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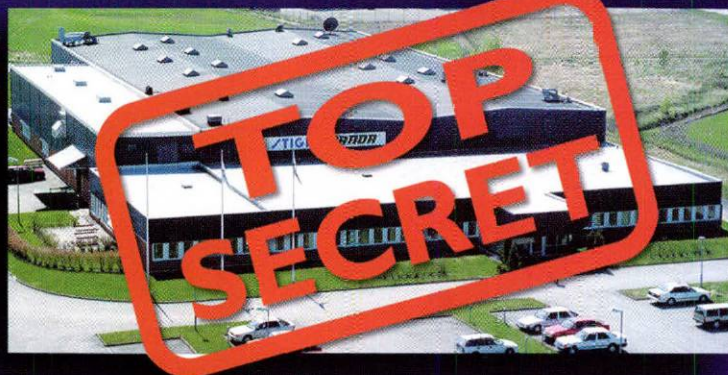
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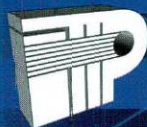
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Cover Photos by Csaba Nagy ©2002

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**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](mailto:admin@usatt.org). Reproduction without express written permission is prohibited. Copyright©2003. All rights reserved.

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## 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.

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[www.usatt.org/magazine/ad\\_rates.html](http://www.usatt.org/magazine/ad_rates.html)

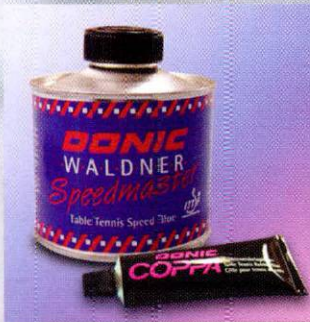
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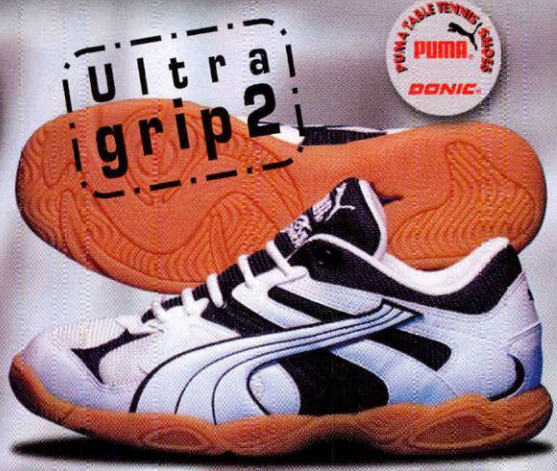
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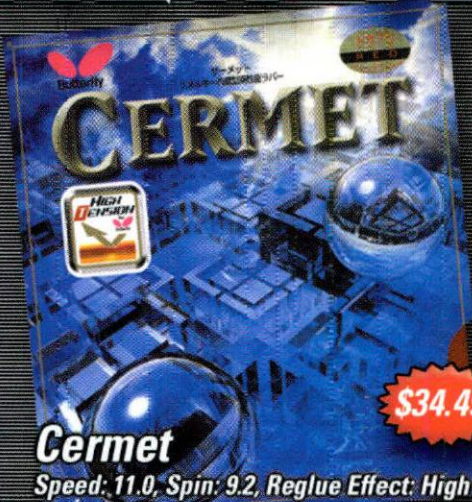
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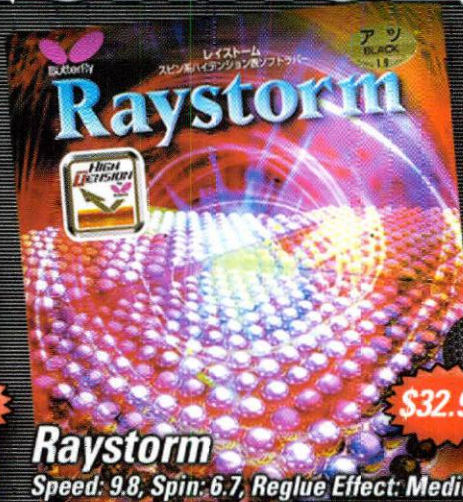
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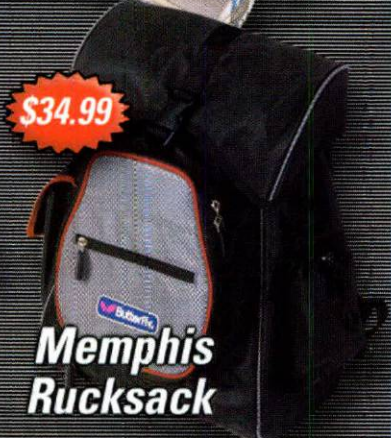
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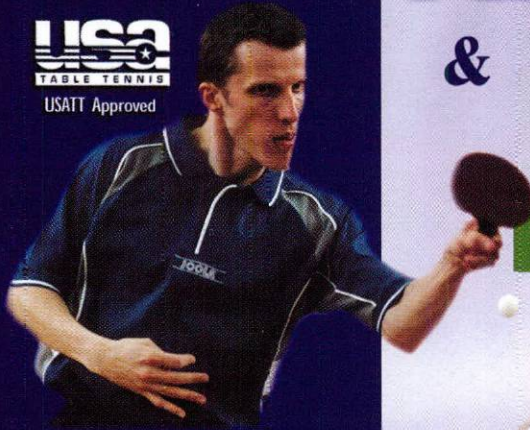
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# Houshang Bozorgzadeh

## State Games Male Athlete of the Year

By Paul Lewis, Iowa Games Table Tennis Commissioner

The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) announced on October 5 the male and female athletes of the year at an awards dinner held in conjunction with the NCSG Annual National Symposium.

Houshang Bozorgzadeh, of Independence, Iowa was selected as the male athlete of the year, and cyclist Renee Coppock was the female athlete of the year. The award winners were chosen from more than 500,000 athletes who competed in one of 37 recognized State Games programs in 2002.

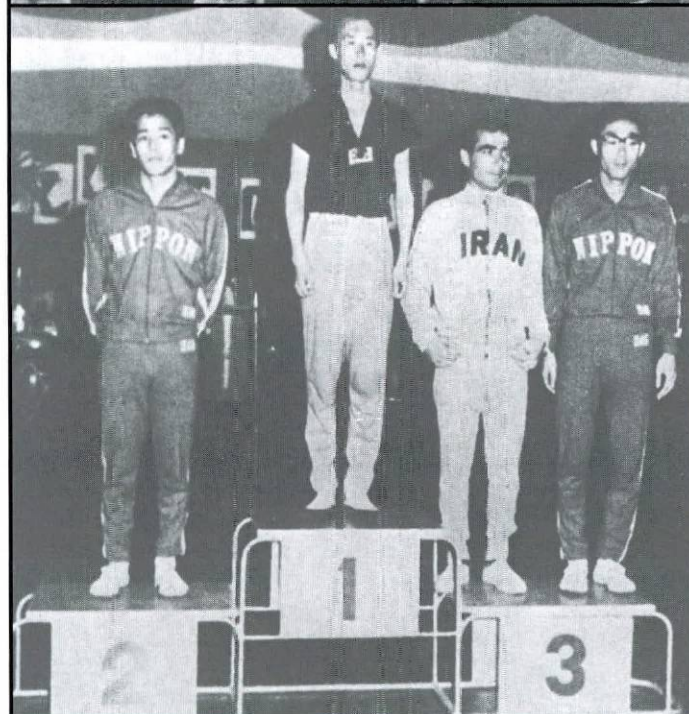
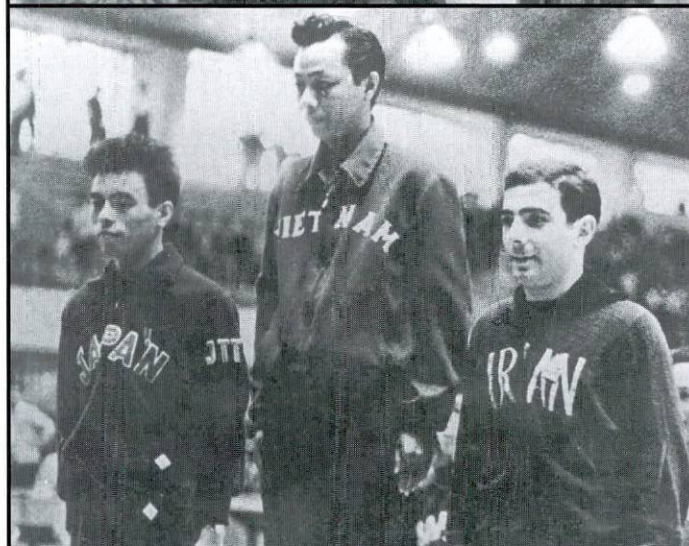
The award is by nomination and recognizes an athlete who best personifies the ideals of the State Games: participation, sportsmanship, effort, and positive attitude. Houshang was the first table tennis player and only the second Iowan ever to receive the recognition.

The awards dinner, held at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California, featured two-time Olympic bronze medalist Dwight Stones as the keynote speaker. Stones set the world record in the high jump 10 times during his career. Preceding the awards dinner, Houshang and former U.S. Men's Singles Champion Attila Malek dazzled the crowd with a table tennis exhibition.

Houshang, 66, won gold medals at the 2002 Iowa Summer Games in championship singles, over 40 singles, and championship doubles (paired with 2297 Michael Liu). Houshang's table tennis career began at age 10, and he has been involved in table tennis as a player, coach, and promoter ever since. Among his accomplishments:

- National men's singles champion of Iran in 1957, 1958 and 1960.
- 1958 – Captain of the Iranian team that finished 3rd at the Asian Games.
- He competed as a player in seven World Championships: 1957, 1959, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1969, and 1971. In six of those years, his team finished no lower than 17th, and in 1963 they finished 9th.
- 1958 – First Iranian sportsman/athlete for any sport to receive an invitation to come to the United States by invitation of a USA governing sports body (in this case, the U.S. Table Tennis Association). Houshang, as part of this opportunity, appeared on the national-wide Ed Sullivan show with U.S. national champion and future Hall-of-Famer Bernie Bukiet.
- 1959 – Houshang won the World Consolation Championships in Dortmund, Germany. He finished the year ranked #6 in the world, which would prove to be his highest ranking as a player.
- At the U.S. Open Team Championships in 1962, he was voted "Outstanding Player."
- 1962, 1963, 1964 – National (ACUI) Collegiate Champion.
- In 1958 and 1966 he was a Men's Singles Bronze Medallist at the Asian Games.
- 3-time U.S. National Champion, Men's Over 40 Singles.
- He coached five Iowan's (John Stillions, Scott Butler, Jim Butler, Dhiren Narotam, Michael Liu) that eventually became national junior champions and one (Jim Butler) an Olympian
- He was elected to the USATT Hall of Fame in 1987. (See [www.usatt.org/organization/halloffame](http://www.usatt.org/organization/halloffame).)
- 1977-1993 (15 consecutive years). USA national team captain and coach. During this span, he coached at:
  - 6 World Championships
  - 3 Pan American Games
  - 4 Olympic Sports Festivals
  - The first World Cup appearance by the USA team (1978)
  - 1980 and 1983 U.S. Open, where the USA team won the team championships
  - 1990 French Open Championships, where USA won multiple senior national championship titles
  - Dozens of USA-Canada team matches at the Canadian National Exhibition tournament in Toronto

Houshang retired as an Activities Specialist in August of 2002 after 32 years of service at the Mental Health Institute in Independence, Iowa. He has two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren.



**Top:** Houshang (right) and cyclist Renee Coppock receive award from Tom Osborne, Executive Director of the National Congress of State Games  
**Center:** Bronze medalist Houshang at the 1958 Asian Games, with gold medalist Van Tiet Le of Vietnam and silver medalist Ichiro Ogimura of Japan.  
**Bottom:** Bronze medalist Houshang at the 1966 Asian Games, with fellow bronze medalist Koji Kimura of Japan, Silver medalist Nobuhiko Hasegawa of Japan, and gold medalist Chung Yong Kim of South Korea.

# President's Report

By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

As we move into 2003, I want to provide you with a "State of the Association" for this issue's association primer series.

It was a particularly busy year for me. As I looked back over the 2002 calendar, I realized that I had spent 109 attending functions on top of handling daily USATT presidential activities. I'm grateful to the vast number of USATT's volunteers who have recently assumed greater levels of responsibility in fulfilling association functions.

## ELECTION

Congratulations to returning Board members who were successful in their candidacies: Dr. Jiing Wang (Executive Vice President), Tong Lee (Treasurer), George Brathwaite and Barney Reed, Sr. (Vice Presidents). It was, as usual, a hotly-contested election. The re-election signified the membership's desire to see continuity of Board membership. I appreciate the membership's vote of confidence as we enter a new chapter for USATT. Congratulations also to 2001's Men's National Champion, Eric Owens, who was elected to the Olympic Athlete Representative position.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clark Mitchell (see photo), formerly the executive director of the San Diego Table Tennis Association, recently joined USATT as the executive director. Clark has been a USATT member since the mid-1970s.

The Board was pleased to be able to offer the position to someone who had worked closely with USATT recently. His hard work, especially related to creating inroads at the Chula Vista Olympic Training Center, merited him the President's Award last year. Top USOC representatives were pleased to see us hire him. Clark had been our point of contact for the 2000 Olympic team training, a USATT Board meeting held in San Diego as well as USATT team trials. Clark's business background, outside of table tennis, included management experience, television and Internet communications expertise, and marketing/sponsorship procurement.

Obviously the rapid turnover of Executive Directors over the past decade has been a source of concern to both the Board and the membership. Clark had shared this same concern. It motivated him to step forward. I appreciate his attitude of "servant leadership" at a time when accepting the position carried some heavy baggage. Expressing his desire to develop a long-term career with us, he stated, "I've already been with the sport for many years. I'm planning on staying for many years to come."

Clark and I are working in unison to lay out a more orderly functioning of USATT's activities. He clearly understands the importance of staff functioning in the business operations role and Board setting policy and direction. We look forward to setting forth a clearly-articulated strategy for setting USATT on the road to overall success, marked by grassroots development, a financial surplus and elite athlete achievement. For the first time in recent years, we will soon post an annual calendar for 2003, which will include key dates for USATT, USOC and international events. Look for more meaningful communication and more frequent updates at [www.usatt.org](http://www.usatt.org).

## FAREWELL TO MARGARET

Margaret Smith recently accepted an offer from Ray Essick. Ray, who previously had briefly served as USATT's executive director, deserves credit for effectively designing USATT's new office space. It turns out his wife Toni specializes in office design and layout. Shortly after his departure, he accepted a position which required additional staff and tapped Margaret. I am sure that I speak for virtually everyone in extending her warm wishes in her new career path. As many people have remarked over the years, Margaret was often seen as the "glue that held things together."

## USATT SERVICES & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Larry Hodges and Robert Mayer have worked tirelessly to present you with more accessible league options, namely the upcoming USATT League. (More on that in upcoming issues.) George Brathwaite will continue to promote competitive, inter-club leagues in 2003 through the Northeastern League.

As directed by USATT's Board, the executive director is reviewing several USATT functions to determine ways to meet the needs of our members more effectively and efficiently. The demand for human resources will surely be high and I encourage you to consider serving the sport as we post requests for assistance on our website. Thanks to the many other volunteers who already are helping on projects for the growth of our sport.



## USOC RELATIONS

With the presence of the USOC's President, Marty Mankamy, and Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd Ward, at our events over the past year, we have had the opportunity to engage in a more meaningful relationship with the USOC. During our Performance Based Assessment meeting and, later at our Board meeting, the USOC noted favorably that our sport has a particularly engaged, energetic and passionate group of volunteers and staff. USATT is fully cooperating with the USOC on all fronts. We look forward to continuing to make improvements in our interaction with the USOC.

## OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTERS

One of our priority areas is to utilize USOC training centers for our elite athletes. Besides the Chula Vista center, USATT has strongly backed a proposed training center in Pompano Beach, just minutes from Fort Lauderdale. As a nearby resident, I have often served as USATT's representative at meetings. I thank the many other South Floridians who have also shown their support for the project. If all goes well with these developments, we look forward to offering substantially improved training programs.

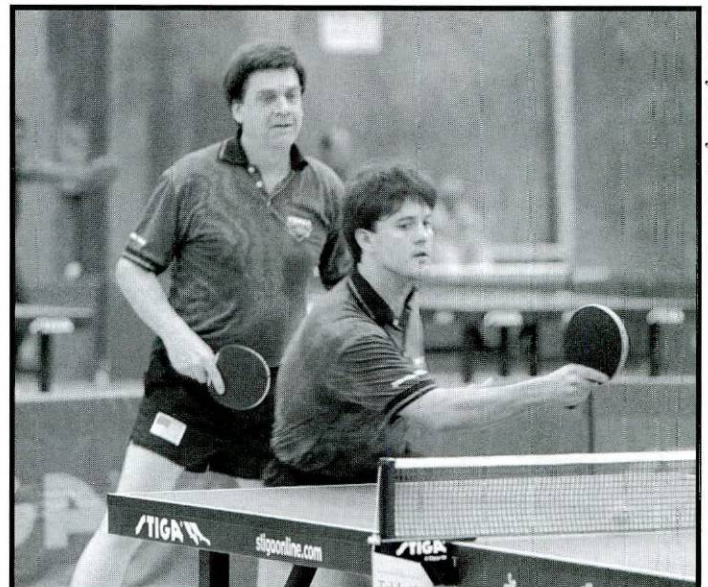


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## Back When They Were Just Players

Clark Mitchell and U.S. Men's Champion Eric Owens in action in Under 4200 Doubles at the Western Open in San Diego, May 18-19, 2002. (They lost early.) Since then, Clark was hired as USATT Executive Director, and Eric Owens was elected Olympic Representative on the USATT Board. Look closely, note where Eric's hit the ball, and ask yourself: Who's carrying the team here?

## ELITE DEVELOPMENT

Bill Lui recently accepted the chairmanship of the Elite Athletes Committee. Former chair David Roberts is being relocated to China by his law firm. David shared insights gleaned through his experiences training in China with several of our athletes and coaches; we look forward to having him continue to assist us while he resides there. Bill, who dedicates most of his life to table tennis, unleashed his penchant for organizational skills and has undertaken an effort to set up effective long-term planning to bring the U.S. into medal contention.

At USATT's November Board meeting, the Board established our priorities as relates to elite development: 1) high performance clubs, 2) international tournament play, 3) over-seas training, 4) home opportunities and 5) elite international and domestic training camps. As Acting Technical Director, Doru Gheorghe has taken the lead in these areas.

## BRIGHTON DECLARATION

In November the Board ratified approval of USATT as a signatory of the Brighton Declaration. The declaration, in brief, calls for the creation of opportunities for women in all aspects of sports from competition to volunteer leadership positions. The IOC has already set a minimum target of 20% women in all levels of sport administration and leadership. The ITTF has requested that all member associations act on these principles.

## ITTF RELATIONS

As a member of the ITTF Executive Board, the ITTF funded me to attend several ITTF meetings last year. USATT realizes the unique challenge that the world is looking for us to achieve in order to increase global exposure to our sport. Be assured that a primary topic of my conversations with ITTF officials is the opportunity for mutual collaboration and cooperation.

## CREATION OF NATTU

Recently the associations from North America met and established initial By-Laws for the creation of the North American Table Tennis Union as well as drafted a proposed Continental Agreement for 2003. ITTF Continental funding in 2003 will support several continental training camps, an elite coaches' workshop and two officials' seminars. In support of women's development, we also included a special camp for female coaches and athletes. USATT will publicize information and selection criteria in the near future.

The establishment of NATTU created a continental group aimed at maximizing our resources to mutual advantage. This was a major accomplishment. I thank Aly Salam and Ross Brown for their assistance to me, as the ITTF's North American Continental Vice President. They spent countless hours preparing documents for our consideration. We also appreciated seeing Richard McAfee's training facility as well as visiting with Wendell Dillon during our trip to Atlanta.

## PING PONG DIPLOMACY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thanks to entrepreneur Robert Blackwell for organizing a celebration commemorating the American tour component of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy. Expect to see more coverage of the event in the next issue.

## STATE GAMES' ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

USATT salutes Houshang Bozorgzadeh for being named the State Games' Athlete of the Year. Houshang recently traveled back to Iran to serve as the head coach at an ITTF-certified camp for elite athletes representing a handful of countries from the Asian Table Tennis Union. Congratulations, Houshang! (See article on page 9.)

## THE ROAD AHEAD

USATT, like everyone, encountered sharp increases in our insurance premiums. In order to replenish cash reserves, the Board pared down expenses to a bare minimum, while still setting aside a \$20,000 surplus. On the revenue side, we included only income that has historically come in. In the coming issues of the magazine, we will share with you initiatives undertaken and progress made on the financial side of our association.

On the staff side, in addition to Clark Mitchell, Pam Ramsey has also joined the USATT staff. When I met her in 1974, she was already a long-time player. Together she and Clark have been a catalyst for change in the San Diego area. It is a pleasure to begin 2003 with capable staff leadership. May the year bring us all many blessings!

## USATT Board of Directors

### President: Sheri Soderberg Pittman

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

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### Interim Group B Vice President: Henry McCoullum

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State College, PA 16803  
(814) 238-7962 • hwm1@psu.edu

### Olympic Athlete Representative: Eric Owens

OC Hall, 1201 Wesleyan St. • Ft. Worth, TX 76105  
(817) 534-3883 • ericowenstt@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

# Quaker City Open

Event Staff: Richard Lee, Wendy Troy, Fong Hsu, Zachary Sng, and Brian Pace Referee: Terry Bell Honorary Chairman: Bill Meiklejohn

	EVENT	DATE	TIME	COST	CHAMPION	FINALIST	SEMI	QUARTER
1	Open Singles RR	Sat	10:30 AM	\$30	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$135
2	Women's RR	Sat	1:30 PM	\$25	\$200	\$100		
3	Under 22 Men's RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$20	\$80	\$40		
4	Under 22 Women's RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$20	\$80	\$40		
5	U18 Boys RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$20	\$50	\$25		
6	U18 Girls RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$20	\$50	\$25		
7	U16 Boys RR	Sun	1:00 PM	\$18	A	A		
8	U16 Girls RR	Sun	1:00 PM	\$18	A	A		
9	U13 Boys RR	Sat	12:00 PM	\$18	A	A		
10	U13 Girls RR	Sat	12:00 PM	\$18	A	A		
11	U10 Boys RR	Sun	11:30 AM	\$18	A	A		
12	U10 Girls RR	Sun	11:30 AM	\$18	A	A		
13	Over 40 RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$20	\$300	\$150		
14	Over 50 RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$20	\$200	\$100		
15	Over 60 RR	Sun	1:00 PM	\$20	\$100	\$50		
16	U2500 SE	Sat	9:00 AM	\$20	\$120	\$60		
17	U2375 RR	Sat	6:30 PM	\$20	\$100	\$50		
18	U2250 RR	Sat	12:00 PM	\$20	\$80	\$40		
19	U2125 RR	Sun	11:30 AM	\$20	\$60	\$30		
20	U2000 RR	Sat	3:00 PM	\$20	\$40	\$20		
21	U1850 RR	Sun	2:30 PM	\$18	A	A		
22	U1700 RR	Sun	10:00 AM	\$18	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	\$16	A	A		
27	U950 RR	Sat	9:00 AM	\$16	A	A		
28	U800/Novice RR	Sat	4:30 PM	\$16	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		

**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 or purchased at the event.

**Venue:** U. of Pennsylvania, Pottruck Recreation Center. 3701 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Wood floors and excellent lighting. See website for map and directions.

**Official Tournament Equipment:** Stiga Expert Tables, Barriers, and orange 40mm 3-star balls.

**Entry Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, March 14, 2003. Entries postmarked late will either be accepted with a \$20 late fee, or be rejected, based on available space.

**Check-in:** Starts on Saturday, March 29, 2003 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 January/February issue of *USATT Magazine* will be used.

**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 rules.

**Airport:** Philadelphia International Airport  
**On the Web:** www.natabletennis.com for NATT Store, Table Information, Tournament Reports, and Tour Stop Announcements.

**Online Registration Available!**

**Official Tournament Hotel**  
**Sheraton University City Hotel**  
 36th and Chestnut Streets  
 Philadelphia, PA 19104  
 Mention N.A. Table Tennis for \$89 rate.  
 215-387-8000

**Registration Form: 2002 Quaker City Open**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline: Postmarked by Friday, March 14, 2003

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	
2002 Quaker City Open T-shirt:	
T-shirts \$15 each	
S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____	\$ _____

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

North American Table Tennis, Inc.



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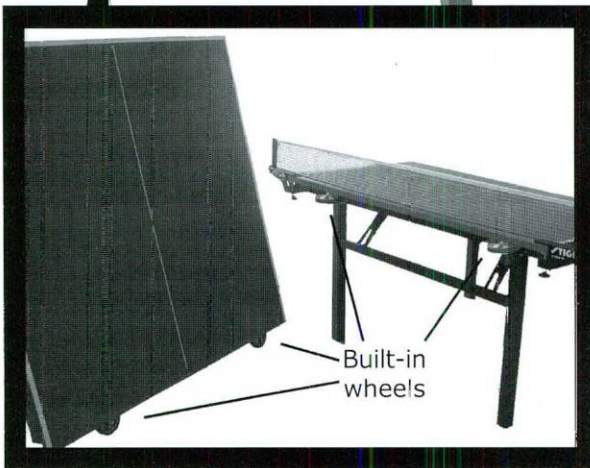
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Table Tennis, Inc.**

## Contact Us

North American Table Tennis, Inc.  
932 Hungerford Dr, #11B  
Rockville, MD 20850

TEL: 301-738-8250

FAX: 301-838-8921

EMAIL: [info@natabletennis.com](mailto:info@natabletennis.com)

[www.natabletennis.com](http://www.natabletennis.com)



## They Said It...

By Larry Hodges



"I do play a mean game of ping pong! That's something many people don't know about me." -DC mayoral candidate Carol Schwartz (R), when asked during a political debate to say something about herself people might not have heard in her one minute closing statement. (She didn't win.) Contributed by Julian Waters.

"You know, with congress out of session, you should put a ping-pong table here." -Josh, in TV show "The West Wing," to a congressional leader as they walked through the capital, Nov. 20, 2002.

"Yeah, I signed a lot. I just remember when I was a kid and when a couple of Ping-Pong players signed autographs, it just stayed with me. And I think if they are kids, I always love to sign it. Because, you know, they take it home and maybe it is going to inspire them to play tennis or work harder. I was in their shoes once." -Monica Seles, when asked why she signs so many autographs. From CBS Sportsline. Contributed by John Jarema.

"They're for another generation. I prefer more classic games like ping-pong." -Paolo Maldini, member of Italy's national soccer team, of video games. From CBS Sportsline. Contributed by John Jarema.

"A golf bag is difficult enough to travel with; I can't imagine having to do it with a ping-pong table!" -Tiger Woods, when asked (via "Club Tiger") if he traveled with a ping-pong table, so that he could play between rounds. Contributed by John Jarema.

"They get into it too heated. If those guys are going to be like that in their matches as much as they do in table tennis, it's going to be tough [on the Europeans]." -Golfer Scott Hoch, of the USA Ryder Cup Team's nightly table tennis matches, which included Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Scott Verplank and others. From New York Post, Sept. 26, 2002.

### U.S. PAN AM AND NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS

For information about the 2003 Pan Am and National Team Trials selection procedures, please see the USATT web page (www.usatt.org), and the ad on page 17 of this issue. Information will be posted as soon as USOC approves our selection procedure.

### CORRECTION

In the previous issue (and in issues before that), A.J. Brewer of Indiana was mistakenly left out of the Under 10 Boys' Rankings. He should have been ranked #7 at 944 in the previous issue.

## Ads In This Issue

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# Power Pong™ Acts 1:8

## Table Tennis Training Center

17272 Newhope St. Fountain Valley, Ca 92708

### USATT SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

#### Saturday

Event#	Event	Start	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	U/1100 RR	9:00 AM	T	T		
2	U/1300 RR	11:00 AM	T	T		
3	U/1500 RR	1:00 PM	T	T		
4	U/1650 RR	12:30 AM	T	T		
5	U/1800 RR	9:30 AM	T	T		
6	Juniors U/12 I	2:00 PM	T	T	T	T
7	Juniors U/18 I	3:00 PM	\$50	\$25	T	T

#### Sunday

			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
8	U/2000 RR	9:00 AM	\$50	\$25		
9	Open Singles	10:30 AM	\$400	\$200	\$100	\$50
10	Seniors O/40	12:00 PM	\$50	\$25		
11	Open Doublet	12:30 PM	\$100	\$50		
12	U/2250 RR	1:00 PM	\$50	\$25		
13	U/4400 Doubl	2:30 PM	\$50	\$25		
14	U-2400 RR	3:30 PM	\$50	\$25		

#### TOURNAMENT DATES & LOCATION

January 18-19	Power Pong
March 5-6	Power Pong
April 20-21	OCC

#### SATURDAY TRAINING CAMPS 9AM-4PM

January 25th	Power Pong
February 15th	Power Pong

INFORMATION: (714)549-0925

email: powerpong@aol.com

## Power Pong Table Tennis Program

OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN 7 DAYS PER WEEK!

Membership Fees: \$79/MO. Includes Sports Membership to Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club

	2 Days/wk.	3 Days/wk.
Individual Sessions	\$139/Mo.	\$189/Mo.
Group Sessions (Juniors On	\$129/Mo.	\$159/Mo.

Training programs at Power Pong Include Membership to Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club, Unlimited play and use of the Robo Pong 7 days per week.

### Orange Coast College Table Tennis Program

Open Play: January 4 - June 1, 2003 Fees: \$76 **\$1.65 a day!**

Days: Saturdays and Sundays Time: 6-10 PM

Non-Members: \$10 at the door

Round Robin Tournaments: Every Saturdays at 6 PM.

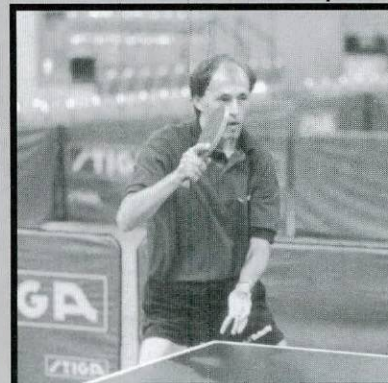
Top 8 finishers will receive cash prizes!

Entry Fees: \$10; \$15 non-members

Group coaching sessions on Sundays 6-7:30 PM

Fees: \$10; \$15 non-members

Head Coach: Attila Malek  
1979 U.S. National Champion



Good News and Information at:  
[www.powerpong.org](http://www.powerpong.org)

## THE BENEFITS OF TABLE TENNIS

*I would like to share this story, which I found to illustrate some of the greatest benefits Table Tennis activity can bring to an American family. To this 15-year-old, table tennis has provided a physical activity that is physically demanding, mentally challenging, a common interest shared by his father, and is fun. Derek found table tennis to be a productive and enjoyable activity in supporting his personal health goals of weight loss and greater*

*fitness along with proper diet and a balanced fitness program.*

*At a time when the health of our American youth shows high levels of physical inactivity and obesity that can lead to early stages of morbid conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, I consider this a shining example of a family coming together to achieve a greater level of health and fitness for life through table tennis.*

*-John Allen, USATT Certified Coach & Kentucky Champion.*

### DEREK'S RECENT JOURNEY WITH TABLE TENNIS

By Derek Kinder

**T**able tennis is a great sport. And despite the majority of non-table tennis players' opinions, it really is a sport. A definition of sport is: "Physical activity that is governed by a set of rules or customs and often engaged in competitively." Table tennis covers every part of the definition. Everyone knows that table tennis has a set of rules. But what most people don't know is that it involves a great deal of physical exertion. So much in fact, I am usually covered in sweat after only 10 minutes of play with any real competition. I was a big guy, 6'2", 240 pounds. It's hard for a person that big to move around the table at super fast speeds. I did my best; I played and practiced often with my dad at home. We both participated at local open play venues. I showed a great deal of improvement. But I knew the speed factor would always give my opponent an advantage. I knew I needed to get quicker. So I figured I'd lose some weight ... or at least try to.

About this time my dad purchased new weight training equipment. I was reading through the manual that came with the equipment and it had a fitness and diet program. I figured, "Hey, why

not give it a try!" It gave me a strict diet to follow and certain exercises I had to do three days a week. That sounded easy enough. So I did it. I followed the diet and I did the exercises. And sure enough, I started losing weight. But during all this dieting and working out, I was also

***"Table tennis inspired me to lose 60 pounds."***

playing table tennis just as much as I had been before. Which means I was doing the diet, working out on weight training, and playing table tennis all at once. I believe these three things together helped me lose the weight. Even after losing just a small amount of weight, I could already feel my game speeding up. After

a small amount of time had elapsed, I competed in the Kentucky Bluegrass State Games, a statewide tournament held each year for a variety of sports, mine being table tennis. It was my first organized tournament. I came out with a silver medal in the 19 and under singles division. An accomplishment to be very proud of!

I kept playing at home with my dad, we kept playing at a local league, I kept dieting, and I kept losing weight. The more weight I lost, the more my game improved. After it was all said and done, I weighed only 180 pounds. Table tennis inspired me to lose 60 pounds. Now, I try to eat healthy and maintain myself as best I can. In the end, table tennis changed my life for what I believe was for the better.

**"2-Star" ☆ ☆**

## \$1,500 STIGA "Cary Cup" Open – March 15, 2003

**Where:** Bond Park Community Center; 150 Metro Park Dr.; (in Bond Park off of Highhouse Road) Cary, North Carolina (near Raleigh).

**When:** Saturday 03/15/03 **Time:** (Check-in 8:15-8:30 am); Warm-up 8:30-8:50 am; Plan of Day 8:50 am – 9:00 am; Play begins 9 am – 6:00 pm; Awards 6:10 pm.

**Format:** "Snake-Seed Round Robin". Up to thirty (30) top quality tournament tables will be used for this tournament in the oversize, double gymnasium Bond Park Community Center. A maximum of 112 athletes can participate so its "first come first serve" based on pre-paid registrations. The last two local STIGA tournaments were completely filled-up with a waiting list a month before the tournament was held **so register early**. Matches will be 3 out of 5 games to 11 however, the final cross over matches will be 4 out of 7 games. Floor playing surfaces in the gymnasiums are wooden, and the facility is (quiet) air-conditioned with excellent lighting.

#### AWARDS AND ASSUMED GENERAL SKILL LEVELS

CLASS "A" Advanced to Elite skill levels 1<sup>st</sup>/\$500, 2<sup>nd</sup>/\$350, 3<sup>rd</sup>/\$250, 4<sup>th</sup>/\$150

CLASS "B" Above-aver. to Advanced 1<sup>st</sup>/\$100, 2<sup>nd</sup>/\$75, 3<sup>rd</sup>/\$50, 4<sup>th</sup>/\$25

CLASS "C" Above-average skill level 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Place Trophies

CLASS "D" Average skill level

1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Place Trophies

CLASS "E" Intended for non-tournament players or players with established ratings < 1000 points

1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Place Trophies

**ENTRY FEES:** Flat entrance fee of \$33 per person plus a \$3 per person rating fee (\$36/person total) and if applicable, USATT membership fee (see USATT) or a USATT \$7 one-time playing pass fee. A \$10 late fee will be assessed if your entry is received after March 8, 2003, however, by then the tournament will probably be filled-up already so **get your entries in early**. For directions/info send email to: mbabuin@ci.cary.nc.us. Send signed waiver and fees via regular mail to: Mike Babuin P.O. Box 3401 Cary, NC 27519.

#### TENTATIVE STARTING TIMES/SCHEDULE:

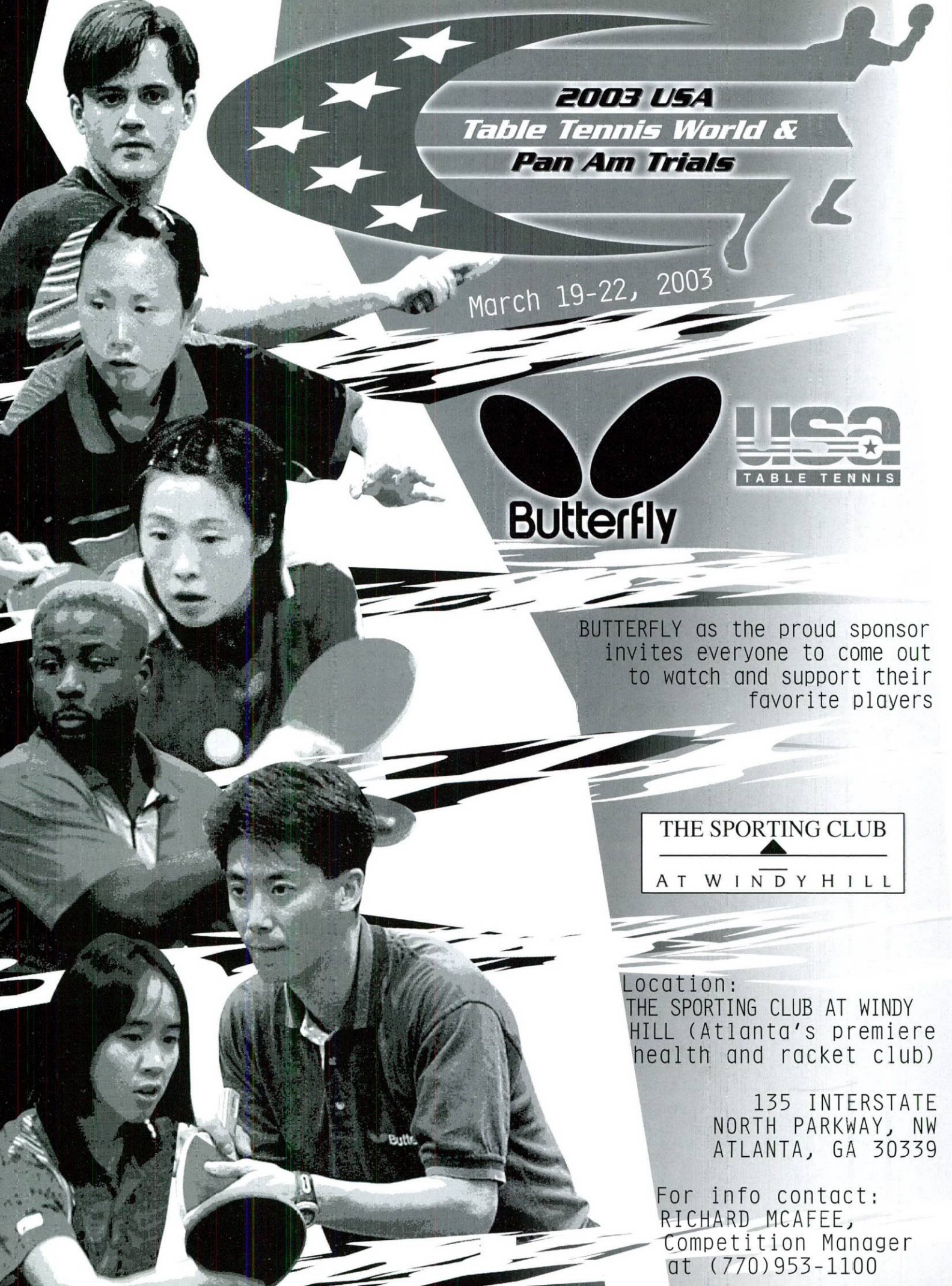
Check-in 8:15 am – 8:30 am; Warm-up/practice 8:30 am – 8:50 am; Table assignments & plan of the day from Tournament Director 8:50 am – 9:00 am; Play will start promptly at 9:00 am. Match times are estimated as follows (subject to final modification at discretion of Tournament Director on day of tournament). Preliminary RR 9:00 am – 11:00 am. 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Giant RR 11:15 am – 5:15 pm. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Final Cross-over Round 5:15pm 6:00 pm. - Awards Ceremony 6:10 pm.

