

Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award - Larry Hodges

Compiled on March 16, 2018

Profession: Full-time Table Tennis Coach and Writer



Highlights

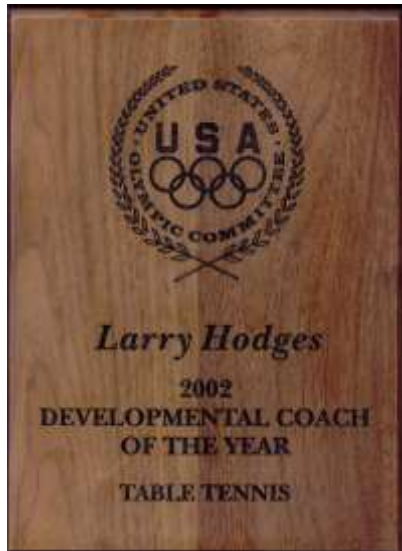
- Editor of USA Table Tennis Magazine for 12 years, 71 issues.
- Author of 8 books, over 1600 published articles, and over 1800 blog entries on table tennis - Mon-Fri since 2011.
- Two-time USATT Coach of the Year (Developmental and Science Awards), three-time Coach of the Year runner-up.
- Have coached over 250 gold medalists at the U.S. Junior Nationals and Junior Olympics, more than any other coach.
- USATT Certified National Coach and certified club umpire (formerly regional level).
- As of June, 2018, will have run exactly 200 USATT sanctioned tournaments, nearly all two days long. That's a year of running tournaments, and I still run five 3-star tournaments each year.
- There were no full-time training centers in the U.S. in 1992, and everyone said there wasn't enough demand for one to be successful. So I opened the Maryland Table Tennis Center (co-founding with Cheng Yinghua and Jack Huang), which became the first successful full-time training center in the country. The model for such a training center was copied all over the country. I advised on many of them, and there are now [over 100 full-time centers](#).
- There was no league rating system in the U.S. in 2003, so I created one with Robert Mayor. It is now used in clubs all over the country, processing more league matches than the USATT tournament rating system.
- As Chair of the USATT Club Committee, 1990-91, created and ran the highly successful Club Catalysts & Creation program, increasing the number of USATT certified clubs from 226 to 301, with membership going from 5500 to over 7000.
- Wrote the original draft to cancel the Paddle Point Rule, which was passed by the ITTF.
- Have played or coached at:
 - 42 consecutive North American/U.S. Open Teams (1976-2017)
 - 34 consecutive U.S. Opens (1984 to 2018) plus several before that
 - 34 consecutive U.S. Nationals (1984 to 2018)

USATT Positions

- Member of USATT Board of Directors, 1991-92, 2015-2018 (current)
- Editor of USATT Magazine, 1991-95, 1999-2007 (12 years, 71 issues)
- Manager/Director/Coach, USATT Resident Training Program, 1985-1990
- USATT Club Programs Director, 2000-2007
- USATT Co-Webmaster, 1999-2005
- Assistant to the USATT Executive Director, 1989
- Chair of USATT Coaching Committee, 1991-95, 2017-2018 (current)
- Chair of USATT League Committee, 2015-2017
- Chair of USATT Club Committee, 1990-1991
- Chair of USATT Resident Training Program Committee, 1990-92
- Member of USATT Coaching Committee, 2010-2013
- Member of USATT Club Committee, 2012-2013
- Member of USATT Junior Committee, 1990-95
- Member of USATT Senior Committee, 1990-95
- Member of USATT Grassroots Committee, 1990-95
- Member of USATT Ratings Committee, 1990-95

USATT Awards

- 2003 Member of USATT Hall of Fame; youngest contributor ever inducted at age 43
- 2002 USATT Developmental Coach of the Year
- 2013 USATT Doc Councilman Coach of the Year for Science in Coaching, and a finalist for the USOC award
- Three-time runner-up for USATT Coach of the Year
- 2007 USATT President's Award for Contributions to Table Tennis
- USATT Certified National Coach since 1990, the highest level
- ITTF Level 2 coach



Editor

- Editor of USATT Magazine, 1991-95, 1999-2007 (12 years, 71 issues)
 - Tripled advertising in both tenures
 - Every issue on time, never missed a deadline
- Editor of eight Hall of Fame program booklets
- Scanned all 34 USATT Hall of Fame program books and arranged to have them put online.
- Editor of 19 U.S. Open or Nationals program booklets
- Editor of MDTTC News (70 issues through March, 2018)
- Editor & Producer of Table Tennis World, 1995-1996 (3 issues)
- Editor of USATT's Table Tennis Coaches Quarterly, 1989-90
- Editor of USATT's Table Tennis Tournament Directors Quarterly, 1989-90
- Editor of Northern Virginia Table Tennis News, 1983-85
- Did page layouts/photo work for 20 volumes of Tim Boggan's History of U.S. Table Tennis, working closely with Tim and Mal Anderson
- Edited Samson Dubina's "100 Days of Table Tennis" (2015)
- Edited and did page layouts for Dan Seemiller's "Revelations of a Ping-Pong Champion" (2016)
- Bachelor's degree in Math and Master's degree in Journalism, University of Maryland; minors in chemistry & computer science



