

# CELTIC

## V ABERDEEN



**FINE FARE**  
**Premier**  
**League**

**Saturday September 19, 1987**  
**Celtic Park, Glasgow**  
**Kick-off 3pm**



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## CELTIC v ABERDEEN

# Around the League

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

Programme edited  
by Kevin McKenna



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CELTIC go into today's match v Aberdeen as table-toppers with seven matches played. They face an Aberdeen side who are, as yet the only unbeaten side in the Premier Division.

The Dons have been criticised for sacrificing attractive football in their quest for points, but anyone who witnessed them demolish St. Mirren at Love Street last Saturday would refute those criticisms.

A feature of the season so far in the Premier League has been the fall of Dundee United. They've won only one match in this season's campaign.

Are they relying too much on Sturrock, Bannon, Hegarty and Narey again?

Certainly its a while since the Tannadice men have played for a draw at their home ground, yet that's precisely what they did two weeks ago against Celtic.

Hearts 1-0 win over Motherwell last week keeps them on Celtic's tails. It looks like they've put last season's disap-

pointments behind them and are once again ready to challenge for the championship.

Dundee can't seem to make up their minds whether they want to emerge as a genuine force in Scotland or remain as a stolid middle-of-the-table side.

### LACKLUSTRE

After some promising results, they were brought back down to earth with a 4-3 defeat at Morton.

St. Mirren's lacklustre display v Aberdeen last week suggest that Alex Smith has much to do before he can think

about adding to last year's Scottish Cup success.

And Hibs' superb 2-1 victory over United at Tannadice, added to their 1-0 success over Rangers in the early part of the season suggests that they may be ready to emerge as a force to be reckoned with again.

Don't bet against them securing a UEFA Cup place this season.

Good to see Morton at long last grabbing a win. But I still reckon that they, along with Dunfermline and Falkirk will struggle to beat the drop in May '88.

### TODAY'S MASCOT



*Celtic's mascot for  
today's match is  
young Stephen McPeake  
from Falkirk.*

# 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 ABERDEEN

# Billy McNeill

*the manager has his say*



## 'We can get a result'

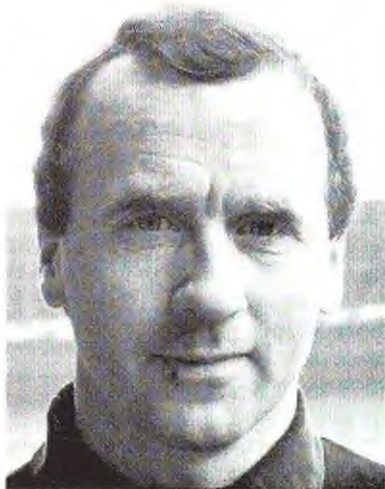
**WE welcome Aberdeen to Celtic Park today. The fact that its the men from the north we're facing gives an edge to this match for me personally, as I recall my own time with them in 1977-78.**

Today we're seeking to bury the memory of our 1-0 defeat at Pittodrie in the Skol Cup earlier this month. On that occasion we were most unlucky, I thought, not to have taken more from that game.

Aberdeen are a very good side who will make it difficult for us today. But if we can show the same commitment as we have done since the start of the season then I'm confident we can get a result. Its important that we win today but that win must be undertaken with style — the style with which we've been playing recently.

I've been very pleased with my players' attitude this season. We all knew we had a hard job in the wake of our losing so many players last season. But I couldn't have asked for any more from them.

They've worked hard in training with Tommy Craig and myself and they have translated this out on to the field where they have worked tirelessly for each other.



### It's a fact

Celtic have never completed a full Premier League season undefeated against Aberdeen. Although we knocked them out of both the Cups last season we failed to beat them in any of the league meetings.



# CELTIC v ABERDEEN

## PREMIER LEAGUE FACTS

	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>CELTIC PARK</b> .....	24	8	9	7	30	31	25
<b>PITTODRIE</b> .....	24	7	5	12	28	40	19
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	48	15	14	19	58	71	44

☒ SINCE the inception of the Premier League, 24 players from Celtic have scored against Aberdeen. 23 Aberdeen players have scored against Celtic.

☒ CELTIC'S biggest Premier League win against Aberdeen is 4-1. This happened only once in 1977 (April 20th). Likewise Aberdeen's biggest win over Celtic is 4-1. The Dons have achieved this three times v Celtic; in 1978, 1981 and 1985.

THE full list of scorers in these fixtures is as follows:

**CELTIC:** McGarvey 5, Aitken 4, McCluskey 4, Nicholas 4, Dalglish 4, MacLeod 3, McClair 3, Provan 3, Johnston 3, Craig 3, McStay 2, Burns 2, Doyle 2, Conn 2, Lynch 2, Glavin 2, Edvaldsson 2, McNally 1, Grant 1, Melrose 1, McAdam 1, McDonald 1, Lennox 1, Oans 1, O.G. 1.

**ABERDEEN:** Strachan 8, McDougall 7, Jarvie 7, McGhee 6, Harper 5, Black 5, Sullivan 3, Archibald 3, McCall 3, McLeish 3, Miller 3, Graham 2, Fleming 2, W. Miller 2, Hewitt 2, O.G. 2, Scott 1, Davidson 1, Harrow 1, McMaster 1, Kennedy 1, Simpson 1, McKimmie 1, Irvine 1.

☒ ONLY two players have scored hat-tricks in Celtic/Aberdeen fixtures and they're both from Aberdeen. Eric Black scored three on February 12th 1983 in Aberdeen's 3-1 win at Celtic Park and on November 2, 1985 self-confessed Celtic fan Frank McDougall netted four in his side's 4-1 victory v Celtic at Pittodrie.

