

Celtic

PROGRAMME NO. 6



BELL'S PREMIER
DIVISION
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7
Kick-off 3pm

**PARTICK
THISTLE**

RUDI VATA POSTER

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1



PHOENIX HONDA NEWS

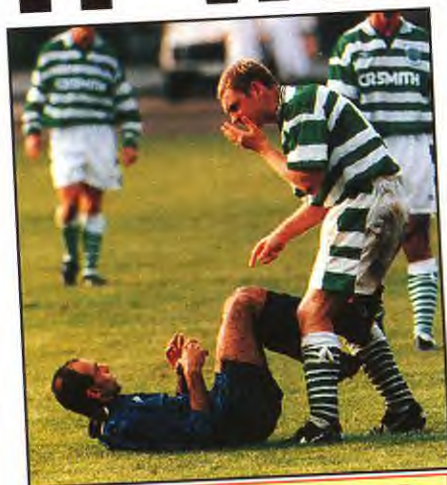
YIPPEE!

DOUBLE CELEBRATION AS
BRIAN McLAUGHLIN GETS
CAR FROM PHOENIX HONDA
THEN BREAKS HIS DUCK!

CELT'S FANS CALL FOR
HONDA CIVIC RECEPTION!



IT WISNAE ME!



SPITTING MAD!
GOBBED ON GRANT STILL
KEEPS HIS COOL IN GEORGIA

PETER GRANT PLEADS HIS INNOCENCE! 'HEART'ACHE FOR CELT at Tynecastle

Hearts star Robertson backs
Grant's claim - just in case
Celtic do happen to sign him!



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BILLY STARK



I THINK the most heartening aspect of this season is the way we've battled back from the Old Firm defeats.

After losing to Rangers in the Coca Cola Cup we went to Tynecastle with a young side and recorded a fine 4-0 victory.

And this week it was a similar story. It was very disappointing to go down 2-0 to Rangers in the league last Saturday but we got that out of our system in the best way possible by winning 1-0 at Falkirk on Wednesday.

Indeed we've now gone to Brockville, Tynecastle, Pittodrie and Stark's Park and come away with 12 points.

That's good going and now we have to get it right at home by recording our first league win at the new Celtic Park against Partick Thistle.

To be fair there's probably mitigating circumstances for the results we've had in our two home league matches - the 1-1 draw with Motherwell and the 2-0 loss to Rangers.

Both followed our Thursday night European matches against Batumi and it is perhaps significant that both against Alex McLeish's side and the Ibrox men we started very well and faded.

We will take many good things from the win at Falkirk, not least the performance of new signing Jackie McNamara.

He's a player we've been tracking for some time. Jackie's a good footballer, very comfortable on the ball, a fine passer and capable of putting in good crosses. I'm sure he'll fit right in at Celtic. We were also very pleased with the display of his full-back partner Jamie McQuilken.

Though he was starting only his second senior game, and his first in two and a half years, Jamie played as if he'd been a regular in the first team for years.

Despite waiting till late in the game to get the winner at Falkirk we told the players at half time that if they retained their composure and were patient a goal would come.

And in the 78th minute that's exactly what happened with John Hughes coming up with a great finish.

'We have to get it right at Parkhead by recording our first home league victory'

We have the quality to create chances and score goals and we hope that will be shown in all its glory this afternoon.

We know of our responsibility to entertain our fans and we will be looking to give them the performance and the result that will send them home happy.

Manager's page sponsored by:



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THE SQUADS



GORDON MARSHALL



TOM BOYD



TOSH MCKINLAY



RUDI VATA



JOHN HUGHES



PETER GRANT



SIMON DONNELLY



PAUL McSTAY



PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK



ANDREAS THOM



JOHN COLLINS



BRIAN McLAUGHLIN



ANDY WALKER



Referee:
AW Waddell
(Edinburgh)



Linesman:
LB Thow
(Prestwick)



Linesman:
PJ Peace
(West Calder)

STAND-BYS:
Celtic: Phil O'Donnell, Mark McNally, Malky Mackay, Stuart Kerr
Thistle: MacLeod, Pittman

