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TOPPS CO INC
Form 10-Q
July 07, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934 For the quarterly period ended May 28, 2005

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934 For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 000-15817

THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

11-2849283
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

One Whitehall Street, New York, NY 10004
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(212) 376-0300
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No .

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12(b)-2 of the Act). Yes No .

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The number of outstanding shares of Common Stock as of July 5, 2005 was 40,511,639.

THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	(Unaudited)	
	May 28, 2005	February 26, 2005
	----- (amounts in thousands, except share data)	
ASSETS		

CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22,048	\$ 36,442
Short-term investments	70,881	69,955
Accounts receivable - net	27,560	27,851
Inventories	37,949	32,936
Income tax receivable	327	338
Deferred tax assets	4,025	3,616
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	13,113	14,541
	-----	-----
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	175,903	185,679
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	35,656	34,983
Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization ...	23,125	22,430
	-----	-----
NET PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	12,531	12,553
GOODWILL	67,566	67,566
INTANGIBLE ASSETS, net of accumulated amortization ...	8,095	8,544
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS	4,502	4,222
OTHER ASSETS	13,281	11,847
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 281,878	\$ 290,411
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		

CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 12,166	\$ 12,658
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	22,566	27,485
Income taxes payable	6,526	7,390
	-----	-----
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	41,258	47,533
OTHER LIABILITIES	23,918	23,689
	-----	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES	65,176	71,222
	-----	-----
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Preferred stock, par value \$.01 per share; authorized 10,000,000 shares, none issued	--	--
Common stock, par value \$.01 per share; authorized 100,000,000 shares; issued 49,244,000 shares as of May 28, 2005 and February 26, 2005	492	492

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Additional paid-in capital	28,333	28,293
Treasury stock, 8,790,000 shares as of both May 28, 2005 and February 26, 2005, respectively ...	(85,060)	(85,060)
Retained earnings	274,505	275,226
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income net of tax	(1,568)	238
	-----	-----
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	216,702	219,189
	-----	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY ...	\$ 281,878	\$ 290,411
	=====	=====

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

	(Unaudited)	
	Thirteen weeks ended	
	May 28, 2005	May 29, 2004
	-----	-----
	(amounts in thousands, except share data)	
Net sales	\$ 78,866	\$ 88,089
Cost of sales	51,192	54,290
	-----	-----
Gross profit on sales	27,674	33,799
Other income, net	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
	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 897	\$ 4,102
	=====	=====
Net income per share - basic	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.10
- diluted	0.02	0.10
Weighted average shares outstanding - basic .	40,455,000	40,567,000
- diluted	41,255,000	41,372,000

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See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	(Unaudited)	
	Thirteen weeks ended	
	May	May
	28, 2005	29, 2004
	-----	-----
	(amounts in thousands)	
Net income	\$ 897	\$ 4,102
Currency translation adjustment ...	(1,806)	(867)
	-----	-----
Comprehensive income	\$ (909)	\$ 3,235
	=====	=====

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See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	(Unaudited)	
	Thirteen weeks ended	
	May	May
	28, 2005	29, 2004
	-----	-----
	(amounts in thousands)	
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 897	\$ 4,102
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash flow provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	1,431	1,592
Deferred income taxes	(689)	227
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	291	(2,231)
Inventories	(5,013)	(2,976)
Income tax receivable/payable	(853)	1,727
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,428	1,783
Payables and other current liabilities	(5,411)	2,706
Cumulative foreign currency adjustment and other	(1,516)	(176)
	-----	-----
Cash (used in) provided by operating activities ...	(9,435)	6,754
	-----	-----
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Net purchases of short-term investments	(926)	(5,210)
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(673)	(747)
	-----	-----
Cash used in investing activities	(1,599)	(5,957)
	-----	-----
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Dividends paid to stockholders	(1,618)	(1,625)
Purchase of treasury stock, exercise of stock options, and stock compensation.....	40	(1,277)
	-----	-----
Cash used in financing activities	(1,578)	(2,902)
Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents ..	(1,782)	(569)
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents ...	\$ (14,394)	\$ (2,674)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	\$ 36,442	\$ 56,959
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 22,048	\$ 54,285

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	=====	=====
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Interest paid	\$ 28	\$ 58
Income taxes paid	\$ 1,123	\$ 897

See Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF MAY 28, 2005 AND FEBRUARY 26, 2005
AND FOR THE THIRTEEN WEEKS ENDED MAY 28, 2005 AND MAY 29, 2004

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation:

The accompanying unaudited condensed interim consolidated financial statements have been prepared by The Topps Company, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the "Company") pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and reflect all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, considered necessary for a fair presentation. Operating results for the thirteen-week periods ended May 28, 2005 and May 29, 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto in the Company's annual report for the year ended February 26, 2005.

