



celtic



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2007/08



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SOCIAL MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

Celtic Football Club is legendary and as with most legends as much myth as fact surrounds its history and what the Club stands for today. The Social Mission Statement aims to simply define what the Club stands for and seeks to promote within society.

History

Celtic Football Club was founded in 1888. Its principal founder was a Marist Brother named Walfrid. The Club had two principal aims: The first aim was to raise funds to provide food for the poor of the East End of Glasgow, an area of the City that was greatly impoverished and had a high rate of infant mortality. Within the East End was a large Irish community and friction was growing between the native Glaswegians and the new influx of Irish. Brother Walfrid saw the need for social integration and his vision was a football club that Scottish and Irish, Protestants and Catholics alike could support. A new football club would be a vehicle to bring the communities together and this was the second aim. The Marist brother sought for the Club to have both a Scottish and Irish identity and hence, the Club's name "Celtic" came about, representing a bridge of cultures across the Irish Sea.

Current Positioning of Celtic Football Club

Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting health, well-being and social integration.

Who is Celtic Football Club for?

Celtic Football Club is for people who want to support a football club that strives for excellence in Scotland and in Europe, is proud of its history, supportive of its local community and seeks to support the following aims: "To maximise all opportunities to disassociate the Club from sectarianism and bigotry of any kind. To promote Celtic as a Club for all people, regardless of gender, age, religion, race or ability."

Summary

Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people.

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>> GORDON STRACHAN



A WARM welcome to Celtic Park for today's game against Hearts. It's nice to be back playing here on a Saturday afternoon at three o'clock and, hopefully, we can continue the form we've shown in recent weeks.

Our recent games against Hearts, however, should be enough to warn everyone of how tough it is going to be this afternoon.

We drew with them at Tynecastle and before that, in our last meeting here, we lost in the CIS Cup, so we're all aware of the threat our opponents today will pose.

However, we have to be pleased with our own performances in recent weeks. To beat both Kilmarnock and Aberdeen at their home grounds is impressive enough given how difficult the venues of Rugby Park and Pittodrie are, but to do so with the type of performances we produced makes it all the better.

The players' attitudes were spot on against Kilmarnock and it has to be said, they enjoyed playing on a good surface.

We're spoiled here by having the best pitch in the country and we're looking forward to getting out there today.

We followed up our 5-1 win over Kilmarnock with another 5-1 win against Aberdeen. Again, our attitude and application from the first minute until the last was first class and the players got the proper rewards.

Scott McDonald scored two goals for the second consecutive match, we had another player score on his debut, Barry Robson following on from Georgios Samaras, and we also enjoyed a tremendous individual display from Aiden McGeady.

So we are feeling good about ourselves right now and the players are fully focused on today's match with Hearts.

It will give them a boost to be playing in front of our own supporters and, along with the same determination that's been evident in our performances, we will be going all-out to win the three points today.



>> CELTIC FACTFILE



UPCOMING FIXTURES
Wednesday, February 20
 UEFA Champions League
 Celtic v Barcelona

Sunday, February 24
 Scottish Premier League
 St Mirren v **Celtic**

Wednesday, February 27
 Scottish Premier League
 Celtic v Inverness CT

Saturday, March 1
 Scottish Premier League
 Hibs v **Celtic**

Tuesday, March 4
 UEFA Champions League
 Barcelona v **Celtic**



CLUB HONOURS

Scottish League Winners [41 times]

1892-93, 1893-94, 1895-96, 1897-98,
 1904-05, 1905-06, 1906-07, 1907-08,
 1908-09, 1909-10, 1913-14, 1914-15,
 1915-16, 1916-17, 1918-19, 1921-22,
 1925-26, 1935-36, 1937-38, 1953-54,
 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69,
 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73,
 1973-74, 1976-77, 1978-79, 1980-81,
 1981-82, 1985-86, 1987-88, 1997-98,
 2000-01, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2005-06,
 2006-07

Scottish Cup Winners [34 times]

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908,
 1911, 1912, 1914, 1923, 1925, 1927,
 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965,
 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975,
 1977, 1980, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1995,
 2001, 2004, 2005, 2007

League Cup Winners [13 times]

1956-57, 1957-58, 1965-66, 1966-67,
 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1974-75,
 1982-83, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01,
 2005-06

European Cup Winners 1967

Coronation Cup Winners 1953

CLUB DIRECTORY & HONOURS

Celtic Football Club
 Celtic Park Glasgow G40 3RE
Telephone: 0871 226 1888

Website: www.celticfc.net

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park

Capacity: 60,506

Home strip colours: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks

Away strip colours:

Green/black striped shirts, green shorts, green socks

Record attendance:
 92,000 v Rangers, 1938

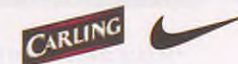
Record victory:
 11-0 v Dundee, 1895

Record defeat:
 0-8 v Motherwell, 1937

Most league goals in 1 season:
 50 - Jimmy McGorry, 1935-36

Most Premier/SPL goals in 1 season:
 35 - Brian McClair, 1986-87
 35 - Henrik Larsson, 2000-01

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UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK AND AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

New rules have been introduced by the SFA and SPL in connection with "Unacceptable Conduct" at football stadia. The new rules form part of our Stadium Regulations. It is a condition of entry to stadia that the Stadium Regulations, including these new rules, are followed.

A summary of the new rules is set out below. Full details are available on the Celtic website at www.celticfc.net or by contacting the Customer Service Manager on 0871 226 1888.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB WILL NOT TOLERATE UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AT CELTIC PARK OR AT AWAY FOOTBALL STADIA

- Unacceptable Conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly
- Violent conduct includes any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person, or intentional damage to property

Disorderly conduct includes:

- Conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or is designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people because of:
 - Gender
 - Colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin
 - Membership or presumed membership, of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation
 - Sexual orientation
 - Transgender identity
 - Disability
- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct

- Displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting

This list is not exhaustive and must be read in conjunction with the Stadium Regulations.

ANY PERSON ENGAGING IN UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ANY, OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Removal from the Stadium
- Suspension from attending Official Matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Indefinite ban from attending Official Matches involving Celtic Football Club
- Report to the police and possible criminal proceedings

Celtic Football Club was established in 1888 as a Club open to all.

Further information on the Club's origins and Celtic's Social Mission Statement can be found on www.celticfc.net.

>> A WORD FROM THE CAPTAIN

IT'S almost a month since we last played at Celtic Park so it's good to be home although, to be fair, we've not done too badly on the road in recent weeks with two consecutive 5-1 victories.

Our last home game here was against Kilmarnock and though we created loads of chances, we only managed to score the one goal and that was an own goal. However, when we travelled down to Rugby Park for our Scottish Cup tie, we got back on the goals trail in some style, scoring five goals.

It was a tremendous performance from the boys at what is always a tough venue and it was great to see all our strikers on the day - Scott McDonald, Big Jan and Georgios Samaras - scoring.

If Rugby Park is a difficult place to get anything at, then the same is equally true of Pittodrie. When you play there, you always know you're in for a test as Aberdeen are always up for the game and in the early stages they did create a few chances.

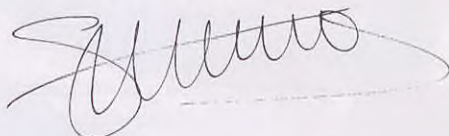
However, once we scored our first goal through Shunsuke Nakamura, there was only going to be one winner. Scott McDonald scored two goals - he's having an incredible season for us - while Barry Robson had an

amazing start to his Celtic career when he scored with his first ever touch.

It was a tremendous performance from the team which delighted all our supporters but if one thing stood out at Pittodrie, it was Aiden's display. He obviously scored one of our goals but his overall contribution was tremendous and his trickery to set up Scott for the fourth goal was just unbelievable.

We've seen Aiden's ability first-hand over a number of years and this year in particular the team has really benefited from it.

Obviously we want to continue our recent good form today at Celtic Park but our recent contests with Hearts are a warning that it will not be easy. In fact, the last time they were here they knocked us out of the CIS Cup so we know we'll have to be at our very best in order to gain all three points.



Stephen McManus





WIN EXCLUSIVE SCOTLAND



Celtic v Hearts

Where & how scored		When for & against		Where & how scored	
Close range	12			Close range	6
Inside 18yd box	40			Inside 18yd box	25
Outside 18yd box	6			Outside 18yd box	5
Shots	35			Shots	22
Headers	10			Headers	4
Volleys	3			Volleys	3
Penalties	4			Penalties	5
Free Kicks	1	Free Kicks	1		
Own Goals	5	Own Goals	1		

Last 6 results			Seasonal progress comparison			Last 6 results		
Opponents	H/A	Score				Opponents	H/A	Score
Aberdeen	A	5-1				Gretna	H	2-0
Falkirk	A	1-0				Aberdeen	A	1-0
Kilmarnock	H	1-0				Hibernian	H	1-0
Gretna	H	3-0				Kilmarnock	H	1-1
Dundee Utd	A	2-0				Dundee Utd	A	1-4
Hibernian	H	1-1				Falkirk	A	1-2

Set pieces & discipline		Hearts' last 10 years		Set pieces & discipline	
Scored from free kick	3			Scored from free kick	3
Conceded from free kick	2			Conceded from free kick	5
Scored from corner	5			Scored from corner	6
Conceded from corner	1			Conceded from corner	3
Fouls committed	264			Fouls committed	390
Average per game	11.48			Average per game	15.6
Yellow cards	37			Yellow cards	55
Red cards	0			Red cards	8

Head2Head stats since 1999/00 season

Last meeting at Celtic Park				Previous meetings		Where & how goals scored	
Celtic	5-0		Hearts	at Celtic	at Hearts	Celtic	Hearts
Berra 9 (og), Donati 22 Brown Sc 61, Vennegoor of Hesselink 63 (pen), Nakamura 79 Attendance 57,300	Referee Brines			5-0	2007-08	1-1	5
Boruc, Caldwell, Wilson, Naylor, McManus, Brown Sc, Nakamura, Donati, McGeady (Riordan 69), McDonald (Zurawski 87), Vennegoor of Hesselink (Killen 69)	Banks, Zaliukas, Neilson, Goncalves (Karipidis 46), Berra, Ksanavicius, Kingston (McCann 46), Stewart, Ivaskevicius (Driver 46), Mikolunas, Elliot			2-1/1-3	2006-07	1-2/2-1	25
Booked none	Booked Ivaskevicius, Berra			1-1/1-0	2005-06	3-2/0-3	3
Sent off none	Sent off none			3-0/0-2	2004-05	2-0/2-1	43
Att on target 13	Offsides 4	Att on target 2		5-0/2-2	2003-04	1-0/1-1	14
Att off target 5	Fouls 14	Att off target 5		4-2/1-0	2002-03	4-1/1-2	9
Corners 6	Fixture date 25/8/07	Corners 5		2-0/2-0	2001-02	1-0/4-1	3
				6-1/1-0	2000-01	4-2/3-0	3
				4-0/2-3	1999-00	2-1/0-1	2
				Bhoys' goals to left of results line		3	0

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>> TODAY'S VISITORS

WORDS: JOE SULLIVAN

AS the old saying goes 'You never get a second chance to make a first impression' so it goes without saying that the first game of the season is vitally important in setting the tone for the rest of the campaign - or the first few games at the very least...

