

CELTIC v ABERDEEN
Bell's Premier Division
Sunday April 20, 1997
Kick-off 3.00pm
Price £1

Official Programme No.23

Match Sponsor



Celtic



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**STEWART
KERR**



Referee:
T. M. MCCURRY
(Glasgow)

**DEREK
STILLIE**



**JACKIE
MCNAMARA**

**RUSSELL
ANDERSON**



**TOSH
MCKINLAY**

**TZANKO
TZVETANOV**



**ALAN
STUBBS**

**ANTOINE
KOUMBARE**



**MALKY
MACKAY**

**DAVID
ROWSON**



**PAUL
MCSTAY**

**DARREN
YOUNG**



**PAOLO
DI CANIO**

**PAUL
BERNARD**



**ANDREAS
THOM**

**JAMIE
BUCHAN**



**TOMMY
JOHNSON**

**DEAN
WINDASS**



**JORGE
CADETE**

**BILLY
DODDS**



**PHIL
O'DONNELL**

**STEPHEN
GLASS**



**RICO
ANNONI**

**SCOTT
BOOTH**



**SIMON
DONNELLY**

**MICHAEL
CRAIG**



Assistant Ref:
G. T. CLYDE
(Bearsden)



Assistant Ref:
N. M. CARNEGIE
(Larkhall)

STAND-BYS:

CELTIC:

Gordon Marshall (GK), Chris Hay, Brian McLaughlin, David Hannah, Peter Grant

ABERDEEN:

Nicky Walker (GK), Dennis Wyness, Colin Woodthorpe, Brian Irvine, Joe Miller, John Inglis, Duncan Shearer, Malcolm Kdepko

Johnson eyes **net gain**

CELTIC striker Tommy Johnson admits he knows little about today's opponents Aberdeen – or most other Scottish teams come to that.

But the Geordie, who signed last month from Aston Villa, hopes every team in the country will know all about him by this time next year.

Johnson is desperate to make his mark on the Scottish game, and insists the pressure of being a new Celtic signing won't get to him.

He certainly showed that last weekend when he netted his first goal for the club in the Scottish Cup semi-final against Falkirk – although a late equaliser from Kevin James took the shine off his first strike a little.

This afternoon he is hoping to hit the back of the net again but what he is especially looking forward to is running out to a packed Celtic Park for the first time.

He said: "I've already seen what the Celtic fans were like at Ibrox last weekend, but this afternoon there will be even more of them and I know it is going to be something special.

"The supporters in England did turn out in their numbers for a lot of matches, but there is something a wee bit different about the fans up here, they are definitely more intense.

"It felt brilliant running out at Ibrox, but I am sure today will top that experience."

That disappointing draw against Falkirk means that Celtic have to replay them this Wednesday to try clinch a Scottish Cup final place – and a win against Aberdeen today would be a tremendous confidence booster before that tie.

But Johnson isn't phased by the expectations – nor the one that will be placed on him as the owner of the celebrated No.9 jersey, which has been worn by many great centre-forwards in the past.

He said: "I'm too old to be bothered by pressure now! Seriously I am well aware that the forwards at Celtic are always looked upon as the

most important players, but it won't bother me.

"It was a great feeling to score last week and I was glad to get off the mark, because as a striker you always want to get that first goal over and done with.

"It was just a shame we didn't win, as I would have rather than me scoring and we lose or draw."

The newspapers had a field day over the semi-final draw with Falkirk, proclaiming, 'Celtic in deep in crisis', and suchlike.

And Johnson admits the nature of the Press coverage is something he finds completely different to down south.

He explained: "I thought we played well last week.

"Okay, we didn't win, but we didn't play badly and we didn't lose to Falkirk.

"However, I have noticed that the

club gets a lot of bad Press, and I now know that we have to win 5-0 in every game or they won't be satisfied!

"But we want to win this afternoon, and get a good result in before the replay, and even though we may not be playing for the title anymore, we want to win our remaining games, for pride as much as anything."

Originally from Newcastle, Johnson doesn't come from too far over the border, and he is sure to have no problems adjusting to life in Scotland.

He said: "I love it up here, I'm staying in an East Kilbride hotel just now but my wife Hayley will come up to join me in the summer and we'll go house hunting then.

"As soon as I knew Celtic were interested in me I was straight up here. It's definitely been all I expected so far.

"I'm well aware of what is expected of me and I hope I can give the fans what they want."



TOMMY'S FIRSTS

Date and place of birth: 15.1.71 in Newcastle.
Height: 5ft 11ins **Weight:** 12st 4lbs.

1

FIRST CLUB: Notts County

2

FIRST DAY AS A CELT: Signed from Aston Villa on March 28, 1997 for £2.4m.

