



CELTIC

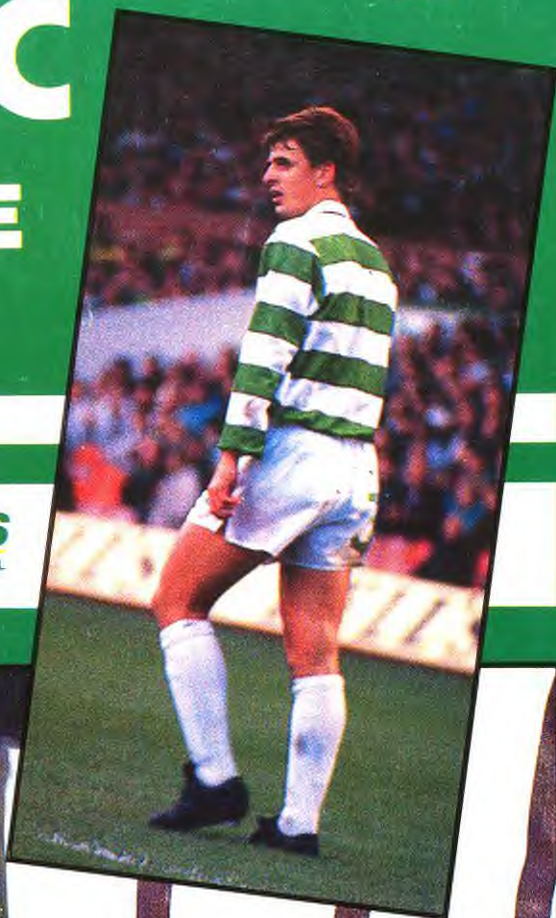
DUNFERMLINE

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER 1990
CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW · KICK-OFF 3.00pm

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WE ARE THE CAUSE OF OUR OWN DOWNFALL

LAST weekend, we suffered a deeply disappointing experience against Dundee United and that one performance encapsulated much of what has been wrong this season.

For all three United goals, I believe, were readily avoidable and caused by our own errors, an ingredient which has, sadly, punctuated our play all season and caused us severe difficulties.

I felt that we started last Saturday's game very positively and, in the first 20 minutes, looked capable of producing an excellent performance.

But at that stage we lost a goal which not only gave United the opportunity to take the initiative but, because of the type of error which caused it, proved a confidence-shattering blow.

Unfortunately, it is a situation which has been repeated throughout this season. All too often we have been self-defeating and denying ourselves the opportunity to make headway.

No amount of planning can legislate for this but we must work to eradicate the flaws in our play which are causing us to deflate ourselves rather than our

opponents inflicting damage on us.

At this particular moment, we are far from the team we are capable of being and until we get our game in order we must accept the criticisms exercised.

However, I must stress that everyone here at Celtic Park is feeling just as hurt by recent results as our supporters who can rest assured that we will

be working as hard as humanly possible to redress our current predicament.

With that in mind, we had a full scale work-out at Ayr on Tuesday night to allow some players to sharpen their match fitness after injury while allowing others the chance to lay claims to first team inclusion.

Today marks our last home game before Christmas and, with that in mind, I would like to wish all our supporters a

happy and enjoyable festive period.

We hope to give them an early Christmas present with a win over Dunfermline this afternoon and a performance which we hope will mark the beginning of a successful run to promote our league challenge.



THE BOSS SPEAKS OUT

CLUB DIRECTORY

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John C. McGinn (Chairman); Kevin Kelly (Vice-Chairman); James M. Farrell, MA, LLB; Christopher White, CA, Thomas Grant, Dr Michael Kelly, CBE, JP.

Manager

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Reserve Team Coach

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Physiotherapist

Brian Scott.

Reserve Team Physiotherapist

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Club Doctor

Jack Mulhearn

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Desmond White & Co.

Chief Scout

John Kelman

Youth Development Officer

Benny Rooney.

Honours

League Champions (35 times)
1893, 1894, 1895, 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 (29 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, 1989

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.

CLUB ADDRESS

CELTIC PARK, 95 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow G40 3RW.

☎ 041-556 2611 or 041-551 8654.

Commercial Offices:

18-20 Kerrydale Street, Glasgow G40 3RW.

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LICENSED CREDIT BROKER. WRITTEN DETAILS ON REQUEST. CREDIT SUBJECT TO STATUS.



TWENTY-year-old James Grant from Dunlop Street, Westburn, Cambuslang sent us his poem commemorating the birth and rise of Celtic and is this week's Poet's Corner winner.

*A vision born so long ago inside a brother's mind,
To seek out men and build a team the finest he could find,
From one to 11 he numbered them and coached them in the game,
All that remained for him to do was give his team a name,
The colours chosen green and white to represent his side,
Watching them display their skills his heart filled with pride,
He knew his team was ready to play watching them train one morn',
The date, 1888, and the Glasgow Celts were born.
From Empire to Coronation Cup victories they came,
Never in his wildest thoughts did that brother dream such fame,
They won leagues, Scottish Cups, flags and pennants too,
Glasgow Cups and trophies to mention but a few,
This team became a legend as anyone can tell,
When in 1967 they conquered Europe as well,
Over a hundred years have passed since that brother had his dream,
Up in heaven now he probably sits and talks with Big Jack Stein,
Of days gone by and to come their voices will fill with pride,
Knowing they were part of the history of this Glasgow Celtic side.*

by James Grant

Any other scribes wishing to see their Celtic poems in print should write to the address at the bottom of the page.

'TIC TALK...

JUST to prove there is no bias towards teenagers in our Gallery slot — most of our recent winners seem to have been from this age bracket — today we feature the work of one of our younger readers.

He is Liam McCabe, aged seven, from Scotstoun Road, Cowie in Stirling.

The unmissable figure of Celtic and Republic of Ireland goalkeeper Pat Bonner is the subject of Liam's coloured pencil drawing and, as is so often the case, Pat is also the artist's favourite Celt.

If you would like your drawing displayed in the programme Gallery we want to hear from you at the address given at the foot of the page.

In particular, drawings or paintings of players left to feature in the slot would be most welcome.

So how about your artistic impressions of Gerry Creaney or Dariusz Wdowczyk? Or maybe Anton Rogan or Joe Miller? Indeed there are still so many as yet unfeatured players to choose from ... so get drawing!



Are you a lucky winner?

DON'T FORGET to check inside your programme this afternoon for one of the eight special invitations to enjoy a unique Celtic night out.

For eight lucky recipients will receive a meal in The Walfrid Restaurant followed by a tour of the trophy rooms and the opportunity to talk informally with a top club official.

These evenings have proved immensely popular with previous winners who, as well as being treated to an evening of hospitality, have also had their group photograph featured in the Celtic View.

So if you are one of the lucky eight, you know that a memorable time awaits ...

VIDEOS have become very popular presents to give at Christmas and Celtic's two most recent additions to their video catalogue look set to make a double bulge in many supporters' Christmas stockings.

For many people are taking the opportunity to purchase Hail! Hail! Old Firm Classics and The Bryan Robson Testimonial Video almost as a set.

Hail! Hail! Old Firm Classics is sure to be an enduring favourite with Celtic supporters featuring, as it does, some of the best goals and best games against Rangers in the last 25 years.

The Bryan Robson Testimonial Video seems destined also to serve an important part in the annals of Celtic folklore as a reminder of the tremendous following which the club attracts.

Both are available at The Celtic Shops priced £9.99 and, with both shops open on the Sundays leading up to Christmas, there are plenty of opportunities to purchase your Celtic goodies this Christmas.

CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL

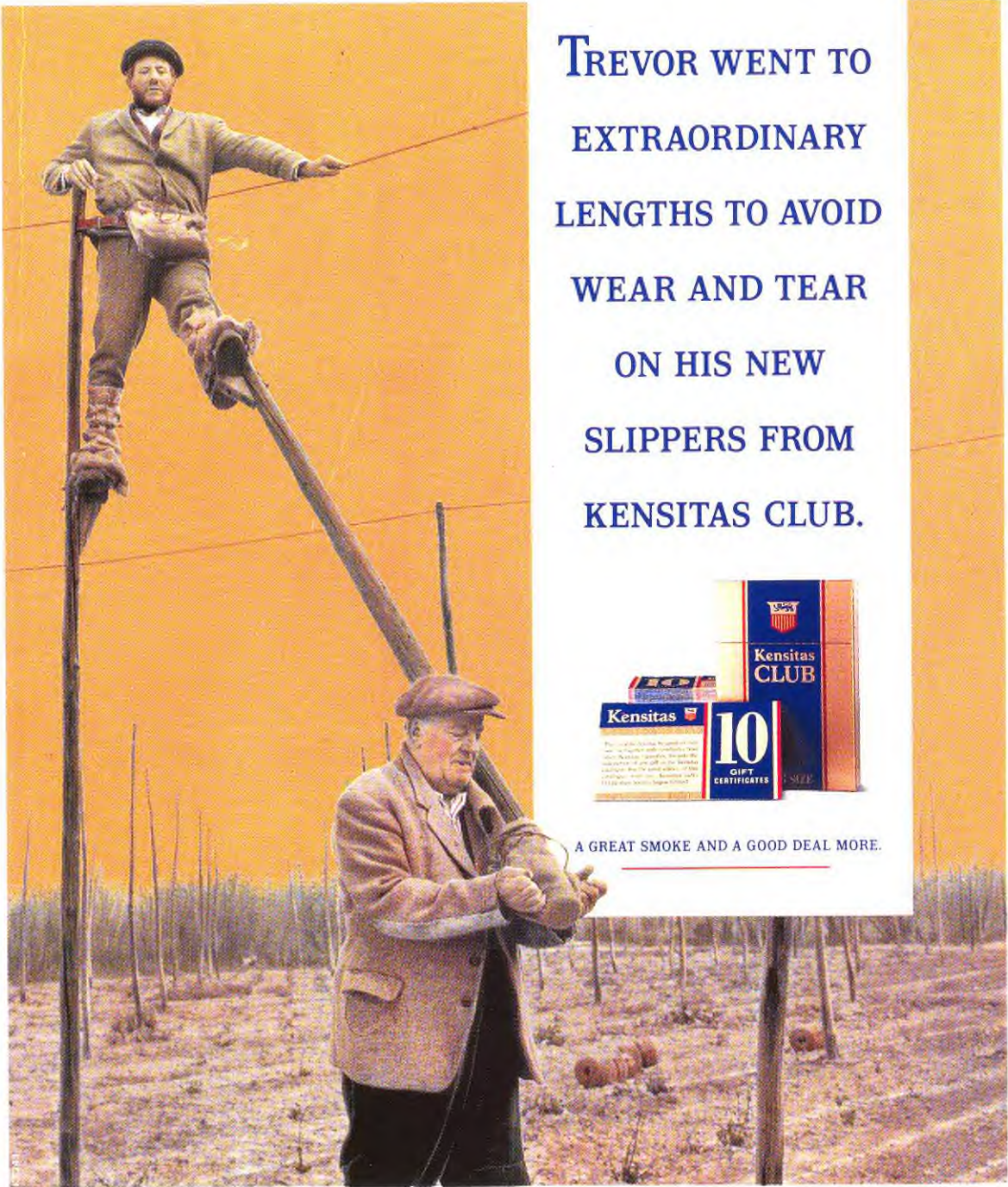
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After a long stand
Sadie was looking forward
to a seat and an Eldorado.



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Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

CROSSROADS

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JOHN COLLINS.....	253
PAUL ELLIOTT.....	226
PAT BONNER.....	222
ANTON ROGAN.....	221
PAUL McSTAY.....	209
PETER GRANT.....	201
GERRY CREANEY.....	185
JOE MILLER.....	182
STEVE FULTON.....	152
DARIUSZ DZIEKANOWSKI.....	147
DARIUSZ WIDOWCZYK.....	114
DEREK WHYTE.....	98
LEX BAILLIE.....	85
ANDY WALKER.....	57
PAUL McLAUGHLIN.....	55
JOHN HEWITT.....	43



CELTIC BOYS' CLUB

Players of the Month for November

Under-16s Alan Bonar
Under-15s Michael McDermott
Under-14s Jim Laughlan
Under-13s Kevin Markey
Under-12s Paul Leddie

Judges: **GERRY GALLAGHER, BILLY McNEILL, HARRY HYNDS, TOM GRANT.**

Happy 11th Birthday
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GALLAGHER**

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TODAY'S VISITORS ...

ANDY RHODES

(Goalkeeper)

Born 23.8.64 in Doncaster

Began his career as an apprentice with Barnsley in 1983. Made 36 appearances before moving to Doncaster Rovers in October 1985. He was on the move in March 1988 when he joined Oldham Athletic for £55,000. Signed for Dunfermline Athletic during the close season for £100,000 and he made his league debut against Rangers in August and has been the Pars regular goalkeeper since, becoming a popular figure at East End Park.

MARK HARO

(Defender)

Born 21.10.71 in Irvine

Joined Dunfermline Athletic in June 1990 from Glenrothes Strollers. Played very impressively in the pre-season matches, and could be considered unlucky not to have made his first team debut before last month when he appeared as a substitute against Rangers. On the fringes in recent weeks.

TOMMY WILSON

(Defender)

Born 24.8.61 in Paisley

Signed from St Mirren for £81,650, a fee which was set by a tribunal in November 1989. Made his league debut for the Pars as a substitute against Motherwell. He began his career with Queens Park before moving to Love Street in 1982. An experienced full back who can operate in either full back positions.

NORRIE McCATHIE

(Defender)

Born 23.3.61 in Edinburgh

Dunfermline's longest serving player, having joined them in 1981 from Fife neighbours, Cowdenbeath. Missed most of season 1988-89 through injury and on his return to fitness he spent a couple of games on loan to Ayr United before being recalled to play his part in the championship run-in. Has been

CURRENTLY lying joint-bottom of the premier division, this season has provided little cheer for those with the interests of Dunfermline at heart. An intangible ingredient seems to have been missing from the Pars which has resulted in a loss of the sparkle which in previous years has been so noticeable.

Of course one theory which might well be forwarded for this is the departure of that massively popular figure Jim Leishman, whose natural charisma and enthusiasm appeared to filter right down through every level of the club.

Manager Ian Munro, who was handed the reigns just prior to the start of this season, has had to try and galvanise a side probably still in mourning over the loss of this romantic figure who seems to have taken some of the romance about the East End Park club with him.

Results have been less than impressive with only two wins achieved in 16 games, the last of these being eight matches and two months ago. Whereas at a similar stage last season the Pars were just off the pace of the leaders, today they are firmly installed as relegation possibilities.

Yet manager Munro has talent within his ranks which looks capable of doing better than current form suggests.

And Celtic know to their cost over the past year what a difficult side Dunfermline can be to play against, having failed to win any of the last four league games against the Pars!

capped at semi-professional level by Scotland. Was rewarded a testimonial match against Newcastle United at the start of this season for his services to the club.

DAVID MOYES

(Defender)

Born 25.4.63 in Glasgow

The big former Celt is in line to make his first appearance at Celtic Park today since leaving Celtic in October 1983 to join Cambridge United. Made 37 appearances for Celtic before going south to Cambridge. In 1985 he joined Bristol City and two years later he moved to Shrewsbury Town. Made over 200 appearances in English football before he signed for Dunfermline in August for £42,500. Made his debut for the Pars against Rangers in August. Was in scoring form in September when he netted three times in three games.

RAYMOND SHARP

(Defender)

Born 16.11.69 in Stirling

Signed in 1986 from Gairdoch United. Played in the BP Youth Cup winning side of 1988. Impressive performances in the reserve side

and on loan to Stenhousemuir in season 1988-89 saw him being rewarded with his league debut against Raith Rovers in March 1989. Became the first Pars player to be capped at Under-21 level when he appeared against Norway in November 1989. Has been the target of several English sides in the recent weeks.

STUART RAFFERTY

(Midfield)

Born 6.3.61 in Port Glasgow

Began his senior career with Motherwell, signing from Port Glasgow Juniors in 1979. Spent five years at Fir Park before joining Dundee with whom he made over 150 league appearances. Moved to Dunfermline Athletic during the close season of 1989 for £25,000. Missing for two months through injury, only returned to the side last Tuesday against St Mirren.

