



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Rebel Negley,
Image Strategies, Inc.
rebel@image-strategies.com
(205) 612-3301**

**UAB Soccer Champ to Play on Trinidad's National Team During
2007 Futbol Internacional
*Statewide Women's Soccer Festival Starts in Birmingham April 22***

(Birmingham, AL) – Nadine Liverpool, a player on the University of Alabama at Birmingham's conference-winning women's soccer team, will play with Trinidad-Tobago's national women's team, the Soca Princesses, during the week-long 2007 Futbol Internacional soccer festival.

Trinidad-Tobago coaches asked the UAB sophomore -- whose parents are natives of the Caribbean island country -- to join the team while it plays in Alabama during the festival, says Paul Harbin, Head Coach of the UAB Women's Soccer Team.

Futbol Internacional is one of the world's largest soccer events outside of the Olympic Games and the World Cup. The festival is expected to pump more than \$2.84 million into six Alabama cities where the games are played; its economic impact on Birmingham alone is \$1.475 million. It starts Sunday, April 22, in Birmingham's historic Legion Field, home of the 1996 Olympic Soccer matches, with opening ceremonies and double-header games.

Opportunity Meets Experience

Harbin says T&T's assistant coaches called him after Fox Soccer Channel aired a diversity story last fall on the UAB team members for its cable television show. He's not at all surprised that the coaches noticed Nadine's playing. "She's very skillful, very creative, has explosive speed, and most importantly, she has the ability to put the ball at the back of the net," he says with a smile.

Harbin says he e-mailed back and forth with the T&T assistant coaches. Meanwhile, Head Coach Marlon Charles heard about Miss Liverpool through one of her friends who plays for T&T.

"Since she was here, and they were here (in Alabama for Futbol Internacional), he thought they might as well pick her up and have her play with the national team," Harbin says of Miss Liverpool. "If she does well with this, the hope is, they will bring her onto the team. If Trinidad and Tobago could qualify for the Olympics or the World Cup, she has the opportunity to play. This is where these types of things can go."

The opportunity is not lost on Miss Liverpool.

The 21-year-old psychology major says the chance to play for her parent's home country expands her options. "If I play professionally when I grow up, I'll have the experience of playing for a national team," she says. "If I want to do something sports-oriented, like coach a team, I'll have that experience. So this opens up a lot for me."

Miss Liverpool already has experience playing on a national team; she played on the high-school level for Canada, where she born. Her parents Rex and Neva emigrated there to gain a better life.

Harbin says Miss Liverpool has become one of the best players on the UAB team and in their conference. UAB's women's soccer team won the USA Conference Championship in 2006. Miss Liverpool proudly wears her championship ring.

She still has to train with the T&T team, which arrives in Birmingham on April 21. Whether she gets to take the field depends on how well she performs during practice and how well she gets along with the coaches and other players. "I'm going to show up and see what happens," she says.

The Festival

Futbol Internacional features other national women's soccer teams from Argentina, Canada, China, Mexico, and the USA's Under-21 national team. The event will take the teams to six cities across the state. It ends Saturday, April 28, with triple-header finals -- including the championship match -- and the closing ceremony in Mobile at the Baker High School Stadium.

Proceeds from 2007 Futbol Internacional will help the Alabama Youth Soccer Association's Olympic development scholarship fund. In addition, proceeds will be used to expand soccer outreach programs to underserved children in the Black Belt, in conjunction with Governor Bob Riley's Black Belt Action Committee, and to inner-city youths.

Sponsors include SilverStone International -- which is also organizing the event with AYSA -- and Buffalo Rock, Subway, the Jefferson County Commission, the Mobile County Commission and the Alabama Tourism Department.

Other sponsors include: Brookwood Medical Center, Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Clinic of Alabama, the Alabama Small Business Development Consortium, Baumhower's Restaurant, Ready Mix USA, Office Furniture USA, Latino News, Radio Centro, KPI Latino, the Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau, the City of Birmingham, and the City of Mobile.

General admission tickets are \$16 per person; children under age 4 are admitted for free. Purchase tickets and get more detailed game information online at the soccer festival website, <http://www.2007futbolinternacional.com/>.

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