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One of the lightest offensive blades in the world. A complete new construction idea made it possible to keep the weight down to 85 gr. Gatien Offensive offers a lot of power because of a larger sweet spot. 7 ply wood with AN, FL or ST grip.
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The original wood of the new World Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien. And as always it is made in Sweden. Noticeably faster than the Gatien allround because of a thicker 5 ply wood construction. Gatien Extra World Champion quality. 85 gr. available with a AN, FL or ST handle.
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Thanks to the many of you who voted for either logo. Randy Jew of California was the lucky winner of a Brother P-Touch labeling system. Mr. Jew’s name was pulled from among all who cast a logo vote.

I’m sure you will enjoy reading in this issue about our returning National Champions, Amy Feng and Jim Butler. Congratulations to them and also to new team members:

Women’s Team
Amy Feng
Lily Yip
Wei Wang
Tawny Bahn

Men’s Team
John Onifica
Jim Butler
Sean O’Neill
Darko Rop
Derek May

Kudos to Derek May for winning the Rich Livingston Memorial Trophy for sportsmanship. Las Vegas Events created the award in memory of Rich Livingston. In his honor, the good sportsmanship award was presented to Derek May in Las Vegas. Derek is nearly the epitome of a southern gentleman. Before winning this award, he made news by making the U.S. team for the first time. His usual demeanor is so unassuming that it’s refreshing to shine the spotlight on him. If you’re looking forward to getting to know Derek better, look for the feature interview on him in the next issue of *Table Tennis Today.* Meanwhile, as you may know, he and Jim Butler are busy training in Sweden.

Which brings me to my next point. The Executive Committee has stated in its Competitive Plan that we hope to have a field of gold medal contenders in place by the year 2000. Many players are taking the initiative to travel overseas to develop a better competitive edge. Besides Derek and Jim, Randy Cohen is also training in Sweden. Barney Reed, Jr. and Dave Fernandez will also make a trip to Sweden in the spring. Eric Owens has made plans to train in Korea for several months in 1994.

I certainly applaud them for moving forward with their training plans. However, American table tennis still has quite a ways to go until we will be able to field a team with enough breadth and depth to vie for the gold at both the world championships and the Olympics. Indeed, it is my theory that, at least at the world championships, certain countries are better positioned to do well in the singles events.

One night several months ago I became so preoccupied with my theory that I was up almost half the night drawing charts and filling in numbers. My theory is fairly basic. The team event precedes the singles event at the world championships. Unless a team has both breadth and depth, it will be impossible for them to win. The exception, of course, occurs when an elite player comes from a relatively low playing country. The theory will more likely sacrifice team performance in that case. I am confident in my theory. I lack the proper background to completely work out my theory. So, I’m throwing it out to the membership. Another interesting slant to the inquiry revolves around the country’s “national character” (as Dick Evans pointed out last issue) and a player’s individual personality. Any takers?

By the time you read this, it’ll be February, which is later than normal. It was suggested that we included a feature on the ratings. There were some delays in the transition of the ratings to headquarters, and the decision was made early to wait for the U.S. Nationals to be processed before going to press. I hope you don’t mind the delay. The next issue (Mar/APR) by comparison, will seem to come out quicker than usual. You’ll probably receive it five to six weeks after this issue.

Second Class Mail

Many people wonder why some people receive the magazine later than others, sometimes weeks later. The magazine is mailed out second class, which means that other items are given higher priority. The issue should be received one to three weeks after mailing, but sometimes it takes longer. Where does the magazine sit in the mail for such a long time? Believe it or not, in your local post office, where it will sit until a day at the post office, whereupon it is then delivered. I’d love to send it first class—but that would cost a fortune.

The Issue That Will Not Die—

Enough already about the ratings! I’m still receiving a plethora of letters on the issue (both for and against), but mostly they rattle the same chains over again. Unless it’s something different, or the USATT situation changes, please—no more letters on the ratings!

Sean O’Neill Coaching Column

Starting next issue, five-time U.S. Champion and two-time Olympian Sean O’Neill will be writing a regular coaching column, including a question and answer section for selected questions. Have a coaching question? Send it to: Sean O’Neill, 8469 Holly Leaf Dr., McLean, VA 22102, or fax to 703-448-8832.

Corrections:

In the last issue, the photo of 10-time U.S. Champions Dick Miles and 3-time U.S. Champion Marty Reisman in the table of photographs was printed with a byline. The photographer was Harry Frazer.

Also in the last issue, Jessica Shen & Vivian Lee were left out of the results section for the Junior Olympics. They won the gold medal for under 14 girls’ doubles.

Just before publication, *TTToday* received word that the ITTF has extended the date of the glue ban to August 1, 1995. (Previously, it was to have been banned starting June 1, 1994) Details in next issue—and Happy Gluing!!!
THE WORLD'S BEST PLAYERS USE THE WORLD'S BEST...STIGA

"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 quick 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, Stellan 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
GOOD MORNING AMERICA TABLE TENNIS!

by Scott Preiss

When you go to an International Consumer Electronics Show you go to see things that are electronic, right? Wrong. Spencer Christian, host of the national television show Good Morning America, was reporting from the booth of Brother International Corporation, sponsor of USA Table Tennis. After a few minutes of exhibition points from Brother, such as the Sears International Line of laser printers, fax machines and P-Touch Labelers, Table tennis players should be curious to see what Brother has to offer.

Brother invites trade show participants to try table tennis at computer, electronics and office supply trade shows since 1915. When you go to an International Convention or a regional convention, Brother will give away a Brother table tennis set for the first time. If you play the challenge and manage to win an 11 point game from any of the players representing USA Table Tennis, Brother will give away a laser printer, fax machine or P-touch labeling machine. In case you are wondering, Brother has never given away any of these products.

With the support of Brother, USA Table Tennis has continued to gain tremendous exposure at trade shows and at televised tournaments sponsored by Brother, such as the Sears International Tournament and USA Table Tennis tournaments. Table tennis players should be grateful that we all have a big Brother.

CLUBS SELECTED TO HOST 1993-94 TOURING COACHES PROGRAM

Six table tennis clubs in the United States have been selected by the USA Table Tennis Touring Coaches Committee to host the 1993-94 Touring Coaches Program. The program, designed to enhance the development of junior boys and girls aged 12 and under, will be conducted by National Women's Coach Zhang Li and National Men's Coach Li Zhezi. During their 28 years of combined experience, both have earned world championship titles and have also coached many athletes to become world champions.

The selected clubs are:

December 2-5, 1993
Palo Alto Table Tennis Club
Palo Alto, California

February 10-12, 1994
Sports Fitness Table Tennis
Clemmons, North Carolina

February 24-27
Bartlesville Table Tennis Club
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

March 17-20
Minnesota Table Tennis Association
Apple Valley, Minnesota

May 5-8
Nashville Table Tennis Club
Nashville, Tennessee

July 31-August 2
Central Brevard Table Tennis Club
Merritt Island, Florida

USA TABLE TENNIS SHIRTS & BUTTONS ON SALE

One-of-a-kind polo style shirts and buttons featuring the new USA Table Tennis logo are available at USATT headquarters. The shirts are short sleeved, royal blue, pique cotton and are $24 each. The buttons are 3 inches in diameter and are $1 each. To order yours, please call USATT at 719-578-4583, or send a check or money order to USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Get yours today!

