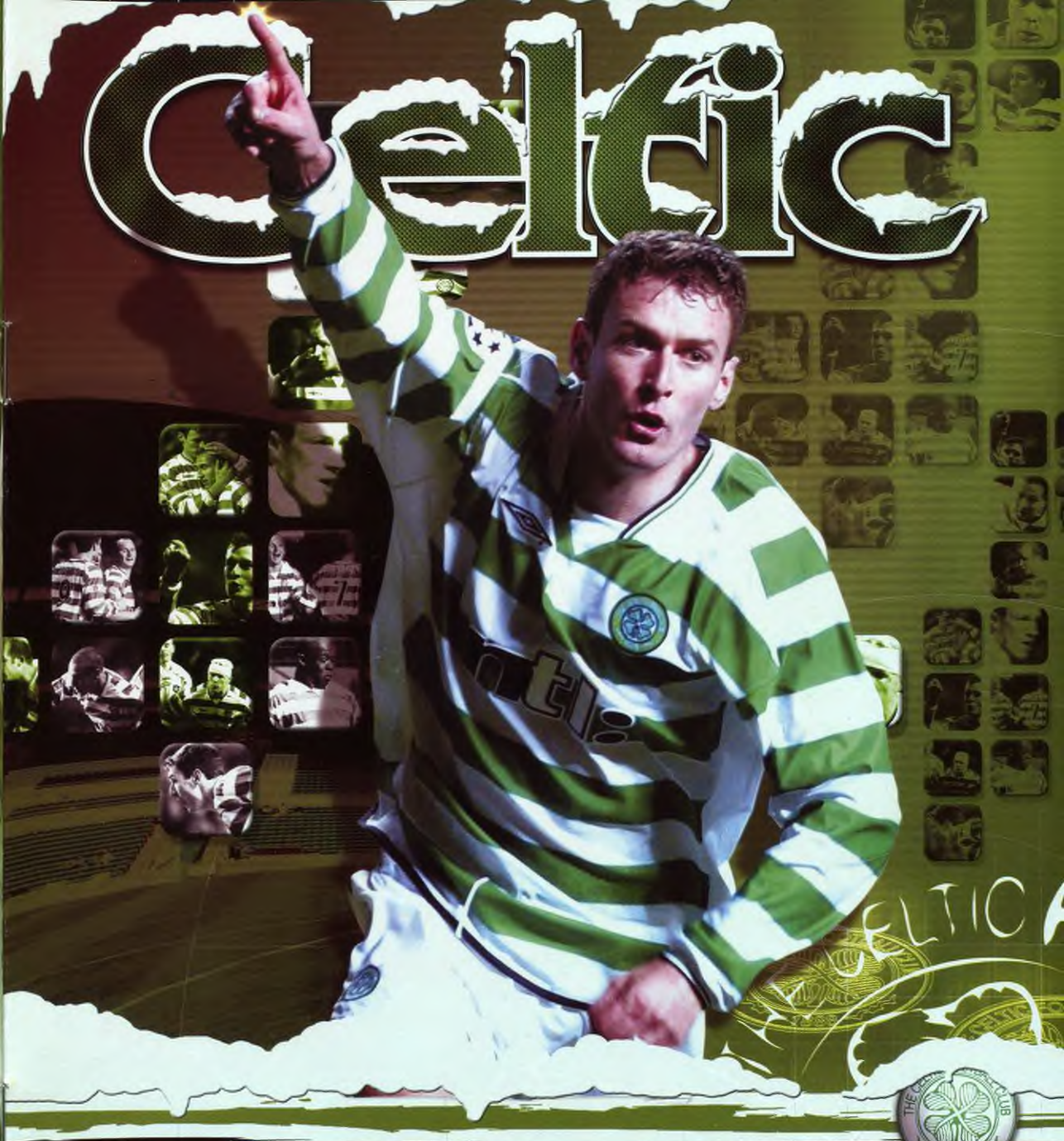


Celtic



ntl:



CELTIC
v **LIVINGSTON**
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
CELTIC PARK
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26 2001
KICK-OFF 3pm



£2
Programme No. 19

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Players appreciate the backing of Celtic fans

I'M afraid it's the same old story as far as festive programme notes are concerned.

