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CELTIC v PARTICK THISTLE

Celtic Park, Saturday 29 November 2003, Kick-off 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.13



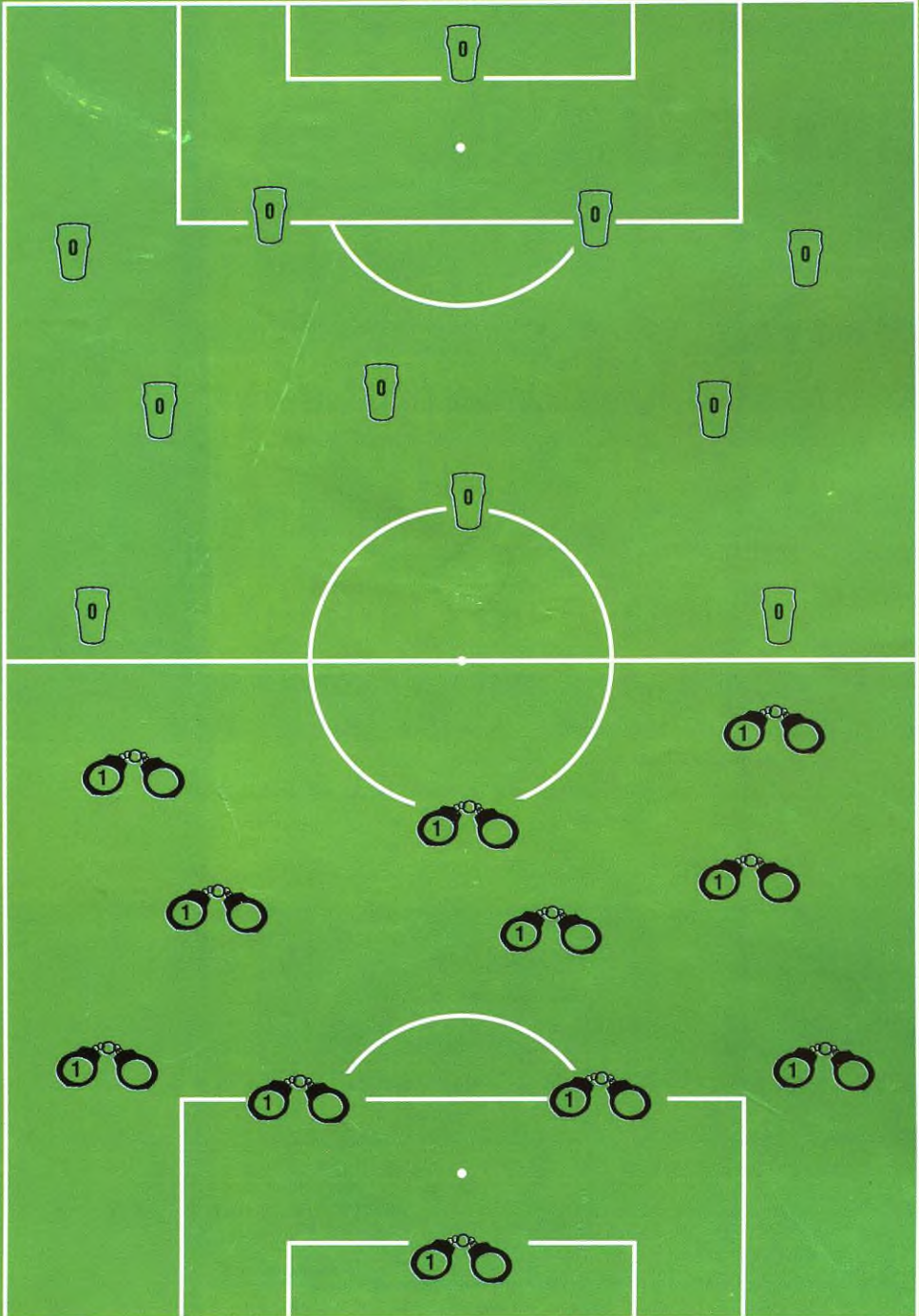
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SPL

Celtic 

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“The support the players received from the stands was fantastic, despite the tension and anxiety etched on the fans’ faces, and we would all be thrilled if we could stage one more Champions League match at Celtic Park this season”

IT was another incredible European evening at Celtic Park last Tuesday.

However, despite heroic efforts by the players, we were not quite able to beat an excellent Bayern Munich team in the Champions League and so, in the end, had to settle for a draw.

