Business Week

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Cotton Trader launches year round cruise collection

23 September 2005

UK Leisurewear brand Cotton Traders, has introduced an all year round sun collection that will make it easier for those jetting off to sunnier climes both in and out of season. Available in its airport stores across the UK, the range features 12 basic sunshine essentials including T-shirts, vests, shorts and swimwear.

Retail director, Nick Hamblin said: Research with our customers has confirmed that an increasing number are taking beach breaks to sunshine destinations during the winter months. As a result, we decided to introduce an all year round winter sun wardrobe to ensure that they could still pick up the essentials at the airport before jetting off out of season."

To ensure the ultimate comfort and wearability in hot climates, all garments are made from lightweight natural fabrics that are breathable and resist creasing.

Dow Corning offers seminar at IFAI Expo 2005

23 September 2005

Dow Corning Corporation, a leading supplier of silicone products for the textile industry, will present a session entitled DFSS Methodology: Characterising Thermal Resistivity and Flame Retardant Performance for Silicone-Coated Fabrics at the Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI) Expo to be held this October in San Antonio, Texas.

Presenting will be William R. Blackwood, senior application engineer for Dow Corning Industrial Textiles and Airbag Coatings of North America, who will give a general overview of the Design for Six Sigma (DFSS) process and compare it with the traditional iterative method of product development. He will also explore in detail the application of DFSS methodology for the development of flame-retardant, thermally resistant silicone-coated fabrics, and will review the properties of silicone elastomers, filler materials, silicone rheology, testing methods, measurement criteria and the impact of coat weight on performance.

IFAI Expo 2005, an annual trade show held in North America which is devoted to the diverse specialty fabrics industry, will be held October 27-29, 2005, at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Centre. It is estimated 450 exhibitors and 8,000 international participants will attend.

Avery Dennison presents new woven labels collection at Mod'Amont

23 September 2005

Avery Dennison information and brand management services (IBMS) is showing its full range of new labels for Autumn/Winter 06/07 at the September session of Mod'Amont. This year has seen a move towards a more natural and handcrafted look using vibrant and autumnal colours and a variety of luxurious styles. Some of the main themes for the new collection include Nordic Taiga, handcrafted, refined luxury and Alpine Folk.

The company have also changed the design of their traditional collection books and introduced new focus areas for both street wear and sportswear.

Finish Line Reports Second Quarter Earnings

23 September 2005

The Finish Line, Inc. has announced earnings for the second quarter representing the 13 weeks ended August 27, 2005. Net

income was $18.9 million, a decrease of 8 per cent versus net income of $20.5 million for the same period last year.

Net sales increased nine percent to $341.6 million for Q2 compared to $312.2 million reported for Q2 2004. Comparable store net sales decreased two per cent for Q2 as compared to the six per cent increase reported for Q2 last year.

Net income for the 26 weeks ended August 27, 2005 was $31.6 million, an increase of three per cent versus net income of $30.8 million for the previous year. Net sales increased 11 per cent to $632.8 million compared to $570.1 million last year. Comparable store net sales were flat for year-to-date, versus a 10 per cent increase in 2004.

The Company operated 639 Finish Line stores at August 27, 2005, an increase of 13 per cent over the 564 stores operated one year ago. For the quarter, Finish Line opened 16 new stores, remodeled seven existing stores and closed two stores.

The Finish Line, Inc. is an athletic specialty retailer offering a selection of footwear, apparel and accessories for men, women and kids. It operates 640 Finish Line stores in 47 states and online, as well as 38 Man Alive stores in nine states.

China's Ministry of Commerce announces allotment of EU textile quotas for 2006

23 September 2005

China's Ministry of Commerce has announced that the first allotment of EU textile quotas accounts for 75 per cent of the total EU textiles quota for 2006.

At present, the majority of China's allocation of textile quotas is based on textile dealers' shipments in the previous year.

Philippine garment exports rise slightly

22 September 2005

According to the Garments and Textiles Export Board (GTEB) in the Philippines, higher-value items propped up garment export earnings in the January-July period to $1.27 billion, up 1.37 percent from $1.25 billion in the same months last year. July's earnings grew 7.7 percent to $229.4 million from $212.9 million a year earlier.

