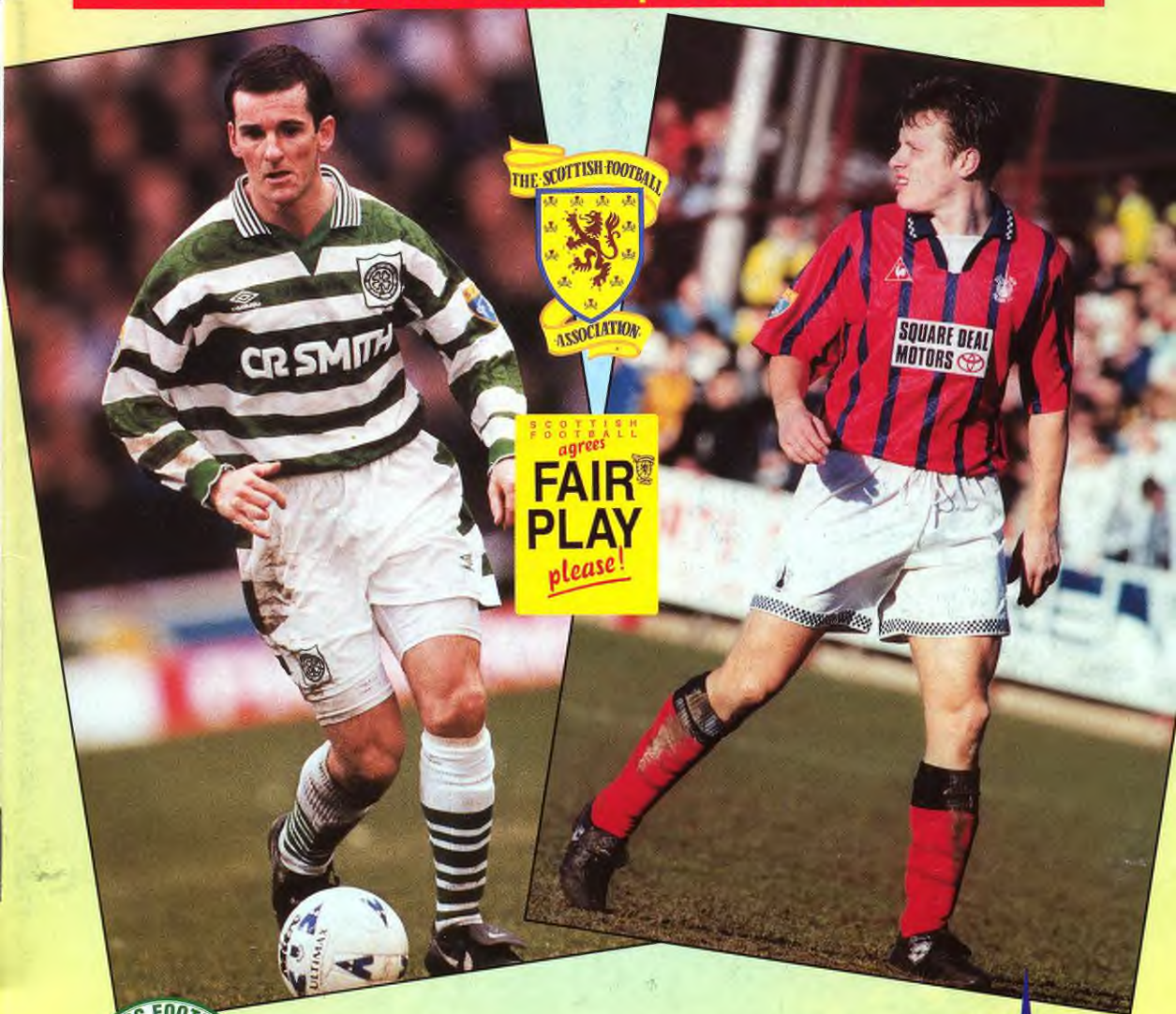


Celtic Falkirk



Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-Final Tie



Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow
Saturday, 12th April 1997
Kick-Off 3.00 pm



