


Jim Butler, above, came in first at the Men's North American Olympic Qualifier as the U.S. Men swept both spots from Canada, with Sean O'Neill taking the other spot. Lily Hugh came in first for the women, and teamed with Diana Gee to win the Women's Olympic Doubles spot for the U.S. The U.S. beat Canada 63-11 in head-to-head matches.


Lily Hugh
Diana Gee
Barcelona Spain
July 25-August 9

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## TABLE TENNIS TOPICS

 Official Magazine of the U.S. Table Tennis Association

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| President: |  |  |
| Dan Seemiller | 250 | $13.9 \%$ |
| Mel Eisner | 10 | $0.6 \%$ |
| Write-ins |  |  |
| Executive Vice President: | 1285 | $69.8 \%$ |
| George "Gus" Kennedy | 545 | $29.6 \%$ |
| Scott Preiss | 12 | $0.7 \%$ |
| Write-ins | 1373 | $76.1 \%$ |
| Vice President: | 416 | $23.1 \%$ |
| Terry Timmins | 15 | $0.8 \%$ |
| Andre Diaz |  |  |
| Write-ins | 577 | $96.7 \%$ |
| Secretary: | $3.3 \%$ |  |
| Donna Sakai (Unopposed) | 167 |  |
| Write-ins |  |  |

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Kae Browning
I am sure you will join me in congratulating our four Olympians, Jim Butler, Diana Gee, Lily Hugh and Sean O'Neill. Larry Hodges masterfully describes their hard-fought battles and those of the other qualifiers in this issue of Topics. Just read about their strategies and physical agility and you will improve your game! The U.S. was well represented at the North American Olympic Trials. Kudos to all the U.S. qualifiers.

Have you made plans yet to attend the Dow Chemical U.S. Open, June 10-14, in Midland, Michigan? This year's tournament presents a special opportunity to catch a glimpse of U.S. and foreign Olympians warming up for Barcelona. You can also try out your own table tennis prowess at the tables during the five-day table tennis extravaganza. Once again the Midland Community will weleome us with enthusiastic hospitality. Midland is home to the sixth largest chemical company in the world-Dow Chemical. Dow increased its sponsorship this year to become title sponsor and a major underwriter of tournament expenses.

Stiga renewed its table tennis sponsorship, providing table tennis equipment, buying commercial time to promote table tennis television programming and assisting in countless ways to help us conduct a first-class tournament. Stiga's parent company in the U.S. is Indian Industries. Indian also manufactures tables such as Harvard and Ping Pong brands. The USTTA is delighted to continue its partnership with a major "player" in the table tennis industry.

Tournament Associate Sponsor, Northwest Airlines, offers service to 135 cities in 41 states, making it possible to provide much needed relief to the tournament's travel budget.

Of course, Brother International Corporation is ever present behind the scenes at all USTTA tournaments. Brother's sponsorship of the U.S. National Team and the Resident Training Program is the mainstay of USTTA elite athlete development.

Finally, I am pleased to recognize Butterfly, Newgy Industries, Sitco and Stiga for sponsoring a publicist to promote table tennis this Olympic year. To support this program, these manufacturers cast aside their competitive energies to help develop the sport for the benefit of all. With this kind of visionary thinking, table tennis will grow at the grassroots level.

## 1992 UNITED STATES PARALYMPICS TABLE TENNIS TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This summer, the IX Paralympic Games for the Disabled will be held in Barcelona, Spain, from August 28 to September 17, 1992. immediately following the Summer Olympic Games. Congratulations to the following players who qualified to represent the U.S.: Skip Wilkins, Sebastian DeFrancesco, Jerry Davila, Ken Brooks, Gary Blanks, James Williams, Mike LoRusso, John Gray. Chuck Focht, Robert Kocur, Mike Dempsey, Andre Scott Anderson, Jennifer Johnson, Therese Terranova, Jackie DiLorenzo, Ruth Rosenbaum, Diana Richardson, Mitch Seidenfeld, Liang Kok Liung, Edgar Soto, Norman Haase, and Marcy

## RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR

## by Larry Hodges

A little problem seems to be developing in that 2nd class mail, which Topics is sen under, is rather unpredictable. Everyone in the country seems to have received the Jan/Feb Topics within a week after its mailing, but the Mar/Apr was far less timely. It went out on Thursday, March 5, and Marylanders received it within two days. Most of the east coast got it by March 11, but the pony express must have stopped to graze on the way out west. California received it about March 17, and Wyoming got theirs almost a week later. Albuquerque NM seems to have really gotten it late.

This May/June issue should have been sent out by April 30. I'd like to have sent it out even earlier, but I wanted to include the Louisiana Open. Otherwise, the following issue would have that, as well as the U.S. Open, North American Championships, College Nationals, College Teams, Hall of Fame Open, Potomac Open, and who knows what else. There wouldn't be room for the ratings

The response to the Topics survey in the last issue has been lukewarm, but more are coming in every day. I'll be publishing complete results in the next issue.

How did I, who was originally elected vice president, become Topics Editor? Last June the position opened up, and I was asked informally if I would take it over. It was a tough decision, but I had to turn it down because, to do so, I would have to resign my EC position-the USTTA bylaws make that clear. I was involved in a number of grass roots programs which I couldn't really run as editor:

That fall, the position opened up again, and I was informally offered the position again. I was also told I'd be made National Coaching Chairman as well, which would enable me to continue to run the programs I was involved in This time I accepted. I was also able to give input as to who my replacement would be Anyway, Roy Dickson of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, my first choice, was approved unanimously by the EC to take my place.

Roy is a retired businessman, something we desperately need on the EC. He is a strong junior advocate, and a computer expert as well, When he retired at age 53 , over 1,000 employees were reporting to him. (Let's see, that's 992 more employees than the USTTA has!) Roy now runs a consulting business in his spare time. I'm sure he will do an excellent job as vice president. Welcome aboard, Roy!

Monasterial. Head coach will be Christian Lillieroes. Staff coaches are Chris Lehman, Scott Preiss, Pei-Zhen Shao \& Rong Li.

Unfortunately, the athletes have no spon sors of any kind. The team members, therefore, must raise the necessary funds to cover the enormous expenses for domestic and inter national air travel, housing, meals, training camp, uniforms, equipment, insurance, etc. And this effort must be done in a hurry. It is estimated that $\$ 40,000$ will be needed to finance the trip. We would deeply appreciate any contribution you could make on their behalf. Send your tax deductable contributions to the USTTA, 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909 . Checks should be payable to USTTA/Paralympic Fund.

## Dear Topics,

I fully agree with Partridge's comments on the recent U.S. Closed Men's Singles final, printed in the last issue of Topics. We can all sympathize with the players not wanting Expedite in this match, but the basic principle is that all of the laws must be enforced all of the time; anything else will eventually cause far more unfairness than strict enforcement would.

Every umpire encounters one of these situations from time to time-the good umpires always enforce the laws. Which is exactly what happened in this case.

## Sincerely,

Mal Anderson
Chairman, USTTA Rules Committee Secretary, ITTF Rules Committee

## KENNEDY'S KORNER

by George "Gus" Kennedy Executive Vice President

The USTTA voted at its March 1992 meeting in Colorado Springs to propose four significant changes to the ITTF
ELIMINATE THE PADDLE POINT RULE

I believe it was in the late 30 's or $40^{\prime}$ 's that, due to a request by the USTTA, the paddle point was made a rule. This, in effect, said that if the ball hit your paddle even after it had passed the end line, you lost the point. I can remember several important nationalevents that were decided on this rule. I have been sitting next to spectators who ask, "Why is there such a strange rule in effect? Don't they realize that there was no way for the ball to hit the table?" I tried to describe that it was initially introduced to keep a chiseller from holding his hard bat right at the end of the table. At the USTTA meeting, it was pointed out that a television audience wants rules that make sense. The time has passed when the paddle point rule has much benefit.
TABLE SHOULD HAVE A KNOWN FRICTION

For many years the playing surface was a "stained wood surface." It has only been in the last few years that manufacturers have shifted to a hard plastic surface. The reasons for this are to minimize the damage during the transport and use. The problem is that when a surface is made "hard" by using plastic or epoxy-like materials, these materials typically produce a shiny and smooth surface. Such surfaces allow a ball to skid as opposed to bouncing properly. The USTTA believes the game is "better" when the ball bounces as opposed to skidding, and as such believes it benefits play when a known frictional value is used. This will require including in the coating recipe some sort of grit to replicate the

## EAGUE REPORT

## by Cody Jones

## National League Director

In the year 2002, Swedes, Chinese, and Europeans could be coming to train in the United States! We could be the new King of the Hill in table tennis. USTTA membership could be 70,000 instead of 7,000 . Clubs could have so much money, they wouldn't know how to spend it!

What is the magic key to this transformation? According to President Dan Seemiller, Europe is generally in that position already. What is their secret? Dan says one of the major differences is that the U.S. focuses on tournaments, whereas Europe focuses on leagues.

Leagues get results because they are fun. Players that lie dormant, come out of the woodwork and become active for the sake of the team and their friends. After bad tournaments, discouraged players may feel like quitting. In a league, their teammates won't let them! With team play, people care about you, coach you, and root for you. It is no accident that the U.S. Open Team Championships is the most popular players' tournament.

Leagues create money for players and clubs. Individual teams recruit local sponsors and celebrate their successes in local papers, receiving recognition and free publicity. And the league director gets a share of the profits.

ARE YOU A VISIONARY? Would you like to be a catalyst for table tennis leagues in your own backyard? If so, I want to hear from you. For the U.S. to become a mecca for table tennis, we need club, state and regional league directors.

TO REGISTER YOUR LEAGUE in the forthcoming NATIONAL LEAGUE DIRECTORY, send details to Cody Jones, National League Director, 3050 Union Lake Rd. \#8H, Commerce Twp, MI 48382. To discuss your ideas, call me at (313) 360-5901 or fax to (313) 360-6334.
friction of stained wood. Hopefully, there could be a "simple" test used by the referee before a tournament. In fact, I request your help in finding a simple device or test. Please send me your suggestions. I will pass them on and can assure you they will be greatly appreciated.
TEAM EVENTS IN OLYMPIC GAMES
In the last issue I mentioned that the ITTF was trying to add team events to the program of the Olympic Games. I mentioned that reports of discussions between the ITTF and IOC, stated a maximum limit of twelve teams could play. There also was discussion that in order to make this number firm it may be required to eliminate the doubles event. The USTTA believes that the 64 men and women who compete in doubles allows a broader number of athletes to compete than if only 12 teams competed. For this reason we are asking the Olympic Commission to not eliminate the doubles.
ELIMINATE HIDING THE BALL FROM RECEIVER DURING SERVE

Many players at present use a deceptive service by hiding the ball from view, typically at the moment of impact. Such hiding occurs behind the free hand, arm or elbow. Granted these motions take long hours to perfect, bu the game is not improved because of the deception employed. The service is the most complex part of table tennis, and the tasks imposed on the umpire to verify correctness are considerable. Why should the USTTA add to these tasks by requiring the receiver to be able to see the ball during the service? Some people might ask how you can be certain that the ball is observable by the receiver. The answer is that this can be determined by the umpire and/or assistant umpire as easily as most of the other tasks presently imposed. By eliminating the hidden service, the rallies should be slightly longer.

These actions are just being proposed to the ITTF. They may be defeated, but at least they will be given a fair hearing

AMERICAN ALLSTAR SERIES
Current Standings, April 13, 1992
Tournaments included:
Chinese New Year Open

## Louisiana Open

## Men's Division:

| 1. | Jim Butler | 16 |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 2. | Sean O'Neill | 13 |
| 3. | Cong De Tran | 11 |
| 4. | Todd Sweeris | 10 |
| 5. | Rocky Wang | 7 |
| 6-7. | Khoa Nguyen | 6 |
|  | Dan Seemilier | 6 |
| 8-12. | Randy Cehen | 5 |
|  | Derek May | 5 |
|  | Oscar Melvin | 5 |
|  | Dhiren Narotam | 5 |
|  | Loc Ngo | 5 |
| 13-27. | Eyal Adini | 3 |
|  | Ernie Byles | 3 |
|  | Roberto Byles | 3 |
|  | Chi-Sun Chui | 3 |
|  | Masaru Hashimoto | 3 |
|  | Sean Lonergan | 3 |
|  | Bob Lu | 3 |
|  | Attila Malek | 3 |
|  | Robert Mayer | 3 |
|  | Eric Owens | 3 |
|  | Brian Pace | 3 |
|  | Bernie Pietrak | 3 |
|  | David Sakai | 3 |
|  | Jason St. George | 3 |
|  | Voltaire Trillo | 3 |
|  |  |  |

## Women's Division:

| 1. | Peggy Rosen | 14 |
| :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 2. | Sally Dahlin | 12 |
| 3. | Insook Bhushan | 8 |
| 4. | Lily Hugh | 7 |
| 5-7. | Lan Vuong | 6 |
|  | Andrea Butler | 6 |
|  | Gwyn Jones | 6 |
| 8-10. | Sylvia Lee | 5 |
|  | Kristey Reed | 5 |
|  | Wan Ling Cheng | 5 |
|  |  |  |

May/June 1992

## GATIEN BLADE

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Jim Butler
\#1 Player
North American
Olympic Trials

# 1992 NORTH AMERICAN OLYMPIC QUALIFIER 

 U.S. Men Sweep Canada; Women Split, But Win Doubles

Olympians: Canada's Barbara Chen, and the U.S.'s Lily Hugh, Sean O'Neill, and Jim Butler. Diana Gee also qualified in doubles with Hugh. Next stop: Barcelona!
by Larry Hodges

Sleepless nights came to an end in the best possible way for the U.S. as the nightmare thought of a Joe Ng -Horatio Pintea Canadian sweep of the men's two spots was turned on its side with a U.S. sweep of its own by Jim Butler and 1988 Olympian Sean O'Neill (with considerable help from giant-killer Khoa Nguyen). On the other hand, a U.S. sweep of the women's two spots-Canada's night-mare-was swept aside by Canada's Barbara Chen, who upset top-seeded 11-time U.S. National Women's Champion (and 1988 Olympian) Insook Bhushan to finish second behind the U.S.'s Lily Hugh.

The format for the tournament was a complete round robin of twelve men and twelve women-six from each country. The U.S. players qualified at the U.S. Olympic Trials at the Nationals in Las Vegas in December. To avoid the possibility of players throwing matches to help teammates, matches were scheduled so
that players from the same country played first, i.e. U.S. players played the five matches against their teammates before playing the six Canadians. When all the dust was cleared, only two men and two women would qualify for the Olympics in singles. (Some might still go as double partners-more on that later.)

The tournament ran smoothly and on time throughout, with each player playing eleven matches, all three out of five, over three days. All matches were played on four blue San-Ei tables. Donna Sakai and Bob Fox did the scheduling and ran the desk, with Larry Rose doing the computer work. Chief Referee Erich Haring did an excellent job, as did co-referee Mike Skinner. Every match was umpired by a highly qualified staff of U.S. and Canadian umpires. Walt Gomes did an excellent job of putting all results on the nationwide computer network Prodigy, so players (and non-players) throughout the country re-


Sean O'Neill, signing autographs. Big fellow in the back left can't quite get up the nerve.
6 Table Tennis Topics

U.S. Players and coaches, L to R from front: Trainer Houshang Bozorgzadeh, Diana Gee, Peggy Rosen, Dan Seemiller, Coach Zhi-Yong Wang, Lily Hugh, Li Ai, Insook Bhushan, Alice Kimble, RTP Director Tom Ngo, Jim Butler, Khoa Nguyen, Sean O'Neill, Dhiren Narotam, Coach Li Zhenshi, Hank Teekaveerakit.
ceived results of one round even before the next round began.

The day before the Qualifer began, all 24 players, plus coaches and staff, were treated to lunch at Dublin House, a local sports restaurant. Next, a press conference was held, with each player being identified for the press, and each of the top seeds brought to the podium for questions. Bob Tretheway and USTTA Media Intern Earl Hall did an excellent job in working with the media, which resulted in a number of articles on the tournament throughout the country, including several excellent feature stories in local papers.

Two things stood out more than anything else in this tournament. The first was the great number of comebacks. No lead was safe as ten-point leads were swept aside as ping pong balls in the wind.

The second thing that stood out was the unity and dominance of the U.S. team. When the U.S./Canadian matches were being played, the whole U.S. team would be in attendance, cheering each other on. This is a far cry from some of the fierce rivalries and infighting between players that once plagued our teams. This, more than anything else, led to the drubbing that took place in the U.S./Canadian matches. For the record, the U.S. beat Canada 63-11 in head-to-head matches (including two doubles matches, to be explained later), with the men winning 31-5, the women 30-6. All 11 Canadian wins were by their top two men or women, with the bottom four Canadians, both men and women, not winning a match against the U.S. (For Canada, Barbara Chen won five, Julie Barton one, Joe Ng three, and Horatio Pintea two.) Four U.S. players went $6-0$ against Canada-Jim Butler, Sean O'Neill, Khoa Nguyen, and Lily Hugh-and all twelve U.S. players had winning records against Canada. Only Barbara Chen of the Canadians had a winning record against the U.S. Congratulations are in order for U.S. Coaches Li Zhenshi, Zhang Li and Zhi-Yong Wang.

Congratulations are also in order for the U.S. Team's practice partners, Cheng Ying Hua and Darko Rop, who were both hired to train with the team for the last
three weeks before the trials. 2763-rated Cheng is almost for certain the best practice partner in this hemisphere, if not the world. And the 2642 -rated Darko Rop is no slouch, either-and he's lefthanded, which gave the U.S. men lots of practice for the Canadian \#1, lefthanded Joe Ng. The players had nothing but good things to say about these two.

Canada did have problems with the thin air of Colorado Springs, which has an altitude of about 6,000 feet, over a mile. This affects play in several ways: first, with less air resistance, the ball travels faster, and spin doesn't die as quickly; and second, it leaves players not used to it out of breath. Most of the U.S. team had trained in Colorado Springs for anywhere from three weeks to two years, and were used to it. Most of the Canadians (including Joe Ng and Horatio Pintea) had come in three days in advance.
"Everything I've practiced for the last six months was wasted in this air," Horatio said. "I had to play completely different."

Added Joe, "I can't even loop a push here."

How much affect did the air actually have? Obviously quite a bit, both actual and psychological, but some players proved quite able to overcome it. Canada's Barbara Chen came in only two days before the tournament, and beat top-seed Insook Bhushan 3-0 despite the fact that Insook lives at this altitude, in nearby Denver, and had no adjustment to make. And Khoa Nguyen, who came in the same day as the Canadians, went on to beat all six Canadians, including Joe Ng and Horatio Pintea. So yes, the air had its affects, but they were not terminal nor predictable.

Unlike most tournaments, where the big matches predictably start around the quarters, this was a tournament that had 134 matches, and 134 of them were big matches. Since it would take several issues of Topics to cover all this, we'll just have to skip around, and pick out the biggest of the big matches, with apologies to those athletes who trained so hard but didn't get as much coverage.

So now let us move to Thursday, March 18 , at $9: 00 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$., when it all began.


The moment of victory, as 800 fans cheer Jim Butler.

## MEN'S COMPETITION

## Round One

Dan Seemiller was seeded first coming into these trials, based on his first place finish at the U.S. Olympic trials at the Nationals. He'd come out of a threeway tie there with Jim Butler and Sean O'Neill to come in first, care of his win over Butler. However, he was the first U.S. player to start to fall through the cracks in his first round match with Dhiren Narotam.

Dhiren, of course, has been training at the Olympic Training Center since 1985, and so knows the place like a second (or first?) home. Dan had no trouble with Dhiren the first game, winning 21-13. In the second, Dan is running away again. But Dan seems bothered by a photographer on the sidelines, lets it bother him, and when Dhiren loops-kills in a few serves, it's deuce. They battle to $22-22$, where Dan blocks Dhiren out of position, forces a weak ball-and misses the smash! Dhiren wins the game 24-22 to tie up the match.

In the third, Danny can't block at all, and Dhiren goes loop happy, winning 219. In the fourth, Dhiren goes up 8-0, then 12-5. After missing an easy backhand, Dan exclaims, "You're such a...one little thing bothers you, and you fall apart."

Dan gradually makes it a little closer, down 15-10, 17-13, and finally serving from down 19-16-where he then gets four in a row to go up 20-19! But then Dhiren wins a point lobbing to deuce it. But when Dhiren loops a serve off the end, and then pushes in the net, it's all tied up again, and into the fifth.

But after Dan wins the first point, the fifth is all Dhiren, as he gets eight in a row, and soon wins 21-8, to the cheers of cheerleader and father Champak Narotam, who flew in for the tournament. Match to Dhiren, (-13,22,9,-20,8)

The other two matches played this round were Sean's routine $(10,12,18)$ win over Khoa Nguyen, and Jim Butler's (13,14,-18,14) win over Hank Teekaveerakit.

## Round Two

In the second round, the biggest U.S.U.S. match takes place, Jim Butler vs. Sean O'Neill. Sean, who beat Jim to win this year's Nationals, had said he'd trade two Nationals for one Olympics.

Sean starts out dominating, taking a

20-14 lead in the first. 1-0 in games for Sean. NOT! O'Neill, who is probably the best in the U.S. at holding a lead, fell to Butler, who is probably the best in the U.S. at coming from behind. Worse, Sean was serving at $20-15$. However, no problem, Sean immediately gets another game point after counterlooping Jim down, 2120. But Jim loops in Sean's serve as Sean misses a counterloop on his racket edge. And then, down 21-22, Sean misses another counterloop on his racket edge, this time against Jim's backhand loop. First game to Butler, 23-21.

But O'Neill dominates the second game as he had dominated (most) of the first, winning 21-14.

There seem to be two Seans playing this match. One Sean takes his time, rallying until Jim misses. But at any time, the second Sean steps in, and takes the most incredible shots. There seems no in-between-but most of Sean \#2's shots seem to hit.

However, after battling to $7-7$ in the third game, Jim pulls off five in a row to go up 12-7. He holds the lead to go up 1713. Here, Sean loops a net/edge, but Jim makes a great return-only to have Sean loop a winner. Sean then pulls to 18 -all, then falls behind 19-20. But Sean pulls off a nice down-the-line block, forcing a Butler miss, to deuce it. But a moment later, after Jim loops in a winner to go up 22-21, Sean misses a big counterloop attempt, and Jim's up 2-1 in games.

Sean goes up 4-1 in the fourth, and holds it to lead 14-10. Then Butler pulls to 15-15, and goes up 20-16 match point in this 10-2 run. And Jim, serving at the end, wins easily. NOT! Jim misses a backhand tolead 20-17. Then Sean, swinging fearlessly, loops two winners in a row, including a nice counterloop at 20-18, to pull to 20-19. The crowd is silent as Jim prepares to serve. The rally begins, Jim loops medium speed, Sean prepares to counterloop-and the ball hits the net, stops, makes a quick decision, and dribbles over. Sean can only stare as the match ends on that note-reminiscent of his own win over Butler one year before at deuce in the fifth on a paddle point. Butler wins, (21,-14,21,19).

When asked about the match, Jim would only cite "The O'Neill Rule"which he won't explain except to tell me
to go read "The Jordan Rule." As opponents of the Chicago Bulls play to keep the ball away from Michael Jordan to force the Bulls to win with their other players, Butler is referring to his game plan of keeping the ball away from Sean's forehand, and making Sean win with other shots. This leaves the Bulls and Sean with the option of having Jordan force the shots-and Sean force the forehandwhich can be erratic, or let other players/ shots take over.

Of course, Sean is so fast on his feet that he often uses a strategy of letting Butler loop, and going for the counterloop, often pretty successfully. Warning: Usage of this strategy is dangerous to your rating, and should only be attempted by an expert, or by those who are willing to risk all to become one.

Danny Seemiller continued his tribulations this round, winning the first game against Khoa Nguyen 21-14 (almost the same score as the first game in his loss to Narotam), and then gets clobbered three straight games to a red-hot Khoa, ($14,10,15,18)$. Dhiren's hopes drop as he loses to Hank, $(16,-17,19,12)$.

## Round Three:

A rather boring round, with Sean beating Dhiren $(11,15,16)$, Jim beating Khoa, (15,20,18) (Down 18-16 in the third, Jim gets five straight), and Hank beating Danny, $(11,14,18)$. Top-seeded Seemiller is now 0-3, while Butler is now 3-0.

## Round Four:

When winless Seemiller went up against the undefeated Butler this round, it should have been a sure thing, despite Dan's beating Jim the last time out. Jim was playing too well, and Danny was, well, off. Sure enough, Jim won the first 21-10. At the end, Dan, unable to score, swatted the last few balls off in irritation. "The ball comes so fast in this air I can't cover the table with my forehand. I have to play more backhand, more defense."

In the second, unable to attack, Dan falls back on pushing and blocking, knowing it's already over. Jim, apparently agreeing, also seems unable to attackonly he keeps attacking, missing everything. Frankly, it looked like neither was really in this game. Up 13-6, Dan holds on to win 21-18. Jim, who quite obviously had let up this game, is unhappy with himself.

But nothing changes in the third. Dan sticks to his push and block game, even chopping when out of position, occasionally looping a winner. But mostly he justs moves the ball around, letting Jim miss. And miss he does! From up 10-6, Jim loses nine in a row, and Danny wins 2113. Toward the end, tasting a possible victory, Danny's beginning to get a little more aggressive, looping more, but still mostly keeping the ball in play.

Jim raises his level a play a little in the fourth, at least enough to win-but only if Dan sticks to his passive game. But passive no more, now mixing attack and defense at his best, Danny's suddenly hot! After three games of pitter-patter, we've got a real match on our hands now.

Quite honestly, Jim plays well this game, except for a disturbing tendency to miss smashes, both backhand and forehand. But Dan's unstoppable now. When they get into countering rallies, which favor Jim, Danny chops his backhand, and too often Jim pushes the ball back to Dan's forehand-and Dan loops. On one rally, Jim backhand smashes five in a row, and Dan loops them all back, finally win-
ning the point.
Jim pulls to within two, down 16-14, then gets an edge, 16-15. But Dan takes over, and Jim has his first loss, and Danny his first win, 21-16, (-10,18,14,16). Jim is mad at himself-he let up, and now his chances of making the Olympics are endangered. He's 3-1, but so is Sean-and worse, Joe Ng and Horatio Pintea of Canada are both 4-0. Only two will make it to Barcelona, at least in singles.

Sean very quickly goes through Hank, $(13,18,10)$, while Khoa and Dhiren have a rather wild match. In the first, Dhiren wins five in a row from down 19-16 to win. They split the next two games (with Dhiren almost blowing a 13-1 lead), then Dhiren is three points away from winning, leading 18-11 in the fourth. But a moment later it's 19-all, and Khoa wins 22-20 when Dhiren misses a loop off the bounce. In the fifth, Khoa goes up 10-5, then Dhiren ties it up at 14-14 -then loses seven in a row. Match to Khoa, (-19,14,$18,20,14$ ).

## Round Five

All three matches were three straight, with Sean beating Danny, $(15,19,15)$, Jim beating Dhiren, $(12,16,13)$, and Hank beating Khoa, $(15,19,9)$.

The U.S. Men have now all played each other, and from here on, they'll be playing the Canadians. The U.S. records are: Jim Butler 4-1, Sean O'Neill 4-1, Hank Teekaveerakit 3-2, Khoa Nguyen 23, Dhiren Narotam 1-4, and Danny Seemiller 1-4. Narotam and Seemiller are essentially eliminated, while Nguyen is almost out. Except for his loss to Butler, Sean has yet to lose a game.

## Canadian Men:

It became evident from the start that, except for Joe Ng and Horatio Pintea, the Canadian men were no match for most of the U.S. players. Alain Bourbonnais hadn't been training seriously for several years, and his results were not nearly as good as they would have been a few years ago when he competed closely with anyone in North America. Francis Trudel, Canada's top up-and-coming player, showed brilliance at times, but was not quite there yet-but he did beat Bourbonnais 3-0. The last two Canadians, Come-Vincent Bernier and Bao Nguyen, were both good, but 2400 -good, while the U.S. players were all 2550 -good or better, and the Canadian \#5 \& 6 only won four games in their twelve matches against the U.S.-two of them when Nguyen won the first two against Narotam, only to have Dhiren win the last three.

The big Canadian match, the one everyone was waiting for, was between Joe Ng and Horatio Pintea. Both players were 4-0 going into the match (Joe hadn't even lost a game, had not even allowed a player past 17), and it was obvious that no other Canadians would be competing for the Olympic spots.

Going into the match, the higher rated Ng looked too soft, too erratic. Horatio, on the other hand, was attacking viciously, and many remembered his performance at the U.S. Team Championships last November, where he'd gone undefeated until his last match, and then gone 19-in-the-3rd against 2750+ Cheng Ying Hua in the match of the tournament. If he played like that, Joe would have no chance.

But Joe won the first 21-15 in a rather sloppily played game, with many misses and very short rallies. Horatio would have to be more consistent to win.

In the second, Horatio ("Hori") turns


Jim Butler's known for his backhand, but it is his improved forehand that's made him the top-rated U.S. player and an Olympian. Only Dan Seemiller, in background, would get a match off Butler this tournament as Butler built up a 10-1 match record.
on the attack, getting more and more aggressive - and the shots hit. Joe, surely the best lobber in North America, suddenly is lobbing point after point. Only here Joe had a noticeable problem with the thin Colorado air-his lobs all went long.

Lobbing is a very precise control shot, and Joe had many years of training to lob the ball so it would hit the table near the endline. (Anything shorter, of course, would be smother-killed by players at this level.) However, here, each ball seemed to go to a spot that seemed to be marked about one foot off the end of the table. Over and over Joe lobbed to that spot, and over and over he lost points.

Joe actually led much of the second game, more on Hori's misses than his own shots, but got intotoo much lobbing trouble at the end, and lost, 21-19. Joe's shaking his head and looking at this racket, as if to say, "That can't be right! That lob should have hit!"

In the third, Joe is rarely within armslength of the table, playing more like an outfielder for the hard-hit Baltimore Orioles baseball team. Hori slugs it past him, 21-15.

In the fourth, as if sense finally knocked him on the head, Joe takes a 9-0 lead by not lobbing once. The game is over-and then it's back to hobnobbing with those barriers for Joe, and suddenly it's not over. 14-all, with Joe lobbing every point.

But then, Joe finds his touch. Sud-
denly that chalk mark one foot past the endline where he' $d$ been lobbing off moves back to the table, and suddenly Joe's lobs hit, and Hori starts having trouble with them. Sometimes Joe counterloops to get back into the point. Hori continues to play aggressively, and plays very well, but Joe out-consistencies him and picks his shots to a $21-16$ win.

Hori comes out strong in the fifth, taking a 9-4 lead. But Joe, who yells "Choe!" everytime he scores in the fifth game, pulls to $10-9$ at the switch. But Horatio goes up 15-12.

Perhaps it's Joe's international experience, or perhaps he just got hot-or perhaps Hori just choked-but Joe now scores seven in a row to go up 19-15, and then goes up 20-16 and to all but win the match. Only Joe has one last fling with the barriers, seeming to almost race to them now, when victory is so close.

He misses two lobs, but still leads 20 18. A great point follows, with Joe lobbing over and over, and finally counter-looping-only to have Horatio counterloop a winner! Joe's lead is now 20-19.

It's another great point, and this time Joe refuses to lob. They counterloop one, two, three-and then Hori loops off, and falls to the floor, losing the match, $(15,-$ 19,-15,16,19). "Choe!" Joe cries for the 21st time this game, with his record now a perfect 5-0, still the best in the tournament among men. Hori falls to 4-1, tied with Jim and Sean. Trudel is 3-2, Bourbonnais 2-3, Bernier 1-4, and Bao

Nguyen 0-5
Later, Joe would say of the match with Horatio, "I didn't really want to lob so much. But he was playing so aggressive, I'd take a step back to make the return, then he'd really blast the ball, and I'd have to lob. The air made my lobs go long over and over, so I couldn't win many points that way."
U.S. Versus Canada:

## Round Six

The first two U.S./Canada matches are between Khoa Nguyen and Francis Trudel, and Hank Teekaveerakit and Alain Bourbonnais. Things didn't start well for the U.S., but that turned around quickly.

Francis won the first two games against Khoa, only to have Khoa win the next three very easily, $(-20,-18,13,15,15)$ in the first of Khoa's three 5-game matches, of which he would win all. Hank also lost the first game against Alain, only to win the last three as well, $(-18,22,17,13)$.

Two other matches were of interest. Dan Seemiller, with a record of 1-4, was now playing for the U.S. Team, knowing that his chances of finishing in the top two were nil. However, he could help the U.S. by taking out a Canadian or two, such as Joe Ng.

Dan came out hot, and takes a 15-11 lead, with two great smashes against Joe Ng loops. But then he gets careless, seems to block with the anti side of his racket too much, and Joe catches up, 15all. But then, on Joe's serve, Dan takes four of five, to serve with a 19-16 lead.

But Joe keeps looping consistently, and pulls to 19-all. Joe loop-kills Dan's serve to go up 20-19. Dan serves and goes for it with a loop-kill, but it's just off, and the game and the match is really over. Dan just can't get anything going again, and Joe wins, $(19,12,11)$.

Horatio is making short work of Dhiren, winning the first two games at 13 and 16 . However, Dhiren's not one to give up, and after almost blowing a 19-15 lead, wins the third, 24-22. In the fourth, Dhiren is down 10-6, then gets six in a row to lead 12-10. Then Horatio gets five in a row to lead 15-12. They go back and forth all they way like this, with Dhiren running all over the court to loop, and Horatio trying to loop them off the bounce with erratic success. But Horatio gets the last loop in, winning 21-19, ( $13,16,-22,19$ ), to the displeasure of the U.S. team, who were rooting Dhiren on in force. Horatio's really in the hot spot now, with one loss already, and six U.S. players (now five) all waiting for him. The depth of the U.S. team is now being applied, but so far the Canadian's haven't broken. Meanwhile, while the Canadian top two were fighting, the U.S. top two, Sean and Jim, were coasting 3-0 in their matches, Sean clobbering Come-Vincent, $(12,7,7)$ and Jim having a closer $(18,19,7)$ win over Bao.

## Round Seven

Jim and Sean again make mincemeat in their matches, Jim over Come-Vincent Bernier, $(16,9,12)$ and Sean over Bao Nguyen, $(15,9,11)$. Hank again loses the first game, only to win the next three against Francis Trudel, $(-16,13,14,11)$. Khoa continues his winning ways easily over Alain Bourbonnais, $(13,16,12)$.

Joe Ng wins the first game against Dhiren, but Dhiren takes a 19-15 second game lead. Dhiren serves up 19-16, but can't hold it. At 21-all, they have a great counterlooping rally, with Joe spinning Dhiren's loops back soft, until Dhiren misses. When Dhiren loops off the end,

## Joe is up 2-0.

But Dhiren continues to counterloop, and pulls out the third, 21-19. "If only he hadn't blown that second game!" his father grumbles. But it's too late, and Joe pulls to a quick 10-5 lead in the fourth, and wins the match, $(15,20,-17,12)$.

Horatio is in even more trouble with Dan Seemiller. Said Dan before the match, "I didn't have any confidence against Joe since I usually lose to him. But against Horatio, I'm confident because I've beaten him a number of times. This is the match I've been waiting for."