Advance registration, payment, and hold-harmless agreement **must** be received **no later than March 8, 2003**. Sign the waiver and make checks payable to Mike Babuin and mail to P.O. Box 3401 Cary, North Carolina 27519. Hold Harmless Agreement/Disclaimer: All entrants **must** sign waiver to enter. If under 18-years of age, parent or legal guardian must sign on your behalf.

Athlete/Entrant Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ I, for myself or as parent or guardian (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby assume all the risks and hazards incidental to the conduct of the activities and transportation to and from the activities. I release, absolve, and indemnify the Town of Cary, employees of the Town, USATT, Mike Babuin, Cary Table Tennis Association, volunteers, contractors and/or sponsors from all risks and hazards associated with the activities and in the event of injury, loss, or damage to personal property, do expressly waive all claims against them. **I understand that no insurance coverage is provided by the Town of Cary Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department or by any other entity.** I further agree to abide by all USATT Regulations.

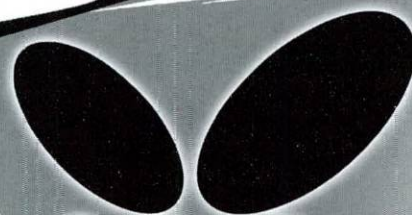
Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ USATT Member # (n/a if not applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ USATT Membership Expiration Date (n/a if not applicable) \_\_\_\_\_





**2003 USA**  
**Table Tennis World &**  
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March 19-22, 2003



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**The New Service Rule: "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."**

## *An Official's View*

By "Dr. Azmy"

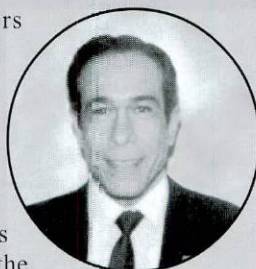
### *Guardians of the Rules*

Once again we have to visit the new service rule. Many questions are raised, and many interpretations are circulated, not just in our Association, but also all over the world regarding the application of the rule.

Let me start by reminding ourselves that we are the ones who have to apply the rules objectively, regardless of our subjective sentiments toward them. During the last couple of years we have witnessed some changes in our sport. Some of us – officials, coaches, and players – accepted them willingly and others resented them severely. Rumors floated about the fact that some associations are not adopting these new

changes. Others claim that prominent teams are going to quit. Let me say that nothing of the sort has happened and the sport is still going as usual.

It is our responsibility and duty as officials and umpires to enforce the rules when they are changed. We may suggest further revisions, or ask for some reexamination to some aspects of the new additions to the sport. **But we have to enforce and perform according to the existing regulations and rules at a given time.** Umpires or officials have to understand that they have no right to make their own interpretations of the rules. If



somebody feels strongly against the new rules, then he/she can relieve themselves of their duties for the time being.

With this harsh introduction I find myself compelled to share with you the messages as they are coming regarding the service rule. I feel I cannot summarize or edit them for fear of misinterpretations. I also hope that each and every umpire will read these correspondences before he umpires at any tournament. The reason for publishing all three emails is to give an opportunity to all umpires regardless of their level, IU – NU – RU – CU, to be acquainted with the new rule and its applications.

The first message is from Adham Sharara, President of ITTF, followed by ones from Aly Salam (Secretary of Umpires, Umpires & Referees Committee) and Colin Clemett (Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee).

### **Dear Readers,**

Over the past two weeks we have received a lot of input regarding the new Service Rule. This was solicited by me and also by the URC Umpires Secretary. This input is very valuable but clearly demonstrates that a clarification is needed to ensure "uniform" implementation of the rule by the players and to ensure "uniform" understanding and application of the rule by the Umpires.

In my opinion, as President of the ITTF, I believe that the new rule as it is written by the Chairman of the Rules Committee completely and fairly describes the rule as it was intended. Unfortunately, in many cases due to translation into other languages the interpretation may vary. Many are ignoring the interpretation that was provided and focus only on the "letter" of the rule with false understanding. In my opinion this is a temporary problem and could be fixed in time by continuous education by our ambassadors (Committee members, staff, EC, EB, etc.) However, it is important that our ambassadors all have the same understanding. For this purpose I enclose within this email a clarification prepared by Mr. Aly Salam, the Umpires Secretary, on behalf of the URC, to be published in the next ITTF Bulletin. Please read it carefully and propagate this information as much as possible.

I will also prepare an official statement to be distributed to all concerned as soon as possible. I am still sorting through all the emails received from various sources in the last 10 days. I am taking a leadership role in this matter in order to prevent the degeneration of this precious rule and to avoid any hardships in the future.

I am sorry if I have stepped on any toes in this process. This is a very important change in our sport and we must ensure that the rule as intended is applied correctly. The benefits I saw at the Korean Open of the new rule are immense. The danger is in the "non-uniform" application of this rule by players and umpires. Once we have educated the main protagonists I hope that this rule will be history as are now the previous two changes (40mm ball and 11-point games).

Following you will find the ITTF Umpires & Referees Committee clarification.

**Adham Sharara, ITTF President** (at your service!)

### **Keep It Simple**

#### **Dear Fellow Umpires**

Over the last few months I have received numerous emails regarding the new service rules that went into effect September 1, 2002. Most were asking for guidance on how to apply the new rule of "The ball shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner."

Our objective should be "Keep it Simple." There is no need to add personal interpretations or elements that are not written in the rule. Applying a worldwide standard that is consistent with the written words is absolutely critical at this stage.

The main purpose is to make the ball visible to the receiver at all times during service. The serving player or pair must not take any action which should prevent the receiver from seeing the ball from the time at which it leaves the server's hand until it is struck. Consider the intent of the law rather than dwelling on specific words or terms used – primarily:

The ball must be visible to the RECEIVER at ALL times from the moment it leaves the free hand to the moment it is struck. That is it – no more and no less.

In applying the rule, when there is an umpire and assistant umpire at the table, then one of them surely will see the entire path of the ball. If in the "judgment" of either the ball is not completely visible to the RECEIVER, then a fault must be called – and an explanation must be given. Note, with two umpires present, there is no allowance for a warning as previously permitted.

When there is only one umpire, then he must "JUDGE" that the receiver sees the ball at all times during the serve, even if the umpire does not fully "SEE" the ball. If in doubt, then the umpire can give a warning and explain to the player why the service is doubtful. Whenever there is a clear failure, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point. The ways to "JUDGE" whether a service is legal or not when the umpire cannot "SEE" the ball are contained in the "interpretation of the rule."

1. As soon as the free hand and arm has projected the ball upwards, the free hand and arm must be "immediately" removed to the side. The free arm must not remain in any area between the ball and the receiver.
2. If the server could imagine a triangular space created by the ball and both net posts, then extends this space upwards to head level, the server must then ensure that no part of his body or clothing enters this space (or remains in this space) after he projects the ball upwards in service.

The best service ITTF officials can provide to the sport at this time is to study the updated rules and regulations – posted on the ITTF website ([www.ittf.com/service](http://www.ittf.com/service)) and mailed to every association in June; read the official text, view the purpose and intent of the rule, look at the pictures and sample videos of proper and improper service actions. Please pay particular attention to gallery photo 6 – that is LEGAL service – even though the free hand is within the imaginary triangle between the ball and the net posts, it is above the ball and the ball is always visible to the receiver.

In the few events that implemented the new rules since September 1, 2002, most players were complying with the wording and intent of the new rules. A few were pushing the window by going as close as possible to the limits – that is acceptable. However, it is when a player exceeds

the limits that the umpire must act. Otherwise by not applying all of the rules – consistently and uniformly – the umpire is providing a disservice to the sport. ITTF umpires should pay close attention to all elements of a proper service – not only what is new. Just because the ball is visible to the receiver it does not mean that it can be thrown backwards or tossed less than 16cm.

The ITTF umpires and referees committee will release a set of video segments covering different aspects of service and behavior examples and expected uniform actions by all umpires. More information will be mailed to each association and placed on the ITTF website under the Umpires and Referees Committee section.

In the meantime, please share with us your ideas and suggestions on improving the process. You can find contact information at [www.ittf.com](http://www.ittf.com).  
**Aly Salam, Secretary of Umpires, URC**

## The Service Law

One of the commonest questions received about the new service law concerns a part which was not affected by the changes, and it is: “Does the umpire need to see the ball during service?”

Since 1967 the service law has included the statement: “It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service.” The umpire has to check that the ball is resting freely on the palm of the server’s free hand, that it is projected near vertically upwards, that it rises and falls without touching anything until it is struck and that during service it is behind the server’s end line and above the level of the playing surface. How can he be sure that these requirements are met if he cannot see the ball from the start of service? It may not matter if the ball is momentarily hidden during its flight by, say, the server’s free arm as he moves it away, provided the umpire is satisfied that the ball has not touched anything. There is nothing new in this; the situation is the same this season as it was last season and in the previous 34 seasons. The only change is that the umpire, instead of having to decide whether the ball is struck behind the rear-most part of the server’s body, must now decide whether it is hidden from the receiver.

It is true that with an umpire operating alone, the same service may be legal when the player is at one end of the table and illegal when he is at the other, depending on whether he has his back to, or is facing, the umpire. But, again, this is not new; it is why in 1983 the concept of an assistant umpire was introduced for international competitions. It has sometimes been suggested that players should have the right to ask the umpire to move to a position from which he can see the service better. With a single umpire, the only practical way to ensure that a service is legal irrespective of the player’s position is to require the ball to be struck between the server’s body and his end line, but this has repeatedly been rejected as being too restrictive. It seems to be a matter of choosing between two imperfect solutions, and so far the preference has been to accept the inconsistency that can occur when there is no assistant umpire.

**Colin Clemett**  
 Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee

## The New Service Rule:

### Opinions from the Masters

By Peter Jensen & Christian Heyerdahl, care of ITTF

Having come into effect a little over a month ago, the new service rule has now been used at several international events.

It seems like the majority of players agree with the intent of the change, but it seems that there are still some doubts about the rule – and that some players are still trying to see how far they can go.

The service rule changed on September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to force players not to hide the ball with parts of their body at the moment the ball is struck.

Until now points could be decided directly on the service because the server could hide the ball and obstruct the view so that the receiver was not able to judge the spin by seeing contact.

The idea with the new rule is to make it easier for the receiver to see what kind of spin is put on the ball – in order to make the rallies longer and the game more spectacular.

Opinions on the new service rule:

- **Zoran Primorac (CRO):** “I think that returning services has become easier. Before you just had to take a chance trying to figure out the rotation by looking at the mark on the ball. Now instead you get the opportunity to look at the very service itself.”
- **Kim Kyung Ah (KOR):** “For me it is an improvement. Now I see the ball all the way. However, some players are still not serving correctly. It could be because they are tense and nervous.”
- **Jorgen Persson (SWE):** “I think the new rule is not very clear. Some players remove their arm very late – I am afraid that we will soon be back to where we were.”
- **Mihaela Steff (ROM):** “I am not winning so many points anymore directly on my own service. I think that some players are still going close to the limit or over the limit and violating the new rule.”

- **Tamara Boros (CRO):** “Now I can see the ball when my opponent strikes it, and that is an improvement. However the question is also the impact on your own service. At the Women’s World Cup the Chinese went right to the limit. In my opinion they are challenging the new rule by removing the arm only immediately before they strike it. That gives them a better coordination in the service, but then the limit between a legal and an illegal service is not clear.”
- **Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE):** “You will always find players who, especially at the end of the game, start serving illegally, players who are actually cheating.”
- **World Cup Winner Zhang Yining (CHN)** did not like the rule from the very beginning: “It has been difficult for me, but slowly I am getting used to it. Whether it has any impact on the game? I would like to wait a little before I say anything about that.”
- **Chinese National Coach Ni Xiao Dong:** “We have followed the new rule for a few months in the Chinese league, and the interpretation differs from match to match and umpire to umpire. We will have to wait and see – but for sure some players will suffer more than others. Every time we make a rule change, some specific players will be ‘sacrificed’.”
- **Umpire Maurie Poole (AUS):** “Players and umpires still have to get used to it, but I think services have been improved, even though some players still don’t remove their arm as they are supposed to. However nobody tries to hide the ball with the body anymore.”
- **Umpire Piet van Egmond (NED):** “During the Japan Open I saw a lot of illegal services which were not called.”

## JIMMY MCCLURE HONORED

By Tim Boggan

ITTF Hall of Famer and the USATT’s 2001 Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award winner Jimmy McClure has been invited for the second time in recent years to Japan. He leaves Dec. 16 for a 7-day all-expenses-paid stay (so will reluctantly have to miss presiding over the annual USATT Hall of Fame Awards Banquet). Jimmy will be the recipient of an Award given by Hikosuke Tamasu for the “People’s Table Tennis Magazine.” He’s to be lauded for his post World War II successful efforts with officials to bring the Japanese TTA into the International Federation. Fly friendly skies, Jimmy.

# A MATCH BETWEEN

By Guy W. McLean

He is elderly – I am middle-aged. His paddle is a combination of long pips and anti-spin to suit his devious nature. It's probably as slow as a black hole. Mine is speedy and spinny because I love the power game. We face each other across the table, two ping pong gladiators about to do battle.

The warm-up begins. Immediately concerns develop. Though his paddle is a nightmare tool for an intermediate counter driver/looper to face, he is able to deliver smooth gentle topspin balls to my forehand and backhand. This is bad news. Returning consistent topspin cupcakes is hard with that kind of paddle!

I experiment with chop and loop to both sides. Same thing. The ball comes back medium paced and slightly topped.

I win serve. Good lucks are exchanged. I decide to open with speed, speed, and more speed. Let's find out early who the man is. The straight crosscourt topspin serve takes him by surprise. He's late to the ball and for the first time he chops! It's a hummer, low and fast. I had cheated into a forehand loop stance before he hit the ball. I risk the rip and pull it off – point for me!

The game progresses. He does not like speed and I hate junk. He is wily and I am willful. He flips his paddle to add to my confusion. Some times I have no idea what he's done with the ball and rely on a soft spinny high loop to get the ball over the net and back on the table. When that happens he blocks hard and the ball screams to an angle away from me. But at least I know what's on it. He's not moving much, while I feel like I'm at a track meet. Clean winners are not contested on his side. He just smiles, says good shot, and picks up the ball. But will I hit enough?

The game goes to deuce. Luck for the first time enters the battle. I clip an edge on serve then dribble a badly misjudged smash cravenly against the net and over. This is a most disgusting way to win a game, but he does not react. On the switch I apologize. He smiles and winks at me and says:

"Those things even out."

What a sportsmanlike thing to say. I wonder if I would have said anything like that, if the tables were turned. I hope so.

The second game is his. I'm not sure how, but he's thrown my timing off. Loops and smashes are going long and short. Chops float high. I have no more serving tricks. I fall into the trap of the power player. The way to claw back into the game is to hit harder and better. He lets me lose the game, calmly feeding the knuckleballs and chops. Still moving me, but not as much because the points are shorter from my misses.



In the third, my mantra is control. I have to find a way to get rhythm and groove. He hasn't hit a ball by me yet, so I can afford to bunt and push. In two points he senses the change and waits for the sitter and smashes. Well, it's not a total smash, not a bullet. But I'm flat footed so it might as well be. I grit my teeth and know the party's over. If I insist on sacrificing blast for seeing more strokes I'll have to be careful.

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**"I'm 75 now. Can't move and hit like I used to. I've got an artificial knee and arthritis in my back." He's smiling with a twinkle in his eye as he says it, knowing that he's slipping me the needle.**

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This game to me is slog. Push and slow counters waiting to be pounded, while hoping for a sitter. But in the end it does help: I'm beginning to apply more and more pace and spin. But it's not soon enough to save the game. I am down 2-1.

The fourth is mine. I get the bit in my teeth with a lucky backhand smash. I'm back to having fun, taking risks, ripping off both wings. The sweat flowing. He's four feet off the table now, chopping moon balls into a buzz saw. Two all quickly comes. As we switch he compliments me on the game. I'm feeling like the match is mine.

But of course he digs in. His chops slither lower and his blocks bite sharper. He unveils a never before seen serve and nails a third-ball winner. I have to wait for the chance to open and then pounce. But he begins to lob for space and time. At 8-all I realize I'm beginning to breath heavily. My stomach feels the strain of trying to smash all those lobs. Then he serves a no-spin dink short to my forehand, which I never read and boink ridiculously long off the

table. Then he has the nerve to serve his next ball hard, fast, and topspinny into my forehand corner. My bread and butter on a platter before me. But I'm in shock that he's done it. I'm late and long with the return. Down 10-8 in a blink. My serve is cautious and neutral, because I'm on the precipice of losing, and he smashes for the first time in the match off serve. It hits the net and dribbles pitifully short and unreachable on my side. The match is over. Inside I whither and die.

But as we meet to shake hands, I smile and point out:

"You were right, they do even out."

It's been a glorious match. I've played my best. Losing hurts, but you've still got to love the swirl of tactics, speed, control, and athleticism. Speed chess on steroids. We sit on the side together, both spent.

"How long have you been playing?" he asks.

"Four years. How about you?"

"Over fifty years," he replied. "I'm 75 now. Can't move and hit like I used to. I've got an artificial knee and arthritis in my back." He's smiling with a twinkle in his eye as he says it, knowing that he's slipping me the needle.

I laugh. Put in my place. The young whipper-snapper of 45.

"What was your highest rating?"

"1975 in 1985. Since then I've been slowly falling."

I do the math. He peaked at 58. So close to the 2000 barrier.


"Wow, almost 2000. That's my goal."

"Mine too!" he said. His smile deepening, but his eyes didn't twinkle anymore. They looked off into the distance, wistfully.

Suddenly I felt choked up. His dream and mine are both still shining bright before us. Mine far away but still possible. His as far away but no longer in front of him. We had been two dreamers lost in the muse together. For five games it gleamed alive for both of us – equally vibrant and attainable. But now he must face his mortality and I perhaps my lack of commitment.

He watched me think these things and I could tell he knew my thoughts. He clapped me on the back.

"Two dreamers nine feet away bashing the hell out each other. What a great game."

We both smiled and knew it was true. 



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# My able Tennis Adventures in China

By Dr. Marius Wechsler

It was a muggy mid-August Beijing evening, my second in China. My daughters, overcome by jet lag, had collapsed in the hotel bed. I seized my opportunity. I convinced my wife, who is originally from Shanghai and has accepted my addiction over the years, to call a few nearby clubs to inquire about their hours and available practice partners. Armed with one club's address and my hotel card, I hailed a taxicab and headed out into the night along Beijing's posh main artery, Chang An Jie. In my plastic bag I carried my paddle, balls and a few sheets of translated table tennis terms, which my friend David Zhou had copied from a Chinese Internet site.

The taxi dropped me next to Dong Dan Sports Complex, a block-long athletic center bustling with youngsters shooting hoops outdoors on well-lit courts. Inside an adjacent building I was directed to the third and last basement. There, in a large hot playing hall, I saw a collection of about twenty tightly clumped Double Happiness Tables, of various quality and age, but uniformly dusty, each lit by one overhanging ceiling light, and occupied by a good crowd of mostly middle-aged and elderly men and women working up a sweat. The level of play was roughly 1300-1800. The only way to play here was to bring a friend and rent the table by the hour. Otherwise, one had to use the services of one of the 6 coaches

pictured on the wall for about \$9/hr. A coach in his 60's was feeding multiball on one table to a man in his 30's. I got a relatively young coach, in his late 40's, to part with his cigarette and hit with me for an hour. He blocked my loops for about 50 minutes using a pips-out penhold racket with rubber that looked like it had witnessed the Cultural Revolution. I received a good workout but no coaching, as the language barrier was a problem. In the last 10 minutes I played him a 3/5 match that I easily won, as he appeared to lack stamina after so many years of nicotine drags. I left impressed by the number of people playing and the easy availability of coaches, but saddened by the absence of youngsters, who apparently no longer see table tennis as a "cool" way to stay fit.

As I wandered through Beijing's alleyways, parks, and restaurants during the next few days, I found many young professionals sporting badminton rackets in the off hours, even a large gathering of badminton players in the park surrounding the Temple of Heaven. Some hairdressers short on business even hit the badminton birdie on the sidewalk outside my hotel. The hotel itself had a superb swimming pool, weight room, tennis courts and two table tennis tables as well, but the latter did not get much action. Billiards was also a rather popular pastime, as evidenced by the crowd around the Red Army Guards pool table in the courtyard of the Forbidden City. I did hear the scattato of some table tennis games on the outskirts of the city once and saw one television ad featuring Kong Linghui, but overall table tennis did not appear to occupy a very prominent role in the life of the city.

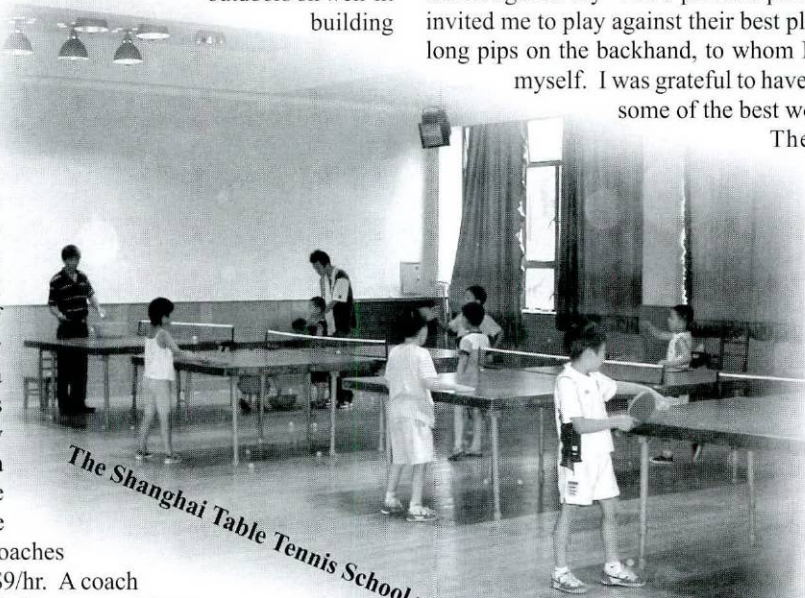
The highlight of my Beijing table tennis experience was the 90 minutes at the Beijing Women's Team training facility, located in a school campus near the Temple of Heaven. The facility contained the men's training hall on the ground floor and the women's on the second floor. The large air-conditioned room had about 12 top-notch Double Fish tables well lit by fluorescent lighting. I watched for about 45 minutes as the

women and girls as young as 11 went through repetitive drills meant to sharpen their skills. Some were long pips choppers fending off loops on each side. Some were counterlooping off the bounce. Most were shakehand players. One woman from Netherlands was there practicing with the team. Late in the session, I spotted a familiar looking face on a far-off table. It was Pan Lin, an American junior I had seen just weeks before taking lessons from David Zhuang at the New Jersey Table Tennis club, there on the first day of a training camp. It's a small world after all.

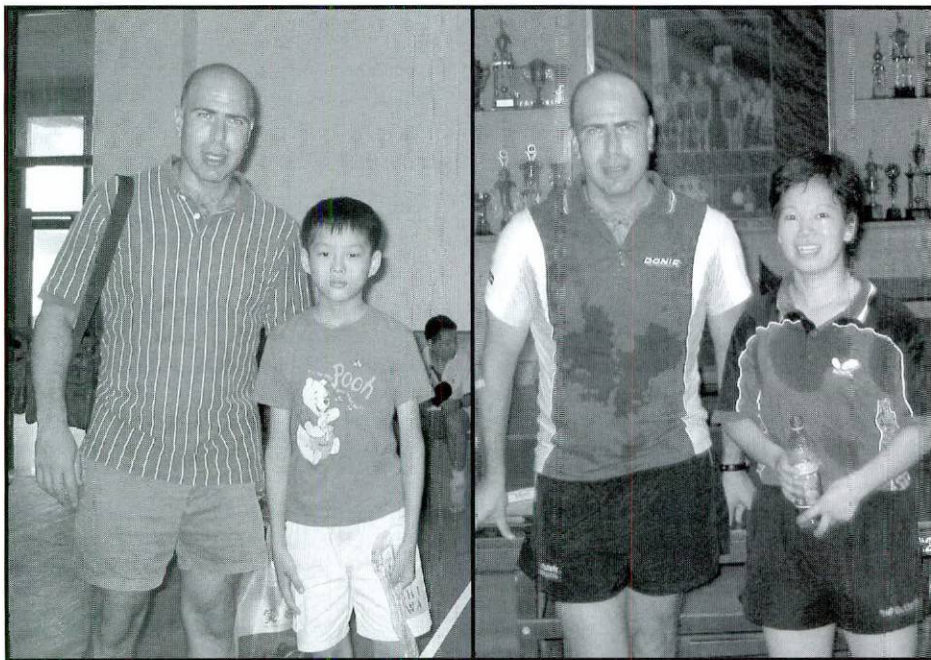
Overseeing the training were about four coaches, the youngest of whom, a friend of Wang Chen, was nice enough to spend a half hour coaching me as I looped and blocked against a 14-year-old shakehand looper. At the end the coach encouraged me to play a best of three match against my ~2250 practice partner, which I lost 2-1. She then invited me to play against their best player, a shakehand attacker with long pips on the backhand, to whom I lost 2-0 without embarrassing myself. I was grateful to have this glimpse into the training of some of the best women players on the planet.

The final stop on my trip was Shanghai, the shopping Mecca of the Far East, as far as I could see. The very afternoon I arrived at my hotel, I strolled a block away to check out a centrally located table tennis school for young kids, taught by the mother of one of the best players in New York. The air-conditioned hall contained six well-lit tables. I spent the next two hours playing mostly matches against Fan Ze Wei a 12-year-old ~2100 penholder, complete with a reliable reverse backhand loop, and very tricky serve, not to mention a steady attack.

Although I did not fare too well against him that on my third visit to the read some of his serves. My second visit to the school provided me with an unexpected surprise. The playing hall was deserted because the coach was away at a local meet. The guard at the elementary school entrance told me to go to the third floor. As I climbed to the second floor, I was surprised to find another air-conditioned playing hall, with six more tables with some 4- to 6- year-olds lifting their paddles up to the surface to strike at the balls. I went to the third floor, where I saw only two very good adults, a man and a woman, practicing on one of the six tables in that hall. The woman shocked me by addressing me in flawless English. When I told her I was from the U.S., she asked if she had seen me at the U.S. Open. As I never make it out to tournaments that far from New Jersey, I had to tell her that I had not been so lucky. She asked if perhaps I had heard of her and introduced herself as Ni Xia Lian. I was delighted to meet the former U.S. Open Women's Champion in these surroundings and stopped to watch her practice with her Shanghai partner, who, like herself, had lived and played in Luxemburg. In her long-pip blocks his powerful loops frequently met their premature death. She was nice enough to chat with me about her upcoming World Cup tournament, about her son in Luxemburg and about her passion for the game. She proclaimed herself the "old lady" of the game and said she still enjoyed competing and planned to keep playing internationally as long as she could still perform at a high level. A former resident of Shanghai herself, she informed me, as an



The Shanghai Table Tennis School where Shao Yu's mother teaches.



Marius and his partner at the school, Fan Ze Wei; Marius with Ni Xia Lian.

aside, that the table tennis school we were at was by no means the biggest school in Shanghai.

On a subsequent evening, one of my relatives took me to play the two best players she had personally known, two older gentlemen whose past had been laced with table tennis glory in their local regions. The venue was a dingy, hot, second floor parlor in a run-down forgotten corner of the city, where two decent tables that appeared to gather dust much of the time, shared space with four pool tables attended by some youngsters with haloes of smoke above their heads. An adjacent room was filled by locals, having what looked like a political party meeting. My partners, in their late 60's and early 70's, playing at about 1850-1900 level, took turns squeezing the sweat out of me and themselves during a couple of hours of play. They appeared a little out of practice.

I played twice more in Shanghai, at Jing An Sports Center, where a few more coaches were earning their living teaching kids part of the day, and scavenging for the occasional drifters like myself looking for ping-pong action the rest of the time. A few retirees also played there on one of the days, having rented a table by the hour. One of the coaches, Qian Jin Xin, had been there for 18 years, another apparently longer. They fed me multiball, did drills and played games against me on some of the ten tables in the air-conditioned hall. Although they played at a 2050-2100 level, I was able to win the matches, as the coaches lacked adequate mobility. As everywhere else, only one-star balls were used for training and competitive play, as the cost of three-star balls was similar to the U.S., and the difference in quality was not deemed worth the expense.

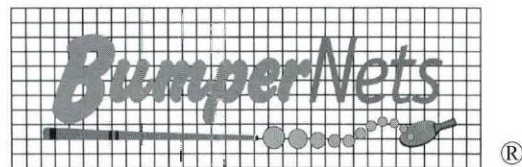
Table tennis merchandise in these cities was available in sparse quantities at many

department stores, with a wider selection at the largest ones. Only the Chinese brands of rubber and blades were sold at a discount. Shoes bearing the Stiga label were available for \$15 up to size 11. DHS Warrior shoes were cheaper still. Clothing bearing the Butterfly, Donic, even Tibhar labels (I question authenticity because they do not resemble

catalogue designs) were available in the largest department stores at bargain prices. One Butterfly store was selling expensive merchandise right next to the central Shanghai table tennis school where Ni Xia Lian had been practicing. Table tennis definitely did not occupy a prominent role in the general merchandise or even the sports retail world of Beijing or Shanghai.

At the end of my table tennis escapades in China I came to a few conclusions. Clubs are still relatively easy to find in big cities and their casual players are mostly middle-aged and elderly men and women. There must be little or no organized league or tournament activity for the multitudes of middle aged and elderly players who might be interested in a competitive outlet for their passion. (I understand that this is not the case in Hong Kong.) Some above average aging players go into coaching and many people must avail themselves of their services. Many of these coaches also teach at table tennis schools where there are still a large number of youngsters coming to learn the game. However, the place of table tennis among favorite Chinese past-times is declining (especially among the cities' teens and young affluent adults). My sixth grade niece in Shanghai does not even have table tennis in the physical education curriculum, although she is certainly taught how to play badminton and basketball. However, I did spend my last evening in China watching the final of the Women's World Cup on national TV, the coverage including the semifinals and final in their entirety.

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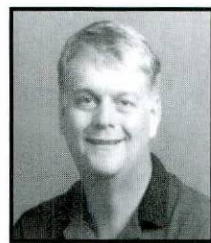
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The purpose of this series of articles will be to shed some light on the many possibilities and advantages of Robot Training. If you do not have a robot, the same effect can be

produced through the use of multiball drills with coaches or practice partners.

This particular article is written for players who use long pips close to the table. However,

the best way to beat a style is to understand the style—so the article is for everyone.



### **Close to the Table Long Pips Attack and Defense Techniques**

Many of my senior (O-40) students have asked me to do an article on the use of long pips, for close-to-the-table play. This style is very popular with the older players as it allows them to slow down play and to put the focus on using their hand skills rather than movement and power to win points.

Robot training is particularly useful when learning and practicing these techniques as few players can consistently attack against this style. In fact, as you are learning this style many players may become frustrated and not want to practice with you at all.

Let's take a look at the six basic strokes that should be in the arsenal of any close to the table long pips player. All of these strokes are described as backhand strokes.

1. Lift against backspin: This stroke is executed with a slightly open blade. The stroke itself is very simple. At contact, push forward and slightly up. Use mostly the forearm and little or no wrist action. This stroke, when executed with long pips, allows you to use your opponent's backspin to produce a controlled topspin attack. This is the only stroke in which you can produce enough topspin to hit with speed.

2. Sidespin attack against backspin: This is an unusual looking stroke to most inverted players. The stroke is executed much like the straight lift against backspin, but at contact, the racket is pushed forward and pulled to the right (for right-handed players). Depending on the racket angle this return will produce a wide range of no-spin, sidespin, or light topspin returns, all with some degree of sidespin. This stroke can force many errors from your opponents.

3. Attacking backspin by pushing: Pushing with long pips can be very aggressive. When pushing, if light contact with the ball is made, the return will be a dead ball (no-spin). If harder racket contact is made (more force), a light topspin can be produced. This leads to a lot of high and very attackable returns from your opponent.

4. Controlled counter attacks: The key to attacking with long pips against topspin is to remember that controlling the speed of your returns is the key to success. Do not over-hit. Your returns will carry some backspin, so there will always be a limit on the amount of speed you can produce. Generally speaking, if you are using long pips without

sponge this stroke will be quite slow and carry heavier backspin. If you are using long pips with sponge, this return will be faster but without as much spin. Once again, keep the stroke simple using only a forward pushing motion, with the forearm. Remember, when counter attacking with long pips, let the racket do the work for you. It is the ever-changing spin on your returns that will force errors from your opponent, not the speed of your returns.

5. Defensive chop blocks: This stroke looks just like its name suggests—a block with a downward chopping motion. When used against heavy topspin, this stroke can produce heavy chop returns. Often your opponent will be forced into pushing this return back, which will allow you to attack.

6. Pullback block: Once again, the name says it all. Against a topspin attack, you simply pull your racket slightly back at contact, thereby taking most of the pace off the ball. This can be used to produce a very short return, making it impossible for your opponent to continue an attack. This technique works best with long pips without sponge.

There you have the major long pips, close-to-the-table techniques. When used properly, these strokes can make life very difficult for your opponents. Fortunately, your robot will not mind at all while you practice and perfect these techniques.

My next article will deal with robot match drills for the long pips close to the table player.

## **Sport Tours is Proud to Present US-China Friendship Table Tennis Training Camp 2003!**

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Training in Xi'an, China, begins May 2003. For more information, call (405) 604-7021.

### **Tip of the Month:**

**Against a Fast Attacker, Make At Least Two Strong Shots**

By Larry Hodges,  
USATT Certified National Coach

It can be difficult playing someone with a fast attack, who rushes you and takes over the attack with his or her counter-attack. How do you beat someone like this? There are many ways, depending on your style. If you are an attacker, you may run into a problem that when you attack, you get quick-blocked out of position, and quickly lose the point. Instead of trying to make shot after shot against such an opponent, focus on making two strong shots. That means your first shot is designed to set up the second shot. That means placement and depth. It also might mean slowing down your first shot to give yourself time to prepare for the second shot. Often there's nothing more effective than a slow, spinny loop, deep on the table. It's hard to block aggressively, and can set up your second shot.





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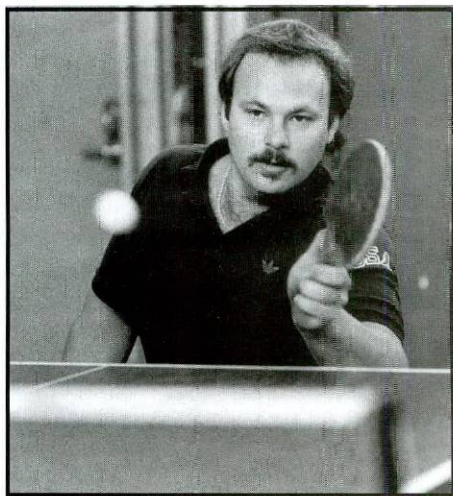
FREEDOM TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

# 2001 USATT HALL OF FAME AWARDS



By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

## USATT Hall of Fame Player Inductee MIKE DEMPSEY



**1956—1968:** When Mike's about six months old, his Doctor gives him a normal virus shot but the hypodermic needle accidentally bruises his spinal cord and he loses the use of his legs. "With me," he says, "being in a wheelchair wasn't a matter of readjusting. You might have a period of bitterness when you have something and lose it, but this being the only thing I ever knew, I'm not bitter. I was always a pretty happy kid."

**1969:** Mike competes in the least disabled category. The more so then with him the saying, "It's Ability, not Disability that counts." U.S. Wheelchair Champion John Gray brings 13-year-old Mike to the National Wheelchair Games, an unseeded newcomer, and he takes the gold. It will be the first of at least 30 National Championships in his Class he will win.

**1970-71:** Mike improves by competing against able-bodied players at his Columbus, Ohio club. In July of '71, he'll have his first international triumph — a gold at the Pan-Am Wheelchair Games in Kingston, Jamaica, where he's coached by Jim Beckford. There'll be many more international medals for him with the help of Coaches Chris Lehman, Christian Lillieroos, and Rong Li.

**1972:** At the Heidelberg Paralympics, Mike scores a silver—loses to Israel's perennial Champion Sam Hagai.

**1973:** Back home among the Ohio able-bodied, Mike is ranked #1 among Young Adults in Ohio when in that event at a tournament he defeats Men's winner Ricky Seemiller. At Stoke-Mandeville, England, Dempsey wins the Singles from Hagai.

**1974:** Mike graduates from Gahanna Lincoln High School. There he was awarded a Varsity sport jacket "for his achievements in table tennis and basketball" and was inducted into the National Honor Society "for his scholarship, character, leadership, and service."