And, the importance of the campaign opener is multiplied manifold when that 90 minutes happens to be a derby game against your oldest rivals, so with barely two minutes of the campaign gone, Hearts fans must have feared the worst when Brian Kerr put Hibernian ahead at Tynecastle.

The mood in the camp wasn't any better at the end of the game as Kerr's was a solitary goal in this all-Edinburgh encounter and the three-point gap must have looked like a yawning chasm on the day.

Things were to get worse before they got better though but the next two games only garnered two points.

A 1-1 draw at Pittodrie could hardly be considered as the end of the world for any team, and Michael Stewart equalising a Barry Nicholson opener would probably have been acceptable even when Hearts were riding high and setting a pace a couple of seasons back, but the same result the following week against different opposition was an entirely different proposition.

They had previously tested Hearts in the Scottish Cup final of 2006 when it went to penalties after a 1-1 draw and extra-time but would Gretna be the same gritty prospect under the continually more demanding spotlight of the Premier League?

Apparently, they were. Andrew Driver gave the Tynecastle side a 73rd-minute lead but just six minutes later, Craig Barr struck with the equaliser and, once again, 1-1 was the final score.

With Hearts still looking to pick up their first three points of the season with three games gone, a trip to Celtic Park in their fourth game may not have been their ideal option and, come the final whistle, it was obvious why.

A rampant Celtic side were helped on their way when Christophe Berra put through his own net after only nine minutes but the defender could take heart from the fact that his faux pas was of little consequence come the final outcome.

Massimo Donati made it 2-0 before the break while Scott Brown, Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (from the spot) and Shunsuke Nakamura all found the net to make it 5-0 for Celtic and the Tynecastle side's most comprehensive defeat of the season so far.

League Cup duty arrived to give the Jambos some respite and a trip to Forthbank presented them with their first win of the season as an own goal from Stirling Albion's Laurie Ellis opened the scoring and Laryea Kingston hit another to give Hearts a 2-0 win.

Buoyed by this turn of fortune, Hearts travelled to Fir Park with a spring in their step and recorded the same 2-0 scoreline over Motherwell to rack up their first SPL win of the term.

It was Kingston who scored again, this time getting them off the mark in the 24th minute but it wasn't until the very last minute that Andrius Velicka made sure of the points by hitting the second.

That spring in the step was noticeably hit the heights when Hearts saw off their next visitors to Gorgie as Rangers were put to the sword with no small element of panache when the home side recorded a 4-2 win.

Driver and Ibrahim Tall put the Tynecastle side in a 2-0 half-time lead before Daniel Cousin pulled one back four minutes after the break.

Michael Stewart converted a spot-kick to make it 3-1 in the 66th minute and Kestutis Ivaskevicius hit the fourth just four minutes later.

DaMarcus Beasley managed to pull one back for the Ibrox side but 4-2 was the final score and Hearts had won their first home game of the season.

On the back of two consecutive SPL wins, Hearts no doubt travelled to the Highlands for their game with Inverness CT with a rising degree of confidence and that would have been boosted when the home side's Ian Black put through his own net 10 minutes before the break.

He was only one of three ICT players to find the net though and, annoyingly for Hearts, the other two managed to work out which way they were shooting and score at the right end.

Former Hearts man Dennis Wyness levelled the scoring in the 64th minute and this time the visitors were to pay the price for losing a last-minute goal ▶

ΣΥΛΛΟΓΗ <<

HEARTS' SEASON SO FAR



>> TODAY'S VISITORS



when former Hibs man Craig Brewster struck in the final minute of his, so far, final SPL game.

The League Cup beckoned again but Hearts could be sure of a sterner test from Dunfermline Athletic in this round - or could they?

Well, the game did go to extra-time but the end result put a far more healthy reflection on the game as Hearts beat the East End Park side 4-1.

Christian Nade converted from the spot in the 34th minute and the 1-0 score stood until just six minutes from time when former Hearts player Stephen Simmons equalised.

With regulation time up, Berra struck seven minutes into extra-time and Calum Elliot then hit his only two goals of the season so far when he scored in the 100th and 102nd minutes to kill the game off.

The results continued in an up and down basis but following wins over St Mirren (A 3-1) and Falkirk (H 4-2), the only real highpoints were remaining unbeaten in two games against Celtic - they won 2-0 here in the League Cup and drew 1-1 at Tynecastle in the league.

The other scores before the end of the year were 3-1 defeats to both Dundee United (H) and Kilmarnock (A) while 1-1 away draws with both Hibs and Gretna sandwiched a 4-1 home win over Aberdeen.

The rest of the year's results were all defeats; Motherwell (H 2-1), Rangers (A 2-1), ICT (H 3-2), St Mirren (H 1-0) and Falkirk (A 2-1).

The New Year failed to herald a change of heart either as Dundee United won 4-1 before the Tynecastle side drew 1-1 with Kilmarnock and 2-2 in the Scottish Cup with Motherwell but their third home game in a row was to give better cheer when a Velicka goal after 20 minutes gave Hearts a 1-0 win over Hibs.

The Scottish Cup replay brought more misery though when Motherwell won 1-0 although Hearts got back on the SPL points trail with a 1-0 away win over Aberdeen.

Little more than a week after dropping out of the Scottish Cup, Hearts did the same in the League Cup when they lost 2-0 to Rangers.

However, they did finally lay one hoodoo to rest last week when the seemingly never-ending 1-1 deadlock with Gretna was broken thanks to a 2-0 win at Tynecastle.

HEARTS' SEASON SO FAR



HEARTS' RESULTS SO FAR

SPL

Hearts 0-1 Hibernian
 Aberdeen 1-1 Hearts
 Hearts 1-1 Gretna
 Celtic 5-0 Hearts
 Motherwell 0-2 Hearts
 Hearts 4-2 Rangers
 Inverness CT 2-1 Hearts
 St Mirren 1-3 Hearts
 Hearts 4-2 Falkirk
 Hearts 1-3 Dundee United
 Kilmarnock 3-1 Hearts
 Hibernian 1-1 Hearts
 Hearts 4-1 Aberdeen
 Gretna 1-1 Hearts
 Hearts 1-1 Celtic
 Hearts 1-2 Motherwell
 Rangers 2-1 Hearts
 Hearts 2-3 Inverness CT
 Hearts 0-1 St Mirren
 Falkirk 2-1 Hearts
 Dundee United 4-1 Hearts
 Hearts 1-1 Kilmarnock
 Hearts 1-0 Hibernian
 Aberdeen 0-1 Hearts
 Hearts 2-0 Gretna

LEAGUE CUP

Stirling Albion 0-2 Hearts
 Hearts 4-1 Dunfermline (AET)
 Celtic 0-2 Hearts
 Rangers 2-0 Hearts

SCOTTISH CUP

Hearts 2-2 Motherwell
 Motherwell 1-0 Hearts

SCORERS

(All competitions)
 Andrius Velicka 14
 Andrew Driver 5
 Christian Nade 5
 Laryea Kingston 4
 Christophe Berra 3
 Michael Stewart 3

Ibrahim Tall 3
 Calum Elliot 2
 Deividas Cesnauskis 1
 Kestutis Ivaskevicius 1
 Andrius Ksanavicius 1
 Ruben Palazuelos 1
 Marius Zaliukas 1

NAKA'S THE TOP BHOY FOR CELTIC SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION RALLY

THE Celtic Supporters' Association Annual Rally will be held in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall tomorrow night, Sunday February 17, 2008 when Shunsuke Nakamura will be the guest of honour.

The Celtic Supporters' Association Rally is always one of the highlights of the season for fans and, once again, it's guaranteed to be a great Celtic night.

Among the entertainment will be singer Jayne Curry, the comedy group Black Onyx, Patricia Ferns and Master of Ceremonies, Frankie Farrell.

Tickets are priced £12 and are available from the Ticket Office at Celtic Park, through

www.celticsupporterassoc.co.uk or contact John Andrews (077378-24738) or Jim Forrest (077833-59758). Supporters can also buy tickets for the Rally via PayPal on the Celtic Supporters' Association website.

And at the Rally, two Brother Walfrid Wells commissioned in memory of Phil O'Donnell will be presented to the SMA Fathers.

The former Celt tragically died during a Motherwell game in December and the decision is a moving and fitting tribute.

The Wells, commissioned by Joe Boyle at www.celticrally.com have been paid for by the Rally programme advertisers.



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: **DAVID FRIEL**

FLYING HIGH

YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION BUT THEN, BARRY ROBSON HARDLY NEEDS ANOTHER ONE AFTER HIS SENSATIONAL KICK-OFF WITH CELTIC LAST WEEK

T was the kind of entrance even the creators of Roy of the Rovers would have dismissed as being too far-fetched. In hindsight, on a day when everything Celtic touched turned to gold, it was perhaps inevitable.

Barry Robson, a Celtic player for all of 63 seconds, places the ball down, takes a step back, steadies himself and bang - his free-kick nestles in the Aberdeen net and a new Hoops hero had announced his arrival in style.

Has anyone ever scored with their first touch as a Celtic player before? In a rich and colourful history that stretches back all the way to 1888, no-one can be 100 per cent sure, but it's very doubtful.

This afternoon, Robson will try to better his debut. Can he do it? Well, don't bet against him because his record against Hearts is more than decent - he's scored two hat-tricks against them in the last 11 months.

"It was a dream start last week, but the most important thing for me was the win and the performance," said a modest Robson, as sat down for his first ever interview with the Celtic Matchday Programme.

"When I was coming on, the manager just told me to go and play my normal game and enjoy it. I felt I did that and it was good to play my part in the win.

"It makes it easier when you are playing with great players. As for the goal, I didn't feel any pressure when I was stepping up.

"The fans were chanting my name and Aiden McGeady was joking that he was going to get Naka back off the bench to take the free-kick, but I just stepped up and tried to find the corner. I did that and it was a good goal.

"Of course, I'm delighted that I scored on my debut, but I know I'm not going to find the net every week. I just need to keep trying to do well and work hard for the team."