Employee Stock Options:

The Company accounts for stock-based employee compensation based on the intrinsic value of stock options granted in accordance with the provisions of Accounting Principles Board ("APB") Opinion 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees." Information relating to stock-based employee compensation, including the pro forma effects, had the Company accounted for stock-based employee compensation based on the fair value of stock options granted in accordance with SFAS 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," is shown below:

	May 28, 2005		May 29, 2004	
	As reported	Pro forma	As reported	Pro forma
Net income, as reported	\$ 897	\$ 897	\$ 4,102	\$ 4,102
Less: Stock-based employee compensation	--	(116)		(141)
Pro forma net income	\$ 897	\$ 781	\$ 4,102	\$ 3,961
Earnings per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10
Diluted	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10

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Options have an exercise price equal to the closing market price on the date prior to the grant date and typically vest over a three-year period. No options were issued in the first quarter of fiscal 2006. With respect to options issued in prior years, in determining the preceding pro forma amounts under SFAS 123, the fair value of each option grant is estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following assumptions: \$0.16 per share dividend on fiscal 2005 and fiscal 2004 options, risk-free interest rate, estimated volatility and expected life as follows: fiscal 2005 options - 4.4%, 32% and 5.8 years, respectively; fiscal 2004 options - 4.4%, 38% and 6.5 years, respectively.

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2. Quarterly Comparison

Management believes that quarter-to-quarter comparisons of sales and operating results are affected by a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the timing of sports and entertainment releases, new product introductions, seasonal products, the timing of various expenses such as advertising and variations in shipping and factory scheduling requirements. Thus, quarterly results may vary.

3. Accounts Receivable

	(Unaudited)	
	May	February
	28, 2005	26, 2005
	-----	-----
	(amounts in thousands)	
Gross receivables	\$ 51,574	\$ 51,265
Reserve for returns	(21,293)	(20,824)
Other reserves	(2,721)	(2,590)
	-----	-----
Net receivables	\$ 27,560	\$ 27,851
	=====	=====

Other reserves consist of allowances for discounts, doubtful accounts and customer deductions for promotional marketing programs.

4. Inventories

	(Unaudited)	
	May	February
	28, 2005	26, 2005
	-----	-----
	(amounts in thousands)	
Raw materials	\$ 8,881	\$ 7,468
Work in process	4,934	3,703
Finished products	24,134	21,765
	-----	-----
Total inventories	\$ 37,949	\$ 32,936
	=====	=====

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5. Segment Information

Following is the breakdown of industry segments as required by SFAS No. 131, "Disclosures About Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." The Company has two reportable business segments: Confectionery and Entertainment.

The Confectionery segment consists of a variety of candy products including Ring Pop, Push Pop, Baby Bottle Pop and Juicy Drop Pop, the Bazooka bubble gum line and confectionery products based on licensed characters, such as Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh!.

The Entertainment segment includes cards and sticker album products featuring sports and non-sports subjects. Trading cards feature players from Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Football League, and, historically, the National Hockey League, as well as characters from popular films, television shows and other entertainment properties, from time to time. Sticker album products feature players from the English Premier League and characters from entertainment properties such as Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh! This segment also includes results from WizKids, a designer and marketer of strategy games that the Company acquired in July 2003.

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The Company's Chief Executive Officer regularly evaluates the performance of each segment based upon its contributed margin, which is profit after cost of sales, product development, advertising and promotional costs and obsolescence, but before unallocated general and administrative expenses and manufacturing overhead, depreciation and amortization, other income, net interest and income taxes.

The majority of the Company's assets are shared across both segments and, accordingly, the Company's Chief Executive Officer does not evaluate the performance of each segment utilizing asset-based measures. Therefore, the Company does not include a breakdown of assets or depreciation and amortization by segment.

