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WALK ON

ntl:



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MOTHERWELL

Scottish Premier League

Wednesday 27 October, 1999

7.45pm



ntl:

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WALK ON contents



takin' the mick

The funny side of football

PAGES 12,13

win 'n' grin



Win the NEW Celtic strip

PAGE 14



Jonathan Gould and Andy Goram
go head to head

PAGE 22,23

potter's playback



Step back in time

PAGES 28,29

pep talk



ntl:

We welcome Motherwell to Celtic Park tonight in the pleasant position of being able to go top of the table should we collect three points.

Even this early in the season that would be nice – but rather than focussing on going top of the pile we have to focus on the first minute of the game and starting properly.

We simply have to play tonight in a manner which merits us going to the top of the pile. After winning on Sunday we're looking forward to this game and we have to concentrate on putting in a good performance.

There has been much discussion of the goal which won the match for us on Sunday and, to be honest, it was difficult to tell from where we were if the ball was in or not.

But I've now seen the incident on television and it didn't look as if it was over the line, so we were a little fortunate in that respect.

But you only have to go back a week to Lyon to see that these things even out over a season.

Obviously, as far as we are concerned, their goalkeeper should have been sent off, but you get breaks which go for you and some which go against you.

Unfortunately for St Johnstone, and fortunately for us, on Sunday it went our way – but it could so easily have been one of those days. Over the season we'll get our share of bad breaks as well.

It was certainly a sense of relief to win so late against St Johnstone, despite the fact we started the second half so brightly.

We did okay in the first-half, because we limited them to one chance and they scored when we had all the possession, but they also worked hard to get behind the ball and make life difficult for us to break them down.

It was not a game when we were going to create or score on a lot of



chances, but we kept the ball, we kept possession, we got forward, we put in a lot of crosses and we got a lot of balls into the box. It was only the fact they had numbers back there that made life difficult for us.

There were changes to the team and I've never said to any of the

Three points could take us to the top of the table

players that they'll get a definite run in the team.

Lubo Moravcik was tired after the Lyon game so I rested him on Sunday – he looked very tired.

Aside from Craig Burley, all the others were enforced on me, so Blinker and Petta came in for the injured Berkovic and Lubo. Jackie McNamara was injured as, of course, was Henrik.

So the only change I felt I made that I didn't absolutely have to was Craig, and he understood that.

Of course, Henrik Larsson will not be with us today on the field and I'm sure all of you will join with me in wishing him a successful recovery. Hopefully the other quality players we have will lessen the impact of his absence.





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UMBRO

Cast list



ntl:

- 1 Jonathan GOULD
- 2 Tom BOYD
- 3 Stephane MAHE
- 4 Jackie McNAMARA
- 5 Marc RIEPER
- 6 Alan STUBBS
- 7 Henrik LARSSON
- 8 Craig BURLEY
- 9 Harald BRATTBAKK
- 10 Eyal BERKOVIC
- 11 Morten WIEGHORST
- 12 Tommy JOHNSON
- 14 Paul LAMBERT
- 15 Bobby PETTA
- 16 Olivier TEBILY
- 18 Tosh McKINLAY
- 19 Stilian PETROV
- 20 Regi BLINKER
- 21 Stewart KERR
- 23 Dimitre KHARINE
- 24 Colin HEALY
- 25 Lubomir MORAVCIK
- 27 Mark BURCHILL
- 28 Barry ELLIOT
- 30 Vidar RISETH
- 34 Alessandro SANNA
- 35 Johan MJALLBY
- 36 Mark VIDUKA
- 37 Liam KEOGH
- 38 Barry John CORR
- 39 Jamie SMITH



- 1 Andy GORAM
- 2 Michel DOESBURG
- 3 Stephen McMILLAN
- 4 Jamie McGOWAN
- 5 Ged BRANNAN
- 6 Shaun TEALE
- 7 John SPENCER
- 8 Simo VALAKARI
- 9 Lee McCULLOCH
- 10 Don GOODMAN
- 11 Stephen NICHOLAS
- 12 Derek ADAMS
- 13 Pat NEVIN
- 14 Stephen CRAIGAN
- 15 Tony THOMAS
- 16 Billy DAVIES
- 17 Stephen WOODS
- 18 Greig DENHAM
- 19 Stephen HALLIDAY
- 20 Rob MATTHAEI
- 23 Douglas RAMSAY
- 24 David DOHERTY
- 25 Steven HAMMELL
- 27 Derek TOWNSLEY
- 28 Kevin TWADDLE
- 31 Craig CALLACHAN
- 37 Scott WILSON
- 40 Benito KEMBLE



Referee: W S G YOUNG
Assistants: R McCLUSKIE
T H MURPHY
Fourth Official: B W CASSIDY



Motherwell must have been reeling after they put five past Aberdeen last week yet finished up with nothing – losing six goals to the one-time hapless Dons in their own backyard.