At present, Robson's Celtic career totals just 17 minutes, but the versatile midfielder is content to bide his time for a starting place at present, especially when Celtic have scored 10 goals in their last two matches.

At the forefront of most of Celtic's good attacking work has been Aiden McGeady. His inventive, industrious display at Pittodrie last week was praised by everyone who had the pleasure of witnessing it and Robson was mesmerised by what he saw.

"I thought Aiden's performance was unbelievable," he said. "He's a frightening player and I'm just glad to be playing with him, and not against him.

"It had been good to train with all the boys, but I don't

think I've been surprised by the standard - I knew how high it would be.

"Playing against these guys over the years, you realise their quality and, after all, you don't play for Celtic if you're a bad player.

"Recently, I never really got to watch Celtic that much. I was always playing at the weekend, so it was just when I went up against them that I managed to see the players at close quarters.

"But I've been impressed with all the boys. In the two games since my arrival, they have all been outstanding and there is a great team spirit.

"It's a great bunch of boys here and you can't praise the last two performances highly enough. I'm just pleased to be a part of it.

"I look about the squad and there isn't a bad player to be seen. For myself, it's a case of trying to enjoy my time here, as well as working as hard as possible for the team."

Having shifted 80 miles south from Tannadice in the January transfer window, former Dundee United captain Robson hasn't encountered too much upheaval in his life and admits he has been welcomed with open arms by everyone at Celtic.

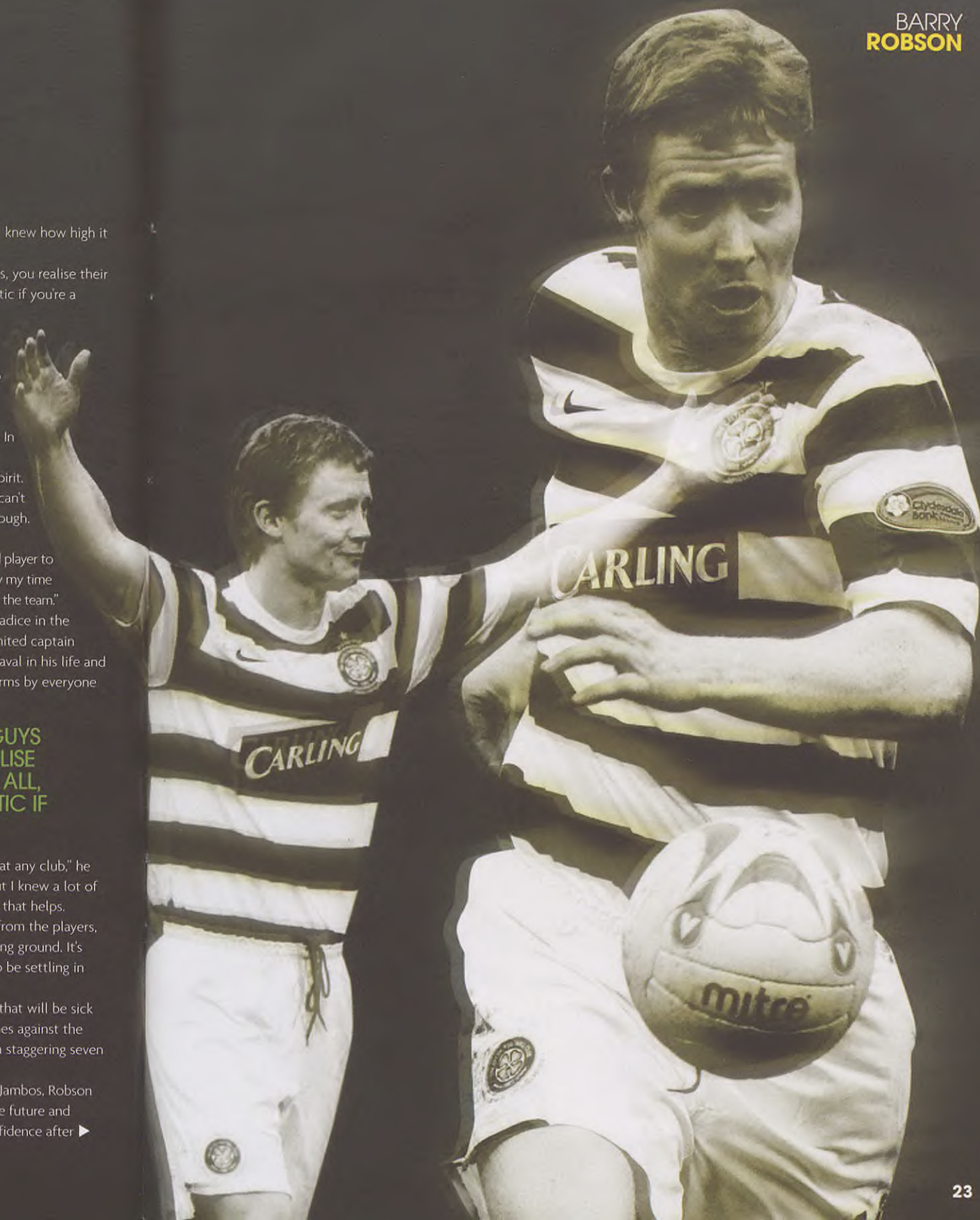
PLAYING AGAINST THESE GUYS OVER THE YEARS, YOU REALISE THEIR QUALITY AND, AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T PLAY FOR CELTIC IF YOU'RE A BAD PLAYER

"It always takes a bit of time to settle in at any club," he said. "Every new player will tell you that. But I knew a lot of the players from my time with Scotland, so that helps.

"Everyone has made me feel welcome - from the players, to all the staff about the stadium and training ground. It's been great so far and the new boys seem to be settling in really well."

This afternoon, Celtic face a Hearts side that will be sick of the sight of Robson. In his last three games against the Tynecastle men, the midfielder has scored a staggering seven goals, including the two hat-tricks.

When asked about his record against the Jambos, Robson gave a wry smile but preferred to look to the future and expects the Edinburgh side to be full of confidence after ▶



MAIN INTERVIEW

three successive league wins.

He said: "Hearts are starting to play well again and they have a lot of good players in their squad. They are another massive football club and they will raise their game coming to Glasgow.

"We are aware it's going to be very difficult, but we have to look after ourselves and make sure the attitude is spot-on and that we all work hard.

"If we do that, with the talented players we have at this football club, then we will always have the chance of winning games."

With four points separating Celtic and leaders Rangers in the SPL, winning games is what Celtic have to do - starting with this afternoon.

Both Glasgow sides still have 45 points to play for, but with the league reaching a crucial phase, Robson is looking for Celtic to add to their seven-game winning streak.

"We are reaching the stage of the season when we need to go into overdrive to make sure we win the league, and the signs are good," he said.

"I think the boys have been outstanding in the last two weeks against Kilmarnock and Aberdeen, and that bodes well for the coming fixtures."

"There are a lot of games to be played, a lot of points to win, but we don't want to look too far ahead. The most important game is the next one and that's against Hearts, which will be very tough.

"We need to all concentrate on trying to get three points, but we know it will be difficult. We'll wait and see what the team is, but the whole squad is pulling in the same direction and whoever plays will be going all out to get the win."



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HISTORY

ON THIS DAY IN

WORDS: JOE SULLIVAN

2000

Celtic's most recent meeting on this date was eight years ago when they faced Kilmarnock in the semi-final of the League Cup just over a week after the infamous 3-1 Scottish Cup defeat to Inverness Caley Thistle.

That match, of course, signalled the end of John Barnes' short reign as Celtic manager and in the interim game they defeated Dundee 3-0 in the league under the stewardship of Kenny Dalglish.

In all reality though, the League Cup was the only hope of silverware at that point in the season and a Lubo Moravcik goal in the 66th minute against the Rugby Park side was enough to take them through to the final.

The final took place at Hampden a month later and goals from Vidar Riseth and Tommy Johnson against Aberdeen won Celtic the cup although Dalglish attributed the win to the departed manager as he said it was Barnes' team that lifted the trophy.

1992

A young Celtic squad featuring a few first-team faces and Canadian trialist Alex Bunbury were on a short Highland tour at this time in 1992 and on this day they played Lossiemouth.

The game in itself, a 7-1 win for Celtic, wasn't particularly memorable apart from one aspect - it was to commemorate the opening of the Highland League club's floodlights and the match kicked off at 2pm, in broad daylight.

After about an hour or so into the game an announcement was made and the brand new floodlights sparked into life, but if it hadn't been for the announcement no-one would have noticed as it was still broad daylight even when the match finished.

1985

There was also a Highland element on this day in 1985 when the Celts welcomed Inverness Thistle on Scottish Cup duty to the East End of Glasgow. This was the only time that Celtic ever played Inverness Thistle on competitive duty before the amalgamation of the club with Caledonian to form the present merger.

There was no horror show of the year 2000 mentioned earlier, though, as a Paul McStay hat-trick was the highlight of a 6-0 win for the Celts in front of a crowd of 14,927.

Frank McGarvey got the ball rolling in the ninth minute before McStay hit his first six minutes later and Maurice Johnston made it 3-0 at half-time.

The Maestro scored his second in the 63rd and struck again in the 85th minute to sandwich a Murdo MacLeod goal in the 80th minute.

In the previous round Celtic beat Hamilton Accies 2-1 before meeting Dundee in the quarters (2-1 after a 1-1 draw) and Motherwell in the semis (3-0 after a 1-1 draw).

That put Celtic in the 100th Scottish Cup final where Dundee United took the lead in the 54th minute but wonder goals by Davie Provan and Frank McGarvey ensured there were green and white ribbons on the cup.

1957

If there was ever an advert for turning up early at a match AND not leaving before the end then this was it.

On this day in 1957, Celtic and Rangers drew 4-4 in the Scottish Cup and **ALL** of the **EIGHT** goals were bookended at the start and finish of the match watched by 50,000.

After 15 minutes it was 2-2 with Rangers taking the lead twice (all four goals were scored in an eight-minute period) and in the final 15 minutes Celtic took a 4-2 lead before Rangers pulled it back (all four goals were scored in a 10-minute period). ▶



From left to right: Paul McStay and Frank McGarvey



LUBO MORAVCIK



Above: Davie Provan

“

THAT PUT CELTIC IN THE 100TH SCOTTISH CUP FINAL WHERE DUNDEE UNITED TOOK THE LEAD IN THE 54TH MINUTE BUT WONDER GOALS BY DAVIE PROVAN AND FRANK MCGARVEY ENSURED THERE WERE GREEN AND WHITE RIBBONS ON THE CUP.

”

The visitors had taken the lead in the seventh minute through Morrison before Billy McPhail equalised in the 10th only for Simpson to put Rangers ahead four minutes later, but within 60 seconds John Higgins had equalised again.

