

OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME  
PRICE 60p



# CELTIC

v AYR UNITED



CELTIC PARK  
WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST 17, 1988  
KICK-OFF 7.30pm



2nd  
Round

THE SKOL CUP

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# Ian Skelly

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**LIVERPOOL:**  
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At the end of the M62.

# Billy McNeill



THIS evening we play host to Ayr United in the second round of the Skol Cup.

I am confident that this will be an attractive fixture because Ayr showed last season that they are capable of attractive and entertaining football. In fact when they won promotion they did so with the highest number of goals scored by a team in Scotland.

Manager Ally McLeod is as effervescent as ever these days and he seems to have imparted this to his side.

## TREBLE

The Skol Cup like its predecessor, the League Cup has not been the happiest of hunting grounds for Celtic sides in the last decade or so but this team is out to secure the trophy this season and thus complete the treble of league, Scottish Cup and Skol Cup within the centenary year of 1988.

From my new office deep in the centre of the stadium I can see the finishing touches being applied to the smart new extension to the main stand. And this has increased my commitment to match the progress off the park with progress on it. This means cups and glory in Europe.

## THE CELTIC BOSS SPEAKS OUT

Of course little of this can be achieved without the customary phenomenal backing of you the supporters. Your support last season was a bit special and already you have shown this early in the season that you intend to start from where you left off last term. The attendance at the match with Cruzeiro Belo Horizonte and again on Saturday really gave the players a huge lift.

## IMPORTANT

This is an important year as we seek to maintain the high standards we set last season. Not everything of course, will go our way but it is important that you take the good with the bad.

But I'm pretty confident you'll not have to put up with much of the latter.

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Front Cover Picture: Frank McAvennie in action late last season.





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# NEWS BEAT

CELTIC'S young reserve winger Dougie McGuire yesterday joined English first division side Coventry City for a fee of around £40,000.

Dougie joined Celtic from St. Michael's Academy Kilwinning in 1984. Since then he's been a regular goalscorer in the reserve side but has found it difficult to displace such as Brian McClair, Mo Johnston, Andy Walker, Frank McAvennie and Joe Miller over the last couple of years. Last season he made one appearance for the first team, as a substitute in a 4-1 home victory over Motherwell. We wish him well in his career with Coventry and thank him for his service to Celtic.



Saturday's league game against Dundee United could be a significant one in the career of Frank McAvennie. For if he plays and scores against the Tangerines it will be his 100th goal in league football. He scored 50 goals in 135 league appearances for St Mirren and 33 goals in 77 league matches for West Ham. So far he's scored 16 goals in 33 league appearances for Celtic.



Alloa Breweries, the sponsors of the Skol Cup, have ploughed in a total of £165,000 for this season's tournament including a total of £20,000 in incentives for the clubs competing.

There is also a new Skol trophy being provided for this season's competition. Owing to Rangers third cup win, against Aberdeen last season, the brewery decided to donate the trophy to the club.

It certainly seems to have been a successful marriage between the brewery and Scotland's leading clubs.

Attendances in last season's competition were up 15% from the previous year.

The ties throughout the competition will be played on the following dates: third round, August 24, fourth round, Wednesday, August 31st. Semi finals, Wednesday September 21st. Final Sunday October 23rd.



Celtic would like to advise their fans against purchasing good bearing the club's name from street vendors they may encounter on the way to a match. For starters the goods purveyed by these people can often be inferior to those sold in the official Celtic shop. Also, no monies from these goods are received by the club. Help us to help Celtic by purchasing goods from the official Celtic F.C. shops situated at Celtic Park and at Dundas Street just up from Queen Street station in Glasgow. By doing this you can be sure that profits go to Celtic to enable us to maintain our high footballing standards and you can also be sure that the goods you have bought will be of the highest standard.



## DIRECTORY

**Directors** — John C. McGinn (Chairman), Kevin Kelly (Vice-Chairman), James M. Farrell MA LLB, Christopher White CA, Thomas Grant; **Manager**: Billy McNeill MBE; **First Team Coach**: Tommy Craig; **Reserve Team Coach**: Bobby Lennox MBE; **Physiotherapist**: Brian Scott; **Secretaries**: Desmond White & Co; **Commercial Manager**: John C. McGinn; **Chief Scout**: John Kelman.

## CLUB ADDRESS

Celtic Park, 95 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow G40 3RW. ☎ 041-556 2611 or 041-554 2710.