	Thirteen weeks ended	
	May	May
	28, 2005	29, 2004
	(amounts in thousands)	
Net Sales		

Confectionery	\$ 44,039	\$ 44,207
Entertainment	34,827	43,882
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 78,866	\$ 88,089
	=====	=====
Contributed Margin		

Confectionery	\$ 11,840	\$ 13,002
Entertainment	8,281	13,428
	-----	-----

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Total	\$ 20,121	\$ 26,430
	=====	=====

Reconciliation of Contributed Margin
to Income Before Provision
for Income Taxes:

Total contributed margin	\$ 20,121	\$ 26,430
Unallocated general and administrative expense and manufacturing overhead	(19,245)	(19,632)
Depreciation and amortization	(1,431)	(1,592)
Other income, net	952	433
	-----	-----
Income from operations	397	5,639
Interest income, net	739	484
	-----	-----
Income before provision for income taxes	\$ 1,136	\$ 6,123
	=====	=====

6. Dividend and Share Repurchase Programs

In June 2003, the Board of Directors of the Company initiated a quarterly dividend of \$0.04 per share which has been paid each quarter since that date.

In October 1999, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 5 million shares of the Company's common stock. In October 2001, the Company completed the authorization and the Board approved the purchase of another 5 million shares. To-date under these two programs, the Company has purchased 8,390,700 shares.

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7. Credit Agreement

The Company entered into a credit agreement with Chase Manhattan Bank on September 14, 2004. The agreement provides for a \$30.0 million unsecured facility to cover revolver and letter of credit needs and expires on September 13, 2007. With the exception of \$2.1 million set aside for letters of credit, the entire credit line was available as of May 28, 2005.

Interest rates are variable and are a function of the Company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA"). The credit agreement contains restrictions and prohibitions of a nature generally found in loan agreements of this type and requires the Company, among other things, to comply with certain financial covenants, limits the Company's ability to repurchase its shares, sell or acquire assets or borrow additional money. There was no debt outstanding as of February 26, 2005 or May 28, 2005.

8. Reclassifications

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Certain items in the prior years' financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation.

9. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

On March 3, 2002, the Company adopted SFAS 141 "Business Combinations" and SFAS 142 "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets" which require the Company to prospectively cease amortization of goodwill and instead conduct periodic tests of goodwill for impairment. Intangible assets as of May 28, 2005 and February 26, 2005 were as follows:

	(Unaudited)			February 26, 2005		
	May 28, 2005					
	(amounts in thousands)					
	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	
Licenses and Contracts	\$ 21,569	\$ (18,109)	\$ 3,460	\$ 21,569	\$ (17,942)	\$
Intellectual Property	18,784	(14,542)	4,242	18,784	(14,284)	
Software and Other	2,953	(2,835)	118	2,953	(2,811)	
Min. Pension Liab.	275	--	275	275	--	
Total Intangibles	\$ 43,581	\$ (35,486)	\$ 8,095	\$ 43,581	\$ (35,037)	\$

Useful lives of the Company's intangible assets have been established based on the Company's intended use of such assets and their estimated period of future benefit, which are reviewed periodically. Useful lives are as follows:

Category	Useful Life	Weighted Average Remaining Useful Life
Licenses and Contracts	15 years	5.4 years
Intellectual Property	6 years	4.4 years
Software and Other	5 years	1.5 years

The weighted average remaining useful life for the Company's intangible assets in aggregate is 4.8 years. Over the next five years, the Company estimates annual amortization of the intangible assets detailed above to be as follows:

Fiscal Year	Amount
	(in thousands)
2006	\$ 1,797
2007	\$ 1,750
2008	\$ 1,703

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2009	\$	1,703
2010 and thereafter	\$	1,591

In addition to the amortization of intangibles listed above, reported amortization expense, which was \$595,000 and \$655,000 for the thirteen weeks ended May 28, 2005 and May 29, 2004, respectively, included amortization of deferred financing fees and deferred compensation costs.

10. Legal Proceedings

On February 17, 2000, Telepresence, Inc. sued Topps and nine other manufacturers of trading cards (the "Defendants") in the Federal District Court for the Central District of California for infringement of U.S. Patent No. 5,803,501, which was issued on September 8, 1998 (the "501 Patent"). In its suit, Telepresence contended that the patent covers all types of "relic" cards that contain an authentic piece of equipment, i.e., a piece of sporting equipment or jersey. The court awarded summary judgment to the Defendants on the grounds that the named Plaintiff (Telepresence, Inc.) did not have standing to sue and the litigation was dismissed with prejudice on March 28, 2001.

