

CELTIC

v ST MIRREN



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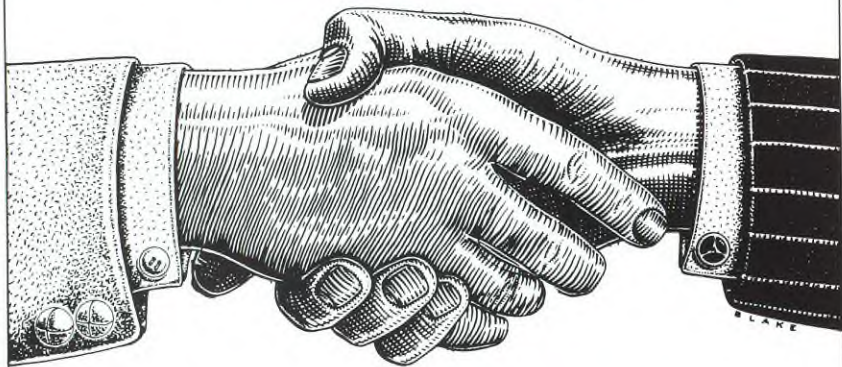
Wednesday November 25
Celtic Park, Glasgow
Kick-off 7.30pm



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 50p

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CELTIC v ST MIRREN

Around the League

news . . . views . . . facts . . . dates . . .

Programme edited
by Kevin McKenna



Contributors:
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DUNDEE striker Tommy Coyne scored his 18th and 19th goals of the season in his side's valuable 2-1 victory over Hibs at Dens Park on Saturday.

He is one of the main reasons why Dundee can make a return to European football for the first time since 1974. For although they will face a fight from city rivals Dundee United, the Dens Park side have shown that they have the character to hang on to fifth spot in the table at least.

For, despite being given a 5-0 hammering by Celtic a week ago on Saturday they picked themselves up to record an important 2-1 victory v St Mirren at Love Street last Tuesday and then defeat Hibs. After the Celtic match Billy McNeill paid tribute to Dundee when he said that they had, at all times, continued to try to play football: "They are a good side," he said.

Davie Dodds became the first Aberdeen striker to score a goal in six matches when he notched the only goal of a dull game against

Motherwell at Pittodrie. The big striker has resumed from where he left off before an unfortunate injury ruled him out for three months in September. Then, he had been scoring regularly and you can see just how much Dons missed him during that period; to date they have scored only 25 goals in 19 matches excluding last night's fixture.

Hearts meanwhile stuttered to a 0-0 draw against St Mirren at Tyne-castle; by all accounts Saints stand-in keeper young Les Fridge was annointed on Saturday as he pulled off save after save. Hearts were

bitterly disappointed as, just three days previously, they had gone to Tannadice and defeated a sad United side 3-0. It's a crucial week for Hearts this Saturday they face Rangers at Ibrox who themselves are anxious to revive their championship ambitions after a couple of anaemic displays against Aberdeen (0-1) and Falkirk (1-0).

Already the propnets of doom are predicting that Dundee United are over the hill. Comprehensively defeated by Hearts at Tannadice last Wednesday they travelled to Greenock and scraped a meagre 1-0 victory over Morton.

TODAY'S MASCOT

Tonight's mascot is:

Scott Mullen

from Knightswood

AGED 10

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We wish Billy every success now that he's back in the driving seat.



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CELTIC v ST MIRREN

Billy McNeill

the manager has his say



St Mirren are our visitors today, and although they have had a rather topsy-turvy season up until now, they will provide stiff opposition tonight, just as they did against Hearts as the Tynecastle men found to their cost on Saturday.

But on the evidence of our form over the last month we have every reason to approach this match with confidence. In that period we have taken nine points out of a possible ten in a run that has included three matches away from home. Also noteworthy during this very satisfying sequence is the fact that we've conceded only one goal.

Of course the signing of Joe Miller has given us many more options and his form has been very pleasing. But the team as a whole has responded well to such an extend that I am now fast approaching a situation where there is competition for places in many areas of the side. I feel this is always essential for a team which has designs on getting among the major trophies, as we have; but I believe it is even more essential this year when, by the end of the season we will have played close on 60 matches.

