

Celtic

v DUNDEE

Scottish Premier League
Wednesday 14th May 2003 k.o. 7.45pm



ntl:



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Celtic 

PEP TALK



“What has amazed and delighted me has been the fact that the match in Seville hasn’t even merited a mention in our dressing room”

THIS evening sees us play our final home match of season 2002/03, and there remains much to play for both at home and in Europe.

Dundee are our visitors, and they have kindly agreed to bring the fixture forward from the weekend in order to help us in our planning for the UEFA Cup final next week in Seville. I have said in the recent past, and it’s probably worth mentioning again, that we are indebted to our visitors for this gesture. We have been playing endless midweek fixtures for some time now, and the opportunity to have a couple of extra days preparation for the final is a welcome one.

What has amazed and delighted me of late has been the fact that the match in Seville hasn’t even merited a mention in our dressing room, and there’s no doubt that’s all to do with the fact that the players have bravely hung in there in the Championship race. All we want to do now is take that race to the final game. To do this, we must win tonight - and that will be exceptionally difficult.

Dundee’s recent form has been exceptional, as both Rangers and ourselves have found to our cost, and we could quite easily have lost the match at Dens Park on April 6, when only a couple of excellent saves from Javier Sanchez Broto kept the score at 1-1 as we committed men forward in search of a winning goal.

Jim Duffy has done exceptionally well, and we will have to play extremely well to win against a side whose remarkable consistency since the winter break recently culminated in them progressing to the Scottish Cup final. But win we must, and the players are under no illusions whatsoever about the importance of claiming all three points.

That was something they succeeded in doing on Saturday, albeit with a few nervous moments, against a Hearts team that played very well here at Celtic Park. Alan Thompson scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot and, while Didier Agathe was very unfortunate not to add to our

lead later in the game with a ferocious shot that came back off the crossbar, we were content with the result.

I had always felt that it would be a hard-fought encounter and, for all that we had numerous chances to win ourselves, let’s not forget that Javier Sanchez Broto made an excellent save with the score at 0-0 - something he’s been making a very nice habit of recently.

MAY I take this opportunity to thank you for turning up in such great numbers to support the team throughout this season. As I’ve said in the past, not every move brings a goal, and sometimes the end result meets with your displeasure. But there is no doubt that, in this day and age, when supporting a football club is a costly business, your efforts both here and in Europe have been magnificent.

CELTIC FACTS



Celtic FC Factfile

Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park (capacity 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks
Away strip: Gold shirts, green shorts, gold socks
Third strip: White shirts, black shorts and 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 (1 season): 50, Jimmy McGrory, 1935/36
Most Premier/SPL goals (1 season): 35, Brian McClair 1986/87, Henrik Larsson 2000/01
Website: www.celticfc.net

Honours

Scottish League (38)
 1892/93, 1893/94, 1895/96, 1897/98, 1904/05, 1905/06, 1906/07, 1907/08, 1908/09, 1909/10, 1913/14, 1914/15,

1915/16, 1916/17, 1918/19, 1921/22, 1925/26, 1935/36, 1937/38, 1953/54, 1965/66, 1966/67, 1967/68, 1968/69, 1969/70, 1970/71, 1971/72, 1972/73, 1973/74, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1980/81, 1981/82, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1997/98, 2000/2001, 2001/2002

Scottish Cup (31)

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

League Cup (12)

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

European Cup (1)

1967

Coronation Cup (1)

1953

CELTIC FACTS

1. On May 17, 1992, Gordon Marshall kept a clean sheet on his international debut as Scotland beat the USA 1-0 in the Mile High Stadium in Denver. Two years later, on the same day, Gary Gillespie was given a free transfer. He had made 86 appearances for the club in three years. Dariusz Wdowczyk was also freed and moved south to join Mark McGhee at Reading.

2. Bertie Peacock left the club on May 18, 1961 to take over as player/manager at his home town club, Coleraine. He had made 453 appearances for Celtic, scoring 50 goals, providing a strong, determined and classy drive from the wing-half position. Bertie was an essential part of the teams which did the league/cup double in 1953/54 and won the League Cup in 1956 and 1957. He became Northern Ireland manager in 1962.

