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Wins $15,000 Sears Invitational
Over Sweden’s Erik Lindh

The Chopping Style Lives!

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Wins Sun TV Open
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Forehand Loop
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Wei Wang
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Junior
Olympics
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You're a table tennis player, right...a ping pong player to non-playing friends who shake their heads at your obsession. You play in basements with bare-bulb lights, or in garages where you trip over the kids' bikes, maybe in an elementary school cafeteria with a slick tile floor, or in an ice-cold tennis court or gym. Even your match at the National Championships one year took place on carpet in the wee corner of the room where you couldn't see the ball through the shadows. You play wherever you can get a game...but you get no respect.

We at the Paddle Palace offer you one place where a player does get respect, one place where the table tennis player is King. Think about it, where else in this country—or in the world—can a player call 24-hours-a-day to order from the largest inventory of table tennis supplies available, where all the major brands are available, not just the one that a sole distributor wants to push? And, since we carry all the brands, we are an unbiased source of information for which equipment best suits your individual style and needs.

Where else are you guaranteed to get the lowest prices, for the Paddle Palace will match any nationally advertised price offered. Also, we at the Paddle Palace know how important it is for you to get your equipment right now: we always process your order first thing, and send it out on the very next pick-up, the same day if you don't call late in the day. And we pay extra to send most orders UPS blue label, their second day air service, rather than the slower methods available. Mailing costs are included in the price of the equipment for orders over $40, we don’t mess with your brain by charging one price then adding on ("oh, by the way...") shipping charges, or sales tax, or handling charges or other hidden costs.

All we players want is respect. At the Paddle Palace you get it. To the table tennis player, the Paddle Palace is a palace!

Call 1-800-547-5891 and Let the Paddle Palace treat you like a king.
Table Tennis Today
The Official Magazine of
USA Table Tennis

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November/December, 1993

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That's 1958 & '60 U.S. Champion Marty Reisman on the left, and
Champion Dick Miles on the right. Both were in attendance at
the June Mammoth Open in New York.
**PRESIDENT'S POINT**

by Dan Seemiller

Lots of late-breaking news around the country. Here's a rundown:

- The USTTA is sponsoring Junior Regional Championships in the eight regions in early 1994. The winners of each age category will be the regional champion in their age group and receive a 5-day camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO, with National coaches Li Zhenshi and Zhang Li. This is an exciting junior development program that will produce 64 junior winners; 4 boys and 4 girls from each of the eight regions. It is our hope that these events will spur regional junior participation and become a junior talent identification program. The dates for these events are being finalized and notices in Table Tennis Today and entry blank information will be finalized soon.

- Official's fees—The Executive Committee has voted to rescind the $1.00 officials’ fee that has been in tournament entry blanks the past few months. This fee was commonly misunderstood and possibly discouraged tournament participation with too many fees.

- National Coaches—Touring Program application forms have been sent to all clubs concerning the touring coaches program for juniors. The top six bids will win a four-day visit from national coach Li Zhenshi to perform a clinic and to work with local coaches and their young prospects. This program will reward those clubs which work hard through coaching and recruiting junior players.

- Plans for the U.S. Open in Anaheim, California are moving forward, with hopes of $50,000 in prize money. The Anaheim Convention Center is an excellent venue with the host hotel, Hilton, just steps away. Disneyland is only a couple of minutes away, and the beaches are just down the road. The USTTA expects a large foreign entry with many of the leading world players participating. The dates of the U.S. Open are June 29 - July 3, 1994.

- All Star Finals—The 1993 All Star Finals will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana the weekend of January 22-23, 1994. Power Poon and his staff is the sponsor of the finals and there will also be a top-class Louisiana Open Tournament for all players. A copy of the entry blank is in this issue.

**EDITOR'S REPORT**

by Larry Hodge

Never have I seen so many "announcements" as in this issue. Lots of things are happening! Let's hope some good comes of it all.

This is also the "Wei Wang" issue, with both an interview and a feature article by her on Jan-Ove Waldner's loop. Every time I write something about Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Sean O'Neill, Amy Fong, John Onofre, Todd Sweet, Huazhang Xu, or half the U.S. junior champions, etc., I get a flood of complaints about "conflict of interest," since these players all play at my club. It's an unfortunate situation, but I have to write about these players just because we're from the same club! I try to balance things out.

It's hard giving good coverage in some areas, such as the West, unless I have a regular writer.

The last two times California had a major tournament, I found a local person to write it up. Both times the "writer" let me down, and I ended up printing only the results. If you have a lot of free time, I need a volunteer to cover the major tournaments on the west coast! Any volunteers? Only experienced writers, please. Contact me at 210-38-429.

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"The ALLROUND CLASSIC BLADE is an intermediate-fast blade giving me the ball control I need for today's top international competitions. While playing overseas, I noticed many top players preferred this kind of blade. The MARK V is a true performance rubber sheet. I appreciate the high speed and spin characteristics as well as its durability...it doesn't wear out as quickly as other rubber sheets. Mark V combined with the STIGA Allround Classic Blade is the only choice for me."

U.S. Mens' Champion Jim Butler has improved his game tremendously within the last 2 years by playing in the First League in Sweden while being coached by former World Champion and STIGA member, Stefan Bengtsson. Jim, at age 22, has always used STIGA since he started playing at age 6, and now plays with the STIGA Allround Classic Blade with Mark V 2.5mm red rubber sheet on forehand and Mark V 2.0mm black rubber sheet on backhand.

SEE YOUR STIGA DEALER FOR DETAILS
JUNIOR REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SET

On January 22-23, 1994, at the All-Star Table Tennis Finals in Baton Rouge, Louisiana the USTTA will present the 1993-94 Junior South Regional Championships.

The Junior South Regional Championships is the first event scheduled in a series of eight regional competitions to be held concurrently with a major tournament in the eight regions.

The Junior Regional Championships are to encourage competition and develop junior players.

There will be competition held in four divisions: under 18, 16, 14 and 12. The four male and four female champions from each region will be invited to attend a summer camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Each champion will be provided with free room and board as well as $100 towards airfare.

Junior Regional Championships

Championship Event Tournament Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Tournament Name</th>
<th>Tournament Date</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>All-Star Finals</td>
<td>January 22-23, 1994</td>
<td>Power Poon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>Chinese New Year</td>
<td>February 1994</td>
<td>Terry Timmins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>St. Joseph Valley Open</td>
<td>May 27-29, 1994</td>
<td>Brad Balmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>Hall of Fame</td>
<td>May 15-15, 1994</td>
<td>Pete May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ray Cervicchio Regional Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td></td>
<td>Larry Rose Regional Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>To Be Determined</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Scott Regional Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Camp Dates

All camps will be held at the U. S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

HELP CHOOSE THE NEW USTTA LOGO!

Please count my vote for the new logo for USA Table Tennis!

I would like to vote for:

Design 1

Design 2

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

USTTA Membership No.: ________________

Expiration Date: ________________

When voting, you may use the original ballot from Table Tennis Today or a copy. Only active members of the U. S. Table Tennis Association are eligible to vote (please vote only once). All ballots must be received by December 6, 1993, in order to be counted. Return the completed ballot to:

Logo Design Contest
USA Table Tennis
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

A drawing will be conducted from all submitted entries to determine the winner of a Brother P-Touch Electronic Labeling System!
Help, Dear Coaches, Help!

By the time a player comes in contact with an umpire, during a competition, usually many years of training have passed, and the player has been made familiar with the hands, arms, elbows, and legs. Sometimes, several, starting with parents, and other players, and others, is an assigned official coach, if he/ she is lucky enough to be on a team, or rich enough to afford regular coaching. By then the player has made many bad habits. And here comes the umpire who thinks that by a miracle he/she can instantly change the behavior of that player, and gives a warning, or calls a fault.

Suddenly, the scene becomes ugly. The player is totally surprised about the call. After all, he/she has been playing that way and winning for years. Then, how can this umpire dare to call it a bad ball? To add insult to injury, the coach will come running, and try to object to the call, and blame the umpire rather than himself or herself for the mistakes of the player. Such behavior supports, confirms, and encourages the player to stick to his bad playing habits, and probably will cost more points in the future. Also, it teaches the player that the ball he/she did not do anything wrong. It is just an unfair umpire who does not know what he/she is doing. Some coaches and/or players will follow that umpire for the rest of the tournament trying to show him that other players are doing the same thing, or other umpires are not calling that violation. Both of these observations are not going to help the player to correct his mistakes and improve his/her game.

The player is going to get killed for that, but so what, I have to support my observations with concrete examples. Forgive me, Jim, but I have to use you as an example. After all you are No. 1 player in the U.S., and a model for other players.

During the 1989 U.S. Open, I was umpiring a game between Jimmy Butler and a player from Korea. The Korean player’s serve looked good on the center of his palm before tossing it in the air. But Dan Seemiller, the captain of the U.S. team, came to me and got my attention to the fact that the ball was spinning when tossed. The next time the serve was tossed in the air, I observed it, and gave the player a warning. When he repeated the serve, I awarded Jimmy the point. However, when later I warned Jimmy about his serve, Dan did not like it at all. Now, Dan, I sincerely appreciate your help in getting my attention to what was going on, but we should be fair. Let us create an environment in which we all can facilitate the best umpiring. After all it does not help Jimmy to allow him to continue his questionable serves.

At the World Championship, in Sweden, I was watching the U.S. team, and its players underserved underhand, but not umpiring. Jimmy was called for some points. I watched his serve, and I am amazed how he was able to develop a serve in which he has to tangle his hands, his arms, and elbows, and sometimes hide the ball from both for the rest for taking it off the mistake. Even when the serve is good, by the time he untangles himself it is difficult to get ready for the next ball, especially in world level competitions.

Later, I kept asking myself, how did Jimmy develop such a serve during the years? How come nobody called his attention to the difficulty he puts himself in, while using this serve, instead of his other serves which are equally strong, and decisive. Finally, a voice kept ringing in my ears, “Bravo, Jimmy, Bravo Jimmy, Bravo.” It is the voice of Houshang Bozorgzadeh, through the years. Later that Jimmy was playing without an umpire. I sat there watching, and I found the answers to all my questions. Almost all Houshang’s serves are questionable, if not outright faults.

Some coaches, do not do damage unintentionally. Several times I have passed by a table on which a coach is training a player, especially when the training is taking place at their home clubs, and observe the serve. The coaching covers the backhand, his hand is in an upside down position, and even the server is doing the same thing. Occasionally, the player will practice juggling the ball, hitting the ball, and trying to object to the call, and add insult to injury, the coach will come running, and try to object to the call, and blame the umpire rather than himself or herself for the mistakes of the player. Such behavior supports, confirms, and encourages the player to stick to his bad playing habits, and probably will cost more points in the future. Also, it teaches the player that the ball he/she did not do anything wrong. It is just an unfair umpire who does not know what he/she is doing. Some coaches and/or players will follow that umpire for the rest of the tournament trying to show him that other players are doing the same thing, or other umpires are not calling that violation. Both of these observations are not going to help the player to correct his mistakes and improve his/her game.

An observation, which has attracted my attention, is the confrontation between the coach and the player, after that player has lost a match. Usually, the coach is angry, the player is disappointed, and everybody is blaming everybody and everything, especially the umpire. That takes me back to a moment in history. In 1973 I was attending the World Championships in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. The top two Yugoslavian players, Surbek and Stipancic, reached the semifinals. Before their matches, they both disappeared. I was acquainted with one of their coaches, Uzorino Zehters, so I played where they were. Uzorino reported that they must sit with the team psychologist and the coach for one hour before they come to the table. I asked, “Is there something wrong?” He replied, “No, this is necessary for a positive reinforcement, and their self confidence.”

I am not asking for a psychiatrist for each player, or even the U.S. team. All I am emphasizing is the importance of positive, supportive coaching, especially before a match. Wouldn’t it be great if the coach would sit with the player and enumerate all the player’s strong points, and remind him/her to use them during the game. Many players get confused during the game, and some of them play as if they are in a hurry to lose. Helpful hints, as “take your time,” towheling, taking a deep breath, and remembering player’s strong points and trying to use them, are rather valuable. Unfortunately, we see a player, frustrated, fraternizing, table-hitting, net-hitting, towel throwing, and leaving the playing area without shaking hands with the opponent and/or the umpire...etc. Thanks for the EC of the USTTA for introducing new guidelines for the Penalty Point System. Basically, part of a coach’s responsibility is to be aware of the rules, and etiquette of the game and to convey the importance of them to his/her players.

But how come such behavior has developed in players?

WHERE ARE THE COACHES? WE NEED YOU! HELP! HELPFUL HELP!

My points could be summarized as follows:

* Maybe some coaches are not up to date with the changes in the rules of the game.
* Maybe others are not giving the adequate model when they are playing.
* Maybe some do not acquaint the players with the rules of the game from the beginning, keep them up to date, and insist that the players will serve the rules during training as well as during competitions.
* Maybe a positive moment of reinforcement before the matches is better than hours of negative criticism after the game.

All in all, I am asking for a new age of cooperation between the coaches, referees, and umpires. Coaches could be encouraged, if not required, to attend a certain number of seminars and clinics, which the Officials Committee is offering now for referees and umpires. The practice, where coaches take some of the umpires exams, should continue. The following motion on the changes of the rules of the game should be sent to the coaches and the club directors to be distributed to all coaches and players. We need this information to reach all coaches, regardless if they are officiating, or serving games, or serving as tournament directors to be distributed to all coaches and players. We need this information to reach all coaches, regardless if they are officiating, or serving games, or serving as tournament directors to be distributed to all coaches and players.

