

£2



CELTIC v KILMARNOCK

Celtic Park, Saturday 31 January 2004, Kick-off 3.00pm

Scottish Premierleague 2003/04

Programme No.18



Celtic 

CARLING



BANK OF SCOTLAND



YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY FOR ONE MILLION POUNDS!!!



SCRAG

LOIN CHOPS

CHUMP

SHANK

BRISKET

LEG

CARLING
EXTRA COLD



“We have all been delighted with the commitment and determination shown by the players this season”

FIRST of all, a warm welcome to Celtic Park this afternoon. Our last league game on home soil was against Rangers at the beginning of the month and it certainly seems like a long time ago.

Since then we have managed to stay in the Scottish Cup with a hard-earned victory over an enthusiastic Ross County team and we have also won two exceptionally difficult league matches away at Tynecastle and Pittodrie.

Victory over both Hearts and Aberdeen was vitally important. At both grounds last season we dropped points and we could so easily have done so again this time round. The Hearts game was very physical and but in the end a Stilian Petrov goal was enough to decide the issue.

Stilian is in wonderful form at the minute and has come up trumps recently with not only excellent performances but important goals as well. His breakthrough strike last week at Pittodrie was typical of the impact he is making just now.

However, there have been so many excellent individual performances throughout the season and without which it would

have been impossible to win 20 consecutive league matches.

On the back of those two away fixtures we come today to take on Kilmarnock. Make no mistake about it, this will be a big game for us this afternoon.

Jim Jefferies will have his side prepared as always and we have found in the past that the games have been pretty tight affairs.

We have all been delighted with the commitment and determination shown by the players this season, and since I have said repeatedly that January would be as testing a month as any we have experienced to date, I am obviously pleased to be in the position that we are at the moment.

There is plenty of hard work ahead of with today's game at the forefront of our minds but it might be worth stressing that the same commitment, determination and skill shown by the team have been contributing factors to the run that we are in at the moment.

They have shown wonderful ability to play terrific football as was the case with the move at Aberdeen in which the excess of 20 passes before the goal was reminiscent of the goal we scored here at Celtic Park against Lyon.

The fact we have scored 66 goals in 21 games bears testimony to the fact we have scored regularly, an obvious factor in winning games, but what is pleasing is that there have been goals from all over the park.

Stephen Pearson got his first goal for the club against Aberdeen and Petrov is back on scoring form, and that is pleasing.

There have been times when we have needed to be strong and resolute this season during games and we have been, but we have also played some entertaining football and there can be no question that we are playing well at the moment.

Some of the lads are in terrific form but we cannot afford to lose our focus as we have hard games before us on the horizon. Aside from today's encounter against Kilmarnock, we also have a trip to the plastic turf of East End Park to prepare for and it won't be long before we are once more looking forward to UEFA Cup football.

Right now, however, we look no further than Kilmarnock.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB FACTFILE

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
 (capacity 60,506)

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

Away strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with
 gold trim

Third strip: Gold shirts, green
 shorts, gold 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 (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
 1935/36

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

Website: www.celticfc.net

HONOURS

Scottish League (38)

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,
 2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

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

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68 1968/69,
 1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
 1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1) 1967 **Coronation Cup (1)** 1953

CELTIC FACTS

● On January 30, 1915, Jimmy Quinn played his last match for the club. In 331 appearances, he had scored 216 goals.

● And Quinn's replacement, Jimmy McColl, made his last outing in 1920, on January 31. Ironically, his 123 goals in 169 matches ratio was not considered good enough to earn him a Scotland cap.

● January 31 was also the birthdate of two top Celts. Jim Kennedy, who died last year, was born in Johnstone in 1934 and John Collins came into the world in Galashiels in 1968.

● On February 2, 1889, having reached their first Scottish Cup final, the Celtic players and fans were bitterly disappointed when snow fell in huge quantities, blanketing the pitch. The game went ahead as a friendly, which Third Lanark won 3-0 and, quite naturally, tried to force the SFA to accept the result. The authorities refused and the match went ahead the following Saturday.

