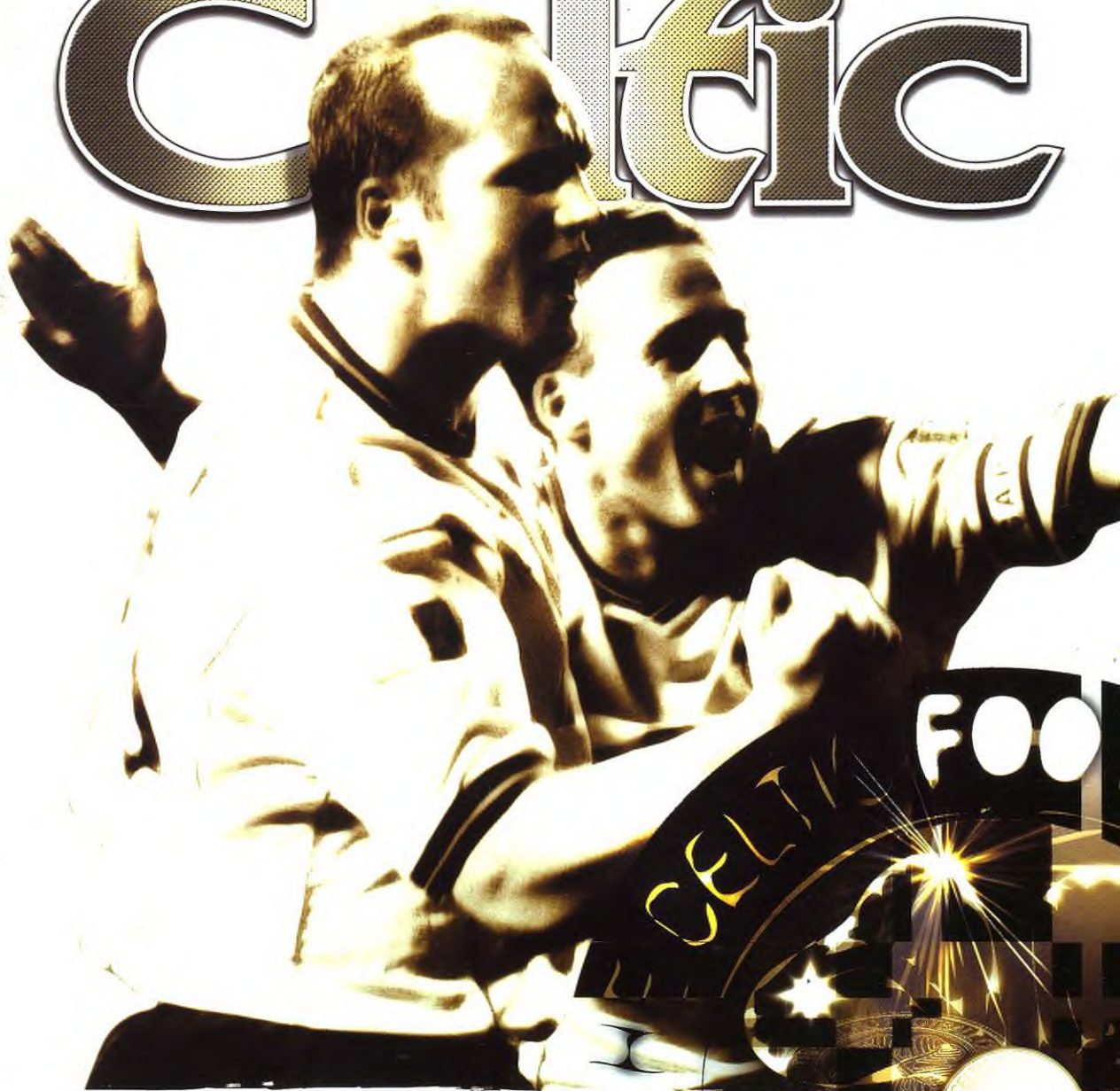


Celtic



ntl:



BAR★CINI

CELTIC
v **ST JOHNSTONE**
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
CELTIC PARK
SATURDAY JANUARY 19 2002
KICK-OFF 3pm



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Programme No. 21

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martino'neill



Our rewards and progress are there to be fought for

MUCH has happened since we last played at Celtic Park in early January. We have progressed to the next round of the Scottish Cup and have gained another three points in our quest to retain the title.

