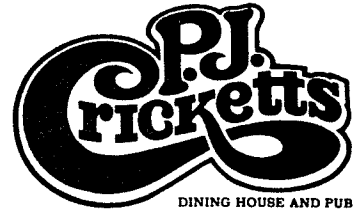




BLAST BULLETIN



GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND WELCOME TO THE 1986-87 MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE SEASON. TONIGHT THE BALTIMORE BLAST AND CLEVELAND FORCE WILL KICK-OFF THE MISL CAMPAIGN, CONTINUING A 6-YEAR RIVALRY THAT HAS SEEN MANY MEMORABLE REGULAR SEASON AND PLAYOFF CONTESTS. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE BLAST/FORCE RIVALRY, YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT BETWEEN THESE TWO TEAMS TONIGHT. IF YOU'RE ATTENDING YOUR FIRST BALTIMORE/CLEVELAND CONTEST, ALL THAT HAS TO BE SAID IS...BE PREPARED.

WHAT YOU'RE READING IS THE BLAST BULLETIN, A REGULAR FEATURE OF THE TEAM'S GAME SCORECARD DURING THE 1986-87 SEASON. ALL FANS IN ATTENDANCE AT TONIGHT'S GAME HAVE RECEIVED A SCORECARD FREE OF CHARGE, COMPLIMENTS OF FRENCH/BRAY PRINTING, INC. DURING BLAST HOME GAMES, THE SCORECARD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR JUST 50 CENTS, AND EACH WILL INCLUDE A BLAST BULLETIN. THE BULLETIN WILL CONTAIN UP TO THE MINUTE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BLAST AND THEIR OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS NOTES AND STATISTICS CONCERNING THE ENTIRE MISL. SO, WELCOME TO THE NEW SEASON...WE HOPE IT'S GOING TO BE A BLAST.

TONIGHT'S GAME: Tonight's contest between Baltimore and Cleveland marks the first time in history that the two teams have met in a season opener. Last year, as many of you probably remember, Cleveland eliminated the Blast from the MISL playoffs by defeating Kenny Cooper's squad 3 games to 2 in the first round of post-season play. In the '85-86 regular season, the Blast were 3-3 against Cleveland, winning all three matches here in Baltimore while dropping a trio of close games in Cleveland. Lifetime, Baltimore leads the series with the Force 32-18, including a 19-10 regular season mark. As a matter of fact, Timo Liekoski's club has not won a regular season game here in Charm City since January of 1984. Following this evening's contest the two teams will not see each other until Tuesday, December 30 in Cleveland.

ABOUT THE BLAST: This is a much different team than the one that went 24-24 last season. Gone are several noteworthy players, including Stan Stamenkovic, Paul Kitson, and Michael Collins. Stamenkovic, of course, announced his retirement in October, while Kitson and Collins each became free agents and signed with other MISL teams. But Blast Head Coach Kenny Cooper has brought in several experienced veterans who are sure to make an impact with his club. Keith Furphy, a 4-year member of the Cleveland Force, is now a member of the Baltimore Blast, as is former Force and Wichita Wings forward Andy Chapman. Combine those signings with the additions of proven All-Stars Paul Child and Dave MacKenzie, and you can see why the Blast is eager to get the season underway. There are several rookies on this year's club, each of whom, with time, will hopefully contribute to the success of the team.

AND THE FORCE: The Force were 3-3 this pre-season (the Blast were 2-2), including a 1-1 exhibition mark against the Blast. Cleveland defeated Baltimore 3-2 on Oct. 24 in Worcester, Mass., but fell 9-1 to the Blast the following day in Hartford, Conn. Gino DiFlorio, a 2nd year player for Cleveland, was the club's leading pre-season scorer with 4 goals and 1 assist. As has been the case in the past, the Force will utilize a lot of experience and savvy this season as they look to keep their Eastern Division title. One notable addition for Cleveland is that of defender Desmond Armstrong, who recently signed a one-year contract with the Force. Armstrong, a graduate of the University of Maryland, played high school soccer at Columbia's Howard High and locally for the Spartans amateur team out of Washington D.C.

INJURY REPORT: The Blast learned this past Tuesday that All-Star goalkeeper Scott Manning will miss at least 4-6 weeks of action after suffering a broken middle finger on his right hand. Manning sustained the injury (the finger was broken in three places) in Monday's practice session. He is, of course, listed as OUT for tonight's game. Dave MacWilliams, who is still recovering from off-season knee surgery, is OUT tonight as well. Other than the usual bumps and bruises, the Blast is healthy.

The Force has announced that Craig Allen, their leading point scorer last season, will NOT PLAY TONIGHT after suffering a bruised toe in a practice session last week. Alex Tarnoczi (knee ligament damage) and Pasquale DeLuca (hamstring pull) are both OUT tonight. Kai Haaskivi (ankle sprain) is listed as QUESTIONABLE by Force officials.



