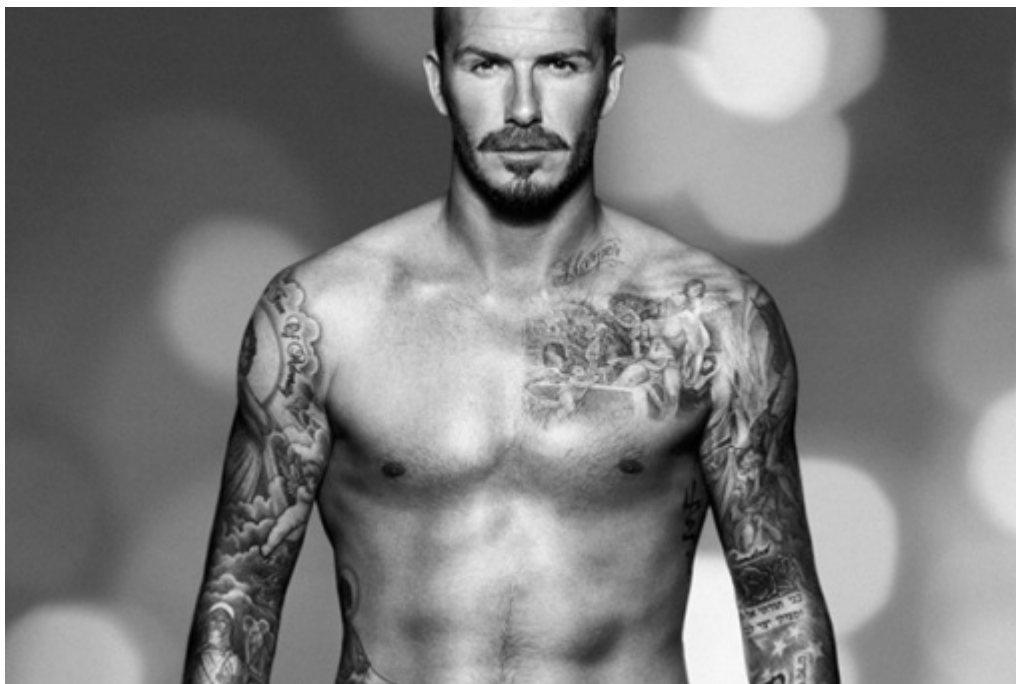


Beckham Plans New Bedford Soccer Stadium



By Andrew O'Leary

Soccer superstar David Beckham has shocked the sports world by vowing to bring a 40,000 seater stadium and Major League soccer team to the Whaling City by 2015.

Today the athlete turned model, turned investor will use his international star power and new cell phone to call someone at the Boston State House, trying to rally support from the governor and legislators for the Major League Soccer franchise he plans to site right in the heart of New Bedford's Pope's Island.

The 38-year-old former England captain said he had never previously visited New Bedford but has done a Google search and feels that the easy access to a new Pope's Island stadium via Route 6 will allow fans to pack out the stadium on game day. The large number of soccer enthusiasts living in Melville Towers is also expected to be a big draw.