

## CIS Cup Final - Celtic v Rangers

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The first Glasgow Derby Cup Final takes place this afternoon when Celtic take on Rangers at Hampden for the CIS Cup. Gordon Strachan is staying upbeat about the final and is comfortable even if it goes all the way to a penalty shoot-out, something the two Scottish football giants have never come across in a cup final game.

The teams, at the moment, are very well matched and are both competing for the SPL League title in what is set to be a nail-biting final few matches with both teams very much in contention.

With the closeness of both teams abilities at the moment, you can never rule out a penalty shootout but both Managers will be desperately wanting to clinch the title before that happens.

Strachan's main concern will be in finding the solution needed to off-set the problems he faces with strikers Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink and Gergios Samaras who are both off-form and have failed to find the back of the net in their last 25 matches combined.

The Celtic Manager however, insists that the problem with the strikers is just one part of the team maintenance ongoing with Celtic at the moment.

Speaking, a confident Celtic Manager, Strachan, says that he won't read too much into today's game when going forward with the rest of the season, even if Celtic lift the CIS Cup in the final. He demonstrates this by commenting , &ldquo;l think the team that wins it will feel better about themselves for at least a week, until you play the next league game.&rdquo;

Celtic currently lead Rangers in the SPL League Table by only 3 points.

Rangers are also talking up the match and are quietly confident although they do have some injuries to contend with. Madjid Bougherra has been ruled out of the Cup Final after failing to train with them on Friday and Saturday. The player, who was looking forward, to his first major cup final has been ruled out with a calf injury picked up when playing Hamilton last weekend.

Doubts have also been placed over Kirk Broadfoot his possible replacement to partner David Weir at the heart of the defence.

One thing for sure though, both teams will be desperate to win the first Silverware of the season at Hampden and take the CIS Cup home to their respective parts of Glasgow. An Old Firm game such as this is sure to be a thriller and it'll be an interesting game to watch how things develop with the teams so evenly matched.