

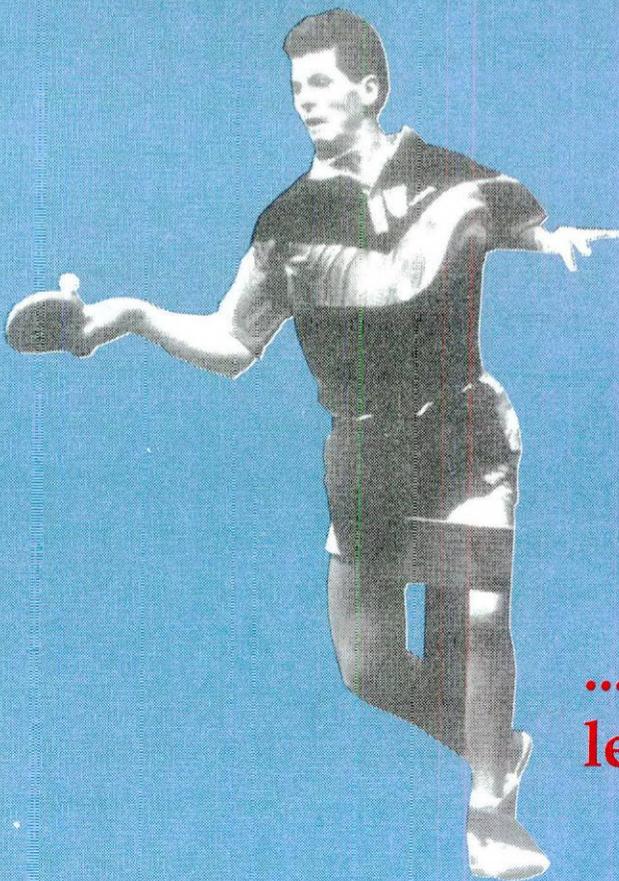
Table Tennis World

**David Zhuang & Amy Feng
are National Champions...**



**...Zoran Primorac
is \$25,000 Richer...**

This is the
first issue of
TABLE TENNIS WORLD.
*If you would like
to subscribe,
see insert or
page 5*



**...and Todd Sweeris
led his team to Victory.**



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #4848
Rockville, MD



Vote Barney D. Reed USATT VICE PRESIDENT

Educating Clubs is Vital!

- We need to direct money toward programs that lead to National Growth!
- USATT Clubs, the backbone of USA Table Tennis, are the key. (See chart below.) Clubs need to be educated on how to:
 - Recruit from Schools
 - Develop School Programs
 - Create New Clubs
 - How to Organize
 - How to Run Training Camps
 - How to Develop Inner City Programs
 - How to Develop Leagues

Table Tennis Background

- USATT Certified National Coach; Have coached U.S. Junior Team at International Competitions overseas, including Taiwan, Sweden & England. Professional Table Tennis Coach at Lycksele Table Tennis High School in Sweden, 1992-93.
- Founded or co-founded two table tennis clubs
- Former Chairman of USATT Junior Committee
- Have attended numerous USATT Meetings, often as proxy.
- USATT Certified Umpire
- Life USATT member; member for over 20 years

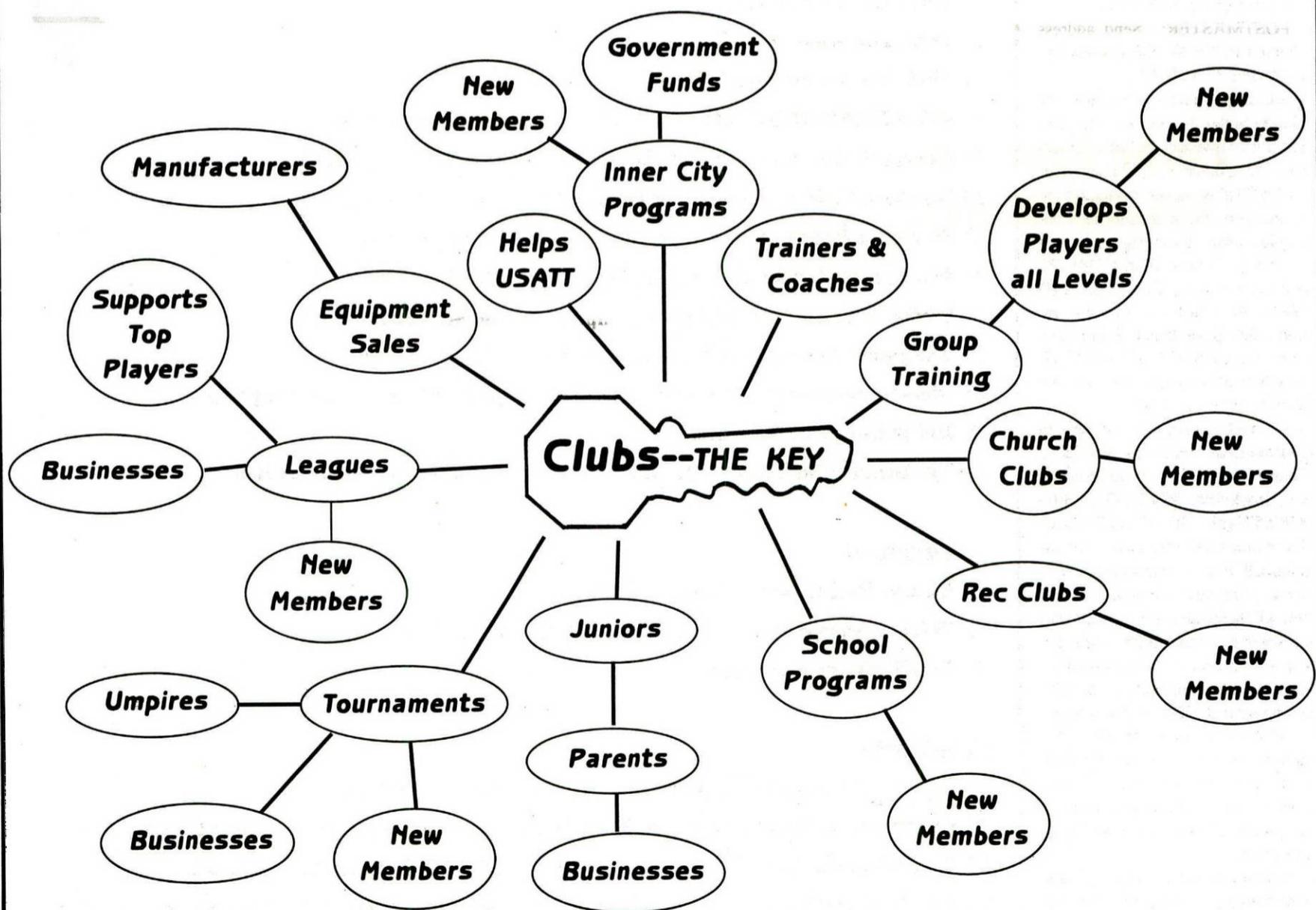


Table Tennis World

Editor & Publisher:

Larry Hodges

Consultants:

John Olson, Julian Waters

Staff Writers:

Jim Annesi, Tim Boggan,
Bob Greene, Jamey Hall,
Larry Hodges, Tong Lee,
Todd Sweeris, Wei Wang

Photographers & Artwork:

Mal Anderson, Kirsten Davis,
Ray Fields, Joe Holman,
Steve Isaacson, Scott Krueter,
Victor Liu, Aly Salam,
John Oros, Diego Schaaf
Cover Photos of
Todd Sweeris & David Zhuang
©1996 by John Oros
Cover Photos of
Zoran Primorac & Amy Feng
©1996 by Mal Anderson

Volume I, Number 1

January/February, 1996

TABLE TENNIS WORLD is published bi-monthly. Third class postage paid in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852.

Subscription rates available in the United States are \$20 for one year, \$35 for two years. All other countries are \$30 per year. Single copies are \$4.00 plus postage prepaid. Subscription orders and inquiries concerning subscriptions should be sent to: Table Tennis World, 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852, 301-838-8571. All subscription orders payable in U.S. currency only. For CHANGE of ADDRESS, send both old and new addresses and label from recent issue.

All photos, graphics, and written contributions should be sent to Table Tennis World, 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852, 301-838-8571 (ph), 301-838-8572 (Fax). The editor is not responsible for unsolicited letters, manuscripts, artwork, or photos, although every effort will be made to return such matter when accompanied by a self-addressed envelope. When possible, send written contributions on 3.5" computer disk, IBM or MacIntosh.

Advertising rates are available upon request. Acceptance of advertising does not necessarily imply Table Tennis World endorsement of the product. Contact the editor for ad rate chart.

Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

TOURNAMENTS

- 32 **The 1995 U.S. Nationals**, by Larry Hodges
David Zhuang, Amy Feng Dominate Again
- 38 **\$89,000 Beverly Hills Gilbert Cup**, by Diego Schaaf
Zoran Primorac wins biggest money tournament in U.S. History!
- 42 **U.S. Open Team Championships**, by Tim Boggan
Maryland/USA defeats China!
- 48 **Pacific Rim Open**, by Tong Lee
Razvan Cretu Upsets David Zhuang Twice!
- 49 **Schildkrot Open**, by Tong Lee
- 41 **International Results** European Masters, World Singles Cup,
Polish Open, Hungarian Open, Austrian Open, French Open,
Swedish Open, Finland Open, Asian Women All-Stars
- 50 **Around the USA** California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland,
Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

Birth of a Magazine!



Photo of Adam Salam by Aly Salam ©1996

FEATURES

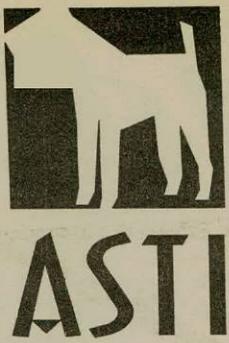
- 6 Short Stuff
- 10 1995: The Year in Review
- 12 1995: The Senior Year in Review
- 14 1995: The Junior Year in Review
- 16 **TABLE TENNIS WORLD** Interviews U.S. Team Member Darko Rop
- 18 **George Brathwaite: Fulfilling the Impossible Dream**, by Larry Hodges
- 20 **Northern California Junior Development Program**, by Tong Lee
- 22 **Pound for Pound, Who Are the Best Players?** by Larry Hodges
- 22 **Profile of National Junior Champion Barney J. Reed**
- 24 **Profile of U.S. Junior Olympic Champion Shashin Shodhan**
- 24 **The Junior Recruitment Process in Sweden**, by Barney D. Reed
- 25 **Ideas to Improve the Popularity of Table Tennis in the U.S.**, by Lim Ming Chui
- 26 **Did'ja Know?** by Bob Green
- 54 **The Death of the Tiger--A Science Fiction/Table Tennis Story!** by Jamey Hall

Obituaries:

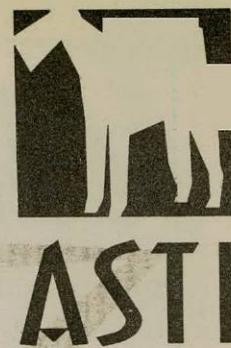
- 51 **George Rocker** by Tim Boggan
- 52 **William Sharpe** by Tim Boggan, Scott Boggan & Dick Evans
- 53 **Vija Livins** by Tim Boggan

COACHING

- 27 **Control of Mental Skills** by Jim Annesi, Ph.D., *Sports Psychologist*
- 27 **Championship Shot Selection**, by Todd Sweeris, *Olympic Festival Men's Singles Gold Medalist*
- 27 **Tactics For the Slower of Foot**, by Larry Hodges, *USATT Certified National Coach*
- 28 **The Forehand Block of Jean-Michel Saive**, by Wei Wang, *1990 U.S. Women's Singles Champion*
- 30 **Advanced Serves**, by Larry Hodges, *USATT Certified National Coach*



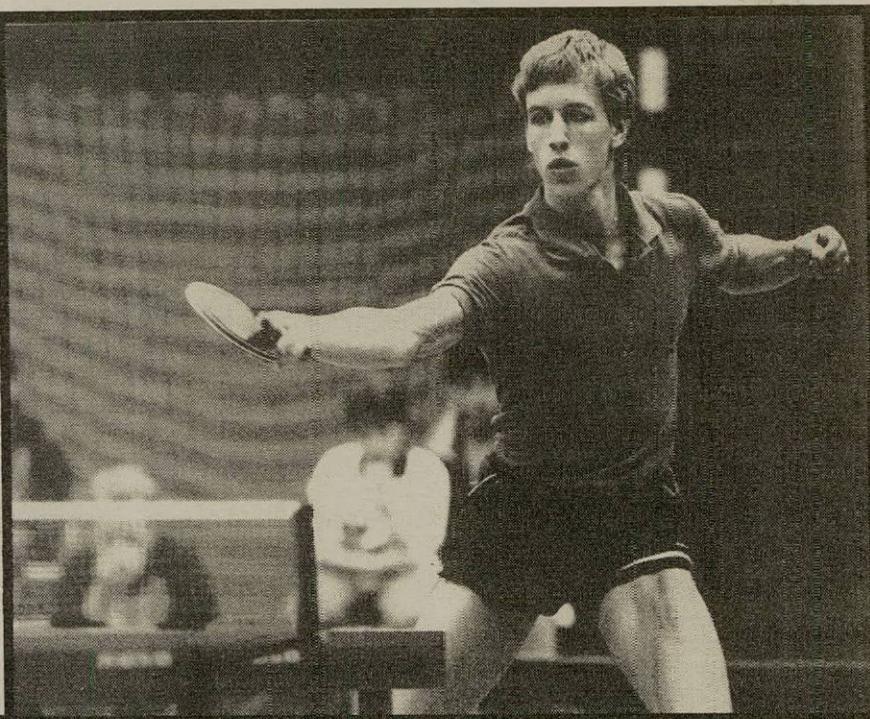
Lightspeed - The Rubber of Champions
Present & Future



Sean O'Neill On Lightspeed SP

" Yasaka Mark V, Friendship 729, Butterfly Sriver, Double Happiness PF4 and Juic 999 all claim to be power-punchers. I should know - I tried them all. The problem with these sheets is you always give up spin for speed or visa versa. Luckily, Airedale Sports & Technology came up with a solution - Lightspeed SP. It combines the devastating spin of Chinese style rubber with the forceful speed of their Japanese counterparts. As a power player you should have every tool at your disposal, that means rotation and acceleration. If your game depends on intense loops and potent smashes give it a try. I did and it's staying on my racket."

**Sean O'Neill - 5-X US and 1990 North American
Champion**



Sean Plays With Lightspeed SP 2.2 Both Sides

Keenan Bowens: *1995 Boys U12 US Junior Olympic and Junior National Champion*
Keenan plays with an ASTI Euro-Flex blade with Lightspeed Attack 2.0 rubber.

Terrence Lee: *1995 Boys U13 Sgls & U16 Dbls US Nationals Champion*
Terrence plays with an ASTI Polaris blade with Lightspeed Attack 2.0 rubber.

Freddie Gabriel: *1995 Boys U16 Dbls, U2000 & U2100 US Nationals Champion*
Freddie plays with an ASTI Polaris blade with Lightspeed Attack 2.0 rubber.

Andrew Rushton: *Member Of the English Cadet Boys (under 14) National Team*
Andrew plays with an ASTI Polaris blade with Lightspeed Regular 2.0 rubber.

Diana Rainer: *1995 Canadian Winter Games Girls U14, 94 U12 National Champion*
Diana plays with an ASTI Li Zhenshi blade with Lightspeed Attack Plus 2.0 rubber.

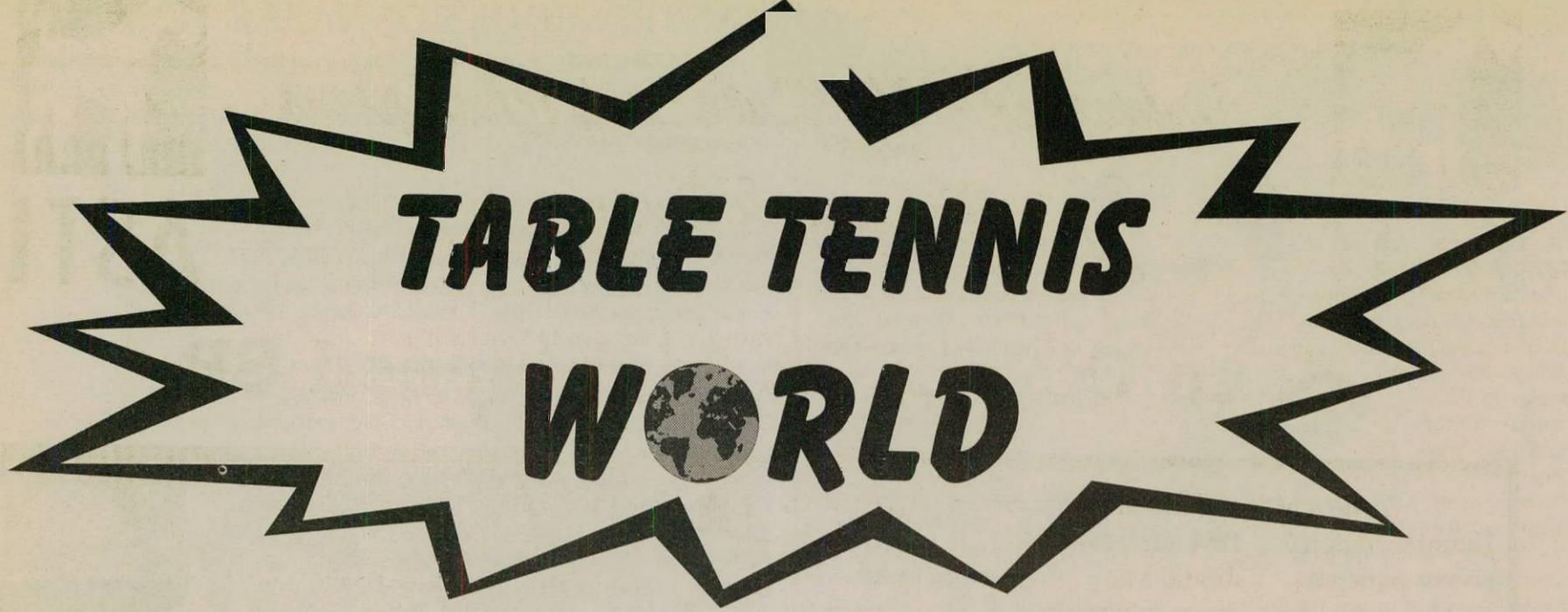
*Lightspeed comes in four Versions: Regular, Attack, Attack Plus
& SP to suit most playing styles and preferences.*

To order or to find out more about Lightspeed contact your local ASTI
dealer or the ASTI factory:

Orders: 800-879-0904

Info: 541-488-2695

650 Tolman Cr. Road • Ashland, OR 97520



SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscriptions: \$20/one year, \$35/two years, Six issues/year
Editor/Publisher: Larry Hodges, 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852
301-838-8571 (ph) • 301-838-8572 (fax) • Internet: ttworld@erols.com
Visit our Web Page on the Internet at <http://www.erols.com/syeh>

TABLE TENNIS WORLD is devoted to covering table tennis throughout the U.S. and the rest of the world. It will include lots of:

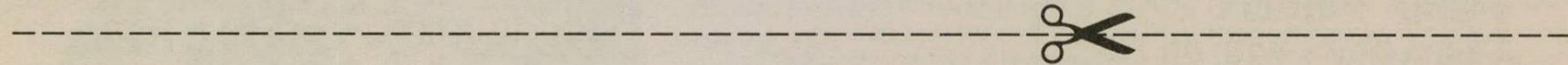
- Coaching articles
- Player profiles
- International news
- Tournament coverage & results
- Special interest feature articles
- Editorials & Letters to the editor
- In depth interviews
- Anything of interest to table tennis enthusiasts

Articles, letters, photos, cartoons and other contributions are actively sought.

Editor Larry Hodges was editor of *Table Tennis Today* from 1991-95, and is the author of the book *Table Tennis; Steps to Success*. He is the Director of the National Table Tennis Center, and a Certified National Coach. He has had over 300 articles on table tennis published in 27 different publications.

SPECIAL: Subscribe to **TABLE TENNIS WORLD**, and for only \$18 extra, get either a pair of Double Coin Shoes (used by the Chinese National Team), or 3 dozen 3-star Double Happiness Balls (used at World Championships)! Shoe offer good only while supplies last; afterwards, balls will automatically be substituted. (Please specify shoe size.)

NOTE: If you would like to subscribe to **TABLE TENNIS WORLD**, but do not wish to cut into this 1st-issue collector's edition, then use the inserted flyer that should be in this issue, or simply send the information below on a separate sheet of paper.



Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Phone (h) _____ Phone (w) _____

Date _____ 2-years (\$35) 1-year (\$20)

\$18 Special: Balls Shoes, size _____
(includes shipping & handling.)

Make checks out and mail to:
TABLE TENNIS WORLD
301 W. Edmonston Dr.
Rockville, MD 20852

EDITOR'S REPORT

by Larry Hodges

This is it, the first issue of **TABLE TENNIS WORLD!** It will be published every two months in its first year. Long-term goals include going monthly, going glossy with color, and going on the newsstand—hopefully within two years. Did you know that we are the only Olympic sport without a magazine on the newsstand?

I hope you'll support this project by subscribing, at least for the first year or two. If you like what you see, we'll have a long-term relationship, with *TTWorld* arriving regularly in your mailbox, and me able to continue eating, paying rent, etc. In return, I'll do whatever I can to make the magazine better each issue, and if there are enough subscribers, I will get it on the newsstand as a color glossy.

I would like to thank all the people who made this magazine possible. Without the support of the many advertisers, photographers, writers and graphic artists who supported this venture, it wouldn't have been possible.

I was the editor of *Table Tennis Today* for four years, but USATT chose not to continue my contract, and instead hired a non-table tennis person who would work out of their headquarters in Colorado Springs and act as public relations director as well. Interestingly, in the last five years before I was hired (1986-91), USATT had 9 editors, including 5 in the last two years; what they've done now is increase the responsibilities (to include public relations) while lowering the salary!

Perhaps having the two magazines will be for the better—the competition between the two will make each better. That's for you, the readers, to decide. I wish the new editor well.

I've spent a great deal of time agonizing over just what type of material should go into *TTWorld*. I decided that I wanted to emphasize coaching articles and profiles, as well as tournament coverage. I want this

to be an upbeat, positive magazine, with lots of colorful articles about colorful players, as well as informative coaching articles. **Send me your contributions!**

I also considered a column called "Table Tennis Insider," where I would talk about all the problems facing our sport and USATT. However, I soon realized that the column would turn into a laundry list of all the mistakes the USATT has made or is making—and after 62 years of non-progress, it's time we face the fact that USATT is not going to be the engine of growth for table tennis in this country. Folks, they're not changing. Growth in our sport will come from those on the "outside"—those working independently. If you look at the hot beds of table tennis in the country—and there are many—none are dependent on USATT. So perhaps they are the ones on the "inside"?

This is not to say USATT does not have a place in our sport. But until they take action to make themselves relevant, they are largely irrelevant toward the progress of the sport in this country. They offer tournament ratings and their association magazine, and they do have the resources that come with an \$800,000 or so annual budget. I hope that in the upcoming election, voters will vote wisely so this money will not be squandered.

So where will growth in our sport come from? I offer you yourselves, the readers of this magazine, as the ones it will come from. It's too big a country to work nationally, so work regionally, and if one region is hugely successful, others will follow.



Pacific Northwest Pioneers in Table Tennis

by Tyra Parkins

I have been active in Table Tennis for more years than I wish to admit. When I first started over 25 years ago, there were only two clubs in the Pacific Northwest.

One was in Seattle, Washington, and the other in Portland, Oregon, run by Dr. Michael Scott and Mr. Lou Bochenski, respectively. The Pacific Northwest is indebted to both of these pioneers who are still active and are still contributing to the sport. Both were former USATT vice presidents and both served on numerous committees.

Dr. Scott obtained Varsity letters for Table Tennis athletes in the 70's at Seattle University and Mr. Bochenski was instrumental in popularizing table tennis at Oregon Universities and high schools.

Although neither were outstanding players themselves, Dr. Scott did come in 2nd in the 50+ National Championship

and 1st in both Singles and doubles in the 60+ categories at the USATT Nationals.

Mr. Bochenski is a superb coach and his daughter, Judy, and Dean Doyle are but two examples of his outstanding coaching ability.

Both Michael and Lou stressed good sportsmanship in their clubs and Dr. Scott was awarded the 1994 Rich Livingston Good Sportsmanship Award by the Las Vegas Sports and Events Council.

Lou stated and still manages the largest distributorship of table tennis equipment in the USA.

Because of the relative isolation of the Pacific Northwest, national recognition is at times, obscure. Nevertheless, I'd like to acknowledge the indebtedness this region owes to these two individuals for their contributions to our sport. Our thanks to Michael and Lou.

WANTED: BOOKS ON TABLE TENNIS

TABLE TENNIS WORLD is trying to collect a complete listing of books on table tennis in English. Below is the current library. If you know of any others that we may be able to purchase, please contact Editor Larry Hodges at 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852, 301-838-8571 (ph), 301-838-8572 (fax), ttworld@erols.com (email). Thanks for your help!

- Table Tennis Education Program*, by Steve Bruecker, 1995
- Table Tennis: Steps to Success*, by Larry Hodges, 1993
- The History of the Hungarian Team*, by Laszlo Bellak, 1993
- Play the Game: Table Tennis*, by Donald Parker & David Hewitt, 1993
- Table Tennis: The Early Years*, by Gerald N. Gurney, 1993
- Table Tennis the Sport*, by Scott Preiss, 1992
- Newgy Robot/Player's Instructional Manual*, by Larry Thoman, 1992
- Instructor's Guide to Table Tennis*, by Larry Hodges, 1989
- Table Tennis: The Skills of the Game*, by Gordon Steggall, 1986
- Winning Table Tennis*, by Tim Boggan, 1976
- Table Tennis is Fun*, Maureen O'Bryan & Eric Ford, 1976
- Table Tennis*, by David Phillip, 1975
- Table Tennis*, by Leslie Woolard, 1975
- Table Tennis*, by Philip Antheneum, 1975
- The Money Player*, by Marty Reisman, 1974
- Advanced Table Tennis*, by Jack Carr, 1972
- The Book of Table Tennis*, by Glenn Cowen, 1972
- The Game of Table Tennis*, by Dick Miles, 1968
- The Ogimura Seminar of Table Tennis*, by Dell Sweeris, 1968
- Table Tennis*, by Ruffard Harrison & Margaret Varner, 1967
- Table Tennis Today*, by Victor Barna, 1962
- Table Tennis*, by Jay Purves, 1942
- Table Tennis Comes of Age*, by Sol Schiff, 1939
- Table Tennis*, by Coleman Clark, 1938
- Modern Ping-Pong and How to Play It*, by Coleman Clark, 1933
- A Manual of Ping-Pong, the Game, Its Tactics and Laws*, by Cornelius G. Schaad, 1928
- Ping-Pong, The Game & How to Play It*, by Arnold Parker, 1902

Dear Editor,

May I express a pet peeve? Since it has happened a number of times to me (and, I am sure, others) at competitive events, I would like to express my views on the issue. Most recently it happened to me at the Nationals in Las Vegas.

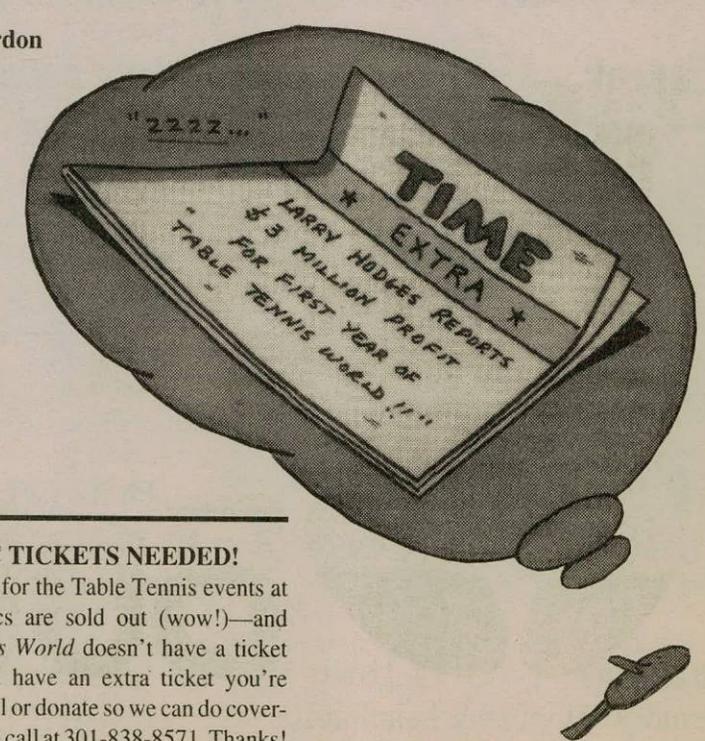
When my opponent asked to see my bat and rubber, he felt (and slightly rubbed) the *playing (hitting) surface* of the rubber clean and I do use a cleaner on my short pips to restore it to its natural tackiness. I observe that many players use a cleaner as well.

May I please advise all players: if you must touch and feel your opponent's rubber (as most of us want to do, I think) please do it on the *non-playing (hitting) surface* of the rubber (the area *near* the handle).

In my opinion this would be the proper and considerate thing to do.

Sincerely,
Grady Gordon
Waco, TX

Would you like to Advertise in **TABLE TENNIS WORLD?**
Contact Editor Larry Hodges
301-838-8571 (ph)
301-838-8572 (fax)
ttworld@erols.com (email)

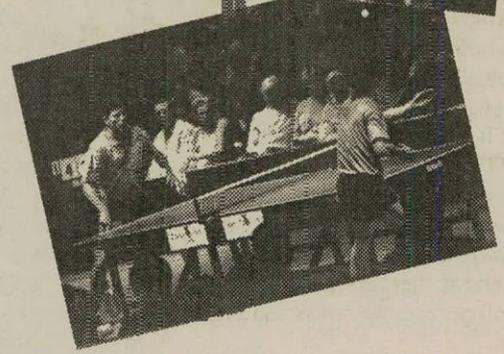
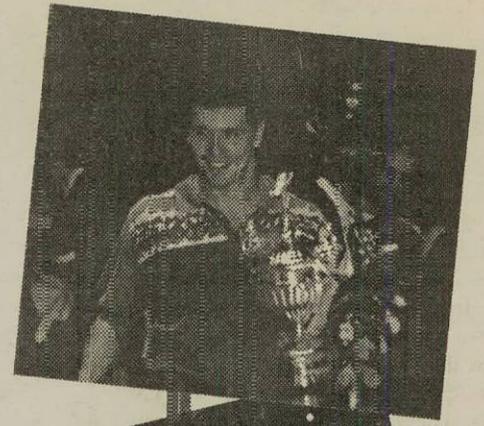
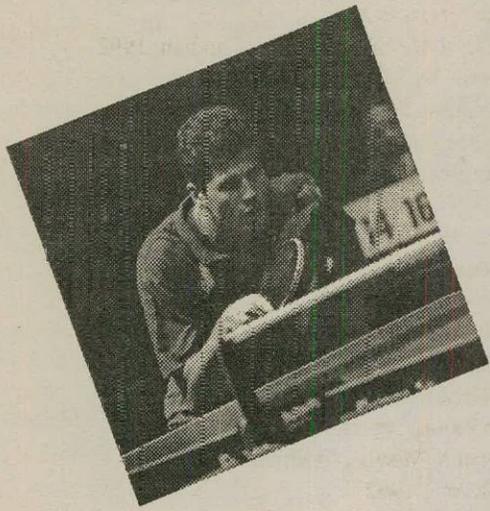


OLYMPIC TICKETS NEEDED!

Tickets for the Table Tennis events at the Olympics are sold out (wow!)—and *Table Tennis World* doesn't have a ticket yet! If you have an extra ticket you're willing to sell or donate so we can do coverage, give us a call at 301-838-8571. Thanks!

1996 Beverly Hills Gilbert Cup Winner

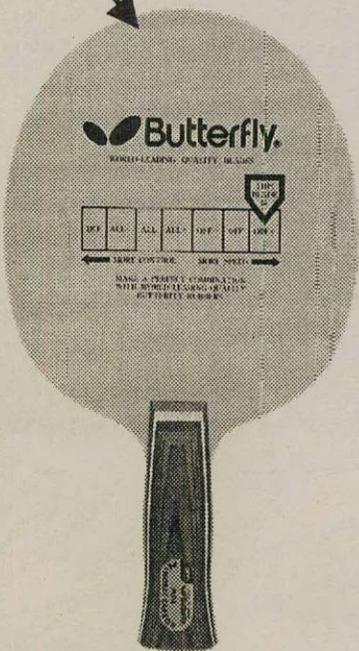
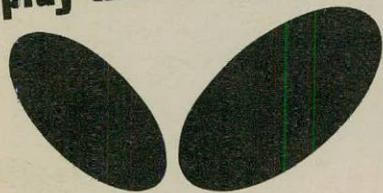
Zoran Primorac



talent is
Nice
but,

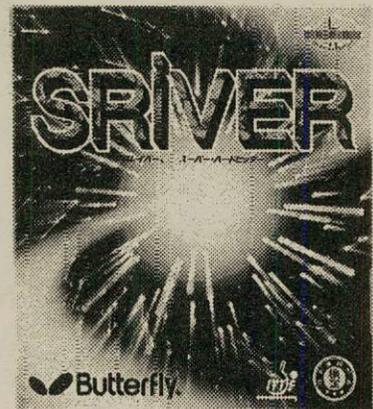
great
gear
never hurts!

play the best,



A Winning Combination

The Primorac Carbon is destined to become one of Butterfly's most popular blades. Its Cypress and Carbon plies are the secret to this excellent power play blade. Paired with Sriver, the choice for both power and versatility, this duo is sure to take your game to a new level.



Butterfly®



THE 150-POINT SWING

You Could Lose 150 Rating Points With One Careless Swing!

Question: How can a player lose 150 ratings points (in the USATT rating system) by missing one easy smash? **Answer:** In a team match with a three-on-three format (such as the U.S. Open Team Championships), the players are labeled A, B & C versus X, Y & Z. Suppose you are the Y player for the XYZ team, and the ABC team is made up of three players, each rated at least 238 points lower than you. You will be playing in matches number 2, 6 & 9. Suppose your team wins the first team match. You play match #2. You are up match point, but miss an easy smash and end up losing the match to this lower rated player (and 50 rating points). Your team then wins the next three matches, taking a 4-1 lead. If you had not missed that easy smash, your team would now be up 5-0, and the team match would be over. Instead, you now have to play match #6 (which you lose, again blowing 50 big ones), and your team keeps losing, losing, until finally, it's all tied up, 4-4, and you play the decisive 9th match...which you lose, along with another 50 rating points. So by missing that one easy forehand, you end up losing all three matches, and 150 rating points.

What a Way to Go...

Adolph Daxboeck, 23, was taking part in a contest in Burnaby, British Columbia, to see how far a ping-pong ball could be blown. He inhaled by mistake, and the ball lodged in his throat, choking him to death. *Beyond News of the Weird*, Plume Books, p. 162, "Odd Endings."



The flip side of Aly Salam's table tennis business card.

They Said It

"Presidential politics is not 'Ping-Pong.' It's hardball." *Senate Majority Leader & Presidential Aspirant Bob Dole. Newsweek, Nov. 20, 1995, pg. 48.*

"Don't get careless now!" *German spectator at World Championships to Germany's Jie Schopp during Germany-Taiwan women's team match. Schopp was up 18-0 at the time, after winning the first, 21-0. She won match, 0 & 0. Contributed by Diego Schaaf.*

"At 75, I better do only one year." *U.S. Over 70 & Over 75 Champion George Hendry, deciding on a 1-year rather than 2-year subscription to Table Tennis World.*

"D___d right!" *Californian Dennis Davis, when asked if the mostly California crowd was partisan during the Men's Singles final at the Nationals, between California's Khoa Nguyen and New Jersey's David Zhuang.*

"David still has a chance." *Californian Dennis Davis, on David Zhuang's chances of winning Men's Singles at the Nationals. David was up 2-1 in games and led 8-2 in the 4th at the time against California's Khoa Nguyen.*

"He'd better be playing well. If he's not playing well, he's not spending enough time practicing; and if he's not spending enough time practicing, what is he spending it on?" *Janet Jackson on long-distance relationships, fidelity, table tennis, and Caribbean Champion/Boyfriend Stephen Hyllton. Contributed by Jamey Hall.*

"...Table Tennis activities involve risks and dangers of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death." *Part of USATT insurance release form.*

Said the coach: "If you misbehave any more, I'm going to call your mom, then you'll be up a creek." Said the new junior, holding up a racket: "But now I've got a paddle!" *Overheard at the Bartlesville TTC, contributed by Nancy Persaud.*

Player one, calling out score: "7-11." Player two, responding: "Hey, I robbed them last week!" *Overheard at the Bartlesville TTC, during a junior class that included kids in trouble at school. Contributed by Nancy Persaud.*

"Great! I was up 7-1, but now it's 6-all." *James Wimm, at the Bartlesville TTC. (What goes on at that place?) Contributed by Nancy Persaud.*

"Suppose, for example, that whenever you and I play Ping-Pong, I win hands down. Whenever you and Ernestine play, you slaughter her. But Ernestine has a wicked serve I just can't return, so whenever I'm up against her, I throw down my paddle in despair after five minutes. Who's the best Ping-Pong player? Clearly none of us. So mathematicians would say that you, Ernestine and I are not totally ordered under winning at Ping-Pong." *Discover Magazine, December, 1995, "Infinity Plus One, and Other Surreal Numbers," pg. 101.*

Heard anything interesting at the table tennis club recently? Send it to: Table Tennis World, 301 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852, or fax to 301-838-8572, or email to ttworld@erols.com.

MEN

1	KONG Linghui
2	WANG Tao
3	SAIVE Jean-Michel
4	WALDNER Jan-Ove
5	LIU Guoliang
6	KIM Taek Soo
7	MA Wenge
8	ROSSKOPF Jorg
9	SAMSONOV Vladimir
10	PRIMORAC Zoran
11	DING Song
12	GATIEN Jean-Philippe
13	HUANG Johnny
14	KARLSSON Peter
15	YOO Nam Kyu
16	PERSSON Jorgen
17	WANG Yonggang
18	GRUBBA Andrzej
19	LU Lin
19	CHILA Patrick
19	CHEN Xinhua
22	LINDH Erik
23	YANG Min
24	CREANGA Calin
25	XIONG Ke
33	CHENG Yinghua
72	BUTLER Jim
146	O NEILL Sean
151	ZHUANG David
184	NGUYEN Khoa
241	SEEMILLER Danny
242	MASTERS Brian
267	ROP Darko
290	MAY Derek
300	OWENS Eric
316	REED Barney James
328	CHUI Chi-Sun
370	SWEERIS Todd

CHN

CHN

BEL

SWE

CHN

KOR

CHN

GER

BLR

CRO

CHN

FRA

CAN

SWE

KOR

SWE

CHN

POL

CHN

FRA

ENG

SWE

ITA

GRE

CHN

USA

ITTF World Rankings

January 23, 1996



Women

1	DENG Yaping
2	QIAO Hong
3	CHEN Jing
4	LIU Wei
5	WANG Nan
6	GENG Lijuan
7	YANG Ying
8	LI Ju
9	CHAI Po Wa
10	KOYAMA Chire
11	WANG Chen
12	CHEN Zihe
13	QIAO Yunping
14	STRUSE Nicole
15	VRIESEKOOP Bettine
16	JING Jun Hong
17	SCHOPP Jie
18	PARK Hae Jung
19	WU Na
20	BADESCU Otilia
21	BATORFI Csilla
22	WANG Hui
23	CHAN Tan Lui
24	CIOUSU Emilia
25	TANG Fei Ming
47	FENG Amy
85	YIP Lily
101	WANG Wei
175	GEE Diana
201	BANH Tawny
226	SUNG Virginia

CHN

CHN

TPE

CHN

CHN

CAN

CHN

CHN

HKG

JPN

CHN

CHN

CHN

GER

NED

SIN

GER

KOR

CHN

ROM

HUN

CHN

HKG

ROM

TPE

USA

USA

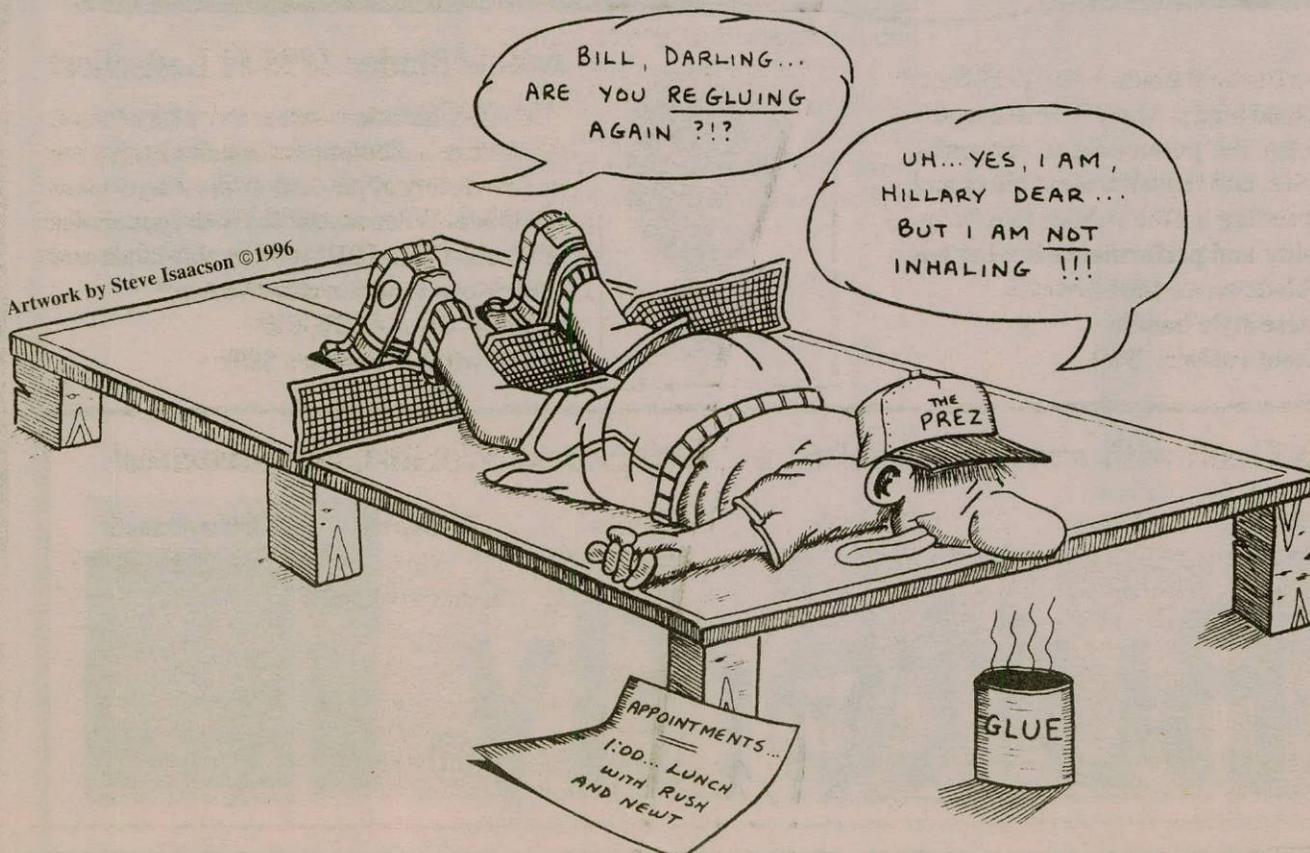
USA

USA

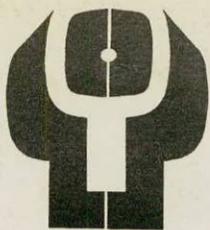
USA

USA

Artwork by Steve Isaacson ©1996



Paddle Palace



CALL ORDERS TOLL FREE
1-800-547-5891

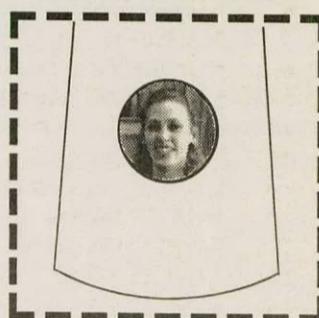
Paddle Palace Table Tennis Company
8125 SE Glencoe Rd., Portland, OR 97222
FAX (503) 777-4062 PHONE (503) 777-2266
Internet: http://www.teleport.com/~softedge/paddle_palace.shtml

New Service: Customize Your Paddle!

Insert Your Name



Insert Your Photo



Now you can have a very special inscription or photo inserted into the handle of any custom-made paddle at the Paddle Palace. Only \$5
...One more way to serve you, our customer!

KALINIC PENHOLD BLADE
PLUS one sheet of ANY JUIC RUBBER
PLUS one paint sheet!

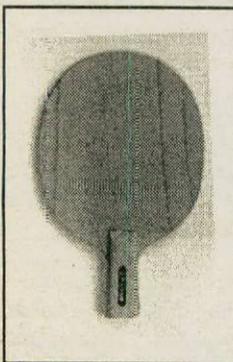
ONLY \$64.95

Expires 4/15/96

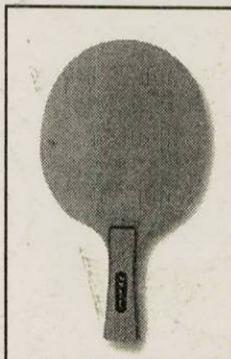


1995 #1 Bestselling Blade!
KALINIC SHAKEHANDS BLADE
PLUS two sheets of ANY JUIC RUBBER

ONLY \$69.95



The Kalinic Penhold blade is the 1995 Best-Selling penhold blade. Made for offense, it is well-suited for the power-looper, the quick counterdriver, and the all-around hitter and looper, depending on the rubber that is applied. Quality and performance is what has made this blade an all-time favorite.
5-Ply, Chinese-style handle
(Blade without rubber: \$46)



Kalinic Blade: 1995 #1 Bestseller!

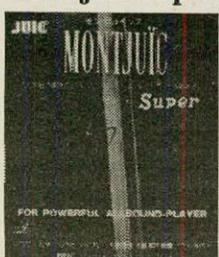
The JUIC Kalinic features five plys of wood to produce a medium fast blade suitable for a wide variety of playing styles. Players love this blade. When assembled with your choice of World-Class JUIC rubber, this blade and rubber combination can't be beat!
Handle: FL, AN, ST, CO
(Blade without rubber: \$39)

This Special Offer is Good with any JUIC rubber, including these World-Class favorites!

Scramble



Montjuic Super



Kaiza



JUIC 999



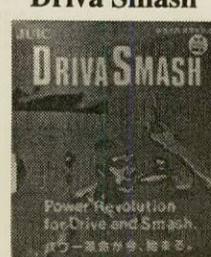
Pips Ace



Spinspiel



Driva Smash



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

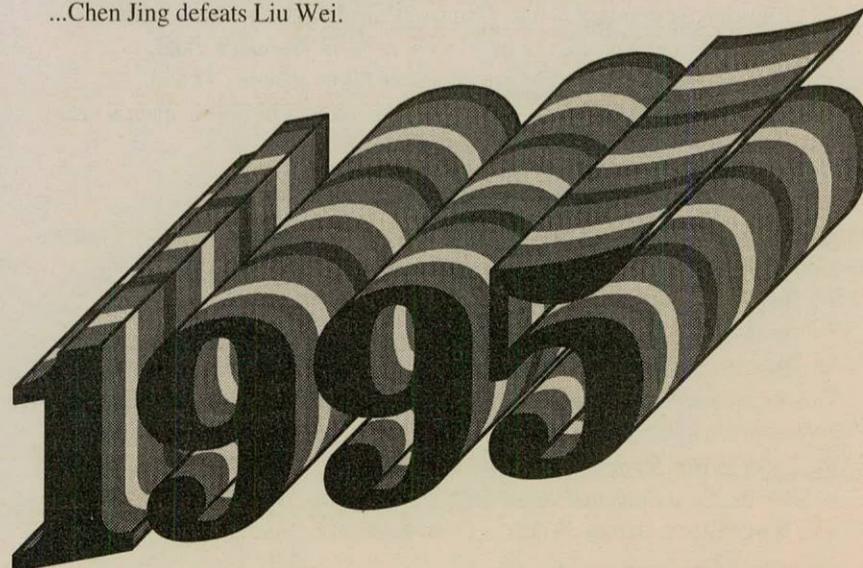
- **January 7-8, English Open...**
...Damien Eloi (France) defeats China's Xiong Ke to win Men's Singles.
...Bettine Vrieskoop of the Netherlands wins Women's Singles over England's Andrea Holt.
- **January 13-15, Karlsruhe, Germany, European Nationals Cup...**
...Sweden defeats Russia in final.
- **January 20, World Allstars Circuit, Tokyo...**
...Jean-Michel Saive over Kim Taek Soo.
- **January 21-22, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua wins Open Singles over Sean Lonergan.
- **January 21-22, Virginia, Minnesota...**
...Bob Fox wins Men's Singles over Gery Kerkow.
- **January 22, World Allstars Circuit, Tadotsu, Japan...**
...Jean-Philippe Gatien defeats Koji Matsushita.
- **January 24...**
...Table tennis is featured as category on Jeopardy.
- **January 25, World Allstars Circuit, Kahoku-machi, Japan...**
...Yoo Nam Kyu defeats Jean-Philippe Gatien.
- **January 28, Clinton, Missouri, CTTC Open...**
Kirk Spradling over Lloyd Layton.
- **January 28-29, San Jose, California, Vietnamese New Year Invitational...**
...Cheng Yinghua wins with 5-0 record.
- **February 3-5, European Top 12...**
...Jan-Ove Waldner defeats Erik Lindh in final.
- **February 4-5, Chinese New Year Open, Costa Mesa, California...**
...Cheng Yinghua sweeps Men's Singles, Allstar Men's Singles, and Open Doubles.
...Wei Wang sweeps Women's Singles & Allstar Women's Singles.
- **February 11, Westfield, New Jersey Open...**
...David Zhuang over Dan Seemiller.
- **February 11-12, Middletown, Pennsylvania, Middletown Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua wins Open Singles over Sean Lonergan.
- **February 18, Clinton, Missouri, CTTC Open...**
...Ed Hogshead over Brad Wommack.
- **February 25-26, Philadelphia, Waterfront Open...**
...David Zhuang defeats Abass Ekun in final.
- **February 25-26, Michigan...**
...Cheng Yinghua, David Zhuang, Jim Butler, Darko Rop & Khoa Nguyen make U.S. Team in Men's Team Trials.
- **March 4-5, Pittsburgh Open...**
...Dan Seemiller defeats Randy Seemiller in final.
- **March 4-5, Phoenix, Arizona, Arizona Open...**
...Avishy Schmidt defeats Bill Ryan in Open Singles final.
- **March 11-26 Argentina, Pan Am Games...**
...Brazil wins Men's Teams.
...Canada wins Women's Teams.
...USA gets silver medals in Men's & Women's Teams
...Jim Butler gets bronze in Men's Singles.
...Lily Yip & Diana Gee get silver & bronze in Women's Singles.
...Wei Wang & Tawny Banh get bronze for Women's Doubles.
- **March 11, Schaumburg, Illinois, Schaumburg Team Open...**
...Won by Dan Kim & Paul Lamse.
- **March 12, Westfield, New Jersey Open...**
...David Zhuang over Abass Ekun.
- **March 18-19, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua defeats Huazhang Xu in final.
- **March 18-19, The Racquet Place, Matawan, New Jersey, JCTTC Open...**
...George Braithwaite defeats Chris Lehman in final.
- **March 18, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, OCTTC Spring Open...**
...Torsten Pawloski defeats Yumiko Payton.
- **March 20...**
...U.S. #1 & #2 Juniors Barney J. Reed & Dave Fernandez return from seven months training in Sweden.
- **March 23-24, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Pan Am Team Trials...**
...Jim Butler, Sean O'Neill, Derek May, Chi-Sun Chui make Men's Team.
...Lily Yip, Wei Wang, Diana Gee, Tawny Banh make Women's Team.
- **March 25-26, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Louisiana Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua wins Open Singles.
...Khoa Nguyen wins Allstar Men's Singles.
...Amy Feng wins Women's Singles & Allstar Women's Singles.
- **March 25-26, Penn State University, Pennsylvania Team Championships...**
...Won by Pittsburgh over Lehigh Valley I.
- **April 1, Dearborn, Michigan, Michigan Championships...**
...Bernie Pietrak defeats Abayomi Oladokun in final; Mimi Bosika defeats Eileen Zanto in Women's Final.
- **April 1-2, Princeton University, New Jersey, National College Championships...**
...University of Maryland wins third straight National College Team Championship, defeating Montgomery College in all-Maryland final.
- **April 15-16, Potomac, Maryland, Potomac Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua defeats David Zhuang in final.
- **April 17...**
...Terry Timmins is elected USATT President, Jiing Wang Executive Vice President, Y.C. Lee Vice President, and Donna Sakai is re-elected Secretary.
- **April 21-22, Georgia State University...**
...Sean Lonergan wins National College Men's Singles Championship.
...Jane Chui wins National College Women's Singles Championship.
- **April 21-28, Singapore, 12th Commonwealth Games...**
...Chan Kong Wah defeats Alan Cooke in Men's Final.
...Chai Po Wa defeats Jing Jun Hong in Women's final.
- **April 22-23, Providence, Rhode Island, Rhode Island Open...**
...Hisashi Kubo defeats George Braithwaite in Open final.
- **April 22, Apple Valley, Minnesota, Minnesota Open...**
...Brandon Olson defeats Todd Peterson in Open final.
- **April 22, Huntsville, Alabama, Alabama Closed...**
...Keith LaFrance over Don Gaither.
- **April 22, Columbia, South Carolina, GCTTC Closed...**
...John Palmer over Steve Palmer.
- **April 23, Middletown, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Closed...**
...Dan Seemiller defeats Barney J. Reed in final.
- **April 29, Rockville, Maryland, Maryland Closed...**
...Gao Jun defeats Sean Lonergan.
- **May 1-14, Tianjin, China, World Championships...**
...China Sweeps All Seven Events!
...Kong Linghui defeats Liu Guoliang in Men's Singles Final.
...Deng Yaping defeats Qiao Hong in Women's Final.
...Wang Tao & Lu Lin win Men's Doubles.
...Deng Yaping & Qiao Hong win Women's Doubles.
...Wang Tao & Liu Wei win Mixed Doubles.
...China wins Men's Teams.
...China wins Women's Teams.
- **May 6-7, Fort Worth, Texas, Texas Open...**
...Torsten Pawloski defeats Roberto "Dino" Byles.
- **May 7, Hooksett, New Hampshire, Tri-State Open...**
...Qiumars Hedayatian defeats Shuja Jafar.
- **May 7, Erie, Pennsylvania, Millcreek Open...**
...Dan Kim over Craig Bensch.
- **May 13-14, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Jack Huang defeats Barney J. Reed in final.
- **May 13-14, Waltham, Massachusetts Open...**
...Qiumars Hedayatian over Kwing Yiu Lau.
- **May 14, ITTF Meetings...**
...USA's Tim Boggan receives ITTF Order of Merit.
- **May 20, Westfield, New Jersey Open...**
...David Zhuang over Abass Ekun.
- **May 20, Paul Cracraft Memorial Open...**
...Sai Kwok defeats David Vollmar in final.
- **May 22...**
...Two-time U.S. Champion Bernie Bukiet dies.
- **May 27-29, South Bend, Indiana, North American Championships & St. Joseph Valley Open...**
...Johnny Huang defeats Cheng Yinghua in North American Men's Final.
...Lijuan Geng defeats Amy Feng in Women's Final.
...David Zhuang defeats Darko Rop in Allstar Men's Final.
...Amy Feng defeats Lily Yip in Allstar Women's Final.
- **May 27-28, Walnut Creek, California, Golden State Open...**
...Chi-Sun Chui defeats Shashin Shodhan in final.
- **June 2-4, Augusta, Georgia, National Club Championships...**
...National Table Tennis Center (MD) defeats USA Augusta (GA) in final.
...Cheng Yinghua defeats Jim Butler in Allstar Men's Final.
...Amy Feng defeats Andrea Butler in Allstar Women's Final.
- **June 3-4, Germany, Deutschland Cup...**
...Dmitrij Mazunov defeats Trinko Keen in Men's Final.
...He Qian Hong defeats Ni Xialiang in Women's Final.