January/February 1994
The Hidden World of Table Tennis
by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

In the science environment of the Olympic Training Center at Colorado Spring, a Referee Workshop took place October 15-17, 1993. The workshop was conducted by Wendell Dillon (International Referee), assisted by Mal Anderson (International Referee), Allen Barth (International Umpire), under the supervision of Y. C. Lee (International Referee, and Chairman of the USTTA Officials Committee).

Several active umpires were invited to the workshop. Those who were there were three Regional Umpires, Teresa Terranova, Michael Smith, and Scott Ryan; three National Umpires, Ray Cavicchio, Aly Salam, and George Chrynewycz; and Larry Kesler.

After three days of presentations of lifetime experiences and knowledge of those whose work we all becomes grateful for those who work day and night behind the scenes to make a tournament run smoothly and successfully. Players, coaches, and matches have no idea of all the elements which are essential to complete a tournament. Many come to tournaments taking it for granted that everything will be in order, from their planes to their travel arrangements, and meals. "They" play their matches, enjoy the tournament and head back home.

Yes, there is a hidden world of Table Tennis.

In the workshop’s first day, the responsibilities of the Referee were the main topic. To begin with, the referee has to be there far in advance to check the conditions. This means that the referee knows all the details which are essential to complete a tournament. Many come to tournaments taking it for granted that everything will be in order, from their planes to their travel arrangements, and meals. "They" play their matches, enjoy the tournament and head back home.

The referee is particularly responsible for the umpire orientation meeting. The mood of the tournament is usually set at that meeting. It was clear by the end of the night that there is a great difference between the small tournaments we all have in our clubs or regions, and those on the national and international circuit.

On the second day, the workshop recessed with detailed "tournaments design." There were time limits for specific events, such as doubles, especially those attached to the table. The recording of the scores is important to guide the behavior of players.

The adhesive rule is now banning all exceptions. The next step is to ban the use of any kind of color differentiation on the playing surface or beyond his end line. The adhesive rule now is banning all liquid solvents.

3.2.1.3 Adhesives containing liquid solvents shall not be used to attach racket covering to blades. (From 1.6.94)

3.2.2.1 There may be two assistants referred to in the table with a given pair of numbers. When a player is formally warned, the umpire may award 1 point to the offender’s opponent and, for a second offense, he may award 2 points; if misbehavior continues thereafter, or if at any time it is exceptionally serious, the umpire shall suspend play and report to the referee.

3.4.7.2 If a player is disqualified from 2 matches of a team or individual event he shall automatically be disqualified from that team event or individual competition.

3.4.7.3 The umpire shall declare a yellow card when a player is formally warned and a red and a yellow card together when 1 or 2 points are awarded; the referee shall declare a red card when he disqualifies a player.

3.4.9.1 Players and officials shall not bet on matches.

3.4.9.2 The organizers of a competition shall report any breach of this regulation to the player’s or official’s parent association.

Please send your questions, observations, suggestions and comments to the Officials View to Dr. Azmy Ibrahim, 5094 Bobbie Ave, San Jose, CA 95130-1007.

A.P.S. Ltd.
APS, Ltd. is a new manufacturer of Table Tennis Products. Our line of Table Tennis supplies are all American, made in the U.S. APS. Ltd.’s background is in aviation, so we bring a high degree of quality and expertise to the Table Tennis industry. Call us for your Table Tennis needs, or contact your supplier.

Blades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blade</th>
<th>Suggested Retail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ULTRA CARBON</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULTRA CARBON II</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULTRA-KEV</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAB-O-BLUE</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULTRA WOOD I</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ULTRA WOOD II</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS GLUE - 4 OZ</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January/February 1994
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 Service — 65 Miles Speed Limit
Strange comparison, but how true! Did you ever drive on a freeway 65 mph? Did you always serve legally? The answer to both is NO. Let me elaborate.

While attending a tournament in LA, I noticed one lady who had a legal service. She was the only one there who served legally. She lost the match and the opponent had 15 illegal serves. Who won? I was umpiring the finals at the same tournament and called fault on an illegal service. The player (200) called the sponsor, who told me, "Paul, you are right, but please don't call it." I was a referee in a Tennessee tournament—same experience. Two participants out of about 75 served legally. Umpiring the finals, I called faults to illegal services and all I got was dirty looks.

We have to understand the position of a tournament organizer. Most of us know how much work it takes to put on a tournament—for very little or no profit. So if some players tell the organizer they will not come to his next tournament if that... umpire will be there, naturally he will not invite me. During the U.S. Open in Miami, one of the oldest and most experienced umpire was calling illegal services and the player, over 1900, quit and left.

During the U.S. Open, the two best players from the U.S. and Canada had no illegal services, but not one umpire called it. The reason? 1: Why to ruin a perfect international game by calling fault? 2: As one of the top U.S. players told me, the umpires are scared to call illegal services.

What are the duties of an umpire? Not too often does a player push the table or hit the net with his hand. If the umpire is not calling illegal services, all he is good for is to flip the scorecards. A six year old child can do that.

Oh yes, we will drive over 65 mph on a freeway, which is illegal, because everybody is doing it, but are we going to serve illegally because everybody is doing it?

The international rules committee or the USTTA may someday modify this rule, but I don’t think so. But even if the umpires, will be stricter more and more to insist that the service rule is followed to a point. And it is a very simple rule. Do you know it?

Paul Vancura, LU
Little Rock, AR

Dear Editor,
The recent U.S. Nationals was a marvelously run tournament. Donna and her crew should be congratulated!

However, there is one thing that concerns & bores me. We, the seniors, play on a very elementary mat on a concrete floor, and if we’re lucky to get to the semifinals, we get to play on the orange carpet.

The bounce of the ball and the footing are completely different. On concrete, you slide and glide—on the orange carpet, you stick and grab. I remember having Chang and Sampras play their preliminary matches on concrete and then tell them that their finals will be played on grass.

Let’s have the events play all their matches on one surface.

Very Truly Yours,
George Hendry
St. Louis, MO

1994 U.S. Open is going to Disneyland!
by Leacia R. Burke

1993 U.S. Open Champions Cheng Yinghua & Chen Jing.

Mark your calendars! The 1994 U.S. Open is coming to Anaheim, California, June 30-July 4.

Anaheim is located just south of Los Angeles in Orange County, and is referred to as “Southern California’s play-ground.” It offers the Magic Kingdom of Disneyland; an authentic slice of American history at Knott’s Berry Farm; an 11th century banquet in the company of kings at Medieval Times; a taste of Hollywood and Stardom at Universal Studios and the Movieland Wax Museum; thrilling adventures of the Old West at Will Bill’s

Dear Editor,
My father Robert “Bob” Lichtenheld passed away from an extended illness on October 13, 1993. He was president of the Kalamazoo Table Tennis club in Michigan for many years, and he and I played in a lot of tournaments in the 1970’s. Dell Sweers once told him, “If you combined your backhand with your son’s forehand, you’d have one heck of a player!”

