

CELTIC

v DUNDEE UNITED



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League**

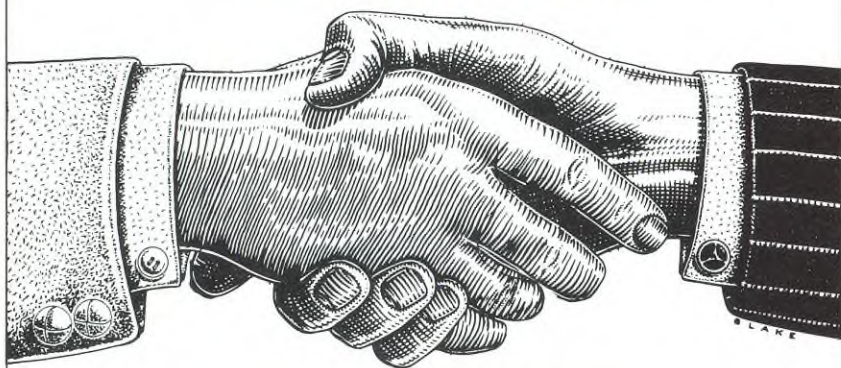
**Saturday October 24, 1987
Celtic Park, Glasgow
Kick-off 3pm**



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 50p

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CELTIC v DUNDEE UNITED

Programme edited
by Kevin McKenna



Contributors:
Roddy Stewart
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Around the League

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

Congratulations are in order this week to Hibs who, at last, managed to defeat Hearts after seven years of thrashings and near misses.

Hibs 2-1 defeat of their Edinburgh rivals sounded warning bells to every other team in the Premier League that Hibs now have a side worthy of respect from all of their opponents.

Scotland deputy Andy Goram has added some stability between the sticks to complement a very solid-looking back four of Sneddon, Mitchell, Rae and Hunter.

And with Neill Orr, John Collins and George McCluskey, who is fast regaining his Celtic form, Hibs look set to fulfill the Celtic match-day programme prediction that they can at least secure a European spot next season.

Aberdeen and Dundee United, who fought out a goal-less draw at Tannadice last week, looked like shadows of the sides who electrified Scottish football in the first half of the decade. Dons have had more than their fair share of injuries these days but even that doesn't begin to explain why Aberdeen have scored so few goals since Iain Porterfield took over.

They have now gone three games without a win.

United while retaining some amount of self respect when faced with the big three (Rangers 1-1, 1-0, Celtic 0-0, Aberdeen 1-1, 1-1) nevertheless have failed to accumulate points against sides they should be expected to beat with ease. Perhaps they are suffering a hangover from last season when they failed to lift a trophy despite being arguably Scotland's best side at home and abroad.

Falkirk gained only their second win of the season last week as they defeated a sad Motherwell side 3-0 with goals by Eadie, Hill and Stewart.

Dundee's fighting 1-0 win at Dunfermline keeps them in 5th place. The Dens Park men after a string of useful results in previous years would normally have been

expected to stutter in a fixture like this but they have now found some level of consistency; a quality that seemed beyond them in recent times.

St Mirren and Morton fought out a dour goal-less draw which gives the Greenock side a valuable point in their struggle to maintain their top-flight status this year.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	13	9	2	2	25	11	20
Celtic	13	7	5	1	22	10	19
Aberdeen	13	6	6	1	20	9	18
Rangers	13	6	3	4	24	10	15
Dundee	13	5	4	4	23	14	14
St Mirren	13	5	4	4	15	13	14
Hibernian	13	5	4	4	18	18	14
Dundee Utd	13	3	7	3	13	13	13
Motherwell	13	3	2	8	8	18	8
Dunfermline	13	2	4	7	10	25	8
Morton	13	2	3	8	18	36	7
Falkirk	13	2	2	9	12	31	6

TODAY'S MASCOT

Today's Mascot is 8 year old

DAVID KEATING

from Coatbridge

Remember to give him a big welcome as he leads the the team onto the Park today.

Back In The Driving Seat With a Great Team.

When Billy McNeill came back to Scotland, it was inevitable he would sign for the No 1 team, Ian Skelly. As Britain's biggest, the Ian Skelly Group are suppliers of Volkswagen and Audi cars to the Scottish Football Association, Scottish Football League and many of Scotland's leading Clubs and personalities.

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



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CELTIC v DUNDEE UNITED

Billy McNeill

the manager has his say



TODAY I'm pleased to welcome Jim McLean and his Dundee United team to Celtic Park.

Over the years I can recall some great matches between Celtic and Dundee United especially during my first managerial stint here.

United have a well-deserved reputation for playing attractive football, so do we however, which all adds up to making this match one of the best in the Premier League fixture card.

Another reason why I've looked forward to this clash is, that in the absence of Frank McAvennie, I now have the chance to field young Dugald McCarrison. This is one of the most pleasing aspects of my job here; when I can approach a youngster and say: "You're playing on Saturday," it makes the job as manager, rewarding as it is, even more so.

