

## SOCCER LIMERICK FC V MANCHESTER CITY

# City win easy but stuff of dreams for Purcell

**Manchester City** 4  
**Limerick FC** 0

**Colm Kinsella**  
In Thomond Park

LIMERICK FC captain Pat Purcell summed it up better than most when he described his side's glamour friendly with Manchester City as an occasion 'on which dreams are made.' More than 20,000 soccer fans flocked to the venue to watch Premier League champions City, packed with international stars, showcase their talents at the famed rugby ground. After a couple of false dawns in recent seasons, when the likes of Barcelona had been lined up for glamour visits to Limerick, only for the fixture to fall through, big time soccer finally came to the city and given the success of the occasion, more marquee friendlies are likely to follow in the seasons ahead. The record books will show that Manchester City, who included four seasoned internationals who played in the recent European Championships, Nasri, Lescott, Clichy and Milner in their starting line-up, as well as the vastly experienced front pair of Dzeko and Santa Cruz, eased to a 4-0 win. The English Premier League champions led 3-0 at the break, with Dzeko firing a brace and Dedryck Boyota adding a third after Limerick had defiantly held their big-spending opponents scoreless for the opening half an hour.

A 78th minute goal from Luca Scapuzzi rounded off the scoring for Roberto Mancini's side. Limerick FC provided plucky opposition all through, with manager Pat Scully opting to ring the changes through the second half, given the hectic nature of his side's current playing schedule.

Meanwhile, on the subject of the game itself, Limerick FC captain, Pat Purcell said he was very proud to have

the opportunity to play against the reigning Premier League champions. Purcell said: "This was genuinely a night upon which dreams are made for the club. From a players' perspective, it doesn't come any bigger than this, to play Manchester City at Thomond Park in front of 20,000 people.

"To think where the club has come from over the past number of years, it is a very proud moment for me personally as a player to be involved in and captain of the club.

"I hadn't allowed myself think about it enough because we had such a big game against Longford and a Cup semi-final with Shamrock Rovers." Purcell received a special memento from the game when England defender, Joleon Lescott presented him with his jersey.

"I said it to Joleon on the pitch about getting his jersey. In fairness, he came looking for me after the match," Purcell said.

"He is a top man in that respect. I am delighted with that as well.

"The club can build on this. Potentially, there are another eight of these fixtures available to them in Thomond Park.

"You can expect to see similar games next season and in the years to come. "Hopefully the club can keep progressing and we can make the Premier League, trying to get into Europe and playing European matches here."

**LIMERICK FC** - Dave Ryan (Shane Cusack 44) (Barry Ryan 70), Robert Klucak (Barry Sheedy 57), Shane Tracy (Andrew Cowpar 74), Corie Treacy, Pat Purcell (Capt) (Shane Guthrie 38), Joe Gamble (Sean Brosnan half-time) (Derek O'Brien 78), Jeffrey Judge (James McGrath 60), Stephen McGann (Tony Whitehead 67), Dominic Foley (Garbhan Coughlan half-time), Stephen Bradley (Shaun Kelly ht), Garry Sheahan (Denis Behan half-time).

**MANCHESTER CITY** - Costel Pantilimon, Dedryck Boyota, Gael Clichy, Joleon Lescott, Samir Nasri (Capt), (Luca Scapuzzi 32 mins), George Evans (Reece Wabara 57 mins), Denis Suarez, Ryan McGivern (Marcos Lopes half-time), James Milner (Filippo Mancini 73 mins), Edin Dzeko (Harry Bunn 70 mins), Roque Santa Cruz (Shay Facey 73 mins).

**REFEREE** - Anthony Buttimer (Cork)



Man City and Limerick FC players line up before the start of their friendly game in Thomond Park on Sunday night; below - Dedryck Boyota, Manchester City, in action against Denis Behan, Limerick FC

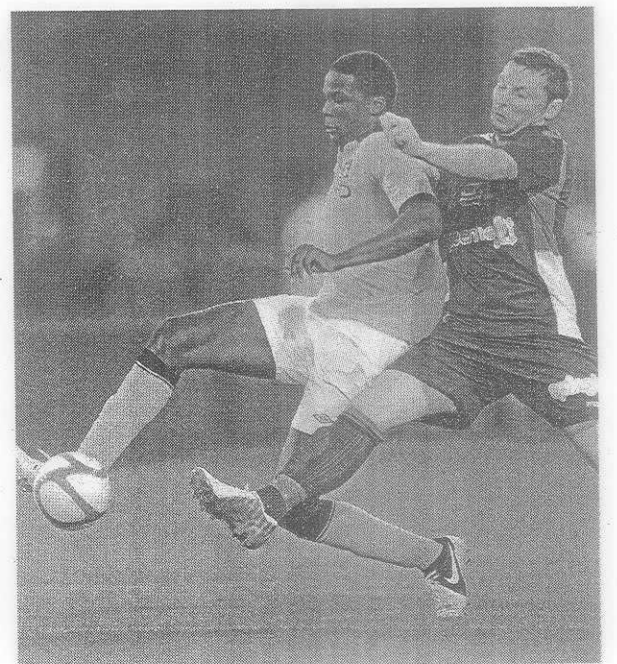
## Investigation into Clichy allegation

The one negative aspect of the evening was the claim by City's French defender Gael Clichy that bananas were thrown onto the pitch during the course of the match.

