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Official Magazine of the
U.S. Table Tennis Association

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by Team Leader Bob Fox

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LEAGUE REPORT
by Cody Jones
National League Director

The first annual United States National Table Tennis League Program kicks off January through March, 1993. Leagues will run on a state-by-state level in participating states. Play will follow that of the traditional U.S. Open. Matches will be played among several teams to make play more interesting. Players must join the USTTA and pay a rating fee. No sanction fee is needed. Results count towards national ratings. After the last league meet in March, all results should be mailed to the National Rating Chairperson (with rating fees) and to the National League Director. Short articles about your league may be sent to Topics for possible publication.

You would like to be State League Director for your state, contact Cody Jones at 5800 Union Lake Rd. Lakewood, Commerce Township MI 48382. Phone (313) 360-5901 weekdays. See you in Detroit in November at the National Team Championships!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
by Kae Browning

Barcelona—What a breathtaking setting to showcase the world’s best athletes. I felt honored and privileged to attend the Summer Olympics on behalf of the U.S. Table Tennis Association.

What a thrill to see table tennis Olympians battle for the gold. I was especially delighted to see our U.S. players in action. Bob Fox colorfully recounts the play-by-play in his Topics article.

While I enjoyed my Olympic experience, I did not go to Barcelona to spectate. In fact, my schedule and logistical constraints kept me from attending any other events other than table tennis.

Rather, my focus was outside the sports arena:
The Olympics presented an excellent forum to meet with counterparts important to U.S. table tennis. During my visit, I met with several International Table Tennis Federation officials, including President Ichiro Ogimura. We discussed topics such as:
- 1992 World Doubles Cup
- The possibility of the United States hosting other world championships
- Grassroots development in the U.S.
- Sponsorship and marketing strategies
- Enhancing USTTA and ITTF relationships
- I also met with key staff members from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). ACOG officials were observing table tennis operations in Barcelona to prepare for the 1996 Olympics. Olympic organizing committees typically work with the international federations of each sport for technical information. However, ACOG is also seeking assistance from the USTTA. ACOG, ITTF, and the USTTA will define the roles and assign responsibilities during the next year. Our discussions in Barcelona set the tone for an excellent partnership between these three organizations. We have much to do in the next four years.

It’s unfortunate NBC’s telecast of table tennis highlighted was so short and aired in the late night/early morning hours. Hearing that eight other sports had no TV coverage at all is little consolation to us table tennis enthusiasts. Although national sports governing bodies have no control over network programming decisions, the USTTA will lobby hard for better coverage of the table tennis “home team” at the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta.

In the meantime, the International Table Tennis Federation will provide USTTA members with a videotape of 1992 Olympic highlights at cost plus a minimal postage and handling charge. Currently, the video is being edited and will be available for distribution through the USTTA in two to three months. Look for details on how to order this video in upcoming issues of Topics.

KENNEDY’S KORNER
by George “Gus” Kennedy
Executive Vice President

OLYMPIC GAMES, BARCELONA
The sport of Table Tennis benefited greatly by the presentation made in Barcelona. What was that without in attendance was a beautiful venue filled with volunteers, spectators and officials. The play was up to the standards of other major championships. Unfortunately the rest of the world will have little opportunity to view this wonder. The marketing forces that determine what is viewed chose not to show our sport on international television.

The unfortunate is when the producers, and not the public, make the decisions. The games were recorded and rebroadcast to the local area but have little chance to stick in people’s memory if not allowed to be viewed.

I was pleased that my trip cost me only the airfare and a little for food. (Friends from the Stawongyang Club, the Martin Oliver family, hosted my son Roger and myself.) I came home feeling grateful I am for this gesture.

I was able to really meet the people of Barcelona. The games for certain had their attraction but the local sights, such as the mountains, the beach, and of course the Ramblas walk in the city center are probably what I will most remember. I used the subway, bus, bicycle and motorcyle to see the community at all times of day and night. I hope I keep this method of experiencing all future Olympics.

XXVI OLYMPIC GAMES - ATLANTA
The preparation for the Atlanta Games was underway in Barcelona. Mr. Rodriguez from the Barcelona Games exchanged views with Ruford Harrison, the ITTF liaison. Wendell Dillion also gained experience as Deputy Referee in Barcelona. Mr. William Porter Payne also attended many venues and thus will direct the Atlanta Games with a much deeper insight.

ITTF MEMBERS
The ITTF made video recordings and photos in Barcelona to assist development; their promotional videos now include:

- A 3-minute short piece for those who wish to introduce table tennis to would-be spectators
- A 30-minute Official Record of the 41st WTTTC in Chiba, Japan

TABLE TENNIS IMAGE
The Japan Association has spent approximately $500,000 in the past five years to find the key to attracting young players to Table Tennis despite the fact that they have no World Champions. They found the key was to change the image of the sport from “Boring, Lazy, and Poor” to “Bright, Light, and Rich.” In order to change the image they are using white clothing, frer designs, color court mat, blue table, yellow ball, and ball boys. In order to know what their market is, they are keeping very good records. A record of all players is being kept. This includes all players’ addresses, phone numbers and club details.

A key factor is the success in television. Included with major championships will be family events. This includes events such as a “three generation tournament,” with local sponsors as such community showing their support for the team. This is sponsored by companies. It does appear that the public access television channels in the U.S. could well be a method to allow the community to watch table tennis.

OLYMPIC PROGRAMMING
The ITTF has now set up a separate Athletes’ Commission. Each Continental Federation will nominate one member and the Executive Committee will have two, giving both nominations. These members will be invited to ITTF Meetings. I am very pleased that this implements the U.S. and Canadian proposals presented in Sweden 1985.

U.S. CLUBS AND JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT
I identified in my campaign that my goal is the development of Clubs and Juniors. The next USTTA Executive Committee will be deciding the best course for the coming year. You deserve input to this decision. I strongly urge each of you to write any or all EC members and express your opinions on how the USTTA can help clubs and junior development.

I also want to thank David Cheung for saving my computer when it went down recently. Of course, as it turned out, it didn’t really go down—one of the cables had simply detached itself all by itself, and I reattached it elsewhere. Of course I had nothing to do with this.

I also want to thank those writers who have started sending me material on disk. It’s a great time-saver, and allows me to reacquaint myself with my bed a little earlier each evening. (Yes, morning.)

A special thanks goes out to Bob Fox, who not only was the “Team Leader” for the U.S. Olympic Table Tennis team, but also found the time to take notes and write the thing up well. Also a big thanks to our staff photographers, especially Bob Bogdan, Richard McAreer and Sheri Pitman—who slave away at their word processors for each issue.

Get ready, folks—next issue we’re making major changes! You might even want to subscribe to Table Tennis Topics you will ever receive. No, don’t panic—we’re not canceling the magazine, we’re just changing the name, to Table Tennis Today. Yes, we’re entering the ‘90s!

September/October 1992
The target when developing the new DynaPower blade was to offer the Top Spin Player a pure wood blade with high speed and power together with a maximum oversized 'sweet spot'. After testing many ideas and construction combinations our technicians finally found the perfect solution.

Using a newly developed process, we glued 9 veneers together to provide a blade with excellent top spin play and exceptional strength. These characteristics along with the large 'sweet spot' and modern, elegant look make the new DynaPower Blade from Stiga the choice of Champions around the world.

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SEE YOUR STIGA DEALER FOR DETAILS
REFFING IT AT THE OLYMPICS by Wendell Dillon & Bill Walk

It was a privilege to be selected to referee/umpire for the 1992 Olympics. The refereeing was the easiest thing we have ever seen. With only four events, Men's and Women's singles and doubles, and excellent sportsmanship, there were no controversies and little need for referee's decisions.

An umpire and two assistant umpires (AU) were assigned to each match, with the AU's sitting opposite the umpire at each end of the table. In that position the AU's were in an excellent position to judge whether or not the serve was over the table or behind the body. The same arrangement was used at the World Championships in Chiba and there were many faults called for behind the body. In L.A., the players had apparently figured it out and serves were the best we have seen in major competitions.

We used the point penalty system (adopted from the USTTA system). The system calls for Warning; Point; Game; then refer to referee for default, if necessary. A yellow card was shown for a warning and for award of a point or game, and a red card was used by the referee for a default. A yellow card was also used by the umpire to warn a coach about giving illegal advice during a game, and a red card if the coach persisted and was asked to leave the area. Several coaches received a warning, and one coach was red-carded. Several players were warned for slow play but no penalty. We did not get to see any warnings issued. We think that this indicates that the system works as intended.

It was thrilling to see outstanding table tennis played before a packed house of cheering spectators. The venue was great with the red floor, blue tables, yellow balls, and blue surroundings with no advertising other than the Olympic logos. We did see some track and field and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We thank the USTTA for sending us to Barcelona and would like to encourage umpires to work toward becoming International Umpires and participating in world competitions as officials. It's a great experience.

1993 USTTA ELECTIONS

The following offices are up for election in 1993 for 3-year terms:
Three Vice Presidents
Three Trustees
Contact USTTA Headquarters for a nomination form at 1750 E. Boulder St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909 (719) 578-4583.

MARY MCLWAIN WINS SCTTA AWARD by Tim Boggan

Last year the first Southern California Table Tennis Sportsmanship and Service Award went to current USA Functional Class Wheelchair Champ Jerry Davila. This year the Award goes to Rancho Cucamonga resident Mary McIlwain.

And what does this much appreciated plaque say?

"The SCTTA presents its Sportsmanship and Service Award to Mary McIlwain. The SCTTA is given for your moral, unselfish volunteering to write articles, take minutes, umpire, photograph, and help run tournaments. With deepest respect and gratitude for your charm, beauty, warmth and intelligent personal qualities, Mary is an embodiment of the ideal image of a competitor and friend."

Can't you just hear Mary laugh and say, "It must have been written by an Irishman!"

Sincerely,
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**Dwell Time**
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**Stiffness**
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The U.S. Olympic Delegation
The U.S. delegation consisted of Jim Butler and Sean O'Neill (the first and second finishers at the North American Olympic Trials in March) in both men's singles and men's doubles, and Lily Hugh (the number one women's qualifier at the trials) and her doubles partner, Diana Gee. Insook Bhushan also represented the U.S. in the women's singles event, as a result of the ITTF "wild card," one of which was also given to Joe Ng of Canada.

On the morning of the draw and as a result of there being less than the full number of women entrants, Diana Gee was also placed in the singles draw. Delegation limitations caused some countries to use their athlete slots for other sports, and the political change that resulted in last minute uncertainties also limited some entrants.

Liz Zhengli coached the men, and, as a result of last minute funding from the USOC, Wang Zhi-Yong coached the women. I was designated the Team Leader. While staying in a separate official's village or in other parts of town, Wendell Dillon was the Deputy Referee and Dr. Bill Walk was one of the umpires. Rufford Harrison, Neil Smythe, Gus Kennedy and Kae Browning also were in regular attendance. Barry Dattel was also there cheering.

The Trip
Tampa, Florida was the send-off city, in part due to the sponsorship of Busch Gardens and also in part due to the similarity of the weather between Tampa and Barcelona. The Hilton near the airport was almost exclusively Olympics—the dining room served a variety of food at nearly all times, and an athlete's game room was set up near the lobby with ample supplies of water, pop, candy, snacks, video games, etc. One of the wings of the hotel became the office wing for the USOC reception, corporate relations, transportation, finance, games preparation, team leaders' work room, meeting rooms and similar functions. The other main floor wing of the hotel was taken over by the medical and dental screening facilities, shipping and receiving (everyone had to send some of the clothes we were given home), photography (credentials and team photos), ticketing (trying to order tickets to see the Dream Team, opening ceremonies and other events), shoes and apparel. The second floor started the rooms, but also had the bank, a free barbershop, the Ray Ban center and the Cabbage Patch doll distribution room.

We were able to use an air conditioned gym in a nearby school for training purposes during the few days we had before the flight to Barcelona. The new Sitco R IV-PC robot was also sent down to Tampa, and one of its key developers, Waqidi Falicoff, set it up for two days of exhibitions. The robot, table tennis, Insook and Sean all received good publicity (newspaper photos and articles, not to mention the TV footage) for the demonstrations in the newly created Olympic Send-Off Village at Busch Gardens. Sean and Diana also did a demonstration and signed autographs at the George Steinbrenner Boys' and Girls' Club in Tampa, something that brought additional positive publicity as well as pleasure to a group of kids. Finally, the formal introduction of the athletes, autograph signing and send-off at Busch Gardens was completed and the next morning (July 22) we were on the last USOC charter flight to Barcelona.

We arrived in Barcelona (gaining six hours) at 11:30 p.m. Barcelona time, and, after getting through luggage and customs, gave us luggage, nearly everyone had identical luggage circling the baggage claim area), customs, COOB '92 (the acronym for the Barcelona Organizing Committee) credentialling, and room key distribution, we were settled in our rooms at 4:00 a.m. One of our limited practice rooms at the Estadio del Llano playing venue was at 9:00 the next morning, so there were some tired people wandering around the next day. And then a broken water main meant that we had no water in our apartment until midnight of that night. With the heat, the jet lag, and the lack of water, we did not start out as a group of happy campers.

In the 15,000 person Olympic Village, we were situated in a nearly perfect location, due in large part to the hard work and negotiating strength of Dr. LeRoy T. Walker, Chef de Mission for the U.S. delegation (and the sole nominee to be the next President of the USOC), Greg Harney, head of USOC Games Preparation, and Steve Savye of Games Preparation and USOC village supervisor, as well as a host of other USOC people. We were placed in a brand new three-level, four bedroom (or four bedroom and den), two and a half bath apartment (probably already sold for something in the area of $300,000), with a view of the beach and pier and only a 1/2 block from the main dining center and shopping area. While Spartan in its furnishings and without a phone (it would have cost well over $150 to have that benefit) and air conditioning, it did have a TV and a fan for every room. And the view of the Mediterranean was splendid, especially on the days that the sailing competition was scheduled.

On the afternoon of the 23rd, the Dream Team was held in a local four star hotel, and it seemed to take forever. Starting 45 minutes after the scheduled 4:00 p.m. starting time and using what Rufford Harrison referred to as the most time consuming and least efficient method for determining who would be drawn into what round robin, we emerged at 8:30 p.m. with the draw determined.