EXCELLENT

Of course the ideal situation would occur when every position is covered but to be fair to my players their attitude was first-class earlier in the season when despite facing criticism from many areas, despite being written off before a ball was kicked, they buckled down and worked hard to achieve some excellent results. All of which made it easier for the likes of Frank McAvennie and Joe Miller to settle that bit more easily.

I've been very happy with many aspects of our play in our last few matches not least of which has been the form of Paul McStay. But he can do even more justice to his abilities by getting among the goals. This is something that Paul is aware of too and he has the right attitude to respond.

The attack has rightly been winning much praise recently but here I'd like also to mention the displays of our defence who have combined safety with adventure and can be relied upon to break from the back intelligently when the opportunity arises.



Joe Miller — more options



CELTIC v ST MIRREN



Andy Walker — Celtic's man of the moment salutes the fans after scoring one of his 18 goals this season.



CELTIC v ST MIRREN

ARE YOU TRENDY AND COOL?

ARE you into being trendy and cool? Do you like trendy and cool sports? Do you know what trendy and cool sports are? Another question is do you really care? We are often bombarded in the press, TV and those glossy magazines free with Sunday papers with statements on how we should dress, what we should eat and drink, what kind of car we drive, who our friends are, what kind of music we like and what sports we should participate in.

Now often the people who tell us these things would not get a second glance in Sauchiehall Street. Most of their ideas seem to come from obscure American magazines. However let's look at being trendy and cool and then we can decide if that's what we want to be.

It used to be that squash was the "in-thing" and it was the right sport to play on a Sunday before lunch.

Now if you threw a brick (or should I say a house building material) in any wine-bar, you will no doubt dent the head of someone talking about rushing yards, quarterbacks and kicking averages. American football is **the** sport. Now I am not criticising it as a sport because I enjoy watching it myself but the trendsetters have adopted it as theirs, making those who genuinely appreciate the game sink into the background.

Now in order to be cool and trendy at Celtic Park we have to ban the fashion conscious Superbowlers. The first thing we must do is tell members. Statistics are a Superbowlers dream. They rhyme them off so fast that you can mistakingly think they are possessed by the ghost of a bingo caller. Our statistics are so much more interesting. The amount of time Paul McStay leaves the opposition baffled, the rushing



yardage of Roy Aitken, the kicking of Pat Bonner and the passing of the full-backs.

These would all be the talk of the wine bar. We have to turn-up at games in our battered Porsche wearing 501's and bombshell hats. Checking the time of kick-off on our gold Rolex digital calendar teasmade videos round our tanned wrist. We need scoreboards, cheerleaders and big cuddly Disney characters running round the park. When the game starts we take notice of what's happening on the field but instead talk about how poor Jasmin's latest effort is. Then after the game we trot off to the wine bar and say how bad the team is.

So that's how to be a cool and trendy fan at Parkhead. Personally I prefer being a supporter in an old jacket, eating a greasy pie. I think most of us do. However if you see any of these cool and trendy men avoid them because coolness rubs off and you could find yourself wearing shades in the winter.

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What the papers say...

THE football scribes were unanimous in their opinion that Celtic had played some of their best football of the season against Dunfermline.

Don Morrison of the **Sunday Mail** was in no doubt why that was: *'McStay showed that he is simply in a class of his own.'*

'The way he made space and despatched the ball with unerring accuracy backs the belief that both Billy McNeill and Scotland boss Andy Roxburgh have shown in the talented midfielder.'

And **Jim Reynolds** of the **Glasgow Herald** was lavish also in his praise of Billy Stark:

'Stark is the type of player who will certainly justify the manager's faith in him with more goals as the club bids for the championship. If he is given the chance, another 10 goals during the rest of the season is not beyond him.'

Meanwhile **Glenn Gibbons** of the **Observer** hadn't forgotten Celtic's recent acquisition, winger Joe Miller:

'Celtic brought their goals total to 11 in their last three matches and, if it was the first occasion in his career on which Joe Miller has failed to score in a match at Parkhead, that is hardly a cause for concern.'

'The little forward's contribution — he engineered two of the goals with superb passing and crossing — was handsome enough.'



Bill Stark — another 10 goals?

The Mail on Sunday's Ian Archer couldn't help making comparisons and he felt the current Celtic side compares favourably with those of the past.

