



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 3. QUALIFICATION ROUND, 2. LEG

BYENS HOLD



F.C. København vs Rangers FC



Onsdag den 27. august kl. 20.05 i PARKEN. Portene åbnes kl. 18.30

As good as it gets

It doesn't get any bigger, and it doesn't get any more intense. This is the kind of game everyone dreams of, players, football leaders and fans – and tonight it happens. I invite you all to enjoy!

The support of the fans is so important

Two weeks ago 11 Copenhagen players ran onto the pitch at Ibrox to be met by a fantastic roar from the 46.000 scottish fans, but our players kept cool and after a hectic start, we worked our way into the game and by the second half we were in the driving seat.

Tonight I am sure our players will be met with the same enthusiasm and vocal support from the Copenhagen

What a fantastic game we have to look forward to this evening. Two teams on the threshold of the worlds most prestigious club tournament: Champions League - but only one team can qualify.

public and I am sure it will be an intense atmosphere here in PARKEN. I expect the majority of the 38.000 spectators to lift our team to what will be our biggest international performance to date.

I am in no doubt that it will be a close match, where our Scottish opponents will do everything in their power to break up our playing structure, while I hope that we can play our own game, keep possession of the ball and control the play. Our Head Coach Hans Backe has, with this playing concept, already brought success to our club here in

Denmark – now we would like to see if it can also bring success in Europe!

Respect... but not fear

During our short stay in Glasgow we got to know the people behind the club Rangers FC, we found them to be real gentlemen, friendly and the perfect hosts. It was also a fantastic experience to have dinner in the famous "Blue Room" at Ibrox, where one can really feel Rangers traditions and history.

We have great respect for Rangers FC, but we do not feel in any way inferior to our Scottish counter-



parts, and when the referee blows the whistle to start the match tonight it will be a battle between peers.

Two years ago we were close to qualifying for the Champions League but lost out to Lazio in Rome. Since that game we have improved on and off the pitch and I feel we are closer to being one of the 32 best teams in Europe than ever before.

The project continues... no matter what the result is tonight

One can detect – between the lines – that the game this evening means more to Rangers than to us – financially at least.

To us, qualification to Champions League will first and foremost represent our breakthrough as an international football club. The potential revenues are a welcome consequen-

ce of success on the pitch but we are not financially dependent on CL-qualification or income from transfers. And no matter how the game ends this evening, we will continue to work with our existing business model as we feel this will give us the best chance for growth in the future.

Finally a warm welcome to our friends from Glasgow.

The most important game this year?

Copenhagen's Director of Sports Niels-Christian Holmstrøm comes with a status report before the big match against Rangers.

Tonights return game in the third round of the Champions League qualification against the Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers is without comparison this seasons most important game for our club. It is of course important for both clubs for so many reasons: sporting, economic, historical and for pure prestige and no one should be in doubt that we also share Rangers burning desire to participate in this great football tournament – UEFA Champions League.

We feel that this game has also come at the right time for us, we have in the last few years establis-

hed our position at the top of Danish football. The last 3 years we have fought for the Danish championship, winning both in 2001 and this year and we now feel that it is natural for us to look to the larger European stage and lift our ambitions a level. The Danish league will continue to be where we develop our team and players, but we also feel that we are now ready to take the European challenge seriously.

Two years ago we were, depending on your viewpoint, "very close, or very far" from qualification to the Champions League group stage.

A 2-1 home win over Italian Lazio, (which with a little luck could have been 3-1 or 4-1) was followed by a defeat in Rome, where we lacked composure and routine at crucial stages of the game.

But already in 2001 the team showed that Copenhagen was ready to "play ball" with the big teams in Europe. That year we went on to lose narrowly lose (2 x 1-0) to the UEFA-finalists Borussia Dortmund after beating Ajax in Amsterdam.

Last years European adventure was disappointing, we were eliminated over 2 legs by the Swedish team Djurgården. But we have since then continued to develop our team and I now consider our squad to be the strongest in our clubs short history.

Our team coach Hans Backe has given the team a basis organisation to work from which gives the individual players a feeling of safety and also room to show their individual skills.

The game this evening will therefore be an interesting test to see how far our team has developed. For some of our older players it will be their last chance to shine on the European stage and for our younger players it is a unique chance for them to present themselves in front of a larger audience. Every sports-person has a dream of being good enough to contest at the highest

level. That is the carrot that is hanging in front of every player this evening.

We have for a long time had good relations with Rangers and we often work together in the UEFA club forum where we meet to discuss



enough to enjoy his clubs scottish hospitality in Glasgow 14 days ago and on matchday Club Director Campbell Ogilvie showed us round Rangers impressive training ground at Murray Park – an inspiration for the future planning of our own training facilities.

We have no illusions in regard to this evenings match. Rangers have many fine players and we expect another tough match. I personally hope that we will see a well played and fair game.

Welcome to our friends from Glasgow and our own fans to an evening of top football.



Niels-Christian Holmstrøm

3 Stærke Europa-resultater

I de 10 år F.C. København har eksisteret har vi regelmæssigt deltaget i de europæiske turneringer, men først de senere år med rigtig gode og stabile resultater til følge. I aften kan vi skabe det foreløbig største – men her er først et tilbageblik på de 3 resultater, vi har kåret som de bedste hittil:

af Torkil Fosdal

22. oktober 1998: 1-1 ude mod Chelsea

Vi havde kvalificeret os via 4 sejre over Karabakh Agdam og Levski Sofia på tilsammen 16-1 – men løb alligevel ind på Stamford Bridge som underdogs, mod et stærkt Chelsea-mandskab anført af en Brian Laudrup. Det blev et brag af en FCK-indsats – Michael Stensgaard stod stærkt i målet, og alle fightede det bedste de havde lært. Som kampen skred frem sad man og gruede for, om 0-0 kunne holde – det ville i sig selv være et kanon udgangspunkt før hjemmekampen. 9 minutter før tid slog Bjarne Goldbæk pludselig til og bragte os sensationelt foran 1-0. Et mål, der nok var med til at skaffe ham en god

kontrakt med klubben et par uger senere. På det tidspunkt havde Chelsea endnu aldrig tabt en europæisk hjemmekamp! Det kom de desværre heller ikke til denne gang – i fjerde minut af dommerens tillægstid fik Marcel Desailly skrabet udligningen hjem efter et massivt Chelsea-pres. Total nedtur lige her og nu, men da kampen kom lidt på afstand kunne man glæde sig over en fantastisk indsats og et resultat, som vi inden kampen ville have været ovenud lykkelige for.