- **June 3-4, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Waterfront Open...**
...Abass Ekun defeats Enoch Green.
- **June 3-4, St. Louis Gateway Open...**
...Norman Yeh over George Hendry in Open final.
- **June 8-11, Okinawa, Japan, Japan Grand Prix...**
...Ding Song defeats Johnny Huang in Final.
- **June 9-11, San Diego Open...**
...Da-Zhi Guo over Fernando Valencia in Open final.
- **June 10, Wichita, Kansas, Wichita International Teams...**
...Won by Hutchinson over Wichita TTA.
- **June 10, Atlanta Open...**
...Michael Hyatt over David Williams in Open final.
- **June 10, Schaumburg, Illinois, No Waiting RR...**
...Norman Yeh over Wojciech Wolski.
- **June 10-11, Middletown, Pennsylvania, Middletown Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua defeats Abass Ekun in Open Final.
- **June 13-14, Shenzhen, China, World Allstars...**
...Kong Linghui defeats Wang Tao.
- **June 16-18, Shantou, China, China Grand Prix...**
Kong Linghui defeats Wang Tao in Final.
- **June 17-18, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Jack Huang defeats Gao Jun in final.
- **June 17-18, Portland, Oregon, Rose City Open...**
...Y.J. Liu defeats Quang Bui in Open final.
- **June 20, Taipei, Taiwan, World Allstar Circuit...**
...Wang Tao defeats Ma Wenge in Final.
- **June 22, Hong Kong, World Allstars...**
...Kong Linghui defeats Zoran Primorac.
- **June 25, Colorado Springs Open Teams...**
...Preiss of Being Young defeats Ellerton/Sutz.
- **July 5-9, Anaheim, California, U.S. Open...**
...Liu Guoliang defeats Feng Zhe in Men's Singles.
...Lijuan Geng defeats Bettine Vrieskoop in Women's Singles.
...David Zhuang defeats Cheng Yinghua in Allstar Men's Singles.
...Amy Feng defeats Lily Yip in Allstar Women's Singles.
...Keith Alban sweeps Under 12, 14 & 16 Boys' events.
...Nick Mintsiveris sweeps Over 50 & 60 singles events.
- **July 8...**
...Dan Seemiller & Alice Kimble inducted into USATT Hall of Fame.
- **July 15-16, Detroit, Michigan, Detroit Open...**
...Jim Butler defeats Cheng Yinghua in Open.
...Cheng Yinghua defeats Jim Butler in Allstar Men.
...Amy Feng defeats Mimi Bosika in Allstar Women final when ineligible Bosika is mistakenly allowed to play.
- **July 19-23, Brazil Open...**
...Chiang Peng-Lung defeats Liu Song in Men's Final.
...Cheng Jing defeats Xu Jing in Women's Final.
- **July 23, Rhode Island State Games...**
...Brian Conti over Lance Friedel in Open Final.
- **July 22-23, Glen Park, California, Glen Park Open...**
...Shashin Shodhan defeats Mark Liu in Open final.
- **July 22, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Colorado Open...**
...Sai Kwok over David Vollmar in Open final.
- **July 27-30, Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S. Olympic Festival...**
...Todd Sweeris defeats Darko Rop in Men's Final.
...Amy Feng defeats Lily Yip in Women's Final.
- **July 29, Seattle, Washington, Koala Springs Open...**
...Liu Jong Jiang over Gerald Hamer.
- **July 29, Waco, Texas, Waco Open...**
...Torsten Pawlowski defeats Robert Bryant in Open Final.
- **August 3-5, Des Moines, Iowa, Junior Nationals & Junior Olympics...**
...National Table Tennis Center (MD) sweeps 3 of 4 team events, 6 of 10 National Championship Singles events, 4 of 10 Junior Olympic Singles events, and 3 of 4 doubles events.
- **August 11-13, Atlanta, Georgia, World Team Cup...**
...Korea defeats Germany in final, 19 in 3rd in 5th.
...USA defeats Belgium & France to reach Semifinals of major international event for first time since 1949.
- **August 12-13, Tempe, Arizona, Arizona Open...**
...Paul Groenig defeats Marek Zochowski in Open Final.
- **August 19-20, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sun TV Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua defeats David Zhuang in Open Final.
...David Zhuang defeats Cheng Yinghua in Allstar Men Final.
...Virginia Sung defeats Jessica Shen in Allstar Women Final.
- **August 19, Fort Worth, Texas, Wesleyan Open...**
...Torsten Pawlowski defeats Christian Lillieroos in Open Final.



- **August 25-27, Taipei, Taiwan, King Kar Youth City Cup Championships...**
...Korea defeats Taiwan in Men's Team Final.
...Taiwan defeats Japan in Women's Team Final.
- **August 26-27, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Jack Huang defeats Huazhang Xu in Open Final.
- **August 31 - September 3, Toronto, Canada, CNE Open...**
...Horatio Pintea defeats Dan Seemiller in Men's Singles Final.
...Lijuan Geng defeats Lyne Desjardins in Women's Singles Final.
- **September 2-3, Palo Alto, California, Sam Lima Open...**
...Chi-Sun Chui defeats De Tran in Open Final.
- **September 8-10, Germany, European Masters...**
...Jorg Roskopf defeats Jan-Ove Waldner in Final.
- **September 9-10, Jefferson City, Missouri, Missouri Open...**
...David Zhuang defeats Huazhang Xu in Open Final.
...Gao Jun defeats Amy Feng in Women's Final.
...Todd Sweeris defeats Jim Butler (def) in Allstar Men's Final.
...Amy Feng & Lily Yip split Allstar Women's Final.
- **September 9, Decatur, Alabama Open...**
...Donny Flowers over Jay Sourinthone.
- **September 9, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Rocky Mountain Open...**
...Roger Kuseski defeats Venkat Narayanan in Open Final.
- **September 17, Palatine, Illinois, Sears Invitational...**
...Matthew Syed wins for 3rd straight year, over Alan Cook.
- **September 23-24, Middletown, Pennsylvania, Middletown Open...**
...David Zhuang defeats Abass Ekun in Open Final.
- **September 30 - October 1, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Jack Huang defeats Huazhang Xu in Open Final.
- **October 11-15, Nimes, France, World Singles Cup...**
...Kong Linghua defeats Jorg Roskopf in Final.
- **October 28, Colorado Springs, Colorado Open...**
...Sai Kwok defeats Eric Benton in Open Final.
- **October 28, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Huazhang Xu defeats Gao Jun in Open Final.
- **October 28, St. Louis, Missouri, St. Louis Open...**
...Andrew An defeats Tri Dinh in Open Final.
- **October 28, Rockford, Illinois Open...**
...Spenser Lam defeats Jason Miller in Open Final.
- **November 4-5, Portland, Oregon, Pacific Rim Open...**
...Razvan Cretu defeats David Zhuang in both Men's and Allstar Men's Singles Finals.
...Gao Jun defeats Amy Feng in Women's Final.
...Amy Feng defeats Lily Yip in Allstar Women's Final.
- **November 18-19, Potomac, Maryland, Potomac Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua defeats David Zhuang in Open Final.
- **November 24-26, Detroit, Michigan, U.S. Open Teams...**
...Maryland defeats China in Team Final.
- **December 1-3, New York City, Hoffstra Open...**
...Cheng Yinghua defeats David Zhuang in Final.
- **December 2-3, Emeryville, California, Schildkrot Open...**
...Chi-Sun Chui defeats Shashin Shodhan in Final.
- **December 2-3, Rockville, Maryland, NTTC Open...**
...Jack Huang defeats Sunny Li in Open Final.
- **December 2-3, Emeryville, California, Schildkrot Open...**
...Chi-Sun Chui defeats Shashin Shodhan in Open Final.
- **December 2, Colorado Springs, Colorado...**
...Larry Hodges replaced as editor of *Table Tennis Today* by an editor to be named later.
- **December 7-10, Tampere, Finland Open...**
...Jan-Ove Waldner defeats Thomas von Scheele in Final.
- **December 13-17, Las Vegas, U.S. Nationals...**
...David Zhuang wins Men's Singles over Khoa Nguyen.
...Amy Feng wins Women's Singles over Lily Yip.
- **December 15-16, Wanchai, Hong Kong, Asian Women Allstars...**
...Chen Jing defeats Liu Wei.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Seniors

- **March 25-26, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Louisiana Open...**
 - ...Cheng Yinghua & David Zhuang split final of Over 30.
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Henry Chan in Allstar Senior Final.
- **May 27-29, South Bend, Indiana, St. Joseph Valley Open...**
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Parviz Mojaverian in Allstar Senior & Over 40 Final.
 - ...Tim Boggan defeats Primo Madrigal in Over 50 Final.
 - ...Ercel Kerner defeats Tim Boggan in Over 60 Final.
- **July 1-3, Laguna Hills, California, Meiklejon National Senior Championships...**
 - ...Bela Frank defeats Dan Seemiller in Over 40 Final.
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Bela Frank in Over 40 Elite Final.
 - ...Bill Ukapatayasakul defeats Ron Von Schimmelman in Over 50 Final.
 - ...Nick Mintsiveris defeats Bill Sharpe in Over 60 Final.
 - ...Arthur Chase defeats Richard Badger in Over 70 Final.
 - ...Ken Hoover defeats George Rocker in Over 75 Final.
 - ...Harry Bloom defeats Eugene Wilson in Over 80 Final.
 - ...Alice Kimble defeats Bella Livshits in Over 40 Women's Final.
 - ...Barbara Kaminsky defeats Danuta Andrzejewska in Over 50 Women's Final.
- **July 5-9, Anaheim, California, U.S. Open...**
 - ...Yiqing Zang of China defeats David Zhuang in Over 30 Final.
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Attila Malek in Allstar Senior Men's Final.
 - ...Rey Domingo defeats Bella Frank in Over 40 Men's Final.
 - ...Nick Mintsiveris defeats Samuel Liang in Over 50 Men's Final.
 - ...Alice Kimble defeats Barbara Kaminsky in Allstar Senior Women's Final, and Bella Livshits in Over 40 Women's Final.
 - ...Karen Chang defeats Barbara Kaminski in Over 50 Women's Final.
 - ...Nick Mintsiveris defeats Bill Sharpe in Over 60 Final.
 - ...Louis Radzeli defeats Wiley Butler in Over 70 Final, and Arthur Chase in Over 75 Final.
 - ...Eugene Wilson defeats George Sempeles in Over 80 Final.
 - ...USA wins Senior Men's Teams.
- **July 15-16, Detroit, Michigan, Detroit Open...**
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Paul Lamse in Allstar Senior Final.
 - ...Paul Lamse defeats Jordan Michelson in Over 50 Final.
- **August 19-20, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sun TV Open...**
 - ...David Zhuang defeats Barry Dattel in Over 30 Final.
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Parviz Mojaverian in Over 40 Final.
 - ...Terry Lonergan defeats Neil Ackerman in Over 50 Final.
- **September 9-10, Jefferson City, Missouri, Missouri Open...**
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Dave Sakai in Allstar Senior Final.
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Houshang Bozorgzadeh in Over 40 Final.
 - ...George Hendry defeats Houshang Bozorgzadeh in Over 50 Final.
 - ...Tom Clendenin defeats Victor Meredith in Over 60 Final.
- **October 17-20, St. George, Utah, Huntsman World Senior Games...**
 - ...Wilfredo Escobar defeats James Morris in 50-54 Men's Final.
 - ...Ragnar Fahlstrom defeats William Roady in 55-59 Men's Final.
 - ...Tom Miller defeats Leszek Filipowicz in 60-64 Men's Final.
 - ...Rudolph Nelke (Germany) defeats Guenter Puzicha (Germany) in 65-69 Men's Final.
 - ...Richard Badger defeats Edgar Stein in 70-74 Men's Final.
 - ...Ken Hoover defeats Lachlan Coonan (Canada) in 75+ Men's Final.
 - ...Cecilia Armelin defeats Harriet Quon in 50-59 Women's Final.
 - ...Mary Kleinhenz defeats Margaret Fox in 60-69 Women's Final.
 - ...Christa Knauer (Germany) defeats Tybie Sommer in 70+ Women's Final.
- **November 4-5, Portland, Oregon, Pacific Rim Open...**
 - ...Joseph Chen & Steve Ma split Allstar Senior Final.
 - ...Gabor Berezvai defeats Francis Pang in Over 40 Final.
- **December 13-17, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. Nationals...**
 - ...David Zhuang defeats Henry Chan in Over 30 Singles Final.
 - ...Dan Seemiller defeats Joe Cummings in Over 40 Men's Final.
 - ...Bella Livshits defeats Donna Cheng in Over 40 Women's Final.
 - ...Richard Hicks defeats George Brathwaite in Over 50 Men's Final.
 - ...Yvonne Kronlage defeats Danuta Andrzejewska in Over 50 Women's Final.
 - ...George Brathwaite defeats Nick Mintsiveris in Over 60 Final.
 - ...George Hendry defeats Marcy Monasterial in Over 70 Final.
 - ...George Hendry defeats Loth in Over 75 Final.
 - ...Harry Bloom defeats Walsh in Over 80 Final.

MAL ANDERSON for USATT VICE PRESIDENT

I've been an active officer of both the USATT (USTTA) and ITTF for more than 30 years now. This includes:

- Chairman of the Photographic Committee - 23 years;
- Chairman of the Nominating Committee - 1 year;
- Chairman of the Rules (later Legislative) Committee - 23 years;
- Eastern Regional Tournament Director - 3 years;
- USATT Vice President - 8 years;
- USATT Recording Secretary - 2 years (1 term);
- Member and Secretary of the ITTF Rules Committee - 20 years;
- Member of the Officials Committee - 3 years.

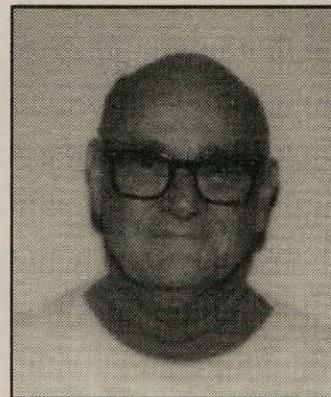
This adds up to 83 years of active service—not bad for someone still under 60! Now that my ITTF work has ended, I'm once again available to do more work for the USATT.

I'm a Chemical Engineer (University of Wisconsin, class of 1960), and have worked for AT&T since 1978, which shows I'm stable, professional, and reasonably intelligent.

The most visible indicator of my continuing work for Table Tennis is in my photographs, which I send to our National Publication. It is a rare issue that doesn't have at least one of my photos in it—you can check this out for yourself! I also regularly serve as referee for tournaments in Eastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire.

I see a real need for having me represent you on the Board of Directors. Some of the present members are 'power mad'—forming a clique to further their own interests with no regard to the interests of the USATT or you, its members. See my campaign statement in TTT for details—space limits me here.

If elected, I will adamantly oppose all clique oriented power plays. Of course, a single Board member can't do much when faced by an entrenched clique. I am therefore asking you to vote for me for VP, and use your other two votes for (in alphabetical order) either Shonie Aki, Mel Eisner, Dick Evans, Ed Hogshead, Jim McQueen, or Barney Reed. Electing three of us would be a positive step towards regaining control of the USATT from this power clique.



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT OF DICK EVANS FOR THE OFFICE OF USATT VICE-PRESIDENT

What should the members know about me that would incline you to vote for Dick Evans for USATT Vice-President?

A hands-on, detail person whose field of expertise is tournament venue design, equipment, playing conditions and physical operations. Since 1976 I have been the Director of Physical Operations for 16 National and U.S. Open Championships. I am currently the Assistant Manager for Competition Implementation for the Atlanta '96 Summer Olympic Games.

Because I have been a life-long tournament player, International Umpire, and for ten years owned the Columbus (Ohio) Table Tennis Courts, sponsor of many midwest tournaments, I have a broad view of table tennis both as a sport and a business venture.

If elected I will listen seriously to the concerns of the membership, evaluate suggestions reasonably, and vote my conscience. If you agree, I would like to have your vote.

SPRING TOURNAMENTS IN MINNESOTA

TWIN CITIES SPRING OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT **DISNEY'S**

TABLE TENNIS CENTER

USATT SANCTIONED THREE STAR ★★ ★ EVENT

\$2,500 min CASH

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY,
MARCH 30-31, 1996**

Play against Minnesota's top Table Tennis players.

Twenty events: Including rated events, age events, open and doubles.

Fall Open event featured top players Todd Petersen, Brandon Olson, Mitchell Seidenfeld, Thor Truelson and Minnesota Open Fall Classic tournament winner Dhiren Narotam.

Contact : DISNEY'S TABLE TENNIS CENTER
1-(612) 644-4350 or 1-(800) 891-8401



DULUTH SPRING OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT **DULUTH**

TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

USATT SANCTIONED TWO STAR ★★ EVENT

\$600 min CASH

**SATURDAY
MAY 4, 1996**

Come visit Duluth's beautiful Lake Superior waterfront!

Play against Duluth's top national ranked juniors and Ron Edwards, Team Canada from Winnipeg!

Winnipeg will be bringing its top players and juniors.

Contact : Gary Hendrickson
117 N 66th Ave. West
Duluth, MN 55807
Phone (218) 624-3997

HARVARD **TABLE SALE** STIGA

Special Table Prices: Includes Net and Shipping USA.

School prices (must be shipped to a school)

Harvard Collegiate	\$395	\$370
Harvard Professional	\$525	\$450
Stiga Elite	\$670	\$575
Stiga Expert	\$795	\$695

Tournament special only!!

Harvard Professional \$450
(Table must be picked up at tournament site March 31, 1996.)

To order call Disney's Table Tennis Center:

1-(800) 891-8401 or 1-(612) 644-4350

VISIT US ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT:

<http://www.winternet.com/~store/disneys/disneys.htm>

For more information Contact: Disney's Table Tennis Center

1-(612) 644-4350 or 1-(800) 891-8401

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Juniors

- **January 9-12, Tokyo, Global Youth Championships**
 - ...Japan and South Korea win Men's & Women's Youth Team Championships.
 - ...David Gustafsson of Sweden wins Men's Under 22; Zhu Fang of China wins Women's Under 22.
 - ...USA's Nan Li wins bronze medal for Girls' Under 17.
- **January 28-29, San Jose, California, Vietnamese New Year Invitational...**
 - ...Philip Lim defeats Vineet Agarwal in Under 18 Final.
- **March 25-26, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Louisiana Open...**
 - ...Dave Fernandez & Barney J. Reed split final of both Under 22 and Allstar Boys' Singles.
 - ...Andrea Butler defeats C. Chen in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...T.J. Beebe defeats Aaron Struth in Allstar Under 16 Final.
 - ...John Beaumont defeats Lock Sourinthone in Under 14 Final.
- **March...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed becomes first U.S. Junior to receive a world ranking: #318.
- **May 27-29, South Bend, Indiana, St. Joseph Valley Open...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Norman Yeh in Allstar Boys' Final.
 - ...Irina Elkin defeats Nicole Balmer in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...Anthony Torino & Keith Alban split Allstar Under 16 Final.
 - ...Mark Hazinski defeats Casey McLeod in Under 12 Boys' Final.
 - ...Dorela Subonj defeats Simona Subonj in Under 12 Girls' Final.
 - ...Jordan Lynch defeats Brett Baker in Under 10 Boys' Final.
 - ...Nicole Balmer defeats Dorela Subonj in Under 10 Girls' Final.
- **July 5-9, Anaheim, California, U.S. Open...**
 - ...Eric Owens defeats Barney J. Reed in Under 22 Men's Final.
 - ...Da-Zhi Guo defeats Barney J. Reed in Allstar Boys' Final.
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Shashin Shodhan in Under 18 Boys' Final.
 - ...Keith Alban defeats Fernando Takehara of Brazil in Under 16 Boys' Final.
 - ...Keith Alban defeats T.J. Beebe in Under 14 Boys' Final.
 - ...Keith Alban defeats Ivan Uchimura of Brazil in Under 12 Boys' Final.
 - ...Ashwin Kumar defeats Auria Malek in Under 10 Boys' Final.
 - ...Ai Sakata of Japan defeats Qian Zhao of China in Under 22 Women's Final.
 - ...Nan Li defeats Inga Viktorova in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...Ritu Bhola of India defeats Iwa Kong of Canada in Under 18 Girls' Final.
 - ...Mimi Bosika defeats Kelly Nagaoka of Japan in Under 16 Girls' Final.
 - ...Julia Symenkoua of Turkmenistan defeats Jessica Shen in Under 14 Girls' Final.
 - ...Jackie Lee defeats Katherine Livshits in Under 12 Girls' Final.
 - ...USA sweeps both Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' Team Events.
- **July 7-14, Amsterdam, Maccabi Games...**
 - ...USA's Aaron Struth wins Silver Medal in Junior Singles.
 - ...USA (Aaron Struth, Jeff Levy & Jonathan Serman) win Silver Medal in Junior Teams.
- **July 15-16, Detroit, Michigan, Detroit Open...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Richard Lee in Allstar Boys' Final.
 - ...Richard Lee defeats Barney J. Reed in Under 18 Boys' Final.
 - ...Irina Elkin defeats Mimi Bosika in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...Keith Alban defeats Vivian Lee in Allstar Under 16 Final.
 - ...Keith Alban defeats Mimi Bosika in Under 16 Final.
 - ...Mark Hazinski defeats Joseph Clemmons in Under 12 Final.
- **August 3, Des Moines, Iowa, Junior Olympics...**
 - ...Shashin Shodhan defeats Barney J. Reed in Under 18 Boys' Final.
 - ...John Beaumont defeats Andy Li in Under 16 Boys' Final.
 - ...T.J. Beebe defeats Lock Sourinthone in Under 14 Boys' Final.
 - ...Keenan Bowens defeats Cory Eider in Under 12 Boys' Final.
 - ...Han Xiao defeats Jordon Lynch in Under 10 Boys' Final.
 - ...Irina Elkin defeats Sally Dahlin in Under 18 Girls' Final.
 - ...Vivian Lee defeats Stacey Lee in Under 16 Girls' Final.
 - ...Jessica Shen defeats Shelley Lee in Under 14 Girls' Final.
 - ...Dorela Subonj defeats Caroline Oppenheimer in Under 12 Girls' Final.
 - ...Jacqueline Lee defeats Nicole Balmer in Under 10 Girls' Final.
- **August 4, Des Moines, Iowa, Junior Nationals...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Shashin Shodhan in Under 18 Boys' Final.
 - ...T.J. Beebe defeats Sunny Li in Under 16 Boys' Final.
 - ...Sunny Li defeats T.J. Beebe in Under 14 Boys' Finals.
 - ...Keenan Bowens defeats Corey Eider in Under 12 Boys' Final.
 - ...Han Xiao defeats Charles Fan in Under 10 Boys' Final.

- ...Irena Elkin defeats Sally Dahlin in Under 18 Girls' Final.
- ...Jessica Shen defeats Vivian Lee in Under 16 Girls' Final.
- ...Jessica Shen defeats Jacqueline Lee in Under 14 Girls' Final.
- ...Jacqueline Lee defeats Katherine Wu in Under 12 Girls' Final.
- ...Jacqueline Lee defeats Nicole Balmer in Under 10 Girls' Final.
- **August 5, Des Moines, Iowa, National Junior Team Championships...**
 - ...New York defeats Maryland in Under 18 Boys' Final.
 - ...Maryland I defeats Maryland II in Under 14 Boys' Final.
 - ...Maryland defeats California in Under 18 Girls' Final.
 - ...Maryland defeats California in Under 14 Girls' Final.
- **August 19-20, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Sun TV Open...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Norman Yeh in Allstar Boys' Final.
 - ...Jessica Shen defeats Margaret Lu in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...Ashu Jain defeats Keith Alban in Allstar Under 16 Final.
- **August 22-28, Taiwan, King Kar Youth City Cup Championships...**
 - ...USA Boys' Team makes quarterfinals. 18 USA juniors make trip.
- **September 9-10, Jefferson City, Missouri, Missouri Open...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Norman Yeh in Allstar Boys' Final.
 - ...Jessica Shen defeats Lindsey Wommack in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...Aaron Struth defeats Jessica Shen in Allstar Under 16 Final.
 - ...Nicholas Agimudie defeats Michael Squires in Under 14 Boys' Final.
 - ...Jesse Reinhold defeats Emily Racker in Under 14 Girls' Final.
 - ...Michael Grismore defeats Michael Liu in Under 12 Boys' Final.
 - ...Amy Todd defeats Amanda Stegeman in Under 12 Girls' Final.
- **November 4-5, Portland, Oregon, Pacific Rim Open...**
 - ...Barney J. Reed defeats Philip Lim in Allstar Junior Boys' Final.
 - ...Nan Li defeats Sally Dahlin in Allstar Girls' Final.
 - ...Nan Li defeats Philip Lim in Allstar Under 16 Final.
 - ...Phong Ho defeats Freddie Gabriel in High School Singles Final.
 - ...Freddie Gabriel defeats Vincent Kwong in Under 16 Final.
 - ...Vincent Kwong defeats Terrence Lee in Under 13 Final.
- **December 13-17, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. Nationals...**
 - ...Sean Lonergan defeats Eric Owens in Under 22 Men's Final.
 - ...Tawny Banh defeats Vivian Lee in Under 22 Women's Final.
- **December 17, Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. School Championships...**
 - ...Dave Fernandez defeats Shashin Shodhan in Boys' High School Singles Final.
 - ...Philip Lim defeats Ashu Jain in Boy's Junior High School Singles Final.
 - ...Terrence Lee defeats David Umel in Boys' Primary School Singles Final.
 - ...Auria Malek defeats Alan Rudesill in Boys' Elementary School Singles Final.
 - ...Inga Viktorova defeats Sally Dahlin in Girls' High School Singles Final.
 - ...Jessica Shen defeats Vivian Lee in Girls' Junior High School Singles Final.
 - ...Michelle Do defeats Jackie Lee in Girls' Primary School Singles Final.

'95 U.S. OPEN

VIDEOS are here

<p style="text-align: center;">Tape 1 (1H56MIN)</p> <p>MEN'S TEAM FINAL CHN - TPE Feng Zhe - Chiang Peng Lung Liu Guoliang - Hsieh Wen Tang Liu / Feng - Chiang / Hsieh Liu Guoliang - Chiang Peng Lung</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES: Kang Hee Chan (KOR) - Matsushita Koji (JPN)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tape 2 (2H01MIN)</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES: Jim Butler (USA) - Kang Hee Chan (KOR) Feng Zhe (CHN) - Ekun Abass (USA) Chiang (TPE) - Lim Chang Kook (KOR)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tape 3 (1H45MIN)</p> <p>WOMEN'S SINGLES: Wei Wang (USA) - Kawasaki K. (JPN)</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES SEMI #1: Chiang (TPE) - Feng Zhe (CHN)</p> <p>WOMEN'S SINGLES FINAL: Geng Lijuan (CAN) - Vriesekoop (NED)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tape 4 (2H02MIN)</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES: Zoltan Varga (HUN) - Park Sun Pyo (KOR)</p> <p>WOMEN'S SINGLES: Vriesekoop (NED) - Matsuoka (JPN)</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES SEMI #2: Liu Guoliang (CHN) - Jim Butler (USA)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tape 5 (1H59MIN)</p> <p>MEN'S TEAMS: USA - CHN David Zhuang - Feng Zhe Jim Butler - Liu Guoliang Cheng Yinghua / Zhuang - Feng / Liu</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES: Dan Seemiller (USA) - Park (KOR)</p> <p>MEN'S SINGLES FINAL: Feng Zhe (CHN) - Liu Guoliang (CHN)</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

\$20- per tape + \$3.- s & h
Complete set : \$85.- + \$5.- s & h
(California residents please add 8.25% tax)

ALSO AVAILABLE: REFLEX SPORTS'

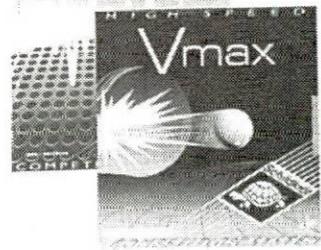
'95 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

TAPES A, B AND C:

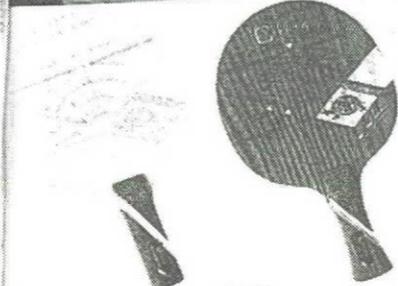
\$45.- EACH OR \$115.-/ SET - INCL. 2 DAY SHIPPING

To order call: **1-800-500-5057**

THE NEW



Schildkröt TABLE TENNIS



Vmax. "Jean-Michel Saive", is famous for his relentless attacks. Jean-Michel is playing Vmax. It offers very fast speed with control taking advantage of a new construction 5 plies of red ash, Oregon pine and abachi woods. Ideal when combined with the Vmax. rubber.

Cmax. "Jean-Michel Saive", the "Maximum Control" blade which permits speed. This objective is consistently achieved with the new Cmax. blade. This is a new high-tech development, which has been perfected as a result of extensive testing. The Cmax. blade is a special 5 ply mixture of green ash, limba and abachi woods. Recommended in combination with Cmax. rubber.



Futec - The special patented shape is moving the "sweet point" outward. For extremely high speed. 5 ply construction using Movifauti, Limba and Abachi woods.

Powertec - A pure power blade! Very fast attacking blade for quick, aggressive play. Particularly hard 5 ply wood combination of walnut, Oregon pine and abachi woods.



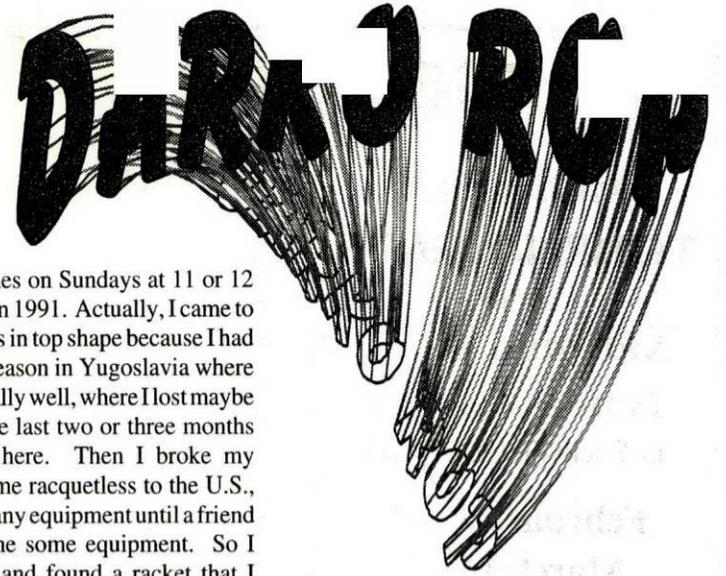
Very strong, fashionable and low-priced sports bag in poppy colours with a lot of inside space and three side pockets. The really useful and practical bag-perfect in function and design!

Schildkröt



U.S. Team Member • Former Member of Yugoslavian Team

December 15, 1996 • Las Vegas, Nevada



TTW: Tell us about yourself.

Darko: I am 29 years old, born on July 25, 1966 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. I came to the United States at the end of June, 1991.

TTW: Where do you live right now?

Darko: Houston, Texas.

TTW: Tell us about your playing career in Yugoslavia.

Darko: I started when I was 9 1/2 years old in the table tennis club where the big stars were Kastokasovich and Kasonovich. After a few years, Kasonovich moved to Canada and became one of the big stars here in North American. He was my idol for a while because I was the only lefty in the group of about 200 kids that I had started out with. I was doing well in my city and state

championships. I had some medals for successes in Yugoslavia.

TTW: So what are some of your past

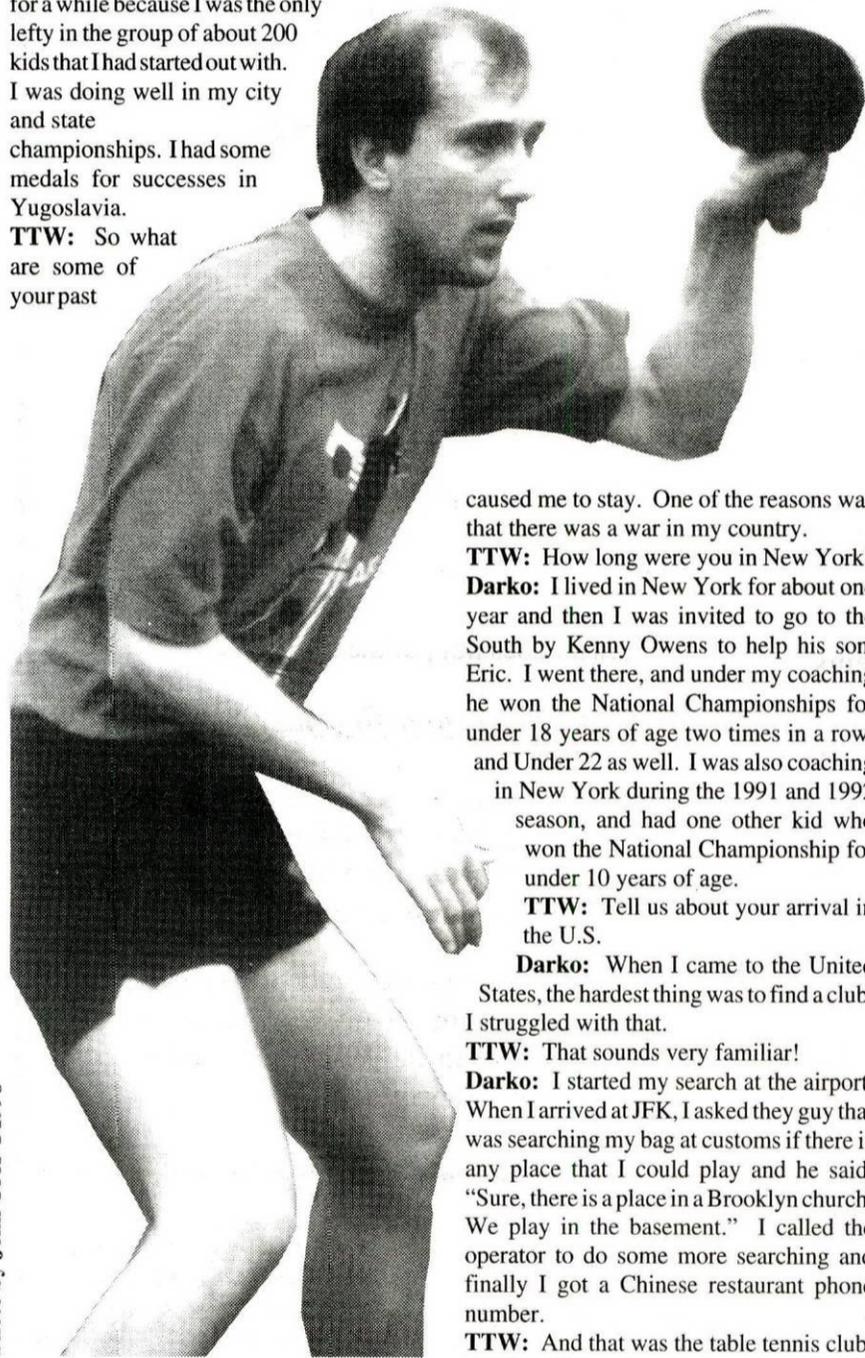


Photo by John Oros ©1996

accomplishments and achievements from when you lived in Yugoslavia?

Darko: In Yugoslavia, I won my state championships two times. It's the biggest state in Yugoslavia. On the Federal level, I also finished second with my doubles partner, Komovich, as well as in the team league competition, where my club finished second one year, either 1989 or 1990. The last five years that I was staying in Yugoslavia I was one of top eight players, which is actually the Yugoslavia Team. A normal team has eight members and two or four substitutes for the bigger tournaments. I was basically one of those eight and we didn't travel much, but I was practicing

with them. The Yugoslavia team at that time was very strong. The number one player was Primorac, number two was Luckovitz and third was Kamanich.

TTW: Why did you come to the U.S.?

Darko: I came to the United States to visit my sister who lives in Long Island, New York. That's how everything started.

TTW: When you first came, it was basically to visit the U.S.?

Darko: Yes, just to visit the U.S.

TTW: When you came here, what happened?

Darko: There were several things that

caused me to stay. One of the reasons was that there was a war in my country.

TTW: How long were you in New York?

Darko: I lived in New York for about one year and then I was invited to go to the South by Kenny Owens to help his son, Eric. I went there, and under my coaching he won the National Championships for under 18 years of age two times in a row, and Under 22 as well. I was also coaching in New York during the 1991 and 1992 season, and had one other kid who won the National Championship for under 10 years of age.

TTW: Tell us about your arrival in the U.S.

Darko: When I came to the United States, the hardest thing was to find a club. I struggled with that.

TTW: That sounds very familiar!

Darko: I started my search at the airport. When I arrived at JFK, I asked the guy that was searching my bag at customs if there is any place that I could play and he said, "Sure, there is a place in a Brooklyn church. We play in the basement." I called the operator to do some more searching and finally I got a Chinese restaurant phone number.

TTW: And that was the table tennis club.

Darko: Yes.

TTW: What happened next?

Darko: Then a friend of mine from Yugoslavia knew one guy who use to play table tennis and I got a free copy of the table tennis magazine. I was happy to see stuff in there. I realized that table tennis was not that small when they are selling Mark V and Srivier rubber.

TTW: What were your thoughts on U.S. table tennis before you came to the U.S.? What was your perception?

Darko: Well, I thought that no one played table tennis here.

TTW: Pretty close, but okay...go on.

Darko: I met Eric Boggan through a friend of mine. He did not like to practice, so we

would play games on Sundays at 11 or 12 noon. This was in 1991. Actually, I came to the United States in top shape because I had just finished a season in Yugoslavia where I was playing really well, where I lost maybe one match in the last two or three months before I came here. Then I broke my racquet, and came racquetless to the U.S., so I didn't have any equipment until a friend of mine gave me some equipment. So I started playing and found a racket that I liked, which was similar to the one I had in Yugoslavia. Then I went to play in a big tournament in Maryland.

TTW: Was that the Maryland Open in 1991?

Darko: Yes. I got to play with Cheng Yinghua and I didn't have a clue who he was. Then I thought that this guy was not that good at all.

TTW: Unfortunately, he probably thought the same thing about you.

Darko: Yeah, he probably thought the same thing about me, because I didn't have playing shoes, and I probably played with some rubber that I had never seen before. So I lost the first game badly. I won the second game somehow, and in the third I beat Cheng, almost keeping him under 10. I went back to New York, all the guys started asking me if I had beaten Cheng, and I said "What is the problem with that?" and they said that he's the best here. It took a while to understand that he really was the best.

TTW: So how many times have you been on the U.S. team now?

Darko: I am currently a member of the U.S. Team and I represented the United States at the World Championships in China. I made the team last year as well.

TTW: Were there any international tournaments that you went to besides the Worlds?

Darko: Unfortunately, the United States team doesn't travel as much as is really necessary. We need to work on this.

TTW: I just heard that you and Khoa just won Men's Doubles just half an hour ago. Tell us about that.

Darko: Yeah, it was pretty nice. It kind of came unexpectedly, I didn't come very prepared for this tournament. I was overcoming some injuries and flu, which disabled me from practicing for about a week before the Nationals. We really played very well against Dan Seemiller and David Zhuang even though they are a very tough doubles team. We managed to win.

TTW: They won the last two years in a row. Did you go to school in Yugoslavia?

Darko: Yes, I graduated from the College of Physical Education at the University of Belgrade in Yugoslavia. I was a very good student. I am happy that I have a degree which is helping me in the current work that

“When I came to the United States, the hardest thing was to find a club.”

“I thought that no one played table tennis here.”

I do. I am a Neuromuscular Physical Therapist in Houston with Kenny Owens. It's a real interesting career helping injured people. We have professional football players, some track and field athletes, and we have had boxing champion Holyfield in our training place. It's an interesting place because we meet a lot of interesting people.

TTW: How did you start playing table tennis in Yugoslavia?

Darko: I started playing table tennis by accident. When I was 8 or 9 years old, my aunt bought me some shirts and a package that was really funny. The other side of the shirt, when you turned the package upside down, had two blades and a table tennis ball. I never understood why she picked a table tennis shirt since I had never played before. I was so excited. I started

by seeing how many times I could bounce the ball off the racquet. I started playing on the kitchen table, and then my sister starting playing. My Dad read in the newspaper in Belgrade that a table tennis club was recruiting kids. He took us there, and my sister and I both started playing. She was very good. She carried them to their first National league title. She then quit to become a medical doctor. She is finished with table tennis.

TTW: Oh, darn. Has your sister ever beaten you?

Darko: Yes. She is four years older than myself.

TTW: Who else is in your family?

Darko: My Mom and Dad. My Dad was a good soccer player, while my mom never

really played any sports and she never really actually watched me play table tennis. She was there once at a big match and it was one of the best matches that I ever played. Other than that she never came to watch

me play.

TTW: Who was your coach at this time?

Darko: I was really lucky to have a great coach in Yugoslavia, Vladimir Jusic, who is the sister of Jasna Lupulesku. The guy did a great job and he did something very important, which was to teach me to love the game. The good coach is someone to help you learn to love the game. If you are a good competitor like myself, which the coach recognized in me, then everything else is kind of easy because you know that the

\$,000
MONTHLY
TOURNAMENTS

at the
**National Table
 Tennis Center**
 in Rockville, Maryland

February 17-18
March 16-17



For Information,
 Call 301-670-6882 (local)
 or
 800-671-6882 (out-of-town)
 Phone Entries Welcome--
 No Extra Charge

person is never going to give up. For my table tennis practice over the last two years, I was pretty lonely, since I don't have anyone at my rating to practice with—usually I have to play people 500-600 points below me. But because I am a competitor, I keep pushing myself to practice, and I feel responsible to find the time and energy after work so that I keep up a certain level. For the big tournaments, I usually go to Germany and practice at a club that is sponsored by my sponsor, Tibhar. The coach there is Zlatko Nozakovic.

TTW: In Yugoslavia, the national team consists of an A team and a B team.

Darko: Yes, in all European countries.

TTW: How did the war in Yugoslavia affect table tennis?

Darko: It affected it a lot. It was a big loss, because the best people left the country. The best coaches have gone to highly industrialized countries to make money by coaching foreign players. It's really a sad situation. There is no hope and there is no money for table tennis there right now because when the war killed the economy, table tennis was the first thing that got its funding cut.

TTW: When you first came to the U.S. had the war started already?

Darko: No, I actually came before the war started. A few weeks before.

TTW: Have you visited Yugoslavia since then?

Darko: I have not been to Yugoslavia since then, but I am going in January for 6 days. I have not been there in five years. I am going to visit my family.

TTW: After your table tennis career is done, what would you like to do?

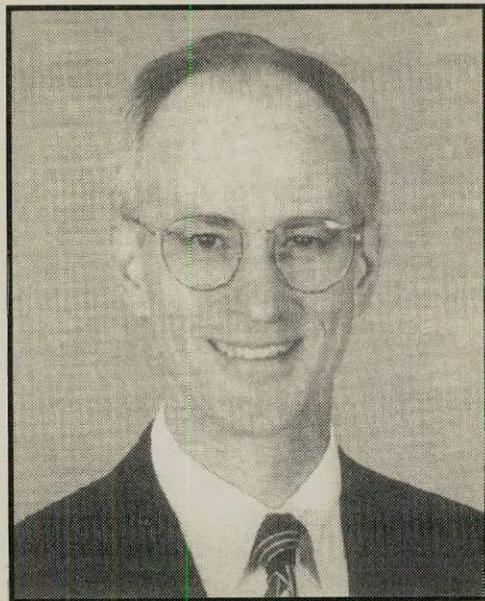
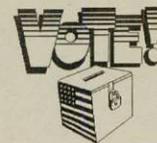
Darko: I would like to teach a group of kids that love table tennis. They must be willing to practice and have the desire. You can tell if the kids love the game. I would like to get a group maybe in Houston if I live there and maybe try to develop some national champions that would come from the south. We are getting a big club in Houston in two weeks. It will have 24 tables and there might be an opportunity to transfer the love of the game to some youngsters.

January/February 1996

Vote

Jim McQueen

USATT Vice President



The Problem

I've watched our sport for over 30 years, and it hasn't been pretty.

Everyone has the same wish list--Junior & Club Development, Bigger & Better Tournaments, More TV Coverage, a Better Image, Better Coaching Programs, etc. I have the same wish list and more. However, it seems that...

...Nothing Ever Gets Done.

Why?

Over and over, our sport has had chances to get ahead--but politics always seems to get in the way. There's always someone...

- ...who doesn't like someone else.
- ...with an axe to grind.
- ...with a conflict of interest.
- ...who does not put the sport first.

What Will I do differently?

I have no grudges, no conflicts of interest, no axes to grind--just the love of the sport, and a long record of service. And I promise you that I will always put the sport first.

I'm retired (at age 48), and have the time, the energy and the experience to really work for the improvement of our sport. Please give me your support.

What Have I Done for Table Tennis?

- I've been President of the Raleigh Table Tennis Club for 28 years
- I've run over 100 tournaments
- I'm a USATT Certified Coach & Umpire
- I've done the color commentary for over 50 TV broadcasts for ESPN, Home Team Sports & Prime Network.
- I've participated in local & national tournaments for 35 years.

TTW: Tell us about the new club in Houston.

Darko: It is supposed to be the biggest club in the U.S. It's going to be a good club. We have plenty of tables, good floor. It's going to be in conjunction with billiard pool tables and a sports bar.

TTW: Who is your sponsor and what type of equipment do you use?

Darko: I play with a Germany company, Tibhar. It's named after a former Yugoslavian, Tibor Harongozo. They took first 3 letters from first name and first three letters from the last name. I play for them and try to promote them in the U.S. I am the only one in the U.S. sponsored by them. They have an ambition to become a bigger player in this market. They would like to establish themselves in the U.S. in order to be in a good position to make big money.

TTW: Tell us about your playing style?

Darko: I am a left-handed player. I try to spin the ball from both sides.

TTW: And you just keep spinning and

spinning until they miss.

Darko: Yeah, I keep spinning, but when I am in good shape I don't spin that long. When I am not as sharp as I need to spin and spin. That seems to be a concept that I started when I was younger.

TTW: Do you have any other sponsors?

Darko: Yes, I have a friend of mine that plays on the U.S. team in China. His name is Roger Rector. Also a friend of mine in New York, John O'Driscio, who is sponsoring my tournament here in Las Vegas. I would like to thank these people.

TTW: Thank you, Darko.



High Tech Enterprises
1-800-964-1113

Extra! Extra!

**If you have been looking for MINCON
 carbon blades, call us!**

George Braithwaite

Fulfilling the Impossible Dream

by Larry Hodges

Somewhere, there is an unknown man from Ghana who, without ever knowing it, changed the course of U.S. Table Tennis history. All he did was lose his racket.

George "Chief" Braithwaite was a silver & bronze medalist at the Caribbean Games before he ever came to the U.S. from Guyana in 1962. Problem was, the medals were for the 400 meter relay and the 100 meter sprint, representing Guyana in 1958. At this time, he had never even played the sport that would become so much a part of his life—table tennis.

Four years later, he was working at the United Nations in New York City, and sometimes representing the New York Pioneers Athletic Club in Track & Field meets with well-known track coach Joe Yanski. He was probably already greeting everyone with his trademark "How are you, Chief?"

The unknown man from Ghana must have loved the game as much as George would later. He kept his hard rubber racket in the UN basement by the freight elevator so he could sneak up to the Table Tennis Club on the top floor of the UN during breaks between international crisis. One fine day in 1962, George was looking for documents in the UN basement, and found this old, beat up racket where it had been lost or filed away by the unknown Ghana man. On the spur of the moment, George brought the racket up to his office.

Two days later, George finally worked up the courage to go to the table tennis club, where he would play "Pops,"—as Marcy Monasterial was known even then. George only got 6 points against 1957 U.S. Team Member Marcy. 33 years later, at the just-completed 1995 U.S. Nationals, Marcy would make the finals of Over 70.

That night, George thought a lot about that game with Marcy, replaying it in his head over and over, convinced that he could win. Starting the next day, he began to go to the table tennis club nearly every night for a year. He became a chopper.

One year after his first night at the club, George played "Pops" in the final of the UN Championships—and beat him. Marcy, George said, was still a better player at that time, but was weak against defensive players.

A few months later, a friend named Joe Andrews took George to his first USTTA tournament, in Philadelphia. With a train line just outside the window interrupting play regularly, George didn't have a good tournament—but the itch to compete now needed to be scratched. George would do a lot of scratching over the next 30+ years.

George continued to play, at the UN, at Marty Reisman's club, and in a hotel basement on 73rd street. The level of play was the strongest in the U.S., with Reisman, Dick Miles, Doug Cartland, Errol Rerek, Marty Doss, Bobby Gusikoff, Bernie Bukiet, Fuarnando Rob-

erts, Harry Hershkowitz, Alex Shiroky, and many others.

Several years later, around 1965, George was on a team at the Inter-cities Championships (now the U.S. Open Team Championships), playing with Tim Boggan and Danny Banuch. There, George was amazed at the level of play, and especially fascinated by their sponge games. He saw topspin players such as Dell Sweeris, Dave Sakai, and Ralph Chiles for the first time.

A player from Canada took George aside and told him he could be a very good player because he moved so well. However, to do so, he would have to get rid of the hard rubber racket he'd been using, and use sponge. He'd also have to learn to play a topspin game.

Back at the UN, George began practicing regularly with a player named Val Nicholson, from Jamaica. They practiced counterhitting day after day, for one year straight.

George had switched to pips-out sponge, but soon tried out inverted sponge, and found he liked it. As his topspin game became better and better, he stopped chopping. One day, George discovered he had completely lost his

forehand chopping game! But by this time, George had

mastered a forehand looping/backhand countering game. Gradually, he added a looping backhand to his growing arsenal, and soon he was playing as we have come accustomed to seeing—opening with a soft forehand or backhand loop, and following up with continuous forehand loops and backhand loops & counters—"controlled aggression," as he put it.

Several years later, in 1970, the USTTA was sending D.J. Lee and Dell Sweeris on a goodwill tour of Central America. Dell couldn't make the trip, and suggested sending George instead, as an up-and-coming player. George was then ranked #14 in the U.S., and it was his first big break. George and D.J. put on exhibitions in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador to huge, enthusiastic crowds.

Next came what at first seemed a milestone in George's career, but soon turned out to be the first of several big breaks. In those days, the Long Island Open was one of the biggest tournaments in the U.S., and in 1970, nearly everyone was there except D.J. Lee. All the top Canadians were there as well. George won the tournament, defeating Dick Miles in the semifinals (who'd knocked out Canadian Champ Errol Cataeno the round before) and Erol Rerek in the final.

Unknown to the players, the USTTA had decided that whoever won the tournament would be on the U.S. team going to the World Championships the following year, 1971, in Nagoya, Japan.

At the Worlds, George didn't have a particularly good tournament—but he did defeat Charlie Wuvanich, who four years later would move to the U.S. and dominate in tournaments for two years. George and the rest of the U.S. team got to know the Chinese team, who had missed the 1967 and 1969 Worlds due to the cultural revolution.

And then came the historic invitation for the U.S. team to tour China—Ping Pong Diplomacy. Seven players went on the tour—George, John Tannehill, Erol Rerek, Glenn Cowen, Judy Bochenski, Connie Sweeris, and Olga Soltesz. The following year, 1972, the Chinese team toured the U.S.

When word spread Guyana that George was on the U.S. team to China, they couldn't believe it at first. They just couldn't quite believe that this was the same George Braithwaite who had left Guyana nine years earlier without ever playing table tennis, and so George was invited back to Guyana for various festivities—and to verify to skeptics that this was indeed the same Braithwaite. Before returning to the U.S., George won the 1971 Caribbean Championships.

From 1972-82, George represented the U.S. in tour-



Photo by John Oros © 1996



U.S. Team Members get autographs from President Nixon during 1972 Chinese Ping Pong Diplomacy Tour of U.S. L-R: Erol Rerek, Pat Hildebrandt (getting autograph), Madeline Buben, George Buben (obscured), Connie Sweeris, Dell Sweeris, George Braithwaite (in background), and Wendy Hicks.



Left: George meets Premier Zhou Enlai during Ping Pong Diplomacy tour of China in 1971. Right: Some of the U.S. Team Members & Officials at the Great Wall of China, 1971, L-R: Rufford Harrison, Glenn Cowen, Dick Miles (in front), John Tannehill (behind Miles), Madeline Buben, Connie Sweeris (turned away), George Buben, USTTA President Graham Steenhoven, George Braithwaite.

naments all over the world, including much of Central America, France, and Canada. In 1979, he again won the Caribbean Championships. His favorite memory was the 1978 Benson & Hedges Open in Kingston, Jamaica. The team format was such that each team was made up of two men and one woman. George, Dan Seemiller and Angelita Rosal (now married to Sweden's 1971 World Champion Stellan Bengsston) represented the U.S. In the fifth and final match of the team tie, George won, 24-22 in the third.

