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# The Coca-Cola Cup Final

# 1997



## Celtic v Dundee United

Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow  
Sunday 30th November 1997  
Kick-off 3.00 pm



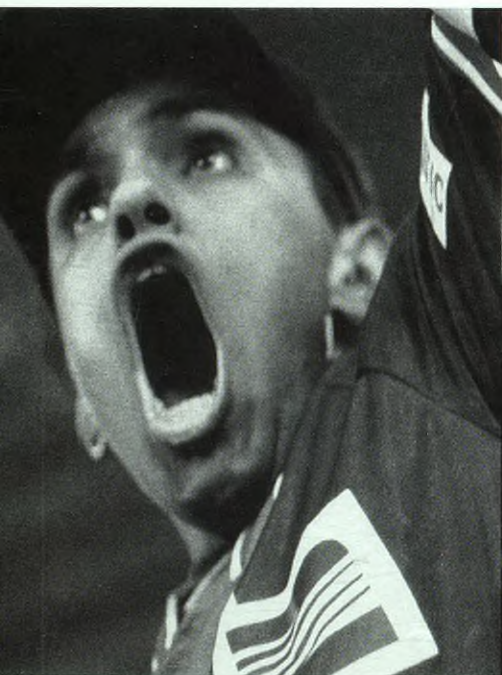
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**goal so beautiful**

*you will want to marry it, have children and move to a small tropical island.*



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# A Competition That Provides Drama and Excitement

**A** very warm welcome to ALL fans attending Ibrox Stadium for The Coca-Cola Cup Final between Celtic and Dundee United.

This is the 52nd Final of this competition since its inception back in season 1946/47 and brings together two of Scottish football's top clubs. However, it is interesting to note that this is the very first meeting of the Bhoys and Tangerines in the Final of this competition, although they have played each other on 22 occasions in the tourney at various stages in the past, including three previous Semi-Final ties. Hopefully, both clubs will today continue with their traditional philosophy of playing skilful, fluent, attractive and free flowing football that will provide the sell-out crowd in attendance at Ibrox as well as the millions watching live on television throughout the United Kingdom and overseas, with a match befitting of the occasion.

This competition, despite in my opinion, some ill informed and unjustified criticism in certain quarters, is an extremely important competition in the football calendar in Scotland. With a total of only 39 ties to be played from the First Round up to and including today's Final and indeed, today's Finalists only having to play a total of five ties (remember, there are no replays) to win the famous three handled trophy, the short, sharp and snappy format is hardly burdensome on the domestic football calendar in this country. In fact, I know that the longer a club remains in this competition, it can act for managers and players alike, as a welcome respite during the first half of the season from the 'bread and butter' weekly grind of League Championship matches and from a supporters' perspective, this competition provides excellent, value-for-money entertainment. Certainly, The Coca-Cola Cup '97 has continued this trend and testimony to this can be shown by the fact that 124 goals have been scored from the 38 ties played so far, averaging an extremely healthy 3.3 goals per game.

Today witnesses the conclusion of Coca-Cola's current four year agreement with the League to sponsor this competition and during the past four seasons, The Scottish Football League and its member clubs have enjoyed a very special working relationship with our colleagues from Coca-Cola. Their enthusiasm and eagerness in assisting to promote this competition has been evident for all to see and through their association



with the League, they have become actively involved with many sectors of the game including grassroots football as well as the lifeblood of the game, that of the supporter, and in this regard, you can read more about their involvement in both of these areas on pages 24 and 25. As I have mentioned, Coca-Cola have been excellent sponsors and at the time of writing, discussions are still taking place between the League and Coca-Cola regarding the future. In the meantime and on behalf of the Management Committee, I would take this opportunity in extending a very sincere welcome to everyone from Coca-Cola attending today's Final and, together with their invited guests, trust that they all enjoy another exciting and memorable Final.

This will be Celtic's 22nd appearance in the Final of this competition, although it is now 15 years since the Parkhead club last won the trophy. It will also be Wim Jansen's first Cup Final since coming to Scotland and being appointed Head Coach of Celtic and I know that he will view today's match as an extremely important barometer in the progress being made at the club since he took charge of team affairs. I also know that his assistant, Murdo MacLeod, will also be looking forward in anticipation to today's Final as he played in the last Celtic team to win this competition back in season 1982/83, scoring one of Celtic's goals in their 2-1 victory over Rangers. Indeed, he has also tasted success in this competition in more recent times, captaining Hibernian to victory

in the 1991/92 Final and he will be hoping to impart his experience of these successes to the Celtic players today.

The current management team at Dundee United are also not strangers in experiencing past successes in this competition as players and in particular, manager Tommy McLean and two of his coaching staff, Gordon Wallace and Jocky Scott, will be using their knowledge of playing in League Cup Finals to spur on their players today. Tommy McLean gained three winners' medals for Rangers during the mid to late seventies, Gordon Wallace and Jocky Scott played ironically enough, for city rivals Dundee when the Dens Park club defeated Celtic in the 1973/74 Final with Gordon scoring the only goal of the game, while Jocky enjoyed further success three years later, this time with Aberdeen, when the Dons defeated Celtic 2-1. However, United have to go back even further than their opponents today, to season 1980/81 in fact, for the last time that they lifted this trophy.

Cup Finals are always special occasions and with the National Stadium, Hampden Park, currently undergoing Phase Two of its refurbishment work, Ibrox Stadium is a superb venue for such a prestigious occasion. With the Final a complete sell-out, I have no doubts that the atmosphere generated inside Ibrox today will be absolutely electric. This is the second occasion that the Final of this competition has been played at Ibrox Stadium and I would take this opportunity in thanking most sincerely, the Chairman, Directors and Staff of Rangers Football Club for their tremendous co-operation and assistance in the organisation of today's game.

What will the outcome be? As most of you will know, I have enjoyed a long association with Dundee United both as a player and as a Director and I am currently the Vice-Chairman of the club. However, although it is fair to say that I will have a vested interest, in my capacity as President of The Scottish Football League, I certainly hope that both clubs today will provide all fans attending and the millions watching and listening on television and radio, with another exciting Final to remember. May the best team win.

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**DOUGLAS B. SMITH,**  
President,  
The Scottish Football League.



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# A continental cocktail

**M**ix all of the ingredients for today's Coca-Cola Cup Final and what do you get? A continental cocktail of the most thirst-quenching sort, hopefully. It's not just that Wim Jansen has brought something of the European approach to Celtic's play since taking over at Parkhead immediately prior to the start of the season. Tommy McLean has Dundee United performing in much the same way.

Neither Jansen nor McLean could profit from any such strategy without the players to suit, of course, but both have ensured that their sides are well-endowed in that sense. Scandinavians of every sort as well as Dutchmen, a Frenchman, German and an Italian could all be on display at Ibrox, thus marking the changing times in Scottish football.

Celtic fielded ten Scots, one Englishman and an Irish substitute when they appeared at this stage of the competition, and at the same venue, against Raith Rovers just three years ago. But the recruitment programme signalled by Tommy Burns, and pursued subsequently by Jansen, has altered the balance of nationalities to the point that those of their players who were reared in this country are not guaranteed to be in the majority. Tommy Boyd may stand alongside Marc Rieper in defence, for example, Jackie McNamara might share the flanks with Regi Blinker whilst Simon Donnelly is liable to be up front with Henrik Larsson.

United have undergone a similar transition, albeit more recently, with the influx of players from abroad only gathering momentum since McLean replaced Billy Kirkwood 15 months ago. Yet this is nothing new for the Tannadice club, the arrival of players such as Kjell Olofsson, Erik Pedersen and Lars Zetterlund transporting their fans back fully three decades to when the first Vikings came to Tayside. Fin Dossing, Orjan Persson, Mogens Berg and Lennart Wing were amongst those who injected colour and excitement to the United team of the 1960's, helping lay the

foundations for everything that the club have achieved since.

Celtic were about to emerge as the dominant force in Scotland at that time although, despite their proud record of triumphs on other fronts, they had not exactly been accustomed to winning the League Cup. They saw the first 10 Finals pass them by, indeed, before exorcising all their misfortunes and progressing to meet Partick Thistle in that Final of 1956/57, lifting the trophy at the second attempt.

Authors, Tom Campbell and Pat Woods have recorded in 'The Glory and the Dream' that the League Cup "barrier was crossed by the signing of a new centre-forward, Billy McPhail". He it was who scored two of Celtic's three goals in the replay with Partick and he it was, in the following season's momentous Final, who scored a hat-trick in the destruction of Rangers. Travel the back streets of Glasgow and you're liable still to see, daubed on walls here and there, the scoreline 7-1 testifying to Celtic's greatest result over their old rivals.

However, it took the appointment of Jock Stein in 1965 for them to accumulate still more successes in this tournament, something they did spectacularly by winning it in each of his first five seasons. Dundee United Chairman, Jim McLean, cannot have forgotten one of the Celtic victories, 5-3 against Dundee in season 1967/68, as he scored one of the Dens Park side's goals. Stein was still in charge when, in 1974/75, Celtic contributed handsomely to another high-scoring Final by beating Hibernian 6-3 with players from both sides, Dixie Deans and Joe Harper, scoring hat-tricks.

Dundee United had yet to contest a Final, far less win one, by that point although, with Jim McLean having moved down the road from Dens to take over as manager, they moved much closer towards their destiny. United duly beat Aberdeen 3-0 in a replay of the 1979/80 Final, Dundee by the same score in the following season's competition and promised to make it three in a row until Rangers beat them at the last stage in season 1981/82.

"That first ever win still holds a special niche in my memory," McLean has recorded in his autobiography, 'Jousting with Giants', whilst recalling that a long-serving Director, close to tears, admitted, "I never thought I would see this club winning one of the major honours".

The score in the League Cup so far, then, is nine wins for Celtic and two for Dundee



Tommy McLean

United but it's nigh impossible to predict which of them is about to celebrate another. Both have the capacity to play excellent football, doubtless with their uncharitable defences making it difficult for the other to score. Celtic, remarkably, have yet to lose a goal in this competition, which says something for the sense of organisation that Head Coach Jansen has implanted in them since taking over in July. They made a spectacular start by beating Berwick Rangers 7-0 at Tynecastle with Simon Donnelly getting two of their goals and Henrik Larsson, Morten Wieghorst, Darren Jackson, Andreas Thom and Regi Blinker one apiece. Celtic's subsequent ties, against St. Johnstone, Motherwell and Dunfermline Athletic each ended 1-0 in their favour with Donnelly, Larsson and Craig Burley scoring the goals respectively.

Dundee United did not begin quite so impressively, beating Queen of the South 4-2 away, but they had to endure a taxing run thereafter, with successive ties against Hibernian, Rangers and Aberdeen. Gary McSwegan, who scored twice against Queen of the South, got the winner in a 2-1 win against Hibernian whilst Zetterlund claimed the other. But the little striker would testify that his piece de resistance was scoring in extra-time to give his side a 1-0 win over the first of his former teams, Rangers, at Ibrox. Robbie Winters claimed his share of celebrity status thereafter, scoring two of United's goals in a 3-1 win against Aberdeen at Tynecastle with young Craig Easton getting the other.

So two things can be said with certainty. Celtic and Dundee United thoroughly deserve to be where they are this afternoon; also that their home-reared players have much to contribute to the company of so many brought in from abroad. A continental cocktail may well be served to supporters but the Scots on show seem bound to give it extra piquancy.

**BRIAN SCOTT**  
(Scottish Daily Mail)



Wim Jansen

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# The Road to the Final

**O**n the opening day of this season's Coca-Cola Cup competition, back on 2nd August, those Sunday newspaper sub-editors who find the outrageous pun irresistible, were almost rigid with anticipation. Up at Gayfield Park, on that Angus littoral where the wind from the North Sea threatens to strip the lacquer from the ball, Arbroath were to receive Queen of the South. Included in the Palmerston troupe was a double act the headline writers could not have invented for themselves - Flannigan and Mallan.

When Craig (Flannigan) did his bit by scoring the second of the Dumfries side's four goals that afternoon, the excitement on the sports desks must have been almost unbearable. Alas, Stevie (Mallan) failed to make the scoresheet - the other goals came from Derek Townsley and the old reliables, Tommy Bryce and Ken Eadie - leaving the punsters gutted.

Any chance of resurrecting the great play on words seemed to vanish when Queens drew the formidable Dundee United, who went on to become one of today's Finalists, in the Second Round. But the old thrill was stirred when Stevie Mallan struck twice for the Second Division side. He remained the only scorer for his team as they were eliminated by a 4-2 defeat, leaving professional observers to comment that, at least for two rounds of The Coca-Cola Cup, the partners had gone solo.

Queens were one of the two most impressive winners on that first day -

*Celtic's Regi Blinker tackles Allan Moore of Dunfermline Athletic*



*Celtic's captain, Tom Boyd challenges Dunfermline Athletic's Allan Moore in the Semi-Final at Ibrox.*

Inverness Caledonian Thistle beat Stenhousemuir 5-1 at home - but they did not fire the opening shot. That honour, and the £250 that comes with the fastest goal in each round of the competition, fell to Paul Patterson of East Stirlingshire. Patterson's 11th minute strike in the home tie with Stranraer was the foundation of a 3-1 victory. Although Glasgow born, the forward had been with Dundalk in the Republic of Ireland. That £250 would make the trip across the sea to Falkirk worthwhile.

He was not the only beneficiary, as an Under-14 school or youth team to be nominated by Patterson receives a Coca-Cola Big Red Bag. Santa Claus would never get down a chimney with one of these, as it contains a wide range of training aids, such as mini-goals, bibs, etc. While the man from the 'Shire was securing his bonus, Brian Thomson was making hay in Inverness. The well practised Caley Thistle striker's hat-trick was the first of The Coca-Cola Cup and brought him £300 and the youth team of his choice a box of footballs.

Those early stages of the tournament, when only the teams from the lower divisions are involved, highlight the beauty of The Coca-Cola Cup. Nobody outside the Premier Division starts off with the belief that they will win the cup, or even go all the way to the Final, although Raith Rovers from the First Division were a glittering exception in 1994. But there are goodies to be plundered even by teams that could be eliminated. Players can win bonuses by quick goals or hat-tricks and, at least as

satisfying, these rewards extend to school and youth teams.

Brian Thomson of Caley Thistle was the only three goal man in that First Round, but things began to warm up in the Second Round. Not only did that stage of the competition produce an astonishing five hat-tricks, but also the fastest goal of the cup so far. Dingwall probably seemed an unlikely venue for such a feat, as Falkirk from the First Division were the visitors. Even Brockville fans would have been forgiven for thinking they could be in for a difficult afternoon in the Highlands.

Ross County, one of the two newcomers to the League along with neighbours Caley Thistle, have shown themselves to be full of ambition. Their enthusiasm that day, however, was dimmed after only 90 seconds, by which time David Moss had given Falkirk the lead. To nobody's surprise thereafter, the Bairns went on to a 3-0 victory, with Moss completing a double and Scott Crabbe adding the other goal. Moss's goal - again, this is hardly a shock - remains the target for one of today's Finalists if they are to deprive him of the £500 prize for the competition's fastest goal. Whatever happens, some lucky Under-14 school or youth team will be the recipients of a full set of team kit.

The 16 matches in the Second Round delivered a remarkable aggregate of 62 goals, almost four per game. By then, of course, the teams most likely to contest the Final were on the stage. The two who did make it through scored 11 goals between

them. But who would have bet a penny that the seven that Celtic racked up against Berwick Rangers at Tynecastle would not contain a hat-trick? Simon Donnelly, in fact, was the only double scorer, with the other five all singles, from Darren Jackson, Henrik Larsson, Regi Blinker, Morten Wieghorst and Andreas Thom.

The four that Dundee United produced against Queen of the South at Palmerston included Gary McSwegan's treble, with young Steven Thompson adding the other. Perhaps those looking for likely candidates for the Final would have spotted the potential in those early outings. Certainly, Rangers, who began the tournament as favourites, did not set the competition alight, beating Hamilton Academical only 1-0 at Fir Park with a goal from Ally McCoist.

Elsewhere, there was a Niagara of goals. Big Andy Smith of Dunfermline Athletic became the first and, so far, only man to score four in one match when the Fife side crushed Ayr United 5-1 at home. The other three goal men were Mike Newell of Aberdeen (5-1 at Dumbarton), Peter Duffield of Raith Rovers (5-0 at home to Forfar Athletic) and Warren Hawke of Greenock Morton (4-1 at home to Airdrieonians). Hawke's was perhaps the most stunning achievement in the circumstances. With Morton and Airdrie locked at 1-1 after 90 minutes, who could possibly have predicted that the home side would eventually win so convincingly, with one of their members completing a three-timer?

By the Third Round, the cup is becoming generally more competitive, which makes First Division Stirling Albion's 6-2 victory over Premier Division Kilmarnock seem like a misprint. Curiously, there were no hat-trick



*Dundee United's Lars Zetterlund with Aberdeen's Stephen Glass in the Semi-Final tie.*

scorers for the Forthbank side, Steve McCormick coming closest with a double. Nor was it a distinguished round for today's Finalists. If Celtic and Dundee United cantered through their previous ties, they felt the crack of the whip in that Third Round. Celtic required Simon Donnelly's extra-time goal to dispose of St. Johnstone at McDiarmid Park. United ended their home match with Hibernian on 1-1, but the ever-reliable Gary McSwegan separated the sides with his goal in overtime.

That Third Round produced two hat-tricks - Ally McCoist for Rangers against Falkirk and Owen Coyle scoring all three of Motherwell's against Greenock Morton - bringing the total to eight, where it has remained.

That man McSwegan put his old team, Rangers, out at the Quarter Final stage with

a stunning extra-time volley at Ibrox as Dunfermline Athletic simultaneously beat Heart of Midlothian at East End Park with Allan Moore's extra-time strike. The following night, Henrik Larsson guaranteed Celtic's passage with the only goal against Motherwell and Joe Miller and Stephen Glass ensured that Aberdeen would beat Stirling Albion 2-0.

In the first Semi-Final, at neutral Ibrox, Craig Burley established himself as a hero to Celtic supporters with the only goal against Dunfermline. The following night, at Tynecastle Stadium, Dundee United confirmed their resurgence with a 3-1 victory over Aberdeen. Robbie Winters completed a double and teenager Craig Easton scored the other as Dean Windass replied for the Pittodrie side.

The hawk-eyed among today's crowd will have spotted that Celtic have come through their series of matches without conceding a single goal. United have lost four during their sweep to the climactic match, but both Finalists have each scored an aggregate of ten in their four ties.

The only players realistically in contention for the £1,000 cash award to the competition's highest scorer are United's Gary McSwegan and Celtic's Simon Donnelly. McSwegan, on five goals, already shares the lead with Dunfermline's Andy Smith, while Donnelly has three.

Even at this latest stage of all, the incentives are still in place.

