

SEASON 1986-87 OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

ISSUE No. 12

St Mirren

The Paisley Saints



**FINE FARE
LEAGUE**

v CELTIC

SAT., 29th NOVEMBER, 1986 Kick-off 3.00 p.m.



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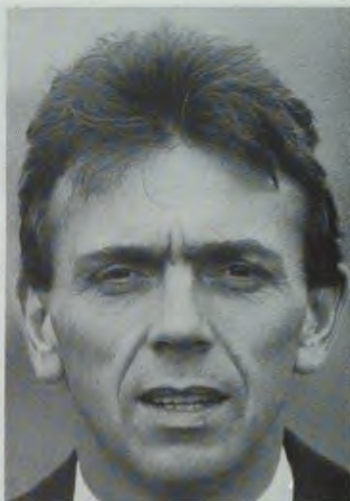
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Manager's report

ALEX MILLER WRITES



Since my last column, we've played three matches, winning one, and drawing the others.

Against Hibs, we played good football, got a goal ahead, and then missed a couple of chances which could have seen us wrap up the points. Instead, Hibs fought back into the match, and equalised, and we went in at the interval level. In the second half, we continued to make chances, but this time we took a couple of them, through Brian Hamilton and Frank McGarvey, to finish the game successfully. Best here were Money, who had several good saves, and Godfrey.

Our performance at Brockville in midweek was good, particularly in the first half. Unfortunately we didn't score while on top, and almost paid the penalty. However, as it was, perhaps a point here was none too bad, although I felt that we could have won both. Worst miss was a Godfrey header. Ian

Cameron's goal should give him a little more confidence, although he is playing well just now. Godfrey again played solidly in defence, as did Steve Clarke.

In the Hamilton match last week, we again went ahead, this time through Brian Gallagher, but again were pulled back to all square by a penalty towards the end. Our play in the lead up to the penalty incident was, though, none too clever.

It must be said, though, that this game was played in the worst conditions I can remember for a match, and the players had no opportunity to show their skills as they were too busy trying to keep their feet. Derek Hamilton was sent off for an uncharacteristic flare-up with an opposition player in the second half, and so we'll be without his services today. Neil Cooper, on the other hand, has now completed his three match ban, and will be available.

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE - 22th Nov. '86



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Celtic	19	15	3	1	44	11	+33	33
Dundee Utd.	20	12	5	3	34	15	+19	29
Hearts	20	11	6	3	30	16	+14	28
Rangers	19	11	3	5	32	14	+18	25
Aberdeen	19	9	6	4	32	16	+16	24
Dundee	20	9	3	8	25	21	+4	21
St. Mirren	20	6	8	6	18	18	0	20
Motherwell	20	4	8	8	22	33	-11	16
Falkirk	20	4	6	10	18	30	-12	14
Hibs	20	4	5	11	18	39	-21	13
Clydebank	20	4	2	14	14	43	-29	10
Hamilton	19	0	3	16	11	42	-31	3

Saints' fixtures

1986		F	A
Aug	2	West Ham Utd. (Friendly)	3 - 0
	9	Hearts	0 - 0
	13	Dundee	1 - 2
	16	Motherwell	1 - 1
	20	Dunfermline (Skol Cup Round 2)	2 - 0
	23	Clydebank	0 - 1
	27	Forfar (Skol Cup Round 3)	1 - 5
	30	Dundee Utd.	0 - 3
Sept	6	Aberdeen	1 - 1
	13	Hibernian	1 - 0
	20	Falkirk	1 - 0
	27	Hamilton Acas.	2 - 1
Oct	4	Celtic	0 - 2
	8	Rangers	0 - 1
	11	Hearts	0 - 0
	18	Dundee	4 - 1
	25	Clydebank	1 - 1
	29	Motherwell	1 - 0
Nov	1	Dundee Utd.	0 - 1
	8	Aberdeen	0 - 0
	15	Hibernian	3 - 1
	19	Falkirk	1 - 1
	22	Hamilton Acas.	1 - 1
	29	Celtic	
Dec	3	Rangers	
	6	Hearts	
	13	Dundee	
	20	Clydebank	
	27	Motherwell	
1987			
Jan	1	Dundee Utd.	
	3	Aberdeen	
	10	Hibernian	
	17	Falkirk	
	24	Hamilton Acas.	
	31	Scottish Cup 3rd Round	
Feb	7	Celtic	
	14	Rangers	
	21	Scottish Cup 4th Round	
	28	Hearts	
Mar	7	Dundee	
	14	Clydebank or (S. Cup 5th R.)	
	21	Motherwell	
	28	Aberdeen	
April	4	Dundee Utd.	
	11	Falkirk or (S. Cup S. Final)	
	18	Hibernian	
	25	Celtic	
May	2	Hamilton Acas.	
	9	Rangers	
	16	Scottish Cup Final	