However, next to the China tour, the biggest highlight of George's career has to be making the 1983 U.S. Pan Am team, and representing the U.S. at the Pan Am Games in Caracas, Venezuela. George & the U.S. Men's Team brought back the gold medal.

One year later, George won Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, and Over 40 Singles at the 1984 Canadian Open (CNE). Shortly afterwards, he was selected by the USTTA as their Amateur Athlete of the Year.

It is in the senior events that George has especially dominated. He has won the U.S. Senior (over 40) Championships nine times! At the recent 1995 Nationals, 2307-rated George won the Over 60 Singles Championships.

The question is often asked: just how old is George? No one knows, and George isn't telling. It's official: no one will ever know. He says he will play "until the end of time," and based on his performance at the U.S. Open Teams in November, he's right. While most players play on 4- or 5-person teams so they can get some rest, George played on a 3-person team, and had a great tournament. Teammates T.J. Beebe & Sunny Li (both 13 years old) both learned a lot from George, who (according to Sunny), "...is like a machine—he never misses!"

George's favorite opponent is Dave Sakai. Since both of them "never miss," it's always a long battle of the wills when the two meet, with rallies that go on until... the end of time.

George has been recognized for his achievements. He is a member of the U.S. Table Tennis Hall of Fame, and he was elected USTTA Vice President, 1989-90.

George still works for the UN, at the Department of Conference Services, although he is semi-retired. In 1994, George won the UN Championships—3 years after winning it for the first time.

Outside table tennis, George likes to follow track & field, boxing, and cricket (yes, "British baseball"), and he likes to dance, go to the movies or theater, and traveling.

George is now actively setting up the 25th reunion of the 1971 Ping Pong Diplomacy trip, with the 14 surviving members to meet in New York City later this year.

When asked his personal slogan, George gave what seems to have been the over-riding principal of his life.

"People are only limited by their inability to think and use their imagination to their full capacity, and this is why some can achieve what others consider the impossible dream."

Win the UN Championships after only one year of play? Never play until your 20's and still make the U.S. Team? Tour China on the U.S. Team? Win the Canadian Open and make the Pan Am Team well into your 40's? These sure sound like impossible dreams to me. Only the belief and the will that it could be done—and one unknown Ghana man—made these things possible for George Braithwaite. Believe.

NEW Waldner Offensive

Nº 1

New Persson Carbon

New Peter Franz GT-R

DONIC Yang

World Class Table Tennis Equipment

For more call: **T.G. Enterprises 1-800-825-7664**
29393 Murray Crescent Southfield, MI 48076-1679

DONIC Waldner Offensive A proven blade with a new stunning AN, FL, or ST handle design for 1996 \$41.00
Persson Power Carbon One of the finest 9 ply carbon blades you will ever own at a low price for only \$89.00
Peter Franz GT-R Another new DONIC 7 ply design with the offensive player in mind, for just \$42.00
Donic Yang K1 Extremely fast pips out with hard sponge. **Yang K2** Pips out with more touch and soft sponge
Donic Yang L1 Aggressive long pips with relative good control. **Yang 999** Very sticky, chinese top sheet. \$28.00

Northern California Junior Level Development Program

by Tong Lee

California Kids



Sunset TTC



Palo Alto TTC



Concord TTC

For years, junior table tennis players from East Coast cities have been accorded the most attention and recognition as the best in the U.S. Many thought that it was a given that they would be successors to the current crop of America's top players. However, slowly and without fanfare, junior players from Northern California have emerged and have demonstrated their table tennis prowess in national tournaments. A look at the results of the 1995 Nationals in Las Vegas shows that a hotbed of junior table tennis power may now be located in Northern California. In the following events, Northern California juniors took first and/or second places: Boys Under 10 champion and runner-up: Auria Malek and Allan Rudesill; Boys Under 13 champion: Terrence Lee; Girls Under 13 champion and runner-up: Michelle Do and Jackie Lee; Boys Under 16 champion: Philip Lim; Boys Under 19 runner-up: Shashin Shodhan, Boys Under 16 Doubles champion: Freddie Gabriel and Terrence Lee; Boys Under 16 Doubles runner-up: Piotr Zajac (with Peter Chamberlain of Oklahoma); U2100 and U2000 champion: Freddie Gabriel; U1800 runner-up: Terrence Lee; U1400 runner-up: David Rudesill; U1100 runner-up: Jiyoung Choi; and U1000 runner-up Mary Lee. These impressive results did not come about by accident, but are the fruits of junior development programs that operate not in isolation, but in synergy with one another to produce the optimum yield. This article describes some of these programs and the coaches running them.

The Greater San Francisco Bay Area in Northern California is home to several active table tennis clubs located within a 90-minute radius of either San Francisco or across-the-bay Berkeley. Among these are Berkeley TTC, Concord TTC, Hercules TTC, Sunset TTC, San Francisco TTC, Palo Alto TTC, SAC-REC TTC, San Jose University TTC, and Santa Cruz TTC. Players are fortunate to be able to choose from among these clubs to play or to train as many times per week as they want to without traveling great distances. Sunset, Palo Alto, and Concord TTCs offer junior development programs with regular weekly classes.

Sunset TTC, located in the Sunset District of San Francisco, is run by Masaaki Tajima. Masaaki, an accredited National Coach, has been involved in running a junior table tennis player training program since 1989. He conducts training classes 5 times a week. He is one of the 4 recipients of a 1995 USATT Grassroots Grant Award for junior development. Some of the players who have trained at Sunset TTC are Mark Liu, Patricia Hocke, Jonathan, Jackie and Jennifer Lee, Mary and Johnson Lee, Valerija Vulfovich, and Tiffany Eng.

Palo Alto TTC, located about 20 miles south of San Francisco, offers three classes for juniors, two for beginning and intermediate players and one for elite players. Dennis Davis runs the Palo Alto TTC and junior programs. He is assisted by Valery Sarkisov and Zhi-Yong

Wang. Davis initiated the junior program in 1990 after his coaching accreditation. About 40 players train in the classes which meet on Saturdays and Sundays. Among the players who have trained at Palo Alto TTC are Khoa Nguyen, Chi-Sun Chui, De Tran, Shashin Shodhan, Philip Lim, Jimmy Guan, Piotr Zajac, Vineet Agarwal, Stacey Lee, Shelley Lee, Auria Malek, David Rudesill, and Allan Rudesill.

At Concord TTC, located 12 miles east of Berkeley, Bill Lui, an accredited state coach, conducts 2 junior classes for over 30 players: one on Monday nights for beginners and intermediate players and the other on Sunday afternoons for elite and tournament players. He also gives additional individual instruction to junior tournament players. Lui started the junior development program in 1992. It has now grown to be a major part of Concord TTC activities. Because of the large number of juniors in the program, many parents also play in the club instead of just watching their children train. This in turn has led to the growth of the club membership. Some of the players who have trained at Concord TTC are Freddie Gabriel, Piotr Zajac, Terrence Lee, Michelle and Andrew Do, Alec Zelenkovsky, David and Allan Rudesill, and Jiyoung Choi.

The junior programs of these three clubs complement one another. Players can train at one or more clubs without fear of displeasing his or her regular coach. The coaches work together for the benefit and development of the players. There is no evidence of egotism or jealousy on their part. "We work as a team," said Dennis Davis. "When one of my students say I want to train at another club, I say, 'Good, now you have one extra day of training.'" Masaaki Tajima was instrumental in getting Bill Lui into coaching. Said Bill, "He literally forced me into it by getting me the certification. After that, I had to do something to justify my accreditation." On the matter of students training at other clubs, Bill said, "I do not claim to know everything. In fact, if I look at a student for

too long, I may miss some things, while other coaches may be able to spot them easily from their outside perspective."

It is with this kind of spirit of coexistence and cooperation that has enabled players such as Freddie Gabriel, Terrence Lee, Piotr Zajac, David Rudesill, Allan Rudesill, Alec Zelenkovsky, among others, to exploit the available opportunities and facilities and to benefit from the various training and coaching resources. This is one of the reasons these players are some of the fastest improving juniors in Northern California. There are indications that other juniors are also beginning to recognize this and are planning to take advantage of this unique set of circumstances to improve their game. The greater the number of committed juniors who will do this, the better it will be for the sport of table tennis in this country.

Dennis Davis, Bill Lui, and Masaaki Tajima deserve credit and recognition for their contributions to junior development in Northern California. They have different personalities and coach differently. Each has his own set ideas on training methods and each has his strengths in teaching various aspects of the game. But in diversity (and this is a good thing) there is unity in the pursuit of one common goal: the development of American table tennis players who will be competitive against world-class players from other countries. For them, it is not important from whose club the best players will emerge. Their emphasis is on striving to produce the best, regardless of club affiliation, by providing all the conditions and opportunities for the best to be developed. The players and coaches have learned to say with sincerity, "You are welcome to train with us so that we can all improve together." It has been said that the power of the pack is in the wolf and the power of the wolf is in the pack. Northern California junior players and coaches seem to have recognized this to be true and have formed a pack. Perhaps, some day, their pack will produce full-grown champion wolves.

Photo by Kirsten Davis ©1996

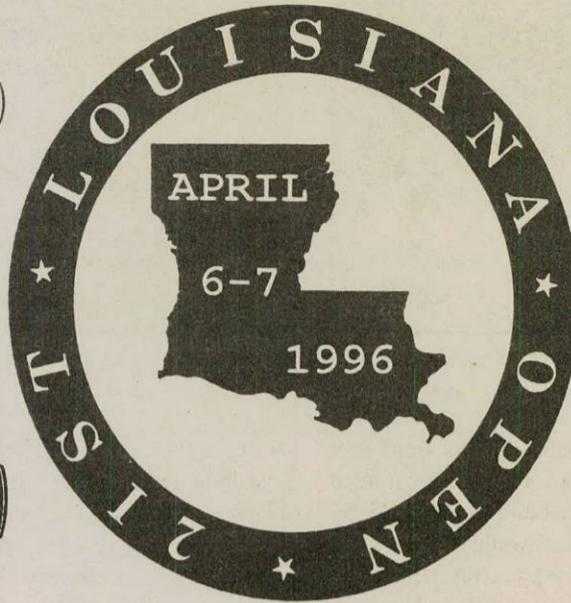


Northern California Coaches Masaaki Tajima (Sunset TTC), Dennis Davis (Palo Alto TTC, coaching Simon Huang) and Bill Lui (Concord TTC)

Photo by Joe Holman ©1996

Photo by Joe Holman ©1996

21st Louisiana Open



LSU
FIELD
HOUSE



SATURDAY, April 6						
EVENT	FEE	TIME	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1. Open S	*	11:00PM	\$800	\$600	\$400	\$400
				5th - 18th	\$300	
				9th - 16th	\$ 50	
4. A R/R	\$30	8:30AM to 12:00PM (U-2500)				
AAA S		6:00PM	\$200	\$100	\$ 50	\$ 50
				5th - 8th	\$ 30	
AA S		6:00PM	\$ 40	\$ 30		
A S		6:00PM	\$ 30	\$ 20		
5. B R/R	\$30	8:30AM to 12:00PM (U-2000)				
BBB S		6:00PM	\$100	\$ 70	\$ 50	\$ 50
				5th - 8th	\$ 25	
BB S		6:00PM	\$ 40	\$ 20		
B S		6:00PM	\$ 20			
6. C R/R	\$30	8:30AM to 12:00PM (U-1700)				
CCC S		4:00PM	\$ 40	\$ 30	\$ 20	\$ 20
CC S		4:00PM	T	T		
C S		4:00PM	T	T		
8. U-2250	\$12	12:30PM	\$100	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
10. U-1950	\$12	3:00PM	\$100	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
11. U-1800	\$10	5:00PM	T	T	T	T
13. U-1400	\$10	12:30PM	T	T	T	T
15. Women	\$12	1:00PM	\$150	\$ 50	\$ 20	\$ 20
16. All-Star SENIOR	\$15	4:00PM	\$200	\$100	\$ 50	\$ 50
17. O/30	\$10	2:00PM	\$ 80	\$ 40		
19. 22-U	\$10	2:00PM	\$ 80	\$ 40		
20. 18-U	\$ 6	3:00PM	T	T	T	T
22. Handicap	\$10	2:00PM	\$ 80	\$ 40	\$ 15	\$ 15
24. U-3900 D	\$10	5:00PM	\$ 80	\$ 40		
25. U-3300 D	\$ 8	1:00PM	TT	TT		
26. Mix D	\$10	12:30PM	\$ 80	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20

SUNDAY, April 7						
2. Allstar MEN	\$15	10:00AM	\$450	\$300	\$200	\$200
				5th - 8th	\$100	
3. Allstar WOMEN	\$15	12:00PM	\$300	\$150	\$ 50	\$ 50
7. U-2400	\$12	8:30AM	\$100	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
9. U-2100	\$12	9:00AM	\$100	\$ 40	\$ 20	\$ 20
12. U-1650	\$10	8:30AM	T	T	T	T
14. U-1150	\$10	12:00PM	T	T	T	T
18. O/30 U-2000	\$10	10:00AM	\$ 30	\$ 20		
21. 14-U	\$ 6	10:00AM	T	T	T	T
23. Open D	\$10	9:00AM	\$120	\$ 60	\$ 30	\$ 30

* O/S Fee: Rating over 2000 - \$30; 1800 to 2000 - \$16; less than 1800 - \$14.

A R/R - Open to players with rating under 2500.
1st player of the group plus others with better record (8 total) advance to AAA/S. All others will be placed to AA/S & A/S depending on their record.
Advancement of B R/R & C R/R similar to A R/R.

Prize money for Allstar events are pending on the final approval of USATT.

CHAIRMAN: Power Poon, International Umpire

DIRECTORS: Ben Chiu, Mel Douglas, Rich Martin, Richie Owens & Mark Richterman.

REFEREE: Ralph Spratt, International Umpire

DOUBLE COORDINATOR: Don Drummond.

SCHEDULE: Saturday: 8:30 AM to 9:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM

All Matches will be time scheduled by round.

MATCHES: All matches are 2 out of 3 games.

EQUIPMENT: Staga tables, nets and barriers, and white TSP balls.

FACILITY: LSU Field House. Pro-Turf floors, and air-conditioned.

RATING: Rating events will use March 1996 rating listed in Table Tennis Today.

TOURNAMENT MOTEL

LA QUINTA INN
2333 S. Acadian Thruway

1-504-924-9600
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR PLAYERS

LA QUINTA INN has been the Tournament Motel for the past eight years. It is only two and half miles away from the Tourn. Site. They offer free transfers between the airport, motel & the Tourn. Site.

*** FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Power Poon at 504-293-0534 ***

DEADLINE: March 28, 1996

Phone entry (504) 293-0534 (before 10PM) will be accepted until March 29, 1996. There will be a \$10 charge for each phone entry, late entry, or entry without fee.

Make check payable to:
Baton Rouge T. T. Club

ENTRY BLANK

Mail Entry to: Power Poon
4413 Lake Sherwood Ave. E.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Birthdate _____ USTTA Membership Expires _____ Rating _____

Partners: Open/D _____ A/D _____

B/D _____ Mix/D _____

Please enter me in the above events. I agree to comply with all USTTA regulations. I accept full responsibility for my participation and relieve the sponsors & the USTTA of any liability resulting from injury to myself or damage to my property.

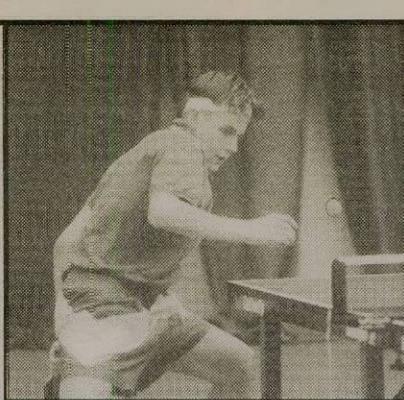
Signature _____

\$ _____ Entry Fee
\$ 5 _____ Registration Fee
\$ 3 _____ Rating Fee
\$ _____ USTTA Membership
1 yr, Adult \$25
Jr. \$ 8

\$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

1.	10.	19.
O/S	U-1950	22-U
2.	11.	20.
MEN	U-1800	18-U
3.	12.	21.
WOMEN	U-1650	14-U
4.	13.	22.
A R/R	U-1400	H/S
5.	14.	23.
B R/R	U-1150	O/D
6.	15.	24.
C R/R	W/S	3900/D
7.	16.	25.
U-2400	S/S	3300/D
8.	17.	26.
U-2250	30-Over	M/D
9.	18.	
U-2100	30-Over	
	U-2000	

TABLE TENNIS WORLD MINI-PROFILE



Name: Barney J. Reed

Age: 17

Livelihood: Student/
Professional Player

Current Home: Varies

Highest Rating Ever: 2524

Equipment: Yasaka Gatien Offensive Blade,
Mark V GPS 2.0

Style of Play: Lefty 2-winged attack

Recent Achievements: Junior National Champion, Oklahoma
Invitational Champion

Career Highlights: Undefeated in team play at 1994
Olympic Festival

**Ultimate Goal in
Table Tennis:** To be the best that I can be

Nickname: B.J.

**Favorite Sport(s)
Besides Pong:** Basketball

Hobbies: Basketball, mountain bikes, running

Favorite Opponent: Brian Pace, because he's twice as big
and strong.

**Favorite Psychological
Tactic:** It's a secret!

Best Doubles Partner: Dave "Speedy" Fernandez

**Most Irrational
Table Tennis Fear:** Losing to my sister Kristey

**Most Memorable
Comeback:** At 1993 Nationals, lost a match 2-0,
discovered it was best of 5, came back to
win 3-2.

Player I Most Admire: My Dad, Barney D. Reed. The guy
loops the ball, then *runs* to the barriers!

Most Feared Opponent: Jessica Shen

Strongest Part of My Game: Forehand

**Wildest Game
I've Been In:** Against Chi-Sun Chui at 1995 Pac-Rim
Open. I had Chinese rubber on forehand
at the time. After going down 2-0 in
games, switched to Mark V GPS. While
I was switching, Chi-Sun said, "Why're
you doing that?" I said, "It'll just make
my shots faster." He said, "I'll just
block the ball back faster." Chi-Sun
conceded the fourth game when I went
up 16-2, and I won fifth, 21-15.

Favorite Tournament: Olympic Festival

Ping Pong Peeve: Andre Scott

I Spend My Prize Money On: Tournament Entry Fees

**Idea of Table Tennis
Paradise:** Making a living.

Best Advice to New Players: Practice

If I Could Change one
Get Pat Rawlins to play in a big
tournament.

Thing About the Sport: He always enters, but never plays.

I Plan to Play Until: Pat Rawlins beats me.

Mirror, Mirror, Above the Ground, Who's the Greatest, Pound for Pound?

by Larry Hodges

Using ratings as of January 1, 1996, with extensive research by our Keystone Kop Research Department, *Table Tennis World* has ranked the following players as the best in the U.S., pound for pound, by ratings points per pound (Pts/pound), with apologies to anyone missed. Included are all those over 22 rating points per pound.

Name	Rating	Weight	Pts/pound
Han Xiao	1551	58	26.7
Wei Wang	2372	92	25.8
Keith Alban	2162	85	25.4
Mitch Seidenfeld	2140	85	25.2
Auria Malek	1399	57	24.5
Terrence Lee	1896	79	24.0
Jessica Shen	2048	88	23.3
Vineet Agarwal	1971	87	22.7

Han Xiao, 8, a student of Cheng Yinghua from the National Table Tennis Center in Maryland, claimed the first spot at 26.7 points per pound. He is the U.S. National and Junior Olympic Under 10 Boys' Champion.

Wei Wang, the 1990 U.S. Women's Champion and 1995 Semifinalist, came in second at 25.8 points per pound. She resides in California, where she trains, coaches and writes coaching articles (see article on Jean-Michel Saive in this issue).

Keith Alban, 11, a student of Marty Prager's from Florida and the U.S. Open Under 16, 14, & 12 Boys' Champion, took the third spot. For about a month (from the U.S. Open Teams in late November to the U.S. Nationals in late December), Keith was rated 2286, or 26.894 points per pound, which would have made him #1.

However, Han Xiao edged him out with the highest known points per pound score. With a 1560 rating in September, and figuring his weight as being 58 (even though it was probably less back then), he just edged out Keith's highest—26.897 to 26.894! That's 3/1000's of a rating point!

Mitch Seidenfeld, World Dwarf Champion from Disney's in Minnesota, came in fourth at 25.2 points per pound—but would run away with the "points per height" at 4' 2", 2140 rated, at 42.8 points per inch. (The Manager of Disney's, Rick Brekke, would like it to be know that he has everyone beat in the 400+ pound category: at 420 pounds and 1442 rated, he tips the rating charts at 3.4 points per pound.)

Auria Malek, 9, coached by Dennis Davis & Valery Sarkisov at the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club in California, took the 5th position with 24.5 points per pound. He won Boys' Elementary School Singles at the U.S. Nationals. Terrence Lee, 12, U.S. Boys' Primary School Champion, coached by Bill Lui, from the Concord Table Tennis Club in California, came in 6th at 24.0 points per pound. Jessica Shen, 14, a student of Jack Huang's from the National Table Tennis Center in Maryland, was 7th at 23.3 points per pound. She is the U.S. Girls' Under 14 & Under 16 Champion, and recently added the Junior High School Girls' title at the U.S. Nationals. Vineet Agarwal, 16, also from the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club and a student of Dennis Davis, rounded out the competition at 22.7 points per pound.

None of the top men came close. Honorable mentions here would go to Masamichi Kubo & Huazhang Xu, with Kubo (120 pounds, 2486 rated, 20.7 points per pound) just edging out Xu (125 pounds, 2573 rated, 20.6 points per pound).

How about U.S. #1 Cheng Yinghua? If Shylock ever gets a pound of flesh from him, he's only going to go up 18.9 points—not a whole lot more than the 13.3 he'd get from me.

TABLE TENNIS TRAINING CENTER

1120 N. Circle #19,
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

THREE DAY MINI-CAMPS

Feb 22-24 Mar 21-23 Apr 25-27
Juniors \$50 Adults \$95

"I now have a new arsenal of weapons
against my opponents"

Kyle Franks - Ft Walton Beach, FL

"My win/loss ratio increased dramati-
cally after my visit to the TTTC"

Don Reese - Carlsbad, NM

Private lessons are available for
those who are not able to attend
the camps or who desire a more
individual approach

Coaching by Dana Jeffries
USATT National Coach

(719) 632-7664

Corporate & School Exhibitions (603) 472-2990
Lessons • Consultations • Equipment Sales (800) 366-PONG

Table Tennis of New England

141 Hitching Post Lane • Bedford, NH 03110
Distributor of: Butterfly/Signa & Newgy

Homer G. Brown
USATT Certified Coach



SPIN

SPINSPIEL, for

EXPLOSIVE SPIN

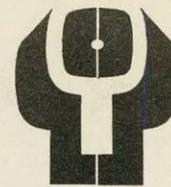
ATTENTION, LOOPERS!

JUIC SPINSPIEL is one of the spinniest rubbers on the market. Super spinny Spinspiel is produced by adding a special adhesive to the original natural rubber. The result is highly frictional force with superb control. SPINSPIEL is unsurpassed in power spin play. Red or black. 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5mm. regularly \$29



SALE PRICE! Only \$26 per sheet thru 4/15/96

Paddle Palace



CALL ORDERS TOLL FREE
1-800-547-5891

Paddle Palace Table Tennis Company
8125 SE Glencoe Rd., Portland, OR 97222
FAX (503) 777-4062 PHONE (503) 777-2266
Internet: http://www.teleport.com/~softedge/paddle_palace.shtml

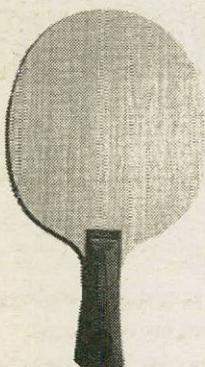
Sriver Special: \$23.95 at the Paddle Palace



ORDER NOW! 1-800-547-5891

Offer expires 4/15/95

The Blade and Rubber of World Men's Champion Kong Linhui and Runner-Up Liu Guoliang-- available from the Paddle Palace!



THE BLADE:

AVALOX WORLD CHAMPION BLADE

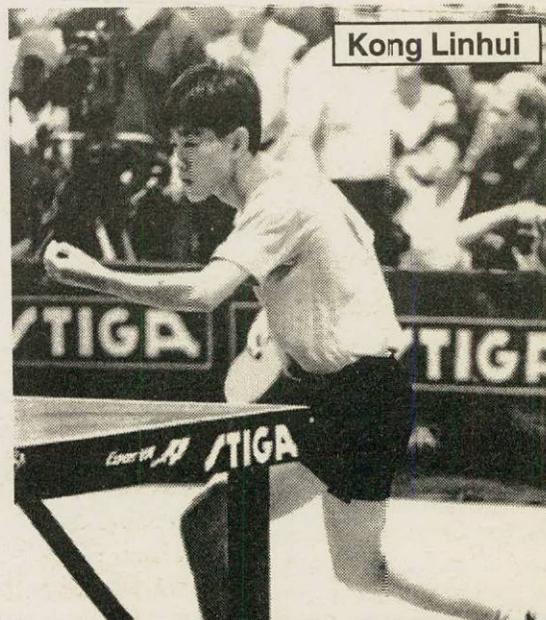
Made in Sweden expressly for the Chinese National Team. Available in 5-ply or 7-ply, Shakehands Flared or Straight handle, or Penhold with Chinese grip.

5-Ply: The Avalox 5-ply is the one used by World Champ Kong Linhui and Ma Wenge. It is a fast allround blade designed for the new Chinese drive-loop style. SPEED: OFF-

7-Ply: The Avalox 7-ply is used by Liu Guoliang, World Champion runner-up. It is designed for close to the table quick-hitting and off the table counter-looping. SPEED: OFF+

THE RUBBER: JUIC 999

The spin, speed, and touch of JUIC 999 has done it again! World Champion Kong Linhui used **JUIC 999 Hardtype** (forehand) and **JUIC 999 Attack** (backhand). World Champion Runner-Up Liu Guoliang used **JUIC 999 Attack** (forehand) and **JUIC 889** (backhand).



Kong Linhui



Liu Guoliang

These rubber sheets also recommended for the Avalox Blade:

SCRAMBLE



KAIZA



SPINSPIEL



JUIC SCRAMBLE:

For powerful offensive play.

JUIC KAIZA:

For Speed, speed, and more speed.

JUIC SPINSPIEL:

For super sticky powerful spin with touch.

Avalox Blade: \$44
JUIC 999 Rubber: \$29 per sheet
Blade and two sheets JUIC 999:
Only \$96.90
(After 5% discount)

The Junior Recruitment Process in Sweden



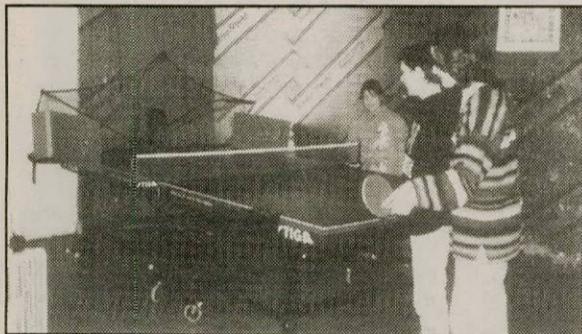
by Barney D. Reed



The school recruitment process described below was designed by Ulf Bjons & Fredrik Quistbergh from Tyreso BTK. When I worked at the Table Tennis High School in Sweden in 1992-93, I sold the first robot to Ulf for the Tyreso's club. I was also Fredrik's coach at the school. The Tyreso club, sponsored by Yasaka, is the fastest growing club in Sweden!

A lot of thought was put into the process of gaining a kid's attention for maximum recruitment. The purpose of the recruitment process is to get kids interested enough in table tennis so that they would sign up for a 8-10 week class. The class itself should easily pay for itself by charging \$35-40/student.

Required: A location for an 8-10 week class. Could be a Rec center, TTClub, School, YMCA, etc. You'll need two tables



A robot is a perfect tool for working with young juniors.

and a Table Tennis Robot. You'll also need two coaches.

Contact local elementary schools, and volunteer to teach table tennis during a PE class. The school will welcome this, and the PE teacher will love the break. Your goal during this period will be to hook the kids on table tennis, and get them interested in signing up for your 8-10 week class.

Program: Have the kids sit together where they have a good view of the table to be used. After introducing yourself, introduce the robot as if it were a person. For example, say "I have two helpers." Give the name of the second coach, and then give the name of the robot. The name could be Mr. Pong or Robby. Explain that the robot is a player too, and is going to play us. The object is to make it fun and interesting.

Next, play an exhibition game to 5. Before starting, ask questions on what score a complete game is played to. (Try to pick someone with the wrong answer first.) Next, ask how many serves the server gets before changing service. Then explain that for the game to 5, you will change service every point. At the start show how the first server is decided by hiding the ball. After every point ask the kids the score and explain why the point went to who it did. Get as much involvement from them as possible. After the game, the two players/coaches shake hands and thank each other for the match.

Next, rackets are passed to every child and the teacher (who should join in). Show the grip (shakehands, unless a player has already learned penhold). Go down the row of children and make a quick check. Then explain what you want them to do. Bounce the ball 10 times on the racket (6" or so up), missing on the 11th bounce (let

ball fall to the floor). Pick up the ball and start at 11, 12, 13, etc. Then call "Stop!" (and stress that when "Stop" is called, hold all balls). Tell the kids to keep track of how many bounces they did. Now you pass out the balls, one to everyone. It's important not to pass the balls out before you're through demonstrating or you'll have balls everywhere and kids not paying attention. You now ask them to spread out because it's their turn. Get everyone to hold the ball 4" to 6" above the racket. When everyone is ready, say "Balls above rackets... Ready... GO!" Watch the action!

After 50 seconds (use watch), call "stop." Everyone should be holding their ball before you start asking questions. Ask "How many got 15 in a row? Raise your hands. 25?... 50?... 75?... 100?" Congratulate them, and then have them do it again: "Balls above rackets... Ready... GO!" This time allow 70 seconds, without their knowledge. Repeat the questions: "25?... 50?... 100?" Everyone should now feel good about what they've done, since everyone probably did better, with both extra time and practice.

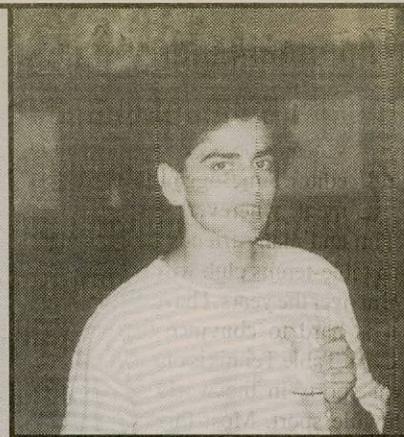
Next demonstrate bouncing the ball from the backhand to the forehand side of the racket, alternating. Have everyone try, and then ask them for their counts. Finally, one bounce on the racket and one bounce on the floor. Try one time and ask for results.

Now split the class by having the girls line up at the robot table and the boys at the trainers' table. Ask the name of the first girl in line and pretend you are her. Using her name, you walk as she should walk and show the exact route to the next line. Then you ask the first boy his name and pretend to be him and use his name many times as you walk back to the other line. Talking to and about the children really involves them personally and keeps their interest. Now you run everyone through a complete cycle, with each player doing only 5-6 hits at each station, and then rotating to the line on the other table.

10 minutes before class is over, ask everyone to sit by the robot for a demonstration. Again, before starting, you involve the children by asking what stroke you are doing as you stand in front of them shadow stroking a backhand. Then do the forehand and ask if anyone knows what stroke that is. Next, demonstrate the forehand on the robot. Do 20 crosscourt slowly, then do the same at a rapid-fire pace. That excites the children. Do the backhand the same way. You can also use the oscillator to demonstrate movement from backhand to forehand, etc.

At the end of the class, slowly explain the sign-up flyer for the 8-10 week class, which you then pass out. If you have any stickers or postcards of table tennis players, this is the time to pass them out. Ask for questions and tell them you'll see them soon.

TABLE TENNIS WORLD MINI-PROFILE



Name: Shashin Shodhan
Age: 17
Livelihood: Student
Current Home: Fremont, CA
Highest Rating Ever: 2400+ (unpublished)
Equipment: Armstrong Level 79 Blade, Armstrong Win, 2.1
Style of Play: All-around aggressive
Recent Achievements: 1995 Junior Olympic Champion, U.S. Open Junior Team & Doubles Champion, U.S. Open & Junior Nationals Junior Runner-up
Career Highlights: Winning 1st Junior National Championship, Under 16, 1993
Ultimate Goal in Table Tennis: Olympic Team
Personal Slogan: Never give up!
Favorite Sport(s) Besides Pong: Basketball & tennis
Hobbies: Listening to music, playing/watching sports, billiards, cards, etc.
Favorite Opponent: Chi-Sun Chui, he makes my footwork feel fast
Favorite Psychological Tactic: To not think about the score—only the strategy
Best Doubles Partner: Philip Lim & Jimmy Guan
Most Irrational Table Tennis Fear: Losing to Larry Hodges
Most Memorable Comeback: Down 16-1 in 3rd against Chris Lehman at U.S. Open Teams, 1993.
Player I Most Admire: Jan-Ove Waldner—he does everything and more.
Most Feared Opponent: Forrest Gump
Strongest Part of My Game: Backhand & forehand loops
Wildest Game I've Been In: In 1993 U.S. Open Teams, won deuce in the 3rd in the 9th match against Canadian team to come in first in the B's.
Wildest Shot I've Ever Seen: Xu Zengcai in Germany hit consecutive shots around the net, one on the left side, one on the right side.
Favorite Tournament: U.S. Open Teams, because anything can happen.
Ping Pong Peeve: Losing, especially after having a big lead.
I Spend My Prize Money On: Clothes, entertainment, and of course more tournaments.
Idea of Table Tennis Paradise: Playing in the U.S. where it is as professional as it is in Germany.
Best Advice to New Players: If Larry Hodges can be 2250, so can you.
If I Could Change one Thing About the Sport: Have the U.S. look for more sponsors.
I Plan to Play Until: I no longer have fun playing.

Some Ideas to Improve Popularity of Table Tennis in USA

by Lim Ming Chui, former U.S. Team Member

As former USATT President and editor Tim Boggan used to comment, wherever Ming (that's how Tim and many friends address me) lives, a table-tennis club will always follow. But over the years, I have discovered that it is hard to convince the general public that Table Tennis is one of the most popular sports in the world, or even a worthwhile sport. Most think of it as a game, something that Forest Gump can master in a very short time. Few people realize or appreciate the amount of coaching and physical training required to develop the skill and physique of a top table tennis player. Others think only the Chinese, through some magic, are good at it; few people realize that the Europeans, too, are great competitors; even fewer people know that the U.S. once dominated table tennis for many years. The problem of popularizing a sport that is not considered mainstream by the powerful news media, of course, is more than merely complex. It is, however, an issue that should be of major concern to anyone who loves and plays the sport.

One solution, though seemingly simple, is to sell some unique features of table tennis in order to improve the popularity of Table Tennis in USA. After many years of observing the lagging interest in our sport, I have developed some suggestions which might help strengthen USA Table Tennis.

1. Sell Table Tennis as an alternative to aerobics with added competitive and exciting features.

The following facts are unknown to most Americans:

- Table Tennis drills, either against a robot (about 50 balls a minute) or between two "steady" players (keeping the ball in play for over 10 volleys per point) players can enable their heart(s) to reach "aerobics" levels in "15 to 20 minutes"—faster than tennis and many other sports.

- Closely contested Table Tennis matches between two "average or above" (i.e. USATT rating of 1200 and higher) players can enable their heart(s) to reach "aerobics" level in "30 to 40 minutes"

{Note: A member of the Strike One Table Tennis Club, Eric, who restarted Table Tennis at age 35 after learning the game as a teenager, shed over 15 pounds with a training regimen that included playing table tennis twice a week (2 hr. each time) in four weeks. His rating is about 1500.}

2. Sell Table Tennis as a sport that Americans are proud of.

We, Americans, tend to admire achievers and champions. With only about 7000 USATT members, and little financial backing, we are not one of the top 10 Table Tennis Countries in the world. Even with the recent rapid advances (world class coaching and top player immigration to the U.S. from China), we still may not reach top 4 for a very, very long time. Fortunately, we have many formidable senior (over 40, 50, 60, 70...) players. Our senior teams are among the strongest in the world. We won many medals in the World Veterans divisions even though only a handful of our players could afford to participate due to huge expenses and lack of prize money. I, being about 6th in the over 40 division in USA, was able to

win a bronze medal in each of the two Veterans championships that I attended in '88 and '90.

With more savings and less responsibilities than younger players, many seniors from around the world can travel far to compete in Veterans Championships, which currently provide no cash awards. The recent biennial Veterans championships usually draw over 1500 entries (larger than any World Championship, U.S. Open or Closed tourney). I believe we can create several new annual U.S. Open, World or Universe Veterans championships that can be just as successful, if we provide adequate cash prize awards. The following are reasons to back up my statement:

"...with an ever-increasing number of elderly citizens, we may draw many table tennis players in these age divisions, because table tennis... is the ideal non-contact and yet healthy, fun and yet competitive sport for our elderly citizens."

a. Although currently there is no "World Senior Ranking" system, I believe we have more active top age group division players than any other country because we are the only country in the world that provides many rating events in all our hundreds of tournaments per year to keep the interest of all, especially older, players alive.

In most of the other countries, stars are urged to retire at age 30 or younger. This removes from competition many of the world's best, relegating them to the past tense in a sport that can maintain health well into advanced ages. Most former world-ranked champions were professionals and they tend to hate losing to players they consider as "weak"; they are usually less eager to compete when they, themselves, have dropped to an "unacceptable" level. Renewal of interest amongst these veterans would certainly reinvigorate the competition and make for interesting viewing as well. Just as the U.S. leads in many technologies and sports, we should seize this opportunity to lead the world by starting a World Series of Veterans table-tennis championships and initiate a "World ranking" for senior players of the world. We may be able to stimulate even more interest and passion among our elderly citizens, which could, in turn, popularize table-tennis in USA for all other age groups.

b. Adequate money prizes, won mostly by our players, would bring respect, stimulate interest, provide hope for younger players, (who may otherwise be discouraged by the "amazing skill and physique" of the World Championship level of competition) and may, for the first time in the U.S., generate many paid spectators. The latter would draw attention from table-tennis manufacturers; who may be converted to "bigger" sponsors. Note the success of the older golf stars in their masters pro tournaments. At one time such appeal was considered a fantasy. That fantasy is now an accepted and re-

spected part of the sport of golfing. As in golf's case, the championships increased popularity, and TV companies wanted to purchase "prime time" rights. This would be a huge improvement over being charged exorbitant fees for "pre-recorded" rights in taping prestigious table tennis events which is the current case. In the Boston area (and probably elsewhere), the airing of table tennis is notoriously pre-empted for children's Little League play-offs. That is indicative of the current attitude towards the sport of table tennis in the US, an attitude that needs changing. In addition, more TV coverage could attract many "generous" sponsors from other products. This process for our sport could mushroom to limitless growth of table tennis in

USA.

c. Our current #1 ranked player, Cheng, is 38. He recently defeated both Jan-Ove Waldner, who many consider to be the best player of the world, and Jean-Philippe Gatien, the 1993 World Champion. Two years from now, Cheng will be the favorite to win the Senior Over 40 title, and if promoted properly, the USATT could draw even more pay spectators.

3. **To tread along quickly but cautiously, our first World Open Veterans Championship should be tied to the 1996 U.S. Open in Florida.** We should introduce a new "World Team O-40 Event" (in addition to Singles and Doubles Events) which, as a host country, we have a good chance to win. We should provide advertising, give out large cash awards for age events from Over 40 to Over 70, singles & doubles, with reasonable entry fees. We should provide quality medal awards, similar to those awarded in the US Olympic Festivals, for the older senior age divisions i.e. Over 75, 80, 85... (we should introduce new 75, 85... events)

We may revive the interest of our former stars, such as Miles, D.J. Lee, Reisman, Tam, Fields, Klein, Hendry, McClure, Schiff, Hull, Dwelly, Bushan, He-Ja Lee, Rosen, Trenholme, Kimball, and others.

Who knows, with the leading number of centenarians (over 35,000) and an ever-increasing number of elderly citizens, we may draw many table tennis players in these age divisions, because table tennis, in my opinion, is the ideal non-contact and yet healthy, fun and yet competitive sport for our elderly citizens.

Obviously the bottom line is to avoid "losing money" by trying the following:

- **Ensure "Spectator fee"** - no exceptions (use volunteer help for minimal overhead)

- a. Every entry is offered an optional spectator all pass ticket for \$15

- b. Charge spectator fee of \$5 per day for Wed-Thur and \$10 per day for Fri/

Sat/Sun

Goal is to get a. \$15 per entry and b. same amount: for 650 entries => \$19,500

(Small tourneys should charge "\$3 to \$5 donation fee/day" to sponsor "larger prize money" to increase pride, hope & interests for our "budding" sport.)

- **Entry fees:** 650 entries, average 50 per entry => \$32,500

Note: Based on a probable estimate of 650 entries, we can derive (1: \$19,500 and 2: \$32,500) or a total of \$52,000, which when combined with "sponsorship money" may be enough for a self-sufficient tourney.

However, to fall back on a pessimistic estimate of 50% or 325 entries; we can derive (1: \$9,750 and 2: \$16,250) or a total of \$26,000, which is still more than the combined cost of \$17,900 for prize money and medals. We still may be in the black if these events are run in conjunction with the 1996 U.S. Open.

Factors not considered, that should tilt the scale even more favorably:

- **Additional Sponsorship money:** Veteran tourneys will stimulate more veteran as well as younger players. Table tennis manufacturers, in turn, are willing sponsors.

Most of the USATT members are over 40; we tend to be more willing to experiment on new and improved equipment; we buy table tennis products more readily than the younger players. I, for example, used to play with Double-Happiness penholder racket and two types of pips-out rubbers during the '70's and early '80's. However during the recent 10 years, I have switched many blades: wood, carbon, one to nine plies...; many styles: from penholder, to shakehand and now back to penholder; many surfaces: pips (short, long, medium...soft, hard), inverted (all-round, speedy, control...anti); many sponge types: (thickness: 1, 1.5, 1.7, 1.9, 2.2 mm or no sponge; texture: soft, medium, hard). In short, I have been trying to compensate my "less than state of the art" skills via improved equipment and technology.

- **Potential growth in membership**

Parents want their children to play sports to stay healthy. What better model of health and vitality can be seen in sport than the challenging, fast, and aerobic activities of seasoned Veteran table tennis champions? They prolong their lives through competitive, healthful lifestyles as exhibited in their interest in table tennis as a life-long sport. Parents over 40, or soon to be, can stay healthy, and play with their spouses and children in this non-contact, fun sport with the same hope and dream of becoming champions again.

- **Potentially more TV coverage** to attract many "generous" sponsors from other products mentioned in item 2b earlier.

In conclusion, since so many of us believe table tennis is the most fascinating sport to play, to learn, and to watch, it probably has the potential of other sports to be popular with the general public. If golf, baseball, and ice skating could fascinate the American public, table tennis could also. Perhaps the revitalization of competition amongst the masters level players holds the key.

Did'ja Know?

by Bob Green

The early years of the USTTA were plagued with money problems. Small membership, low sanction fees, and little income from equipment approval fees left the treasury looking like "Old Mother Hubbard's" you know what. There was never enough money for promotions like sending a team to the World Championships each year. Top ranked players selected for the team had to agree to pay most of their own way for the four to six weeks trip aboard. Players who could not afford it were just not considered for the team. It could amount to considerable cash, especially if boat transportation had to be used. There was relief, during several years, when the U.S. Air Force agreed to transport the team in return for exhibitions to be played at overseas army bases.

Several promotions in the U.S. raised money to help the team. Jimmy McClure headed up a "fighting fund" that asked for the proceeds from benefit tournaments and private contributions. In addition, there was a number of paying exhibitions scheduled during the tour at overseas table tennis clubs. However, as one team member put it "if we had to depend on the money from exhibitions, we would starve to death." Personal money was always required from everyone. Some enterprising players supplemented their resources

by smuggling. There were many shortages in Europe after the war and a fifty cent pair of nylons bought in New York would sell for a pound in London. Foreign custom officials, when checking the team, generally looked the other way at minor smuggling. This was not so with U.S. Customs. On returning from one of the tours, Douglas Cartland, the U.S. #3 player, was arrested for trying to smuggle in over 300 very expensive watches concealed in his clothing. They didn't buy his explanation that he was only bringing in a few for his friends.

Marty Reisman got away with financial murder on one trip. Selected for the team, he failed to notify the USTTA that he didn't have the money to make the trip. Instead, he showed up a Andrews Air Force Base just two hours before flight time with only three dollars in his pocket. Team Captain, Bill Gunn, was furious. He realized, however, that it was too late to get a replacement and the team had no chance of winning anything when short one of its top players. Dedicated Bill Gunn dug down into his own pocket and financed the trip for Marty. After the tour, Bill asked for stiff sanctions against Marty. History is kind of hazy about the final outcome of the request.

The U.S. Teams managed to get to all the World's except one. Financial problems caused the USTTA to withdraw from the championships at Cairo, Egypt in 1939. Professor Von Looper, while lecturing at a tournament, was describing what was probably the worst player in the USTTA membership. The audience all rose to their feet and shouted "How bad was he?" Von Looper replied: "He was so bad that equipment manufacturer's were paying him NOT to use their products."

13.7 Cents

Interstate Long Distance!! That's right!!

Only 13.7 cents per minute and support table tennis too!!

So what are our restrictions? None!! It's this simple!!



No contracts!!
13.7 daytime!!
13.7 nighttime!!
13.7 weekends!!



Not distance sensitive!!
6 second increment billing!!

No friends or families necessary!!
Residential and Commercial accounts!!

Your destination doesn't have to be using ITD!!
23 cent per minute calling card with no access fees!!
Great prepaid calling cards available at .30 per minute!!
Ask for our WorldLink and Cyberlink Int'l calling cards!!

Support table tennis!! This is a special fundraiser for the benefit of the Minnesota Table Tennis Federation and its commitment to Minnesota table tennis. This rate is available to anyone in the country who signs up under the MTTF. 800 numbers and excellent international rates are available too. We have special int'l calling cards designed for international usage. Your group can customize your own fundraising calling cards, too. Call me today for more information; send or fax me a copy of your complete phone bill for a free evaluation. It is as simple as that to begin 20-30% savings over AT&T, Sprint and MCI and many other resellers.

Rex Harris, President
Minnesota Table Tennis Federation
8659 W. 134th Street Apple Valley, Mn 55124
(612) 431-2865 (Fax) (612) 431-3090

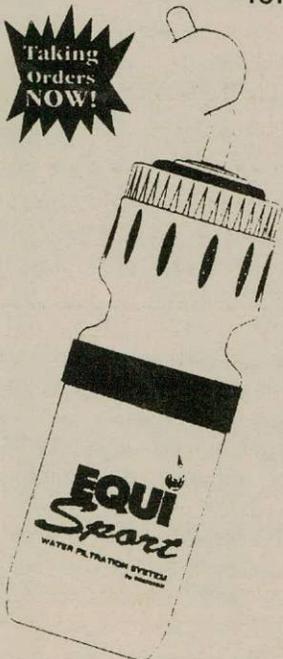
ITD, International TeleData Corporation, is a nationwide communications and information company offering a full range of high quality telecommunication products and services to its customers at substantial savings.

Consumer Alert!! Consumer Alert!! You must check out our new prepaid rechargeable calling cards with 10 programmable numbers eliminating the hassle of memorizing numbers and access codes. Fantastic tool for kids travelling to camps and tournaments and for fundraising opportunities!!! New product!!

EQUI-SPORT

A Unique Water Filtration System
for People on the Go!

Taking
Orders
NOW!



- 20-oz sport water bottle with 2-stage water filter
- Removes lead and chlorine
- Eliminates need for expensive bottled water
- Makes safe drinking water available at school, office, gym--everywhere!

Opportunities for Distributors

For information or to place an order, contact your independent Equinox Representative
Diana Gee
(408) 654-8931
fax (408) 496-0403
or
send check or money order to

Diana Gee
2716 Brittan Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070

Light-weight, compact, affordable squeeze bottle with replaceable filter cartridge good for 100 gallons or approximately 4 months of use

EQUI-SPORT Suggested Retail Price \$34.00
Replacement Filter (case of 3) Price \$23.00
(prices include tax and shipping)

Table Tennis of New England

141 Hitching Post Lane • Bedford, NH 03110

New England's Finest Supplier
of Table Tennis Products

Distributor of Butterfly/Harvard/Newgy/Stiga

Call 1-800-366-PONG

• Ask for our Free Catalogs

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOT SELECTION

by Todd Sweeris

1995 U.S. Olympic Festival Men's Singles Champion

Some players seem to always know what to do when they play. They have developed championship shot-selection skills. Other players are confused at what shots to take, losing matches in the process.

The difference is in the type of thinking. Some players do the same things over and over, and never seem to make necessary changes. Those who develop championship shot-selection skills have spent a great deal of time thinking, studying, and testing different shots in different match situations until choosing the right shot becomes second nature. On the way toward learning these shot-making skills these players lose hundreds of points (and matches) before mastering this skill.

There are four major aspects of shot-selection skills that we will cover here.

• The habit of thinking tactically

This is not one of the harder skills to learn, but it is one of the least developed skills. Learn to observe, think, experiment, and analyze until it becomes second nature. Observe how others use their shots, think about it, experiment, and analyze what happens—then go back to 'observe,' and do it again!

Players who think a lot about their play develop good shot-selection skills—it becomes second nature. You can't actually think much during a rally, but if you spend enough time thinking about tactics (both at the playing hall and away), pulling off the right shot becomes automatic. Observe, Think, Experiment, Analyze!

• Ball placement

It's common for a player to develop a winning playing style (looping, hitting, counter-hitting, pushing, chopping, etc.) and then go brain-dead as to placement. Think about where you should place spe-

cific shots in given situations, and make it second nature. This is part of thinking tactically (see above), but most players' ball placement is so poor that it deserves a category by itself.

Ball placement includes both direction of the ball—to the wide backhand, wide forehand, or middle (the forehand/backhand transition point)—and depth.

How do you learn ball placement? Observe, Think, Experiment, Analyze!

• Choosing shots within your ability

Let's face it; no matter how often you watch Jan-Ove Waldner or Wang Tao, you still aren't going to be able to consistently perform the same shots they do at the speeds they do. You might be able to do it *occasionally*; but that's not good enough. Know what shots you are capable of, and execute shots at that level. This doesn't mean not trying to improve your shots or go for good shots; it means not going for crazy shots. Rather than loop (or flip kill, smash a low ball, etc.) at 100 mph like you saw Kong Linghui do on the videotapes, loop at 60 mph until you're consistent, then go for 70, 80, 90, and then (if you're approaching world class levels) 100. Sound reasonable?

• Aggressively search for winning tactics

What do you do when things aren't going well? That's when you have to aggressively search for ways to win. This means throwing your whole arsenal of shots and tactics at your opponent until you find something that works. This doesn't mean changing your entire game to fit your opponent; it means finding a way to match your better shots against your opponent's weaker ones. A certain serve, a rallying sequence, a heavy push to the right spot—any of these could be the tactic that sets you up to win.

TACTICS FOR THE SLOWER OF FOOT

How to Play a Faster Opponent

by Larry Hodges, Certified National Coach

Are you tired of reading about players looping winners from all over the court? Are you sick of reading about serve & follow techniques, knowing that you can't possibly do it yourself unless your opponent cooperates? In other words, are you a member of the Slow of Foot Majority?

Let's face it; very few players will ever come close to Khoa Nguyen or Todd Sweeris in footwork speed. And many of us will never play their forehand from all over the court, except when given an easy one. Most of us are endowed with mortal foot speed.

So what can the slower of foot do to even things out against a faster, trimmer, younger opponent?

• **Play wide forehand first, then come back to backhand.** If you play to the

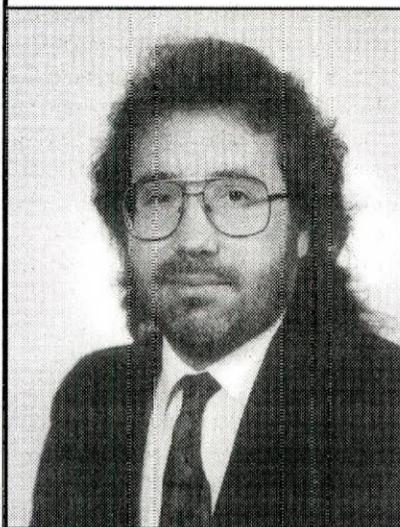
backhand first, your fast opponent will step around, hit a forehand, and then get a second forehand on your next shot! It's often better to go to the forehand first, then come back to the backhand, where even the fastest of opponents will have to take a backhand. In other words, give one forehand away, not two.

Since many players move to step around their backhands too soon, by playing the forehand first, you'll often catch them going the wrong way, leading to an easy point. Even a quick push to the wide forehand will win a point cleanly, if done at the right time.

• **Anticipate, especially when serving.** When serving, you can often learn to anticipate what type of returns your opponent will make—i.e., if you serve short backspin, some opponents will push it

The Mental Advantage

Jim Annesi, Ph.D.



Control Over Mental Skills: A Possibility for All Levels of Play

coaches focused on stroke and strategy aspects, the ability to adapt these skills to the stress demands of high level play either developed spontaneously, or the players failed to achieve the elite status that they were striving for.

Today, competitors at all levels may systematically develop the skills necessary to (a) use goal setting to target specific improvements, (b) use progressions to speed up stroke/strategy improvements and make them hold up under pressure, (c) narrow and broaden their focus and concentration as necessary, (d) psyche up when flat, (e) relax when anxious, (f) use imagery to enhance practice and prepare, and (g) reinterpret pressure in ways that will allow both learning and enjoyment to occur from match play.

In many ways your local league play is very much like top level competition. You are in a position to challenge yourself in physical and mental ways that can bring about both satisfaction or disappointment. The great thing about local play over top professional play is that improvement is always possible.

As you utilize the methods that I will be writing about in this column, they will become habit. As you train yourself in the basic principles of sport psychology practice, the means to set goals, develop strategies to attain these goals, and then make certain these new skills hold up under pressure become yours. As they do, the seemingly effortless and automatic manner in which you adapt to the challenges of table tennis competition come to look very much like the world's best competitors.

Please feel free to write in with your questions and together we will continue working on control over the interesting and rewarding mental side of the game.

Question: After spending some time watching tapes of the last Olympics, it's clear to me that the mental side of table tennis can both be very complex and very simple. While the continual demands made on concentration, nerves, and adaptability from such a public event can bring about fear, anxiety, lack of concentration, and ultimately bad performances, the top pros seem to handle them with relative ease. How is it that I can fall apart in a local league match while these top pros actually play better with a thousand times more pressure.

