



Celtic

Programme No. 12

v Kilmarnock



Scottish Premierleague
Celtic Park, Saturday Nov 6, 2004
Kick-off 3pm £2



Celtic 





Carling are proud to be supporters of Celtic F.C.

LOVEFOOTBALL



LAST Tuesday evening we defeated Shakhtar Donetsk of the Ukraine to register some points on the Champions League board and to give ourselves the possibility of being involved in European competition after the winter break.

We played some delightful football in the first half, as did our opponents when they had possession of the ball. David Marshall made a fine save from Matuzalem but we had some decent chances ourselves, and, when Alan Thompson gave us the lead after 25 minutes there is no doubt that the goal was fully merited.

Henri Camara looked a certainty to put us two goals ahead when he raced clear of the Shakhtar defence. But he was brought down by Tymoshchuk a yard outside the penalty box and the referee had no alternative but to send the Shakhtar midfielder off.

Like many Celtic fans in the stadium I might have preferred if Henri, given his recent record of scoring from similar positions in the SPL, had been allowed the chance to score and therefore increase our lead rather than being awarded a free kick outside the box and a reduction in their team.

However, neither was I complaining.

Early second-half play saw us once again create two wonderful goal-scoring opportunities but we were unable to convert them.

Then came a second sending off for Donetsk, forcing them to finish the game with nine players.

Late in the game tiredness set in after our team playing four games in nine days - incidentally, contrary to what was reported in some quarters, I did not castigate the SPL for fixture congestion, in fact I never even mentioned fixture congestion or the SPL.

The truth is, if European and international fixtures would allow



it, I would prefer it if SPL games could also be played midweek in the early stages of the season.

Despite the numerical advantage, we were unable to

'I might have preferred if Henri, given his recent record of scoring from similar positions in the SPL, had been allowed the chance to score and therefore increase our lead'

score the extra three goals that would have given us the edge over Shakhtar if the league table is ultimately decided on equal points. And that is my responsibility as manager of the club - as it should be.

But we won the game. And the result was vitally important. As it was when we outplayed AC Milan in the San Siro stadium in the second half of a recent Champions League match yet lost the game in the last minute after we had deservedly equalised some 15 minutes earlier...

As it was when we roared back against Barcelona with a Chris

Sutton inspired goal and performance in the opening fixture here at Celtic Park, forcing their goalkeeper Valdes to make a great save from Stan Petrov which would have put us in front, only to succumb to a deflected goal with not much time left on the clock.

If memory serves me well there was little talk afterwards in any quarter about the brilliant second-half performances of the team against those two clubs who have high expectations of landing the trophy next May. Just the result! And everything else that followed the result! Now this week it's the performance rather than the result!

Regardless, we deserved to win the game. We could have scored six against Aberdeen but we were chasing a victory in the fourth minute of extra time when we conceded a goal and lost the game. I thought we accepted defeat graciously.

Shakhtar Donetsk are a very capable team. They lead their own league by two points from Dynamo Kiev who gave Real Madrid a torrid time of it for long periods on Wednesday evening. If Shakhtar stay in European competition at our expense they will have deserved to do so.

Kilmarnock arrive here today on the crest of a wave. An excellent 3-1 victory last weekend over Hibernian has deservedly put Jim Jefferies' team into the top six. Our game at Rugby Park earlier this season was a see-saw affair which we eventually won 4-2. I think it will be every bit as exciting today.

Alan Thompson



Formed: 1888
Stadium: Celtic Park (capacity 60,506)
Home strip: Green/white hooped shirts, white shorts, white socks
Away strip: Green shirts, white shorts and green socks
Third strip: Black shirts, black shorts and socks with gold trim
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 (39)
 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, 2003/2004

Scottish Cup (32)
 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

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 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

Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, Glasgow G40 3RE 0845 671 1888

