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celtic

THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2007/08



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SOCIAL MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

Celtic Football Club is legendary and as with most legends as much myth as fact surrounds its history and what the Club stands for today. The Social Mission Statement aims to simply define what the Club stands for and seeks to promote within society.

History

Celtic Football Club was founded in 1888. Its principal founder was a Marist Brother named Walfrid. The Club had two principal aims: The first aim was to raise funds to provide food for the poor of the East End of Glasgow, an area of the City that was greatly impoverished and had a high rate of infant mortality. Within the East End was a large Irish community and friction was growing between the native Glaswegians and the new influx of Irish. Brother Walfrid saw the need for social integration and his vision was a football club that Scottish and Irish, Protestants and Catholics alike could support. A new football club would be a vehicle to bring the communities together and this was the second aim. The Marist brother sought for the Club to have both a Scottish and Irish identity and hence, the Club's name "Celtic" came about, representing a bridge of cultures across the Irish Sea.

Current Positioning of Celtic Football Club

Celtic Football Club is a Scottish football club with proud Irish links. The primary business of Celtic is as a football club. It is run on a professional business basis with no political agenda. However, the Club has a wider role and the responsibility of being a major Scottish social institution promoting health, well-being and social integration.

Who is Celtic Football Club for?

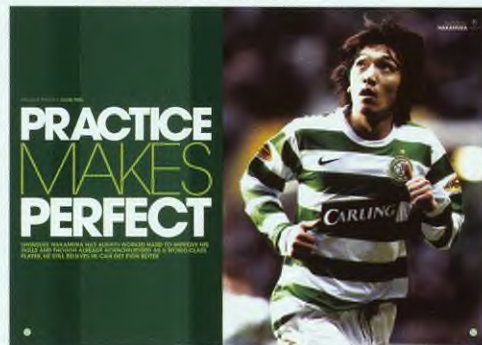
Celtic Football Club is for people who want to support a football club that strives for excellence in Scotland and in Europe, is proud of its history, supportive of its local community and seeks to support the following aims: "To maximise all opportunities to disassociate the Club from sectarianism and bigotry of any kind. To promote Celtic as a Club for all people, regardless of gender, age, religion, race or ability."

Summary

Celtic is a club for everyone who believes in football as a medium for healthy pleasure, entertainment and social integration. The Club always has been and always will simply aim to be the team of the people.

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>> GORDON STRACHAN



TONIGHT'S UEFA Champions League tie with Barcelona is one that we've been looking forward to since the draw was made at the end of last year. Our focus has obviously been on domestic matters up until now but after Saturday's fixture was completed, we have been concentrating solely on the task in hand.

And what a task it is. To have reached the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League for the second consecutive season is a tremendous achievement and one that everyone at the club is rightly proud of. Our reward for that success is a contest against Barcelona, one of the best sides in Europe and one of the great names in world football.

This is a game that everyone is excited about - the management, the players and, of course, the supporters. We knew from our experiences last season in getting to this stage of the competition that there would be no easy games, and that has proved to be the case.

You only have to look through the Barcelona squad list to realise that some of the best players in the world are in their ranks, but that's something we relish rather than fear. We want to compete against the best and to show what we can do and this draw has given us that opportunity.

Our form here at Celtic Park in the UEFA Champions League is only matched by Barcelona's own home form in the tournament and it is something that we are proud of. This season in our group games, we have defeated the reigning European champions, AC Milan, as well as Benfica and Shakhtar Donetsk, victories which allowed us to reach the last 16 again and so we have every right to be confident going into tonight's match.

However, no-one should mistake that confidence for complacency because everyone is aware of just how difficult our task is. Barcelona won this competition in 2006 and are favourites to win it again this season so that underlines their quality and the threat they pose to us.

I think it is safe to assume that there's going to be another special atmosphere inside Celtic Park tonight. European nights in this stadium are something unique in football and Barcelona, from their previous experiences here, will know just how difficult that can make this venue.

Our last 16 UEFA Champions League tie with Barcelona is one that we've been anticipating for a while now and I'm sure it's one that we will all enjoy. Hopefully, at the end of the 90 minutes, it will also be one that we'll all be celebrating.



>> CELTIC FACTFILE



UPCOMING FIXTURES
Sunday, February 24
 Scottish Premier League
 St Mirren v **Celtic**

Wednesday, February 27
 Scottish Premier League
Celtic v Inverness CT

Saturday, March 1
 Scottish Premier League
 Hibs v **Celtic**

Tuesday, March 4
 UEFA Champions League
 Barcelona v **Celtic**

Sunday, March 9
 Scottish Cup
 Aberdeen v **Celtic**



CLUB HONOURS

Scottish League Winners [41 times]

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,
 2000-01, 2001-02, 2003-04, 2005-06,
 2006-07

Scottish Cup Winners [34 times]

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, 2004, 2005, 2007

League Cup Winners [13 times]

1956-57, 1957-58, 1965-66, 1966-67,
 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1974-75,
 1982-83, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01,
 2005-06

European Cup Winners 1967

Coronation Cup Winners 1953

CLUB DIRECTORY & HONOURS

Celtic Football Club
 Celtic Park Glasgow G40 3RE
Telephone: 0871 226 1888
Website: www.celticfc.net

Formed: 1888

Stadium: Celtic Park

Capacity: 60,506

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

Away strip colours: Green/black striped shirts, green shorts, green socks

Record attendance: 92,000 v Rangers, 1938

Record victory: 11-0 v Dundee, 1895

Record defeat: 0-8 v Motherwell, 1937

Most league goals in 1 season: 50 - Jimmy McGrory, 1935-36

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

CELTIC PLC DIRECTORS

Celtic plc Directors:

John Reid
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 Eric Riley
 Dermot Desmond
 Tom Allison
 Brian McBride
 Brian Wilson
 Ian Livingston

CFAC Directors:

Peter Lawwell
 Eric Riley
 John Keane
 Michael McDonald
 Kevin Sweeney

Manager:

Gordon Strachan

Assistant Manager:

Garry Pendrey

Coach:

Tommy Burns

Head of Youth:

Tommy Burns

Football Development Manager:

John Park

Reserve Coach:

Willie McStay

Youth team Coach:

John McLaughlan

Club Doctor:

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 Gavin McCarthy

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John Clark



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>> WELCOME



CELTIC Football Club would like to welcome the management, players and supporters of FC Barcelona to Glasgow for tonight's UEFA Champions League match and hope that we all enjoy a memorable sporting contest between our two great clubs.



>> A WORD FROM THE CAPTAIN

TO reach the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League for a second consecutive season is a fantastic achievement and we're all proud of that. To have qualified from a group that contained the holders, AC Milan, as well as two top-quality sides in Benfica and Shakhtar Donetsk is no mean feat and we fully deserve our place amongst the top clubs in Europe.

One of them are here tonight and they don't come much bigger than Barcelona. They are a great club and a fantastic side and all the players are looking forward to facing up to them tonight.

As a player you want to test yourself against the best players in the world and some of them will be up against us tonight. The UEFA Champions League is, without doubt, the best club competition in football. To take part in it is a great experience for any player and it is one of the main incentives for players joining Celtic.

We are a club that fully deserves to be in this stage of the UEFA Champions League and we intend to do everything we can to prove that both tonight and in two weeks' time when we play at the Nou Camp.

Our record here at Celtic Park is well-known throughout Europe and it is something that we want to continue. That will take a tremendous effort from everyone who plays tonight.

Our fans will play their part as well. I've mentioned it several times before this season that the backing we get and the special atmosphere that's created on a European night here gives all the players a boost.

It's seen us win all three of our group stage games here and, hopefully, we can continue that form tonight in the knockout stages.

Stephen McManus



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: DAVID FRIEL

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA HAS ALWAYS WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE HIS SKILLS AND THOUGH ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED AS A WORLD-CLASS PLAYER, HE STILL BELIEVES HE CAN GET EVEN BETTER



TIME after time, the tiny rubber ball bounced off his precocious left foot. When it did eventually fall to the ground, the determination inside Shunsuke Nakamura to reach the very top of the beautiful game only increased.

Nakamura was a teenager when he started this daily ritual aimed at honing his skills. In his mind, the more he improved his touch, the better chance he would have of one day playing at the highest level.

Tonight, all the hard work will pay off for the Japanese midfielder when he is part of a Celtic side aiming to create history when they take on Barcelona.

It won't be straightforward; against the Catalan side it never is. But if the Hoops attain a positive result, then a place in the last eight of the UEFA Champions League is within touching distance.

Listening to Nakamura talk about his early football life is fascinating. Juggling the rubber ball helped his touch and poise - "When I was really young, I would use a normal size ball, but I made it smaller as I got older," he said.

Yet, that wasn't his only unique training method as he strived for perfection. He smiles as he recalls his bath-time football, while no hill was too steep for Naka and his ubiquitous companion.

"When I was in the bath I would practise my kicking technique," he reveals. "I would stand and pretend to kick a ball against the resistance of the water. I felt it would help me.

"I did a lot of small things to improve when I was

doesn't know. He just loved playing football and wanted to get better.

He didn't think about his life as a list of targets, but the fact he's graced the World Cup and UEFA Champions League would suggest he's realised the ambitions that must have burned inside him from an early age.

"I never had a big dream," he said. "I went step by step and I never really looked at what I wanted to do long-term. I just practised to become a better player.

"Looking back, it was all worth it. But I must also say that I wouldn't have achieved anything without the advice from all the coaches I've worked with. At Celtic, I'm still becoming better with the coaching."

"Deco, Iniesta and Xavi," is Nakamura's instant answer when asked about the Barcelona players he admires. Unsurprisingly, they are all naturally-gifted footballers - just like Nakamura.

"Barcelona are a club I've always admired," he continues. "I went to see them for the first time when I was 18. It was my first football game outside Japan and it was incredible. I believe they are one of the top five teams in the world.

"In modern football, few teams play like Barcelona. You look at Manchester United or Chelsea, who are also top teams. They have great individual players like Cristiano Ronaldo, but there is still a cautious style at times.

"With Barcelona, it's different. They have so many top-class attacking players and they play in a unique way. They are always free-flowing."

"I PLAYED WITH A TEAM CALLED MISONO FC WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH. WE WOULD HAVE FREE-KICK COMPETITIONS AND WHOEVER LOST WOULD CARRY BACK THE BAG OF BALLS."

younger. On my way to school, I would jump up on to higher steps to improve my leap.

"I played with a team called Misono FC when I was in Junior High. We would have free-kick competitions and whoever lost would carry back the bag of balls.

"On the way home from the ground, I would try never to touch the ball with my hands. I would only use my feet.

"Even when I came to a big hill, I wouldn't hold the ball. I would be running down a steep slope, trying to keep control of the ball. I just thought it would help me."

It was all done for a specific reason. By the time he was 18, he had visited the Nou Camp and watched Barcelona - Rivaldo et al - play and his mind was made up. He wanted to play football in Europe.

Yet, ask Nakamura what he was dreaming of when he kicked the invisible ball in the bath, or mastered the art of juggling a rubber ball and he insists he

Can Celtic beat the 2006 UEFA Champions League winners? A mischievous grin spreads across Nakamura's face as the question is relayed to him through his trusted interpreter Makoto Kaneko.

Yet, having already defeated the current holders, AC Milan, this season, he stresses that Celtic should go into the match full of confidence. Nakamura also states that another experience against the Italians could drive the Hoops on.

Few players were more disappointed than Nakamura when Celtic fell at this same hurdle last year. With nothing to separate the sides after 180 minutes, an extra-time Kaka goal made the difference and left Naka and his team-mates devastated.

"It will be hard," he says. "They are very good at keeping the ball for long spells, so we might have to be prepared to be patient for spells.

"However, the most important thing is what we do when we have the ball. We have to make good use of it. ▶



“IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE A WIN TO TAKE TO THE NOU CAMP AND PUT PRESSURE ON BARCELONA. IF WE WIN 1-0 AT HOME, A GOAL OVER THERE WOULD MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.”

“We must also use the experience of last season. I think we all have to use that disappointment to drive us on.

“Being out on that San Siro pitch and feeling the hurt of being put out was hard. But I think we know what we were missing last season and we can learn from that. That’s our aim.

“It would be great to have a win to take to the Nou Camp and put pressure on Barcelona. If we win 1-0 at home, a goal over there would make all the difference.

“It’s a very important game, as is the away leg. It will be fantastic to play in the Nou Camp, but we are not there for a sight-seeing trip. We are there to hopefully win a game of football.”

If Celtic do defeat the Catalan side tonight, then

Nakamura would be celebrating his second success against Barcelona this season - having already taken on and defeated Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho in a dead-ball contest.

Now being viewed by millions on YouTube, the Japanese star is seen outgunning his gifted counterpart in a free-kick competition filmed for a Japanese TV station and hopes to make it a double triumph this evening.

“I have the DVD from that programme,” he smiled. “The television company sent me it and it was all good fun.

“However, the match is different, although it would be interesting if we decided the outcome with another competition.”

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>> FC BARCELONA FACTS

WORDS: DAVID McDONALD



TONIGHT, UEFA Champions League last 16 football returns to Celtic Park for the second successive season when the mighty Barcelona once more emerge from the tunnel here at Paradise. The Catalan club's history at the forefront of competitive European action is long and illustrious with no shortage of milestones contained therein, so in tonight's souvenir programme we take a look at some of their highlights - and the odd game they may rather forget.

* Barcelona arrive at Celtic Park tonight looking for their 100th victory in the European Cup/UEFA Champions League. Their full record in Europe's top tournament is:

P	W	D	L	F	A
175	99	40	36	332	180

* Celtic themselves are also chasing a piece of history tonight as the Bhoys are just two short of 400 goals in all European competitions. They have scored 256 at home, 137 away and five on neutral territory. In the European Cup/UEFA Champions League they have scored 201, Cup-Winners' Cup 75 and the Fairs Cities/UEFA Cup 122.

* Jiri Jarosik's left-foot volley in the last UEFA Champions League match here at Celtic Park in November, was Celtic's 200th in the European Cup/UEFA Champions League.