Dr. Annesi: First, you must realize that when viewing an athletic event with the stature of the Olympics, only the very top players in the world are even present. Basically, all of them have found adequate solutions to most of the technical, strategical, psychological, and physical challenges that table tennis brings. This is the case or they would not be there for you to watch in the first place.

Since most of the sport sciences, sport psychology in particular, are so new, they did not play a very large part in today's professional players' development (although that will definitely change in the near future). Players either evolved the skills necessary to excel on their own, or they were eliminated from championship play. While

.....
Dr. Jim Annesi is a sport psychology/performance enhancement consultant in private practice. He may be contacted at: The Club at Woodbridge, 585 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095, 908-634-5000.

back deep to the backhand over and over. Take advantage of this, and move early (at least until opponent catches on). You may be slower, but you're smarter!

• **Develop strong backhand.** Obviously!
 • **Develop fast down-the-line serve.** So your opponent thinks he's so fast he can step around and loop your serve with his forehand from the backhand corner? He probably is. But he probably moves too soon, since he's looking to step around so much, and so is vulnerable to a sudden fast serve to the wide forehand. Go for that ace!

• **Heavy push, quick block.** If your opponent is quick enough to use his forehand on most shots, force him into mistakes with spin and quickness. First, give him the "ginsu" push, the one where the

backspin makes the ball smoke. When he weakly lifts the ball up (we can only hope!), quick-block it to a wide corner. Between the heavy backspin and the quick block, your fast opponent will often make a mistake. Alternate strategy: push quick off the bounce, then block quick—i.e. use quickness to force a mistake. Even the fastest of feet makes mistakes when rushed.

• **Wide angle play.** Your opponent may have feet like a cheetah, but even a cheetah takes longer to cover eight feet than five. Make sure to keep all your shots at wide angles, outside the corners if possible.

• **Serve short, push short.** If you can serve short or push short, then your fast opponent won't be able to loop the ball.

The Forehand Block of JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE

1994 European Champion • by Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion



Photo sequence by Diego Schaf © 1996

Jean-Michel Saive: 1994 European Champion

By now, Jean-Michel Saive is a household name in most table tennis surroundings.

The 26-year old Belgian champion has been a contender for the top spot in table tennis for years and held the #1 ranking for a long time. "Jean-Mi," as his friends call him, brings several outstanding qualities to the table every time he steps into the court. Of those the most obvious to the spectator is that he refuses to give up a ball. If at all reachable, he will get his racket on it, even if it means that he has to dive like a young Boris Becker at Wimbledon. This physical style and his extroverted presence make him extremely entertaining. He talks to himself, to the spectators, he motions when he's unhappy with his performance, or he thinks he felt a gust of air conditioning. And he fights! During the Gilbert Cup that just took place in Beverly Hills, CA—see article in this magazine about that tournament—he played a match against Andrzej Grubba—an accomplished showman himself—that one minute had the audience wiping their tears from laughing at their comical interludes and the next minute had everybody gasping in disbelief at the quality of points.

His all-out attack style is supported by an excellent defense, on the forehand as well as the backhand. Many players seem to feel more control when blocking with the backhand. This may be because the ball's trajectory is more directly aimed at the player, and adjustments can be made more accurately. Nevertheless, the forehand block is critical. If it is weak, it can

often keep a player's match performance way below his actual capabilities. And since it is not often easy to identify this weakness, players might look for answers to their problem in the wrong place—thinking that they need to work on improving their counterloop or their footwork instead. Certainly, improving those areas is always beneficial, but there must be an awareness of the forehand block's importance. It often happens, that an attack to the forehand comes just too quickly to allow the time necessary for a counter-attack. It then is important that the player has the right mechanics to defend actively, rather than just getting the racket in the way of the ball and hoping it will bounce back to the other side. In addition, the forehand block is more and more used offensively as an alternative to a counterloop. Even when the players would have enough time to counter loop, they sometimes prefer to block the ball quickly after the bounce. This has two distinct benefits: It breaks the opponent's rhythm and the player is not forced away from the table. If anything but a great shot comes back, he has wide angles available to him.

In my own game, I used to feel insufficient control when I had to block on my forehand. Then, in a conversation I had with Deng Yaping (the Women's World Champion) about this topic, she mentioned that she opens her wrist slightly at the end of the block stroke, holding the striking surface more open and making it point more forward than I did. When I tried that, it immediately became obvious to me, why this works: The ball picks up additional topspin, and

yet, since that movement also covers the ball more, it doesn't fly out that easily. That additional control makes this a much safer block. Having found this "gem" of information, I started looking at my videos to see how other players do it, and I found this sequence of Jean-Michel in which he performed that very motion clearly.

These pictures were taken during a practice session, in which Saive's teammate Andreas Podpinka was looping to Jean-Michel's forehand. A block during a point often feels a little different than in practice, but that is mostly due to the footwork required to get into position. The arm and hand should not move differently.

At 0.0 sec his arm and hand are back in a neutral position after the previous block. As the backswing begins, he lowers the racket head a little and pulls his arm backwards a tiny little bit. Most of the backswing comes from rotating his upper body a little to the right. The left arm rotates along for counter-balance. The racket is closed at more than a 45-degree angle (0.2 b). When he ends his backswing (0.3 sec) his hand is still in front of his body. There is no need for a larger backswing, because the ball already carries so much energy, that additional force would only make it harder to control it. Now, at 0.3b he moves forward very slightly to meet the ball. As he does this, his racket angle opens a little. At 0.4 sec, the ball comes into the frame (it is right over Saive's free hand), and 0.4a shows it leaving right after contact. Saive has continued to open the

racket angle as he moves his arm forward gently, and as he continues the stroke, the racket head comes up a little. His arm follows through very slightly and his shoulders rotate to almost parallel to the end line. During the whole stroke, his elbow stays close to his body, which gives him good control over the angle and the power with which he contacts the ball.

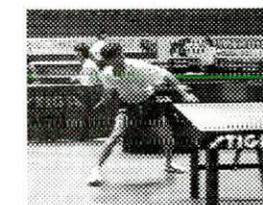
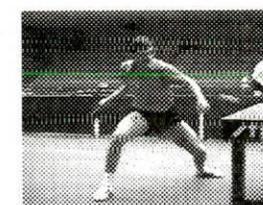
With such a small stroke the ball's direction can be controlled easily by adjusting the racket angle.

And, with slight adjustments in the amount of forward motion and the follow-through, the same stroke can be extended into a counter-smash.

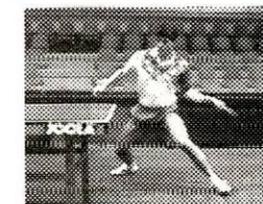
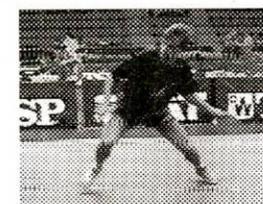
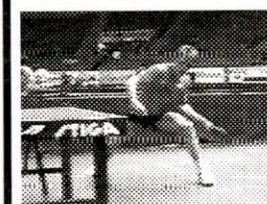
But—as in all other areas of life—you first need to know how to walk before you can run.

A personal note: I'd like to wish Larry Hodges good luck with his new endeavor. It will be good for the sport to have another publication. For this effort, he deserves our support.

NEW!! "WORLD CLASS PRACTICE"



We have put together two hours of the very footage Wei has been using for the analyses in the center pages of this magazine. We have chosen twelve of the best players in the world and show how they practice - close-up, so you can learn exactly how they do a certain shot. This way of studying the mechanics of greats like Ma Wenge, Gatien, Primorac, Waldner, Karlsson, the Mazunovs, Roskopf, Fetzner, Saive, and others has never before been available!



* "World Class Practice" _____ \$25.00 & \$3.00 s&h
California residents please add 8.25% tax to all orders

If it is formal instruction you need, we have the two videos by U.S. Champions Wei Wang and Sean O'Neill:

* Modern Table Tennis 101 _____ \$29.95
* Modern Table Tennis 102 _____ \$29.95
Special Offer: MTT 101 and 102 _____ \$49.95
Shipping and Handling _____ \$3.00



To order call: **1-800-500-5057**



Fax 818-584-6377 or send check or money order to:
Alpha Productions, P.O. Box 51103, Pasadena, CA 91115

Advanced Serves

by Larry Hodges, Certified National Coach

Earlier you learned to serve simple topspin and backspin serves. If you have perfected those serves, it is time to learn more advanced ones. Some of the more popular serves to be taught here are the backhand sidespin serve, the forehand pendulum or high toss serve, and the backhand fast serve. Also shown are photo sequences of other popular serves. These serves are more advanced because they use speed or spin (including sidespin) to increase their effectiveness. Also discussed are the factors that make up a good serve—deception, spin, height, depth, and (for some serves) speed.

WHY ARE GOOD SERVES IMPORTANT?

At this point, you have mastered most aspects of the game, or are at least well on your way toward doing so. However, your opponents probably have also, and they are going to do whatever it takes to keep you from using what you've learned. It's pointless having a good loop, for example, if every rally starts off with your opponent attacking and you blocking.

Good serves give you the initiative. Earlier, the four basic serves you learned at the beginning gave you the initiative at that level. However, now you are up against stronger competition (hopefully!) and those serves won't help you so much anymore. Your opponent will probably have serves much better than those you learned earlier; if you don't, you are at a disadvantage. The only way to make up for it is to develop your own serves. Not only will they let you take the initiative when you serve, but they will also win you many points outright as your opponent struggles to return them without giving you setups.

To improve your serve, you must improve your deception and placement and increase the spin on the ball while still keeping it very low. First we will talk about deception.

SERVICE DECEPTION

Deception is achieved by using a semi-circular motion. For example, you may start with the racket pointing sideways, and swing first down, then sideways, and then up, all as part of the same swing. If done quickly, it is difficult to tell at which part of the swing contact was made. If done on the downward swing, you get chop. If done while swinging sideways, you get sidespin. If done while swinging up, you get topspin. You can also create sidespin/chop and sidespin/topspin by contacting the ball between the downward and sideways motion or between the sideways and upward motion. With practice, you can learn a variety of serves using semi-circular motion, getting a different spin each time by contacting the ball at a different part of the swing. Note that although you have changed the spin, you have not changed the service motion!

To increase deception even more, use a deceptive motion after the serve. Exaggerate your follow-through but in a direction other than that at contact. For example, for a chop serve, follow-through up, and for a topspin serve, follow-through down. Of course, if you do it every time, it becomes predictable. Judge how often you can get away with it. You don't want to let your opponent know you're serving topspin by always following through downwards after the serve!

By varying where on the racket you contact the ball, you can also vary the spin. When you serve, not all parts of the racket move at the same speed. The tip (and often the forward part of the racket, depending on your service motion), moves faster than the base of the racket (and often the back of the racket, again depending on your service motion). So by contacting the ball at the tip, you can get heavy spin, and with the same motion, you can get very little spin by contacting the ball at the base. Your opponent will have a hard time telling the difference.

Of course, the best way to deceive an opponent is to put so much spin on the ball that the degree of spin becomes hard to read.

SPIN

For maximum spin, you must use both forearm and wrist. Failure to use either cuts down on your spin. You should also contact the ball towards the tip of the racket since it moves faster than the rest of the blade in a circular motion, giving more spin.

Do not think of the serve as a "gentle" shot. The serve can be almost a violent shot since you want the racket to be moving as fast as possible at contact. At first, you will not be able to control the serve at top speed so do it slower. Eventually you want to get maximum racket speed at contact, and still just graze the ball while keeping it low.

HEIGHT

An often underrated part of the serve is its height. It is important to keep the ball low at all times. To do this requires very good touch. Always contact the ball as low to the table as possible, at least within six inches of it. That way it won't bounce as high on the far side. It will also make it easier to serve short.

DEPTH

The last component of a good serve is its depth. There are two types of good serves: short or long.

A short serve should be short enough so that, if given the chance, it would bounce at least twice on the opponent's side of the table. This makes your opponent reach over the table to stroke the ball, making it more difficult to attack. To serve short, make the ball bounce close to the net on your side of the table as softly as possible. If it bounces too close to your endline, it will have to travel too far to the net to stay short. The serve can be made either very short, so that it would bounce several times on the far side of the table, or so that its second bounce would be near opponent's white line. The first makes him reach way over the table, while the second keeps his target (your side of the table) as far away as possible while still making it difficult to attack.

A deep serve should bounce within six inches of the endline. This forces the opponent away from the table and puts his target (your side of the table) as far away as possible. A deep serve is easier to attack than a short serve, especially with the forehand, so it should usually be served fast into the backhand to force the opponent to return with the backhand. If your opponent keeps stepping around and using his forehand, a sudden serve down the line done very fast will catch him out of position, often with an ace. If your opponent is attacking your deep serves effectively, serve short. If you can't serve short effectively, learn how to.

BACKHAND SIDESPIN SERVE

Start facing to the left, with feet and shoulders at about a 45 degree angle to the table. Hold the racket very loosely in front of you. Toss the ball up between six inches and two feet in the air. Backswing about one and a half feet behind the ball, above and to the left of it. During the backswing, open the racket and cock the wrist

Excerpt from *Table Tennis: Steps to Success*
To order, see ad in this issue, or contact your regular table tennis distributor

up, so the racket points backwards and slightly up. Racket should be tilted back at about 45 degrees to the floor, so that the near side of the blade is higher than the far side and the racket tip points backwards and up.

Now swing forward, using forearm, as if you were going to do a chop serve. Contact the right bottom side of the ball when it drops to just above table level. This will give sidespin chop. At contact, snap the wrist, and just graze the ball. Elbow should snap upwards, pulling the racket up. For deception, use a semi-circular motion, going first down, then up.

To get sidespin topspin, delay contact until racket is moving upward along the semi-circular motion, and then graze the right side of the ball, with racket going forward and up. To get pure sidespin, contact the ball in between the topspin and chop serve contact points, grazing the side of the ball.

By using this semi-circular forward swing, you can now serve three serves (and all variations in between) with the same motion. The only difference is when contact is made, and if you learn to do the service motion very quickly, it will be difficult for your opponent to tell when it was done. So practice doing it faster and faster, whipping the racket down and then up so fast there's no way the opponent will see contact! And, of course, by moving the forearm faster and snapping wrist more, you will get more and more spin.

FOREHAND PENDULUM SERVE (HIGH TOSS SERVE)

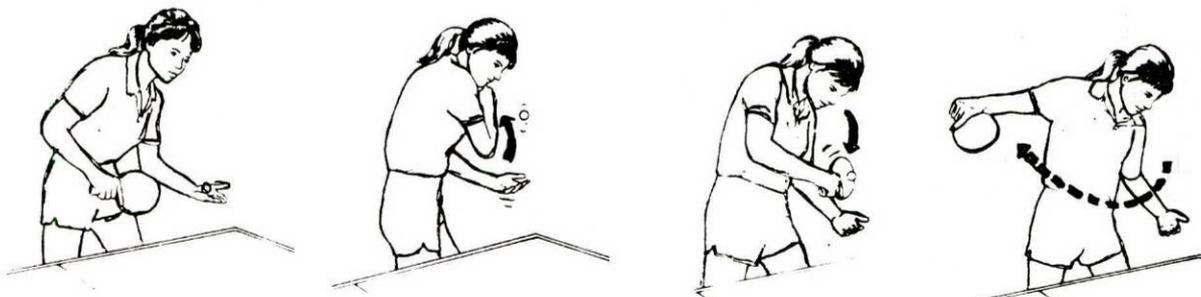
This is probably the most popular serve at the higher levels. At first, you will do it with a relatively low toss, perhaps one or two feet high. After you have learned it that way, you should learn to do it with a high toss, tossing the ball up to ten feet in the air.

For this serve, you will have to change your grip. Rotate the top of the blade away from you about 30 degrees. Hold the racket between the thumb and index finger. Slide your index finger, which usually lies along the bottom the blade's surface, onto the surface of the blade. Index finger should make about a 45 degree angle to the bottom of the blade. (Some point it almost straight down.) Put your thumb onto the blade, with the soft part of the thumb partly resting on the sponge opposite index finger. Hold the racket loosely. Holding the racket this way you can rotate it with your wrist at least 180 degrees. Practice snapping the wrist a few times, accelerating as fast as you can.

Now stand to the left of your backhand corner, facing to the right so that your body makes a 90 degree angle to the imaginary extension of the endline. Hold the racket in front of you, roughly parallel to the floor.

Now bring the racket back and away from the body with your elbow. Your arm should straighten somewhat, pointing mostly back. Racket should still be parallel to floor, and pointing almost straight back. You should cock your wrist back during the backswing, which will point the racket a little to the side. For extra deception, hide the racket with your body until just before the forward swing. Toss the ball straight up about one or two feet. Keep the

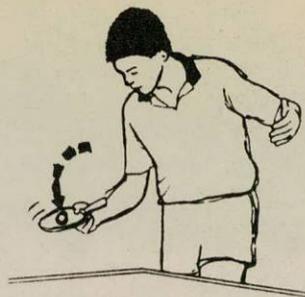
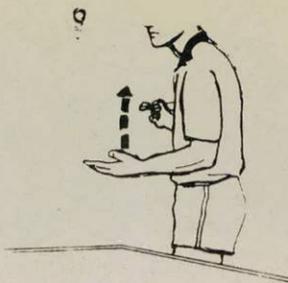
Backhand Serve



Forehand Pendulum Serve



The Grip



ball within a foot of the body, and just behind the endline.

During the forward swing, the playing elbow should stay almost motionless. Moving it forward will actually reduce the amount of spin produced by reducing elbow snap. Racket speed should come mostly from rotating the arm around the elbow and from wrist. Bring the racket forward as rapidly as possible in a semi-circular motion, bringing racket outside of ball and then back in. Dip the racket tip slightly. Graze the back bottom left side of the ball, snapping the wrist at contact. Elbow should still be high, racket open. This will give a sidespin/chop serve.

After contact, follow-through up with a semi-circular motion, with the racket ending up almost against the stomach.

To get sidespin/topspin, contact the ball later in the swing. As the racket reaches the bottom of the swing, bring it up and in towards the body. Graze the left back side of the ball in an upward and sideways motion. By contacting the left back of the ball at the bottom of the swing, with the racket going sideways, you will get a pure sidespin.

Again, as with the backhand serve, the speed of the racket motion is important. The faster it is, the more spin and deception. For even more deception, follow-through down at end of stroke, keeping upward part of semi-circular motion to a minimum.

HIGH TOSS SERVE

One of the most popular serves of all at the higher levels is the high toss serve. Before attempting it, you should first learn the forehand pendulum serve, of which the high toss serve is merely an advanced version of. A high toss can also be used with other serves, but it is the pendulum serve that seems most effective with this toss.

For this serve, the ball is tossed five to ten feet (and sometime even more!) into the air. When the ball comes down, it is falling faster than with a lower toss. This will convert to extra spin on contacting your racket, if you graze the ball. Also, since the ball is traveling so much faster than normal, it is harder for the opponent to see contact, making the serve more deceptive. This also makes the serve far more difficult to master, as you are trying to graze a rapidly moving object.

The best way to practice any serve is to get a bucket of balls and serve, pick them up, and serve again. Look over the following possible errors and make sure to correct any problems.

BACKHAND FAST SERVE

You learned to do a backhand topspin serve earlier. But just getting it on the table isn't enough. The serves taught so far are all spin serves. Now you're going to learn a fast serve.

The key to a fast serve is, of course, its speed. You don't want to give your opponent time to react! The ball should bounce on the very end of the table, as close to the endline as possible.

Start as if you were doing the backhand topspin serve. Swing straight into the ball as if you were doing a backhand drive. The ball should hit your side of the table as close to your endline as possible to give it as much time to drop on the other side as possible. Contact the ball within an inch or so of the table surface.

At contact, you can either do a slight grazing motion to give it some topspin or serve it "flat." A flat serve has no spin, and is actually more effective than a spin serve when done very fast. To make the flat serve even flatter, put a slight amount of backspin on it to compensate for the ball's rolling motion when it hits the table on both sides. That way it will be truly spinless when it reaches him, and hard to handle.

Fast serves are usually done to the backhand, like

deep spin serves. However, if your opponent is stepping around his backhand too soon, you can ace him with a fast serve to his forehand.

OTHER SERVES

Service is sometimes called the "trick" part of table tennis. You should master a few well established serves, but you should also invent your own serves. Watch other players for ideas. You might try learning a forehand serve with the racket tip up. It can be done with the racket going either left to right (more common) or right to left.

You might try using different grips, such as the Seemiller grip which enables you to do a "windshield wiper" serve, with racket tip up and going in either direction.

There are an incredible number of variations. Just remember to use circular motion of some sort on all spin serves. You can also experiment with different types of fast, deep serves (i.e. different placements & spin, etc.). Also experiment with different contact points on the racket, mixing up nospin and spin. A great variation of all the spin serves taught so far is to simply contact the ball near the handle, so as to serve a nospin that looks like it has spin.

Try to develop two types of serves: Those which will stop your opponent's attack and set you up for your own, and those which will force an opponent into an immediate error. Generally, favor the first type, and use the second as a surprise in close games. If you overuse the second type, a good player will adjust and you won't be able to use that serve anymore.

Detecting Service Errors

ERROR CORRECTION

1. Not enough spin. Make sure you are grazing the ball. Accelerate at contact, and snap wrist.

2. Opponent attacks serve. Make sure serve is low to net. A short serve (especially with backspin) is usually harder to attack than a deep serve.

3. Arm doesn't accelerate. Relax arm. Make sure backswing is long enough to generate racket velocity.

4. Short serves are going long. Make first bounce close to net and low. Turn racket speed into spin, not forward motion, by grazing the ball lightly.

ADVANCED SERVICE DRILLS

For the following drills, you will need either a bucket of balls or a partner to catch your serve and serve or toss it back to you.

1. SPIN SERVES

Do each variation of your four favorite spin serves. Go for as much spin as possible, even if it means you are inconsistent at first.

2. FAST SERVES

Serve your fast backhand serve (or any other fast serve variation that you prefer). Serve it as fast as possible, even if it means you are inconsistent at first. The purpose of this serve is to catch your opponent off guard, and you can't do that unless the serve is very fast.

3. SHORT SERVES

Serve short with spin, first with backspin, then with sidespin. You may have to take off some of the spin to make sure the ball stays short, but not too much, and eventually you will be able to serve with full spin and still keep it short. The wonderful thing about serving short is that it keeps opponent from attacking effectively (especially loopers) while usually setting you up for an attack—especially a loop attack. Most players return serves deep, setting up your loop, and many players build their games around this.

4. HIGH TOSS PRACTICE

Toss the ball up about six feet over your head. As soon as ball is released, close your eyes. Try to make the ball hit your hand on the way down. When you have mastered this, you can go on to practicing high toss serves, such as drill 1) above.

5. ACCURACY GAME

Play a game similar to the accuracy game taught in step four. Put four targets on the table (such as a lid to a jar), one near each far corner, one in the middle backhand area, one in the middle forehand area. Consecutively, serve fast topspin twice in a row, aiming for the corner targets, then two sidespin serves in a row, aiming for the two closer targets. Do this in a circuit. See who can hit the most targets in the circuit in a given amount of repetitions. Games are to 11.

6. SERVE VARIATIONS

Play regular games to 21 with the following modifications: 1) Server must use five different serves each time he serves; and 2) If receiver misses serve outright, server gets two points. (But server serves one less time—always change servers when the score is divisible by five.)

7. SERVE AND ATTACK GAME

Play games where you practice serve and attack. Spot your partner five points. You serve every time, mixing up the serves. Partner should receive passively, either by pushing or driving relatively slowly. You attack the return, and play out the point. Game is to 21.

8. RECEIVE ATTACK GAME

Play games where you practice attacking the serve. Partner serves every time, and you attack deep serves with a loop while flipping short serves, backhand or forehand. Partner spots you five points, and game is to 21.

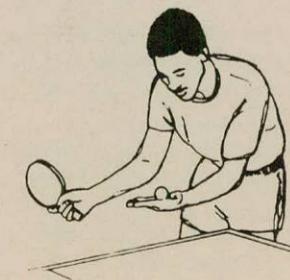
9. SERVE AND SMASH GAME

Play a game where the server must always serve and smash, ending the point on the first shot after the serve. Whenever server fails to make a point-winning smash on the first shot, receiver becomes the server. One catch—players can only score points when they are serving!

Forehand Tip-Up Serve



Seemiller Grip Serve



1995 U.S. NATIONALS

Las Vegas, Nevada December 13-17, 1995

by Larry Hodges



Las Vegas... the Glitter... the Glitz... the Table Tennis...

A record 704 players from 39 states gathered to bang ping pong balls back and forth on 76 tables in 62 events—and have the time of their lives.

There were the highs—David Zhuang & Amy Feng winning again, Freddie Gabriel, Terrence Lee, Jonah Brown-Joel, George Braithwaite & George Hendry (to name a few) creating havoc in event after event, and all 62 event winners. There were the lows—see box about the medical emergency (heart attack), the low turnout in many women's &

girls' events, and those who trained so hard, but did not win. There were moments of high drama—19-all in the fifth between Lily Yip & Wei Wang in the Women's semifinals, Sean Lonergan's & Dave Fernandez's come-from-behind victories in Men's Singles against Dan Seemiller & Todd Sweeris—and moments of comic drama—see box about Barney's Adventures with Security.... And finally, there were the non-table tennis tables... but let's not get off the subject! Read on, gentle reader, and **TABLE TENNIS WORLD** will take you on a ride.

Men's Singles

When the heat was on, David Zhuang turned up the heat.

In front of a screaming California crowd, Californian Khoa Nguyen could do no wrong in the first game in the final, winning 21-11 as the west coast prepared for a night of celebration. Was it a partisan crowd? "D_____ed right!" exclaimed California Cheerleader & Junior Coach Dennis Davis. But David changed tactics, changed the course of the game, and in the end, the only thing that didn't change was the Men's Singles National Champion, as David won for the second year in a row.

It had been an easy road to the final for David, winning his 8ths, quarters and semis matches by scores of 12, 13, 13, 11, 10, 13, 9, 8, 14 (against Shashin Shodhan, Norman Yeh, and Derek May). Only the final, where he won at -11, 11, 15, 16, kept him from a perfect record.

He'd had some help along the way. Coming into the tournament, the highest rated player was Todd Sweeris. However, due to the using of very old ratings for the seedings, Todd was seeded 5th, despite being in the top three in the U.S. since July (five months). However, Todd's rating took a beating in the 8ths, care of up-and-coming star David Fernandez of (depending on what day it is) New York/Pennsylvania/Maryland/Oklahoma/Sweden.

Todd led two games to one, and was up 7-3 in the fourth. Down 17-13 in the fifth against a red-hot, counterlooping off-the-bounce Fernandez, Todd ripped six straight forehand loop kills—count 'em, six—to go up 19-17, with the serve. But a couple of serves that should have gone short went long, and four straight points ended with Todd looping (or counter-looping) a forehand—off. Match to David, 18, -15, -13, 17, 19.

The most exciting match of the tournament, without doubt, was the Dan Seemiller/Sean Lonergan extravaganza in the 16ths. Let's face reality, folks; if Dan's behind 10 points, it's going deuce; if he's up by 10 points, it's still going deuce. That makes for some exciting table tennis, and Dan always seems in the middle of the most exciting matches. Sean, on the other hand, is rated 100 points lower, but it was at this very tournament and site one year ago that he knocked defending Men's Singles Champion Jim Butler out of the tournament.

20-year-old Sean Lonergan led 40-year-old Dan Seemiller 20-19 in the first. He served, Dan popped it up, Sean looped off. First game went to Dan, 24-22, despite two game points for Sean. In the second, Sean led 15-4, 17-7—and then 20-19! Sure enough, Dan came back to win it, 23-21, to "steal" the first two games.

15-4!!!! C'mon!!!!

In the third, Sean leads 16-13, but the experienced Seemiller sees his chance, and wins 7 of 8 to go up 20-17 triple match point, for a 3-0 win... but now the tide turns, and this time it's Sean who deuces it up, and wins, 24-22!

The last two games were anticlimactic as Sean pulls out a great win, -22, -21, 22, 14, 16. Sean, who trains 3-4 times/day with Cheng Yinghua, Todd Sweeris, Masamichi Kubo, Gao Jun, his brother Brian, and just about any other warm bodies he can find, would have a great tournament, winning the Men's Under 22 over Eric Owens.

Except for a 5-gamer with Randy Cohen in the 16ths,

Khoa Nguyen also breezed into the final, not losing a game otherwise. Randy led 2-1 in games, but Khoa won the last two easily to advance, 10, -18, -19, 14, 12. In the 8ths, quarters and semis, Khoa won at 10, 10, 17, 16, 17, 15, 17, 18, 16 (against Barry Dattel, Sean Lonergan, and Jim Butler). Khoa had spent much of August, October and November training Sweden (sometimes with Mikael Appelgren), and had been lifting weights for some time now. He'd gotten time off from work, and was training full-time. He and Jim Butler had represented the U.S. in team tournaments in Europe during the Fall season.

Quiz question: what's a quick way to win \$500 in Las Vegas? Enter the Nationals, and get into the draw where two top seeds don't show (John Onifade & Benga Ogundimu). 2380-rated Norman Yeh played his cards just right and was able to march into the quarterfinals without facing anyone rated over 2200.

Quarterfinals

From the quarters on, five matches were 3-0, the other two 3-1 as the winners won 21 out of 23 games, leaving most of the drama in the early rounds.

Derek May had upset Darko Rop in four in the 8ths (-16, 19, 20, 8), and continued his march here, winning against David Fernandez, 13, 15, -16, 14. The other three quarterfinal matches were all easy 3-0's as, Jim Butler's 2-winged attack downed Sean O'Neill, 16, 10, 14; Khoa Nguyen ended Sean Lonergan's dreams, 16, 17, 15; and David Zhuang stopped the march of Norman Yeh. Of interest to those looking to the future: three young, new quarterfinalists in Sean Lonergan, David Fernandez and Norman Yeh, all 20 & under.

Semifinals

Where's the drama? Neither match was strongly contested, as pips-out penholder David Zhuang went right through chopper Derek May's defense (9, 8, 14), and Khoa Nguyen seemingly blasted 63 balls past Jim Butler (17, 18, 16). David didn't exactly overpower Derek; more specifically, he oozed his way past, dropping ball after ball so short that Derek could never get back for the aggressive drives. Dave's fake-hit/drop shot technique looks like a magician's sleight of hand.

Final

For the finals, a sizable gathering of past U.S. Men's & Women's Singles Champions were on hand, some of whom were introduced by the MC. Those present included 11-time U.S. Champion Insook Bhushan, 10-timer Dick Miles, 6-timer D.J. Lee (was wife He-Ja, 3-time U.S. Champion, also present?), 5-timers Dan Seemiller & Sean O'Neill, and 1-timers Jimmy McClure, Attila Malek, Connie Sweeris and Wei Wang. Also present was 3-time Canadian Champion Barbara Kaminsky, and former U.S. Star Doug Cartland.

It would have been a great day for California, but their day is coming; see article elsewhere in this issue on their upcoming juniors in the San Francisco bay area. The first game, and the first point of game two, was all Khoa; after that, it was all David. After game one, David began to angle ball after ball wide to Khoa's backhand, and Khoa began to play more and more backhand. Khoa had won the first with an unstoppable forehand attack; in the last three games, David's angle play took that away.

Khoa did start off game two with the point of the tournament—he lobbed wide to David's backhand, the ball

landed short, and David creamed the ball at a near 90 degree angle to Khoa's wide backhand. Khoa miraculously transported himself about two tables to the side (if there'd been other tables up during the final), and looped a forehand winner that came straight out of California, through the Rockies, past the Mississippi, over the Appalachians, smacked the table, and zipped right past New Jersey and David into the Atlantic. But it was his last hurrah.

When David led 2-1 in games, and 8-2 in the fourth, Californian Dennis Davis cried out, "David still has a chance!" But the reverse psychology didn't work as David won the final, -11, 11, 15, 16. Khoa would later have his revenge in Men's Doubles, as he and Darko Rop would dethrone reigning Men's Doubles Champions David Zhuang & Dan Seemiller in the final.

DAVID

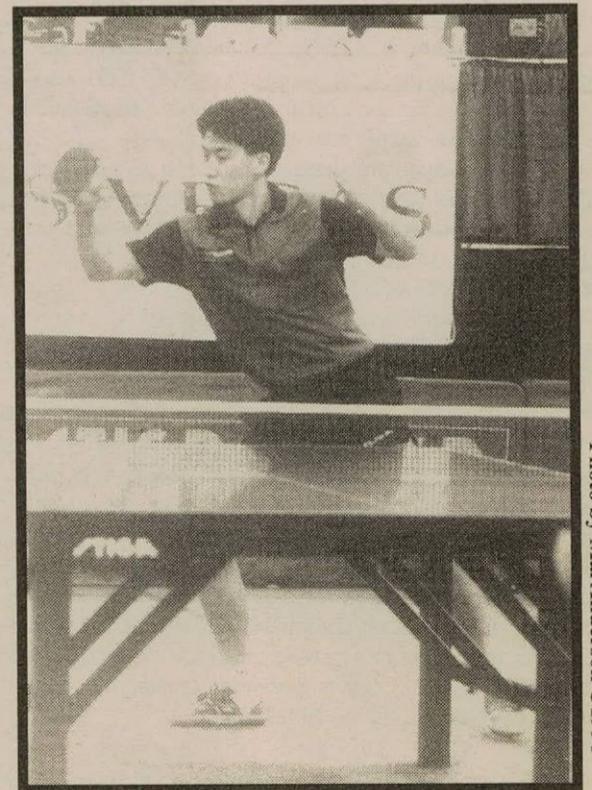
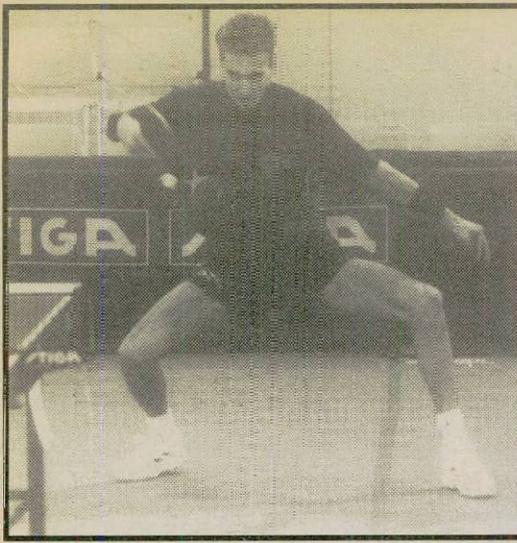
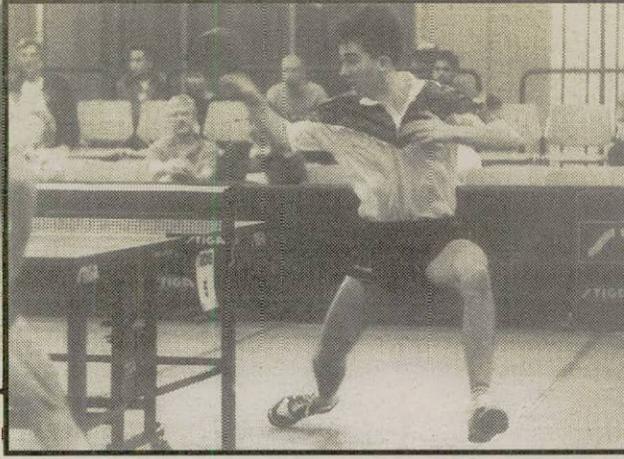


Photo by Mal Anderson ©1996

National Champion



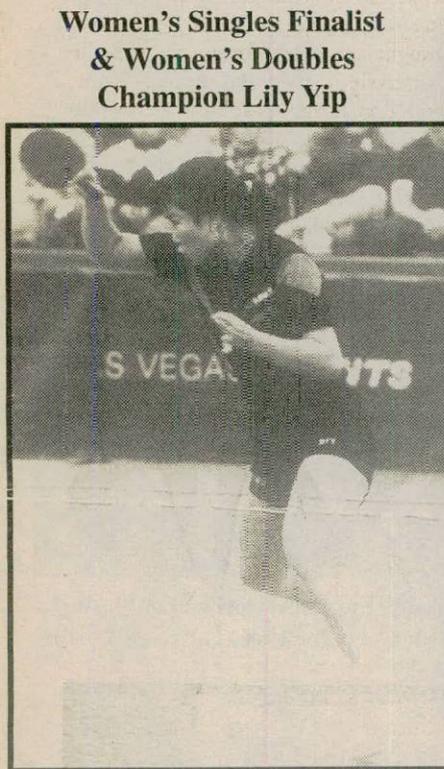
**Men's Singles Semifinalist
Jim Butler**



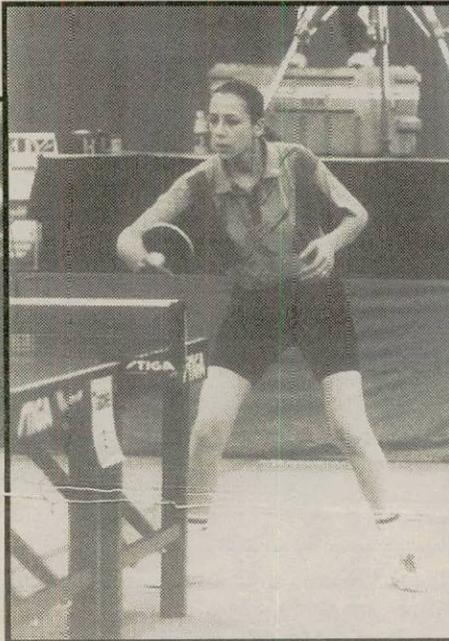
**Under 22 Men's Champion & Men's Singles
Quarterfinalist Sean Lonergan**



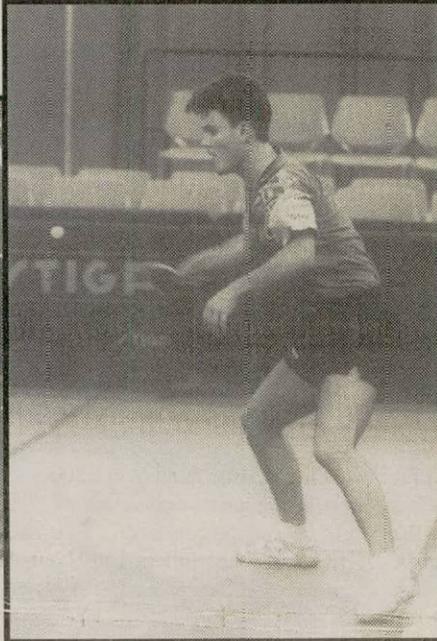
**Men's Singles Semifinalist
Derek May**



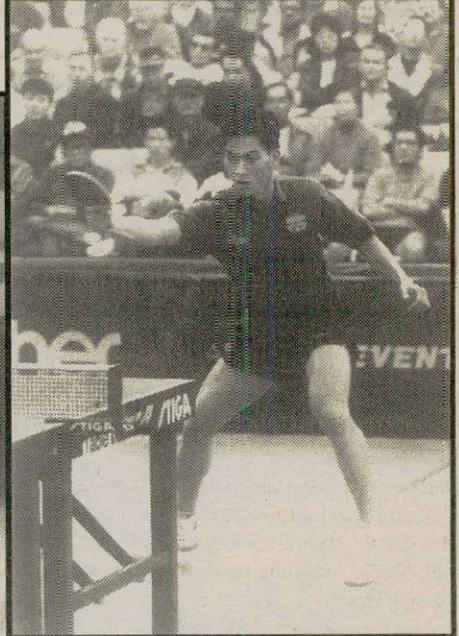
**Women's Singles Finalist
& Women's Doubles
Champion Lily Yip**



**Women's Singles Semifinalist
Anita Zakharyan**

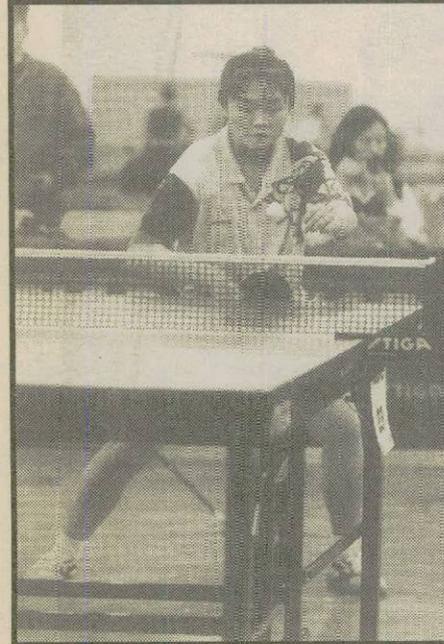


**Men's Under 22 Finalist
Eric Owens**

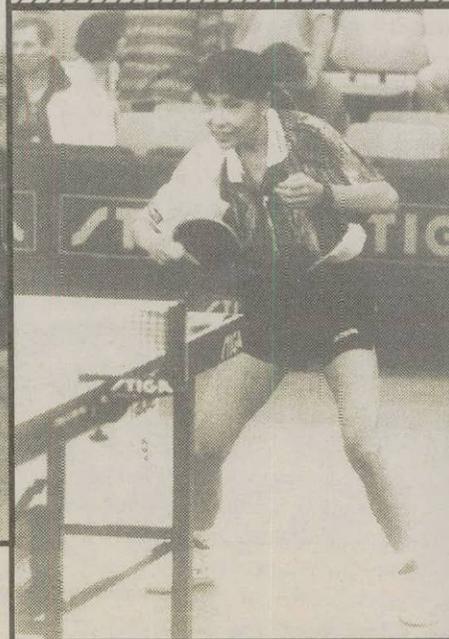


**Men's Singles Finalist & Men's
Doubles Champion Khoa Nguyen**

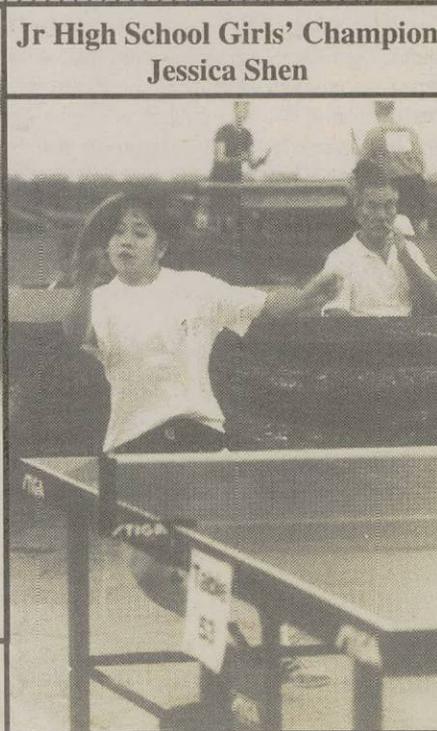
Scenes from the U.S. Nationals
by Mal Anderson ©1996



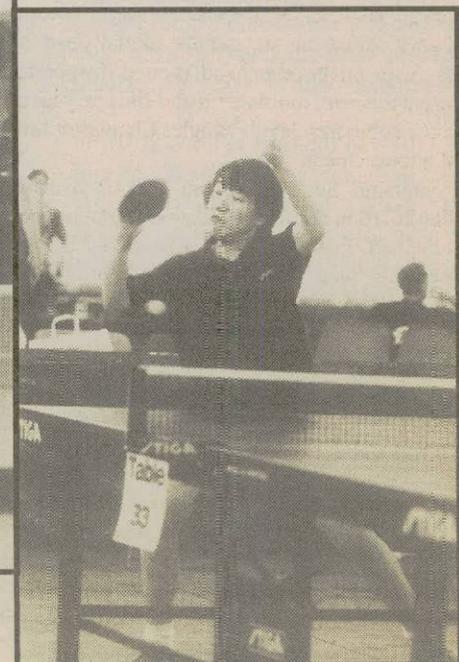
**Under 22 Women's Singles
Champion and New U.S. Team
Member Tawny Banh**



**Women's Singles Semifinalist &
Women's Doubles
Champion Wei Wang**



**Jr High School Girls' Champion
Jessica Shen**



**Under 2300 Champion
Nan Li**

Las Vegas

Women's Singles

Amy Feng once again dominated all comers in winning her fourth straight Women's Singles Championship. Due to the small draw (only 11 players!), she had a bye into the quarters, where she reeked havoc in winning all nine games she played by an average score of 21-11.4. Only Lily Yip, in the first game of the final, was able to score more than 13.

Controversy marred the event somewhat, as the original draw, after being posted, was changed. In the original draw, top-seeded Amy Feng (2516) played 3rd seed Lily Yip (2369) in the semifinals, while 2nd seed Wei Wang (2370) played 4th seed Anita Zakharyan (2299), with the semifinal draw done by random flipping. However, tournament referee Y.C. Lee ruled that the draw would have to be redone, despite protests, since both Wang and Zakharyan were from California. In the new draw, Wei played Lily in the semifinals, with Amy against Anita. (In more recent ratings, Lily has been rated over 2500 as she pulls away from the field and inches closer and closer to perennial Champion Amy.)

Quarterfinals

The only contested match in the quarterfinals was Lily's match with Tawny Banh. (If Tawny wins, we still have two Californians in the semifinals... alas...) Tawny won the first, and led 14-11 in the second, and 18-15 in the third. Lily won both games, and from 13-all in the fourth, went up 19-13 in winning the match, -14, 16, 19, 14. Tawny would go on to win Women Under 22 over Vivian Lee.

Meanwhile, Amy Feng won against Yumiko Payton, 13, 11, 10; Anita Zakharyan won against Mahin Roufeh (who'd upset Joannie Fu the round before), 6, 13, 15; and Wei Wang won against (mirror image from the past?) 14-year-old 2060-rated Vivian Lee, 7, 14, 10.

Semifinals

Amy's match with Anita ended quickly, 10, 6, 11. However, the Lily-Wei match was a great match, a classic match-up of two close-to-the-table quick hitters, one a pips-out penholder (Lily), the other a shakehander with pips on the backhand (Wei).

Lily won the first, and led 20-19 in the second; however, Wei tied it up, and won, 22-20. Lily won the third at 15, and Wei won the fourth, also at 15.

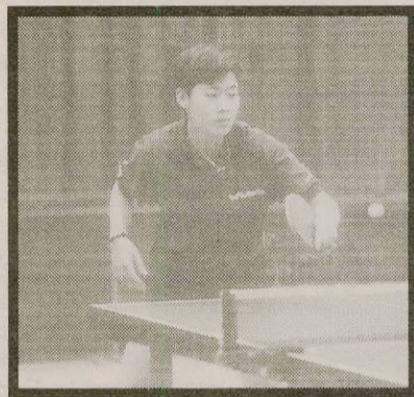
Lily led 14-11 in the fifth, but Wei tied it up, 15-all... 16-all... 17-all... 18-all... 19-all. Wei was serving up 18-17, but with each rally going 6-8 shots, the serve advantage was normally not great. In the end, at 19-all, Wei served two long balls to Lily's backhand, Lily stepped around and looped both with her forehand, and won both points quickly. As Wei would later lament, she'd used the wrong serve, should have served at least one short... but hindsight is 20-20, isn't it?

Final

Down 20-14 in the first, Lily made

her move, but it was to be her only one, and it fell short as she lost, 21-18. Amy's two-sided looping simply dominated as she won easily, 18, 12, 12 (scoring the last six points in a row in the third).

AMY



National Champion

Team Trials

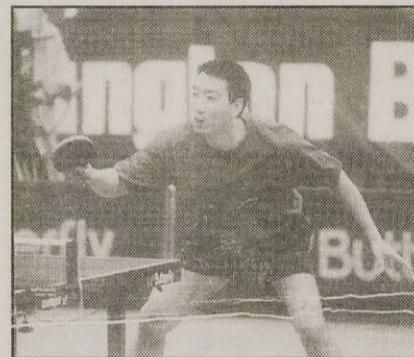
In past years, the U.S. National Team Trials were held in conjunction with the U.S. Nationals. With the Olympics coming up, however, it was decided to combine the Olympic and U.S. National Team Trials into one event, to be held in late February of 1996. However, the eligibility standards for the two events is different—to try out for the Olympics, you have to be "Olympic Eligible," while to try out for the National Team, you have to be "ITTF Eligible." (Please, let's not get into the details—it'll give you a headache.) Cheng Yinghua, who had been the number one finisher on the U.S. team the previous year, would not be eligible, based on these rules. So a compromise was worked out, with one U.S. Team Member to be selected in a Trials at the Nationals for those who are ITTF Eligible, and the other three spots to be decided at the Olympic Trials among the Olympic Eligible players. The complication was that a player could only play in one event. Since all those who were Olympic Eligible and had a good chance of making the Olympic Team would participate in the Olympic Trials, the only players to try out at the Trials at the Nationals were those who were either ITTF Eligible but not Olympic Eligible (including Cheng

Yinghua and Razvan Cretu) or lower rated players who weren't planning on trying out for the Olympic Team anyway.

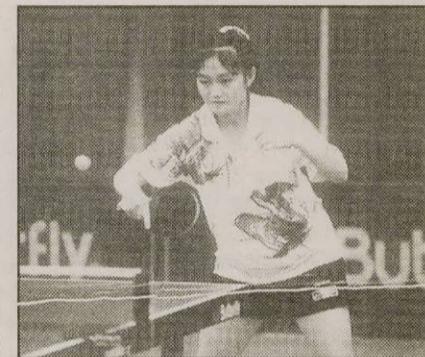
On the men's side, the preliminary matches were mostly for show as Cheng & Razvan easily made it into the final group of three, where they were joined by 2271-rated Tuan Tran, who'd "upset" 2276-rated Richard Lee in the preliminary group to advance to the final. Tran was quickly eliminated, losing 3-0 to Cheng & Razvan, setting up the final match for the sole spot on the U.S. Team being contested here.

Razvan had recently come off beating David Zhuang twice at the Pac-Rim Open, but this time it was not to be as Cheng completely dominated play, taking control of each point with serve & receive play. Match and U.S. Team Spot to Cheng Yinghua, 8, 11, 15.

On the women's side, Tawny Banh, who is Olympic eligible, chose to try out here and forego the Olympics this time around. (Three players make the Olympic Team, and Tawny, rated 2446 after the U.S. Open Team Championships, would have been seeded third after Amy Feng and Lily Yip.) Tawny easily won the event over U.S. Junior Champ Nan Li, 13, 13, 15. Ling Chen finished third in the final round robin, Inga Viktorova fourth.



Cheng Yinghua & Tawny Banh romped through the team trials without losing a game, and they became the first USA team members for 1996. The trials for the rest of the team will take place February 21-23.



A TOURNAMENT MEDICAL EMERGENCY

by Dr. Michael Scott, USATT Sports Medicine Chairman

I would like to thank and acknowledge the skilled performance of volunteer medical personnel who assisted a fellow table tennis player after he collapsed at the 1995 National Tournament in Las Vegas. The player was lying unconscious on the playing floor when I arrived seconds after the emergency. I was immediately joined by talented professionals who worked harmoniously even though we barely knew each other, if at all. This senior athlete had no vital signs: no pulse, no respiratory activity, no response to stimuli etc.... The improvised medical group immediately took appropriate action, working as a unified team. Without any hesitation, Dr. Mark Schaffner of California began administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation despite knowledge of personal risks in doing so. Grace Matossian R.N., also of California, was actively performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Dr. Robert Ho of Oregon positioned the body properly and was checking for vital signs. Mr. Allan Barth of Georgia effectively controlled the ever-enlarging crowd of spectators accumulating in the immediate area, thereby permitting the medical team to

function unhampered. Consumed with the task at hand I may have unintentionally been unaware of others who assisted and, if so, I apologize for not mentioning them. (Editor's note: Medical personnel also on the scene and assisting were Dr. Jiing Wang, Dr. Don Geeze, Dr. Grady Gordon, Dr. Richard Poole, and Nurse Mary An Geeze.)

In my opinion, for all intents and purposes, the patient was clinically deceased. Despite numerous minutes of the above valiant resuscitative efforts no vital signs were restored. Other than the occasional comments such as: "still no pulse"; "no respiratory action"; "turning very blue"; no response to stimulation"; "not responding" ... the only other conversation amongst our group that I recall, when everything appeared futile, was an emotional "Let's not give up on him," and we continued our efforts to revive him. None of us were aware of the patient's identity. Inspired by the tireless dedication of Dr. Schaffner, who rejected offers of substitution, we continued our efforts.

There is no question in my mind that

the outcome would have been fatal without the prompt and continued professional action of all involved. No doubt the athlete's subconscious fighting spirit as a tournament player was also a favorable contributing factor.

An ambulance, and paramedics with a defibrillator, eventually arrived at the scene. Electrical shock stimulation restored a heart beat and a palpable pulse although the patient was still unconscious. He was further treated at the tournament site for several minutes with an endotracheal oxygen tube etc.... The patient was transferred to the Emergency Room and Intensive Care at a local hospital where he remained unconscious for several hours.

Fortunately, he slowly regained consciousness. The following day he was able to breathe without a respirator and was able to talk to his wife.

Although the majority was unaware of his identity, it was amazing how many players and officials were genuinely concerned about the eventual outcome. Even the imperturbable Mr. George Hendry had tears in his eyes when informed of the miraculous outcome.

Senior Events

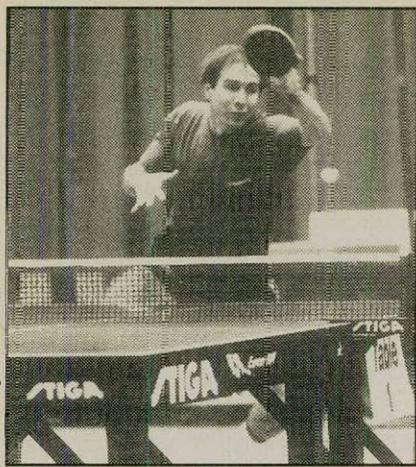


Photo by Mal Anderson ©1996

Over 40 Men's Singles & Doubles Champion Dan Seemiller.

Sorely missed from this year's competition were Bill Sharpe (1993 U.S. Over 50 & Over 60 Champion) and George Rocker (Former World Over 70 Champion). Both tragically passed away shortly before the tournament—see articles elsewhere in this issue.

Starting off with the up-and-coming seniors in the Over 30's, David Zhuang easily ran away with the title without losing a game, defeating Henry Chan in the final at 10 & 14. Only Barry Dattel was able to get over more than 14 in a game against David, losing to him at 11 & 16 in the semifinals. Henry Chan reached the final when Dan Seemiller defaulted in the semifinals. Henry would also win Mixed Doubles in Over 40 Mixed Doubles, over Leon Ruderman & Yvonne Kronlage.