The stalemate stood until Bobby Collins hit Celtic's third in the 74th minute and Willie Fernie struck in the 81st to make it 4-2.

Two minutes later Rangers got a penalty which Hubbard scored and another two minutes had passed before Murray scored following a corner.

Just four days later, a crowd of 88,000 at Ibrox saw the Celts win the replay 2-0 thanks to goals from John Higgins and Neilly Mochan in the 15th and 35th minutes.

1935

There was another high-scoring February 16 game back in 1935 when Celtic travelled down to Palmerston Park on league duty to play Queen of the South.

The Borders club were to finish fourth bottom in the 19-team league but they had already beaten the Celts 1-0 at Celtic Park so another tough encounter was expected.

The Celts managed to edge a tight scoreline 4-3 thanks to goals from Jimmy McGrory, Hugh O'Donnell, George Paterson (pen) and Willie Buchan.

1931

Celtic legend Bobby Collins was born on this day in 1931 in Govanhill.

A legend north and south of the border, the diminutive

Bobby Collins squeezed an abundance of talent into his 5 ft 4 in frame. Strong, skilful, and with the touch and vision to pass and shoot to the highest standard, he quickly became a hero of the Celtic support, who affectionately christened him 'the Wee Barra'. It was in a central role that the Wee Barra established himself as one of British football's great talents, with a starring show in the Coronation Cup of 1953 doing nothing to harm his burgeoning reputation.

Like so many great Celts of his era, he didn't emerge from his time in Paradise with the honours he deserved but a league medal, two Scottish Cup medals and a League Cup badge did at least ensure that he didn't depart empty-handed. The legendary 7-1 final in 1957 proved effectively to be Collins' swansong in the hoops as the club sold him to Everton the following year, apparently in order to help finance the erection of new floodlights at Celtic Park. But there were plenty of memories in the 320 appearances and 116 goals with Celtic.

1895

Celtic's first ever game on February 16 was away back in 1895 and it was against today's opponents, Hearts.

However, the Edinburgh side were eventual champions in this season and an earlier 2-0 win at Celtic Park watched by a crowd of 20,000 was added to when they 4-0 at home as 9,000 looked on.

The Gorgie club won the title that season with 31 points from 18 games while Celtic finished second on 26 points.

HELLO

- 1866 Composer Johann Strauss is born in Austria
- 1926 Film director John Schlesinger of *Midnight Cowboy* fame is born in London
- 1935 Sono Bono of Sonny and Cher fame is born in Detroit
- 1946 *Dad's Army's* Stupid Boy, Ian Lavender is born
- 1959 Tennis champ John McEnroe is born.

GOODBYE

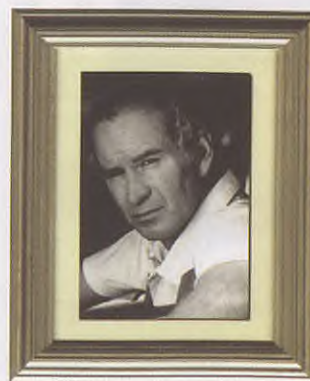
- 1986 Hollywood character actor Howard Da Silva dies aged 76
- 1992 Novelist Angela Carter dies aged 51
- 1996 Blues legend Brownie McGhee, cohort of Sonny Terry, dies aged 80
- 1996 Roger Bowen, Col Blake in the *MASH* movie, dies of a heart attack aged 62

TIMELINE

- 1659 The first known cheque is used when one is signed for a £400 sum
- 1878 The silver dollar becomes legal US tender
- 1923 Howard Carter finds the tomb of Tutankhamen
- 1963 The Beatles top the charts for the first time with *Please Please Me*
- 1964 The Beatles make their second appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*

NO.1s ON THIS DAY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1955 Rosemary Clooney | <i>Mambo Italiano</i> |
| 1960 Anthony Newley | <i>Why</i> |
| 1965 The Righteous Brothers | <i>You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'</i> |
| 1970 Edison Lighthouse | <i>Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes)</i> |
| 1975 Pilot | <i>January</i> |
| 1980 Kenny Rogers | <i>Coward Of The County</i> |
| 1985 Elaine Paige & Barbara Dickson | <i>I Know Him So Well</i> |
| 1990 Sinéad O'Connor | <i>Nothing Compares 2 U</i> |
| 1995 Celine Dion | <i>Think Twice</i> |
| 2000 Gabrielle | <i>Rise</i> |
| 2005 Eminem | <i>Like Toy Soldiers</i> |



Above: John McEnroe



Above: Sinéad O'Connor



Above: Celine Dion

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*¹ Compared to the volumes and weights of commercially available full high-definition movie cameras (based on SANYO research, September 2007).

*² High sensitivity mode

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GOLDEN TOUCH FROM SAMANTHA

A DELIGHTED Kevin McEwan was over the moon thanks to Special Olympic Gold medalist Samantha Murray at our last home game against Kilmarnock.

The Greenock Bhoys watched as the Celtic-supporting youngster made the Paradise Windfall draw at half time on Saturday and was ecstatic when ticket

number P1383 was drawn out.

So as well as celebrating a 1-0 win over Kilmarnock, Ewan made his way back to Greenock with a bumper Paradise Windfall cheque for **EIGHT THOUSAND POUNDS.**

The other winning number were: P1697, M2855, R1792, G1518.



THE PARADISE WINDFALL DRAW IS SPONSORED BY THE CELTIC VIEW.

FRASER'S MASCOT JOY

YOUNG Fraser Swaney was delighted after making the long trip down from Milltimber up in Aberdeenshire for our last home game.

Not only did he see the Celts picking up another three points in the championship campaign by beating Kilmarnock 1-0 but he was the Celtic mascot for the day.

So he led the teams out and helped Bhoys captain Stephen McManus with the pre-match preliminaries.

The nine-year-old's day was made by the victory even though it was clinched by an own goal from Kilmarnock's Martyn Corrigan.



>> PREVIOUS MEETINGS

WORDS: CORAL HOLMES

C ELTIC and Hearts first met way back in 1890, when the Glasgow side came out top in the west versus east clash - winning 5-0.

In total, the two clubs have met 317 times, with Celtic coming out on top on 169 occasions. There have been 69 draws, while Hearts have won 79 of the games.

In today's match programme, we take a look at four matches between the two sides in the SPL last season. With two wins apiece, there was plenty to talk about, including a dramatic late wins for both sides.

Hearts 2-1 Celtic

(Petrov 65)

Scottish Premierleague, Sunday, August 6, 2006

AN afternoon of high drama in Edinburgh ended in a victory for Hearts as Celtic dropped their first league points of the season.

Kenny Miller had threatened early on for Celtic, before the visitors suffered the worst possible start to the second half. Hearts striker Roman Bednar was sent clear on the left side of the box and beat Artur Boruc with a low drive.

Hearts were clearly buoyed by this opener but Celtic

weathered the storm and conjured up a wonderful equaliser in the 65th minute.

Maciej Zurawski picked up a clearance and fed Shunsuke Nakamura, who in turn sent Miller into space. His instinctive back-heel found Aiden McGeady, whose first-time pass was slammed into the top corner by the onrushing Stilian Petrov.

Both sides pushed for the winner but it was the Tynecastle side that got it in the 87th minute when Bednar latched on to Neil Lennon's short back-pass, rounded Boruc and rolled the ball into the empty net.

Celtic 2-1 Hearts

(Jarosik 85, Gordon o.g. 94)

Scottish Premierleague, Saturday, November 4, 2006

CELTIC snatched a dramatic injury-time victory over Hearts to establish a 13-point lead at the top of the SPL.

After a pretty even opening half, Hearts took the lead midway through the second half. Andrius Velicka picked up the ball 40 yards from goal, broke into the box and drilled a low shot past Artur Boruc.

Celtic chased an equaliser and finally earned it with five minutes remaining. Jiri Jarosik broke away from his marker to head home Shunsuke Nakamura's corner and,

November 4, 2006:

Craig Gordon pushes the ball into the net for Celtic's late winner



suddenly, Celtic were back in the game.

With three minutes left on the clock, Craig Gordon was forced to parry a dipping Nakamura free-kick on to his left post and the game was now transformed with Celtic confident, purposeful and pushing for the winner.

Hearts players doing their best to run down the clock, Celtic won another corner that was swung into the box by Nakamura and after rattling around the area, was stabbed toward goal by Stephen McManus.

Gordon then attempted to claw the ball from his line but could only push it past the covering Robbie Neilson to send Celtic Park into raptures.

Hearts 1-2 Celtic

(Vennegoor of Hesselink 59, Jarosik 81)

Scottish Premierleague, Sunday, January 14, 2007

A LATE strike by Jiri Jarosik ensured a happy 'homecoming' for former Hearts defender Steven Pressley as Gordon Strachan's comeback Celts took all three points.

Handed the captaincy by the Celtic manager in the absence of the suspended Neil Lennon and the injured Stephen McManus, ex-Hearts skipper Pressley responded with a solid and mature display as Celtic were forced to show character in the face of adversity.

A goal behind after Saulius Mikoliunas' first-half thunderbolt, Celtic rallied in the second period and equalised. Craig Beattie was the provider, sprinting down the wing and cutting a low ball across goal that was knocked in from close range by Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink.

Celtic were now on top and Shunsuke Nakamura rattled Craig Gordon's crossbar with a deflected shot from 25 yards out, before the Hoops went 2-1 ahead.

As the clock ticked down, Czech midfielder Jiri Jarosik cut in from the left and unleashed a blistering shot from 20 yards, which swerved beyond the grasp of Gordon and into the bottom corner to give Celtic all three points.

Celtic 1-3 Hearts

(Pressley 63)

Scottish Premierleague, Sunday, April 29, 2007

A WIN for Hearts was not enough to spoil Celtic's title celebrations as a jubilant home support turned out to applaud their SPL-winning team.

Some 60,000 Hoops fans erupted as captain Neil Lennon lifted the SPL trophy aloft for the second consecutive season under Gordon Strachan.

After sealing the title in dramatic style at Kilmarnock just 10 days earlier, the first-half was a tame affair, with Stephen McManus spurning the best chance of the half when he headed over from a Shunsuke Nakamura corner.

Celtic appeared to be in full control but Hearts delivered two quick goals at the start of the second period. Kestutis Ivanskevicius grabbed the opener, before Andrew Driver made it 2-0 with a curling free-kick.

Celtic reduced the deficit when Nakamura delivered a superb cross to Steven Pressley, who powered a header past Craig Gordon from seven yards.

Pressley almost grabbed an equaliser with a close-range shot, but it was Hearts who made it 3-1 - Michel Pospisil converting a penalty.