☒ Its now almost five years since Aberdeen last won a league match at Celtic Park. This was in February 12th 1983.







## CELTIC v ABERDEEN



### *Paul McStay plays on ... and on ...*

**ONE of the many pleasing aspects of Celtic's play this season has been the form of Paul McStay.**

Lately he seems to be taking great delight in proving some critics wrong.

These were the ones who, on more than one occasion, seemed intent on telling everyone that Paul McStay had "peaked," too soon or had suffered from "burn-out."

But anyone who has witnessed the 21-year-old midfielder's authoritative displays this year would refute the knockers.

In most of the games this season the midfielder has been stamping his authority on games from the start. He continues to shine even in matches which Celtic have lost against Dunfermline and Aberdeen.

Paul is soon to celebrate his 22nd birthday — yet he has managed to cram in an incredible 253 appearances for Celtic since he made his debut for the top team on January 23 1982 in a 4-0 Scottish Cup 3rd round victory over Queen of the South at Celtic Park.

He's also won 22 Caps for Scotland including last week's appearance v Hungary when he was arguably the best player on the Park.

Celtic fans are looking forward to seeing Paul McStay continuing to bring honour to the hoops for a while to come.

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## What the papers say...

THE sportswriters seemed unanimous in their verdicts of last Saturday's match v Falkirk, that Celtic had turned in something of a Jekyll and Hyde performance against the Bairns.

Dan Lindsay of the **NEWS ON SUNDAY** wrote: "Celtic's bargain-basement, Billy Stark, along with McStay and the overlapping Morris, tried to drag the game out of the midfield quagmire with a series of delightful one-touch moves down the right."

Don Morrison of the **SUNDAY MAIL** was impressed with Celtic keeper Allan McKnight: "Nothing showy about the young Irishman but he looked so safe. And one save — a left handed stop from an Eadie shot — was straight out of the goalkeeping textbooks."

Doug Baillie of the **SUNDAY POST** chose to highlight the physical nature of the contest: "Don't get me wrong. The Bairns had their bottoms well spanked in this one. But they did show enough grit to prove they could go for it much better against lesser mortals."

Jim Reynolds of the **GLASGOW HERALD** described Celtic's goal thus: "The sheer speed and pre-



*Billy Stark's flying header flies just wide of the target.*

cision of the move left Falkirk gasping. Grant started it with a pass to Andy Walker and when his low cross found Tommy Burns waiting in the middle, the midfielder treated us to a rare sight by steering the ball past Gordon Marshall with his RIGHT foot."

Three days later Celtic took their place in the European arena and this was how **Patrick Glenn** of **THE GUARDIAN** described Celtic's chances in the second leg: "Celtic may have ruined their chances of progressing into the second round of the UEFA Cup with this uneven and largely frustrating performance in Glasgow last night."

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## CELTIC v ABERDEEN

# Looking Back . . .

**5 YEARS AGO** *September 18th 1982 Premier League* **MOTHERWELL 0 CELTIC 7**  
 THIS was only Celtic's third league match of the 1982-83 season. This was because of a late start to the Premier League which had kicked off on September 4th. They faced a Motherwell side newly-promoted from the First Division. 'Well were given a taste of just how tough they were to find the top flight as Celts trounced them with first half goals by Nicholas, McGarvey and MacLeod, followed by second half goals from Aitken (2) and Nicholas (2) thus completing his hat-trick. The win preserved Celtic's 100% record.

CELTIC: Bonner, McGrain, Moyes, McAdam, Reid, McStay, Aitken, MacLeod, Provan, McGarvey (Crainie), Nicholas (McCluskey).

**10 YEARS AGO** *September 17 1977 Premier League* **ABERDEEN 2 CELTIC 1**  
 CELTIC slumped to their fourth successive defeat in this Premier League clash at Pittodrie. Both sides went in at the interval with no goals to show for their efforts. But Celtic's luck seemed to have turned when they were gifted a goal four minutes after the interval when Dons' centre-half turned the ball past his keeper.

But Dons' inside left Fleming broke Celtic's hearts with two goals in a 10-minute spell in 58 and 68 minutes.

CELTIC: Latchford, McGrain, Lynch, Edvaldsson, McDonald, McWilliams, Glavin, McAdam, Craig (Doyle), Aitken, Wilson.

**15 YEARS AGO** *September 16th 1972 Scottish League* **CELTIC 3 RANGERS 1**  
 IN this famous 'High-Noon' confrontation Celtic were superior in every aspect of the game. Dalglish (2) and Johnstone (17) gave Celtic a 2-goal interval lead. Macari finished Rangers off with a 49-minute strike. Greig notched a consolation goal for Rangers in the last minute.

## This time last year . . .

CELTIC.....5      HIBERNIAN.....1

**ATTENDANCE 22,140**

CELTIC started this match strong, then relaxed to allow their visitors back into the match before proceeding to demolish them in the second half.

It took only 8 minutes for Paul McStay to open the scoring with a low 20-yard drive. It was no surprise when Hibs equalised through Beedie in the 34th minute as Celtic allowed them back into the match.

The 2nd period was a different story and Brian McClair headed the Bhoys back into the lead in the 53rd minute. The same player made it 3-1 14 minutes later. Alan McNally came off the subs' bench to score in the 73rd minute and 2 minutes later Mo Johnston got in on the act to make the final score 5-1.

### It's a fact

Aberdeen have twice finished unbeaten against Celtic in the 4 Premier League meetings in one season. The first was in 1980/81 and last season was the second.