A Remembrance of Rich Livingston
It was my good fortune to have known Rich Livingston as table tennis friend, doubles partner and co-worker. He won numerous national championships from Las Vegas to Miami Beach. Once U.S. Open Esquire Doubles Champions and twice runners-up, Rich was a spirited competitor who could be counted on for a 5-0 lead when he opened the match against a team unfamiliar with his incomparable nothing-ball serve. In the Baltimore World Veteran’s Games Rich tested the inscrutability of our Japanese opponents when we jumped to a 10-0 lead in the first game largely due to Rich’s service. In Miami Beach when we won the U.S. Open Esquire Doubles, we won a 500-point underdog to the team we upset in the finals.

As a control desk official Rich was a consummate professional with the world’s most legible handwriting. What a plus for harried workers to be able to read names and results without a Sanskrit translator! At one of the early Caesar’s Palace national before we started doing night-before registration, the line stretched from the pavilion across the tennis courts to the swimming pool at 8 a.m. when we opened the doors. Rich, who was early in the line and not scheduled to work registration, took one look at the situation, came behind the desk and took the boxes of packets for M-Z. He didn’t need to be told what had to be done.

Those of us who are shadow figures out of the spotlight know and appreciate the dogged efforts of the quiet workers off camera who make the show go on. Rich Livingston was such a man: Gunga Din... Dick Evans, Hillsboro, WV

Wild West Diner Extravaganzza; and 42 miles of sandy beaches, dubbed the “American Riviera.”

The host hotel for the U.S. Open is the Anaheim Hilton Towers, across the street from the venue, the Anaheim Convention Center. Make reservations today by calling 1-800-233-6904 (in California) or 1-800-222-9923 (outside California). Be sure to mention USA Table Tennis.

For more information about the U.S. Open, contact USA Table Tennis headquarters at 719-578-4583. See you in Anaheim!

Dear Editor,
Kudos to everyone involved in the U.S. Open Team Championships. It was among the best tournaments in which I have competed. It is unfortunate, however, that such a fine event drew more than its deserved share of ill-mannered and rude participants. Although I witnessed several despicable incidents among players during the competition, a most disgusting case of vile behavior involved this writer and a 1900+ rated adult U.S. player. After winning a well-played match, I extended my hand in sincerity to my opponent for his traditional handshake and thank you for the enjoyable match. Imagine my surprise when greeted, “I don’t shake hands with people who use junk rubber.” Impudent and rude people such as that individual should be advised by team captains that their despicable behavior is tolerable, at best, only at the local club. Also, they should be appraised that they are unwelcome to represent any team entered at the U.S. Open Team Championships. They are an embarrassment to their team, family and their nation.

I am also hopeful players sharing the mentality of the player described above decide against any tournament play. They, being in the vast minority of players, have no right to ruin the pleasant experiences of the majority. The bottom line-applicable to those folks is, “If you can’t stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.”

Very Truly Yours,
Merr Trumbore
Rising Sun, MD

Guadalajara, Mexico

To The Editor:
I would like to make my position sincerely clear on the point-counterpoint Official’s View articles of Dr. Azmy Ibrahim and the Coaching Chairman in the Nov-Dec ’93 issue of TTT: Right on! To the Doctor and you should really be ashamed of yourself to the coach.

Yours Truly,
Robert Thomas
Bisbee, AZ

10 Table Tennis Today

January/February 1994
"AUGUSTA" a tradition in United States Table Tennis

HOME of the 5 time Collegiate Team Champions Augusta College Jaguars.

HOME of United States Champion Jimmy Butler.

HOME of 1999 U.S. Collegiate Singles Champion Scott Butler.

HOME of 1991 U.S. Collegiate Singles Champion Derek May.

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.

HOME of the Annual Hall of Fame Table Tennis Championships.

Scheduled Activities
Augusta College Table Tennis Club
John Grove Advisor: 706-737-1609
Daily training by International Coach, Xin Peng
Assisted by Team Captain, Brian Pace

Spring 94 Training Squad Rating:
Jim Butler--Augusta 2700
Derek May--Augusta 2550
Michael Hyatt--Jamaica 2550
Ian Christopher--Trinidad 2500
Xin Peng--China 2490
Scott Butler--Iowa 2480
Meboob Khan--Pakistan 2450
Brian Pace--North Carolina 2400
Sohal Khan--Pakistan 2350
Roland Rittmaster--Kenasa 2300
Ty Hoff--North Carolina 2300
Oscar Meklov--North Carolina 2300
Anthony Cooper--Atlanta, Ga 2250
David Burns--Augusta, Ga 2150
Yogeesh Sapre--Atlanta, Ga 2100

Duke's Breakfast Club
Training at 6:00am supervised by Ray Heath--706-806-5614
706-806-5614

Butch Jackson's (1) Table Empori
Noon and afternoon casual play for adults 706-725-1126

Annual Thanksgiving Detroit Teams Bus

Augusta Tournament Schedule
Contact Rick Hardy
706-724-1499

Southern Tour 10/2 2 Star
Southern Tour 11/6 2 Star
Southern Tour 11/22 2 Star
Hall of Fame 4/20 4 Star
Southern Team 9/3 3 Star

Butch Jackson's (1) Table Empori--Augusta Tournament Schedule

Jim Butler--Augusta 2700
Derek May--Augusta 2550
Michael Hyatt--Jamaica 2550
Ian Christopher--Trinidad 2500
Xin Peng--China 2490
Scott Butler--Iowa 2480
Meboob Khan--Pakistan 2450
Brian Pace--North Carolina 2400
Sohal Khan--Pakistan 2350
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Annual Thanksgiving Detroit Teams Bus

Hall of Fame Championships
April 29, 30, May 1, 1994
Augusta College Athletic Complex
(207) Washington Road, Augusta, Georgia

JUNIOR REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS
(U.S. Citizens or Green Card for J/ason)
10-14 JUNIOR Boys & Girls
11-16 JUNIOR Boys & Girls
12-14 JUNIOR Boys & Girls
13-15 JUNIOR Boys & Girls

NATIONAL C/HAMPIONSHIP EVENTS
(All American)
14 MEN'S
15 SENIORS & 40+
16 WENISHES

JUNIOR & SENIOR EVENTS

Tournament Information

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Phone 706-724-1499

EQUIPMENT: USTTA approved tables

SCHEDULE:
1. Rating C/c off: Jar--706-806-5614
2. Entries postmarked after April 8, or without full payment will require $10 late fee.
3. Entries will not be accepted after April 14.
4. No refunds after April 12.

AGGUSA EXP

Check payable to: Augusta College Table Tennis. Send to Sherry Fulmer, P.O. Box 936, Augusta Ga 30903

Please enter me in the following circled events:

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17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Name
B-Date
Address
CityStateZip
Photo Number
USTTA Exp
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Doubles Partners

I will comply with all USTTA regulations. I accept full responsibility for my participation and relieve the sponsors and the USTTA of any liability for injury to myself or damage to my property.

Signature

Tournament Manager: Ty Hoff
Tournament Runner: Sherry Fulmer
Tournament Chair: P- May
Tournament Troubadour: Jim McQueen
Infrastructure Manager: Brian Pace
Anesthesiologist: Dr. Mike Hadland

ALL U.S. citizens 14-18 are eligible for U.S.IA Summer Camp

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would bolster more participants in each tournament. The ratings page would also need to be modified to accommodate the additional info.