There was a hint of disappointment in many quarters, including the dressing room, that we hadn't taken victory, but there was much to commend in the performance.

In consideration, to be disappointed that we have not beaten a side who have contested two European Cup finals in the last four seasons, were Champions of Europe just over two years ago, and who spent £13 million on just one player during the summer, when only three seasons ago we ourselves had to play a qualifying game in the UEFA Cup against a side from Luxembourg, might give a brighter perspective on what the players have

done for the club's reputation recently.

The support the players received from the stands was fantastic, despite the tension and anxiety etched on the faces of the fans, and I'm sure we would all be thrilled if we could stage one more Champions League match at Celtic Park this season.

Anyway, the upshot of everything that happened on Tuesday is that, with one game left, our destiny is in our own hands. We face a desperately tough match in Lyon in just over 10 days time to try to make it through to the last 16 of the Champions League. The task is daunting but not beyond us. We will do our utmost to succeed.

Before then we have to play three important matches, including two games within the space of 40 hours of each other while, at the same time, Lyon have been allowed to postpone their midweek match against

Bordeaux and bring forward their Saturday fixture to the Friday evening.

Partick Thistle are our visitors today. We also travel to Firhill on Thursday evening for our postponed CIS Cup match.

There is little need to remind ourselves about our CIS Cup game last season, a marathon which finally ended in us winning a penalty shoot-out.

And, after the way Gerry Collins' team played against us earlier this season in the Scottish Premierleague, you would be astonished to find that they still await their first points from this season's campaign.

We will have to show the same determination that has been a trademark of the team in recent times if we are to win today.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 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: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with
gold trim

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

● On November 24, 1984, Frank McGarvey scored a hat-trick in Celtic's 7-1 league win over St Mirren, becoming the first player to score 100 goals in the Premier League.

● The League Cup final, at Ibrox, on November 27, 1994, turned out to be a far-from-memorable day for Celtic fans as their heroes lost 6-5 on penalties to Raith Rovers after a 2-2 draw.

● John Divers scored a hat-trick as a Scottish League select beat a League of Ireland team 11-0 at Parkhead on November 28, 1962.

● In a league match against St Mirren on December 2, 1911, goalkeeper Davie Adams made his final appearance for the club. He made 291 appearances and won 10 medals, six in the league and four in the Scottish Cup.

● Several Celtic moments occurred on December 4, through the years. In 1897, Peter Somers scored on his debut; in 1951, Jock Stein signed pro forms with the club; in 1963, Celtic beat Dinamo Zagreb 3-0 in a Cup-Winners' Cup second round tie at Parkhead; and in 1982, the team beat Rangers 2-1 in the League Cup final.

● On December 5, 1962, Willie Lyon, captain of the Empire Exhibition Trophy winning team of 1938, died in Manchester at the age of 50.

● Willie Wallace was signed from Hearts for a club record fee of £28,000 on December 6, 1966.



PARTICK THISTLE FACTS

● Partick Thistle FC was founded in 1876 and has played at Firhill since 1909.

● The record attendance at Firhill for a domestic match is the 49,838 present for the Division One league game against Rangers on February 18, 1922.

● Ironically, the ground record at Firhill is even better, a massive 54,708 for the Scotland v Ireland encounter of February 25, 1928.

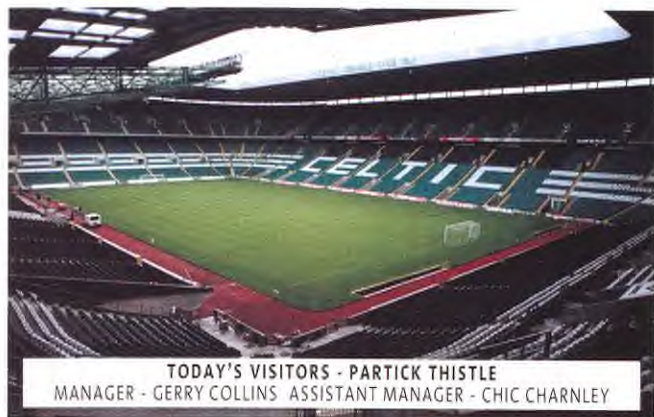
● Thistle's first national success came in 1897, when they won the Second Division championship, four points clear of Leith Athletic. They were relegated the following season but picked up the title again in 1899/1900.

