

GENESCO INC
Form DEFA14A
June 18, 2007

**THE FOLLOWING IS AN EMAIL FROM THE COMPANY'S CHAIRMAN
AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO THE COMPANY'S EMPLOYEES
ANNOUNCING THE MERGER**

June 18, 2007

To Genesco Employees:

As you know, when we announced our earnings last month, we also announced that our board of directors began the formal process of considering strategic alternatives to maximize shareholder value. Following a review of various alternatives reasonably available to Genesco, we have announced that we have agreed to merge our company with The Finish Line for a cash purchase price of \$54.50 per share of our common stock.

The Finish Line is one of the largest mall-based specialty retailers in the U.S. and currently operates approximately 800 stores under the Finish Line, Man Alive and Paiva brand names. The combined company, which will be called The Finish Line, Inc., will have a total of approximately 2,870 stores across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico.

I am impressed with what I have learned of The Finish Line's values and their approach to business, which are very similar to Genesco's. The Finish Line has great admiration for our company, what we have been able to achieve, and how well-positioned Genesco is for continued growth. This transaction is not only in the best interests of our shareholders; it also represents the opportunity for Genesco to continue to realize its tremendous potential.

For the vast majority of Genesco employees, this merger will not make a significant difference to your day-to-day life at work. The Finish Line understands that the company's success is due to your talent and hard work and they have made it clear that they intend to preserve our strong team culture. While the new company will be headquartered in Indianapolis, The Finish Line has stated its intention to maintain our operations in Nashville.

Our Board of Directors has voted unanimously in favor of this transaction and our shareholders will be asked to give their approval as well. We anticipate the transaction will close by the fall of this year.

I realize that you will have many questions and concerns, and we will do our very best to keep you informed in a timely manner. I am pleased to invite all Nashville headquarters employees to a meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m., in the Genesco Park cafeteria to hear more about this transaction and to meet Alan Cohen, chairman and chief executive officer of The Finish Line. We are also planning an employee meeting for Indianapolis on Tuesday afternoon and will provide details when arrangements are complete. This morning's press release is attached. You will shortly receive by email some questions and answers about the transaction and its implications.

Today's announcement is a reflection of our industry-leading position and a direct result of your talent and dedication. Thank you for all you do to make our company a success.

Sincerely,

Hal N. Pennington

Important Additional Information and Where to Find It

In connection with the proposed merger, Genesco will file a proxy statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE ADVISED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE BECAUSE IT WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE MERGER AND THE PARTIES TO THE MERGER. Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of the proxy statement (when available) and other documents filed by Genesco at the SEC website at [http:// www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The proxy statement and other documents also may be obtained for free from Genesco by directing such request to Genesco, Office of the Secretary, 1415 Murfreesboro Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37217, telephone (615) 367 7000.

Participants in the Solicitation

Genesco and its directors, executive officers and other members of its management and employees may be deemed participants in the solicitation of proxies from its shareholders in connection with the proposed merger. Information concerning the interests of Genesco's participants in the solicitation, which may be different than those of Genesco shareholders generally, is set forth in Genesco's proxy statements and Annual Reports on Form 10-K, previously filed with the SEC, and will be set forth in the proxy statement relating to the merger when it becomes available.