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Scottish League—Division I
CELTIC
Saturday, 26th December, 1959

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Season's Greetings

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our supporters!

And let's hope old Santa Claus has remembered Kilmarnock—the Scottish Cup would be just the gift for us.

Celtic—old friends and rivals

CELTIC, whom we welcome to Rugby Park this afternoon, are among our most popular visitors.

So far the Celts haven't been at their most impressive, although they came back to form with a bang against St. Mirren last Saturday.

They have embarked on a policy of youth and, while there is no doubting the talent of the youngsters in green and white, it is now felt that a forward of experience is needed to temper the enthusiasm of the youthful attack.

AFTER MUDIE

Celtic were rivals with Kilmarnock recently in an attempt to sign Jackie Mudie, Blackpool's skilful Scottish internationalist forward. But Mudie prefers to stay with Blackpool. Meantime, like ourselves, Celtic go on searching for the right type of player.

Alas, this Mr. X is as hard to find as a radio programme which doesn't include "White Christmas." And while fans may mean for the bright new boy who will transform a team into world-beaters, they, too, are silenced when they're asked: "OK . . . who do we sign?"

Today Celtic are expected to rely on the eleven which beat St. Mirren.

In goal is burly Frank Halfey, a youngster who is improving rapidly with experience. In front of him are McKay, fast regaining the form which made him Scotland's right back last season, and Kennedy, a defender with an amazing turn of speed.

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STRONG MID-LINE

The half-back line is probably the strongest department of the present Celtic side. Keep an eye on McNeill. This is the tall youngster Celtic are grooming to take over from Bobby Evans at centre-half.

He'll have a long wait, for Bobby is playing more impressively than ever. So, in the meantime, McNeill is at right-half and so versatile is this young man that he is making a real hit—just as he did at full-back earlier in the season.

Evans we all know—one of football's greats. That goes for left-half Bertie Peacock, as well. The Irish international has few superiors in Britain today.

Inside-forward has been the problem lately for Celtic. But perhaps they've solved it now. Neil Mochan has been switched from left-back to inside-left and the man known as "Smiler" is revelling in the attack. No wonder. He made his name as a centre-forward before switching to outside-left and then to the defence.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Young O'Hara is likely to be inside-right. He's a lad with a bright future. There are touches of the old masters in his play and like all the Celtic eaglets his enthusiasm is boundless.

John Colrain, clever and dangerous when he shoots, is the current Celtic centre-forward.

The wingers, however, are probably the most menacing Celtic forwards. On the right is Bertie Auld, who has played outside-left for Scotland. On the left is Alec Byrne. Both are similar in style, crafty, swift and clever ball artists.

If Kilmarnock aim to get revenge for the defeat at Parkhead in the opening league match of the season they will have to be on their toes today.

One thing is sure: We can expect an exciting game with our old rivals from Parkhead.

Now we're at half-way stage

WELL, the league season has reached the half-way stage. How have we fared?

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It's been an amazing season so far for Kilmarnock. But after a poor start we have no reason to be despondent about our position. With 21 points, we are joint fourth in the table—which says much for the fighting recovery of the team.

There are still critics of the team, of course—but there always will be, for it's a curious trait among certain football fans that they don't want to be happy, prefer to have a moan . . . just like the army!

The trouble was that some critics expected our full-time policy to bring terrific results right away. They should realise that it's a long-term policy. But even already it's having its effect and no-one can claim that there are fitter or better-trained teams in Scotland. We are convinced our policy is right.

HARD GROUNDS

One of the reasons for our uninspiring start was the hard grounds, that uncomfortable legacy of a brilliant summer. Perhaps that shouldn't be an excuse; nevertheless, right from the time they played in mutton-chop whiskers and jerseys outside their long pants, Kilmarnock players have hated that type of pitch.

And injuries which affected the form of some of our key-men also played a part in exasperating results.

However, that's all behind us now and—apart from the result at Ibrox when almost every member of the team had one of those inexplicable off days—the rest of the year was marked by a fine run of success.

The defence has been tightened with the advent of Jim Richmond, from Falkirk, and no effort has been spared to find the right man to give shooting power to our attack.

One thing, however, makes us sigh. Critics keep on telling us that we should make a bold bid for so-and-so who is a star with a second division club.

PLAYERS WATCHED

We can assure our support that most of these players have been watched. In most cases, they have proved to be less promising than lads on our own staff.

Frankly, we feel that if some of our own up-and-coming boys were with the second division teams there would be an even bigger outcry to buy them!

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Kilmarnock.....	17	10	6	1	30	30	21
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Clyde.....	17	7	5	5	34	34	19
Ayr United.....	17	8	7	2	37	37	18
Celtic.....	17	6	6	5	40	30	17
Airdrie.....	17	7	8	2	28	44	16
St. Mirren.....	17	7	9	1	43	36	15
Partick Thistle.....	17	7	9	1	28	49	15
Third Lanark.....	17	6	11	0	36	41	12
Aberdeen.....	17	5	10	2	25	40	12
Dunfermline.....	17	4	10	3	45	51	11
Stirling Albion....	17	2	10	5	20	33	9
Arbroath.....	17	3	12	2	16	53	8

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Aug. 8—	Hearts (H)	0	4
„ 12—	Stirling Albion (A)...	2	2
„ 15—	Aberdeen (H)	2	3
„ 22—	Hearts (A)	0	2
„ 26—	Stirling Albion (H)...	5	0
„ 29—	Aberdeen (A)	4	2

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1959.	Opponents.	For	Agst.
Aug. 19—	Celtic (A)	0	2
Sept. 5—	St. Mirren (H)	0	5
„ 12—	Airdrieonians (A)....	3	1
„ 19—	Stirling Albion (H)...	2	0
„ 26—	Hibernian (A)	2	4
Oct. 3—	Dundee (H)	2	2
„ 10—	Partick Thistle (A)...	2	3
„ 17—	Aberdeen (H)	2	0
„ 24—	Arbroath (A)	3	0
„ 31—	Motherwell (H)	2	0
Nov. 7—	Third Lanark (H)....	3	2
„ 17—	Hearts (A)	1	3
„ 21—	Ayr United (H)	2	0
„ 28—	Dunfermline (H).....	3	2

1959.	Opponents.	For	Agst.
Dec. 5—	Rangers (A)	0	5
„ 12—	Raith Rovers (H)....	1	0
„ 19—	Clyde (A)	2	1
„ 26—	Celtic (H)	2	1
1960.			
Jan. 1—	St. Mirren (A)	3	0
„ 2—	Airdrieonians (H)....	1	0
„ 9—	Stirling Albion (A)...	1	0
„ 16—	Hibernian (H)	3	1
„ 23—	Dundee (A)	4	0
„ 30—	Scottish Cup	5	0
Feb. 6—	Partick Thistle (H)...	5	1
„ 13—	Scottish Cup	(2)	(1)
„ 20—	Aberdeen (A)		
„ 27—	Arbroath (H)		
Mar. 5—	Motherwell (A)		
„ 12—	Third Lanark (A)...		
„ 19—	Hearts (H)		
„ 26—	Ayr United (A)		
April 2—	Dunfermline (A)		
„ 16—	Rangers (H)		
„ 23—	Raith Rovers (A)....		
„ 30—	Clyde (H)		

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