Mascot: James Patrick Clark, 9, from Maryhill

NICKY WALKER



ALLAN DINNIE



GREGG WATSON



STEVE WELSH



CALLUM MILNE



KEVIN MCKEE



TOMMY TURNER



ALBERT CRAIG



STEPHEN DOCHERTY



ANDY GIBSON



ROD McDONALD



KEVIN CURRAN



THOMAS SMITH



IN ASSOCIATION WITH CR SMITH



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

PARTICK
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THISTLE
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WHEN Murdo MacLeod took over the reins at Firhill during the summer he immediately declared that Premier Division survival WASN'T going to be Partick Thistle's sole ambition. Though success under John Lambie was simply staying in the top flight, the problem for MacLeod is that he has inherited a squad of players for who battling the drop is the norm. And they seem to be unable to shake-off this mentality if results this season are anything to go by.

UNDER new boss Murdo MacLeod Thistle have so far demonstrated that they are a difficult side to beat...and Celtic know that to their cost.

In the four league meetings between the sides last term, honours were even with each team scoring one win and the other two encounters ending in draws.

NICKY WALKER was partially responsible for his side's good record against Celts, almost singlehandedly keeping them at bay in the 0-0 draw at Firhill in January.

The former Hearts' stopper has opened the season in good form for the Jags and is in the Scotland B squad for the friendly in Sweden next week.

Partick favour the three man central defensive combination which is likely to mean **ALAN DINNIE**, **GREGG WATSON** and **STEVIE WELSH** occupying the key roles in the backline.

Dinnie is another in his first full season with Partick, having joined from Dundee during the course of last term. In his second spell at Firhill, the veteran defender was with Thistle before heading to Dens Park in 1989 and will probably sweep behind Watson and Welsh.

Watson has been one of the most consistent performers for Thistle in recent times and an example of Lambie's astuteness in the transfer market, picked up for a small fee from Aberdeen in August 1993.

Making up the defensive triangle is Welsh, who was bought from Peterborough last December for a reported £30,000 fee and has formed a solid partnership with Watson.

So much so that Thistle's goals conceded record this term is the fourth best in the division.

The full-backs cum midfielders for the Jags are **KEVIN MCKEE** and **CALLUM MILNE**. McKee, one of the longer serving Jags having spent four years at Maryhill, patrols the right flank and makes a good contribution in both attack and defence in that position.

On the opposite wing is Milne, who joined from Hibs two years ago and has turned out in a number of roles for Thistle.

In midfield is the redoubtable **ALBERT CRAIG**. Captain and chief goal threat for the Maryhill Magyars he's already found the net six times this season, albeit three of these coming from the penalty spot. Has found his niche since his move from Dundee three years ago, which followed spells at Dumbarton, Hamilton, Newcastle and Northampton.

DEREK WILLIAMS made a fine return to the side in the 1-1 draw at home to Kilmarnock on Wednesday and should retain his place in midfield. Another player at the club less than a year - he was previously with Dunfermline - he's been in and out of the side in that time.



Former Celtic and Scotland star, now Thistle boss Murdo MacLeod



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

Murdo guns for more than just survival

One man who is making a big impression this term is old warhorse **TOMMY TURNER**. In the past week he's collected two sponsors man of the match awards and seems to be enjoying a new lease of life under MacLeod.

A surprise signing when Lambie swooped to take him to Firhill from St Johnstone he provides the dig in the middle of the park for the Maryhill men.

Up-front **ROD McDONALD** and **ANDY GIBSON** are likely to carry the attack for the visitors.