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U.S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY FORM

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
The Detroit Table Tennis Club invites you to participate in the U.S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS to be held November 26-28, 1993 in the Cobo Exhibition Center in Detroit.

ELIGIBILITY: The tournament is open to all valid and current members of the USTTA or of ITTF affiliate associations. Top players (rated over 2200) must play for teams representing their country of citizenship or country of residence (at least 3 months). All top group teams must have names representing geographical areas (U.S. or Canadian cities, States, Provinces or Countries). Otherwise, teams may be comprised of players from any geographical areas.

To be eligible for the prizes for the highest finishing women and juniors, teams must consist entirely of women (any age) or juniors (17 or under as of Dec. 1, 1993). College teams must be comprised of members of the same College or University. College teams must demonstrate proof of enrollment.

FORMAT: The Swaythling cup system (best of 9 singles) will be used for every tie except the semi-finals and finals of group A. Only the semi-finals and finals of group A (3 ties) will be played under the new modified Swaythling cup system. As used in the mens event in the 1993 World Championships.

All teams will play in one division open to men, women and juniors in any combination. At the start of the tournament, teams will play Preliminary Group (P-Group) round robin against other teams to determine which Final Group (F-Group) they will be placed in for the remainder of the tournament. A team tie (match between teams) will be won by the best of nine matches, and a match by the best of three games. A team will consist of up to five players of which only three will play in any one team tie. A team with one or two players may play a tie, but will lose the absent players' matches as they are scheduled to occur.

AWARDS: Cash awards for Open Teams in the Top Division will be:
- $6,000 WINNER
- $2,400 Runner-Up
- $1,200 Semi-finalist

$1,500 Highest Women's Team
$600 Highest Junior
$600 Highest College Team

ENTRY: Entry fee for all teams will be $255.00 in U.S. funds, plus $6.00 per player rating and umpire fee. Mail entries and checks payable to Detroit Table Tennis Club, P.O. Box 917, Detroit, Michigan 48231. A 15% discount will be extended to clubs or associations entering ten or more teams comprised of players of that club or association. Foreign entries (other than Canadians) must be submitted through USTTA International Committee Chairman, Gus Kennedy, 20 West Elmwood Place, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419.

DEADLINE: Entry deadline is November 12, 1993. Late entries may be accepted until final draws are made, but will be assessed as $30 late entry fee. Entries will be confirmed by mail to the address listed for the team captain. If no confirmation has been received by Monday, November 22, the team captain should immediately notify the Tournament Committee.

PENALTY: A penalty of $100 will be assessed to teams entering a top player who fails to attend and who, in the sole opinion of the Tournament Committee, was included for the purpose of raising the team rating.

SCHEDULED TIMES: Play for all teams will begin at 9:30 A.M. on Friday, November 26, 1993. Team Captains must report to the control desk thirty minutes before the tournament begins. If a team is not ready and available for its preliminary group matches, that team will be defaulted into a lower final group for the remainder of the tournament.

RULES: USTTA rules will govern play. All decisions of the Tournament Committee will be final and all participants, upon entering, agree to abide by them.

EQUIPMENT: Butterfly balls, both yellow and white, will be used. The top group will use white balls. Butterfly & Donic tables will be used.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:
BOB ALLHOUSE, Tournament Director
GORDON BRIGHT, Tournament President
BOB BEATTY, Entries and Facilities BILL WALK, Tournament Referee
CHRIS WIBBELMAN, Tournament Administrator
PETE MONAGHAN, Dental Work
DAVID MARCUS, Musical Director
TONY McGILL, Control Desk

INFORMATION:
BOB BEATTY (313) 548-0075
SANCTION: Five star tournament sanctioned by United States Table Tennis Association.

HOTEL: The newly renovated Radisson Hotel Pontchartrain will make rooms available to tournament participants at the reduced rate of $55.00 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy and $116.00 (plus tax for Deluxe Suites). The Hotel is located directly across the street from Cobo Hall. To receive the reduced rate, identify yourself as a tournament participant and make reservations with: RADISSON HOTEL PONTCHARTRAIN, Two Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48226, (313) 965-0200 or 800-333-3333.

November/December 1993
The ITTF will penalize all non-professional players as rubber cement will be illegal. Obviously, impose a financial penalty on those who pay and the new packaging. production machines that as the ITTF intends to count the thickness of the glue sheet as part of the sponge here. After all, how dangerous is the rubber change I would recommend for the game. speed glues have added to the game. The concerned about our health then a few much simpler measures would suffice. I would open or even outdoor area for this purpose. I have not noticed the smell of glue as sonic Mazunov is wonderful to watch. The only brush and be clearly labeled with both concern. for proper use. I have admitted with her for the next five years and she has kept me going through difficult times. I started out just for the exercise, but from day one, Wei encouraged me to play in tournaments to get better. The first four years were quite humiliating to me, since I tend to be very self-conscious, and the lack of confidence in myself made me feel much in control and the weakness and dizziness are much less frequent, unless I abuse my diet. I also do other physical exercise such as jogging, skipping rope and strength training. And the effect on my job performance is amazing. I feel competent among my peers, productive in company meetings and gladly accept management responsibilities. Before table tennis, I had spent several hundred dollars on self-improvement seminars to help me overcome the fear of interacting with people. I want to just keep going, make my own accomplishments, at my own pace. Table tennis has not just improved my health, but my job performance and my interpersonal skills as well. I feel more complete as an individual, being able to see life in a better perspective. I am deeply grateful to my coach and all my table tennis friends who have touched my life. Keep playing, table tennis can do wonders for you too.

Dear Mr. Hodges,

Having just returned from the Regional Coaches' Training camp in Anderson, South Carolina, conducted by Richard McAfee, I thought it may be of interest to you my comments on the activity.

The most important thing is that you, as National Coaching Chairman, for your contribution in supporting the coaches' camp. Though your position implicitly suggests a strong interest in the development of table tennis coaching competency, such an understanding is only substantiated via the promulgation of activities to that end. This ban on glue originally began under the guise of health concerns. It seems obvious now that there is something else going on here. After all, how dangerous is the rubber sheet as part of the sponge? I have made an error and stop deceiving anyone. Make your own views known and the new packaging. production machines.

Roland Schilhab

American Allstar Series

Through October 22, 1993

Tournaments included:

Chinese New Year Open
St. Joseph Valley Open
Louisiana Open
Hall of Fame Open
US. Open
Sun TV Open

Meiklejohn Senior Nationals
(for Senior Allstar Series only)

Men's Division:

1. Dan Seemiller 38
2. Todd Sweevers 36
3. David Zhuang 35
4. Sean O'Neill 31
5-6. Derek May 22
7. David Sakai 21
8. Randy Cohen 20
9. Jason St. George 19
10. Kay Wang 18
11. Jim Butler 17
12. Sean O'Neill 17
13. Eric Owens 14
15. Takahisa Nakamura 14
16. Kuo-Hung Huang 13
17. John Onifade 12
18. Scott Butler 11
19-20. Pat Cox 9
21-22. Parviz Mozjaverian 8
23. Barry Dattel 8
24. Dave Fernandez 7
25-26. Oscar Melvin 7
27. Brian Pace 6
28. Tom Plaisent 6
29. Derek May 5
30. Sam Butler 5
31-32. Chi-Chang Chin 4
33. Hai Chien 4
34. Richard Hicks 4
35. Cody Jones 4
36. Jake Liu 4
37. Hank McCord 4
38. John Murry 4
39. Loc Ngo 4
40. Thinh Nguyen 4
41. Frank Scronce 4
42. Rene Tywang 4
43. Stephen Yeh 4

Women's Division:

1. Amy Feng 44
2. Jane Chu 25
3. Lify Yip 23
4. Donna Sakai 19
5. Wei Wang 19
6. Virginia Sang 18
7-11. Andrea Butler 10
12. Sally Dahlin 10
13. Patricia Hoke 10
14. Mar Matay 10
15. Peggy Rosen 7
16. Laura Lin 7
17. Blakeza Aycen 6
18. Kim Allen 6
19. Tawny Bank 6
20. Kristy Reed 6
21. Lan Vuong 6
22. Wan-Ling Cheng 5
23. Joanie Fu 5
24. Alice Kimble 5
25. Cindy Marcum 5
26. Quyen Nguyen 5

Senior's Division

1. Dave Sakai 53
2. Pat Cox 33
3. Parviz Mozjaverian 20
4. Attila Malek 19
5-6. Boy Dong 18
7. Richard Hicks 18
8. Bohdan Dawidowcz 10
9. Houshang Bozorgzadeh 10
10. Alireza Hejazi 10
11. Pete May 10
12. Richard McAfee 10
13-14. Dana Hanson 9
15. Larry Hawkins 9
16. Mark Wedder 9
17. Jack Coppek 9
18. Mark Magee 9
19. Walt Rolen 9
20. Henry Chang 7
21-22. Jorden Michelson 7
23. Joe Griflis 7
24. Joe Griflis 6
25. Gerald Denno 6
26. Bill Sharpe 6
29. Alireza Hejazi 6
30. Mar Makay 6
31-32. Mar Makay 5
33. Bob Griflis 5
34. Houshang Bozorgzadeh 5
35. Mar Makay 5
36. Mar Makay 5
37. Mar Makay 5
38. Mar Makay 5
39. Mar Makay 5
40. Joe Griflis 5

The quality of the camp was very high from a number of perspectives, reflecting the efforts of yourself and Richard McAfee. The appreciation from the participants was universal and thorough. Expectations were high and the benefits derived from the camp are large and of the type which will result in other events sponsored by the camp's participants which will contribute to the overall understanding of the sport and playing competency of USTTA members and non-USTTA players alike.

Thank you again for supporting a worthwhile event.

Donn Owen
Tampa, FL

The Wonders of Playing Table Tennis by Mary Lei

Dear Mr. Hodges,

I am sure many of you have been following the debate concerning the use of the so-called "speed glues." No matter how they feel about the effect this has on the game, I am sure that the ITTF's latest proposal will impose a financial penalty on those who pay for their table tennis rubber. The ITTF has decided to ban all liquid glues. What this means is that even something as innocuous as rubber cement will be illegal. Obviously something must be used to adhere the rubber sheet to the blade and the current trend seems to be to either an adhesive applied to the rubber at the factory or separate "glue sheets." I think we all know who will pay the cost of adding these materials to the rubber sheet and the new packaging, production machinery and other manufacturer's costs associated with this kind of change. Furthermore, if you like using thick rubber, you can also forget that as the ITTF intends to count the thickness of the glue sheet as part of the sponge. This ban on glue originally began under the guise of health concerns. It seems obvious now that there is something else going on here. After all, how dangerous is the rubber sheet as part of the sponge? I have made an error and stop deceiving anyone. Make your own views known and the new packaging. production machinery.

Dear Mr. Hodges,

I want to just keep going. make my own accomplishments, at my own pace. Table tennis has not just improved my health, but my job performance and my interpersonal skills as well. I feel more complete as an individual, being able to see life in a better perspective. I am deeply grateful to my coach and all my table tennis friends who have touched my life. Keep playing, table tennis can do wonders for you too.

November/December 1993
SAN JUAN OUT DOOR OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP
DECEMBER 2ND-5TH, 1993
AT
THE ELEGANT CANDADO PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

ENDORSED BY: THE UNITED STATES TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
APPROVED BY: THE GREATER NEW YORK TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE
CORRIDNATED BY: PUERTO RICO TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR: MOSES KINGSTON
ASST. DIRECTOR: ROY APPELSIS
REFREE: RAY CAVICCHIO

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Under 1750</td>
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Eligibility: Open to all Caribbean & United States Table Tennis Players.

Format: RR (round robin), SE (single elimination)

Dress: Dark solid colors, sneakers must be worn, no shoes. However sunglasses and caps will be permitted.

Equipment: Players must have their own racquets. Only USTTA approved racquets will be allowed. New stiga outdoor tables, nets and balls will be used.

DEADLINE: All entries must be in by 6 PM on NOV. 1st, 1993.

ENTRY FEES ARE BASED ON EVENTS ENTERED (1 EVENT $15.00 US ) (2 EVENTS $20 US).

ENTRY FORM

NAME: ------------------------------------ ENTRY FEE: --------------
ADDRESS: --------------------------------- RATING FEE: --------------
PHONE: ---------------------------------- USTTA MEMBERSHIP: --------------
DATE: ---------------------------------- TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED: --------------

I hereby assume all risk and responsibility for participation in this tournament. I hereby release the Elegant Candado Plaza Hotel & Casino and the officials from any claims damage, loss, or injury sustained to myself. I shall abide by all rules and decisions of the tournament management.

DATE: -------------------------------- SIGNATURE: --------------
SEARS $15,000 INVITATIONAL

Palatine, Illinois
September 19, 1993
by Sheri Soderberg Pittman

Matthew Syed, a last-minute substitute, was all business in returning shot after shot—while collecting the $6,000 first place money.

Over the September 18-19 weekend, the Palatine, Illinois area hosted the 1993 Sears International Table Tennis Tournament, the Sears/Harvard Table Tennis Open and various exhibitions throughout the area. 130 entrants got the weekend's table tennis festivities off to a start. Primo Madrigal, the tournament director, ran the tournament without a hitch. Barney Reed, Jr. and David Fernandez, who currently live with Barney Reed, Sr. in Oklahoma, split the prize money in the Open event. Mimi Bosica defeated Andrea Butler in Women's Open.