**Commercial Offices Address**: 18 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow G40 3RW. ☎ Celtic Pools: 041-551 9922; Celtic Lottery: 041-556 7171; Commercial Manager: 041-554 0040; The Celtic View: 041-551 8103; Celtic Shop: 041-554 4231 or 041-332 2727; Ticket Enquiries: 041-554 2710.

## HONOURS

### League Champions (35 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, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988

### Scottish Cup Winners (28 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, 1980, 1985, 1988.

### League Cup Winners (9 times):

1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1982.

### Empire Exhibition Cup: 1938.

St Mungo Cup: 1951.

Coronation Cup: 1953.

European Cup: 1967.

Record victory: 11-0 v Dundee (Division 1) October 1895.

Record defeat: 0-8 v Motherwell (Division 1) April 1937.

Most individual League goals in a season: 50 James McGroory (1935-36).

Highest aggregate scorer: James McGroory 397 (1922-1939).

Most capped player: Danny McGrain 62 times for Scotland.



# EURO SPOTLIGHT



# FERNANDO GOMES

IN the last decade Fernando Gomes has been one of the most consistent and lethal strikers in Europe. Although approaching his thirty-second birthday his sharpness in front of goal has not diminished and only recently Celtic themselves were victims of his goalscoring prowess. His goal in the last few minutes of their match in the Viareggio tournament in Italy not only secured a 2-1 victory for Porto but effectively demonstrated the art of scoring with minimum efficiency.

The statistics prove beyond doubt that Gomes deserves his place alongside the great goalscorers of the European game. On two occasions he has been the recipient of the much vaunted 'Golden Boot' award and has been crowned Portuguese top scorer a record six times. Like most natural goalscorers the Portuguese international possesses the invaluable knack of instinctively putting the ball in the net from all angles and with all parts of the body; most of his goals being clinically despatched from inside the area.

Fernando Mendes Soares Gomes was born in Oporto in November 1956. He demonstrated his scoring potential in a local junior league and news of his ability in front of goal filtered through to local giants F.C. Oporto. They signed him as a junior at the age of fourteen and within four years he was a regular



in the first team. In season 76/77 Gomes was the youngest ever Portuguese top scorer with 26 goals and was established as the 'Golden Boy' of Portuguese football. In topping the goalscoring charts the following two years and twice helping his club to the championship he was even dubbed the 'New Eusebio' by some optimists.

In 1980 Gomes moved to Sporting Gijon of Spain but a dramatic loss of form allied to a string of frustrating injuries limited his appearances; within two years he had returned to Porto. Once again the goals began to flow and Gomes won the Golden

Boot netting 36 goals finishing ahead of Peter Houtman of Feyenoord and Charlie Nicholas of Celtic. The following year he led Porto to the European Cup Winners Cup Final, defeating Aberdeen and Rangers in the process, but his side were narrowly defeated by Juventus. In 84/85 he scored 39 goals to earn the 'Golden Boot' for a second time but sadly missed out on his clubs European Cup Final triumph over Bayern Munich in 1987 through injury. Last season Fernando Gomes was back at his best and as he proved in the Viareggio tournament in July his appetite for goals is as strong as ever.



**APOLOGY CORNER**—Last week I used a table of European results for Scottish clubs in Europe, taken from a continental publication—however I have since discovered that several of the entries were out of date. Here is the correct table:

Bob McDonald

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	137	66	24	47	245	165	156
Celtic	122	64	23	35	225	118	151
Dundee Utd	86	37	22	27	139	95	95
Aberdn	71	34	15	22	120	82	83
Hibs	68	33	12	19	125	93	78
Dundmin	42	23	5	14	82	42	51
Dundee	28	14	2	12	54	47	30
Kilmnk	24	9	5	10	38	39	23
Hearts	24	7	5	12	39	53	19
St Mirren	14	3	5	6	10	14	11
St Johnst	6	3	—	—	3	8	6
Ptk Th	6	3	—	—	3	10	6
Marton	2	—	—	—	2	3	9



LET'S TOAST TONIGHT'S  
SKOL CUP TEAMS, HAGAR!

AND HERE'S TO  
THE NEXT ROUND!



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# ON THE SPOT

ANTON  
ROGAN



ANTON ROGAN started the season on Saturday in the same manner as he'd finished it last season — with style.

Against Hearts he was the most accomplished player on the field revealing some nice footwork of which many did not know he was capable.