However, the sun shone over Celtic Park after the game as fans' favourite and Parkhead legend Lubomir Moravcik presented the trophy to Lennon.

April 29, 2007:

Neil Lennon lifts the SPL title



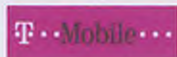
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Green And Maroon

WE TAKE A LOOK AT A FEW OF THE MEN TO HAVE PLAYED FOR BOTH CELTIC AND HEARTS

In recent years meetings between Celtic and Hearts have proved to be eagerly anticipated encounters, some of which have had a direct bearing on the course of a championship season.

Several players have pulled on the Hoops and the maroon of the Jambos in recent times, with Tynecastle legends and Scottish Cup winners, Steven Pressley and Paul Hartley both currently plying their trades at Celtic Park.

But there have been others who have represented both clubs with distinction and here we look back on 10 of the most 'well kent faces'.

WILLIE WALLACE

When looking back on the players to have worn both the Hoops and the maroon of Hearts, it would only be right to start with the most successful. And after leaving Tynecastle disillusioned after winning the League Cup in 1962 and losing the league on goal difference in 1965, 'Wisp' became a Celtic legend. His move to join Jock Stein and the Lions in 1966 actually signalled the start of a serious decline at Gorgie, but at Celtic Park he proved to be a missing piece of the jigsaw. Wallace came into the side in place of the injured Joe McBride and immediately chipped in with vital goals, such as his double against Dukla Prague in the European Cup-winning run. His goalscoring record was in fact extraordinary, with 135 goals in 234 appearances.

TOSH MCKINLAY

The transfer of lifelong Celtic supporter, McKinlay to Celtic Park was one that was hardly greeted with great fanfare, perhaps given the fact that at 30 years of age the left-back was believed to be entering the twilight of his career. But very few players have gone on to play such a vital role in any Celtic side, with McKinlay arguably proving to be one of the most effective attacking full-backs of the modern era. In high-scoring Celtic

sides, McKinlay provided the ammunition and was a tireless presence on the left flank, playing his part in the 1995 Scottish Cup win and 1997/98 'stopping-the-10' season.

DAVIE PROVAN

Signed for Kilmarnock by Celtic legend Willie Fernie, Provan impressed so much against Celtic in 1978 that Billy McNeill paid a six-figure sum for his services. He played at Rugby Park between 1974 and 1979, and helped the club win promotion three times during that period. After joining Celtic, he won three league titles and two Scottish Cups. His goal against Dundee United in the 1985 cup final at Hampden was a free-kick of beauty. He made 302 appearances for the Hoops, scoring 42 goals.

RODDY MacDONALD

Initially earmarked for a striking role after being spotted by Sammy Wilson, one of the cup heroes who basked at Hampden in the Sun, 'Big Roddy' came into his own as an uncompromising centre-back. That's not to say that the big Highlander did not enjoy his forays up front though and he proved to be unbeatable in the air, weighing in with 34 goals in 252 appearances and even being deployed as a rampaging centre-forward on the odd occasion. Roddy formed a formidable partnership in defence with Johannes Edvaldsson, but began to feature less frequently after breaking his ankle against Morton. This did not stop him from become a hugely popular figure in his ensuing six years at Tynecastle.

JOHN COLQUHOUN

Signed by Davie Hay after scoring 51 goals in 102 appearances for Stirling Albion, John Colquhoun largely ▶





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found himself playing in a wide-role at Celtic Park. His transfer was completely unexpected, a point best highlighted by the fact that in the days beforehand, Colquhoun had actually been scrambling around for a ticket for Celtic's UEFA Cup meeting with Nottingham Forest - but suddenly found himself in the first-team squad. Despite impressing the supporters, he struggled to recapture his goalscoring form in the Hoops and was transferred to Hearts. Here he returned to his preferred role as an elusive frontrunner, establishing himself as a fans' favourite in two spells at the club.



DARREN JACKSON

If supporters were surprised by the 1994 acquisition of Tosh McKinlay, that did little to prepare them for the shock that followed Darren Jackson's sudden arrival in one of the most important seasons in the club's history. Celtic simply had to win the league title in the 1997/98 season and Wim

Jansen and his assistant, Murdo MacLeod, clearly believed that the Hibs favourite was the man for the job. Jackson certainly played his part in that year's title win, but was later struck down with hydrocephalus and had to fight to save his life and playing career. He moved on loan to Coventry, where he played under Gordon Strachan and was then expected to move to China. But 'Jacko' instead risked the wrath of the green half of Edinburgh by moving to Hearts where he scored seven goals in 56 appearances.

ANDY LYNCH

After initially coming to prominence as a winger at Tynecastle, Andy Lynch took time to settle at Celtic Park, with Jock Stein even stating after his first year at the club that 'he has never fitted into the scheme of things'. All that changed in a reserve game the following year at Ibrox where he scored four in a 4-3 win. A promotion to the first team soon followed, but Lynch really began to shine after being moved to left-back. A confident character, he often stepped up to take penalties and was made captain in the absence of the injured Danny McGrain. He later moved to America to play in the burgeoning pro-league, where he faced the likes of the legendary Franz Beckenbauer, Gerd Muller and Pele. His son, Simon (who is now playing in Australia) later emerged as a promising young talent under Martin O'Neill.

STEVE FULTON

If ever a moniker haunted one particular player then it was Stevie Fulton and even towards the end of his career, people would still mention Billy McNeill's comparison to the great Italian, Roberto Baggio. Fulton's early potential is not in doubt, but he struggled to keep his place after initially featuring regularly in six years at Celtic Park. An unhappy move to Bolton followed before he returned to Scotland to join up with Jim

Jeffries at Falkirk. Then, when Jeffries switched to Tynecastle, the midfielder was one of his first signings. At Hearts Fulton was a virtual ever-present when the team mounted a surprise challenge for the 1997/98 league title and was in the side which won the Scottish Cup that season.

BARNEY BATTLES

Had Bernard Battles been born in more recent times, he might still be widely hailed as a cult Celtic hero. A ferocious competitor (who once played a run of games with his broken wrist in a sling) he was also a man of high moral fibre, refusing to play when the club failed to clear the team's detractors from the press box after a Glasgow Cup win. He left Celtic Park in the wake of this incident, but still helped the club win the title as his Dundee side beat Rangers at Ibrox late in the 1897/98 campaign. He was brought back to the East End of Glasgow in 1898 and again proved to be an inspirational figure. Battles also impressed in his one season at Tynecastle, although his son of the same name made a greater impact and is the club's record goalscorer for a season, with 44 strikes. Tragically, Barney never saw his son play as he died before young Barney was born from a sudden bout of influenza at just 30 years of age.

MIKE GALLOWAY

Signed from Hearts at a time when the club was beginning its decline after the highs of the centenary season, Galloway was in many ways exactly what Celtic required. A hard-tackling grafter who combined 'strength, aggression and composure', he was a player more than willing to put in a shift at a time when the club had little money to spend on new signings. His Celtic career is measured in peaks and troughs, with his good performances countered by concerns over his all-round fitness. At Hearts though, Galloway proved himself to be an outstanding and versatile servant, capable of playing in midfield, defence or attack.

ALFIE CONN

Best known as the first post-war player to play for both Celtic and Rangers, Alfie Conn also enjoyed a season-long spell at Hearts where he scored three goals in 26 appearances. By moving to Tynecastle Conn was actually following in the footsteps of his father, Alfie Snr, who, together with Jimmy Wardhaugh and Willie Bauld, formed one part of Hearts' legendary 'Terrible Trio' forward line of the 1950s. By the time he moved to Tynecastle though, Conn's best days were behind him after a year spent playing in the American MLS. At Celtic too he is largely regarded as a mixed-success, one whose signing was an important transfer coup that trumped the club's city rivals, but was largely hampered by injury.





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THE NEW BHOYS: Barry Robson

WORDS: Laura Brannan

Robson Barry

BARRY Robson knows how to make an impact. Just 63 seconds into his Celtic debut and his free-kick had hit the back of the net, rounding off the convincing 5-1 thrashing of Aberdeen.

Aiden McGeady may have grabbed the headlines with his Man of the Match display, but it was Robson who made Celtic history by becoming the first ever Celt to score with the first touch of his Hoops career.

The 29-year-old is not new to the score-sheet this season, having netted 12 goals for Dundee United, helping them to third in the SPL and to the semi-final of the CIS Cup. They've since reached the final where they will face Rangers.

Celtic manager Gordon Strachan joked that he signed Robson because he had been annoying him as an opposition player for years, but now the time has come for the midfielder to terrorise the SPL in the green and white hoops.

It has been a long journey for Robson, having spent five years with Dundee United and a previous six years at Inverness Caledonian Thistle after he'd moved there from Rangers.

A short loan spell, while at Inverness, at Third Division side Forfar Athletic, helped him mature and gain the experience needed to further his career.

And, understandably, the player is delighted to have joined the Champions.

"There is an absolutely fantastic side here, but first and foremost I need to try and break into it," he said.

"I need to show I'm good enough to play and it's a challenge I'm looking forward to.

"I'm under no illusions. I know how good guys like Aiden McGeady, Shunsuke Nakamura, Scott Brown and Paul Hartley are. I've played against them all.

"But I'm confident I can come here and not just fight for a position with these guys, but play with them as well. I want us all to play together - it's about the team and I want to make sure we win things at this football club."



BARRY ROBSON FACTFILE

BORN: Aberdeen

DOB: November 11, 1978

HEIGHT: 5ft11in

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Rangers (1995-97)

Inverness Caley Thistle (1997-2003)

167 appearances, 27 goals

Forfar Athletic (1999-2000 loan)

28 appearances, 10 goals

Dundee United (2003-2008)

165 appearances, 36 goals

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

1 cap for Scotland

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THE NEW BHOYS: Georgios Samaras

WORDS: Laura Brannan

Samaras Georgios

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of a previous Celtic No.9, Georgios Samaras made a headline-grabbing debut that Chris Sutton would have been proud of.

Donning bright orange boots, the 22-year-old striker stormed his way through the Killmarnock defence and wrapped up the 5-1 Scottish Cup victory at Rugby Park with his first goal for the club.

Signing on loan until the end of the season, with the club having the option of making it a permanent deal, Samaras joins the current crop of strikers working hard for their shot at glory.

He knows it will be hard work but is determined to fight for his place in the team.

"It's a great stadium and I hope to be part of the team," the Greek internationalist said after signing. "Celtic are the biggest team in Scotland and they always want to win every game, in the Champions League as well, and I want to be in the side every week."

Having never played in the UEFA Champions League before, Samaras is looking forward to making his mark on Europe's most elite stage.

