

ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TABLE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP
KICKS OFF IN LAS VEGAS**

U.S. National "Foosball" Team Makes Debut in Preparation for World Cup

Las Vegas, NV – Enthusiasts and top athletes from around the world are already beginning to converge on Las Vegas, Nevada, to compete in an unusual, unique event: the Valley-Tornado International Championships of Table Soccer (a.k.a. "foosball"). Taking place March 22-26, 2006 at the Riviera Hotel, about 400 of the world's best foosball players will be on hand to compete for titles and a combined total of over \$75,000 in cash and prizes.

All eyes will be on members of the newly selected U.S. National Table Soccer Team as they compete in their first major tour event of the year. The team, composed of seven male and three female foosball Masters from throughout the United States, will be honing their skills in preparation for the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) World Cup of Table Soccer, to be held in Hamburg, Germany at the end of May. In this debut appearance, team members will get an early chance to gauge their foosball capabilities against some of their likely World Cup competition, including world #1-ranked player Frederico Collignon of Belgium.

The competition will take place on Tornado Table Soccer™ tables, made by the Valley-Dynamo division of Brunswick, Inc., and is sanctioned by both the ITSF and the United States Table Soccer Federation (USTSF). As an ITSF sanctioned event, top finishers in Open Doubles, Women's Doubles, and Open Singles will win expense-paid trips to the ITSF World Championships in Italy in November, while all participants in Open Singles and Women's Singles will also earn rankings points towards additional trips to Italy. In addition to tournament competition, the Las Vegas event will also feature the annual Valley International Foosball League Championships, the culminating event of a year of worldwide table soccer league competition, to be followed on Saturday night with an awards banquet, as well as announcement of this year's inductees into the Foosball Hall of Fame.

Other ITSF 2006 World Tour events in the United States are scheduled to take place in Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina and Texas, while table soccer players from over 35 countries are gearing up for further ITSF competition in Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Africa and the UK. In fact, this year's tour will be the largest worldwide table soccer pro tour ever!

With categories for men and women and beginner through Master, the Las Vegas competition is open to all comers, and includes many specialty events, such as 15 & Under Doubles, 40 & Over Doubles, Forward Shootout, and Goalie War, with most finals held on Sunday the 26th. There are entry fees for players who wish to compete in an event, but there is no admission fee to enter the tournament room and spectators are welcome.

For additional details about the event and the sport of table soccer, please see the following websites:

www.vifa.com
www.table-soccer.org
www.foosball.com
www.foosworld.com
www.foosball.com/ustsf

- tournament/league information site
- the ITSF web site/international rankings
- general information about the sport of table soccer
- information about players & regional events across the U.S.A.
- the official USTSF web site

For more information, photos, or for an electronic version of this release, please contact:

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