

Celtic

V HEARTS

**BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
7.30 PM KICK-OFF**

INSIDE

**BILLY STARK
BIG INTERVIEW**

**BOBBY MURDOCH
GOES DOWN
MEMORY LANE**

RESERVE ACTION



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1



**MATCH SPONSORED
BY MANULIFE**



PHOENIX HONDA



HONDA

Opening hours:

Sales Dept.

9am - 8pm (Mon-Fri)
9am - 6pm (Sat)
11am - 6pm (Sun)

Service Dept.

8am - 6pm (Mon-Fri)
8am - 12noon (Sat)

**PHOENIX
RETAIL PARK
LINWOOD RD.,
PAISLEY**

**SALES
0141-842 1011
SERVICE
0141-842 1044**



THE NEW HONDA CIVIC 5-DOOR

**THE MOST INCREDIBLY-BUILT HONDA YET
BOASTS THE REMARKABLE 16 VALVE VTEC ENGINE,
PATENTED REAR ROLL-BAR, REINFORCED DOORS, AND UNLIKE
ANY OTHER CAR IN IT'S CLASS DOUBLE-WISHBONE
SUSPENSION AND DOUBLE AIRBAGS AS STANDARD**

**IT COULD BE YOUR MOST
IMPORTANT SIGNING EVER !**



WHY NOT TAKE IT ON TRIAL AT PHOENIX HONDA

SCOTLAND'S AWARD WINNING HONDA DEALER & EXCLUSIVE
APPROVED SUPPLIER OF HONDA'S NSX FLAGSHIP IN SCOTLAND !

PHOENIX HONDA

The No.1 Honda Performer



TOMMY BURNS



WE welcome Hearts and their supporters to Hampden tonight for what promises to be an interesting tussle as ourselves and our opponents still have it all to play for.

After Saturday's disappointment at Pittodrie, we **MUST** take maximum points. We have to concentrate more - that's what we failed to do against Aberdeen and it cost us the game.

An example of this was their second goal when Brian Irvine - who finished well - made a late run into the box and wasn't picked up.

The fact that we were so up for the semi-final matches did play a part in the result. Usually there normally is a reaction to games like that, but it's not really an excuse. Aberdeen seemed that bit hungrier than we were.

What did work to our advantage though was Motherwell and Hibs losing as well, but Falkirk and Kilmarnock have picked up points.

Important

The matches we have left are vitally important, although it is strange that the one everyone will be up for the most - the Rangers clash - is the only one that won't really concern the other team. But we have to win it as well.

Things in this league can turn around very quickly - you only need to look at Hearts to see that. About three weeks ago they were chasing second spot and a UEFA Cup place - now they are caught up in the relegation battle.

We also want to win tonight as it would be our first over the Tynecastle men this season. In the last couple of games, however, I think we've been treated a bit harshly in terms of results.

At Tynecastle in the 1-1 draw we were the better side and their boss, Tommy McLean, even acknowledged that. But Willie Jarnieson hit the type of wonder goal you can't legislate for.

And in the last meeting at Hampden they got a slightly dubious penalty late on to take a point.

Our players may want to think about the cup final, but they have to realise that only those who

‘ Only those players who show passion will get a place in the cup final

play with passion and conviction will gain a place in the side.

We have drummed into them that second spot in the table is what we are looking for and, even though ultimately that is not enough at Celtic, it does show a marked improvement.

I urge the supporters to get behind us in the remaining fixtures. I can't stress enough the importance their support played in our semi-final victory over Hibs.



YET ANOTHER GREAT VAN TO BEAR THE CR SMITH NAME



YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO REAL QUALITY

CR SMITH

WE ONLY DELIVER THE BEST



THE SQUADS



PAT BONNER



TOM BOYD



TOSH MCKINLAY



RUDI VATA



BRIAN O'NEIL



PETER GRANT



BRIAN McLAUGHLIN



PAUL McSTAY



WILLIE FALCONER



ANDY WALKER



JOHN COLLINS



PHIL O'DONNELL



SIMON DONNELLY



Referee:
K W CLARK
(Paisley)



Linesman:
S DOUGAL
(Burnside)



Linesman:
J WAUGH
(Dumfries)

STAND-BYS:
Celtic: Gordon Marshall (GK),
Jim Slavin,
Garry Carberry.
Hearts: Henry Smith (GK),
Scott Leitch,



MASCOT:
JOHN WILSON
CAMBUSLANG

AGED 7

CRAIG NELSON



FRASER WISHART



COLIN MILLAR



WILLIE JAMIESON



NEIL BERRY



GARY MACKAY



JOHN COLQUHOUN



JIM BETT



COLIN CRAMB



JOHN MILLAR



DAVID HAGEN



SCOTT LEITCH



KEVIN THOMAS



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

CR SMITH



+ TONIGHT'S VISITORS +



HEARTS are tonight's visitors in a match that Celtic will want to win to stay on course for that UEFA Cup place.

