



**Scottish Premier
League**

**CELTIC
versus
ST. MIRREN**

**CELTIC PARK
SATURDAY, 15th OCTOBER, 1977
KICK-OFF 3 p.m.**

PROGRAMME 10p

SAINTS WAIT SEVEN YEARS FOR REVENGE

ST MIRREN return to Celtic Park this afternoon for the first league meeting between the two clubs since a first division encounter on November 28, 1970.

At the end of that season the Saints were relegated and this is the first season since then that the Paisley Buddies have not been in a lower league.

On that November afternoon seven years ago the game was only three minutes old when the visitors found themselves a goal behind.

The goal was a thunderous 25 yarder from Tommy Gemmell that fairly screeched into the net — from big Tam's left foot!

Celtic fans settled down in expectation of a goal rush, but it didn't work out that way. In fact John Fallon, deputising for Evan Williams who had been injured in training, had two splendid saves from Ronnie Hamilton.

On another occasion Jim Traynor missed from 15 yards when, with only the advancing John Fallon to beat, he shot past the post.

At half time, the scoreline remained unchanged but during the break Jock Stein made a positional change; Celtic lining up for the second half with Willie Wallace on the right wing and Vic Davidson in the middle.

In the 55th minute the Celtic positional switch paid off when following a John Hughes corner kick the ball broke to Vic Davidson to score and stretch the lead to two goals.

Thirteen minutes later a Davie Hay shot rebounded from an upright and the ever alert Vic Davidson was lying handy to crack the ball straight into the net.

Three minutes later and Celtic brought on George Connelly for Harry Hood and they just tightened their grip on the game although no further goals were scored.

One of the biggest cheers of the day was accorded St Mirren's keeper Denis Connaghan when, during the second half, he sprinted from his goal and dribbled round John Hughes and Davie Hay some 25 yards from his goal before clearing the ball upfield.

STRENGTHENED

The teams that afternoon were:-

CELTIC: Fallon; Craig and Gemmell; Murdoch, McNeill and Brogan; Davidson and Hood; Wallace; Hay and Hughes. Twelfth man Connelly.

ST MIRREN: Connaghan; C. Murray and Connell; Millar, Fulton and McLaughlin; Lister and Knox; Hamilton; Munro and Traynor. Twelfth man McKean.

Amazingly enough, not one of the players who took part in that game is on the staff of either club this season.

Celtic's win that day strengthened their position at the top of the league with 25 points from 14 games. St Mirren on the other hand were in the bottom half of the league with 11 points from 14 matches.

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LACK OF IMAGINATION AND FIGHT FROM PLAYERS



SINCE our last home programme, for the match against Hibernian in the Premier League two weeks ago, an awful lot of things have happened football wise and not all of them capable of setting the heather on fire from a Celtic point of view.

In the Hibs game itself we showed signs of recapturing some of the touch that has so drastically and dramatically disappeared from too many of our performances this season. We won that game by 3 goals to one but it was the manner of the win rather than the margin that gave us promise of better things to come.

Following that match we travelled through to Stirling in midweek and got the difficult match we all expected from the Annfield team who are fighting prominently in the first division league table. However, despite having a first half lead neutralised early in the second half, we got the winner from a splendid Roy Aitken shot and might have increased our lead before the end of the game.

Sandwiched between those games I made a quick trip to Austria to see our European Cup opponents in action and it suffices to say at the moment that I was impressed by the well organised play of the highly professional Innsbruck side.

Then, with four successive wins behind us, we travelled to Firhill last week and lost by the only goal of the game. It wasn't the loss of two points that was so hard to bear for all Celtic minded people — it was rather the lack of imagination and fight from too many players in the green and white colours.

For our game with Premier League new boys St Mirren today we hope to be able to field a team containing some of the men who have been missing through injury recently.

