



Match Magazine

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**versus
CELTIC**

Saturday 23rd April, 1994

Kick-off 3.00 pm

ISSUE 22

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SCOTTISH CUP
Winners 1910
Runners-up 1925, 1952, 1964
SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP
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1973-74
Runners-up 1967-68, 1980-81
EUROPEAN CUP
Semi-finalists 1962-63
FAIRS CUP
Semi-finalists 1967-68

In Jim's View...

We knew before the start, taking into account the importance of the game, that our last home game with St Johnstone wasn't going to be one for the purist and that was how it turned out with the result hinging on a controversial decision which denied us a late goal.

Having watched a video of the incident in which a foul on Andy Rhodes was given. I still can't understand why the goal was chalked off and even Saints players thought the goal should have stood. Incidents such as this swing matches especially as there was little between the teams on the day. The defeat by St Johnstone meant we had to lift our heads as we headed for Tynecastle last Saturday and I thought we gave a very disciplined performance. In fact as good as any this season, particularly as we were down to the bare bones of our playing squad through injuries and suspensions. For the first twenty minutes we dug in and battled away as Hearts threw



everything at us into trying to get ahead, but they became nervy and frustrated as time wore on and we hit them with two very good second half goals.

So short were we of players, I had to call up 16 year old Ian Anderson as a substitute. He has been doing well in the youth team and the reserves and whilst I would rather that we called up youngsters when we feel they are ready, rather than through necessity, the experience won't have done him any harm.

Today, we face a Celtic side who may not be enjoying one of their better seasons, but will still draw a large, vocal support which makes games against them enjoyable ones to play in. Our last two games with Celtic have ended in 1-1 draws and, hopefully, we can go one better this time in the final meeting of the season.



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Noel Blake stretches to reach the ball but his effort hits the top of the bar.



Neil McCann races off down the wing with Harry Curran well beaten.



George Shaw

For this week's memory match I decided to check out when Dundee last beat Celtic at Dens.

Surprisingly, it was six years ago since Tommy Coyne, who of course later went on to become a star with the Bhoys, netted the winner in our 1-0 success.

Since then, there have been a succession of disappointments, with only a few draws as comfort.

Dundee were unchanged for the first visit of the season from the Parkhead team.

Celtic swapped veteran Alan Rough for Ian Andrews, who had had a nightmare start to his career at Celtic Park.

Andrews had lost a succession of bad goals, prompting jokes like, What's the difference between Ian and Andrews and Eamonn Andrews (who had recently died?)



Super Tommy flicks home Keith Wright's cross...

DUNDEE 1 CELTIC 0 September 24, 1988 Dens Park

Answer: Eamonn Andrews is safe in his box!

Dundee: Geddes, Kirkwood, McKinlay, Chisholm, Forsyth, Saunders, Rafferty, Shannon, Wright, Coyne, Campbell. Subs Smith and Harvey.

Celtic: Rough, Morris, Rogan, Aitken, Baillie, Whyte, Miller, McStay, McAvennie, Walker, Burns. Subs Stark and Archdeacon.

The match started in the normal way of things when Celtic come to town.

This time though they came as champions, and the green-and-white machine stormed forward like furies and created a few openings.

Their 100-mile-an-hour approach was too predictable though and big Wes Saunders and his mates in defence coped fairly easily.

After about ten minutes Dundee had only one corner to their name, and Celtic nearly took the lead from it!

Baillie headed the cross clear, McStay released Morris on the right and his deep cross was headed goalwards by Rogan.

Just when it looked like crossing the line, Gordon Chisholm popped up to head it clear, with Geddes well beaten.

Rogan tried again a minute later but this time Geddes averted his long-range effort.

Dundee were under the cosh now and McAvennie beat Geddes to the ball and sent it goalwards, but this time Saunders slid in to knock it off the line.



... then takes off on the celebration run.

Geddes then got injured twice in a minute as Celtic piled on the pressure.

But after surviving the early onslaught Dundee took the lead with a sucker punch.

Dundee actually performed a dress rehearsal when Keith Wright showed his class on the left and sent over a tantalising cross which Tommy Coyne deflected towards the net.

It looked a goal all the way and

everybody in the South Enclosure was up celebrating when Alan Rough twisted and pulled off a fantastic block.

But the goal was only delayed by a minute and Wright made off down the left again, leaving Baillie on his backend. This time the cross was low to the near post and Coyne again got their first to brilliantly flick it into the net.

Celtic were stunned and their defence in particular looked pretty ropery.

Every time Dundee hit on the break they looked like scoring and Coyne and Wright were creating havoc with their deadly raids.

As expected, Celtic came charging back, and Geddes was in top form to keep out shots from McStay, McAvennie and Rogan.

The eccentric full-back then clipped the outside of the post after going straight through.

At the end of the match the Dundee fans in the healthy 15,500 crowd celebrated as if they had just won the league.

But, after all, it was our first league win of the season.



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NEW BOY NEIL SAYS "HANG IN THERE!"

When new boy Neil Duffy first joined Dundee, he naturally took a bit of stick, "I'm Jim Duffy's first cousin. His dad is my dad's brother. And, yes, I got a bit of stick at first," he says.

"Nothign serious, of course. It was all just a bit of banter in the changing rooms. The boys used to say to me, "Go and complain to the boss if you're not playing". Stuff like that.

"But it was all good-natured fun."

Apart from the fact that the manager is your cousin, it's always difficult to fit into a new team – both off and on the pitch.

"It's very difficult learning a new style of play," Neil agrees. "You find yourself making the same runs as other players.

"You're running into each other and bumping into each other.

"At Falkirk, too, I was given a different role, so I've had to adjust to that change as well."