8. august 2001: 2-1 hjemme mod Lazio

Mens vi i efteråret 1998 stadig var lykkelige for at klare 1-1 mod Chelsea, så var der anderledes selv-

bevidste forventninger til den afgørende Champions League-kvalifikation mod Lazio i august 2001. Ganske vist havde guldtræneren Roy Hodgson forladt klubben i pausen og overladt roret til Kent Karlsson, men truppen var intakt, stærk og optimistisk, mens italienerne så tidligt på efteråret var et stykke fra optimal kampform. Vi var godt med i kampen med en overdådig stærk Christian Poulsen på midtbanen, men Lazio viste også i glimt deres farlighed med angrebsduoen Crespo og Lopez. 0-0 ved pausen var rimeligt, men da Crespo efter en lille time fik lov at bringe Lazio foran, så kunne man næsten ikke undgå at tænke: "Typisk italiensk..." Men helt a-typisk dansk fik

Heine Fernandez lavede ravage i forsvaret hos Lazio. Trods forbindingen scorede han sejrsmålet til 2-1.

vi kæmpet os tilbage i kampen, og Jacob Laursen udlignede på et "korrekt-men-ofte-ikke-dømt" straffe, da en italiener hev Lønstrup i trøjen. Og 6 minutter før tid slog Heine Fernandez til fra nært hold og bankede bolden i nettet til sejrscifrene 2-1. Heine kunne og burde endda have øget til 3-1 i slutminutterne, men det ændrede ikke ved en jættestats af alle mand. Nu havde vi også vist, at vi i europæisk sammenhæng kunne komme tilbage i kampen og stå distancen fysisk.

1. november 2001: 1-0 ude mod Ajax

Efter 0-0 hjemme i den første kamp var kravet, at vi skulle frem og score mindst et mål. Og det gjorde vi som bekendt, da Niclas Jensen 8 minutter før tid knaldede et frispark op i målhjørnet og sendte os en runde videre i UEFA'en. Selvfølgelig står dette mål stærkt i erindringen, men



kampen bør også huskes for vores "nye" evne til i europæisk sammenhæng at styre og dominere spillet, især i 1. halvleg, men også i store dele af 2. halvleg. På udebane mod Ajax! Bevares, hollænderne havde

deres chancer, men man sad med en god fornemmelse af, at vi havde styr på det, og at vi i det mindste nok skulle få forlænget spilletid. Sådan gik det ikke engang – takket være Niclas' frisparksmål.

The game this evening against Rangers is very important for both teams. Will you be more nervous up to this game?

No, not especially, but I will of course start to feel a few hours before the game that there is a lot at stake, but I am not nervous...

You are always very calm during games and it is often hard to gauge how you feel. Don't you sometimes wish you could let go and let your frustration out?

There are of course situations in games, where one sits with mixed feelings, and would like to express them, but I believe that if you believe in your team and your playing concept then it is natural that as a coach one is calmer. I don't think it helps players to have someone shouting and screaming every time something happens on the pitch. I can nevertheless at half time "talk loudly" if I feel the performance of the team is not up to standard!

You are known as a calm and thoughtful person. Have these qualities affected your football philosophy?

Philosophy is a big word to use! I will say that I react to certain circumstances. I have an idea of how I would like the team to play – in defence and attack. I believe that Scandinavian teams have to play unselfishly – in other words they cannot rely on individual performances but must play as a "team". Players must have respect for the playing system, that is being practised, and that is an important part of the trainers job. It also gives the individual player confidence having a playing concept he is familiar with.

I don't believe that you can effect more than 10% of what happens on the pitch. There will be hundreds of situations which we cannot plan for and it is up to the players themselves to find out what they should do.

How do you rate Rangers after our first meeting in Glasgow?

Rangers have a playing style and formation which is not unlike our own. But they have different types of player than we do, players who

have already experienced a lot on the European scene, and have won many triumphs in Scotland. So we are meeting a team who are used to playing under pressure in important games.

The biggest difference between the two teams is probably that we play the Scandinavian way with a set playing style while Rangers FC have so many good individualists who can win games on their own.

Can we match the tempo that is required in European football?

Yes, we can match the tempo in these games. We could find it difficult to hold a high tempo in all games, for example in the Champions League, as many top teams do. In the national league the tempo of games is not so high as in Europe, so the continuity is broken.

Here so close to the Champions League – how is the atmosphere in the squad?

I can feel that the players seem confident and relaxed and there is a good training discipline. This of course has a lot to do with the good results we have had. Confidence is high and everyone is looking forward to the game.

Dansk

Kampen mod Glasgow Rangers er en meget speciel kamp for begge mandskaber. Har du ekstra nerver på forud for denne kamp?

Egentlig ikke, men jeg vil tro, at man et par timer inden kampstart virkelig vil fornemme, at noget ekstraordinært er på spil, men decideret nervøs er jeg ikke.

Du virker altid meget rolig under kampene og giver sjældent udtryk for følelser. Har du ikke indimellem lyst til bare at give slip og lade eventuelle frustrationer komme frem?

Der findes selvfølgelig situationer i kampene, hvor man sidder med nogle blandede følelser, man kan have lyst til at give udtryk for. Men jeg tror, at hvis man har en fast tro



Hans Backe

på sit hold og det spilkoncept man praktiserer, er man naturligvis mere rolig som træner. Jeg mener heller ikke det gavner spillerne, at man sidder og råber og skriger over hver en episode på banen. Omvendt kan jeg godt i pausen tale med store bogstaver, hvis indsatsen ikke har været god nok.

Du er i fodboldkredse kendt som en meget rolig og velovervejet person. Smitter disse dyder af på den fodboldfilosofi du besidder?