* As you would expect for a club of Barcelona's standing, their list of honours makes impressive reading. In Europe alone they have won the European Cup/UEFA Champions League twice, the Cup-Winners' Cup four times, the Fairs Cities Cup three times and the European Super Cup twice. In Spain they have won La Liga 18 times and the Copa del Rey 24 times.

* It is perhaps surprising it took Barcelona until 1992 to get their hands on the European Cup. Having lost three previous finals it was an historic day for the Catalan giants when they managed to beat Sampdoria 1-0 at Wembley, thanks to Ronald Koeman's free kick in extra-time. Then, 14 years later in Paris, substitute Henrik Larsson inspired a tremendous fight-back by setting up goals for Samuel Eto'o and Juliano Belletti as Barcelona beat Arsenal 2-1.

* Their record four Cup-Winners' Cup triumphs came in 1979 v Fortuna Dusseldorf 4-3 after extra time in Basel, 1982 v Standard Liege 2-1 in Barcelona, 1989 v Sampdoria 2-0 in Berne and 1997 v Paris St Germain 1-0 in Rotterdam.

* Their three Fairs Cities Cup victories were in 1958 v London XI 8-2 on aggregate, 1960 v Birmingham City 4-1 on aggregate and 1966 v Real Zaragoza 4-3 on aggregate. In 1971, when it was decided that this competition would be replaced by the UEFA Cup, a play-off was proposed to see who would keep the trophy, between the holders Leeds United and the team to have won the competition the most, Barcelona. Home advantage helped Barca to a 2-1 win.

* Barcelona's three European Cup final defeats came in 1961 v Benfica 3-2 in Berne, 1986 v Steaua Bucharest 2-0 on penalties after 0-0 draw in Seville and 1994 v AC Milan 4-0 in Athens.

* As well as four Cup-Winners' Cup victories, they have lost a further two finals - 1969 v Slovan Bratislava 3-2 in Basel and 1991 v Manchester United 2-1 in Rotterdam.

* Since the European competitions started in 1955, Barcelona are the only club to have played in one of the various competitions every year.

* Their biggest European victory is 8-0 both at home v Apollon Limassol on September 15, 1982 in the Cup-Winners' Cup and v Matador Puchov on October 15, 2003 in the UEFA Cup.

* Their biggest away win in Europe is 7-0 v Hapoel Beer Sheva on 12th September, 1995 in the UEFA Cup.

* Barca's biggest European defeat is 4-0 v Cologne on November 5, 1980 in UEFA Cup, v AC Milan on May 18, 1994 in the European Cup final and v Dynamo Kyiv on November 5, 1997 in the UEFA Champions League group stage.

* In 2002/03 Barcelona won a record 11 UEFA Champions League matches in a row.

* Barcelona are the only team ever to have beaten Celtic at Celtic Park in the UEFA Champions League and the Camp Nou is the only away ground where Celtic have managed to avoid defeat in the competition.

UEFA Champions League



* In the current Barcelona squad, Thierry Henry has made the most UEFA Champions League appearances with 89, followed by Carlos Puyol and Xavi (70), Lillian Thuram (65) and Deco (63). For Celtic, Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink now leads the way with 37 followed by Bobo Balde (19), Stephen McManus and Aiden McGeady (15).

* Henry is also the leading UEFA Champions League scorer in the squad with 44 goals followed by Ronaldinho (14), Deco and Samuel Eto'o both 13. Celtic have just two players who have scored more than one goal in the UEFA Champions League - Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (5) and Shunsuke Nakamura (2).

* Including all European competitions, Thierry Henry has made 114 appearances followed by Thuram (111), Deco (90) and Xavi (88). For Celtic, Vennegoor of Hesselink has made 59 appearances followed by Balde (45), Steven Pressley (31) and Artur Boruc (21).

* Thierry Henry has scored 52 goals in all European competitions followed by Ronaldinho (21), Eto'o (19) and Deco (18). Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink has scored 10 European goals in his career with Stephen McManus, Paul Hartley, Massimo Donati, Shunsuke Nakamura and Scott McDonald all scoring two.

* Frank Rijkaard is only the fifth person ever to win the European Cup/UEFA Champions League as both a player and a coach. The other four are

Miguel Munoz, Giovanni Trapattoni, Johan Cruyff and Carlo Ancelotti.

* Five Barcelona players have won the Balon d'Or - Luis Suarez (1960), Johan Cruyff (1973 & 1974), Hristo Stoichkov (1994), Rivaldo (1999) and Ronaldinho (2005).

* Four Barcelona players, who all happen to be Brazilian, have been voted FIFA World Player of the Year - Romario (1994), Ronaldo (1996), Rivaldo (1999) and Ronaldinho (2004 & 2005).

* Like the famous green and white hoops, the scarlet and blue shirt of Barcelona is one of the most recognisable football tops in world football. Although the shirt has remained the same, for their first 10 years Barcelona actually wore white shorts which were then changed to black. It was only in the 1920s that blue shorts were introduced. For one season only in 2005/06, just for a change, Barca wore scarlet shorts. It didn't do them any harm as they won La Liga and the UEFA Champions League.

* The Camp Nou (the new ground) is the biggest football stadium in Europe. In 1954 the club decided to build a new stadium as the old Les Corts ground was deemed not big enough with a capacity of 60,000. The first match played at the new ground (Camp Nou) was on September 24, 1957 when Barcelona beat a Warsaw Select 4-2. At this time the capacity of the stadium was 93,053 but modifications saw it increased to 120,000 for the 1982 World Cup. However, in the 1990s the

restriction on standing areas reduced the capacity to its current figure of 98,787. In September 2007 it was announced there would be further renovations including a new roof to cover all the seated areas.

* The record attendance at the Camp Nou is 120,000 when Barcelona faced Juventus in the European Cup quarter-final on March 5, 1986.

* The intention had always been for the ground to be known as Estadi del FC Barcelona when it was first opened but it was always popularly known as Camp Nou by the fans. It was not until 2000/01 when 68.25% of the fans who voted opted for the ground to be officially known as the Camp Nou rather than Estadi del FC Barcelona.

* The Camp Nou is one of only four stadia in Spain to have been awarded five-star status by UEFA. The other three are the Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, the Vicente Calderón home of Atlético Madrid and one familiar to many Celtic fans, the Cartuja Olympic Stadium in Seville.

* On September 7, 2006 for the first time ever Barcelona agreed to have the name of a sponsor on the front of their shirt. However, the deal was for Barcelona to pay the sponsor for the privilege and not the other way around. So for the next five years Barca will donate 0.7% of the club's total yearly revenue to the leading children's charity UNICEF. As the club motto says: "Mes que un club" - more than a club.

>> TONIGHT'S VISITORS

TONIGHT, Celtic play host to one of the most famous clubs in world football – FC Barcelona.

The two sides have met on three previous occasions – in the 1964/65 UEFA Cup, the 2003/04 UEFA Cup and in the 2004/05 UEFA Champions League.

Over the six games, Celtic have won one, three have been drawn, while Barca have won two of the matches.

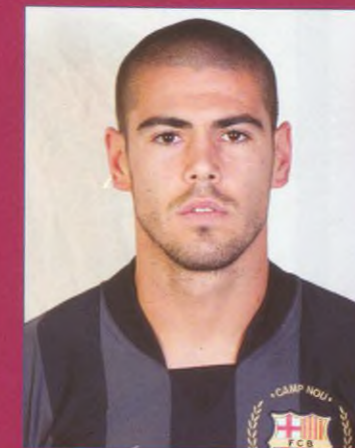
Barcelona have already visited Glasgow on UEFA Champions League duty this season, when they drew 0-0 with Rangers at Ibrox in Group E. In their other two away games, they beat VfB Stuttgart 2-0 and then drew 2-2 in France against Lyon.

Celtic, meanwhile, have an impressive home record in this season's competition, beating holders AC Milan 2-1, and recording victories against Benfica and Shakhtar Donetsk.

In tonight's UEFA Champions League Matchday Programme, we take a look at some of the players who could be lining up for Barcelona.



FC BARCELONA



VICTOR VALDES

A product of the Barca youth system, Valdes graduated to the first-team in 2003 and has stayed there ever since. Agile and commanding, Valdes has won two La Liga titles, the UEFA Champions League and two Spanish Super Cups. At just 25, Valdes has time to get even better and is expected to be the Barca No.1 for years to come.



CARLES PUYOL

Captain fantastic Puyol has emerged as one of the best defenders in Europe. Comfortable at right-back and centre-half, he favours a committed style but is more than capable of playing the ball from the back as well. An icon for the Barca fans, he leads by example and was inspirational as the Catalan side won the UEFA Champions League in 2006.



GABRIEL MILITO

Argentine internationalist Milito joined Barca in the summer after four outstanding seasons with Real Zaragoza. He started his career with Independiente in his homeland and headed for Spain. Since arriving at the Nou Camp, Milito has established himself as a regular and played in five of Barca's group games.



RAFAEL MARQUEZ

The first-ever Mexican to play for Barca, Marquez can play in defence or midfield and has emerged as one of the best defenders in the world. Strong and elegant on the ball, Marquez began his career in Mexico and had a spell with Monaco before moving to Barca in 2003/04. He has been a huge influence in the side's success over the last four years.

>> TONIGHT'S VISITORS



SYLVINHO

With speed, flair and defensive diligence, Brazilian full-back Sylvinho is an integral part of the Barca squad. He began his career with Corinthians in his homeland and had a spell with Arsenal before moving to Spain. A Brazilian internationalist, Sylvinho has won domestic titles in Brazil and Spain, and also lifted the UEFA Champions League with Barca in 2006.



EDMILSON

The versatile Brazilian joined Barca in 2004 following a trophy-laden spell in France with Lyon. A World Cup winner with Brazil, his first season at the Nou Camp was marred by injury but he returned to play a leading role in Barcelona's UEFA Champions League triumph in 2006. The defensive midfielder has yet to play in this season's competition after suffering an injury.



LILIAN THURAM

An all-time football great, Thuram is classed as one of the best defenders ever to play the game. The French internationalist has won a record amount of caps for his country, 136, and almost every honour possible. For country, he lifted the World Cup in 1998 and European Championships in 2000. In club football, he won the UEFA Cup with Parma and four Serie A titles with Juventus during a glorious spell in Turin.



ERIC ABIDAL

The French left-back started his career with Monaco and was then part of the all-conquering Lyon side, which has dominated French football over the past five years. With speed and intelligence, he is a modern full-back and was brought to the Nou Camp during the summer. A World Cup finalist with France, Abidal has impressed since arriving at Barca and has been a regular in the UEFA Champions League.



GIANLUCA ZAMBROTTA

The Italian internationalist can play on either flank and has been deployed in both midfield and defence. An experienced campaigner, Zambrotta starred for Bari before moving to Juventus in 1999. He stayed in Turin until the summer of 2006, when he moved to Barca. At the Nou Camp, he has continued to impress and is a valued player for both club and country with his athletic style.



OLEGUER

A versatile defender, Oleguer can play at right-back or centre-back and is a key member of the Barca squad. He graduated from the club's B team in 2002 and emerged as a regular in 2004. He helped Barca to La Liga success in 2005 and 2006 and also played in the UEFA Champions League win over Arsenal. He has made two appearances in the competition this season.

UEFA Champions League



FC BARCELONA



XAVI

Another product of the Barca youth system, Xavi has spent his whole career at the Nou Camp and is one of the club's most influential players. The 28-year-old normally operates in central midfield and has the touch and vision to dictate the flow of a game at the highest level. He has won every domestic honour for Barca and also lifted the UEFA Champions League in 2006. A fans' favourite, Xavi is seen as an iconic figure among the Barca support.



ANDRES INIESTA

Outrageously-gifted midfielder Iniesta has emerged as one of the most important players in the Barca squad. He also rose through the ranks at the Nou Camp and made his big breakthrough in season 2004/05. In 2006, he achieved his lifelong ambition when he lifted the UEFA Champions League and has now blossomed into one of the best attacking midfielders in Europe.



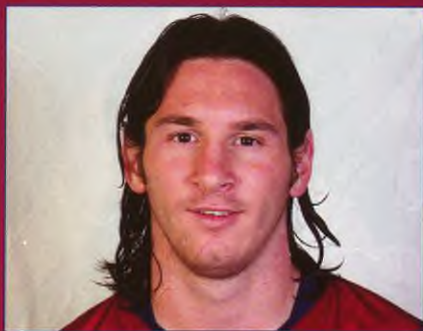
DECO

Familiar to Celtic fans, Deco was one of the main influences in the Porto side that won the UEFA Cup and UEFA Champions League in successive seasons. Barca won the battle for his services in 2004 and the Brazilian-born Portuguese internationalist has proved to be a key player at the Nou Camp. He won his second UEFA Champions League medal in 2006 and remains a vital member of the team, alongside Iniesta and Xavi in midfield.



YAYA TOURE

Brother of Arsenal star Kolo, Yaya Toure moved to Barcelona after spells in Belgium, Ukraine, Greece and Monaco. Still only 24, the Ivory Coast internationalist is a dynamic, powerful midfielder and has all the attributes to reach the very top of the world game. He is usually positioned in front of the defence, but can also play further forward when asked. Had an impressive 2006 World Cup for his country.



LIONEL MESSI

A wonderful talent, Messi was destined for greatness from an early age and signed for Barca at 13, when he left his home in Argentina for Spain. Over the years, he stood out at every level and, after starring for Argentina in the Under-20 World Cup in 2005, he became a key member of the Barca squad. Small, powerful and with incredible control and vision, Messi is regarded as one of the best players in the world and the natural heir to Diego Maradona. Incredibly, he is only 20.



