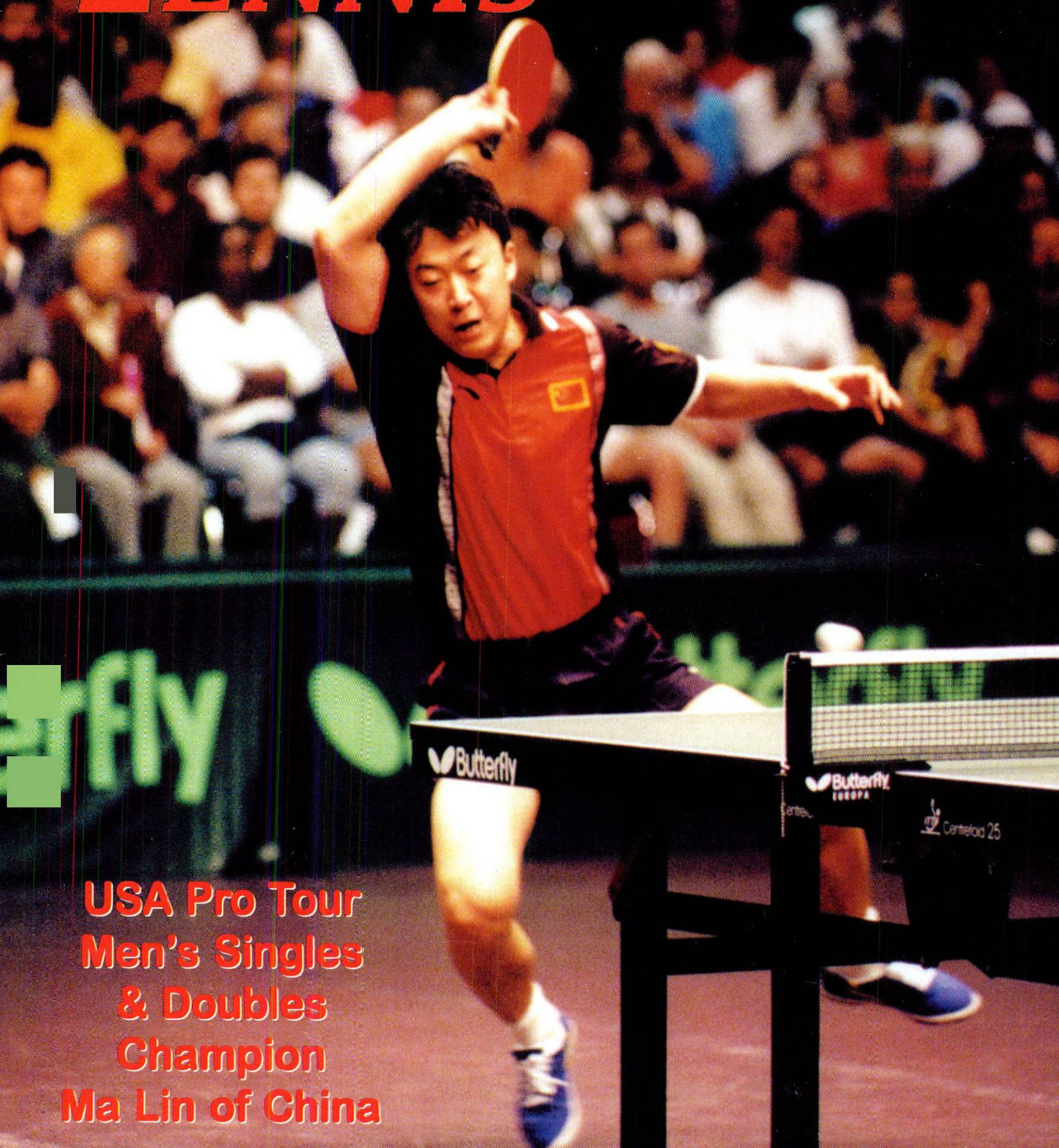


USA TABLE TENNIS



**USA Pro Tour
Men's Singles
& Doubles
Champion
Ma Lin of China**



The Table Tennis Pioneers

Your Favorite Brands With

THE BEST PRICE



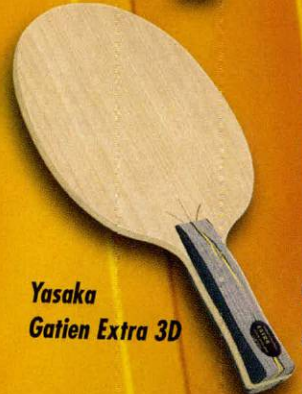
ASTI Avalox

~~BANDA~~

~~BONIC~~

红双喜
DHS

OVER 100 DIFFERENT BLADES...



JUIC

NEWGY

Nittaku

Reflex
Sports

Schildkröt

Ping-Pong

Everything You Need For Table Tennis!

has **Over 700 Products From**
 the **Friendliest Service At The**
WARRANTY-GUARANTEED!

OVER 200
NEW
PRODUCTS

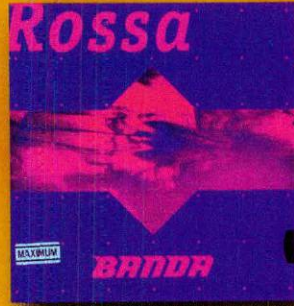


FRIENDSHIP

HARVARD



OVER 100 DIFFERENT RUBBER SHEETS...



ping-pong.com

2035 Nadeau, Laval (Québec) H7T 1W5 Canada • Tel.: 1-800-319-PING (7464)

Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664) • E-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com

Table of Contents



2002 U.S. Open/ITTF Pro Tour

Main Coverage by Larry Hodges..... Starts on page 36
 Senior Events by Tim Boggan.....54
 Results.....58
 U.S. Open Staff & Sponsors.....60

FEATURES

Player of the Month: Interview with Richard Hicks by Larry Hodges.....20
 From 1952 to 2002: No Change At All by Tim Boggan.....28
 Travels in Time: 1902 by Russ Walker.....30
 Fantasy Table Tennis in Piers Anthony's Robot Adept, Part I.....62
 Pan Am Junior Championships & Training Camp by Doru Gheorghe.....71
 Club of the Month: Stiga World by Tito Mijares.....82
 Junior of the Month: Veronika "Nika" Birioukova by Pam Ramsey.....82
 Does USA Table Tennis Really Want to Grow? by Carl Danner.....83
 Welcome to the Bay State Monday Night League by Gregory Edgar.....83

TOURNAMENTS

Meiklejohn Senior Championships by Tom Wintrich.....34
 Juic Seattle Open by Tom Veatch.....61
 Golden State Open by Dennis Lui.....66
 Stiga Open by Alan Williams.....80
 USA & International Tournament Write-ups & Results.....68

COACHING

Robot Mechanics by Richard McAfee.....32
 Playing Choppers by Larry Hodges.....32
 Stefan Feth's Backhand Loop by Wei Wang, Photo Sequence by Diego Schaaf.....84

USATT AND OTHER NEWS

Ad Listing.....9
 Officials' View: **New Service Rule!** by Azmy Ibrahim.....9
 Short Stuff.....9,16
 President's Report by Sheri Pittman.....10
 Club Programs Report by Larry Hodges.....25
 Letters.....26
 Grassroots Report by Attila Malek.....27
 Obituaries: Chuck Burns, Saymek Sourinthone.....33
 Ye Holy Ratings by Fran Boardman.....72
 USATT Tournament Schedule.....79
 Cartoon by Marek Zochowski.....82

ON THE COVER:

Ma Lin of China, Photo by Diego Schaaf ©2002

Official Sponsors	Banking Bank of America	Apparel STIGA	Energy ChevronTexaco
	Tables Butterfly	Balls Nittaku	Malt Beverage BUD LIGHT

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions include USATT membership. Rates in the U.S. are \$30/year, \$75/three years, Household \$50/year or Junior \$20/year. All other countries are \$35/year per person. Single copies are \$4.95 plus postage, prepaid. Subscription orders and inquiries concerning subscriptions should be sent to USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. All subscription orders are payable in U.S. currency only. For CHANGE OF ADDRESS, send both old and new addresses and label from the most recent issue, or e-mail the address change to admin@usatt.org. Reproduction without express written permission is prohibited. Copyright©2002. All rights reserved.

USA Table Tennis Magazine
 VOLUME 73, NUMBER 5

PUBLISHER

USA Table Tennis
 One Olympic Plaza • Colorado Springs, CO 80909
 719-866-4583 (ph) • 719-632-6071 (fax)
www.usatt.org • usatt@usatt.org

PRESIDENT

Sheri Soderberg Pittman

EDITOR, DESIGNER & ADVERTISING MANAGER

Larry Hodges
 13403 Demetrias Way • Germantown, MD 20874
 240-686-0127 (ph) • 240-686-0128 (fax)
larry@larrytt.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Margaret Smith • 719-866-4583 • usatt@usatt.org

EDITORIAL BOARD

Tom Wintrich (Chair), Tim Boggan, Jim McQueen,
 Sheri Pittman, Dennis Taylor, Wei Wang

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Margaret Smith	Director of Operations
Debbie Moya	Director of Programs
Fran Boardman	Ratings Coordinator
Deborah Gray	Accountant
Sandra Evans	Administrative Coordinator
Peter Chamberlain	Intern

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Piers Anthony, Tim Boggan, Karen Chang,
 Carl Danner, Gregory Edgar, Doru Gheorge,
 Mike Halliday, Larry Hodges, Azmy Ibrahim,
 Dennis Lui, Attila Malek, Richard McAfee,
 Tito Mijares, Al Palumbo, Sheri Pittman,
 Pam Ramsey, James Rautis, Ray Spann,
 Shaun Stallings, Tom Veatch, Wei Wang,
 Russ Walker, Alan Williams, Tom Wintrich

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Mal Anderson, Karen Chang, Larry Hodges,
 Linda Hsing, Charlie Neuman, Diego Schaaf,
 Phil Schafer, Wendy Troy, Jackie Vogel, Alfred York

PRINTER

Publication Printers, Denver, CO

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and other locations. USA Table Tennis Magazine (ISSN 1089-1870) is published bimonthly at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is the official magazine of USA Table Tennis (USATT), a Class "A" member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: USA Table Tennis Magazine, c/o USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5769. This publication is owned and published by USATT, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to supporting the sport of table tennis.

The views published within this publication are those of the contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the opinion of USA Table Tennis Magazine or USA Table Tennis. Similarly, the products and/or services included in this magazine are not necessarily endorsed by USATT.

Advertising inquiries may be directed to the editor. An advertising rate chart is available upon request, and at www.usatt.org/magazine/ad_rates.html.



The Table Tennis Pioneers

Presents...

TTmatic

Professional Robots

NEWGY



BUILDING TOMORROW'S CHAMPIONS

Robots For Every Level... ...At Every Price Range!

Robo-Pong 540

Your first step to seeing how robot practice can revolutionize your game. This model is ideal for recreational players and the budget-minded. Lower speed and frequency ranges and static delivery accommodate untrained strokes. Set on top of table and twist base to desired trajectory. Improved bucket design ensures reliable ball feed.

Robo-Pong 1040

The next step up is this great robot for intermediate and tournament level players. Includes all features of the Robo-Pong 540 plus oscillation and more powerful speed/frequency controls. Bucket extender expands ball capacity for longer continuous play.

TTmatic 101

An untiring training partner for the beginner and hobby player! Reg \$899.95

TTmatic 202

Easy to assemble and handle at a reasonable price! Reg \$999.95

Robo-Pong 2040

When you are ready for the big step, this is the ultimate robot for serious players. Used by top players like Yiyang Fan, #1 U.S. player. Can do everything the Robo-Pong 1040 does and more. The recycling net captures your returns and recycles the balls for non stop action!

TTmatic 302

Uninterrupted training at an incredible value! Reg \$1799.95

TTmatic 402 & 402 B

A world class training partner! With one turn you can change the rotating head from chopped balls to sidespin or top spin balls. 402: Reg \$2199.95 • 402B: Reg \$2295.95

TTmatic 500 & 500 B

New dimension in robot training. A clever remote control computer and a specially developed double-head system offer training perspectives which fill every table tennis professional with enthusiasm. 500: Reg \$2899.95 • 500B: Reg \$2995.95



Robo-Pong 540

\$229.00

Robo-Pong 1040

\$359.00

38+40 mm

TTmatic 101

SPECIAL \$574.95

38+40 mm

TTmatic 202

SPECIAL \$649.95

All TTmatic Robots Are Hand Tested To Ensure The Highest Quality

38+40 mm

Robo-Pong 2040

\$695.00

TTmatic 302

38+40 mm

SPECIAL \$1274.00

TTmatic SPECIAL

... until October 31st ...
FREE shipping + FREE Gross (144) of 3*** 40 mm balls

38+40 mm

TTmatic 402

402 SPECIAL \$1499.95

38+40 mm

TTmatic 500

402B SPECIAL \$1589.00

500 SPECIAL \$2099.95

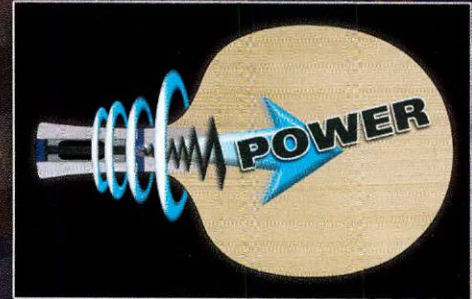
500B SPECIAL \$2174.00

The Table Tennis Pioneers Offers A Full Line Of TTmatic & Newgy Robots and Accessories At The Best Price - Guaranteed! - For Further Information, Visit ping-pong.com or Call 1-800-319-PING (7464)

Butterfly Brings You the Newest Technology for 2002

Butterfly Introduces VSG TECHNOLOGY

Butterfly announces a new standard in blade technology, "The Vibration Shutout Grip (VSG)"! The secret of these powerhouse blades lies in their unique handle construction. Our technical experts have inserted a carbon tube, along with two rubber dampeners, within a hollow handle. The result is a lightweight blade with great power and no vibration. These blades simply come alive in your hand. Get your hands on one before your opponent does!



Butterfly
WORLD-LEADING QUALITY BLADES
VSG21-1000-FL
BLADE: 5-PLY WOOD
DIEF ALL ALL OFF OFF DIEF
MORE CONTROL MORE SPEED
VIBRATION SHUTOUT GRIP
LESS IMPACT VIBRATION
PERFECT FEELING
CARBON
PATENT NO. 200 13 0511

\$41⁷⁵

VSG21-1000-FL The 1000 model is our fastest VSG blade. Lightweight and extremely powerful, this blade is ideal for punishing the 40mm ball. This is perhaps the prototype blade for the new more horizontal looping game that the 40mm ball has created.
AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

Butterfly
WORLD-LEADING QUALITY BLADES
VSG21-2000-FL
BLADE: 7-PLY WOOD
DIEF ALL ALL OFF OFF DIEF
MORE CONTROL MORE SPEED
VIBRATION SHUTOUT GRIP
LESS IMPACT VIBRATION
PERFECT FEELING
CARBON
PATENT NO. 200 13 0511

\$41⁷⁵

VSG21-2000-FL Combine 7-ply power with the new VSG Handle System and you get a unique combination of power with control. This blade is for the power player who wants to execute fast loops and smashes from every corner of the court. Limba outer plies.
AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

Butterfly
WORLD-LEADING QUALITY BLADES
VSG21-3000-FL
BLADE: 5-PLY WOOD
DIEF ALL ALL OFF OFF DIEF
MORE CONTROL MORE SPEED
VIBRATION SHUTOUT GRIP
LESS IMPACT VIBRATION
PERFECT FEELING
CARBON
PATENT NO. 200 13 0511

\$49⁷⁵

VSG21-3000-FL The 3000 is ideal for the close to the table attacking player. Butterfly's new VSG Handle System enables effortless off the bounce loops and quick counters. Quickness, power, and great control, this blade has it all. Hinoki outer plies and Ayous secondary plies.
AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

Butterfly
WORLD-LEADING QUALITY BLADES
VSG21-4000-FL
BLADE: 2-PLY CARBON
5-PLY WOOD
DIEF ALL ALL OFF OFF DIEF
MORE CONTROL MORE SPEED
VIBRATION SHUTOUT GRIP
LESS IMPACT VIBRATION
PERFECT FEELING
CARBON
PATENT NO. 200 13 0511

\$59⁷⁵

VSG21-4000-FL The 4000 is the perfect combination of speed and control for the all-round offensive player. The outstanding control of the VSG Handle System will allow you to elevate the speed of your shots without any loss of control. The lightest blade in the VSG series.
AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

Prices Subject to Change

1-800-611-7712 • www.butterflyonline.com

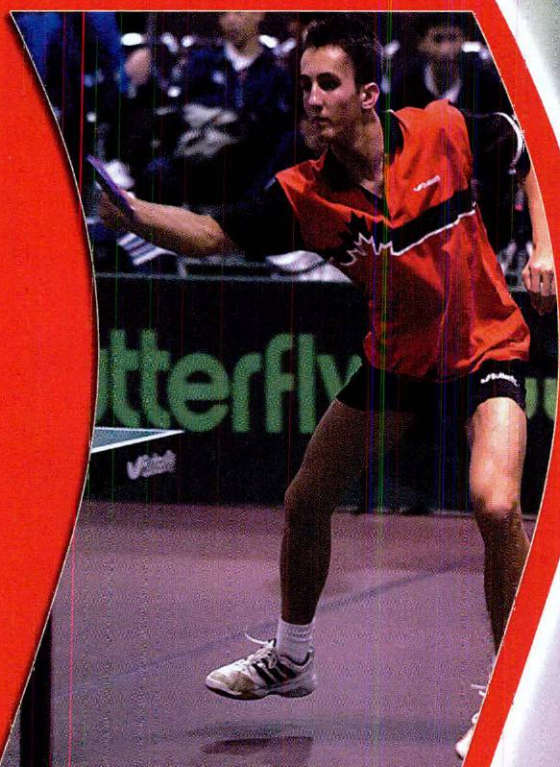
With the Future in Mind



Lost only a single game on his way to winning gold at the ITTF World Junior Circuit at the 2002 US Open

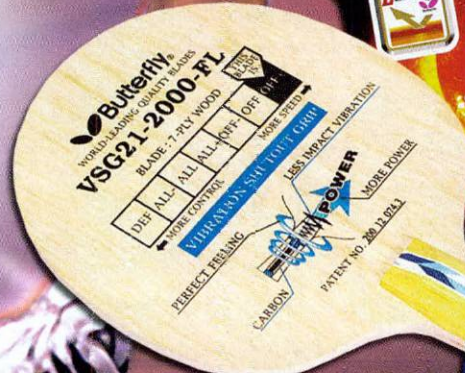
Bence Csaba

Will be competing at the World Junior Finals in Stockholm, Sweden in December 2002



Bence Uses

Bryce 2.1



VSG 2000

Sriver-FX Max

- 2002 Canadian Mens Champion
- 2002 North American Doubles Champion



ping-pong.com

The Table Tennis Pioneers

&

JOOLA®

Offer World Class Table Tennis Products For 2002...



★★★★ Official Sponsor of ★★★★★

- 1989 World Table Tennis Championships
- 1996-2000-2004 Summer Olympic Games
- 1992 & 2000 European Table Tennis Championships



Experience Our Full Line Of Joola Featuring: Over 45 Amazing Products Including: 11 Different Blades & 12 Different Rubber Sheets At The Best Price - Guaranteed!

&

DONIC

Present...

The World Champion Rubber Sheets

Coppa Tagora

One of the most sensational innovations from Japanese rubber sheet production in over 10 years. The brand new Coppa Tagora combines all the outstanding playing features of Coppa and Coppa Tenero. Tagora has about the same speed as Coppa and the same control as Tenero. The secret is a totally new invention of a highly elastic soft sponge. This rubber sheet delivers an unbelievable catapult effect despite its softness. The top sheet is designed for maximum grip and spin elasticity. Soft-blocks and even balls with under spin can be easily controlled with this new rubber sheet. 2.1, max



speed 7.5 spin 9 control 9

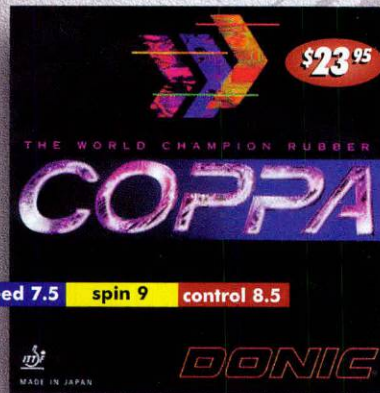


For aggressive players who play with topspin, counter-drives and blocking techniques, Coppa provides an ideal combination between the high-elastic, spiny playing surface, and the relatively soft, but dynamic sponge. This allows for outstanding ball control. Coppa has helped J.O Waldner and Jorgen Persson to win their respective World Championship titles. 1.8, 2.1, max



speed 6.5 spin 9 control 9

Coppa



speed 7.5 spin 9 control 8.5

Coppa Tenero

The well liked soft version of the World Champion rubber sheet and best seller Coppa. The Coppa Tenero has the same outstanding spin abilities as the Coppa. However, because of its softer sponge, speed will be reduced but control will be maximized. Ideal for a speed gluer who likes to keep the ball under control. 1.8, 2.1, max

**For All Your Donic Needs At The Best Price - Guaranteed! Visit ping-pong.com
e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com • tel (800) 319-PING (7464) • Fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664)**

An Official's View

At Last – the Service Rule is Here!

By “Dr. Azmy”

Yes, the new service rule was passed and the ITTF working group has finalized the wording. Many questions have been raised and I already received several inquiries about its interpretation. The best way to make it simple is to compare the old rule with the new rule and clarify the differences.

THE OLD RULE

2.6.1 At the start of service the ball shall be stationary, resting freely on the **flat**, open palm of the server's free hand, behind the end line and above the level of the playing surface.

2.6.4 The ball and the **racket** shall be above the level of the playing surface from the last moment at which the ball is stationary before being projected until it is struck.

THE NEW RULE – Effective September 1, 2002

2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.

There are several differences between the old and the new:

1. The word “**Flat**” is not in the new rule. All it says is “**Open**” palm. There was a lot of discussion during our Seminar, which we had at the US Open, about the interpretation of the word “**Open.**” How open is open? But the same could be said about how flat is flat.
2. There is no mention of the position of the racket. However, logically if the ball has to be above the playing surface until it is struck, then part of the racket has to be above the level of the playing surface when the ball is struck. The new rule does not require that the racket be visible to the receiver or the umpire. It may also be below the level of the playing surface before it strikes the ball.
3. The start of the service used to be from **the last moment** at which the ball is stationary before being projected. The new rule states that the service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary hand.
4. The main concern of the new rule is to make the ball visible all the time to the receiver during the serve. When the ball is resting on the open palm, the receiver and the umpire or assistant umpire have to be able to see it. Because of this, cupping and turning the palm toward the body may make the serve illegal. The receiver is the focal point of the new service rule.
5. Sometimes when the server tosses the ball in the air it comes down between the server's free **hand or arm** and his body. At that moment the hand or arm is hiding the ball and it is not visible to the receiver and the umpire or the assistant umpire; therefore it is illegal.

All other aspects of the serve are still the same. Except that the umpire, **when umpiring alone**, may give a warning on the first time when he is doubtful about the legality of the serve. If there is an umpire and an assistant umpire, there will **not** be any warnings. That means from now on there will be less warnings on the service. Players, please be aware of the legality of your serve. This is also one of the few times the ITTF mentioned the fact that an umpire may umpire a match alone.

I do not want to mention all the other rule changes, which were published in the last issue of the USATT Magazine, page 16. **All of them will be in effect starting September 1, 2002.**

The New Service Rule Changes— Effective September 1, 2002

2.6.1 Service shall start with the ball resting freely on the open palm of the server's stationary free hand.

2.6.4 From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.

Complete rules at www.usatt.org/rules

IOC APPROVES NEW OLYMPIC DOUBLES RULE

Courtesy of ITTF

The international Olympic Committee has approved the new regulation about the Olympic Doubles proposed by the ITTF Board of Directors in Zagreb. It means that, at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, there can be no doubles finals with opposing pairs from the same National Olympic Committee. Each NOC can still participate with two doubles pairs (if they qualify), but the two pairs will be drawn into the same half so that they will meet each other at the latest in the semifinals. In other words – two pairs from the same country cannot win gold and silver, but they can win gold and bronze. [Editor's note: Imagine the frustration of the teams that find themselves on the same side as the two Chinese teams, while on the other side there is none!]

Ads In This Issue

Support the People Who Support USA Table Tennis!

Advertiser	Pages
Pioneers	2-3,5,8,51,86-87
Butterfly	6-7,47-49,88
North American TT	12-15,26
Paddle Palace	39-41,72
Newgy	44-45
Killerspin	52-53
MDTTC	17
eXtreme Trade Company	25
Bumpnerts	28
Power Pong	29
Anti-Doping	30
United	31
Escalade	43
Alpha Videos	57
Las Vegas Convention Center ..	65
Avalox	85
Election Ads (Placed in random order)	
Wang/Lee/Reed/Brathwaite ...	18-19
Malek	21
Yip/Rose/Mader/Titrud	22-24

President's Report

By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

The other night the phone rang at 11:15. My husband and I looked at each other, deciding whether or not to answer it. I did. It was my dad. He was about to leave on a long trip and was calling to touch base. Casually he asked, "What's new?" Thinking, "It's almost midnight, for crying out loud!", I nonetheless began to tell him about a recent accomplishment at work. "What else?" he asked. I said that I attended a women's conference over the weekend. "Anything else?" he inquired. So I summarized my son's latest activities. Each time he just listened. "Is that it?" Pretty much. Then he said, "I just finished talking with your brother Jerry and he told me that he received a 16-page mailing today that mainly attacked you. What's that all about?" We discussed it. Then, probably shaking his head, he sighed, "Honey, what's wrong with your association?"

That's a very good topic for this issue's "association primer series."

It's an interesting dynamic that our election coincides with the anniversary of the 9/11 attack. In immediate response to the terrorism, USATT received notes of encouragement and solidarity from associations throughout the world. Yet, it's nearly a year later. And where are we? As usual, division and strife are at a fever pitch.

I've seen decades of this "us versus them," "me against you" back-and-forth fighting. Besides ripping our association apart, it leaves a stench. Here we go again. I went over to my brother's house the next morning. He said, "Everybody is so busy fighting with each other that the central issue gets lost in the process. The number one issue on everyone's mind should be why should someone whose membership period is up renew? Why should someone who is considering joining join? No one wants to be a member of an association like this."

As the president, in dealing with USATT's problems, I look for solutions. Frankly, there are so many problems facing USATT that it takes a while just to get a handle on everything. As I mentioned in my last report, Ray Essick had cited this dysfunction as the number one reason for his resignation. I agreed and committed to making it my personal highest priority. Of course, there are other more tangible issues. We need more members. We need a better organizational structure. We need money. And we need a new executive director. But, without a solid foundation, we'll never get anywhere.

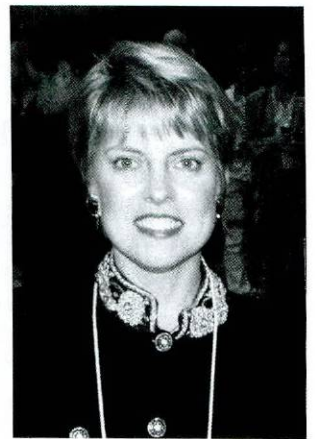
Every day I open my e-mail, a cascade of cyberpuke awaits me. Newsgroups would sound like a galloping stampede if they could make a sound. And now I see seismic eruptions from those opposing me. I've got apparent news to some: I'M NOT UP FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR. Given that I will be president until 2004, it's my job to lead this association. To those who disdain me, they call that arrogance. But for me, it's simply my calling. And I will do the best job I can do until the members choose someone else or until my term finishes and I don't seek re-election.

One of the first steps in addressing this particular problem is to start with myself. What am I doing to contribute to the problem? What have I done to diminish rampant incivility?

I'm not perfect. Last year, as the leader of a campaign slate, I wrote most of the literature detailing what had been achieved during my administration. I tried to stick with the issues. I regret that during the course of the campaign I referred to certain members of the opposition slate as "bullies." In retrospect, when faced with the allegation that testimonials were obtained under false pretenses, I wished that I had just requested that my opposition bear the burden of proof for that claim. But I shot back and called them bullies. Name calling is distracting and not appropriate behavior. I'm sorry I did that.

To counteract the incivility, I have maintained a policy of inclusion, except in extreme cases. Let's look at my treatment of the people who ran

against me in the last election. Our magazine carries a column by one of them. Our website carries a link to another one's work. I invited another member of last year's opposition slate to have her and her husband join me in China where they wanted to work directly with the Chinese Table Tennis Association and the ITTF on some matters. And I made sure that both the USOC CEO and Interim President spoke with the candidate opposing me in the last election when they attended, respectively, our U.S. Nationals and U.S. Open.



This is not to say that I haven't removed some people from positions. To be very clear: everyone has a choice. You're either under the umbrella of the association or you're out from under the umbrella. What does that mean? It means there are limits and when boundaries are not respected, there are consequences. Employees will lose jobs. Chairmanships will be re-assigned. (Which is not to say that all employee departures or chairmanship changes were the result of poor behavior.)

One of my tasks as a leader is to dig a little deeper. To look beyond the criticism and ask the flip side of the issue. What is the pain in their hearts that causes them to act this way? My best guess is that they passionately want to belong, they want to have a niche of their own, they don't want to be outsiders. I repeat, everyone has a choice. Anyone wishing to serve in a capacity that it is within my authority to appoint must demonstrate a pure intent. And again, this year, because of the return of the vote to the membership, you have the right to choose four Board members and to determine your own criteria in deciding which candidates you will support.

As for myself, I'm not looking for "yes-men." I'm looking for competent people loyal to our association. Using a position of authority to create personal credibility for spreading rumors, interrogating staff or creating discord does not move a person up in my administration. The responsible thing to do when someone disagrees is to bring up the matter internally, cooperate in the investigation and resolution of the matter and to serve the association by constructive involvement. Mean-spirited tactics are not welcome. Critical letters sent directly to the USOC and/or ITTF before attempting to deal with issues internally are, to credit Wendell Dillon for this observation, primarily meant to embarrass USATT. FYI: I don't respond to invective letters.

Here's the reality of the situation. Few of us have had the benefit of being part of an association that's got its act together. This has been extremely stressful for me as president, as it has been for decades of USATT presidents. As I discover more and more every day, this alone is one of our biggest challenges. We literally have to teach ourselves how to get out of a mess none of us created in the first place. Fortunately, many other international associations have their "act" together. One such association is Germany, and we were fortunate to have Jens Lang serve as an unpaid intern over the summer. In future issues, he will share observations and recommendations.

While my opposition claims I am vacationing all over the world, I am actually working on these trips. Many of the expenses are funded by the ITTF and/or other foreign associations themselves. Other leaders give me insights, advice and ideas about how we can progress. They want to help. So, while some people are mortified about our treatment of them, I know that they are willingly contributing from their heart to help us get to where we need to go to help the entire table tennis family worldwide. There's very little room for mortification when viewed from that perspective. It's actually pretty special.

Many of our own volunteers and staff are also giving way beyond 100%. It's encouraging to see a guy like Aly Salam work so hard to

obtain an ITTF appointment. I also attended a meeting in which he presented a comprehensive plan for the ITTF's umpires. That's great. Because of the unique opportunities I've had since ITTF President Adham Sharara asked me to nominate myself as the North American Continental Vice President/ITTF Executive Board member, I've been able to use my service as an opportunity to advance our association.

I never sought that position, even though as president it was my right to name USATT's candidate. At the time, the ITTF was seeking to come into compliance with gender targets set by the IOC. Adham saw an instant opportunity and asked me to do it. I hesitated because of the toll the USATT presidency already exacted on my time, energy and financial resources. When the position reverted to the U.S. two years later, I finally agreed to do it. Now the ITTF has created a specific post for a female candidate on the Executive Committee, its highest decision-making body, which will consist of seven members next May. Seeing the multitude of advantages it would bring to our association, I expressed interest in the position. Other countries have pledged their support and we'll see in May who wins that election. Everyone is entitled to draw their own conclusions about the value of gaining that post for USATT.

My opposition paints a different picture. They claim that I am out to promote myself, not table tennis. They've got First Amendment rights to say whatever they want. They insinuate that I'm making deals at the expense of this association. One recent decision was the debut of the Pan American Youth Championships and the North American Youth Camp. As it turns out, we probably did lose some money. On the other hand, the representatives from the Latin American Table Tennis Union have requested that we hold this event annually prior to the U.S. Open. Almost every entrant would then also participate in the U.S. Open, guaranteeing us a substantial influx of new revenue. Many of our juniors also stated that the camp was an excellent learning experience. The camp, which was partially subsidized by the ITTF, was an element of North America's Continental Agreement.

Let's move forward. Let's see the log in our own eye before we point at the speck in someone else's. Let's rise above the circumstances. Let's soften our shells of hardness. Let's remember how we all got hooked on table tennis. We had a series of little triumphs along the way that made us want to continue in the sport. We've got a long way to go. As Ray advised me, change is not going to happen overnight. It will take years. Just like getting an athlete to the medal stand does.

Many people are already achieving little triumphs. Some of them are listed on the U.S. Open recognition list. (See page 60.) I thank all of you. Others are unsung heroes who give their time, energy and pocketbook. Other people offer words of encouragement and share their ideas. This is the kind of association we should be about. As the calendar marches toward, marks, and passes 9/11, let's reflect on this. Let's examine ourselves, resolve to be a part of the solution, gently correct others, and aim for a more promising destiny. As we recall the tragic losses suffered on 9/11, let's show our tribute to the victims by striving for peace in our realm by dedicating ourselves to creating and serving an association that people are proud to join.



Photo by Mal Anderson ©2002

**USOC Interim President
Marty Mankamyer speaking
at the U.S. Open party.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPLICATIONS

Executive Director resumes will be accepted at USATT Headquarters through Sept. 15. See www.usatt.org for additional information.

USATT Board of Directors

President: Sheri Soderberg Pittman

1520 Dale Lane • Delray Beach, FL 33444
(561) 276-4615 • sheripittman@yahoo.com

Executive Vice President: Dr. Jiing Wang

11511 E. Garvey Ave. • El Monte, CA 91732
(626) 443-8891

Treasurer: Tong Lee

1295 Quandt Court • Lafayette, CA 94549-2624
(925) 939-2662 • tlee94549@yahoo.com

Secretary: Tim Boggan

12 Lake Avenue • Merrick, NY 11566
(516) 868-0434 • timboggan@aol.com

Vice President: George Brathwaite

580 Main St., Apt. 756 • Roosevelt Island, NY 10044
(212) 980-8442 • chiefghb@yahoo.com

Vice President: Robert Mayer

1126 Eastbourne Lane • Pearland, TX 77584
(713) 436-2529 • pong_god@yahoo.com

Vice President: Barney D. Reed

6826 Wertzville Rd. • Enola, PA 17025
(717) 697-5264 • pingpongrobot@yahoo.com

Vice President: Dennis Taylor

2821 N. Westmoreland St. • Arlington, VA 22213
(301) 309-9494 • picctpt@aol.com

Vice President & Foundation

Representative: Jimmy McClure

4226 Country Club Blvd. • Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 945-1718 (ph) • (239) 945-6448 (fax)

Interim Group B Vice President: Henry McCoullum

320 Toftrees Ave., Apt. 142
State College, PA 16803
(814) 238-7962 • hwm1@psu.edu

Olympic Athlete Representative: Li Ai

500 Eldorado Blvd • UBRM03-191
Broomfield, CO 80021
(303) 920-8010 • li_ai@hotmail.com

National Athlete Representative: Todd Sweeris

7401 Westlake Terrace, #312 • Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 365-7282 • toddsweeris@yahoo.com

National Athlete Representative: Tawny Banh

1132 Montecito Dr. • San Gabriel, CA 91776
(626) 570-1728 • tawnybanh@yahoo.com

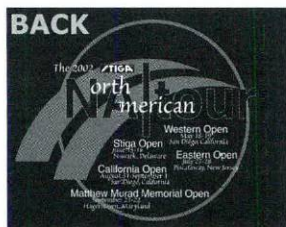
The 2002 **STIGA**
North American
Tour

Name	Location	Date	Deadline
California Open	San Diego (CA)	8/31-9/1	8/16
M. Murad Memorial Open	Hagerstown (MD)	9/21-22	9/6

2002 Stiga North American Tour T-shirts...

Just \$15!

T-shirts are black with purple and white print. They come in sizes Small - XXL.



EVENT	DATE	TIME	COST	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SEMIS	QUARTER
1 Open Singles RR	Sat	10:30 AM	\$30	\$1,500	\$750	\$250	\$60
2 Women's RR	Sat	1:30 PM	\$20	\$200	\$100		
3 Under 22 Men's RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$18	\$100	\$50		
4 Under 22 Women's RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$18	\$100	\$50		
5 U18 Boys RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$18	\$60	\$30		
6 U18 Girls RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$18	\$60	\$30		
7 U16 Boys RR	Sun	1:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
8 U16 Girls RR	Sun	1:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
9 U13 Boys RR	Sat	12:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
10 U13 Girls RR	Sat	12:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
11 U10 Boys RR	Sun	11:30 AM	\$16	A	A		
12 U10 Girls RR	Sun	11:30 AM	\$16	A	A		
13 Over 40 RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$18	\$100	\$50		
14 Over 50 RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$18	\$60	\$30		
15 Over 60 RR	Sun	1:00 PM	\$18	\$40	\$20		
16 U2500 SE	Sat	9:00 AM	\$18	\$140	\$70		
17 U2375 RR	Sat	6:30 PM	\$18	\$120	\$60		
18 U2250 RR	Sat	12:00 PM	\$18	\$100	\$50		
19 U2125 RR	Sun	11:30 AM	\$18	\$80	\$40		
20 U2000 RR	Sat	3:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
21 U1850 RR	Sun	2:30 PM	\$16	A	A		
22 U1700 RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$16	A	A		
23 U1550 RR	Sat	3:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
24 U1400 RR	Sat	10:30 AM	\$16	A	A		
25 U1250 RR	Sat	6:00 PM	\$16	A	A		
26 U1100 RR	Sat	1:30 PM	\$14	A	A		
27 U950 RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$14	A	A		
28 U800/Novice RR	Sat	4:30 PM	\$14	A	A		
29 U4200 Doubles SE	Sun	9:00 AM	\$10/ea	\$100	\$50		
30 U3200 Doubles SE	Sun	9:00 AM	\$10/ea	\$80	\$40		

REGISTER ONLINE
 You can now register online at [www.natabletennis.com!](http://www.natabletennis.com)

TABLES FOR SALE!
 Tables used at the 2002 Stiga North American Table Tennis Tour are for sale! All tables are used only once and sold at extremely low prices and we guarantee your satisfaction.



California Open

August 31- September 1 San Diego, California
Tournament Information Referee: Linda Hsing
Venue: Balboa Park Activity Center in San Diego, CA.
 Wood floors and excellent lighting.
Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, August 16, 2002. Entries postmarked late will either be accepted with a \$10 late fee, or be rejected, based on available space.
Check-in: Starts on Saturday, August 31, 2002 at 8AM at the venue. Participants are required to check in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
Ratings: Ratings from the May/June issue of *USATT Magazine* will be used.
Airport: San Diego Int'l Airport
Official Tournament Hotel
Inn Suites 619-296-2101 Free Breakfast!
 Mention N.A. Table Tennis for special \$84 rate.
 2223 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92103

Matthew Murad Memorial Open

September 21-22 Hagerstown, Maryland
Tournament Information Referee: Terry Bell
Venue: Hagerstown Community College in Hagerstown, MD at the Athletic, Recreation and Community Center. Wood floors and excellent lighting.
Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, September 6, 2002. Entries postmarked late will either be accepted with a \$10 late fee, or be rejected, based on available space.
Check-in: Starts on Saturday, September 21, 2002 at 8AM at the venue. Participants are required to check in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
Ratings: Ratings from the July/August issue of *USATT Magazine* will be used.
Airport: Hagerstown Regional, Dulles Int'l, Reagan National, and BWI
Official Tournament Hotel
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center 301-733-5100
 Mention N.A. Table Tennis for special \$75 rate.
 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD 21740
www.clarionantietam.com

Registration Form -

Name and Date of Tour Stop

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () - _____ Male / Female

USATT ID: _____ Birthdate: _____

Expiration: _____ Rating: _____

Please fill in events:

1)	2)	3)
4)	5)	Doubles Partner:
6)	7)	
8)	Total Event Entry Fee:	
	\$	

USATT Rating and Registration Fee: \$ 5.00

USATT Membership Fee: U18:\$20 Ad:\$30 3-Y:\$75 \$

T-Shirt \$15 each ___S___M___L___XL___XXL \$

TOTAL: Make checks payable to N. A. Table Tennis
 Returned checks will be charged a \$25 fee. \$

email: _____ (For confirmation)

Please send completed entry form with payment to:
North American Table Tennis
 932 Hungerford Dr, #11B
 Rockville, MD 20850
Deadline:
 Postmarked by
15 days prior to first day of tournament

Proof of Membership: All participants must be able to show proof of current membership with USATT or an ITTF recognized body. Membership can be renewed or purchased at the event.
 Official Tournament Equipment: Stiga Expert Tables, Barriers, and orange 40mm 3 star balls.
 Refunds: After the entry deadline, no refunds.
 Policies: Players may not enter two events with identical start times. Events can be cancelled or combined at the discretion of the tournament committee. No prizes will be awarded for splits, dumps, default losses or no-shows. Players agree to follow USATT and NATT rules.

Stiga Tables for Sale at Unbeatable Prices!

Tables used at the 2002 Stiga North American Table Tennis Tour are for sale! All tables are used only once and sold at an extremely low prices and we guarantee your satisfaction. For more info or to order a table, visit us at www.natabletennis.com!



STIGA®

Expert Table

\$525 Home Price* **\$465 Qualified Club Price***

Highest Quality Tables with Excellent Table Surface • Easy to Assemble
 Convenient to fold and move into storage
 Great for home and club use • Takes up little space
 Net set included • ITTF Approved 1" Surface



Built-in wheels



Save when you fly with Southwest Airlines!

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

Southwest Airlines is offering a 10% discount on most of its already low fares for air travel to and from the tournaments. You or your travel agent may call Southwest Airlines Group and Meetings Reservations at 1-800-433-5368 and reference the following assigned I.D. Codes for each specific tournament. Reservations Sales Agents are available 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, or 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Central Standard Time. You must make reservations five or more days prior to travel to take advantage of this offer.

California Open

I.D. Code: L5327
 Event City: San Diego
 Event Airport: SAN
 Travel Dates:
 Aug 26, 2002 - Sep 6, 2002

Matthew Murad

Memorial Open

I.D. Code: M5327
 Event City: Hagerstown
 Event Airport: BWI
 Travel Dates:
 Sep 16, 2002 - Sep 27, 2002

2002 Stiga North American Teams Championships

I.D. Code: N5327
 Event City: Baltimore
 Event Airport: BWI
 Travel Dates:
 Nov 22, 2002 - Dec 6, 2002



Expert Roller CSS Table

\$625 Home Price*

\$555 Qualified Club Price*

High Quality Table with Excellent Table Surface
 Easy to fold and move into storage • Excellent for home and club use
 Net set included • ITTF Approved 1" Surface • Limited Quantity Available

*Add \$75 per table for shipping anywhere in the Continental United States. Multiple Table Purchase Discounts available.



Contact Us

North American Table Tennis, Inc.
 932 Hungerford Dr, #11B
 Rockville, MD 20850
 Phone: 301-738-8250
 Fax: 301-838-8921
 E-mail: info@natabletennis.com

The 2002 Stiga North American Teams Table Tennis Championships



GENERAL INFORMATION

Proof of Membership

All participants must show identification of current membership for USATT, CTTA, or ITTF. Otherwise, USATT membership must be purchased. Tournament passes will not be accepted. *You must supply your membership id number or a \$5 ID number lookup fee will be charged!*

Equipment

All USATT and ITTF rules and regulations will be followed. Stiga Expert tables will be used with Stiga orange 40mm three-star balls. To purchase tournament tables, see ad on the last page for details.

Check-in

Check-in starts Thursday from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. On Friday, check-in resumes in the morning at 7:30 AM. All teams must check in before being cleared to play. There will also be individual check-in so that each player can pick-up their own entry pass.

TEAMS INFORMATION

Teams

Please select a team name with less than 30 characters. Teams with an average rating over 2400 must select a name that represents a sponsor or place of origin. Teams consists of 3-5 players. Seeding in the tournament will be decided by averaging the 3 highest ratings. Each tie will be 5 out of 9 matches except for Division A playoffs. Each match will be 3 out of 5 games to 11. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change any team names that are deemed inappropriate without notice. Most recent ratings will be used and seeding will be based on average of the top 3 players in a team. ****Boosting your team's rating by using other players' rating who will not be attending the tournament will be subject to a \$150 penalty.****

Divisions

If your team is eligible for the Women's, U-18 Boys' or Girls', Collegiate, or O-40 Seniors' divisions, please circle the appropriate team type. The age cut-off date is November 23, 2002 for juniors, December 31, 2002 for senior's. All players on collegiate teams must be enrolled in college. All teams will be placed into one draw and divisional prize money as stated below will be given to the team with the highest finish in the tournament for that particular division.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 2002. Any other entries postmarked by November 15, 2002 will be accepted on a space available basis with a \$50 late fee. If an entry is submitted late, please call to confirm that it was received and accepted. There is a \$50 penalty for returned checks. NO REFUNDS after November 1, 2002.

EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL

Postmarked by August 30, 2002, only pay a \$425 registration fee. You may submit a PAID team entry without a roster to make the early-bird deadlines; however, if the team entry is withdrawn, only 75% of the fees paid will be refunded.

TABLE, ENTRY, & T-SHIRT SPECIAL...

Only \$999^{00!}



Order a Stiga Expert and enter the tournament for one great price of \$999. Price includes shipping and a net set, entry for one team, and tournament T-shirts for your entire team of up to five people.

NEED A TEAM? WE CAN HELP!

Go to our website and use our team finder!

Organize a team with your friends and compete against teams of equal ability, from Novice to International Levels!

Tournament Schedule

Thursday	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Registration
Friday	7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
	9:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Teams Championships
	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Coaching Clinics
		Exhibitions
		Explore the Inner Harbor
Saturday	9:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Teams Championships
Sunday	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Conclusion of the Teams Championships

Prize Money

Division A	Champion	\$6,000
	Finalist	\$2,400
	Semifinalist	\$900
	Quarterfinalist	\$300
Division B	Champion	\$300
	Champion	\$300
Highest Women's Finish		\$900
Highest O-40 Seniors Finish		\$300
Highest U-18 Girls' and Boys' Finish		\$300

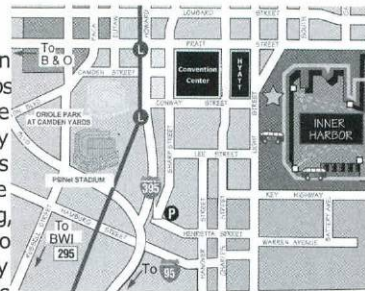
Table Tennis Pioneers Gift Certificate for Stiga products

TOURNAMENT T-SHIRTS & PROGRAMS

Tournament T-shirt and Program will include all team names sent in postmarked by November 1, 2002. T-shirts come in sizes Small to XXX-Large for \$15 each. Go to our website to see what the T-shirt will look like and to find out more information.

VENUE

The 2002 Stiga North American Teams Table Tennis Championships will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center, centrally located in Downtown Baltimore's Inner Harbor District! There are great attractions, plenty of shopping, great seafood, and lots more to do! Participants can enjoy Friday night and explore the city! Specials on city tours and other city attractions will be available in our player packets.



SECURITY & SPECTATOR PASSES

Due to increased security regulations, we now require that all persons entering the venue must obtain an entry pass. Players will receive theirs when they check-in for registration. Each player must check-in individually and the team captain must check-in for their team at the registration desk. Spectators, family, and friends can either purchase a pass ahead of time on this entry form for \$5 per person for the entire duration of the tournament or purchase a pass at the tournament for \$10. For lost passes, a replacement must be purchased.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOTEL

Hyatt Regency Baltimore

300 Light Street

410-528-1234

Up to two adults: \$96.

Up to four adults: \$106.

Mention North American Table Tennis for the special rate!



TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

President: Richard Lee
Co-director: Fong Hsu
Co-director & Media: Alan Williams
Operations: Zachary Sng
Registration: Wendy Troy
Referee: Bill Walk



natabletennis.com

Registration can also be done online at our website.

CONTACT US

North American Table Tennis, Inc.
 932 Hungerford Drive, Ste #11B
 Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301-738-8250
Fax: 301-838-8921
E-mail: info@natabletennis.com



The 2002 Stiga North American Teams Table Tennis Championships

Entry deadline: Postmarked by November 1, 2002. Entries postmarked by November 15, 2002 will be accepted on a space available basis with a \$50 late fee.

Early-Bird Special: Postmark and register by August 30, 2002 and only pay a \$425 registration fee. You may submit a PAID team entry without a roster to make the early-bird deadlines; however, if the team entry is withdrawn, only 75% of the fees paid will be refunded.

**Table, Entry,
& T-shirt Special:
\$999.00**

Send completed entry form to:
North American Table Tennis, Inc.
932 Hungerford Dr, Ste#11B
Rockville, MD 20850, USA

Registration is available online at:
www.natabletennis.com

<p>Team Name (less than 30 characters): _____</p> <p>Specify City, State, Providence, or Country your team represents: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p>Phone Number: _____</p> <p>Team Type (circle all that apply):</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Open</td> <td style="border: none;">Women's</td> <td style="border: none;">U-18 Girls'</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Collegiate</td> <td style="border: none;">O-40 Seniors</td> <td style="border: none;">U-18 Boys'</td> </tr> </table>	Open	Women's	U-18 Girls'	Collegiate	O-40 Seniors	U-18 Boys'	<p>Registration Fees:</p> <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Check Early-Bird Specials to see if you qualify.</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;">\$450</td> <td style="border: none; text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table> <p>USATT Rating Fees: \$5.00 per player \$</p> <p>USATT Membership Fees: U18:\$20 Ad: \$30 3-Y: \$75 (Place star next to players purchasing membership) \$</p> <p>Tournament T-shirt \$15 each (write in quantity): ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL \$</p> <p>Spectator Pass Fees: \$5.00 per non-player \$</p> <p><small>Applies to Spectators, Family, and Friends for entire length of tournament. See tournament info for more details</small></p> <p>Total Fees Due: Make Checks payable to North American Table Tennis, Inc. \$50 penalty for returned checks. \$</p>	Check Early-Bird Specials to see if you qualify.	\$450	\$
Open	Women's	U-18 Girls'								
Collegiate	O-40 Seniors	U-18 Boys'								
Check Early-Bird Specials to see if you qualify.	\$450	\$								

Team Captain:	Player 2:	Player 3:	Player 4:	Player 5:
City/State/Province/Country:	City/State/Province/Country:	City/State/Province/Country:	City/State/Province/Country:	City/State/Province/Country:
Membership Number*:	Membership Number*:	Membership Number*:	Membership Number*:	Membership Number*:
Membership Expiration:	Membership Expiration:	Membership Expiration:	Membership Expiration:	Membership Expiration:
USATT Rating:	USATT Rating:	USATT Rating:	USATT Rating:	USATT Rating:

We agree to abide by all USATT and ITTF regulations. We accept full responsibility for our participation and relieve all associated parties of any liabilities resulting from injury to ourselves or damage to our property.

Captain's Signature for team (Adult/Guardian for minors): _____

E-mail for confirmation:	* For each USATT member, an extra \$5 will be charged for players that do not supply a membership number.
--------------------------	--

They Said It...

By Larry Hodges



"I wanted to be a Ping-Pong Champion!" -A stockholder in the Movie Mr. Deeds, in response to Mr. Deeds (character played by Adam Sandler) asking the company stockholders what they had wanted, as kids, to be when they grew up.

"Amarillo Slim once beat Bobby Riggs in Ping-Pong using a skillet." -Sports Illustrated, May 20, 2002, page 86. The article was actually about his poker play, as well as his general gambling. Contributed by Tyra Parkins.

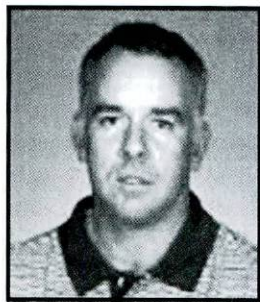
"Zap Asteroids, ping Pong by cellphone." -Headline in article in Seattle Times, May 20, page C4. Article was about playing games by cellphone. Contributed by Tyra Parkins.

"You've got table tennis players testing positive for anabolic steroids. If they're testing positive you can figure out use is pretty widespread." -Bodybuilder Dave Palumbo, on "rampant" steroid use among athletes, in MuscleMag, Sept, 2002, page 85. Contributed by Charles Hill.

BRAD LARDON, MAKING IT IN GOLF... AND TABLE TENNIS?

By Tim Boggan

Local sportswriters recognized that former Long Islander Brad Lardon, playing in his first U.S. Open at the Bethpage, L.I. Black course, made the cut, and for finishing tied for 58-61st place, earned \$14,000. Brad, playing in his first U.S. Open 25 years earlier, for finishing second in Under 13 Doubles with Eric Boggan (losing the final deuce in the fifth) earned - what would you say? - an irreplaceable trophy.

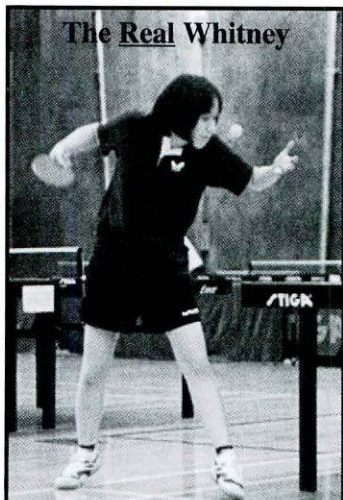


CORRECTIONS

On page 42 in the last issue, an incorrect photo was printed. The photo of "Women's Champion Whitney Ping" was of Michelle Do (the women's singles finalist and under 22 women's winner). The correct photo (in black & white) is shown here. (The caption for this photo was actually created on page 38 with the similar ones there, and cut & pasted onto the photo. Moral: always LOOK at the photo you are putting a caption on....)

On page 32 of the last issue, at the very end of the first column and start of the second column, it incorrectly states that Jared Lynch and Nicole Lynch are brother and sister.

On page 64, Limerick winner D. Elliott had a "t" left out of his last name ... you need two of them for Table Tennis!



Would you like to Advertise in USA Table Tennis Magazine?



Get your message out to 7500 players!

- 2-page spread color: \$1300 (or \$1150/issue for six issues)
- 2-page spread b&w: \$ 950 (or \$ 750/issue for six issues)
- 1-page color: \$ 900 (or \$ 800/issue for six issues)
- 1-page b&w: \$ 550 (or \$ 450/issue for six issues)
- 1/2 page color: \$ 650 (or \$ 550/issue for six issues)
- 1/2 page b&w: \$ 370 (or \$ 300/issue for six issues)

Many other sizes available, with discounts for doing 3- or 6-issue contracts, or doing multiple pages.

Specials



Make Some Money

Bring in a new ad, keep 15% for yourself!

Good for initial ad, not renewals

Tournament and Coaching ads

1/2 Price!

1/2-page ads or larger



Hit With a Star!

Buy a one-page ad or more

(new advertisers only), and get a

20-minute practice session

(at U.S. Nationals, U.S. Open or other major tournament) with your choice of:

- ☛ Eric Owens, USA Men's Singles & Doubles Champion
- ☛ Cheng Yinghua, 3-Time U.S. Men's Singles Champion and former Chinese National Team Member
- ☛ Larry Hodges, USATT Certified National Coach and Author of Table Tennis: Steps to Success

For more info, see

www.usatt.org/magazine/ad_rates.html

or contact Editor Larry Hodges

larry@larrytt.com • 240-686-0127 (ph) • 240-686-0128 (fax)



USA
TABLE TENNIS



MARYLAND



TABLE TENNIS CENTER

18761-Q Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879 • (301) 519-8580 • www.mdttc.com



All Levels Welcome!

SENIOR CAMP Oct. 14 - 18
OVER 40 ONLY

CHRISTMAS CAMP Dec. 26 - 31
OPEN TO ALL

DAILY SCHEDULE

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Christmas Camp:
First and last days
are half days.

FEE

- \$220 (MDTTC members: \$190)
- Minimum deposit: \$50
- Make checks out to MDTTC
- Enter Early! Only first 24 players are guaranteed spots!

HOUSING

- Econo Lodge, (301) 963-3840
1/3 mile away.
- Free HBO, CNN, ESPN, coffee

MENTION "TABLE TENNIS" FOR BEST RATE.



COACH CHENG YINGHUA

- #1 Ranked U.S. Player for most of the past 14 years
- U.S. Open Senior Champ
- 2000 Olympic Team Member
- 1996-97 & 1999 U.S. Men's Champion
- Former Head Coach for the Szechuan Province of China
- Chinese National Team, 1977-87
- 1985 & 1993 U.S. Open Men's Champion
- USATT's Coach of the Year, 1996
- Butterfly-sponsored full-time coach



COACH JACK HUANG

- Former Head Coach for the Guangxi Province of China
- Chinese National Team, 1976-83
- Former U.S. Senior Champ
- U.S. #1 Player in 1990
- Former U.S. Senior and Men's Doubles Champion
- USATT's Developmental Coach of the Year, 1997
- Butterfly-sponsored full-time coach

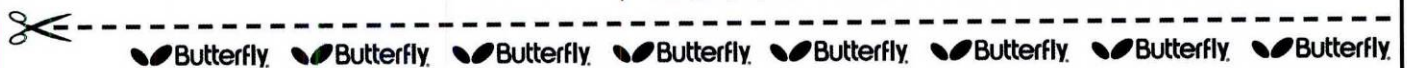


COACH LARRY HODGES

- U.S. Senior Hardbat Champ (plays w/sponge or hardbat)
- Author of Table Tennis: Steps to Success
- Director/Manager/Coach at Resident Training Program for Table Tennis at Olympic Training Center, 1985-89
- Many-time U.S. Junior Team Coach
- Certified by USATT as a National Coach
- USATT Coaching Chairman, 1991-95
- Former full-time coach



Catch the Excitement!



Name: _____ Phone: _____ Age/DOB: _____

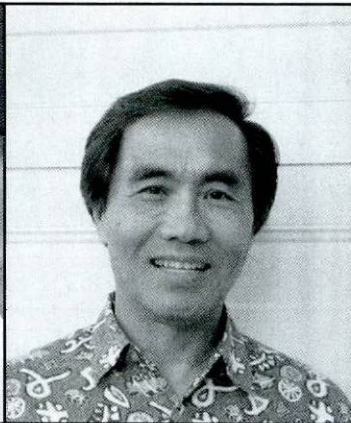
Address: _____ Rating: _____

Camps you are entering (circle one): October 14 - 18 (Senior Camp) December 26 - 31

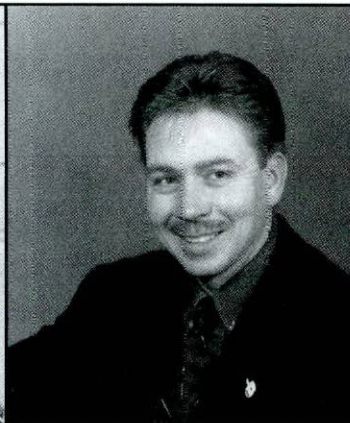
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Signature _____



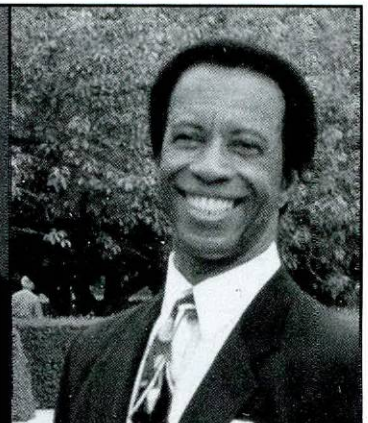
Dr. Jiing Wang
*Incumbent
Executive
Vice President*



Tong Lee
*Incumbent
Treasurer*



Barney D. Reed
*Incumbent
Vice President*



George Brathwaite
*Incumbent
Vice President*

Here's a summary of grassroots programs we've created during our tenure:

Junior Training Program and Beginning Classes Program - Two programs developed a year ago to streamline the creation of junior programs. For more info, read the Junior Training Primer and Beginning Classes Primer at the USATT Club Programs Page at:
www.usatt.org/club_programs

Northeast League - It's alive and well in the Northeast. The next step is to spread it to other regions, and watch it grow into a National League.

San Diego Olympic Training Center - It's the first of several training centers for table tennis that USATT hopes to develop. San Diego is a U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Touring Coaches Program - We sent U.S. National Coach Doru Gheorghe on a coaching tour of clubs in the U.S.

Regular Overseas Training & Tournaments for USA Junior Team - they've been all over the world! China, Europe. And when they weren't overseas...we brought the competition here!

International Junior Training Camps & Tournaments in the U.S. - Top juniors from North and South American attended the first Pan Am Junior Championships in Florida recently, and the training camp held afterwards.

VOTE
IT'S YOUR RIGHT!

Here are some upcoming grassroots programs we are developing:

USATT League - Roughly modeled on how table tennis is organized in Germany and most of Europe, and on how bridge is organized in the U.S., this program allows *anyone* to run a league *anywhere* there's a table or two. See the USATT Club Programs Page for more info. League will begin in early 2003.

Camps for Professional Coaches - We've been running seminars at the U.S. Open and U.S. Nationals, and coaching camps in Colorado Springs. Now we plan to run camps to train coaches for careers as Professional Coaches.

Club Catalyst & Creation Program - This was the program in the early 1990s that led to an increase in USATT clubs from 226 to over 300, with a corresponding jump in membership. The program involves appointed Club Directors for each state, whose goal it is to find or help create a USATT club in every city with a population over 50,000.

Other Activities:

- ✓ We brought back **Open Elections**.
- ✓ We brought you the **\$110,000 ITTF Pro Tour**, with nearly all of the prize money from the ITTF.
- ✓ We improved the **Magazine** - remember the versions before we were in office?
- ✓ We greatly enhanced the **Web Page**, and brought you **Online Coverage of Major Events**.
- ✓ We fixed the budget problems, put in rules so it wouldn't happen again, and now have **Record Revenues**.

**"There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask, 'Why?'
I dream of things that never were, and ask, 'Why not?'" -Robert F. Kennedy**

Dear USATT Member,

One of the amazing things about public office is that if you do 20 things right, and two things wrong, all you hear in the next election is about the two things you did wrong! And once something does go wrong, it's used against you in perpetuity.

Well, before we go farther, let's get the two things out in the open. Yes, USATT did lose a lot of money two years ago, did overspend more than what was budgeted two years ago in 2000, despite generating record revenue – but that problem was fixed. This was addressed in the election last year, and voters accepted our explanation – because they saw all of the new grassroots programs we had started and continue to develop. You finally have an administration that considers grassroots development top priority. Watch, let us continue our programs (and new ones), and see how the sport develops!

The second issue, of course, is the three executive directors we've had since Sheri Pittman was elected president in May of 1999. We also take responsibility for this. However, while our "detractors" would say we can't keep our executive directors, we'd say that they left for a combination of reasons: either they couldn't do the job at the high standards we required, or they simply saw how difficult it would be to develop our sport.

And that last is the key problem: it is very difficult to develop our sport in the U.S. We have to compete with the big-money sports with all their money, while we have an annual budget about the same as the local 7-11. How do you do it?

Grassroots, Grassroots, Grassroots!

You build the sport from the ground up, turning recreational players into serious players, and then the money will start coming in. And that means grassroots programs – setting up leagues, junior programs, beginning classes, etc., all over the U.S., to set the framework to bring new people into our sport.

And that's what we've been doing the past few years, and what we hope to keep doing.

**"To avoid criticism ... Do nothing...
Say nothing ... Be nothing!"
-Elbert Hubbard**

We've also changed the focus on U.S. Team spending to developing our younger up-and-coming players. We hope to focus even more on retaining them after high school. This is why most of the premier coaches in the U.S. support this administration.

Wanting to do things is one thing; having the financial resources to do them is another. To this end, we will ensure that the next Executive Director we hire will make fundraising top priority, both directly and through a network of salespeople working primarily on commissions. We have developed a number of "products" that potential sponsors and advertisers will find attractive to sponsor.

One item of note – at the last board meeting, by unanimous vote, increasing membership became top priority. To that end we will continue to develop and expand our grassroots programs.

**Dr. Jiing Wang
Barney D. Reed**

**Tong Lee
George Brathwaite**

Dear Voters,

Please support the incumbent candidates in this ad – Dr. Jiing Wang, Tong Lee, Barney D. Reed and George Brathwaite – in the upcoming election. With their help and support,

USATT has stayed focused on the grassroots programs (see listing) needed to develop our sport. Together we've opened elections, improved the magazine and website, and brought you the ITTF Pro Tour. But always our focus has been on grassroots development – junior development, clubs and leagues. If you agree with this focus, please support these officers so we can continue the work we've started. Rest assured that if you vote to keep our "Team" together, we will continue to move USA Table Tennis to the next level.

USATT President Sheri Pittman (pictured above)
**USATT Board Members Tim Boggan, Robert Mayer,
Dennis Taylor, and Hank McCoullum**



Interview with Richard Hicks

By Larry Hodges

Richard won four events at the recent U.S. Open (Over 50 Men's Singles, Over 50 & Over 60 Doubles, and Under 2200), and was also in the Over 60 Men's Singles final. He has been Indiana State Men's Singles Champion 30 times (!) including a streak of 25 years in a row (!). He was inducted into the USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame in 2001 – see his Hall of Fame Profile and others at www.usatt.org/organization/halloffame.

Home City: Indianapolis
Club: Indianapolis Table Tennis Center
Age: 64

What are the best titles you have won?

1962 Central States Open – defeating then current Canadian Open Champion and already two-time U.S. Open Champion Erwin Klein, plus two other top 10 players; Canadian Open Mixed Doubles in 1966; Indiana men's singles champion 25 consecutive years and 30 times overall; 17 U.S. Open titles in championship events; and 12 U.S. Closed titles in championship events.

Where are you from?

Born in Louisville, Kentucky. Grew up there and in Lyndon, Kentucky, a suburb of Louisville. I've lived in Indianapolis since 1961.

What equipment do you use? Are you sponsored?

I play with Phantom 007 (no sponge) on one side and spinny inverted on the other, currently Hurricane II from Double Happiness. I played most of my TT career with a Hock blade. In the last five years I have used a Brendling (hand made in Sweden) balsa wood blade in the exact shape of the Hock blade. I am not sponsored.

How did you get started in table tennis, and how old were you?

As a youth I played basketball, tennis, and was quite good at fast pitch softball. I played a little "ping pong" at an outdoor recreation center. I first became aware of real table tennis at 18 through the sister (Connie Warren) of a good friend, and played my first tournament at 19.

Did you have a coach or club during that time?

I played at the New Albany Recreation Center Club just across the river from Louisville. There was little or no formal coaching in those days. I read a book by Coleman Clark that demonstrated and described strokes and footwork. Bernard Hock gave me a lot of helpful hints and advice, and a lot of encouragement. I also tried to notice what the good players were doing and talking about relative to TT.

How did you become a top player?

I worked very hard at trying to develop good footwork and strokes. I played and practiced a lot, as much as I could in the years 1957 to 1963. I played regularly and tried to maintain my skills after that. I tried to develop an "answer" to

whatever an opponent could do. I liked the competition, and I had a strong desire and will to win. In my early TT years, there were no rating events, only championship events, so the only way to play more at a tournament was to win more matches. A major factor was gaining the self confidence to know that I could win against the top players – something I realized in about 1960 or 61, just after losing three straight deuce games to a U.S. men's top five player because I failed to play my normal game after the games were deuced. The next time I played him I won.

How often do you play?

I regularly play once a week. Sometimes I play twice a week for 2 or 3 weeks before an important tournament.

How would you describe your playing style? Your strengths and weaknesses?

I would describe my playing style as primarily a versatile defensive style. I would like to be able to attack better.

How often do you train these days?

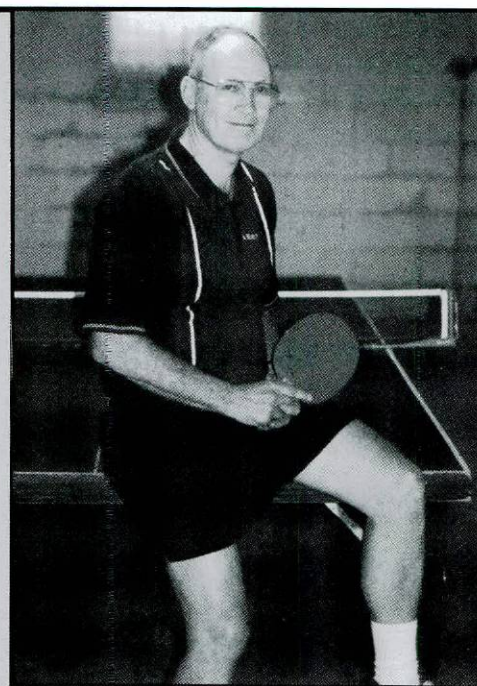
I spend some time in each weekly playing session keeping sharp on fundamentals or trying something new or different I want to work on. I try to maintain a healthy diet and to exercise two or three times a week, including TT, to stay in good physical condition.

Can you tell us anything about your winning four events at the U.S. Open?

I have won four events at the U.S. Open on two different occasions – this year and also in 2000. I'm pleased to have done so, but it's not something you can expect to do or plan on. It takes some luck, two or three especially good matches, and several days of playing without having a bad match. Both years I was down a game and match point, and behind in the fifth game of another match.

Tell us about your many marathon senior matches with Dave Sakai.

Dave wins almost every time. Our matches are almost always close and well played. Many times I have lost leads at the end – he is a strong competitor and never quits. One such match was at the first TT Olympic trials in 1987. Our last three matches were expedite, I won only the last one. Two of the three could have gone either way with a break here, or one less break there. He is a player I always enjoy competing against.



What are your major goals in table tennis?

To be as slim as George Brathwaite and to play as long as Eugene Bricker.

What player in table tennis do you most admire, and why?

Hard question. There are several players at various skill levels I admire, for various reasons. I especially admire the skill and perseverance of Mike Dempsey and all the other wheelchair players.

What is your educational and work background? What do you do for a living?

I have a BS Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky. I worked for Design Consultants for 31 years designing municipal improvements such as highways, streets, interchanges, airports, sewers, and parking lots. For the last nine years I have been a forensic engineer, providing expert witness services related to accident reconstructions, defective road conditions, construction accidents, and other matters related to civil engineering.

What are your interests outside of table tennis? Hobbies, etc.?

I like to play golf when I have time, attend basketball games, family activities.

Any advice for up-and-coming players?

If you want to become a good player, it takes work and patience. No one ever improves as fast as they want to. If you don't aspire to be a top player, but just want to enjoy playing, that's OK too. My experience is that in TT there can be something for everyone – it can be whatever you want it to be.

Anything else to add?

I have enjoyed TT and the competition very much over the years. My induction into the USATT Hall of Fame is the highlight of my Table Tennis career.

Attila Malek

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

FULL TIME COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP TABLE TENNIS

I'm focused, and Table Tennis is my fulltime business!

VISION

- ❑ Table Tennis will be a well recognized, and publicized sport in the USA.
- ❑ Tens of thousands of kids playing in organized leagues and tournaments.
- ❑ College scholarships and other financial incentives for our juniors to train hard.
- ❑ Our top players, coaches, and program directors earning high income.
- ❑ Regional Training Centers all over the nation to train our top athletes.



GOALS

- ❑ Attract Corporate Sponsors.
- ❑ Implement the National School Program.
- ❑ Implement the National Boys & Girls Club Program.
- ❑ Set up Regional Training Centers throughout the country.
- ❑ Provide financial Incentives for Juniors to play, stay in, and work hard in table tennis.
- ❑ Create Opportunities for Players, Coaches, and Club Directors to earn HIGH INCOME.
- ❑ Create Opportunities for College scholarships.

PLANS

- ❑ Partner with National Organizations (Like the Boys & Girls Club) to attract Corporate Sponsors.
- ❑ Recruit and train paid (commission only) program directors all over the nation to implement USATT sanctioned programs. (School & community based programs and leagues)
- ❑ Teach table tennis professionals to run profitable training centers

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ❑ Player, Coach, Teacher, Sales and Marketing Professional, and Business Owner.
I've learned how to work with people and how to promote table tennis!
- ❑ Founder of Power Pong full time table tennis training center
I've learned how to market and operate a profitable business!
- ❑ 1979 US Men's Singles Champion
I've learned to focus, work hard, and persevere until I achieve my goals!
- ❑ Active Member of the Elite Athlete Committee
I've been working hard to implement changes, incentives, and RTCs to develop Olympic Medal Winners.
- ❑ USATT Grassroots Chairman
I've learned how to work with schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs to implement programs!
- ❑ Tournament Director
Organized many tournaments and started the Southern California Table Tennis Leagues.

I'M A DOER! I HAVE THE VISION, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO DO THE JOB!

I HAVE HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND I'LL WORK HARD TO UNITE THE BOARD TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS. PLEASE SUPPORT ME!



Vote for Larry Rose for USATT Treasurer

We urge you to support Larry Rose and his running mates in the upcoming USATT election. Larry gives his time freely to help our juniors locally. He runs the biggest and best tournament in the state. He also does a great job as USATT Regional Tournament Coordinator coordinating the tournaments in the region, and he wrote the software that allows USATT to produce ratings. Lily Yip knows table tennis at the highest level as both a player and coach. We know she wants to help the U.S. become strong enough to compete against the best.

Li Zhenshi

**Two-Time World Champion Men's Doubles
Two-Time World Champion Men's Team
Two-Time U.S. Olympic Men's Coach**

Zhang Li

**Three-Time World Champion Women's Team
Former World Champion Women's Doubles
Two-Time World Runner-Up Women's Singles**

It is time for a new team that is truly dedicated.

Brian Pace

2001 U.S. Nationals Men's Doubles Finalist

I'm supporting the team of Lily, Larry, Tim, and Olivier!

Rex Joy

**Todd Middle School Table Tennis Program Director
USATT-Certified Coach**

Participating in the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney was a dream come true. To have my doubles partner, Mike Dempsey, carry the flag for the entire U.S. Delegation at the opening ceremonies is a memory I will never forget.

It is sad to say, but disabled table tennis has been the forgotten stepchild of USATT. Our budget was slashed to zero and the lack of standards (umpires and ball helpers) at the 2002 U.S. Open was unacceptable. This occurred despite the USOC giving USATT \$10,000 to help run our events at the Nationals and U.S. Open. This year, I am voting for a team (Yip, Rose, Titrud, and Mader) that will make disabled table tennis an item on the USATT agenda rather than an afterthought.

Andre Scott

**2000 U.S. Paralympic Team
World #10 in Class 5**

Tim Titrud has contributed a lot to the development of table tennis, especially with junior and college programs, which I think are the most important areas for our association to improve.

Christian Lillieroos

Head TT Coach, Texas Wesleyan University

Vote for Tim Titrud for USATT VP



Tim will be a great addition to the board. Since I moved to the Northwest, he has personally helped me get many kids involved with the sport. He is honest, full of common-sense ideas, and has the ability to follow through. Lily is the most committed athlete, coach, and promoter of the sport that I know. Her knowledge is greatly needed on the board. Larry and Olivier bring enthusiasm and experience as organizers of tournaments and college programs to round out the team.

Fan Yi Yong

#1 Ranked Player in the U.S.

I have devoted my entire life to the sport of table tennis and would like to see it grow in America. As an Olympic Medalist, I believe I know what it takes to be the best internationally. To improve, our national team needs more support, both money and the opportunity to compete in more international tournaments. If our goal is to get to the medal stand at the Olympics, then we must use our money better. I will be supporting the team of Yip, Rose, Titrud, and Mader, as I know they will place a real emphasis on improving the results of our national team and bringing professionalism to our sport.

Jasna Reed

**2000 U.S. Olympic Team Member
Bronze Medal, Women's Doubles, 1988 Olympics**

It is time for a change in the USATT Board of Directors. There has been a lack of integrity from the current leadership of Sheri, Barney, and the rest of the current USATT board members. Enough is enough. We need fresh new USATT officers. Let's vote for the new team.

Liang Kok Liung

Former U.S. National Disabled Champion

For many years now, Tim Titrud has played an important role in the table tennis communities of Portland, the Pacific Northwest region, and the entire country. In Portland, Tim has demonstrated unparalleled commitment to junior players by running primary school coaching programs and high school leagues, on top of leadership positions in the city's table tennis clubs. He has also served as both Western Region Coaching Chair and Northwest Division Director of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association. It is obvious to me that Tim loves table tennis, and I have no doubt whatsoever that he will do a great job as Vice President of USA Table Tennis. I grant him my full support in this election.

Khoi D. Than

President, National Collegiate Table Tennis Association

For more information, please visit lrose.crystalcanyon.net/election



Vote for Lily Yip for USATT Exec. VP

Lily Yip is the most dedicated and enthusiastic table tennis person I have ever met. Her many years as a top player, successful coach, and proven table tennis tournament promoter give you no other choice--you must vote for her. She will definitely wake up the Board of Directors to do more for you. I will be casting my vote for Lily and hope you do the same.

Sol Schiff
Former World Doubles Champion
Former USATT President

Lily, Larry, Tim, and Olivier are committed to improving our sport at every level. I have confidence that if they are elected, they will do a great job serving the USATT members.

Eric Owens
Current U.S. Men's Singles & Doubles Champion

We need a national administration that is responsive to comment and criticism, that demonstrates fiscal responsibility, and that prioritizes spending on the basis of cost/benefit analysis rather than pie-in-the-sky international aspirations.

Dick Evans
Assistant TT Manager, 1996 Atlanta Olympics

I've been a life member for 25 years and I know that Lily is a hard-working, energetic person that would bring a lot of worthwhile experience to the board.

Chris Kalagher
President, Fitchburg TT Club

There is no doubt in my mind that Lily, Olivier, and the rest of their team not only want, but can actually do the job. The current administration has failed to meet my expectations, no matter how low they have moved the bar. Let's elect a group of people that love the sport, have the desire and ability to get results, and are not afraid to assume responsibility for their actions.

Evan Momios
Table Tennis Fan for 20 Years

Olivier Mader is a great contributor to the sport. He has been our team captain to the North American Teams the last two years. He was able to recruit a solid team, and we reached the finals each time. He is always open-minded and will listen to various viewpoints. He has my full support.

John Jarema
International Umpire
25+ Year USATT Member



Vote for Olivier Mader for USATT VP

We have known Olivier for many years and are good friends. He is a person that cares a lot about table tennis. He is very familiar with the European League system, and his knowledge would greatly benefit USATT.

Werner Schlager
Current World #8
Karl Jindrak
1997 & 1999 World Men's Doubles Quarterfinalist

As President of Boston TTC, Inc., I am familiar with the many challenges that we face trying to promote our sport and increase participation. Working within restricted budgets, almost no visibility, and fierce competition from more established sports is not for everyone. Thus, I have enormous respect for the achievements of Lily, Larry, Tim, and Oliver. Their persistence and success speaks volumes for their dedication to our sport. They are committed, involved, and have a deep understanding of what it takes to make our sport succeed. We need people like them in our administration, and I wholeheartedly pledge my support to their campaign.

Humberto Gil
President, Boston Table Tennis Center, Inc.

I am pleased to support the team of Lily Yip, Larry Rose, Tim Titrud, and Olivier Mader. Our association has serious issues that need to be solved (including budget overspending, failure to keep executive directors, and stagnant membership numbers), and these people will be dedicated to improving our association and our sport.

Donald Hayes
New Hampshire TTC Tournament Director

Lily knows how to get things done.

Ashu Jain
Two-Time (and Current) U.S. National Team Member

Lily Yip would be a welcome addition to the USATT Board of Directors. She has experience as a world-class player, coach, tournament director, and business person. Lily will make sure our juniors keep pace with their foreign competitors and that we focus on fundraising. She has already helped find sponsors (CancerQ) for the U.S. Open. Larry Rose is a very trustworthy and intelligent person that I have known since I graduated from high school. I know he is committed to improving the sport, not only at the local level, but also nationally. I will be supporting Lily and Larry plus their running mates in the upcoming election. I hope you will also.

Chi-Sun Chui
Two-Time U.S. Pan American Team Member

2002 USATT Election: Are You Satisfied with What Has Been Happening in Our Sport?

- Fan Yi Yong was unfairly defaulted in the semifinals of the 2001 North American Team Championships in his match with Barney Reed, Jr.
- Barney Reed, Jr., was suspended for failing a drug test and must return all prize money and awards he won since July 6, 2001, but USATT has still not retrieved the money or awards.
- At the request of board member Barney Reed, Sr., the administration "reinterpreted" the existing rules to allow his son to compete in the 2000 North American Olympic Doubles Trials, even though Barney, Jr., had failed to qualify.
- President Sheri Pittman had USATT pay for her airfare to the Egyptian Open. Any table tennis business she conducted on this trip could easily have been accomplished in ways that did not waste USATT resources.
- USATT ran a \$219,112 total deficit for the last three years, in stark contrast to the surpluses run by previous administrations. Over the same period, U.S. Open entry fees increased 28% to 45% and USATT membership fees increased 20% to 33%.
- Treasurer Tong Lee said that he will not provide any USATT financial information to the membership (other than that required by law).
- Executive Director Ben Nisbet was hired—and one year later fired. Executive Director Dwight Johnson was hired—and one year later fired. Executive Director Ray Essick was hired—and 49 days later resigned.
- USATT Ratings Coordinator Fran Boardman is forced to do many non-ratings tasks (because USATT is understaffed), is steadily falling behind with the ratings, and finds the current situation too stressful. Fran discussed this with Sheri and a couple of board members, but they did nothing, so she has resigned, effective Sept. 1, 2002.
- The board, unable to agree on new election rules for the 2001 election in time, postponed the election and extended the terms of all incumbent board members by six months.
- The board changed the bylaws so Sheri now *appoints* the Community-Based-Programs Representative to the board rather than having the Community Based Programs *elect* their representative, as they used to do and as makes sense.
- The board has refused to allow its meetings to be taped. USATT is a public organization and the bylaws state that board meetings are open to the public. Before she became president, Sheri was in favor of taping board meetings.
- In 1998, President Sheri Pittman campaigned vigorously against the citizens-only eligibility rule at the U.S. Nationals, but the rule remains in effect.

2002 USATT Election
Vote for:

- Lily Yip
- Larry Rose
- Tim Titrud
- Olivier Mader

Please Support Our Team so that We May Set USATT on the Right Course



Lily Yip
for USATT Exec. VP



Larry Rose
for USATT Treasurer



Tim Titrud
for USATT VP



Olivier Mader
for USATT VP

For more information, please visit lrose.crystalcanyon.net/election

Club Programs Report

By Larry Hodges, USATT Club Programs Director
larry@larrytt.com • 240-686-0127

As reported last year, I'm focused on a three-pronged approach for club programs: Junior Training Programs, Beginning Classes, and (the main one in regards to increasing membership in the foreseeable future) the USATT League, which we hope to have ready by Jan. 1, 2003. There has been great support from the USATT Board, including a motion promising their support of the USATT League.

I've spent much of the past year or so creating the Primers for Junior Training and for Beginning Classes, which are available from USATT, and online at the USATT Club Programs Page (along with lots of other materials), at www.usatt.org/club_programs. I've spent many, many hours on the phone and on email explaining how to correct discipline problems for 8-year-olds, how to convince 50-year-old basement "champions" that they won't do well in tournaments with their sandpaper rackets, and every other imaginable question. Of

course, the two favorite lines of questioning are 1) How do I teach this technique?, and 2) How

to I get players into my class/program? The first is answered (at least the basics) in the Instructor's Guide to Table Tennis (online at the Club Programs page), and the latter in the Primers. If you have questions on Club Programs, feel free to contact me (via email, when possible, so I can give more complete answers). Contact info is at top.

Setting the structure for the creation of Junior Training Programs and Beginning Classes was necessary *before* getting into the most important membership generator: the long-awaited USATT League. If the League does bring in large numbers of players, we need a structure for the rapid creation of programs/classes to meet the need, or we lose them, just as we lost the many thousands who found our sport during Ping Pong Diplomacy in 1971, during our Olympic debut in 1988, and other times. We don't want to make that mistake again.

The software for the league is being created by USATT Vice President Robert Mayer, who's creating many thousands of dollars worth of software for free. There have been technical problems in this creation, but the light is at the end of the tunnel. When it's ready, expect a feature article, both here and on the USATT home page, with more info. Info on it will be in USATT info mailings to all who contact USATT – and that's a lot of would-be members! Currently, other than tournaments and magazine, there isn't a whole lot to offer new players. We hope to change that.

The upcoming USATT League is a club-based singles league, but that doesn't mean it will only be played in clubs. It is loosely designed on how table tennis is organized in Germany and much of Europe, and how bridge and other activities are organized in the U.S. The basis of the program is that *anyone* will be able to run a league *anywhere* there's a table or two. It's all organized online. Leagues can be run in clubs, basements, rec centers, schools and colleges, at work, in churches, just about anywhere. There's little hassle – it's all user friendly. All the would-be league director has to do is get his friends and other players together, sign them up for the league, and play. Finally, a way to start attracting the estimated 13-20 million basement players into the USATT tent! (USATT members will be eligible for the USATT



League at no charge. There is a proposed USATT League Membership, which would be a lowered fee that would allow players to play in the league, but not in tournaments or get the magazine.)

The basic format (with other formats to be added later on) will be as follows: The league director starts off with a printout of potential league players, in order of rating, with room for a checkmark on the left. As players show up, they are checked off on

the left. New players are added to the list at the bottom. Players without a league or USATT rating are given an estimated rating. The top five players in the list are put in the top group, the next five are put in the second group, and so on down the list. If the number of players in the league is not divisible by five, then the number of players in some groups would be adjusted. Players are then hand-written onto blank RR group sheets. (Or, if they have a computer handy, it can all be

done via computer.) Players play all other members in their group. The goal is to win the

"Anyone will be able to run a league anywhere there's a table."

group, and to improve one's league rating. Recommended format is best of five to 11, although if there are a lot of players and few tables, it can be best of three to 11 or just about any other format.

When the league is done, the league director gets online, goes to the USATT League Page, punches in his league code, and up comes his league page! He then inputs the results, the results are processed, and the new ratings appear. He then prints it out, and he's ready for the next league session. All those in the league are now part of a **Nationwide League**, and their league ratings (which are similar to USATT ratings, but separate) will be online. Just as in, say, bridge, players can now work to improve their USATT League Rating (and perhaps reach various levels such as "Master," "Grand Master," etc., with names to be worked out later). An added benefit: a player may be able to use his USATT League Rating as an initial rating for his first USATT tournament.

Please go to www.usatt.org/club_programs, and read more about club programs. See the link that explains the upcoming USATT League in more detail, and browse over the links at the bottom. And contact me if you have any questions!

USATT Club Programs Page:
www.usatt.org/club_programs

EXTREME TRADE CO.

Shop online: **www.expp.net**

Get Hong Kong Equipment Prices

+ US domestic shipping rates

Stiga Carbo WRB	\$76.88
Butterfly Timo Boll Spirit	\$86.88
Joola K5	\$44.88
Nittaku KYW	\$44.88
TSP X's F-1 21	\$22.88
Stiga Isonova UL	\$25.88
Nittaku Hamoni	\$21.88

Andro, Butterfly, Donic, Joola, Nittaku, Stiga, Tibhar, TSP, Yasaka

Free Diamond Membership until Oct. 18th.

Online Forum, Technical Digests, Equipment Testing

Let China's Real Pros. help YOU. To Check Your Order: 1-678-461-9945



Dear Readers,

The Dick Evans letter raised a number of issues. It also raised a number of editorial questions. Do we allow a letter so critical of the administration? Do we run the letter in one issue, and responses in the next? Or do we run the letter and responses together?

The issue was further complicated by the fact that there's a USATT election coming up. Not running the letter comes close to censorship, and doesn't give voters the opportunity to hear those viewpoints. However, running the letter in this issue (before the election), and responses in the next issue (after the election) isn't fair to the opposing point of view. Running all the letters in the following issue (after the election) deprives voters of hearing either side before voting. So the only solution is to run them all together in one issue.

Letters...



Dear USATT:

After repeated correspondence over the past two years to the USATT President and Board of Directors which has been uniformly unacknowledged and ignored, it is obvious that a Letter to the Editor is necessary to inform the membership of matters which concern me and should concern them.

Having had four Executive Directors and three National Tournament Chairmen in as many years does not instill great confidence in USATT as a professional organization. Our most recent loss, the former Executive Director of U.S. Swimming, who elevated that sport to world prominence garnering many Olympic Gold Medals, because of apparent excessive micro-management by the USATT President, is of tragic dimension.

Over the past several years the current administration has continued to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars on an ill-advised ITTF Pro Tour in connection with our U.S. Open to the detriment of our own players who are the major financial supporters of these events and who receive the short end of the stick in prize money and playing conditions. This year the U.S. Open was played entirely on concrete in a venue where the only adequate lighting was at the far end of the hall where no important finals were staged (apparently no one thought to check the lighting level or even to bring the light meter from Colorado Springs), while expensive – improperly installed – auxiliary lighting, television production, and satellite links – with no possibility of financial return – were provided for the Pro Tour.

First place prize money for the U.S. Open Elite Singles, the events for highest rated U.S. players, was less than \$2,500 compared to over \$75,000 for the Pro Tour.

The press coverage by the leading Ft. Lauderdale newspaper – The Sun Sentinel – was literally non-existent: not a word in the days prior to the event nor during the five days of the tournament. No wonder the only spectators in the stands were non-paying tournament players rather than residents of south Florida.