In the first, Horatio is leading 18-17, and then Dan misses three loops in a row to lose. However, Dan takes a quick 7-3 lead in the second. He keeps building the lead up, to 13-7, 15-10, 21-13.

Dan seems to be following a service pattern, either knowingly or not, where he serves five times in a row backhand, then five times in a row forehand. It seems to work.

In the third, Horatio is serving, down 19-16. But he loops a winner, and then Dan pushes into the net to make it 19-18. But Dan holds on and wins, 21-19.

In the fourth, Hori battles to an 18-16 lead. Hori then loop-kills a beauty-but Danny backhand snap-blocks in a winner! Dan is now serving, down 17-18. A Seemiller loop makes it 18-all. Hori scores two in a row to go up 20-18. Dan serves long, Hori goes for it-but whiffs! 20-19. Dan then serves, Hori pushes long, and Danny goes for it-into the net. Game to Horatio, on to the fifth.

At this point, 37-year-old Dan looks tired. He's still moving well, but how long can he keep it up? At 6-6, Hori loops off, but it hits Dan's paddle, paddle point, and Hori goes up 7-6. Horatio takes the attack, but Dan blocks him down often, and mixes in his own attack at every chance. But Dan doesn't seem to have the power he had earlier in the match, and Horatio blocks most of his loops back.

Up 12-11, Dan falls behind 13-16, then 14-17. Hori is looping over and over to Dan's weaker forehand block, and it's paying off. They battle to $19-16$, Horatio leading and serving. They split a pair of points to 20-17-and then Horatio ends it with an irretrievable edge. As several U.S. supporters lament, take away the edge and the paddle point earlier, and it's 19-all.

When asked after the match whether fatigue had been a factor in the match in the thin Colorado air, Horatio agreed, but said, "That's what you train for." He said he had been doing a lot of running, and it kept him at full strength the fifth game.

## Round Eight

Again, the top U.S. seeds had an easy time, with Jim Butler beating Alain Bourbonnais $(7,19,11)$, and Sean O'Neill defeating Francis Trudel $(13,20,10)$. This was also the round where Dhiren Narotam, down 2-0 to Bao Nguyen, wins three straight $(-19,-18,13,17,18)$ to keep the U.S. undefeated against all but the Canadian top two. Danny Seemiller went through Come-Vincent Bernier easily as well, $(14,14,11)$.

This was also the round where the U.S. made its big breakthrough, and marked the beginning of the end for Canada. It started with Khoa Nguyen versus Joe Ng .

It was thought it would be just a matter of time before the top Canadians began to lose matches to the U.S. depth, and so it happened. In the first game,

Khoa pulls away to an 18-14 lead with great topspin rallies. Khoa, when he loops, goes for winners, while Joe is mixing in blocks and consistent, but not overpowering loops.

In the second, down 5-6, Joe gets five in a row to lead 10-6. But Khoa keeps taking his shots, and pulls to 13-12, then down 15-12 when he misses an easy smash. Joe goes up 18-14, on the verge of win-ning-but Khoa makes a spectacular backhand kill to make it 18-15, then ties it up 18 -all, with Joe serving. Joe can't seem to follow up his serve with an attack, and Khoa keeps taking the attack, and wins 21-19.

At this point, everyone's watching this match (the U.S. team is screaming every point.) Buteven up 2-0, many think Joe is just too good, he'll come back. The thinking is that Khoa might be able to stay with Joe, but at any time Joe might start pulling away

In the third, Joe goes up 7-1, then it tightens to 8-7. Joe is starting to go for more winning shots now-consistency just isn't working against the red-hot Khoa. As Joe gets more aggressive, Khoa begins to block more-but his blocking is excellent, and over and over he picks a shot to loop back a winner.

Up 18-17, Joe counterloops off the bounce, 19-17. Then, controversy.

Khoa pushes a ball from, according to just about everyone watching (including this writer) over the table. But the umpire calls it a side! Someone tells me the umpire agreed Khoa hit the ball from over the table-but that it sidespun back. That's one heck of a sidespin push! Anyway, the point stands as Joe's, and he's up 20-17. When Khoa blocks off, Joe's won his first game, 21-17. U.S. Coach Li Zhenshi is furious, which is rather rare. But it's to no avail.

In the fourth, the U.S. team really takes the frustration out on Joe, screaming for Khoa every point. Khoa takes a 4-1 lead, and holds it 14-10, where Joe makes a fantastic backhand kill, 14-11. Joe pulls to 15-14, but Khoa smashes the ball past him when Joe tries to lob, 16-14 Khoa. Down 15-19, Joe lobs Khoa down, to the groans of spectators and crowd alike. (Jim Butler, who's fighting with Joe for one of the two Olympics spots, grabs his head in his hands.) But Joe follows that by looping into the net. Khoa hits a backhand into the net, and it's 20-17.

Khoa attacks, and Joe's back at the barriers. Khoa smashes, Joe lobs. Khoa smashes again, Joe lobs it back again. Khoa smashes a third, and then a fourth, but each ball comes back, high, deep and topspinning. On the next one, Khoa gets caught by the ball's jump, almost stumbles, but still makes the kill, but not as hard as the other ones. Joe lobs it back, but this time the ball goes short. Khoa clobbers this one, and Joe races after it. He leaps, throws the ball back, his highest lob of all. All the way to the ceiling this one goes, then down it comes, as everyone watches-and just off, no more than an inch or so! The ice has been broken as Khoa wins, (16,19,-17,17). 1988 Olympian Joe Ng has suffered his first loss.

Said Khoa of the match, "Joe can only loop one ball hard. I can block that one back, and then pick a weaker one to counterloop."

Next out is Hank versus Horatio, another case of U.S. depth going after Canada. In the first game, Hank's loops keep hitting, and Horatio's miss. 21-13


Sean O'Neill overcame an early loss to Jim Butler to finish 10-1 with an incredible 31-3 game record. He won his last nine matches all 30, and went 30-0 against all players other than Butler! This will be Sean's second Olympics.

Hank.
In the second, Hank's really going for his shots, looping pushes like there's no second chance. But they start to miss, and Horatio, down 7-3, goes up 14-10.
"He's going for too much," Jim Butler says. "Just spin the ball!" But Hank misses a few more loop-kills against pushes, and loses the game 21-16.

In the third, Hank is down 17-16 with the serve. But Horatio loops the serve in, 18-16. Hori goes for it again, trying to flip-kill the serve, but misses, leads 18 17.

But now Horatio's serving, and he systematically serve and loops each time, including one nice point where Hank blocks over and over, but Horatio loops everything. Hank can't score, and Horatio wins the third 21-17.

The server completely dominates this match, getting four out of five over and over. In the fourth, down 9-6, Hank ties it $10-10$ on his serve. Horatio goes up 14-11 on his serve, then Hank ties it 15-15 on his serve. Then Hank "breaks" Hori's serve, winning three out of five with some nice blocks. Hank's serving, up 18-17, and he serve and loops to win 21-18, despite a nice lobbing point by Horatio at 19-18.

But Horatio quickly pulls away in the fifth, going up 7-1 with a net ball. Is it over? Considering how many comebacks there have been this tournament, no way. Hank quickly ties it up 8 -all on his own net ball. They have a great counterlooping point at 10 -all, but Hank finally missesthen scores three in a row. Up 16-14, Hank plays a great point, racing all over the court looping forehands as Horatio moves him, until Hank loops a winner, 17-14.

From here on, Horatio starts to press, going for every shot. But they miss, as Hank buiids up his lead, letting Hori make the mistakes. At 20-16 match point, Hank makes a great off-the-bounce quick \& heavy push to Horatio's wide forehand, catches him. and Hori misses. Match to Hank, (13,-16,-17,18,16). Now both top

## Canadians have losses.

How did Hank win? Hank said he credits all the support from his girlfriend Nancy, his coaches Li Zhenshi and Zhang Li , who really helped him out tactically, his practice partner and "manager" Carlos Ko, Dr. Kevin for massages, Rocky Wang for practicing with him back home, Peggy \& Walt Rosen for moral support, and me for agreeing to put all this in the article. He also said he varied his serves greatly, using short side/top serves to the forehand and short backspins to the backhand.

There was an interesting side note to this match. While it was being played, Jim Butler and Khoa Nguyen were up in the stands, watching and discussing strategy. I was listening in, throwing in comments now and then. Both Jim and Khoa would be playing Horatio later, and they pretty much analyzed his game, and worked out how they would play him, including what serves to use, etc.

As soon as the match was over, Paul Normandin, one of the Canadian coaches, walked over and turned off the video camera that was sitting right next to Jim and Khoa. Jim's eyes grew wide, and he asked, "Was that thing on?"
"Yes," Paul said.
"Was the audio on?" Jim asked.
"Of course."
Jim and Khoa looked at each other, grimacing. They never did find out if Horatio ever got to listen to the video.

## Round Nine

Most of the matches this round were routine. Jim Butler defeats Francis Trudel $(8,20,18)$, Sean O'Neill defeats Alain Bourbonnais ( $17,16,14$ ), Dan Seemiller defeats Bao Nguyen ( $18,11,17$ ), and Dhiren Narotam defeats Come-Vincent Bernier ( $18,-13,20,12$ ). Joe Ng takes down Hank Teekaveerakit $(16,14,16)$.

The big match this round is Khoa Nguyen versus Horatio Pintea. Horatio already has two losses, and he hasn't even played Sean or Jim yet, so he's fighting for his life. Khoa, who has three losses, is mostly fighting for the U.S. team, which
once again turned out in force to watch and cheer.

Khoa comes out super-aggressive, and everything hits as he builds up a 15-10 lead. Khoa serves, up 20-15, but after losing three in a row, wins $21-18$ on a loop-kill.

In the second, Horatio goes up 10-8-and promptly falls apart, losing 10 in a row. Up 18-10, Khoa seems to let up on the attack-and now Hori can't miss, getting five in a row to 18-15! The last point was fantastic, with Horatio backhand looping five in a row, Khoa blocking them all back, until Horatio steps around and forehand loop-kills the fifth one.

Up 19-15, Khoa looks a winner. But Horatio, serving at $16-19$, reels off five in a row to win 21-19, among groans from the U.S. bench. No lead is safe!

In the third, down 4-1, Khoa scores nine in a row to go up 10-4. But as usual, no lead sticks, and up 15-10, Khoa loses all five on his own serve!

Next comes the point of the match, with Horatio looping at least 15 balls in a row, Khoa blocking them all back, snappylike. Then Khoa counterloops a net ball, but Horatio loops a net ball right back! 16-15 Horatio. But then Horatio misses a backhand kill, pushes into the net and misses a backhand loop-and Khoa soon wins, 21-19.

Horatio pulls away right from the start in the fourth, $8-4$, and holds it right to the end, 21-17. Into the fifth.

But now Khoa takes a 4-0 lead, and nurses it along. He stays a few points ahead all the way, finally leading 18-14. At 18-15, he gets an edge, but then Horatio gets a net ball, 19-16, Hori serving. They have a great point, with Khoa blocking eight loops back in a row before Hori misses, 20-16. And 21-17 on a Khoa loop-kill. Match to Khoa, (18,-19, 19,17,17), and Horatio is almost out with three losses.

How is it that Khoa, currently U.S. \# 8 (is that outdated or what?), not only qualified for the North American Quali-


Khoa did not make the Olympics, but he was the Giant-Killer, beating all six Canadians.
fier, but then turned giant-killer, beating all six Canadians, as he shortly would? Khoa could only thank Sun Microsystems, where he works as a programmer, for letting him take the time off to train. It paid off, if not for him personally (he finished tied with Hank and Joe for third with an 8-3 record, but came out fifth by tie-breaking rules), but for the U.S. Team that owes Sun Microsystems a debt for helping end the Canadian Juggernaut. In the previous round Khoa had beaten Joe Ng, who'd come in first in the 1988 Olympic Qualifer and hadn't lost a match until playing Khoa. Now he'd all but eliminated Canada's \#2, Horatio. With these two matches (as well as Hank Teekaveerakit's win over Horatio), the Canadian house began to come tumbling down.

## Round Ten

This was the ultimate U.S. round, with the U.S. winning every match, and losing only one game-a cumulative 18 1 game streak. That it included two of the key matches made it even better.

Hank Teekaveerakit beat Bao Nguyen ( $14,12,17$ ), Khoa Nguyen beat ComeVincent Bernier, $(16,16,17)$, Dhiren Narotam beat Alain Bourbonnais ( $15,16,18$ ), and Dan Seemiller clobbered Francis Trudel ( $11,11,9$ ). The two key matches were Sean O'Neill versus Joe Ng , and Jim Butler versus Horatio Pintea.

Sean know going into the match that if he won, he'd clinch a spot on the Olympic team. If he lost, he'd probably be out. He'd beaten Joe the last two times they'd played, but before that, Joe had won most of their matches over the years.

In the first, Sean is ripping everything, and goes up 9-1, 12-2. He wins 2112.

In the second, at 14-all, Joe smashes, but Sean loops back a winner, and then

Bao Nguyen, ( $13,19,-15,12$ ), and DanSeemiller, after winning the first two, has to go five before beating Alain Bourbonnais, (15,18,-14,-11,16).

Over 800 spectators have come to see the finals, almost all of them pro-U.S. Little do they know that much of it has already been decided.

It's figured out that, if Sean O'Neill beats Horatio Pintea, the winner between Jim Butler and Joe Ng goes to the Olympics with Sean. However, if Horatio beats Sean, then all Jim has to do is win a game. (By losing, the worst Sean could get would be a three-way tie between himself, Jim and Joe. Since he beat Joe 3-0, while losing to Jim 3-1, the worst he can do is finish second, which qualifies him for the Olympics.)

So, going into their match, Sean wants to lose to help teammate Jim, and Horatio wants to lose to help teammate Joe. A year ago, it would have been a race to see who could default first, but fortunately, the ITTF changed the tie-breaking formula. Basically, if Sean defaults, he will come out last in a possible three-way tie, and not go to Olympics. On the other hand, Horatio, who no longer can qualify, is under no such constraint, so he can default if he wants. But there's a crowd out there, they want a match, so out they go to play. Neither wants to look like he's throwing it, so they play exhibition. At deuce, Sean misses his own serve. Horatio immediately misses his as well. Oh well, Sean decides, I guess I'm going to win. (Remember-Horatio can default if he's in danger of winning, Sean can't.)

So Sean wins the first at deuce, and goes up 12-0 in the second. He wins the match easily, $(20,6,14)$. It wasn't even a good exhibition.

Sean, however, has had a rather incredible tournament-except for his loss to Jim, he did not lose a game this tournament, and finished with a game record of $31-3$, to Jim's future 31-6. That's 30-0 against players other than Jim, and 18-0 against Canada. A little dominant?

Now comes the final match, the one that really counts, Jim versus Joe. Now it's straightforward-winner goes, loser doesn't. If Jim wins, he and Sean are both $10-1$, Joe is 8-3. If Joe wins, Joe and Jim are both 9-2, and Joe wins head-to-head by tie-breaking rules.

But those looking for a deuce-in-the-
fifth battle down the wire were in for a disappointment. In the first, Jimmy quickly runs up a 13-5 lead, which he converts into a $21-15$ win.

In the second, down 10-12, Jim begins to pull away with six in a row. The rallies are fast and furious, but Jim controls play to 20-17. After Joe gets an edge, Jim loops, Joe misses counterloop, and it's 2-0 Jim.

Joe takes the attack in the third, and it looks like we're into the fourth game. Joe goes up 9-4, 17-13. But Jim, serving, wins five in a row, four with winning loops (Joe is having a hard time with Jim's serves, now generally acknowledged to be the best in North America), and gets a sixth in a row with still another loop. But Joe serve and follows, and then gets and edge, and it's 19-all. Jim drops Joe's next serve short, catching Joe-but Joe leaps forward and Boom! Flip kills a winner! 20-19 Joe. But Joe tries a deep serve to Jim's backhand, and Jim unhesitatingly does an inside-out forehand loop kill off the serve to Joe's backhand, acing him. Deuce.

Joe whiffs trying to loop Jim's next serve to give Jim match point. Thenwhy is it that the best point is so often the last?

Joe loop-kills three balls in a row. But Jim, back at the barriers, spins all three back, then steps back to the table to backhand counter Joe's next loop. They go backhand to backhand staccato-like for several shots, then Joe steps around, but misses the loop-kill. It's over! Jim is on to the Olympics, $(15,18,20)$.

Jim drops to the floor in joy as photographers gather round. He and Sean both finish 10-1, but Jim comes in first in tie-breaking rules by beating Sean head-to-head. The four big matches between the U.S. and Canadian top two have all ended in easy U.S. victories. Considering that most favored Ng to come in first, and many picked Pintea for second, it's rather good results-if you're from the U.S.

A few minutes after the match, Jim is saying, "I've never been so nervous in my life!" He added, "It was such a team effort. Even when they were personally out of it, our players fought like crazy. And now," he added, "I'm going to Vegas to celebrate. I already have my tickets," said the just-recently-turned 21-year-old.

Horatio, winning the first two at 13 and 16. Horatio pulls out the third, but Jim swamps him in the fourth, 21 12. Horatio is out of the running, Sean's in, all that's left that counts is the match between Jim and Joe, with the winner going to the Olympics, the loser watching it on TV.

Or is it that simple? Round Eleven

Most of the matches are being played for final positioning. Dhiren Narotambeats Francis Trudel, $(17,18,17)$, Hank Teekaveerakit beats Come-Vincent Bernier, $(12,20,16)$,
Khoa Nguyen beats


Jim makes equally short work of
scores three more to go up 18-14. He get in whe jor just can tseemto powers him. The match is nearly anticlimactic.

In the third, it's close to 13-12. A group of kids begin running around the stands, making quite a racket, and it seems to bother Sean for a moment. He falls behind 14-16, but then, down 15-17, gets five in a row to go up 20-17 match point. They have a great point here, with Sean lobbing. Joe drop shots, but Sean misses a running backhand kill. But Joe blocks Sean's loop off, and Sean's on the Olympic team, $(12,15,18)$. Joe, with his second loss, is in trouble.


Lily Hugh came back from down 15-7 and 20-19 match point to win against Insook Bhushan, swept all six Canadians, and came in first.

## WOMEN'S COMPETITION

## U.S. Women:

## Round One

As with the U.S. men, the major factor on the women's side was the U.S.'s depth versus Canada's top two. The bottom four Canadians did not win a match against the U.S. women. On the other hand, only the top few U.S. women were able to do anything against Canada's \#1, Barbara Chen. The result was a huge number of 3-0 matches, round after round.

The first five rounds would be U.S. players competing against themselves, and vice versa for the Canadians.

This first round for the U.S. was pretty straightforward, with all three matches being 3-0. Lily Hugh beat fellow pips-out penholder Li Ai with her slightly faster footwork and more aggressive play, $(16,10,15)$. Diana Gee locked up Alice Kimble ( $4,11,5$ ). Insook Bhushan defeated Peggy Rosen, $(16,16,11)$, despite being down by more than five points in each of the first two games.

## Round Two

Insook continued her dominance, defeating Li Ai much more easily than normal, ( $11,9,14$ ). At this point, she looks unbeatable. Peggy Rosen, after giving Insook a good match, defeated chopper \#2, Alice Kimble, (11,-20,19,16).

The big match this round was Lily Hugh versus Diana Gee, the second and third seeds on the U.S. side. Diana starts out by going up 13-3, and it looks like an easy match.

But gradually, Lily began to move the ball around, especially with her jab-blocking pips backhand, and Diana was struggling to keep the ball in play. Lily pulled closer and closer, but Diana pulled it out, 2116.

The second is a battle all the way, never more than a point or two apart. Finally, Diana pulls to a 19-16 lead with the serve, and threatens to go up 2-0. But 1, 2, 3, 4, and Lily's up 20-19, four in a row on Diana's serve. They're having great countering points, but neither is able to end the point quickly. Finally, at 22-all, Diana smashes in the net, then hits a backhand off the end.

Instead of being up 2-0, it's now all tied up.
The third is a replica of the second, all the way to the end. This time, both players are smashing more, but neither can pull away. Lily wins again, 21-19.

At 14-all in the fourth, Lily's side-toside quick blocking finally starts to really pay off, scoring five in a row to go up 19-14. Lily ends the match with a smash, (-16, $22,19,15$ ).

## Round Three

Two of the three matches this round were routine, with Insook continuing her onslaught against Alice, $(9,10,3)$, and Diana going through $\mathrm{Li},(12,13,16)$. Several comment that Li looks like she's out of practice, and sure enough, a local tells me she only practices about once a week these days.

Peggy, who came here rated 2212, started her own onslaught here against 2305 Lily. In a bang-bang countering match, Peggy's specialty, Peggy won the first two easily, almost before anyone had noticed. However, just when people begin to watch, the fortunes turn, and Lily wins the third easily.

In the fourth, Lily battled to a 15-12 lead. But Lily seemed too tentative about stepping around her backhand to use her forehand, her specialty, against Peggy's quick-hitting backhand, and seemed to exchange too many backhands. Suddenly, Lily lost six in a row, and down 18-15 was struggling to stay in the match. Peggy seems quite calm, going for her shots like there wasn't an Olympics hanging in the balance.
"She has nothing to lose," Insook said, which is true now-but if Peggy does win, then she will have become a strong contender, and then she will have quite a bit to lose.

But Lily makes two nice smashes, and Peggy pushes a serve into the net, and soon it's 19-all.

Then Peggy makes a world-class push, faking one way and then quick-pushing the ball to Lily's forehand, acing the alreadystepped around penholder. "What a push!" exclaims Todd Sweeris, watching the match.

But Lily fools Peggy with a topspin
serve, and Peggy pushes the ball high, an easy smash for deuce. But Lily misses itand the match is over! $(16,14,-14,19)$ for Peggy.

## Round Four

All three matches here were straightforward, with Insook defeating Diana, $(15,8,14)$, Lily defeating Alice, $(18,10,13)$, and Peggy continuing her winning ways over $\mathrm{Li},(14,17,-16,11)$. The U.S. order of finish is starting to take shape, with Insook still undefeated, with Diana and Peggy one loss each (both to Insook), and Lily seemingly on her way out, with one loss already and an upcoming match against the seemingly invincible Insook.

## Round Five

Li, who had lost to Alice at the U.S. Olympic Trials in December in qualifying for this Qualifier, had her way this time, (14, 17, 18).

Diana and Peggy, both 3-1, played a "must win" match here. But Diana quickly turned it into a "my win" match, taking the first two at 8 and 6 . Peggy pulled out the third, but Diana won the match easily, $(8,6$, $-18,13$ ).

The final match this round, Insook versus Lily, was Lily's last chance to stay in contention, another "must win" match.

Insook quickly began to drown those hopes, going up 20-13 in the first. However, Lily, taking her time and pick-hitting forehand smashes, works her way back, winning five in a row (all via forehand smashes) to 20-18. Only to watch Insook chop an edge ball to win.

In the second, Lily continues the momentum, going up 12-9-only to lose six in a row, 12-15, with Insook chopping even smashes back low. Lily closes the gap, however, with long, patient topspin versus chop rallies, and ties it up at 15 -all. Lily often rolls up to ten balls in a row (with occasional pushes and drop shots mixed in) before finding the ball to smash-which Insook often chops back anyway. Often Lily has to smash three or four balls in a row to get through Insook. But Lily isn't missing, and Insook soon loses game two, 21-17.

Although Insook is getting balls back, she seems to be slower than usual. Rather than stepping to balls, she too often is reach-
ing, as Sean O'Neill pointed out to me. "She was much quicker last summer at the Pan Am Games," he said, where Insook had won the gold medal for women's singles for the third time.

Lily goes up 18-16 in the third, several times blocking back a more aggressive Insook's pick-hits. But then Insook's pickhits pay off, and she reels off four points in a row, three by attacking. Down 20-19, Lily smashes off the end, and is down 2-1 in games.

In the fourth, from up 8-7, it's all Insook as she gets seven in a row to lead 15-7 and all but lock up the game, match and Olympic spot. This had been a tournament with an unusual number of comebacks, but not against such an internationally experienced champion like Insook, right?

A few minutes later (you called it), Lily's pulled to within two, 17-15. Insook gets an edge ball to lead 18-15. A Lily smash makes it 18-16. Insook misses a backhand smash, but then a sudden forehand counterdrive catches Lily. Down 19-17, Lily plays two long, patient rolling rallies, ending each with a kill to tie it up 19-all.

But then she misses a high ball, and Insook's up 20-19 match point, probably Olympic point. The two then have a long pushing duel, which finally ends when Insook goes for but misses a backhand smash, deuce.

They follow with a great rally, with Lily smashing Insook into the barriers and Insook making a great retrieve, but she can't get back in time for Lily's drop shot. Lily makes a winning smash the next rally, and the games are all tied up, 2-2.

The server wins the point the first 11 points in the fifth game, although neither seems to get any service advantage, the rallies being long. But Insook is missing too many pick-hits, and Lily is blocking back most that hit. Up 8-5, Lily holds this lead to 11-8. And then, suddenly, Lily cannot miss. Shot after shot hits, and Insook begins to pick-hit out of sheer desperation. Soon Lily's up 16-8.

Insook fights back, tightening up her defense, but Lily goes up 20-17 match point. And again, like always, the best points seem to come at the end.

Lily drives three hard-hit shots, and then smashes. Insook chops back all four. Lily pushes, then smashes again. Insook, nearly leaping for the ball, chops it back again low. But Lily unhesitatingly smashes again at a wide angle, and this time Insook can't touch it. Match to Lily, (-18,17,-19, 22,17 ), and the tournament's wide open.

## Canadian Women:

At this point, the Canadian women had done as expected, with their top seed, Barbara Chen, going 5-0. Except for her match against Canada \#2 Julie Barton (now 4-1), all Barbara's matches were 3-0. Against Julie, she lost the first, and was down 18-20 in the second-but then won three straight, $(-18,23,15,16)$. Barbara plays an unusual penhold style, using long pips to chop-block against topspin, and pick hit against backspin. She will flip to loop with the inverted side of her racket, and usually serves with the inverted. Basically a defensive player, she was mostly retired for several years (brought on by a pregnancy), but came back to train for this tournament. The other Canadians are Becky McKnight (3-2), Helene Bedard (2-3), Lyne Desjardins (1-4) and Elisa Nataraj (0-5).

## Round Six

From here on, every match is between a U.S. player and a Canadian. Lily Hugh defeated Elisa Nataraj, $(11,14,10)$. (Between games, someone comments, "How does Lily keep her hair so perfect throughout the match?") Insook Bhushan defeated Lyne


Desjardins, ( $11,6,2$ ), Diana Gee defeated Helene Bedard, (12,15,12), Peggy Rosen defeated Becky McKnight, (-11,13,16,12), and Alice Kimble lost to Barbara Chen, $(13,12,15)$. The big match this round would be Li Ai versus Canada's \#2 Julie Barton, who couldn't afford another loss and stay in real contention.

It is a contrast in styles, Li the vintage pips-out penholder, Julie the free-swinging shakehand looper/hitter, with great power from both sides. Julie often pulled off backhand shots that had to be seen to be believed. However, there's a reason why most top players don't go for some of the shots Julie goes for, and as good as her shots are, far too many miss.

Li's quickness over the table had Julie lobbing over and over in the match, often going for (and making) backhand counterkills from the barriers. Li went up 2-1 in games with higher percentage shots. Julie often missed shots that most players physically couldn't even go for

In the fourth, they battle to deuce. Julie loops a serve in for a winner, but then Li deuces it with a net dribbler, 21-all. Li then misses a smash, and when Julie gets her own net dribbler, it's into the fifth game.

Julie holds a small lead most of the fifth game. At 13-all, Julie's lobbing again when Li suddenly drop shots. Julie, who has to be the most athletic women out there, races in, and just misses a great backhand kill on-therun. She can't stop, and ends up jumping the barriers on Li's side.

Both players get erratic toward the end, missing opening shots. Finally, Li goes up 20-19 match point, with the serve. She serves, and begins to step around. But Julie crosses her up, pushing to the forehand. Li pushes it back to Julie's forehand, low-but Julie goes for an incredible backhand kill from the forehand court against this low push! Match to $\mathrm{Li},(18,-16,19,-21,19)$, and down go Julie's chances for an Olympic spot.

## Round Seven

When things go bad, they go bad. Julie, still hoping for an Olympic spot, is shot to pieces by U.S. \#6 Alice Kimble, $(16,16,14)$. Alice, who'd been having a tough time, losing her first six matches, would now
finish by winning her last five, all against Canada. Julie, after winning her first four matches, has now lost three straight, and is pretty much out of contention, leaving Barbara the only Canadian fighting for a spot, along with U.S. players Lily Hugh, Insook Bhushan, and (still with a shot at it), Diana Gee.

Li Ai has her go at Barbara, but only manages to win the third game, losing the match, $(6,16,-19,13)$. The U.S. wins the other four matches all 3-0, with Lily Hugh beating Lyne Desjardins, $(12,12,13)$, Insook Bhushan beating Elisa Nataraj, $(10,6,11)$, Diana Gee beating Becky McKnight, $(18,16,14)$, and Peggy Rosen defeating Helene Bedard, $(15,14,13)$.

## Round Eight

No surprises this round, with Canada's Barbara Chen continuing undefeated over Peggy Rosen, $(6,13,7)$, giving Peggy nothing to counterdrive against with her long pips. The U.S. took the other five easily, although they lost a game here and there. Lily Hugh took out Helene Bedard, (12, $-18,10,11$ ), while Insook stomped all over Canadian \#3 Becky McKnight, (5,2,6). Diana Gee defeated Julie Barton, ( -19 $, 8,18,19)$, keeping herself in some sort of contention and adding to Julie's tribulations. Li, after a sloppy first game, defeated Elisa Nataraj, $(-24,15,4,18)$. Alice Kimble defeated Lyne Desjardins, $(16,17,14)$.

## Round Nine

Another mostly straightforward round, with Lily beating Becky, ( $12,12,11$ ), Insook clobbering Helene, $(4,7,12)$, Li defeating Lyne, ( $18,-10,20,14$ ), and Alice taking out Elisa, 19,18,14). Peggy Rosen was well on her way to giving Julie still another loss, winning the first two games. However, the Canadian shot-maker began to make her shots, and after pulling out a decisive fourth game at deuce, won in five, (-18-11, 15,21,14).

Diana went at it with Barbara, hoping to pin the Canadian down with her first loss. In the first game, Diana pulls away, using quick backhand drives all over to score. Barbara, more used to inverted play than Diana's backhand medium pips, kept going into the net. (In fact, all six U.S. women had pips on at least one side, while only Barbara
of the Canadians had pips-and she was easily the best of their women. Interesting?)

Up 16-9 in the first game, Barbara seemed to get used to Diana suddenly, and the rallies became longer and longer. She gradually creeped back, to 13-17, and then suddenly it was 18 -all. But Diana, realizing that these long rallies were to Barbara's advantage, goes for three quick smashes (one, a running, falling backwards forehand, had to be seen to be believed, almost Julie Barton-like!), and she makes all three to win, 21-18.

The second game is all Barbara's as she plays like a wall, blocking Diana's attacks, quick-hitting (mostly with her penhold backhand, surprisingly) when Diana pushes. Up 16-7, Barbara wins easily at 11 .

The third might as well be forgotten as Barbara builds up an 18-4 lead.

The fourth is more competitive, but Barbara gradually pulls away again, and soon is up 20-12 match point. But no lead is safe in this tournament, and suddenly, one point at a time, Diana's knocking on the door again, five in a row to 20-17. But Diana finally nets a backhand, throws up her hands in disgust, and Barbara is still undefeated, ( $-18,11,9,17$ ).

## Round Ten

Diana defeated Elisa, (8,8,11), Peggy defeated Lyne, $(12,15,18)$, and Alice beat the Canadian \#3, Becky McKnight, $(11,17,9)$. The other three matches weren't so straightforward.

Li, playing the Canadian \#4 Helene Bedard, found herself in a match very quickly, losing the first game at 6 . She recovered, won the second at 11 , and then promptly lost the third at 16 . Finally, gritting her teeth, she pulled out the last two to keep the U.S. undefeated against the Canadian bottom four, $(-6,11,-16,17,18)$.

Lily Hugh also faced troubles with hothitting Julie Barton and her golden, but often erratic, backhand. Julie at this point was out of the competition, but just as the U.S. players had been taking the Canadians out, here was her chance to take out a U.S. player.

It started out pretty easy, with Lily winning the first at 11 . In the second, however, Julie played recklessly, and everything seemed to hit. Her strategy of lobbing \& counter-killing actually seemed to work.

In the third, up 19-18, Julie is once again lobbing, but makes a spectacular backhand counterkill to go up 20-18. But then Lily keeps the pressure on, quick-hitting and smashing, and wins four in a row to win the game.
"She's a maniac!" says one Canadian, watching Julie in the fourth. She's taking shots that simply can't hit-but they are. She runs away with the game, 21-14. If she continues to play like this, Lily won't have a chance, says one spectator.

However, Lily gets more aggressive in the fifth, and Julie is lobbing nearly every point. Lily gradually pulls away, often counter-killing Julie's counter-kills, to go up 15-10. They play a great point, with Julie looping and Lily blocking. Lily blocks on the edge-but Julie leaps after the ball, still loops it, keeping Lily blocking! But Lily blocks Julie out of position, and Julie finally throws the ball up in the air, and lobs several balls back. But Lily smashes on the edge, and this time even Julie can't get it. 16-10 Lily. Lily continues to pull away, and wins the match, $(11,-13,20,-14,13)$.

The big match this round, of course, is Insook versus Barbara. It was a must-win match for Insook-if she loses, she's out, while if she wins, she's almost for sure on the team. Although Lily beat Insook this tournament, Insook is still considered the
U.S. \#1 by most, and now she's up against the Canadian \#1. On the sidelines, the most common prediction is a close first game (choppers are usually slow starters, especially against an unusual style like Barbara's), and then Insook would win the rest of the games easily. How little we knew.

Barbara, who'd beaten Insook once in four matches (but it had been the last time they'd played, before Barbara's temporary retirement), quickly takes an 8-2 lead. She plays Insook in a rather unique fashion: she attacks with her penhold backhand, with long pips, over and over at wide angles and to the middle. Her quick, dead rolls seem to give Insook trouble, and eventually Barbara would use her forehand to loop with the inverted (and sometimes the pips) or smash with either surface. Barbara just doesn't miss, and she keeps pulling away, eventually winning the first 21-13.

The second is the same, except this time Insook begins to pick-hit more-but they miss. Even the ones that hit are blocked back by Barbara, and Barbara puils away to a 21-8 win and a 2-0 lead. Insook, the 1988 Olympian, is in danger of being knocked out.

In the third, Barbara again takes a lead, but this time Insook is hanging in close, winning more points by pick-hitting, and forcing longer and longer rallies. Down $12-$ 16, Insook scores four in a row to tie it at 16 all. Then, right at the end of a long rally, expedite is called! Just before it is called, Insook pick-hits a winner, and at first it isn't sure whether she did so before expedite was called. But they give her the point, and she's up 17-16 with the momentum.

Now the server has to attack, and each takes turns going for it. But Insook's shots miss, while Barbara seems able to get in the kill when needed, usually set up with a series of backhand hits and a sudden inverted loop. One by one she scores, each one a nail in Insook's Olympic hopes, four straight to 17-20 match point for Barbara.

