



THE

PANS



FINE FARE
LEAGUE

OFFICIAL
MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

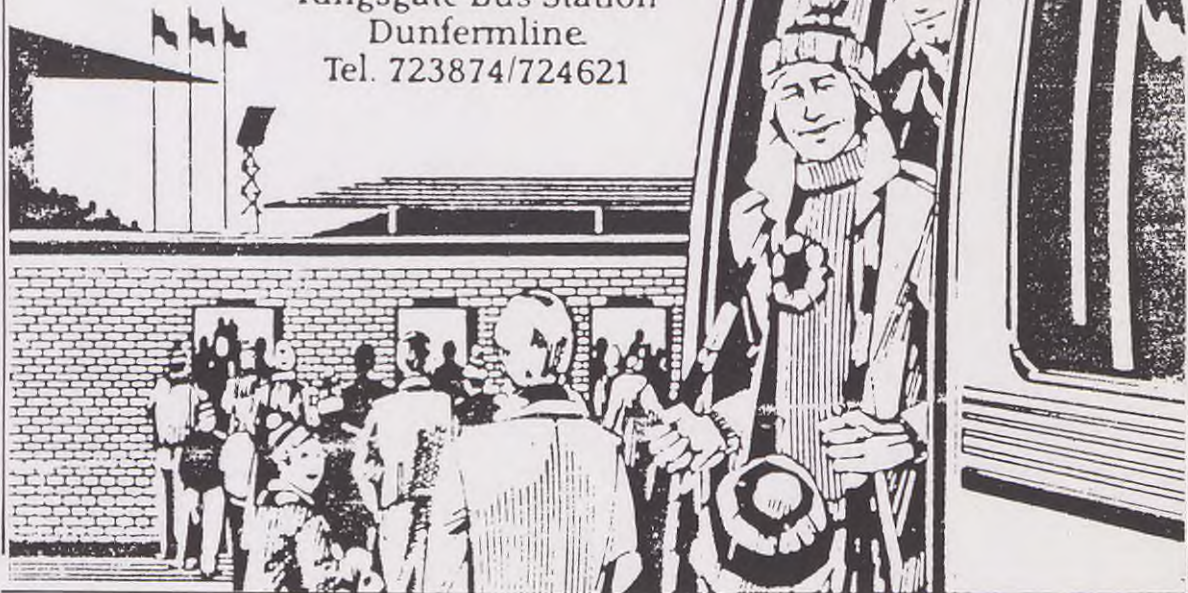
50p

Match Sponsor: **DUNFERMLINE AUTOCENTRE**
FINE-FARE LEAGUE — PREMIER DIVISION
SEASON 1987-88
VISITORS
CELTIC
SATURDAY 1988
KICK-OFF 3.00 PM

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JIM'S *Views*



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Scottish Cup Winners 1961, 1968
Runners-up 1965
Scottish League Cup Runners-up 1949
Scottish League 1st Division
Runners-up 1987
Scottish League 2nd Division
Champions 1926, 1986
Runners-up 1913, 1934, 1955, 1958,
1973, 1979

Anyone who made the long trip up to Aberdeen last weekend must have been disappointed with the result. I certainly was because I felt that we deserved far more from that particular game than the 1-0 scoreline suggested.

Undoubtedly we travelled north as the underdogs like lambs to the slaughter at the mercy of the new Aberdeen scoring machine Charlie Nicholas. Yet at the end of the day few could deny that our defence effectively marked the former Celtic and Arsenal player out of the match. Overall I was impressed by the commitment of all the Dunfermline players, some of whom struggled through in spite of injuries.

But at the end of the day we lost out yet again to the only goal of the game, struck home just before half time. I feel that a share of the points would have been better deserved but sadly it was not to be.

And the most disappointing aspect of Saturday's defeat was that it has allowed fellow relegation strugglers Falkirk to climb above us into the third bottom spot for the first time in as long as I can remember.

That makes our chances all the more difficult but it must not be forgotten that there are still only four points separating ourselves from Motherwell in that all-important fourth from bottom place.

That remains a mountain to climb but it is not an impossible task. We can, and will, do it! But the battle for survival is not made any easier by the task we face this afternoon when we play host to the country's current top club.