Filosofi er et meget flot ord at bruge. Jeg vil sige, at jeg har nogle omstændigheder, jeg forholder mig til. Man kan sige, at jeg mere har en idé eller linie om, hvordan jeg gerne vil have holdet til at spille rent forsvars- og angrebsmæssigt. Jeg tror endvidere, at skandinaviske hold må spille mere som et hold - med andre ord spille uselvisk fremfor at forlade

sig på enkeltmandspræstationer. Dette er selvfølgelig en nødvendig indimellem. Man må som spiller have respekt for det spilsystem, der



bliver praktiseret, og det er netop en af trænerens opgaver. Det giver også en tryghed for spillerne at kende spilkonceptet, og det er dette, der giver point på kontoen.

Jeg tror faktisk ikke, at man kan påvirke meget mere end 10 procent, af det der rent faktisk foregår når kampene er i gang. I disse vil der opstå hundredvis af situationer, du ikke kan forberede dig på, og her er det op til spillerne at handle og agere selv.

Hvordan vurderer du Glasgow Rangers efter vores første møde med dem?

De har en grundopstilling som minder meget om vores, ligesom deres spilopbygning også gør det. Dog har de en del anderledes typer på de forskellige positioner. De har nogle spillere som har oplevet en masse på den europæiske scene, ligesom holdet også har fejret store triumfer i Skotland. Så de er vant til at spille under et stort pres og deltage i betydningsfulde kampe i Europa.

Forskellen på de to mandskaber kan være at vi mere spiller efter den skandinaviske model jeg var inde på, hvor man holder sig til det velorganiserede faste spilkoncept, mens Rangers' spillere, måske indimellem mere forsøger at afgøre kampene på egen hånd, fordi de har mange gode individualister.

Mener du at vi tempomæssigt er oppe på det niveau der kræves i Europa?

Det der er svært er at gøre det over en lang række af kampe eksempelvis i Champions League, som de store hold kan. I den hjemlige række bliver



kampene heller ikke afviklet i samme tempo som de europæiske, hvorfor kontinuiteten rent tempomæssigt bliver afbrudt.

På tærskelen til Champions League - er stemningen så også i truppen at "nu skal det være"?

Det tror jeg. Jeg synes spillerne ser utrolig trygge og rolige ud, og jeg fornemmer en god indstilling til træningen. Dette har selvfølgelig også noget at gøre med at vi spille- og pointmæssigt har leveret gode præstationer på det seneste. Selvtilliden er i top, og det er tydeligt at alle glæder sig til kampen.

Sensommerdag i Glasgow

Om man besøger London, Barcelona, Rom eller Amsterdam, så er det et fascinerende ekstra aspekt, at man udover at være i en pulserende storby også kommer til sted som lever og ånder fodbold. Og som har haft de europæiske triumfer som gør, at man for alvor er på det europæiske landkort.

af Nikolaj Steen Møller

Det er Glasgow også. Rangers har vundet pokalen for pokalvindere. Celtic har derimod vundet pokalen for mesterhold, hvilket de konstant gør opmærksom på! Til gengæld gør Rangers lige så ofte opmærksom på, at de har vundet 50 mesterskaber nu, hvilket er verdensrekord.

Alt dette, kombineret med en rivaliseren hvis omfang og hvis baggrund er umulig at forestille sig i København, gør at Glasgow er en fodboldby som meget få andre, selv om de europæiske triumfer nu ligger mange år tilbage.

Det sivede i den grad gennem byens gadebillede, at dette er et sted hvor

fodbold er noget nær en besættelse. De grønne og hvide, samt de blå eller de rødhvide udebanefarver sås overalt. Finder man f.eks. gadekunstnere i København, så maler de som regel popstjerner eller forbipasserende; på gågaden Sauchiehall Street finder man derimod en fyr som maler Celtics spillere i deres dragter, og som har afbildet Henke Larsson som en Jesusfigur med en glorie omkring.

Vi besøgte pubber på vores besøg derovre, og det var stort set umuligt ikke at rende ind i folk der ville snakke fodbold – både Celticfans der ville ønske os held og lykke, og fans af Rangers der ville høre om vores

hold og fortælle os at vi nok skulle regne med at få et klart nederlag på Ibrox samme aften. Ikke mindst da de huskede hvordan det gik, da Herfølge spillede samme sted for tre år siden. Vi mente jo nok, at vi dog stod med bedre chancer end holdet fra Køgeegn, og sådan skulle det da også blive. Men først skulle vi lige derud.

Kvarteret hvor Ibrox ligger er ikke noget særligt, for nu at være diplomatisk, men stadion er temmelig overdådigt. Det er supermoderne, men alligevel har det det elegante, klassisk britiske præg og den helt rigtige intimitet. Og det er til at



tabe næse og mund over, at der kom mere end 47.000 tilskuere til en kamp mod os – hvilket er meget tæt på at være det største antal som har set F.C. København spille, på nær de 50.000 der så kampen mod Lazio i Rom.

Inden kickoff byggede stemningen sig gradvist op, og man kunne høre

både inden matchen og i korte perioder undervejs, at når først alle laver larm, er det en helt fantastisk lydkulisse der bliver skabt. Jeg tror man ville vende stokdøv hjem fra et af lokalopgørene med Celtic, hvor alle råber uafbrudt i 90 minutter. Mod os var det dog mere sporadisk, og folk virkede til sidst noget modløse over Rangers' indsats.

Derfor vil jeg nok mene, at vi fans, ligesom holdet, kunne tage hjem fra Skotland efter i lange perioder at have domineret hjemmeholdet. Det er bare at håbe, at det ikke er sidste gang i år at vi skal spille i storbyer og steder af den kaliber – eller endnu bedre! Så det er om at krydse fingrene i aften...