**GLENN GIBBONS**  
*(The Observer)*

*Dundee United players celebrate their Semi-Final victory.*







# Coca-Cola Cup Results

## FIRST ROUND

Saturday, 2nd August, 1997

BERWICK RANGERS 2 P. Forrester, K. Walton	BRECHIN CITY 0
ARBROATH 0	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 4 D. Townsley, C. Flannigan, T. Bryce, K. Eadie
INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE 5 C. Christie, B. Thomson (3), B. Wilson	STENHOUSEMUIR 1 J. Henderson
FORFAR ATHLETIC 1 B. Honeyman	ALBION ROVERS 0
ROSS COUNTY 2 G. Wood (2)	MONTROSE 1 S. Taylor
COWDENBEATH 0	ALLOA ATHLETIC 2 W. Irvine, D. Pew
DUMBARTON 1 J. Bruce	QUEEN'S PARK 1 (AET - 1-1 After 90 Minutes) S. Edgar
Dumbarton won 6-5 on Kicks from the Penalty Mark	
EAST STIRLINGSHIRE 3 P. Patterson, C. Campbell, M. Abercromby	STRANRAER 1 R. Docherty

## SECOND ROUND

Thursday, 7th August, 1997

HAMILTON ACADEMICAL 0	RANGERS 1 A. McCoist
Match Played at Fir Park, Motherwell	
Saturday, 9th August, 1997	
DUNDEE 1 J. O'Driscoll	EAST STIRLINGSHIRE 0
EAST FIFE 0	KILMARNOCK 2 W. Findlay, J. Vareille
HIBERNIAN 3 B. Lavey, J. Charnley, P. McGinlay	ALLOA ATHLETIC 1 W. Irvine
LIVINGSTON 0	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN 2 N. McCann (2)
ST. MIRREN 2 R. Kelly, D. Milne	CLYDEBANK 0
RAITH ROVERS 5 P. Duffield (3), A. Millen, I. Cameron	FORFAR ATHLETIC 0
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH 2 S. Mallan (2)	DUNDEE UNITED 4 G. McSwegan (3), S. Thompson

ST. JOHNSTONE 3 G. O'Boyle (2), D. Griffin	CLYDE 0
BERWICK RANGERS 0	CELTIC 7 D. Jackson, H. Larsson, R. Bliaker, M. Wieghorst, A. Thom, S. Donnelly (2)
Match Played at Tynecastle Stadium, Edinburgh	
PARTICK THISTLE 2 D. Farrell, A. Lyons S. McLaren (2), C. Taggart	STIRLING ALBION 3
DUMBARTON 1 C. McKinnon	ABERDEEN 5 J. Miller, M. Newell (3), E. Jess
DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC 5 A. Smith (4), H. French	AYR UNITED 1 D. Wordsworth
ROSS COUNTY 0	FALKIRK 3 D. Moss (2), S. Crabbe
MOTHERWELL 2 W. Falconer, O. Coyle	INVERNESS CALEDONIAN THISTLE 2 (AET - 2-2 After 90 Minutes) B. Thomson, W. Addicoat
Motherwell won 4-1 on Kicks from the Penalty Mark	
GREENOCK MORTON 4 W. Hawke (3), S. Aitken	AIRDRIEONIANS 1 (AET - 1-1 After 90 Minutes) P. Connolly

## THIRD ROUND

Tuesday, 19th August, 1997

RANGERS 4 A. McCoist (3), S. Stensaas	FALKIRK 1 K. James
ST. JOHNSTONE 0	CELTIC 1 (AET) S. Donnelly
RAITH ROVERS 1 K. Wright	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN 2 D. Weir, S. Adam
DUNDEE 0	ABERDEEN 3 W. Dodds (2), M. Newell
Wednesday, 20th August, 1997	
DUNDEE UNITED 2 L. Zetterlund, G. McSwegan	HIBERNIAN 1 (AET - 1-1 After 90 Minutes) B. Lavey
STIRLING ALBION 6 A. Paterson, J. Gibson, T. Tait, S. McCormick (2), C. Taggart	KILMARNOCK 2 J. Vareille, P. Wright

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC 2 H. French, A. Smith	ST. MIRREN 0
MOTHERWELL 3 O. Coyle (3)	GREENOCK MORTON 0

## FOURTH ROUND

Tuesday, 9th September, 1997

DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC 1 A. Moore	HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN 0 (AET)
RANGERS 0	DUNDEE UNITED 1 (AET) G. McSwegan
Wednesday, 10th September, 1997	
CELTIC 1 H. Larsson	MOTHERWELL 0
STIRLING ALBION 0	ABERDEEN 2 J. Miller, S. Glass

## SEMI-FINALS

Tuesday, 14th October, 1997

Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow	CELTIC 1 C. Burley
DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC 0	
Wednesday, 15th October, 1997	
Tynecastle Stadium, Edinburgh	DUNDEE UNITED 3 R. Winters (2), C. Easton
ABERDEEN 1 D. Windass	

## ROUND BY ROUND GOALS ANALYSIS

	No. of Goals Scored	Ties Played	Average Per Game
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First Round	24	8	3
Second Round	62	16	3.9
Third Round	28	8	3.5
Fourth Round	5	4	1.25
Semi-Finals	5	2	2.5

Total No. of Goals Scored	124
Total No. of Ties Played	38
Average Goals per Game	3.3

## COCA-COLA PRESENTS YOUR PRE-MATCH AND HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT

- 2.15 Keepy-Uppy competition involving young players from the eight clubs which participated in the Fourth Round of this season's Coca-Cola Cup competition.
- 2.25 Coca-Cola TV will show interviews on the big screens involving players and officials of both Celtic and Dundee United.
- 2.45 Coca-Cola TV will feature on the big screens action from previous rounds of this season's Coca-Cola Cup competition including footage of both Celtic and Dundee United's progress to today's Final.
- 2.56 Both teams led by the Match Officials will be welcomed into the arena.
- 3.00 KICK-OFF
- 3.45 HALF-TIME  
During the Half-Time Interval, the Coca-Cola "Ten Second Challenge" will take place involving five players each from the respective Under-16 teams of Celtic and Dundee United. Each player has ten seconds to score against the opposing goalkeeper starting from the halfway line.
- 4.00 SECOND HALF

Participants in the Coca-Cola keepy-uppy competition.



# The Celtic Squad

**Profiled by Peter Grant**

**P**eter Grant was a keystone in Celtic's midfield for 15 years, so there is no-one better qualified to run the rule over his former team-mates than the ex-Scotland man who moved south to English football a couple of months ago to join Norwich City.

Peter left when he realised that new Head Coach Wim Jansen was intent on rebuilding the team using his own men and his own style.

"I think the fans will have to get used to the idea that the new Celtic will be much more cautious than cavalier in their approach," he says.

"It is going to be a fascinating tactical battle today as Wim Jansen is a wily continental, but wee Tommy McLean is a real fox. He is one of the best tacticians in the business and knows how to set up a side that can both defend and hit hard on the break."

**Here is Peter's assessment of the Bhoys he left behind:**

**66 JONATHAN GOULD**

He has done exceptionally well since he came north. I know he has a cockney accent, but he is also a Scotland man because of his family background. He came to Celtic without a great pedigree, having been with Bradford City as his last club. But he has



Marc Rieper



Peter Grant

proved his worth with some great saves. He kept Celtic in the game in the European tie against Tirol with a tremendous performance.

**STEWART KERR**

A future Scotland 'keeper, of that I am sure. He was unlucky to be injured just when he was set to become the first choice 'keeper for a long, long time. He reminds me of Andy Goram.....what more can I say.

**JACKIE McNAMARA**

One of the bargain buys of the past few years. To get a player of his quality for about £650,000 was a great bit of business by Tommy Burns when he signed him from Dunfermline Athletic. I think Wim Jansen is now using Jackie in a role that suits him better, attacking more than defending. He will develop into a regular in the Scotland international side in the years ahead.

**TOM BOYD**

Mr. Consistent. Tom just goes about his job in a thoroughly professional manner. He never seems to be outstanding, but neither does he ever have a stinker. I would like nothing better than to see him lift the trophy as Celtic captain. A very under-rated player, except by Scotland boss Craig Brown, who has helped Tom join the elite club with more than 50 caps.

**ALAN STUBBS**

The big fellow's career has been all fits and starts with Celtic because of injury, but now

that he has Marc Rieper alongside him, I fully believe Celtic will get the full benefit of his undoubted ability. He is a modern defender, a player who can pass the ball out of defence instead of just lumping it upfield.

**MARC RIEPER**

This giant of a man is going to become a hero for Celtic, I am sure of that. I haven't played with him, but I have seen him often enough for his former club West Ham United and also his country Denmark. A rock solid defender who will bring the best out in the people around him.

**MALKY MACKAY**

As honest a player as you could wish to have alongside you. Big, strong and deceptively fast. His only problem now will be getting into the team on a consistent basis because of all the new signings. A great squad player.

**ENRICO ANNONI**

"Bald Eagle", as we liked to call him in the dressing room, is a great competitor and a tough character. Rico is also a superb defender, otherwise he would not have been at the top in Italian football for a decade or so. He will also benefit from having Rieper in as the keystone of the defence.

**STEPHANE MAHE**

It might take him a while to get used to the pace and physical power of the Scottish game, but I am sure the Frenchman will learn. He is a strong tackler, but has to learn to modify this to suit the speed of play in the Premier Division. But he's smart, and a guy who has played with top clubs like Paris St. Germain and Auxerre, is clear evidence that he has what it takes.

**TOSH MCKINLAY**

Despite all of the recent adverse publicity involving Tosh, one thing is certain and that is that he will continue to give one hundred per cent commitment. He is a player who has the extra incentive of trying to maintain his place in the Scotland squad for the World Cup Finals in France next year and he will be trying desperately to regain his place in Celtic's first team. A strong, stylish full-back whose surging overlapping runs causes problems for opposing defenders.

**PHIL O'DONNELL**

Jinxed by injury all his days at Celtic since he signed from Motherwell three years ago. If he could just get a free run, I am certain he could win a permanent place in the Celtic set-up. He is one of those rare commodities - a midfield man who can score goals.

**MORTEN WIEGHORST**

The big Dane has suffered from a positional crisis since his half million pound signing from Dundee a couple of years ago. Because he is versatile, he has tended to be pushed into a variety of positions, but basically, he is at his best in central midfield and his fine form has resulted in him being recalled to the Danish international squad.

**CRAIG BURLEY**

The Scotland midfielder man made a bold career decision in the summer to come north from Chelsea. But it looks like being a good move for him and £2.5 million well spent by Celtic. I know he has picked up a lot of bookings already, but that is just an indication of how competitive it is in midfield in Scottish football and Craig is not one to shirk a battle.

**DAVID HANNAH**

The ideal squad man. Ask him to do a job anywhere, and he will do it. I think Celtic did well to get him from Dundee United last year. He was six years with United and anyone who has lasted that length of time at Tannadice is firstly a good player and secondly, could not have had a better training school.

**PAUL LAMBERT**

It may take him a month or so to settle back into Scottish football after his successful spell in Germany with Borussia Dortmund. But

*Stephane Mahe*



let's face it, any player good enough to play regularly in the Bundesliga, and anyone who comes to a club with a European Cup winners' medal pinned to his chest is obviously a major asset.

**SIMON DONNELLY**

The jewel in the crown at Celtic Park as far as I am concerned. He is going to be a major star, but needs a big, strong centre forward to play up beside him to take the pressure off. He might be small, but he has terrific body strength and a great eye for a goal.

**DARREN JACKSON**

Could be just the very man to give Donnelly the partner he needs. They don't come any more willing or determined than Darren, who doesn't know what a lost cause is. When he fully recovers from the trauma of his brain operation, Celtic will get the benefit of the million pounds they paid out to Hibs for him.

**TOMMY JOHNSON**

Down here in England, Tommy is given a really high rating and quite a few clubs were after him before he opted to leave Aston Villa for Celtic Park. He looked good at the end of last season and started well again this term before he was sidelined by injury. Fully fit, he will be a prolific scorer over the rest of this season.

**ANDREAS THOM**

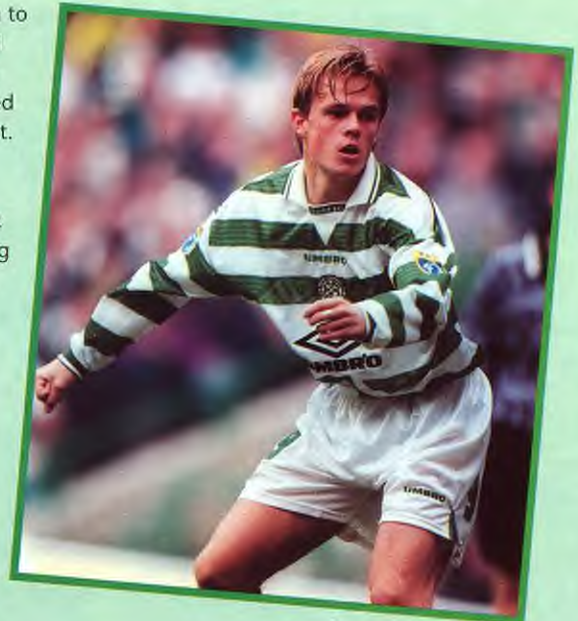
A man with amazing skills, but is so casual about it all. If you could combine his ability with my will to win, you would have some player! He is faster, stronger and more aware of the game than you would think. But he doesn't always show it.

**BRIAN McLAUGHLIN**

A very unlucky wee man. When he made the breakthrough as a teenager alongside me in the top team, I thought he was on the way to be a great Parkhead winger in the old tradition. But again, injuries have cost him dearly and he will now find it hard to get a place in Wim Jansen's line-up.

**REGI BLINKER**

Knows more tricks than Paul Daniels. Very direct, with quick feet. He might take some time to settle, but having been at Feyenoord in Holland where he played under Wim Jansen, and also in the English Premiership with Sheffield Wednesday, he has bags of



*Simon Donnelly*

experience, but he will have to be good to make the fans forget about the man he has replaced, Paolo Di Canio.

**HENRIK LARSSON**

I was a team-mate just long enough at Parkhead to get a good look at Larsson and, I was totally impressed. He will get a lot of goals because of his ability to find space in a crowded penalty box. I think his best position will turn out to be lying just behind two main strikers, and I am sure Wim Jansen had that in mind when he brought him over from Feyenoord in the summer. Besides, anyone with 30 caps for Sweden clearly has what it takes. ”

**DIXON BLACKSTOCK**

*(Evening Times)*

*Phil O'Donnell*



# Celtic – looking to go one better

**C**eltic go into today's Coca-Cola Cup Final trying to improve on a record which has seen them win this trophy only once in the last 22 seasons!

The Parkhead side reached the Final of the League Cup FOURTEEN seasons in succession between 1964/65 and 1977/78, winning the trophy six times. However, they have reached only five Finals in the 19 competitions since then, with only one solitary win to show for it. That came in December, 1982, when Charlie Nicholas inspired Celtic to overcome Rangers 2-1 on a miserable winter's day at Hampden Park.

As Charlie recalls, "I remember the game well, because I doubt if any team has ever been such hot favourites going into an Old Firm clash as we were that day.

"It wasn't hard to understand why. We were top of the Premier Division, we'd won eleven out of thirteen League games before the Final, we'd scored in every game we'd played in and had scored 37 goals by the end of November. We really were scoring for fun.

"Rangers by contrast, were struggling a bit. They were fourth in the League and had only won one of their previous four League games before the Final. So we were red hot favourites.

"I remember walking out for the game at Hampden thinking, 'If we get off to a good start here, we can really go to town', but of course, Old Firm games are never as simple as that.

"It was a miserable, rainy day and I noticed quickly that the ball was skidding along the turf at a fair rate of knots and that's how the opening goal came about. Danny McGrain and Davie Provan worked an opening down the right and when Davie cut the ball back to me, I drilled it low and hard. I think I wrong footed Jim Stewart in the Rangers goal because I put it to his near post rather than the faraway one, figuring the wet surface would move it quicker. I was right and it put us one up.

"That settled us, and, from my point of view, settled the game. I felt that if we scored, we'd have too much for Rangers and when Murdo MacLeod thumped in a second from the edge of the box a few minutes later, we really felt as though the job was more or less done."

But Parkhead boss Billy McNeill didn't share his players' views and even a 2-0 lead at



Charlie Nicholas (not in picture) scores Celtic's first goal in the 1982/83 League Cup Final.

half-time in an Old Firm Final wasn't enough to satisfy the Celtic Manager.

Nicholas said, "I can remember coming off the park at half-time with the cheers of our fans ringing in our ears and looking at the Rangers players and thinking how down and dejected they looked. I think they knew we'd totally dominated the game and they'd been fortunate to go in at the break only two behind. But big Billy was never happy and that interval wasn't any different.

"He kept stressing to us that the conditions could play a big part and that it was important that we kept possession as much as we could.

"He also pointed out that there were a lot of guys in our team who'd never played in a winning Cup Final against Rangers, indeed, I think Danny McGrain was the only one, and not to let our concentration slip.

"And he underlined that Rangers had seen us at our best in the first half and as they were only two down, they might think they still had

a chance. And he turned out to be right."

Rangers struck immediately after the break and that made for an uneasy second spell for the Celts and as Nicholas recalls, "The Rangers team of the time was made up of decent, hardworking, experienced professionals, but they maybe lacked a wee bit of inspiration. For that they looked to two men - Jim Bett and Davie Cooper. But at the time, Danny McGrain played Coop really well and had the knack of keeping him quiet.

"And in midfield, Murdo MacLeod was also playing really well, and scoring plenty of goals, while Paul McStay had just burst into the team and was also doing his bit. Between the two of them, they dominated Jim Bett.

"But almost from the kick-off, Rangers got a free-kick at the edge of the box and Jazzer scored from it. We knew then that our feeling of security had gone and the game was back on!

"The goal threw us for a wee spell and you could see Rangers, and their fans, thinking to



Murdo MacLeod (not in picture) scores Celtic's second goal in the 1982/83 League Cup Final.

themselves, 'Hang on, we could still be in this'.

"What we needed was a quick goal to get us back in our stride, and about ten minutes into the second-half, we got a great chance to go 3-1 up. And guess who missed it!

"I'd done everything right. I'd made a dummy to go to the back post and made the front-post run instead. The ball came right to me and sat up nicely. I doubt if I could've been more than seven yards out. But I still managed to put it about four yards wide of the post. Missing it was bad enough. Missing it in front of the terracing full of Rangers supporters was ten times worse. It's fair to say they enjoyed it as much as I wished the ground would open up underneath me!

"But we ended up hanging on to win and it was a bit of an unusual meeting of the Old Firm in that there wasn't much in the way of incident. In the end, the win was more important than the performance to us.

"Like most Celtic fans, I'd been brought up with the traditional feeling that the League Cup was very much Celtic's competition. They used to reach the Final every year as a matter of course. For the club to have missed out for so long was something everyone at the club had noticed. So it was nice to play in the team that changed that set of circumstances."

Indeed, Nicholas has one other memory of the Final, one which underlines how quickly technology has moved in the last 15 years.

He laughs, "It was one of the first Finals where the organisers had tried to jazz it up by introducing prizes for the scorer of the first goal and so on. I'd scored the first so I was delighted to pick up a brand new state of the art Video 2000 recorder.

"This was in the dawn of that kind of

technology and there were a few envious looks at me picking up this revolutionary new contraption. The looks weren't quite so envious when it was discovered that although the recorders were in the shops, the manufacturing of video cassette tapes hadn't kept pace and there were, in fact, no video tapes to go with them. So what I had was a nice shiny video recorder and nothing to record with!

"But the problem was soon solved as about six weeks later, someone broke into my house and nicked it!"

However, Charlie firmly believes that today's match will be a cut above that particular Final and maybe even a repeat of last season's 4-3 thriller between Rangers and Heart of Midlothian.

He says, "I'm really looking forward to the game and I've a good feeling about it.

"Celtic have been going strong under Wim Jansen and are playing attractive, attacking football. But United's Tommy McLean is renowned as a master of the tactical switch. He has a record of getting results in big games against the Old Firm that is second to none, as both Rangers and Celtic have discovered. They beat Celtic once and Rangers twice last season and there aren't many teams who can say that.

"He'll send his side out knowing exactly what they have to do to win the Cup and that, coupled with their speed and sharpness up front, will make United dangerous prospects.

"Against that, Wim Jansen hasn't changed things much and he has no reason to start doing so now. So I think it could be as good, and as tight, a Final as we've seen in a long time."

But if Celtic have had a long barren run in this competition, United's is even worse. They haven't won the trophy since their back-to-back wins in 1979 and 1980 and they've reached only two Finals in the competition since.

The teams in Celtic's last League Cup win back in season 1982/83 were:

**Celtic:** Bonner, McGrain, Sinclair, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan, McStay, (Reid), McGarvey, Burns, Nicholas.

**Rangers:** Stewart, MacKinnon, Redford, McClelland, Paterson, Bett, Cooper, Prytz, (Dawson), Johnstone, Russell, (MacDonald), Smith.

**KENNY MacDONALD**  
(News of the World)

### Coca-Cola Cup Final Snippets

\* **Today's Final will be the first occasion that Celtic and Dundee United have met at this stage of the competition.**


\* The last time that both clubs played each other in this competition was back in season 1994/95 when Celtic defeated United by one goal to nil in a Fourth Round tie on 21st September, 1994 at Celtic's then temporary home, Hampden Park. The Bhoys' goal that night was scored by John Collins.

\* **This will be Celtic's 22nd appearance in the Final of this competition since its inception back in season 1946/47. The Parkhead club's last appearance in the Final was in season 1994/95 when they lost to Raith Rovers in a penalty shoot-out after the match had ended 2-2. Their last trophy success in the competition was 15 years ago when, in season 1982/83, they defeated their Old Firm rivals, Rangers, by two goals to one. First half goals by Charlie Nicholas and their current Assistant Head Coach, Murdo MacLeod, gave Celtic a 2-0 half-time lead and although Jim Bett pulled one back for the Ibrox club, Celtic held on to secure their ninth trophy success in this competition.**

\* On the other hand, this will be the Terrors fifth League Cup Final outing, having won the trophy on two previous occasions. Their last Cup Final appearance in this competition was in season 1984/85 when they lost 1-0 to Rangers. The last occasion that United won the League Cup trophy was 17 years ago when, in season 1980/81, they defeated city rivals Dundee 3-0 in an all Tayside affair that was played at Dens Park. United's goals that day were scored by Davie Dodds and a Paul Sturrock double.



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# Jackie McNamara – on the medal trail

**A**t the age of 24, Jackie McNamara knows the time has come to turn promise into prizes. The Celtic midfielder may still retain the same boyish looks he had as a teenager with Dunfermline Athletic when he burst onto the Scottish football scene, but the Scotland star is more than aware he can no longer be tagged a promising youngster.

A bargain £650,000 buy from the Pars two years ago, McNamara has been an undoubted hit at Parkhead, where he has become one of the most vital and influential members of the first team. So far, though, the ultimate proof of success has eluded the quietly spoken and unassuming Celtic player.....silverware. Today sees McNamara in his first major Cup Final and seeking what he believes will be the first of many winners' medals.

"It's taken a lot longer than I expected to get to this stage," he admits, "because when you join a club like Celtic, you anticipate Cup Finals being a regular thing.

"That hasn't happened so far for one reason or another and it just makes me even more determined to win now that I've finally got to a Final.

"You are judged on what you win at our club, not on how you perform week in, week out.

"That's the way it is and it's something you have to accept. Our fans expect trophies to be delivered on a regular basis and they have been let down in recent years.

"The club's record in this tournament, which hasn't been won since season 1982/83, is especially unacceptable and we are all aware of that."

Memories of recent disappointments could easily haunt McNamara when the Celtic team bus rolls up at Ibrox this afternoon. The venue has been anything but a happy hunting ground. Indeed, his first taste of winning at Ibrox did not come until earlier this season when Celtic edged out his former club Dunfermline in the Semi-Finals of The Coca-Cola Cup.

Since then, Celtic have tasted another 'Old Firm' defeat at Ibrox and Jackie says, "It's not been a great place for me so far but I'm optimistic that can be put right in this Final."

It was at Ibrox, of course, that McNamara suffered his biggest disappointment yet in a Celtic jersey when they lost to Falkirk in the Semi-Finals of the Tennents Scottish Cup last



season.

"That was a nightmare," he says, "and I don't think I've ever felt as low after a game as I did that night when Falkirk beat us 1-0 in the replay.

"After beating Rangers 2-0 in the Quarter Finals, we were really confident we could go on and win the trophy and to then lose to a First Division club was a disaster.

