

This Week's Top Stories in Retail **May 29th, 2009**

Jo-Ann Stores Q1 income up

Hudson, Ohio (May 28, 2008) Jo-Ann Stores reported Wednesday that net income for the first quarter of fiscal 2010 was \$8.6 million compared with net income of \$3 million for the first quarter last year.

Ex-Kmart CEO back on witness stand

Ann Arbor, Mich. (May 28, 2009) Charles Conaway, former Kmart chief, is returning to the witness stand on Thursday for cross examination as his trial on civil fraud charges moves closer to a conclusion, according to a report by the Associated Press.

Fred's Q1 profit up 18%

Memphis, Tenn. (May 28, 2009) Fred's on Thursday reported fiscal first-quarter improvements, with a profit increase of 18% to \$8.6 million.

Polo's Q4 profit plummets 57%

New York City (May 28, 2009) Polo Ralph Lauren Corp. said late Wednesday that its fourth-quarter profit fell 57%, hurt by job cuts and other restructuring costs as well as by increased discounts.

Big Lots Q1 profit climbs 5%

Columbus, Ohio (May 28, 2009) Lowered expenses offset sales drops to earn Big Lots a 5% profit increase during the company's fiscal first quarter, the company reported Thursday.

Costco Q3 profit falls 29%

Issaquah, Wash. (May 28, 2009) Costco Wholesale Corp. reported Thursday that its third-quarter profit dropped 29%, citing impacts from a lawsuit settlement charge and lower sales during the period.

Toys 'R' Us acquires FAO Schwarz

Wayne, N.J. (May 28, 2009) Toys "R" Us Thursday announced it has acquired FAO Schwarz, one of the nation's oldest toy retailers.

Charming Shoppes reports smaller Q1 loss

Bensalem, Pa. (May 27, 2009) Charming Shoppes reported a narrower net loss for the first quarter. Losses from continuing operations, however, widened from the previous year, while beating analysts' expectations.

Nordstrom Rack to open first Houston store

Seattle (May 27, 2009) Nordstrom plans to open a 30,000-sq.-ft. Nordstrom Rack in Houston at The Centre at Post Oak, a shopping center owned by Weingarten Realty.

DSW income down in Q1

Columbus, Ohio (May 27, 2009) DSW reported for its first quarter ended May 2, a net income of \$7.1 million on net sales of \$385.8 million, compared with a net income of \$10.3 million on net sales of \$366.3 million for the same period last year.

Zale posts Q3 loss

Dallas (May 27, 2009) Zale Corp. reported a bigger fiscal third-quarter loss due to a drop in same-store sales and a tough economic climate that has diminished demand for jewelry.

Blockbuster.com to launch online game-rental pilot

Dallas (May 27, 2009) Blockbuster is gearing up to launch its new online video game service, and plans to start the pilot program in the Cleveland area on June 30.

New push to allow N.J. grocery stores to sell alcohol

Trenton, N.J. (May 27, 2009) New Jersey's growing budget troubles may open the door for a measure to allow supermarkets to sell beer and wine.

Zale names CFO, executive VP

Dallas (May 27, 2009) Zale Corp. has appointed Matthew Appel to serve as CFO and executive VP.

Report: Syms, Men's Wearhouse eye Filene's

Burlington, Mass. (May 27, 2009) Syms Corp. and Men's Wearhouse are vying to buy the majority of the stores of Filene's Basement, which filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this month, according to the *New York Post*.

Chico's Q1 profit climbs amid cost cutting

Fort Myers, Fla. (May 27, 2009) Chico's FAS said Wednesday first-quarter net income rose 14% to \$14.5 million from \$12.7 million ago period as the chain reduced expenses and saw increased sales at its White House|Black Market stores.

American Eagle Outfitters profit falls by half

Pittsburgh (May 27, 2009) American Eagle Outfitters on Wednesday said its first-quarter profit fell by half, but results edged past analyst predictions.

Dollar Tree profit surges 39%

Chesapeake, Va. (May 27, 2009) Dollar Tree said Wednesday that its first-quarter profit increased 39% as same-store sales surged 9.2%.

Wal-Mart names CEO of Latin American unit

Bentonville, Ark. (May 27, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores Wednesday announced that Vicente Trius, executive VP, president and CEO of Wal-Mart Asia, has been named executive VP, president and CEO of Wal-Mart Latin America.

Staples profit off 33%

Framingham, Mass. (May 27, 2009) Staples reported a 33% drop in profit for its first quarter as the ongoing recession led to cutbacks in corporate and consumer demand for durable items such as business machines and furniture.

Borders loss widens dramatically, but beats Street

Ann Arbor, Mich. (May 27, 2009) Borders Group reported Tuesday that its loss widened significantly in its fiscal first quarter due to continued weak sales and more than \$70 million in after-tax charges.

Systemax relaunches CircuitCity.com

Port Washington, N.Y. (May 26, 2009) Online retailer Systemax has completed the acquisition of Circuit City's online business and relaunched CircuitCity.com.

Best Buy names CIO

Minneapolis (May 26, 2009) Best Buy Co. has appointed Neville Roberts to serve as its new CIO.

Forever 21 bids for 16 Gottschalks stores

Fresno, Calif. (May 26, 2009) Forever 21 has submitted a bid to take over 16 shuttered Gottschalks stores.

Consumer confidence jumps in May

New York City (May 26, 2009) Consumer confidence extended its rebound in May, soaring to the highest level since last September as shoppers see glimmers of hope for the economy.

Starbucks in Manhattan hit by small bomb

New York City (May 26, 2009) An early morning explosion, caused by a small bomb, destroyed a sidewalk bench and shattered windows in a Starbucks coffee shop.

Hibbett Sports Q1 profit up 16%

Birmingham, Ala. (May 26, 2009) Sporting-goods retailer Hibbett Sports said profit rose to \$10.9 million in its first quarter, up 16% compared with \$9.4 million last year.

Chili's enters Toronto market

Dallas (May 22, 2009) Brinker International announced the opening of the first Chili's Grill & Bar location in the greater Toronto area, marking Brinker's entry into the largest market in Canada.

Aeropostale Q1 profit jumps 81% on strong sales

New York City (May 22, 2009) Aeropostale Thursday said its first-quarter profit surged 81% to \$31.7 million, up from \$17.5 million a year ago.

Gap Q1 profit falls 14%

San Francisco (May 22, 2009) Gap Thursday said its first-quarter profit dropped 14%, hurt by lower sales amid the economic slowdown. The company's quarterly earnings, however, exceeded analysts' expectations.

Sears earns \$26M in Q1

Hoffman Estates, Ill. (May 22, 2009) Sears Holdings Corp. reversed a year-long loss and posted a profit of \$26 million for its first quarter as it strived to manage inventory in its stores.