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Manager: WALTER McCRAE.



Willie Waddell scores Killie's sixth goal against Partick Thistle.

*Scottish League---First Division*

**Kilmarnock v. Celtic**

*Wednesday, 3rd September, 1969*

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 6d

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# Manager's View

Tonight Celtic, who are one of the most exciting teams in football, make another visit to Rugby Park and once again we will be playing in the big-time atmosphere. The roar of the crowd, the tension and the fact that we are playing against top-class opposition have, in the past, brought out the best in Kilmarnock and I am hoping that the team will return to top form.

We have always provided Celtic with a good game, holding them twice last season, and there has never been any lack of entertainment in our encounters.

Although we have failed to make the start I wanted, this only strengthens my view that we must work even harder and put more application into our efforts to keep Kilmarnock among the top clubs in Scotland.

We have a proud position to maintain and I am conscious of the fact that if we are to keep our supporters interested we must provide the type of football they want.

It seems to me, also, that the challenge will be even sterner this season. Clubs such as St. Johnstone and Aberdeen have made an excellent start and we must do all we can to improve if we are to stay in the ranks of the clubs expected to try hardest to break the monopoly so long held by Celtic and Rangers.

It is, of course, difficult for clubs like ourselves to compete with the "Old Firm," who are so strong in playing resources. Only by dedication and gruelling work can we hope to succeed.

With our injuries clearing, however, our reserves have become more settled. Experienced players are helping in this respect. It has been pleasant to observe that some promising trialists have been out with our second team and it could well be that the players I have already earmarked for our youth policy will come on quicker than anticipated. And that augurs well for the future.

The road will be hard, of that there is little doubt. Already, however, the enthusiasm of youth is helping and Willie Waddell and Ross Mathie are settling well into the first team. They realise they have much more to learn but they are improving with every game.

WALTER McCRAE.

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