

RANGERS

V CELTIC

PREMIER DIVISION

SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1993

KICK-OFF 3.00 PM

PROGRAMME: £1.00

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INSIDE

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FERGUSON**



**DAVID
ROBERTSON**



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THE MANAGER

WE welcome Celtic to Ibrox this afternoon for the Old Firm match which is the always most eagerly anticipated of the season.

In recent seasons, I feel meetings between the Old Firm have tended to become devalued, simply for the fact we meet each other so often.

However, that does not apply to the traditional New Year encounter which always holds a special place in the hearts of both sets of players and fans.

Both teams always rise to the occasion and that means the emphasis is based firmly on attack as both clubs set out for a win to start the new year.

Ironically, in recent seasons Rangers have tended to do better at Parkhead and Celtic at Ibrox.

And no-one needs reminding that Celtic were the only team to beat us at home in 1992, when they were worthy 2-0 winners back in March.

That was one of only two defeats we suffered last year, which was a memorable 12 months for everyone connected with Rangers.

In the first half of the current season, we've managed to manoeuvre ourselves into a position where we can hopefully do that this year too.

And, as I've already said, the players at Rangers are keen to continue that winning run this afternoon.

The way they have responded to the challenge this season, particularly in the bigger matches, has been tremendous and I hope they continue to show that determination.

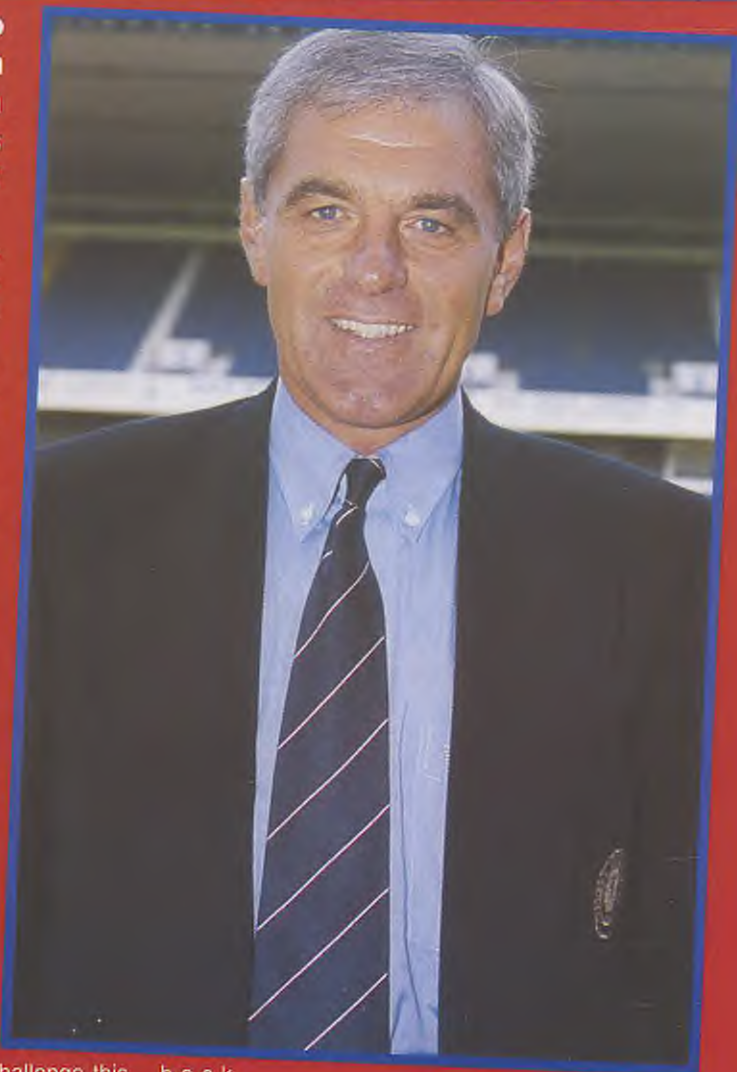
We enter the match today with an injury worry over Ally McCoist, who picked up a calf knock against Dundee and it will be a last minute decision on whether Ally plays or not.

We also hope to have John Brown back in the frame after his recent illness.

