

Celtic Park

Wednesday

August 12, 1998

Programme No. 5

Kick off 7.45pm

Price £1.50


Celtic



Croatia Zagreb

Celtic v N.K.Croatia Zagreb

European Champions League
Second Qualifier, first leg

IF SHE SAID
"IT'S CELTIC OR
ME", WOULD YOU
MISS HER?





Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park
Glasgow, G40 3RE

Roll of Honour

European Cup: 1967
League Champions (36 times)
1893, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1905, 1906, 1907,
1908, 1909, 1910, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917,
1919, 1922, 1926, 1936, 1938, 1954, 1966,
1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1974, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1986, 1988,
1998
Scottish Cup Winners (30 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
League Cup Winners (10 times)
1957, 1958, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970,
1975, 1983, 1998
Coronation Cup: 1953
Empire Exhibition Cup: 1938
St Mungo Cup: 1951

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David Kells

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ACTING ASSISTANT HEAD COACH

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0891-1967 21

(All premium telephone services advertised in
this publication are charged at 50p per minute)



Tonight we play host to Croatia Zagreb in what is our most important game of the season so far.

I travelled out to Croatia last week and took in their opening league match against Sibenik on Friday night before returning for our game against Liverpool at the weekend.

Zagreb won the match 4-1 but it is obviously difficult to judge performances so early in the season as like us, the Croatian league programme is just getting underway.

Also, Robert Prosinecki and Silvio Maric didn't take part in the match but I am glad I still made the trip. It is our professional duty to check on our opponents and despite the fact they could have a different team lining up tonight, we know what we have to do.

The Champions League awaits at the end of this two-legged tie and that is ultimately our top target.

I'm sure the players know this also and they showed a great competitive spirit against Liverpool despite the 'friendly' tag the game had.

They performed well and if they display the same determination tonight then we can get the result we need.

Especially with 60,000 supporters behind us – the supporters here always demand that little bit more, even in 'friendlies', and they can give the players that extra drive and fight that these occasions require.

Although tonight is our most vital game so far, I think we can see the importance of matches like the Liverpool game in preparation for the visit of Croatia Zagreb.

We have been building up the



competitive spirit and I think that over the games against St Pat's, Spurs and Liverpool, the players have been gradually showing their form.

And I feel that the supporters may be noticing that and that they are perhaps satisfied with the performances if not the results.

You'll make us feel like champions

Of course, our last European home game which was also our opening game of the season was a draw and the supporters deserve more than that.

And as I said, the supporters demand more even in non-competitive matches so I want to thank you all for your support and I know that you will play your part tonight.

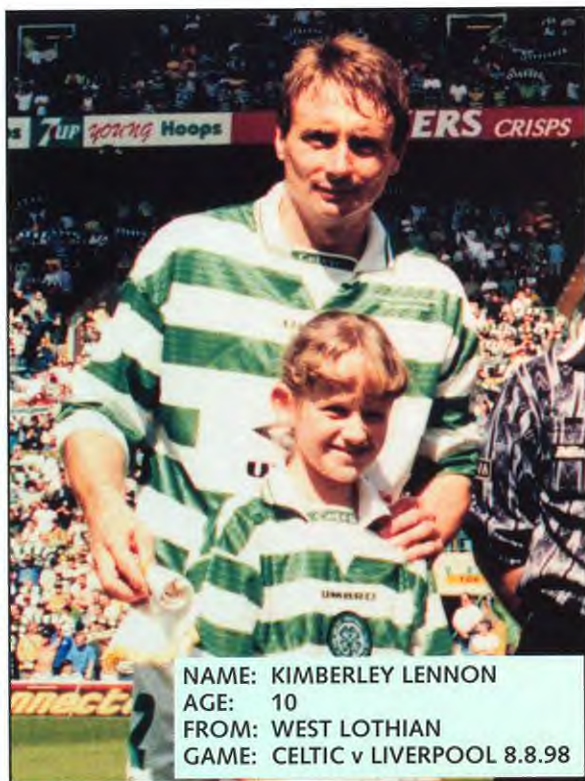
Jozef Venglos
Head Coach

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How would you like to win a Celtic strip?