Growth was seen in the wool apparel and silk segment, as well as in garments made of natural fibers, with each of these segments showing an average growth rate of 60 percent month-on-month."

Serafin Juliano, director of GTEB, said the industry was relying more on its capability to produce quality products and providing efficient service and value-for-money to customers. He also added that Philippine producers were working on a possible bilateral arrangement with the United States on selective preferential treatment for garments.

Nike teams with 2K Sports Teams to offer ultimate basketball experience

22 September 2005

Nike, Inc. has partnered 2K Sports, a publishing label of Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc. to deliver a new level of authentic basketball experience in the with the release of the NBA 2K6 video game at the end of this year. It marks the deepest integration into video games ever for Nike, with authentic footwear, the use of performance attributes associated with specific footwear models and the first ever video game integration of the Nike iD shoe customisation function.

In 24/7, NBA 2K6's Streetball Mode, players dribble across North America and compete in various streetball tournaments. As players advance through the mode, a new pair of Nike Basketball shoes is awarded to the user. Each shoe earned is then added to the player's Nike Shoe Locker. The shoes are classified based on Nike's Flight, Force and Uptempo categories and give the user enhanced performance when worn in the game. The player must choose the best performance characteristics, such as greater

speed, to defeat the opponent. Once shoes are collected in the locker, gamers can use the exclusive 24/7 Nike iD customization feature to personalise their shoes.

Converse seals long-term relationship with basketball star Dwyane Wade

22 September 2005

Converse has announced a long-term, strategic partnership with professional basketball star Dwyane Wade to create footwear, apparel and equipment for the basketball brand.

Converse's legacy began even before professional basketball was established, starting with the Chuck Taylor All Star shoe in 1923. Converse enlisted Wade at the beginning of his professional career as his style of play and the values he shared with the brand made him an ideal partner. He will continue to be actively involved in the design and development of every product using his name including footwear, apparel, accessories and equipment.

"Dwyane's understanding of the essence of basketball and ability to bring his unique creativity and originality to the game make the partnership a perfect fit," said Ric Wilson, Director of Sports Marketing.

Sara Lee Branded Apparel acquires National Textiles LLC

21 September 2005

Sara Lee Branded Apparel has acquired National Textiles, L.L.C., a yarn and textile production company based in Winston-Salem, N.C. The company also said that it recently acquired DFK Trading Corporation Ltd., an Asian sourcing company.

With vertical yarn-to-textile operations, National Textiles is a major supplier of open-end and ring-spun cotton as well as blended yarns and finished tubular fabrics. Separately, newly acquired DFK Trading Corporation Ltd. will operate as DFK International Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sara Lee Branded Apparel. Based in Hong Kong, DFK will source raw materials in the emerging Asian market.

Successful start for ispo Russia premier

21 September 2005

The first ever ispo Russia, which took place in the Crocus Expo Exhibition Centre, Moscow, from September 14 to 17, 2005, had a total of 6,068 trade visitors attending. They came from all regions of Russia, other Eastern European countries, as well as from as far as USA, Korea, Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany, to see the 309 national and international brands that were exhibiting.

Manfred Wutzlhofer, CEO Messe München GmbH: The Russian market and that of the neighbouring countries represent a challenge. Together with our partners Sport Communication Group and RASIE in Moscow, we have succeeded in acting as a door-opener for these markets at our premier event. With ispo Russia, we have provided the exhibiting brands with the possibility to get to know the special character of this market, to establish contacts and to simplify entry into business on site.”

ispo Russia 05 was the second trade fair in the event portfolio of Messe München GmbH to take place in a foreign country. The first, ispo China, was held in Shanghai earlier this year. The next ispo Russia will take place in the Crocus Expo Exhibition Centre in Moscow from February 20 to 23, 2006.

Berghaus sponsors Kendal Mountain Film Festival

21 September 2005

UK outdoor clothing and equipment manufacturer, Berghaus, will again be headline sponsor of the Kendal Mountain Film Festival, making it the fourth year the company has been presenting sponsor.

The festival is mainly based around mountaineering and climbing, but many other activities are covered including mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding and kayaking.

In 2005, there will be over 250 screenings of films from around the world, and 42 separate lectures, presentations and debates, as well as four major exhibitions of paintings and photography.