RONALDINHO

A phenomenal talent, the Brazilian genius is capable of the extraordinary every time he steps on to a football pitch. Strong and fast, he possesses every trick in the book and takes great pleasure in outfoxing even the best defenders with a trademark turn. He started his career with Gremio before moving to France to play with PSG. A fantastic World Cup in 2006 saw Barca take him to the Nou Camp and the 27-year-old has been a sensation. ▶



>> TONIGHT'S VISITORS



THIERRY HENRY

The best striker ever to grace the English Premiership? Henry starred for Monaco, before joining Arsenal after a brief spell with Juventus. In London, Arsene Wenger converted the French winger into a central striker and Henry never looked back. He broke all sorts of records at Arsenal and was the inspiration behind many successes. For France, he helped his nation win the World Cup and European Championships. He moved to Barca last summer and is now part of a world-class strikeforce.



SAMUEL ETO'O

The Cameroon internationalist actually started his career in Spain with Real Madrid before making great strides with Real Mallorca, where he became one of the most-sought after strikers in Europe. Barca lured him to the Nou Camp in 2004 and Eto'o just couldn't stop scoring for his new club. He netted in the final of the UEFA Champions League in 2006 and remains one of the top strikers in the world. A hero in Cameroon, he is the all-time top scorer in the African Cup of Nations.



EIDUR GUDJOHNSEN

Viewed as the best player ever to come out of Iceland, Gudjohnsen began his career with Valur before moving to PSV Eindhoven in the mid '90s. Following a productive spell with Bolton Wanderers, Gudjohnsen earned a move to Chelsea and became a fans' favourite at Stamford Bridge - playing his part in successive Premiership title wins. Gudjohnsen moved to Barca in 2006 and has been deployed in attack and midfield.



BOJAN KRKIC

Another prodigious talent, 17-year-old Krkic broke every scoring record during his ascent to the Barca first-team as well as starring for Spain at youth level. At the age of 16, he started to train with the senior Barca squad and was handed his debut at the start of this season. He has already broken another two records - becoming the youngest Barcelona player to play in the UEFA Champions League and the youngest to score a league goal for the club.

BARCELONA FACTFILE

FOUNDED:
1899

STADIUM:
Camp Nou

CAPACITY:
96,336

HONOURS:
18 League Championships
24 National Cups
2 National League Cups
7 National Super Cups
2 UEFA Champions League/
European Cups
4 European Cup-Winners' Cups
3 Fairs' Cups
2 UEFA Super Cups



GOACH - FRANK RIJKAARD

The Dutch legend took over as Barcelona coach in 2003 following a spell in charge of his national side. As a player, he had a glittering career with Ajax and AC Milan - winning a total of seven domestic league medals, three European Cups and one Cup Winners' Cup with both sides. He also lifted the European Championships with Holland in 1988. As coach of Barcelona, he has guided the club to two La Liga titles and the UEFA Champions League in 2006.

UEFA Champions League



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Hall Of Fame

GREAT PLAYERS FOR A GREAT CLUB

As one of the most famous names in football, it's not surprising that Barcelona can also boast of having had some of the greatest ever players in their ranks over the years.

That has continued right up until the present day, with players such as Xavi,

Thierry Henry, Ronaldinho, Lionel Messi and Samuel Eto'o in their ranks.

These players are following in a long line of great players and, ahead of tonight's UEFA Champions League clash, we take a look at a few Barcelona greats over the past 30 years, starting with the footballing legend that is Johan Cruyff.

JOHAN CRUYFF

(143 appearances, 48 goals)

Already a two-time European Player of the Year in arguably the greatest ever Ajax team, the Dutch master hit some of his finest form at the Nou Camp. Signed in 1973 for a then world record £922,300, Cruyff had already endeared himself to the Barca fans by knocking back a bid from Real Madrid and went on to cement his place as one of their most loved players in his five years at the club. When he arrived, the Catalans were struggling in mid-table, at the end of the season they were crowned champions with a 5-0 humiliation of arch-rivals Real in Madrid among the highlights. As a player he won one title and one Copa del Rey. As manager between 1988 and 1996 he won four championships, one domestic cup, the Cup-Winners' Cup, European Cup and UEFA Super Cup.



JOHAN NEESKENS

(230 appearances, 56 goals)

Currently working as assistant to Frank Rijkaard, Johan 'Segundo' (or Johan the Second) arrived in Barcelona not long after Cruyff to act as his shield and protector in the centre of midfield. A vital cog in the Dutch side that finished as runners-up in the 1974 and '78 World Cups, he actually started out life as a right-back before moving in to the centre of midfield. He was not, however, a destructive or defensive force in the centre of the park, as his 17 goals in 49 appearances for Holland and his healthy scoring rate for both Barca and Ajax highlight. Was recently named by Pele as one of the world's greatest living players.



DIEGO MARADONA

(73 appearances, 45 goals)

A player who needs no introduction, but it could be said that the Barcelona supporters did not truly see the best of Diego Armando Maradona. Perhaps it took time for Maradona to adapt to the European game after his move from Boca Juniors in 1982, but during his two years at the club he still provided ample evidence of his genius. One Copa del Rey, one league title, one Spanish Super Cup and a beautiful goal in Madrid which was even applauded by the Real fans are just some of the highlights. Hailed as a Barca great and, alongside Pele, one of the greatest players of all-time.



BERND SCHUSTER

(170 appearances, 63 goals)

There may be a few thoughts of 'what might have been' concerning Bernd Schuster and had he not (like Diego Maradona) been horribly injured by a brutal foul by Andoni Goikoetxea, 'the Butcher of Bilbao', one wonders just what level he would have reached. That said, of all the foreigners to ply their trade at the Nou Camp during the 1980s, the German made the greatest impact. Between 1980 and '88 he won three domestic cups, a League title, the Cup-Winners Cup and a number of personal awards. He did however blot his copy book by moving to Real Madrid, where he is presently working as manager.



GARY LINEKER

(103 appearances, 43 goals)

A total of 21 goals in 41 games during his first season in Barcelona highlight Lineker's extraordinary ability in front of goal and he rightly deserves the crown of one of the game's greatest poachers. But there was much more to Lineker's game and on and off the park he was the consummate professional. While other Englishmen floundered abroad, he made the effort to learn the local language and the customs and history of his new club. He left Barca after three years after being moved to the midfield, but his hat-trick in a 3-2 win over Real Madrid ensures a special place in supporters' affections.

Gary Lineker interview: page 44



STEVE ARCHIBALD

(55 appearances, 24 goals)

The only Scot to ply his trade in Catalunya, Steve Archibald established himself as a fans' favourite and today continues to live and work in Barcelona. A former team-mate of Gordon Strachan at Aberdeen, he enjoyed success at almost every club he played for and were it not for the presence of Mark Hughes and Gary Lineker in the squad and restrictions on the number of foreign players who could play at one time, he would certainly have made a greater impact. His goalscoring rate is, however, astounding, averaging just under a goal every two games.



JOSEP GUARDIOLA

(472 caps, 10 goals)

Regarded as the best player to emerge from the Barca youth system, 'Pep' was the man who dictated the pace of play in the 'Dream Team' with his extraordinary vision and ability. His 11-year spell at the club is one marked by unparalleled success and even when surrounded by superstars, his was one of the first names on the team sheet. As club captain, Guardiola made the No.4 jersey his own and today continues to have a direct influence on the club's future, helping rear their young stars as head coach of reserve outfit, Barcelona B.



JULIO SALINAS

(146 appearances, 60 goals)

One of the heroes of Barcelona's 1992 European Cup triumph, the Basque-born Julio Salinas played for the Catalan club between 1988-94. He won four league titles with Barca, adding to the two he'd won at Athletic Bilbao, while he also gained 56 caps for Spain and played in three World Cups. As well as his European Cup triumph, he also won the European Cup-Winners' Cup, scoring in the 2-0 victory over Sampdoria in 1989. During a career that lasted 18 years, he made a total of 417 appearances in the Spanish league for a number of clubs including Barcelona, scoring 152 goals.



RIVALDO

(253 appearances, 136 goals)

For a player predominantly used as a left-winger or attacking midfielder, Brazilian Rivaldo racked up an extraordinary goalscoring rate after arriving in 1997 from Deportivo La Coruna. His acrobatic bicycle-kick against Valencia, his third in a hat-trick which secured UEFA Champions League football in 2001 is probably the one most people remember though. The performance was typical of the tall, but sublimely talented playmaker and whenever he was needed, he delivered. A former World Player and European Player of the Year, he is not only seen as a Barca great, but also one of the greatest Brazilians to ply their trade in Europe.



LUIS ENRIQUE

(354 appearances, 123 goals)

The player arrived at the Nou Camp in 1996 after playing for Real Madrid for five years and quickly became one of the most popular players ever to have played for Barca. Luis Enrique was a skilled and tireless worker, and a great goalscorer too, especially when his team were trailing, where he was never was one to throw in the towel, even in the most difficult of situations. He would constantly encourage his colleagues, and was an important squad member both on and off the pitch. He stayed at Barca until he finally retired in 2004.



MIGUEL ANGEL NADAL

(208 appearances, 12 goals)

A tremendous defender who was also able to play in midfield, Nadal spent eight years at Barcelona between 1991-99, making over 200 appearances for the club. An uncompromising player, he was nicknamed 'The Beast of Barcelona', though he had enough ability to win 62 caps for Spain. His latter-day claim to fame is that his nephew is top tennis player Rafael Nadal. He joined Barcelona from Mallorca, having played for them for five years and he returned to the club in 1999, spending another six years there before hanging up his boots.



ROMARIO

(82 appearances, 53 goals)

Romario moved to Barca in 1993 from PSV Eindhoven and stayed two years at the club, helping them win the league in his first season with an incredible 30 goals in just 33 appearances. At the end of that season he helped Brazil lift the World Cup in the United States. His second season wasn't quite so magical and his off-field activities, in particular his penchant for extended holidays, led to his departure in 1995, going back to Brazil and Flamengo. Recently, he claimed to have scored his 1000th professional goal though there seemed to be a bit of creative accounting in reaching that tally, including goals in games where he hadn't actually played!



ANDONI ZUBIZARRETA

(490 appearances, 435 goals conceded)

Zubizarreta is considered to be not only one of the greatest goalkeepers in Barcelona's history but in Spanish football. He was capped 126 times for Spain, playing at four World Cups and two European Championships, while he holds the record for most appearances in the Spanish top division with 588 - for Barca, Athletic Bilbao and Valencia. He was outstanding at Wembley when Barcelona beat Sampdoria to win the European Cup and he also went on to captain the club for a number of years. A true Barca legend, he won four league titles, the European Cup-Winners' Cup, two Copa del Reys and two Spanish Cups with the club.



HRISTO STOICHKOV

(336 appearances, 162 goals)

The Bulgarian playmaker joined Barca in 1990 from CSKA Sofia, staying at the club for eight years though during that time he had one season with Parma in Italy. Stoichkov was an important member of Barcelona's 'Dream Team' under Johan Cruyff and he helped the club win their first European Cup in 1992. A creative genius, if at times a little temperamental, his fighting spirit - in the best sense of the phrase - endeared him to the Barcelona fans who saw a player always willing to give everything to the cause. He also won five league titles and a European Cup-Winners' Cup with Barca.



HENRIK LARSSON

(54 appearances, 15 goals)

Henrik Larsson's Barcelona statistics don't quite measure up to those he achieved at Celtic - 242 goals from 315 appearances - but, then again, he wasn't at the Nou Camp for as long, only two years between 2004-06. Included in his 15 goals for the Catalan giants was one against Celtic in the UEFA Champions League, while he played an instrumental role in Barca's 2006 triumph in the competition, coming off the bench to help his side beat Arsenal 2-1. Most definitely a Celtic legend, the Super Swede was also an immensely popular figure at Barcelona, who lamented his departure in 2006.



RONALDO

(51 appearances, 48 goals)

The Brazilian striker may only have spent a season at the Nou Camp between 1996-97 but his statistics are phenomenal - 48 goals in 51 appearances, which helped Barca win the European Cup-Winners' Cup, the Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup. Brought to the club by Bobby Robson, Barca fans hoped that Ronaldo would spearhead further success but a series of disputes between the club and his agents led to him leaving for Inter Milan. Ronaldo didn't endear himself to the Barca fans when he later returned to Spain and Real Madrid. More recently, having joined AC Milan, he's suffered a knee injury which threatens to end his career.



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ONE TO WATCH



NAME: Lionel Andres Messi

DATE OF BIRTH: June 24, 1987

HEIGHT: 5ft 6in

PREVIOUS CLUB: Newell's Old Boys Youth team

BARCELONA DEBUT: v Espanyol on October 16, 2004. At the time he was the third youngest player ever to play for Barca. Later that season he became the youngest player ever to play for Barcelona in La Liga, and when he netted against Albacete on May 1, 2005 he became Barca's youngest ever goalscorer. However, in 2007 current team-mate Bojan Krkic broke both these records.

EUROPEAN DEBUT: v Porto, 2005/06 UEFA Champions League

SQUAD NUMBER: 19

INTERNATIONAL DEBUT: For Argentina v Hungary on August 17, 2005. He came on as a 63rd minute substitute but was sent off 40 seconds later for elbowing an opponent. He left the pitch in tears.

BARCELONA RECORD: 94 appearances, 38 goals

EUROPEAN RECORD:

UEFA Champions League - 17 appearances, 6 goals

Overall - 18 appearances - 6 goals

HONOURS:

FIFA Under-20 World Cup winner 2005

Golden Ball top player in 2005 U20 World Cup

Golden Boot top scorer in 2005 U20 World Cup

La Liga - 2004/05 & 2005/06

Supercopa de Espana - 2005 & 2006

UEFA Champions League - 2005/06 (missed final through injury)

World Soccer Young Player of the Year - 2006 & 2007

Argentinian Player of the Year - 2005

FIFPro World Young Player of the Year - 2006

FIFPro World XI - 2007

Best foreign player in La Liga - 2007

AND ANOTHER THING...

For the past 15 years or so the world has been waiting for the new Maradona, and while there will only ever be one Diego, Lionel Messi might be the nearest thing we see to the great man himself. Two of Diego's most famous goals were scored against England in Mexico in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final and last season Messi scored goals that drew immediate comparisons. The first was on April 18, 2007 against Getafe in the Copa del Ray semi-final. Messi ran approximately the same distance as Diego did 21 years earlier, beat the same number of players (6), scored from a similar position and ran to the same corner flag to celebrate. Weeks later against city rivals Espanyol, Messi scored with a 'header' though TV pictures clearly showed he netted with his hand.