But Barbara, after long rallies, misses two smashes in a row as Insook pulls to 1920. Can Insook come back and win, as she has done so often in the past? (See past Nationals.) But it is not to be, as Barbara smashes a clean winner to win the match, $(13,8,19)$. Insook now has two losses, and the best she can hope for is a tie with Barbara or Lily-but since she lost to both, she can't come out ahead. She's out of the competition. Barbara, however, is now 91 , and her spot on the team is now clinched. Lily, also 9-1, has also clinched her spot, and so the team is set: Lily and Barbara, with the final match between them for position only.

## Round Eleven

Although the matches in this round are relatively meaningless, the players played to win. Lily quickly gave Barbara her first and only loss, $(15,13,13)$, smashing over and over through Barbara's defense, to come in first. Julie, suddenly very hot, takes the first two games against Insook, but then gradually withers away as Insook's consistency takes over, ( $-20,-17,14,14,8$ ).

Diana beats Lyne, $(18,16,16)$, Peggy beats Elisa, $(9,17,8)$, Li beats Becky, $(-18$, $13,17,11$ ), and Alice comes from behind to win her fifth straight match over the Canadians, defeating Helene in a five-game battle, (-19,17,-18,18,13).

Remember the Lily Hugh/Insook Bhushan match? Where Insook was up 157 and 20-19 match point in the fourth? That one point, the one Insook didn't get, was the difference between Lily going to the Olym-pics-or Insook in her place. The whole tournament, and the Olympics, came down to that one point for these two U.S. women.


Lily Hugh and Diana Gee defeated the Canadian Team of Barbara Chen and Julie Barton three straight. They will compete in women's doubles at the Olympics.

## OLYMPIC DOUBLES

 Women:On the Women's side, since the two spots were split, there had to be a doubles match between the two countries to see which would get the doubles spot. The teams were made up of the respective singles qualifier from each country and a doubles partner chosen by the player and the coach. For the U.S., Diana Gee became Lily Hugh's partner, based on her strong record in doubles (Current National Champion for both women's and mixed doubles, Pan American mixed doubles gold medalist) and her strong third-place showing here. For Canada, Julie Barton teamed up with Barbara Chen.

Right from the start, the U.S. players
were the aggressors, with both Lily and Diana taking advantage of Barbara's defensive game. Barbara was kept chopblocking, and Julie was forced to block or lob, or go for counter-kills. The U.S. built up a lead and held it to win the first, 21-17.

The Canadians went up 6-3 in the second, but then the U.S. scored four straight. But this rotation was not as good for the U.S., as Diana was not as successful as Lily in attacking against Barbara's long pips. Julie began to loop more, while Lily would hit her loops. Barbara also began to mix in more inverted play and attack more. The game stayed close to $18-16$, the U.S. leading. The rest of this game was all Julie,

Results, Women's North American Olympic Qualifier:

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both hits and misses.
Julie started with a great backhand kill, and followed it with a loop kill the next point to tie the score at 18 -all. Julie looped another ball that Lily failed to hit, and the Canadians were up 19-18, all three points by Julie. But then Julie missed an easy smash off a near-diving return by Diana, and follows that by missing a second smash to give the U.S. a 20-19 lead. Julie then loops Diana's no-spin pips-out push off the end, and the U.S. wins the second, 21-19, this time on Julie's misses.

In the third, it's no contest as the U.S. takes a 6-0 lead, and builds it up to a 21-11 win. The U.S. has won, $(18,19,11)$, and Diana Gee, a member of the 1988 Olympic team, is going to the Olympics again, this time as a doubles partner. Men:

Since the U.S. swept both singles spots, the U.S. has clinched a doubles team. However, there is the possibility of wild card spots (and also the possibility that the U.S. may send a third player to serve as Jim Butier's doubles partner, rather than Sean O'Neill). So there is a playoff between the U.S. and Canada for the doubles spot. The teams competing are Jim and Sean versus Joe Ng and Horatio Pintea

The Canadians are heavily favored, having a huge winning advantage over all other North American teams over the last five years or so. However, since the U.S. players are playing so much better than them in singles, the U.S. team is confident

The U.S., after falling behind $15-$ 11, came back to win the first, 21-19 The U.S. then takes a 5-0 lead on the Canadian's serve in the second-and then lose all five on their own serve However, Canada pulls away and wins the second, 21-14.

In the third, Sean and Jim start loop-killing everything, and from halfway through the game pull away to 16 11, winning the game 21-12. According to Dan Seemiller, "The Canadians have better doubles technique than us To beat them, we have to really out play them." Fortunately, the U.S. pair are doing exactly that. The problem the U.S. pair are facing is that, regardless of who is serving, the Canadians al most always get in the first attack. This is partly because of their being left/ righty (Sean and Jim are both righthanded), but also because of their years of experience playing together In general, the rallies are marked by constant counterlooping, with Jim and Joe controlling play while Sean and Horatio go for winners

The Canadian experience works
to their advantage in the fourth as they pull away from up 9-8 to 19-14, winning 21-16.

In the fifth, the Canadians again pull away, taking a 9-5 lead. But Sean and Jim take turns ripping shots to pull within one at the switch, $10-9$. Now the hitting order favors the U.S., with Sean hitting into Horatio, and the U.S. team, from 15 -all, goes up 18-15. Finally, up 20-17, Jim gets an edge ball to win the match, (19,-14,12,-16,17).

At press time, it is still not certain who will play doubles for the U.S. men. If the Olympic Committee agrees, the U.S. may send a third player as Jim's doubles partner so we can maximize our team size. The player would be chosen by Jim and Coach Li Zhenshi. If the U.S. is not allowed a third spot, then Sean will be Jim's partner.

## Dear Topics,

It was my pleasure to serve as referee for the North American Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Colorado Springs from March 19-22, 1992. I want to thank Donna Sakai and Bob Fox for the excellent job that they did at the control desk and in the scheduling of the matches. I also want to thank the International Umpires (IUs) that officiated at the matches. Those IUs are Rod Bedard and Peter Kosek of Canada, and Y.C. Lee, Jimmy McClure, Tom Miller, and Manny Moskowitz of the USA. I also want to thank my deputy, Mike Skinner of Canada. I should also thank John Garnett, the Head Score Keeper, for providing the score keepers for the matches. They all made my job as referee very easy. All 134 matches were officiated by IUs. Almost all of those matches had a score keeper so that the spectators could follow the progress of each match.

I want to congratulate Jimmy Butler from Iowa City, Iowa and Sean O'Neill from McLean, Virginia for qualifying in the Men's Singles. Since two Americans qualified in Singles, the USA gets the Men's Doubles berth at the Olympics. I also want to congratulate Lily Hugh from Cocoa, Florida and Barbara Chen from Vancouver, British Columbia for qualifying in the Women's Singles. I should also congratulate Diana Gee from San Carlos, California for qualifying in the Women's Doubles with Lily Hugh. I congratulate all the North American Olympians and wish them the best of luck in Barcelona, Spain this coming July.

But I also know that there were many that were disappointed; that saw their Olympic Dreams shattered. I can sympathize with them. It would be trite to say, "Better luck next time.

The U.S. had quite an impressive record against the Canadians in the individual matches. The six American women posted a 30-6 record against the six Canadians, with Canada's Barbara Chen winning five and Julie Barton but one. The six American men were even more impressive, posting a 31-5 record; Canada's Joe Ng won but three matches against the U.S., and Horatio Pintea but two. A very impressive record of 61-11 for the Americans. If we include the doubles, that record is 63-11. America should be proud of its top table tennis players. It is not surprising that the American men all placed in the top eight, but the women were even more impressive, all placing in the top seven. Best of Luck,
Erich A. Haring, IU
Referee, NA Olympic Qualifier

## TMIMStrond



De Tran - Men's SinglesQuarterfinalist, U.S. Nationals 9th Place, U.S. Olympic Trials


Tawny Banh - U.S. Under 22 Women's Singles Champion U.S. High School Doubles Champion U.S. High School Singles Finalist


Loc Ngo-21st Place, U.S. Olympic Trials



COMPANY is well known as the inventor of sponge and sandwich rubber, and we continue to strive for the advance ment of table tennis products technology

# DAN SEEMILLER: 

USTTA PRESIDENT, COACH, FATHER AND PLAYER<br>Topics interviews the Five-Time National Champion by Larry Hodges<br>February, 1992

TOPICS: Dan, you finished first at the recent Olympic Qualifier at the Nationals in December. You also beat all three U.S. Team Members at the U.S. National Team Championships in November. What has caused this sudden renaissance in your game at age 37 ?
DAN: It's partially from desire, but it's also having an executive director. The first year-last year-I was president without one, so I couldn't play at all, and I couldn't concentrate. And now we have an executive director who's taking the stress and pressure off of me, so I think that's really made a big difference. Now I think I've flip-flopped to where now I'm really concentrating well and playing better.
TOPICS: You've had a lot of matches against National Champion Sean O'Neill. Tell us about those matches.
DAN: Actually, we didn't have that many matches this year. I did win against him two of the last three times, but it does seem that in the major international championships, Sean's beaten me quite a few times. Generally, when I play Sean, the big problem is that his forehand covers most of the court, and I can't really get to his backhand, like in Detroit. In the trials in Las Vegas, his forehand was hitting from all over, and when he does that, I get scared a little bit because he attacks my forehand with his forehand, and I can't really match up to him there. I've had some success with him recently, but I don't want to give that away because Sean will probably pick up on it.

## TOPICS: Trade secrets?

DAN: Right.
TOPICS: How would you compare your game now to when you were in your twenties?
DAN: My game is definitely more erratic now that I don't train as hard or as often. When I was in my twenties, I trained all the time, full-time, so my game was very consistent and always solid. Sometimes now I play better than ever, but sometimes I play worse than ever. That's mainly because I don't put in the practice time, and so the concentration tends to waver more. Sometimes I concentrate really well, other times I just can't concentrate at all, and that really is the difference between consistent and erratic play.
TOPICS: If you could go back in time fifteen years and tell yourself something for your table tennis game, what would you tell yourself?
DAN: I'd tell myself to have a better defensive forehand. Over the years, I'd say my main weakness has been when someone attacked into my forehand. It's always been my main weakness, and I've tried to cover for it, but it's always there. I think all Seemiller-style players have that weakness, and Eric (Boggan) is finding that out right now. There's really not much you can do, especially if you're not in good shape, and you don't stay balanced. When the ball gets out there to the wide forehand, a player with a Seemiller grip is really in lots more trouble than a
shakehands player. If I could take away that hole in my game, I' $d$ be tough to beat. TOPICS: Would you advise an up-andcoming player to block or loop against an attack to the forehand?
DAN: It's a mix. You really have to be able to loop it, that's for sure. You have to be able to loop in today's game, you have to be able to topspin a topspin. You also have to be able to block with the forehand from the side of the body, not the front. Otherwise, you're reaching for the ball.

Eric, my brother Ricky and I, we always reach for the ball, and when you do that, you really can't defend the other side. So I've really worked hard on the forehand side at blocking from the side and relooping.
TOPICS: You can't cover the other side because reaching pulls you out of position?
DAN: Yes, because you end up leaning, and because you're catching the ball at an early point, you don't have much time, so you tend to just react to the ball instead of just waiting. If you wait for the ball you have a chance to counter-attack it. If you take the ball in front instead of from the side, than you have no chance to counterattack. Against a weak loop, you have no chance to counter-attack. But if you wait, and take it from the side, you can re-loop it. If I'd learned to do that when I was younger, it probably would have made a big difference.
TOPICS: Some say table tennis is a game for the young. Yet you and Insook Bhushan (39-year-old U.S. Women's Champion) prove that's not so. Any comments? DAN: Well, obviously experience is a great factor in the major tournaments. But I think also that
"Respect is really the key...Americans still think of it as the game of ping pong, and it's going to take a long time to overhaul that.'
like they're going to get so far ahead of me that I'll never catch up. But now that I'm not coaching as much as I used to, and I'm more of a player, I think I can hang in there.
TOPICS: And when you create that big talent pool, you will go back to coaching? $D A N:$ Yes, that's the key thing really, the future of the game. If it really grows, it's going to helpeveryone, whether it's manufacturers, coaches, players, organizers or sponsors, so that's why everyone has to really pull together to make this work. The USTTA's not going to grow without the help of everyone, and we all have to be involved.
TOPICS: Tell us about your physical training program.
DAN: One of the main problems I've had with training is that over the last two years, every time I got psyched up to go training, I got injured. My left knee, which I push off for looping, gets really sore when I jog, so I can't jog anymore. It's happened four or five times, and each time I did it I couldn't even walk for about a week. So I went to this program with ankle weights. Iused ankle weights when I was kid when I went golfing, and that was really good. Walking 18 holes with young players coming after us. We don't have the depth. We have Jimmy Butler, and a few top juniors, but it's like it always has been where we've never really had a deep talent pool. When I was a junior, I think we had one of our best junior pools ever, but it's never been enough. Sometimes it gets stronger, but never a wave. We've never had 40 good juniors. Sometimes we'll have 15 or 20 that look good, but never 50 or 100 . Without that, someone like Insook and myself can still win. There's no reason why we can't. And that's really what we want, talent pools so we can't win anymore!
TOPICS: So if you do a good job as president, you're not going to win much anymore?
$D A N$ : I've actually thought about that. I feel that the better I do as president, the more my chances as a top player will be gone. I've helped the national team receive good training, work with good coaches and all that, and sometimes I feel
five-pound ankle weights really built up my legs. I walk about five miles a day now with the weights, and there's a lot of hills in Pittsburgh, and it's made my legs very strong. It's made me much more sturdy when blocking. It's also made my legs quicker-not as quick as they used to be, but quicker than before. It's a low stress training method, and I have no physical problems using the ankle weights. It's not as good aerobically as jogging, but table tennis isn't really a stamina battle. It's more of a quickness and balance battle. Running ten miles isn't necessarily going to help your table tennis game, but you do need to have some level of aerobic fitness, and this does it for me. I like it too-the walking is fun. That's one of the best parts about it. I never liked walking before, but going out with these weights on for an hour is kind of fun, and it's not that hard to do. TOPICS: Have you ever looked into the training program used by Nolan Ryan? DAN: No, but I've used the Nautilus
equipment like he does, and that was good, but it takes a lot of discipline. I have no problem training if I enjoy the training, but I've never really liked to do some of the really hard training that some of these guys do. I prefer ankle weights, full-court basketball, things like that keep me in shape. That's the way I like to do it.
TOPICS: Weren't you very good at sports outside table tennis? Didn't you almost go into baseball?
DAN: I played a lot of baseball, as well as basketball and football. I was also on my high school track team as a half-miler. I was the all-city second baseman for two years, and was scouted by 12 baseball teams. The Pirates were interested in me, but dropped me from their plans when I told them I wanted to concentrate on table tennis. I was also offered a position with a Class A minor league team in Bradenton, Florida, but turned it down.
TOPICS: What are your future plans as a player?
DAN: I still plan on playing as best as I can. I think that when I get into the over 40 division, that will be exciting. I think the over 40 category has got a lot of potential, since they make up about $40 \%$ of our membership. Winning senior championships may not be top of the line, like when you're winning U.S. Championships, but if you enjoy the game, it really doesn't matter so much how high the level of accomplishment is. I think you should just strive to become better. I'm always trying to get better, and I hope I'm playing better now than ever. You're not really fighting the clock as you get older, but you keep trying to improve, and hopefully you can improve. I plan on staying near the top. Ihope to stay on the U.S. team for a while longer. I found out a couple of years ago that I really like coaching at the national level, but that's not really what I want to do right now. I have a few more good years, and I want to enjoy that while I can.
TOPICS: How are you preparing for the North American Olympic Trials against Canada?
DAN: I've been working very hard. I'll be practicing out in Colorado Springs to get ready, and getting coaching from Li Zhenshi. It's pretty scary going into the Olympic Trials because I really want to make the team, but I know that if I put in a lot of hard work, and really train hard, even if I don't make it, it'll pay off in some of the later tournaments in the spring which I'm excited about, like the Louisiana Open, Hall of Fame Open, and the
U.S. Open. There's a lot of major tournaments coming up. If I work really hard, hopefully it'll pay off in the Olympic Trials, but if it doesn't I know that hard work always pays off in one way or another. I'm going to give a full effort for this trial-it always was a sort of a dream of mine to go to the Olympics, but if I don't make it I won't be that disappointed, I'll just look forward to the next tournament, and try to go from there.
TOPICS: Some people think it's a conflict of interest your being president of the USTTA and on the U.S. Team. What do you think?
DAN: There really isn't any conflict. I see sometimes there may be some touchy issues, but with an executive director, and with the board the way it is, and the protocol being handled properly, there really isn't a problem. It can only be a plus, because knowing the game all the way from the bottom to the top has got to be important for a president. Once you've gone through the highest levels of table tennis, you have a better perspective as to where the sport can go. Some people think being on the U.S. team and president is a conflict of interest at times, but I think people would see if I were trying to favor myself. It would be easy for people to pick up on that, since people are always looking for that now. It's not a problem. TOPICS: You and John Onifade totally dominated Men's Doubles this year at the Nationals. What happened? Are you the team of the future?
DAN: Yeah, I think that John and I are an excellent team. We absolutely mix great. Our play is very well-tuned because he's got the power shots while I'm good over the table. He covers for my mistakes, I can cover for his, and we know which mistakes we need to cover up for because we both have certain weaknesses. It's great playing with John because I can make a mistake and he covers for me, and it makes it so much easier to play when you know your partner can do that. You can play a lot freer, you don't have to be nervous. With John, if you make a mistake, he can rip that loop in even when they're looping. Also we're righthanded/ lefthanded, so we can both play forehand; he's got excellent serves; he's probably about the most physical player of anyone in the world, so matching up with him and trying to get him to use the power is exciting for me. Being lefthanded also makes my receives much better. I think that John and I can play with anybody. Maybe we could be the team of the future. TOPICS: Could you describe your playing style for our readers?
DAN: My playing style is a change of pace style with a powerful forehand topspin and steady backhand blocking, using the antispin as a change of pace and surprise. I try not to use the anti too much because it can easily become a crutch. I try to use it only when it can be used in a surprise situation. Itend to play best when I don't use it that much.
TOPICS: You're the only player in the world with a grip named after you. Tell us about the grip.
DAN: It's a version of the shakehands grip, where I use the same side for both forehand and backhand. I hit the forehand like a shakehand player's, but for the backhand I rotate the racket around and use the same side. This gives me a good
backhand block, as well as an off-side, where I have antispin. I can use the fast inverted side to attack, or flip and use the slow antispin side for variation, and to return serves.
TOPICS: Do you use speed glue?
DAN: Yes I do. Always.
TOPICS: Tell us about your coaching career.
DAN: I spent a few years as the U.S. Men's Team Coach, and coached them at the worlds. I give camps throughout the year, mostly in Pittsburgh. I've been doing them since the middle 1970's. But I'm doing less coaching these days, and concentrating more on my playing and USTTA duties. Eventually I 'll go back to coaching after my playing career ends, and hopefully the sport will have grown so I'll be able to make a good living at it. TOPICS: What coaching advice do you have for our readers?
DAN: Well, the main coaching advice is to receive some coaching. Ithink the most fun thing about table tennis is learning new techniques, tactics and strategies, and understanding spin and angles. All these things come into play, and it's very important that you understand them. There's no way for beginners, or even intermediate players, to really understand these concepts until they've learned them two or three times. That's the exciting part about table tennis. I see too many people who are so set in their games that they haven't learned anything in several years. It's tough to really be excited about your game if you don't have something new to work on that can make you better. TOPICS: So you're saying they need to really understand the
game more, not jus learn the strokes?
DAN: And they need tolearn more, because too many people play the same game for so many years and never
"It's tough to really get excited about your game if you don't have something new to work on." learn anything new and so they just stagnate, and once you stagnate, you start going down. The hardest part about learning something new is that you probably have to give up something that you do, change it, and most people don't want to do that. Realistically, if you want to be a good player, you have to do these things. All my career I've always been changing, looking at my game, figuring out what was next, or looking for weaknesses that still need to be worked on, or a way to get rid of those weaknesses. That's what I've always enjoyed about the game. If I didn't do that, I wouldn't enjoy the game nearly as much.
TOPICS: Is there anything in particular that you are working on right now?
DAN: Yeah, there's a lot. The main thing I'm working on right now is physical conditioning. I'm going to Colorado Springs this month for four or five weeks, working with U.S. National Coach Li Zhenshi, and I'm going to let him look at my game and see what he says are my main problems to work on before the Olympic Trials. Right now, I haven't had good coaching myself in a while, and I can't really assess my game. I'd rather have him assess my game, and I'll get the physi al part together.
TOP ZS: What do you think of LiZhenshi as a cr ach? being president?

DAN: He's tremendous. He's the best coach I've ever been around. He knows the game inside and out. I spent a week with him in Atlanta at the Supershow last year, and every night we stayed up for hours talking about table tennis. He knew so much more than I did about angles and techniques and the Chinese approach to the game. If I'd known fifteen years ago some of the things he told me it would have helped me a lot.
TOPICS: What's it like being president? DAN: It's pretty tough. The first year, it was literally too much. We didn't have an executive director, and I think the association was a little bit in chaos, we had financial problems, budget overruns, and the TOC had a lot of problems. I really took over a ship that was kind of sinking because it was hurting financially and it did not have an executive director. Worst of all, the USTTA really had no plan as to where it was going. It certainly did not have good leadership.
TOPICS: How much was the USTTA in debt at the time?
DAN: We were about $\$ 130,000$ in debt when I became president, money borrowed to pay for budget over-runs. We also had a $\$ 40,000 \mathrm{TOC}$ loan default from the 1990 U.S. Open. We also had to put up the money for a top-level executive director, something we'd never had before, but it cost money. In the past, we'd never really had a qualified executive director, someone with a really skilled background for what we needed.
TOPICS: Is the USTTA still in debt? DAN: We've been cutting a lot of items, and saving at about $\$ 10,000 \mathrm{a}$ month for a while now. We also made some money at the Nationals, about $\$ 10,000$, the first profitable Nationals in our history. So I think we're back on track to some degree, but we're not really out of debt yet. I know that when Kae Browning, our executive director, first came on board and saw the numbers, she was pretty shaken. Financially, we were really in trouble. But that's why we hired her, to help us get through these problems. She's truly been worth everything we pay her. TOPICS: What's the worst part about

DAN: Probably the vast details. There are so many details between Olympic and National teams, tournaments, school programs, legal counseling, coaches and the RTP program, it's just vast, there are so many things. I want to do everything well, and it comes down to a huge amount of detail, and without a good executive director it's impossible. That is what I think drove some of our former presidents somewhat crazy because when you're a volunteer and you spend 40-50 hours a week working on the USTTA, and the details just keep pouring in and pouring in, and you're not really skilled enough to handle all these different areas-hiring, and legal counseling, and budgeting, etc., you start to go crazy. You go through a lot of stress, and you take on so much responsibility, and you don't get paid for it, and inu start to get a little arrogant. You might even develop an attitude about putting in 40-50 hours : week, all the stress
and responsibility, and nobody appreciates it. You start to think this just isn't going to work. I think the presidents of the past have never wanted to give up the power of the president, and that's why they didn't hire a top executive director because it does diminish the power of the president. It's almost suicidal because our past president's weren't really qualified to handle all the vast details that an executive director does. I'm not qualified to handle those things either. It was really important that we hired one.
TOPICS: How does being president affect your play?
DAN: Sometimes it doesn't really bother my play. Actually, it goes back to having an executive director. There are so many details, and when you're at major tournaments, and people are talking to you, sometimes your mind just wanders and it's hard to keep good concentration, especially if there are problems. But I think I'm doing better in that area. It's just difficult to play your game well when you're concerned about a lot of things. But as we get better as an organization, that won't really be a problem. I'm learning to deal with it.
TOPICS: You've mentioned several times that the USTTA recently hired an executive director. Tell us about her.
DAN: I think she's doing a great job. Kae Browning is very organized, and she's done a very good job with our existing sponsors and she's harmonized the board a little bit. The executive committee in the past had certain rival groups that fought each other a lot, and that will happen if you don't have a good executive director. I think Kae has done an excellent job of communicating between all parties, and whenever there is a disagreement she would be the neutral party and smooth both sides out, and so I think the board doesn't get into any more of these tangents where three or four people are mad at each other because they are not in support of a program or idea. So she's done really well in that area. I think that, hopefully, we'll have a lot more corporate sponsors through her, which is a natural progression. The first six months of her job she's done a really good organizational job. She's brought back the sponsors that we've been working with, which means they're happy with what she's done, so I think she's done a good prepping job for the USTTA. She's made the office more organized so that in case we grow, which we should this Olympic year, we'll be ready to handle it. So I think it's been an excellent investment getting her. The Olympic people see that the table tennis organization has finally hired an executive director that has the background to do the job. It's a very tough job, but I think she can do it.
TOPICS: What types of authority does she have?
DAN: Well, basically, she has a lot of authority. She runs the office and most of the programs. I speak with her at least two or three times a week, and she keeps me updated in all of the areas, especially the important areas. The board still does the decision making, but she gives us all the options, and helps prepare the meetings. Kae handles sponsorships, Olympic matters, budget, E.C. directives, legal matters, etc.
TOPICS: Tell us about your vision of the
future of table tennis in the United States. DAN: I think table tennis can really be the sport of the '90s. I think that we need to be a lot more aggressive with television. We have to change the format for television to make it a little more exciting. I think the format is the key thing, and I believe television is really the key issue, but we have to package it a little bit better. We've done a good job to start. It's in the infant stages, but we're ready to go. That's my main vision. Our national events have to become larger, we have to have more international events, with help from the ITTF. We can work together with the ITTF, and they'll work with us because we're the last big market they can expand to.

Respect is really the key; I don't think Americans really respect the game of table tennis yet. I think they still think of it as the game of ping pong, and it's going to take a long time to overhaul that. We can do it quicker if we can do it through television with these big events. Of course we have to get participation up with our grass roots programs, but that's a really tough thing. I think it really has to be respected first as a sport before people are going to take us seriously. But our grass roots programs have to be ready for when that happens. Our national schools program will need to play a key role in developing the sport with our nation's youth.
TOPICS: Is anything big happening in the U.S. in the near future?
DAN: We have the World Doubles Cup coming up in Las Vegas in December, in conjunction with the Nationals. That's basically the world championships for doubles, I think that's exciting, because I think doubles is a great television sport, because the ball stays in play a little longer and serves aren't quite as difficult to re-
turn. It has $\$ 160,000$ in prize money, the most ever offered in a U.S. tournamenttwice as much, in fact. The U.S. Open is also growing, and we should have all the top players coming over for that one this June. We also have the World Team Cup in 1995 in Atlanta, and the 1996 Olympics, also in Atlanta. We have some prestigious events that we can build promotional and publicity type of programs out of, and I think with the prize money that goes with some of those events, and the ITTF's help, we can gain the respect we need.

The 1995 World Team Cup in Atlanta, which is going to be a preview run for the Olympics in 1996, also has $\$ 160,000$ in prize money in it. These types of events, if we can bring them to the U.S. and be successful, this is how we're going to grow. If we can televise this kind of event, with a $\$ 40,000$ first prize, and really show what table tennis can be like, people will respect the prize money and the abilities of the players. Then, hopefully, the major networks will be interested in us. I think we have a chance to prove that we can run these tournaments and bring these players over. We have to prove to the ITTF that we can do it.
TOPICS: Table tennis has been on TV a lot this year, something you promised when you ran for president. How did this come about?
DAN: I think the television program went really well last year, and Bob Allshouse and Gordy Bright, who are running the television program, say it's going even better this year than expected. I think the events that we filmed this year went really well-the U.S. Open, which was really high quality, the World Championships, the U.S. Team Championships, and the U.S. Nationals. That's four top quality events that we put out on National televi-
sion, and millions of people ended up watching it. I think that's what we need. It's not going to happen overnight-it'll take a number of years before people see it enough to really start to respect it and want to play table tennis. So I think it's going really well, and I would hope that we can go from four events last year to six events this year to ten events in a couple of years to maybe fourteen or so later on. I see, optimally, 14-16 events per year.
TOPICS: How can people get a schedule for table tennis on TV?
DAN: Information on that was published in the March/April issue of Table Tennis Topics.
TOPICS: Tell us about (wife) Val and the kids.
DAN: Well, everything's going pretty well. Dan Jr. is 15 months old, and Sarah's five. They haven't started playing table tennis yet, but we hope to start them in a couple of years. I think that will be kind of exciting, teaching my kids how to play table tennis. My wife is real supportive of my table tennis involvement, and helps with the phone, mail and correspondence.
TOPICS: They're the perfect age-by the time they reach competitive ages, table tennis might have taken off.
DAN: We hope! We've always hoped table tennis would grow, but I really feel that we're in a position now that we can make that assumption, and it's somewhat realistic. I think we're getting to the point where we can be taken seriously. But we have a long way to go.

Everything's going well with the family, much better this year than last. Last year, as president, was a difficult one, but this year is actually quite enjoyable.
TOPICS: Describe a typical day in your life.
DAN: Generally, I get up around 6:30 am
to get Sarah ready for school-she goes to school about four blocks away at 8:00. Then I do most of my phone calls, paperwork and other USTTA duties, starting around $9: 00$. I try to finish by around 12.30, something I could never hope for until we hired Kae. In the afternoon I do my walking and other physical training, and sometimes I'll get in a practice session if I can find someone to play. I usually get a lot of phone calls all day, especially in the morning and around 5$5: 30 \mathrm{pm}$. At night I go up to the club, usually from around 6:30 to around 10:00. Often, of course, I have to go out of town on USTTA matters, and then my schedule gets pretty hectic.

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California \#1 Khoa Nguyen went deuce in the 3rd with Canada's 2800+ Johnny Huang, who survived the match and eventually won the tournament.

## 10th ANNUAL VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR INVITATION TOURNAMENT

February 8-9, 1992

by Masaaki Tajima

The event was sponsored by Northern California Vietnamese Community and Piercey Toyota, at Santa Clara Fairgrounds in San Jose. As in previous years, the tournament featured some of the top players in North America, and table tennis was billed as the main event in this multi-sport and cultural festival.

The format for the two-day, threeevent tournament was two groups of round robins, with two players advancing from each for a crossover semis and final for the juniors, a Class "A" event comprised of top Northern California players, and a giant round robin Invitational for the top ten invited players, which included Johnny Huang, the top-ranked player in North America, Sean O'Neill, current U.S. National Champion, and three players from the Resident Training Program in Colorado Springs.

## JUNIORS:

Top-seeded Lynn Truong, not playing well due to transitional changes in her game, struggled to win all her matches in her half of the round robin, with two deuce-in-the-third matches. In the other half, a three-way tie developed between second-seed Philip Lim, Patricia Hocke, and William Tseng, with Philip and Patricia advancing due to best won-lost record in games.

In the crossover semifinals, Patricia won over her teammate and training partner Lynn Truong in you-can't-get-any-closer-than-this deuce in the third. In the other semis, Sacramento's Sean Kaufman extended Philip to three games before losing at 11 . The final between Philip and Patricia was closer than their firstencounter as she adjusted better to his pips-but not enough. 18,17 match to the talented 10-year-old.
CLASS A:
In this Under 2200 event, only two players were rated under 2000 out of 14 players. The most exciting match happened early in the round robin between 2163 Mark Liu and 2116 Tuan Le. Both swung at anything that came over the net, yet some points lasted $10-12$ rallies before one of them won the point. It went all the way to deuce in the third, with Mark

18 Table Tennis Topics
and second games, with Johnny adjusting to Xu's spin and speed to win the third, but losing it again in the fourth. Why Xu resorted back to conservative consistency in the fifth when it didn't work in the first game, only he knows. 21-10 match and $\$ 1000$ to Johnny Huang.

## THE PEOPLE

Over the years, table tennis became the center piece, the main attraction in this multi-sport cultural event. Each year, the tournament drew hundreds of spectators who now expect and anticipate seeing the very best players.

The organizers of thisevent deservemuch recognition for creating this reputation, with built-in, time-proven efforts by people willing to give: The architect of this event, John Nguyen and his staff. Always with professionalism, the umpiring staff of Tom Miller, Bob Partridge, Azmy Ibrahim, and Jim Ritz. And most of all, the people of the Vietnamese community, who obviously showed their favoritism, but were always courteous by applauding the point, and not the player.


World \#21 Johnny Huang won in five over Hua Zhang Xu.

## Results:

Invitational: 1st Johnny Huang 9-0; 2nd Hua Zhang Xu 7-2; 3rd Sean O’Neill 7-2; 4th Khoa Nguyen 6-3; 5th De Tran 6-3; 6th Randy Cohen 3-67th Jason St. George 3-6; 8th Sean Lonergan 2-7; 9th Dennis Davis 2-7; 10th Zoltan Pustai 0-9.
Class A: 1st James Therriault; 2nd Mark Liu; 3rd Tuan Le; 4th Roger Nguyen. Juniors: 1stPhilipLim; 2nd Patricia Hocke; 3rd Shawn Kaufman; 4th Lynn Truong.

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going in. 21-18 second game to Xu . Thid and fourth games are a repeat of the first
prevailing, 24-22.
But this day belonged to Sacramento's top seed, 2192 James Therriault, over 15-year-old Mark, 18 in the fourth.

## INVITATIONAL:

The highlight of this tournament was the mere presence of world \#22 Johnny Huang, U.S. Champion Sean O'Neill, and last year's winner Hua Zhang Xu. Aside from them, what could have happened, and what did, was a surprise. Zoltan Pusztai, rated 2399, didn't win a single match, finishing at 0-9. De Tran went up against Xu , and knew he was on after the first five points. Dancing and looping at will, he led all the way for a 21 18 win in the first. Xu adjusted to De's spins and attacked aggressively to win the second game, but became too cautious in the third, allowing De to find his rhythm. At 17 -all, De ran out the match for the upset.

Against local favorite Khoa Nguyen, Johnny Huang won easily at 12 in the first. But in the second, Khoa, no match against Johnny close to the table, drops back to middle distance, giving himself more time to rally back his hits and set up his own powerful forehand. Johnny, with wins over the likes of Appelgren, Grubba, Saive, and Yoo Nam Kyu, suddenly can't hit through Khoa, and loses at 19. In the deciding third, the partisan crowd sensing an upset, pumps it up as the players exchange leads to deuce. With Johnny serving, the crowd of about four hundred can't believe it as Khoa pushes it into the net. Leading 23-22, Johnny again serves short, and two pushes later, Khoa pushes it into the net. What could have been...Khoa works full-time, and doesn't train at all. I wonder at the possibilities if he took a year off and trained overseas.

In the final, Xu and Johnny agreed to play best of five to meet the wishes of the appreciative audience. Xu loses easily in the first, unable to get anything by him in the first game. Then, suddenly, Xu abandons his smooth consistency game and aggressively spins, hits and counters. His timing thrown off, Johnny's hits are not


Insook Bhushan pulled off a triple heist, winning Women's Singles, American Allstar Women Singles, and (the start of a new dynasty?) American Allstar Seniors--this last competing against senior men in her first big tournament as a senior.