F.C. COPENHAGEN



Player profiles:

1. Magnus Kihlstedt 29/02/1972
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Swedish
12 A internationals
Former clubs: Munkedals IF, IK Oddevold, Lillestrøm, Brann
First team matches: 50 (0 goals)
First match: 21/07/2001

2. Tomas Antonelius 07/05/1973
Defender
Nationality: Swedish
9 A internationals
Former Clubs: Brommapojkarna, Winnipeg, AIK Stockholm, Coventry
First team matches: 36 (0 goals)
First match: 03/03/2002

3. Urmaz Rooba 08/07/1978
Defender
Nationality: Estonian
50 A internationals 1 goal
Former clubs: FC Lelle, Lelle SK, Tervis Parnu, Flora Talinn, FC Midtjylland
Matches total: 31 (0 goals)
First match: 15/08/2002

4. Bo Svensson 04/08/1979
Defender
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: KB
Matches total: 96 (3 goals)
First match: 26/09/1999

5. Martin Albrechtsen 31/03/1980
Defender
Nationality: Danish
3 A internationals
Former clubs: AB
Matches total: 57 (0 goals)
First match: 03/03/2002

6. Christian Lønstrup 04/04/1971
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: KB, B1903, F.C. København, Cagliari
Matches total: 252 (22 goals)
First match: 19/08/1992



7. Erik Mykland 21/07/1971
Midfield
Nationality: Norwegian
78 A internationals
Former clubs: Risør, Bryne, IK Start, FC Linz, Panathinaikos, 1860 München
Matches total: 56 (1 goal)
First match: 03/03/2002

8. Peter Nielsen 03/06/1968
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
10 A internationals, 1 goal
Former clubs: Fremad Amager, Lyngby, Borussia Mönchengladbach
Matches total: 111 (19 goals)
First match: 27/07/1997

9. Thomas Røll Larsen 12/03/1977
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
6 A internationals 1 goal
Former clubs: Tønder IF, Silkeborg
Matches total: 85 (20 goals)
First match: 21/07/2001

10. Sibusiso Zuma 24/06/1975
Forward
Nationality: South African
29 A internationals, 3 goals
Former clubs: Mighty Pa, Africander Wanderers, Orlando Pirates
Matches total: 128 (42 goals)
First match: 12/03/2000

11. Jörgen Pettersson 29/09/1975
Forward
Nationality: Swedish
27 A internationals, 7 goals
Former clubs: Dösjebro IF, Kävlinge GIF, Malmø FF, Borussia Mönchengladbach, FC Kaiserslautern
Matches total: 29 (6 goals)
First match: 11/08/2002

12. Todi Jönsson 02/02/1972
Forward
Nationality: Faroese Islander
Former clubs: Klaksvik, Lyseng, AGF, B36 Thorshavn, Lyngby
Matches total: 180 (64 goals)
First match: 27/07/1997

14. Bora Zivkovic 04/09/1974
Defender
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: AGF, Silkeborg
Matches total: 44 (6 goals)
First match: 03/03/2002

15. Peter Christiansen 30/01/1975
Defender
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: AaB, Vejle
Matches total: 58 (1 goal)
First match: 12/03/2000

16. Balázs Rabóczki 09/01/1978
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Hungarian
Former clubs: MTK Hungaria,

Dunaferr, IFK Norrköping
Matches total: 23 (0 goals)
First match: 16/03/2003

17. Ole Tobiassen 08/07/1975
Defender
Nationality: Danish
6 A internationals
Former clubs: B93, F.C. København, Heerenveen, Ajax, AZ Alkmaar
Matches total: 70 (0 goals)
First match: 17/04/1994

18. Álvaro Santos 30/01/80
Forward
Nationality: Brazilian
Former clubs: América FC, Helsingborgs IF
Matches total: 0

20. Benny Gall 14/01/1971
Goalkeeper
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: KB, Brønshøj, Herfølge, Doordrecht 90, De Graafshaap, Shrewsbury, Esbjerg
Matches total: 2 (0 goals)
First match: 06/11/2002

21. Morten Bisgaard 25/06/1974
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
8 A internationals, 1 goal
Former clubs: OB, Udinese
Matches total: 71 (8 goals)
First match: 25/07/2001

22. Sebastian Svärd 15/01/83
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
Former teams: KB, Arsenal. - on loan to F.C. København
First team appearances: 1
First match: 09/08/2003

24. Christian Traoré 18/04/1982
Defender
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: B1908, KB,

Hammarby (loan)
Matches total: 10 (0 goals)
First match: 17/08/2001

25. Hjalte Bo Nørregaard 08/04/1981
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: Rødovre, KB
Matches total: 33 (3 goals)
First match: 17/04/2000

27. Jesper Bech 25/02/1982
Forward
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: Ålholm IF, Birkerød, B 1903, Lyngby, KB
Matches total: 0 (0 goals)

28. Martin Bergvold 20/02/1984
Midfield
Nationality: Danish
Former clubs: KB
Matches total: 6 (0 goals)
First match: 01/12/2002

32. Peter Møller 23/03/1972
Forward
Nationality: Danish
18 A internationals, 3 goals
Former clubs: AaB, FC Zürich (udlejet), Brøndby, PSV Eindhoven, Oviedo, Fulham
Matches total: 102 (29 goals)
First match: 01/08/1993

Club records:

Most games: Michael Mio Nielsen 287 (1993-2002)
Most goals: Lars Højer - 66 goals from 1992 - 2000
Honours: 3 national championships: 1993, 2001, 2003
National 2 Cup wins 1995 and 1997
Stadium: PARKEN, Denmark's National Stadium
Capacity: 42.000
Floodlights: 1400 lux
Record attendance: F.C. København - Brøndby 10/06/2001 - 40.281 attendance
Inauguration: 1992

Head Coach

Name: Hans Backe
Born: 14. 02 1952
Nationality: Swedish



Career: - as player over 300 games for the following Swedish clubs: AIK Stockholm (1970-72), Spånga IS (1973-76), IF Brommapojkarna (1977-78), Bro IK (1979-81)
- as coach (all Swedish if not named) 1979-81 player/coach Bro IK, 1982-84 Djurgårdens IF, 1985 Molde Norway, 1986 Tyresö FF, 1987-88 Hammarby IF, 1989-93 Östers IF, 1990 Assisting the national team coach, 1994-95 AIK Stockholm, 1998-2000 - Danish AaB, 2000-2001 Austria Salzburg, September 2001 F.C. København
Honours: Danish Championship wins with AaB and F.C. København