As I write I do not know the outcome of our league game last weekend at Pittodrie or, indeed, the result of the CIS quarter-final tie at Almondvale against today's formidable opponents Livingston.

The only thing I can say for certain is that both games will have been tough encounters indeed, with Aberdeen going for a record ninth successive home win, and Livingston enjoying the sort of season of which few of their supporters could have dreamed.

It seems strange to talk, therefore, about the Dundee game, our last home fixture at Celtic Park, when so much has happened since, but there's no better place to begin.

It was indeed a great effort by the team in the second half to turn potential defeat into victory.

We were rather subdued in the first half and so allowed a talented Dundee team to take the initiative, and also the lead, within the first 20 minutes.

An unusual experience in recent months in the SPL – to be trailing at Celtic Park – but despite sections of the crowd getting a little impatient and frustrated, with little reason in recent days, the players themselves upped the tempo and found enough cohesion and guile to overcome Dundee.

Considering the circumstances, I thought it was a terrific win.

The game itself served as a reminder that absolutely nothing in football is certain.

We have no divine right to win football matches at Celtic Park, or anywhere else for that matter.

We will lose games, as the club have done in the past, and sometimes, no matter how well we might play, things will turn against us and defeats will follow.

Such is the nature of football.

We will do our utmost to prevent such things happening but be prepared for it – or better still, help the players prevent it by giving the type of support that helped enormously in the defeats of Porto, Rosenborg, Juventus and Valencia in recent weeks.

Today's opponents, Livingston, deserve praise for the way in which they have adapted to life in the SPL in this, their first season in the top flight.

The fact that they are seriously challenging for a European place is testimony to the progress the club has made. And credit must be given to the managerial partnership of David Hay and Jim Leishman for their contribution to that success.

We will obviously have to be at our best to ensure victory, and with your backing I know the players will give everything to get all three points.

The Dundee game served as a reminder that nothing in football is certain

Martin O'Neill

As seen on NTL and STV



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today's squads

CELTIC | LIVINGSTON



RAB DOUGLAS	20	JAVIER BROTO	1
DIMITRE KHARINE	23	PHILIPPE BRINQUIN	2
JONATHAN GOULD	1	GARY BOLLAN	3
TOM BOYD	2	OSCAR RUBIO	4
MOMO SYLLA	3	MARVIN ANDREWS	5
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	JOHN ANDERSON	6
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	BARRY WILSON	7
DIANBOBO BALDE	6	STEVIE TOSH	8
HENRIK LARSSON	7	NATHAN LOWNDES	9
ALAN THOMPSON	8	DAVID FERNANDEZ	10
CHRIS SUTTON	9	DAVID BINGHAM	11
JOHN HARTSON	10	FRANCISCO QUINO	12
MORTEN WIEGHORST	11	DAVIDE XAUSA	13
PAUL LAMBERT	14	CARLOS AURELLIO	15
BOBBY PETTA	15	NICK CULKIN	16
OLIVIER TEBILY	16	STUART LOVELL	17
DIDIER AGATHE	17	DAVID McEWAN	18
NEIL LENNON	18	CHERIF TOURE-MAMAN	19
STILIAN PETROV	19	STEPHEN WHALEN	20
COLIN HEALY	24	SIMONE DEL NERO	24
LUBOMIR MORAVCIK	25	MASSIMILIANO CAPUTO	25
SHAUN MALONEY	29	DARREN BRADY	26
STEVE GUPPY	30	DAVID McGUIRE	27
SIMON LYNCH	32	DIDIER SANTINI	28
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	BRIAN McPHEE	29
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	STEWART GEARCEN	31
JAMIE SMITH	39	VINCENT SULLIVAN	32
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40		
JOHN KENNEDY	41		
LIAM MILLER	43		

Referee: GARRY MITCHELL

Assistant Referees: JOE McDOWALL

RICKY MOONEY

Fourth Official: EDDIE MACK

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Willie McStay

UNDER-21 COACH

Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Brian Scott

MEDICAL ADVISOR

Jack Mulhearn

CLUB DOCTOR

Roddy Macdonald

KIT CONTROLLER

John Clark



PHOENIX HONDA





jamie smith

Inside Track

Jamie Smith had the chance to view Livingston's progress during a loan spell at Almondvale

Words: Alison McConnell

LIVINGSTON have only just made their acquaintance with the SPL, but for Jamie Smith, the Almondvale side are old hat.

