

CELTIC



THE OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE OF CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB 2005/06

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VERSUS FALKIRK

08/02/06. CELTIC PARK. KICK-OFF 7.45PM

Celtic 

JOHN HARTSON

'TAKING IT ON THE CHIN'



CARLING

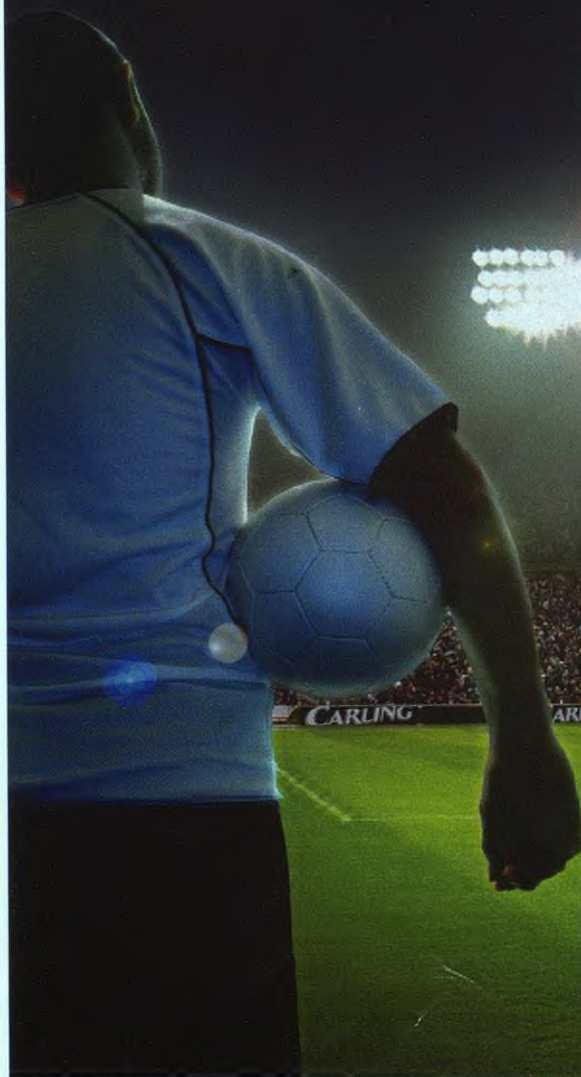


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CARLING

**SPOT
ON**

Stilian Petrov signing an extension to his current contract that will keep him here until at least 2009 was like signing a new player and it's from signings like this that we have to build for the future.



GORDON STRACHAN

A Warm welcome to Celtic Park for tonight's SPL game with Falkirk, the fourth time we have faced John Hughes' side this season.

In our last home game we had to settle for a 3-3 draw with Dundee United after being in front and even with eight minutes left we seemed to be sitting comfortably, in fact, prior to that I thought we were going to score more than the three goals.

However, we all know what happened and to say that was hugely disappointing would be a massive understatement and, despite still having the cushion of eight points, it was like suffering a defeat considering the atmosphere in the dressing room directly after the game here.

There is no doubt that we could have done better and we discussed that as a team on the Monday morning as we set about preparing for the following game against Motherwell in the CIS Cup semi-final at Hampden.

A place in the first final of the season was at stake and I'm delighted to say that we will be competing in that final next month but it was clear on the night that we weren't at our best despite winning the match.

We have to work on defending from the front and the midfield and to say we had an off night would be another understatement as, apart

from actually qualifying for the final, there were few enjoyable moments in the game for us.

But we are in a final and we are eight points in front at the top of the table and tonight we aim to maintain our lead in the SPL by getting back on the tracks against tonight's visitors, Falkirk.

This will be our fourth meeting already this season and our third here at Celtic Park so we know what we will be up against as John Hughes has set out his stall against us before and worked our team hard, especially in the two games here.

We have the option of one or two new players to choose from since the last time we met them though. In our last programme I talked of the signings of Roy Keane and Mark Wilson with Gary Caldwell and Kenny Miller signing on pre-contract, but since then there has been more activity in the transfer market.