The next step is to get each club to agree to its official name. It can be the one already in use or a new name. Additional information about the names of all players would be added to the database as well. The USATT's new database for the ratings pages should be updated to reference players by clubs or potential new members. The waiting is further the recognition of the sport, and the way we can accomplish this is to use our best strength: our clubs. Clubs need new members, our growth depends on it! Clubs that are happy in increasing our database, whether they become new members or not, should be rewarded. The rewards can be worked out in the future. A goal of the USATT is to further the recognition of the sport, and the way we can accomplish this is to use our best strength: our clubs. Clubs will need to take a more leading role in this area.

Imagine at the last U.S. Open: John Spinner of the Northern Virginia TTC won a critical match in the quarterfinals of the under 1650’s. This victory put his club ahead (in matches won) of the 2nd place team, the South Bend TTC, and enabled the NV1TC to get a 15% discount on its members’ entry fees at next year’s U.S. Open. Club unity, spirit, and pride would follow. John and his clubmates would definitely feel good and ready for the next U.S. Open, but how would they look?

The next plan I would like to discuss is along the same lines. Why not promote the idea of club uniforms or colors? This will help players identify each club more easily, and it will clean up the image of a “free-for-all” at our larger events. While it may not be feasible for every one-star tournament, it can be done for the larger ones. It is done in every other country ranked ahead of us internationally. Besides looking like a professional sport, a professional sport would definitely feel good and ready for the next U.S. Open, but how would they look?

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TO BE THE BEST,
YOU HAVE TO PLAY WITH THE BEST

National Table Tennis Center
15916 Indianola Drive, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-NTTC (6882)

Staff:
• Director/Coach Larry Hodges
• Manager/Coach Sean Lonergan
• Head Coach Cheng Yinghua
• Head Coach Jack Huang

Tournaments:
$1,200 monthly tournaments-call for info

Classes:
Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced & Elite Classes every week--call for info

Tables:
16, including 14 Blue Butterfly Nippons

TOP LOCAL PLAYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>*Playing Rating</th>
<th>Best Ranking/Titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheng Yinghua</td>
<td>2817</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>U.S. #1 Player, 1993 U.S. Open Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huazhang Xu</td>
<td>2662</td>
<td>4,876,903,876,302.7</td>
<td>U.S. #3 Player, Former Chinese Team Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean O'Neill</td>
<td>2656</td>
<td>One googol</td>
<td>U.S. #5 Player, 5-time U.S. Men's Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Huang</td>
<td>2654</td>
<td>10 trillion</td>
<td>U.S. #6 Player, Former Chinese Team Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Onifade</td>
<td>2608</td>
<td>Much better than you</td>
<td>U.S. #8 Player, #1 at 1994 U.S. Team Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gao Jun</td>
<td>2600+</td>
<td>4x + 17y + 23 billion</td>
<td>Ranked #4 in World, Semifinalist at Worlds &amp; Olympics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Feng</td>
<td>2513</td>
<td>MMMXVI zillion</td>
<td>U.S. #1 Rated Woman, U.S. Women's Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Sweeris</td>
<td>2498</td>
<td>4.7 x 10^55</td>
<td>U.S. Under 22 Champion, 1993 World Team Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Iguana</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>U.S. #1 Iguana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Plus: • 16 players over 2250 • 32 players over 2000

* Some of our competitors use an inflated “playing rating” rather than actual rating in their advertising. Therefore, we include this as well.

CURRENT NATIONAL COLLEGE CHAMPIONS
University of Maryland Huazhang Xu, Todd Sweeris, Rocky Wang, T.C. Lee

TOP LOCAL YOUTH
• Local junior players have dominated at the last two Junior Nationals, winning 13 of the 20 National Singles titles awarded.

Sean Lonergan (18), rated 2351, 1992 High School Singles Finalist
Rocky Wang (18), rated 2260, Former U.S. Junior Olympic Under 18 Champion
Jimmy Yeh (15), rated 2164, 1993 U.S. Under 16 Finalist
Richard Lee (15), rated 2124, 1992 Under 14 Boys' National Champion
Charles Feng (16), rated 2066, former Junior Olympic Champion
Sunny Li (11), rated 2026, 1993 U.S. Boys' Under 12 & Under 14 Champion
Christopher Ko (15), rated 1991, 1993 Junior Olympics Under 16 Semifinalist
Vivian Lee (12), rated 1899, U.S. Girls' Under 16 Champion
Julie Lu (16), rated 1889, 1992 Under 16 Girls' Champion
Andrew Shen (14), rated 1870, 1992 Under 14 Boys' Doubles Champion
Jeff Hsin (14), rated 1820, 1993 Junior Olympics Under 16 Semifinalist
Jessica Shen (11), rated 1806, U.S. Girls' Under 12 & Under 14 Champion
Jack Wah (13), rated 1786, ranked #10 U.S. Under 14
Laura Lin (12), rated 1777, 1992 Junior Olympic Girls' Under 12 Champion
Margaret Lu (14), 1992 Junior Olympic Girls' Under 14 Champion
David Hsin (11), 1993 Junior Olympic Under 12 Semifinalist
Michael Wah (10), 1992 U.S. Under 10 Boys' Champion
Keenan Bowens (10), U.S. Boys' Under 10 Finalist
Caroline Oppheimer (9), U.S. Girls' Under 10 Champion
Katherine Wu (9), 1993 Junior Olympic Girls' Under 10 Finalist
And Many More....

(Totals: 12 juniors over 1800, 20 over 1500, 51 total USTTA-rated Juniors

SENIOR STARS
Dave Sakai, Current North American Senior Champion
Donna Sakai, Current U.S. Senior Women's Champion

Phone Us
For Further Information on:
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• Private Lessons
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TEACHING A BEGINNING
TABLE TENNIS CLASS
by Larry Hodges
National Coaching Chairman
Director, National Table Tennis Center

One of the most valuable tools for a
table tennis club seeking new members is
a beginning table tennis class. At the
National Table Tennis Center (NTTC), it
is one of the most important ways of
bringing in new members—and retaining
them.

Financially, it makes sense/cents as
well. Ten people @ $5/night easily pays
for the coaches. And the new members it
creates adds income while building both
the club and the sport.

How do you go about setting up and
running a beginning table tennis class?

Step One:
You will need one qualified coach,
plus 1-2 helpers, depending on the num-
ber of players in the class. The helpers
need not be coaches—just reasonably
knowledgeable players. The coach and
the helpers each get paid for their work,
which comes out of the class fees. ($12-
20/hour for the coach, $5-7/hour for the
helpers.) It’s easy to get coaches and
volunteers to do the class for a time, but
unless they get paid, interest goes down,
and eventually there is no more class.

Step Two:
Set up a weekly time. At the NTTC,
our beginning classes are every Wednes-
day from 7-8 pm. This fits in well with the
club, since we don’t need most of our
tables until about 8 pm, so using the tables
for the class doesn’t interfere with our
regular members. As soon as one 10-
week class ends, we start another.

Step Three:
Produce a flyer about the class, and
make lots of copies. The flyer should
specify that the class is for beginners or
those who have not been in organized
table tennis. Flyer should include the following information: The name of the
coach and helper, qualifications, address &
locations directions to site, phone number for
further information, amount of fee and
who/what to make it out to ($50 for a ten-
week, ten-hour class seems reasonable),
dates and times of the class, and an
approximate rating level of the class is address
toward, for USTTA rated players (under
1500, for example).