"However, there's no way I'm going to Ibrox thinking of it as a jinx ground or anything like that.

McNamara has been switched from the attacking right back role he was given by Tommy Burns to an advanced midfield position by new Celtic Head Coach, Wim Jansen. He has been a big success in the new position but only after forcing his way back into the side following a five match spell on the sidelines earlier in the season.

"I wasn't happy about that, of course I wasn't," he admits, "but looking back, it probably didn't do me any harm.

"It was the first setback I'd had since I joined Celtic and I'd like to think I responded positively to it.

"Everyone is in the same boat when a new manager comes into a club, you have to prove yourself all over again. Anything you have done in the past counts for nothing.

"Wim Jansen is very different to what we were used to but his methods have gradually

got through to the players and started to pay off.

"He never seems to lose his cool and he treats every match we play the same way and I'm sure this Cup Final will be exactly the same.

"He never panics. He has a game plan worked out and expects us to follow it. He is very thorough in everything he does.

"I've been happy with my form this season. It's a big season for me and like a lot of other players, I have to do really well consistently to get a place in the Scotland squad for the World Cup Finals.

"The best way for me to do that is to help Celtic win trophies this season and I've no doubts we have a squad capable of doing that.

"The Coca-Cola Cup Final will be the biggest game of my career so far, no doubt about it, and I'm determined to have a winners' medal at the end of it.

"We know how hard it is going to be because Dundee United are such a difficult side to beat and they will fancy their chances just as much as we do.

"They had a shaky start to the season but I think everyone knew they would come good and that's the way it proved.

"They have a lot of dangerous players and Tommy McLean will have them well prepared for this one.

"We will have to be at the top of our game to beat them, there is no doubt about that, but I'm very hopeful this will be the day when I finally get that medal."

McNamara is also looking to go one better than his father, Hibernian assistant-boss, Jackie McNamara Senior, who also played for Celtic.

His first major Cup Final was in the 1975 League Cup when he came on as a substitute as Celtic lost 1-0 to Rangers at Hampden.

"The old man has a few runners-up medals in his collection," smiles Jackie, "and I'm just hoping it's not like father, like son!

"Seriously, I know no-one will be happier than he will if we beat Dundee United and I have a winners' medal to show him tonight.

"He has been a massive influence on me throughout my career. We don't speak about my game as often now that he is back in football himself with Hibs.

"But anything I achieve in my career, I will owe a huge debt of thanks to my dad."

**STEPHEN HALLIDAY**

(The Express)

# Craig Burley – still more to come

**C**raig Burley had a number of options when Celtic called at Stamford Bridge seeking permission to woo the midfielder, but the prospect of featuring largely in the resurrection of one of the country's truly massive clubs held enormous appeal.

Even so, the Scottish internationalist's pride might have kept him with Chelsea. His relationship with Ruud Gullit had become tempestuous, but Burley is not the type to walk away from a challenge and he was of a mind to stay on and prove his worth. However, when told by the Premiership side's Managing Director that Celtic had been given permission to open negotiations, Burley suspected his time with Chelsea had, in fact, run its course. He spoke with Celtic, who met his terms and then paid Chelsea £1.7m.

"There were a few offers from other clubs in the south and there were a couple more brewing," he said. "I was willing to stay and accept a new contract from Chelsea, but I just got the feeling that they wanted me to talk to Celtic."

Yet after he had made up his mind to return, Burley was on edge and not simply because friends had suggested the parochial nature of the game north of the Border might stifle his progress. He was also concerned about the goldfish bowl syndrome. Many players through the years have tried to play for the Old Firm but were unable to cope with the frequent invasions of their privacy and it does take an extremely strong character to withstand the nonsense which comes with earning a living from Celtic or Rangers. Burley had a long talk with his wife, Sheryl, to see if they and son Luke should take the risk.

Even Richard Gough, one of the toughest minds in the business, can be worn down occasionally by the intensity and rivalry which divide the Old Firm supports and Burley said, "It wasn't that I was afraid to come, but I did have worries. The move had to be given a lot of thought and I had to point out to my wife that we wouldn't be given a minute.

"Also, people said my form would be affected badly in Scotland, but I don't think



anyone could look at my game and say my form has suffered. Yet, the start was disappointing and we had two successive defeats against Hibernian and Dunfermline Athletic.

"We seemed to be uncertain of what it was we were all supposed to be doing and at that time, I couldn't see where our first win was going to come from. The only consolation at the time was that we were given an insight into what it will be like if we don't get it right, but I am pleasantly surprised at where we are now although there is still much to be done."

When Burley signed, he wasn't immediately hailed as something special with many of the fans wondering why their club should spend on someone they considered to be no more than a journeyman, but their opinion of Burley had been formed from a distance and occasional glimpses on television. Even when they watched him in Scotland's matches, they saw him play wide on the right of the defence, which is not his true position.

Fortunately, none of this bothered Burley, who quickly began to capture the

admiration of Celtic's masses and prove himself to be a much more accomplished player than many had believed. Already, Burley has contributed greatly to Celtic's League Championship challenge with his play from central midfield, and the heartening word for his new club is that they haven't seen anything yet.

"I think there is more to come," he said. "I can play better because I am still settling in here. I wouldn't say too much has changed from the way I played at Chelsea although there is, I suppose, a difference between my club and international play.

"When I play for Scotland, I always seem to be out there in that wide-right role, but that's where the national team manager wants me and that's where I go. I have to say there is absolutely no doubt my best position is central midfield although I will accept any role for the national side.

"Also, I think I should be scoring more goals at club level, but I haven't played the best I can yet. I am looking for a steady improvement over the course of the season.

"I went to Chelsea as a 16 year old and had my first chance in the first team when I



was 19, but it wasn't the club's policy to keep youngsters in for long periods so, like one or two others my age, I was in and out for a while before eventually claiming a regular place.

"I started to bang in a few goals and Glenn Hoddle, when he was manager of Chelsea, said he regarded me as one of the best passers of the ball at the club. He also said that players had to be consistent and usually it was when they became older that they were able to gain that level of play.

"He was right, of course, and now that I am 26, I feel my form is more consistent than ever. I also believe I am expressing myself more and I enjoy making things happen on the pitch. Even though supporters in Scotland might not realise it, being creative is a natural part of my game."

It would help Burley and Celtic's other newcomers if they were to win The Coca-Cola Cup Final today and while he is aware of the strengths of a fully functioning Dundee United side, Craig is bursting to get going at Ibrox. He played in the 1994 FA Cup Final, but went home that day with a runners-up medal after Manchester United

had thrashed Chelsea 4-0 and he has also played in "two or three FA Cup Semi-Finals."

His biggest disappointment, so far, hit him at the end of last season when he was denied a winners' medal after Chelsea had beaten Middlesbrough 2-0 at Wembley. Burley was still at odds with Gullit, who left him out of the side, and although he tries not to think of that period too often, there is some mental scarring.

Naturally, his rehabilitation would be so much quicker if he were to help Celtic claim the first piece of silverware available this season and he is not one of those professionals who tend to dismiss this competition as little more than a nuisance. Not for Burley the attitude of certain viewpoints expressed by some in the game, and he said, "You know, the attitude was similar in England if two of the top five or six clubs didn't reach the Cup Finals. People tended to dismiss the occasions, but so far as we are concerned, this is an important day and besides, how could we believe anything else. Celtic haven't won this competition since season 1982/83.

"We want to win the cup and if you ask

me, I will always say a trophy is a trophy. Listen, a lot of us here at Celtic Park are in our first season with the club and there isn't one of us who wants to be regarded as a failure.

"This Final means a great deal to us and when you remember our supporters want us to stop Rangers winning a tenth successive Premier Division Championship, it is vital we win because that would help provide us with the kind of sound platform from which we could approach the winter period. Winning The Coca-Cola Cup could carry us right through the winter.

"We have beaten Dundee United twice this season already and it could go well for us today provided we are all ready for this Final. We have some good players, but so, too, do United and I especially like the way they use Kjell Olofsson.

"We will have to be careful with him because he is fast, powerful and dangerous. Robbie Winters is another who will have to be tracked and he and Olofsson are linking up well."

**JAMES TRAYNOR**

(Daily Record)



Craig Burley



## THE COCA-COLA CUP FINAL QUIZ



The 52nd League Cup showpiece brings together the men from Celtic Park and Tannadice for their first Final showdown in the competition. As a warm-up to today's big game, test your general knowledge of this tournament as well as League Cup facts about the Bhoys and the Terrors.

1. What has been the highest scoreline in the 51 previous Finals of this competition?
2. What was the first Final in the competition to be settled by a penalty shoot-out?
3. How many Coca-Cola Cup goals have Celtic scored to reach this season's Final?
4. ....And, what is United's goal tally?
5. Name the only player to score four goals in a League Cup Final?
6. ....And, who was the last player to score a Cup Final hat-trick?
7. Who were United's scorers in their first League Cup Final win in season 1979/80?
8. ....And, who were Celtic's scorers in their last League Cup Final success in season 1982/83?
9. In the current Premier Division, only three clubs have still to win the League Cup competition.....name them?
10. Who is Celtic's top scorer in this season's Coca-Cola Cup competition?
11. ....And, who is the top United hit man?
12. In Celtic's last Coca-Cola Cup Final appearance, how many kicks from the penalty mark were scored in the shoot-out to settle the game?
13. What was the last Final in this competition to go to a replay?
14. How many east coast clubs have won this competition in the past ten seasons?
15. Name the four clubs who have scored three goals in a League Cup Final.....yet lost?
16. Outwith the Old Firm, name the last west coast club to appear in a League Cup Final?
17. Between 1965 and 1970, Celtic won the trophy in five successive seasons. Which clubs did they defeat and what were the results?
18. In Dundee United's last appearance in the Final, they lost out 1-0 to Rangers. Who was the scorer for the Ibrox club?
19. Name the clubs in the last all east coast Final in this competition?
20. In Celtic's famous 7-1 League Cup triumph over great rivals Rangers, can you name the scorers?

Answers on page 43

# Jonathan Gould – icing on the cake

**Exactly a year ago, things really couldn't have got much worse for Jonathan Gould, whose career wasn't so much drifting into oblivion as free falling in much the same direction.**

Twelve months ago now, he had just been despatched by Bradford City to Gillingham where he played three matches on loan before being recalled. However, instead of starting afresh at City, he found himself out in the cold again after just 90 minutes against Ipswich Town and that, to all intents and purposes, was the beginning of the end of his career at the Yorkshire club.

At the end of a fraught season, he wondered exactly what the future would hold and he came close to resigning himself to a spell with a smaller club in the Second or Third Divisions of the Nationwide League. It was a fairly bleak prospect for the man who not so very much earlier, had been a part of the Scotland international squad.

"There was nothing particular in the pipeline," he recalled. "I had been messed about by Bradford and it looked as if I was going to have to drop down a division or two to get back playing regular first team football."

Then came a telephone call out of the blue (or maybe green would be a more appropriate description!) that turned his career and indeed his life around. Celtic General Manager, Jock Brown, called to enquire if Gould would be at all interested in playing for Celtic. Jonathan can't quite recall whether it took him one or two seconds to respond positively but he does remember that within three hours, he was on the doorstep of Celtic Park ready, willing and more than able to put pen to paper on a deal that stunned him and, for that matter, most of Scottish football.

It was step one on the road to recovery in a career sense and step two came when he was preferred by Head Coach Wim Jansen to Gordon Marshall following an injury to regular 'keeper Stewart Kerr. Step three came with a fine performance in his first game and since then, he has never looked back.

Now, that one year on, he has a series of outstanding performances behind him and, all things being equal, will be between the posts for the Bhoys in today's Coca-Cola Cup Final against Dundee United. No wonder he still looks faintly bemused at the remarkable turn of events.

He went on, "I was going nowhere at Bradford and although I had another year left on my contract, it had been agreed that I

would get a free transfer if someone came in. What I didn't expect, to be fair, was a club of Celtic's stature.

"You always dream of something like that happening but it never usually does.....at least not to me!

"But when Celtic got in touch, it didn't take me very long at all to make my way north and agree the deal.



"The biggest problem I had was, believe it or not, trying to find Celtic Park! But when I did, I must admit it was awesome. It has to be one of the top three or four grounds in Britain and the atmosphere is electric.

"Everything since that day has gone better for me than I dared ever imagine and this Cup Final is the icing on the cake."

When he first arrived, a Cup Final coming along so early didn't seem an entirely likely prospect as Jansen's new-look multi-national side struggled to settle. However, gradually they got their act together and Gould credits an earlier Coca-Cola Cup tie as the time when they came good.

"We went up to Perth to play St. Johnstone and won 1-0 and that, followed by another trip to McDiarmid Park the following Saturday when we won again, gave us the much needed lift-off to the season.

"Since then, things have gone pretty well with the odd exception but that's no real surprise when you look at the quality of players we have in this squad.

"It would have been more of a surprise if we hadn't started to play when you look at guys like Marc Rieper, Craig Burley, Henrik Larsson and the rest of the lads.

"Now we have this Final and it would be

brilliant if we could put some silverware in the trophy cabinet. I know things haven't gone that well for Celtic in recent years but a win in this one would prove we're back in business.

"That is our sole aim today and we go into the game against Dundee United confident in our own ability.

"And, as usual, if we achieve anything, it will be by a collective effort. We have a very together squad and the progress the club has made so far is down to people in general rather than individuals.

"Everyone takes responsibility and we defend and attack as a team. I even remember seeing Henrik Larsson chase back and make a challenge on the edge of our area once!

Seriously, though, that's the way it is here and while we have some outstanding players, it is very much a team effort."

That is a far cry from last season, to go no further back, when players like Jorge Cadete and Paolo Di Canio hogged the headlines.

Gould went on, "I wasn't at Celtic then but I think it can be difficult having different personalities doing their own thing in the dressing room.

"It's certainly not like that this season and the lads all enjoy a game of golf occasionally and even a beer or two. That kind of thing is good for team spirit and we have a laugh and a joke together.

"Put it another way, if anyone in this group got ideas above their station or stepped out of line, they would be slapped down pretty quickly."

That camaraderie has helped take Celtic this far and now it's United who stand between them and glory.

Gould went on, "They are a good, well-organised team and it seems their new players have all gelled well.

"But we have to produce and it will be a new experience for me because I've only had one game you could call a Final before and that was a Play-Off match at Wembley between Bradford City and Notts County which we won 2-0.

"This is the real thing, though, and a lot of the family have come up from down south while my wife Emma and children, Matthew who is three-and-a-half and Louise at just 18 months, will be there."

Jonathan just hopes that this consigns the bad memory of his Bradford experience to the history books once and for all.

**GRAHAM CLARK**

*(The Express on Sunday)*

# Morten Wieghorst – a higher profile

**W**hen he arrived at Celtic Park from Dundee in December, 1995, Morten Wieghorst already had first hand experience of a Coca-Cola Cup Final, like many of his new Celtic team mates. Like them, too, he had an unhappy tale to tell, as Dundee went down to Aberdeen, just as Celtic had been beaten by Raith Rovers the previous season.

The tall, articulate Dane anticipated another chance at winning the trophy and a few other prizes, too, when he left the First Division club for a shot at the big-time atmosphere of one of the Old Firm clubs. His first opportunity has come pretty well on schedule and if his team succeed, the medal will sit nicely alongside the extra international caps he has won since he gained the higher profile that goes with playing for one of the two major Glasgow clubs.

When he made the move from Dens Park, Wieghorst did so because he felt that, at 24, his time had come to move up the ladder or perhaps he would not get the chance at all. He has never had an ill word to say about Dundee. He liked the players, the management and the supporters and living in St. Andrews was no great burden either.

He still had ambition enough to decide to go on a month-to-month contract in the hope that a transfer would transpire. When he was signed by Tommy Burns, Morten hoped the change of divisions would help him regain his Danish international place in time for the European Championships in England the following summer.

"The Danish manager, Richard Moller-Nielsen, had kept me in mind even when I was at Dundee, but I knew that if I had any chance of getting to Euro '96, I would have to play at a higher level."

It didn't work out that way as the new man found it hard to establish a regular place in the first team. Burns had surprised some folk by indicating that he saw Morten as a central defender when he had been generally recognised as a midfielder. Wieghorst was willing to play anywhere to kick-start his Premier Division career but it was in midfield that he was given his opportunities.

He had begun to become a regular first team member last season when he suffered

an injury that virtually ruled him out of contention from the middle of January and resulted in a total of only eleven starts and six appearances as a substitute. That was not how the skilful Wieghorst had visualised his future at Celtic Park but this intelligent man had no thoughts of giving up his ambitions.

He had come too far since the day he joined Lyngby and became part of the resurgence of Danish football in the eighties. That had been the start of a football career which had been inspired by a casual walk with his dad past the local stadium in his home town of Hillerod. "I got the idea that it must be great to play there," says Morten, "so I started playing."

He was soon a leading light in the Lyngby team and, ironically, it was a fine performance of his against Rangers which was to lead eventually to his place in the Celtic squad. The man who is now manager of Hibernian, Jim Duffy, was Assistant Manager at Dundee when he watched that display at Ibrox. However, when he made his move for Wieghorst, who had been five years at Lyngby by then, he was met with what could be called hesitant enthusiasm.

"I had settled in Copenhagen, was enjoying my football and was reluctant to leave my family and friends," he recalled, "but I decided to go, although to be honest, I had only heard of Dundee, nothing else."

Like many foreigners who come to Scotland, he suffered badly from homesickness initially but with the help of a friend who came over to keep him company, he gradually settled. He and his girlfriend, Anna, chose to live in the auld grey toon, St. Andrews, and grew to love it.

Similarly, like most foreign players when they try their luck here, he found the pace of the game astonishing. He admits to having had the urge to shout "slow down" at first but he became accustomed to the competitiveness of it all, although it is only in recent months that he seems to have learned to make full use of his height and strength.

He began to make a name for himself at Dundee and, as well as clubs back home, Rangers were reputedly interested in his future. However, when Celtic moved in decisively, the transfer went through quickly and Morten has had no reason to look back with regrets.



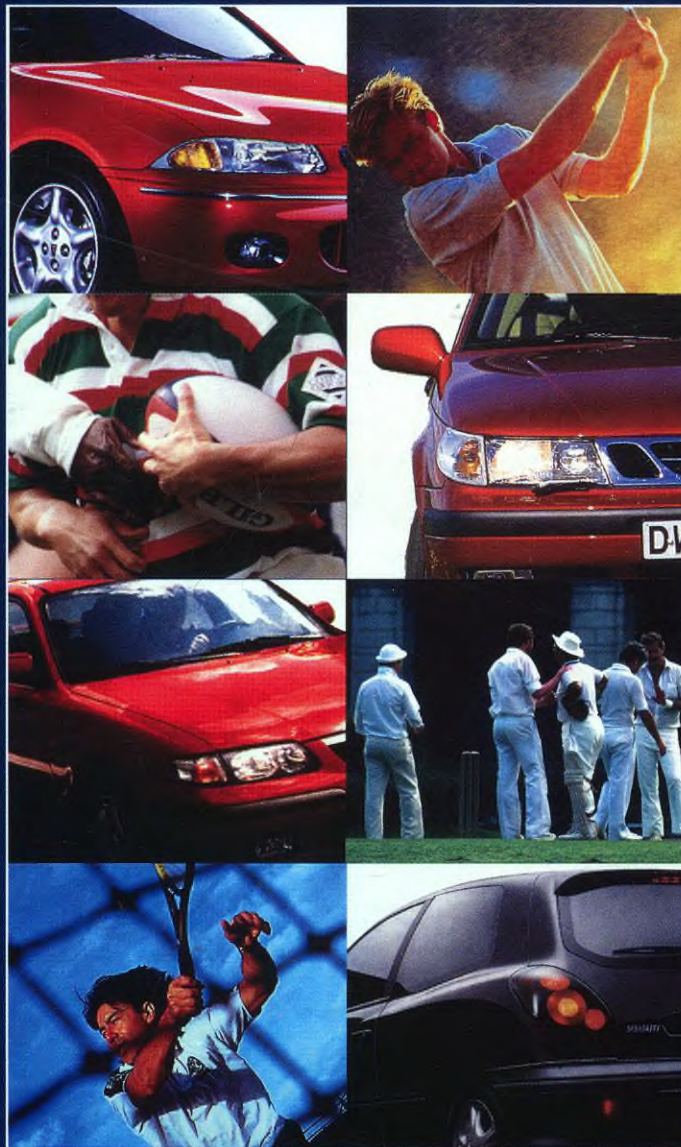
Nonetheless, after recovering from injury last season, his name was among the candidates being suggested as possible transfer targets for other clubs when the new regime took over last summer. However, it transpired that the continental touch and tactical awareness of the Scandinavian were precisely the kind of talents that are much approved of by the new Head Coach, Wim Jansen.

When Wieghorst, as with every other member of the Celtic staff, was asked to prove his worth to the new Head Coach, he was seen as a first team candidate from the off. As a result, he has started well over 20 games this season, has established a midfield role of his own and is very much a member of the Danish international squad again.

As yet, his medal cupboard is bereft of major Scottish trophy momentoes but today might be the start of something big for the tall Dane. For a man who insists he never sets any long term targets, his career is going along in rather exciting progression. A win in The Coca-Cola Cup Final almost exactly two years after losing out in his last attempt would be tangible evidence that he continues to make the right decisions at the right time.

IAN PAUL  
(The Herald)

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# A great fourteen year run

**W**hen Celtic Manager, Jimmy McGrory, picked his team for the club's opening tie in the Scottish League Cup competition on 8th August, 1964 against Partick Thistle at Celtic Park, little did he realise at the time that he was setting in motion one of the most successful runs in the club's history.

