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LEAGUE**

PREMIER DIVISION



on **SATURDAY,**
JANUARY 24, 1987
Kick-Off 3.00pm

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - SEASON 1986-87

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1907-08; 1909-10
Division 2 Champions —
1935-36; 1969-70; 1974-75;
1979-80
Scottish League Cup
Runners-up —
1947-48

EDITORIAL — EDITORIAL — EDITORIAL

WITH LITTLE or no football being played in the last month it's good to be back in action today — more so because of the guaranteed full house for today's visitors Celtic. For both clubs the game is vital, for David Hay's men can afford no slip-ups in the race for the league title.

For Falkirk it's a chance to bounce back against class opposition after their recent down-turn in form. A victory today, no matter how surprised some people may feel, is the ideal tonic for the Bairns doldrums as no more ground can be lost in the struggle at the wrong end of the table.

The sterling good work of the earlier part of the season with the victories over Dundee United and Hearts, has been more than undone with the four successive defeats of late.

A safe mid-table refuge is no longer theirs by right and has to be fought for and there is no better time than today to start that fight again. Some of the heart that has been lost has to be re-discovered now and in the coming weeks or else the Bairns will find themselves in grave danger.

It is maybe daft to expect victory against Celtic but without at least the fight, effort and attempt to beat them, Falkirk have little to complain about.

I can take defeat, as long as they go down with guns blazing, not like the timid shadows of themselves that got carved up by a victory hungry Hibs side. Now Falkirk are hungry, let's hope they go out and satisfy their appetites today.

Cover Picture: A gloved Willie McGuire attempts to break through the Hibs' defence in the January 3 game at Brockville. Hibs' players attempting to stop him are Graham Mitchell (left) and Gordon Rae

Pictures: Courtesy of Falkirk Herald and Celtic FC



WARNING!

TV SURVEILLANCE

This ground is equipped with **CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION** installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust. It is there to increase crowd safety and to help the police. Recording facilities enable film and photographs to be taken of disorder, which may subsequently be used in a court of law.

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1980-81

by
Joe
Marchant

League Record	Home	Away
Ayr United.....	3-1/2-1	1-3
Berwick Rangers..	6-0	4-0/2-1
Clydebank.....	3-2/0-0	1-2
Dumbarton.....	0-5/1-3	1-0
Dundee.....	0-3/1-2	0-4
Dunfermline Ath....	2-1	1-0/1-0
East Stirlingshire..	1-1	0-0/1-1
Hamilton Accies....	2-3/2-1	1-0
Hibernian.....	0-2/0-2	0-1
Motherwell.....	0-1	0-3/0-1
Raith Rovers.....	1-0	1-2/0-0
St Johnstone.....	0-3	0-0/1-2
Stirling Albion.....	0-0/0-0	0-1

Final position in league: 9th

Average home league attendance:
2237

Best attendance: 4500 v Dundee

Worst attendance: 1200 v
Hamilton

Average away league attendance:
2286

Best attendance: 6947 at
Hibernian

Worst attendance: 600 at
Clydebank

Hat-tricks for Falkirk: 1 — John
Hay v Berwick (home)

Hat-tricks against Falkirk: 0

Most appearances (maximum 43):

Wilson Hoggan 40, Brian Brown
37, Alan Mackin 35, John Hay
30 + 2, George Watson 30,
Billy Stevenson 29 + 2, Willie
Herd 28, John Perry 22 + 8,
Ally McRoberts 22 + 7

Leading goalscorers: John Hay 5,
John Perry 5, Colin Spence 5,
Brian Brown 4, Alan Mackin 4,
Gordon Smith 4

League Cup	Home	Away
Raith Rovers.....	0-2	2-3

Scottish Cup	Home	Away
Dundee.....	1-0	
Hibernian.....		0-1

LEAGUE: After the euphoria and the dancing in the streets that followed their Second Division Championship win the previous season, the Bairs and their fans were brought down to earth with almost indecent haste when Dumbarton marched away from Brockville with a five-goal victory in the opening game of the season. The season picked up afterwards and it wasn't long before Berwick were trounced thanks to a John Hay hat-trick and further goals from Colin Spence, John Perry and Brian Brown. Our biggest away win was also against the unfortunate Berwick with two goals each for Alan Oliver and Peter Kettings, needless to say that Berwick finished bottom! Unlike the previous couple of seasons, there were only three ex-Bairs or Bairs of the future scoring against Falkirk: Ally Love for Ayr at Brockville, that pest Paul Lamont who by now was becoming rather tiresome scoring each season for East Stirling, and Willie Irvine for Motherwell. It was disappointing to note that we failed to score in any of our nine games against Hibernian, Motherwell and Stirling, pity it wasn't possible to trade in some of those goals against Berwick.