Celtic have showed something of a revival this season in spite of what was an early shock for the Parkhead club when they last visited East End Park way back in August last year. Sometimes that seems like a lifetime ago but I see no reason why we cannot go out today to repeat that performance.

The 2-1 defeat of the Glasgow men certainly attracted a great deal of attention to our own proud club when it became obvious that we could be a force to be reckoned with. Not much has changed since then and I am confident that we could well be making headlines in tomorrow's papers again.

Saying that, however, there is no doubt that Celtic must be treated with the greatest respect as they are not without their star players. But if we can blot out the contribution to a game of someone of the undoubted ability of Charlie Nicholas I see no reason why this cannot be repeated against the men from Parkhead.

If I was forced into a corner I would admit that I would probably settle for a share of the points here this afternoon but I am sure that we could equally go one better.

Then I could face the other results without having to worry too much about how our fellow battlers had fared. Yet again I will stress, however, that these other results are really secondary. We will survive in the Premier League of Scottish football on our own merits. Starting today with a win over Celtic.

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Born: 16th December 1964
 Place of Birth: Bellshill
 Height: 5ft 9ins
 Weight: 9st 7lbs
 Previous Club: Celtic
 Date of Signing: 9th October 1987
 Debut: 10th October 1987 v Hibernian (Premier League)
 CAREER RECORD (A = Appearances, G = Goals)

	League		League Cup		Scot. Cup		Total	
	A.	G.	A.	G.	A.	G.	A.	G.
With Queen's Park:								
1983/84	11(4)	2	—	—	—	—	11(4)	—
1984/85	32(4)	2	1	—	0(1)	—	33(5)	2
1985/86	28(3)	3	—	—	3	—	31(3)	3
With Celtic:								
1986/87	3(3)	—	2	—	—	—	5(3)	—
With Dunfermline:								
1987/88	17	2	—	—	—	—	17	2
Totals	91(14)	9	3	—	3(1)	—	97(15)	7

Figures in brackets indicate appearances as substitute

Career record correct at 17th January 1988

Other Notes: In a 'Pars in Person' interview on 8.8.86, former Dunfermline full-back Bobby Forrest stated that his most difficult opponent had been Mark Smith. Smith played for Queen's Park at the same time as Ian McCall. In his first 8 home matches for Dunfermline he won the 'Man of the Match' Award on 4 occasions.

PARS *in person*

MARK SMITH

There weren't too many things to cheer the Dunfermline supporters among the crowd at Easter Road on 10th October last year. Early goals put Hibs into an unassailable position and the game, as a contest, was dead after 20 minutes. If some Pars fans left Edinburgh that day with a smile on their faces, it was only because they had witnessed the first performance of Mark Smith, who had been signed the day before from Celtic.

As far as their feelings about Mark are concerned, most supporters still have that smile on their face. They believe that the club have found a winner, and every time he touches the ball there is a sense of expectancy that he is going to do something a bit special. The last player to do that at East End Park was Ian McCall, and strangely enough, both players have followed a similar path in their footballing careers. They also both have an ability to go past men with remarkable ease. Mark's ability to do that is based upon a remarkable turn of pace which has seen even the best defenders making desperate lunges as he whizzes past them. Mark has settled into the Dunfermline team very quickly, a factor which he puts down to the way the fans have treated him. Long may that continue!

What is the background to your career?

I trained with Celtic at 13, then signed 'S' forms with St. Mirren. They let me go and went to Queen's Park. Quite a few of us, including Ian McCall, grew up together, playing in the reserves, then in the first team. The coach Eddie Hunter had quite a good team, but in 1986 at the end of the season, 6 or 7 of us signed for other clubs. I signed for Celtic and thought it was going to be my big opportunity — unfortunately, it didn't work out. I don't blame anybody for that — some have said I was doing well and didn't get a chance, but you make your own chances in this game. When I knew I would be leaving Parkhead, two or three clubs were interested, but my Dad helped me make the decision to come here. I'm delighted to be here — Dunfermline are a big club.

When you see the club's current position, do you not have any regrets?

None at all. This club has got too much going for it. The players are a great bunch of lads and the supporters have been really good to me. I just hope I can keep it going for their sakes.

How do you feel about the treatment you've received from opposing players?

In a way I'm glad that they're kicking me because it must mean that I'm doing my job. I don't think I'm the type to complain, but I would like to feel that I could get a bit more protection at least some of the time.

