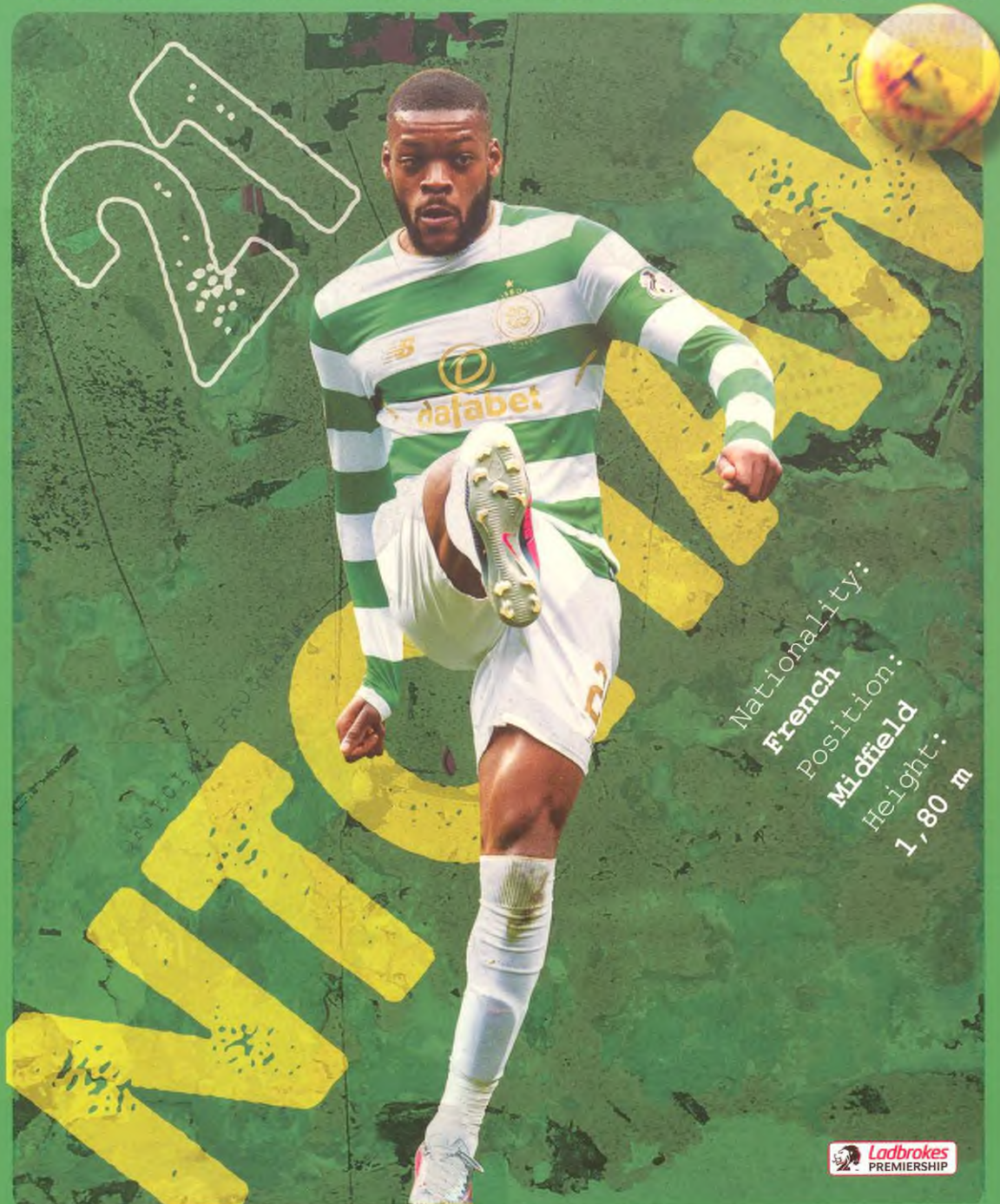




Celtic

v Partick Thistle • Scottish Premiership • Wednesday December 20 • 2017 • Celtic Park • KO 7.45pm • Price £3.50



Nationality:
French

Position:
Midfield

Height:
1,80 m



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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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Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS





Our unbeaten record will take its rightful place in British football history



GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's game against Partick Thistle.

It's a match that we're all looking forward to, and, as always, it's good to be playing at our home.

We go into the game on the back of a disappointing defeat at the weekend and our intention is to return to winning ways tonight.

Of course, the fact that it was our first domestic defeat in 18 months meant that it did create a lot of headlines, and that was only to be expected, given the duration of our unbeaten run.

Throughout that time we have always remained humble in victory, and, likewise, we are honest in defeat, and on the day, Hearts were the better team and deserved the victory.