If you are the person hooped in the picture above just pop into the Celtic View offices at Kerrydale Street to identify yourself to the staff.

They will hand over your all important token.

Saturday's match against Liverpool was a major event for most Celtic fans but none more so than for Kimberley Lennon, who came along to be the lucky mascot for the day.

Kimberley had thought about endless ways in which she could perhaps swing her luck into being chosen as mascot from the thousands of members of the Huddle Club.

The most recent one being naming her pet dog Burley!

Kimberley said she could not compare her dream day to anything

MEET THE MASCOT

she had ever experienced before and considering she witnessed first hand the opening of the new Jock Stein Stand as well as meeting the Lisbon Lions and the entire Liverpool team, I don't think anyone could disagree with her.

If you would like the chance to be chosen as the lucky match mascot then please contact the Huddle Club, c/o the Commercial department on 0141-551 4228.

cast list



Jonathan GOULD
Jackie McNAMARA
Marc RIEPER
Tom BOYD
Alan STUBBS
Rico ANNONI
Craig BURLEY
Paul LAMBERT
Harald BRATTBAKK
Henrik LARSSON
Regi BLINKER

SUBSTITUTES

Simon DONNELLY
Darren JACKSON
Phil O'DONNELL
Tosh McKINLAY

Drazen LADIC
Dario SIMIC
Tomislav BUTINA
Vladmir VASILIC
Goran JURIC
Igor BISCAN
Robert PROSINECKI
Stjepan TOMAS
Mario CVITANOVIC
Marko VIDUKA
Silvio MARIC

SUBSTITUTES

Tomislav RUKAVINA
Krunoslav JURCIC
Nerman SABIC
Srdan MLADINIC

Referee: Jose M. GARCIA-ARANDA ENCINAR

Assistant: Fernando TRESACO GRACIA

Assistant: Carlos MARTIN NIETO

Fourth Official: Arturo DAUDEN IBANEZ

(All Spain)





Count the number of Scottish footballers currently in demand to ply their trade in the very best leagues overseas and you will still have some fingers left on one hand. Count the number of former Croatia Zagreb stars in the same position and you run out of hands.

Robert Prosinecki may be back where he came from, but when you see that Goran Vlaovic, Zvonimir Boban, Davor Suker, Dubravko Pavlicic, Nikola Jurcevic and Mario Stanic are all still earning big money overseas, you gain some idea of the magnitude of the calibre of club we're talking about.

And that's just the players who have left. Still at the Maksimir Stadium are the likes of veteran international keeper Drazen Ladic and outfield stars Igor Cvitanovic, Goran Juric, Silvio Maric, Dario Simic, Krunoslav Jurcic and, of course, the midfield maestro **ROBERT PROSINECKI**.

The latter is the man regarded by Celtic spy Kenny McDowall as the player who makes the 'Blue Team' tick.

Prosinecki was a prodigious talent for Red Star Belgrade in the old Yugoslavia in the early part of the decade before the lure of the big bucks came calling.

The blond playmaker joined current European Champions Real Madrid as the next big thing before a spell at Real Oviedo and then committing Real sacrilege by moving to Real's fierce Catalanian rivals Barcelona. Another move to Seville confirmed Prosinecki's talent for lucrative transfers before the call of the motherland proved irresistible.

When placed in a social context, Croatians regarded Prosinecki's return home as a huge coup. After the sunny glamour of Spain, it took a bold bid to persuade a player at the height of his powers at just 28 to return home to a country riven by the strife of a civil war. France 98 was his third World Cup.



PROSINECKI: Midfield maestro

In the event, Prosinecki's return has coincided with two league titles in a row for the Croatians.