The 21-year-old midfielder spent a few months on loan shortly after Davie Hay and Jim Leishman replaced Ray Stewart at Livingston. And the Celtic youngster hasn't been at all surprised at the way in which the SPL new boys have taken the league by storm.

Many of the faces at Almondvale who welcomed Smith a season and a half ago have moved on, but the midfielder was always confident that the motivation and experience provided by Leishman and Hay would sustain their involvement in the Premier League.

Livingston, of course, were impressive in holding Martin O'Neill's side to a 0-0 draw at Almondvale earlier in the season and Smith has been impressed by the way Livvy have gone about their business since winning promotion.

"I had a great time at Livingston, and although the team has almost completely changed since I was there, the faces in the backroom staff are the same," he explained.

"Jim and Davie were just starting their partnership when I went there, but what a season they have had so far; they have been absolutely brilliant.

"I think with guys who have the depth of



AND SMITH MUST SCORE Jamie looked like a real prospect after returning from a loan spell at Almondvale, to score against Aberdeen in a 6-0 home victory

experience they have, they were always going to do well whoever was playing, and I've not been too surprised at how well they have done.

"They are really good motivators and great in the dressing room before a game. I wouldn't like to compare them with what I have known here because everyone works in different ways and has their own style.

"They are so close behind Rangers at the minute and I'm sure they'll be desperate to come here and do well. There's no doubt it'll be a very hard game.

YOUNG-STAR

Jamie Smith has skirted Martin O'Neill's first team for a year getting his chance in the CIS Cup



"They held us to a draw earlier in the season, and I'm sure they'll be looking to come and attack because that's the type of team they are and that's the best way to be."

The experience Smith picked up from his time with Livingston, who were then in the First Division, benefited him enormously and the youngster was delighted to play first-team football in a competitive environment.

Despite the fact that Smith and Davie Hay both had links back to Celtic Park, the midfielder revealed that the former Celtic player and manager was only focused on taking the Almondvale side into the SPL.

"There was never any talk about what was happening at Celtic either past or present. I was just treated as a Livingston player the same as everyone else. I was just on loan. I played six games in two months and it was a brilliant experience for me and exactly what I needed at that time."

At the moment, Smith faces a tough task to win a place in the first-team at Celtic Park that is packed full of quality internationalists. Last season Smith, along with other up-and-coming players from the reserve ranks, made an impact through the CIS Insurance Cup and then towards the close of the season when they were involved in the first-team, with the midfielder's

All I can do is work hard and keep trying to do my best but it is difficult with such a strong squad

performances winning him a place in the Scotland under-21 squad.

