

Celtic

V ABERDEEN

**BELL'S SCOTTISH
LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION
SATURDAY, OCT 8
1994. KICK-OFF 3PM.**

INSIDE

**THE BIG MATCH
PICTURE REVIEW**

Plus++Plus++Plus



**GORDON MARSHALL
PLAYER PROFILE**



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £1



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TOMMY BURNS



WELCOME to today's match against Aberdeen which I hope won't be looked upon as a dress rehearsal for our up and coming Coca Cola semi-final clash at Ibrox.

We will think about that one only when it is next on the schedule.

This afternoon's league encounter is the one we have our sights set upon just now.

We are still unbeaten and we aim to maintain that record today.

Despite losing a goal to Motherwell two minutes from the end I thought the back four played well as a defensive unit up until then.

Mike Galloway was one of our better players on the day and has slotted in well at right-back so I was disappointed FOR him and not IN him when we lost the goal.

One thing I don't want is for our supporters to get on his back as he played well throughout in a steady backline which also featured an exceptional performance from Brian O'Neil.

Honoured

However, we have also lost bad goals against Falkirk and Kilmarnock which have cost us points and that is something we will have to cut out. But I was pleased with our performance.

I was honoured to pick up the Bell's Manager of the Month award and I'm delighted that John Collins received their Player of the Month trophy as well.

I'm pleased at these honours but basically I feel that they are an indication of how Celtic are playing as a team rather than individual distinctions.

And I also consider any award which comes my way has to be shared with Billy Stark as it is very much a partnership between us.

But the awards and the international inclusions show that we are now gaining some recognition.

I'm delighted that Paul McStay, John Collins, Tom Boyd and Andy Walker have all retained their places in the Scotland squad for this Wednesday's match against the Faroe Islands.

It's imperative that Celtic players are included in the international squad as this can only benefit the club.

Of more immediate benefit would be three points in the bag this afternoon.

AND THOUGH ABERDEEN ARE ONE OF THE TOP TEAMS IN THE COUNTRY, IF WE PLAY TO OUR CAPABILITIES AND GET GOOD BACKING FROM THE STANDS I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN RUN OUT WINNERS.

‘ We still have an unbeaten record and we must aim to maintain that ,



**WHEN IT COMES TO
THE BEST IN THE FIELD**



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THE SQUADS



GORDON MARSHALL



Referee:
A N HUETT
Edinburgh

THEO SNELDERS



MARK McNALLY

STEPHEN WRIGHT



BRIAN O'NEIL

COLIN WOODTHORPE



TONY MOWBRAY

Linesman:
J F McGILVRAY
Edinburgh

BRIAN IRVINE



TOM BOYD



Linesman:
D L HORAN
Kirkcaldy

GARY SMITH



PHIL O'DONNELL

STEWART McKIMMIE



PAT MCGINLAY

STAND-BYS:
Celtic - Pat Bonner (GK), Malky MacKay, Brian McLaughlin
ABERDEEN - Michael Watt (GK), David Winnie, Paul Kane

BRIAN GRANT



PAUL MCSTAY

DUNCAN SHEARER



JOHN COLLINS

BILLY DODDS



SIMON DONNELLY

SCOTT BOOTH



ANDY WALKER



MASCOT
Finlay Young
Aged 7
Knightswood

RAY MCKINNON



MIKE GALLOWAY

JOE MILLER



CHARLIE NICHOLAS

PETER HETHERSTON



+TODAY'S VISITORS+



★ **Aberdeen**
visit
Hampden today in
a dress rehearsal
for the Coca-Cola
Cup semi-final later this
month. far. Running us
through their stars is one
time Pittodrie idol Charlie
Nicholas.

ABERDEEN have been a bit up and down of late but are always there or thereabouts come the end of the season. And they've added to their pool this term which will help their challenge for honours.

With Theo Snelders injured **MICHAEL WATT** has had his chance in the No.1 position. Michael has come through the ranks at Aberdeen and has been unfortunate that he has had to be understudy to a goalkeeper of Snelders' class.

But he's highly thought of by the management up there and is a former Scotland Under 21 star who will do well when he is called upon.

STEWART McKIMMIE is a player I have always admired. One of Aberdeen's best servants over many years now and has been rewarded with a testimonial year and the captaincy this season.

Will be looking to lift some silverware whilst he holds that position.

BRIAN IRVINE has been in and out of the team but played in the Rangers game recently. A very honest hardworking guy who always gives his best and is definitely popular with the Aberdeen public.