VS RANGERS FC



Player profiles:

1. STEFAN KLOS
Date of birth: 16.08.71
Place of birth: Dortmund, Germany
Previous Clubs: Borussia Dortmund
Position: Goalkeeper
International caps: -

2. FERNANDO RICKSEN
Date of birth: 27.07.76
Place of birth: Heerlen, Holland
Previous Clubs: AZ Alkmaar, Fortuna Sittard
Position: Defender
International caps: 12

3. CRAIG MOORE
Date of birth: 12.12.75
Place of birth: Sydney, Australia
Previous Clubs: Crystal Palace, Rangers
Position: Defender
International caps: 23

6. BARRY FERGUSON
Date of birth: 02.02.78
Place of birth: Glasgow, Scotland
Previous Clubs: -
Position: Midfielder
International caps: 15

7. SHOTA ARVELADZE
Date of birth: 22.02.73
Place of birth: Tbilisi, Georgia
Previous Clubs: Ajax, Dynamo, Tbilisi, Trabzonspor
Position: Forward
International caps: 49

8. CHRISTIAN NERLINGER
Date of birth: 21.03.73
Place of birth: Dortmund, Germany
Previous Clubs: Borussia Dortmund, Bayern Munich
Position: Midfielder
International caps: 6

10. MICHAEL MOLS
Date of birth: 17.12.70
Place of birth: Amsterdam, Holland
Previous Clubs: FC Utrecht, Twente, Cambuur
Position: Striker
International caps: 6

12. ROBERT MALCOLM
Date of birth: 12.11.80
Place of birth: Glasgow, Scotland
Previous Clubs: -
Position: Defender
International caps: -

14. RONALD DE BOER
Date of birth: 15.05.70
Place of birth: Hoorn, Holland
Previous Clubs: Barcelona, Ajax, FC Twente
Position: Forward
International caps: 67

15. ZURAB KHIZANISHVILI
Date of birth: 06.10.81
Place of birth: Tbilisi, Georgia
Previous Clubs: Dundee, Lokomotiv Tbilisi
Position: Defender
International caps: 20

16. PAULO VANOLI
Date of birth: 12.8.72
Place of birth: Varese, Italy
Previous Clubs: Varese, Bellinzago, Corsico, Venezia, Verona, Fiorentina, Parma, Bologna
Position: Defender
Squad Number: 16
International caps: 2

17. KEVIN MUSCAT
Date of birth: 07.08.73
Place of birth: Crawley, Australia
Previous Clubs: Wolverhampton, Crystal Palace, South Melbourne
Position: Defender
International caps: 47

18. MICHAEL BALL
Date of birth: 02.10.79
Place of birth: Liverpool, England
Previous Clubs: Everton
Position: Defender
International caps: 1

19. STEVEN THOMPSON
Date of birth: 14.10.78
Place of birth: Paisley, Scotland
Previous Clubs: Dundee Utd
Position: Forward
International caps: 10

20. NUNO CAPUCHO
Date of birth: 21.02.72
Place of birth: Barcelos, Portugal
Previous Clubs: FC Porto, Vitoria Guimarães, Sporting Lisbon, Gil Vicente
Position: Midfielder
International caps: 34

21. MAURICE ROSS
Date of birth: 03.02.81
Place of birth: Dundee, Scotland
Previous Clubs: -
Position: Defender
International caps: 10

22. ALLAN MCGREGOR
Date of birth: 31.01.82
Place of birth: Edinburgh, Scotland
Previous Clubs: -
Position: Goalkeeper
International caps: -

23. MIKEL ARTETA
Date of birth: 26.03.82
Place of birth: San Sebastian, Spain
Previous Clubs: Barcelona, PSG
Position: Midfielder
International caps: -

25. HENNING BERG
Date of birth: 1.9.68
Place of birth: Eidsvoll, Norway
Previous Clubs: Lillestrom, Blackburn Rovers, Man Utd, Blackburn Rovers
Position: Defender
International caps: 93

26. PETER LØVENKRANDS
Position: Midfielder
International caps: -
Date of birth: 29.01.80
Place of birth: Horsholm, Denmark
Previous Clubs: AB Copenhagen
Position: Forward
International caps: 7

27. STEPHEN HUGHES
Date of birth: 14.11.82
Place of birth: Motherwell, Scotland
Previous Clubs: -
Position: Midfielder
International caps: -