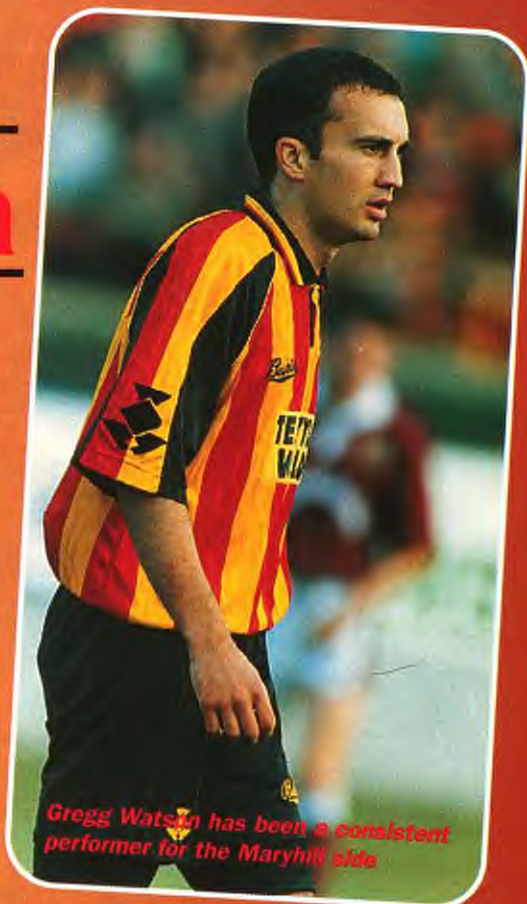
McDonald, signed from Walsall last year and a self-confessed Celtic fan, is capable of being brilliant or downright ordinary depending on how the mood takes the big Englishman.

Gibson, has found his appearances restricted since his move from Aberdeen but seems to have been given an opportunity to prove his worth under MacLeod. He will be looking for some goals to justify his manager's faith, especially with the likes of **WAYNE FOSTER** and **TOM SMITH** waiting in the wings.

Foster scored two in the Jags 3-1 win the last time the sides met at Hampden in May and, all in all, had a reasonable season for the Glasgow side following his move from Hearts.

Smith, meanwhile, holds the distinction of being the last person to have scored at the old Celtic Park, after netting the late equaliser in the 1-1 draw in May 1994 which ensured Firhill would play host to Premier Division football the next season.

Other players who could feature are the likes of promising youngster **STEPHEN DOCHERTY**, a 19 year old midfielder who is on the verge of the big breakthrough this term, and Lambie's last ever signing **HARRY CURRAN**, a former St Johnstone stalwart who moved to Thistle in July after six years with the Perth club in a swap deal involving Roddy Grant.



Gregg Watson has been a consistent performer for the Maryhill side

Lowdown + Lowdown

NICKY WALKER (Goalkeeper)
Aged 33. Signed from Hearts, 1994
KEVIN MCKEE (Defender)
Aged 29. Signed from Hamilton, 1991
CALLUM MILNE (Defender)
Aged 30. Signed from Hibs, 1993
ALAN DINNIE (Defender)
Aged 32. Signed from Dundee, 1994
GREGG WATSON (Defender)
Aged 25. Signed from Aberdeen, 1993
STEVIE WELSH (Defender)
Aged 27. Signed from Peterborough, 1994
ALBERT CRAIG (Midfield)
Aged 33. Signed from Dundee, 1992
DEREK McWILLIAMS (Midfielder)
Aged 29. Signed from

Dunfermline, 1994
TOMMY TURNER (Midfielder)
Aged 31. Signed from St Johnstone, 1994
STEPHEN DOCHERTY (Midfielder)
Aged 19. Signed from Pollok Juniors, 1993
HARRY CURRAN (Midfielder)
Aged 28. Signed from St Johnstone, 1995
ROD McDONALD (Forward)
Aged 28. Signed from Walsall, 1994
ANDY GIBSON (Forward)
Aged 26. Signed from Stockport County 1993.
WAYNE FOSTER (Forward)
Aged 32. Signed from Hearts, 1994
TOM SMITH (Forward)
Aged 21. Signed from Cork, 1992.





DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

1.12.74 in Glasgow

HEIGHT: 5 ft 7in.

WEIGHT: 10st.

SIGNED: From Queen's Park on X-form July 1992, professional contract in June 1993.

CAREER RECORD WITH CELTIC: 31 starts, 14 substitute appearances and eight goals.

BEST GAME PLAYED WITH CELTIC: My debut v Raith Rovers at Celtic Park in March 1994 when I scored twice in a 2-1 win was my favourite, but I'm still waiting for my best.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENTS AS A CELT: I'm not saying as I don't want anyone to think they've got one over on me!