Clichy took to Twitter to vent his anger. The defender said: 'How sad to see "bananas thrown on the pitch" tonight. Knowing people around the world need food. #nowordsforthis.'

In a statement issued in the wake of Clichy's allegation, Limerick FC said the Gardaí and Thomond Park Stadium officials were reviewing CCTV recordings to attempt to identify an individual involved in the throwing of an offensive object onto the playing field.

The statement continued: "Any individual identified as being involved in an incident of this nature will be banned from future attendance and the matter will be handed over to the Gardaí. All those involved with the friendly game this evening fully condemn all forms of unacceptable behaviour of this nature."



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for updates throughout the week



**SOCCER LIMERICK FC V MANCHESTER CITY**



# Foley goes back in time to make Lescott link

**Colm Kinsella**

LIMERICK FC striker Dominic Foley must have had a sense of déjà vu when lining out against Manchester City in the clubs' glamour friendly at Thomond Park on Sunday night.

During his time at Wolves, Foley had regularly marked City's England centre half Joleon Lescott in training. And now some 14 years on, the pair were back in opposition once again.

Foley, who was invited for trials at Man City in his teenage years, enthused: "Joleon and I were two years together at Wolves in our younger days. We marked each other in training."

"I was about 22 at the time. Joleon was coming from the youth team into the first team. It was nice to play against him tonight."

"It was nice to catch up with him again. He has done better things, but he is still the nice fella he always was."

"He always had the capability to go to the top, especially with his size and power. He was always a good defender and his skills on the ball have improved since then too. He has gone right to the top, winning the Premier League and playing for City. He looked after me with a jersey."

"I loved being involved in a game like this, being out there playing on a very good pitch. You are playing against quality opposition. It is what we dream about and what we want to do."

"It was a pity we had the EA Sports Cup game with Shamrock Rovers a day after and players would have

gotten more game-time against City. But that was the way the cookie crumbles and we have to get on with it."

"I have been here at Thomond Park for rugby games. Unfortunately, the one Heineken Cup match I was here for was the quarter-final against Ulster this year. I have been banned by the Charleville guys and am not allowed come any more!"

Former Wolves and Watford star Foley, who also boasts six international caps, joined promotion-chasing Limerick FC this season from Belgian club Cercle Brugge.

Thirty six-year-old Foley said the players were determined to secure their number one priority this season, promotion to the Premier Division.

"At the start of the season our main aim was promotion and it still is. We won't mind if we achieve it by a point or goal difference," Foley said.

"The Cup competitions are nice, but the focus is on Wexford in the League on Friday night."

"That is our main aim. Keeping a clean sheet against Longford on Friday night was key. We were unlucky not to score a couple of goals. I think the boys were magnificent at the back."

"When you are top of the League, you know that everywhere you go, everyone wants to beat you. There are no such things as easy games whether you are bottom of the Division or second from top."

"We have to be on our guard and 100% concentrated."

## Scully: 'It was a great night for the club'

**Liam Togher**

LIMERICK FC manager Pat Scully rued the concession of four "terrible" goals against English champions Manchester City on Sunday night.

Some uncharacteristic defensive mistakes by the Super Blues gifted goals to Manchester City and Scully was clearly disappointed with how the goals came about.

He said: "It was a great night for the club with the stadium, the crowd and the atmosphere, but the four goals we conceded were terrible. If you're playing Man City, if they're going to score four, let them be well worked, good moves with good passing. We just handed them the goals and that was disappointing from our point of view."

The Limerick manager acknowledged

that it was a special experience for him and his players to face such illustrious opposition, but he also reiterated his regret over the goals they gave away.

"It was a great learning experience for our players and they wouldn't be used to playing against that standard of player and it was an experience we enjoyed."

"We did well but when you're up against players of that sort of quality you have to make them work hard for the goals and that's the disappointing thing for me."

"If you look at players like Nasri and Dzeko and if they score top quality goals you can say 'look, that's what you're up against' but we basically gave them the four goals."

Scully confirmed that goalkeeper Dave Ryan will require a scan on

the knee injury he picked up just before half-time, with the manager making the most of his options on the substitutes' bench.

While it was understandable that he wanted to give as many players as possible the chance to play against Manchester City, the club's hectic Bank Holiday schedule also came into play.

"It isn't good news with Dave. He's hurt his knee so he'll have to go for a scan and we'll have to wait and see how it goes but it doesn't look good."

"We have a game against Shamrock Rovers tomorrow night so obviously the preparation wasn't ideal. We had to save people's legs and people's energy so we did the best we could, but when you defend like that you don't give yourself any chance."



Limerick FC's Dominic Foley in action against Man City's Joleon Lescott in Thomond Park on Sunday night Pictures: Sportsfile