

European Cup First Round, Second Leg

CELTIC

V Shamrock Rovers
Celtic Park, Glasgow
October 1, 1986

Kick-off 7.30 pm



Official Programme 50p



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THE HIGHS AND LOWS

Celtic's European Cup Campaign 1966-70 by David McDonald

WHEN Celtic played in the European Cup for the first time on September 28, 1966, I don't think anyone realised then the difference in emotions we would go through in the tournament over the years — from the highs of Lisbon to the lows of Milan. Tonight we look at the contrasts between the years 1966 and 1970.

We started on the long route to glory in our very first appearance in the European Cup at Celtic Park against the Swiss Champions F.C. Zurich. Tommy Gemmell scored the first and Joe McBride added a second in a bruising match to give Celtic a 2-0 first leg lead. In the return Gemmell scored another two, one a penalty, and Stevie Chalmers got the other to give us a 5-0 aggregate win. We travelled to France in the second round to play Nantes and returned with a fine 3-1 win thanks to goals from McBride, Chalmers and Bobby Lennox. A repeat score-line in the second leg, with Jimmy Johnstone, Lennox and Chalmers netting, took us comfortably into the last eight.

For this round Celtic were paired with Vojvodina of Yugoslavia and in the first leg in Novi Sad we suffered our first defeat in the competition. Thankfully it was only by a solitary goal but it made for a tense and dramatic return leg at Celtic Park. The Yugoslavs defended bravely and had little trouble holding out to half time leaving over 70,000 Celtic fans in the ground quiet, worried and apprehensive. The second half saw the Bhoys go all out for the equaliser and 14 minutes into that period Chalmers levelled the aggregate score. Still Celtic attacked but Pantelic in the Vojvodina goal somehow managed to keep the shots out. Then just when the tie seemed to be heading for a replay in Rotterdam Billy McNeill scored in typical fashion through a brilliant header with just 47 seconds left. After all the frustration Celtic were at last in the semi-finals.

In the semis we were drawn against the formidable Dukla Prague of Czechoslovakia. The first leg was at Celtic Park and at half time the score stood at 1-1 Johnstone having netted for Celtic. However two goals from Willie Wallace on his European debut gave us a solid victory. In the return in Prague,



because there was a Final place at stake, Celtic played a defensive game having learned bitter lessons from previous European campaigns. Such style of play was totally foreign to Celtic but in this case all was forgiven because the defence held out for a 0-0 draw and a place in the Final was won at the first time of asking.

Much has been written and said about the Final and there is no way I can add anything new to it. What it comes down to, though, is that on May 25, 1967, in the National Stadium of Lisbon, a stadium more like a temple than a football ground, Celtic were crowned the football kings of Europe. It was a victory for the game of football, a victory to kill off the negative defensive tactics which had taken grip of the sport. The scenes after Celtic beat Inter Milan 2-1 were incredible as thousands of Scots and Portuguese spilled onto the pitch to celebrate this piece of history.

Inter had taken the lead after seven minutes from a soft penalty which was

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converted by Mazzola. From then on Celtic had simply attacked the Italians with everything they had. Auld and Gemmell both hit the woodwork and Sarti, the Milan keeper, had played like a man inspired. However that man Tommy Gemmell broke through through the blanket defence in the 62nd minute with a 20 yard rocket. Everyone knew then that it was just a matter of time before the winner came. Five minutes from time it arrived when Stevie Chalmers scored to immortalise the Lisbon Lions.

Celtic had reached the top in European football in typical Celtic style playing a brand of football exciting to watch and the kind to fill grounds all over the world. After the match the legendary Jimmy McGrory wept with joy and long after the final whistle Chairman Robert Kelly was still gazing out over the playing field. He had said before the Final: "There is more to being here than just ability. Celtic Football Club deserves to win for what the club has done and stood for in the past. They deserve this place in history." What more can be said?

In our first defence of the Cup we were drawn against the Russian side Dynamo Kiev. Celtic Park was packed for the first leg to see the European Champions play their first European tie since Lisbon. Bobby Lennox

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scored our only goal in a heartbreaking 2-1 defeat. Despite a much improved performance and another Lennox goal in the return, we only managed a 1-1 draw and were eliminated in the first round.

