



THE  
**ACTIVENATION**  
SCOTTISH CUP



THE  
ACTIVE NATION  
SCOTTISH CUP  
SEMI-FINAL

CELTIC v  
ROSS COUNTY



Saturday 10th April 2010  
Kick-Off 12.15pm  
Hampden Park

official programme £3.00

Exclusive interviews: Lennon • Adams • Brewster • Mjallby • Brown



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## CELTIC v ROSS COUNTY

Saturday 10th April 2010  
Kick-Off 12.15pm  
Hampden Park



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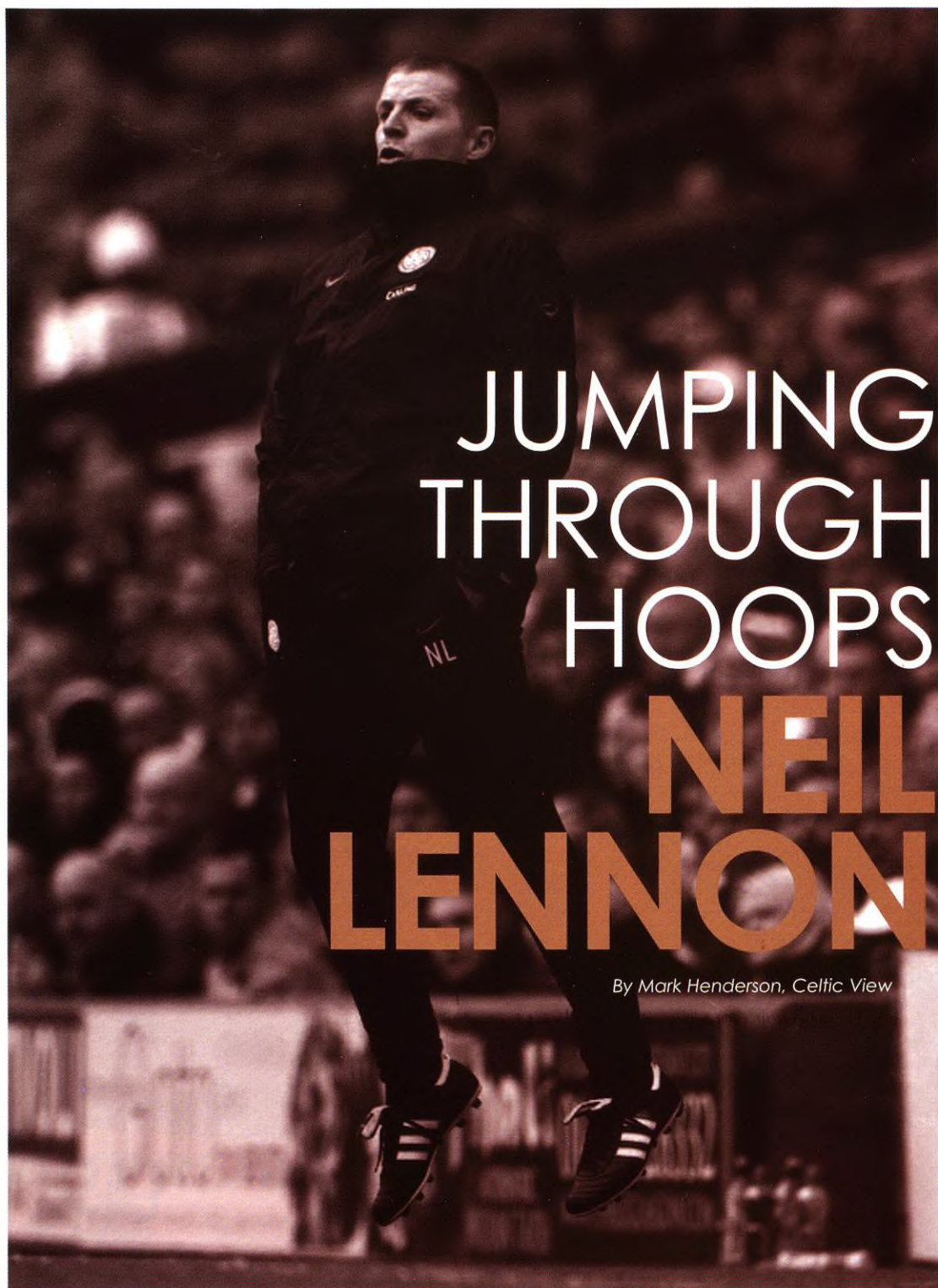
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THE ACTIVE NATION  
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2010 SEMI-FINAL



# JUMPING THROUGH HOOPS NEIL LENNON

*By Mark Henderson, Celtic View*





*Celtic captain Neil Lennon starts the celebrations after winning the Tennent's Scottish Cup in 2007*

**N**eil Lennon returns to a familiar old haunt today. In seven years as Celtic's midfield orchestrator, his appearances at Hampden reached well into double figures. It was also the venue for his last hurrah in the hoops, capturing the side in the 2007 Scottish Cup final.

The memories of those achievements are largely joyful. Four Scottish Cups, three League Cups and a number of semi-final victories make him an authority on what it takes to prevail at the National Stadium.

"I am always wary of semi-finals," said Celtic's interim manager. "I think they're the difficult games to play in and are always tense, tight affairs. It's very rare that you win comfortably and that's certainly the experience in my case over the years."

When you consider his record, Lennon has grown fond of the Hampden experience. "It's a great stadium to play at," he said. "It's a great day out, but they're only great days out if you win. I have lost a final as well, so I know what the disappointment can be. It sits with you for the whole of all the summer, as it's the showpiece game and you want to finish the season on a high.

"I will be emphasising to the players, if we get there, not to dwell too much on the razzmatazz that goes on around it but to concentrate and think about their jobs for the day of the game."

The Scottish Cup has always been a special competition for the club - they have won it a record 34 times - yet it takes on extra significance this year in light of the fluctuations that culminated in Lennon's elevation after the departure of Tony Mowbray. It also represents the club's best chance of a trophy this season.

"Every trophy the club are involved in you want to win it," said Lennon. "This one is no different, but since it's our best chance of silverware there is an extra onus for to go out there and put a stamp on it as much as we can."

Ross County stand in the way of Lennon's first final as manager. The first division side have enjoyed a fine season in both the league and cup, playing a brand of attractive football which has won them many admirers and helped them dispatch a hotly tipped Hibernian side in a quarter-final replay.

"I've seen them play this year and I thought they were a very decent football team," said Lennon. "They all knew what they were doing and the shape they were playing in. They have a good

“I will be emphasising to the players, if we get there, not to dwell too much on the razzmatazz that goes on.”





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