

Celtic

PROGRAMME NO. 8

BELL'S PREMIER
DIVISION
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 28
Kick-off 3pm

ABERDEEN

MATCH
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N PHOENIX
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NEWS

TOP CATCH!

CELTIS SIGN McNAMARA

While another lifelong fan proves he's Celtic 'daft' by NOT signing!

TOP DOGS

EXCLUSIVE!

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TOP HATS!



**TOSH McKINLAY
WINS AGAIN IN THE
PHOENIX HONDA
'TOP HAT' CONTEST**

Following the tremendous response from the players to our 'Win A Sponsored Car From Phoenix Honda' raffle, we ran another competition to find who had the 'Best Hat' at Celtic.

Despite some excellent entries which included Fergus McCann's bunnet, Pierre's hard hat and Mark McNally's headband, this was, without doubt, everyone's favourite!

Only one of it's kind in existence, this stunning number in silver with traditional green and white trim is a winner, and comes complete with a matching set of medals!

Keen to hold on to his winning hat, Tosh is enlisting the help of his team mates to ensure an extended winning streak!



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TOMMY BURNS



I THINK this afternoon's game is one that anyone who was lucky enough to see our last encounter with Aberdeen will be excited about.

I don't know a person who isn't looking forward to it...and that's great for the players and great for the fans.

Our 3-2 win up at Pittodrie in September was a classic - but I see no reason why today's match shouldn't be every bit as good.

At the moment Aberdeen are playing really well and will be brimming with confidence after their Coca Cola Cup semi-final win in midweek.

But we have nothing to fear from anyone because we too are producing some good stuff just now.

The team is playing the right way - the way a Celtic side should play. It is only a matter of time before we start putting our chances away.

And we are not going to panic and try to change our style just because we've drawn our last two matches. That would be incredibly foolish. You don't work hard to come up with the right formula only to then go and jettison it because you suffer a few hitches.

Against Kilmarnock last week we created a number of good, clear-cut chances. All it would have taken would have been for one of them to be converted to put an entirely different complexion on things.

We will stick by the principles we've set down and I have no doubts that we'll get there.

I recognize that we are not the finished article and would benefit from adding another striker and perhaps introducing keener competition in some other positions.

That's why we remain in the market for players we believe could do a job for us.

But that doesn't mean that we haven't come a long way in my time as manager here and I'm very pleased with the progress we made, while being fully aware that there is an awful long way to go.

‘We will not panic and change our style because we've drawn our last few matches’

Equally I think there is plenty to be positive about and those who have tried to suggest that this season is merely following along the same path as last year are so far off the mark it's not true.

We are ready for the challenge of proving that with our performances AND results.



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GORDON MARSHALL



TOM BOYD



TOSH MCKINLAY



JACKIE MCNAMARA



JOHN HUGHES



PETER GRANT



SIMON DONNELLY



PAUL MCSTAY



PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK



ANDREAS THOM



JOHN COLLINS



PHIL O'DONNELL



ANDY WALKER



Referee:
**JA Herald
Newton Mearns**



Linesman:
**GG McGuire
(Bonnyrigg)**



Linesman:
**D Doig
(Kirkcaldy)**

STAND-BYS:
Celtic: Pat Bonner, Malky Mackay, Rudi Vata, Jamie McQuilken
Aberdeen: Theo Snelders, Colin Woodthorpe

MICHAEL WATT



STEWART MCKIMMIE



STEPHEN GLASS



BRIAN GRANT



JOHN INGLIS



GARY SMITH



JOE MILLER



PAUL BERNARD



SCOTT BOOTH



BILLY DODDS



EOIN JESS



DUNCAN SHEARER



PETER HETHERSTON



IN ASSOCIATION WITH **CR SMITH**



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +



LAST season was a nightmare for the Dons, but things are vastly different this term. Aberdeen lie third in the league and have made it to the Coca-Cola Cup final, defeating Rangers 2-1 in the semi-final at Hampden on Tuesday.

Changes have been made in the side that failed their fans last term, and a great improvement has been shown already.

Dutchman THEO SNELDERS got itchy feet during the summer and was duly rewarded with a place on the bench, leaving the goalkeeping position to Scotland under 21 star MICHAEL WATT.

Lying third in the Premier Division, Aberdeen have the third best defensive record in the league. Thanks for that can go, in part, to one of their longest serving players, right-back STEWART MCKIMMIE who has been at the club for over a decade and has won all the major honours in the game.