ISTVAN KOZMA

(Midfield)

Born 3.12.64 in Pazto, Hungary

Dunfermline Athletic's most expensive signing when he was bought from Bordeaux for £540,000 in September 1989. Previously with

... DUNFERMLINE



Paul Smith, Gerry Creaney, Andy Rhodes (partially obscured) and Ray Sharp poised for action during the teams' last meeting at East End Park in October.

Ujpest Dosza, Istvan has been capped over 20 times by Hungary. Made his debut in the Premier Division against Rangers in September 1989. He settled in very quickly to Scottish football last season.

BILLY DAVIES

(Midfield)

Born 31.4.64 in Glasgow

Spent six years with Rangers, making 21 appearances before joining Swedish side, Elfsborg in 1986. Billy played only one season in Sweden before returning to Scotland to join St Mirren. A former youth internationalist, moved south during the close season to Leicester City in a £165,000 deal but his stay was short when he joined the Pars in November. Made his debut against Hearts and has been ever present since his debut.

DAVID IRONS

(Midfield)

Born 18.7.61 in Glasgow

Became Dunfermline's most expensive signing at the time when they paid Clydebank £85,000 in February 1988. Began his career with Ayr United in 1984, signing from Kello Rovers. Moved to

Clydebank in September 1986 for £25,000. Plays on the left side of midfield and loves nothing better than to run at defenders with the ball.

IAN McCALL

(Midfield)

Born 30.9.64 in Dumfries

Is now in his second spell at East End Park following his £100,000 transfer from Bradford City during the close season. Began his career with Queen's Park, making his breakthrough during season 1983-84. He joined the Pars for the first time in 1986 before joining Rangers in a £200,000 deal in 1987. Ian joined Bradford City in 1989 for £220,000 but made only 17 appearances for the English before returning north. Injured in midweek, he may struggle to be fit for today's game.

ROSS JACK

(Forward)

Born 21.3.59 in Inverness

Went south straight from school to join Everton. Previously with Cardiff City (on loan), Norwich City and Lincoln City. Ross returned north in

1985 to join Dundee and he made his debut in Scottish football against St Mirren in August 1985. Moved to East End Park in October 1987 and made a scoring debut for his new side against Motherwell at Fir Park. Was Dunfermline's top scorer last season with 21 goals. Has been on the bench in recent weeks.

GEORGE O'BOYLE

(Forward)

Born 14.12.67 in Belfast

Began his career with Manchester City before returning home to Belfast to join Distillery. Former colleague of Anton Rogan and ex-Celt, Allen McKnight. George moved to Linfield in 1986. In May 1987 he was transferred to Bordeaux for a £75,000 fee. He returned to Linfield at the start of season 1988-89 on loan from the French club. He joined Dunfermline during the close season of 1989 and he made his Premier League debut in August 1989 against Dundee in a 2-1 victory. Capped by Northern Ireland at youth and full level, making his debut against Chile in May 1989. Was more of a goalmaker rather than taker last season. Is now fully recovered from injury.



REACHING a landmark such as 200 appearances for Celtic whilst still only 22 years old would normally provide a memory to be cherished.

However Derek Whyte will forever remember the match in which he clocked up a double century of games for Celtic as an unhappy experience.

For it was during this game, against St Johnstone on October 6, that he suffered a severe leg gash which has now kept him out of first team football for over two months.

'I was really chuffed at making my 200th appearances and my family and friends were all there that day to see me,' he recalled.

'Then during the game of course I had to come off injured and that was a real blow which put a damper on what should have been a happy occasion.'

'Funny I was talking this over with John Collins the other day and he remarked how he found himself in a similar situation when we played Hibs a fortnight ago.

'He was very much looking forward to returning to his old stomping ground Easter Road and was building up to it being something special. But what happens? He gets injured and has to leave the field during the match for the first time in his career.

'It think it is very peculiar that you are often hit with a downer when expecting a celebration,' Derek suggested.

Certainly the timing of the injury was more than a little upsetting for Derek.

'In the month before I picked-up my injury I had overcame a groin strain, scored against Rangers and helped the team to the Skol Cup final and looking forward to exciting times,' the tall defender explains.

Indeed this same month was Celtic's most fruitful of the season with the three successive wins gained at that time a feat

ON THE SPOT



DEREK WHYTE

Position: Centre-Back.

Date of Birth: 31.8.68.

Birthplace: Glasgow.

Age: 22

Height: 5ft 11in.

Weight: 11st 5lb.

Signed: July 1985.

Previous Clubs:
Celtic Boys' Club.

Debut: February 22, 1986
v Hearts in 1-1 draw.

unrepeated either before or since then.

The end of this good run came with the defeat by Rangers in the final of the Skol Cup a game Derek believes may well have been crucial in sending the Celtic bandwagon off the rails.

The frustration that most Celtic supporters felt at having to watch their team slump to defeat was probably heightened in Derek because he missed out in playing in the final TWICE.

Initially when he suffered the

leg gash he looked set to miss-out. But after a miracle recovery seemed to put him back on course for a speedy return a complication put him back to square one.

'When it happened I had 11 stitches inserted in the wound which quite amazing seemed to almost completely heal within 10 days so meaning I only had to have four stitches left in my leg.

'However though it felt and looked almost clear whilst training at Barrowfield I felt over and the gash just completely opened up

CELTIC CAREER DETAILS

	L		LC		SC		Europe		TOTAL	
	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals	Apps	Goals
85-86	11								11	
86-87	42		5		4		3		54	
87-88	41	3	2		5		2	1	50	4
88-89	20(2)		1(1)		2		3		26(3)	
89-90	35	1	3		6		2		46	1
Total	149(2)	4	11(1)		17		10	1	187(3)	5

worse than it had when I had first received the cut.

'I was taken to hospital where I had five stitches inserted internally and 20 on the outside of my leg and it is now accepted that this is what should have been done originally.

'There is no point in dwelling over it now though. I have bided my time and now feel very good. With a little sharpening up, which I hope will come with first team involvement, my recovery will be complete,' he insists.

The long lay-off has left Derek with plenty of time to think about his chosen career and the 22 year old centre back is certain he will return with renewed vigour after his absence.

'It was only in the month or so when I was unable even to train that I realised just how much I missed not playing the game. Not simply from a professional point of view but just because of the enjoyment I get from playing football,' he enthuses.

That pleasure was regained three weeks ago when he began playing for the reserves following two weeks of strenuous work-outs equivalent to most players pre-season work.

Believing himself to be 'close' to a possible first team return he is keen to re-establish his defensive partnership with Paul Elliott.

'I have said before that I think Paul Elliott is a great centre-half and that I got a lot of satisfaction from playing alongside him.

'Both of us complimented each other I felt and I would hope that we can build on the working relationship we were establishing prior to my injury in the near future,' says Derek optimistically.

Though far too modest to pass comment on the notion perhaps Derek Whyte's true value to Celtic has only become apparent in his absence.

Very much a player whose contribution is taken for granted the fact that at various times THREE different players have



been asked to fill his position shows that there is no natural replacement for the former Celtic Boy's Club favourite.

This is no concern of Derek's who is at the moment very relieved that after a serious injury he is able to resume his football career in the top flight.

Unlike his friend and teammate Steve Murray, forced to give-up the game through injury, who became a source of inspiration when the player felt down.

'I decided there was no way I could allow myself to get depressed over an injury which would only keep me out of the game for a few months when I thought of Steve.

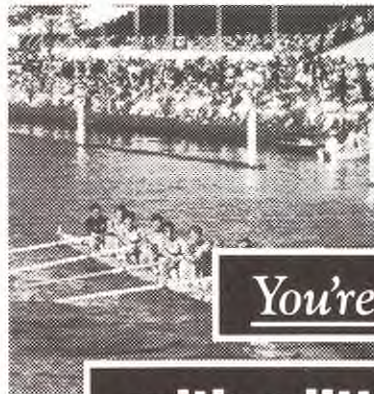
'He stayed with myself and my wife Wilma when he was coping with the full seriousness of his injury and his attitude was just brilliant.

'When I thought about the little I was suffering in comparison I just couldn't allow myself to be down and it really helped.'



FIRST TEAM FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE SEASON ...

DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP.	SCORE	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Aug 22	Ayr United	LC	4-0	21,000	Bonner	Morris	Wdowczyk	Grant	Elliott ¹	Whyte	Hayes	McStay	Dziek ski ¹	Walker	Collins	Miller(7)	Hewitt(4)
Aug 25	Motherwell	PD	0-2	17,562	Bonner	Morris	Wdowczyk	Grant	Elliott	Whyte	Hayes	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	McL.ghlin(7)	Miller(10)
Aug 29	Hamilton Accies	LC	1-0	9,168	Bonner	Morris	McLaughlin	Grant	Elliott	Whyte	Hayes	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Fulton	Miller
Sept 1	Aberdeen	PD	0-3	45,222	Bonner	Morris	McLaughlin	Grant	Elliott	Whyte	Hayes	McStay	Dziek ski	Nicholas	Collins	Miller (6)	Walker (10)
Sept 5	Queen of the South	LC	2-1	18,669	Bonner	Morris	McLaughlin	Grant	Elliott	Whyte	Hayes	McStay	Dziek ski	Nicholas	Collins	Miller(7)	Walker (10)
Sept 8	Hibernian	PD	2-0	29,464	Bonner	Grant	McLaughlin	Baillie	Elliott	Fulton	Miller	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Creaney (7)	McCar son (9)
Sept 15	Rangers	PD	1-1	38,543	Bonner	Morris	Rogan	Grant	Baillie	Whyte	Miller	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Creaney (9)	Fulton
Sept 22	Rangers	PD	3-0	38,409	Bonner	Grant	Rogan	Fulton	Elliott	Whyte	Miller ²	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Galloway(4)	Creaney(10)
Sept 25	Dundee Utd	LC	2-0	49,975	Bonner	Grant	Rogan	Fulton	Elliott	Whyte	Miller	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Galloway(4)	Walker(8)
Sept 29	St. Mirren	PD	3-2	20,097	Bonner	Grant	Rogan	Fulton	Elliott	Whyte	Miller	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Wdowczyk	Hewitt (9)
Oct 6	St. Johnstone	PD	0-0	27,014	Bonner	Morris	Rogan	Fulton	Elliott	Whyte	Miller	Grant	Dziek ski	Ceaney	Collins	Hewitt(6)	McCarrison
Oct 13	Dunfermline	PD	1-1	16,053	Bonner	Grant	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Rogan	Miller	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Hewitt(7)	Baillie
Oct 20	Dundee United	PD	0-0	34,363	Bonner	Grant	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Rogan	Miller	McStay	Hewitt	Walker	Collins	Morris(4)	Hayes(7)
Oct 28	Rangers	LC Final	1-2aet	62,281	Bonner	Grant	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Rogan	Miller	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Hewitt(4)	Morris(7)
Nov 3	Aberdeen	PD	0-3	21,000	Bonner	Grant	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Rogan	Galloway	McStay	Dziek ski	Walker	Collins	Hayes(4)	Miller(9)
Nov 6	Motherwell	PD	2-1	20,317	Bonner	McNally	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Baillie	Rogan	Miller	McStay	Coyne ³	Walker	Collins	Dziek ski	Galloway
Nov 10	Hearts	PD	0-1	19,189	Bonner	Grant	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Baillie	Rogan	Miller	McStay	Coyne	Walker	Collins	Dziek ski(10)	Galloway(4)
Nov 17	St. Mirren	PD	4-1	25,686	Bonner	McNally	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Baillie	Rogan	Miller	Grant	Nicholas	Walker	Collins	Coyne(7)	Galloway
Nov 24	Rangers	PD	1-2	52,361	Bonner	McNally	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Baillie	Miller	Grant	Nicholas	Walker	Collins	Rogan(3)	Coyne(7)
Dec 1	Hibernian	PD	3-0	16,219	Bonner	McNally	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Rogan	Coyne ⁴	Grant	Nicholas	Walker	Collins	Dziek ski	Galloway(11)
Dec 8	Dundee United	PD	1-3	14,885	Bonner	McNally	Wdowczyk	Fulton	Elliott	Rogan	Coyne	McStay	Nicholas	Walker	Collins	Grant(4)	Britton(10)
Dec 15	Dunfermline	PD															
Dec 22	St. Johnstone	PD															
Dec 29	Hearts	PD															
Jan 2	Rangers	PD															
Jan 5	Hibernian	PD															
Jan 12	Motherwell	PD															
Jan 19	Aberdeen	PD															
Jan 26	Scott Cup rd 3																
Feb 2	Dundee United	PD															
Feb 9	Dunfermline	PD															
Feb 16	St. Mirren	PD															
March 2	St. Johnstone	PD															



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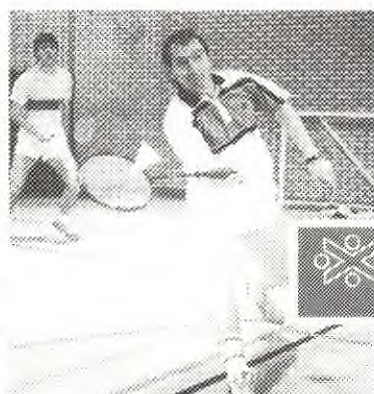
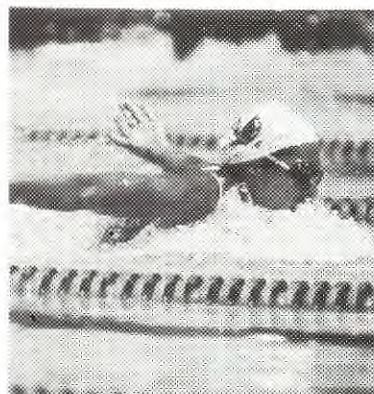
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Young star Mark McNally ... who in the past six weeks has risen from reserve player to first team internationalist.

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About Today's Game

By DAVID McDONALD

Last season's clashes

THE first meeting between the clubs last season was Celtic's first home game and a healthy 34,000 crowd saw Celtic win a one-sided match 1-0, courtesy of a goal by new "Bhoys" Mike Galloway.

The end of October saw league leaders Celtic's first visit to East End Park in a game where they had the bulk of the pressure but none of the luck.

Dunfermline's Ross Jack opened the scoring midway through the first half and, soon after, the home side doubled their lead when Anton Rogan turned an Istvan Kozma shot into his own net.

Tommy Coyne had the ball in the net before the interval but was ruled offside and no further scoring took place in the second half, despite Celtic hitting the woodwork, resulting in a 2-0 final scoreline.

The Pars were the last visitors to Celtic Park in the 1980s and left with their best-ever league win at that ground.

Stuart Rafferty put Dunfermline 1-0 up early on but Andy Walker squandered a great chance to equalise when he missed a penalty.

Incredibly this was the last time Celtic were awarded a penalty in the league.

In the dying minutes, Ross Jack ran clear from the halfway line and chipped Pat Bonner to seal a fine 2-0 victory.

The final league meeting at East End Park was the third between the sides in a week, following Scottish Cup commitments.

It was therefore no surprise that the match ended goalless. One bright note for the Celtic support was the promising full debut of Gerry Creaney who showed some excellent touches and came closest to scoring with a long range drive which Ian Westwater tipped over the bar.

■ **CELTIC** and Dunfermline first met on league duty in the 1926-27 season, with Celtic winning both matches, 2-1 at home and 6-0 away. The 6-0 victory remains their best league win at East End Park. The following season, Celtic won 9-0 at Celtic Park with Jimmy McGrory creating a record which still stands to this day. His eight goals in this game is an unmatched feat in Scotland's top division.

■ **CELTIC** won the first 12 meetings between the two sides at Celtic Park. Dunfermline stopped the rot on October 5 1963 when they came back from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw. The following season, the Pars won their first league match at Celtic Park 2-1, and they enjoyed their best-ever league win over Celtic in the return match which they won 5-1.

■ **DUNFERMLINE'S** 2-0 win on their last league visit to Celtic Park was their biggest league win away to Celtic. However, it was only their second league victory at Celtic's home.

■ **PAUL MCSTAY'S** equaliser in the last minute against Dunfermline earlier in the season, was Celtic's first goal at East End Park in over 360 minutes of football. This includes a goalless draw in the Scottish Cup last season.



■ **IN** the teams' four league meetings last season, the only goal Celtic scored was in the first match at Celtic Park. That was netted by Mike Galloway in a 1-0 win.