LEAGUE CUP: Paul Leetion and John Perry scored for Falkirk in the five-goal thriller down at Starks Park, and hopes must have been fairly high for Falkirk to overcome the single goal deficit in the return leg. Alas, it was no to be, for Raith rattled in a couple more goals, one from ex-Bairn Bobby Ford.

SCOTTISH CUP: A first-half effort from John Hay was enough to give the Bairs a hard-fought victory over Dundee in the third round. The dubious reward was a trip to Easter Road to face the all-conquering Hibernian, who won thanks to Ralph Callaghan's second-half goal.

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FANFARE

News and Information from
Falkirk Football Club
Supporters' Association

NEXT SATURDAY the pressures of Premier Division survival are exchanged for that one-off do-or-die cup fever with our Scottish Cup tie here at Brockville against Clydebank, a rapidly-improving side who, despite two defeats from the Bairns in early season, came back and stunned Falkirk with their victory over them on New Year's Day.

It promises to be quite a battle with ex-Bairn Sammy Conn well on form for the Bankies. Of course it was the same draw at the same stage last season, the only difference being the Bairns First Division status.

After a hard-fought 0-0 draw at Kilbowie, few can have forgotten that brilliant 25-yard free-kick strike from Jimmy Gilmour to clinch the replay here at Brockville.

A similar result, no matter how close, would suit me. A good cup run can only do the squad's confidence a lot of good, not forgetting the morale of the support who, I hope, turn out in force next week.



AT THE TIME of going to press it was thought that the re-arranged fixture against St Mirren at Love Street would take place on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Whatever night the Supporters' Association will be running buses and they will pick up and depart from the following places:

Grangemouth York Square, 5.39pm; Fire Station, 5.35pm; Telephone Exchange, 5.40pm; Falkirk FC Social Club, 5.45pm,

The usual rates, for members will apply.

SCOTTISH FINE FARE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Rangers.....	29	20	4	5	55	14	44
Celtic.....	29	18	7	4	61	24	43
Dundee Utd..	28	17	6	5	47	23	40
Hearts.....	28	15	8	5	48	24	38
Aberdeen.....	27	13	10	4	39	19	36
Dundee.....	26	11	5	10	40	34	27
St Mirren.....	28	8	9	11	26	32	25
Hibernian.....	29	6	8	15	25	49	20
Motherwell....	28	5	9	14	27	45	19
FALKIRK.....	27	6	6	15	23	45	18
Clydebank....	29	5	6	18	22	61	16
Hamilton.....	28	2	6	20	24	67	10

● Midweek results not included

CELTS HIT FOR SIX

A GAME Falkirk fans frequently reminisce about took place at Brockville on April 14, 1965. It was the night Falkirk hit the Celts for six. Indeed, the result was a shattering 6-2 victory for the Bairns.

It was 10 days before Celtic's Scottish Cup final with Dunfermline and Falkirk fans went crazy when their team rifled in three goals inside the opening 20 minutes.

Dougie Moran scored after only three minutes. Four minutes later left-winger Halliday made it 2-0. Irish international centre-forward Sammy Wilson headed home a third goal in the 20th minute with Bertie Auld opening Celtic's account two minutes later.

Pandemonium in 26 minutes when Johnny Graham grabbed a fourth goal for Falkirk to send them in at half-time leading 4-1.

Falkirk got a fifth goal in the 62nd minute with a tremendous 30-yard shot by Billy Fulton. Nine minutes from the end Dougie Moran shot Falkirk's sixth goal from 20 yards.

Four minutes from the end Hughes was brought down by Lambie and Auld scored with the penalty.

Falkirk: Whigham; Lambie and Hunter; Houston, Baillie and Fulton; Graham, Gourlay, Wilson, Moran and Halliday.

Celtic: Fallon; Young and Gemmell; Murdoch, Cushley and O'Neill; Johnstone, Gallagher, Hughes, Lennox and Auld.

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