This year the official U.S. Open program failed to recognize the many volunteers on the control desk, remote stations, operations staff and officials (i.e. referees and umpires). A disappointing lack of sensitivity and gratitude. This same program reprinted verbatim the 2001 Spectator's Guide without editing to reflect the rule changes resulting from the change to the 11-point game.

And while our association has been honored by having one of our officials appointed to the newly formed Referees and Umpires Commission, at home this administration only demonstrates neglect and lack of respect for professional officiating by refusing to subsidize U.S. International Umpires who wished to improve their skills by participating in an ITTF-sponsored advanced-training seminar designed to upgrade the competence and certification level of these umpires. It is a credit to the ten U.S. umpires who were willing to pay their own expenses to come to Ft. Lauderdale a day early, pay for their own room at the Marriott, food and the \$40 seminar fee as a demonstration of their desire to improve their officiating skills and credentials. Also this year, these volunteer umpires from the U.S. and other countries were not even provided a room for resting during their work breaks and for storing their personal items. No refreshments, or even drinks, were provided as they always have been in the past. Perhaps it is time for these officials to consider withholding their services in the future.

Finally, we need a national administration that is responsive to comment and criticism, that demonstrates fiscal responsibility, that prioritizes spending on the basis of cost/benefit analysis rather than on pie-in-the-sky international aspirations; an administration that is aware of the importance of, and appreciates, volunteer staff and officials without whose help this even would not be possible, and recognizes the membership as their paramount constituency rather than a knee-jerk obeisance to the International Table Tennis Federation.

Sincerely,

Dick Evans, Hillsboro, WV

Wintrich's Reply to Evans

As chairman of the editorial board of the magazine, I was asked to coordinate the response to Dick Evans' letter to the editor. What follows are my comments and those of tournament referee's Allen Barth and USATT Treasurer Tong Lee. Sheri Pittman has responded separately in her president's column.

The U.S. Open program did fail to acknowledge the volunteer staff and the new 11-point rule changes in the game. Although editor Larry Hodges had indeed made the necessary changes regarding the rules, he inadvertently ran the original text. He regrets the mistake.

The failure to acknowledge the volunteer staff was also a regrettable omission, and was due to the staff listing not being prepared and sent to Hodges in time. The association apologizes to its hard-working staff for the error.

Contrary to what Dick Evans wrote about press coverage, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel ran three U.S. Open articles during the Open: (1) "Nation's Premier Event Stops Here (But So Does China)" (July 3); (2) "Eye on the Ball" (July 5); "China Sweeps U.S. Open" (July 7)

Regarding the ITTF Pro Tour, I'll speak more personally. I assume there are precious few sports, Olympic or otherwise, that a player of my caliber would be allowed to enter a U.S. Open type event, let alone rub shoulders with the best players in the world. The ability to walk from the Open hall to the Pro hall is worth the price of admission alone, which is considerable counting airfare, hotel room and meals. Yes, I love to watch the pro matches but I also love to stroll their practice tables, stopping at will to observe. Even on Sunday, when there were only a handful of us left to watch the kids play, we were treated to a practice session by the South Korean and German teams. You know, just some 2800 hacks in the hall you can say hi to while you watch how they train. Of course, I'd prefer to play on wood – who wouldn't? But given our reliance on convention venues that's probably out of the question. However, the lighting improved this year with the addition of the new hall. If the convention center does not upgrade the old hall's lighting, then perhaps we should flip-flop the position of the control desk next year to the brighter end and stage the more prestigious Open matches there.

It comes down to this for me as an active player: the U.S. Open with the ITTF Pro tour, is the only USATT competition I would consider attending without playing.

Tom Wintrich

Chairman, USATT Editorial Board

Lee's Response to Evans

[Editor's note: this is an abridged version; for full text of Lee's letter, email him at tlee94549@yahoo.com.]

1. Pro Tour

The Pro Tour prize money was \$110,300, not \$75,000 as Evans stated. The ITTF subsidizes USATT with a grant of \$80,000 and USATT is responsible for \$30,300. In the several U.S. Opens before the advent of a Pro Tour, the prize money for the four top events in the Open always exceeded \$20,000. Thus, regardless of the amount of actual prize money for the Pro Tour, running it has never cost USATT more than \$10,000 in additional prize money, compared to U.S. Opens without the Pro Tour.

The other major obligation of the Pro Tour is paying for the production or the filming of some matches.

There are many benefits for the additional \$5,000-\$10,000 in prize money and the expenses for filming the Pro Tour: 1) The Pro Tour provides the membership with the opportunity to see top professionals in action. 2) It helps increase the number of entrants and entry fees. 3) Our elite players, including those not on the National Team, participate in a Pro Tour event without the added expense of traveling to a foreign Pro Tour tournament. 4) USATT derives royalties from the videos sold by a third party, and can use the videos to promote the sport in the United States. 5) Our table contract obligates the contractor to purchase 30-second spots with a cap of \$9,000, and that, together with one or two local advertisers, is sufficient to pay for a broadcast in prime time in a metropolitan area such as Chicago. 6) The Pro Tour makes our equipment contracts more valuable as it provides an incentive to future contractors to make higher bids because of the enhanced promotion of their equipment to tens of millions viewers in overseas broadcasts. 7) Most important, the Pro Tour provides us with a better product to sell sponsorships, surrounds, and advertisements to multinational companies that do overseas business in Asia and Europe. A title sponsor or an advertiser purchasing a barrier can enjoy tremendous promotional opportunities and publicity when the Pro Tour is broadcast in, say, China, which alone can account for a viewership of 100 million. USATT does not have a similarly marketable product with the U.S. Open without a Pro Tour, or with the U.S. Nationals. Thus, a loss in the Pro Tour based on actual revenues and expenses only is not a good yardstick for not having a Pro Tour. The current administration has not lost hundreds of thousands of dollars on the ITTF Pro Tour.

2. No Funding of U.S. Umpires for ITTF Seminar

Let's first clarify that the U.S. umpires who attended the ITTF seminar and subsequently worked in the U.S. Open/Pro Tour were subsidized by USATT by an average of about \$400 per person for travel, per diem and accommodation. The ITTF decided to conduct its training seminar recently – after last November's Budget meeting. This immediately disqualified attendees from being funded, as there was no budget for it. On one hand, Evans charges the administration with fiscal irresponsibility, and on the other hand he complains that not funding umpires attending the seminar demonstrates neglect and lack of respect toward them. It is more appropriate to say that the administration demonstrated fiscal responsibility by not funding umpires for attending an unbudgeted seminar. Unless there is a gross oversight, if it's not in the budget, it will not be approved.

As for the elimination of refreshments for umpires this year, I have been told that the convention center asked us to stop doing this. To continue to do so, we have to get the convention center to cater it at a prohibitive price. Again, good judgment and fiscal responsibility, rather than neglect and lack of respect, dictated elimination of refreshments this year.

Tong Lee, USATT Treasurer

Barth's Reply to Evans

1. The loss of the most recent new E.D. is, in fact, an unfortunate event.
2. The lighting, to my knowledge, has not been a source of complaints in this venue, which we now have used six times.
3. We always play all but the four major events on concrete (Las Vegas too).
4. Yes, being omitted from the program annoyed me too, after all the hours of work I (and of course others) put in preparing for this event.
5. Everything that Dick mentioned regarding the umpires was 100% on the money. Compared to how our umpires are treated when on foreign assignments, what we do for our foreign umpire guests (near nothing) is an embarrassment to the U.S. officials and should also be one to our board.

Allen Barth, U.S. Open Referee

Grassroots Report

By Attila Malek, Chairman, USATT Grassroots/Juniors Committee

Can we reasonably assume that table tennis will be a well-recognized sport in the USA?

Could table tennis be in schools? Is it possible for our Elite to earn high income in table tennis? Are we going to have high-income opportunities for coaches? Is it reasonable to believe that table tennis will be a big business? Could we ever produce Olympic Medal Winners?

In order to answer yes to these and many other related questions, and make it a reality we must have programs that are easy to implement, and must have a workforce to implement it. Programs will bring people into our sport, and people will bring the much-needed revenues to develop our sport.

Thanks to the ITTF, today we have such a program available to us.

"TOPS-Table Tennis in Schools Program" was produced in Australia by the ITTF Development Program Manager, Glenn Tepper, and the Table Tennis Victoria, Australia, Development Officer, Alois Rosario.

The Program is divided into easy to follow sections for use by school teachers and club coaches, aimed at the beginner level, and for use by teachers with minimal table tennis experience.

The sections include:

- 5-Lesson Plan for 5-8 year-olds
- 15-Lesson Plans for 9-16 year-olds
- Activity Cards
- Skills Circuits
- Competition Formats
- Assessment and Skills Awards
- Rules

I have been using the program to introduce table tennis to schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs in my area. We start with exhibitions to create excitement. After that we're teaching the kids, teachers and program directors to run the program.

It's great, and everybody loves it. Now, we need the workforce to make it a national program.

We need highly motivated self-starters, who are willing to put in volunteer hours to build their own business.

For more information please contact Attila Malek at powerpong@aol.com.

www.natabletennis.com



North American Table Tennis, Inc.

For more NATT information, see pages 12-15.

From 1952 to 2002: No Change At All

By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian (Copyright 2002)

Ed.'s Note. This article is a modified excerpt from Chapter 15 of Tim's History of U.S. Table Tennis, Vol. II (1940-1952).

A ficionados are apt to divide the History of Table Tennis into two eras: Before Sponge and After Sponge. In one sense, Satoh's unheard of, or at least unheard racket at the 1952 Bombay World's might be said to have spawned the subsequent proliferation of coverings that to many have been the bane of the Sport – thus bringing about a once unimaginable and astonishing change. But in another sense – one I want to emphasize here – the Sponge Revolution brought to the Sport absolutely no change at all.

Why?

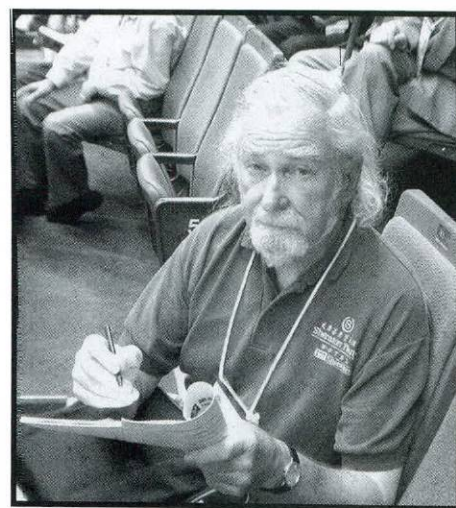
Because, from the perspective of the new millennium, we can see our table tennis forefathers at the close of World War II grappling with the same problems, and having the same discussions those in the Sport will have more than half a century later. Should we raise the net? Enlarge the table? In both Singles and Doubles should we force the players to move more, so stamina becomes more important? (Compare what's expected of a professional player today with the increased size of the ball.) Should we insist on Service Rules that force players to maneuver the ball, fight for points that last longer?

Let me illustrate.

In an Aug. 7, 1945 letter to USTTA officials—President Carl Nidy, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Regents – former USTTA President Dr. Stan Morest reports on a conversation he had in London on July 13 with ITTF President Ivor Montagu regarding possible post-War changes as the Sport reorganizes.

First, writes Morest, "We both agreed on considering a possibility of a return to the high net because:

a. the most thrilling part of table tennis spectator appeal, namely deep defense, has been mostly lost due to the low net (the ball takes off lower...the competitors have been 'pulled in.' As proof we used to provide 12 to 25 feet backcourt space with a 6 3/4" net, now 10 to 15 feet run back is plenty with the low, or 6" net); b. there are in force anti-chiseling rules [so we no longer need the low net to encourage attacking play]...c. [with the low net] players of average ability...have such an easy and sloppy time playing that some detriment to the full ability of their game has occurred; and...d. there are far more skilled players today who can execute



offensive strokes than there were some 10 years ago when the wave of chop stroking swept the country at a time when only a relatively few players...had any conception of how to execute offensive strokes."

And, second, though "Ivor did not favor a larger ball, or larger table or racket," Morest says he'd like to extend the table for doubles:

"We must remember that regular tennis uses the outside lines for doubles and the inside lines for singles play. This fundamental of tennis play, that two players can cover more space than one, and that crowding the play of two players into the space originally intended to be for one, is detrimental to the advancement of our sport before spectators....H. N. Smith [one of the USTTA's Honorary V.P.'s, who had an expanded Jaques Experimental table in his home] says that table tennis play on the 'large' table (6" longer and 6" wider) is absolutely marvelous to behold! Corti Woodcock [another USTTA Honorary V.P.] suggests increasing the length and width of the table 3" in each dimension and lowering the table 2" as a measure which would make doubles play thrilling to lay spectators. As it is, there is too much jostling and crowding until the players can neither play their best or fans see so well. My idea is to keep the singles play on the same court, but for doubles, the hinged sides and end board can be raised and the four corner legs moved to new positions."

Morest thinks that exhibition players ought to give the larger doubles court a try, and if the change seems successful then it should be adopted for tournament play.

Don Hendry, George's brother, on returning home from overseas, wants to go Morest's suggestion one better. In a letter to *Topics*, he says:

"...It seems to me that players have developed their offense to such an extent, made possible by the 6" net, that table tennis is now a 'slam-bang' sport which is not too interesting to the spectators and I do not

America's First Table Tennis Store



Riverchase Galleria Mall

Birmingham, Alabama

205-987-2222 • bumpernets.com

Mon-Thur, 10AM-9PM • Fri-Sat 10AM-10PM • Sunday Noon-6PM

FALL SPECIALS

- ★ Butterfly Home Rollaway \$199.99*
- ★ Harvard Quickplay I Table \$219.99*
- ★ Butterfly Personal Rollaway \$249.99*
- ★ Harvard Quickplay II Table \$259.99*
- ★ Stiga Master Table \$299.99*
- ★ Butterfly Match Rollaway \$479.99*
- ★ Check Store Specials on Robots and Game Tables Call Store

Prices are good while supplies last

*Plus Shipping

Call for Free Catalog 800-366-PONG

Call us about licensing a BumperNets table tennis store/pro shop in your area!

POWER PONG™ Acts 1:8

Table Tennis Training Center
www.powerpong.org

**Southern California Table tennis Leagues
September 2002-June 2003
\$10,000.00 in Prizes**

Tournament Dates

October 18-20 at Orange Coast College
November 23-24 at Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club
January 24-26, 2003 Orange Coast College

Saturday & Sunday Coaching Camps with **Attila Turbok (Rated 2673)**

Dates: September 21- 22, October 12-13, and November 9-10.
Time: 10 AM – 5 PM
Cost: \$135/Session

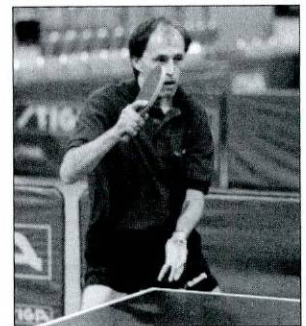
Business Opportunity Workshop

Date: December 14-15
Time: 10 AM – 4 PM
Cost: \$220

Learn to build and operate a profitable table tennis business. Easy to follow materials are included.

Coach: Attila Malek
1979 U.S. National Champion

Good News at:
www.powerpong.org



I'm interested in: Leagues Tournaments Business Opportunity Camps 9-21-22 __, 10-12-13 __, 11-9-10 __
Name _____ Phone _____ Age _____ Rating _____

Address _____

For more information on our programs or if you have any Bible question please contact: Attila Malek
(714) 549-0925 or e-mail to powerpong@aol.com

believe that the players receive the full enjoyment possible from the game.

...No, I don't advocate going back to the 6 ¾ net, but I do believe a larger table would make the game more interesting to the spectator and player alike. By making the table larger and raising the net, the offensive player could win by maneuvering his opponent out of position, by the use of the drop shot, and by running the opponent 'ragged.' In the present game it doesn't make much difference if one smokes two packs of cigarettes a day and drinks a keg of beer every week, one plays almost as well. In my opinion stamina should be an important factor in a sport" (Jan., 1946, 7).

Some players, however, focus on improvements already made. Here's Chicago's Dr. Bill Meszaros – pleased that "the fancy spin services of a few years ago are now illegal":

"...Formerly we wound up and executed a wicked serve which our opponent either missed or returned high and with our own spin still on it. We then smashed this return, which either won the point or missed the table entirely. Matches tended to become a battle of services instead of strokes, which was not only harmful for our games, but uninteresting to spectators.

With the new rule the serve is not just a means of putting the ball into play. It is used in order to get the 'jump' on the opponent – usually to get him off balance and put him on the defensive. However, instead of smashing his return, as of yore, we must now be content with a hard, well-placed drive. If we stop to take inventory of our games, we will find that this has improved our driving and our strokes in general. The receiver of the serve now has a better chance to drive it – therefore there is more opportunity to fight for the offensive. This makes volleys longer, but more keenly contested, and much more interesting to watch. In addition, the service is now more likely to be a tricky shot, such as one just dropped over the net. As a consequence, we must be more alert and on our toes. Without a semi-finger-spin service as a weapon, we must increasingly rely on strategy and wits to compensate" (TTT, Jan., 1946, 3).

Interestingly, though no one can foresee the incredible change that's coming with the proliferation of racket surfaces, it's as if, in one sense, *this change never happened*. The same discussions remain – centered invariably on what will make the Sport fascinating to both player and spectator. And that is: contested points of some duration.

As History warned us more than 50 years ago – did we pay attention? – without such a struggle, the Sport can never offer fan involvement, engage the Imagination.

TRAVELS IN TIME ... 1902

100 Years Ago

The Ping Pong Fad of 1902 – A Centennial Celebration

By Russ Walker

It has now been 100 years since our sport enjoyed a remarkable fad – in 1902. In honor of this Centennial celebration, I thought it appropriate to pay tribute.

The fad clearly started in England, as the game grew from obscurity in the 1890's, until it began to take off around 1900-1901. The first "major" table tennis tournament was held in England, at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster, on Dec 11-14, 1901. There were 192 men and 48 women entries.

In 1902, the fad reached the U.S. and several American companies joined the bandwagon, and began making table tennis equipment. I feel it worthy to recognize these companies. Below is a list of American companies known to have made or distributed table tennis during 1902. If anyone knows of any other American makers from 1902, or has information on the lesser-known makers, please email me at RJ_WAL@msn.com.

1. Parker Bros., (Salem, MA) "Ping Pong" They were the first to sell sets in the U.S. and were the most popular maker.
2. Spalding "Table Tennis"
3. Wright & Ditson, (Boston, MA) "Pom Pom"
4. McLoughlin Brothers, (NY) "Table Tennis"
5. E.I. Horsman "The Popular Game of Table Tennis"
6. Milton Bradley "The Royal Game or Table Tennis"
7. Perry Mason, (Boston, MA) "Table Tennis"
8. F.A.O Schwartz
9. Carrom-Archarena
10. Robt H Ingersoll (NY) "Table Tennis"

United States Anti-Doping Agency

*The independent testing agency for Olympic sport
in the United States*

Created in the fall of 2000, the United States Anti-Doping Agency is responsible for managing the testing and adjudication process for U.S. Olympic, Pan American and Paralympic athletes. USADA is equally dedicated to preserving the integrity of sport through research initiatives and educational programs.

Call the USADA Drug Reference Line at 800-233-0393



For additional information, please visit the USADA web site at
www.usantidoping.org



If there were a stat
just for spirit,

together
we'd hold the record.

No matter where we live, or who we are, there's a part of us that needs to celebrate the success of others. And while many of us are athletes, all of us are fans. And on hardwood, turf, grass and clay, we find our common ground.

BE  UNITED

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

united.com

United Airlines is proud to support USA Table Tennis.

McAfee's Robot Mechanics

By Richard McAfee, Director, Newgy Coaching System



The purpose of this series of articles will be to shed some light on the many possibilities and advantages of Robot Training. If you do not have a robot, the same effect can be produced through the use of multiball drills with a coach or practice partner.

Using Your Robot To Develop Attacking Power

Coaches know that one of the best ways to develop an athlete's offensive power is to have them train regularly against choppers. The reason why this is such good training is that it takes much greater racket acceleration to attack against backspin than against topspin. This is due to the fact that you are going with the spin already on the ball instead of against (stopping) the spin on the ball. Looping or hitting against a good chopper allows the attacker to learn the timing necessary to develop maximum racket acceleration.

Unfortunately, over the last twenty years there has been a real decline in the number of players playing the chopping style. This had made finding a chopping training partner nearly impossible for many players. Because of this, I recommend regular robot training against backspin for many of my students.

Robot Setup

First of all, get your robot off the table. Chop strokes are usually delivered from mid to deep positions from the table and often from below table height. To correctly duplicate a chop return move your robot from 8-12 feet back from the table and lower it to at least table height or slightly below. This will create a return, which will give you the same trajectory

and timing of a real chop. If you don't have a robot, you can also use multi-ball feed from this same position. Having the ball feeder sit in a chair well back from the table works well.

Here are a few attack drills that my students often do against chop. Each set of drills should run from 5-7 minutes. Remember to stress quality, not quantity.

Forehand Loop Drills

Position robot so that the ball delivery is crosscourt to your forehand and oscillating from the middle of the table to your wide forehand. If you find the drills too difficult, then turn off the oscillation.

1. Loop consistently crosscourt, focusing on producing as much spin as possible.
2. Loop consistently down-the-line, still focusing on producing as much spin as possible.
3. Alternate between looping crosscourt and down-the-line.
4. Make a series of four forehand loops. Start with a safe spin loop crosscourt, then the second one should be a little faster, and the third even faster (all crosscourt). The final loop should be made at full power down the middle of the table.
5. Repeat the above drill, making the first three loops to the middle and the fourth loop wide crosscourt.

Now change the robot position so that the ball feed is crosscourt to your backhand and oscillating from the middle of the table to your wide backhand. Repeat drills 1-5 above once using your forehand, then again using backhand.

I hope these chop suggestions, along with the idea of moving your robot away from the table, will strike a creative cord on just how it is possible to overcome any lack of playing partners. For more creative ideas on how to use your robot to train, check out the newgy.com web site.



Playing Choppers

By Larry Hodges, USATT Certified National Coach

Reprinted from June, 1997 Table Tennis Talk

There is nothing more infuriating than losing to a patient chopper who lets you beat yourself with your own errors. Losing to a chopper is like four-putting in golf; you may have made some good drives to get to the green, but all you remember are the misses at the end. Rather than four-putting forever, let's learn how to beat the chopper.

A chopper is weakest in the middle, but you have more table (and so more margin for error) by going diagonally to a corner. Going for a winner down the line often catches the chopper by surprise. A chopper who is not particularly fast is vulnerable at the corners; a chopper with inverted on both sides is especially vulnerable in the middle. Keep these "basics" in mind when playing any of the following styles. There are three general ways of playing a chopper. Informally they are called European style, Asian style, and Chiseling.

European Style

The goal here is to bring the chopper in close to the table, and then attack hard, especially at the chopper's middle. The chopper is too close to the table to make the return, and so misses. When using this technique, you should mostly serve short to bring the chopper in, and try to follow with a strong attack. Sometimes, however, fake the attack, and push short instead – the chopper, in his haste to back up for the expected attack, will have trouble with this ball, and will often have to make a last-second lunge to return it. Even if he makes the return (often a weak one), he will be left jammed over the table and vulnerable to the next ball, which you can promptly attack for a winner. If the chopper stays closer to the table to guard against this drop shot, then you attack. The chopper has absolutely no way of answering this ... in theory.

During a rally, if the chopper makes a good return from away from the table, push short again, and start over. The object in a rally is to catch the chopper too far away from the table or moving backward so that you can drop the ball short, force him to rush in, and attack when he is jammed up against the table. Alternatively, you can push a few balls, keeping the chopper close to the table, and then attack when you think he's not expecting it.

Another option is to suddenly and unexpectedly push quick off the bounce

and deep to the long pips side (if there is one). If the chopper pushes back with the long pips, it'll be with little spin; since it's off a deep push, you'll have time to prepare for the incoming ball and make a strong attack.

Asian Style

The goal here is to control the spin and pace of the rally. This method is especially good against a long-pipped chopper, but takes regular practice against a chopper to learn to do effectively. Pips-out players are especially good at this style, but many good inverted players also play this way. This style doesn't work well against an all-inverted chopper who chops very heavy. Let's assume you are playing a long-pipped chopper. (Playing against antispin or hardbat is similar – you won't get much more spin then you give them.)

Here the aim is to get the chopper off the table, and then attack relatively softly over and over, into the long pips side, but not with full spin. The chopper can only return whatever spin you give him because of the long pips, and so their returns are not particularly heavy, making your continuous soft attack easy. After topspinning a few balls, you find one you like and loop or smash a winner.

Depending on what you are more comfortable with, you can topspin many balls in a row before going for a winner, or only a few – be unpredictable. Some players just topspin over and over, not going for a winner unless they get a very easy one. You should try to vary your spin, sometimes looping very dead, sometimes spinny. However, beware of varying spin returns when you vary your own spin. For example, when you give heavy topspin, expect heavy chop, and so either lift the ball more on next shot, or push and start over. Don't fall into the trap of spinning heavily over and over – a chopper loves it, and all you'll get are heavy chop returns, which can be very difficult to loop consistently.

You can mix in pushing (especially if you aren't sure of the incoming spin, or are out of position), but too much pushing will throw your own timing off. By topspinning over and over to the long pips side (but not with full spin), you can build up a rhythm that a chopper will have difficulty breaking. However, a sudden quick and deep push to long pips will often give you a return with very little spin that you can make a strong attack against.

When topspinning over and over, try to get down to almost eye level with the ball by bending your knees. This will help your consistency by making the lifting easier and will get your eyes closer to the ball so you see it better.

Chiseling (con't)

I am not fond of this style. This basically means pushing with the chopper until the chopper either misses, pops up an easy one, or gets impatient and attacks too much. At the higher levels,

chiseling is rare, but at the lower and medium levels, it is more common. Since I'm a strong believer that the game has to be FUN (it is a game!), I don't like this way of winning. Unless you're a chopper yourself (in which case SOMEONE's got to de-

fend, and it might as well be you), I'd rather see a player lose by attacking in some way. You may lose now, but you'll learn how to play a chopper better in future matches. Of course, certain senior players will strongly disagree with me on this!

In Memoriam

Chuck Burns (1917-2002)

By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

See Burns' Hall of Fame profile online at www.usatt.org

Detroit's Chuck Burns was always saying, "Winning is everything," so no surprise his son Ron once wrote that he had memories of "my father flying off into winter snowstorms in precarious looking DC3s to an endless string of tournaments."

Come amazingly, with comparatively little competitive play behind him, at the 1942 National's, Chuck defeated future Hall of Famers Tibo Hazi, Jimmy McClure, and Eddie Pinner before losing in the final to Defending Champion Lou Pagliaro.

A stocky type, Burns was not one to flash around court swatting forehands. Because of an old knee injury – gotten from rough and tumble basketball play in his youth – he developed a close-to-the-table game, fancied himself a boxer in the ring of the court [jabbing, flicking his backhand, to pile up points]."

In the quarters of the '43 National's, Burns beat Dick Miles, 2-0, 14, 21, 20, in what he always considered his greatest match. In the semi's, however, against Hazi, he suffered his biggest disappointment, a 5-game loss from up 2-1 and at deuce in the 4th. "I was on top of my game. The ball looked like a balloon ... I had two straight [chances] where all I had to do was drop the ball over the net for the points that would have won it. Both stayed on top [then fell back]. It took me six years to get over that."

In 1945, Chuck went off on a USO Tour with Ruth Aarons, was mustered in with comedian Jack Benny, harmonica player Larry Adler, and actress Ingrid Bergman, the Ilsa of "Casablanca" – which, as it happened, was where the Tour started, and where Chuck played

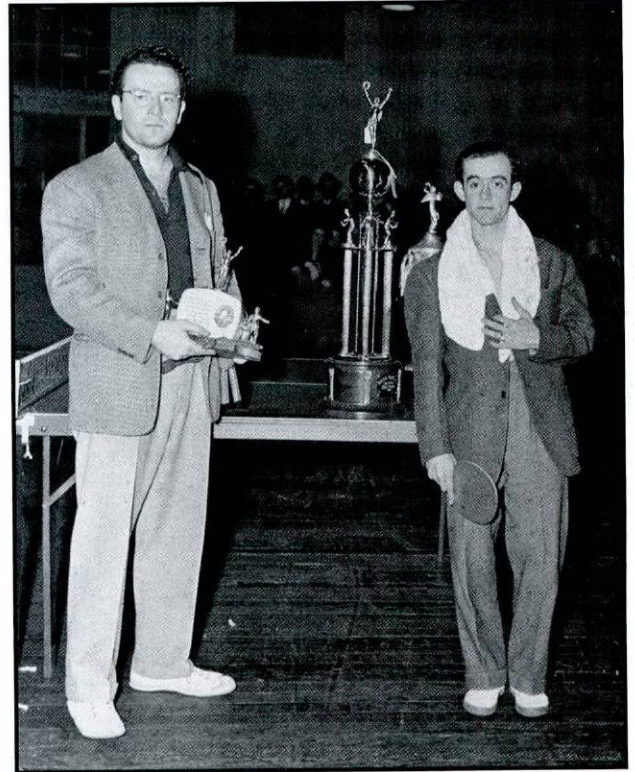
both Ed Gardner, the Archie of the very successful radio program "Duffy's Tavern," and tennis, later movie star Jinx Falkenberg. Ruth herself was a tough act: she could drink boilermakers like a man, and enjoyed giving shows in whatever exotic locale the troupe – a puppeteer, a tap dancer, and an impersonator – might be ... Karachi, Cairo, New Delhi, Benghazi.

Twenty years after his early 1940's triumphs, he'd not only amassed a record number of Michigan Championships, but in 1961-62-63 he was still ranked among the U.S. Top 10, and was popular enough to be USSTA President. His favorite tournament? The Toronto CNE, where for 11 straight years, from 1955 through 1965, he won ... something.

I always liked and admired Chuck. I thought him so savvy and so gutsy I just couldn't imagine him dying. He was too wily for that – too full of life, had too many entertaining tales to tell. When his longtime friend Danny Robbins called to tell me, "Chuck Burns died," I was shocked – I couldn't believe he was 85 and that great heart had stopped. In 1984 his last year of serious competition, we won the U.S. Closed Over 50 Doubles, and later in the 1990's, just for the fun of it, we played on a team together at the USOTC's – it was his last hurrah.

Chuck once endeared himself to me not as a player but as a spectator. It was 1977, and my sons, Scott and Eric, and

Rutledge Barry are playing the Seemiller brothers in the final of the U.S. Open Team Championships. The tie is 4-4 and Eric and Randy are in the third game (worth \$750) when a woman photographer from the local *Free Press* creeps up to the barriers to take a photo. Eric, 14, stops play, and says to her quite loudly, indignantly, "You've some f_____ nerve! What do you think you're doing? This is a National final!" Chuck, up in the stands, howled, and I can still see him, still hear him say, "That's my kinda kid!"



Chuck Burns (L), runner-up in Men's Singles at the 1942 U.S. Open to Lou Pagliaro (R).

In Memoriam

Saymek Sourinthone

(July 22, 1977 – May 30, 2002)

By Shaun O. Stallings, Nashville TTC

As some of you have already learned, we recently lost one of our own. Saymek Sourinthone (23) passed away in his sleep early Thursday morning, May 30, 2002. The cause of death is unknown.

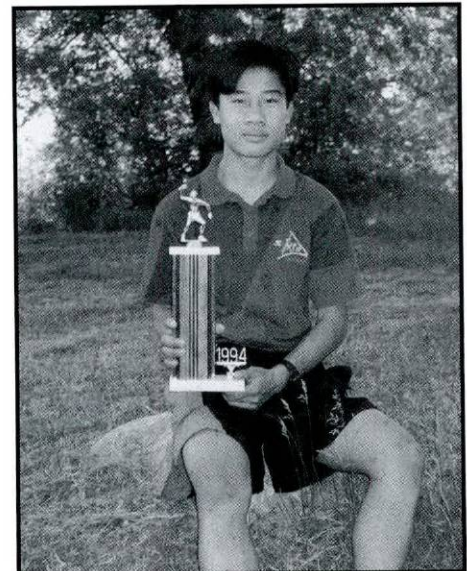
Saymek was the oldest of the Sourinthone brothers (Jay, Lock, and Noi) and is survived by his mother, Phaengsy Sourinthone, and his father, Boune (Peter) Sourinthone. Saymek and his brothers have been avid table tennis players at tournaments across the Southeast for the past 8 years. He will be deeply missed by all who know him and his family.

Saymek once wrote a poem (which his father recently found) that when he died, he wanted

everyone to celebrate his life and have a feast. His family requests that everyone wear white shirts, and to avoid wearing black. This is what we believe Saymek would want.

NTTC is collecting donations for the Sourinthone family. Most people are not aware that the Sourinthone family went through many trials to bring their family from Laos to the United States. Saymek is the third child they have had to bury, and I am certain that they do not have any insurance to cover the cost of Saymek's funeral. Please dig deep into your pockets and help ease the burden for this grieving family. Checks can be made payable to NTTC and mailed to NTTC, PO Box 22795, Nashville, TN 37202-2795. 100% of all moneys received will go directly to the Sourinthone Family.

Any questions may be directed to Shaun or Jamie Stallings, 615-781-2323.



13th Annual Meiklejohn National Seniors

LEISURE WORLD • LAGUNA WOODS, CA • JUNE 6-9, 2002 • BY TOM WINTRICH

Musa, Seemiller Turn Back the Clock

Photo by Alfred York ©2002



Finalist Dan Seemiller, Director Olga Feingold-Kahan, Sponsor Bill Meiklejohn, Champion Atanda Musa, Treasurer Walt Wehrli.

The Gathering of Champions

There is an annual event in Albuquerque New Mexico called the Gathering of Nations, which constitutes the largest assembly of Native Americans in North America. To the participants, it's a gregarious pow wow on a grand scale, featuring tribal dancing in full ceremonial dress.

There is an annual event in Laguna Woods, California called the Meiklejohn National Seniors, which constitutes the largest assembly of Over 40 table tennis players in North America. To the participants, it's a gregarious pow wow on a grand scale, featuring a distinctively different type of tribal dancing in full competitive dress.

It's not much of a stretch to also call the Meiklejohn tournament a gathering of nations. No fewer than seven national champions from seven countries participated in this year's competition. In alphabetical order, they were:

- Houshang Bozorgzadeh, Iran
- George Brathwaite, Guyana
- Rey Domingo, Phillipines
- Attila Malek, U.S.
- Francisco Mendez, Mexico
- Atanda Musa, Nigeria
- Dan Seemiller, U.S.

Of course, everyone's living under the same flag now and there hasn't been a stranger among them for some 20 to 40 years, but that's not going to diminish anyone's desire to win — not when there's 1,500 bucks at stake for first place alone.

Money Broadens the Smiles

Money's a key ingredient to the success of the Meiklejohn Seniors but certainly not at the expense of camaraderie. No way, not when everyone considers this the friendliest tournament on the circuit, thanks to the combination of age-old friends under the direction of the friendliest of tournament staffs. Need to have a word with director Olga Feingold-Kahan? No, problem, let's sit down here and talk as she guides you to a chair. Up front and personable, Olga is a distinguished lady of old-school charm who calls the shots with equanimity and evenhandedness, while husband Stan busily dispenses matches from the control desk. However, this is no two-person show by any stretch and that is the key to the Meiklejohn success; it's a group effort of committed volunteers who work hard together to run the best event possible for the participants. And, of course, there is the Top Gun himself, Bill Meiklejohn, who started this tournament 13 years ago . . . "just as a local event, and now look what we've got."

Not surprisingly, one of the players' favorite staff members is treasurer Walt Wehrli who literally delivers the prize money.

"Hey, don't you want your winnings?" Walt might ask as he approaches you in the bleachers.

"I figured I would collect at the end of the tournament," you say.

Oh, no, that's not the way it's done at Meiklejohn. When you win, you get paid right away and if you forget, there's Walt to deliver the check personally.

However, if you prefer instant gratification, just get a copy of the completed draw-sheet from the control desk and present it to Walt as proof of payment due.

The Game is in the Playing

Day one competition on Thursday wasn't about money; it was about table tennis as sport for life. Although it wasn't on the entry blank, a nonagenarian round robin was played when four Over 90's showed up ready for battle. Nancy Kellner (93) bested the field of Oscar Beckerman (90), Frank Buchanan (90) and Dora Morrison (93), which goes to show that experience can hold the advantage in any age bracket. Morrison came back for more on day two when she teamed up with Scott Preiss in Under 2800 doubles. The pair gave Stan Kahan and Larry Portugal a hard time before losing at 8 in the fifth.

The rest of day one in age competition belonged to Ivan Slade who posted a hat trick of sorts, winning the Over 75, Over 80 and Over 85 singles. Not bad when you can spot your opponent ten years and still win the age group.

In the lone singles ratings event on Thursday, it was good to see Michael Pfeil in the finals of Under 1100 after injuring his back at the Western Open. Leo Egel proved to be too strong, however, defeating Michael in straight games.

When the money started flowing on Friday, it was Dan Seemiller who won the day financially, but it was Atanda Musa who won the day competitively. Musa looked invincible in his march through the elite event, which is a prelude to the championship draw on Sunday. Malek seemed to summarize everyone's chances when he commented during his thrashing by Musa in the elite finals: "Too strong, too fast, too good."

Malek had advanced to the elite finals with an upset win over Seemiller. I say upset because Malek's wins against Seemiller have been rare and after Seemiller won the first two deuce games in their semifinal matchup, it looked like Malek was going down again. Wrong. Malek wins the next three at 3, 2 and 7 and the five-time U.S. champ is out.

Seemiller had earlier prevailed over Rudy Miranda in hardbat to boost his day's winnings by \$300. Miranda was playing superbly, consistently smacking in winners off both wings. His backhand was particularly troubling for Seemiller because Miranda doesn't reveal the shot's direction until he hits it. Basically, Miranda was playing to win, Seemiller was playing not to lose. Poor Rudy, from almost winning in three, he goes down in six, never scoring less than 9 points a game. Style points to Miranda, match to Seemiller.

Friday's competition concluded with the 8th Annual California Hall of Fame Banquet. The inductees this year were Meiklejohn Director Olga Feingold-Kahan, control desk worker extraordinaire Marilyn Miller, and former USATT president Terry Timmins.

Don't party too late, the very serious fun event of Draw Doubles begins at 8:30 a.m. Would you believe \$1,000 up for grabs in a true luck-of-the-draw event with payoffs through the eighths? Winners Rey Domingo (2422) and Anthony Quintana (1260) believed, losing only one game in their march to their finals victory over Avishy Schmidt (2355) and Harriet Quon (1249).

Later that day, "Champion" Mendez, which was how Attila was addressing his peers during this tournament, won the Under 2400 singles, knocking off "Champion" Malek himself in the semis. Francisco had been down 2-1 against Attila but got his top-spin control game back together to take the next two. Mendez beat Miranda in the finals to earn a \$500 check from the money-man.

During a delightful lasagna dinner Saturday night at the complimentary players party, speculation had Musa a lock for the finals and probably Seemiller too. Safe prediction, but what no one guessed at all was a 28 year-old version of Seemiller showing up.

Danny loses the first game at five and you can tell the audience is concerned there'll be no battle. That lasts about four points into game two and when Danny wins at 10, the crowd is roaring its approval and the warrior Danny of old has emerged. The next three games are seesaw duce struggles, with Atanda winning games three and four, Danny winning the fifth. He also takes the sixth at 10 to even the match at 3-3. Along the comeback trail, the fans have seen both players power-looping, counter-spinning, down-the-line blocking, short-ball serving, quick-hit flipping and pushing perfectly. Duce in the seventh goes to Atanda and so does the match-ending eighth at 9. The difference? Atanda returns three, maybe four unreturnable shots at critical points. He showed remarkable composure under fire to deservedly win his second Meiklejohn title.

Thanks Bill and Louise Meiklejohn and the Leisure World Table Tennis Club.

Final Fantasy

Within 20 years I will be playing in Over 70 singles where I will defeat both George Brathwaite and Dave Sakai for the first time in my career. After saying something gracious like, "Sorry, guys, you're only as good as your last match," we will sit down together and watch Eric Owens and Jimmy Butler play for the Over 40 title.



Photo by Linda Hsing ©2002

Over 90 Singles: 1st Nancy Kellner (93); **2nd** Oscar Beckerman (90); **3rd** Frank Buchanan (90); **4th** Dora Morrison (93).

Over 85 Singles: Ivan Slade d. Harry Bloom, 3,1,1,6.

Over 80 Singles – Final: Ivan Slade d. Herb Gilbert, 4,7,1,7; **SF:** Slade d. Richard Badger, 10,6,5; Gilbert d. Si Wasserman, -3,12,10,-10,12.

Over 75 Singles – Final: Ivan Slade d. Neil Smyth, def; **SF:** Slade d. Wiley Butler, 8,5,13; Smyth d. Danny Kim, 8,-6,5,2.

Over 70 Singles – \$200 – Final: Frank Suran d. Dick Peregrine, 6,-6,-10,7,7,5; **SF:** Suran d. Chason Koh, 4,5,5; Peregrine d. Neil Smyth, 5,-8,7,4.

Over 60 Singles – \$400 – Nick Mintsiveris d. Thomas Klutho, 9,6,8,8; **SF:** Mintsiveris d. G. Brathwaite, 7,-9,-8,9,11; Klutho d. Hing-Kwok Law, -10,2,7,5.

Over 50 Singles – \$650 – Final: Parviz Mojaverian d. R. Domingo, 8,7,7,-9,9; **SF:** Mojaverian d. Boris Livshin, 6,7,8; Rey Domingo d. Hank McCoullum, 9,7,4.

Over 50 Women's Singles – \$550 – Charlene Liu d. Bella Livshin, 9,7,8,-8,-7,-7,5; **SF:** Liu d. Har Chan Pui, 9,-8,5,10; Livshin d. Donna Sakai, -6,8,6,6.

Over 40 Singles (Women) – \$550 – Hong Zhao d. Bella Livshin, 6,4,2,8; **SF:** Zhao d. Sandra Altamirano, 2,5,1; Livshin d. Charlene Liu, -7,7,-9,8,4.

Over 40 Elite (Over 2000) Singles – \$1,300 – Final: Atanda Musa d. Attila Malek, -9,8,2,4,8; **SF:** Musa d. Rey Domingo, 9,4,9; Malek d. Dan Seemiller, -10,-10,3,2,7.

Over 40 Singles (Open) – \$3,700 – Final: Atanda Musa d. Dan Seemiller, 5,-10,10,11,-9,-10,9; **SF:** Musa d. Hui Yuan Liu, 12,-4,-10,7; Seemiller d. Rey Domingo, 9,-9,8,6.

Over 75 Doubles – Final: Forsberg/Wasserman d. Wehrli/Jones, 6,10,-9,9,10; **SF:** Forsberg/Wasserman d. Lee/Moss, -10,9,4,-9,6; Wehrli/Jones d. Kim/Smyth, 10,6,8.

Draw Doubles – \$1,000 – Final: Domingo/Quintana d. Schmidt/Quon, 8,9,6,9; **SF:** Domingo/Quintana d. Musa/Stuart, -7,9,7,3; Schmidt/Quon d. Grossman/Kunze, -5,4,11,13.

Prize Money Results

1.	Atanda Musa	\$2300
2.	Dan Semiller	\$1500
3.	Rey Domingo	\$1000
4.	Francisco Mendez	\$ 950
5.	Attila Malek	\$ 775
6.	Rudy Miranda	\$ 450
7.	Parviz Mojaverian	\$ 450
8.	Hui Yuan Liu	\$ 400
9.	Ramin Samari	\$ 375
10.	Charlene Liu	\$ 350
11.	Bella Livshin	\$ 300
12.	Hong Zhao	\$ 300

Staff Salute

Julius Margolis, Alma Beckerman, Harry Bloom, Herb Gilbert, Ray Kunze, Craig Krum, Shonie Aki

Atanda Musa vs. Dan Seemiller, Over 40 Final.

U2400 Singles – \$950 – Final: Francisco Mendez d. Rudy Miranda, -5,7,8,2,5; **SF:** Mendez d. Attila Malek, 14,-9,-11,8,7; Miranda d. Avishy Schmidt, 9,-9,6,6.

U2300 Singles – \$650 – Final: Ramin Samari d. Phan Tung, -10,11,7,4; **SF:** Samari d. Doan Nhu Le, 8,7,-7,8; Tung d. Lloyd McQueen, 9,-10,-7,9,9.

U2050 Singles – \$295 – Final: Hamid Hayat d. Steve Varela, 12,12,8,-9,8; **SF:** Hayat d. John Schneider, -5,7,13,6; Varela d. Ralph Guillory, 4,1,8.

U1900 Singles – \$200 – Final: Ataian Joobian d. Hing-Kwok Law, -7,9,3,8; **SF:** Joobian d. Tom Wintrich, 5,6,5; Law d. Ralph Guillory, -7,9,3,8.

