

Celtic

V RANGERS

**BELL'S SCOTTISH
LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
SUNDAY, OCT 30
1994. KICK-OFF 3PM.**

INSIDE

**THE BIG MATCH
PICTURE REVIEW**

Plus++Plus++Plus



**WILLIE FALCONER
PLAYER PROFILE**



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1



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TOMMY BURNS



I F there's one team I'm happy to be facing on the back of our Coca Cola Cup semi-final victory it's Rangers.

An Old Firm encounter is the ideal follow-up to Wednesday night's match because there will be no danger of a 'comedown' after the high of qualifying for our first cup final in four years.

As with the tie against Aberdeen, today's Old Firm game is another big one, with a capacity crowd and a terrific atmosphere guaranteed.

Everyone at the club is looking forward to taking on Rangers.

From the outset we all knew this was a vital important week for our ambitions.

Our first objective - to reach the Coca Cola Cup final - has been achieved.

Grateful

Now we want to add a victory over Rangers which would wipe out the three point gap they have built-up on us and really set us up nicely for the months ahead.

I think it's fair to say that Wednesday's semi-final was one of the biggest games the club's played in the past five years.

If we hadn't made it through it's not being overdramatic to suggest that it would have caused abject misery in our ranks.

But we're grateful to the man upstairs for looking after us and here's hoping the mid-week result really can be a turning point for the whole club.

Far from a classic, the biggest factor in the win over Aberdeen was the supporters.

The players showed tremendous resilience and perseverance and were inspired to produce such a great effort by the backing they got from 35,000 fans.

I know I keep saying it but it's absolutely vital the supporters stay behind the players.

I know they may get frustrated if things aren't going well and become exasperated by

‘ We want victory over Rangers to wipe out the three point gap

watching largely the same team that hasn't claimed trophies in recent years.

But these guys are Celtic players and as such deserve the backing of supporters who love the club.

Wednesday was a classic case of a fanatical support willing on a side so much, that the group of players involved simply couldn't fail them.

To our supporters then I say: Never underestimate your power.



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LEAVE THE
COMPETITION
STANDING**



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THE SQUADS



GORDON MARSHALL



Referee:
W N M Crombie
Edinburgh

ANDY GORAM



MIKE GALLOWAY



Linesman:
A M Roy
Aberdeen

NEIL MURRAY



MARK McNALLY



Linesman:
I G Frickleton
Stirling

BASILE BOLI



BRIAN O'NEIL

ALAN McLAREN



BARRY SMITH

DAVIE ROBERTSON



JOHN COLLINS

STUART McCALL



PETER GRANT

STAND-BYS:
Celtic - Pat Bonner (GK), Pat McGinlay, Barry Smith
Rangers - Colin Scott(GK), Fraser Wishart, Scott Wilson

DAVID HAGEN



PAUL McSTAY

PETER HUISTRA



PHIL O'DONNELL

BRIAN LAUDRUP



ANDY WALKER

CHARLIE MILLER



SIMON DONNELLY

MARK HATELEY



CHARLIE NICHOLAS

MASCOT
Daniel Boyle
Age 5
Bellahouston

ALLY McCOIST



WILLIE FALCONER

GORDON DURIE



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

★ **RANGERS** are on a revenge mission at Hampden today after being conclusively outplayed in Celts' 2-0 victory in the first Old Firm game of the season at Ibrox in August. Irish winger **PAUL BYRNE** takes us through the men in blue.



★ **BASILE BOLI** has added steel to the centre of the Ibrox defence.

RANGERS might not have set the heather on fire this season but they have so many good players that they are still the team to beat. I know what it's like to be on the winning side in an Old Firm match, though not at Hampden - I'm hoping for that first today!

Out to block our path to goal is **ANDY GORAM** a keeper I rate very highly. To my mind it says it all that he's Scotland's no.1 despite the competition from Jim Leighton at Hibs and Bryan Gunn at Norwich - two guys I think are superb keepers!