**1975-82:** In England in '75, Dempsey and Sam Fletcher win a gold in Doubles. Now World wins come rolling in. Ty Kaus tells us how in the fall of '82, at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England, Mike is playing Altendorfer a 2/3 match for the Open Championship. The Austrian, up 1-0, and, having just won several hard-fought points to pull to 17-all in the second, points his racket defiantly at Dempsey, but Mike, is not intimidated, prevails at 19. Kaus then delights in describing what happens next:

*"Mike came alive and buried the Austrian with a succession of beautifully executed and deceptive angled pushes as he constantly flipped and twirled his Mark V/Sriver Killer combination bat, forcing error after error. Suddenly, amazingly, the score was 20-3 Dempsey. Then Dempsey forecorked three of his awesome forehand kills.... He missed the first two, but the third struck paydirt, a tremendous smash that sailed far into the spectator seats."*

**1983-87:** At the Vienna Sports Festival Mike wins two golds and a bronze. Meanwhile, business calls? Back in 1972, Mike had met Rainer Kuschall, a Swiss who'd invented an ultra-lightweight, ultra-maneuverable wheelchair that used weight-reducing aluminum tubing (a steel chair weighed maybe 50 pounds, an aluminum tubing one perhaps not 20). After accepting an offer by Kuschall allowing him to produce these chairs in the U.S., Dempsey, by 1985, has his own wheelchair company with his own designs.

**1988:** In winning the Paralympics Open at Seoul, Mike plays two gutsy matches — his 23-21, 21-19 semi's versus world-ranked #1 Tom Kreidel; and his 19-in-the-third final against Frenchman Guy Tisserant.

**1989-1992:** Andre Scott/Anderson begins challenging Dempsey for supremacy. At the 1990 World Championships in Holland, Kreidel beats Mike for the gold. At the '92 Barcelona Paralympics, Mike again has to be content with silver.

**1993-1999:** Win or lose, Mike remains, if not a kid, still pretty happy. And why shouldn't he be? He has a good time at the '99 Parapanam Games in Mexico City, and begins to get more of the accolades he deserves.

**2000-:** In addition to having received earlier the National Wheelchair Athletic Association's Male Athlete of the Year Award and induction into that body's Hall of Fame, as well as inductions into the Ohio WAA Hall and, later, the California Hall, Mike enjoys what is perhaps his finest moment. He has the honor in Sydney of being Flagbearer for the 2000 U.S. Paralympic Team.

## USATT Hall of Fame Player Inductee WEI WANG (pronounced "Way Wong")



Photo by John Oros ©2002

**1974-79:** At age 13, playing shakehands (at the suggestion of her aunt, Wang Jien, 1961 World semifinalist), and favoring a fast-attack game, Wei becomes part of the Beijing team. By 1979 ranked #5 in China, but is never chosen for the National Team.

**1986:** After graduating from Beijing University, immigrates to U.S, settles in CA. Knows little English, so adaption to different culture is difficult.

**1988:** In March, at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, wins two singles and the doubles with U-22 U.S. Champion Lan Vuong, thus enabling the "U.S." to defeat a visiting Japanese Team managed by 1967 U.S. Open Champion Manji Fukushima. In June, at the Pacific Rim International in Alhambra (thanks go to sponsor/host, Dr. Jiing Wang), a "U.S." team of Wei, Lan and 1984 U.S. Closed Champion Julie Ou finishes third behind teams from China and Japan (Chinese Taipei is fourth). Wei is third in Singles behind China's Chen Zihé and runner-up Xu Jing. In July, Wei wins North American Invitational over Lan.

**1989:** At the August North American Championships, Wei loses an 11-9 in the fifth horror to Barbara Chen, a former Canton Province player who was the Canadian #1 at the 1989 World's. (Yes, that's right, 13 years ago ... 11-point games).

**1990:** The first of U.S. National Coach Wei's video instruction tapes is being circulated. Modern Table Tennis 101 (with 5-time U.S. Champion Sean O'Neill) and 102 will follow. WEI WINS U.S. CLOSED SINGLES over U.S. Champ Insook Bhushan.

**1991:** At the World's, in a Corbillon Cup match, Wei beats Bulgaria's Daniela Guerguelcheva, the 1990 European Champion. In Mixed Doubles, Wei and Eric Boggan reach the round of 32. In October, at the North American Championships, Wei loses a tough final (not a best of five but best of seven match),

16, 19, 19, -17, -16, -14, -14 to Diana Huang. But the U.S. Team of Wei, Lily Hugh (former Quandong Province Champion, now Lily Yip), and Li Ai beat the eligible Canadian women and so qualify to play in the Barcelona World Team Cup. At the U.S. Closed, Wei rallies to beat Lily, then, though cheered on by husband Diego, loses a last-game lead in the final against Insook.

**1992:** At the April North American Championships, Wei/Lily qualify for World Cup Doubles, which makes them each, come December, \$1,000. Hard to take losses for Wei at the U.S. Open. Against a Chinese Taipei team, Wei loses her two singles, deuce in the third, and 19 in the third, and the doubles with Insook, deuce in the third. At the National's, Wei loses deuce in the fifth to Diana Gee. But WINS U.S. CLOSED DOUBLES WITH LILY and makes U.S. Team to '93 World's.

**1993:** In June Wei becomes a U.S. citizen. Diego and Wei, working together, initiate for the USATT magazine a standard feature: selected photo sequences of top world-class players and an accompanying analysis of their strokes. At the National's, Wei loses in the semi's in five to Lily. However, in the Team Trials, Wei comes second to Amy.

**1994:** At the May North American Championships, Wei is beaten in the semi's by Huang. But wins last match from Petra Cada to give U.S. women a 3-2 victory over Canada and make them eligible for the World Team Cup in Nimes, France. In October at Houston, makes Pan-Am Team. At the National's, Wei beats Virginia Sung in five before losing in the semi's to Amy. In the Team Trials, Wei loses to Amy, Lily, Virginia and Tawny Banh, and so doesn't make U.S. Team to the '95 World's. However, she'll be in Tianjin with Diego supporting the players. "I never remember the bad things," she says, "but I remember the good. My husband is that way too, so it seems that we are always happy."

**1995:** At the January ENGLISH OPEN, Wei, playing with a pick-up Austrian partner against world-class opponents, is WOMEN'S DOUBLES RUNNER-UP. Returning home to play in the February Chinese New Year's Open, Wei ("meticulously picking which loaded chop to loop, push or smash") beats Lily and Virginia. At the March Pan-Am Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Gee defeats Wei in five in quarter's, but Wei/Tawny win a Bronze in Doubles. At the National's, Lily beats Wei in the semi's, 19 in the fifth. Again Wei and Lily are U.S. DOUBLES CHAMPIONS.

**1996-:** At the U.S. Olympic Trials, Wei finishes third behind Lily and Amy. So, when Sung fails to qualify for Doubles later at Edmonton, Wei is able to partner Lily in Atlanta. After Wei trains in Beijing, she and Lily beat the Netherlands team of Vriesekoop/Noor, then lose to Russia's strong defensive pair, Palina/Timina. The Olympic Games prove a climax for Wei, whose last published rating is 2374. Invited to attend an all-expenses-paid Coaches Symposium in Colorado, she accepts. Thereafter concentrates solely on coaching, always trying to find the best way to teach, the best way to improve her students' play.

## 2002 Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award Winner DICK MILES

**1941-44:** Miles, Lou Pagliaro, and Tibor Hazi win '41 Intercities (Dick's first—he'll be on half a dozen more winning N.Y. teams). Strict grandmother locks him out when, obsessed with table tennis, he comes home in the wee hours from Lawrence's fabled Club. "Some nights I'd be sitting out there in the hall crying until finally someone would open the door and I'd hear my grandmother yell at me, "You're a bum! We don't want a bum in the family!"

**1945:** In Detroit wins the first of his record-breaking 10 National's. Michigan TTA President Graham Steenhoven, on presenting Dick with his trophy, says, "Here, I hope you behave like a Champion."

**1946-47:** At the '47 Paris World's, Dick finds such a cold venue that he's out there on

court with two hot water bottles tied to his waist. Loses to England's Johnny Leach. A combination of the cold and nerves forces Dick to repeatedly cramp up so that his forearm locked up. Suffers long-term psychic consequences: sometimes feels he *has* to attack when he doesn't want to, else fears his arm will tighten. Sick at heart, he loses in the Team's to the vaunted Czechs – Vana, Andreadis, Tereba. Wins U.S. Open Singles and first Mixed with England's '47 World runner-up Betty Blackburn.

**1948:** English Coach Jack Carrington describes Dick's game:

*"The 'Miles Forehand' threatens to become as famous as the 'Barna Backhand.' It is produced by an unbelievably fast circular whip of the forearm and wrist...[If you] try to follow the bat with your eye, you will find it almost impossible.*

*The effect is a fast bounding ball imbued with twice as much topspin as most players use. Miles can take the ball so early he can keep most opponents scouting the deep....*

*As for defense, the speed with which he falls back and the controlled returns from either wing are beautiful to watch."*

At Wembley World's, Miles leads Defending Champ Vana 16-9 in the fifth, but then, in "blindly" hitting himself out of the

match, he reverses the defensive strategy he'd used in losing a lead against Vana in the Team's. Depressed, he doesn't want to play the Mixed, but thanks to partner Tybie Thall's sun-bursting enthusiasm, he thaws a bit and they beat Leach/Vera Thomas 16, -11, -16, 22, 19. Off to a -13, -14 start in the final against Vana/Pokorna, Dick tells "crazy hitter" Tybie, "Listen, this is embarrassing. You don't hit a ball until I tell you to." Then – "with Miles driving fiercely" and Tybie taking "Vana's sneaky service with coolness" – they win the last three games. "Tybie threw her racket in the air and came over for a hug," Dick said. "But I pushed her away. Didn't say a word to her, didn't even shake hands. I acted like a real sh--. Afterwards, good players congratulated me, fussed over me – it was sickening." However, by presentation time Dick is feeling pretty good about being a World Champion, is even smiling. Back home at the U.S. Open, Dick beats Marty Reisman in one of their legendary matches, deuce in the 5th.

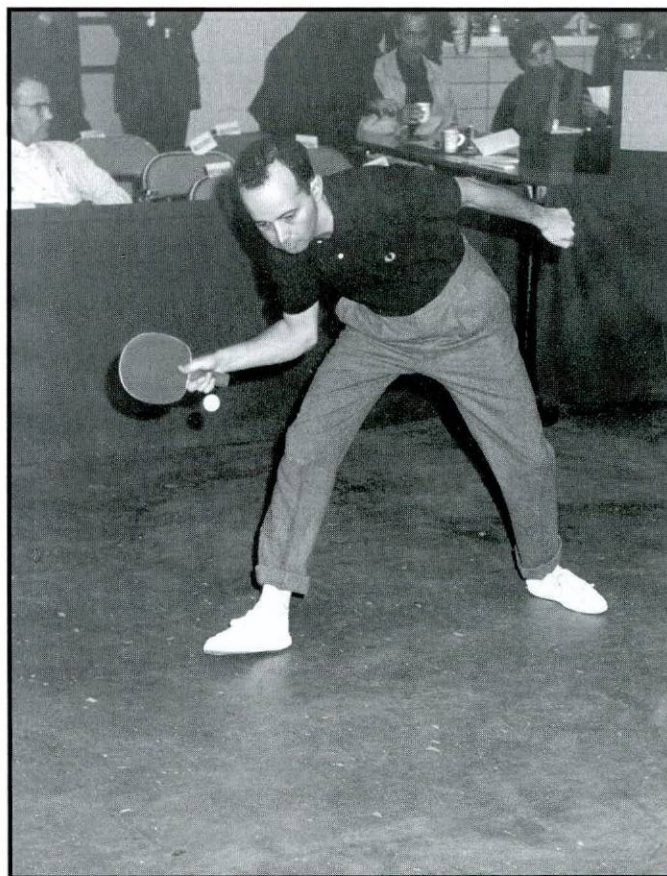


Photo by Mal Anderson ©2002

**1949:** At the Stockholm World's, Miles is again beaten by Leach, deuce in the fifth, after Dick has two match points. On this World trip, Miles, Reisman, and Cartland, "professionals," are not happy with the food or their accommodations. They express their displeasure, make changes, maybe miss an exhibition or two. As a result, the USATT suspends all three of them for a year.

**1950-52:** In '51 U.S. Open final Dick rallies from two games down to again beat Reisman. But in '52, though he wins the Doubles with Schiff (he'll also win with Somael, Reisman, and Van de Walle), he loses an expedited 5-game final to Pagliaro.

**1953-58:** At the '54 World's Dick is 13-1 in Swaythling Cup play. In Singles, he beats Zarko Dolinar, World runner-up in '55, then, up 2-0, he can't hold on against Japan's Tomita. In '55 he wins the U.S. Open from Richard Bergmann with whom he's been on a Globetrotters Tour. Also wins the Mixed with Millie Shahian. At the '56 World's he upsets Andreadis, loses to Oginura in the quarter's.

**1959:** At the Dortmund World's he beats Iran's Houshang Bozorgzadeh (who would soon move to the U.S.) in five, then two Chinese. In the semi's is up 2-1 against a third Chinese, Jung Kuo-tuan, but can't finish him.

**1960—85:** In '62 Dick wins his last National's – over Norbie Van de Walle, whom he enjoys giving USO shows with, be they in Alaska or Cambodia. "I'm a non-worker," he quips. Dick will continue playing in U.S. tournaments for more than a decade, but his last World's is in '67 at Stockholm where, almost 42, he plays a five-gamer with Gomozkov, the #1 Soviet player. In '68 his *The Game of Table Tennis* is published. In '71 he's on the historic 1971 U.S. "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" trip to China. He continues to write articles for *Sports Illustrated*. Is a colorman at World Championships for ABC's *Wide World of Sports*. Involves himself as a USTTA Executive Committeeman in the running of U.S. Opens. And all the while carries on his Dick Miles line of equipment with Sears and Montgomery Ward.

A non-worker? Don't you believe it. Had his grandmother been able to look ahead to see his lengthy accomplishments, she'd have said, "Got your key, Dickie? Make sure you've got your key, dear, in case you come in late."



## POLITICIANS PLAYING PING-PONG WITH PING-PONG

By Ken Muhr, *Care of English TTA*

Table tennis is fast becoming the game of choice for politicians. Prime Minister Tony Blair and Education Minister Estelle Morris were filmed playing for BBC TV News during the Labour Party Conference at Blackpool. And today, much of the national press carried pictures of Tory leader Ian Duncan Smith wielding a table tennis bat whilst visiting Ducie High School (who are part of the ETTA's PremierClub programme) in Manchester.

A master of spin, the Oxford educated England #1 table tennis player, Matthew Syed, himself a former Labour parliamentary candidate with political aspirations, joked, "I don't think that Liberal Democrat Charles Kennedy would be a very effective player – he tends to get caught down the middle!" Syed points out that, like former Conservative leader and Prime Minister Edward Heath, Tony Blair played table tennis while a student at Oxford University. "He told me that he likes playing very much. He thinks it is a great sport."

Blair is not alone among world leaders. President Vladimir Putin of Russia is a player, and Blair's great political chum, former U.S. President Bill Clinton, is apparently keen. President Fidel Castro of Cuba also plays, while the great Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung was also a player – his nephew, Chuang Tse-tung (Zhuang Zedong) was three times world table tennis singles champion.

## ATTENTION GALYAN'S SHOPPERS – THE TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITION WILL NOW BEGIN!

By Mimi Bosika

Recently, a new mall opened in St. Louis, and when I hear people talking about it, it's very common for someone to say, "Have you been to that Galyans store? It's amazing!"

Without a doubt, I have to agree. Not only have I been there to shop, but I also performed four 90-minute table tennis exhibitions with Scott Preiss during Galyan's opening weekend. Now, every time I go to the store, a huge grin appears on my face as I chat with the familiar friendly employees that helped make our performances a success.

First, I have to describe this store. It has two levels filled with equipment for just about any sport one can imagine, such as kayaking, yoga, ice skating, jogging, boxing, soccer, baseball, archery, and of course, table tennis. There is no official door for the store. To enter, the public climbs by an escalator while staring in awe as the colorful selection of goods that appears all around. During the weekend of the exhibition, Galyan's featured several professional athletes from St. Louis who were signing autographs. My personal favorite was the appearance of Olympic gold medalist gymnast Dominique Dawes, who was friendly enough to chat with me and give me support in my future table tennis endeavors.

When they were not shopping, getting autographs, or climbing the store's rock-climbing wall, hundreds of people in the

store were watching our table tennis exhibition. Scott is amazing when it comes to attracting an audience with his witty remarks and sky lobs. The most exciting parts of our show were the points that involved me smashing Scott's lobs and points that began with Scott's famous 50-foot serve. Even though I've done exhibitions with Scott in the past, he never fails to surprise me with his consistency in returning my shots and his ability to make me laugh.

The crowd was entertained by Scott's decision to occasionally switch his rackets. He would play a point with his oversized racket, which measures about 15 inches in diameter, then with his undersized racket, which had a surface of about 1 inch in diameter. Sometimes, he would play with only "half" of a racket, which is actually a racket that is cut in half. He would only use this one if his opponent were "half as good" as him. When he was on a roll, Scott would take out his "mirror" racket, to make sure that his hair looked good for the public.

The crowd had a great time laughing and staring in amazement when points lasted several minutes. In addition, the "victims" from the audience, or those brave enough to challenge Scott, also provided great entertainment. At certain times, they were so determined to beat Scott that they even started diving for the ball and



Scott & Mimi

attempting some pretty crazy shots. Nevertheless, their effort was recognized and they always walked away with a gift from Stiga.

Stiga and Escalade Sports are the reason why Scott has been performing at Galyan's openings nationwide. Galyan's stores carry Stiga table tennis equipment and the exhibitions are intended to increase the popularity of the sport and encourage people to begin participating. As always, being included in exhibitions with Scott serves as a reminder why table tennis is such a great sport and I'm grateful for the opportunity to promote it. So when someone asks me if I've been to Galyan's, I just smile and nod. It was an amazing experience.

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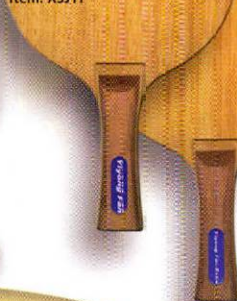
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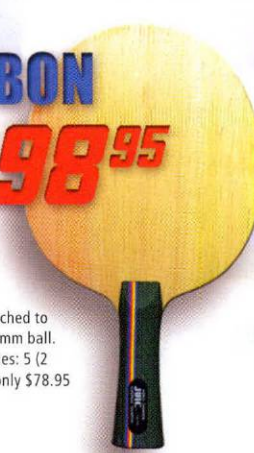


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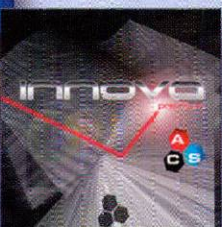


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ITEM: XSSTALU



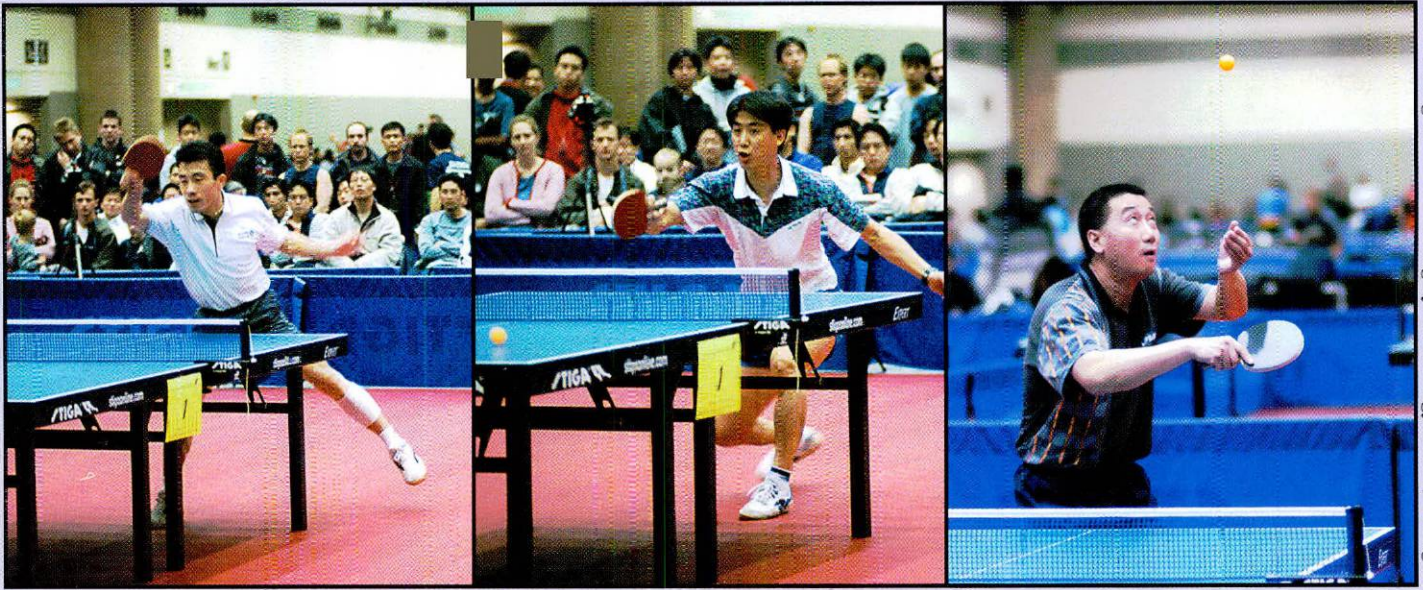
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The Seattle Juic Team made the final: Fan Yi Yong, David Zhuang and Cheng Yinghua.

Fan Yi Yong & David Zhuang by Csaba Nagy ©2002; Cheng Yinghua by Roger Xu ©2002

seemed they might have won. Adam opened against Xavier Therien (2714), and after losing the 3<sup>rd</sup> 16-14, came back in the 4<sup>th</sup> 16-14 to stay in the match, then was leading in the 5<sup>th</sup> before losing at the 11-9 wire. Han, still not finding his game, couldn't hold a 2-1 lead against Anson Bispham. Misha, after coming back to win the 4<sup>th</sup> from last season's North American Cadet Champion, 2632-rated Pierre-Luc Hinse, lost it, was down 10-1, then found it, got to 7. Therien disposed of Han in 4, and what might not have been a rout at all was turning into one. But Adam bombed curly-headed Hinse, and Misha, despite bloodying his nose ("I hit myself on my serve"), kept the team alive with a 12-10 in the 5<sup>th</sup> win over Bispham ("Two big ending rips from the little guy" says Danny). Han tries to keep the comeback coming, but from 7-all in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Hinse is just too good. So, close, but no cigars, no quarter's, for the kids.

The other 11:00 a.m. match to watch was the Chicago KS4 (B team) vs. the N.Y. TTC 2 (C team). First up: U.S. Team member Ashu Jain, 11-8 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, over Russian expatriate Nison Aronov, who himself in 2001 came within one match of making the U.S. Team. Sasa Drinic upped the ante, but though Tahl Leibowitz wasn't bluffable, from 11-all in the 4<sup>th</sup> he couldn't come away a winner. With a 2-0 lead, the Killerspin Four weren't going to be catchable unless Shao Yu, having gone into the 5<sup>th</sup>, could do in Arturo Shiu – which he did. But in the next match Sasa was fist-up, and Nison seemed psychically out of it – so, Sasa, 11-8 in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Killerspin 3, N.Y. 1 Again Shao took control, put a leash on the Michiganner, make that the former Michiganner, the Wolverine, Jain. Tahl, however, against Arturo, was coming up short. Then, down 2-0, he got 10, 9, 8 better and better – and came off the table to smiles and hugs all around. "I'm #1 on the Team now, right?" he says gleefully. And a little later, feeling good, and always wanting action, he says with mock-bravado, "I'll cause some havoc." Meanwhile: "See," says an onlooker, "if Tahl controls his temper, he wins." The Killers 3, the Intended Victims 3. No blood.

Now a very big match: Sasa vs. Shao Yu. Sasa rightfully screams, not at going into the 5<sup>th</sup> but at a guy in his line of sight who's up close trying to take a picture of him. This time, however, Shao, even though he's coached by David Zhuang, can't help. It's up to Nison to save the team. But, with an eye to the Sasa/Shao play on the adjacent court, and down 2-0 to Arturo after losing a 10-6 lead in the 1st, he doesn't look inspired. However, by this time he has not one but two coaches in attendance. There's the Baltimore, stop-by-for-a-visit Coach of the 1988 Russian Olympic Men's Team, Boris Shafir, and the very busy U.S. National Coach and International Umpire here, Cleveland's Valery Elnatanov. Maybe Aronov will get into the match?

Certainly the umpire is trying to help – he's come in the middle of the match, has more than once faulted lefty Shiu on serve, and properly hasn't allowed him a Time Out. Ah, Nison's got a winner in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, is rounding the – "Wait a minute!" someone yells. "You've only got 10!" Nison resumes play by serving into the net...manages to win the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11-9, with a scrambling lob defense. He's, well, functioning. Into the 4<sup>th</sup>, he's about to leave the table: his man Shao has lost. Tie over. "WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAN?" screams his exasperated teammate, Paul David, from the sidelines. "The tie's only 4-3!" Which is a good enough corrective for me to acknowledge Paul's complaint that "My sponsor wants to know why he never sees my name in the magazine." As if snapped back from wherever he's been, Nison, wonder of wonders, starts to play, wins the match and evens the tie.

So now all falls on Jain and Leibowitz. And is there any question both can handle it? Especially since they're into the 5<sup>th</sup>. "Relax," Aronov says to Tahl. "You're gonna drink Russian vodka today." Tahl has the opening serve and makes the most of it – two successful follows. Then two more points off Ashu's serves. With a 4-0 lead, the 5<sup>th</sup> game momentum, and all the pressure on Jain, Leibowitz does

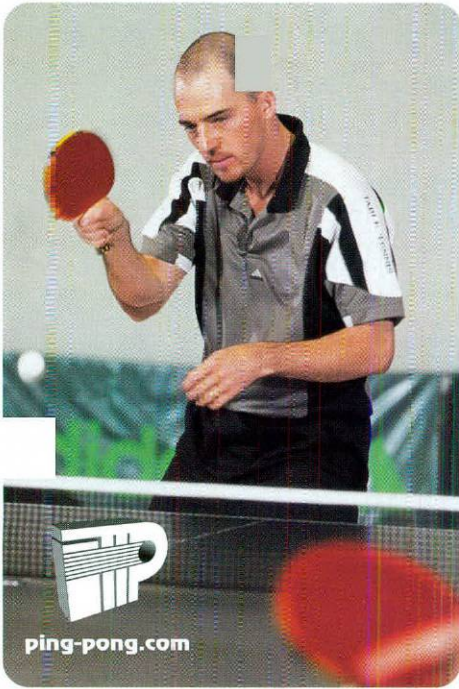
something stupid. Tries a cute serve – and misserves. Then quickly loses the next point. Fortunately for Tahl, Ashu can't get back in, and is down 9-4. But then Tahl just goes passive. His lead is narrowed to 9-7. And now there's marvelous counter-play with Leibowitz fast-switching hands, as if in karate combat, but Jain out-bravuring him; for, with a mini-second, eyes-closing, what-the-hell slap-swing that sends the ball catapulting in, Ashu spins into a pirouette that sends the crowd reeling. When Ashu gets his 6<sup>th</sup> straight point, Tahl is match-point down. To his credit he's not paralyzed – smacks in the serve. But it's too late. His lead has vanished, the game too in a moment, and as he bangs paddle down on the ball, squashes it, his teammates share his frustration ("You gotta keep playin', man"), for there's no quarter's, no \$300 for them.

Tahl sits out the 2:00 p.m. tie – perhaps goes off and has a vodka anyway. Led by Shao's 3 wins, they beat Idi Lewis's Seagate Brooklyn team 5-3. The N.Y. Apple team also won 5-3, thanks in large part to Cameron Scott and Michael Henry's upset of Canada 3's 2500-rated Peng Gao. In the other 2:00 p.m. contested match, Senoda Capt. Dave Sakai and teammates Ricky Seemiller and Richard Lee fell, 5-4, into Rich Burnside's Snake Pit, where Dave suffered three venomous puncture wounds (which I'm happy to report he'll recover from).

Actually, I'm almost positive Tahl had a relaxing couple of hours, for in the 4:00 p.m. match, he beats 2836-rated Bence Casaba of the Canada 1 team deuce in the 5<sup>th</sup> – and without blowing a 10-7 lead. Win or lose, he's clearly more composed – has come a long way. This Canadian team remains undefeated, but Paul David and Shao Yu have wins over Ignacio Cabrera.

The Canada 2 (B team) is given an even bigger jolt when the N.Y. 2 (D team) – average age of its players? 52 – upset them 5-3. The Canadians opened with back-to-back wins – Hinse over Li, who earlier had stirred the spectators by beating 4-time U.S. Champion



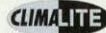


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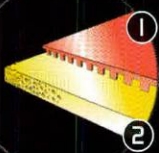


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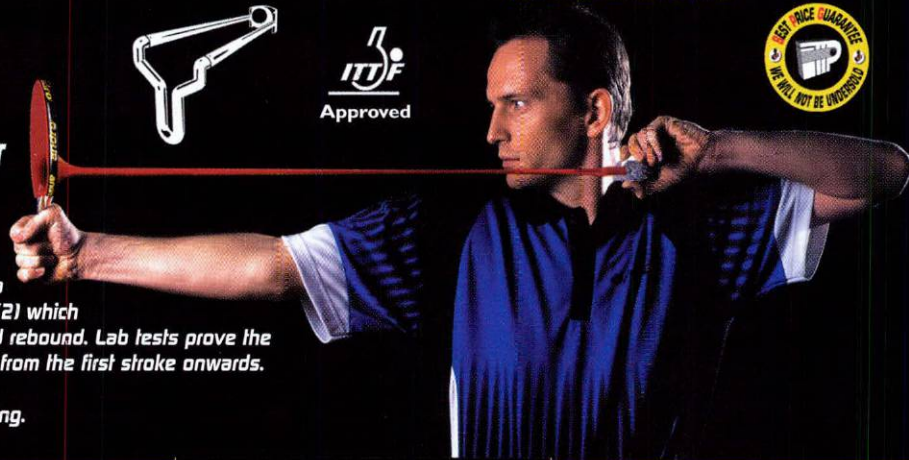
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Schwammstärke (mm) thickness (mm): 2.1, 2.3, 2.6

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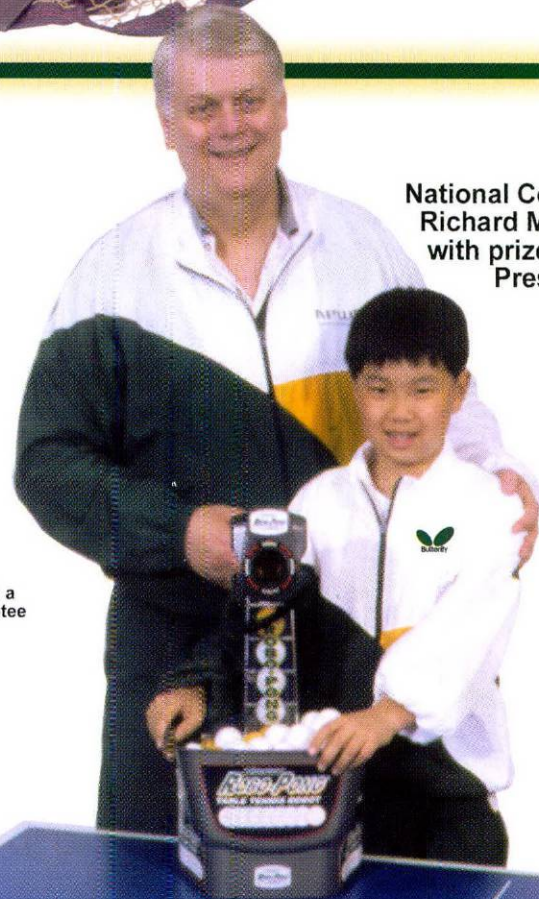
FEATURE	540	1040	2040
Recycling Net			●
Ball Bucket	●	●	
Remote Control	●	●	●
Oscillation Control		●	●
Head Angle Adjustment	●	●	●
Spin Selection	●	●	●
Spin/Speed Range	1-8	1-10	1-10
Frequency Range	1-8	1-10	1-10
Ball Capacity 40mm	86	200	120*
# 40mm Balls Included	48	48	48
Videotape			●
Instructional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

\*Recommended Capacity. Balls Recycle

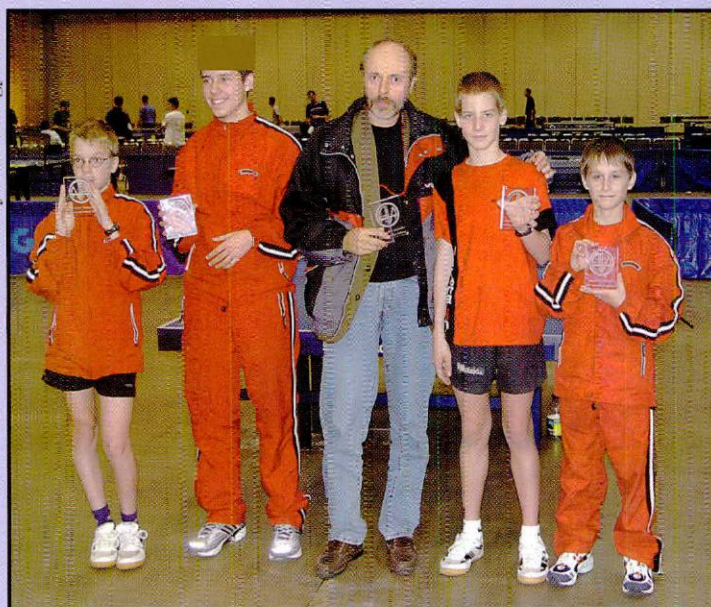


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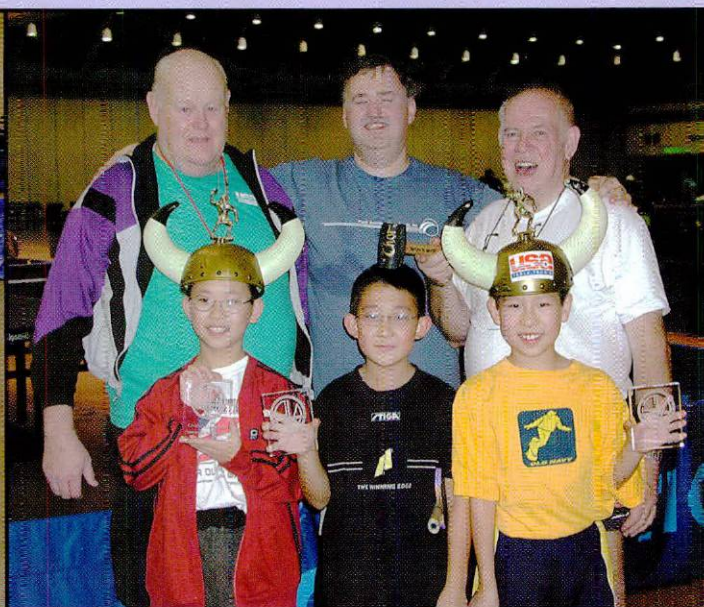
National Coach  
Richard McAfee  
with prize student  
Preston Chin



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**Division 9 Winners "Malev":** Peter Vanyik, Zoltan Barabas, Coach Laszlo Varga, Soma Fekete, Hungarian Under 10 Champion Daniel Schaffer. Some may remember Coach Varga as the coach of Hungarian team that has won three times before, and was on the verge of making the final last year when the controversial "Bubblegate" led to his team being knocked out in the semifinals when Fan Yi Yong was defaulted.



**Division 12 Finalist Teams:** In the back, not weighing in, "The Hammer of Thor" (John Vos, Ron Harp, Jim Williams; not shown: Alan Williams). In the front, the Champions, weighing in at about 180 pounds (total), "JVD Challenger 2002" (Devin Zhang, Vincent Ning and Janiel Li). The guys in the front won, but the hats & hammer belong to the guys in the back.

David Zhuang, and Therien over Tam. But then Liu, down 2-0 to Bispham, rallied to turn the tie around. Li and Liu followed with wins over Therien, and Tam and Li got the better of Bispham. Someone said Li had been "reborn," but in truth he's been playing with both body and spirit in the German leagues for many years, and is still very much the professional. Canada 2 survived this loss, however, for the U.S. Juniors had beaten N.Y. 2, and Canada had beaten the U.S. Juniors, hence, when the tie had been broken via matches won and lost between the three teams, Canada (8-7) prevailed.

Canada 3 with its 3 wins against Texas Wesleyan might have seemed to anyone just noting the score to have put up a gallant fight. But Peng Gao was given his opening match when David Wang, up 1-0 and 10-6, pulled a lower back muscle, tried to continue, but then, rather than risk serious injury, retired, conceding his two remaining matches as well. Christian Lillieroos, Wesleyan Team Captain and Coach, tells me that David, 21, just became a U.S. citizen, that he played for Henan Province, and that at 15 was Southern China Champion. After moving to the U.S. with his well-known painter parents, he stopped playing for a while but has now taken up, at least for this weekend, paddle not palette.

