



Celtic

Programme No. 10

v Aberdeen



Scottish Premierleague
Celtic Park, Wednesday Oct 27, 2004
Kick-off 7.45pm

£2



Celtic

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*Carling are proud to be
supporters of Celtic F.C.*

LOVEFOOTBALL

IT has as usual been another eventful 10-day period for the football club since we last met up at Celtic Park on a day which saw us defeat Hearts to stay top of the SPL.

I suppose we should deal with that game first. We played extremely well that afternoon to defeat a side that has caused us many a problem over recent seasons.

Goals by Henri Camara, Juninho and John Hartson were more than enough to win, and so we travelled to the Ukraine in good heart, if not with a full complement of players.

The result and second half performance against Donetsk was disappointing.

We had done reasonably well in the first half, had the better chances and were unfortunate not to be in front.

But the loss of Jackie McNamara and Chris Sutton, both out of action before the second half began, eventually took its toll, and we conceded three poor goals to lose the game.

We now find ourselves with an uphill task in the remaining three games, but we will try to regroup next week and, if we are to start a possible comeback, we must beat Donetsk.

It will not be easy, but we can do it.

Who will be available to play is anyone's guess with a crippling



injury list as bad as I've known it in my time here.

But no-one ever remembers who played what game a fortnight after it occurred, so we do not expect

'After 10 games, Aberdeen lie just a couple of points behind our main rivals, and their upturn in fortune in recent months has been well noted here at Celtic Park'

any sympathy from any quarter if we do not perform, regardless of who is on the pitch. But, in the meantime, we have two big league

games to play before we even put our mind to the CL again.

Aberdeen, with Jimmy Calderwood and Jimmy Nicholl currently doing a splendid job at Pittodrie, is a very big game for us this evening.

After 10 games, they lie just a couple of points behind our main rivals, and their upturn in fortune in recent months has been well noted here at Celtic Park.

We must try to win this game - nothing else matters - because the number of points we are in front can be whittled away in a game or two.

I've said before that I expected both ourselves and Rangers to drop a fair number of points this season in the quest to win the championship and a match against Aberdeen is as tough as they come at the moment.

We would, though, like to stay in front for as long as possible and, if the players show the same effort and application as they displayed through at Livingston on Sunday - when they produced what I thought was an excellent performance - three points tonight should be within our grasp.





Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park (capacity 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks
Away strip: Green shirts, white shorts and green socks
Third strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with gold trim
Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)
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 (39)
 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, 2001/2002, 2003/2004
Scottish Cup (32)
 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, 2004
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



CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman
CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
MANAGER Martin O'Neill
ASSISTANT MANAGER John Robertson

COACH Steve Walford
HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns
YOUTH TEAM COACH Willie McStay
UNDER-21 COACH Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy
CLUB DOCTOR Roddy Macdonald
KIT CONTROLLER John Clark

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0845 671 1888

CELTIC

ABERDEEN

Momo Sylla	3	1
Jackie McNamara	4	2
Joos Valgaeren	5	3
Bobo Balde	6	4
Juninho	7	5
Alan Thompson	8	6
Chris Sutton	9	7
John Hartson	10	8
Stephen Pearson	11	9
David Fernandez	12	10
Paul Lambert	14	11
Bobby Petta	15	14
Ulrik Laursen	16	15
Didier Agathe	17	16
Neil Lennon	18	17
Stilian Petrov	19	18
Robert Douglas	20	19
Magnus Hedman	21	20
David Marshall	22	21
Stanislav Varga	23	22
Henri Camara	27	23
Shaun Maloney	29	24
Ross Wallace	33	25
Craig Beattie	37	
Rocco Quinn	38	
John Kennedy	41	
Stephen McManus	44	
Kevin McBride	45	
Aiden McGeady	46	
Michael McGovern	47	
Scott Cuthbert	49	

David Preece	
Philip McGuire	
Kevin McNaughton	
Russell Anderson	
Zander Diamond	
Scott Severin	
Steve Tosh	
Markus Heikkinen	
Steven Craig	
Derek Adams	
Chris Clark	
Darren Mackie	
Michael Hart	
Scott Morrison	
Fergus Tiernan	
Scott Muirhead	
John Stewart	
Ryan Esson	
Richard Foster	
Richard Buckley	
Noel Whelan	
Fernando Pasquinelli	
Andrew Considine	

TODAY'S OFFICIALS	RECENT FORM	FORTHCOMING FIXTURES
Referee: WILLIE YOUNG Assistant Referees: STEWART SHEARER GARY SWEENEY Fourth Official: CRAIG THOMSON	Scottish Premierleague, Oct 24, 2004 LIVINGSTON 2 v 4 CELTIC (Petrov, Camara, Sutton, Hartson) UEFA Champions League, Oct 20, 2004 SHAKHTAR DONETSK 3 v 0 CELTIC Scottish Premierleague, Oct 16, 2004 CELTIC 3 v 0 HEARTS (Camara, Juninho, Hartson) Scottish Premierleague, Oct 3, 2004 DUNDEE UTD 0 v 3 CELTIC (Sutton2, Petrov) UEFA Champions League, Sept 29, 2004 AC MILAN 3 v 1 CELTIC (Varga)	Scottish Premierleague, MOTHERWELL v CELTIC SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 3:00pm UEFA Champions League, CELTIC v SHAKHTAR DONETSK TUESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 7:45PM Scottish Premierleague, CELTIC v KILMARNOCK SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 3:00pm CIS Cup, 4th Round, RANGERS v CELTIC WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 7:45pm
CARLING		



Pearson's work ethic

Young midfield ace determined to prove he's worth his place in the first-team again

Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN

IF Stephen Pearson has wanted for anything since arriving at Celtic Park, it certainly hasn't been new experiences.

