

HIBERNIAN



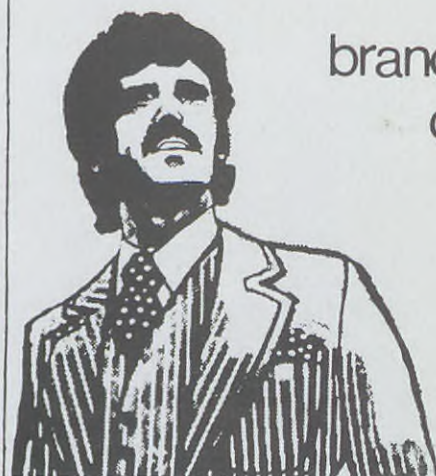
CELTIC PREMIER LEAGUE

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Eddie Turnbull's Page



Saturday
April 16, 1977
PREMIER LEAGUE

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A glance at the League table shows that Celtic could tie up the championship here today. Every fan in the country appreciates that Celtic will be champions but the clinching of the flag provides a special moment for the team that has proved to be best over the long and arduous course.

Hibs' speciality has been drawing games but we'll be all out today to prevent Celtic from becoming champions at our expense and this situation should provide a bonus for the fans.

Our games invariably offer top-class entertainment because both clubs have a reputation for good football and I'm sure the customers won't be disappointed this afternoon.

We have drawn two of our three matches with Celtic this season and a repeat of last season's late victory would give us something to cheer about and also maintain interest in the League for a little longer.

A last-minute goal, which many critics deemed offside, prevented Hibs from beating luckless Hearts at Tynecastle in midweek.

And so we chalked up yet one more draw to follow our goalless game with Aberdeen at Pittodrie. Just two examples of matches that could and should have been won by Hibs.

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Celtic goalkeeper Roy Baines dives at an Ally MacLeod shot in Hibs' last home game, with Pat Stanton between them.

In the lower picture, Mike McDonald is the 'keeper in action though Joe Craig's header was too high.



Scotsman and Evening News pictures

SPOT-KICK RECORD LOST TO ABERDEEN "EXPERT"

Ally MacLeod spoiled a perfect penalty record at Pittodrie last week when Aberdeen goalkeeper Ally MacLean stopped the spot-kick which would have enabled Hibs to win the points and double the number of goals scored in four meetings between the clubs this season.

Defences have ruled all right with three goalless draws on the record and this was Hibs' 16th all-square effort in 31 championship games.

MacLeod was on target with his shot and it took a superb save to deny him his fifth goal from the spot for the first team. MacLean has saved four out of six penalties this season.

It was Ally's first penalty since he netted one in the pre-season match in Drogheda. Now that's two in a row that goalkeepers have saved from Hibs since John Brownlie missed against Dundee United recently.

* * *

The Aberdeen game was notable for the fact that it marked the first-team debut of Ally Brazil in midfield. The Currie youngster began the season at centre half but has the skill to play further forward and this was a chance to blood him.

* * *

Erich Schaedler became the latest player to tot up four cautions when he was booked at Aberdeen for catching the ball. Players may refrain from this

action once they know that all referees will treat it as a bookable offence.

Erich must be kicking himself for landing in bother as his previous caution was for kicking away the ball.

* * *

Hibs have played three away matches following the last Easter Road game against Celtic whose speedy return today should produce another entertaining contest.

MacLeod collected Hibs' goal just over a fortnight ago and the whole side emerged from the game with plenty credit. Certainly, former Hibs' goalkeeper Roy Baines had an opportunity to distinguish himself.

Hibs moved on to Ibrox and seemed sure to collect at least one point after Bobby Smith had scored first. However, defensive slackness allowed Rangers to whip home two quick goals before half-time and that was the game lost.

Such is the way of the fixture list that this is the first of three home games in eight days with the two Ayrshire clubs—Ayr United on Wednesday and Kilmarnock on Saturday—winding up the show here for the season.

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RODDY McDONALD



PETER LATCHFORD

CELTIC HAVE POINTS TARGET

Celtic will want to win the Premier League with more than the 54 points attained by Rangers last season to set a new peak for the future. And it will be worth while comparing their final figure with some of their scores during their nine great years as champions.

Their highest tally was 63 points from 34 games and the competitiveness of the present League is emphasised by the fact that totals tend to be smaller despite the two extra fixtures.

It's a fair bet, anyway, that Celtic will complete the schedule with a bigger victory margin than Rangers despite the upset at Motherwell in midweek.

Aberdeen and Dundee United put up a formidable challenge in the course of the campaign but, as has happened so often in the past, Celtic churned out wins with a consistency that others just couldn't match.

In next season's European Cup, they could meet old rivals in Atletico Madrid, Benfica and Ajax.

On reflection, Celtic boss Jock Stein may consider that his team could have been bidding for the treble. An extra-time goal gave Aberdeen the League Cup in a final dominated for long spells by Celtic.