It has been said that your game is let down by your crossing ability. How do you feel about that?

I think it's true. Remember, I've only been a professional for a year and a half and this is the first time anybody has said to me, "we can work on it". The other players and coaches are helping a lot, and I can assure you I'm working hard to improve. I've even been coming in on my own for crossing practice.

What do you think of the team's lack of goals?

Goalscoring is a lot to do with luck. We have already got good strikers, but it does take time to get used to the Premier League. Once one or two go in we'll get more confident, I'm sure of that.

Who have been the biggest influences in your career?

A lot of people at every club I've been with. Here, obviously Jim Leishman and Iain Munro. Stevie Morrison and Trevor Smith made me feel welcome, and John Holt and Billy Kirkwood have been a great help. 'Kirky' gets a lot of harsh treatment from the crowd, but he is a good influence at the club.

What are your thoughts about today's game against Celtic?

Celtic are a really good team, potentially a great team. Personally, I think that they'll win the League. Equally, I am sure Dunfermline are capable of getting a shock result — if any of the bottom teams is going to get an upset, Dunfermline is.

EAST END UPDATE

WE'LL SUPPORT YOU EVER MORE

Once again the home crowd of one of Pars' opponents were amazed at both the numbers and the vocal support which accompanied the team to Aberdeen, given the position the team currently finds itself in. It was obvious to anyone present that the players responded to the cheers they received and nobody could deny that they all gave 100% throughout the 90 minutes. Much more of the same at home games might just give the players the lift they need!

ON THE UP AND UP

Scottish football is in a very healthy state if the recently published figures of the Scottish League are anything to go by. Overall, attendances in the Fine Fare League are up by 18% on the previous year's figures for the same period, while those in the Skol Cup show a rise of 15%. Not all clubs, however, show an increase and those in the First Division suffer a substantial drop, perhaps largely because of Dunfermline's absence.

The full table of attendances for the first half of the season is as follows:

PREMIER LEAGUE	FIRST DIVISION	SECOND DIVISION
Rangers 535,539	Raith Rovers 28,956	Ayr United 30,609
Celtic 397,263	Hamilton Accs 27,471	St. Johnstone 17,487
Hearts 214,930	Partick Th. 24,646	Stirling Alb. 8,594
Aberdeen 163,513	Kilmarnock 22,056	Queen's Park 6,564
Hibernian 160,582	Queen of Sth 19,229	Brechin City 5,762
Dundee Utd 147,785	Airdrie 18,972	Alloa Ath. 5,050
Dunfermline 126,395	Clydebank 15,675	Arbroath 5,014
Falkirk 96,289	Clyde 13,642	Albion Rovers 4,757
Dundee 95,728	Dumbarton 10,350	Berwick Rangers 4,568
St. Mirren 90,482	East Fife 10,229	Montrose 4,321
Motherwell 90,204	Forfar Ath 9,855	East Stirling 4,254
Morton 78,621	Meadowbank 9,678	Stranraer 3,832
		Stenhousemuir 3,523
		Cowdenbeath 2,712

PANINI STICKERS

A little bit of history has been made with the inclusion of Dunfermline in this season's Panini Album for the first time. The stickers are collected by boys and girls (and some adults too!) and are now world famous. The album makes interesting reading and shows just how rapidly things change in football. The page about the Pars includes Gary Thompson and Dave Young, while if you are searching for Billy Kirkwood, look up Dundee United! Some of the information is not wholly accurate either with Norrie McCathie being described as an attacking midfielder, while Stuart Beedie's signing date is given as July (instead of March). Perhaps the most glaring error is its assertion that Pars are having their best period for sixty years — looks as if someone forgot to tell them about the 1960's! Nonetheless, it's all good fun and quite addictive. Happy collecting!

CRIME COUNT

The Sunday Post recently published their Crime Count League Table for the season so far, and the good news is that Dunfermline are still in with a chance of picking up

the trophy at the end of the season. The Pars are currently sitting 4th in the table, only 24 points behind leaders Motherwell. Dunfermline have actually committed the 2nd fewest number of fouls so far this season, but have lost out because of the number of bookings. Celtic, for example, have committed 40 more fouls than Dunfermline but have 12 less bookings!