Along with Stevie Fulton, Dugald had started off as a bright prospect in the youth team less than a year ago but has quickly established himself in the reserves to such an extent that I was loath to ignore him much longer.

I know that you will accord the young fellow a truly Celtic welcome.

I'm also glad that Paul McStay can make it today after having picked up a nasty ankle injury in last Saturday's Old Firm match. We will need his guile and subtlety to beat United who will be seeking to vanquish the memory of their midweek European defeat.



Paul McStay — will be needed for today's difficult match.

It's a fact

Celtic's biggest league win over Dundee United at Celtic Park is 7-0 in 1929/30. United's biggest ever league win here is 3-0 in 1985/86.



CELTIC v DUNDEE UNITED

JUST A DREAM

by COLIN CAMPBELL

THE mutant monster of merger has reared its ugly head again. A British League is being pushed as the saviour of football. The question is however, football where? Certainly not Scotland. No. The place where the game needs saving is England.

For years they lived off Scottish imports; taking in our star players with the myth that they would be playing in the best league in the world. So off they went, Dalglish, Macari and Hay etc. Now thankfully the trend is almost reversed.

Surely those who go south nowadays are lacking in ambition. The crowds are dwindling, the game is short of stars and at the end of a season they will have no European football to look back on. The Scottish game is flourishing. Crowds have increased in each of the last five years. There are exciting games on offer every week with teams having stars and characters to be proud of. Why should we merge with England? The answer is simple if you are English. They need our teams and our crowds to give them money.

The English game is diseased with the cancer of thuggery and seem to be making no progress in curing the affliction. Of course this is not only an English problem but football's and we in Scotland should not become complacent. We have well behaved supporters and faith must be placed in them, but why subject them to mixing with the English troublemakers. Scotland has an exciting product which should not be tainted with outside influences.

A British League would obviously throw up some attractive fixtures such as Celtic v Manchester United or Celtic v Liverpool, but how long could our supporters afford to travel to England.

The problems of a Super League are too numerous. There would have to be promotion and relegation, so what would happen if Liverpool were relegated and Albion Rovers came up — would it still be a Super League?

Perhaps a better plan would be to play a game between the champions of the two countries. This could be a curtain-raiser for a new season. It could be held at the previous winners national ground and be promoted as the British Championship. The game could become a spectacular annual event. Next year we could see Celtic v Liverpool at Hampden. This would attract T.V. viewers from all over the world thus generating massive revenue. Just picture the scene — there could be music and dancing girls before the game with Eddie Murphy introducing the teams. Have dancing girls and U2 at half-time and for the cup presentation have dancing girls and Whitney Houston handing over the trophy to Roy Aitken. Then as the teams did a lap of honour the dancing girls and Whitney spot me in the crowd and rush towards me and ...

Anyway, let's think before rushing into something which has very little benefit for Scotland. The smaller teams would suffer perhaps depriving us of future star players due to the lack of cash coming to them. The Premier Division is thriving, why smother it before it grows up. The Super League is a T.V. executive's dream because he does not care about crowds only ratings. Even if a British Championship does not materialise then the Cup Final could become a spectacular. Whitney could present the trophy to big Roy ... I could help him ... "Out of the way Roy. I'll get the cup. Where are the dancing girls?"



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ENGLISH SCENE

by Hugh McKinney

IT appears that the Football League, not content with the problems already besieging them already, are keen to commit football suicide. This week two decisions, one by the League Management Committee, the other by the League itself, have caused ridicule and concern among clubs and supporters alike.

The League Management Committee has decided, on no more than a financial whim, to ban European T.V. stations showing clips of English League matches on their news programmes.

Normal televised highlights to Europe are unaffected. What the Committee fail to realise is that without news coverage of matches themselves the only time English football will appear on European news programmes is when there is trouble at matches (the way things have been going this season, this could be every week). Hardly the type of advertising the league need to persuade UEFA to re-admit them to European competition.

The reasoning is, not surprisingly, financial. They falsely assume that these clips will affect the sales of their weekly video which is sold throughout Europe. Similar systems work very adequately side by side in Italy and Spain, so it's difficult to understand why the league again, refuses to learn from other people, and why should advertisers be attracted to the Football League if all they're offering is limited home coverage. Barclay's Bank, I feel, can rightly feel aggrieved when they pour so much money into the ageing dinosaur.

The other strange decision by the league was to fine Torquay £2,000 and deduct 2 league points because they cancelled their match with Bolton. Torquay, who normally have 9 policemen on duty for home matches were told by the police that they would require a heavier presence for the match. Unable to pay the increased charges (about £1,500) Torquay called off. With average home gates of around 1,000 it is doubtful whether the increased crowd would make up the difference for the police charges. As a result of Torquay's financial care, they were fined more than the police bill would have been.