## 1992 ACCURATE TAX CHINESE NEW YEAR INTERNATIONAL \& AMERICAN ALLSTAR CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 7-8, 1992<br>Costa Mesa, CA<br>by Terry Timmins

The air was charged with excitement as 500 spectators watched to see who would be the top player in North America this day. Vying for the honor would be \#1 seed Johnny Huang of Canada and the \#2 seed from Petomac, Maryland, Cheng Ying Hua. Johnny had dazzled the same crowd at the Pacific Coast Open two years earlier by defeating another former Chinese team member, Huang ("Jack") Tong Sheng. Cheng was a relative unknown on the west coast in spite of having won the U.S. Open in 1985. Now, at 34, he coaches at the Potomac TT Club and is challenging Johnny's long-held position as the best player in North America.

In spite of Johnny's 22 nd in the world ranking, it would not be his day as he would fall $-14,19,15,-19, \& 13$ to Cheng Ying Hua, who went five games with then world champion Jan-Ove Waldner at the U.S. Open in 1990. Reigning U.S. Champion Sean O'Neill went down three straight in the semis to Cheng's blisteringly consistent allround shakehand, two-sided looping style, $11,14,20$. On the adjacent table, 1990 U.S. Champion Jim Butler was struggling against a barage of smashes from Johnny's short pipped, two-sided attacking game, $12,10,17$. In a TV interview earlier, former Chinese National Team member Cheng told a reporter through an interpreter that U.S. players had been improving significantly in recent years but that he estimated it would be at least eight more years before we could have a world champion from this country.

Other notables in the Open event included lefthanded former Yugoslavian star and U.S. Olympic training partner Darko Rop, who succumbed to Huang in the quarters, 10, 10, 17. The quarterfinals saw John Onifade falling to O'Neill, 19, -12, 14, 17; Dan Seemiller fighting a cold and Cheng, only to lose, 14, 17, 11; De Tran played well but losing to Butler, 11, 11, 20; and former Pacific Coast Open winner and Olympic Qualifier Khoa Nguyen went down in the eighths to O'Neill, 19, 17, 11.

The women singles saw current U.S. National Champ Insook Bhushan outlasting rival 1990 Champion Wei Wang, $-15,17,18,21$. U.S. Olympian-To-Be Lily Hugh fell in the semis to Wang in a grueling five-game match, $13,-10,-17$, 17, 12, while fellow qualifier Peggy Rosen went down to Bhushan, $8,8,12$. In addition to winning the women's event, Insook bested perennial senior finalist David Sakai
in the Senior All Star event to earn a respectable tournament total of $\$ 925$, including the American All Star Women's 1st place prize. This prize amount was second only to Cheng Ying Hua, who garnered \$1100 including his first place Open Doubles win with partner and former World Doubles Champion and U.S. Olympic Coach Li Zhenshi.

The American Men and Women All Star events saw Jim Butler besting Sean O'Neill, 13, 19, 15, and Insook Bhushan defeating Lily Hugh, $19,15,-21,15$. The Men's semis had Dan Seemiller falling to $\mathrm{O}^{\prime}$ Neill, $15,-22,9,11$, and Khoa Nguyen losing to Butler, 20, -19, 14, 17. Peggy Rosen fell to Bhushan, $8,10,12$, and Lan Vuong was stopped by Hugh, 14, 8, 22.

Introductions on Sunday morning recognized the generous contributions of tournament sponsors Stanley Yeung, President of Accurate Tax of Monterey Park, CA, and Dr. Jiing T. Wang, founder of the Pacific Rim International tournament, and the United States Table Tennis Association. Special thanks also were extended to computerdraw consultant Ichiro Hashimoto and time scheduler Diego Schaaf for contributing to a tournament schedule that ran like a Swiss clock-right on time! Special tournament guests Colin Clemett, International Table Tennis Federation's Rules Committee Chairman from England, and


Cheng Ying Hua beat Canada's \#1 Johnny Huang for the third time in a row, once again in five games. He also romped through the open doubles draw, partnered by USTTA Men's Coach Li Zhenshi, who is retired from singles but not yet from doubles.

## OLYMPIAN JIM BUTLER'S BACKHAND

by Larry Hodges and Hua Zhang Xu

Jim Butler, 1990 U.S. National Champion and 1992 Olympian, is known for his powerfal backhand drives and smashes. Topics takes a look at what goes into this


BACKHAND COUNTERDRIVE

1. Jim's ready position. Weight is spread evenly between feet, left foot slightly in front to allow quick transition to forehand. Left arm held up for better balance. Knees are bent slightly, weight forward. Jim watches incoming ball, concentrating.
shot-both the basic (hard-hitting) backhand counter, and Butler's trademark shot, the spectacular backhand smash (on the cover). Although there is more than one

2. Jim rotates body slightly to left, so body faces table. (Since he is hitting crossbody faces table. (Since he is hitting crossleft of where the ball is going.) Jim takes a left of where the ball is going.) Jim takes a
long backswing to generate more power. His wrist goes back, with the elbow relatively high.
way to hit a backhand, here is one of the most successful techniques by the player generally acknowledged as having the best backhand among U.S. players.
3. Jim rotates his entire body to the left, and his weight shifts to the left foot, which is almost straight behind his right foot. Right shoulder tucks back slightly. Racket is pulled as far back as it will go, pointing straight sideways. Wrist pulls back. Body is like a coiled spring. Left hand is up for balance throughout the shot. backhand kill, generating extreme power. It is one of the most dynamic and difficult shots in table tennis. Yet, throughout the shot, Jim stays perfectly balanced.

4. Just before contact. His racket and arm go forward, with the wrist still back. Racket tip is only slightly up.
Contact is very flat. Ball sinks straight into the sponge and to the wood. Contact is made at top of bounce when going for power, otherwise before the top of the bounce. Atcontact, Jim snaps his wrist, and the racket flips over. 2. The spring uncoils. Jim steps into the shot, throwing his body weight into the ball. Body, shoulder, arm and wrist all spring, in that order, like a slingshot. Arm is very loose. like rubber. The stroke is similar to a tennis backhand, especially Ivan Lendl's.

Contact is very flat, with ball sinking straight into the wood. Contact is around the top of the bounce.

In upcoming issues, we will cover Seant O'Neill's forehand loop, Jim Butler's serve. Cheng Ying Hua's backhand loop, and others in this continuing series.

4. Jim follows through in the direction ball is traveling, with tip ending up pointing in that direction as well. His racket goes forward naturally. Throughout stroke, his elbow moves very little. Power came from the arm (via long backswing \& forward swing) and wrist. Arm is very loose throughout stroke.
3. Jim follows through naturally forward, with all his weight going to the front foot. Left leg is stretched out, showing how far Jim's body has moved during shot. Racket goes forward, arm extends completely, and the power of the shot pulls Jim's racket around in a semi-circle to the left. Opponent goes to pick up ball.
he speaks table tennis, and through his actions, spoke thousands of words. At one point, he became frustrated by his inability to communicate, and ended up walking to the other side of the table, picking up Matt Magner, and placing him in the proper position.

Anatoly's motivation, hard work and sense of humor were an inspiration to us all. We will undoubtedly (for a while) take his advice and "work harder." Thanks go to Sergei for bringing him here and to Anatoly for voluntarily taking the time during his visit to train us peons.

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I was pleasantly surprised at the number of responses I received from my last column, and I hope that this feedback will continue in the future. These letters make it much easier to find out what people want to know. It was interesting to read the way another chopper also notices the "look in the attacker's eye when his concentration is broken, drives fall harmlessly into the net, and HE'S YOURS." I couldn't have said it better myself.

## Push with a purpose

Once a chopper has reached his comfortable distance from the table, he or she can normally return balls consistently. Problems arise, however, when the chopper is close to the table, and has to retreat quickly to return that first attack (like one of those reglued, heavily spun bullet loops). One way for a chopper to improve this situation is to improve the efficiency of his footwork for leaving the table (to be discussed in a future issue). An easier way, based on the philosophy that prevention is better than cure, is to weaken your opponent's opening loop by strengthening your pushing game. A well-executed push can make it much more difficult for an attacker to get his feet planted properly to hit a powerful loop.

A good push must be well placed on the table. It should either be short, so that it 'double bounces' on the table, or it should bounce near the white lines. Pushing at a medium depth or to the middle of the table should be avoided because these pushes become easy targets for the attacker. Three very effective places to push to are (1) very wide to the backhand (which makes it difficult for the attacker to move around to use his forehand), (2) deep and/or wide to the forehand, and (3) deep to the attacker's middle (especially effective against slower moving players).

A chopper should execute each push with the purpose of keeping the attacker off balance, and he should vary the spin and placement constantly. Try to find a particular spin and placement that the attacker has trouble with, and use that to your advantage when you need a point.

A good push can also help the chopper set up an attack of his own. Sometimes, when an opponent attacks and then drop shots, it is difficult for the defender to run up to the table and hit a controlled drive. However, if the defender can move in and execute a well-placed push, the attacker will be forced to push again, and the defender can then attack.

Make the push a strength of your defensive game. Although it may seem tedious and boring to practice pushing, it can improve greatly in a short period of time. Don't underestimate the importance of this basic shot. Push with a purpose, and you'll definitely see results.

Send questions or comments to: Derek May, clo Augusta College Table Tennis, 219 Crawford Ave., Augusta, GA 30904.

COACHING
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Larry Hodges
Recently, someone complained that the National Schools Championships held at this past Nationals was an example of the USTTA patting itself on the back for doing nothing. The person said that all it was was a glorified, down-sized junior tournament, and that it didn't get any new players at all. The person had a good point, yet I couldn't help but think he was seeing the trees, but not the forest.

The purpose of running a National Schools Championships is long-term. True, right now it is just a glorified junior event, but isn't that all the U.S. National Championships is? The tournaments run at the Potomac TT Club in Maryland have stronger draws than our Nationals (due to a number of Chinese players recently moved to the U.S., not eligible for the Nationals), yet which tournament is more prestigious? Which has the potential to attract sponsors or TV? Obviously, a name is a powerful thing, and by naming the junior tournament at the Nationals "The National School Championships," we upgrade it considerably. (It's actually a little more complicated than just naming it, but that's another story.)

Now that we have a National Schools Championships, we can work our way down. There are over 150,000 schools out there, and there is no way we can go to even a fraction. But we can work out way down, picking up a larger and larger following of volunteers and workers along the way. National Championships; State Championships; after that, perhaps County Championships, or perhaps down to the individual school. I don't know; we haven't gotten that far yet. I do hope that sometime in 1993 we can do a mailing to the 15,000 school districts in the U.S., and rely on them to notify the schools in their districts about their State Table Tennis Championships. This would cost about $\$ 4,000$. Perhaps we could get a sponsor to pay for it, perhaps one of the larger table tennis manufacturers?

We have now gotten to the second step in the program-State School Championships. I'm looking at 1993 , so we have time to get it right. We need 50 Tournament Directors, one from each state, to run the State Schools Championships for 1993. It can be a tournament by itself, or as part of a larger tournament.

I've already got volunteers for seven states (MD, WA, CA, NY, CN, OK, DE). Thanks! But we need 45 more. If you would like to volunteer, contact me so I can put you on my list. It'll be a while before I get back to you, probably late this year. Remember, we're planning for 1993, and the National School Championships are at the very end of the year, in December.

Before closing, I'd like to mention what I call the "Hodges Hypothesis": For every person who really accomplishes something for U.S. table tennis, there are ten who do things that don't really accomplish anything, a hundred who claim to be doing something but aren't, and a thousand who will gladly say what needs to be done, but won't help out themselves.

These numbers may be somewhat exaggerated, but they get my point across. If you are interested in seeing table tennis grow in the U.S., which category do you belong in?


Dana Jeffries (center, back row) with some of his students at the Table Tennis Center.
TABLE TENNIS PROFESSIONAL DANA JEFFRIES

# Have a Table Tennis/Sightseeing/Skiing Extravaganza in Colorado Springs by Larry Hodges 

It was in 1987 that Dana made the break from the normal world and opened his own table tennis center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

It wasn't exactly a snap decisionover the years, Dana had been building up a larger and larger following as a coach, and the need for a full-time center became apparent. So Dana, who had made a living as a junior high school music teacher and photographer, became a full-time table tennis coach.

The Table Tennis Center, now open 46 hours a week, is the culmination of 15 years of running clubs and coaching. Dana started out running a club in Fort Collins, Colorado, with Paul Williams. He began to have fun coaching kids, and pretty soon had over 50 private students.
"I was originally a teacher, and think that that's probably why I'm running the Center, because I like to teach kids that want to learn." Dana, who is rated about 1950, is an all-around player with an emphasis on chopping. (He uses inverted on both sides.) He proves that you don't have to be a table tennis superstar to become a coach.

His first Center had only two tables, but it gave him a facility to coach at fulltime. When business increased, he moved into a new facility with three to four tables. (Four for beginners, who need less room, three for more advanced players.)

The Center undergoes a wide variety of activities. These include lessons, training programs (mostly for kids), advanced team practice 6-10 hours a week for advanced players, a weekly Saturday night tournament, and several 10 -week leagues, including singles, doubles and team leagues. There is also a robot available for practice.

One nice feature of the Center is the non-stop table tennis videos in the lounge. At any time, players can take a break from play and watch the Swedes beat China, or just about any other world class players in action. Beginners see, right from the beginning, just what table tennis is about.

Dana also has his own rating system, modeled after the USTTA rating system. All official matches are compiled at the end of each week, and the new Center ratings are then posted. Most of the Center players, when asked their rating, respond with their Center rating rather than their USTTA rating. Often their Center
ratings shoot up before their USTTA ratings catch up.

The Center has been rather successful in developing players. Two students have been past residents of the Resident Training Program for table tennis at the Olympic Training Center, which is just a mile or so away. Dana coached Martin Vostry from sixth grade until he made the RTP a few years later as a 1800 -rated 13-year-old. Dana also coached Mark Garner from a rating of 900 until he too made the RTP as a 1900 -rated 13 -year-old-after less than two years of play. Dana also has several current prize students, including 1938-rated Eric Benton, 15-year-old 1692 -rated Sivi Baktha, 13-yearold 1646-rated Thien Tran, and 11-yearold Bryant Patterson, whose USTTA rating of 1611 has not yet caught up to his recent Center rating increase to over 1800 after only 14 months of play.

How active is the Center? Dana told me that, last Saturday, 20-25 kids showed up. How does he get them? Dana goes to the schools and sets up exhibitions, and talks about and gives out literature on the Center afterwards. He does the exhibitions with kids of similar age, using younger kids at elementary schools, but using older kids at junior highs and high schools.

Dana, who is also the State Coaching Director for Colorado, has this advice for those who wish to start up their own professional clubs:
"When people call the USTTA office asking for information on starting a professional club, they often refer them to me, and I have long discussions with various people trying to set up these clubs. I try to steer them in the direction that might be more successful for them.
"Don't start big," he advises. "Otherwise, you have too much rent. Have enough tables to not get into too much of a bind too often. Later, you can expand. Basically, don't start grandiose, and then fail."

As to his own Center, Dana invites you to stop by his Center if you're in town. "Have a Table Tennis/Sightseeing/Skiing vacation!" he says. The Center is only a few miles away from Pikes Peak and many prime skiing areas. Give him a call at (719) 632-PONG, and he'll be glad to help you arrange to play table tennis on your vacation.

| 1991 SENIOR OLYMPIC TABLE TENNIS Syracuse, New York |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Men 55-59 | Women 55-59 |
| 1. Neil Myers | 1. Mary A. Kleinhenz |
| 2. Ken Kleffman | 2. Peggie R. Birkhead |
| 3. Ralph Vescera | 3. Audrey McBroom |
| 4. Thomas J Newlin | 4. Carol Ingle |
| Men 60-64 | Women 60-64 |
| 1. Carl Meredith | 1. Margaret Hzeih |
| 2. Willard Hess | 2. Margaret Fox |
| 3. Charles T. Hudgins | 3. Eleanor Pritchett |
| 4. Charles E. Pease | 4. Nancy Weingarten |
| Men 65-69 | Women 65-69 |
| 1. Bob Brickell | 1. Tybie Sommer |
| 2. Bruce Ackerman | 2. Marianne Bessinger |
| 3. Vincent Galione | 3. Joy Johnson |
| 4. James S. Perry | 4. Virginia Cambell |
| Men 70-74 | Women 70-74 |
| 1. Orval L. Quisenberry | 1. Elfriede Lange |
| 2. Manny Moskowitz | 2. Louise Charonko |
| 3. Andrew Barrow | 3. Ruth Jacolev |
| 4. Fred H. Sherman | 4. Helen Bailey |
| Men 75-79 | Women 75-79 |
| 1. Robert L. Green | 1. Henrietta Berger |
| 2. Morris Evans | 2. Dolores Kuenz |
| 3. Leon Jacolev | 3. Rose A. Ruston |
| 4. Dennis Sheffield | 4. Sylvia A. Swartz |
| Men 80-84 | Women 80-84 |
| 1. Percy A. Harvey | 1. Wilma J. Reusch |
| 2. Earl R. McGonegal | 2. Anne Bunce |
| 3. John W. Donnelly | 3. Elfriede Mueller |
| 4. Arthur Spinanger | 4. Berta Gray |
|  | Women 85-89 |
|  | 1. Dela K. Wasum |

## CELEBRITY TABLE TENNIS: BUT CAN THEY LOOP?

"(Michael) Jordon, however, manages to reveal his own narcissistic, trashtalking, obsessively competitive side (once beaten at Ping-Pong, he bought his own table and became the Bulls' best at it)." Peter Plagens, Newsweek, February 24, 1992, page 69.

On February 20, Chevy Chase spent five minutes on the Johnny Carson show talking seriously about table tennis. (Serious!) Chase's father, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor, played ping-pong in the navy. Chevy knew the sport was called table tennis, said he was "good" at it, and would take "anyone" on. Are you listening, U.S. Team?

Do they play table tennis in the 22 nd century? "Dinner, which was held in the rec dome on a series of stripped-down Ping-Pong tables, was modest but tasty."

Kirk, Spock and McCoy enjoyed the dinner, but I guess they just weren't in the mood for an after-dinner game. Spock would've been a fine chopper...Star Trek \#58, Faces of Fire, Pocket Books, 1992, page 73.

And they still play in the 23 rd century as well! Here's a dialogue between an android and a Klingon:
"Would you care for a game of PingPong?" (Asks Data)
"Ping-Pong?" said Worf.
"Yes. I have seen it played in tapes. And if I am not mistaken, the Ping-Pong table Commander Riker created is still right over there."

The Klingon eyed the table, snorted. "No," he said. Star Trek: The Next Generation, A Call to Darkness, \#9, Pocket Books, 1989, page 31.


## USTTA ELITE COACHES CAMP

From August 26-30, 1992 (WedSun), the USTTA will be holding a coaches camp for our best coaches. The camp will be taught by LiZhenshi, the U.S. Men's \& RTP Coach, and formerly the Chinese Army Team Coach. Assisting will be National Coaching Chairman Larry Hodges.

The camp will be five days long. Each day will consist of both classroom and table sessions. 16-20 participants will take part in this camp designed to train our best coaches.

Coaches participating will get free room \& board, and will be reimbursed for travel expenses up to $\$ 350$. However, all coaches must pay a $\$ 100$ camp fee, paid in advance to the USTTA.

This is the chance you've been waiting for-the chance to learn table tennis coaching from the best! Coach Li will share the secrets he has learned from being ranked in the top three in the world, his ten years as the Chinese army coach, and his experience coaching the U.S. Men's Team.

All those interested in taking part in this camp should apply with coaching resume to Larry Hodges, National Coaching Chairman, 6007 Springhill Dr. \#202, Greenbelt, MD 20770. We're looking for active, qualified coaches. Applications must be received by July 1, 1992. Selections will be made by the USTTA Coaching Committee by July 15, and all applicants will be notified of selections immediately afterwards. Make sure to include both address and phone number on your application. Hope to hear from you!

## ATTENTION, TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AND COACHES!

Starting with this issue of Topics, you can advertise for tournaments and coaching clinics at $1 / 2$ price! Offer is only good for the following size ads: Full-page special: $\$ 225\left(9.75^{\prime \prime}\right.$ wide, $12.25^{\prime \prime}$ tall $)$ 1/2-page: special $\$ 130$ ( $9.75^{\prime \prime}$ wide, $6.0^{\prime \prime}$ tall)

In addition, American Allstar Series tournaments can have full-page ads for only \$130!

Contact: Larry Hodges, Topics Editor, 6007 Springhill Dr. \#202, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (301) 345-9112.

## STOP THE PRESS!

As Topics goes to press, two major results came in:

## NORTH AMERICAN <br> CHAMPIONSHIPS

Montreal, Canada
April 17-19
(Complete writeup by Tim Boggan in next issue) Men's Singles-Final: Johnny Huang d. Jim Butler 3-0; SF: Huang d. Hank Teekaveerakit 3-0; Butler d. Dhiren Narotam 3-0; QF: Huang d. John Onifade 3-0; Narotam d. Horatio Pintea 3-0; Butler d. Joe Ng 3-2; Teekaveerakit d. Sean O'Neill 3-2.

Women's Singles-Final: Lijuan Geng d. Barbara Chen 3-0.

Open Doubles: Johnny Huang/Horatio Pintea d. Sean O'Neill/Jim Butler 2-0. U.S. Trials for Butterfly World Doubles Cup: 1st Hank Teekaveerakit/ Dhiren Narotam 2nd Dan Seemiller/ John Onifade 3rd Sean O'Neill/Jim Butler 4th Todd Sweeris/Randy Cohen. (Top team goes, second place team might get wild card spot.)

## COLLEGE NATIONALS

## Princeton, NJ

## April 18-19

Augusta College from Georgia won its fourth consecutive national championships. (See page 30 for Augusta College profile.) Final: Augusta d. Princeton 8-1; SF: - Augusta d. Yale 8-0; Princeton d.

Rutgers-Newark n.s.

## USTIA COMMMITEEE CHAIRMEN

I was hoping to print a complete list of USTTA Committee Chairmen in this issue. Unfortunately, the list is not yet complete at this time. It will be printed in the next issue. Below are just a few of them, with apologies to those left out until next issue.
National Coaching Chairman:
Larry Hodges (301) 345-9112
National League Director:
Cody Jones (313) 360-5901
National Club Director:
Dana Hanson (804) 737-2801
Junior Committee Chairman: Barney Reed (717) 697-5264 Senior Committee Chairman: Dave Sakai (301) 794-9527 Disciplinary Chairman:
Dr. Morris Jackson (301) 608-3609 National Schools Program: Richard McAfee (803) 231-9647

## OLYMPIC ETHICS COMMITTEE

USTTA Treasurer Sheila O'Dougherty will be representing the Olympic Athlete's Advisory Council (AAC) at a Special Ethics Oversight Committee taking place this November in

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Over 7,000 table tennis players read Topics! Here's your chance to sell those used tables, nets, rackets, sponge or table tennis clothing that have been sitting around the house gathering dust. Send your ads to: Larry Hodges, 6007 Springhill Dr. \#202, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Rates are 15 cents/word for the first twenty words, ten cents/word for each additional word. Minimum charge is $\$ 3$. Make checks out to the USTTA.

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Young Swedish Player \& Coach available from May 10 to August 25. Needs room/board before entering U.S. college in Fall. Coaching credentials available. Contact Walt Gomes (307) 632-9139. Prodigy I.D. TMBN32A.

Four Stiga Expert VM Table Tennis Tables with Stiga Clipper nets (Stiga' most expensive net). These tables have seen very limited playing time and are in like new condition. Absolutely the best tables money can buy Sold elsewhere for $\$ 1198$. Own the ultimate table for only $\$ 648$ each or all four for $\$ 2000$. If your club or any of its members are interested in purchasing these tables please contact Tri-Cities Table Tennis Club c/o: Jim Flannagan, 616 Kentucky Ave., Bristol, TN 37620, (615) 764-2766.

Shelton-If I wear that glassholder, I'll look like a 1960's hippy. What are you trying to do to me? But thanks, Larry

Wanted: Table Tennis Cartoons. Send to Editor, 6007 Springhill Dr. \#202, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Happy 19th Birthday Todd Sweeris, May 28th!

Larry-Check your head for rocks/ bricks-Todd, Shelton

Tournament Directors and Coaches: Advertise your tournaments and clinics in Topics at half price! Contact the Editor for details, (301) 345-9112.

HB--Happy 7th Anniversary. HB
Colorado Springs. There will also be a representative from the National Governing Body Council (Don Porter, Executive Director of the Amateur Softball Association), and three from the public sector. Congratulations, Sheila!


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DONNA \& DAVE SAKAI

SENIOR ROAD WARRIORS If It's Sunday, Then We Must Be In New Jersey by Larry Hodges

New York... New Jersey... Michigan... Nevada... California... Maryland... Pennsylvania... North Carolina...I'm sure some of you have played tournaments in each of these states. But in ten weeks?!!

Of course, it's not just weekends. Thursday night? Time to head out to the Baltimore club, only 30 miles away. Monday? Time for Dave's weekly session with John Onifade at the local rec center. Similarly for the rest of the week.

Some think table tennis is a game for the young. Dave Sakai thinks it's a game for the old. (Donna agrees, but she doesn't expect to reach that stage for a few more years.) Dave has nothing against the young, however. "They're a great place to recruit future seniors," he says.

Dave and Donna Sakai are the King \& Queen of the U.S. Senior Circuit, now sponsored by Meiklejohn. Dave won the Senior American Allstar Series Final last year, while Donna has won the Senior

Women's title at the Nationals three times. The two are also current National Senior Mixed Doubles Champions.

They weren't slouches before 40 , either. In 1964, Donna Chaimson (later to become Mrs. Sakai) pulled off a quintuple hardware theft at the U.S. Open, winning women's doubles, mixed doubles, and junior mixed doubles, and finishing second in women's singles and junior girls' singles. Overall, Donna has been U.S. women's doubles champion twice, and won junior mixed doubles three times. She was also the U.S. under 15 and under 17 champion.

In recent years, their lives have taken off in various directions, both in and out of table tennis. Donna, who is a staff manager at Bell Atlantic, was voted to the Executive Committee of the USTTA by a landslide margin in 1990, getting $61 \%$ of the vote in a three-way race. She's up for re-election this year, but she's not wor-
ried--she's running unopposed. Donna is also the Operations Director for this year's and last year's U.S Open, and runs numerous other largescale tournaments, such as the Olympic Trials. Every year she finds herself getting more involved as she slowly sinks into the abyss of table tennis workaholism.

While Donna pulls in a comfortable and stable salary, Dave went the less secure route, starting his own company a few years ago, Senoda Inc., which sells printing. Dave, who could talk an ice cube into buying an eskimo, spends his days in his basement office, making sales on the phone (often in his bathrobe), or on the road seeing customers.. While on the road, he is never without his trusty car phone, which allows him to do half his business while driving. He runs up phone bills that keep Bell Atlantic going-which, of course, is the real reason they can afford to keep Donna.

Dave, known as "Mr. Big" for his herculean stature, began playing table tennis at a YMCA in Connecticut in the early 1960's when he was 16 . "It was the 'other' sport there, after basketball, swimming, baseball and football," Dave said. "We didn't take it very seriously." However, local YMCAs began competing among themselves, and Dave, armed with a sandpaper racket, began to get serious about it. His first memorable memory was losing a game to Lester Moskowitz 21-0. One year later, he beat Moskowitz in a tournament, and soon reached the finals of the U18's at the Nationals, beating the top seed in the quarters.

Dave plays an aggressive countering game. Known for his backhand counterdrive, Dave is willing to take on anyone in a backhand-to-backhand contest. He mixes in loops, blocks and smashes on his forehand side. He has one of the best blocking games in the U.S.

Many tournament goers have probably witnessed some of Dave's titanic struggles against other seniors, most notably George Brathwaite. George dominated the seniors for a decade, but Dave
finally caught up with him over the last few years. Because both play consistent topspin games, their rallies are some of the longest topspin rallies ever seen in the U.S. (or perhaps the world?). Worse, they seem to go five games every time, leading some observers to think it's a setup. Of course, anyone who knows these two know they'd cut off their free arms before letting the other win.

In 1979, Dave went professional. He moved in with Brian Masters, who was then 14 years old, and the two trained together while going totournaments. Dave also acted as the USTTA's National Coaching Chairman for several years, and was vice president of the Player's Association in 1976 which pioneered increased prize money in U.S. tournaments. Dave reached 5th in the U.S. at his best, but in 1981 he decided to reenter the real world.

Working for Moore Business Forms, he soon showed his prowess as a salesman and quickly moved up the ranks, several times winning awards for total sales. Eventually, he made the break from $9-5$ jobs by starting up Senoda Inc.

Donna learned to play from her father, Bob Chaimson, a former vice president of the USTTA. Her sister, Barbara, was also a star player, winning the Canadian Open three times. However, Bob and Barbara play very little now, and it's up to Donna to carry on the family tradition.

Donna, who plays with short pips on her backhand, plays a relatively passive push \& block game. However, the passiveness can be deceptive, as once she gets into a topspin rally, she attacks fast, and ends the points quickly with quick jab blocks, side to side, and a point-ending forehand.

Sometimes Donna travels all over the U.S. with Dave, often every weekend in a month. Other times she gets bogged down with USTTA work, and kicks Dave out of the house so she can get some work done. Between table tennis playing and table tennis working, few households can match their HITTING-Hours In Table Tennis, Including Numerous Games. And it doesn't look like it's going to end.


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Champions show you a
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* © Butterfly.


# SEAN LONERGAN 

The Making of an Olympic Dream<br>by Earl R. Hall

The table tennis dream began in Waukesha, Wisconsin, four years ago for Sean Lonergan. What started out as curious and fun has now turned into intense and rigorous training 900 miles away from home. Home now is the U.S. Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where Lonergan is a member of the Resident Training Program (RTP).

Lonergan's family played a major role in starting his table tennis career. His father, Terry, began playing 27 years ago at home and at the Waukesha Table Tennis Club. His mother, Cathy, soon followed in her husband's footsteps, as did their 18-year-old son, Brian. Only Lonergan's sister, Bridget, never really became involved in the sport like the rest of the Lonergan family.

Life has changed for Lonergan since moving to the OTC in September of 1991, and he admits it was difficult to leave his family and friends.
"I became such a dominant player in the state of Wisconsin that I needed a change. I needed better coaching and to play against stronger players in order to improve my own game. The hardest part for me was leaving my friends, school, and of course my family." He attends Palmer High School in Colorado Springs and will graduate in June 1993.

Lonergan's game has improved dramatically since moving to the OTC. In the past, he was a pure hitter, but has since changed his style to be more competitive at the national level.
"When you're a pure hitter, such as Johnny Huang, every stroke must be consistently perfect, which means longer training. Before I changed my style of play, my serves were basically topspin and long, and I usually countered during rallies." Under the guidance of former international star and current U.S. Head Coach Li Zhenshi, Lonergan has adopted a looping style of play. "The reason I changed my style is that looping is more consistent. You can make a slight error and still be in contention to win the point. I vary my serves now, short and long, trying to put as much spin on the ball as possible." The forehand is easier to convert to a looping style than the backhand, according to Lonergan. "My mentality for backhand hitting is still with me, and it is a tough habit to break. I try to force myself to concentrate on the backhand loop, even though it may not be as effective right now as my backhand hit."

Six days a week, three hours a day practicing on the table, and that is only part of Lonergan's training regimen at the OTC. Individual conditioning is emphasized by Coach Li and his assistant, Tom Ngo. Lonergan's conditioning schedule consists of jogging four days a week, three miles a day at the foot of beautiful Pikes Peak, and playing basketball three days a week at the OTC's main gymnasium. Diet is very important, and the Olympic training table has various meals to meet the athlete's needs.
$\qquad$

Over the past few years, Lonergan has concentrated on training rather than playing in tournaments. Some of his most memorable accomplishments have come at the U.S. Open Team Championships in Detroit.
"In 1989 and 1990, my team won our division-that was exciting," says Lonergan, whose team finished fourth in its division at the 1991 Team Championships. He also captured fifth place at the 1991 U.S. Junior Olympics. According to Ngo, that was a strong showing.
"The Junior Olympics is a huge tournament, and for Sean to place fifth goes to show that he has the talent and determination to be a top U.S. player someday." Lonergan's current rating is 2181, and he
is preparing for the upcoming U.S. Open in Midland, Michigan, June 10-14, and for the Junior Olympics/ Junior Nationals, August 6-8, in Rochester, Minnesota.

Lonergan's table tennis goal is to be a member of the men's national team within the next three years. According to Coach Li , he is headed in the right direction. "Sean has improved tremendously since coming to the OTC. I believe he has a good chance at making the 1995 national team if he improves his looping technique and becomes a smarter player. Table tennis is a mental game. He has the ability, but now it's time to become mentally ready for competition and for his own game...Sean's a real hard worker. He has the desire and ability to become a national team member as well as a future Olympian."

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the ' 90 's. Though this great new TSP rubber has only been available to American players has only been available to American players
for a short time, many top players and for a short time, many top players and
coaches have already switched to it. The coaches have already switched to it. The
positive and enthusiastic comments on X's continue to come in. To follow is a few of those comments:


Darko Rop (NY,NY), is a top player from Yugoslavia, who recently began from Yugoslavia, who recent and is now competing in U.S. tournaments and is now
using X's Powerspintm. Darko took the using $X$ s powerspintm. Darko took the
Men's Singles title at the prestigious Maryland Open soon after coming to the U.S., beating a player rated over 2700 in the process. Darko switched to X's because he says he loves the spin and power that it gives him, and that "Speed Glue makes X's even better, it's a world class rubber."


Akins Oguns (Detroit,MI.) is a dynamic topspin attacker from Nigeria. Already among the top players in the U.S. since locating in Detroit, this young player has won many midwest tournaments and earned the highest rating in the region (2536). He recently switched to X's and says: " $X$ 's Powerspin $T_{T M}$ is an excellent rubber, very powerful and spinny. I think using it gives me a big advantage."


Ricky Seemiller (Winston-Salem, NC) has been a U.S. Team member and one of America's top singles players for over 15 years. He's also a highly respected doubles player with countless titles including multiple U.S. National Men's Doubles earned with brother Dan. Rick is a very demanding judge of table tennis equipment. After a month of long practice sessions when he tested X's rubber, Ricky had nothing but tested X's rubber, Ricky had nothing but praise for it's spin, power and high quality. Rick says, "X's Powerspinim rubber has exactly the combination of top sheet and sponge characteristics I've been searching for for years. It creates strong topspin, but unlike other rubber sheets I've tried, X's doesn't sacrifice speed or power in the process. Using X's has improved my serves too, they stay shorter with heavier spin."


Dave Sakai (Lanham, MD) is a top American player for over twenty years, and winner of many national senior titles in recent years. He is currently in the top 20 Olympic eligible U.S. Men and recently won the American All Star series Senior Men's titite. Dave had these comments about X's: "X's Powerspintm gives me extra power when I need it to finish the point." He when I need it to fins lively longer than other rubbers." and "I really like the way it works with regluing."
Former U.S. Champion Attila Malek (Costa Mesa,CA ) says: " $X$ 's Powerspinmu is faster with lots of spin, but for such a powerful rubber it still has great control. I'm getting more spin on my serves with $X$ 's."

George Brathwaite (NY,NY) is another highly respected veteran U.S. player who now uses X's Powerspintm rubber. George's many titles include Men's Singles Champion at the prestigious C.N.E. International Championships in Toronto and recent national senior men's titles in singles and doubles. George was a member of the historic Ping Pong Diplomacy U.S. team that visited China in 1971. George commented on the "extra 1971. George commented od now that he is kick" his shot's have gained now that he is
using X's Powerspintm rubber. He also using X's Powerspintm rubber. He also
said that X's rubber has "the best quality topsheet l've ever seen."


