



# CELTIC v FK TEPLICE

Celtic Park, Thursday 26 February 2004, Kick-off 7.45pm  
UEFA Cup Third round 1st Leg







**CARLING**  
EXTRA COLD





**“We have scored 81 goals from our record-breaking 24 games and I think that shows the type of football the team has been displaying for a long time now”**

**A WARM welcome to everyone at Celtic Park this evening for the UEFA Cup first leg tie against FK Teplice of the Czech Republic.**

Last Sunday at Firhill we beat Partick Thistle 4-1 and in so doing won our 24th consecutive league game and therefore broke a 44-year-old record which was held by Morton.

It's a record I'm sure most people associated with the club are very proud of it and my own personal view is that it will be quite some time in the future before it is broken again.

During the 24-game run the players have performed magnificently. Victories have come in all sorts of different ways, either scoring early in a game and consolidating victory or coming from behind in dramatic fashion, as we did in the last league game here at Celtic Park against Dundee United.

Scoring 81 goals from those 24 games, I think, shows the type of football the team has been displaying for a long time now. The goalscoring feats and the record will be put to the test on Sunday

against Livingston, but all things concerning our league position will have to wait until then.

Our attention and focus turns to this evening's very difficult game against FK Teplice, conquerors of Kaiserslautern and Feyenoord of Holland – who actually won the UEFA Cup only two seasons ago. Teplice fully merit their place in the latter stages of this season's competition.

As usual we have done as much homework as is possible to know about our opponents tonight, as I am sure they will have reciprocated in a thorough manner themselves.

Tom O'Neill, our chief scout, has been able to see quite a lot of them in recent weeks and holds them in very high regard. A few changes have taken place in their ranks since victory over Feyenoord but they have added much quality since December and this will be a closely fought tie.

Neil Lennon misses the game this evening and the return leg next week also. We are disappointed not to have his services. He has been having a

magnificent season so far and I believe is finally getting the recognition that he deserves.

Shaun Maloney will be another absentee this evening. He injured his knee on Monday afternoon's under-21 game but as I write these notes we don't know the extent of the problem.

Shaun changed the game for us against Dundee United otherwise we would have no record to cherish. I am hoping both he and Jackie McNamara sign new contracts at the end of this week.

Seville was a wonderful experience last year but already fading from the memory. At this moment we are a million miles away from any possible repeat. We will need all the help we can get from you this evening.

European evenings, as I've often said, are special occasions at Celtic Park. We will need another special evening to have a chance next week.



# CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB FACTFILE

**Formed:** 1888

**Stadium:** Celtic Park  
 (capacity 60,506)

**Home strip:** Green/white hooped shirts,  
 white shorts, white socks

**Away strip:** Black shirts, black shorts and socks with  
 gold trim

**Third strip:** Gold shirts, green  
 shorts, gold 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

- On 22nd February, in different years, two long-serving Celts made their debuts. In 1975, against Hibs, Peter Latchford made the first of his 272 appearances; while in 1986, against Hearts, Derek Whyte played the first of his 276 in the Hoops.
- In a Scottish Cup tie against Clyde at Shawfield, on 23rd February 1959, Celtic beat Clyde 4-3 after extra-time. In the club's long history, this was only their third extra-time victory.
- Two goals by inside-right Jim Blessington against Rangers at Parkhead on February 24, 1894 sealed Celtic's second successive championship.
- On the same date in 1990, Tommy Coyne scored the only goal of the game as Celtic knocked Rangers out of the Scottish Cup at Celtic Park.
- On 25th February 1928, Jimmy McGrory made the first of his seven appearances for Scotland in the 0-1 defeat by Ireland in Glasgow. His next showing would be three years later.
- In 1986, on February 26th, Tom McAdam was given a free transfer after 9 years' service. He had made 362 appearances for the club, with 48 goals. At that time, he held the record of scoring the most goals (8) in Old Firm matches since the war.



## FK TEPLICE FACTS

- FK Teplice was founded in 1945.
- The club plays all its home matches at the Stadion No Stínadlech, which holds 18,000.
- The city of Teplice is situated in the north-west of the Czech Republic, close to the German border. It is renowned for the production of glass and ceramics.
- The club was originally known as Technomat 1945-51; Vodotechna 1951-52; Ingstav 1952; Tatra 1952-60 and Slovan 1960-66.
- From 1st January 1995, two independent states were created out of the former Czechoslovakia - the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic - and from that date, Czech and Slovak football went their separate ways.
- FK Teplice finished 6th in the Czech Republic league last season, with 45 points from 30 matches, a full 20 points behind winners Sparta Prague.
- At the Strahov Stadium, in Prague, on May 27, 2003, in front of a crowd of 5,833, FK Teplice won the Czech Republic Cup by beating FK Jablonec 1-0.
- At the time of going to print, Fk Teplice lie in 10th place in the Czech League, 17 points behind the leaders, Banik Ostrava.



