

Rocky Brands, Inc. Announces Second Quarter Fiscal 2008 Results

Company Reports Second Quarter Diluted Earnings Per Share of \$0.13 Wholesale Gross Margin Increased 250 Basis Points SG&A Expenses Decreased Approximately \$1.9 million

NELSONVILLE, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

Rocky Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ: RCKY) today announced financial results for its second quarter ended June 30, 2008.

For the second quarter of 2008, net sales increased 2.9% to \$60.5 million versus net sales of \$58.8 million in the second quarter of 2007. The Company reported net income of \$0.7 million, or \$0.13 per diluted share versus a net loss of \$1.4 million or (\$0.25) per diluted share a year ago.

Mike Brooks, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "Our second quarter performance was highlighted by the successful execution of our continuing strategy to enhance profitability. Due largely to more favorable sell-in terms with our retail partners and better utilization of our company owned factories, wholesale gross margins increased 250 basis points. At the same time, we were effective at controlling costs evidenced by the nearly \$2.0 million reduction in our operating expenses. These improvements allowed us to realize a significant increase in diluted earnings per share versus a year ago with a modest gain in our top-line."

Second Quarter Results

Net sales for the second quarter increased to \$60.5 million compared to \$58.8 million a year ago. Wholesale sales for the second quarter were \$42.5 million compared to \$41.9 million for the same period in 2007. Retail sales for the second quarter were \$16.2 million compared to \$16.6 million for the same period in 2007. Military segment sales for the second quarter were \$1.8 million, compared to \$0.3 million in the same period in 2007.

Gross margin in the second quarter was \$24.4 million, or 40.3% of sales, compared to \$23.9 million or 40.7% of sales, for the same period last year. The prior year's results included a

\$0.5 million reimbursement of expenses incurred in prior periods related to a cancelled military contract. Excluding this one-time reimbursement, second quarter 2007 gross margin would have been 40.0%. Wholesale gross margin for the second quarter was \$15.7 million, or 36.9% of net sales, compared to \$14.4 million, or 34.4% of net sales, in the same period last year. The 250 basis point increase reflects an increase in sales price per unit, as well as a decrease in manufacturing costs resulting from increased operating efficiencies. Retail gross margin for the second quarter was \$8.6 million, or 52.8% of net sales, compared to \$8.9 million, or 53.6% of net sales, for the same period in 2007. Military gross margin for the second quarter was \$0.2 million, or 8.6% of net sales, compared to \$0.6 million for the same period in 2007.

Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses decreased 8.4% or \$1.9 million to \$20.9 million, or 34.5% of sales, for the second quarter of 2008 compared to \$22.8 million, or 38.8% of sales, a year ago. The decrease in SG&A expenses is primarily result of reductions in compensation expense and professional fees.

Income from operations increased \$2.4 million or 390 basis points to \$3.5 million or 5.8% of net sales, respectively for the period compared to \$1.1 million, or 1.9% of net sales, in the prior year.

Funded Debt and Interest Expense

The Company's funded debt at June 30, 2008 was \$101.4 million versus \$102.7 million at June 30, 2007. Interest expense decreased to \$2.4 million for the second quarter of 2008 versus \$3.3 million for the same period last year. The decrease in interest expense was primarily due to the write off of prepaid financing costs totaling \$0.8 million related to the refinancing of the company's term loans in the second quarter of 2007.

Inventory

Inventory increased \$1.5 million, or 1.9%, to \$85.5 million at June 30, 2008 compared with \$84.0 million on the same date a year ago.

Mr. Brooks concluded, "We feel confident that our recent initiatives will enable us to post continued year-over-year margin improvement and drive increased profitability over the remainder of this year even though our top-line will be challenged. Longer-term, we are optimistic that our portfolio of company owned and licensed brands provide us with compelling growth prospects into the future."

About Rocky Brands, Inc.

Rocky Brands, Inc. is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of premium quality footwear and apparel marketed under a portfolio of well recognized brand names including Rocky Outdoor Gear(R), Georgia Boot(R), Durango(R), Lehigh(R), and the licensed brands Dickies(R), Zumfoot(R) and Michelin(R).

Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which are intended to be covered by the safe

harbors created thereby. Those statements include, but may not be limited to, all statements regarding intent, beliefs, expectations, projections, forecasts, and plans of the Company and its management, and include statements in this press release regarding margin improvement, increased profitability and growth prospects (paragraph 10). These forwardlooking statements involve numerous risks and uncertainties, including, without limitation, the various risks inherent in the Company's business as set forth in periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 (filed March 6, 2008) and the Company's guarterly report on Form 10-Q for the guarter ended March 31, 2008 (filed May 1, 2008). One or more of these factors have affected historical results, and could in the future affect the Company's businesses and financial results in future periods and could cause actual results to differ materially from plans and projections. Therefore there can be no assurance that the forward-looking statements included in this press release will prove to be accurate. In light of the significant uncertainties inherent in the forward-looking statements included herein, the Company, or any other person should not regard the inclusion of such information as a representation that the objectives and plans of the Company will be achieved. All forward-looking statements made in this press release are based on information presently available to the management of the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements.

> Rocky Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

	June 30, 2008 De	ecember 31, 2007	June 30, 2007 Unaudited
ASSETS:			
CURRENT ASSETS: Cash and cash equivalents Trade receivables - net Other receivables Inventories Deferred income taxes Income tax receivable Prepaid expenses	\$ 3,025,144 59,245,156 1,010,254 85,542,820 1,952,536 729,024 3,117,546	\$ 6,537,884 65,931,092 674,707 75,403,664 1,952,536 719,945 2,226,920	\$ 1,446,022 60,117,677 1,368,863 83,973,162 3,902,775 2,561,538 2,118,034
Total current assets FIXED ASSETS - net DEFERRED PENSION ASSET IDENTIFIED INTANGIBLES & GOODWILL OTHER ASSETS	154,622,480 24,090,519 - 36,207,210 1,909,678	153,446,748 24,484,050 - 36,509,690 2,284,039	155,488,071 24,443,562 40,432 61,697,893 2,758,801
TOTAL ASSETS	\$216,829,887	\$216,724,527	\$244,428,759
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY: CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Accounts payable Current maturities - long term debt	\$ 13,238,830 338,314	\$ 11,908,902 324,648	\$ 15,471,858 311,534

Accrued expenses: Taxes - other Other	840,751 4,703,591	516,038 5,421,083	673,098 4,090,661		
Total current liabilities	19,121,486	18,170,671	20,547,151		
LONG TERM DEBT - less current maturities DEFERRED INCOME TAXES DEFERRED LIABILITIES	101,042,347 12,951,828 1,257,606	103,220,384 13,247,953 360,928	102,427,204 17,009,025 324,038		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	134,373,267	134,999,936	140,307,418		
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY: Common stock, no par value; 25,000,000 shares authorized; issued and outstanding June 30, 2008 - 5,508,278; December 31, 2007 - 5.488,293; June 30, 2007 - 5,482,293	54,168,292	53,997,960	53,802,287		
Accumulated other comprehensive loss Retained earnings	(1,500,197) 29,788,525	(1,051,232) 28,777,863	(942,036) 51,261,090		
Total shareholders' equity	82,456,620	81,724,591	104,121,341		
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$216,829,887 	\$216,724,527 	\$244,428,759 		

Rocky Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

	Three Mon June	ths Ended	Six Months Ended June 30,			
	2008	2007	2008	2007		
NET SALES	\$60,507,421	\$58,797,664	\$120,992,137	\$120,454,688		
COST OF GOODS SOLD	36,111,328 	34,871,210	70,646,379	70,447,548		
GROSS MARGIN	24,396,093	23,926,454	50,345,758	50,007,140		
SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	20,875,459	22,790,579	43,936,946	45,113,520		

INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	3,520,634		1,135,875		6,408,812		4,893,620	
OTHER INCOME AND (EXPENSES): Interest								
expense Other - net		(2,409,515) 15,723		(3,344,076) 6,994		(4,816,186) (2,869)		(5,842,921) (36,001)
Total other -								
net		(2,393,792)		(3,337,082)		(4,819,055)		(5,878,922)
INCOME/(LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAXES		1,126,842		(2,201,207)		1,589,757		(985,302)
INCOME TAX								
EXPENSE / (BENEFIT)	_	394,000		(814,000)		556 , 000		(364,000)
NET								
INCOME/(LOSS)	\$	732 , 842	\$	(1,387,207)	\$	1,033,757	\$	(621,302)
NET INCOME/(LOSS) PER SHARE								
Basic Diluted	\$	0.13 0.13					\$ \$	
	Ş	0.13	Ş	(0.25)	Ş	0.19	Ą	(0.11)
WEIGHTED AVERAGE NUMBER OF COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING								
Basic		5,508,278		5,473,919		5,508,058		5,465,783
Diluted	-==	5,520,625	==	5,473,919	==	5,523,265	==	5,465,783
	==		==		==		==	

Source: Rocky Brands, Inc.