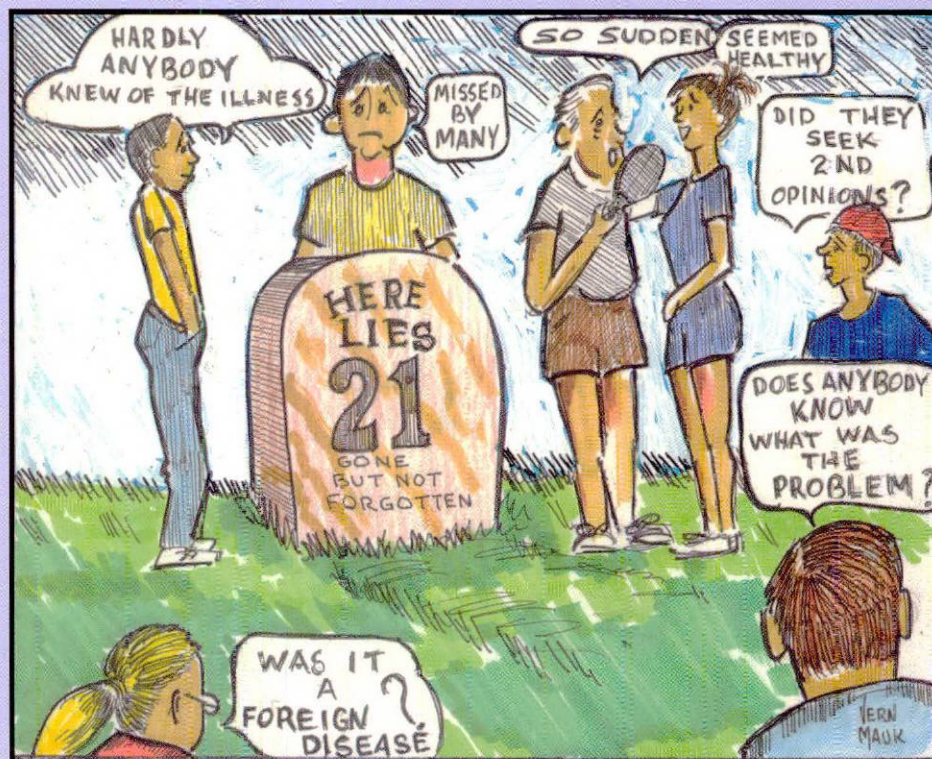
Table Tennis About was also a 5-3 winner. Strange happening in this tie though. N.Y. Now's De Tran, warming up, about to play his first match, comes rushing in for a drop, catches his bat on the table edge, and sends the head flying. Oh, has he another racket? Yes, back at the hotel. (Just the place for it, huh?) Does he want now to hurry back for it? Nah - he'll get it later, play with it tonight. He borrows teammate Festus Ayinde's racket, takes the rubber off, puts on his own Blackjack...and, while three birds for a time fly into the hall and keep looking for

a way out, proceeds with soft, spiny strokes to bludgeon away all three opponents, Sean Lonergan, Sean O'Neill, and Brian Pace. Will Tran play with Festus's racket tonight? Nah.

The 7:00 p.m. matches pit the #1 and #2 teams in each round robin against one another, and though all eight will advance to tomorrow's single elimination play, perhaps one of the original four teams given a bye will be upset - their choice position in the draw taken over by the upsetter?

Having to preoccupy myself now with the contending teams, I can only quickly mention a note or two about the others. Hung Pham's 8-

in-the-5<sup>th</sup> win over Bernier and 9-in-the-5<sup>th</sup> win over Jean-Paul Roussy 5-4 threw the Lord of the Ping into the Snake Pit. Dickie Fleisher's P2 Curl wasn't 9-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup> quite enough to scare, or at least distract, Alex Tam or his winning Senior Division teammates into losing this tie, but, had Dickie worn a Harpo wig, it might have given every Chinese in the house, young or old, goose bumps. Lily Yip found navigable channels through the Seagate - beat Bogdan Kucharenko 13-11 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Idi Lewis 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, but, beyond, the Allstars weren't shining and Lily and her team lost their way. In



&



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2002 US Men  
National Team

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Ashu Jain  
Coach Seemiller  
David Zhuang  
Eric Owens

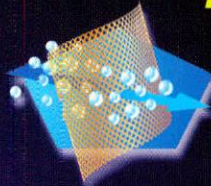


2002 US  
Women Team

Tawny Banh  
Simone Yang  
Jasna Reed  
Coach Gheorghe  
Gao Jun (not shown)



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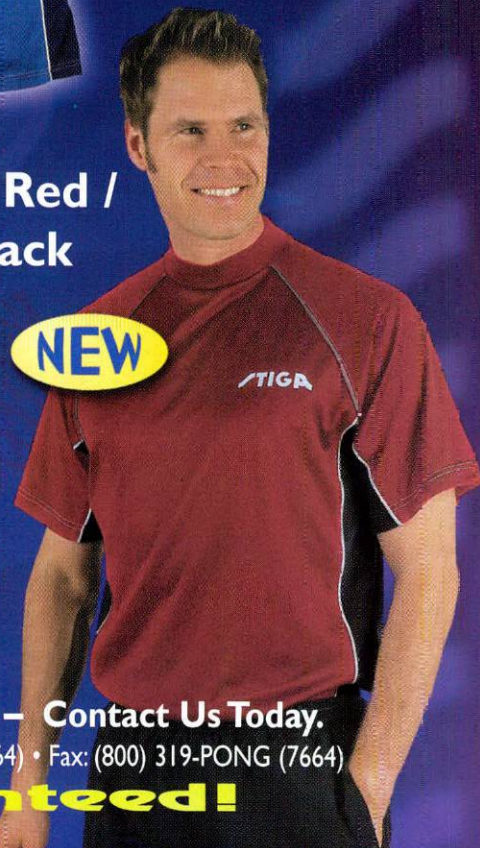
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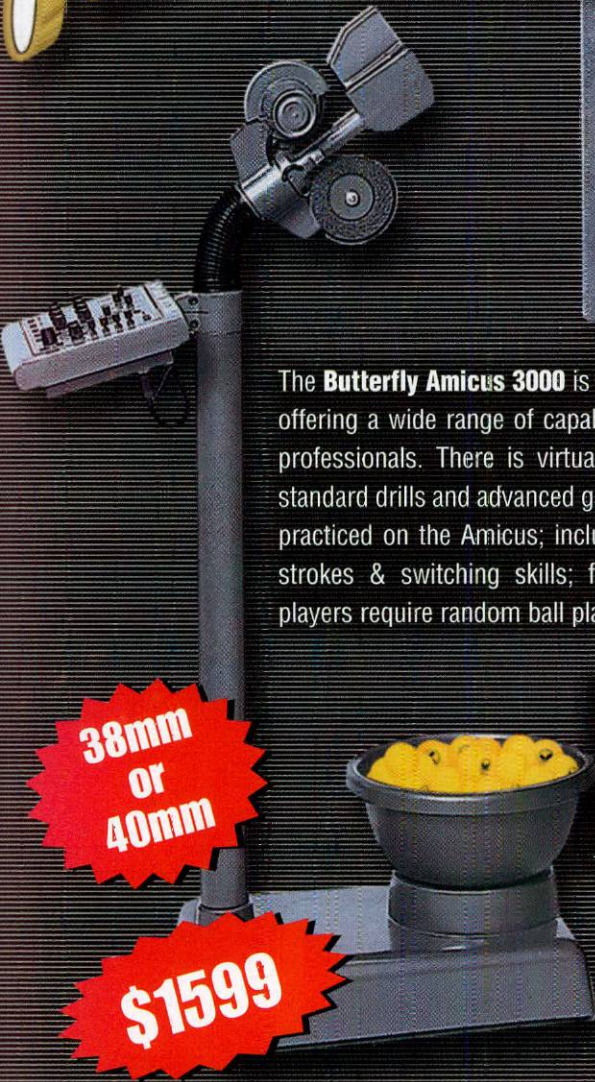
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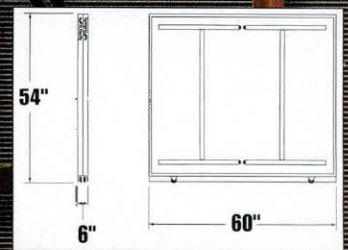


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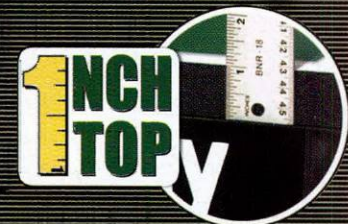
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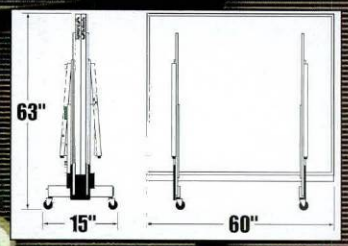
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N.Y. Now's 5-3 loss to the Big Apple runner-up Senior team, De Tran may or may not have played with his back-up racket – but again he won all 3. Teammate Steve Horowitz, eager to pick up first-hand whatever learning opportunities might be available to a budding International Coach, was hoping to try out for himself Ayinde's racket with Tran's rubber, or Tran's unbroken racket with Ayinde's rubber.

The most contested tie of the evening was Texas Wesleyan's 5-4 squeaker over Table Tennis About. Since Razvan Cretu didn't accompany the Wesleyan team, Lillieroos had to go with Wang whether he was fit to play or not – and predictably David lost all 3. This created a potentially perilous position because Brian Pace, after his sojourn in Romania last year and his summer play against high school and university players in Shanghai at Gao Jun's Club this year, had learned more what his game was all about.

And he almost beat a stork-thin Jimmy Butler, losing 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> when, as one analyst said, Brian, playing patiently, at the end got control and powered at least four balls at Jimmy – all well and good, but they all had the same pace, and Jimmy was able to withstand the onslaught and win the point, game, match. However, against Eric Owens, whom Brian says he figures to have problems with because he's a power player, whereas Jimmy prefers to angle the ball at him, Brian's again at deuce in the 5<sup>th</sup>, only this time he wins. "I burned them both with my backhand," said Brian. "I not only won points with it, but it opened up forehands for me. I feel I modified my game against them, and they had trouble adjusting to the improved me."

In the last match of the tie against O'Neill, Butler's up 1-0 and at 9-all. He serves two balls long, both of which Sean rips in for winners. In the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jimmy's up 10-8, wins on an edge. Then pulls away.

Canada 1 stays on course, beats the Chicago Killerspin 4, when Bence Csaba takes 3 and Faazil Kassam 2. At the last Canadian Closed, Csaba won the Men's, the U-21's, the U-17's, and was runner-up to Kassam in the U-19's. Bence also won July's U.S. Open World Junior Circuit U-18's. The kid can play.

Seattle Juic (Fan Yi Yong, David Zhuang, Cheng Yinghua) ho-hum blitzed Canada 2.

The most talked about match of the tournament takes place in the tie between Robert Blackwell's Chicago Killerspins (Johnny Huang, Aleksandar Karakasevic, Ilija Lupulesku, Geir Erlandsen, Mark Hazinski) and Mitch Rothfleisch's Pioneers World Team (Sharon Yaniv, Khoa Nguyen, Idan Levi). Idan, a former member of the Israeli National Junior Team, is looking to attract new players to the U.S. He tried to bring over Izak Abramov who, representing Israel at the '99 World's, made the last 32 – but, like China's Ma Wenge and others wanting to play at these Team's, he couldn't get a visa. However, there is a new face here –

Sharon Yaniv, a two-time Champion of Israel who plays for the Holou Club, and who, I proudly note, remembers as a youth seeing my younger son Eric win the Israeli Open.

Idan and Sharon's teammate, Khoa Nguyen, former U.S. Men's finalist, I hadn't seen for a while. He's now 36, a successful software engineer. He and his wife Pauline have two daughters, Khamille and Khassidy (spelled so of course in homage to Khoa's Khool). He plays a sensational match against Johnny Huang. Is up 1-0, and at 9-all in the 2<sup>nd</sup>...but Huang wins this game not with his usual aggressive return of serve but with an unexpected drop that catches Khoa off guard. Though Johnny then wins the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Khoa doesn't go down, finishes the 4<sup>th</sup> by rocketing in a flamboyant, off the bounce counter – then wins the 5<sup>th</sup> and the match. Later, Johnny will balance with a win over Yaniv.

Levi and Karakasevic play as if their objective is to get through the match in a friendly 4 games, 3 of which will surely go to the Yugoslav. Karakasevic serves non-stop, like the Europeans of old. He goes through the motions...the acquired skill of his lifetime. Match over, job done, the two comradely slap hands.

Nguyen will shortly play his second match – against Karakasevic – and again will go 5, though this time he won't win. The Yugoslav looks and plays like this is just so much "busy" work; he only wants to get on with it. As they say, he plays with reckless abandon, or at least abandon. Also, he occasionally carries on with comments and complaints to whoever watching will understand him. Khoa is in this match...until from 7-6 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Karakasevic finishes him. Khoa says lefty spinners like Karakasevic are harder for him to play than hitters like fast-hands Huang.

Geir Erlandsen, the current Norwegian Champ, is another new face – though back in 1996 he was the U.S. Open U-21 Champion. He loses to Yaniv. But will later score wins over Idan and Khoa.

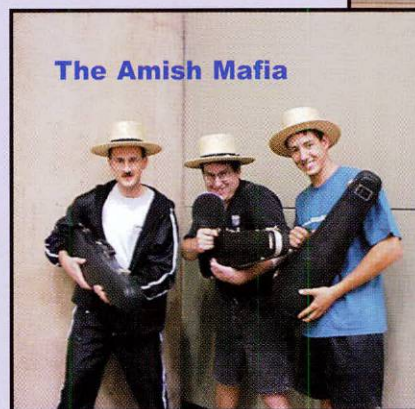
Now the controversial match – Yaniv vs. Karakasevic. I try to consider how people might view it. The first two games are so unengaging that the stocky Yugoslav feels he has to spice things

up. I don't know how fit he is, but he certainly looks to have talent. The audience wants to be entertained, right? More to the point, Karakasevic wants to be entertained? So after winning the first two games easily, and seeing no prospects of a fight in the early 3<sup>rd</sup>, he begins exhibition play. O.K., he might think, to an experienced eye, maybe this smacks of arrogance, and maybe in context it is demeaning. But how many experienced eyes are there here? And, really, how seriously can I take this match, this tie, this tournament? In Europe it would be different, I wouldn't do it – but of course I'd have better competition in Europe.

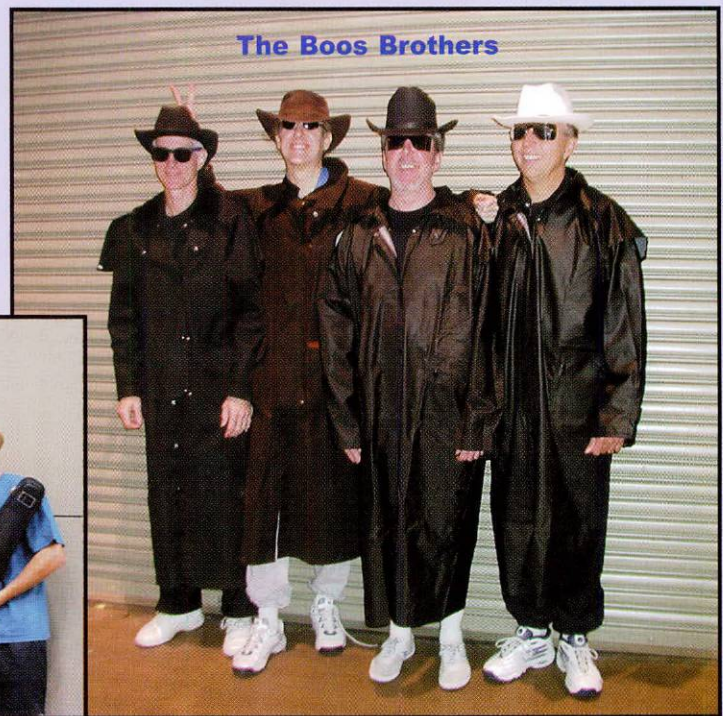
Yaniv is pleasantly into this boyish exhibition. He's become Karakasevic's equal – they play, joke, in tandem. On up, up, up, goes the score until the game is finally won by Sharon. This is fun, he thinks. The exhibition play has given him practice, loosened him, and the won game has given him confidence. "Let's continue playing this way," he says he says to Karakasevic. The Yugoslav is not so sure. He doesn't consent to that – maybe serious is better? Of course he hasn't been too serious – he hasn't had to be. Does he have to be now? Certainly he isn't *focused* to play seriously.

Yaniv seems to be taking his cue from Karakasevic who seems not to have a clue as to definitive action. Like one of their high lobs, the match seems up in the air. The audience is suspended too, for Yanev, playing better and better, wins the 4<sup>th</sup>. It's now apparent that we're watching, or have been watching, the anomaly, the paradox, of a "competitive exhibition."

In the 5<sup>th</sup>, Yaniv is playing to win – and Karakasevic is tightening, outside and inside? Especially now as the Israeli corner, particularly in the person of Idan, begins cheering point after point for Sharon. Is that sporting? Well, maybe not – but it's giving everyone a buzz. This match is no longer fun for Karakasevic. He's no longer thinking about pleasing the spectators. Down 10-8, he's thinking about pleasing himself.



The Amish Mafia



The Boos Brothers

Photo by Larry Hodges ©2002



## Fun at the Butterfly Dohjo

By Tim Boggan

So age has overtaken you, and you're just an average player, but you really love the Game. Every year at the North American Team Championships you have fun wearing your big horned helmet. Your name is Jim Williams (a.k.a. "J.C."), and just last month, you and your wife, along with other members of Frostburg, Maryland's St. John's Episcopal parish, visited your "companion" Anglican churchgoers at St. Timothy's in Tokyo.

Now, as a longtime table tennis aficionado, you have a chance to make Dream become a Reality. You think, Could I, a more or less credential-less U.S. player, possibly be welcome at the Tamasu Butterfly Dohjo? You've always wanted to see the famous Training Center, so why not make a test call?

Yes, they're open – if you like, come for a visit.

Thanks. Hang up. You think, Should I take my racket? A hesitation – a slight hesitation.

Out from downtown Tokyo you travel...by subway and train. You hope to buy for yourself and others some table tennis equipment. Not a difficult trip. But



Jim Williams and Kawai

on your arrival you find that, sorry, you have to travel further out to the Butterfly factory if you want rackets and rubber. That's much too far, you think – you've no car. A disappointment. Maybe you shouldn't have come?

However, it so happens practice is free today. Would you like a partner?

Great!

A fellow appears, the two of you go to a table. Fellow's a lefty penholder, and after some polite exchanges, he says, "For an American, you have a good backhand."

You think, Perhaps Japanese coaches emphasize to their penholders the importance of backhand play. After a while, the fellow says, "Now you'll play with somebody else." (Later, you'll see him practicing with someone

you judge to be a member of the Japanese Team).

Out comes an older guy, name of Kawai. He is Patience personified. He does drills with you for maybe half an hour. You really enjoy this. Then he instructs you on how to return short serves that come to your forehand. "Get that right knee under the table, and come through with your stroke over the table," he says. You appreciate his efforts because you know you have a terrible forehand. Any ball you manage to hit in is like the Hammer of Thor – it always comes back.

Turns out this animated coach who's enthusiastically teaching you was a member of the 1954 Japanese World Championship Team. You think, He hasn't lost a whole lot. He still moves amazingly quick for his age, and can generate plenty of spin. This play is fun for you – Kawai, who speaks of the great American players Miles and Schiff, knows how to make you look good.

Afterwards, you are given little presents – a Butterfly t-shirt, a towel. And there are commemorative photos of your visit – back home you can show yourself in the company of Kawai, Ms. Sakai, the Tamasu Marketing Agent, and Mr. Satoh, former head of Tokyo Disneyland.

You think, This wasn't a bad idea to have given the Dohjo a call. You recommend others do it too.

Which means stopping the game to go over and protest Idan's partisanship. After all, does Levi or anyone else really think there's a life-and-death struggle going on here? In fact, Karakasevic doesn't know it, but one observer had been struck by the good fellowship between this Israeli, this Yugoslav – how they sported with themselves, bumped into an embrace, enjoyed the freedom-feel of play. What happened? Of course the match wasn't really any big deal – Karakasevic wasn't irritated enough to do anything stupid, so Killerspin wasn't going to lose him or the tie. But Yaniv wins the match.

### Quarterfinals

Quarter's Draw: #1 seed Canada 1's on top-top; #2 Killerspin's at bottom-bottom. #3 Seattle and #4 Texas Wesleyan are flipped – Seattle into top semi's position, Wesleyan into bottom semi's position. KS4's already played Canada, so it's flipped into bottom half against...Wesleyan. Pioneers has already played Killerspin, so it's flipped into top half against...Seattle. Canada 2's already played Seattle, so it goes to the remaining bottom position against Killerspin; Table Tennis About has already played Wesleyan, so it goes to the remaining top position against Canada 1.

Yuh follow, I presume – but, alas, you won't be too pleased with the one-sided results.

Canada 1 blanked Table Tennis About. Every time I saw Sean Lonergan he seemed to

be forcing himself into some mild form of that which he insists he doesn't practice – yoga. But talk about a stretch. Canadian National Coach Dejan Papić had his charges half hidden behind the bleachers going through all sorts of back-bending contractions. But since Papić himself was on crutches, maybe Lonergan knew what he was about. Anyway, there was a certain symmetry to TTA's best efforts – all lost deuce in the 4<sup>th</sup>, with Lonergan, stretching, stretching, losing the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Csaba, 18-16, as well.

Seattle gave up just one match to the ambitiously, not to say immodestly, named Pioneers World Team. No match went 5 games in this tie either; Yaniv beat Cheng 3-2.

Killerspin 5 – Canada 2. Er, make that Killerspin 5-0 over Canada 2. Just before this tie gets underway, Lupulesku, who, in addition to being 4-time Yugoslav National Champion with estimable World, Olympic, and European Doubles successes to his credit, is warming up with Erlandsen. As Lupi is moving increasingly left, exchanging curl-around loops, his racket suddenly goes flying from his hand maybe 20 feet out in front of him. What the... Turns out an umpire has come across behind him and, intent on tidily straightening out some slightly uneven side barriers, is apparently oblivious to the players in the court – to the professionals and their wide-ranging abilities. Lupi's caught him on his swing through. The umpire goes on by as if, in his desire to do his job properly, he's still unaware he's been in Lupi's way. Lupi

gives him a look, picks up his racket, brings it back to the table, inspects it minutely, pronounces it O.K. And if it weren't?

Lefty Erlandsen, World #79, is extended 11-9 in the 4<sup>th</sup> by Hinse. But, ah, we are going to have a 5-gamer. Lupi's 1-1 with Therien when the Canadian from 7-all scores on two serve follow-ups, the second bringing him down on one knee – and goes on to take a 2-1 lead. Lupi, in his 30's now, looks a little slow...but he dominates 11-3 in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

The one contested quarter's tie is won 5-4 by Texas Wesleyan over Chicago Killerspin 4. In the start-off match, Wesleyan's Wang, down 2-1 and 10-9 in the 4<sup>th</sup> to Ashu Jain, takes the forehand he should, but misses. Later, David will lose 11-9 in the 4<sup>th</sup> to Drinic. But still later, with his team down 4-3, he'll win the match they need against Shiu.

Owens, 2001 U.S. Singles and Doubles Champ (shouldn't someone be sponsoring lettering or logo on his distinctive headband?) opens with a win over Shiu. Then against Ashu he's 1-1 and down 10-7 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10-8, then...a gutsy serve and smacko, followed by another – and he's deuced it. But Ashu gets the ad, and an edge to win it. After which Eric loses the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11-9, by swatting one off. Putting a good face on his loss, he comes off the table smiling. Eric's last match is against Sasa, and, down 2-0 and at 9-9, he can't win that either. But this time he's not smiling – off court his racket thumps against the concrete.



**The Stiga-sponsored USATT junior teams at the Teams, clockwise from top-left**  
**Under 18 Girls:** Coach Doru Gheorge, Whitney Ping, Katherine Wu, Sophia Dan Dan Yi.  
**Under 15 Girls:** Coach Bill Lui, Laura Xiao, Lani Lei, Barbara Wei.  
**Under 15 Boys:** Oliver Lei, Eric Finkelstein, Trevor Runyan, Coach Dan Seemiller.  
**Under 18 Boys:** Adam Hugh, Misha Kazentsev, Han Xiao, Coach Dan Seemiller.



Meanwhile, Butler against his opening opponent, Sasa, is 1-1 and 9-all, at which point he gets a very welcome net. Sasa slaps the dumb ball, sends it flying. But it comes snapping back via a Butler backhand. Jimmy goes on to win in 4. Then wins in 4 again from Shiū. With the tie 4-4, Butler holds three-straight steady against Jain – though there is an abrupt moment of stimulation when Ashu makes a wondrous shot around the net that catches the table edge and bounces up to the rising ohhhs of the crowd.

**Semifinals**

There's a different format for the semi's. Best of 5 matches, not best of 9; 4 games to win, not 3; and one of the three team players will

play only the 3<sup>rd</sup> match of the tie. But now not only were the ties uncontested but so were almost all the matches. Seattle beat Canada 1, 3-0. U.S. #1-rated Fan 5, 2, 8, 4 downed Kassam, 4-0. Cheng – surviving a 12-10 1<sup>st</sup> game with Cabrera to take advantage of the Canadian's lack of confidence, his helplessness really – jumped to 10-2, 10-4 leads in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> games. Yes, Cabrera came back to win the 4<sup>th</sup>, but that seemed freakish, for Cheng, again clearly outplaying him, hurried to another 10-2 lead in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Fortunately for the spectators, a great many of whom had to stand because there weren't enough bleacher seats to accommodate them, our 4-time National Champion David Zhuang played a 5-4 bang-up match with young Csaba. Up 10-8 in the 1<sup>st</sup>, David's no lock – Bence draws to

10-9. Whereupon David, with a high toss, tosses away the point – serves off. Then is ad down; fortune’s fool, he’s lost 4 in a row. But he really does know how to serve when he has to, and proves it with a fearless follow. From 12-all he finishes with two compact winners. Up 10-8 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, you know he wins the next point because there’s Bence flipping his racket tableward. His aim isn’t good – it teeters, falls...Csaba himself, however, does not go down. He rallies – takes the next two games. Match all even. And all even after two more. At 4-all in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Bence makes a great lob get and then, seemingly fastened to the floor, makes a 20-foot-back-from-the-table side-swipe chop at the ball – the most refreshing shot of the match – that just misses catching the table. As David increases his lead, yells as he goes up 8-5, the crowd for the first time implies he’s their favorite. When his next ball nicks the edge and he goes over and kisses where it hit, he’s definitely their man.

The Killerspinners will of course join Seattle in the final – just as soon as they unjoin Wesleyan. Butler wins the 1<sup>st</sup> from Karakasevic, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, after the Yugoslav catapults in two of his much admired backhands, Butler snaps in his own backhand winner in defiance. Unfortunately for him it’s just one of two points he gets this game. Game Butler is, but Karakasevic is too good – finishes off Jimmy with a mighty swing.

Huang and Owens...what can I say? That Eric’s pretty consistent – loses the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> at 6, 5, 5. Only in the 2<sup>nd</sup> game is he deviant – down 9-0, he scores, and raises his hands in mock triumph. Always good to keep one’s sense of humor, eh? Erlandsen vs. Wang, 2, 5, 6, 2, I’ll stick in here.

## Final

How many matches will this final tie go? Three. How many games will be won by those about to be killed in play? Three. Fan, leading off against Karakasevic, looks ready. Is up 7-3 and running down the ball. His backhand loops bound in, rivaling his opponents’. Someone speaks of how he cleverly mixes the spin on his blocks. He wins the 1<sup>st</sup> at 7. Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, however, he’s in discomfort, keeps wiggling his neck. He gets behind, more or less gives up. After Karakasevic bullets two fast serves by Fan’s immobile forehand to win this game 11-3, Fan comes back to his corner where Zhuang looks to be lightly rubbing ointment to his neck. What’s happening? Fan loses the next game at 4.

As they prepare to start the 4<sup>th</sup>, the umpire doesn’t realize the game scores on his scoreboard are reversed. Spectators welcome the divertissement, help him out. Fan isn’t finished...yet. Up 4-0, 6-2, he fends off Karakasevic’s protest about something – that Fan’s returned the ball off his shirt? One is privy to so little. Errors now from Fan. Twice on missing, he spins around, provides ballet-drama...eventually loses 11-8. In the 5<sup>th</sup> he gets to 9 before Karakasevic signatures by one last caroming, bravura backhand.

Huang’s prepared for his match with Zhuang by a last-minute warm-up with Lily Yip.

## The Teams at the Teams

By Larry Hodges

Each year brings the annual conundrum: what should we call our Team at the Teams this year? Many, of course, go for geographical names, or other straightforward ones. Others turn it into a creative outlet. (To find out who played on each of these teams, go to [www.natabletennis.com](http://www.natabletennis.com).)

This year there were the usual returning teams: “The Boo’s Brothers,” “The Hammer of Thor,” and the various Don Iguana teams (“Don Iguana Lab Lizards,” “Don Iguana Select”). (Missing in Action: Pong Gods.) There were the obligatory “Ring” series names: “Lord of the Ping,” “The Fellowship,” and “The Baggins.” Sadly, there were no Harry Potter names, and only “The Four Jedis” from Star Wars.

Some of the more interesting ones:

- “The Oranges of Space Seeds” (Think Charles Darwin.)

- “Quod Licet Jovi, Non Licet Bovi” (Latin for “What is allowed or permitted The Gods is not permitted the cattle.”)
- “Team O’Boll” (Who’s the #1 European right now?)
- “Off the Hee-Zee “Fo” Shee-zee” (I have no idea!)
- “Jan’s Olive” (The most obscure of all. In 1989 – when I was **not** the editor – a photo of Jan-Ove Waldner ran in USATT’s magazine, but it was labeled “Jan Olov Waldner.” So this team made photo copies of the photo and caption from 13 years ago, put them on little trays, put olives with toothpicks in them on the tray, and offered them to opposing teams and editors.)
- And a few others that struck my fancy: “George Foreman Grill” (not a sponsored team), “The Atlanta Bob-Fathers,” “The Bubble Geese,” “Canton Crunch,” “Polish White Eagle,” “Stylish Whiff,” “Sparkling Ponies,” and “Team Who” and “Who.”

A penholder attacker, moving the ball here, there, she gives him good touch. No wonder she’s a coach, a practice partner for so many – it’d be good for anybody to warm up with Lily. Against Johnny, David is 6-all-in-the-1<sup>st</sup> holding his own. It’s a battle of fast-hit forehand exchanges, fast picks. But then – how account for it? – Johnny wins 19 points to David’s 3. That is, Huang is up 2-0 and 3-0 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. But, up 10-8, he does not win this game. There’s brutal firepower from both players at this point, but David stands tall. After almost mis-serving he wins the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12-10. In the 4<sup>th</sup>, however, he falls 7-1 behind. Still, regardless of the score, the two have flashy forehand counters that the spectators enjoy. Up 3-1 in games, Johnny’s again off to a fast 3-0 start, and from 5-all streaks to an 11-6 win.

In the last match of the tournament, Erlandsen, coached for 9 years by Norway’s National Coach Jochen Leiss, former German National Champion and the 1977 U.S. Open winner, meets Cheng Yinghua, himself a 2-time U.S. Open, 3-time Nationals winner and of course a much sought after U.S. Coach. Indeed, Cheng’s so booked he’s no time for practice. Still, he almost wins the 1<sup>st</sup> from Erlandsen who, down 10-9 gets a cramped forehand in, then despite Cheng’s famous basilisk-like look, goes on to take the game 12-10. In the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Erlandsen’s back-from-the-table returns give the illusion of an exhibition, but nobody doubts it’s for real: Erlandsen 11-Cheng 4. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cheng, attacking right and left, his confidence rising, continues having trouble getting through Erlandsen’s topspin defense, but the points are longer, and Cheng is scoring. He has two ads, but can’t convert. At 13-all, he tries to keep the ball short, but Erlandsen pulverizes it, then adds a clincher.

Cheng’s persistence pays off. At 9-all in the 4<sup>th</sup>, he makes a perfectly anticipated block

return that rebounds in for a point-winner, then gets Erlandsen to pop up his serve return. The match, the tie, continues. As the 5<sup>th</sup> game progresses, Cheng, as is his habit, gives his racket a little shake, then sends off one serve or another Erlandsen has trouble reading. But Erlandsen’s serves work to his advantage too. And his youth. And his constant competitive play. So, good try by Cheng, but 11-9 game, match, tie to Killerspin.

“I’d like to have seen more matches like this last one,” says a fellow on the way out before the Trophy Presentation. Says another, “I wish someone would train players to play so it’d all be more interesting to the spectators.”

Wow, the very life of the Sport itself has got to be a struggle, huh?

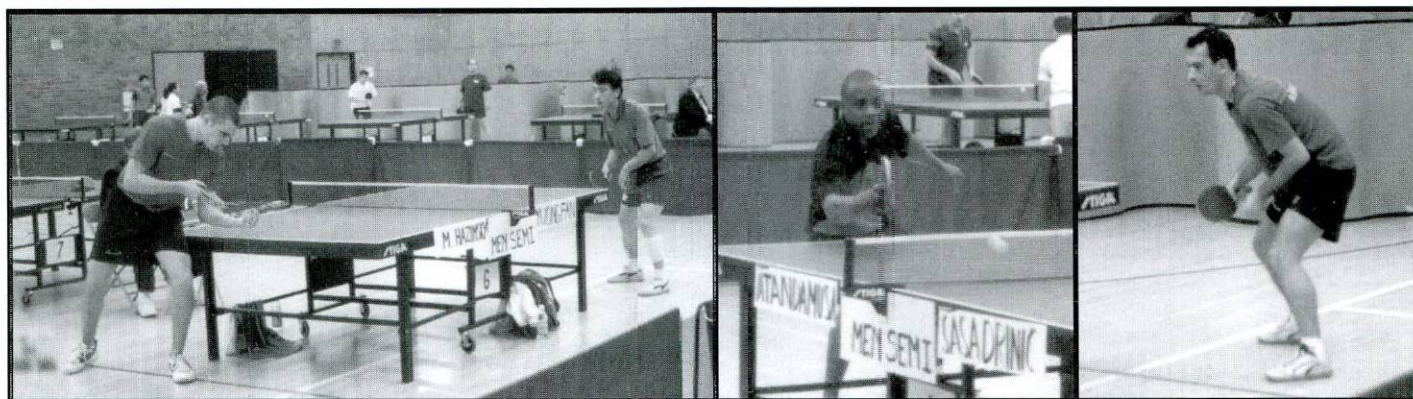
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May Troy	Bill Walk
Christopher Troy	Rob Chan
Tillie Lee	Najam Chishti
Larry Hodges	Saul Weinstein
Richard Mercado	Joseph Lee
Krishmin Rai	Ennan Guan
Tim Boggan	Jinhai Wang

# \$7550 Stiga Pacific Rim Open

PORTLAND, OR • NOV. 9-10, 2002 • BY MARK KOBERNICK



Photos by Les Sayre ©2002

**L-R: Mark Hazinski serves to Fan Yi Yong in the semifinals; Atanda Musa and Sasa Drinic, who played in the semifinals. In the final, Fan defeated Musa.**

The fourteenth Stiga Pacific Rim Tournament took place November 9-10 at Portland Community College. Sponsors, patrons and helpers, together with Tournament Director Jim Scott, have made the event possible and successful. Escalade Sports especially and Paddle Palace and PCC once again provided the equipment and the venue, while patrons have boosted prize money to \$2000 for first place in Men's, \$1000 for first place in Women's, and \$7550 total.

180 players plus paying spectators enjoyed Veteran's Day Weekend in the Rose City, with competition on 20 Stiga Tables in 27 events starting from Under 300. Players from all regions of the U.S. and from British Columbia participated in the four-star tournament.

In Men's Singles, Fan Yi Yong and Atanda Musa met in the final. As we've seen before, their match has fireworks with looping, counter-looping and counter-hitting. This time Fan prevailed 9, 7, 5, 10, though with 9-9 in the first and a 10-8 lead in the fourth Musa had a chance for a different outcome.

But Fan was in powerful looping form, and he likewise beat Mark Hazinski four straight in the semifinals, 6,7,9,7. Play was excellent with Hazinski scoring on numerous powerful backhand punches quick off the bounce.

Musa's semifinal with Sasa Drinic was the most suspenseful of the tournament. Early in the match, Musa controlled position with spin variation and counter-looping, and he won the first two at 6 & 5. Drinic

then notched up his attack and counter-attacks to win the next two at 12 & 4. Game five is the best of all, with a one-point spread most of the way. But Musa's curve-blocks and counterhitting prevail. In game seven, Musa again controls the court. Further helped by his loop off the edge and Drinic's net push just missing the edge, he gains a commanding 6-2 lead. With controlling loops Drinic fights back to 4-6, but a couple of Musa's surprise plays and unforced misses leave a final gap of 11-5.

In Women's Singles, Wang Chen, a former national team member of China, breezed to a 7,8,3 victory in the final over Caribbean champion Kibibi Moseley. In a hard-fought semifinal, Moseley bested Simone Yang -6,11,8,-8,7. The match displayed looping and counterhitting rallies, Moseley scoring on numerous inside-out backhand punches wide to the forehand.

Open Doubles featured an exciting upset, with Killerspin partners Hazinski and Drinic overcoming the #1 rated man and #2 rated woman in the U.S., former teammates Fan Yi Yong and Wang Chen. (With Chang Jun Gao playing overseas for much of this year, Wang is arguably the top ranked woman in the U.S. - and is so listed in the Nov/Dec issue, due to Gao's inactivity in the U.S.) Scores were -9,7,6,-3,6.

We give great thanks to the many tournament helpers: Referee and mailing director Bill Mason, Jim Scott's control desk assistants Sam Ignazzitto and Ken Ping, reception desk recorders Fumi Onchi

and Judy Bayley, equipment transporters Bruce Bayley and Jim Macfarlane, table assembler Ken Leatherman, name-sign writer and hanger Dan Vi, food providers the Ping family, equipment-booth attendants the Hoarfrosts, tournament shirt provider and attendant Vuong Vi, and others.

**Men's Singles - Final:** Fan Yi Yong d. Atanda Musa 9,7,5,10; **SF:** Fan d. Mark Hazinski 9,8,7,4; Musa d. Sasa Drinic 6,5,-12,-4,12,-6,5; **QF:** Fan d. Samson Dubina 7,2,7,3; Musa d. Misha Kazantsev 5,4,5,11; Hazinski d. Peter Mirafior 6,7,9,7; Drinic d. Danny Ho 3,5,7,5.

**Women's Singles - Final:** Wang Chen d. Kibibi Moseley 7,8,3; **SF:** Wang d. Michelle Do 2,2,4; Moseley d. Simone Yang -6,11,8,-8,7.

**Open Doubles - Final:** Mark Hazinski/Sasa Drinic d. Fan Yi Yong/Wang Chen -9,7,6,-3,6; **SF:** Hazinski/Drinic d. Atanda Musa/Khoa Nguyen -6,13,11,8; Fan/Wang d. Samson Dubina/Auria Malek 6,6,6.

**Mixed Doubles - Final:** Fan Yi Yong/ Wang Chen d. Mark Hazinski/Simone Yang 7,6,5; **SF:** Fan/Wang d. Sasa Drinic/Tiffany Qu 3,3,4; Hazinski/Yang d. Khoa Nguyen/Michelle Do 8,9,4.

**U2500 - Final:** Misha Kazantsev d. Peter Mirafior 8,8,8; **SF:** Kazantsev d. Avishy Schmidt 8,8,10; Mirafior d. Kibibi Moseley 9,-6,10,14.

