

December 8, 2011

ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USA EXPECTED TO DOMINATE AT 2012 WORLD CUP... OF *TABLE* SOCCER

Washington, DC – Even as the men's U.S. National Soccer Team continues to do better and better in international competition, they haven't yet returned home with the ultimate soccer title: the FIFA World Cup. On the other hand, the men's U.S. National *Table* Soccer Team has won the World Cup – of "foosball" – the last *three* times in a row! And at the International Table Soccer Federation's combined World Championships and World Cup tournaments, to be held January 5-8th in Nantes, France, the USA is looking to win yet again.

Yes, foosball's that game with the miniature soccer men attached to rods that spin around to hit a little ball on a kitchen table sized soccer field. But a World Cup... of foosball? Seriously? As it turns out, there's much more to it than you might think, as some 500 of the world's most elite players from up to 40 countries will compete in the culminating event of a year-long, 50-tournament World Pro Tour. The competition will even be broadcast live on Eurosport 2 and seen in some 50+ countries in 14 different languages.

This year's U.S. National men's team, whose players have captured a total of over 30 World and 100 Major tour titles, remain the favorites to add one more to their back-to-back 2009, 2010 and 2011 World Cup victories. Yet Team USA won't have it that easy, either: world #1-ranked Germany and USA's arch-rival France, among numerous others, are determined to upset the reigning champions. Each team – having selected eight of their nation's very best players – will compete in a combination of doubles and singles events and in a true test of all around foosball skills, competition will take place on multiple official styles of tables. In addition to the Men's category, the USA will also field strong teams in Women's, Senior's and Junior's World Cup events.

Meanwhile, in the World Championships portion of the tournament, top name competition will include defending ITSF World Singles Champion Frederico Collignon of Belgium, world #1 ranked Djamel Allalou of Germany and USA #1-ranked Tony Spredeman. The women's side of the competition will also be intense, with #1-ranked Tessa Otten-Kerkhof of the Netherlands seeking to win her first World Singles title against an exceptional field of tour veterans and new challengers.

Preliminary rounds are on Thursday and Friday, with playoffs Saturday and finals on Sunday the 8th. A special opening ceremony will be held at 5:00 pm Friday. All press and spectators are invited to attend. The tournament is sanctioned by the ITSF and hosted by the French Table Soccer Federation (Fédération Française de Football de Table). Sponsors include Region Pays de la Loire and Ville de Nantes among others, while media and production partners include Eurosport2, Kozoom Production and Presse Ocean.

This combined event serves as both the final event of the 2011 ITSF World Pro Table Soccer Tour and the kickoff of the tour for 2012. Other major tour events for 2012 are already scheduled for Austria, Hungary, Malaysia, Slovenia, Turkey and the United States. Even more qualifying events are planned for countries as diverse as Belgium, Lithuania, Poland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Indeed, the 2012 tour is expected to be the largest world table soccer tour ever!!

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

www.usatablesoccer.org - USTSF official web site/Pro Tour & U.S. National Team sponsorship opportunities

www.table-soccer.org - ITSF Website: World Rankings/Tour News/ITSF World Cup & World Championships event info

Or contact: Patrick Ryan, President, USTSF, Tel: +1-301-440-2662; Email: ustsf@usatablesoccer.org

Mylene Ryo, ITSF, Tel: +33-240-479-084; Email: info@table-soccer.org