

# Celtic

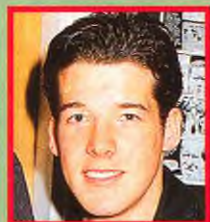
**V FALKIRK**

**BELL'S SCOTTISH  
LEAGUE  
PREMIER DIVISION  
SATURDAY, OCT 22  
1994. KICK-OFF 3PM.**

**INSIDE**

**THE BIG MATCH  
PICTURE REVIEW**

**Plus++Plus++Plus**



**BRIAN O'NEIL  
PLAYER PROFILE**



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# PHOENIX HONDA

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# TOMMY BURNS



**F**IRST of all I'd like to welcome Jim Jefferies and everyone connected with Falkirk to Hampden for today's match.

I know it will be a difficult game as Falkirk did very well in winning a tough division last season.

They think about the game and pass the ball in an attractive manner and that should provide us with the kind of challenge we relish.

It could be the ideal preparation for Wednesday when we take on Aberdeen in the Coca-Cola Cup at Ibrox, another game everyone at the club is looking forward to.

The midweek semi will, we hope, spur everyone at the club to reach a final so early in the season.

It's the sort of encounter we like to be involved in and with it coming just at the start of the second quarter of the season I have to be reasonably pleased with our input so far.

I have to compliment the players on the effort and commitment they have produced to date to put us where we are at the moment.

## **Crucial**

However, I can't go overboard or be complacent about the situation. There have been one or two moments of carelessness that have put paid to the best part of half-a-dozen points ...

And those points are the difference between us being third presently and sitting top of the table!

However, we have been encouraged by the supporters! We know they have been magnificent but we are aware of their frustrations. I feel the fans have never been so crucial as virtually our every game could be termed as an away match.

But it's not all doom and gloom as any team that enters the second quarter of the season with just one defeat must be considered title contenders.

We will be looking to strengthen the squad this season as we are bound to pick up injuries in the coming months.

*Finally I'd like to re-iterate that there has been NO rift between myself and managing director Fergus McCann.*

It was a much publicised feud that never was. I simply approached him concerning money for a player

and was told finances were unavailable at this moment in time.

This happens everyday at clubs but the big difference is that a club of Celtic's stature would be looking to spend around £2 million while others could be talking around £300,000 mark.

Now the situation is clear we are not going to sit around and mope. We know exactly what we have to do and we are going to get on with it.

**‘ We are looking to strengthen the team as injuries will happen in due course ’**



**WHEN IT COMES TO  
THE BEST IN THE FIELD**



**EVERYBODY LIKES TO GET THEIR  
HANDS ON REAL QUALITY.**

**CR SMITH**

**WE ONLY DELIVER THE BEST**



# THE SQUADS



**GORDON MARSHALL**



**Referee:**  
J Kelly  
East Kilbride

**TONY PARKS**



**MIKE GALLOWAY**



**Linesman:**  
AJ McGarry  
Cumbernauld

**DAVID WEIR**



**MARK McNALLY**



**Linesman:**  
AJ Seton  
Kilmarnock

**JAMIE McGOWAN**



**BRIAN O'NEIL**

**NEIL OLIVER**



**TOM BOYD**

**JOE McLAUGHLIN**



**JOHN COLLINS**

**STAND-BYS:**  
*Celtic* - Pat Bonner (GK),  
Pat McGinlay,  
Barry Smith  
*Falkirk* - Billy Lamont (GK),  
Graeme Hamilton, Colin MacDonald

**SCOTT MCKENZIE**



**PETER GRANT**

**EDDIE MAY**



**PAUL McSTAY**

**JOHN CLARK**



**PHIL O'DONNELL**

**COLIN CRAMB**



**ANDY WALKER**

**IAN McCALL**



**SIMON DONNELLY**

**BRIAN RICE**



**CHARLIE NICHOLAS**

**MASCOT**  
Jamie Smyth  
Age 9  
Glasgow

**GREG SHAW**



**WILLIE FALCONER**

**NICKY HENDERSON**



# +TODAY'S VISITORS+



★ **FALKIRK** visit Hampden this afternoon looking to inflict more damage on Celtic after their opening day draw with the Bhoys at Brockville back in August. Former Bairn **GORDON MARSHALL** runs us through the team who are the surprise package this season

**FALKIRK** have been a bit up and down since we met them and they will be missing **Richard Cadette** now that he's gone to Millwall. But the Bairns know their way about and can never be taken lightly as they are a very hard team to break down.