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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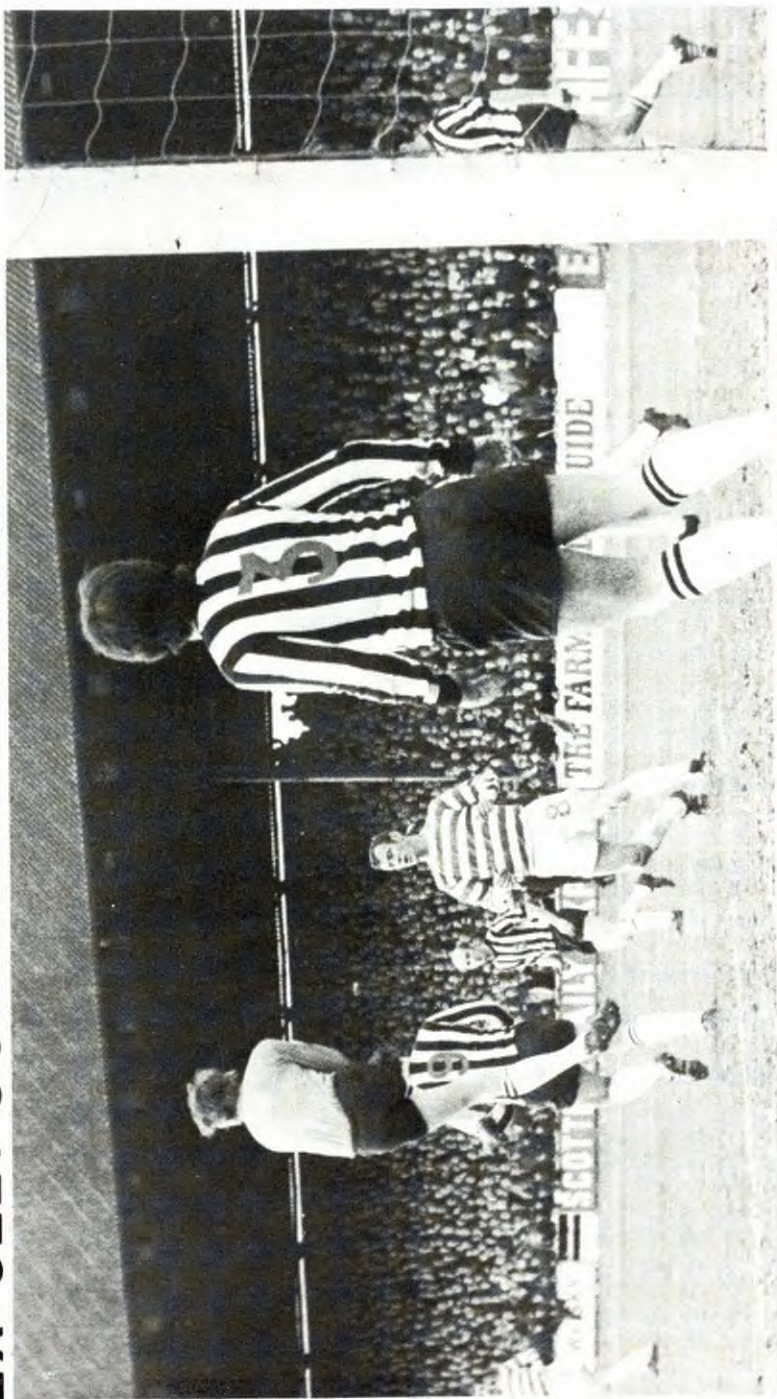
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EX-CELT CONNAGHAN SAVES FROM LENNOX



THIS picture from a Celtic league match with St Mirren seven years ago shows Denis Connaghan in action for the Buddies with Bobby Lennox prominent in the background. In the intervening period Denis Connaghan spent several seasons on Celtic's playing staff.

TODAY'S VISITORS

FERGIE TRANSFORMED PAISLEY OUTLOOK

WITHOUT any doubt, St Mirren would not be in the Premier League at the moment if the Club's Directors had not decided to ask Alex Ferguson to become Manager in October 1974. You only have to compare the Paisley side's present position with that of three years ago and it becomes clear that they chose the right man.

Alex Ferguson had only three months previous managerial experience with lowly East Stirling, but when the offer to join Saints came along he recognised that the Club had a very high potential support. This is now indeed the case with Love Street attendances averaging 10,000.

From the moment he walked into Love Street, Fergie set about creating a new team. No longer were St Mirren to rely on "good professionals" who keep the club's head above water, but on new, young and fresh players.

Bobby Reid, Tony Fitzpatrick, Frank McGarvey and Billy Stark have all recently been included in Scotland under-21 squads. That is the proof of the talent that exists at Paisley.

St Mirren won the First Division last season.

Alex Ferguson is responsible for this transformation in the team's fortunes.

He retired from the playing side when he was only 32 . . . after scoring 300 goals. Rangers paid £65,000 for his goalscoring prowess in 1968, but he never really hit it off at Ibrox. He also played with Queen's Park, St Johnstone, Dunfermline, Falkirk and Ayr United.



ALEX FERGUSON

Today's team will include most of the following players:

DONALD HUNTER: Ht 6.2 Wt 13.4

Presently on loan from Rangers, and due to return to Ibrox at the end of the season. Didn't receive the praise he deserved for his part in St Mirren's First Division championship success last term.

ALEX BECKETT: Ht 5.8 Wt 10.3

Celtic fans probably don't know too much about him, but will get some sort of picture when they hear he is in the same mould as Danny McGrain. Good defender and has pace and skill coming forward. Signed from Falkirk three years ago.

JOHN YOUNG: Ht 5.9 Wt 12.2

Started off the season at right-back when Beckett was injured. Now plays on the left-hand side. One of St Mirren's more experienced players. Signed from Falkirk in 1974. Age 25.

BOBBY REID: Ht 6.3 Wt 13.4

Without doubt one of the best centre-halves in the country. Still only 21, has played for the Scotland under-21 side. He is a full-time student at Dundee University and trains at Tannadice twice a week.

JACKIE COPLAND: Ht 6.9 Wt 12.1

An extremely important member of the side adding experience to the abundance of youth. Alex Ferguson paid £17,000 for him last November from Dundee United. A great defender, but scored the winning goal against Partick Thistle at Love Street recently.