There was little sign of it, mind you, as his team of Fallon, Young, Gemmell, Clark, McNeill, Kennedy, Johnstone, Murdoch, Chalmers, Gallagher and Lennox had to settle for a goalless draw, watched by a crowd of 29,000. But.....history was in the making. From then until 13th December, 1978, when they lost 3-2 to Rangers in the Semi-Final, they played 155 successive League Cup ties, setting a world record of 14 consecutive domestic Cup Finals, all at Hampden Park, before an aggregate attendance of 1,137,631!

If reaching the League Cup Final each season had become a matter of course to a generation of Celtic fans, winning it was another matter. Of those 14 Finals, they won just six, though their five successive wins from season 1965/66 up to and including season 1969/70, is still a domestic record.

The first Cup Final of that historic sequence against Rangers proved to be the last for gentleman Jimmy McGrory, who became the club's Public Relations Officer after being replaced by Jock Stein five months later. However, there was to be no victorious farewell and inspired from midfield by Jim Baxter, the then Rangers skipper, the Ibrox club won 2-1.

When Celtic again met Rangers in the Final, the following season however, this time, they won. It turned out to be a scrappy affair with the winning goals coming from two controversial first half penalty kicks scored by John Hughes. Rangers' only goal came from Celtic right-back Ian Young, who knocked the ball past his own 'keeper, Ronnie Simpson, six minutes from time.

Celtic were now at their peak and the following season won every competition they played for, including the European Cup in Lisbon. On their way to the League Cup Final, they scored a remarkable 34 goals in nine ties. Joe McBride scored 15 of them - he notched a hat-trick against Clyde and four against St. Mirren - while Bobby Lennox and Stevie Chalmers got five apiece.

A single goal from Lennox was all that was required to beat Rangers in the Final. It was a smartly taken goal against a team that had outplayed them for most of the match. A Bertie Auld cross, a header across goal from McBride and there was "Lemon" to slam the ball past Norrie Martin in 19 minutes.

Dundee found themselves two goals down after just 10 minutes in the Final of season 1967/68, to Stevie Chalmers and John Hughes,

and eventually lost 5-3 with Chalmers, Lennox and Wallace adding further Celtic goals. Celtic were always the better side but Stein let it be known that he had not been too impressed with his team's defensive play!

In winning their fourth successive League Cup, Celtic raised their goal tally to 41 from the 10 ties played and included beating Rangers home and away, in their qualifying section.

In the Final, Hibernian just couldn't contain the same Celtic front five which had run Inter Milan into the ground on that memorable day in Lisbon when they met at Hampden. Johnstone, Wallace, Chalmers, Auld and Lennox were in full flow in this Final and had scored six times before Hibs could get in any kind of reply. Lennox grabbed himself a hat-trick while Wallace, Auld and full-back Jim Craig got the others. As Celtic eased off in the closing minutes, O'Rourke and Stevenson made the scoreline just that little bit more respectable.

The record five wins in a row came at the expense of St. Johnstone. Bertie Auld scored after just two minutes and that goal was sufficient for victory.

Skipper Billy McNeill now had five winners' medals, Jimmy Johnstone, Tommy Gemmell, Bobby Murdoch, John Clark and Bobby Lennox each had four. More to follow? Ouch! The beautiful game suddenly turned a bit sour as Celtic lost their next four League Cup Finals.

At the age of 16 years and 355 days, Derek Johnstone gave Rangers victory in 1970 with a header five minutes from the interval which proved to be the only strike of a final watched by 106,263 fans.

The Celtic fans could only watch in astonishment and disbelief at the 1971 Final as Partick Thistle had the trophy won by half-time with four spectacular goals from Alex Rae, Bobby Lawrie, Jimmy Bone and Denis McQuade with Celtic's reply coming from Kenny Dalglish.

Though Dalglish was again a scorer in the Final the following season, again he finished up with a runners-up medal. This time, Hibernian were the 2-1 winners with goals from Pat Stanton and Jimmy O'Rourke.

*Bobby Lennox completes his hat-trick in Celtic's 6-2 League Cup win against Hibernian in season 1968/69.*



Third time lucky for Kenny against Dundee? Celtic just couldn't find any rhythm on the hard, frosty surface of a December afternoon and went down 1-0 with Gordon Wallace (now of course, one of the coaches of today's opponents, Dundee United) hitting the matchwinner.

The 1974 Final with Hibernian was one of the most entertaining games ever seen at Hampden with Celtic winning 6-3 and Dalglish getting his one and only League Cup winners' medal. Jimmy Johnstone was at his jinking, waving best, Dixie Deans scored a hat-trick, Stevie Murray dominated the midfield and Kenny Dalglish was showing that he had touches that few players possess. Johnstone, Murray and Paul Wilson also scored. Hibs? Joe Harper scored a hat-trick, only to come away with a second prize. Few realised that day that Billy McNeill was saying his last farewells. This was his sixth winners' medal, and winning a seventh Scottish Cup medal later in the season, he decided to retire.

There was no further success for Celtic in their next three Finals in this competition. Rangers, thanks to an Alex MacDonald goal beat them 1-0 in 1975, then they lost 2-1 to Aberdeen after extra-time the following season with Dalglish getting their goal from the penalty spot, and lost 2-1 to Rangers in extra-time in the last of their run of 14 successive Cup Finals in this competition with Gordon Smith hitting the Ibrox winner.

There was turmoil when the great Celtic run finally ended at Hampden Park on 13th December, 1978 in a Semi-Final against their great rivals, Rangers.

With the score tied 2-2 in extra time, sadly, the winner was an own goal from young Jim Casey, who had come on as a substitute for Mick Conroy. A shot from Derek Johnstone had been blocked by Roy Baines and unfortunately, it cannoned off young Casey, who was racing back to cover, and went into the back of the net.

Celtic's remarkable record run was at an end. We will surely never see anything like it again.

**ALLAN HERRON**  
(The People)

# The Bhoys who have tasted success in the past

**T**he market in winners' medals from Scotland's various Cup competitions is now rising each year when they are made available at one of the auction houses annual sales.

For Celtic, whose appearance in the League Cup Final once seemed to come round as regularly as Christmas Day or Glasgow Fair Friday, these winning trinkets won by their former stars have now assumed rarity value since the Parkhead club haven't won the trophy since 1982. Yet, from season 1964/65 until season 1977/78, the Parkhead club made an incredible **FOURTEEN** consecutive appearances in the League Cup Final, and Lisbon Lion, John Clark, was in at the start of that amazing sequence. If old players want to show their medals, then Clark has a drawerful to display to the current crop of Celtic stars, who hope to find out today what a winners' gong looks like from this competition.

Clark has now happily returned to Celtic Park as the club's Kit Manager after a long spell out of senior soccer, and he said, "I'm thoroughly enjoying being back in football, especially as I don't have any headaches about picking the team. I drove a van in the Fire Service for nine years and I never thought my luck would change to get a place in football again."

The start of that long spell of Finals for the Parkhead club began on 24th October, 1964 with an Old Firm confrontation, played out in front of 91,423 fans at Hampden and the man who wore the number six jersey and was the glue which held together the unit of the redoubtable Celtic defence remembers:

"It was the last Final before Jock Stein arrived to take over the club, and we were beaten 2-1 by Rangers. They had a dominance then because it was the era of Jim Baxter and if I remember rightly, he was their skipper that day.

"Jim Forrest scored twice to put Rangers 2-0 ahead and Baxter played a big part in the vital second goal and although Jimmy Johnstone pulled one back for us, we couldn't get the equaliser. I thought we played well and we were unlucky."

However, the lean years were almost over for Celtic. Three months later, they



*John Clark (No. 6) and his team-mates parade the League Cup after defeating Rangers 2-1 in the 1965/66 League Cup Final.*

made the most significant appointment in their history when Jock Stein became manager, and an incredible era of success started. Five of the Lisbon Lions appeared in the line-up of that 1964 Final, Tommy Gemmell, Clark, Jimmy Johnstone, Bobby Murdoch and Steve Chalmers, and not one of them could have imagined as they trooped off Hampden as losers how their fortunes would change.

Three hundred and sixty three days later, the two Old Firm clubs were back at Hampden for a repeat of the previous encounter, but this time with a different result as Celtic romped home winners by 2-1 and all three goals were scored by Hoops' players. John Hughes swept Celtic into a two goal lead, both of them from first-half penalties awarded by referee Hugh Phillips, and six minutes from time, Parkhead right-back Ian Young was unfortunate to score an own goal and Clark recalls, "Rangers exerted as much pressure late on as we had done the previous season, but just like us, they didn't get an equaliser."

It was the first of many major victories for Celtic under Stein against their oldest rivals, but if Bobby Lennox hadn't notched a dramatic last second goal against Hibernian in the Semi-Final, they wouldn't have been

at Hampden. His 90th minute goal tied the game at Ibrox against the Edinburgh side at 2-2, and Celtic cruised to a comfortable 4-0 win in the replay and on to a Final where the attendance soared to a massive 107,609, a figure that will never be repeated.

The third successive Final appearance for Celtic, and the third against Rangers, was more than just a footnote in the history books, for Clark was in the Parkhead team which had the most successful season in the club's history, winning five competitions including the European Cup.

It all started with that 1-0 win against Rangers in 1966 and a solitary goal by Bobby Lennox was the decider although Clark concedes, "Rangers pushed us all the way in that game."

Celtic were in action again at Hampden for the Final of season 1967/68, but this time, their opponents were Dundee and a high scoring 5-3 victory for the Parkhead men. Incidentally, one of the Dens Park goal-grabbers that day was Jim McLean, now the Chairman of today's opponents, Dundee United. These were incredible times for Celtic, for later that Saturday night after the Final, they flew to South America to play in the second leg of the World Club Championship against Racing Club of

Argentina.

Clark said, "Big Jock took us all out with our wives for a meal and then we flew from Prestwick Airport on the way to Buenos Aires."

I was one of the six-man Scottish press party who accompanied them on that trip and it's changed days all round, for the chances of any Scottish side repeating the Celtic success in Europe that was the passport to the World Club Championship, are incredibly remote and in the unlikely event of it happening, a massive media army would now travel with the team.

John Clark won his last League Cup winners' medal as a player in the 1968/69 Final, which was held over until the spring of 1969 because of a fire at Hampden, when he was put on as a substitute to replace team mate Tommy Gemmell. It was another high scoring match and Celtic defeated Hibernian 6-2 with Lennox the hat-trick hero. However, Clark has a link with the last Celtic victory in the tourney, for back in season 1982/83, he was Assistant Manager at Parkhead under Billy McNeill and Murdo MacLeod, now the current Celtic Assistant Head Coach, scored the winner on a rain soaked Hampden afternoon to dump Rangers 2-1. Charlie Nicholas scored the first in 22 minutes and MacLeod, who followed up with a spectacular second nine minutes later, recalled, "We totally dominated that first-half. At my goal, Davie Provan took a corner and Tom McAdam headed it back to me right on the edge of the box and I shot to put it in the top right-hand corner.

"We were playing well and the worst

thing that happened to us was the break.

We went off the boil a bit in the second-half and Jim Bett scored for Rangers early in the second half, but they didn't manage to get an equaliser."

However, MacLeod was on the losing side a year later when an Ally McCoist hat-trick sunk Celtic as Rangers romped to a 3-2 win and you have to fast forward to season 1991/92 before he picked up his second winners' medal. By then, after a spell with Borussia Dortmund in Germany, he was skipper of Hibernian and led them up to collect the trophy when they beat Dunfermline Athletic 2-0, thanks to a Tommy McIntyre penalty and a second from Keith Wright. MacLeod says, "It's every young boy's dream to go up to collect a Cup, and mine came true that day. The scenes back in Edinburgh were amazing, the whole city seemed to turn out to hail our win."

The man who is assistant to Wim Jansen emphasises how important this Final today is to Celtic, "It's amazing we haven't won for 15 years. After that great spell of so many Finals, we've had a terrible run and it would be nice to change it this year."

One time Aberdeen striker, Eric Black, now Celtic's Youth Development Manager, is the other member of the Parkhead backroom staff who can boast he won a League Cup winners' medal. He played a massive part in the Dons 3-0 win against Hibernian at Hampden in 1985, scoring two and former Celtic assistant boss, Billy Stark, squeezed one in between Black's first and third goals for the Pittodrie side.

Black recalls, "We scored early which

settled the whole game. It was known as the twelve minute Final because myself and Billy both scored by then and it was really all over.

"My first was a header from a cut-back by John Hewitt and I was about to get a second the same way when Billy nipped in to score anyway. The third was just on the hour when the ball was played between Hibs' keeper Alan Rough and his defenders and I slid in to score from two yards."

It was Alex Ferguson's only League Cup Final win in his successful spell as manager of Aberdeen and Black joked, "That was one day there were no teacups flying about the dressing-room.....I think he was quietly pleased at the result."

However, Eric emphasised, "This is a big day for both clubs because it's a chance to pick up a trophy before the half-way stage in the season. What we achieved is history, now it's the opportunity for the players today to make their own contribution."

**RODGER BAILLIE**

*(The Sun)*

### Coca-Cola Cup Final Snippets

\* Today's Finalists have met on 22 previous occasions in the League Cup competition with the Celtic Park club having recorded twelve victories whilst the Terrors have won five matches with a further five contests having been drawn.

\* **Since the clubs last met in this competition just over three years ago, only four players who played in that match, three with Celtic and one with Dundee United, are still registered with their respective clubs. Two of the Celtic players that played in that tie, current skipper, Tom Boyd, and forward, Simon Donnelly, are likely to feature today, whilst the third player from that Celtic team, goalkeeper, Gordon Marshall, has not played for the Parkhead club in this season's Coca-Cola Cup competition. Remarkably, the only player still at Tannadice who played in the last meeting of the two teams in this competition is Maurice Malpas, who will be hoping today to complete his set of domestic honours, having gained a League Championship winners' medal with the club back in season 1982/83 and captained United to their first ever Scottish Cup success in season 1993/94 against Rangers. There is one other player who played for Dundee United in the last meeting between the sides in this competition who could feature today. However, the player in question, David Hannah, would be lining-up for Celtic against his old team today.**

Alex Miller and Murdo MacLeod celebrate Hibernian's League Cup win in season 1991/92.





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The Coca-Cola Cup Final 1997

Celtic

The Coca-Cola Cup Appearances and Goals

Jonathan Gould	4	-
Stewart Kerr	-	-
Tom Boyd	4	-
Marc Rieper	1	-
Alan Stubbs	2	-
Stephane Mahe	4	-
Craig Burley	4	1
Morten Wieghorst	2	1
Jackie McNamara	1(2)	-
Andreas Thom	2(2)	1
Henrik Larsson	4	2
Simon Donnelly	3(1)	3
Regi Blinker	3	1
Tosh McKinlay	(1)	-
Paul Lambert	-	-
Darren Jackson	2	1
David Hannah	2	-
Enrico Annoni	-	-

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

**Referee** : Jim McCluskey (Stewarton)

**Assistant Referee (Main Stand)** :

Bobby Orr (Kilbarchan)

**Assistant Referee (Govan Stand)** :

Joe Kelly (East Kilbride)

**Fourth Official** : Michael McCurry (Glasgow)

IF THE TEAMS DRAW...

In the event of a draw after normal time, extra-time of 30 minutes (i.e. 15 minutes each way) will take place and thereafter, if necessary, Kicks from the Penalty Mark, in accordance with the Rules laid down by the International Football Association Board will be taken.

PRESENTATION...

The Coca-Cola Cup will be presented by Mr Chris Banks of Coca-Cola and the Medals will be presented by Mr Gary Jones of Coca-Cola.





**Sunday, 30th November, 1997  
Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow. Kick-off 3.00 pm**

# Dundee United

*The Coca-Cola Cup Appearances and Goals*

<b>Sieb Dijkstra</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Magnus Skoldmark</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Maurice Malpas</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Steven Pressley</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Mark Perry</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Erik Pedersen</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Kjell Olofsson</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Lars Zetterlund</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Robbie Winters</b>	<b>3(1)</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Craig Easton</b>	<b>1(2)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sigurdur Jonsson</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Mikael Andersson</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Jamie Dolan</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Gary McSwegan</b>	<b>1(2)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>David Bowman</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Alastair Maxwell</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>David Sinclair</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Stewart McKimmie</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Steven Thompson</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Raymond McKinnon</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

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*We thank St. Andrew's Ambulance for providing First Aid facilities at today's match.*

**PLEASE NOTE...**

*The Police Authorities will be vigilant in the policing of The Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 and The Public Order Act, 1986.*

**TODAY'S MATCH BALL...**

*The Match Ball for today's Coca-Cola Cup Final - the MITRE ULTIMAX - has been kindly supplied by MITRE SPORTS INTERNATIONAL LTD. This ball has been used throughout the duration of The Coca-Cola Cup Competition and all Bell's League Championship and League Challenge Cup matches and will continue to be used in all matches under the jurisdiction of The Scottish Football League for the remainder of this season and onwards. It is also the official ball of The Scottish Football Association.*

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With effect from December, 1997  
capacity will increase to 14,208 (All seated)

**TEAM CAPTAIN**

David Bowman

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# Stories from the superfans

## "IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO SUPPORT CELTIC"

**I**f Hughie Connolly should ever cut himself, chances are he'll find there is green and white blood coursing through his veins. The 55 year old railwayman is simply Celtic daft and not even a 40 year exile in the south of England can dilute his love for the club.



Celtic superfan - Hughie Connolly.

Every Friday night for those 40 years during the football season, Hughie packs his bags at his home in Milton Keynes and heads home. Home for this father of three is where the heart is and his heart is wherever Celtic happen to be playing. He's missed only 12 games over those four decades of devotion, he clocks up around 75,000 miles a year in pursuit of his Parkhead heroes and he doesn't dare count up the cash it costs him.

Hughie will be at Ibrox today cheering the Hoops on as they try to win The Coca-Cola Cup for the first time in 15 years. He's praying his team wins, of course, but unlike many Celtic fans, Hughie doesn't believe that the victory is the be all and end all. Simply being there for the team is what counts, he tells you.

"I have been following Celtic for so long now that it has become second nature to me," he said.

"To be honest, it's more about enjoying the crack and being with like-minded people travelling to the games than winning and losing.

"We love to celebrate the victories of course, but we all think that being born to support Celtic is worth celebrating every day of the week."

Hughie doesn't drive, which makes his 'attendance' record all the more remarkable.

He added, "I work at King's Cross Station in London and I arrange my shifts around the Celtic. It means I owe my workmates a lot of favours at times, but they understand how I feel.

"In the early years, I travelled a lot by train to the games but I've also been a member of various supporters' clubs over the years and that's where a lot of friendships have been made.

"But the great thing about being a Celtic fan is that you can stand in any motorway service station in England on a Friday night or Saturday morning with a Celtic scarf on and somebody will give you a lift up the road.

"I remember going down to Devon with a few lads for a pre-season friendly a good few years ago. We arrived at 2 p.m. to discover the kick-off was 6 p.m. and if we stayed we'd miss the last train home.

"We stayed anyway and some locals at the game simply took us in and gave us a bed for the night. That's the kind of thing that lives with you.

"I've always said that if you find one Celtic fan somewhere, you'll find another close by. And all you need are two for a party!"

Obviously, Lisbon in 1967 figures prominently in Hughie's list of favourite games, but he believes the defeat of Inter Milan in the Portuguese capital came back to haunt Celtic fans three years later in the European Cup Final of 1970.

He said, "That trip to Milan for the match against Feyenoord was probably the worst experience I've had following Celtic.

"And I don't mean because we lost the game. It's the way we were treated by the Italians which disappointed me so much.

"They tried to rip us off at every turn and maybe it had something to do with the fact we beat Inter in 1967.

"But the good times have far outweighed the bad and I just think it's a privilege to support the club."

Hughie's obsession, and he admits that's what it is, won him the Fan of the Year competition run by Shoot magazine about 10 years ago.

He said, "I was nominated by someone else and got to the final at a big hotel in

London.

"My wife Ann and I were collected by the organisers in a Rolls Royce and driven down from Milton Keynes.

"When we got there, it was a glittering occasion and we met some people including Terry Venables and a certain Paul Gascoigne!

"I couldn't believe it when I won. There was a guy there who supported Ipswich Town but lived in London and despite being confined to a wheelchair, travelled to see them every game.

"For me, he really was a Superfan. As for me, I'm just doing what comes naturally.

"The last game I missed was against Hearts in The Coca-Cola Cup last season and that's because I was in the hospital.

"I watched it on Sky and we were so bad it made me feel worse. But I would still have rather been there!"

## "EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS UNITED IS A SUPERFAN"

**Angus Falconer has lived all but seven of his 34 years in Aberdeen. He even works for the building company of Aberdeen Football Club's Executive Vice-Chairman, Stewart Milne, in the Granite City. However, make no mistake, Angus is no dyed-in-the-wool Dons fan. In fact, his love affair with Dundee United started the day he watched the Tangerines dismantle Aberdeen back in 1974.**

Angus explained, "I was down visiting relatives in Dundee and they decided to take me along to Tannadice that day.

"I was about 12 years old and I had never seen anything like it. United were brilliant, they won 4-0 and I was hooked from that day on.

"I started going whenever anyone would take me, then when I was a bit older, I was allowed to go down on the train to see them.

"In 1990, I started a supporters bus from Aberdeen and soon we had branches in Lawrencekirk, Forfar and Brechin.

"There are 140 members and it's growing all the time, which is great news."

Angus hasn't missed a match at Tannadice since 1986 and even then, he spent the day watching football. He said, "I managed to get a couple of tickets for a Manchester derby and after wrestling with my conscience for a while, decided it would

be too good a chance to miss so I went down.

"That was the last home game I missed, but I missed an away game at Easter Road in September, 1992.

