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ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INDEPENDENT FOOSBALL PROMOTIONS (IFP)
"KICKS OFF"
\$250,000 PRO FOOSBALL TOUR**

- Kentucky Tournament Promoter Gains International Attention -

LEXINGTON – This last January marked a new path for Independent Foosball Promotions (IFP) owner and director Mary Moore, as she embarked on the start of running a 17-tournament, \$250,000 foosball pro tour. Under her direction and in cooperation with Charles Mackintosh of TornadoFoosball.com, foosball (a.k.a. "table soccer") in the United States has once again shifted into high gear, featuring tournaments varying in size from \$7,000 to \$35,000 each and attracting players from all around the world.

At the same time, January marked the return of an old path, as Ms. Moore held the IFP Tour Kickoff (formerly the "SuperBowl of Foosball") for the 13th consecutive year in her hometown of Lexington, KY. Held January 24-28 at the Lexington Holiday Inn North, the Kickoff is recognized as an [International Table Soccer Federation](#) (ITSF) Master Series event. This and four other IFP tournaments – in Georgia, Louisiana, Colorado and back to Kentucky – are among just ten in the USA that have even been specially designated for international tour status. And as an ITSF sanctioned event, players in Open Singles and Women's Singles earned international tour qualification points towards trips to compete at the ITSF World Championships Finals in St. Vincent, Italy. As a result, the event drew about 300 of the best foosball (a.k.a. "table soccer") players in the nation including several members of the [U.S. National Team](#) and top international players from as far away as Canada, Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom.

This tournament and the new IFP Pro Foosball Tour have further kicked off the season with several new concepts, including endorsement of the [ITSF International Rules](#), which have been standardized for all table brands and styles of play and implemented in over 40 countries worldwide. ITSF Dress Codes requiring professional/athletic attire (for example, no jeans!) are also now enforced in all ITSF-sanctioned competitive categories. And, having custom designed its own [tournament software](#), IFP's tournaments have become the standard for timeliness and efficiency that players across the USA now expect – whereas in the past foosball tournaments were notorious for not finishing on schedule due to conflicts generated by players being eligible to compete in a multitude of categories simultaneously, the IFP system automatically resolves, prioritizes or eliminates these and many more issues. Players (and tournament staff!) were delighted.

Also new this year was extensive media coverage, to include news teams from the local CBS affiliate Lexington Channel 27, the Associated Press, and live streaming video broadcasting the event worldwide courtesy of [Inside Foos Productions](#), who beginning this year will also professionally produce DVD's of top match play from all major ITSF and IFP foosball tournaments around the world.

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Finals matches at the tournament itself did not disappoint the many attending spectators, enthusiasts and online viewers as USA #1-ranked and defending Open Singles champion Billy Pappas, 22, of Lowell, MA edged out the United Kingdom's superstar Rob Atha, 22, who had just come hot off a European Tour victory in Austria. Pappas teamed up in Open Doubles with partner Tony Spredeman, 22, of Cudahy, WI, who together had won the title last year, but this year they found themselves outplayed in the final by multi-time World Champions Todd Loffredo, 46, of Columbus, OH and Terry Moore, 39, of Chicago, IL. Meanwhile, USTSA and ITSF Women's World Champion Cindy Head of Sterrett, AL continued to dominate, winning Women's Doubles together with partner Dawn Duquette of Colorado Springs, but was overcome in Women's Singles, as co-U.S. National Team member Dusty Bambenek finished first with Dawn Duquette finishing second overall. Additional competition took place in a variety of event categories, and with seven skill-level divisions and specialty events for younger players, there was something for everyone!

Sponsors of the event included TornadoFoosball.com, Budweiser, Rent Way, Little Caesars Pizza, and the Lexington Holiday Inn North, while sponsors of the U.S. National Team include Brunswick's Valley-Dynamo, Warrior Custom Golf, Nike, Foosball.com and more. All competition was held on Tornado Table Soccer tables, a product of Brunswick Corp.

With over 50 other [ITSF 2007 World Tour](#) events scheduled to take place in over 40 participating countries across five continents in places as diverse as Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Minneapolis, Las Vegas, Tokyo, Paris, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Costa Rica, Denmark, Singapore, South Africa and the UK, this year's ITSF tour will be the largest worldwide table soccer pro tour ever!!

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

- www.table-soccer.org - ITSF web site; international rankings, rules and more
- www.ustsf.org - Official web site of the United States Table Soccer Federation
- www.vifa.com - USTSA web site/U.S.A. rankings
- www.foosball.com - General information about the sport of table soccer
- www.foosworld.com - Information about players and regional events across the U.S.A.

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