ALSO...

In September 2005, Messi became a Spanish citizen having moved to Europe with his family at the age of 13. He then turned down the opportunity to play for Spain as he wanted to wait for the chance to play for the land of his birth, Argentina.





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THE ROUTE TO THE LAST 16 CELTIC

CELTIC have made it two in a row, progressing into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League for the second consecutive year.

Now the Scottish Champions are ready to take on Barcelona in the fortress that is Celtic Park.

Unlike previous years, the Hoops needed to qualify for the group stages this season and they faced the toughest possible draw - Russian side Spartak Moscow and the artificial pitch of the Luzhniki Stadium. But in the end, the Celts qualified in style.

Following Artur Boruc's heroics, Celtic triumphed in a dramatic penalty shoot-out back in August. Kalinichenko failed to convert the Russians' fifth spot-kick and the Hoops won 4-3 in a tense, nerve-wracking climax.

With the UEFA Champions League final taking place in Russia in May, Celtic will be hoping it is a case of starting in Moscow...and finishing in Moscow.

**Matchday One
Shakhtar Donetsk 2-0 Celtic
September 18, 2007, RSC Olympiyskiy
CELTIC made the worst possible start to their UEFA Champions League campaign when the home side struck early.**

Conceding two goals within the first eight minutes was enough to kill the game and all but guarantee no way back. Shakhtar's strike force of Brandao and Lucarelli were the men who fired the warning signals with two early goals.

The game settled after Paul Hartley fell back into the holding role, but Celtic were still not able to capitalise on their increased possession.

Artur Boruc was immense between the sticks and keeping the score at 2-0 would prove to be crucial in bolstering the Celts' chances.

**Matchday Two
Celtic 2-1 AC Milan
(McManus, McDonald)
October 3, 2007, Celtic Park
IT was the toughest possible test for Gordon Strachan's side as they faced the reigning European champions in their first home game of the group stages.**

AC Milan, the team who had knocked Celtic out at the last 16 stage last season en route to winning the tournament, were the visitors, and it proved to be a night of high-drama at Paradise.

Scott McDonald's late, late strike gave Celtic the 2-1 victory and a massive boost for their campaign. Captain Stephen McManus had opened the scoring just after the hour mark. Milan quickly responded by converting a dubious penalty six minutes later before McDonald stepped forward to be the last-gasp Hoops hero.

**Matchday 3
Benfica 1-0 Celtic
October 24, 2007, Estadio Do Sport Lisboa E Benfica
CELTIC were three minutes from securing a valuable point away from home when Benfica snatched victory through a Cardozo strike in the 87th minute. There was an aura of deja vu for the Scottish Champions who yet again, came home with nothing to show for their efforts.**

Following the defeat in Ukraine, the opening 20

minutes were vital for Celtic as they contained the Portuguese giants. Chris Killen did well up front on his own but Artur Boruc and the woodwork kept the scoreline down.

With just three points from three games, Celtic's bid for qualification was looking difficult to achieve.

**Matchday 4
Celtic 1-0 Benfica
(McGeady)
November 6, 2007, Celtic Park
WHEN Benfica previously visited the East End of Glasgow last season, they were out-played and out-classed by a Celtic side on fire.**

And while this year's UEFA Champions League clash did not produce the same impressive 3-0 victory, the match was certainly an end-to-end spectacle.

Aiden McGeady's strike just before half time was enough to guarantee three points for the Hoops in a game which merited more goals considering the amount of attempts both teams had.

With AC Milan beating Shakhtar Donetsk 3-0 on the same night, Celtic's hopes of reaching the last 16 were given a timely boost. Equal on six points, the next game against the Ukrainians would prove to be critical.

**Matchday 5
Celtic 2-1 Shakhtar Donetsk
(Jarosik, Donati)
November 28, 2007, Celtic Park
IF Scott McDonald's last-minute strike against AC Milan was sweet, Massimo Donati's against Shakhtar Donetsk sent supporters into dream land.**

Forget 90th-minute winners, the Italian midfielder sealed victory for the Hoops with the last kick of the ball in injury time, sparking chants of 'Mo, Mo Massimo' long after the final whistle.

After just four minutes, Brandao had put the visitors ahead and it looked like an action replay of the opening game was on the cards.

Celtic fought back despite Shakhtar's time-wasting theatrics and Jiri Jarosik equalised on the stroke of half time. Donati's 94th-minute winner left Celtic needing just a point from their final game, away in Italy, to be absolutely guaranteed of qualifying.

**Matchday 6
Celtic 0-1 AC Milan
December 4, 2007, Stadio Giuseppe Meazza
THE last game of the group stages will be remembered more for the outcome than the score.**

Considering so much was at stake, the game was played in a strangely subdued tempo. Celtic needed a point to be sure of progressing to the last 16 while a point for AC Milan would confirm them as group winners.

The scores were level until Filippo Inzaghi scored a record-breaking 63rd goal, making him the top scorer in UEFA competitions. Scott Brown's booking means he will miss the first leg of the Barcelona tie. Aiden McGeady and Jiri Jarosik had good chances to equalise, but with Benfica beating Shakhtar 2-1 on a nail-biter of a night, Celtic progressed into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League for a second consecutive season, setting up tonight's clash with Barcelona.

THE ROUTE TO THE LAST 16 BARCELONA

INSTALLED as one of the strong favourites to win the UEFA Champions League before a ball was even kicked, Barcelona were handed a tough-looking draw in the group stages.

Joining French champions Lyon, Germany's VfB Stuttgart and Rangers, the Catalans weren't expected to have things their own way in Group E. Yet, their response was that which you would expect from a Barcelona side containing so many world-class players.

After romping past Lyon in their opening match, Barca went through the entire group phase unbeaten, with a certain Argentine teenager the star of the show.

**Matchday One
Barcelona 3-0 Lyon
(Clerc og, Messi, Henry)
September 19, 2007**

**Nou Camp
A TOUGH start on paper for the Catalan side but Barcelona made easy work of French champions Lyon and sent out a clear message to their Euro rivals with a routine win.**

The hosts took the lead through a first-half Francois Clerc own goal. Argentine wonderkid Lionel Messi was the architect, skipping past two challenges before his shot was deflected in by Clerc.

Messi doubled Barca's advantage after the break and Thierry Henry rounded off the comfortable win - poking into an empty net in injury-time to leave Lyon deflated.

**Matchday Two
VfB Stuttgart 0-2 Barcelona
(Puyol, Messi)
October 2, 2007**

Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium

BARCELONA travelled to Germany and made it six points out of six with another comprehensive victory full of style and panache.

Captain Carles Puyol, who had just returned from injury, put his side ahead eight minutes after the break, ghosting in to steer home a rebound from Ronaldinho's header.

With Henry and Messi both impressing, Barcelona had several chances and the duo combined to great effect for the Argentine's clincher.

After only two games, Barca already had one foot in the last 16, while Stuttgart were propping up Group E.

**Matchday Three
Rangers 0-0 Barcelona
October 23, 2007**

**Ibrox
BARCELONA dropped their first points of the campaign in Glasgow as Rangers put up the shutters to frustrate Frank Rijkaard's men.**

The visitors had all the best chances of the game as they dominated possession, but wasteful finishing and good goalkeeping kept the score level.

Henry and Messi both contrived to miss glorious chances as Rangers tried to stem the flow, while Ronaldinho's stunning free-kick bounced off the bar to safety.

In the end, Barca had to be content with a draw, but they maintained their unbeaten run and were closing in on qualification.

**Matchday Four
Barcelona 2-0 Rangers
(Henry, Messi)
November 7, 2007**

**Nou Camp
NEEDING a win to all but guarantee qualification for the knockout phase, Barca cruised to victory against Rangers in a one-sided contest to practically book their place in the last 16.**

Only six minutes were on the clock when Henry put his side ahead. Ronaldinho's cross found Messi and his header rebounded off the post, but Henry - sliding in - managed to force the ball over the line.

Barca swarmed Rangers' half after the opener and grabbed a vital second before the break. Ronaldinho's slick one-two with Messi carved open the Rangers defence and the teenager steered home a shot after the Brazilian's shot had been saved.

**Matchday Five
Lyon 2-2 Barcelona
(Iniesta, Messi)
November 27, 2007**

**Stade Gerland
ANDRES INIESTA gave Barcelona a dream start with the opening goal in three minutes as Rijkaard's men shocked the French side.**

Yet, that lead lasted only a few minutes as Brazilian playmaker Juninho dragged Lyon back into

the game with a spectacular, quick-fire leveller.

In a fascinating contest, Barca and Lyon created openings, before Messi put the Catalan side ahead after the break with a cool penalty.

It looked as if the visitors would be leaving with the points, but Juninho had other ideas and stroked home a spot-kick with just minutes remaining to make it 2-2.

Yet Barca still went through, while Lyon were left to fight it out for the remaining knockout place with Rangers.

**Matchday Six
Barcelona 3-1 VfB Stuttgart
(Giovani, Eto'o, Ronaldinho)
December 12, 2007**

**Nou Camp
BARCELONA emerged through the group stages unbeaten after overcoming an early blow to beat Stuttgart with some ease.**

The Germans stunned Barca by taking the lead after just three minutes, when Antonio Da Silva rattled home a free-kick.

It was a shock for the home side, but Barca continued to play their normal game and forced an equaliser just before half-time - Giovanni profiting from Ronaldinho's good work to slam a shot home.

After the break, it was all Barca and Samuel Eto'o scored his first UEFA Champions League goal for 15 months when he took Xavi's pass and clinically found the net.

Ronaldinho grabbed a third to finish Barca's group campaign in style, while Lyon beat Rangers 3-0 at Ibrox to join them in the last 16.

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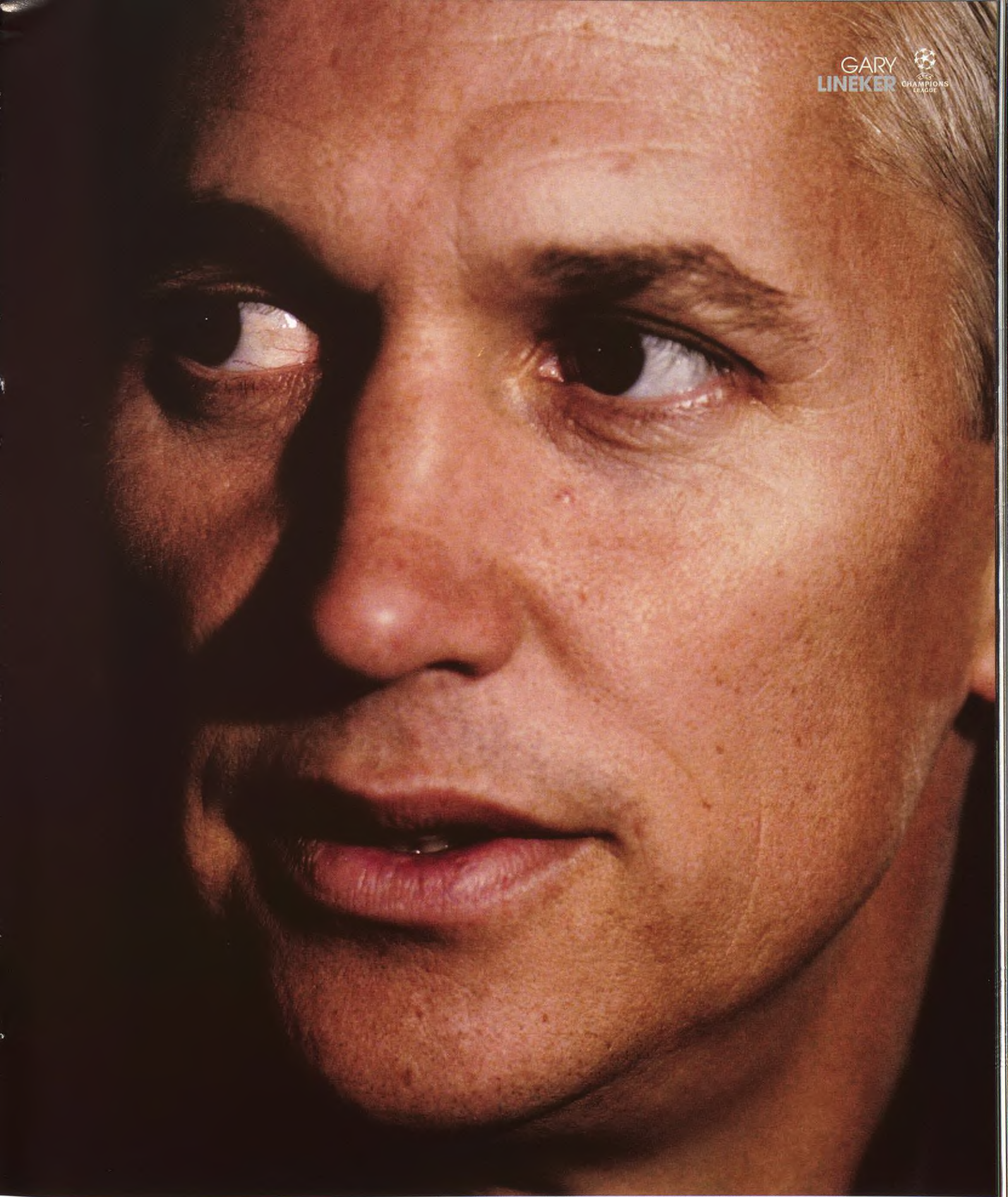
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Clash Of The Titans

AS AN EX-BARCELONA PLAYER, GARY LINEKER HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR THE CATALAN GIANTS BUT HE'LL BE DELIGHTED IF HIS FRIEND AND FORMER MEDIA COLLEAGUE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL TONIGHT

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: DAVID FRIEL



GARY LINEKER watched with great interest as a man he calls a friend masterminded a historic new chapter in Celtic's fascinating European history by twice taking the club into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League.

