

ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“FOOS” FANATICS COMPETE IN BENEFIT FOR HOSPICE
- Local “Foosball” Tournament Attracts International Attention -**

STAUNTON, VA – Popular locally as a family restaurant and bar, the Byers Street Bistro in Staunton will also be host to the 6th annual “Thunder in the Mountains Virginia Open Foosball Spectacular” table soccer tournament. To be held July 13-15 and with categories for men and women from beginner through Master, the tournament is expected to draw local table soccer (a.k.a. “foosball”) enthusiasts and even internationally ranked players from throughout the region, with proceeds benefiting the Shenandoah Chapter of Hospice.

The “Thunder in the Mountains” tournament annually raises funds for charities such as Hospice. Hospice is a charitable organization dedicated to a special concept of care designed to provide comfort and support to patients and their families when a life-limiting illness no longer responds to cure-oriented treatments. The goal of Hospice care is to improve the quality of a patient's last days by offering comfort and dignity, provided by a team-oriented group of specially trained professionals, volunteers and family members. In its first few years, the tournament raised a total of over \$10,000 for Hospice, thanks to local area business sponsorships. In a combined, nationwide effort by local event organizers and Bonzini™ USA, a Division of Cribbs, Inc., benefit foosball competitions have raised more than \$100,000 for this and other charities.

Each year, this particular tournament takes place on “French-style” foosball tables provided by Bonzini™ USA. The Bonzini™ table is one of five different styles of table soccer tables currently endorsed by the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) for use in international competition. With the tournament recently recognized as an ITSF “Pro Tour Series” event, the “Thunder in the Mountains” tournament has now been elevated to international status. Particularly exciting will be the Open Doubles and Open Singles events beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, which will feature returning doubles champions Mack Smith and Jim Parris as well as defending singles champion and U.S. National Team member Bruce Nardoci.

The tournament area is open to all press and spectators and there is no admission fee to view the matches. Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 13th, with most finals held on Sunday the 15th. Sponsors of the event include Byers Street Bistro, WACL-FM 98.5 Rock and more, while host hotels for the event are Holiday Inn, 152 Fairway Lane, Staunton (reservations: 540-248-6020) and Howard Johnsons at 268 Central Ave., also in Staunton (reservations: 540-886-5330).

Other ITSF 2007 World Tour events are scheduled to take place in Kentucky, Minnesota, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas and even Las Vegas. In addition, table soccer players all around the United States are gearing up for further ITSF competition in Austria, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Switzerland and the UK. In fact, this year’s five continent, 55-tournament tour will be the largest worldwide table soccer pro tour ever!

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

www.bonziniusa.com
www.table-soccer.org
www.foosball.com
www.foosworld.com
www.ustsf.org

- Tournament/charity information site
- ITSF official web site/international rankings/news
- General information about the sport of table soccer
- Information about players & regional events across the U.S.A.
- USTSF official website/Pro Tour & U.S. National Team sponsorship opportunities

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

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