● Thistle's biggest victory was the 16-0 Scottish Cup win over Royal Albert on January 17, 1931; and the record defeat came at the hands of Queen's Park, 10-0 in the Scottish Cup on December 3, 1881.

● Thistle won the Scottish Cup for the first and only time in 1921. Former Celtic star Jimmy McMenemy, released by the Bhoys the year before, masterminded the 1-0 victory over Rangers, ironically at Celtic Park.

● The most league appearances record for Thistle is held by Alan Rough, with 410 between 1969 and 1982; Alan (who played seven times for Celtic in 1988) is also Thistle's most-capped player, with 51 (he collected 53 in total).





TODAY'S VISITORS - PARTICK THISTLE
MANAGER - GERRY COLLINS ASSISTANT MANAGER - CHIC CHARNLEY

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	13	12	1	0	43	4	39	37
Rangers	13	10	2	1	36	11	25	32
Harts	13	8	2	3	21	15	6	26
Motherwell	13	5	5	3	17	15	2	20
Dunfermline	13	5	4	4	14	16	-3	19
Livingston	13	4	5	4	14	14	0	17
Dundee	13	4	4	5	14	15	-1	16
Hibernian	13	4	4	5	14	19	-5	16
Kilmarnock	13	4	2	7	18	30	-12	14
Dundee Utd	13	2	4	7	10	26	-16	10
Aberdeen	13	2	1	10	9	27	-18	7
Partick Thistle	13	0	2	11	11	28	-17	2

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

CIS Cup 3rd Round PARTICK TH v CELTIC	THURS 4 DECEMBER 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague LIVINGSTON v CELTIC	SAT 6 DECEMBER 12.30pm
UEFA Champions League O.LYONNAIS v CELTIC	WED 10 DECEMBER 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v DUNDEE	SAT 13 DECEMBER 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague MOTHERWELL v CELTIC	SAT 20 DECEMBER 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v HIBERNIAN	SAT 27 DECEMBER 3.00pm

RECENT FORM



UEFA Champions League, November 25, 2003
CELTIC 0 v 0 BAYERN MUNICH

Scottish Premierleague, November 22, 2003 DUNDEE UNITED 1 v 5 CELTIC (Sutton 3, Larsson 2)
Scottish Premierleague, November 8, 2003 CELTIC 5 v 0 DUNFERMLINE (Hartson 2, Varga, Larsson, Wallace)
UEFA Champions League, November 5, 2003 CELTIC 3 v 1 ANDERLECHT (Larsson, Miller, Sutton)
Scottish Premierleague, November 1, 2003 KILMARNOCK 0 v 5 CELTIC (Sutton 3, Hartson, Maloney)
Scottish Premierleague, October 25, 2003 CELTIC 4 v 0 ABERDEEN (Larsson 3, Sutton)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	Craig Thomson
Assistant Referees:	Stewart Shearer Gordon McBride Eddie Smith
Fourth Official:	Eddie Smith

CELTIC



PARTICK THISTLE

Michael Gray	2	1	Jakup Mikkelsen
Momo Sylla	3	2	David Lilley
Jackie McNamara	4	3	Ian Ross
Joos Valgaeren	5	4	Derek Whyte
Bobo Balde	6	5	Grant Murray
Henrik Larsson	7	6	Kenny Milne
Alan Thompson	8	7	Jamie Mitchell
Chris Sutton	9	8	Stephane Bonnes
John Hartson	10	9	Gerry Britton
David Fernandez	12	10	David Rowson
Paul Lambert	14	11	Stuart Taylor
Bobby Petta	15	12	Kenny Arthur
Ulrik Laursen	16	13	Paul Kaczan
Didier Agathe	17	14	John Paul McBride
Neil Lennon	18	15	Eddie Forrest
Stilian Petrov	19	16	James Grady
Robert Douglas	20	17	Andy Ross
Magnus Hedman	21	18	Derek Fleming
David Marshall	22	19	John Gemmill
Stanislav Varga	23	20	Emmanuel Panther
Shaun Maloney	29	22	Steven Pinkowski
Steve Guppy	30	23	Ricky Waddell
Ross Wallace	33	24	Willie Howie
Johan Mjallby	35	25	Gavin Rushford
Craig Beattie	37	26	Matthew Shields
Jamie Smith	39	27	Andy Thomson
Stephen Crainey	40	28	Jean-Yves Anis
John Kennedy	41	30	Colin Miller
Liam Miller	43	31	Joe Boyle