Not that he's the only talent at the club's disposal. With six or seven Croatian internationalists, two Bosnians and one Australian internationalist likely to start tonight, they have no shortage of match-winners.

Veteran goalkeeper **DRAZEN LADIC** (left) has been the number one international choice for his country ever since Croatia declared their independence from Yugoslavia six years ago.

With over 40 international appearances to his credit, including those he made at France 98, the big stopper is now the most capped Croatian

A place where stars are born



international of all time ahead of Aljosa Asanovic and Nikola Jerkan.

In defence, the exciting prospect **DARIO SIMIC** continues to star despite almost constant transfer speculation.

The 22-year old was linked heavily with AC Milan last season, but is regarded as integral to the Croatian club's defence. He was another who starred at France 98.

Another of Zagreb's young stars to attract the attention of the Italian giants is **TOMISLAV BUTINA**.

The Zagreb born defender was moulded in the highly successful FC Croatia youth team and can play full-back or centre-back, often in a man-marking role. Apparently very popular with the



SMASH'N'GREB... celebrating last year's league title triumph

club's female followers and especially noted for having a model or two on his arm on a regular basis, including Miss Croatia 1996.

Defender **VLADMIR VASILJ** began his career with the old Dinamo Zagreb before a spell in Belgium with Ekeren. He returned to FC Croatia in 1996 as a

defensive midfielder and made his international debut in the 1997 Kirin Cup in Japan.

GORDAN JURIC is a well-travelled and classy veteran sweeper from Mostar who actually played for fierce Croatia Zagreb rivals Crvena Zvezda up until 1991 when he moved to Spain to join Celta Vigo. Like others he moved to Croatia in 1996 when hostilities calmed down a little and has managed to carve out a long career

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"Count the number of former Croatia Zagreb players earning big money overseas and you run out of hands"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

despite suffering from diabetes. He made his national team debut at the age of 35.

IGOR BISCAN is a Robert Prosinecki lookalike expected to become the heir to Dario Simic when his inevitable move takes effect. The young defender is great in the air and uses his height in attacking plays to great effect.

STJEPAN TOMAS is likely to be the defender handed the task of marking Henrik Larsson out of the game tonight if he plays. A tall and uncompromising battler, the big defender missed out narrowly on the Croatian World Cup squad, but is another attracting the interest of German and Italian clubs.

MARIO CVITANOVIC can play left or centre back and models himself on Roberto Carlos and alleged Celtic target Robert Jarni. Enjoys a tremendously powerful left foot and spends his spare time worshipping "fast cars and fast football players".

Midfielder **TOMISLAV RUKAVINA** was one of the stars who played through the civil war during his time at his home town club of FC Osijek. The town was being destroyed by Serbian firepower before Rukavina won a move to FC Zagreb, from where he joined FC Croatia Zagreb. A true utility man who has in the past played full-back, centre-back, sweeper, midfielder and even forward.

EDIN MUJICIN is one of the Bosnian internationalists in the Croatian side after passing up the chance to play for the Croatian national team because of the intensity of competition for places. He is an excellent two-footed left-sided playmaker who has spoken of ending his career in Zagreb, despite interest from Marseille.

MARKO VIDUKA is an



MILAN MAN? Dario Simic is always at the centre of transfer speculation

Australian Croat and Socceroo internationalist who freely admits his regret at not playing for Croatia's international team.

Arrived from Melbourne and endured a clash with former coach Otto Baric (the coach of Rapid Vienna when they conned Celtic in 1986) before the coach's departure helped his career at the club.

He is noted for once breaking Aussie tennis star Mark

Philippousis' arm during a playful penalty shoot-out competition.

SILVIO MARIC is a striker to be watched after grabbing two goals in FC Croatia's infamous clash with great rivals Partizan Belgrade last year when they thrashed the Serbs 5-0 – before going on to lose 4-3 on aggregate to Newcastle. Maric's trademark is a lightning break forward down the flanks.

CHAMPIONSHIP

MATERIAL



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