Give copies of the flyer to club mem-
bers to give out to interested parties. Fax
copies to the calendar section of every
newspaper in town. Put up copies on
every bulletin board you can find, includ-
ing recreation centers and colleges. Put
them in bottles and toss them out to sea.

Step Four:
Develop a class plan. At the NTTC,
we use the following schedule for the ten
weeks of the class:
Week 1: Grip & Forehand
Week 2: Backhand
Week 3: Footwork/Stroking drills
Week 4: Pushing
Week 5: Serve
Week 6: Forehand loop
Week 7: Backhand attack vs. backspin
Week 8: Advance serves/receive
Week 9: Tactics/Equipment/Smashing
Week 10: Student’s Choice

We generally schedule a tournament
at the end or near the end of the class, with
a novice singles event for class partici-
pants.

Step Five:
Collect applicants’ names, collect
money, and teach the class!
Here’s a few hints on teaching the
class. First, don’t get too caught up with
the idea of trying to make everyone a
world class player. Most are there not
only to learn, but to have fun as well.
Keep that in mind as you teach.

Some of the players will develop nice
strokes, while others will have rather
strange ones. If a player is resistant to
change, work with him, and make the best
of what he does.

There are three methods of practice
you should use in teaching the class. The
most important is multiball, which most
coaches are familiar with. (It is a tech-
nique whereby the coach hits balls rapidly
from a box at the player.) You will need
a bucket of balls (several, actually, since
the players will also be feeding multiball).
Divide the players into three groups (if
you have three coaches/helpers), and take
turns feeding multiball. Have the players
rotate—one gets multiball, one or two
pick up balls, and the rest either rest or
practice on a separate table. Multiball is
especially good when teaching a new
stroke.

A second method is to have the
coaches/helpers hit with each of the play-
ers. This is especially good when teach-
ing them various stroking and footwork
drills.

A third method is to have the players
practice together. This is the easiest way,
but is the least effective as the players, at
this level, simply can’t rally effectively or
consistently. They will learn much faster
if hitting with an accomplished player
who can adjust for their errors and keep
the ball going at the same pace, same spot.
Pushing is a good stroke to have the play-
ers hit among themselves, although the
coaches/helpers should step in and hit
with those who are having difficulty. Serve
and receive practice can also be done
among the players, with one player serv-
ing and catching the other’s receive, or
both players serving and catching the
other’s serve. Or, if you have enough
balls and tables, let the players serve onto
the floor and pick them up afterwards.

Step Six:
See Step One. It gets easier every
time!
Forehand Carbon offensive - Backhand Kevlar allround

DONIC CARBOKEV

The new Donic Hi-Tech blade is made of a soft 5 ply wood combined with one layer of Carbon and one of Kevlar. With this new design of the Donic Carbokev we bring you the exclusive masterpiece to combine an offensive forehand with a saver and more controllable backhand.

PLY: 5+1+1
WEIGHT: 90gr.
AN, FL, AN GRIP

$65.00

POWER PACKAGE

If we can't use speed like any more tomorrow the speed of the racket, then we need a faster wood. World Champion Jorgen Persson and Donic came to the rescue. DONIC POWER SPEED is the name of the new power package. Three layers of soft inner ply and two hard outer ply provide a thickness of over 8mm and therefore a very fast and stiff power package. For offensive use only!

PLY: 5
WEIGHT: 90gr.
AN, FL, ST GRIP

$41.00

THE MAGIC WAND

These are the newest DONIC blades for the 1994 season designed for the player with the magic touch.

Delighted to be part of the DONIC team, Jan Ove Waldner signed the long term contract with a sly smile. Later he added that he always had a hidden admiration for the DONIC products and that he was curious about the Waldner products made by DONIC.

DONIC WALDNER LIGHT

The speed is somewhat lower compared to the Waldner offensive blade. It has a cool design and offers the control for counter passive play.

SPEED 7.5, CONTROL 7.5
WEIGHT 90gr.
HANDLE ANATOMIC FLARED OR STRAIGHT

$39.00

DONIC WALDNER OFFENSIVE

Just right for all the offensive power and control spin shots for today's modern table tennis game. 5 ply wood with AN, FL, or ST handle

SPEED 8, CONTROL 7, WEIGHT 90gr

$39.00

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SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076-1679
CALL: 1-800-825-7664
FAX: 1-313-356-5871
“Can’t anybody hold a lead?” That’s what I and others kept asking ourselves in this tournament. With comeback after comeback, no lead was safe.

What a Nationals! 73 tables (plus 3 for practice), and 585 players.

Some of the highlights include:
- Amy Feng sweeping all four major titles she could play for—women’s singles, women’s doubles, mixed doubles, and women’s team trials (in her first year of eligibility);
- Jim Butler winning his third men’s singles title, and second in a row—and threatening a dynasty;
- “The Point”—that last point in the men’s final between Jim Butler and David Zhuang;
- John Onifade’s jump from 9th in last year’s team trials to 1st this time;
- New U.S. Teams of John Onifade, Jim Butler, Sean O’Neill, Darko Rop & Derek May (Men’s), and Amy Feng, Wei Wang, Lily Yip, & Tawny Banh (Women’s);
- The sweep of the eight lowest rating events by junior players especially Bill Lui coached students Piotr Zajac and Gabe Gabriel (twice each);
- Flawless scheduling.

There were the usual problems. Some found parts of the cement floor too slippery to play on (the powers that be are looking into a special potion used at the National Table Tennis Center to make cement floors grippier). Deputy Referee Allen Barth was unhappy with so many no-shows—”I’ve written ‘default’ about a hundred times. People aren’t showing for their matches (although they’ve been paid), so those in the round robin group often get few matches—some groups were down to one player.” But overall, there was little griping and lots of praise.

WOMEN’S SINGLES
by Richard McAfee
Anderson College Head Coach

This year’s field was small (20 entries) but strong. The average rating of the eight quarter-finalists was 2265. This year marked the first time, in oh so many years, that Insook Bhushan was not playing. Also missed was last year’s semifinalist, Diana Gee.

Like all sports, “youth must be served” and several of our younger women athletes made a distinct mark on this tournament.

Quarterfinals:
Amy Feng (MD), only 24 years old, breezed through her quarterfinal match over Blanca Alejo (TX) at 16,9,13. Anita Zakharyan (CA) out-steadied a game Virginia Sung (NY) 11,18,12. Anita played a smart match, mixing loops and a very good drop shot to wear Virginia down.

Virginia was missing many of her offensive opportunities and sooner or later, made an unforced error.

In the bottom half of the draw, Wei Wang (CA) overcame a first game loss to defeat Tawny Bahn (CA) at 17,13,22,12. Tawny showed herself a player to be reckoned with in the future as she often out countered Wei on the forehand side. If she could have pulled out the third game, who knows what might have happened?

Lily Yip also moved into the semifinal with a straight game win over Peggy Rosen (TX) at 15,14,15. Lily was just too quick to the corners for Peggy. Peggy also seemed to have a lot of trouble with Lily’s pips-out blocks.

Semifinals:
The first semifinal match featured Amy Feng vs Anita Zakharyan. Both players play a close to the table attacking style. The left-handed Amy wins most of her points on an excellent serve and a strong looping game. Anna uses a quick countering game and a solid forehand loop to score her points.

The first game was all Amy as Anita could not cope with the world class serve and follow of Amy. Game one to Amy at 15.