The Kendal Mountain Festival runs November 12-20.

Lotus effect shakes off dirt

21 September 2005

The lotus, a flowering wetland plant native to Asia, may not at first glance be of interest to the nanotechnologist. But researchers at German chemical company BASF are developing a spray-on coating that mimics the way lotus leaves repel water droplets and particles of dirt. When developed, the spray will particularly suit rough surfaces such as leather, textiles, paper and masonry.

The leaves of lotus plants are coated with minute wax crystals around 1 nm in diameter, which repel water and droplets falling onto them bead up and, if the surface slopes slightly, will roll off. As a result, the surfaces stay dry even during a heavy shower. What's more, the droplets pick up small particles of dirt as they roll, so that the lotus leaves are 'self-cleaning'.

At the nanoscale, rough surfaces are more effective in repelling water than smooth ones as there is less contact between water and solid. This rough structure is also essential to the self-cleaning effect - on a smooth surface water droplets slide rather than roll, and do not pick up dirt particles to the same extent.

Wilhelm Barthlott, a botanist from the University of Bonn in Germany, first explained the phenomenon and now owns a patent and the Lotus Effect trademark. BASF's lotus-effect aerosol spray combines nanoparticles with water repelling polymers such as polypropylene, polyethylene and waxes. It also includes a propellant gas. As it dries, the coating develops a nanostructure through self-assembly.

Oakley appoints Scott Olivet as CEO and director

21 September 2005

Oakley, Inc. has announced the appointment of Scott Olivet as chief executive officer and director effective October 10, 2005. Until then, he will serve part-time in an advisory capacity as an employee of the company. Mr. Olivet will succeed Oakley, Inc. founder, chairman and chief executive officer Jim Jannard who will continue as chairman of the board of directors.

Since 2001, Mr. Olivet, 43, served as Nike, Inc.'s vice president, Nike Subsidiaries and New Business Development where he led, developed and executed the company's multi-branding strategy including making three acquisitions. Prior to working at Nike, Mr. Olivet served as the Gap, Inc.'s senior vice president of Real Estate, Store Design, and Construction, responsible for the Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy brands from 1998 to 2001.

China Textile deal won't affect 2006 export

20 September 2005

China commerce minister Bo Xilai has said in an interview that the amount of textiles added to next year's textile quota is "quite small" and will not affect exports to the European Union.

Earlier this month the two trade partners reached an agreement allowing millions of Chinese textile products, which had exceeded EU import quotas for the year, to be released from customs at various European ports.

Under the terms of the agreement, half of the textile goods being held in customs will

enter EU markets while the other half will be added to China's textile quota for next year.

EBFC warns of risks of current EC footwear dumping investigation

20 September 2005

The European Branded Footwear Coalition (EBFC), representing many highly regarded European and global footwear brands, today warned of the detrimental impact of the current European anti-dumping investigation being conducted targeting leather footwear and the harm that the imposition of any anti-dumping measures would have on the European Union.

The EBFC members have raised serious concerns with the commission regarding the scope of the investigation and how it is being conducted, including:

- The case is overly broad and targets all leather footwear imported from China and Vietnam. Footwear for men, women and children of all quality levels would be affected by duties, regardless of style, quality or price.

- The Commission has not appropriately narrowed the scope of the investigation to target specific footwear, if any, being improperly dumped in the EU market at artificially low prices.

- The economic basis of the investigation is flawed and fails to consider even basic open market factors such as the impact of currency exchange rates.

- EU footwear producers cannot supply all of the European demand for high quality leather footwear.

If anti-dumping measures are imposed, the EBFC says the following effects should be expected:

- Prices of footwear for European consumers will rise substantially;

- European consumer choice in high quality, fashionable footwear at competitive prices will be limited;

- Higher prices and limited selection will cause sales of footwear to fall, injuring already strained EU retailers and related industries with consequent job losses in those sectors; and

- Trade disruption to the EU Member States could occur similar to the problems recently experienced with apparel following the actions of the Commission.

The EBFC is comprised of prominent European and global footwear companies including Clark's, ECCO, Timberland, Kenneth Cole, Caterpillar Footwear, Merrell, Rockport, Hush Puppies, Sebago, Teva, Ugg and Simple.