

The *Coca-Cola* Cup Semi-Final

Celtic



v
Aberdeen



Official Programme - Price £1.50



Wednesday 26th October 1994
Ibrox Stadium, Glasgow, Kick-Off 8.00pm



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Another Exciting Coca-Cola Cup Tie In Prospect



On behalf of The Scottish Football League Management Committee, a very warm welcome to all supporters attending tonight's Coca-Cola Cup Semi-Final tie which I am sure will be an entertaining and exciting encounter between two of Scotland's top clubs, Celtic and Aberdeen.

We are only into the eleventh week of the 1994/95 season and yet, here we are at the penultimate stage of this season's League Cup competition. Although 49 seasons old, the tournament continues to enjoy a very healthy and vibrant existence and has been given further life as a result of Coca-Cola's new association with the competition.

The League Cup has, over the past few years, built up a reputation as a very attractive and entertaining tournament and these positive elements have continued yet again this season, with excitement and drama in abundance and clubs and players responding magnificently to the extremely generous incentives

on offer from Coca-Cola. With 119 goals having been scored to date, averaging 3.3 goals per game, not to mention the many shock results recorded so far in the tournament, I would congratulate all clubs, officials and players for continuing to adopt such a positive attitude and I have no doubts that this approach will continue in the three ties remaining in the competition.

I would also like to take this opportunity in thanking everyone involved with Coca-Cola for showing great faith in this tournament and we, at The Scottish Football League, are delighted that one of the world's largest companies is interested in associating itself with this particular tournament. Despite criticisms from several quarters regarding the state of our game, I feel that a company of Coca-Cola's standing reflects on the importance and indeed the impact that football has for a large percentage of the population in this country. On behalf of the Management Committee, I would extend a very special welcome to Coca-Cola and their guests and trust that they will enjoy tonight's tie.

Tonight's match will be the fifth occasion that Celtic and Aberdeen have met at this particular stage of this competition, with honours currently even with both clubs having won two matches apiece. Both clubs have been unsuccessful in recent seasons in their endeavours to bring trophies to their respective trophy cabinets and I know that their managers, Tommy Burns and Willie Miller, who both won winners' medals as players in

this tournament for their current clubs, will be trying to rectify that tonight. A win for either manager will leave both men only one match away from lifting their first trophy since becoming managers.

Finally, may I take this opportunity in extending my thanks to the chairman, directors and staff at Rangers F.C. for their assistance and thoroughness in staging tonight's match. Their co-operation is very much appreciated.
ENJOY THE MATCH

YULE CRAIG,
President,

The Scottish Football League.

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Further Fizz to follow

Like unclaimed Premium Bond prizes, the great bulk of the sponsors' huge cash bonuses for outstanding achievement seems destined to lie untouched by the end of the 1994 Coca-Cola Cup.

With the Semi-Finals upon us, only the most quixotic of supporters would still harbour the dream of any of the four survivors mounting the remotest challenge for the jackpot - the £100,000 available to the team scoring more than 11 goals in a single match.

The Semi-Final pairings alone - the two First Division sides playing each other and those from the Premier Division ditto - ensure such evenly-balanced contests at McDiarmid Park and Ibrox Stadium that an avalanche of goals seems about as likely as rain in the Sahara.

Indeed, it is less than three weeks since Airdrieonians and Raith Rovers played a 0-0 draw in a League match at Broadwood - on the very day that Celtic and Aberdeen were producing precisely the same result in the Premier Division encounter at Hampden Park.

The record 11 goals in a single match has been achieved three times, by Ayr United in 1952, Hibernian in 1965 and by Partick Thistle as recently as last year. The nearest any of this season's contenders has come, so far, was at the Second Round stage, when Rangers scored six against Arbroath at Gayfield Park.

The 48 years which have elapsed since Willie Penman scored six goals for Raith Rovers in a single match in the competition looks likely to become 49, thereby

leaving a £50,000 prize for that astounding feat in the kitty.

The team from Kirkcaldy, however, have obviously developed a taste for the extraordinary in The Coca-Cola Cup, as two of their men, Colin Cameron and Ally Graham, are among the six players to have put their hands on £500 for scoring a hat-trick.

With Duncan Shearer of Aberdeen - another hat-trickster - recovering from injury, Cameron and Graham remain the two players with the most feasible chance of laying claim to another worthwhile bonus, the £20,000 which will go to any player breaking the modern record of eight goals in the cup.

Because of the changing structure of the tournament, it was agreed by Coca-Cola and The Scottish Football League that it would be unrealistic to make the target the all-time record of Jim Forrest of Rangers, who scored an astonishing 18 goals in 1964.

The celebrated striker's feat was achieved in ten matches, in the days when qualifying sections were played, yielding six games, to determine the last eight. The Quarter-Finals were then played on a home and away basis, with the Semi-Finals and the Final making it up to ten games.