LEADING FROM THE FRONT ...

TO say that the name McStay has connections with Celtic would be something of an gross understatement. The first McStay to don the green and white hoops was the legendary Willie, great uncle of present day captain Paul.

Willie signed first for Celtic at the age of 18 in 1912. Manager Willie Maley, although impressed by the stocky youngster who revealed an encouraging ability to play either at full-back or in the half-back line, realised that he was not yet ready for first team football and farmed him out on loan to Ayr United.

This loan lasted until 1916 and, in the following season, Willie played enough games for Celtic to earn a League Championship medal when the prestigious award was won for the fourth successive year in 1917.

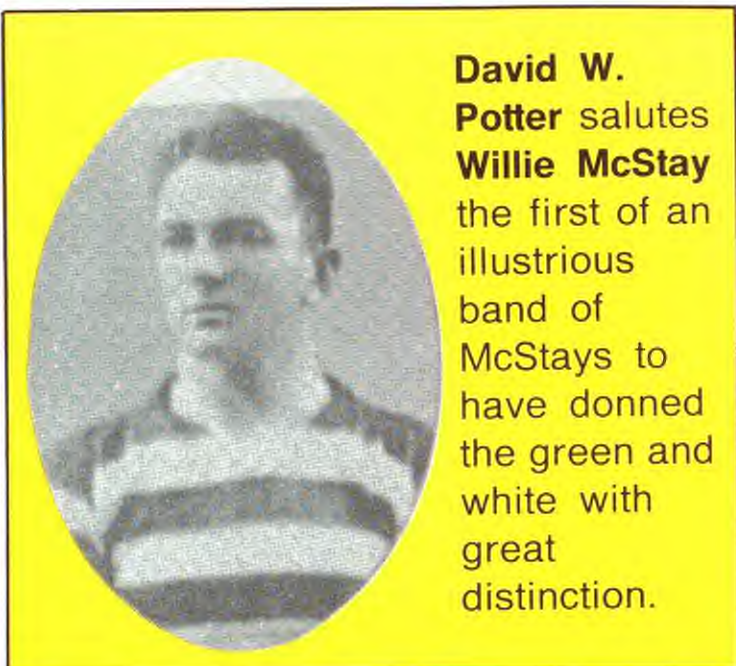
By this time, however, such were the demands for manpower at the front that Willie was conscripted to the forces. He was a loss to the team, but managed a few games for that other Celtic, from Belfast, and Distillery during these chaotic days.

The Armistice was signed in November 1918 and, by the following May, he had earned another League Championship medal.

A further three hard years were to pass before another League Championship was secured for the club and by this time Willie was struggling to command a regular place.

Although he played twice for Scotland in 1921, such was the sheer power of Shaw, McNair and Dodds; Gilchrist, Cringan and McMaster that there was no place in the Celtic defence for Willie McStay.

A good team, however, can become a great one by the strength of its reserve power and



David W. Potter salutes **Willie McStay** the first of an illustrious band of McStays to have donned the green and white with great distinction.

McStay, although himself bothered by injury, was considered a vital part of the Celtic Park set up.

Season 1922-23 brought McStay into the Celtic team where he would stay for almost the rest of the decade.

He played at both left-half and left-back, but it was in the latter position that he won his first ever Scottish Cup winner's medal on March 31 1923.

Brother Jimmy also played that day, and thus history was created with two brothers in the same Scottish Cup-winning side for the first time.

This happened again in 1925 and 1927, the Callaghans did it for Dunfermline in 1968, and then in 1985 we had a marvellous scene of two brothers holding aloft the Scottish Cup in triumph. Their names? Willie and Paul McStay.

It is generally agreed that the 1923 Scottish Cup final was dull, with only a Joe Cassidy goal separating the two teams.

Regardless, it marked the end of an era, for veteran right-back Alec McNair was soon to retire and Willie McStay eventually slotted into that position, but not before a spell at centre-half proved his versatility.

In 1923, a few weeks after the Scottish Cup final, Willie sailed across the Atlantic for a brief spell in American football (of the round ball variety).

This venture, presumably, was intended to be nothing other than a close season affair, but it earned the disapproval of the Celtic board nevertheless.

Peace was made, however, and, following another unrelated dispute in the summer of 1923 which involved captain Willie Cringan and led to that player's

... WILLIE McSTAY



The Scottish Cup winning side of 1925 with Willie McStay extreme right in the front row. Brother Jimmy is in the back row four from left.

departure, McStay was made captain.

For a spell, the general form of the team was poor but spirits were lifted by a spectacular Scottish Cup success in 1925.

Rangers were hammered out of sight by a team which had its supporters scratching their heads and asking why this sort of form was not reproduced more often.

Then there was the never-to-be-forgotten climax against Dundee in the final itself.

The Taysiders had scored in the first half through ex-Celt Davie McLean and showed little sign of wilting under the intense Celtic pressure.

In such circumstances, all a captain can do is keep calm and urge on his men in the hope that something spectacular will happen.

McStay was seen to be clapping

his hands and uttering his famous "Face the ball, Celts!" again and again, until the sheer brilliance of Patsy Gallacher saved the day and the diving head of young Jimmy McGrory won it.

Celtic, with this win, surpassed Queen Park's record of 10 Scottish Cup victories and never had there been a more pulsating final.

The subsequent season, with the wayward Tommy McInally back in the fold, the league was won.

Precocious talent like that of McInally must be well harnessed, but such were the efforts of manager Maley and captain McStay that the league was won by the length of Janefield Street.

Unaccountably, the Scottish Cup was surrendered to St Mirren in a lacklustre final.

By this time, McStay was

earning more Scottish caps (he collected a total of 13) and was clearly a great player.

His tackling was robust but fair and his distribution was an inspiration to everyone.

The Scottish Cup was won again in 1927 but, the following year, after Celtic had dominated the first half of the 1928 Old Firm Scottish Cup final, disaster struck.

McStay's instinctive reaction to a high ball gave away the penalty which opened the door to Rangers and the game finished in a 4-0 defeat.

In 1929, McStay, now 35 and clearly past his best, moved east to Hearts for £250 and later went on to become manager of Glentoran in Northern Ireland.

He passed away in 1974, a much-loved and respected figure among the older generation of Celtic supporters.