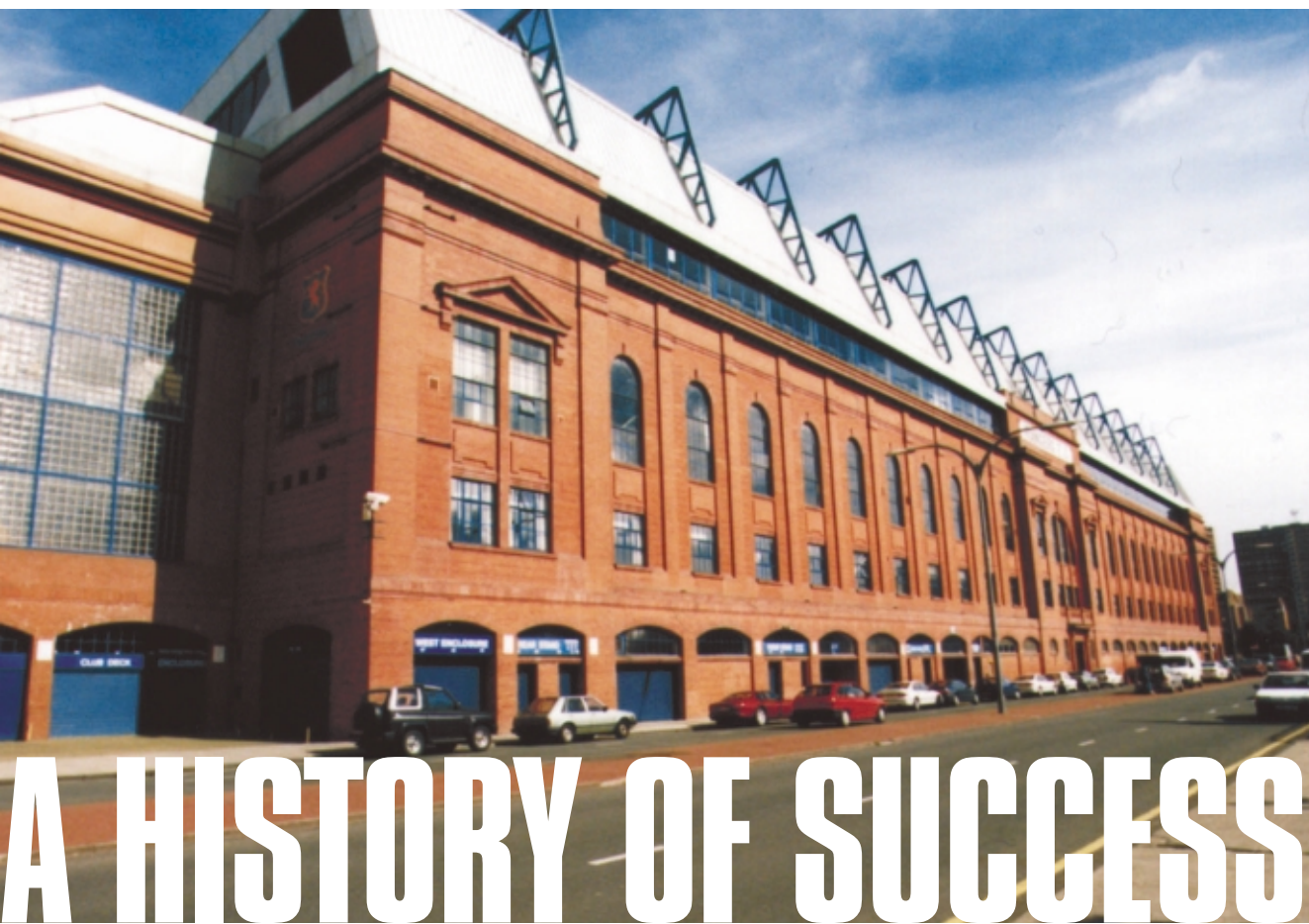
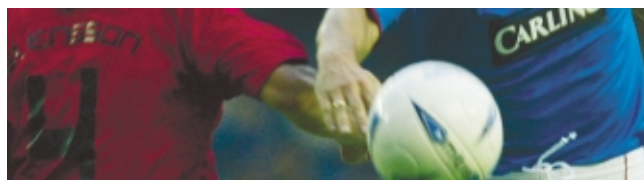
330. CHRIS BURKE
Date of birth: 02.12.83
Place of birth: Glasgow, Scotland
Previous Clubs: -
Position: Midfielder
International caps: -

Match Referees

Referee: Zeljko Sircic (Cro) **Ass. Referee:** Zeljko Novosel (Cro)
Ass. Referee: Darko Slivar (Cro) **4th official:** Miroslav Vitkovic (Cro)

Club records:

European Cup Winners Cup. Winners 1972; Runners-up 1961, 1967
Scottish League Champions (50): *1891, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1918, 1920, 1921, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2003.
 *In 1891 the championship was shared with Dumbarton
Scottish Cup Winners (31): 1894, 1897, 1898, 1903, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1966, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003
Scottish League Cup Winners (23): Season Starting: 1946, 1948, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1970, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002
Record Ibrox attendance: 118,567 v Celtic, Division One, January 2nd, 1939
Record Victory: 14-2 Blairgowrie, Scottish Cup, 1934
Record Defeat: 2-10 Airdrie 1886
Record League Scorer: Ally McCoist 355 goals
Highest number of goals scored by one player in a season: Sam English, 44 goals in 1931/32
Most capped player: Ally McCoist (60 caps for Scotland)



Rangers have won the European Cup Winners Cup, 50 League Championships, 31 Scottish Cups and 23 Scottish League Cups...

By Tam McTurk

Four Glaswegians decided to set up their own football team in 1872. They had no stadium, no strips and no league. Rangers Football Club was officially founded the following year. By the end of the 19th century, Rangers had become a major force in Scottish football, a position they have maintained more or less constantly ever since.

The Old Firm

It is difficult to talk about Rangers without mentioning their great rivals, Celtic Football Club. The first Old Firm game was played in May 1888 and it has developed into one of the classic fixtures in world football.

Both members of the Old Firm excite passions - not all of them always

positive. The origins of the religious overtones to the rivalry between the two clubs are clouded in controversy. The one thing that can be said with absolute certainty, however, is that the combination of success on the park and strong local rivalry makes for very good business. Whatever the reasons, Rangers became known as the Protestant

team, a link that has helped sustain a mass fan base and deep loyalty during the club's few unsuccessful periods.

The 20th century

It is hard to pick out highlights from the 20th century for the simple reason that Rangers won so many trophies. Two events in the early



1970s have, however, gone down in history for highly contrasting reasons.

Most Scots can tell you exactly where they were on Saturday January 2 1971. Two goals in the last minute of an Old Firm match at a packed Ibrox Stadium meant fans were suddenly trying to pour up and down the stairs at the same time. Sixty-six people died and more than 140 were injured on Scottish football's saddest day.

The following year, the emotions of the Rangers fans were stretched to the opposite extreme. In their second final Rangers beat Moscow Dynamo and won the European Cup Winners Cup.

The Souness revolution

By their own standards, the late 70s and early 80s were a low point in Rangers' history. Celtic ran up nine titles in a row. Eventually, Rangers appointed Graeme Souness as manager and brought David Murray

onto the board with the avowed aim of returning the club to greatness.

Souness rebuilt the team, signing a number of top English players and Mo Johnston the first high-profile Catholic to play for the club in living memory. Walter Smith took over from Souness and continued the run that was to see Rangers equal Celtic's record of nine league titles in a row.

The 21st century

Rangers won "the treble" last season, including a world record 50th league title. But Scottish football has been badly hit by the Bosman ruling and the collapsing TV market, however, and speculation is rife about the ability of the club to compete at top European level. By the end of the match this evening everybody will be a lot wiser about that but the historical evidence suggests that Rangers will continue to be one of the dominant teams in Scottish football.