And yet at one stage last season there seemed to be doubts in the fans eyes as to his ability to hold down Celtic's problem left back position. These came to a head when he was directly responsible for a Hearts goal against Celtic at Celtic Park in December.

But almost immediately he won the hearts of the same supporters who were ready to barrack him by dusting himself down and helping to set up Celtic's two equalising goals in that match. In those moments he showed the same grit and determination he had earlier displayed after two leg breaks early in his career had threatened a fledgling future.

"It seems as though I've only achieved things after a great deal of struggle," he said, "I've had to fight for those things which are dear to me. I wasn't really too upset though when I made the error for the Hearts goal last season. I knew that if I kept plugging away I would get the breaks."

That philosophy has been borne out often



since then as he became a key member of Celtic's double winning side last season.

The likeable big Irish defender though is anxious to highlight the help of others in his career.

"Billy McNeill and Tommy Craig have both been an immense help to me. They've worked on my game and made me see things about it which I didn't previously know about. This has done wonders for my confidence. I know also that other players at this club have got the same to be thankful for."

Rogan last season finally made the breakthrough to the international arena when he was capped three times by Billy Bingham for Northern Ireland. Even that accolade though, brought its own heart-ache. For in a disgraceful manifestation of bigotry

he was booed by some of his own fans each time he touched the ball:

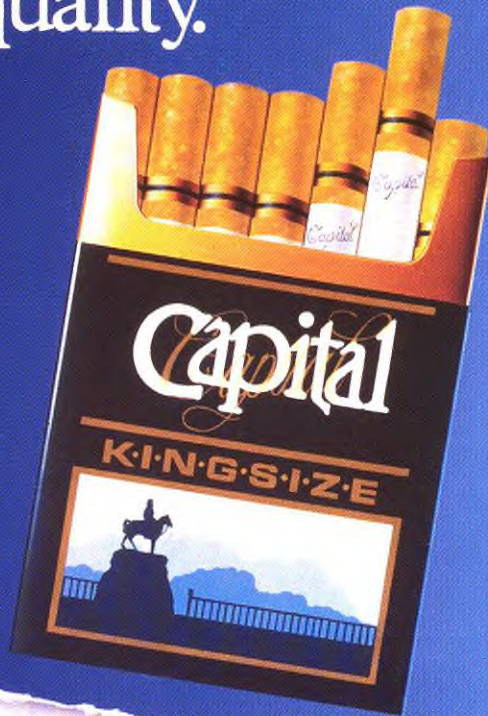
"Again I wasn't too upset about that either," he said, "it just made me want to do much better and served only to keep me on my guard about complacency. It's no use dwelling on these things."

How does he see things going for Celtic this season?

"I'm very optimistic. The same players who won so much glory last season are older and wiser now and, I believe, better. We are certainly good enough to withstand the challenges of other sides and do well in Europe. I saw the European Cup final last season between PSV Eindhoven and Benfica and nothing which occurred during that game made me believe that either side would be more than a match for Celtic."



# Capital quality.

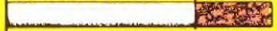


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Tel: (0292) 263435

**CLUB RECORD**

**ATTENDANCE**

25,225 v Rangers

Division 1, 13 Sept 1969

## Premier League is Ally aim for Ayr

THIS evening Celtic play host to Ally MacLeod and his dashing Ayr Utd side. Its always a pleasure to have Ally and any side he is in-charge of, because you can always be sure that they will try to play football and provide value for money for the supporters.

Ally's had something of a chequered career since he first managed Ayr Utd in the early to mid-seventies. Since then he's been at Aberdeen, before leaving in 1977 to take over the vacant manager's chair in charge of the international squad. There despite the heart-break of Argentina, his record compares with that of his predecessors and successors. After this he had spells at Motherwell and Airdrie before re-joining his beloved Ayr Utd in 1986.

Last season his adventurous team netted 95 league goals as they secured promotion to the first division. And Ally's prediction that Ayr can go on from there and find a place in the premier League should not be taken lightly. Ayr made the best possible start to their campaign by defeating Clydebank at home last Saturday by three goals to two.

And as the Ayr boss pointed out he's not sure who should be applauding who onto the park this evening. For although Celtic won the Premier League, Ayr won the second division and could claim the honour with as much justification.

Part of Ayr's success last season has been consistency. A look back at their match with Queens Park at Hampden on Saturday, November 21st, 1987 will show you that the side that day has not changed much in the subsequent year.