### Welcome to tonight's visitors

Na štadiónu Celtic Park vrele vítáme vedení, hráče a fanoušky severočeského klubu FK Teplice. Pejeme vám, aby se dnešní zápas Poháru UEFA stal nezapomenutelným zážitkem a dokladem našeho fotbalového přátelství.





TONIGHT'S VISITORS - FK TEPLICE  
MANAGER - FRANTISEK STRAKA

CELTIC



FK TEPLICE

Momo Sylla	3	■
Jackie McNamara	4	■
Joos Valgaeren	5	■
Bobo Balde	6	■
Henrik Larsson	7	■
Alan Thompson	8	■
Chris Sutton	9	■
John Hartson	10	■
David Fernandez	12	■
Paul Lambert	14	■
Bobby Petta	15	■
Ulrik Laursen	16	■
Didier Agathe	17	■
Neil Lennon	18	■
Stilian Petrov	19	■
Robert Douglas	20	■
Magnus Hedman	21	■
David Marshall	22	■
Stanislav Varga	23	■
Shaun Maloney	29	■
Ross Wallace	33	■
Johan Mjallby	35	■
Craig Beattie	37	■
Jamie Smith	39	■
John Kennedy	41	■
Liam Miller	43	■
		■
		■
		■

Tomas Postulka
Patrik Kolar
Radim Vlasak
Karel Rada
Jiri Skala
Tomas Hunal
Patrick Gross
Petr Dragoun
Zdenko Frtala
Vlastimil Ryska
Vladimir Leitner
Dusan Tesarik
Pavel Horvath
Michal Dolezal
Martin Fenin
Roman Harvatovic
Miroslav Jirka
Svatopluk Habanec
Michal Obrtlik
Adrian Popsa
Pavel Verbir
Jiri Kowalik
Jiri Masek
Pavel Krmas
Pavel Kuchar

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0141-556 2611

CURRENT SCOTTISH PREMIERLEAGUE 2003/04

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
CELTIC	25	24	1	0	81	12	69	73
Rangers	25	19	3	3	52	19	33	60
Hearts	24	13	4	7	35	26	9	43
Dunfermline	25	10	7	8	29	35	-6	37
Motherwell	24	8	6	10	27	30	-3	30
Livingston	24	7	8	9	27	30	-3	29
Dundee	25	7	7	11	30	36	-6	28
Hibernian	25	7	7	11	24	39	-15	28
Dundee Utd	25	7	6	12	25	41	-16	27
Kilmarnock	25	7	3	15	28	53	-25	24
Aberdeen	24	6	5	13	29	42	-13	23
Partick Thistle	25	3	3	19	27	51	-24	12

CLUB SPONSORS



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Scottish Premierleague		
<b>CELTIC v LIVINGSTON</b>	SUN 29 FEBRUARY 3:00pm	
UEFA Cup 3rd Round, 2nd Leg		
<b>FK TEPLICE v CELTIC</b>	THURS 3 MARCH 5:00pm (BST)	
Scottish Cup 5th Round		
<b>CELTIC v RANGERS</b>	SUN 7 MARCH 12:00pm	
Scottish Premierleague		
<b>CELTIC v MOTHERWELL</b>	SAT 13 MARCH 3:00pm	
Scottish Premierleague		
<b>DUNDEE v CELTIC</b>	WED 17 MARCH 7:45pm	

RECENT FORM



Scottish Premierleague, February 22, 2004
<b>PARTICK THISTLE 1 v 4 CELTIC</b> (Varga 2, Sutton 2)
Scottish Premierleague, February 14, 2004
<b>CELTIC 2 v 1 DUNDEE UNITED</b> (Sutton, Maloney)
Scottish Premierleague, February 11, 2004
<b>DUNFERMLINE 1 v 4 CELTIC</b> (Varga, Thompson, Larsson 2)
Scottish Premierleague, February 7, 2004
<b>HEARTS 0 v 3 CELTIC</b> (Petrov 2, Larsson)
Scottish Premierleague, January 31, 2004
<b>CELTIC 5 v 1 KILMARNOCK</b> (Agathe, Hartson 2, Larsson, Pearson)

TONIGHT'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee:	<b>KONRAD PLAUTZ (Austria)</b>
Assistant Referees:	<b>EGON BEREUTER</b> <b>WALTER STAUDINGER</b>
Fourth Official:	<b>DIETMAR DRABEK</b>

CELTIC plc DIRECTORS Brian Quinn, Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, Dermot Desmond, Tom Allison, Eric Hagman

