



Golden Vale



League of Ireland

Selection

versus

Glasgow Celtic FC

Jackman Park
Limerick

Tuesday,
8th March, '94

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.



£1



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The Glentworth Hotel are honoured to be able to host the Celtic Management and Team. We wish them the best of Luck and may they have a very enjoyable stay, from the management and staff, Glentworth Hotel

Welcome to Jackman Park



As Chairman of the Limerick District Management Committee it gives me great pleasure to welcome Glasgow Celtic to Jackman Park to-night to re-open the Park after a major resurfacing job being carried out on the field to a cost of £65,000.

As one can see from the improvements in the park since being purchased it is an ongoing policy of the L.D.M.C. not to sit still but to make the Park one of the leading Junior Grounds in Ireland, both from a player's and spectators' point of view. I would like to thank all the Junior and Minor clubs affiliated within the League for their wonderful support down through the years and without whose help to-night's venture would not be possible.

To my officers and committee I would like to give a sincere thank you for the unstinting service they give to the administering of local football and also to the people who had the foresight to purchase Jackman Park and make this occasion possible.

I would like to pay a special tribute to Lou Macari and all at Glasgow Celtic for honouring this historic occasion with their presence and we look forward to a game that will long remain in our memories. As Chairman, I wish to thank Tom Byrnes of the Pike Inn who has been most helpful in organising this fixture and making this event possible to-night.

On a final note I would like to sincerely thank our main sponsors of the match to-night **Golden Vale** who have been tremendous in their constant and continued support and also their expertise in promoting the fixture, it is much appreciated by L.D.M.C. myself as Chairman and all soccer followers within our League. Thank you.

Focus on the Manager LOU MACARI



The great Bill Shankly was as shrewd a manager as one could meet in a lifetime of football and his one regret was when he signed wonderboy Kenny Dalglish from Celtic in 1977 that he had not moved faster to bring Lou Macari to Merseyside in 1973. But that other wily old Scot, Tommy Docherty went up the motorway like a bat out of hell and brought Lou to Old Trafford, one of the greatest signings the Red Devils ever made.

Born in Edinburgh he signed for Celtic and scored 58 goals in 85 appearances. His stay at Celtic Park was short but what an incredible haul of trophies he won. Three Scottish League Championships, two Scottish Cup medals and three Scottish League Cup (runner-up medals). After gaining Schoolboys International caps he made his full International debut for Scotland and his marker was none other than England's deep breathing defender Norman Hunter in May, 1972 (although some reports state that he previously played as a reserve against Wales) in that year.

Down the motorway again the smiling Doc with his precious £200,000 signing alongside in the Merc they had an encounter with a heavy truck and luckily no one was hurt and he was able to make his debut for United against West Ham Utd. on January 20th, two days later and scored his first goal for the Reds. He made an immediate impact and it wasn't too long before he made the midfield berth his own. After a little setback when United went down to Div. 2 but were back in rapid quick time and Lou had a Second Division Championship medal in his pocket. He followed that up with an F.A. Cup runners-up medal in 1976 but scored the winner the following year when they beat Liverpool 2-1 at Wembley Stadium. In 1979 he had another losers medal against Arsenal.

On 13th May, 1984, Lou held his Testimonial match in Old Trafford with little surprise that Celtic were the opposition. Testimony of his popularity 20,000 green and white clad Celtic supporters arrived in Manchester for the game and it was an outstanding success. Twice voted Supporters' Club "Player of the Year" in 1975 and 1976 he played under three managers Tommy Docherty, Dave Sexton, and Ron Atkinson with 400 matches to his credit.

A member of Ally McLeod's tartan squad in the World Cup of '78 in Argentina this episode was the only disappointment in a glittering career than won him 24 full International caps. The legendary Don Revie rated him very highly and one can get no greater compliment than that. A runners-up Football League (MILK Cup) medal in 1983 was his final trophy haul, and indeed one to be proud of.

After his Testimonial in 1984 Lou moved on to become player-manager of Swindon Town and his first effort in the managerial role lifted them up two divisions before taking over the reins at West Ham in 1989. After resigning his job at Upton Park he took over the hot seat at Birmingham City in 1991 and subsequently left St. Andrews for Stoke City and after a great innings at the Victoria Grounds could not resist the temptation at Parkhead when the manager's job became available, returning to his roots and his first love.