We were able to practice for the 1 and 1/2 hours scheduled for us on each day prior to the competition starting date of July 28, and sometimes there was space available for longer practice sessions. The air conditioned bus would leave the village and return to the village at designated times, always using a different route. (I thought that was for security reasons, but I later discovered that the bus drivers had only vague notions of where they were going and the best routes to get there.)

The Opening Ceremonies gala was a treat. We scrambled to get tickets for everyone who needed them (we were each allocated only 1 ticket per person). After our new outfits on and standing in line for the buses hours before we were due to parade into the Olympic Stadium (there was time, however, for some pictures with Michael Chang, Jim Courier, Zina Garrison, and other tennis stars living right next door to us), we watched early parts of the program in the new Palau Sant Jordi (where gymnastics and the volleyball finals were held) before we lined up for the parade. We had endured many lectures and warnings about our parade behavior as a result of the chaos in Seoul, so we were in line and very well behaved, until, once on the infeld in the stadium, we were overrun and battered by athletes from all over the world trying to get to the Dream Team for autographs. I wonder if there will be complaints against them, as the U.S. was the subject of four years ago. Then the torch lighting, standing through an opera in ill-fitting shoes, the Olympic Flag opening over us, pin trading with athletes from other countries, the "Castellers" (human castles), the speeches and oaths, THE FIREWORKS, and back to the buses for the ride back to the village.

And finally the competition started on July 28. Until the end of the singles and Ambrosio-related finals, there was usually one singles match and one doubles match each day, one in the morning and one in the evening (e.g., 11 a.m. and 9:30 p.m.). This allowed afternoon naps, but it also made warming up and getting into a groove a bit more difficult.

After competition was completed, different people went different ways. Some of us sampled the tremendous architecture and history of Barcelona, while others enjoyed the night life and night clubs. We all visited with old and new friends and watched and enjoyed the remaining matches through the various finals.

By the end, we were all glad to go home.

On August 12, Sean, Lily, Diana and I were part of the 50+ Olympians who were present at the White House, along with Arnold Schwarzenegger, for a salute to the U.S. Olympic Team and a picnic in the White House (since the rain storm drove us inside). John Secada ("Just Another Day") entertained us as we toured, talked and ate. After the well prepared and clever speech by the President, and getting our pictures taken with the President and First Lady Barbara Bush, we ate hamburgers and hot dogs while sitting on the floor (several staff said that in 20 years they had never seen anyone sitting on the floor in the White House), we returned to the McLean Hilton and to our respective homes.

It was an emotional well done Olympics, with our congratulations and thanks to Barcelona and its people. Now, we can begin to anticipate The Games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996.
The Olympics would have to be described as a nearly total success for the Chinese. China won Gold and Silver medals in both the women's singles and the women's doubles, Gold in the men's doubles, and Bronze in the men's singles. And it seemed like every country competing had Chinese coaches. European domination, or at least European re-emergence, will have to wait.

In each of the events, the first part of the competition involved round robins (16 in singles and 8 in doubles), with only the top player advancing into a regular single elimination draw. The round robin matches were all the best of three games, while the single elimination draw matches between the winners of the round robins were all the best of five games.

Women's Doubles

In the women's doubles, the top four seeded teams took the medals, with only the gold and silver order of the two Chinese teams being reversed.

After the round robins, the only upsets were the 12th seeded team from the Netherlands (Hooiman and Vriesekoop) over the 6th seeded team of Pazlicz and Perkuich from IOP (roughly, the designation for the former Yugoslavia), 18-21, 21-13, 21-16, and the 9th seeded team from Korea (Hong/Lee) over the 8th seeded team from Japan (Hoshino/Yamashita), 21-13, 16-21, 21-18.

In the quarter-finals, the matches were all four games, but not close, with the only three straight game victory by the Hong/Yun Korean team over the chorppers, Timina and Palina of the United Team. The semifinals were also four game rounds, although they were closer matches. Top seeded Guo/Chen defeated Li/Yu from PRK, 21-12, 21-17, 21-13, 21-19. In the second game, the Chinese team stayed close, but couldn't take the lead in their only loss; the last game was theirs all the way, with a rush for the Koreans in the end falling short.

In the other semi-final, Deng and Qiao won in four over Hong and Hyun of Korea, 21-17, 21-17, 21-17, 21-12. In the first game, the Koreans went from 15-16 to a victory at 17. In the next three games, however, the closest the Korean team would get was 13-12 in the second game; from then on, they were never close.

In the finals between the two top seeded Chinese teams, only the last game was close, as Deng and Qiao, ranked 1 and 2 in the world in singles and both right-handed shakehands players, captured the Gold medal 21-13, 14-21, 21-14. The first three games were close only until they neared ten points, and then the winner of each pulled away to a 3 to 7 point lead that was maintained through the later half of the game. The fourth game, however, saw Deng/Qiao rush to a 8-2 lead with their wonderfully coordinated offense. Chen and Gao fought back with some extended rallies to tie the score at 15-15. With the serve at 18-17, and 20-19, Deng and Qiao pulled out the victory, 21-19 in the fourth.

Men's Doubles

The Gold medal run for the Chinese continued in the men's doubles. The team of Wang Tao (once coached by U.S. Olympian Coach Li Zhenshi), a 24-year old, 5'3" left-handed looping attacker with his forehand with short shorts on his backhand, and Lu Lin, a right handed smooth rubber penholder, seeded second, proved too strong for the field.

The round robins produced some rather startling upssets. First, the top seeded team of Eric Lindh and Jorgen Persson of Sweden were taken out of the competition by the 16th seeded team from Korea, Kang Hee Chan and Lee Chul Seung, 2-1. There didn't seem to be any fire in the Swedish team's play, and it showed in the result.

Continuing the shocks to the Swedes (perhaps their coach's bragging to the Wall Street Journal reporter that they were the best in the world was being taken to heart but not to the table?), the fifth seeded team of Mieczyslaw and Jan-Ove Waldner was beaten in three by the ninth seeded team of Ilja Lupulescu and Sllobodan Grujic. Grujic is a top European junior, and he and Lupulescu played well together against what should have been a victorious Swedish team. The match featured some great counterlooping points, each team being right- and left-handed, until the Swedes took control at 20-17 in the third out of five points and the IOP team had their upset at 10-21, 21-16, 22-20.

In the final upset on the round robins, Andrej Grubbs and Leszek Kucharski of Poland lost their 8th seeded position to Jean-Philippe Gatien and Damien Elios of France (seeded 10th). This last match was played right in front of the large French contingent of fans, and the each point was greeted by flag waving, foot-stomping and singing. The cheering clearly inspired the French team to pull away from 17-17 in the third to a 21-17 victory capped by a phenomenal step-around, cross court off-the-bounce loop of a loop winner by Gatien.

The third and fourth seeded teams, Fetzer and Rosskopf of Germany, and Yoo Nam Kyu and Kim Taek Soo of Korea advanced without losing a game. In the quarter, the Germans had no trouble with Lupulescu/Grujic, 21-18, 21-13, 21-17, and the Koreans also won in three, 21-15, 26-24, 21-15, over the Mazanov brothers from the Unified Team. The upset minded French team of Gatien and Elios couldn't quite make it past Lu Lin and Wang Tao, the eventual gold medalists, 21-14, 18-21, 21-13, 22-20.

In the last of the quarters, Ma Wenge and Yu Shentong of China played an exciting match against the young Koreans who had taken out the top seeded Swedish team, and the Koreans continued their upsets, 21-18, 21-9, 14-21, 17-21, 21-16. In the first game, the Koreans ran it out from down 17-18. The second game was all theirs, 10-5, 18-7, 21-9. In the third, however, the closest they would get was 5-5, before the Chinese team took control. In the fourth game, the Chinese came back from 5-10 to tie it at 10-10, and they then pulled away 13-12, 16-14, 19-16, 21-17. In the final game, the Korean team started quickly, 4-1, 7-3, but the experienced team from China found its swing back to 9, and remained within a point at 14-13. The final phase of the match was all Korea as they went to 20-15 and they won at 18.

The semifinal matches pitted the former world champion team from Germany and Romania against the top seeded Korean team of Kang and Lee, in the top half, and the other Korean team of Yoo Nam Kyu and Kim Taek Soo against the Chinese team of Wang Tao and Lu Lin in the bottom half. In the first match, the penholder short pips-out Koreans didn't have quite enough for the spinning, explosive Germans. The first game saw the Germans take a 10-5 lead and maintain it to a 21-15 win. In the second game, the Germans took a 10-6 lead at a slight edge, but never more than a point or two, through the game to 19-19. Ad Germany, deuce, ad Germany, deuce, ad Germany, deuce, ad Germany, game Germany. The third game saw the Koreans finally break through with 14-11 and 17-13 leads. Finally, from 19-20, the Germans made their way to the finals with three straight points, 21-15, 24-22, 22-20. In thirty minutes, they were in the finals.

The other semifinal took four games and nearly 50 minutes. Yoo Nam Kyu and Kim Taek Soo, moving seemingly everywhere instantly and hitting bullets, took the game at 13, leading and in control the entire game. In the second, the coating just waked as the Koreans fought back and then the lead and maintained it, 10-7, 12-8, 14-11, 17-13, until the Korean charge closed it to 18-18. The team from China then closed out the game at 17. The third game went to the Koreans, 21-11, 21-15, and then they took a 2-1 game lead into the fourth game. From 11-11, the Chinese team built a lead and took the game and the match, 21-15, China over Korea, 13-21, 21-13, 21-17, 21-15.

The final was, as it was promised, exciting and contested. The first game the Germans took and hold an early lead to 19-13. Serving, they went up 20-15. But, suddenly, 20-20, as Rosskopf seemed unable to make a shot. Then, from down game point, the Germans deuced it several times while receiving, but finally lost the game, 26-24. In the next game, the Chinese took the early lead and held it through the match until the Germans tied it at 18-18 and took the win for a 21-18 win. One game each. Game three was tight through 9-9, but Wang/Lu went to 15-11 and held off the Germans at 18 for a 2-1 game lead in the match. Game four was nearly the reverse: tied at 9-9, suddenly "Speedy" Fetzner could do no wrong. Germany, 21-13; two games each.

The fifth game was also tied at 9-9, but it was the Chinese team's turn to go 10-13, 15-11, 18-12 and 14. In spite of the pro-German crowds constant cheering, singing and flag waving, the difference in the match seemed to be Rosskopf, as he never seemed to find his rhythm or get the feel for his opponents' spin and placement. He was clearly frustrated by his movement and the clear inspiration the Chinese team. The final game was a lopsided affair, 21-13, 15-11, and 21-10. China won.

Another gold for China as Wang Tao and Lu Lin won men's doubles, 26-24, 18-21, 21-13, 21-17. The silver medal went to the German team of Fetzner and Rosskopf, and the bronze medals went to the two Korean teams, Kang and Lee, and Yoo and Kim.

Women's Singles

The women's singles saw two more medals (Gold and Silver) going to the Chinese first and second seeds, while the Bronze medals went to the third and fourth seeded Hyun and Li from Korea and PRK (South and North Korea), respectively.

The round robins, only two of the top 16 seeded players did not advance to the "knock out" round: Romania's Emilie Ciosu (world #47, Olympic #26) took out Hong Kong's #6 seed (world #7), Chan Tan Lui, in the straight games and Kim Hyun (PRK) and Tung (Hong Kong) #17 defeated France's Wang Xiao Ming (world #20, Olympic #13) in three games. So, as the women moved into the best of five games single elimination bracket, there was only one European woman remaining, the surprising Ciosu of Romania.

The quarterfinals saw a couple of easily won games. Wang beat Yput Sun (PRK) in three and Qiao Hong (CHN) defeated Chai Po (HKG) in three. China's Chen Zhezi lost a four game match to PRK's Li Bun, both players...
Deng went to 18-16 and maintained the two point lead for a 21-19 victory. The points were longer in the second game, and it looked as though Hyun might be climbing back into the match. Unfortunately for her, however, Deng took an early lead in the third game and the closer Hyun could get was 9-8. Deng went up 12-8, 14-11, 17-13 and held off a charge at 19-17 to win at 21-17. The top player in the world had advanced to the finals.

The second seed in this event and the number two player in the world, also from China, Qiao Hong, faced PRK's Li Bun Hui in the other semi-final match. The right-handed Qiao, 23, plays shakehand with smooth rubber on both side, while Li is left-handed and has long pips on the reverse of her bat.

The first half of the first game stayed close, until Li pulled away to 17-11 and held on for a 21-15 win. She also led in the second, 4-0, 9-6, but Qiao came back to lead 14-10 and tied the match at one game each with a 21-15 victory. She then continued to control her opponent and streaked to a 21-8 victory in the third game. The fourth game started close, 7-7, but the woman from China then went to 13-7, 15-10, 20-10, and 21-10, to advance to the finals against her doubles partner.

In the finals, the world champion looked just that in the first two games, 21-6, 21-8. In the third game, however, Qiao started stronger and held a lead throughout to a 21-15 win. The play was very serious — this was not a friendly match, as large cash awards and a new apartment would be among the rewards for the winner. And it looked as though Qiao was making her move, as she certainly had the momentum going into the fourth game.

In the men's singles event, the top six seeds were European, and some great matches were promised. Two of the top seeds, however, didn't get out of their round robin groups: Appelgren (world #16, Olympic #13) lost to wild card entrant, Paul Haldan (world #29, Olympic #19) of the Netherlands, and Kim Song Hui (world #17, Olympic #14) lost to Steffen Fetzner (world #27, Olympic #17), both 2-1. The other seeded players made it through, but some of them had to work, as Persson barely beat Chatelain of France in the third, Grubba had to come back to beat Brazil's Kano, Kim Taek Soo had to work to beat the young Indian, Mehta, and Yoo Nam Kyu barely survived challenges from Lo and O'Neil.

The round of sixteen featured some quick matches, as Austria's Ding Yida defeated Jean Michel Saive of Belgium, Ma Wenge of China dispatched Netherlands' Paul Haldan, Persson easily defeated Fetzner, Wang Tao handled Grubba, and Waldner easily beat England's Carl Prean, all in three straight games. Rosskopf had too work extremely hard to defeat the marvelous chopper, Li Gun Sang from PRK. The German doubles inactical eventually prevailed 21-13, 21-14, 18-21, 21-15.