The game on January 2 saw us take on and finally break down a very stubborn Motherwell team. We created many chances in the game but their goalkeeper, Stephen Woods, was in inspired form and made save after save to deny us the breakthrough but finally submitted to an 81st minute Henrik Larsson goal, much to the relief and ecstasy of everyone in the stadium.

After the goal Motherwell themselves broke out in an attempt to get an equaliser thus leaving gaps for us to exploit and John Hartson did precisely that to run in a second goal for us. Despite the lateness of the victory it was very much deserved.

The following Saturday saw a postponement with our Scottish Cup tie with Alloa at Brockville, the pitch being frozen, but the weather relented and the tie took place a few days later.

Despite some changes in the team the players performed excellently. Morten Wieghorst,

making very good progress in recent weeks, started the game, played splendidly, scored a goal and was voted Man of the Match.

Other goals by Bobo Balde, Shaun Maloney, Bobby Petta and Momo Sylla gave us a relatively comfortable win over a team that never gave up until the final whistle.

A trip to Kilmarnock in the next round is our reward and it was to Rugby Park last Saturday that we travelled for the dress rehearsal of the fourth round tie.

Kilmarnock played very well indeed in the game and caused us many problems but such is the resolve, determination and ability of the players at this club that they stepped up another gear in the second half and all three points were taken when John Hartson and Paul Lambert scored the goals.

With Rangers having beaten Livingston earlier in the day I have no need to emphasise how vital the win at Rugby Park was.

We now know we must win another 11 of our remaining 15 SPL fixtures to retain the title.

Contrary to reports this week I did not have any bust-up with a director concerning team selection for the Alloa cup tie.

There was not a shred of truth in the report and I have absolutely no idea why it was written. Never at any stage have the board questioned me on footballing matters, pertaining to team selection.

Today we play St Johnstone who in their home game performed as well against us as anyone has done this season.

A last minute free-kick from Henrik Larsson sealed victory for us in a match that, in truth, could have gone either way. Billy Stark's players put absolutely all they had into the game and could count themselves unlucky to leave pointless.

Luck is something that has not been in great abundance for them in recent weeks if reports on their games are correct. Hopefully that luck will turn in the coming months and their efforts to avoid relegation will be rewarded.

Meanwhile, Didier Agathe joined in for some light training a few days ago, is doing splendidly and he is not a million miles away from first-team duty again.

Similarly, Chris Sutton and Stephen Craigne are also making progress and I'm naturally hoping that both will be training with the first team as soon as possible.

We have the resolve and ability to step up a gear when needed

As seen on NTL and STV

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facts

Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park (cap 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks.
Away strip: Yellow shirts, green shorts and socks.
Third strip: White Shirts, Black shorts and socks.
Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1954)
Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)
Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)
Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory, 1935/36
Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair, 1986/87; Henrik Larsson, 2000/01
Website: www.celticfc.net



honours

Scottish League (37)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06, 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15, 1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98, 2000/2001

Scottish Cup (31)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995, 2001

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98, 1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1)

1967

Coronation Cup (1)

1953

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CELTIC	23	21	1	1	55	11	64
Rangers	23	15	6	2	52	17	51
Livingston	23	11	7	5	33	20	40
Hearts	24	10	4	10	34	29	34
Aberdeen	23	10	3	10	32	35	33
Kilmarnock	23	9	4	10	23	26	31
Dunfermline	23	8	4	11	25	37	28
Dundee	22	7	5	10	23	34	26
Dundee Utd	24	6	7	11	23	43	25
Motherwell	24	6	6	12	31	45	24
Hibernian	24	5	7	12	27	36	22
St Johnstone	24	3	4	17	15	40	13

TODAY'S OTHER FIXTURES

Aberdeen v Rangers (5.35pm)
 Dundee Utd v Dundee
 Dunfermline v Motherwell
 Hibernian v Kilmarnock
 Livingston v Hearts