Writer

- [Over 1600 published articles](#) on table tennis (not including 1800+ daily blog entries)
 - Includes articles in Sports Illustrated, Boys' Life, numerous ones in the Washington Post and Baltimore Sun, many others
- Eight books on table tennis
 - [Table Tennis: Steps to Success](#) (1993; over 30,000 sold, in five languages)
 - [Table Tennis Tactics for Thinkers](#) (2013, best-selling TT book)
 - [Table Tennis Tips](#) (2014)
 - [More Table Tennis Tips](#) (2017)
 - [Table Tennis Tales and Techniques](#) (2009)
 - [Instructors' Guide to Table Tennis](#) (USATT's official coaching book for 20 years)
 - [Table Tennis Coaches Handbook](#) (used by professional coaches all over USA)
 - [The Spirit of Pong](#) (fantasy table tennis novel)
- Author of three USATT Manuals
 - Beginning Table Tennis Class Primer
 - Junior Table Tennis Training Primer
 - Professional Table Tennis Coaches Primer
- Wrote 171 Tips of the Week for the USATT Website, 1999-2003, as "Dr. Ping-Pong"
- Daily blog at [TableTennisCoaching.com](#) since 2011, with over 1800 blog entries (Mon-Fri since 2011) and over 500 Tips of the Week. Averages about 1000 readers per day.

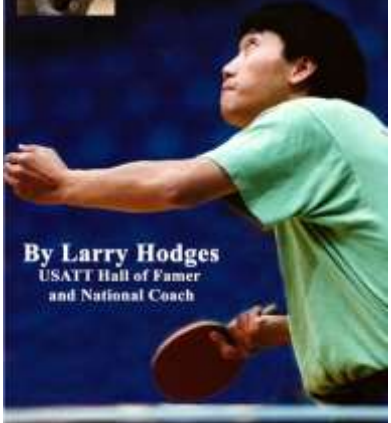


Coaching Olympian Todd Sweeris

Coaching non-Olympians



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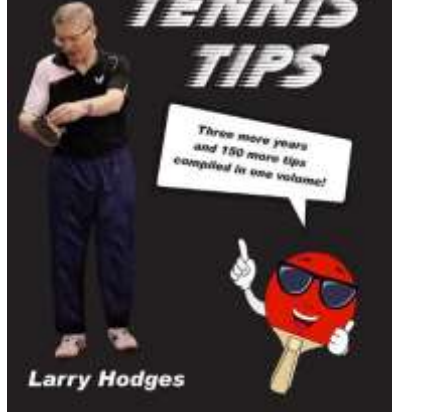
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The Spirit of Pong
An American Goes to China to Learn
the Secrets of Table Tennis



Larry Hodges

Coach

- Have coached over 250 gold medalists at Junior Olympics and Junior Nationals, more than any other U.S. coach.
- Full-time coach at [Maryland Table Tennis Center](#), 1992-present
- Have written over [500 online Tips of the Week](#) for USATT & TableTennisCoaching.com
- [Over 800 published coaching articles](#) and [seven table tennis instructional books](#)
- Coach of USA Junior Team in 1990s and early 2000s at tournaments around the world, including Taiwan, Canada, Mexico, and U.S. Opens. Coached USA Junior Team to upset third place finish at the World Youth Cup in 1994 in Taiwan in front of 20,000 fans.
- Have run over 100 five-day or longer training camps, almost all as a head coach. That's 1.5 years just running camps.
- ITTF Level 2 Certified Coach – first in the U.S.
- Ran ITTF Certification Camp at MDTTC in 2011 – 24 hours of coaches training.
- Have run numerous of USATT Coaching Clinics at U.S. Opens and Nationals.
- Head Coach at three USATT Disabled Veterans Camps, 2014-2016.
- Volunteered for two weeks at the July, 2017 USATT SuperCamp, as a coach and manager for the top USA junior players, plus [daily write-ups](#).
- Volunteer coach at September, 2016 ITTF 4-day Camp at MDTTC.

