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CELTIC v FBK KAUNAS

Celtic Park, Wednesday 06 August 2003, Kick-off 7.45pm

Champions League 2nd Round Qualifier 2nd Leg 2003/04

Programme No.02



PHOENIX HONDA



Celtic 



CARLING ARE PROUD TO BE SUPPORTERS OF CELTIC F.C. **LOVEFOOTBALL**



FIRST of all let me welcome you back to Celtic Park for our first competitive home game of the new season.

We have enjoyed a good pre-season in which we played some excellent sides and now we are looking forward to starting the league campaign on Saturday afternoon against Dunfermline at East End Park.

Tonight, however, we will continue our quest to make it into the final qualifying round of the Champions League.

We are in the fortunate position of having a healthy 4-0 lead to

“We have a healthy 4-0 lead from our endeavours in Lithuania a week ago, but there is no way we will be guilty of any complacency ahead of the second leg this evening”

protect from our endeavours in Lithuania a week ago, but there is no way that we will be guilty of any complacency ahead of the second leg this evening.

Goals from Henrik Larsson, Chris Sutton, Shaun Maloney and Liam Miller in Kaunas seven days ago have given us what is a good cushion this evening and we are looking forward to the return meeting.

I thought that the game against Arsenal on Saturday afternoon

rounded off our pre-season preparations well and it was a good test for us to compete against last season's FA Cup winners.

We rested a number of our own players, while Arsenal were also missing key personnel, but it was a good exercise for us and I'm sure that we are all hungry for the start of a new campaign.

You can never be sure that everyone is always completely ready for the start of a new season, but basically there is no other option.

Last season's UEFA Cup run was

a marvellous experience and this year we would like to experience a repeat of some of those thrills again.

I have been in football too long, however, to take anything for granted and there have been many teams who have had an excellent run one season only to fall at the first huddle the following year.

Tonight we will go into the game with the intention of producing another strong performance. At the time of

writing I have yet to decide whether or not I will be in Finland to take in the game between HJK Helsinki or MTK Hungaria, but irrespective of whether I am at Celtic Park or not tonight I have full faith in the ability of both Steve Walford and John Robertson, as well as the players to produce a professional display.

As I write, it looks like John Hartson might not quite make the game tonight but he is continuing in rehabilitation from back surgery and is getting stronger all the time. With Chris Sutton missing the first five games of the new season we would like to have him available sooner rather than later but it would be unwise to rush him back into things too early.

Steve Guppy will probably be out for another couple of weeks which will be disappointing for him because everyone is always eager to be fit in time for the start of a new season.

We are looking forward to the beginning of an exciting campaign and your support throughout the months ahead will be greatly appreciated by myself and the players.

Celtic Football Club Factfile

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park
(capacity 60,506)

Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts,
white shorts, white socks

Away strip: Gold shirts, green
shorts, gold socks

Third strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with
gold trim

Record attendance: 92,000 (v Rangers, 1938)

Record victory: 11-0 (v Dundee, 1895)

Record defeat: 0-8 (v Motherwell, 1937)

Most league goals (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory,
1935/36

Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair
1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01

Website: www.celticfc.net

HONOURS

Scottish League (38)

1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06,
1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15,
1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36,
1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,
1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77,
1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98,
2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

1892, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1908, 1911, 1912, 1914,
1923, 1925, 1927, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1951, 1954, 1965,
1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1985,
1988, 1989, 1995, 2001

League Cup (12)

1956/57, 1957/58, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69,
1969/70, 1974/75, 1982/83, 1997/98,
1999/2000, 2000/2001

European Cup (1) 1967 **Coronation Cup (1)** 1953

CELTIC FACTS

1. Celtic didn't meet teams from the former Soviet Union very often but on 5th August 1989, Dinamo Moscow came to Parkhead for a friendly. Around 35,000 were in the ground for the match and they fully appreciated the close-passing game of the visitors. Thankfully, they failed to take many of the chances they created. In the end, a penalty from Tommy Coyne and a well-struck shot by new boy 'Jackie' Dziekanowski gave Celtic a 2-2 draw.
2. After Celtic's first successful match - the friendly against Rangers on 28th May 1888 - the club then had the problem of finding suitable opposition. Their first ever competition was the Exhibition Cup, a football input to the Glasgow Exhibition of 1888. This was held in Kelvingrove Park and the matches took place on a specially prepared pitch just off University Avenue in early August. Celtic drew with Abercorn of Paisley (1-1), had wins over Dumbarton (3-1) and Partick Thistle (1-0) but went out to Cowliars 2-0.
3. On 29th July, 1997, an enthusiastic crowd of 41,537 turned up at Celtic Park for the visit of Inter Cabeltel AFC in the UEFA Cup. Celtic were three-up from the first leg and did not take long to stamp their authority on the proceedings. Andy Thom opened the scoring from the penalty spot, Darren Jackson opened his account with the club in his second game for number two, Tommy Johnson got the third, David Hannah the fourth and Chris Hay the fifth. 8-0 on aggregate and a game v SC Tirol to look forward to.