Scott Preiss promoted the event by organizing several local exhibitions prior to the tournament. Thanks go to Mitch Seidenfeld and Jim Butler who, along with Scott, did an exhibition at a local shopping mall during Saturday's competition.

Six of the invitational players spent some time in the afternoon practicing at the tournament site, then returned to the Holiday Inn to participate in an exhibition. Scott Preiss emceed the event. Juniors who volunteered to challenge one of the players were all rewarded with a complimentary table tennis paddle. A crowd of about 100 enjoyed the exhibition-style points and pranks.

On Sunday, the invitational segment of the weekend table tennis extravaganza began. Four players from the United States and four international players competed for their share of the $15,000 purse. The format for the competition was two groups of four, with the top two advancing into the semifinals with a crossover of the top player against the runner-up of the other round robin. Group A consisted of Sweden's Erik Lindh, Danny Seemiller, Canada's Joe Ng and England's Matthew Syed.

Group B was England's Alan Cooke, Jim Butler, Khoa Nguyen and Darko Rop. Erik Lindh, who had arrived late Saturday night, seemed to have adjusted quite well to the time change as he coasted to a 2-0 start with wins over Seemiller and Ng. Erik proudly announced the birth of his second child, Johanna, who was born in August. His other daughter, Helena, will be three years old in December. He, along with his teammates, have perhaps given birth to the future generation of table tennis champions. Jorgen Persson had a son, Oliver, in July and Mikael Appelgren has a six-month-old daughter, Marlene.

When asked the age-old question about whether family life adversely affects a player's competitive abilities, Lindh responded that life opens up in many ways, so table tennis ceases to be the main focus. On the other hand, he laughed, when you have a family to support and table tennis is your means of support, you have to be responsible about keeping up the level of your game.

Newlywed Joe Ng, who missed this year's U.S. Open because his wedding was held during the same weekend, ran into a scheduling conflict of sorts again at this tournament. He played in a tournament in Vancouver on Saturday, then flew from Vancouver to Toronto to Chicago. He arrived at the airport at 7:45 a.m., went straight to the tournament site, then played his first match at 9:10. Imagine his angst when he saw that he was scheduled to play England's Matthew Syed first! No easy lobbing match for Joe to get himself warmed up. Matthew, consistent as a wall, just kept chopping back every ball Joe looped or hit. Matthew went on to win the match in three games.

Danny had a string of three-game matches, which, unfortunately for him, all went to his opponents. His tenacity carried him through the day, but, in the end, youth prevailed. The other players in his round robin, all in their twenties, had the edge.

Matthew Syed, who defeated his group's runner-up Erik Lindh two-straight, advanced from Group A.

Meanwhile, things were not as clearcut in the other round robin. With Darko Rop going 0-3, each of the other players went 2-1. Khoa Nguyen beat Jimmy Butler, but lost to Alan Cooke. Alan was 2-0 going into the last match of the round robin against Jimmy, who was then 1-1. Jimmy took the match two-straight, which allowed him to advance into the three-out-of-five semifinals as the runner-up, with Alan Cooke first.

In the first semifinal, Matthew easily took the first game at 7. Jimmy got the chance to showcase his sizzling backhand smash in the second game, which he won at 17. In the third, the play was close as Jimmy prevented Matthew from developing too much of a lead. At deuce, Matthew, apparently happy with his serve return, beamed as Jimmy's 3-ball attack went long. "Good boy," Matthew said to himself. Matthew took the game when Jimmy returned the serve into the net.

Matthew got off to a 4-1 lead in the fourth on his serve. Jimmy responded to kind on his serve, evening the game to 5-5. Before long, though, Matthew was on top again with leads on the service changes at 12-8, 15-10 and 18-12. Matthew's ever-consistent, but seemingly effortless chops forced Jimmy to attack and loop ball after ball. Matthew finished off the match by taking the fourth at 13.

In the other semifinal, Erik Lindh met Alan Cooke. Erik won the first game at 14. Alan went down 2-3 on Erik's serve in the second, but then went on to go up 6-4, and held the lead throughout the game, which he took at 10. In the third, the two swapped points up until 15-15, then Erik, aided by a strong offene and a lucky net break, won at 16.

Prize Winnings:
1. $6,000 Matthew Syed
2. $4,000 Erik Lindh
3-4. $1,500 Jimmy Butler $1,500 Alan Cooke
5-6. $600 Joe Ng $600 Khoa Nguyen
7-8. $400 Darko Rop $400 Dan Seemiller

Jim Butler and England's Alan Cooke each bashed their way to the semifinals and $1,500.
The lucky winners received basketball

The guys next to us were chanting, "Matthew, Matthew, Matthew!" They even

The three guys sitting next to my husband and I declared, "We really want Matthew to win. I’ve got everybody’s autograph but his. He’s just gotta win!"

But Matthew had his hands full. He trailed on every service change, but not by far. He managed to finally tie up the game at 18-18, 19-19 and 20-20. Erik got the first advantage as Matthew, displaying both his offensive and defensive shots, finally returned the ball into the net. Matthew took the next two points as one of Erik’s shots floated off the end and another went into the net. Matthew, again trying to confound Erik with frequent offensive shots interspersed with his chips, won the game with a beautiful putaway.

Game two also went to deuce: make that eight deuces. I started to squirm in my chair as I wondered how far up the numbers on the display scorecards go. Not to worry. At 27-all Erik popped up the ball toward the audience, then lost the next point when he hit the ball back to the net.

The third game could have gotten ugly. He’s just gotta win." The three guys next to us were chanting, "Matthew, Matthew, Matthew!" They even started their own three-person wave.

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The third game could have gotten ugly. He’s just gotta win." The three guys next to us were chanting, "Matthew, Matthew, Matthew!" They even started their own three-person wave.

In the fourth game, Erik released straight points as his shots went into the net. The next two points, with Erik perhaps over-compensating, went to Matthew as Erik hit off long. A smiling Matthew Syed, who had only become a participant three weeks earlier when Japan’s Koji Matsushita became unavailable, had won the whole event, including, of course, the $6,000 first-prize check!

The three guys next to us couldn’t wait to get his autograph. When they returned, one of them, Dan Husak, proudly said, "Look! Matthew gave me the game ball." The other two, Deepak Prabhaker and Bob Vail, were clearly happy to have his autograph.

Table tennis enthusiasts had a great weekend of fun. There was something for everyone with the Saturday tournament and the Sunday invitational event. Since I noticed with great delight the event was promoted as an annual event, I’ll second the words on the tournament program: "Sears invites you to come and watch world class table tennis...This is no pitty pat activity...It’s the real thing!"

John Read and Tom Miller did an excellent job as the event’s umpires. Special thanks also to the co-sponsors and those who represented them at the tournament: Sears Roebuck & Company, Brother Electronics, BP Oil Branded Distributors in the New England area, Craftsman Motor Sports, Harvard Sports, Indian Industries Ping Pong brand, the Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn, and William Rainey Harper College.

Results:
Final: Matthew Syed (ENG) d. Erik Lindh (SWE), 21,27,17,15; SF: Syed d. Jim Butler (USA), 8,17,20,13; Lindh d. Alan Cooke (ENG) 14,10,16,11.

Preliminary Rounds:
Group A: 1st Mathew Syed, 3-0; 2nd Khoa Nguyen, 9,10; 3rd Joe Ng, 9,20,11; d. Dan Seemiller, 18,9,14; d. Erik Lindh, 14,13; 2nd Erik Lindh, 2-1; d. Darko Rop, 18,17,9; 3rd Joe Ng (d. Dan Seemiller, 10,14,9); 4th Dan Seemiller, 0-3.

Group B: 1st Alan Cooke, 2-1; d. Darko Rop, 9,14; d. Khoa Nguyen, 9,10; 2nd Jim Butler, 2-1 (d. Darko Rop, 20,12; d. Alan Cooke, 20,13; 3rd Khoa Nguyen (d. Darko Rop, 8,15; d. Jim Butler, 18,16); 4th Darko Rop, 0-3.

November/December 1993
ENGLAND’S MATTHEW SYED

Chopper Champion

By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

When an underdog wins, there is often a refreshing surge of innocence and enthusiasm on the winner’s part. Well-rehearsed words and actions from seasoned champions yield to a spontaneous sense of wonder. In this case, the excitement had all the more momentum since Scott Preiss had only telephoned 22-year-old Matthew Syed (pronounced “Side”) three weeks prior to the tournament. Relaying the conversation, Syed said, “He asked me, ‘Would you like to come?’ and I said ‘Yes.’ So, he just sent me the contract. I signed it and faxed it back to him. I was happy to come along.”

Syed was perhaps chosen to replace Japan’s Koji Matsushita because, like Matsushita, he is a chopper. When he initially assessed his chances, he thought that the composition of the tournament was good for him, even though his teammate, Alan Cooke, was among the contenders.

Afterwards, Matthew “Obviously, Cookie and Erik Lindh were the two players who were going to be tough, but the good part about it was that Erik was in my group, so it meant that if I played good—and, often during the group matches, I thought that Erik might be cold, or might lack motivation, so then I could come through and play a weaker player, relative to

Cookie and Erik. And that’s actually how it turned out. I played Jimmy in the semis. He played very good, but it would have been much tougher if I would have had to play Cookie and then Erik consecutively, so I was quite happy with the group situation. I felt quite comfortable coming out here. I had a good run in England just before I came. But, obviously I didn’t think I was going to win. I never thought I would win the whole thing, but I thought that I could make the semis or maybe even the final if I was playing really good.”

When I asked him if this was the first time he had ever won $6,000 in a tournament, he wryly responded, “No, I’ve done it loads of times.” Then, in a tone that showed his own amazement at his results, he exclaimed, “I’ve never made anything near $6,000! We don’t make anything like that. A big money tournament in England is like $1,500.”

Having never dealt with such a financial windfall before, he expressed some uncertainty about where the money would go. “I’ll tell you what,” he said. “I don’t know. I mean, I’m going to buy Cookie some drinks tonight, I think. I don’t know what I’m going to do with it. I suppose if I get home alive—we’ve got this air trip tomorrow afternoon—I’m panicking already... When you’ve made some money, you think, ‘I don’t want to go on a jet.’ I don’t know what I’ll do with the money. I suppose I’ll give it to my dad or help with the mortgage on our house in England.”

He continued, “We’ve got a very close knit family. It’s an Asian mentality. My dad’s Indian and, you know, the way we look at things is: the family

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November/December 1993
for the individual family members and whoever has a need, then we give it to them."

Syed has an older brother Andrew, who is 24. "He used to be a very good table tennis player," Matthew said, and contended that he had been much better than himself. His younger sister, Rebecca, is about to go to Central America to do some nursing. "She wants to become a doctor. She's a bright girl," he added.

Right now Syed is working on his B.A. degree from Oxford in economics, politics and philosophy. "Technically I should take my finals in June of 1994, but I had a little thing after the world championships," he remarked, meaning that he was not satisfied with his results. "Essentially for the next two years I'll be studying part-time and playing much more than I have been."

During his first year at Oxford, he didn't practice, but he was able to get away with it because he trained before the school year in Sweden. He recalled, "I had a good Olympic qualifications and European championships. And I sort of believed that I could do the same in the second year. But last year was an absolute disaster for me. I didn't win hardly any matches at all. And then it dawned on me that you can't possibly win at the international level without practice. So, I'm going to try to train a little bit harder now."

He only played about once a week when school was in session, then went to training camps and played every day when school was out. "But," he said, "for eight weeks sections, I sometimes only played two or three times. The last term of last year, I didn't play at all in the last eight weeks."

Obviously he was better prepared for this tournament. But, still, he said that he felt tired before his appearance in the final, so he wanted to give special thanks to a particular supporter: Dan Husak. "There was a guy in the crowd today. My legs were giving in and I really had the attitude of going out and trying to make something of the final, but not really believing I could win," he explained. "And this guy lifted me ridiculously. During the first, I was down. And he kept saying, 'C'mon, Matt! And I started playing — when you have someone who really wants you to win, then it makes a difference to your mentality and your outlook on the game. And this guy really wanted me to win. And when I was saying, 'Good boy,' I would look over at him now and again and he was like this," Syed continued as he demonstrated a thumbs up gesture. "And that really gets me going, so that helped out a lot. He was great."

Part of his sense of appreciation comes from the fact that in England, as he put it, "it's not the same. You feel like they mean it here."

Alan Cooke interjected, "It's too quiet in England. They want you to win, but they might clap instead of shouting."

Syed continued. "And these guys, they say it like they mean it." Besides Husak, he was referring to Deepak Prabhaker and Bob Vail.

Cooke, for whom these fans had chanted "Cookie, Cookie, Cookie," after they learned it was his nickname, added, "I spoke to them before we left. I said they were real good guys."

Moving on to thoughts about the rest of the season, Syed seemed cautiously optimistic. "I mean, I don't think that I'm good enough to beat the real top guys, but you know, I can win against the low guys and pick off a top player now and again. And then you can get a bit of money. That's the way I'm looking at it at the moment," he commented.