The Ibrox men have options in defence, but I hope **DAVIE ROBERTSON** takes his place at left-back. We've had a couple of right good tussles and I enjoy the contest of coming up against a player who likes to get forward.

With **CRAIG MOORE** - who like me stays out Hamilton way - suspended Walter Smith could ask **NEIL MURRAY** to fill in at the back.

With what I've seen of the young lad he looks quite composed and a decent passer of the ball, though the fact he's more of a midfielder could help our cause.

I've heard everyone ranting and raving about **ALAN McLAREN** who seems set to make his debut against us today after signing from Hearts in midweek, so he's got a lot to live up to.

And coming to a club as big as Rangers he has to prove himself all over again. It's one thing being a stand-out for Hearts but it's a whole lot tougher when you performances are constantly scrutinised - as they are if you play for the Old Firm.

I assume **BASILE BOLI** will partner him in central-defence and the former Marseilles stopper has certainly not found life in Glasgow a bed of roses.

Still seems to be struggling with the pace of the game and the fact that you simply get no time on the ball up here.

I wouldn't be entirely surprised if **RICHARD GOUGH** played today, even though he's unlikely to be fully fit after his recent toe operation. He's shown he's willing to go through the personal pain barrier to play and it's that kind of commitment that's served him so well.

In midfield **STUART McCALL** is a player I really

+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

Rangers' are still the team we've to beat



rate. I put him up there with Paul McStay and that's as high a compliment as I can pay anyone.

He's a tremendous worker, under-rated passer and one of the Ibrox team's stars.

I don't know a lot about **DAVID HAGEN** but if he's been getting a chance ahead of the likes of **IAN DURRANT** then he must have something.

Because Ian's a smashing player for my money and I actually had a good chat with him before he headed down to Everton on loan, a move that surprised me because he is such a good performer.

PIETER HUISTRA has been a player who's been figuring again after looking to be on his way to Queen's Park Rangers. A winger like myself, he suffers through the fact that tactics change game to game and wide men aren't always required.

New kid on the block **CHARLIE MILLER** seems to have arrived after scoring a smashing goal against Falkirk. A young lad with bags of confidence he'd relish the chance to play at Hampden today.

For my money Rangers' real strength lies in attack with **MARK HATELEY** and **BRIAN LAUDRUP** two great internationalists.

Hateley has everything - he's quick, immense in the air, and has a good touch.

Laudrup is my kind of footballer. Tremendously skilful, the Danish internationalist is the sort of player I'd pay to watch - even just in training.

And with **ALLY McCOIST**, who's goals speak for themselves, and **GORDON DURIE**, a clever player I admired when he was at Spurs, Rangers are spoiled for riches up front.

+ Lowdown + Lowdown

ANDY GORAM (AGE 30)

Signed from Hibs, 1991

NEIL MURRAY (AGE 21)

Signed from Rangers Ams, 1989

DAVID ROBERTSON (AGE 26)

Signed from Aberdeen, 1991

STUART McCALL (AGE 30)

Signed from Everton, 1991

BASILE BOLI (AGE 27)

Signed from Marseille, 1994

ALAN McLAREN (AGE 22)

Signed from Hearts, 1994

GORDON DURIE (AGE 28)

Signed from Spurs, 1993

CHARLIE MILLER (AGE 18)

Signed from Rangers BC, 1992

PIETER HUISTRA (AGE 27)

Signed from FC Twente, 1990

MARK HATELEY (AGE 32)

Signed from Monaco, 1990

BRIAN LAUDRUP (AGE 25)

Signed from Fiorentina, 1994

ALLY McCOIST (AGE 32)

Signed from Sunderland, 1983

FRASER WISHART (AGE 29)