Tonight, as his former employers Barcelona arrive in Glasgow, the Englishman will look to see if the Hoops can go one step further as two of the world's great football institutions meet on the biggest stage of all.

A place in the latter phase of Europe's premier competition is becoming an annual occurrence for Celtic and Lineker has been greatly impressed with the work done by Gordon Strachan.

Having been a rival during his playing days and then a colleague on the BBC's World Cup coverage, the *Match of the Day* presenter has kept a close eye on Celtic's improving fortunes in Europe. The results have buoyed Lineker.

"Gordon, like Martin O'Neill before him, has done a brilliant job with Celtic and has really managed to put the club back on the map in terms of European football," said Lineker, as he spoke exclusively to the Matchday Programme.

"I know both of them well. They are brilliant managers and great characters. They are both quite sparky, witty, amusing personalities.

"Yet, they are also both very intelligent. Celtic have done really well to get those two guys and the success is there for all to see.

"When Martin took over, he got Celtic going again and managed to return the club to former glories in Europe.

"Gordon has continued that progress by winning two SPL titles and taking them into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League twice. He has done a fantastic job for a great football club.

"I've not had a chance to see that much of Celtic in the UEFA Champions League this season, but I catch the highlights and they have done really well.



"To get through to this stage of the competition, where it gets really exciting, is an achievement in itself. Yes, it's a tough draw but that happens.

"Barcelona are one of the great three sides in Europe at the moment and would pose any team problems. They have some fantastic players.

"In La Liga, they are probably not doing as well as they would have liked but going forward they are world-class.

"Ronaldinho is getting back to his best form, while Lionel Messi is one of the world's great young players. Then you have Samuel Eto'o and others...they have so much talent in forward positions.

"But there is always a chance against them.

Traditionally, Barca have always been friendly at the back - they prefer just to try and outscore teams. They are wonderful to watch, but if Celtic defend well over the two legs, they have a chance.

"It will certainly be an amazing night at Celtic Park. I know from experience that the atmosphere is electric and I'm sure it will be a famous occasion.

"We have done a few Glasgow derbies with the BBC at Celtic Park, while we also covered a few European games over the years.

"It can be absolutely electric, especially when it's an evening game in European competition. With the history Celtic have as a football club in Europe, it will be one of those great nights again."

Naturally, Lineker knows all about the star-studded squad Barcelona will bring to Celtic Park tonight, but he is also an admirer of many Celtic players - not least Shunsuke Nakamura.

The emergence of the Japanese playmaker has caught the attention of Lineker, who spent two years playing in the Far East with Nagoya Grampus Eight.

Along with Zico, he was one of the first high-profile foreigners to play in the J-League when it was first launched in the early 1990s and is thrilled that the country is now developing footballers of this standard.

"I always thought Japan would be able to produce a player of Nakamura's calibre," he said. "They were so into football when I moved over and I



always thought they would produce some excellent players in a generation or two.

"They are starting to do that and guys like Nakamura are more than capable of performing to a high level in European football, which is great to see

"HAVING GUYS LIKE NAKAMURA PLAY AGAINST BARCELONA ON SUCH A BIG STAGE WILL CREATE SO MUCH INTEREST IN THE FAR EAST. IT WILL BE WATCHED ALL OVER ON TELEVISION AND WILL HOPEFULLY HELP THEM PRODUCE EVEN MORE GOOD FOOTBALLERS."

because it was pretty much a fresh start when I was over there.

"Having guys like Nakamura play against Barcelona on such a big stage will create so much interest in the Far East. It will be watched all over on television and will hopefully help them produce even more good footballers."

With a record of 43 goals in 103 appearances for Barcelona between 1986 and 1989, Lineker will always have a soft spot for the Catalan club, with whom he won the Copa Del Rey and European Cup-Winners' Cup.

"It was a great experience," he said. "Barcelona is a wonderful football club and it went very well for me, especially the first two seasons. The last season wasn't so great because the new manager (Johann Cruyff) came in and he wanted his own people, and I ended up on the wing a lot.

"But I had some amazing experiences in the first two years and it's just one of the best clubs in the world to play for.

"It's a whole way of life for people in Barcelona and the club's motto, 'Mes que un club', sums it up because it is more than a club.

"As long as you are reasonably successful with Barca, it helps your confidence. As a person, I think it pushes you. You learn a lot about yourself when you go to play for a big club and whether you can handle the pressure.

"Also, the opportunity to live in Barcelona, immerse myself in a different culture and learn a new language was fantastic. I learned Spanish and it was a fabulous experience."

The two cup wins naturally rank as highlights of Lineker's spell with the Catalan side, but a match-winning hat-trick in a 3-2 win over Real Madrid in the world-famous 'El Clasico' in 1987 also merits a mention.

"Things went well," said Lineker, with a hint of an understatement. "To play in that game for the first time and get a hat-trick was unbelievable.

"I remember I scored two goals in the first five minutes and the atmosphere was incredible - I had goosebumps all over the back of my neck.

"I've never experienced an ovation like that and then to get the hat-trick just after half-time topped it off. From that point forward, I was always going to be remembered reasonably fondly by the Barcelona fans.

"In fact every time we played Real at home, I managed to score. A hat-trick in the first match and winning goals in the next two...that was a lucky game for me."

Looking at this season's UEFA Champions League, Lineker sees much that intrigues him. Generally, he believes the best, most affluent teams rise to the top.

However, in pointing to the surprise success of Liverpool in 2005, he stressed that when the tournament reaches the knockout phase, nothing is impossible.

"I think it's a fantastic tournament, especially when you go past the group stage," he said. "That's when it gets exciting because all the best players in the world are involved with the top teams.

"It's just wonderful to watch, especially if your team is in it. We now have three, sometimes four, clubs from certain countries involved every year and the standard is high. It's different from the old European Cup, but it's still as exciting.

"Who will win it? The English clubs have a chance. Arsenal are playing some great stuff at the moment, while Manchester United are exceptional.

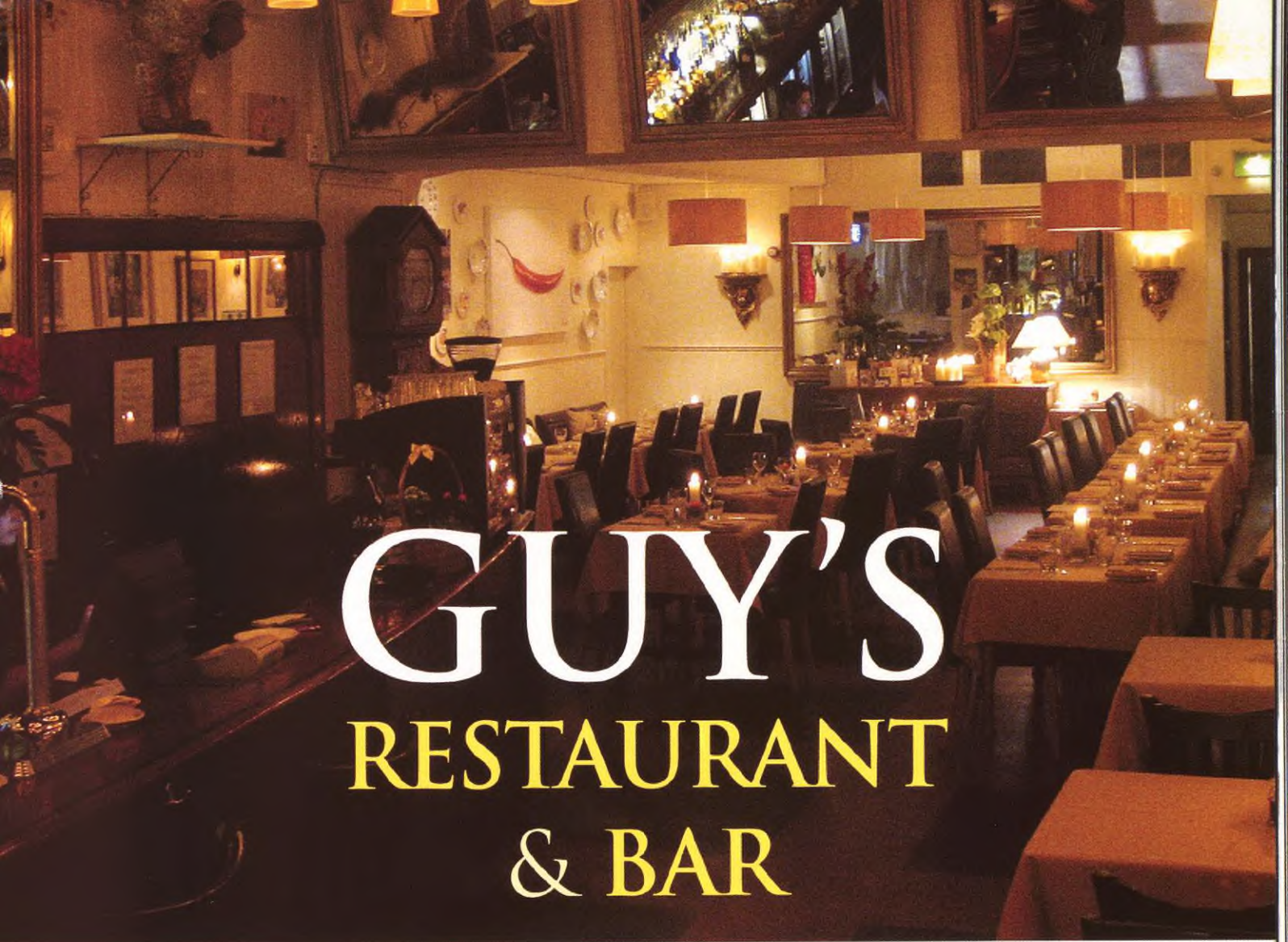
"There are a couple of strong Italian sides, while the two Spanish giants will have ambitions to go all the way. All the big guns are in it now and you won't get an easy game.

"But in the knockout stage, you always have a chance as Liverpool proved in 2005. No-one really fancied them to go all the way, but they surprised everyone by winning the whole tournament. You just never know what will happen."



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>> PREVIOUS MEETINGS

WORDS: JOE SULLIVAN

HEAD2HEAD

TONIGHT we welcome Barcelona to Celtic Park for the fourth time on competitive duty and for the third time in four years.

Before that, though, there was a gap of nigh on 40 years between visits while Celtic crossed swords with other Spanish clubs such as both of the Madrid sides, Valencia, Real Sociedad and Celta Vigo.

Since then the Hoops have also clashed with Villarreal in European Competition as well as visiting Spanish soil for the UEFA Cup final in Seville.

In tonight's programme we take a look back at the meetings with Barca - and most of them will still be pretty fresh in the memory.

Fairs Cities Cup (UEFA) 1964/65

Second Round First Leg, November 18, 1964

Barcelona 3

(Zaldua 12, Seminario 22, Rife 83)

Celtic 1

(Hughes 55)

Only 25,000 were in the Nou Camp as Barcelona recorded a 3-1 first leg victory in the Fairs Cities Cup. Celtic, managed at that time by Jimmy McGrory, lost two goals in the first-half and suffered a further blow when John Clark was injured. With no substitutes allowed at that time, Clark had to limp bravely on for the entire second-half, and the Hoops even got a boost 10 minutes after the break when John 'Yogi' Hughes scored a goal. However, the Catalan giants grabbed their third when Rife scored with just seven minutes of the match remaining.

Second Round Second Leg, December 2

Celtic 0

Barcelona 0

A goal-less draw at Celtic Park saw Celtic eliminated from the competition. Barcelona

remained the more comfortable side throughout the match and Celtic's cause wasn't helped when they were reduced to 10 men with 15 minutes remaining after Stevie Chalmers was forced to go off with a leg injury. Billy McNeill, who had previously missed 10 games returned for both Barca games and linked up with John Cushley in the second leg, played in front of a healthier 43,000 crowd. Just months later, Celtic had a new manager in Jock Stein, an appointment which would herald a glorious era for the club.

UEFA Cup 2003/04

Fourth Round, First leg, March 11, 2004

Celtic 1

(Thompson 59)

Barcelona 0

It was the tie of the round as Celtic took on Barcelona for a place in the quarter-finals of the

UEFA Cup. Celtic, having reached the UEFA Cup final the season before, were looking for another extended run in the competition while Barcelona, with Ronaldinho in their ranks, arrived at Celtic Park as favourites for the game. But although the Catalan side created a number of chances, it was Celtic who scored the only goal of the game. Alan Thompson cracked home a knock-down from Henrik Larsson after 59 minutes to give Martin O'Neill's side a slender lead to take to the Nou Camp.

Fourth round, second leg, March 25,

Barcelona 0

Celtic 0

A magnificent and heroic performance in the Nou Camp saw Martin O'Neill's side knock out Barcelona. David Marshall made all the headlines with a magnificent display, producing a series of wonderful saves from first minute to

March 11, 2004: Alan Thompson celebrates scoring the only goal of the game.



UEFA Champions League



last. But every player in the Hoops that night was a hero, keeping Barca at bay and preventing them from scoring for a second consecutive 90 minutes. The final whistle sparked great celebrations in the Nou Camp stadium, which went on late into the night in the city of Barcelona. The result gave Celtic a place in the quarter-finals against Spanish side Villarreal.

UEFA Champions League 2004/05

Group F, September 14, 2004

Celtic 1

(Sutton 59)

Barcelona 3

(Deco 20, Giuly 78, Larsson 82)

This was the opening night of the Group F games as tonight's teams vied with Shakhtar Donetsk and AC Milan for supremacy in a very tight section indeed. Deco had given the visitors a half-time lead by netting in the 20th minute but Chris Sutton produced some hope when he equalised just before the hour mark. A few minutes later, Henrik Larsson was introduced for Barca and Ludovic Giuly made it 2-1 just minutes before the Swede did the inevitable - at the stadium where he had scored more than any other, did so again but this time he scored against Celtic



March 25, 2004: David Marshall pulls off another world class save.