*United superfan – Angus Falconer.*



"But that time, I had no choice. It was a midweek match and the bus broke down at 6 p.m. in Arbroath.

"There was nothing we could do except go to the pub and watch the game on teletext.....which we did!"

There have been highs and lows along the way. Ask this dad of one - his seven year old daughter Aileen is already an "Arab" - what the low point is and the answer is instant. He said, "Without a shadow of a doubt, the 1987 Scottish Cup Final defeat was the worst experience I've suffered.

"We should have won the game but on the day, the team was rotten and I have never been so gutted in my life to lose a football match.

"But the other side of that was the 1994 Cup Final when we finally won the Scottish Cup.

"Nobody expected us to beat Rangers that day but we played brilliantly and it was the best game I've been to in my life.

"Winning the League was great but at that time, I was only 19 or 20 and the true significance of it escaped me because I thought there would be more Championships coming along!

There have been hard times and going to Stranraer in the League Challenge Cup in midweek a couple of seasons ago wasn't a lot of fun.

"But watching the team is great. I can't see there being a time when I'll ever stop."

Despite that, Angus is another who doesn't feel he deserves the Superfan tag.

He said, "It's nice to be nominated but there are more deserving cases.

"I've been to 12 away ties in Europe but one of the lads, Davie Short, has been to 40 and we've only played in 52 so that's some record.

"But as far as I am concerned, everybody who follows Dundee United is a superfan."

**DAVID MCCARTHY**

*(Daily Record)*

## **Coca-Cola** INVESTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL IN SCOTLAND

The slogan says "Eat Football. Sleep Football. Drink Coca-Cola". Just ask the kids who are coming through the Scottish international youth system thanks to Coca-Cola. The best known brand in the world has invested £400,000 into The Scottish Football Association's youth development programme. Every penny is being spent to assist the progress of youth teams at Under-16, 17 and 18 levels. The Scottish Football Association's

Youth Programme Director, Ross Mathie, runs all three teams and he describes the Coca-Cola cash injection as one of the most important developments in years.

He said, "Last year was the first of the four year association with Coca-Cola and we used part of the £100,000 to completely kit out our Under-16, 17 and 18 squads with brand new playing and training equipment. In the past, we had to rely on hand-me-

downs from the older squads and although they were good quality, nothing beats having your own kit.

"The Under-16's now get together once a month. We bring people like nutritionists, drug awareness experts and even media people to provide basic training.

"It's all about developing these boys as people as well as players and it all costs money. It would be much, much harder without the Coca-Cola investment.

"The cash is also used to allow us to play far more internationals than we would normally be able to.

"We recently had 18 players in Germany for a game, playing in front of 10,800 fans. That's the kind of experience we need to give our youngsters.

"Hopefully, they will get used to playing for Scotland in front of big crowds and when they develop through the ranks, they will benefit from this.

"There's no doubt this sponsorship from Coca-Cola will benefit Scottish football for years to come, in the shape of the young players it is helping to produce".

**DAVID MCCARTHY**

*(Daily Record)*

*The Scotland Under 16 squad*



# The Dundee United Squad

Profiled by Jim McNally

**J**im McNally is a man who has had a boot in both camps. He started as a youngster with Celtic before eventually spending the most fruitful years of his career at Tannadice. Jim is now trying to help United's city rivals, Dundee, reach the Premier Division and is looking forward to what should be a fascinating Cup Final at Ibrox today.

"A few weeks ago, this would have looked a comfortable case for Celtic since they were playing so well and United were struggling.

"But, predictably, Tommy McLean has pulled United around. He is a fantastic manager, a shrewd tactician and a man with the ability to get the very best out of his players.

"His ventures into the Scandinavian market to bring in players of considerable quality have proved to be significant.....and could be even more so this afternoon.

"Besides, United seem to enjoy playing at Ibrox more than Celtic do."



Jim McNally

Here is Jim's summary of the Tannadice team:

**“ SIEB DIJKSTRA**

The big fellow tells the most outrageous stories (some of them even true!) about his career. He is not a man who enjoys training and can look cumbersome at times because of his height and bulk. But the big Dutchman is good in the air without appearing to make much effort and in a one-to-one situation, his physique makes him a hard man to get past.

**STEWART McKIMMIE**

United did well to get such an experienced guy into the pool. Stewart had 13 great years at Aberdeen and can turn out in a variety of positions where his years of experience make him invaluable. He can operate at either full back or sweeper comfortably.

**MARK PERRY**

They call him "Tight" in the dressing room. I think it must be because he is an Aberdonian and travels to training every day from his home city! Mark is a vastly under-rated player whose pace and timing in the tackle have saved United time and time again.

**STEVEN PRESSLEY**

Has been nicknamed "Elvis" naturally, and is regarded as a bit of a poser with that long flowing hairstyle of his. But he is some player and has become even better under Tommy McLean who knows how to get the best out of the big ex-Rangers and Coventry City man. Solid in defence and also a menace in the opposing penalty box at set pieces.

**MAURICE MALPAS**

The model professional. A superb defender and an accurate passer out of defence. Maurice has been 18 years at Tannadice and has played more than 700 games and the way he knows the game, he could be playing for a few hundred more yet! One of the best all-time players that I have played with and against.....and there's a wee matter of 55 Scotland caps as well.

**ERIK PEDERSEN**

It hasn't taken this Viking (that was his club in Norway) long to become a Tannadice favourite. A strong, clever defender who can mark with the best of them. He also has a disconcerting habit of letting loose a piercing screech just before he leaves the dressing room for the pitch. If you are caught unawares, it can seriously damage your nerves. Certainly, he seems to have that affect on opponents.

**NEIL DUFFY**

A versatile big player but has been struggling because of injury this season and might find it hard to get a place back because of the form of the men in possession. Like myself, he has had two spells with United. That must make him a good player!

**DAVE BOWMAN**

Dave's habit of running into trouble with referees has meant too many suspensions and the longer he is out of the team, the harder it is to get back. But he is a tremendous competitor, a man who will never give up the fight in midfield as they well know at his previous clubs Hearts and Coventry City.

**LARS ZETTERLUND**

This big Swede looks to me like having a great season with United. For such a big man, he has a fine touch, and possesses a thundering shot which he should produce more often, as he did when scoring against Aberdeen a few weeks ago. The ferocity of his shot would scare the life out of goalkeepers.

**JAMIE DOLAN**

They call him the 'Son of McLean' at Tannadice since he comes from the same area



Lars Zetterlund

in Lanarkshire as manager Tommy and was with him as a player when Tommy bossed Motherwell. A tough opponent in midfield and a better passer of the ball than given credit for.

### RAY MCKINNON

He is a midfield player who looked to me like developing into one of the best in the country when he was with United as a boy back in the mid-80's. After moving down south in a big money transfer to Nottingham Forest where he did not settle, he moved back up north to Aberdeen before landing back at Tannadice two years ago. His progress has been hampered by injuries, although I still feel he could come again as he is an extremely talented player and is dangerous at set pieces.

### CRAIG EASTON

What a prospect this youth and Under-21 international player is. He has everything a top player requires, pace, vision, courage packs a great shot and he is in the right place to develop even more, especially being coached by Tommy McLean and surrounded by all those seasoned Scandinavians who can bring him on nicely. He got one of the goals in the 3-1 Semi-Final win over Aberdeen, and there is more to come in the future.

### KJELL OLOFSSON

Never looks happy in a game (until he has scored!) and always looks tired (until he suddenly lets loose with a burst of speed that leaves defenders trailing!). Without doubt, the big Swede is one of the most menacing forwards in Scottish football right now. He is



Gary McSwegan

a powerful runner with a terrific shot in both feet and is also brilliant in the air.

### ROBBIE WINTERS

If the rest of the youngsters at Tannadice think they are fast, they are left trailing by this young man. Blistering is the word for his pace, and his finishing isn't bad either. It's no wonder he was voted the PFA Young Player of the Year in 1997 and is tipped as a Scotland international striker of the future. But he still has a bit to go.....he has to add a little cunning to his play.

### GARY MCSWEGAN

Has to be the unluckiest player in the team as he scores goals galore, but is kept waiting on the bench most of the time. Gary has five Coca-Cola Cup goals this season including a hat-trick against Queen of the South, one against Hibs and a spectacular winner against his old club, Rangers, in extra-time at Ibrox. Another one with great pace and a powerful shot.

### STEVEN THOMPSON

With his height, build, pace and shooting power, he looks like developing into another player in the Duncan Ferguson mould. A long way to go yet before he is the finished article but has already won Under-21 caps and could go further under the coaching at Tannadice as long as he listens and learns from the experienced men around him.

### GORAN MARKLUND

Just arrived at Tannadice in August after playing with Swedish side Vasalund. Although we have still to see what he can really do, he must be a good player as

Gothenburg, Derby County and Leicester City were all interested in signing him. United are confident that once this young man settles, they will have another Scandinavian star on parade.

### MAGNUS SKOLDMARK

Yet another sweet Swede as far as United are concerned arriving via China where he was playing with a side called Dailen Wanda. A big solid defender who can operate anywhere along the back four and, as a former Swedish international, is another player who will lend great experience to the United team.

### MIKAEL ANDERSSON

As United have only just recently added the seventh Scandinavian to the squad, I have not really had an opportunity to see much of this player, who is another to come from the Orebro club. He made his debut as a substitute against Aberdeen earlier this month and looks to be another impressive acquisition.

Also standing by for United will be deputy goalkeeper, **Ally Maxwell**, the 32 year old ex-Motherwell and Rangers player who won a Scottish Cup winners' medal with Motherwell under Tommy McLean's guidance back in 1991. In addition, they can also call upon the versatile **Davie Sinclair**, who was a part of the Raith Rovers team which recorded their historic Coca-Cola Cup Final triumph against Celtic at this venue three years ago. One player who may make a surprise appearance today is new signing **Siggi Jonsson**. The 31 year old Icelandic international is another player to be signed from Swedish club Orebro and ironically, he made his debut for United as a trialist last week against Celtic. Only signed a few days before today's Final, he previously played for Akranes, Sheffield Wednesday, Barnsley on loan and Arsenal before moving to Sweden.

**DIXON BLACKSTOCK**  
(Evening Times)



Dave Bowman



Jamie Dolan.

# Good times are a-coming

**T**he Dundee United players who arrive at Ibrox today will do so with the intention of recapturing lost glories for the Tannadice club, the glories of more than a decade ago when this same tournament catapulted the club to the most successful period in their history.

That was the time when the North East of the country held sway on the domestic scene and were also able to hold their heads high in Europe. Dundee United and Aberdeen were dubbed the 'New Firm' as under the shrewd management of Jim McLean and Alex Ferguson, the vice like grip which Glasgow's Old Firm had held on the game for most of the century was prised loose. Celtic, who are today's opponents in the Final, and Rangers, were left playing catch-up as the teams from Tannadice and Pittodrie won major trophies and carried the Scottish banner proudly across the continent.

Today, one of the players who was there when United's first trophies were collected, St. Johnstone's Manager, Paul Sturrock, believes that the good times may be returning to his former side. He looks back to these days with satisfaction and with pride.

As he points out, "It was all an adventure for us when we won the first of our two League Cups because Dundee United had not won any of the major honours before and that was the one which broke the mould so to speak. From there, we went on



Top l to r: Frank Kopel, Paul Hegarty, Hamish McAlpine and Eamonn Bannon  
Bottom l to r: John Holt, David Narey and Paul Sturrock.

to win a second League Cup and then won the Premier Division Championship which no-one, apart from the players and the Manager, Jim McLean, believed was possible. I think we needed that first breakthrough to give us confidence and also a feeling of self belief.

"I think the first one, and I remember it well, was the turning point. It made us into winners. Yes, I know there were disappointments in future League Cup and also in Scottish Cup Finals, but we did win and did it against Aberdeen who were our real rivals at that particular time," continued Sturrock.

Sturrock scored that night to spark off the celebrations of the Tannadice support who relished the fact that victory came on the ground of their local rivals Dundee. The victory came in a replay after the first game at Hampden Park had ended in a no score draw. Only 27,299 fans had trekked to the game with both sets of supporters protesting beforehand about the Glasgow venue. The Scottish Football League switched the replay to Dens Park and just short of 29,000 saw United win with goals from Willie Pettigrew, who scored twice, and Sturrock.

Recalls the McDiarmid Park boss, "My goal took a bit of a deflection from Willie Miller but I still claimed it and the record

books have given it to me. It was a funny game because after the first match when I think both sets of players were nervous, and I know that we were, when it came to the midweek replay, the manager, Jim McLean, decided to make a whole lot of changes. That worked for us and we won comfortably and it was a tremendous feeling. I think we all realised then that we had a good team, a strong squad of players, a good manager, great team spirit and that we could go on to win other trophies."

That, as the record books tell us, is what happened. The following year, United crossed the street to Dens Park once more and this time, without the need for a replay, they won the same competition for the second successive season. On this occasion, their opponents were Dundee and this time, The Scottish Football League needed little persuading in staging the game at Dens Park to allow the local fans to attend without added travel costs. The attendance was 24,466 and even the referee was a local man, Bob Valentine, who was to officiate at the World Cup Finals in Spain the following season.

That afternoon proved to be simple for him with United being too good for their neighbours, winning the match 3-0 with Sturrock scoring twice on this occasion and the other goal, the first one, coming from



Paul Sturrock with League Cup trophy and Willie Pettigrew.



Jim McLean and some of the victorious United team with the League Cup trophy.

his fellow striker Davie Dodds.

Says Sturrock, "It was tight for a little spell but eventually, we scored three times with Doddsy getting the first one and then I weighed in with the others. That gave us another boost and winning that trophy gave everyone at Tannadice the confidence and self belief that we might win more trophies."

A year later, they almost made it a hat-trick of League Cup wins when once again, they reached the Final. This time, however,



Kjell Olofsson

they had to trek to Hampden where they faced Rangers and lost 2-1 and it was to be the end of the next season before the players and their loyal fans would celebrate their next famous victory when they took the Premier Division Championship for the first and only time in the club's history.

"That was a major achievement for us," Sturrock remembers, "because we did not have the resources of the other clubs in the country but what we did have was a group of players who worked hard for each other and who got on well both on and off the pitch.

"You know, we did everything together. It wasn't just a case of going into training and then all going our separate ways until the next session or until there was a match to be played. If we were playing golf, then a crowd of us would go out together. If we were going to have a few beers, then we'd be together for that and if there was a night out for a meal with wives and girlfriends, then, it would be all the lads in a group," the McDiarmid Park manager recalls.

"That's the way it was and maybe it had something to do with the fact that most of us had started around the same time at the club and had come through the reserves together and then too, our careers seemed to take off at the same time. I remember at one of the World Cup Finals, it was in Mexico in 1986, that we had FIVE players in the Scotland squad there. There were five of us, half the team really, out

there playing against the best in the world. These were great times for us."

The five players who were there under the guidance of the acting Scotland Manager then, Aberdeen's Alex Ferguson, and his assistant, Walter Smith, who had just left United to join Rangers incidentally, were Richard Gough, Dave Narey, Maurice Malpas, Eamonn Bannon and Sturrock himself. None of them were simply taken along for the ride either. Gough played in all three games against Denmark, West Germany and Uruguay while the other four all played in two of the First Round group games. It was an astonishing salute to the club that the then manager and now Chairman, Jim McLean, once likened to a 'corner shop competing against supermarkets'.

Nor did the glory end with the title win, of course. The following season, the United team reached the Semi-Final of the European Cup where they eventually lost narrowly to Italian giants Roma. There were rumours of bribery surrounding that match and later the Italian club had one of its officials suspended but that did not help United any at the time though they had taken a 2-0 lead with them to the Olympic Stadium where they lost the second leg 3-0 and the tie 3-2 on aggregate.

Then, the year following the Mexico World Cup Finals, United lost to Gothenburg in the two legged Final of the UEFA Cup after knocking out Barcelona and Borussia Monchengladbach en route. They lost 1-0 in Sweden and then drew 1-1 at home to lose the game and that brought an end to their remarkable run.

Sturrock says now, though, "This may be the start of something for this present United team. I can see them getting a result because they have been playing very intelligently. They are organised and they have quick players up front in Kjell Olofsson and Robbie Winters and they are the best side in Scotland at turning defence into attack.

"To be honest, they are exactly the type of team Celtic do not enjoy playing against. They will provide Celtic with problems, I am sure of that. If they win then, perhaps, there is another period of success waiting for the club. If there is, then I hope the players enjoy it as much as we did back then. These were the best of times."

**KEN GALLACHER**

(The Herald)



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# Robbie Winters – the final effort

**R**obbie Winters, having just turned 23, looks to have the world at his feet. The Dundee United striker, Scotland's reigning PFA Young Player of the Year, will today be taking part in the biggest game of his career to date and has been told by national coach, Craig Brown, that a place in Scotland's squad for next summer's World Cup Finals is his for the winning.

However, as a season full of promise unfolds for him, Winters cannot help but think of how he could have been robbed of it all by injury. Signed from Muirend Amateurs in 1992, Winters was just beginning to make a name for himself at Tannadice when he was struck down by a back complaint which threatened to halt his career before it had properly begun.

"I had only played half-a-dozen reserve games that season when the problem arose and I was told I needed surgery," he recalls.

"And that came as a shattering blow because there I was having just celebrated my 19th birthday, facing what seemed at the time to be a major operation and not knowing if I'd play again.

"The specialist, who diagnosed that I needed to have a disc removed, although as it turned out trimming away some bone was all that was required, told me that I should try to be as positive as possible in my outlook.

"But that was easier said than done and it wasn't until I got the all clear, after months of swimming and gradually stepping up training, that I was able to relax and look forward to the future."

Amazingly, the Tangerines had little competition in seeking to sign Winters on an "S" Form.

"I am often asked by people, who assume I must have had a few clubs after me, why I signed for United," said Winters.

"But the truth is that Dundee United were the only senior club I was ever invited to train with and when I saw the way they were giving young front players like Christian Dailly and Andy McLaren a first team chance at a young age, I didn't have to think before saying yes to them when they told me they needed a forward for a side they were sending to the Milk Cup in Ireland and offered me the chance to sign."

Winters faith in the fact Tannadice is a place where ability rather than experience is the overriding factor when it comes to team selection was borne out rather quickly after he returned to playing.



"I was out for three quarters of a season but Ivan Golac, who had taken over as manager, included me in a squad he took to Belgrade to play Partisan in a friendly in November, 1994.

"And after getting on as a sub in that game and doing quite well, he handed me my debut in a 5-2 win over Hearts the following Saturday.

"I went on to play another ten games that season, but of course, the club ended up being relegated so my memories aren't altogether happy ones."

As a consequence of United going down to the First Division, last term was Winters first full campaign in the Premier Division, making his being crowned Young Player of the Year no mean achievement. He admits to have been a little surprised to win the award for although his Tannadice team mates kept telling him he had every chance, he expected to be pipped by Celtic 'keeper Stewart Kerr.

Six months on and the buzz surrounding Winters is all about the possibility of him coming with a late run to clinch a place in the international pool for the World Cup Finals and the player, who because of his injury, blossomed too late to win Under 21 honours, is determined to book his place on the flight to France.

"To get into the squad for the World Cup Finals is obviously my main target for the season and if I keep on scoring goals and playing well, I've got a chance of achieving it.

"I only have to look at Simon Donnelly to see that. Simon, like myself, is a young player, but he has performed well for Celtic and found the net regularly and Craig Brown has responded by picking him.

"The fact I've not won a Scotland call already has disappointed me. But then again, there are a lot of good players, like Neil McCann, in the same position too so I can hardly complain.

"The Scotland manager is on record as saying that I need to show consistency in big games for him to call me up.

"So the fact I played well in the Semi-Final against Aberdeen and in the recent League win over Rangers has to be in my favour.

"But there's really no bigger game than a national Cup Final so I know just what may be at stake for me against Celtic."

Not that the potential significance of an outstanding performance today will get to Winters.

"Although this is my first major Final, I don't see myself getting stage fright," he says.

"By nature, I'm not a nervous sort of person and I am sure I'll be quite relaxed about this game, big occasion though it is."

Having supported Celtic as a youngster, Winters is particularly appreciative of the emergence of the Hoops under Wim Jansen, as serious contenders for domestic honours. However, don't for a moment think he believes that Celtic's name is on the trophy.

"I can really see them pushing Rangers all the way in the League Championship this season and their emerging as major challengers for the title can only be good for Scottish football," he says.

"For me, the difference in them this year is their unity. Last season they had great individuals like Paolo Di Canio and Jorge Cadete. But now they play as a unit and the results are there for all to see.

"But no-one should underestimate us in this Final," maintains Winters.

"Celtic are a good side but we on our day are a bit special ourselves and cup football seems to bring out the very best in us.

"We've lost only one cup tie since Tommy McLean took over as manager and have beaten a few Premier Division teams along the way.

"And when you look at our run to this Final, it's easy to see why no-one scares us.

"In seeing off Hibs, going to Ibrox and beating Rangers, which was a big confidence booster, then defeating Aberdeen in the Semis, we have shown all the qualities required to win The Coca-Cola Cup."

**STEVE BRUCE**  
(The Courier)

# Steven Pressley – completing the set?

**F**ootball wisdom traditionally tells you that the Ibrox exit door is a passageway to a career on the way down but Steven Pressley defies the logic. The Dundee United defender has a cast iron case for stating that moving out of the shadows at Rangers has in fact made him. A £400,000 departure to Coventry City led to a learning process in the F.A. Carling Premiership until he returned north nearly two and a half years ago and the Tangerines have been reaping the rewards ever since.

