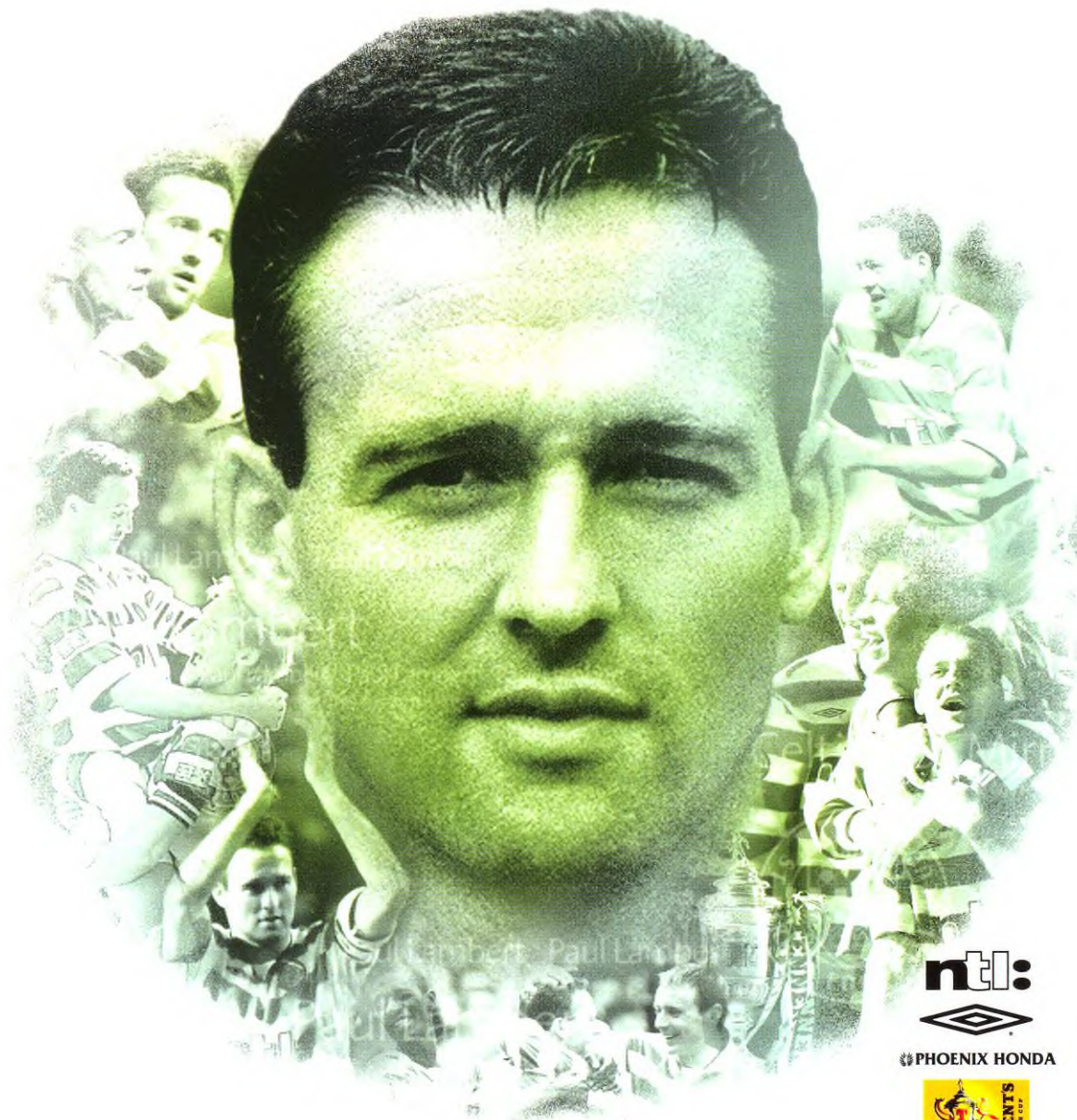


Celtic

v ST MIRREN

Scottish Cup 3rd Round
Saturday 25th January 2003 k.o. 3.00pm



ntl:



PHOENIX HONDA



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Valentine's Day,
or it will break
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To enjoy the full benefits package you can join online at www.celticfc.net, call 0141 551 8653 (Select) 0141 551 4264 (Under 16s) or pick up your freepost application form at the Celtic Ticket Office and all official Celtic stores.

