

Dunfermline challenge Old Firm—do well in Europe, too

THE only surprise about Celtic's fourth successive Scottish League Championship was that they took so long to clinch it. Not until three matches from the end of the season did they put the issue beyond reasonable doubt.

Yet Celtic were indisputably the best side in Scotland last season—again—and, indeed, were surely one of the best half-dozen in all Europe. (Of all the teams encountered by A. C. Milan, winners of the European Cup, none gave as much trouble as Celtic).

With the flag so close, however, Celtic did falter. On April 19, against Airdrie, they needed two points for the title—and a winning "goal" in the last few seconds was chalked off by the referee, to the puzzlement of most spectators. Two days later, the final, vital point was won at Kilmarnock—but only thanks to a desperate late goal from Tommy Gemmell.

In the end, of course, Celtic finished with 54 points, comfortably ahead of Rangers, on the 49-point mark. For Rangers—judged by their own standards—it wasn't much of a season. They always hate to finish second, but when they did so to Celtic, it added greatly to their disappointment.

A word about the third team in the League. Dunfermline (45 points) emphasised once again the sincerity of their ambition to become a real force in Scotland. With their slender resources, playing and financial.

Athletic's performance in 1968-69 was among the finest in Britain.

SCOTTISH CLUBS

DIVISION I

ABERDEEN

Ground: Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen (Aberdeen 21428).

Colours: Red shirts; red shorts.

GOALS—League: Forrest 16, Robb 8, Craig 7, Johnston 7, Buchan 2, Shewan 2, Connell 1, Peterson 1, Rae 1, Smith 1, Taylor 1, Thomson 1, Whyte 1, opponents 1—50.
F.A. Cup: Robb 4, Forrest 3, Hamilton 2, Craig 1, Johnston 1, League Cup: Forrest 2, Robb 2, Buchan 1, Craig 1, Smith 1, Taylor 1.

AIRDRIEONIANS

Ground: Broomfield Park, Gartlea Road, Airdrie. (Airdrie 2067).

Colours: White shirts with red diamond; red shorts.

GOALS—League: Marshall 9, McPheat 8, Fyfe 6, Whiteford D. 6, Jarvie 5, Goodwin 4, Menzies 2, Wilson 2, Bird 1, Jonquin 1, Phillips 1, Whiteford J. 1—46.
F.A. Cup: Goodwin 2, Marshall 2, Jarvie 1, McPheat 1, Whiteford D. 1.
League Cup: McPheat 5, Goodwin 2, Jarvie 2, Marshall 1.

AYR UNITED

Ground: Somerset Park, Ayr. (Ayr 63435).

Colours: Black and white hooped shirts; white shorts.

GOALS—League: Ingram 25, Malone 10, Ferguson 8, McCulloch 7, Clark 6, Mitchell 6, Rough 6, Weanes 3, Murphy 2, Wilkie 2, McAnespie 1, McCall 1, McPherson 1, opponents 4—82.
F.A. Cup: Ingram 1, Malone 1, Rough 1.
League Cup: Rough 4, Wilkie 3, Ingram 2, Malone 2, Clarke 1, Ferguson 1, McCulloch 1.

CELTIC

Ground: Celtic Park, Glasgow. (Bridgeton 2710).

Colours: Green and white hooped shirts; white shorts.

GOALS—League: Wallace 19, Lennox 12, Chalmers 11, Hughes 10, Gemmell 8, Hood 5, Johnstone 5, Murdoch 4, Callaghan 3, McNeil 3, Brogan 2, Auld 1, Connelly 1, Craig 1, McBride 1, McCarie 1, McMahon 1, opponents 1—89.
F.A. Cup: Chalmers 4, Hughes 4, Lennox 3, McNeil 3, Wallace 3, Callaghan 2, Johnstone 2, Murdoch 2, Connelly 1, Gemmell 1.
League Cup: Lennox 14, Wallace 10, Chalmers 5, Hughes 2, McBride 2, Auld 1, Clark 1, Connelly 1, Craig 1, Gemmell 1, McMahon 1, Murdoch 1, opponents 1.