MATCH PROGRAMME £1.50

Trust us to help Football

- ❑ In 20 years the Trust has, with the help of Government, distributed £256m from Littlewoods, Vernons and Zettlers pools and Littlewoods Spot the Ball.
- ❑ The Trust has made a major contribution to Hampden Park, Windsor Park, Wembley and the new National Stadium for Wales.
- ❑ So far grants totalling over £139m have been awarded to major ground redevelopment projects all around the country, costing in excess of £437m.
- ❑ Seven new grounds have been built and a further nine are in the pipeline.
- ❑ Over 150 new and refurbished stands in the F.A. Premier League, the Football League and the Scottish Football League have been made possible by Trust grants.
- ❑ From income from Littlewoods Spot the Ball, 22 stadium control rooms and 18 first aid rooms have been built, 40 League clubs have received grant aid towards floodlighting, and nearly 100 clubs have received new PA and emergency communication systems.
- ❑ The Trust has funded 55 new community and family facilities, 22 of which include facilities for people with disabilities.
- ❑ The introduction of CCTV surveillance equipment throughout football has proved the single most important measure in the campaign against football hooliganism. Over £6.2m has been allocated in grant aid towards CCTV.
- ❑ Over £38m has been allocated from Littlewoods Spot the Ball funds to non-professional football throughout the Pyramid, the Highland and Junior Football Leagues and the grass roots of the game.

The Football Trust is helping the game at all levels - from providing kit for school teams, pitches and changing rooms for grass roots football, safety and improvement work throughout the game right up to providing vital assistance to help League clubs complete the essential task of redeveloping

their grounds in line with the Taylor Report. Up and down the country, clubs are building new grounds and stands, installing seating, and providing safe and comfortable facilities for their spectators

to enjoy. Every club depends on the support of the FOOTBALL TRUST and the success of the pools companies. Both are crucial for football's future.

The Football Trust, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EB

FOUNDED THROUGH AN INITIATIVE BY LITTLEWOODS, VERNONS AND ZETTERS POOLS



THE FOOTBALL TRUST
Helping the game



So much to play for

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome, on behalf of the Scottish Football Association, to everyone present at Ibrox Stadium, for this afternoon's Tennents Scottish Cup Semi-Final tie between Celtic and Falkirk.

Semi-final ties are generally tense affairs, with both teams very aware of the prize awaiting the winner – an appearance in Scottish football's showpiece match. Already, the 1996/97 Tennents Scottish Cup has provided moments of excitement and enthralling football and therefore I am sure that, no matter the result, the real winners today will be the fans. It will be an exciting day for both clubs, as Celtic will be striving to ensure that the season ends on a high with an appearance in the Tennents Scottish Cup Final in order to maintain the ambitions and hopes of its massive support, whilst for Falkirk, it is an opportunity to revive memories for many in the town of season 1956/57, when the club not only



reached the Final, but won the Scottish Cup. Both teams, therefore, have much to play for this afternoon.

It is a particular pleasure to welcome the representatives of the tournament sponsor, Tennent Caledonian Breweries, and their guests to today's match. This is the eighth year of Tennents' sponsorship of the competition and I trust that everyone connected with the company has found its partnership with Scottish football enjoyable and beneficial. The Scottish Football Association is most appreciative of the support which our sponsor has provided for Scotland's top cup competition over these eight years and we look forward to their continued support in the years ahead.

The Association is grateful to Rangers FC for making Ibrox Stadium available for this afternoon's match and for the co-

operation and assistance which has been extended by the club's Directors and staff in staging this important fixture.

The Tennents Scottish Cup has earned a reputation for quality and all that is good in the Scottish game. Celtic and Falkirk will surely continue this tradition today.

I do hope that you enjoy today's match.

May the better team win!

BILL DICKIE
PRESIDENT, SCOTTISH F.A.



A family day out

When one of the Old Firm comes up against a side like Falkirk in the Tennents Scottish Cup it is the equivalent of an institution taking on a community.

Celtic will today draw their support from all four corners of Scotland and beyond the borders of this country, with ticket supply, as ever, having been unable to meet demand.

For the people of Falkirk, though, this is a day out, the likes of which they will rarely get in their lifetime.

It is the type of occasion when entire families mass ranks and get behind their birthplace.

Buses have been booked to take entire streets in the town on the journey back to their illustrious past and the club has kept faith with its public by not attempting to capitalise on their run in the cup.

When Falkirk started to sell their allocation of tickets for this match, they did not indulge in that traditional, though perfectly



Celtic manager, Tommy Burns

legal, enterprise of first of all taking admission money for a league match and then distributing the goodies.

They are playing fair with their support and will now place their trust in the cup having some romance left in its soul.

When Falkirk won the Scottish Cup in 1957, they beat Kilmarnock in the final. The prospect of a re-match this season is, theoretically at any rate, still possible because of the Rugby Park side's semi-final against Dundee United on Monday night.