All but two of the side which took the field against Clydebank last Saturday were also in the squad which faced Queens Park at Hampden in November 1987.

Here then is a look at some of the

stars of the present Ayr squad: George Watson, goalkeeper, one of the most experienced in the first division. Ayr signed him from St. Johnstone just over a year ago.

Stevie McIntyre, an adventurous full back who loves to go forward at every opportunity.

Jim Hughes, a substitute v Clydebank. A left back who was converted from the right back position. Arrived on loan from Airdrie and then made a first team spot his own.

Willie Furphy, a consistent defender who organised the back four well. Still only 22 and in his third senior season. Born in London

Stevie Evans once played for Manchester City and Clyde. A natural left-sided mid-fielder — a rare animal in today's game and Ayr made use of his capacity for work last season in that area.

Henry Templeton, forms one half of the lethal scoring double act with his partner John Sludden. Signed from Airdrie. An excellent player.

Tommy Walker, Aberdeen let him go to Ayr and almost immediately began to regret it as he started finding the net for his new club with a regularity slow-scoring Dons envied.

John Sludden, undoubtedly one of the best strikers in the land. Has scored over 60 goals in his last two seasons and got off once more to a scoring start v Clydebank.

Jim Cowell, he's a former Hearts player who plays on the wing. His large build belies his tricky wing skills. Could test the Celtic defence with his strong running.

Keen Ayr Utd fans will take some encouragement from the fact that the last time their side featured in the Premier League they matched Celtic every inch of the way.

In fact they defeated Celtic twice at Somerset Park that season by the scoring of 2-1 on each occasion.

**Referee: Mr A. F. McGILVRAY (Edinburgh)**



# FACE TONIGHT



The late Johnny Doyle in action against his old club Ayr United in a previous clash between the sides.



Ally MacLeod — Ayr's extrovert boss

## A PREVIOUS CLASH

League Cup semi-final, Hampden Park, October 8th, 1969

**CELTIC 3      AYR UTD 3**

AYR went very close to causing one of the major upsets of this or any other competition with a fighting and skilful performance against favourites Celtic.

Refusing to be over-awed by their famous opponents Ayr went at Celtic right from the start and opened the scoring through Rough in 32 minutes. And although Hughes equalised in 41 minutes Ayr certainly were far from finished.

Gemmell made it 2-1 for Celtic just after the break but back came Ayr and McCulloch equalised on the hour. That took the game to extra time where, incredibly Ayr went into the lead through that man Rough. But Auld equalised three minutes later.

In the replay five days later Ayr once again gave a good account of themselves by opening the scoring through Ingram. But this time Celtic were too strong and scored twice to give them a very hard-earned 2-1 victory.

The Ayr side in the first game was: Stewart, Malone, Murphy, Fleming, Quinn, Mitchell, Young, Ferguson, Ingram, McCulloch, Rough. Not surprisingly the same side went in at the replay.

**Linesmen: Mr G. P. LAWSON (Barrhead) and Mr R. M. HENDERSON (Dumfries)**



# ANDY'S CENTENARY STRIKE



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# THE CENTENARY QUIZ

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**ANSWERS  
ON PAGE 19**

# THE HALF-TIME QUIZ

- ONE: Name the women's world record holder for the 100 metres.
- TWO: Frank McAvennie's goal against Hearts on Saturday was his 18th, 19th or 20th in competitive games.
- THREE: apart from Ayr Utd what three Scottish club sides has Ally McLeod managed?
- FOUR: In which year did goalkeeper Evan Williams leave Celtic?
- FIVE: what is Aberdeen's new first team goalkeeper called?
- SIX: Who won the 1988 US PGA Championships?
- SEVEN: If the runners up in the 1971 European Cup final played the runners up of the 1974 final, which two sides would be playing?
- EIGHT: Who holds the record for the number of Scottish Cup winners medals won?
- NINE: Which two countries contested the 1950 World Cup final?
- TEN: Who is Celtic's top scorer in European competition?