Club Director

- Co-Founder of [Maryland Table Tennis Center](#), 1991, the first successful full-time training center, creating the model that has been copied all over the country. [There are now over 100](#).
- Founder & President, University of Maryland Table Tennis Club, 1981-85, 1991-92; the most active club in the U.S. in early 1980s with 16 tables, open 7 days/week
- Director & Coach, Club JOOLA, 2007-2008
- President, Northern Virginia Table Tennis Club, 1982-85
- President & co-founder, Beltsville Table Tennis Club, 1991
- As Chair of the USATT Club Committee, 1990-91, created and ran the highly successful Club Catalysts & Creation program, increasing the number of USATT certified clubs from 226 to 301.

Tournament Director & Official

- Have run exactly 200 USATT sanctioned tournaments, as of June, 2018.
- Runs five annual tournaments, all 3-star level
- Initiated and runs the annual 3-star Maryland State Championships
- Assistant Operations Director, 1991 & 1992 U.S. Opens (to Donna Sakai)
- Ran the 1998 Eastern Open, with 411 entries - the most ever for a 4-star tournament (excluding the North American Teams, which is listed as a 4-star)
- Ran the 1993 Junior Nationals, with \$5000 in prize money from sponsors
- Led 2015 USATT initiative for State Championships, leading to about ten new state championships, including California and New York
- USATT certified club umpire, formerly regional level
- Chief Umpire at a 4-star Eastern Open and College Nationals
- Wrote the original proposal canceling the infamous "Paddle Point Rule" in 1992.

League Director

- Initiated and co-Founded (with Robert Mayer) the USATT League in 2003
 - Since its beginning there have been 683,948 processed matches by 32,579 players in over 450 leagues (84 of them currently active), as of Jan. 1, 2017 (don't have 2017 data)
 - Processes more matches each month than the USATT tournament system
- Co-Founder and Committee Member of the Capital Area League, 2015-present
- USATT League Chair, 2015-2017; created [USATT proto-type](#) for regional team leagues
- Commissioner, Northern Virginia Table Tennis League, 1983-85
- Founded in 1992 the MDTTC Tue & Fri Night Leagues, which still run every week

Promoter

- Have arranged over 80 TV showings on CNN, Headline News, ESPN, Nightline, and on local ABC, CBS, and NBC.
- Arranged the two of the largest showings of USA Table Tennis in history, Headline News and CNN specials on Ping Pong Diplomacy's 25th Anniversary in 1997, and on the Maryland Table Tennis Center in 1993.
- Hundreds of newspaper clippings on table tennis activities
- Did press coverage for USATT of over 40 U.S. Opens, Nationals, Worlds, and Team Trials, and dozens of 4-star tournaments
- Founder of the U.S. Classic Hard Bat Association, later the USATT Hardbat Committee
- Have done many hundreds of exhibitions, both local and around the country

Player

- Highest rating and ranking: 2292 and #18 in the U.S., despite late start at age 16 (at Yvonne Kronlage's New Carrollton TTC). Had over 40 ratings over 2250, beat 9 players over 2450, but never broke 2300, alas.
- At U.S. Open and Nationals
 - 1989 U.S. Nationals Men's Doubles Quarterfinalist (sponge), with Ty Hoff
 - 2-time Hardbat Singles Champion
 - 5-time (and current U.S. National) Over 40 Hardbat Singles Champion
 - 14-time Hardbat Doubles Champion (9 with Ty Hoff, 4 with Steve Berger, 1 with A.J. Carney – current champions)
 - 2-time Over 50 Hardbat Doubles Champion (1 with Jeff Johnson, 1 with Jay Turberville)
 - 1-time Hardbat Mixed Doubles Champion (with Estee Ackerman, current champions)
- College titles:
 - 1990 National Collegiate Men's Doubles Champion, Singles Quarterfinalist
 - 1994 & 1995 National Collegiate Men's Team Champion (player/coach)
- 9-time North Carolina Open Champion, 1979-81
- 1983 Northern Virginia Open Champion
- 1989 Colorado State Games Men's Singles and Doubles Champion
- 1990 Potomac Open Champion
- 1990 Winston-Salem Open Champion
- 1997 Potomac Valley Open Champion
- State Champion in North Carolina (1981), Colorado (1989) and Maryland (1992, 2002)
- University of Maryland Table Tennis Singles & Doubles Champion, 1981-85
- 2010 U.S. Open Over 40 Doubles Finalist
- Final 16, 1983 Pan Am Trials
- 2000 North American Hardbat Singles Champion
- Raised over \$5000 for USATT Junior Committee in 1990s and 2000s by taking on challenges at U.S. Open and Nationals . . . with a clipboard!



1983 Pan Am Trials. Photo by Donna Sakai