And while the Lanarkshire side have proved they can find the net, Celtic will be hoping to exploit their deficiencies in defence.

Owner John Boyle's club are chasing only their third victory in the SPL this term and at Celtic Park against John Barnes' men, who are without the injured Henrik Larsson, Motherwell hope to capitalise on the fine result on Saturday when they defeated Dundee United by 2-0.

JOHN SPENCER scored three of those five goals last Wednesday and the former Rangers and Chelsea man will pose the biggest threat to the Celtic defence.

It was the tiny Spencer who gave his side the lead with an injury-time header at the end of the first half in the City of Discovery at the weekend.

Well Chief Executive **PAT NEVIN** has also played recently and the former St Andrew's Secondary schoolboy, despite his age, still shows that he is capable of tormenting defences on the wing.

SHAUN TEALE made 100 appearances with Bournemouth before moving to Aston Villa. Teale is a solid central defender and has played at the very highest level in his native England and also in Hong Kong.

Former Scotland number one **ANDY GORAM** who spent four years at Hibernian suffered the worst defeat of his career a week ago as he let six past him.

He may be the wrong side of 30 but he still has the capability to deny even the top strikers in the game and proved that time and time again to the detriment of Celtic during his Ibrox days.

Goram was the scourge of Tommy Burns' managerial days at Celtic.

Former Greenock Morton

The case for defence not looking very Well



GOAL-DEN BOY... Stephen McMillan congratulates Kevin Twaddle

midfielder **KEVIN TWADDLE** has also enjoyed a successful spell with Raith Rovers and St Johnstone and has been featuring regularly in the starting 11.

The Finn **SIMO VALAKARI** has been at Motherwell since season 96/97 and the internationalist is a central feature in the Motherwell defence.

Englishman **GED BRANNAN** is another very experienced player having turned out 350 times for Tranmere Rovers.

He then travelled to Manchester City as an £800,000 signing by Frank Clark before moving on loan to

Norwich City and eventually Motherwell.

Dutchman **MICHEL DOESBURG** signed from AZ Alkmaar for £50,000 and was an immediate hit with the support.

His favoured position is right-back and he is tipped to do great things this season in Scotland.

STEPHEN McMILLAN has been at Fir Park for the last six years after joining the Steel Men from Troon Juniors.

McMillan made his debut against Celtic after coming off the bench in February 1995 and has been capped by Scotland's under-21 side.

LEE McCULLOCH is another pacy centre forward and Motherwell is his first senior club – he joined over four years ago from amateur side Cumbernauld United.

Davies has a huge squad at his disposal and he utilised this at the weekend when he introduced **DON GOODMAN** to the action.

He replaced the first goalscorer Spencer early in the second half against Dundee United on Saturday and the Yorkshire striker will be hoping to retain his place this evening.

Seconds after substitute **PAUL HARVEY** was introduced at Dundee at the weekend Teale had the chance to fire 'Well further ahead and he did at the second attempt after 67 minutes.

Harvey is a new acquisition to Davies' squad and comes to the club from Queen of the South.

Another new signing, **BEN KEMBLE**, was brought to Fir Park by Davies to bolster a defence which has conceded 19 times in nine league games. He made his Motherwell debut on Saturday after joining the club from Dutch second division side Eindhoven.

DEREK TOWNSLEY is a 26-year-old midfielder who was born in Carlisle and like Goodman finds himself on the fringe of a starting position.



NO LEE-WAY... The Hoops will have to keep their eye on McCulloch



Bits 'n' Bhoobs

Over the next few weeks there is football for everyone at Celtic Park. From the last minute decision to see Celtic in action tonight against Motherwell to a rare, these days, Saturday afternoon's entertainment watching Kilmarnock to the sheer tension of a very emotional UEFA Cup second leg tie against Lyon on November 4.

Maybe there is no coincidence that all this drama unfolds around All Hallow's Eve, make sure there are no nasty surprises. Be sure that you're there to support, lift and drive the Hoops to make it three in a row.

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4254.

Public sale areas for this match

are now sold out, but tickets will be available from 30th October for any unsold season seats.

Shortly afterwards we're in action at home again for Celtic v Dundee (CIS insurance cup) 1/12/99 Kick-off 7.45. This match is included in all season books (voucher number 22) with public sale tickets available now.

Looking Forward to the rest of November there is the first Old Firm tie at Ibrox, 7 November, 13.00 KO.

All successful applicants should be notified by 29th Oct.

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