U1800 Singles – \$75 – Final: Michael Nguyen d. R.Freimuth, 8,-5,5,3,8; **SF:** Nguyen d. Simon Gendler, -4,7,-2,9,5; Reinhard Freimuth d. Shoni Aki, 1,4,9.

U1600 Singles – \$75 – Final: Michael Nguyen d. Sam Rajaratnam, 8,5,4,6; **SF:** Nguyen d. Martin Plost, 8,6,-9,-6,9; Rajaratnam d. David Kendall, 6,8,10.

U1450 Singles – Final: Walt Wehrli d. Jacinto Lopez Jr., -9,7,6,-9,4,7; **SF:** Wehrli d. Ralph Harriman, -7,12,4,-9,7; Lopez d. William Cooper, 6,5,6.

U1200 Singles – Final: Harry Ehrmantraut d. John Traino, 9,9,11,-10,8; **SF:** Ehrmantraut d. Yoshi Adachi, 10,11,9; Traino d. Thomas Koziol, 10,-6,8,-6,9.

U1300 Singles – Final: Andrew Wai d. Yoshi Adachi, -8,8,7,7,9; **SF:** Wai d. Harriet Quon, 6,10,7; Adachi d. Jacinto Lopez Jr., 10,11,-4,-8,7.

U1100 Singles – Final: Leo Egel d. Michael Pfeil, 7,5,9,7; **SF:** Egel d. John Traino, 9,-5,-3,8,4; Pfeil d. Machiko Hughey, 7,6,-11,4.

U4800 Doubles – \$1,000 – Final: Musa/Ohore d. Malek/Mendez, -5,-5,9,8,10,10; **SF:** Musa/Ohore d. Seemiller/Wedret, 7,1,7; Malek/Mend. d. Domingo/Mojaverian, 5,-5,4,6.

U4500 Doubles – \$500 – Final: Seemiller/Wintrich d. Brathwaite/Mendez, 9,-7,6,7,7; **SF:** Seemiller/Wintrich d. Malek/Farah, 7,10,7; Brathwaite/Mendez d. Samari/Caillaud, -9,8,6,-9,10.

U4200 Doubles – \$400 – Final: Le/Vo d. Wu/Zhao, 8,-6,7,-6,4,7; **SF:** Le/Vo d. Preiss/Rubin, -12,10,-9,10,5; Wu/Zhao d. Trillo/Tran, 7,11,8.

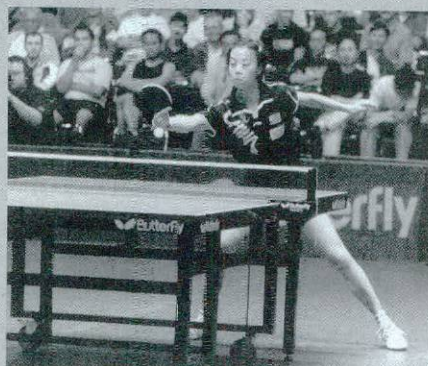
U3400 Doubles – \$400 – Final: Savitz/Shapiro d. Wu/Kwolek, 8,-11,7,7,13; **SF:** Savitz/Shapiro d. Smyth/Escobar, 6,3,4; Wu/Kwolek d. Miller/Aki, 7,11,11.

U2800 Doubles – Final: Delossantos/Lee d. Giron/Porter, -7,6,-9,6,10,-13,5; **SF:** Delossantos/Lee d. Powder/Lopez Jr., 4,7,6; Giron/Porter d. Portugal/Kahan, 8,7,-6,9.

U2300 Doubles – Final: Johnson/Shum d. Semenza/Longee, 3,-8,7,8,10; **SF:** Johnson/Shum d. Ozment/Kiang, 4,9,1; Semenza/Longee d. Hughey/Hamilton, 4,7,-8,9.

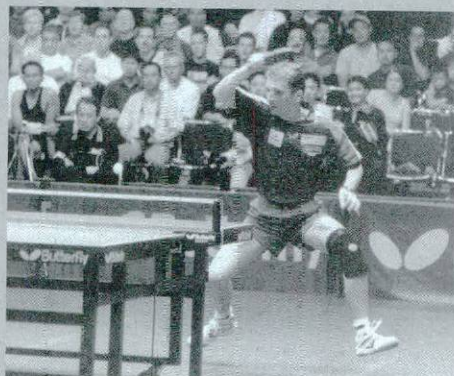
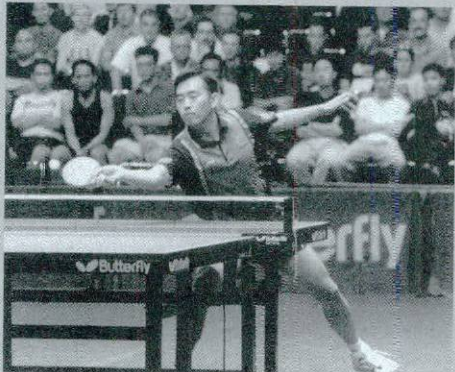
Over 70 Doubles – Final: Koh/Koshimoto d. Kim/Smyth, 6,7,4,5; **SF:** Koh/Koshimoto d. Forsberg/Powder, -10,5,5,1; Kim/Smyth d. Kunze/Kahan, 3,13,9.

2002



Photos by Mal Anderson ©2002

U.S.



Open

ITTF Pro Tour Men's Singles



By Larry Hodges

An interesting thing to watch this tournament was who was using hidden serves, and who was not. Since hidden serves become illegal on Sept. 1, some were using them right up to the last minute; others were preparing for the new rule. It seemed that the Chinese (except Liu Guoliang and Qin Zhijian) were no longer using hidden serves, while most of the others were. (However, their motions are so fast that it wasn't easy to tell if the serves were hidden or not.) Perhaps they were using this to test their players in the new serving era? Most of those who were not hiding their serves kept the racket hidden right up until the split second of contact, and hid it a split second after contact, so receivers only saw it for a split second, which made seeing contact somewhat difficult. Liu and Qin, however, continued to use hidden serves, probably the best in the world. U.S. Team Member and former Chinese Team Member Cheng Yinghua said, "Liu told me that this is his last few tournaments, that he is going to coach full-time after the new service rule." Liu was also hurt by the bigger 40mm ball, since his game is based on speed, and the larger ball slows play down slightly. China has already begun the transition, pairing Liu's regular doubles partner, Kong Linghui, with Ma Lin, and putting Liu with Guo Jinhao. One interesting question – if Liu does very well here and in the next few tournaments before "retiring," and qualifies for the ITTF Pro Tour Final, will he play there?



Round One (Round of 64)

World #1, men's singles world champion and top seed **Wang Liqin** of China, known as a slow starter, started out slowly, losing the first game to Germany's **Bastian Steger**, #85 in the world. Wang struggled throughout, and almost had to go the full seven games (if he hadn't pulled out the 14-12 fourth game) in winning -11,8,7,12,-9,6. It was an omen for the future.

The main upset this round was Norway's **Istvan Moldovan** (world #150) over Netherland's **Trinko Keen** (world #22), 8,9,4,-7,6.

Two Brazilian's played well. **Cazuo Masumoto** (an unranked qualifier who had defeated USA's Jim Butler to advance) upset Japan's **Toshio Tasaki**, world #40, -4,8,8,7,-12,9. **Thiago Monteiro**, also of Brazil – ranked just 179 in the world, but with a win over then #16 in the world Christophe Legout at the last World Championships – battled with Austria's **Werner Schlager** (world #7) before losing 6,9,-8,10,-6,5. Schlager almost never wins in straight games.

Maze's teammate, **Martin Monrad** (world #90), almost took out Germany's **Torben Wosik** (world #41), losing -9,9,4,-10,7,9.

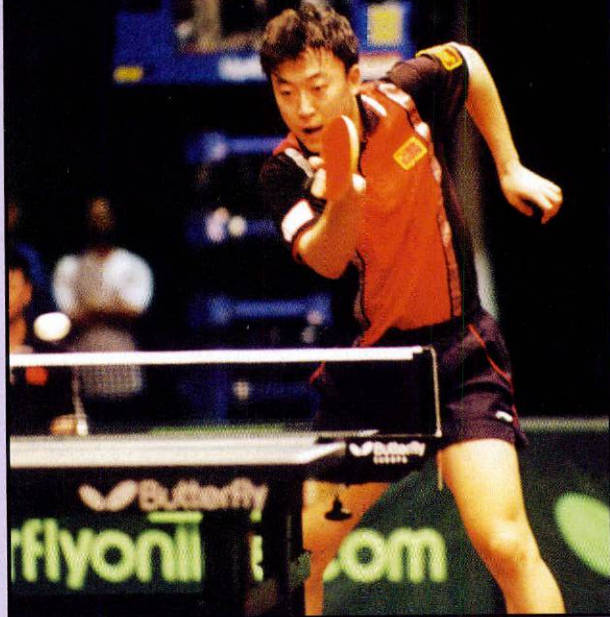
Hong Kong's **Leung Chu Yan** (world #56) avoided a 7-game match by pulling the sixth, 17-15, against Germany's **Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth** (world #101), 7,-10,6,6,-8,15.

Korea's **Oh Sang Eun**, world #14, lost the first two games to Denmark's **Finn Tugwell** (world #96), but came back to win, -9,-8,8,8,9,7.

There were two 7-game matches among the 32 matches played. In one, Japan's **Arai Shu**, an unranked player who had made it through the qualifier by defeating Norway's **Geir Erlandsen** (world #66), defeated Denmark's phenom, **Michael Maze** (world #57), in a seesaw match, 12,3,-4,-6,-9,7,2. In the other 7-gamer, China's **Guo Jinhao** (an unranked qualifier) upset Hong Kong's **Li Ching** (world #50), 10,-7,-6,3,-9,5,6.

Two USA men were seeded into the main draw, and didn't have to play in the preliminaries – **David Zhuang** and **Eric Owens**. Four others made it through the preliminaries and into

Men's Singles & Doubles Champion Ma Lin



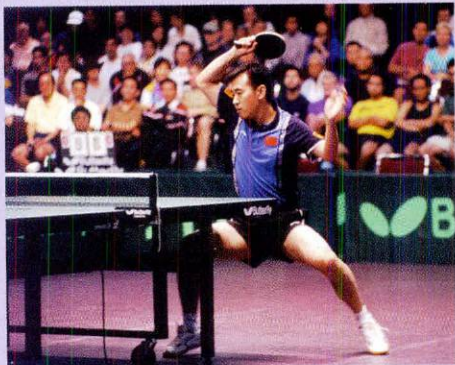
the main draw: Atanda Musa, Cheng Yinghua, Wang Fei and Han Xiao (see box, page 56). All but David Zhuang lost in the first round of the main draw:

- David Zhuang (USA, world #122) d. Trajan Ciociu (LUX, world #143), -6,7,6,-11,7,12.
- Wang Hao (CHN, world #16) d. Atanda Musa (USA), 4,5,3,4
- Danny Heister (NED, world #24) d. Han Xiao (USA), 7,4,4,4
- Lee Chul Seung (KOR, world #30) d. Cheng Yinghua (USA, world #107), 5,7,9,3
- Alexei Smirnov (RUS, world #47) d. Wang Fei (USA, world #153), 13,9,-8,9,-6,5
- Karl Jindrak (AUT, world #171) d. Eric Owens (USA, world #275), 10,13,8,4

Round Two (Round of 32)

World #1, top seed and reigning world champion Wang Liqin of China is out of Men's Singles! The upset was applied by his very own doubles partner here, world #54 Qin Zhijian, -8,11,7,-5,9,8. (See box, page 38.)

The round's second major upset was Hong Kong's Leung Chu Yan (world #56) over China's Wang Hao (world #16). Wang is



considered by many to be the future big star for China, but not this time, as Leung advanced to the final sixteen, 7,-8,9,8,-9,7.

China's Liu Guoliang (world #9), who's had his share of struggles the last couple of years, struggled but prevailed against Austria's Chen Weixing, 9,-5,3,9,-9,-5,8. Liu, who has won just about every major title possible (including men's singles at the Worlds and Olympics), never seems to have adjusted to the larger 40mm ball with his pips-out penhold game.

Of the next three Chinese "powers," only one had an easy time, with Kong Linghui (world #5) defeating Brazil's Cazu Masumoto (unranked qualifier), 7,1,8,4. Liu Guozheng (world #10) struggled early on in defeating Russia's Alexei Smirnov (world #47) at 11,12,-7,8,5. Ma Lin (world #2) defeated teammate Guo Jinhao (unranked qualifier), but not without a struggle: 7,7,-4,6,-8,6.

USA's David Zhuang won the first against Hong Kong's Cheung Yuk (world #26), 11-9. Cheung is your basic two-winged power looper, who (like many before him), had trouble with Zhuang's steady and deceptive blocking. He gradually adjusted, and after struggling for two games, won the last three relatively easily. Match to Cheung, -9,9,6,5,3. With Zhuang out, there were no USA players left in the event.

Austria's Karl Jindrak (world #171) had his hands full in "upsetting" Norway's Istvan

Moldovan (world #150), 6,-7,11,-7,-6,6,8.

Germany's Torben Wosik (world #41) upset Netherland's Danny Heister (world #24), -5,11,4,5,9.

Arai Shu, the unranked player from Japan, saw his run finally at an end, at the hands of Brazil's Hugo Hoyama (world #103), 10,9,9,-8,9.

Austria's Werner Schlager (world #7) also had to struggle (did we mention that he almost never wins in straight games?), just edging out China Taipei's Chang Yen-Shu (world #32) after falling behind 3-1, -5,5,-12,-5,9,5,2. With Timo Boll's last-minute withdrawal, Schlager was the main hope for the Europeans.

Germany's Thomas Keinath (world #94), pulled out a small upset over Romania's Adrian Crisan (world #66), 10,-6,5,8,-2,-8,8. USA's Wally Green, who has been playing and coaching in Germany, was his coach for the match and tournament, and spurred on by Wally's exuberance, Keinath (a steady two-winged looper with good serves) pulled out the first of two consecutive grueling battles on his way to the quarterfinals.

Korea's Lee Chul Seung (world #30) pulled off a "zero," defeating Hong Kong's Ko Lai Chak (world #43) at 0,7,7,8.



ITTF

**Scenes from the U.S. ITTF Pro Tour
Fort Lauderdale, FL
July 3-7, 2002**

Facing Page

Photos by Mal Anderson ©2002.
Clockwise from top left: Ma Lin, Zhang Yining, Qin Zhijian, Lau Sui Fei, Liu Guoliang, Frederick Hakansson, Werner Schlager (center), Kong Linghui.

This Page

Photos by Diego Schaaf ©2002.
Top right: Ma Lin.
Clockwise from above: Kong Linghui, Niu Jianfeng, Lin Ling, Fredrick Hakansson/Oh Sang Eun

PRO

TOUR

Who is Qin Zhijian?

By Larry Hodges

World #1, top seed and reigning world champion Wang Liqin of China was knocked out of Men's Singles in the round of 64 – the 32nds – by his very own doubles partner here, world #54 Qin Zhijian, -8,11,7,-5,9,8.

So ... who is Qin Zhijian?

While not well known outside China, he's very well known in China, and to table tennis insiders worldwide. He is the reigning World Mixed Doubles Champion, with Yang Ying. (Yet, after representing China at the last worlds and winning the Mixed Doubles, he was "transferred" to the Hong Kong team, and then later "transferred" back.) At the last Chinese Nationals, he had also defeated Wang Liqin, in the men's singles semifinals, losing the final to Ma Lin as he would do here. However, Qin had defeated Ma at the recent China Open.

He is a left-handed penholder with inverted on both sides. The key phrase is "both sides," as Qin uses both sides of his racket on the backhand side. He can both loop and hit (or block) with either side – either the conventional way, or the reverse penhold style made popular by Liu Guoliang and Ma Lin in recent

years. (He has a nice off-the-bounce reverse penhold backhand loop.) He is also known for his great touch. In his match with Wang Liqin, he often caught Wang off guard by sudden backhand hits from off the table.

Qin is famous in another rather unique way – he is a star (in a major role) in a major TV series in China! He played a fictional table tennis player on the show "National Ball Player."

He played in the U.S. Open Teams in 1997, where he was undefeated except for a 2-1 loss to Fan Yi Yong.

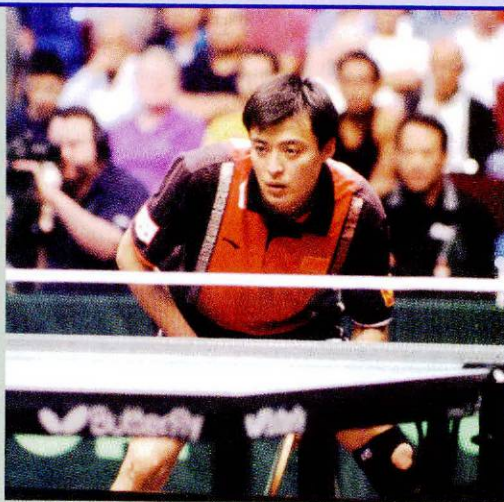


Photo by Diego Scharf ©2002

Others advancing:

Sweden's **Fredrick Hakansson** (world #33), still hoped to be the heir of Waldner, showed promise in barely pulling out an upset against Korea's **Ryu Seung Min** (world #19), 7,8,-7,9,-10,13.

China Taipei's **Chuan Chih-Yuan** (world #17) and a semifinalist last year, won his match against Denmark's **Allen Bentsen** (world #45), 13,11,8,8. Chuan is one of the more crowd-pleasing players with his smooth two-winged looping game, and still looks like a teenager.

And Korea's **Oh Sang Eun** (world #14) and his two-winged "whip" loops had no problems with Sweden's **Jens Lundqvist** (world #52), 7,9,8,6.

Round Three (Round of 16)

The major upset this round was Sweden's **Fredrik Hakansson** (world #33 and the current Swedish National Men's Singles Champion) defeating China's **Liu Guozheng** (world #10), 4,6,-3,9,12. It was a battle of big bashers, with both going for shots, especially Liu. Hakansson had a knack for blocking back clean winners off some of Liu's off-the-bounce power loops, and ran away with the first two games. Up 3-1 in games, Hakansson went up 7-1 in the fifth, and the match was about over – until Liu Guozheng ran off five in a row, 7-6! "Liu is good at coming back," said U.S. Under 16 Champ Han Xiao, remembering Liu's spectacular comebacks in the team competition at the Worlds versus Kim Taek Soo. Hakansson went up 9-7, but Liu came back again to 9-9. Hakansson had three match points, but couldn't convert until the score reached 12-all. That's when Liu serve and absolutely pulverised the return with a forehand loop from the backhand corner – and watched helplessly as Hakansson blocked back a clean winner to the wide forehand. Hakansson then serve and looped, and when Liu missed the counterloop, the Swede was in the quarterfinals.

The most spectacular match of the round was the counterloop spectacle between the tall, arm-whip looping **Oh Sang Eun** of Korea (world #14) versus the short, run-to-every-ball-and-loop **Chuan Chih-Yuan** of Chinese Taipei (world #17 and a semifinalist last year). Most spectators thought the extremely fast Chuan would win, and when he won the first two easily (4,6), it looked that way. From there on, the level kept rising, and soon the two were trading loops from both wings, including some spectacular backhand counterlooping. Chuan's footspeed finally paid off as he won, 4,6,-9,-6,10,6.

Liu Guoliang of China (world #9) had to struggle again, this time with **Torben Wosik** of Germany. Wosik is a lefty shakehand power-looper who seemingly couldn't return half of Liu's serves, popping them up or missing them silly-like over and over. And yet, after the first game, he basically battled dead even with Liu. At one point, Wosik missed or popped up nearly every one of Liu's serves one game – and still won the game with great rallies and serves that gave Liu some trouble as well. Liu went

up 3-2, and led 10-7 match point in the sixth – and called time-out, perhaps to discuss with his coach what serve to use. He chose the wrong one, and Wosik pulled to 10-9. On the last point, Liu pulled off a spectacular smash, and Wosik lobbed three before surrendering the match, 4,-9,10,8,-11,9.

Thomas Keinath of Germany (world #94) continued on his roll, with Wally Green still coaching and cheering for him. This time he upset **Leung Chu Yan** of Hong Kong (world #56), who had upset China's Wang Hao to get this far, at 5,14,-9,7,-5,5, with game two the key game.

Werner Schlager of Austria (world #7) had his counterlooping hands full with Korea's **Lee Chul Seung** (world #30). Schlager is a two-winged shakehand looper known for his spectacular backhand loop, while Lee is an inverted penhold power-looper. The two slugged it out for seven games, with Schlager shrugging off an 11-1 shellacking in the sixth to win it, -11,8,8,-7,4,-1,6. Did we mention Schlager rarely wins in straight games?

The other three matches were quick 4-0 wins for Chinese players: **Qin Zhijian** (world #54, but giant-killer of Wang Liqin the round before) defeated Brazil's **Hugo Hoyama** (world #103), 8,6,4,3, using his short game to stop Hugo's lefty penhold attack; **Kong Linghui** (world #5) defeated Hong Kong's **Cheung Yuk** (world #26), 10,6,4,6, using a unique backhand serve with the tip up, and the racket moving right-to-left; and **Ma Lin** (world #2) defeated Austria's **Karl Jindrak** (world #171), 10,4,3,7.

Quarterfinals

All four quarterfinal men's matches were basically displays of overwhelming power and ability by the winner, ending with quick 4-0 or 4-1 wins.

China's **Qin Zhijian**, obviously no world #54 after defeating teammate Wang Liqin earlier, easily took out another top teammate, this time pips-out penholder **Liu Guoliang**, 6,12,9,8. Both players had great difficulty with the other's serves, but Liu had far more trouble than Qin, missing over and over. This was a rather strange turn of events, as usually it is Liu's opponents that have great difficulty with his serves – such as in Liu's previous match, where Germany's Torben Wosik had so many problems with them.

Austria's **Werner Schlager** (world #7) similarly had little trouble with Germany's **Thomas Keinath** (world #94), winning at 7,7,7,6. The match was a counterlooping duel, but Schlager's backhand loop (in a rare straight-game win) was just too powerful.

Probably the most anticipated match was China's **Kong Linghui** (world #5, former world men's singles champion) against up-and-coming **Chuan Chih-Yuan** of Chinese Taipei (world #17). It was probably the best of the four men's quarterfinals matches, with both players topspinning strongly from both wings, but Kong's versatility was just too much – he can win points too many ways. Chuan pulled out the first game 12-10, but from there on it was all downhill for him. Match to Kong, -10,8,6,8,3.



Paddle Palace



LUCJAN BLASZCZYK
World class player wearing
Havana Shirt

Paddle
Palace

LATEST APPAREL FROM

BEST-QUALITY CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS IN NEWEST LINE OF SPORTSWEAR FROM TIBHAR. YOU'LL FEEL THE DIFFERENCE IN COMFORT AND EASE OF MOTION!

TIBHAR

THE AMERICAN COLLECTION

Tibhar presents the Red, White and Blue of the #1 college team in the U.S.A. - Texas Wesleyan University. Also worn by the French National Team.



USA TRACKSUIT

Comfortable warm-up in soft, breathable micro fibre. Fully lined with cotton. Straight-leg trousers w/knee-high zipper for easy on and off. Jacket is fitted at waist with drawcord. Blue/red. Sizes: XS to XXXL. Item: LTWF

\$86.95



USA SHIRT

V-neck and buttoned collar. 100% cotton jersey. Red/blue or blue/red. Sizes: XS to XXXL. Item: LTPF

\$29.95

USA SHORTS

Coordinates perfectly with USA SHIRT and TRACKSUIT. Micro fibre gives a comfortable and light feeling of movement. Blue/red

Sizes: XS to XXXL. Item: LTSF

\$23.95



HAVANA TRACKSUIT

Fashionable design w/ contrasting stripes on the shoulders. Zip front jacket fitted at the waist w/drawcord. Trousers have elastic waistband and zipper. Micro fibre w/polyester lining. Beige/black

Sizes: XS to XXXL. Item: LTWH

\$86.95



HAVANA SHIRT

Very sporty and fashionable shirt made of breathable 100% cotton jersey. Contrasting stripes on shoulders. Red, blue, beige. Sizes: XS to XXXL. Item: LTPH

\$29.95



HAVANA SHORTS

Very trendy short, ultra light micro fibre with slightly longer cut. Comfortable inner slip for ease of movement. Black or grey. Sizes: XS to XXXL. Item: LTSH

\$21.95



THE POWER AND THE LIGHT!

Choose from Tibhar's newest blades: The Dynamic 7 Contact [Acceleration and Catapult effect in a super light blade] or Power 40 [Unbelievable power with precision] Custom Combo Price ONLY

\$79.95

Price includes your choice of Blade + ANY 2 sheets Tibhar rubber!

Go to our website to see more great Custom Combos:

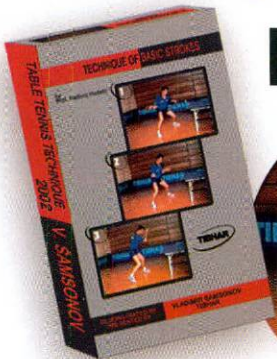
Blaszczyk	72.95
Samsonov Carbon	98.95
Samsonov Alpha	78.95
Samsonov Premium Contact	69.95
Tibhar IVL	78.95
Tibhar IVS	78.95
Tibhar IVT	78.95
Damien Eloi	69.95

NEW VIDEO!

TABLE TENNIS TECHNIQUE 2002 with Vladimir Samsonov

Learn the secrets of top world-ranked player Vladimir Samsonov! Narrated throughout with excellent studio fast-mo and slow-mo demos of all basic and advanced techniques of table tennis. Outstanding video segments from international competition. This exceptional video gives the most thorough and advanced instruction of instructional videos available on the market. Professional quality. 70 minutes.

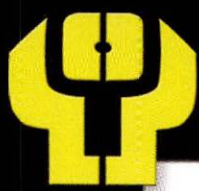
\$34.95



Paddle Palace: North American Distributor for Tibhar Products

www.paddlepalace.com

1-800-547-5891



Palace

JUIC[®] ULTIMA SPECIAL

Special! 3 NEW RUBBER SHEETS WITH SUPER HIGH TENSION SPONGE = POWER PLAY

New! Ultima high-tension sponge with spiny/fast Juic 999 Elite topsheet! [SMOOTH]
JUIC 999 ELITE ULTIMA

Fantastic MADE IN JAPAN masterpiece! You can now compensate for the 40mm ball's longer rallies. For rubber, this means having more softness, lightness, and speed with its 10% lighter than normal sponge. Perfect combination for the 40mm ball. Speed: 9.6 Spin: 9.6 Sponge: 1.8, 2.0, 2.5. Reg: \$26.95. Item: RJ9EU

DRIVA SMASH ULTIMA

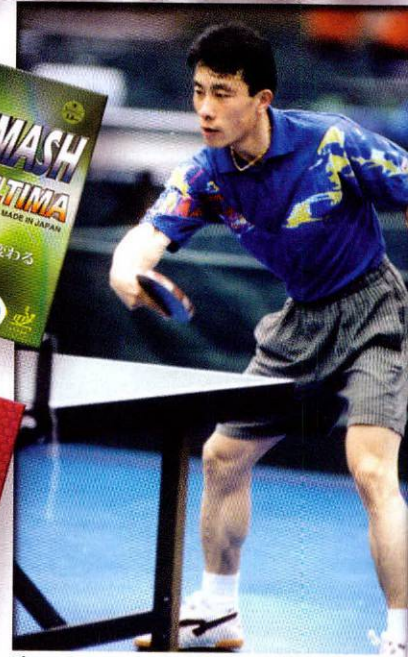
[SMOOTH] Sponge has "tension" for flexible play and more power. Lighter feeling. Speed: 9.3. Spin: 9.4. Sponge: 2.0, 2.5. Reg. \$28.95. Item: RJDRU

OFFENSE ULTIMA

[PIPS OUT] Compensate for 40mm ball w/this higher tension, thinner sponge. Speed: 9.3. Spin: 7.4. Sponge: 2.0, 2.5. Reg. \$27.95. Item: RJOU



YOUR CHOICE \$22.95



Yiyong Fan, U.S. #1-rated player, uses the Juic Yiyong Fan blade w/Juic 999 Elite on forehand, Juic Montjuic Super on backhand.

NEW LIGHTNESS, SPEED, & POWER OF TITANIUM TITANIUM II OFFENSE

\$99.95

The JUIC Titanium series, with the combination of meshed Titanium and wood, has been greatly improved by the process of electric-drying which reduces weight by 10-15%. Meshed titanium provides excellent power and speed even with its lightness. For 40mm ball play, this blade is highly recommended with the JUIC ULTIMA rubber series. Speed: OFF+. Handle: FL, AN, ST, Chinese Penhold, Japanese Penhold. Wgt: 85 gms. Plies: 5 Price: blade only \$74.95. Item: XSJT2

PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR JUIC PRODUCTS

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MANY MORE JUIC CUSTOM COMBOS, INCLUDING THE Balsa-Carbon, Carbon Power, Yiyong Fan, Kalinic and Selected Penhold Blades.

GO TO paddlepalace.com FOR A COMPLETE LINE OF STIGA PRODUCTS!

COMING SOON: New Stiga blades and rubber.



PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR STIGA PRODUCTS

PRIDE ATHLETIC BAG
Large multipurpose bag. Padded shoulder strap, zippered pockets. 27" long. Navy blue. \$45.75



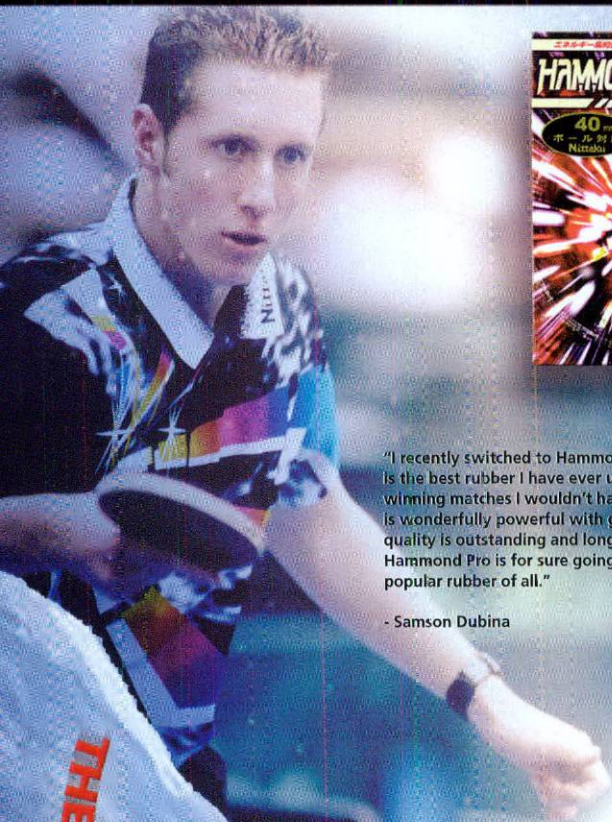
PRIDE ATHLETIC BAG
Handy size for all your gear. Padded adjustable shoulder strap, with lots of pockets. 23" long. Black. \$41.75



PRIDE BACKPACK
Perfect busy lifestyle tote bag. Reflector on back an added safety feature. Navy blue. \$24.65

MORE GREAT PRODUCTS AT GREAT PRICES ON OUR WEBSITE

www.paddlepalace.com
1-800-547-5891



"I recently switched to Hammond Pro because it is the best rubber I have ever used and I am now winning matches I wouldn't have won before. It is wonderfully powerful with great control. The quality is outstanding and long lasting. I believe Hammond Pro is for sure going to be the most popular rubber of all."

- Samson Dubina

THE BEST BALL IN ANY DIMENSION

Nittaku®
 Official ball of the U.S. Open, U.S. National Championships and 2001 World Championships

Special!

NITTAKU YOUNG STAR 40mm
 World's best practice ball now on **SPECIAL!** Buy 1 gross [12 dozen balls] for **\$39.95!** That's only **\$.28 per ball!** \$5.95/12 balls. White or Orange

NEW! HAMMOND PRO

This is the rubber you have been waiting for! Perfect speed, perfect spin, perfect control. 10% lighter! Speed: 9.4, Spin: 9.4, Sponge: 2.0, 2.2. Item: RNHA

\$27.95

You feel the difference!



Special!



Special!

MORISTO: ALL 3 VERSIONS YOUR CHOICE

\$29.95

Reg. \$38.95

Special!



MORISTO FG

Same top sheet as Moristo plus special new sponge to give more speed, as if speed glue is already applied. Great for 40mm ball! Speed: 9.2, Spin: 9.4, Sponge: 2.0, 2.2. Reg: \$38.95. Item: RNMOF

MORISTO

The latest technology for both topsheet and sponge. Tension stays inside the rubber as if speed glue were applied. For players who re-glue. Speed: 9.1, Spin: 9.4, Sponge: 1.6, 2.0, 2.2. Reg: \$38.95. Item: RNMO

MORISTO 2000

Speed: 9.3, Spin: 9.4, Sponge: 2.0, 2.2. Reg: \$38.95. Item: RNMO2



PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS



TREND ATHLETIC BAG
 Large carry all bag. Sturdy construction w/ removeable shoulder strap and zip pockets. 26" long. Royal blue or black. **\$37.95**

TREND PADDLE CASE

Zippered protective case w/ pocket for 3 balls. Royal blue/black or black/grey. **\$8.50**

TREND DOUBLE CASE

Handy wallet style. Holds 2 racquets. Royal blue/black or black/grey. **\$14.20**



BRAND NEW TREND BAGS FROM STIGA!

Top quality, sturdy athletic bags and cases to carry your gear and protect your equipment.



Semifinalist Werner Schlager



Sweden's **Fredrik Hakansson** (world #33, but defeater of Liu Guozheng the previous round) hoped to make it two top Chinese in a row, against **Ma Lin** (world #2). But penhold looper Ma simply generates too much raw power in his shots, and won most of the counterlooping rallies, as well as any other rally that he got his forehand on. He also dominated with his serves. Ma won the first two at 8 & 4, and led 10-6 in the third when Hakansson made a move, scoring four in a row. Ma led 11-10, and ripped a powerful forehand – but Hakansson made a miracle forehand block winner to the open court, 11-11. Ma ripped another “winner,” and this time Hakansson blocked a backhand clean winner! Hakansson went on to win this game, 14-12. However, the rest of the way was all Ma as he won the match, 8,4,-12,7,5. Leading 10-7 in the fourth, Ma called a time-out – demonstrating the different use of the timeouts. While most of the rest of the world calls timeouts when they are in trouble, most Chinese players call timeouts when they are about to win a game, to make sure they don't let up. Another interesting note is that Ma didn't seem to be hiding his serves, although you could see that he was pushing it to the limit, with contact just visible to the opponent. I watched from Hakansson's viewpoint to verify this – Ma seemed to be serving a lot of short no-spin and sidespin/backspins with a very fast motion, and Hakansson didn't seem able to make effective returns. Hakansson also wasn't using hidden serves, but Ma had less trouble with his serves.

One interesting point: leading 10-8 in the third – the game he would end up losing – Ma badly mishit his serve, and hit the ball all the way over the table into Hakansson without hitting *either* side of the table! You could just see the crowd recognizing themselves in that miss-hit.)

Semifinals

Qin Zhijian (CHN) d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 3,-7,7,8,9

This was a match of serve and return. Both hid their serves. There were a lot of short returns of serves, and lots of serve & flip kills. But while Schlager seemingly couldn't do anything but pop serves up in the first, and Qin did almost as poorly with Schlager's serve in the second, the rest of the way Qin's returns were better. The left-handed penholder simply overpowered Schlager on his serve, and out-rallied him on Schlager's serve. Schlager did get his share of serve & attacks, as well as some spectacular backhand loops, but too often he was fighting to come back after popping up a serve or two. Overall, the rallies were very short. Schlager did make a run of it in the fifth game, leading 7-5, but then lost five in a row. The final point, with Schlager one point away from deuce, was brilliant, with Qin moving Schlager all over the court, side-to-side, until Schlager finally missed a running backhand loop.

Ma Lin (CHN) d. Kong Linghui (CHN), -9,5,7,5,7

Until recent years, Kong would have been the favorite here. However, Ma seems to get better and better every year. The match was a battle of Kong's smoothness versus Ma's explosiveness, and Ma's nearly hidden serves versus Kong's clearly visible serves. Neither were using hidden serves (although the rule doesn't go into effect until Sept. 1), with Kong's

backhand serves clearly visible. When people see this type of serves Ma was using – where I could barely see contact despite contact being “clearly visible” in the split second that it was visible - the “triangle rule” (where nothing at contact could be in the triangle formed by contact and the netposts) might be reconsidered. As it was, Kong had trouble with Ma's serve, and Ma teed off over and over. The serves were the main difference in the match.

There was a lot of counterlooping in the match, especially early on. As the match went on, rallies mostly were shorter, as Ma was teeing off more and more, not letting Kong get into the counterlooping rallies he'd used to win game one. After the first game (where, at 9-9, Kong had won two straight points on net balls!), it was all Ma.

Final

Ma Lin (CHN) d. Qin Zhijian (CHN), 8,7,7,-8,8

Ma got his revenge this match for losing to Qin at the China Open. (Interestingly, Qin, the world mixed doubles champion, played for China at the Worlds last year, but was “transferred” afterwards to the Hong Kong team.) In this battle of penholders, Ma dominated with his serve & loop, and all-around rallying skills. Qin never seemed comfortable against his serve, especially in the first three games. Both players played similarly, despite the difference in builds – the short, stocky Ma versus the tall Qin. One interesting difference: both players have excellent reverse-side penhold backhand loops, but while Ma usually does his from off the table, Qin often does it right off the bounce for a winner.

Ma went up 10-5 in the first, and 8-0 in the second, and neither game was really in doubt, although Qin staged minor comebacks each game, never giving up before losing them at 8 & 7. In the third, they played to 6-6, but from there it was all Ma, 11-7. Qin seemed to raise his level from here on, and the two actually were 19-19 in points the rest of the way – but up 3-0, a split of the last two games was all Ma needed in winning 4-1.

Since Qin is left-handed and Ma right-handed, their natural forehand serve motion made hidden serves more natural. In this match, both seemed to hide serves because of this. (Qin had been hiding serves all along.) It brings out an interesting point – what are non-hidden serves against a righty (by a righty) become hidden serves when served to a lefty! (And vice versa.) So players will have to adjust for this after Sept. 1, when hidden serves become illegal. Ma didn't change his service motion for this match, yet his “visible” serve from before were now “not visible,” and not legal after Sept. 1.

Ma's serving technique- where you could just barely see contact in the split second when the racket wasn't hidden (by body, arm or shoulder) – seems the future of high-level serving, until and unless the service rule is changed again.



U.S. Men's Team: Cheng Yinghua, Ashu Jain, Coach Dan Seemiller, David Zhuang, Eric Owens.



Play The Best™

Become A STIGA® Club And Receive A \$5,000 Sponsorship Award OR Receive Free STIGA® Tables And Equipment... Contact Your STIGA® Club Distributor For More Information About This Exciting Opportunity

(STIGA® Club Tables And Equipment Available For Limited Time Only)

Play The Best Tables And Equipment At Your Club

Each Table Tennis Club Can Design The Stiga Club Program To Fit Their Specific Club Needs

Table Tennis Tables, Equipment And Accessories



For Further Information About The Stiga Club Program, Contact These Distributors

Stiga Distributor

Paddle Palace

Tel: 1-800-547-5891

Fax: 1-503-777-4062

Email: tt@paddlepalace.com

Call Us For A Free Catalog!

ESCALADE® SPORTS



Made In U.S.A.

Stiga Distributor

Table Tennis Pioneers

Tel: 1-800-319-Ping

Fax: 1-800-319-Pong

Email: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com

Call Us For A Free Catalog!

The **NEWGY™ Robot System**

We Have A Robot That Is Ideal For You.

Start At Any Level & Then "STEP UP" At Your Own Pace With Our Upgrade Kits!

UPGRADING YOUR ROBOT IS

**QUICK, EASY
& COST EFFECTIVE!**

**All Models Accept Both
38 and 40mm Balls!**

**NEW
IMPROVED
BUCKET
DESIGN!**



**Robo-Pong
540**

\$229⁰⁰*

Your first step to seeing how robot practice can revolutionize your game. This model is ideal for recreational players and the budget-minded. Lower speed and frequency ranges and static delivery accommodate untrained strokes. Set on top of table and twist base to desired trajectory. Improved bucket design ensures reliable ball feed.



**Robo-Pong
1040**

\$359⁰⁰

The next step up is this great robot for intermediate and tournament level players. Includes all features of Robo-Pong 540 plus oscillation and more powerful speed/frequency controls. Bucket Extender expands ball capacity for longer continuous play.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES FOR ROBO-PONG

ACCESSORY	540	1040	2040
Recycling Net Upgrade	●	●	I
RP 540 Upgrade Kit	●	I	I
Ball Catch Net	●	●	
Robo-Tote			●
Pong-Master			●
Robo-Caddy	●	●	●
Pong-Pal	●	●	●
Bucket Extender	●	I	
40mm Robo-Balls★★	●	●	●
38mm Robo-Balls★	●	●	●

I=Included

805 Teal Drive • P.O. Box 959 Gallatin, TN 37066 USA e-mail: newgy@newgy.com

*** Available July 2002
** Available Now**

CALL US NOW! 1-800-55-NEWGY
 or order online at www.newgy.com

ROBO-PONG 2040®

\$695⁰⁰**

When you're ready for the big step, this is the ultimate robot for serious players or those with discriminating tastes. Used by top players like Yiyong Fan, #1 U.S. player. Can do everything Robo-Pong 1040 does and more. Recycling Net captures your returns and recycles the balls for non-stop action! Plug in optional Pong-Master for a fun target game to hone your accuracy and consistency or use it as a timer for your drills.

Yiyong Fan
 #1 U.S. Player

ROBO-PONG FEATURES CHART

FEATURE	540	1040	2040
Recycling Net			●
Ball Bucket	●	●	●
Remote Control	●	●	●
Oscillation Control		●	●
Head Angle Adjustment	●	●	●
Spin Selection	●	●	●
Spin/Speed Range	1-8	1-10	1-10
Frequency Range	1-8	1-10	1-10
Ball Capacity 40mm	86	200	120*
40mm Balls Included	48	48	48
videotape			●
Instructional Book			●

*Recommended Capacity. Balls Recycle

National Coach
 Richard McAfee
 with prize student
 Preston Chin
 (U.S. #1 U-10)



Each product comes with a 30 day money back guarantee and 1 year warranty.



BUILDING TOMORROW'S CHAMPIONS

ITTF Pro Tour Women's Singles

By Larry Hodges

Round One (Round of 64)

This round brought us to the final 32 women. All of the top seeds advanced except one, world #37 **Olga Nemes** of Germany, a semifinalist last year. Among the top eight seeds, six matches were quick 4-0 wins, with the top two seeds each losing a game: World #1 **Wang Nan** of China defeated **Biljana Golic** of Yugoslavia, 5,-9,9,6,5, and world #2 **Zhang Yining**, also of China, defeated **Ligia Silva** of Brazil, 6,4,-8,2,5.

Often in early round results, especially in women's singles, most matches are quick 4-0 whitewashes, and many matches this round were like that. But a couple of youthful Canadians battled with the veterans – and one pulled it out.

Canada's **Petra Cada**, ranked #167 in the world, pulled off the biggest upset so far, defeating Nemes, 5,-7,-10,9,-10,3,8. The tall Canadian relied on her strong countering game in the win.

Canada's junior girls' champion **Marie-Christine Roussy**, #241 in the world, almost matched her teammate against Korea's **Kim Moo Kyo**, world #20. The Seemiller-grip junior (using one side of the racket for forehand and backhand, with a sheet of antispin on the other side to flip to for variation) confused the veteran, who might never have seen such a style before, and Roussy went up 3-1. However, the experienced Kim figured the style out in time, -5,9,-8,-10,5,6,5.

Two USA women were seeded into the main draw, and didn't have to play in the preliminaries – **Tawny Banh** and **Jasna Reed**. (U.S. #1 ranked player Chang Jun Gao withdrew, apparently due to commitments in China, where she is currently playing and training.) Three others made it through the preliminaries and into the main draw: Virginia Sung, Simone Yang and Jackie Lee. All five lost in the first round:

- Li Nan (CHN, world #7) d. **Jackie Lee** (USA), 7,4,4,4
- Satoko Kishida (JPN, world #49) d. **Simone Yang** (USA), 6,4,6,8
- Ai Fukuhara (JPN, world #67) d. **Virginia Sung** (USA), -8,8,5,2,-7,-3,4
- Imafuku Kumi (JPN, world #128) d. **Tawny Banh** (USA), 9,5,6,-9,2
- Sugita Sanae (JPN, world #150) d. **Jasna Reed** (USA), 8,-9,-4,6,5,8

Round Two (Round of 32)

The big upset of the round was Hong Kong's **Zhang Rui** (world #80) over China's **Li Nan** (world #7, the sixth seed), 12,-6,8,10,7. Of course, as someone said, "Hong Kong is part of China, so China won." That was probably little consolation to Li.

