



Celtic

v Anderlecht



UEFA
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE





Manager's Notes...

BRENDAN RODGERS



We'll have to be at our best to ensure European football after Christmas

GOOD evening and welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's UEFA Champions League group-stage match against Anderlecht. I would also like to extend that welcome to our visitors from Belgium.

This is our final group-stage game in this season's competition and, as always, we're looking forward to playing here in front of our own supporters.

European nights at Celtic Park are always special occasions, and I'm sure that tonight will be no different. This is also a game where there is a 'prize' at the end of it – qualification for the last 32 of the UEFA Europa League, which would bring European football after Christmas to the successful club.

I have said before, and will no doubt say it again, that Celtic Park is a special place to play football. Many great names in the game have, over the years, played in our stadium and spoken of its unique atmosphere.

That is a target that we have wanted to achieve this season and, likewise, I'm sure the same goes for Anderlecht, so I know that tonight's match will be very competitive with so much at stake.

The previous meeting between the sides this season came at the end of September, and we were delighted with the performance and the result in Belgium.

Every European tie is tough, home or away, given the quality of all the sides, so to go away



and win 3-0 was very pleasing for us. That result has ensured that, going into tonight's game, we're in third place in Group B, but we know that a lot of hard work remains over the next 90 minutes in order for us to remain there.

Anderlecht will be doing everything they can to get a positive result here at Celtic Park, so we know we'll have to be at our best in order to make sure that doesn't happen.

The programme deadline means that I've had to write these notes ahead of Saturday's game, but I obviously hope that we go into tonight's match on the back of another positive result.

Our last home game in the UEFA Champions League saw us take on Bayern Munich, and while we were disappointed with the end result, our performance on the night was excellent, and I know it's one that our supporters appreciated.

A similar performance, but a better result, would be even more appreciated by the Celtic fans tonight.

I have said before, and will no doubt say it again, that Celtic Park is a special place to

play football. Many great names in the game have, over the years, played in our stadium and spoken of its unique atmosphere.

That is to the credit of the Celtic supporters, whose tremendous backing of the team is, I'm sure, the envy of many clubs. That backing, which is something we all appreciate here, will be a vital component for us tonight and, together, let's make this another European night at Paradise to remember.

Brendan Rodgers
Without Fear





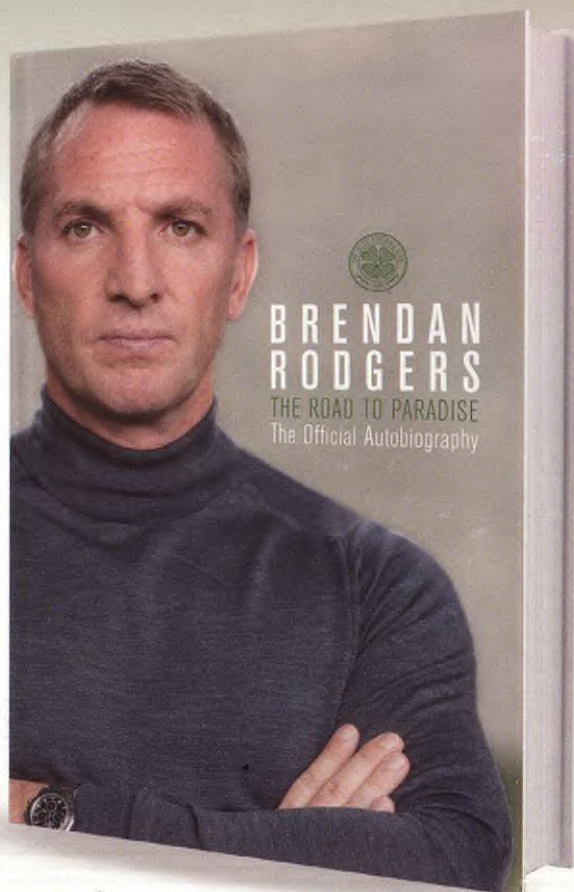
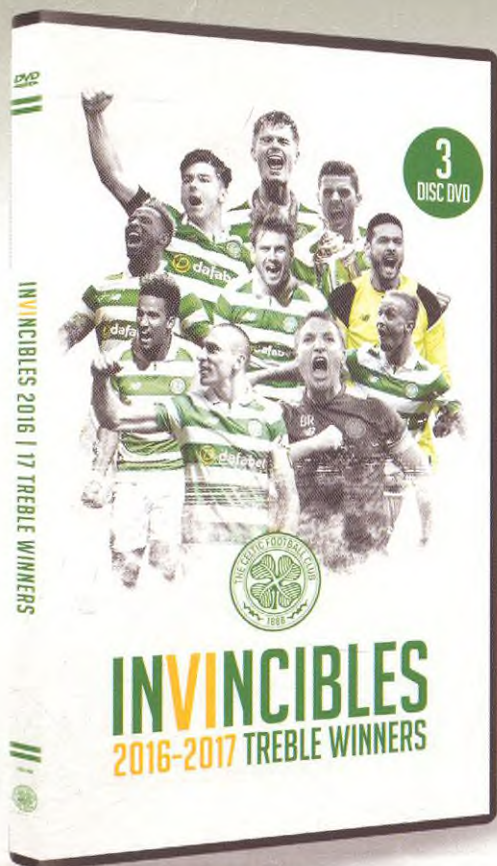
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A word with our captain...

