

Celtic



ntl:



CELTIC
v HEARTS
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
CELTIC PARK
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23 2002
KICK-OFF 7.45pm

£2
Programme No. 22



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martino'neill



We have to give our all over these coming weeks

WHEN Alan Thompson fired home a free-kick in the ninth minute of our game last Saturday against St Johnstone, I don't believe there was anyone in the stadium – myself included – who thought it would be the last goal of the day.

It had been the third time the ball had hit the net that afternoon in a five-minute period and put us in front against Billy Stark's team, they having taken the lead in the seventh minute.

Unfortunately, on Saturday we were unable to build on such an open start and, consequently, did just about enough to win without a second goal to our name.

There was always a danger that, despite our stranglehold on possession, our opponents could make us pay by grabbing a late equaliser. But by the end of play on Saturday our lead at the top of the table remained intact, with

Rangers also winning narrowly at Pittodrie.

We know we can play much, much better and will certainly need to tonight when we face Hearts.

They gave us a very difficult game when we visited Tynecastle in November when Henrik Larsson struck the only goal from the penalty spot after Didier Agathe was fouled in the box.

Accused wrongly by many in the stadium of diving, Didier is still recovering from the injury sustained some 10 weeks on. Thankfully, he has made good progress and I hope he will be back in the first-team squad soon. Now, 10 victories in 14 games will ensure the Championship returns to Celtic Park, but I cannot look further than tonight's game.

Despite their defeat on Saturday against Livingston, Hearts have enjoyed a resurgence under Craig

Levein and good times seem destined to return to Tynecastle.

They were criticised in some quarters for their approach to the game when they last visited Celtic Park earlier in the season. Personally speaking, I had no problem with their tactics whatsoever, nor have I with any of the teams who come to play their own way here.

It's up to the opposition to play in whatever manner they see fit and, no matter how Hearts approach tonight's match, it is our responsibility to break them down.

As from this evening, midweek fixtures abound so there will be little time for reflection. Difficult games in both cup competitions are also upon us so the schedule is unrelenting for the foreseeable future. But the players are confident and we will give everything towards achieving success on all fronts.

“
We know
we can
play better
– and must
tonight to
beat Hearts
”

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Alan Thompson



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	24	22	1	1	57	12	67
Rangers	24	16	6	2	53	17	54
Livingston	24	12	7	5	35	20	43
Hearts	25	10	4	11	34	31	34
Aberdeen	24	10	3	11	32	36	33
Kilmarnock	24	9	5	10	25	28	32
Dunfermline	24	9	4	11	28	38	31
Dundee Utd	25	7	7	11	24	43	28
Dundee	23	7	5	11	23	35	26
Motherwell	25	6	6	13	32	48	24
Hibernian	25	5	8	12	29	38	23
St Johnstone	25	3	4	18	16	42	13

TONIGHT'S OTHER SPL FIXTURES

Dundee v Livingston
 Dunfermline v Rangers
 Hibernian v Aberdeen
 Motherwell v Kilmarnock

THIS SATURDAY'S SCOTTISH CUP FIXTURES

Aberdeen v Livingston
 Ayr v Dunfermline
 Rangers/Berwick v Hibs
 Clyde v Forfar
 Dundee Utd v Hamilton
 Hearts v Inverness CT
Kilmarnock v Celtic (5.35pm)
 Partick Th v Dundee

UNDER-18 FIXTURES (Bold: home games)

Team	Date	Time	Venue	League
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

Team	Date	Time	Venue	League
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 | HEARTS

RAB DOUGLAS	20	ALAN MAYBURY	2
DIMITRE KHARINE	23	STEPHANE MAHE	3
JONATHAN GOULD	1	STEVEN PRESSLEY	4
TOM BOYD	2	KEVIN McKENNA	5
MOMO SYLLA	3	SCOTT SEVERIN	6
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	THOMAS FLOGEL	7
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	ROBERT TOMASCHEK	8
DIANBOBO BALDE	6	STEPHANE ADAM	9
HENRIK LARSSON	7	TOMMI GRONLUND	10
ALAN THOMPSON	8	RICARDO FULLER	11
CHRIS SUTTON	9	STEVEN BOYACK	12
JOHN HARTSON	10	RODDY McKENZIE	13
MORTEN WIEGHORST	11	ANDY KIRK	14
PAUL LAMBERT	14	GARY WALES	15
BOBBY PETTA	15	STEVE FULTON	16
OLIVIER TEBILY	16	KENNY MILNE	17
DIDIER AGATHE	17	AUSTIN McCANN	18
NEIL LENNON	18	GARY McSWEGAN	19
STILIAN PETROV	19	ROBBIE NEILSON	21
COLIN HEALY	24	DARREN GOLDIE	22
LUBOMIR MORAVCIK	25	ANDREW WEBSTER	23
SHAUN MALONEY	29	ANTON SMITH	24
STEVE GUPPY	30	ANTTI NIEMI	26
SIMON LYNCH	32	STEPHEN SIMMONS	28
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	RYAN DAVIDSON	29
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	BARRY SMITH	30
JAMIE SMITH	39	CRAIG GORDON	31
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40	PAUL KACZAN	33
JOHN KENNEDY	41	NEIL JANCZYK	34
LIAM MILLER	43	ROBERT SLOAN	35