The match between Kim Taek Soo (world and Olympic #8) of Korea and Zoran Primorac (world #14, Olympic #12) of Croatia was a battle. The Korean seems to try to return every ball harder than it was hit at him, and his footwork was amazing. Primorac took the first two, 21-19, 21-13, and he almost had the third before losing 22-20. The fourth and fifth games went to Kim Taek Soo at 8, 13, as it seemed that Primorac thought he should have won the third and he was so upset with himself that he just couldn't concentrate on the next game. The role of the mind and concentration were evident in this match.

Kim's doubles partner, Yoo Nam Kyu (world and Olympic #10) was engaged in a battle of his own against the number one seed and world #1, Jean Philippe Gatien of France. The rallies were usually short, since both of these left-handed players have such powerful shots. After Yoo won the first, 24-22, the score was tied at 21-21 in the second and the Korean gave Gatien an uncalled edge. The umpires disagreed, but finally they relented. Gatien whipped an opening loop. Finally, from 22-23, Gatien hit two loop winners for the second game. Gatien won the third game, and it seemed that both players were missing, especially on return of serve, since they were trying to keep the other from his strong opening loop. In Game 4, Yoo Nam Kyu maintained a lead and Gatien seemed too complacent, missing loops and not showing any of his fired up, running around in circles after every point, spirit. The games are 2-2 as Yoo wins 21-17. In Game 5, Gatien was up 12-9, down 9.

Qiao Hong of China, silver medallist in women's singles, gold medallist in women's doubles.
11-13, tied at 15. With the tension palpable throughout the arena, Gatien serves and Yoo misses a return of serve, and then he misses a serve off the baseline blast at 17-15. Yoo Nam Kyu has the serve as he takes the lead 18-17. At 19-19, Yoo steps around the corner and hits a hard cross court third ball loop at 20-19, catching Waldner off balance for a winner at 19-19. The Korean serves, Gatien loops in a winner for the game and the match, 22-24, 23-21, 19-21, 21-19. The most exciting match of the tournament.

In the quarterfinals, Ma Wenge advances, beating Persson easily, 21-14, 21-18, 21-19. Ma is too quick and Persson seems limited. The Swedish star returns to form for a time with Roskopf, 21-15, 21-14, 18-21, 21-17, as he seems to content mostly block, only attacking occasionally, and keep Roskopf out of position.

The men's Single Tae Kook Sae are engaged in an offensive war. Both players attack with strong shots and play away from the table, so the rallies are fast and furious. They are too much of a piece. A Frenchman's victory over Yoo Nam Kyu, and another player wasted any time between points. Owning the lead from the beginning with one service advantage for him.

Waldner's shots seem just a bit too quick (or Gatien misses, Waldner doesn't: 21-10. But Waldner is not complacent in the second game, 21-18. Another Waldner block to Gatien's backhand. Waldner's shots cross Gatien's forehand at 14-14. With Waldner winning points to go ahead 16-14, Gatien is trying to save the game. He attacks successfully to 18-19, but a Waldner block forces another error and Waldner wins the second game, 21-18.

In the third game, up-6-3, and only a 6-3. Another Waldner error gives a net advantage to Gatien with a net win at 6-4. A few Waldner misses on blocks and a return of serve into the net gives Gatien a 9-6 lead. Gatien is opening more with his backhand, and he takes the third game.

Gatien starts changing speed and depth, as well as direction, and he comes back to take the lead at 17-14. Gatien, serving deep down the line into Waldner's backhand, and Mond goes back and Waldner is serving at 18-17. Gatien gets an edge ball to go 18-19, but misses a return of serve into the net for 19-19; then he misses a loop for 20-19, match point for Waldner. Waldner loses the serve and Walder blocks into the net; 20-20. Waldner wins a counter looping point for match point #2, but Gatien steps around the corner and Waldner's backhand to the backhand to the backhand to win the point, 21-21. Gatien converts a third ball attack to go ahead 22-21, and Waldner recovers to tie at 22-22. Gatien serves nervously into the net, but deeps over for a let. Waldner blocks Gatien's third ball loop off, and the Frenchman is up 23-22. Gatien loops the return of Waldner's serve, but Waldner blocks it beautifully for a 23-23. Waldner takes the attack and forces Gatien back with his loops, but Gatien steps around the corner and Countertops crosscourt by Gatien. Waldner feels that Waldner blocks it down the line for his winner, and it's match point #3 for Waldner. Waldner loops on the third ball, Gatien blocks into the net, and the Gold medal belongs to the Swedes in 23-23 games.

Panemoneo reigns as Waldner leaps into his coach's arms and then returns to stand behind his end of the table with this score. It turned into the victory. Only then does he remember to congratulate his opponent and thank the officials. Photographers and TV are everywhere as they leap from their seats as we catch the celebration.

Watching Waldner win almost a lesson; someone described it as watching a perfectly done symphony by the world's greatest orchestra. Such total control, touch and mastery of the sport. And, receiving the Gold medal and Flowers, he recognized his play deserved.

**Barcelona**

*A city that—*

—has about 4 million people living in the metropolitan area, virtually all of them in apartments/condominiums—

—has summers that are HOT AND HUMID—

—built a new city called the Olympic Village, with all attendant services, for about 15,000 Olympic athletes and participants, including a new (often topless) beach and pier, and a dining hall that seated 3900 people—

—has two official languages: Spanish and Catalan (a separate and distinct romance language that was suppressed by Franco and is now reasserting itself as the language of the semi-autonomous region of Catalonia—

—still bears evidence of the Greek and Roman cities that flourished centuries ago, as well as the constant reminders of the laboratory years of Spanish new world dominance—

—a city that is famous for the avant-garde and usually air conditioned subway system, since the traffic in the crowded and narrow streets was often extremely slow—

—has produced some of the world's most remarkable artists (Picasso, Miro, Dali) and architects (Gaudi, Castelafach, Domenech)—

—which proudly displays their works at every turn—

—takes a break from about 2 to 4 in the afternoon, begins dinner at 10 pm, and is still crowded and active at 4 in the morning—

—seems to have adopted Cobi, the Olympic mascot, since he is seen absolutely everywhere—

—welcomed the Olympic visitors with open arms and made the experience of the XXVth Olympiad a most memorable one.

### U.S. Olympic Team Results:

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### Men's Singles—Final: Jan-Ove Waldner

**JAN-OVE WALDNER TALKS TO THE PRESS**

*"It is hard to say whether it has been easier than I thought. Perhaps in the first game it was, but it was fairly close after that. The service improved a lot, and I was most of it during the competition, but my return and backhand improved too."

*This is the best tournament I have played in my life. I dropped one game against the whole competition, which is the result of a specific training program. My goal was the Games, and now it feels fantastic.*

*"For me, winning Sweden's first gold in the Games is not important. In fact, I would have preferred someone else to have won it, as that would have removed the pressure of having to win it."*

*"I think that Asia or Europe is better. China is very strong, as shown by the three golds and the bronze that they have won, but I think you can say that European men are a little stronger as the final was between Gatien and I."*
U.S. OLYMPIC RESULTS
by Bob Fox

The first round of the women’s singles was won in one win and two losses for the American women. With each of them seeded into the third position in their respective round robins and the first matches being 2 v. 3, the results were not a major surprise, even though the losses were disappointing.

Insook, starting the competition ranked number 68 in the world by the ITTF and “seeded” number 34 for the Olympics, beat her Canadian rival to whom she lost in the Olympic Trails, Barbora Chen (the 31st seed), in two straight games, 21-19 and 21-17. The match was characterized by patience. Diana was down 10-4, 16-8, until Chen moved the ball in and out from corner to corner with her pips-out “jub-blocks” until she had an opportunity to attack with her smooth side. Insook kept returning the ball, with occasional attacks to Chen’s backhand which Barbara always returned and the point would continue. At 19-17, Chen got a net which Insook was barely able to read. The return was high and Chen flipped her paddle and stepped around for the kill, but missed! Then, leading 20-19, Insook hits an untouched winner to the middle for the first game.

In the second game, Chen became more aggressive, hitting her jabs-blocks with more pace and attacking with her smooth rubber more often than she did in the first game. And the strategy worked, as she built a 11-5 lead. Insook battled back, returning everything Chen hit, getting a timing edge at 11-13, and attacking to Chen’s forehand for a winner to even the score at 15-15. Then, nets a return of serve, misses two attacks and Insook hits a winner. Insook resulted in a 21-19 win for Chen. And Primorac and Yoo Nam Kyu, 1991 Olympic silver medalists and out of the competition, complete control, very few misses, consistency were too much for the always fighting but fast-living Insook.

Lily Hugh lost quickly to PRK’s Yu, world #11, Olympic #8, 21-16 and 21-9. The fast exchanges led to quick points, whether from winners or misses. Hong, the Korean number one, world #86 and Olympic #11, also had a fairly easy time of her match, defeating Diana Gee at 21-8 and 21-13. She returned everything Diana hit, and when she attacked it was invariably for a winner.

In the third and last round of the women’s singles, all American players won their matches easily. Lily hit through her opponent at will and dispatched Ghana’s Amanda Chen (world #403 and Olympic #60 of 63), quickly, 21-14, 21-10. World #404 and Olympic #61 from Jordan, Nadia Al Hindi, was completely befuddled by Insook, 21-6, 21-5. After the match and finishing her second round robin behind the eventual gold medalist and out of the competition, Insook said “Well, now we’re done” and suggested that it would have been nice to be able to play more than one match each day for three days. Diana echoed these comments after her win over Sofija Tepes of Chile, World #212 and Olympic #56. “Even though I won, I’m still not satisfied with my level of play.” This type of competition points out exactly where one needs to improve. I could have been more aggressive, but I didn’t train for singles competition and wasn’t fully prepared to play in it.” Her placement and her ability to block her left-hand opponent’s only strong shot, her loop, made her the easy winner, 21-13, 21-6.

None of the American women advanced out of their round robin, with Insook finishing second with a 2-1 record and Lily and Diana finishing third with 1-2 records.

In the men’s side, Jim Butler was ranked #121 in the world by the ITTF and seeded 41st in the Olympic draw. He and Insook, ranked #34 and Olympic #44, were both in the third position in their respective round robins. They would have to beat strong second position players Yoo Nam Kyu, world ranked #14 and #10 in order to be the one person advancing from each round robin. And Primorac and Yoo Nam Kyu would not give up easily.

In the first round, the position 2 v. 3 match, Sean faced Lo Cheun Tsung of Hong Kong, a tough player with long pips on the backhand for blocking and chopping, and smooth on the forehand for his attacking. Lo, World #40 and Olympic #24, was in control for the first game, winning 21-14, 16-21, 21-10. Sean hit some excellent shots, but his loops always seemed to go long. In the second game, Sean went up 6-2, almost all with winning loops. Lo came back to 7-7, and Sean, playing well and now seeming to have the upper hand, built a lead at 15-13. Battling point for point, Lo took the lead at 18-17. Sean looped off the end: 19-17. Lo attacks and Sean is forced away from the table: 20-17. Trying to attack on return of serve, Lo misses: 20-18. Sean mounts a strong loop attack: 20-19. Sean attacks again and forces Lo away from the table and on the defense with chops and blocks… until Sean loops off for a 21-19 win for Lo. If he had been able to pull out that second game…

On the next table and at the same time as Sean was losing to Lo was one of the best matches of the tournament, Jim Butler against Tomas Janci of Czechoslovakia, ranked 17th in the world and 24th in the Olympic competition. And Jim pulled off one of the biggest upsets (based on ITTF ranking) of the tournament in a thrilling match, 22-20, 17-21, and 21-18. The games were marked by fast backhand exchanges and counterlooping forehands, with each player hitting the ball harder than his opponent’s previous hit and with both players using all of the table as they tried to angle each other out of position. The third game went to 9-6 for Butler, with Jim looking strong and making his shots—his backhand speed and quickness giving him a slight edge. The lead went to 15-10 for Butler, and most people could sense the upset. But then a quick (as Coach Li would say, “How can you lose so many points so fast?”) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 points for Janci. The last point of this run saw Jim slip and fall as he attempted his return (the red rubberized floor was wet from Jim’s dripping sweat). Then Janci seemed in control at 17-15 (he had scored 7 in a row!), it seemed that Butler’s fall might have been out of the match as well as to the floor. But Jim was playing strong mentally and was confident. He would not be deterred as he hit a forehand and a backhand for winners to tie the score. Two Janci misses gave Jim the lead, 19-17. In the last points, Jim’s strength and determination made him win 21-18 upset winner, but he immediately realized that he would have to beat Primorac of Croatia in order to advance out of the round robin.

The second round of the men’s singles pitted Jim against Zoran Primorac, 1991 U.S. Open winner, and Sean against Yoo Nam Kyu, second to Primorac in the 1991 U.S. Open and 1988 Seoul Olympics Gold Medal Winner. The matches were played on adjoining tables at the same time. Sean started quickly at 4-0, but he fought back to 5-5. Moving, getting the first loop, and returning serve much better than in the first game, Sean still found himself down 6-8. From 6-6, it was 9-6, 16-6 and 21-10 for the Korean. With Sean missing many of his attacking shots and his opponent making hits, things did not look good for O’Neill.

On the next table, Primorac and Butler were spinning and hitting everything they could at each other—as hard as they could. From a lead in 11-9, Jim found himself down quickly 17-13, 19-16 and lost at 21-17.

In their second game, Sean started by watching his opponent’s loops pass him, but he fought back to 5-5. Moving, getting the first loop, and returning serve much better than in the first game, Sean still found himself down 8-12 and 10-14. But he refused to quit and, urging himself to “take one point at a time,” he looped, blocked and angled his way back to down 14-16 and finally tied it at 19-19. With two good serves that Yoo pushed back into the net, Sean tied the match at one game each with a 21-19 victory.

On the adjoining table, Jim was facing the semi-finals and was fighting to match the speed and power of Primorac. Behind 9-5, he went ahead 13-12, only to fall behind again 15-13, 17-13.