'Poor Dunfermline simply could not cope with the quick passing of a Celtic side as attractive as any in recent years. It may have taken two penalties to get them started, but after that Dunfermline had to stand back and watch the new order in action.'

But if anyone was in danger of being carried away there was always the words of the taciturn **Sunday Post Reporter** to bring us back to earth:

'One word of warning to those Celtic fans who think their side is shaping up as champions.'

'Against a better side than Dunfermline, all the clever flicks and touches in the world would accomplish nothing. And the Parkhead men's unwillingness to finish off good leading up work more often would surely prove costly.'

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CELTIC v ST MIRREN

Looking Back . . .

5 YEARS AGO - November 27, 1982 - Scottish Premier League - Attendance 17,121
HIBERNIAN 2 CELTIC 3

THIS was Celtic's seventh straight league victory in a row and took Celtic's goal tally during this run to 21. Frank McGarvey was first on target in 32 minutes with his ninth goal of the season in all competitions. As expected Hibs were making it tough for Celtic in front of their own fans but Celtic seemed to have settled it when Paul McStay scored what looked like the decisive second goal in 57 minutes. But Hibs had other ideas and Murray scored the first of a double eight minutes later. McGarvey restored Celtic's two-goal advantage in 82 minutes but Hibs came roaring back and Murray scored in 85 minutes. Celtic held on though to retain their place at the top of the league.

CELTIC: Bonner, McGrain, McAdam, Moyes, Sinclair, Aitken, McStay, Burns, Provan, McGarvey, Nicholas.

10 YEARS AGO - December 10th 1977 - Scottish Premier League - Attendance 27,000
CELTIC 3 PARTICK THISTLE 0

ATROCIOUS weather meant that Celtic were idle for three weeks before their match with Thistle. Over 27,000 turned out to see if Celtic could continue their good form which had been evident up until the lay-off. Tom McAdam gave Celts the best possible start when he scored in 10 minutes. This settled Celtic who then proceeded to give the Jags the run-around and it was no surprise when Roddy McDonald increased Celtic's lead with a goal in 41 minutes. Andy Lynch with a penalty made it three, seven minutes after half-time.

CELTIC: Latchford, Fillipi, McDonald, Munro, Lynch, Aitken, Edvaldsson, Conn, Doyle, McAdam, Craig.

15 YEARS AGO - November 27th 1972 - League Cup Semi-Final - Attendance 39,687
CELTIC 3 ABERDEEN 2

THIS was a classic match which Celtic can count themselves just a shade fortunate to win in 90 minutes. After Joe Harper had opened the scoring for Dons on the half-hour mark, Celtic equalised through a Harry Hood penalty three minutes later. Play swung from end to end after this as both sides created chances. Aberdeen appeared to have clinched it with a Davie Robb goal in 74 minutes but Celtic's response was immediate as they equalised for the second time with a Jimmy Johnstone goal. Tommy Callaghan then became Celtic's hero when he bulletted a shot into the net from 10 yards following a Hood cross. Celtic held on with difficulty for the remaining 10 minutes as both Zoltan Varga and Joe Harper struck woodwork.

CELTIC: Williams, McGrain, Brogan, McCluskey, Connelly, Hay, Johnstone, Deans, Dalgligh, Hood, Callaghan.

This time last year . . .

ABERDEEN..... 1 CELTIC 1

Attendance: 23,000

WITH this hard earned point Celtic moved 7 points clear of their nearest rivals Dundee United.

In the 10th minute the home side had a great chance to open the scoring when Derek Whyte slipped inside the box and the ball hit his hand. Up stepped Jim Bett to take the penalty kick but Pat Bonner pulled off a magnificent save.

The Dons did take the lead however in the 48th minute when Alex McLeish headed home. Celtic pressed hard for an equalizer and 9 minutes from time were awarded a penalty. Brian McClair's kick however hit the underside of the bar and Mo Johnston headed the rebound against the post. From the resulting scramble we were awarded another penalty for handball and this time McClair made no mistake.

It's a fact

St Mirren's best season against Celtic in the Premier League was their first in 1977/78 when they won 7 points out of 8. They won 2-1 twice at Celtic Park and at Love Street the scores were 3-3 and 3-1.

***GO FOR
TENNENT'S LAGER***



NOTHING LESS WILL DO