This is the third occasion he has paid Limerick the ultimate honour since he became a football manager coming over with West Ham and Stoke City in the recent past. The initial seeds of friendship were sown many years ago when Tom Byrnes and Dennis O'Sullivan of the Manchester United Supporters' Club here in Limerick invited many former United stars to their annual functions and acknowledged as a high point of their season. Lou Macari was always first to accept an invitation and his tremendous popularity has never waned over those years with his fans and friends in the city and surrounding areas. As long as football is played Lou will always be a welcome visitor to these shores.

Focus - B. O'Brien

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BOBBY COLLINS . . .

Celtic Football Club renowned for producing great teams and equally great players have contributed handsomely to the Republic of Ireland's resurgence in the European Nations and World Cups and while an older generation may have been weaned on Fallon, Peacock and Tully and the younger on Bonner, McCarthy and Morris it will do the "young uns" no harm to drift down memory lane and enjoy reading about the wonderful career of one of Celtic's finest players, Bobby Collins. Glasgow born he thrilled supporters all over the world, for more than two decades, he was still performing in charity games when he was fifty years old.



He signed for Celtic as an 18 year old (the photo is the first official one at that age) but a dispute with Everton curtailed his debut until the Scottish F.A. sorted out whom he had signed for first. But with that false start behind him this original "midfield general" was to become one of the greatest forwards both on the wing and at inside left or right the game has ever known.

Over those twenty years he played 578 matches and scored 152 goals for Celtic, Everton, Leeds United and Bury and played 31 international matches and scored 10 goals in the dark blue shirt of his native Scotland. With Celtic he won a Scottish Cup medal in 1951 and a Scottish League Championship medal in 1954. He made his debut on the opening day of the season in 1949-'50 against Rangers and duly celebrated with a 3-2 win.

Bobby affectionately dubbed "The Wee Barra" was only 5ft. 4in. tall and was a bundle of energy and proved on and off the field that courage and toughness are worthy substitutes for the lack of inches. Him impish grin deceived many a defender who may have thought he was on easy street against him only to discover he had a shot like a cannon and could tackle like a demon. One report stated that he could cut defences to ribbons without leaving any nasty edges on the wounds.

Ironically when he left Parkhead after nine years, whom did he sign for but Everton. By now he was a busy constructive midfield player who cost the Goodison Park club a very hefty fee and after three years he transferred to the Second Division with an aspiring Leeds United in 1962.

A new era opened up for Bobby at Leeds and under his captaincy and untiring midfield play the basis was laid for a team that surprised all with a dramatic revival in the mid 1960's. In 1963-'64 he led them to the Second Division Championship and promotion and that year they finished runners-up in the 1st Division Championship and the F.A. Cup. Bobby's performances earned him the coveted honour of "Footballer of the Year".

Played with and against the greatest of two eras he was a star with Scotland in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. A badly fractured leg in a Fairs cup match in Turin almost ended his playing career but he made a remarkable comeback to play again for Leeds before moving on to Bury and the success story continued when he skippered them to promotion to the Second Division in 1967-'68.

In his early international days he was honoured to play alongside such famous players as Jimmy Cowan, George Young, Willie McNaught, Willie Woodburn, Billy Steel, Alex Forbes and Billy Liddell and in his final game the stars of another ear Billy McNeill, John Greig, Denis Law, Willie Henderson and John Hughes had that honour and privilege of playing in his company.

Like many a true Scot before him he came over to Ireland to finish out his career with a Shamrock Rovers team that had lost a little of its former sparkle, and even though he had slowed with the passage of time and was broad at the shoulder as he was at the hip, his uncanny skill was still there whenever he was on the ball. On one occasion he emerged from the Markets Field after a game with the Irish "Hoops" wrapped in a huge fur coat and cigar in hand and as usual a beaming smile on his face ready and willing to sign as many autography as the young fans required. Somethings in life never change. Bobby, thanks for the memories.

Profile - B. O'Brien

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