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

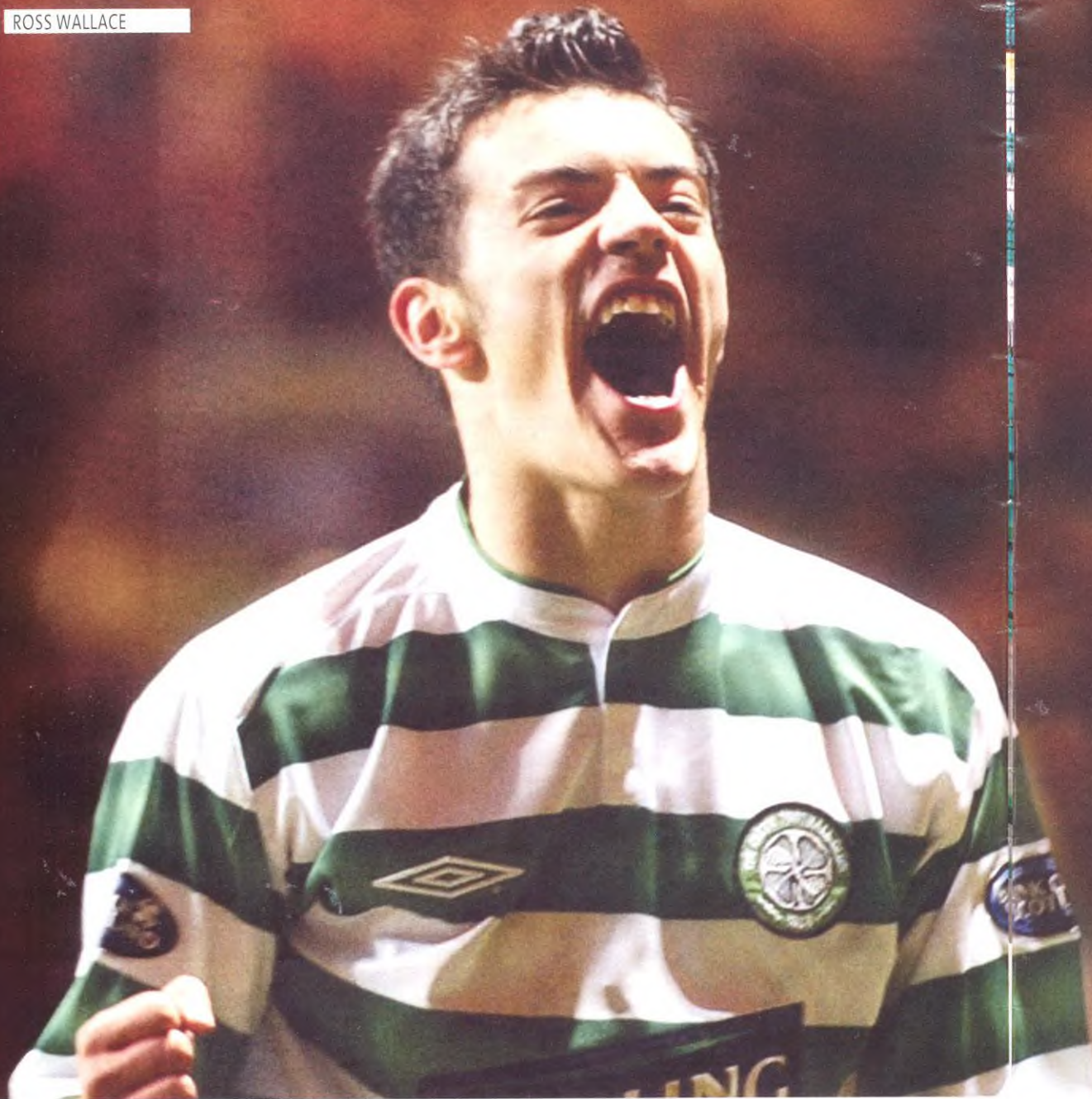
CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman

CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald

MANAGER Martin O'Neill ASSISTANT MANAGER John Robertson COACH Steve Walford

HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns YOUTH TEAM COACH Willie McStay UNDER-21 COACH Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy CLUB DOCTOR Roddy Macdonald KIT CONTROLLER John Clark



THE GLORY AND THE DREAM

Ross Wallace was delighted with his goal for the senior team against Dunfermline, and he is determined to work hard to ensure further appearances for Martin O'Neill's side

Exclusive Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN

JUST a few short weeks ago, Ross Wallace was speaking of his contentment with life in Celtic's under-21 side, insisting that he didn't expect much in the way of first-team involvement for the time being.