However, Dan continued his reign as the supreme Senior, winning both Over 40 Singles & Doubles (with Dave Sakai, for the second year in a row). Dan defeated Joe Cummings in the final, 11 & 11. Joe had reached the final by upsetting Lim Ming Chui in the quarters, 28-26 in the third! In the semifinals, Joe defeated Bill Ukapatayasakul, while Dan defeated Dave Sakai. Since he started competing in the Seniors two years ago, Dan has yet to lose a match to a U.S. Senior. His opponents averaged less than 10 points a game this time around.

Richard Hicks won the Over 50's over George Brathwaite, 10, 18, and won Over 50 Doubles as well, with Howard Grossman. Top seeded Kwing Lau (2348) was upset in the quarters by former U.S. Team Member, now Boos Brother Dell Sweeris, who in turn lost to George in the semifinals. Richard defeated Bill Ukapatayasakul in the other semifinals, giving Bill semifinalist berths for both Over 40 & Over 50.

George Brathwaite was not to be denied in the Over 60's, where he swept both singles and doubles, with Nick Mintsiveris. George defeated Nick in the singles finals.

The Singles winner for the Over 40's, 50's & 60's all won the corresponding doubles event—and in each case, paid their partner back by knocking them out of the singles!

Another George took over in the Over 70's and Over 75's. George Hendry won both events, and also made the semifinals of Over 60, losing in three to Nick Mintsiveris. Hendry also made the final of Over 60 Doubles, with Tim Boggan. Over 80 was won by Henry Bloom, deuce in the third over Bill Walsh. (It would have been nice if someone had convinced the legendary Doug Cartland, who was on hand, to pick up a racket and enter... or 10-time U.S. Champion Dick Miles, also on hand, although not quite ready for the Over 80's.)

Bella Livshits easily won Over 40 Women without losing a game, defeating Mixed Doubles Champion Donna Cheng in the final, 14 & 19.

Yvonne Kronlage defeated Danuta Andrzejewska in the Over 50 Women Final, -14, 16, 17.

National School Championships

With 60% of the rating events (9 of 15) won by juniors, the actual school championships seemed almost anticlimactic. However, a whole new set of champions emerged.

Dave Fernandez, who'd had high hopes of winning either the Under 22's or the Under 2400's (and after knocking Todd Sweeris out of the tournament, perhaps Men's Singles?) instead battled and won the High School Boys' Singles. It wasn't easy, with Richard Lee taking him to 18 & 20 in the quarters (and leading 20-18 in the second), with Norman Yeh going three with him in the semifinals, and with Shashin Shodhan winning the first game in the final 21-9. (Shashin had pulled out a 27-25 win in the first game against Bogdan Kucherenko in the other semifinals in winning 2-0). But soon the dust cleared, and Dave was our champion.

Richard Lee & T.J. Beebe teamed up to win Boys' High School Doubles over Anthony Torino & Keith Alban. Exactly two years before they had won Boys' Junior High School Doubles. (For Richard, it was almost a 3-peat, as he'd won Boys' High School Doubles the year before with Shashin Shodhan.)

Top-seeded in Boys' Junior High School Singles, Keith Alban (who could have played in Primary School Singles but had opted for the stronger competition) had perhaps the first bad tournament of his life (every time someone blinks, he goes up another 50 rating points). Aaron Struth upset Keith in the quarters, deuce in the third, but then Aaron lost to Ashu Jain in the semifinals, who in turn lost to Philip Lim in the final. Philip had defeated T.J. Beebe 2-0 in the other semifinals, pulling out the second game, 22-20. Philip, who seems to commute daily between California and Sweden, only lost one game in winning the title, to Under 2100 & 2000 winner Freddie Gabriel in the quarters.

Terrence Lee won Boys' Primary School Singles over David Umel. Opponents averaged 7.8 points a game against him (he had a bye in the first round, so played only three matches), with the most given up in a game being 11 by Stephen Tu in the quarters. Terrence & David had defeated Ling Zhai and Auria Malek, respectively, in the semifinals. Terrence then teamed up with Freddie Gabriel to win Junior High School Doubles over Freddie Gabriel & Peter Chamberlain.

Auria Malek, after making the semifinals in Primary School Singles, won the Boy's Elementary School Singles over Under 1400 Finalist Alan Rudesill.

Top-seeded Inga Viktorova won Girls' High School Singles over Sally Dahlin. 1758-rated Sally had pulled off a huge upset in the semifinals in knocking off second-seeded Irina Elkin, rated 2059, while Inga had defeated Vivian Lee. The final looked at first like a whitewash as Inga won the first 21-2, but Sally pushed her to 24-22 in the second before going down. Irina Elkin & Vivian Lee teamed up to win Girls' High School Doubles over Sally Dahlin & Stacy Lee.

Jessica Shen & Vivian Lee flew 3000 miles from Maryland to play in the Girls' Junior High School Singles final—no one else was rated within 400 points of either of them. Jessica won this time.

Michelle Do came back from losing the first game in the semifinal (against Under 1200 Finalist Katherine Livshits) and again in the final to win Girls' Primary School Singles over Jackie Lee.

There were no entries in Girls' Elementary School Singles.

Championship Doubles Events

Darko Rop & Khoa Nguyen ended David Zhuang & Dan Seemiller's two-year reign as National Men's Doubles Champions, -15, 17, 6. David, in fact, had won it four years in a row—twice with Sean O'Neill, the last two times with Dan.

Wei Wang & Lily Yip teamed up to win Women's Doubles over Amy Feng & Anita Zakharyan at 9, 15—but they were the only two teams entered!

David Zhuang & Amy Feng won Mixed Doubles for the fourth year in a row, but it wasn't so easy this year. Khoa Nguyen & Tawny Banh were up 16-13 in the deciding third game when Zhuang/Feng reeled off eight of the last nine points to win the match, 10, -17, 17

Under 22

On the men's side, there were five players with ratings normally in the 2400-2550 range: Sean Lonergan, Eric Owens, Randy Cohen, Barney J. Reed, and Dave Fernandez (with Shashin Shodhan & Norman Yeh not far behind). When Randy lost to Barney in the quarterfinals, it was down to the top four seeds.

National College Singles Champion Sean Lonergan has a history of losing close matches to Barney J. Reed, and after losing the first at 19, it looked like more of the same. But Sean won the next two handily to advance to the finals, -19, 17, 16.

Eric Owens vs Dave Fernandez was a battle between all-forehand looping Eric and quick, two-sided looping Dave. Dave has a tendency to serve long, and this time it cost him as Eric was able to loop his serves at the end to advance to the final, 13, 22.

In the final, Sean's forehand loop/backhand hit & loop game won the first at 15. In the second, serving at 12-13, all five of Sean's serves went slightly long, and Eric looped all five, and he ran away with the game, 21-14. In the third, Eric's forehand attack and return of serve faltered, while Sean seemed to loop kill or backhand smack winners at will. Sean ran up a 14-7, then 15-10 lead, with Sean to serve. Then, suddenly, Sean's serves went long five times in a row, Eric spun all five—and it's 15-all! But—topsy turvey—Sean loops all five of Eric's serves, and goes up 20-15. Sean wins the match and the Championship, 15, -14, 17.

Barney D. Reed Takes On Sahara's Finest

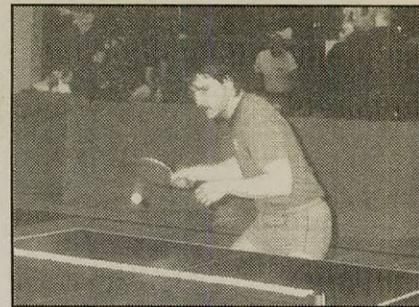
While eating dinner at the Sahara Hotel buffet with Rodney Pepper at the Nationals, Barney D. Reed (Barney J.'s father) probably just wanted a bit of piece and quiet. Much like Bruce Willis in each of the "Die Hard" movies.

Suddenly five security guards showed up, and, without explanation, escorted Barney out of the buffet and on a long walk to the Security office. Three guards led, two walked behind—and every exit they passed had security on watch—at least 80 security guards in all, according to Barney! Yes, this Barney must be an international terrorist, or perhaps the infamous Unabomber.

It finally came out that when Barney

Rating Events

Kids Dominate!



Under 2400 Champion Randy Seemiller.

The rating events were dominated by juniors, who won 9 of the 15 events, including the 7 of the top 10. They also got five second places. Leading the onslaught were Freddie Gabriel and Jonah Brown-Joel, with Freddie winning Under 2100 & Under 2000, and Jonah winning Under 1600 & Under 1500. Freddie, not satisfied with only two rating events, also made the semifinals of Under 2200, the quarterfinals of Under 2300, and (gasp! gasp!) won Junior High School Doubles (with Terrence Lee). Freddie was also a triple-winner at the Pac-Rim Open, and he and David Zhuang were the only triple winners here. Freddie, you're making it look too easy!

The Under 2400's was an all-Randy affair, with Randy (Seemiller) defeating Randy (Cohen) in the final. Nan Li began the junior onslaught by winning Under 2300 over Todd Peterson. It continued in the Under 2200, a between-the-ages classic, with U.S. Under 16 Boys' Champion T.J. Beebe (who'd later win High School Doubles with Richard Lee) fighting back from down match point twice in the third to down many-time Senior Champion George "The Chief" Braithwaite deuce in the third in the finals. Freddie Gabriel took over for the juniors in the 2100's & 2000's before their streak was ended by Eric Stamp, the Under 1900 winner. Nimrod Szugyi took over for the kids again, downing Terrence Lee in the Under 1800 final in the first of three all-junior finals. Hua Heather Wang defeated Luis De Hoyos to win some respect for the grownups, but junior Jonah Brown-Joel then took over again, with both the 1600's & 1500's.

Back to the grown-ups: Michael Fuschino defeated junior David Rudesill in the Under 1400's (you gotta let these grownups win sometimes!), and Kenny Yen defeated Joe Stewart in the Under 1300 final. But once again we entered the playroom as Sevan Der Gevorgian defeated Katherine Livshits in an all-junior Under 1200 final. Ricky Mueller defeated junior Jiyoung Choi in the Under 1100 final (mark down one for the adults), while in another all-junior final Sam Barnett defeated Mary Lee in the Under 1000 final.

had entered the restaurant, he'd paid in advance for the buffet with a \$20 bill. While waiting for his change, a nearby fan began blowing the bill around, and Barney (who was talking to Rodney at the time) absent-mindedly grabbed it, and put it back in his wallet. When the cashier didn't give him change and insisted Barney hadn't paid, Barney had at first argued, then given her another \$20 bill (probably the same one). The whole incident was caught on video, and Sahara security were so sure they had a professional con artist on their hands that they'd sent 80 security guards to recover the \$20 bill—even though Barney had paid in full!

Results

U.S. Nationals

Men's Singles—Final: David Zhuang d. Khoa Nguyen, -11,11,15,16; **SF:** Zhuang d. Derek May, 9,8,14; Nguyen d. Jim Butler, 17,18,16; **QF:** Butler d. Sean O'Neill, 16,10,14; Nguyen d. Sean Lonergan, 16,17,15; May d. David Fernandez, 13,15,-16,14; Zhuang d. Norman Yeh, 11,10,13; **8ths:** Butler d. Fernando Valencia, 10,16,6; O'Neill d. Eric Owens, 14,15,15; Lonergan d. Todd Peterson, 15,14,11; Nguyen d. Barry Dattel, 10,10,17; May d. Darko Rop, -16,19,20,8; Fernandez d. Todd Sweeris, 18,-15,-13,17,19; Yeh d. Masaru Hashimoto, -19,17,18,16; Zhuang d. Shashin Shodhan, 12,13,13; **16ths:** Butler d. Richard Lee, 10,19,15; Valencia d. Phuong Le, 19,-18,-20,17,19; Owens d. Randy Seemiller, 8,16,16; O'Neill d. Pusztai, 12,13,16; Lonergan d. Dan Seemiller, -23,-21,22,14,16; Petersen d. Brian Pace, 19,20,15; Dattel d. Henry Chan, 13,18,10; Nguyen d. Randy Cohen, 10,-18,-19,14,12; Rop d. Loc Ngo, 16,14,15; May d. David Sakai, 14,23,18; Fernandez d. Chi-Sun Chui, -16,12,21,15; Sweeris d. Santo Vasquez, 9,10,15; Yeh d. Avishy Schmidt, 15,15,17; Hashimoto d. Ramin Samari, 12,5,20; Shodhan d. Barney J. Reed, 17,-20,-11,18,12; Zhuang d. Mark Dubin, 19,18,17.

Women's Singles—Final: Amy Feng d. Lily Yip, 18,12,12; **SF:** Feng d. Anita Zakharyan, 10,6,11; Yip d. Wei Wang, 17,-20,15,-15,19; **QF:** Feng d. Yumiko Payton, 13,11,10; Zakharyan d. Mahin Roufeh, 6,13,15; Yip d. Tawny Banh, -14,16,19,14; Wang d. Vivian Lee, 7,14,10; **8ths:** Payton d. Sally Dahlin, 8,10,6; Roufeh d. Joanie Fu, -12,17,16,-23,16; Lee d. Nam-Suk Ho, 19,9,17; Feng, Yip, Wang, Banh, Zakharyan—byes.

Men's Doubles—Final: Khoa Nguyen/Darko Rop d. David Zhuang/Dan Seemiller, -15,17,6; **SF:** Nguyen/Rop d. Eric Owens/Randy Cohen, 19,17; Zhuang/Seemiller d. Todd Sweeris/Sean O'Neill, -15,17,16; **QF:** Nguyen/Rop d. Barney J. Reed/Dave Fernandez, 16,16; Owens/Cohen d. Brandon Olson/Todd Peterson, 12,-14,19; Sweeris/O'Neill d. Derek May/Chi-Sun Chui, 11,19; Zhuang/Seemiller d. Brian Pace/Sean Lonergan, 10,-14,9.

Women's Doubles—Final: Wei Wang/Lily Yip d. Amy Feng/Anita Zakharyan, 9,15. (Only 2 teams)

Mixed Doubles—Final: David Zhuang/Amy Feng d. Khoa Nguyen/Tawny Banh, 10,-17,17; **SF:** Zhuang/Feng d. Darko Rop/Wei Wang, 11,18; Nguyen/Banh d. Barry Dattel/Lily Yip, 10,-17,17; **QF:** Zhuang/Feng d. Sean Lonergan/Vivian Lee, 16,9; Rop/Wang d. Barney J. Reed/Yumiko Payton, n.s.; Dattel/Yip d. Homer Brown/Nam-Suk Ho, 10,20; Nguyen/Banh d. Todd Sweeris/Jessica Shen, 16,-17,9.

Men's Team Trials (Only one spot)—1st: Cheng Yinghua (makes U.S. Team); **2nd:** Razvan Cretu; **3rd:** Tuan Tran.

Women's Team Trials (Only one spot)—1st: Tawny Banh (makes U.S. Team); **2nd:** Nan Li; **3rd:** Ling Chen; **4th:** Inga Viktorova.

Under 22 Men—Final: Sean Lonergan d. Eric Owens, 15,-14,17; **SF:** Lonergan d. Barney J. Reed, -19,17,16; Owens d. Dave Fernandez, 13,22; **QF:** Lonergan d. Courtney Roberts, 14,18; Owens d. Norman Yeh, 16,8; Fernandez d. Shashin Shodhan, 10,-10,20; Reed d. Randy Cohen, 18,17.

Under 22 Women—Final: Tawny Banh d. Vivian Lee, 9,12; **SF:** Banh d. Jessica Shen, 9,7; Lee d. Sally Dahlin, 9,12 (5 entries).

Over 30 Singles—Final: David Zhuang d. Henry Chan, 10,14; **SF:** Zhuang d. Barry Dattel, 11,16; Chan d. Dan Seemiller, def.; **QF:** Zhuang d. Lim Ming Chui, 8,8; Dattel d. Loc Ngo, -16,15,10; Chan d. Ramin Samari, -19,16,11; Seemiller d. Torsten Pawlowski, 11,12.

Over 40 Men—Final: Dan Seemiller d. Joe Cummings, 11,11; **SF:** Seemiller d. Dave Sakai, 5,8; Cummings d. Bil Ukatpatayasakul,

18,12; **QF:** Seemiller d. Richard Hicks, 14,10; Sakai d. Bohdan Dawidowicz, 12,11; Cummings d. Lim Ming Chui, -20,17,26; Ukatpatayasakul d. Don Najarian, 14,18.

Over 40 Women—Final: Bella Livshits d. Donna Cheng, 14,19; **SF:** Livshits d. Danuta Andrzejewska, 14,19; Cheng d. Sharlene Wilson, 8,7; **QF:** Cheng d. Barbara Kaminski, 18,10; Wilson d. Yvonne Kronlage, 26,16; Andrzejewska d. Mahin Roufeh, 19,-13,21; Livshits d. Tyra Parkins, 12,10.

Over 50 Men—Final: Richard Hicks d. George Brathwaite, 10,18; **SF:** Hicks d. Bill Ukatpatayasakul, 14,14; Brathwaite d. Dell Sweeris, 15,14; **QF:** Sweeris d. Kwing Lau, 17,14; Brathwaite d. George Hendry, 20,17; Ukatpatayasakul d. Bohan Dawidowicz, 17,20; Hicks d. Howard Grossman, 24,14.

Over 50 Women—Final: Yvonne Kronlage d. Danuta Andrzejewska, -14,16,17; **SF:** Kronlage d. Sharlene Wilson, 18,13; Andrzejewska d. Barbara Kaminsky, -14,16,17 (7 entries).

Over 60—Final: George Brathwaite d. Nick Mintsiveris, 14,14; **SF:** Brathwaite d. Louis Kerekes, -15,17,7; Mintsiveris d. George Hendry, 15,-16,12; **QF:** Mintsiveris d. Grady Gordon, 15,22; Hendry d. Tim Boggan, 19,18; Kerekes d. Buddy Melamed, 19,14; Brathwaite d. Leon Ruderman, 11,12.

Over 70—Final: George Hendry d. Marcy Monasterial, def.; **SF:** Hendry d. Joe Baltrus, 15,12; Monasterial d. Salisbury, def.

Over 75—Final: George Hendry d. Loth, 6,9; **SF:** Hendry d. Don Larson, 18,14; Loth d. Arthur Chase, 6,9.

Over 80—Final: Harry Bloom d. Bill Walsh, -17,19,20; **SF:** Bloom d. Eugene Wilson, 17,-19,20; Walsh—bye.

Over 40 Doubles—Final: Dan Seemiller/David Sakai d. Lim Ming Chui/Jiri Hlava, 20,19; **SF:** Seemiller/Sakai d. Bohdan Dawidowicz/Nick Mintsiveris, 12,20; Chui/Hlava d. Homer Brown/Hank McCollum, 20,19.

Over 50 Doubles—Final: Richard Hicks/Howard Grossman d. Bohdan Dawidowicz/Nick Mintsiveris, 11,17; **SF:** Hicks/Grossman d. Dell Sweeris/Robert Fox, 11,17; Dawidowicz/Mintsiveris d. Buddy Melamed/David Harville, -19,11,11.

Over 60 Doubles—Final: George Brathwaite/Nick Mintsiveris d. George Hendry/Tim Boggan, 14,-15,11; **SF:** Brathwaite/Mintsiveris d. Buddy Melamed/Grady Gordon, 10,12; Hendry/Boggan d. Louis Kerekes/Schless, 14,-15,11.

Over 40 Mixed Doubles—Final: Henry Chan/Donna Cheng d. Leon Ruderman/Yvonne Kronlage, -17,12,19; **SF:** Chan/Cheng d. Barbara Kaminsky/Ruger, 16,13; Ruderman/Kronlage d. Michael Scott/Tyra Parkins, -17,12,19.

Boys' High School Singles—Final: Dave Fernandez d. Shashin Shodhan, -9,16,14; **SF:** Fernandez d. Norman Yeh, 15,-14,13; Shodhan d. Bogdan Kucherenko, 25,12; **QF:** Fernandez d. Richard Lee, 18,20; Yeh d. Andrew Do, 18,18; Shodhan d. Anthony Torino, 13,12; Kucherenko d. Philip Tamvurovic, 12,11.

Girls' High School Singles—Final: Inga Viktorova d. Sally Dahlin, 2,22; **SF:** Viktorova d. Vivian Lee, 17,12; Dahlin d. Irina Elkins, n.s. (4 entries).

Boys' Junior High School Singles—Final: Philip Lim d. Ashu Jain, 11,14; **SF:** Lim d. T.J. Beebe, 10,22; Jain d. Aaron Struth, 14,22; **QF:** Struth d. Keith Alban, 18,-14,20; Jain d. Peter Zajac, 9,-16,13; Lim d. Nate Troyer, 15,15; Beebe d. Freddie Gabriel, 16,-14,9.

Girls' Junior High School Singles—Final: Jessica Shen d. Vivian Lee, 11,10; **SF:** Shen d. Jeanie Cheng, 11,10; V. Lee d. Jennifer Lee, 8,6. (4 entries)

Boys' Primary School Singles—Final: Terrence Lee d. David Umel, Jr., 6,7; **SF:** Lee d. Ling Zhai, 6,7; Umel d. Auria Malek, 7,20; **QF:** Umel d. Cheng, 6,13; Malek d. Ziff, 13,13; Zhai d. Roberts, 8,6; Lee d. Stephen Tu, 10,11.

Girls' Primary School Singles—Final:

Michelle Do d. Jackie Lee, -11,16,13; **SF:** Do d. Katherine Livshits, -20,12,11; J. Lee d. Shelley Lee, -11,16,13; **QF:** Do d. Valerija Vulfovich, 5,16; Livshits d. Ping, 16,19; S. Lee d. Jila Malek, n.s.; J. Lee d. Ping, 15,-15,17.

Boys' Elementary School Singles—Final: Auria Malek d. Alan Rudesill, 11,7; **SF:** Malek d. Vidor, 14,12; Rudesill d. Jes Shank, 11,7. (5 entries)

Girls' Elementary School Singles: 0 entries.

Boys' High School Doubles—Final: Richard Lee/T.J. Beebe d. Keith Alban/Anthony Torino, 17,5; **SF:** Lee/Beebe d. Istvan Szugyi/Nimrod Szugyi, 20,17; Alban/Torino d. Bogdan Kucherenko/Ashu Jain, 17,5.

Girls' High School Doubles—Final: Irina Elkin/Vivian Lee d. Sally Dahlin/Stacy Lee, 11,16. (2 teams)

Junior High School Doubles—Final: Freddie Gabriel/Terrence Lee d. Peter Zajac/Peter Chamberlain, 17,13; **SF:** Gabriel/Lee d. Malek/Gruber, 17,13.

Under 2400—Final: Randy Seemiller d. Randy Cohen, -17,19,17; **SF:** Seemiller d. Lim Ming Chui, 10,10; Cohen d. Dave Fernandez, 19,15; **QF:** Fernandez d. Mark Dubin, 10,19; Cohen d. Lily Yip, 18,-17,18; Chui d. Pusztai, 9,-19,17; Seemiller d. Courtney Roberts, 18,18.

Under 2300—Final: Nan Li d. Todd Peterson, n.s.; **SF:** Li d. Lim Ming Chui, 15,-15,20; Peterson d. Loc Ngo, 17,-13,15; **QF:** Ngo d. Freddie Gabriel, -11,17,10; Petersen d. Johnny Chau, 11,17; Chui d. Phuong Le, -20,14,17; Li d. Tuan Tran, 13,16.

Under 2200—Final: T.J. Beebe d. George Brathwaite, -10,18,21; **SF:** Beebe d. Freddie Gabriel, 14,16; Brathwaite d. Thomas Nunes, 16,16; **QF:** Gabriel d. Phuong Le, 19,-14,19; Beebe d. Yogesh Sapre, 15,15; Brathwaite d. Avishy Schmidt, 16,-15,11; Nunes d. Ashu Jain, 19,-19,19.

Under 2100—Final: Freddie Gabriel d. Thanh Tran, -18,15,11; **SF:** Gabriel d. Mark Wedret, 13,17; Tran d. Jessica Shen, 18,14; **QF:** Gabriel d. Maximo Vasquez, -19,17,14; Wedret d. Pereira, 12,19; Shen d. Kirk, def.; Tran d. Homer Brown, 13,-10,20.

Under 2000—Final: Freddie Gabriel d. Edward Chang, 19,19; **SF:** Gabriel d. Conteras, n.s.; Cheng d. Hiroshi Ikeda, 16,16; **QF:** Gabriel d. Phong Ho, 17,10; Conteras d. David Umel, 12,21; Chang d. William Beaumont, -13,19,14; Ikeda d. Kazuhiro Ohara, 17,-19,15.

Under 1900—Final: Eric Stamp d. Bertrand Mennesson, 17,-19,16; **SF:** Stamp d. Ken Ping, 12,-10,19; Mennesson d. Gerard Sapaden, 19,13.

Under 1800—Final: Nimrod Szugyi d.

Terrence Lee, 13,21; **SF:** Szugyi d. Kingston Gee, 12,-19,19; Lee d. Wade Sun, 13,15.

Under 1700—Final: Hua Heather Wang d. Luis De Hoyos, 20,17; **SF:** Wang d. Wade Sun, 19,11; De Hoyos d. Barbara Kaminsky, -21,19,9.

Under 1600—Final: Jonah Brown-Joel d. Mark Doyle, 9,13; **SF:** Brown-Joel d. Yonehiro, 14,14; Doyle d. Kamran Azimzadeh, 7,10.

Under 1500—Final: Jonah Brown-Joel d. Magdi Abdelmalak, 17,17; **SF:** Brown-Joel d. Ling Zhai, 19,12; Abdelmalak d. Lawrence Wong, 7,15.

Under 1400—Final: Michael Fuschino d. David Rudesill, 13,-19,15; **SF:** Fuschino d. Kenny Yeh, 13,14; Rudesill d. Bubis, 22,14.

Under 1300—Final: Kenny Yeh d. Joe Stewart, 9,7; **SF:** Yeh d. Auria Malek, 9,17; Stewart d. Walter Wong, 14,17.

Under 1200—Final: Sevan Der Gevorgian d. Katherine Livshits, n.s.; **SF:** Gevorgian d. Joe Stewart, n.s.; Livshits d. Auria Malek, n.s.

Under 1100—Final: Ricky Mueller d. Jiyoung Choi, 11,10; **SF:** Mueller d. Benji Allen, 10,5; Choi d. Ferriera, -17,11,16.

Under 1000—Final: Sam Barnett d. Mary Lee, 13,22; **SF:** Barnett d. Alfonso Sasieto, 14,20; Lee d. Herbert Rossman, 14,13.

Under 1900 Women—Final: Barbara Kaminsky d. Anh Thu Ho, -17,13,21; **SF:** Kaminsky d. Rugar, -17,13,21; Ho d. Wang, 17,17.

Under 1600/Over 40—Final: Mark Doyle d. Dana Hanson, 8,24; **SF:** Doyle d. Dallas Redekopp, -19,19,16; Hanson d. Magdi Abdelmalak, 19,15.

U4200 Doubles—Final: Wedret/Schneider d. Ngo/Duong, -18,13,13; **SF:** Wedret/Schneider d. Zajac/Agarwal, 22,10; Ngo/Duong d. Li/Ho, 15,15.

Under 3600 Doubles—Final: Vo/Pham d. Javadian/Redekopp, 7,14; **SF:** Vo/Pham d. Umel/Umel, 15,16; Javadian/Redekopp d. Savitz/Doyle, 7,14.

Men's Wheelchair—Final: Andre Scott d. Mike Dempsey, 8,13; **SF:** Scott d. J. Williams, 15,10; Dempsey d. A. Lara, 9,12.

Women's Wheelchair—Final: Jennifer Johnson d. Bethke, 10,6; **SF:** Johnson d. Rosenbaum, 9,10; Bethke d. Di Lorenzo, n.s.

Tetraplegic Singles—Final: 1st Ken Brooks, 5-0; 2nd S. De Francisco, 4-1; 3rd R. Rosenbaum, 2-3; 4th I. Steinfink, 2-3.

Tetraplegic Doubles—Final: Ken Brooks/Difranco d. Rosenbaum/Abattel, n.s.

Men's Wheelchair Doubles—Final: Andre Scott/Mike Dempsey d. Schloss/Lara, 12,18.

Women's Wheelchair Doubles—Final: Terranova/Johnson d. Dilorenzo/Rosenbaum, n.s.

Jackpot winners!

Multiple Winners at the Nationals

Triple Winners!

David Zhuang Men's Singles, Over 30 Singles, Mixed Doubles
Freddie Gabriel Under 2100, Under 2000, Junior High School Doubles

Double Winners!

Amy Feng Women's Singles, Mixed Doubles
Dan Seemiller Over 40 Singles, Over 40 Doubles
George Hendry Over 70 Singles, Over 75 Singles
Richard Hicks Over 50 Men's Singles, Over 50 Doubles
George Brathwaite Over 60 Singles, Over 60 Doubles
Jonah Brown-Joel Under 1600, Under 1500
T.J. Beebe Boys' High School Doubles, Under 2200
Terrence Lee Boys' Primary School Singles, Jr. High School Doubles
Andre Scott Men's Wheelchair Singles, Men's Wheelchair Doubles
Jennifer Johnson Women's Wheelchair Singles & Doubles
Ken Brooks Tetraplegic Singles, Tetraplegic Doubles

Learn to play like a champion—step by step

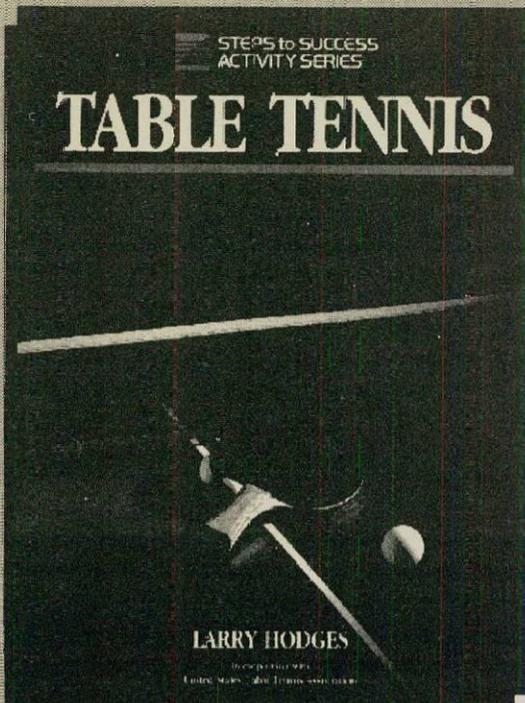


Table Tennis

Steps to Success

Larry Hodges in cooperation with
United States Table Tennis Association

1993 • Paper • 160 pp • Item PHOD0403
ISBN 0-87322-403-5 • \$14.95 (\$18.50 Canadian)

"Outstanding! The most thorough book ever written on table tennis."

Dan Seemiller
5-time U.S. Champion
Former U.S. Men's team coach

"This book should be required reading for all U.S. table tennis players. It provides an in-depth analysis of all facets of the game."

Sean O'Neill
1988 & 1992 U.S. Olympic table tennis team
5-time U.S. Champion

"Written by one of the most knowledgeable and experienced coaches in the U.S., this book gives away the secrets of China and Sweden."

Diana Gee
1988 & 1992 U.S. table tennis team

"Even a good player who reads this book will become much, much better."

Amy Feng
U.S. Women's National Champion

"If I had access to a manual like this when I was a junior player, I could have become a top national player instead of merely being one of the best in my state! This is one book I would wholeheartedly recommend to you."

Kevin Walton
State Coaching Director for Virginia

Table Tennis: Steps to Success is the first book to give you a self-paced program for learning the important skills and game strategies in table tennis. The book uses a unique progression of skills—the steps to success—to show you how to

- select serves and return shots that will give your opponents problems;
- choose the proper stroke to match your particular needs—whether for quickness, power, deception, or just fun;
- select the grip that is best for you;
- improve your practices and games by starting out with an effective warm-up routine;
- find and enter tournaments, and much more.

Each of the 15 steps featured in the book provides a solid foundation of basic skills and concepts. The book explains why the skill or concept is important, identifies the keys to correct technique, helps you correct common errors, explains how to practice each skill in realistic ways, lists specific performance goals for each drill, gives you a checklist for evaluating proper technique, and lets you proceed at your own pace.

Yes, please send me _____ copy(ies) of
Table Tennis: Steps to Success • Item PHOD0403
\$14.95 (\$18.50 Canadian)

Subtotal _____
Illinois residents add 6.25% sales tax _____
Add Postage/Handling* _____
U.S. or outside Canada—Total _____
Canadian residents add 7% GST _____
Canada—Total _____

Prices subject to change.

	Postage/Handling Charges			
	U.S.	Canada		Other Countries
	UPS	Courier	Canada Post	Book Rate
1st book	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$3.50
each addnl book	\$.85	\$.55	\$.85	\$2.20

Name (please print) _____
Street Address (needed for UPS delivery) _____

City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Country _____
Daytime Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Personal Orders (Prepayment in U.S. funds required; orders sent to HKP Canada require prepayment in Canadian funds):

My check or money order is enclosed.
Charge my VISA MasterCard or American Express.

Account Number _____
VISA or MC expiration date _____
AMEX valid from _____ to _____
Signature _____

Call the toll-free number below or mail your order to:

U.S.:
Human Kinetics Publishers
Box 5076
Champaign, IL 61825-5076
U.S.A.

Canada:
Human Kinetics Publishers
Box 2503
Windsor, Ontario N8Y 4S2
CANADA



Human Kinetics Publishers

Place your credit card order today! (VISA, AMEX, MC)

TOLL FREE: U.S. (800) 747-4457 • Canadian (800) 465-7301

OR: U.S. (217) 351-5076 • Canada (519) 944-7774 ■ **FAX:** U.S. (217) 351-1549 • Canada (519) 944-7614

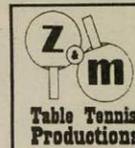
1865

The First Annual Beverly Hills Gilbert Table Tennis Cup

Beverly Hills, California

by Diego Schaaf

January 6-7, 1996



\$89,000

The most appropriate statement I heard about this tournament came from one of the participants, Andrzej Grubba. He said: "We saw 21st century Table Tennis!"

This statement—made by one of the greats in this sport, by a player, who has probably seen more world class tournaments than anyone—accurately summed up the experience of this event. Everything ran so smoothly, looked so good, felt so comfortable and was so satisfying that an extremely positive dynamic developed early on Saturday and carried through to the finals on Sunday. In fact, as the wife of one of the organizers remarked at the end of the event, it felt like a really successful party: Nobody wanted to leave. Even when the awards ceremony was over, people kept roaming around for about an hour with stunned smiles on their faces. A stark contrast to other tournaments, where we often see an exodus just seconds after the last point has been played.

What brought forth all this positivity?

There were several factors that played into it. The main one, though, was the organizers' commitment from day one to produce nothing short of a first class event—in every aspect. Although they had a relatively short time to pull this event together, they refused to compromise the quality of the project, even when unforeseeable events threatened to force a cancellation of the whole thing just days before.

The choice of venue—Merv Griffin's Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California—was an unusual one for table tennis. The International Ballroom had been converted into a plush, yet extremely functional table tennis center court. A "suspended" wood floor was built just for this occasion on the area of the dance floor, and red tournament mats were laid out over it to make a comfortable playing surface. Seating was arranged so the table could be seen well from most seats. (The fire code limited the height of the bleachers, so the rear most seats were a little less than perfect, but these problems will be solved for the next event.) The net result was that the spectators, whose expectations were running high with ticket prices ranging from \$30 to \$45 a seat, walked into a beautifully arranged room, where rows of black cushioned ballroom chairs were arranged around a clean and classy looking court. The ball room's chandeliers were set to minimum strength, while a flood of light over the table focused everyone's attention to center court, where all matches of the tournament were to be played in sequence. It felt a little like an amphitheater setting—no doubt there was going to be a show!

In the weeks prior, some changes were forced upon tournament organizers, Z&M Table Tennis Productions—changes that they would have rather lived without: Due to the U.S. government shut down in December, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing was closed (as were embassies all over the world). Wang Tao, the ITTF #1 and Kong Linghui, the World Champion, were unable to get their visas and had to cancel their appearance. J.P. Gatien also canceled due to illness. With the loss of these top players, some sponsors felt that the event should be canceled. In a valiant effort, Mikhail Zaretsky and Lloyd McQueen, the Z and the M in Z&M Table Tennis Productions, succeeded in keeping the tournament alive, although the prize money was renegotiated, and the field reduced to 12 players. After renegotiation, there were still \$89,000.00 prize money left: \$3,500 for 9th-12th place, \$5,000 for 5th-8th place, \$7,500 for 3rd and 4th place, \$15,000 for second place and \$25,000 for the Champion. All players agreed to the new terms, and it never became an issue again. Some spectators, who had hoped to see the Chinese stars were initially disappointed, but after seeing the first few top matches, not a complaint could be heard. In fact, most of them said it was worth every penny of the admission. Nobody could imagine how it could have been any better.

Some of the twelve players had arrived early to escape winter in their country and to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the Los Angeles area. J.O. Waldner showed up with his golf clubs, and on Thursday, he and teammate Erik Lindh spent the afternoon playing golf and enjoying the flawless weather and record-breaking temperatures. Thursday and Friday, the participants had practice sessions at the Westside Table Tennis Club in Culver City—the Hilton's ballroom was not available yet, because the floor was still



Photo by Ray Fields © 1996

\$25,000 winner Zoran Primorac

being built. On Thursday afternoon, Johnny Huang (CAN) sent a message from Japan informing the organizers that he had injured himself during training and that he would not be able to play. Jean-Michel Saive—by that time already in L.A. for three days—immediately called his brother Philippe in Belgium, who agreed to fill in for Johnny. He jumped on a plane and arrived barely twelve hours before the tournament.

On Saturday morning the show began. The field of 12 players was divided into four groups of three. Of each round robin group, two were to advance to Sunday's quarterfinals. The draw was held in the presence of the players on Friday afternoon and resulted in the following groups:

Group A: #1 Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), #2 Andrzej Grubba (POL), #3 Khoa Nguyen (USA)

Group B: #1 Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), #2 Patrick Chila (FRA), #3 Jim Butler (USA)

Group C: #1 Kim Taek Soo (KOR), #2 Chen Xinhua (ENG), #3 Philippe Saive (BEL)

"We saw 21st Century Table Tennis!"

-Andrzej Grubba

Group D: #1 Zoran Primorac (CRO), #2 Erik Lindh (SWE), #3 Cheng Yinghua (USA)

The twelve group matches were best of five, and they were scheduled in one hour intervals, starting at 9 AM on Saturday, which provided a full day of table tennis for the fans. Many of them enjoyed watching every point of the tourney—a bonus only possible with this one-table format.

Khoa Nguyen took the stage at 9 sharp, facing Andrzej Grubba. Nguyen seemed a little overwhelmed by his legendary opponent. Time and again, he would take one of his best shots—shots that he has probably never seen come back—only to be surprised by Grubba's impenetrable defense. Invariably, Khoa was then caught slightly off guard, just enough to keep him from being able to finish the point, and Grubba took full advantage of each of these opportunities.

At 10 AM, Jim Butler played Patrick Chila. Butler also seemed somewhat nervous. Aware of the importance of using his most severe serves, he initially succeeded, but gave up a 6-2 lead when he missed a few serves because he was cutting them too close or because his stomp on the springy floor made the ball bounce off the table. Still, Chila missed quite a few of the serves, but his strong, well placed and spinny loops from both wings took the game out of Butler's hands. Chila won at 12, 12 and 9.

The 11 AM match was played between Chen Xinhua and Philippe Saive. It was the first 5-game match of the tournament. With Kim Taek Soo #1 in their group, both players knew that this match would probably determine which of them would advance into the quarterfinals. There were several shifts in momentum, but in the fifth game they were equally matched until they changed sides at 10-9 for Saive. The Belgian started a series of forehand loops that were so quick that sometimes Chen—a chopper—didn't even react. At 13-20, both players, realizing that this match was over, played a 27-shot exhibition point, during which Chen jumped into the seats, back out into the court, Saive hit a ball backwards over his head, and finally Chen climbed deep into

the A seating section and, on a last attempted chop-smash that missed by inches, landed in the lap of tournament sponsor Arthur Gilbert. The crowd was roaring. Match to Saive 14, -7, 19, -16, 13.

Match #4 between Erik Lindh and Cheng Yinghua was played at noon. Erik Lindh, who has had very good international results lately, used his quick, off-the-bounce attack game to win the first two games, but then Cheng started frustrating the Swede with his characteristic block game. Cheng tied the match by winning the next two games.

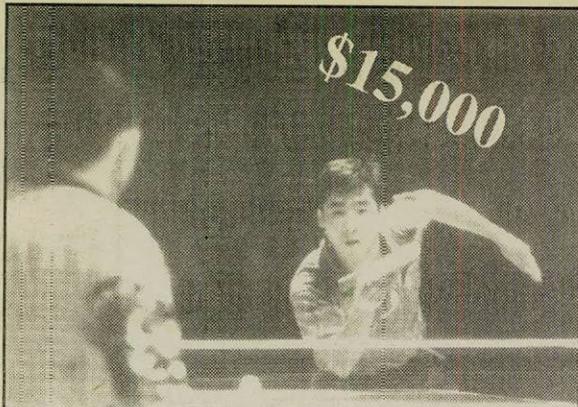
They started even in the final game, but Lindh pressed Cheng's forehand more and more. He used his backhand to open up the table, but as soon as the opportunity arose, he turned and produced a wide, hard to block inside-out loop into Cheng's forehand. Cheng, apparently noticing the strategy, moved over to his right, but by that he opened up the backhand corner for Lindh to place clean winners. His effort to lock Lindh into a backhand to backhand exchange didn't succeed enough times, and Lindh won 21-17. (Match scores: 15, 16, -18, -18, 17)

Khoa Nguyen played his second match at 1:30 PM against Group A's #1, Jean-Michel Saive, after the Opening Ceremony during which the Mayor of Beverly Hills declared this weekend "Beverly Hills Table Tennis Days." Khoa proved quite at ease with Saive's driving game. He signaled that on the first point, when he blocked Saive's first loop with a simple snap of his forehand, curving it unreachably into Saive's forehand corner. He played aggressively throughout the match, but Saive just out-steadied him. Fewer mistakes added up to a 3-0 win, although Nguyen reached a respectable 18 in the third game. (13, 14, 18)

Waldner made his first appearance in the tournament at 2:30, against Jim Butler. A great start by the former U.S. Champion forced Waldner out of a somewhat passive initial attitude. And, as many who have faced the "Swede with the golden hand," Butler, despite a good effort, had to recognize that Waldner was just a size too large. Again, Jim's serves were very effective, but ultimately Waldner always had an answer, and he won the relatively quiet match 3-0 at 17, 16 and 14.

At 3:30, Kim Taek Soo came to play Philippe Saive. What followed was one of many barn burners that were to define the excitement level of this tournament. Philippe Saive, Jean-Michel's brother, is one of the fastest players on the circuit, and he always attacks. In fact, during a practice session, after Saive had missed three or four consecutive flicks off Grubba's serve, Grubba suggested: "You can also push my serves," and Saive answered "I never push." His short ball attack is so crisp that it rivals some other player's smashes! Saive's breathtaking pace, his off-the-bounce counterloops from both sides and his lightning fast footwork neutralized Kim's mega-forehand for the first game. But Kim tuned in and raised his own pace to match Saive's. He won the second game at 16. In the third game both players matched each other's quickness and power. At 17-18, the assistant umpire thought he had seen an insufficiently high toss on Kim's backhand serve (video reveals that the toss was quick, but high enough) and faulted him, which let the air out of what had built up to be an exciting finish. An angered Kim came out to the fourth game with guns blazing. Some of the hardest shots and quickest counterlooping rallies of the tournament were the result as Saive tried to keep up, but he got railroaded at 21-11. The fifth game was filled with beautiful, exciting points. Kim, who had just finished a two-month layoff due to an injury, seemed to gain strength as the game progressed. He ran up a 16-6 lead before Saive regained his composure and scored a few more points, but Kim cruised to a 21-12 victory, ending the match with a lob that hit the edge. (-15, 16, -18, 11, 12)

The 4:30 match was between Primorac and Cheng Yinghua. Again, Cheng surprised his opponent with his uncanny ability to block strong, well-placed balls, and Primorac kept missing his final put-away because the blocks were short and uncomfortably slow. Cheng took the first game at 18. Primorac, experienced player that he is, adjusted and never looked back. He moved a little closer to the table which raised the pace beyond Cheng's capability to react and gave Primorac better positioning in attacking the short blocks. This high



Kim Taek Soo (R) came back from down 20-17 in the 5th against Jean-Michel Saive (R).

speed game yielded him a 9-0 lead in the second game and determined the rest of the match. "Zocky" Primorac allowed Cheng 11, 11 and 12 points in the next three games.

Match # 9, at 5:30, was a delightful mixture of competitive, top-class table tennis and a comical show. Grubba and Jean-Michel Saive—both of them with a guaranteed berth in the quarters—were playing for seeding, which of course can be critical, since the loser would have to meet the winner of another group next. They started their match with a first game that showed Grubba dominating. Precise blocks, inside-out backhand loops from mid-court to Saive's forehand, left-handed loop kills—Grubba produced whatever the spectator's heart might desire, and won the game at 13. The second game was closer: Saive won it at 19 after an even battle with his 38-year-old opponent. The second half of the third game slipped out of Saive's grasp after he lost a spectacular point at 8-11, a point during which Grubba was forced to lob back a loop deep from his forehand, then chopped back the follow-up

shot from his backhand, ran back to the table just in time to push back Saive's attempted drop shot, punch-blocked the next loop from his backhand, backhand counterlooped Saive's next two loops and finally inside-out backhand looped the ball on the edge. After a few more points Saive was 11-19 behind—a pretty much insurmountable deficit, and not worth the expense of energy with hopefully two more games to go—a perfect time for some levity, so the comedy show began. As might be obvious, physical comedy is hard to describe, but here's an attempt: Grubba lobbed back one of Saive's loops and matched its trajectory with an audible "Oohh." Saive grunted loudly as he smashed the ball right back at Grubba, who in turn again sang "Oohh" with his lob. After a few more smashes and "howling" lobs, Saive suddenly stood straight up and produced a drop shot that almost bounced twice. Grubba remained parked in the back court, looking offended. During the next point, it was Grubba's turn to smash, while Saive backed up, climbed over the barrier at the end of the court and sat down on a chair, all the while lobbing Grubba's smashes. A few more exhibition points followed, the spectators were screaming with laughter, and the game ended at 21-16 Grubba. A couple of minutes later they were back at the table playing completely seriously without dropping a beat. Saive pulled away towards the middle of the game, and when he had pulled out an 18-11 advantage the show was back on. After a few funny exhibition points, the game ended at 21-14. Again, they

returned seriously, with a high level of concentration to battle out the fifth game. The backhand-dominant Grubba tried to control the placement to avoid Saive's strong opening shots, and, when he got his opponent backed up and forced a weaker loop, he started smashing. Saive on the other hand kept forcing his forehand shot, although, when the need for a backhand arose, he displayed that shot with much more authority than in earlier tournaments. Grubba took a 15-10 lead, but Saive, cheered on by his girlfriend and his brother, succeeded in catching up to 18-18. When he went ahead 19-18, it seemed like the momentum was going to carry him all the way, but Grubba broke the streak and won the match, 22-20.

At 6:30, Waldner played Chila in a super high-paced match. In stark contrast to the previous match, which lasted over an hour, they completed their 5 games in just over half an hour. Both players displayed their ability to pretty much loop any ball they choose, and to place it where they want. Ultimately, Waldner prevailed by winning the fifth game comfortably at 12. (-14, 14, -12, 17, 12)

Chen Xinhua showed up for his 7:30 match against Kim Taek Soo without too much hope. Kim's indomitably powerful forehand and his ability to accurately read Chen's spin changes left no way for Chen's style to succeed. After valiantly trying to score by attacking, Chen, resigned to playing his last match of the tourney, initiated some very entertaining exhibition points. Again, the spectators—table tennis players and non-players alike—obviously enjoyed the display, and the ball room was filled with roaring laughter. Kim won at 14, 16 and 18.

The last match of the first day started at 8:30 PM, Primorac against Lindh. Although he led by a couple of points for most of the

game, Primorac struggled a little during the first game. Lindh's well-executed strategy of keeping the ball short to Primorac's backhand kept the Croatian from using his devastating power, but after fighting off a game point, Primorac won the first game, 23-21. The next game was a quick sweep by Primorac, 21-12. The final game of the day again went to deuce, with Primorac winning at 23-21.

Quarterfinals

Immediately following the last match, the draw for the following day was held. Due to this upset loss to Grubba, Saive was to meet Waldner in the quarterfinal. The pairings for the quarterfinals were: Grubba-Chila, Philippe Saive-Primorac, Kim Taek Soo-Lindh, and Jean-Michel Saive-Waldner.

The quarterfinals started right on time at 10 AM on Sunday. The Grubba-Chila encounter was a one-hour, five-game affair in which the veteran again outlasted the younger player. After a rocky start and a first game loss at 12, Grubba regained his form and won the match in five games. (-12, 14, -20, 17, 19)

The second quarterfinal between Philippe Saive and Primorac started with some of the most amazing play any of us have ever seen. Saive played like a man possessed. Everything he did seemed to work. Again he managed to rattle his opponent with his quick flicks, his powerful drives and counterdrives right off the bounce, from both sides, and his extremely aggressive play. He ripped through Primorac 21-10. After that display, there seemed to be general agreement that nobody could beat this guy if he was able to keep up this level. We were all wrong. He did keep this level, but Primorac raised his to match it, and some of the best table tennis in the whole tournament followed. The match contained a little of everything: Soft touch shots, big power shots, service winners and long

THE BEVERLY HILLS GILBERT CUP

ANDRZEJ GRUBBA: "THIS WAS 21ST CENTURY TABLE TENNIS!"

PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED VIDEO TAPES OF WHAT MANY PEOPLE CALLED
"THE MOST FUN TABLE TENNIS EVENT IN U.S. HISTORY"!

VIDEO A

CHENG YINGHUA (USA) - ERIK LINDH (SWE) (GAME 5)

KHOA NGUYEN (USA) - J.M. SAIVE (BEL) (GAME 3)

JIM BUTLER (USA) - JAN OVE WALDNER (SWE) (GAME 3)

KIM TAEK SOO (KOR) - PHILIPPE SAIVE (BEL)

ANDRZEJ GRUBBA (POL) - JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE (BEL)

VIDEO B

QUARTER FINAL: ZORAN PRIMORAC (CRO) - PHILIPPE SAIVE (BEL)

QUARTER FINAL: JAN OVE WALDNER (SWE) - JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE (BEL)

SEMI FINAL: ANDRZEJ GRUBBA (POL) - ZORAN PRIMORAC (CRO)

VIDEO C

SEMI FINAL: KIM TAEK SOO (KOR) - JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE (BEL)

FINAL: ZORAN PRIMORAC (CRO) - KIM TAEK SOO (KOR)

Complete matches(except where noted), all points. Each tape approx. 2h15min - 2h30min long
Produced from the same footage as the TV program; includes slow motion replays.

\$25.- per tape + \$3.- 2nd day shipping
\$65.- for the set of three + \$3.- shipping



To order call: **1-800-500-5057**

California residents please add 8.25% tax



counterlooping and smashing rallies, and astounding footwork. But after taking a 2-1 lead in games, Saive's high-risk game slipped out of tune. He was still moving quickly and attacking everything, but now many of his shots missed their mark by an inch or two. Primorac, on the other hand, became more and more precise, and he won games four and five at 11 and 7.

The third quarterfinal was another show of speed and power, Erik Lindh against Kim Taek Soo. Neither had an obvious advantage, but after initially getting stung with some typical "lefty shots," Kim remembered his strategy against left-handers. Anticipating Lindh's opening to his forehand, Kim started blocking and then counterlooping Lindh's forehand down-the-line shot, and now Lindh was forced to deviate from his favorite placement. This caused him to commit just enough errors for Kim to be able to win the match in three straight games at 17, 20 and 17.

And now the clash of the titans. In some way one might have preferred for the #1 and #2 seeds to meet in the final, but J.M. Saive's slip-up against Grubba changed that. So Jan-Ove Waldner, despite winning his group, drew his long-time nemesis prematurely. Initially, it looked like a Waldner cakewalk. Using all the magic that makes him famous, the Swede held Saive to 13 and 10 points in the first two games. Sharp, inventive and innovative, Waldner's game showed every bit of the brilliance that frequently causes him to be referred to as the best table tennis player in history. Then, in the third game, Saive turned the tables. Waldner might have let up a tiny bit, but mainly, Saive stopped missing. He locked it up at 21-11. The fourth game found both players even again, Waldner leading through most of the game, pulling ahead as far as 17-11 and 19-15. Saive, the untiring fighter, kept coming back and caught up to 19-18. Then Waldner dropped back one of Saive's serves so short that it almost bounced twice. Saive, irrevocably committed to a backhand loop, just barely grazed the ball as it dropped over the edge, got it over to the other side, and Waldner missed the put-away. Then Waldner pointed at Saive's edge, thinking that the ball had hit twice. The umpire honored Waldner's claim and awarded him the point for 20-18. Saive hadn't noticed anything and looked at the umpire for clarification. The umpire hadn't seen anything either but had ruled thinking that Saive had agreed to Waldner's claim. Recognizing Saive's confusion, Waldner said: "If you don't think it hit, I can't take the point." But Saive didn't want the point either, trusting that if Waldner thought it had hit twice, it might have. They discussed it for a while, and finally Saive suggested playing the point over. He changed the score back to 19-18. But when they started the point, Waldner, by now convinced that he had been mistaken, intentionally dumped Saive's serve into the net, so the score became 19-19 after all. Remember that all this happened when Waldner could have had match point or was two points away from it! A quick two points later, Saive had won the game and forced a fifth. They played a great fifth game. Waldner's 6-1 lead evaporated quickly, and from 8-8 on, they played a tight and thrilling game, but Waldner sealed his fate when he missed his serve at 17-19 and Saive won the game, 21-18.

Semifinals

The first semifinal was between Grubba and Primorac. In the beginning, Grubba surprised Primorac with his spiny backhand loop and his exquisitely short service receives. But soon Primorac got tuned in and started ripping balls left and right. Grubba played very well, his dangerous backhand finding its target over and over, but not enough to really threaten the Croat. The score progression accurately reflects the shift in balance throughout the match: Primorac stopped

Grubba at 17, 15, and 14.