We're entering a busy spell of matches over the next few weeks and we were pleased to maintain our lead at the top of the table after last week's 3-1 win over Dundee.

I thought we played very well in the first 20 minutes of that match and then again towards half-time and into the second half.

Dundee, to their credit, kept battling away and came



back into the match, but we managed to keep going right to the end.

One of the major factors in our victory was the fact we were playing well enough to create chances in front of goal which, thankfully, we took.

We will need to continue in a similar vein this afternoon and show the form which, hopefully, will give us the start to 1993 that we desire.

Finally, on behalf of the players and coaching staff at Ibrox, I would like to wish Rangers fans everywhere all the very best for 1993.

IAN FERGUSON

IAN FERGUSON used to get so wound up for Old Firm matches OFF the park that he was shattered by the time he got ON it!

The talented midfielder was brought up among the unique Rangers-Celtic rivalry that exists in Glasgow, so he knows there are always more than just two league points or a place in the next round of the cup at stake.

But if most of the supporters think the nervous anticipation which surrounds the build-up to the match is hard to handle — spare a thought for Fergie and the other players in the Old Firm who have to carry the weighty expectations of the fanatical fans onto the pitch with them.

The 25-year-old has learned to live with it now — but he admitted the build up to these matches left him weak at the knees in his first couple of seasons at Ibrox.

"I got caught up in the whole atmosphere surrounding these games and it tended to drain me," Ian told the *Matchday Programme*.

"I tried to take my mind off the match a couple of days beforehand, but never quite managed to. In the hotel on the night before the game I was unable to sleep and I spent a lot of time walking up and down.

"I wanted to do so well, but by the time it came to play the game the build-up had taken its affect.

"You tend to be more nervous for these games anyway, but over the last few years I've learned to control it — even if I'm not quite sure how.

"Now, I try not to waste too much energy off the park. I come into Ibrox on the day of the game, have a wee bit of banter with the rest of the lads, then settle down to contemplate the match ahead.

"I don't think I'm alone in my feelings — the Celtic lads such as Paul McStay and Peter Grant

tensions high for old rivals



probably felt the same at some stage I suppose, but I don't know how they learned to handle it. I'm just glad I've got it under control."

Fergie also follows a pre-match superstition which indicates his meticulous preparation for every match and also helps while away a little time in the build-up to the kick-off.

He revealed: "I don't know if the rest of the lads notice the badge on their socks, but I like mine to be

facing out the way and I'll leave a bit of my tie-ups hanging down level with the crest. It's something I've always done, no matter the opposition.

"Once I'm out on the park I concentrate on the game itself, and although I don't tend to notice the crowd, once or twice I'll hear the singing from the fans.

"There's a bit of talk between the players too, usually with the guy you're up against, but it's no different to what I've experienced playing against other teams. And at the end of the 90 minutes we'll have a wee chat going off the park."

Despite his age, amiable Fergie is one of the "veterans" at Ibrox and will celebrate five years at the club next month.

Life has never looked better for the former Clyde and St Mirren man, who was brought to Ibrox for £850,000 from Love Street.

He is currently enjoying one of the most productive spells in his career after putting injury and illness behind him which hindered his progress for a couple of seasons.