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"P.J. Crickets is the place to eat before or after any Baltimore Blast Game."
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COMING UP: There's more MISL action coming soon at the Baltimore Arena. This Sunday the Kansas City Comets will visit the Blast at 2:05 PM. There are still plenty of GOOD SEATS available for that game on Sunday. For those of you who may want to call and charge your tickets (without a service charge), simply call 792-4001 (in the Baltimore area). The Washington D.C. charge number is 432-0200. The Comets appear to be a much improved team and could be a threat in the Western Division this season. The first 7500 fans to enter the Arena on Sunday will receive a Blast painters hat, courtesy of S & N Katz Jewelers. If you can't make it down to the Arena on Sunday, be sure to tune in to WFBR Radio (1300 AM) for all the action.

Next Friday night here at the Arena the Chicago Sting will make their first of three regular season visits to Baltimore. The Sting, like Kansas City, also appear to be improved from last season. And wait until you see the Sting's Drago Dumbovic. The pint-sized forward has dropped his last name (he's now known as Drago) and shaved his head, sporting a headband around it. There are still plenty of good tickets left for Friday's game, which begins at 8:05 PM. Please note that all Friday night games this season will begin at 8:05 PM.

AROUND THE MISL TONIGHT: Only one other game is on tap tonight, as the Dallas Sidekicks will host the Chicago Sting at Reunion Arena in Dallas. Here's a quick rundown of MISL action this weekend.

TONIGHT:

Cleveland @ Baltimore, 7:35 PM
Chicago @ Dallas, 8:35 PM (EST)

FRIDAY: Kansas City @ St. Louis, 8:35 PM (EST)
Tacoma @ Wichita, 8:35 PM (EST)
New York @ Los Angeles, 10:35 PM (EST)

SATURDAY: Minnesota @ San Diego, 10:35 PM (EST)

SUNDAY: Kansas City @ Baltimore, 2:05 PM
St. Louis @ Dallas, 7:35 PM (EST)
New York @ Tacoma, 9:05 PM (EST)

ON-THE-AIR: All 52 regular season games will be aired by the Blast's flagship station, WFBR Radio (1300 AM), with Art Sinclair (play-by-play) and Charlie Eckman (color) calling the action. Also, 14 regular season games will be cablecast by Home Team Sports TV, including tonight's season opener with Cleveland. Play-by-play voice Mike Fornes returns to the mike for HTS, and WBAL-TV sports anchor Chris Thomas joins Fornes in booth as the color commentator for HTS/Blast games. In addition, the MISL announced yesterday that ESPN will carry 14 regular season games this season, as well as 4 LIVE playoff games and the All-Star Game in Los Angeles this February. Listed below is the Blast's HTS schedule, as well as the ESPN slate. Both schedules are subject to change.

HOME TEAM SPORTS

Nov. 13 vs. CLEVELAND, 7:35 PM
Dec. 12 @ Minnesota, 8:35 PM
Dec. 30 @ Cleveland, 8:05 PM
Jan. 9 @ Los Angeles, 10:35 PM
Jan. 16 @ New York, 8:05 PM
Feb. 20 vs. SAN DIEGO, 8:05 PM
Mar. 6 vs. DALLAS, 8:05 PM
Mar. 27 @ Los Angeles, 10:35 PM
Apr. 17 @ DALLAS, 8:35 PM
Apr. 24 vs. CLEVELAND, 8:05 PM
May 2 vs. NEW YORK, 7:35 PM
3 additional games to be announced.

ESPN

Dec. 26 - BLAST @ Chicago, 2:00 PM, (Live)
Dec. 28 - San Diego @ Tacoma, 4:00 PM
Jan. 18 - BLAST @ Cleveland, 3:00 PM (Live)
Feb. 1 - Wichita @ St. Louis, 3:00 PM (Live)
Feb. 11 - MISL All-Star Game (Time TBA)
Feb. 16 - Chicago @ Tacoma, 12:00 AM
Feb. 16 - New York @ San Diego, 2:00 PM
Feb. 22 - BLAST @ Dallas, 3:30 PM (Live)
Mar. 2 - Cleveland @ San Diego, 12:00 AM (Live)
Mar. 22 - Kansas City @ Wichita, 2:00 PM (Live)
Apr. 6 - Kansas City @ Tacoma, 12:00 AM
Apr. 12 - Minnesota @ Cleveland, 4:00 PM (Live)
Apr. 19 - Tacoma @ San Diego, 4:00 PM
Apr. 26 - Chicago @ New York, 5:00 PM (Live)
May 10 - MISL Playoff Game, Live! (Time TBA)
May 24 - MISL Playoff Game, Live! (Time TBA)
June 7 - MISL Playoff Game, Live! (Time TBA)
June 13 - MISL Playoff Game, Live! (Time TBA)

one additional regular season game to be added

BLAST YEARBOOK ON SALE: The first-ever edition of the Baltimore Blast Yearbook is now on sale at all souvenir vendors in the Baltimore Arena. The Yearbook is a 100 page review and preview of the Baltimore Blast, containing feature stories, statistics, and other important information about soccer in Charm City. The cost is \$4...be sure to pick up your copy today!