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# Reserve Scene

## THE STARS OF TOMORROW

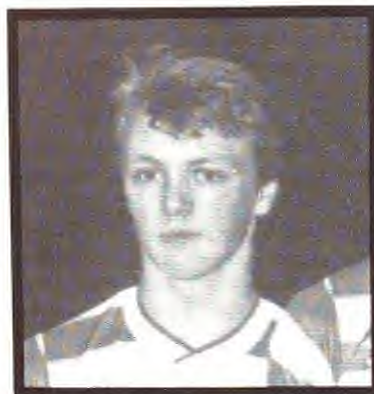


*By Bobby  
Lennox*



WE got off to a great start in the Premier Reserve league with a magnificent 7-1 victory over Hearts at Tynecastle last Saturday.

This is the most we've scored in one match for a good few years and to be frank about it was no more than we deserved. We've had an indifferent time of it with a mixed bag of results in our pre-season friendlies. But at Tynecastle it all came right. We benefitted from having the experienced Alan Rough in goals for us. His confidence and assurance helped settle the back four. John Traynor, who had an excellent game in mid field, gave us a 1-0 interval lead. At this stage there was little sign of the landslide to come. In the second half it turned into something of a procession with executioner in chief Owen



*Steve  
Fulton  
scored  
one of  
the  
seven*

Archdeacon who scored a hat trick. He was joined on the score-sheet by substitute Gerry Creaney with two goals Stevie Fulton with one.

In a result such as this there were several things to be pleased about from my point of view. Young Jim McNally settled in well in the full back berth while Owen was sharp and skilful throughout. The lads have certainly responded to my call for a general tightening up of things. Now they have set themselves a high standard to follow early in the season. Its up to them to maintain that level.

Tomorrow night we travel to Boghead, Dumbarton to face Dumbarton reserves in our first Reserve League west fixture of the season. And on Saturday we face Dundee Utd reserves in the Premier Reserve League. Utd defeated us three times out of three last season. So now is the time for our boys to stand up and be counted and seek to overturn that record on Saturday.

The team that started the season in such an emphatic manner was: Rough, McNally, Elliot, Balmer, Baillie, Murray, Mathie, Traynor, Archdeacon, Christie, Fulton. Subs: Creaney and McEwan.

Scorers: Archdeacon (3), Creaney (2), Traynor and Fulton.

## MAKE A DATE

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# What the Papers Say ...



SCOTTISH sportswriters at the weekend were all in agreement about one aspect of the Celtic v Hearts game on Saturday; Celtic's grip will be very hard to dislodge from the Premier League trophy as they showed Hearts on Saturday.

*Don Morrison* of the *Sunday Mail* said: "Celtic unfurled their 35th league championship flag with due ceremony and promptly gave notice to Hearts and anyone else interested that they have every intention of hanging on to it."

Meanwhile *Scotland on Sunday's Alan Fraser* somehow tried to tell his readers that Celtic struggled against Hearts —

maybe he only watched the highlights that were on later the same day for he wrote: "The difficulty encountered by the management in unfurling the Premier Division flag was matched by that of their players in trying to overcome a well-organised and very useful Hearts side at Parkhead yesterday."

*Doug Baillie* of the *Sunday Post* felt that despite the victory, Celtic can still get better: "After a particularly sleepy first half of which Hearts had the better in the chance-making department, the green and white machine really showed what it's made of."

## looking back ... looking back ...

### 5 YEARS AGO

**LEAGUE CUP**  
2nd Round, 1st Leg  
Brechin City 0, Celtic 1  
Att: 3,000

THE only thing noteworthy about this match was the pitiful attendance, one of the lowest ever to watch Celtic in a competitive match. This was a curious fixture; the winners of which would then go forward to play on a sectional basis.

The lack of atmosphere got to Celtic and they struggled to a 1-0 victory. They had to wait a while though, until five minutes from the end when Jim Melrose scored. Worse was to follow three days later when only 8,500 turned up at Celtic Park to see their favourites stumble to a 0-0 draw, surely one of the worst matches ever to have been played at Celtic Park.

Celtic's team in the first leg was: Bonner, McGrain, Reid, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan, McStay, McClair, Burns, Melrose.

### 10 YEARS AGO

**LEAGUE CUP**  
First round first leg  
Celtic 3 Dundee 1  
Att: 3,000

Celtic comfortably one this, McNeill's second game in charge of Celtic much more comfortably than the score-line suggests. Celtic's domination in the first half was total yet they couldn't find the route to goal. Finally McAdam in 52 minutes opened the scoring but Sinclair grabbed a shock equaliser 12 minutes later. Glavin resorted to Celtic's lead in 73 minutes and McAdam put a more realistic look on the result with a third, six minutes from time.