He mentioned that he was planning to call his father when he arrived back at the Holiday Inn. "He'll be happy, but he thinks I should be more study oriented," he stated, adding something to the effect that he couldn't imagine being any more academically oriented than he already is. But, reaffirming his family's closeness, he corrected himself. "He'll be happy for me. He'll be delighted — all of the family will be."
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 21-22, 1993
by Larry Hodges

#1. Cheng Yinghua defeated Amy Feng 3-0 in a battle between the U.S.’s highest rated man and woman. (How many remember that Amy almost beat Cheng last October at the Southern Open at Greensboro—winning the first game, and leading 16-11 in the second in a best of three? This was no shoo-in match.)

Sean O’Neill made short work of long-time rival Dan Seemiller, winning at 14, 12, 5. “Dan hadn’t practiced much in five months—he wasn’t really playing as well as he normally would,” Sean said. Between lack of practice and running the tournament (with brothers Randy and Ricky and Barry Rodgers), Dan just wasn’t there really, and he subsequently defaulted out of the All Star Men and Over 30’s.

The semifinals—Dan. Barry (“Seemiller for the weekend”) Rodgers, Randy & Ricky—ran the tournament and provided some pretty high-level play themselves.

16 Table Tennis Today

$7,000 SUN TV OPEN

Jack Huang, Open Runner-up, and Cheng Yinghua, Open Winner. Practice partners, business partners, Sun TV Open Finalists—and the two highest rated players in the U.S.

With over 40 players (plus 8 tables) from the National Table Tennis Center in Maryland making the 5-hour drive to Pittsburgh for the Sun TV, it was only fitting that Cheng Yinghua and Jack Huang, the head coaches from the center (and the two highest rated players in the U.S. at 2815 and 2699) came out first and second. Six of the eight quarterfinalists in open singles were from the NTTC, as were three of the four semifinalists in Allstar Women. It made for some truly exciting rallies, as usually happens when practice partners (who know each other’s games) are matched up.

Each year the Sun TV has increased in numbers, and this year the meter ran to 208 players, on 26 tables, competing for $7,000.

Open Singles

16ths:

There were three five-game battles in this round. Clark Yeh smashed more balls than Rocky Wang could loop kill in five, while Victor Tolkachev spun his way in five past Jason St. George. The match that everyone was watching, however, was John Omifade’s 17, 13, 17, -19, 17 battle with Sean Lonergan. Sean pulled a “Lonergan” this tournament, with apologies to the three innocent Lonergaris: almost beat the 13, 17, 17, -19, 17 battle with Sean Lonergan. Sean pulled a “Lonergan” this tournament, with apologies to the three innocent Lonergaris: almost beating Onifade, while earlier losing to 14-year-old, 1893-rated Jeff Hsin. “I’m streaky,” said Sean, who, reliable sources say, is part Chippewa indian. Sean then teamed with father Terry to make the finals of 4300 doubles.

8ths:

The 8ths were pretty much straightforward, with the higher rated player winning easily in six of them. Todd Sweeris (2505) pulled off a minor upset, defeating Abbas Ekan (2545), at 12, -18, 20, 17. A bigger upset was 2468 Amy Feng’s 3-1 win over 2573 Darko Rop her second straight win over him.

Quarterfinals:

All four matches were again pretty one-sided. In match 1, Cheng Yinghua defeated Amy Feng 3-0 in a battle between the U.S.’s highest rated man and woman. (How many remember that Amy almost beat Cheng last October at the Southern Open at Greensboro—winning the first game, and leading 16-11 in the second in a best of three? This was no shoo-in match.)

Sean O’Neill made short work of long-time rival Dan Seemiller, winning at 14, 12, 5. “Dan hadn’t practiced much in five months—he wasn’t really playing as well as he normally would,” Sean said. Between lack of practice and running the tournament (with brothers Randy and Ricky and Barry Rodgers), Dan just wasn’t there really, and he subsequently defaulted out of the All Star Men and Over 30’s.

With the second highest rated player in the U.S. good enough, when faced with the number one rated player? Was this match between practice partners/business partners/coaching partners Jack and Cheng for real? These two have played so many times that it’s hard to separate the real from the exhibition. Rest assured that each game began real, but when the inevitable became inevitable, the play became more and more exhibition as the crowd was given a show. Match to Cheng, 13, 11, 15. However, he would default the over 30 final to Jack so the tired two could start off on a five-hour drive back to Maryland.

All Star Women:

Donna Sakai came out of a field that included 2478 Amy Feng to win this event. Wait a minute, how is that possible? Donna’s big win was in the semifinals over Kristie Reed, 17, 13, 15, 16. Amy was scheduled to play student Laura Lin (co-coached by Amy and Cheng Yinghua), but elected to allow Laura to gain experience, and so defaulted. Laura battled with Donna, but Donna pulled out the close ones in winning at 20, 8, 19.

All Star Men:

The Monica Seles granting problem has spread to table tennis, and we can only hope it will lead to as much publicity. Dickinson Fleisher journeyed to Pittsburgh from Florida, but lost in five to David Fernandez in the eighth. Dickinson complained that Fernandez’s granting bothered him, but Dickinson’s friend Mary Jones asked that all similarities between Fernandez and Seles end there.

All four quarterfinal matches were 3-0 (including a busy Dan Seemiller’s default to Darko Rop). Only Todd Sweeris’ 19, 20, 13 loss to John Onifade seemed a battle. The semifinals were far closer, and featured Darko’s comeback against Sean O’Neill.

November/December 1993
Darko, fighting a headache throughout the tournament, lost the first two games (despite leads of 9-2 and 13-8), and was down 20-18 match point in the third, Scan serving. Darko deuced it, and after fighting off a total of six match points, won the game, 28-26. (The receiver won 11 of the last 16 points in this game.) A long time later, Darko emerged victorious, 21-15 in the fifth. In the other semis, David Zhuang wins the first against John Onifade, 21-16. At 19-all in the second, John slips during a rally, and quickly loses the point, 19-20. But John follows with three in row to tie the match up, one game each. But no matter how fast John could throw his body around the court to keep up his relentless forehand looping, David could block and hit just a bit faster, and won the match in four, 16-20, 18-15.

David Zhuang won the final three straight in a replay of previous matches the two have played, with David blocking a spinning Darko all over the court. Once again, David wins, 3-0. "He won the first and last games on net balls!" mourned Darko.

Other Events
There were no double winners in the rating events, although Barney J. Reed came close in winning the 2250's before losing to Ernest Virgo in the 2375 final. Barney would later win the under 16's and 4300 doubles (with Norman Yeh), and split the under 18 final with David Fernandez. Not a bad tournament for our under 16 national champions!

In the under 16 final, Barney once again played Yeh, as he had in the Junior Nationals final—only this time it was Norman Yeh, who defeated Jimmy Yeh deuce in the third in the semifinals. Poor Jimmy also lost 27-25 in the third to Bob Cordell in the semifinals of under 2125. Cordell went on to win the event over Joe Billups.

All Star finalists David Zhuang and Darko Rop defeated Open finalists Cheng Yinghua and Jack Huang in the open doubles final in a minor upset, 18-11, 16. Cheng and Jack, normally an almost unbeatable pair, showed vulnerability this tournament, and could have gone down earlier to Sean O'Neill and Todd Sweeris, who they earlier defeated in three.

Dave Sakai, who had an disappointing 19 in the third loss to Clark Yeh in the under 2500 semifinals, defeated Hamid Hayatgaib in the All Star Senior final at 15 and 16. The big upset here was Hamid's win in the semifinals over Parviz Mojavarian. In the other semifinals, Dave defeated Bill Sharpe, who would in turn win the over 50's over Sandy Chu.

Results:

Under 16—Final: Barney J. Reed d. Norman Yeh, n.s.; Reed d. Norman Yeh, n.s.

Under 2000: Deepak Jain d. Dylan Martis, 19,20,16; SF: Reed d. Larry Hodges, 12,14; Jain d. Glenn Brown, 19,-19,16; Martis d. Cindy Jones, n.s.

Under 2250: Barney J. Reed d. Dickie Fleisher, 17,16; SF: Reed d. Larry Hodges, 15,14; Fleisher d. Norman Yeh, n.s. 

Under 2500: Barney J. Reed d. Norman Yeh, 19,19,16. (despite leads of 9-2 and 13-8), and was down 20-18 match point in the third, Scan serving. Darko deuced it, and after fighting off a total of six match points, won the game, 28-26. (The receiver won 11 of the last 16 points in this game.) A long time later, Darko emerged victorious, 21-15 in the fifth. In the other semis, David Zhuang wins the first against John Onifade, 21-16. At 19-all in the second, John slips during a rally, and quickly loses the point, 19-20. But John follows with three in row to tie the match up, one game each. But no matter how fast John could throw his body around the court to keep up his relentless forehand looping, David could block and hit just a bit faster, and won the match in four, 16-20, 18-15.

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More than 9,500 athletes in 17 sports participated in the 1993 National Junior Olympic championships in Knoxville, Tennessee the first week of August. 17 sports were represented, including the new sports of trapshooting and archery. Many thousands of spectators were present for the spectacular opening ceremonies held in the University of Tennessee’s football stadium. There were rock stars, dance sequences, athlete presentations, the lighting of the torch, all culminating in a large fireworks display. The City of Knoxville hired some of the people that planned the opening ceremonies at Barcelona and their efforts were appreciated by the large crowd.

The table tennis venue was in the downtown convention center and wrestling and taekwondo were in the same area. There were many parents and spectators, especially in the latter two sports mentioned, but table tennis was a good support especially on days one and two.

The tournament staff consisted of Richard & Sue Butler, and Yvonne Krounland, and Kathy Reed served as tournament referee. We were most fortunate to have our good friend, a local assistant, who is much more than a volunteer and provided invaluable assistance at the desk. Our local liaison, Vickie Bennett was a great detail person and helped organize the excellent volunteers who were used in many capacities.

We had 86 players registered for the tournament, which is a little under our usual 100-125, but considering that the usual Maryland contingent is about 35 and the weather was only 16 (with many of the top Maryland boys not making the trip due to the Junior Nationals in Maryland one month earlier), it was a good turn-out.

Most of the table tennis players started to arrive in Knoxville on Tuesday, either by car, plane, or train. We had a practice day and gave the athletes a good chance to acclimate themselves to the playing conditions. The air conditioned facility was very adequate and the equipment was the best we have seen for a tournament of this size.

The table tennis players were supervised by Stiga/Indian Industries. The tables were borrowed from Evansville, Indiana and Indian Industries sent an employee to supervise the set-up and the tear-down. It was incredibly well organized and we thank Indian Industries most sincerely for their continuing efforts on behalf of the USTTA.

Peter Bjurnan (Mr. Stiga) was on hand Friday and Saturday to take a look at some of our up and coming junior prospects for possible sponsorship. He and his lovely wife were also there to watch Stiga junior Randy Cohen win the U18 boys title. Stiga is sending Randy to Sweden this fall for training. “I now get to see what I can do,” says recent high school graduate Randy. Peter also watched another Stiga junior, Brian Shapiro, win the U14 boys title.

Thursday, the first day of competition consisted of an open RR in which you played yourself into an A-B-C-D single elimination format. In the A group, Randy Cohen (FL) found himself in the semi-finals against Barney Reed (PA). Much to his regret he came up short in the 3rd game.

Barney faced David Fernandez (NY) in the finals where David became our A division winner. The finals featured Michael Layo (FL) and eventual winner Jeff Levy (NY). The boy’s C final was an all Illinois event, with Rizwan Merchant defeating Ahsmed Lakhani. Richard Caplin (FL) defeated Anjum Virani (IL) in the D final.

In the girls A division we saw Kristey Reed (PA) triumph over Julie Lu (MD). In B, Margaret Lu (MD) defeated Karen Chang (NY). In C, Tammy Caplin (FL) beat Poonam Bheda (SC) and in the D division, we saw our bubbly little girls, who at times had trouble keeping score, trying to keep up with the best in that group. Tresa Lampshire (MN) came out the victor over Katherine Wu (MD). Friday morning started with the completion of the doubles and the age divisions began. National coach Marty Prager’s Florida sunshine boys took up the limelight. In U10 boys, Keith Albain (age 9) had no problem taking the gold. In U12 boys, T.J. Beebe fought off some threats but in the end was also a gold medal winner. In U14, Anthony Torino put up a great fight against Brian’s anti and his four years experience versus 1.5 years. The Florida boys captured three age divisions and had one runner-up out of five divisions. Looks like some battles are shaping up for years to come between Florida and Maryland, New York and Oklahoma.

The girls age events found Kristey Reed (PA) ending her junior career on a high note defeating Julie Lu (MD). In U16 girls Karen Chang was victorious over Andrea Butler (GA). The winner of U14 was Vivian Lee (MD) over Tammy Caplin (FL). In U12, Jessica Shen (MD) won the gold over Poonam Bheda (SC). Purvi Beda (SC) defeated Katherine Wu (MD) for the gold in U10.

Saturday is state team competition day and many rivalries have developed over the years. The age groups are U14 and U18, but a younger person can play up on a higher age division team. On Florida’s U18 team, 9-year-old Keith Albain played with Randy Cohen and two other players. They came within two points of being in the finals, but lost to Maryland, 3-2. Maryland went on to play New York in the finals. Fernandez, Vasquez, and Brown were too much for the Maryland boys and instead of the big apple, New York became the golden state.