Rey Domingo (Palisides, NJ) has been one of the top 15 U.S. players for many years, and is also the highest rated U.S. senior player (over 2440). Rey was World Senior Bronze Medalist in 1989 and has been U.S. National Senior's Champ since 1987. Rey says he loves X's. "I've never been happier with a rubber. It's powerful with very strong spin, but also has very good touch. I expect this to be the last rubber l'll ever use . It's that good."


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Volunteer Cup League Champions Charlie Buckley，John Allen，Don Brazzell and Clark Yeh．Teams from seven states competed throughout the season．

## VOLUNTEER CUP PLAYOFFS HIGHLIGHT TABLE TENNIS WEEK

by Larry Thoman

April 4 \＆ 5 is a weekend which will be remembered for the rest of this year here in ＂Vol Cup Country．＂That weekend was the date for the Volunteer Cup League playoffs in Lexington，Kentucky．We wit－ nessed some fabulous play by several of the top players in this area，excellent media coverage of the event，some amazingly close team matches，an historic proclama－ tion of＂table tennis week＂by Kentucky Governor Brereton C．Jones，and a surpris－ ing vote by team captains that may well change the course of the league．

The league playoffs traditionally match up the top two teams from each conference in three divisions to decide which teams get to keep the coveted Vol－ unteer Cups until next year．There＇s one ＂Cup＂for each division and they are prob－ ably the most beautiful prizes awarded in American table tennis．The Elite Division Cup is almost a foot in diameter and a foot and a half tall，and sits on a massive walnut base．It weighs about 25 pounds！The Star Division and Challenge Division Cups are equally as beautiful but about $3 / 4$ the size of the＂big un．＂

The perennial favorite to win the Elite Division，the Louisville Aces，had their work cut out for them this year if they were to＂three－peat．＂This division was tremen－ dously strengthened this year by the inclu－ sion of the Anderson College and Augusta College teams in the Southern Confer－ ence．While these two colleges were pro－ hibited from playing their heavies of Michael Hyatt，Nigel Christopher，Derek May，and Scott Butler，they still were odds on favorites to win the league with many 2100－2200 players to pull from．Augusta did win the regular season Southern Con－ ference but Anderson defaulted at the end of the season when they ran into schedul－ ing problems and had to default their last two matches．Therefore，Atlanta Cats came in second．

The Northern Conference decided to answer this invasion by taking advantage of the new foreign player rule that allows Elite teams to pull one player from another city that does not have an Elite team in the league．Louisville added 2400 rated Clark Yeh to their rosters and Evansville added 2100 Larry Thoman to theirs．These two teams dominated the Northern Conference and ended up 1－2 at the end of the regular season．

At the playoffs，the crossover semi＇s
26 Table Tennis Topics
matched up the Augusta Jaguars versus the Evansville Experts，and the Louisville Aces versus the Atlanta Cats．Both of these matches were virtually uncontested．Au－ gusta＂skunked＂Evansville 10－zip and Louisville＂whitewashed＂Atlanta9－1．One surprising result from these two matches was the outstanding play of the Aces＇up－ and－coming Steve Banet．Although only rated 1864，Steve knocked off all three players from Atlanta， 2009 Yogesh Sapre， 2025 George Cooper，and 2100 Fried Hinkleman．

The finals were a knock－down，drag－ out affair between the Louisville Aces and the Augusta Jaguars．Louisville drew first blood when their \＃2 man，John Allen， upset Augusta＇s \＃1，Brian Pace．John commanded the first game all the way， scoring almost at will with well placed serves and loops and throwing all kinds of spin variation at Brian to keep him＂off－ pace．＂Brian picked up the＂pace＂the second game by scoring with laser－fast loops and some fancy footwork．Up 15－5， Brian looked to be the sure winner．Some－ how though，John fought back and amaz－ ingly，soon found himself at deuce 20－20！ Then，after missing a two－hopper touch push from Brian，John faulted his own serve！The third game was nip and tuck all the way with many outstanding power strokes by both players，with John eking out a 21－19 win．

This match was followed by two unsurprising matches when Clark Yeh （Louisville）beat Anurag Agnihotri（Au－ gusta）and Ty Hoff（Augusta）beat Don Brazzell（Louisville）two straight．Allen then continued his gutsy play by pulling out a squeaker over Anurag at 19，－19，19． In the fifth match，Pace easily outpointed Brazzell at 16,14 ，although Don made his presence known by a couple of tremen－ dous smash returns of Brian＇s loop kills． Ty gave Clark all he could handle in the next match，repeatedly topspin returning some of Clark＇s best smashes and then outpositioning Clark with well－placed spin loops．Clark ended up the winner，how－ ever，by the scores of 19,20 ．

The seventh，eighth，and ninth matches are revealing match－ups as they match up in order \＃3 vs．\＃3，\＃2 vs．\＃2，and \＃1 vs．\＃1． In the seventh，Agnihotri completely be－ fuddled Brazzell，winning by the most lopsided score yet，11，12．Surprisingly， Hoff then beat Allen fairly easily in three，

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To All To Whom These Presents Shall Gome：

WHEREAS，Table tennis is a health building sport，which can be played for both exercise and recreation by anyone，regardless of
age or physique；and
WHEREAS，This sport requires only inexpensive equipment，and public WHEREAS， The Unit The United States Table Tennis Association is striving $t$ promote interest in table tennis as a competitive sport as a sport for our senior citizens as well as our young people．


## It＇s Kentucky Table Tennis Week－－by order of the Governor．

even though he lost the second game．And with that win，Augusta was able to knot the team score back up at 4－4．The final singles match was Yeh vs．Pace in a battle of former RTP chums who had played each other many，many times．Clark had the upper hand in this match，using his fast attack to keep Brian from getting off too many strong loops，and putting Louisville back in the lead 5－4．

The final match of the tie was the doubles matchup of Yeh／Allen vs．Pace／ Hoff．If Louisville won the doubles，they would win the team match outright．If Augusta won two straight，they would win the match on games，and if they won in three，they looked like they would still win on points．Augusta started off strong and took the first game at 19．Both teams were playing well and giving it all they had． Louisville countered by taking the second game at 16．The suspense in the audience was tremendous as the third game began． It was so intense that Kim Allen，John＇s wife，could not bear to watch the match after Augusta took an early lead，so she left the match area．Louisville came back， however，and soon the two teams were locked into a point－by－point death struggle that lasted until the change of ends at 10 ．

John had repeatedly returned serve to Brian＇s backhand，only to see Brian step around and forehand loop kill it for a winner，often ending up sitting on the floor due to the awkward position he was being forced to loop from．But suddenly，John placed two serve returns in a row wide to Brian＇s forehand，catching Brian off guard and winning both points．Clark then hit in a couple of tremendous forehand kills to give Louisville a lead they never relin－ quished as they went on to win the doubles
match $2-1$ ，and the team match $6-4$ ．A standing ovation by the audience ensued， for they realized they had just seen the most exciting，intense final in the four year history of the Volunteer Cup．

In contrast to the Elite final，the Star and Challenge finals were not nearly as close．The Star final pitted the Memphis Mafia against the Florence Force．Mem－ phis had gone undefeated during the regu－ lar season yet barely made it past Louis－ ville Lightning in the semi＇s．The Mafia／ Lightning matchup featured a battle be－ tween the two nominees for star Most Valuable Player，Leon Curry of Memphis and Mark Meade of Louisville．Curry won the match but lost in the voting for MVP． Curry also experienced his first defeat of the season，in the eighth match against Dan Reames，deuce in the third．This defeat also tied the score at 4－4 and after the last singles match and the doubles match，the score stood tied at 5－5 in matches and 13－ 13 in games．Now the point totals were carefully calculated to decide the winner． After several anxious moments of adding points and rechecking，Memphis won out by 499 points to 475 points－a difference of less than 1 point per game！

While we＇re on the subject of close matches，the above match was not the closest of the playoffs．Believe it or not， there were actually two more matches that had a point difference of less than 24 points！In the Louisville Allstars／St． Charles Veterans match，the score was 5－5， 11－11，394－374－a difference of only 20 points．But even this was topped by the Nashville Knights／Louisville Sting match with a final score of 5－5，13－13，486－476， only a 10 point difference over 26 games！ Can＇t get much closer than that，folks．

The Florence Force team of captain Kirk Henthorn, Rob Bacigalupo, and Shawn Garnett, hammered its competition both in the semi's and finals. Both were won 7-3, and the Force had secured the winning margin by the eighth match. Bacigalupo went undefeated, including a win over the higher rated Curry. In the semi's Chip Patton of Huntsville Rockets was the only singles player for Huntsville to score wins for his team, defeating Henthorne and Garnett, but losing to Bacigalupo. The finals were a bit unusual in that all the matches were won two straight, the first time that happened this season.

The Challenge finals matched up Nashville Tigers and Cumberland Lakers. These two teams had come in in first and second during the regular season, so it was no surprise to see them in the finals. The Tigers had an easy time in their semi's, putting away the Louisville Allstars 8-2, with Reid Stone the only player for Louisville to secure wins for his team. The Lakers weren't so lucky, barely surviving a down to the last match challenge by the St. Charles Veterens. Cumberland had dominated the earlier part of the match and led by 5-1 at the end of the sixth match. St Charles stormed back, taking the next three matches two straight to pull to within 5-4. If they could win the doubles, either in two or three games, they would win the tie. Cumberland was not to be denied, however, and closed out a $6-4$ win by taking the doubles at 14,17 .

The finals featured three of the top juniors in the league. Cumberland had 10-year-old Aaron Compton, son of captain Gary Compton. Nashville had two brothers, Jay Sourinthone and Saymek Sourinthone, 13 and 14 years of age respectively. All three juniors had enjoyed banner seasons, upsetting many higher rated players over the course of the season. Aaron and Saymek had both been nominated for Challenge Most Improved Player, with Aaron winning that honor. However in the finals, both Saymek and Jay beat Aaron. Aaron did score a big win over Challenge MVP and Nashville captain, Larry White.

This match appeared at first to be a tight one with Larry eking out a 19, -19, 19 win, revenging a regular season defeat by Gary by the exact same scores. The match seesawed back and forth during its early stages, with Cumberland gaining a 3-2 edge on the fifth match. But then Nashville exploded, winning the next five matches in a row, securing the winning margin on the ninth match when White beat Tri Truong, and finishing with the anti-climatic doubles when Cumberland fielded the weak team of Aaron Compton and younger brother Brett.

Thus a weekend crammed with excitement, celebration, and surprises drew to a close. The event was covered on all three Lexington TV stations and was featured with five photos on the second page of the Sunday sports section of the Lexington Herald-Leader as well as several smaller articles earlier in the week. Local junior stars Tom Plaisted (Elite Best Sportsman) and Chris Miracle (Elite Most Improved Player) were featured on a live newscast in which Chris won the challenge from the sports anchor to get a ball past him. For winning the bet, Chris took the anchor's place on the late news that day! After which he said goodnaturedly, "this was great, but it doesn't pay enough!"

The last big news that came out of the


In Europe many world class players besides Mikael Appelgren and Jörgen Persson play with DONIC products. Peter Franz and Sascha Köstner are at this time the most successful players in Germany. Countless Swedish juniors have also grown up playing with DONIC products over the last ten years.
Here in the USA, Mike Veillette has made his own dreams come true by winning a total of eight Michigan State Singles Championships and is now at his highest rating 2373. Mike plays with a PERSSON POWERPLAY ST racket and VARIO SOFT rubber.

Two time US Junior 14 Champion Barney Reed has been playing with DONIC since he was 10 years old and he has never let up since then. Barney plays with APPELGREN ALLPLAY CO and VARIO SOFT.

Our newest junior member David Fernandez has switched to DONIC and plays with PERSSON ALLROUND FL and VARIO SOFT. We are sure to hear many success stories from David in the near future. He has the talent and the right equipment.

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## Home of the World Champions

playoffs, and to which I alluded to in the opening paragraph, was a surprising vote by the team captains at the captains' Planning Meeting. They voted by a close 9-7 vote to eliminate prize money for next year's season! The league had, in year's past, always split up whatever net profit there was at the end of the season among
the first and second place finishers in each division. Instead of prize money, the captains wanted to place any net profit into a development fund so that slick brochures, sponsorship packages, professional-looking team scoreboards, advertising, umpire tables, and other items could be purchased to improve the league's (and table tennis')
image when we compete in the malls in front of thousands of spectators each season. This just demonstrates how much the table tennis leaders in this area believe in the concept of the league and how they are willing to forgo personal benefits in favor of strengthening the league as a whole. Kudos!

## POCONO WINTER OPEN

Luzerne County Community College Nanticoke, Pennsylvania
January 26, 1992
by Tournament Director Dave Dickson
Mark Schnorr, playing in one of his first tournaments since returning to competitive play, won both the Under 1800 and the Open, as he went 11-0 for the day. Schnorr's fast loop proved to be too much for his eleven opponents. Mike McFadden was runner-up in both events.

Michael Baez and Paul DePrimo, both of Forty Fort, PA, also won titles. Baez won the under 1050, and DePrimo won the under 850 against a large and strong field of opponents.

Baez and DePrimo, along with Jon Bilbow, will be leading contenders in the L.C:R.D. tournament on February 15 in the 10-12th grade event.
Results:
Open: Mark Schnorr d. Mike McFadden U1800: Mark Schnoor d. Mike McFadden
U1550: Chet Beaver
U1300: Fred Nimmerfroh
U1050: Michael Baez
U850: Paul DePrime
U650: Chris Bailey
O40: Merr Trumbore
U3000 Dbls: Mike McFadden \& Dan Barnes

## SCHAUMBURG 6TH

## ANNIVERSARY OPEN

Schaumburg, Illinois
March 21, 1992
by Primo Madrigal
In spite of the near blizzard that dumped ten inches of snow, 94 players made it to the Schaumburg 6th Anniversary Open. I was happy to see over two dozen juniors. The largest group was being coached by Armano Remtula of Youth and Sports Club in Chicago Stan Talifero also brought six juniors from Detroit. These guys should be commended for the efforts they are giving these juniors. Again, thanks to all who always support our tourna-

## ments.

Results:
Open-Final: Bogdan Lewandowski d. Jorgen Elovsson 19.19; SF: Lewandowski d. Minh Lam 16,15; Elovsson d. Clyde Cauthen 15,18; QF: Lewandowski d. Paul Lamse 17,14; Lam d. Kurt Kupitz 10,18; Cauthen d. Manlio Ballerini 16,14; Elovsson d. Andy Ibanigor 19,12.

U2300: Jorgen Elovsson d. Dave Fortney 14,20
U2100: Minh Lam d. Dave Fortney 19,14
U1900: Ed Hogshead d. Skip Keltner 12,16,18
U1700: Paul Lewis d. Kent Mok 19,-15,24.
U1500: Karl Mikesell d. Ed Asner 19,20. U1300: George Adrian Jr. d. Robert Gates Jr. 18,14. U1100: George Adrian Jr. d. Julie Eng 22,14. U900: Klaudia Warman d. Kevin Morrison 14,12 U18: Robert Gates Jr. d. Matt Biver 12,13.
O40: Terry Lonergan d. Paul Lamse - 19, 15,22. Handicap: Kent Mok d. Klaudia Warman 51-46.

## RPI OPEN

Troy, New York
March 21-22, 1992
Results:
Open: David Zhuang d. Darko Rop, 14,14,18. U2200: Sean Lonergan d. Moses Kingston, 20,-16,20 U2000: Marcy Monasterial d. Yenchritra, 12,5. U1850: Marcy Monasterial d. Glenn Brown, 7,15. U1700: Dennis Kaminsky d. Ed Brown, 11,15. U1550: Sam Seppala d. Abe Mantell, 14,-11,15 U1400: Jasper Wong d. George Nagy, -16, 19, 17 U18: Glenn Brown d. Edgar Soto, 17,11. Unrated: X. Chen d. C.Y. Lee, 18,17
040: Rey Domingo d. Moses Kingston, 15,17 3400 Dbles: Cheng \& Kaya d. Yenchritra \& Sangsiri, 18,20.
College Teams: RPI d. Stoney Brook \#1, 3-0; Thomas Hu d. Ning Wei, 19,20; Xu Jun Huang d. Kwamba Nkemba, 19,13; Hu/Huang d. Wei/ Nkemba, 19,-17,17.

## RECESSION OPEN

Cambridge, Massachusetts
March 28, 1992
Open-Final: Ernest Virgo d. Chi-Sun Chui $-21,18,23$; SF: Virgo d. Razvan Cretu 18,14; Chui d. Sean Lonergan 14,10; QF: Virgo d. Nguyen Ly 16,14; Cretu d. Jiri Hlava 17,19; Lonergan d. Kurt Douty 15,-17,14; Chi-Sun Chui d. Jane Chui 15,12.
U2200-Final: Jane Chui d. Kurt Douty 19,-15,13; SF: Chui d. Sean Lonergan 18, 13,22; Douty d. Lynwood Smith 15,11. U2100: Kok-Liang Liung d. Alex Krasnoshchyok 17,18,13.
U2000: Lynwood Smith d. Barry Scott 13,-16,20.

U1900: Kevin Murphy d. Donald Hayes 14,18 U1800: Douglas Smith d. Jose Borges 12,18. U1700: Douglas Smith d. Jose Borges - 13,19,18. U1600: Sam Seppala d. Keneth Eng 9,14. U1500: Bob Ross d. Ki-Young Rah -6,22,13. U1400: Tinaung Maung d. Jose Machado - $16,15,17$. U1300: Michael Sust d. Chung-Chi Lin 12,19. U1200: Andrew Smyth d. Eddie Olson 18,-21,19. U1100: Hsi-Ching Shih d. David Shepard 11,15. U1000: Hsi-Ching Shih d. Thomas Smith 18,10 U900: Thomas Smith d. Pam Bloomingdale 14,14. U800: Pam Bloomingdale d. Scott Chancey 16,-20,12. Unrated: Krishna Kumar d. Mark Damon 14,14. Handicap: Ernest Virgo d. Alex Krasnoshchyok 45.

U1900: Trung Ma d. Shonie Aki 15,18
U1600: Dave McAfee d. Dan Marinsik 20,13. U1300: Borje Svenhard d. Randy Putnam 17,13 U1000: Steve Weber d. Joshua Svenhard - $20,19,17$ U550: Phillip Cleveland d. Wynn Gonsalves 17,-11,20 Team Results:
U4100: 1st Voltaire Trillo/Ricky Yip 2nd James Therriault/C.W. Smith.
U3500: 1st Bill Lui/Philip Lim 2nd James Wong/Masao Tomizaki.
U2900: 1st Hawk Lee/Mike Wong 2nd Mike Marinas/Randy Putnam.
U2300: 1st Lee Swander/AI Mitterling 2nd Rick Reynolds/Hal Reynolds.
U1700: 1st Eugene Yesin/Stacey Lee 2nd Anthony Babella/Heidi Haller.

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OUR WONDERFUL OLD PEOPLE'S GAME<br>by J. Duncan Campbell

At my request, my friend Dr. Brian McCracken of Montpelier, Vermont has written a splendid medical primer about old table tennis players-and I do mean old. But he leaves himself modestly out of his story. Actually, he is a fine example of his own doctrine. Several years ago he had a heart attack. The word got around, in the Vermont table tennis family of the Champlain Valley TTC, the Green Mountain TTC, and the Bennington TT Group. As I remember, for a short time, he didn't appear at some tournaments.

Well, when he came back you'd never know he had been away! For years, our people would smile knowingly when watching Doc in a match. He is a defender mostly, not too close to the table. He is lean and wiry, with a nonchalant style and a straight face, plus a personal trademark feature: his free hand in his pants pocket. "Look out!" the cognoscenti would warn, "Doc finally took his hand out of the pocket!"

I wonder whether there is any other game in which really old players can still compete seriously? Take tennis. The much smaller court used in table tennis protects those with mean-spirited craftiness against the heedless power of the young and strong, as opposed to those in tennis, where the court is so much larger. Four table tennis courts fit into a tennis court. Beyond that: the playing surfaces are hugely different; the distance between the table tennis "baseline" and the barrier is more than twice the length of the table, an unthinkably huge area of "backcourt" if applied proportionately to a tennis court. As a result, the young hot-shot can race back and forth out there wearing himself or herself to a frazzle while the Old Master quietly controls the table, threatening a delicate drop shot with every subtle move.

And consider the sneaky attitude of the Old Codger. The kid whaps a shot with tremendous sidespin on it. "That'll faze the Old Gink," the kid smirks to himself. Meanwhile, the Old Gink hasn't
worried about returning sidespin for years. He doesn'teven bother to note which way the opponent spun the ball. He just sticks out his Hock blade with Phantom long pips and no sponge.

The hateful funny-rubber negates 100 percent of the spin, and returns a floater, a wobbler, a nothing ball, unpredictable to many and infuriating. However, if there is a lot of speed on the incoming power shot, the Old Gink's paddle does not take out all of that speed by any means. With a closed, exactly-angled block, the Old Gink short-hops the ball so that it comes back at the kid with unbelievable sudden surprise. often completely out of reach of the hustling young expert who has been wrong-footed again.

There are joys in old age, you see, after all.

On the other hand, there are problems, which the good doctor does not address. The greater the age, the more difficulties arise in merely getting to the tournament. And getting safely home, when it's true that, "Baby, it's dark outside," and the Vermont roads in tournament season are covered with difficult-todetect black ice, and the oncoming headlights hurt the old eyes. Solution? Carpool, with young eyes and strong backs as designated drivers. And don't forget to take the special lower-back cushion. If you played too many matches, you'll need it on the long drive to your hot, hot bath.

Our great game is indeed a "thing of beauty and a joy forever," as Dr. McCracken and Keats remind us. And that's for men and women, as well as small boys and girls. However, we could perhaps all join in one universal realization: we can hope - and pray, as the individual spirit may move us-that we be spared the crippling infirmities that would keep us alive but unable to play at all That would truly be sad. Our thought might be, "Lord, if you want me, strike me down quickly, and if it can be done as I make a great shot, that's fine with me."

## AGE EFFECTS AND TABLE TENNIS

By Brian H. McCracken, M.D.

As we get older, there are inevitable and unforgiving changes that occur in our bodies. Young people seem to fear these changes and look with horror on the big birthdays of 60 or 70 or more. They marvel at the fact that we can play table tennis at all. Actually, things are not that bad, and there are pluses, too, as well as the minuses.

Let us look at some of these minuses first.

Memory fails. There are three different memories to consider: a) immediate recall, such as the score in the game being played, b) short-term memory, like what happened last week, and c) long-term memory, like what we did when we were young. In aging, it is only the short-term memory which is impaired. Let's hope it was not important what we did last week.

Reflexes slow. Some insurance companies a few years ago set up a plan to test people for reflexes and reaction times, hoping that this would be a measure of physiological age and a predictor of their life expectancy. It seems that reflexes do not slow measurably until the age of 40 , and that after that they do slow progressively. Just as in driving a car, one can compensate for this to a large extent by anticipation, an ability which comes from experience.

Eyesight fails. Playing table tennis the first time with bifocals is a lesson in adaptation. There are no glasses which will let the rigid lens focus on both sides of the table and the paddle at the same time, but fortunately this is not necessary. One can hit at the center of a blurred and fuzzy ball almost as accurately as a sharp one.

The pupils of older folks get smaller and they need more light. One ophthalmologist stated that half of the vision complaints of the elderly could be cured by brighter lighting. Adequate lighting is essential for us.

Joints get rusty. Actually, it is more often bursitis or tendinitis than true arthritis that cripples one's shoulder or elbow. Probably steady, reasonable exercise like

## SALINA OPEN

## Salina, Kansas <br> February 22, 1992 <br> by Cliff Metzger

KANSAS, where recreational players drive two hours to play table tennis. Tournament players drive even farther, and out-ofstaters, well, you dedicated (table tennis nuts) players know to what lengths you will go to for some good competition. Quality play is what 16 recreational players witnessed when 32 tournament players dug in for their rating matches. How sweet it is to see the tournament bug bite the recreational player, hopefully soon to be a competition player and USTTA member.

## USTTA EXECUTIVE MEETING MARCH 22 \& 23, 1992 <br> COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

A meeting of the USTTA Executive Committee was held March 22 \& 23, 1992 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The following are descriptions and outcomes of the motions discussed at the meeting. The complete minutes package is sent to each club and committee chair. Copies are available to members from
headquarters upon request.
The following board and USTTA staff members attended the meeting
Shonie Aki, Insook Bhushan, Kae Browning, Roy Dickson, Linda Gleeson, Gus Kennedy, Jimmy McClure, Sheila O'Dougherty, Barry Rodgers, Donna Sakai and Dan Seemiller.
Motion: Passed 9-0-0 Kennedy

This Salina Open was sanctioned by the USTTA. This was the 13th sanctioned tourney conducted by the Salina Table Tennis Club, and the first conducted in cooperation with the Wichita Table Tennis Association. For additional Table Tennis information in the state of Kansas, contact Cliff Metzger, State Club Director for Kansas, 2026 Roach St., Club Director for Kansas,
Salina, Kansas 67401, (913) 823-6844. Open: 1st Vance Voth; 2nd Chuck Jia; 3rd Larry Kesler; 4th John Kholdi.
Open Consolation: 1st Joel Moots; 2nd Larry
Kesler; 3rd Gregg Rempel; 4th Tom Cyre. Class A: 1st Vance Voth; 2nd Larry Kesler; 3rd Class A: Is
Class B: 1st J. Bartel; 2nd J. Petrie; 3rd Dr. D. Surowski.
Class C: Ist P. Logan; 2nd: J. Winn; 3d K. Finney.

Class D: 1 st C. Couiter; 2nd G. Wing; 3rd Jim Spencer.
Recreational Singles: 1st Tom Will; 2nd Charlie Rogers; 3rd Brandon Feng.
Recreational Consolation: 1st Otto Winkler; 2nd M. Billot; 3rd Tim Potochnik; 4th F. Haun. Recreational RR:
Class A: 1st Tom Will; 2nd Steve Schrag; 3rd Bob Lott. Class B: Ist Charles Bagshaw; 2nd Otto Winkler; 3rd M. Billiot.
Class C: 1st Tim Potochnik; 2nd Fredia Huan; 3rd Class C: 1 st Tim
Jenny Potochnik.
Jenny Potochnik.
Class A Doubles: 1st C. Jia \& P. Chatterjee; 2nd V. Voth \& C. Ucak.
A Consolation Doubles: 1st J. Bartel \& J. Moots; 2nd T. Brecheisen \& J. Clement.
Class B Doubles: 1st Dr. D. Surowski \& J. Spencer; 2nd Dr. T. Cochrane \& K. Finney. B Consolation Doubles: 1st G. Wing \& C. Coulter; 2nd Corbin Nazarenus \& Larry Howard.
table tennis rather than jogging, weightlifting or ball games is a good preventative.

Strength weakens. It becomes more difficult to kill the ball, and one has to compensate with placement rather than speed. One does not choose the heaviest paddle. Perhaps stamina is more limiting. At a tournament, when six o'clock rolls around, one feels one has had enough, and we have to learn to pace ourselves, and limit the events we enter.

Coordination of eyes and muscles may get poorer. Happily this does not have to happen. Some older people get tremors, but they are more often "resting tremors" rather than "intention tremors," and tend to stop when action like hitting a ball is needed.

Then there are all the illnesses which get more common as the years pass. Heart disease, strokes, and cancer are the notorious ones. Heart specialists these days encourage the survivors of heart attacks to resume exercise, and often they are able to do more than they used to before the attack. Table tennis is a good exercise for most heart patients. Strokes require dedicated exercise for full recovery, and when it is feasible, games are better motivation than calisthenics. A young player in one of our clubs had a severe stroke two years ago, and he is now getting back to where he was before it happened.

There are positive aspects to aging, too.

One thing is more time to play. Another is the experience which the years have taught. This can compensate for all sorts of deficiencies. More important is the attitude in playing. Winning does not have the same significance as it used to, we have had so many wins and losses already, and we are not trying to climb a ladder. Aging engenders a philosophy which can be helpful to us and which can be an example to younger players. We can help them to realize that table tennis has something in common with Keat's Grecian urn, it is a joy forever.

## LOUISIANA FEBRUARY OPEN February 15-16

February $15-16$
Open Singles-Final: Brian Pace d. Derek May 19,17,16; SF: Pace d. Eric Owens 14,-12,10,17; May d. Anthony Cooper 16,15,17.
Open Doubles: Pace/Cooper d. May/Wilson -12, 14,16.
Women: Q. Nguyen d. K. Poirier 9,11.
U2250-Final: Brian Pace d. Anthony Cooper 14,18; SF: Pace d. M. Evans 12,-20,8; Cooper d. H.V. Truong 24,-15,14.

U2000: Dat Hoang d. M. Evans 10,-20,18. U1800: C.H. Cheng d. Hector Ochoa 18,10. U1600: George Little d. Das Sujan 14,13.
U1400: R. Peters d. Tong Wong $18,-18,13$.
U1100: W. Peters d. W. Beaumont $12,19$. 040-Final: H.V. Truong d. Dave Edwards 15,16,11; SF: Truong d. Fred Halbig 17,-19,13;
Move to accept Sean O'Neill as proxy for Scott Butler and Y.C. Lee as proxy for Terry Timmins. Motion: Passed 8-0-3 McClure ( $O$ 'Neill, Dickson \& Lee abstain)
Move that the minutes of the October \& November teleconferences and December meeting be accepted as written.
cepted as written.
Motion: Passed 10-0-1 Kennedy (Aki abstain)
Motion: Passed 10-0-1 Kennedy (Aki abstain)
Move that the USTTA support Anderson College in Move har the USTIA support Anderson College in hosting the ACUI College Nationals tournamen for
1992, 1993 \& 1994. The USTTA to fund this event with $\$ 2,000$ annually.
Motion: Passed 11-0-0 Lee
Move that Gus Kennedy present two proposals to the ITTF: 1) Friction standards for tables; 2) The ITTF should continue with efforts to include team events in the Olympics using existing numbers \& events presently in place.
Motion: Passed 10-0-1 Kennedy (Sakai abstain)
Move that $\$ 2,000$ be paid to Donna Sakai as

Operations Director of the 1992 Dow Chemical U.S. Open.
Motion: Passed 11-0-0 O’Dougherty
Move that all employee unused sick leave be carried over from year to year.
Motion: Passed 11-0-0 Kennedy
Move to accept that vacation time for employees be accrued on a monthly basis.
Motion: Passed 9-0-0 Kennedy (Bhushan \& O'Dougherty absent)
Move that the ITTF study the elimination of the paddle point rule \& pursue wording of a service rule paddle point rule \& pursue wording of a service rule
thateliminates the ball being hidden from view from that eliminate
the receiver.

## the receiver. Motion: Passed $11-0-0 \quad$ McClure

Move that the 1992 budget be approved as submitted.
Respectively Submitted,
Donna Sakai
Secretary, USTTA

Edwards d. Rich Martin 19,21.
U18: Q. Nguyen d. Lon Cellini 11,7.
U14: W. Beaumont d. J. Beaumont 19,22. A Singles: H.V. Truond d. Anthony Cooper 18,16. B Singles: K. Friley d. F. Halbig 12,-18,25.
C Singles: C. Green d. A. Chase 19,18.
D Singles: D. Drummond d. P. Patnaik 20,17.
E Singles: R. Henri d. R. Peters $17,-17,16$.
F Singles: K. Poirier d. W. Beaumont 20,13.
Handicap Singles-Final: Derek May d. J.
Beaumont 18,16 ; SF: May d. T. Wong 18,17;
Beaumont d. B. Ledbetter 25,13.
Consolation Singles: Sam Smith d. Ronald Spencer 11,8 .
A Doubles: Martin/Smith d. Edwards Halbig 27,19,19.
B Doubles: Cheng/Henri d. Cothren/Hoang 16,15.
 Man Chai, Michael Hyatt, Nigel Christopher, Robert Hyatt

# ANDERSON COLLEGE 

1991-92 EDITION by Richard McAfee, Head Coach

New faces, some old faces, and an all-new coaching staff mark this year's table tennis squad at Anderson College. Leading the 1991-92 team are returning players Michael Hyatt and Nigel Christopher. Both are now ranked among the top 20 players in the U.S.

Hyatt is a former Jamaican national champion in both singles and doubles. Michael is known for his great quickness and shot making. He represented Jamaica at both the 1989 World Championships in Dortmund, Germany, and the 1989 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Wales. This year he will be facing his loftiest quest, the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Over the Thanksgiving holidays, Michael qualified for the Olympics by taking a fifth place finish in the combined Caribbean \& Latin America Trials in Cuba. While Michael was in Cuba, the rest of the team managed a strong 9th place finish (out of 174 teams) in the A division at Detroit.

Nigel Christopher is a former twotime national champion of Trinidad, and has represented Trinidad at two World Championships, the Pan American Games, the Commonwealth Games and the World Cup. Known for his powerful two-winged attack, Nigel is one of the smoothest stroking players around.

Robert Hyatt brings a new face to a familiar name. Michael's younger brother is looking to gather some experience and sharpen his technical skills. Robert is the 1988 Caribbean Junior Singles Silver Medalist, and along with his brother, the 1990

## Jamaica National Doubles Champion.

Another new face on the AC squad is Gregory Riley, a four-time national singles champion from Barbados. Among his personal goals is to help younger players and to promote table tennis in his native country.

Rounding out the team is a face from the past. Julian Millan of New York City has returned after a year and a half absence to continue his education. He won the Southern Region Collegiate singles and doubles titles in 1988.

AC also sports an all-new coaching staff this year. Amanda Man Chai, former number four player in China, is the new Assistant Coach. She was the women's champion of Hong Kong from 1981-83. Completing the coaching staff is new Head Coach and Program Director Richard McAfee. Richard has been coaching for more than twenty years and is the former USTTA National Coaching Chairperson. He currently serves as the Director of the USTTA's National Schools Program. Both Amanda and Richard are USTTA National Level Coaches and are certified by the American Coaching Effectiveness Program as coaching instructors.

The Anderson College Table Tennis Program is now in its fifth year and enjoys excellent support from the university. Team members compete in many state, regional, and national competitions. Athletes receive free entry fees and traveling expenses, along with top-notch coaching. Best of all, AC is one of the few colleges that offer TABLE TENNIS SCHOLARSHIPS.

Next year's plans call for the creation of a second and possibly third team. Scholarships are available for the fall, and not for only the "Elite" athletes.
For more information about Anderson College, its wide choice of both two and four-year degree programs, as well as our Table Tennis Program, please write to:

Anderson College Table Tennis
Richard McAfee, Head Coach
317 Boulevard
Anderson, SC 29621


Augusta College, College National Champions for the fourth straight year. L-R: Ty Hoff, Anthony Cooper, Derek May, Brian Pace, Keith Hagood, Oscar Melvin, Magali Montes, Scott Butler, Roland Rittmaster, Team Manager Rick Hardy, Yair Nathan.

