

# RAITH



**v. CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB**



**INSIDE  
TODAY**

**CRAIG  
DARGO  
IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT**



**PROFILE  
OF DAVIE  
SINCLAIR**



**Saturday  
5th April  
'97**

**Kick-off  
3.00 p.m.**



**Bell's Premier  
Division '96/'97**

# ROVERS

**OFFICIAL CLUB PROGRAMME £1.50 No 16**

# PREMIER MARKETING



**OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS OF TEAM KIT  
AND ALL REPLICA MERCHANDISE TO**



**18 LINKS STREET, KIRKCALDY TEL. 01592 201993**



## **Raith Rovers F.C.**

Founded 1883  
Turned Senior 1889  
Admitted to League 1902

### **GROUND**

Stark's Park  
Pratt Street, Kirkcaldy

### **CHAIRMAN**

Alex Penman

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN**

William Gray

### **PRESIDENT**

John Urquhart

### **DIRECTORS**

William Shedden  
Charles Cant

### **TEAM MANAGER**

Iain Munro

### **PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

John McCreddie

### **CLUB DOCTOR**

Dr G. K. N. Hall

### **GENERAL MANAGER**

Deborah Muir

### **COMMERCIAL MANAGER**

Lynn Penman

### **GROUNDSMAN**

John Murray

### **CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER**

Tony Fimister

### **PROGRAMME EDITOR**

Colin Hume

### **PRINTED BY**

R.G.S. DESIGN & PRINT

## **Honours**

First Division Champions  
1994-95, 1992-93

Second Division  
Champions

1948-49, 1937-38,  
1909-10  
1907-08

Scottish Cup  
Runners up 1912-13  
League Cup  
Winners 1994-95  
Runners up 1948-49



# **TEAM TALK**

## **A VITAL MATCH FOR BOTH SIDES**

**W**ELCOME to Stark's Park for our final meeting of the season with Celtic.

As the end of the season approaches, matches tend to get more and more important and this one is vital for both sides.

We need the points to help us in our attempt to get off the bottom while Tommy Burns' side still have hopes of catching Rangers.

I felt we played well against Dundee United at Tannadice a fortnight ago.

They are undoubtedly the form team of the division at the moment but we competed well and were unlucky not to get the breaks we deserved.



However, there are still five games to go and we've got to believe we can still get out of danger.

The players' attitude has been excellent and the spirit is great. We have seen how Kilmarnock's position has improved with a couple of good results against the Old Firm and that should provide an inspiration for us today.

Of course, it will be a difficult game as Celtic have many top-class players but we ran them close on their last visit here and we want to put on a similar performance this afternoon.

**WE NEED YOU TO SUPPORT  
THE SUPER TEN LOTTERY**



# CELTIC

Founded: 1888  
 Ground: Celtic Park  
 Address: 95 Kerrydale Street,  
 Glasgow G40 3RW  
 Manager: Tommy Burns  
 Colours: Green and white  
 Record attendance: 92,000  
 v Rangers, 1938  
 Record victory: 11-0  
 v Dundee, 1895  
 Record defeat: 0-8  
 v Motherwell, 1937  
 Most capped player:  
 Paul McStay

## HONOURS

European Cup winners  
 1967  
 League champions  
 35 times  
 Scottish Cup winners  
 30 times  
 League Cup winners  
 Nine times

## TEN-YEAR RECORD

	League	Scottish	League
	Cup	Cup	Cup
1986-87	2nd	4th rd	Final
1987-88	1st	Winners	4th rd
1988-89	3rd	Winners	4th rd
1989-90	5th	Semi-final	Final
1990-91	3rd	Semi-final	Final
1991-92	3rd	Semi-final	4th rd
1992-93	3rd	4th rd	Semi-final
1993-94	4th	3rd rd	Semi-final
1994-95	4th	Winners	Final
1995-96	2nd	Semi-final	4th rd

**C**ELTIC go in to today's match trailing Rangers by seven points and it is looking increasingly likely that their Old Firm rivals will equal their proud record of nine successive league titles.

But recent results have proved that nothing can be taken for granted and Tommy Burns' side will be determined to keep up the pressure with a win here today.

And they know they won't get it easy against a Raith side equally desperate for points.

On their last visit to Kirkcaldy it took a late, late goal to seal victory for the Bhoys and they had to settle for a point on their trip to the Kingdom to face Dunfermline two weeks ago.

Under-21 internationalist STEWART KERR is a certain starter in goals for Celtic today.



**Andreas Thom**

The 22-year-old seized his opportunity when GORDON MARSHALL (32) was suspended earlier in the season and has played in every game since.

Such has been his form that he has been touted for a call-up to the full Scotland squad in recent months.

For one reason or another, Burns has been unable to field a settled defence this season and that has not helped his side's cause.

However, one of the successes at the back has undoubtedly been JACKIE McNAMARA.

The 23-year-old was signed from Dunfermline for £600,000 in October 1995 and has already featured on the international scene.

He could be joined in the side today by fellow Scottish internationalists TOSH McKINLAY and TOM BOYD.



**Stewart Kerr**

# CELTIC KEEP ON THE PRESSURE

A bargain £350,000 buy from Hearts in November 1994, 27-year-old McKinlay has proved to be one of Celtic's most consistent performers in recent years while Boyd (31), who arrived at Parkhead in a deal which saw Tony Cascarino move to Chelsea, can slot in anywhere in the defence.

