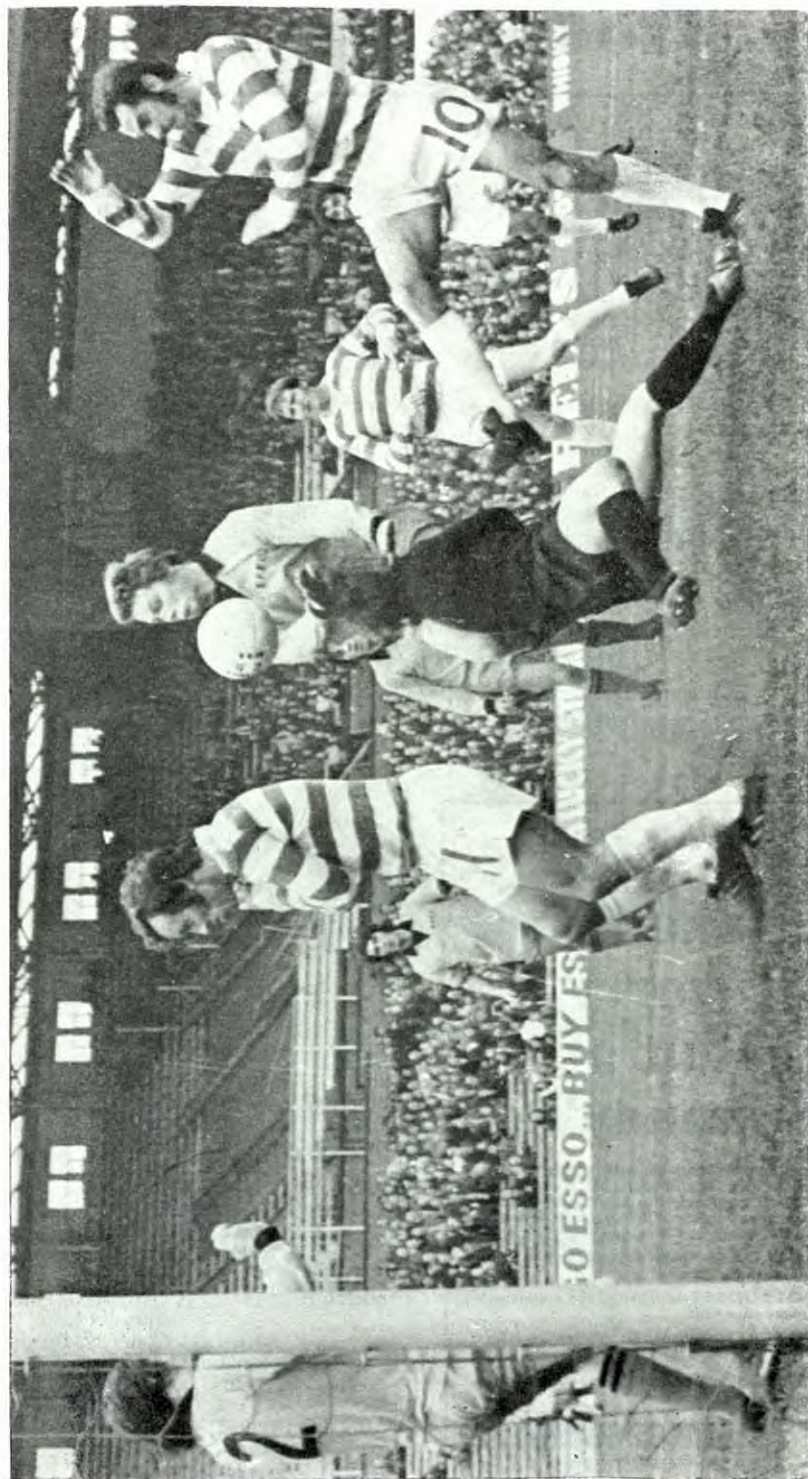
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The East Fife goal survived this three pronged attack by Lemox, McNeill and Callaghan during the last league meeting of the two clubs at Celtic Park.

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
(2nd Leg)			
Celtic	0	Motherwell (Goldthorpe)	1
2nd Round Decider			
Celtic (Murray, Deans, Johnstone)	3	Motherwell (McClymont, Graham)	2

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
St. Johnstone (Muir, Pearson)	2	Celtic (Deans)	1
Celtic (Deans, Wilson)	2	Motherwell	0
Dundee	0	Celtic (Callaghan)	1
Celtic (McCluskey)	1	Hibernian (Gordon)	1
Hearts (Ford)	1	Celtic (Dalglish 2, Connelly)	3

Challenge Matches

Celtic (Lennox, Dalglish, Deans)	3	Penarol (Morena)	1
Celtic (Johnstone)	1	Sunderland (Tueart, Hughes)	2

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

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	Vejele B.K.	0
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