Dion Dublin was a late addition to the playing pool at the end of the January transfer window and I'm delighted that we now have this experienced player at our disposal for the remainder of the season at least.

But, I have to say that Stilian Petrov signing an extension to his current contract that will keep him here until at least 2009 was like signing a new player and it's from signings like this that we have to build for the future.

CLUB DIRECTORY & HONOURS

Celtic Football Club
 Celtic Park Glasgow G40 3RE
 Telephone: 0845 671 1888
 Website: www.celticfc.net
 Formed: 1888
 Stadium: Celtic Park
 Capacity: 60,506
 Home strip colours: Green / white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks
 Away strip colours: Green shirts, green shorts, green 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 in 1 season: 50 - Jimmy McGrory, 1935-36
 Most Premier/SPL goals in 1 season: 35 - Brian McClair, 1986-87
 35 - Henrik Larsson, 2000-01

CLUB HONOURS

Scottish League Winners [39 times]
 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, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2003-04

Scottish Cup Winners [33 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, 2001, 2004, 2005

League Cup Winners [12 times]
 1956-57, 1957-58, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1974-75, 1982-83, 1997-98, 1999-00, 2000-01

European Cup Winners 1967
 Coronation Cup Winners 1953

CELTIC PLC DIRECTORS

Celtic plc Directors:
 Brian Quinn
 Peter Lawwell
 Eric Riley
 Dermot Desmond
 Tom Allison
 Eric Hagman
 Brian McBride
 Brian Wilson

CFAC Directors:
 Peter Lawwell
 Eric Riley
 John Keane
 Michael McDonald
 Kevin Sweeney

Manager:
 Gordon Strachan

Assistant Manager:
 Garry Pendrey

Coach:
 Tommy Burns

Head of Youth:
 Tommy Burns

Youth team Coach:
 Willie McStay

Reserve Coach:
 Kenny McDowall

Physiotherapists:
 Tim Williamson &
 Gavin McCarthy

Club Doctor:
 Roddy Macdonald

Kit Controller:
 John Clark

CELTIC MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

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CRE8

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 Glasgow G3 7UY
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CLUB SPONSORS



EXCURSIONS

Sunday, February 12
 Scottish Premierleague
 Rangers v **CELTIC**

Sunday, February 19
 Scottish Premierleague
 Dunfermline v **CELTIC**

Saturday, March 4
 Scottish Premierleague
CELTIC v Aberdeen

Saturday, March 11
 Scottish Premierleague
 Hibernian v **CELTIC**

Sunday, March 19
 CIS Cup final (Hampden Park)
 Dunfermline v **CELTIC**

Saturday, March 25
 Scottish Premierleague
 Livingston v **CELTIC**

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: Iain Brines
Assistant Referees: Frank Cole
 Gary Sweeney
Fourth Official: Stevie O'Reilly

