



**Bell's Scottish League  
Premier Division**

**CELTIC  
v  
KILMARNOCK**

**Celtic Park  
Saturday,  
October 4, 1997  
Kick-off 3pm**

**Official Programme  
Price £1**



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**Programme No.9**





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**T**he result at Anfield on Tuesday night was very disappointing but it was a very good game for us, performance-wise.

Now this afternoon we have another match against Kilmarnock which is just as important and I would like to welcome everyone from that club here for this match.

Every home game is very important for us and we are determined to get another win which would take our unbeaten run to 10 games.

The supporters were magnificent at Anfield and I know they will provide us with the same backing today.

In every game this season they have backed us and it is very important for everyone in the team to hear the crowd cheer them on.

It makes the team stronger, that is a definite fact. Our first home game against Dunfermline was not the best when we lost 2-1, but I think we have finally put that behind us.

Slowly but surely everyone knows what they are doing in the team and that is very important. I had to change things around for the Liverpool match because of injuries, but the players coming in knew exactly how to play the system and that is very important.

I am very, very pleased with the fact that I can bring in players and they will do just as well as the ones they are replacing.

The first few games are never easy because you need to get used to a new system and group of players, but slowly we have built an understanding and you can see that on the park.

The most important thing is that

**Now we'll  
go for ten  
in a row!**

everyone out there believes in what they are doing and I can see that now.

I changed the formation to a back three against Liverpool, but that is not permanent. It depends on who the opposition are. Sometimes you change the team if you think it is necessary to play a particular game, or team.

Kilmarnock come to us following a hard European match on Thursday night, but you can never predict what will happen. What is important from Celtic's point of view is that we play our own game and we don't think about how they feeling.

And I will always maintain that the game you are playing on the day is the only one you are focused on. We have to get over today first before we think about the break for internationals and then the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Dunfermline.

I hope we have another good day today, and it is great to hear the supporters chanting for the players and management. Everyone involved appreciates it.



Celtic Football Club,  
Celtic Park, Glasgow, G40 3RE

**Roll of Honour**

European Cup: 1967

League Champions (35 times)

1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1919, 1922, 1926, 1936, 1938, 1964, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988.

Scottish Cup Winners (30 times)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1968, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995

League Cup Winners (9 times)

1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1982.