In goal they'll have **TONY PARKS** who has done alright since joining Falkirk and particularly this season, apart from his red card. It's hard on him obviously as he had a very hard act to follow between the sticks at Brockville!

**BILLY LAMONT** stood in for Parks in the Rangers match and did very well considering. I don't know a lot about him, but that was some game to make a debut in and he showed he can be relied on when needed.

**JOHN 'YOGI' HUGHES** should be getting close to fitness after being out with a broken ankle which he sustained when we last played. He's a big part of the Falkirk set-up and their success in getting straight back to the Premier League could be down to his leadership. He's a solid player and a good friend to have.

**JOE McLAUGHLIN** I don't know a lot about him at all. But he did win the Sunday Mail man of the match last week so he must be playing alright! He's had a lot of good press so he'll want to keep his good form going today.

**STEVIE FULTON** is suspended today so no-one'll get the chance to noise him up. He's a good player - full of life on and off the pitch and always good for a video!

**EDDIE MAY** is one of the few players who was at Falkirk when I was there. He's always a scoring threat, getting a lot of goals from midfield, and has done well this season. One to watch today.

**DAVID WEIR** has had a lot of big clubs showing interest in him. A former Celtic Boys Club player, he has shown why he's wanted by doing very well for Falkirk at the back. From what I could see on the telly, he was unfortunate to be sent off against Rangers.

**NEIL OLIVER** or Ollie as he is called has been quite steady so far. He's been played in a few positions and does OK, quietly getting on with his business.

**IAN McCALL** scored the last time so we have to watch him. Blows hot and cold though. However, he'll always want to do well against Celtic considering a certain club he played for.



★ **WEIR'S WAY ...**  
Falkirk's hot property, utility man David Weir



# + TODAY'S VISITORS +

## Jim's battling Bairns know the score ...

**SCOTT MCKENZIE** has broken into the first team now and seems to be coping well in the midfield.

**TOMMY McQUEEN** I think is Falkirk's most consistent player. He's been a wee bit unlucky through injuries but is still very consistent.

**JAMIE McGOWAN** is one of the newer lads at Falkirk and I haven't seen him much. He was with Dundee before and seems to have settled in at Brockville now.

**BRIAN RICE** has been a bit unfortunate with injuries, but he is a skilful player who can hold his own in that first team and keep a permanent position as long as he's fit.

**JOHN CLARK** must be over the moon to be away from Stoke and their fans ... like most Scottish players would be! He's still finding his feet at Falkirk and has been playing up front. I'm sure he'll become a consistent performer for them and if he and Yogi played together at the centre of defence there will be no way through for anyone!

**NICKY HENDERSON** and **COLIN CRAMB** are boys I really know nothing about but Jim Jefferies must rate them as they've been getting a game and seem to be doing alright so far.

Up front they've also got another young lad **GREG SHAW** but I'm not too up on him either.

I just hope it stays that way with all their front men this afternoon!

★ **B A I R N S  
S T O R M -  
E R S!** Brockville  
Boss Jim  
Jefferies (top),  
and midfielder  
Ian McCall



## + Lowdown + Lowdown

**TONY PARKS** (Age 31)  
Signed from Rotherham, 1992  
**JOHN HUGHES** (Age 30)  
Signed from Swansea, 1990  
**JOE McLAUGHLIN** (Age 34)  
Signed from Watford, 92  
**EDDIE MAY** (Age 27)  
Signed from Brentford, 1991  
**DAVID WEIR** (Age 24)  
Signed from Celtic BC, 1992  
**NEIL OLIVER** (Age 27)  
Signed from Blackburn, 1991  
**IAN McCALL** (Age 29)  
Signed from Dundee, 1992  
**SCOTT MCKENZIE** (Age 24)  
Signed from Musselburgh, 1990

