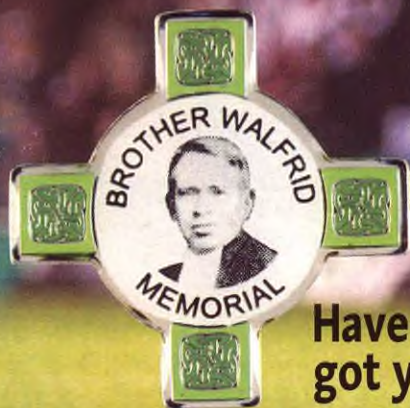




Celtic

Programme No. 8

v Dunfermline



Have you
got yours?

Scottish Premierleague
Celtic Park, Saturday Sept 25, 2004
Kick-off 3.00pm

£2

CARLING



Celtic





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

LOVEFOOTBALL



TODAY'S match against Dunfermline is just the latest in a hectic period of fixtures for the football club.

In a period of just over 10 days, we have played Barcelona in the Champions League, Hibernian in the league, then Falkirk in the CIS Cup before returning to league duty this afternoon.

The demands of such a schedule are intense and we have already suffered the loss of Jackie McNamara for a number of weeks after he suffered an ankle injury against Barcelona, and Chris Sutton continues to battle with a groin injury.

However, the players have continued to show the level of commitment needed at this club.

Our game at Easter Road last weekend saw us drop our first points of the season. It was an entertaining game and credit is due to Hibs for the manner in which they approached the game. However, the statistics from that match show that Hibs only had one shot on target in the entire 90 minutes while we had 11, so it would not be unfair to say that we were disappointed not to take all three points from a contest we deserved to win.

Changes were made for the midweek game against Falkirk in the CIS Cup. It provided an opportunity for some players in



the squad to show they can do and the result, as well as the manner in which we achieved it, indicates that the team did impress on the night.

'IN A BUSY SCHEDULE THE CELTIC PLAYERS HAVE CONTINUED TO SHOW THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT NEEDED AT THIS CLUB'

The headlines naturally belonged to Ross Wallace and Aiden McGeady. Ross scored a hat-trick, while Aiden scored a wonderful goal right at the end of the game. They both know the amount of hard work and dedication needed to be a success

at Celtic and they will continue with their progress throughout the rest of this season.

It was a good performance all round for the team in a tie that, on another night, might have proved quite tricky and it was a reward for everyone who came along to Celtic Park on the night.

Those supporters must also be commended for their impeccable observation of the minute's silence for Brian Clough before the game.

Today's game against Dunfermline is now our priority. Davie Hay's side secured their first win of the season last weekend with a 1-0 victory over Hearts, and followed that up with a win against Partick Thistle in the CIS Cup. It is important that we don't allow the confidence gained from those results to go against us today.

Our target is three points today and, as was the case before our previous Champions League match, the players will not be distracted from that task with any thoughts of the impending match in the San Siro against AC Milan.

It is important that this is also the case for the supporters and your backing this afternoon will be as vital as ever.



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

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

DUNFERMLINE

- Derek Stillie 1
- Greg Shields 2
- Scott Wilson 3
- Darren Young 4
- Andrius Skerla 5
- Scott M Thomson 6
- Barry Nicholson 7
- Gary Mason 8
- Noel Hunt 9
- Craig Brewster 10
- Derek Young 11
- Gary Dempsey 12
- Simon Donnelly 14
- Richie Byrne 15
- Derek Lyle 17
- Andy Tod 18
- Aaron Labonte 19
- Jamie Langfield 20
- Billy Mehmet 21
- Thomas Butler 21

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: **Alan Freeland**
 Assistant Referees: **Neil Brand**
Mark Doyle
 Fourth Official: **Steven Duff**

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

CIS Cup, Third Round, Sept 21, 2004
CELTIC 8 v 1 FALKIRK (Sylla, Wallace 3, Balde, Lambert, McManus, McGeady)
 Scottish Premierleague, Sept 19, 2004
HIBS 2 v 2 CELTIC (Camara, Hartson)
 UEFA Champions League, Sept 14, 2004
CELTIC 1 v 3 BARCELONA (Sutton)
 Scottish Premierleague, Aug 22, 2004
CELTIC 3 v 0 DUNDEE (Camara 2, Hartson)
 Scottish Premierleague, Aug 29, 2004
CELTIC 1 v 0 RANGERS (Thompson)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

UEFA Champions League,
AC MILAN v CELTIC
 WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 7:45PM
 Scottish Premierleague,
DUNDEE UTD v CELTIC
 SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER 2:00pm
 Scottish Premierleague,
CELTIC v HEARTS
 SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 3:00pm
 UEFA Champions League,
SHAKHTAR DONETSK v CELTIC
 WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 7:45PM



Risk Assessor

Aiden McGeady understands why his gaffer fretted over fielding a bunch of kids, but was thrilled to help prove the fears unfounded

IN expressing, before Tuesday's visit of Falkirk, "real concerns" about entrusting Celtic's CIS League Cup future to the club's young players, Martin O'Neill could have been adjudged to be indulging in a spot of pre-match psychology.