RESERVES — FACTS AND FIGURES FOR THE SEASON

DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE	SCORE	COMP.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Aug 25	Motherwell	H	7-1	P	McLean	Dolan	McCahill	Beattie	Rogan	Creaney?	Galloway	Fulton	Hewitt	Britton	Coyne?	Mathie (7)	McCar sn(10)
Aug 28	Rangers	A	0-2	W	McLean	Dolan	McCahill	McNally	Galloway	Rogan	Mathie	O'Neil	Britton	Roche	McCarrison	Beattie(5)	Donaghy(10)
Sept 1	Aberdeen	A	4-2	P	McLean	McNally	Campbell	McCahill	Beattie	O'Neil	Galloway	Fulton	Hewitt	Coyne?	Britton	McCarr sn(11)	Roche
Sept 3	Queen of the South	A	*8-1	W	McLean	Dolan	Baillie	McCahill	Baillie	Donaghy	Creaney?	O'Neil?	McCarrison	Trialist	Trialist	Trialist(8)	Beattie
Sept 6	Queens Park	A	6-0	W	McLean	McNally	Fulton	Donaghy	Baillie	McCahill	Coyne?	Creaney	Britton	Nicholas	Hewitt	O'Neil(7)	McCarr sn(14)
Sept 8	Hibernian	A	4-1	P	McLean	Morris	McCahill	McCahill	Beattie	Hayes	Donaghy	O'Neil	Rogan	Nicholas	coyne	Britton(5)	Roche
Sept 15	Rangers	H	2-3	P	McLean	Dolan	Beattie	Galloway	McCahill	McNally	O'Neil	Nicholas	McCarrison	Donaghy	Hayes	Coyne(9)	Britton
Sept 17	Aronie	H	6-3	W	Murdoch	McNally	McLaughlin	Galloway	McCahill	Beattie	O'Neil	R. McStay	McCarrison	Nicholas	Britton(4)	Britton(9)	Trialist(4)
Sept 24	Ayr United	A	4-1	P	McLean	McNally	P. McLaughlin	R. McStay	Baillie	Creaney?	Hayes	O'Neil	McCarrison	Donaghy	Hewitt	Coyne? (10)	Britton
Sept 29	St. Mirren	H	1-0	W	Murdoch	McNally	O'Neil	McCahill	McCahill	Hayes	B. McLaughlin	Donaghy	McCarrison	Nicholas	Hewitt	Hastie(2)	Trialist(11)
Oct 6	St. Johnstone	H	3-1	P	McLean	McNally	Baillie	McCahill	McCahill	O'Neil	O'Neil	Galloway	Coyne	McCarrison	Britton	Dolan(10)	Donaghy(11)
Oct 11	Clydebank	A	1-1	P	McLean	McNally	Wdowczyk	Galloway	Baillie	Hayes?	O'Neil	Donaghy	Walker	McCarrison	Mathie	Hastie(8)	McCahill(11)
Oct 13	Dunfermline	A	2-1	W	Murdoch	Dolan	Campbell	Donaghy	McCahill	Beattie	Mathie	Roche	Britton	Nicholas	McCarrison	Britton(9)	Smith
Oct 17	Stranraer	H	7-1	W	Murdoch	McNally	Campbell	Donaghy	Baillie	Roche	Hayes	O'Neil	McCarrison	Nicholas	Mathie	Donaghy(6)	Britton(11)
Oct 20	Dundee Utd	A	3-2	P	Murdoch	McNally	P. McLaughlin	Donaghy	Baillie	McCahill	Donaghy	O'Neil	Britton	Nicholas	Hewitt	Hastie(10)	B. McLaughlin(11)
Oct 22	Falkirk	H	2-1	W	Murdoch	McNally	Campbell	Galloway	Beattie	McCahill	McCahill	Hastie	McCarrison	McCarrison	Mathie	Donaghy(4)	Mathie(10)
Oct 25	Motherwell	A	2-0	P	Murdoch	McNally	P. McLaughlin	Galloway	Baillie	McCahill	McCahill	Donaghy	McCarrison	McCarrison	Coyne	Britton(10)	Dolan
Oct 29	Hamilton A.	A	2-2	W	McLean	McNally	P. McLaughlin	Roche	Baillie	McCahill	Mathie	Donaghy	McCarrison	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie(8)	Dolan
Nov 3	Aberdeen	A	*2-1	P	Murdoch	Morris	Campbell	R. McStay	Baillie	McCahill	McCahill	Donaghy	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie	Hastie(8)	Dolan
Nov 5	Morton	A	3-0	W	McLean	McNally	Campbell	Roche	Beattie	McCahill	McCahill	R. McStay	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie	Dolan(7)	O'Neil(8)
Nov 10	Harts	H	3-2	P	McLean	Morris	P. McLaughlin	Roche	McCahill	McCahill	McCahill	McCarrison	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie	O'Neil(8)	McCarrison(9)
Nov 13	Abion Rov.	A	5-0	W	Murdoch	Dolan	P. McLaughlin	Roche	McCahill	Beattie	Mathie	McCarrison	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie	O'Neil(8)	McCarrison(10)
Nov 17	St. Mirren	A	3-1	P	Murdoch	Morris	P. McLaughlin	Roche	McCahill	Beattie	Mathie	R. McStay	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie	O'Neil(10)	Donaghy
Nov 20	Kilmarnock	H	1-5	W	McLean	Dolan	P. McLaughlin	R. McStay	McCahill	Whyle	Mathie	Roche	McCarrison	McCarrison	Walker	Britton(7)	O'Neil
Nov 24	Rangers	A	0-2	P	Murdoch	Morris	P. McLaughlin	R. McStay	Whyle	McCahill	Mathie	O'Neil	McCarrison	McCarrison	Walker	Donaghy	Hastie
Nov 28	Partick Thistle	A	2-0	W	Murdoch	Morris	Beattie	Galloway	Baillie	McCahill	Mathie	Walker	McCarrison	McCarrison	Walker	Donaghy	Roche(11)
Dec 1	Hibernian	H	2-0	P	Murdoch	Morris	P. McLaughlin	Dolan	Baillie	Roche	Mathie	Walker	McCarrison	McCarrison	Hastie	R. McStay(9)	Roche(11)
Dec 5	Dumbarton	H	11-1	W	McLean	Dolan	McCahill	Galloway	Baillie	Roche	Hayes	R. McStay	Walker	McCarrison	Hewitt	O'Neil(6)	McCarrison(17)
Dec 8	Dundee United	H	1-0	P	Murdoch	Morris	P. McLaughlin	R. McStay	Baillie	Whyle	Hayes	P. McStay	Walker	McCarrison?	Hewitt	R. McStay(8)	O'Neil(2)



RESERVE SCENE

IT may now be a little out-dated to talk of Gerry Britton as simply a Celtic reserve player.

For after his debut appearance for the first team last Saturday against Dundee United he has taken the, often, quantum leap from understudy to lead performer.

Success, though, is highly unlikely to go to head for he is very pointedly aware that in football nothing can be taken for granted.

'It is crazy that a fortnight ago I wasn't even in the 13 for the premier reserve side yet a week later had made it into the first team!', Gerry remarks.

His step-up was anything but unearned though with the 20 year old striker currently seeming to have a magic touch in front of goal.

This is more than highlighted by the statistic that in the space of seven days, encompassing two and a bit games, he has been on target no less than EIGHT times, taking his season's total to 22 for the reserves.

For Gerry the reason behind this goal rush is quite simple and he puts it down to playing regular games on a week to week basis.

'That to me is absolutely crucial. I feel that the more games I play the sharper my game becomes and as a consequence the more goals I will score.

'Frequent involvement brings with it natural improvement to my game and I feel that is what I am currently benefiting from in the form of goalscoring,' he says.

He is also aware of positive spin-offs emanating from his debut last week.

'I was getting a little worried that the chance to turn out for the first team would never come no matter how many goals I scored.



GERRY BRITTON

Position: Striker

Date of Birth: 20.10.70

Birthplace: Glasgow

Age: 20

Height: 6ft

Weight: 11st 10in

Signed: June 1987

Previous Club:

Celtic Boys' Club

First team debut:

December 8 1990
v Dundee United in 3-1
defeat.

Last Saturday showed different however.

'Now that I have overcome this major hurdle I am confident it will not be as difficult to do a second time.

'Also just the very experience of playing first team football will, I believe have stood me in good stead.

'The differences between reserve and first team football were immediately brought home to me in the 20 minutes I played.

'You have far less time on the ball and you are given very little space with defenders marking you tightly.'

'Overall though, despite the result I really enjoyed it. For one it was my first taste of being away with the first team squad and as well as this I had never

played in front of such a large crowd before,' the young striker enthuses.

Though some way from the heady first team heights, Gerry has also been enjoying his first captaincy role for Celtic's youths in the Glasgow Cup.

'It has meant playing more games which is what I am desperate for and I have quite taken to the role as over-age leader. My friends have all come to cheer me on because of it,' Gerry says, no doubt hoping his team can make it two in a row with a final win against Partick Thistle on January 9.

And who knows, perhaps by that time he will be sandwiching his youth duties in between games for the first team?