Now Pressley is on the brink of completing the full set of Scottish football's glittering prizes if Tommy McLean's side can overcome Celtic in this Coca-Cola Cup Final showdown. However, the player who will try to tame the Hoops' striking talents this afternoon has matured beyond recognition from the raw youngster who left Rangers. Robbie Winters grabbed the headlines after a deadly double in the 3-1 Semi-Final win over Aberdeen at Tynecastle but for me, it was a success built on Pressley's defensive dominance.

He is developing rapidly into a player who may make cash-laden Gers regret the decision to offload him and he believes the credit for that goes to 35 year old United player/coach Maurice Malpas. Every ounce of experience collected in the 55 caps that won Malpas his place in Scotland's Hall of Fame is now used to telling effect. His speed over the ground may have dwindled over the years but the speed of thought has more than compensated for that and Steven reflected, "He has been such a calming influence on me.

"I have this belief that Maurice can actually smell danger on a park and then snuff it out before it happens.

"He is a thinking man's defender, so much of the game is played out inside his head and he has helped me so much.

"I was lucky to have a big influence at Rangers in Richard Gough although I was never too keen on the 'Son of Gough' tag!

"But Maurice has carried that on and I feel that myself and Mark Perry, who is a real unsung hero for us, have both profited from that."

It's five years now since Pressley first sprang to the nation's footballing notice in Rangers momentous 2-2 Champions League draw with Marseille at Ibrox. That night he was involved in a calamitous mix-up with Andy Goram that allowed Rudi Voller in to score but



he showed a steely core to shrug it off and play his part in one of the club's great comebacks.

Self-belief is a must for any player leaving the Old Firm and Steven insists his own stock was never diminished throughout an often torrid time at Coventry that was to bring him one red card and nine bookings in just 19 League games.

He stressed, "Too often my time there is painted as a disaster which is far from the truth.

"I actually had some very good games for Coventry and learned so much from facing the likes of Robbie Fowler, Les Ferdinand, Andy Cole and Stan Collymore.

"The problem was that my form became too erratic but people forget that I went to the Premiership from Rangers RESERVES and it was a bit of a leap!"

Pressley was to find it too difficult to make his mark immediately and chose to accept Billy Kirkwood's offer and come back north in a

£800,000 package that also took Sandy Robertson to United in July, 1995. He returned to a club still in the throes of depression and a footballing world far different from the one he'd left behind.

Steven recalled, "I'd have to say the most glamorous venue I played at in England was Old Trafford although I only lasted until just after half-time when I was sent off for a foul on Paul Scholes!

"Still, even though we lost 2-0, it was a great experience. No disrespect but after that, the First Division was an eye-opener. I was playing at places like Dumbarton and I had to adapt again.

"But I enjoyed that season because for the first time in my life, I was a first team regular and I felt a major part of things."

United were to edge their way back to the big time after a dramatic Play-Off win over Partick Thistle. Now Tommy McLean is nurturing a return to the glory days his brother

Jim made commonplace in his managerial heyday. His side started this season as title dark horses after finishing third last time out but a horrendous start rocked everyone in the tangerine section of Tayside. They badly needed a tonic and The Coca-Cola Cup has proved the perfect mixer to put the fizz back into a campaign that looked in grave danger of falling flat.

After a Second Round win over the recent Challenge Cup Finalists, Queen of the South, Premier Division rivals Hibernian, Rangers and then the Dons in the Semi-Final, have been defeated en route to today's Final. No-one can accuse United of taking the easy route to today's Ibrox showpiece and Pressley admitted, "This tournament has kicked the life back into our season.

"We'd gone out of Europe to Trabzonspor and although we felt we did well in Turkey and at Tannadice, that hurt us.

"We just couldn't seem to get started in the Premier Division then this Coca-Cola Cup run began to breed the confidence in us once more."

Now Steven faces another confrontation with Celtic, the side who were obviously his old club's fiercest rivals during his four year Ibrox stint. Old Firm games become the proving ground for any player with Glasgow's giants and Pressley will never forget Ne'erday, 1994 at Celtic Park.

He said, "Those games usually fly past but I remember being 3-0 up in that one with Alexei Mikhailitchenko scoring twice before we eventually won 4-2.



Steven Pressley



Christian Dailly

"Old Firm matches always seem to mean life or death to everyone but that one was even more special and winning it was a tremendous boost.

"But the Celtic we will face in this Final are a far different side from the Lou Macari team Rangers faced then or the side under Tommy Burns.

"Wim Jansen doesn't have superstars like Pierre Van Hooijdonk, Jorge Cadete or Paolo Di Canio.

"What he has is a unit who work incredibly hard for each other and that is their strength. It will be so tough for us."

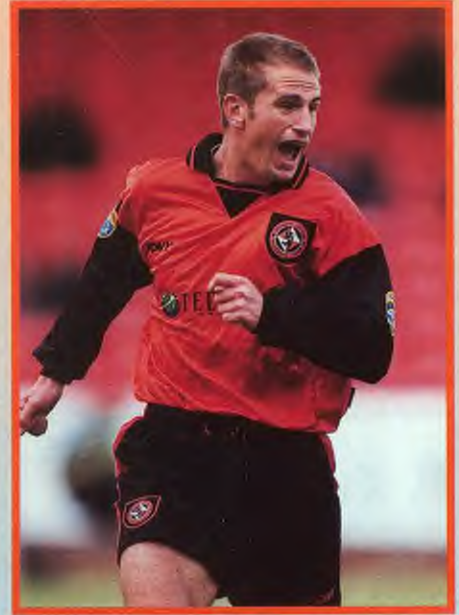
Yet Pressley is driven by the dream of adding a Coca-Cola Cup medal to the two League Championship gongs and Scottish Cup badge he won at Rangers. He was a last-gasp sub for Walter Smith's side in the 2-1 triumph over Aberdeen in the 1993 Final at Celtic Park and he smiled, "I came on as a 90th minute replacement for Pieter Huistra to add some width and flair to the side!

"Seriously, I was only 19 at the time and I remember being amazed that I was even on the pitch celebrating with the team when the treble was clinched.

"That was a wonderful feeling and it made up for the League Cup Final also at Celtic Park later that year when I was left in the stand and Ally McCoist got the nod instead on the bench.

"He was just back from a broken leg yet he still came on and scored the winner against Hibernian with an unbelievable overhead kick so I couldn't really argue."

Now, four years later, there is no chance of him being handed another watching brief,



Mark Perry

as United's hopes will centre on the likeable 24 year old stopper from Elgin. Indeed, this is the first truly important date in a season of massive significance for Steven, whose current Tannadice deal runs out in the summer.

The World Cup Finals in France beckon, surely within the player's grasp but agonisingly just out of reach so far. Leicester City's Matt Elliott was promoted ahead of the former Under-21 stalwart for the warm-up friendly in France earlier this month and Pressley confesses that he yearns for the chance to link up once again with former Tannadice favourite Christian Dailly and re-establish the commanding partnership they had when playing with the Under-21 team.

Yet, typically, Steven is frank and honest as he assesses his chances of making Craig Brown's 22 for the biggest show on earth.

He sighed, "Sadly, the national manager came to watch us against Celtic at Tannadice earlier this season when we lost 2-1 and I made mistakes. Put simply, I played very poorly.

"I had a chance to enhance my reputation and I let myself down badly.

"He couldn't have seen anything that day to make him think I should be picked ahead of those in possession who have done so well.

"That was bitterly disappointing but you have to pick yourself up and go again and I know that all eyes will be on us today. There is no better a place to make a point than performing well in a Cup Final."

**IAIN KING**

(The Sunday Mail)

# Sieb Dijkstra – happy immigrant

**B**ack in 1991, when it seemed that every club in Scotland was importing Dutch footballers, Tommy McLean signed Sieb Dijkstra for Motherwell. Most from that era - Luc Nijholt, Hans Gilhaus, Pieter Huistra and Peter van de Ven - have since been and gone but Dijkstra, following his interlude at Queens Park Rangers, is the one who came back.

The club (Dundee United) may be different but the goalkeeper remains the same: shoebrush moustache, affable gait, giant (6'5") stature, those plate-sized, shot gathering hands and, of course, Dijkstra is back with McLean, under whose exacting eye his best form, and the good times, have returned.

However, on arriving at Tannadice nearly a year ago, Dijkstra would have settled for much less. "United were third from bottom and to be honest, my aim was simply to help them avoid relegation. Qualifying for Europe was a great surprise but The Coca-Cola Cup Final has been the real bonus.

"Since we reached the Final, everyone at the club has been lifted and you can see the effect in the way our League form has suddenly come good. For myself, cup football has always been one of the best things about playing in Britain because it is considered so much more important here than back home."

Indeed, Dijkstra has always been a happy immigrant. A portion of his spare time is spent taking friends who visit on trips to the Highlands and around Perthshire "to show them this beautiful country." There are no regrets about the football either.

"I didn't know much about Scotland before I came to Motherwell but it turned out the game here suits my style. I like to dominate the box and take pressure off my defenders and Scottish teams play lots of crosses and high balls which lets me do that by using my height. In Holland, you sometimes go through whole games without having to deal with a ball in the air.

"I also think British football is far more exciting. When I go back to Holland during my holidays, I try and watch Dutch games but I find them really boring. The players probably have better technique but it always looks so slow."

In return, Britain has been good to Dijkstra, bestowing upon him a far higher profile than he enjoyed in his own country.

Before he moved to Fir Park, he had been second choice at Roda JC Kerkrade to the Polish international, Henrik Bolesta, and spent long periods on loan to AZ Alkmaar and KSV Hasselt.

This was preceded by a late introduction to the senior game. Having been at Roda from the age of eight, Dijkstra gave up when he was 16, depressed by "the restrictive attitude" of his coaches. Four years followed in the Dutch equivalent of junior football with RKTSV before Roda persuaded him to come back.



He has quite a history in knock-out football. In Holland, junior clubs can enter the Dutch Cup and RKTSV once enjoyed a glorious run, reaching the later rounds where they were only beaten 1-0 by Premier Division FC Groningen. At Roda, Dijkstra played in the 1988 Final, losing 3-2 to mighty PSV Eindhoven, whose winning goal came in the last five minutes. "Hopefully," he says, "I'll be a little luckier against Celtic."

Roda was reluctant to sell him, but Dijkstra could not imagine displacing Bolesta and leapt at the offer from Fir Park. Ironically, Dijkstra was no sooner on the plane than the Pole received an injury which ended his career. Last season, fate was repeated when Feyenoord tried to sign him from QPR but Dijkstra refused because he did not want to be second choice to Ed de Goey. Within months, de Goey was on his way to Chelsea and Dijkstra was left to brood about might-have-beens.

Nonetheless, he is content at United, not least because it was they who released him from a sour period at Loftus Road. Under Gerry Francis, Dijkstra was No. 1 and

considered one of the best 'keepers in the Premiership. Then came the arrival of Ray Wilkins and his assistant Frank Sibley.

"I had been doing really well but had a little bust up with Frank after a game with Crystal Palace - a 0-0 draw in which I'd played out of my skin. Ray was a first time manager and was still playing at that point, so Frank had a lot of power. Suddenly, without explanation, I was dropped. It was very, very, disappointing, probably the low point of my career."

Dijkstra never regained his place and was to spend more than a year being shunted from the bench, to the reserves, to loan spells with Bristol City and Wycombe Wanderers. Then, when McLean began efforts to bring him to Tannadice, the Dutchman found out QPR had placed a prohibitive £1m price tag on his head.

"That was it. The club were being stupid. I went to Stewart Houston, the manager, and told him I was prepared to quit and go back to Holland. When he saw I was serious, he let me go." McLean got him for £400,000.

For Dijkstra, the Final holds the intriguing prospect of seeing his canny boss joust against Wim Jansen. "Wim did really well in Holland with Feyenoord and he has a great reputation there. He was one of my heroes when I was younger, part of the great World Cup teams of 1974 and 1978. I was surprised he got so much criticism in his first few games at Celtic. I think people are seeing his true qualities now."

In the last two months, Dijkstra has been pestered for his opinion by several journalists in Holland writing features on the Celtic coach. Such is the interest in Jansen, that the Final will be shown in highlights form on Dutch television. Not that this will affect Dijkstra's demeanour.

"I've always been laid back and I won't be nervous in the Final. Some goalkeepers like to pump themselves up for games. I always find it's better to relax. In fact, I took up goalkeeping because I'm too lazy for all that running about."

Dijkstra's main hobby is playing badminton against his wife Rozana, a former professional in that sport, who always beats him. As Celtic are about to find, this is about the only time United's imperturbable Dutchman is made to feel flustered around nets.

**JONATHAN NORTHCROFT**  
(Scotland on Sunday)

# Craig Easton – the magic sponge

**D**undee United midfielder Craig Easton, at 18 years and eight months, the youngest player in either squad for this afternoon's Coca-Cola Cup Final, knows at least part of the secret behind his meteoric rise from youth to first team player at Tannadice is washing cars!

Too often, the progress of players breaking into top team football at an early age is interrupted by inflated egos. Success comes too quickly and they forget that as well as to get them to the top, hard work is needed to stay there. In Easton's case, United have taken steps to ensure that never becomes a problem and they make sure he's kept busy between games. So, in addition to all of his football duties, working at the car wash has become part of his development and, whatever happens today, he knows that come the end of the week, there will be a bucket of hot, soapy water waiting for him at Tannadice.

"On Friday afternoons, Steven Thompson and I have to wash the manager's car, and I don't think winning today would change that," he admitted.

To be fair to the Airdrie born youngster, his sponge duties are a case of preventative medicine and, to date, there has been no sign of his success going to his head. So much so that, despite his excellent progress, he has no complaints about being treated like every other young player.

"It's been great being in the first team, but I'm still a young boy and I don't see why I should be treated differently. After training, we all have our jobs to do and I'm the same.

"Things like washing the gaffer's car and helping out with other jobs around the ground make sure I don't forget that I'm still just starting out and I've got a long way to go."

That is true and having made his top team debut late last season followed on by the maturity of his performances this term, it has led to many people forgetting that he is, in fact, still young enough to play for the Tangerines youth team.

He does so regularly and thoroughly enjoys it. Indeed, most weeks see him turning out for the youths or the reserves as well as the first team. While many experienced pros would steer clear of that kind of schedule, Easton believes at this stage of his career, that it is the perfect recipe for success.

"I think matches are better for my fitness and I'd rather play two games a week than rely on extra training sessions for my sharpness. The gaffer agrees with that and is happy for me



to play in the reserves and the youth team as well if I can."

Such is Easton's appetite for football that even when his involvement with Scotland in the Toulon tournament in June meant his summer break was restricted to just two weeks, he did not complain.

"I enjoyed my holiday, but it was long enough and only being away from training for two weeks meant that when I came back for pre-season work, it did not take too much hard running to get my fitness levels back up."

Of course, the danger of such a hectic schedule is tiredness and the level of his performances dropping off. So far, despite being involved in most of United's games this season, there has been no sign of that happening.

"I certainly haven't felt tired and I really enjoy playing in all the games."

This youngster is not known for being backwards in coming forwards and if at any time he feels he needs a break, he will probably suggest to boss Tommy McLean he sits out a few youth or reserve matches. That is because he often finds playing in the top team easier, though he quickly adds that it is not a criticism of standards at that level.

"I'm not saying first team games are easy, they are not, but for a young player like me, they can be less difficult because of the help I get from the experienced boys.

"Guys like Lars Zetterlund and Maurice Malpas have helped a lot during games and if I'm having a sticky spell, they will talk me through it. In the youths, that can't happen and if I start a game badly there, I sometimes find it harder to turn my performances round."

Easton does not want to turn his back on the youths and, as well as a medal this

afternoon, he has his sights set on going all the way in the BP Youth Cup before he is too old for the competition.

"This is my third year in the youth team and I would like to go out with a winners' medal in the BP Youth Cup. It's a great competition, but we have not done as well as we should have in the last couple of years."

He has no doubts, however, that the first team is the place to be and he has come to relish the big games against the likes of Rangers, Aberdeen and this afternoon's opponents, Celtic.

"I've played against them all and I've enjoyed every minute of it. So far, I have not been nervous in any of the big games, including our Semi-Final win over Aberdeen.

"If I'm picked this afternoon, I'd like to say the same, but I know enough to realise a game like this is a different matter. I think I'll be nervous, but that won't stop me giving it my best shot and trying to help United win the cup.

At the beginning of November, Easton's progress during the last six months or so was recognised by the club when they offered him a new four year contract on first team terms. It was an offer he was delighted to accept.

"I'm very happy at United and I didn't have to think about the offer for too long before I signed. The manager has said he regards me as a first team player now and it is up to me to repay that faith by proving he is right."

He sees his emergence in the first team, and that new contract, as proof that despite the influx of foreigners since Tommy McLean took over, United have remained true to their tradition of giving youth its chance.

"People say signing foreigners means there is less room for young players like myself, but I do not see it that way. The likes of myself, Steven Thompson and Paul Walker have all featured in the first team at United this season, so that's proof young players can still get their chance."

On top of that, Easton believes overseas players like Lars Zetterlund have been a big factor in his development.

"He's helped me a lot during games and in training and you pick up a lot of wee tips from all the Scandinavians."

Whoever's teaching this latest member of the Tannadice school of excellence deserves a big pat on the back, because United look set to reap the rewards of his talent for years to come.

**BOB ANGUS**  
(Evening Telegraph)



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# The Spirit of the 49-ers!

**A**s Celtic and Dundee United gear themselves for their first ever head-to-head in the Final of this competition, Tannadice fans can bask in the glory of making domestic cup history in the space of three years. United are about to complete the unique hat-trick of having played in the Finals of Scotland's three domestic cup competitions and at three different venues since May, 1994!

While contemporary history is made, the older breed of Tannadice devotee will be hoping the "Spirit of the 49-ers" will prevail at Ibrox today as memories of United's past cup heroics come flooding back. The back-to-back League Cup successes at the home of city rivals Dundee in 1979 and 1980 and the ultimate Scottish Cup triumph in 1994 will certainly be high on the list of topics at the present time.

However, as a humble Division B outfit, greatly under the shadow of an all-conquering Dundee side in the immediate post war years, United made an impact in the first ever League Cup campaign of season 1946/47. With former legend Willie Macfadyen in charge, United created a sensation by reaching the Quarter Final stage to be paired with Rangers and by keeping the score to 2-1 at Ibrox, set the stage for a fantastic return at Tannadice. But deep in a grim winter which had paralysed football for a month, Tannadice was completely unplayable for weeks yet across the road, Dens Park was considered fit for use and in a remarkable shuffle, the game was quickly switched. In horrendous weather on a grim March Wednesday, the game went ahead with a 2 p.m. start and in darkness, ended 1-1 with United just failing to push the mighty Ibrox side to a replay.

However, a Tannadice legend was born in the shape of local shipyard worker George "Piper" Mackay, who tormented George Young throughout and goalscorer Martin Buchan. To confirm United's fine efforts, Rangers went on to become the first ever winners of the trophy with a 4-0 win over Aberdeen before a crowd of 82,584 at Hampden a month later! Nonetheless, despite their lowly League situation, United's cup qualities had been established but few would have dreamed they were to be the principal players in Scotland's biggest ever cup sensation two years later.

On 22nd January, 1949, Celtic came to Tannadice on Scottish Cup business as record 15 times winners of the trophy. With tickets

priced at 2/6d, a crowd of 25,000 was set for the first ever all-ticket game at Tannadice and with Dundee going ahead with a cup derby clash with St. Johnstone at exactly the same time, Sandeman Street and Tannadice Street coped with an estimated 50,000 football supporters as four sets of fans made their way to their chosen venue!

At Tannadice, estimates put the crowd figure at over 30,000, an all-time record. The excitement was well justified as the huge crowd were then treated to a seven goal epic which earned the accolade of "the greatest cup-tie ever seen in Dundee."

By comparison to the present day "New" Tannadice, the setting for United v Celtic in 1949 was nothing short of bizarre! There was seating for less than 300 in a 40 year old wooden structure with enclosure fans in front on a flat surface and terracing fans balanced themselves on railway sleepers and ash! Lord Justice Taylor eat your heart out!

But for all in attendance, the day will live for ever. Furthermore, as a special bonus, United opted to have **ONE BALL BOY** (or net boy as it was called at the time) on the day.....**a certain Master F. Elder!**

From the trackside and the privileged position I was in on that epic day, the spectacle was breathtaking as after having an early Peter McKay 'goal' disallowed, United took a two goal lead by the half hour. Local hero McKay opened the scoring with a penalty and ex-Dens Park man Jimmy Dickson made it two. The irrepressible Charlie Tully, Scotland's Number One headline maker of the time, pulled one back and just before the break, George Mitchell had a second 'goal' disallowed by Perth referee M.A. Mann.

The home dream looked to be at an end when Jacky Gallacher levelled the score and the home side then had a third 'goal' disallowed with Dickson losing out after

lashing a glorious effort past Willie Miller. But in a fantastic seven minute spell came the sensation. McKay made it 3-2 and Gallacher equalised for Celtic. Then nine minutes from the end, United's George Cruickshank settled the issue as Tannadice erupted.

Across the road at Dens, around 20,000 were sedately watching Dundee beat the Perth Saints. Author Jim Wilkie summed up in his Dundee football history when he wrote that on that January day, the phrase was born....."Dens Park for skills.....Tannadice for thrills!" However, true to the Dundee United story of that age, Willie Macfadyen's heroes were soon back in Jekyll and Hyde mode as they crashed out miserably to Dumbarton in the next round after a replay and then proceeded to lose eight League games in a row, including an 8-0 drubbing from Ayr United!