In fact, if he plays today it will be his 27th appearance of the season

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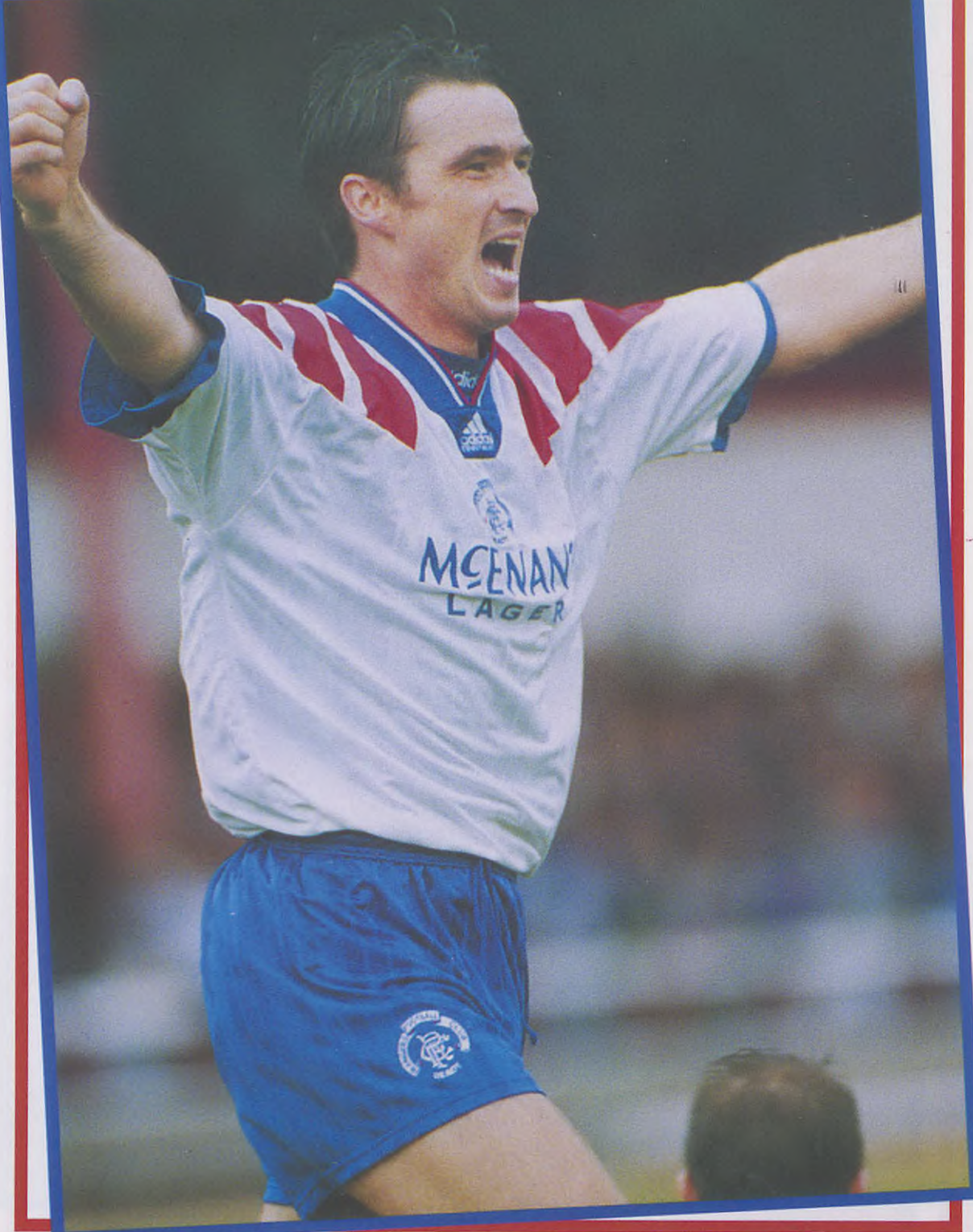


IN PROFILE



HAVE TO SAY — ONLY ON THE 0891 44 88 22 HOTLINE





BIG PRIZES, BIG NAMES, ONLY ON THE

IAN FERGUSON

FROM PAGE 6

so far, only ten short of his TOTAL appearance rate for 1990-91 and 1991-92 added together!

His powerful driving runs from the centre of midfield have become a valuable asset for the club this season and he has chipped in with three goals, including that crucial strike last month against CSKA Moscow.

Surprisingly, however, if he is involved today it will be the first time he has taken part in a New Year Old Firm clash since 1989 when he scored one of the Gers goals in a 4-1 win over their arch rivals.

He added: "When I first came to Rangers, it tended to be the Glasgow-born players who were more up for matches against Celtic, but now I think everyone in the current squad knows what these games mean to the fans.

"Every Old Firm match is special, but I think the New Year fixture is more so because it's important to get the year off to a good start.

"That 4-1 win is one of a few good memories I have of these matches, as well as the 5-1 game and the time we won 3-0 at Ibrox in 1990. But I've had a few disappointments too, including the Scottish Cup Final when we lost 1-0 and the spell in March 1991 when we lost twice in successive weeks in the league and Scottish Cup at Parkhead."

Celtic have stuttered recently with defeats against Hearts and Dundee United and sit eight points behind the Light Blues in the Championship table.