CFAC DIRECTORS Peter Lawwell, Eric Riley, John Keane, Michael McDonald, Kevin Sweeney

MANAGER Martin O'Neill ASSISTANT MANAGER John Robertson COACH Steve Walford

HEAD OF YOUTH Tommy Burns YOUTH TEAM COACH Willie McStay UNDER-21 COACH Kenny McDowall

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS Tim Williamson & Gavin McCarthy CLUB DOCTOR Roddy Macdonald KIT CONTROLLER John Clark



# GROWING IN CONFIDENCE

After coming back from his recent injury against Dunfermline, John Kennedy is starting to cement his place in Martin O'Neill's plans and the Scotland U21 captain is eager to extend his current contract at Celtic Park

Exclusive Interview: ALISON McCONNELL

**JOHN KENNEDY** returned to Celtic's first-team at Firhill on Sunday afternoon as Martin O'Neill's side left their signature on the record books with a comfortable 4-1 win over Partick Thistle that takes this season's total to 24 successive league victories.

It is an incredible statistic and allied to the boasts that Celtic can make on their home turf of having gone 70 games unbeaten, it underlines just how difficult the current team is to beat.

Not that it will allow thoughts to waver on the football park. Having seen off Kaiserslautern and Feyenoord en route to Glasgow, it isn't expected that FK Teplice will exit the tournament gracefully.

The Czech side are desperate to make their mark on the UEFA Cup and Kennedy has reiterated the mantra that Celtic need to be at their best to beat them.

Having started Sunday's game at the expense of Didier Agathe who missed out because of injury, Kennedy will have to wait before discovering if he is in O'Neill's plans tonight, although needless to say he is eager to take any first-team chances that come his way.







**“It will be a hard game because everyone knows they’ve put good teams out of the competition already this season”**

“It would be nice to be involved tonight,” he said. “If I’m picked I’ll certainly be ready but if I’m not starting, hopefully I’ll be ready to play a part in the game if I’m asked to.”

“We do have a good record at Celtic Park but I’m sure that isn’t something anyone will really be giving any thought to. You can’t afford to go into any game without giving 100 percent, let alone a UEFA Cup tie.

“We need to go out and give it our all, but this is a team that do it in every game. It would be brilliant to repeat what happened last season in the UEFA Cup, but it has to be a game at a time because when you get too far ahead of yourself that’s where you fall down.

“It’ll be a hard game because everybody knows that they’ve already put good teams out of the competition. We have to go out and show them a lot of respect but give it our best shot and try and establish a lead to take to the Czech Republic next week.”

Having started off last weekend on the right-side of a four-man defence, Kennedy has insisted that he has no concerns about where he is asked to turn out.

His confidence is slowly building as he frequents the first-team more often and the fact that he has been able to step into a winning side has made the learning curve a little easier.

“It was good to get back in again,” he said. “It’s a bit different but the way that I see it is that it’s a

#### ALL FIRED UP

Kennedy is delighted to play his part for the Hoops and hopes to get a taste of the action tonight



#### BELOW PAR

John’s head was badly gashed in the SPL match away to Dunfermline



#### CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS

John is delighted to be part of Scotland’s U21 set-up

**“My confidence is good and I feel I’ve been a bit more settled in the last few games I’ve played”**

game and I’d be happy to play anywhere.

“It’s been a decent time for me by getting the Scotland under-21 captaincy, which I’m proud of, and then getting back into the team at the weekend. It’s the first time I’ve been back since I got the head knock against Dunfermline and I’m delighted that the manager has kept me in the team.

“I imagine it’ll be a while before anyone comes close to breaking the league victories record again. It’s just one of these things that happens once in a blue moon but

it’s a great thing for the team to have achieved.

“Confidence in the first-team is at its peak just now and obviously it goes without saying that we want to keep the run going for as long as possible.

“My own confidence is good. I feel I’ve been a bit more settled in the last few games that I’ve played in the first-team and things grow from there. I want to stay in the team for as long as I can, get an extension to my contract and keep working away.”

O’Neill revealed last week that he

is keen to tie up Kennedy on a new contract over the next couple of weeks and the defender is eager to keep pushing for his chance.

“It’s been a busy schedule recently and there hasn’t been time to sit down but once things settle down and get a bit quieter I’m sure it’ll come,” he said. “I’m happy to be here and when you’re involved and playing in games, I don’t think there’s any better club to be at.

“The team is great to be play with and I’m happy to be here. We do have a big squad so there are always players prepared to step in if someone else is unavailable.

“I know the manager will want everyone fit and as many players as possible at his disposal so that he has his best team always available to him, but you do always want to take anything that comes your way.”