What a difference a goal makes. It's not that the 18-year-old winger is now about to demand a regular place in Martin O'Neill's team, you understand – merely

that, having experienced the elation of netting for Celtic, he's desperate for another fix.

Wallace's performances against Kilmarnock and Dunfermline offer encouragement that this ambition

“I just want to be in the senior squad all the time, although I know there are plenty of other players at the club in exactly the same position as me”

will be realised. O'Neill has long championed this particular youngster and, while Wallace's cheeky goal against the Pars may have captured the following day's headlines and the imagination of

the Hoops faithful, it was his two assists which likely pleased his manager most.

This is a player who, after all, has made his name in Celtic's youth sides for his pace, trickery and ability to consistently deliver from the left flank, and now he's simply hoping for yet more opportunities to show that those same skills can be used to deadly effect on the senior stage.

Wallace said: “I know I said recently that I would be happy to continue playing away for the under-21s, and really that remains the case. But I must admit – the goal has changed things a bit. Once you've experienced something like that, it just whets your appetite. Now, I just want to be in there all the time, although I know that there are plenty of other players at the club in

exactly the same position. But it's been an outstanding season for me so far and I want to keep that going.

“I know the standard that's been set here, though. I mean, just look at the game the other night. Bayern are a world-class team and yet they were really happy to come away from here with a draw. That shows you just what a good team we have these days. The



standard doesn't drop, not even in training, so I know just what I'm up against. But I've faith in my own ability and, even though I know it won't happen overnight for me, I believe I can become a good player for this club."

Another goal such as the one scored in his last outing is unlikely to do Wallace's cause any harm. By making a dupe of his experienced marker not once but twice before casually stroking a left-foot shot into the net, he not only ensured his name would be on the lips of every Celtic supporter who

"I have faith in my own ability and, even though I know it won't happen overnight for me, I believe I can become a good player for this club"

witnessed it, but likely guaranteed that the scores of SPL defenders would be dreading the same indignity being inflicted on them. Wallace intends ensuring that their worst fears are realised.

"It was a decent enough goal, wasn't it?" he reflected with a smile. "I just tried to get in a position where I could get my shot in and fortunately it managed to find its way past the bodies that were in the way. It was a nice moment, I'll say that, and it was great to have everyone coming up to me afterwards to say well done.

"It was just a shame my mum and dad weren't there to see it, although they will be down for the

game today – just in case! But my big brother was there anyway, although I don't know if he enjoyed it that much given that he's actually a bit of a Rangers fan! He didn't even turn up at the game until half-time – I think he must have been in the pub – but at least he made the best half from my point of view."

In addition to receiving encouragement and a healthy dose of good-natured stick from his family, Wallace has also been able to rely on the support of his senior team-mates, all of whom were quick to offer their congratulations following his first goal for the club. Indeed, so at ease have they made the teenager feel that, even with all the accompanying pressures associated with representing a club of Celtic's stature, he feels relaxed enough to express himself whenever called upon to step off the bench.

He said: "For someone like myself coming in, even though it's a pretty big step-up, it's made quite easy because of the way the senior players are brilliant in helping you through. In many ways, it's a no-lose situation for me when I'm in there because, even if I don't do all that well, no-one has a go at me, whereas they're all really encouraging when I do well. It's a great situation for me to be in, and I feel very grateful for having been given the chance to get on the park and show everyone what I can do. That's all any young player can ask for, and I'm lucky to have people here who have a bit of faith in my ability."

Wallace is well aware, however, that his football education is still in its infancy, and he's intent on picking up every trick of trade on



A STAR IS BORN

Ross Wallace skips past the Dunfermline defence to fire home his first goal for the Hoops' first-team

show at Barrowfield on a daily basis. There, as well as pitting his wits against wily old pros like Neil Lennon, Bobo Balde and, of course, Henrik Larsson, he's been studying their games, searching for

ingredients he can mix with his own abilities.

He said: "It's not so much that the players talk to you and say: 'Oh, you should be doing this or that.' It's more just watching them

on the training pitch and seeing what they do in certain situations.

"I know it's become a bit of a cliché to say that you're learning all the time from them, but it's 100 per cent true. I can honestly

say that I'm learning something every day I'm out there training with the senior boys, and obviously it's even better when you're actually in the same team as them."