As Others See Us

Burns may have been writing in the 18th century but some Scots still have problems with the concept of how others see them and how they see others! Often, they appear not only to be unaware of what the rest of the world thinks about their football teams, they are also capable of displaying an astonishing lack of knowledge about foreign opposition. Fortunately, they learn quickly...

By Tam McTurk

Fans with typewriters

Scottish football journalists are often referred to as 'fans with typewriters'. It is, of course, not an entirely fair assessment.

The Scots like to read about football. Newspaper coverage is on a scale unheard of in Denmark. Needless to say the quality is also varied. Before the first leg in Glasgow, Glenn Gibbons wrote in The Scotsman that: "...it will be at least mildly surprising if McLeish's team do not establish an advantage."

The Evening Times was even more confident: "the hosts are capable of taking at least a two goal lead to Copenhagen for the return in a fortnight's time."



It is often claimed that bookies are better predictors of the future than experts and crystal ball gazers. The Daily Record's betting expert, Mr.

Fixit, recommended a wee flutter on Rangers: "The Danes are no mugs but with home advantage I expect Rangers to win 2-0 or 3-0."

Reality check

At the risk of sounding uncharitable, you have to wonder what, if any, experience of Danish football all this confidence was based on? Reality sank in quickly, however, and most of the papers were singing from an entirely different hymn sheet the day after the match.

Alan Davidson in the Evening Times: "judging by the performances of the two teams at Ibrox, Copenhagen are much more accomplished than Rangers". The Scotsman was now declaring that a score draw was "ultimately, the least they (Copenhagen) deserved."

James Traynor in the Daily Record may have been of the opinion that "they couldn't handle a very ordinary Danish side, for goodness sake..." but the consensus had shifted.

Disruption

Since then, Rangers have been hit by the bombshell news that their



captain, Barry Ferguson, wants to leave the club and that the board has agreed. The story has completely overshadowed coverage of preparations for the return leg. Combined with injuries to other key personnel, Rangers' preparations have been anything but ideal.

On Sunday, most of the papers were preoccupied with the Ferguson deal but Glenn Gibbons, this time in the Observer, felt able to say that

"Rangers appear about as well prepared for battle as a sleeping village in the path of a marauding army."

All's well that ends well

All is obviously not lost, however. Unlike the purportedly objective newspapers, the official Rangers website felt obliged to point out at the weekend that:

"RANGERS' Champions League opponents FC Copenhagen stole all three points from this afternoon's Danish derby clash with city rivals Brøndby but gave little indication that they will pose the Light Blues many problems on Wednesday night."

Oh well, "the truth will out" as the old saying goes and tomorrow it will be fun to see how the Scottish press sees Copenhagen - irrespectively of the result.

*"Oh wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!"
(Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns)*

PLAYERS FACTS RANGERS FC



1: Stefan Klos: Stefan was an ever-present during the 2002/03 campaign and was one of Rangers' top performers as Alex McLeish's men scorched to an amazing domestic treble. Klos joined Gers for £700,000 from Borussia Dortmund on Christmas Eve 1998 after a long-running transfer saga.

The highlight of his career was keeping goal for the Dortmund team which won the Champions' Cup by beating Juventus 3-1 in the Final in May 1997.



2: Fernando Ricksen: Fernando Ricksen is now a key member of the Rangers first-team and formed an impressive midfield partnership with Barry Ferguson and Mikel Arteta during last season's treble-winning campaign.

He joined in a £3.6 million deal from AZ Alkmaar in the summer of 2000 but, after a disappointing start, Fernando has blossomed under new boss Alex McLeish.



3: Craig Moore: Craig Moore's rock-solid performances at the back were a key element of last season's treble-winning campaign.

Moore came to Scotland from Australia at 17 and, after a difficult start, matured from a raw new talent. Former boss Dick Advocaat quickly made it clear that Moore was his first choice to partner Lorenzo Amoroso for the start of the 1999-2000 season and presented him with the number 3 shirt that he has kept ever since. Injury kept him out of recent league games but it is hoped he will be back in action tonight.



6: Barry Ferguson: Barry Ferguson was once described as the hottest property in Scottish football and, after two trophy-laden seasons, it's hard to argue with that billing.

Since taking over as skipper in October 2000, Baz's game has gone from strength to strength and he has inspired to the club to glory in the last five domestic competitions. He's just had successful surgery on his troublesome pelvic injury and is hoping to put recent transfer speculation behind him to shoot Gers into the Champions League.



7: Shota Arveladze: Georgian international striker Shota was signed from Ajax for just under £2million in 2001 and has a phenomenal goalscoring record with Rangers. Injury has meant he has missed most of this season.



8: Christian Nerlinger: RANGERS paid a bargain £1.8million for the talented German midfielder in the summer of 2001 but Christian's Light Blue career has been blighted by a series of niggling injuries.

Nerlinger is vastly experienced, having spent eight years with Bayern Munich where he won two Bundesliga titles, the German Cup, and the 1996 UEFA Cup. Made his comeback in the recent 3-2 league win over Aberdeen.



10: Michael Mols: Michael Mols' name will ring out all around Ibrox again next season after the Dutchman signed a new contract that will keep him at the club for another year.

Much had been expected of Mols when he joined the Light Blues from FC Utrecht for £4million in the summer of 1999 and he showed early on why Dick Advocaat had shelled out for the talented forward.



12: Bob Malcolm: Bob Malcolm turned down the chance to leave Ibrox last summer and was rewarded for his loyalty with a regular place in Alex McLeish's treble-winning squad.

With injuries and suspension sidelining first-team regulars Lorenzo Amoroso and Craig Moore at various stages of the season, Malcolm seized his opportunity to make 33 appearances, 26 of them from the start, as well as chipping in with the opening goal in a 3-0 win at Dundee.



14: Ronald de Boer: Ronald de Boer's influence was stamped all over the 2002/03 treble-winning season. A truly world-class player and a regular Dutch international to boot, de Boer combined an eye for goal, an unerring ability to bring others into play as well as some outrageous and audacious showboating skills that had the Ibrox crowd roaring their approval.

