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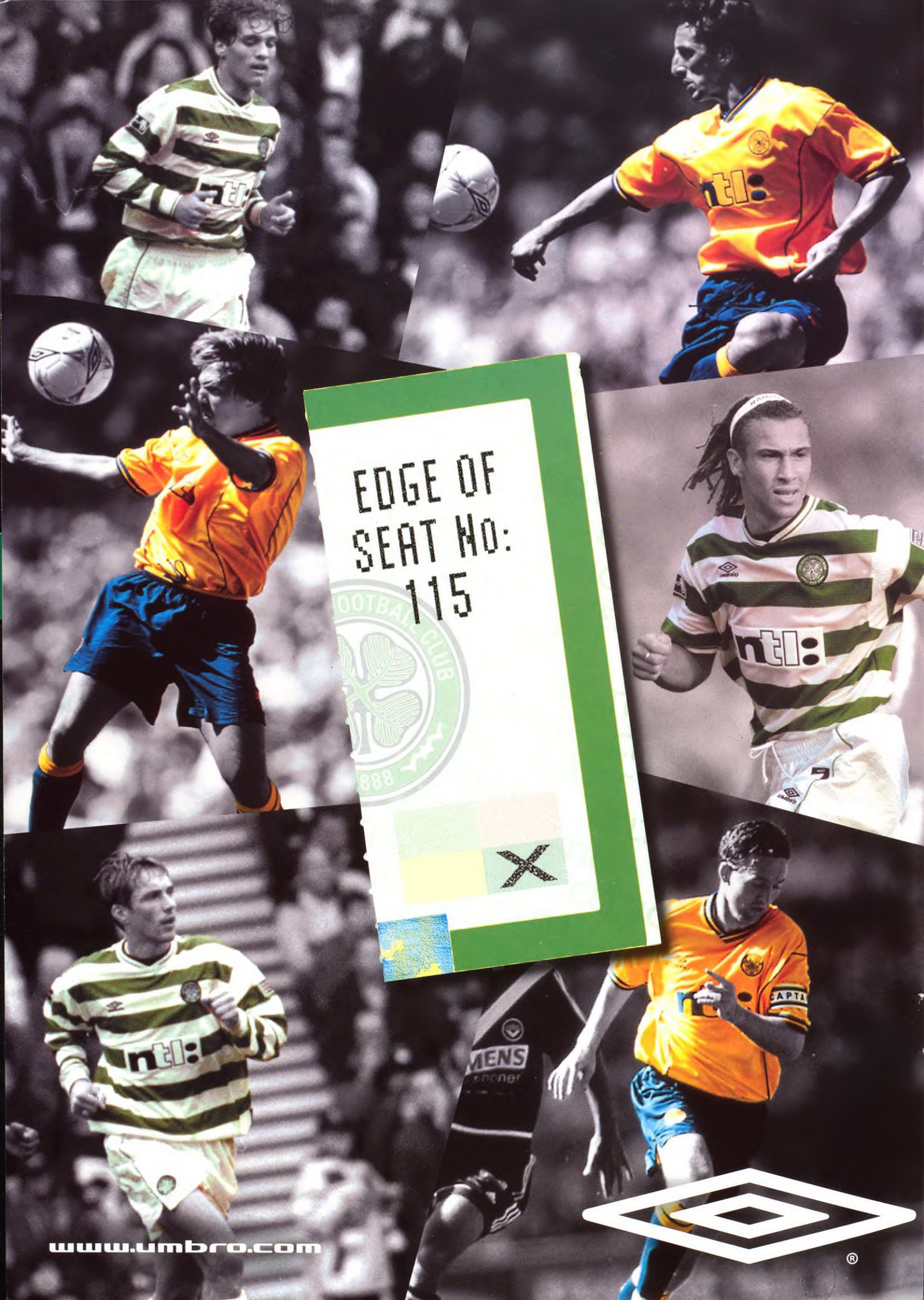
CELTIC PARK, GLASGOW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2001

KICK-OFF 1.15PM

PROGRAMME NO. 70

£2



EDGE OF
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115





CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: Henrik Larsson hits the first goal of his stunning Tynecastle hat-trick and I was pleased he shared the credit

IT seems a long time since we last had the pleasure of playing in front of you all at Celtic Park but we certainly could not have picked a more spectacular occasion for our 'homecoming'.

So, a warm welcome to every one of you for what I hope will be an entertaining and, from our point of view, successful Old Firm derby.

We have, of course, already locked horns with Rangers this week in the CIS League Cup semi-final but, due to printing deadlines, I am penning these notes ahead of that match taking place. However, regardless of whether or not we were successful in Wednesday night's game, today sees us return to league business which, I'm sure you will agree, is the main focus of our attentions.

That is not to demean the League Cup because, at Celtic, we enter every competition with the genuine aim of being as successful as we possibly can. But the league title is the ultimate prize, and it is the one that will be claimed by the side which has earned the right to be called champions over the course of the entire campaign.