UEFA Champions League 2004/05

Group F, November 24, 2004

Barcelona 1

(Eto'o 25)

Celtic 1

(Hartson 45)

A crowd of over 74,000 looked on as Samuel Eto'o opened the scoring in the 25th minute to put the home side in the driving seat but, with Larsson

unavailable, there was no more scoring from Barca and that opened the door for something of a red letter night for the travelling fans. John Hartson equalised just before the break and the Nou Camp became the only away ground where Celtic managed to avoid defeat in the UEFA Champions League - the other side of the coin is that Barcelona are the only visitors to have recorded a win here at Celtic Park in the tournament proper.

November 24, 2004: John Hartson celebrates his equaliser with Chris Sutton.





EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: GREGOR KYLE

WHO PUT THE BALL IN THE BARCA NET?

ALAN THOMPSON SCORED THE DECISIVE GOAL WHEN THE SIDES MET BACK IN 2004 AND HE'D LOVE NOTHING BETTER THAN FOR ANOTHER HOOPS HERO TO EMERGE TONIGHT

Of all of Celtic's celebrated victories in Europe under Martin O'Neill, this was arguably the one which encapsulated his side's fighting spirit and also their complete disregard for rank and reputation.

When Barcelona arrived in Glasgow in March 2004 they were in the midst of an undefeated run which, under new manager, Frank Rijkaard propelled them from the lower reaches of the Spanish La Liga to title contention and an eventual second-placed finish.

That season the foundations were laid for their ensuing back-to-back championship victories and UEFA Champions League triumph, with the likes of Carles Puyol, Xavi, Rafael Marquez and the sublimely gifted Ronaldinho establishing themselves as some of the finest players in European football.

They were the overwhelming favourites in this fourth round UEFA Cup tie and were largely expected to romp home to victory in the competition that season, while Celtic, who had reached the final the year before, prepared against a backdrop of injury and suspension.

The ensuing 180 minutes of football has its own chapter in the club's European history, with 'The Beating of Barca' built on sweat, toil and courage, with some of the players putting in their finest performances in a Celtic jersey.

One was David Marshall, the then-debutant

goalkeeper who came on after Rab Douglas had been sent-off following an altercation in the Celtic Park tunnel and produced a breathtaking display.

The youthful duo of Stephen Pearson and John Kennedy also surpassed every expectation in midfield and defence, while stalwarts Stilian Petrov, Neil Lennon and Didier Agathe once again rose to the occasion.

At the final whistle just one goal separated the two teams, with Alan Thompson's acrobatic volley rifled past Victor Valdes at Celtic Park and looking back today, the former Celtic midfielder takes pride in that particular performance.

"I remember that in the first half we were defending quite a bit," Thompson told the Matchday Programme. "With the players that they had available and still have available, they are a team who are going to create chances.

"We rode our luck a little bit to be honest and then we had one sent off and they had one sent off at half-time. They then had another player sent off in the second half and before we knew it, it was 10 against nine.

"It was 0-0 and approaching the end of the game and if I remember rightly, everyone was getting a bit tired, they'd put a lot of effort into it.

"Then Didier Agathe got the ball out wide and played quite a long ball into the back post for Henrik. ▶



"I made a run off Henrik, because you always knew that there was a good chance with his ability and vision he could drop one in to you and he did just that.

"I remember thinking, 'just hit the target'. Luckily for me it went in and that set us up for the trip across there.

"As it turned out, we played them home and away and never conceded a goal. Two cleans sheets against a team of that calibre is great and it at least gives you have a chance to get one yourself.

"Like I said, I think we might have rode our luck a bit over the two legs, but you do need that bit of luck."

It was indeed a remarkable win, one that only added to Celtic's re-emerging reputation in Europe, and progress to the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League has further cemented the club's place as one of the continent's better sides.

"I just think that firstly you have to have good players with strong mentalities," said Thompson.

"The expectation levels are high at places like Celtic and you have to have players who can handle that.

"You have to set your sights high and I think we had players who did that as well," he continued. "We had internationalists, we had the likes of Paul Lambert, a European Cup winner, we had people who were playing at the highest level and were good solid players.

"We had ability as well, so I wouldn't say the success we had surprised us, we had to set our sights high.

"Overall I would certainly say that Barca team were one of the best we played in Europe.

"They were all top players and for so many of them to still be playing at the level they are still playing at, week-in, week-out, is testament to their quality.

"At that time they also had the likes of Iniesta coming through and he is more of a figure in the side now and has matured into a first-class player.

"The next batch of youngsters is coming through there and they will be a top club for as long as they are around. It's great to play against those kinds of teams and I have some great memories from the European nights."



Tonight, Gordon Strachan's men will be making that step into the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League for the second consecutive season and as Thompson explained, both the manager and players deserve every credit.

"It's great for them and it's fantastic to see them get through," he commented. "That's the second season in a row they've done it and that's a fantastic achievement.

"To do it once is special, to do it a second time is outstanding and I think they'll be a wee bit older and wiser for last year's experience.

"Who knows?" he added. "They could even go a bit step further and a step further than that. They have players with ability, players who can turn a match and they will just have to make sure that they are building from a solid base in the second leg over there.

"This team hadn't had much experience in this competition, but it's one of those ones where you either sink or swim.

"Fortunately they swam and this experience will stand them in good stead in the years to come. A lot of the players are still a good age and regardless of what happens this season, they can still have a lot of success in the future.

"I really wish them all the best and I hope they do well, this year and in the seasons to come as well."



"I REMEMBER THINKING, 'JUST HIT THE TARGET'. LUCKILY FOR ME IT WENT IN AND THAT SET US UP FOR THE TRIP ACROSS THERE."

"I STILL LOOK FOR THE RESULTS ALL THE TIME AND I STILL TRY AND SEE EVERY OLD FIRM GAME, THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE."

It should come as no surprise to hear that Thompson, who spent some of the best years of his career at Celtic Park, winning an England cap for his efforts, still follows every kick of the ball from his home down south.

Now entering the twilight of his career, the midfielder is presently on loan from Leeds United at Hartlepool, gaining match fitness and enjoying regular first-team football. But away from the day-to-day life of training and matches, he has also been making moves into coaching, working as temporary assistant at Elland Road and completing his badges.

"I still look for the results all the time and I still try and see every Old Firm game," said Thompson. "That's something that will never change.

"Gordon's strengthened the squad at the perfect time this season and I think that Samaras in particular will be a big plus point.

"I've seen him play down here and he has all the attributes to be a good striker at a top level.

"I've also heard Gordon talking about the new lad

from Japan and that he's coming from a different culture and needs time to settle down, so it's important that people don't expect too much from him too early. But I am sure Naka will help him settle in and he'll maybe be one for next season.

"It's looking good at the moment," added Thompson. "I'll be watching tonight and I was actually invited up and would have loved to have been there.

"If it was on a Tuesday I would have been there, but we train on a Thursday morning, so unfortunately I'll be watching this one from home. But if we get through and the next game's a Tuesday I'd love to go.

"I am going to try and get up for one of the Old Firm games before the end of the season though.

"I've got a couple of mates who play for Leeds, Jonathan Douglas and Robert Bayly, two Irish lads who are big Celtic fans, and I've promised them an Old Firm game at Celtic Park and I'd love to do that."



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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Above: Packie Bonner

2007

CELTIC'S most recent game on today's date was exactly 12 months ago tonight and the circumstances were the exact same - the Bhoys were embarking on last 16 UEFA Champions League duty just as they are tonight, only a year ago it was for the first time ever.

The opponents, of course, were Carlo Ancelotti's AC Milan and, like tonight, the visitors arrived here as favourites - although the game didn't go exactly to plan for the Italian giants.

Roared on by a vociferous capacity crowd, the Celts were more than a match for the splendidly talented Serie A side on the night and procured a 0-0 draw to take to Northern Italy a fortnight later.

Again, in the San Siro, the Bhoys produced the goods to contain the Rossoneri, only to be sucker-punched right at the end when Kaka struck in extra-time for the eventual winners of the trophy.

1993

ON this day in 1993 Celtic played out an otherwise pretty insignificant 0-0 home league draw with Partick Thistle watched by a crowd of 15,561, but the game was notable as a milestone in the career of a true Celtic legend - for it was Packie Bonner's 600th game for the club.

The Irish internationalist keeper's first-team career began, appropriately, on St Patrick's Day 1979 with a 2-0 league win at home over Motherwell.

Pat Bonner was to go on and play 641 games for Celtic and only four players - Billy McNeill, Paul McStay, Roy Aitken and Danny McGrain - have played more games for the club. Like McNeill, he bowed out at the top with a Scottish Cup final win over Airdrie.

He is also the Republic's most capped goalkeeper and he made the first of his 80 appearances for his country on his 21st birthday against Poland in 1981.

1981

ANOTHER Celtic legend and long-term team-mate of Pat Bonner's, Paul McStay, signed professional forms with the club on this day in 1981 at the age of 16 but he had already signed on s-form with Celtic as early as 1975.

Within a year he had made his first-team debut and the following season after that he became a permanent fixture in the top side so from then on in, only injury kept him out of the side.

His midfield mastery put him head and shoulders above the rest of his generation and he would play 677 games for Celtic, scoring 72 goals along the way, before injury prompted his retirement in 1997.

By then he had been Celtic captain for seven years, taking over from Roy Aitken in 1990, and he had skippered the side to Scottish Cup victory in 1995 to add to the three previous cup wins as well as three Championships and a solitary League Cup success.

A member of Scotland's Hall of Fame, he scored nine goals in 76 games, and McStay was

also voted into Celtic's Greatest Ever Team alongside some of the heroes he watched play.

1971

THE Celts welcomed Airdrie on league duty on this day in 1971 and although the 27,000 crowd witnessed the rarely seen act of Tommy Gemmell failing to convert a penalty, the Bhoys still won comfortably.

Willie Wallace struck as early as the second minute and he also hit Celtic's next goal minutes after the break.

Harry Hood made it 3-0 in the 71st minute but Drew Jarvie pulled one back 11 minutes from the end of the game.

In the 85th minute, though, Lou Macari re-instated Celtic's three-goal lead and the Celts won 4-1.

1957

THOSE of you who read this feature in Saturday's Hearts programme may recall that the Celts drew 4-4 with Rangers in the Scottish Cup on that day in 1957.

The replay was played on February 20 and this time the Bhoys made sure of progressing to the next round as they beat Rangers 2-0 in front of 88,000 at Ibrox.

John Higgins scored the opener after 15 minutes and 10 minutes before the break, Neilly Mochan finished off the scoring.

1896

PAT Gilhooly scored on his debut on this day in 1896 when a crowd of 15,000 saw the Celts



ACTION FROM LAST SEASON'S UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLASH WITH AC MILAN

draw 1-1 with Hibernian in the league (although some sources credit the goal to Willie Ferguson).

Gilhooly had signed from Cambuslang Hibs the previous month and he proved to be a bit of a rebel while playing for a club he dearly loved, but he did manage to score 20 goals in 50 appearances before he moved to Sheffield United in 1900.

He would go on to play for Tottenham Hotspur and Brighton before retiring in 1905 due to ill health.

1932

FORMER Celtic player and chairman, Jimmy Kelly died on this day in 1932, aged 67 in Blantyre.

Kelly played in Celtic's first ever game, the 5-2 win over Rangers, and securing the signature of this Renton player was a major coup for the fledgling Celtic and clearly attracted other players by adding to the calibre of the club.

He was the club's first ever captain and scored 11 goals in 139 games before retiring in 1897 but he

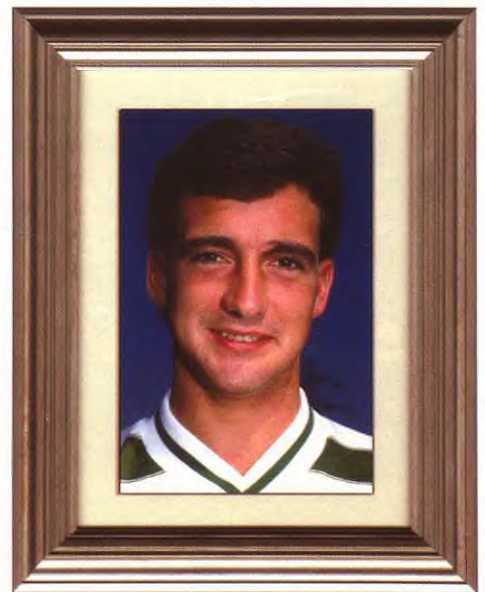
immediately became a director and was chairman between 1909 and 1914.

1897

Celtic's first ever game on this day came in 1897 when Dundee visited on league duty and earned a 1-0 victory in front of a 5,000 crowd as the Celts lost the last three games of the season and their chance of lifting the title.

The Celts went on to meet Dundee on three other occasions on this date throughout the years. On February 20, 1904 they drew 1-1 in the Scottish Cup and then drew 0-0 a week later before the Celts eventually won 5-0 and went on to beat Third Lanark 2-1 in the semi before Jimmy Quinn hit his historical hat-trick in the 3-2 final win over Rangers.

On this day in 1937 Dundee beat Celtic 2-1 in the league but on February 20, 1954 the Celts beat the Dens Parks side 5-1 thanks to goals from Neilly Mochan (2), Jimmy Walsh, Willie Fernie and John Higgins.



Above: Paul McStay



THE SWINGING SIXTIES

WHEN the draw for the last 16 of this year's UEFA Champions League was made and the name of Barcelona was paired with Celtic, the reaction of a few Hoops fans around me was almost one of disappointment. "Ach, we played them only a couple of years ago," was the feeling.

It was all so different back in 1964 when Celtic, in only their third European campaign, to the delight of the support of the time, were drawn against the Catalan giants in the second round of the Fairs Cities Cup. This was be the type of tie they had all been waiting for.

The following is a personal reflection of what proved to be a dramatic few weeks in the history of the club.

Review of the season to mid-November 1964

In the league, Celtic had been having an uncertain season, lying some way behind the leaders in sixth place.

More worryingly, as the big match approached, Celtic had hit a real slump, losing three matches out of four, to Kilmarnock (5-2), St Johnstone (3-0) and Dundee (2-0).