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September/October 1992
19-14. "How can so many points be lost so quickly?" Coach Li was again heard muttering. The match ended 21-14. Marked by furious rallies, Jim just couldn't get his shots past Primorac's aggressive slightly-backhand-from-the-table spinning returns. After training so well and playing so well against Janci, the loss was a major disappointment to Jim and his expectation of advancement in top level international play. The next table, Yoo Nam Kyu was nervous as the third game started and as the score remained close—4-4, 5-5, 6-6—until he opened a slight lead at 10-7. With a quick flick return of serve and O'Neill's miss of an off the bounce loop of a loop, the defending Olympic champion seemed in control at 12-8. Sean opened aggressively and forced Yoo off the table and into misses. He then hit a beautiful inside-out cross-court loop for a winner and he had closed the gap to 14-13. A couple of misses and Sean was down 16-14. Sean kept attacking and Yoo was observably nervous and tentative as Sean started to take charge. Yoo missed a backhand cross-court loop for a winner and he had closed the gap to 16-16. A slip back, a loose backhand return, and Sean's miss of an attackable long serve. Again, so close.

In the final match of the men's doubles, the team of Lily and Diana first played the 10th seeded French team (playing in the second position in their round robin) of Emmanuelle Coubat and Wang Xiao Ming. Diana and Lily were seeded 21st in the women's doubles draw. The American women attacked more in the second game and came close, but they lost 21-14, 21-19.

In the next round of the women's doubles, Lily and Diana had to face the top seeded team in their group, the 5th seeded team in the competition, Hong Kong's Chai Po Wan and Chan Tan Lui. The match did not last long, 21-10, 21-13. If the reverse was true, however, in the American's last doubles match against the 4th position team in the round robin, Alejandra Gabaglio and Hae Ja Kim de Rammou from Argentina (seeded 28th in the doubles). Winning at 21-13, 21-14, Diana and Lily were able to use weak service returns for third ball winners and Diana's opening forehand to set up Lily's winning flat hits.

Thus, Lily and Diana ended up in their group where they started—third, with a 1-2 record.

The American competition ended with some good matches, two mixed teams, four upset, and hope for improvement in further international competition, especially the next Olympic competition in Atlanta in 1996.
The $160,000 World Doubles Cup

The U.S. National Championships

The U.S. World Team Trials

THE 1992 U.S. NATIONALS & WORLD TEAM TRIALS

All right: we’ve done our part. The best players in the world are coming to the U.S. to play table tennis. So now it’s your turn. How many of you are going to come join us?

The USTTA will be hosting the World Doubles Cup in December in conjunction with the U.S. Nationals. Both events will take place in Las Vegas, along with the U.S. World Team Trials.

The Team Trials kick off on December 15, the day before the rest begins, and concludes the following day. (Contact USTTA Headquarters for information on eligibility: 719-578-4583.) At stake is who the team members will be for the 1993 World Championships.

Then, from Wednesday, December 16 to Saturday, December 19, 600 (good) 700 (great) or perhaps 800 (fantastic!) of us will compete in the Nationals. At stake are about 50 national titles, including the Men’s and Women’s National Championships. Can Sean O’Neill (five-time champion) and Insook Bhushan (eleven-time champion) defend their titles? And when it’s all over, there will be a tournament party Saturday night. (Make plans to stay overnight, though—the semis and finals of the World Doubles Cup will be on Sunday. You don’t want to miss that!)

You will be receiving your entry blank for the Nationals in the mail very soon. The Nationals will feature rating events from every hundred points from U1000 to U2400, with prize money starting in the U1900’s. (Ratings from this issue will be used.) Every rating event will be round robin. There will also be age events from over 30 to over 80. About 80 tables will be used.

The official hotel will be the Sands Hotel. You can reserve your room by calling 1-800-634-6901 by December 4. And, if you want to rent a car, call Budget (the official rental car of the 1992 Nationals) at 1-800-922-2899, ex. 224 (ask for Connie Scordato). Butterfly will once again be the table tennis supplier.

ATTENTION, JUNIORS! The second annual U.S. National School Championships will be held here once again. At stake will be the High School, Junior High School, Primary School, and Elementary School Championships (both boys’ and girls’ events), plus doubles. Check upcoming entry blank for further information. Don’t miss it!

(And we still haven’t mentioned Las Vegas!)

THE 1992 WORLD DOUBLES CUP

If you’re serious about your table tennis in any way, you won’t want to miss this one! As a player, you can compete in the Nationals...and between matches stroll over to see how the 2900 players are doing. Or, for you couch potatoes (Quayle didn’t add an “e”, he left off the “s...”) you can just sit back, kick up your feet on the chair in front of you, put it down when the spectator in front of you complains, and enjoy the show.

The World Doubles Cup will start on Thursday, December 17 and finish on Sunday, December 20. The semifinals and finals will both be on Sunday. All earlier matches will take place Thursday-Saturday nights. Both men and women will be competing.

Some of the teams to watch out for include Sweden, China, Germany, Korea, and (why not) the U.S. teams of Dhiren Narotam & Hank Teekaveerakit and Lily Hugh & Wei Wang. (They came in first at the U.S. World Cup Doubles Trials.) Do any of these names ring a bell? Waldner...Appelgren...Persson...Grubba...Ma Wenge...Kim Taeck Soo...Roskopf...Fetzner...Gatien...Deng...Qiao...and a whole lot more! (For those looking for inside tips—Roskopf and Fetzner are looking mighty good.)

These players will not be goofing off. They have 160,000 reasons to show you the best table tennis play of their lives. The $160,000 World Doubles Cup will be (by far) the most prize money ever given away in a U.S. table tennis tournament.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR:

In the next issue of Topics, Dan Seemiller (ten-times U.S. Men’s Doubles Champion) will write about doubles tactics. But generally speaking, the best singles players are not always the best doubles players. Some of the ingredients that make up a good team include:

1) A lefty-righty combination, so players can both play forehand and stay out of each other’s way.
2) Styles that go together. You generally wouldn’t want to put a defensive player with an offensive player, for obvious reasons. (Think about it.) Similarly, some styles go together, and others don’t. Two players that both stay close to the table can get in each other’s way, so many great doubles teams will spend a lot of time away from the table (which often leads to spectacularlobbing and counterlooping points). Usually, one player will concentrate on setting up his partner, who concentrates on putting the ball away. (How come everyone wants to be the put-away man?)
3) Good team cooperation. It doesn’t help if one player plays great, but lets his opponent’s play into his partner’s weakness. So come and have a good time!

(Still nothing about Las Vegas...you’ll just have to come and find out about it!)
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1992 U.S. Open Champion

Dhiren Narotam
1992 World Doubles Cup Qualifier

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INTERVIEW WITH LI ZHENSHI

U.S. Men’s Olympic Table Tennis Coach

by Larry Hodges

July, 1992 (Just before Olympic Games)

Li Zhenshi and doubles partner Cheng Yinghua won open doubles at the Chinese New Year Open in March. Li is retired from singles, but still plays doubles sometimes.

Li Zhenshi, 42, was hired by the USTA last year as the U.S. Men’s coach and the coach of the Resident Training Program at the Training Center in Colorado Springs. In the 1970’s, he was ranked in the top three in the world as a player, and he headed the world championships in 1979. He was a member of the World Champion Chinese Team in 1975 and 1977, and world doubles champion in 1977 and 1981. He is a two-time Chinese National Men’s Champion, and made the finals of the first World Singles Cup in 1980. He has won the Asian Championship and the Swedish Open, and numerous other titles. He is from Beijing.

Topics: Tell us about your coaching background.

Li Zhenshi: I started coaching in 1981, right after the U.S. Open. I became the coach of the Chinese Army Team, which is called the 8.1 team. I was their coach until I came to the United States two years ago. The 8.1 team won the Chinese National Team Championships three times while I was their coach. I reached several good players, including Wang Tao and Fan Chang Mao, both of whom have won world titles. I also coached several players to Chinese national titles.

Topics: How do you think table tennis can become more popular in the U.S.?

Li Zhenshi: I think we have to try to have table tennis on TV more. I think it is really important that we get a really good player, also do physical training, and much footwork. We need to set up professional leagues for table tennis on TV more. I think it is really important that we get a really good player, also do physical training, and much footwork.

Topics: Tell us about the U.S. Open, my last tournament as an active player.

Li Zhenshi: Before I moved here, I’d come to the U.S. three times. I was there twice for exhibitions, and for the 1981 U.S. Open, my last tournament as an active player. I liked this country, and wanted to make my life better. Also, I liked learning the language.

Topics: When you first came to the U.S., how was your English?

Li Zhenshi: Not really good. I took classes. I lived with American families who spoke English, and worked with the U.S. team, which helped my English.

Topics: How has table tennis changed in recent years?

Li Zhenshi: These days, the ball travels faster. Ten years ago, players used more spin, but now the emphasis is on flatness and speed. They use less spin on most shots, compared to ten years ago. Before, players like Jouer (Istvan, of Hungary, 1973) had very good spin shots, but their shots had less speed. Of course, these days, players have less time to prepare for shots, so they have less time to go for spin. They also use these days, which helps in producing both speed and spin. Another difference these days is that most players can play both offense and defense. They try to attack, but when they get in trouble, they can best up and play topspin defense or lob, or block. Also, serves are better.

Topics: Have backhands gotten better?

Li Zhenshi: Yes, players these days have better backhands. Before, most players were quick on their backhands, but now they are more aggressive on their backhand.

Topics: How is China doing in the Swedish challenge?

Li Zhenshi: Sweden and China are the best teams in the world. Although Sweden won the World Championships, China beat them last year at the World Cup. Sweden has three players who each play a different style. For example, Appelgren, the lefty, is more consistent and offensive. Person is more powerful, with a strong backhand and forehand and good serve. Also, serves are stronger. Wallner, he is very smart. He changes his game a lot, and has lots of experience. He also has very good serves. China needs to use players that play differently. At the latest World Championships, China used three players who played very similarly. All were right-handed, two-handed loopers. It made it easier for their opponents to get used to them. With these, China didn’t even get to Sweden, losing to both Czechoslovakia and Korea. I think that, between China and Sweden, it’s hard to say who is better. If neither team makes bad mistakes or gets nervous, each team can win.

Topics: Are there any new techniques coming out in the world right now?

Li Zhenshi: The RTP is a little different. They do running, cycling, sprinting, jump rope, weight training, as well as basketball and soccer. I have them do a lot of different things. Physical training is very important.

Topics: Why did you come to the United States?

Li Zhenshi: Before I moved here, I’d come to the U.S. three times. I was there twice for exhibitions, and for the 1981 U.S. Open, my last tournament as a competitor. I liked this country, and wanted to make my life better. Also, I liked
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THE BACKHAND LOOP OF CHENG YINGHUA
by National Coaching Chairman Larry Hedges

Cheng Yinghua, the top-rated player in the U.S., is known for his controlling backhand loop. Since few players want to play into a 2762-rated player’s forehand, most players play the ball into Cheng’s backhand, and he responds by backhand looping. Rather than overpower an opponent, Cheng is willing to backhand loop as many balls as it takes to win the point, and opponents are forced to block over and over, until finally either missing or setting Cheng up for an easy one. Cheng can, and often does, rip his backhand loop, but he doesn’t need to very often since he knows he can keep his opponent blocking as long as he wants with medium-hard loops. Playing him is a puzzle in trying to find a way to avoid being forced to block over and over. Few solve the puzzle.

In the photo sequence here, Cheng is backhand looping against a block, about five to eight feet from table. Against a spin return, he would be closer to the table, with a more open racket.

Photo sequence by Dr. Jerry Lin ©1992

THE HODGES’ TEN-POINT PLAN TO RALLYING SUCCESS
by National Coaching Chairman Larry Hedges

With some coaching and practice, most beginners find it relatively simple to hit forehand to forehand or backhand to backhand drives. But they find it difficult to reproduce these shots in a game situation. In a game situation, there is the degree of uncertainty as to where the ball is going, the necessity of moving to the ball before hitting it, and the difficulty in going from the serve or receive into a topspin rally. So how can a beginner go about incorporating his drive strokes into a game situation? Below is a ten-step plan for doing so. Follow it, step by step, and watch how fast you improve!

Do each step in order for as many practice sessions as it takes to feel comfortable at it. It’s okay to do more than one step in a given session, if you feel comfortable at it—but don’t go through the steps too fast, or you won’t be very comfortable in the latter steps and won’t improve as fast. Start out each drill slowly, aiming for consistency, and build up speed to a medium speed rally. Then go on to the next step.

In all drills—except step ten—return all shots to the same spot so your opponent can block or counterdrive consistently. This includes the serves and receives in steps seven through nine. If you can’t return the ball to the same general area consistently, you aren’t ready to go to the next step yet!

Step One: Learn to hit forehand and backhand shots correctly. Start out by hitting forehand to forehand and backhand to backhand (with a coach helping out) until you can do so both correctly and relatively consistently. Make sure to practice both crosscourt and down-the-line.

Step Two: Learn to combine the shots. Have partner hit the ball alternately to your forehand and backhand corner. You alternate forehand and backhand returns. You will have to move to side to side, but not much yet. Make sure to move to the ball, don’t reach.

Step Three: Learn to move to the ball before hitting. Have partner hit the ball alternately between two specific spots, about two to four feet apart, while you move to the ball and play all forehand or all backhand. (The forehand can be played from all parts of the table, but use the backhand only from the backhand side.) Again, make sure to move to the ball—don’t reach. Hit each forehand in the same spot in relation to the body, and vice versa with the backhand.

Step Four: Learn to move to a random ball. Have your partner hit the ball randomly to all parts of the table. Move to each ball, and return it with a correct forehand or backhand stroke. Start off slow—this is a more difficult than it looks, but it rapidly gets easier. Cover between half and two-thirds of the table with your partner.

Step Five: Learn to get into a topspin rally. Redo step six, except start off rally by serving backspin. Partner pushes it back with backspin, and you topspin his backspin. (Make sure to open your racket.) Continue as in step six. You should also try this drill with your partner serving backspin, with you topspinning his backspin serve back and then continuing as in step six.

Step Seven: Learn to get into a rally when receiving. Redo step six again, except this time have opponent serve as if it were a game. Get into a topspin rally as quickly as possible, and continue as in step six.

Step Nine: Learn to get into a rally when receiving. Redo steps again, except this time have opponent serve as if it were a game. Get into a topspin rally as quickly as possible, and continue as in step six.

Step Ten: Learn to play matches. Combine what you have practiced above, and see if you can put it together in a match. You should be able to—after all, you are already a graduate of the Rallying School of Table Tennis. Congratulations!
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In every store in town hung the red posters. Banners across the downtown streets proclaimed “WELCOME” “America is coming to Rochester for the Junior Olympics” was the greeting echoed in every corner of this all-American town.