CELTIC

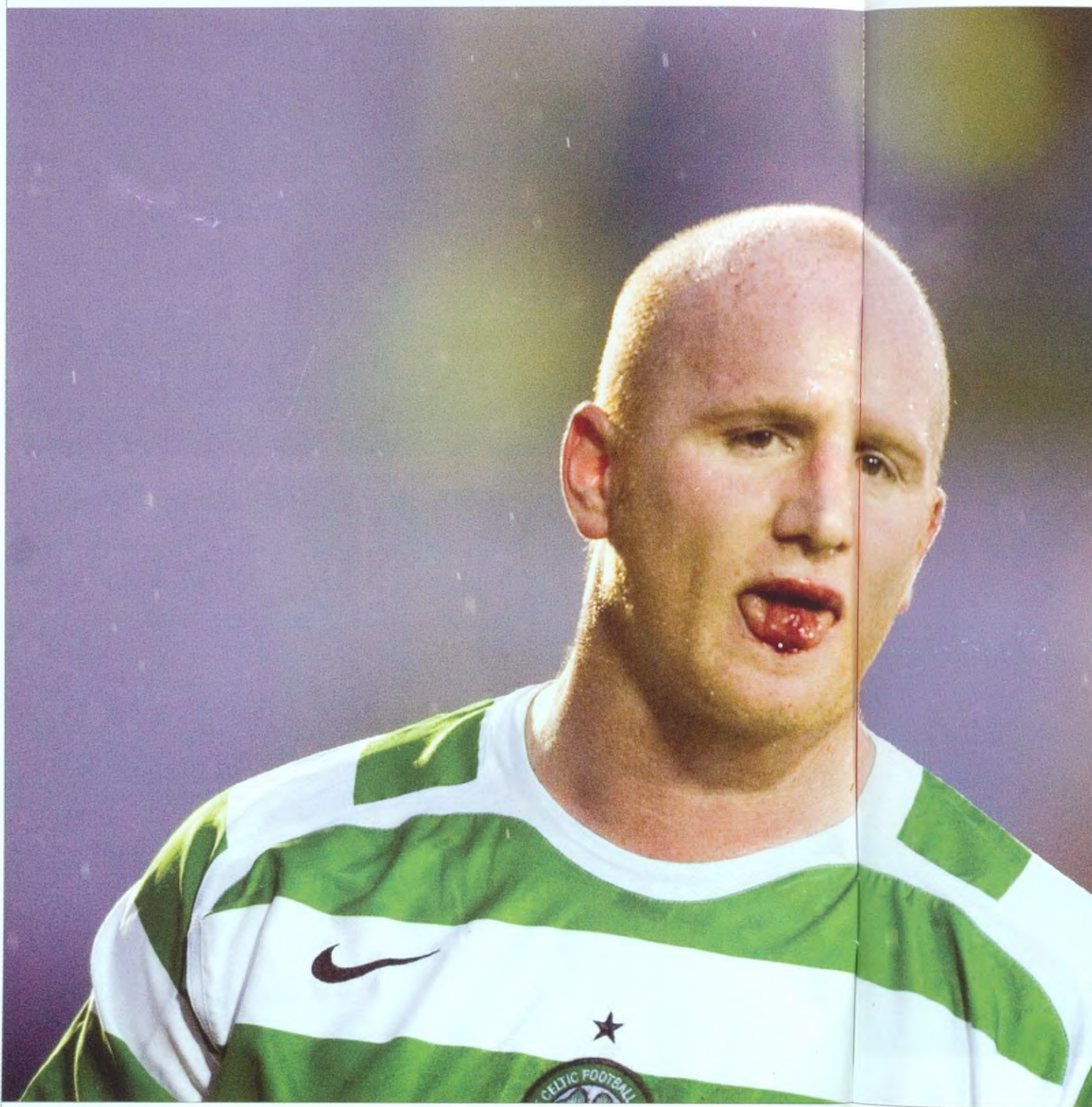
- 1 ARTUR BORUC
- 2 PAUL TELFER
- 3 MOHAMED CAMARA
- 4 ADAM VIRGO
- 6 DIANBOBO BALDE
- 7 MACIEJ ZURAWSKI
- 8 ALAN THOMPSON
- 9 DION DUBLIN
- 10 JOHN HARTSON
- 11 STEPHEN PEARSON
- 12 MARK WILSON
- 16 ROY KEANE
- 18 NEIL LENNON
- 19 STILIAN PETROV
- 22 DAVID MARSHALL
- 23 STAN VARGA
- 25 SHUNSUKE NAKAMURA
- 29 SHAUN MALONEY
- 31 ANTHONY McPARLAND
- 33 ROSS WALLACE
- 35 PAUL LAWSON
- 37 CRAIG BEATTIE
- 38 ROCCO QUINN
- 40 MICHAEL GARDYNE
- 41 JOHN KENNEDY
- 42 MICHAEL McGLINCHEY
- 43 DIARMUID O'CARROLL
- 44 STEPHEN McMANUS
- 46 AIDEN McGEADY
- 47 MICHAEL McGOVERN
- 48 DARREN O'DEA
- 49 SCOTT CUTHBERT
- 50 GARY IRVINE