**U2300 - Final:** Samson Dubina, Shuja Jafar split; **SF:** Jafar d. Avishy Schmidt 6,10,8; Dubina d. Steve Nguyen, def.

**U2100 - Final:** Enoch Yiu d. Michael Wang 9,2,5; **SF:** Yiu d. Bernardo Iturriaga 10,10,7; Wang d. Joseph Chen -11,12,-10,11,11.

**U1900:** Greg DiMarco d. Ken Lin 8,11,-7,-11,12.

**U1700:** Jerry Li d. Biser Asenov -7,-7,7,4,5.

**U1550:** Quang Zhang d. Charlie Aebersold 2,3,2.

**U1400:** M.K. Wong d. Don Svetich 4,5,12.

**U1250:** York Chan d. Eric Chen 8,7,5.

**U1100:** Chris Trinidad d. Tan Tang -5,2,-9,5,5.

**U900:** Chris Trinidad d. Bo Liu -8,8,9,9.

**U700:** Andre Berning d. Joy Yiu 2,-9,8,3.

**U500:** Sean Beebe d. Peter Chen 8,5,8.

**U300:** Cynthia Tan d. Daniel Gerig 8,-8,8.

**Over 40:** Ken Lin d. Alex Berenbeym 5,9,7.

**Over 50:** Phieu Tran d. Phil Goldsmith 8,-9,9,-8,5.

**College:** Roger Castle d. Hoa Binh Do 3,-5,6,10.

**High School:** Enoch Yiu d. Kevin Phung -9,3,10,5.

**Under 16:** Katie Poon d. Donovan LeDoux 5,-4,9,10.

**Under 13:** Joy Yiu d. Thomas Nguyen -7,5,14,4.

**Hard Bat:** Harold Fredrickson d. Les Sayre 14,13 of 21.

**U4000 Doubles:** Sakda Timsuwan/Roel Aguanta d. Masaaki Tajima/Derrick Poon 13,6,4.

**U3200 Doubles:** Greg DiMarco/Gary Voth d. Jerry Li/Tu Huynh 14,11,-7,-8,7.

**U2400 Doubles:** Joe Kay/M.K. Wong d. Nhu Dong/Tan Tang 4,8,8.

## 17TH ANNUAL BERNARD HOCK OPEN

New Albany, IN • Oct. 12-13, 2002

By Herman Hoffman

The Bernard Hock Open is still growing. After its beginning with four tables in Hock Hall, it now plays on nine busy tables in three rooms. The fact that this “three-ring circus” ran smoothly and *relatively* on schedule is a tribute to the hard work of John and Richard Riley, with a lot of help from Don Brazzell, Neal Griffin, Referee Cindy Marcum and many others. This writer’s hat is off to all who contributed to the success of this tournament, and the apparent enjoyment of all who came.

The Southern Indiana Table Tennis Association (SITTA) has been the home of bouncing celluloid balls for nearly 70 years, and this weekend was certainly no exception. The competition was hot and heavy, as expected. But it was also a fun time, as one player loudly counted the time while his opponent, who “needed a minute,” sprinted for the men’s room. There was also a doubles match in the team play on Sunday, Artman/Nordby versus Allen/Banet, in which each of the four players carried on a running conversation with himself. It was difficult to hear and understand any one of them.

Play was great, and sometimes emotional, like Steve Banet’s comeback from 1-3 to win the Open Final over Randy Cohen. In Over 40, Richard Hicks had to go the entire distance to best John Allen, 21-19 in the fifth! Yes – they *were* playing 11-point games.

There were several round robins that were decided by tiebreakers, so close was most of the competition. In the elimination rounds, most matches were played “hammer and tongs.” Many contests were very close and even emotional, but the only anger I saw all day was a guy

who was upset with himself. This writer didn’t see many easy matches, and certainly every class was won by someone who earned it.

If you look at the tournament results, you’ll find some old familiar names. You will also find some new and unfamiliar ones mixed in. That’s one of the things that makes this game so great – the established players try to keep on winning, but the newcomers keep knocking at the door. We call it table tennis! It’s a great game, and it’s fun!

**Open Singles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Banet; 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Cohen; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Nordby; 4<sup>th</sup> Mark Artman.

**Open Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Randy Cohen/Chao Nguyen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Nordby/Chau Nguyen.

**U2100:** 1<sup>st</sup> Chao Nguyen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Aleksander Khefets.

**U1900:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Weber; 2<sup>nd</sup> Allen Grambo.

**U1700:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Bowles; 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Burnett.

**U1500:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ping Poulsen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Molenda.

**U1300:** 1<sup>st</sup> Walter Rey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Galen Mabe.

**U1100:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jake Kim; 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Forthofer.

**Hardbat:** 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Banet; 2<sup>nd</sup> Aleksander Khefets.

**Over 40:** 1<sup>st</sup> Richard Hicks; 2<sup>nd</sup> John Allen.

**Under 18:** 1<sup>st</sup> Arthur Keyfets; 2<sup>nd</sup> Esther Gusov.

**U3200 Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jin Lu/Xin Bu; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeff Smith/Gary Schroeder.

**Class A Teams:** 1<sup>st</sup> Steve Banet & John Allen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Nordby & Mark Artman.

**Class B Teams:** 1<sup>st</sup> Scott Barone & Stan Pease; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Earls & Jeff Smith.

**Class C Teams:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Heil & Charles Heil; 2<sup>nd</sup> David Ferguson & Andrew Goodling.

## 2002 NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

New Rochelle, NY • Oct. 5-6, 2002

By Ben Nisbet

Ninety-eight contestants from across the state competed on the hardwood floor of the Boys and Girls Clubs of New Rochelle Remington Gymnasium for State Championship Titles in Youth, Open, and Senior events. The tournament, organized by the American Youth Table Tennis Organization, was the first officially sanctioned State Championship Tournament held in New York State in a number of years.

With reporters from the *Gannett Journal News* and a film crew shooting the beginnings of a table tennis documentary, and 10 athletes rated over 2300, Shao Yu (Burke TTC) emerged from the draw and defeated Nison Aronov (Flushing) in an exciting but quickly played 4-0 match. Aronov, with an eloquent but powerful topspin attack game, appeared unstoppable to the spectators as he reached the final with impressive wins over #2 seed Alex Perez (Manhattan TTC) and #3 seed Paul David (Amsterdam Billiards TTC). However, Shao, after barely squeaking by a determined De Tran (Champion TTC) in the semifinals 4-3, made an all-important adjustment in tactics in the final, taking the ball quicker off the bounce. This denied the steady Aronov the opportunity to build momentum.

The Women’s Singles 2002 title went to Renata Peluchova (Manhattan TTC) 4-0. Renata, a former Czech Republic National Team member, was too much for Mildred Ssyonendo (Manhattan TTC). For Mildred, who learned table tennis in her native country in Nigeria, it was a successful first official tournament in the United States.

The youth events on Saturday featured 48 juniors, aged 9 to 18. For many, this was their tournament and excitement filled the air as rating points and championship titles were on the line. Most of New York State’s top youth coaches, Jerry Mintz (Grenville Baker B&G Club), Oleg Zalesskiy (Dynamo TTC), Paul David (Amsterdam Billiards), Alex Perez (Manhattan TTC), Atanda Musa (Manhattan TTC), Luis Lugo (Hoe Avenue B&G Club) and Frank Tinkelpaugh (Binghamton B&G Club) sent their students to the event.

The Under 18 B&G (Boys’ and Girls’) Clubs event displayed the most talent as Usama Naurjudem (Champion TTC) defeated Jay Samant from Liberty, NY in a hard-fought under 18 final’s match. On the girls’ side, Dynamo’s Tatyana Zakesskaya defeated Julia Lisova (Shorefront) 3-0. In the Under 15’s James Skoufis (NJTTC) defeated Justin Green, while in the Under 12’s, Chris Brienza (Grenville Baker B&G Club) marched out of his round robin in straight games to defeat Frank Zangari (Grenville Baker). The under 10 event was the most fun to watch, with racquets barely extending higher than the net and parents and coaches watching intently on the sidelines, Nick Parra (Grenville Baker) defeated Ben Podell (Manhattan) in the final.

In the Boys’ and Girls’ Club State Table Tennis Championship, Grenville Baker defeated Hoe Avenue, 3-2, to carry the title. The Grenville club sent 10 youths to the event, and Jerry Mintz and staff member Marc Bilbrey attributed the club’s success to a novel self-governing approach, in which youths aged 9-12, via a democratic process, make all the rules for their 50-student challenge ladder.

A special thanks goes out to the Boys’ and Girls’ Club of New Rochelle and all the volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible.

**Men’s Singles – Final:** Shao Yu d. Nison Aronov, 5,9,9,8; **SF:** Shao d. De Tran, -10,6,-6,9,-10,7,8; Aronov d. Paul David, 7,5,7,5.

**Women’s Singles:** Renata Peluchova d. Mildred Sseyondo, 4,3,6,7.

**Over 40 Men:** Vitaly Koretsky d. Ajayi Ohore, 10,-11,9,-8,9.

**Over 40 Women:** Gizella Hadjuk d. Gloria Amoury, 6,7,8.

**Under 18 Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> Usama Naurusdeen d. Jay Samant, 4,7,-7,6.

**Under 18 Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tatyana Zalesskaya d. Julia Lisova, 8,9,8.

**Under 15:** James Skoufis d. Justin Green, -8,12,10,9.

**Under 12:** Chris Brienza d. Frank Zangare, 4,-7,-8,9,9.

**Under 10:** Nick Parra d. Ben Podell, 9,11,-6,8.

**Parent/Under 18 Child Doubles:** Oleg & Tatyana Zalesskaya d. Dan & Justin Green, 11,7,9.

**Youth Organization Team:** Grenville Baker Boys’ & Girls’ (Chris Brienza, Rigo Hernandez & Billy Farrell) d. Hoe Avenue Boys’ and Girls’ Club, 3-0.

## 2002 MILLCREEK OPEN

Erie, PA • Oct. 19-20, 2002

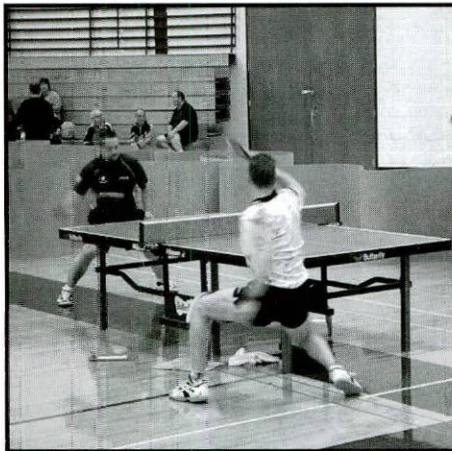
By Sam Steiner



Another record draw at this annual competition caused serious scheduling problems as we attempted to stay on track using the best-of-7 format as advertised. After the first few hours it became clear that this just wasn't going to work, with each round-robin group of four players taking up to two hours to complete on two tables. We switched all remaining events on Saturday to best of five, and were able to finish up at a reasonable hour. With fewer entries on Sunday, we returned to best-of-seven without a problem other than exhausted and cramping competitors.

Dan Seemiller of South Bend and Gbenga Ogundimu of Detroit easily reached the Open final where we knew sparks would fly. They played a tough seven-game match, which saw Gbenga scoring repeated winners using powerful "no-rise" loops on both sides. But Dan rose to the challenge, and with a combination of mobility and quick at-the-table blocks and counters, was able to control Gbenga's spin, finally eking out a win, -7,2,1,-4,7,-8,4.

Dan's club in South Bend appears to have "graduated" their previous class of juniors, including most notably Mark Hazinski who is presently training in Germany. This year Dan and assistant coach Mark Nordby brought along a new crop of promising young kids who won several awards here and will be heard from again in the future. One talented youngster looped and killed his



Samson Dubina (looping) split matches with Mark Nordby. Samson made the Final Four of the Open, and Mark won Under 2400.

way through many higher-rated opponents but was unable to sign his name on the sign-in sheet because he "hasn't learned cursive yet."

The owner of Newmar Industries in South Bend passed away recently, which was Dan's club's major financial sponsor. The strong proven junior development record of this club make it a real asset to U.S. table tennis, so now is the time for another major sponsor to step up to the plate and keep this program on track. If you are, or know of, a potential sponsor for the South Bend club, please call Dan at 574-654-7476. This is an important and worthwhile investment in the future of U.S. table tennis.

Special thanks go to tournament financial sponsors the Millcreek Rec & Parks Dept., Tom Burik, Bob Glecos, Dave Dickson, and Bob Brickell.

**Open – Final RR:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Seemiller, 3-0 (d. Gbenga Ogundimu 4-3; d. R. Seemiller 4-0; d. Dubina 4-0); 2<sup>nd</sup> Gbenga Ogundimu, 2-1 (d. R. Seemiller 4-1; d. Dubina 4-0); 3<sup>rd</sup> Randy Seemiller, 1-2 (d. Dubina 4-2); 4<sup>th</sup> Samson Dubina, 0-3.

**Open Warmup – Group Winners:** Dan Seemiller, Gbenga Ogundimu, Samson Dubina, Mark Nordby, Don Hamilton.

**U2400 – Final:** Mark Nordby d. Randy Seemiller, 4-2; **SF:** Nordby d. Samson Dubina, 4-3; Seemiller d. Don Hamilton, 4-1.

**U2200 – Final:** Don Hamilton d. Chip Coulter, 4-1; **SF:** Hamilton d. Dan Walk, 4-1; Coulter d. Mike Walk, 4-2.

**U2000 – Final:** A.J. Carney d. Joey Cochran 3-1; **SF:** Cochran d. Dave Berenson, 3-1; Carney d. Brian Pollard, 3-0.

**U1800:** Amanda Dubina d. Tom Burik, 3-0.

**U1750:** Bill Walk d. Amanda Dubina, 4-2.

**U1600:** Tam Lam d. Nicole Lynch, 3-2.

**U1450:** Jay Sivisankaran d. Carlo Wolff, 4-3.

**U1300:** Joe Banko d. Michael Obricki, 3-0.

**U1100:** John Scarnato d. Thomas Neal, 3-1.

**U900:** Mark DiCostanzo d. Tomas Oroszco, 4-3.

**Over 40 – Final:** Dan Seemiller d. Gary Martin, 3-0; **SF:** Seemiller d. Harry Ward, 3-0; Martin d. Tom Burik, 3-1.

**Over 60:** 1<sup>st</sup> Gus Kurz; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Walk; 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Brickell.

**Under 17 – Final:** Gordy Cochran d. Jennifer Mast, 3-0; **SF:** Cochran d. Amanda Dubina, 3-2; Mast d. Joey Cochran, 3-2.

**3400 Doubles:** Jim Burik/Joey Grandalski d.

Chris Malis/Roger Dickson, 3-0.

**2800 Doubles:** Miklos Balogh/Tundi Balogh d. Chris Malis/Tim Malis, 4-0.

## UPPER VALLEY GIANT ROUND ROBIN

Norwich, VT • Oct. 19, 2002

By Douglas Haynes

Jean-Philippe Haid of Belgium, currently residing in Manchester, NH, won first place in the Upper Valley Giant Round Robin held in Norwich, Vt. on Oct. 19th. Haid and Tommy Haynes of Hanover, N.H. finished tied with identical 5-1 records but Haid won the head to head match, 7,-8,5,11. David Haugh finished third, and Bob Barbour finished fourth.

The most underrated players in the tournament were the twins Tim and Tom Barbour. Tom swept Group E with seven wins and no losses, and Tim won group D with the same record (he lost only one game!).

There was a team component to the competition. Teams were given points on the basis of their placement in various round robins and the number of wins by their most successful players. Bedford NH TTC came in first with 63 points, the Upper Valley TTC came

in second with 57 and the Champlain Valley (Vt.) TTC came in third with 53.

**Group A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jean-Philippe Haid; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tommy Haynes; 3<sup>rd</sup> David Haugh; 4<sup>th</sup> Bob Barbour.

**Group B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Cameron; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Aikey; 3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Baird; 4<sup>th</sup> Helmut Schmidt.

**Group C:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jeremy Whitney; 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Shea; 3<sup>rd</sup> Hank Puding; 4<sup>th</sup> John Olapurath.

**Group D:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Barbour; 2<sup>nd</sup> David Onne; 3<sup>rd</sup> Joe Tomas; 4<sup>th</sup> Constantine Brocoum.

**Group E:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Barbour; 2<sup>nd</sup> Anisa Mahommed; 3<sup>rd</sup> Pete McAllister; 4<sup>th</sup> Sharlene Squier.

**Group F:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ben Cassaday; 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Faugno; 3<sup>rd</sup> Hao Yang; 4<sup>th</sup> Iain Prendergast.

**Group G:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saif Mahommed; 2<sup>nd</sup> Frank Yifeng Huang; 3<sup>rd</sup> Robbie Brown; 4<sup>th</sup> Jack Yaguda.

## POTOMAC OPEN

Potomac, MD • Nov. 16-17, 2002

By Larry Hodges

**B**rian Pace, who recently re-relocated to Maryland, and now trains and works for North American Table Tennis, overcame a preliminary round loss to John Wetzler, and dominated the rest of the way in winning the Open. In the semifinals, he avenged his loss to Han Xiao at the U.S. Open, winning at -10,7,9,8,5. In the final, he again dominated, defeating Sean Lonergan, 7,-10,4,4,3. The key to his success seemed a much-improved backhand and strong serve return (especially flips off short serves) to go with his always dominating forehand.

In the other semifinal, Lonergan defeated Hung Pham at 8,10,11,-11,6. Pham had just squeaked by Wetzler in the quarterfinals apparently played on cloud nine: 9,-9,9,-9,9.

The tournament, with 90 players, started out as a "Big Four," with 2500 players Pace, Lonergan, Xiao and Sean O'Neill. O'Neill lost in the preliminaries to Stefano Ratti, rated 2078, and to 15-year-old Khaleel Asgarali, rated 2148, and so these two advanced in his place. However, these ratings – especially Stefano's – proved to be

somewhat off. Stefano would win Under 2150 and Under 4200 Doubles, make the final of Under 2400 (where he'd just barely come up short), and the quarters of the Open.

This writer warriored it out in what may have been the most tiring (physically and mentally) tournament of his life, winning Under 2400 from down two games to Stefano in the final (-9,-9,10,7,2) in a rematch of their preliminary round battle where Stefano had won 11-8 in the fifth, and also eking out the Over 40 over Changping Duan, 3,-9,9,-9,7.

The local junior program brought out two new stars, Joseph Wang (11) and Jeffrey Zhang (12) who took Under 1700 and Under 1500, respectively. Jeffrey, rated 1222, hadn't even been over 1000 until late September.

Jay Ryan, rated 1356, didn't win any events, but he defeated players with ratings of 1804, 1723, 1684 and 1664, plus another unrated player with an estimated rating of 1850.

**Open Singles – Final:** Brian Pace d. Sean Lonergan, 7,-10,4,4,3; **SF:** Pace d. Han Xiao, -10,7,9,8,5; Lonergan d. Hung Pham, 8,10,11,-11,6; **QF:** Pace d. Khaleel Asgarali, 12,4,4; Xiao d. Napoleon Reyes, 6,4,5; Pham d. John Wetzler, 9,-9,9,-9,9; Lonergan d. Stefano Ratti, 5,4,-7,9.

**U2400 – Final:** Larry Hodges d. Stefano Ratti, -9,-9,10,7,2; **SF:** Hodges d. Napoleon Reyes, 8,6,-4,12; Ratti d. Khaleel Asgarali, 8,10,-9,5.

**U2150 – Final:** Stefano Ratti d. Ed Watts, 5,2,6; **SF:** Ratti d. Julian Waters, 9,9,9; Watts d. Raghu Nadmichettu, 2,-9,0,4.

**U1900:** Eric Dang d. Rolando Quibote, 4,-12,2,2.

**U1700:** Joseph Wang d. Ayomiku Adeleye, 11,-10,9,5.

**U1500:** Jeffrey Zhang d. Orlando Russell, 8,8,-7,10.

**U1200:** Misho Sakian d. Richard James, 11,8,8.

**Over 40:** Larry Hodges d. Changping Duan, 3,-9,9,-9,7; **SF:** Hodges d. Lixin Lang, -7,7,9,-8,7; Duan d. Nazruddin Asgarali, 5,10,-7,-11,9.

**Under 14:** 1<sup>st</sup> Peter Li (6-0); 2<sup>nd</sup> Amaresh Sahu (5-1); 3<sup>rd</sup> Andrew Marcus (4-2); 4<sup>th</sup> Tomer Aronheim (3-3).

**Under 11:** 1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Sun; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vikash Sahu.

**U4200 Doubles:** Lixin Lang/Stefano Ratti d. Charlene Liu/Changping Duan, -6,7,7,-10,13.

**U3600 Doubles:** Julian Waters/Wei Xiao d. Paul Kovac/Roger Xu, -9,-9,6,3,6.



## Mark Tremonti: Rock Star & Table Tennis Player Visits Bumpernets

By Roxanne Rousseau

**M**ark Tremonti, member of the rock band Creed, didn't expect to play table tennis with a Senior Olympic Champion during his tour stop in Birmingham, Alabama. But when Homer Brown, owner of BumperNets in the Riverchase Galleria, heard that Tremonti was a table tennis player, he knew that the band member would love his store.

"Bumpernets is a unique concept, there is nothing like it anywhere," said Brown, who designed BumperNets as America's first table tennis store and pro-shop. At BumperNets, customers can buy tables, custom rackets, and even play table tennis, pool and other games in the store. Customers can also get lessons with Brown, although Tremonti didn't need any.

"He is a very good player, and he really enjoys the game," said Brown. "Table tennis is great exercise, good for coordination and relieving stress." Tremonti likes playing so much that the band travels with a table so he can play anywhere. "Table tennis can be addictive, anyone who enjoys

playing knows that," said Brown.

After playing table tennis with Brown and the other staff members in the store, Tremonti invited Brown to play before and after the concert at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. In the VIP room before the show, Brown and Tremonti played with such enthusiasm that soon others were asking to play. Tremonti only gave up the table to warm up for the band's performance. Right after the show, Tremonti came back to the VIP room, full of energy and eager to play. These two enthusiastic players kept the ping-pong ball moving into the early hours of the

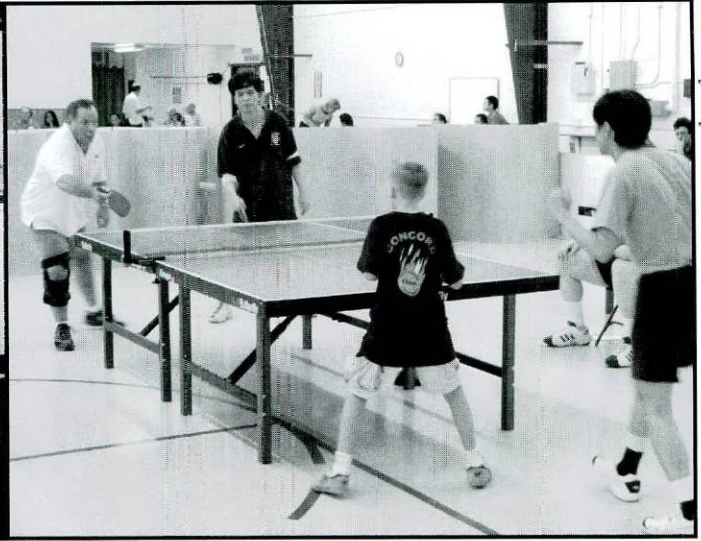
morning. They could have played longer, but Tremonti had to continue on with the Creed tour the next day. Who could have guessed that a Senior Olympic champion/businessman and a rock star could have anything in common? This is just one example of how the great sport of table tennis can bring people together.



**Top:** Mark Tremonti in action at Bumpernets. **Bottom:** Homer Brown, and Tremonti surrounded by the retail staff (Madelyn Sumner and Elisha Harrison).

The next  
4-star  
**Buckeye**  
**Open**  
will be held in  
March, 2004.  
We are  
skipping  
2003.

Steve Slaback,  
director  
sslaback@columbus.rr.com



Reno, NV · Oct. 5, 2002  
By Mimi Ortegon

**T**able Tennis is safe in the hands of our youth. Anthon Plake (9 years old), Donovan Le Doux (15), top-rated Auria Malek (16), and RSTTC newcomer Bong-Geun Kim (21) did their parts to make the second Biggest Little an exciting event.

Anthon triumphed not only in the **U900** novice division where he won 5,9,3,3, over Jenny Chen, but with partner Ming Zhang, taking the **U3000 Doubles** contest over Joe Badrena and Bob Mahler, 8,6,9,8. Donovan bested Jeff Plake in the **U1650** singles, 7,4,8,9. Playing in his first USATT event, Bong-Geun Kim took veteran Avishy Schmidt to four crowd-pleasing games before experience prevailed and Avie won, -6,9,10,8 in Open Singles. Top-rated Auria Malek tested his many skills against Avishy in the final match of this exciting Open event, with Avie finally winning, 7,-8,-6,9,8,-11,9.

A perfect day, a great facility featuring eight professional tables, really good refreshments (polish dogs with everything and noodle cups proved most popular) added to the crowd's enjoyment. A variety of past Championship Table Tennis videos and games (checkers, Sorry,

9-year-old Anthon Plake and Ming Zhang (near side) in action in the Under 3000 Doubles Final, against finalists Bob Mahler and Joe Badrena. Plake also won U900, while Mahler won Under 1300.

Jigsaw puzzles) kept families as well as resting players entertained.

Our thanks to the 59 players and their families and friends for making our Second Biggest Little a big success, and our thanks always to the faithful RSTTC members who worked hard to assure us of a great event.

**Open:** Avishy Schmidt d. Auria Malek, 7,-8,-6,9,8,-11,9.

**U2000:** Trung Ma d. Kingston Gee, -11,-9,12,7,-6,9,12.

**U1825:** Nicholas Garratt d. Alex Varady, 3,4,7,8.

**U1650:** Donovan Le Doux d. Jeff Plake, 7,4,8,9.

**U1475:** Alex Parras d. Al Hess, 9,-13,6,5,8.

**U1300:** Bob Mahler d. Don Wimer, 3,-5,9,8,8.

**U900:** Anthon Plake d. Jenny Chen, 5,9,3,3.

**U3000 Doubles:** Anthon Plake/Ming Zhang d. Joe Badrena/Bob Mahler, 8,6,9,8.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA FALL OPEN

Lakeland, FL · Oct. 19, 2002

By Ray Spann

**T**he Simpson Park Community Center in Lakeland, Florida was the site of the 1st Annual Central Florida Fall Open Table Tennis Tournament. The Lakeland Table Tennis Association, sponsored by Stiga, held the USATT sanctioned tournament, the first of its kind for the local association. Players were attracted from all over the state of Florida, from the Atlanta, Georgia area and from Maryland. A total of 82 players participated in eight events with both prize money and trophies awarded to the 1st & 2nd place finishers.

In the Open Event, Keith Evans from Atlanta, Georgia, finished first and collected \$300 prize money. Finishing second was Brian Pace from Maryland and collecting \$150. Entering the tournament, Pace had a USATT rating of 2459, slightly ahead of Evans' 2409. Both players had several challenging matches during the Swiss system round robin format tournament.

Brad Woodington, the President of the Lakeland Table Tennis Association, expressed sincere thanks to the officials at the Simpson Park Community Center for their excellent work and cooperation with this major USATT sanctioned tournament. In addition, special thanks went out to Blake Chamberlain, Joseph Aracri, Rudy Berzins,

Merv Gatchell, Blair Richards, Ray Spann, and Ray Look who all volunteered as tournament officials. Wendell Newton, one of our tournament directors is also to be commended for his dedication. He is now recovering from a heart attack.

The next USATT sanctioned tournament has been tentatively planned for February or March of 2003, with more details to be released at a later date. The Lakeland Table Tennis Association invites all players to attend the practice sessions available at the Simpson Park Community Center. Table Tennis is available on Wednesday and Friday nights from 6:00 PM until 9:30 PM, and on Sunday afternoon from 1:00 PM until 5:30 PM. All players are invited to attend. For additional information, you may visit our website at: [www.eteamz.com/LakelandTableTennis](http://www.eteamz.com/LakelandTableTennis) or e-mail us at [TableTennis@email.midflorida.com](mailto:TableTennis@email.midflorida.com), or phone us at 863-965-0760.

**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Keith Evans; 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Pace.

**U2000:** 1<sup>st</sup> Carlos I. Estrada; 2<sup>nd</sup> Phuong Tran.

**U1850:** 1<sup>st</sup> Carlos Villanveva, Jr.; 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Ashmeade.

**U1700:** 1<sup>st</sup> Robert Hoffman; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Phan.

**U1600:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Plyler; 2<sup>nd</sup> Carl Simons.

**U1450:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mirella Delzo; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sasikanth Malladi.

**U1350:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mirella Delzo; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rene Deguia.

**U1200:** 1<sup>st</sup> Stanley Szamiel; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sasikanth Malladi.



**5TH ANNUAL THREE RIVERS TABLE TENNIS CENTER FALL OPEN**

Fort Wayne, IN • Oct. 5, 2002  
**Class A – Final:** Randy Cohen d. Mark Nordby, 8,-9,8,9; 3<sup>rd</sup> Nick Snider.  
**Class B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Alan Grambo; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hong Artman; 3<sup>rd</sup> Hung-Chih Chang.  
**Class D:** 1<sup>st</sup> Randy Webb; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Pommer.  
**Class E:** 1<sup>st</sup> Shane Dennison; 2<sup>nd</sup> A.J. Brewer.  
**Recreational:** 1<sup>st</sup> Brett Zellers; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Hart.

**STIGA WORLD OPEN**

Lodi, NJ • Oct. 13, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ajayi Ohore; 2<sup>nd</sup> Santos Shih.  
**U2250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wally Green; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ronald Joseph.  
**U2050:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jimmi Chou; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wojciech Kisielewski.  
**U1850:** 1<sup>st</sup> S. Elsamra; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Powell.  
**U1650:** 1<sup>st</sup> Marco Monzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Hing Fong.  
**U1450:** 1<sup>st</sup> John Keung; 2<sup>nd</sup> Julia Lisova.  
**U1250:** 1<sup>st</sup> John Keung; 2<sup>nd</sup> Motoshi Nakamatsu.

**DAVISON SEPTEMBER OPEN**

Davison, MI • Sept. 28, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Scott Endicott; 2<sup>nd</sup> Erol Hadzializagic.  
**U2200:** 1<sup>st</sup> Erol Hadzializagic; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Merritt.  
**U1950:** 1<sup>st</sup> Danil Rapoport; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kin Chan.  
**U1850:** 1<sup>st</sup> Stefan Mitroi; 2<sup>nd</sup> Danil Rapoport.  
**U1750:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lynn Johnson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gene Miron.  
**U1650:** 1<sup>st</sup> David Witt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynn Johnson.  
**U1550:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lynn Johnson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Xue Shu.  
**U1350:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jerry Sagady; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Miron.  
**U1250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fred Duncap; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Miron.

**DAVISON OCTOBER OPEN**

Davison, MI • Oct. 26, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Merritt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cody Jones.  
**U2050:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cody Jones; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitchell Foster.  
**U1850:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Merritt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitchell Foster.  
**U1750:** 1<sup>st</sup> Phil Weatherly; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gene Miron.  
**U1650:** 1<sup>st</sup> David Witt; 2<sup>nd</sup> Avery Capwell.  
**U1550:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lynn Johnson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Joseph Helfand.  
**U1350:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Ward; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ron Root.  
**U1250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Fred Dunlap; 2<sup>nd</sup> Eric Whisnant.  
**U1150:** 1<sup>st</sup> Phil Landan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ari Reich.  
**Under 22:** 1<sup>st</sup> Eric Whisnant; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cory Zhang.

**MDTTC OPEN**

Gaithersburg, MD • Oct. 19-20, 2002  
**Open – Final:** John Wetzler d. Origene Nyanguile, 7,-8,-9,-7,6,8,8; **SF:** Nyanguile d. Georgiy Bunyakyn, 6,7,11,8; Wetzler d. James Duan, 9,9,10,8.  
**Under 2150 – Final:** Michael Shao d. Joseph Stewart, 9,9,9; **SF:** Shao d. Oscar Ramirez, 2,3,8; Stewart d. Lixin Lang, -7,8,8,7.  
**U2000 – Final:** Oscar Ramirez d. Joseph Stewart, 9,8,9; **SF:** O. Ramirez d. Fernando Ramirez, def.; Stewart d. X. Peter Huang, def.  
**U1850:** Fernando Ramirez d. Oscar Ramirez, def.  
**U1800:** Sohil Charania d. Sanjay Harwani, -7,6,8,4.  
**U1500:** Sohil Charania d. Olayinka Adeshiyan, 8,8,9.  
**U1200:** Olayinka Adeshiyan d. Cyril Lan, -9,5,4,9.  
**U900:** Daniel Weisz d. Reza Ghiasi, 7,7,-10,6.

**PIEDMONT OPEN**

Greensboro, NC • Sept 7, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Amir Amid; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Provenzano; 3<sup>rd</sup> Corey McElveen; 4<sup>th</sup> Gerald Singleton.  
**Class A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Paul; 2<sup>nd</sup> Dean Kapsalakis; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Magitman; 4<sup>th</sup> Bryan Mackenzie.  
**Class B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sam Sadaat; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Magitman; 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris O'Brian; 4<sup>th</sup> Mark Gatlin.

**HUTCHINSON FALL OPEN**

Hutchinson, KS • Oct. 26, 2002  
**Class A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Stan Stoodley; 2<sup>nd</sup> Matthew Cushing.  
**Class B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Xiansong Li; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Wendt.  
**Class C:** 1<sup>st</sup> Rob Sharp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Lyon.  
**Class D:** 1<sup>st</sup> Brett Barton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Lickey.  
**Class E:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wes Tappmeyer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Hukills.  
**Under 12:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kyle Beckstrom; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tessa Hendrickson.  
**U3600 Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> George Taplin/Robert Kyker; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chau Truong/Quy Tang.  
**U3600 Doubles Consolation:** Guy Hendrickson/Terry Pentecost.

**UTAH STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Salt Lake City, Utah • Sept. 19-21, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Zorigt Radnaased; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vieng Chantharath.  
**Open Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Glen Brown/Stephane Charmot; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lailing Ma/ Vieng Chantharath.  
**Class A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Doug Hansen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lailing Ma.  
**Class B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Tyler; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ryan Wardle.  
**Over 40:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vieng Chantharath; 2<sup>nd</sup> Glen Brown.  
**Over 50:** 1<sup>st</sup> Glen Brown; 2<sup>nd</sup> George Majors.  
**Over 60:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lailing Ma; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grant Misbach.  
**Under 18:** 1<sup>st</sup> Bruce Majors; 2<sup>nd</sup> Carl Majors.  
**Class A Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Southwick/Leroy Bybee; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wally McCormick/Jordan Glew.

**SCHAUMBURG OPEN**

Schaumburg, IL • Oct. 19, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Don Angeles & Spenser Lam split prize.  
**U2250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Scott Endicott; 2<sup>nd</sup> Milan Djakovac.  
**U2050:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jorge Vanegas; 2<sup>nd</sup> Nared Nazar.  
**U1850:** 1<sup>st</sup> George Siaw; 2<sup>nd</sup> Pin "Mark" Xue.  
**U1650:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Lau; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Brown.  
**U1450:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ricky Huynh; 2<sup>nd</sup> Joel Rolnick.  
**U1250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Elliot Lysyk; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Hoffman.  
**Over 40:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ricky Huynh; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Crifassi.

**CHARLOTTE FALL OPEN**

Charlotte, NC • Oct. 19, 2002  
**Class A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Nigel Christopher; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim McQueen; 3<sup>rd</sup> Lokesh Pillai.  
**Class B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Gerald Singleton; 2<sup>nd</sup> George Bluhm; 3<sup>rd</sup> Darius Czarnocki.  
**Class C:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Dukes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ira Goodman.  
**Class D:** 1<sup>st</sup> Doug Brock; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Magitman.  
**Class A Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lokesh Pillai/Tim Hoagland.  
**Class B Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ira Goodman/Ray Filz.  
**Class C Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> DeanKapsalakis/Mark Magitman.  
**Giant Killer Award (Biggest Upset):** Tony Provenzano.

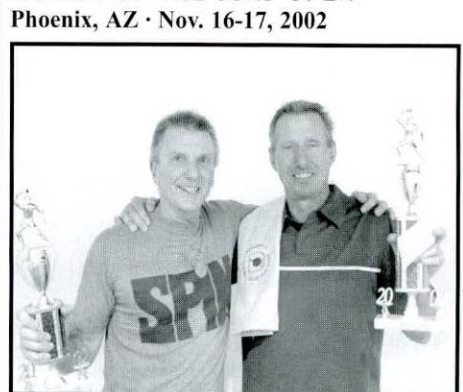
**CINCINNATI GIANT RR**

Cincinnati, OH • Oct. 20, 2002  
**Group A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Randy Cohen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Arjun Shankaren; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Yost; 4<sup>th</sup> Nick Snider.  
**Group B:** 1<sup>st</sup> John Monaco; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Weber; 3<sup>rd</sup> Rick Morris; 4<sup>th</sup> Robert Ha.  
**Group C:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jeff Spektor; 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Burnett.  
**Group D:** 1<sup>st</sup> Pezhman Shams; 2<sup>nd</sup> Eli Bortz.  
**Group E:** 1<sup>st</sup> Galen Mabe; 2<sup>nd</sup> Merle Garrison.  
**Group F:** 1<sup>st</sup> Todd Rielage; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim McFadden.

**STIGA WORLD NOVEMBER OPEN**

Lodi, NJ • Nov. 16-17, 2002  
**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> Shao Yu; 2<sup>nd</sup> Li Yuxiang; 3<sup>rd</sup> Adam Hugh.  
**U2250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Shawn Embleton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Min Xin Guo.  
**U2050:** 1<sup>st</sup> Hsin-Cheng Chou; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Vogel.  
**U1850:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sherif Elsamra; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruno Ramirez.  
**U1650:** 1<sup>st</sup> Motoshi Nakamatsu; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruno Ramirez.  
**U1450:** 1<sup>st</sup> John Keung; 2<sup>nd</sup> Motoshi Nakamatsu.  
**U1250:** 1<sup>st</sup> Harvey Vazquez; 2<sup>nd</sup> Motoshi Nakamatsu.  
**U1000:** 1<sup>st</sup> Giovanni Quinones; 2<sup>nd</sup> Steven Saxon.