The U14 boys’ team found Prager’s Florida boys in another exciting final against Louisiana and the Beaumont brothers. Anthony Torino won the first game from William Beaumont 21-9, but found himself in a death struggle in the second. From 21-20, Anthony had three ad’s, but all three were lost when Anthony tried to finish with three kills that missed, missed and missed. Finally he decided to just put it on for a winner. It went down to the fourth match and T. J. Beebe decided he wouldn’t be outdone by Anthony only he did it in reverse. Down 13-3 in the first game, T.J. ripped off 17 straight points. Then it was William’s turn to even the score. At 20-20, T.J. ripped a backhand winner and then a forehand, the second was 21-9 to finish the match and to take the gold. It seemed T.J. took a lesson from Randy and ignored some points of his own. The Maryland girls seemed to do what the Florida boys did in both the age events and teams. The U18 Potomac Valley (MD) girls team was able to end up in the golden spot defeating Florida. The U14 Potomac Valley (MD) girls team defeated South Carolina’s Bheda sisters.

One of the highlights of the tournament each year is the awarding of the Joe Ferrell award for the outstanding male and female player. It is not necessarily awarded to the top player, but sportmanship, attitude, selflessness also enters heavily in the decision making process. This year’s winners are long time junior Olympic national champions and they are both leaving the junior ranks. Congratulations and many wishes for much future success to Kristey Reed and Randy Cohen.

A successful event such as this could never occur if it weren’t for the countless efforts of so many. Without all those mentioned above, these games could not have taken place. A big thank you also goes to all the athletes for all their hard work, but a bigger thanks is for the parents. Their sacrifices enable our athletes to train and compete in such prestigious events such as this.

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November/December 1993

18 Table Tennis Today
Boys’ Open

Junior Olympic Results:

3-4: Victor Yakuba (FL), Eric Dixon (TN)
2. Ahmed Lakhani (IL)
3-4: Greg Purvis (MD), Jay Sourinthone
2. Michael Lioy (FL)

Class B:

3-4: Randy Cohen (FL), Glenn Brown (NY)
2. Poonan Bheda (SC)

Class A:

2. Michael Lioy (FL)

Girls’ Open

3-4: Farid Hemani (IL), Michael Head (KY)
4. Tom Plaisted (KY)
3. Glenn Brown (NY)
2. David Fernandez (NY)

Under 18 Boys’ Singles

1. Jeff Levy (NY)
2. Katherine Wu (MD)
8. James Winn (OK)

Under 14 Girls’ Singles

1. Tresa Lamphir (MN)
4. Jeff Levy (NY)
2. Anthony Torino (FL)
8. Jay Sourinthone (TN)
7. Greg Purvis (MD)
6. Jonathon Kaminsky (MN)
5. Saymek Sourinthone (TN)
3. Chris Ko (MD)

Under 18 Boys’ Doubles

1. John Beaumont (LA)/Brian Shapiro (CT)
2. Michael Lioy/T.J. Beece (FL)
3. William Beaumont (LA)/David Hsin (MD)
4. John Andreescu/Jeff Levy (NY)

Under 18 Girls’ Doubles

1. Julie Lu (MD)/Jacqueline Witz (MN)
2. Kristey Reed (PA)/Karen Chang (NY)
3. Sally Dahlin (CA)/Andrea Butler (GA)
4. Carol Patterson/Emily Patterson (FL)

Under 18 Boys’ Teams

New York (David Fernandez, Santo Vasquez, Glenn Brown)
Potomac Valley, MD (Chris Ko, Richard Lee, Jeff Hsin, Jeff Ko)
Maryland (Matt Zajac, Mike Booker, Greg Purvis)
Florida (Randy Cohen, Keith Alban, Gary Cohen, Derrick Alban)

Under 18 Girls’ Teams

New York (Jeff Levy, John Andreescu)
Potomac Valley, MD (Jessica Shen, Vivian Lee, Katherine Wu)
South Carolina (Poonam Bheda, Purvi Bheda)
Florida (Courtney Caplin, Anna Patterson)

Under 12 Boys’ Singles

1. Jeff Levy (NY)
2. Katherine Wu (MD)
8. James Winn (OK)

Under 14 Girls’ Singles

1. Tresa Lamphir (MN)
4. Jeff Levy (NY)
2. Anthony Torino (FL)
8. Jay Sourinthone (TN)
7. Greg Purvis (MD)
6. Jonathon Kaminsky (MN)
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Florida (Courtney Caplin, Anna Patterson)

Under 12 Girls’ Singles

4. Emily Patterson (FL)
2. Tammy Caplan (FL)
3. Margaret Lu (MD)

Under 16 Boys’ Singles

1. Jeff Levy (NY)
2. Katherine Wu (MD)
8. James Winn (OK)

Under 16 Girls’ Singles

1. Kristey Reed (PA)
2. Poonan Bheda (SC)
3. Margaret Lu (MD)

Under 18 Boys’ Doubles

1. John Beaumont (LA)/Brian Shapiro (CT)
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TABLE TENNIS TODAY

Two men and top two women in the U.S. at the NTTC and PCTTC, including the top Maryland and joining their national chain-Center (NTTC).

In middle November, Gao Jun of China, ranked #4 in the world among women and a semifinalist at the last world championships, will move to the U.S. She will reside in Potomac, Maryland, near the Potomac Country Table Tennis Club (PCTTC) and the National Table Tennis Center (NTTC).

Also moving to the U.S. (possibly on the same flight) will be Wang Fei, a 17-year-old from China whose estimated rating is 2650. (U.S. Team Member Todd Sweeris the same flight) will be Wang Fei, a 17-year-old from China whose estimated rating is 2650. (U.S. Team Member Todd Sweeris the same flight) will be Wang Fei, a 17-year-old from China whose estimated rating is 2650.

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TTT: How did you get into table tennis?

Wei: When I was 11 years old, the dance teacher at my school asked me to join the dance group—and at the same time the table tennis teacher wanted to recruit me into the table tennis program. They asked me what I wanted to do. Although I loved dancing, my aunt was a famous table tennis player. Her name is Wang Jien. She was on the 1961 Chinese national team and reached the semifinals at the World Championship in women's singles and women's doubles. She encouraged my choice, because at that time China was going through the depths of the Cultural Revolution, and she felt that if I could get into sports, I’d be safer. When I was 13, a scout for the Beijing team saw me at a junior tournament. He recommended me to his superiors, but although my performance had been very promising, the team’s answer was negative. They said that I was not a child of a “desirable” family (my family had been in the banking business before the Communist revolution). I was very disappointed, because at my age I could not understand those reasons. I quit playing. Luckily for me, there was a political shift a few months later, and I was able to join the Beijing team.

TTT: How come you learned to play shookhand and not penhold, a style more common in China at that time?

Wei: My first table tennis teacher was only a moderately strong player, but he was very devoted to the sport. In my eyes, he was a good player, so I copied his motion perfectly. Unfortunately, his held style was flawed, and when my aunt saw me copying his mistakes, she decided that I should start over, playing shakehand—in her mind it was the “wave of the future” anyway. By the time I was at the same time in that school there was a little boy called Teng Yi. He also was told to play shakehand. When I finally made the Beijing Team, he was there already. It turned out to be a blessing for me, because I was the only girl player shakehand, and none of the coaches knew much about that style. I kept going over to the boys and asking them how to do this or that. Teng Yi went on to reach a high world ranking in the late eighties. Another one of my “buddies” from that time is Wang Yansheng who is now the top player in Norway.

TTT: In fact, many of your former teammates have left China and are still playing, right?

Wei: Yes! For some reason, the Beijing team players were always slow in developing. In China, you must be top at age 18-20 as a woman and 20-22 as a man to make it onto the National team. If you still haven’t reached the stage where the coaches think your level should be, they will start dedicating themselves to younger players. Many of the Beijing team players “retire” from the team, but still have a lot of table tennis in them. Look at Chen Zhibin, for example, who at the age of 30 is still one of the top players in the German Bundesliga. Or Hong Kong’s Chan Tan Lui, who came to the Beijing team as an eleven-year old and was assigned to me, because I was still the only “mature” shakehand woman player. I worked with her for a few years and when I left, she had ascended to the higher ranks of the Beijing team, but she was never chosen for the National team. At 20, she left for Hong Kong—and reached the semifinals in the 1991 World Championship. When I was 22, I already owned my share of matches for the team, and my motivation was faltering, because I had still not been chosen for the National team. Hungry juniors were pushing up, and I felt it was time to start concentrating on my life after the team. In China, there could be no question of my future, so I retired to take a job. After coming to the States, I realized that I could still play, so I started again.

TTT: Why did you start playing in the U.S.?

Wei: When I was 23, I had already been playing high school tournaments. When I left China, I had already won most of the big tournaments that I could enter. My goal was to make it onto the National team, but the competition was too high. Before going to the States, I realized that I could still play, so I started again.

TTT: How did you get into table tennis in the U.S.?

Wei: I was a table tennis player and was lucky to enter a local tournament. I was shocked when I learned that I had to play against men. In China, that would have meant that I would lose every game under 10. Although I hadn’t played at all for 3 years, I noticed that I could still beat most players. Actually, I enjoyed the feeling of beating somebody twice my weight!

So I started practicing a little. When I met Diego, my husband, he strongly encouraged me to try to reach top level again. Suddenly, table tennis was fun again. I played for no other reason, and I hadn’t really lost any of my skills. All I needed to do was sharpen them. There were some problems with eligibility in the beginning, but in October of 1990, I learned that I would be allowed to play for the U.S. National Championship in December. I started practicing with some top local players, and Diego would feed me multiball in our garage. I still wasn’t very confident, because the competition at the Nationals that year was very tough—a top player was trying out for the 1991 World Championship team. At the tournament, though, I felt in good shape, and I managed to get through the grueling 12-player round-robin—all matches best of five. When I beat Inooko after winning a game from 14-19 down, I felt that nothing could stop me, and Lily seemed nervous during the deciding match, so I was able to win the Championship.

TTT: There is a widespread perception that the Chinese have some “secret tricks” they won’t share with anyone. Is that true?

Wei: No. China has very distinctive training methods, and the players have to work hard. Unlike here in the U.S., nobody is concerned about bruising our little egos. We have no choice. When Waldner came to China he was trained like a Chinese—some in China say they should have held something back...I think that the Chinese generally are a lot better at the short game than the Europeans, but it’s not that much of an advantage anymore. Unless the short ball attack is very sharp, the Europeans just let them take the shot, back up a little and power-loop the ball. Jean-Michel Saive has benefited tremendously from his Chinese coach’s knowledge of the short game, so he combines the strengths of the European and the Chinese styles.

TTT: What are the biggest differences you see between table tennis in China and table tennis in the U.S.?

Wei: In China, the team comes first. You play for the team, you improve for the team, you win for the team—even when you play individual events. Here, it is an individual sport, in which you improve for the team, you win for the team—even when you lose.

TTT: What are the biggest challenges in trying to reach the top?

Wei: In the U.S., I think really top table tennis players can only be produced within a team context, and that’s where we will still meet our greatest challenges in trying to reach the top very well. We need leagues to promote team thinking, where helping your partner player’s game doesn’t directly translate into creating a stronger potential opponent. Also, when you are part of a team, it is easier to set higher goals, because you are not alone in trying to reach them.

TTT: What are you currently working on?

Wei: As far as my game is concerned, I’ve learned that I need to improve my loop. I have to watch the development, and I feel that’s the direction I have to move in to keep up. I have been a hitter for most of my life. I don’t think I’m going to lose that. If I can add a stronger loop to my game, much of my theoretical work doesn’t concern my own game, though. I’ve been trying to figure out a synthesis of the Chinese and European styles. Since we are geographically right between Europe and China, maybe that should be the U.S. style. I have just finished another instructional video, Modern Table Tennis 102, which is about to be released. While doing the research for that, I noticed certain distinct elements in each of those styles. I am trying to find a way to put them all together. You’ll hear more about that later.

TTT: What equipment do you use?

Wei: I use a Butterfly Keshyshot blade with Selvid 2.0mm on the forehead and Resilion 2.0mm on the backhand.

TTT: How much do you practice?

Wei: Not enough. I coach almost every day for four hours, so there is little time left for my own game. I have learned not to let the “coaching mode” interfere with my competitive game so much. Once in a while I practice very intensely with Rutledge Barry or Attila Males, but really nowhere near enough. Definitely a case of “Do as I say, not as I do!”

TTT: Wei, thank you very much for this interview!

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November/December 1993

Table Tennis Today 21
The Forehand Loop of JAN-OVE WALDNER

1992 Olympic Gold Medalist ★ ★ ★ 1989 World Champion

by Wei Wang

USTTA Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion
Jan-Ove Waldner's Forehand Loop

Whenever I have the opportunity to represent the U.S. in international competition, I feel I make a big step forward in my own game and in my understanding of the sport itself. I go to the competition, I feel I make a big step forward in my own game and in my representation of the U.S. in international facts. Certainly, not everyone can play like the "magician" himself, Jan-Ove Waldner. Is based on his excellent touch. He can do what he does, because so much of his game is based on his excellent touch. He can do what he does, because so much of his game is based on his excellent touch. He can do what he does, because so much of his game is based on his excellent touch. He can do what he does, because so much of his game is based on his excellent touch.

What is important is the timing of all the elements in Waldner's movement: When put together like this, it makes for an extremely efficient stroke. Let's look at his legs, first. The knees are bent throughout the stroke. From the ready position at 0.0 sec through the end of his backswing at 0.3 sec, his weight is transferred to his right, and his right leg bends to almost a 90 degree angle. His left leg bends, too, so his hip lowers about 8 inches. The upper body twists to the right, and the right shoulder drops. His head moves as little as possible, facing the ball at almost the same angle at all times. His racket reaches the lowest point just before the backswing is complete (0.2 sec) - as low as mid-calf.