Signed from Falkirk, 1993

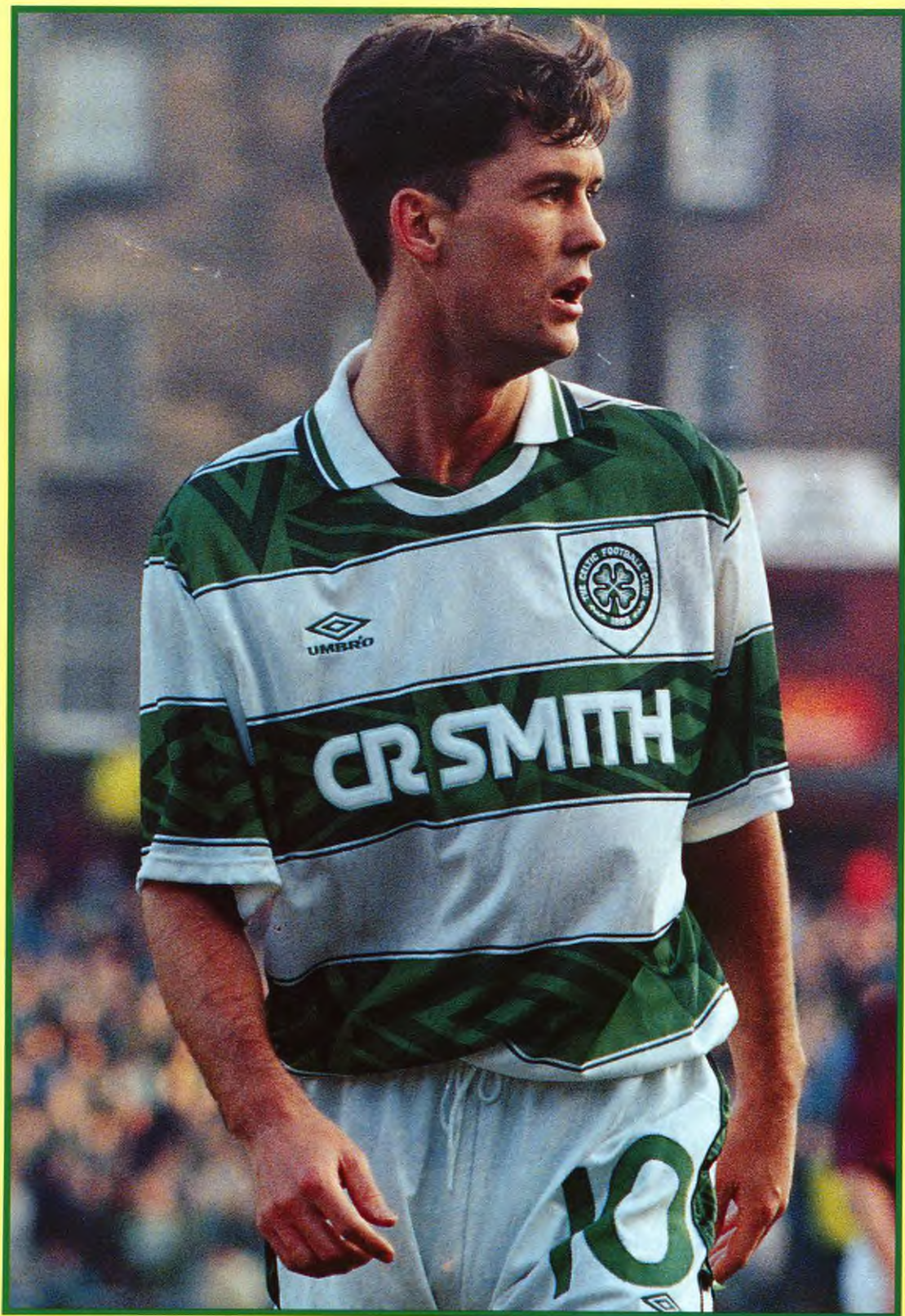
COLIN SCOTT (AGE 24)

Signed from Dalry Th, 1987

DAVID HAGEN (AGE 21)

Signed from G'hamston BC, 1989





Old Firm clash holds no fears

The big INTERVIEW

WILLIE FALCONER

WILLIE FALCONER has already had two half-hearted attempts at experiencing the true atmosphere that surrounds players during an Old Firm match ... and today he hopes to find out what it's really all about.