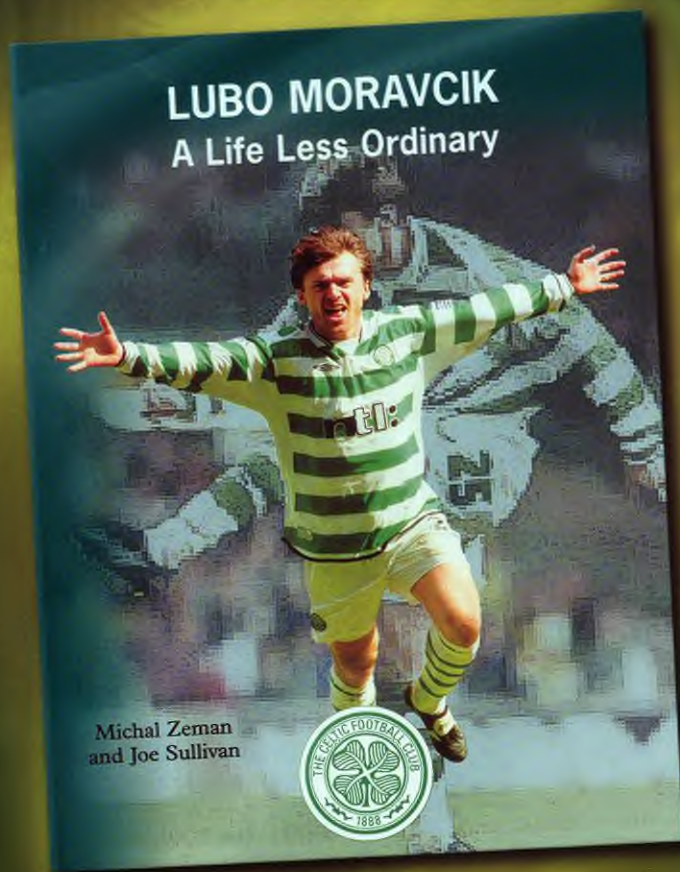
It has proved to be increasingly difficult for the left-sided midfielder to break into the first-team this season, with his most recent involvement coming in the CIS Cup against Stirling Albion, but Smith is determined to keep on plugging away.

"All I can do is work hard and keep trying to do my best," he explained, "but it is difficult because there is such a strong squad and the boys who are playing regularly are doing very well. However, there is no other option but to keep working hard in training and in under-21 games. You can't let your head go down, you just have to keep aiming for it and maintain a positive attitude all the time.

"I've played in plenty of under-21 games this season and it's good because it is keeping my match fitness up and that is important. Playing games is the only way to ensure you're match fit and sharp and at the minute I'm fully focused on working as hard as I can."

With a glut of players all pushing for a starting place in Martin O'Neill's squad, Smith knows he has his work cut out if he wants to make it into the first-team, but the youngster at least has the right determination to match his Celtic ambitions.

"WHAT DO I WISH FOR MOST?"



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Celtic



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1. Which Celt is joint holder of having scored in 10 successive league games?
2. With which three clubs has David Hay won Championship medals as manager?
3. In which season did Celtic play a match on Christmas day and against who?
4. Other than Larsson who was the only nominee for the European Player of the Year not to play in France, Spain, Italy, England or Germany?
5. Who was the first player to score 100 Premier League goals?
6. Which club did Jim Leishman manage in a Scottish Cup tie v Celtic in Jan '92?
7. Which Celtic player since the war holds the record in that 13 years separate his first and last League Championship medal with the club?
8. Which European country in established a record in qualifying for the World Cup Finals for the sixth time in succession?
9. What player scored Livingston's first goal in the SPL?
10. Which current SPL player scored for

Celtic v Meadowbank in '94/95?

11. Which is the only European side to win the World Club Championship on three occasions?
12. With which club other than Hearts and Livingston did John Robertson play?
13. Which players since the war have scored 100 league goals on both sides of the border?
14. Since 1990 which three men have been voted European Player of the Year while playing with Barcelona?
15. Against which clubs did Paul McStay score his two goals for Celtic in Europe?

Answers

1. Mark Viduka 99/2000. 2. Motherwell, Celtic & Lilliestrom. 3. 71/72 Celtic defeated Hearts 3-2 at Celtic Park. 4. Frank Emmuel Otiashede of Panathinaikos. 5. Frank McGarvey Nov 84. 6. Monrose. 7. Bobby Lennox 1965/66 & 1978/79. 8. Belgium. 9. Quino against Hearts. 10. Willie Falconer: Celtic won 3-0 in a Scottish Cup tie at Hampden. 11. AC Milan 1969 1989 1990. 12. Newcastle Ltd. 13. Kenny Dalglish & Neil Martin. 14. Hristo Stoichkov 1994 Rivaldo 1999 Luis Figo 2000. 15. FC Ghent 84/85 & Cologne 92/93.


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What record did Celtic establish when they defeated Aberdeen 6-0 at Pittodrie in December 1999?


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