Alex Totten, the Brockville manager, now has to hope that fate will allow lightning to strike twice at Ibrox where Celtic are concerned.

The Coca-Cola Cup final, played on November 27, 1994 will go down as one of the blackest days in Tommy Burns' time in charge of Celtic.

It was then that Raith Rovers, who were in the First Division at the time, failed to capitulate in the face of a massive Celtic support and a side who were looking for their first trophy in five years.

The intervening years have brought only one major prize, the

Scottish Cup, that was taken from Airdrieonians in 1995, and done little to satisfy the expectation level of a support who crave higher, and more regular, achievement.

It is enough for Falkirk to glow with satisfaction every four decades but the Old Firm demand a higher rate of productivity, no matter which day of the working week they are playing.

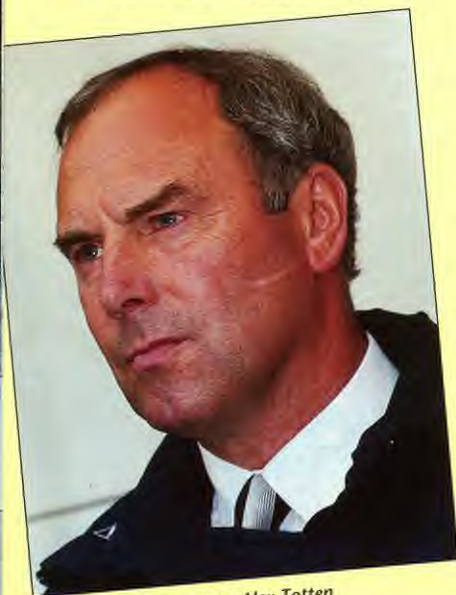
The supporters' demands began to be satisfied when Celtic started their cup run on a Sunday with a resounding 5-0 win over Clydebank at Firhill.

The day before had been more stressful for Falkirk, who were taken to a replay by a side from a lower division and were grateful to get even that much in the end.

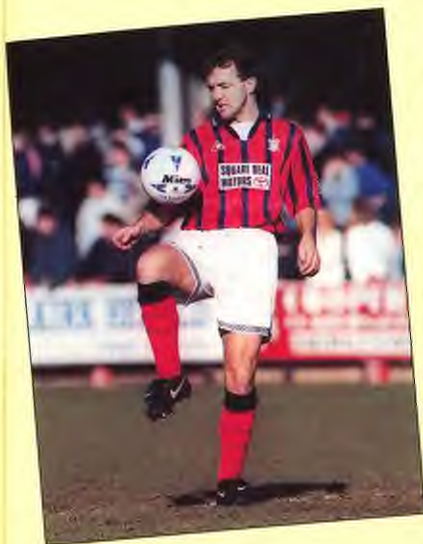
There were only 15 minutes left to play against Berwick Rangers at Brockville when Albert Craig scored with a penalty kick to earn the replay in which Craig and Mark McGraw got the goals which finally took Falkirk into the fourth round.

It was at that stage Celtic started to suffer from stuttering progress.

An early lead, given to them by Phil O'Donnell at Easter Road, was



Falkirk manager, Alex Totten



Albert Craig

not enough to settle them against Hibernian and the arrival of a belated equaliser from a Darren Jackson penalty kick, led to an anxious close to the game.

The replay was a mixture of fine goals, scored by O'Donnell and Paolo di Canio, and continuing signs of hesitancy on Celtic's part.

A sense of relief had renewed Falkirk's ambition, meanwhile.

Dunfermline had arrived at Brockville with a confidence that had been derived from having taken enough league points to guarantee their safety in the Premier Division and were most people's idea of the favourites to make the quarter-finals.

Kevin McAllister had signed from Hibernian in time to be eligible for the game, though, and the player whose affection for Falkirk is legendary helped make the difference between anticipation and reality.

McAllister and David Hagen scored the goals which enabled Falkirk to handle the trauma of going a goal down to begin with.

When the draw was made for the quarter-finals, it made for compulsive viewing on television, when Celtic and Rangers were the first two names to be paired with each other.

It was a game which provided a

severe test of Celtic's resolve.

Two years had passed since Burns' side had known the elation which accompanies an Old Firm win.

Rangers had, by the time of the cup match, already beaten Celtic three times in succession in league championship fixtures.

The season before, Walter Smith's players had removed Celtic from both domestic cup competitions.

The pressure on Burns and his players was, therefore, enough to make the strongest of men buckle at the knees.