The rest of the top seeds won easily. World #1 and top-seeded **Wang Nan** of China defeated Korea's **Suk Eun Mi** (world #48) at 7,1,7,11. Second-seeded **Zhang Yining** (world #3), also of China, defeated Germany's **Elke Wosik** (world #61), 11,8,6,9. Third-seeded **Niu Jianfeng** (world #4), still another of the Chinese superstars, defeated Japan's **Miyuki Nishii** (world #103), 5,3,6,6. Fourth-seeded **Ryu Ji Hye** of Korea (world #5), the non-Chinese in the mix, defeated Japan's **Keiko Okazaki** (world #68), 6,5,7,-7,6.

Two up-and-coming stars saw their quest come to an end. Japan's **Ai Fukuhara** ("Ai-chan" – see box) lost to Hong Kong's **Lin Ling** (world #8), 9,7,9,5. Canada's **Petra Cada** lost to China's **Li Jia** (world #15), 6,4,4,6.

One of the strangest matches was Austria's **Liu Jia** (world #26) over Germany's **Tanja Hain-Hoffmann** (world #115). Liu lost one game at 1, while winning two games at 2 and 3 – and these three games were consecutive! Scores were -8,10,-1,2,3,9.

Lau Sui Fei of Hong Kong (world #30) was coasting to an easy victory over Japan's **Yuka Nishii** (world #59), winning the first three games, including an 11-1 first-game thrashing. But Nishii staged a comeback, won the next three games, and almost won the seventh before losing, 1,9,6,-8,-4,-13,9.

In another long match, China's **Cao Xingni** (world #36) defeated Japan's **Ai Fujinuma** (world #55), -11,6,-10,11,6,13.

Round Three (Round of 16)

Six of the 8ths matches were straightforward 4-0 wins for the higher-ranked player. Two were longer battles, with underdog players from Hong Kong pulling off the upset both times.

Hong Kong, with the two upsets and the advancing of their star **Lin Ling** (world #8), now has 3 players in the quarterfinals, to China's 4, and Korea's 1.

Women's Singles & Doubles Champion Zhang Yining



Photo by Diego Scharf ©2002

China's **Li Jia** (world #15) was defeated by Hong Kong's **Lau Sui Fei** (world #30) in the best match of the round, -6,9,-4,8,-11,8,7.

Not to be outdone, Lau's Hong Kong teammate, **Zhang Rui** (world #80) pulled off her own upset, defeating Germany's **Nicole Struse** (world #44), with the devilish scores of 6,6,6,-4,6.

Other results:

- Wang Nan (CHN, world #1) d. Lee Eun Sil (KOR, world #32), 5,14,9,3
- Zhang Yining (CHN, world #3) d. Satoko Kishida (JPN, world #49)
- Niu Jianfeng (CHN, world #4) d. Cao Xingni (CHN, world #36), 2,4,9,7
- Ryu Ji Hye (KOR, world #5) d. Liu Jia (AUT, world #26), 4,11,9,8
- Guo Yan (CHN, world #14) d. Kim Moo Kyo (KOR, world #20)
- Lin Ling (HKG, world #23) d. Tie Yana (HKG, world #23), 7,5,6,8

Quarterfinals

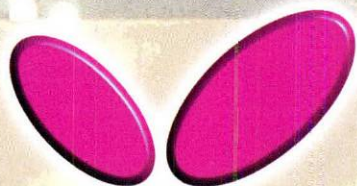
The women's quarterfinals had three matches going deuce or 9 in the 7th, with dramatic finishes in each. Hong Kong almost stole the show, and ended up with two of the semifinalists, with China getting the other two – barely.

The BIG upset was China's **Wang Nan**, #1 in the world continuously since January of 1999 and generally considered the surest thing in women's table tennis, losing. Hong Kong's **Lin Ling** (world #8 and formerly on the Chinese national team) went at it with her, pulling off the upset at 7,-8,-5,6,6,-3,9. The two play similar styles, except that Lin Ling plays a bit more off the table and loops more, and is right-handed. Wang is left-handed, and generally plays more aggressive. In this match, the rallies were a mixture of vicious backhand-backhand exchanges and off-table looping and counterlooping.

Defending U.S. Open Women's Singles Champion **Niu Jianfeng** of China (world #4) almost followed in Wang's footsteps. She played teammate **Guo Yan** (world #14), and the two played to 9-all in the 7th. Two net-dribblers in a row (!), and Niu had advanced, to the consternation of her benighted foe.

In still another dramatic match, China's **Zhang Yining** (world #3) barely pulled it out against Hong Kong's **Zhang Rui** (world #80!), a penhold looper with a nice backhand jab block. Many rallies turned into backhand-backhand battles, with Yining backhand spinning off the bounce to Rui's aggressive penhold blocks, with Yining having the edge there. Yining's forehand seemed to be erratic this match, while Rui's forehand was hitting. Yining led 10-9 in the seventh, but Rui deuced it with a net ball that Yining barely missed looping. But Yining blocked a winner to Rui's forehand to get the ad, 11-10. Rui then took control, blocking Yining out of position with a series of aggressive side-to-side jab blocks – but blocks off, and Zhang Yining pulls it out, -9,7,-9,9,8,-4,10. If Rui had won, it would have been three Hong Kong players in the semifinals.

After these three matches, Hong Kong's **Lau Sui Fei's** (world #30, and like Lin Ling, a former member of the Chinese national team) upset win over Korea's **Ryu Ji Hye** (world #5) seemed almost anticlimatic, -11,5,8,10,8. Lau had already beaten China's Li Jia (world #15), and combined with this win, she'll join teammate Lin Ling in the top ten or so in the world.



Butterfly®

WORLD-CLASS BUTTERFLY TABLES

TOURNAMENT USED ARE NOW AVAILABLE



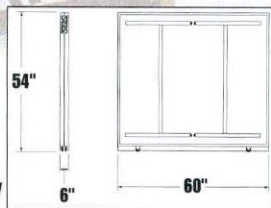
EUROPA 25 STATIONARY

\$849

New

\$649*

Tournament Used



Approved



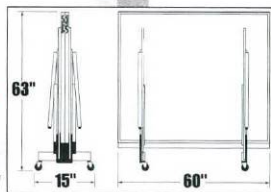
CENTREFOLD 25 ROLLAWAY

\$1099

New

\$899*

Tournament Used



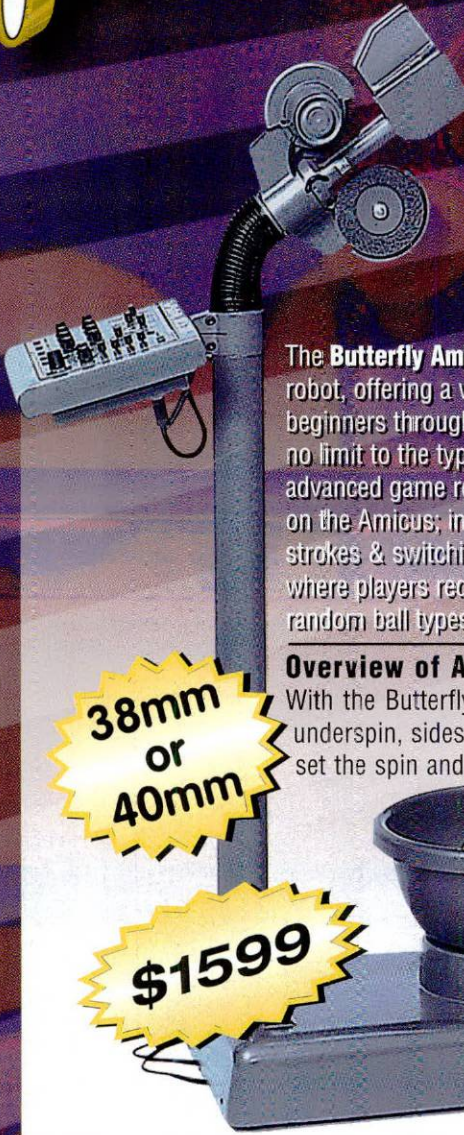
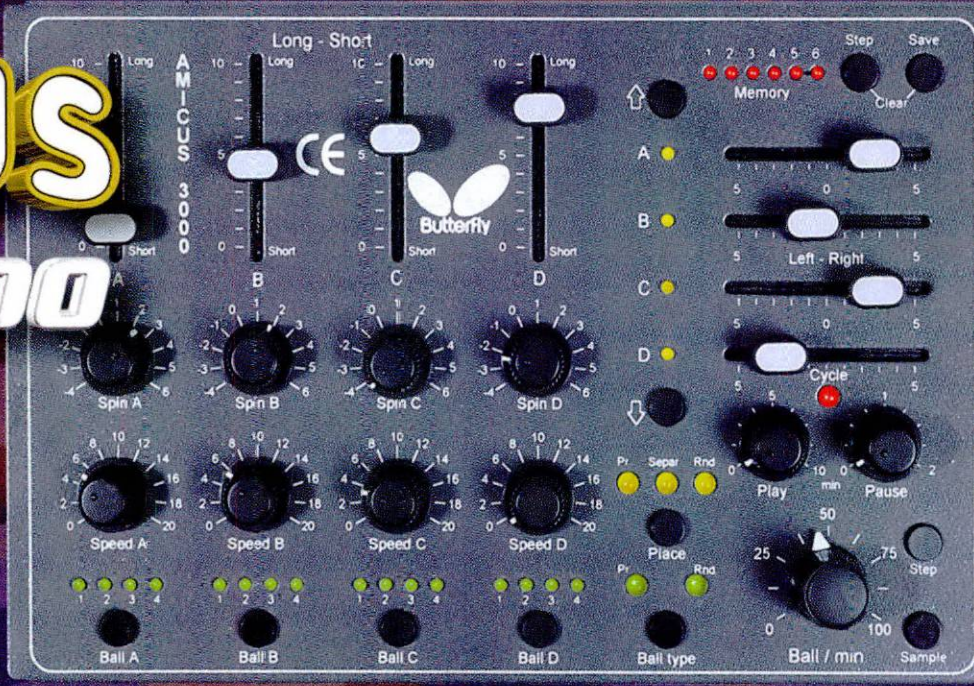
Approved

Prices Subject to Change • Prices Include net set and freight charges anywhere in the Continental U.S. *

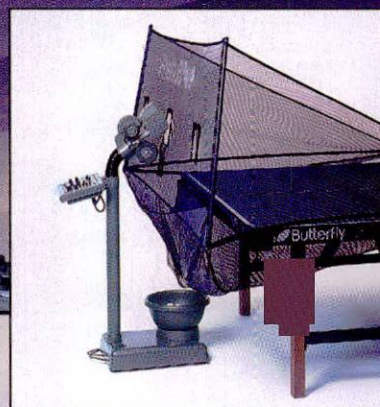
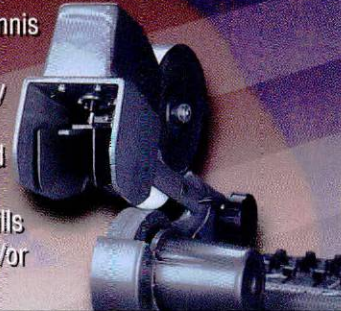
1-800-61-7712 • BUTTERFLYONLINE.COM

Butterfly Brings You the Newest Technology for 2002

AMICUS 3000



The **Butterfly Amicus 3000** is an exciting table tennis robot, offering a wide range of capabilities for beginners through professionals. There is virtually no limit to the types of standard drills and advanced game related drills that can be practiced on the Amicus; including drills to develop basic strokes & switching skills; footwork drills; and drills where players require random ball placement and/or random ball types.



**38mm
or
40mm**

\$1599

Overview of Amicus 3000

With the Butterfly Amicus' two wheel design the user is able to create topspin, underspin, sidespin and yes finally ... no spin balls, as the Amicus allows you to set the spin and speed of the ball independently of each other. Additionally, you can then set the distance of the ball within reason, independently of the spin and speed. And all three of these settings (speed, spin and distance) can be saved in one of six memory slots!

Savings Why Buy Your AMICUS From Butterfly North America?

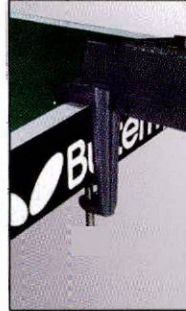
- Save \$35** • Robot comes 120V ready so there is no need to purchase an additional converter for North America.
- Save \$100** • Price includes freight charges *
- Save \$167** • Each AMICUS 3000 comes with a **FREE** gross of 40mm Butterfly 3 Star Balls.
- Hours** • Operators manual in plain and easy to understand English.
- Weeks** • Most replacement parts in stock so there is no waiting on an international shipment to clear customs.
- Invaluable** • North America's only certified technician to answer all of your questions and repair needs.

Additional features of the Amicus 3000

- Step and sample buttons, used together to easily test any of the settings before you run a sequence
- Frequency settings: up to 100 balls/min; A remote on/off switch
- A timer to run the robot for 1-10 minutes, and then pause for up to 2 minutes before continuing with the current drill
- A serve and continue mode: to eject a ball of any type and then continue with a sequence that has been setup
- Automatic distance adjustment to the corners of the table versus balls delivered to the center of the table
- Optional control box mount for player's side of table. (See picture at right.)

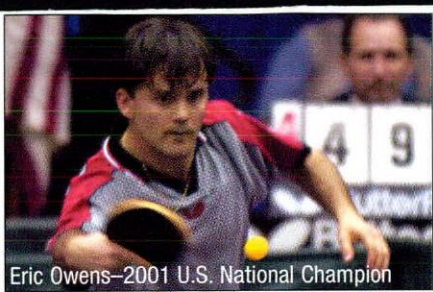
The Amicus is virtually unlimited in terms of the type of drills you can perform with it. As coaches and players begin to embrace the Amicus as an advanced training device, you will most certainly see a whole generation of Amicus trained superstars coming up through the ranks.

* Customer is responsible for all customs and duties on orders shipped outside of the United States



Prices subject to change.

1-800-611-7712 • www.butterflyonline.com



Eric Owens—2001 U.S. National Champion

Year of the Table

NIPPON Rollaway

22mm Thick Top
Sealed Back



2" x 3/4"
Steel Rim



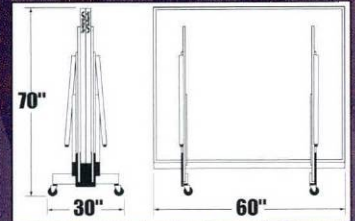
2" Square
Wood Legs



5" Ball Bearing
Rubber Wheels



National League
Net Set Included



NIPPON ROLLAWAY

- Edge Banding For Added Durability
- Playback Feature
- USATT Approved
- Our Best Seller

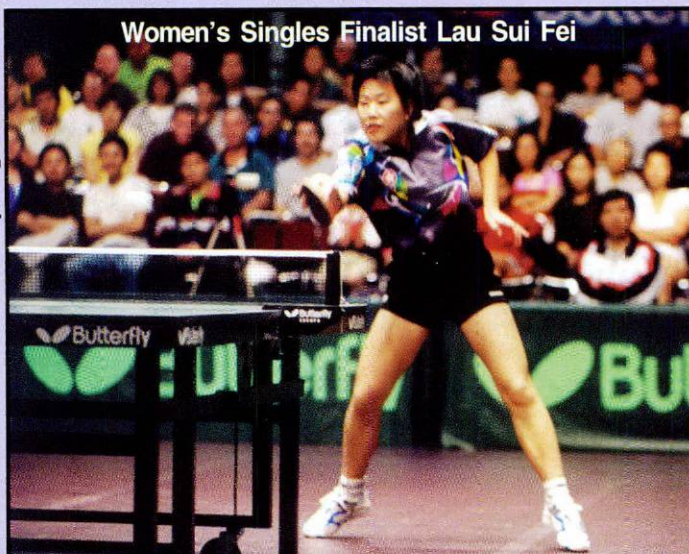
\$849⁰⁰



Butterfly®

Prices subject to change.

Call Butterfly: 1-800-611-7712 • Visit Butterfly: www.butterflyonline.com



Women's Singles Finalist Lau Sui Fei

Semifinals

Lau Sui Fei (HKG) d. Lin Ling (HKG), 2,6,7,9

Lau has a great high toss serve, which gave Lin all sorts of problems. Over and over the penhold Lau would serve and loop winners. When Lin served, they often got into backhand-backhand rallies, with Lau's backhand jab block catching Lin's topspinning backhand over and over. Lin looked tired, possibly still not recovered from her 11-9 in the 7th marathon win over Wang Nan the night before. After Lau won the first 11-2, Lin took a 4-0 lead in the second – and promptly lost 18 of the next 21 points.

Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Niu Jianfeng (CHN), 6,-9,-8,5,10,5

This match was a battle of vicious rallies. The match was turning Niu's way when, with the match tied at 2-2, she led 10-7 game point. But Zhang scored the next nine in a row to win that game, and take a 4-0 lead in the sixth – and just like that, instead of down 3-2, she's won 4-2.

Final

Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Lau Sui Fei (HKG), 5,9,7,2

This seemed to be over almost as soon as it began. They played only 67 points, with Zhang winning the point battle 44-23 – nearly doubling Lau's score. For perspective, it's about the same number of points and dominance as winning 21-11, 21-11 in the old scoring system.

Zhang completely dominated with her backhand topspins over the table. The tall Chinese player often seemed to have an extra joint in her wrist, as she'd make seemingly last-second changes of directions, totally catching Lau off guard. Lau, a fast penholder with a big forehand, was rarely able to



U.S. Women's Team: Tawny Banh, Simone Yang, Jasna Reed, Coach Doru Gheorghe. Missing: Chang Jun Gao.

get her strong forehand into play, and spent most of the match struggling to keep the ball in play as Zhang relentlessly topspinned right off the bounce (mostly with her backhand), shot after shot, to all parts of the table. Zhang won enough points with her down-the-line backhand topspin off-the-bounce to win a game by itself. "Lau needed to play Zhang's forehand more," said 5-time U.S. Men's Champion, U.S. Men's Coach and TV Commentator Dan Seemiller. "Zhang's backhand was brilliant." Zhang's backhand was especially effective in taking Lau's serves – the ones that had given so many other players trouble – right off the bounce with quick topspins.

It was the sixth year in a row that a current or former Chinese team member won Women's Singles, as well as 9 of the past 10 and 13 of the past 15 years.

Japan's 13-year-old Prodigy

Ai "Ai-chan" Fukuhara

By Larry Hodges

How does 13-year-old Ai-chan get a ranking of 67 in the world (#7 in Japan), become a craze in Japan, and still get her homework done on time?

To start with, she says she practices nine hours a day. You read that right. She made the Japanese team



at age 11, and has been the hope of Japan ever since. She was actually famous in both Japan and the world years before that as a prodigy who, when barely taller than the table, was touring the country giving exhibitions and dominating tournaments against others far older than her – sort of the Tiger Woods of Japanese table tennis. Only now, she's moving onto the world stage. Ai-chan is a fast counter-driver/hitter, with medium long pips on the backhand. Sources say she has six coaches/practice partners. As to school, she is home-schooled, with several tutors.

In a dramatic and seesaw 11-9 in the seventh win, "Ai-chan" (Ai Fukuhara's nickname), competing with older players, won Under 18 Girls' Singles in the ITTF World Junior Circuit, defeating teammate Sanai Sugita in the final, -9,10,-7,7,-8,4,9. Perhaps developing her sense of clutch play, she had also won 11-9 in the seventh in the semifinals (over China Taipei's Su Hsien Ching, -9,4,7,6,-6,-10,9), and 11-9 in the sixth in the quarterfinals (over teammate Sayaka Hirano, 8,9,-5,9,-8,9).

Ai-chan also made it to the final 32 in women's singles by defeating USA's Virginia Sung, a chopper who had made the final of women's singles at the last U.S. Nationals. Sung pushed Ai-chan to seven games (coming back from down 3-1 with a series of countersmashes and counterloops) before succumbing -8,8,5,2,-7,-3,4. Ai-Chan lost 9,7,9,5 in the next round to Hong Kong's Lin Ling, world #8.

Believe it or not, Ai-chan has an online video game with herself as a character. In it, you can choose her to be your onscreen "heroine," or choose from a cast of other characters. The game (in English) is at:

www.ncsx.com/ncs010101/table_tennis.htm



The Table Tennis Pioneers

STIGA®

Play The Best™

COMFORT CREATES SUCCESS

Tiger Shirts

Colors: Blue/Navy,
Navy/Grey, Black/Grey
Sizes: XS-5XL



The
Official
Supplier to the
USA National
Team



Tiger Shorts

Color: Black
Sizes: XXS-3XL



2002 US National Team:

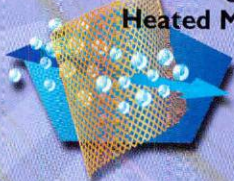
Men: Cheng Yinghua, Ashu Jain, David Zhuang,
and Eric Owens - **Women:** Jasna Reed, Tawny Banh,
Chang Jun Gao, Simone Yang (not shown)

Tiger Tracksuit

Color: Navy/Grey
Sizes: XS-5XL

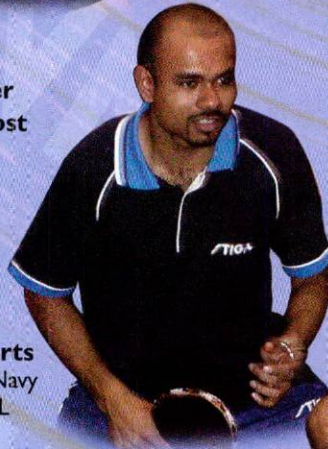


Stay Dry With Tiger
Even During The Most
Heated Matches!



Classic Shorts

Color: Black, Navy
Sizes: XXS-3XL



Classic Shirts

Colors: Navy, Green
Sizes: XXS-3XL



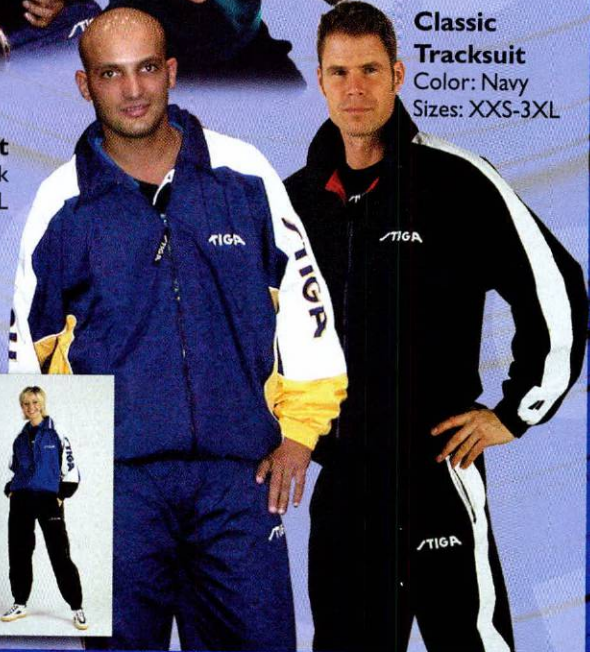
Team Jacket Tiger

Color: Navy
Sizes: S-XL



Winner Tracksuit

Color: Navy/Yellow, Blue/Black
Sizes: XXS-3XL



Match Shirts

Colors: Navy/Yellow,
Royal/Black,
Red/Black
Sizes:
XXS-3XL



Champ Shorts

Color: Black
Sizes: XXS-3XL



For A Full Line Of Stiga Clothing - Contact Us Today.

Web: www.ping-pong.com • e-mail: tpioneers@ping-pong.com • Tel: (800) 319-PING (7464) • Fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664)

Best Price - Guaranteed!



killerspin



Presents

eXtreme Table Tennis Championship

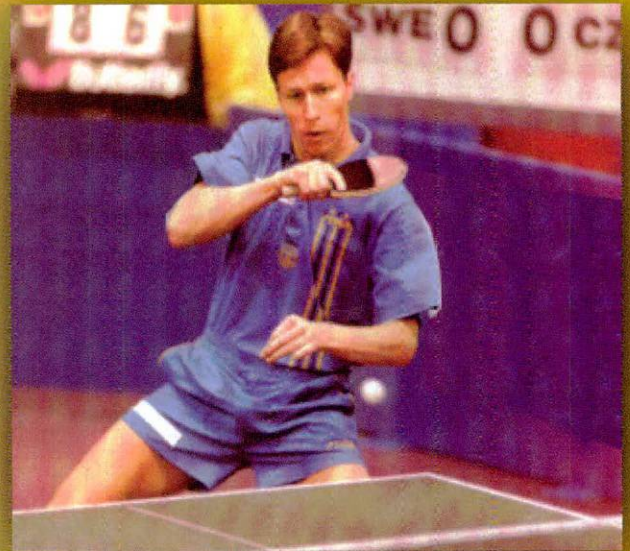
When: Saturday, December 28th, 2002.

Where: Chicago, IL

Olympic Rematch

KONG
vs
WALDNER

Who is the Greatest?



Worldwide TV coverage
Over 300 Million viewers
expected

Other Invited Players

Wang Hao
Ma Lin
Liu Guozheng
Kim Taek Soo
Chuan Chi Yuan
Chiang Peng Lung
Wang Liqin

Alexander Karakasevic
Zoran Primorac
Kalinikos Kreanga
Jean-Michel Saive
Vladimir Samsonov
Timo Boll
Werner Schlager

Coming soon:
killerspin style and stuff..

The 2002

PART OF THE MAYOR'S SPORTS FESTIVAL,
OPERATED BY NATT,
SPONSORED BY KILLERSPIN,
WITH THE BEST OF THE BEST COMING,
WHAT ELSE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

Killerspin Open

Coming to you December 27th, 28th, & 29th!

Tournament Information

Proof of Membership: All participants must be able to show proof of current membership with USATT or an ITTF recognized body. Membership can be renewed at the event.
Venue: McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60616. Concrete floor and good lighting.
Official Tournament Equipment: Killerspin Tables, Barriers, and white 40mm 3 star balls.
Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, December 13, 2002. Entries postmarked late will either be accepted with a \$10 late fee, or be rejected, based on available space.
Check-in: Starts on Friday, December 27, 2002 at 8AM at the venue. Participants are required to check-in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
Refunds: After the entry deadline, no refunds.
Ratings: Ratings from the November/December issue of *USATT Magazine* will be used.
Policies: Players may not enter two RR events with identical start times. Events can be cancelled or combined at the discretion of the tournament committee. No prizes will be awarded for splits, dumps, default losses or no-shows. Players agree to follow USATT and NATT rules.
Airport: Chicago Midway Airport and O'Hare International Airport

Tournament Committee

President: Richard Lee **Referee:** See natabletennis.com for more info.
Co-director: Fong Hsu
Co-director & Media: Alan Williams
Operations: Zachary Sng
Registration: Wendy Troy

During the eXtreme Championships, play at the Killerspin Open will pause and players will be given the chance to watch the best.

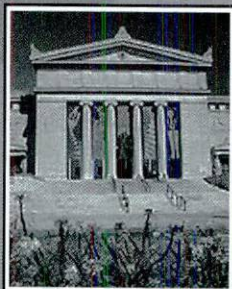
The 2002 Killerspin Open will be held at:
McCormick Place
2301 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60616
312-791-7000



McCormick Place

The eXtreme Table Tennis Championships will be held at:
Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605

The 2002 Killerspin Open and the eXtreme Table Tennis Championships are being held just 1.3 miles apart!



Field Museum

Tickets to the eXtreme Table Tennis Championships can either be purchased ahead of time on this entry form for \$30 per ticket or can be purchased for more at the Championships.

Don't miss your chance to save some money!

Registration Form: 2002 Killerspin Open

Please send completed entry form with payment to:
North American Table Tennis, Inc.
932 Hungerford Dr., Suite 11B
Rockville, MD 20850

Deadline: Postmarked by
December 13, 2002

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____ Gender: MALE / FEMALE

USATT ID: _____ Expiration: _____ Rating: _____ Date of Birth: _____

E-mail: _____

Please list event number:

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

4) _____ 5) _____ 6) _____

7) _____ 8) _____

Doubles Partner: _____

Total Event Entry Fee: \$ _____

USATT Rating & Registration Fee: \$ **5**

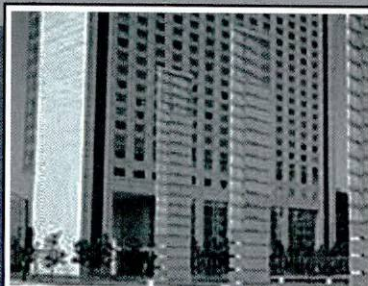
USATT Membership Fee: \$ _____

U18: \$20 Ad: \$30 3-Y: \$75

Tickets to the eXtreme Table Tennis Championship:
\$30 per Ticket Qty: _____

Make checks payable to NATT. Returned checks will be charged a \$25 fee. Total: \$ _____

Event #	Event Name	Date	Time	Cost	1st	2nd	3rd-4th	5th-8th	9th-16th
1	Open Singles	SAT	10:30AM	\$35	\$6000	\$1500	\$500	\$300	\$200
2	Open Doubles	FRI	12:00PM	\$20/pair	\$500	\$250	\$50		
3	Women's RR	SAT	1:30PM	\$25	\$250	\$150	\$50		
4	Under 22 Men's RR	SUN	10:00AM	\$25	\$250	\$150	\$50		
5	Under 22 Women's RR	SUN	10:00AM	\$25	\$150	\$75			
6	Under 18 RR	SAT	9:00AM	\$25	A	A			
7	Under 15 RR	SUN	1:00PM	\$25	A	A			
8	Over 40 RR	SUN	10:00AM	\$25	\$200	\$100			
9	Over 50 RR	SAT	9:00AM	\$25	\$150	\$75			
10	Over 60 RR	SUN	1:00PM	\$25	\$100	\$50			
11	Under 2600 SE	SAT	9:00AM	\$25	\$250	\$150	\$75		
12	Under 2500 SE	SUN	9:00AM	\$25	\$250	\$125	\$50		
13	Under 2350 RR	SAT	12:00PM	\$25	\$200	\$100			
14	Under 2200 RR	SUN	11:30AM	\$25	\$150	\$75			
15	Under 2050 RR	SAT	3:00PM	\$25	\$100	\$50			
16	Under 1900 RR	SUN	10:00AM	\$25	\$100	\$50			
17	Under 1750 RR	SUN	2:30PM	\$25	A	A			
18	Under 1600 RR	SAT	9:00AM	\$25	A	A			
19	Under 1450 RR	SUN	4:00PM	\$25	A	A			
20	Under 1300 RR	SAT	1:30PM	\$25	A	A			
21	Under 1100 RR	SAT	10:30AM	\$25	A	A			
22	Under 900 / Novice RR	SAT	3:00PM	\$25	A	A			
23	Under 3200 2 Man Teams	FRI	9:00AM	\$50/team	\$400	\$200	\$50		
24	Under 4400 2 Man Teams	FRI	9:00AM	\$50/team	\$600	\$300	\$100		



Hyatt Regency
McCormick Place
CONNECTED TO MCCORMICK PLACE
2233 S. Martin L. King Drive
Chicago, IL 60616
Tel: 312-567-1234
\$75 PER NIGHT
-Just mention Table Tennis.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

natabletennis.com

Contact Information:

North American Table Tennis, Inc. Phone: 301-738-8250

932 Hungerford Dr., Suite 11B Fax: 301-838-8921

Rockville, MD 20850 E-mail: info@natabletennis.com



U.S. Open Senior Events

By Tim Boggan

Men Over 30

Trace the 4, 4, 7; 2, 4, 3; 1, 3, 8; 4, 3, 4; 7, 2, 5 trail of Robert Blackwell's Killerspin star, World #85 Ilija Lupulesku to the final and see if anyone is fool enough to bet against him. Especially when his last-chance opponent is a Jimmy Butler who went five games in his first match against Under 2100-rated Peter Moo Young, then lost a couple of 9, 8 games to both Tuan Anh Tran and Rich DeWitt who, voila, with his 11-9 in the fifth upset win over Hank McCoullum, earned \$50 and a-scoop-in-the-well's worth of confidence. No problem for "Loopy" with N.Y.'s De Tran or unrated advancee Christian Hundhausen of Germany, but Butler had to go five to fend off Dominican two-winged attacker Roberto Brito.

And yet in the final, though Butler lost, he was far from mismatched. Up 1-0 and after rallying from 10-8 down in the second, Jimmy scores with a forehand counter to deuce it again. Then when Loopy serves, Jimmy thunderbolts a backhand return in to give him the ad. But just as a two-game lead is well within his long reach, alas, three errors break his momentum. Still, he's not through – and Lupulesku knows it. Though the veteran Yugoslav International is up 9-7 in the third, his face shows anguish when he fails to return serve – and again his 10-8 lead isn't enough to put Butler away: Jimmy defends with some great blocks, then flashes in a backhand-off-the-bounce winner to deuce it. Down 11-10, Jimmy gambles with a tracer-like liner that, though the umpire can't follow it, catches the edge. But again Jimmy makes end-game errors, and, down 13-12, on returning Loopy's serve with a temporizing chop – a real no-no – Jimmy's lost his joy-juice. Lupulesku, 11-4 in the fourth.

Loopy also won the \$750 1st-prize Elite Men's – over Killerspin teammate Sasa Drinic. In the semi's, he 6, 1, 1 destroyed hard-bat specialist Steve Berger. "I had a 5-3 lead in the first," said Steve – which means thereafter he got only one point each game, was outscored 30-3. "Lupulesku has unbelievable control," Steve said, somewhat in awe. "He read my changing spin perfectly."

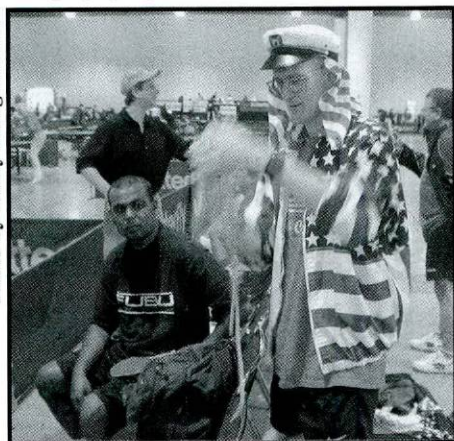


Photo by Larry Hodges ©2002

Jim McQueen didn't win any events, but he entertained the crowd with magic tricks and fancy outfits which changed daily.

Berger was also a semifinalist in the Hard Rubber event – lost to steady roller Eric Owens, who in turn had to tip his cap to the more flamboyant Butler. Our U.S. Champion was condescendingly casual about it all, but, as the cap suggests what goes on in the head under it, the seriously played-out thought was, "Why not at least pick up the \$150 for second?" One fellow felt that Butler and Owens shouldn't be allowed to play Hardbat because they were, uh, *sponge* players. But did *he* have his thinking cap on?

Women Over 30

Note both North Carolina's Brenda Mun's rally from down 2-1 and 11-all in the fourth to beat Puerto Rico's Sarida Rosario, and Dominican International Olga Vila's feisty encounter with Lily Yip, Women's Elite winner over Renata Peluchova. Realize though it was a foregone conclusion that ex-Chinese stars, former Guangdong Province Champion Yip and former Szechuan Province Champ Simone Yang, would meet in the final...where Simone prevailed 9, 11, -7, 7. Actually, both women are about the same age, and both look to be in good shape. But as Lily put it after the match, "Physical conditioning isn't everything, you have to use your head. Simone's strategy was just to be steady, to make me miss. And I did – I rushed her too much."

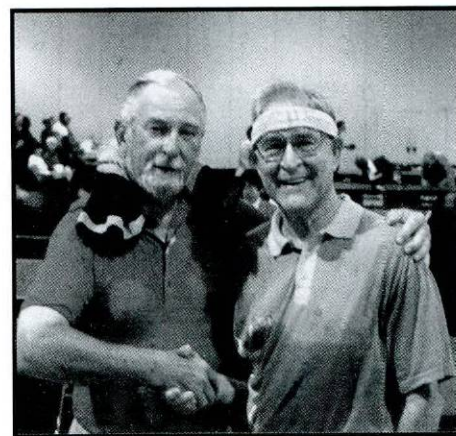
Men Over 40

And the winner is...Can you...2,2,3; 4,5,6; 6,8,9,0,0,0, 2,9,6, 5, 6, 4...guess? Yep, the \$200 favorite: Cheng Yinghua. Ah, you spotted the default. There were others too – most notably two that allowed 1953-rated Michael Lalvani and 2124-rated Santos Shih to take home \$50 quarter's checks. Gregg Robertshaw's 12-10 in the fifth win over Larry Thoman got him... well, this honorable mention. Ditto for Philippe Gaspard, runner-up to Rick Kadin in the **Under 1800 Senior's**. A nod, too, to Lee Bahlman, the guy whose job it was when training in Romania to wake up his roommate Ashu Jain for an invigorating morning run after Ashu's exhausting night's workout. If he could do that, no wonder he could force Attila into the fifth.

The best quarter's match was Barry Dattel's 11-9 in the fifth win over Malek. In the semi's, former Jamaican star Keith Evans couldn't quite come back from a 2-0 deficit to Avishy Schmidt (earlier Avi told me he'd lost his drive, his desire, just didn't have it at the moment... as I say, that was earlier). Keith, however, did score a first in both the Under 4200 Doubles (with Ross Brown) and the **Over 40 Doubles** (with Ernie Virgo). In the latter event I don't know which was the more surprising – Bin Hai Chu/Gary Harbeck's default wins in the quarter's and semi's (\$100 to the runner-ups), or Evans/Virgo's striking semi's upset of an uninspired Cheng/Dave Sakai.

Women Over 40

No challenge here for U.S. Team Member Simone Yang, who just six weeks earlier turned 40 – she gave up but 45 points total in her three matches. Two 5-game quarter's, however, were intense. In the one, Mahin Roufeh, her role as 150-point favorite over Danuta Andzejewska enhanced by a recent win over a 2300 player in Dallas, had 5-game trouble getting through the energetic Danuta's sticky defense, then fell short,



Over 70 Finalists Tim Boggan and Grady Gordon. Boggan won Over 70 Singles and Doubles (with Frank Dwelly), and made the final of U2000 Hardbat. Gordon was in the final of Over 70 and Over 75 Singles.

13-11 in the third, of prolonging her semi's match with runner-up Charlene Xiaoying Liu.

In the other, Barbara Kaminsky, after splitting games with Yevgeniya Kotlerman – taking the first and third at 11 and 8, but dropping the second and 4th at 3 and 2! – appeared to have lost it, for, down 4-0, she served off. Then with Kotlerman continuing her steady looping, Kaminsky fell behind 7-1. But a hint of what was to happen came when, up 7-2, Yevgeniya erred and gesticulated wildly at herself – as if to say, "What am I doing, losing two points in a row!" After which she promptly lost five more. At 9-all, Kotlerman missed a putaway, and then Kaminsky's perfect placement ended it. Barbara comes back to her corner where husband/coach Bob is proclaiming, "It's a miracle!" and muses to herself, "I do best when I think. But I have to think really hard."

Men Over 50

The champion struggler of the early rounds in this event was Richard McAfee – with three straight 5-game wins: over Bard Brenner, Gary Harbeck, and bespectacled penholder Robert Liao. Harbeck, who in the **50 Doubles** with Steve Federico, before losing in the final to Dick Hicks/Hank McCoullum, would cause a mild sensation by upsetting Sakai/George Brathwaite. To clue you in as to how that might happen, I confide that Indiana's Jerry Marcum was explaining to me what amorphous shapes supposedly even-sized pips would take when looked at under a microscope; imagine then what Harbeck's DO bacterium would look like! In other good matches, Jim McQueen, carrying on an off-court Boos Brothers Wants You! routine in Uncle Sam's stars and stripes, got by Carlos Estrada 11-9 in the fifth, and Homer Brown, attending his 34th straight U.S. Open (see box), shuffled then sped through Jilil Roufeh to win in five.

In the top half of the draw, Brathwaite somehow composed himself after two games of suffering Morris Jackson's unrelenting barrage of nets and edges – but, well, Morris does have a good short game, and the bigger ball does make his up-to-the-table forcing shots appear quirkier than they are. Again down 2-0, in the semi's to Sakai, George this time could not escape.

In the bottom half of the draw, McCoullum took no chances with Lim Ming Chui, moved him around, for he'd found out Ming had ruptured his achilles tendon, had then undergone an operation in late March, and, as might be expected, was *not* following his doctor's advice, which was, "You'd be stupid to play in this tournament." Hicks, meanwhile, getting socked at by Chu, kept his cool and -8, -8, 11, 8, 9 survived. Indeed, having already won the Under 2200's, he went on to beat McCoullum in four, and then Sakai in an almost immediately expedited, -9, 12, 10, 9 marathon final.

Women Over 50

I agree with Gloria Amoury that it would have been advantageous to all if Gloria, Millie Drake, Lu Leissering, Gail Kendall, Yelena Karshtedt, and Jan Cline all could have played a fun round-robin together for the double A (Awards) and left the 50's to the five contenders. However, these five couldn't have been too happy when \$450 was offered their male counterparts, and they got zilch. First among the favorites to go down was Donna Sakai, in a hard-fought 5, -9, -10, -10 quarter's struggle with Suzanna Sanders and her backhand pips. Suzanna of course had prepared as usual by lifting weights, jogging, running, biking, swimming, wind-surfing, whatever, while Donna, I'd heard, in the last two weeks had actually been venturing out to the tables now and then to see if her game had gotten any better.

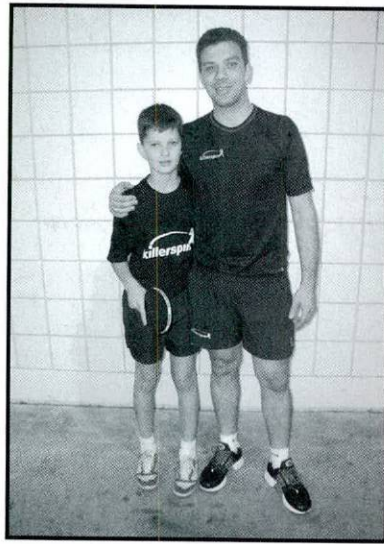
In the semi's, against Kaminsky, it looked like Sanders, up 1-0 and from 9-5 down having tied it up with the help of two forehand winners, might power into a winning position, but Barbara eked out the game. Thereafter, keeping ball after ball to Suzanna's backhand, Barbara managed to advance, 11-9 in the fourth. In the other semi's, Roufeh and Andrzejewski were at it again, this time in a more pronounced chiseling match, though each tried to maneuver a forehand winner. Perhaps Roufeh's timing was thrown off by playing so much defense, for, though her husband Jalil later said she should have been more aggressive, from 6-all in the third she'd lost 5 in a row, mostly by overhitting, and so had lost confidence. Danuta thus avenged her loss to Mahin in the 40's.

In the final, with the match tied 1-1, it was apparent that Barbara's soft backhand topspin against Danuta's heavy chop was the wrong strategy, for she too often plopped the ball into the net, and when she didn't, the tactic offered her no advantage. In the end-game third, both women are tentative. Danuta, up 9-8, has a big ball to hit, changes her mind, and lets Barbara in for the point. Barbara then soft-tops away balloon balls she should crack in, but wins the point and the game anyway. In the fourth, Kaminsky's up 8-5, but with errors lets the opportunity slip away. At 4-all in the fifth, Danuta fakes a forehand hit, drop shots in mediocre fashion, and loses a point she should have won. Barbara slowly extends her lead, and finally counters Danuta's rolled forehand for the match-winner.

Men Over 60

Brathwaite has an easy semi's win over Elman Concepcion who says he's not at his best against someone who's not a power player and who positions the ball as well as George does. Hicks is too good for Jack Cohen who complains his sponge is too thick and so he's going back to pips on both sides. Hicks determines his usual match with The Chief depends on who has more energy. He says he has to "hit well. Not a lot but the balls I pick have to go in." Up 8-6 in the first, Dick loses five in a row - is 0 for 4 on pick hits. His excellent footwork aside, he can't do better - loses 8, 7, 3.

So, with the **60 Doubles** also in hand - he and Brathwaite beat Jerry Marcum/Al Grambo - that's the de rigeur four Championships for Dick this Open. I must also add that when Bob Burke/Frank Dwelly beat the Grey brothers, Neil and Dexter, I wonder just how many in the Hall, not to mention elsewhere, realized just what this outcome might mean to Dexter's publicist. For in September, Dexter, a noted pianist, will be "performing Chopin on the Great Wall of China" during his historic journey there. The more historic because, according to the attractively presented World American Cultural Exchanges flyer, Dexter, having the psychic advantage of "an unusual ping pong racquet that is shaped like his grand piano," will also be playing a table tennis match against "the Chinese World Champion."



USA's Ilija Lupulesku (R), Over 30 and Elite Men's Singles Winner; and his nephew Lorenzo of Yugoslavia, Under 12 Boys' Singles Winner.

