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TOPPS CO INC
Form 8-K
June 28, 2005

THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. REPORTS FISCAL 2006 FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

New York, NY, June 28, 2005 - The Topps Company, Inc. (Nasdaq: TOPP) today reported financial results for the fiscal 2006 first quarter ended May 28, 2005.

Net sales in the fiscal 2006 first quarter were \$78.9 million compared to \$88.1 million last year. Stronger foreign currencies versus the prior year contributed \$1.5 million to 2006 first quarter sales. Income from operations was \$397,000 compared to \$5.6 million last year. Net income in the fiscal 2006 first quarter was \$897,000, or \$0.02 per diluted share, versus \$4.1 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share, last year. Fiscal 2005 first quarter results included a one-time charge of \$1.9 million, or approximately \$0.05 per diluted share, related to a European Commission fine.

Profitability for the current period was impacted significantly by softness in U.S. and European sports, as expected. Professional fees associated with the recently resolved proxy fight, settlement of the Media Technologies litigation, and strategic business initiatives were also factors.

Confectionery net sales were essentially flat at \$44.0 million in the fiscal 2006 first quarter, a 0.4% decline compared to \$44.2 million in last year's first quarter. Net sales in the period benefited from distribution gains of Juicy Drop Pop in the U.S., supported by new packaging and increased advertising as well as new product introductions. Gains were offset by the timing of the Easter holiday this year and the discontinuation of Juicy Bugs and Juicy Chews.

Entertainment net sales declined 20.6% to \$34.8 million in the fiscal 2006 first quarter from \$43.9 million in the prior-year period, reflecting the absence of sales related to the European Cup held once every four years, lower sales of other European sports products, and continuing softness in U.S. sports cards. These declines were partially offset by strength in non-sports Entertainment products including Star Wars in the U.S. and Europe, World Wrestling Entertainment in Italy, and WizKids constructible strategy games.

Arthur T. Shorin, Chairman and CEO of Topps, commented, "During the first quarter, we rolled out certain confectionery products to new markets, continued to work at implementing our new go-to-market strategy for the segment, and began developing an exciting program to build the Bazooka brand that will be introduced early next year. Sports products declined, as noted, but efforts in connection with product proliferation issues were actively pursued. As anticipated, sales of non-sports publishing products and Pirates constructible strategy games fared well in the first quarter.

Mr. Shorin continued, "We remain focused upon doing the right things to improve long-term performance and build shareholder value. These include completing the final phase of in-depth business reviews with outside consultants and continuing the exploration of strategic alternatives, previously announced, which we initiated with Lehman Brothers this past February.

Mr. Shorin concluded, "First quarter results do not diminish our confidence about achieving the full year plan we outlined at the beginning of fiscal 2006. I anticipate increasingly better performance from the Confectionery segment during the second half. Further, Entertainment activities, including WizKids introductions and a national roll out of TV advertising featuring Wacky Packages, are quite promising."

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During the first quarter, the Company paid its regular quarterly cash dividend to shareholders of \$0.04 per share. At May 28, 2005, the Company had \$92.9 million in cash and marketable securities and no debt.

The Topps Company, Inc. will host a webcast of its earnings conference call today at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time. Investors, analysts, and the media are invited to listen to the call live at www.topps.com. A replay of the webcast will be available on the Company's website for the next 60 days.

Founded in 1938, Topps is a leading creator and marketer of distinctive confectionery and entertainment products. The Company's confectionery brands include "Ring Pop," "Push Pop," "Baby Bottle Pop" and "Juicy Drop Pop" lollipops as well as "Bazooka" bubble gum. Topps entertainment products include trading cards, sticker album collections, and collectible games. For additional information, visit www.topps.com.

This release contains forward-looking statements pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Although the Company believes the expectations contained in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. This information may involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, factors detailed in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

(Tables Follow)

THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET HIGHLIGHTS (amounts in thousands)

	As of May 28, 2005	As of February 26, 2005
	-----	-----
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 22,048	\$ 36,442
Investments	70,881	69,955
Working Capital	134,645	138,146
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	12,531	12,553
Total Assets	281,878	290,411
Shareholders' Equity	216,702	219,189

SEGMENT INFORMATION (Amounts in thousands)

	Quarter Ended	
	May 28, 2005	May 29, 2004
	-----	-----
Net Sales		

Confectionery	\$ 44,039	\$ 44,207

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Entertainment Products	34,827	43,882
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 78,866	\$ 88,089
	=====	=====

Contributed Margin

Confectionery	\$ 11,840	\$ 13,002
Entertainment Products	8,281	13,428
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 20,121	\$ 26,430
	=====	=====

Reconciliation of Contributed Margin
to Income Before Provision for Taxes:

Total Contributed Margin	\$ 20,121	\$ 26,430
Unallocated General and Administrative Expenses and Manufacturing Overhead	(19,245)	(19,632)
Depreciation & Amortization	(1,431)	(1,592)
Other Income	952	433
	-----	-----
Income from Operations	397	5,639
Interest Income, Net	739	484
	-----	-----
Income before Provision for Income Taxes	\$ 1,136	\$ 6,123
	=====	=====

THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Amounts in thousands, except share data)

(Unaudited)

Thirteen weeks ended
May 28, 2005 May 29, 2004

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Net Sales	\$ 78,866	\$ 88,089
Cost of sales	51,192	54,290
	-----	-----
Gross profit on sales	27,674	33,799
Other income	952	433
Selling, general and administrative expenses	28,229	28,593
	-----	-----
Income from operations	397	5,639
Interest income, net	739	484
	-----	-----
Income before provision for income taxes	1,136	6,123
Provision for income taxes	239	2,021
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Net income	\$ 897 =====	\$ 4,102 =====
Basic net income per share	0.02	0.10
Diluted net income per share	0.02	0.10
Weighted average shares outstanding - Basic	40,455,000	40,567,000
Weighted average shares outstanding - Diluted	41,255,000	41,372,000