SCOTT BROWN

Make no mistake - there's a tough 90 minutes ahead



CELTIC Park on European nights is something special, and we're all looking forward to tonight's game against Anderlecht. We've put ourselves in a strong position to finish third in the group and ensure European football after Christmas, but there's a tough 90 minutes ahead of us before we can start thinking about that.

Anderlecht will come here looking to make amends for the previous game against us back in September, and they are also playing for third place in the group, so it's got the makings of a very exciting game tonight.

It's one that all the lads are looking forward to. We all love to play on these occasions, particularly in front of our own supporters at a packed Paradise, and we're hoping that it will be another game that all of us, players and fans, will celebrate and remember for a long time.

However, we are under no illusions that we face a difficult task against tough opponents. We had a great result against Anderlecht in Belgium on a night when we produced an excellent European performance, and it was one that I enjoyed despite the frustration

'We're hoping it will be another game that all of us, players and fans, will celebrate and remember for a long time'

of having to go off injured with about 20 minutes remaining.

Even though we did enjoy that victory, Anderlecht also showed their attacking qualities on the night, so we are well aware of what they can do and that we'll have to be at our best tonight.

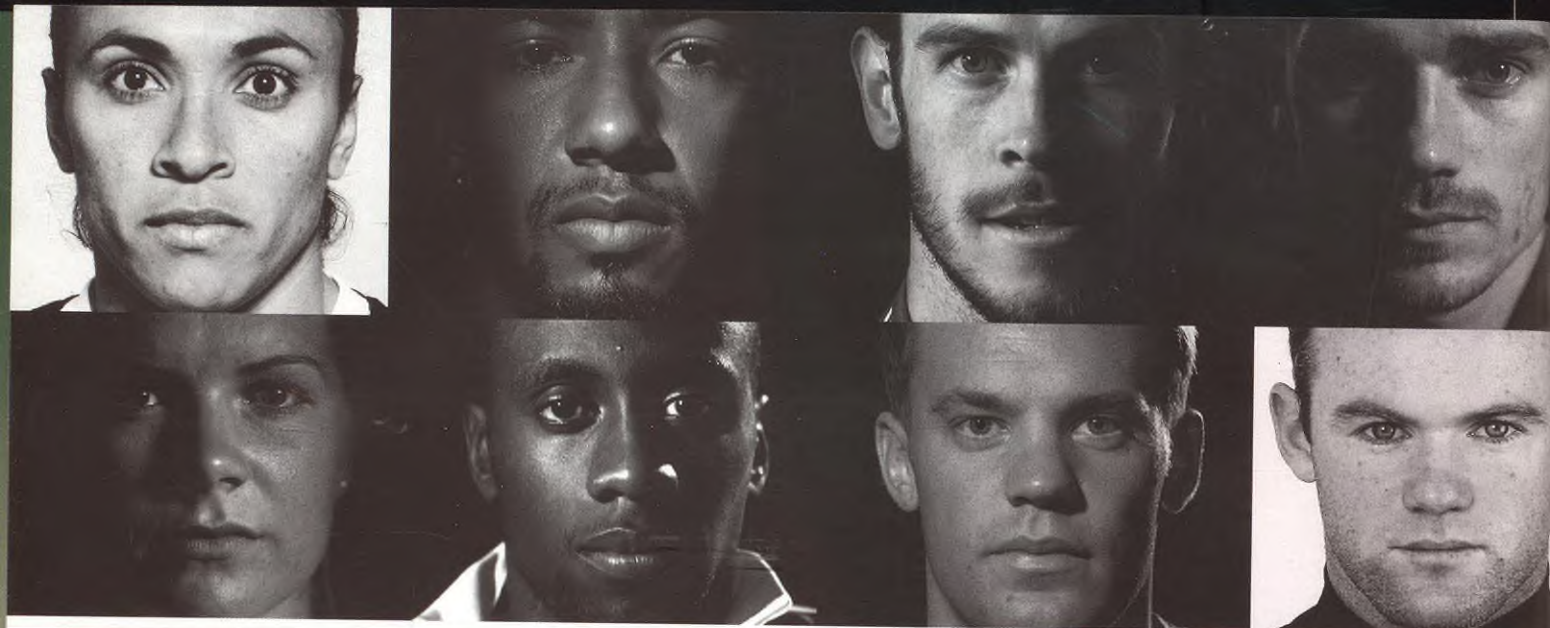
We go into the game full of confidence and focused on the task in hand. Our performance here against Bayern Munich was excellent and we definitely deserved to take something from that game, while there were periods of the match in Paris, despite the result, where we also showed our quality and confidence in playing at this level.

Tonight, we will need to show all our qualities again from the first minute until the last if we want to be celebrating at the

end of the game and looking forward to European football after Christmas.

Your backing, which is always important to us, will definitely be needed tonight, and hopefully, with the incredible Celtic support behind us, we can enjoy another great European night here at our home. Enjoy the game.


Scott Brown




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