CELTIC

KILMARNOCK

| | | | |
|------------------|----|----|---------------------|
| Momo Sylla | 3 | 1 | Alan Combe |
| Jackie McNamara | 4 | 2 | James Fowler |
| Joos Valgaeren | 5 | 3 | Garry Hay |
| Bobo Balde | 6 | 4 | David Lilley |
| Juninho | 7 | 5 | Gordon Greer |
| Alan Thompson | 8 | 6 | Frederic Dindeleux |
| Chris Sutton | 9 | 7 | Gary McDonald |
| John Hartson | 10 | 8 | Gary Locke |
| Stephen Pearson | 11 | 9 | Kris Boyd |
| David Fernandez | 12 | 10 | Craig Dargo |
| Paul Lambert | 14 | 11 | Danny Invincibile |
| Bobby Petta | 15 | 12 | Allan Johnston |
| Ulrik Laursen | 16 | 13 | Graeme Smith |
| Didier Agathe | 17 | 14 | Gary Wales |
| Neil Lennon | 18 | 15 | Colin Nish |
| Stilian Petrov | 19 | 16 | Eric Joly |
| Robert Douglas | 20 | 17 | Shaun Dillon |
| Magnus Hedman | 21 | 18 | Simon Ford |
| David Marshall | 22 | 19 | Stephen Murray |
| Stanislav Varga | 23 | 20 | Paul Di Giacomo |
| Henri Camara | 27 | 21 | Rhian Dodds |
| Shaun Maloney | 29 | 22 | Peter Leven |
| Ross Wallace | 33 | 23 | Mark Canning |
| Craig Beattie | 37 | 27 | Neil McGregor |
| Rocco Quinn | 38 | 28 | Francois Dubourdeau |
| John Kennedy | 41 | 33 | Steven Naismith |
| Stephen McManus | 44 | 44 | Paul McGlinchey |
| Kevin McBride | 45 | | |
| Aiden McGeady | 46 | | |
| Michael McGovern | 47 | | |
| Scott Cuthbert | 49 | | |

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: **STEVE CONROY**
 Assistant Referees: **JIM LYON**
GEORGE DRUMMOND
STEVEN DUFF
 Fourth Official:

RECENT FORM

UEFA Champions League, Nov 2, 2004
CELTIC 1 v 0 SHAKHTAR (Thompson)
 Scottish Premierleague, Oct 30, 2004
MOTHERWELL 2 v 3 CELTIC (McGeady, Thompson, Beattie)
 Scottish Premierleague, Oct 27, 2004
CELTIC 2 v 0 ABERDEEN (Hartson 2)
 Scottish Premierleague, Oct 24, 2004
LIVINGSTON 2 v 4 CELTIC (Petrov, Camara, Sutton, Hartson)
 UEFA Champions League, Oct 20, 2004
SHAKHTAR DONETSK 3 v 0 CELTIC

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

CIS Cup, 4th Round
RANGERS v CELTIC
 WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 7.45pm
 Scottish Premierleague
CELTIC v INVERNESS CT
 SATURDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 3pm
 Scottish Premierleague
RANGERS v CELTIC
 SATURDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 12.30pm
 UEFA Champions League
BARCELONA v CELTIC
 WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 7.45pm

CLUB SPONSORS





CLEAN SHEET WAS JOOS THE TICKET

Interview: STEPHEN SULLIVAN

GIVEN what had preceded Tuesday's visit of Shakhtar Donetsk, the prospect of Celtic beating the Ukrainians with no reply would have seemed improbable, even fanciful.

After all, and despite beginning October with consecutive clean sheets against Hearts and Dundee United, the four matches prior to the Hoops' make-or-break Champions League clash had seen the solid defensive base on which Martin O'Neill has built the club's recent success appear as brittle as the falling Autumn leaves.

Livingston, Aberdeen, Motherwell and Shakhtar all helped themselves to a combined total of 10 goals, the majority of which were not the result of any dazzling moment of inspiration but rather a result of sloppiness and a lack of concentration on the part of those in green and white.

Fortunately, however, and after numerous inquests - held both within Celtic Park and in the press - the Bhoys' rearguard proved with a solid and commanding performance on Tuesday, even before Shakhtar found their numbers depleted, that reports of their demise had indeed been somewhat exaggerated.

Comeback star Valgaeren hopes Celtic's shut-out against Shakhtar will help end a worrying spell of dismal defending

Joos Valgaeren, a surprise stand-out, nevertheless admits that the bulk of the criticism to which he and his colleagues had been subjected can't be dismissed as unjustified.

"Playing for a big team, you expect a bit of criticism," he said. "I also think that, as a unit, the defence has also set very high standards here over the last few years and the fans have come to expect that, whatever happens elsewhere, at least they can count on the defence.