FALKIRK

- 1 ALLAN FERGUSON
- 2 ANDY LAWRIE
- 3 CRAIG McPHERSON
- 5 JACK ROSS
- 6 CRAIG IRELAND
- 7 PEDRO MOUTINHO
- 8 ALAN GOW
- 10 RUSSELL LATAPY
- 12 NEIL SCALLY
- 15 KENNY MILNE
- 16 IAN McSWEENEY
- 17 DARREN HILL
- 18 VICTOR MANUEL SANTOS LIMA
- 19 DANIEL McBREEN
- 21 JOHN O'NEIL
- 22 STEVEN THOMSON
- 23 MARK TWADDLE
- 24 JOHN HUGHES
- 25 TIAGO JONAS RODRIGUES
- 26 ALAN KERNAGHAN
- 28 STEPHEN O'DONNELL
- BRIAN ALLISON
- CRAIG
- PATRICK CREGG
- FOUZI MESAUDI
- THEOBOLD
- MARK HOWARD





TAKING IT ON THE CHIN

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW : GREGOR KYLE PICTURES: SNS

A CUP final suspension is something that many players take months (sometimes even their whole careers) to get over.

But as he reported for training the morning after Celtic's 2-1 semi-final win over Motherwell, John Hartson was not dwelling on the unwarranted booking that will rule him out of the League Cup final, but was instead refocusing on what has always been his primary aim – reclaiming the title.

"It is very disappointing," said Hartson of the suspension, "but I have always maintained that the most important thing is that the team win trophies and that the team win titles.

"I never really have been one for talking about individuals, especially myself. These things happen in football and if it's any consolation, Roy Keane missed the Champions League Cup final and at the end of the day, I am going to miss a League Cup final.

"But it is disappointing," added Hartson, "because I didn't feel that it was a malicious challenge on the goalkeeper and there wasn't really a bad tackle the whole night. But I don't think it's one that the club will be appealing and I'll just have to take it on the chin."

The experience accumulated during 14 years in the professional game perhaps allows Hartson to be philosophical on such issues – particularly when a back injury in 2003 ruled him out Celtic's UEFA Cup final bid.

This experience and others have allowed the Welshman to keep a level head in recent weeks as Celtic have continued to make heavy going of games against the likes of Dundee United in the league and Motherwell in the cup.

They may have failed to maintain a clean sheet in games since November 2005, but going into tonight's match the players have succeeded in establishing an eight point lead over Hearts and a 15-point advantage over third-placed rivals Rangers and Hartson believes that the side will rediscover their defensive form together.

"We know that we haven't been defending greatly as a team and it's the same old sayings,

you defend from the front and you win together and lose together, so to blame the defence is not something that the manager would do.

"We know that we have been shipping too many goals for our liking," Hartson continued, "especially at home and over the years we have been strong here.

"But it's something that we've looked at and spoken about and it's something that we are looking to improve on, defending as a team. I've said it all along, there is a long way to go before we go on and lift this league trophy.