Anita began game two by taking a quick 12-7 lead, on the strength of her blocking and backhand kills. Anita was successful in tempting Amy into playing a countering game and won the second at 15. Amy began game three much more aggressively. Not using soft counters, Amy stepped around to loop more forehand and backhand aces. Game three to Amy at 15.

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Lily Yip battled to the end this time with Amy Feng (including a 21-4 second game win!) but lost out in five, 15-4, 12-17, 16.

Lily was successful in countering many of Wei's strongest shots. Lily won this game at 14.

The pattern of Wei attacking and Lily countering continued into the fourth game. With Lily leading 18-12, many in the audience felt the match was almost over. Wei did not, as she suddenly began hitting winners off both sides and took a 19-18 lead. Here, Wei made a great kill off Lily's serve. A quick backhand exchange forced another error from Lily, and Wei won game four at 18. An incredible nine points in a row kept Wei in the match.

The fifth game started with Lily serving and Wei unsuccessfully trying to hit winners off the serve. Lily took a 5-0 lead. Wei made a run to lead 10-9 at the switch. Then it was Lily's turn to get hot as she ran off seven points in a row to lead 16-10. This time there would be no last minute heroics for Wei as Lily ran out the match at 12. It was a great match from two fine competitors.

Amy Feng vs Lily Yip was the one everyone had waited for. Last year Amy had defeated Lily in the finals in three easy games. Would this year be a blow-out also? The first game was close until 8-7 for Amy. At this point Amy found the pattern of first looping one ball into Lily's backhand and then quickly hitting wide out to her forehand side. This pattern, along with a very effective service, gave Amy the first game at 15. At the beginning of the second game, Lily began to attack every ball. Taking a quick 9 lead, she scored repeatedly by attacking wide to Amy's forehand, in effect reversing the pattern that Amy had used to win game one. Amy looked very nervous and rushed, and Lily rolled to the 21-4 win.

Game three began with Amy serving. Amy dominated the early part of the game with her serve. In all, Amy served 8 winners this game as she took a 13-7 lead. Amy also seemed determined not to play into Lily's quick pace. Amy began to loop higher, spinner balls that threw off both sides, forcing many errors. Amy quickly ran out the game at 12. At this point, many in the audience wondered if Lily could come back from being down 2-1 in games. Lily quickly erased that idea by taking a 9-6 lead in the fourth. Suddenly, Amy again looked unsure and quickly faulted on two of her own serves. Lily took an 17-13 lead and with a few errors from Amy won the fourth at 17.

Now it was down to just one game for the championship. While waiting for the television crew to signal the start of play, each player was a study in emotion. Lily was already standing at the table, taking shadow swings at the imaginary ball. Amy on the other hand, trying to compose herself, walked very slowly and deliberately to the table.

The first five points were all Amy's as she scored with three service winners and a beautiful third ball loop attack. Lily took four on her own service, 6-4 for Amy. Amy widened the lead to 10-6. After switching sides, Lily got two edge balls bring the score to 11-9 Amy. At this point, Amy scores repeatedly with high loops to Lily's backhand side. Up 20-13, a loud voice emerges from the audience, "Come on baby, one more!" Lily scored three before missing a backhand block to give Amy her second straight U.S. Women's Title 21-16.

Our congratulations to both players for a great match.

Just how close was this match? Check out the figures below:

---

**SANDS HOTEL HOSTAGE CRISIS**

by Larry Hodges

NOTE--Editor Hodges was a witness at the first hostage crisis in Las Vegas hotel history during the U.S. Nationals. While hiding under the poker tables amid terrorized hotel guests, he scribbled the notes (figuratively) that led to the following narrative.

Many others attending the Nationals witnessed all or part of the below.

10:55 PM, Saturday, December 18, 1993, Sands Hotel Casino, poker room: Shouts of "Get Down!" from security guards ring out. Most patrons of the casino got down, most hiding under poker and blackjack tables. Security guards screamed at anyone not down, and soon everyone was relatively hidden.

11:00 PM: Someone yelled, "All Clear," and everyone got up. Everyone was now excitedly discussing the situation. Several claimed that they had heard gun shots.

11:05 PM: Security again yelled "Get Down!" and again everyone is hustled under tables. Several players begin a mini poker game under the table. Hotel security guards with rifles are seen patrolling the casino, but no gunman is seen.

11:15 PM: Nine police officers arrive through the back door, just behind the poker tables. They are armed with automatic rifles. They also have two police dogs.

The police discussed the situation just behind the poker tables, and our unscrupulous editor was able to listen in. It seems an armed man had taken eight hostages in the gift shop. However, he had left the gift shop, and they no longer knew where he was.

The police began to systematically secure parts of the casino. After securing the poker area, all those at the poker tables were ordered to walk as rapidly as possible to the nearest exit, keeping as low as possible. We did so, watched closely by two very stern looking police dogs.

11:20 PM: We poker players joined the huge throng outside that were watching. Above, a police helicopter arrived, which had studiously ignored the onlookers. Now, however, they raised their arms in triumph and soared to the crowd.

11:20 PM: The gunman is led out of a side entrance of the Sands in handcuffs, and hustled into a police car, which sped away. The man looked to be in his early twenties, white, with long hair and a scruffy beard.

The Following Morning: We watched news stories of the crisis over and over, and discovered the missing pieces of the what had happened. The whole thing had been a poorly-executed robbery attempt by a drunken man named John Peck. Peck had leaped over the front desk at the Sands, and yelled, "People are going to die!" He had take eight hostages and demanded money. He soon led his hostages to the gift shop, and later moved them to the end of the hall (where USTTA members attending the Nationals would wait for the bus to the playing site). One of the hostages had escaped at some point, and so there were seven hostages at the end, all Sands Hotel personnel.

How did the crisis end? That was the mystery that no one seemed able to find answers about, including all the news services. I asked dozens of Sands Hotel personnel what they knew, but they had all been told not to discuss the situation. Finally, however, I found one person who could tell me the how it had ended. Apparently, while the SWAT team was closing in, the drunken John Peck, while holding his seven hostages, had...fallen asleep! And so the SWAT team had charged him and caught him easily.

No one was harmed throughout the crisis, although one person in the crowd was screaming hysterically, "I left $500 on my table! I want my money!" over and over, and had to be restrained by guards when he tried to force his way back in. Had thought to grab my chips before leaving.

The final mystery was the mystery of whether Peck had a gun. Many claimed that they had heard gunshots—two people at my poker table claimed they had, although I had not noticed any shots over the loud casino music. However, police claimed that the man was unarmed. Who should we believe?

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*January/February 1994*
by Larry Hodges

Most of the top seeds had little trouble in this round. Dan Seemiller lost the first game to Jason St. George, but then won three straight, 17-15, 15,11. Todd Sweeris looked to be in serious danger after losing the first to Dave Fernandez, 21-9, but Todd won the rest easily, 9,16,17,10. The only five-game match was De Tran’s battle with fellow Californian Zoltan Pusztai, won by Tran at 16-10,21-13,17. There were some complaints about the draw, especially in this round, and hopefully at some point soon these legitimate complaints can be addressed. As it was, players like Hung Pham and Dave Sakai (who played Brian Masters and Darko Rop this round) had much tougher draws than several lower rated players.