An important nuance that is more clearly visible here than in real time is the slight angling of his wrist that starts at 0.1 sec, continues to its extreme before 0.5 sec, where the blade is almost in the same plane as the floor and then straightens out on contact. With this motion, Waldner adds efficiency to his stroke and controls the exact placement: Going cross-court as he is in this sequence, he straightens out his wrist as seen. If he wants to loop to the other side of the table, he just continues his wrist motion into the opposite direction, which covers the ball more and adds somewhat of a left curve to it.

After 0.3 sec, Waldner starts his forward swing. During the first four frames after 0.3 sec, his upper body moves very little, but he starts his forward swing by bending his elbow and pushing off with his right leg. Between 0.4 and 0.5 sec, his shoulders begin to rotate to the left and his arm swings toward contact. At the same time, he continues to push off with his right leg, moving his body up — and forward into the ball. Contact occurs in the frame just before 0.6 sec. You can see the ball just above his right hip. Most of the forward motion in the whole stroke happens in the 5 frames following 0.5 sec.

So, from 0.3 sec through 0.5 sec he has first build momentum by bending his elbow, then by pushing off with his right leg, then by rotating his shoulders, and now, on contact, that whole momentum is transferred into the ball as he lets his weight shift to his left leg. Notice how much distance his forearm covers in the three frames preceding and including 0.6 sec. That's where his racket reaches the maximum speed. Coinciding with that time is the straightening out of his wrist mentioned before, adding a whipping effect. Afterwards, on the frame after 0.6 sec, his racket is almost a straight extension of his arm, and as his elbow moves upward for the follow-through, the blade approaches the neutral, vertical angle of the ready position. The weight transfer continues throughout the follow-through until after 0.7 sec. Then, he starts the recovery to the ready position, redistributing his weight evenly onto both legs.

Although we cannot read too much from his position relative to the table, because he is in a repetitive practice situation, which doesn't necessarily translate into competition, we can still take note of the width of Waldner's stance. It's almost twice his shoulder width. There is another notable fact I want to relay to you, which is not depicted here: While standing six feet away from Waldner when he was playing, I noticed that he regrips every time he changes from forehand to backhand and vice versa. In fact, when he is in his ready position before receiving a serve, he holds the edge of his blade with his left hand, helping to adjust for whichever stroke he chooses. For his backhand grip, he holds the racket as most of us do, relatively high up on the handle, his thumb almost parallel to the bottom edge of the rubber, and the blade seems to touch the "web" between the thumb and the index. When he changes to the forehand, he lets the racket slide out a little. Now his thumb is angled a little towards the top of the racket, and there is a little space between the racket and that part of the hand. Ma Wenge of China, by the way, does that even more extremely, sometimes reaching forward during the point with his left hand to help regripping.

These are just some of the points to touch on. Although it is not quite as clear as actual video, I hope that this sequence helps you visualize Waldner's motion better, and maybe you can draw some conclusions that apply to your own game.
In Memoriam: RICH LIVINGSTON

California table tennis enthusiasts are mourning the loss of Rich Livingston, a big man in a small package. Rich died on Wednesday, October 13, from complications accompanying a sudden illness. He had recently completed floor plans for this year's National Championships in Las Vegas and the 1994 U.S. Open scheduled forAnaheim, California. Rich is survived by his wife Shirley, two sons, Robert and Mark, and his daughter, Liza.

Rich was a player, club director, and tournament organizer of the highest order. His close friend, Y. C. Lee, described him as "the best desk man in the business." Rich will also be remembered for his warm personality and sense of humor. I carry a pen he gave me reading: "This pen was stolen from Rich's Table Tennis Workshop." Rich spent his working career as an airframe engineer, but devoted his leisure time to helping organize and run events such as the Chinese New Year Championships, the last three National Championships, and this year's U.S. Open in Indianapolis.

Rich was a tough competitor who always complimented his opponents on points well played, whether he was winning or losing. As quick with his wit as he was with his racket, he managed to keep us from taking ourselves too seriously during a match. Rich's forte was doubles, always encouraging his partner with comments like, "Great Shot!" and, "You were robbed!" He surprised many a higher rated team with his unusual style of play and quick defense. Rich's paddle was always his best compliment to his opponent.

The recipients of the 1993 Sudafed Sports Award of the Year Award are Julie Krone, Jockey, in the Individual category, and Sheryl Swoopes, basketball, in the Team category.

The beneficiary of the Sudafed Sports Awards Dinner was the Women's Sports Foundation. The Women's Sports Foundation is a non-profit organization which works for equal opportunities for women in sports.

Photo by Jeff Barnes 1993

AMY FENG SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR THE SUDAFED SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The 14th annual award is given in two categories, individual and teams sports. Amy was chosen from over 60 nominees, both professional and amateur, as one of the ten finalists in the individual category.

The award winners and finalists were recognized for their extraordinary achievements at a black-tie dinner held October 4th at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

November 13-14 December 11-12

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November/December 1993
TABLE TENNIS
LOOKING TO CLIMB
OUT OF THE BASEMENT
by Bill Coleman
USTTA Intern
Student, Bemidji State University,
Bemidji, MN

In the many kingdoms of the sporting fields there is a throne for athletic giants of all types. There is the land of baseball where King Jordan reigned with a pearl white grin and a multimillion dollar shoe contract. There are the diamond fields of baseball where a bunch of demigods named Bonds, Clemens and Ryan, to name a few, are lavished by its people with the diamonds they play on. Then there is the gridiron empire where the guards are paid far less than the field generals yet still make ten times more than the peasants who pay their wages. Finally, there are the people of U.S. table tennis. A sport, like the Palestinians not too long ago, valiantly searching for acceptance.

Table tennis in the U.S. is found mainly in America’s basements and garages, unlike Europe and Asia, where table tennis’ popularity is just about on a parallel with soccer. This difference in attitude is reflected in international competition. The U.S. has had only one world singles champion in sixty years of play (in 1936 R.H. Aarons won the women’s world title). Table tennis, or ping pong, as it is affectionately known in America, is a game which has yet to be excepted as a legitimate sport in the eye of the U.S. public. Although millions of children and adults play the game every year, the majority merely play for amusement. The lack of competitive play is partially responsible for the poor showing by the United States in world tournaments and Olympic games.

Another reason is location. Unfortunately for table tennis in the U.S., it is located in the most competitive sports market in the world. To gain followers and fans, table tennis must compete with the sports giants of baseball, basketball, football, hockey, golf and tennis. If U.S. table tennis is to compete with these sports as well as be competitive with the other nations of the world, it must change America’s perception of the game.

From the very start, table tennis in the U.S. has been looked upon as a game, not a sport. Commercializing may have been the cause. According to Gerald N. Garney’s book, “Table Tennis the Early Years,” the United States was the first to import table tennis commercially from England. As early as August 6, 1901 Hamley Brothers, the famous retailers of games and toys, had registered their “Ping-Pong” trademark with the U.S. Patent Office. These games were sold in United States by Parker Brothers. Consequently, at least seven other manufacturing companies produced rival games.

This mass commercializing may have stunted the game’s development by establishing table tennis in the U.S. as a sort of board game called “Ping-Pong” instead of a legitimate sport.

Table tennis’ identity problem is redoubled by competition from the three large nationally televised sports. Countries like China, Japan and Sweden have no identity problems, however. They have professional leagues whose top players are considered national heroes, idols, and in some cases earn dollars comparable to those of baseball, football and basketball players in the U.S.

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Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, for example, is one of Sweden’s table tennis elite players, and has recently signed a ten-year contract with the table tennis equipment manufacturer Donic. Donic will pay Waldner an annual six-digit salary for plugging table tennis shoes, rackets and racket sponge, ala Michael Jordan.

The U.S. Men’s Table Tennis Coach, Zhenshi Li, is a former Chinese professional player and said that first-rate players in China are idolized by the entire country. “You hear kids in China say, ‘I want to be a table tennis player when I grow up,’” said Li. “This is unheard of in the U.S.

To the United States’ estimated 18.9 million recreational table tennis players (from a demographic study conducted in 1992 by American Sports Data Inc.) table tennis is a leisure activity generally played when it’s raining outside and there is nothing to watch on television.

Conversely, according to Coach Li, in China there are clubs and organizations which focus on the development of youth table tennis players. “After school, children go to these clubs, which are almost like schools themselves,” said Li. “The young players are coached, and if they show promise, they are chosen to attend more specialized training,” said Li.

When, if they excel again, they will join a province or city junior team. Then there is the National Junior Team and the summit of all Chinese table tennis, the National Team,” said Li.

The Chinese government, like the other table tennis powers, subsidize their clubs and organizations. This provides the young player with organized competition and quality training, which is the focal point of any feeder system. It’s this nurturing of the young athlete which produces champions and consequently breeds popularity.

The predominant problem with U.S. table tennis is the lack of training for the youth. “When it comes to international competition the U.S. player has usually had far less hours of supervised training than his or her European or Asian opponent,” said Li.

Without training programs or clubs for America’s table tennis playing youth, the quality and thus popularity of table tennis is going to stay in America’s basement.

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Most of us who coach, or have done some coaching, think of ourselves as pretty good amateur psychologists. Try out the following to see how up-to-date you are on modern thinking in the field of sport psychology. Questions are true/false.

1. Visualizing an athletic performance has the same effect on the muscles as if you were actually performing. 
2. Going into a competition, an athlete's only goal should be to win. 
3. Major athletic events naturally cause athletes to feel nervous and under intense pressure. 
4. Different athletes competing in the same sport may perform best at different energy levels. Some may need to be "psyched" and others relaxed, even though they are in the same sport. 
5. Athletes can't control negative thoughts during a competition; they happen automatically. 
6. It is always best to focus on your strengths as an athlete, never your weaknesses. 
7. After successful performances, many athletes report not having to consciously think much about what they were doing. 
8. Mental skills such as goal-setting, imagery, relaxation and self-talk are only beneficial in sport. 
9. Mental toughness is a trait that athletes either have or they don't have. 
10. The best coaches of young children are always positive and enthusiastic, and never point out errors.

**ANSWERS:** 
1. False
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. False

**SPORT PSYCHOLOGY**

**Test Your Knowledge of Sport Psychology**

by Suzie Tuffey, M.S., and Shane Murphy, Ph.D.

U.S. Olympic Committee Sport Science and Technology
Reprinted from Olympic Coach; Contributed by Doon Wong

Although it is important to have the desire for victory, athletes find that they are more effective when their goals focus on things they can control. Help your athletes set goals that relate to their performance; help them to perform their best.

3. False
4. True
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. False

**McAFEE'S MECHANICS**

by Richard McAfee, Head Coach, Anderson College USTTA Certified National Coach

First of all, let me thank the many readers who have responded to this column. Several of you, mathematicians at heart, even took me to task over parts of my article on "Acceleration" theory. However, most understood the main point. That acceleration indicates that force is being applied. This acceleration occurs in a very short period.

By learning to accelerate "through the ball," a player learns to put his/her force into the shot. This translates into an efficient stroke generating more speed and spin.

Many of you have also asked questions about the training methods our Anderson College Team uses—in particular, how we prepare for competitions.

"Peaking," or Getting The Most Out Of Your Training

I am sure that each of you has had at least one "peak" experience during competition, a time where you seemed to have every facet of your game under control. Some athletes even report that time seems to slow down; the ball appears larger than usual during these moments. Wouldn't it be great if you could "peak" when you want to?

A whole science of Sport Periodization is quickly growing out of just that goal. Here at Anderson College we utilize this new science of Periodization Training. The goal of this training is to "peak" our athletes for selected major events. By this we attempt to have the athletes in the optimum physical, technical, mental, and emotional condition for selected competitions. This "peak" can usually be sustained for only a short period.

Our training program is divided into two semester halves, each lasting approximately 10 weeks. Our goal is to bring all athletes into their peak performance for the major tournaments being offered that semester. This includes the U.S. Open Team Championships in November, and the U.S. Collegiate Singles and Team Championships in April.

At the beginning of the season, a complete evaluation of each athlete's physical and technical level takes place. Personal and team goals for the year are then set up. From this information, a training program is then put together. As you look in the diagram below, you will see that training is divided up into the following areas: physical, aerobic, psychological, and technical.

Early in the season, the heavy physical work is done. This consists of systematic weight training and distance running. During this time, less time is spent on the table, and the drills are very simple.

As you follow the diagram down, you will notice how the physical work diminishes and the technical training becomes more game-like. Please remember that this chart is only a guideline. It is meant to be a flexible system, with the time frames vary as needed. Like all coaching, training is part science and part art. Knowing when to move from one area of training to the next comes only from experience.

For this system to be effective, athletes must learn to focus on the main object and not worry about early season results. They come to understand that these early events are only evaluations of their training to that date. Everything is focused on the upcoming big events. At the beginning of the second semester, the whole program starts over again.

Over the last several years, our team has had considerable success using this program.

EVENRYONE SHOULD PLAN THEIR COMPETITION YEAR

The message to be learned from all this is that everyone, regardless of playing level, should plan out their playing year. With all the tournaments being offered today it is sometimes a confusing problem. You need to plan time to rest, learn new skills, go over your basics, get into physical shape, and prepare for tournament play.