Celtic: Latchford, Filippi, Sneddon, Aitken, McDonald, Edvaldsson, Doyle, Glavin, McAdam, Burns, Conn.

### 15 YEARS AGO

**LEAGUE CUP (section)**  
Rangers 1, Celtic 2  
Att: 63,173

In a light and tense affair Celtic can count themselves lucky to have walked away from Ibrox with both points. Their defence was strangely hesitant and Rangers several times squandered opportunities to take the lead. Celts finally got their act together in the second half and late goals by Lennox and Hood in 82 minutes 86 minutes respectively won the game for Celtic. A minute from time McNeill scored an own goal.

Celtic: Hunter, McGrain, Brogan, Murray, McNeill, Connelly, Johnstone, McLaughlin, Dalglish, Hay, Lennox.





At this early stage of the season Celtic's game is still more about hard graft than cute, measured man to man stuff. But that's only to be expected at the moment.

Glenn Gibbons of the Observer was one of the few writers to state the case for a Celtic first half penalty the appeals for which fell on deaf ears. Of the incident, Gibbons wrote: Celtic seemed to be hindered by referee Valentine in the 26th minute when Walker was taken from behind by Galloway as he moved towards a centre from Miller after the little winger had performed brilliantly. The ball looked like Walkers and the claimants on the home side had a sound case, but the referee turned them down."

James Traynor of the Glasgow Herald noted Roy Aitken's discomfort at carrying flowers to present to Billy McNeill's wife at the flag-raising ceremony. "No one was fool enough to call out 'pansy' or 'petal' and Aitken, accompanied by Pat Bonner, who also failed to hide his blooms, survived the journey across the pitch with the bouquets. They looked like hit men from Interflora."

But at the end of the day it had all come up roses for Celts...

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Florence Griffith Joyner. 2. 19th goal. 3. Aberdeen, Motherwell, Airdrie. 4. 1974. 5. Theo Snelders. 6. Jeff Sluman. 7. Panathanaikos v Atletico Madrid. 8. Billy McNeill. 9. Brazil and Uruguay. 10. Jimmy Johnstone.

## Tonight's Teams



## CELTIC

Ian Andrews  
Chris Morris  
Anton Rogan  
Derek Whyte  
Mick McCarthy  
Peter Grant  
Joe Miller  
Paul McStay  
Frank McAvennie  
Andy Walker  
Tommy Burns  
Billy Stark  
Mark McGhee

## AYR UNITED



George Watson  
Steve McIntyre  
Joe Love  
Willie Furphy  
Ian McAllister  
Stevie Evans  
Henry Templeton  
Kenny Wilson  
Tommy Walker  
John Sludden  
Jim Cowell  
Brian Ross  
Jim Hughes

## Half Time Scoreboard

Hearts v	Hibs v
St Johnstone	Stranraer
Clyde v	Brechin City v
Ranger	Morton
Aberdeen v	Falkirk v
East Stirling	Raith Rovers
Airdrie v	Kilmarnock v
Motherwell	Forfar
Clydebank v	Dundee v
Berwick Rangers	Q.O.S.
Cowdenbeath v	East Fife v
Hamilton	Dunfermline





Mark Walters  
— an  
outstanding  
opening  
league game



THE new season got officially underway on Saturday amidst the greatest wave of euphoria and optimism to have accompanied it for quite some time.

Although Celtic and Rangers will be virtually untouchable according to the bookies this season there have been plenty of interesting activity taking place elsewhere during the close season to suggest that there will be few uneventful matches over the next few months.

Celtic started from where they left off last season and while their victory over Hearts was comfortable enough in the end the Edinburgh side managed nevertheless to serve notice that they could yet make the most telling challenge to the Old Firm hegemony. Rangers too got off to a solid start against everyone's whipping boys Hamilton Accies.

The Gers are notoriously bad starters in the league but Saturday's 2-0 victory was achieved with the minimum of fuss.

It was interesting also to note Gary Stevens post-match comments that the first half hour was faster than anything he had experienced in the first division in England. Now I'm not sure whether to take that as a compliment to Scottish football or otherwise. It seems that the speed with which the game is played in the Premier League while demanding extraordinary fitness, does little to enhance Scotland's chances when it comes to the international arena. This isn't a criticism of the Premier League; the same problem has been around for years. Consequently Jim Baxters, Bertie Aulds and Paul McStays are hard to find. On the under hand it was Celtic's speed and fitness which won them the European Cup. To be fair to them though, their play at high velocity never neglected the finer points of the game. Celtic were cultured all right its just that they did the nicer things in the game quicker than anyone else.