More than 6,000 young athletes representing all fifty states did come. So many, in fact, that along with parents, staff, and spectators, every hotel within a sixty mile radius was full. This year’s event would bring an estimated 15,000 people into the downtown area. to make it the largest Junior Olympics ever held.

Rochester, Minnesota proved to be a great host. Home of the world’s largest IBM plant and the world renowned Mayo Clinic, Rochester is used to handling large numbers of visitors. The downtown area offered many fine restaurants, malls, and theaters, in a safe and clean environment. What impressed me the most, however, were the people. They really took this event to their hearts. More than 3,000 local volunteers showed up to help out. So many turned out for table tennis that towards the end of the event, we were running out of things for them to do.

This year’s tournament staff consisted of Richard and Sue Butler, Yvonne Kronlage, Kathy Reed and myself. All of us arrived on Tuesday to begin preparations. The level of the local organization became quickly apparent to us, as more than 40 volunteers were on hand to help with the physical set-up. Headed by local coordinators Danny Jiang & Pete Wotrung, the tournament site was quickly set-up.

The table tennis venue was originally to be in an indoor tennis club. After some last minute problems regarding a newly installed floor, we were moved to a much better site, John Marshall High School. Several other sports were also located at this site, which helped out in the spectator department. The very large gym provided excellent room for the sixteen “Stiga Elite Roller” tables and nets.

Wednesday was check-in and practice day for the players. In the past check-in was a long and tiring procedure. Not this year, as registration was, for most, a quick ten minute process. Armed with their player credentials, many spent the rest of the day practicing, meeting old friends, and checking out the opposition.

“What age group are you?” and “What is your rating?” were questions heard over and over. Practice was over at 4 pm so everyone could get ready for the Opening Ceremonies. This featured the parade of athletes around the downtown area.

Competition began in earnest at 9 a.m. Thursday morning. Over the last eleven years, this event has evolved into three separate tournaments, the Junior Olympics, AAU/USTTA Nationals, and the State Team Event. To compete in the Junior Olympic or Team Event, a player had to be an American citizen. To compete in the Nationals players had to meet Olympic eligibility requirements.

Each year the participants stamp their own personality onto this event. Junior players often develop very quickly, and in the past, many have served notice of their upcoming greatness at this event. While excellent play was seen at all levels, the younger age divisions definitely showed the most spirited competition.

Only two male players managed to win their age groups in both tournaments, Sunny Li (MD) and David Fernandez (NY). Sunny took both under-12 titles, defeating Roger Chin (OK) in both finals. Both of these matches were very close and produced the finest play seen in this age group since the days of young Sean O’Neill and Scott Butler. Points featured exciting loops and counters. Both matches went down to the wire, with Sunny being just a little more backhand steady than Chin when it counted.

Meanwhile David Fernandez was quietly dominating the talented under-16 field. David, who has made a spectacular rise this past year (he finished second in the U.S. Open U18 event), plays out of New York City’s Queens Boys Club. David has great athletic ability and plays a hard two-wing looping attack game. His opening backhand loop is something to see. He defeated Barney Reed (PA) in a great counter-looping contest in the finals of the Junior Olympic Event. In the final of the National Event, David outstedied Norman Yeh (IN) who had posted a fine win over Barney in the semi-final.

The Boy’s under-18 has historically been the glamorous event of the tournament.

This year’s field held no clear-cut favorites. Whoever got hot could win. On the first day, Randy Cohen (FL) had the hot hand and took the Junior Olympic Title by defeating Eric Owens (TX) in a straight game finals.

On the second day of play, it was Jason St. George (VT) turn to catch fire as he upset Cohen in the semifinal of the Nationals. Time and again, Randy had trouble looping against Jason’s hard backhand pips-out drives.

The other National semifinals featured the match of the tournament between Barney Reed (playing up) and Eric Owens. Barney easily took the first game by driving Eric off the table. The second game saw a fired-up Eric dominating play with a series of strong backhand kills and counters. The third game started off as a replay of the first, with Eric unable to handle the spin on Barney’s opening loop as Barney took a 10-1 lead. However, Barney, perhaps thinking the match was all but over, began to soften up his attack. Slowly one point at a time, Eric began to take control, tying the score at 18-all, and winning the match 21-19. While the young Reed fell a little short, he has served notice that his time is fast approaching.

After two great semifinal matches, the finals proved to be somewhat anticlimactic. Sensing a national title and a check for $250, Eric was not to be denied and overpowered Jason St. George in three straight games.

There were 130 players entered in this year’s events, ninety-nine boys and thirty-one girls. In the girls events, like their counterparts, the younger age groups showed the most spirited play.

The largest entry was in the under-12 events. Laura Lin and Jessica Shen, both from Potomac, MD, met in both finals. Laura won the Junior Olympic Crown, and Jessica turned the tables in the National Event. Their matches featured very quick counter-driving and excellent basic technique.

Sunny Li of Potomac, MD, won the Boys Under 12 Championship. Sunny won three bronze, and captured both the National and Huang Tong Senior and two Boys Under 12 Championship.

Table Tennis Topics

Laura Lin of Potomac, MD, won three golds, two silvers and a bronze. She is the 1992 Junior Olympic Girls Under 12 Champion.

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS HONORED
On Wednesday, May 20th, three table tennis players were among approximately a dozen athletes from various Olympic sports who were guests of honor at a dinner banquet in celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month hosted by Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel.

Diana Gee, Khoa Nguyen and Wei Wang were the table tennis players honored, along with other athletes from ice skating (including Kristi Yamagucci, Tae Kwon Do and Badminton, who were all honored as "...exemplary individuals of Asian Pacific heritage who have displayed excellence in their personal and professional endeavors.

Congratulations to Diana, Khoa and Wei for receiving this honor, and for making the sport of Table Tennis well represented at this event! Don Dublin

Nets & Edges

L-R: USTTA Vice President Terry Timmins, Diana Gee, Khoa Nguyen, Wei Wang.

USTTA EXECUTIVE MEETING
JUNE 14-15, 1992
MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

A meeting of the USTTA Executive Committee was held June 14 & 15, 1992 in Midland, Michigan. The following are descriptions and outcomes of the motions discussed at the meeting. The complete minutes package is sent to each club and committee chair. Copies are available to members from headquarters upon request.

The following board and USTTA staff members attended the meeting: Shonie Aki, Insook Bhushan, Kae Browning, Scott Butler, Roy Dickson, Gus Kennedy, Jimi McClure, Sheila O'Daugherty, Barry Rodgers, Donna Sakai, Dan Seemiller and Terry Timmins.

Motion: Passed 10-0-0 Seemiller (McClure absent)

Move to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in Colorado Springs, CO, March 22-23, 1992.

Motion: Passed 11-0-0 Kennedy

Move to accept in principle the proposal for the Umpire Development Program with final details to be worked on and presented again.

Motion: Passed 10-0-0 Timmins (Butler absent)

Move to accept by-law changes proposed in the last EC meeting. (The following by-laws were changed or deleted:

2.2.1.1 & 2.2.1.1 - changed age to 18 and to last July 1st
3.3.2 - deleted reference to 3 star events
3.4.3, 3.9.1 & 3.9.3 - deleted references to awards in excess of ITTF regulations.
3.16.2.5.1 - deleted reference to Consultation events
3.16.2.5.5 - deleted reference to Amateur events in the U.S. Closed.)

Motion: Passed 11-0-0 (Kennedy)

Move to accept in principle the President’s report (on the Junior Olympics) with amendments. Guidelines to be published in Topics.

Motion: Passed 11-0-0 Rodgers

Move to redefine job description for RTP manager and advertise for new candidates for fall of 1992.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Sakai
Secretary, USTTA

TABLE TENNIS ROBOT USED BY U.S. OLYMPIANS
by Susan Polakoff
Star Wars technology may be on hold in the U.S. military, but U.S. table tennis players are using space age wizardry to help them compete with the world’s best.

A state-of-the-art computerized robot has been developed by STITCO USA, to mimic the strategies and playing styles of top world table tennis competitors.

The robot gives U.S. athletes the opportunity to practice against foreign strategies and styles that have been problematic. By practicing with the robot, U.S. athletes will devise strategies needed to beat their competitors.

"This robot programs the shot selection through the use of software. Players insert a computer disk which is programmed to simulate the distinctive style of world class players. The machine can shoot two balls per second, varying in angle, spin and speed," said U.S. National Champion Sean O’Neill, 1988 & 92 Olympian. The U.S. Men’s Olympic Team used the robot in their training before the recent Olympics for over a month.

The development of the robot was funded by STITCO and by the U.S. Olympic Committee. STITCO staff members involved in the robot production included Gus Berliner (President, and inventor of the original STITCO robot 15 years ago), Markus Bareker (Vice President, Engineering), David Kershaw (Engineer), Wadji Falico (Consultant), and Leonard “Jake” Kline (Machine Design Engineer). Supplied table tennis technical support was Sean O’Neill.

STITCO provided the engineering expertise and underwrote over $50,000 of the cost in developing the robot. The U.S. Olympic Committee provided an additional $18,000 through its Science and Equipment Technology Committee.

"Because of limited financial resources it is virtually impossible for the top U.S. players to travel regularly to Sweden, Germany or China where the best league play occurs. This robot creates the opportunity to play the best--it’s like a surrogate champion," said U.S. President and former National Champion Dan Seemiller. "A robot programmed to play with our athletes with the strategic and competitive styles of top foreign players will give our athletes the competitive experience they need to become serious world contenders."

What a thrill it was for table tennis to be featured in stories (about the robot) in Sports Illustrated, USA Today, New York Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Time Magazine, Omni Magazine, NBC, CNN, and dozens of other news outlets! It was also used in exhibitions and demonstrations at Busch Gardens Amusement Park.

The robot consists of a throwing head which can put up to 6,000 rpm of spin on the ball! It can shoot the ball up to 70 mph, up to four a second. Players have no need to chase after balls, either. Balls hit back into the net provided behind the robot are automatically recycled.

The robot can be programmed in a variety of ways to simulate a player’s game. It can also simulate the game on a computer screen for easier game analysis, taking into account the effects of altitude, temperature and air pressure. According to Falico, who helped develop the robot’s software, it is even capable of predicting and simulating table tennis on Mars!

September/October 1992

Insook Bhushan demonstrates new STITCO Robot at Busch Gardens just before Olympics.
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MEIKLEJOHN NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Laguna Hills, California
July 10-12, 1992
by Julius Margolis and Tom Pizzo

Sports myth and tradition were overturned at the Meiklejohn National Seniors in Laguna Hills California—a woman took first prize in the hotly contested Seniors Open against a field of 67 men, including many past National Seniors Champs. Insook Bhushan won $1,000 and the inscription on the Meiklejohn Cup as the 1992 Winner. She succeeded Rey Domingo, the winner for the past two years.

Table tennis, as other sports, is sharply divided between the sexes. Certainly there are rated events which do not distinguish between the sexes, but the championship events, as in all sports, are differentiated between men and women. It is said that this is to give the women a chance at winning first place; it is said that they cannot compete successfully against the men. However, Insook has shown that this need not be so. In an extremely strong field of men she emerged as No. 1. The other players who wound up as money winners in the seniors open event were Bohdan Dawidowicz (second); Rey Domingo, Peng Xin, David Sakai, Etsuko Shioya, Yang Wei, and the “Juniors” (over 30) Open. The “Juniors” had all the leading seniors with the addition of nine leading juniors, including several past national champions.

In the Seniors Open the top seed was Insook Bhushan, and she played according to form. Until she reached Peng Xin in the semi her most strenuous match was with Rey Domingo in the Seniors Open. Bhushan beat Domingo 21-15, a most creditable performance. The Peng Xin match showed Insook at her best.

In the other half Insook had a fairly easy draw, though Mas Hashimoto gave her some difficulties, until she met Attila Malek in the semi. Malek was playing splendidly. He has been getting into good physical condition and playing freer and more fluidly than ever before as a coach. His draw gave him more difficulty, especially Bill Sharpe’s serve which confounded him. That match went to 19-19, 17. Malek’s match with Bhushan was beautiful to watch since both played at the top of their athletic powers and with great intelligence. Attila tried nothing new, but everything was executed perfectly. Insook played splendidly against Malek’s repeated powerful loops to the far corners and ever so-soft drops over the net. They were bound to add matches to Malek. However, if Malek was not precise, Bhushan would fly in from her distant corner and attack the drop over the net with a smashing drive down the line for a point. The play was elegant. Malek went on to the finals to defeat Rey Domingo, who had beaten him the previous year. Next year Malek matures to 40 and he is eager to compete with seniors for the Meiklejohn Cup and prize. We look forward to welcoming him and other members of the new crop of seniors.

In the Seniors Open the second day offered a few matches which in beauty of execution could match any of our televised championship matches. In the Thirties, Insook and Wei Wang were seeded in opposite halves. The crowd cheered for each of the women in turn. Wei is a coach in Leisure World and in the nearby Orange Coast College club. Many knew her well and they wanted to see her play Insook. But alas it was not to be. Both women were to lose in the semis, but in the process we were to witness many wonderful matches.

In the quarters Wei Wang played her slam-bang aggressive style against Peng Xin and it worked. Repeated drives by Wei against the penholder’s backhand took their toll. Too frequently Peng would return a tempo-rizing stroke but to no avail. Wei was born to attack. In the first game Peng led 17-16. Wei tied it at 19-all and then flew ahead to win 21-19. In the second game a 10-10 tie eventually resulted in a 21-15 victory for Wei. The two women, with their contrasting styles, played splendidly against Peng Xin in two different events. The dramatic style differences led to great spectator viewing.

Wei’s great victory over Peng led no where since then she lost to Rey Domingo in the semi—a good match but lacking the excitement of her preceding victory. In the other semi Domingo’s easy draw, though Mas Hashimoto gave her some difficulties, until she met Attila Malek in the semi. Malek was playing splendidly. He has been getting into good physical condition and playing freer and more fluidly than ever before as a coach. His draw gave him more difficulty, especially Bill Sharpe’s serve which confounded him. That match went to 19-19, 17. Malek’s match with Bhushan was beautiful to watch since both played at the top of their athletic powers and with great intelligence. Attila tried nothing new, but everything was executed perfectly. Insook played splendidly against Malek’s repeated powerful loops to the far corners and ever so-soft drops over the net. They were bound to add matches to Malek. However, if Malek was not precise, Bhushan would fly in from her distant corner and attack the drop over the net with a smashing drive down the line for a point. The play was elegant. Malek went on to the finals to defeat Rey Domingo, who had beaten him the previous year. Next year Malek matures to 40 and he is eager to compete with seniors for the Meiklejohn Cup and prize. We look forward to welcoming him and other members of the new crop of seniors.