The Celtic experience of 1949 however, lived on and while promotion in 1960 and the stunning double over Barcelona in 1966 elevated the club to another level entirely, it was Celtic who extracted some revenge after a 25 year wait with a comprehensive win in United's first ever major Cup Final appearance in the 1974 Scottish Cup Final. Nevertheless, the history books show, in ironical detail, that a new era was launched with two successive League Cup wins at Dens Park in seasons 1979/80 and 1980/81 and then, gaining the biggest prize of all, the Premier Division Championship, also "across the road", in season 1982/83.

Having ended an eight game losing run in Cup Finals in Glasgow with the Scottish Cup success against Rangers in 1994, the Ibrox meeting with Celtic creates the chance to write another crucial chapter in the Tannadice club's Cup history book.

**FRASER ELDER**

*(The Sun/News of the World)*

*A packed Tannadice in 1949.*



# Completing the quartet



**O**nly today's Final will determine whether those wearing the Tangerine of Dundee United will earn a title already bestowed on all but one of the men staffing the Taysiders Technical Area here at Ibrox.....that of winners of The League Cup Trophy.

Three of the four men to have helped direct the Tannadice fortunes towards this afternoon's gala occasion, United Manager, Tommy McLean, and coaches Gordon Wallace and Jocky Scott, have each had their hands on the self-same cup and the odd man out amongst the backroom staff is someone who would dearly love to make it a winning quartet, one of the Final's key men out on the pitch, United Player/Coach Maurice Malpas.

Now playing arguably the best football of his career as a veteran of thirty-five, the 55 times capped Malpas is looking to this afternoon to provide him with Scottish club football's 'matched set' of prizes by winning a first League Cup winners' medal to sit alongside his Premier Division 'gong' from season 1982/83 and his Scottish Cup award from 1994. But as the man who completed his 750th appearance for his only senior club earlier this month commented, "What I have managed to achieve in my career is all in the

past. Only today's Final matters.

"I am not saying that nothing else matters, it is just that I would not like to have people think that I am going out there to complete my set of medals.

"Winning would be wonderful for all of us individually, but collectively it would be yet another yardstick by which to gauge the progress of this particular United side, and of our club."

Malpas well remembers the celebrations around Tannadice after his Tangerines recorded the second of their consecutive League Cup Final triumphs in season 1980/81.

He recollected, "I missed out on the previous season's win against Aberdeen in a replayed Final over the street at Dens Park. But I stood out on the Dens terracings with all the rest of the United youngsters when we beat our city rivals Dundee the next year.

"The next season was not so enjoyable though, being part of the squad which lost the chance of three-in-a-row when losing to Rangers in a Hampden Final.

"My own League Cup Final debut came at Hampden in season 1984/85, but it ended with a runners-up medal, after Rangers beat us again.

"And that has been it as far as I have

been concerned in the competition. Hopefully, things can change for the better in this one. We certainly have the ability in the current squad to win it.

"We surely deserve to be in the Final, having disposed of three Premier Division opponents, Hibs, Rangers and Aberdeen, en route and all three of those victories came when we were playing well below the form we have been showing recently."

In view of his position at the club, Malpas is forced to share his time between the company of his fellow players in the dressing room, and his coaching colleagues along the corridor at Tannadice and he does not need reminding of the part played by Manager Tommy McLean and his coaches in the dramatic turnaround in United's fortunes this season.

Coca-Cola Cup advancement, allied to a spiralling of Premier Division form, sees the east coast men head into this afternoon's Final with confidence soaring. Tommy McLean's role in the transformation has been a major one, and his presence in the United dugout may well prove to be a decisive factor in this afternoon's outcome.

There is no doubt that he will utilise his own vast knowledge of big occasion Cup Final days to aid the tangerine cause, aiming to add a managerial cup winning medal to the collection of those earned as a League Cup winner throughout his lengthy playing career with Rangers. In 449 appearances for the Ibrox club, McLean won for himself, three winners' medals from this competition. Hence the reason that he loves the event each season.

He pointed out, "The Coca-Cola Cup may have its critics, but I am not one of them. It is a competition with happy memories for me, and one which I hope will go on for a long, long time to come.

"The League Cup was always an early season competition, but the format has been chopped and changed on numerous occasions. I personally enjoyed it when it was all decided during the first few weeks of the season.

"There is no arguing that it was a great competition for me personally. Wins in season 1975/76, 1977/78 and 1978/79 produced memories that I will never forget."

Indeed, it is unlikely that one of the United boss's employees, recent Tannadice addition, Jocky Scott, will allow his gaffer to



forget the missing League Cup in the sequence, that of season 1976/77.

The scene was a Hampden Park Semi-Final between Tommy's Rangers and an Aberdeen side which boasted the likes of Scotland men Bobby Clark, Joe Harper, Arthur Graham and hat-trick man Jocky Scott!

Jocky takes up the story, "We went into the tie as rank outsiders, but emerged as cup winners after beating Rangers 5-1! I can picture those three goals of mine just as if I had scored them yesterday.

"That win took us through to a Final against Celtic, and again we were the outsiders. But thanks to an equaliser from Drew Jarvie and an extra-time winner from Davie Robb, we took the cup back north."

That was Jocky's second triumph in the competition, having enjoyed a 1973 success in a Dundee side which edged out Celtic in a Hampden Final whose kick-off had been advanced to lunchtime to beat the power cuts brought about by the Miners Strike.

Coincidentally, it was Jocky's longtime friend and now Tannadice coaching colleague, Gordon Wallace, who netted the only goal of that Final to take the trophy back to Dens Park and the double act of Scott and Wallace were to pair up again later in their careers as manager and assistant of Dunfermline Athletic in the early nineties. That followed Jocky's spell as co-manager at Pittodrie with Alex Smith, a period which saw the Pittodrie outfit experience the highs and lows of the League Cup event all over again.

Scott explained, "We lost out 3-2 to Rangers in season 1988/89 but we were back in the Final a year later when two goals from Paul Mason earned us the trophy.

"But then again, there was another Cup Final bodyblow on its way when, during my



*Gordon Wallace scores against Celtic in the League Cup Final in season 1973/74.*

spell in charge at East End Park, we lost 2-0 to Hibernian at Hampden."

Remarkably, despite a successful spell as caretaker manager of Hibernian following Alex Miller's departure, Jocky Scott was allowed to drift into football's oblivion, before Tommy McLean lured him onto the United staff just a couple of months ago. The move proved to be a timely one, with experienced Scott's arrival coinciding with the much heralded turnaround in Tangerine fortunes.

Another member of today's dugout 'team' is Gordon Wallace, who claims not to hold it against his present employers Dundee United.....despite the fact that they ended his playing career after a League Cup Quarter Final tie all of eighteen years ago!

He said, "I was Player/Manager at Raith Rovers at the time, but trained three days a week at Tannadice. Mind you, Jim McLean and I came to an agreement that I find alternative facilities in the run-up to the tie between us.

"The Tannadice tie failed to provide a goal so we headed for Stark's Park for a replay. Paul Hegarty scored the only goal of the game to take United through to the Semi-Finals against Hamilton Academical.

"But I wonder to this day why the referee chalked off what would have been a last minute equaliser for Rovers.

"Anyway, that was it as far as my playing days were concerned. I might have continued had we won, but it wasn't to be, and United went on to beat Hamilton and then Aberdeen in a Cup Final replay to win the club's first ever national silverware."

Starring in the Tannadice side at that time was local hero John Holt, a home town boy who came good for his childhood's favourite club and nowadays, he too is part of the United backroom team, allying his role with that of the City of Discovery's Tannadice based SFA Community Coach.

He points out, "A great measure of the team's success at the time of that first League Cup win was the 'togetherness' in the dressing-room.

"We were all the very best of mates, enjoying each others company at work, and also away from Tannadice. Jim McLean encouraged it, and it worked in that we were all hungry for success together.

"At that time in our lives, we thought that it was the same at every club, only to discover that it wasn't. Hence the reason that it is only now that I savour those tremendous years at Tannadice.

"I have no doubt that our first trophy win against Aberdeen in the Final back in season 1979/80 started us believing in our own ability for the first time, hence the reason that more successes followed with another League Cup win, our Premier Division Championship winning achievement, a European Cup Semi-Final place and reaching the Final of the UEFA Cup.

"Coincidentally, I have that feeling right now, that the present United squad have a similar bond of camaraderie that we did in the beginning.....and look where that got us!"

**DICK DONNELLY**  
(Radio Tay)



*Jocky Scott scores against Rangers in the League Cup Semi-Final in season 1976/77.*

# Passport to success

**M**anagers have turned into explorers. The search for new talent carries them further and further from the beaten track and sometimes it also leaves them hunting for food. Dundee United's Tommy McLean still remembers the hunger, on one scouting trip, that had him desperately seeking out a late night hamburger at the train station in the Swedish town of Norrköping.

The players brought back from these expeditions, however, have nourished the game in Scotland. In The Coca-Cola Cup Final this afternoon, there could easily be a dozen footballers on the field who were not born in the British Isles. Many of them have not only settled in these parts, but also exerted a substantial influence on the fortunes of the clubs.

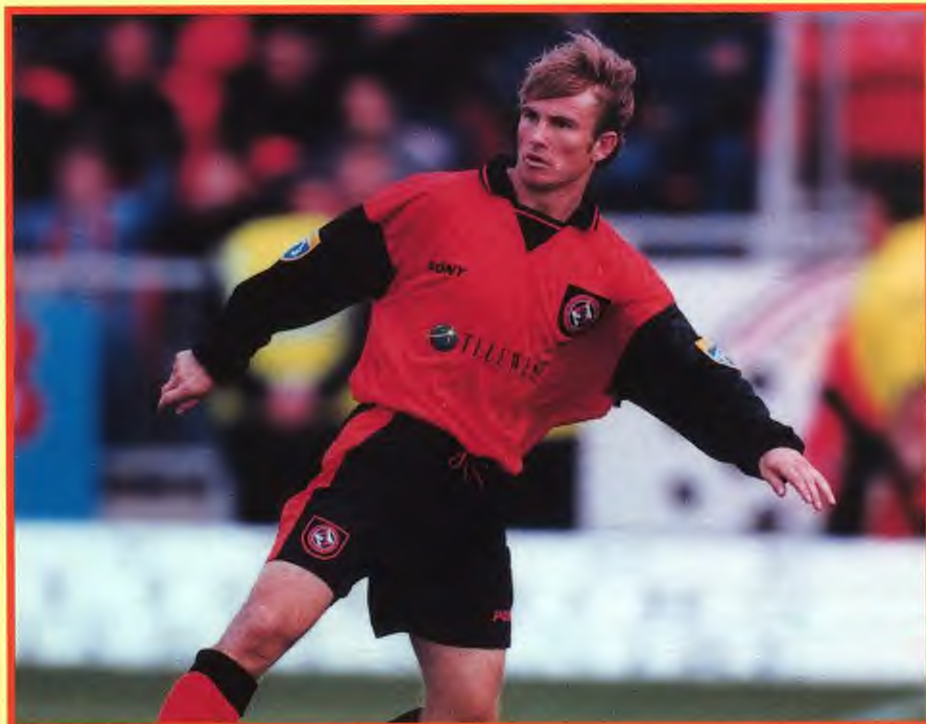
United supporters might easily attribute the upsurge at Tannadice to the arrival there, in 1996, of a Norwegian, Erik Pedersen, and two Swedes, Kjell Olofsson and Lars Zetterlund. The more mature followers of the club knew that the omens were good because they recalled the impact made in the 1960's by another trio of Scandinavians, Finn Dossing, Lennart Wing and Orjan Persson.

The newcomers to Tannadice, however, were never liable to worry that they might be overshadowed by their predecessors. They are a mature and self-confident bunch. It would take more than a change of surroundings to leave Olofsson tongue-tied. In addition to Swedish, he speaks English, Norwegian, Dutch, Danish and German.

He has always had an adventurous streak and the forward left his homeland to establish his reputation with the Norwegian club Moss.



Henrik Larsson



Erik Pedersen

The 32 year old also found it simple to acclimatise to Scotland. "The surfaces are better here, particularly the one at Tannadice," he said. "Also, the crowds are much livelier in Scotland."

Olofsson did admit, soon after he had arrived, that he could not find any satisfactory substitute to the meatballs he enjoyed in his homeland. Whatever minor disappointments have been found in his diet here, the striker has not been wasting away. Defenders have had to cope with the strength and momentum that have allowed him to form such a telling partnership with Robbie Winters.

Pedersen and Zetterlund also display durability. The Norwegian ensured that he would become hardy when, as a 20 year old, he chose to sign for Tromsø. Anyone who saw that club's recent Cup Winners' Cup tie with Chelsea will appreciate how severe the environment for football can be on the fringes of the arctic circle.

Pedersen recalls that the club had to clear 1300 truck-loads of snow from the stadium at the start of a season. The temperatures at the games themselves could drop to minus 13 degrees. In such conditions, footballers must

be industrious if they are to avoid icing up and the vitality Pedersen has shown for United may have been acquired in Tromsø. "The faster pace and the intensity of the games in Scotland is just the way I like it," he said.

Zetterlund, who has become crucial to United's midfield, has a more emotional link with Tannadice. As a young player, he appeared in one leg of IFK Gothenburg's victory over United in the 1987 UEFA Cup Final. "The magnificent sportsmanship of the United fans at Tannadice is still fresh in my mind," he said.

He may, however, be attempting to forget another trip to the ground, when he was a member of an AIK Stockholm side that lost 3-0 to United in the UEFA Cup. McLean signed Zetterlund from Orebro and seems to have formed a high opinion of that club's players.

Magnus Skoldmark, who arrived at Tannadice in September, was with Orebro for seven years. More recently, the midfielder had been playing for Dalian Wanda in China. He reports that football in China is booming and that Dalian Wanda use a pair of new stadiums, one holding 30,000 and the other



Goran Marklund

60,000. Nonetheless, Skoldmark is happy to have relocated to Dundee United.

"The biggest difference," he said, "is that everything about football is far more professional here, whether it's the training, the matches or the knowledge of the game that the crowd has." Skoldmark has now been joined at Tannadice by another Orebro player. The 21 year old midfielder, Mikael Andersson, came to McLean's attention by scoring against United in a pre-season friendly.

The Scandinavian contingent has also been expanded by United's acquisition of a Swedish forward, Goran Marklund, and a Danish defender, Thomas Tengstedt. McLean's passport has been subject to punishing use in the past year or so, but at least the manager had only to explore his own memory to make another of his foreign signings.

He had bought Sieb Dijkstra in 1991 while he was in charge of Motherwell. The goalkeeper left Fir Park to move to Queens Park Rangers in 1994, but joined up with McLean once again when he moved to United in December of last year. With his height and physique, Dijkstra has been a dominating presence in defence.

The face of the Dundee United side has changed quickly, but the speed of the alterations at Celtic has also been breathtaking. The Glasgow club has seven foreign players and four of them moved to Celtic only after the appointment of Wim Jansen as Head Coach in the close season.

When Andreas Thom came to the club from Bayer Leverkusen in August of 1995, he

seemed like an exotic figure, but, nowadays, he is one of the more familiar and long serving members of the squad. Having played for East Germany and, since unification, Germany itself, Thom is a highly experienced player, but Jansen has used him mostly as a substitute this season.

Morten Wieghorst moved to Celtic in 1995, not long after his Coca-Cola Cup Final appearance for Dundee against Aberdeen. In the past few weeks, the Dane has produced some of his best form, enjoying a central midfield role and relishing a freedom from the injuries that had previously hindered him. Wieghorst first caught the eye in Scotland when appearing for Lyngby against Rangers in the European Cup five years ago.

Enrico Annoni was purchased by Celtic from AS Roma in February of this year at a time when his contract with the Italian club was in its closing months. The 31 year old was a highly experienced defender in Italian football, but injuries and the alterations at Celtic have hindered his attempts to establish himself. When Alan Stubbs suffered a head knock against Rangers earlier this month, however, he was quick to demonstrate his value.

On that afternoon, Annoni was obliged to establish swiftly a partnership with Marc Rieper, the commanding centre-half whom Celtic purchased from West Ham for £1.75m. Rieper has been a mainstay of the Denmark team for many years and served Brondby with distinction before his move to English football. At Celtic, he forms part of a radically rebuilt defence.

The left-back, Stephane Mahe, ought to be able to call upon one of the best footballing educations to be found in the whole world. He spent 11 years, emerging from the youth system at Auxerre, the club that also groomed Eric Cantona and many other stars. Mahe's progress was impressive enough to earn him a move to Paris St. Germain in the summer of 1995.

The club was to win the Cup Winners' Cup in the season that followed, but it had been an unhappy year for the defender and he did not play in that Final. Although a transfer to Rennes followed, Mahe believes that it is in Glasgow that he can fully restore his career. "When I heard of Celtic's history, I was delighted," he said, "because I feel I can get back to the top level here."

The remaining pair of foreign signings made by Celtic may have been coming to a new country, but they relished the fact that they were heading towards a reunion. Both Henrik Larsson and Regi Blinker are working once again with Jansen, whom they knew at

Feyenoord in the club's successful years in the first half of this decade.

"I give 100 per cent every time I step out onto the field, but Wim is a coach you would push yourself that bit further for," said Blinker soon after he had arrived in Glasgow. "I would walk through fire for him." He signed for Sheffield Wednesday early in 1996, but found himself unsuited to a tactical system that did not really have room for a winger. Having made his way to Celtic, as part of the deal that took Paolo Di Canio to Hillsborough, Blinker may have found a more suitable setting for his talents.

Larsson too has experienced the benefits of football in this country and quickly won back the place in Sweden's squad that he had briefly lost. The forward was in the national team at the 1994 World Cup, when Sweden claimed third place at the tournament. Since taking his place in the Celtic team, Larsson has delighted supporters by displaying the skills and enthusiasm that allowed him to participate in his country's great achievement.

The foreign players on the Ibrox pitch today all have intriguing pasts, but McLean and Jansen are each left to hope that it will be their band who create a new triumph in this season's Coca-Cola Cup Final.

**KEVIN McCARRA**

*(The Sunday Times)*

*Andreas Thom*



# Down Memory Lane

**T**oday we see the 52nd Scottish League (Coca-Cola) Cup Final and although at one time or another, a total of 43 different Scottish League clubs have taken part in just over 4,800 matches since the competition began in season 1946/47, only eleven different clubs have actually won the trophy. Ironically enough, until Raith Rovers became the latest club to win the famous three handled trophy in season 1994/95 for the first time, one of today's Finalists, Dundee United, was the last new name on the trophy when in season 1979/80, they defeated Aberdeen 3-0 in a replayed Final to win their first ever major honour.

Today's Finalists have played the following number of games in the competition:-

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against
Celtic	375	246	51	78	459	252
Dundee Utd	309	155	43	111	276	293

Celtic have played 33 different clubs in the competition over the years, with Rangers being their most frequent opponents, having played them on 40 different occasions, whilst United

have played 35 different teams in the competition over the years, with Motherwell being their most frequent opponents, having played 24 games against them in The League Cup.

**Each of today's Finalists highest home and away wins are as follows:-**

**Celtic:**

11th September, 1968 - Celtic 10 Hamilton Academical 0 in the Quarter Finals. Both Chalmers and Lennox scored five goals each!  
 25th August, 1993 - Arbroath 1 Celtic 9 in the Third Round with goals from Nicholas, McGinlay, McAvennie (3), Payton (3) and McNally.

**Dundee United:**

9th September, 1964 - Dundee United 8 Hamilton Academical 0 in the Quarter Finals with two goals each from Mitchell, McManus, Thorn and Munro.  
 23rd August, 1977 - Albion Rovers 1 Dundee United 5 in the First Round, Second Leg, with goals from Wallace, Narey, Kirkwood, Sturrock and Hegarty.

**Each of today's Finalists heaviest home and away defeats are as follows:-**

**Celtic:**  
 9th October, 1948 - Celtic 3 Clyde 6 in a Division A, Section A tie, with Celtic's goals coming from J. Gallagher (2) and Paton.

30th August, 1958 - St. Mirren 6 Celtic 3 in a Section Two match with goals from Collins (2) and Auld.

**Dundee United:**

13th August, 1952 - Dundee United 2 Stirling Albion 6 in a Division B, Section B tie with United's goals coming from McMullen and Dunsmore.  
 24th August, 1957 - Clyde 8 Dundee United 1 in a Section Five match with United's goal from Coyle.

The biggest home and away results achieved by any team in The Scottish League Cup is eleven goals. On 13th August, 1952, Ayr United defeated Dumbarton 11-1 and Hibernian defeated Alloa 11-2 on 22nd September, 1965. The only team to score eleven goals away from home is Partick Thistle against Albion Rovers on 11th August, 1993 with seven different players scoring that day for the Firhill club.

## - Head to Head -

**Previous meetings between CELTIC and DUNDEE UNITED in The Scottish League Cup.**

- 18.08.62 Celtic 4-0 Dundee United (Section Match)
- 01.09.62 Dundee United 0-0 Celtic (Section Match)
- 14.08.65 Dundee United 2-1 Celtic (Section Match)
- 28.08.65 Celtic 3-0 Dundee United (Section Match)
- 12.08.67 Celtic 1-0 Dundee United (Section Match)
- 26.08.67 Dundee United 0-1 Celtic (Section Match)
- 15.08.70 Celtic 2-2 Dundee United (Section Match)
- 26.08.70 Dundee United 2-2 Celtic (Section Match)
- 17.08.74 Celtic 1-0 Dundee United (Section Match)
- 24.08.74 Dundee United 0-1 Celtic (Section Match)
- 14.08.76 Dundee United 0-1 Celtic (Section Match)
- 01.09.76 Celtic 1-1 Dundee United (Section Match)
- 30.08.78 Dundee United 2-3 Celtic (Second Round, First Leg)
- 02.09.78 Celtic 1-0 Dundee United (Second Round, Second Leg) **(Celtic won 4-2 on Aggregate)**
- 12.11.80 Dundee United 1-1 Celtic (Semi-Final, First Leg)
- 19.11.80 Celtic 0-3 Dundee United (Semi-Final, Second Leg) **(Dundee United won 4-1 on Aggregate)**
- 27.10.82 Celtic 2-0 Dundee United (Semi-Final, First Leg)
- 10.11.82 Dundee United 2-1 Celtic (Semi-Final, Second Leg) **(Celtic won 3-2 on Aggregate)**
- 05.09.84 Dundee United 2-1 Celtic (Quarter Final)
- 31.08.88 Dundee United 2-0 Celtic (Quarter Final)
- 25.09.90 Celtic 2-0 Dundee United (Semi-Final)
- 21.09.94 Celtic 1-0 Dundee United (Quarter Final)

The teams for that last meeting in this competition, which was played at Celtic's then temporary home, Hampden Park, was:

**Celtic:** Marshall, Galloway, Boyd, McNally, Mowbray, Grant, McGinlay, McStay, (B. O'Neil), Donnelly, (Nicholas), Walker, Collins.  
**Dundee United:** Main, Cleland, Malpas, Hannah, Petric, Welsh, McNally, (Myers), McKinlay, Ristic, Connolly, (Brewster), Nixon.