**VALLEY OF THE SUNS OPEN**



**Over 40 Champion and Open & Under 1900 Finalist Tom Wintrich, and Open Champion Leo Lucas**

**Open Singles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Leo Lucas; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Wintrich; 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Hallquist.  
**Open Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Derrick Cone/Luis Houed; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gia Leu/Mario Lorenc.  
**Over 40:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Wintrich; 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Bryant Jr.  
**Over 40 Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Leo Lucas/Kent Haas; 2<sup>nd</sup> Bernard Savitz/Alex Lai.  
**Over 40/U1600:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Bryan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Bryant Jr.  
**Over 50:** 1<sup>st</sup> Bernard Savitz; 2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Baldner.  
**Over 60:** 1<sup>st</sup> Choung Lee Cheng; 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Au.  
**Hardbat:** 1<sup>st</sup> Bernard Savitz; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wayne Johnson.  
**U1900:** 1<sup>st</sup> Derrick Cone; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Wintrich.  
**U1800:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mankit Ma; 2<sup>nd</sup> Morris Leichter.  
**U1700:** 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Bryan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Fuschino.  
**U1600:** 1<sup>st</sup> Roger Baldner; 2<sup>nd</sup> Choung Lee Cheng.  
**U1500:** 1<sup>st</sup> Jerome Pioux; 2<sup>nd</sup> George Zillmer.  
**U1400:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Wei; 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Bryant III.  
**U1300:** 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Connolly; 2<sup>nd</sup> Wayne Aerni.  
**U1200:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Wei; 2<sup>nd</sup> William Wong.  
**Unrated:** 1<sup>st</sup> Kiet Pham; 2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Putman.  
**U2900 Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Rick Chartrand/John Warren; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Fushino/Tim Wright.

## 2002 COLORADO SPRINGS OPEN

Colorado Springs, CO · Oct. 19-20, 2002 · by Larry Rose

The 18th Annual Colorado Springs Open was held the 19th and 20th of October at the Hillside Community Center in Colorado Springs. The tournament had 73 players, including 19 juniors – the best junior turnout at the Colorado Springs Open in years. The growth in junior participation is directly related to two successful junior programs – one at the Table Tennis Center of Colorado Springs, and the other at the tournament's host club, the Pikes Peak TTC. The Open Singles final pitted Scott Preiss of Manitou Springs against one of those 19 juniors, John Leach of Boulder. The match featured spectacular returns by both players. Point by point and game by game, Leach held on to overturn Preiss' 4-2 lead. Leach was in control for the final game, which ended at 4.

John and his sister Laura teamed up for Open Doubles, but fell to doubles veterans Roger Kuseski and David Edwards.

Multiple winners at the event included Brian Taylor of Colorado Springs (U-18 boys and the U-1800s), Mike Tarter of Peyton (U-3200 Doubles and C Singles), and Tom Wintrich of Albuquerque (O-40 Singles and the recipient of the Paul Cracraft Memorial

Sportsmanship Award). Several families joined the Leaches in garnering multiple awards – Austin Preiss defeated brother Adam in the U-14 Boys' final and also finished 2nd in Class D. Keli Lianza defeated sister Kristi Lianza in the U-14 Girls' final (both are daughters of Open Singles semi-finalist Bo Lianza).

Many thanks to the helpful staff of the Hillside Community Center, as well as to the officials: Bob Tretheway and Debbie Moya.

**Open – Final:** John Leach d. Scott Preiss, -9,8,-9,-7,7,-6,9,8,4; **SF:** Preiss d. Bo Lianza, 8,-8,6,5,10,10; Leach d. Roger Kuseski, 6,-9,7,-8,-4,5,4,-11,7.

**Open Doubles – Final:** Roger Kuseski/David Edwards d. John Leach/Laura Leach, 8,6,-9,8; **SF:** Kuseski/Edwards d. Scott Preiss/Dana Jeffries, -5,13,-6,6,7; Leach/Leach d. Bo Lianza/Tim St. Germain, 6,-7,7,9.

**A Singles (U1950):** Derek Stanley d. Allen McDermott, 9,7,-11,-8,6,8; **SF:** McDermott d. Shawn Schmidlen, 16,-8,9,9,-7,8; Stanley d. David Taylor, 7,6,-6,-6,5,5.

**A Singles (U1950):** Brian Taylor d. Sanjiv Thakor, 6,-13,12,-8,6; **SF:** Taylor d. Gary Green, 5,-7,6,4; Thakor d. Greg Castillo, -5,8,11,-9,5.

**B Singles (U1800):** Mike Tarter d. Rick Chartrand, 7,-13,8,9.

**D Singles:** Mike Cody d. Austin Preiss, 13,8,8.

**E Singles:** Wally Collins Jr. d. John Hope, -8,1,6,2.

**U1100:** Tisoy Aligaen d. Abdullah Masud, 5,11,-7,2.

**U3200 Doubles:** Sanjiv Thakor/Mike Tarter d. Wally Collins, Jr./Bill Munch, 5,-2,6,5.

**Under 18 Boys Regional Championships:** Brian Taylor d. Alex Hureau, 6,4,7.

**Under 14 Boys Regional Championships:** Austin Preiss d. Adam Preiss, -6,5,9,7.

**Under 18 Girls Regional Championships:** Keli Lianza d. Kristi Lianza, 6,6,9.

**Over 30 Singles:** Jiri Mracek d. Tim St. Germain, -9,2,11,7; **SF:** St. Germain d. Tom Wintrich, -9,8,-7,5,5; Mracek d. Bo Lianza, 6,-4,7,7.

**Over 40 Singles:** Tom Wintrich d. Carlos Barrientos, -8,6,-8,5,9; **SF:** Tom Wintrich d. Jiri Mracek, -10,8,7,7; Barrientos d. Alan McDermott, 4,8,7.

**Over 50 Singles:** Carlos Barrientos d. Bob Leatherwood, -12,5,6,5; **SF:** Leatherwood d. Alan McDermott, 10,12,8; Barrientos d. Paul Ng, 4,6,5.

**2002 Paul Cracraft Memorial Sportsmanship Award:** Tom Wintrich.

## INTERNATIONAL

### MEN'S WORLD CUP

Jinan, China · Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2002

By Peter Jenson, *Care of ITTF*

The Men's World Cup in Jinan, China, became the final breakthrough to the world top for young Timo Boll of Germany. He took home the World Cup and \$44,000 after beating Yugoslavia's Zoran Primorac in the quarterfinals, World Champion Wang Liqin of China in the semifinals, and Olympic Champion Kong Linghui, also of China, in the final. In the preliminaries, he defeated Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium), Peng-Lung Chiang (Chinese Taipei) and Johnny Huang (Canada).

Boll started out a little "shaky" in the final and Kong easily won the first game, 11-8, supported by the enthusiastic home crowd. In a crucial second game, however, Boll came out on top, 12-10, after a few crises, and with the game won and the confidence gained, Boll was in control. He took the next two games 11-9 each, showing the ability to win the important points.

In the fifth game, Kong was far below level, and he made a lot of unforced errors to see Boll go to 7-3 and 10-4. Then, however, something happened, and Kong started to catch up. One point, two points, three points – and Boll started shaking. Kong came all the way to 10-10 and the crowd was lifting the roof with their shouting.

Boll, however, got his act together, led 11-10, lost another match point but at last won, 13-11.

"That was terrible, at 10-4. I started to be too careful, and as soon as you are not aggressive, Kong comes at you," said Boll. "Of course, beating the World Champion and the Olympic Champion to win the World Cup is the greatest win in my career until now," said the new World Cup holder.

**Men's Singles – Final:** Timo Boll (GER) d. Kong Linghui (CHN), -8,10,9,9,11; **SF:** Kong d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 2,-5,7,9,-5,9; Boll d. Zoran Primorac (CRO), 9,-5,3,-12,-1,4,8; **3<sup>rd</sup>:** Primorac d. Schlager, 4-0; **QF:** Kong d. Oh Sang Eun (KOR), 2,9,-10,-7,10,12; Schlager d. Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE), -6,-9,-7,8,7,6,6; Boll d. Wang Liqin (CHN), 9,5,4,6; Primorac d. Ma Lin (CHN), 9,-6,8,8,-10,9.

#### Preliminaries:

**Group A:** 1<sup>st</sup> Oh Sang Eun (KOR), 2-1/7-5 (d. Lavale, -7,2,4,9,3; d. Wang, 7,-7,8,9,8); 2<sup>nd</sup> Wang Liqin (CHN), 2-1/5-5 (d. Lavale, 3,5,2,6; d. Chuan, 9,-3,11,6,3); 3<sup>rd</sup> Chuan Chih-Yuan (TPE), 2-1/5-7 (d. Lavale, 8,-11,6,3,4; d. Oh, -7,-4,7,9,-7,7,8); 4<sup>th</sup> Russell Lavale (AUS), 0-3.

**Group B:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ma Lin (CHN), 3-0 (d. Hoyama, 6,6,-9,4,9; d. Kong, 9,-5,7,9,5; d. Kim, 9,2,8,2); 2<sup>nd</sup> Kong Linghui (CHN), 2-1 (d. Hoyama, 2,-9,7,6,10; d. Kim, -9,7,-7,10,-9,11,8); 3<sup>rd</sup> Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 1-2 (d. Hoyama, 8,4,5,13); 4<sup>th</sup> Hugo Hoyama (BRA), 0-3.

**Group C:** 1<sup>st</sup> Timo Boll (GER), 3-0 (d. Huang, 7,-8,7,7,7; d. Saive, -8,2,7,10,4; d. Chiang, -9,-7,1,9,3,-6,9); 2<sup>nd</sup> Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE), 2-1 (d. Huang, 7,6,10,-9,5; d. Saive, 10,9,-3,10,13); 3<sup>rd</sup> Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 1-2 (d. Huang, 9,-8,2,6,-11,7); 4<sup>th</sup>

Johnny Huang (CAN), 0-3.

**Group D:** 1<sup>st</sup> Werner Schlager (AUT), 2-1/6-5 (d. Toriola, 9,3,4,9; d. Kreanga, -8,7,5,6,7); 2<sup>nd</sup> Zoran Primorac (CRO), 2-1/7-6 (d. Toriola, -7,-8,4,-5,9,5,5; d. Schlager, 8,8,-5,7,-10,8); 3<sup>rd</sup> Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE), 2-1/5-7 (d. Toriola, 9,7,-2,-8,11,6; d. Primorac, -6,-17,9,-3,9,5,3); 4<sup>th</sup> Segun Toriola (NGR), 0-3.

### 2002 ASIAN GAMES

Busan, Korea · Oct. 1-9, 2002

**Men's Singles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wang Liqin (CHN); 2<sup>nd</sup> Chuang Chih Yuan (TPE); 3-4: Oh Sang Eun (KOR), Kong Linghui (CHN).

**Women's Singles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Zhang Yining (CHN); 2<sup>nd</sup> Wang Nan (CHN); 3-4: Li Jia Wei (SIN), Ryu Ji Hae (KOR).

**Men's Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lee Chul Seung/Ryu Seung Min (KOR); 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Taek Soo/Oh Sang Eun (KOR); 3-4: Ma Lin/Kong Linghui (CHN), Wang Liqin/Yan Sen (CHN).

**Women's Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lee Eun Sil/Seok Eun Mi (KOR); 2<sup>nd</sup> Zhang Yining/Li Nan (CHN); 3-4: Wang Nan/Guo Yan (CHN), Ryu Ji Hae/Kim Moo Kyo (KOR).

**Mixed Doubles:** 1<sup>st</sup> Cheung Yuk/Tie Ya Na (HKG); 2<sup>nd</sup> Ryu Seung Min/Ryu Ji Hae (KOR); 3-4: Wang Liqin/Wang Nan (CHN), Ma Lin/Li Nan (CHN).

**Men's Teams:** 1<sup>st</sup> China; 2<sup>nd</sup> Korea; 3-4: China Taipei, Hong Kong.

**Women's Teams:** 1<sup>st</sup> DPR Korea; 2<sup>nd</sup> China; 3-4: Japan, Singapore.



## GERMAN ITTF PRO TOUR

Magdeburg, Germany · Oct. 17-20, 2002

**Men's Singles – Final:** Ma Lin (CHN) d. Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), 7,-10,8,10,12; **SF:** Ma Lin d. Alexei Smirnov (RUS), 12,4,11,3; Samsonov d. Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE), 9,8,-9,4,-11,8; **QF:** Ma Lin d. Ma Wenge (CHN), 11,7,8,4; Smirnov d. Toshio Tasaki (JPN), 5,8,8,5; Samsonov d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 10,-5,-10,-8,6,8,5; Kreanga d. Timo Boll (GER), 3,6,11,-7,9; **8ths:** Ma Lin d. Patrick Chila (FRA), -11,7,5,-7,6,7; Ma Wenge d. Kong Linghui (CHN), 6,10,-6,8,-8,7; Tasaki d. Liu Guozheng (CHN), -7,9,-7,7,10,-7,13; Smirnov d. Fredrik Hakansson (SWE), -9,-9,9,8,7,5; Samsonov d. Michael Maze (DEN), -8,10,-11,-8,6,3,5; Saive d. Damien Eloi (FRA), 9,-6,-8,-8,8,7,17; Kreanga d. Jorgen Persson (SWE), 10,9,6,-7,-8,-7,10; Boll d. Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL), -4,2,9,8,8.

**Men's Doubles – Final:** Ma Lin/Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Chen Weixing/Koji Matsushita (AUT/JPN), 2,12,8,7; **SF:** Ma/Kong d. Ma Wenge/Yan Sen (CHN), 8,8,-4,4,6; Chen/Matsushita d. Danny Heister/Trinko Keen (NED), -6,9,-4,5,5,6; **QF:** Chen/Matsushita d. Werner Schlager/Karl Jindrak (AUT), 13,13,12,8; Heister/Keen d. Fredrik Hakansson/Peter Karlsson (SWE), 4,8,-8,7,7; Ma/Yan d. Aleksandar Karakasevic/Rade Markovic (YUG), 7,8,5,5,5; Ma/Kong d. Sebastien Jover/Michel Martinez (FRA), 9,5,2,2.

**Women's Singles – Final:** Tamara Boros (CRO) d. Fan Ying (CHN), 8,6,7,8; **SF:** Boros d. Guo Yue (CHN), 5,8,4,8; Fan d. Niu Jianfeng (CHN), -4,-9,7,6,-11,9,7; **QF:** Boros d. Jing Jun Hong (SIN), 6,7,10,4; Guo d. **Chang Jun Gao (USA)**, 10,-8,2,-4,-6,9,7; Fan d. Elke Wosik (GER), -9,-5,-3,7,7,6; Niu d. Jie Schopp (GER), 2,10,5,4; **8ths:** Boros d. Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 8,4,8,9; Jing d. Csilla Batorfi (HUN), 6,-8,8,2,-6,9; **Chang** d. Li Jia (CHN), -6,-8,5,10,-11,5,8; Guo d. Eva Odorova (SVK), 9,8,15,-9,9; Fan d. Petra Lovas (HUN), 2,13,7,8; Wosik d. Ai Fujinuma (JPN), -6,8,10,-12,8,-6,5; Schopp d. Keiko Okazaki (JPN), 8,5,3,9; Niu d. Irina Palina (RUS), 6,5,5,9.

**Women's Doubles – Final:** Li Jia/Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 4,5,6,-6,-7,7; **SF:** Li/Niu d. Fan Ying/Wang Tingting (CHN), 7,6,-12,4,9; Guo/Li d. Judit Herczeg/Liu Jia (AUT), 8,6,7,6; **QF:** Guo/Li d. Jing Jun/Li Jia Wei (SIN), 12,4,10,9; Herczeg/Liu d. Satoko Kishida/Aya Umemura (JPN), 10,-6,16,9,-7,8; Li/Niu d. Maria Fazekas/Zita Molnar (HUN), 6,8,4,7; Fan/Wang d. Svetlana Ganina/Irina Palina (RUS), -9,3,-8,13,3,2.

## DUTCH ITTF PRO TOUR

Eindhoven, The Netherlands · Oct. 23-27, 2002

**Men's Singles – Final:** Wang Hao (CHN) d. Chuan Chih-Yuan (TPE), -3,-8,3,5,-5,5,5; **SF:** Chuan d. Ma Lin (CHN), 8,-12,9,7,-3,8; Wang Hao d. Hou Yingchao (CHN), 8,5,10,-12,11; **QF:** Ma Lin d. Zoran Primorac (CRO), 8,9,6,5; Chuan d. Kong Linghui (CHN), -4,-4,6,10,9,10; Wang Hao d. Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), 14,-4,2,2,-11,-8,6; Hou d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 8,-9,6,9,5; **8ths:** Ma Lin d. Trinko Keen (NED), 6,-10,11,-5,-5,4,1; Primorac d. Michael Maze (DEN), 9,-8,9,-6,10,-8,7; Chuan d. Patrick Chila (FRA), 8,6,-9,13,-6,12; Kong d. Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL), -9,6,8,-9,11,-6,9; Samsonov d. Magnus Mansson (SWE), -9,5,9,-9,14,9; Wang Hao d. Danny Heister (NED), 8,7,7,3; Hou d. Liu Guozheng (CHN), 4,8,6,6; Schlager d. Koji Matsushita (JPN), 13,-7,12,8,-18,10.

**Men's Doubles – Final:** Ma Lin/Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Ma Wenge/Yan Sen (CHN), -9,5,9,8,7; **SF:** Ma/Kong d. Liu Guozheng/Wang Hao (CHN), 3,-9,9,10,9; Ma/Yan d. Dmitrij Mazunov/Alexei Smirnov (RUS), 6,7,8,-8,5; **QF:** Mazunov/Smirnov d. Lucjan Blaszczyk/Tomasz Krzeszewski (POL), 9,8,7,-10,-4,7; Ma/Yan d. Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth/Bastian Steger (GER), 5,9,9,6; Liu/Wang d. Danny Heister/Trinko Keen (NED), 8,5,-11,-15,7,-7,8; Ma/Kong d. Chuan Chih-Yuan/Zoran Primorac (TPE/CRO), -3,4,1,5,12.

**Women's Singles – Final:** Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Li Jia (CHN), 9,-6,3,-12,6,7; **SF:** Niu d. Fan Ying (CHN), 9,11,-8,-9,-8,6,9; Li Jia d. Aya Umemura (JPN), 10,9,3,8; **QF:** Li Jia d. Tamara Boros (CRO), 7,-7,8,5,8; Umemura d. Li Jia Wei (SIN), 1,8,9,6; Fan d. Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,8,-7,-8,7,11; Niu d. **Chang Jun Gao (USA)**, 7,9,6,13; **8ths:** Boros d. Ai Fujinuma (JPN), 8,3,7,5; Li Jia d. Galina Melnik (RUS), -6,2,8,9,12; Umemura d. Csilla Batorfi (HUN), 3,-10,8,4,3; Li Jia Wei d. Liu Jia (AUT), 5,10,5,-9,9; Fan d. Mihaela Steff (ROM), 5,7,10,7; Wang d. Jing Jun Hong (SIN), -8,8,-8,9,4,5; **Chang** d. Ni Xia Lian (LUX), 9,7,8,-4,-6,7; Niu d. Jie Schopp (GER), 7,-7,4,6,4.

**Women's Doubles – Final:** Li Jia/Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 8,5,8,9; **SF:** Guo/Li d. Csilla Batorfi/Krisztina Toth (HUN), -12,6,6,-11,8,6; Li/Niu d. Ai Fujinuma/Reiko Hiura (JPN), 8,7,9,10; **QF:** Guo/Li d. Jing Jun Hong/Li Jia Wei (SIN), 6,-7,9,5,6; Batorfi/Toth d. Olga Nemes/Jie Schopp (GER), 11,4,10,9; Li/Niu d. Fan Ying/Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,7,7,10; Fujinuma/Hiura d. Xu Yan/Zhang Xuelling (SIN), 5,10,-6,12,9.

## POLISH ITTF PRO TOUR

Warsaw, Poland · Nov. 14-17, 2002

**Men's Singles – Final:** Ma Lin (CHN) d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 9,8,11,9; **SF:** Ma d. Timo Boll (GER), 7,9,5,-11,8; Schlager d. Wang Liqin (CHN), -5,4,4,-4,-6,10,10; **QF:** Wang d. Danny Heister (NED), 4,-8,-12,4,6,8; Ma d. Tang Peng (CHN), 5,8,-5,6,-8,-13,6; Boll d. Alexei Smirnov (RUS), 8,7,-12,7,-9,6; Schlager d. Fedor Kuzmin (RUS), -7,9,-8,8,-7,7,9; **8ths:** Ma d. Bastian Steger (GER), 7,4,9,7; Tang d. Ferenc Papszy (HUN), -12,9,4,8,6; Smirnov d. Robert Gardos (AUT), 7,9,10,7; Boll d. Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth, 5,-2,4,-6,-6,6,11; Schlager d. Chen Weixing (AUT), 8,-9,7,7,8; Kuzmin d. Michael Maze (DEN), -4,8,8,11,-11,-9,9; Heister d. Eric Varin (FRA), 4,6,-12,-6,5,-10,8; Wang d. Torben Wosik (GER), 7,8,4,4.

**Men's Doubles – Final:** Wang Liqin/Qin Zhijian (CHN) d. Kong Linghui/Ma Lin (CHN), -5,7,6,-7,6,10; **SF:** Wang/Qin d. Danny Heister/Trinko Keen (NED), -13,11,-6,-5,11,6,8; Kong/Ma d. Lucjan Blaszczyk/Tomasz Krzeszewski (POL), 4,9,7,-9,7; **QF:** Kong/Ma d. Koji Sanada/Toshio Tasaki (JPN), 3,9,2,-8,5; Blaszczyk/Krzeszewski d. Michael Maze/Werner Schlager (DEN/AUT), -8,9,1,-9,3,5; Heister/Keen d. Chen Weixing/Alexei Smirnov (AUT/RUS), 2,-5,2,7,-9,2; Wang/Qin d. Timo Boll/Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth (GER), -9,9,-7,8,-7,5,9.

**Women's Singles – Final:** Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Guo Yan (CHN), -16,-10,-2,6,7,9,10; **SF:** Zhang Yining d. Lin Ling (HKG), 6,8,5,8; Guo Yan d. Guo Yue (CHN), -9,-7,-12,4,7,9,11; **QF:** Zhang Yining d. Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 9,8,4,4; Lin d. Otilia Badescu (ROM), 7,8,-9,6,-11,16; Guo Yan d. Mihaela Steff (ROM), 9,3,11,10; Guo Yue d. Zhang Rui (HKG), 8,-6,10,9,10; **8ths:** Zhang Yining d. Ai Fujinuma (JPN), 6,8,5,-7,9; Li Xiaoxia d. Elke Wosik (GER), 7,-10,3,11,7; Badescu d. Aya Umemura (JPN), 11,-6,-13,12,11,9; Lin d. Lau Sui Fei (HKG), 8,8,12,4; Guo Yan d. Li Nan (CHN), 4,6,8,-11,-12,7; Steff d. Cao Xingni (CHN), -9,4,7,6,5; Guo Yue d. Ryu Ji Hae (KOR), 4,-5,8,5,-9,5; Zhang Rui d. Tamara Boros (CRO), 9,-7,-8,6,3,5.

**Women's Doubles – Final:** Li Nan/Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 5,-7,7,-9,4,14; **SF:** Li/Zhang d. Tamara Boros/Mihaela Steff (CRO/ROM), -5,9,3,5,-10,-5,8; Guo/Li d. Nicole Struse/Elke Wosik (GER), 3,9,4,5; **QF:** Li/Zhang d. Ai Fujinuma/Reiko Hiura (JPN), -11,9,5,7,5; Boros/Steff d. Satoko Kishida/Aya Umemura (JPN), 12,-5,8,8,7; Guo/Li d. Otilia Badescu/Adriana Nastase (ROM), 5,-5,7,-6,-5,5,7; Struse/Wosik d. Miyuki Nishii/Yuka Nishii (JPN), 7,-12,-7,10,-3,10,8.

## DANISH ITTF PRO TOUR

Farum, Denmark · Nov. 21-24, 2002

**Men's Singles – Final:** Ma Lin (CHN) d. Timo Boll (GER), 6,7,10,7; **SF:** Ma d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 7,4,5,7; Boll d. Michael Maze (DEN), -9,7,10,1,6; **QF:** Ma d. Ryu Seung Min (KOR), 6,-7,6,-12,8,6; Schlager d. Peter Karlsson (SWE), -9,-9,8,6,3,-1,8; Boll d. Kong Linghui (CHN), 9,10,8,-6,4; Maze d. Jens Lundqvist (SWE), 9,-9,6,8,6; **8ths:** Ma d. Adrian Crisan (ROM), 4,4,4,-13,7; Ryu d. Toshio Tasaki (JPN), 5,9,6,6; Karlsson d. Bojan Tokic (SLO), 7,7,7,8; Schlager d. Slobodan Grujic (YUG), -8,1,11,-10,7,4; Boll d. Maksim Shmyryev (RUS), 2,9,-9,-9,3,8; Kong d. Wang Jianfeng (NOR), -6,5,10,3,1; Maze d. Danny Heister (NED), 5,-9,5,8,6; Lundqvist d. Magnus Molin (SWE), 7,7,8,5. **16ths upset:** Molin d. Wang Liqin (CHN), 9,6,8,-8,5.

**Men's Doubles – Final:** Wang Liqin/Qin Zhijian (CHN) d. Patrick Chila/Oh Sang Eun (FRA/KOR), -7,12,3,10,-11,-10,8; **SF:** Wang/Qin d. Lee Chul Seung (KOR); Chila/Oh d. Lucjan Blaszczyk/Tomasz Krzeszewski (POL), -4,10,8,-9,6,-7,4; **QF:** Blaszczyk/Krzeszewski d. Alfredo Carneros/Wang Jianfeng (ESP/NOR), 1,-5,10,7,6; Chila/Oh d. Jens Lundqvist/Magnus Molin (SWE), 12,11,5,10; Wang/Qin d. Damien Eloi/Christophe Legout (FRA), 6,-3,-12,5,8,5; Lee/Ryu d. Peter Nilsson/Mikael Zoogling (SWE), 10,-7,5,2,-8,2.

**Women's Singles – Final:** Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Guo Yan (CHN), -8,6,6,3,-9,5; **SF:** Zhang Yining d. Lin Ling (HKG), 7,3,7,8; Guo d. Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 8,-8,6,6,-8,7; **QF:** Li Xiaoxia d. Li Nan (CHN), 13,10,14,-7,-5,9; Zhang Yining d. Song Ah Sim (HKG), 2,5,7,8; Lin d. Mihaela Steff (ROM), 8,-9,4,-5,7,5; Guo d. Cao Xingni (CHN), 3,-9,5,7,-11,8; **8ths:** Zhang Yining d. Hirano Sayaka (JPN), 3,-9,3,7,5; Song d. Ryu Ji Hae (KOR), 9,4,9,6; Steff d. Kim Kyung Ah (KOR), 11,-3,-6,7,5,8; Lin d. Krisztina Toth (HUN), 3,5,9,5; Cao d. Tie Yana (HKG), -10,9,-9,11,6,9; Guo d. Zhang Rui (HKG), 15,9,6,4; Li Xiaoxia d. An Konishi (JPN), 7,7,-12,7,8; Li Nan d. Svetlana Ganina (RUS), 7,7,1,4.

**Women's Doubles – Final:** Zhang Yining/Li Nan (CHN) d. Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia (CHN), -6,9,9,9,-6,9; **SF:** Li/Zhang d. Ai Fujinuma/Reiko Hiura (JPN), 4,5,10,4; Gue/Li d. Nicole Struse/Elke Wosik (GER), 10,-8,6,-8,4,8; **QF:** Fujinuma/Hiura d. Oksana Fadeeva/Galina Melnik (RUS), -7,-7,9,10,8,5; Li/Zhang d. Lau Sui Fei/Tie Yana (HKG), 6,5,3,9; Guo/Li d. Csilla Batorfi/Krisztina Toth (HUN), 7,-2,6,6,-9,-8,10; Struse/Wosik d. An Konishi/Mikie Takahashi (JPN), 6,7,-

## 2 MUCH FUN GOLF & TABLE TENNIS!

Traverse City, Michigan · Aug. 24-25, 2002 · By Kevin H. Johnson

We emptied our coffers to pay expenses for Mark Hazinski, Ashu Jain and Ilija Lupulesku to fly to Traverse City and stay at an upscale resort on the Bay. The three did a free exhibition for the locals which was covered on local NBC TV, then Ilija reported not feeling well and defaulted his matches and went back to Chicago (I was truly disappointed but gave him a bag full of gags anyway).

In the final, Ashu and Mark treated us to a great five-game match in which Ashu emerged victorious, 9,-9,10,-8,7.

First prize was an arrow through the head, which Ashu let Mark try on. Both players shared the wealth of our appreciation which included, of course, rubber chickens, rattlesnake eggs, spilled coffee mugs, phony squirt ketchup and mustard bottles, fly in ice cube jokes, fake cigarette burns, car exhaust whistle gags and the shared grand prizes, **Hot Air Balloon Rides**. The two were taken aloft on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon, attaining an altitude of 3,500', where Ashu experimented with the acceleration of gravity, using 40mm TT balls. Ashu timed the decent and reported it took a full minute to hit the ground (my calculation yields average mph of about 40) the fourth ball hit someone's roof whereupon the balloon captain halted further testing!

The golf portion had Ashu on the links for his first experience. I've instructed many beginners on the practice range, and with Ashu's "other physical skills," one would have thought that he'd at least make contact with the ball in his first five swings, but no ... Mark, who possesses a silky-smooth and effective golf swing, refrained from making fun of his fellow Team Killerspin member and just watched bemusedly as the sweat flowed from Ashu's bewildered body.

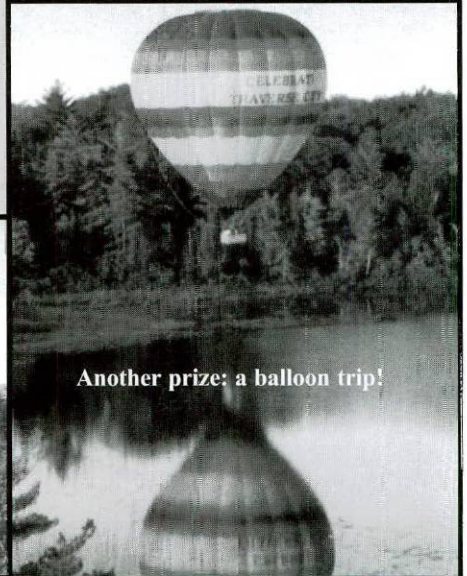
Ashu, however, had the last laugh, as I'd given him an exploding golf ball with which he made perfect contact on the 1st tee. When the dust was settling we were entertained by Mark's raucous laughter of shock and delight.

The two also enjoyed jet skiing on Grand Traverse Bay and took home several boxes of Traverse City's mainstay, fudge.

Ashu's ball "explodes" as Mark looks on.



Mark Hazinski & Ashu Jain with some prizes.



Another prize: a balloon trip!

## ACUI 2003 ACUI Regional Collegiate Championships

<p><b>Region 1</b> Fitchburg State College February 22, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Dennis Proulx, Region 1 Recreation Chair <a href="mailto:dproulx@landmark.edu">dproulx@landmark.edu</a> 802-387-6820 <b>Includes:</b> CT, ME, MA, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, NH, Nova Scotia, RI, VT, Prince Edward Island</p>	<p><b>Region 4</b> University of Maryland Eastern Shore February 7-8, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Matt Ducatt, Recreation Coordinator 301-867-4151 <a href="mailto:mducatt@frostburg.edu">mducatt@frostburg.edu</a> <b>Includes</b> MD, PA, DC, WV</p>	<p><b>Region 7</b> University of Toledo February 15-16, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Dave W. Timmann 610-436 2984 <a href="mailto:dtimmann@wcupa.edu">dtimmann@wcupa.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> OH, MI (lower Peninsula) and South Western Ontario</p>	<p>For information on your region, contact the person below. If you aren't sure of your region, contact the one that seems closest, or National Coordinator Hank McCoullum.</p>	<p><b>National Coordinator</b> Hank McCoullum Penn State University 428 Thomas Building University Park, PA 16802 814-863-0285 <a href="mailto:hwm1@psu.edu">hwm1@psu.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Region 2 - TBA</b> <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:region2@acuiweb.org">region2@acuiweb.org</a> <b>Includes:</b> Eastern Ontario, NY and Quebec</p>	<p><b>Region 5</b> Clemson University February 21-23, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Rich Thompson, Recreation Coordinator 757-221-3432 <a href="mailto:rmtho2@wm.edu">rmtho2@wm.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> KY, NC, SC, TN, VA</p>	<p><b>Region 8</b> University of Wisconsin-Madison February 21-22, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Dan Abler 414-288-7202 <a href="mailto:Daniel.Abler@Marquette.edu">Daniel.Abler@Marquette.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> Chicago Metro Area, MI (Upper Peninsula) and WI</p>	<p><b>Region 10</b> Minnesota State University Mankat February 7-9, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> John Alcorn 507-537-7330 <a href="mailto:alcornj@southwest.msus.edu">alcornj@southwest.msus.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> IA, Manitoba, MN, ND, SD and Western Ontario</p>	<p><b>Region 13</b> Weber State University February 20-22, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:region13@acuiweb.org">region13@acuiweb.org</a> <b>Includes:</b> AZ, CO, NM, UT and WY</p>
<p><b>Region 3</b> New Jersey Institute of Technology February 15, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Glenroy Shelton, Recreation Coordinator 973-877-1926 <a href="mailto:shelton@essex.edu">shelton@essex.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> DE, NJ, New York City and Philadelphia</p>	<p><b>Region 6</b> University of Georgia February 7-8, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Greg Albanese 706-542-8541 <a href="mailto:albanese@uga.edu">albanese@uga.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> AL, FL, GA, MS, PR and Bermuda</p>	<p><b>Region 9</b> University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign February 14-16, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Brian Peacha 765-494-8990 <a href="mailto:bkpeacha@purdue.edu">bkpeacha@purdue.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> IL (excluding Chicago Metro Area), IN</p>	<p><b>Region 11</b> Kansas State University February 8-9, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Sujit Chemburkar 660-543-4342 <a href="mailto:chemburkar@cmsu1.cmsu.edu">chemburkar@cmsu1.cmsu.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> KS, MS, NE and OK</p>	<p><b>Region 14</b> University of Washington February 21-22, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Rick Sedgwick 503-838-8513 <b>Includes:</b> AK, Alberta, British Columbia, ID, MT, OR, Saskatchewan, and WA</p>
			<p><b>Region 12</b> Southwest Texas State Univ. February 21-23 <b>Contact:</b> Nevil Shed 210-458-7365 <b>Includes</b> AR, LA, TX</p>	<p><b>Region 15</b> Fresno State University February 21-23, 2003 <b>Contact:</b> Scott Poddig 714-278-5855 <a href="mailto:spoddig@fullerton.edu">spoddig@fullerton.edu</a> <b>Includes:</b> CA, Guam, HI and NV</p>

## In Memoriam:

# W.C. Cleveland

(July 31, 1937 – Sept. 5, 2002)

By Ralph Presley

When I first heard that "Mr. Cleve" had passed away, I thought USATT had lost a gallant volunteer. Second Peter: Chapter 1: verse 5 and 6 reads:

*"And Beside this, giving all Diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge."*

*"And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness."*

In these original words is the way that I describe Mr. Cleve. He was a patient man when it came to youths. He was a diligent man when it came to kids. He was a Godly man. He loved his family. He loved his wife. He loved his daughter. He loved his son. He loved to bowl. He loved table tennis. He always had patience when it came to helping others. He would always have a kind word to say when the youths were doing well. But he would never criticize the youths when they would not do well.

The youths will miss that smile of his. It is hard to believe he is gone. I can't believe that he is gone. The youths are waiting for him to give them a call so that they can come to Coan Park to play table tennis. That call will never come.

Mr. Cleve was not a great man. He did not want to save the world. He did not want to save the whales. He did not want to change mankind. All he wanted to do was to help the youths. Mr. Cleve was just a good man.

We would travel together over the eastern United States taking youths to table tennis tournaments. He would always have encouraging words for the kids.

All of the youths respected him. They would call him Mr. Cleve; just like saying Dad. His table tennis members would always nominate him to be the leader or the president to help organize. We have lost a very important member of our society. All his peers respected him.

When Mr. Cleve went to the state prison for a table tennis demonstration, one of his former players was there. He was ashamed to know that a young person who he had trained was in jail. That is the type of person that Mr. Cleve was. Mr. Cleve was always concerned about the next man.

I last remembered him at the 8th District Sports Festival. That Festival really brought a smile to his face and he was happy to be with his family and the kids. I know it was special because one of his youngest recruits won his first medal.

Mr. Cleve is not gone. He has just gotten

a promotion. I know that his promotion is with our Lord. I would like to take this promotion to finish what he wanted to start. A week before he died, he told me that he was not going to run a tournament that he had run for the past 15 years to raise money for local youths. I thought that he was just tired. I did not know that he was going home. We have a personal angel to watch over us at all times now. He cannot be gone if we always keep him in our hearts. But in the meantime, Mr. Cleve has left a big hole in my heart. Mr. Cleve has left a big hole in a lot of People's hearts. Mr. Cleve cannot be gone. But he has gone away. I won't say good-bye. I will just say so long, Mr. Cleve.

Mr. William Charles Cleveland began his life July 31, 1937, in Ben Hill, Ga. to the late Sadie B. Wilson Cleveland of Atlanta and Myron Cleveland of Detroit, MI.

The Lord called him on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2002, after he rolled his first bowling ball, which was a strike to heaven. In celebration of life Mr. Cleveland will be forever cherished by his loving and devoted wife of 37 good years. Mr. Cleveland leaves behind his wife, one daughter and one son. They were married in 1964. Mr. Cleve had a smile on his face, because he knew he had a good wife, Jeanette.