COLIN WOODTHORPE has filled a problem position for the Dons and must be a good player if Aberdeen spent money on him! Seriously though, I think he's the nearest they've had to replacing David Robertson and seems to have fitted into the side well.

DAVID WINNIE has been playing centre-back as opposed to left-back and I think he fits in there a lot better. A good young player to have in the squad.

STEPHEN WRIGHT is only a young lad but is a well known player which shows how good he is. One of the most successful to come through the Pittodrie ranks.

A very quiet lad but a very efficient player who will be around for a long time yet.

RAY McKINNON was brought to Aberdeen from Nottingham Forest. A product of the Dundee United youth policy, he is a quality player in the Dons midfield. A real passer of the ball which is what the Aberdeen midfield area is all about.

BRIAN GRANT is a real unsung hero in my book. He's also a great Celtic fan. He has a tremendous workrate and I think he's one of these guys who's more of a player's player than anything else.

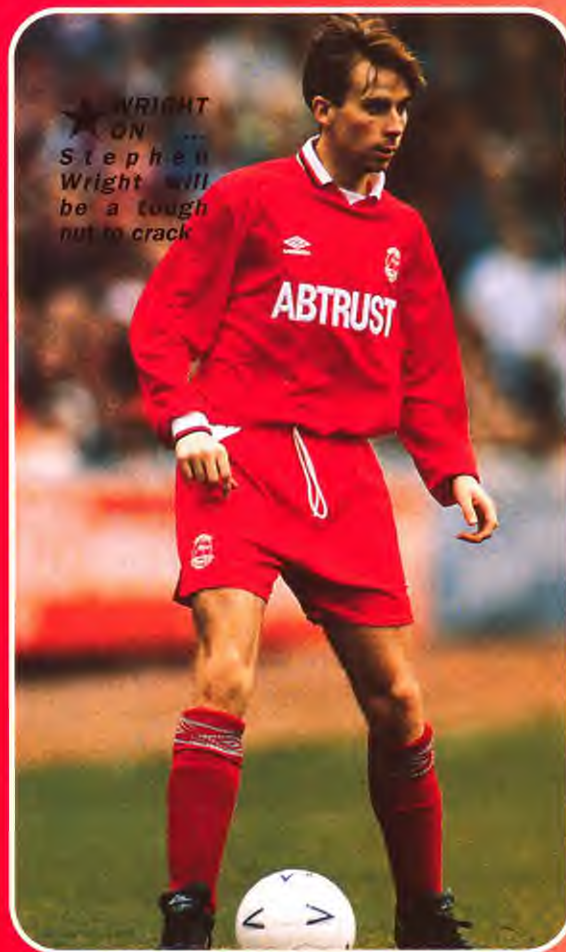
He's another good servant to the club and has taken over the Jim Bett role I reckon.

PETER HETHERSTON hasn't been in the team that much since his move from Raith in the summer.

He is a good player though and deserved the move, but I think with the midfield they have it'll take him time to settle into the Aberdeen style and get a regular place.

PAUL KANE is another one of those player's players. I think he and Brian Grant have been the most consistent performers for Aberdeen in recent times. And for Paul Kane that is great because there was a time last term when it looked as though he was going to be on his way.

BILLY DODDS is a quality striker who has a good eye for goal. He's more of a creator than an out and out scorer and he will do well for the Dons. They need someone to create more chances for them in the bigger games and he will do that.



+ TODAY'S VISITORS +

DONS WILL HAVE STING IN THE TAIL

SCOTT BOOTH has settled into the team now after talk of him moving on and has started to get his goals. He's on form at the moment and will be looking to get as many goals as he can. He's another young player who is very popular with the Dons fans.

HUGH ROBERTSON is one youngster I don't know that much about at all. But he has scored some wonderful goals and that's no bad thing!

He's another of a group of players that show just how well Willie Miller has his youth policy going up there.

JOE MILLER. What can I say about wee Snorky? I haven't see him for a while but they tell me he's grown his hair - any longer and it'll be at his toes! But it'll still never cover that nose of his.

A very talented player on his day and very exciting to watch but he seems to have struggled to settle at Pittodrie.

GARY SMITH is another very highly thought of player at Aberdeen. Now I think he's at the stage where he'd like to establish himself more in the team and fill the gap left by Alex McLeish in the central defence - not so much take Alex's place but be a force in that style in his own right.

DUNCAN SHEARER is deadly. He has a great scoring record and will score from anywhere. A tremendous buy that Willie Miller deserves the credit for. I don't think in my time anyway has there been as prolific a goalscorer at Aberdeen as him since say, Joe Harper or Steve Archibald.