Dundee United have been perhaps one of the most active sides to watch over the years despite becoming a bit less inclined to attack recently. On Saturday they ground their way to a valuable 1-0 win over St. Mirren at Love Street. At the time of writing speculation is still rife about Saints reported bid for Alan McNally. He could be the type of player St. Mirren need to add strength to their attack where

young Paul Chalmers has ben in need of some much needed assistance for a while now.

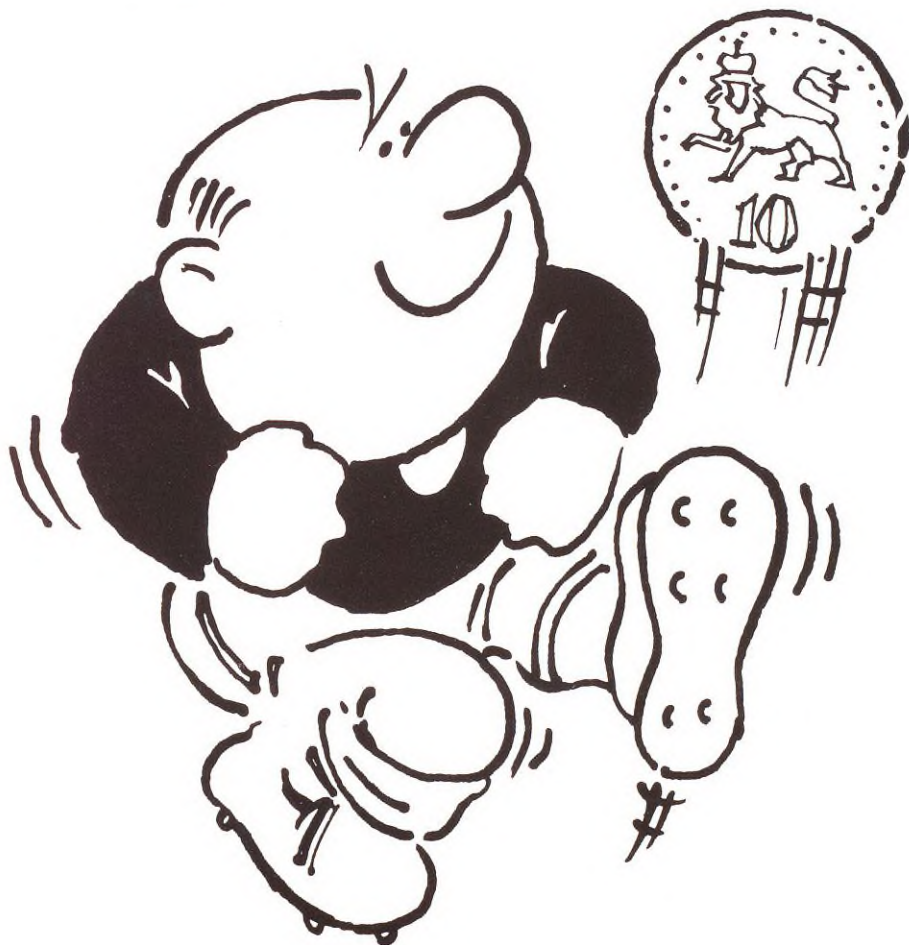
"Rambo" will never be everybody's type of player but at Celtic he managed an impressive scoring rate despite starting most games on the bench. Admittedly he was second choice striker behind Mo Johnston and Brian McClair. Most strikers in this country though, would be struggling to get in ahead of those two.

Hibs will be relieved to get two points against Motherwell. Once more their old failing of not putting the ball in the net was amply illustrated on Saturday when despite having numerous chances they only had a late goal to show for their efforts. Steve Archibald could be the man to give everyone at Easter Road a lift and I still reckon they will secure a UEFA Cup spot this season at least.

Dundee must by now view a point gained against Aberdeen as a victory. They've beaten Dons only once in the Premier League. And yet they have often managed to outplay Aberdeen at Dens Park only for their nerve to fail at the last and conceded a late equaliser. It was the same old story again at the weekend. A sluggish Aberdeen outfit were there for the taking and the Tayside men let them off the hook again. The most noteworthy aspect of the game was the excellent performance of big Wes Saunders at midfield having been converted from a central defender.



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