Mr. Cleve graduated from South Futon High School in 1955. He furthered his education at Clark College in Atlanta. After college, he served in the United States Army

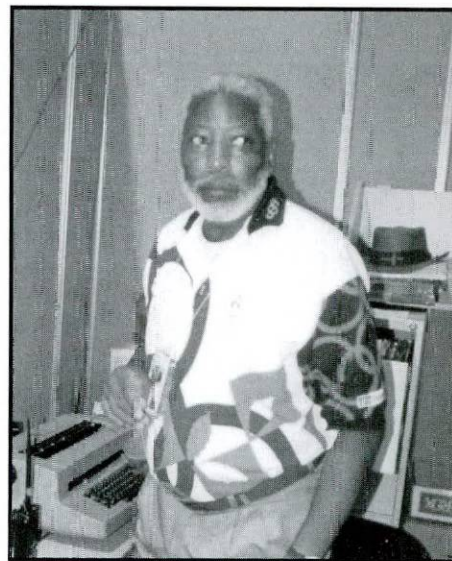


Photo by Richard McAfee ©2002

where he received an honorable discharge. In 1963 Mr. Cleve went to work at Ford motor company where he began to play table tennis. Mr. Cleve received numerous awards and recognition. Mr. Cleve started as a player; however, that was not enough, and he had to get more people involved, so he organized tournaments for adults and children throughout the states. He was definitely an inspiration to everyone at the recreation centers.

All who knew him loved Mr. Cleve and he will be missed, but he will remain in our hearts forever.

## 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**

# U S A T T N a t i o n a l R a n k i n g s

## TOP MEN

1. IL 2738 Lupulesku, Ilija
2. NJ 2724 Zhuang, David
3. MD 2713 Cheng, Yinghua
4. TX 2707 Owens, Eric
5. CA 2677 Turbok, Attila
6. TX 2626 Butler, Jim
7. NY 2593 Musa, Atanda
8. CA 2589 Nguyen, Khoa
9. NY 2583 Oyebode, Michael
10. IN 2582 Hazinski, Mark
11. IN 2574 Cretu, Razvan
12. IL 2555 Drinic, Sasa
13. NY 2551 Wang, Fei
14. NY 2540 Shao, Yu
14. IL 2540 Shiu, Arturo Pang
16. GA 2531 Hyatt, Michael
17. NY 2521 Fernandez, David
18. IL 2515 Jain, Ashu
19. IN 2509 Seemiller, Daniel
20. VA 2499 O'Neill, Sean
21. CA 2491 Roberts, Courtney
22. NY 2488 Ekun, Abass
23. MD 2481 Xiao, Han
24. NY 2470 Aronov, Nison
25. WA 2469 Mirafior, Peter
26. MD 2466 Pace, Brian
27. PR 2460 Revelles, Juan
28. NY 2454 Leibovitz, Tahl
29. NY 2445 Perez, Alexis
30. NJ 2438 Hugh, Adam
31. NY 2435 Tse, Ka Chun
32. GA 2432 Evans, Keith
33. PR 2410 Coste, Santiago
34. NY 2409 Tran, De
35. TX 2405 Oshodi, Taju
36. TX 2403 Wang, David
37. GA 2402 Peng, Xin
38. TN 2397 Tey, Tai Long
38. CA 2397 Wu, Wei Yang
40. NY 2388 Lewis, Idi

## TOP WOMEN

1. NY 2507 Wang, Chen
2. CA 2459 Banh, Tawny
3. TX 2409 Reed, Jasna
4. NJ 2362 Yip, Lily
5. OR 2329 Yang, Simone
6. NY 2293 Sung, Virginia
7. CA 2254 Moseley, Kibibi
8. CA 2245 Lee, Jacqueline
9. OR 2237 Ping, Whitney
10. MD 2172 Wu, Katherine
11. PR 2145 Garcia, Enerys
12. MA 2135 Chui, Jane Hone
13. NJ 2133 Hugh, Judy
14. MA 2101 Kabaeva, Anna
15. NY 2094 Yi, Sophia Dan Dan
16. KS 2005 Xiao, Laura
17. NC 1997 Mun, Hye-Sook
18. VA 1994 Kwok, Elaine
19. FL 1988 Wronska, Beata
20. WA 1981 Lei, Lani
20. MD 1981 Liu, Charlene
22. CA 1960 Birioukova, Victoria
23. CO 1948 Leach, Laura
24. VA 1924 Wang, Chao
25. NY 1919 Panich, Svetlana
26. MD 1918 Wei, Barbara
27. TX 1913 Roufeh, Mahin
28. NM 1906 Gresham, Toni M.
29. CA 1891 Seibel, Allison
30. NJ 1878 Cheung, Wan Yee
31. NY 1874 Chiu, Felicia
32. CA 1867 Fong, Atha
33. PR 1864 Rosario, Sarida
34. CA 1856 Livshin, Bella
35. NJ 1844 Alvarez, Ann
36. GA 1835 Goh, Sue May
37. PR 1834 Melendez, Darilyn
38. GA 1822 Kuye, Moji
39. FL 1814 Zheng, Sarah
40. CT 1805 Chimoto, Fumi



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### Tournaments Processed

This list was compiled on 12/9/02 and includes all tournaments played through 10/13/02. Ages are as of 1/1/03. **Due to space limitations, only current members who have played since 8/1/02 are included.** This document may not be reproduced without prior written permission of USA Table Tennis. Copyright 2003.

### Ratings Questions?

All ratings-related questions should be directed to Felisa Huggins, 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](mailto:ratings@usatt.org).

### Tournaments Included in Ratings

Keystone State Games	San Francisco Summer Open	Stiga Cary Fall Open	Arkansas Open
Colorado State Games	2 Much Fun!!	Stiga World Sept Open	Biggest Little Reno-Sparks TTT
Piedmont TT Open	Glenview Class - Age Grp	Utah State TTC	NJTTC October Open
South Bend Open	Maryland Giant RR	BCC September Open	Piedmont TT Open
AAU Jr Olympics/Jr Nationals	California Open	Glenview Fall Open	Three Rivers Fall RR
2002 Indianapolis Summer Open	Davison August Giant RR	Matthew Murad Mem Open	Huntsman World Senior Games
Boston August Open	Florida State Closed	Sacramento Sept. Open	17th Annual Bernard Hock Open
Maryland Circuit	Spinmania 2002	Maryland Giant RR	Fox Valley Open
Tallgrass Prairie Open	Back to School Open	Pacific Coast Open	Maryland Circuit
11th Annual Decatur Open	Piedmont TT Open	September Open	NW Fall Giant RR
Fox Valley Open	Boston September Open	Willoughby Hill Giant RR Open	Stiga World TTC October Open
Macy Block Open	Maryland Circuit	2002 New York State Closed	

**OVER 30 MEN**

- IL 2738 Lupulesku, Ilija
- NJ 2724 Zhuang, David
- MD 2713 Cheng, Yinghua
- CA 2677 Turbok, Attila
- TX 2626 Butler, Jim
- NY 2593 Musa, Atanda
- CA 2589 Nguyen, Khoa Dinh
- NY 2583 Oyeboode, Michael
- NY 2540 Shao, Yu
- GA 2531 Hyatt, Michael
- IN 2509 Seemiller, Daniel
- VA 2499 O'Neill, Sean Patrick
- NY 2488 Ekun, Abass
- NY 2470 Aronov, Nison
- MD 2466 Pace, Brian

**OVER 40 MEN**

- NJ 2724 Zhuang, David
- MD 2713 Cheng, Yinghua
- NY 2593 Musa, Atanda
- IN 2509 Seemiller, Daniel
- NY 2488 Ekun, Abass
- GA 2432 Evans, Keith
- NY 2409 Tran, De
- TX 2405 Oshodi, Taju
- GA 2402 Peng, Xin
- VA 2387 Seemiller, Richard
- CA 2384 Malek, Attila
- CO 2365 Mendez, Francisco J
- NJ 2346 Dattel, Barry
- PA 2331 Seemiller, Randy Lee
- NY 2322 Berger, Steve

**OVER 50 MEN**

- GA 2402 Peng, Xin
- CA 2384 Malek, Attila
- IN 2224 Hicks, H. Richard
- PA 2221 Mojaverian, Parviz
- TX 2221 Pang, Chian
- CA 2214 Chen, Peter
- MA 2194 Hlava, Jiri R.
- FL 2172 Chu, Bin Hai
- PA 2172 McCoillum, Henry
- IL 2165 Gutierrez, Antonio
- MN 2162 Luu, Duc
- NY 2144 Brathwaite, George
- CA 2143 Araki, Suguru M.
- NY 2141 Zaleskiy, Oleg
- NJ 2137 Shtofmakher, Simon

**OVER 60 MEN**

- IN 2224 Hicks, H. Richard
- CA 2214 Chen, Peter
- NY 2144 Brathwaite, George
- CA 2036 Hashimoto, Ichiro
- NY 2011 Chao, George
- MO 2003 Hendry, George J.
- CA 1980 VonSchimmelmann, Ron
- NY 1966 Ro, Kuang-Hsiung
- NY 1945 Boggan, Tim
- NJ 1939 Kuklakis, Mike
- CA 1937 Bass, Norman
- TX 1924 Gordon, Grady Cox
- IL 1924 Madrigal, Primo O.
- FL 1907 Smith, Lynwood J.
- PA 1901 Hawkins, James Earl

**OVER 70 MEN**

- MO 2003 Hendry, George J.
- NY 1945 Boggan, Tim
- TX 1924 Gordon, Grady Cox
- FL 1907 Smith, Lynwood J.
- MA 1892 Dwelly, Frank
- OH 1866 Myers, Neil
- TN 1865 Neely, Bill
- IN 1766 Boyle Sr., John Thomas
- MD 1757 Chen, Raymond F.
- CA 1730 Suran, Frank
- CA 1729 Smyth, Cornelius E.
- MO 1728 Sokol, Stanley W.
- MO 1727 Klutho, Thomas J.
- WI 1709 Peregrine, Dick
- PA 1697 Dickson Jr., David C.

**OVER 30 WOMEN**

- TX 2409 Reed, Jasna
- NJ 2362 Yip, Lily
- OR 2329 Yang, Simone
- NC 1997 Mun, Hye-Sook Brenda
- MD 1981 Liu, Charlene Xiaoying
- TX 1913 Roufeh, Mahin
- NM 1906 Gresham, Toni M.
- NJ 1878 Cheung, Wan Yee
- PR 1864 Rosario, Sarida
- CA 1856 Livshin, Bella
- NJ 1844 Alvarez, Ann
- GA 1835 Goh, Sue May
- GA 1822 Kuye, Moji
- CT 1805 Chimoto, Fumi
- IN 1803 Artman, Hong

**OVER 40 WOMEN**

- NJ 2362 Yip, Lily
- OR 2329 Yang, Simone
- MD 1981 Liu, Charlene Xiaoying
- TX 1913 Roufeh, Mahin
- NJ 1878 Cheung, Wan Yee
- PR 1864 Rosario, Sarida
- CA 1856 Livshin, Bella
- NJ 1844 Alvarez, Ann
- GA 1822 Kuye, Moji
- FL 1799 Sanders, Suzanna
- VA 1795 Kaminsky, Barbara
- CA 1780 Ren, Ying
- FL 1747 Andrzejewska, Danuta
- CA 1724 Ikuno, Junko
- MD 1709 Sakai, Donna

**OVER 50 WOMEN**

- MD 1981 Liu, Charlene Xiaoying
- TX 1913 Roufeh, Mahin
- NJ 1878 Cheung, Wan Yee
- CA 1856 Livshin, Bella
- NJ 1844 Alvarez, Ann
- FL 1799 Sanders, Suzanna
- VA 1795 Kaminsky, Barbara
- FL 1747 Andrzejewska, Danuta
- MD 1709 Sakai, Donna
- IL 1688 Popiel, Barbara
- MD 1555 Kronlage, Yvonne M.
- CO 1474 Mracek, Nancy E.
- CA 1465 Pao, Pei-Lin
- NC 1460 Salzgeber, Susan
- CA 1449 Jessup, Kuniko

**OVER 60 WOMEN**

- NJ 1844 Alvarez, Ann
- FL 1799 Sanders, Suzanna
- VA 1795 Kaminsky, Barbara
- FL 1747 Andrzejewska, Danuta
- MD 1555 Kronlage, Yvonne M.
- NJ 1398 Miller, Joyce
- CA 1384 Borisova, Irina
- OH 1253 Fish, Anne
- CA 1231 Quon, Harriet
- NY 1156 Kendall, Gail
- CA 1136 King, Sachiyo
- TN 1099 Rutherford, Mary
- NY 1094 Amoury, Gloria
- CA 1091 Brin, Harriet R.
- MN 1076 Leung, Helen

**OVER 70 WOMEN**

- NJ 1398 Miller, Joyce
- CA 1136 King, Sachiyo
- NY 1094 Amoury, Gloria
- CA 1091 Brin, Harriet R.
- TX 946 Thomas, Patricia L.
- TX 790 Krellwitz, Ilse
- FL 710 Loewy, Ruth
- MD 606 Sachs, Genie
- MD 549 Kostkowski, Betty

**George Hendry of Missouri  
... tops in Over 70, 75 & 80!**

**UNDER 18 GIRLS**

- CA 2245 Lee, Jacqueline
- OR 2237 Ping, Whitney
- MD 2172 Wu, Katherine
- NJ 2133 Hugh, Judy
- NY 2094 Yi, Sophia Dan Dan
- KS 2005 Xiao, Laura
- VA 1994 Kwok, Elaine
- WA 1981 Lei, Lani
- CA 1960 Birioukova, Victoria
- CO 1948 Leach, Laura
- VA 1924 Wang, Chao
- GA 1918 Wei, Barbara
- CA 1891 Seibel, Allison
- NY 1874 Chiu, Felicia
- CA 1867 Fong, Atha

**UNDER 16 GIRLS**

- NJ 2133 Hugh, Judy
- NY 2094 Yi, Sophia Dan Dan
- KS 2005 Xiao, Laura
- WA 1981 Lei, Lani
- MD 1918 Wei, Barbara
- CA 1867 Fong, Atha
- PR 1834 Melendez, Darilyn
- FL 1814 Zheng, Sarah
- MD 1777 Wu, Rita
- CA 1776 Nguyen, Minh Thanh
- CA 1771 Birioukova, Veronika
- CA 1771 Eav, Wendy
- MI 1763 Petroj, Vanesa
- OH 1748 Mast, Jennifer Mae
- NY 1640 Ma, Karen

**UNDER 14 GIRLS**

- NJ 2133 Hugh, Judy
- MD 1918 Wei, Barbara
- CA 1867 Fong, Atha
- FL 1814 Zheng, Sarah
- MD 1777 Wu, Rita
- CA 1771 Birioukova, Veronika
- OH 1748 Mast, Jennifer Mae
- FL 1624 Li, Diana
- NY 1374 Lisova, Julia
- CA 1297 Lee, Colleen
- FL 1199 Huang, Amy
- PR 1177 De Jesus, Coraliz M.
- NJ 1127 Shih, Stephanie
- PA 1027 Balogh, Tundi
- PR 961 Gonzalez, Cynthia

**UNDER 12 GIRLS**

- FL 1199 Huang, Amy
- PR 961 Gonzalez, Cynthia
- MO 953 Gusov, Esther
- FL 947 Lin, Andrea
- VA 930 Li, Linden
- IL 899 Lupulesku, Anelia
- MD 886 Lan, Janice
- CA 661 Wei, Alicia
- FL 559 Chen, Michelle
- MA 524 Wu, Alison
- MA 471 Huo, Adelina
- CO 447 Lianza, Kristi
- FL 432 Ferro, Genesis
- CA 393 Isales, Ana
- NY 378 Chertkova, Regina

**UNDER 10 GIRLS**

- FL 947 Lin, Andrea
- IL 899 Lupulesku, Anelia
- FL 559 Chen, Michelle
- MD 345 Huang, Victoria
- FL 218 Lam, Adrian
- CA 90 Chan, Lone
- OR 85 Wilson, Kiani

**UNDER 18 BOYS**

- IN 2582 Hazinski, Mark
- MD 2481 Xiao, Han
- NJ 2438 Hugh, Adam
- NY 2435 Tse, Ka Chun
- PR 2410 Coste, Santiago
- CA 2351 Kazantsev, Misha
- TX 2262 Lamb, Howard
- CA 2249 Malek, Auria
- PR 2216 Fonollosa, Allen
- PR 2194 Berrios, Hector
- MA 2152 Wang, Yin
- MD 2148 Asgarali, Khaleel
- WA 2133 Lei, Oliver
- FL 2130 McLeod, Casey
- MN 2124 Podvin, Joseph

**UNDER 16 BOYS**

- NJ 2438 Hugh, Adam
- CA 2351 Kazantsev, Misha
- PR 2216 Fonollosa, Allen
- WA 2133 Lei, Oliver
- NJ 2074 Finkelstein, Eric
- MD 2053 Xu, Yao
- CO 2005 Leach, John
- CA 2003 Gutkin, Sergy
- IL 1988 Lupulesku, Lorencio
- NY 1976 Carney, A.J.
- MD 1943 Nadmichettu, Raghu
- CA 1905 Runyan, Trevor
- FL 1869 Lin, Andrew
- CA 1856 Phung, Kevin
- IN 1855 Cochran, Joseph

**UNDER 14 BOYS**

- CO 2005 Leach, John
- CA 2003 Gutkin, Sergy
- IL 1988 Lupulesku, Lorencio
- FL 1869 Lin, Andrew
- IN 1855 Cochran, Joseph
- CA 1816 Ho, Danny
- MD 1804 Jackson, Marcus
- NJ 1764 Fang, Alden
- OH 1744 Mast, Michael
- MD 1677 Ma, Kevin
- PR 1667 Rivera, Elvin A.
- MD 1664 Wang, Joseph
- NJ 1660 Chien, Taiyee
- MN 1646 Curran, Nathaniel
- GA 1645 Chin, Preston

**UNDER 12 BOYS**

- MD 1804 Jackson, Marcus
- OH 1744 Mast, Michael
- MD 1677 Ma, Kevin
- MD 1664 Wang, Joseph
- GA 1645 Chin, Preston
- TN 1624 Lane, Shelby
- FL 1602 McLeod, Collin
- CA 1466 Alto, Don James
- NC 1441 Peres-da-Silva, Ashwin
- CA 1422 Huang, Lin Jeff
- FL 1410 Lam, Brian
- MD 1379 Li, Peter
- MD 1370 Sahu, Amaresh
- CA 1339 Chen, Jonathan Y.
- PR 1272 De Jesus, Edgard H.

**UNDER 10 BOYS**

- MD 1379 Li, Peter
- VA 1190 Ning, Vincent
- CA 1087 Plake, Anthon
- MO 1044 Yao, Justen
- VA 992 Li, Janiel
- IN 987 Brewer, A.J.
- MD 981 Sun, Charlie
- NJ 949 Fang, Wesley
- CA 890 Law, Alexandre
- CA 787 Liu, Eric
- CO 781 Preiss, Austin
- CA 780 Flores, David
- NY 759 Lalvani, Pauly
- FL 726 Wong, Andrew
- NJ 659 Tang, Da

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**UNDER 22 MEN**

- IN 2582 Hazinski, Mark
- IL 2540 Shiu, Arturo Pang
- MD 2481 Xiao, Han
- NJ 2438 Hugh, Adam
- NY 2435 Tse, Ka Chun
- PR 2410 Coste, Santiago
- TX 2403 Wang, Jiachen David
- CA 2351 Kazantsev, Misha
- PR 2334 Fort, Carlos
- OH 2297 Dubina, Samson
- IN 2273 Lynch, Jared
- TX 2262 Lamb, Howard
- PR 2258 Colon, Abner
- CA 2249 Malek, Auria
- CA 2249 Umel Jr., David

**UNDER 22 WOMEN**

- CA 2245 Lee, Jacqueline
- OR 2237 Ping, Whitney
- MD 2172 Wu, Katherine
- NJ 2133 Hugh, Judy
- NY 2094 Yi, Sophia Dan Dan
- KS 2005 Xiao, Laura
- VA 1994 Kwok, Elaine
- WA 1981 Lei, Lani
- CA 1960 Birioukova, Victoria
- CO 1948 Leach, Laura
- VA 1924 Wang, Chao
- MD 1918 Wei, Barbara
- CA 1891 Seibel, Allison
- NY 1874 Chiu, Felicia
- CA 1867 Fong, Atha

**OVER 75 MEN**

- MO 2003 Hendry, George J.
- TX 1924 Gordon, Grady Cox
- MA 1892 Dwelly, Frank
- CA 1729 Smyth, Cornelius E.
- PA 1697 Dickson Jr., David C.
- FL 1674 Baltrus, Joe M.
- PA 1624 Marcuson, Bill
- OH 1614 Radzeii, Louis
- TX 1613 Chase, Arthur B.
- CA 1572 Butler, Wiley M.
- CA 1515 Wasserman, Si
- NY 1474 Cohen, Sidney
- MO 1447 Klotzer, Charles
- CA 1412 Egel, Leo
- MD 1336 Kostkowski, Henry J.

**OVER 80**

- MO 2003 Hendry, George J.
- MA 1892 Dwelly, Frank
- FL 1674 Baltrus, Joe M.
- PA 1624 Marcuson, Bill
- OH 1614 Radzeii, Louis
- TX 1613 Chase, Arthur B.
- CA 1515 Wasserman, Si
- NY 1474 Cohen, Sidney
- CA 1412 Egel, Leo
- TX 1327 Walton, Ira L.
- CA 1303 Borges, Fred W.
- PA 1284 Wetzler, Warren
- TX 1116 Seifert, Robert
- MA 1067 Reme, Wilbert
- TX 974 Epstein, Herb





NY 1073 De Frutos, Javier  
 PR 1177 De Jesus, Coraliz M.  
 PR 1272 De Jesus, Edgard H.  
 CA 1486 DeBelling, Warren  
 TX 882 DeCoste, Derek  
 TX 1049 DeCoste, Jay  
 NY 997 DeFlorimonte, Charles  
 CT 2177 DeWitt, Richard  
 OH 1167 DeWitt, Robert  
 MD 1493 Deb, Sujoy  
 MN 899 Degendorfer, Terry  
 CA 1730 Dehdashti, Massoud  
 CT 1816 Dekhne, Ashutosh  
 TX 1653 Dela Rosa, Faustino  
 AR 699 Dell, Adam  
 AR 1414 Dell, Brad  
 AR 1167 Dell, Drew  
 DE 1877 Dell, Gregory A.  
 CA 499 Demartini, Cliff  
 CA 1658 Demoz, Petros Iyasu  
 MA 1011 Deng, Ai Hong  
 OH 760 Dennison, Roger  
 OH 1181 Dennison, Shane  
 PA 1211 Denny, John M.  
 MA 767 Desai, Amar  
 MA 249 Desai, Roma  
 MA 1402 Desai, Sapan  
 PA 1393 Desiderio, Scott  
 GA 1639 Despathy, Matt  
 TX 1878 Devereaux, Wally  
 IL 1436 Dhanani, Adil  
 IL 1172 Dhanani, Adnan  
 NY 757 Di Costanzo, Mark  
 CA 898 Diaz, Jose  
 PA 1697 Dickson Jr., David C.  
 PA 1647 Dickson, Roger  
 NY 1754 Dickson, Wayne  
 OR 1005 Dietrich, Otto  
 GA 1457 Dillon, Wendell  
 PA 1389 Dimity Dikman  
 GA 801 Ding, Di  
 CT 1891 Ding, Tao  
 AR 1596 Ding, Yijun  
 CA 2227 Dinh, Tri H.  
 MA 1502 Dittmer, Ulf  
 CA 1805 Dixon, John  
 OR 112 Djeifroud, Katherine  
 WA 1488 Doben, Nick  
 MD 1167 Doctolero, Jerry  
 TX 1458 Döllinger, Henry  
 CA 1864 Dong, Guang-Kui  
 SC 1473 Dorman, Mike  
 TX 1632 Dorrell, Jimmy M.  
 PA 1488 Dosunmu, Adewale Wally  
 IL 1819 Douglass, Bob  
 OR 1115 Doumitt, Paul N.  
 MD 1468 Dowell, Adam  
 MD 1521 Dowell, Benjamin  
 CA 1024 Drake, Millie  
 WA 1484 Drake, Terry  
 MD 881 Drazin, Sam  
 CA 1145 Drezler, Loch  
 MO 1335 Dressel, Dale  
 IL 2555 Drinic, Sasa  
 TX 1399 Drissel, Bill  
 SC 1819 Drolet, Ron W.  
 SC 1869 Drolet, Joey A.  
 NJ 1197 Drych, Roman  
 WI 1264 Drygalski, Edward  
 MD 2135 Duan, Changping  
 MD 2129 Duan, James T.  
 FL 2213 Duarte, Jose  
 OH 1738 Dubina, Amanda  
 OH 2297 Dubina, Samson  
 OH 843 Dubina, Samuel  
 SC 1758 Dukess, Kenneth M.  
 SC 1635 Dukess, Ryan  
 NC 1052 Dulin, John Philip  
 FL 1664 Duncan, Conrad  
 MI 1214 Dunlap, Fred  
 CA 2101 Duong, Khanh  
 CA 1348 Duongha, Lieu  
 FL 1243 Durbin, William  
 KY 1305 Duvall, Alan  
 NY 1018 Dweck, Jay  
 MA 1892 Dweilly, Frank  
 SC 1785 Dye, Doyle  
 IN 2042 Earls, Chris  
 FL 1487 Easter, Eric  
 CA 1771 Eav, Wendy  
 CA 1463 Ebadypour, Farhang  
 IN 895 Ebert, Mark A.  
 NY 1458 Edelstein, Chaim  
 GA 353 Edmondson, Eric  
 GA 112 Edmondson, Weston  
 NY 1797 Edwards, Raymond  
 CA 1412 Egel, Leo  
 PA 1071 Egri, Gerhard K.  
 IN 1576 Ehlers, Aaron S.  
 MN 2176 Eider, Cory  
 PA 2099 Eisle, Eric  
 OH 1552 Eje, David  
 NY 2488 Ekan, Abass  
 IL 841 Elizondo, Antonio  
 MN 1731 Elliott, David  
 TN 1687 Ellis, Allyson  
 PA 1649 Elson, Harold  
 TX 1695 Elston, Meredith  
 NY 2199 Embleton, Shawn  
 MI 2114 Endicott, Scott

CA 1258 Enebish, Munkhbilg  
 WA 1098 Eng, Christopher J.  
 IL 1640 Enuenwosu, Ndidi  
 NJ 1646 Enz, Nicholas  
 PA 1602 Eppley, John A.  
 TX 974 Epstein, Herb  
 NC 1594 Erhard, Barney  
 PA 1652 Espino, Michael  
 NY 1355 Esterlis, Jan  
 FL 1951 Estrada Jr., Carlos  
 FL 1933 Estrada, Carlos I.  
 MD 493 Estupinan, Danny  
 NJ 945 Eugene, Andy  
 NJ 1477 Eugene, Lyonnal W.  
 WV 1690 Evans, Dick  
 GA 997 Evans, Johnese  
 GA 2432 Evans, Keith  
 MD 1227 Evans, Warren  
 NY 1316 Fabisevich, Boris  
 CA 1531 Faccini, Matthew  
 CA 1894 Fahlstrom, Ragnar  
 KY 1820 Fakharpour, Babak  
 AR 1385 Falco, John  
 PA 1490 Falcone, Anthony  
 CA 1677 Falcoff, Waqidi  
 FL 1199 Falke, Stanley  
 MD 1939 Fan, Charles C.  
 NY 1418 Fan, Chenggong Charles  
 NJ 1764 Fang, Alden  
 TX 2088 Fang, George C.  
 NJ 1234 Fang, San-Chin  
 NJ 949 Fang, Wesley  
 CA 2052 Farah, Kamal G.  
 NJ 1845 Farkas, Brian  
 MS 1491 Farris Jr., Tom  
 NJ 1144 Fasman, Ilya  
 IL 1843 Favis, Rafael  
 FL 2064 Federico, Steve  
 MD 1629 Feldsher, Emil  
 PA 1456 Felices, Gregg  
 PR 1582 Feliciano Vazquez, Melissa  
 CT 1873 Feltenberger, Donald  
 NY 1405 Feltman, Michael  
 CA 1999 Felton, Alex  
 CA 1355 Feng, Dai  
 KY 1467 Ferguson, David Royce  
 CA 1195 Ferguson, Don  
 FL 711 Ferguson, Zach  
 NY 2521 Fernandez, David  
 CA 1230 Ferrer, James A.  
 FL 960 Ferrer, Luis M. Jr.  
 ME 1368 Ferriero, Paul  
 FL 399 Ferro, Caleb  
 FL 432 Ferro, Genesis  
 FL 1177 Fincher, Billy  
 NJ 2074 Finkelstein, Eric  
 OH 1786 Fish, Albert R.  
 OH 1253 Fish, Anne  
 OR 1369 Fleury, David  
 CA 1399 Flexer, Dominique  
 CA 780 Flores, David  
 FL 2099 Flores, Rafael Antonio  
 CA 1867 Fong, Aitha  
 NY 1599 Fong, J. Hing  
 MO 922 Fong, Joseph  
 FL 1566 Fong, Kennick  
 PR 2216 Fonollosa, Allen  
 PA 749 Foote, Ed  
 VA 1330 Ford, John Henry  
 MA 1349 Forde, Keith  
 NC 1859 Forsythe, David Adam  
 OH 1045 Forsythe, Matthew  
 PR 2334 Fort, Carlos  
 FL 1923 Forte, Henry  
 IN 1095 Forthofer, Russ  
 NY 1596 Fortune, Fred  
 MI 1685 Foster, Mitchell T.  
 CA 564 Foster, Nat  
 MI 1646 Fowler, Brian  
 CA 1483 Fradkin, Igor  
 CA 1273 Fradkin, Leonid  
 NJ 957 Francis, William  
 MA 1914 Francois, Mozart  
 MA 1676 Francois, Raphael  
 MA 1965 Francois, Richard  
 AR 702 Franke, Robert  
 FL 1678 Franks, Kyle  
 CA 1217 Freeman, Lyn  
 FL 1891 Friedman, Aron D.  
 TN 1745 Fritchie, Denis  
 NY 1895 Fritz, Lincoln  
 GA 465 Frost, Jared Mark  
 GA 497 Frost, Mark  
 NV 1680 Fu, Billy  
 TX 1394 Fu, Zhuo  
 FL 1818 Fuertes, Justo  
 NC 1810 Fujino, Michimasa  
 TX 2108 Fujiwara, Moto  
 PA 1754 Fulcomer, Dave  
 OH 795 Fullen, Dave  
 OH 498 Fullen, Jason  
 OH 932 Fullen, Matt  
 NY 1735 Fuller, Michael  
 MD 1384 Fuller, Robert  
 CA 1399 Funderburg, John  
 NJ 1487 Fung, Jeffrey  
 NC 1817 Furst, Mitch  
 OR 395 Furtado, Patrick G.  
 NY 709 Gallett, Sandy  
 FL 1033 Galuez, Roberto

FL 1512 Gangadharan, Deepak  
 MA 1229 Gangi, Nicholas R.  
 MA 1126 Ganguly, Shamik  
 MD 1821 Gao, Alex  
 PA 1834 Garcia Melendez, Dariyin  
 CA 1571 Garcia, Aramburo  
 CA 1499 Garcia, Emmanuel  
 PR 2145 Garcia, Enerys  
 FL 1548 Garcia, Osniel  
 FL 1428 Garcia, Osviel  
 CA 1421 Garcia, Pete P.  
 CA 1321 Garcia, Raymond  
 SC 1499 Garcia, Victor  
 MD 1089 Gardner, Barry  
 MD 809 Gardner, Joel  
 NJ 2135 Garlanger, Donald R.  
 CA 1772 Garratt, Nicholas  
 CA 1418 Garretson, Steve  
 TX 1412 Garrett, Ryan  
 PR 1415 Garrido Vargas, Jesus E.  
 FL 1293 Gary, Lee  
 MA 1861 Gaspard, Philippe  
 MA 1206 Gaspard, Sebastien  
 IL 707 Gaspard, Geary  
 NC 1381 Gatlin, Mark  
 GA 885 Gay Jr., James-Edward  
 CA 1859 Gee, Kingston  
 PA 2084 Gelman, Jack  
 PA 261 Gelman, Sam  
 CA 1899 Gendler, Simon  
 TN 1070 Gennoe, Sam  
 CA 887 Gerhardt, Joe  
 NY 1392 Gershburg, Anatoly  
 MD 1120 Gervais, Joseph  
 NY 1289 Ghee, Sevron  
 FL 979 Giagnacova, Janice  
 MD 1191 Giam, Alan  
 PA 1629 Gibson, J. Steven  
 CA 1960 Gift, Michael  
 NJ 1819 Giolitti, Frank  
 MA 1999 Gil, Humberto E.  
 VA 1188 Gilani, Aslam (Rick)  
 TN 976 Gilpatrick, Gary  
 FL 923 Gingras, Robert  
 OH 1381 Girzehl, Boris  
 MA 508 Giuliani, Douglyss  
 FL 1049 Glantz, Jerry  
 FL 1399 Glass, Ray  
 UT 636 Gluew, Jordan  
 IL 1804 Gluchowski, Pawel  
 CO 1829 Gluzov, Vladimir  
 NY 968 Gobris, Maria  
 GA 1835 Goh, Sue May  
 NM 1611 Goin, David  
 NY 1299 Golant, Eugene  
 OR 1620 Goldsmith, Phil  
 MD 1672 Goldstein, Irving  
 NY 1488 Golovan, Vladimir  
 SC 1733 Golubow, Jerry  
 CA 2252 Gomez, Harold  
 PR 961 Gonzalez, Cynthia  
 WV 1626 Gooding, Andrew  
 SC 1649 Goodman, Ira  
 TX 1924 Gordon, Grady Cox  
 TX 1906 Gordon, Greg  
 CA 1863 Gordon, Scott  
 NY 1332 Gore, Nelson  
 MA 1547 Gorelick, Victor  
 GA 1311 Goren, Erez  
 NY 2235 Gotlib, Slava  
 CA 1595 Gotlib, Harvey  
 IL 988 Goto, Masakatsu  
 MN 1220 Gottesman, Adam  
 CA 1670 Gove, David  
 MD 674 Graham, Darryn  
 IN 1891 Grambo, Alan A.  
 GA 2155 Grant, Stephen  
 FL 786 Graterol, Rafael  
 CA 2011 Graves, Peter  
 CA 1698 Graw, Joseph  
 FL 1897 Greaves, Wesley  
 MI 694 Green, Andy  
 NY 2013 Green, Daniel  
 NY 1369 Green, Justin  
 FL 2071 Green, Robert  
 NY 1224 Green, Ryan  
 NY 2187 Green, Wally  
 CA 1885 Greene, Michael Leroy  
 NM 1906 Gresham, Toni M.  
 FL 822 Greig, Neil  
 IN 1278 Griffin, Neal  
 NY 1568 Gringaus, David Vadim  
 FL 982 Grinnell, John  
 NM 1873 Grintzer, Marcus  
 NY 1499 Gruber, Michael  
 TN 1361 Grundy Jr., Arthur  
 NJ 1751 Gu, Yi  
 NY 1899 Gudzenko, Gary  
 FL 1891 Guhr, Roman  
 CA 1844 Guillory, Ralph  
 IN 1916 Gunduz, Gurhan  
 NY 2239 Guo, Min Xin  
 CA 915 Gurfinkel, Alex  
 MO 953 Gusov, Esther  
 MO 1543 Gusov, Mikhail  
 MS 1385 Gussow, Adam  
 GA 1635 Gustavson, Phillip  
 IL 2165 Gutierrez, Antonio  
 CA 2003 Gutkin, Sergy  
 NY 1674 Gutowski, Raymond

AZ 1928 Haas, Kent  
 CA 1388 Haddad, Riad  
 AR 1818 Hadfield, Paul Edward  
 NJ 1151 Hadley, Paul  
 GA 1922 Hadsell Jr., Michael  
 MI 2068 Hadzizalagic, Erol  
 NY 1244 Hajduk, Gizella  
 FL 1959 Haka, Pellumb  
 NY 744 Halberstan, Fay  
 MD 1249 Hall, Dennis  
 MD 588 Hall, Nathan  
 AR 1827 Hall, William C.  
 NY 1724 Halliday, W. Michael  
 RI 2035 Hamamjian, Eduard  
 TX 2169 Hamilton, J. Russell  
 OH 1680 Hamilton, James  
 AL 1892 Hamilton, Terry  
 FL 1091 Hammersmith, Joel  
 CA 1602 Han, Henry  
 TN 1490 Hancock, Tracy  
 TN 2109 Handoko, Liedy  
 CA 1515 Hanken, Martin F.  
 FL 841 Hanley, Keith  
 OH 1720 Hanna, David  
 OK 1442 Hannah, Jack  
 UT 1608 Hansen, Douglas  
 VA 1659 Hanson, Dana Brent  
 NJ 1477 Hao, Jiayi  
 IL 1890 Hap, Milan  
 MO 1320 Haque, Kamaal  
 MN 977 Haraldson, Richard  
 FL 1979 Harbeck, Gary D.  
 WV 1344 Harp, Rondie  
 IN 878 Harper, Ron  
 AZ 1722 Harrington, John G.  
 IL 1976 Harris, Bruce  
 OH 1707 Harris, Scott  
 CA 916 Hartmayer, Jonathan  
 OH 733 Hartop, Francesca  
 NC 1748 Hartscock, Warren  
 RI 1272 Hart, Kenneth  
 CA 2036 Hashimoto, Ichiro  
 CA 2130 Hashimoto, Masaru  
 NJ 1943 Hatton, Satoru  
 FL 1771 Hautsch, Fred  
 NY 1894 Hawk, Harry R.  
 TX 1247 Hawk, Phillip  
 OH 1841 Hawkins Sr., Larry  
 PA 1901 Hawkins, James Earl  
 NH 2195 Hayes, Donald B.  
 NH 1833 Haynes, Douglas  
 NH 1937 Haynes, Thomas  
 OH 783 Hayzlett, Jason  
 IN 2582 Hazinski, Mark  
 NE 1299 Hebert, Jim  
 NJ 1382 Hecht, David  
 KY 1536 Heil, Charles E.  
 KY 1404 Heil, Dan  
 WA 2364 Heinonen, Petri  
 MD 2099 Heisler, Michael Allen  
 IL 1888 Hejri, Ahmad  
 FL 1794 Hefner, Herman  
 MD 686 Helmer, David  
 KS 1775 Hendrickson, Aaron  
 KS 1823 Hendrickson, Guy R.  
 LA 1536 Hendrix, Larry  
 MO 2003 Hendry, George J.  
 TX 1464 Hendry, Mike  
 NY 681 Henon, John  
 NJ 2310 Henry, Michael  
 OH 1724 Henthorn, C. Bud  
 PA 1165 Heppel, Derek  
 OR 1305 Hermann, James G.  
 PR 1649 Hernandez, Heriberto  
 NY 446 Hernandez, Rigberto