Over 70

Although I lost the U-2000 Hard Bat final to Al Papp, I did successfully defend both the **70 Singles** and (with Frank Dwelly) **Doubles** - though why, I ask, would the team of Joe Baltrus/Buster Chase, rated 400 points less than Frank and I were, be given a Bye to the final, and the even lower rated team of Joe Cincotta/Bob Johnson not be given a chance to win second place prize money from them? In fact, why was there prize money in the 70 Doubles, but not in the arduous 70 Singles? I say "arduous" because in my third match, with Dick Evans, had I not, match point down, got in a somewhat desperate forehand that caught the edge, had I not in my fourth match rallied from two games down to Lou Radzeli, had I not in my fifth match again rallied, after being down two games to one to Lynwood Smith, I would not have made it to Grady Gordon and a 12-10 in the third win for the Championship.

Over 75

In the 70's, Gordon had come from behind to beat Dwelly, but in the 75 final earlier, Frank had gotten the better of Grady. Why Harry Deschamps perversely keeps entering U.S. Open events that he doesn't show for, and so deprives another of a seeded position in the draw is a question Radzeli in particular would like the tournament organizers to address. And why, as in the 70 Doubles, is the second seed here in the 75's being given the Bye while the third seed plays the first?

Over 80

No complaints from Radzeli here - though he must be left wondering, as I was, why Chase, aware of the Saturday schedule ahead of time, reportedly had to catch a plane and couldn't play the final.

Of course, as we all know, it's human nature to ask questions, even when answers might not be forthcoming.

Homer's Odyssey: 34 Consecutive U.S. Opens

By Larry Hodges

It was the summer of 1969 that 20-year-old Homer Brown hopped into his car and drove from St. Louis to San Francisco, over 2000 miles - for his first U.S. Open. Richard Nixon had just been elected president of the United States, Watergate was just a hotel, and the powerful Baltimore Orioles were about to lose baseball's World Series to the upstart New York Mets.



In 1971, Nixon was running for re-election, the Vietnam War was at full blast, the U.S. Table Tennis Team toured China, and Homer won Men's Consolation at his third U.S. Open.

In 1974, Nixon resigned the presidency, world #1 players Wang Liqin and Wang Nan hadn't been born yet, and Homer won Men's Class "A" Doubles and Mixed Class "A" Doubles at his sixth U.S. Open ... for the second year in a row.

In 1987, Ronald Reagan was nearing the end of his presidency, and Homer made the final of Hardbat Singles at his 19th U.S. Open, losing to Houshang Bozorgzadeh.

In 1989, George Bush was the new U.S. President, the U.S. still was friends with Iraq, and Homer's son, Adam, age 8, won Under 10 Boys' Singles at Homer's 21st U.S. Open.

In 2002, 53-year-old Homer Brown made the semifinals of Under 2000 Hardbat Singles in his 34th consecutive U.S. Open.

Homer is the owner of Bumpernets (www.bumpernets.com), and has been a Butterfly dealer for 37 consecutive years, longer than any other U.S. distributor.

U.S. Open Junior Events

By Larry Hodges

World Junior Circuit

Japan and China Taipei dominated the ITTF's World Junior Circuit events at the U.S. Open – with one big exception, since Canada's Hungarian-born Bence Csaba dominated **Under 18 Boys' Singles**. Except for one first-round blip, he didn't lose a game, finishing the event with a 22-1 game record, and winning his last 14 games in a row. In the final, he defeated Ryusuki Sakamoto of Japan, 5,7,7,10. In the semifinals, he defeated Huang Wei-Chin of China Taipei by (according to the match slips!) identical scores. In the other semifinals, Sakamoto defeated teammate Minoru Muramori, -10,9,7,8,9.

Japan's 13-year-old junior phenom Ai "Aichan" Fukuhara barely pulled out **Under 18 Girls' Singles** (see box, page 50), winning the final and semifinals 11-9 in the seventh, and the quarterfinal 11-9 in the sixth.

U.S. Open Junior Events

The Under 21 events were a pretty international affair, with the eight semifinalists coming from seven countries – with USA the only country with two from the mix of USA, JPN, YUG, DEN, SLO, CAN and PER. In **Under 21 Men's Singles**, Hideo Takamori of Japan defeated Yugoslavia's Zolt Sel in the final, 10,-6,11,-9,9. In the semifinals, USA's Mark Hazinski went up 2-0 on Sel, but lost: 12,-6,7,4,12! In the other semifinal, Takamori defeated Christian Larsen of Denmark, -15,11,7,9. In **Under 21 Women's Singles**, Martina Safran of Slovenia defeated USA's Whitney Ping in the final, 7,7,6. In the semifinals, Safran defeated Canada's Marie-Christine Roussy, 4,-7,5,4,5 (was it really 4-1 in the scheduled best of five?), while Ping defeated Guadalupe Gomez Sanchez of Peru, -9,9,3,7.

Mark Hazinski shrugged off his close loss in Under 21 and teamed up with Han Xiao (see box) to win **Under 18 Boys' Doubles** over Daryl Stachan/Nicardo Clarke of Jamaica. For some reason, the Japanese and China Taipei contingents didn't play in this event. Canada's Wennin Chiu/Sara Yuen, the top seeds, won **Under 18 Girls' Doubles** over USA's Katherine Wu/Sophia Yi, 9,-9,6,9. Wu/Yi had upset second-seeded Jackie Lee/Whitney Ping in a semifinal battle, 6,-8,10,-1,9.

Adam Hugh of New Jersey defeated Puerto Rico's Santiago Coste, 11,8,7, in the **Under 16 Boys' Singles** final in a repeat of their match at the USA Nationals (yes, Puerto Rican players are allowed to play in the USA Nationals). Coste also made the final of Under 2350, losing to teammate Carlos Fort. Coste won a title in his third final, teaming with teammate Hector Berrios to win Under 16 Doubles over New Jersey's Pan Lin/Eric Finkelstein, 3,-8,8,-8,9.

Mariany Nonaka of Brazil won **Under 16 Girls' Singles** over USA's Laura Xiao, -8,5,6,6. It was to be one of four finals for Laura Xiao of Kansas (no relation to Han Xiao; last name pronounced "chow"). She won **Under 14 Girls' Singles** (over Maryland's Rita Wu, -9,3,3,4), made the final of **Under 2100 Women** (losing to Marisol Delzo in the final, 4,9,8), and made the final of **Under 14**

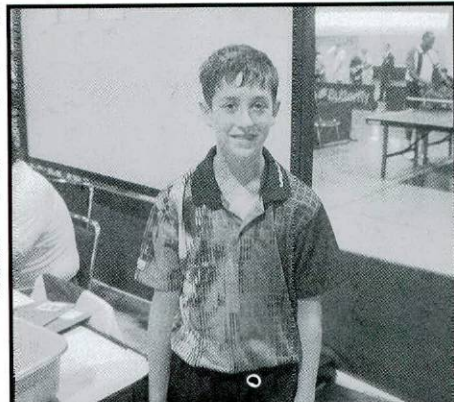


Clockwise from above: **Under 10 Girls' Champion Amy Huang; Under 14 Boys' Singles & Doubles Champion Misha Kazantsev; Under 16 Boys' Singles Champion Adam Hugh.**

Doubles with Barbara Wei, upsetting Judy Hugh/Atha Fong in the semifinals, -4,6,9,-8,9, to reach the final, where they lost to Misha Kazantsev/Sergey Gutkin, 3,5,8.

California's Kazantsev was the only double-winner among the juniors. He swept the Under 14 events, winning doubles (above) and **Under 14 Boys' Singles** over Lorencio Lupulesku of Yugoslavia (nephew of USA's Ilija, also formerly of Yugoslavia), by the devilish scores of 6,6,6.

Lorencio made his second singles final in **Under 12 Boys' Singles**, where he defeated Florida's Andrew Lin in the final, 7,4,9. Lin would also make the final of **Under 1800** (losing



to Karlis Robles in the final – and Robles would also win **Under 1900**). California's Veronika Birioukova won **Under 12 Girls' Singles** over Aura Cristina Ocampo of Columbia, 6,9,-9,3.

In one of the most watched matches of the Open, Preston Chin of Georgia defeated Maryland's Kevin Ma in the **Under 10 Boys' Singles** final in a marathon (until the last game) 13,-14,8,-9,3. Florida's Amy Huang defeated Yugoslavia's Anelia Lupulesku (Ilija's niece, Lorencio's brother) in the **Under 10 Girls' Singles** final, 5,3,4.

USA's Han Xiao, 15, Makes Final Draw in ITTF Pro Tour

By Larry Hodges

Han Xiao of Maryland, 15, was the youngest player in the main draw (final 64) for men's singles here at the USA ITTF Pro Tour, as well as the youngest USA player ever to make the final draw. Xiao, pronounced "chow," is the top-ranked U.S. player under age 16 with a rating of 2501 (17th in U.S.). Due to scheduling conflicts with the ITTF Pro Tour, Xiao was not able to play Under 16 Boys' Singles at the Open.



In his preliminary group of three, Xiao was seeded third, but defeated Japan's pips-out player Taniguchi Yoichi, 4-2 (9,8,-6,-5,6,8) with a barrage of backhand loops, and Canada's junior star Faazil Kassam, 4-3 (-5,5,-8,6,8,-7,10). Against Kassam, Xiao was down 10-7 match point in the seventh but won the last five in a row. "The last time we played," Xiao said, "he won deuce in the fifth in a best of five, getting a net and an edge at the end!" Xiao, coached by USA's Cheng Yinghua (formerly of China), is a two-winged aggressive looper, known especially for his over-the-table backhand loop. As a result of these two matches, Xiao will receive a world ranking. Xiao lost to world #24 Danny Heister of the Netherlands in the next round, 7,4,4,4.

Han also teamed up with Mark Hazinski to win Under 18 Boys' Doubles, and made the semifinals of Under 2500 (older ratings made him eligible), where he lost to eventual winner Juan Revelles, -6,5,9,-7,7. In the quarterfinals, Xiao came back from down double-match point (shades of his match with Kassam) to defeat Brian Pace, 6,-8,7,-3,10.

U.S. Open Hardbat Events

By Larry Hodges

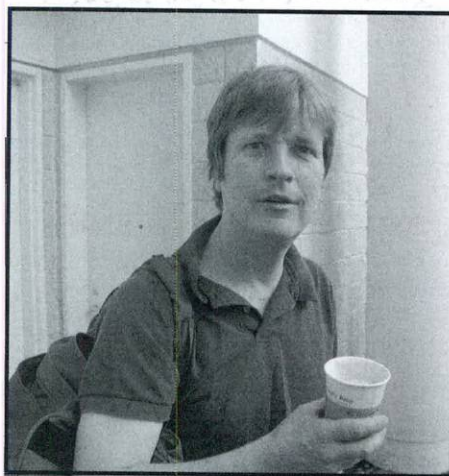
Is hardbat evolving or devolving?

Those who watched this year's U.S. Open **Hardbat Singles** final said what they saw was a slower version of the modern sponge game, not a "classic" hardbat match. The finalists, Jim Butler and Eric Owens – both past or current U.S. Men's Singles National Champions (with sponge!), played it like it was sponge, literally looping and countering as if with sponge, at a slower pace but with longer rallies. The slower pace was required since you cannot create the extreme topspins to pull the ball downward with hardbat that you can with sponge, so rallies are slower, but longer, with sponge strokes rather than "classic" hardbat strokes. The rallies were nearly all topspin, with very few chopping rallies.

After losing the first two games, Owens turned to the spectators – the smallest ever for a hardbat final, unfortunately – and asked, "Hey guys, what should I do?"

After an endless pause, hardbat enthusiast Berndt Mann chimed in. "Chop!" he exclaimed.

To their credit, both Owens and Butler did try chopping for a few points, but it seemed mostly out of boredom from playing the same topspin points over and over. There was some chopping – but it was in the quarterfinals and semifinals where Owens defeated choppers Barry Dattel (18,17,19) and Steve Berger (13,16,20), respectively. In the other semifinal, Butler defeated Lily Yip (the defending cham-



**Double-Winner Steve Berger:
Hardbat Doubles & Over 40 Singles**

pion) at 10,16,-20,13. In the final, it was Butler over Owens, 12,17,13. (Note – all hardbat matches were games to 21 – the "classic" way.)

Hardbat Doubles was won by Larry Hodges & Steve Berger, who also won at the Nationals. They defeated Tahl Leibovitz & John Jarema in the final, 10,-20,16. It was the fourth straight year that Hodges (this writer) has won Hardbat Doubles at the U.S. Open (along with the last two Nationals), winning the three previous years with Ty Hoff, who was absent this tournament due to work.

Berger got his revenge in the **Over 40 Hardbat** final on doubles partner Hodges, who'd

defeated him at the Nationals in this event. This time Berger, normally a chopper, played 2/3 attack, using his backhand attack at wide angles to pin down Hodges' forehand attack and just pulling the match out, -19,13,19. "It wasn't that his backhand was really strong," said Hodges, "but that he hid the direction so well that it was impossible to see where he was going until right at contact."

Al Papp not only made the quarterfinals of hardbat (losing to Butler), but won **Under 2000 Hardbat** over Tim Boggan, 16,15. It was the fourth straight Under 2000 win at the Open and Nationals by players from the Northern California Hardbat League (see below). In order, the last three were Bruce Liu (2001 Nationals), Lorin Benedict (2001 Open) and Scott Gordon (2000 Nationals). Papp, Liu and Benedict all play at the Milpitas Sports Center in Milpitas, CA; Gordon plays at the Santa Rosa Club. The Milpitas Sports Center is also home to the **Under 1500 Hardbat** winner, Hermann Luechinger, who defeated Ohio's Berndt Mann in the final, 12,18.

North California Hardbat League

The Fall 2002 Northern California Hardbat Table Tennis League starts on September 14 and meets once per month for three months at the Strictly Ping Pong Table Tennis Center in Fairfield, CA. Interested players should send contact information in an e-mail to al@hardbat.org by September 7 or visit the web site www.hardbat.org for further information. Newcomers are especially welcome!

Photo by Larry Hodges ©2002

2002 PRO TOUR VIDEOS

This year we were able to capture enough great matches to make a 5-tape set! We have 4 tapes featuring the best men's matches, and we dedicated one complete tape to the women's event. Most are complete matches. The tape are longer than in the past - between 2 and 2 1/2 hours each!

TAPE A:-----

- Michael Maze (DEN) - Arai Shu (JPN) (part)
- Oh Sang Eun (KOR) - Chuan C.Yuan (TPE) (part)

All Men's Quarterfinals, complete:

- Qin Zhijian (CHN) - Liu Guoliang (CHN)
- T. Keinath (GER) - Werner Schlager (AUT)
- King Linghui (CHN) - Chuan Chih-Yuan (TPE)
- Fredrik Håkansson (SWE) - Ma Lin (CHN)

TAPE B:-----

- Eric Owens (USA) - Karl Jindrak (AUT)
- Thomas Keinath (GER) - Adrian Crisan (ROM)
- Fredrik Håkansson - Liu Guozheng (CHN)
- Mens' Doubles Final: Håkansson/Oh-Kong/Lin
- Semifinal #1: Werner Schlager - Qin Zhijian

TAPE C:-----

- Wang Liqin (CHN) - Qin Zhijian (CHN)
- Fredrik Håkansson - Ryu Seung Min (KOR)
- Lee Chul Seung (KOR) - Werner Schlager
- Semifinal #2: Ma Lin - Kong Linghui

TAPE D:-----

- Wang Liqin - Bastian Steger (GER)
- Werner Schlager - Thiago Monteiro (BRA)
- Jens Lundquist (SWE) - Lars Hielscher (GER)
- Oh Sang Eun (KOR) - Finn Tugwell (DEN) (part)
- Men's Singles Final: Ma Lin - Qin Zhijian

TAPE E: Women's matches

- Quarterfinals: • Ryu Ji Hye (KOR) - Lau Sui Fei (HKG)
- Zhang Yining (CHN) - Zhang Rui (HKG)
- Semifinal #1: Lin Ling (CHN) - Lau Sui Fei (part)
- Semifinal #2: Zhang Yining - Niu Jianfeng
- Women's Singles Final: Zhang Yining - Lau Sui Fei

1 or 2 tapes - \$25 each, 3 tapes - \$70, 4 tapes - \$90
Full set of 5 - \$105

Combos with earlier US Open videos available
Check pricing on our web site, or give us a call
Priority Mail shipping charges apply (vary by zip code and weight)

NEW!

1- 800-500-5057 or order on-line at
www.alphatabletennis.com

Multiple Winners at the U.S. Open

QUADRUPLE WINNER: ★★★★★

Richard Hicks Over 50 Men's Singles, Over 50 Doubles,
Over 60 Doubles, Under 2200

DOUBLE WINNERS: ★★

Ma Lin Men's Singles & Doubles
Zhang Yining Women's Singles & Doubles
Ilija Lupulesku Elite Men's Singles, Over 30
Simone Yang Over 30 & Over 40 Women's Singles
George Brathwaite Over 60 Men's Singles, Over 60 Doubles
Tim Boggan Over 70 Singles & Doubles
Frank Dwelly: Over 70 Doubles, Over 75 Singles
Misha Kazantsev Under 14 Boys' Singles & Doubles
Keith Evans Over 40 Doubles, Under 4200 Doubles
Steve Berger: Over 40 Hardbat Singles, Hardbat Doubles
Karlos Robles: Under 1900, Under 1800
Mirella Delzo Under 1175, Under 1000
Salvatore Caci: Men's Paralympic Classes 1-5,
Men's Wheelchair Classes 4-5
Andreas Nau Men's Standing Disabled Classes 9-10,
Men's Paralympic Class 6-10 Teams
Egon Kramminger Men's Wheelchair Classes 1-3,
Wheelchair Teams
Claire Harris Women's Wheelchair Classes 3-4,
Women's Wheelchair Open

Rating Doubles Events

Under 4200 Doubles – Final: Keith Evans/Ross Brown d. Samson Dubina/Henry Forte, -8,7,7,-8,10; **SF:** Evans/Brown d. Jordan Michelson/John Allen, 8,8,11; Dubina/Forte d. Santos Shih/Valeriy Ort, 9,6,-7,7.

Under 3700 Doubles – Final: Mat Waltz/Jim Waltz d. Karnal Farah/Soroush Nikoi, 3,1,-7,5; **SF:** Waltz/Waltz d. Terrence Maynard/Donnavan Lewis, -8,-6,4,11,5; Farah/Nikoi d. Hernan Helfer/Simon Jacobson, 10,5,8.

Under 3200 Doubles – Final: Carlos Zeller/Jason Zeller d. Rick Kadin/Carl Simons, 12,-10,10,-8,6; **SF:** Zeller/Zeller d. Julian Waters/Joseph Wang, -10,9,7,10; Kadin/Simons d. Uri Nathanson/Lev Nosel, 2,-10,7,-9,10.

Rating Singles Events

Under 2500 – Final: Juan Revelles d. Shao Yu, 10,3,11; **SF:** Revelles d. Han Xiao, -6,5,9,-7,7; Shao d. Lily Yip, 9,10,8; **QF:** Yip d. Keith Evans, -10,4,13,7; Shao d. Idi Lewis, 10,5,7; Revelles d. Ka Chun Tse, 4,11,8; Xiao d. Brian Pace, 6,-8,7,-3,10.

Under 2350 – Final: Carlos Fort d. Santiago Coste, 12,-9,9,6; **SF:** Fort d. Lily Yip, -9,8,9,-8,8; Coste d. Barry Dattel, -8,-6,7,5,9; **QF:** Yip d. Keith Evans, -5,8,7,10; Fort d. Ernest Virgo, 8,-4,7,9; Dattel d. Idan Levi, -6,7,11,-11,7; Coste d. Peter Moo Young, -9,8,8,7.

Under 2200 – Final: Richard Hicks d. Alex Aponte, -8,4,-9,8,5; **SF:** Hicks d. Hector Berrios, 6,8,-4,-5,9; Aponte d. Pan Lin, 5,-10,14,9,11.

Under 2100 – Final: Sung Yang d. Ronald Joseph, 9,9,-8,-10,9; **SF:** Yang d. Pan Lin, 8,-8,-2,7,5; Joseph d. Gerard Cadet, 6,7,5.

Under 2100 Women – Final: Marisol Delzo d. Laura Xiao, 4,9,8; **SF:** Delzo d. Sarah Zheng, 7,6,3; Xiao d. Sarida Rosario, 7,7,5.

Under 2000 – Final: Andrew Kirton d. Robert Green, 9,8,-8,-6,9; **SF:** Kirton d. Andrew Cochran, -6,10,-6,6,7; Green d. Ralph Kernizan, -10,8,7,5.

Under 1900 – Final: Karlos Robles d. Matthew Lebron, 7,11,8; **SF:** Robles d. Ralph Kernizan, 9,-10,6,8; Lebron d. Odingo Mitchell, -5,6,11,8.

Under 1800 – Final: Karlos Robles d. Andrew Lin, 4,8,11; **SF:** Robles d. Jose Borges, 6,-9,9,8; Lin d. Minh Thanh Nguyen, 3,8,5.

Under 1650 – Final: Abraham Patterson d. Jerica Morales, 12,11,11; **SF:** Patterson d. Sultan Aziz, 3,3,12; Morales d. Roel Aguanta, -4,4,6,9.

Under 1500 – Final: Akbar Ali d. Nick Doben, 7,-9,6,7; **SF:** Ali d. Rick Brown, 4,10,11; Doben d. Carl Simmons, -7,6,3,6.

Under 1350 – Final: Paul Villacarlos d. Ted Yeung, 12,-11,-9,7,6; **SF:** Villacarlos d. Jeffrey Kellett, 4,4,8; Yeung d. Gerardo Caceres Guzman, 12,-11,-9,7,6.

Under 1175 – Final: Mirella Delzo d. Gerald Ribeiro, def.; **SF:** Delzo d. Justin Green, 6,6,def.; Ribeiro d. Jean Bertin, 8,3,6.

Under 1000 – Final: Mirella Delzo d. Richard Wu, 7,2,7; **SF:** Delzo d. Taiyee Chien, 8,3,5; Wu d. Michael Chen, 6,6,6.

Under 800 – Final: Peter Naimoli d. Tiffany Wong, 11,-6,-8,2,7; **SF:** Naimoli d. Vitali Kniazeu, 9,6,-4,9; Wong d. William Miao, 5,8,5.

Paralympic Events

Men's Open Classes 1-5 – Final: Salvatore Caci d. Egon Kramminger, -12,-7,6,4,6; **SF:** Caci d. Andre Scott, 5,9,2; Kramminger d. Hans Ruep, 9,9,11; **3rd** Ruep d. Scott, w/o.
Men's Wheelchair Singles Classes 1-3 – Final: Egon Kramminger d. James Williams, 4,7,8; **SF:** Kramminger d. Giovanni Rodriguez, 4,6,2; Williams d. Mike Lo Russo, 6,8,9; **3rd** Rodriguez d. Lo Russo, 7,7,8.

Men's Wheelchair Singles Classes 4-5: 1st Salvatore Caci; 2nd Andre Scott; 3rd Jon Redman; 4th Muhammed Mudassar.

Women's Wheelchair Singles Classes 3-4: 1st Claire Harris; 2nd Jennifer Johnson; 3rd Head.

Men's Standing Disabled Classes 6-10 – Final: Tahl Leibovitz d. Norman Bass, 3,1,8; **SF:** Leibovitz d. Peter Frommelt, 9,9,-16,14; Bass d. Andreas Nau, 8,7,-6,7,9; 3rd Nau d. Frommelt, 10,6,8.

Men's Standing Disabled Classes 6-8: 1st Odalis Gomez; 2nd Norman Bass; 3rd Peter Frommelt; 4th Mike Lo Russo; 5th Ed Levy; 6th Robert Bowlander.

Men's Standing Disabled Classes 9-10: 1st Andreas Nau; 2nd Roel Aguanta; 3rd John MacPherson; 4th Martin Pelletier; 5th Gene Chiu.

Women's Open: 1st Claire Harris, 2-0; 2nd Jennifer Johnson, 1-1; 3rd Head, 0-2.

Wheelchair Teams: 1st Hans Ruep/Egon Kramminger (AUT); 2nd Salvatore Caci/James Munkley (ITA/GBR); 3rd James Williams/Giovanni Rodriguez (USA/CRC); 4th Andre Scott/Mike Lo Russo/Redman (USA); 5th Claire Harris/Head/Jennifer Johnson (GBR/USA); 6th Barry Butler/Muhammed Mudassar (CAN/PAK).

Men's Class 6-10 Teams: 1st Andreas Nau/Peter Frommelt (GER/LIE); 2nd Tahl Leibovitz/Ed Levy/Roel Aguanta (USA); 3rd Norman Bass/Mike Lo Russo (USA); 4th John MacPherson/Martin Pelletier (USA).

Photos by Larry Hodges ©2002



Under 4200 Doubles
Champions
Keith Evans/Ross Brown



Under 3700 Doubles
Champions
Mat Waltz/Jim Waltz



Under 3200 Doubles
Champions
Carlos Zeller/Jason Zeller

\$5000 Juic Seattle Open

SEATTLE, WA • JULY 20-21, 2002 • BY TOM VEATCH

The STTC's second annual Open was a 4-star tournament for the first time this year thanks to our sponsors JUIC, Paddle Palace, Newgy, Alex Voronin and Victor Wu. Lovely weather outside matched beautiful bright spaces inside, with 15 tables kept busy for two days. On time with the help of David Marcus' "NET" software, the control desk was relaxed and efficient. Visitors from Belgium, Canada and the western states had plenty of surprises for the hometown players who turned out in force but won only a third of the events. Talent travels!

The Main Event, Open Singles, had quick matches throughout until the final, when payday came for both spectators and the finalists, Fan Yi Yong (who doubled as tournament organizer), and Frederic Sonnet from Belgium. USATT-unrated, but formerly among the world's top 100 and currently making a living as a professional in Europe, Sonnet emerged from the bottom of a random round robin group to dismantle the likes of Petri Heinonen and Misha Kazantsev, on his way to the finals. Petri, a tall, athletic, short- and long-pips twiddling chopper, has been dominating local tournaments since he came to Seattle from Finland, where he had served the national team as coach. But Sonnet showed complete mastery over Petri's mixed-rubber defense, by lifting a chopped ball with a spinny, deep, controlled loop to force the chopper back, then when the next chopped ball inevitably returned to hang in the air, a power loop winner at a wide angle. A clinic. Misha Kasantsev, up from California, did well today, but Sonnet crushed him in three; his 8 points in the first was the best anyone got from Sonnet or Fan before the finals. Then, as the fans all cheered, the unstoppable force met the immovable object, and sparks flew.

After losing the first point, Mr. Fan paused and took on a serious expression: This is a battle. Fan won the first game going away, 11-4. He might have considered relaxing, just as Sonnet realized he had to turn on the lights. Sonnet's Ma Wenge style, straight-arm whip of a forehand loop, put unbelievable movement on the ball, and won several points in game two to take the game at 8. Fan turned it up another notch to win a tough third game at 9, but then, before each of the next two games, allowed himself to be called over for suggestions from yours truly on the sideline; my advice was worse than useless as it distracted him and Sonnet won at 2 and 3. So Fan entered game six down 3-2, and taught me a thing or two about fighting spirit. Sonnet's heavy forehand covered two-thirds of the table, with a rocketing loop with gravity-defying spin that I thought was unreturnable, though somehow counterlooping rallies followed. With Fan down match point after a deuce in the sixth, Sonnet loop-drove Fan 20 feet from the table in the far forehand corner, and I thought it was over - that ball was gone. But fighting spirit means you're willing to take risks when it is all on the line, and my heart pounded watching Fan, even backed up against the wall and on the brink of a surprising loss, throw himself fearlessly into a huge stroke, an acrobatic counterloop that went

around the net and hit the corner for a winner! That momentum led to a win, forcing a seventh, in which, after every two points, the scorekeeper would raise the score, even at 3, even at 4, even at 5, at 7, at 8, at 9. As a spectator, can you beat a match that goes to 9-9 in the 7th? But the Belgian visitor had a couple of great serves left in his bag for the hometown hero, leading to difficult returns and easy points, and that was that in the end, a well-deserved, hard-fought victory for Frederic Sonnet, -4,8,-9,2,3,-11,9.

Visitors also won Under 2300 (Misha Kazantsev), Under 2100 (Oscar Roitman), Under 1900 (Benny Yuen), Under 1700 (Alfred C.K. Wong), Under 1500 (Alvin Ng), Under 1100 (Kim Mnuskin), Over 50 Seniors (Ken Lin), and Under 4000 Doubles (Andy Lui/Chi Yong).

In the Under 2300 final, Misha Kazantsev took five to beat Peter Miraflor, former Philippine National Team member now living in Seattle.

Strong Canadians from their excellent clubs in BC did well here. The Under 1900 event was won by Canadian Benny Yuen in three over perennial Boeing star Thea Nget, after having powered through several of Seattle's club powerhouses, John Ochsner, Ed Suen (in five!), and Vladimir Arutyunov, as well as San Francisco's future star, Kevin Phung.

The Under 4000 Doubles matches all went quickly except Biser Asenov and Vladimir Arutyunov won, and in the final lost in close 4- and 5-game matches. Winners Andy Lui and Chi Yong celebrated all the way back to BC.

Two other Senior events gave victories to locals Sung Yang (Over 40), and Jerry Li (Over 40 Under 1800). Evidently, Seattle rocks if you're an older guy. Jerry Li prevailed over Alex Voronin in a close 3-1 match, both playing their hearts out. To get there, Alex had won more tight 5-game matches than everyone else played in the entire event - relaxing when ahead, but with great fighting spirit. Sung Yang beat Seattle's best to reach the final of the Over 40 event and came back from 0-1 to defeat Canadian Yung Par Yan in four.

The Under 1700 event had many tight matches including five-game squeakers in the final and half of the semis and quarterfinals. Comebacks galore! Gary Jackson, in a quarterfinal against Wes Wolfe, proved that even if you score zero in a game you should keep fighting, since he lost 11-0 in the 4th yet came back to win 3-2. And Eric Butterworth in the quarters and Alfred Wong in both the semis and final came back from down 1-2 to win in the fifth against Cao Jian, Peter Dziekiewicz, and Eric Butterworth, respectively. Well earned, Alfred!

In the Under 1300 event, Bellevue TTC regular Tu Huynh took away the hardware in a fierce comeback in the final over Jorge Quinyrtod. Losing two, and struggling through five deuces in the third, Tu scored the next three games straight, pushing to hold momentum all the way.

A footnote on Fan Yi Yong's condition lately; he has been having frequent migraine headaches for two months, improving recently. Our good wishes go out to him, with hopes that he takes good care of himself.

Open Singles - Final: Frederic Sonnet (BEL) d. Fan Yi Yong, -4,8,-9,2,3,-11,9; **SF:** Fan d. Whitney Ping, 5,5,5; Sonnet d. Misha Kasantsev, 8,6,7; **QF:** Fan d. Thor Truelson, 5,5,5; Ping d. Sung Yang, 4,8,2; Kazantsev d. T. Phan, 6,7,9; Sonnet d. Petri Heinonen, 6,6,3.

U2300 - Final: Misha Kazantsev d. Peter Miraflor, -8,8,-6,6,6; **SF:** Kazantsev d. Pang Wah Tim, -6,8,9,7; Miraflor d. Whitney Ping, 5,5,-6,9.

U2100 - Final: Oscar Roitman d. Pang Wah Tim, 7,-8,-8,4,5; **SF:** Roitman d. Tajima Masaaki, -8,6,12,9; Tim d. Yang Par Yan, 8,9,-9,6.

U1900 - Final: Benny Yuen d. Thea Nget, 2,7,3; **SF:** Yuen d. Vladimir Arutyunov, 7,4,-9,5; Nget d. Raymond Liang, 5,10,-12,3

Over 40/U1800 Senior - Final: Jerry Li d. Alex Voronin, -6,8,11,9; **SF:** Li d. Ed Suen, -4,9,7,6; Voronin d. Alfred C.K. Wong, 8,5,11.

U1700 - Final: C.K. Alfred Wong d. Eric Butterworth, 5,-3,-6,9,13; **SF:** Wong d. Peter Dziekiewicz, 8,-7,-7,5,4; Butterworth d. Gary Jackson, 4,7,7.

U1500 - Final: Y.F. Alvin Ng d. Steve Law, 4,8,-8,8; **SF:** Law d. John Czebe, 3,7,7; Ng d. Raymond Garcia, 11,11,5

U1300 - Final: Tu Huynh d. Jorge Quinyrtod, -7,-6,14,6,8; **SF:** Huynh d. Jian Cao, 7,10,8; Quinyrtod d. Tom Lackoff, -7,5,-2,3,8.

U1100 - Final: Kim Mnuskin d. Tim Gerlits, 5,8,-9,7; **SF:** Mnuskin d. William Kuo, 7,-10,8,-8,8; Gerlits d. John Vander Molen, 9,1,9

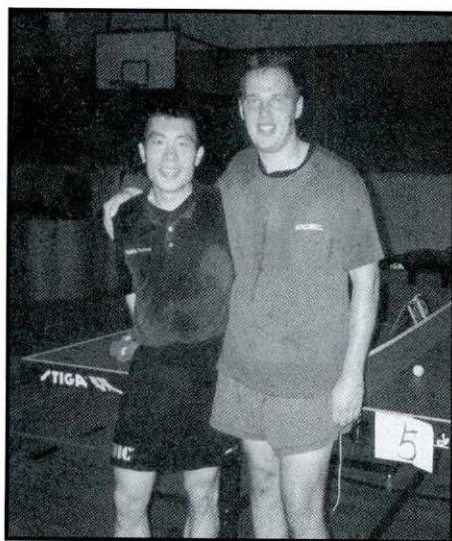
U900 - Final: Gary Voth d. Kim Mnuskin, -10,4,6,-5,6; **SF:** Mnuskin d. Al Piran, 3,3,2; Voth d. Jeremy Totman, 6,9,4

U4000 Doubles - Final: Andy Kin Chi Lui/Chi Yong d. Biser Asenov/Vladimir Arutyunov, 5,-8,4,2; **SF:** Asenov/Arutyunov d. Chris Solomon/Robert Lin Xi, -9,8,7,-8,7; Lui/Yong d. Henry Blankenship/Justin Smith, 5,2,6

Washington Closed - Final: Fan Yi Yong d. Sung Yang, 3,3,2; **SF:** Yang d. Greg Dimarco, 8,-8,7,9; Fan d. Randall Ly, 6,2,1

Over 40 Seniors - Final: Sung Yang d. Yung Par Yan, -6,9,8,3; **SF:** Yang d. Chris Solomon, 6,8,-9,-8,5; Yan d. Tom Veatch, 6,6,6.

Over 50 Seniors - Final: Ken Lin d. Benny Yuen (CAN), 12,-6,-6,8,6; **SF:** Yuen d. Masaaki Tajima, 4,4,8; Lin d. Gary Jackson 8,-5,-9,8,7.

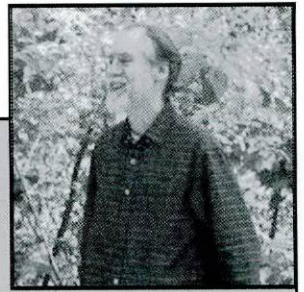


Director & Finalist Fan Yi Yong,
Champion Frederic Sonnet of Belgium

Table Tennis Chapters from "Robot Adept"

By Piers Anthony

Author
Piers
Anthony



Introduction: Piers Anthony (www.hipers.com) was one of the best-selling and most prolific fantasy writers of the 1980s and 1990s. His books – 121 at last count – usually involved magic and humor (often risqué humor), and he is best known for his Xanth series. However, it is "Robot Adept" (published in 1989 but currently out of print), which is book five of his seven-book "Apprentice Adept" series that is of special interest to us. The book contains 16 chapters – and the last two chapters are nearly all table tennis! The gist of it is a battle between the champions of two worlds – one a world of magic, one a world of science – culminating in the final battle on a ping pong table with three games and three sets of rules/paddles. Especially interesting is the game played with one using a magic paddle, the other a highly technological paddle! (That'll be in next issue's installment.) Some of it may be confusing, since you've missed the first 14 chapters, but you can figure most of it out. Note that the "champions" are Bane, a former human now in a robot body and representing the technological world, Proton; and Mach, a former robot now in a human body and representing the magic world, Phaze!

With permission from the author (and special thanks to Thomas Huff for typing it all up), we are running chapter 15 here, and chapter 16 in the next issue. You'll note some rather unique spellings and grammar that are not typos, as well as lots of word play.

Anthony was himself a player (as you'll be able to tell from his writing), although he no longer plays due to arthritis. (He and I have been corresponding since the 1980s, as we are both members of Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America as well as TT players.) Below is from his Author's note from his book "Bearing an Hourglass," published in 1985, which is book two of his "Incarnations of Immortality" series. (Cheryl is his daughter, and he's talking about a vacation they had.)

"Then Cheryl spied the ping-pong – oops, I mean table tennis – tables and wanted to play. Now it happens that that game, by its misnomer ping-pong, was the one sport I was good at in my youth. I

never went professional – I wasn't that good! – but I did play in scattered tournaments in college and the U.S. Army. After I left the Army in 1959, I regretfully gave up ping-uh, table tennis. But now, with my daughter interested – well, to condense things somewhat, we now have a ping-tennis table at home, and all of us play, at varying levels of skill. But if there is one thing it takes to get in shape in table-pong, it is time. Sigh.

"I discovered that there has been a revolution in the sport since my day. I used to use a light, cork-surfaced paddle – they now call them rackets or bats – but today cork is illegal, while sandwich rubber is in; that stuff didn't exist thirty years ago. No, it's not what they serve for lunch in cafeterias; sandwich rubber is a layered deal with sponge rubber inside, making the surface more bouncy and spinny. I was curious, so I started collecting paddles, questing for the Perfect Paddle. I shelled out sixty dollars for a championship-quality racket surfaced on one side with a designedly dead surface and on the other with a superlive surface called Tornado. (Tornado, as in spin.) The dead side makes spin drop dead so you aren't vulnerable to the superspin artists, while the Tornado is what those artists use to make you need the dead side. I discovered soon enough that I am predator, not prey; I had to use the live side, though in all candor I must say that none of this newfangled stuff matches the speed and effectiveness of an old-fashioned, two-dollar cork paddle. Maybe that's why cork was banned; too good, too cheap. I finally settled on a light, fast paddle with one live side and one superlive side, surfaced with the stuff the Chinese use to win world championships. No, having such a paddle does not make a person a world-class player, any more than having a good typewriter or word processor makes a person a world-class writer. I am a world-class writer, but table tennis is just fun."

Chapter 15: Table

Mach stood at the console. He had the numbers, so he chose 1. **PHYSICAL**; he trusted that more than the others. Bane chose B. **TOOL**, evidently not trusting **NAKED** after his loss in the Chase. The truth was that had been a very near thing; had Mach's desperate ruse not worked, Bane could easily have won, and finished the match.

He had the letters on the subgrid. He chose **H. H2O**, having found that general-surface category compatible the last time. Bane chose 6. **INTERACTIVE**.

The square opened out, and the list of games appeared; a number of ball games wherein more than a ball was used, such as tennis, Jai alai and bowling, so that they wound up in this catchall grouping; water games like pedal-boat bumping and underwater volleyball (wherein the ball had to be propelled *under* the net); and string-ball games such as tetherball.

They assembled the nine-box grid, and played it, and came up with what each was evidently well satisfied to play: **table tennis**. There were several variants; Trool consulted with the Oracle, with Mach and Bane relaying the messages, and decided on three variants, one for each game. The first game would be standard, with identical equipment on both sides. The second would be freestyle, which meant the individual paddles could be of any type. The third was to be doublet, generally considered to be the most formidable challenge of a player's capacities.

Mach was familiar with them all, and good at them all. But Bane now had his expertise, as

well as the sureness of the machine body. Could Mach, in this fallible living body, match that? He doubted it. Therefore his month's training would be critical. He had to come up with strategy and skill that could defeat the person he had been in Proton.

Meanwhile, there was the separate challenge of enabling the games to be played. Trool and the Oracle had made the chess games work, and the chase games; but table tennis was a physically interactive game of another nature. How could they hit a ball across the barrier between the frames? He was sure it would somehow be arranged, though.

He turned to look at the Translucent Adept. "Who are the best players of this game?" he inquired.

Translucent scowled. "Stile, and certain vampires in manform. We be hoist again."

"I have to find players better than I am, who can teach me things, and drill me in new techniques."

"We have resources, but thou mayst like them not."

"It doesn't matter whether I like them! I can't win unless I improve significantly, and even then the outcome will be in doubt, because Bane will improve too, and he won't make errors."

"Aye, thou must practice," Fleta agreed. "There be naught distasteful in that."

"One who can show thee much be Tania."

Fleta's ears flattened back, though she was in girlform. "That creature has shown thee already too much!"

Mach had to smile, though he too was startled. "No, that was Bane she showed," he said.

"When he were emulating thee!" she

returned, as if that made Mach culpable. "And in Proton-frame –"

"But it was Tan who was making you –"

"So Tannu be bad for me, and Tania for thee!"

Translucent nodded grimly. "I realize that neither of you be partial to those of the Tan Demesnes. But Tania alone has what thou dost require."

"What has that harpy that I do not?" Fleta demanded, one hand bunching and moving as if to paw the ground.

"A magic paddle."

Mach's interest quickened. "A magic paddle? To play table tennis?"

"Aye. It be a rare device that she charmed from an elven craftsman of the carbon clan. Methinks thou must in turn charm it from her."

"O'er my dead carcass!" Fleta snorted

But Mach was already dazzled by the notion. "A magic paddle, of elven craftsmanship! That would be something very special!"

"Aye. So do thou come to terms with thy filly, and I will make arrangements for thee to visit the Tan Demesnes."

Fleta did not seem to be in any mood to come to terms. "This may take a while," Mach muttered.

It did. Unicorns were known to be stubborn creatures, and Fleta showed her mettle in this respect. She did not want Mach going near Tania! But finally he persuaded her that if he did not take advantage of every opportunity to improve his game, he would lose, and then the two of them would be separated. "But the only reason I yield," she said grudgingly, "be because she be also in

Proton, and I would be not there to safeguard thee from her clutches."

"Good reasoning," he said, relieved.

But it was not easy, when they went to the Tan Demesnes. Fleta insisted on carrying him there herself, in her natural form, theoretically to save his magic for more important things. But he suspected she was motivated more by the extra time it took this way.

Tania was resplendent in a fluffy tan cotton dress that fitted closely about her torso. Her hair was tied back with a tan ribbon and bow, and her feet looked tiny in tan slippers.

The grass here was excellent, but Fleta was not about to change back to unicorn form and graze.

Tania smiled brilliantly, flouncing her hem so that a petticoat flashed. "How nice to see thee, Mach! Hast come to play a game with a real woman?" Mach heard something like a squeal in the back of Fleta's throat.

"A game of table tennis," he said carefully. "The Translucent Adept said you have a magic paddle."

"Aye, and that be not all, rovat." She delivered a brief but intense glance, and he felt the power of her evil eye. Fleta's head moved slightly, as if orienting a horn for action.

"I brought a good paddle carved by the Red Adept," he said. "It has perfect heft and balance, and I can play well with it."

"We shall see," she said. "Let me change into something more comfortable." She spun around, her skirt flaring, showing her legs up to the thickening region of the thighs, and walked to the tanion tree. Mach, accustomed all his prior life to naked serfs, was amazed at how much a little clothing could do for a woman. Tania had not looked nearly as enticing naked in Proton.

Fleta's foot came down, just missing his toe. "What be thou looking at, machine?"

"Uh —"

"She knew we were coming," she hissed. "Why did she change not before?"

"Remember, I'm supposed to get her to lend me the paddle," Mach said. "I have to *seem* interested, though of course I am not."

"Thou couldst have fooled me," she muttered.

Soon Tania reappeared, garbed in tight tan shorts that made her nether portion seem almost bare, and a translucently loose blouse. "This be better, methinks," she murmured.

"Shethinks!" Fleta sniffed.

After a moment Mach noticed that Tania carried a paddle. She was evidently ready to play.

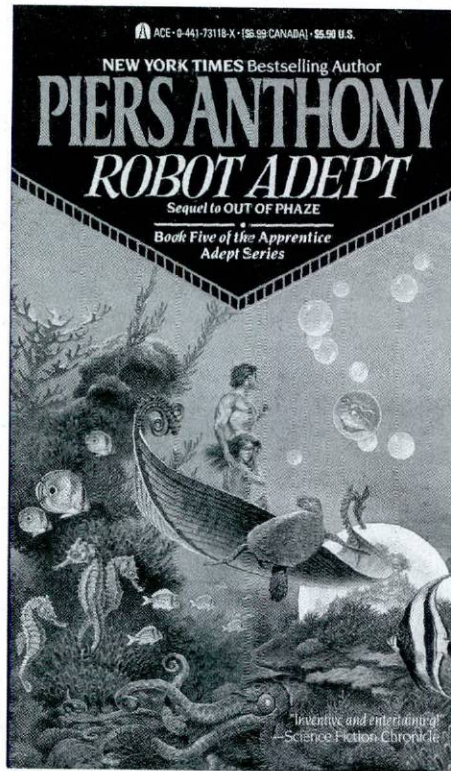
There was a chamber in an alcove of the tree, and the table was there. Tania took a stance at one end. "Do it to me," she invited.