Kim Taek Soo played J.M. Saive in the next semifinal. There was no mystery about what each of the players wanted to do: They just wanted to blast the ball past the opponent. Kim—the man with possibly the hardest forehand in the game today, and Saive, a player who can topspin hard and consistently from both sides, fought a highly entertaining topspin duel. Kim's exceptionally fast footwork carried him to balls that by all rights should have been way past him, and his unusually solid backhand (for a penholder) yielded sufficient points to force the Belgian war-horse into a fifth game after Saive had taken a 2-1 lead. In a sensational finale, Saive came from 14-16 behind and pulled ahead, 20-17, but allowed Kim to deuce the game. The decision came down to a long counterlooping rally during which Kim ran down unbelievable balls and then a simple, tricky "emergency" serve of Kim's, one that he had saved for this occasion. Match to Kim, 19, -18, -18, 16, 20.

Final

The tournament had come down to the final match. Zoran Primorac played Kim Taek Soo for a difference of \$10,000 in prize money—\$25,000 for the winner, \$15,000 for the loser. There might have been a slight advantage for Primorac, who had completed his relatively easy three game match 2 1/2 hours earlier, while Kim had only one hour to rest after his 1 hour 10 minute marathon against Saive. Although Primorac's loop is very fast, it looked slow compared to Kim's power drives. But with good placement and clever changes in pace and spin, Primorac first neutralized Kim's attack and then proceeded to penetrate Kim's defense with increasingly sharp backhand punches and an accurately executed placement strategy for his forehand loops. He won the first game at 18, dropped the second at 14—Kim was not about to roll over!—and finished strongly with a 21-19 third and a 21-14 fourth game.

Thus his is the first of hopefully many great names to be engraved on the Gilbert Cup. Although there had been almost 20 hours of top class table tennis, it felt like the end had come too soon. The event left such an impression, that it was still the main topic of conversation at table tennis clubs weeks later. The local news media had stopped by and two stations aired feature reports on the Gilbert Cup tournament. A frequently voiced question we heard from spectators, who had never seen "real" table tennis was: "How come I only now got to see this sport? How come it isn't all over TV?"

This whole event was recorded for TV. Look for a 2-hour show to air in February or March. A videotape set will also be available by the time you read this.

All players were happy to have been included and said they wanted to sign up for next year already! They had been very well received by a great audience, they liked playing in a "center court" format, and of course they found the prize money very attractive.

At the closing dinner on Sunday night, two of the main tournament sponsors, Arthur Gilbert and Glen Spiro (of Christie's), expressed their delight over having been involved with this event. They both committed to making next year's tournament even bigger and better!

What a boon to table tennis an annual event like this will be! With a few more successful productions like this one, who knows—table tennis might finally get a break!
Final: Zoran Primorac (CRO) d. Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 18,-14,19,14; **SF:** Kim d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 19,-18,-18,16,20; Primorac d. Andrzej Grubba (POL), 17,15,14; **QF:** Saive d. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), -13,-10,11,20,18; Kim d. Erik Lindh (SWE), 17,20,17; Primorac d. Philippe Saive (BEL), -10,19,-18,11,7; Grubba d. Patrick Chila (FRA), -12,14,-20,17,19.

Preliminary RR:

Group A: 1st: Andrzej Grubba (POL), 2-0 (d. J-M Saive, 13,-19,16,-14,20; d. Nguyen, 15,14,12); **2nd:** Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 1-1 (d. 13,14,18); **3rd:** Khoa Nguyen (USA), 0-2.

Group B: 1st: Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), 2-0 (d. Chila, -14,14,-12,17,12; d. Butler, 17,16,14); **2nd:** Patrick Chila (FRA), 1-1 (d. Butler, 12,12,9); **3rd:** Jim Butler (USA), 0-2.

Group C: 1st: Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 2-0 (d. Chen, 14,16,18; d. P. Saive, -15,16,-18,11,12); **2nd:** Philippe Saive (BEL), 1-1 (d. Chen, 14,-7,19,-16,13); **3rd:** Chen Xinghua (ENG), 0-2.

Group D: 1st: Zoran Primorac (CRO), 2-0 (d. Lindh, 21,12,21; d. Cheng, -18,11,11,12); **2nd:** Erik Lindh (SWE), 1-1 (d. Cheng, 15,16,-18,-18,17); **3rd:** Cheng Yinghua (USA), 0-2.

Hot News Flash!

ZERO Emphasis on Clubs = ZERO Growth in our Sport

Let's Wake Up!

Vote

Barney D. Reed

USATT Vice President

A Big Success

The Beverly Hills Gilbert Table Tennis Cup

Thank you to:

Our Sponsors

Arthur Gilbert • Merv Griffin's Beverly Hilton Hotel • Christie's International • First Interstate Bank • Hansen's Beverages • The City of Beverly Hills • BreathAssure • Butterfly • Nittaku • KRSI Radio Sedaye Iran

The Players

1996 Gilbert Cup Winner — Zoran Primorac
 1996 Gilbert Cup Runner-up — Kim Taek Soo
 Jean-Michel Saive • Andrzej Grubba • Erik Lindh • Jan Ove Waldner • Patrick Chila • Philippe Saive • Yinghua Cheng • Khoa Nguyen • James Butler • Xinhua Chen

The Officials

Y.C. Lee • Dr. Azmy Ibrahim • Tom Miller • Peter Kosek • Joseph Tran • Robert C. Partridge • Ruben Kairy

Our Wonderful Volunteers

Your professionalism gave the event a special touch!

The Audience

Thank you all! See you at our next world-class event!



Z&M Table Tennis Productions • P.O. Box 66885, Los Angeles, CA 90066
 (310) 842-6062

Wanted

Table Tennis Topics Magazines, 1933-70
 (will buy or trade)

...also old video movies of South Bend Juniors at St. Joseph Valley or other tournaments from the years 1936-65

...plus Pictures, Programs, etc. of old South Bend Club, its junior team or St. Joseph Valley Open

Please call Brad Balmer (South Bend TTC)
 219-654-8345 (evenings)

INTERNATIONAL

EUROPEAN MASTERS

Hameln, Germany

September 8-10, 1995

Final: Jorg Roskopf (GER) d. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), 14,-9,19,-19,18; **SF:** Roskopf d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 13,13,-18,21; Waldner d. Andrzej Grubba (POL), 9, 13, 16.

WORLD SINGLES CUP

Nimes, France

October 12-15, 1995

Final: Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Jorg Roskopf (GER), -18,22,20,14; **SF:** Kong d. Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA), 15,19,-7,-19,14; Roskopf d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), 17,-18,-16,16,15; **QF:** Liu d. Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 17,-12,17,-19,17; Roskopf d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 17,17,-18,-16,15; Kong d. Patrick Chila (FRA), -11,15,19,16; Gatien d. Wang Tao (CHN), 19,-17,-14,13,22.

Preliminaries:

Group A: 1st: Wang Tao (CHN), 3-0 (d. Langley, 8,1; d. Persson, 17,19; d. Kim, 17,20); 2nd: Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 2-1 (d. Jorgen Persson, -14,10,18; d. Langley, 10,17); 3rd: Jorgen Persson (SWE), 1-2 (d. Langley, 13,19); 4th: Paul Langley (AUS), 0-3.

Group B: 1st: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 3-0 (d. Kong, -17,17,11; d. Armas, 10,10; d. Karlsson, 17,17); 2nd: Kong Linghui (CHN), 2-1 (d. Karlsson, 12,18; d. Armas, 8,14); 3rd: Peter Karlsson (SWE), 1-2 (d. Armas, 13,9); 4th: F. de Armas (CUB), 0-3.

Group C: 1st: Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 3-0 (d. Olaleye, 19,7; d. Huang, 12,12; d. Gatien, 19,18); 2nd: Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA), 2-1 (d. Huang, 16,-19,19; d. Olaleye, 13,14); 3rd: Johnny Huang (CAN), 1-2 (d. Olaleye, 19,13); 4th: Sule Olaleye (NGR), 0-3.

Group D: 1st: Patrick Chila (FRA), 2-1 (d. Waldner, 15,20; d. Roskopf, 18,19); 2nd: Jorg Roskopf (GER), 2-1 (d. Primorac, 19,-20,15; d. Waldner, 20,16); 3rd: Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), 1-2 (d. Primorac, -22,15,18); 4th: Zoran Primorac (CRO), 1-2 (d. Chila, 19,20).

POLISH OPEN

Cetniewo, Poland

October 19-22, 1995

Men Singles—Final: Werner Schlager (AUT) d. Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL), 3-2; **SF:** Schlager d. Kayode Kadiri (SWE), 3-1; Blaszczyk d. Maxim Shmyrev (RUS), 3-2.

Women's Singles—Final: Ni Xia Lian (LUX) d. Tamara Boros (CRO), 3-0; **SF:** Ni d. Tatiana Kostromina (BLR), 3-0; Boros d. Svetlana Bakhtina (RUS), 3-0.

Men's Doubles—Final: Andrzej Grubba/Lucjan Blaszczyk d. (POL) d. Werner Schlager/Karl Jindrak (AUS), -16,15,17.

Women's Doubles—Final: Ni Xia Lian/Miao Miao (LUX/POL) d. Tatyama Logatskaya/veronika Pavolvitch (BLR), 2-1.

Men's Teams: 1st: DEN; 2nd: SVK; 3rd: CZE; 4th: SWE.

Women's Teams: 1st: BLR; 2nd: POL; 3rd: FRA; 4th: RUS.

HUNGARIAN OPEN

Gyor, Hungary

November 10-12, 1995

Men's Singles—Final: Yang Min (ITA) d. Matthew Syed (ENG), 13,20,6; **SF:** Yang d. Vasile Florea (ROM); Syed d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 18,-21,18,-16,19.

Women's Singles—Final: Yang Ying (CHN) d. Li Ju (CHN), 8,-17,9,13; **SF:** Li d. Chen Jing (TPE), 21,13,-14,16; Yang d. Wang Nan (CHN), 18,25,11.

Men's Doubles—Final: Ilija Lupuliesku/Slobodan Grujic (YUG) d. Richard Vyborny/David Stepanek (CZE), 5,16.

Women's Doubles—Final: Yang Ying/Wang Nan (CHN) d. Csilla Batorfi/Krisztina Toth (HUN), 13,14.

AUSTRIAN OPEN

Linz, Austria

November 16-19, 1995

Men's Singles—Final: Zoran Primorac (CRO) d. Ma Wenge (CHN), 19,-14,-14,11,16; **SF:** Primorac d. Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), 14,21,-13,21; Ma d. Jorg Roskopf (GER), 18,15,18.

Women's Singles—Final: Chen Jing (TPE) d. Yang Ying (CHN), 12,21,21; **SF:** Chen d. Wang Hui (CHN), 17,-20,17,-20,22; Yang d. Kim Moo Kyo (KOR), 14,-12,20,19.

Men's Doubles—Final: Patrick Chila/Christophe Legout (FRA) d. Li Jing/Zin Zhijian (CHN), -16,18,19.

Women's Doubles—Final: Yang Ying/Wang Nan (CHN) d. Li Ju/Qiao Yunping (CHN), 16,10.

January/February 1996

FRENCH OPEN

Villeurbane, France

November 23-26, 1995

Men's Singles—Final: Ma Wenge d. Jean-Michel Saive, -16,17,13,14; **SF:** Ma d. Qian Qianli (AUT), 16,13,12; Saive d. Steffen Fetzner (GER), 13,19,17.

Women's Singles—Final: Li Ju (CHN) d. Wang Nan (CHN), 21,-18,-19,16,19; **SF:** Li d. Yang Ying (CHN), 20,-17,13,20; Wang d. Qiao Yunping (CHN), 14,-12,15,-17,15.

Men's Doubles—Final: Jean-Philippe Gatien/Damien Eloi (FRA) d. Steffen Fetzner/Torben Wosik (GER), 10,17.

Women's Doubles—Final: Li Ju/Qiao Yunping (CHN) d. Yang Ying/Wang Nan (CHN), -16,12,20.

SWEDISH OPEN

Stockholm, Sweden

November 29-December 3, 1995

Men's Singles—Final: Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) d. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), 17,21,-16,18; **SF:** Samsonov d. Jorg Roskopf (GER), -16,7,20,11; Waldner d. Trinko Keen (NED), 17,18,-21,14,19.

Women's Singles—Final: Chen Jing (TPE) d. Chire Koyama (JPN), 15,11,11; **SF:** Chen d. Yang Ying (CHN), 15,18,17; Chire d. Wang Nan (CHN), -20,15,-20,12,19.

FINLAND OPEN

Tampere, Finland

December 7-10, 1995

Men's Singles—Final: Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) d. Thomas von Scheele (SWE), -19,-20,19,15,12; **SF:** Waldner d. Feng Zhe (CHN), 19,-19,-12,14,20; von Scheele d. Yan Sen (CHN), 17,14,-20,15.

Women's Singles—Final: Wang Hui (CHN) d. Li Hong (CHN), 7,15,9; **SF:** Wang d. Jian Fang Lay (AUS), -22,15,7,15; Li d. Shozuka Yotsumoto (JPN), 9,11,18.

Men's Doubles—Final: Thomas von Scheele/Mattias Stenberg (SWE) d. Wang Liging/Yan Sen (CHN), 19,10.

Women's Doubles—Final: Wang Hui/Li Hong (CHN) d. Jian Fang Lay/Shirley Zhou (AUS), 16,-9,18.

ASIAN WOMEN ALL-STARS

Hong Kong

December 15-16, 1995

Final: Chen Jing (TPE) d. Liu Wei (CHN), 3-0; **SF:** Chen Jing d. Chan Tan Lui (HKG), 3-0; Liu Wei d. Chai Po Wa (HKG), 3-2; **3rd-4th:** Chan Tan Lui d. Chai Po Wa, 2-0; **QF:** Chan Tan Lui d. Qiao Hong (CHN), 3-2; Chen Jing d. Kaizu Fumiyo (JPN), 3-0; Chai Po Wa d. Xu Jing (TPE) 3-2; Liu Wei d. Tang Fei Ming (TPE), 3-0.

TIBHAR

Rubbers

Rapid
leader of a new generation. Dynamic rubber for offensive spin players, having a lot of reserves in performance for extreme situations. Soft and fast, giving superb ball feeling. Extremely elastic rubber layer.
Sponge thickness: 1.8/ 1.8/ 2.0/ max

Red Power only available in red, only for forehand, only for modern, extreme top spin table tennis played with a lot of pressure.
Sponge thickness: 1.8/ 2.0/ max

Black Techno only available in black, only for backhand, for strategic, offensive game with a lot of control.
Sponge thickness: 1.5/ 1.8/ 2.0/ max

Intra
The new "spin" dimension for controlled attacking and allround game. Soft and sensitive. Made of 100% natural India rubber.
Sponge thickness: 1.2/ 1.5/ 1.8/ 2.1

For orders call. TABLE TENNIS AMERICA 1-800-305-7186

TIBHAR at your TT-specialist

U.S. Open Team Championships

November 24-26, 1995

by Tim Boggan

Butterfly

Detroit, Michigan

OK, straight from Detroit's Cobo Hall, here are the 1995 Thanksgiving-weekend winners of the three televised finals Prime Network will air of still another U.S. Open Team Championships. Except for the 1942-45 WWII years, they've been held every year since 1932.

Sunday, Nov. 26. First to be filmed: the (\$600 1st Prize) Men's Intercollegiate's—won by the Augusta College Jaguars (Sohail Khan, Jason St. George, and Yogesh Sapre), 2-1, over the Georgia State University Panthers (Mark Dubin, Robert Hyatt, and Boris Gorinshteyn).

Next: the (\$1800 1st Prize) Women's Championship—won by the 1995 U.S. World Team (Amy Feng, Lily Yip, Tawny Banh, and Virginia Sung), 3-1, over a visiting Japanese Intercollegiate Team (Chisa Miyao, Yuko Shirataki, and Emi Tominaga)."

And finally, climactically: the (\$6,000 1st Prize) Men's Championship—won by the "U.S." (Maryland I) Team (Cheng Yinghua, Sweeris Todd, and Xu Huazhang), 3-2, over the "China" (ex-Chinese Nationals) Team (Gu Yunfeng, Zhao Weiguo, Gao Jun, and Zheng Yuan).

Sponsors to be thanked for these 61st Championships include USA Table Tennis, Butterfly, Brother International, Power Ade, Huntington Banks, and the Jim Warren Buick, Pontiac, and GMC dealership.

Among the familiar Cobo Hall workers deserving at least a nod of appreciation were the ubiquitous Tournament Director Bob Allshouse (supported by his Arena team of here's-what's-happening announcers, Dick Butler, Sean O'Neill, and Danny Seemiller); the Tournament President David Marcus looking benignly bored (benign because he was bored? or bored because he was benign?); the indefatigable Tournament Facilitator Bob Beatty; and the Tournament Referee Bill Walk.

I must say, I thought as Bill first did, from years past, that, if two teams, in making an effort to speed up the outcome of, say, a 4-3 tie, played simultaneously the 8th and 9th sequentially scheduled matches (any designated 3-player team had to win 5 of the 9 possible singles matches), then that 9th match, providing the team that was up 4-3 won the 8th, was a provisional one and needn't be completed or counted for rating points. Not so, said the oddly named "Tournament Hints" sheet an experienced Captain might have found in his Team's packet and ("What is a 'team tie'? ...How do two teams start a tie?...") quickly ignored. "Tie," by the way—not defined in a table tennis sense in the 1991 Webster's College Dictionary I've just been looking at—means of course a team match and reportedly came to us via very early Swaythling Club play whose officials had picked it up from lawn tennis.

Other familiar Cobo Hall workers deserving of a holiday smile, the glint of a raised glass in the dining room of the conveniently across-the-street Pontchartrain were Mei-Mei Ma (Registration), Tony McGill (Public Relations), and Terri Weaver, Chris Kalagher, and Diane and Sarah McAfee (Control Desk).

Canada's perennial flower, Sheila Von Nottbeck, was missing—but her prize German shepherd wasn't because Sheila stayed home to baby-sit it. And no way was her Detlev gonna be kenneled, or pampered either—this was his 14 straight year as an official here. Other jacketed, easy to recognize umpires were Toronto's bearded Peter Kosek and, doesn't look anything like him, our own Kathy Reed.

Tournament Format

The field consisted of roughly 165 teams, or about 650 players (down more than 20% from last year's entry, at least in part because of its late sanctioning, which left it out of the



Photo by John Oros © 1996

The moment of victory: Todd Sweeris (MD/USA) defeats Zhao Wei Guo (China)

tournament calendar, and a mix-up that resulted in no ad being sent to *Table Tennis Today*).

To start the tournament, all but the four seeded-out teams (a team's strength was decided by adding up the combined ratings of its three top players) were divided into 16 modified round robin Preliminary groups—the top team in each group carefully placed there according to its rating. (Any team found to have inflated its rating with a "phantom" player—that is, one who never had any intention of coming—was expected to pay, or at least was threatened with, a \$100 fine.)

The winners of these 16 groups (having played a select number of Friday morning and afternoon ties) would then join the 4 (as yet unparticipating) seeds in 4 five-team round robins (the first tie of which would be played Friday evening). Teams that qualified were "snaked-in" to predetermined positions in these I'll call them Championship A-B-C-D groups according to their rating. A1-B1-C1-D1 were of course the 4 separated top-seeds, so now the 5th-rated team (or, just conceivably, the team that would come in to take its place after scoring a sensational Preliminary upset) would be snaked in as D2 against D1, the 6th-rated team as C2 against C1, the 7th as B2 against B1, the 8th as A2 against A1, the 9th as A3 against A1 and A2, and so on.

The two teams with the best records in each of these 4 Championship round robins would then advance to a single elimination format—quarter's, semi's, and final.

Preliminary Play

Not surprisingly there were only two upsets in the 16-group Preliminary play—though the Sunburst KC Team (Huang Jen, Andrew An, Chen Jiqiang, and Tri Dinh) came 5-3 close to pulling out a win over the Oakbrook I Women's Team (Jasna Lupulesku, Maria Golubovic, Roxana Kis, and Mimi Bosika). Oakbrook, with its nearby University of Michigan at Flint playing venue, is the name of the relatively new National Training Center in Davison, MI where from time to time a number of aspiring U.S. Olympians

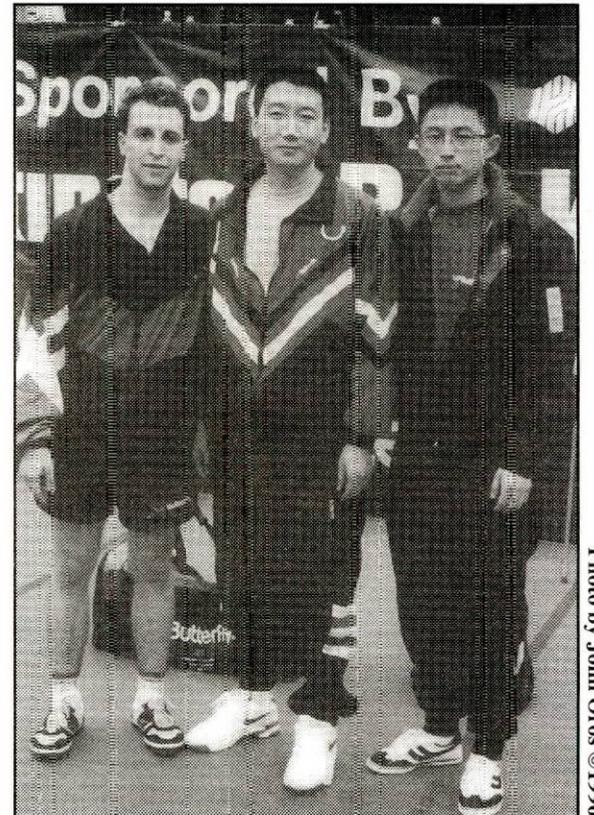


Photo by John Oros © 1996

Todd Sweeris, Cheng Yinghua & Huazhang Xu (MD/USA), 1995 U.S. Open Team Champions.

have based themselves to take advantage of visiting Yugoslav and Romanian practice partners.

One of the two Preliminary upsets occurred when Japan II, the Japanese Intercollegiate Women's Team, breaking out of a 2-2 tie, had surprisingly little 5-2 trouble with Michigan I (Bernie Pietrak, Mike Veillette, Dickie Fleisher, and Frank Sexton). In the other upset, the Winners (Liu Zi He, Dan Kim, Nan Li, and John Allen) appropriately lived up to their name by 5-3 besting the Georgia State University Club. Allen, who was later to play two duce games against Todd Sweeris ("Swing and hope"—that's what he said he still remembers learning at Bernie Hock's Louisville Club), posted an important 19-in-the-3rd win over Mark Dubin.

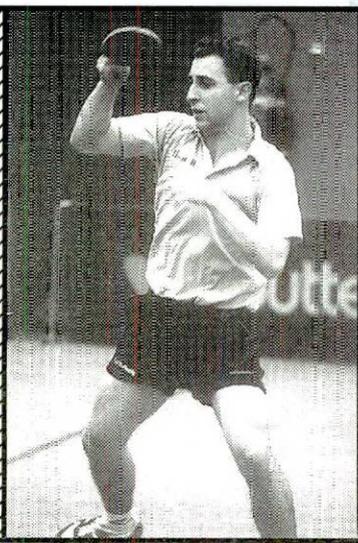
Top 20 Round Robin Play

The Friday evening ties pitted the strongest teams in each group against the weakest, the next strongest against the next weakest. The remaining mid-placed teams drew byes—which the Christian Lillieroos-managed, Brian Thomas-marketed Five Star Team (and no doubt others) would have appreciated knowing ahead of time, before, thinking they were going to play, they'd needlessly glued up.

These deliberate pairings produced in every case but one the expected 5-0 results. Roland Rittmaster had the distinction of being the only player on a winning team to lose a match—to Ontario Junior Kurt Liu, who would later have a good win over Eastern USA's Abass Ekun, also a surprise loser back in the Pre-lims, from 20-16 up in the 3rd, to Georgia Hotshot Thomas Nunes.

Roland, however, was in his usual distinguished company, so right off some very good players were extended. Against the New Jersey Team, Abass's Eastern teammate, 5-time U.S. Champion Danny Seemiller, was pressed—first (20, 21) by Anini Lawson, then (20, 18) by Barry Dattel who earlier had had "Jack" Huang 17-10 in the 3rd, only to lose at 19. Road Warrior Brandon Olson gave Augusta II's Derek May a hard, near run-down time. And in the USA

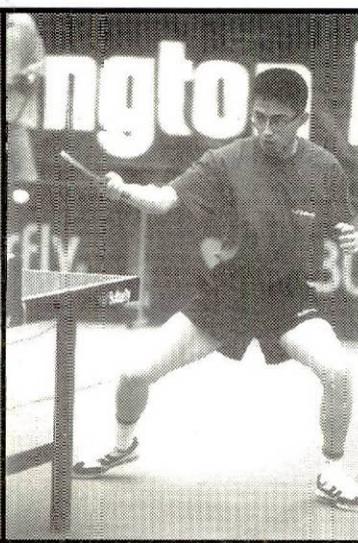
*Scenes
from
the
U.S.
Open
Teams*
by John Oros ©1996



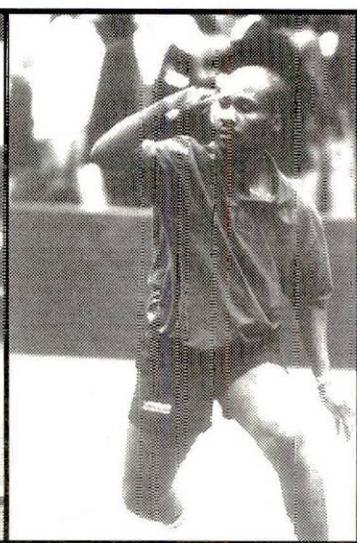
Todd Sweeris



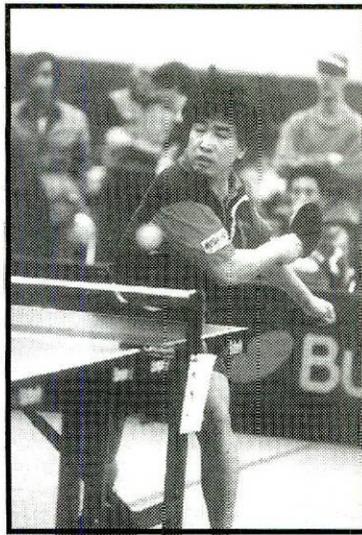
Cheng Yinghua



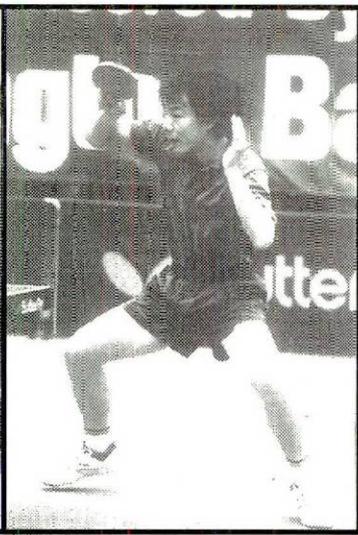
Huazhang Xu



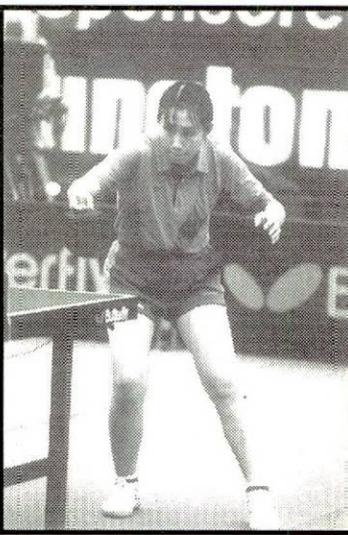
John Onifade



Zhao Wei Guo



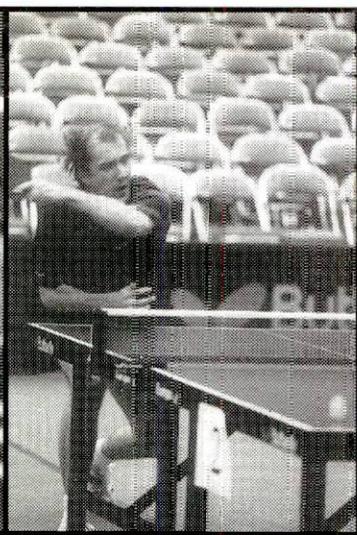
Gu Yun Feng



Gao Jun



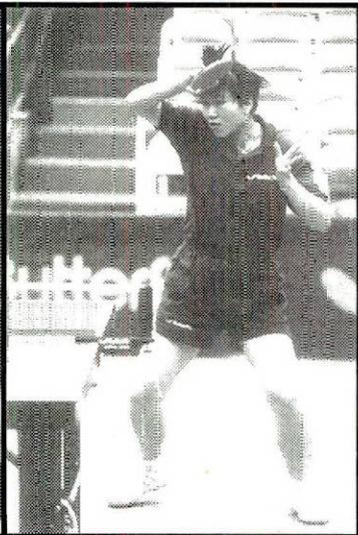
David Zhuang



Darko Rop



Amy Feng



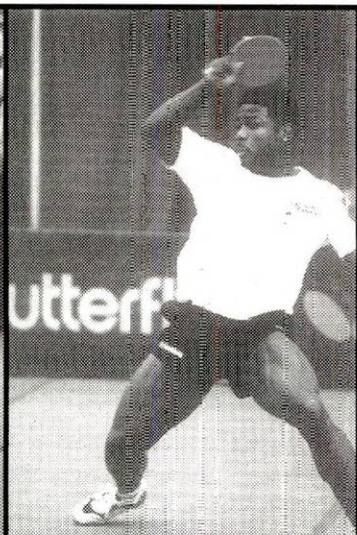
Lily Yip



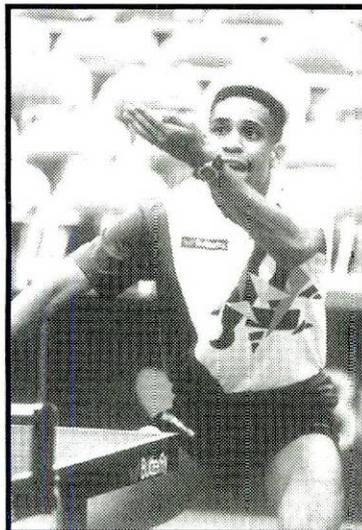
Sean Lonergan



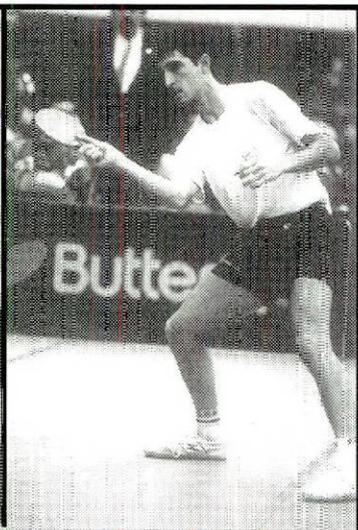
Masamichi Kubo



Brian Pace



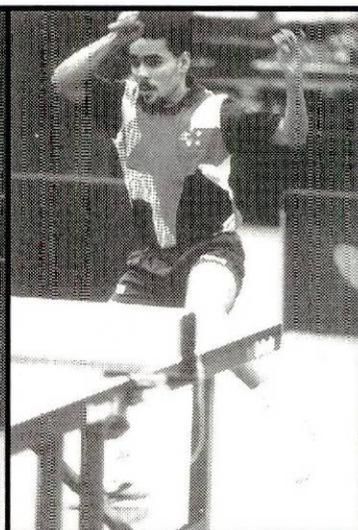
Michael Hyatt



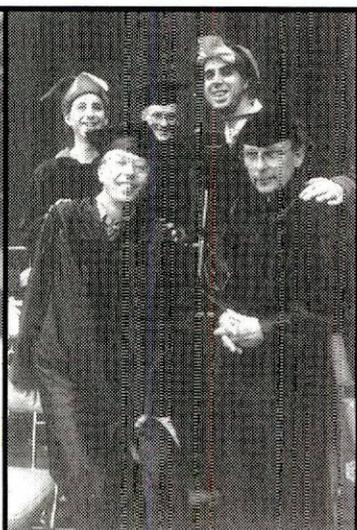
Matthew Syed



Derek May



Dave Fernandez



The Boos Brothers



Photo by John Oros © 1996

The Augusta Jaguars, U.S. Open Teams College Champions.

L-R: Director Pete May, Razvan Cretu, Keith Hagwood, Coach Xin Peng, Sohail Khan, Yogesh Sapre, Jason St. George.

Men vs. USA Women's tie, many-time U.S. Champion Sean O'Neill, who was about to take his final final from George Mason University, had to bone up on a key Management Information point or two after losing the first game to many-time U.S. Champion Amy Feng.

The best match of the evening, though, was current U.S. Men's Champ David Zhuang's 19-in-the-3rd escape from U.S. Olympian Lily Yip. On their flight into Detroit David and Lily were eventually introduced as celebrities when somebody told a friendly stewardess that, no, this whole New Jersey contingent was not coming in for the Michigan game but to play...Ping-Pong?

Exchanging furious penhold-sidespin-thrusts—half-pushes/half blocks—both Zhuang and Yip maneuvered, waited, though not for long, for a chance to smack in a quick-pick forehand. Lily's early 9-4 lead was reduced, after an all-out, all-wild backhand, to 13-12...and when she twice failed to return serve she was 16-14 down. But bursting a backhand in and then a screaming cross-court forehand, Lily rallied. Only now a forehand went badly flat, a ball was quickly netted, and Lily fell behind again, 19-16. Again, though, she came back—with forehands that were absolutely smashing—to tie it up at 19-all. Having made up her mind to attack David's serve, she tried to fast-jab in a would-be killer backhand, but it never had a chance and in a moment the match was over. Lily gave David and the appreciative audience a beaming smile...soon wistfully subdued.

In the only upset, if so it can be called, in the Saturday 9 a.m. ties, the USA Women's Team, leading 4-1, just 5-4 got by the Maryland II Team (Sean Lonergan, Masamichi Kubo, and Brian Pace).

Lonergan said that before his recent training in Japan he'd just "sort of been playing, not really thinking." (As I'm talking to him he's gluing his racket in preparation for a match. Sensible, huh? Except that as he finishes he realizes this is not the racket he intends to use, this is his back-up racket.) So what, for example, did Sean learn in Japan? To get "more power, more snap into my forehand," he says. And was he successfully putting into practice what he'd learned? Judge for yourself: he lost 19-in-the-3rd to both Amy and Lily. Although Kubo's straight-game win over Amy kept the door to success open to Maryland, Lily's

key 24, 14 9th-match win over Brian closed that door and tightly locked it.

Oakbrook II (Nigerian Gbenga Ogundimu, Romanian Victor Subonj, and Yugoslav Florin Petroi) beat Japan II, 5-3, in a very balanced tie in which all six players won at least one match. Their most intense battle of the sexes involved not expenholder Subonj, or the two-winged spinner Ogundimu, but the former Yugoslav National Doubles Champion Petroi and his 17, -20, -20 3rd-match loss against Tominaga, an inverted shakehands player from Nagoya's Aichi University.

The Tournament Committee deliberately staggered what they assumed would be the most competitive ties, the ones between the two strongest teams in each of the four round robin groups, and in the 9 a.m. first of these Ex-China defeated Augusta II, 5-3.

For this tie Ex-China sat out the Maryland-based Barcelona Olympics silver-medal winner Gao Jun and went with Gu, a Johnny Huang-type pips-out blocker-hitter; his female companion Zheng, a chopper; and Zhao, also a chopper and the other male on this gender-opportunity Team. Gu and Zhao, it turned out, were remembered as practice partners for Sean O'Neill, Scott and Jimmy Butler, Khoa Nguyen, and Brandon Olson when back in the summer of 1982 they went to Beijing for training. The chopper Zhao, who looked quite serious out there on court, Sean and the others had nicknamed "Smiley."

Augusta II, coached by (can I call him Ex-China?) Xin Peng, brought together long-time home-town-hero Derek May, Romanian-born expatriate Razvan Cretu who'd sharpened his two-wing power game in league competition in Greece, and Swedish chopper, World #123, Thomas Norberg of the Lyckebj Club where world-class competitors Philippe Saive, Kayode Kadiri, and David Gustafsson also play.

Norberg was recruited for this Augusta Team by Boos Brother Pete May, who saw Thomas play in Sweden and liked his "fight." Actually I should have referred to Derek's esteemed father as "Professor" May because as the tournament got underway the Brothers startled everyone this year by appearing in Commencement cap and gown—and not much else....Dell Sweeris (b. 1945) showed off some gaily-colored, celebratory "50's" socks, and Jim McQueen strode busily about in open robe and (they're

freer-to-play-in?) boxer shorts—his tasselled mortarboard suddenly replaced by a court jester's cap, as if in seconds a professor could become a fool. It's so traditionally known by now how changeable the Brothers' costumes are that International Umpire Kathy Reed almost faulted from behind some visiting monks who in their flowing robes she'd mistaken for their more secular brothers. Anyway, Alan Fendrick's got all this and more on video tape, as much as anyone would want to see, so, if he's to be paid for what he's done, try to find his advertisement in this issue.

Ah, yes, the Ex-China 5-3 tie. Augusta II bounced back from a shaky 0-3 start to pull within 3-4 reach when Norberg got by Gu 19-in-the-3rd. But the comeback fell short when "Smiley," showing he had teeth to his game, 21, 11 prevailed over May.

In the 11 a.m. matches that featured Maryland I's easy 5-1 win over Japan I, only one tie might be said to be contested: the Winners downed Team Burchell (John Onifade, Errol Caetano, Dave Mahabir, Dave Burchell, and TT Casual Wear Designer Ervin Mitchell), 5-3. Onifade won all 3, but as the resurrected Caetano, many-time Canadian National Champion, lost all 3, the losers sorely missed their #3 man Mahabir who for the moment might as well have been back at the Mayfair Parkway Club in Toronto giving tennis lessons.

Errol, who'd been away from the game for 10 years, hadn't forgotten how to make a behind-the-back kill shot look easy, but he was surprised by that which we now take for granted—the elimination of the 60-year-old (the ball hit your racket, didn't it?) "racket rule," and especially the prevalence of much more attacking serve and serve return play which required him to make adjustments in his "touch," his feel for how to be a winner again.

The 1 p.m. focus was also on Team Burchell—this time in their 5-3 loss to Japan I (Koichi Kimura, Hiroyuki Miyamoto, Akahiko Otsuka, and the flustricken Masakatsu Ando). The Japanese Men's and Women's Teams were led by Shigeo Kitahara, head of the Japanese National Team to the '83 Tokyo World Championships and now (according to ever-helpful Interpreter/Liaison Suguru Araki) Professor of Kinesiology at Fukeroka University on the southern island of Kyushu.

Caetano was still trying to acclimate himself to a decade's changes in the Sport—and this included gluing. Teammate Onifade assured Errol that he was to apply his sheet of rubber to the blade while it was still wet. So Errol dutifully did that and went out to the table and struck the first ball...and the second...and third...into the net. "Are you playing on this Team?" the puzzled Japanese Coach Shibutani (father of Hiroshi, World #36) politely asked. Huh? John had neglected to tell Errol that he couldn't just rush out to the table with his newly covered racket, he had to let the glue dry first.

Onifade again won 3, but neither Mahabir nor Caetano could beat these young Japanese attackers, though Errol in losing 19-in-the-3rd to Kimura of Tokyo's Taisho University was clearly improving.

Slovakia, the #4 seeded team (Jaromir Truksa, World #71, Roland Vimi, World #79, and Patrick Marek, World #215), defeated the USA Women's Team, 5-1. However—talk about an Olympian—Lily, playing like she'd sprung racket in hand from Zeus himself, not only beat Marek in 3 but went 19-in-the-3rd with Vimi who, over the Labor Day weekend, had won the Australian Open in Melbourne after being down 2-0 in the final to his teammate Truksa.

In the tie of the hour, the Augusta I Team, playing Matthew Syed, World #68, Jimmy Butler, World #71, and Michael Hyatt, World #270, gave a 5-1 drubbing to the Eastern USA Team. There was some complaint this tournament about certain top players, particularly Syed, the English International, being on a team that did not represent their "country of citizenship or country of residence (at least 3 months)," as required on entry form. But in view of the allowed variable make-up of fully 85% of the teams, this apparently too strict Eligibility requirement was, on second thought, not enforced.

World-class defender Syed delighted audiences here—and this despite the fact that he was in the midst of an exhausting schedule that was forcing him to overextend himself. "What I'm doing to myself is a joke, really," he said. He was giving exhibitions, as good players wanting to make a buck are wont to do, and of course he had a job, playing league matches in the south of France (one of his teammates was France's World #29 Damien Eloi), and he had European League matches to play, and then practically every week there was a big tournament somewhere to go to.

Matthew had passed up the 1995 Tianjin World Championships in order to take his exams at Oxford's Balliol College. He'd chosen the famous "Philosophy, Politics, and Economics" course of study that such future Prime Ministers as Asquith, MacMillan, and Heath had. As we were chatting, it came out that he'd recently read, as I had, Volume I of the Norman Sherry biography of the well known British writer Graham Greene (who'd also gone to Balliol). Sherry, Matthew said, was a table tennis fanatic and had been coached by former English National Team Captain Don Parker who not so long ago had brought his charges to these Detroit Championships. Sometimes wouldn't we like to think that the small sphere of our Sport is larger than we think.

This weekend Syed passed up the French Open in Villeurbanne to come here. "There's an international field here," he said, "but this isn't an International Open. It can't count in the ITTF World Rankings, for with so many matches required of one, a player could only lose points."

Matthew said he was playing as well, if not better, than he'd ever played in his life. Last week, at the Austrian Open in Linz, before losing to Belarus's World #15 Vladimir Samsonov in the quarter's, he'd beaten World #22 Calin Creanga of Greece. And the week before that, in the Hungarian Open in Gyor (where players, in lieu of the prize money they were accustomed to, had to be given bonus ranking points, else they'd not attend), he'd gotten to the final. Matthew bore his loss to Italy's Chinese expatriate Yang Min, World #24, very well though, for in the semi's he'd defeated Austria's World Top 50 player Werner Schlager, 19-in-the-5th, and in the quarter's Chinese great Ma Wenge.

In beating Ma three straight, Syed claimed to have had an out-of-body experience. "It was really weird," he said. "My teammates were all laughing, they thought they were dreaming. To have a win like that—that's the reason I play the Sport. On such a day, you don't think of tactics, or score, you're in a Zone."

Augusta I opened against Eastern USA with Michael Hyatt getting by Abass Ekun in 3. Michael, a store manager for an Atlanta Radio Shack, just returned from Havana where he qualified in Doubles with fellow Jamaican Steve Hylton for the Atlanta Olympics. That was big news back in

Kingston where they were given a hero's welcome. One of their well-wishers was Fuarnado Roberts, for many years one of the U.S.'s best defensive players. Now, in the company of Jamaica's top players, Robbie trains youngsters in a Kingston Club sponsored by Telecommunications of Jamaica.

Radio Shack has really come through for Hyatt. They've given him a 6 month's leave of absence, with pay, to train. So Michael's been in Tokyo, at the Butterfly Dohjo for 3 weeks, and plans to return, first in Feb., and then in early Apr. He also hopes, as do U.S. players desperate for sponsors, to better prepare for the Olympics by playing in tournaments abroad.

Next up, after Hyatt's opening win, is Jimmy Butler vs. Danny Seemiller. This is Butler's first match of the tournament, so perhaps he'll be a little shaky? He'd not played the 9 a.m. tie against New Jersey (wanted to sleep in? to practice?), but Augusta I Team Captain Richard McAfee had suffered no ill effects by going with his remaining ABC team of Rittmaster, Hyatt, and Syed.

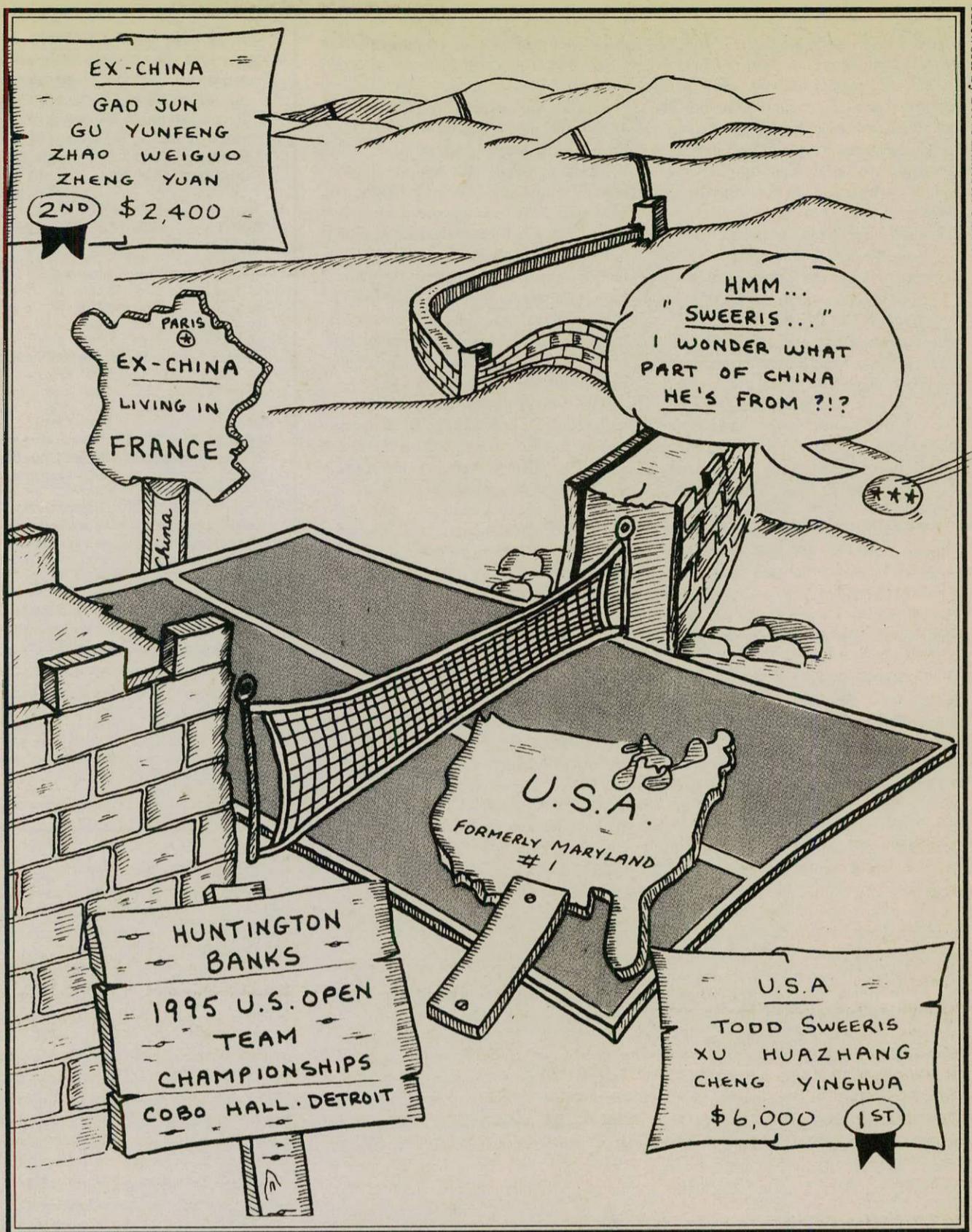
Jimmy has just recently discovered he's a physical wreck. He's been playing very little the last two months while trying to rehabilitate himself. "My whole skeletal structure was a mess," he said. "I've always had problems with tight muscles, but I never knew I had five dislocated ribs from a fall when I was younger. I've also developed curvature of the spine over the years." His body hasn't been getting enough oxygen, but now after treatments in Atlanta—"I've found a woman who's incredible," he says—he's better. After colonics, neuro-muscular therapy, even visits to an American Indian Medicine Man—he's seen six specialists in all—he's come to the conclusion that "Health is everything." And you thought Seemiller might be getting old?

Danny, who'd earlier dropped games to Five Star's young Eric Owens and Dave Fernandez, extended Augusta's 3-time U.S. Champion Butler into the 3rd, but couldn't come on strong for a win.

Later, with his Eastern USA team down 4-1 (Huang had beaten Hyatt), Seemiller again would have his chances—this time against Syed. And, with Danny up 13-8 in the 3rd, very good chances they were too. But suddenly Matthew came off his predictable defense (at one point he'd returned 10 of Danny's loops in a row)—and hit one in. Then, though Danny watched it all happen—"the same ball that had underspin now had no spin"—he couldn't help himself, lost 12 of the next 13 points! "Lifting Syed's ball had been like lifting weights," he said. "And then I saw the different stroke, but I didn't believe it. Up 13-8! All I had to do was keep running, but I stopped. It makes me sick."

The last of the Saturday round robin feature matches saw Slovakia defeat the USA Men, 5-0. Marek opened with a 23-21-in-the-3rd win over Zhuang and that of course had to be discouraging for the U.S. O'Neill later took a game from Marek, and Darko Rop, World #245, 13, 19 fought hard against Truksa—but that was the best we could do.

At least Darko didn't lose his sense of humor: he told me a good story about Yugoslavia's 1975 World Singles finalist, Stipanovic. "Tova" used to spit a little on his racket, then, as you could see, clean it off, rub it dry with his hand. But here "Tova's" hand was quicker than the eye, for he would flip his racket and begin drying off the already dry side. Then, putting the ball in play, he'd give his opponent his best grunt



and grimace, his best pretend heavy chop, and, as there'd be no backspin on the wet ball, his opponent would wallop it three feet off the table!

The real 3 p.m. feature match was the highly controversial one between Augusta I, at this point a 5-1 winner over the Eastern USA Team, and Five Star, at this point a 5-0 loser to the Eastern USA Team. Five Star could not advance to the quarter's unless they would beat the highly favored Augusta I Team precisely 5-0, which everyone knew was not going to happen. However, if Five Star won 5-1 or 5-2 big, which also seemed highly unlikely, though they still could not advance, they could create a 3-way need for a tiebreaker which would reverse the C Group round robin's apparently solidified #1 and #2 finishing positions of Augusta I and the Eastern USA Team.

"So what?" you say.

So this. Since the positions in the single elimination Draw had already been made known, it was clear that in the top half, the #1 seed, Ex-China, met Japan I and the #4 seed, Slovakia, met...the C2 2nd-place team, apparently Eastern USA; and that in the

bottom half of the Draw, the #2 seed, Maryland I, met the USA Men and the Augusta II Team met...the C1 1st-place team, apparently Augusta I, the #3 seed.

This would mean that one of the two Augusta teams meeting in the quarter's would not advance to the semi's and so would not collect the \$1200 semifinal money. If, however, as was thought very unlikely, Five Star should beat Augusta I 5-1 or 5-2 (but not 5-3 or 5-4), Augusta I would then finish in the C2 position in the round robin and so be drawn against Slovakia—in which case the Augusta teams would be in different halves of the Draw and both would have a chance at the \$1200 semi's money and both would have a chance to get to the final. Slovakia, however, would not play Danny, Abass, and Jack, but the more formidable Syed, Butler, and Hyatt, and so quite possibly would not advance to the semi's.

But what really were the odds that Five Star could beat Augusta I 5-1 or 5-2? Whatever they were, they were greatly reduced when it turned out that Augusta I was playing not Syed, who was said to be so fatigued as to be dizzy, but the 2234-rated Rittmaster.

And greatly reduced even further when Team Captain McAfee positioned Rittmaster, naturally in danger of losing all 3 matches, to play the 7th match! Thus two early upsets might be ideal for one, if not both, of the friendly Augusta teams.

So what happened against this Five Star Team of budding professionals, all belonging to the new Five Star-managed Player's Association of which Augusta's Jimmy Butler was the Acting President?

As Slovakia squirmed, Hyatt (2560) avoided being upset by Fernandez (2384), 21 and 19.

Then Butler (2671), who, as I'd explained earlier, could not now be at his best, was 15, 19 upset by Eric Owens (2457).

Did that figure? Eric of course has been working hard at his game these last two years. He's twice been to Korea, where 1992 Olympic bronze medalist Kim Taek Soo has been helping him. "Before," said Eric, "I always went full power when I played. Now I'm mixing it up and it's more effective." However, he says, he can only take living abroad "in short spurts"—three months at the most—because otherwise it's

just "too much culture shock." But the trouble with living in the U.S., he says, is that for so long "there have been no leagues, no clubs, no regular training." Still, he's recently spent a productive month at Oakbrook, and has high hopes that his professional players group can help him. He also says that he's developed a good mental attitude—which could be confirmed by his play here, for he'd lost only one match and that was a close one to Seemiller.

With the tie 1-1, Rittmaster tried his best to win, but lost to Barney Reed in 3.

Now Owens scored another upset—over Hyatt, 11, 20. Did that figure? Eric's been encouraged by the multi-ball drills Coach Bosika has had him doing recently at Oakbrook. "One hour of that gets you real tired," he says. "I'd rather run 10 miles." Eric says that his hand speed's getting better and that he's been trying to position himself over the table to loop rather than flip balls. "Coach Bosika helps me with my technique," he says. "He really pushes me."

With Fernandez's 5th match win over Rittmaster, the Five Star lead now quickly became 4-1—and as Slovakia was fuming, Augusta I Captain McAfee was saying with what seemed like a genuine shrug, "Who could figure there'd be two upsets in this tie?"

Maybe there'd be three? Next up: Butler vs. Reed. Former World Champion Stellan Bengtsson had been very helpful not only to Jimmy but more recently to Barney. "Everything Stellan told me," said Barney, "my dad had told me. I was amazed. Now at Tyreso, Sweden's biggest Club, they want my dad to train trainers." Ah, how nice—the son's realization that his parent is worth some new consideration. Bengtsson also helped young Barney with his footwork—showed him, for example, how he might best position himself to best contact the ball. Two weeks or so before the U.S. Olympic Trials in February, Barney thinks he'll go back to Bengtsson's Falkenburg Club where he'll have practice opportunities with such world-class players as Persson, Karlsson, and Lindh.

Against Butler, Reed lost the 1st but was up 11-7...19-16 in the 2nd. Jimmy had the serve, but Barney had the forehands—though only one of them, at 19-all, went in. Deuce. And then Barney looped another forehand long, and a backhand off—and so Jimmy slipped away a winner.

Two wins then for Owens; two losses for Rittmaster—and now the 7th match finish: Owens over Rittmaster, 13, 9.

Five Star had upset Augusta I, 5-2—and upset even more, and without playing them, Slovakia, who saw an Augusta conspiracy. Regardless of whether Slovakia would win their quarter's match against Augusta I, they said the Augusta I-Five Star tie wasn't sporting and that they would never come back to these Championships.

Quarterfinals

With Syed rested, or as rested as anyone could be who had such an already grueling schedule behind him and who in the next few days had to be both in the south of France and at the Swedish Open in Stockholm, the Augusta I Team would indeed defeat Slovakia, \$1200 semifinalists the last two years, but not this year. Not only Syed, who won all 3, but Butler, who won 2, did them in.