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NJ 669 Hernandez, Rigo  
 NC 2046 Herr, Al  
 MN 1615 Hervey, John  
 FL 1590 Hess Jr., Kipling Randall  
 CA 1421 Hess, Alfred J.  
 CA 956 Hickey, Kevin  
 IN 2224 Hicks, H. Richard  
 CA 2243 Hikawa, Hirokyuki  
 MN 935 Hill, Brent  
 WV 1584 Hill, Michael  
 PA 2160 Hines, Benjamin  
 MA 1294 Hlava, Jiri R.  
 CA 1816 Ho, Danny  
 OR 1498 Ho, Robert W. H.  
 CA 1099 Hoang, Casey  
 CA 1174 Hoang, Michael  
 CA 1461 Hoard, Blake  
 MD 1838 Hochman, Stephen  
 PA 1582 Hodges III, Herbert  
 IL 1229 Hodges, Leon  
 NJ 1892 Hodgson, Robert E.  
 GA 2231 Hoff, Ty  
 IL 968 Hoffman, Mark J.  
 FL 1682 Hoffman, Robert  
 IL 1921 Hogshead, Edward William  
 AR 1128 Holland, Terrence  
 KY 1126 Holliger, Paul  
 KY 1277 Holliger, Ted  
 MI 845 Holm, Bill  
 MI 794 Holm, Dick  
 NJ 543 Homer, Charles  
 CA 1056 Hong, Mu Hao  
 MO 1554 Hopkins, Brian  
 TX 1927 Horzoi, Amir  
 FL 1224 Horne, Lavone  
 NC 1440 Horton, Bryan  
 CA 1633 Horvath, Alex  
 FL 1405 Hosin, Wayne  
 NV 1310 Hoskins, Grant  
 TX 1454 Hou, Taylor  
 MO 1411 Houseman, Wayne  
 CA 1457 Hsu, Chihchen Jack  
 FL 1613 Hsu, Hsu-Shih  
 CA 193 Hsu, Jimmy  
 IL 1894 Hsueh, Norman  
 CA 1843 Htaung, Jeffrey  
 CA 2156 Hu, Joey Jun-Yuan  
 TN 1269 Hua, Paul V.  
 VA 1515 Hua, Peter  
 FL 1199 Huang, Amy  
 MA 1102 Huang, Kuang Jung  
 CA 1422 Huang, Lin Jeff  
 IN 1199 Huang, Runzhi  
 MD 345 Huang, Victoria  
 MD 1733 Huang, Xinsheng Michael

**USATT Rating Chart**

Rating Difference	Higher rated player wins:		Lower rated player wins:	
	Higher player gains:	Lower player loses:	Lower player gains:	Higher player loses:
0-12	8			8
13-37		7		10
38-62		6		13
63-87		5		16
88-112		4		20
113-137		3		25
138-162		2		30
163-187		2		35
188-212		1		40
213-237		1		45
238 & up		0		50







# 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

**December 27-29 - 2002 Killerspin Open**, Chicago, IL. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

January 4 - W.C. Cleve Memorial Open, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Ralph Presley, 404-346-5891. rampresley@aol.com. ★★

January 5-March 3 - W.C. Cleve Memorial JR TT League, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Ralph Presley, 404-346-5891. rampresley@aol.com. 0 Star

January 11 - Pensacola Winter Open 2003, Pensacola, FL. Contact: L.A. Johnston, 850-454-1784. mermaidservices@juno.com. 0 Star

January 11-12 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7279. 0 Star

January 18 - NJTTC January Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-654-9009. njttc@juno.com. ★★

January 24-25 - Power Pong January Open, Fountain Valley, CA. Contact: Attila Malek, 714 549-0925. ★★

January 25 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

January 25-26 - Boston TTC January Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus, 617-492-4317. davidmarcus@alum.mit.edu. ★

January 25-26 - Orlando Winter Open, Orlando, FL. Contact: Olga Soltesz, 407-830-4009. ★★

January 25-26 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★

February 1-2 - 2003 MDTTC February Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixiao42@hotmail.com. ★

February 8-9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

February 9 - New Hampshire RR Open, Manchester, NH. Contact: Donald Hayes, 603-894-7242. dhayes@naii.net. 0 Star

February 22 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

February 22-23 - NJTTC February Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-654-9009. njttc@juno.com. ★★

February 28-March 2 - Rochester Giant RR, Rochester, NY. Contact: Jeff Koch, 585-964-7243. mrjkoch@aol.com. ★★

March 1-2 - Boston TTC March Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus, 617-492-4317. davidmarcus@alum.mit.edu. ★

March 1-2 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★

March 8 - Atlanta Open Giant RR, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Wendell Dillon, 770-923-5110. pong35@mindspring.com. ★

March 8-9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

March 15 - Stiga Cary Cup Open, Cary, NC. Contact: Mike Babuin, 919-462-3931. mbabuin@ci.cary.nc.us. ★★

March 22 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

March 22-23 - NJTTC March Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-654-9009. njttc@juno.com. ★★

**March 29-30 - Quaker City Open**, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

April 5-6 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

April 12-13 - 2003 MDTTC April Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixiao42@hotmail.com. ★

April 19-20 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★

April 26 - Maryland Closed, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

April 26-27 - NJTTC April Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-654-9009. njttc@juno.com. ★★

May 3-4 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

May 17 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

May 24-25 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★

May 31-June 1 - 2003 MDTTC June Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixiao42@hotmail.com. ★

June 7-8 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

**June 14-15 - Stiga Open** on the 2003 Stiga North American Tour, Newark, DE. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

June 21 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

June 21-22 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★

**July 2-6 - U.S. Open**, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Contact: USATT, 719-866-4583, admin@usatt.org. ★★★★★

July 12-13 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

July 13 - Allentown 'Sportsfest' 2 Person Tm, Allentown, PA. Contact: Fred Kistler, 610-797-6637. lvattc@yahoo.com. ★★

July 26 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

August 9-10 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

**August 9-10 - Eastern Open** on the 2003 Stiga North American Tour, Piscataway, NJ. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

August 23 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

September 6-7 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

September 20 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

**September 20-21 - Matthew J. Murad Memorial Open** on the 2003 Stiga North American Tour, Hagerstown, MD. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

October 4-5 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

October 11-12 - 2003 MDTTC October Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixiao42@hotmail.com. ★

**October 11-12 - SoCal Open**, San Diego, CA. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

October 18 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 8-9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

December 6-7 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

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# Huntsman World Senior Games

St. George, Utah • Oct. 7-11, 2002 • By Grant Misbach

Competition was again held this year in the Dixie Convention Center. Virtually everyone agreed that this has been our best venue. Because of plenty of space we were able to add two more tables this year, making a total of twelve. We hope to get four more tables for next year. This should make it possible to have round robins to start out the rated events.

The Opening Ceremonies on Tuesday evening were again excellent. I was not able to attend these ceremonies because of an unexpected visit to the hospital for two days with a bleeding ulcer. The doctor took excellent care of me and I was able to help with the tournament the rest of the week. Thanks to everyone for your concern and interest. The rest of our crew did a terrific job of taking over while I was gone. They were Shonie Aki, Tom and Marilyn Miller, Stan and Olga Kahan, Wilfredo Escobar, Dee Osborn and Ann Mumford. They are a great team.



## Women's Singles

**50-54:** 1<sup>st</sup> Susan Salzgeber (NC); 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinne Botterbusch (IL); 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Stuckey (IL).  
**55-59:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lai Fun Lukey-Ott (CAN); 2<sup>nd</sup> Phyllis Tetzlaff (FL); 3<sup>rd</sup> Angie Fischinger (CA).  
**60-64:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ingrid Schaar (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Joanne Gipple (CO); 3<sup>rd</sup> Kathy Zombor (CAN).  
**65-69:** 1<sup>st</sup> Margarete Heger (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Jinny Longee (CA); 3<sup>rd</sup> Ruth Gove (TN).  
**70-74:** 1<sup>st</sup> Harriet Brin (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Jo Splistiser (AZ); 3<sup>rd</sup> Patricia Thomas (TX).  
**75-79:** 1<sup>st</sup> Betty McCloskey (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Tybie Sommer (AZ); 3<sup>rd</sup> Kay Bowen (UT).  
**80-84:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Coonan (CAN); 2<sup>nd</sup> Valley Ellingsen (MT).

## Men's Singles

**50-54:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lon Dean (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Bernard Savitz (AZ); 3<sup>rd</sup> Freiherr Von Dieterich (GER).  
**55-59:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ralph Stadelman (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Danny Nasi (CA); 3<sup>rd</sup> Karl-Joseph Assenmacher (GER).  
**60-64:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Adelman (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Conrad "Bud" Henthorn (OH); 3<sup>rd</sup> Allen McDermott (CO).  
**65-69:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ragnar Fahlstrom (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry Meisel (ESP); 3<sup>rd</sup> Ray Pestridge (OK).  
**70-74:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lynwood Smith (FL); 2<sup>nd</sup> Ernest Junker (GER); 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Neely (TN).  
**75-79:** 1<sup>st</sup> Herb Rossman (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> William Brin (CA).  
**80-84:** 1<sup>st</sup> Edgar Stein (NM); 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Badger (CA); 3<sup>rd</sup> Si Wasserman (CA).  
**85-89:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ivan Slade (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Arthur Chase (CA); 3<sup>rd</sup> Henry Splistiser (AZ).

## Women's Doubles

**50-59:** 1<sup>st</sup> Susan Salzgeber/Lai Fun Lukey-Ott (NC/CAN); 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinne Botterbusch/Jan Stuckey (IL); 3<sup>rd</sup> Ilse Krellwitz/Julie Chase (TX).  
**60-69:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ingrid Schaar/Margaret Heger (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Cline/Margo Lindsey (FL); 3<sup>rd</sup> Violet Bloom/Jinny Longee (CA).  
**Over 70:** 1<sup>st</sup> Harriet Brin/Olga Kahan (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Kay Bowen/Mary Coonan (UT/CAN); 3<sup>rd</sup> Mimi Ortegon/Patricia Thomas (NV/TX).

## Men's Doubles

**50-54:** 1<sup>st</sup> Freiherr Von Derterich/Karl-Josef Assenmacher (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Bernard Savitz/Lon Dean (AZ/CA).  
**55-59:** 1<sup>st</sup> Allen McDermott/Carlos Barrientos (CO); 2<sup>nd</sup> Wilfredo Escobar/Ralph Stadelman (CA/NV); 3<sup>rd</sup> Danny Nasi/Rod Cowles (CA/NE).  
**60-64:** 1<sup>st</sup> Mark Adelman/Ragnar Fahlstrom (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Zichen Dai/Sherman Hsieh (NY); 3<sup>rd</sup> Sid Stansel/Conrad "Bud" Henthorn (OH).  
**65-69:** 1<sup>st</sup> Shonie Aki/Tom Miller (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Pestridge/Barry Meisel (OK/ESP); 3<sup>rd</sup> Carlos Ortegon/Howard Lambert (NV).  
**Over 70:** 1<sup>st</sup> Len Lukey-Ott/Lynwood Smith (CAN/FL); 2<sup>nd</sup> Ernest Junker/Guenter Puzicha (GER); 3<sup>rd</sup> Dick Peregrine/Ivan Slade (WI/CA).

## Mixed Doubles

**50-59:** 1<sup>st</sup> Freiherr Von Dieterich/Ingrid Schaar (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Karl-Josef Assenmacher/Margarete Heger (GER); 3<sup>rd</sup> Mark Adelman/Susan Salzgeber (CA/NC).  
**60-69:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ragnar Fahlstrom/Betty McCloskey (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Neely/Ruth Gove (TN); 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Poteet/Jinny Longee (CA).  
**Over 70:** 1<sup>st</sup> Patricia Thomas/Guenter Puzicha (TX/GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Henry Splistiser/Jo Splistiser (AZ); 3<sup>rd</sup> Olga Kahan/Norman Silver (CA/CO).

## Rated Singles

**Over 1800:** 1<sup>st</sup> Karl-Josef Assenmacher (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Ernst Junker (GER); 3<sup>rd</sup> Lon Dean (CA).  
**1600-1799:** 1<sup>st</sup> Shonie Aki (CA); 2<sup>nd</sup> Dick Peregrine (WI); 3<sup>rd</sup> Conrad "Bud" Henthorn (OH).  
**1400-1599:** 1<sup>st</sup> Howard Lambert (NV); 2<sup>nd</sup> Edgar Stein (NM); 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Poteet (CA).  
**1200-1399:** 1<sup>st</sup> Alfred Palumbo (FL); 2<sup>nd</sup> Herb Rossman (CA); 3<sup>rd</sup> Vin Paul Hua (TN).  
**1000-1199:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lavone Home (FL); 2<sup>nd</sup> Jinny Longee (CA); 3<sup>rd</sup> Jane Magras (AZ).  
**800-999:** 1<sup>st</sup> Lai Fun Lukey-Ott (CAN); 2<sup>nd</sup> Margo Lindsey (FL); 3<sup>rd</sup> Lavone Home (FL).  
**Under 800:** 1<sup>st</sup> Margo Lindsey (FL); 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Stansel (OH); 3<sup>rd</sup> David Sterle (CA).

We had approximately 135 enter this year's competition. California had the most players with 29, followed by Utah with 13 and Florida with 10. Twenty-six states were represented in all. Foreign players came from Canada, Germany, Mongolia and Spain. We are pleased to be getting more coming in the older age brackets and more with higher ratings. Competition is getting tougher. But we still have a good mixture of beginners and the more experienced. We appreciate the sponsorship help given by Staheli Catering (where our awards banquet was held) and by Stiga for table tennis, and to Huntsman, which is the main sponsor for all the Games.

This tournament is held every year in the second week in October (on Columbus Day).

For more info, call 800-562-1268 or 435-674-0550, fax to 435-674-0589, email to [hwsg@infowest.com](mailto:hwsg@infowest.com), or visit their web page at [www.seniorgames.net](http://www.seniorgames.net). This web site gives lots of information about all the games, local places to visit, tournament results, etc. We are hoping this year to give not only who won medals, but also to post their pictures. So check us out.



## Over 70 Women Doubles, L-R:

2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Conan/Kay Bowen; 1<sup>st</sup> Olga Kahan/Harriet Brin; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mimi Ortegon/Patricia Thomas.



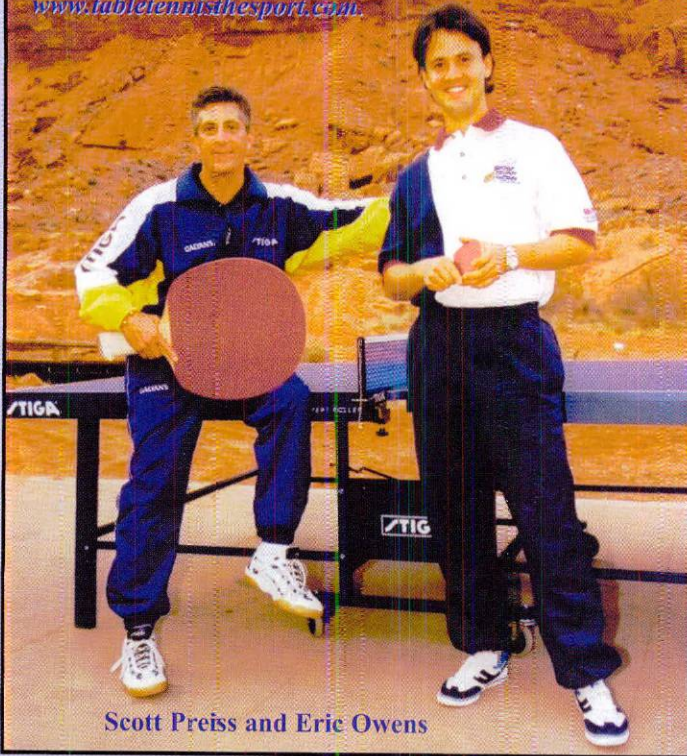
## Over 70 Men's Doubles, L-R:

2<sup>nd</sup> Ernest Junker/Guenter Puzicha; 1<sup>st</sup> Len Lukey-Ott/Lynwood Smith; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ivan Slade/Dick Peregrine.

## Out of This World Games!

By Scott Preiss

Scott, a USATT Certified Coach and U.S. Team Trainer, is President of Table Tennis The Sport Inc., [www.tabletennisthesport.com](http://www.tabletennisthesport.com).



Scott Preiss and Eric Owens

I must say that I was honored to be asked to perform a table tennis exhibition for the Opening Ceremonies of the Huntsman World Senior Games for 4,000 athletes and dignitaries from some 20 countries. There were actually two Opening Ceremonies for the Huntsman World Games to accommodate all of the attendees. Football Star Joe Namath spoke for the first Opening Ceremony. It was unfortunate that I missed Broadway Joe as he left when I arrived in St. George.

I thought that it would be appropriate to have the U.S. National Table Tennis Champion as my partner so I called Eric Owens to see if he would be available. Eric and I performed our first table tennis exhibition more than 22 years ago in the lobby of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Houston. He was five then. Here we are many years later doing the same thing, and enjoying it even more.

The stage was set. Literally set, as Eric and I arrived at the Tuacuaca Amphitheatre located about three miles into the mountains of St. George, Utah. When Eric and I arrived for rehearsal, the glowing mountain backdrop at our 5PM call was breathtaking. We had a chance to warm up for about a half hour as we played to the music of our choice. *Wipe Out* by the Surfariis and the 1984 Olympic Theme Song by John Williams. Eric and I had played to this music so many times before.

On the big night, Eric and I were to sit in the front row as the High School Drama Clubs, Elementary School Dances and Professional Singers Opened the show. The star singer for the show was Maureen McGovern, who had the #1 hit single, "There's Got To Be A Morning After."

Our role in the show was to perform for 15 minutes and for me to assist with running with the torch. My job was to run into the hills and receive the burning torch from an Indian whose family has lived in the hills for hundreds of years.

With a full 20-piece band behind us, Eric and I took the stage and the wind started to pick up. Eric and I always try to impress each other with our confidence and we looked at each other and said one ball for the first two minutes, never let it hit

the floor. Dream on, the wind continued to pick up and we used a mind boggling 15-20 balls just to keep the dream alive. *And then it happened, the point that we were waiting for, Eric smashed and smashed and I lobbed and lobbed, and then I smashed and smashed and Eric lobbed and lobbed, the ball was still in play, I moved to my right and jumped off the stage as I curved a forty-footer back to*

*and onto the table. As I dashed back onto the stage to return Eric's smash, the ball disintegrated, ending the point.*

After 2000 shows, the ball has never cracked at the end of such a long point! I realized when I had about five minutes left in my show that I had 24 Stiga paddles to give away in four minutes. So I jumped off the stage and started handing out paddles. Stiga also donated more than \$3,000 worth of equipment to the Huntsman table tennis venue. Giving away free things always gets the crowd's attention.

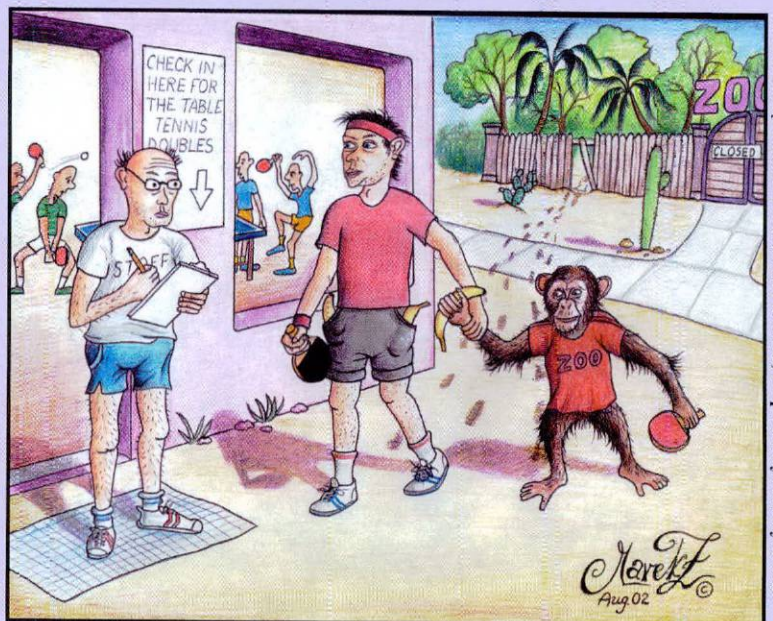
After bouncing back on the stage I took a moment to talk about how wonderful it was to be in the majestic mountains of St. George and to be with thousands of people who love sports. After Eric and I left the stage we were directed to the front row and waited for my call to come behind the stage and get ready to run into the mountains to receive the Torch from the local Indian Tribe leader.

As Eric sat back and laughed in disbelief (something he told me later), he watched as I ran into the dark mountains to receive the burning torch. I ran the torch about 75 yards onto the stage and met Maureen McGovern who I escorted onto the stage to light the flame to open the Senior World Games.

For years, all of us try and convey to the world what an incredible, fun, and interesting sport table tennis is. This was a day for Eric and I to do just that.



Scott receives the torch



Artwork by Marek Zochowski ©2002; Caption by Anonymous

Is this where we sign up for Under 3600 Doubles? Do you need to see proof of USATT membership?

# Connecting Strokes II:

## The Backhand to Forehand Transition of Chuan Chih-Yuan

By Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach



Photos by Diego Scharf ©2003



This is the second part of our discussion about changing from forehand to backhand and vice versa. In the last issue, we looked at the forehand to backhand change. Here we'll look at the reverse.

A few years ago, a backhand punch was used to set up a forehand. The idea was to put sudden pressure on the opponent's backhand, which would force him to play a relatively safe shot. This gave the attacker time to turn and take a forehand. While this function is still an important part of the game, it has now evolved to where that sudden attack does not require the relatively static, solid positioning required for a punch, but can come in the form of an off-the-bounce loop, naturally and unpredictably flowing out of an exchange. To produce that shot as fluently as necessary, it has become more a matter of being able to freely choose whether to take a forehand or a backhand on any particular ball. Top players like Chuan Chih-Yuan have that freedom of choice on practically any ball that is about a foot in from the sidelines. This makes them extremely dangerous, since at any given time a sharp attack can flow out of his motion without having been telegraphed by a change in stance.

A key to that freedom is his neutral technique, which is based on a great similarity of his right shoulder motion, whether for a forehand or a backhand: His right shoulder drops backwards and to the right from the neutral position, and then it pushes the arm forward and upward during the stroke. Of course, the forehand requires a bigger backswing, but he doesn't have to make that decision until very late in the stroke. The second picture, top row shows that neutral stance – almost identical to the neutral position in last issue's analysis – and from there he pulls his shoulder backward and down. Even though the next picture indicates that he will be taking a forehand, he could at that point still turn the racket around and perform a backhand loop by pulling his hand forward past his stomach. He would then be in perfect position for the backhand. Here, he decides to continue with a forehand. His feet are only slightly out of position, and he compensates for that by leaning backward a bit, making sure he still rotates sufficiently to get enough drive on the ball.

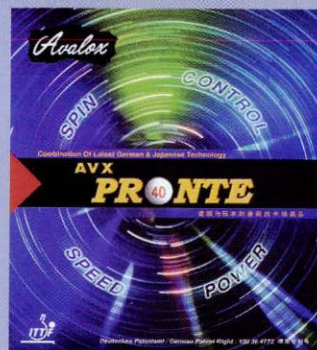
If we were to see only his body movement for a medium forehand loop or a medium backhand loop, without seeing the arm, we would notice that the right shoulder motion describes the same little oval. Seen from above, the motion is clockwise for the backhand and counter clockwise for the forehand. That is the similarity, which allows the smooth transition – and the freedom of choice.

In order to practice this technique efficiently, we need relatively accurate practice partners. Ideally, we would have them block to our backhand, to the middle, to the backhand and to the forehand. If we can't get that accuracy, alternative

blocking to the backhand and to the middle will do. Make sure you move your body smoothly with the same rhythm and the same intensity for either the forehand or the backhand. It is also important that you constantly adjust your foot position, keeping your balance and making the necessary micro-adjustments. Once you have achieved a point where you can do a small stroke fluently, gradually increase the size of the motion so eventually both can be strong driving shots.

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Used by Bundesliga Ace and former Chinese National player Ma Wengbo

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## Junior of the Month:

# LAURA XIAO

By Chunyen Liu, care of [www.geocities.com/chunyenliu](http://www.geocities.com/chunyenliu)

The junior table tennis talent Laura Xiao has been the center of attention at our local club in Overland Park, Kansas. Her being the only regular female player at the club and one of the top players in Kansas, most club members are lining up to challenge her or give her table tennis tips whenever she shows up at the club, although she indicated that some players in the past made funny excuses not to play with her when she was a novice player. With her outgoing personality and excellent work ethic, she has become an indispensable member of the table tennis family here. Her performance continues to amaze many people one tournament after another. This short introduction is more like her biography than an interview because she is intelligent and vocal enough to clearly know and express what she wants and needs to do to fulfill her dream.

### Please introduce yourself.

My name is Laura Xiao. I am 14 years old. This year I've started high school as a 9th grader. Currently, I play once a week at the Overland Park Racquet Club, which is actually a tennis club, but they have table tennis once a week.

### Is table tennis your favorite sport or it is simply because you have better access to it? What do you like about table tennis in general?

Yes, table tennis is definitely my favorite sport. Why would I stick with it for so long if it weren't? Life's too short to spend your time doing something that you don't enjoy. Of course, I play a lot of other sports for fun such as soccer, basketball, swimming, etc. What I like about table tennis in general is how it's both physically and mentally challenging.

### What is your playing style? Have you been playing with the same style?

No, my playing style hasn't been the same from the beginning. This is because as I have progressed, I've picked up more skills. My playing style is offensive loop/hit. Currently I'm focused more on improving on the skills I already have to reach a higher level.

### What is your current training schedule? Have you trained overseas?

I currently train 4-5 times a week, at home when not at the club. I've never trained overseas - Canada doesn't count since it isn't literally overseas.

### What areas do you think you can still improve or must improve to reach another level?

I need improvement on my backhand loop, and focus even more intensely on consistency.

### In addition to the routine ball-hitting drills, do you do anything else to improve your game, such as watching tutorial videotapes, running, etc?

Currently, I don't really watch videos or other things because I'm also very involved with school activities such as debate tournaments and others.

### Who are your favorite U.S. and international table tennis players and why?

My favorite U.S. player is Fan Yi Yong because he's got an amazing backhand and quickness. My favorite international players are Waldner (of course) and Fredrik Hakansson because I love the Swedish players' styles. Also, Oh Sang Eun of South Korea is becoming one of my favorites, too.

### Can you say a few words about your major competitors in your age group in the U.S.?

Currently, I have a LOT more competition than I did before. In the past, my main competition was probably Laura Leach and Judy Hugh because of the fact that our ratings were always so close to each other's. Now, there are many more.

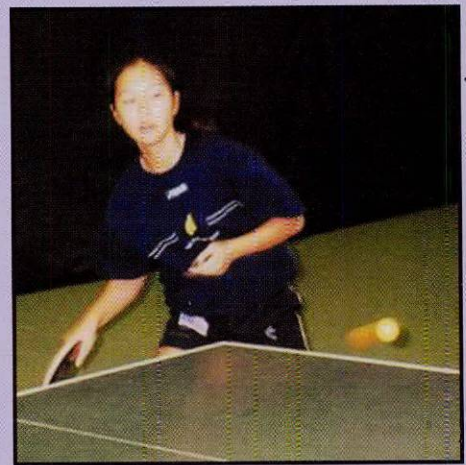


Photo by Yufei Xiao ©2002

### What was the most memorable event that has happened to you in table tennis? Any major disappointments?

My most memorable event was when I won three trophies at the 1998 U.S. Open. This was my first big tournament, and I was so happy, especially since the trophies were about the same size as me! The major disappointment I had was not making the Cadet team for Hungary (World Cadet Challenge) in early 2002, but I've had other smaller disappointments. I always get disappointed when I lose a match that I should've won.

### Laura Xiao's Record

Current rating: 2005

#### 2002 U.S. Open

- 1st Place: Under 14 Girls' Singles
- 2nd Place: Under 14 Doubles (with Barbara Wei)
- 2nd Place: Under 16 Girls' Singles
- 2nd Place: Under 2100 Women's Singles

#### 2002 Pan American Youth Championships

- Selected and sponsored by USATT
- 4th Place: Under 15 Girls' Singles

#### 2002 North American Cadet Camp & North American Championships

- Selected and sponsored by USATT

#### 2001 North American Teams Championships

- Represented USA Cadet Women's Team. Selected and sponsored by USATT

#### 2000 USA Nationals

- Semifinalist: Under 1900 Women.

#### 2000 North American Teams Championships

- Gained 155 rating points

#### 1999 USATT Nationals

- 1st Place: Primary School Girls' Singles (Under 13)

#### 1998 U.S. Open

- 1st Place: Under 10 Girls' Singles
- 2nd Place: Under 12 Girls' Singles
- 1st Place: Under 1000 Singles

Photo by Yufei Xiao ©2002



**What are your table tennis and non-table tennis goals? Do you have specific time constraints to accomplish those goals?**

My short-term table tennis goal is to break 2100. My long-term table tennis goal is just to go as far as my ability and hard work can take me. My non-table tennis goals are to go to a good college and become either a reporter or a journalist.

**Who is your major sponsor/supporter? If you are looking for sponsorships, what type of sponsorships are you expecting?**

Currently, I'm not sponsored right now. I'm basically looking for a sponsor with good equipment and the best interests in the development of junior players.

**What do you like to do outside table tennis?**

Like any other teenage girl, I enjoy a lot of things: shopping, reading, going out with friends, working out, etc. Also, music's a big part of my life. I've got a massive collection of CD's, and singing is a great passion of mine. Another big passion and gift of mine is writing, and I am constantly writing.

**Interview With U.S. #1**

# Fan Yi Yong

By Larry Hodges

**Home City:** Seattle WA. Originally from Shandong, China

**Age & Date of Birth:** 33 years old, born on Jan. 22, 1969.

**What equipment do you use, and who are your major sponsors?**

I use a Juic Fan Yi Yong paddle, Juic rubber 999 Elite for my forehand, Montjuic Super for my backhand. Juic and Paddle Palace are my main sponsors.

**What was your best ranking ever?**

Top 20 world ranking in 1989, and currently #1 in the U.S.

**Where are you from, and where did you grow up?**

I was born in China. I grew up in Shandong and Beijing.

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

When I was 8 years old I started to play table tennis at the local sport center for fun.

**Who were your coaches and clubs during that time?**

I had several coaches. The best coach has already passed away. When I was 12 I played at several training centers in Shandong, and at 16 I was selected to the national team.

**Where do you currently play and train?**

At my club, the Seattle Juic Table Tennis Club.

**How would you describe your playing style?**

I play a quick, short, forceful attacking style. My strength is my ability to develop a game strategy. I miss the opportunity to play and train with high-caliber practice partners.



Photo by Gerry Chua ©2002

**You are known for your spectacular backhand loop, which many players try to copy. Any advice on this?**

Be relaxed, watch the ball, hit the ball in your comfort zone and lots of practice.

**How long have you been a full-time professional player?**

About 10 years.

**How often do you train these days?**

I try to keep in playing shape by running and rope jumping 3-4 times a week, and I try to practice as much as I can, and occasionally I used a table tennis robot.

**What are your table tennis activities now? Playing, coaching, running tournaments or clubs?**

A little bit of all of the above.

**What are your major goals in table tennis?**

I would like to have my own full-time table tennis club.

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

I like Jorgen Persson because of his ability to be calm and maintain his concentration and focus when playing. He also has a great backhand.

**What is your educational background?**

By being a [former] member of the Chinese National Team, I have a sports education degree.

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

I enjoy different kinds of music, especially soft light popular and classical music.

**Any advice for up-and-coming players?**

Be determined. Never give up. Practice and practice.



Photo by Gerry Chua ©2002



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I just received my order from ping-pong.com and I wanted to write you a quick note and thank you for your excellent service, products and price. I am very impressed and it is not easy to impress me in this area. I have spent most of my career with catalog companies -- Talbots, J.Jill and Lands' End where I was the Chief Administrative Officer and CFO -- so I know this industry very well. You guys are first rate! The gifts you included in the package -- paddle key chain, balls and package stuffers -- were excellent and big hit with my children. Keep up the good work. You have made a customer for life out of me.

**Bradley K. Johnson**

Hello Mr. Mitch Rothfleisch

Thank you for your recent email wishing me happy holidays.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent service I have received from TT pioneers! I am totally satisfied with my schildkröt paddle and the nittaku balls that I purchased. However the what impressed me most was the polite and efficient service I received from your staff!

Since then several of my friends have bought products from your web site and have been satisfied with their purchases.

Once again thank you!

Wishing you happy holidays and a very happy New year!

With warm regards

**Anand Phadnis  
Boston Ma.**

Thank you very much.

You are a very professional organization, obviously committed to customer service. By the way, you also have one of the best web sites. I've seen Making informed/researched purchases is easy, personable and enjoyable. You seem to have thought of every possible angle and tested for it as a customer. I know that sounds basic, but as you know, few do it well!

I'm sure we will do more business, in fact the next item will be a new table, hopefully in 2002.

Kind regards,

**Marco Zanetti**

I recently received my STIGA Expert Roller Table, and wanted to let you know how extremely pleased I am, not only with the quality of the table but the professional way you at The Table Tennis Pioneers handled the whole process. I must admit I was somewhat hesitant about ordering such a product over the internet but you have changed my view on that. From start to finish you have lived up to everything you stated you would do. You should be extremely proud of your Company and fellow workers. Thanks for coming through during this holiday season!

I will be a repeat customer and will spread the word!

Thanks again,

**Steve Rossetter**



**Angie Discenza, Customer Service Co-ordinator**



**Anastasia Gatsinos, Customer Service**



**Robert Ménard, Customer Service**



**Alain Abdo Customer Service**



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Dear TTP,

You sure have employed one of the best customer service team, especially Anastasia, in the business. You definitely will have my business in the future.

Thanks

Thuy Tran

Dear Table Tennis Pioneers,

I would like to take this time to thank you for your excellent and professional service. I ordered my Stiga Mini Table on your web site a few days ago, and I just received it yesterday, one day ahead of schedule. Everything went smoothly, and the table is everything you claimed. It was a pleasure doing business with you, and I look forward to future purchases from your company.

Regards,

Ramin

I just wanted to say how great the response from Table Tennis Pioneers has been regarding a few questions I had about the new Stiga Tube Allround blade. Thanks to Mitch, Anastasia and Angie for the fantastic detailed information they gave me. When they had updates, they e-mailed me back to let me know what they have heard from Stiga.

Posted on Forum at About.com

Keep up the great work guys, and thanks again

Many thanks, Alain. I already received the new racket today. The integrity and outstanding business ethic demonstrated by The Table Tennis Pioneers in this instance are very much appreciated, and I will certainly do my best to promote The Table Tennis Pioneers wherever and whenever I can in future.

Sincerely yours,

Horst Garbe

All I have to say is WOW, this is my first good racket and I've been playing for about 4 years. Thank you so much ping-pong.com Eugene

Dear Angie,

Thank you for your quick response. I really do appreciate your service. Although I am just one of many customers who are purchasing from ping-pong.com, you have given me a great deal of confidence in shopping from your site. Thanks again.

Rob



**Lyne Desjardins, Vice-President**  
 World Ranked Table Tennis Player



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**Sean O'Neill, Marketing Manager**  
 5 X US Champion, 2 X Olympian



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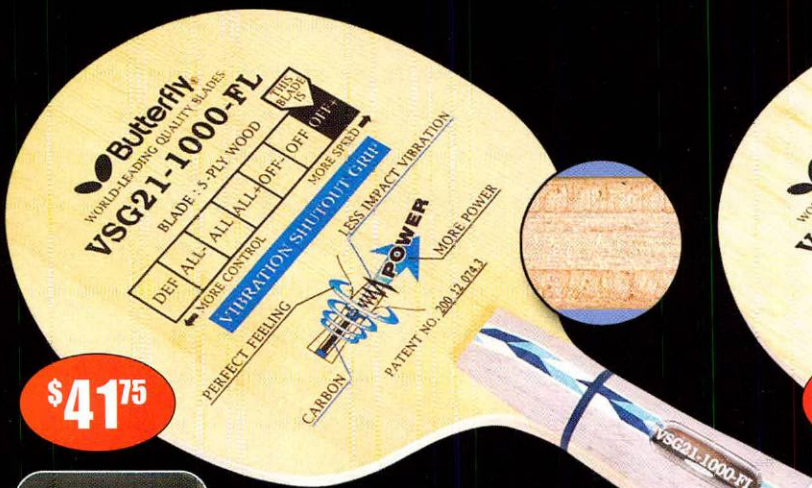
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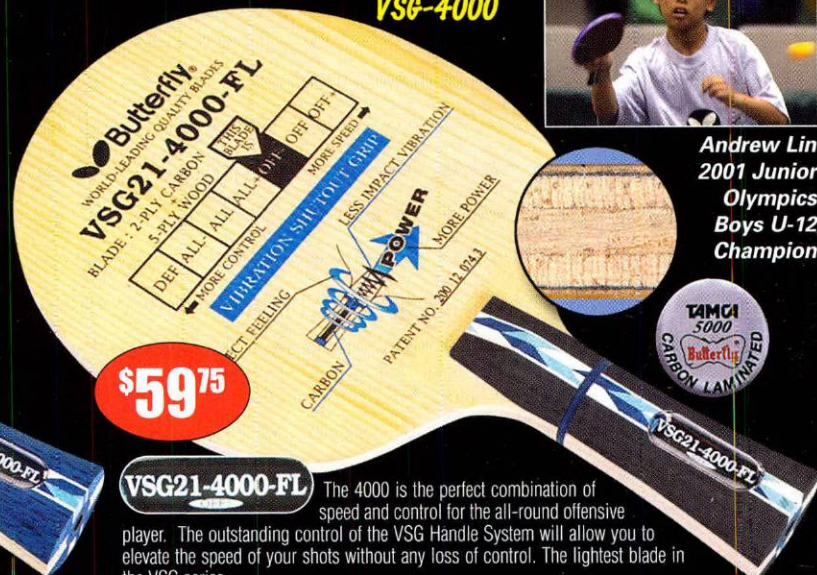
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