Referee: BOBBY ORR

Assistant Referees: JIM McBRIDE

FRANK COLE

Fourth Official: CHARLIE RICHMOND

TONIGHT'S MASCOT

Paul Townsend
from Cumbernauld

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB

Celtic Park
Glasgow G40 3RE
0141-556 2611

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COACH

Steve Wolford

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Tommy Burns

HEAD YOUTH COACH

Willie McStay

UNDER-21 COACH

Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Brian Scott

MEDICAL ADVISOR

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CLUB DOCTOR

Roddy Macdonald

KIT CONTROLLER

John Clark



PHOENIX HONDA





Heart of the Matter

JACKIE McNAMARA will fight for a regular spot in a Celtic side aiming for another Treble year
Words: Alison McConnell

It would really be massive if we could go on and win the title again

THIS evening Hearts are the latest team to come to Celtic Park and attempt to thwart Martin O'Neill's side from adding another three points to their tally, but if the statistics are to be believed then the Tynecastle side will be in for a difficult evening.

Celtic have not lost on league duty in their own back yard since Dundee triumphed 2-0 in the penultimate game of last season's campaign when the title had already been safely secured.

Although the Hoops have a big advantage over the rest of the pack at the minute, every point is pursued with the same urgency as they were at the beginning of the campaign.

Jackie McNamara has seen managers come and go during his stint at Celtic Park, and he is delighted with the philosophy that reigns in the current dressing room.

Said the midfielder: "It would be a massive thing if we could go on to win the title again this season because it has been such a long time since Celtic won the Championship and

then held onto it the following season.

"Things have really turned around since the manager came in and it's a fantastic time to be associated with the club and be involved in everything that's going on.

"I got a wee chance because Didier [Agathe] was injured. He's on his way back now but it's up to me to keep doing as well as I can in training and on the pitch.

"It doesn't bother me where I'm asked to play because I have always played in a variety of positions throughout my career, and even played on the left when I was at Dunfermline. The only position I don't fancy is going in goals!

"I prefer playing in the middle of the park or else on the right side of midfield with someone behind me, but as I said I don't mind where I play because everyone is desperate for a game."

It's well known that McNamara resides in the East Coast and his association with Hibs, one of the clubs his father played for, is equally noted but the 28-year-old isn't



perturbed at coming up against the other team from the capital.

"It doesn't really bother me at all and, to be honest, it's just another game," reflected the midfielder. "You hear the odd shouts sometimes, more so when we're playing at Tynecastle because my dad played for Hibs but you get that everywhere and it doesn't bother me.

"Sometimes you hear stray comments from the crowd, but it's not something you have time to pay attention to. It can be laughable at times what you hear, but there's no point in letting it affect your game. It's just part and parcel of football."

There haven't been many personnel changes since the Treble was secured last season and it is such continuity McNamara feels has benefited the club enormously.

"It's good to have the stability that continuity brings, and it has been good that we have kept the core of the team who won the Treble last season," he remarked.

"The players who have come in like John





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jackie mcnamara



JACK THE LAD McNamara has found it difficult to hold down a regular place but he is still loving every minute of being involved with the side

*I'm sure
that the
manager
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Hartson and Bobo Balde have done very well and fitted quickly into the team.

"I think the manager has a big influence over bringing players like that to the club, as well as ensuring that some of them extend their contracts. It was certainly a big boost for everyone at the club when Henrik signed an extension to his deal last summer."

For McNamara the hard work will continue over the coming weeks as he strives to work his way into the starting 11.

However, whatever the future months hold, McNamara is determined to stay and fight for his place rather than look elsewhere for regular first-team football.

"I still have just over two years to run and I'm more than happy here at the minute. There have been a few pressure games recently for us but I'm enjoying my football and even when not playing I was still enjoying being a part of it, it's just that you want to be more involved.

"Obviously it is difficult to keep all the players who aren't playing happy but with the way the lads have been performing each week, it is very difficult to put up a case because they have done so well.

"We have two big cup games coming up in the next few weeks against Kilmarnock and Rangers and I'm sure the manager will need all the resources that he has."

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