After the dismissal, the 501 Patent was assigned to Media Technologies, Inc. which is under the control of the same person (the inventor, Adrian Gluck) who brought the Telepresence action. On November 19, 2001, Media Technologies sued essentially the same group of defendants in the same court for infringement of the 501 Patent. The court once again granted summary judgment and dismissed the case with prejudice. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed the judgment on July 11, 2003, and the case was returned to Judge Stotler in the Central District of California for trial. On October 16, 2003, Media Technologies amended its complaint by alleging that Defendants' sale of relic cards additionally infringed U.S. Patent No. 6,142,532 (the "532 Patent") which was issued on November 7, 2000 and is similar to the 501 Patent.

On March 17, 2004, Topps filed a motion for summary judgment based on non-infringement while other defendants filed a motion for summary judgment based on patent invalidity because of prior art. Both motions were denied on July 26, 2004. On October 4, 2004, Defendants petitioned the United States Patent & Trademark Office (the "PTO") to reexamine the patentability of both the 501 Patent and the 532 Patent. On October 25, 2004, Defendants also filed a motion with the district court requesting a stay of the proceedings pending the petition with the PTO. On December 2, 2004, the court denied the motion for the stay. In mid-December, the PTO granted the petition for reexamination of the 501 and 532 Patents. Plaintiffs petitioned the PTO to vacate the reexaminations and also filed papers requesting the PTO, in the event it decides to proceed with the reexamination, to hold its claims patentable.

On December 29, 2004, Defendants once again filed a motion with the district court requesting a stay of the proceedings while the PTO reexamined the patentability of the 501 Patent and the 532 Patent. That motion was denied on February 28, 2005, along with another motion to dismiss the case based on lack of standing. On May 23, 2005 the Company entered into a settlement agreement with Media Technologies, Inc. in which

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it paid Media Technologies, Inc. a sum of \$2,000,000. Plaintiff agreed to dismiss all claims against the Company and to issue a license to the Company to distribute relic cards for seven years. The Company further agreed that under certain conditions which may arise in the future, it would make additional payments to Media Technologies, Inc. as part of the ongoing license. The Company has accounted for the payment as an advance against future royalties which will be amortized over the next seven years.

The Company is a defendant in several other civil actions which are routine and incidental to its business. In management's opinion, after consultation with legal counsel, these other actions will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

11. Employee Benefit Plans

The components of net periodic benefit costs for the thirteen weeks ended May 28, 2005 and May 29, 2004 are as follows:

	Pension		Postretirement Healthcare	
	May 28, 2005	May 29, 2004	May 28, 2005	May 29, 2004
	(amounts in thousands)			
Service cost	\$ 399	\$ 345	\$ 93	\$ 82
Interest cost	618	594	143	161
Expected return on plan assets	(551)	(534)	-	-
Amortization of:				
Initial transition obligation	(16)	(15)	50	50
Prior service cost	13	33	-	-
Actuarial losses	238	179	10	27
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 701	\$ 602	\$ 296	\$ 320

The fiscal 2006 costs are estimates based on using actuarial assumptions, and actual costs will be adjusted accordingly during the year.

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12. Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

On December 16, 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards 123 ("SFAS 123") (revised 2004), Share-Based Payments, which requires that the cost resulting from all share-based payment transactions be recognized in the financial statements starting with interim statements issued after June 15, 2005. The SEC has since extended the date to be effective for fiscal years beginning after June 5, 2005. This statement establishes fair value as the measurement objective in accounting for share-based payment arrangements and requires all entities to apply a fair-value-based measurement method in accounting for share-based payment transactions with employees, except for equity instruments held by employee share ownership plans. SFAS 123 also

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establishes fair value as the measurement objective for transactions in which an entity acquires goods or services from non-employees in share-based payment transactions. With limited exceptions, the amount of compensation cost will be measured based on the grant-date fair value of the equity or liability instruments issued. In addition, liability awards will be remeasured each reporting period. Compensation cost will be recognized over the period that an employee provides service in exchange for the award. SFAS 123(r) (revised 2004) replaces FASB Statement No. 123, Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation, and supersedes APB Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. The Company is currently evaluating the impact of adopting this standard on its future financial statements.