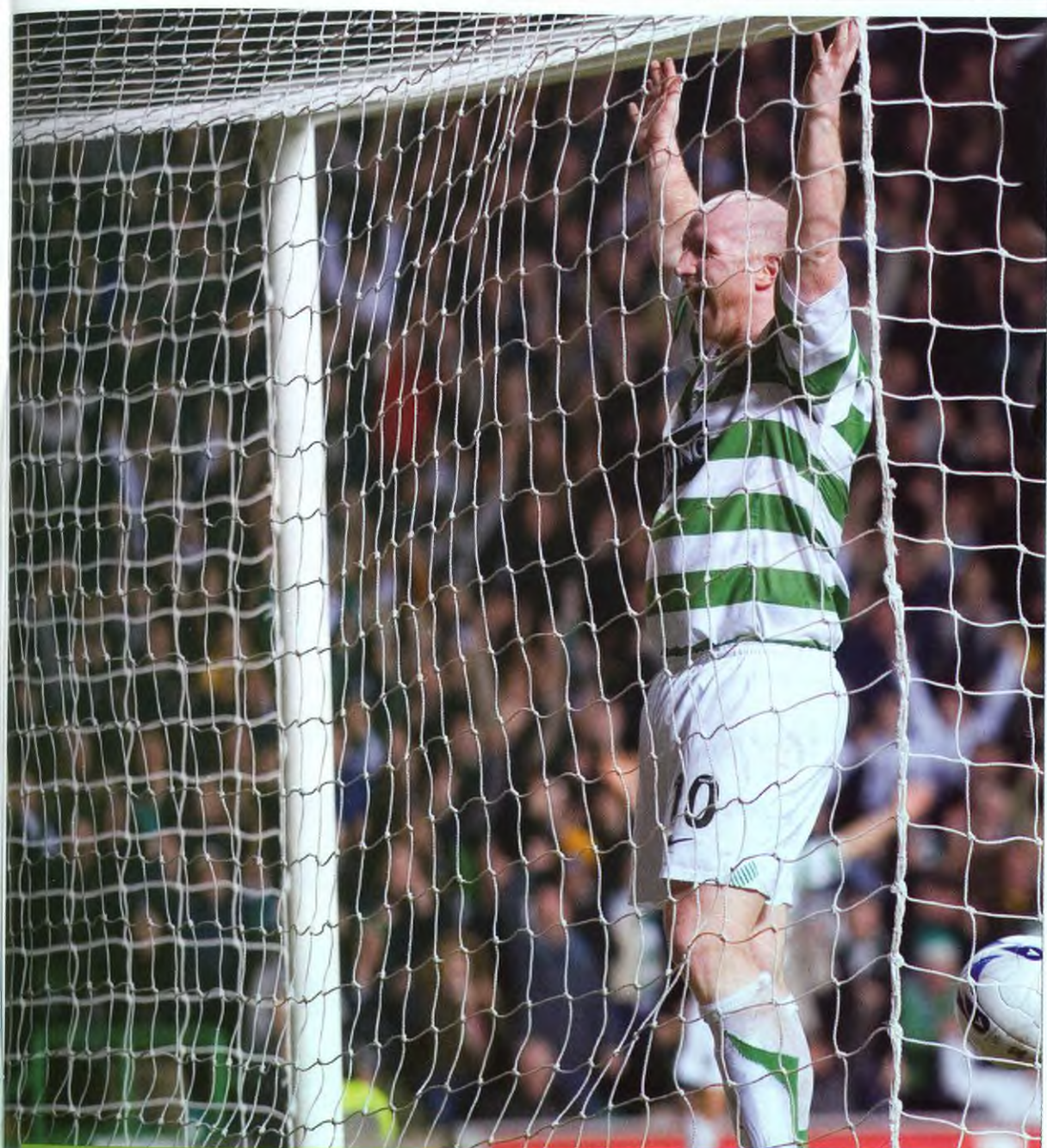
"We have got ourselves into a tremendous position, building the lead that we have and it's a position that Hearts and Rangers would give their right arm to be in and it's important that we keep reminding ourselves how well we have done to get this far."

But while taking confidence from past victories, Hartson explained that the players have been working hard to learn lessons from their recent errors as well.

Tonight they will run out to face Falkirk for the third time at Celtic Park this season and the players will be well aware of the work-rate and ability that the Bairns bring with them.

As an honest and whole-hearted competitor, Falkirk boss and former Celt, John Hughes is someone who Hartson has genuine admiration for and he will show 'Yogi's' players similar respect.

"Dundee United was a game that we should have won and after the game, in the dressing room, it felt like a defeat for the boys. So we



“ If it's any consolation, Roy Keane missed the Champions League Cup final and at the end of the day, I'm missing the League Cup final. ”