In central defence, JOHN INGLIS has become a regular after an indifferent start to his Pittodrie career following his move North from St Johnstone. Inglis is also prone to coming forward and causing and aerial goal threat in the box.

Alongside him is former Falkirk man GARY SMITH who can play at either full-back or central defence. Smith has been at Aberdeen for four years now and must have enjoyed the recent Coca-Cola win over Rangers, as it was his own goal in the 1992 final of the same competition that gave the Govan side that year's trophy.

Completing the back four at the moment is youngster STEPHEN GLASS who's perfect cross created Billy Dodds' second goal against Rangers last Tuesday. Coming into the side recently Glass is one for the future and a product of the Aberdeen youth policy.

IN the middle of the park, is another of Aberdeen's long serving stars, BRIAN GRANT. One of the games more anonymous men, he has quietly contributed to the Dons success over the years and continues to do so.

Joining Grant in midfield is new signing PAUL BERNARD. The Scotland under-21 star was brought from Oldham for £1 million — the Don's most expensive buy ever, and he paid back part of that last weekend when he netted his first goal for the club against Partick in the 3-0 win.

Relishing his new role in the middle of the park is Scotland star EOIN JESS. Once touted as the greatest young player in the country, a bad leg break in 1993 held his progress back and for a while it looked as if he would fail to live up to all the hype.

But now he is revelling in the space Roy Aitken has given him and made Billy Dodds' first strike against Rangers in the Cup.

Jess will be one man Celtic want to keep a close eye on today. He is the Dons' top scorer against Celtic in the league with 10



Eoin Jess is showing the kind of form expected of him for years



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

Dons are back from the brink

goals to his credit, the last coming in Celts 3-2 win at Pittodrie earlier this term.

One man Celtic fans know in the Aberdeen line-up is winger **JOE MILLER**, who despite looking to be on his way out of Pittodrie a year ago, has regained his form and on his day can cause defenders no end of problems as he jinks forward.

PETER HETHERSTON replaced Miller in the win over Rangers last week, and the former Raith captain would have been glad of the game as he has found it hard to hold down a regular place in the Aberdeen starting line-up.

Aberdeen's forward line can be formidable on its day with **SCOTT BOOTH** and **BILLY DODDS** being two of the deadliest strikers around.

Booth is the top scorer in the Premier Division so far this term, with eight to his name, but it was Dodds who added to his four goals with a double against the Ibrox club midweek.

Dodds seems to have finally hit the big time after years of trying with the likes of Chelsea, Dundee and St Johnstone—he was relegated with each of these clubs, and it looked as though he was going down again last term, but obviously he wasn't as jinxed as people made out!

A possible sub for Aberdeen could be **DUNCAN SHEARER** who, by his standards, has not had the best of season's, probably the highlight being his goal for the Scotland B team against Sweden in the recent friendly.

And joining him could be youngster **SCOTT THOMSON** who has made a handful of top team appearances for the Dons in the last three seasons.



Brian Grant



Michael Watt

Lowdown + Lowdown

MICHAEL WATT (Goalkeeper)
Aged 24. Signed from Cove Rangers, 1987.

STEWART McKIMMIE (Defender)
Aged 33. Signed from Dundee, 1983.

JOHN INGLIS (Defender)
Aged 29. Signed from St Johnstone, 1994

GARY SMITH (Defender)
Aged 24. Signed from Falkirk, 1991.

STEPHEN GLASS (Defender)
Aged 19. Signed from S-Form

BRIAN GRANT (Midfielder)
Aged 31. Signed from Stirling Albion, 1984.

PAUL BERNARD (Midfielder)
Aged 22. Signed from Oldham Athletic, 1995.

EOIN JESS (Midfielder)
Aged 24. Signed from Rangers, 1987.

JOE MILLER (Midfielder)
Aged 27. Signed from Celtic, 1993.

PETER HETHERSTON (Midfielder)
Aged 30. Signed from Raith Rovers in 1994

SCOTT BOOTH (Forward)
Aged 23. Signed from Deeside BC in 1988.

BILLY DODDS (Forward)
Aged 26. Signed from St Johnstone in 1994.

DUNCAN SHEARER (Forward)
Aged 33. Signed from Blackburn Rovers in 1992.

SCOTT THOMSON (Midfielder)
Aged 23. Signed from Brechin City in 1991.





DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

24.10.73 In Glasgow

HEIGHT: 5ft 8ins

WEIGHT: 10st

SIGNED: From Dunfermline
October 4, 1995 for £600,000

**CAREER RECORD WITH
CELTIC:** Four starts.

**BEST GAME PLAYED FOR
CELTIC:** My home debut
against Partick Thistle three
weeks ago.

**MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT
AS A CELT:** Michael O'Neill of
Hibs.

BEST PALS AT PARKHEAD: All
of them, there is a great team
spirit here.

**HAPPIEST MOMENT AS A
CELT:** When I pulled the
Hoops over my head for the
first time.

FAVOURITE CELTIC SONG:
The Celtic Song.

CELT in the SPOTLIGHT

Jackie McNamara

WHEN Jackie McNamara signed for Celtic he made an old man very happy... his 65-year-old Granda Jimmy!

Jimmy used to go to Celtic Park and watch Jackie senior when he wore the Hoops back in the 1970s. But since then his visits have been few and far between – until now.

All because Jackie junior is now following in his father's footsteps and turning out at the stadium where the McNamara family have always felt at home.

Young Jackie explained: "My Granda comes along to every one of my games as he did when my dad played for Celtic, so he's keeping up a family tradition.

"But between my dad joining Hibs and my Granda being based down south for a while he got out of the habit of coming to Celtic Park.

"He did return to Scotland but by that time I was playing with Dunfermline and he was going to watch them all the time.

"Now he is back at his real home after all these years. And no-one is more delighted than him that I have signed for Celtic – in fact he couldn't believe it."

Jackie was just a toddler when his dad went to Easter Road so he doesn't remember seeing him in the Hoops. But the defender claims throughout his younger days there was a big Celtic tradition in the family.

He said: "There are a lot of Celtic supporters among my family and friends and one of the big differences between being at East End Park and here is that they are all now looking for tickets – a few of them have come out of the closet!"

The search for tickets isn't the only thing that has changed since he swapped the black and white of the Pars for the green and white hoops of Celtic – there are massive differences both on and off the pitch.

He said: "As far as football goes there is a big difference in the styles at both clubs because with Celtic the way we play is based on possession football and I see a lot more of the ball.

"It's also good to be playing with better players who all want the ball, that can only help my own game."

And Jackie, who celebrated his 22nd birthday last Tuesday, added: "I'm still young and fully aware of the

It was a bit of a shock to the system when I first arrived here at Celtic Park

Interview: JOE SULLIVAN

amount I am about to learn through playing in defence alongside internationalists like Tom Boyd and Tosh McKinlay.

"I'm learning more everyday – not just from the players but also from Tommy Burns and Billy Stark."

And the fact that Celts are currently involved in international competition courtesy of the European Cup Winners' Cup is also making him realise how much the ante's been upped in playing for Celtic.

He said: "This is a massive club and when I was in Paris for the PSG game the Celtic supporters were unbelievable.

"I was signed after the transfer deadline so couldn't play and I really wish that wasn't the case.

"But it was great that the club took me along as part of the squad as I still felt involved even if it was only in the training sessions.

"I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we go through to the quarter-finals because by that time I will be available for selection so I would love to make my European debut."

It's been a bit of a whirlwind time for the youngster since signing from Dunfermline and making the step up from the First Division. But he had no second thoughts about a move to Celtic.

He said: "I wanted to better myself and although I really enjoyed my time at Dunfermline, like any young player I wanted to play at a higher level.

"Bert Paton always kept me in touch with what was happening and he told me there was interest from down south.

"But then he told me the only offer that actually came in was from Celtic. Once he said that there was no other place I wanted to go."

Although the defender initially had to come to terms with being on the books of a team as big as Celtic, he quickly realised that the size of the club could be used to his advantage.

He said: "It was a bit of a shock to the system when I first came here as the Dunfermline support were really great to me.

"So to run out and see the massive North Stand was an amazing sight and made me realise how big Celtic are but it was not intimidating.

"It made me feel better and the supporters really bring out the best in you. The crowd here lift your game – which is just as well because the spotlight is on you all the time.

And he believes he couldn't have joined Celtic at a better time."

He said: "Everything is just starting to come together here and the whole club is on the way up even if the last couple of results haven't been ideal.

"I can see that I've definitely come at the right time and I'm especially pleased to be involved even if I am still sort of settling in at the moment.

"I'm pleased with the partnership I've struck up with Simon Donnelly down the right as he is always showing himself for the ball and this makes my job a hell of a lot easier."