This Wednesday's last 16 clash with Barcelona will be a new experience for the striker who is yet to encounter Paradise on a European night, and the fans will be looking forward to seeing him up against the Catalan giants.

With 12 international caps and three goals for his country, Samaras is the first Greek to pull on the green and white hoops, and he is hoping an impressive spell at Celtic will help his chances of reaching Euro 2008.

As Greece start their bid to retain their European Championship trophy which they won in Portugal four years ago, Samaras is aiming to play his part.

He said: "One of the reasons I signed here is because I will use the games to help Celtic, and, of course, for the chance to be in the squad for the national team of Greece for the summer."



GEORGIOS SAMARAS FACTFILE

BORN: Heraklion, Greece

DOB: February 21, 1985

HEIGHT: 6ft4in

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Heerenveen (2002-06)

90 appearances, 29 goals

Manchester City (2006-Present)

65 appearances, 12 goals

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

12 caps for Greece, 3 goals

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SPORTS



THE NEW BHOYS: Ben Hutchinson

WORDS: Laura Brannan

Hutchinson

Ben

THE chance to join the Scottish champions and the prospect of playing in Europe's premier competition made it an easy decision for Ben Hutchinson to sign for Celtic.

The 20-year-old striker initially signed a pre-contract with the Hoops but after agreement was reached with Middlesbrough, Hutchinson joined up with his new club immediately.

An exciting young prospect, Hutchinson made his debut for Boro's first team in October last year, scoring against Manchester City in the process. Despite the game finishing in a 3-1 defeat, it set Hutchinson up for a further eight appearances for the club.

And, after joining the Celts, it was clear that the player believed it was a step up for him.

"It feels fantastic to be a Celtic player," he said. "Just signing for the club was one of the best feelings I've ever had in my life.

"For a big club like Celtic to be interested in you is just awesome and I was just delighted to be able to sign."

With his place at the club secured for the next three-and-a-half years, Hutchinson is eager to impress, yet understands the competition he faces. Instead of rivaling them, he hopes to gain experience from those ahead of him in the pecking order.

"The strikers are all top-class and there is something I can learn from every one of them. If I can take something from each of the strikers to make me a better player, then I'll be happy and hopefully the supporters will be too."

It has been a slow introduction to Celtic for Hutchinson, with many players away on international duty last week.

But it won't be long before Hutchinson settles into life in Glasgow and starts knocking on the door to the first team, determined to fulfill his potential and show what he can do.



BEN HUTCHINSON FACTFILE

BORN: Nottingham

DOB: November 27, 1987

HEIGHT: 5ft11in

PREVIOUS CLUBS:

Middlesbrough

9 appearances, 1 goal

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THE NEW BHOYS: Koki Mizuno

WORDS: Laura Brannan

Mizuno Koki

IT'S hard to talk about the signing of Koki Mizuno without Shunsuke Nakamura making his way into the conversation.

There is the obvious Japanese connection, but it is also because Mizuno plays in an attacking midfield role and is known for his outstanding ability to play football.

The 22-year-old is aware his transfer made the headlines across the world because Nakamura has helped build Celtic's profile in the East, and is delighted to become a part of the media frenzy.

"In Japan, Celtic are very popular," he said, "Many people watch the matches on television and with Shunsuke's presence here, Celtic are a really big club back home.

"Even people back home who know nothing about football know who he is and who Celtic are. That's why I didn't have to think about it when Celtic asked me to sign for them."

The midfielder arrived from JEF United where he played his football for the previous four years.

Mizuno was proud to be unveiled at Celtic's press conference with his new No.29 shirt, but Gordon Strachan has warned fans not to expect too much, too soon.

Unlike Nakamura, who played in Italy before moving to Scotland, Koki has never been tried and tested in Europe.

Tipped as one of Japan's hottest prospects, he will undoubtedly shine, but the manager is cautious about the change of culture and is keen to break him in gently.

"Koki's a pure, pure football player like Naka," he said, "and Naka himself took a wee while to get himself beefed up for the Scottish league but when he did that, he's been absolutely fantastic.

"We give the players here a platform to see if they can adapt to playing Champions League football, pressure football and winning every week. It's up to them to take it and we do feel that Koki can do that."



KOKI MIZUNO FACTFILE

BORN: Shimizu-ku, Japan

DOB: September 6, 1985

HEIGHT: 5ft8in

PREVIOUS CLUB:

JEF United (2004-2008)

86 league appearances, 13 goals

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

Four caps for Japan, no goals

>> YOUTH ACADEMY

WORDS: **BRIAN MEEHAN**

A S we are now in the second half of the season, once again we are preparing for our many trips abroad, against some of the top clubs in Europe.

Every age group will compete abroad at some stage over the next few months, with the Under-14s heading to Qatar early in March, and the Under-17s flying to Rome a bit later in the month.

Also, before March is out, we will have the Under-15s playing in a tournament in Belgium and we are hopefully arranging for the Under-13s to take part in another exciting project within the next few weeks.

Before the season ends the 13s also travel to Germany, as do the Under-9s, and the Under-12s will be off to Holland. Most recently we have managed to organise our participation at an Under-11s' tournament in Spain at the beginning of June.

The final piece of the jigsaw is in the arranging of a tournament for our Under-10s, which has proved to be a bit more difficult than for the other age groups.

As with previous seasons, the quality of opposition in the aforementioned tournaments is first class. Once again we will be competing at the various age groups against a number of clubs, with whom we are very familiar through the first-team's European adventures.

A number of the tournaments involve Real Madrid,

Barcelona, both Milan clubs, and Bayern Munich. We will also be drawn against the top Dutch clubs in Ajax, Feyenoord and PSV and will once again meet Lyon, Marseille and PSG from France.

More recently we have had the pleasure of playing against a number of Eastern European clubs, and our Under-17s will, for pre-season, head to Ukraine to participate in the tournament of Shakhtar Donetsk.

The Under-19s pre-season will include a trip to Holland for the famous Eurofoot Tournament, and after returning for a few days, head back across Europe to compete in Villarreal's tournament, renewing our friendship with this wonderful club.

All of the above tournaments are vital in the eyes of Tommy Burns as he continues to work at developing players who can compete not only in Scotland, but who will be comfortable representing Celtic in the UEFA Champions League.

Current first-team players who have played in the tournaments over the years for our Academy squads include, club captain Stephen McManus, Aiden McGeady, Paul Caddis, Ryan Conroy, Jim O'Brien and others.

Tommy sees our kids competing against the cream of football as a vital part of the development of our young players and a tremendous experience for their preparation for first-team football.





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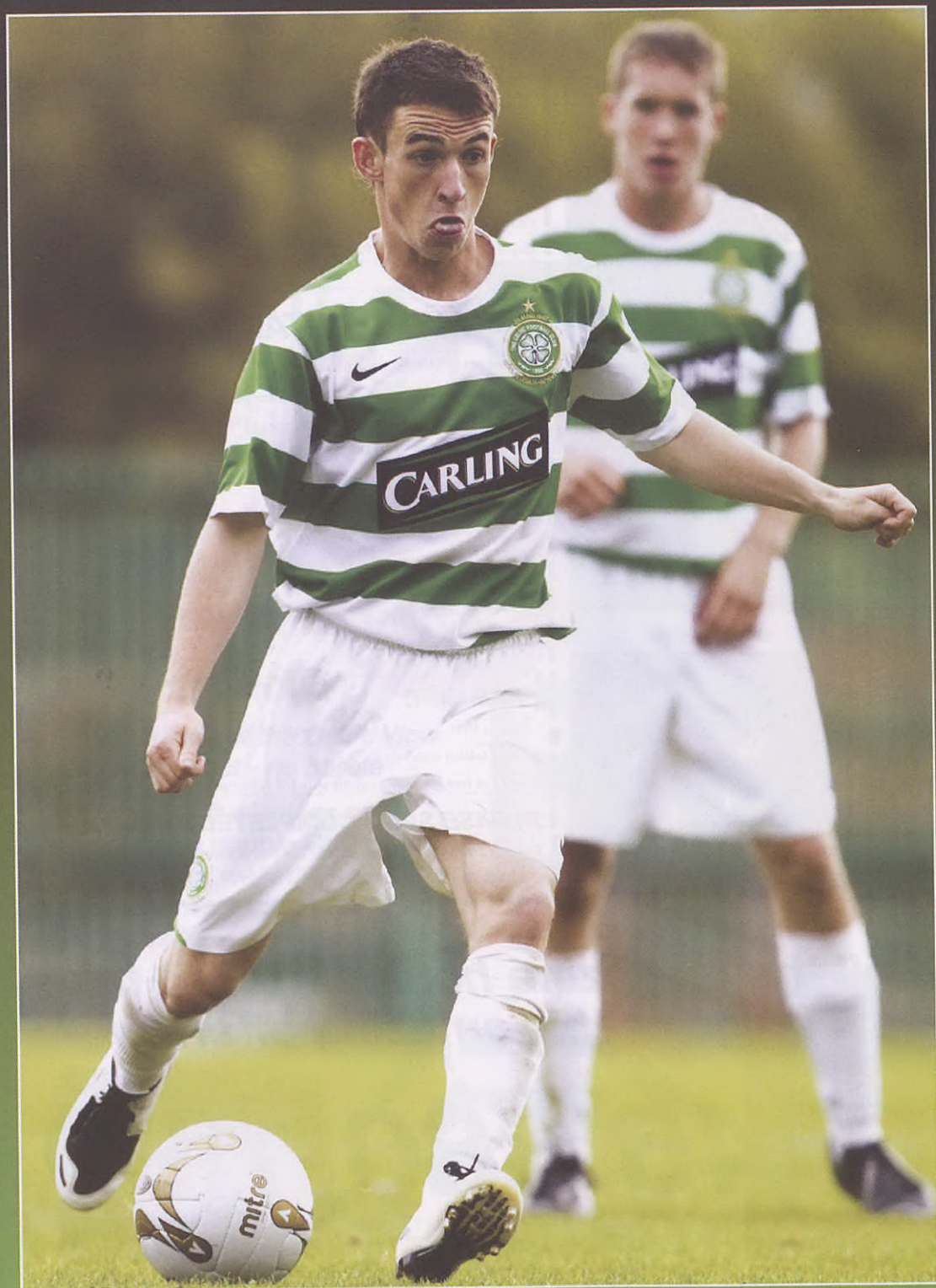
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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: DAVID FRIEL

NATIONAL EXPRESS

STRIKER IS HOPING FOR A ONE-WAY TICKET TO SUCCESS BY CATCHING THE CONTINENTAL COACH AND TRAVELLING FROM ONE LEVEL TO ANOTHER

CELTIC youngster Kevin Cawley is hoping a spot of national service can accelerate his development as he looks to move up to the next level in his blossoming Hoops career.