So what does Neil see as his natural position?

"Who knows! At Falkirk I spent my first season there as a right back, and then I moved to a mid-field role as centre half. Basically, I was versatile.

"But as the end of the day, I just enjoy playing in a game. And I love scoring goals!"

Neil's now scoring goals for Dundee, but rumour had it that a few teams,

including Hearts, were interested in signing him from Falkirk.

"Dundee were the first team I spoke to and we agreed terms reasonably quickly," Neil says.

"I was quite happy to come here. But then there was a hold-up with Ristic and McGown going to Falkirk. That help up the transfer and other teams came in for me.

"But I was never actually given permission to talke to any of the other teams because Falkirk were really happy with the Dundee deal.

"And there were never any doubts in my mind, either. As far as I was concerned, the whole time all this was going on, I was always happy to come to Dens."

Is he still happy about his decision, though? And what if Falkirk get promoted?

"Well Falkirk might not get promoted! But if they do, in a way I would be happy for them because I've still got a lot of friends there and it would be nice for them to go up."

And what if Dundee go down?

"If we do go down, we've just got to make sure we come straight back up. I wouldn't have come here if I didn't think there was some sort of potential or ambition at the club.

"And from what I've heard and what I've seen, I'm sure that will come about."

**ON
THE
SPOT**

What's been your best game for Dundee?

The Derby against Dundee United! I scored a goal and I thought we dominated them. The crowd were great that day and there was a great atmosphere.

What's been your worst game for Dundee?

Probably my first one against Hearts at Dens. I'd signed about two hours before the kick-off and it wasn't until 40 minutes before the start that my clearance came through. What with one thing and another, I wasn't happy with the way I played that day.

Which player do you most admire?

Lothar Matthaus of Germany. For his strength and running on the ball. He never seems to put a foot wrong.

Which Dundee player do you most admire?

It's got to be Dusan Vtro. He's very consistent and doesn't make many mistakes. And he's a good man marker.

Which player do you hate playing against?

I hate playing the entire Rangers team when

they're in full flow, let's put it that way! It's especially bad at Ibrox when they've the crowd behind them.

Which Dundee player would you hate to play against?

I don't think I'd fancy a tackle from Noel Blake! **Which team did you support as a boy?** Liverpool.

If you weren't playing for Dundee, which team would you like to play for?

Liverpool.

What's been your most embarrassing moment in football?

I can't think of one.

Which team could you like to see come up?

It's got to be Falkirk for the simple fact that I've got friends down there.

Apart from Dundee (!) which team would you like to see stay up?

Partick Thistle. My dad used to play for them and as a boy I always used to look out for their results.

Finally, have you got a message for the supporters?

Just hang in there and things can only get better.



Neil in typical battling mode.

HART ATTACK

Welcome to the penultimate verbal poke in the eye that is my jaundiced commentary on "the beautiful game" for this season. With only one more home game to go after today's contest, I promise to gather together some hard-hitting bile to throw up in the next programme.

(Hope it's better than the verbal diarrhoea you usually throw at us Ed).

First off this week and an opportunity to box out of my weight and challenge one of "The Heavyweights of Scottish Football." Step forward in the Blue (nose) corner Mr Doug Baillie.

I feel it necessary to take on the father of Lex due to his preposterous and facile comments in last week's edition of the Oor Wullie Weekly. Especially in Doug's arguments against too much televised football his final point was that all the controversy over Mark Hateley's first "goal" in the Scottish Cup semi-final against Kilmarnock could have been avoided - if the cameras hadn't been there!

So in other words as long as it's not seen by lots of people it's OK! Leave it out Doug. Surely the whole point of football is controversy, talking points and debate and, let's face it, it also sells papers!

Still on the subject of "trial by television" after last Saturday's alleged incident at Ibrox involving 4 million pounds of "talent" I am left wondering how many times Walter Smith has missed vital or controversial incidents this season while moving to different parts of the ground.

I am also again left stunned by the comments of Gordon (and) Smith (must score) (remember the Brighton v Man Utd cup final at Wembley) and his attempts to again justify and apologise for the indefensible.

Really the "no-one will be sorrier than the lad himself" line (as spoken by the bold Gordon on TV at the weekend) is rather played out by now...

Still, I suppose as Doug Baillie would say, if the cameras hadn't been there. (Or should that be if only the cameras hadn't been there?)

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Goes In Where It Hurts

Listened to Radio 5 Live's discussion on Midlands football on Monday and was surprised to hear "deadly" Doug Ellis, chairman of Villa, state that as part of the ground improvements and refurbishing of the toilet facilities he has even put in "ladies boudoirs".

Now maybe he made a mistake, but I like to think it's part of a plan to keep tabs on Paul McGrath . . .

A lot has been said about the frankly unfathomable idea to ask fans to travel from Dundee and Aberdeen to Glasgow not once but twice in four days.

But what should also be questioned is the decision to make the Scottish Cup replays kick-off at 7.30pm, forcing fans to take time off work or miss the kick off.

Likewise, why was the minimum admission price £11?

As the plot thickens and bubbles at the "wrong" end of the table and half the league are once again embroiled in the dogfight (that's enough cliches-Ed) to avoid relegation, it's a sad fact that on the east coast we could potentially lose three clubs from the premier league, meaning less easy access for away games etc.

It's good to know however that if this should be the case and Killie and Thistle should escape the drop then at least the STV and BBC cameras won't have so far to travel as they follow!

Finally a quick word on Craig Brown's decision (applauded in the Press) to name his Scotland side a day early (and break with tradition according to several noted journals).

Could this possibly have been because of the fact that due to call-offs he only had 16 players left, and everybody knew who would be playing anyway?

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