UNITING CELTIC SUPPORTERS WORLDWIDE

Celtic



“The pressure is on us this afternoon and we will be doing everything we possibly can to progress into the next round”

THIS afternoon sees us return to competitive action for the first time in three weeks.

The winter break was much needed, and much appreciated, and the obvious hope is that everyone comes back refreshed for what promises to be an exciting second half of the season.

Wednesday evening's game against Feyenoord was exactly what the team needed in preparation for the weeks ahead. Last season's UEFA Cup winners gave us a terrific work-out and proved, if any proof were needed, that they are indeed an excellent team.

The game was staged as a benefit match for the Lisbon Lions, who were all extremely appreciative of all those who spent hard-earned money to come in support of their cause. It was, of course, thoroughly deserved, and I was delighted to see them receiving the type of recognition they have long merited.

We signed off in early January by drawing with Aberdeen at Pittodrie. It is historically a difficult place to go and win at,

but in truth we played like a tired team, and a draw was a fair result. We were at the end of a very hectic programme - I think it was something like 12 games in 39 days - and that eventually took its toll.

But the upshot is that we are three points behind the leaders in the SPL, and in the last 16 of the UEFA Cup. Remaining in European football beyond Christmas for the first time in 23 years, thanks to wonderful victories over Blackburn Rovers and Celta Vigo, has given the club a great spur.

So, as I've mentioned earlier, there is much to look forward to in the immediate months.

I am pleased that my own contractual situation has been sorted, and that should put an end to speculation on that front. It should also enable us to concentrate on the most important business of all: the attempt to win football matches.

Talking of which, we take on St Mirren this afternoon in the third round of the Scottish Cup. The last time our visitors came here to Celtic Park, it was a

memorable afternoon for us all, witnessing as it did the clinching of the Championship and the first piece of a domestic Treble that season.

The game was not the best, I seem to recall, but the outcome was one that we will all treasure for some considerable time.

St Mirren themselves subsequently slipped down into the First Division, but if the game we played against Inverness Caledonian Thistle earlier this season is anything to go by, it will be an extremely hard fixture. But we are at home, the pressure is on us, and we will be doing everything we possibly can to progress to the next round.

And, by the way, let me finish by saying a big thank you to all the supporters who turned up at Aberdeen on January 2.

On an extremely cold afternoon, your support really was a great boost.



Celtic FC Factfile

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
(capacity 60,506)

Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts,
white shorts, white socks

Away strip: Gold shirts, green
shorts, gold socks

Third strip: White shirts, black shorts and socks

Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)

Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)

Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)

Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
1935/36

Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair
1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01

Website: www.celticfc.net

Honours

Scottish League (38)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06,

1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15,
1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36,
1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,
1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77,
1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98,
2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914,
1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965,
1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985,
1988, 1989, 1995, 2001

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,
1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1)

1967

Coronation Cup (1)

1953

CELTIC FACTS

1. On January 25, 1905, Joe Kennaway was born in Montreal. Joe started his career in local teams, then moved to Providence (Rhode Island) in 1928 and Fall River (Massachusetts) in 1930. In the summer of the following year, he denied the touring Celtic party in his side's 1-0 win. Three months later, he was the replacement for John Thomson. Joe agreed to come to Scotland and during the rest of the 1930s he maintained his position as Celtic's No.1 goalkeeper.

2. Gerry Creaney was sold to Portsmouth for £600,000 in 1994. Gerry came through the ranks with Celtic Boys' Club and signed senior forms on May 15, 1987. During the early '90s, he had strong challenges for the striker's role with Tommy Coyne and Charlie Nicholas. In 142 appearances for the club, he scored 55 goals.

3. Through the years, Celtic FC has had many centre-forwards or strikers who did their bit for the club, not always in the best of times. Joe McLaughlin was one of these. He joined Celtic in 1938, was farmed out to St Anthony's to cut costs, then brought back in 1941. The war years were not very successful, yet Joe still managed 35 goals in his 150 matches. He later won a Scottish Cup medal with Aberdeen in 1947.

ST MIRREN FACTS

1. St Mirren were founded in 1877 by the cricket and rugby players of Paisley and became one of the founder members of the Scottish League in 1890. The club's first national success came in 1926, when in front of 98,000, they won the Scottish Cup, beating Celtic 2-0 at Hampden, both goals being blamed on the relative lack of height of the Bhoys' keeper Peter Shevlin.