Goalscorer for Celtic was Collins in the second-half and the match was watched by a crowd of 28,859.

**Celtic's last League Cup Success.....**

Celtic's last League Cup success came in season 1982/83. In that season's six section matches, the Bhoys won all of their matches with wins against Dunfermline Athletic 6-0, Alloa 5-0, Arbroath 3-0, Alloa 4-1, Dunfermline Athletic 7-1 and Arbroath 4-1. Celtic had scored 29 goals in the six section matches which was more than any other club in any of the other sections. In the Quarter Finals, Celtic beat Partick Thistle 4-0 at Celtic Park and 3-0 at Firhill and in the Semi-Finals, beat today's opponents, Dundee United 2-0 at home, although they lost 2-1 at Tannadice. On the 4th December, 1982 at Hampden Park, Celtic faced Rangers and beat them 2-1 with goals from Charlie Nicholas and Murdo MacLeod in front of 55,372 fans. This was Celtic's 9th Scottish League Cup success in their 17th Final.

**The Celtic team that day was:**

Bonner, McGrain, Sinclair, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Provan, McStay, (Reid), McGarvey, Burns, Nicholas.

**Dundee United's last League Cup Success.....**

Dundee United's last League Cup success came in season 1980/81. In the First Round, First Leg, United took a commanding 5-2 lead against East Fife at Bayview with a 4-0 victory in the return at Tannadice. Cowdenbeath were swept aside in the next round with United winning 4-0 at home and 4-1 at Central Park. In the Third Round, First Leg, United suffered defeat away at Motherwell 2-1 but defeated their Lanarkshire opponents 4-2 at home to go through 5-4 on aggregate. The First Leg of the Quarter Final against Clydebank saw United lose 2-1 but they came good at home and won the Second Leg 4-1. In the Semi-Final, First Leg, United drew with today's opponents Celtic 1-1 at home but gained a magnificent 3-0 victory at Celtic Park. The Final was an all Tayside affair played at Denis Park against local rivals Dundee and United ran out winners 3-0. The match was watched by a 24,466 crowd and United's goalscorers were Davie Dodds and two goals from Paul Sturrock.

**The United team for that Final on 6th December, 1980 was:**

McAlpine, Holt, Kopel, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Payne, Pettigrew, Sturrock, Dodds.

INFORMATION AND ACCOMPANYING STATISTICS SUPPLIED BY RAY SPILLER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FOOTBALL STATISTICIANS  
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# Coca-Cola's Cash Incentives Payout...

**T**he players in today's Coca-Cola Cup Final will have to be quick off the mark if any of them hopes to lift the sponsor's offer of £500 to the man who nets the fastest goal of the entire 1997/98 competition.



Jackie McNamara

For back at the beginning of August, Falkirk's David Moss potted the opener after just 90 seconds in a Second Round tie against Ross County at Dingwall. David picked up a prize of £250 that day as the scorer of the fastest goal in the Second Round. So while the big Baim - he's a strapping 6ft 2in - wishes all of today's Finalists well, he would be pleased if they could just wait until the second minute before doing any damage!

Mind you, he had a close call in the Third Round as Hamish French of Dunfermline Athletic did score in the second minute of his team's 2-0 home victory over St. Mirren. Hamish duly got £250 for that effort, as did Paul Patterson of East Stirlingshire for an 11th minute strike against Stranraer in the First Round. Other players to enjoy a cash bonus for scoring early were Joe Miller, for his 11th minute goal for Aberdeen in the tie against Stirling Albion, and in the Semi-Final, Robbie Winters of Dundee United, got the prize for a goal in the rather mundane time of 35 minutes in the 3-1 victory over Aberdeen.

As well as their own prize, the winners were able to nominate a school or youth team to receive the Coca-Cola Big Red Bag. This contains portable goals, footballs, cones and training tops.

Treble chancers were also given a cash reward for their hat-trick efforts during the competition and so far, there have been eight players who have received the award of £300. But Dundee United's Gary McSwegan is the only one left with a chance of repeating the

trick if he plays in today's Final. The ex-Ranger got his threesome in the Second Round 4-2 win over Queen of the South at Palmerston. The other winners have been Brian Thomson (Inverness Caledonian Thistle), Mike Newell (Aberdeen), Andy Smith (Dunfermline Athletic), Warren Hawke (Greenock Morton), Peter Duffield (Raith Rovers), Ally McCoist (Rangers) and Owen Coyle (Motherwell).

Tannadice star McSwegan is also in line for the biggest individual award in the incentives offered by Coca-Cola - the £1,000 which goes to the top scorer of this season's competition. Gary currently shares that top spot alongside Dunfermline Athletic's Andy Smith on the five goal mark but, of course, he has the advantage of today's Final presenting the opportunity to strike out on his own. However, Celtic's Simon Donnelly could make it a 'grand' occasion today as well as he currently has three goals to his credit and hasn't ruled out the possibility of a high scoring performance landing him the 'biggie'.

The top scorers as they stand before today's Final are:-

- 5 Gary McSwegan (Dundee United) and Andy Smith (Dunfermline Athletic)
- 3 Simon Donnelly (Celtic)
- 2 Henrik Larsson (Celtic) and Robbie Winters (Dundee United)
- 1 Darren Jackson (Celtic), Regi Blinker (Celtic), Andreas Thom (Celtic), Craig

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Celtic 6 Hibernian 3 in season 1974/75.
2. In season 1987/88, Rangers defeated Aberdeen 5-3 in a penalty shoot-out after a 3-3 draw.
3. 10 goals.
4. 10 goals.
5. Jim Forrest of Rangers hit four against Morton in the 1963/64 Final.
6. Ally McCoist, also of Rangers, against Celtic in the 1983/84 Cup Final when Rangers beat Celtic 3-2.
7. United defeated Aberdeen 3-0 after a 0-0 draw with Willie Pettigrew (2) and Paul Starrock scoring the goals.
8. Charlie Nicholas and Murdo MacLeod were the Celtic scorers in a 2-1 win over Rangers.
9. Dunfermline Athletic, Kilmarnock and St. Johnstone. The Pars lost in the 1949/50 Final 3-0 to Fife rivals, East Fife, and the 1991/92 Final 2-0 to Hibernian. Killie lost 2-0 to Dundee in season 1952/53 and Saints lost out 1-0 to Celtic in the 1969/70 Final.
10. Simon Donnelly with 3 goals.
11. Gary McSwegan who has scored 5 goals.
12. Eleven. Raith Rovers won the shoot-out 6-5.
13. Aberdeen and Dundee United in the 1979/80 Final.
14. Aberdeen (twice), Hibernian and Raith Rovers.
15. Dundee (1967/68), Hibernian (1974/75), Aberdeen (1987/88) and Heart of Midlothian (1996/97).
16. Partick Thistle in their historic 4-1 win over Celtic in season 1971/72.
17. Rangers (twice), (2-1 in season 1965/66 and 1-0 in season 1966/67), Dundee (5-3 in season 1967/68), Hibernian (6-2 in season 1968/69) and St. Johnstone (1-0 in season 1969/70).
18. Iain Ferguson.
19. Aberdeen v Dundee in season 1995/96 with the Dons winning 2-0.
20. McPhail (3), Mochan (2), Wilson and Fernie all scored for Celtic with Simpson scoring for Rangers.



Robbie Winters

Burley (Celtic), Steven Thompson (Dundee United), Lars Zetterlund (Dundee United) and Craig Easton (Dundee United).

Apart from the cash, the top scorer will be handed the pleasant task of nominating a local secondary school within membership of The Scottish Schools' Football Association to receive a full team kit for use by their football team.

## DIXON BLACKSTOCK

(Evening Times)

## The Matchday Magazine

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# Today's Match Officials



**A**nother Cup Final? **JIM McCLUSKEY** thought he could whistle for it. At the age of 47, and three years after officiating at his fifth Cup Final, the Stewarton stalwart firmly believed his days as the man in the middle at national showdowns were behind him. So, you could have blown him down with a single blast of his whistle when he got the call to take charge of today's Coca-Cola Cup Final.

Regarded as the doyen of Scotland's Men in Black - or should that now be Men in Multi-Colours - 14 years Class 1 Jim is no stranger to such honours. In fact, for a while, the man who spends his days working as company director of his civil and building engineering business, was in severe danger of being reported to the Monopolies Commission. The 1990, 1993 and 1994 League Cup Finals were all handled in impeccable style by this much respected official and he was also deemed good enough to take charge of the 1993 Scottish Cup Final, and receive his highest accolade when invited to take charge of the 1994 UEFA Cup Final - second leg between Inter Milan and Casino Salzburg.

However, Jim had resigned himself to the fact that starring roles in such headline shows were now a thing of the past, memories to be cherished but not repeated. While it is politic not to argue with the ref.....this is one Jim certainly got wrong! Therefore today, three years after supervising the toss of the coin at his last Final, Jim will proudly step out for another Final appearance. Any more, and he will be rivalling Frank Sinatra!

Not that anyone would suggest Jim has been awarded today's honour on sentimental grounds. The simple fact is, he is still one of the best referees in the land, a fact acknowledged by players, managers, fans and fellow officials alike and, revealed the man who played the game for, amongst others, Airdrieonians, before taking up refereeing in

the hard school of the Ayrshire Amateur League, today's appointment means as much to him as any honour which has preceded it.

"I have to admit that, after I came off the FIFA list two years ago, I thought my Cup Final days were over," said Jim with the honesty which has made him such a respected figure of the game.

"I was proud to be able to claim that I'd had 50 European appointments before I hit the mandatory retirement age in 1995.

"It meant a lot to me reaching the 50 game mark. Mind you, it was a close run thing. At the start of my last season on the list, I was still half a dozen games short of that figure and wondered if I would be able to get enough games in before Christmas when it would be time to step down.

"Fortunately, I got the appointments, including the 50th which was a Champions League match between Zurich and Real Madrid. It was funny, really. That day, I was considered good enough to take charge of such an important game and the next, I was too old even to be on the list. It was a nice way to bow out, however."

A constant reminder of that night hangs proudly in the Stewarton home Jim shares with wife Anne, daughter Julie (19) and son Scott (15). On hearing that it was to be his final top game, Real Madrid officials promised to send Jim a memento. A few months later, a specially engraved plaque duly arrived at his home.

Of course, after years appearing on the same stage as some of Europe's finest players, Jim misses the big occasions. But, having now been handed the plum appointment today, Jim reckons he's got plenty to keep him occupied until he has to hang up his whistle for good three years from now.

Like all good civil engineers, however, he likes to know that the foundations are as secure as the top level and that's why Jim takes such a keen interest in the development and education of aspiring referees. He glows when he reports, "I help with the coaching of referees in the Ayrshire region, and this year our intake was double with 32 people of various ages enrolling.

"That's very pleasing and satisfying as I like to think I can help them on their way. You need the breaks to get on in this game, and I hope they get them.

"The way I look at it, I'm still learning in every game I handle. I will go into today's Final the way I go into every game - with an open mind. That's the way I approach life."

Should today's match be as open as Jim's mind, we will be in for another memorable day. Certainly, the referee is a fan of the style being preached by Celtic Head Coach, Wim

Jansen, and his Dundee United counterpart, Tommy McLean.

He said, "The way the game is in Scotland just now, we need teams to play good football.

"I have noticed a better standard recently with less emphasis on the long ball game and more touches taken in the midfield.

"Believe it or not, that actually makes it harder for officials as we have to concentrate more. But, it is a change for the better."

Concentrating just as hard alongside Jim today will be his assistants, **BOBBY ORR** (Main Stand Side) and **JOE KELLY** (Govan Stand Side), supported in the technical area by Fourth Official **MICHAEL McCURRY**.

Chartered Surveyor Bobby, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, is in his eleventh season as a Class 1 official and is currently a FIFA assistant referee. But, at 44, he is enjoying his last month at this global level before he is forced to retire from the coveted list. Ironically, the highlight of Bobby's career was in the company of today's referee, as he explained. "I was fortunate enough to be a linesman when Jim refereed the 1994 UEFA Cup Final between Inter Milan and Casino Salzburg."

Bobby continued, "I was also on the line when Les Mottram handled the Euro 96 Semi-Final between France and the Czech Republic, though few people remember that game due to the fact the other Semi involved England and Germany!"

At least Bobby's wife, Isabel, son Colin (16) and daughter Alison (11), remember it well and plan to travel up from their Kilbarchan home to see "the old man" in action again today.

On the opposite wing will be East Kilbride's Joe Kelly. By day, he is a computer data manager with British Telecom, but by night he is likely to be found at home discussing the finer points of refereeing with his 17 year old daughter Karen, who is a Class 5 whistler.

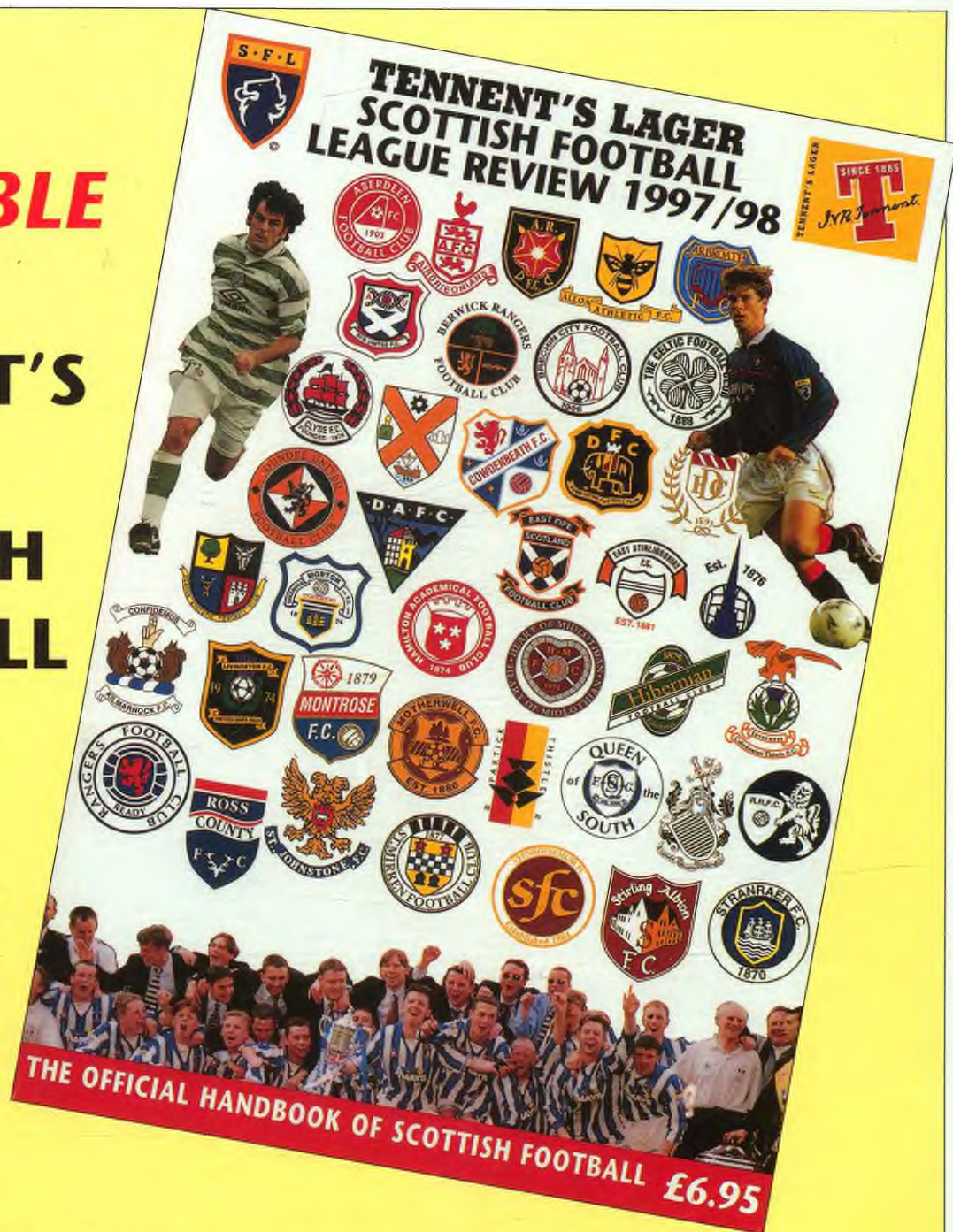
"Karen has been refereeing for three years and she makes me very proud," admitted 43 year old Joe, who is currently a Class 3 official.

Son Gary (14) as yet would still rather play the game, while wife Eleanor is left with the thankless but vital job of making sure they all have kit ready for match days.

Looking after the technical area will be Fourth Official and Class 1 referee Michael McCurry. At least the 33 year old Glasgow based whistler should have no problems accounting for what goes on in both technical areas.....he's a financial director.

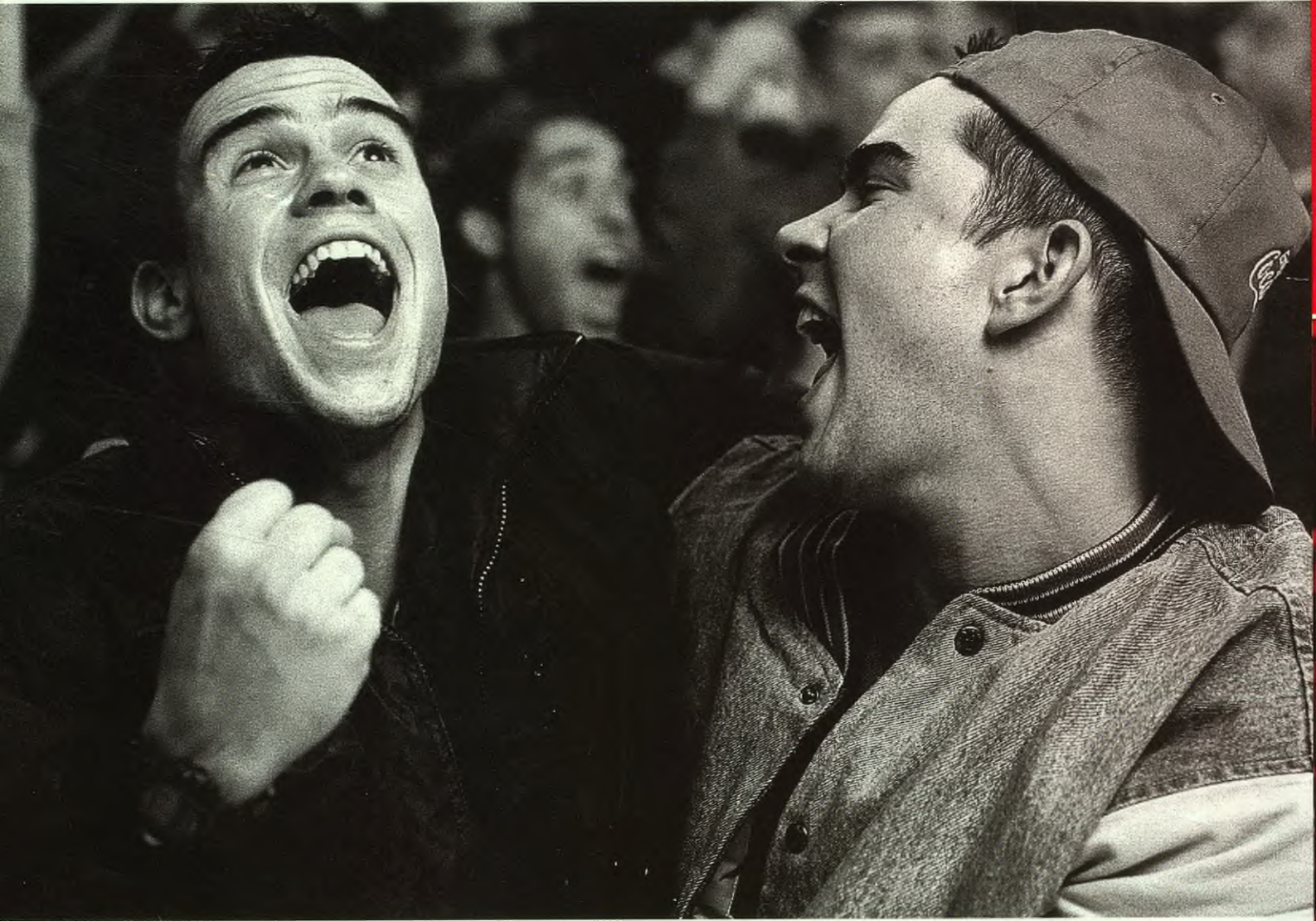
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