For the first few months following his arrival from Motherwell, it was all bright lights, big games and high praise for the 22-year-old midfielder, who succeeded in exceeding all expectations – including his own – by starting, and often starring, in a string of memorable matches.

These included both legs of an unforgettable UEFA Cup victory over Barcelona and no less than three triumphant Old Firm derbies, Pearson's performances in which – not to mention earning him the award of Young Player of the Year from both the SPFA and the Football Writers – led to many predicting that he would prove one of Celtic's most important and influential players in season 2004/05.

Thus far, such predictions have been made to look foolish. The same player who was able to wander wide-eyed through those fantastic first few months at the club is now wincing his way through another new experience – that of being forced to look in from the outside.

Prior to Sunday, his involvement in Celtic's Scottish Premierleague campaign had consisted of just 63 minutes of first-team football yielded from four fleeting substitute appearances, with his

only start of the season having arrived in the 8-1 victory over Falkirk.

That is something Pearson, who admits that his initial experiences of life at Celtic Park have made the past few months all the more difficult to bear, is desperately hoping to remedy this evening.

"I'd love to play against Aberdeen because it goes without saying that I've not featured as often as I would have liked to this season," he said. "Things just haven't happened for me yet, I think that's obvious, and I'm not sure what the problem is.

"But there's no point in complaining. All I need to do is keep working hard in training and show with my performances and my attitude that I deserve a chance to get back into the team. It's hard to take at the moment because, when I first arrived, I obviously played lot of games.

"At the time, it was more than I'd expected because, at a club like Celtic, you always expect to come in and be a place or two down the pecking order.

"But I was given the chance to play and the problem is that, once you get a taste of it, you become used to it. That's why it's been so tough for me this season."

Of course, Pearson knows only too well that, should he be given the nod this evening, it will be far from easy against an Aberdeen



side that has improved immeasurably since the appointment of Jimmy Calderwood, and which he himself describes as "very impressive."

Nevertheless, he's simply desperate to begin rebuilding the confidence that has slowly ebbed away during his time on the sidelines, and believes this evening's match could be the perfect opportunity to show that he has no intentions of settling for life on the first team fringes.

"I knew the situation when I arrived here, so I can't complain too much" he said. "It was always going to be difficult because there are experienced players here who have been performing consistently well for this club for a long time now, and they're rightly established in the gaffer's team."

"That's why I wasn't expecting to get in the way I did last season, although, if I'm being honest, I probably didn't expect to get so little football this season. But that's the way it's worked out and now I need to just get on with things. The manager's not said a lot to me about it, but I know what I need to do."

"I just have to get my head

down and keep plugging away. There are no excuses and I can't afford to let myself get too down about it. I've not been in this situation in my career before, but everyone has to go through it at some stage I'd imagine, so you can't let it get to you.

"In terms of sharpness, I feel fine. It's just knocked my confidence a bit, but you always know that that comes with not playing. Hopefully that will come back just as quickly once I get

back in, and I certainly feel that will be the case."

For Pearson, like any other footballer, looking on helplessly

from the sidelines is frustrating enough at the best of times. When it comes to nights like last Wednesday, when a second-half collapse saw Celtic slump to a crushing 3-0 defeat in Donetsk, he admits the frustration is magnified ten-fold, with the main source of the midfielder's annoyance in this case the knowledge that Shakhtar, while competent, were eminently beatable.

"Yeah," he said, "it's hard enough not playing at the best of

times, but obviously it's even worse in games like that one. You're just sitting on the bench, itching to get a chance to go on and help the team and be part of things.

"But Wednesday was just one of those nights and it was particularly disappointing because we had gone there with the aim of winning the game. I thought we were looking okay to do that, too, particularly in the opening half-hour, and we had some great chances – ones which, at that level, we really need to take – to give ourselves a chance.

"As it is, they (Shakhtar) have gone in front with a deflected goal and, from that moment, you're always up against it. It's very disappointing, mainly because I think it was a game we were well capable of winning.

"Sometimes you just need to take things like that on the chin, though, and hopefully we can bounce back by beating them here on Tuesday."

"I see no reason why we can't because I don't think Donetsk were anything special. We've some very good players here and a few dodgy European results doesn't make us a bad team.

"I'm sure we can take all three points next week, and obviously three tonight wouldn't go amiss either."

"MY CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN KNOCKED WITH NOT PLAYING. ONCE I GET BACK IN IT WILL RETURN JUST AS QUICKLY"



ACTION MEN: John Hartson outflights a defender to fire off a shot in Donetsk while, left, Pearson shows his skill against Barca





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