And, as anticipated, they beat Dundee in the semi-final of the Scottish Cup to qualify for another final—their 11th in 13 years—against Rangers on May 7.

Joe Craig and Pat Stanton were unable to participate in the League Cup final and, of course, Alfie Conn joined the club from Tottenham in time to help in the clinching of the title.

Craig scored both goals in the semi against Dundee and had another chalked off; he also scored the winner against Kilmarnock and his outstanding form could earn him further international recognition in the forthcoming international against Sweden on April 27.

Manager Willie Ormond picks his squad next week and, with so many Anglo regulars unavailable, Celtic should be well represented.

Danny McGrain is the popular tip to add to the Parkhead honours list by winning the Football Writers' nomination as Player of the Year.

This class player would be a worthy winner and so might colleague Ronnie Glavin, who could finish the season as top scorer in the Premier division.

He has 25 goals so far and anyone who tops the contribution by Kenny Dalglish must be playing great stuff.

Teenager Roy Aitken has the look of a seasoned player despite his inexperience and there is the unusual situation of two Englishmen in competition for the yellow jersey.

It's Roy Baines or Peter Latchford to keep goal against Rangers in the final and only the manager knows, at this moment, who will play.

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**IN THE
NEWS
THIS WEEK**

THE LINE-UP

HIBERNIAN

- 1 McDONALD
- 2 BROWNLIE
- 3 SCHAEGLER
- 4 BREMNER
- 5 STEWART
- 6 MUIR
- 7 EDWARDS
- 8 MACLEOD
- 9 SCOTT
- 10 SMITH
- 11 DUNCAN
- 12
- 14

Referee—
W. Anderson (East Kilbride)

CELTIC

- 1 BAINES
- 2 McGRAIN
- 3 LYNCH
- 4 STANTON
- 5 McDONALD
- 6 AITKEN
- 7 CONN
- 8 GLAVIN
- 9 CRAIG
- 10 DALGLISH
- 11 BURNS
- 12
- 14

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Linesman—Orange Flag—
J. D. Brown (Markinch)

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RESULTS . . . SCORERS . . . FIXTURES

LEAGUE CUP

Aug. 14	Montrose	(A)	1-0	Scott.
Aug. 18	Rangers	(H)	1-1	Scott.
Aug. 21	St Johnstone	(A)	2-1	Scott 2.
Aug. 25	Rangers	(A)	0-3	
Aug. 28	St Johnstone	(H)	9-2	Brownlie (2 pens), Muir 2, MacLeod 2, Bremner, Scott, Duncan.

Sept. 1	Montrose	(H)	0-0	
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PREMIER LEAGUE

Sept. 4	Dundee United	(H)	1-2	Brownlie (pen.).
Sept. 11	Motherwell	(A)	2-2	Scott, Murray.
Sept. 18	Rangers	(H)	1-1	Smith.
Sept. 25	Aberdeen	(H)	0-0	
Oct. 2	Celtic	(A)	1-1	Higgins.
Oct. 16	Partick Thistle	(H)	0-0	
Oct. 23	Ayr United	(A)	3-2	Brownlie (pen.), Smith, Duncan.
Oct. 26	Kilmarnock	(A)	1-1	Bremner.
Oct. 30	Hearts	(H)	1-1	Paterson.
Nov. 6	Dundee United	(A)	1-2	Smith.
Nov. 20	Rangers	(A)	1-1	Steele (o.g.).
Nov. 24	Motherwell	(H)	0-2	
Nov. 27	Aberdeen	(A)	0-1	
Dec. 18	Partick Thistle	(A)	1-1	Fyfe.
Dec. 24	Ayr United	(H)	1-0	Filippi (o.g.).
Jan. 5	Dundee United	(H)	0-0	
Jan. 8	Motherwell	(A)	1-1	Brownlie.
Jan. 22	Aberdeen	(H)	0-0	
Jan. 26	Hearts	(A)	1-0	MacLeod.
Feb. 5	Celtic	(A)	2-4	Smith, MacLeod.
Feb. 12	Kilmarnock	(A)	1-0	MacLeod.
Feb. 16	Rangers	(H)	0-0	
Feb. 19	Partick Thistle	(H)	1-1	Smith.
Mar. 5	Ayr United	(A)	2-1	Duncan, Higgins.
Mar. 9	Kilmarnock	(H)	2-0	Smith, MacLeod.
Mar. 19	Dundee United	(A)	0-1	
Mar. 23	Hearts	(H)	3-1	MacLeod, Smith, Scott.
Mar. 26	Motherwell	(H)	1-2	MacLeod.
Mar. 30	Celtic	(H)	1-1	MacLeod.
Apr. 2	Rangers	(A)	1-2	Smith.
Apr. 9	Aberdeen	(A)	0-0	
Apr. 13	Hearts	(A)	2-2	Bremner 2.

