

Bozanic fires Hearts to Scottish Cup semi-finals

Heart of Midlothian 1 Rangers 0

William Hill Scottish Cup Quarter Final – Saturday 29th
February 2020 – Tynecastle Park

Hearts

upset all the odds at Tynecastle on Saturday evening with a pulsating performance to knock Rangers out of the William Hill Scottish Cup. A goal from Ollie Bozanic was enough to take Hearts through to their second Hampden semi-final in a year and secure their second win over Steven Gerrard's team in a month.

Hearts

manager Daniel Stendel made four changes from the team that salvaged a draw against Hamilton Academical a fortnight ago. Conor Washington, Lewis Moore, Loic Damour and Ollie Bozanic came in for Liam Boyce, Uche Ikpeazu,

Andy Irving and
Jamie Walker.

There
was a major surprise in the visitors' team sheet with the
absence of talisman
Alfredo Morelos who was dropped over what the Rangers manager
Steven Gerrard described
as a 'disciplinary matter'.

Both
clubs agreed to the ridiculous ticket prices of £30 for adults
and £20 for concessions
and this decision clearly backfired as Tynecastle was little
over half full for
a cup quarter final with Rangers. When will the football
bosses learn that you
simply can't fleece the fans?

Hearts
started brightly and Steven Naismith forced Rangers keeper
McGregor into a save
with a header from eight yards. This gave the home support
some encouragement
and Loic Damour – a surprise inclusion – then had an effort on
goal blocked.

Rangers'
Jack was then lucky to avoid a red card when he lunged in on
Michael Smith, but
referee Steven McLean saw fit to show only a yellow card. The
whistler didn't have
the best of evenings...

There
was even more controversy right on half-time when Hearts were
denied a clear
penalty after Edmundson used an arm to steer the ball away

inside the penalty box. But referee McLean saw nothing. The ref also didn't see blatant hand ball from Damour as he thought he had given Hearts the lead but a storm of protest from the Rangers players forced him to think again. Hearts were just grateful he didn't flash a second yellow card to the Frenchman...



Photo: SNS

Hearts

again looked the likelier side to score as the second half got underway. In the

58th minute their persistence paid off. Slack defending from Tavernier let in Lewis Moore. The youngster was calmness personified as he took the ball round the advancing McGregor to tee it up for Ollie Bozanic who

smashed the ball home.

Those

Hearts supporters who had forked out for their exorbitantly priced tickets roared their delight.

Steven

Naismith really ought to have finished the game when he was presented with a golden opportunity after a mistake from Edmundson, but the Scotland striker fired high and wide.

In

the end it didn't really matter. Hearts had beaten Rangers again – the Ibrox side have failed to win at Tynecastle in three attempts this season and have not won a Scottish Cup tie in Gorgie since 1957 – and will take their place in Sunday's semi-final draw.

The

semi-finals of the William Hill Scottish Cup will take place on Easter weekend.

What chance another Edinburgh derby in the cup?

Hearts: Zlamal, Smith,

Souttar (Dikamona, 16'), Bozanic, Clare, Washington, Naismith, Damour, Halkett, Moore, Hickey.

Rangers: McGregor,

Tavernier, Edmundson, Goldson, Jack (Hagi, 63'), Davis, Kent, Aribio, Stewart (Defoe, 67'), Barisic, Arfield (Ojo, 33').

Referee: Steven McLean

Attendance: 11,428

Top man: Lewis Moore

Photos courtesy of SNS