

## Manchester City to bring their stars to SA

Manchester City manager Mark Hughes has named a full strength squad to play Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs in the Vodacom Challenge in South Africa this month. Manchester City manager Mark Hughes has named a full strength squad to play Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs in the Vodacom Challenge.

Hughes said at the recent launch he would use the Challenge as an important part of his pre-season training programme.

City and Pirates kick-off the annual Challenge when they meet in the opening game at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane on Saturday. Kick-off is at 3pm.

City play Amakhosi at Durban's Absa Stadium next Tuesday night (8.15pm), then face the winner of the Bucs-Chiefs derby that will be staged in Port Elizabeth next Thursday night, in the final at Loftus on July 25.

Hughes has named his three new star signings, strikers Carlos Tevez who was signed this week from their English Premiership neighbours Manchester United, Paraguay international striker Roque Santa Cruz and English midfielder Gareth Barry.

Hughes has named 28 players but his two Brazilian stars, Robinho and Elano, will only be available for the final at Loftus on July 35.

Both were given a rest after they helped Brazil retain the Confederations Cup by defeating the United States 3-1 in the final played at Ellis Park last month.

Argentine international Tevez, one of the most feared strikers in world football, was a firm favourite with the United fans and will be the star attraction in South Africa. He will make his City debut in the Challenge.

Also included are Welsh captain Craig Bellamy, and the former Jomo Cosmos hero, Benjani Mwaruwari, who is keen to renew old friendships in South Africa.

Other big names in the City squad are Wayne Bridge, Micah Richards and Ireland goalkeeper Shay Given.

### **The squad**

*Goalkeepers:* Shay Given, Kasper Schmeichel, Stuart Taylor

*Defenders:* Pablo Zabaleta, Javier Garrido, Wayne Bridge, Richard Dunne, Shaleum Logan, Ryan McGivern, Micah Richards, Nedum Onuoha

*Midfielders:* Michael Johnson, Stephen Ireland, Martin Petrov, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Kelvin Etuhu, Nigel de Jong, Vladimir Weiss, Elano Blumer, Gareth Barry

*Strikers:* Valeri Bojinov, Benjani Mwaruwari, Craig Bellamy, Felipe Caicedo, Ched Evans, Roque Santa Cruz, Robinho and Carlos Tevez.