Just a final note about doubles—very popular in the West but not played very often in the East. All entrants to the event are listed according to their ratings. The top half are randomly assigned partners from the bottom half. Unfortunately, it is possible that the lowest player in the top half may be assigned the lowest in the bottom half. If it happens to you it is difficult to avoid a pang of bitterness. But for 90% of the players the event is great fun. The elites enjoy the problem of playing with a much weaker player as partner and the weaker players finally get a chance to play against the elites. In our tournament almost all of our great players entered so there were many opportunities to play with or against the leading players. At the same time the leading players were good sports and enjoyed themselves. (It helps to put adequate prize money into the event.)

See y’ all next year.

September/October 1992
Results:

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YASAKA BUTTERFLY BANDA


The 6th World Veterans Championships, held June 15-20, was the third main hall of the Royal Dublin Society in Dublin, Ireland, drew about 1200 entries from roughly 40 countries. Almost all the winners—China's Liang Geling (over France's Jacques Secretin, who'd won the World's Octogenarian title with Mary's lifelong trophy winner Jim Verra at the World Veterans two years ago in Baltimore, and the 70-year-old Hall, who's been U.S. National Champions in the various age-group singles and doubles events, put their know-how-to-win-by-this-time 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 pair from the beginning. But on losing a preliminary round-robin match to the Newwhauser/Ver Del Maen team (no, that didn't put our guys out of it—two teams advanced to the Championship single elimination play; two dropped down into the Consolation), George and Benny knew, before meeting the Belgians again in the final, that 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 acclimatizing topspun at what they were slow to understand was not a safe half-speed, George and Benny countered for winners. This one tactic, it might add, actually made the 21-18, 21-19 final-match difference and gave the Rocker/Hall team their round robin preliminary and so had drawn a bye.

Bill and I, who'd likewise earned a bye, had a shocking first-round match in the doubles against two strong Czech players (one of whom had gotten to the semis of the singles). Although we won the first game at 9 when, following up Bill's openings, I unhesitatingly hit the ball in hard, the change of order in the second game prevented me from continuing to get the ball in, and we our opponents now very effectively pick-hitting, I couldn't adjust, and in the third neither Bill nor I could find our way back.

In the 70s, Bill coached George Rocket to an early come-from-behind win against a Frenchman, but then, having prepared himself back in the States to play against strictly defensive opponents, George unexpectedly came up against a player who intimidated him to move back from the table...with disastrous consequences.

Nor could George's winning doubles partner, Benny, or Benny's usual partner (together they've played at the Wimbledon Club for 42 years), Frank Dwelly, do more than, like most, try as best they could. (Ohh, poor Frank, he lost 24-22 in the 3rd to a Yugoslav chopper.)

The Irish Association, headed by its affable President Joe Vesely, worked very hard to make this tournament a success— and, considering that there were so many players, it was inevitable that there'd be complaints: about the lighting, for example (it wasn't so good over some of the always barriered-off 52-foot tables); or about the occasional unforgettable kitchen order (Bill Guiford said he waited three hours, never left the playing area, even, kept periodically inquiring when he was to play his next match, and was still defaulted; or about the early-round difficulty to hold onto his footing (I didn't notice that I could practice only from 8-9 in the morning, then didn't play my first match until noon, if I won that, had to wait interminably before playing my second at 6 p.m...my third at 830...and my 4th, it might be, on the 13th). On the whole, the though, the 1992 Melbourne, Australia Tournament Organizers ought to be satisfied if, with more than 1,000 players again expected, they can do as well as the Dublin team here.

I'm sorry I didn't see our four U.S. medal winners receive their awards, but I took many time New Jersey Champion John "(Pat)" Kilpatrick's advice to get out of Dublin (and away from all those "Bloommys" at Trinity College and elsewhere) and "see the real Ireland." So with my wife Sally and fellow travelers Dick and Mary Miles, I not so confidently got into our rented car and, wrong-side-of-the-road-wise driving off, went 600 miles or kilometers down to the Dingle Peninsula and then up to the Cliffs of Moher where, despite my singles and doubles losses, I presented the breath-taking 700-foot waterfall.

Results:

Men's Over 40 Singles: Liang Geling (China) / Jacques Secretin (France). - 20, 16.
Men's Over 40 Doubles: Liang Geling/Chen/Heiner Lammers (Ger.). - 20, 16.
Women's Over 40 Singles: Birgitta Strand-Radberg (Swe.). - 20, 16.
Women's Over 40 Doubles: Jutta Trapp (Ger.). - 17, 17.
Men's Over 50 Singles: Leslie D'Arcy (Eng.). - 16, 19.
Women's Over 50 Singles: Dorothy DeLow (USA). - 17, 17.
Men's Over 50 Doubles: Anton Hold (Austria) / Dieter Patzel (Ger.). - 16, 17.
Women's Over 50 Singles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Diet fitted Konst (Ger.). - 16, 15.
Men's Over 50 Singles: Olaf Zehne (Ger.). / Kiirik Matuwes (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Women's Over 60 Singles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Men's Over 60 Singles: Matt Shearer (Eng.). / Dorothea Hofer (Ger.). - 20, 19.
Women's Over 60 Singles: Waltraud Zehe (Ger.). / Kiriko Matuwaes (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Men's Over 60 Singles: Matt Shearer (Eng.). / Dorothea Hofer (Ger.). - 20, 19.
Women's Over 60 Doubles: Waltraud Zehe (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Men's Over 60 Singles: Matt Shearer (Eng.). / Dorothea Hofer (Ger.). - 20, 19.
Women's Over 60 Doubles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Men's Over 70 Singles: Leslie D'Arcy (Eng.). / Ronald Bolton (Eng.). - 17, 17.
Men's Over 70 Doubles: George Rockett / Benny Hull (USA). / Jof Newhawseman / Constant Van Der Maen (Bel.). - 16, 19.
Women's Over 70 Singles: Marianne Veselsky (Ger.). / Reine Bestel/Angele Joing (France). - 16, 17.
Women's Over 70 Doubles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Women's Over 70 Doubles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Men's Over 70 Doubles: Trevor Jenkins (Eng.). / Lasio Bella (Eng.). - 16, 17.
Women's Over 70 Doubles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
Men's Over 70 Doubles: Trevor Jenkins (Eng.). / Lasio Bella (Eng.). - 16, 17.
Women's Over 70 Doubles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
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Women's Over 70 Doubles: Waltraud Zehne (Ger.). / Marika Utsumi (Jap.). - 16, 17.
CARTOON CONTEST #1
by Don Higgins
Now's your chance to become famous. Let thousands see your name in print! Here's how to do it:
1. Write a punchline for the cartoon shown below.
2. Send your punchline to Table Tennis Topics, NTTC, 16810 Oakmont Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.
3. Winning captions will be published in Topics.
4. Be sure to include your name & address!

Donald Higgins
Larry Hodges
September/October 1992
Rating Points

by USTTA Rating Chairman Dan Simon

Your 2205 rated editor of Topics asked me to write an article about the Rating System for this issue.

Many of you know me personally (so you could skip the next two paragraphs), but for those of you who don’t, here’s a short profile.

I was always interested in racquet sports, and was captain of my high school and college tennis team. In college, my instructor in Physical Education challenged me to a match of table tennis for an “A” in the course...I got the “A”. My highest USTTA rating was 1730, but my game and rating have seen better days. My father, Pam, was a top rated junior table tennis player and our family shared many great trips to tournament sites throughout the U.S. and also to the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE).

Prior to taking over the reins of the system in June 1983, I was the full-time rating chairman for the table tennis club at Northampton Community College where I have been department chairman and professor of computer science for the past 23 years. The College encourages the faculty to participate and practice their specialties, and to keep as current as possible. Our club ran many successful tournaments on the local, state and regional level. The Lehigh Valley Open had 328 players in two days on 12 tables using a double-elimination system. At a post-Lehigh Valley Open tournament party, then Vice President Pat O’Neill suggested that I submit a contract proposal to operate the rating system. This suggestion came at a favorable time since I was in the process of establishing a new business venture, Computer Consulting Associates. The USTTA Executive Committee accepted our contract proposal and we started working on what is now 1,834 tournaments.

The Ratings Office is located in Bethlehem, Pa., where the staff takes its work very seriously and consists of three people: an office manager, key board operator and chairman. The position of Rating Chairman allows me the opportunity to use my background in computers and pursue my interest and love for the sport of table tennis.

My wife, Patti, and I have done the draws and operations for five U.S. Championships and six U.S. Opens, Las Vegas and Miami. We know the problems of running tournaments, and one has to be sensitive to the needs and concerns of tournament directors.

Patti was a public elementary school teacher, and now is the Office Manager of Computer Consulting Associates, and really “runs” the rating system. She is very organized and handles the correspondence, supervises the key board of the matches and handles the mailing of the rating lists (almost 2,000) by making an accurate tournament calendar. (She has never missed a list for a tournament that we knew about.) Patti also helps the tournament directors via the telephone with their miscellaneous problems. Since she checks every match, she can spot problem areas in the draws which we discuss (or try to unravel). Patti phones the tournament director when a draw sheet is missing or the round robin sheet is not properly filled out, or results are not received on time. She is very busy. Her efforts ensure that the average tournament is processed and back in the mail within five days of receipt. This keeps the system running smoothly and in a timely manner.

The main purpose of the rating system is to provide players and tournament officials with an indication of relative player strength prior to a tournament. The rating is based on previous wins and losses against rated players in prior tournaments. The rating is a computer generated number, the higher numbers for the more skilled players, with 3000 used to represent perfection. The Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner has a rating of 2854, for example.

Ratings can confidently be used to compare the levels of all USTTA members who have played in a recent tournament. They are also used as the basis for seeding and placement in the preparation of the draws for the various events in a tournament. In “rating level events,” the ratings are used for event eligibility. By prohibiting players below a certain rating limit from entering a lowering event and then easily winning, all players should be able to find a few events in which they will be very competitive. Hopefully, the rating system also increases the interest of players in improving their level of performance.

I’ve been told that many USTTA members check their ratings, and their friends’ ratings...before reading the articles in Topics. (Editor’s note: This can’t be true!!)

Can it??

The following is a brief overview of the Rating System operation.

1. A ratings listing, prepared by computer, is mailed to a tournament director two weeks before the start of play, earlier if requested.

2. The tournament directors contact the Ratings Office with their questions. After the matches are played, the results are to be mailed to our office within one week of the conclusion of the tournament. All tournaments are processed in calendar sequence, so any delay in receiving the tournament match results can slow the processing of other tournaments held in that area of the country.

3. When the Ratings Office receives the results, they are checked, event by event, match by match, for proper recording or omissions. (Sometimes the winner of the Open Event is not recorded since this is the last event and the control desk staff is watching the match!) New members are keyed into the database. The tournament director is contacted if there are any problems or questions before the matches are keyed.

4. The match results are keyed into the computer for processing. All played matches are used in calculating a new rating. Defaults, walk-overs or no-shows are not used. However, once the match officially starts, and one or more points are played, the match is used. If a player cannot continue due to injury or illness, the match is counted since this avoids make-up games for withdrawing from a match.

5. The computer prepares the preliminary reports using the point exchange chart printed in the rating section. The winner of the match gains points and the loser loses the same number of points.

6. Unrated players are rated by the Rating Chairman, with assistance by the computer. Rated players with large net rating gains of at least 50 points are assigned an adjusted rating.

7. Matches are reprocessed, now using the newly assigned ratings for the “unrated” players and the players who were “underrated.” This means, that for rating system purposes, no one played a zero rated player even when 0 or UNR was written on the draw sheet. When a player’s results show he is underrated, his opponents played him at his adjusted rating when the tournament is processed. The results are checked for fairness and accuracy.

8. The final computerized reports are checked for accuracy and then mailed to the tournament sponsors.

9. The computer database is updated with the new ratings ready to generate the next rating listing. And when Topics calls with the publication deadline, the Rating Chairman generates the special lists and ratings of all members who have competed in the past four months.

I recently had a discussion with a new player. I thought you might like to read about some of his questions:

How do I get a rating?

You must be a USTTA (or ITTF) member and play in a sanctioned tournament. All of your matches are keyed into a computer file. The computer has been programmed to use a match-equilibrium method to suggest an initial rating to the rating chairman. What this means is that the computer calculates a rating at the mid-point of the wins and losses of the unrated player versus the previous rated players. This mid-point rating in effect should place the new player at a rating that would cause the lowest point change when the matches are re-processed with this new rating. This method does not cause major point deductions when a rated player loses to an unrated player. The match scores are then checked in the draws to determine the appropriateness of the computer’s mid-point rating. A computer-assisted match-score method is used when necessary. It’s frequently very involved since the unrated players sometimes only have victories over other unrated players. Which unrated player gets rated first? It does make a difference. The computer suggests the order of unrated players based upon which of them has the best performance in the tournament on down to the worst playing record. The varieties of first tournament results for unrated players sometimes challenges the imagination.
Do match scores count toward ratings?

No...many times no scores or just 2-0 is reported. If scores affected ratings it might encourage a "kind-hearted" player to record all of his wins as 19 and 19. Scores should always be recorded accurately, then we know that the match was played. For unrated and adjusted players the match scores are always checked and used by the computer and me.

How do I know what my rating is?

How do I know which events I can enter in this tournament I want to enter next week?

Ratings are published in the magazine. When a rated player earns a net of 50 rating points...he could reach in his bag and pull out his better racquet.

If I'm inactive for a few years, will I still have a rating?

Yes, if you played in the past nine years. The computer stores a player's rating permanently and it will be available when he returns. It is true that some players may be inactive for extended periods and when they return to active tournament play they may not be as strong as when they last had an 1833 rating, and so the point change was not quite what was expected. So it's usually not possible to calculate your rating change accurately during tournament play.

How can I find out the processed results of my tournament play?

The processed results are mailed back to the tournament director. These results should be back in the tournament director's hands within a few weeks of the end of play. (That's if the draw sheets were mailed to us within one week by the TD.) Many of the directors post this report on the club bulletin board or mail the results back to the player.