WILLIE ABERCROMBIE

Another youngster who has come through the Paisley nursery school. First signed "S" form as a youngster from St Columba's of Iona School, he comes from Maryhill. He then joined St Mirren Boys Club and was called up as a professional when he was 17.

Now 18 he plays in the left midfield and is rated a very good prospect.

TONY FITZPATRICK: Ht 5.8 Wt 10.6

Club skipper and the target for a host of both Scottish and English scouts. He has captained the Scotland under-21 side for their recent games with Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. Has come through the St Mirren ranks since joining them from Possil YM in 1974.

BILLY STARK: Ht 6.1 Wt 11.7

A midfielder player of the highest class. Highly skilled, and loves to attack opposing defences. Was called into the Scotland under-21 squad for their game with England last season. Joined St Mirren from Anniesland Waverley in 1975.

LEX RICHARDSON: Ht 5.6 Wt 11.2

Like Fitzpatrick, a non-stop worker in

the middle of the park. Looked to have lost his chance of playing in senior football until Alex Ferguson stepped in to sign him from Arthurlie two years ago. Age 23.

BRIAN DOCHERTY: Ht 5.8 Wt 11.3

He was only called up by the Paisley Club at the start of the season and in only his second game scored a brilliant goal against West Brom in the Tennent Caledonian Cup. Has since scored against Rangers in the league and twice against Fulham in the Anglo Scottish Cup. Age 17!

DEREK HYSLOP: Ht 5.10 Wt 10.7

A nineteen year old who picked up a free transfer from Hibs two years ago. He played an important part in St Mirren's success last season scoring 19 goals. Hasn't been hitting the net so regularly this term, but still doing a good job up-front.

FRANK MCGARVEY: Ht 5.10 Wt 10.7

Took Andy Gray's place as the Scotland under-21 centre-forward for the young Scots game against the Czechs at Tynecastle recently. Was Saints top scorer last season with 20 goals and has already scored nine times since the Tennent Caledonian Cup. Signed from Kilsyth Rangers in 1975.

RICKY SHARP: Ht 5.11 Wt 11.10

A man of many clubs in his short career so far. He's only 21 but this is his fourth senior club. Started off at Ibrox and played one first-team game for Rangers. From there he went to Morton. Then Kilmarnock paid £12,000 for him before releasing Ricky on a free transfer at the end of last season.

PETER LEONARD: Ht 6.2 Wt 13.4

One of the Paisley youngsters who 'hasn't been able to stake a regular first-team place. Has been on the bench recently, though, and could make a breakthrough in the Premier League. Plays in midfield. Age 20.

TODAY'S TEAMS

CELTIC (*from*)

PETER LATCHFORD
 DANNY McGRAIN
 ANDY LYNCH
 ROY KAY
 JOHANNES EDVALDSSON
 RODDY McDONALD
 ROY AITKEN
 JIM CASEY
 RONNIE GLAVIN
 JOE CRAIG
 TOM McADAM
 PAUL WILSON
 ALFIE CONN
 BOBBY LENNOX

Ref
 Mr. T.
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 Line
 Mr. H. F. W.
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 Mr. H. L. S.
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 care — particu
 ground after

HALF-TIME S

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B	AYR UNITED CLYDEBANK		F	ARBROATH MORTON	
C	MOTHERWELL RANGERS		G	DUMBARTON HAMILTON	
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 the match.

ST. MIRREN (*from*)

DONALD HUNTER
 ALEX BECKETT
 JOHN YOUNG
 JACKIE COPLAND
 TONY FITZPATRICK
 BOBBY REID
 BILLY STARK
 WILLIE ABERCROMBIE
 LEX RICHARDSON
 BRIAN DOCHERTY
 FRANK McGARVEY
 RICKY SHARP
 PETER LEONARD

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SIDELINES

25 YEARS AGO

OLDER followers of Celtic and St Mirren may be interested in a League Cup meeting between the two clubs at Celtic Park 25 years ago. On August 23, 1952 to be exact.

The game wasn't an exceptionally exciting one but the goals were all of good quality.

Celtic's first goal a header, was scored by John McPhail from a John Millsop cross.

Number two was a terrific shot by Bertie Peacock which flew into the net giving the keeper no chance.

The third goal came from a shrewd Willie Fernie chip shot which deceived the St Mirren defence before landing in the back of the net.

The St Mirren goal was also a beauty which was cracked into the net direct from a free-kick taken by full-back David Lapsley.

CELTIC: Bonnar; Boden and Fallon; Evans, Stein and Baillie; Millsop and Fernie; McPhail; Tully and Peacock.

ST MIRREN: Lorne; Lapsley and Cunningham; Neilson, Telfer and Reid; Blyth and Wilson; Stewart; McGill and Duncanson.

APPEARANCES

CELTIC player appearances in 13 Premier League, League Cup and European Cup games are:

13—Latchford, McDonald, Glavin.

11—Edvaldsson, Burns, McGrain.

10—Aitken, Wilson.

9—Craig.

8—Kay.

7—Doyle.

6—Casey, Lynch.

5—Lennox.

4—McAdam.

2—McWilliams.

1—Stanton, Conn, Dowie, McLaughlin.



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