2. Nicknamed 'The Buddies', St Mirren played at a number of grounds before settling permanently at Love Street in 1895. The record attendance is 47,438 against Celtic in March 1925 during a Scottish Cup fourth round tie. The club's biggest defeat was a 9-0 mauling by Rangers in 1897. Their biggest win was against Glasgow University on January 10, 1960, also in the cup, when centre-forward Gerry Baker scored 10 in a 15-0 victory.

3. St Mirren had another Scottish Cup win in 1959, when they beat Aberdeen 3-1 in the final after humbling Celtic 4-0 in the semi. And in 1987, in a decade when the Old Firm and Aberdeen dominated the same tournament, they won again; beating Dundee United in 1987 after extra-time. Ironically, in the 110th year of its existence, the winner came in the 110th minute.

TODAY'S SQUADS

TODAY'S VISITORS **ST MIRREN**





SEASON 2002/03

CURRENT FIRST DIVISION POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
5. Ayr United	21	8	6	7	2	30
6. QOS	21	6	7	8	-8	25
7. ST MIRREN	21	7	4	10	-18	25
8. Ross County	22	5	7	10	-1	22
9. Arbroath	22	3	4	15	-27	13

TEAM SPONSOR: LDV

 MANAGER JOHN COUGHLAN	STADIUM LOVE STREET	CAPACITY 10,800	PREVIOUS RESULT CELTIC 1 v ST MIRREN 0	
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CELTIC

ROBERT DOUGLAS	20	1
TOM BOYD	2	2
MOMO SYLLA	3	3
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	4
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	5
BOBO BALDE	6	6
HENRIK LARSSON	7	7
ALAN THOMPSON	8	8
CHRIS SUTTON	9	9
JOHN HARTSON	10	10
DAVID FERNANDEZ	12	11
PAUL LAMBERT	14	12
BOBBY PETTA	15	14
ULRIK LAURSEN	16	15
DIDIER AGATHE	17	16
NEIL LENNON	18	17
STILIAN PETROV	19	18
MAGNUS HEDMAN	21	19
COLIN HEALY	24	20
PAUL SHIELDS	26	21
JON PAUL McGOVERN	27	22
SHAUN MALONEY	29	23
STEVE GUPPY	30	24
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	
JAMIE SMITH	39	
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40	
JOHN KENNEDY	41	
LIAM MILLER	43	

ST MIRREN

LUDOVIC ROY
BILLY BALD
KIRK BROADFOOT
MARTIN CAMERON
MARK DEMPSE
GREIG DENHAM
ANDY DOW
JAMIE DUNBAR
RICKY GILLIES
GRAHAM GUY
DAVID JACK
CHRIS KERR
SIMON LAPPIN
DAVID LOWING
BRIAN McGINTY
JAMIE McGOWAN
JUNIOR MENDES
ALLY MITCHELL
HUGH MURRAY
RICKY ROBB
KRIS ROBERTSON
PAUL RUDDEN
MARK YARDLEY

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 2 JANUARY, 2003
ABERDEEN 1 v CELTIC 1 (Larsson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 29 DECEMBER, 2002
CELTIC 1 v DUNFERMLINE 0 (Larsson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 26 DECEMBER, 2002
CELTIC 4 v HEARTS 2 (Hartson 3, Larsson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 21 DECEMBER, 2002
CELTIC 2 v DUNDEE 0 (Larsson, Hartson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 15 DECEMBER, 2002
KILMARNOCK 1 v CELTIC 1 (Valgaeren)

UEFA CUP 3rd Round 2nd Leg 12 DECEMBER, 2002
CELTA VIGO 2 v CELTIC 1 (Hartson)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
CELTIC v DUNDEE UTD WED 29 JANUARY 2003

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
PARTICK TH v CELTIC SUN 2 FEBRUARY 2003

CIS CUP SEMI-FINAL
DUNDEE UTD v CELTIC THURS 6 FEBRUARY 2003

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: CHARLIE RICHMOND
 ASSISTANT REFEREES: ROBERT JOHNSTON
 GORDON HUNTER
 FOURTH OFFICIAL: CRAWFORD ALLAN



CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
 CELTIC PARK,
 GLASGOW
 G40 3RE
 0141-556 2611

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Sir Patrick Sheehy, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Allison
CFAC DIRECTORS Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Jim Hone, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
CHIEF EXECUTIVE Ian McLeod **MANAGER** Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford
PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Tommy Burns **HEAD YOUTH COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPIST Brian Scott **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



special memories

Celtic captain Paul Lambert says he would love to lift the Scottish Cup once again and also reveals he still retains a soft spot for his old Paisley Buddies

LONG before he joined the club from Borussia Dortmund in 1998, Paul Lambert could lay claim to 11 years experience of playing at Celtic Park.