"The down side is that, as soon as that standard drops a bit, you get stuck. But that's the way it goes and I've no complaints. The criticism was probably fair because we had defended badly in the weeks before the Shakhtar game, but hopefully getting a clean sheet against such a good team will give David Marshall and all the defenders a big boost."

Psychologically, Marshall may benefit most of all. After all, and for the first time in his fledgling career, the 19-year-old goalkeeper had been receiving criticism of his

own - and hearing calls that he should be 'rested.'

That the mentally tough teenager confounded his critics with a flawless performance, the highlight of which was a quite brilliant 10th minute save from Matuzalem, didn't surprise Valgaeren in the slightest.

"Fair play to David," said the Belgian. "He came almost from nowhere and arrived on the scene as Celtic's saviour because of what happened in Barcelona. But I think he knew that, in some ways, that game would be easier for him than, for example, playing here against smaller Scottish teams.

"That's when the hard times can come, and what has impressed me about David is that he's put himself through that, taken the criticism and still been able to produce a great performance in the Champions League. I think that proves how mature he is, and his talent, well, that's obvious."

As it was, and for once, it wasn't at Celtic's defence that complaints





CONFIDENCE BOOST: David Marshall came to fame after a super show in Barcelona and will take heart after another clean sheet against Shakhtar



were directed on Tuesday. Instead, frustrated fans and unimpressed observers dedicated their grumbling to Celtic's apparent lack of urgency once Shakhtar had been reduced to nine men and O'Neill's refusal to commit men forward to erode the three-goal advantage established by the Ukrainians in Donetsk.

Nevertheless, an unapologetic Valgaeren had no hesitation in declaring Celtic's mission to have been accomplished.

“GETTING A CLEAN SHEET AGAINST SUCH A GOOD TEAM WILL GIVE DAVID MARSHALL AND ALL THE DEFENDERS A BIG BOOST”

“The main thing was to get a win, that was it,” he insisted. “No-one even mentioned the goal difference beforehand because that would have been disrespectful to our opponents, and I think you saw from the way we played that the only thing that mattered to us was the three points.”

“I haven't read any of the papers since, so I don't know if we've taken a bit of stick for it, but all I can say is that the end scoreline

wasn't a problem in the dressing room. I can see why some of the fans might have been frustrated because, when you look at the statistics and see that it's nine versus 11, you probably expect the 11 to get a few more goals.

“But it's not always that easy, particularly when it's 1-0, because - even against nine men - one good ball over the top can cause a lot of problems.”

“We didn't want to risk the three points and I'm happy in the end that we got the result we set out to achieve.”

Valgaeren also had cause to be satisfied with an impressive and positive personal performance, one made all the more remarkable by



IRON CURTAIN: Joos teamed up with Stan Varga to keep the dangerous Ukrainians at bay on Tuesday and the Hoops won their victory thanks to Alan Thompson's scorer (below)



the fact it was his second outing in the space of three days after over a month on the sidelines. Not that he would have offered rustiness as an excuse in any case.

“Yeah, I enjoyed it,” he said. “It's tough to come back in so soon to a game like that, but that's how it goes when you're a professional player.”

“If you tell the manager that you're fit to play, you're fit and there's no excuses after that. It doesn't matter how long you've been out for or if you're maybe not at 100 per cent. If you say you're fit, the responsibility is on you to do your job.”

“If you show by your performance that you're not fit,

“WE DIDN'T EVEN MENTION GOAL DIFFERENCE BEFOREHAND BECAUSE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN DISRESPECTFUL TO OUR OPPONENTS”

my opinion is that it shows you to be very unprofessional and there's no excuse for that. Once you make yourself available, you should be just the same as all the other players.”

That same rule will apply this afternoon when Valgaeren and Celtic face up to a Kilmarnock side who provided the Hoops' first real fright of season 2004/05 by twice taking the lead before eventually succumbing to a 4-2 defeat on August 14.

The Belgian, who endured a particularly fraught time of it that afternoon, admits that ensuring Rangers are kept at arm's length is a must.

“The league is the most important thing to us and everyone expects that we'll win every game,” he said. “But Kilmarnock were very tough earlier in the season and we'll have to play very well to win. We're going for all three points, though, no doubt about it.”