The Jambos on the other hand will be desperate for the three points to keep them out of the relegation mire they've been sucked in to.

Here are the men manager Tommy McLean hopes will end the Tynecastle club's run of five straight defeats.



PERFECT POISE
... Craig Levein's consistency has made him a regular in the Scotland set up

CRAIG NELSON joined the Jambos from Partick Thistle in a swap deal that took Nicky Walker to Firhill.

Nelson, 23, has had an up and down season since his arrival at Tynecastle, with the high spot so far a Scotland B squad call-up from Craig Brown.

He's been the course as far as relegation battling is concerned, after being involved in several survival scraps in his time with Thistle.

He'll be all-fired up to keep his new club in the Premier League.

HENRY SMITH is a Hearts veteran. The 39-year-old stopper is in his 15th season with the Edinburgh outfit. He, too, will be desperate to keep the club up - but may have to watch from the touchline. After a couple of below-par performances, by Henry's standards, Nelson has taken over as the first-choice stopper at Tynecastle.

FRASER WISHART is in his second spell as a player under boss Tommy McLean. Full back Fraser was signed from St Mirren when McLean was in charge at Motherwell. And earlier this year McLean came in for him again, prising him away from Rangers for £50,000 to cover for long-term injury victim Steve Frail. Attack-minded Wishart can also play in midfield and will be keen to get forward as much as possible tonight - if he doesn't have his hands full marking the Celtic forwards.

SCOTT LEITCH has made his mark in the Hearts first team since signing from Dunfermline for the start of season 1993-94. His runs from deep could become crucial in the absence of over-lapping full-back Frail.

GARY LOCKE is one of a crop of young players to break through into the first team in recent seasons. He's also been one of the men handed the task of patching up the defence after the transfer of Alan McLaren.

CRAIG LEVEIN is the man Hearts fans will rely on to lead their side out of the relegation area. Another long-serving player, Craig's leadership qualities and stylish play have made him a regular in the Scotland set up. A key player in the defence since his return from suspension following THAT indiscretion with Graeme Hogg in a pre-season friendly.

NEIL BERRY. A stuffy full back who has made a first team berth his own since his transfer from Bolton wanderers more than 10 years ago. Another honest pro known for his aggressive and tenacious tackling.

WILLIE JAMIESON is another who knows all



+ TONIGHT'S VISITORS +

Tom's troops are all set for battle

about First Division football. An honest pro, Willie won't be found wanting when it comes to scrapping for everything. An under-rated player who has done a good job in the centre of the Hearts defence. The Celtic forwards may, however, take advantage of his lack of pace.

DAVID HAGEN is another player Tommy McLean managed to tempt away from Ibrox. Midfielder Hagen has grabbed his chance of regular first team football after being kept out of the Rangers first team by big-money buys. His trickery could cause Celtic problems.

JOHN COLQUHOUN is well-known to Celtic fans. The former Parkhead favourite is always keen to do well against his old mates and you can rest assured he'll be buzzing again tonight. A tricky winger that could cause a lot of problems with his lightning bursts down the flanks. He's also been known to score a goal or two.

COLIN CRAMB was signed to add firepower to the Hearts attack. Still settling in to the Tynecastle style of play and, as a result hasn't yet set the heather on fire. A Good prospect for the future, though.

GARY MACKAY has been with Hearts all his career. An Edinburgh lad, he signed as a 16-year-old and hasn't been tempted to leave. A midfield grafter who is totally committed to the hearts cause. Another who will give 100 per cent effort this evening.

JOHN MILLAR will be one of the men Hearts need to have on top of their form if they are to take anything from Hampden tonight. With John Robertson out through injury, the capital side will be looking to Millar for goals.

ALLAN JOHNSTON is a product of the Tynecastle Boys Club. He, too, is committed to keeping his club in the top flight. His penetrating runs are another vital ingredient in the Hearts attack and a goal or two tonight would put a big smile on the faces of the travelling support.

ALL HEART
... one-club
pro Gary
Mackay will
be giving
his all to
keep the
Edinburgh
side in the
Premier
League



+ Lowdown + Lowdown+

CRAIG NELSON (Aged 23)
Signed from Partick 1994.