I hope that you can incorporate some of the concepts presented here. Through proper training and preparation, you can "peak" when it most counts and win that "big" event.

**ANDERSON COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS FIRST SEMESTER PEAKING PROGRAM**

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"The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win."

November/December 1993
One of the most common problems players face in their table tennis is the inability to recognize the difference between learning the shots, and learning to win. There's a big difference.

Many players have a good idea of what to do out at the table—but just don't have the strokes. This article is not directed toward these players, who generally know who they are. These players need to see a coach to fix up their strokes, and will improve as fast as their strokes develop.

An equal number of players have good strokes, but don't know how to put them together to win matches. Players like this can spend years perfecting shots, but never improve as fast as they should—and often quit the game in disgust as others pass them in ranking.

This article is directed toward these players.

To get the maximum out of whatever shots you have, you have to combine the shots in various combinations. For example, a player with a great loop against backspin won't get the most out of his game if he consistently serves topspin. Similarly, a player who counterdrives well may not get the most out of his game if he mostly serves backspin. (Keep in mind that a player who is weak at one area of his game should often play to use that weakness in practice matches to make it stronger—and develop a more powerful game.)

It goes beyond just serve and receive, of course. A player with a good loop kill may regularly go for a winner on the first shot in the rally, and although he may get away with it sometimes, he'd do far better if he set himself up better with other shots. He may end up winning by ripping every shot—but he'd be a far better player if he learned to pick his shots.

How does one learn to win? There are two variables in this:

1. Developing the right shots;
2. Knowing how to use those shots.

Let's examine these two variables.

1. Developing the right shots.

Many players develop their games with no real thought behind it. As mentioned previously, it doesn't make sense for a player who loops backspin well to constantly serve topspin. (Unless, of course, this player is trying to improve this part of his game.) Instead, a player such as this should develop the shots that set up his loop against backspin—a short backspin serve, perhaps a short push to force a sliced shot. Similarly, you should develop your game to favor the shots you do well.

Take the time to think out what type of game you best play:

I. Strengthen Your Strengths
   • What type of rallies are you best at?
   • What shots and techniques should you develop to get yourself into that type of rally?
   • What shots and techniques should you develop to become even stronger in that type of rally?

II. Strengthen Your Weaknesses
   • What types of rallies are you weak at?
   • What shots and techniques can you develop that will strengthen yourself in the rallies that you are weak at?
   • What shots and techniques can you develop that will keep you out of the rallies that you are weak at?

2. Knowing how to use those shots.

Table tennis is very similar to chess. A top chess player can spot a weaker player a few pieces, perhaps even the queen, and still win because he knows how to use the pieces better. Similarly, a table tennis player will often win against a player with better shots if he knows how to use the shots he does have more effectively.

How many times have you heard someone say, "I could have won except for..." Shouldn't that player learn to handle or avoid that one "except for" shot?

LEARNING TO WIN

How does one take what has been given above and apply it to match situations?

If you only play against stronger players, you will most often be forced to react to your opponent's shot, rather than forcing your shots and combinations on your opponent. On the other hand, if you play players who are weaker, you will force your game on your opponent—and instead of reacting to your opponent's shots, you will be practicing your own combinations.

Players who rarely have the opportunity to play stronger players are severely handicapped in their development. But so too are players who only play players who are stronger. To reach your maximum potential, you need both. A player with a rating, say, 100 points lower than yours is perfect for developing your own combinations.

So, develop the shots you need to win and learn how to use those shots. Develop your shots by playing stronger players when you can. But stop avoiding those weaker players. Turn them into fodder, rather than be fodder yourself.
**TABLE TENNIS RUBBER TECHNOLOGY**

**Part I**

by Wagdi J. Fadlou

President, Airedale Sports & Technology, Inc.

USTTA Certified Coach

Table tennis rubber technology has for many years been viewed by the majority of players as the secret province of an elite few manufacturers. This perception, although necessarily true, has given rise to some misconceptions. It turns out that a simple set of criteria or physical measurements is difficult to ascertain. The most commonly used physical parameters used by players are the sponge's hardness, weight, and speed. Let us explore these three from a more technical standpoint.

Sponge hardness controls to some extent how deep a ball sinks into a table tennis sponge. The harder the sponge, the less the ball will sink into a sponge for a given shot. Hardness values are given by a number of Chinese manufacturers of table tennis rubber. Each manufacturer has its own measuring system so a standard hardness number quoted for Chinese sponge is very different. If you compare two sponges, you will find that many of the harder, heavier Chinese sponges are in fact slower than the softer and lighter versions. It is only when you place them under a suitable top sheet that you can take advantage of these properties. That is, not all rubber top sheets work well with heavy, hard sponge, and in fact many table tennis blades are not designed for this type of rubber.

A more useful property is the density of the sponge which is the weight (or mass for the technical person) per unit volume of a material. Typical densities of table tennis sponge range from 21 to 38 pounds per cubic foot. The lower value is typical of the Japanese sponge which is the weight (or mass for the technical person) per unit volume of a material. Typical densities of table tennis sponge range from 21 to 38 pounds per cubic foot. Chinese sponge is typically in the 32 to 38 pounds per cubic foot range, although some of the so-called "cushy" versions are in the low 20's.

One of the reasons why most Chinese sponge is of a higher density than the Japanese variety is that the molecular structure of the Chinese sponge is very different. If you look at sample sponges through a magnifying glass, you can see that the Japanese sponge has a much finer cell structure compared to the Chinese versions. In fact, the cell geometry of Japanese sponge is nearly half the size. This is true even though both sponges are made of virtually the same primary material, natural rubber. (Unlike top sheets, where Japanese, German and American manufacturers use synthetic and natural rubber hybrids, the Chinese manufacturers use natural rubber only.) The small size cell in the Japanese sponge gives it certain advantages over the Chinese large cell sponge. In some ways, the Chinese sponges require the higher density in order to "drive" the top sheet to the same extent as the lighter weight Japanese sponges. This is not to say one is better than the other; it merely states a fact that some-cell sponges (this is the accurate technical term for the Japanese type sponges) have significantly different properties from ordinary sponge rubber. (Equivalent American made micro-cell sponges are currently being produced in a research mode, but have not been released for sale at this time.)

In order to understand how the micro-cell sponge differs in its characteristics from regular sponge, we have to understand by what we mean the speed of a sponge.

There are two main components of the modern table tennis game: speed and spin. A good table tennis sponge, which combined with the right top sheet and blade, allows a player with a specific technique to obtain good speed and spin. In our experiments, we tested literally hundreds of different kinds of sponge, including all types of synthetic sponge. What was truly amazing to see was that one could take an absolutely top-quality top sheet and dramatically change the characteristics of a rubber by altering the sponge. For example, we found that a typical 30 pound per cubic foot silicone sponge would create a rubber which was fast but had little spin, while an EPDM sponge (a type of synthetic sponge material) would produce a rubber with little spin but little speed. In theory, these sponges should have worked better, but they didn't. It was found that when using sponges which exhibited good resilience, when you dropped a table tennis ball from a height above the sponge, the ball had a big bounce together with a high quality top sheet, it did not always result in a table tennis rubber sheet which was either fast or spinny. The reason for this became apparent when we performed tests on the different types of sponge. These tests were carried out using a very specialized piece of equipment at the Akron Rubber Development Laboratory which performed a dynamic mechanical analysis on the sponge materials.

It turns out that there are two main criteria which affect the speed/spin characteristics of a table tennis sponge: the storage modulus and the loss modulus.

The storage modulus is related to the amount of energy the sponge releases to the ball as it is stretched at contact with the ball.  

The loss modulus is related to the amount of energy lost due to friction and heat loss with the ball.  

Good table tennis rubber materials all had high storage modulus and low loss modulus under a variety of conditions. It was found that some materials would have good numbers for both the sponge with a low impact speed, but at a high impact speed, the storage and loss modulus dropped out of ideal ranges. Further, it was found that some made speed glue sponges that had been glazed with a conventional glue that had not had the storage and loss modulus values remain unchanged across a wide range of impact speeds. (Speed glue sponge is soft, Japanese sponge made for players who use speed glue.)

In some situations the speed glue increased the storage modulus by up to 25%, while under other conditions the behavior of the sponge was similar to regular sponge. Thus the speed glue sponge, when glued, was optimized over the entire range of table tennis stroke and ball conditions. When one looks at speed glue sponge (when glued) under a low powered microscope, the dimensions of the cells were generally very similar, although the walls did not have the storage and loss modulus values remain unchanged across a wide range of impact speeds. The speed glue sponge is soft, Japanese sponge made for players who use speed glue.

Thus this big advantage of the current Japanese sponges is that they work well under slow or fast impact conditions. Further, they store energy more efficiently at high impact speeds than the Chinese varieties. The Chinese sponge on the whole works best under slow to medium impacts. This is why Chinese top sheets, blades and sponge, despite being produced in a research mode, the same performance as the Japanese by using a heavier mass but at a slower speed. Further, although Chinese sponge has a high storage modulus (although over a smaller range) it doesn't allow the top sheet to work as efficiently in imping spin. This is why most Chinese top sheets are very sticky, to make up for the storage loss problem by having extremely high friction top sheets. Which approach is better? This depends on your style. If you can wield a heavy racket and like to use a slower stroke technique, you might prefer the Chinese approach. On the other hand, if you like to use a fast stroke technique, the Japanese style rubber will work better on a lighter weight blade. What complicates the issue even further is that there is a wide variation in the behavior of blades made from an even smaller variety of blades. Blade manufacturers, much like manufacturers, have a range of conditions, different ball impacts and your racket stores energy during a stroke in much the same way that a pole does in pole vaulting, only things happen under much faster conditions. A stiff pole in pole vaulting is "springier," but doesn't store energy as easily as a flexible pole. That is why a pole vault manufacturer could design to make better use of personal attributes such as strength, speed and agility.

You can well understand now why so many players like to use a variety of equipment to suit their special needs. In the next issue, we will explore some of the technology issues relating to table tennis rubber top sheet.
WORLD SINGLES CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

Zoran Primorac of Croatia.

Final: Zoran Primorac (CRO) d. Wang Tao (CHN), 19, 16, 18, 18
QF: Zoran Primorac (CRO) d. Peter Karlsson (SWE), 17, 9, 11

Preliminaries:
Group A: Peter Karlsson (SWE) d. Peter Jackson (NZL), 13, 16
Group B: Ma Wenge (CHN) d. Zoran Primorac (CRO), 12, 13, 18

GROUP A:

July 14-18, 1993
 Rio de Janeiro
BRAZIL OPEN

Men's Singles: 1. Korbel (CZE); 2. Hoyama (CZE)
Women's Singles: 1. Ello (HUN); 2. Rey (HUN)
Men's Doubles: L Nakamura/Marmurek (JPN)
Women's Doubles: Ello/Khar (CHN), 2. Vimd/Kutis (SVK)

June 5-8, 1993
Hungary & Slovak Rep.

Over 40: Louang (BRA)
Over 50: R. Bickerstaffe (GBR)
Over 60: D. Moira (GBR)

36TH EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
July 16-25, 1993
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Under 14 Boys: Gardos (HUN) d. Sharon (ROM), 12, 9, 11
Under 16 Boys: Samsonov (BLR) d. Koestner (GER), 9, 8, 9

SUPER RUBBER SPECIALTY

RITC 729 is the best selling Chinese rubber on the table tennis market. A sticky top sheet, with combined soft or hard Japanese top sheet of the line sponge. The low price is one advantage, the second is its good spin and superb control. 1.5-2.0 mm for only $19.00

RITC 799 short pipes used by many Chinese top players - 799 offers fantastic ball control and a relative soft sponge with good speed. If you need just a little more power we also have the RITC 802 for you, which has a wider pip for more speed.

Either sheet 1.5 or 2.0mm for only $19.00

PF-4: SUPER another tacky rubber sheet, designed for a spinny game, providing good control. PF-477 comes with a softer sponge, with a little more spin and a little more touch. PF-4 keeps your table tennis budget down with good products.

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PF-4 652 or 651 a very good choice in the pipes out arsenal. 652 for speed and 651 for more control. Both have fairly soft pipes so one can employ some pretty good spin shots with either one. Many Chinese top players use the pipes out for powerful kill shots.

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RITC 729 short pipes used by many Chinese top players - 799 offers fantastic ball control and a relative soft sponge with good speed. If you need just a little more power we also have the RITC 802 for you, which has a wider pip for more speed.

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Super 1.7-2.2 $18.00 771 in 2.2 $19.50
AROUND THE USA...

by Tom Boggs

IN THIS CORNER...

The N.Y.-N.J. area's most promising young players sure weren't taking any off time off from the Mammoth Club courts this pleasant August 14-15 weekend.

True, Milagros Llosa was the only strong entry in the abbreviated Under 18's—but she proved she could also compete for cash when she extended 15-year-old favorite, Barney Reed, Jr., to three in the final of the 2250's. (Did you hear?...At the World's. Barney kept the computer score, sitting right out there on court beside the umpire, in the Save-Waldner semi's match! No better place to learn something about prowess and pressure than that, eh?)

Lefty attacker David Fang and the deceptively competitive (she seems almost too bored to play) Inga Viktorova were among those who skipped the Junior event...only to appear the more focused in the 2000's. Before flashing winners by Inga in the final, David, who just in the last few months has studiously raised his game to a skip-grade level, downed fast-hands-at-the-table John Jarema, winner over Yefim Pavlotskiy in the 2000's.

