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ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TOP "FOOSBALL" PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO COMPETE
AT MARYLAND STATE TABLE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

TIMONIUM, MD – Players and enthusiasts from up and down the east coast and even as far away as Costa Rica are expected to compete for more than \$12,000 in prizes at the Maryland State Table Soccer Championships, to be held February 20-22, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Timonium.

As it turns out, table Soccer (a.k.a. "foosball") is much more than an arcade, frat or sports bar pastime. Foosball's popularity and tournament action has recently been gaining momentum worldwide. In fact, this year's Maryland State tournament has even been sanctioned as an International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) Pro Tour Series event, meaning it is part of a five-continent, 55-tournament world pro table soccer tour. Players in the very top categories even earn world tour ranking points towards qualification to the ITSF World Championship in Europe at the end of the year, and as a result a number of members of the World Cup Champion U.S. National Team are also expected to attend.

Top names to watch include past World Series Champion Tony Spredeman, of Cudahy, WI as he faces strong competition from the likes of Costa Rica National Team members Carlos Cespedes-Martinez and Eduardo Quinones. Local favorites (and past Maryland State Champions) Adil Hizoune and Derya Ozdemir (both of Ellicott City, MD) are considered among top challengers as well.

But the weekend event is not just for those who compete on the pro foosball tour. With five skill-level divisions starting with beginners, categories for men and women such as Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles, and several specialty events, all comers are welcome to participate – there's something for everyone!

The 2009 Maryland State Championships is organized and/or sponsored by Maryland Foosball Promotions, TornadoFoosball.com, and NetFoos.com, and is additionally sanctioned by the United States Table Soccer Federation. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Hotel, 9615 Deereco Rd, Timonium, MD 21093 (for reservations call: 410-560-1000). All competition will be held on 20+ Brunswick/Valley-Dynamo's Tornado Table Soccer™ tables. Events begin at 4:00 pm Friday, February 20th and continue throughout the weekend, with most finals played on Sunday the 22nd. Spectators and press are invited and admission to the tournament room is free.

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

http://mdfoosball.com/events/2009/Maryland_States_2009.pdf - Official tournament flier
www.ustsf.org - USTSF official web site/U.S. National Team and tour event sponsorship opportunities
www.table-soccer.org - ITSF web site; international rankings, rules, news and more
www.foosball.com - General information about the sport of table soccer
www.vifa.com - USTSA web site/U.S.A. rankings/international league info

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

John Lee, Maryland Foosball Promotions, Tel 1-410-905-5074; Email: marylandfoosball@gmail.com
Larry Davis, USTSF, Tel: 1-563-580-9485; Email: quantum_foos@hotmail.com