HENRY SMITH (Aged 39)
Signed from Leeds 1981

FRASER WISHART (Aged 30)
Signed from Rangers 1995

SCOTT LEITCH (Aged 25)
Signed from Dunfermline 1993

GARY LOCKE (Aged 19)
Signed from Whitehill Welfare 1992

CRAIG LEVEIN (aged 30)
Signed from Cowdenbeath 1983

WILLIE JAMIESON (Aged 31)
Signed from Thistle 1994

DAVID HAGEN (Aged 21)
Signed from Rangers 1994

NEIL BERRY (Aged 32)
Signed from Bolton 1984

JOHN COLQUHOUN (Aged 31)
Signed from Sunderland 1993

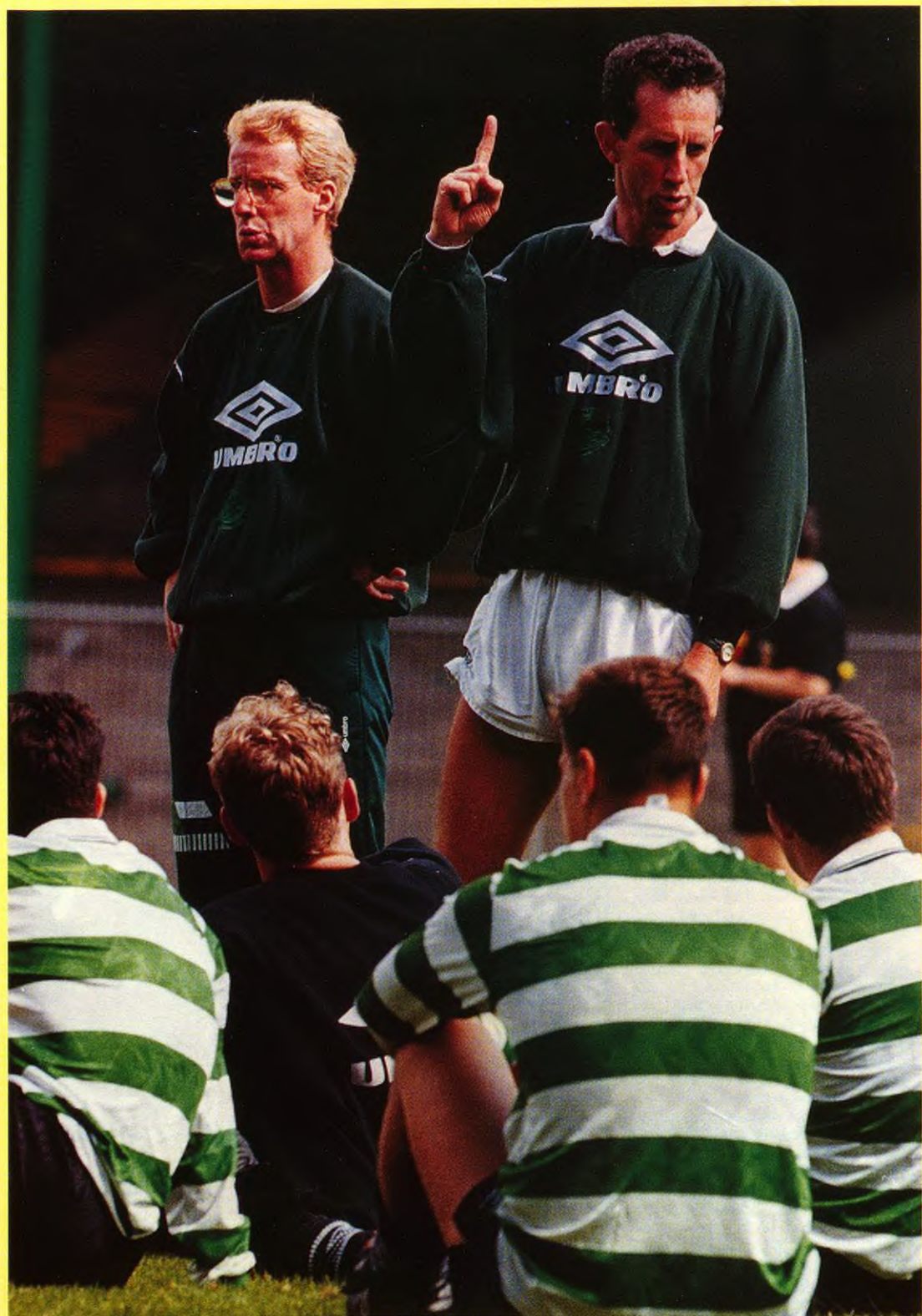
GARY MACKAY (Aged 31)
Signed from Salvesen BC 1980

COLIN CRAMB (Aged 21)
Signed from Falkirk 1995

JOHN MILLAR (Aged 28)
Signed from Blackburn 1991

ALLAN JOHNSTON (Aged 21)
Signed from Tynecastle BC 1990





HARD GRAFT AHEAD

The big INTERVIEW BILLY STARK

“You always have to be one step ahead of things at Celtic and you have to expect some stick.”