## AUGUSTA COLLEGE

## A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF AUGUSTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS by Rick Hardy

One day in 1987, Scott Butler and Derek May were shooting baskets at the Anderson College gym. Butler and May were discussing the end of a successful semester at Anderson. Although satisfied with their one-year tenure there, both felt it was time for a change. May suggested starting a table tennis program in his hometown at Augusta College. Scott was receptive to the idea but questioned the potential for success. However, Derek forged ahead, taking the plan to his father, Pete, a well-known southern table tennis personality. The three met with several college officials, who saw the potential benefits of extending financial support to a table tennis program.

Five years, and three national intercollegiate team championships later, Augusta College can well claim the title of the nation's best collegiate table tennis program. Both Butler and May have won ACUI college individual championships, and many strong players have made their way to Augusta to be part of the team.

The program started off simply enough in the fall of 1987, with Butler and May the sole team members. Within two months, two players emerged from the College Activity Center ping pong room, expressing a genuine interest in serious competition, and the opportunity of the new sport on campus. These players, Keith Hagood and Maury Saggus, who did not even know how to hold the racket correctly at the time, through hard work and perseverance broke the 1800 rating barrier in a little over two years.

The first strong player to be attracted to the team was Ty Hoff of New Bern, North Carolina. Hoff arrived in the spring of 1988, having been motivated by the AC program to resume his college education, which he had previously abandoned. Ty's leadership skills, learned at the Butterfly Club in Wilson, North Carolina, were as valuable to the fledgling group as his playing ability.

Now the ball was rolling, and for many young players, Augusta became the hot spot. Roland Rittmaster, Damir Kadija, and Julie Webber were among the out-of-state players to wear the AC blue and white.

The year 1990 saw the first international results. Yair Nathan and Magali Montes of Peru enrolled at AC. The strength of these new members was shown late in 1991, when both qualified for the Barcelona Olympics for Peru.

As the AC team headed into the current season, the influx of players showed no signs of abating. Brian Pace and Oscar Melvin joined their former NC coach Ty Hoff. Former RTP member Anthony Cooper arrived from Atlanta, and graduate student Anurag Agnihotri came from India by way of Kansas State University. After eight years of operat-
ing a successful club in Cleveland, Rick Hardy came to Augusta in the fall of 1991 to add a broad-based, grass-roots dimension to table tennis in Augusta.

Currently the team is pleased to announce the hiring of Coach Xin Peng. A former member of the Chinese National Team, Coach Peng has coached in Ecuador and most recently in China, where his best known pupil was World Cup Winner Ma Wenge. The team members are confident that Coach Peng's knowledge, enthusiasm, and discipline will enable them to reach even greater heights.

Not only is the AC program strong at the table, it also excels in helping the players off the table. The program was able to provide a house where Butler, May and Hoff lived for several years. During this period, many distinguished table tennis visitors were hosted at 219 Crawford Avenue.

The recent influx of players prompted the acquisition of the house next door. Now six of America's finest players call Crawford Avenue home. In addition, Scott Butler, in cooperation with his brother Jim, has bought a six-unit house in Augusta's historic Olde Town district. Rick Hardy and Scott each have their own apartments at this location, and they hope eventually to have a third alltable tennis house.

As the Augusta College program approaches its fifth anniversary, Augusta Table Tennis is on a roll. With the AC team about to vie for its fourth consecutive national crown, with the Hall of Fame tournament growing in popularity and community support each year, with team members like Scott Butler and Derek May choosing to put down their roots in the community after graduation, and a fantastic grass-roots potential about to be tapped, Augusta may well lay claim to be the leader in U.S. Table Tennis.

None of this was dreamed of that day so long ago in the Anderson College gym. Who would dare predict what the next five years will hold?

NEWS FLASH-Good News for U.S. Table Tennis!

Augusta College gains international coach. Peng Xin, noted Chinese coach, has accepted the position of head coach for the 3 -time national champion jaguar Table Tennis squad at Augusta College. Coach Xin will begin coaching the team one week before the May, 1992 Hall of Fame Tournament.

The addition of this world class coach will add one more national level training center in the United States. Look for summer coaching camps and clinics in Augusta. For further info on Augusta College Table Tennis,contact Pete May, (404) 724-0851.

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## MEIKLEJOHN NATIONAL SENIORS OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT


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available at registration

* a abe registration

(Last Name)
Cut this form on dashed line and mail with check to:


[^0]Please enter me in the following events. My fees in the full amount of \$ $\qquad$ are enclosed. I will abide by all regulations, those of the sponsor and the USTTA. I relieve the sponsors and L.H.T.T.C. of any liability for injury to myself and/or my property.

## Signature

Entry Number
fee name of event Doubles (No more than 2 doubles per day)
$\qquad$ $\$$

$\square$
$\square$
$\square$

## Total Events Fees

$\$ 3$ Rating Fee
USTTA Membership Fee, Onehalf year (\$12); One Year (\$20); 3 -year (\$50) SCTTA Admin. Fee (.50)

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## SPONSORED BY: LAGUNA HILLS <br> TABLE TENNIS CLUB

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:
Julius Margolis (714-770-7894)

## TOURNAMENT REFEREE: Terty Timmins

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ELIGIBILITY: Unrated players may play only in Open events. Players must be members of USTTA or send a fee to join.

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RATING: A player's rating and seeding will be based on listing in May/June issue of TOPICS.

DOUBLES RESTRICTIONS: If you do not have a partner request a matching and we will try. There will be no additional teams formed at tournament. No more than two doubles entries per day.

RULES: All rules of the USTTA will govern and be strictly enforced. All matches will be 2 of 3 games, except finals and selected semi-finals will be 3 of 5 games.

REGISTRATION: Players must register with tournament officials at least thirty minutes before the scheduled starting time of their match.

APPLICATION DATES AND CUTOFF: All entries must be received by Friday, July 3.1992. All matches will be time scheduled and therefore entries must have been received by July 3. We guarantee acceptance of first 175 entries only. So please enter immediately.

INFORMATION: Contact:
Walter Wehrli, 714-380-0513
Julius Margolis, 714-770-7894
DRIVING \& WALKING
INSTRUCTIONS: Leisure World (Laguna Hills) is 10 miles south of John Wayne (Orange County) airport (at Newport Beach). From Newport Beach you drive 10 miles south on 405 to the El Toro Exit.

Leisure World is a gated retirement community. You enter at Gate 9 on El Toro Rd. at Calle Corta. Gate 9 is 2.5 miles from the El Toro Exit from the 405 (at this point it has become the 5) Freeway. Give your name to the guard at the gate. He will direct you to Clubhouse 5.

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For reservations write to:Courtyard Marriott Hotel 23175 Avenida de la Carlota, Laguna Hills, CA 92653, or call 1-800-3212211. Be sure to mention Leisure World | T.T.Tournament. To guarantee special | rates, reservations must be made by June 25
FOOD: Sandwiches and other light refreshments will be available at the tournament site.

# THE DANGERS OF THE USTTA RATING SYSTEM TO YOUNG ATHLETES 

by Richard McAfee<br>Anderson College Head Coach<br>USTTA Certified National Coach

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO PARENTS!

What was your first reaction when you received this issue of Topics? If you were like most people, you turned immediately to the rating section. You were eager to see your child's new rating and how he/she stands against other young athletes from around the country. In short, this is the monthly evaluation time for your child.

Think of the pressure that this constant evaluation puts on a young athlete. Each month, nationwide, in print for all to see, is the record of an athlete's progress. The athlete knows that you, the parent, and his coach, sponsors, and peers are all looking at this magical number.

Just what does this rating number mean? By its use, what are we really telling the young athlete? Unfortunately, we are driving home a very dangerous message:

## Winning $=$ Success <br> Losing $=$ Failure

Why is this message so harmful to many young athletes? After all, isn't that what sports is all about, winning? This may be true for the elite athlete. However, for the young developing athlete, this concept often drives them completely out of the game. To understand how this can happen, we need to examine some basic concepts.

1. PERFORMANCE VS LEARNING

The use of the rating system, for an evaluation tool, puts the emphasis on performance, not learning. For the developing young athlete, this emphasis may retard their technique development. Children who are worried about their rating are often uncoachable. They prefer winning their current matches over learning new techniques that, in the long run, will take them to a higher level.
2. YOUNG ATHLETES LEARN TO FEAR FAILURE

Because of the emphasis on a young athlete's rating, many have developed a fear of failure. This can be seen nationwide in several ways:
a. Few good junior players play in junior events. Tournaments around the country are having trouble getting their better juniors to play in junior events. There is simply too much pressure, and too much fear of failure in playing athletes their own age.
b. In fact, many juniors prefer to play in higher rating events only. By playing older and higher rated players, they avoid the fear of failure. In other words, they haven't learned to deal with pressure.

## 3. UNREALISTIC GOALS

Another outgrowth of the rating system is that many young athletes set unrealistic goals for themselves. Each month, young athletes compare themselves to other top juniors, using the rating system. In using these ratings as a guide, they often set unrealistic goals for themselves, again based on winning, not learning.

## THE ANSWER

Let me first say that I do not want to abolish the rating system. In faet, the rating system can be a positive motivational tool.

You, as the parent, will play a big role in your child's response to his/her rating, and toward your child's success in table tennis.

Here are some ways to motivate your child in a positive manner:

1. Set realistic goals, both long and short term. Working together with your child and his/her coach, set challenging, but reachable goals. Don't base these goals solely on ratings, but rather on skill development. WHEN YOUR CHILD'S SKILL LEVEL IMPROVES, HIS/HER RATING WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF
2. Learn to reward learning, not just performance. Encourage your child to learn new skills and techniques.
3. Help your child learn that success must be seen as exceeding their own goals, rather
than surpassing the ratings of others. 4. Don't hold on to your child's losses Encourage your child to learn from a loss and then to forget it.
4. Let your child know that you love and respect them for what they are, and not for their USTTA rating.
5. Praise your child for their effort, not just the result.
6. Please realize that patience and time are your best allies. Results, no matter how much coaching and practice your child gets, still takes time to achieve. Nothing happens overnight. It may take several months.

Remember that ratings can be a useful tool for evaluating your child's performance over the long haul. Above all, don't get caught up in the monthly ratings trap. As a parent, you have a responsibility to motivate your child in a positive way. You must provide the positive feedback that your child needs to feel worthy while allowing your child to have fun.
young athletes is dropping, and many young athletes just quit the game.


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A tired but happy Cheng Ying Hua wins again, this time over Jim Butler. Cheng's winning gets to be repetitive, but Butler gave a good $19,19,18$ battle in the finals. 2783-rated Cheng hasn't lost a match to a U.S. citizen in over three years of tournament play.

## LOUISIANA OPEN

Baton Rouge, LA<br>April 11-12<br>by Houshang Bozorgzadeh

Among the 152 players attracted to the 17 th annual Louisiana Open, most noteworthy were three Olympic qualifiers: Jim Butler and Sean O'Neill, who recently qualified to represent the U.S. at the North American Qualifier, and Michael Hyatt, who will represent Jamaica. Other players on hand to strengthen the field were the current top-ranked player living in the U.S., Cheng Ying Hua, and longtime Pakistan \#1 Arif Khan, who was hampered by a knee injury, but still commanded respect from top players.

Unlike prior years, the timing of this tournament was especially good. The Olympic trials had concluded the previous week, and this year's Louisiana Open showcased both qualifiers from North America. With a beautiful LSU campus, springtime weather, and Southern hospitality, this tournament seemed to have the real possibility to showcase our sport to the public.

The recent success of the LSU basketball team in the NCAA tournament proved that the local public appreciated athletic talent. Basketball stars Shaquille O'Neal (expected to be the \#1 pick in this year's NBA draft) and Chris Jackson played before sellout crowds in excess of 12,000 in the very auditorium that hosted table tennis players from five countries.

With a competent control desk staff and an experienced tournament director, a well-run tournament was inevitable. Because of its past success, the USTTA has included this tournament as part of the American Allstar series. Any tournament of this magnitude that can endure for 17 years certainly does many things right.

And from a scheduling standpoint, this year was no exception.

However, the USTTA must continue to improve its image among its membership, and more importantly, the perception of table tennis as an exciting Olympic sport viewed by the general public.

Running the tournament on schedule and providing top-notch playing facilities must be a given. Having a national umpire on site must also be a minimum requirement, especially for a tournament that is partially subsidized by the USTTA.

The importance of pre-tournament publicity, especially with the opportunity to showcase our Olympic athletes, must also be a priority to enhance long-term growth of our sport. Through personal experience, I realized that most students at LSU were not aware that the tournament was being held. Once I found the auditorium, seating was not conducive to encouraging spectators to sit and watch the action. Bleacher chairs close to the tables were not even set up.

With the contacts on campus and organizational skills that Power Poon has demonstrated, a lot could be accomplished with a little cost. Written notification to the physical education department would likely attract a large number of interested students. Most journalism students would also welcome the chance to interview Olympic athletes.

Looking to the future growth of our sport, not just remaining content with how things have been done in the past, is necessary for growth. It's my hope that when I travel to Louisiana for next year's


17-year-old Rocky Wang pulled off three big upset wins overSean O'Neill, Hank Teekaveerakit and Derek May in getting to the final of the American Allstar event. Only Eric Owens' winning the 2400s here might keep Rocky from being the top-ranked U.S. junior.
tournament that procedures are in place to enhance the long-term (as well as shortterm) success of table tennis.

Noteworthy matches in the tournament were Sean O'Neill's two losses, one to Rocky Wang (who also beat Hank Teekaveerakit and Derek May) and one to Michael Hyatt. I would attribute both losses to a mental letdown from the previous weekend's Olympic trials.

Johannson, a former Swedish national coach, told me that a fundamental difference between American players and Swedish players was their mental approach. Swedish players constantly try to improve their game. Americans, however, seem preoccupied with winning at a particular moment, rather than focusing on improvement. Playing for the moment puts more pressure on oneself, and I think this is what happened to Sean. I'm confident he will rebound at his next tournament.

Jimmy, although losing in the open final to Cheng Ying Hua $(19,19,18)$, played an excellent match that could have gone either way. Although Cheng still proved to be too strong, Jimmy did an excellent job of keeping Cheng off-balance. On many occasions, Jimmy changed the momentum of the rally from being defensive to taking the offensive. He used strategy with much effectiveness, but he could not complete the job when it was most needed at the end of each game.

Was the tournament worth the 17 hour drive from Iowa? Yes.


Jamaica's Olympian Michael Hyatt, attending Anderson College, upset Sean O'Neill to get to the semi's of the Open.

## Results:

Open-Final: Cheng Ying Hua d. Jim Batlex 19,19,18; SF: Cheng d. Michael Hyatt $16,16,15$; Butler d. Hank Teekaveerakit $10,20,9$; $\mathbf{Q F}$ : Cheng d. Murray Ajala 11,12,16: Hyatt d. Sean O'Neill - $18,18,19,14$; Teekaveerakit d. Arif Khan 18,11,15; Butler d. Chi-Sun Chui 19,15,14. Women-Final: Peggy Rosen d. T.P. Wei 12,12; SF: Rosen d. M. Rombaon 6,12; Wei d. R. Belmonte 10,15 .
Allstar Men-Final: Jim Butler d. Rocky Wang 11,8; SF: Butler d. De Tran 11,15; Wang d. Sean O'Neill 19,20; QF: Butler d. Randy Cohen 16,18; Tran d. Oscar Melvin 20,17; Wang d. Derek May $15,-13,18$; 0 'Neill d. Todd Sweeris $21,-16,15$. Allstar Women-Final: Peggy Rosen d. Sally Dahlin 15,15; SF: Rosen d. Andrea Butler 5,10; Dahlin d. Gwyn Jones - $19,12,9$.
Open Dbls: Sean O'Neill//Jim Buter d. Cheng Ying Hua/Recky Wang 12,-14,17; SF: O'Neill/ Butler d. Chi-Sun Chui/Todd Sweeris 19,-17,17 Cheng/Wang d. De Tran/Arif Khan 18,-15,19. Mixed Dbls: Cheng/Rosen d. Teekaveerakit/Wei 16,15.
AAA Singles-Final: Murray Ajala d. De Tran 21,-19,15; SF: Ajala d. Derek May 16,-17,19; Tran d. Chi-Sun Chui-19,22,20.
AA Singles: Pierre Ronleau d. Brian Pace 15,21 .
A Singles: Pete May d. Keith LaFrance 19,19. BBB Singles: Dat Hoang d. Mel Evans 20,18.
BB Singles: Leon Curry D. Don Jackson 12,19
B Singles: Jim Wilson d. R Massoth 17,14.
CCC Singles: R. Peters d. D. Ramesh 17,6.
CC Singles: B. Breeding d. Tony Wong 13,10 . C Singles: Scott Wong d. Andrea Butler 14,9. U2400-Final: Eric Owens d. Oscar Melvin 19,18,8; SF: Owens d. Roberto Byles 19,-19,17; Melvin d. C. Bernier 19,11.
U2200: Ty Hoff d. Henry Chaw 19,-19,14.
U1900: Jerry Lu d. Richie Martin-22,19,19. U1750: X. Hu d. T.P. Wei $16,9$.
U1600: D. Ramesh d. Don Drummond 15,15 U1350: Tong Wong d. Scott Wong 14,18. U1100: William Beaumont d. Rod Demahy 14,9. O40-Final: Houshang Bozorgzadeh d. Pat Cox -19,24,9; SF: Bozorgzadeh d. S. Chow - $19,14,17$ ढे Cox d. Pete May 10,15.

030-Final: Cheng Ying Hua \& Murray Ajala did not play; SF: Cheng d. Ernie Byles 11,14; Ajala d. Roberto Byles 19,19.
U22-Final: Jim Butler d. Michael Hyatt 10,19,17; SF: Butler d. Randy Cohen 18,19; Hyatt d. Brian Pace 19,12.
U18-Final: P. Ronleau d. Sean Lonergan 19.17. SF: Ronleau d. Sally Dahlin 8,11; Lonergan d. Thomas Plaisted 16,17.
U14-Final: Sally Dahlin d. John Beaumont 16,-
18,15; SF: Dahlin d. W. Beaumont - $18,18,7$; J.
Beaumont d. Andrea Butler - 18,19,5.
U- U11: W. Beaumont d. John Beaumont
Handicap: R. Peters d. Roberto Byles 13,17 . A Dbls: Roberto Byles/G. Grogin d. Ernest Byles/Gwyn Jones 19,-19,19. B Dbls: Cheng/R. Owens d. Roberto Byles/R. Corgat $16,-19,17$.


## 1991-92 SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Finally, finally, writes long-time Swedish Angby Club mentor Nisse Sandberg, in the 36th year of our Club's little whirl of existence, we staked all and won the Wheel of Fate's big pay-off--the Swedish League Championships.

In the semi's they beat Soderhamn 6-3; in the final, Falkenberg 6-3. JanOve Waldner, Chen Jian, and Patrik Torsell won big matches for them.

## WORLD ALL STARS

CIRCUIT, JAPAN SERIES
Participants: Jan-Ove Waldner \& Erik Lindh (SWE), Ma Wenge \& Yu Shentong (CHN), Kim Taek Soo (KOR), Jorg Rosskopf (GER), Jean-Phillipe Gatien (FRA), and Hiroshi Shibutani (JPN). World Champion Jorgen Persson (SWE) competed in final event in Saga.

January 24, 1992 in Tadotsu, Kagawa:
Final: Waldner d. Wenge 13,-16,-18,19,14 SF: Waldner d. Kim 19,-16,21; Ma d. Yu Shentong 16,10 . QF: Waldner d. Rosskopf 13,16; Kim d. Lindh 12,19; Yu d. Shibutani 16,18; Ma d. Gatien 9,19.

January 25, 1992 in Nishinomiya Hyohgo: Final: Rosskopf d. Kim -17,-12, 15, 16,10. SF: Kim d. Waldner -6, 17,14; Rosskopf d. Gatien 18,-19,15. QF: Waldner d. Lindh 12,18,14; Kim d. Yu 18,18; Rosskopf d. Shibutani 18,14; Gatien d. Ma 13,16.

January 26, 1992 in Sanjo Niigata:
Final: Kim d. Waldner $11,18,22$. SF:
Waldner d. Ma 18,-13,15; Kim d. Gatien 7,13. QF: Waldner d. Shibutani 15,19; Ma d. Yu 18,-13,17; Kim d. Lindh 14,17; Gatien d. Rosskopf 17,11.

January 29, 1992 in Saga, Saga: Final: Kim d. Gatien $15,13,11$. SF: Gatien d. Ma 12,13 ; Kim d. Waldner 18,13 . QF: Gatien d. Persson 9,-24,18; Ma d. Rosskopf 12,16 ; Kim d. Shibutani 14,20; Waldner d. Yu 20,14. Preliminary: Shibutani d. Lindh 19,18.

Following these climactic League matches, Nisse adds, Angby stalwart Mikael Appelgren won the Swedish Singles Championship by beating Jorgen Persson 3-1 in the semi's, and Erik Lindh in the final, 19 in the 5th. Appelgren, paired with Waldner, also won Men's Doubles.

Later, Sweden defeated Germany in the European League final, 4-0. Tim Boggan

## STIGA EUROPE TOP 12

Men:

1. Jorgen Persson
2. Jorg Rosskopf
3. Zoran Primorac
4. Jan-Ove Waldner

5-6 Jean-Michel Saive Jean-Philippe Gatien
7-8 Andrzej Grubba Mikael Appelgren
9-10 Ding Yi Ilija Lupulesku
11-12 Car! Prean
Erik Lindh
Women:

1. Csilla Batorfi Marie Svensson Otilia Badescu Daniela Guergueltcheva 5-6 Elena Timina Tu Yong
7-8 Mirjam Hooman Jasna Fazlic
9-10 Gordana Perkucin Bettine Vriesekoop
11-12 Asa Svensson Olga Nemes

ENGLISH OPEN
January 9-12
Birmingham, England
Men's Teams-Final: German d. China 3-

1. Fetzner (GER) d. Yu Shentong (CHN) 21,3; Chen Hongyu (CHN) d. Rosskopf (GER) $16,15,-21$; Rosskopf/Fetzner (GER) d. Yu/Chen (CHN) 19,-8,17; Rosskopf (GER) d. Yu (CHN) 14,21 . SF: Germany d. France 3-0; China d. Belgium 3-0.
Women's Teams-Final: Sweden d. England 3-0. M. Svensson (SWE) d. Holt (ENG) 13,16; A. Svensson (SWE) d. Lomas (ENG) 14,20; Svensson/Svensson (SWE) d. Holt/Lomas (ENG) 19,18; SF: England d. Germany 3-1; Sweden d. Hungary 3-2. Men's Singles-Final: Gatien (FRA) d. Wang Yansheng (NOR) $-18,-19,12,13,4$. SF: Gatien d. Rosskopf (GER) 13,-23,18,17; Wang d. Fetzner (GER) $11,19,13$, QF: Rosskopf d. Prean (ENG) 3-0; Gatien d. Lindh (SWE) 3-0; Fetzner d. Chen Hongyu (CHN) 3-2; Wang d. Franz (GER) 3-2. Women's Singles-Final: Hooman (NED) d. Badescu (ROM) 13,19,-18,19. SF: Badescu d. Geng Lijuan (CAN) 17,11,17,16; Hooman d. Hoshino (JPN) 14,19,21,13. QF: Geng d. Nemes (GER) 3-1: Badescu d. Wang Xiao Ming (FRA) 3-1; Hoshino d. Svensson (SWE) 3-0; Hooman d. Batorfi (HUN) 3-0.
Men's Doubles-Final: Waldner
Appelgren (SWE) d. Persson/Lindh (SWE) 17,18. SF: Persson/Lindh d. Rosskopf/ Fetzner (GER) 2-1; Waldner/Appelgren d. Cooke/Prean (ENG) 2-1.
Women's Doubles-Final: Timina/Palina (URS) d. Holt/Lomas (ENG) 11,14. SF: Holt/Lomas d. Hoshino/Takahashi (JPN) 2 1; Timina/Palina d. Badescu/Cious (ROM) 2-0.
Mixed Doubles-Final: Gatien/Wang Xiao Ming (FRA) d. Primorac/Batorfi (YUG/ HUN) 19,-9,13. SF: Primorac/Batorfi d. Von Scheele/Svensson (SWE) 2-1; Gatien/ Wang d. Bakker/Hooman (NED) 2-0.

## EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP 1992

January 17-19
Munich, Germany
Final: Germany d. France 3-2.
Rosskopf (GER) d. Chila (FRA) 17,9,17; Gatien (FRA) d. Fetzner (GER) - 20,18,13; Rosskopf/Fetzner (GER) d. Gatien/Eloi (FRA) 22,-20,16; Gatien (FRA) d. Rosskopf (GER) 12,19,16; Fetzner (GER) d. Chila (FRA)

SF: Germany d. England 3-0.
Rosskopf (GER) d. Prean (ENG) 8,19,20; Fetzner d. Cooke 19,16; Rosskopf/Fetzner d. Prean/Cooke

SF: France d. Sweden 3-1. Waldner (SWE) d. Chila (FRA) 17,13; Gatien (FRA) d. Persson (SWE); Gatien/Eloi d Waldner/Appelgren -18,20,19; Gatien

Preliminaries: Group A: 1. Sweden 2. England 3. Czechoslavakia 4. Belgium. Group B: 1. Germany 2. Yugoslavia 3.

ITTF WORLD RANKINGS March 16, 1992 MEN:

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1
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2. Waldner Jan-Ove
3. Gatien Jean-Phillipe
4. Chen Longcan
5. Grubba Andrzej POL
6. Kim Taek Soo KOR
7. Chen Zhibin CHN
8. Rosskopf Jorg GER

| 9. Saive Jean-Mikael | SWE |
| :--- | :--- |
| 10. Li Gun Sang | PRK |

11. Ma Wenge CHN
12. Yoo Nam Kyu KOR

| 13. Xu Zengcai | CHI |
| :--- | :--- |
| 14. Appelgren Mikael | SWE |

15-16. Chen Xinhua ENG
Primorac Zoran YUG

| 17. Wei Qingguang | CHN |
| :--- | :--- |
| 18. Kim Song Hui | PRK |

9. Ding Yi
10. Lindh Erik SWE
11. Huang Johnny CAN
12. Prean Carl ENG
13. Wang Tao CHN
14. Yu Shentong CHN
15. Wang Yansheng NOR
16. Saito Kiyoshi JPN
17. Wang Yonggang CHN

## 28. Xie Chaojie

29. Karlsson Peter
30. Fetzner Steffen

31-32. Bohm Georg-Zsolt
Shibutani Hiroshi
33. Haldan Paul
34. Lupulesku Ilija
35. Yang Jianhua
36. Chen Hong Yu
37. Choi Gyong Sop

38-39. Mazunov Dmitrij Lee Chul Seung 40. Zhang Lei 67. Boggan Eric
109. Xu Hua Zhang 123. O’Neill Sean 156. Butler Jim 186. Teekaveerakit, Hank 236. Hyatt Michael 251. Narotam Dhiren USA WOMEN:

| 1. Deng Yaping |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2. Oiao Hong | CHN |

3. Hyun Jung Hwa KOR
4. Gao Jun CHN
5. Li Bun Hui PRK
6. Chen Zihe CHN
7. Geng Lijuan CAN
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 9. Chan Tan Lui } & \text { HKG } \\ \text { 10. Ding Yaping } & \text { CHN }\end{array}$
8. Batrofi Csilla HUN
9. Yu Sun Bok PRK
10. Li Jun CHN
11. Badescu Otilia ROM
12. Liu Wei CHN
13. Wang Xiaoming FRA
14. Hu Xiaoxin CHN
15. Hu Xiaoxin
16. Hoshino Mika JPN
17. Hong Cha Ok KOR
18. Hrachova Marie TCH
19. Tu Yong SUI

| 24. Qiao Yungping | CHN |
| :--- | :--- |
| 25. Wirth Gabriella | HUN |


| 25. Wirth Gabriella | HUN |
| :--- | :--- |
| 26. Vriesekoop Bettine | NED |

27. Guergueltcheva Daniela. BUL
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 28. Yamashita Fumiyo JPN } \\ \text { 29. Ying Ronghui } & \text { CHN }\end{array}$
28. Kim Hye Yong PRK

## Junior Boys:

1. Blaszczyk (POL) 11-0
2. Koestner (GER) 8-3
3. Hakansson (SWE) 7-4
4. Gatorfi (HUN) 7-4
5. Gardos (HUN) 7-4
6. Becker (GER) 7-4
7. Gustafson (SWE) 7-4
8. Tol (ROM) 4-7
9. Lengerov (BUL)
10. Alanski (BUL) 3-8
11. Schroeder (GER) 2-9
12. Teke (TUR) 0-12

15,21. 14,17. d. Waldner 20,15. France 4. C.I.S.

## Junior Girls:

1. Gogirta (ROM) $8-3$
2. Cojocaru (ROM) 8-3
3. Negrisoli (ITA) 8-3
4. Pintar (HUN) 7-4
5. Stanic (YUG) 7-4
6. Persson (SWE) 7-4
7. Niculae (ROM) 6-5
8. Muller (NED) 6-5
9. Manac (ROM) 4-7
10. Goedall (ENG) 4.7
11. Sabirli (TUR) 1-10
12. Poulsen (DEN) 0-11

STIGA EUROPA TOP 12 JUNIOR January 25-26, 1992 Istanbul, Turkey - B
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 31. Safarova Alena } & \text { TCH } \\ \text { 32. Hooman Mirjam } & \text { NED }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 32. Hooman Mirjam } & \text { NED } \\ \text { 33. Timina Elena } & \text { URS }\end{array}$
34. Fazlic Jasna YUG
35. Popova Valentina URS $\begin{array}{ll}\text { 36. Han Hye Song } & \text { PRK } \\ \text { 37. Lomas Lisa } & \text { ENG }\end{array}$ 37. Lomas Lisa 38. Cho Jong Hui 39. Svensson Asa 40. Lee Jung Im 61. Bhushan Insook 85. Wang Wei 130. Hugh Lily 132. Gee Diana

IN MEMORIAM: CATHERINE HARING Aug. 10 1913--Mar. 291992


Catherine Haring, with friends Barney \& Kristey Reed.
particularly maternal feeling for the young whom she was so protective of in her role as crossing guard for the Philadelphia School System. Back in the ' 70 's she donated $\$ 1,000$ to start the National Junior Table Tennis Founda tion, and she continued through the years to aid many a talented youth, including current U.S. Under 12 and U.S. Under 14 Champions Brian Shapiro and Barney Reed.

Catherine also started a table tennis fund for U.S. women players to help them go to training camps and tournaments, and she supported Yvonne Kronlage's efforts to establish the Eastern Training Center in Maryland.

She gave encouragement to those who ran local, regional, national, and even international tournaments by her willingness to be of assistance in any way-by providing information, serving refreshments, selling commemorative items
Though recently she'd suffered some terrible misfortunes-her Brown Street house burned down and she lost everything in the fire; and then her only sister Margaret diedshe continued to greet her large tournament family with words of good cheer and a warm hug for everyone. Seeing me greet Alice Kimble with a buss on the cheek, Catherine couldn't help but say, "Don't I get a kiss too?" It was her right-earned, appreciated.

Now in her own crossover, may she too be guarded by, protected by, One with a gentle smile and beckoning hand. Tim Boggan
ing for Martin-Marietta, the club was called the Martin-Marietta Table Tennis Club back in the 1950's, but soon became the Orlando Table Tennis Club which is still going strong today. He loved the sport and was always found taking a car full of juniors (Olga Soltesz, Richard McAfee, John \& Jerry Quick...) to all the big tournaments. "H" didn't have a child who competed in the sport, making him one of the few who loved table tennis on its own merits. If you know Harry, please take a moment to remember him. Farewell " H ", we will always remember you. Olga Soltesz

Catherine Haring, mother of ITTF Inter national Umpire Erich Haring and a surrogate table tennis mother to literally hundreds of tournament players here and abroad, died recently at age 78 . Though in her last days she'd survived a successful coronary operation (in which at the same time a cancerous lump in her breast had been removed), her heart, so generous to all in her long lifetime, finally gave out Erich requests that mourners, in lieu of flow ers, send a donation to the USTTA.

Mother Haring was always very giving to serious-minded table tennis players. She had a

## IN MEMORIAM: HARRY BLAIR

## IN MEMORIAM: HARRY BLAIR

Harry Blair, known as "H" to his friends, passed away on February 22, 1992. Harry was Editor of Topics from November 1967 through June 1970, but his greatest achievement wa starting organized table tennis in Orlando, Florida. Having contracted polio early in his life, he could never do that much playing, but he was a great promoter and organizer. Work-


Hall of Fame great Mildred Shahian, whose life was devoted to table tennis-both as a World and National Champion, and as the Manager for 40 years of Chicago's wellknown Net and Paddle Club-died of cardiac arrest, Aprii 1, 1992. Her close friend of 30 years, Jim Lazarus, agonized over her, comforted her, in her last days in the hospital after she'd suffered a heart attack, a stroke, and total kidney failure. I'm sure allour prayers go out to Jim in his hour of need.

Millie of course was for two decades an outstanding player. With her close-to-the-table block and hit game she won the U.S. Women's Singles Championship in 1954 and 1962, and from 1942 on won six National Women's Doubles and one Mixed Doubles titles. In 1950 she became the prestigious English Open Champion in an era where other titleholders were World Women's Singles Champions Gizella Farkas of Hungary and Trude Pritzi of Austria.

Although Millie represented the U.S. in three World Championships, her most memorable one was in Stockholm in 1949 when, with teammates 1948 U.S. Champion Peggy McLean and 1948 World Mixed Doubles Champion and 1949 World Women's Singles semifinalis Thelma "Tybie" Thall Sommer, she was member of the winning Corbillon Cup team that beat Hungary 3-2 in the semi's and England 3-1 in the final. The Hungary match wa particularly exciting, for Millie had to play the 5th and final match. "My arm was petrified," she wrote me; but her opponent, Rozsi Karpati, "played with tears streaming down her face," because World Champion Farkas had lost earlier to McLean. "To be honest," Millie wrote, "Karpati was not too good" (in the '5I World's, Karpati and fellow Hungarian Jozsef Koczian would lose in the semi's of the Mixed Doubles in five to the eventual winners, the incomparable Vana and Rozeanu), "so when I managed to win the first game at deuce, the second was easy." For her Corbillon Cup play throughout, Millie was ranked \#6 in the world.

If anyone ever really loved our Sport it was Mildred Shahian. She was a true aficionado. "It's a hard, hard life trying to run a successful club," she'd tell me again and again over the years. "There are no table tennis 'bums' anymore," she' d lament, thinking longingly of Herwald Lawrence's atmospheric New York City Club in the heyday of the hard-rubber-bat era. "People just don't seem to want to play every day anymore."

In 1970, almost 30 years after she'd won her first National Championship, Millie was still ranked U.S. \#7 in Women's Singles. Shortly thereafter, though, she retired from serious competition, then continued to play recreationally
"Once you stop playing you aren't much in the table tennis world," she once wrote me. "That's why I still remember the 'Bravos' you shouted for me back in 1980 when I was inducted at the Hall of Fame ceremonies Thanks."