On paper his contribution was 20 goals from 43 starts but there was so much more to his game than that - not least a boxful of "assists" where he cleverly set up goals for others.

Aged 33, Ronald is now entering the last year of his Rangers' contract and is considering extending his stay beyond next summer having turned down a lucrative move to the Middle East.



15: Zurab Khizanishvili: Georgian starlet Zurab Khizanishvili was linked with Everton and Sporting Lisbon during the summer but a brief chat with Light Blue hitman Shota Arveladze was enough to convince the supremely talented defender that a switch to Ibrox was his best bet.



16: Paolo Vanoli: Serie A star Paolo Vanoli joined the club in August 2003 and will provide expert cover for Michael Ball at left-back and Peter Lovenkranz on the left side of midfield. Light Blue boss Alex McLeish was looking for cover in those areas following the departures of Arthur Numan, Neil McCann and Jerome Bonnisel and Paulo, who won the UEFA Cup with Parma in 1999,

fitted the bill perfectly.



18: Michael Ball: RANGERS fans will be hoping that this will finally be the season where they get to see the best of Michael Ball.

The young defender has made a steady recovery from the cruciate ligament injury that has sidelined him since December 2001 and he is hopeful of a top-team return early next season.

The fee of £6.5m is the second highest in Rangers' history, but McLeish is convinced that the left-sided defender will go on to be a major player for the club in the years ahead.

Still only 23 years old, much will be expected of Ball this season following the departure in the summer of the club's two other 'natural' left-backs, Arthur Numan and Jerome Bonnisel.



19: Steven Thompson: Steven Thompson signed from Dundee United on the last day of 2002 to bring to a close a fantastic year for the Paisley-born striker.

He wrapped up a sensational campaign by appearing in Scotland's 1-1 Euro 2004 qualifying draw with Germany at Hampden.



20: Nuno Capucho: Nuno Capucho brought with him a host of European experience and one of the longest names in world football when he joined Rangers in June 2003.

The Portuguese internationalist - full name Nuno Fernando Goncalves Da Rocha - became Alex McLeish's first signing of the summer shortly after he had completed a treble with former club Porto, including the UEFA Cup final victory over Celtic in Seville.

It was not the first time he had helped put the Celts to the sword having knocked them out of the UEFA Cup with Sporting Lisbon in 93/94 and then starred in a 3-0 Champions League win with Porto over Martin O'Neill's men in 2001.

A goal provider rather than scorer, the 31 year-old has been capped 34 times for Portugal and is hoping a good season in Scotland will book him a place in the international squad for Euro 2004, which take place in his home country.



21: Mo Ross: Mo made his Light Blue debut in his home-town of Dundee in February 00 and it was made even more memorable as Rangers beat the Dens Park side 7-1.

He then went on to captain the under-21s to the league Championship in season 00/01 but, like Stephen Hughes, was restricted in his first team appearances due to injury. His hard work paid off, however, and he was promoted full-time to Dick Advocaat's squad in the summer.

At just 22, the solid defender is also a key member of Berti Vogts' Scotland squad and Ross capped an incredible campaign by starring in Scotland's 1-1 Euro 2004 qualifying draw with Germany at Hampden.



22: Allan McGregor: Now second in line behind Stefan Klos, Allan McGregor has proved he is more than capable of being a worthy successor to Der Goalie. Working alongside Stefan Klos and Billy Thompson has helped McGregor immensely and he is now hoping to build on his early success and progress even more in the years to come.

Allan didn't make an appearance during the treble-winning campaign 2002/03 but he's willing to bid his time and wait for his chance.



23: Mikel Arteta: It was in the Club's UEFA Cup clash with Paris Saint Germain that Mikel Arteta first wooed the Ibrox crowd, despite being on the opposing team.

The young Spaniard was outstanding in the midfield alongside Hugo Leal and at the tender age of 20 he already looked a truly world class player.

He is a regular for Spain at under-21 level and has been an inspiration at every level since making his debut for the national side as a school-boy. Since coming to Scotland Mikel has firmly stamped his authority on the Rangers midfield and his partnership with Barry Ferguson is proving to be invaluable.

Mikel scored five goals in his debut season including a last-gasp penalty in the amazing 6-1 victory over Dunfermline that clinched the club's 50th championship. It looked as if he would be heading back to Spain last summer - with Atletico Madrid showing an interest - but he has pledged his future to Rangers and grabbed three goals in the opening two games this term.



25: Henning Berg: Norwegian veteran Henning Berg joined the club in August 2003 and looks set to partner Aussie rock Craig Moore at the heart of the defence.

He has agreed a one-year deal with the SPL title-holders and boasts a wealth of British and European experience. The former Manchester Utd and Blackburn ace has a decade of English Premiership football under his belt and has also made over 40 appearances in the Champions League.

Berg is also the current captain of Norway and with over 90 caps to his credit should have no problems adapting to the rigours of Scottish football.



27 Stephen Hughes: The level headed midfielder has an exciting career ahead of him and has been handed a massive compliment by some youth coaches who feel he is even better than Barry Ferguson was when he was the same age.

His injury worries appear to finally be behind him and Stevie is determined to smash the successful Arteta, Ferguson, Ricksen midfield partnership by making it impossible for Alex McLeish not to choose him.



Manager Alex McLeish

Alex McLeish was a much respected player, capped 77 times for Scotland and one of the stars of Alex Ferguson's successful Aberdeen team of the 80's.

But many were sceptical when he took over as

manager at Ibrox after a managerial career at lowly Hibs and Motherwell - was he big enough for Rangers? McLeish answered all his critics by winning everything in sight last season. The only thing missing from the "Big Ecks" CV is success in Europe!



Peter Lovenkranz is currently injured and will not be appearing for Rangers this evening.

PLAYERS FACTS

VALGT AF FOLKET



Carlsberg har holdt Ølvalg, og der var mere end 120.000 stemmer på de 4 kandidater. 34% af stemmerne gik til Carlsberg Dark, en fyldig kandidat brygget på flere slags malte og tilsat farin. Det giver øllet et kobberfarvet skær og en let ristet duft med diskrete toner af vanille og frisk humle.