My friend's rating was not published in Topics. Why not?

Well, first he must be a current member and secondly, he must also have played in the past four months. He must satisfy both conditions.

What computer equipment is used for the rating system?

The current computer hardware is a Gateway 2000 super-microcomputer. It has a powerful 486/33 processor with 8 megabytes of memory and a 210 million character disk drive for storage of files.

I must close now and get back to those rating points....
MAMMOTH SUMMER OPEN

New York City  
August 1-2, 1992  
by Tim Boggan

The New York table tennis scene got off to an early season start with the Mammoth Club's well-attended summer tournament, run as conscientiously as space and time would permit by the usual behind-the-desk stalwarts Doon and Vicky Wong, Rene Tywang, and Andy Diaz. Although uncharacteristically there was no Open Singles (one uninitiated wonder aloud if all the best players were in Barcelona), the day's play did provide a showcase for our established senior stars.

In the top-rated 2250 event, after experiencing, whew, what you'd have to say was an incredible bus ride, a $5 Washington to New York "Special," Dave Sakai, momentarily blocking out all thoughts he and his traveling companion Morris Jackson might have as to the time and manner of their return, gutsily defeated the swinging #1 seed, Carlos Ko, deuce in the 3rd. In the one semi, Dave had beaten slimmed-down Westfield Tournament Director Larry Bavy, who in taking the 2200's had gotten the better of both 2000 runner-up Chris Okasla (whose attack from 14-all in the 3rd against me certainly seemed impressive) and, in the final, young David Fernandez (who, as I could tell from giving too many long serves to, is getting better and better at fast-topspin-countering).

In the other semi's, Carlos had dispatched with surprising ease Parviz Mojaverian. Such a loss could easily be explained by their 100-point rating difference! I think not, for in the Senior's earlier Parviz's aggressive play had so upset both Roe Domingo and Dave Sakai that they didn't even bother to play off for 2nd.

So, without much of the usual Sunday spin-and-counter spin, quick-snap action, the tournament was a big disappointment for all the spectators? Ah, au contraire—for all were watching match after match in the 2000's. Marty's, of course. For there was Reisman, in brightly-colored slacks and jaunty Hampants'-set summer hat (croquet, then tea at 4), as casual with the quip, as serious as ever, first struggling 19, -18, 14 in the semi's with Billy Maisonet (loser also to 2100 winner John Jarema) then finally, risking late-game forehands that he couldn't bring himself to try in Dublin, 21,-12, 23 prevailing over an amusingly volatile and voluble David Valoy.

Take a bow, Marty...O.K., another.

Results:


U1900—Final: Bob Zhao d. Riki Hashizome, 12, -24, 12; SF: Zhao d. Guivan DaSilva, 19, 10; Hashizome d. Mike Coke, 18, 14.


U1600—Final: Jerry Vasquez d. Andy Pelshe, 23, 14, 14; SF: Vasquez d. Simon Simpson, 15, 16; Pelshe d. Rodney Rideout, 18, -12, 18.


Unrated: Richard Polanco d. Dermacruz, 8, 7.

Senior's Final RR: IST: Parviz Mojaverian, 2.0; 2nd-3rd: Rey Domingo and Dave Sakai, 0-1.


Elementary School: David Fang d. Adam Brown, 9, 5.

U4400 Doubles: Parviz Mojaverian/Maximo Vasquez d. Larry Bavy/ Rene Tywang, 18, 18.

U3300 Doubles: Wei Hong Chen/Kiet Huynh d. David Fang/Doon Wong, 16, -16, 16.

September/October 1992
INTERNATIONAL

4TH JAPAN GRAND PRIX
June 4-7, 1992
Fuji City, Japan

Men's Teams: 1st China 2nd Korea
Women's Teams: 1st China 2nd Korea

June 4-7, 1992

4TH JAPAN GRAND PRIX


Hong Cha Ok (KOR) d. Deng Yaping/Matsushita (JPN) -9,17,19.

Men's Doubles: Ma Wenge/Yu Shentong

Women's Singles-Final: Deng Yaping (CHN) d. Erik Lindh (SWE) 14,17,-3-4

Hong Kong, Romania

Sweden & Czechoslovakia.

Men's Teams: 1st China 2nd Korea 3-4

Fuji City, Japan

by Larry Hodges, Todd Sweeris,

THE USTTA NON-TABLE

Badminton-Cheng Yinghua. Huang Tong

Three-time Olympian iii the triple jump-

write in and let us know.)

Fisherman, etc.—they're not Olympic

Olympic Alternate Team. (Sorry. golfers,

missed, here is the tentative list for the U.S.

One Hundred Meter Spring-Brian Pace

Marathon-Sean O'Neill, Insook Bhushan & Olympic

and missed a bronze medal by about one

top-rated over 60 player, Bill Sharpe, was a

at how many good athletes we have in our

choose a sport outside table tennis to com-

would happen if our top players had to

sport. (And how many of you knew that our

(Baseball-Dan Seemiller & Jason St.

Gymnastics-Brian Pace

Rowing-Chi-Sun Chui (coxswain)

Synchronized Swimming-The team of

Dave Sakai & Jim Butler

Tae Kwon Do-Brian Pace (getting tired

of him?)

Soccer—John Onifade & Dhiren Narotam

Swimming—Debbie Lytle, Craig Swasey, & Oscar Melvin

Synchronized Swimming—The team of

Dave Sakai & Jim Butler

Tae Kwon Do—Brian Pace (getting tired of him?)

Tennis—Barry Dattel, Derek May & Brian

Tae Kwon Do-Brian Pace (getting tired

of him?)

Tennis—Barry Dattel, Derek May & Brian

Masters

Triple Jump—Bill Sharpe. He's probably

still our best

Volleyball—Dell Sweeris & Sylvia Lee

Wrestling—Todd Sweeris & Tony Soong

INTERNATIONAL

WORLD ALL STARS CIRCUIT
Guangzhou, China
June 1-2, 1992

Final: Zoran Primorac (CRO) d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) 12,14.-11,11,1; Saive d. Waldner (SWE) 10,-6.7,8; Kim d. Yu

Shentong (CHN) 16,-10,18,7; Qiao d. Zhang Qin (CHN) 16,-19,18,6.

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WORLD ALL STARS CIRCUIT
May 22, 1992 in Penang, Malaysia

Final: Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) d. Jean-

Phillipe Gatien (FRA) 3-1; SF: Gatien
d. Ma Wenge (CHN) 2-1; Gatien d. Kim
Taeck Soo (KOR) 2-0. QF: Gatien d.
Zoran Primorac (CRO) 2-0; Ma d. Lo
Chuen Tsung (HKG) 2-1; Saive d. Tay
Choon Chau (MAL) 2-0; Kim d. Lu Lin
(CHN) 2-0.

May 26, 1992 in Hong Kong

Final: Kim Taeck Soo (KOR) d. Gatien
(FRA)-18,18,21,19; SF: Kim d. Jan-Ove
Waldner (SWE) 2-0; Gatien d. Ma
Wenge (CHN) 2-0; QF: Waldner d.
Zoran Primorac (CRO) 2-1; Kim d. Erik
Lindh (SWE) 2-0; Ma d. Lo Chuen
Tsung (HKG) 2-0; Gatien d. Jean-Michel
Saive (BEL) 2-0.

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INTERNATIONAL

WORLD ALL STARS CIRCUIT
Guangzhou, China
June 1-2, 1992

Final: Zoran Primorac (CRO) d. Jean-

Michel Saive (BEL) 12,14.-11,11,1; Saive d. Waldner (SWE) 10,-6.7,8; Kim d. Yu

Shentong (CHN) 16,-10,18,7; Qiao d. Zhang Qin (CHN) 16,-19,18,6.

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Limited Introductory Offer.
Photo by Kyle Roberson

**TRI-CITIES SUMMER OPEN**
July 18-19, 1992
Falcon Gym, Hanford High School
Richland, Washington
By Kyle Roberson

Summer is the fun time for students, and the Summer Open was breakthrough time for Pacific Northwest junior. John B Love (17) knocked off Bob Mandel in the final 16 of the Open before going down to Christian Solomon's anti-attack. JB also took out Vinc Mioduszewski in round two of the U2050. Phong Ho (13) also victimized Vinc in the Open round robin. A photo of Vinc's reaction to all this hopefully accompanies this report if Larry Hodges can find a little space in his editor's heart for a few column inches. *(How can I say no? Larry.)* Phong finished ahead of the pack in U1850, and he and JB made it to the finals in Open Doubles.

**CORNHUSKER STATE GAMES**

**Men's Championship Singles**: Gold: Paul Lykke; Silver: Rod Cowles; Bronze: John O'Neal.

**Women's Championship Singles**: Gold: Sylvana Airan; Silver: Susan Hertzer; Bronze: Robyn Peterson.

**Championship Doubles**: Gold: R. Cowles/P. Lykke; Silver: R. Mickelson/T. Johnson; Bronze: J. O'Neal/P. Peterson.


Men's Over 55: Gold: John O'Neal; Silver: Robert Wright; Bronze: Leroy Petersen.

U18: Gold: Tony Rubek; Silver: Nick Norrward; Bronze: Clarke Teft.


U14: Gold: Andrew Becker; Silver: Matt Besse; Bronze: Chris Ellis.

U11: Gold: Shane Hanson; Silver: Shary Norward; Bronze: Ty Wright.

A Singles: Gold: Wes Wright; Silver: Leroy Petersen; Bronze: Lee Todd.

B Singles: Gold: Roger Gadeken; Silver: Nick Norward; Bronze: Thomas Chung.

Men's Novice: Gold: Tom Thompson; Silver: Brian Tate; Bronze: Terry Tinch.

Men's Recreational Singles: Gold: Lee Todd; Silver: Rex Crawford; Bronze: Tom Thompson.

Women's Recreational Singles: Gold: Jackie Carder; Silver: Judy Hanson; Bronze: Janet Anderson.


**SAC-REC OPEN**
Sacramento, California
July 25, 1992

Open—Final RR: 1st Khoa Nguyen 3-0; 2nd Avishy Schmidt 2-1; 3rd Voltola Trillo 1-2; 4th Dennis Davis 0-3.


U1650: Rojo Rafael d. Lee Yoder 11,16.


U1250: San Er d. Beal De La Cruz 13-16,17.

U1050: Brad De La Cruz d. Mark Bubba 8,19.


**SAC-REC OPEN**
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U1650: Rojo Rafael d. Lee Yoder 11,16.


U1250: San Er d. Beal De La Cruz 13-16,17.

U1050: Brad De La Cruz d. Mark Bubba 8,19.


**PENNSYLVANIA STATE GAMES**
August 9-9, 1992

Open: Joe Scheno; Silver: John Ramirez; Bronze: Jeff Lewis.

Open Doubles: Gold: John Ramirez/Rich Burns; Silver: Joe Scheno/Gerald Kloboth; Bronze: Ron Albovick/Fred Rodis.

U2000: Gold: Joe Scheno; Silver: Rich Burns; Bronze: John Ramirez.

U2000: Gold: Jeff Lewis; Silver: Marv Plevinsky; Bronze: Sam Steinman.

U1800: Gold: Terrence Wei; Silver: Fred Kistler; Bronze: Wan Yee Cheung.

U1800: Gold: Marv Plevinsky; Silver: Fred Kistler; Bronze: Ron Allbright.

Women's Singles: Gold: Wan Yee Cheung; Silver: Cynthia Jamison; Bronze: Nancy Newcomer.

**THE SUMMER SMASHER SPLASHER OPEN**
Boston, Massachusetts
June 27-28

Open Singles—Final: David Zuhun d. Ravari Cretu 10,12,13; SF: Zuhun d. Ernest Virge 11,14; Cretu d. Chi-Sun Chai 14,16; QF: Zuhun d. Ralph Bockoven 7,9; Virge d. Kurt Duney 16,17; Chai d. Jason St. George 7,19; Cretu d. Sean Lonergan 13,14.

U2200: Jeff Lewis d. Nick Boyns 18-17,18.

U2050: Jim Hayford d. Alex Landsman 12,10.


U1850: Steven Adams d. Deepak Jain 12,12.

U1700: Steven Adams d. Maury Stern 10,12.

U1650: Steven Adams d. Ray Gross 14,7.

U1600: Maury Stern d. Tom Nguyen 18,16.


U1500: Timung Maung d. Michael Sass -11,10,11.

U1400: David Levy d. Stanley Stariski 16,6,18.


U950: Tanise Adams d. Lawrence Wong -18,11,17.


Unrated Singles: Kazi Jalal d. Weng Deng 13,17.

Saturday Handicap: Sean Lonergan d. Qian Huyan 5-14,18.


**THE TABLE TENNIS SPOUSE'S LAMENT**

By Pat Partridge

(Reflections at the 1992 Golden State Open)

The Seat is hard; How hard the seat That other people's
The eye is dull; How dull the eye
That watches all Those balls go by.

The ride is long; How long the ride Though we are sitting Side by side.

So you must please And shed a tear Or I will not Come back next year!
Yugoslavia’s Jasna Fazlic has been dubbed the “glamour girl” of table tennis. She quickly became a featured attraction at the 1990 U.S. Open; the daily news bulletins circulated among the players at the Tournament of Champions often quoted her not-so-secret admirers. Moreover, Butterfly commissioned a huge mural of her that went up in Japan just prior to the 1991 world championships in Chiba City.

When she returned to the U.S. Open this year, she was still the sport’s reigning “glamour girl.” But her new marriage instantly dashed any lingering hopes of those unlucky admirers. She and her husband, Ilja Lupulesku, were just concluding their American honeymoon as the U.S. Open was getting underway.

Fazlic was still a beaming bride in Midland, Canada, when asked what she missed most about being a wife. “I look back at him when he plays. I sit with my friends. He doesn’t. It depends.” They clearly enjoy the added dimension their shared athletic excellence brings to their relationship, which begs the question about the future merging of that talent: little ones.

Fazlic, still basking in the bliss of her recent marriage, blushed and said it is too soon to think about babies. But, she felt pretty strongly that she was not going to be like those parents who push their children athletically. She commented, “Maybe our children won’t be as talented as we are. I want my children to play the sport they want to play, but, if they would like to play table tennis, that would be fine.”