Forrest's record might have been greater had the Final itself gone to a replay that year, but he prevented the possibility himself by scoring both Rangers' goals in the 2-1 victory over Celtic.

It was agreed that the format having been changed to single knock-out matches in 1984, only the individual figures set since that

date should be the target. The eight goal total is the property of two players, Gordon Durie for Hibernian in 1985 and Ally McCoist for Rangers in 1992.

With a maximum of two matches left to them, of course, Cameron and Graham are clearly running out of opportunities to establish a new record and make themselves and other beneficiaries very happy. The major cash prizes will be split between the winners and a serving football cause, a family or youth football related project nominated by the player or club concerned and approved by The Scottish Football League and Coca-Cola.

The other four recipients of £500 for hat-tricks have been Chic Charnley of Partick Thistle, Duncan Ferguson of Rangers and Duncan Shearer and Scott Booth of Aberdeen. For Cameron, Graham, Shearer and Booth, there remains an opportunity to land another of the major prizes, the £5,000 for a hat-trick in the Final. That apparently unlikely objective has actually been achieved eight times, the latest being Ally McCoist's treble against Celtic in 1983.

Many of the other sponsors' prizes have already been picked up, including Man-of-the-Match awards (A Coca-Cola Cup jacket and limited edition watch), the earliest First Round goal (Lee Bailey of Meadowbank Thistle), while Mark Hateley's strike after one minute against Arbroath leads the way in the earliest goal of the tournament stakes.

There is yet much to play for.

GLEN GIBBONS
(The Observer)

The Coca-Cola Cup 1994/95 - Goals Galore

The Coca-Cola Cup was under way a week before the League season started.

And for the new kids on the block, former Highland League outfits Caledonian Thistle and Ross County, it was a stirring start to their new careers.

They were two of the winners in the eight ties played in early August. Ross winning 3-2 at home against Queen's Park while Caley went even better with a 2-0 victory over East Stirlingshire at Firs Park.

Three of the ties had to go to penalties to find a winner. There were 20 goals scored in run of play action.

The Premier sides came into the fray for the Second Round ties, and all ten moved through to the next stage.

Some did it in style...like Hearts, (4-0) away to Dumbarton, Rangers, (6-1 away to Arbroath), Partick Thistle, (5-0 v Brechin City) and Kilmarnock, (4-1 v East Fife). But Celtic had to rely on the only goal of the game from Peter Grant to get through against Ayr United...his first for Celts in 20 months. It was the same with Aberdeen, who had Duncan Shearer to thank for a 1-0 win over Stranraer.

Dundee United needed extra-time to tame St. Mirren at Love Street, Dragutin Ristic scoring in extra-time and Falkirk required penalties to subdue Montrose, winning 5-4 on spot kicks after the teams were 1-1 after 120 minutes of play.

There were 55 goals scored, and £500 each went to Chic Charnley (Partick Thistle), Duncan Ferguson (Rangers) and Ally Graham (Raith Rovers) for hat-tricks. But the two



Peter Grant, Celtic

ex-Highland League clubs bowed out.

Duncan Shearer joined the £500 brigade with three goals in Aberdeen's 5-0 demolition of Partick Thistle in the Third Round. But there was no doubt about the shock of the tournament...the 2-1 defeat of Rangers at Ibrox by Falkirk, for whom Richard Cadette scored twice.

But there were other surprises as well...Hearts went down 4-2 at home to St. Johnstone after leading 2-0 by the half hour mark.

Stephen Frail was sent off in this game, and incredibly Celtic skipper Paul McStay saw red for the first time in his distinguished career as he was sent packing against Dundee at Dens Park.

Motherwell went down to Lanarkshire rivals Airdrieonians at Fir Park, Dundee United had to go to penalties to get past Hamilton Accies and Raith Rovers kept their Cup run going with a 3-2 home

win over Premier side Kilmarnock...young Colin Cameron picking-up a £500 bonus for the match winning treble.

There were 31 goals scored, and after the dust had settled in the four Quarter-Finals played in mid September, the grand total of goals for the tournament had reached 119, with Scott Booth of Aberdeen joining the hat-trick crew in the 4-1 win against Falkirk at Brockville.

Celtic made the semis with a John Collins special against Dundee United at Hampden, while both Raith and Airdrie produced spirited away victories against St. Johnstone and Hibernian respectively.

Heady stuff...and there is still much more fizz to come in this season's Coca-Cola Cup.

DIXON BLACKSTOCK
(Sunday Mail)

Football wins the Pools every Saturday



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John Collins - These boots are made for scoring!



Brox Stadium holds no fears for John Collins, Celtic's productive midfield player, whose stature in the game is growing beyond these shores.

"I love playing there." says John and with good reason. On Celtic's

last three unbeaten visits against Rangers he has scored every time. Twice from spectacular and almost identical free kicks.

"The first of the three came in our 2-1 victory last season when Ally Maxwell dropped a cross and I

was fortunate enough to be in the right place to knock the ball into the net." he recalls.