LUCRATIVE

It seems ludicrous in the days of financial thrift from the league down, that the management should restrict financial income for their sponsors by cancelling lucrative European advertising capable of reaching millions (news programmes do tend to attract larger audiences that specialised football programmes) while at the same time fining one of their clubs a disproportionate amount for trying to save money and ending up paying over the odds and losing 2 points, especially when you remember that Torquay stayed in the league by 4 goals last season.

The only bright spot on the horizon for the future of English Football and their sponsors is the imminent retirement of secretary Ted Croker.

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What the papers say...

LAST week's events at Ibrox gave sports writers something of a field day.

Let's begin with the **SUNDAY MAIL's Allan Herron:**

"McAvennie came running towards the keeper and without hesitation began to slap Woods about the face. I've never seen anything so provocative in such circumstances. The shattered keeper tried to protect himself and pushed McAvennie away."

Sounds like Allan was maybe watching a James Cagney film along with **David Leggat, THE NEWS ON SUNDAY:**

"McAvennie crazily flailed two punches at Woods, who in self-defence raised his hands."

Allan and David must have felt quite silly when they watched what really happened on T.V. Few described what the T.V. viewers saw happening. **Alan Davidson of THE EVENING TIMES:**

"In more years of watching Rangers playing Celtic than I care to recall, this was undoubtedly the ugliest most shameful and potentially disastrous ever witnessed."

Giving up in despair old Allan weeps:

"Essentially, it has nothing to do with football. Rather it is a reflection on the frailties and blind, intolerant certainties of life in this country."

Thankfully some writers were brave enough to tell it like it really was. The **DAILY RECORD's, Alex Cameron** says:

"Rangers were the chief offenders. ... The gestures of Roberts, near the end, not only brought the game into disrepute, they were downright provocative. This is happening too often and at too many places to be a gang-up by opponents on referees."

Graham Clark of THE EVENING TIMES agrees:

"Saturday's debacle is merely the latest in a long line of Ibrox indiscretions."

Jim Reynolds of the GLASGOW HERALD looked at another area:

"There should be much praise for the fans, who declined to follow the hooligan attitude displayed by certain of the players."

Could Jim be talking about someone **Sandy Truscott of the NEWS OF THE WORLD** knows:

"Referee Duncan boomed in not ordering off Graham Roberts after he had blatantly struck McAvennie a blow."

Reading through newspapers it appears that many journalists were sitting very far away from what happened. Wanting to be fair they decided to blame both teams for the trouble. It was left to **Ian Archer, MAIL ON SUNDAY** to find a silver lining:

"The only good thing is that Rangers have no injury worries for Wednesday's European tie."

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CELTIC v DUNDEE UNITED

Looking Back . . .

5 YEARS AGO · 23rd October, 1982 · Premier League
MORTON 1, CELTIC 2

This was a tough fight for Celtic against a brave Morton side. The Parkhead side were in control for the first half with goals from McGarvey in the 22nd minute and a Nicholas penalty five minutes from the break, Morton fought back after the interval, a Rooney goal in 70 minutes made for a tense finish with Celtic holding on for two points. Att: 15,500.

10 YEARS AGO · 22nd October, 1977 · Premier League
DUNDEE UTD 1, CELTIC 2

Tannadice is never an easy place to get points and Celtic had to fight back from the loss of a Fleming goal after only 2 minutes. The Celts equalised in 37 minutes from the penalty spot, Narey fisted away a certain goal from Tom McAdam so Glavin was given the chance to level the scores. After the break with Edvaldsson on for Craig Celtic looked the better side. They cashed in on their dominance with a Paul Wilson goal in 79 minutes. Att: 17,000.

15 YEARS AGO · 21st October, 1972 · First Division
CELTIC 3, EAST FIFE 0

Celtic set themselves up nicely for the European Cup tie with Ujpest Dozsa with a convincing victory over East Fife. The first half saw chances made but only one taken, a Hood goal in 45 minutes. The support had to wait until the last ten minutes when Deans in 80 minutes and Lennox 4 minutes later sealed the victory. Att: 20,000.

This time last year . . .

Skol Cup Final — Attendance 74,219

Celtic..... 1 **Rangers**..... 2

ALTHOUGH this match was played a year ago, no Celtic fan needs reminding of the events that took place over the 90 minutes.

Celtic had the upper hand in the first half and the closest we came to scoring was in the 40th minute when a Mo Johnston shot came back off the post.

It was Rangers though who opened the scoring in the 62nd minute when Ian Durrant scored with a left foot shot. Within 8 minutes Celtic equalised with what was surely the goal of the season. Roy Aitken found Johnston on the edge of the box and he flicked it first time to Brian McClair who struck a glorious drive from 20 yards into the top corner of the net. With only 6 minutes left Rangers scored the winner from a highly controversial penalty which was converted by Davie Cooper. In the last minute Johnston was sent off after an off the ball incident.

It's a fact

Dundee United became the first Scottish team ever to appear in the UEFA Cup Final. After magnificent performances in beating Barcelona and Borussia Munchengladbach, the Tangerines fell at the final hurdle to Gothenburg of Sweden.