On December 21, 2004 the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ("FSP") 109-b, "Accounting and Disclosure Guidance for the Foreign Earnings Repatriation Provision With the American Job Creation Act of 2004". The Act introduces a one time dividend received deduction on the repatriation of certain foreign earnings to a U.S. taxpayer provided certain criteria are met. An enterprise that is evaluating the repatriation provision shall apply the provisions of Statement 109 as it decides on a plan for reinvestment or repatriation of its unremitted foreign earnings. The enterprise shall measure the income tax effects of such repatriation without the effects of the repatriation provision until it has decided on a plan. The range of possible amounts the Company is considering for repatriation under this provision is between zero and \$11 million. The related potential range of income tax effects is between zero and \$0.4 million.

13. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet arrangements and, therefore, there is no effect on its financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenue or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources from these types of arrangements.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of
The Topps Company, Inc.

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet of The Topps Company, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of May 28, 2005, and the related condensed consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, and cash flows for the thirteen week periods ended May 28, 2005 and May 29, 2004. These interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our reviews in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements

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taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to such condensed consolidated interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have previously audited, in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of The Topps Company, Inc. and subsidiaries as of February 26, 2005, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and comprehensive income, and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated May 10, 2005, (May 23, 2005 as to Note 22), we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of February 26, 2005 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

New York, New York
July 6, 2005

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ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

First Quarter Fiscal Year 2006 (thirteen weeks ended May 28, 2005) versus First Quarter Fiscal Year 2005 (thirteen weeks ended May 29, 2004)

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, net sales by key business segment:

	Thirteen weeks ended	
	May	May
	28, 2005	29, 2004
	-----	-----
	(amounts in thousands)	
Net Sales		

Confectionery	\$ 44,039	\$ 44,207
Entertainment	34,827	43,882
	-----	-----
Total	\$ 78,866	\$ 88,089
	=====	=====

Net sales for the first quarter of fiscal 2006 were \$78.9 million, a decrease of \$9.2 million, or 10.5%, from \$88.1 million in the same period in fiscal 2005. Stronger foreign currencies versus the dollar increased sales in the quarter this year by \$1.5 million.

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Net sales of confectionery products, which include, among others, Ring Pop, Push Pop, Baby Bottle Pop, Juicy Drop Pop, Bazooka brand bubble gum and licensed candy products, were \$44.0 million in the first quarter of this year, a decrease of \$0.2 million, or 0.4%, from \$44.2 million in fiscal 2005. Stronger foreign currencies contributed \$0.8 million to this year's sales. Confectionery sales in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 were impacted by the timing of the Easter holiday, which fell in March 2005 (fourth quarter) versus April 2004 (first quarter). Excluding the Easter impact, consolidated confectionery sales increased 4.0%. In the first quarter of fiscal 2006, sales were also affected by the discontinuation of our chewy products and the maturation of Juicy Drop Pop in Japan, offset by significant distribution gains of Juicy Drop Pop in the U.S. and the roll out of new products including Mega Mouth Spray in Europe and Japan. Crunchy Snakes in Europe and Bazooka Booster in a number of markets around the world, added to sales in the first quarter of fiscal 2006, as well.

Net sales of entertainment products, which include trading cards, sticker album collections and the WizKids line of strategy games, were \$34.8 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2006, a decrease of \$9.1 million, or 20.6%, from \$43.9 million in the same period in fiscal 2005. Stronger foreign currencies provided a \$0.7 million benefit this year. Fiscal 2006 results reflect the absence of the European Championship which occurs once every four years and lower sales of European sports stickers and U.S. sports cards. Sales of non-sports publishing products in the quarter surpassed year ago levels, driven by cards and sticker album products featuring the new Star Wars film, as well as WWE products in Italy. Also within the entertainment segment, sales of WizKids products increased over the first quarter of fiscal 2005, reflecting the success of their new Pirates constructible strategy game products.

Gross profit as a percentage of net sales in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was 35.1% as compared with 38.4% in the first quarter of fiscal 2005. Lower margins this year were a function of several factors: the sales mix shift toward lower-margin confectionery products; the introduction of enhanced confectionery products, such as Jumpin' Push Pop and Bubble Gum Booster, which have generally below-average gross margins; increased trade spending in the form of price support to the trade as the Company transitions to higher confectionery pricing; and a reduction in sales per sports card release.