Reserves' fixtures

1986		F	A
Aug	9	Hearts	1 - 1
	16	Motherwell	0 - 1
	23	Clydebank	4 - 6
Sept	6	Aberdeen	2 - 0
	13	Hibernian	5 - 2
	20	Falkirk	2 - 2
	27	Dundee Utd.	1 - 0
	27	Hamilton Acas.	1 - 1
Oct	4	Celtic	2 - 2
	16	Dundee	1 - 3
	20	Hearts	0 - 1
	25	Clydebank	0 - 1
Nov	1	Dundee Utd.	2 - 3
	8	Aberdeen (2 p.m.)	0 - 3
	13	Hibernian	2 - 3
	24	Hamilton Acas.	0 - 4
	29	Celtic	
Dec	6	Motherwell	
	13	Dundee (2 p.m.)	
	20	Rangers	
	27	Rangers (2 p.m.)	
1987			
Jan	10	Falkirk (2 p.m.)	

PRIZE DRAW

Hibs match ball sponsors Insave Associates will stage a prize draw at today's match. The lucky winner will receive the match ball from the St. Mirren v. Hibs match.

The name of the winner will appear here in issue 13 v. Hearts.

HOME FIXTURES IN BOLD TYPE



Neil Cooper in action against Hearts.

WELCOME TO LOVE STREET TODAY'S VISITORS CELTIC

The last time Celtic visited Love Street was on 3 May 1986, the final League Saturday of last season. As things stood before kick-off, Hearts led the League by two points from Celtic, and needed only a draw at Dens Park, Dundee, to be sure of the Championship even if Celtic were to win at Love Street.

No danger of that, we thought. Saints had recently taken a point from the Celts at Parkhead, and so we reckoned that a similar result should not be beyond St. Mirren at home. Anyway, since we couldn't win the league ourselves, it would be nice, wouldn't it, to help Hearts win it for the first time in a while. Not that we were being anti-Celtic. It's just that the Celts have won a little more than their share over the years...

Confident that the Championship was all over bar the shouting, your Editor fled the country on holiday, determined to forget all about football until his return. Ibiza and the sunshine beckoned.

3 May dawned, and as the day wore on, 19,567 headed for Dens Park, and 17,557 for Love Street to watch battle commence. Saints were a shadow of the team which had drawn at Parkhead, while Celtic were fully on song. Goals by McClair, Johnston, Johnston again, and McStay had the Celtic fans singing themselves hoarse at half-time, while in Dundee, there was no scoring.

The action began again, and Celtic soon added a fifth goal when a Johnston cross was deflected by McLeod into the path of McClair, who netted easily.

No matter (from a Celtic point of view, anyway) the number of goals Celtic scored, it would be to no avail if Hearts picked up the point they were currently holding at Dens Park. As the matches progressed, the Celtic songs quietened a little, and ears were pressed against transistor radios all around Love Street, as Celtic hoped for the miracle of the season.

With just seven minutes to go, the miracle happened. Dundee scored, and within seconds Celtic fans everywhere were celebrating their eleventh hour victory. Dundee fans were pretty pleased too, but Saints' fans were unhappy with their

team's efforts, and the big Hearts following was stunned into total silence as Dundee scored again before the end.

It cannot be said, however, that Celtic didn't deserve the Championship. Hearts had been applauded all season for their consistency, but the Parkhead side had kept following in their shadow for eight months before overtaking to win in the home straight. A look at the final League table will show that both teams finished with 20 wins, 10 draws, and 6 defeats, Celtic winning with a goal difference of +29 to Hearts' +26.

Meanwhile in Ibiza, it was noted that time-up had been reached. Your Editor, unable to wait on the newspapers, sneaked into the International telephone booth.

The phone rang at Love Street: "Hello, can you tell me the scores from Love Street and Dens Park, please?" "Celtic won 5-0 and Dundee won 2-0." "Oh no...!"

The phone was slammed down in Ibiza, and a good holiday was ruined...

This season, Celtic have got off to a steady start, and, despite the dramatic happenings across the city in recent months, they are the team that's getting the results. While sections of the media demand that David Hay should appoint an assistant and others want the Club to "go Public" and issue shares, the team goes from strength to strength on the field, and as at 22nd November lie 4 points clear at the top of the Premier League with a game in hand. This cannot be seen as the sign of a Club with problems, but the manager himself believes that, to maintain their success, Celtic need to buy a couple of top players. There is really only one area in which Celtic need improvement, and that is in their recent relations with Officialdom. Requests to the SFA or Scottish League, from any Club, for Referees to be pre-selected or banned from games MUST be rejected.

I am in full agreement with James Sanderson that our Referees ARE among the best in the world. This, though, does not mean that they don't make mistakes. They do, and every club must accept this. After all, everyone makes mistakes now and again...



Celtic and Scotland powerhouse Roy Aitken.