"Nay, an I could . . ." Fleta breathed wrathfully.

There was a ball on the table, wedged by the net. Mach fetched it, and served it. He had not played this game in this body, but his motions were good; either his experience or Bane's reflexes made the play easy.

Tania jammed her paddle at the ball somewhat jerkily; it was obvious that she was not an apt player. But the ball came back; she had made the return.

He struck the ball again, getting the feel of it and the paddle and his body. Again she was somewhat awkward, but returned it. Obviously she would soon miss, though.



He struck it the third time, angling it across the table. She stretched, almost losing her balance, and he thought she was going to hit the ball well wide—but it returned neatly enough.

Curious, he slammed it off the right corner. She blocked it in a pure reflex of self-defense—and the ball looped back to the center of his side of the table, another fair return. How had she done it?

In the course of the next several volleys, he discovered that no matter how awkwardly she moved her paddle, the ball always made a good return. He finally missed his own shot, trying too hard to make her miss. The skill was not in her, but in the paddle: that was its magic. It would not miss a point.

He lost the game, winning no points at all. He could not prevail against the magic paddle.

Tania smiled as she won. "What wouldst thou give for this paddle, rovat?" she inquired, her bosom heaving. "To use 'gainst Bane in thy tourney?"

She had a double score to settle with Bane, he realized: he was on the other side, and he had resisted her attempt to fascinate him. She would lend Mach the paddle; she was just trying to see what else she might profit from the transaction. Meanwhile, he had Fleta to contend with.

"Nothing, Tania," he said gruffly. "There will be three games; it could only win one of them for me. If I depend on magic, I will lose. I need to hone my playing skill, and you are unlikely to do that for me."

Tania's face transformed in the course of his speech from self-satisfied to furious. "Take it then, golem-brain; I care not!" And she hurled it at him.

He caught it. "If you insist, Tania."

She glared; evidently ready to use her magic on him. He snapped his fingers, and a full-length mirror appeared before her, reflecting her outraged visage back to her. Then he turned his back and walked with Fleta away from the table and the tree.

"Methinks that were not wise, Mach," she said, satisfied.

"Better an angry woman than an angry unicorn, he said. "She was supposed to demonstrate the paddle, not try to vamp me. I tried to be polite, but she pushed her luck."

Fleta was silent, but her anger was gone.

Mach found practice with the animal heads. Most of these supported Stile, but one aberrant faction did not, and one of the best table tennis players of the frame was a member of that faction. This was an elephant head, who held the paddle in his trunk, and manipulated it marvelously well.

Against Eli the elephant head Mach used his regular paddle, the one Trool had carved. It had no magic, but was an excellent instrument. Mach played well, very well, for the reflexes of Bane's body were good. But Eli tromped him; his control was superlative. This was the one who could teach him improved play without magic.

But Mach used magic, not to make returns, but to improve his own perception and stamina. To enable himself to learn, to become a better player.

They played again. At first Mach, distracted by the nature of his adversary, had made easy misses. But pride soon caught up with him, and now he played with better precision — and still lost points. That trunk was so limber and controlled that the paddle seemed like a living part of it. The spins it imparted seemed magical, though they were not. When Mach tried to analyze them, he missed worse than ever. Eli's serves were especially bad; Mach could handle them only by playing extremely conservatively and defensively, which only set him up for further trouble.

Little by little, he discovered the key; Eli's paddle motions were complex, shifting direction and angle with blurring facility. Sometimes the paddle literally spun in his grasp, so that it was difficult to tell which side struck the ball. Since the two sides had different surfaces that imparted different qualities to the flight of the ball, this could be devastating.

"I must learn to do that," Mach said.

"Aye," Eli agreed. Rather, he snorted musically through his trunk, making the affirmative; human speech was difficult for him.

They played constantly during the following days and weeks. Eli had the patience of a pachyderm, and the endurance, and was pleased to have such a willing student. He demonstrated all his best shots, and showed Mach how to counter them. Mach, realizing that he would be up against a high-tech Proton paddle in at least one game, was happy to work on his defense. A good defense could not win the game for him, at this level, for it left the initiative to the opponent; but that defense had to be tight before he could score with his offense. The best defense players took the offensive the moment a suitable opportunity offered; their opponents knew that it was folly to ease up, and so were under pressure that could cause errors.

By the time the month was done, he was giving Eli some excellent games. He was vastly improved, and ready to tackle his other self in any of the three games. He had not used the magic paddle, as that was pointless; it was already incapable of making a bad shot. In fact, he felt slightly guilty, knowing that this was one instrument Bane could not match. Only by winning both the other games could Bane prevail.

Meanwhile, Fleta had special news for him. "Dost remember my heat?" she inquired diffidently.

"Oh, no – is it coming again?"

"Nay, has not noticed it came not again?"

Mach paused. "You mean—?"

"Aye, I be with foal."

Mach had no idea how to react, so he simply reached for her and embraced her, so cautiously that she laughed. She was a mare; her condition did not make her delicate. She was as happy as he had ever seen her.

But she was not willing to let it rest at that, "This be my compensation, and I be separated from thee. But how much better will it be if we separate not."

"If something can be worked out," he agreed, "To save the frames, and still be together,"

"Aye. And raise our foal ourselves."

"To be perhaps the best of unicorns – "

"Or the best of men."

"Perhaps like both: able to change form freely, yet able also to practice magic."

"Flach, the Unicorn Adept!" she exclaimed.

Why not? "Why not unite our species with a truly superior composite?"

"And needs must we set up a house, for I fear the Herd will welcome him not."

"Why not a castle? I am Adept now; I can make what I choose. Our son should have the best,"

"The Rovot Demesnes," she said, smiling.

She wasn't serious enough, so he kissed her again.

Whatever the outcome of this round, they would have this success together.

It was the day of the first game. Now at last Mach discovered how they were going to make it possible to play across the frames. As before, the two selves would overlap, standing together at one end of the table. Each would play his side. But the ball, instead of passing through the no-longer-existent curtain, would fly across the net to a simulacrum of the other player at the far end.

To Mach, it looked as if Bane were standing there, paddle in hand, in Mach's robot body, but it was probably a golem provided by the Brown Adept. The golem would not literally play; it would merely emulate Bane's motions.

But the ball could not physically cross between the frames. What would the golem be striking?

This might be an irrelevant detail, but Mach wanted to know, as it could affect his attitude and therefore his play. He didn't want to ask openly, which he realized was foolish; he was adapting increasingly to living ways, as he spent more time in this living body. Living creatures had awareness of pain, both physical and mental, and tended to be much more careful about things they did not quite understand than machines were. Mach was now far more sensitive than he had ever been in Proton, and he liked to believe that was an asset. So he wanted to know whether a hornet's nest was inhabited without getting stung during the investigation, and to know the exact nature of the appearance of his opponent without suffering any embarrassment about his naiveté in asking. So he practiced another aspect of personality that came more readily to the living than to the machine: innocuous deception.

He went to Fleta for one more embrace. "Is that a golem?" he whispered to her ear.

Her ear twitched. She did retain some unicorn mannerisms in her human form! "Nay, it has not smell," she replied. "It be a wraith."

"Thank you." So the whole thing, ball and player was merely an image, a projection for the information coming through him. Trool's spells from the Book of Magic could readily accomplish that; indeed, Mach himself could do something similar, at need.

"That be all thou dost want of me?" Fleta inquired.

Oops. "All I can ask in public," he said.

She sniffed, but was mollified.

He returned to the table and took up his paddle. It was the standard one that Trool had made for him, without magic. In this first game, the equipment was equivalent, with each paddle meeting set specifications. The idea was to see how well each played with no advantage of equipment. "Let's rally a little first," he suggested.

"Aye" Bane agreed. "This be a strange arrangement."

Suddenly Mach wished that the two of them could be together like this when not opposing each other. That they could do without illusion what

*The skill was not in her, but in the
paddle: that was its magic.
It would not miss a point.*

now required illusion. Maybe, after this contest was settled, they could see about that.

He picked up the ball and served it, throwing it up from his left palm in the prescribed manner, so that it was evident that his hand imparted no spin to it. It bounced on his side of the table and crossed the net. He knew that it became illusory at that point, transformed by magic to an image, while in the frame of the Proton the Game Computer introduced a physical ball with the exact velocity, azimuth and spin of the one in Phaze. In Proton Mach was the image, generated holographically, seeming as real a Bane did on this side. It was an amazingly sophisticated interface, to make the appearance of an ordinary game.

Bane returned the ball, seeming at ease. It crossed back over the net. Was there a flicker as it did so? Mach could not be sure. In any even, he should not allow himself to be distracted by the intricacies of the system; he had to play as well as he could. If he even started wondering how he could move freely about, to play the ball to either side or far back from the table, without losing his overlap-contact with Mach, he would start fouling up! How much of his own motion was also illusion?

They played for a few minutes, becoming acclimatized. All was in working order. "Time for business," Mach said, with both excitement and regret.

"Aye." Bane caught the ball in his hand, put his hands behind him, brought them out closed and held them just below the level of the table. Mach pointed with his paddle to Bane's right hand. Bane lifted it: empty. That meant that Bane had the first serve.

Bane served. The ball came across the net, low and fast, striking Mach's right corner. Mach fielded it with a chop, using a short sharp down stroke to return the ball with a backspin. This tended to slow its progress, causing it to drop to the center of Bane's table rather toward the back edge. But the backspin did more than that. It

changed the nature of the bounce, so that the ball tended to lift and fall short; an incautious player could have misjudged it and missed it for that reason. And more yet: when the other paddle touched it, the spin would tend to carry the ball down, perhaps into the net, for a miss.

But Bane now knew all that Mach did about the dynamics of play. He met the ball with a chop of his own, that countered and reversed the spin, sending the same kind of shot back.

Mach, ready for this, touched the ball lightly with his backhand, so that it bobbed up over the net and down just the other side: a shot that could be far more troublesome than it appeared, because normally a player stood back from the table.

But Bane was there, and with a quick flick of his wrist plunked the ball down and to Mach's right, so that it bounced near the edge of the table and dropped to the side. Mach leaped to intercept it, but the table was in the way, and he could not get there in time to do more than flip it way up in the high arch over the net.

That, of course, was a setup. Bane slammed it off the far side, and Mach had no way to return it.

One – love, for Bane. Now the game was truly under way!

Mach recovered the ball and tossed it back. Bane caught it in his hand and took his stance for the next serve.

This one was backhand, cutting across the Mach's left side. He returned it the same way as he had the first, with backspin. Mach's return was similar again; the machine body and mind tended to stay in familiar channels. That was apt to be a weakness.

Mach followed through with the same sort of shot he had made at this point in the first rally, flipping the ball gently over the net to the center of the table. And Bane replied as he had before, with the drop shot to the side, in a squeeze, and made a poor return, and got it smashed past him. Two – love for Bane.

But Mach was verifying what might be weaknesses in his opponent; that was more important than the points, at the moment. Mach had qualities of imagination he had lacked as a machine, and now he was using them for what he hoped would be his advantage. If he charted Bane's weaknesses, he could exploit them before the game was done.

Bane's third serve was forehand, to Mach's backhand. One forehand crosscourt, one backhand crosscourt, one forehand downcourt – the next should be backhand downcourt, and the fifth a new variation. If so, Mach would know what to expect later in the game, and that would help immensely.

He returned it with a high looping sidespin shot, the kind that could utterly befuddle a neophyte but would be a lost point against an experienced player. Sure enough, Bane compensated for the spin and slammed it off the corner. Three – love. A lost point, but confirmation of the reaction. It was not possible to put ultimate spin on a ball with the standard paddle surface, but in a later game it would be another matter.

However, he could not afford to get too far behind. He played to win on the fourth point. As anticipated, Bane served the ball backhand, to Mach's forehand, and because he was ready for it, he slammed it right back where it had come from. It was a beautiful shot, and it caught Bane

Continued on page 66



STILL EXCITING.

STILL ENTERTAINING.

STILL ENERGIZING.

STILL THE BEST WAY

to get away.



FREEDOM TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

Continued from page 64

by surprise; the paddle was late, and the ball went flying to the side, out of play. Three – one.

Bane's fifth serve was a drop shot, as Mach had thought reasonably likely. He dropped it back, and gained the initiative, which in due course won him the point. Three – two.

Now it was Mach's serve. He tested Bane's reactions on different types, and verified that Bane's skill was basically Mach's own – before he had come to Proton. He was thoroughly familiar with that style of play, by no coincidence, and knew its strengths and weaknesses. A defensive game would never prevail, because the robot made no unforced errors, and would outlast any other opponent. But the right kind of offense, initiated at the right occasion, could force errors. Mach was about to find out whether what he had learned from Eli the elephant head was the right kind.

It was, but not by much. Mach found that by making wild alterations in his play, he could cause Bane to lose track momentarily and become vulnerable – but that same wildness made Mach's own shots unreliable. He missed more than he should have, by taking risks, playing low-percentage shots. As a result, the score seesawed. He caught up at 9-9, fell behind to 13-10 (the server's score was always given first), went ahead at 16-17, and tied again at 19-19.

It was make-or-break time. Mach, as the robot, would not have gambled; Mach, as the living creature, did. It was his serve, and he had no better occasion to seize the initiative. He used the Eli special, thinking of his right arm as a flexible trunk, using it to put on the backspin that looked like a topspin. He spun the paddle; both sides were the same, for this game, but the spin helped mask the particular angle and motion as it contracted the ball. If it fooled Bane the way it had himself –

It did. Bane's return smacked into the net. He had countered for topspin, and sent the ball wrong.

Now for the real gamble. Mach had not repeated shots since his experimentation early in the game; Bane should be expecting a different serve. Mach used the same one, spinning the paddle again. This time Bane, more cautious, did manage to return it – but his volley was unaggressive. Mach played it aggressively, gained the initiative, and forced the rally to its conclusion. He made the point, and won the game, 21-19.

But he knew he would never catch Bane that way again. This ploy had been viable only at the end of the game, only for two points. If he ever tried that serve again, Bane would know what to do with it, and that, combined with error-free play, would suffice. Robots did learn from experience, and learned well.

"Good game," Mach said.

Bane nodded. "Until tomorrow."

But tomorrow was freestyle. Mach would have the magic paddle. This had been the key game, setting up for the sure win tomorrow.

Bane faded out, along with the far side of the table. Mach turned to Fleta, who seemed to materialize almost in his arms. "I took him on skill," he said, well satisfied.

"Don't get cocky," Translucent said. "He's as good as you are, and you won't take him again this way."

"I won't need to," Mach said.

But the Adept did not look confident.

[To be completed next issue.]

\$1925 Golden State Open

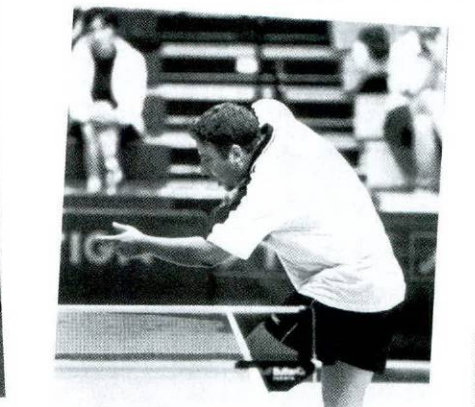
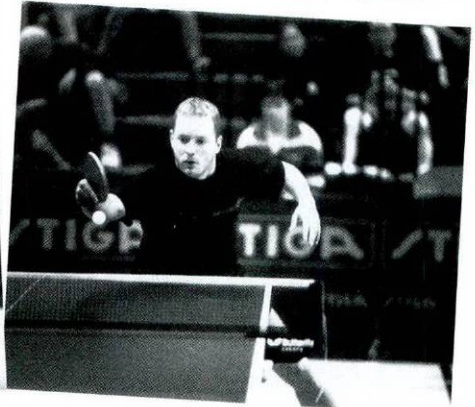
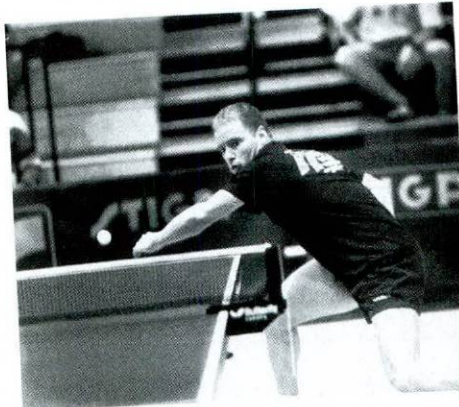
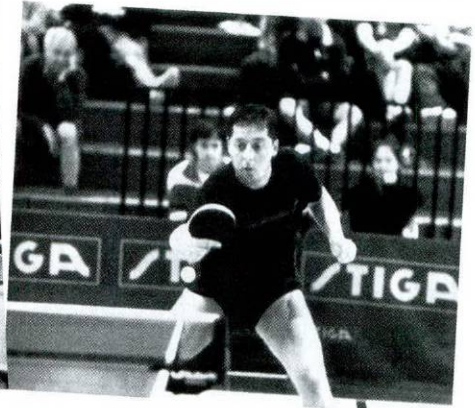
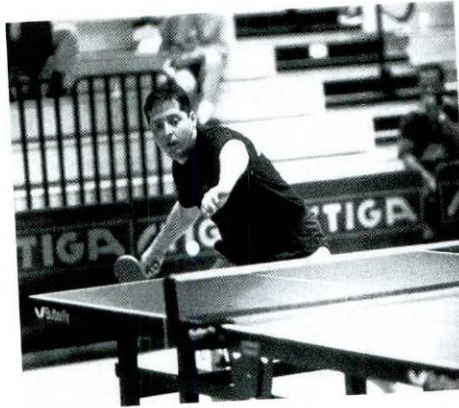
WALNUT CREEK, CA • MAY 25-26, 2002 • BY DENNIS LUI

Hungarian league player Attila Turbok narrowly outpaced his two countrymen, Robert Pagonyi and Dezso Racz, for the 2002 singles title at the 28th annual event, despite losing 3-2 in a best of five match to Khoa Nguyen, who placed fourth.

The open singles final was played in a round robin format where each of the four finalists squared off against each other. Turbok and Pagonyi's match records were tied, 2-1, which Turbok won in the head-to-head tiebreaker. Racz and Nguyen also tied for the last two spots, 1-2, with Racz beating out Nguyen head-to-head.

While top-seeded Pagonyi was easily the flashiest player in the gym, using remarkable foot speed to chase down balls, and an array of high-level fake-out shots to humble opponents, Turbok's play proved the most effective, powerful and steady on the day.

Turbok was not undefeated, however, although he was close, coming within a deuce game in the third and fifth of beating Nguyen after taking a 2 games to 0 lead. Early on, it seemed Turbok would have his way, blocking and counterattacking Nguyen's loops. But Nguyen's forehand got hot by the end of the third game, and he rode the momentum of hitting



Top: The Attila Turbok forehand and backhand.

Middle: The Robert Pagonyi forehand and backhand.

Bottom: The Khoa Nguyen forehand and Dezso Racz serve.

Photos by Phil Schaefer ©2002

pinpoint forehand loop winners to complete the comeback. Nguyen finished the day with the bittersweet distinction of being the only player to beat Turbok, but coming in last out of the finalists.

When comparing the top two finishers, Turbok and Pagonyi, their physical characteristics gave hints to their respective playing styles. The shorter, faster Pagonyi is more aggressive, getting on top of balls early to loop drive at will, and chasing down shots that might get by lesser players. The taller, stouter Turbok was more content to let balls come to him at mid-distance where he could loop, but he was also not afraid to go in close to attack, block and rally. Both men play the typical European double-winged looping style, with no deficiencies in their strokes, and both have exceptional backhand loop kills.

Turbok was very consistent in his match with Pagonyi, generally outlasting him in counterlooping rallies. He also threw in such tactics as high control looping which Pagonyi did not attack very well, and at times chopping from below the table to confuse Pagonyi with the spins. Turbok won three straight.

When it came time for Racz to try and knock off the other two Hungarians, who know Racz's game well, it became apparent that he could not rely on his strengths of efficient spin control and deceptive serves. The heavyset Racz had less mobility than Turbok and Pagonyi, and though his strokes were strong and he could get to most balls, he could not stay in the rallies. Against Nguyen, however, Racz's game proved crafty enough to get by for the third place spot.

The highlight play of the day came in the Pagonyi versus Racz match, where Pagonyi, having cruised to a 2-0 lead, began to do some exhibition style lobbing and continued to lob after hopping over the end barrier. Suddenly Pagonyi, still on the barrier's opposite side, dived to execute a beautiful, long range forehand chop which just skimmed over the net, drawing some of the biggest applause of the weekend.

Up until the week before, the buzz around the tournament was the return of seven-time open singles winner Nguyen, whose last Golden State appearance was in 1996. The only question seemed to be who would come in second to the 2000 Olympian.

All that changed with one phone call and three new entries the day before the deadline, as Turbok, Pagonyi and Racz, notified tournament director Phil Schafer that they would be making an appearance. "The Three Hungarians," as the tournament crowd conveniently began to refer to them, were fresh off their outing at the Western Open in San Diego a week earlier, where they lost to the likes of Fan Yi Yong, Eric Owens and Jim Butler in the late stages of the open event. Here, on their trip north for the bay area competition, they faced a less crowded field at the top.

The tournament committee, normally applauded for being prepared in advance, saw a minor gaffe in the tournament program it prints every year, which still read that Nguyen was "the heavy favorite" to win it all. Obviously with "the Three Hungarians" in the building, Nguyen



"The definition of frustrating 2150 level penhold blocker" - Over 50 & Over 60 Champion Peter Chen.

had gone in a week's time from being feared former champ to local underdog veteran (Nguyen makes his residence in nearby San Jose). It also was a surprise to see Racz, the 2001 Golden State winner, return from overseas to play. As welcome as he was, he was hard pressed to repeat for the title this year with his two talented companions in tow.

In fact, Racz almost did not make it to the final round at all, having to come back from 2-0 down in the quarterfinal round to beat the women's champion Angela Sun, whose rating was more than 400 points less than the 2630 rated Racz. Sun stayed close to the table and tracked down several of Racz's strong shots with her quick penhold grip. She kept points alive, to Racz's surprise, and was in very good rhythm in the near upset, having just come off her victory against Michelle Do in the women's final.

Sun versus Do was a rematch of the final from a year earlier, when Do took first. Sun's persistent blocking and counterattacking game meant Do had to keep her loops strong and on the table, which didn't happen often enough. The match went to Sun in four games, 6,-8,6,13.

The other top contender for the women's title was Whitney Ping, who lost to Do in the semifinals much the same way that Do later lost to Sun, with Do using her blocking game to wear down Ping and her loops. But the real story with Ping was that there seemed to be very few moments during the day where she wasn't out on a table. She advanced out of both Under 2450 and the Open. She made it to the semifinals of the aforementioned women's event. She won Under 2300 (beating Do and Sun along the way). And she came in second in Under 18. Whitney was everywhere!

Ping's match with Misha Kazantsev in the Under 18 final featured several entertaining counterlooping rallies, but Kazantsev mixed it up enough by the end with a variety of flips, smashes, fishing shots and loop drives to throw Ping off her strong looping game. Kazantsev won in four (9,-9,9,5), and at age 13, looks to dominate this event for several more years. The other junior event, Under 12, went to San Francisco Chinatown's Edmund Wu.

In all, there were 52 juniors attending the tournament, continuing Concord's tradition of drawing interest in the bay area's youth demographic. An honorable mention for the

most improved performance at the tournament from a year ago goes (some would say, naturally) to a junior. Thirteen-year-old Trevor Runyan went from taking second place in Under 1550 last year to winning Under 2000 this year.

But when it comes to racking up the wins at the Golden State Open, few can match old Peter Chen's running record of four straight Esquires (Over 50) titles, and three straight Senior Esquires (Over 60) titles. When you look up the definition of frustrating 2150 level penhold blocker in the dictionary, you will find a picture of Peter Chen standing ready at the table.

Chen's showing was complemented by Concord favorite Hackie Honda winning in the Veterans event (Over 70), to much crowd adulation on Saturday afternoon. The remaining age category, the Senior event (Over 40) went to Avischy Schmidt, who also took home the Under 2450 trophy.

This year's edition of the Golden State Open drew another large crowd with 200 players plus spectators. Special thanks go to the tournament staff and all the volunteers from the Concord Table Tennis Club, without whom the most attended annual bay area tournament would not be possible.

Open Singles - Final RR: 1st Attila Turbok, 2-1 (d. Pagonyi,6,10,4; d. Racz,4,7,-11,9); 2nd Robert Pagonyi (d. Racz 4,7,-11,9; d. Nguyen,6,10,4); 3rd Dezso Racz (d. Nguyen,6,-5,6,-9,9); 4th Khoa Nguyen (d. Turbok,-8,-6,10,4,10).

Open Doubles: Attila Turbok/Robert Pagonyi d. Dezso Racz/Avischy Schmidt, 13,12,7.

Women's Singles - Final: Angela Sun d. Michelle Do, 6,-8,6,13; **SF:** Sun d. Allison Seibel, 6,7,4; Do d. Whitney Ping, 8,10,-8,-7,11.

U2450 - Final: Avischy Schmidt d. Duc Duong Kevin Au, 11,8,-4,-5,8; **SF:** Schmidt d. Misha Kazantsev, 10,5,-7,3; Au d. David Roberts, 3,5,-4,9.

U2300 - Final: Whitney Ping d. Angela Sun, 7,-8,-7,6,12; **SF:** Ping d. Michelle Do, 7,6,12; Sun d. Misha Kazantsev, -7,10,5,7.

U2150 - Final: Joey Juin-Yuan Hu d. Morten Tangaa-Andersen, 6,14,6; **SF:** Hu d. Nelson Yu, -6,10,4,-5,8; Tangaa-Andersen d. Bruce H. Liu, 4,7,9.

U2000 - Final: Trevor Runyan d. Morten Tangaa-Andersen, 8,-8,7,-12,6; **SF:** Runyan d. Michael Leroy Greene, 5,-9,3,7; Tangaa-Andersen d. Kock Loe, 7,-7,9,9.

U1850: Vladimir Arutyunov d. Wai M. Lam, 7,1,8.

U1700: Alex Varady d. Chester Wung, 10,-4,-7,3,3.

U1550: Jack Cheung d. Gan-Wah Lee, 4,5,-9,9.

U1400: William Lyons d. Long Yin Choy, 7,7,5.

U1250: Yau-Man Chan d. Tu Huynh, 7,3,-5,8.

U1100: Bruce Hu d. Edward Wang, 5,8,-10,3.

U800: Edmund Wu d. Phillip Wan, 4,10,7.

U500: Helen Ku d. Michael Banner, 4,3,7.

Over 40: Avischy Schmidt d. Peter Chen, 6,13,-11,4.

Over 50: Peter Chen d. Thomas Yeh, 8,9,8.

Over 60: Peter Chen d. Toon Siong Mao, 1,7,3.

Over 70: Hackie Honda d. Weiqing Luo, 4,8,-1,6.

Under 18: Misha Kazantsev d. Whitney Ping, 9,-9,9,5.

Under 12: Edmund Wu d. Julian Wong, 4,6,5.

U3400 Doubles: Baird/Smith d. Yick/Lee, 1,-8,-9,9,4.

U2800 Doubles: Mnuskin/Arutyunov d. Villacarlos/Castro, 6,8,5.

AAU GREATER NEW YORK JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Flushing, NY • June 8, 2002 • By Karen Chang

The junior table tennis scene is alive and well in New York, as seen at the AAU Greater New York Junior Table Tennis Championships on Saturday June 8, 2002. About 40 juniors (and at least as many parents) filled the New York Table Tennis Club in Flushing, traveling from all over New York and New Jersey, and even as far as Massachusetts. The tournament served as a warm-up to the AAU Junior Olympics to be held August 8-10 in Knoxville Tennessee. Half the participants had never competed in a table tennis tournament before, learning about it via word-of-mouth within the local community. About 25% of the kids plan to attend the Junior Olympics this year, most of who have never participated in it before. Mission accomplished. Congratulations to all the winners!

Under 10 Boys: 1st Kevin Kuznetzow; 2nd Nicholas Parra; 3rd Didi Peng.

Under 10 Girls: 1st Isabella Chen.

Under 12 Boys: 1st Tony Chien; 2nd Jake Carter; 3rd Benjamin Liu.

Under 12 Girls: 1st Alison Wu; 2nd Belle Peng; 3rd Michelle Zhu.

Under 14 Boys: 1st Charles Lin; 2nd Taiyee Chien; 3rd Patrick Wu.

Under 14 Girls: 1st Karen Ma; 2nd Stephanie Shih.

Under 16 Boys: 1st Eric Finkelstein; 2nd Pan Lin; 3rd Franklin Chiang.

Under 18 Boys: 1st Wei-Yuan Chiang; 2nd Allen Cho.

Under 18 Girls: 1st Felicia Chiu; 2nd Janet Ma.

Under 22 Boys: 1st Jeffrey Fang; 2nd Ilan Hausner.

Under 16 Boys' Doubles: 1st Eric Finkelstein/Pan Lin; 2nd Tony Chen/Franklin Chiang; 3rd Taiyee Chien/Eddie Yang.

Under 16 Girls' Doubles: 1st Karen Ma/Stephanie Shih.

Under 22 Boys' Doubles: 1st Eric Finkelstein/Pan Lin; 2nd Franklin Chiang/Wei-Yuan Chiang; 3rd Taiyee Chien/Eddie Yang.

Under 22 Girls' Doubles: 1st Felicia Chiu/Karen Ma. 🏓

COUNTRYSIDE OPEN

Clearwater, FL • May 25-26, 2002

By Ray Spann & Al Palumbo

The 1st Annual Countryside USATT Open 2-Star Table Tennis Tournament was held on May 25-26, 2002 at the Countryside Recreation Complex in Clearwater, Florida. A total of 104 entrants were registered in the massive 15-event schedule. Eighteen Stiga tables were provided and were kept busy during the successful two-day tournament. The tournament was sponsored by the City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation, The Countryside Table Tennis Club, The Sunrise Table Tennis Club and Stiga. The proceeds from the tournament will go to the Junior Development Program in the Clearwater, Florida area.

Players were drawn from all over Florida and a group from Atlanta, Georgia, under the direction of Richard McAfee, was in attendance. The highlight of the tournament was the Championship Finals in which Brian Pace (2481) defeated Dickie Fleisher (2265) in a grueling seven-game match.

Upsets included a victory by Sotee Loey (1782) over Rui Yan (1858) in the U-1950 Finals, a win by Phillip Gustavson (1398) over Sam Phan (1529) in the U-1800 Finals, a spectacular upset of Beata Wrokska (1959) by Marisol Delzo (1905) in the Women's Singles final, a decisive win by Robert Hoffman (1586) over Richard Moreau (1619) in the Over 65 Finals and an upset victory by Sam Phan (1529) over Jason Liem (1584) in the Under 1650 Final.

Although this was the first sanctioned tournament for the Countryside Table Tennis Club in combination with The Sunrise Table Tennis Club, it certainly will not be the last. Tournament Directors Michael McFarland and Ray Spahn plan to build on the success this year by adding several events, utilizing a larger facility, and increasing the number of available tables to 24 from the current 18. Club officials were thankful for the tremendous support shown by the numerous volunteers that made it such a successful tournament. Many hours of volunteer work went into the mailings, collecting fees and USATT memberships, setting up the equipment, providing concessions, making the tournament draws, running the tournament, verifying the results and filing the required reports. The tournament could not have been held without such a dedicated group of volunteers. Club officials were pleased with the results and have already started planning for an even bigger and better event next year.

Open Singles: Brian Pace d. Dickie Fleisher, -6,7,-10,6,-2,7,11.

Open Doubles: Brian Pace/Rafael Flores and Dickie Fleisher/Priscilla Lai spit final.

Women's Singles: Marisol Delzo d. Beata Wrokska, 8,8,6.

U2200: Richard Ciz d. Jose Duarte, 5,-8,5,-8,7.

U1950: Sotee Loey d. Rui Yan, 8,6,-10,-7,6.

U1800: Phillip Gustavson d. Sam Phan, -6,5,9,9.

U1650: Sam Phan d. Jason Liem, 7,-10,4,7.

U1500: Phillip Gustavson d. Carl Simons, 10,11,-9,3.

U1300: Carl Simons d. Rene Deguia, 5,6,-9,4.

Over 40: Dickie Fleisher d. Bin Hai Chu, 3-1.

Over 50: Bin Hai Chu d. Richard McAfee, 9,3,-8,9.

Over 65: Robert Hoffman d. Richard Moreau, 4,4,5.

Under 17: Marisol Delzo d. Phillip Gustavson, 3,-7,5,5.

U3600 Doubles: Phillip Gustavson/Richard McAfee d. Sam Phan/Kit Jeerapaet, -6,9,6,9. 🏓

Photo by Karen Chang ©2002



Above: Evan Ng and Patrick Wu (L) battle with Taiyee Chien and Eddie Yang (right) in the early rounds of Under 16 Boys' Doubles in the NY Junior Championships.

Below: Some of the winners!

Photo by Karen Chang ©2002



First Pan American Youth Championships and North American Youth Training Camp

Ft. Lauderdale, FL • June 26-July 1, 2002 • By Teodor "Doru" Gheorghe, U.S. Women's Team Coach

The first Pan American Youth Championship was organized by USATT at the same venue as the U.S. Open/ITTF Pro Tour, June 26-28, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Players from 12 Latin American countries, Canada and USA competed in four singles categories (under 22, 18, 15 and 13), and two team categories (under 22 and under 15). Both boys and girls events were held.

USA's top twelve girls (Jackie Lee, Whitney Ping, Katherine Wu, Elaine Kwok, Sophia Dan Dan Yi, Laura Xiao, Wendy Eav, Minh Than Nguyen, Atha Fong, Judy Hugh, Sarah Zheng, Barbara Wei) and top eight boys (Mark Hazinski, Han Xiao, Jared Lynch, Adam Hugh, Misha Kazantsev, Sergy Gutkin, John Leach, Joseph Cochran) represented USA. They won five gold medals, four silver and five bronze medals. The USA medallists were:

Gold: Jackie Lee (Under 18 Girls' Singles), Adam Hugh (Under 15 Boys' Singles), Atha Fong (Under 13 Girls' Singles), Under 15 and Under 13 Girls' Teams, and Under 15 and Under 13 Boys' Teams.

Silver: Mark Hazinski (Under 18 Boys' Singles), Judy Hugh (Under 13 Girls' Singles), and Under 22, Under 18, Under 15 and Under 13 Girls' Teams.

Bronze: Whitney Ping (Under 18 Girls' Singles), Sophia Dan Dan Yi (Under 15 Girls' Singles), Sarah Zheng (Under 13 Girls' Singles), Sergy Gutkin (Under 13 Boys' Singles), and Under 22 and Under 18 Boys' Teams.

The Pan Am Youth tournament was a good opportunity for our juniors and cadets to compete against other players with different playing styles. Also, since it was organized on U.S. soil, more USA juniors had the chance to play in this international tournament than if we had to send them overseas.

For coaches, the tournament was a good opportunity to see were we are with our players within the Pan Am continents, and evaluate our chances in future Pan Am Games. Having a Pan Am Games for adult players but a lack of international competitions for juniors, we should study the possibility of organizing this tournament in the future. Coaches from Latin America approached me with the idea of organizing this competition in the future and having other joint training camps.

Following the Pan Am Youth Championship, USATT organized the North American Youth Training Camp, which is part of the ITTF Continental Development program for North American countries. The Camp was held at the same venue, June 29-July 1. We had eight boys and nine girls from USA, five boys and four girls from Canada, and 24 boys and 18 girls from Latin American countries (Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Barbados and Columbia).

We had four head coaches: Teodor Gheorghe, USA Women's Team; Jean Baptiste Bertrand, National High Performance Center in Montreal; Dan Seemiller, USA Men's Team; and Martin Marle, Brazil Men's Team Coach in charge with coordination of Latin American players. Twelve other coaches from USA, Canada and Latin America attended the Camp.

During the three days of the camp we had 12 sessions, 2.5 hours each, with separate sessions for boys and girls, with all players doing two sessions per day. The camp went very well and the players responded in a positive way, working very hard and with responsible attitudes.

For USA players, this was a good opportunity to train with a large variety of partners with different playing styles, getting used to high-quality training sessions, and making new friends.

The coaches and players concluded that the camp was very well organized and are looking forward to returning for another one. The Pan American Youth Championships and the Camp were very useful for our players.

I would like to thank the players and the coaches that attended the camp for their hard work and positive attitudes, and I hope we will have more opportunities like this to work together. 🏓

U.S. Junior Girls' Team: Coach Bill Lui, Sophia Dan Dan Yi, Katherine Wu, Jackie Lee, Whitney Ping, Coach Doru Gheorghe.

U.S. Junior Boys' Team: Coach Mark Nordby, Jared Lynch, Mark Hazinski, Han Xiao. (Missing: Coach Dan Seemiller.)

Under 22 Men's Teams

1. Brazil; 2. Canada; 3. USA; 4. Peru; 5. Barbados; 6. Chile; 7. Dominican Republic; 8. El Salvador; 9. Guyana; 10. Guatemala; 11. Mexico.

Under 16 Boys' Teams

1. USA; 2. El Salvador; 3. Dominican Republic; 4. Peru; 5. Barbados; 6. Guyana.

Under 22 Women's Teams

1. Brazil; 2. USA; 3. Canada; 4. Chile; 5. Peru; 6. Barbados; 7. Guyana; 8. Mexico.

Under 16 Girls' Teams

1. USA #1; 2. USA #2; 3. Barbados.

Under 22 Men's Singles

1. Thiago Farias Monteiro (BRA)
2. Jose Ramirez-Marin (GUA)
3. Hugo Hanashiro (BRA)
4. Anson Bispham (CAN)
5. Mauricio Enrique Grande (ESA)
6. Francis Munoz (DOM)
7. Dennis Yi (PER)
8. Mark-Anthony Dowell (BAR)
9. Shadrach Reuben Maxius (BAR)
10. Milton Garcia (MEX)

Under 18 Boys's Singles

1. Cazu Matsumoto (BRA)
2. Mark Hazinski (USA)
3. Daniel Alagao (BRA)
4. Han Xiao (USA)
5. Carlos Olea (CHI)
6. Ignacio Cabrera (CAN)
7. Kevin Farley (BAR)
8. Juan Pablo Koo (PER)
9. Jared Lynch (USA)
10. Aluko Bascombe (BAR)

Under 15 Boys' Singles

1. Adam Hugh (USA)
2. Guo Peng (CAN)
3. Pierre-Luc Hinse (CAN)
4. Felipe Monita (BRA)
5. Ciancarlo Cerna (PER)
6. Michael Ulatowski (CAN)
7. Anderson Carrington (BAR)
8. Mario Alejandro Martinez (ESA)
9. Misha Kazantsev (USA)
10. Radhames Diaz (DOM)

Under 13 Boys' Singles

1. Juan Antonio Vila (DOM)
2. Zach Bonsalves (GUY)
3. Sergy Gutkin (USA)
4. Jade Padmore (BAR)
5. Josue Ernesto Donado
6. John Leach (USA)
7. Edgar Espinal (DOM)
8. Joseph Cochran (USA)
9. Miguel Delgado (GUA)
10. Frankz Kastner (PER)

Under 22 Women's Singles

1. Ligia Silva (BRA)
2. Erica Pilon (CAN)
3. Marie-Christine Roussy (CAN)
4. Izzawa Medi Bueso (HON)
5. Nicole Alleyne (BAR)

Under 18 Girls' Singles

1. Jackie Lee (USA)
2. Wennin Chiu (CAN)
3. Whitney Ping (USA)
4. Katherine Wu (USA)
5. Gaudalaup Sanchez (PER)
6. Paulina Vega (CHI)
7. Marisol Delzo (PER)
8. Elaine Kwok (USA)
9. Nathalia Barreira (BRA)
10. Claudia Ikeizumi (BRA)

Under 15 Girls' Singles

1. Mariany Nonaka (BRA)
2. Sara Yuen (CAN)
3. Sophia Dan Dan Yi (USA)
4. Laura Xiao (USA)
5. Wendy Eav (USA)
6. Sherrice Felix (BAR)
7. Minh Thar Nguyen (USA)
8. Tara Burrowes (BAR)

Under 13 Girls' Singles

1. Atha Fong (USA)
2. Judy Hugh (USA)
3. Sarah Zheng (USA)
4. Barbara Wei (USA)
5. Sarah Rosas (MEX)
6. Mirella Delzo (PER)
7. Michelle John (GUY)
8. Aura Ocampo (COL)
9. Malissa Howard (BAR)



TOP MEN

1. WA 2782 Fan, Yi Yong
2. IL 2738 Lupulesku, Ilija
3. MD 2713 Cheng, Yinghua
4. TX 2707 Owens, Eric
5. NJ 2690 Zhuang, David
6. NY 2630 Musa, Atanda
7. TX 2626 Butler, Jim
8. NV 2607 Racz, Dezso
9. CA 2594 Nguyen, Khoa
10. TX 2573 Cretu, Razvan
11. IL 2571 Drinic, Sasa
12. TX 2568 Subonj, Viktorian
13. IN 2565 Hazinski, Mark
14. NY 2551 Wang, Fei
15. TX 2544 Rop, Darko
16. IL 2540 Shiu, Arturo Pang
17. NY 2530 Shao, Yu
18. IN 2504 Seemiller, Daniel
19. NY 2499 David, Paul
20. IL 2497 Jain, Ashu
20. PR 2497 Revelles, Juan
22. VA 2495 O'Neill, Sean Patrick
23. MD 2492 Xiao, Han
24. NY 2489 Fernandez, David
25. FL 2481 Pace, Brian
26. FL 2468 Ramirez-Marin, Jose
27. TX 2460 Oak, Niraj
28. NY 2453 Perez, Alexis
29. GA 2448 Hyatt, Michael
30. NY 2435 Tse, Ka Chun
31. TX 2427 Oshodi, Taju
32. NJ 2410 Hugh, Adam
33. CA 2399 Zeinelabedin, Khaled
34. NJ 2396 Dattel, Barry
35. MD 2386 Aziz, Qassim
36. CA 2384 Malek, Attila
36. TN 2384 Tey, Tai Long
38. NJ 2383 Domingo, Rey A.
39. NY 2382 Tran, De
40. GA 2372 McCool, Lee



**The Paddle Palace
Presents
The USATT
National Ratings List**

***Paddle Palace Table Tennis Co.
For all your table tennis needs!***

ORDERS TOLL-FREE: 1-800-547-5891
 Phone: (503) 777-2266 Fax: (503) 777-4062

website: www.paddlepalace.com
 e-mail: tt@paddlepalace.com

TOP WOMEN

1. CA 2455 Banh, Tawny
2. TX 2409 Reed, Jasna
3. NJ 2368 Yip, Lily
4. NY 2361 Peluchova, Renata
5. NY 2347 Sung, Virginia
6. CA 2335 Sun, Angela
7. OR 2329 Yang, Simone
8. OR 2257 Ping, Whitney
9. CA 2254 Moseley, Kibibi
10. MO 2245 Bosika, Mimi
10. CA 2245 Lee, Jacqueline
12. CA 2215 Do, Michelle
13. MD 2155 Wu, Katherine
14. MA 2135 Chui, Jane Hone
15. PR 2124 Garcia, Enerys
16. NY 2094 Yi, Sophia Dan Dan
17. FL 2049 Yang, Xue
18. NJ 2041 Kosaka, Livia
19. WA 2017 Lei, Lani
20. IL 2015 Bastrzyk, Marta
21. FL 2008 Wronska, Beata
22. KS 2005 Xiao, Laura
23. VA 1997 Kwok, Elaine
24. MD 1968 Liu, Charlene Xiaoying
25. NC 1963 Mun, Hye-Sook (Brenda)
26. OK 1937 Wang, Heather Hua
27. TX 1913 Roufeh, Mahin
28. NM 1906 Gresham, Toni M.
28. VA 1906 Wang, Chao
30. MD 1897 Wei, Barbara
31. CA 1894 Khasanova, Alina
31. CA 1894 Seibel, Allison
33. FL 1887 Zheng, Sarah
34. CA 1876 Livshin, Bella
35. CA 1872 Birioukova, Victoria
36. PR 1864 Rosario, Sarida
37. NJ 1858 Alvarez, Ann
38. GA 1835 Goh, Sue May
39. PR 1834 Garcia Melendez, Darilyn
40. PR 1833 Marrero Morales, Jerica

Tournaments Processed

This list was compiled on 8/05/02 and includes all tournaments played through 7/7/02. **Due to space limitations, only current members who have played since 4/15/02 are included.** This document may not be reproduced without prior written permission of USA Table Tennis. copyright 2002.

Ratings Questions?

All ratings-related questions should be directed to Fran Boardman, USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. To find out your rating, send a self-addressed, stamped postcard with your name and the date of your last tournament. You may also contact us at 719-866-4583 or by e-mail at ratings@usatt.org.