● In the 6-1 thrashing of Keith in the Scottish Cup, on February 4, 1928, both Jimmy McGrory and Tommy McInally scored hat-tricks. It was rumoured that one player missed the bus on the way back, preferring to stay and enjoy some 'northern' hospitality.

● On February 6, 1963, Pat Crerand was sold to Manchester United for £56,000 after 120 appearances and five goals. And, on the same day in 1992, Tommy Boyd moved to Parkhead from Chelsea in a swap deal with Tony Cascarino.



KILMARNOCK FACTS

● Kilmarnock FC was founded in 1869, becoming Scotland's second club after Queen's Park.

● The club started playing at Rugby Park then moved to the Grange and Holm Quarry before returning to Rugby Park in 1899.

● The record attendance is the 35,995 who turned up for the Scottish Cup tie against Rangers on March 10, 1962.

● The record transfer fee received is the £300,000 from Motherwell for Shaun McSkimming in 1995 and the record paid out is also £300,000 to St Johnstone for Paul Wright in 1995.

● Killie's biggest win was the 11-1 victory over Paisley Academical in the Scottish Cup on January 18, 1930; and the heaviest defeat came against Celtic, 1-9 on August 13, 1938.

● The most capped player is Joe Nibloe, with 11 for Scotland. Alan Robertson made the most league appearances, 481 between 1972 and 1988 and Willie Culley scored most goals, with 148 from 1912 to 1923.

● Kilmarnock won their first title just before the start of the 20th Century. In 1898, they finished four points ahead of Port Glasgow to take the Second Division Championship. One year later, they repeated the feat, this time five points in front of Leith Athletic.

● Killie featured in the very first Scottish Cup tie, losing 0-2 to Renton in 1873. Playing the whole match with only 10 men hardly helped the team's chances.





TODAY'S VISITORS - KILMARNOCK
MANAGER - JIM JEFFERIES ASSISTANT MANAGER - BILLY BROWN

CELTIC



KILMARNOCK

Michael Gray	2	1
Momo Sylla	3	3
Jackie McNamara	4	4
Joos Valgaeren	5	5
Bobo Balde	6	6
Henrik Larsson	7	7
Alan Thompson	8	8
Chris Sutton	9	9
John Hartson	10	10
David Fernandez	12	12
Paul Lambert	14	13
Bobby Petta	15	14
Ulrik Laursen	16	15
Didier Agathe	17	16
Neil Lennon	18	17
Stilian Petrov	19	18
Robert Douglas	20	19
Magnus Hedman	21	20
David Marshall	22	21
Stanislav Varga	23	23
Shaun Maloney	29	24
Steve Guppy	30	25
Ross Wallace	33	26
Johan Mjallby	35	27
Craig Beattie	37	28
Jamie Smith	39	29
Stephen Craaney	40	30
John Kennedy	41	
Liam Miller	43	

Colin Meldrum	1
Barry McLaughlin	3
Gary Locke	4
Gordon Greer	5
Freddy Dindeleux	6
James Fowler	7
Steve Fulton	8
Gary McSwegan	9
Craig Dargo	10
Kris Boyd	12
Graeme Smith	13
Alan Mahood	14
Sean Hessey	15
Martin Hardie	16
Shaun Dillon	17
Gary McDonald	18
Stephen Murray	19
Paul Di Giacomo	20
Colin Nish	21
Mark Canning	23
Garry Hay	24
Fraser Logan	25
Craig Samson	26
Danny Invincible	27
Francois Dubourdeau	28
Rhian Dodds	29
Greg Gilroy	30