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

Wednesday, January 23
Celtic v Hearts ko 7.45pm
 Dundee v Livingston
 Dunfermline v Rangers
 Hibernian v Aberdeen
 Motherwell v Kilmarnock
 St Johnstone v Dundee Utd

UNDER-18 FIXTURES (Bold: home games)

Hibs	Jan 22	1pm	Glasgow Green	Lge
Rangers	Jan 26	1pm,	Excelsior Stadium	Lge
Ross Cty	Feb 2	tbc		Lge
Rangers	Feb 6	7pm	Strathclyde Homes Stad	YC
St Mirren	Feb 9	tbc		Lge
Aberdeen	Feb 16	tbc		Lge
St Johnstone	Feb 23	tbc		Lge
Falkirk	Mar 2	tbc		Lge
Dundee Utd	Mar 9	tbc		Lge
Dundee	Mar 16	tbc		Lge
Dunfermline	Mar 23	tbc		Lge
Hearts	Mar 30	tbc		Lge
Hibs	Apr 6	tbc		Lge
Raith Rvs	Apr 13	tbc		Lge
Kilmarnock	Apr 20	tbc		Lge
Livingston	Apr 27	tbc		Lge
Motherwell	May 4	tbc		Lge

FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

UNDER-21 FIXTURES

Dundee	Feb 4	2pm	Excelsior Stadium	Lge
Dundee Utd	Feb 11	tbc		Lge
Dunfermline	Feb 18	tbc		Lge
Hearts	Feb 25	tbc		Lge
Hibs	Mar 4	tbc	Excelsior Stadium	Lge
Kilmarnock	Mar 11	tbc		Lge
Livingston	Mar 18	tbc	Excelsior Stadium	Lge
Motherwell	Mar 25	tbc		Lge
Rangers	Apr 1	tbc	Excelsior Stadium	Lge
St Johnstone	Apr 8	tbc		Lge

Outstanding Fixture: v St Johnstone (from 19/11/01) tbc

FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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today's squads

CELTIC | ST JOHNSTONE

RAB DOUGLAS	20	DARREN DODS	2
DIMITRE KHARINE	23	STUART McCLUSKEY	3
JONATHAN GOULD	1	NICK DASOVIC	4
TOM BOYD	2	JIM WEIR	5
MOMO SYLLA	3	BENITO KEMBLE	6
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	TOMMY LOVENKRANDS	7
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	CRAIG RUSSELL	8
DIANBOBO BALDE	6	GRAEME JONES	9
HENRIK LARSSON	7	JOHN-PAUL McBRIDE	10
ALAN THOMPSON	8	PAUL KANE	11
CHRIS SUTTON	9	GRANT MURRAY	12
JOHN HARTSON	10	PADDY CONNOLLY	14
MORTEN WIEGHORST	11	ALAN MILLER	15
PAUL LAMBERT	14	WILLIE FALCONER	16
BOBBY PETTA	15	PAUL HARTLEY	17
OLIVIER TEBILY	16	KEIGAN PARKER	18
DIDIER AGATHE	17	MARC McCULLOCH	19
NEIL LENNON	18	ROSS FORSYTH	20
STILIAN PETROV	19	KEVIN CUTHBERT	21
COLIN HEALY	24	DAVID McCLUNE	22
LUBOMIR MORAVCIK	25	BRANDAN CROZIER	23
SHAUN MALONEY	29	RACHID DJEBAILI	24
STEVE GUPPY	30	DARREN JACKSON	25
SIMON LYNCH	32	STUART MALCOLM	26
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	PETER MacDONALD	27
JOHAN MJALLBY	35		
JAMIE SMITH	39		
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40		
JOHN KENNEDY	41		
LIAM MILLER	43		

Referee: KEVIN TONER
 Assistant Referees: GRAEME ALISON
 RODDY COBB
 Fourth Official: JOHN GILMOUR

TODAY'S MASCOTS
 Campbell Nelson (9)
 &
 Sarah O'Connell (12)

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Tommy Burns

HEAD YOUTH COACH

Willie McStay

UNDER-21 COACH

Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Brian Scott

MEDICAL ADVISOR

Jack Mulhearn

CLUB DOCTOR

Roddy Macdonald

KIT CONTROLLER

John Clark



PHOENIX HONDA



Confidence Trick

MOMO SYLLA hopes to win back the self-belief he earned last season playing for St Johnstone
Words: Stephen Sullivan

WITH the chasm between St Johnstone and their fellow strugglers showing no sign of narrowing we continue to be told Billy Stark's men are certain to go down.