Tournaments Included in Ratings

2002 New Jersey Closed	St Louis Team RR TT Open	Bob Green Memorial	BCC Summer Open	Davison June Open
Atlanta Winter Open	2002 PA State Championships	Chicago Open	MDTTC June Open	Grand Canyon State Games
Sacramento Spring Open	Cinco de Mayo RR	Maryland Giant RR	2002 Seattle Open	Lexington RR Open
Rockford Spring Open	Columbia May Open Giant RR	Davison Team Championships	Fairfield June Open	MTTC 2002 Open
Texas Invitational	Maryland Circuit	Boston TTC May Open	Maryland Circuit	Maryland Giant RR
Michigan Closed TT	Schaumburg RR Open	Western Open/Stiga NA Tour	Pensacola Summer Open	Springfield 2-star Open
Championships	Power Pong Open	1st Annual Countryside Open	Roanoke RR Beat the Heat	Austin Open
Ospreys for Autism Open	Spring 2002 Giant RR	2002 DFW Summer Open	2002 Meiklejohn Nat Sr TTT	Boston TTC June Open
Tri City Spring Open Double RR	Maryland Medallion Champs.	Golden State Open	Schaumburg Summer Open	2002 Pan Am Youth Champs.
2002 Indiana State Closed	Piedmont TT Open	St. Joseph Valley Open	Sooner State Games	Fairfield June Challenge
Davison April Open	3rd Garden State Open	Ben Hill Stiga Open	High Desert Invitational	So. Florida US Open Warm-up
Maryland State Closed	Cleveland 2002 Spring Open	Piedmont Open	Hoosier State Games	2002 ITTF World Junior Circuit
Mid-Ohio Camper Sales Open	AITTL League Singles Closed	Rose City Open	Stiga Open/Stiga NA Tour	2002 U.S. Open/ITTF Pro Tour
Scenic City Open				2002 U.S. Open

Paddle Palace Presents the

U S A T T T o u r n a m e n t S c h e d u l e

August 31-September 1 - California Open, San Diego, CA. Contact: Richard Lee, info@natabletennis.com. 301-738-8250. ★★★★★

September 6-8, Spinmania 2002, Woodbury, NY. Contact: Michael Lalvani, 516-753-0853. michael@spintechologies.com. ★★★★★

September 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Doug Paul, 910-769-3222. Pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

September 7-8 - Back to School Open, Milwaukie, OR. Contact: Tim Titrud, 503-653-6629. sixleaves@aol.com. ★★

September 14 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

September 14 - Stiga Cary Fall Open, Cary, NC. Contact: Mike Babuin, 919-465-9831. mbabuin@ci.cary.nc.us. 0 Star

September 14-15 - Boston September Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus, 617-492-4317. davidmarcus@alum.mit.edu. ★

September 21-22 - Matthew Murad Memorial Open, Hagerstown, MD. Contact: Richard Lee, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

September 28-29 - Willoughby Hills Giant RR Open, Willoughby Hills, OH. Contact: Bob Haverstraw, 440-256-3635. straw@buckeye.com. ★

September 28-29 - Pacific Coast Open, Santa Monica, CA. Contact: Jo Kidd, 310-452-9315. ★★

September 28 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

October 5 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Doug Paul, 910-769-3222. Pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

October 5 - Arkansas Open, Little Rock, AR. Contact: Eugene Atha, 501-835-5291. ★★

October 5 - Biggest Little Reno-Sparks Open TTT, Reno, NV. Contact: Howard Lambert, 775-425-2284. howlambert@aol.com. ★★

October 5-6 - 2002 New York State Closed, Spring Valley, NY. Contact: Ben Nisbet, AYTTO, 914-591-8392. State Games

October 5 - Three Rivers Fall RR, Fort Wayne, IN. Contact: Dirk Petersen, Dirk, 219-485-4218. dpete4218@fwi.com. ★

October 7-11 - Huntsman World Senior Games, St. George, UT. Contact: Grant Misbach, 801-373-8009. 0 Star

October 12 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

October 12 - Fox Valley Open, Aurora, IL. Contact: Roger Jutte, 630-375-1515. rogerj@att.net. ★

October 12-13 - 17th Annual Bernard Hock Open, New Albany, IN. Contact: Richard Riley, 812-952-3826. ★★

October 19 - Austin Fall RR, Austin, TX. Contact: John Miller, 512-258-3731. john@balconessoftware.com. ★

October 19-20 - Tri-Cities Fall Open Double RR, Richland, WA. Contact: Kirby, 509-375-1587. slvrfox@dwt.com. ★

October 19-20 - 2002 Millcreek Open, Erie, PA. Contact: Sam Steiner, 814-454-7103. samsteiner@compuserve.com. ★★★★★

October 19-20 - MDTTC October Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 301-916-4862. weixiao42@hotmail.com. ★

October 19-20 - 2002 Millcreek Open, Erie, PA. Contact: Sam Steiner, 814-833-8704. samsteiner@compuserve.com. ★★★★★

October 20 - Tri-Cities Fall Open Double RR, Richland, WA. Contact: Kirby Parker, 509-375-1587. slvrfox@owt.com. ★

October 20 - Concord Cup Youth Tournament, Pleasant Hill, CA. Contact: Phil Schafer, 925-689-7463. philicki@hotmail.com. ★

October 26 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

October 27 - Roanoke Fall Classic, Salem, VA. Contact: Dean Kapsalakis, 540-384-6161. dean@rev.net. ★

November 2 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Doug Paul, 910-769-3222. Pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 2-3 - Boston November Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus, 617-492-4317. davidmarcus@alum.mit.edu. ★

November 2-3 - High Desert Open, Victorville, CA. Contact: Blake Hoard, Blake, 760-962-8846. blakekibo@iwon.com. ★★

November 9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 9 - Atlanta Giant RR, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Wendell Dillon, 770-923-5110. pong@mindspring.com. ★

November 16-17 - Potomac Open, Potomac, MD. Contact: Lixin Lang, 301-963-1009. lixin_lang@excite.com. ★★

November 29-December 1 - Stiga North American Teams Open Championships, Baltimore, MD. Contact: NATT, info@natabletennis.com. 301-738-8250. ★★★★★

December 7 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

December 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Doug Paul, 910-769-3222. Pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star.

December 14 - Atlanta Fall Open, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Warren Moon, 404-284-6030. wamoon@mindspring.com. ★

December 18-22 - US Nationals, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Phone: 719-866-4583. admin@usatt.org. ★★★★★

December 27-29 - Killerspin Open, Chicago, IL. Contact: NATT, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. (Sanction Pending) ★★★★★



\$5000 Stiga Open

NEWARK, DE • JUNE 15-16, 2002 • BY ALAN WILLIAMS

For the second time in less than 10 months, the STIGA North American Tour landed at the Bob Carpenter Sports Building at the University of Delaware in Newark. Triangulating the Table Tennis hotbeds of Maryland, Philadelphia and NY/NJ, and staffed by enthusiastic and helpful UD employees, the venue has been one of most successful in the three years of Tour operation.

The hall was readied on Friday night with 25 new STIGA tables. "Are the tables all the same?" asked Top U.S. seed David Zhuang. "Good!" was his response when told that all of them had identical tops. Apparently a matched set was of some importance. Later in the weekend, David would play one of the most exciting matches of the 2002 Tour, and it was nice to know that conditions would be a non-factor.

It was also nice to have the support of the 150 participants and the volunteer services of Larry Bavly, Andre Scott, Richard McAfee and Larry Hodges, who umpired matches from the Quarterfinals on in Open Singles. Richard was especially active during the tournament, as a player, a coach and an official! What's next, Richard? Working the concession stand?

With the support of sponsor Table Tennis Pioneers, who manned the retail booth, NATT staff and Tournament Ref Terry Bell finished the tournament set-up and prepared to welcome a top field that included two newcomers to the NA Tour, Thomas Keinath and Stefan Feth, both recent Semifinalists in the German Nationals. Coupled with the late withdrawal of Western Open Champ Fan Yi Yong, their presence left the Open Singles Title up for grabs.

With great pleasure, we saw the return of two well-traveled American favorites, Lim Ming Chui and Richard McAfee. They met in the semifinals of the Over 50 event, where a beaming McAfee prevailed. Parvis Mojaverian then bested McAfee to take the category, but that couldn't erase Richard's pleasure at his performance. Chui and his doubles partner, Marius Wechsler, then eliminated McAfee and Allison Ellis in U-4200 doubles on their way to finishing second to Ross Brown and Keith Evans.

Evan Momios also enjoyed a return visit to Delaware, where last fall he copped the U-1850 title. This time he took a step up and (4-1) beat the lanky Thomas Haynes for the honors in the U-2000. Likewise, NJ Junior Adam Hugh found a return to Delaware much to his liking. "Revenge!" he said. "The last two times I played De Tran and Han Xiao I lost. Not this time!" Adam's victory over Han gave him the U-18 title (with Han getting his revenge in Under 22), and a final match with Andrew Anderson gave him U-2375 honors as well. Coupled with his advance to the Quarters in Open Singles, it was a good weekend for Lily and Barry's son.

Happy warrior Val Ort, however, could not solve the two-surface play of Morris Jackson, who held onto the U-2125 title, just a step down from the much-massaged Parvis Mojaverian, victor over Shawn Embleton in the U-2250. Preston Chin, with McAfee coaching, also made the most of the Delaware trip, coming first in both the U-10 and U-13 Boys' groups, with consolidating victories over Kevin Ma and Marcus Jackson (a 4-3 nailbiter). Eric Finkelstein brought the U-16 title northward when he defeated Sergey Vakhrusheva (4-1). JHU team member Arnie Stux also conquered a category, taking the U-1550 title home with him.

But the big prizes were in Open Singles. Four qualifiers made it through to do battle with the Top 12 seeds in the Second Stage Round Robin.

Group 1: Thomas Keinath, Shao Yu, Jiachen Wang, Han Xiao

Jia Wang managed to edge out Han Xiao in a tight contest, 4-3 (-10,10,10,8,-8,-8,6) and was only able to take two games from Shao Yu. When Wang met Keinath, we got a taste of the German's skill as he prevailed (7,6,7,7). Han lost to Shao 4-1, and also managed a game from Keinath, but, at 0-3, came last in the group.

With second place in his pocket, Shao met Keinath and gave Thomas the only real trouble he faced. Each time Keinath seemed to have solved Shao's unorthodox pips-out backhand, he fell victim to it again, and when he trailed 3-1 in the best of seven was in serious trouble. But he turned up the gas, winning the last three games easily, and captured the #1 position for Sunday's Quarters, -9,8,-7,-8,2,8,6.

Group 2: Pradeeban Peter-Paul, Tahl Leibovitz, Lily Yip, Michael Hyatt

Praddie lost only one game in a strong showing, his initial game to Lily, leaving the closely matched trio to fight it out for second seed. Lily hung a second loss on Hyatt with an 8 in the 7th victory, but lost a titanic struggle to Tahl (8,-11,9,-13,8,9) in which it was all Tahl could do to stay with Lily's strong attack. Tahl grabbed the second advancing spot by avenging his loss in the U-2500 final to Michael, (10,9,-11,-7,2,6), with a focused finish.

Group 3: David Zhuang, Jim Butler, Renata Peluchova, Keith Evans

David dropped a pair of games to Butler, but was otherwise perfect in justifying his top seed. Butler, bothered by the airflow in the hall, requested and got a change of tables to finish his work against Renata (4,12,5,-10,4) and Keith Evans (-9,6,7,5,6). Renata, the STIGA Open Women's Champion, has lifted her game this past year, as Keith Evans can verify (11,-6,9,9,9). David and Jim advance, as expected.

Group 4: Stefan Feth, Atanda Musa, Qasim Aziz, Adam Hugh

Expectations here were dashed when Musa was a no-show! That left the other three men 1-0 and increased the pressure in a game of musical chairs that had two seats and three players. Feth, the German star, had no trouble with either of the Americans, with nearly interchangeable scores (4,5,5,8) and (4,6,4,7). He showed both what ITTF level table tennis is about in a remarkable display of poise and ball skill. So now Qasim and Adam would slug it out for the trip to the Quarters and slug it out is what they did! Adam became our youngest Quarterfinalist in a hot contest, (-8,6,7,-11,-3,11,8), that he pulled out from a 3-2 deficit.

Quarterfinals

Stefan Feth vs. Jim Butler

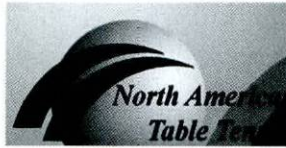
This was a great match, as expected. Despite being in Delaware, Jim, a Texan, was in front of "the home folks" as his parents cheered him on, along with a crowd loyal to the American Champion. But Feth took the first game of the best of nine, 11-9. Jim broke back, 11-7 in the second, with a particularly effective service game. But it was the energized Stefan in the third contest, 11-5. "Man!" a spectator standing next to me said, "that boy hits the ball ... HARD!" Indeed he does, and he was unafraid to go backhand to backhand with Butler, whose second shot, while looking identical to me, often found the bottom of the net. Leading 10-8 in the fourth game, Butler appeared to be in the driver's seat, but, Deuce! came out on the short end of 14-12. A back-breaker? It certainly looked like it might be when a 10-7 Butler's lead melted away in the fifth game. But mental strength is part of a Champion's equipment, and Butler avoided a double disaster, 16-14 in a fist-pumping victory. The crowd momentum behind him, he tied the match at 3-all, 11-9. But Feth was equally determined, and, perhaps, had just a little more gas left in his tank as 6 and 5, he took the final two games to win 5-3. An awful lot of work for JB to earn the \$60 Quarterfinal cash, but a rare opportunity to match up with a rising young European here in America. A smiling Butler quickly shook off his defeat and declared that he was on board the Tour for the duration.

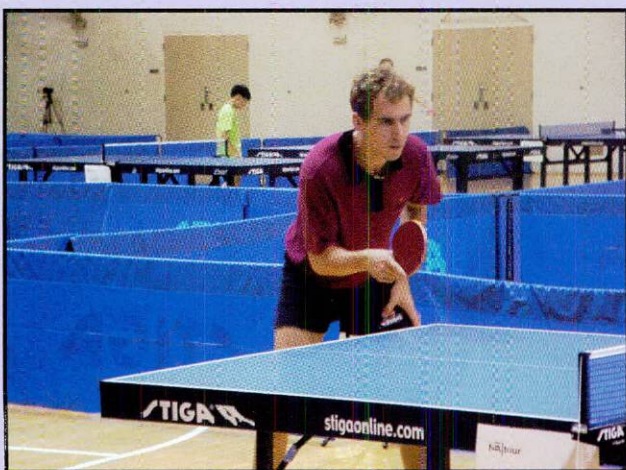
David Zhuang vs. Tahl Leibovitz

Held no such drama as Tahl attempted to match up with the Pan-Am Gold Medallist. Five straight games to Zhuang, (8,7,3,9,8) and despite the best fight the New Yorker could manage, an advance for the penholder. Tahl struggled to contain David's attack, especially off serve, and did not seem to be able to take DZ out of his game with either spin or placement. Clearly disappointed, Tahl may not have noticed some of the best play we've seen from David in the past year.

Pradeeban Peter-Paul vs. Shao Yu

Praddie has made visible strides since I first saw him on the STIGA Tour in 2001. He no longer has a questioning look in his eyes, and exudes a warrior's confidence in both his skills and his decisions. But Shao Yu is a different kind of cat. Forget his rating! When he is hot and focused, his game matches anyone on the continent. Maintaining that focus seems to be a problem, however. It was always close, but no cigar for Shao, as Peter-Paul earns his semifinalist spot, (8,-8,7,10,9,11) with a 5-1 victory that was a squeaker!

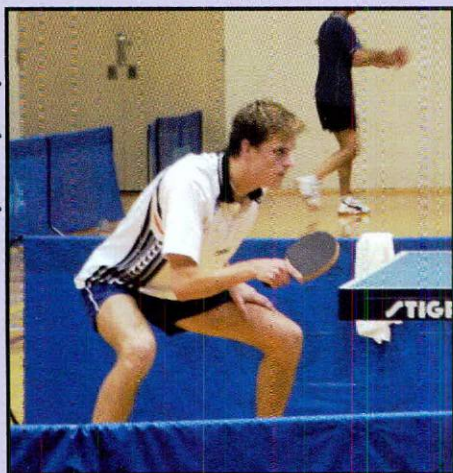




Open Champion Thomas Keinath

Thomas Keinath vs. Adam Hugh

The glare of center stage in a big match on "home turf" for the teenager, but an uphill battle against the amazing skills of Keinath. Frankly, Keinath toyed with Adam in containing his attack, often lobbing from the barriers against repeated smashes. All of which fired Adam up even more, made him more determined to show that his power could penetrate ... which may have



Runner-up Stefan Feth

been exactly the emotional reaction that Thomas was hoping for. (7,8,6,4,7) for Keinath, who seemed to have hardly exerted. Adam's day will come, but not here.

Semifinals

Stefan Feth vs. Pradeeban Peter-Paul

There was a three-to-one differential in the prize money for the winner and loser in this match, with the semifinalist to receive \$250, while the winner could do no worse than the \$750 runner-up cash. Pretty hefty incentive! Peter-Paul was grimly determined to be on the right side of that equation. After dropping a deuce game to start the match, he went up 2 games to 1 by impressive scores of 8 and 3! But Stefan Feth is a player, ladies and gentlemen, and he adjusted, his already wide-breaking loop taking on even more arc, and a sharper break as he ran Pradeeban deeper and deeper into the backcourt. Feth does as expected and staves off the upset. 5-2, (10,-8,-3,7,4,4,8).

Thomas Keinath vs. David Zhuang

This match was the highlight of the tournament. Keinath, supported by a small but vocal following from the Spintech club, expected to advance past the older player. David, the "Wizard of Westfield," entered the court prepared to show his best game with all eyes upon him. They started with a nailbiter, Keinath winning 16-14 as he struggled to adapt to David's high-toss serves. But each passing point saw him become more comfortable with David's blocking game and DZ's forehand kills were erratic as

Keinath surged to an insurmountable 4-1 lead, dropping only the fourth game and winning the fifth by a discouraging 11-5 score. But David digs in and unbelievably climbs back into the match ... 13-11, 11-8, 11-8 and it is four games apiece. The crowd noise grows with each passing point as the opponent that he had so well understood just moments before now baffles Keinath. Finally, the players are tied at 6-all in the ninth, and the STIGA Open is rocking and rolling with the excitement. The next point is a bang-bang exchange of power shots, with David refusing to yield, and winning the seven or eight kill encounter. He carries that momentum to a 10-8 lead, ball in hand.

High-toss serve, short wide to Keinath's backhand, a return to DZ's forehand and ... long. 10-9. High toss, short to Keinath's forehand and he courageously table-loops it through David's forehand corner for deuce. Amazing. Thomas makes it four straight points after being down double match point. (14,8,7,-9,5,-11,-8,-8,10)

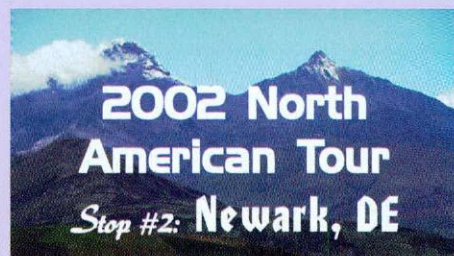
Keinath has earned the right to meet his practice partner in the Final. David, characteristically, shakes off the loss in short order. Walking from the hall with Shao Yu, David is all smiles. "Thank you for the great tournament!" he calls out, waving and laughing. No, David. Thank you.

Final

Thomas Keinath vs. Stefan Feth

It was not entirely unexpected that the teammates meet in the Final. They have proven themselves to be the two best players at the STIGA Open. But in all honesty, the crowd has lost interest with the local hero's defeat, and a shrinking number of spectators remain to see a competition between practice partners. It is technically perfect, but without the interest of an American involved, without a stylistic contrast, it is an anti-climax. The two mirror-image Germans play an honest match to diminishing applause, Keinath edging out his stablemate, Feth, 5 games to 3. As expected. (11,-8,6,-9,6,8,-9,9)

Feth and Keinath tell us that the payday is good money, even by Euro club standards, and that they hope to be in the U.S. throughout the rest of 2002 with only sporadic trips home to keep their



visas valid. It's news we welcome from these two great players. For the second straight tournament, the North American Tour has attracted International players who vow to keep returning for future events. That's a good thing, right?

For the staff and organizers is back to the loading dock and forward to the Eastern Open in New Jersey, a labor of love for the sport on the 2002 STIGA North American Tour.

Open Singles: Thomas Keinath d. Stefan Feth, 5-3 (11,-8,6,-9,6,8,-9,9); **SF:** Keinath d. David Zhuang, 5-4 (14,8,7,-9,5,-11,-8,-8,10); Feth d. Pradeeban Peter-Paul, 5-2 (10,-8,-3,7,4,4,8); **QF:** Keinath d. Adam Hugh, 5-0 (7,8,6,4,7); Feth d. Jim Butler, 5-3 (9,-7,5,12,-16,-9,6,5); Zhuang d. Tahl Leibovitz, 5-0 (8,7,3,9,8); Peter-Paul d. Shao Yu, 5-1 (8,-8,7,10,9,11).

Women's Singles: Renata Peluchova d. Lily Yip, 4-2 (2,4,-8,6,-9,8).

Under 22 Men: Han Xiao d. Jia Wang; 4-2 (6,8,-9,6,-6,10).

Under 18 Boys: 1st Adam Hugh; 2nd Han Xiao

Under 16 Boys: Eric Finkelstein d. Sergey Vakhrusheva, 4-1 (10,8,6,-9,12).

Under 13 Boys: Preston Chin d. Marcus Jackson; 4-3 (5,8,-8,-10,-7,16,4).

Under 10 Boys: 1st Preston Chin; 2nd Kevin Ma.

Under 16 Girls: 1st Cindy Li.

Under 13 Girls: 1st Jill Hackney.

Under 10 Girls: 1st Jill Hackney.

Over 40: Keith Evans d. Barry Dattel, 4-2 (9,-4,9,-7,9,7).

Over 50: Parvis Mojaverian d. Richard McAfee, 4-1 (9,4,12,-9,7).

U2500: Michael Hyatt d. Tahl Leibovitz, 4-3 (7,-10,12,-8,-7,4,4).

U2375: Adam Hugh d. Andrew Anderson, 4-0 (3,6,5,6).

U2250: Parvis Mojaverian d. Shawn Embleton, 4-1 (-4,11,10,7,4).

U2125: Morris Jackson d. Valeriy Ort, 4-1 (8,-8,8,8,9).

U2000: Evan Momios d. Thomas Haynes, 4-1 (10,6,8,-4,6).

U1850: Vibert Williams d. Rick Mundy, 4-3 (-12,-6,8,5,6,-6,6).

U1700: Anton Bekkerman d. Kevin Ma, 4-0, (7,6,6,7).

U1550: Arnie Stux d. Darryl Boyer, 4-1, (10,-8,8,7,9).

U1400: Mark Coleman d. Alan Price, 4-0, (7,9,5,8).

U1250: Thomas Manley d. Malcolm McDonald, 4-2, (-6,7,-10,7,3).

U1100: Jim Wyatt d. Jack Hackney, 4-1 (9,7,-10,7,3).

U950: 1st Jack Hackney; 2nd Allen Brady.

U800/Novice: 1st Travis Payne; 2nd Wesley Fang.

U4200 Doubles: R. Brown/K. Evans d. L. Chui/M. Wechsler, 4-2, (-5,7,6,7,-9,7).

U3200 Doubles: L. Yip/M. Lee d. T. Manley/D. Settle, 4-1 (7,-9,6,9,4).

Stiga World

Lodi, NJ • By Tito Mijares

History of the Club: Just over a year ago, Manuel Tan started playing table tennis, and it changed his life. A former semi-professional athlete, Manuel was an active player for the New Jersey Filipino-American basketball leagues. He also had a full-time job in New York and joined the Manhattan Table Tennis Club. Then something happened: one stormy winter night, driving home, exhausted from work, Manuel lost control of his car and had a serious accident. The car was a complete wreck but Manuel had an epiphany – after the initial shock he realized that he wasn't happy with his job and that life's too short to not try chasing a dream.

The Vision: Although he graduated with a Civil Engineering degree, Manuel had always been an athlete, finishing college on a basketball scholarship. At his age, however, he



Manuel Tan and Stiga World

felt that basketball was too injurious a sport and, besides, he was already obsessed with table tennis. Manuel soon realized that his dream was to have a club which he could enjoy not just as an owner but, even more so, as a player. To achieve this, Manuel felt the need to develop excellent playing conditions yet charge reasonable club rates. During this time, his family provided him much needed moral support because the idea just sounded crazy – can this passion become a sustainable business?

The Club: After two months of preparations, Stiga World was born. The club is open seven days a week (except holidays), has a 4000 sq-ft playing area and a 30-car parking space (for more information, please visit www.stigaworld.com). Last month, the club held its first unsanctioned tournament where most players expressed positive feedback. The next project is to develop a USATT sanctioned tournament and, gradually, increase awareness for this wonderful sport in the New York/New Jersey area.

Junior of the Month:

VERONIKA "NIKA" BIRIOUKOVA
By Pam Ramsey

An adorable, shy little girl with a bouncy blonde ponytail, a wicked serve and killer forehand returned home to San Diego from the 2002 U.S. Open Table Tennis Champions/ITTF Pro Tour with a new title to her name: U.S. Open Under 12 Girls' Champion. In May, she won the Under 13 event and took second to her older sister Vika (Viktoriya) in the Under 16 Girls' event at the Western Open. She won Under 12 Girls' Singles at the Nationals.

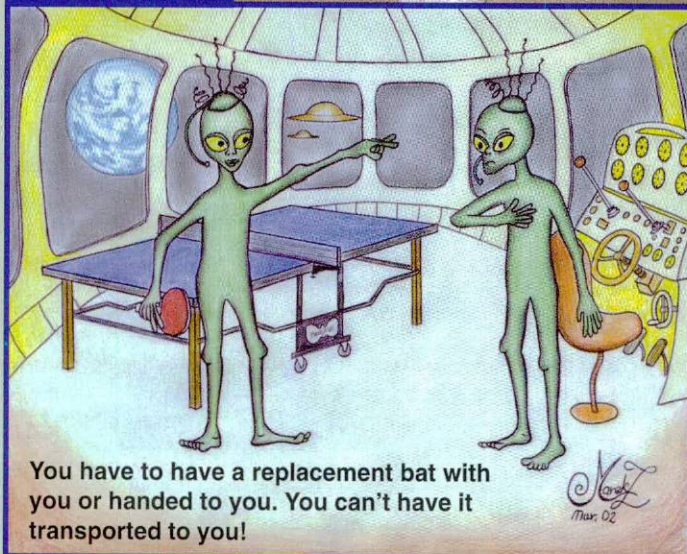
Who is she and where did she come from? She emerged on the scene of the San Diego Table Tennis Assoc. in November 2001 ... out of nowhere. Her story is not a typical case of a kid growing up and playing table tennis in America. She is a victim caught between two

countries. Nika (short for Veronika) was born in the United States. Her Russian parents, Svetlana and Mikhail, had traveled to New York to visit relatives in the fall of 1990. Svetlana was eight months pregnant, and Nika decided she was going to be born early, as an American.

The family returned to St. Petersburg, where her mom, a musician, taught her how to play the violin, and dad, a sports coach, taught her how to play table tennis. She took to the paddle instead of the violin. Before long, Nika was winning tournaments against older players and was on the track that might have taken her to the Russian National Team. She was, after all, the Girls' Junior European Champion at age 10. Then, last year at the ripe old age of 11, the Russian authorities figured out that this Russian whiz kid was, technically, an American.

Nika, whose dreams of becoming an OLYMPIC athlete, had those exact dreams shattered. She was shunned by Russia and would

Marley Sasha Vogel of New York – 4 months – already enjoys a brisk game of table tennis between feedings.



You have to have a replacement bat with you or handed to you. You can't have it transported to you!

never be able to represent her home country at all. Realization set in and the family flew to America to help their daughter reach for that dream. Since coming to America, Nika has had a streak of wins and has shown her true potential of becoming an elite player after all. All she needed was a country to call home and a country that would stand behind her in accomplishing her dreams. We expect to see her representing USA in the 2008 Olympics ... and making her dreams come true.

Photo by Charlie Neuman ©2002

Photo by Jackie Vogel ©2002

Artwork by Marek Zochowski, caption by Predrag Rakic ©2002

DOES USA TABLE TENNIS REALLY WANT TO GROW?

By Carl Danner, Alamo, CA
thedanners@aol.com

Danner is a former chair of the USATT Budget Committee and former assistant editor of USATT Magazine, then called Table Tennis Topics.

I'm prompted to add some observations to Sheri Pittman's thoughts about growth in the sport in her last President's Report. Despite numerous efforts over many years, table tennis remains a highly enjoyable, but small-time sport in the U.S. Consider the following:

- The U.S. has produced only two top world-class players since the Kennedy Administration;
- The number of USATT members has scarcely budged since Ping-Pong Diplomacy in 1972;
- Only a handful of U.S. players can make a serious living off the sport;
- Table tennis is rarely televised, and when it is, hardly anyone watches.

Despite this, many things about table tennis work well. Clubs with regular play exist in many regions, as does a rough tournament circuit for those willing to travel. A magazine comes out with updated ratings. Each year, a few major tournaments offer good play and socializing, including a U.S. Open with the world's best. Those with international interests can be officials in world forums, and make friends in clubs in foreign cities. And recognition abounds for many players (e.g. juniors) able to obtain rankings or win events.

So what makes the difference between what works and what does not? I have a suggestion, albeit one bound to cause some controversy. By and large, I think people in table tennis get what they want – i.e., my list of what works well is what people consistently care about and work towards. The other list – i.e. what's needed to grow into a large, world-power sport in the U.S. – reflects goals about which little is actually done.

Think about it. Committed volunteers exist across the nation to run small-scale clubs and tournaments for capable players (not beginners). USATT members willingly pay for ratings and the magazine. A quality U.S. Open is a highlight for many members, and USATT headquarters responds accordingly. Top players (and their parents) get rankings and at least some funded training and travel. Thus, a considerable amount of effort is devoted by many to sustaining a status quo that's pretty good in terms of what average USATT players seem to want from their sport.

But growing to a big-time sport – that's different. Going big time requires attracting tens or hundreds of thousands of beginners to new clubs that would need to be formed (while newcomers without skills or proper equipment would crowd the clubs we now have). Going big time means finding ways to add value to the game so that players will be willing to pay more than just a few dollars a session to play. Going big time also means recognizing that most of us who may have had rankings or reputations will become lesser lights if large numbers of talented athletes can be persuaded to try the sport – as must occur if the U.S. is ever to challenge the world's best again.

Tennis is an enlightening example. I've been playing for several years in the kind of adult, club-based league table tennis has always wanted. In northern California alone, there are nearly ten times as many adult league tennis players as there are USATT members nationwide. Needless to say, the competition is tough and enjoyable – to the point where the chances for travel and recognition are almost non-existent for most players. Neither is there any real chance to mix with the tennis association's leadership to influence their actions or concerns. It's a terrific system in which most competitors are nobodies.

I'm enjoying my little corner of the big city of the tennis world. But I also liked our little national table tennis village, and the benefits it offered – even if they didn't include substantial prize money, or higher status as a sport. My guess is, if they think about it, most USATT players might feel much the same way. In any event, the efforts needed to build the big city are probably not the same as those needed to keep the village going, a possibility worth considering for those who hope to chart the sport's future.



Welcome to the Monday Night League

By Gregory Edgar

Here at the Bay State (Springfield, MA) TTC, we have a thriving year-round club. We play 5 nights a week October-May, and Tues & Thurs the rest of the year. We have occasional tournaments, and two leagues (4 person teams) that run from October through April, with playoffs in May. Here's a fictional visitor stopping by the gym on a Monday night....

“Hey, mister, what's this – a league for ping pong?”
“That's TABLE TENNIS, don't get the name wrong.
Yes, we have a Monday Night League you're sure to enjoy.
But first, let me give you some advice to employ.

“That big guy over there, his name is Frank Hrobak.
Balls over the table he sure can blow back.
Then you'll have to pick up balls off the floor all night.
Amazing a guy that old can be such a fright.

“His teammate Hugo carries some heft.
Don't serve deep topspin to his left!
A quick snap of the wrist, without even thinkin',
Will send your serve back, as fast as you're blinkin'.

“Then there's that greybeard over there, his name is Art.
Beware his heavy chop serve that cuts like a fart.
You're down a match point, you bounce a high one close to the net.
Art backhand slams it, and with a smile says ‘I win this set.’

“Art's doubles partner is John, who plays the old style.
You think, ‘Here's one guy I can beat for a while.’
So you give him your best chop, but John attacks it.
‘Darn!’ you say, ‘Where'd he buy that godawful racket!’

“See the two in the corner – Bud and Harry?
You may think to yourself, ‘They don't look scary.’
Then Harry starts hitting, he's got your number.
And you can't do a thing with Bud's Hock lumber.

“Kevin and Josh – they sure are a handful.
With that great forehand, Josh sure won't be bashful.
And you'll sure wish the table could be octagonal,
When Kevin steps to his left to hit diagonal.

“Oh, and then there's the Millens – one is a father, one a son.
In doubles, pick your poison – it's hard to hit either one.
Better yet, just challenge them to singles.
But not in table tennis – make it pong pingles.

“That man named Grimaldi, he's our other Frank.
He'll play a good game, on that you can bank.
But as for his partner Greg, let me give you the scoop–
Watch out for that heavy chop! And beware of his loop.

“Did I leave one team out? Yes, Eric and Digger.
You think that kid's good now? Just wait ‘til he's bigger!
And his teammate Eric, for sure he's no slouch.
Don't give him a loose ball – he'll make you say ‘Ouch!’

“So, guest, there you have it. Come on, what do you say–
Are you ready to come, ev'ry Monday to play?”
“Well, gee thanks, mister – for the advice.
I think I'll try darts. That will suffice.”



Photos by Diego Schaf ©2002

Stefan Feth ... Whipping It Good!

By Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach

Stefan Feth is not famous – yet. Although he reached the semifinals at the German National Championships and is a National Team member, he doesn't enjoy much name recognition internationally. Ranked 174th in the world, his results have not propelled him to the forefront of the game – as I said: yet. And still, we can learn an important lesson by analyzing his stroke. He exemplifies what I believe is a trend that will take hold more and more. As table tennis has grown more physical, the controlled set-up shot is gradually giving way to a more decisive attack stroke. Rather like the modern Tennis game, the future stars of our sport are holding back nothing. A full commitment to the stroke requires them to throw their whole body into the ball. While that in itself is nothing revolutionary, what will leave a lasting mark is the fact that they can do several of these big shots in a row, and they can do it close to the table as well as farther back. The advantage is not only in the greater power, but much better deception.

In this context, let me mention a point I've been wanting to make for a long time: I often sense that players look upon deception as somehow dishonest, an easy way out, not really "what the sport should be." I usually clear up that misconception by drawing comparisons to most other sports – basketball, football, soccer, you name it. None of these sports would work if the players just ran straight at their opponents, telegraphing everything they planned to do. Deception is part and parcel of competitive strategy and should be embraced. It is an important tool to expose the opponent's weaknesses. Shoulder fakes, last second changes in racket angle, looking at a spot other than where you intend to play the ball – these are all useful techniques we should cultivate, not reject.

So, back to the greater potential for deception in these bigger shots. The opponent has much more motion to analyze, and any change in timing can drive the ball in a totally different direction. Looking at the picture sequence, we cannot determine where the shot is going until the frame after contact – often too late to do anything about it.

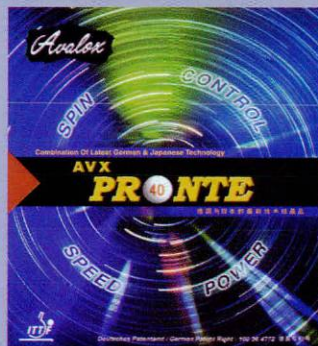
For this huge backhand shot, Feth not only turns his body, but changes his foot position. Here, since the ball is short, he steps in with his right foot. On a longer ball he would step back with his left foot to get the same relative position. Then he completely turns his body, dropping the right shoulder, pulling his racket back and twisting the wrist all the way backward. Notice the extreme racket position at the end of the backswing. Now he starts the uncoiling motion: First he pushes upward with his legs,

then he throws his hip and arm forward. He uses all the power of the major muscle groups in his body, transfers the whipping effect this generates directly into the ball and lets the arm swing away freely and loosely – a key to recovering in time to make another big shot if necessary.

Feth may or may not make it to the "big time." This all-out power game is still in its early stage of development, and

some parts are still missing. Some players, like Fredrik Håkansson from Sweden have started adding it to their existing game. Others, I'm sure, are coming up, bypassing the old styles and aiming straight at a monster power game. Even if Feth is not the one to ultimately break through, he is an early adopter of a technique that will be extremely difficult to defend against once all those bombs start going in.

NEW **AVALOX PRONTE**
for 2002
HIGH PERFORMANCE RUBBER
Brand new rubber - custom formulated for the 40 mm ball



AVALOX PRONTE - a combination of the latest German and Japanese rubber and sponge technologies. It represents a quantum leap forward. While other products, like G888 or Hurricane, allowed to impart great spin on a 40mm ball, they did so at the price of a loss of feel and high weight.

AVALOX PRONTE changes all that! Lighter and more flexible than its predecessors, PRONTE's soft sponge, custom designed and manufactured in Japan, provides outstanding dwell characteristics, and the revolutionary molecular composition of the top sheet, developed in Germany, gives the player control over of his shots. It produces a high trajectory, which allows energy otherwise expended in lifting the ball to be put into forward motion. The result is a devastating drive shot with tremendous spin.

Used by Bundesliga Ace and former Chinese National player Ma Wenge
TOP-OF-THE-LINE PERFORMANCE - LOW PRICE!
Introductory price: **\$24.00**

We carry a full range of equipment and video tapes at competitive prices

Call 1 800 500-5057

or buy from our secure on-line site at
www.alpha-tabletennis.com

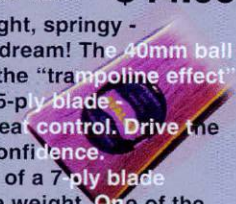
You usually get your order within 2 - 3 days!

Visit our site - We have general equipment info and a lot of pictures from the World Championships on line

AVALOX BLUE THUNDER
The Blade for the Chinese National Team
Made in Sweden

The feel of the coveted "old" Swedish blades in a new blade. Small production numbers allow tight tolerances - a blade custom made for pros - available to you at the price of a mass market item. **\$44.00**

- A550 - 5-ply - soft, light, springy - a looper's dream! The 40mm ball enhances the "trampoline effect".
- A555 - an offensive 5-ply blade - fast, yet great control. Drive the ball with confidence.
- A777 - All the power of a 7 ply blade without the weight. One of the fastest all-wood blades on the





The Table Tennis Pioneers

&



Play The Best™

Present The *Tables Championed By Competitors Around The World*

Brand New Outdoor Table From Stiga!

Outdoor



QuickPlay

ONLY \$599.99



Made In U.S.A.

Expert Roller

Prestige



ONLY \$799.99

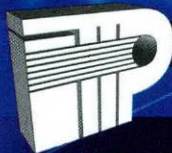
Excellent For Recreational, Institutional Or Tournament Use



QuickPlay

ONLY \$499.99

Performance Quality For Active Play



For A Full Line Of Stiga Tables At The Best Price - Guaranteed! Visit STIGA's North American Distributor:

Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464) • Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664) stpioneers@ping-pong.com ping-pong.com

Jens Lundquist



Experience The Advantage Of STIGA Tables

Description	Table Top Color	Playing Surface	Net Sets	Folds for Storage	Playback Feature	Weight (lbs)	Wheel Casters	Leg Construction	THE BEST PRICE - GUARANTEED! NO ONE CAN SELL FOR LESS!
Stiga Master	Tournament Blue	3/4" wood	Yes	Yes	Yes	229	3" double wheel	1 1/2" square steel	*** \$359.99 ***
Stiga Eurotech	Tournament Blue	3/4" wood	Yes	Yes	Yes	247	3" ball bearing	2" square steel	*** \$399.99 ***
Stiga Prestige	Tournament Blue	1" wood	Yes	Yes	Yes	225	4" ball bearing	2" square steel	*** \$499.99 ***
Stiga Outdoor	Tournament Blue	1" Aluminum	Yes	Yes	Yes	176	4" ball bearing	1 1/4" square steel	*** \$599.99 ***
Stiga Elite Roller	Tournament Blue	1" wood	Yes	Yes	Yes	311	4" ball bearing	1 1/4" square steel	*** \$599.99 ***
Stiga Expert Roller	Tournament Blue	1" wood	Yes	Yes	Yes	332	4" ball bearing	2 1/2" x 1 1/2" square steel	*** \$799.99 ***

Authorized STIGA Table Retailer VISIT ping-pong.com for The Best Price - Guaranteed!



The Table Tennis Pioneers

&



present...

The Revolutionary-Seamless Natural Rubber Finish Technology:

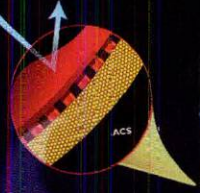
Since the introduction of the 40-mm ball, many players around the World have found it difficult to generate a lot of spin. It is not difficult to produce a rubber sheet that can generate maximum spin, but then speed and/or control must be sacrificed. At STIGA we have been working on this major challenge for a long time, and we are very proud and happy to announce that we have finally succeeded!

We have developed a painstaking and high-tech special manufacturing method of producing a one layer rubber sheet with a seamless micro finish of natural rubber (Seamless Natural Rubber Finish Technology) on the rubber surface. By combining two new technologies we have found a way to produce a rubber sheet that offers increased speed, control and spin. Our revolutionary ACS technology has been extremely successful and popular allowing players to increase speed without sacrificing control. Now with the Seamless Natural Rubber Finish Technology, combined with ACS technology, STIGA MAGNA offers players increased spin as well as increased speed and control with maximum grip.

This technology will allow the player to achieve more spin in serves & service returns, dominate topspin against topspin rallies, and to better use and control his spin in all situations. Another great advantage with the Seamless Natural Rubber Finish Technology is that the fresh gluing effect lasts a lot longer. The unique combination of the Seamless Natural Rubber Finish rubber surface and the ACS sponge makes MAGNA the ideal rubber sheet for both fresh-gluers and non-gluers alike.

8, 2.0, Max

speed 10 spin 10 control 9

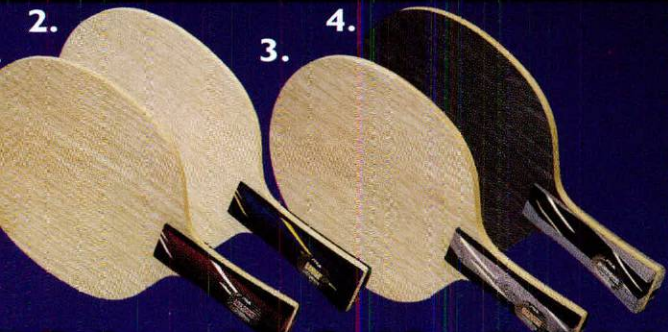


STIGA TUBE technology - Let the impulses flow to your brain with the new STIGA TUBE technology.

The STIGA TUBE blades are manufactured using a new technology where the middle veneer has gone through a revolutionary treatment. STIGA has programmed its high tech blade manufacturing machines to mill "micro-channels" lengthways in the middle ply of the blades. The channels are then filled with different materials depending on the blades desired characteristics. Due to this revolutionary construction, the blades "feeling" does not disappear even if the blade is very fast.

The new TUBE blades will help your brain bring your game to the next level! There are TUBE blades for all styles of play. TUBE Aluminium, TUBE Offensive, TUBE Light and TUBE Allround.

The micro-channels filled with different materials in order to increase the speed and feeling. With STIGA TUBE you can increase the speed in your game without blocking the impulses to your brain.



1. TUBE Allround
2. TUBE Light
3. TUBE Offensive
4. TUBE Aluminium



中國國家乒乓球隊指定用拍



visit Ping-Pong.com for The Revolutionary New Technology that are now available for blades, rubber sheets, and clothing!



*"This always
does the trick."
- T.S. Loop MD*

Sriver, Curing What Ails You.

For 35 years Sriver has been the most popular rubber in the world. Over that time, many significant rule changes have been set forth to improve the game, but one thing has remained unchanged, Sriver.

- *Red & Black Color Rule - ITTF Rule 2.4.6*
- *6 Inch Service Toss - ITTF Rule 2.6.2*
- *40mm Ball - ITTF Rule 2.3.1*
- *11 Point Game - ITTF Rule 2.11.1*
- *Hidden Service Rule - ITTF Rule 2.6.4*

*Those currently
dependent on Sriver:*

*Timo Boll - World Ranked 4
Kang Linghai - World Ranked 5
Kim Taek Soo - World Ranked 13*

*Oh Sang Eun - World Ranked 14
Petr Korbel - World Ranked 24
Michael Maze - World Ranked 57*

Since 1967



Butterfly
1-800-611-7712
butterflyonline.com