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ANDY COLE ALL STARS TO GRACE HONG KONG'S SOCCER SEVENS

Manchester United legend Andy Cole will lead his own all-star team at this year's HKFC IP Global International Soccer Sevens.

The Old Trafford great will captain a star-studded line-up of former teammates and friends in the three-day spectacle at Hong Kong Football Club in May.

Cole, a key striker in United's famous Treble-winning team of 1999, said he was looking forward to the challenge.

"I'm delighted to be coming to Hong Kong to take part in the HKFC IP Global International Soccer Sevens," he said.

"I'll be bringing some old friends and teammates with me and we're looking forward to enjoying ourselves and hopefully giving the fans plenty of entertainment.

"It is recognised as the premier sevens tournament worldwide and, while it's played in a friendly spirit, we'll certainly be coming with the aim of winning. As former professionals, we never lose that desire to do well and I can assure everyone in Hong Kong that we'll be very competitive."

The Andy Cole All Stars will feature former United players David May, Lee Martin, Clayton Blackmore and Andy Ritchie.

They will be joined by a trio of former England internationals – midfielder Michael Thomas, defender Ugo Ehiogu and goalkeeper Ian Walker, plus ex-Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair.

Thomas will be forever remembered as the scorer of one of the most famous goals in English football history, the last-gasp winner that won the league title for Arsenal against Liverpool at Anfield in 1989.



Cole won the Champions League, five Premier League titles and two FA Cups with United in a glittering career.

Capped 15 times for England, he also played for Newcastle, Blackburn, Fulham and Manchester City, among others, and he ranks second behind Alan Shearer in the all-time list of top Premiership scorers with 187 goals.

Cole is looking forward to returning to Hong Kong, having previously played in the territory on pre-season tours with United.

“I know from my years at Old Trafford that football fans in Hong Kong are extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the game so it will be a pleasure to play in front of them again,” he said.

And he promised he and his teammates would be out and about in the community during their Soccer Sevens trip.

“It’s also great to know that a key focus of the Soccer Sevens is youth football and community involvement,” he said.

“We’re relishing the chance to meet people, conduct some coaching clinics and do our part to reach out to the fans. It promises to be a memorable week.”

The 2010 HKFC IP Global International Soccer Sevens will be held from 14-16 May with a total of 32 teams taking part, 16 in the Main competition and 16 in the Masters.

Since it was first held in 1999, the tournament – sanctioned by the Hong Kong Football Association – has developed into the world’s premier seven-a-side soccer event.

The Main competition has become famous for unearthing the “stars of tomorrow” while the Masters section features former elite players from Europe’s top leagues.

The Andy Cole All Stars will be one of the top attractions in the Masters together with two other



teams containing former Premiership players, the IP Global All Stars and the Hood All Stars.

The full line-up of teams in each competition will be announced next month, when the tournament draw will also be held.

Tickets for the tournament will go on sale shortly. As in previous years, all children under the age of 16 will be allowed in free.

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Caption for ISS_cole_180310.jpg: Manchester United great Andy Cole will be bringing his own all-star team to the HKFC IP Global International Soccer Sevens in Hong Kong in May.

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About IP Global

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IP Global educates investors with the market knowledge required for potential and future investments. The extensive due diligence service provided gives clients the assurance to invest in remote markets which otherwise would not be accessible.

IP Global was launched in Hong Kong in September 2005 and now has offices in Singapore and Dubai to support a rapidly expanding client base and global ambitions. Since inception, IP Global has transacted a total of over US\$700 million in property on behalf of its clients.

*Released on behalf of the HKFC IP Global International Soccer Sevens by **Two Up Front**.*

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