Truksa, up 1-0 and 19-14, lost a huge swing match to Syed. The Slovakian became careless, tried two stupid smashes, and when his coach yelled at him, he became nervous. Still, it looked as if Matthew would lose. Behind 20-18 match point but continuing to wear Truksa down, scooping

balls off the floor ("With Matthew the point that's over is never over," someone said), Syed, in or out of body, soared—deuced and won.

Later, Truksa beat Butler, 19-in-the-3rd—but by then it was a case of too little, too late. Exit spirited Slovakia.

Coming out to meet Augusta I in the top-half semi's would be Ex-China. They'd been mildly challenged in the quarter's by Japan I. Gu, who I'd heard had beaten soon-to-be World Champion Persson in the 1990 French Open but who here in the earlier Augusta II round robin tie had lost to both Norberg and Cretu, won all 3, while both Zhao, despite a loss to Kyoto's Ritsumeikan University student, the smooth-rubber shakehands player Miyamoto, and Gao, despite a loss to Tokyo Meiji University student Otsuka, beat Kimura. The Japanese players and officials, granted they all represented one country, were yet such a geographically diverse group that this year, as likely in others, they must have taken formal delight in feeling quite "compositionally correct" in this often colorful, quilted field.

On the other side of the Draw, Maryland I would be meeting Augusta II in the semi's, for both teams had advanced with 5-3 victories.

In the one quarter's, Maryland I had jumped off to an easy 3-1 lead over the USA Men, but then U.S. Sports Festival Champion Sweeris and U.S. National Champion Zhuang, after exchanging wipe-out games, had dueled to an anybody's 19-in-the-3rd climax...with Sweeris coming off the table the stand-tall winner. Todd's recent switch, long urged by U.S. National Men's Coach Li Zhenshi, to short pips on the backhand ("My backhand loop sucked," said Todd, "so I wasn't giving away much") really helped him in this match. Against David, whose ever-threatening forehand comes so quick, Todd needed to stay at the table—and his short-pip-switch allowed his backhand to be faster and more effective.

With his USA Men's Team down 4-1, O'Neill fought back with a 2-1 win over Xu. And then World #153 Zhuang, whose switch to Rein and larger pips would allow him, with inverted on his flip side, more spin and more control, 16, 19 socked it to World #33 Cheng. So with the tie now 4-3, and a fueled-up Rod hurling fiery grunts at him, Xu didn't need a call from Bell Atlantic to tell him he'd better hit the right buttons and start playing a lot better (Onifade, the story had quickly gotten round, had beaten him using a racket with a broken handle). And what a struggle it was. Darko, leading all the way in the 3rd and now up 20-18, looked to force the tie into the 9th match. But Xu, as if with some new-found \$2,000-experimental-stroke of radical technology, looped in off the edge of his racket—and went on to win at deuce.

In the other quarter's, Augusta II had also gotten off to a 4-1 head start against Eastern USA. The closely-contested swing match here saw 1995 Pac Rim Champ Cretu, down 16-13 in the 3rd to Seemiller, rally for a win. "This Cretu," said one observer, "is so physically gifted. He's got such power on both sides."

Seemiller did beat May, though. Derek, who, after a talk with China's 1994 Swedish Open winner Ding Song, had switched from long to short pips on his backhand, said he could now counter better off the backhand and claimed to feel "more balanced and relaxed" out there. But as yet he wasn't winning.

Professor May, meanwhile, continuing to teach from his and everyone else's

STRIKE ONE 1996 TOURNEYS (Strike One Fitness Club, 50 Blanchard Rd, Burlington, MA)

Tourney Dates: (Sunday Afternoons)

Phone: (617) 270-5567

Feb Open (Feb 25)

Direction: (12 m north-west of Boston, bus service)

April Open (April 21)

Take Rt.128 (also named 95, a circular route with this

June Open (June 2)

portion of N-S equal to E-W) exit 32B to Middlesex Tpk.

Aug Open (Aug 11)

Go south to first/second (N/S) set of lights, take a left onto

Sep Open (Sep 15)

Wheeler Rd (Tweeter and Wyndham Garden Hotel are on

Oct Open (Oct 20)

your left). Private entrance road to club is 1/2 m down on

your left. (Wheeler Rd becomes Blanchard Rd)

Tourney director: Lim Ming Chui

Tourney Referee: Mal Anderson, I.R.

EVENT	FEE(\$)	1ST	2ND	3&4	TIME	where
1 Open SE	15**	100	50	25	3 pm	* SE = single elimination
2 Women SE	15**	40%	20%	10%	4 pm	** 12 for players below 1800 Rating
3 O40 SE	15**	30%	15%		4 pm	* Oxx = equal or over xx
4 U18 SE	6	P&M	M		3 pm	* Uxx = under xx
11 U1100 RR	15	FE&P	P		1 pm	* P&M = TT equipment and medal
12 O1100 RR	15	FE&P	P		1 pm	* RR = round robin (up to 10 per group)
15 O1500 RR	15	FE&P	P		2 pm	* FE = free entry
19 O1900 RR	15	40%	20%	10%	5% 2 pm	
22 U2200 SE	12	30%	15%		4 pm	
28 DU2800 SE	6*2	30%	15%		5 pm	* DUxx = Doubles Under xx
38 DU3800 SE	6*2	30%	15%		5 pm	
99 Handicap SE	10	30%	15%		2 pm	(Phone or late entries require \$5 fee)

Entry Deadline: Thursday (3-days before each tourney) Mail entry with check or money order to **Lim Ming Chui c/o Strike One, 50 Blanchard Rd, Burlington MA 01803**

Facility: 12 Butterfly Europa Tables on roomy, well lighted, multi-tennis turf surface courts; AC or heat; canteen food, parties...; free fountain water, lockers, showers, sauna... lounge...;

Strike One TT Club meets every Tue, Wed, Fri 7-11 pm; Sun 2-7 pm

Tourney Ball: Orange PF4 3-star balls (used in the 1995 World-Championship)

Motels: (Mention "Strike One Table Tennis Tourney" to get group rate)

*All within 2 m of the Strike One Fitness Club & right off Rt128 next to the Burlington Mall

*Room with Continental breakfast, AC, TV, 1 king/2 Double beds (Same price for 1-4 persons)

Holiday Inn Express 440 Bedford Rd, Lexington, MA (617)861-0850 \$52/nite

Howard Johnson 90 Middlesex Trk, Burlington, MA (617)272-6550 \$50/nite

Name	USATT ID	Expiration	Home Club
Address	Rating	BirthDate	Dbls Partner
			Phone
Circle events	1 2 3 4 11 12 15 19 22 28 38 99		Total Event Fees
Event Fee (\$)	15/12 15/12 15/12 6 15 15 15 15 12 6 6 10		Rating Fee 3.00
I agree to abide by all USATT and local rules. I hereby release the USATT, Strike One Fitness Center, and Strike One Table Tennis Club from any claims due to loss or injury sustained to person or property			USATT Memb
Signed (Parent or guardian if minor)			Total Enclosed
			Date

Please zerox or mimic this entry form and save the original for future tourney entries

standard text, counseled patience and perseverance, and urged attention to all those quirky little footnotes in Life's Big Book that might provide moments of unexpected joy. Yeah? Tell it to Seemiller who, losing the 8th match of this tie, 20 and 19, to Norberg, might not be so receptive as to what he knew only too well he was learning.

Semifinals

For the upcoming semi's and finals, the format changed to best 3/5 singles ties with, if need be, 2 of the 3 players playing two matches each and the 3rd player in every instance playing only the 3rd scheduled match.

A National Championship semi's at 9:30 on a Sunday morning! Who'd be at Cobo Hall to see it? Never mind. Soon more players will drift over to watch, and it may be they won't even go back to their own ties, for no one could have asked for a more dramatic opening to the day's play.

First off: Butler vs. Gu....In the crucial 3rd, Jimmy's usual reliable backhand has been failing him, but he's still up 14-12. Then he whiffs a forehand, pushes one into the net, and on missing another backhand is down 16-14....At 16-all Butler serves weakly, Gu blasts the ball, but Jimmy fast-counters it in for a winner....More errant shots by Butler gives Gu a 19-17 lead. Now though, unflinchingly Jimmy steps around and smacks in Gu's serve....At 19-all Jimmy's too high return doesn't quite catch the back edge but is far enough back to throw Gu's timing off. Up match point, Butler takes the right forehand—but misses....As ads are won and lost... 21-all... 22-all... Jimmy, particularly, is slow to come to the table, and, repeatedly bouncing the ball on his racket, slow to serve. Finally, at 23-all, Jimmy serves, follows—and Gu blocks into the net. Then Gu serves...misses. Match to Butler. Augusta High Fives all around.

Next: Syed vs. Zhao. Think again if you think today two defenders might go

Expedite. In the 3rd, Matthew, who's occasionally been footstamping his returns, is 18-15 down. Now—surprise—Syed scores with a fast, full-swing forehand. And—surprise—he picks another one in. Up 18-17 Zhao's the aggressor, forces Matthew back from the table where, lobbing, he's got no chance to win the point. With Syed down 19-17, the match turns into a battle of one-ball flash forehands, which the Englishman wins 22-20.

So, two back-to-back deuce-in-the-3rd successes for Augusta I—and the ever-increasing number of spectators are wondering, "What next?" Gao Jun, 1991 World Women's Doubles Champ, said in a TTT interview a year and a half ago that she wasn't used to playing men and didn't like playing them. Now, though, like it or not, she has to keep a winning step ahead of the fast-of-foot Hyatt. And for Ex-China, she 14, 19 does.

But would it do any good?

At first it wouldn't seem so—for against Butler in the 1st, Zhao, down 20-19, fails to return serve....But that's it for Jimmy—he's no more reserves, is physically and mentally spent: he loses the next two to Smiley, 10 and 9.

Nor can Syed wearily offer anything but 16, 12 token resistance. Gu plays patiently, just rolls back Matthew's heavy chop coming into his forehand, while continuing to be dominant on his backhand side. Augusta I, up 2-0, loses 3-2.

In the other semi's, the U.S. and Maryland I's Cheng opens with a no nonsense 12, 17 win over Augusta II's Cretu.

After which, Sweeris, up 6-0 in the 1st after all-out pummeling Norberg's high returns and shaking a triumphant fist at supporters Cheng and Xu, goes with the flow...21-16. Then, on losing the 2nd—wow! deja vu—Todd is up 6-1 in the critical 3rd. But at 9-5, just before the anticipated switch, the match turns: Todd misses a hanger, then

an angled-off block that would have been a winner, then misreads a balloon ball, then drops a ball weakly into the net...and is down 12-9. What is happening?

But after losing 7 in a row, Sweeris rallies and, despite some great gets by Norberg, has pulled even at 16-all. Then, flip-flop: no, Todd, that low ball wasn't at all the right one to try to flip in; and that heavy spin ball, that gets Todd too. 18-16 for the Swede....But there goes Todd's threatening fist up again: 18-all. Norberg serves—Todd whiffs. Then, as Todd will complain bitterly later, because Norberg unexpectedly fast-serves him, he pushes his return into the net, soon loses the game and the match, 21-18.

So deliberate Norberg's serve motion had been—except for the one at 19-18. "How long can a player wait after he's cocked and ready to serve?" is the question Todd now thinks to ask anyone who'll listen. But of course he who might have been most interested, the umpire of the match, has left the table. "And then at 19-18, all of a sudden, this one just came out so fast."

One fellow overhearing all of this said he thought Norberg's deception was really rather clever. "Yeah, Todd was set up, alright, but at this stage particularly he shouldn't have come to the table until he was ready for anything."

Against Xu, Derek, up 1-0 and 10-5 in the 2nd looked to be a winner, but whatever confidence he had quickly evaporated as Xu, with nonchalant assurance, streaked to an easy 16, 12 win.

"Cheng works off power," someone was saying at the start of the Cheng-Norberg match. "How's he gonna work off this Swede's ball?" The thought makes the head spin, does it?...Cheng, 13, 16.

So it'll be the "U.S." and "China," in due time, in the final.

Intercollegiate Final

The first of the white-ball-against-red-floor televised finals, the Intercollegiate Championships, won by the Augusta Jaguars over the Georgia State University Panthers, 2-1, is just not as "Nature, red in tooth and claw" as their tear-each-other-apart names would surely suggest. Only bewhiskered Jason St. George on serve, pawing the racket-head back to the nape of his neck, looked to be doing anything clawingly stealthy—and he lost 18-in-the-3rd to Georgia State's Robert Hyatt, Michael's Olympian-minded brother.

Women's Final

In the Women's final, our USA National Team beat the Japanese Intercollegiate Team, 3-1. World #41 Amy Feng led the way, giving up only 40 points in her two matches.

Since Tominaga was too 11, 16 good for World #202 Tawny Banh, any TV commentator's interest would have to focus on Lily's match, to see if there was "any chink in her armor"—a line I'd actually heard to be said unconsciously by a commentator speaking of Chinese World Champion Deng Yaping and which of course in its cliché innocence was so absurdly "incorrect" that it drew laughter.

Fortunately for TV viewers, Lily was 20, -17, 17 extended by inverted shakehands chopper. Chisa Miyao of Tokyo's Chou University, who earlier had beaten both May and Cretu. Combining her staunch defense with pick-hit winners and little screams of delight, Miyao, up 15-11 in the 3rd, seemed able to punch holes in Lily's roll-and-drop strategy. But in the end-game, Lily's 10-for-12-point attack carried her to a convincing win.

Open Final

Cheng, who can play for us at the World's but not in the Olympic Games, started his U.S./Maryland Team off with a rout of Ex-China's Zhao. Up 11-2 in the 1st, Cheng viciously misses a winner and turns from the table muttering to self. Enough said. Except that as Cheng's up 16-6 in the 2nd, the hard-pressed announcer may take the opportunity to tell all his viewers that Cheng is not only a professional player, he's a professional coach and has just returned from Taiwan, where he coached their National team.

Sweeris, too, had been in Taiwan—and perhaps along the way had learned a few things from Cheng. From 14-all in both games against Gu he rose to the occasion and 15, 17 won comfortably.

1969 and '70 U.S. Open finalist John Tannehill, who was an on-the-scene observer (his Has Beens Team finished first in this tournament...in the G Division), remarked that even any 2400 player today could have beaten both 6-time U.S. Champion D-J Lee and himself, for when his Ohio Team won this Championship there was no fast spin play, no counter-attack against the loop.

That subject-to-argument conclusion aside, there was, however, in the '70's with the coming of another dominating South Korean-trained U.S. Champion, Insook Bhushan, tournament inter-play among the sexes. But here, in the 3rd match of this 2-0 U.S./Maryland 1-led tie, China or Ex-China's Xu no more manly wanted to play a Chinese woman than she did him. But what choice did he have? The 3rd man in this Men's final he'd have to come up against would necessarily be a woman. And since Zheng had earlier lost along the road to Warrior Todd Petersen, wouldn't it make sense to go with Gao, the 1993 World semifinalist?

It would to Gao, for again without her win, her Team was lost. And again she came through.

In the 4th match, between Cheng and Gu, the U.S. continued to



For our catalog call: **T.G. Enterprises 1-800-825-7664**
29393 Murray Crescent Southfield, MI 48076-1679
visit us on the Internet: <http://www.pccnet.com/pccnet/tgenter/tgttco.html>

It is important for a production blade to offer even and true playing characteristics. That's why SKITT provides accurate thickness in all their Skyline blades. They differ from each other only in thickness and thus in speed. Made in Sweden. **SKYLINE 5.5 - \$ 31.00**
SKYLINE 5.8 - \$ 31.00 **SKYLINE 6.1 - \$ 33.00** **NEW DAYTONA - \$ 39.00** All blades are available in the AN, FL, & ST grip.
The **NEW COPPA Z1** determines new horizons in speed grip and spin elasticity. Available in 2.1 and 2.5 mm \$ 32.00

lose momentum when in the 1st Gu won a 19-all counter-driving point and the game. At 8-all in the 2nd, Cheng tried a fast down-the-line serve and when it went long it seemed to precipitate his own 14-9...16-10 fall. But, hold on, though Gu had been covering the ball well, attacking strongly, Cheng scrambled back....Down 20-18 match point, he got lucky when Gu, with too much footstamp force, served off the table....Then deuce. And now Gu whiffed, and stroked one long, and Cheng was back in the match.

On into the 3rd. But as in the other two games Cheng got behind, didn't seem to be moving well, and down 7-2...13-5...18-10 could no longer make a contest of it.

In the deciding 5th match against the seasoned Zhao, Sweeris, down 5-1 in the 1st, didn't start any better than Cheng. But he almost caught Zhao at 8-7, then dropped to 12-8 down, and, with Papa Dell in the stands offering him unheard advice ("Don't get frustrated. Stay in there"), rose again to 13-all. Here he suddenly found his attack and, looping fearlessly to all parts of the table, just overpowered Zhao.

In the 2nd, SWAT!—a mighty loop put Todd 14-11 up. "Don't get wild now," says Dell, as if talking to self. Down 15-13, Zhao, rolling a serve return to the forehand corner, catches Sweeris off guard. Then Todd decelerates coming into the ball and it goes limply into the net.

But, again from 16-all, he powers in such winners that it must seem a very long time ago that he lamented, "I seem to be 2550 forever." With Todd's clutch 5th match win, the "U.S." (Maryland I) is this year's 61st USOTC Champion.

DIVISION-WINNING TEAMS

CHAMPIONSHIP: Maryland I (Todd Sweeris, Xu Huazhang, Cheng Yinghua)

CLASS B: Quebec All-Stars (Xavier Therien, Philippe Bergeron, Jean-Philippe Gagnon)

CLASS C: Alph, Jr. (Paul Lamse, Phil Panno, Don Hamilton, Mark Allen, Ray Schlabach, Jr.)

CLASS D: Last Hope (Christopher Lehman, Liung Liang Kok, Sandiway Fong, Joan Fu, Steven Lau)

CLASS E: Hoggy's Heroes (Ed Hogshead, Brian Bartley, David Arnick, Sean McCracken)

CLASS F: E.T.D.A.O.I. (Ruben Rodriguez, Luis Gracia, Efrain Soto)

CLASS G: Has Beens (Charles Gaylor, John Tannehill, Jay Nelson, Steve Zimmerman, John Kelchak)

CLASS H: Tops II Gaudro Group (Steven Samson, Pascal Bayeur, Guillaume Tremblay)

CLASS I: Q Continuum (Bill Lemieux, Stan Harn, Valeria Gava)

CLASS J: Eastern Snow Storm (Yves Levesque, Julie Berube, Guy Gauthier)

Pacific Rim Open

HARVARD
SPORTS

Portland Community College, Portland

by Tong Lee

November 4-5, 1995

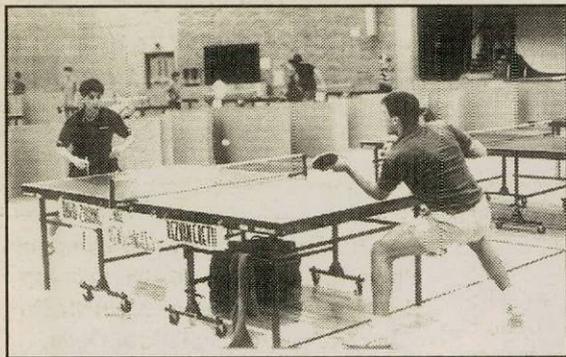


Photo by Scott Krueger © 1996

Razvan Cretu (R) upset top-seeded David Zhuang (L) in both Open & Allstar Finals.

This 4-star tournament, not to be confused with the Pacific Coast Tournament in California, is perhaps the largest one on the West Coast. It was co-sponsored by the Portland TTC and Harvard Sports. Harvard Sports, best known for table tennis equipment, is also a distributor of pool and game tables, darts, and basketball products. The matches were played on 20 tables on a non-slippery floor in a well-lighted gym. Over 170 participants from 11 states (CA, CO, ID, GA, KS, MD, NJ, OK, OR, PA, WA) and Canada, including big-name players 2634 Gao Jun, 2569 Amy Feng, 2407 Lily Yip, and 2734 David Zhuang, competed in 28 events for \$7,700 in prize money and trophies. One commendable feature of this tournament was that the women were offered the same amount of prize money as the men. That's equality! Several table tennis personalities, among them national coaches Zhang Li, Scott Preiss, and Christian Lillieroos were also in attendance to compete and/or to coach.

An unusual feature of this tournament was the large number (38) of Canadian players, mainly from British Columbia. Like the whales off the Pacific Coast, they seemed to have a tendency to migrate 320 miles south annually for this event. These Canadians added to the flavor of the tournament by providing a large number of playing styles and a higher level of competition for other players. Many of them, especially most of the 29 junior players, were somewhat under-rated. The reason is that many play in the USA only once or twice a year while being active in Canada, so their ratings can lag their skill levels by up to 10 months. For young tournament-active players who can improve quickly, this lag can easily amount to several hundred rating points. There were many upsets by Canadians, for example, George Hung (1507) beat Terrence Lee (1799), and Amy Chan (1823) beat Rudy Miranda (2123). In the doubles, Amy Chan/May Lin (2064) upset Ramin Samari (2265)/Zoltan Puzstai (2349 and U2400 winner) as well as Nan Li (2210) and her mother and former world champion, Zhang Li. I like to look at this positively: it's a great opportunity to meet formidable opponents in most matches and pick up valuable experience (and possibly, even pick up some rating points). Also, over the long term, it will all even out as the more points you lose, the more you will gain the next time you have a good tournament.

Among men players, 2524 Razvan Cretu was the star of this tournament. He bagged a triple in winning the Open Singles, Men's All-Stars Singles, and the Open Doubles with Chi-Sun Chui. He and Gao Jun also reached the finals of the Mixed Doubles. In exciting matches, this left-hander first defeated David Zhuang 2-1 in the All-Star Singles and then proved that his win was not a fluke by repeating the upset the next day, 3-0, in the Men's Open. Along the way, he brushed aside excellent 2400+ players Barney Reed and Chi-Sun Chui, thereby giving notice that when the torch is passed by some of our older national players, he will likely be one of those to be reckoned with. Only 20 years old, Cretu has quite a few years to prove that he can be a dominant player of the game.

In the women's events, Gao Jun won over Amy Feng. She also finished second in Open Doubles with Feng, and second in the Mixed Doubles with Razvan Cretu. Jun Gao was not eligible for the Women's All-Star Singles and this made it easier for Amy Feng to win the event over Lily Yip. Feng was a double winner as she and David Zhuang won Mixed Doubles.

In the junior divisions, Barney Reed captured the Under 18 All-Star Singles in a close match with Philip Lim of Berkeley TTC. Philip also made it to the final of the Under 16 All-Stars. Nan Li won the Under 16 All-Stars over Philip Lim and the Under 18 Girls All-Stars over Sally Dahlin. Phong Ho of Portland TTC won the High School or Under and was also in the final of the Under 2200. Freddie Gabriel of Concord TTC won the Under 15 Singles over Vincent Kwong of Canada and was runner-up in the High School Singles. In the Under 12 Singles, Terrence Lee of Concord TTC was runner-up to Vincent Kwong.

Men's All-Stars

In the semis, Razvan Cretu and David Zhuang cruised past Chi-Sun Chui and Zoltan Puzstai, respectively, by identical scores of 10 and 9. The power and speed of Cretu and Zhuang were too much for their opponents to handle. In the finals, Zhuang jumped to a 5-point lead at 8-3 and maintained it until 15-10. At this point Cretu seemed to have warmed up. Using powerful counter-blocks to Zhuang's left and right sides, Cretu reeled off 4 straight points to pull to within 1. Suddenly, it was all even at 16-16. Zhuang countered with 3 straight to take it to 19-16. Cretu countered with a loop here, a fast block there, a kill on a weak return, and a furious attack lasting about 12 smashes to reach game point. Zhuang managed to even it at 20-20 and served. Cretu attacked it and Zhuang blocked it off the edge, 21-20 Cretu. And then, controversy: Cretu smashed a return. Zhuang said it was out, but Cretu said it hit the edge of the table. After some discussion with tournament director Jim Scott, a let was called and play resumed. Cretu promptly won the next point and game, 22-20.

In the 2nd, it was all Zhuang, 21-11. The 3rd was close with 3 points separating the two until 14-11, Cretu. Suddenly, it was 14-14, 15-15, 16-16. Zhuang then served into the net, and after a missed easy backhand block, was down 16-18. Zhuang then won the next 2 points to even the score at 18-18. Cretu then missed a backhand loop and it was 19-18, Zhuang. Cretu evened at 19-19. When Zhuang hit a winner to reach match point, he screamed encouragement to himself. Cretu drew even at 20-20 and screamed even louder with fist pumping. A down-the-line loop by Cretu gave him match point. Finally, Cretu got the next point to win the game, match, and \$400.

Men's Open Singles

In the semis, Cretu defeated Quang Bui who had upset Derek May 3-1 in the QF, while Zhuang powered past Barney Reed. This set the stage for a return match between Cretu and Zhuang.

In game 1, Cretu shot off to a 5-1 lead. Zhuang cut the lead to 6-5. This was as close as he could get as Cretu seemed to have gained a measure of how to play Zhuang (with faster, more powerful counter-blocks mixed with loops, and he led all the way to win 21-16. In the 2nd, Cretu led 7-1, and although Zhuang tied the score at 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, and 19, he never led in the game. Cretu then won the next 2 points to win 21-19. In the 3rd, Zhuang won the first point, but never led again until 16-15. Cretu then won the next 5 to again lead 20-16. Zhuang managed to hold out for 2 more point before Cretu hit a winner for game, match, and \$800.

Women's Open Singles

The top 2 finishers in each of the 6 round-robin groups advanced. Sally Dahlin, Nan Li, Hong Zhao, and May Lin beat their opponents to earn QF shots at the top 4 seeds, Gao Jun, Simone Yang, Lily Yip, and Amy Feng, respectively. All the top seeds won 2-0. In the semis, Gao beat Yang 17 and 15, while Amy overcame Yip, 17 and 19. In the final, Amy won the 1st in deuce, but Gao came back to win the next two at 11 and 17 for the \$800 top prize.

Women's All-Stars

There were only 7 entries in this event. Nan Li beat Sally Dahlin to set up a semifinal match with Amy Feng. Joannie Fu won by default over Simone Yang to earn the right to play Lily Yip in the other semifinal.

As expected, the top seeds won 2-0 in both semifinals. In the final, Yip took a quick 4-1 lead, but Feng tied it at 6-6 and led 7-6. But after this, Yip led all the way to win the 21-15. During the change over after the first game, Derek May, who Feng had asked to be her coach for the match, must have given her some valuable tips, as Feng led from start to finish



Photo by Scott Krueger © 1996

The Pacific Rim Open Women having fun. (L-R): U.S. Women's Champion Amy Feng, U.S. #1 Woman Gao Jun, 2132-rated Hong Zhou (in back), U.S. Women's Coach Zhang Li, U.S. #1 Junior Girl Nan Li.

to win the second 21-10. In the 3rd, Yip led 4-1. Feng won the next 8 to lead 9-4. After this, Feng led by 3 to 6 points all the way to win 21-15 and \$400. She must have been so excited after the victory that she walked away with Yip to the control desk without even looking at May, the Southern gentleman and her coach for the match.

Jim Scott and his team, including Wally Lien, Stan Jensen, and others too many to mention individually, deserve recognition and congratulations for all the hard work necessary in the organization and management of such a big tournament. In spite of the large number of events offered, Jim called all the matches promptly whenever a table was available. This optimum use of the 20 tables enabled the tournament to conclude at about 7 p.m.

Open Singles—Final: Razvan Cretu d. David Zhuang, 16,19,17;**SF:** Cretu d. Quang Bui, 8,-23,10,11; Zhuang d. Barney Reed, 14,6,-21,12;**QF:** Cretu d. Danny Ho, 16,11,15; Bui d. Derek May, -13,20,19,20; Reed d. Chi-Sun Chui, -15,15,-15,15,15; Zhuang d. Ramin Samari, 16,10,-18,9.

Men's All-Stars Singles—Final: Razvan Cretu d. David Zhuang, 20,-11,20;**SF:** Cretu d. Chui-Sun Chui, 10,9; Zhuang d. Zoltan Puzstai, 10,9;**QF:** Zhuang d. Rudy Miranda, 8,10; Puzstai d. Derek May, 19,-22,19; Chui d. Ramin Samari, 15,18; Cretu d. Barney Reed, 15,-21,13.

Women's Singles—Final: Gao Jun d. Amy Feng, -23, 11,17;**SF:** Gao d. Simone Yang, 17,15; Feng d. Lily Yip, 17,19;**QF:** Gao d. Sally Dahlin, 10,4, Yang d. Nan Li, 14,19; Yip d. Hong Zhao, 27,15, Feng d. May Lin, 17,19.

Women's All-Star Singles—Final: Amy Feng d. Lily Yip, -21,10,15;**SF:** Feng d. Nan Li, 10,11, Yip d. Joannie Fu, 6,15.

Open Doubles—Final: Chi Sun Chui/Razvan Cretu d. Gao Jun/Amy Feng, 19,-21,9;**SF:** Feng/Gao d. Amy Chan/May Lin, 11,5; Chui/Cretu d. Reed/Zhuang, 18,-21,15.

Mixed Doubles—Final: Amy Feng/David Zhuang d. Gao Jun/Razvan Cretu, 19,-21,15;**SF:** Feng/Zhuang d. Zoltan Puzstai/Simone Yang, 14,-21,17; Gao/Cretu d. Lily Yip/Barney Reed, 16,13.

All-Star Over 40—Final: Joseph Chen and Steve Ma, co-champions; Chen d. Bob Mandel, 16,18; Ma d. Gabor Berezvai, def.

Over 40—Final: Gabor Berezvai d. Francis Pang, 17,11;**SF:** Berezvai d. Alan Bajkov, -22,18,19; Pang d. Ken Lin, 12,11.

Boy's All-Star Under 18—Final: Barney Reed d. Philip Lim, 18,15;**SF:** Reed d. Edward Chang, 15,15; Lim d. Jimmy Guan, 19,15.

Girl's All-Star Under 18—Final: Nan Li d. Sally Dahlin, 14,14;**SF:** Li d. Whitney Ping, Dahlin d. Stacey Lee, 13,7.

All-Star Under 16—Final: Nan Li d. Philip Lim, 18,18;**SF:** Li d. Phong Ho, 18,19; Lim d. Freddie Gabriel, 17,10.

High School & Under—Final: Phong Ho d. Freddie Gabriel, 14,-17,15;**SF:** Ho d. Vincent Kwong, 15,19; Gabriel d. Alvin Li, 19,-10,11.

Under 15—Final: Freddie Gabriel d. Vincent Kwong, 10,-17,26**SF:** Gabriel d. Leo Yee, 17,18; Kwong d. Terrence Lee, 19,11.

Under 12—Final: Vincent Kwong d. Terrence Lee, 9,17;**SF:** Kwong d. Whitney Ping, 15,14; Lee d. Emily Ping, 15,12.

Under 2400—Final: Zoltan Puzstai d. Ramin Samari, -21,17,16;**SF:** Puzstai d. Danny Ho, 19,19; Samari d. Nan Li, 16,14.

Under 2200—Final: Joe Luo d. Phong Ho, 18,18**SF:** Luo d. Steve Ma, 12,10; Ho d. Jay Crystal, 9,-18,12.

Under 2000—Final: Alan Bajkov d. Phong Ho, 21,10,16;**SF:** Bajkov d. Bob Mandel, 15,12; Ho d. Ken Ping, 16,12.

Under 1850: Amy Chan d. Aleksandr Berenbeym, 14,13.

Under 1700: Tai Nguyen d. Man Yan, 19,17.

Under 1550: Kelvin Chui d. Harry Luk, 16,-20,10.

Under 1400: Man Yan d. Kelvin Chui, 19,-19,15.

Under 1250: Final Phuong Le d. Tony Vo, 9,13.

Under 1100: Hien Le d. Thanh Nguyen, 11,9.

Under 900: Hien Le d. Herb Rand, 14,-16,11.

Under 700: Kalin Ip d. Ginny Wolfe, 11,14.

Under 500: Marta Hurley d. Kelly Burns, 11,12.

Under 3200 Doubles: Johnson Tong/Espen Lovold d. Phuong Le/Anh Le, -13,18,20.

Under 2400 Doubles: Phuong Le/Hien Le d. Alvin Li/Kalin.

SCHILDKROT OPEN

Emery High School
Emeryville, CA
December 2 & 3, 1995
by Tong Lee

After more than 16 years at Berkeley High, the Berkeley TTC recently relocated to nearby Emery High at San Pablo Avenue and 47th Street, Emeryville. The new facility is cleaner, larger, and has better lighting than the previous place. To celebrate and publicize the move, Berkeley TTC, with Schildkrot, a manufacturer of table tennis equipment, as a co-sponsor, organized this two-day, two-star tournament. The tournament offered

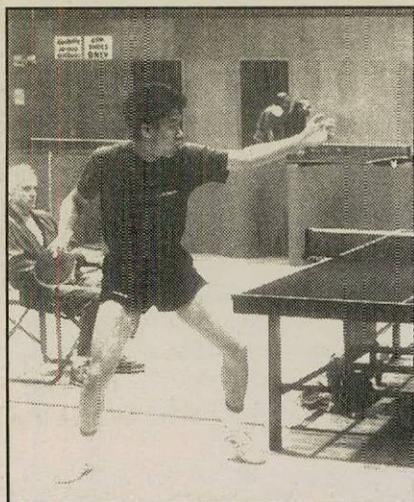


Photo by Joe Holman ©1996

Open Singles Champion Chi-Sun Chui.

\$1,360 in prize money and awards and attracted over 100 participants, including a contingent of eight highly-rated players from Southern California. Using 16 tables, the 11 singles events were played on the first day and the three team events were played the next day. All 14 events, including Open Singles, used a round-robin format. In the team events, each Open Team fielded three players per tie. The first two players played two matches against the corresponding players of the opposing team while the third player played one against his counterpart on the other team. The U3900 and U2800 team events had a different format: each team fielded two players playing two singles each and one doubles.

Open Singles attracted a strong field headed by four high-2200 Southern California players (2288 Chaiyaphoon Choptaeng, 2283 Hong Zhao, 2266 Ramin Samari, and 2259 Thongranh Thao) to challenge the two top guns, 2487 Chi-Sun Chui and 2371

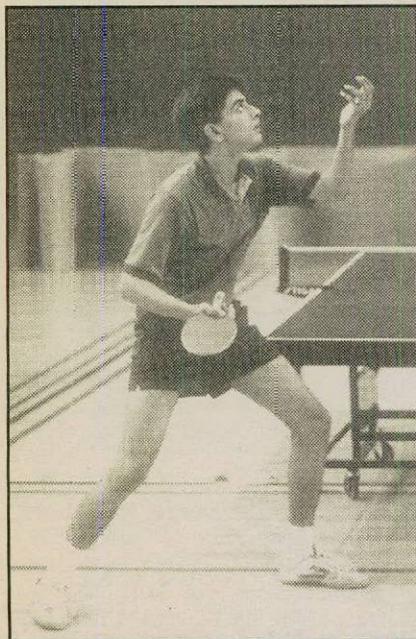


Photo by Joe Holman ©1996

Open Finalist and Under 2400 Champion Shashin Shodhan.

Shashin Shodhan. True to the seedings, these six players advanced out of the round robins. Thao beat Choptaeng to earn a semi against Chui while Samari defeated Zhao for a shot at Shodhan. Chui prevailed 3-0 and Shodhan ended Southern California's challenge by beating Samari 3-1. In the final, Chui defeated Shodhan 3-0 in a close match to win the top prize of \$300.

In the U2400, Shodhan could not again be denied and snagged the \$150 first prize in an incredible come-from-behind victory against Ramin Samari. In the semifinals, Shodhan had defeated tricky penholder Hong Zhao. Zhao, who could flip from inverted rubber to long pips very deftly with one hand, had Shodhan frustrated at first. She would counter soft and short with her long pips to neutralize Shodhan's power game and to cause him to hit out very often. At times, she would attack either with her pips or flip over and attack with inverted rubber. However, after losing the first game, Shodhan learned how to play her, won the second easily and eked out a win in the third—after being down 20-16 match point! In the other semi, Philip Lim lost a heart-breaker to Samari, losing at 19 in the 2nd and the 3rd games after easily taking the first. In the final, Shodhan was once again way down, down 20-13 match point in the third to Ramin Samari—and came back to win!

Southern California players did not go home empty-handed. The team of Hong Zhao/Ramin Samari/Chaiyaphoon Choptaeng won the Open Team and \$250 over Shashin Shodhan/Voltaire Trillo/Philip Lim. Samari also took home \$75 as runner-up in the U2400.

Some highlights of the tournament include the following:

Patrick Lam rated at 1713, won the U2000 over 1927 Barry Tesar.

Durga Agarwal who must have watched his son Vineet win many awards over the years, and started playing recently, himself won his first ever trophy by taking 2nd place in the U1000. Mr. Agarwal, this Bud's for you, sir!

Junior players did well in winning 7 of 14 events.

14-Year old Philip Lim upset 2288 Chaiyaphoon Choptaeng and he and his teammates took 2nd in the Open Team.

13-year old Freddie Gabriel was the only triple winner. He won the U2200, Under 17, and U3900 Team. In 19 matches, Freddie won 17 and lost only 2 (to Chi-Sun Chui in the Open and Philip Lim in Under 2400). Freddie also upset Chaiyaphoon Choptaeng and achieved several personal firsts: first win in an event rated over 2000 and first-time tournament victories over 2101 Quan Huynh and Philip Lim.

12-year old Terrence Lee was a double winner in the U1800 and the U3900 Team with partner Freddie Gabriel.

Junior Jiyoung Choi, rated at 418 in the September/October *TTToday*, was the only other double winner in the U1200 and the U2800 Team with David Rudisill.

Junior Ian Paris-Salb, rated at 753, won the U1000. He beat U1200 winner Jiyoung Choi en route to the final.

Tournament director Hugh Fountain, supported by Shonie Aki, Lum Ding, John Miller (S. California), and Jim Ritz (tournament referee) among others, put up an enjoyable and well-run tournament. There were a lot of friendly rivalry and loud, partisan cheering in many matches between a Southern and a Northern California player, especially in the Open Team finals. Despite the lack of time for planning and publicity because the decision to move Berkeley TTC was finalized only about 3 months ago, the participation of 100+ players must have been heartening to the organizers. Perhaps,

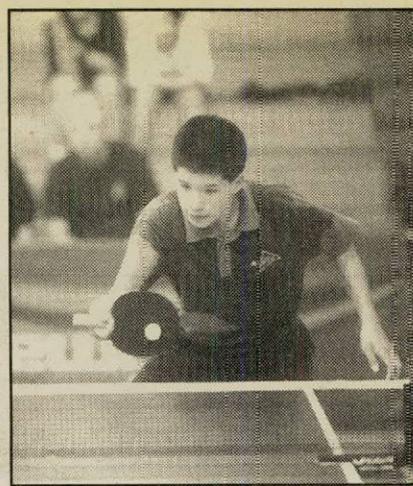


Photo by Joe Holman ©1996

U.S. Jr. High School Boys' Champion Philip Lim (above) and U.S. Primary School Girls' Champion Michelle Do in action at the Schildkrot Open.



Photo by Joe Holman ©1996

having all the events in a RR format had something to do with it. It seems that, nowadays, players want more value for their money and are motivated to participate, if they can play more matches and perceive greater opportunities to play against better players. I especially enjoyed writing this article which I completed within one day as the organizers gave me all the information needed immediately after the tournament.

Open Singles—Final: Chi-Sun Chui d. Shashin Shodhan, 15,19,20; **SF:** Chui d. Thongranh Thao, 17,16,11; Shodhan d. Ramin Samari, -18,13,14,14.

Over 50—1st: Gregory Reznikov **2nd:** Jim Ritz.

Under 17—Final: Freddie Gabriel d. Piotr Zajac, 11,-10,17; **SF:** Gabriel d. Vineet Agarwal, 12,12; Zajac d. Michelle Do, 18,13.

Open Team—1st: Hong Zhao/Chaiyaphoon Choptaeng/Thongranh Thao, **2nd:** Shashin Shodhan/Voltaire Trillo/Philip Lim.

Under 3900 Team—1st: Freddie Gabriel/Terrence Lee, **2nd:** Horace Cheng/Bunny Lee.

Under 2800 Team—1st: Jiyoung Choi/David Rudisill, **2nd:** Cliff Ferriera/Bob Partridge.

Under 2400—Final: Shashin Shodhan d. Ramin Samari, -18,15,20; **SF:** Shodhan d. Hong Zhao, 10,-13,10; Samari d. Lim, -13,19,19.

Under 2200—Final: Freddie Gabriel d. James Therriault, -17,18,13; **SF:** Gabriel d. Philip Lim, -19,17,19; Therriault d. Voltaire Trillo, -18,15,20.

Under 2000—Final: Patrick Lam d. Barry Tesar, 13,17; **SF:** Lam d. Tuan Hoang, 17,17; Tesar d. Kent Leung, 10,12.

Under 1800: Terrence Lee d. Kingston Gee, 17,13.

Under 1600: David Smith d. David Rudisill, 18,19.

Under 1400: Raymond Chow d. John Nguyen, 10,19.

Under 1200: Jiyoung Choi d. Chuan Tan, 16,12.

Under 1000: Ian Paris-Salb d. Durga Agarwal, 17,16.

Avalox

The choice of the World Champions

• #1- Men's Teams

(4 of 5 players: Ma Wenge, Kong Linghui, Wang Tao, Liu Guoliang)

• #1- Men's Singles

(3 of the top 4: Kong Linghui, Wang Tao, Liu Guoliang)

• #1- Men's Doubles

(Wang Tao, Lu Lin)

• #1- Mixed Doubles

(Wang Tao, Liu Wei)

5-ply blades (AN, FL, CO, ST, P) \$44.-
7-ply blades (AN, FL, CO, ST, P) \$44.-
Avalox "Purot" rubber 2.1 mm : \$22.-
Avalox "Sogno" rubber 2.1 mm : \$22.-
free shipping for orders over \$40.- (others: \$3.-)

You've heard about Avalox - now it's time to try it!



To order call: 1-800-500-5057



Around the USA

Potomac Fall Open

Potomac, Maryland
November 18-19, 1995
by Larry Hodges



If Cheng Yinghua played like this all the time, he'd never lose! Just back from two months training the Taiwan National Team, Cheng had spent half his sessions as a training partner—and along the way, inadvertently gotten himself into the best shape he'd been in in years. It showed in his play, as he clobbered the competition.

Best match of the tournament: Jack Huang hustling all over the court making returns against David Zhuang in the semifinals. He lost the first, 24-22, won the second, 21-19, but then simply ran out of gas and lost the last two badly.

Jeffrey Ruff won both Under 1300 & Under 1000.

Open Singles: Cheng Yinghua d. David Zhuang, 8, 16, 15; **SF:** Cheng d. Dan Seemiller, 11, 20, 7; Zhuang d. Jack Huang, 22, -19, 5, 14; **QF:** Cheng d. Gao Jun, 12, 13; Seemiller d. Sean O'Neill, 20, 11; Huang d. Huazhang Xu, -15, 15, 18, Zhuang d. David Fernandez, 19, 15.

U2400—Final: David Fernandez d. Richard Lee, 13, 13; **SF:** David Fernandez d. David Sakai, 13, -19, 19, Richard Lee d. Jeff Levy, 17, 22.

U2250—Final: Sunny Li d. Mark Allen, 17, 9; **SF:** Mark Allen d. Larry Hodges, 16, 18; Sunny Li d. Heng-Chi Chang, 19, 11.

U2100: Patrick Lui, Heng-Chi Chang, split.
U1900: Michael Eng d. Lewis Bragg, 8, 14.

U1600: Dan Cravens d. Alvin Busey, 13, 18.

U1300: Jeffrey Ruff d. George Anderson, 15, 18.

U1000: Jeffrey Ruff d. Hue Ly, 16, 19.
Novice: Zhongwei Lu d. Jay Finkel, 7, 15.

O40 Srs: Dan Seemiller d. David Sakai, default.

U4200 Doubles: J. Levy/A. Strut d. C. Chang/D. Yao, 17, 20.

U3600 Doubles: R. Guidote/Anderson d. Y. Cheng/Oppenheimer, 19, -19, 18.

Colorado Fall Open

Colorado Springs, Colorado
December 2-3, 1995



Open Singles: 1st Sai Kwok; 2nd Eric Benton.

Class A Doubles: 1st Kevin Young/Dave Taylor; 2nd Sai Kwok/David Vollmar

Class B Doubles: 1st Bruce MacLaine/Jim Walker; 2nd Eric Benton/Jonah Joel

Class C Doubles: 1st Nancy Lewis/Seung Kim; 2nd Nathan Nowack/Mike Gilbert

Class D Doubles: 1st Daniel Hambleton/Karen Hambleton; 2nd Scott Kressner/Bill Kressner

U2000: 1st David Vollmar; 2nd Eric Benton
U1800: 1st Daniel Hambleton; 2nd Jack Middlecoff

U1600: 1st Kent Henderson; 2nd David Jaros

U1400: 1st Allen Watson; 2nd Dave Kaweck

U1200: 1st Keny Whitright; 2nd Andrew Parker

U1000: 1st Chuch Nitka; 2nd Conrad Zorn

NTTC October Open

National Table Tennis Center
Rockville, Maryland
October 28-29, 1995
by Larry Hodges



Huazhang Xu, after taking off nearly a year to concentrate first on school, then on work, came back with a flourish, winning Open Singles by defeating Sean O'Neill, Jack Huang, and Gao Jun—all in straight games! There were a number of exciting 5-game thrillers, with Gao Jun (U.S. #1 woman) defeating David Fernandez in five in the quarters, and Dan Seemiller in the semifinals, also in five. Seemiller defeated Barney J. Reed in five in the quarterfinals, coming back from down 2-1. Fernandez then went on to win U2450 without losing a game.

Double event winners were this writer (U2300 & U2150) and Dennis Taylor (1650 & U1450).

Open Singles—Final: Huazhang Xu d. Gao Jun, 15, 15; **SF:** Huazhang Xu d. Jack Huang, 18, 20, 18; Gao d. Dan Seemiller, -12, 18, 15, -8, 18; **QF:** Gao d. Dave Fernandez, -18, 15, 14, -14, 14; Dan Seemiller d. Barney J. Reed, 16, -14, -14, 17, 16; Huazhang Xu d. Sean O'Neill, 17, 17, 18; Huang d. Larry Hodges, def.

U2450: Dave Fernandez d. David Sakai, 19, 19; **SF:** Dave Fernandez d. Rich Burnside, 3, 12; David Sakai d. Larry Hodges, 17, -17, 15.

U2350: Larry Hodges d. David Sakai, -14, 11, 16; **SF:** David Sakai d. Rich Burnside, 15, 15; L. Hodges d. Medhat Lamfon, 14, 12.

U2150: Larry Hodges d. Changping Duan, 15, 18; **SF:** Hodges d. Gary Elwell, 13, -10, 7; Duan d. Terry Lonergan, 13, 12.

U2000: Medhat Lamfon d. John Dang, 18, 19; **SF:** Lamfon d. Terry Lonergan, 19, 12; Dang d. Marvin Plevinsky, 17, 9.

U1850: Rolando Guidote d. John C. Anderson, 10, 10.

U1650: Dennis Taylor d. Julian Waters, 19, 17.

U1450: Dennis Taylor d. Joel Hammersmith, 15, 15.

U1250: John Vos d. V. R. Aker, 8, 17.
U950: Alex Feldman d. Jianqing Lan, 13, 9.

NTTC December Open

National Table Tennis Center
Rockville, Maryland
December 2-3, 1995



Open Singles—Final: Jack Huang d. Sunny Li, def.; **SF:** Li d. Dave Sakai, 12, 18, -19, 20; Huang d. Terry Lonergan, 8, 9, 10.

U2450—Final RR: 1st: Dave Sakai, 4-0; 2nd: Sunny Li, 3-1; 3rd: Terry Lonergan, 2-2; 4th: John Salas, 1-3.

U2300—Final: Dave Sakai d. Medhat Lamfon, 15, -18, 13; **SF:** Sakai d. David Yao, 18, 12; Lamfon d. Terry Lonergan, 15, 12.

U2150—Final: David Yao d. Medhat Lamfon, 14, 19; **SF:** Yao d. Terry Lonergan, 16, 17; Lamfon d. Gerald Reid, 15, -15, 11.

U2000—Final: David Zhang d. Roger Martin, 21, 22; **SF:** Zhang d. Osama Janshah; Martin d. Gerald Reid, 15, -15, 15.

U1850: James Hullihen d. Doua Lee, 11, -19, 14.

U1650: James Hullihen d. Dennis Tayloner, 15, 13.

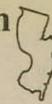
U1450: George Anderson d. Chuck Rothrauff, 19, 18.

U1250: Mark Malench d. Dan Orfield, 12, 16.
U950: Cheng Yeh d. Brian Dubas, 15, 14.

Over 40—Final RR: 1st: Dave Sakai, 3-0; 2nd: Terry Lonergan, 2-1; 3rd: Carlos Ebron, 1-2; 4th: Bernard Gibson, 0-3.

NJTTC December Open

December 9 & 10, 1995
Westfield, New Jersey



Open Singles: David Zhuang d. Dave Fernandez, -12, 12, 8, 14; **SF:** David Zhuang d. Lily Yip, 14, 19, 8; Dave Fernandez d. Barry Dattel, def.

U2300: Anani Lawson d. Paul David, -19, 15, 18; **SF:** Paul David d. Milagros Llosa, 15, 17; Anani Lawson d. Patrick Mualem, 10, -19, 11.

U2100: Patrick Mualem d. Oleg Zalesskiy, 19, -19, 19.

U1900: Brian McKnight d. Min Guo, 14, 14.

U1700: Anatoly Shatskov d. Wali Broadway, 6, 11

U1500: David Rockir d. Jay Bailey, 18, -26, 15.

U1350: Jeffrey Ruff d. Mark Malench, 18, 13.

U1150: Kamaal Haque d. Wayne Hodges, 21, 18.

U950: Amos Williams d. Wayne Hodges, 8, 19.

Women's Singles: Lily Yip d. Milagros Llosa, 4, 10.

Over 40: P. Mojaverian d. Simon Shtofmakher, -19, 10, 10.

Over 40, U1700: Anthony Yau d. Wali Muhammad

Under 18: Kartik Venkatram d. Jonelle Holder

Under 14: Kartik Venkatram d. Oleg Bisker, 19, 19.

U3100 Doubles: D. Rockir/Meschino d. K. Hague/R. Samkoff, 14, 11.

U4200 Doubles: G. Brown/L. Bartley d. D. Zhuang/L. Wong, -11, 12, 19.

Middletown Open

Middletown, Pennsylvania
November 11-12, 1995



The best match in the quarters or semi's was between David Fernandez and Masamichi Kubo in the quarters. David came back from down 10-2 in the third to win. Kubo definitely has the fastest feet in the tournament.

In the final, Barney J. Reed played like a man possessed, but David Zhuang just had too much for him to handle.

Eight players picked up more than 100 rating points this tournament: Matt Simon, J. Agate, P. Chheang, J. Parry, D. Schrom, S. Site, M. Trumbore, and J. Valentino. Matt Simon played 21 matches in one day in going from 1897 to 2110!

Open Singles—Final: David Zhuang d. Barney J. Reed, 12, 12, -16, 18; **SF:** Zhuang d. Sean Lonergan, 14, 10; B. Reed, Jr. d. D. Fernandez, 15, 13; **QF:** D. Zhuang d. T. Beebe, 14, 14; S. Lonergan d. L. Hodges, 15, 16; D. Fernandez d. M. Kubo, 9, -13, 16; B. Reed, Jr. d. R. Burnside, 15, 16.

U2350: R. Burnside d. T. Beebe, 19, 13.

U2150: I. Trumbore d. M. Allen, 17, -6, 18.

U1900: M. Simon d. R. Pfeffer, 12, -23, 14.

U1700: N. Newcomer d. J. Clark, -13, 19, 18.

U1500: N. Newcomer d. A. Iyer, 6, 15.

U1300: J. Valentino d. J. Noyes, 10, 20.

U1100: T. Pritchard d. D. Delp, 11, 17.

U900: L. Barneycastle d. D. Schrom, -18, 19, 19.

Over 40: M. Trumbore d. C. Jackson, 18, -12, 16.

Under 18: Jeff Levy & M. Simon, split
Novice: D. Ravel d. B. Boothe, 14, 11.

U3000 Doubles: Bui/Castillo d. Bingaman/Frankoviak, -17, 17, 19.

GENESEEE VALLEY OPEN

Rochester, New York
November 11-12, 1995



Open: Craig Bensch d. D.J. Colt, 12, 11.
U2000: Al Villarica d. Harry Hawk, 12, -16, 16.

U1800: Ilya Buskanets d. Ira Goodman, 13, 23.

U1750: Ilya Buskanets d. Andre Moronian, 19, -15, 18.

U1550: Dave Jess d. Jeff Koch, 10, 12.

U1400: Dave Damouth d. Henry Ginsberg, 13, 9.

U1200: Dave Teigman d. David Chiazza, 11, 13.

U1000: Larry Landers d. David Chiazza, 17, -18, 14.

Over 40: Harry Hawk d. Dave Colt, 12, 15.

Over 50: Don Young d. Robert Maronian, 20, 17.

Handicap: Mike Landon d. Doug Kleinhammer, 51-33.

3000 Doubles: Mike Landon/Lucas Colt d. Mark Spall/Neil Shapiro, 20, 18.

St. Louis Fall Open

St. Louis Table Tennis Club
October 28, 1995



Open Singles: Andrew An d. Tri Dinh, -17, -18, 18, 18, 17. **SF:** Dihn d. Leonid Kapustin, 8, 6; An d. George Hendry, 15, 18.

U1900: Larry Chisholm d. Dominik Childress, 8, 19.

U1700: Fumio Yoshikawa d. Tom Klutho, 13, 14, -19, -18, 19.

U1450: Elvin Hoekstra d. Mike Klein, 19, 13, 17.

U1200: Charles Hefti d. Thomas Crosskey, 15, -16, 17, 16.

Jr. Singles: Michael Golde d. Michael Meier, 17, 11.

Sr. Singles: George Hendry d. Larry Chisholm, -18, 14, 19.

Open Doubles: Andrew An/Tri Dinh d. Jiqiang Chen/Carl Miller, 16, 16.

Rockford Halloween Open

Rockford Table Tennis Club
Rockford, Illinois
October 28, 1995



Open Singles: Spencer Lam d. Jason Miller, 15, 18; **SF:** Lam d. Luis Houed, 17, 12; Miller d. Englebert Solis, -14, 18, 17.

U2100: Lam d. Luis Houed, 19, 12.

U1950: Elie Daddab d. Mike Menzer, 12, -15, 12.