BEST PALS AT PARKHEAD: I like to look upon all the guys as my friends.

HAPPIEST MOMENT AS A CELT: My debut as I mentioned before and the Scottish Cup final win last May against Airdrie.

FAVOURITE CELTIC SONG: 'Ooh Ahh Willie Falconer!'



CELT in the SPOTLIGHT

Simon Donnelly

WITHOUT a goal in 16 months, it was no wonder Simon Donnelly breathed a huge sigh of relief when he netted the winner against Raith Rovers in the Coca-Cola Cup third round tie back in August at Celtic Park.

Since then he's added two more. Both came against European opponents Dinamo Batumi - one in the 3-2 first leg win in Georgia, and the other, a belter of a strike from 30 yards, in the 4-0 second leg victory back at Parkhead.

But the 20-year-old forward, who is enjoying his stint out on the right wing, insists there is still a long way to go in a career that has really only just begun.

Despite having a Scottish Cup winners' medal and eight first team goals in just over two seasons to his credit, he knows he still has a lot to do to prove himself in the game. And for the first time in a while he is feeling tremendously confident about what he has to offer.

Simon said: "There is always room for improvement in football. Despite feeling that my form hasn't been too bad recently, and being happy at scoring goals again, I still want to do much better.

"There is no greater feeling than when you score a goal, but the whole game is more important than just the goals and I want to perform well for the full 90 minutes.

"I've been happy playing in a wider role this season and just off the front two. The gaffer tried me there to see how it would go and I must be doing all right as I've managed to keep my place in the side.

"Also, playing in a midfield alongside the likes of Peter Grant, John Collins and Paul McStay can only help me improve as a player as they are quality professionals."

The three goals Simon has scored this term have been important ones for the club, but none pleased him more than the beauty he hit against Batumi a week past Thursday at Celtic Park.

And he laughed: "I think I was due a goal like that. It's not often that those sort of efforts hit the net, and when I decided to thump it, it was just as a 'wait and see pot-shot'.

"So I was delighted to see it go in -

Despite being happy at scoring goals again I still want to do much better

Interview: MERLE BROWN

and maybe a little surprised as well!

"The fact that it was only my second European game and I scored as I had in my debut was great.

"It was a new experience for me and I really enjoyed it. It's another step-up and as a footballer you always want to be testing yourself at all different levels.

"The journey over to Georgia was a bit of nightmare, but the game was good and the fact that we are in the next round and have drawn a class side in Paris St-Germain is brilliant.

"I'm really looking forward to playing against the French side as they are real quality - and I think the plane journey there is only one hour...and not eight like the last one!"

Simon has matured as a player over the last year - and not only in his ability, but in his physique and battling qualities as well.

Gone is the skinny wee lad that took to the field back in March 1994. Now he has developed his body strength and will give any rugged defender a real fight.

And he explained: "I think when I was out with my hamstring injury last season for quite a while, I did a lot of upper body work and a lot of swimming and built myself up a bit and I know I have to keep that up.

"I'm not the biggest of guys, so I have to have the strength to let defenders know that I am not there to be pushed around.

"Mind you I get a lot of practice

dealing with tackles at training with some of the guys in our team, who just kick you up and down the training park!"

With that Scottish Cup medal to his name already, Simon is hoping to add more awards and believes Celtic can make a real challenge for the league this year.

He said: "At the start of the season we set our sights on the treble as that's what you have to do.

"Now we're out of the Coca-Cola Cup, but we just have to get on with the other two competitions.

"The football we're playing just now is good, we're passing the ball about well and scoring a few goals which was the real problem for us last year.

"And here's hoping we are providing good games for the fans to watch, because I am certainly enjoying playing in them at the moment.

"I want to keep enjoying them and hold my place in the side. I've had a good run recently and I've scored and I hope that can continue.

"But as I've said there is always room for improvement. I have a long way to go in my career and a lot to learn before I'm anywhere near being the player I want to be.

"So right now I just have to concentrate on learning from the players around me - especially the foreign players like Andreas Thom and big Pierre van Hooijdonk.

"They play a different style from us and it's brilliant to have that kind of player around who you can watch and hope some of their talent rubs off on you."