No junior doubles today, but great partnership fun nonetheless for Fang and some other young'uns. Thirteen-year-old Jeff Levy, just returned with an august computer score, sitting right out there on court beside the umpire, in the Save-Waldner semi's match! No better place to learn something about prowess and pressure than that, eh?)

Sean O'Neill

The 25th Annual Koala Springs Pacific N.W. Championships were held August 28-29 at Seattle University. The playing facilities would be hard to match: a two-basketball court-sized area; superb floor and lighting; and a large spectator bleacher section. It was an ideal setting for the popular Sean O'Neill, and he put on a great show for the paying spectators as well as for the other players and the press.

O'Neill won the Open Singles; the Open Doubles with Mike Scott III; and also the “Scott’s Special Event” (must use the same rubber on both sides of the paddle). His remarkable play was shown on two television stations and he was interviewed by two newspaper reporters.

In the filled Open Singles O'Neill had to defeat four players, including three outstanding Canadians rated over 2000, to reach the finals. In the Championship field he defeated Barbara Chin 21:4, 14:21, 16:14 in three straight games. In the doubles Sean and Mike Scott III defeated four teams to reach the finals. In that Championship, they defeated Danny Ho (Vancouver BC) and Paul Cow (California) both rated over 2100 in close games 18-16, 17-19, 18-19. In the “Scott’s Special Event” final he outscored Ron Carver, Oregon's perennial Champion.

Koala Springs, a sparkling Fruit Juice Beverage, could not have a better spokesperson than Sean as he requested this beverage at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

In Seattle Sean spent many hours practicing, demonstrably raising the significance private table tennis room in existence while staying with Mike Scott III in his elaborate waterfront home. Ask Sean about this sumptuous facility.

One milestone in this yearly tournament is that after 25 years we can now retire our sign that stated: “THIS IS A VOLLEY RULE DOES NOT APPLY.” We have never used that absurd rule in our club and thankfully it was officially discarded by the ITTF beginning September 1993.

Following this highly successful tournament Sean spent a well-deserved vacation traveling by boat with Dr. Michael Scott Jr. throughout the beautiful American and Canadian San Juan Islands.

After winning the 25th Annual Koala Springs Pacific NW Championships at Seattle University, Sean O’Neill vacationed throughout the American and Canadian San Juan Islands by boat with Dr. Michael Scott, Chairman of the USTTA Sports Science Committee.

Table Tennis Today Issue 30

VICTOR IS THE VICTOR

Detroit Top 3: Mike Veillette (2), Victor Olusegun (1), Florin Petroi (3).

Europe has its top twelve. Now, Detroit has its top 16 Dominating the field and dropping only one game through 9 matches was the No. 1 seed Victor Olusegun.

Two groups of eight played round robins, with the top two advancing to a final robin. The results from the preliminary matches:

In group 1, top seed Akins Oguns (Benga) breezed to a 7-0 match record, dropping only one game to perennial Michigan champion, Mike Veillette. Tom Fallas, who once ran and finished the Iron Man marathon in Hawaii, had a nice win over child psychologist Dave Peradotto. Mike Veillette upset fourth seed Taju Adakorok in three games to make the final round robin.

Taju is the proud father of daughter Sarah and has just become Olympic eligible through her green card.

In group 2, Victor won seven matches, dropping only one game to Yugoslavian immigrant Florin Petroi (Peters). Peter is a former sparring partner of Liia Lupulescu, and was the third seed with an estimated rating of 2400. Taji Bob showed remarkable improvement in his game with upset wins over former National Intercollegiate Champion James Dixon and "I'm the best" Roman Yasmans.

Frank Sexton "Yeah, baby" upset Peter in the three to clinch berth in the finals. Did he? Nope. James Dixon, out of practice or not, showed he still knows how to hold the paddle, defeating Frank in three. New life for Florin "Peter" Petroi! Despite two losses, Peter advanced.

Peter showed he belonged in the final round robin of four by promptly defeating 2484 Benga in three close games. A disguised Benga decided he was still fit and defeated his last match to Victor. Mike Veillette then countered by Peter to create a three-way tie for second place. Based on games, Mike finished second in a strong field that had him seeded fifth! Peter was third and powerhouse Benga fourth.

Standings for the Detroit Top 16 were:
1. Victor Olusegun
2. Mike Veillette
3. Florin Petroi
4. Akins Oguns
5-6. Taju Adakorok
6-10. Roman Yasmans
11. James Dixon
12. Mimi Bosica
13. Taji Bob

Thanks go to National Tournament Referee Joseph Helfand for his wisdom, and to coach John Bosica for creating this tournament and then two "minutes," keeping it on schedule. The final round robin featured official scrambleppers Ping Pong Bob and Mimi Bosica. Next month the Detroit Table Tennis Association will host the Detroit Top 24 on November 7, and then the U.S. Open Teams Thanksgiving weekend in Detroit. See you there. Practice hard, because China is sending a powerhouse team!

November/December 1993
Brother introduces the revolutionary ACS Series of affordable fax machines that produce flat, easy-to-read faxes with standard fax paper!

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..HOME OF 1991 U.S. Senior Doubles Champion Pete May.
..HOME OF the National Barrel Horse Association.
..HOME OF the Original $30,000 Regency Mall Table Tennis Jamboree.
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Hall of Fame Open Champions
1997 Joe Ng—Canada
1998 Eric Baggen—U.S.A.
1999 Dan Sawmill—U.S.A.
2000 Johnny Huang—Canada
2002 Jim Butler—U.S.A.
2003 Jim Butler—U.S.A.

.SITE OF the first USTTA sanctioned Georgia State Championship (1970).
..SITE OF the 1993—94 $10,000 Southern Pro Tour

SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Augusta College Table Tennis Club—John Groves Advisor (706-737-1609)

Daily training by International Coach Xin Peng (706-738-2812)

Assisted by Team Captain Brian Pace (706-736-7339)

Currently in Training:

Michael Hyatt—Jamaica
2500
Ian Christopher—Trinidad
2300
Scott Butler—Iowa
2450
Meboob Khan—Pakistan
2450
Ben Pace—North Carolina
2400
Sohail Khan—Pakistan
2350
Roland Rittmaier—Kansas
2350
Oscar Melvin—North Carolina
2300
Anthony Cooper—Atlanta, Ga
2250
David Burns—Augusta, Ga
2150
Yogesh Sapre—Atlanta, Ga
2100

Duke’s Breakfast Club

Training at 6:00am supervised by Ray Hae (706-855-5614)

Butch Jackson’s (1) Table Emporium

Noon and afternoon casual play for ladies (706-722-1126)

Annual Thanksgiving Detroit Teams Bus Trip

Augusta Tournament Schedule

Contact Rick Hardy (706-724-1499)

Southern Tour Oct. 2—1993
Southern Tour Nov. 6—1993
Southern Tour Apr. 9—1994
Hall of Fame Apr. 29, 1994

Southern Teams Sep. 3—1994


Flowers wasn’t dreaming. Just ask any of his nine victims in the round robin format.

Flowers slipped past Ralph Kessel of Huntsville, University, at 19 & 16 in the finals.

The players swapped backhand swats and Flowers continued to return the best Kessel had to offer. “I couldn’t get anything by him,” Kessel said afterwards. “He countered every thing I hit. It was just his day, I guess.”

Kessel took home $50 for his second place finish. Winning semifinalist money of $25 each went to Saynke Sournieth of Houston, and Daniel Salinas of Huntsville.

Flowers ousted Salinas, a native of Mexico, at 10 & 14, while Kessel took care of 16-year-old Sournieth, 17 & 15.

Along with sponsorship from Dominos and Pepsi, the tournament received strong support from sponsors Jimmy Smith Jewelry of Decatur, the Decatur Daily, and the Stevenson Drug Company. Jimmy Smith Jewelers donated the tie tack. The Decatur Daily offered two gold umbrellas, and Stevenson Drug Company supplied his and hers watches as door prizes.

Qual-ity Inn of Decatur served as the tournament hotel. Walt Chenauk of the Visitors and Convention Bureau directed the tournament.

Results:

Open—Final: Don Flowers d. Ralph Kessel, 19, 16
Class A: Jim Levy d. Lock Sournieth, 14, 12, 16.
Class B: Timothy Young d. William Parrott, 17, 18.
Class C: Robert McNeal d. Ed West, 19, 16.
NEW SOUTH WELSH TALENTS

NEW YORK CITY OPEN
San Francisco, California
August 10-13, 1993

6,19,20; SF: Ho d. Terence Lee, 16,18; Tam d. Ho, 15,-15,11.
Under 16-Final: Phong Ho d. Esmond Tam, -6,19,20; SF: Mason d. Wes Wolfe, 19,18; Hod.
Under 18-Final: Dennis Su d. Esmond Tam, 16,14,19; SF: Mason d. Wes Wolfe, 19,18; Hod.

PORTLAND OPEN
Portland, Oregon
August 14-15, 1993

Open—Final: Dennis Su d. Jay Crystal, 18,11,15,10; SF: Charles McArdle, 15,18,18; Crystal d. Hau, 18,9,15.
Open Doubles—Final: Su/Mui, 18,12; SF: Seow d. Saiwing Yu, 11,14; Chen d. Saiwing Yu, 14,17.

NEW JERSEY TEAM TOURNAMENTS
Westfield, New Jersey
August 14, 1993

Table Tennis Today is the property of
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November/December 1993
Blue Butterfly Tables Will Be Available For The First Time Ever In December.

Nippon Rollaway $550  Europa Stationary $500

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* Price for each table includes National League Net, but not freight from Vegas.
* Each table style is available in blue or green while supplies last.
* Purchased tables will be freighted to you from Las Vegas December 20-31.
* Call the Butterfly Table Tennis Center at 1-800-334-8315 for a freight quote.

For More Information, Call: 1-800-334-8315

Butterfly Table Tennis Center, P.O. Box 157, Wilson NC 27894, 919-291-8202
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The ratings printing will not cover all players’ ratings over the telephone. Players may obtain their rating from TT Today, 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, Bethlehem, PA 18017. Because of space limitations, it is official USTA policy that only players who have played in a tournament in the past five months are listed.
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NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

November 5-7, Pacific Rim Open, Portland, OR. Contact: Jim Scott, 5114 SW Slavin #102, Portland, OR 97201, 503-223-4539. **

November 6-7, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. *

November 6-7, Western New York Open, Rochester, NY. Contact: Carolyn Bush, 244-D Susan Lane, Rochester, NY 14615, 716-271-3766. **

November 6, Grand Rapids November Open, Grand Rapids, MI. Contact: Lee Baltman, 2151 Diamond, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, 616-676-7463.

November 6, SFFL Players Series, Clemmons, NC, Contact: Danny Hill, 240 Twinbrook Drive, Clemmons, NC 27012, 919-764-0010.

November 7, Detroit Top 24, Detroit, MI. Contact: Cody Jones, 3050 Union Lake Rd., #8H. Commerce, MI 48382.

November 8, Southern Tour #4, Anderson, SC. Contact: Richard McAfee, 317 Carrolldale, SE, Canton, OH 44707.

November 8-9, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. *


November 10-12, NTTC November Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 16810 Oakmont Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-330-4334.

November 11-12, Southern Tour #4, Anderson, SC. Contact: Richard McAfee, 317 Boulevard, Anderson, SC 29621, 803-231-9647. **

December 15-19, 1993 U.S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, Detroit, MI. Contact: Bob Allshouse, 675 South Chester, Birmingham, MI 48009, 313-258-9677. ****

December 11, Second St., Berwick, PA 18603, 717-759-5814.

December 1, 1994, Continental Cup, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Barry Rodgers, 339 Princeton Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

December 11, Southern Tour #5, Anderson, SC. Contact: Richard McAfee, 317 Boulevard, Anderson, SC 29621.

December 9-10, NTTC January Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 16810 Oakmont Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-330-4334. *

January 1, SFFL Players Series, Clemmons, NC. Contact: Danny Hill, 240 Twinbrook Drive, Clemmons, NC 27012, 919-764-0010.

January 8, Waco Winter RR, Waco, TX. Contact: W. Arthayasinghe, 3076 Ivy Lane, Hewitt, TX 76643, 817-666-7166. **


January 15-16, Maryland Jr & Sr Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291.


January 22-23, Maryland Open Teams, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291.

January 22-23, Canton Sun TV Winter Open, Canton, OH. Contact: Terri Weaver, 317 Carlisle Rd., Canton, OH 44707, 216-488-0637.

January 29-30, NTTC January Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 16810 Oakmont Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-330-4334.


February 5-6, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291.

February 5-6, National Tournament SCHEDULE

February 9-10, National Table Tennis Center, 16810 Oakmont Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-330-4334.


February 12-13, Eastern Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Olga Soltesz, 18268 Stable Pointe Dr., Greensboro, NC 27408, 336-341-7580.


February 15-16, Maryland Jr & Sr Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291.

February 15-16, Maryland Jr & Sr Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291.

February 26-27, NTTC February Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 16810 Oakmont Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-330-4334.

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February 26-27, NTTC February Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 16810 Oakmont Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-330-4334.

February 26, Salina Open, Salina, KS. Contact: Clifford Metzger, 2026 Roach Street, Salina, KS 67401, 715-832-6484.

April 22-27, 1994, World Veterans Table Tennis Championships, Melbourne, Australia. Contact: Management Committee, World Veterans Table Tennis Championships, 1994, Private Bag 1994 South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Australia, or contact Tim Boggin, 516-864-0434.
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