

10 December 2005

To:
Player X
Address Street
City X, State Y ZZZZZ

Subj: Nomination to US National Table Soccer Team Selection Pool

In recognition of your status as one of the top-rated table soccer players in the United States, and of your having satisfactorily met the preliminary qualification criteria as established by the Executive Committee of the United States Table Soccer Federation, **you** have been selected as a U.S. National Team nominee. From this small pool of nominees, a select few will be chosen to participate as a member of the U.S. National Table Soccer Team in the World Cup of Table Soccer in Hamburg, Germany, to be held 25-28 May, 2006,

Tied directly into the massive World Cup playoffs of professional soccer and the related international media spotlight, the competition will be composed of the national teams from 20 different countries (six men, two women per team) that will compete in Doubles and Singles events on five different styles of tables. Truly a best of the best, this tournament will make for one of the most unique and challenging competitions foosball has ever seen, and **all players from each team will be competing courtesy of expense-paid trips from ITSF!!**

As a U.S. National Team nominee, **you must accept or decline this invitation by 10 January, 2006.** Nominees will have to accept or decline their nomination in writing by 10 January 2006 (we expect a few to decline because the World Cup is the same weekend as Texas State). Of those who accept, only 8-10 will form the final team including two alternates. The narrowed list will then be voted upon by "the foosball masses" via the EZBoard. This ensures both transparency and democratic, public support of the final team selection. The resulting final team will get expense-paid trips to Hamburg for about 4-5 days plus travel, much like the ITSF World Championships this year in Italy.

Note: For those with a little vacation time available, this would be an ideal time to stay in Europe for about 17-18 days total, as the following week is the ITSF EuroSoccer Championships in Belgium (currently estimated to be between US\$30-50K; Rico may know that plus he may be able to arrange lodging for US players) and the week after that is the US\$60,000 Lehmacher Championships (in Stuttgart, Germany; USTSF is working on getting free hotel for the U.S. players but can't promise anything yet). You can drive or take a train from one tournament to the next pretty easily, and given the paid round-trip airfare from the World Cup it sounds like most U.S. players would easily win enough to pay any added expenses, if not come out ahead...

Attention: Nominees should be informed that, while the expenses of the trip are covered by ITSF, there will be no prize money offered for the World Cup itself. Your trip (an approximate value of US\$2,000) is itself the prize. Opportunity to win money and/or earn ITSF World Series points towards a separate free trip to the ITSF World Championships can be won at the two follow-on tournaments in Belgium and Germany. Even so, given that some 20-22 countries are sending teams of at least eight players all on ITSF-paid trips, the minimum value of the ITSF World Cup is equivalent to around US\$200,000+. (Clearly, this is no small event for ITSF to conduct. Note also that including the follow-on tournaments, this is further equivalent to playing in US\$300,000+ worth of tournaments in an 18-day period!!)

Certainly, ITSF has already made great strides in furthering and enhancing the recognition, salability, and sponsorship potential of our sport and even the players themselves. But this is a team effort -- something we're certain table soccer players can understand and appreciate. As such you, as a top-ranked player, can be instrumental in the success of USTSF and ITSF goals. Please, at every opportunity, help us to communicate the importance of support for and participation in ITSF events of all sizes on all tables worldwide. Every such positive effort no matter how small does in fact contribute to the big picture/long term future of the sport of Foosball, but it gains even more momentum with the support of players like you!

Very respectfully,
USTSF Executive Committee
Larry Davis, Jim Waterman, Kathy Brainard, Bruce Nardoci

UNITED STATES TABLE SOCCER FEDERATION U.S. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

The USTSF Executive Committee (composed of Larry Davis, Jim Waterman, Bruce Nardoci and Kathy Brainard and with guidance from the ITSF) has established the following criteria to be used in the selection of the USA Table Soccer Team for the 2006 ITSF World Cup team competition in Hamburg, Germany, May 25-28, 2006:

- * Ability to represent the United States and the USTSF in a positive manner, as demonstrated by professionalism, good sportsmanship and courteous behavior both on and off the table;
- * Ability or experience in adapting to play on the non-American tables;
- * Ability to fill required playing positions in the team format, including ability to create good "team chemistry" with other team members;
- * Ability to compete at the highest level of international play, as indicated by rankings on current Tornado, Bonzini and ITSF points systems and recent performances in major events;
- * Must have played in a USTSA major during calendar years 2004-2005. In the case of Bonzini players, must have played in a Bonzini regional in the last 24 months.
- * Must be eligible to travel internationally (passport required) and must be a U.S. citizen. Proof of valid passport must be provided not later than 01 March, 2006.

Thus, unlike the ITSF World Championship in Italy this year, a player's ITSF ranking is only one consideration in the team selection process. Names selected (male or female) are further drawn from a limit of the top 150 on the current USTSA points list as of 30 September, 2005. Only eight players will be allowed per team (6 men/2 women) and only eight will receive paid trips. The USTSF is welcome to have ten (two alternates who can be substituted/rotated in), but the expenses of the additional two players would be out of USTSA budgetary expenses (our pocket).

Also, nominees should again be reminded that the World Cup takes place on the same weekend at the 2006 Texas State Championships, and if selected, the World Cup in Hamburg will require a minimum time commitment of 7 days including travel: May 23-29, 2006. (Of course, you'll need to plan on additional days if you wish to stay and attend any of the follow-on tournaments!)

Finally, please note that the ITSF, in its commitment to conform to international standards for athletic competition, may mandate random drug testing for all athletes, particularly since the event will be visited and/or observed by both German and International Olympic Committee representatives. Details on the nature and extent of this testing will be made available to all concerned approximately 90 days before the event. As such, it is expected that if selected to the U.S. National Team you will be able to represent the United States legally and appropriately. If you feel you are unable to comply with this requirement, or further do not/can not meet the other selection criteria above, please do not accept this invitation.

* * *

As already noted, the ITSF has been making remarkable progress in improving the recognition, visibility, salability, and sponsorship potential of table soccer as a sport. Hamburg, Germany is the host city to the "real" World Cup of Soccer, which is in fact the largest sporting event in the world (there will be over 20,000 members of the press in Hamburg alone). By tying our sport in to the activities and massive media exposure of the soccer World Cup, ITSF is definitely maximizing exposure potential for table soccer. While it may take a while for the every day American foosball player to feel the impact of ITSF's efforts, it's surely nothing but positive news for us all – something a few of us need right about now. And whatever happens, as the Executive Committee of the USTSF, we are proud to be a part of something so important (and to be able to ensure that the players of the United States can participate!!).



Subj: LETTER OF INTENT TO ENTER FINAL ROUND OF U.S. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION

Player X

Address Street
City X, State Y ZZZZZ

*Congratulations on being nominated to the selection pool. Please designate your intent by carefully signing **ONE** of the three statements below:*

1. **Yes**, I wish to be considered for final team selection! I am a US citizen and am available/willing to travel to compete as a representative of the United States National Team at the ITSF World Cup of Table Soccer Championships in Hamburg, Germany, May 23-29, 2006. I have a valid passport or can obtain one by 01 March, 2006.

Signature

Date

2. **No thanks**; please consider me for future events

Signature

Date

3. **No thanks**; I do want to be considered for future events either

Signature

Date

Now, please immediately mail your intent to:

**LARRY DAVIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, USTSF
5840 SUN COVE, #6
BARTLETT, TN 38034**

ALL REPLIES MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN 10 JANUARY 2006!!