ALAN STUBBS (25) cost a massive £5.5 million to lure from Bolton Wanderers during the summer to add steel to the heart of the defence and he has been joined in the side by MALKY MACKAY.

Mackay, also aged 25, arrived at the club on a free transfer from Queen's Park in August 1994 and, after a couple of seasons in the reserves, is now carving out a position for himself in the first team.

The most recent addition to the Parkhead ranks is ENRICO ANNONI, signed earlier this

year from Roma and already looking to be a real find.

Celtic can boast one of the most talented midfields in the country and in PAOLO DI CANIO they have a real contender for player of the season.

Signed from AC Milan for £3 million in June 1996 after months of speculation, the 28-year-old has impressed with his trickery although his temper does sometimes get him into trouble.

He is likely to be joined in the side today by PAUL McSTAY (32), a player whose name has become synonymous with Celtic after 16 years at Parkhead in which time he has become their most capped player, and 24-year-old PHIL O'DONNELL, who was the club's record buy when signed from Motherwell for £1.75 million in September 1994.

PETER GRANT's loyalty to the club was rewarded with a testimonial earlier this season and the 31-year-old is now back in action after a spell out injured while Burns can also call upon the services of Danish internationalist MORTEN WEIGHORST (26), diminutive winger BRIAN McLAUGHLIN (22) and DAVID HANNAH (23), signed earlier this season from Dundee United.

Despite the transfer of Pierre Van Hooijdonk to Nottingham Forest, Celtic can still boast a strong strikeforce, headed of

course by 28-year-old Portugese internationalist JORGE CADETE, who has found the net regularly since his arrival from Sporting Lisbon a year ago.

TOMMY JOHNSON was bought from Aston Villa for £2.35 million just over a week ago and another of the Bhoys' foreign contingent, 31-year-old former German internationalist ANDREAS THOM, could also be involved at some stage.

There may also be a place for SIMON DONNELLY (22), who scored twice against Rovers on his Parkhead debut in 1994, while another option is provided by 22-year-old CHRIS HAY who has been at Parkhead for three and a half years since signing from Giffnock North AFC.



Jorge Cadete

## CELTIC PAST RESULTS

The clubs met four times in the Premier League and once in both the Coca-Cola Cup and Scottish Cup last season with Rovers managing to take just one point from Celtic.

### STARK'S PARK

Raith Rovers 0 Celtic 1  
(Van Hooijdonk)

Raith Rovers 1 Celtic 3  
(Cameron) (O'Donnell, Collins, Van Hooijdonk)

### CELTIC PARK

Celtic 2 Raith Rovers 1 (aet)  
(Van Hooijdonk, Rougier)

Celtic 0 Raith Rovers 0  
Donnelly

Celtic 2 Raith Rovers 0  
(Thom, Donnelly)

Celtic 4 Raith Rovers 1  
(Cadete 2, Duffield)  
Gray, Grant)





## BYGONE DAYS

# THE FANS' FAVOURITE WHO NEVER GAVE UP

*David Potter looks back on the careers of some of Rovers' greatest ever players.*

**D**AVIE Sinclair is worthy of a place among the great Rovers of all time, not because he was necessarily the most talented ever seen at Stark's Park but because he, more than anyone else, symbolised the Raith Rovers side of the mid-1990s - tough, determined and dogged.

He will readily concede himself that he is not a born footballer - 'I'm not a Stevie Crawford or a Colin Cameron' he said in a honest interview for the programme's Player Profile - but he did stress the determination to work hard for a game that he obviously relished and enjoyed.

He was born in 1969 in West Fife, and spent the formative years of his footballing life playing football for Valleyfield. He was signed by Dunfermline, but never really made it at East End Park. He had a spell with Portadown in Northern Ireland, but was playing for Kelty Under 21s when Frank Connor gave him a second chance at senior football by signing him for Raith Rovers.

Rovers at the time were slowly improving under big Frank but had some distance to go yet. Davie made his debut against Hamilton as a substitute on 6th October 1990 at Stark's Park. Not long after this, Nicholl arrived and, by the end of the season, Sinclair

was a regular wearing the No.10 shirt as Rovers finished a creditable seventh.

For the next few years there could be a lot of doubt and argument about what his best position was.

He was played in the midfield but probably lacked creativity in that role. Yet he was willing to try anything - one remembers a few none too successful outings at left-back - before he eventually settled in the role he enjoyed, that of left-sided central defender.

He had a reputation for being something of a hard man Jimmy Nicholl was quoted as saying that he was so tough that he had tattoos on his teeth. This remark would frequently appear in the opposition programme on an away day.

In addition, some of the less intelligent home support would often invite Sinky to punch someone. Fortunately, Davie never obliged and he always played the game hard but fair. Occasionally, however, he would fall foul of a referee and see a yellow card for his pains.

He played his part in the glory season of 1994-95 winning the Coca-Cola Cup (against his beloved Celtic!) and won promotion to the Premier League in 1993 and 1995, but it was his contribution in the games against Bayern Munich which marked him out as something special and earned him the respect of Europe. It was his tirelessness and endeavour, even against the likes of Klinsman, that distinguished him.

He was always charming with supporters and they readily took him to their heart.

The departure of Nicholl in February 1996 to Millwall bewildered Sinclair as much as everyone else and the supporters were sad to learn in the summer that he had decided to follow his manager.

Now, of course, he is back in Scotland playing for Dundee United and featured in the match at Tannadice two weeks ago. But, to many people, he will always be Davie Sinclair of the Rovers.