It was a strain which did not manifest itself at any point in a tie which Celtic effectively ended with two early goals from Malky Mackay and Di Canio.

Such was the mental and physical toll taken of the players during the defeat of Rangers, however, that Celtic promptly failed to win their next two league games and severely damaged their prospects of winning the title.

There would, at least, be no Raith Rovers waiting in the wings for them to act as a lightning conductor, however.

Falkirk had been drawn at home against the Kirkcaldy club and seized on the opportunity to take advantage of opponents distracted by their fight against relegation from the Top Ten.

Goals from Kevin James and Hagen set up what is the classic confrontation between wealth and husbandry; lofty ambition and carefree abandon.

Falkirk have nothing to lose and Celtic have little to gain beyond a place in the final which the club's supporters will regard as their entitlement.

Beforehand, a player will talk, as has happened in this instance, about trying to get the jersey belonging to Celtic's Cadete or Di Canio to take home as a present for an impressionable child.

What the same player is professionally obliged to do now is take the shirt off Celtic's back and leave them to sit in the ruins of another barren season.

There ought to be an improbable quality to the prospects of that happening here today.

Celtic have talent drawn from across Europe and for whom they have paid millions of pounds.

Falkirk have had a season in which the security of their cup run has punctuated the turmoil which led to a change of manager and prompted Alex Totten's arrival at the club with whom he has had a lifelong affinity.

It is the classic cup confrontation which concentrates on the uncertainty, real or imagined, of the favourites.

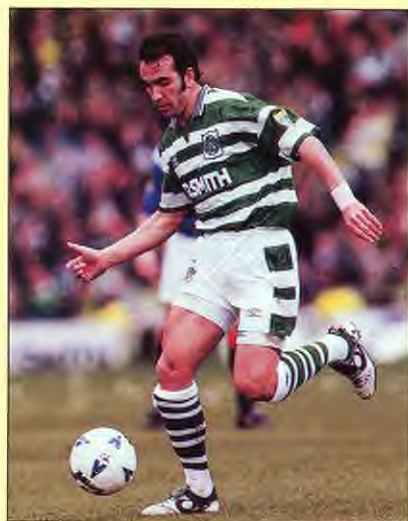
A defeat by Falkirk at Brockville in the Tennents Scottish Cup, three years ago, was the catalyst for historic change at Celtic Park, bringing Fergus McCann and Tommy Burns into positions of responsibility after the supporters took to the streets in protest over the direction which the club appeared to be heading.

The bulk of the pressure today continues to rest with the side which has no margin for error.

It will be the first time in this season's competition that Celtic will have played on a Saturday afternoon.

They will hope it is not the last occasion on which they are required to do so, having left Saturday, 24th May free in their diary.

Paolo di Canio





TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP 1996/97

TENNENT'S, THE CHOICE OF THE FANS

Cup football represents a unique mixture of qualities which capture the hearts and minds of football fans the world over. The Scottish Cup, the world's second oldest football cup competition illicit this passionate following from fans throughout Scotland and beyond. Each season during the 123 year history of the Scottish Cup, Scotland's leading club sides have embarked upon a voyage of discovery in their quest to raise The Scottish Cup.

Tennent's is Scotland's favourite lager with a glorious tradition and an equally celebrated history. From its origins at Glasgow's Wellpark Brewery some 112 years ago, Tennent's Lager has grown to become the nation's number one lager enjoyed by millions of Scots over the years.

The Tennent's Scottish Cup is a partnership between two of Scotland's most famous names, Tennent's Lager and the Scottish Cup. A mix of glorious history and tradition, combined with our commitment to innovation, guarantees that The Scottish Cup has a healthy platform through which football can flourish into the new millennium.

Clubs participating in 'The Cup' benefit directly from Tennent's investment, with financial bonuses to the 48 participating clubs. The Tennent's Scottish Cup player incentives are designed specifically to reward entertaining players, ensuring fans get the best from their teams. Tennent's view their support of Scottish football as an investment in the future of Scotland's national game and as an opportunity to allow football supporters throughout Scotland the chance to play their part in the country's premier football competition.

TENNENT'S LAGER • BREWED IN SCOTLAND SINCE 1885



The story so far. . . .