Bless you, Millie. And for those many aficionados who see a part of themselves, their passion, their spirit, mirrored in the soul of Champions, let History echo those "Bravos" again, now and forever, amen. Tim Boggan

## HOW THESE PLAYERS GOT STARTED IN TABLE TENNIS

## Topics Interviews the Twelve U.S. Olympic Qualifiers, and Others by Larry Hodges

Jim Butler: I got started through my father. I followed in my brother's footsteps, who also started from my dad.
Sean O'Neill: I started at the age of eight with my father. He was a tournament level player at the age of 15 or 16 , and we got into it at the Northern Virginia Table Tennis Club. My very first exposure to top table tennis was seeing the Eastern Open in 1975. We were able to host two members of the Thailand National Team, Chuchai Chan and Charlie Wuvanich. They invited me up to their camp in Minneapolis that summer, and that's really where I got my first taste of top table tennis.
Hank Teekaveerakit: I started to play table tennis in Thailand when I was about 13 or 14 years old. My sister got me started, playing in the back yard on a cement floor. She wanted to teach me to play shakehands, but I somehow ended up holding it penhold instead.
Khoa Nguyen: I got started when I came over to the U.S. in 1975 when I was nine years old. I played a little bit in Vietnam, but not too seriously. I started seriously playing when I was in the U.S. My dad taught me.
Dhiren Narotam: I started playing when I was eight years old. My father played with me. He put me in a high chair and we batted balls back and forth.
Dan Seemiller: I got started in the basement playing with my five brothers. My older brother Bill got me started.

## 36 Table Tennis Topics

Lily Hugh: I started playing when I was seven. I started in my elementary school in China Table tennis was really popular back then, and they had a special team for the school.
Insook Bhushan: I got started when I was thirteen at the school club in Seoul, Korea Many schools have table tennis clubs, so if you wanted to join, you could.
Diana Gee: I started playing when I was seven, but I began competing when I was nine. My father introduced my sister and I to the sport.
Peggy Rosen: I started playing table tennis in the U.S. in a garage. In Thailand, we had a table that my dad built when I was young. I was so little that I couldn't reach the table at the time, but we started playing and I could hit the ball back and forth. When I came to the U.S., Ibecame more interested in playing because of tournaments.
LiAi: I started playing table tennis when I was seven. My parents started me in China. Alice Green Kimble: I started playing table tennis when I was ten years old. I had asked my father for many years to teach me, and finally, when I was ten, he realized that I really wanted to learn, and began to teach me. He has been my teacher and coach for the past 30 years.
Dana Jeffries: My family played, and we had a table in the garage. I read about a tournament in the newspaper, and played in it, and discovered the Denver Table Tennis Club.

Rocky Wang: I started after my sister started playing. She was taking lessons, and they needed more players for group lessons, so that's how I got started. I preferred baseball, basketball and football at first.
Earl Hall, USTTA Media Intern: I got started about three weeks ago with a young man named Randy Cohen as my coach, and I would say I am currently about a 400 player. Larry Hodges: I was a member of my high school track team as a miler. I was at the library looking for a book on track and field, and saw a book about table tennis called The Money Player, by Marty Reisman. I'd piayed some table tennis with other neighborhood kids, but found out about the USTTA from the book. The USTTA sent me a club listing, and I discovered a club that was nearby. I was 16. Manny Moskowitz: My table tennis career began at age 12. My brother and I made a table in our basement, and formed a club, and then pursued other competition with other teams in our area. Eventually we got into competition sponsored by the New Jersey Table Tennis Association and the USTTA.
Rene Tywang: My racket broke, and I bought a new racket. In it there was an information card about the USTTA. So I went to Newgy's Table Tennis Club. I thought I was hot-stuff, but little old ladies and guys with one leg started beating me, so I figured I'd better start playing good. I started taking lessons from Marty Prager, and now I'm an excellent player.

Barry Dattel: My parents started me. Then I played in college
John Aiyegbo: I started playing in Nigeria, and I'm looking to get to 2000 , and then I retire.
Barry Rodgers: I got involved in playing table tennis when I turned 40 years old. I was playing basketball in a semi-professional league in Pittsburgh 3-4 nights a week, and I reached the point where I couldn't run and gun with the young kids any more. I played table tennis when I was a young kid, and I came back to it a little later in life. I enjoy it now, playing amateur table tennis and helping run the organization.
Michael Manka: I'm ten years old, from Colorado Springs. Dana Jeffries did an exhibition at my school, so I figured it would be cool to try it out. I liked it, so I kept on playing. Lee Edwards: I was a pretty good basement player with hard rubber. I was aware of the existence of sponge paddles by reading the rules. I bought a Sportcraft model at a local sporting goods store. I saw an ad in the local paper about a local tournament, I played and got creamed, but joined the Nashville club and have played ever since.
Chris Manglitz: I played in a company tournament, and won it. Dave Sakai did an exhibition for us, and told me about a club I could play at. I went to the club, and Dave introduced me to Coach Zhi-Yong Wang, who I started to take lessons from.

## WHEN TABLE TENNIS WAS "PING PONG" IN CHINA

by Edward Bilinski



12-year-old Chi Chienhung in 1932 after winning tournament. He is posing with photo of trophy being made up.


71-year-old Chi Chienhung in 1992 with trophy.
were crudely constructed. According to Mr. Chi, most of the balls were not very round, largely because of the poor manner in whichthey were glued together In fact, it was not unusual for a ball to sound like a maraca when it was hit, due to sand and grist that would find their way into the ball through the openings on their seams. All of the paddles were of the penhold variety, and many players brought their own that were often nothing more than a handle nailed to a crudely cut board. None of the paddles had any rubber or sandpaper attached to the playing surface. There was no regulation regarding the size, weight or color of the paddles. A few of the paddles were factory-made from 5-ply wood, and these were furnished to those who did not bring a paddle with them. An umpire was present to keep score and insure that no player touched the table with their hand.

There were no rules governing serves. The most popular serves were fast, deep serves that were deceptive regarding their direction. Mr. Chi remembers that a wide variety of playing styles were used. Because there was little if any spin on the ball, the rallies were long, often consisting of 10 to 12 counter hits. Also, a rally was noticeably loud, due to the sound of the bare wood striking the ball with force. This sharp sound echoed throughout the classroom and would focus the attention of the spectators on the table.

Mr . Chi stated that the push shot was the primary stroke, and it was used to keep the opponent

Recently, while visiting a friend of my wife's, my eye caught sight of a small, tarnished trophy that was resting on an ornate, hand-carved stand. The inscriptions on the trophy were in Chinese and, after asking a few questions, I learned that it was the 1st place award for a "ping pong" tournament in 1932, held in Xizhou, a city with a population of approximately 300,000 at that time, located in Jiangsu province of West China, where Shanghai is located. Accompanying the trophy was a small black and white photo (also taken in 1932) of a 12 -year-old boy, clothed in quilted wear, standing near a framed photo of the trophy that was presently being hand-made in sterling silver. The young boy's name is Chi Chienhung, and he has now grown to the ripe old age of 71. Mr. Chi now resides in Bloomington, Indiana, and he is truly a sportsman's sportsman. In the prime of his competitive years, Mr. Chi trained hard at running the 400 yard hurdles. Because he could not afford shoes, Mr. Chi practiced every day with only his bare feet. Unfortunately, at the prime of his fitness, China was torn by the turmoil of World War II, and Mr. Chi's hopes of competing in the Olympics was never realized. As a result of that frustration, Mr. Chi channeled his energies toward helping young, gifted and dedicated athletes be all they could be. His credits now include the total restructuring of the military physical education program in Taiwan, and the later establishment of the Taiwan Olympic Center in 1972-73. One product of that center is Wenchi-Wu, a top world class player who beat the then World Champion Jiang Jialiang at the 1985 U.S. Open in reaching the finals. Mr. Chi is presently devoting his life's ambition toward the unification of the sport camps of Taiwan and Mainland China. What follows is a translation of Mr. Chi's account of his 1932 ping pong victory in a land where the sport, as we know it today, was just beginning to mature.

Although Xizhou had a relatively large population, ping pong was just beginning to gain popularity. The tournament had a total draw of approximately 20 adult men and one 12 -year-old boy. It was the city's 1st or 2nd tournament, and it was being held in an unheated classroom that was lit by a singie 40watt bulb. Because doubles competition was not an event at that time, the table lacked the white center line. Outside of that, it was a regulation size table with a $6^{\prime \prime}$ net that just barely extended over the width of the table.

The balls were made of celluloid, but
from attacking. Obviously, the ball could not be looped. Most forehand drives were accomplished by use of an abbreviated, open-racket stroke that was directed crosscourt. According to Mr. Chi, some players were very good at "shaving the ball," which was basically a chop-block. With this style, the attacker could re-direct the ball's path at the last second, usually into his opponent's backhand in order to either force an error or a weak return that could be smashed. Mr. Chi remembers that one had to be very patient in order to set up a smash, and that it usually involved a steady trade-off of close-to-the-table jab-blocks, which were sometimes interrupted with a wellplaced drop shot.

The tournament was round robin elimination. All matches (except the final) were 11 points per game, two out of three. The tournament lasted most of the day, and the then young Chi had finally made it to the finals. His opponent was about 21 years old and, according to Mr. Chi, was a better-trained, but not overpowering player. Mr. Chi had been playing for about three years and had taught himself by playing all comers at the local fire station. The final match had attracted about 100 spectators who had to be constantly prodded away from the poorly lit playing area. The young Chi won the first game,-21-17, and he remembers that he played totally relaxed because "I had never tasted victory and I felt I had nothing to lose." His opponent, on the other hand, played very tentatively, hoping to force young Chi into errors. Apparently, that was the crucial difference, as the young Chi continued to win points with his down-the-line forehand that he initially shaped like a crosscourt shot. He further related that he managed to keep his opponent from attacking by use of a drop shot return of serve to his opponent's forehand. The young Chi finally won the second game. On the following day, a presentation was held at the local school yard where the flag was raised and the young Chi was called to the podium by his school principal. It was at that point that Mr. Chi tasted the glory of victory.

FALL, 1992 RESIDENT TRAINING PROGRAM (RTP) APPLICATION

Junior players (under 18) interested in applying for the Resident Training Program for Table Tennis at the Olympic Training Center for this Fall should fill out and return the form below, or send a short resume with cover letter, to be received by July 1st. (Highly ranked nonjunior players may also be considered.) Send application to: Larry Hodges, Chairman, RTP Committee, 6007 Springhill Dr. \#202, Greenbelt, MD 20770. All selections will be made by the RTP Committee. Selections will be made by July 15. The RTP Committee reserves the right to leave two spots open until August 12 to see results of the Junior Olympics. All applicants will be notified of the selections as soon as possible, or you may call on the dates indicated.

If you have any questions, call Larry Hodges at (301) 345-9112. $-\frac{\square}{6}$

| STREET
ADDRESS
| CITY
STATE _ZIP_

FEMALE ___ MALE
BIRTHDATE

PHONE

## PLAYING STYLE

PLAYER'S SIGNATURE
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S
SIGNATURE, IF U18

## USTTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION <br> Print one letter in each box



[^1]The precisely 32 -entry Feb. Westfield Open Singles-("What!" said NJTTC's Alan Fendrick on hearing the call for his match in between flicks of knaves and 10 -spots at his court-cornered table, "I'm supposed to play David Zhuang in the Ist round? Forget it!")held, well, less than a handful of surprises. Zhuang not unexpectedly prevailed in the final in five over Darko Rop; and visiting Olympic hopeful Lily Hugh again out-attacked Blanca Alejo in straight games to win the Women's.

In the Under $2300^{\circ}$ s, Bill Sharpe, though wielding the fastest, thickest racket even Bob Saperstein could make for him, was beaten (and thereafter March Senior winner Parviz Mojaverian too) by 13 -year-old two-winged attacker Barney Reed, Jr. No, Barney wasn't surprised by his wins-said he'd been training well in "The Dohjo" extension of his home under the guidance of his paternally-sensitive sensi.

Young Barney's opponent in the semi's, too good for him at the moment, was penhold attacker Lily Hugh. She'd advanced with a win over spin-minded Steve Kaplan, who learned along the way that he could give Lily underspin, sidespin, even upper sidespin, but never just plain upperspin, for when Lily hit that ball it came at you crazy-like, all wobbly.

Lily may or may not have been ironic in remarking that the turnout for the Women's draw wasn't bad. "Last time, " she said, "there were only four players, this time there are six." Not much difference, huh? Except that the runner-up to Lily this month was Blanca Alejo, 22, 19 over Alice Kimble. Blanca gave credit to her coach Darko Rop for improving her move-to-the-ball reaction time.

In the Open, Blanca was a lst round casualty to Dave Sakai, who then in the eighth's, up $1-0$ and with match point not once but twice in the 2nd, couldn't put away Westfield Club President Barry Dattel.

In the semi's against Zhuang, Boggan, often smiling, wasn't too serious in the lst game-once on missing a shot yelling out in German, then brightly grinning. But in the 2nd and 3rd games Eric was suddenly making a fight of it-and David (perhaps a little unsettled by Eric's casualness?), playing as poorly as I've ever seen him play, was repeatedly looking to his corner as if to ask what, incredulously, was happening.

Of course Boggan was making errors too. Up 18-16 in the 2nd and having gotten David uncharacteristically back from the table, Eric failed to finish the point and 18-17 ended up sprawled on the floor. But he got the ad...only to be forced, blocking, back, still blocking, back, into the barriers, and down. "I just broke my ankle," he said, lying all in a heap. Up at the table again, he served, followed, missed; then missed a backhand.

In the 3rd, up 14-12, Eric served into the net. Up 14-13, he served into the net again. Eventually he lost the game at 19 .

In the other semi's, Onifade got out ahead of Rop in the Ist-but couldn't hold his lead. At 18 -all in the 2nd, Darko served and badly missed, almost whiffed, his follow. Up 20-18, John did whiff, mightily. But then he adroitly side-stepped into position and all-out shouldersnapped in the winner.

Although from $16-15$ the 3rd game was indisputably Rop's, the 4 th was 15 -all, 18 -all close... until Darko counter-looped out the match.

The final between Rop and Zhuang started off as if it'd be a romp for David: 10-1...21-10. In the 2nd, David was again comfortably ahead: 16-10. "I'm getting better," Zhuang had told me earlierthough not after his match with Eric. But Darko, every-point persistent as ever, topspinning in from both sides, unexpectedly rallied to 17 -all, and then from 19-all Darko's forehand went in and David's didn't. Match all even.

But even though Zhuang faltered in the 3 rd, it was his turn now to come back. On serve, he followed his high-toss well; and, on return of serve, blocked steadily and waited more patiently for the right ball to begin his fast attack, confident that, unlike Cheng Yinghua, Rop hadn't the power game to pressure him, and so Zhuang won the last two games and the match

38 Table Tennis Topics
in five.
Surprise though, it wasn't the Open final being played that for a time drew everyone's attention; it was the Senior's. Brathwaite and Sakai had been locked into an exhausting repeat of their Mammoth match the week before, both spinning well on offense and blocking well on defense. This time Dave had won the opening game $21-19$, and, up 17-10 in the 2nd, again appeared to be the winner. But, as had happened last week, George refused to give up and Dave, as if he'd been suddenly invaded by a virus, weakened, eventually lost this game 25-23.

At this point it suddenly came to the attention of the Referee that this match wasn't being timed and ought to be. Dave and George, neither of whom had been passing up any opportunity to attack, were quite upset by this ruling-so much so that they refused to continue play under these "Big Brother is watching you" condi-
tions. tions.

It doesn't seem to me, watching from the sidelines, that a game between these two players can go 15 minutesbut, even if it does, so what?

I suggest a practical compromise. "Look," I say, "there's a big difference between a game where after 15 minutes the score is 3 -all, or 6 -all, or even 9 -all, and one that's 17 -all or 18 -all" (at 19-all, the ITTF recently


In the absence of such stars as Cheng, Rop, Onifade, Jones, Domingo, Brathwaite, Sharpe, Hugh, Kimble, and Alejo, this month's Westfield action was a little less spirited than usual.

Generating considerable initial excitement here though was Women's Singles winner Amy Feng, a former member of the Chinese National Team who not so long ago was said by some to be the real Chinese \#2 (behind 1991 World Mixed Doubles Champion and Singles quarterfinalist Liu Wei). Even as far back as the 1986 Polish Open, when she was only 16, Amy'd had a very good win over Hungary's Csilla Batorfi, then already among the world's top 30 players.

Now thanks to fiance Andy Tan's sponsorship, Ms. Feng, a lefty shakehands looper who plays with Globe 999 rubber, has just this month arrived from Tianjin, China to be welcomed into the Potomac table tennis community. Expecting soon to get her U.S. green card, she couldn't wait to begin playing in tournaments, even before she started to learn English.

Unfortunately, in the Open quarter's here, she drew Eric Bogganand, bad enough that she decided, the Expedite David Zhuang, Mammoth \& Westfield winner. Rule cannot be fairly called). "Why doesn't everyone agree that if, after 15 minutes, the score is, say, 15 -all, the Rule will go in?" But the umpires convening on the matter are adamant that no deviation from the ITTF Rule can be allowed.
"What is the point," many a spectator here is saying - as of course many did at the incredible 18-16 interruption in the 5th game of the recent U.S. Closed Men's final-"what sense does it make, to interfere with those playing and winning the involvement of the audience in order to save a few minutes, or maybe even seconds?" Such hobgoblin fidelity to an "It," a "Rule"-arguably a throwback to a different time, a, let's face it, different Game-inflexibly dismisses logic and violates the human spirit. Results:
Open-Final: David Zhuang d. Darko Rop, 10, -19, -16, 14, 12; SF: Zhuang d. Eric
Boggan, 15, 20, 19; Rop d. John Onifade, 17, 19, 15, 18; QF: Zhuang d. Festus Ayinde, 16, 15, -18, 2; Boggan d. Abass Ekun, 13, 12, 15; Rop d. Barry Dattel, 17, 18, 9; Onifade d. Garfield Jones, 14, $13,18$.
Women-Final: Lily Hugh d. Blanca Alejo, 9, 21; SF: Hugh d. Cathy Yu, 12, 12; Alejo d. Alice Kimble, 22, 19.
U2300-Final: Lily Hugh d. Anani Lawson, 15, 9; SF: Hugh d. Barney Reed, Jr., 15, 17; Lawson d. Ali Oveissi, 19, 7.
U2100-Final: Ed Watts d. Wes Daley, -10, 16, 17; SF: Watts d. Tim Boggan, $18,-5,18$; Daley d. Hing Wong, $16,18$.
U1900: Gerald Reid d. Kin Chan, -20, 19, 15. U1700: Shankar Mahabir d. Prince Nwele, 13, 27. U1500: Gary Livingston d. Sam Seppala, 20, 16. U1300: Vlad Rybalov d. Paul Auerbach, 14, -17, 24. Ull00: John Moore d. Charles Sanders, 16, -11, 13. U900: Maclyn Williams d. Darrin Weigle, 21, 17 . O40-Final: Dave Sakai (21-19 in the lst) and George Brathwaite (25-23 in the 2nd) did not play the final game; SF: Sakai d. Bill Sharpe, 14, 14; Brathwaite d. Steve Kaplan, -17, 14, 17. O40 U1700: Eric Rothfleisch d. Anthony Gegelys, -18, 16, 21 .
U18: David Rosenzweig d. Milagros Llosa, 14, 13 .
U14: Deepak Jain d. Joshua Phillips, 7, II. U3300 Dbls: D. Wu/W. Chen d. A. Gegelys/ S. Huang, 19, $-10,16$.
wins the point, and then deuces the game. At deuce, Eric catches the ball in mid-point, says Zhuang has returned the ball off his shirt. But neither the umpire or the scorekeeper can confirm this, and, though it's not clear to me why, neither the umpire or Eric seek confirmation or denial from Zhuang who again is noncommitally silent. Only in New York? Only in New Jersey? Will Eric, who is quite upset, continue to play or, as Yinka did the week before in the Mammoth tournament, default?...Eric serves, loops the follow long.

So, Boggan does not win three straight as he well might have in years past. He does not win at all. He's down 6-0 in the 4th and mumbling sotto voce about how "vicious" the game is, and how his brain is "a weak and mushy organ."

And Zhuang, whom you've surely got to give credit to for attacking Eric's serves those games he was 20-17 and 19-16 down, did he go on to win against Xu ? No, he did not. He lost three straight, $16,22,16$. Although both players improved as play progressed, it was, as USTTA National Coaching Chairman Larry Hodges remarked, a combination of Xu's ever-improving backhand and his short top serves to David's backhand, forcing him at times to uncomfortably and therefore ineffectively choose whether to forehand attack or backhand temporize, that won him the day.

The second game, as you can see from the scores, was the big swing game. Xu was up 1915 , then, lapsing, powering along the way what should have been a winner-anexplosive backhand off David's pop-up return-into the net, he lost five in a row, looked to be allowing David to slip back into the match. Then, on righting himself, he was again game-point down, with David on the attack. But what appeared to be a finishing smash to Xu 's wide backhand suddenly catapulted back into the shot of the match, for Xu , perfectly positioned, instinctively backhand loop-killed Zhuang's smash right back, rocketing it back, untouchable, down Zhuang's far forehand line. It was, says Xu , on collecting his $\$ 300$ first prize, one of the most satisfying shots of his life. What we all play for. It was FUN.

## Results:

Open-Final: Hua Zhang Xu d. David Zhuang, 16, 22, 16; SF: Xu d. Yinka Majekodunmi, 17, 15, 16; Zhuang d. Eric Boggan, 20, -17, 20, 14; QF: Xu d. Abass Ekun, -18, 14, 16, 17; Majekodunmi d. Daniel Ubiomo, 17, 15, 17; Zhuang d. Festus Ayinde, 11, 14, 19; Boggan d. Amy Feng, 13, 11, 15. Women RR 1. Amy Feng, 2-0. 2. Wan Yee Cheung, 1-1. 3. Denise Shapiro, 0-2.
U2300-Final: Anani Lawson d. Steve Kaplan, 21, ll; SF: Lawson d. Parviz Mojaverian, 17, 15; Kaplan d. Larry Bavly, 19, 14.
U2100-Final: Wes Daley d. Andre Scott, def.; SF: Daley d. Hing Wong, 14, 5; Scott d. Larry Johnson, -20, 19, 14.
U1900: Marcy Monasterial d. Thomas
Vanius, 16,9.
U1700: Ted Quang Do d. Milagros Llosa, 18,-21,16. U1500: Robert Spitzer d. Manny Moskowitz, 24, -12, 16.
U1300: Dan Kramer d. John Moore, 19, 15.
UII00: Amit Seth d. Joshua Phillips, -16, 6, 20
U900: Tim Dorsey d. Joe Lizewski, 10, 17.
O40-Final: Parviz Mojaverian d. Hank McCoullum, 15, -19, 16. SF: Mojaverian d. Hing Wong, 13, -20, II; McCoullum d. Steve Kaplan, 16, 13.
O40 UI700: Anthony Gegelys d. Alex Milimovka, 16, 19.
U18: Bogdan Kucherenko d. Glenn Brown, 13, - 17 , 15 .
U14: Bogdan Kucherenko d. Ashu Jain, 14,-14,19. U3300 Dbls: Prince Nwele/Anthony
Gegelys d. Ayotunde Ojebode/Robert Spitzer, 13, 15.

Gung Hey Fat Choy! Here we are five days into the February New Year and, magnetic, decisive, intelligent, witty though they may or may not always be, the two celebrated Chinese in today's Open Singles final at the N.Y.C. Mammoth Club are sure not monkeying around. Again it's 2763 -rated Cheng Yinghua and 2690 -rated David Zhuang swinging away-and again it's 1985 U.S. Open Champ Cheng who's the winner in straight games.

As for runner-up Zhuang, given his situ-ation-his full-time factory job (even after a hard day's work he runs), his good-fella Westfield Club coaching duties-it's difficult for him to hope for the best against Cheng without feeling he has to force his game, hurry his snap-attack. And this, he says, he can't do and expect to sustain a win. Still, $\$ 150$ for an avocatory trip into the City, in our poor man's Sport, that's not just monkeynuts.

The $\$ 50$ Women's winner? Lily ShuiLing Hugh of course-in straight games over Blanca Alejo who, by picking in more forehands, had earlier prevailed over arch-rival Alice Kimble.

For some reason not clear to Blanca, the U.S. government hadn't allowed her to go to Havana recently to represent the Dominican Republic in the Olympic Tryouts there; but Alice, who says she walks 4 miles a day, practices at least 8 hours a week, and goes to every tournament in the N.Y. area, is ready, willing, and able to attend her upcoming Qualifying Trials at Colorado Springs. "I'm playing better than I ever have," she says. "My chop's heavier, and my hitting's stronger against the push."

Lily Hugh also won the 2350 's- $19,-19$, 5 over Ernest Virgo who'd represented Jamaica in the ' 85 Gothenburg World's. "I tried especially hard in the 3rd game to mix up my serves," said the victorious Lily. Also, I worked at keeping the ball long, then short, in order to make Virgo move so he couldn't get into any forehand rhythm."

In the semi's earlier, Ernest, though match point down, just -16, 26, 14 escaped George Brathwaite. The Chief said that Virgo appeared to start his stroke slowly but then so quickened it at the point of contact that his spin came at you faster than you expected it to. George also said that when Caribbean players came to live in the U.S. the many varied styles they had to play against here forced them to improve their games.

The Under 2200 (and, partnered with Ali Oveissi, 4400 Doubles) winner was Larry Hodges. Down 18-12 in the 3rd, Larry didn't exactly overwhelm Blanca Alejo in the final, but he did score the last nine points in a row.

Alejo and Kimble-in one event or another, they must have played every half hour. When the \#4 Open seed, 2586-rated Yinka Majekodunmi, didn'tshow, Alice, his Istround opponent, was given a $\$ 25$ entree into the quarter's without playing so much as a match. Her opponent? Horace Roberts.

Robbie, rated 2109, had had a startlingly easy 8,17 Open win over 2427 -rated Abass Ekun and had then done in Steve Kaplan as well-this even while he'd lost in lower rated events to both Alejo and March Under 2000 winner Daniel Lee. Impossible to figure, is it? "Concordia discors," says Horace. Harmony in discord.

Alice and Horace hadn't played one another for maybe 10 years. But once they were out there on court who could tell? Can she really be 40 ? He 55 ? There's not an ounce of fat on either one of them.

And what a push and pick struggle out of the past it is-Robbie floating back ball after ball, and Alice, on patiently getting the topspin opening, relentless following through with her forehand attack.

Game 1: $21-17$ to Horace. Game 2: 24-22 to Horace....But what's this? The players are shaking hands?...No, no, no-the quarter's are $3 / 5 \ldots$..Yes, of course you've got to play it out. And, yes, I have been asked to time the match.

The 3rd game takes 14 minutes, is won by ("Take your time") Alice. Six minutes into the
mid-game 4th, several spectators in the increasingly noisy crowd are shouting, "Expedite! Call the Expedite Rule!"-which surely says something about a 1992 audience's attention span. This 4th game, as Alice pushes Horace's just-put-it-in-play serve into the net, is constrictingly close....At 21-all, Robbie picks a bad ball to backhand flick; and then Alice scores a winning forehand. The 5th-with Alice, as she was to say later, "willing to play all night," but Horace's racket hand beginning to cramp-is anticlimactic: Alice caps her comeback with an easy win - but, facing Cheng inthe semis, she's soon at the end of her rope.

In the other highly-charged quarter's, Rop (pronounced "Rahp" not "Rope") is being
 Olympian thoughts, do they? Or merely more mortal March madness in Manhattan?

In the Women's Singles, Alice Kimble, who' $d$ been out of action with a pulled groin muscle ("With the Olympic Trials coming up, it required a lot of discipline not to play for two weeks"), seemed to be concentrating all the better for her recuperative time off. She defeated Blanca Alejo, whom she'd lost to the last two times out, in straight games. "I miss my coach," said Blanca, referring of course to Mammoth resident pro Darko Rop, now in Colorado Springs, who' d been helping her get into better hitting position.In another, equally
 yet unpressed David Zhuang, the youthful Yinka is topspinning well, looping his backhand into David's backhand, forcing him to block and so preventing him from flat-hitting in winners. ith games tied at 1 -all, Yinka, down 20-18 in the 3rd, returns a shot that he and a number of spectators think hit the edge. The umpire, however, sitting on the opposite side, though alert and conscientious, cannot confirm that the ball hit and so awards the point to David who, when pressed, says that the ball hit...the side. Some in the crowd continue to scream at the umpire, and perhaps their protests influence Yinka. At any event, despite repeated attempts to get him to play on, he adamantly refuses to do so and defaults the match. As they say, "Only in New York."

## Results:

Open-Final: David Zhuang d. Yinka Majekodunmi, 14, -18, 18, ret.; SF: Zhuang d. Rey Domingo, 15, 16, 12; Majekodunmi d. Eric Boggan, 20, 12, -14, 12; QF: Zhuang d. George Brathwaite, 9, 11, 13; Domingo d. Steve Kaplan, $9,11,-17,15$; Majekodunmi d. Barry Dattel, 20, 18, 17; Boggan d. Festsus Ayinde, $15,11,20$.
Women: Alice Kimble d. Blanca Alejo, 21, 9, 19.
U2350-Final: Ernest Virgo d. George Brathwaite, 13, 12; SF: Virgo d. Maximo Vasquez, 12, 17; Brathwaite d. Ali Oveissi, 19, -19, 15.
U2200-Final: Steve Kaplan d. Dave Shapiro, def.; SF: Kaplan d. Blanca Alejo, def.; Shapiro d. Tim Boggan, 15, 17.
U2100-Final: Peter Ng d. Ricardo
Richards, 17, 14; SF: Ng d. Tim Boggan, -17, 18, 19; Richards d. Han Con Chao, -15, 13, 12. U2000-Final: Daniel Lee d. Alex Frayberg, 19, -14, 21; SF: Lee d. Michael Grant, 17, -19, 19; Frayberg d. Billy Maisonet, 17, 18.
U1900: Bob Zhao d. Riki Hashizome, 18, 19. U1800: Riki Hashizome d. Ed Brown, 15, 12. Ul700: Winston Shih d. Ed Brown, 15, 15. U1600: Kiet Hunyh d. Alex Milimovka, 16, -18, 16.
U1450: Simon Simpri d. Jerry Vasquez, 19, 18. U1350: Jerry Mishenko d. Lavern
Cruickshank, 17, 13.
U1200: Jerry Mishenko d. David Fang, 12, 15. UNRATED: Kin Ming Tsui d. Chi Wai Chung, 15, -13, 11 .
O40: Rey Domingo d. George Brathwaite, def. U18: David Fernandez d. Glenn Brown, $15,15$. U4400 Dbls: Maximo Vasquez/Steve Kaplan d. Rey Domingo/Marcy Monasterial, n.s. U3300 Dbls: Kin Ming Tsui/Darryl Wu d. Anthony Gegelys/Sam Huang, n.s.


## BUTTERFLY POTOMAC OPEN

## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

## Saturday \& Sunday, May 23 and 24, 1992 <br> Sponsored by: <br> Potomac Country Table Tennis Club (PCTTC), Maryland

| EVENT | FEES | Starting Time | Prize/Trophy $1 / 2 / 3-4 / 5-8$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1. Open Singles RR | \$20** | Sat.13:00 | \$600/300/150/50 |
| 2. U-2400 RR | 10 | Sat.12:00 | \$150/75 |
| 3. U-2200 RR | 10 | Sat.10:00 | \$100/50 |
| 4. U-2000 RR | 10 | Sat.12:00 | \$100/50 |
| 5. U-1800 RR | 10 | Sat.10:00 | \$60/30 |
| 6. O-40 Senior RR | 10 | Sat.15:00 | \$60/40 |
| 7. U-4200 Doubles | 10ea | Sat.09:00 | \$120/60 |
| 8. U-1600 RR | 10 | Sun.10:00 | \$60/30 |
| 9. U-1400 RR | 8* | Sun.12:00 | T/T |
| 10. U-1200 RR | 8* | Sun.10:00 | T/T |
| 11. U-1000 RR | 8* | Sun.12:00 | T/T |
| 12. Novice RR | 8* | Sun.09:00 | T/T |
| 13. U-3200 Doubles | 5ea | Sun.09:00 | T/T |



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Sanctioned by: USTTA
Tournament Director: John Wang Tel: (301)983-3374 Fax: (301)424-7073
Referee: James Verta
LOCATION:
Potomac Community Center (PCC)
11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD20854
Tel: (301)983-4471
Tournament Information:

1. Entry deadline: May 17, 1992. Late èntry fee of $\$ 5$ will apply for entries after May 17, 1992.
2. Open singles, semis and finals are 3 out of 5 . All other singles are 2 of 3 games. Winners (and perhaps runners-up) of each RR advance to single elimination draw. Nonrated players may enter any event but will not advance to SE draw in those rated events. Doubles are single elimination. All USTTA rules apply.
3. Equipment: Butterfly tables and Butterfly 3 star balls.
4. Proof of USTTA membership will be required. Membership may be purchased at $\$ 20$ yearly, and $\$ 10$ for juniors under 18.
5. Players must check in at the desk at least 20 minutes before the starting time of their entered events.
6. Any player abusing equipment or harrassing tournament officials will be disqualified immediately. Anyone deliberately defaulting a match may, at the tournament officials discretion forfeit all prizes.
7. Player's rating is based on the March/April, 1992 issue of TT Topics. Events may be combined or canceled due to lack of entries.
8. You must enter at least one other singles event to play in doubles events 7 and 13.

## DIRCTIONS:

1. From North: Take Washington Capital Beltway 495 West, Exit 35 onto I-270 North, get off Montrose Rd. West (Exit 4B), turn left onto Falls Rd.(Rt.189) South to Potomac Community Center (on the left side).
2. From South: Take Washington Capital Beltway 495 North, take River Rd. West (exit 39A, toward Potomac), turn right onto Falls Rd. North to Potomac Community Center (on the right side). Potomac, MD 20854.