Since his arrival at Celtic Park in February he has viewed two Old Firm games from different angles – and, in the case of one of these encounters, under **VERY** peculiar circumstances.

His first was the now legendary 1-1 draw at Ibrox in April when that John Collins free-kick totally silenced an Ibrox devoid of green and white clad fans.

Then, this season, he witnessed Celts' 2-0 victory at the same venue when Collins hit a carbon copy of his first strike before skipper Paul McStay added another, with injury relegating Falconer to a purely spectating role.

For the 28-year old, all this has conspired to rob him of a bona fide Old Firm debut, but he is desperate to put that to rights in today's clash.

Willie explains: "The first game at Ibrox was a bit of a one-off and it was strange playing there with no Celtic fans behind us.

"However, in saying that, it might have worked in our favour.

Confidence

"Even so, it would clearly have been better to play in front of both sets of fans and sampled the real atmosphere of the Old Firm occasion.

"I felt a wee bit let down, especially as it was my debut.

"But that's just the way it worked out and things went our way in the end as we took all the credit in those strange circumstances."

He added: "Apart from being my debut, it was the first time I had ever been to an Old Firm game so it was hard to really get a feeling for what it was all about with only Rangers fans in the stadium.

"So today I'm looking to experience a 'proper' Old Firm clash in a way I haven't before.

"I did get an idea of what it's all about in our August victory but, unfortunately, it wasn't under the ideal circumstances for me.

"I was injured and watched the

Interview: JOE SULLIVAN

game from the dug-out – though even there the atmosphere was fantastic.

"The boys performed really well throughout the 90 minutes and for spells played out of their skins.

"But while I was sitting there I wanted to be out on the pitch playing, I wanted to be involved and lapping up the occasion to the full, especially with the quality of football we were producing.

"So I've played in an Old Firm game with only one set of fans and I've been to an Old Firm game with both sets of fans present but didn't play.

"I've got my fingers crossed then that I'll be able to combine both experiences today!"

Before signing for Celtic in a £375,000 deal, the midfielder had played for Aberdeen, Watford, Middlesbrough and Sheffield United so he knows a little of what derby days are all about.

And Willie also reckons they are right up his street. He said: "During my days with Aberdeen we had what was known as the 'New Firm' games against Dundee United.

"But those games could never truly be termed as derbies.

"In fact, the Pittodrie games against Celtic and Rangers always created a bigger stir and the Aberdeen fans would look forward to

"This game is definitely what derby fever is all about ..."

them all week.

"Then I moved to Watford and, to be honest, there was no derby match to speak of at Vicarage Road.

"That changed though when I moved to Middlesbrough and we had not one but two North East derbies.

"Our games against Newcastle and Sunderland were the big occasions for the fans but even those were inter-city and it wasn't until my next transfer that I played in a derby in the true sense of the word.

"When I was with United, our games against Wednesday always had a special atmosphere even if the football wasn't all that great.

"Because of all the local interest there was a great build-up but, as in a lot of derbies, the game would be an anti-climax despite there being a real rivalry between both sets of fans for the full 90 minutes.

Pressure

"In fact, all derbies tend to be that way because there is so much at stake ... but the Old Firm game is a one-off.

"It's a unique fixture that is known throughout the world whereas other derbies may be termed as 'just another game' elsewhere."

In his Old Firm debut six months ago Willie found out that could never be said of a Celtic and Rangers clash.

And he enjoyed the experience! He said: "We started off quite well and probably the fact that we had no fans helped us.

"In a way it was similar to a small team getting drawn against one of the big guns in the cup.

"No-one expects them to win so they have nothing to lose and everything to play for.

"The pressure should have been on us but it worked the other way and we went into the game pretty relaxed.

"Although it could have worked the other way – we had to make sure we weren't TOO relaxed."