3. On May 20, 1960, after 16 years' service, Bobby Evans left the club for Chelsea for a reputed fee of £12,500. Bobby was an ever-present for all of Celtic's major trophy wins of the 1950s: 1951 Scottish Cup, league/cup double of 1953/54, League Cup victories in 1956 and 1957 and the Coronation Cup of 1953. Bobby made 547 appearances for Celtic, and picked up 48 caps for Scotland, plus 25 for the Scottish League.

DUNDEE FACTS

1. Dundee won their first trophy, the Scottish Cup, in 1910 but they had to have three bites at the cherry. All the matches were played at Ibrox with Clyde as the opposition. The first game finished 2-2, and the replay finished 0-0. The second replay took place in front of 25,000 which Dundee won 2-1.

2. Just after the Second World War, Dundee signed Billy Steel from Derby for a high price of £17,500. It was a gamble but it paid off, particularly in the new trophy of the time, the League Cup, which they won in consecutive seasons. In 1951 they beat Rangers 3-2. The following season, they overcame Kilmarnock 2-0. Dundee's only other victory in this competition was in 1974, when they beat Celtic 1-0.

3. Dundee's best-ever side, including the likes of Alan Gilzean and Ian Ure, won the Scottish Division 1 title in 1962, three points ahead of Rangers and four above Celtic. The manager of the team was Bob Shankley, brother of the famous Liverpool boss. Unfortunately, after sweeping through to the semi-final of the European Cup the following season via Cologne, Sporting Lisbon and Anderlecht, they were trounced 5-2 by a rampant AC Milan over two legs.

TONIGHT'S VISITORS **DUNDEE**



SEASON 2002/03
CURRENT LEAGUE POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	36	29	4	3	93	27	91
2. CELTIC	36	29	4	3	88	24	91
3. Hearts	36	17	9	10	56	49	60
4. Kilmarnock	35	16	8	11	45	46	56
5. Dundee	36	10	14	12	48	53	44

TEAM SPONSOR: JSEARCH



MANAGER
JIM DUFFY

STADIUM
DENS PARK

CAPACITY
12,371

PREVIOUS RESULT
DUNDEE 1 v CELTIC 1



CELTIC



DUNDEE

ROBERT DOUGLAS	20	1
TOM BOYD	2	2
MOMO SYLLA	3	3
JACKIE McNAMARA	4	4
JOOS VALGAEREN	5	5
BOBO BALDE	6	6
HENRIK LARSSON	7	7
ALAN THOMPSON	8	8
CHRIS SUTTON	9	10
JOHN HARTSON	10	12
DAVID FERNANDEZ	12	13
PAUL LAMBERT	14	14
BOBBY PETTA	15	15
ULRIK LAURSEN	16	16
DIDIER AGATHE	17	17
NEIL LENNON	18	18
STILIAN PETROV	19	19
MAGNUS HEDMAN	21	20
STANISLAV VARGA	23	21
COLIN HEALY	24	23
JAVIER SANCHEZ BROTO	26	24
JON PAUL McGOVERN	27	25
SHAUN MALONEY	29	26
STEVE GUPPY	30	28
MARK FOTHERINGHAM	34	
JOHAN MJALLBY	35	9
JAMIE SMITH	39	
STEPHEN CRAINEY	40	
JOHN KENNEDY	41	
LIAM MILLER	43	

JAMIE LANGFIELD	
BARRY SMITH	
DAVE MACKAY	
MARCELLO MARROCCO	
BETO CARRANZA	
LEE WILKIE	
FABIAN CABALLERO	
GAVION RAE	
GEORGI NEMSADZE	
JULIAN SPERONI	
ZURA KHIZANISHVILI	
GAVIN BEITH	
STEVEN MILNE	
JONAY HERENANDEZ SANTOS	
NACHO NOVO	
JAVIER ARTERO	
LEE MAIR	
BARRY FORBES	
STEVEN ROBB	
TOM HUTCHINSON	
NEIL JABLONSKI	
STEVE LOVELL	
GARRY BRADY	
KRIS BRASH	
MARK BURCHILL	
JUAN SARA	

CLUB SPONSORS



RECENT FORM

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 10 MAY 2003
CELTIC 1 v HEARTS 0 (Thompson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 7 MAY 2003
MOTHERWELL 0 v CELTIC 4 (Petrov 2, Lambert 2)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 3 MAY 2003
DUNFERMLINE 1 v CELTIC 4 (Larsson, Petrov 2, Thompson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 27 MAY 2003
RANGERS 1 v CELTIC 2 (Thompson, Hartson)

UEFA CUP SEMI FINAL 2ND LEG 24 APRIL 2003
BOAVISTA 0 v CELTIC 1 (Larsson)

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE 19 APRIL 2003
HEARTS 2 v CELTIC 1 (Larsson)

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

UEFA CUP FINAL
CELTIC v PORTO WED 21 MAY 2003 7.45pm

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
KILMARNOCK v CELTIC SUN 25 MAY 2003 T.B.C.