SG&A expense was \$28.2 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2006, down from \$28.6 million in fiscal 2005. As a percentage of net sales, SG&A in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was 35.8% as compared with 32.5% in the same period in fiscal 2005. Excluding the European fine reported in the first quarter of fiscal 2005, SG&A last year was \$26.7 million, or 30.3% sales. Higher merchandising costs associated with our new U.S. confectionery broker arrangement and an increase in professional fees specifically related to the Media Technologies litigation settled in the quarter, the recently resolved proxy contest and strategic consulting initiatives also served to increase SG&A in this year's quarter.

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Other expense in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was \$952,000 as compared with \$433,000 in the quarter last year. This increase was largely the result of favorable mark-to-market adjustments on forward contracts this year.

Net interest income was \$739,000 in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 versus \$484,000 in the first quarter of fiscal 2005 due to higher interest rates.

The effective tax rate reflects provisions for federal, state and local income

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taxes in accordance with statutory income tax rates. The Company's tax rate was 21.1% in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 versus 33.0% in the quarter last year, a function of the non-deductible European fine reported last year and a higher mix of earnings this year in low tax rate international markets.

Net income for the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was \$0.9 million, or \$0.02 per diluted share, compared with \$4.1 million, or \$0.10 per diluted share for the first quarter of fiscal 2005.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Management believes that the Company has adequate means to meet its liquidity and capital resource needs over the foreseeable future as a result of the combination of cash on hand, anticipated cash from operations and credit line availability.

At May 28, 2005, the Company had \$92.9 million in combined cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments.

On June 26, 2000, the Company entered into a credit agreement with Chase Manhattan Bank and LaSalle Bank National Association for a term of four years, which ended on June 26, 2004. On June 25, 2004, the credit agreement was amended to extend the expiration date for 90 days in order to provide the Company sufficient time to complete refinancing arrangements. On September 14, 2004, the Company entered into a new credit agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank. The agreement provides for a \$30.0 million unsecured facility to cover revolver and letter of credit needs and expires on September 13, 2007. Interest rates are variable and a function of market rates and the Company's EBITDA. The credit agreement contains restrictions and prohibitions of a nature generally found in loan agreements of this type and requires the Company, among other things, to comply with certain financial covenants, limits the Company's ability to sell or acquire assets or borrow additional money and places certain restrictions on the purchase of Company shares and the payment of dividends. The credit agreement may be terminated by the Company at any point over the three-year term (provided the Company repays all outstanding amounts thereunder) without penalty.

In October 1999, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 5 million shares of the Company's common stock. In October 2001, the Company completed purchases against this authorization and the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to another 5 million shares of the Company's common stock. The Company has repurchased a total of 3.4 million shares under this second authorization and a total of 8.4 million shares under both authorizations.

Cash used in operating activities during the first quarter of fiscal 2006 was \$9.4 million versus cash provided of \$6.8 million during the first quarter of fiscal 2005. This change was primarily due to a reduction in net income, a \$5.0 million increase in inventories compared with a \$3.0 million increase last year, and a reduction in payables this year stemming, in part, from the timing of payments for inventory and to tax payments in the U.S. and in Europe. A \$2 million payment in settlement of the Media Technologies, Inc. litigation was accounted for principally as a long-term advance against future royalties and increased other assets.

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Cash used in investing activities in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 reflects a \$0.9 million increase in short term investments, as well as \$0.7 million in capital spending, which was flat versus the first quarter of fiscal 2005. Full year fiscal 2006 capital spending is projected to be approximately \$3 million, driven by investments in computer software and hardware and in Ring Pop production equipment. Capital spending will be funded out of cash flow from operating activities.

Cash used in financing activities of \$1.6 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 reflects a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.04 per share, the same as in the first quarter of fiscal 2005. There were no treasury stock purchases or options exercised in the first quarter this year, versus a net use of cash of \$1.3 million for these activities last year. There was \$40,000 in restricted stock issued in connection with outside directors' compensation recognized in the quarter.

There were no material changes outside the ordinary course of business in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 with respect to the Company's purchase obligations as presented in the Commitments table included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 26, 2005.

The Company does not have any off-balance sheet arrangements and, therefore, there is no effect on its financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenue or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources from this type of arrangement.