8ths:

With one exception, each match this round went as expected. David Zhuang over Eric Owens, 8, 15,17; Brian Masters over Scott Butler, 13,18, 16,17; Sean O’Neill over De Tran, 14, 18,8; Dan Seemiller over Atilia Malek, 8, 16,13; Darko Rop over Barney J. Reed, 13,17, 17; Butler over Derek May, 17,13,11; and Khoa Nguyen over Chi-Sun Chui, 13,11,20,18. Derek May played extremely well against Jim Butler for most of the first game, and led 14-8. However, as Derek put it, “I got too happy with my play,” and soon Jim was the happier one.

Chi-Sun almost had an good finish against Khoa. Down 1-2 in games and 16-20 in the fourth with Khoa serving, Chi-Sun pulled off one of the strangest shots seen, a sort of off-the-table backhand sidespin chop block that threw Khoa for a loop, 17-20. Khoa then threw his next loop off the end, 18-20. But Khoa held on to win.

Todd Sweeris had not had a good team trials, and the 1993 World Team Member had not made it this time. Against John Onifade in the team trials, Todd had lost in three games (this is no typo, 21-3 in the third). This time, however, armed with strategy gained during SLI (Strategic Lunch Initiative), Todd played three times as well as the last game they’d played—this time he only lost 21-9. However, after that first game, it was all Todd. In the fourth, up 7-3, John complained about the ball, then broke it and was yellow carded. John scored the first two points with the new ball, but Todd then pulled away, 7-5, 15-7, 19-10, 21-10. Into the quarter for Todd, 9-16, 17, 10, to the relief of Jim Butler supporters—since John had been Jim’s only loss in the team trials.

Quarterfinals:

Jim Butler and David Zhuang scuttled their competition here, Sean O’Neill revolted himself on last year’s loss to Khoa, and Dan Seemiller & Darko Rop—well, we’ll get to that one.

David Zhuang 

David Zhuang vs. Brian Masters

The scores don’t tell the tale. David Zhuang defeated Brian Masters at 14,13,14—yet tactically, Khoa seemed to be trying to force backhand exchanges, his stronger backhand mostly dominated and set up his forehand loop. Sean tried to stay out of these exchanges, and get his forehand loop into play as quickly as possible.

In the third, Sean seemed on the verge of running away, but Khoa stayed in range and caught back up. Sean led 6-2, 12-6, 14-11, and then it was 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, all 17-all. Finally, Sean pulls ahead, 19-17. Then, at 19-18, Khoa got two net winners in a row! 19-20—and yes, the partisan crowd is cheering those nets. Sean, who rarely flips with his backhand, suddenly flipped in a backhand (from his forehand side!) to Khoa’s forehand, catching Khoa, who6s—and, not used to this strategy, is caught out of position! He drop shots, and a surprised Khoa, already at the barriers, can barely react. 20-22-all. Khoa quickly ends it, flipping Sean’s serve off the end, and backhand looping into the net. 22-20 for Sean, as the crowd goes...silent.

Khoa led 9-6 in the fourth, but Sean went on a looping rampage, and Sean is soon threatening to end the match as he leads 17-14. Khoa sealed his fate, however, by serving off the end twice in a row, 19-14. Sean wins the game and match, 12-4, 20, 15, and the crowd...well, a couple of people clapped, including Sean’s long-term cornerman, Bill Steinle from Virginia Beach, back after a number of years away from the sport.

Darko Rop vs. Dan Seemiller

Can’t anybody hold a lead? That’s what spectators must have been asking themselves this match. I’ve never seen so many leads blown, so many “lost” games won—or perhaps we should think of them only as...lost games. However, despite the scores, 4-2, the rallies were among the most heart-stopping in the tournament. The scores don’t tell the whole story. Todd then pulled away, 7-5,15-8, but although he rallied well, wasn’t able to score much more that game. In the second, Todd led 14-11—and lost nine straight (Jim’s backhand was hot, Todd’s return of serve fell apart temporarily. In the third, the score was 9-all before, again, Jim pulled away.

Sean O’Neill vs. Khoa Nguyen

The crowd played a major part in the Sean O’Neill/Khoa Nguyen match, being held on in Khoa’s west coast territory—whenever he scored (even on nets & errors), the crowd thundered in approval. When Sean scored, no matter how spectacular the shot—absolute silence, to the point of eeriness. Khoa, being by far the best California player, seems to have everyone’s support out there. On the east coast, where there are more 2600+ players, the crowds are generally more split.

Sean O’Neill and Khoa Nguyen was a rematch from last year, when Khoa had won. (Sean, however, had won in the team trials—19 in the third, two days before.) This time, Sean led the first 17-6, and despite losing five in a row at the end, won 21-12. But the momentum seemed to have switched at the end of the first game, and Khoa took off in the second, winning 21-14.

In the first, Darko led 15-10—only to have Dan score seven in a row, and win the game, 21-17.

In the second, Darko takes a quick 3-0 lead—but Dan then catches up and begins to pull away. Down 11-9, Darko has two high balls, and misses both 13-9. Down 14-11, Darko catches up to 16-all, then leads 17-16—only to lose five straight, the last two on net balls. Up 2-0 in games, Dan now goes up 17-13 in the third, and is about to advance into the semifinals for the third time in his career. However, Darko, playing in his first nationals, has other ideas, and

David Zhuang made the finals of Men’s Singles for the second straight year.

In the fourth, 2-1 in games, Dan leads 16-13, and again seems headed for the semifinals—and again Darko catches up, scoring six in a row to lead 19-16. Dan is on the table chopping several times after this, perhaps trying to break up Darko’s rhythm, but although he scores a couple that way, he loses the game, 21-16.

In the fifth, Dan goes up 11-9, (taking six smashes to win one point against a lobbing Darko at 9-all). But Darko pulls off five in a row on his serve, and Dan contributes by missing an easy smash as Darko goes up 15-11. But now Dan gradually starts to come back, and pulls up 18-16, Darko still up. They have probably the best point of the match here, which starts out as a great counterlooping rally. Dan suddenly drops, Darko pushes high, and Dan misses an all-out, on-the-run, hit-or-miss forehand loop kill, 19-18. But a moment later, Dan blocks Darko’s loop off the end, and Darko is into the semifinals, 17-17. 20, 18, 17, in what must have been one of the more heart-breaking matches of Dan’s career—and one of the greatest comebacks in Darko’s.

“When someone gets going here, it’s hard to stop them in the fast conditions,” said Brian Masters of all the comebacks that took place at this Nationals.

Seminfinals:

Neither semifinal was a particularly good match as both were 3-0 onslaughts. However, despite the scores, all the rallies were among the best—but in both matches, one player just seemed to have control over the points, and thereby won easily.

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Table Tennis Today

January/February 1994
Men's Semifinalist & Doubles

Champion Sean O'Neill

David Zhuang vs. Sean O'Neill

Sean had defeated David in the team trials, 23-21 in the third. However, David has a strong record against Sean, and here in this big match, David was at his best, while Sean just couldn't seem to get anything going against David's tricky, pips-out sidespin blocks.

Seann starts off the first game in pretty spectacular fashion, lobbing a ball short that David sidespin chip kill falls off the side—which Sean runs down, and just misses lobbing back. David goes up 5-0, but Sean ties it up 1-1. Up 14-13, David pulls away to win 21-15.