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: TOM BROWN
ASSISTANT REFEREES: ALAN CUNNINGHAM
RICKY MOONEY
FOURTH OFFICIAL: CAMMY MELVILLE



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CFAC DIRECTORS Ian McLeod, Eric Riley, Jim Hone, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney

CHIEF EXECUTIVE Ian McLeod **MANAGER** Martin O'Neill **ASSISTANT MANAGER** John Robertson **COACH** Steve Walford

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Tommy Burns **HEAD YOUTH COACH** Willie McStay **UNDER-21 COACH** Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPIST Brian Scott **CLUB DOCTOR** Roddy Macdonald **KIT CONTROLLER** John Clark

JOOS VALGAEREN

JOOS VALGAEREN

WORDS: *Alison McConnell*

Head Twister

Valgaeren has been Celtic's Iron Man this season but the Belgian defender has had to get his mind round still being involved in a Championship race so late on in the season

IT HAS been something of a novel season for Joos Valgaeren.

It's not the fact that the Belgian internationalist currently tops the appearance charts for the Hoops this season - he always been at the top end of that particular scale since his arrival from Roda almost three years ago - but until now he hadn't experienced such an intense Championship race.

"There is plenty for us to do between now and the end of the season but we are all looking forward to it. It's been exciting"

The 27-year-old has been a mainstay of Celtic's back three and as Martin O'Neill's side prepare for the final Celtic Park game of the current season, the defender is keen to ensure that Dundee aren't given the chance to thwart the Hoops' unblemished record on home soil.

Dundee have taken points off both

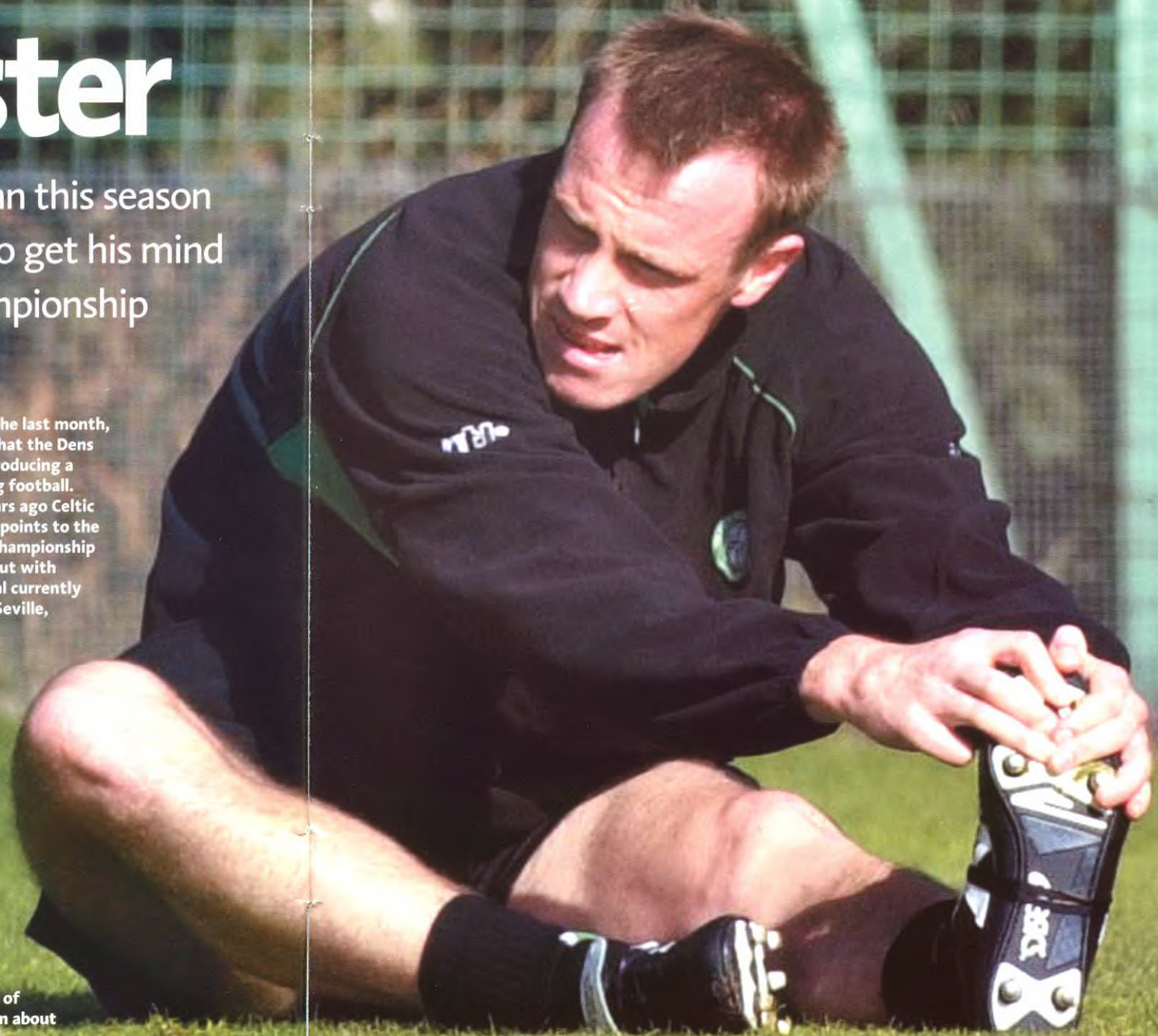
halves of the Old Firm in the last month, and there is no question that the Dens Park side are capable of producing a vibrant brand of attacking football.