FIRST ROUND

7th December, 1996

Elgin City 0 Whitehill Welfare 3
 Albion Rovers 0(0) Forfar Athletic (0)4
 Alloa 3 Hawick Royal Albert 1
 Huntly 2(1) Clyde (1)3*
 *AET (2-2 at 90 mins)

SECOND ROUND

4th January, 1997

Stranraer 0(1) Inv. Caledonian Thistle (1)0*
 *AET (0-0 at 90 mins)
Inv. Caledonian Thistle won 4-3 on kicks from the penalty mark
 Ross County 3 Montrose 0
 Spartans 0(0) Arbroath (0)3
 Berwick Rangers 2 Peterhead 1
 Queen's Park 2 Gala Fairydean 1
 Whitehill Welfare 2 Queen of the South 3
 Brechin City 2 Livingston 1
 East Stirlingshire 4 Brora Rangers 3
 Stenhousemuir 1 Hamilton Academical 2
 Ayr United 0 Clyde 2
 Cowdenbeath 1 Dumbarton 0
 Forfar Athletic 0 Alloa 1

THIRD ROUND

25th January, 1997

Heart of Midlothian 5 Cowdenbeath 0
 Hibernian 0(2) Aberdeen (2)0*
 *AET (0-0 at 90 mins)
Hibernian won 5-3 on kicks from the penalty mark
 Queen's Park 1 East Fife 3
 Rangers 2 St. Johnstone 0
 Arbroath 0(2) Greenock Morton (2)4
 Dundee 3 Queen of the South 1
 Inv. Caledonian Thistle 1 Hamilton Academical 3
 Kilmarnock 2 East Stirlingshire 0
 Dunfermline Athletic 4 Ross County 0
 Brechin City 3 Alloa 0
 Clyde 3 St. Mirren 1
 Clydebank 0 Celtic 5
 Falkirk 2(1) Berwick Rangers (1)1
 Stirling Albion 0 Dundee United 2
 Partick Thistle 0 Motherwell 2
 Airdrieonians 1 Raith Rovers 4

FOURTH ROUND

15th February, 1997

Brechin City 1 Raith Rovers 2
 Heart of Midlothian 0(1) Dundee United (1)1
 Falkirk 2 Dunfermline Athletic 1
 Greenock Morton 1(2) Dundee (2)0*
 *AET (0-0 at 90 mins)
 Motherwell 2(1) Hamilton Academical (1)0
 Hibernian 0(1) Celtic (1)2
 Clyde 0 Kilmarnock 1
 Rangers 3 East Fife 0

FIFTH ROUND

8th March, 1997

Celtic 2 Rangers 0
 Falkirk 2 Raith Rovers 0
 Dundee United 4 Motherwell 1
 Greenock Morton 2 Kilmarnock 5

Falkirk and Celtic players celebrate reaching the semi-final stage of the Tennents Scottish Cup



A story book ending for Phil O'Donnell?

Roy of the Rovers would have been proud of Phil O'Donnell's fairytale Cup final debut in 1991.

With only 11 first-team games under his belt the 19-year-old was pitched into the Motherwell starting eleven for the incredible 4-3 victory against Dundee United.

And not content with ending his first six months in senior football with a Hampden appearance, O'Donnell chose the famous stadium to notch his first goal in professional football.

Roy Race, eat your heart out!

Of course, international midfielder, O'Donnell, is now the proud owner of two winner's medals after steering Celtic to Final victory against Airdrie in 1995.

And he's going for the hat-trick this season with First Division Falkirk the only barrier between the Hoops and another crack at silverware glory.

But any future final appearances will struggle to compete with the drama and excitement of Phil's debut season.

Even now, six years after the event, O'Donnell can only smile and shake his head in disbelief when he casts his mind back to a sun-soaked Hampden on May 18, 1991.

"The whole day was just fantastic and it was the sort of occasion you dream about as a boy," admitted O'Donnell.

"To play at Hampden in a major final was superb – to score was unbelievable and the fact I was

only 19 at the time, made it all the more special.

"When I think back, I had only been around the first-team for six months and already I had played and scored in a Cup-winning side.



Phil O'Donnell

"Some people take 16 years to each their first Cup final, let alone score in one.

"Tommy McLean only revealed his team two-and-a-half hours before kick-off and when my name was read out, I promised myself I'd just go out and enjoy myself.

"I might never have had another chance to play in a Cup Final and I was determined to make the most of it."

But O'Donnell, cursed with so much bad luck when it comes to injuries, struck the Cup jackpot

again four years later – this time with Celtic, the club he joined in a £1.75 million move in September 1994.

And the nerves which were absent as he lined up against United in 1991, struck with a vengeance as under-pressure Celtic strode onto the Hampden turf to face First Division, Airdrie.