However, our unbeaten domestic run, which has set a new British record of 69 games without defeat, has been a remarkable and historic achievement, and it's something we can all rightly be proud of. We won 60 of those games,

'To go so long without defeat is testament to players' hard work'

scoring 197 goals in the process.

Everyone in football knows how difficult it is to win football matches, and for us to have gone this length of time without defeat is testament to the work the players put in every single day. The way the Celtic supporters applauded the team at the end of the match at Tynecastle was in appreciation of those efforts while we, in turn, applauded our fans for their backing of the team.

Our unbeaten record is one that may never be beaten, and it will take its rightful place in British football history.

For us, we now press the reset button and go again, starting tonight against Partick Thistle. It may be top versus bottom, but we know from previous meetings against Thistle that Alan's team will be very competitive and will

come here aiming to make it very difficult for us.

This is our sixth game in December, and we know the demands that it puts on the players. That's also the case for our supporters, with it being in the middle of winter and also just days away from Christmas, so I want to thank all of you for coming along here to back the team tonight.

It's something that we all really appreciate, and hopefully we can enjoy a good night here at Paradise.

Brendan Rodgers

Without Fear

FURON
flare



UNMISSABLE


new balance

ALWAYS
IN BETA



A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

Defeat hurts, but everyone at Celtic should be very proud of our historic unbeaten run



IT'S a busy schedule of games in December but we're all pleased that this match against Partick Thistle has come around so soon after the weekend's defeat to Hearts.

Any defeat is disappointing, and that was obviously the case for us on Sunday. We go into every game determined to do everything we can to win, but on the day it wasn't to be for us.

However, we can all be proud of our unbeaten run, and it is amazing to think that's the first time we've experienced a domestic defeat since May 2016, and the first loss under the gaffer.

All of the lads have worked incredibly hard to keep that run going, not

just in the games but every day at Lennoxtown. The expectation at Celtic is that we try to win every game we play in, and that's a pressure very few other teams or other players either experience or have to cope with.

This group of players have taken on those demands and performed excellently over the past 18 months, and everyone at Celtic can and should be very proud of our historic unbeaten run.

We now go again, starting with our derby match against Partick Thistle tonight at Celtic Park. We had two very tight games against Thistle here last season, so we're expecting more of the same tonight.

They'll be disappointed with their current position, so will be looking to try and get something from the game. It's up to us to make sure that doesn't happen.

We know that a win will extend our lead at the top of the table, and that's our intention tonight. And with your backing, hopefully we can have a good night here at Celtic Park. Enjoy the game.



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Christmas issue of the *Celtic View* is packed full of festive fun

THE latest edition of the *Celtic View* is on sale now and it's a special Christmas issue of the club magazine, packed full of festive features and competitions to keep you entertained over the festive period.

Among the highlights of this perfect stocking filler for every Celtic fan, we've got:

- Exclusive interview with Brendan Rodgers
- Scott Brown answers fans' questions
- Kieran Tierney reveals his top 10 tunes, and his favourite Celtic song!
- Republic of Ireland internationalist James McClean talks about his love of the Hoops
- Steve McManaman on his admiration for Brendan Rodgers
- Actor Martin Compston on a special project which honours his Hoops heroes
- Win top-class Paradise hospitality for TEN PEOPLE thanks to Dafabet
- A pair of stylish New Balance football boots are up for grabs
- Lots of Celtic goodies to be won
- A superb 2018 Year Planner
- Giant A2 poster celebrating our four trophies in a row under Brendan Rodgers

All this and much more, including the lowdown on our UEFA Europa League opponents, Zenit Saint Petersburg, and test your knowledge of Celtic and world sport with our fantastic festive quizzes.

The *Celtic View* is the Voice of the Champions and the Christmas issue is on sale now (£3.99).

THE ONLY WAY IS ETHICS

Olivier Ntcham believes that confidence on the pitch stems from his training principles

OLIVIER Ntcham has revealed that he is brimming with belief for Celtic just now because of the additional work he has been putting in at Lennoxton.

The 21-year-old has been doing double sessions and extra training drills at the Hoops' training base as he believes it will give him an edge on the pitch.

He has been reaping the rewards of this approach, with the midfielder producing a series of stellar showings for Brendan Rodgers' side recently, culminating in last week's 3-1 home win over Hamilton Accies when he scooped the stadium Man of the Match accolade.

And before Ntcham hit the gym for a second time at Celtic's training centre in the days leading up to tonight's visit of Partick Thistle, he sat down with the matchday programme to explain the motivation of his work ethic.

"When I started training more and doing some double sessions it made me feel better on the pitch as I feel more confident," said the French youngster.

"If we have one game in a week then I might train twice in the one day, and it gives me an advantage because if you want to improve you need to train. When you want to improve on something you have to

Exclusive interview: Mark Henderson