APPEARANCES

FIRST TEAM

PLAYER	PREMIER DIV			SKOL CUP			TOTAL		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
P Bonner	16			5			21		
J Collins	16			5			21		
P Grant	14	-1		5			19	-1	
P Elliott	12		1	5		3	17		4
P McStay	12		2	5		1	17		3
A Rogan	13	-1		2			15	-1	
D Dziekanowski	9	-1	1	5		4	14	-1	5
S Fulton	12			2			14		
J Miller	11	-3	4	2	-2	1	13	-5	5
G Creaney	11	-3	4	2		1	13	-3	5
D Wdowczyk	10			2			12		
D Whyte	6		1	4			10		1
C Morris	4	-1		3	-1		7	-2	
A Walker	4	-1		2	-2		6	-3	
L Baillie	6		1				6		1
C Nicholas	5		1	1			6		1
M Hayes	2	-2		3			5	-2	
M McNally	5						5		
T Coyne	4	-2	6				4	-2	6
P McLaughlin	2	-1		2			4	-1	
M Galloway	1	-4			-1		1	-5	
J Hewitt	1	-3			-2		1	-5	
G Britton		-1						-1	
D McCarrison		-1						-1	

RESERVE TEAM

PLAYER	PREMIER DIV			WEST			TOTAL		
	A	S	G	A	S	G	A	S	G
S. McCahill	12	-1	1	10			22	-1	1
P. McLaughlin	12		2	5		2	17		4
M. McNally	10			6			16		
D. McCarrison	7	-5	2	8	-2	9	15	-7	11
A. Mathie	9	-1	1	6	-1		15	-2	1
M. Hayes	11		6	4		2	15		8
G. Britton	4	-6	3	10	-1	16	14	-7	19
L. Baillie	9		2	5		1	14		3
M. McLean	9			5			14		
A. Murdoch	7			7			14		
B. O'Neil	8	-2	2	5	-4	6	13	-6	8
M. Donaghy	6	-2		7	-1	2	13	-3	2
J. Beattie	5			8			13		
B. Dolan	3	-1		9	-1	1	12	-2	1
D. Roche	5	-2		7			12	-2	
M. Galloway	8		2	4		1	12		3
R. McStay	7	-1		4	-1	1	11	-2	1
T. Coyne	8	-2	8	2		2	10	-2	10
J. Hewitt	6		3	3			9		3
C. Morris	7			1			8		
C. Nicholas	6		2	2		1	8		3
A. Walker	6		3	2		1	8		3
K. Campbell				7		1	7		1
S. McBride		-1		5		1	5	-1	1
D. Whyte	2			3			5		
W. Hastie	1			3	-3		4	-3	
G. Creaney	1		2	3		4	4		6
S. Fulton	2		1	2		1	4		2
A. Rogan	2		1	1			3		1
D. Wdowczyk	2			1		1	3		1
B. McLaughlin				2	-1		2	-1	
D. Dziekanowski	1			1		1	2		1
P. McStay				1			1		
trialists				5	-3	1	5	-3	1
own goals			1			1			2

TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	16	10	4	2	34	11	24
Aberdeen	16	8	6	2	26	14	22
Dundee Utd	16	9	4	3	24	13	22
St. Johnstone	16	6	5	5	22	22	17
Celtic	16	6	4	6	21	20	16
Hearts	16	4	5	7	15	25	13
Hibernian	15	3	6	6	8	20	12
Motherwell	15	3	4	8	16	19	10
Dunfermline	15	2	6	7	17	25	10
St. Mirren	15	3	4	8	13	27	10

PREMIER RESERVE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	16	12	1	3	42	23	25
Rangers	16	11	2	3	33	16	24
Dundee Utd	16	10	2	4	34	17	22
Motherwell	14	7	1	6	21	22	15
St. Johnstone	16	5	4	7	19	25	14
Aberdeen	15	6	1	8	37	34	13
St. Mirren	15	3	6	6	18	25	12
Hibernian	16	6	0	10	14	28	12
Dunfermline	16	2	5	9	18	29	9
Hearts	14	3	2	9	10	27	8

RESERVE LEAGUE WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	14	11	1	2	56	17	23
Clydebank	14	10	1	3	38	20	21
Rangers	13	9	1	3	32	16	19
Ayr United	13	7	3	3	25	21	17
Kilmarnock	11	7	2	2	33	9	16
Airdrie	12	6	3	3	22	22	15
Stranraer	16	7	1	8	30	34	15
Partick Thistle	13	5	4	4	24	20	14
Morton	13	6	1	6	27	29	13
Clyde	11	4	4	3	21	16	12
Dumbarton	14	5	2	7	23	42	12
Falkirk	13	3	4	6	24	20	10
Hamilton Acas	12	3	4	5	15	21	10
Albion Rovers	16	3	3	10	21	39	9
Q.O.S.	14	2	1	11	19	53	5
Queen's Park	15	1	1	13	13	44	3

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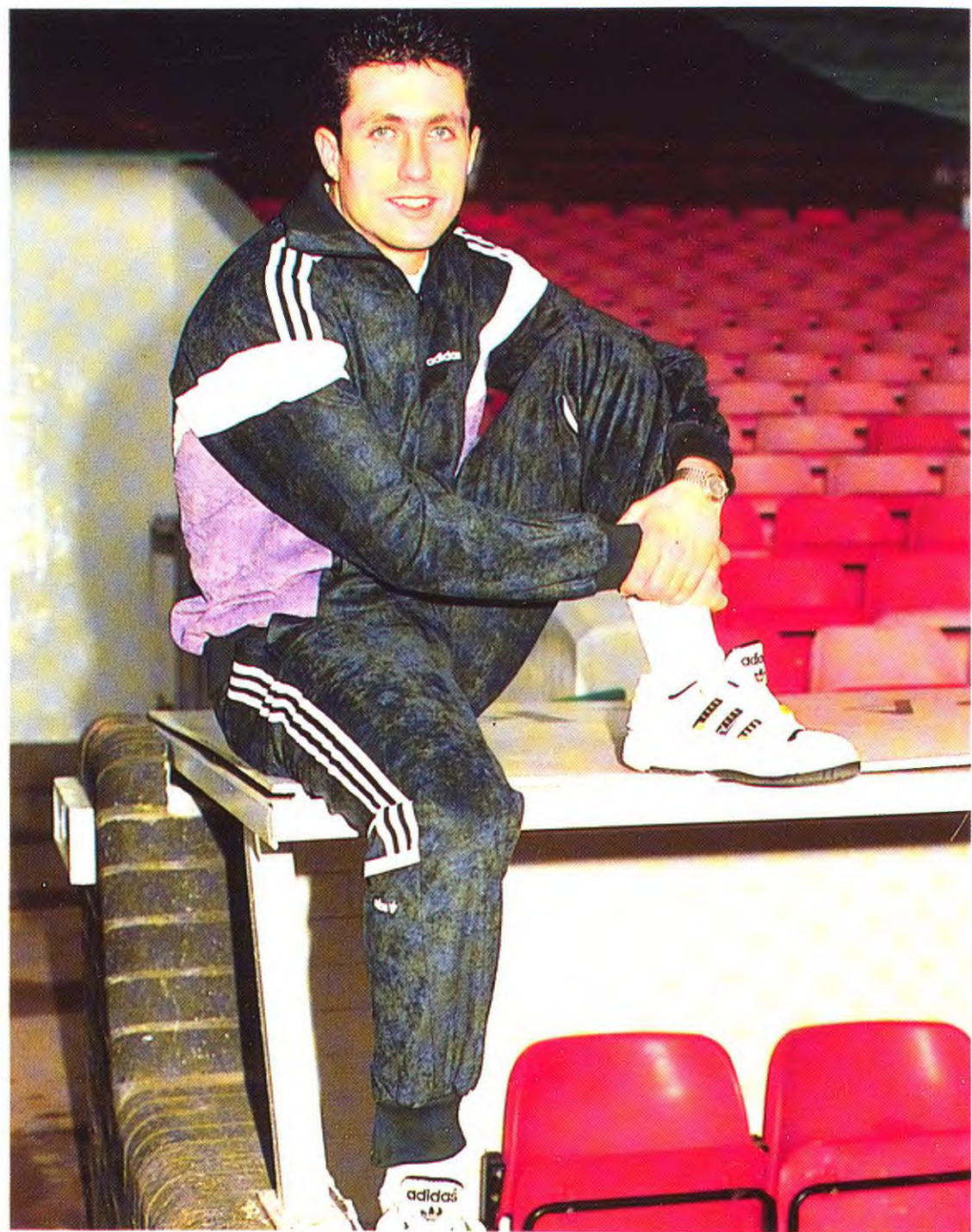


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OFF THE BALL...

with **JOHN COLLINS**

"SINKING a red" is a phrase regularly employed in that parlour game known to the world as snooker, much-loved by television moguls and programme-planners.

Its usage in snooker parlance indicates the potting of a ball but, for Celtic midfielder John Collins who cites the game as his major non-footballing winter hobby, it could have an alternative meaning entirely.

Because currently John, a "passable" player by his own reckoning, is giving fellow Celt Dariusz Dziekanowski more than a few beatings on the green baize battlefield.

Though not the only reason for indulging in this indoor pursuit, the Polish internationalist does provide Galashiels-born John with some lighter moments.