In the League Cup final at the end of October, Rangers had proved too strong, winning 2-1, while in the first round of the Fairs Cities Cup, after a tense 1-1 struggle in Portugal, when Ian Young and Steve Chalmers were sent off, the Hoops eased past Leixoes at Celtic Park by 3-0 for a 4-1 aggregate victory.

November 16, 1964

The Celtic party flew into Catalunya and based themselves at Casteldefels, a seaside resort 12 miles from Barcelona. After having missed the club's last 10 matches with an injury, Billy McNeill was a welcome addition to the squad.

November 17, 1964

The Celtic players had time for a splash in the Mediterranean in the 70-degree heat before heading

to the Nou Camp for a training session in the evening. The host team's interim manager, Senor Sasot - their regular coach had resigned after poor results, the final blow a 5-1 loss to Levante - faced a hostile local press in the press room.

November 18, 1964

Before a smallish crowd almost lost in the huge Nou Camp - estimates varied between 25,000 and 30,000 - the Celtic players ran out to face one of the biggest tests of their careers. The team read: Simpson, Young, Gemmell, Clark, Cushley, Kennedy, Johnstone, Murdoch, Chalmers, McNeill and Hughes. Ronnie Simpson made his first-team debut and Billy McNeill was back, although not at inside-left! He paired up with John Cushley to form a twin centre-half combination in a decidedly defensive formation.

Celtic were two down in the first 22 minutes. First, winger Rife hit the bar and centre-forward Zaldua scored from the rebound. Four minutes later, Zaldua crossed to inside-left Seminario, who headed in number two. And, as if that wasn't bad enough, John Clark received a thigh injury, which - in those days before substitutes - forced him to hobble along at outside left for the remainder of the match. Celtic played with a seven-man defence in the second half and did pull a goal back through John Hughes in 55 minutes. But with seven minutes remaining, Rife, with another header, made the score 3-1 to Barcelona, a more accurate reflection of the play.

November 19-28, 1964

Celtic have comfortable league victories over Falkirk (3-0, H) and Third Lanark (2-0, A). This latter match made football history. The Third Lanark Rifle Volunteers were founded in 1873 and had a long association with Celtic. Indeed, the clubs met in the sixth match of Celtic's first season in 1888/89 - Celtic beat the 'Hi Hi' 4-0 to win their first-ever major trophy, the Glasgow Cup in 1890. And it was

on Third Lanark's ground, Cathkin Park, that Celtic beat Rangers 3-2 to win the Exhibition Trophy of 1902. Unfortunately, just over 62 years later, that match mentioned above between the two Glasgow rivals on November 28, 1964 proved to be the last ever on Cathkin Park, as Third Lanark were relegated at the end of that season and then went into liquidation at the end of 1966/67.

December 2, 1964

A crowd of 43,000 turned up at Celtic Park to see if Hoops could pull back the 3-1 deficit from the first leg. The team looked a more attacking one than in the Nou Camp and used a version of the 4-2-4 formation then coming into prominence.

Barcelona also made changes, mainly to stiffen the defensive aspect of the side. Even so, it contained internationalists from a number of countries - Sadurni, Benitez (Uruguay), Eladio, Verges, Olivella, Garay, Goyvaerts (Belgium), Kocsis (Hungary), Re (Paraguay), Fuste, Seminario (Peru). The crowd was definitely expectant...but Barcelona were canny and gave little away. Their use of the full pitch and close passing ability allowed them to get out of trouble time and again.

"The supporters who had come to cheer on Celtic could only stand in the cold and admire a Spanish defence drilled to Guards precision, marvel at the footwork and praise a foreign team who for once showed that European football can be played without rough-house tactics and disputes with the referee."

(*Evening Times*, December 3, 1964)

One clash of footballing cultures might have caused a problem in the match. For the home crowd, goalkeeper Sadurni spent too long in clearing his lines, an aspect of continental play also disliked by Celtic forward John Hughes, who shoulder-charged him heavily at one point. However, although a few players gathered round the sinner and his victim, commonsense prevailed and play continued.

Results for other Scottish clubs in Europe at the same period

European Cup
Rangers 3-0 Rapid Vienna (agg)

Cup-Winners' Cup
Dundee 3-4 Real Zaragoza 4 (agg)

Fairs Cities Cup
Dunfermline 1-0 Stuttgart (agg)
Kilmarnock 1-6 Everton (agg)

And in the big, bad world...

November 21, 1964

British pop idols, the Dave Clarke Five, had a narrow escape when their plane crashed at San Francisco Airport. The group was taking off in a chartered plane for an engagement in Las Vegas, when it brushed wings with another aircraft. They were all in bits and pieces with the shock but physically unharmed.

November 23, 1964

Scoring **EIGHT** goals on Saturday to give Santos an 11-0 victory over Botafogo Ribeiro Preto, a small club from Sao Paulo State, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, otherwise known as Pele, set a new Brazilian record for a single game.

December 2, 1964

After three trips to Sweden and weeks of phone calls and negotiations, Dundee United finally succeeded in signing Swedish internationalist Orjan Persson.

Billy McNeill



John Hughes



WORDS: Paul Cuddihy

THE LAST 16

BATTLE re-commences this week as the continent's top 16 teams bid to become the champions of Europe, and for the second consecutive season Celtic have reached this stage of the competition.

While the task couldn't be any tougher for Gordon Strachan's side, they will still be

hoping that they can progress to the quarter-finals of the UEFA Champions League.

In tonight's programme, we take a look at the other seven ties of this round, four of which began last night (Tuesday). The other four, including Celtic's mouth-watering clash with Barcelona, take place tonight.

SCHALKE 04 v PORTO

DESPITE losing their first game at home to Valencia, German side Schalke 04 still managed to finish second in Group B behind Chelsea.

It needed a Matchday Six victory over Rosenborg, however, to ensure qualification as Valencia's campaign imploded and they finished bottom. Schalke's reward is a tie against an impressive Porto side who finished top of Group A ahead of last year's runners-up, Liverpool.

Porto, as every Celtic will be painfully remember, beat the Hoops to win the 2003 UEFA Cup and, just 12 months later, they won the UEFA Champions League, defeating Monaco in the final.

The Portuguese side will be favourites to progress to the last eight of the competition but Schalke, currently third in the Bundesliga, will have something to say about that.



ROMA v REAL MADRID

REAL Madrid won Group C ahead of Olympiakos and face a tough tie against Italian side, Roma.

However, with the reigning Spanish champions doing so well in their domestic league - including a recent 7-0 thrashing of Valladolid - they will approach the tie full of confidence.

A trip to the Italian capital will be a familiar experience for Bernd Schuster's side, given they faced Roma's city rivals, Lazio, in the group stages. The sides drew 2-2 in the Olympic Stadium while Real triumphed 3-1 in the Bernabeu.

Roma, meanwhile, were runners-up in Group F behind Manchester United, though perhaps their biggest sense of relief came from not receiving another 7-1 drubbing at Old Trafford, as was the case in 2006/07.



OLYMPIAKOS v CHELSEA

OLYMPIAKOS reached the last 16 of the UEFA Champions League for the first time in their history and their reward for that achievement is a tie against Chelsea. Indeed, the Greek side finished level on points with Real Madrid, but the Spanish side had a better head-to-head record against them.

Olympiakos actually drew two of their home games in the group stages, but a stunning 3-1 away win against Werder Bremen propelled them towards the last 16.

Chelsea, despite early season turmoil with the departure of Jose Mourinho, have stabilised under Avram Grant and, after winning Group B, will be looking to progress to the quarter-finals. Last season they were knocked out in the semi-final of the competition by Liverpool.



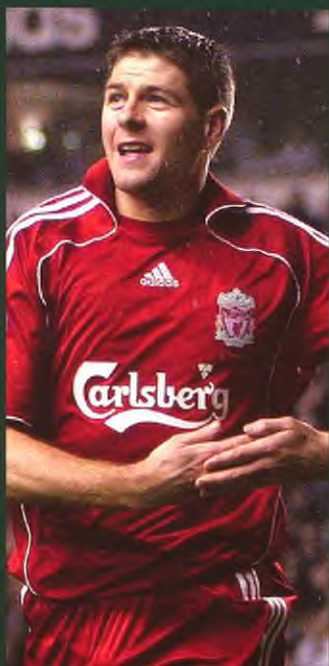
LIVERPOOL v INTER MILAN

LAST season's runners-up in the UEFA Champions League, Liverpool, left it very late to qualify for the knockout stages of this year's competition, needing a 4-0 victory in Marseille on Matchday Six to make it through in second place.

And their reward is a tie against Italian champions Inter Milan, who finished comfortably top of Group G.

Inter are once again leading Serie A this time around while Liverpool continue to toil in the Premiership although they have shown their pedigree in the UEFA Champions League, having also won the competition in 2005.

But they will need a good result at Anfield ahead of a tough trip to Milan and the San Siro, but this tie is probably too close to call.



LYON v MANCHESTER UNITED

MANCHESTER United have not reached the final of the UEFA Champions League since they won the competition back in 1999.

And they will be hoping to go one better than last year when they lost out to eventual winners, AC Milan, in the semi-final.

However, it's a tough draw for Alex Ferguson's side and French champions Lyon will be tricky opponents.

Lyon went out at this stage of the competition last season to Roma and they will be hoping for better this time around.

But if Manchester United show anything like the form they're capable of, they should be the ones taking their place in the quarter-final draw. Much will depend on Wayne Rooney and Ronaldo, both of whom are capable of getting the vital goals.



FENERBAHCE v SEVILLA

SEVILLA, surprise winners of Group H ahead of Arsenal, probably thought they'd won a watch with this tie.

Fenerbahce are not one of the stronger sides left in the competition and the Spanish side are strong favourites to progress to the quarter-finals.

Having won the UEFA Cup for the past two seasons, Sevilla will be hoping to do even better in the UEFA Champions League though they are now without manager, Juande Ramos who has moved to Tottenham Hotspur.

Fenerbahce finished second in Group G and won all three of their home games, so Sevilla will have to be on their guard for the first leg of this tie.

However, it would be a major shock if the Turkish side were to get to the last eight.



ARSENAL v AC MILAN

THIS is arguably the tie of the round - after Celtic's clash with Barcelona, of course - and the reigning European champions couldn't have asked for a more difficult tie.

AC Milan face Arsenal, currently top of the Premiership, and Arsene Wenger's side are more than capable of knocking them out of the tournament.

AC Milan finished top of Group D ahead of Celtic, though they did lose 2-1 when they visited Glasgow.

And Arsenal, who were runners-up in Group H, will be hoping that their impressive form at the Emirates Stadium will give them something to defend when they travel to Italy.

AC Milan won the UEFA Champions League last season, defeating Liverpool in the final, while Arsenal were runners-up to Barcelona in 2006.



SQUAD STATS 07/08



CELTIC SCORE FIRST, HOME GAMES IN **BOLD**
 ■ BOOKING ■ SENDING OFF SCORER1 SUB1 SUB2 SUB3

CLYDESDALE BANK PREMIER LEAGUE

TEAM	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
RANGERS	23	18	2	3	54	17	56	+37
CELTIC	23	16	4	3	58	18	52	+40
DUNDEE UTD	25	12	3	10	38	32	39	+6
MOTHERWELL	22	12	2	8	32	28	38	+4
ABERDEEN	25	9	6	10	29	38	33	-9
INVERNESS CT	24	10	2	12	32	37	32	-5
FALKIRK	25	9	5	11	34	40	32	-6
HEARTS	25	8	6	11	36	40	30	-4
HIBERNIAN	23	7	8	8	30	30	29	0
ST MIRREN	23	7	5	11	17	37	26	-20
KILMARNOCK	25	5	7	13	24	36	22	-12
GRETN A	23	3	4	16	19	50	13	-31

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES

PLAYER	LEAGUE		SCOT CUP		CIS CUP		EURO	
	APP	GOALS	APP	GOALS	APP	GOALS	APP	GOALS
B BALDE	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
T BJARNASON	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
A BORUC	15 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	7 (0)	0
P CADDIS	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
G CALDWELL	21 (0)	1	2 (0)	1	2 (0)	0	7 (1)	0
R CONROY	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
S CUTHBERT	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
M DONATI	16 (3)	3	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	6 (2)	1
P HARTLEY	16 (2)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (0)	0	7 (0)	1
A HINKEL	2 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
J JAROSIK	8 (2)	1	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	5 (0)	1
J KENNEDY	5 (2)	0	0 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	4 (1)	0
C KILLEN	2 (14)	1	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (4)	0
M BROWN	8 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
S McDONALD	21 (0)	17	2 (0)	3	2 (0)	1	7 (1)	2
A McGEADY	20 (1)	7	2 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	6 (2)	1
M McGOVERN	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
P McGOVERN	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
S McMANUS	23 (0)	2	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	8 (0)	1
K MILLER	1 (1)	3	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
S NAKAMURA	10 (1)	4	2 (0)	1	0 (0)	0	3 (1)	0
L NAYLOR	19 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	7 (0)	0
J O'BRIEN	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
D O'DEA	3 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0
J P DOUMBE	2 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0
S PRESSLEY	5 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	1 (1)	0
D RIORDAN	2 (6)	1	0 (0)	0	1 (0)	0	0 (1)	0
B ROBSON	0 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
G SAMARAS	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	1	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0
S BROWN	23 (0)	3	2 (0)	0	2 (0)	0	8 (0)	0
E SNO	2 (8)	0	0 (1)	0	1 (1)	0	0 (4)	0
J V O HESSELINK	20 (0)	9	2 (0)	2	2 (0)	1	5 (1)	0
M WILSON	6 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	3 (0)	0
M ZURAWSKI	1 (4)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (0)	0	0 (3)	0

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	GOALS
SCOTT McDONALD	23
JAN VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK	12
AIDEN McGEADY	8
SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA	5
MASSIMO DONATI	4
SCOTT BROWN	3