It had been in the black-and-white of St Mirren and the claret-and-amber of Motherwell rather than the Hoops, of course. To Lambert, however, this mattered little.

Indeed, looking back, the 33-year-old midfielder believes that it was his knowledge of the underdogs' approach to matches in Glasgow which helped him adapt to the unique expectations of representing one of the city's two football superpowers. This afternoon, it will also give him an insight into the attitude which will likely be adopted by the players representing his old club; players whom Lambert insists 'have nothing to lose'.

"It'll be a good experience for

them," he said, "and I know for a fact all their players will enjoy playing at Celtic Park. I remember what it was like coming here when I was with St Mirren and Motherwell, and it's a special experience for any Scottish player. I'm sure the St Mirren boys will be looking forward to it. That said, if we play well, they'll end up having a hard afternoon.

"The thing is that they have absolutely nothing to lose - and everything to gain. We, on the other hand, have everything to lose. That's the pressure of playing for the Old Firm. Every time you step out that tunnel, you know you're expected to win, and

generally to win by a few goals."

Lambert may be intent on putting St Mirren to the sword this afternoon, but he freely admits to retaining a keen interest in the club which launched his football career. Indeed, having watched with sadness at the Buddies' steady decline since the 1987 Scottish Cup win he helped secure, the Scotland skipper is hoping for a big turnout this afternoon to help ease the Love Street club's current financial plight.

He said: "I think the major thing from St Mirren's point of view is the financial benefit they will get from today's game. I'm certainly

"The Scottish Cup is a bit special to me but I always maintain that the league Championship is the most important competition of the two."

hoping there's a big crowd because, from what I've heard about their situation, they could do with a share of a decent gate.

"I don't think they're in as bad a state as some people make out, though. It shouldn't be forgotten that they have an all-seater stadium, which will give them the means to survive if they come up,

"I still have feelings for St Mirren and that will always be the case"

and the fact that they also have a good support-base. Paisley's the biggest town in Scotland after all, and there's no doubt that they have the potential to be a well-supported team.

"They're going through a transitional period, but that's true of so many clubs in Scottish football at the moment. I just hope they can stay in the First Division, stabilise a bit, and hopefully some of the money raised from today's game will help them move forward a bit.

"I've been away from Love Street 10 years now, and I don't think there's anyone left from my time there, save for maybe one or two directors. It just goes to show how quickly things change in football, I suppose, but it hasn't affected my opinion of the club.

"I still have feelings for St Mirren, and that will always be the case. They gave me my start in football - I signed there when I was just 13 - and it was a great place to learn my trade. I enjoyed



some great times at Love Street and was taught the right things by some really good coaches. I also worked with some excellent players, and the fans were always very good to me, so I have a lot of



UP FOR THE CUP: Paul Lambert holds the Scottish Cup in high esteem but insists the league title is the most important competition of the two

good memories of my time there."

It's now over a decade-and-a-half since a 17-year-old Lambert helped St Mirren secure the most famous victory in their 126-year

history and, just as the Paisley outfit have rarely threatened to repeat that feat in the time since, their former midfielder has managed it just once. That was two-and-a-half years ago and, as another Scottish Cup campaign begins, Lambert admits he'd love to lift a trophy which has remained close to his heart.

"It is a bit special to me," he said. "The Scottish Cup was the first trophy I won as a senior

"I enjoyed some great times at Love Street and I have great memories of my time there"

player. Winning it at 17 was just unbelievable, although to tell you the truth I didn't appreciate what an achievement it was until I was a bit older. I always maintain that the league is the most important thing, but I also know how enjoyable a good cup run can be."

So do the club's supporters and, as Lambert and his team-mates begin their bid for the club's 32nd Scottish Cup triumph, everyone will be hoping that the famous trophy is once again adorned with green-and-white ribbons come May 31.