Almost exactly two years ago Celtic could afford to lose three points to the Dens Park side after the Championship had already been raised, but with every point and every goal currently as precious as a ticket to Seville, Valgaeren knows this afternoon is another must win occasion.

"We know that we have to go out and win the game," he said.

"However, since I have been at Celtic there has always been pressure and I think it's fair to say that we are expected to win every game we play in.

"There is plenty for us still to do between now and the end of the season but we are all looking forward to it. Since I have been at the club, this time of the season has usually been about



JOOS VALGAEREN

JOOS VALGAEREN

games after the title was already won so it's been something new this year, but it's been exciting.

"There have been many difficult games and I'm sure this will be another one, and it's another big occasion for us this season which is something we thrive on."

With the title still neck-and-neck and goal difference creeping into the outcome, it is inevitable that players start to feel the pressure, however, Valgaeren isn't concerning himself with anything other than full points.

"Dundee are a good team that we have plenty of respect for and they have some excellent players," he said. "Fabian Caballero has produced some fantastic displays and he's a very talented footballer, but we know what we have to do today.

"Goal difference could end up coming into the equation, but we can't get caught up thinking like that. Before that we have to make sure we win the game and get the three points because that's the important thing.

"It's natural to feel nervous, but it has been an exciting season and we there is still a long way to go before it ends. We have plenty of hard work to do but there is so much to look forward to and it's a great time to be part of the club."

Valgaeren suffered a slight back strain at East End Park during Celtic's 4-1 win two weekends ago, but since then the Belgian has returned to full fitness and is looking forward to the climactic final weeks of the season.

As well as a thrilling Championship race, there is next week's UEFA Cup final against Porto to look forward to,



"Goal Difference could end up coming into the equation, but we can't get caught up thinking like that. Before that we have to make sure we win the game and get the three points because that's the most important thing"

