

ATTENTION: NEWS, EVENTS, SPORTS EDITORS

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TABLE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT TEAMS WITH "STATE GAMES"

Lexington Foosball Tournament Draws Both Top "Foosball" Players from Around the World and Kentucky's Best Local Amateurs in Combined Competition

Lexington, KY – Held August 3-6 at the Holiday Inn North at 1950 Newtown Pike in Lexington, the annual Kentucky State Table Soccer Championships drew over 350 table soccer (a.k.a. "foosball") players, including members of the U.S. National Team. The tournament included categories for men, women and children from beginner to Master, and for the first time also featured the "foosball" events of the Blue Grass Summer Games.

The Bluegrass State Games is a non-profit program designed to promote amateur athletics across the state. It provides Kentuckians of all ages and varied skill levels a wholesome avenue for positive development through sports and physical activity, promoting and developing amateur athletics and providing amateur athletes an opportunity to showcase their talents and receive statewide recognition. The Games annually attract about 14,000 Kentuckians to participate in a variety of sporting events. Overall, the Bluegrass State Summer Games include 29 sporting events ranging from basketball, horseshoes, and sailing to archery, softball and table tennis. Foosball, a table *soccer* game, was added this year.

While athletes played for some \$30,000 in cash and prizes in the pro tour categories, those at the top levels also competed for qualifying points to participate in the upcoming International Table Soccer Federation's World Series Masters Championships in St. Vincent, Italy, November 3-6. As expected, defending champion and world #2-ranked Billy Pappas, 21, of Lowell, MA systematically eliminated co-U.S. National Team members, several past World Champions, and numerous international Masters who came from as far away as Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. Pappas, who won his first foosball pro tour title at age 10, also kept a close eye on future competition, as gold medals were awarded in the all-amateur Blue Grass State Games to young talent such as Brie Brandenburg, 11.

In women's pro tour events, Canada's past World Champion Moya Tielens edged out U.S. National Team member Dusty Bambenek (OH) in the singles final, while the top-rated team of Cindy Head (AL) and Gena Murray (TX) defeated Indiana's Maggie Strong and Becky Cherry of Illinois.

The signature event for the Lexington Area Sports Authority, the Bluegrass State Games is a member of the [National Congress of State Games](#), a member of the [United States Olympic Committee](#). Both portions of the foosball tournament were organized by Kentucky's own Independent Foosball Promotions, with the pro tour events sanctioned by the ITSF and United States Table Soccer Federation. All competition was held on Brunswick's Tornado Table Soccer™, an official table of the ITSF. Sponsors of the Kentucky State Foosball Championships were Little Caesars, Rent Way, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, and the Lexington Holiday Inn North, while sponsors of the Blue Grass Games included Best Western Hotels, Kentucky Utilities Company, and the Lexington Convention and Visitors Bureau, and McDonald's, among others.

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

www.bgsg.org
www.foosworld.com
www.table-soccer.org
www.ustsf.org
www.foosball.com
www.valley-dynamo.com

- Official Blue Grass State Games Website
- Player Profiles & Regional Tournament Information
- ITSF Website/International Rankings
- Official U.S. Table Soccer Federation Website
- General Information about the Sport of Table Soccer
- Manufacturer of Brunswick's Tornado Table Soccer™

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

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