



STRACHAN: Cup KO

Strachan stunned by Cup disaster

FROM BACK PAGE

crashing to a calamitous 2-1 defeat.

The loss was greeted with even more fury by Celtic supporters than the notorious 3-1 defeat to Inverness Caledonian Thistle six years ago.

And stunned Celtic boss Gordon Strachan said they played even worse than they did when they were thrashed 5-0 by Artmedia Bratislava in the second preliminary round of the Champions League this season.

"It was a hard day for anybody to make their debut today," Strachan said when he was asked about Keane's contribution.

"It's a very hard day to try to analyse individuals."

Clyde were almost wound up at the start of this season and their new boss, former Spurs defender Graham



KEANE with Clyde boss Graham Roberts

Roberts, arrived in the summer to find he only had two players.

The club survived because Roberts conducted a Pop Idol-style round of auditions for new players and filled the side with rejects from other Scottish clubs.

Keane had an average game in central midfield alongside Celtic skipper Neil Lennon but Clyde's youngsters ran their defence ragged.

It was his first game since he injured a foot in United's 0-0 draw with Liverpool at Anfield on September 28.

Keane signed autographs for the crowd but climbed on to the Celtic team coach without commenting on the defeat.

Clyde's goal hero Eddie Malone reckoned Keane and Neil Lennon were stunned at how lively and dominant his team proved to be.

He said: "I think they both got a wee surprise. Maybe they underestimated us a bit but they had us watched and should have known what to expect.

"We watched Hearts get right in about them last weekend and we did the same thing."

ROY'S BACK WITH A WHIMPER: SHOCKER FOR

OH BHOY, WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Debut shame for Keane as Celtic KO'd by lowly Clyde

WHAT HAVE I LET MYSELF IN FOR? Roy Keane searches for answers as his Celtic debut ends in disaster



THE hero of the Delle Alpi stood at the edge of the centre circle and stared around the three-sided ground on the edge of a nondescript Scottish new town.

The giant of Old Trafford took in the Clyde players, a group of rejects and wannabes, none of them on more than £15,000 a year, celebrating their second goal a few minutes before half time.

The titan of Lansdowne Road gazed out of the open end of Broadwood Stadium at the field of brown grass that his team-mates kept booting the ball into when they were supposed to be aiming for goal.

Brave

And then the scourge of the English Premiership looked at the rest of his Celtic team and began to wonder quite how he had got himself into this mess.

This was supposed to have been Roy Keane's brave new world, his refuge from the creeping decline at Manchester United that had enraged him so much.

But less than 45 minutes into his first game for the club he has supported since he was a boy, it already felt like a living hell of aching mediocrity. A

Oliver Holt

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

few weeks after bidding his bitter farewell to the biggest club in the world, here he was on the wrong end of a beating by a team nicknamed the Bully Wee.

So perhaps a quick memo to the executives of Celtic TV would be worthwhile at this point - if you've got a programme called Plays the Pundit and you're thinking of asking Keane to do his first guest spot tomorrow... don't.

Don't do it under any circumstances. Because if Keane thought United were bad when he slaughtered their performance against Middlesbrough, they looked like Pele, Maradona, Cruyff and Best compared to the mob he played for yesterday.

If he thought there was complacency at Old Trafford, there's even more at Parkhead. If he thought some United

players had gone big-time on him, how must he have felt at seeing Celtic outfought and outplayed by a Clyde side that shouldn't have had a chance?

Celtic were missing the injured Stilian Petrov and the absent Bobo Balde but apart from that, Strachan played his first team yesterday, and it wasn't pretty.

On-loan Chinese centre-back Du Wei, who was also making his debut, looked like a man picked by the commercial director to sell shirts, not by the manager to stop goals. And some of his team-mates were not much better.

Lashed

Stephen Pearson barely touched the ball, Paul Telfer's distribution was appalling and John Hartson looked like a lump of rotting flesh.

Polish keeper Artur Boruc laid on his best impression of a Scottish goalie by flapping at a cross and missing in the 32nd minute and allowing Craig Bryson to nod into an empty net for Clyde's opener.

Three minutes later, Du Wei should have been sent off for hauling down Tom Brighton in the box.

Even though Boruc seemed to have won a reprieve by saving the penalty, Eddie Malone lashed a left-foot volley



UNITED LEGEND AS CELTS HUMBLLED 2-1 BY CLYDE



STRETCHING: Celtic fans already have their banners up



ON PARADE: Keane marches out... then it all went so badly wrong

SO WAS THIS THE WORST EVER DEBUT?



STUDS UP: Clyde goalkeeper Peter Cherie bravely holds on as Keane threatens his goal



BULLY FOR HIM: Eddie Malone (3) fires home the second goal for the First Division heroes

into the roof of Celtic's net from the resulting corner.