3

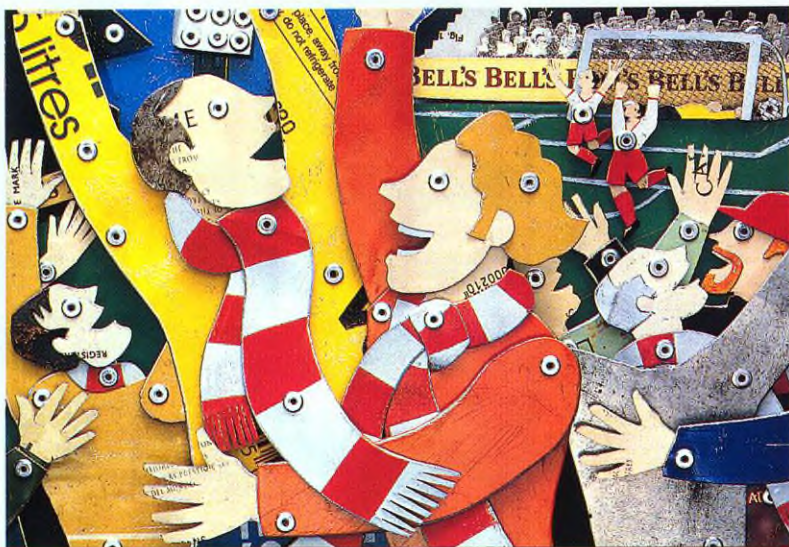
FIRST GAME FOR CELTIC: Came on as a substitute against Raith Rovers in the Premier Division 1-1 draw on April 5, 1997.

4

FIRST GOAL FOR CELTIC: Scored in the 1-1 Scottish Cup semi-final draw against Falkirk at Ibrox on April 12, 1997.

A full-page photograph of Tommy Johnson, a Celtic FC player, in action on a football pitch. He is wearing the iconic green and white striped Celtic kit. The jersey features the club crest on the left chest and the 'CRSMITH' sponsor logo across the front. He is also wearing white shorts with the club crest on the left leg and a Umbro logo on the right. His arms are outstretched, and he has a focused expression. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

TOMMY JOHNSON



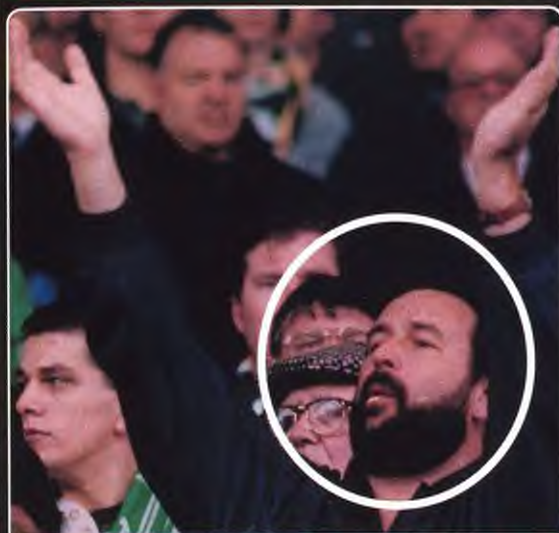
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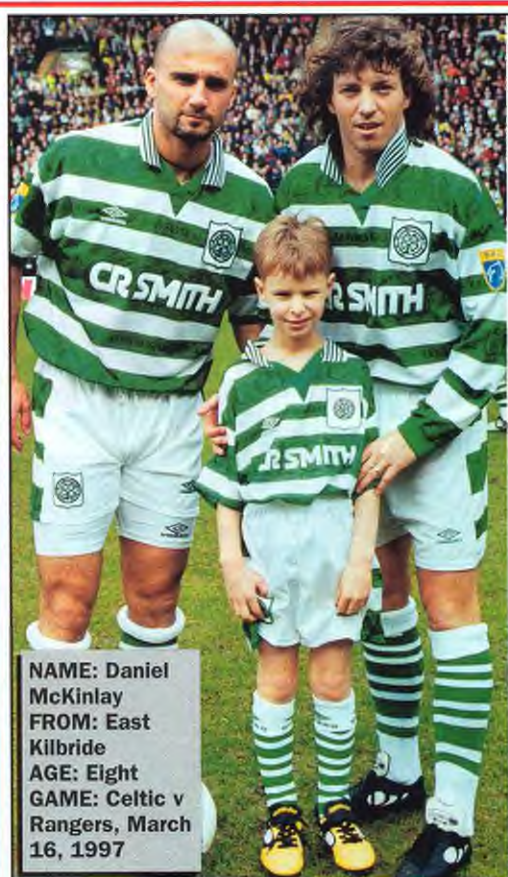
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NAME: Daniel McKinlay
FROM: East Kilbride
AGE: Eight
GAME: Celtic v Rangers, March 16, 1997

YOUNG Daniel McKinlay was a dead-ringer for his hero Paolo Di Canio when he was mascot at his first Old Firm game on March 16 – as he sported a natty pair of yellow boots, just like the Italian's.

Daniel had a great time, delighted at all the attention and good luck handshakes he received from fellow supporters as he walked the famous 'mascot mile' around the pitch during the warm-up.

Even the disappointing full-time result couldn't bring Daniel down to earth, and like all the previous mascots he was reluctant to change out of his hoops to watch the game.

MEET THE MASCOT

He said: "I can't believe the brilliant atmosphere in the ground, it was amazing and I definitely had the time of my life!"

"I didn't even want to change out of my strip or my boots to go and watch the game!"

If you would like the chance to be chosen as a mascot for next season, please contact the Young Hoops, c/o The Commercial Department on 0141-551 4263/4264 for information.



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