However, as the relatively new Saints' boss continues to battle bravely against the odds, one of the Perth club's old boys has advised the fans not to begin preparing for life in Division One quite yet.

Momo Sylla knows more than most about the qualities contained within the St Johnstone dressing room.

Having spent his first season in Scottish football plying his trade at McDiarmid Park he can predict the chain of thought for a team in their position.

Indeed, since Martin O'Neill paid £700,000 to prise him away from Perth, the Guinean's knack for producing the unpredictable has been sorely missed.

Though Sylla's departure is not the only reason the Perth side find themselves lacking in confidence and down on their luck.

But although he takes no pleasure in seeing his former club anchored nine points adrift at the bottom of the table, Sylla believes the

Saints have enough quality to pull themselves out of the mire.

He said: "I am disappointed to see St Johnstone doing badly because they were my first team in Scotland and I am grateful to them for what they did for me.

"It is not over for them yet. The league has a long way to go and if they find confidence, three victories can come very quickly.

"Nine points is not too much for St Johnstone because they do have some good players. What is important is they concentrate for 90 minutes in every game because that is the difference between winning and losing.

"Just look at how many games we have won by keeping going until the very last second. That is important in any game, whether it is a World Cup final or an amateur match."

Sylla may be offering encouragement to St Johnstone, but such sentiments are unlikely to help him avoid a repeat dose of the abuse he received on his return to McDiarmid Park.

The vitriol from sections of the home support was so vicious it forced police to recommend the player cease his warm-up and return to the dug-out, where he remained for



the entirety of the match. Although this attack on a player St Johnstone made a handsome profit from earned condemnation, Sylla claims he was not upset by the reaction of supporters who once idolised him.

"I was not disappointed, I understood why they did it. Last year when I was playing with St Johnstone they were always singing my name, but I expected they would not like to see me at McDiarmid Park in a Celtic strip.

"That is maybe why the manager didn't play me because every time I touched the ball I would have been booed. But I have no bad feelings towards the supporters and I think they understand why I came to Celtic.

"The good thing is that they will be a very small number compared to the Celtic fans today and if I do play I should have more cheers than boos.

"It will be a tough match. Any player would love to play in front of 60,000 and when you are with a smaller club like St Johnstone, it motivates you. We have the fans on our side and that makes a big difference."

Sylla has so far struggled to get his fledgling Celtic career off the ground, impressing in his



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momo *sylla*



SYLLA BHOY

Momo has tried hard to make an impact in the games he's had and although he has found it hard Sylla is hoping to show he can live up to the expectations created the day he signed on with the Champions



There will be a small number of Saints compared to Celts

fleeting first-team outings but generally finding himself a place or two behind in the queue for starting places.

Recently, he led the front line tirelessly against Alloa in the Scottish Cup but, despite netting, he admits the lack of a consistent run has adversely affected his confidence.

Nevertheless, the versatile Guinean claims to be loving life in Paradise and insists he'll play anywhere to fit into Martin O'Neill's treble-chasing side.

"I am enjoying it a lot here. My English is not great, but I get on well with the other players and I am always trying to have a joke in the dressing room.

"Okay, I've not been playing all the time

but I feel that I am making progress and, when I have played, I have played hard.

"Now I am looking to work on my confidence because I don't have a lot at the moment. I want to be as confident as I was last year but I know it will be difficult to do that by playing because Celtic is a much bigger club than St Johnstone.

"There are many more good players here and the manager has to pick the team he thinks is best. I respect his decision, but I will be happy to play in any position.

"It just depends on where he wants to play me – on the left, on the right, up front or at the back – and I will be comfortable with whatever he decides."

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