SCOTTISH CUP

Feb. 6	Partick Thistle	(H)	3-0	Smith, MacLeod, Bremner.
Feb. 26	Arbroath	(A)	1-1	Blackley.
Mar. 2	Arbroath	(H)	1-2	MacLeod.

UEFA CUP

Sept. 15	Sochaux	(H)	1-0	Brownlie.
Sept. 29	Sochaux	(A)	0-0	
Oct. 20	Oesters	(H)	2-0	Blackley, Brownlie (pen.).
Nov. 3	Oesters	(A)	1-4	Smith.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Oct. 9	Newcastle United	(A)	1-2	Scott.
Nov. 16	Stoke City	(H)	0-1	

MATCHES TO COME

Apr. 20	Ayr United	(H)	Apr. 30	Partick Thistle	(A)
Apr. 23	Kilmarnock	(H)			

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Celtic	31	20	7	4	69	35	47
Rangers	32	15	10	7	51	33	40
Aberdeen	32	14	11	7	50	34	39
Dundee United	31	15	8	8	50	36	38
HIBS	32	7	17	8	32	33	31
Ayr United	32	11	7	14	42	58	29
Motherwell	30	9	10	11	46	47	28
Partick Thistle	32	8	12	12	33	42	28
Hearts	32	5	11	16	41	60	21
Kilmarnock	32	4	7	21	28	64	15

JOHN LAMBIE on . . .

Second team progress

Our reserve match here against Rangers 10 days ago was sufficient proof, if any was needed, that the Ibrox side will be hard to beat in the two cup finals for which we have qualified.

Clearly, Rangers are confident of a clean sweep in this grade and Hibs will need to play really well to be among the trophies.

Rangers beat our youngsters 2-1 at Ibrox earlier on and this latest match ended in a 2-2 draw with Ally Brazil scoring both goals.

There were a lot of stoppages in a physical game but Hibs showed some fair touches to gain their point.

I was very pleased with the previous result against Dundee. It seems that the lads play their best football on the bigger pitches and Dens Park suited them as the 3-1 scoreline would suggest.

Brazil and Pat Carroll put a stranglehold on the midfield and it was a most satisfactory all-round show with Paterson, McGhee and Brazil stepping up to score the goals.

Last Saturday we had a rather disappointing 0-0 game with Clydebank and I must qualify that statement by saying that Hibs ran into a goalkeeper in unbeatable form.

All 'keepers have days when they can do nothing wrong and Connachan enjoyed such an afternoon in the Clydebank goal.



ALLY BRAZIL

He put up the shutters as Graham Fyfe fired in shots from a few yards range; slack passbacks were pounced upon by other forwards but they couldn't put the ball past him.

Hibs were never in any danger and we used only one centre half because the game flowed in only one direction. However, the three games were worth four points and that's not so bad.

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"DERBY DOUBLE" FOR DES

Des Bremner scored against Hearts for the first time at Tynecastle on Wednesday night when his "derby double" seemed sure to give Hibs another two points. Two hard-hit shots from outside the penalty area provided a half-time lead and Hearts snatched their saving goal in the last minute.

Nevertheless, it was a first-class effort by Des who is having his best season as a marksman with seven so far. Ally MacLeod nearly did it again with a 30-yarder that rebounded off the upright with Jim Cruickshank beaten.

This was Hibs' 17th draw and so the club equalled a record that has stood for more than 50 years. Falkirk drew 17 games out of 42 in successive seasons in the early 20s.

* * *

John Blackley and Derek Spalding are not available today as a result of suspensions imposed by the SFA Referee Committee on Tuesday.

Both players had four cautions and their bans began on Thursday. Blackley misses three successive home games due to his 10 days' suspension and Spalding was sidelined for a week so that he will be on hand, if required, to turn out against Kilmarnock next Saturday.

* * *

Hibs are staging a regional final of the Scottish Schools' Supershot 1977 competition today when four youngsters under 15 take part in a penalty-kick tourney.

The competitors will be: R. Reilly (St

Andrew's High School) red and blue; B. Ritchie (Kirkcaldy High School) blue and gold; Brian Tugman (St Mary's Academy, Bathgate) blue; James Brown (Whitburn Academy) white.

Each boy will have five kicks — three before the game and two during the interval. In the event of a tie, those concerned will play to a finish.

And the winner will receive a Scotland tracksuit and holdall, plus a pair of football boots.

The ultimate prize for the champion who emerges from the regional contests and semi-finals is a weekend trip for two to Wembley in June for the England-Scotland international.

* * *

A charity concert in aid of the Pat Stanton Testimonial Fund is being put together by comedian Bill Barclay for the Playhouse on Monday, August 25.

Bill Torrance of Radio Forth will compere a programme which is to include Phil Clarke, Jun., Tam White, Vindscreen Vipers, Alex Howden, Bill Hill and The Mimics. Tickets are £2 and £1 and are obtainable at the Supporters' Club headquarters and the Ronnie Simpson and Thornton's sports shops in the town.

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