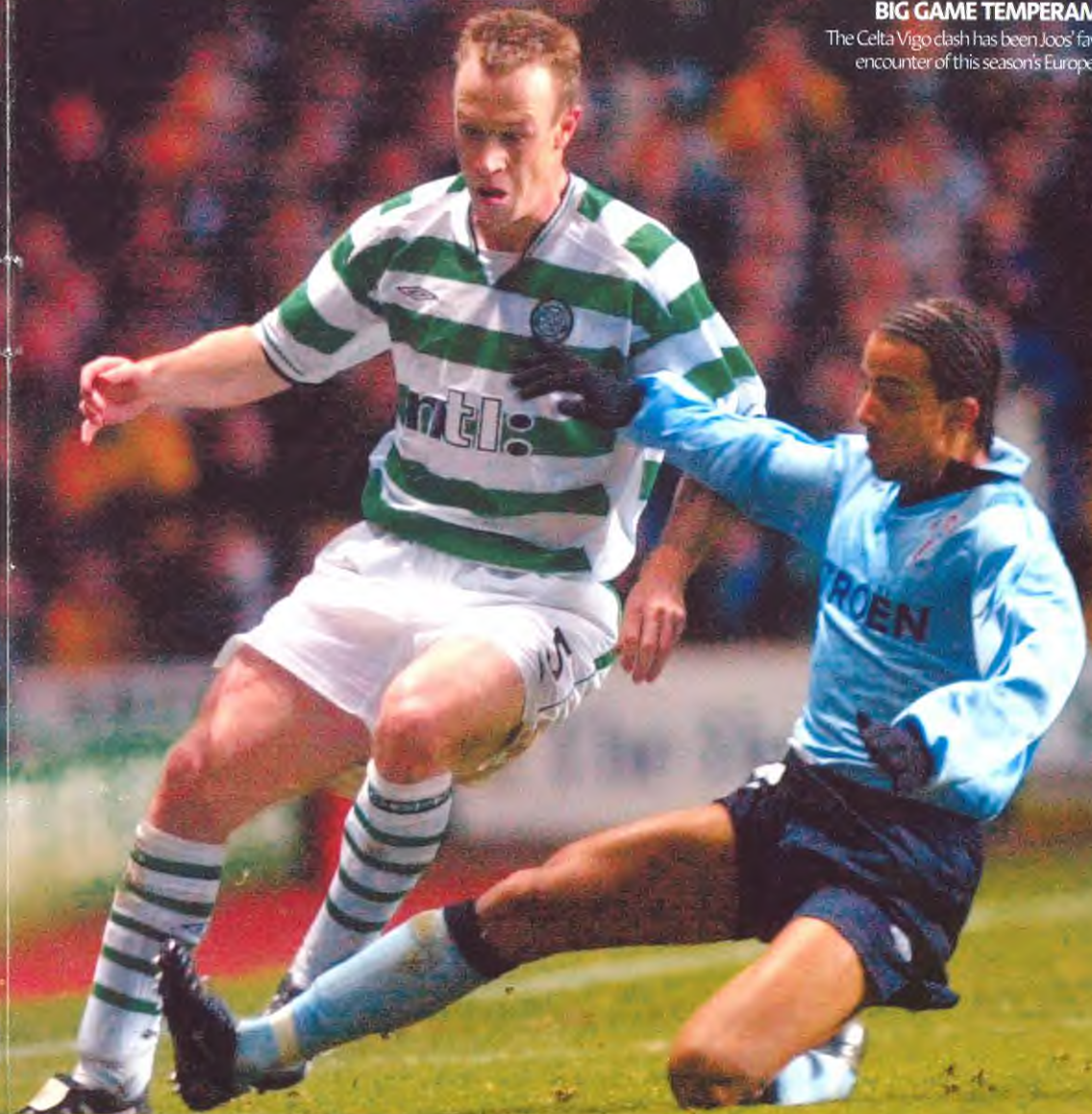
although Valgaeren has echoed his manager's words by insisting that Celtic cannot afford to allow themselves to be distracted from league duty.

"I'm sure that when it comes around to it, the coaching staff will have us well prepared for Porto, but until then no one will be looking too far ahead.

"We know that we have this

game against Dundee before anything else, and the fact that it's being played earlier will give us some time to prepare for the final. However, there is no way we will be thinking about anything other than winning tonight's match."

Celtic have an unrivalled record at Celtic Park and as the stadium hosts its final game of



BIG GAME TEMPERAMENT

The Celta Vigo clash has been Joos' favourite encounter of this season's European run

what has been a fascinating campaign, Valgaeren is looking for one more victory.

"We have a good record, but everyone in the squad here is a player who doesn't like to lose. We have players

DANGER MAN

Caballero holds the key to a Dundee upset tonight

who want to win every single game and that is always our aim.

"There have been some special nights this season at Celtic Park, and the fans do have a big part to play in helping us during games because a lot of support can give you a big lift.

"The European nights have been

fantastic, although I think that the game against Celta Vigo was probably my favourite this season because it was such a hard game and it was brilliant to win it.

"So far it has been a good season, but we want to make it last and to enjoy the moment as much as we can. There is still a long way for us to go."