Cautionary Statements

In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Reform Act"), the Company is hereby filing cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in any forward-looking statements of the Company made by or on behalf of the Company, whether oral or written. Among the factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ materially from those indicated in any such forward statements are: (i) the failure of certain of the Company's principal products, particularly sports cards, entertainment cards, lollipops, sticker album collections and WizKids games, to achieve expected sales levels; (ii) the Company's inability to produce timely, or at all, certain new planned confectionery products; (iii) quarterly fluctuations in results; (iv) the Company's loss of important licensing arrangements; (v) the failure of etopps, the Company's on-line trading card initiative, to achieve expected levels of success; (vi) the Company's loss of important supply arrangements with third parties; (vii) the loss of any of the Company's key customers or distributors; (viii) further prolonged and material contraction in the trading card industry as a whole; (ix) excessive returns of the Company's products; (x) and civil unrest, currency devaluation, health-related issues, or political upheaval in certain foreign countries in which the Company conducts business; as well as other risks detailed from time to time in the Company's reports and registration statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles

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generally accepted in the United States of America requires Topps management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Note 1 to the Company's consolidated financial statements, included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 26, 2005, "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies," lists its significant accounting policies. Following are the critical policies and methods used.

Revenue Recognition:

Revenue related to sales of the Company's products is generally recognized when products are shipped, the title and risk of loss has passed to the customer, the sales price is fixed or determinable and collectibility is reasonably assured. Sales made on a returnable basis are recorded net of a provision for estimated returns. These estimates are revised, as necessary, to reflect actual experience and market conditions.

Returns Provisions:

In determining the provision for returns, the Company performs an in-depth review of wholesale and retail inventory levels for each product sold, trends in product sell-through by sales channel, and other factors. The provision for returns was \$7.6 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 and \$7.2 million in the comparable quarter in 2005, which equates to 9.6% and 8.2% of net sales, respectively. The increase in the provision in the quarter this year was largely the result of higher rates on U.S. sports products and a comparably low rate on last year's European Championship products which was increased later in the year. An increase or decrease in the quarter's provision for returns by 1% of net sales would decrease or increase operating income by approximately \$0.8 million.

Intangible Assets:

Intangible assets include trademarks and the value of sports, entertainment and proprietary product rights. Amortization is by the straight-line method over estimated lives which range between three and fifteen years. Management evaluates the recoverability of finite-lived intangible assets under the provisions of SFAS No. 144 "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-lived Assets" based on the projected undiscounted cash flows attributable to the individual assets, among other methods.

Accrual for Obsolete Inventory:

The Company's accrual for obsolete inventory reflects the cost of items in inventory not anticipated to be sold. This accrual is deemed necessary as a result of discontinued items and packaging or a reduction in forecasted sales and is adjusted periodically based on a review of inventory levels and sales projections. The provision for obsolete inventory was \$1.3 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2006 and \$1.1 million in the comparable quarter in fiscal 2005, which equates to 1.6% and 1.2% of net sales, respectively. A decrease or increase in the quarter's provision for obsolescence by 1% of net sales would increase or decrease operating income by approximately \$0.8 million.

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The Company's exposure to market risk associated with activities in derivative financial instruments (e.g., hedging or currency swap agreements), other financial instruments and derivative commodity instruments is confined to the impact of mark-to-market changes in foreign currency rates on the Company's forward contracts and options. The Company has no debt outstanding and does not engage in any commodity-related derivative transactions. As of May 28, 2005, the Company had contracts and options which were entered into for the purpose of hedging forecasted receipts and disbursements in various foreign currencies and which, primarily due to the stabilization of the U.S. dollar, resulted in a relatively small mark-to-market adjustment in the quarter.

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ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures.

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on such evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of such period, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective in recording, processing, summarizing and reporting, on a timely basis, information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act.

Changes in internal controls.

There have not been any changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

On February 17, 2000, Telepresence, Inc. sued Topps and nine other manufacturers of trading cards (the "Defendants") in the Federal District Court for the Central District of California for infringement of U.S. Patent No. 5,803,501, which was issued on September 8, 1998 (the "501 Patent"). In its suit, Telepresence contended that the patent covers all types of "relic" cards that contain an authentic piece of equipment, i.e., a piece of sporting equipment or jersey. The court awarded summary judgment to the Defendants on the grounds that the named Plaintiff (Telepresence, Inc.) did not have standing to sue and the litigation was dismissed with

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prejudice on March 28, 2001.