The following season 1968/69 we travelled to France for the first round, first leg to play St Etienne. We returned shocked and two goals down but the second leg in Glasgow was a memorable occasion. Two goals from our full backs Gemmell (penalty) and Jim Craig cancelled out the French side's lead and further goals from Chalmers and McBride completed a tremendous fight-back.

In the next round we were paired with Red Star Belgrade of Yugoslavia. The first match at Celtic Park is best remembered for the performance of Jimmy Johnstone. Because of the wee man's fear of flying, Jock Stein told him if Celtic had a healthy lead after the first leg he wouldn't have to fly out to Yugoslavia for the return. Well, Jimmy duly obliged and Celtic tore apart the much fancied Yugoslavs to win by five goals to one. The scorers were Bobby Murdoch, Johnstone (2), Lennox and Wallace. In the second leg Celtic, minus a certain Mr Johnstone, drew 1-1 with Wallace scoring.

A.C. Milan were our opponents in the quarter final and in the opening leg in Italy

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Celtic defended admirably to return with a goalless draw. Three weeks later at Celtic Park the return was a tight, tense affair. The longer the game lasted the more it looked like a single goal would be enough to win. That was the way it turned out but unfortunately it was the Italians who scored it. A.C. Milan went on to win the Cup in Madrid beating Ajax 4-1 in the Final.

We started our next assault on Europe where we had started our 1967 campaign — in Switzerland. We earned a 0-0 draw with Basle. Goals from Harry Hood and Gemmell in the return took us comfortably into the next round. There we were drawn against the twice winners Benfica of Portugal. It was a match billed as the Eagles of Lisbon versus the Lisbon Lions. A magnificent performance at home in the first leg gave us a 3-0 lead with goals by Gemmell, Wallace and Hood. A fortnight later in the Estadio da Luz the brilliant Eusebio pulled Benfica back into the tie by scoring two first half goals. Celtic held on in the second period but with the last kick of the match they levelled the aggregate scores. Somehow we kept them out during extra time and the tie had to be decided by the tossing of a coin. Billy McNeill called "heads" correctly and we were through in a farcical manner. Celtic immediately tabled a motion for a

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change of rules and at the end of the season UEFA decided to introduce penalty kicks as a way of settling ties after extra time.

In the quarter-final we were drawn against the talented Italians of Fiorentina and in the first leg at Celtic Park goals from Auld, Wallace and an own goal gave us a 3-0 win. The lessons from the previous round had been learned and Celtic went down by just a single goal in the return to go through to the last four on an aggregate score of 3-1.

The semi-final draw paired us with Leeds United in a match dubbed "The Battle of Britain." In the first leg at Elland Road Celtic won 1-0 with a George Connelly goal after just 45 seconds. Connelly in fact "scored" another which the French referee disallowed but later admitted should have stood. The return leg at Hampden Park saw Celtic reach a new pinnacle of exciting attacking football. A crowd of 136,505, a record for the European Cup which still stands today, saw the Bhoys in green and white beat the cream of English football 2-1. Leeds skipper and inspiration Billy Bremner levelled the aggregate scores in the 13th minute. Celtic, though, continued to mount attack after attack and were rewarded just two minutes into the second half when John Hughes headed home. Four minutes later Hampden erupted when Murdoch put the tie beyond doubt with a magnificent drive after a dazzling Johnstone run. The scenes after the final whistle were unbelievable as Celtic were in another European Cup Final.

The Final itself was played in the San Siro Stadium in Milan against the under-rated Dutch side Feyenoord.

We got off to the perfect start when Gemmell scored after half-an-hour. Just two minutes later, though, Rinus Israel headed in an equaliser for the Rotterdam side. Celtic just couldn't get into the match and were fortunate to go into extra time. In fact the Final looked to be heading for a replay, which we scarcely deserved, when a high ball up the middle was beating McNeill. He partly stopped it with his hands but before the referee could blow for a penalty Ove Kindvall nipped in to flick the ball over Evan Williams and into the net.