However, Fergie steadfastly refuses to write off their championship challenge and knows just how much a win could boost Liam Brady's Bhoys for the second half of the season.

He rapped: "Write off Celtic at your peril. It's something I've never done in my time at the club because they ALWAYS pose a danger.

"Like us, they want to play football at all times and that makes them difficult opponents and, of course, they were the last team to beat us at Ibrox back in March. Anyway, you can never predict a winner in an Old Firm game."

Naturally, with an unbeaten run of 28 matches behind them, the latest coming last week at

FERGUSON I.

Height: 5.10

Weight: 12.6

Date of Birth: 15.3.67

Signed: From St Mirren.

February 1988, for £850,000

First Team Appearances: 145, goals 21

FACT FILE

Injury and illness conspired to hinder the honox career of tough-tackling Fergie in recent years, but he is widely recognised as being one of the most effective midfielders in Scotland.

With a tough pre-season work out behind him this season, his first for a couple of years, he has gone on to prove his worth to Walter Smith's side.

His return to form has been recognised by Andy Roxburgh, who awarded Fergie the first of his three caps in 1989 against Italy.

He has forced his way back into the squad this season for the matches against Italy and Portugal and will surely go on to win more international honours if he continues his current impressive form.

"You can never predict a winner in an Old Firm game."

Dens Park when the Gers beat Dundee 3-1, there's no way Fergie and his Rangers teammates are going into this game with any kind of inferiority complex.

In fact, Celtic are the only side to take a point away from Ibrox this season when the teams drew 1-1 on August 22 — Gerry Creaney hitting the target early in the second half before Rangers substitute Ian Durrant

pulled back an equaliser shortly afterwards.

Fergie added: "The boys are playing very well just now and are creating a lot of chances and putting them away too.

"And we've not done too badly against Celtic recently. We've had a couple of draws, and some good victories at Parkhead, and with our home form as it is we'll never have a better chance of winning."

IBROX WHO'S WHO

FIRST TEAM COACH

Davie Dodds

RESERVE COACHES

John McGregor Billy Kirkwood

YOUTH COACHES

John Chalmers Alistair Stevenson

PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

John Greig MBE

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Douglas Odam

OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

Alistair Hood QPM

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

Bob Reilly

RANGERS CATERING MANAGER

Peter Kingstone

SALES & MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Brian Main

COMMERCIAL SALES

Kevin Scott

TICKET OFFICE MANAGER

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Ian Armstrong

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

MANAGER

Tom Onions

PITCH SUPERINTENDENT

Alan Ferguson

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& Programmes	041 427 8844
Official Rangers Hotline	0891 44 88 22
Administration	041 427 8500
Fax Number	041 427 2676
Edmiston Club	041 427 4481
Rangers Bond Office	041 427 8888
Rangers Pools	041 427 4914
Rangers Supporters	
Association	041 427 2902

ALLY MCCOIST scored a goal to remember a fortnight ago at Falkirk — but it WAS NOT his 200th league goal for Rangers as many newspapers reported.

In fact, his 25 yard drive at Brockville was his 201st. And no doubt Ally, who is pictured right receiving his man of the match award for the St Johnstone game from Scottish Brewers Alistair Wilson, would argue, his 202nd.

Confusion still reigns over a goal Rangers scored at Parkhead early in 1989 on their way to a 2-1 win — their first victory in the league at Parkhead since 1980.

Kevin Drinkell opened the scoring early in the game for the Light Blues and shortly afterwards they went two up.

An Ian Ferguson thunderbolt from 25 yards was only parried into the air by Pat Bonner and Ally, quick as a flash, was on hand to nod the ball into the net.

However, television later showed the ball was already over the line before Ally got to it, and the Scottish League also credited Fergie with the strike.

So, after his early strike against Dundee last week, Ally NOW sits on 202.

P.S Ally is only 28 goals away from breaking Bob McPhail's record of top Rangers league goal-scorer.

The legendary striker knocked in 229 in the late twenties and early thirties, but his record is now in danger from the current Rangers striker.



OFFICIAL UEFA interpreter George Nuter was the butt of some good-humoured banter from the Rangers party in Bochum after a national paper revealed he was a red hot Celtic fan!