U1800: Paul Pell d. Komoi Phothiboupha, 17, 18.

U1650: Phothiboupha d. Bill Schwarz, 18, -16, 16.

U1500: Phothiboupha d. Martin Offergeld, 17, -20, 17.

U1250: Muhammed Ali d. Lia Myhre, 18, 13.

U1000: Charlie Grimm d. Lia Myhre, 20, -19, 20.

Under 18: Gene Szeto d. Lia Myhre, 8, 7.

Over 40: Tom Lawson d. Arnie Walker, 17, 9.

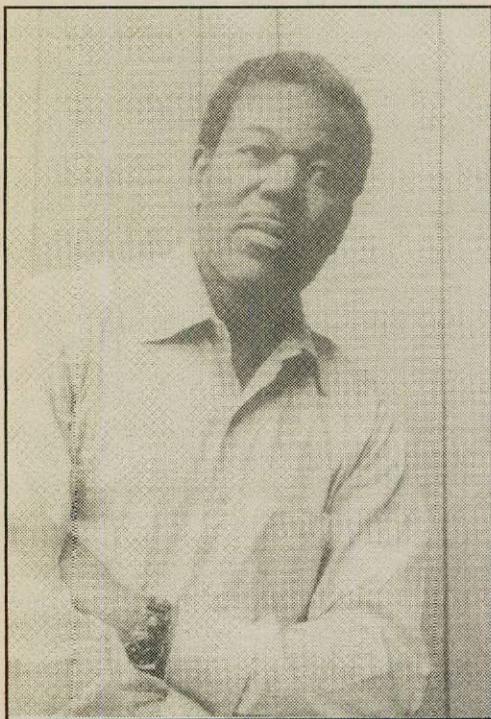
Local High School: Pheydara Vongsavanthong d. Justin Taylor, 5, 7.

4000 Doubles: Dabdab/Houed d. Walker/Miller.

In Memoriam:

GEORGE ROCKER (1920 - 1995)

by Tim Boggan, USATT Historian



In 1992 George Rocker returned to Philadelphia from the World Veteran's Championships in Dublin in triumph. With Waltham, MA's Benny Hull he had just won the World Over 70 Doubles.

A U.S. table tennis World Champion! To proud insiders, aficionados, that had to be home-town news, even to those who knew nothing about the sport. Or so you'd think until the Philadelphia paper George had reported the win to told him they'd...well...lost the one and only good action picture of himself he'd given them and perhaps even the small story, he'd, with characteristic modesty, prepared. "Sorry," they said in effect, to him, his family, and friends, "we'll try to do you justice next time."

Today, from the clipping Marv Plevinsky has sent me, I note that the Philadelphia Inquirer has tried to make up for the earlier neglect. What a great shot of George, what a nice story! Except of course he's no longer around to see it—having dropped dead of a heart attack while out jogging two days earlier in the rain....

...It would seem from the beginning it was just too late for George to receive much attention at all as a table tennis player. He didn't even start playing the game until he was 43, and, since the conditions at the dimly-lit, 3-table Center City Club were not conducive to rapid progress, Topics wouldn't give him credit for winning even a B's until Dec., '66 at a tournament in Baltimore.

The famous Hungarian world-class player Sandor Glancz, like George a gentleman and a sensitive sort, showed in a *Topics* Profile of Rocker how he understood and sympathized with what this middle-aged man trying to play the game seriously had to face:

"He [George] went through all the experiences a novice goes through, such as not being able to beat local opposition, not being able to kill a single shot through that kind of opposition, and ...not being able to win a single game."

Why then continue to play? Because, Sandor went on to say, George had talked himself into thinking "that all he wanted out of the game was that it keep him in good

health."

Well, it would do that alright...and a little bit more.

Since George wanted to keep himself fit, it was no accident that sooner or later he became good friends with fellow table tennis enthusiast and fitness fanatic Bill Sharpe. As early as the late 1960's, at the USOTC's, they played together on the same Philly Team. And as Bill improved, George did too—improved his play, his stamina, to where in successive turn-of-the-decade years he was the #2 Senior player in PA behind, first, Mike Lieberman, and, then, Cyril Lederman.

Of course, like Bill (who was a member of the Philadelphia Police Force), George had a full-time job as a Philadelphia Junior High industrial arts/electronics teacher. In addition, he had another hobby, one that sometimes took him away from table tennis, that of being a busy ham radio

operator. He wanted "to get in touch with someone in every capital of every country," his daughter Priscilla Peters told the reporter who finally came inquiring. "Then it was to talk to an operator in every state capital." Later, George would connect with the world of computers.

With the Jan., '72 William Penn Open at the new, open-7-days-a-week Philadelphia Club, George began to find his stride—he won both the Senior's and the Esquire's. Two months later, in the PA Open, he won them both again—in the Over 40's beating me, 10 years his junior. By season's end he had won the first of his U.S. Open titles, the Senior A's—and now was the top Over 40 player in Pennsylvania, and in that age-group (though naturally he also played in the Esquire's) was ranked among the top 5 players in the U.S.

Early in his late career, then, he'd begun to get the attention of those in the know. Whether the Philadelphia writers who were to come and go over the next 20 years took notice of George or not, History would yearly write his name.

Of course, he worked hard at improving. Morning after morning with his friend Sharpe he jogged in that same Fairmount Park in which one day he'd unbelievably collapse—as if Nature having begun its purifying drops had suddenly made some gigantic lightning-bolt mix of an error. It was only a year or so before Glancz himself was to suddenly drop dead of heart failure that he'd outlined in *Topics* 53-year-old George's early 1973 routine:

"He runs 2 and 1/2 miles three times a week. The last half is split alternately into 50 meters of walking and 50 meters of sprinting. He plays table tennis four nights a week from four to five hours a night."

Perhaps, since George had not yet accomplished all he wanted to before retiring, the physical fitness part of his regimen already included some weekly laps in a nearby pool? George...retire! O.K., one day...from teaching—maybe he'd already started preparing for an eventual job with an investment planning firm—but retire from table tennis? No way.

In fact, who was the President of that very successful North Juniper Philly Club

that was running the 1974 Eastern's? George Rocker.

And who, again and again in those mid-'70 years, with steady partner Bill Sharpe, would win National Senior Doubles Championships? George Rocker.

And who was the 1975 Toronto CNE Esquire Champion? George Rocker.

But George had outside interests and family responsibilities. And over the years, like his friend Bill, he would not take a sudden whimsical or half-hearted leap at that which necessarily came to preoccupy him, he would give that his best too.

Repeatedly, though, he returned to tournament table tennis—and often with great success. In 1980 he won the U.S. Open Over 60's; in 1985, at the age of 65, he was twice an event finalist at the U.S. Open; and in 1990—the year he and Jim Verta got to the semi's of the Over 70 Doubles and he himself the quarter's of the Over 70 Singles in the Baltimore World Veteran's Championship—he went on to win the CNE Over 60's.

"He went all over the place playing table tennis," said his daughter. "Every time we turned around, he was flying off somewhere."

Certainly *Topics* readers would know that George and 70-year-old Benny Hull, a past U.S. Champion himself, had been to Ireland. For at the 1992 Dublin World Veterans Championship, in the finals of the Over 70 Doubles, George and Benny put their we've-been-there, we-know-how-to-win experience to good use:

"Since George attacks the ball with his forehand and Benny favors a backhand flick, their natural combination play made them a formidable team from the beginning...."

"But to beat the particular Belgian players they were faced with, they felt they needed a little something extra."

"So they decided on a strategy: they would tempt their defensive-minded opponents by returning the ball just a little high, and, sure enough, when the Belgians accomodatingly topspinned at what they were slow to understand was not a safe half-speed, George and Benny countered for winners. This one tactic, it might well be said, made the 21-18, 21-19 difference and gave the Rocker/Hull team their much deserved Championship...."

"'Benny was superb!' exalted George afterwards. 'George looped them to death!' Benny exclaimed. Understandably, the partners were ecstatic."

George often seemed to think of his competitive table tennis life as a never-ending endurance race ("the one who en-

dures to the end wins")—with tournaments being the milestones along the way. Hence, though in Dublin in the singles, with the help of some coaching by Sharpe, George had fought back to beat a Finn, to win at least one good match before showing he was vulnerable, mortal, and though he had come home with a Championship no Philadelphian had ever seen the like of, he continued literally and figuratively to run.

1992...1993...1994...1995—the Laguna Hills, CA Bill Meiklejohn tournaments with their play-for-pay professional matches—he and Bill had to hurry off to those. And following that tournament trail Sharpe and Rocker won more than their share of Over 60 Doubles—and George in the 70 and 75 Singles too. Consider for a moment just those '92-94 Meiklejohn matches he had with veteran Californian Richard Badger: lost 22, -18, -7; won 25, -17, 18; won -14, 22, 16; lost 13, 12. And what a gutsy -19, 20, 15 win he had at the Meiklejohn over Lou Radzeli. Alright, so along the way he fell at Laguna, or at Anaheim—to Marcy Monasterial, Ken Hoover, Arthur Chase;

they were deserving opponents, they'd been in the running a long time too.

The last I saw of George was in the summer of 1995, at which time I could report:

"...he still runs, swims, and weight-lifts twice a week, reads without glasses, and in an effort to get even more out of his game...has, at the suggestion of his longtime friend Bill Sharpe, gone to pips on his forehead."

As perennial PA circuit player Hank McCoullum said some years ago of Philadelphia table tennis's most famous septuagenarian, he could keep his game "current by making adjustments."

The Inquirer was a little late in honoring George Rocker, but those who knew him well in Philadelphia weren't. Even before George and

Benny made their little adjustment to bring glory to themselves in Dublin, Ray Arditi, editor of the 1991 Philadelphia TT Newsletter, was paying special tribute to George. Let Table Tennis History keep that tribute here—a plaque on its wall—to remind us that homage needs to be paid the living as well as the dead:

"George Rocker, former President of the Phila. TTC, is a Philadelphian living legend. George has done it all. He's been a top player, club promoter, director, coach, and guardian spirit of the Philly table tennis scene for more than three decades. In view of his many outstanding contributions, George was recently awarded a LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD by the Pa. Table Tennis Assn."

Isn't it extraordinary what a determined man, and a man of exceptional dignity and civility too, can accomplish in his lifetime...from the age of 43 on.



In Memoriam:

WILLIAM J. SHARPE

(1932-1995)

by USATT Historian Tim Boggan

Start to see him not in 1995 but 1956—40 years ago, when he was young and free and far away from months of stretched-out suffering, morphine and unpatched pain; when there was no agony, no long last leaps of hope certain to fall short in him.

Then, with his family and friends, try to take relief in that finally, finally, despite all his courage and all that will to live, he was no longer subject to the cancer that would turn to waste 100 pounds of him....

...As a student at West Chester, PA State College, not far from Philadelphia, 24-year-old Bill Sharpe, while the 1956 NCAA Triple Jump Champion, made the first of his three straight U.S. Team appearances at the Olympic Games.

In the Triple Jump—also known as the Hop, Step, and Jump—the participant “leaps on one foot from a takeoff point, lands on the same foot, steps forward on the other foot, leaps, and lands on both feet.” In 1957, the year Bill joined the Philadelphia Police Force, he won the first of his three U.S. National Championships, and, after that last one in '62, he added the 1963 Pan-Am Championship for good measure.

Then he could start to play tournament table tennis—and relax.

Sure.

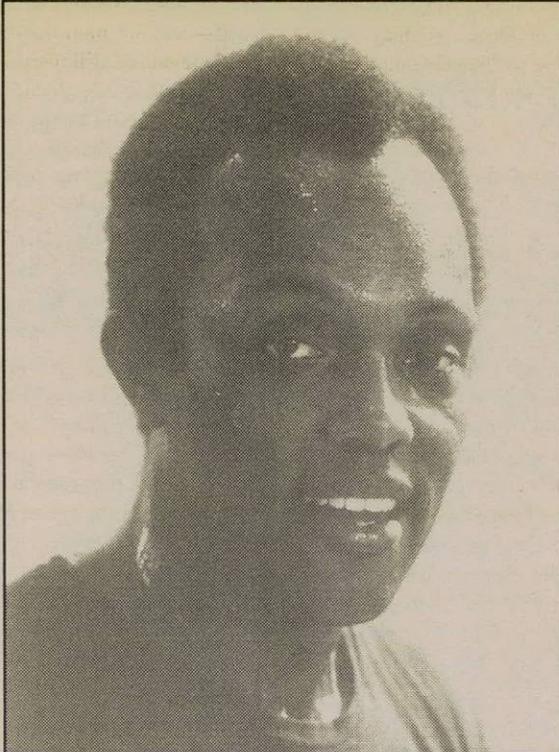
In March of 1965 *Topics* meets up with Bill at the PA Closed. No, he does not win the State title that year, nor the A's, nor even the B's. Champion that he was, Bill would still have to pay his table tennis dues. To make the racket-head expertly arc, the ball do the jumping while he himself, refusing to plant his feet, kept on the short-step move—this, too, particularly when he'd come to the game so late, would take practice, practice, practice.

But from beginning to end Bill was determined. It wouldn't take him long to win the B's—that was in Hyattsville, MD in Oct. of '65 where I, 16 months older and just returning to the sport after a 10-year absence, first met him. For 30 years we would have a back-and-forth rivalry—though in the latter half of those years I fell back and he leapt forward to meet a stronger New York challenge in Hall of Famer George Brathwaite, a former track and field star himself for his native Guyana, whose game as I look back to those intense years of the mid-'60's and '70's soon moved up to steadily outdistance mine if not always Bill's.

Within a couple of months of Bill's victory in that B event in Hyattsville, his friend and with him later several-time U.S. Open Senior Doubles Champion, George Rocker, would win the B's in Baltimore, and no doubt these minor successes, followed by more significant ones over the years, helped to encourage these two Philadelphia clubmates to form a decades-long bonding that not even death could dissolve, so closely did our loss of the one precede the loss of the other.

But as even a Michael Jordan knows, a superstar in one sport does not necessarily a superstar in another make. It would be three more years before *Topics* could report that Bill had won an A's...in the March, 1968 Connecticut Open at Bridgeport.

By 1969 tournament regulars were noticing how Bill had



been contesting matches with top players, but he still couldn't win the PA Closed. His loss to David Gaskill made him #2 in the state. In the U.S. he was ranked #38.

However, almost from the beginning, Bill had won some doubles with players so diverse as Ivars Stiebris, Erich Haring, and Steve Rigo. But it was with Philadelphia's Marty Theil that he formed an early enduring partnership. They became the top Doubles team in the area and year after year prevailed as PA Doubles Champions.

Bill could see he was improving: in 1967 at the USOTC's he had a 14-7 record in the D Division; in 1970 at the USOTC's he had a 10-10 record in the A Division. You might even say in the '69-70 season he'd improved a 100%, for he was now ranked #19 in the U.S.

For my first (July-Aug., 1970) issue of *Topics* I interviewed Bill, whose rank had risen elsewhere...he was now a Sergeant. Perhaps he had some sedentary desk job? After all, he was 38 years old, and maybe all that table tennis was wearing him out.

Sure.

What could Bill and I talk about?...Well, did I maybe want to hear about his daily exercises? “Why not?” I thought. “Could it hurt?”

“Run two miles each morning. Means maybe getting up at 4:30. Do 200 sit-ups. Then 50 leg races—that's bicycle movements for the lower abdominals. Then 25 push-ups. Fast as you can, you know. The 10 100-yard dashes. Then hop 100 yards on each leg, twice. Then 100 more sit-ups. And 25...”

“WAIT A MINUTE!” I say. “When do you go to work?”

“Why, this doesn't take but an hour and a half, two hours. In fact, it's only an inkling into what I did when I was on the Olympic team. Anyway, when I get home at night...”

(...Something about...a leg press...300 lbs.?)

“HEY,” he says, “aren't you interested? Don't you want to know about my wheat germ oil, soy beans, tiger's milk?...”

“No tea?” I venture.

“Tea? No, no tea. I don't smoke or drink either. Got three boys though....Know what I'm AIMING FOR? The U. S. Senior's.”

It may have taken him a while, but, with such passion, such dedication, what Bill aimed for in his Senior, Esquire, and Senior Esquire years, he generally hit.

Though he may or may not have had any vices before or after his real table tennis life begins at 40 and he starts winning Championships, when it's Party Time at an Open (a very graceful dancer he showed himself to be), or even when it's not, he has the sharpest three-day change of mod-1970 wardrobe ever seen at a tournament—Clyde Barrow/Warren Beatty hat, Harry Belafonte open-necked shirt, link-around chain belt, Tom

Jones—something all leathery.

...And now fellow Philadelphian Herb Vichnin's discovered a new 9-table Club on North Juniper?... Watch out, even if it were on North Jupiter Bill would instinctively take off, reach for the rings.

Ask Mal Anderson: he still remembers that Club's hurriedly-worked-on first tournament, the 1971 Liberty Bell Open—it's still ringing in his ears:

“Men's A. Bill Sharpe (1) worked at the club from 8:30 PM Friday to 3:30 AM. (2) went to work Saturday morning at 5:40 AM without any sleep. (3) came straight to the tournament from work, and (4) beat Doon Wong 21-19, 21-16 in the finals.”

As table tennis PR man Marv Plevinsky could tell you, nothing fuels the aficionado's fires like a homey Club of one's own. April, 1972: 40-year-old Bill Sharpe finally wins the PA Closed—beating all the state's top juniors, including Danny Seemiller in the final. You remember 1972—that's the year Danny will be the #1 qualifier on the U.S. World Team.

The 1970's will be a very pleasurable time in Bill's table tennis life. Not only does he win National titles, but in 1975 he's made Captain of the U.S. Men's Team to the prestigious Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) tournament in Toronto.

You think maybe he sided with the short-lived but well-intentioned Player's Association members who picketed Bill's own 1976 Philadelphia Open? Not a chance. But in the spirit of '76, in which he'd win that Philly U.S. Closed Senior Doubles with Rocker, he also never failed to recognize in all of us a community of free spirits. So a few months later he teamed with my 15-year-old son Scott at the CNE to win the A Doubles, and then with me at the '77 Closed to win the Senior Doubles.

Those mid-'70's years saw Bill and me as sometime partners but more often opponents—sharing Senior's wins at the Eastern's, for example.

During this time there was one Veteran's Day Open, an annual Philadelphia tournament, that Director Vichnin, doing the write-up for *Topics*, re-named the Bill Sharpe Open. No, no Memorial tournament for Bill 20 years ago. It was just that Herb and everyone else was stunned by the fact that Bill had won prize money in 1-2-3-4-5-6 events, everything he'd entered, including Men's Doubles which, though our combined ages made us almost 90, he'd won with me.

How'd he do it, how'd he keep winning? Saturday he played, and then on Sunday...for almost 12 hours straight! Said his friend and somewhat puzzled admirer Vichnin:

“Now anyone who's ever seen Bill play will tell you he has no talent. In fact, he has no strokes. And he can't move very well. But he keeps getting the ball back...again and again and again. Bill also has what it takes in the clutch. He is most dangerous when he's down late in the game.”

Of course Bill, who'd had no table tennis training in his youth, who couldn't be said to have even played the game until he was at least 30, had inside him whatever it took to be a Champion. But he was no superman—like all of us he was mortal, vulnerable. He lost the '77 U.S. Senior's to two-time U.S. Open finalist Jack Howard.

But how quickly, after his retirement from the Philly Police Force, he again put his best foot forward. At the 1978 Eastern's, with his head shaved bald (“Sharpe's in his Jack Johnson-period” someone said), Bill, not content just to take the A's, also won the Senior's—not once but twice as it were, knocking out Brathwaite in the semi's and Derek Wall, several-time Canadian National Champion, in the final.

“Think Phantom! Think Phantom!” Bill, mantra-like, had repeated to himself during play. And after his victories I wrote:

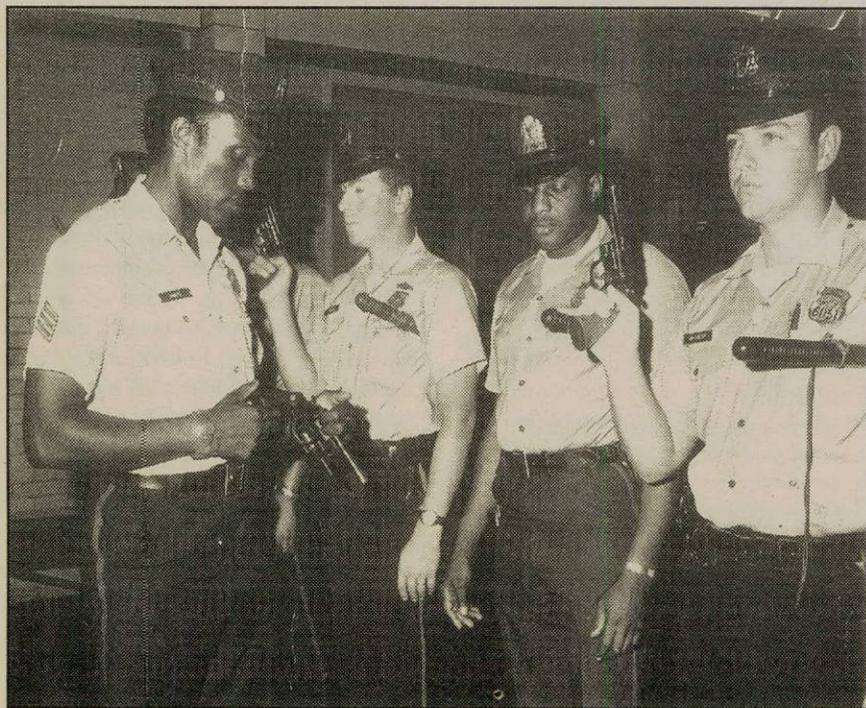
“Bill's Phantom on his backhand and, more importantly, the sophisticated way he uses it, shows his chess player's background. In fact, somebody said his ball moves like a dangerous knight (Kt x KR mate!). Not only was he pick-hitting that backhand hard but when George pushed Bill's Phantom back, up would pop the ball and Bill, anticipating well, would be on top of it to smack in the forehand.”

BILL SHARPE: A Tribute

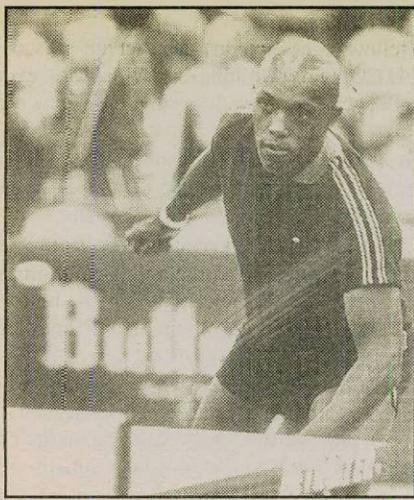
by Dick Evans

Is it arrogant to write about Olympians? Perhaps, but homage is due. It was my pleasure over the years to lose several times to Bill Sharpe. Most recently in the Anaheim U.S. Open Senior Esquire Doubles Final, where even though he had to lean on the table between points to recover, he was a champion still.

It was a pleasure to lose to Bill Sharpe because he was not only a champion but a gentleman as well. Table Tennis has truly lost an Olympian. But I am sure even now he is winning on the playing fields of Elysium.



Sergeant Bill Sharpe (L) of the Philadelphia Police inspecting the troops in 1973.



There was no let up. Bill—who was saying he only trained hard for the “big ones” (100 sit-ups, roll over, 2nd 50 push-ups, roll over...until he did 500 or 1,000 more)—again beat Brathwaite, U.S. #9 (rating 2318), in the '78 Senior's at the CNE.

He also won the '78 U.S. Closed Senior's—getting the better of two of his most formidable opponents over the years, many-time U.S. Team Captain Houshang Bozorgzadeh and several-time U.S. Champion Bohdan Dawidowicz.

Later that season he defeated U.S. World Team member Roger Sverdlik in a tournament and with a rating of 2242 was ranked U.S. #21. He was 47 years old, but obviously far from finished—though, with the loss of the full-time Philly Club, he now began to cut down on his play.

More and more it seemed Bill would be experimenting with blades and rubbers. Once, after I'd beaten him in an early '80's tournament, he said he was going back to pips-out because he needed a slow loop. Whenever he showed me a new racket and tried to explain the intricacies of an ever-changing technology, I had no doubt he knew what he was talking about, but I never cared as he did to grasp it.

Which is perhaps one reason why he was soon beating me again? Now it was in the Over 50's at the '85 U.S. Open.

Playing seriously or not, Bill always seemed to leap over the years and land on his feet. At the 1990 Tournaments of Champions (TOC) in Baltimore, Bill won the U.S. Open Over 50's from Dawidowicz. But, though he was never one to make excuses, he confided that all the surrounding chaos at the World Veteran's part of this ill-fated TOC so disgusted him that it just robbed him of any desire to play.

But that fall there was another CNE Over 50's to win. And since I could occasionally still beat Bill—we split Sun TV Championships in the early '90's, and since we could still win an Over 50's Eastern Doubles title, we decided to play the Over 60's together at the 1992 World Veterans Championship in Dublin.

Here, in one of the main halls of the Royal Dublin Society, Bill lost in the 8th's of the singles to a first-rate German who advanced to the semi's. Then in doubles, after successful preliminary play and a first round bye, we were faced with two strong Czech players (one of whom had gotten to the semi's of the singles). Although we won the first game at 19 when, following up Bill's openings, I unhesitatingly hit the ball in hard (including an ad-up return of serve), the change of order prevented me from continuing to get the balls I liked, and with one of our opponents now very effectively pick-hitting, I, more than Bill, couldn't adjust, and in the 3rd I began by playing poorly and after that neither Bill nor I could bring our team back.

However, Bill undoubtedly took satisfaction in coaching and rooting for his friend Rucker who, in capturing the World Over 70 Doubles with Benny Hull of the Waltham, MA Club, achieved the win of a lifetime.

In 1992 and 1993, at the Laguna Hills,

CA Bill Meiklejohn tournament (which by now, with its \$10-15,000 prize money, had the reputation of being perhaps the biggest of the “big ones”), Bill would win both the Over 60 Singles and (with Rucker) the Over 60 Doubles.

But at the 1994 Meiklejohn, Bill, despite playing a great 3-game match with Brathwaite, was uncharacteristically shut out of winning any 50's or 60's titles. The warning was there? He'd gone to fat, had he? Had no stamina anymore, no desire to win the “big ones”? And yet...:

“Before Bill came limping out to the table with protruding belly, butt, and banded knee, he'd talked about how his arthritis was acting up, how he was so out of shape he'd literally have to lunge for balls on his forehand, and how, though he himself was so heavy, the sponge on one side or another of his racket was so thin that he just wasn't comfortable with it. Meanwhile, I don't know how he managed it (the entry blank said you could enter a maximum of 3 events a day), but on this opening day he was playing in 6 events! And not exactly falling apart—at least not yet.”

Poor Bill. In the Anaheim U.S. Open to follow, what chance had he? Might as well quit, go home.

But too many years of trying and succeeding wouldn't let him quit. Perhaps...

A miracle?...At Anaheim, Bill not only won the 60's, he won the 50's too!

However, at the '94 Closed in Vegas, Nick Mintsiveris, the rising star of the 60's, avenged his Open loss to Bill, and at the next U.S. Open would duplicate Bill's feat of an unusual double 50's/60's win. But at Vegas Bill added another U.S. Championship to his list of honors—the Over 60 Doubles with Leon Ruderman.

I myself was playing less and less these days, so, although a new full-time Club opened in Philadelphia, I was not there to see the winter fires still burn in Bill. But burn they did, as if they'd never go out, with a 40's win over Brathwaite.

When I saw Bill next it was at the '95 Meiklejohn. I was shocked. Talk about being fit! I could hardly recognize him. Stupidly, I kidded him. “Hey, baby,” I said, “either you been doin' some mean trainin', or you got something bad wrong with you!” Given what I didn't know, it may well have been the most insensitive thing I've ever said. But never for a minute could I imagine Bill sick.

He knew me too well to take offense. He talked very openly. He was appearing here against his doctor's orders, 70 pounds lighter and in need of an immediate operation to open his bile ducts and stop the jaundice he'd been afflicted with. If this and the Anaheim Open to follow would be his last tournaments for a while, so be it—he wanted to play while he could. But, considering his weakened state—sometimes I'd see him doubled over, apparently trying, hoping by sheer force of will to marshal whatever energy he could—I really questioned, Could he play? And, if so, for how long?

But play he did, winning the 60 Doubles with Brathwaite, and by courageously conserving his energy and concentrating in a way very few athletes afflicted with—did he know? guess?—pancreatic cancer could, he got to the finals of the '60's before losing to Mintsiveris and to the semi's of the 50's before losing to Ron Von Schimmelmann.

The same Laguna Hills restaurant night after night—that's where Bill insisted to his friend Rucker they go. “Couldn't we go just once to a really nice place?” George asked. “No,” said Bill, “that's where I'd take my wife to.” But it may be that he really couldn't eat much and always wanted simpler fare that he could hold down.

Amazingly he continued to last—in the Open he won the 50 and 60 Doubles with Brathwaite and gave Mintsiveris a 20, 16 scare in the '60's. Then he was gone. Back

home, I don't know how many operations he had—certainly more than one—or how much table tennis he still insisted on playing.

I kept putting off calling him, even after he'd been stricken the more by Rucker's death. I knew he was dying, I didn't know what to say. It was a mistake—anything would have been better than nothing.

Sean O'Neill, our 5-time U.S. Champion, helped me to try to put away my regrets and extend what sense of humanity I have. He gave me an image I could focus on—can share with you.

Sean told me a story he'd heard from Ralph Boston, the well-known long-jump track and field star. At some important Meet many years ago, Ralph's roommate was Bill Sharpe. Boston awakes in the middle of the night to see Sharpe doing jumping-jacks. “Bill, what in the hell are you doing?” he asks. “I'm gonna set an American record in the morning,” says Bill. “Well then, I'd better get up and start doing jumpin'-jacks, too,” says Boston, ‘cause I'm gonna set a World record.”

The next day, as it turns out, Sharpe just misses setting an American record. But Boston does set a record—a World record!

And now what is so striking to me and of course to Sean is a photo in Track and Field News that he's seen of Boston caught in end-stride as he's extending himself to his fullest to make this world-record leap.

Why is that so striking?

Because there, in the parallel background, is this double figure—Bill—also a leap in mid-air, also extending himself, rooting his roomie on.

Could any unseen, hovering angel, some secret sharer of the dancing Spirit, care about any of us more?

It's a picture, I hope, we can all, whether we're Champions or not, stretch our imaginations to—a picture we can continue to carry with us, in the exuberance of our becoming, to respect and remember Bill by.

Remembering Bill Sharpe by Scott Boggan

Through the years of playing in tournaments, on those many weekends from morning till late night in whatever club, gym, or hall you'd be, you'd come to know many ping-pong aficionados, some of whom you'd like and others you didn't. Bill Sharpe was one of those persons you cared for, a very special man.

I can't honestly say I knew him well, his favorite meal, and so on. But in 20 years of play I never heard a bad word said about him.

I have many memories of Bill and they are all good ones. I remember in Herb Vichnin's Philadelphia club how he helped everyone—like Rich Farrell—with their game and with their life. Bill was a Police Sergeant and handled his own matters in as strict an accord. Yet he had an uncompromising sense of understanding others and their ways. The only picking away at people he did was with his backhand.

Many impressions I have of Bill coincide with those I have of my father who, being basically in the same age bracket, played with and more frequently against Bill. Bill got the best of my father and, along with my father, all people.

Bill and my father together reflect more than a simple perspective. This conservative-minded man with his modern Phantom backhand and strong topspin forehand paired up with the pre-'50's pips-out play of the liberal professor. His Olympic-strength black thighs side by side with those ghostly white toothpicks. That black and white picture alone suggests how Bill Sharpe, a gentleman with his own particular way of playing, accepted everyone, and how the rest of the world should too.

In Memoriam:

VIJA LIVINS

On Hearing of the Death of Vija Livins
by USATT Historian Tim Boggan



Vija Livins, my Long Island neighbor so to speak, was one of the many tournament players in her day who never achieved a National Ranking (though as far back as 1959 she was a Woman's Singles finalist in our local Closed). Once, I note, she did come close to receiving larger, looked-for recognition: in 1961, when only 18 women were ranked, she was one of just three to receive Honorable Mention.

A disappointment, no doubt. Could #18 have been so much better? Would it have hurt History to rank the others #19, #20, #21?

And yet look at the bright side. In what other sport can an unranked and so thought indistinguishable someone, who loves to be in on the action even as an also-ran, get to play as Vija did, in a U.S. Open, in an Eastern's, a future U.S. National Champion (Valleri Smith Bellini), a future Canadian National Champion (Violetta Nesukaitis)?

Nobody, winner or loser, wants to be embarrassed, but Vija didn't care, that disappearing '60's year in Baltimore, that she had only herself and another to enter in the Women's National Team Championships, wasn't up-tight that her one and only teammate, game to the end, could post no better than an 0-22 record. She, Vija, got to play—and not only 11-11 hold her own, but to actually beat Helen Sabaliauskas, now long buried in the Record Books as Helen Simerl, a former Women's Singles Champion of Canada. As even faltering Memory would be the first to attest to, that, over the years, had to be a very satisfying win.

And in what sport could a player of whom most took little notice win local Doubles titles with (Tybie Thall Sommer) a World Champion for a partner? That's scarcely your average Club member's lot.

So thanks to Livin's friend, also later her local winning Doubles partner, Eleanor Leonhardt, who called me with the unexpected news of Vija's death, I, for one, going back over the Topics of her table tennis life, see her differently than I did those cake-and-coffee, social-play nights at Mary Larsen's Rockville Centre home more than a quarter-of-a-century ago. An easily forgettable, nondescript player I'm sure I thought Vija then. With no table tennis life, no history I'd at all be interested in. But, ah, now...she's out there at the table playing and I'm sitting on that stairway watching her and eating a piece of cake. How serious she is, how intense...

Strange, but in this observance there's more communion than I would ever have thought possible.

The Death of the Tiger

by Jamey Hall

Editor's Note: I didn't think I'd ever publish a science fiction table tennis story until I read this. I hope you like it as much as I did.

CHAPTER ONE

Beginnings

It was late August, the year 2070 on Earth, and excitement was running high. Not only were the 10th intergalactic table tennis championships, an event held only once every five years, being held this year on D'ron 4; but this was the 50th anniversary of the first intergalactic championship held back on Earth in 2020, and the Overseer Committee was pulling out all the stops. With heavy financial backing from the Taxons, the committee had started construction of a new table tennis complex almost immediately after the 9th championship. It was rumored that some alien races never before seen would be competing. Of course, new races per se were nothing new to the competition, as it took some time for the introduction of the game to spread around the galaxy; but some of the new races had never before been seen in any capacity in the known galaxy. All that was known was that sensory satellites on the periphery of a far-flung trade route had picked up faint but intelligible communiqués that when deciphered read more or less like entry forms. It seemed *something* was coming, and that *something intended* to compete. The Overseer Committee, along with the rest of the galaxy, awaited their coming anxiously.

Meanwhile, back on Earth, optimism was running high. This year's team, the fruition of an intensive 20-year training program, might finally bring the Pan-Galactic Cup back to Earth, where it had been absent for the last 45 years. We had swept the inaugural galactic championships, it was true, but that was when the various alien races were just catching onto the rudiments of the game. By the 2nd galactic championship we were stunned to find that not only were we no longer the dominant team, but had fallen out of the top tier of teams, and had been relegated to the 2nd tier, a position we would struggle to climb out of for the next 45 years with only middling success. This year, new technologies combined with ancient wisdoms were supposed to change all that—along with a quiet little Vietnamese houseboy named Lo Ng.

Table tennis' runaway popularity in the galaxy had its beginnings in a happy little accident just over 60 years ago. The gargantuanly fat and frog-like Blurpians, notorious couch potatoes of the known universe, had been casually channel surfing along the audio-visual scanner waves in our sector of the galaxy when they happened upon a segment of the Olympic table tennis finals. It was insanely lucky that they did, since only about 12 minutes of the final were aired on Earth television that year (an all-time record), and only then because of some last-minute technical difficulty with a television commercial. But saw it they did, and the rest is history. That particular year, the two American stars, rivals, and former friends, Barney Reed and David Fernandez, were going at it once again with their characteristic fierceness and consuming animosity. The combatants were dancing around the court in a frenzy of countering, killing,

and diving at balls as though a missed point carried with it the threat of death. It was 23-all in the 5th game, the crowd was roaring, and the two were eyeing each other lethally as Fernandez prepared to serve. The Blurpians were riveted—and then the station cut to the now-fixed commercial and returned with the qualifying rounds of the Women's shot put, with nary another word about table tennis forthcoming. The Blurpians went wild with rage, and would've incinerated the Earth right then and there, had the means to do so been handy. But they weren't, and the notoriously lazy Blurpians didn't seek them.

What they did do, however, was to click around on Earth television for the next month in a vain attempt to find more of this fascinating sport. The Blurpians, video voyeurs that they are, were of course familiar with other Earthling sports such as football and boxing, which they considered utterly barbaric and vulgar; basketball and soccer, which they found pleasing in their athletic flow but intellectually unstimulating; and baseball, which they at first mistook for some kind of elaborate religious ritual. They had also run across tennis, which they must now conclude to be a sort of tin-plated imitation of table tennis invented as a cheap excuse for Earthlings to get a suntan. How ironic that now that they knew there was an Earth sport truly worth watching, it could be found nowhere on Earth's paltry airwaves. The situation was maddening to the Blurpians, and only served to whet their jaded appetites even more. They had to have more of this new, intoxicating sport. For the immense Blurpians, getting out of their soft pillow-pads, let alone going to Earth themselves, was entirely out of the question, and so through much cajoling and bribery, they enlisted the aid of the Taxons, a trader race, to take a message to Earth.

The bribes had to be high indeed, because first contact with a primitive people like the Earthlings was almost always an annoyance for the Taxons. There was sure to be mass confusion and alarm, misguided military interference and general populational insanity, yielding to an insufferable array of questions about technology, religion, taxonomy, etc. before getting down to the real meaning of the universe for the Taxons: commerce. And Earth was pitifully short in the commerce department. They had no natural resources that weren't cheaper or more easily obtainable elsewhere. They weren't terribly witty or entertaining, though the No-Names, the enlightened race, did see potential for evolutionary growth back in the 1960's and did make a few clandestine contacts. But Earth's radical stage was short-lived and a letdown, so the various intercommunicating galactic races had by and large left Earth alone for many years. And now there was to be an open contact? Still, the Taxons smelled a business opportunity. After all, if the jaded Blurpians were in a lather over this new game, then surely the more sporting races would be interested, and if the Taxons could secure exclusive intergalactic rights to broadcast the new

game . . . well, a deal was soon struck, and the Taxons were off to Earth.

The Earth's reaction to the Taxons' first overtures was predictable. At first the major governments of Earth were convinced the very clear radio signals received from the approaching but still distant armada of Taxon ships were part of an elaborate hoax cooked up by terrorists, or possibly the FOX TV network, to make the major powers look silly. And, of course, when the Taxons landed their massive ships on and around the U.N. building, worldwide pandemonium erupted. Panic-driven mobs ran helter-skelter through the streets as Earth's leaders reeled at the prospect of global invasion and mass destruction. Fundamentalist Christians were particularly taken with the prospect, Pat Robertson turning giggly as a school girl. When the smooth-talking Taxons, old hands at this sort of thing, managed to restore a little calm, they gave their now-historic U.N. address. The 9-and-1/2 foot tall Taxon lawyer ¡Grrxx!, with his pale blue skin, harmonica mouth, ears not unlike lighting bolts, and huge doll eyes, strode to the podium and gave the standard Taxon introductory speech to backward races.

"Greetings, you people! We have long admired you people's noble race, and feel that you people have advanced to the point of introduction to the intergalactic community. You people should be proud! We stand ready and able to answer any questions you people may have concerning life, death, the nature of the universe and so forth—but first we must ask one tiny little favor. . . ."

When Earth's shocked leaders found the only thing the Taxons wanted was exclusive rights to galactic table tennis promotion, they were so relieved that they immediately adopted a U.N. resolution on the spot, granting those rights to the Taxons for the next millennium, a move Earth would later grow to bitterly regret.

And that's when the worldwide table tennis craze began, though inexplicably one had been sweeping California only weeks before. People everywhere suddenly couldn't get enough of playing, watching, talking and reading about table tennis. Presumably, if superior beings from other worlds were interested in the sport, Terrans thought it might just be worth taking a look into themselves. People who had never played a game in their lives were suddenly proud of its Earthly origins, and members of the USTTA (the name had been changed back years ago) were nationally revered. Top level coaches were to be our first interplanetary ambassadors. Soon glittering Hollywood stars were pitching table tennis wares on TV, and the world's elite players, such as

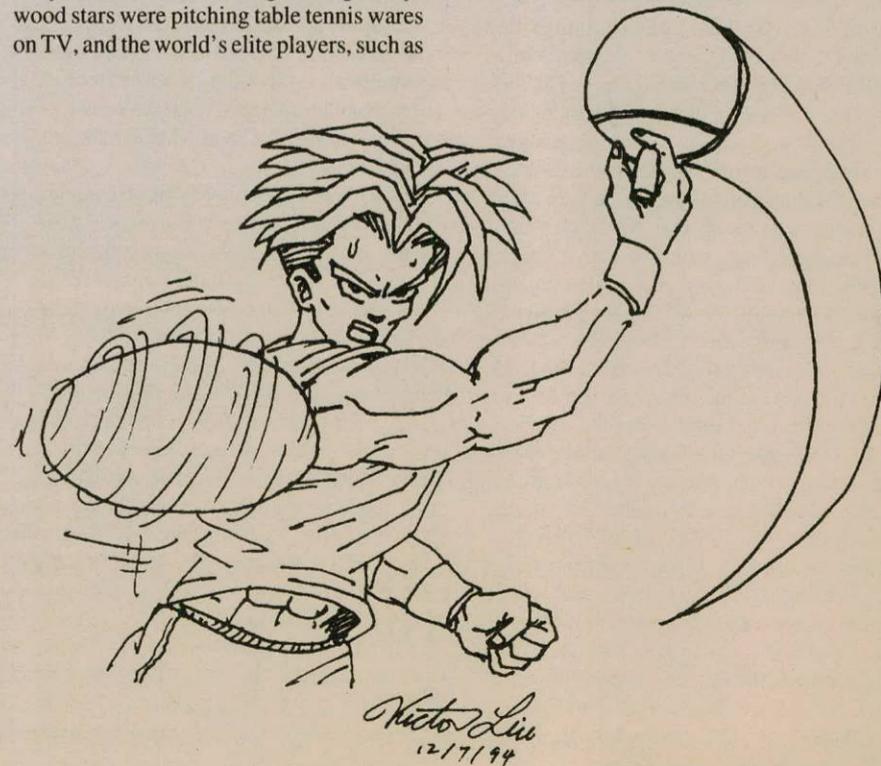
Barney and David, were gracing boxes of Wheaties and hawking Gatorade to the masses.

But the mania on Earth was nothing compared to the cosmic shock wave that hit the rest of the planets on the Taxon Pan-Galactic trade route. Whole solar systems and planetary alliances gobbled up the table tennis phenomena whole and were begging for more. Not surprisingly, many of the sporting races were quick to take a devotion to the game. What was surprising, however, was the sports popularity among races who had previously shown no interest whatsoever in competitive sport. Among them were the Shamarians, an empathic artistic race of dancers; the Gronks, a very stolid and hardworking mining society; the Thalaxzzzes, a society of insect-like humanoids who generally shunned any kind of interaction with other species, excepting essential commerce; and the No-Names, a very spiritual, monastic race whose lifelong quest was to find the great stroke and vibrate in it. These races, along with the more athletic races such as the feline Rurrians, the simian Doaks, the tentacled Zisters, and a smattering of others, all excelled, and all had their well-known stars.

Of course, this was not the case in the beginning. Since there weren't nearly enough Terran coaches to go around, Earth was deluged with extraterrestrial visitors during the first 10 years after first contact. To go from an isolated backwater planet to the galaxy's hot spot was a little overwhelming to say the least; but humans are an adaptable lot, and with the help of the mass media, aliens that had initially drawn slack-jawed stares had, after a couple of years, barely aroused a flutter from the natives.

These sporting emissaries absorbed what they could of the game and then returned to their home planets to modify, adapt, and integrate the sport's various techniques and tactics to fit their own unique species. At this the various alien races proved wonderfully adept—after all, they had been stealing and adapting ideas from each other for quite some time. They were so good at it, in fact, that in only the 2nd Pan-Galactic Championships, Earthlings were shocked to see a non-Terran walk off with the Open Singles Crown, a crown the humans had not won since. And more than once the All-Earth team had been beaten down to the 2nd tier grouping, having to fight their way back into the elite group of top ten teams. But for Earthlings hope springs eternal, and this year hopes were high indeed.

(Continued next issue)



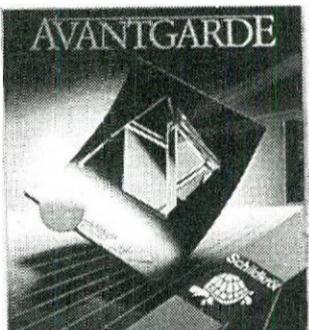
Artwork by Victor Liu ©1996

199 EUROPEAN CHAMPION

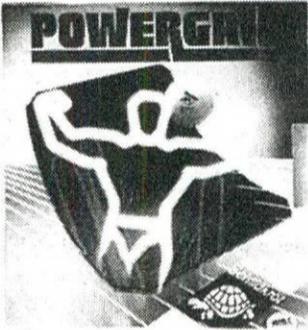
Jean-Michel Saive is using the Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubber sheets. To become the 1994 European Champion and the World Number "1" rated player is not possible with just any kind of racket and rubber! The new Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubbers were specially developed to give Jean-Michel Saive the best power, speed, and control needed for his devastating loops and lightning quick attacks.

SCHILDKRÖT

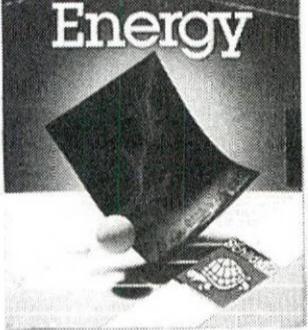
SCHILDKRÖT



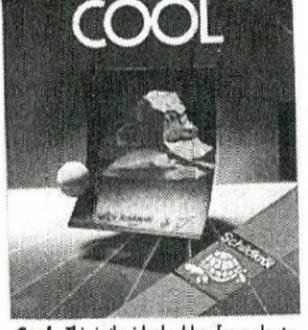
AVANTGARDE
Avantgarde, the best quality rubber for both grip and durability. Avantgarde is produced from flexible sponge that permits fantastic "drives". Attacking players will obtain excellent results with this rubber.
 Thicknesses: 1,5/1,8/2,1 mm



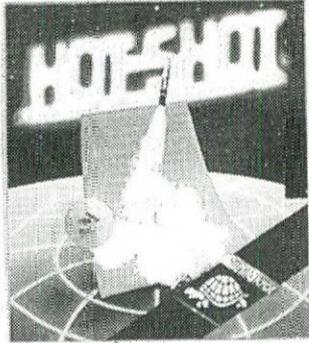
POWERGRIP
Powergrip - Chinese rubber with a special tacky surface. Powergrip produces enormous speed with very heavy spin. The chinese top rubber!
 Thicknesses: 1,6/1,9/2,2 mm



Energy
Energy - This rubber is full of "Energy". Flexible surface with good a grip suitable for a tactical player. The high density of the sponge helps strong attack.
 Thickness: 1,5 mm. 20. 2,2 mm



COOL
Cool - This is the ideal rubber for a player embarking in competition. It is very well balanced, durable and at a price which offers excellent value for money.
 Thickness: 1,5 mm.



HOT SHOT
Hot Shot - The attacking rubber for players who need strong grip combined with high speed. Even with high speed Hot Shot maintains good control.
 Thicknesses: 1,5/2,0 mm.



SKIN
Skin, the top rubber with a flexible surface. The very durable specially produced rubber surface provides excellent spin combined with long life. Skin is excellent for control due to the special combination of sponge and rubber surface.
 Thicknesses: 1,5/1,8/2,1 mm

Distributed by

勝利體育用品公司
VECTOR SPORTS TABLE TENNIS COMPANY

王朝乒乓球管新地址
 11923 BISSONNET (AT KIRKWOOD)
 HOUSTON, TX 77099

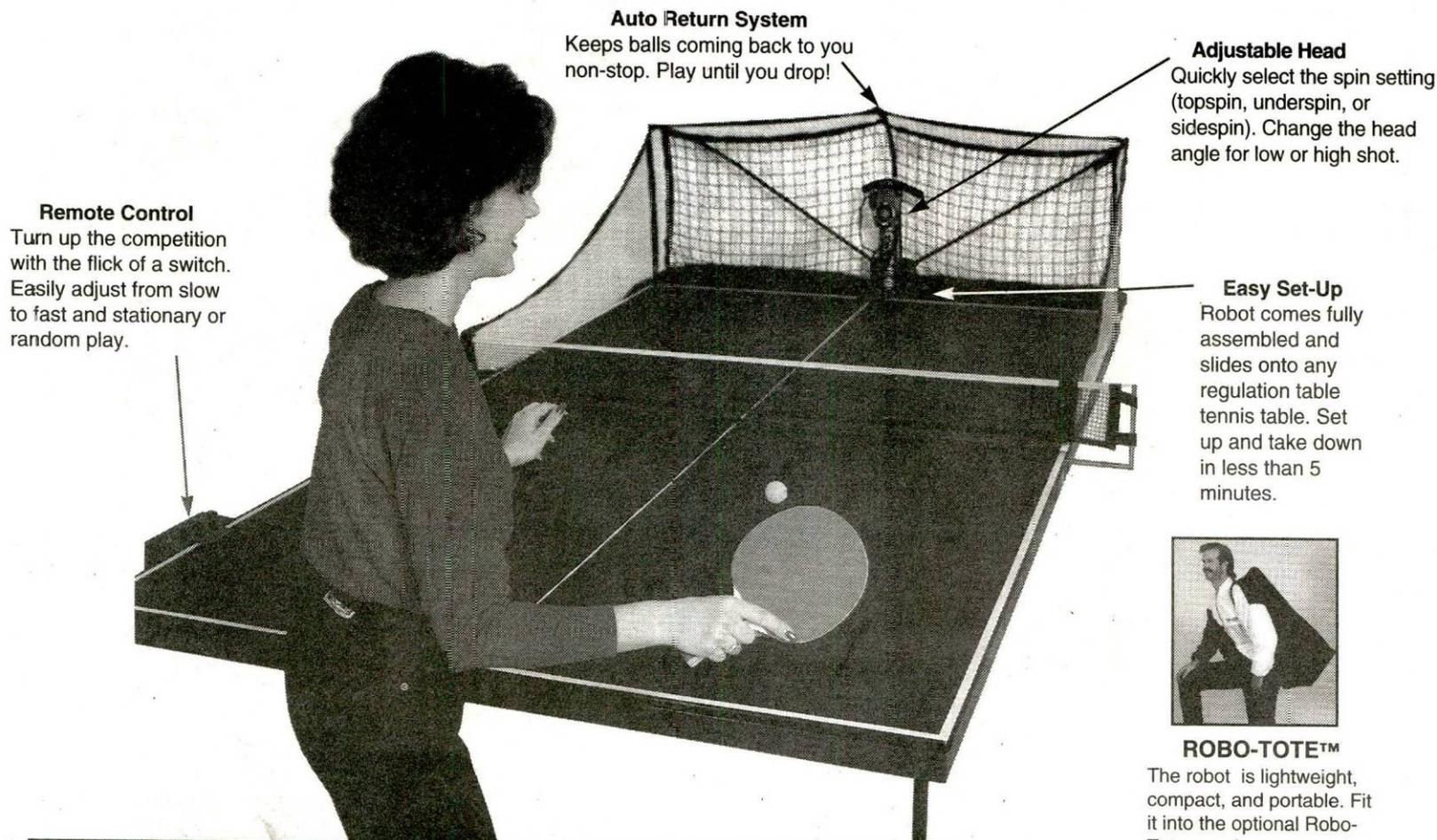


(713) 933-4099



THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!

ROBO-PONG 2000™ — YOUR ALWAYS READY PRACTICE PARTNER



Remote Control
Turn up the competition with the flick of a switch. Easily adjust from slow to fast and stationary or random play.

Auto Return System
Keeps balls coming back to you non-stop. Play until you drop!

Adjustable Head
Quickly select the spin setting (topspin, underspin, or sidespin). Change the head angle for low or high shot.

Easy Set-Up
Robot comes fully assembled and slides onto any regulation table tennis table. Set up and take down in less than 5 minutes.



ROBO-TOTE™

The robot is lightweight, compact, and portable. Fit it into the optional Robo-Tote carrying case and take it with you wherever you go.

Want to quickly improve your game? Then join the legions of top players who use Robo-Pong 2000 as part of their daily training. Take Keith Alban, for example. Rated 2217 at only 11 years of age, he is the only junior to ever win the Under 12's, 14's and 16's at the US Open in one tournament. His coach Marty Prager, says, "The robot is the cornerstone with which I develop my students' games." Or take Barney J. Reed, the top rated Under 18 player at 2462, who dominated the Under 18 events at the US Open, winning singles, doubles, and teams. His father and coach, Barney D., recommends Robo-Pong 2000 as part of anyone's training program, and states, "Its true-to-life spin and pin-point accuracy allows the set-up of any situation." And lastly, Sean O'Neill, 5-time U.S. Men's Singles and Doubles Champion, says it best, "I recommend Robo-Pong 2000 for anyone serious about their improvement."

If you're serious about becoming the best you can be, you NEED Robo-Pong 2000!



PONG-MASTER™

The world's first electronic interactive table tennis game. Can you beat the robot? It's tough. Comes with scoreboard, 3 sensor targets, and interface cable.

COMPLETE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Robo-Pong 2000 personal robot
- Pong-Master electronic interactive game
- Cables and connectors
- 4 Dozen Robo-Balls
- Remote control box
- VHS videotape
- 96 page instructional manual
- Owner's Handbook

Special Offer USATT Members

\$495 ⁰⁰	Robo-Pong 2000 (retail \$595 ⁰⁰)
\$99 ⁹⁵	Robo-Master (retail \$139 ⁹⁵)
\$34 ⁹⁵	Robo-Tote (retail \$44 ⁹⁵)
\$49 ⁹⁵	Robo-Balls, gross (or. or wh.)

(special pricing good only with valid USATT#)

30 Day Money Back Guarantee



400 N. Belvedere Dr., P.O. Box 959
Gallatin, TN 37066
(615) 452-6470, FAX (615) 451-2459

1-800-55 NEWGY

Call us NOW! 6 3 9 4 9