There were many reasons given as to why Celtic performed so badly and lost but one thing for certain is that on the day Feyenoord thoroughly deserved to lift the Cup. For the Celtic fans it was a terrible disappointment.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the players, officials and directors of Shamrock Rovers tonight, not forgetting of course, the small group of fans who have travelled across the Irish Sea to support their team.

Little did I think two weeks ago in Dublin that I would have the task of welcoming our friends from Ireland as Chairman of Celtic Football Club. Tragically my appointment came about as a consequence of the death of Tom Devlin at his home in Edinburgh during the time we were in Killiney preparing for the first leg match.

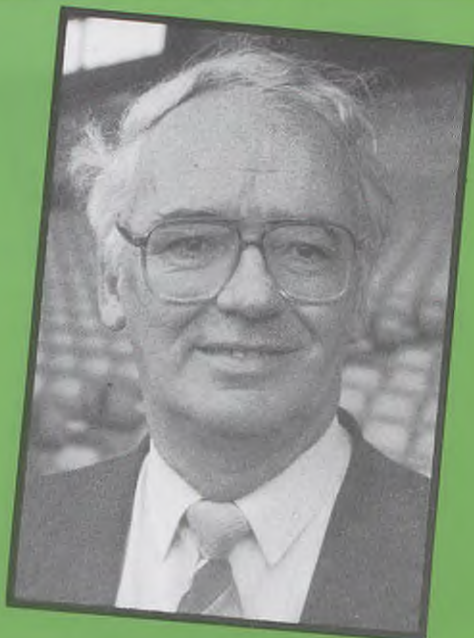
During our three day visit to the Emerald Isle we were provided with the customary hospitality and kindness and the officials of Shamrock Rovers and the staff of the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel did everything in their power to make certain our visit was a memorable one.

Shamrock Rovers made us fight every inch of the way during the match in Milltown and came close to scoring on more than one occasion before we finally scored the goal which gives us a lead going into the second encounter.

The game was played in a very sporting yet highly competitive fashion and I am sure it proved highly entertaining for the record crowd in attendance at the match.

My fellow directors join with me in hoping that tonight's game is played in the same spirit and that the better side will progress into the next stage of Europe's most prestigious competition.

John C. McGinn, Chairman, Celtic FC



CEAD MÍLE FÁILTE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Shamrock Rovers could consider themselves unfortunate to lose in the first leg and although we take the lead from that match into tonight's tie it can't be assumed that the outcome of the tie will be a foregone conclusion. I am sure our visitors will be out to make things as difficult for us tonight as they did in Dublin.

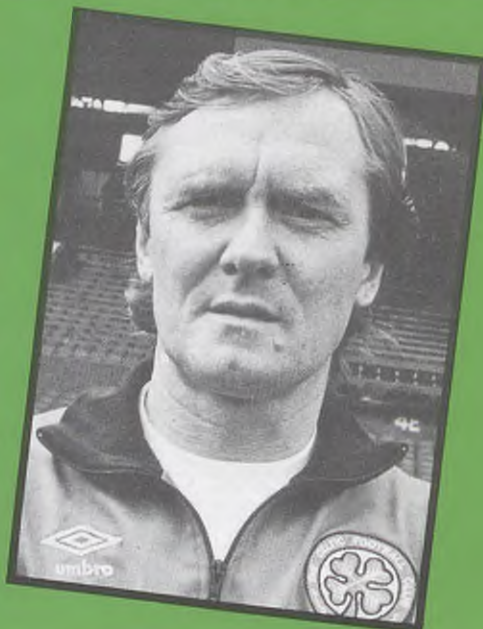
Circumstances in that first leg gave them more of the play, but they will be under a lot more pressure from us tonight.

We had a few injuries going into last Tuesday's League Cup semi final and at the time of writing (two days later) we have added another couple of names to our injury list. We can only hope that by the time we have to select a team for tonight's game most of these knocks will have cleared up and we have as full a squad as possible to choose from.

From what we saw of Shamrock Rovers in the first leg they could cause problems for a lot of teams in Scotland and it cannot be forgotten that they beat Manchester United 2-1 in a pre-season friendly.

We must look to take full advantage of our first leg lead and make sure there are no slip ups as we aim for the second round draw.

Davie Hay, Manager, Celtic F.C.



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