"I am giving Jacki a few lessons because the game's all new to him.

"He says that over in Poland they don't have any comparable game on a widespread basis.

"I get a good laugh at Jacki's efforts, but he's learning," says John with a broad grin.

Time will tell if Jacki follows John on to the golf course come summertime, for this is a sport which the ex-Hibs man plays "as much as possible" in the more clement season.

A move to Celtic saw resettlement for the 22-year-old who has now set-up home in the Lanarkshire town of Hamilton.

"I'm thoroughly enjoying staying there. It is handily placed for Celtic Park to make it easy to get into training, yet at the same time far enough from the city centre to allow for a measure of privacy," says John.

A busy schedule has thus far prevented John from returning to his family's Galashiels home but, most weekends, the Collins clan assembles in Hamilton for regular get-togethers.

The ties with his former place of abode do not begin and end with his family, however, for this is where he also met his fiancée Susan.

"She was studying at Galashiels Textile College but has now qualified and is working. When we met, I was travelling up to Easter Road everyday, a real dodgy journey in the winter.

"We got engaged several months ago and are now considering possible dates for a wedding," John reveals, perhaps considering it ample compensation for the many hazardous trips to Edinburgh in the past.

The musical choices of the Scottish internationalist in part reflect Susan's tastes — Adamski being a particular favourite — but there was no competition for his number one choice.

"The Silencers are a band whom I really love, on record but particularly live. The Real McCoy is a stand-out song."

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who scored for Dunfermline the last time today's teams met?
2. Who equalised for Celtic?
3. Name the last player transferred from Celtic to Dunfermline?
4. Which club does he play for now?
5. In which round did Donnie Hood stop David Moreno during theirbantamweight bout this week?
6. Against whom is his next fight?
7. Name the two brothers who played against each other when today's teams met in the late 1960's/early 70's?
8. What was the aggregate attendance when today's teams contested the 1960/61 Scottish Cup final and replay?
9. Who appeared in both the Celtic/Dunfermline Cup finals of 60/61 and 64/65 and didn't play in a winning side?
10. Who rejoined the England cricket squad in Australia this week?

ANSWERS

1. Ross Jack; 2. Paul McStay; 3. Mark Smith; 4. Nottingham Forest; 5. Round four; 6. Virgilio Openo; 7. Tommy Callaghan (Celtic); Willie Callaghan (Dunfermline); 8. 201,484; 9. H. Phillips who refereed both finals; 10. Phillip De Freitas.

My top three records ...

1. The Real McCoy.....*The Silencers*
2. In The Air (Tonight).....*Phil Collins*
3. Killer.....*Adamski*

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SCORING POINTS

IT cannot be denied that these are troubled, torturous times indeed for everyone connected with Celtic Football Club.

What can be questioned, though, is the wisdom of over-dramatising the current state of affairs to the extent that it is suggested that Celtic are on the very precipice of self-destruction.

That is surely an overly bleak appraisal of the present situation, even if the thoughts which lie behind such a notion are anything but difficult to understand.

Repeated failure on the field has left the team a massive eight points adrift of the league leaders and major board upheaval has been morale-sapping, reputation-damaging and viewed with great suspicion by sections of the Celtic support.

These two factors are hardly the source of rejoicing for Celtic supporters and engender the gloomy frame of mind which forecasts doom ... and nothing but doom.

Yet solace has been gleaned from the supporters' reaction, up to now, with regard to the unhappy goings on.

Though signs of disenchantment are more than noticeable after the events of last week, in general the Celtic support has shown admirable patience and commitment to the

cause in the face of the severest batterings they have taken in the past 25 years.

It has to be said that, without this rock of constant strength shown in the face of crumbling in other quarters, the present position would be even sorer than it is.

Now it seems that the solidarity is beginning to fragment, which could have repercussions far beyond those of poor results or boardroom uncertainties.

Really it is happening at the worst possible time and that is by no means a slight on those supporters who are fed-up or disillusioned with the club's current trials and tribulations.

They are entitled to believe that they have shown loyalty above and beyond the call of duty in the past, for that has often been the case.

If they are now declaring enough is enough then they have earned that right and it does not make them "poor supporters."

However, unconvincing as it sounds at present, the club needs the supporters more than the supporters need the club regardless of whether or not it deserves their continued backing.

"Save Our Celts" campaigns may have their basis in honourable aims but they are divisive in light of the current

situation.

The board's accountability (or lack of it) to the supporters has been a major gripe of many fans for more years than anyone cares to remember.

But there are signs that in no way are those supporters who populate Celtic Park on matchdays merely regarded as turnstile fodder, as perhaps at one time they felt they were.

Desperate times do not necessarily call for desperate actions

Even those supporters who have been the most vociferous critics of the way the club is run readily acknowledge that boycotts, demonstrations and blanket abuse serves no purpose.

It may sound trite to make a plea for continued support of the team but few would disagree that the players are often the most severe sufferers of discontent on the terraces and yet their commitment to the cause is not in doubt.

No-one has the right to tell any supporter what they should or should not do. However they can ask them to consider the effects of their actions.

In the final analysis though, it will be up to those who hold the club so dear to decide on the way they see their role as 'supporter' continuing.

● ANDREW SMITH



THE FOOTBALL TRUST

Family enclosures — one of the most successful Trust funded initiatives at Scottish grounds.

HELPING THE GAME



The Football Trust 1990 has been created to help the game at all levels and to assist clubs meet the requirements of Lord Justice Taylor's Final Report.

Safety and comfort for all spectators is the primary objective and substantial funds have been made available for the provision of seating at Scottish Football League grounds. At the same time the Trust's commitment to family and community initiatives will continue with the provision of more family enclosures, better toilet facilities, covered accommodation, artificial pitches for local use and the development of junior football, plus a wide range of policing and crowd control measures.

Each year the Trust expects to receive £20 million from the reduction in Pool Betting Duty plus the £10 million continuing contribution from the Spotting-the-Ball competition organised by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters. This money will be invested in projects which benefit football throughout the United Kingdom.



On this day in history ...

■ 1984: Premier Division — Hibernian 0 Celtic 1. Mo Johnston scored the only goal of the game in the 78th minute. Attendance 10,000.

■ 1982: Roy Aitken played in the Scotland team which was beaten 3-2 in Brussels by Belgium. An appearance as substitute was made by Tommy Burns.

■ 1979: Premier Division — Celtic 5 Partick Thistle 1. Celtic were 2-0 up at half-time with goals from Tom McAdam in the ninth and 21st minutes. Second half goals from Roddie MacDonald (65 minutes), Bobby Lennox (70) and Dom Sullivan (77) took Celtic to 5-0 in front before Donald Park got a consolation goal for Thistle in the 82nd minute. Attendance 19,000.



The evergreen Bobby Lennox ... who scored twice against Partick Thistle 11 years ago today.

December 15th

Research by
JOHN G. PIACENTINI

■ 1973: League Cup final — Celtic 0 Dundee 1. State of Emergency induced power cuts forced the game kick-off at 1.30 pm. This, allied with transport problems and appalling weather, cut the attendance drastically. Gordon Wallace scored the only goal for Dundee in the 75th minute to ensure that Tommy Gemmell picked up a winner's medal at his former club's expense. Attendance 27,974.

■ 1962: First Division — Third Lanark 2 Celtic 0. Second half goals by Gray (55) and Cunningham (74) meant that Celtic left Cathkin pointless. Attendance 15,000.

■ 1956: First Division — Celtic 3 Dunfermline Athletic 1. John Higgins scored in the sixth minute to secure an interval lead. McWilliams equalised for the visitors straight from the restart. Celtic went back in front through Neilly Mochan in the 60th minute and Willie Fernie sealed the points with an 89th minute goal. Attendance 11,000.



Former Celt Roy Aitken ... who played in losing Scotland side eight years ago today.

■ 1953: John McDonald was transferred from Celtic to St Mirren.

■ 1951: Division A — East Fife 3 Celtic 1. East Fife went in 2-0 up at half time due to goals from J Stewart (23) and Gardiner (33). James Walsh pulled one back for Celts in the 57th minute but Gardiner scored again for the home side four minutes from time in what was Jock Stein's second game for Celtic. Attendance 15,000.

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