O'Donnell, by this time an experienced 23-year-old with one Scotland cap to his name, remembers the Hampden jitters only too well the second time around.

He added: "At Celtic we were under a lot more pressure to win something and it was also Tommy Burns's first year as boss.

"We'd lost in the Coca-Cola Cup Final to Raith Rovers and the pressure on us against another First Division team was immense.

"That game was much more nerve-wracking to be involved in – as favourites we were expected to win in a walkover.

"The players knew they couldn't let the fans down again and thankfully we won the game 1-0.

"I came on as a sub for Simon Donnelly with 15 minutes to go and it was a huge feeling of joy and relief when the final whistle blew.

"The atmosphere after winning a final is incredible. The thing that struck me about 1991 was the size of the Motherwell support at Hampden – I think the whole town came to see us.

"And then we travelled back to Fir Park to find thousands of fans on

the park waiting to cheer us home.

"The bus trip from Hampden to Parkhead in 1995 was also special – fans at points along the route were dancing in the street and Celtic Park's entrance was jam-packed with fans.

"Once we managed to get inside the ground, it was impossible to try and work your way back out!"

However, O'Donnell would gladly accept another lock-in this year as long as the prized Scottish Cup trophy is once again in the proud possession of the Parkhead club.

Celtic have lifted the famous trophy on 30 occasions – now the "experts" would have you believe Falkirk stand little chance of halting Celtic's run to the final and a crack at making it 31 successes.

Falkirk fans disagree, of course, and they are banking on history repeating itself 40 years on.

The last time the Bairns won the Cup they defeated Berwick Rangers and Raith in route to their triumph.

Both those teams have already been dismissed by the Bairns – and now they're gunning for Celtic.

However, Celtic can turn a few omens of their own.

Celtic's last two Cup triumphs – in 1989 and 1995 – came after victories over Hibernian on the way to Hampden glory.

And this year, Hibs were fourth-round victims of Tommy Burns's boys with O'Donnell scoring in both the first game and the replay.

Further bad news for Bairns fans is O'Donnell's success rate against the Brockville side in the Cup – played one, won one.

Motherwell's glory run to the final in 1991 included a quarter-final victory over Falkirk at Fir Park.

O'Donnell played a starring role in the 4-2 triumph and is hoping for a repeat of that win today at Ibrox.

"That was only my third game for the club and Falkirk were flying high in the First Division at the time," recalled the midfielder.

"The winning margin looks comfortable, but it was 2-2 with 15 minutes to go and it took a couple of late goals to put us into the semi-finals.



Paul McGrillen

"Falkirk, this time around, will be just as tough a nut to crack.

"Already they've shown the door to two Premier Division sides in Dunfermline and Raith Rovers and they'll want to do the same to us."

On paper, however, the superstars of Parkhead should be too strong for Alex Totten's First Division side.

O'Donnell acknowledges the fact his team are red-hot favourites to dump Falkirk out at the semi-final stage.

But he'll also take nothing for granted against a Falkirk side which has saved its best football for the Tennents Scottish Cup.

O'Donnell knows only too well that underdogs can have their day.

And he insists one Falkirk player in particular would love to make it to the Cup final at Celtic's expense.

Bairns striker, Paul McGrillen, started out on the road to soccer stardom alongside O'Donnell at Motherwell.

They came up through the youth ranks together and even though McGrillen is Celtic daft – that won't bother him come three o'clock today.

O'Donnell smiled: "I came through the YTS system at Motherwell with Paul and we were best pals early in our careers.

"We made our debuts in consecutive weeks – I played against St. Mirren and the following week

Paul made his first appearance against St. Johnstone.

"We both come from Hamilton and used to travel into the ground in the morning by bus and we were very pally.

"He's a tough little striker, very wiry and a good finisher.

"I got the breaks at Motherwell, while Paul was in and out of the team a lot, but he's still a player with a lot of talent.

"And even though he's a Celtic fan, he'd love to put one over on us."

O'Donnell, though, will be at the heart of the Celtic side trying to prevent one of the biggest Cup shocks in decades.

After a nightmare start to the season, when once again injury stopped him in his tracks, he's bounced back into the first team and shown the type of form which convinced boss, Burns, to make him his first Parkhead signing and the club's record buy three years ago.

A Scotland recall looks to be possible with national coach, Craig Brown, one of his biggest fans and today's semi-final gives him another platform to display his undoubted talents.

And if the Hoops star can turn in another Cup performance worthy of Melchester Rovers' most famous son, then Celtic could be celebrating come 4.45 today.