After the dismissal, the 501 Patent was assigned to Media Technologies, Inc. which is under the control of the same person (the inventor, Adrian Gluck) who brought the Telepresence action. On November 19, 2001, Media Technologies sued essentially the same group of defendants in the same court for infringement of the 501 Patent. The court once again granted summary judgment and dismissed the case with prejudice. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed the judgment on July 11, 2003, and the case was returned to Judge Stotler in the Central District of California for trial. On October 16, 2003, Media Technologies amended its complaint by alleging that Defendants' sale of relic cards additionally infringed U.S. Patent No. 6,142,532 (the "532 Patent") which was issued on November 7, 2000 and is similar to the 501 Patent.

On March 17, 2004, Topps filed a motion for summary judgment based on non-infringement while other defendants filed a motion for summary judgment based on patent invalidity because of prior art. Both motions were denied on July 26, 2004. On October 4, 2004, Defendants petitioned the United States Patent & Trademark Office (the "PTO") to reexamine the patentability of both the 501 Patent and the 532 Patent. On October 25, 2004, Defendants also filed a motion with the district court requesting a stay of the proceedings pending the petition with the PTO. On December 2, 2004, the court denied the motion for the stay. In mid-December, the PTO granted the petition for reexamination of the 501 and 532 Patents. Plaintiffs petitioned the PTO to vacate the reexaminations and also filed papers requesting the PTO, in the event it decides to proceed with the reexamination, to hold its claims patentable.

On December 29, 2004, Defendants once again filed a motion with the district court requesting a stay of the proceedings while the PTO reexamined the patentability of the 501 Patent and the 532 Patent. That motion was denied on February 28, 2005, along with another motion to dismiss the case based on lack of standing. On May 23, 2005 the Company entered into a settlement agreement with Media Technologies, Inc. in which it paid Media Technologies, Inc. a sum of \$2,000,000. Media Technologies, Inc. agreed to dismiss all claims against the Company and to issue a license to the Company to distribute relic cards for seven years. The Company further agreed that under certain conditions which may arise in the future, it would make additional payments to Media Technologies, Inc. as part of the on going license. The Company has accounted for the payment as an advance against future royalties expense which will be amortized over the next seven years.

The Company is a defendant in several other civil actions which are routine and incidental to its business. In management's opinion, after consultation with legal counsel, these other actions will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition or results of operations.

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PART II

OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

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The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company took place on June 30, 2005 for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors;
2. To ratify the appointment of the Company's independent auditors.

The results of the matters voted on are as follows:

	For ---	Withheld -----	
1. Election of Directors			
Stephen D. Greenberg	32,486,861	5,727,963	
Ann Kirschner	32,551,936	5,662,888	
Richard Tarlow	32,500,161	5,714,663	
	For ---	Withheld -----	Against -----
2. Ratification of Appointment of the Company's Independent Auditors			
	38,004,224	183,195	27,405

On June 9, 2005 the Company issued a press release announcing that it had settled with shareholders who had filed separate proxy statements. The press release was filed in an 8-K on June 13, 2005.

ITEM 4(b). DIRECTORS

Arthur T. Shorin	Ann Kirschner	Jack H. Nusbaum
Allan A. Feder	David Mauer	Richard Tarlow
Stephen D. Greenberg	Edward D. Miller	Stanley Tulchin

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ITEM 6. EXHIBITS AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) Exhibits as required by Item 601 of Regulation S-K filed herewith:

31.1 Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

31.2 Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a)

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and 15d-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

- 32.1 Certification of Arthur T. Shorin, Chief Executive Officer and President, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of Catherine K. Jessup, Vice-President - Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer pursuant to U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

(b) Reports on Form 8-K

1. Form 8-K, dated June 30, 2005, with press release, dated June 30, 2005, reporting the Company's first quarter dividend declaration.
2. Form 8-K, dated June 28, 2005, with press release, dated June 28, 2005, reporting the Company's first quarter earnings.
3. Form 8-K, dated June 13, 2005, with press release, dated June 9, 2005, reporting the Company's settlement with shareholders who had filed separate proxy statements.
4. Form 8-K, dated May 17, 2005, with press release, dated May 17, 2005, regarding the pursuit of various strategic initiatives.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

THE TOPPS COMPANY, INC.

REGISTRANT

s/ Catherine K. Jessup

Catherine K. Jessup
Duly Authorized Officer

July 7, 2005

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