The 18-year-old striker has been in sparkling form for the youths and reserves this season and was rewarded for his displays with a call-up to the recent Scotland Under-19 squad.

Despite losing 2-1 to a strong Netherlands side, Cawley made a real impact during his 30-minute run-out and hopes the experience of playing international football at that level can help propel him to new heights on the club scene.

"I enjoyed the Holland game," said Cawley. "I was on the bench, which was disappointing, but I came on for the last half-hour and I felt I did well."

"I thought I gave a good account of myself. I played in the hole just behind the strikers and Tommy Burns said afterwards that I'd given the Holland players something to think about."

"They had a lot of players with a lot of first-team experience and it was good to go up against them. They were all strong and technically, they were excellent."

"I'd played for the Scotland Under-19s against Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova last year as well. That was also a good experience, but Holland were even better."

"International football is different. You go up against a team like Moldova and everyone expects you to hammer them."

"But they are all good players, the best in their country for that age, and the European nations tend to keep the ball really well, which is something we need to work on."

"They keep the ball, they move it about, they go back the way if they need to and then they wait for that one pass, which can kill you off. Physically, they are also really strong."

"However, I think playing for Scotland benefits you. I took something from the games last year, and I've taken a lot from the Holland match. Hopefully, everything I've learned can help me do better for Celtic."

2008 may only be a couple of months old, but already it's been a big year for Cawley. Just days before playing for Scotland, he scored his first-ever goal for the reserves with the winner in a 2-1 victory over Dundee United.

Playing against the majority of United's January recruits, Willie McStay's side more than matched their more experienced opponents and walked away with three points, courtesy of Cawley's superb chip.

He said: "I wasn't in the game as much as normal, but I worked hard and got my goal in the end, which gave us the win."

"I was playing against Garry Kenneth and Michael Kovacevic, who United had just signed. They had a few experienced players and it was a hard game."

"We had a really young team out, but to get the winner, my first for the reserves, was a great feeling and Willie was happy with the performance."

"I like being involved with the reserves. It is a lot tougher, but I feel I'm getting used to it. Last season, I played a few games and I was just getting bedded in."

"Now, I don't feel as nervous and I feel I'm playing my natural game. It's just a question of doing my best in training and hopefully staying in the team."

"Even training with the reserves has been good for my development. Willie and Danny McGrain teach you a lot, while we all need to buy into the sports science stuff."

"It's all for our own benefit and if it can even add an extra five per cent on to our performances, it will make us better players." ▶



While Cawley is making good inroads in the reserve scene, he is still a key member of John McLaughlan's youth squad and played in last weekend's 2-1 win over St Mirren at Barrowfield.

Not that the striker wants reminding of that match. By his own admission, he missed a glorious chance to make it 2-0 to Celtic and watched in horror as St Mirren landed a late equaliser.

"NOW, I DON'T FEEL AS NERVOUS AND I FEEL I'M PLAYING MY NATURAL GAME. IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF DOING MY BEST IN TRAINING AND HOPEFULLY STAYING IN THE TEAM"

To Cawley's relief, striker partner Cillian Sheridan weighed in with a late, late winner and the Hoops youngster admits he owes his Irish team-mate big-time.

"St Mirren played quite defensively, but we did okay and managed to go 1-0 up," he explained.

"But with a few minutes left, I was clean through and managed to miss. It was just a lack of composure and I was thinking, 'They better not score'.

"What happened? St Mirren went up the park and equalised. It was my friend from school who scored and I was gutted.

"Then big Cillian grabbed the winner and I was delighted. I

said to him afterwards that he'd got me out of jail and he just started laughing. It was an important win."

Tomorrow (Sunday) Cawley is expected to take his usual position up front as the Celtic youth team face Motherwell in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup at Airdrie United's Excelsior Stadium.

It's a massive game for McLaughlan's youngsters, something

Cawley is only too aware of. He played in last season's cup final defeat to Rangers and wants to make up for that disappointment this time around.

"We've been doing a lot of intense training this week, because this is a massive cup tie for us," he said.

"We drew 2-2 with them the last time, but hopefully it will be different on Sunday. The Youth Cup means a lot to us and we all want to go as far as possible.

"It will be hard against Motherwell, but you need to beat good teams if you want to win the cup. Personally, a few goals would also be nice but the main thing is the result."



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>> NEXT ONE UP

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
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Barcelona

CELTIC'S last home cup tie was against Stirling Albion in the Scottish Cup and it must be a sign of the times that Barcelona have been far more frequent visitors to the East End of Glasgow over recent years.

And the Catalan giants visit again this coming Wednesday on UEFA Champions League duty so the atmosphere on the night may be slightly more intense and electrifying than it was when Celtic beat the Binos back in January.

There's good reason too as, not only have the Hoops qualified for the last 16 of the tournament for the second year running and would dearly love to progress further this season, there is also the added attraction of the talent Barca have at their disposal.

At this stage last season the Celts were unlucky against the eventual winners of the tournament, AC Milan, while this season we welcome the competition favourites - and with the names they have in their ranks, it's no wonder the bookies are banking on them.

When a teamsheet is littered with names of the likes of Xavi, Lionel Messi, Ronaldinho, Thierry Henry and Samuel Eto'o among many others, you know the team is a bit special.

We've encountered special teams before, though, and the one player Barca won't have is the 12th man that will be surrounding them on all four sides of the pitch come Wednesday night.



KEY

- Number of Goals scored
 - Booked
 - Sent Off
 - Home games in bold
 - 1st 2nd 3rd Sub
- CBPL - Clydesdale Bank Premier League
 CL - Champions League
 SC - Scottish Cup
 CIS - CIS Insurance Cup

CELTIC STATS 07/08

FIXTURES & RESULTS



CLYDESDALE BANK PREMIER LEAGUE 2007/08

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Rangers	23	18	2	3	54	17	56	+37
Celtic	23	16	4	3	58	18	52	+40
Dundee Utd	25	12	3	10	38	32	39	+6
Motherwell	22	12	2	8	32	28	38	+4
Aberdeen	25	9	6	10	29	38	33	-9
Inverness CT	24	10	2	12	32	37	32	-5
Falkirk	25	9	5	11	34	40	32	-6
Hearts	25	8	6	11	36	40	30	-4
Hibernian	23	7	8	8	30	30	29	0
St Mirren	23	7	5	11	17	37	26	-20
Kilmarnock	25	5	7	13	24	36	22	-12
Gretna	23	3	4	16	19	50	13	-31

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES & GOALS 2007/08

	SPL LEAGUE	SCOTTISH CUP	LEAGUE CUP	CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
B BALDE	2 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
T BJARNASON	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
A BORUC	15 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	7 (0) 0
P CADDIS	0 (1) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
G CALDWELL	21 (0) 1	2 (0) 1	2 (0) 0	7 (1) 0
R CONROY	2 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
S CUTHBERT	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
M DONATI	16 (3) 3	2 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	6 (2) 1
P HARTLEY	16 (2) 0	0 (1) 0	1 (0) 0	7 (0) 1
A HINKEL	2 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
J JAROSIK	6 (2) 1	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	5 (0) 1
J KENNEDY	5 (2) 0	0 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	4 (1) 0
C KILLEN	2 (14) 1	0 (1) 0	0 (1) 0	1 (4) 0
M BROWN	8 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0
S McDONALD	21 (0) 17	2 (0) 3	2 (0) 1	7 (1) 2
A McGEADY	20 (1) 7	2 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	6 (2) 1
M McGOVERN	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
P MCGOWAN	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
S McMANUS	23 (0) 2	2 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	8 (0) 1
K MILLER	1 (1) 3	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
S NAKAMURA	10 (1) 4	2 (0) 1	0 (0) 0	3 (1) 0
L NAYLOR	19 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	7 (0) 0
J O'BRIEN	0 (1) 0	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
D O'DEA	3 (1) 0	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (1) 0
J P DOUMBE	2 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0
S PRESSLEY	5 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	1 (1) 0
D RIORDAN	2 (6) 1	0 (0) 0	1 (0) 0	0 (1) 0
B ROBSON	0 (1) 1	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
G SAMARAS	0 (1) 0	0 (1) 1	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
S BROWN	23 (0) 3	2 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	8 (0) 0
E SNO	2 (5) 0	0 (1) 0	1 (1) 0	0 (4) 0
J V O HESSELINK	20 (0) 9	2 (0) 2	2 (0) 1	5 (1) 0
M WILSON	6 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	3 (0) 0
M ZURAWSKI	1 (4) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (3) 0