Please enter me in the events CIRCLED:

## Event Fees

Rating Fee
USTTA membership fee (Junior/Adult)
Registration Fee
Total Fees Paid (to PCTTC)
Name (print please)
Address
City, State, Zip
Signature
$\begin{array}{lllllllllllll}1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 & 13\end{array}$
\$
$\qquad$
$\$ \quad 10 / 20$
$\$$

\$ $\qquad$

USTTA No. $\qquad$

USTTA Rating
USTTA Expires
Birth Date
Home Club
Phone:(H)
(0)

Partner: \#7 $\qquad$
\#13 $\qquad$
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| TOURNAMENTS PROCESSED |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Indianapolis Winter Open | San Antonio Winter RR |
| Banyan Opener | Chinese New Year |
| Sooner State Games | International |
| Groundhog Day Open | Westfield March |
| Mammoth February | Sun TV Akron Open |
| TET Festival Invitational | Southeast Texas Open |
| Arizona Open | Disney's Spring RR |
| Sun TV Winter Open | Austin Spring RR |
| Westfield February | EI-Pomer-42 Skidoo |
| Pepsi North Dakota Open | HawthorneNorthrope Open |
| Schaumburg February Open | North American Olympic |
| Clinton, February No-Star | Qualifier |
| Irving RR | Nebraska State Open |
| Louisiana Winter Open | Clinton March No-Star |
| Butterfly Virgina \#2 | Schaumburg March Open |
| Greater Atlanta Closed | Miller Park Marck Open |
| Salina Open | PA Closed |
| Rockford 1-Star | Rensselaer Open |
| Greensboro February Open | MIT Recession Open |
| Lake Ontario Giant RR | Swing Into Spring Seniors |
| Citrus State Open | Rialto Spring Open |
| Maryland Circuit \#8 | Bartlesville RR |
| Mammoth March Open | Virginia Butterlly \#4 |
| Denver Giant RR | Maryland Circuit \#9 |
| Butterfly Virginia \#3 | AITTL Singles |
| Newgy's RR U1799 | Sac-Rec Spring Open |
| City of Birmingham Closed | Hudson Valley Spring Open |

Here is an age breakdown of U.S. junior play in tournaments over the last five months:

| Boys: | Total |  | Girls: | Total |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| U10: | 48 |  | U10: | 11 |
| 10-11: | 74 |  | $10-11:$ | 12 |
| 12-13: | 143 |  | $12-13:$ | 13 |
| 14-15: | 139 |  | $14-15:$ | 16 |
| 16-17: | 119 |  | $16-17:$ | 9 |
| 18-21: | 244 |  | 18-21: | 14 |
| Total U18: 523 |  | Total U18: | 61 |  |
| Total U22: 767 |  | Total U22: | 75 |  |

All tournament players: 3,634

| Total male: | 3,397 | $93.5 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Total female: | 237 | $6.5 \%$ |
| Total U18: | 58 | $16.1 \%$ |
| Total boys U18: | 523 | $14.4 \%$ |
| Total girls U18: | 61 | $1.7 \%$ |
| Percent of males U18: |  | $15.4 \%$ |
| Percent of females U18: |  | $25.7 \%$ |
|  |  | Larry |
|  |  |  |


| MEN UNDER 22 | BOYS UNDER 18 |
| :---: | :---: |
| IA 2677 BUTLIER JAMBS | nY 2584 mangrodowit yimk |
| HY 2584 MaJBKODOMM Yinka | TX 2375 OWRNS ERIC |
| IA 2521 marotam ditres | MD 2338 WANG ROCKY |
| GA 2491 mamtha yair | FL 2293 COHEN RANDY H . |
| II 2449 Snerris TODD | VT 2253 ST. GBORGB JASOK |
| IN 2403 YBH CLARR | PA 2224 RRED BARNBX JMMES |
| 4A 2391 CHOI CHI-SOS | MI 2201 PIBTRAK BERNIB |
| TX 2375 OWENS ERRIC | CA 2163 LIT Mark |
| nc 2349 PaCB brian | WI 2162 LONRRCAN SRNN M. |
| nd 2338 MaNG ROCKY | VA 2134 SOOMG TONY |
| CA 2338 \%HRO THOMGVNM | HC 2125 Horth uarcos |
| MD 2321 kO carios | CA $2116 \mathrm{LA}_{\text {LA }}^{\text {KIET-MNH }}$ |
| FL 2293 COHIEN Raspy m . | CA 2078 Phak tuan |
| VI 2253 ST.GEORGE JASON | WY 2076 PrRandozz DAVID |
| PL 2232 MONTALVO ARTBL | CA 2068 ROBzRTS COURTNEY |
| PA 2224 RRED BARNEY JMMRS | GA 2049 SAPRE YOGBSH |
| GA 2219 MBLVIN OSCAR | CO 2049 VOSTRY MARTIN |
| hi 2201 pibtrak bernie | MA 2029 LY Mguts |
| YD 2188 KO EDOARDO | IN 2013 YBE Morman |
| CA 2185 SPamo IVAn | WY 1995 OLAN CHRTS $J$. |
| WOMEN UNDER 22 | GIRLS UNDER 18 |
| CO 2213 AI LI | Ha 2103 chui jang |
| Ma 2103 CHOI JAns | CA 2074 banh teia a. thar |
| CA 2074 bant tio a. thany | PA 1881 REBD KRISTEY |
| CA 1926 PROMIEYBR IIGA | CA 1864 CHEMG WAN LIMG |
| PA 1881 RESD KRISTEY | WD 1852 LRE SYIVIA |
| va 1869 trounc mic | HI 1824 KIH Jangr |
| CA 1864 Chising nav ling | CO 1815 LI MAN |
| V10 1852 LE8 SYIVIA | MD 1796 LJ Jolis |
| Hi 1824 KIL J JMEs? | CA 1680 troung lym |
| CO 1815 LI MA | WY 1670 LIOSA yilagros |
| 10 1796 Lo Jolic | wD 1633 LIN Lavra |
| TX 1715 mguren quter mancy | FL 1626 SARTY Y YxiA |
| ne 1712 TRNM troc phoong | Ca 1624 hocks patricta |
| CA 1680 TROONG LTM | CA 1588 dalilis salit |
| WY 1670 LIOSA Milagros | NM 1555 Bo ANN THO |
| ID 1633 LTM Lavra | WY 1496 CHANG KARES |
| FL 1626 Sitrsw yma | HD 1472 SEREN JBSSICA |
| CA 1624 hockr parricia | KD 1442 LES VIVINA |
| CA 1588 dahlin saliy | IL 1324 HELICRRS HARIA |
| Wa 1555 Ho ANE THO | CA 1289 frimbuan Michblids |



## Presents <br> The USTTA National Rating List by Dan Simon

## HOW TO BREAK 2000:

(1) Get a competitive attitude.
(2) Use every tool at your disposal. -Topsheet Fluids (TAK-IT-UP \& SPEED IT UP)
-Carbo-Flex Blades (Model Tetra, Stratos, Lillieroos)
-Training Machines (SITCO RII-S, RIII-Loop, RIII-XT)
(3) Train, train, train!

For more information on 2 call or write:


SITCO U.S.A.
P.O. Box 20456

Portland, Oregon 97220 U.S.A.
Tel. (503) 253-2000 / FAX (503) 253-2009

The ratings chairman will not give a player's rating over the telephone. Players may obtain their rating from Topics, or by contacting the tournament director about one month after the tournament, or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope listing their name and last tournament played to Dan Simon, 3449 Yale Court, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Because of space limitations, it is official USTTA policy that only players who have played in a tournament in the past five months are listed.

| BOYS UNDER 16 | BOYS UNDER 14 | BOYS UNDER 12 | BOYS UNDER 10 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2268 R880 baxiky Jness | II 2013 y8e moxan | CA 1740 Lir Pa | Y0 1641 LI stuny |
|  | nY 1999 косавrgaxo bоconat | Ox 1708 chis roxil | L4 1233 Bxanowr wi |
|  | CT 1925 stapirio briat | HD 1641 Li sonay | IL 1175 Gambs robrrp J |
| W1 2075 Frxandez Danid |  | CO 1611 PRTtrason arxant | T2 1060 SOORIITHOESE LOCX |
|  | vo 1802 xo crarsmorik | OX 114170 Ouver fartor | 1057 philimps Jos |
| 4D 1980 panc cmarles |  | RL 1374 Prager Strver | 10. 984 ESII DNVID |
| wT 1999 रccizramo bocina | Ca 1740 Lim prilur |  |  |
| 1925 Stapiro bextar | ne 1720 dismana jomis |  | C 902 Raccon mroon |
| WY 1973 Thsousz samo | Of 1788 chis rowaid | CO 1241 Phi Johk | OT. 811 Ransan orion |
| Kx 1912 prastro Hions | OR 1705 no prowis |  |  |
| к0 1893 yen stier | WY 1679 coin D.J. | Of 1225 Strity mpori | wr 738 grown richurd |
| CA 1881 stoonan stassir | Ox 1676 chir rogrs | OX 1192 nenodit michoias | ${ }^{\text {PA }} 7277$ nssinie Jos |
| Co 1871 MITtizrour and | W0 1674 SBEA A MDR36 | IL 1175 Cames rooskr JR | 689 moxomitz nilun |
| 1853 Lese richard | ${ }^{\text {PL }} 1671$ Bstrada cratos | nex 1171 ramr antiont J. | w7 641 Suge cuiprox |
| нc 1888 doisha mpxas |  | nY 11388 Srraba prrioz | OA 604 DRamo J.briII |
| CA 1866 mestosian maxzo | Ca 1659 ympeartin mbit |  | ${ }^{\text {RI }} 604$ do Jay |
| yY 1846 swimplior fonay | Co 1666 TRN TMITM C. | TX 1126 clas HONR20 | (14 602 siow ciarles |
|  | 10 1641 LII Sumy | C0 1064 Spraigegr | 10. 622 nuis hichast |
| 10 1802 x ¢ Carismorizr | CA 1639 guypan strum | 771 1060 SOORIIHHOME | CA 574 MGurza fonk |
| ca 1739 pravili oure | zrson brxam | 1057 cols | Of 526 lavors dais |
| GIRLS UNDER 16 | GIRLS UNDER 14 | GIRLS UNDER 12 | GIRLS UNDER 10 |
|  | co 1815 uI | 1815 LI MNW | 07 crask Jenitr |
| 1664 carsic unan ming | H0 1633 LIE LINRA | M0 1633 LIE Link |  |
| 1824 KII JMIEP | v0 1472 sure Jsssica | k0 1472 sure Jsssica | 18 516 sumpor sor |
| Co 1315 LI max | ${ }^{10} 1422$ LE8E TIVINA | 401422 Le8s vivina | or 192 schinolur ranta |
| v0 1796 [0 Jour | C 1239 prisumar nicarlis | CA 907 Chang Jean | OK 461 Bizd Pugry |
| w1 1670 Liosa ymilugos | x0 1269 Lo marchers? |  | PL 349 Megonic sarrin |
|  |  | or 621 Bizen poomax |  |
| C 1.1524 mocrs pmpricin | CA 1015 sprxior jurra | Ma 560 sion migera | PL 328 Samani saina |
|  | pL 1002 PATTRRSON CAROL |  |  |
| 1555 HO ANW THO 1496 CHANG KAREN |  | or 492 scrimuzar rata | Or 291 Davis aprizals |
| 10 1472 strak Jsssica | y/ 852 Ramarbzac crris | WI 481 Buge nicous |  |
| wo 1442 lise vivian | mv 736 Lise anezia | OK 461 BiROA PORNI | EXT ISSUE |
| CA 1239 prizunaw ycirgue | CA 691 dxin jossprine | Ma 436 SiOM MixRzs | Complete Senior |
| v0 1269 LD Marchrs |  |  | Results--every |
|  |  |  | age group from |
| IL 1077 carss dxam | Ma 560 SIVOM AMEELA |  |  |
| CA 1037 DOAR ROOB8RT |  | PL 328 Smant Samas |  |
| x 1022 nitz JRcoushine | ${ }^{11} 51685$ surrour 50 | $\pi 325$ caplis coornivy |  |

TOP MEN
D 2783 ching yingera WT 2706 zHOMAG DAVID Y.X. A 2677 BUTLER JMMES VA $26720^{\circ}$ 'NBLLL SBA P. 10 2647 xo hua zhang WD 2643 huang tong sheng jack NY 2624 ROP DRRKO VA 2593 TBEKRAVEBRAKIT HAM CA 2592 mguys rhoa d. IY 2584 MANBKODOMEI YTNKA VA 2581 ONIPRDB JOHK MA 2571 LIO FUK MAN WY 2567 BOGGAN BRIC PA 2549 SBEMLLERR DAMYY R. IA 2521 NaRotan Dhirbs SC 2521 HYAMT MICHABL CA 2520 TRRA DR GA 2493 BUTLER SCOMT CA 2493 BUTLLER SCOMT CA 24970 Mastan ys brian WA 2470 MASTERS BRIAI GA 2470 boi godavg GA 2463 MAY DRRRK TX 2499 AJALA HURRY TX 2449 ANLIA MURRY
SC 2446 CHRISTOPHER NIGE nJ 2425 Domivgo rey a. NJ 2425 DOMingo
ne 2414 PRMG XIN 1n2 2414 PBNG XIN GR 2411 BOTLRR CBARLIE
TX 2408 OSHODI TANO TX 2408 OSHODI TANO CA 2408 BRRRY RONUS
NY 2406 EKON ABASS NY 2406 BKON ABASS
IN 2403 YBH CIARR IN 2403 YBh CLARR
NY 2397 AYIND FRSTUS WY 2397 AYINDE FBSTUS
YA 2391 CHUI CHI-SON YA 2391 CHUI CHI-SON
PA 2387 SBEMLLER RANDY NY 2385 Jonrs garpibid GA 2383 LIM DAN CT 2380 VIRGO BRNES? NJ 2376 DATTEL BARRY TX 2375 OWENS ERTC MI 2373 vBiLlegrte hichabl CA 2358 briganderiLo cario NK 2356 LRE FO LAP CA 2352 posztai zoitan NC 2349 PACB brian CA 2341 HASHTYONO MASAR HD 2338 WANG ROCKY CA 2338 тHBO THONGVA IL 2337 LExWandowskI Bogdan na 2335 OLSON BRANDON $G$ MI 2334 OLUSEGUN VICTOR MA 2328 hedayartan ctomars SC 2326 RILEYY GREGOFY SC 2324 SRBMTLKR RICky hi 2324 OLADOKON TaNO CA 2321 тUAM TA
TOP WOMEN
co 2441 bivoshan insoor no 2382 Hoge lily ID 2352 PBMG ANTY CA 2351 ZXXHRRIN ANTTA CA 2328 WAMG KBI TX 2295 GEB DTMN OK 2249 LI RONG TX 2247 ROSSN
CO 2213 AI LI CO 2213 AI LI CA 2191 voong tibo lan ny 2133 KINBLB ALICE GRRB CA 2124 Davidsor carol WY 2117 albso blanc MA 2103 CHOI JANE
CA 2074 BANH THO A. TAM CA 2074 BANH THO A. TRA CA 1926 PROMABYER IIGA KA 1923 HANSRRJSIIVG TARA KY 1913 chadodury dsyzani PA 1881 RBED KRISTGY OH 1874 JRMTINS JOYCB MA 1869 troing yeoc CA 1864 ChBNG haN LING MJ 1862 ALVAREZ $\operatorname{ANN}$ CA 1852 Loverpridr junay mari KD 1852 LEB SYIVIA TX 1841 CHENG HOT-HUA DONXA VA 1841 bavio gheitia HI 1824 KIM JNME? CO 1815 LI NaN WY 1815 BRYMATSEVA YELEXA AZ 1801 MARSAM SEDA MD 1796 LD JULIB wy 1791 yI Curgy NY 1791 yo carry 1772 ITRGAKI YOKO 1746 grokitg madine WY 1730 mg plord LD 1727 SAKAI DONXA wY 1727 GIBrosiczax KY 1726 ALLSE KIIM TX 1722 JONBS GWM LiD 1716 Rrowilage yvonm WY 1716 PRRAIER WNM SOK Ix 1715 mgoysk goten manc NI 1712 TRAN TROC PHOONG PA 1710 CHBONG KAN YBE CA 1704 Shioza blsuko HY 1702 TJIOOK CATHARIINA IN 1699 MRBBR MARI Ca 1680 troong lyan VA 1673 wBI tsul-ping WY 1670 LIOSA MILLAGROS WY 1668 LYSIK TBRESA IN 1639 Mguygn hoic ID 1633 LIN LINRRA
CA 1627 GOR-SBNO PAMG JBBNITRI

OLYMPIC ELIGIBLEMEN
IA 2677 BOTLER JAMRS VA 26720 O'MEILL SBN P. VA 2593 TBEXAVBBRRKIT HANT CA 2592 Mguys rion d. NY 2567 bogean bric PA 2549 SEBMILLER DANEY R. It 2521 mapomy datrey CA 2520 TRAN DB CA 2520 TRN DB GA 2493 BOTLER SCOTP KD 2470 MASTBRS BRI VA 2470 boi puang 2463 May dergr MI 2449 SNBBRIS TODD GB 2411 botizr Cbarlibs CA 2408 barry rutiblor IN 2403 YBR CLIARR MA 2391 CHOI CHI-SON PA 2387 SBEMLILRR RANDY NJ 2376 DATTEL BaRRY X 2375 OWENS BRIC MI 2373 VEILLBPTP MICGABL NY 2356 LEB FO LAP NC 2349 pack brian 10 2338 nang rocky 192 2335 OLSON BRANDON G C 2324 SEBMLLLER RICK AZ 2313 PBTRRSEN TODD L IV 2309 BRMEWAITE GEORGE 2303 DAMTDOMICZ BOHDAN 2L 2293 COHRY RANDY H, ID 2292 YBH STRBPREN〔 2283 PLBISHERR DICxIB IA 2278 chui LIM-MITMG CA 2271 MCO LOC BAO LD 2261 SARAI DANID TT 2253 ST GGORGB JASO KY 2241 ALLER Johis NJ 2235 BaVLY LARRY NJ 22288 MoNAVERPLAM PRRVII No 2228 Monavzetial priviz PA 2224 RRED BARNEY JAMES OLYMPIC ELIGIBLE WOMEN
CO 2441 Brosenas Insook NJ 2382 Hoge hily TX 2295 GEB DIANA TX 2247 ROSES PBGGY CO 2213 AI LI CA 2191 voong tied las yY 2133 KTMBLE ALICE GRBEM C 2124 Davidson carol MA 2103 chuI Jant PA 1881 REBD KRITTBY yO 1862 ALVARBZ AMI vi 1852 LRE SnIVIA vid 1727 Sakai doma IX 1722 Jonss GMI ND 1716 kroonlags yvons WY 1716 PRAZIER HaM SUK MEN OVER 40 KA 2571 LIJ POK LaS no 2425 DOMTico rest In 2414 PBIG XIN WY 2309 BRRMHNATYE GEORGB CO 2303 DAMTDONTCZ BOHDA MA 2278 CHOI LIN-MING ID 2261 SARAI DAYID yI 2231 swerris dell a. nJ 2228 hodaverrian parviz wy 2217 Kaplan stevks MI 2217 Cox PAP WI 2213 OVBISSI ALI PA 2211 Starps wilinay PA 2205 YC COULLOM HENRY IL 2199 Lazarovs jambs CT 2169 Salapiro david s. IN 2159 HICKS H. RICHARD CA 2159 BERRZVAI GABOR CA 2159 brrezvai gabor CA 2157 GROSSHAN HOMRD ix 2146 cuaming joskpi NY 2138 Shto nakner sin IY 2137 KRINGION HOSBS YI 2135 DTXO J JMirs MI 2135 DIXXOK JNMES WOMEN OVER 40 CO 2441 BBUSHAN IISSOOR TX 2247 ROSBK PBGGY wY 2133 KIMBLE ALICB GRBEN OA 1874 JBMKINS JOYCB NJ 1862 ALVAREZ ANA基 1772 ITRAKAI Yoro ND 1727 SARAI DOMN KD 1716 KROMLAGB YVONRI


 PA 1539 nIECONBR mancy in 1533 yarcur cindoy PL 1512 ANDRZBUBWGKA DANUTA CA 1448 CHIN KMMY CA 1445 2AXRARRTAN SOSAN NA 1442 PRRRIISS TYRA NY 1380 JOHISON JKMNIFER AZ 1376 SOMMRR TYBIB ay 1376 RUGAR KAREN J. FL 1373 JOMES CARUISE nY 1371 AMOORY GIORIA yo 1355 Yoshirama yasuyo sus OR 1315 vaLKKR-HOGOB DINM


42 Table Tennis Topics


OH 1168 EVANS MORRIS
VA 1485 EVRRSOLI SJPF
OT 1738 EYSERR RANER CA 671 PACCINI YAMHBI IY 1216 PaIrchild bill KY 1329 PRKHARPOUR BABAR IC 1336 PMininiba SAM IV 1083 pas jia ying RJ 1090 pang david la 1189 panc stever L 1443 Parras tomas Y 1307 PARMBR JAMSS B, AZ 1247 PASULO LDOIS RL 1926 PBBERICO STEVE NY 721 PBIMMAN JORDAX X 1230 PBLION BILL HD 2352 PEMG AKY A 852 FgNsTrgnacher CA 992 PRRGUSON PRRGIR CA 1570 PBRIRADEZ BYRON $\begin{array}{ll}\text { NY } 2076 \text { PRRRNANDEZ DAVID } \\ \text { CA } \\ 522 \text { PERNANDEZ } & \text { JOSBPE }\end{array}$ PA 749 PBRRICK JOHR WI 1445 PIEDLER RICGRRD NY 784 PIGUBROA JULIO
LD 1164 PINK BARRY SC 1533 fina randy IL 781 Propssi Job CA 1883 PIROOZI ALI
FL 1797 PISHER CONRAD TR 2283 PLIBISHBR DICKII OR
CO
7967 PLYNN JACK CA 1371 PIYM LamRgyce VA 1325 POLEY DAN
 MA 672 PoNG TOM CA 1232 FOONG CHONG MI 1989 FORTNEY DAVE M52 Foss pask 1840 POOMTAIS BRAD A 1005 fonmals wis OH 935 POX Margarbs VA 1075 POXWELL JOHI 1354 magr shan CA 1508 Praica doartr CA 1554 ERAMCR LOTTS R. 1599 Pranks doand 1999 prarberg absi 1567 PRBDRICCSON HAROLD 1006 RRBBDMAN ANDREM A 1825 FRBBLION JBRRY 1802 PRBBMAN WILLIAI 986 PRBIHOO NaTtHias B 1559 PRBDDSIBORG GUY 1828 PRIBDSL Lance A 1925 FRIBDLAND RICHARD A 1876 PRILEY kBith A 1494 Prisbers stanley 1926 promimyzr IN 21170 Pronceg TIM 10 661 Pryzr $\quad$ Smor CA 1185 FoJII JRAMR PA 1739 FULCOMER DAVI CA 1886 FULLBRICHT DARRB H 1379 PONDERBURG ROY IN 1381 fose arthor NJ 1156 fong binard h OH 1159 funaire kichazl Ny 1465 faschlio michazi GA 1263 GADDIS NY 890 GAPPNEY RICCARD pa AL 1951 GATHER DOI CA 1343 anamo WA 1402 GaLindo Marty VA 848 GaLLAABR TOM 1574

 VA 2092 G GIIPPIIS $\operatorname{JOR}$ B. JR.
NJ 1369 GRIPPTTH IL 610 grigibl david OH 868 Grigsby wayse WI 1701 GRTMSROD PRE
NY 1622 GRIN JRRY
JI 156 GRIN IN 1568 GROMP BRTAM AZ 1746 Groenig madm aZ 2144 groznig padd J.
AZ 1511 groznig roberr b TX 1634 grogin gary CA 1974 grooms yichas
IA 1404 gross ray

## CA 2157 GROSSMAN HOMARD SC 1086 GROUSSELL CLIMT

 OH 1143 groza petro WI 1344 GRVBER DAN CA 1094 guan jtinyCA 1992 guan joiny ya 1586 guay rowald $\begin{array}{ll}\text { KA } & 1676 \text { GUDATIIS AL } \\ \text { CA } & 225 \text { GUERRERO } \\ \text { PRRNARDO JR. }\end{array}$ FL 1937 GURR ROMAN MD 1648 GUTDOTR ROLANDO
CA 1801 GOILLORY RLLP
CO 955 GURRVICH BORIS CO 955 GURBvICH
MI 1359 GURK ROX IL 1344 GUSTAPSON RAY
IL 1990 GUITRRRZ
nITOMIO IL 1990 GUTIRRRRZ AMIONIO NY 1173 GUTOWSKI
NJ 1405 BA ANI MI 1423 HAASB MORKAX 1826 Backer HO 1054 HADLEY DALB FL 1455 hage david WI 1072 \#agergirnio robirl TX 1393 HagGins MILLEY
WY 1794 Haddocesi roger p. OT 1613 baxtim robis CA 569 maxing MBBDI 1829 aALBIG PRBD 1 MA 798 hais brin
YO 808 hail bill NY 1743 hall praicisco dbiano AR 1681 bail jamgy AZ 8006 Baill wark
 TX 1299 qaLLan Joek
 CA 820 RALLBR HBIDI
 WY 1675 haluiday N. Michasi
wY 990 Bamilion char charibs OH 1908 mamilion don r. $\begin{array}{lll}\text { CA } 1777 \text { \#MMLITON } & \text { BRIC R. } \\ \text { FL } 1765 \text { \#MMITTON } & \text { J. RUSSELLL }\end{array}$ AL 1557 \#MMILINOR TBRR VA 727 HaMMER DAVID YA 722 \#AM METT CARCY OR 1709 HAMOOND LLOO AL 1766 HAN JINS IA 1222 hancock bryan IA 1231 घancock hit OT 1378 HANSES DOOGLLAS

OT 841 BANSES ORTON VA 1651 BMISON DANA B. MA 1923 BAMSRRJSIGG OH 1253 HRRDIN CRRL OR 1014 HRRDWICKB ADMM | GA 1880 HRRDY RICHARD |
| :--- |
| TX 1558 HRRGTM |

 PA 867 markayy hichani
AL 1473 Harpgr bill AL
AR
AT
1047
HARPERR
HARPR AZ 1888 HARRIMGONK JOMN $G$.

 KY 1327 HaRRIS D. FRRNI | CA 1451 HaRRIS JIMTY |
| :--- |
| NC 1295 HaRRIS LRMNIS | HC 1295 HaRRIS LRBMIS HO 1830 HRRRIS MIKK

 KY 1067 Harrod dayid FLL 1489 garr tobin r. CA 1442 HARTYANS RODP PA 1006 HARTNER JOSBPB OR 296 HARTSOCK NATB
RI 1357 HRRPT KKNETH RI 1357 HARMY KBMETM oc 1311 Harvic prank TX 1814 HaRVILTE PRRCY A. FL 1172 Rarvaico bidarat CA 2341 Hashriono vasary ny 1826 มserzove NY 1826 hashizokr Riri AZ 1404 RaICHIR DARRY
 NY 2094 HOLDER PBTZR
NJ 1995 HOLLAND
BOB NJ 1995 HOLLAND BOB CA 1409 HOLLAND RUDY VA 1331 Holues ravinil CA 1455 HOLSINGER Mamp OR 867 HOLSTROM SUSAN NJ 1925 HOL2 GBORGE
MA 1177 HoNDA KO IJ 1768 HONG JIN-CHBR vg 1086 Hooress scom Z 1563 HOOVRR KRNNETH $~: ~$ CA 1616 hopping andy NY 1713 Horowitz STBVEs IY 689 нoRowitz wilutam NC 1857 HoRTH DAVI WD 1906 HORTON HRRBBRT R. NV 1399 HOSKINS GRRMT II 1578 HOOEBD LUTS 606 HOULB STBVEI TN 1183 HOOLARD KKENBETY KS 785 HOWRRD LaRRY kY 677 HONARD LoIS INX 384 HONSLL JASON KD 1418 HSIA DANM ND 984 HSIN DAVID KD 1671 HSIN JBPPRRY 10 1269 HSTMG STANLEY ND 1830 HSD Chang-shing MA 1325 HSD LLOYD NC 1663 HSO MIN-CHIANG
CA 1540 HSO YONGTAI NJ 1785 सo ERA-ME TN 1243 Ho JTMMT TX 1395 Ho RICHRRD WY 1757 IV woro moun AL 1749 Ho XiaOLB ca 1192 huang chasg IA 1626 guang CHIA-SER
 WY 2115 huang xuevon IL 673 HOCR KgVII AR 932 HODSON DAVID
TX 1321 HUDSON
ryRRS TX 1321 HUSSON MTYRS
HO 1064 HUELSKAMP
BROCB NJ 1232 hugy alian MJ 908 hUBY MiChari FL 1924 HIGGH-SAM MICHAB nJ 1236 hoi wiluinu NY 1216 HULHEN KBV
MA 854 HOLL BILL MA 854 HOLL BILL
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44 Table Tennis Topics

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## PRODIGY TABLE TENNIS <br> CLUB REPORT

by Norman Chouinard
Most USTTA members know by now that many table tennis players coast to coast are communicating on the Prodigy computer network. For those who are still not familiar with the Prodigy TTC, the main benefits are 1) Same day reporting of major events like the Olympic Trials, 2) Access to members of the EC, the editor of Topics, as well as club directors, coaches, and umpires, 3) a wealth of knowledge about almost every aspect of the sport, and 4) the opportunity to voice an opinion on either the cutting edge issues or the lighter side of the sport. Since over 1.5 million people subscribe to Prodigy, the service has directed many pongers to their first table tennis club. For information on how to join Prodigy, contact Walt Gomes, President of Prodigy Table Tennis, at (307) 635-0400, or Larry Hodges, (301) 345 9112.

Speaking of cutting issues, the following are the results of the first Prodigy TTC Poll.

Concerning table tennis on television, $60 \%$ of respondents felt that the current TV schedule, which features many showings on the Prime Network but with a smaller audience, is better than once a year on ESPN. Agreeing with the majority, Larry Hodges, National Coaching Chairman and Topics Editor, says, "Showing Table Tennis to the whole country once a year is like throwing worms in a pond. There has to be a hook. By showing a smaller group TT more often, we cultivate a real following. If one in 6,000 of these potential viewers joined the USTTA, we'd double our membership.'

On the issue of USTTA priorities, $78 \%$ of respondents said that increased emphasis should be placed on the Junior programs. Says Donald Dahlin, "By investing in our future by developing a \#1 world class Table Tennis Team, we (the USTTA) will insure that we have 100 times as much funds to allocate by the year 2002." A majority of respondents said that the USTTA should concentrate on a few good programs and cut back on the rest.

On whether the USTTA is going in the right direction, $80 \%$ of respondents said yes. Says Fran Guidace, "The leadership today is the best I've seen in the last 18 years." Robert Maver adds, "The USTTA has added professionalism and credibility by hiring an Executive Director.

Concerning the Midland location for the U.S. Open, $67 \%$ of respondents felt that all factors considered, Midland is the proper choice. All who responded positively mentioned the financial support of Dow Chemical and the City of Midland.

Well, before I close, I want to include some ideas mentioned on our club's table tennis wish list that I hope will be added to the EC agenda. They include Pro Beach Ping Pong (from Don and Sally Dahlin) and TTT or Topless Table Tennis (from 12-year-old Adam Roca!).

## NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

May 8-10, HALL OF FAME CHAMPIONSHIPS, Augusta, GA. Contact: Pete May, 2416 Wilkshire Dr., Augusta, GA 30904, (404) 724-0851. $\star \star \star \star$

May 9-10, Wayne Estwick Open, Hartford, CN. Contact: Wes Daley, 68 Simpson St., Hartford, CT 06112, (203) 243-2602. $\star \star$

May 9-10, 1992 Spring Waco RR Waco, TX. Contact: W. Ariyasinghe, 1017 Speight \#142, Waco, TX 76706, (817) 754-5953. $\star$

May 9-10, Minnesota Open, Minneapolis, MN. Contact: Mitch Seidenfeld, 1421 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN 55407, (612) 724-8400.

May 9, 1992 Long Island Championships, Huntington, NY. Contact: Fred Danner, 31 Huntington Bay Rd. Huntington, NY 11743, (516) 3857017.

May 16-17, Westfield May Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, NJTTC, 226 North Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090, (908) 654-9009. $\star \star$

May 16-17, 1992 Seattle Open, Seattle, WA. Contact: Vince Mioduszewski, 14311 SE 100th Place, Renton, WA 98059, (206) 226-9861. $\star \star$

May 16, 1st Annual Bluegrass Open, Lexington, KY. Contact: Tony
Plaisted, 2032 Blairmore Rd., Lexington, KY 40502, (606) 266-9937. *

May 17, Motor City Tune Up, Detroit, MI. Contact: David Greenstein, 5352 Pond Bluff Drive, West Bloomfield, MI 48323, (313) 683-8262. $\star$

May 16-17, Sunbelt Team Open, Bartlesville, OK. Contact: Robert Mayer, 519 E. 3rd St., Bartlesville, OK 74003, (918) 336-9482.

May 23-24, Potomac Open, Potomac, MD. Contact: John Wang, PCTTC, 8502 Postoak Rd., Potomac, MD 20854, (301) 983-3374. (See entry blank page


May 23-24, Golden State Open Concord, CA. Contact: Bob Partridge, 3147 Windsor Court, Lafayette, CA 94549, (510) 933-1014.

May 23-24, GNYTTC Open, Bronx, NY. Contact: Andre Diaz, P.O. Box 460, New York, NY 10038 (212) 962 0676. $\star \star$

May 30, Anderson Memorial Day Classic, Anderson, SC. Contact: Richard McAfee, Anderson College TTC, 317 Boulevard, Anderson, SC 29621, (803) 231-9647. $\star$

May 31, Paul Cracraft Memorial Open, Boulder, CO. Contact: Sai C. Kwok, 790 30th Street \#C, Boulder, CO 80303 , (303) 492-7386. ฝ

June 6-7, Maryland Open Giant RR, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 5134 Durham Rd. W., Columbia, MD 21044, (410) 730-5626. *

June 6, New York Junior Olympics Bronx, NY. Contact: Andre Diaz, P.O. Box 460, New York, NY 10038, (212) 962-0676.

June 10-14, 1992 DOW CHEMICAL U.S. OPEN, Midland, Michigan. Contact: USTTA Headquarters, 1750 E . Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909, (719) 578-4583. $\star \star \star \star \star$

June 27-28, Rose City Open, Portland, OR. Contact: Jim Scott, 5114 SW Slavin \#102, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 239-4116. $\star \star$

July 3-5, Mid-Atlantic Senior Games, Morgantown, WV. Contact: Gregory S Orner, Route 6, Box 88A, Morgantown, WV 26505 , (304) 594-9561.

July 10-12, MEIKLEJOHN NATIONAL SENIOR OPEN, Laguna Hills, CA. Contact: Julius Margolis, 2337-D Avenue Sevilla, Laguna Hills, CA 92653, (714) 770-7894. (See entry blank page 32.) $\star \star \star$

July 17-18, Two-Man Team Tournament, Winston-Salem, NC. Contact: Rick Mathews, 400 Leisure Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, (919) 7849278. $\star \star$

July 18-19, Cornhuskers State Game, Lincoln, NE. Contact: Jarry Petterson, 505 W. Elm, Ceresco, NE 68107, (402) 665-5681.

July 18, Bay State Games, Cambridge, MA. Contact: David J. Marcus, 25 Beacon Street \#16, Somerville, MA 02143, (617) 492-4317.

July 18, Melbourne Summer Open, Palm Bay, FL. Contact: Joseph Henneke, 740 Burman Lane N.E., Palm Bay, FL 32905, (407) 724-4067.

July 24-26, Maryland State Games,
Coumbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne
Kronlage, 5134 Durham Rd. W.,
Columbia, MD 21044, (410) 730-5626.
July 25, Seafair Pacific NW Championships, Seattle, WA. Contact: Tyra Parkins, 505 Belmont E. \#806, Seattle, WA 98102, (206) 622-9215. $\star$

July 25-26, Show-Me State Games, Columbia, MO. Contact: Danny Todd, 3321 Jamesdale Rd, Columbia, MO 65202, (314) 474-6450.

July 25-August 9, 1992 SUMMER OLYMPICS, Barcelona, Spain.

August 6-8, JUNIOR OLYMPICS/ JUNIOR NATIONALS, Rochester, MN. Contact: Richard Butler, 2626 E Court St., Iowa City, Iowa 52245, (319) 337-5952.

August 15-16, Maryland Circuit \#1, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 5134 Durham Rd. W., Columbia, MD 21044, (410) 730-5626. $\star$

August 22-23, \$8,000 SUN TV OPEN, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: Dan See miller, 307 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15227, (412) 884-5864. $\star \star \star$

November 27-29, U.S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Detroit, MI.夫 $\star \star \star$

December $16-20,1992$ NATIONALS \& BUTTERFLY WORLD DOUBLES CUP, Las Vegas, NV. $\star \star \star \star$

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