KAUNAS FACTS

1. Like the other Baltic states, the Lithuanian football season extends from spring to autumn, so FBK Kaunas are well into their current season. There are eight teams in the league and after 14 matches, the team lies in 2nd place, 7 points behind leaders Ekranas Panevezys. FK Suduva, whom Celtic played in last year's Champions League, lie in 5th spot, 14 points behind. FBK Kaunas was founded in 1960.
2. Lithuania was a member of FIFA between 1923 and 1940, a period when the Baltic states were not noted for the quality of their football. The country played its first international match in June 1923, when they were beaten 5-0 by Estonia and a year later they made an unsuccessful bid to qualify for the Olympic tournament in Paris. The Soviets took over in 1940 but Lithuania rolled on until 1949, becoming the strongest of the Baltic States. The country did not regain its independence until 1991; and a year later, played their first World Cup match for 55 years, when they drew 2-2 with Northern Ireland in Belfast.
3. The city of Kaunas, lying in the middle of the country, 100 kms to the west of the capital Vilnius, at the confluence of the two largest Lithuanian rivers, has a population of around 380,000. There are two major teams in the city but while Inkaras Kaunas were the more prominent side in the mid-90s, FBK Kaunas has recently superseded them. They won the League Championship in 1999, 2000 and 2001; and last year were 9 points ahead of Atlantas Klaipeda at the finish.



MANAGER
SERGEI BAROVSKIJ

STADIUM
DARIAUS IR GIRENO

CAPACITY
10,000



CELTIC



KAUNAS

CLUB
SPONSORS

MOMO SYLLA	3
JACKIE McNAMARA	4
JOOS VALGAEREN	5
BOBO BALDE	6
HENRIK LARSSON	7
ALAN THOMPSON	8
CHRIS SUTTON	9
JOHN HARTSON	10
DAVID FERNANDEZ	12
PAUL LAMBERT	14
BOBBY PETTA	15
ULRIK LAURSEN	16
DIDIER AGATHE	17
NEIL LENNON	18
STILIAN PETROV	19
ROBERT DOUGLAS	20
MAGNUS HEDMAN	21
DAVID MARSHALL	22
STANISLAV VARGA	23
SHAUN MALONEY	29
STEVE GUPPY	30
SIMON LYNCH	32
ROSS WALLACE	33
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34
JOHAN MJALLBY	35
JAMIE SMITH	39
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40
JOHN KENNEDY	41
LIAM MILLER	43

MODESTAS STONYŠ	1
DARIUS SANAJEVAS	2
DARIUS GVILDYS	3
TOMAS KANCELISKIS	5
GINTARAS JUODEIKIS	8
MARIUS BEZYKORNOVAS	9
ANDRIUS PUOTKALIS	13
DARIUS REGELSKIS	14
TADAS PAPECKYS	15
ANDRIUS VELICKA	17
IRMANTAS ZELMIKAS	20
MINDAUGAS STANKEVICIUS	22
DAINIUS KUNEVICIUS	
MARIUS ZALIUOKAS	
GIEDRIUS BAREVICIUS	
ANDRIUS GEDGAUDAS	
VADIM PETRENKO	
MILAN PASTVA	
GINTAS ŠIRMELIS	
VITALIS STANKEVICIUS	
MARTYNAS KARALIUS	
RICARDAS BENIUSIS	
MARTIN OPIC	
GYTIS PADIMANSKAS	



RECENT
FORM

- PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
CELTIC 1 v ARSENAL 1
- CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUALIFIER
 FBK KAUNAS 0 v **CELTIC 4**
- PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
CELTIC 1 v BOCA JUNIORS 0
- PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
CELTIC 0 v MAN UTD 4
- PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
 FULHAM 1 v **CELTIC 2**
- PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY
 HELSINGBORGS 2 v **CELTIC 3**