And, while it might not sit easily with any of us here at Celtic Park, for 11 of the last 12 seasons Rangers have been consistent enough to earn that right.

This time around, we hold a slight advantage over our greatest rivals but no-one - and I mean no-one - is even considering that the race for the title is anywhere near finished. Rangers still have the stronger player pool and there is no doubt that they will be more than worthy adversaries over the coming months.

Make no mistake; today's match is of massive importance to us but, of the 39 points up for grabs before the end of the season, it offers just three.

A long way to go in title race

Nevertheless, I did say when we returned from our winter break that this period of matches could well be the most important of all and, prior to Wednesday at least, we have looked to be in good shape.

We started back with a potentially tricky trip to face Stranraer in the Scottish Cup and I'm delighted to say we negotiated the tie with a professionalism and commitment that has been evident from the moment we kicked off the season.

I was a little concerned that, having built up a momentum prior to the break, we might not have resumed where we'd left off. However, I should have given more credit to the players because their appetite for the matches is still very much in evidence, something illustrated by their disappointment at missing out on the chance to do battle at McDiarmid Park last Wednesday.

That night, fog put paid to the match, but we returned to action against Hearts on Sunday and completed a hat-trick of victories at Tynecastle with a superb 3-0 win courtesy of a treble from a fringe player whose name escapes me right now!

No, Henrik Larsson showed once again that

he is indeed a phenomenal striker, although I did feel it was right that he shared the plaudits with his team-mates because each and every one of them had played a part in securing the three points.

One of the players who suffered in doing so was Joos Valgoeren. He has been absolutely immense for us this season, rightly becoming a big favourite with the supporters and I'm sure they will have been as delighted as we were to discover that his injury was not as serious as first feared.

Also playing their part that night were the many thousands of fans who made the journey to Edinburgh to cheer us on. Wherever we have gone, be it across the city or as far afield as Luxembourg, Helsinki, Bordeaux and even Tampa Bay, we have always been met by an amazing number of friendly faces.

Without fail, our travelling support, by their numbers and the noise they create, negate any advantage the home side might think they hold.

I have certainly never come across their equal and I only hope the players and I can go some way towards repaying them with some silverware come the end of the season.

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celtic:
probable formation 3-5-2

rangers:
probable formation 3-5-2



subs	celtic	rangers

Referee: HUGH DALLAS

Assistant Referees: JIM McBRIDE

WILSON IRVINE

Fourth Official: KENNY CLARK



celtic squad

- 1 Jonathan GOULD
- 2 Tom BOYD (*captain*)
- 3 Stephane MAHE
- 4 Jackie McNAMARA
- 5 Joos VALGAEREN
- 6 Alan STUBBS
- 7 Henrik LARSSON
- 8 Alan THOMPSON
- 9 Chris SUTTON
- 10 Eyal BERKOVIC (*B'burn*)
- 11 Morten WIEGHORST
- 12 Tommy JOHNSON
- 14 Paul LAMBERT
- 15 Bobby PETTA
- 16 Olivier TEBILY
- 17 Didier AGATHE
- 18 Neil LENNON
- 19 Stilian PETROV (*suspended*)
- 20 Rab DOUGLAS
- 21 Stewart KERR
- 22 Stephane BONNES
- 23 Dimitre KHARINE
- 24 Colin HEALY
- 25 Lubomir MORAVCIK
- 26 Paul SHIELDS
- 27 Mark BURCHILL
- 30 Vidar RISETH (*loan*)
- 31 Rafael SCHEIDT (*loan*)
- 32 Simon LYNCH
- 33 John CONVERY
- 34 Mark FOTHERINGHAM
- 35 Johan MJALLBY
- 36 Ramon VEGA
- 37 Liam KEOGH
- 38 Barry John CORR
- 39 Jamie SMITH
- 40 Stephen CRAINEY
- 41 John KENNEDY

rangers squad

- 1 Stefan KLOS
- 2 Fernando RICKSEN
- 3 Craig MOORE
- 4 Lorenzo AMORUSO
- 5 Arthur NUMAN
- 6 Barry FERGUSON (*capt*)
- 7 Andrei KANCHELSKIS (*loan*)
- 8 Giovanni VAN BRONCKHORST
- 9 Michael MOLS
- 10 Rod WALLACE
- 11 Jorg ALBERTZ
- 12 Claudio REYNA
- 14 Ronald DE BOER
- 15 Bert KONTERMAN
- 16 Billy DODDS
- 17 TUGAY Kerimoglu
- 18 Neil McCANN
- 19 Scott WILSON
- 20 Jesper CHRISTIANSEN
- 21 Sergio PORRINI
- 22 Tore Andre FLO
- 23 Kenny MILLER
- 24 Allan JOHNSTON
- 25 Tony VIDMAR
- 26 Peter LOVENKRANDS
- 27 Stephen HUGHES
- 28 Dariusz ADAMCZUK
- 31 Marco NEGRI
- 32 Mark BROWN
- 33 Robert MALCOLM
- 36 Steven CARSON
- 44 Maurice ROSS