Collins hopes he can maintain his scoring record against Aberdeen and help take Celtic into the Final of a competition they haven't won since season 1982/83.

"We're overdue some success in it all right and if we want it badly enough we can get the result that will take us into the Final." he says.

John has even more incentive than his team mates to win this one. He was a member of the Hibs side that lost 3-0 to the Dons in the 1985/86 Skol Cup Final and was a losing finalist again against Rangers in 1990/91 when Celts went down 2-1.

After playing six seasons at Easter Road, he had departed for Parkhead a year before Hibs lifted the Skol Cup, beating Dunfermline 2-0 in the Final in season 1991/92.

The one thing missing from this industrious and talented player's record is some tangible sign of success at club level. Now in his fifth season with Celtic, he is still waiting for his first medal as a winner.

In a season of change for Celtic, John hopes a change of footwear might help alter that. His Predator boots - reputed to put more swerve on the ball - have been put to good use so far.

"The ribs on the sides of the boots certainly grip the ball better and put more spin on it," he says. "They give you a little bit of help but, at the end of the day, it is the feet inside that determine where the ball goes."

PHIL McENTEE

(Scottish Sunday Express)



Tommy Burns and Billy Stark- Celtic's managerial double act

They may have arrived at Celtic Park in the midst of raging controversy but there has been nothing debatable about the talents Tommy Burns and Billy Stark have brought to the management side of the game, which they each played with superb skill. No one on either the Celtic or Kilmarnock side of the

argument would dispute the man-management ability which these two former team mates seem to have acquired in a relatively short space of time.

Indeed, it could be argued that it is this very aptitude which has caused the tug-of-war for their services. But why these two should happen to get on so well, as they

did at Rugby Park, and appear to be doing already at Parkhead, is not easy to answer.

No one ever can be sure why certain double acts in football management work and why others don't. Maybe there is an element of the tough guy cop and gentle cop pairing, which works well on the telly at least but, while some twosomes may succeed on the basis that the No. 2 massages the ego of the No. 1, there is no chance that Stark, an articulate and intelligent observer of the game in his own right, will be the nodding head in the manager's room as Burns lays down the law.

Burns would concede that there is a little of the two-cop style about them. "I am a bit more aggressive than Billy," - but that is only a minor factor in the relationship that was forged in their playing days at Parkhead.

"When Billy arrived here from Aberdeen, we found that our ideas on the game were very similar," says Burns, "and when we talked about it, there was a lot we had in common."

As senior players, they found themselves engaged in regular discussions about the tactics, styles and talents of contemporaries at management and playing level and it was in those days that the foundations for a career on this side of the touchline were laid.

Their paths separated when Burns went to play for Kilmarnock but they did not lose touch, every so often having discussions and debates about the way the game is played. When Stark was released by Celtic, it was Burns who persuaded the manager at Kilmarnock at that time, Jim Flecting, to bring him to Ayrshire where he was able to have a marked influence on and off the field.

The two parted company again

when Stark was given the chance he wanted, to become a player-coach, with Hamilton Accies, but when Burns was appointed the successor to Fleeting, there was only one man he was going to ask to join him as his assistant.

The chatting and debating they had done on theory over the years was now able to be put into practice and they established a remarkable rapport with the Killie fans, which is one reason why the unfortunate way their departure came has hurt the supporters in Ayrshire so badly.

What is Kilmarnock's loss has been Celtic's gain. The only man Burns wanted to follow him to Celtic was Stark and the feeling was reciprocal, even although Stark could have become the man solely in charge at Rugby Park.

Burns reckons there is something almost telepathic about their attitudes to the game as a whole. "I can be thinking about something all weekend and before I can say anything on a Monday, he will come out with the same idea. It is weird. But Billy is his own man, very much so, and anything but a 'yes' man."

He describes the job they are trying to do with Celtic as a similar exercise to the one at Kilmarnock, only much bigger. "One difference is that we are dealing with half a dozen international players here, but I have to say that their response to us has been great, just like the Kilmarnock lads."

Burns has no doubts that in the modern game, management is a two man business. In fact, at a club like Celtic, he would suggest it is much more. "There are the youth teams, reserves, first team, training and ultimately picking the sides for the Saturday. You need a top class staff to cope with all of it."

Setting the tactical base for the premier team is the top

management job, of course, and Burns has applied a similar theory to the one that he established at Kilmarnock but would tell you that, as he was able to do only in his latter days with Killie, he can afford to be a bit more adventurous with Celtic. "If you can alter the system, rather than stay rigid all the time, it lets players see that there are other ways to play."

The tactical battle in tonight's Semi-Final could be crucial and, coincidentally, sets an Aberdeen-Celtic combination, Willie Miller and Roy Aitken, against a Celtic-Aberdeen duo, Burns and Stark. The dug-out exchanges might be interesting, too.

IAN PAUL
(The Herald)

Billy Stark and Tommy Burns