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	21	20	1	0	66	8	58	61
Rangers	21	16	2	3	45	18	27	50
Hearts	21	11	3	7	30	24	6	36
Dunfermline	21	9	7	5	27	28	-1	34
Livingston	21	6	8	7	22	23	-1	26
Hibernian	21	7	4	10	22	34	-12	25
Dundee	21	6	6	9	25	29	-4	24
Motherwell	21	6	6	9	20	24	-4	24
Dundee Utd	21	6	5	10	22	36	-14	23
Kilmarnock	21	6	3	12	25	44	-19	21
Aberdeen	21	5	4	12	26	40	-14	19
Partick Thistle	21	2	3	16	20	42	-22	9

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Scottish Cup 4th Round HEARTS v CELTIC	SAT 7 FEBRUARY 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague DUNFERMLINE v CELTIC	WED 11 FEBRUARY 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v DUNDEE UTD	SAT 14 FEBRUARY 3.00pm
Scottish Premierleague PARTICK TH v CELTIC	SUN 22 FEBRUARY 3.00pm
UEFA Cup 3rd Round CELTIC v FK TEPLICE	THURS 26 FEBRUARY 7.45pm
Scottish Premierleague CELTIC v LIVINGSTON	SUN 29 FEBRUARY 3.00pm

RECENT FORM



Scottish Premierleague, January 24, 2004
ABERDEEN 1 v 3 CELTIC (Petrov, Larsson, Pearson)

Scottish Premierleague, January 18, 2004 HEARTS 0 v 1 CELTIC (Petrov)
Scottish Cup 3rd Round, January 10, 2003 CELTIC 2 v 0 ROSS COUNTY (Lambert, Hartson)
Scottish Premierleague, January 3, 2003 CELTIC 3 v 0 RANGERS (Petrov, Varga, Thompson)
Scottish Premierleague, December 27, 2003 CELTIC 6 v 0 HIBERNIAN (Sutton 2, Hartson 2, Larsson, Petrov)
Scottish Premierleague, December 21, 2003 MOTHERWELL 0 v 2 CELTIC (Hartson, Thompson)

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	Tom Brown
Assistant Referees:	Gordon Middleton Andrew Seymour
Fourth Official:	Kevin Toner

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman

CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney

MANAGER Martin O'Neill ASSISTANT MANAGER John Robertson COACH Steve Walford

HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns YOUTH TEAM COACH Willie McStay UNDER-21 COACH Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy CLUB DOCTOR Roddy Macdonald KIT CONTROLLER John Clark



HAPPY TO BE AT HOME

In a week that saw the birth of his first son, Momo Sylla is delighted he stayed at Paradise rather than make the journey to the African Nations Cup with his Guinean team-mates

Exclusive Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN

GIVEN that it has witnessed the birth of his first child, it's safe to assume that this week already ranks among the greatest and most significant of Momo Sylla's life.

All that's required now is a match to spark his season into life. The current campaign hasn't exactly been the most productive of the Guinean's career, with the sum total of his efforts amounting to just 11 appearances, seven of which have come from the bench.

Recently, however, he has glimpsed a little encouragement on

that front, coming in the shape of some sparkling performances for the under-21s, displays which have yielded four goals from the last three matches, not to mention generous praise from Kenny McDowall.

Much of this has centred on Sylla's focussed, professional attitude, and this has also been evident in his decision to forego the opportunity of aiding Guinea's African Nations bid in favour of pursuing a first-team role in Paradise.

Indeed, while many had suspected that supporting his

pregnant girlfriend was the sole reason for his reluctance to fly to Tunisia, Sylla insists that wasn't quite the case.

"No," he said, "Julie (his girlfriend) actually told me to go to the African Nations and enjoy it. She knows I am a footballer and that it means a lot to me to play for my country in such a big tournament.

"But I wanted to stay here. It was important for me to be with her, to be involved, and I also wanted to stay at Celtic to try and get in the team. I think that will be easier for me if I stay here and



train really hard rather than fall out of things for a few weeks.

"That was my decision at the time, and I regret nothing. Guinea have started quite well and I hope they go all the way to final, but I am happy that I stayed.