**TOMMY McQUEEN** (Age 31)  
Signed from West Ham, 1990  
**JAMIE McGOWAN** (Age 23)  
Signed from Dundee, 1993  
**BRIAN RICE** (Age 31)  
Signed from Nottingham For, 1991  
**JOHN CLARK** (Age 29)  
Signed from Stoke, 1994  
**NICKY HENDERSON** (Age 24)  
Signed from Cowdenbth, 1991  
**COLIN CRAMB** (Age 20)  
Signed from Southampton, 1991  
**GREG SHAW** (Age 24)  
Signed from Ayr Utd, 1992  
**STEVE FULTON** (Age 24)  
Signed from Bolton, 1994



# Trophy a must for super fans

## The big INTERVIEW

BRIAN O'NEIL

Every player has a little bit more belief than before

BRIAN O'NEIL missed last week's match with Hearts through injury and sat in the Tynecastle stand among the fans.

And after that experience, he believes the attitude of the Celtic supporters this season will go a long way to bringing success back to the club.

Last season the fans suffered with boardroom troubles and boycotts but they have been back in force this term.

And Brian is delighted at what he's seen so far. He said: "I've really noticed the fans this year and no more than at Tynecastle last Saturday.

"I was sitting in the stand with Tony Mowbray and even though things were going wrong and we were losing, they were still in good spirits and coming out with some really funny comments.

### Confidence

"Their humour was great and especially when they made crosses out of the plastic cushions - that was hilarious.

"It just showed how much happier they feel about things at the club.

"And they also know that things can only get better for us what with the new stadium and the new board and you can sense that extra commitment from the support.

"But the players all know that it's also up to us to give them something more to cheer about. If they're being this supportive then we have to do something to reward them.

**"You can talk all day about games and such but we have to turn the talk into action and win something."**

And Brian will be hoping he can get back into the side and be a part of any trophy-winning teams that

### **Interview: MERLE BROWN**

come out of Parkhead this year.

He has only started two matches so far - at the centre of the defence - and was unfortunately injured against Aberdeen two weeks ago.

He admits it couldn't have happened at a worse time, but is ready to get back into action this afternoon if selected.

He said: "There's not a lot I could have done about the injury, it was just so frustrating that it happened when it did.

"However, I didn't get disheartened, and I hope I'll get back in the side.

"Our physio Brian Scott will be happy when I'm fit because I've been giving him nightmares.

"First it was my knee, then my ankle and, in between times, both! He didn't know whether he was coming or going!"

If Brian is involved in the action this afternoon it is likely to be as a central defender.

And although the 22-year-old Celt has played most of his career in midfield he's happy with the swap.

He said: "I played at the back quite a lot in my younger days and it's a position I've always been

comfortable with.

"I had a few good games in the reserves there before coming into the first team and I've enjoyed it so far."

Brian has also been enjoying training a lot more this season than last and he puts that down to the new management team of Tommy Burns and Billy Stark.

He said: "The training has been great, especially the games we play with young teams versus old.

"They're fantastic, very competitive and everyone enjoys them. There's a lot more variety about the training than there was before and everyone has that bit more belief.

"You can even sense that on the training ground, never mind in matches."

### Unbeaten

And Brian reckons that belief will help the team completely forget about their slip-up at Hearts last week when they went down 1-0 and lost their 11-game unbeaten record.

He explained: "That was one game and it's over now. And the main fact is that it was only ONE game - that's all we've lost.

"No-one is despondent and we know we have to just put thing right against Falkirk.

"That's where a real difference shows too. Last season we may have been thinking: 'Oh God, we've lost a game'. 'But there's none of that sort of thing now.

"After today's match we've got Aberdeen in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final in midweek and then Rangers in the league.

"And we're more than ready for both those tests."