COMP	DATE	OPPOSITION	RES.	ATT.	STARTING 11	SUBS
CBPL	04 AUG	KILMARNOCK	0-0	58,730	M BROWN WILSON KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR HARTLEY DONATI S BROWN McGEADY HESSELINK ZURAWSKI
SPL	11 AUG	FALKIRK	4-1	6,229	M BROWN WILSON KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR HARTLEY DONATI S BROWN McGEADY HESSELINK MILLER
UCL Q3	15 AUG	SPARTAK MOSCOW	1-1	67,000	M BROWN WILSON KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK
SPL	18 AUG	ABERDEEN	3-1	16,232	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
CBPL	25 AUG	HEARTS	5-0	57,300	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
UCL Q3	29 AUG	SPARTAK MOSCOW	1-1	57,854	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
CBPL	01 SEPT	ST MIRREN	5-1	7,840	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR SNO HARTLEY RIORDAN S BROWN McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	15 SEPT	INVERNESS CT	5-0	56,020	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
UCL	18 SEPT	SHAKHTAR DONETSK	0-2	30,000	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR DONATI HARTLEY NAKAMURA S BROWN McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	23 SEPT	HERBIANIAN	2-3	16,125	BORUC DOUMBE CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR HARTLEY S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
CIS	26 SEPT	DUNDEE	2-1	8,203	BORUC CALDWELL NAYLOR	KENNEDY McMANUS S BROWN SNO DONATI RIORDAN HESSELINK McDONALD
CBPL	29 SEPT	DUNDEE UNITED	3-0	57,006	BORUC DOUMBE CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR S BROWN HARTLEY DONATI McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK
UCL	03 OCT	AC MILAN	2-1	58,643	BORUC DOUMBE CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR HARTLEY S BROWN DONATI McGEADY JAROSIK McDONALD
CBPL	07 OCT	GREINA	2-1	6,011	BORUC HARTLEY CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY KILLEN McDONALD
CBPL	20 OCT	RANGERS	0-3	50,428	BORUC O'DEA CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA DONATI S BROWN SNO JAROSIK McDONALD
UCL	24 OCT	BENFICA	0-1	35,000	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR HARTLEY JAROSIK S BROWN DONATI McGEADY KILLEN
CBPL	27 OCT	MOTHERWELL	3-0	57,633	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD KILLEN
CIS	31 OCT R4	HEARTS	0-2	21,492	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR McGEADY S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	03 NOV	KILMARNOCK	2-1	8,260	BORUC CALDWELL NAYLOR	KENNEDY McMANUS JAROSIK HARTLEY S BROWN McGEADY HESSELINK
UCL	06 NOV	BENFICA	1-0	58,214	BORUC NAYLOR CALDWELL	KENNEDY McMANUS S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
CBPL	24 NOV	ABERDEEN	3-0	58,350	M BROWN CALDWELL KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR S BROWN DONATI JAROSIK McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK
UCL	28 NOV	SHAKHTAR DONETSK	2-1	59,146	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY	McMANUS NAYLOR McGEADY S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	01 DEC	HEARTS	1-1	16,454	BORUC CALDWELL PRESSLEY	McMANUS O'DEA McGEADY S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK
UCL	04 DEC	AC MILAN	0-1	38,409	BORUC CALDWELL PRESSLEY	McMANUS O'DEA JAROSIK DONATI S BROWN HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD
CBPL	08 DEC	ST MIRREN	1-1	55,747	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY	McMANUS O'DEA McGEADY HARTLEY S BROWN JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	11 DEC	FALKIRK	4-0	54,291	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY	McMANUS CONROY McGEADY S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	16 DEC	INVERNESS CT	2-3	7,004	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY	McMANUS CONROY S BROWN HARTLEY DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD
CBPL	22 DEC	HERBIANIAN	1-1	58,016	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY	McMANUS NAYLOR S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	26 DEC	DUNDEE UNITED	2-0	12,357	M BROWN CALDWELL BALDE	McMANUS NAYLOR McGEADY S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	29 DEC	GREINA	3-0	57,171	BORUC CALDWELL BALDE	McMANUS NAYLOR McGEADY DONATI S BROWN RIORDAN McDONALD HESSELINK
SFA	12 JAN	STIRLING ALBION	3-0	32,310	BORUC HINKEL CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA DONATI S BROWN McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	19 JAN	KILMARNOCK	1-0	56,618	BORUC HINKEL CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McGEADY HESSELINK
CBPL	27 JAN	FALKIRK	1-0	6,803	BORUC CALDWELL NAYLOR	McMANUS HARTLEY S BROWN NAKAMURA McGEADY DONATI McDONALD HESSELINK
SFA	02 FEB	KILMARNOCK	5-1	6,491	BORUC CADDIS NAYLOR	McMANUS CALDWELL DONATI McGEADY S BROWN NAKAMURA HESSELINK McDONALD
CBPL	10 FEB	ABERDEEN	5-1	14,651	BORUC HINKEL CALDWELL	McMANUS NAYLOR NAKAMURA HARTLEY S BROWN McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK
CBPL	16 FEB	HEARTS				
UCL	20 FEB	BARCELONA				
CBPL	24 FEB	ST MIRREN				
CBPL	27 FEB	INVERNESS CT				
CBPL	01 MAR	HERBIANIAN				
UCL	04 MAR	BARCELONA				
SFA	09 MAR	ABERDEEN				
CBPL	15 MAR	MOTHERWELL				
CBPL	22 MAR	GREINA				
CBPL	29 MAR	RANGERS				
UCL	01/02 APR	QUARTER-FINAL				
CBPL	05 APR	MOTHERWELL				
UCL	08/09 APR	QUARTER-FINAL				
SFA	12/13 APR	SEMI-FINAL				
CBPL	19 APR	TBC				
UCL	22/23 APR	SEMI-FINAL				
CBPL	26 APR	TBC				
UCL	29/30 APR	SEMI-FINAL				
CBPL	03 MAY	TBC				
CBPL	10 MAY	TBC				
CBPL	TBC	TBC				
UCL	21 MAY	FINAL				
SFA	TBC	FINAL				
CBPL	TBC	RANGERS				
CBPL	TBC	DUNDEE UNITED				



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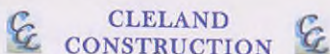
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>> ACTION REPLAY

Clydesdale Bank Premier League, Sunday, February 10, 2008, Pittodrie

ABERDEEN 1-5 CELTIC

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90

17 mins

Aiden McGeady showed strength and determination down the left wing before sending over a teasing cross that eluded everyone except Shunsuke Nakamura who ghosted in at the back post to slot home the opener.

34 mins

By this time McGeady had switched flanks but he was no less effective as he cut in from the right along the edge of the 18-yard box before unleashing a low curling shot that was outwith the reach of Jamie Langfield.

44 mins

Langfield felt the ball whiz past him once more after Scott McDonald was hauled to the ground and dusted himself down before slotting the spot-kick into the bottom right-hand corner of the net.

48 mins

In a move that looks more audacious every time it's re-run on the telly, McGeady took out three markers with a sublime pirouette that received a standing ovation even before McDonald met and headed home the pinpoint cross that followed it.

62 mins

The home side pulled one back when a mini-barrage of shots peppered the Celtic goal before Lee Miller shot in off the underside of the bar to make it 4-1.

74 mins

There was still more magic yet to come though and new Bhoys Barry Robson made history when he swept home a free-kick to find the net with his first ever touch of the ball as a Celtic player.

MATCH STATS



LINE-UPS

LANGFIELD
McNAMARA
BUS
DIAMOND (CONSIDINE 50)
MAYBURY
YOUNG
WALKER
SEVERIN
NICHOLSON (FOSTER 17,
MAGUIRE 62)
MILLER
MACKIE

BORUC
HINKEL
CALDWELL
McMANUS
NAYLOR
(ROBSON 73) NAKAMURA
HARTLEY
S.BROWN
McGEADY
(KILLEN 85) HESSELINK
(SAMARAS 62) McDONALD

SUBS NOT USED

SOUTAR, LOVELL,
DUFF, ALUKO

M.BROWN, CADDIS
O'DEA, SNO

11	GOAL ATTEMPS	16
2	ON TARGET	8
8	OFF TARGET	7
4	CORNERS	9
17	FOULS	16
1	OFFSIDES	5
2	YELLOW CARDS	1
0	RED CARDS	0



>> HALF-TIME QUIZ

- 1 Which two players this season have missed penalties for Celtic in competitive matches?
- 2 Who in November 2005 was the last Hearts player to score an international goal for Scotland?
- 3 For which two clubs has Stanislav Varga played for since departing Celtic in 2006?
- 4 Which player when moving clubs in January established a record with his eight career transfers totalling an astonishing £85.2million?
- 5 Who in 1979/80 was the first Celt to be awarded the PFA Player of the Year title?
- 6 Who in August 2006 had the distinction of scoring the first competitive goal for Celtic under the management of Gordon Strachan?
- 7 Who remains the top goalscorer in the history of Hearts Football Club, having hit the net on 214 occasions?
- 8 Which was the last Junior team to remain in the Scottish Cup before losing to Queen of the South?
- 9 Under the management of Gordon Strachan which two players have signed for Celtic from Spanish football?
- 10 Which current Celt has the unfortunate distinction of being sent off in a Scottish Cup final?
- 11 Which two Hearts players have in their career been voted the Scottish Football Writers' Player of the Year?
- 12 Which Celt this season was the first to net in all four competitions the club has played in?
- 13 Which player in September 1983 against Uruguay became the youngest Celt to be capped for Scotland?
- 14 Who netted for Hearts in their Scottish Cup final victory over Gretna in 2006?
- 15 In which three different stadia did Henrik Larsson score in major cup finals for Celtic during his seven years with the club?



ANSWERS 1 Jan Vennegeoor of Hesselink v Spartak Moscow; Derek Rioridan v Dundee; 2 Andy Webster v USA; 3 Sunderland & Burnley; 4 Nicholas Anelka; 5 Davie Provan; 6 John Hartson v Motherwell; 7 John Robertson; 8 Linnihgow Rose; 9 Thomas Gravesen(Real Madrid) & Andreas Hinkel (Sevilla); 10 Paul Hartley (with Hearts) v Gretna; 11 Sandy Jardine(1986) Craig Gordon(2006); 12 Scott McDonald; 13 Paul McStay; 14 Rudi Skakel; 15 Hampden Park(League & Scottish Cup), Ibrox Park(League Cup), Olympic Stadium, Seville(UFA Cup)

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TODAY'S TEAMS <<

CELTIC



<input type="checkbox"/>	ARTUR BORUC	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	ANDREAS HINKEL	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	LEE NAYLOR	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	GARY CALDWELL	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOBO BALDE	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCOTT BROWN	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGIOS SAMARAS	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	JAN VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL HARTLEY	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK WILSON	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEREK RIORDAN	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	EVANDER SNO	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEVEN PRESSLEY	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	MASSIMO DONATI	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	BARRY ROBSON	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK BROWN	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	BEN HUTCHINSON	23
<input type="checkbox"/>	JEAN-JOEL PERRIER-DOUMBE	24
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	CILLIAN SHERIDAN	26
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCOTT McDONALD	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	KOKI MIZUNO	29
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHRIS KILLEN	33
<input type="checkbox"/>	JOHN KENNEDY	41
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEPHEN McMANUS	44
<input type="checkbox"/>	AIDEN McGEADY	46
<input type="checkbox"/>	MICHAEL McGOVERN	47
<input type="checkbox"/>	DARREN O'DEA	48
<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL CADDIS	52
<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN CONROY	54



HEARTS

2	ROBBIE NEILSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	LEE WALLACE	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	CHRISTOPHE BERRA	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	IBRAHIM TALL	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	JOSE GONCALVES	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	NEIL McCANN	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	BRUNO AGUIAR	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	MICHEL POSPISIL	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	LARYEA KINGSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	ANDREW DRIVER	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	STEVE BANKS	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	CHRISTIAN NADE	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	JUHO MAKELA	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	SAULIUS MIKOLIUNAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	ANDRIUS VELICKA	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	DEIVIDAS CESNAUSKIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	RICARDAS BENIUSIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	EGGERT JONSSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	CALUM ELLIOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	MICHAEL STEWART	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	TOMAS KANCELISKIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	HRISTOS KARIPIDIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	MARIUS ZALIUKAS	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	MAURICIO PINILLA	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	KESTUTIS IVASKEVICIUS	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	EDUARDAS KURSKIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	ANTHONY BASSO	<input type="checkbox"/>
44	RUBEN PALAZUELOS	<input type="checkbox"/>
	FERNANDO SCREPIS	<input type="checkbox"/>

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: Douglas McDonald

Assistant 01: Steven Craven

Assistant 02: Craig Young

Fourth official: Kenny Clark