

# Inter, Man City to play exhibition in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (AP) — Italian league champion Inter Milan will play an exhibition against Manchester City at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium on July 31 that is part of efforts to raise the United States' profile for a possible World Cup bid in 2018 or 2022.

The match will mark the second straight summer that soccer powerhouses have played in Baltimore before the European season. Chelsea defeated A.C. Milan in front of more than 70,000 fans last July.

Inter Milan won both the Italian league and Italian Cup titles in 2010 and is playing Bayern Munich in the Champions League final on Saturday. Inter is led by 30-goal scorer Alberto Diego Milito.

Former Italian star Roberto Mancini coaches Manchester City, which finished fifth in the English Premier League. The club had 10 players selected to preliminary rosters for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Last year's match at the home of the NFL's Baltimore Ravens was part of the World Football Challenge and generated more than \$20 million in revenue.

Terry Hasseltine, director of the Maryland Office of Sports Marketing, said the return of international soccer enhances the region's appeal to World Cup organizers, who have selected Baltimore as a potential site should the U.S. be awarded a bid.

He expects the upcoming game <emdash /> which comes three weeks after this year's World Cup final and precedes the start of the European season <emdash /> to exceed last year's economic impact.

"The economy is starting to turn around and people have more discretionary income to spend on travel plans and entertainment," Hasseltine said. "This game is at the peak of summer travel season."

The game is the final stop in Manchester's U.S. tour, which starts with a game against the Portland Timbers on July 17. The club will then play two games in the New York Football Challenge, which is being hosted by the New York Red Bulls from July 22-25. Those games in Harrison, N.J., also involve Tottenham and Sporting Lisbon.

Man City then plays Mexico's Club America at Atlanta's Georgia Dome on July 28.

The Premier League season starts Aug. 14.

[http://www.usatoday.com/sports/soccer/2010-05-21-2431299892\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/sports/soccer/2010-05-21-2431299892_x.htm)