"From the first time I told the manager that I would not be going, there has never been a change in my decision. I'm happy to be staying, and hopefully it will help me persuade the manager to give me a chance.

"Anyway, although Julie had

"The manager watches the U21 games and I know he is looking to see if I am ready to get back into the first team"

told me to go, I think she was probably happy that I stayed because it would have been even tougher to go through something like that on her own.

"I also spoke to some of the guys in here, and they told me it was better that I stay. I've no regrets because my mind would not have been totally focussed on the African Nations if I had gone."

A perpetually cheerful and often zany character, Sylla's laid-back nature can often be misinterpreted as signifying a relaxed, carefree attitude with regards his Hoops career. Nothing could be further from truth, however.

So focussed is he on resurrecting his fortunes at Celtic Park, in fact, that, just hours after his girlfriend had given birth on Wednesday morning, he was Barrowfield-bound to report for training alongside some baffled team-mates.

"Yeah," he



admitted, "some of the boys were teasing me, asking what I was doing there, but it was where I had to be. It's my job, and Julie understands.

"Of course, I'm very, very happy. Wednesday was the best day of my life, and I am so grateful for my son. I knew the baby was going to

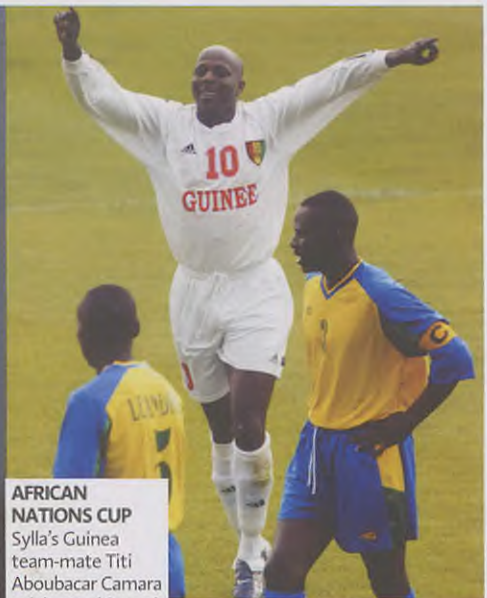
"We have a very good team there, with many good players like Shaun and Craig who can score goals"

be a boy, but I wanted to keep this just for me and my girlfriend.

"I'm going to let Julie choose the name because she has carried this baby for nine months and deserves to decide what he's called. That's what I want, although I don't know what she will choose yet. Every time I've asked her, she's said: 'No, you should choose the name,' but I think



FIRST-TEAM ACTION
Sylla has been in sparkling form for the U21s and is hoping to make his mark on the first team in the near future



AFRICAN NATIONS CUP
Sylla's Guinea team-mate Titi Aboubacar Camara celebrates his goal against Rwanda but Momo is happy to have stayed at home



she has an idea herself of what she would like the name to be."

Sylla, meanwhile, is preparing to once again turn his attentions to football as Celtic prepare for this afternoon's visit of Kilmarnock. Breaking into a side which has won 20 successive league matches and gone 68 without defeat at Celtic Park is, he admits, a daunting task.

However, having gained both fitness and confidence with the under-21s of late, it's one he confident enough to tackle.

"Yeah, I've been enjoying those games (with the under-21s), and scoring a few goals has been good for me," he said. "We have a very good team there, with many good players like Shaun Maloney and Craig Beattie who can score goals.

"It's better to play for the first team, of course, but I have been glad of the opportunity to keep my fitness level high. The manager watches these games anyway, and I know he is looking to see when I am ready to go back into the team.

"I obviously hope he thinks I am ready soon, but I realise the first team is doing very well. Fortunately, so are the under-21s, and I am sure that all the players in that team will have the same hopes as me.

"I hope to play. I am confident, my mind is focussed and I don't worry about things too much. The manager will know when I am ready, I am sure of that. Maybe it's next week, maybe next month, but hopefully it will be today. I want to do well and help the team win."