While Motherwell lead the table with 468 points, Hibs are the worst culprits with a total of 608 points to date, Dunfermline's total is made up as follows:

Fouls	386
Cautions	32
Sent Off	2
TOTAL	492



After receiving his head injury last Saturday, fans were quick to dub Gary Riddell with the name 'Rambo'. Here he is with the man who all the fuss was about — former Celt, Charlie Nicholas

TENNENTS SIXES

Dunfermline's first attempt to win the Tennents Sixes provides the club with some interesting opposition in the first match tomorrow since it will be none other than today's opponents Celtic! The conditions will of course be entirely different to those which will be experienced today, but some immediate knowledge of the opposition will not do any harm. The game between Celtic and Dunfermline will take place during the second session which starts at 7.00pm tomorrow night at the Scottish Exhibition Centre.

BP YOUTH CUP

The draw for the BP Youth Cup quarter-finals was made recently and is as follows:

Celtic (Holders) v Dundee

Dundee United v Clyde

DUNFERMLINE v Rangers

Whitehill Welfare v Airdrie

Ties are due to be played before 15th March, and details of Dunfermline's game against Rangers will be announced shortly. Rangers were beaten in the semi-finals of last season's competition by Motherwell.

PLAYER NEWS

Nice to see VETLE ANDERSEN make a quicker than expected return to Scotland last week. Just as some people were giving up hope of seeing him ever get a permit, he popped up just in time to make his 'real' debut at Pittodrie last week.... another welcome return was that of STEPHEN MORRISON who made his first appearance since November... look out for further news of COLIN O'NEILL, the 23 year old from Portadown who flew in for trials 12 days ago.... Pars former centre-half DAVE YOUNG has moved back to Fife in an exchange deal with Cowdenbeath's Derek Grant.



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Today's Visitors

CELTIC



Today we are pleased to welcome the players, officials and supporters of Celtic Football Club for their second visit this season to East End Park.

That first visit, as few Celtic fans will wish to be reminded, provided Dunfermline with a memorable 2-1 victory. It also gave Celtic their only defeat in the Premier League away from home this season.

Unfortunately for Dunfermline that was the end of their honeymoon with the Premier League and today's match sees the Pars in a desperate predicament at the foot of the League table. Celtic, on the other hand, have gone from strength to strength and now sit proudly at the top of the table, three points clear of nearest rivals Aberdeen.

It isn't hard to see why Celtic have made it to the top. Last season, when Celtic were at the top there was always a little suspicion that they would be caught. It is hard to see that happening this time around simply because Celtic's team seems so much improved. If it was Graeme Souness who gave Rangers and Scottish football a shot in the arm last season, then surely it is Celtic who have done it this season. The "irreplaceable" front trio from last season have been replaced — and how! The bold and imaginative captures of Miller, McAvennie and Walker have provided Celtic with one of the fastest and most skillful forward lines the club have ever possessed. Whilst Celtic are always renowned for their attacking flair, they have not ignored a much-needed tightening up in defence. Credit is not always given to a defence, which, apart from Aberdeen's, is the meanest in the

DID YOU KNOW?

* Kenny Dalglish made his final appearance in a Celtic jersey in a pre-season friendly at East End Park which Celtic won 4-1. The following day, on 10th August 1977 he went to Anfield and signed for the then British record fee of £500,000.

* Dunfermline's record attendance of 27,816 was achieved in the final League game of season 1967/68 when Celtic had already won the League and Dunfermline the Scottish Cup. Many more gained entry when a gate broke down.

* On Saturday 14th January 1928, Jimmy McGrory scored EIGHT goals — a Scottish First Division record — in a match against Dunfermline. Between 1922 and 1938, McGrory scored 410 goals in 408 League games — an all-time record, never likely to be repeated.

* Under former Pars manager Jock Stein, Celtic achieved many records including the winning of 9 consecutive League titles from 1965/66 to 1973/74.

country having conceded a paltry 19 goals in 30 League outings.

All in all, Celtic appear to be on the crest of a wave, and attendances at Parkhead have been rocketing as a result. Manager Billy McNeill can be feeling nothing but satisfaction at the moment, and, given the age of many of the Celtic team, it would seem that the best is yet to come.

No doubt, however, that none of this will sway his attitude to today's game. He will be out to avenge that earlier defeat in the knowledge that, whilst they may not have had the results, Dunfermline too have improved since that first exciting encounter in August.

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