Coronation Cup: 1953

Empire Exhibition Cup: 1938

St Mungo Cup: 1951

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# TODAY'S SQUADS



**CELTIC**



**Jonathan GOULD**



**Jackie McNAMARA**



**Tom BOYD**



**Alan STUBBS**



**Stephane MAHE**



**Marc RIEPER**



**Craig BURLEY**



**Morten WIEGHORST**



**Andreas THOM**



**Simon DONNELLY**



**Henrik LARSSON**



**Tosh McKINLAY**



**David HANNAH**



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*Martin Clark (Edinburgh)*



**ASSISTANT REFEREE:**

*Bob Gunn (Invergowrie)*

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**CELTIC:**

*Phil O'Donnell, Stewart Kerr (g/k), Rico Annoni, Malky Mackay*

**KILMARNOCK:**

*Stephen Hamilton, Alan Smith (g/k), Billy Findlay, Dylan Kerr*

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**KILMARNOCK**



**COLIN MELDRUM**



**Gus MacPHERSON**



**Ray MONTGOMERIE**



**Kevin McGOWNE**



**Ally MITCHELL**



**Neil WHITWORTH**



**Paul WRIGHT**



**Pat NEVIN**



**Jerome VAREILLE**



**Alex BURKE**



**David BAGAN**



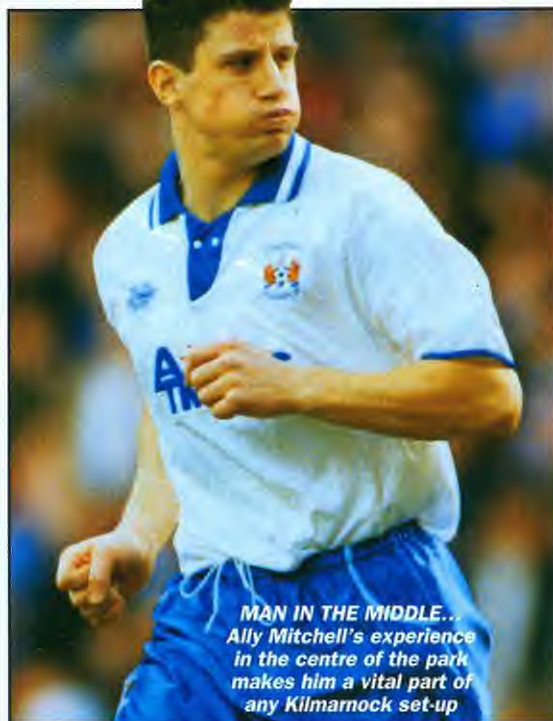
**Mark REILLY**



**Martin BAKER**



# TODAY'S VISITORS



**MAN IN THE MIDDLE...**  
Ally Mitchell's experience in the centre of the park makes him a vital part of any Kilmarnock set-up

## The football world has the habit of turning mighty quickly.

Five months ago, Kilmarnock were on the crest of a wave having made history with a first-ever Scottish Cup triumph.

It was supposed to herald a return to the big-time for a club that has the potential to be among Scotland's top dogs.

However, this season the Rugby Park side have been taking up residence at the wrong end of the Premier Division table, unable to string together a decent run of results.

Perhaps their decline in fortunes was best illustrated by this term's Coca-Cola Cup.

In capturing the Scottish Cup, Kilmarnock proved they could compete with, and beat, sides with greater financial muscle and more to offer in the way of imports and internationalists.

But Stirling Albion turned the tables on them in the Coca-Cola Cup, inflicting an embarrassing 6-2 defeat that set the tone for a far from encouraging opening eight weeks of the season.

Kilmarnock manager Bobby Williamson is discovering that keeping a provincial club on the right track in the league is more of a handful than presiding over a fairytale cup run.

Indeed, the Ayrshire side's cup exploits and their success against the Old Firm in the final eight weeks of last term, perhaps masked their travails in the league.

Going into the final week of the term there was still the possibility that they would be sucked into a dreaded play-off.

It didn't happen and the cup was claimed a fortnight later. But bringing new faces to the club to follow that silverware has proved tricky.

Veteran winger **PAT NEVIN** (below) made Kilmarnock his first Scottish senior side, when he joined from Tranmere Rovers in the summer. But the 34-year-old former Chelsea,

Everton and Scotland star has flitted in and out of the team this term.



The Rugby Park side look to have a good 'un in French striker **JEROME VAREILLE**, brought from Mulhouse in the close season.

A mature-looking 23-year-old, he will be the man expected to take some weight off of attacking partner **PAUL WRIGHT**, who remains the jewel in Kilmarnock's crown and has carried his team with seven goals this term.

At the other end **COLIN MELDRUM** has looked solid in the No.1 role, the keeper winning his chance after **DRAGOJE LEKOVIC** sustained a knee injury playing for Yugoslavia.

The inability to field a settled line-up in defence has inhibited the Ayrshire men with wing-backs **GUS MacPHERSON** and, the recently concussed **MARTIN BAKER** patrolling the wide areas while the central-defensive triangle

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# Reversal of fortune for Cup heroes

has had to be reshaped on numerous occasions.

**NEIL WHITWORTH**, happily now back playing after being sidelined with TB, has fought with youngster **STEVEN HAMILTON** for one of the back slots with daddy of the side, 36-year-old **RAY MONTGOMERIE**, and **KEVIN McGOWNE** tending to be employed in those roles.

Whitworth is signing month-to-month deals with the club, as is **JOHN HENRY**, who didn't feature in the early weeks of the term as the result of a foot injury.