After the U.S. Open, Fazlic and Lupulesku remained in the U.S. to train with the U.S. men’s Olympic qualifiers, Jim Butler and Sean O’Neill, and the group assembled to serve as their practice partners. (Cheng Yinghua, Huaizhang Xu, Derek May and Peru Olympian Yair Nathan.)

Fazlic and Lupulesku, along with their doubles partners, were also allowed to play in Barcelona under a decision made just prior to the Olympic Games: Yugoslavian athletes could participate as “independent entrants.” Yugoslavs were, therefore, barred from participating in the Olympic table tennis competition only men’s and women’s singles and doubles.

The Olympics were a bit uneventful for them. Lupulesku lost to world #10, Li Gun Sang from North Korea, in the qualifying round robin. Fazlic was defeated by world #15, Ottilia Radescu from Romania. Fazlic and her partner in women’s doubles, Gordana Parkacin, also lost in their preliminary round robin. Lupulesku and his new partner, Slobodan Grujic, won their preliminary round robin (with a three-game win over Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren), but then lost in their first round to eventual silver medalists Steffen Fetzner and Jorg Roskopf of Germany.

As of the U.S. Open, Fazlic was not sure of what the future would hold for them. She hoped that she and her husband would be able to find a place somewhere where the two of them could settle down for a while and just concentrate on playing and building a life together.

Jasna Fazlic, the glamour girl of table tennis, turns out to be a lot like the rest of us after all.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>National Coaching Chairman</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALABAMA</td>
<td>Joseph Henneke, Hangzhou, FL</td>
<td>Dist: 205-847-6287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIZONA</td>
<td>Calvin McCloud, Phoenix, AZ</td>
<td>Dist: 602-970-1796</td>
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<tr>
<td>CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>Sam Klebener, Jacksonville, FL</td>
<td>Dist: 510-541-6002</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONNECTICUT</td>
<td>Spike Stephenson, Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>Dist: 704-384-1601</td>
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<tr>
<td>DELAWARE</td>
<td>Mark Wood, Wilmington, DE</td>
<td>Dist: 302-885-9600</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</td>
<td>Norm Silver, Washington, DC</td>
<td>Dist: 202-885-9600</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLORIDA</td>
<td>John Smith, Miami, FL</td>
<td>Dist: 305-566-2925</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
<td>Robert Tretheway, Colorado Springs, CO</td>
<td>Dist: 719-475-0045</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAWAII</td>
<td>Kenneth Reynolds, Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>Dist: 808-533-7470</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOWA</td>
<td>Scott Preiss, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>Dist: 312-465-2254</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>Joe Hubert, Shaker Heights, OH</td>
<td>Dist: 614-856-8850</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDIANA</td>
<td>Robert Kellum, Indianapolis, IN</td>
<td>Dist: 317-283-4100</td>
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<tr>
<td>KENTUCKY</td>
<td>Mike Rivers, Lexington, KY</td>
<td>Dist: 859-384-1601</td>
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<td>LOUISIANA</td>
<td>Curtis Arrington, New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Dist: 504-566-2925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARYLAND</td>
<td>Mark Jaffe, College Park, MD</td>
<td>Dist: 301-395-0045</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHIGAN</td>
<td>Joe Finnell, Port Huron, MI</td>
<td>Dist: 517-596-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>MINNESOTA</td>
<td>Jerry Nelles, St Paul, MN</td>
<td>Dist: 612-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISSISSIPPI</td>
<td>William Foster, Clarksdale, MS</td>
<td>Dist: 662-394-2074</td>
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<td>MONTANA</td>
<td>Jennifer Nelles, Billings, MT</td>
<td>Dist: 406-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEVADA</td>
<td>Amanda Nelles, Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>Dist: 702-394-2074</td>
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<td>NEW HAMPSHIRE</td>
<td>Sandy Nelles, Concord, NH</td>
<td>Dist: 603-394-2074</td>
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<td>NEW MEXICO</td>
<td>Donald Nelles, Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>Dist: 505-394-2074</td>
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<td>NEW YORK</td>
<td>Tom Nelles, New York, NY</td>
<td>Dist: 212-394-2074</td>
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<td>OHIO</td>
<td>Daniel Nelles, Columbus, OH</td>
<td>Dist: 614-394-2074</td>
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<td>OKLAHOMA</td>
<td>William Nelles, Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>Dist: 405-394-2074</td>
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<td>RHODE ISLAND</td>
<td>Robert Nelles, Providence, RI</td>
<td>Dist: 401-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>Korean Nelles, Columbia, SC</td>
<td>Dist: 803-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH DAKOTA</td>
<td>Dennis Nelles, Pierre, SD</td>
<td>Dist: 605-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>TENNESSEE</td>
<td>Susan Nelles, Nashville, TN</td>
<td>Dist: 615-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEXAS</td>
<td>Joseph Nelles, Austin, TX</td>
<td>Dist: 512-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>VERMONT</td>
<td>John Nelles, Burlington, VT</td>
<td>Dist: 802-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIRGINIA</td>
<td>Mark Nelles, Richmond, VA</td>
<td>Dist: 804-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASHINGTON</td>
<td>Jay Nelles, Seattle, WA</td>
<td>Dist: 206-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEST VIRGINIA</td>
<td>Helen Nelles, Charleston, WV</td>
<td>Dist: 304-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>WISCONSIN</td>
<td>Jeffrey Nelles, Madison, WI</td>
<td>Dist: 608-394-2074</td>
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<tr>
<td>WYOMING</td>
<td>William Nelles, Cheyenne, WY</td>
<td>Dist: 307-394-2074</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**U.S.T.T.A. COACHING CERTIFICATION LEVELS**

- **Level 1**: Must turn in a coaching resume for State level and above
- **Level 2**: Must have been a USTTA/ITTF affiliate member for at least two years or have had a rating over 1400 (starting September 1st, 1992).
- **Level 3**: Must attend at least two camps run by USTTA Certified Coaches at the State level or higher, including at least one camp as a coach trainee with a USTTA Regional level or higher coach (at least 10 hours coaching). Must supply verification from the Regional Coach.
- **Level 4**: Must supply evidence of current coaching activity of some sort.
- **Level 5**: Must have been a Club Coach or equivalent for at least two years.
- **Level 6**: Must have a USTTA/ITTF affiliate member for at least four years, or have had a rating over 1700.

**REGIONAL COACH (LEVEL 3)**

- Must attend at a regional level in some way.
- Must attend as an assistant coach at least two training camps run by National level or higher coaches, with at least 50 hours coaching.
- Must supply verification from the National Coach.

**U.S.T.T.A. COACHING CERTIFICATION LEVELS**

- **Level 1**: Must show extensive national coaching experience.
- **Level 2**: Certified Coaches at the State level or higher, including at least one camp as a coach trainee with a USTTA Regional level or higher coach (at least 10 hours coaching). Must supply verification from the Regional Coach.
- **Level 3**: Must supply evidence of current coaching activity of some sort.
- **Level 4**: Must have been a Club Coach or equivalent for at least two years.
- **Level 5**: Must have a USTTA/ITTF affiliate member for at least four years, or have had a rating over 1700.

**REGIONAL COACH (LEVEL 4)**

- Must be active on a regional level in some way.
- Must attend as an assistant coach at least two training camps run by National level or higher coaches, with at least 50 hours coaching.
- Must supply verification from the National Coach.

**U.S.T.T.A. COACHING CERTIFICATION LEVELS**

- **Level 1**: Must show extensive national coaching experience.
- **Level 2**: Certified Coaches at the State level or higher, including at least one camp as a coach trainee with a USTTA Regional level or higher coach (at least 10 hours coaching). Must supply verification from the Regional Coach.
- **Level 3**: Must supply evidence of current coaching activity of some sort.
- **Level 4**: Must have been a Club Coach or equivalent for at least two years.
- **Level 5**: Must have a USTTA/ITTF affiliate member for at least four years, or have had a rating over 1700.

**REGIONAL COACH (LEVEL 5)**

- Must be active on a national level in some way.
- Must attend as a Regional Coach for at least five years.
- Must supply verification from the National Coach.
- Must have been a USTTA/ITTF affiliate member for at least ten years, or have had a rating over 2200.
- Must show evidence of current coaching experience.
- Must submit at least two table tennis coaching articles to National Coaching Chairman.
TIPS ON SERVING SHORT

by Sean O'Neill

US National Champion

Level 4

(All names in bold indicate Level 1; all names in italics indicate Level 2)

TIPS ON SERVING SHORT

by Sean O'Neill

US National Champion

Level 4

(All names in bold indicate Level 1; all names in italics indicate Level 2)

The best place to serve short is down the line (almost on the line), crosscourt (very wide, especially to lefties—or to righties if you're lefty), or from the service box to the middle of the court. The closer your serve is to the net, the more likely your opponent will have time to come to the net. A powerful serve to the soft part of the court, followed by a quick drop shot, can take your opponent by surprise.

Serve with a soft, smooth motion, emphasizing 
finger-to-finger contact with the ball, and do not be afraid to create your own angles and shapes.
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12/12/92 1/2/93
2/20/93 3/6/93
4/3/93 5/15/93

CIRCUIT EVENTS -- POINTS -- FEES
ANDERSON-AUGUSTA
1. OPEN 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 $20
2. U-2300 - U-2400 6-4-2-1 $12
3. U-2200 - U-2200 6-4-2-1 $12
4. U-1900 - U-2000 6-4-2-1 $8
5. U-1700 - U-1800 6-4-2-1 $8
6. U-1500 - U-1600 6-4-2-1 $8
7. U-1300 - U-1400 6-4-2-1 $8
8. U-1100 - U-1200 6-4-2-1 $8
9. NOVICE UR/ U-1000 6-4-2-1 $8
10 HANDICAP (41PT) 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 $10
11 3700 DOUBLES 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1 $5

NON-CIRCUIT EVENTS
12 JUNIOR - 18 $5
13 JUNIOR - 16 $5
14 JUNIOR - 14 $5

**Prize monies are based on an estimated number of entries and may vary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ENTRY BLANK
CONTACT: Richard McAfee, Circuit Director
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Tel: (503) 253-2000 / FAX (503) 253-2009

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

GIRLS UNDER 18
1999
1. HUI YING VICTORIA
2. BOKY NAM
3. GAO XIAOLING
4. CHEN YING
5. ZHANG YUN
6. ZHAO YUN
7. ZHONG FANG
8. WANG YUN
9. LUO YING
10. WANG JIE
11. LIU XIAOQING
12. XI FENG
13. CHEN YING
14. CHEN YIN
15. ZHAO YUN
16. ZHAO YUN
17. WANG YUN
18. WANG YUN
19. WANG YUN
20. WANG YUN

GIRLS UNDER 16
1999
1. HUI YING VICTORIA
2. BOKY NAM
3. GAO XIAOLING
4. CHEN YING
5. ZHANG YUN
6. ZHAO YUN
7. ZHONG FANG
8. WANG YUN
9. LUO YING
10. WANG JIE
11. LIU XIAOQING
12. XI FENG
13. CHEN YING
14. CHEN YIN
15. ZHAO YUN
16. ZHAO YUN
17. WANG YUN
18. WANG YUN
19. WANG YUN
20. WANG YUN

BOYS UNDER 18
1999
1. HUI YING VICTORIA
2. BOKY NAM
3. GAO XIAOLING
4. CHEN YING
5. ZHANG YUN
6. ZHAO YUN
7. ZHONG FANG
8. WANG YUN
9. LUO YING
10. WANG JIE
11. LIU XIAOQING
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13. CHEN YING
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13. CHEN YING
14. CHEN YIN
15. ZHAO YUN
16. ZHAO YUN
17. WANG YUN
18. WANG YUN
19. WANG YUN
20. WANG YUN

If higher rated player wins: Lowered rating is 1400.

If lower rated player wins: Lowered rating is 1500.
Table Tennis Topics 41

Stick with the Best

September/October 1992
WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT? Editorial by Richard McAfee, Director USTTA National Schools Program

I knew right away that it would be another one of "those" telephone calls. Another fellow lover of table tennis venting years of frustration, and venting it in my direction.

I had made the call to the president of a USTTA Club. For over a year I had been working with their local school system to install table tennis as part of the physical education curriculum. Now the schools were finally ready, and I needed a volunteer to teach a 4-hour course to the P.E. teachers.

"They just can't see the value," he said in disgust, "we give up oil the USTTA." For over a year I had been trying to get my idea across, and I needed a volunteer to provide the structure for, and information about, table tennis to both its members and clubs.

"It's about time," the statement summed it up. "It's about time," he said in disgust, "we give up oil the USTTA." The USTTA Club. For over a year I had been waiting. They are waiting for some third-party organization (called the USTTA) to make table tennis happen in their backyard.

Is this realistic? Is this the actual man-...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blade Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clearfield</td>
<td>Fast 7-ply blade which has &quot;softness 'n vibration,&quot; the element liked most by European players. Even though the wood is same as the Manarsa, the 7 plies make this an effective offensive blade. Medium head size. Flared handle. Thickness 6.3 mm. 96 grams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manarsa</td>
<td>Light. European 5-ply blade is highly flexible and gives a soft feeling at impact. Wood composition, new to Butterfly, provides excellent control &amp; touch. Good combination of spin, speed &amp; control. Medium head size. Flared handle. Thickness: 4.5 mm. 75 grams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arylate Keyshot-FL,ST</td>
<td>Arylate represents a third generation of blades after wood and carbon. 5-ply whose combination of speed, softness, and non-vibration is made possible by this new material called Arylate. Thickness: 5.8 mm. FL 87 grams, ST 85 grams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro 5-FL,AN</td>
<td>Fast 5-ply African wood blade. Compact head size. The center ply is thicker and the outer plies are thinner than other African wood blades. Thickness: 5.3 mm. FL 92 grams, AN 86 grams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Star-AN,FL</td>
<td>This 5-ply basswood blade is successor to the Surbek blade. Good control. Thickness: 5.4 mm. AN 87 grams, FL 95 grams.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermosa-FL,ST</td>
<td>A medium speed African wood blade. It gives a good combination of topspin, back and hit capabilities. Medium head size, 5-ply. Thickness: 5.1 mm. FL 90 grams, ST 87 grams.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PLAYERS SPEAK OUT:

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—Dhiren Narotam

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—Norman G. Haase

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P.S. Look for SITCO’s new Table Tennis Speed Glue, KORK-IT-UP and STICK-IT-UP T.T. Rubber Cement in the Nov./Dec. issue of T.T. Today!

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