CELTIC assistant boss Billy Stark knows football is all about highs and lows. And while the Parkhead men have experienced their low this season with the Coca-Cola Cup final defeat by Raith Rovers back in November, he hopes they still have a real high to come ...

In the Scottish Cup final clash against Airdrie on May 27.

Meantime, however, Billy and Tommy Burns are drumming it into their players that qualification for Europe by the easiest route is first on the agenda – and that means finishing second in the league.

After tonight's match with Hearts, Celtic have five games left to make that UEFA Cup spot.

And while the showpiece Cup final is what everyone is looking forward to, Billy insists there is a lot of work to be done before that.

He said: “The final is always great to be involved in. It's the highlight of the season and a great day.

“But the most important thing for us now is to think, we're in the final, it's great – but let's forget about it until it comes around and concentrate on the league.

“We've got five games to make sure we qualify for Europe and that will be our only concern in the next month.

“It's very much in the minds of the players and we are telling them that they have a real chance now to make this one hell of a season by finishing second and winning the Cup.

“Europe is so important to this club. I think a good example of how important European football is in general is Liverpool's attitude to it in their heyday.

“At that time, they were winning everything in sight. But, each season, the first thing they set out to do was qualify for Europe by the quickest route.

“We would have achieved that by winning the Coca-Cola Cup but that didn't happen. Now it's second spot in the league that we aim for.”

By his own admission, it's been an eventful season for the managerial partnership. They've had off-the-field wrangling with former club Kilmarnock to contend with, alongside bringing life back into a team that was ground down by the continual uncertainties caused

Interview: MERLE BROWN

by boardroom struggles prior to Fergus McCann taking over.

But, although it has been a topsy-turvy ride, Billy reckons things are on the right road now and he's happy to be at Celtic Park in what looks like being a fresh dawn for the once-troubled club.

He said: “There have been a lot of peripheral things to deal with outside of the football but that has to be expected when you are at a big club like this.

“And, while it would be great to be able to opt out and just get involved on the training pitch with the players all the time, Tommy and I know that is not all that our jobs are about.

“It is different here to Kilmarnock. While I think they are one of the top six teams in the country, you are never going to be under the microscope at a club like that the way you are here.

“You always have to be one step ahead of things at Celtic and you have to expect some stick.

“We lost the Coca-Cola Cup but I would still argue with anyone who says we didn't play well that day.

“It was just one mistake with six or so minutes to go. I think because we had scored late on to give us the lead and because of the pressure that was on everyone to win that trophy, we just thought we'd done it.

“But, obviously, that wasn't the case. We allowed them to score and everyone knows the rest...”

“But we have learned from that and it won't happen again.”

He continued: “In the last half dozen matches we have to be pleased with the way the team has pushed forward. In the majority of cases, fortune does favour the brave and that's how it's been for us.

“In the Motherwell match we really showed that. We were losing 1-0 but then got the goal back and had them pinned back for the rest of the game.

“I think the push forward has been shown well through a player like Tosh McKinlay. He's been a model of consistency for us recently and was our best player over the two semi-finals.

“He has settled in now and is doing a terrific job, showing great poise on the ball, good tackling abilities and forming an important partnership with John Collins down the left.”

Tommy Burns is the No1 in the managerial set-up at Celtic Park but, unlike some assistant bosses, Billy is not the type who stays in the background.

And he is happy with the set-up. He said: “Tommy is maybe better qualified to talk about this than I am, but it's always worked like this with us.

“Obviously, Tommy does have a higher profile and a lot more on his plate. And, for a young man in the managerial sense, he has done particularly well to cope with it.

“It is sometimes difficult to define the job of an assistant boss, but here it's not really like that.

“We've been friends since we were players and we work well as a pair. We are relaxed in each other's company and there is definitely no animosity between us at all – Tommy isn't the type who would worry about that anyway.

“We are both enjoying our time at Celtic and hope we have many successful times ahead – starting with the Scottish Cup.

“But I can't stress enough that until the week before the final, we will forget about it and concentrate on taking maximum points from our remaining league fixtures.”

