

ATTENTION NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITED STATES WINS WORLD CUP OF TABLE SOCCER IN NANTES, FRANCE

- Combined World Championship and World Cup Tournament Features World's Top "Foosball" Superstars from 36 Nations -

Nantes, France - The United States has just claimed top honors in the world of table soccer (a.k.a. "foosball"), in a decisive victory at the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) World Cup of Table Soccer. The tournament, held January 8-11th in Nantes, France, featured 48 men and women's national teams and for the first time, the event was combined with the ITSF World Championships, drawing over 500 athletes from 36 countries worldwide.

Both events saw numerous extremely intense matches and quite a few surprises in the most spectacular table soccer event of the year. In the World Cup, the USA's men's team found stiff competition in the final against the Netherlands, but otherwise cruised past most of its competition including arch-rival France, who had stunned the USA at the last World Cup of Table Soccer in Hamburg, Germany in 2006. But perhaps the most unexpected upset was the very narrow victory of Luxembourg's outspoken Yannick Correia over the USA's Tony Spredeman in the final of World Championships Men's Singles. Spredeman, who despite a back injury early in the season had been the dominant force all year, more than made up for that loss with exceptional performances in all his World Cup matches. Meanwhile, the women's side of the competition was also intense, with top contenders like World #1-ranked Tessa Otten-Kerkhof (Netherlands), multi-time World Championship winner Samantha Di Paolo of Switzerland, and all-time leading women's money-winner Cindy Head (USA) all coming up short to Austria's Verena Rohrer in World Championship Women's Singles.

The tournament was sanctioned by the ITSF and hosted by the French Table Soccer Federation (Fédération Française de Football de Table). As a true test of all around foosball skills, competition took place on all five ITSF "Official" styles of tables: Brunswick's Tornado Table Soccer™, Bonzini™, Garlando, Roberto-Sport and Lehmacher Tec Ball. Sponsors of the event included Region Pays de la Loire, Ville de Nantes, 20 Minutes, and Le Mouv, among others. Live web-streaming of key matches was provided courtesy of Inside Foos Productions and www.netfoos.tv

This combined tournament served as both the final event of the 55 tournament 2008 ITSF World Pro Table Soccer Tour, and as the kickoff of the tour for 2009. Other major tour events for 2009 are already scheduled for France, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands and the United States. Even more qualifying events are planned for countries as diverse as Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Japan, Poland, Mexico, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Indeed, the 2009 tour is expected to be the largest world table soccer tour ever!!

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

www.table-soccer.org - ITSF Website: World Rankings/Tour News/ITSF World Cup & Championships Event Information
www.table-soccer.org/foosfan/photos/index.php?gallery=tour2008 – Press Photo Bank

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

Christine Cabrera, ITSF, Tel: +33-240-20-52-38; Email: info@table-soccer.org

Larry Davis, ITSF Media Commission President, Tel: +1-563-580-9485; Email: larry.davis@ustsf.foosball.com

ITSF WORLD CUP OF TABLE SOCCER RESULTS

January 11, 2009

Mens:

- 1st: USA
- 2nd: Netherlands
- 3rd: Austria/Denmark

Women's:

- 1st: Germany
- 2nd: France
- 3rd: Austria/Czech Republic

ITSF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OF TABLE SOCCER RESULTS

January 10, 2009

Men's Singles

- 1 Yannick CORREIA (LUX)
- 2 Tony SPREDEMAN (USA)
- 3 Ryan MOORE (USA)
- 3 Christopher MARKS (GER)

Women's Singles

- 1 Verena ROHRER (AUT)
- 2 Samantha DI PAOLO (SUI)
- 3 Sárka HOLOMOUCKÁ (CZE)
- 3 Ekaterina ATANASOVA (BUL)

Junior Singles

- 1 Manuel MAYER (AUT)
- 2 Timo WEICKENMEIER (GER)
- 3 Patrick STAINDL (AUT)
- 3 Blake ROBERTSON (USA)

Senior Singles

- 1 Johann WAHL (GER)
- 2 Filippo CICCHELLI (GER)
- 3 Hans-Friedrich KIRCHER (GER)
- 3 Bruce NARDOCI (USA)

Men's Doubles

- 1 Robert ATHA (GBR) - Joe HAMILTON (GBR)
- 2 Tim LUDWIG (GER) - Dirk WAHL (GER)
- 3 Tony SPREDEMAN (USA) - Tom YORE (USA)
- 3 Vladimir DRABIK (AUT) - Oliver VILIM (AUT)

Women's Doubles

- 1 Beatrix AMMANN (SUI) - Samantha DI PAOLO (SUI)
- 2 Petra ANDRES (GER) - Sandra RANFF (GER)
- 3 Melissa MOSSER (AUT) - Verena ROHRER (AUT)
- 3 Pavlina BARTOSOVA (CZE) - Silvie VAVROVA (CZE)

Junior Doubles

- 1 David CSAR (AUT) - Kevin HUNDSTORFER (AUT)
- 2 Mohammed ANSARI (UAE) - Ali SHAMSI (UAE)
- 3 Michal RUSINAK (SVK) - Erik TAZIK (SVK)
- 3 Simona HORNACKOVA (CZE) - Radek DRDA (CZE)

Senior Doubles

- 1 Hans-Friedrich KIRCHER (GER) - Ulrich STOEPEL (GER)
- 2 Filippo CICCHELLI (GER) - Johann WAHL (GER)
- 3 Josef CORNELIUS (GER) - Peter MÜLLER (GER)
- 3 Bruce NARDOCI (USA) - John ZOLLER (USA)

Disabled Doubles

- 1 Francesco BONANNO (ITA) - Fabio CASSANELLI (ITA)
- 2 Pierangelo BANDERA (ITA) - Rosario PARDO (ITA)
- 3 Jean-charles BERTHOLLE (FRA) - Jean-baptiste DOYEN (FRA)
- 3 Elisabeth SOYER (FRA) - Pierre SOYER (FRA)