And that is a long time for a club of Aberdeen's stature.

★ L A S T LINE ...

Brian Irvine and Gary Smith are both solid at the back and are good servants for Aberdeen.



Lowdown ++ Lowdown

THEO SNELDERS (AGE 31)
Signed from F C Twente, 1988
STEPHEN WRIGHT (AGE 23)
Signed from Eastercraigs, 1987
COLIN WOODTHORPE (AGE 25)
Signed from Norwich City, 1994
BRIAN IRVINE (AGE 29)
Signed from Falkirk, 1985
GARY SMITH (AGE 23)
Signed from Falkirk, 1991
STEWART MCKIMMIE (AGE 32)
Signed from Dundee, 1983
BRIAN GRANT (AGE 30)
Signed from Stirling Albion, 1984
DUNCAN SHEARER (AGE 32)
Signed from Blackburn Rvrs, 1992

BILLY DODDS (AGE 25)
Signed from St Johnstone, 1994
SCOTT BOOTH (AGE 22)
Signed from Deeside BC
RAY MCKINNON (AGE 24)
Signed from Notts Forest, 1994
JOE MILLER (AGE 26)
Signed from Celtic, 1993
PETER HETHERSTON (AGE 29)
Signed from Raith Rvrs, 1994
MICHAEL WATT (AGE 23)
Signed from Cove Rangers, 1987
PAUL KANE (AGE 29)
Signed from Oldham, 1991
DAVID WINNIE (AGE 27)
Signed from St Mirren, 1990



Keeper wants run kept up

The big INTERVIEW GORDON MARSHALL

GORDON MARSHALL has only conceded five goals this season as Celtic have remained unbeaten in all competitions....

But the big keeper reckons it's five goals too many.

Defensive mix-ups have led to three of those goals and Gordon believes the form the team have been showing recently is better than some of the results have suggested.

He said: "I really think the only good goal we've lost so far has been Jerren Nixon's strike in the league game against Dundee United.

"But from the way we've been playing five goals against is far too many.

"It's really disappointing that three of the goals we've lost - against Falkirk, Kilmarnock and Motherwell - have been stupid goals and have cost us six points.

Confidence

"However apart from these goals we have been playing well as a defensive unit and that is pleasing.

"The goal against Motherwell was again a mistake and that was disappointing because if we'd held out it would have given us three clean-sheets in a row which would have given myself and the back four a wee bit of a confidence boost.

"However, mistakes will always happen but as a defensive unit we have to stick together. The person who makes an error one week might save the match the next and you have to remember that."

Gordon admits that the Motherwell match was not the most enjoyable he's played in since taking over between the sticks again this season after only one first team match last term.

Interview: MERLE BROWN

And he is at pains to point out that although a keeper may not make many saves in a game it doesn't mean he hasn't had a tough match.

He explained: "Different games have been tough for different reasons.

"Everyone would probably say my toughest was the Dundee United one because I had the most saves to make in that one, but that isn't the case.

"The Hibs game was tough because they got forward a lot and the Motherwell game was hard.

"I had a fair bit to do even although I wasn't called upon to make that many obvious saves.

"In the other matches though I feel as if we contained everyone quite well."

Gordon has played behind a few different defensive line-ups this season but although he admits it is difficult to know exactly how everyone plays, he feels the players are overcoming that problem with extra training sessions in the afternoon.

He said: "The defence has changed a few times so far and

Hopefully we can prove people wrong ...

there are a few players that I'm not familiar with in certain positions.

"For example it's the first time I've played in the same team as Lee Martin, played with Mike Galloway in the right-back position and with Brian O'Neil in the centre of defence.

"But we've been in the afternoons - the defenders and goalkeepers - working on set-pieces and getting to know each others game better, so that has been of real benefit to us all."

Gordon feels the unbeaten run has put the team under pressure but thinks that can only HELP as the season progresses.

He said: "Everyone is waiting for us to lose. But that I believe just makes us more determined and more ruthless.

Unbeaten

"Hopefully we can prove all the people who think we're going to slip up wrong by maintaining our unbeaten run and going from strength to strength."

And Gordon insists he would love to top the unbeaten run by picking up some silverware this year.

He said: "So far we're still in the Coca-Cola Cup, have the Scottish Cup to come and are sitting second in the league.

"We have to be optimistic and remain confident that we can do something this season.

"It's been very pleasing to be part of a winning team and I think everyone has benefited from the changes at the club.

"And the way we've been playing on the park has shown that."