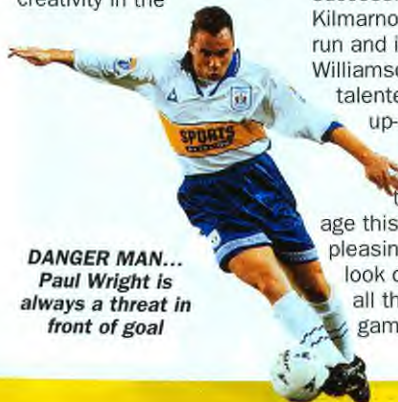
He tends to provide the creativity in the

middle of the park with the experienced **MARK REILLY** and **ALLY MITCHELL** taking on central roles in midfield with the highly-rated youngsters **ALEX BURKE** and **DAVID BAGEN** given licence to go at opponents down the flanks.

This proved a highly successful ploy in Kilmarnock's glorious cup run and in this pair Williamson has guys as talented as any of the up-and-coming crop in the country.

He will need them to come of age this term and, pleasingly for him, both look capable of going all the way in the game.

**COL TO ARMS...** Colin Meldrum (below) has taken over in goal from the injured Dragoje Lekovic.



**DANGER MAN...** Paul Wright is always a threat in front of goal



- COLIN MELDRUM**  
(Goalkeeper)  
Age 21. Signed from Kilwinning Rangers in 1993
- DRAGOJE LEKOVIC**  
(Goalkeeper)  
Age 29. Signed from Buducnost Podgorica in 1994
- GUS MacPHERSON**  
(Defender)  
Age 28. Signed from Rangers in 1986
- RAY MONTGOMERIE**  
(Defender)  
Age 36. Signed from Dumbarton in 1988
- KEVIN McGOWNE**  
(Defender)  
Age 27. Signed from St Johnstone in 1996
- NEIL WHITWORTH** (Defender)  
Age 25. Signed from Manchester United in 1994
- STEVEN HAMILTON**  
(Defender)  
Age 22. Signed from Troon Juniors in 1994
- ALLY MITCHELL**  
(Midfielder)  
Age 28. Signed from East Fife in 1991
- MARK REILLY**  
(Midfielder)  
Age 28. Signed from Motherwell in 1991
- JOHN HENRY**  
(Midfielder)  
Age 25. Signed from Clydebank in 1994
- ALEX BURKE**  
(Midfielder)  
Age 19. Signed from Kilmarnock Boys' Club in 1995
- DAVID BAGEN**  
(Midfielder)  
Age 20. Signed from Troon Juniors in 1995
- PAT NEVIN**  
(Midfielder)  
Age 34. Signed from Tranmere Rovers in 1997
- JEROME VAREILLE**  
(Forward)  
Age 23. Signed from Mulhouse in 1997
- PAUL WRIGHT**  
(Forward)  
Age 30. Signed from St Johnstone in 1995.



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**NAME: CHARLOTTE CURRAN  
AGE: NINE  
FROM: CLARKSTON  
GAME: PREMIER DIVISION v  
ABERDEEN, SEPTEMBER 20**

**I**t's not just players that have sleepless nights before games - just ask nine-year-old Charlotte Curran who was counting the sheep before donning her mascot strip.

The Young Hoop has been in the fan club for two seasons now and her name was picked at random to lead the team out against Aberdeen.

And that gave her the biggest thrill of all on the day as she said: "I never thought that I would be chosen as the Celtic mascot.

"But I was very excited when we were waiting to go out of the tunnel with the players as I could hear the

## MEET THE MASCOT

supporters outside. "And I couldn't believe that I got the chance to meet Henrik Larsson on the pitch before the game."

She added: "I couldn't sleep the night before the match but neither could my father as he was just as excited as me."

If you would like the opportunity to be a mascot and lead the team out then please contact:

**Young Hoops, c/o the Commercial Department on 0141-551 4263/4264 for information.**



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