COMP	DATE	OPPOSITION	RES.	ATT.	STARTING 11	SUBSTITUTES
CBPL	05 AUG (14.00)	KILMARNOCK	0-0	56,730	M BROWN WILSON KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR HARTLEY DONATI S BROWN McGEADY HESSELINK ZURAWSKI McGOVERN CALDWELL SNO O'DEA NAKAMURA MILLER KILLEN
CBPL	11 AUG (12.30)	FALKIRK	4-1	6,329	M BROWN WILSON KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY MILLER HESSELINK McGOVERN O'DEA SNO HARTLEY KILLEN RIORDAN ZURAWSKI
UCL Q3	15 AUG	SPARTAK MOSCOW	1-1	67,000	M BROWN WILSON KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK McGOVERN CALDWELL KILLEN McGEADY ZURAWSKI PRESSLEY SNO
CBPL	19 AUG (14.00)	ABERDEEN	3-1	16,232	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN HARTLEY SNO PRESSLEY O'DEA MILLER KILLEN
CBPL	25 AUG	HEARTS	5-0	57,300	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD M BROWN HARTLEY SNO O'DEA RIORDAN KILLEN ZURAWSKI
UCL Q3	29 AUG	SPARTAK MOSCOW	1-1*	57,854	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN O'DEA HARTLEY SNO RIORDAN ZURAWSKI KILLEN
CBPL	02 SEPT (14.00)	ST MIRREN	5-1	7,840	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR SNO S BROWN RIORDAN HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN NAKAMURA McGEADY O'DEA DONATI ZURAWSKI KILLEN
CBPL	15 SEPT	INVERNESS CT	5-0	56,020	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN HARTLEY RIORDAN O'DEA KILLEN McGOVERN SNO
UCL	18 SEPT	SHAKHTAR DONETSK	0-2	30,000	BORUC WILSON CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN SNO McGEADY O'DEA KENNEDY ZURAWSKI KILLEN
CBPL	23 SEPT (14.00)	HIBERNIAN	2-3	16,125	BORUC DOUMBE CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR HARTLEY S BROWN DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD M BROWN ZURAWSKI SNO O'BRIEN O'DEA RIORDAN KILLEN
CIS	26 SEPT R3	DUNDEE	2-1	8,203	BORUC CALDWELL NAYLOR KENNEDY	McMANUS S BROWN SNO DONATI RIORDAN HESSELINK McDONALD M BROWN KILLEN ZURAWSKI O'DEA O'BRIEN
CBPL	29 SEPT	DUNDEE UNITED	3-0	57,006	BORUC DOUMBE CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR S BROWN HARTLEY DONATI McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN KENNEDY RIORDAN O'DEA SNO ZURAWSKI KILLEN
UCL	03 OCT	AC MILAN	2-1	58,643	BORUC DOUMBE CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR HARTLEY S BROWN DONATI McGEADY JAROSIK McDONALD M BROWN KENNEDY O'DEA SNO RIORDAN NAKAMURA KILLEN
CBPL	07 OCT (15.00)	GRETN A	2-1	6,011	BORUC HARTLEY CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI McGEADY KILLEN McDONALD M BROWN O'DEA O'BRIEN SNO KENNEDY RIORDAN JAROSIK
CBPL	20 OCT (12.30)	RANGERS	0-3	50,428	BORUC O'DEA CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA DONATI S BROWN SNO JAROSIK McDONALD M BROWN KENNEDY O'BRIEN CUTHBERT McGEADY RIORDAN BJARNASON
UCL	24 OCT	BENFICA	0-1	35,000	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR McGEADY DONATI HARTLEY S BROWN JAROSIK KILLEN M BROWN BALDE NAKAMURA O'BRIEN O'DEA SNO McDONALD
CBPL	27 OCT	MOTHERWELL	3-0	57,633	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD KILLEN M BROWN JAROSIK O'BRIEN SNO O'DEA DONATI
CIS	31 OCT R4 (19:45)	HEARTS	0-2	21,492	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR McGEADY S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN JAROSIK O'BRIEN SNO KILLEN
CBPL	03 NOV (12.30)	KILMARNOCK	2-1	8,260	BORUC CALDWELL NAYLOR KENNEDY	McMANUS JAROSIK HARTLEY S BROWN McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN SNO O'DEA O'BRIEN KILLEN RIORDAN DONATI
UCL	06 NOV	BENFICA	1-0	58,214	BORUC NAYLOR CALDWELL KENNEDY	McMANUS S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD M BROWN ZURAWSKI RIORDAN O'DEA SNO DONATI KILLEN
CBPL	24 NOV	ABERDEEN	3-0	58,350	M BROWN CALDWELL KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR S BROWN DONATI JAROSIK McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN McGOVERN CADDIS RIORDAN O'DEA SNO ZURAWSKI KILLEN
UCL	28 NOV	SHAKHTAR DONETSK	2-1	59,146	BORUC CALDWELL KENNEDY McMANUS	NAYLOR McGEADY S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN PRESSLEY SNO CADDIS DONATI KILLEN ZURAWSKI
CBPL	01 DEC	HEARTS	1-1	16,454	BORUC CALDWELL PRESSLEY McMANUS	O'DEA McGEADY S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK HESSELINK McDONALD M BROWN CADDIS SNO RIORDAN DONATI KILLEN ZURAWSKI
UCL	04 DEC	AC MILAN	0-1	38,409	BORUC CALDWELL PRESSLEY McMANUS	O'DEA JAROSIK DONATI S BROWN HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD M BROWN BALDE KILLEN CADDIS SNO HESSELINK ZURAWSKI
CBPL	08 DEC	ST MIRREN	1-1	55,747	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY McMANUS	O'DEA McGEADY HARTLEY S BROWN JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK McGOVERN ZURAWSKI CADDIS BALDE SNO RIORDAN KILLEN
CBPL	11 DEC (19:45)	FALKIRK	4-0	54,291	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY McMANUS	CONROY McGEADY S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK McGOVERN O'DEA RIORDAN JAROSIK SNO KILLEN ZURAWSKI
CBPL	16 DEC	INVERNESS CT	2-3	7,004	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY McMANUS	CONROY S BROWN HARTLEY DONATI McGEADY HESSELINK McDONALD McGOVERN SNO O'DEA JAROSIK BALDE RIORDAN KILLEN
CBPL	22 DEC	HIBERNIAN	1-1	58,016	M BROWN CALDWELL PRESSLEY McMANUS	NAYLOR S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK McGOVERN CONROY KILLEN SNO O'DEA JAROSIK RIORDAN
CBPL	26 DEC	DUNDEE UNITED	2-0	12,357	M BROWN CALDWELL BALDE McMANUS	NAYLOR McGEADY S BROWN HARTLEY JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK McGOVERN O'DEA CADDIS SNO RIORDAN DONATI KILLEN
CBPL	29 DEC	GRETN A	3-0	57,171	BORUC CALDWELL BALDE McMANUS	NAYLOR McGEADY DONATI S BROWN RIORDAN McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN CADDIS O'BRIEN O'DEA SNO HARTLEY KILLEN
SFA	12 JAN	STIRLING ALBION	3-0	32,310	BORUC HINKEL CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA DONATI S BROWN McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN O'DEA O'BRIEN HARTLEY KILLEN
CBPL	19 JAN	KILMARNOCK	1-0	56,618	BORUC HINKEL CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA S BROWN DONATI HARTLEY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN ZURAWSKI O'DEA CONROY SNO RIORDAN KILLEN
CBPL	27 JAN (14.00)	FALKIRK	1-0	6,803	BORUC CALDWELL NAYLOR McMANUS	HARTLEY S BROWN NAKAMURA McGEADY DONATI JAROSIK McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN ZURAWSKI RIORDAN PRESSLEY SNO CADDIS KILLEN
SFA	02 FEB	KILMARNOCK	5-1	6,491	BORUC CADDIS NAYLOR McMANUS	CALDWELL DONATI McGEADY S BROWN NAKAMURA HESSELINK McDONALD M BROWN HARTLEY O'DEA SNO SAMARAS
CBPL	10 FEB (14.00)	ABERDEEN	5-1	14,651	BORUC HINKEL CALDWELL McMANUS	NAYLOR NAKAMURA HARTLEY S BROWN McGEADY McDONALD HESSELINK M BROWN O'DEA CADDIS SNO ROBSON SAMARAS KILLEN
CBPL	16 FEB	HEARTS				
UCL	20 FEB	BARCELONA				
CBPL	24 FEB (14.00)	ST MIRREN				
CBPL	27 FEB (19:45)	INVERNESS CT				
CBPL	01 MAR (12.30)	HIBERNIAN				
UCL	04 MAR	BARCELONA				
SFA	09 MAR (12:45)	ABERDEEN				
CBPL	15 MAR (12.30)	MOTHERWELL				
CBPL	23 MAR (14.00)	GRETN A				
CBPL	29 MAR (12.30)	RANGERS				
UCL	01/02 APR QUARTER-FINAL					
CBPL	05 APR	MOTHERWELL				
UCL	08/09 APR QUARTER-FINAL					
SFA	12/13 APR SEMI-FINAL					
CBPL	19 APR	TBC				
UCL	22/23 APR SEMI-FINAL					
CBPL	26 APR	TBC				
UCL	29/30 APR SEMI-FINAL					
CBPL	03 MAY	TBC				
CBPL	10 MAY	TBC				
CBPL	TBC	TBC				
UCL	21 MAY FINAL					
SFA	TBC FINAL					
CBPL	TBC	RANGERS				
CBPL	TBC	DUNDEE UNITED				

* CELTIC WON 4-3 ON PENALTIES
 FIXTURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



>> HALF-TIME QUIZ

1. Which three Scottish goalkeepers have played in European Cup finals in their careers?
2. Which four Celts to date have had the distinction of scoring against Barcelona in European competition?
3. Other than Frank Rijkaard, which four men have won the European Cup/UEFA Champions League as player and manager?
4. Which Celt was the first British player to appear as a substitute in a European Cup final?
5. Which Spanish side is the only club that Celtic have eliminated in European competition on the away goals ruling?
6. Who was the last player to score **FOUR** goals in a UEFA Champions League match, doing so in 2005/06?
7. Which Scottish internationalist had the distinction of playing for Barcelona in a European Cup final?
8. Who remains the only Celtic player to have twice netted for the club in away matches in the UEFA Champions League?
9. After Leeds United in 1970, which team has attracted the biggest attendance to watch Celtic in a European Cup match in Glasgow?
10. Which European Player of the Year did Celtic face in the semi-final of their successful 1966/67 European Cup campaign?
11. Which player did Henrik Larsson replace as substitute before greatly influencing Barcelona's UEFA Champions League final victory over Arsenal in 2006?
12. Which Celtic striker has netted most goals for a Scottish club in the UEFA Champions League tournament?
13. Which player has made the most appearances and scored the most goals in the UEFA Champions League tournament for a British club?
14. Which three Scots have in their careers captained clubs to success in the European Cup?
15. In the last 15 years which three Barcelona players have been awarded the European Player of the Year title?



ANSWERS
 1. Ronnie Simpson (1967) Celtic; Euan Williams (1970) Celtic; David Stewart (1975) Leeds United; 2. John Hughes (1964/65); Alan Thompson (2003/04); Chris Sutton (2004/05); John Hartson (2004/05); 3. Miguel Muñoz, Giovanni Trapattoni, Johan Cruyff and Carlo Ancelotti; 4. George Connelly v Feyenoord (1970); 5. Celta Vigo (2002/03) UEFA Cup, (Nottingham Forest) 1979 & 1980; Graeme Souness (Liverpool) 1984, 15. Hristo Stoichkov 1994; Rivaldo 1999; Ronaldinho 2005.
 6. Andrei Shevchenko (AC Milan) v Fernebahce; 7. Steve Archibald 1986 v Steau Bucharest; 8. John Hartson v Lyon (2003/04); Barcelona (2004/05); 9. Ajax (1970/71) - 83,684; 10. Josef Masopust (Dukla Prague); 11. Mark Van Bommel; 12. Chris Sutton (6 goals); 13. Ryan Giggs (Manchester United); 14. Billy McNeill (Celtic) 1967; John McGovern (Nottingham Forest) 1979 & 1980; Graeme Souness (Liverpool) 1984, 15. Hristo Stoichkov 1994; Rivaldo 1999; Ronaldinho 2005.



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TONIGHT'S TEAMS

CELTIC



<input type="checkbox"/>	ARTUR BORUC	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	LEE NAYLOR	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	GARY CALDWELL	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOBO BALDE	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCOTT BROWN	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	GEORGIOS SAMARAS	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	JAN VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL HARTLEY	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK WILSON	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEREK RIORDAN	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	EVANDER SNO	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEVEN PRESSLEY	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	MASSIMO DONATI	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	BARRY ROBSON	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARK BROWN	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	JEAN-JOEL PERRIER-DOUMBE	24
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	CILIAN SHERIDAN	26
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCOTT McDONALD	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	KOKI MIZUNO	29
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHRIS KILLEN	33
<input type="checkbox"/>	JOHN KENNEDY	41
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEPHEN McMANUS	44
<input type="checkbox"/>	AIDEN McGEADY	46
<input type="checkbox"/>	MICHAEL McGOVERN	47
<input type="checkbox"/>	DARREN O'DEA	48
<input type="checkbox"/>	PAUL CADDIS	52
<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN CONROY	54



BARCELONA

1	VÍCTOR VALDÉS	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	GABRIEL MILITO	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	RAFAEL MÁRQUEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	CARLES PUYOL	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	XAVI	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	EIDUR GUDJOHNSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	ANDRÉS INIESTA	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	SAMUEL ETO'O	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	RONALDINHO	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	GIANLUCA ZAMBROTTA	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	THIERRY HENRY	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	EDMILSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	SYLVINHO	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	GIOVANI DOS SANTOS	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	SANTIAGO EZQUERRO	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	LIONEL MESSI	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	DECO	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	LILIAN THURAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	ÉRIC ABIDAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	OLEGUER	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	YAYA TOURÉ	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	ALBERT JORQUERA	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	BOJAN	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	OIER	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	VÍCTOR SÁNCHEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	VÍCTOR ESPASANDÍN	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	VÍCTOR VÁZQUEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>

