



For Immediate Release

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MANCHESTER CITY TO PLAY INTER MILAN AT M&T BANK STADIUM ON JULY 31

Game Marks Second Consecutive Year Baltimore Will Host an International Soccer Match

Baltimore, Md. - The Baltimore Ravens, Maryland Stadium Authority, Maryland Office of Sports Marketing and Visit Baltimore joined today to formally announce that **Manchester City Football Club** will play **Football Club Internazionale Milano**, commonly known as Inter Milan, in a soccer match at M&T Bank Stadium on Saturday, July 31 at 8 p.m.

“The Ravens are proud to bring the ‘other’ football back to our home field this summer,” said Baltimore Ravens’ President Dick Cass. “Manchester City and Inter Milan are two of the elite clubs in the soccer world and we look forward to welcoming both teams to M&T Bank Stadium on July 31st.”

Manchester City is a member of England’s elite Barclays Premier League, while Inter Milan competes in Italy’s top league, Italian Serie A. Inter Milan won both the Italia Serie A title and the Coppa Italia in 2010, and will compete against FC Bayern Munich on May 22 in the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League Final, the culmination of Europe’s most prestigious annual club soccer competition.

“I’d like to congratulate the City of Baltimore for hosting a European soccer match for the second year in a row,” said Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley. “This public-private partnership will not only bring thousands of fans to enjoy the many attractions that Baltimore has to offer, but will have a significant economic impact for our State during these tough times. Working together, we can continue to create opportunities to strengthen Maryland’s economy.”

“As we saw last year, Baltimore is a great city to host a premier international sporting event,” said Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. “It is a great example of how a public-private partnership can stimulate the local economy. I look forward for the opportunity to welcome the thousands of international soccer fans to our great city.”

The match between Manchester City and Inter Milan will mark the second consecutive year in which teams from two of Europe’s top soccer leagues will compete against one another in Baltimore. In July 2009, over 70,000 fans filled M&T Bank Stadium for the international soccer game between A.C. Milan and Chelsea. That game helped elevate Baltimore’s profile in the eyes of the international sports world.

“Having another international soccer match here in Baltimore is a big win for the entire city, generating significant economic impact for our attractions, hotels and restaurants,” said Tom Noonan, president & CEO, Visit Baltimore. “The games also provide a great opportunity to showcase the destination to potential visitors around the world who will be watching and reading the media coverage.”

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Soccer is considered the “world’s game” and it is estimated that roughly half of the world’s population of approximately 6.7 billion people are fans of the sport.

Terry Hasseltine, director of the Maryland Office of Sports Marketing, added, “This is a tremendous opportunity for the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore and M&T Bank Stadium to showcase its commitment to the soccer community regionally, nationally and internationally. Games of this nature enhance our presence in the global sports marketplace and add instant credibility for being a premier destination for sports. It also enhances our World Cup bid efforts for 2018 or 2022.”

Tickets for the July 31 match between Manchester City and Inter Milan will go on sale on Wednesday, May 26 and range in price from \$25 to \$115 (\$115 Club Level and lower midfield includes practice session with teams on July 30; \$70 lower sideline, \$50 lower corner/lower goal; \$38 upper sideline; upper end goal \$25). Tickets may be purchased by calling 410.261.RAVE (7283) or visiting www.BaltimoreRavens.com.

“The Maryland Stadium Authority is committed to bringing more events to the Camden Yards complex, providing more entertainment opportunities for our citizens,” stated Chairman of the Maryland Stadium Authority, John Morton, III. “We learned last year that the excitement of international soccer also brought many out of town visitors to enjoy our facilities and support local businesses.”

The Chelsea vs. A.C. Milan match in Baltimore in 2009 was part the World Football Challenge. Among the sold out attendance at that game included nearly 12,000 tickets purchased by fans who travelled nearly four hours to Baltimore for the event. The game supported nearly 300 Maryland jobs and augmented local business revenues by approximately \$20 million. Additionally, over \$1.5 million in combined State and local taxes were generated in 2009 as a result of the game.

Stadium Authority Executive Director Michael Frenz echoed Morton’s comments, pointing out the benefits of sports events as a revenue generator. “A sizable portion of last year’s \$20 million impact went directly to state and local governments,” he said. “This was a welcome infusion for us during a difficult economic time.”

Information surrounding the teams’ itineraries in Baltimore will be released at a later date.

GAME CREDENTIALS: Applications for game day credentials are to be submitted electronically to SoccerCredentials@MaroonPR.com. Media members must include their full name, affiliation, media type and complete contact information (i.e. mailing address, phone and email) when applying. The deadline for submitting credential requests in Monday, July 19.

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