FORTHCOMING
FIXTURES

- SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
 DUNFERMLINE v **CELTIC** 9 AUGUST 2003
- SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
CELTIC v DUNDEE UTD 16 AUGUST 2003
- SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
 PARTICK THISTLE v **CELTIC** 23 AUGUST 2003

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Sir Patrick Sheehy, Kevin Sweeney, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman
CFAC DIRECTORS Eric Riley, Jim Hone, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney
MANAGER Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford
HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns **YOUTH TEAM COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall
PHYSIOTHERAPIST Brian Scott **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark



CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB
 CELTIC PARK,
 GLASGOW
 G40 3RE
 0141-556 2611

Despite a healthy 4-0 lead from their first leg clash with FBK Kaunas, Magnus Hedman insists Celtic won't let their standards slip tonight as they chase a place in the Champions League

Safety first

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL



WITH a convincing 4-0 lead from last week's exertions in Lithuania, this evening's second leg encounter against FBK Kaunas shouldn't contain any nasty surprises for Celtic.

Martin O'Neill took no chances last week when he fielded a strong team against the Lithuanian Champions, a decision that was rewarded with an emphatic lead and tonight the Hoops manager might opt to allow some of his regular starters a break.

Rab Douglas was given the starting jersey in Kaunas last week

while Magnus Hedman took over for Saturday's friendly against Arsenal. Since Hedman arrived, he has been plagued with injury problems but with last season firmly behind him, the Swede is looking to push for a consistent place in O'Neill's squad.

While Hedman is delighted to be going into the game knowing that the hard work has already been done, he has nevertheless insisted that it will be a professional performance from Celtic tonight.

"It shouldn't affect our concentration or anything like

that. I thought the performance over in Lithuania was professional and effective and exactly what we were looking for given that it was the first time we had played a competitive game since the break," he said.

"It is quite rare to have such an important game so early in the season and I think we performed exactly the way the manager had asked us to. We do have a good cushion to go into the game with and that is obviously nice, but we will be expected to produce another decent performance and we want to win the second leg in

the same fashion that we did the first."

The ultimate aim, of course, is a place in the group stages of the Champions League but even if Celtic can, as expected, negotiate the hurdle of the Lithuanian Champions another tricky trip to either Budapest or Helsinki awaits.

Hedman has yet to experience any Champions League involvement and last season he was forced to watch the thrilling UEFA Cup run from the stands.

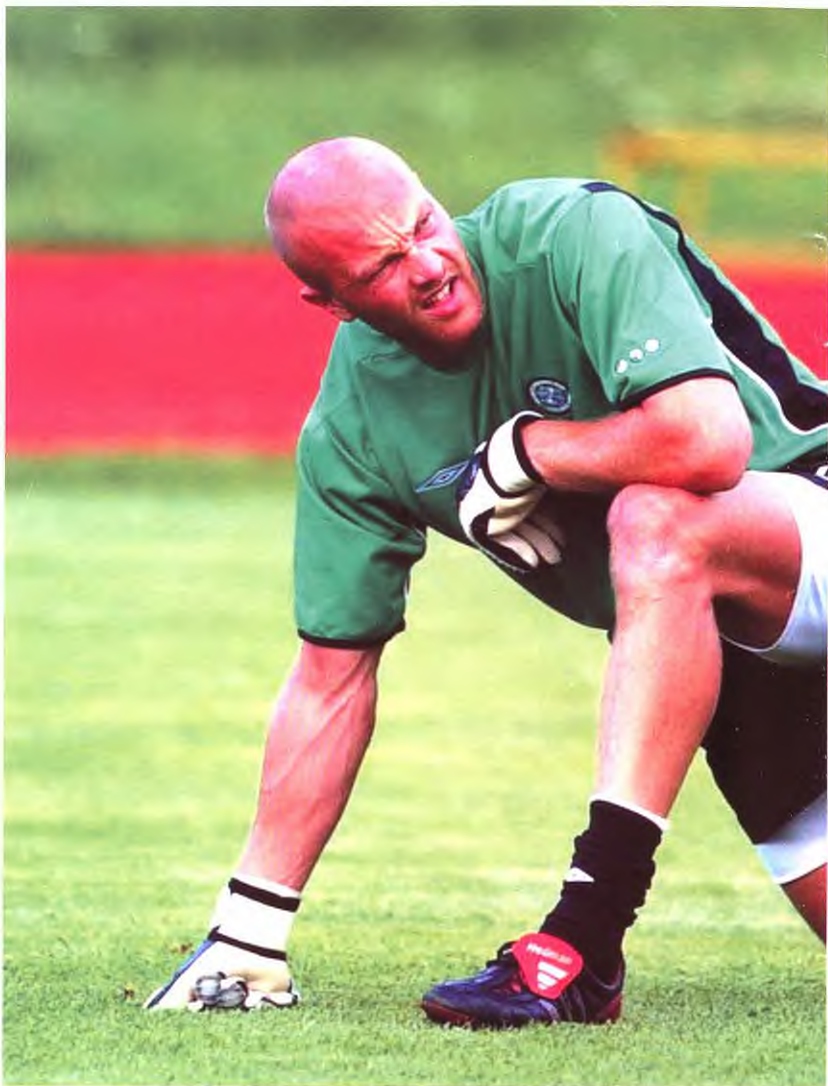
It was a disappointment he is keen to assuage with a place in the group stages, but his focus remains ensuring that immediate priorities are taken care of.