Keane, of course, has inspired his team to recover from 2-0 deficits in the past but this Celtic side were beyond him yesterday.

Keane may not be as young as he was when he rallied United to beat Juventus in the Stadio Delle Alpi in 1999 but he was still better than anything else Celtic had to offer yesterday.

It was his first game for nearly four months so he played conservatively alongside Neil Lennon at the heart of a 4-4-2 formation.

He kept possession, at least, which could not be said for anyone else and he came closest to scoring in the first half when he rose at the back post to power a free-kick towards goal that was saved at full stretch by Peter Cherie.

He provided the best pass of the game, too,

a through-ball for Aiden McGeady which McGeady scuffed wide.

Maciej Zurawski did pull one goal back for Celtic eight minutes from time but the visitors did not deserve more than that and they never threatened Clyde's goal again. "They showed all the

managers that let them go just what they can do," Clyde boss Graham Roberts, an ex-Rangers man, said afterwards.

Their heroics, though, were overshadowed by the sobering circumstances of Keane's first appearance in the green of his beloved Celtic.

When the final whistle went, he untucked his shirt, shook his head angrily and fended off a couple of requests to swap jerseys.

Desire

He headed straight for the dressing room, hoarse no doubt from the abuse he has already dished out to his under-achieving teammates.

Suddenly, the glory days seemed a long way away for Roy Keane last night.

But one thing is sure: as the Celtic coach drove away from Cumbernauld, the desire for redemption was burning fiercely inside him.



OVERNIGHT LEGENDS: The Clyde players celebrate their stunning win over Celtic



EARNSHAW: Unhappy

Earnie: I must go to save career

By LEE WEST

ROB EARNSHAW has admitted he needs to quit West Brom "for the sake of his domestic and international career".

The Wales striker scored 14 goals for Albion in his first season following a £3.5million move from Cardiff.

But he has started only four Premiership games during the current campaign and was not even on the bench for Saturday's FA Cup tie with Reading.

Baggies boss Bryan Robson has already rejected two transfer requests from Earnshaw but is now considering the option of selling his unsettled player.

Portsmouth, Birmingham, Everton and Wigan have all been monitoring Earnshaw's situation at The Hawthorns.

He said: "It is as clear as crystal that I need to get away from West Brom for the sake of my domestic and international career."

"I don't really know what the future holds for me but it is increasingly clear that it's not here and I have to do something about it."

"I have worked hard on my game and think I



ROBSON: Left him out

deserve a better shot than I'm getting at the club.

"I am disappointed and very frustrated. I know I can do myself justice in the Premiership."

"I'm learning all the time but I need playing time and I'm not getting it at Albion so there is only one alternative."

"While I will always have a smile on my face, I am getting a bit disillusioned with it all because it affects my chances with Wales."

Earnshaw has written to the Football Association demanding to know how much of his £3.5million transfer fee - for his move from Cardiff to The Hawthorns - ended up in the hands of agents and advisers.

In his letter, he begs the FA to uncover the names of anyone who made money from his move in 2004.

The Welsh striker claims he has no idea who represented him during the negotiations, how much the fee actually was or how much was handed out to various agents.

WEST BROM'S FA CUP-TIE - SEE MANIA PAGE 4

FALSE STARTS

SEVEN disastrous football debuts

Jonathan Woodgate (Real Madrid v Athletic Bilbao, Sept 22, 2005): The defender waited 15 months to make his Madrid debut after a £14m move from Newcastle before scoring an own goal and being sent off in the Spanish giants' 3-1 win.

Ade Akinbiyi (Burnley v Sunderland, March 4, 2005): The £600,000 striker came on as a sub in Burnley's 2-0 defeat but lasted only two and a half minutes before being red-carded for butting George McCartney.

Paul Butler (Ireland v Czech Republic, Feb 23, 2000): The then Sunderland defender was given such a torrid time by Czech striker Jan Koller that he was subbed at half-time and has not played for Ireland since.

Garry Flitcroft (Blackburn v Everton, March 30, 1996): The £3.5m midfielder from Manchester City clashed with Duncan Ferguson after three minutes and was sent off.

John O'Neill (Wimbledon v Norwich City, December 18, 1987): O'Neill suffered a knee injury after a foul by John Fashanu 34 minutes in and never played again.

Graeme Souness (Rangers v Hibernian, August 9, 1986): Newly arrived from Italy as Rangers player-manager, the Scot was sent off for a high tackle.

Stanley Milton (Stockport v Halifax, January 6, 1934): The keeper let in 13 goals on his Halifax debut.