One look at the players warming the Hoops bench would, perhaps, have suggested otherwise, but in challenging the likes of Aiden McGeady to "step up to the mark," O'Neill certainly provoked the desired response.

Falkirk, reported to be one of the Scottish First Division's more competent teams, saw all their pre-match bravado crumble as a Celtic team inspired by the creative axis of McGeady, Juninho and Ross Wallace teased and tormented them for the entirety of a surprisingly entertaining mismatch.

Of the Hoops' eight goals, Wallace, of course, claimed three, but it was McGeady who ensured the best was saved for last by turning his hapless pursuers inside out before crashing an unstoppable left-foot shot beyond the reach of the disconsolate Bairns keeper.

Nevertheless, while he and his young team-mates might have felt a little vindicated after proving their

Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN

manager's fears to have been without foundation, the 19-year-old admitted he could understand O'Neill's reservations about throwing them into battle en masse.

"I can definitely see where he was coming from," said McGeady. "I think it's always going to be a risk throwing the younger lads in because obviously we don't have the experience of the likes of Neil Lennon and Chris Sutton. But it

"IT WAS GOOD FOR THE YOUNG BOYS TO SHOW THE BOSS HE WAS RIGHT TO THROW US IN"

helped the other night that we'd a core of experienced guys playing like Paul Lambert, Bobo Balde and Joos Valgaeren in there, and I thought we all blended quite well together.

"It was just a great night, particularly for all the young lads, and although Ross obviously did fantastically well to get a hat-trick, I was also delighted for big Mick (Stephen McManus), getting his

first goal. I think you saw how delighted we all were when he scored, and it was good for all the young boys to show the manager that he was right to throw us in."

It was, McGeady admitted, an enjoyable match to be involved in, particularly as it afforded him a first opportunity to play alongside Juninho, a fellow entertainer whose game the youngster intends scrutinising closely over the coming years to benefit his own development. The youngster also admitted to having been gratified that a team which didn't boast a single recognised striker had proved so potent in front of goal.

Said McGeady: "I'd an idea that the manager would make a few changes, but I don't think anyone would have expected that the match would turn out the way it did.

"Looking at the team - particularly the fact we'd no natural strikers in there - I think people might actually have thought that we'd struggle to get goals, whereas obviously it didn't turn out that way. I think it helped that we'd a few players in there who can create things, and Ross has to take a lot of credit for his hat-trick. I thought he did really well and I was delighted for him.



"Juninho was different class, too. There's so much the likes of Ross and myself can learn from a player like him, and I really enjoyed playing alongside him the other night. I don't know if I'd say I'm a similar type of player exactly, but I'd certainly like to be. He's quite a quiet guy so I haven't spoken to him all that much, but he's certainly looked the part so far and anything I can learn from a world-class player like him can only help me."

It's from the vantage point of the bench that McGeady expects to be analysing Juninho today, however, with O'Neill likely to give his strongest and most experienced team a run-out ahead of Wednesday's visit to the San Siro. Nevertheless, the teenager admits to being

far from downcast at having lost the starting place he appeared to have made his own at the start of the season, and insists that his manager can consider him a willing and dependable deputy for both Dunfermline and Milan.

He said: "I wouldn't think that I would keep my place in the starting line-up with the AC Milan game coming up, but I'm obviously ready to play and confident enough to think I'd do a good job if I did. The same would go for

Wednesday night. Obviously the gaffer will want to go with experience, but I'm ready to be called upon if he needs me.

"It was good to get back in on Tuesday, but I can't complain too much about dropping out when I did. To be honest, and although starting the season in the team was fantastic, the way things stand at the moment are a bit more along the lines that I'd expected.

"Plus, everyone's been playing so well that I can't have any complaints. At the moment, it's just a case of me grabbing any opportunities that come my way and trying to make an impact. I think I did alright when I was in the team earlier in the season, but I knew at the time not to get too carried away and the last few

weeks have proved me right. I'm still really pleased with my progress anyway. At this time last year I was still in the youth team,

"I'M STILL PLEASED WITH MY PROGRESS. THIS TIME LAST YEAR I WAS IN THE YOUTH TEAM"

after all, so I've absolutely no complaints."

Today, as well as looking for his own name on Martin O'Neill's teamsheet, McGeady will be anxious to see whether Pat Scullion, one of the youngsters he was

playing alongside a year ago, will be named in the Dunfermline squad. Scullion moved to East End Park during the summer after being released from his contract at Celtic Park and, after recently making the bench for one of the Pars' Scottish Premierleague matches, a reunion could be possible.

"It would be nice to meet up with Pat again, so here's hoping" said McGeady. "I spoke to him last week and he'd made the bench for the last first-team game, so I think things are coming on for him well there. It's been a good move for him and I really hope he can go on to be a success there."



GR-EIGHT NIGHT: McManus celebrates his first Celtic goal (left) while McGeady and Juninho congratulate CIS Cup hat-trick hero Ross Wallace