"It is a cliché but, especially in these early stages of the season,

you have to take each game as it comes. It can be too

dangerous to look far ahead," he said.

"Look at last season; everyone expected us to beat Basel and go into the group stages. They went through and when they did go through they acquitted themselves very well. We



"We have to be professional and do our jobs tonight before we can turn our attention to who we might meet in the next round"

have to be very professional and go out and do our jobs tonight and then if we get through, giving our attention to the next round.

"I don't think we can afford to think about who we might meet if we get through this round. I know that we have a good lead but it is still important that we go into the game in the right frame of mind.

"We have to set our mind on this one but if we do go into the

next round then we will have a couple of league games under our belt by the time we play either MTK Hungaria or HJK Helsinki," he continued.

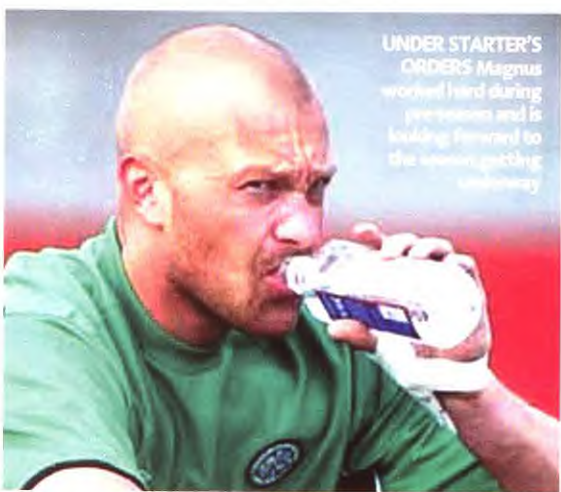
"In saying that, I haven't even been involved in the group stages of the Champions League and it is something that I am desperate to experience. I have played a few qualifiers with AIK Stockholm and I have played in the UEFA Cup as



NO ACTION REPLAY
Basel shocked Celtic last term but Hedman insists the team have learned their lesson



STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT
Hedman's injury problems are now behind him



UNDER STARTER'S ORDERS Magnus worked hard during pre-season and is looking forward to the season getting underway



TAKE IT AS RED
Hedman faced Manchester United in pre-season game

well as the Cup Winners Cup, but this is the one that everyone wants to be involved in.

"That was one of the main reasons I came to Celtic in the first place and I would love to be involved on that kind of stage. The minute you hear the theme music to the Champions League you can feel the excitement and to be competing in it is the aim of most footballers.

"We should be in it every year, but it is not easy. The boys did very well in the Champions League the season before I arrived here and I would expect the experience of the UEFA Cup to help us out

should we make the group stages."

While Hedman is counting the days to Saturday's Premierleague kick-off as the challenge for the title gets underway, he would also love the chance to enjoy an exciting European run in tandem with the push for the Championship.

"I'm looking forward to the season starting," he said. "It has been a good pre-season and we played some good games. It

worked out well but now after training and playing friendlies then you want to get into the real thing.

"In Sweden it is what we do in Europe that gets Celtic recognition and it would be nice to be involved in a decent run this year. The league will always be vital to us as well because, not only do we want to be Champions, but next season it is direct entry into the Champions League which is massive."