George, who spent the two day trip making sure everything went according to plan for the team, was first introduced to the Scottish game when he spent 18 months in Glasgow in the early seventies as a teacher at Hucheson's Grammar school.

The family of his girlfriend Mari, now his wife, stayed in Cambuslang and all supported Celtic.

George, who teaches in Bochum, grinned: "Yes, I took some stick, but it was all good natured. I have followed Celtic for the past 20 years, but I also look out for the achievements of Rangers and other Scottish clubs.

"For example, I went to see Rangers in the seventies when they played here against Cologne, Dortmund and Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"I am a real fan of the style of Scottish football. I was very glad to see Rangers beat CSKA and I wish them all the best for the rest of the competition. I'm sure they'll do very well."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A high-pitched pronounced horn signal will precede all important messages relating to crowd safety to catch the crowd's attention.

This signal, followed by a police voice-over transmission, is different to and distinct from any other general message signals. This ground is equipped with closed circuit television installed with the help of a grant from the Football Trust

£££££ PAID

for football programmes,
handbooks, and memorabilia
call 041 633 2131 for details

RANGERS have acquired another unique addition to the Ibrox Trophy Room.

The club have been presented with a print of a Tornado Jet, signed by Squadron Leader Peters, one of the airmen who was caught during the Gulf War and whose plight at the hands of Saddam Hussein's men provoked widespread outrage throughout Britain during the fighting.

The unique print was presented to Rangers by Corporal Kelvin Christie, who is based at RAF Bruggen near Bonn.

He handed it over to Vice Chairman Donald Findlay QC when Rangers visited Germany for the

Champions League tie against CSKA Moscow.

It was given in recognition of the generosity of the club who donated a number of Rangers shirts for an auction to raise funds for treatment to one of the officer's sons who is suffering from cerebral palsy.

THERE was a tremendous response to our Arkwright shirt competition in the Rangers v Marseille programme on November 25.

The winners of the three replica Cup Winners' Cup Final jerseys are:

Scott McLellan, Ayrshire; Steven Glass, Glasgow; K Ross, Coatbridge.

gers german fans fly the flag

RANGERS are winning more and more fans in Germany . . . thanks to the dedication of two COLOGNE supporters!

Georg Bechthold and Werner Geilenkirchen (pictured below) have followed the Light Blues faithfully for 13 years . . . and their time spent as Rangers fans turned full circle recently when they turned up in Bochum to cheer their favourites against CSKA Moscow.

For it was another quarter-final European Cup tie in Germany in 1979 which began their love affair with the Light Blues.

And *Rangers News* and *Matchday Programme* European expert Robert Watt also played a part.

Robert explained: "I was in Germany to cover the match between Rangers and Cologne and before the game I was milling around and started speaking with Werner.

"He took a real shine to Rangers, roped Georg in to support them too, and we've kept in touch ever since.

"I also managed to meet up with both in Cologne the night

before the CSKA game with a couple of friends and they showed us the sights. Their hospitality was first class — it's a real treat to meet two fans who are so generous.

"Georg and Werner have come to Scotland especially to see Rangers ever since, through good times and bad. In fact, the *Rangers News* even did a feature on Werner when he came across to Ibrox for a couple of matches in 1981."

Georg and Werner won't thank us for recalling the last time they visited Glasgow in September — for Cologne were dumped 3-0 by Celtic in the UEFA Cup!

Werner joked: "Sure, we've had more memorable trips to Scotland — but at least we can still follow one of our teams in Europe.

"When it was revealed Rangers would play either Stuttgart or Leeds in the Second Round of the European Cup we were praying for a Stuttgart victory so we could see Rangers again in Germany.

"It didn't look as if we would get the chance, but there was no way we were missing the game in Bochum. We had a marvellous night before, during and after the game with CSKA Moscow."

Werner and Georg, who own an advertising company in Cologne, have even formed a Cologne/Rangers appreciation society.

Werner added: "Originally, when we went to the Cologne matches with our flags, few fans knew much about Rangers. However, we're converting more and more and the run the club is enjoying in the Champions League is certainly helping.

"Now, lots of Cologne fans are interested in Rangers and how they are doing — and we're only too happy to spread the word."