Up 10-6 in the second, David is again in control, then goes on to serve six in a row to lead 12-10. (At about this point a bird begins to fly back and forth directly over the player's heads. I don't think they noticed, but the crowd certainly did.)

Pips-out penhold David, who's mostly been blocking until now, goes on a forehand hitting rampage, and goes up 17-13, 20-16. David serves & loops off, then Sean loop kills in a serve, 18-20. Sean spins three backhands in a row against a blocking David, then spins the last off the end as David wins 21-18 to lead 2-0 in games.

The third game is all David as Sean spins backhands off the end and misses forehands, while David blocks and smashes continuously. Game and match to David Zhuang, 15, 18, 17.

Jim Butler vs. Darko Rop

Jim had beaten Darko easily in the team trials at 16 & 12—but then John Onifade had beaten Todd Swearies easily in the trials, and looked what happened. However, it didn't happen that way this match as Jim won easily. Both players are two-winged attackers, but Jim simply has far more power on his backhand shots than Darko.

Up 17-16 in the first, Jim won the last four and the game, 21-16.

In the second, Jim leads 4-1, 7-3, 12-5, 12-8, 21-8 (with a nine point spurt at the end). Jim is hitting in Darko's serves with his backhand, seemingly at will, putting great pressure on Darko. Even when Darko serves short to Jim's forehand, Jim is receiving backhand.

In the third, Jim leads 8-4, Darko ties it up 8-8. But from 10-9 up, Jim pulls away, 14-9, 18-10, 21-12.

January/February 1994

RATING EVENTS AT THE NATIONALS

by Larry Hodges

If the 1980's were the greed decade, then Coach Bill Lui of California is still living through the Reagan decade. Bill and students Piotr ("Peter") Zajac and Gabe Gabriel treated the rating events here at the Nationals as their personal property. 12-year-old Peter (rated 1494) won the under 1500 and under 1600 events, as well as making the semiinals of primary school boys' singles. Not to be outdone, 11-year-old Gabe (1070) won the under 1100's, made the finals of the under 1200's, made the semifinals of the under 1300's, won the under 1400's, and made it to the semifinals of the under 1600's before losing to Peter, 19 in the third. If California sinks into the Pacific, it'll be from all that hardware they lugged home!

Youth did dominate this year in the rating events, although not always. Blanca Alejo dominated the 3600 doubles!

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The five finishers would comprise the U.S. National Team, and would receive prize money in the following amounts: 1st: $5,500; 2nd: $4,400; 3rd: $3,300; 4th: $2,500; 5th: $1,350. The final twelve players would constitute the International Team Squad, who would be eligible to be chosen (based on their finish) for various international competitions and a losing game, over Todd Petersen (2nd), Allen Kaichi (3rd) and Homer Brown (4th), with only Kaichi pushing him hard in their 17,22 match. **Group 2:** Eric Owens also advanced without losing a game, over Tyler Ash Tran (2nd-tied), Thor Truelson (2nd-tied) and Torsten Pawlowski (4th). It was a group full of defects, with Torsten defaulting to both Eric and Tuan after losing to Thor in the third round. **Group 3:** After losing in the second round to John Onifade, a lengthy battle ensued in their third round, with Onifade coming out on top. **Group 4:** Attila Magi won with four groups of five, with the top three advancing to the final twelve. All players advancing would advance with two-carry-over matches from the top two players advancing from their group.

**Preliminary Groups:**

**Group 1:** Scott Butler advanced without losing a game, over Todd Petersen (2nd), Allen Kaichi (3rd) and Homer Brown (4th), with only Kaichi pushing him hard in their 17,22 match. **Group 2:** Eric Owens also advanced without losing a game, over Tyler Ash Tran (2nd-tied), Thor Truelson (2nd-tied) and Torsten Pawlowski (4th). It was a group full of defects, with Torsten defaulting to both Eric and Tuan after losing to Thor in the first match, and Thor and Tuan double-defaulting to each other in their final match. **Group 3:** Sean Longoran upset Charles Butler, who defaulted out of the game, over Dan Dawidowicz (17-18,18). Hieu Van Truong came in third via a default from Bohdan. **Group 4:** It is the 3-person group, Randy Cohen defeated Hung Pham; Hung defeated Kenny Liu; then Kenny defeated Randy Cohen to force a 3-way tie that went to points. Final standings: 1st Hung Pham (77-66), 2nd Randy Cohen (79-77), 3rd Kenny Lee (66-76). John Onifade, Bohdan Dawidowicz and Tuan Putsat, 14-18, 13, to advance. Philip Callihan defeated Shashin Shodhan for 3rd place.

**Group 7:** Barry Dattel advanced with out giving up more than 16 points in a game in second place over David Fernandez (2nd) and Henry McConul (3rd).

19 in the third, to advance in first place with a 2-0 record and second place with a 1-1. In advancing in third place was U.S. Junior Champion Eric Owens (but with a 0-2 carry-over record), an upset winner over fourth-place finisher; Delbert at 15 & 14. Barry J. Reed came in fifth.

**Group 4:** Just before the trials started, Darko Rop and the USATT had received a letter from the Yugoslavian Table Tennis Association (or what’s left of it) that gave him permission to play on the U.S. team, and so fourth place. **Intermediate Table Tennis Federation rules,** he is now ITTF eligible and so can play on the U.S. team. (Unlike Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, David Zhuang and Amy Feng, who were unable to get similar letters from China. With such a letter, a player may become ITTF eligible in as little as two years, without it it may take six years.) Darko does show a tendency toward long, multi-game matches—has this guy ever heard of 2-0 washouts? But he pulls out his three- Gloves on, head win, and so comes in second and advances with a 1-1 carry-over record. Kota comes in third and advances with an 0-2 record. Fourth places goes to Chi Sun Chui who defeats Sean Longoran in the third (- 18,16,19). **Final Twelve:** Going into the final twelve we had David Zhuang, John Onifade, Sean O’Neill & Darko Rop all won to 5-0. (With the most interesting being John’s -16,13,37 win over Todd—who would later knock him out of the singles competition.) The only close match here was O’Neill’s -14, -12, 18 win over Khoa, who now dropped to 0-5. Jim Butler continued to chase the leaders, going for 0-4 with a win over Brian Masters, who defaulted to 2-3. Derek May had a surprisingly easy time with back-injured Dan Seemiller, dropping him at 5 & 10. Derek’s record went to 3-0. While Dan’s dropped to 2-3, Dan’s back problems became too great, and he defaulted out of the trials. He finishes with a record of 1-10, with six of the losses by defaults.

**Round Four:** This round had several interesting matches. The first one was David Zhuang’s 18, 19 loss to Jim Butler. This not only justified the team composition, but also would put him in dire danger of not coming in first as you recall, for David to make the team, he had to come in first. This match would be the beginning of the end for David’s chances. For Jim, however, it improved his record to 5-1 and moved him into fourth place.

Brian Masters, who needed a big win to get back into the competition, was up 20-17 match point on John Onifade—but couldn’t hold on as Onifade wins a hyper close one, 10, 13, 20, who improves to 6-0 as Masters drops to 2-4. (Down 3-18 match point, John made a sensational leaping loop kill to close to 20-19—and later gets a net at deuce to score.) Sean O’Neill continues to romp, going to 6-0 with an 11, 17 win over Derek May, who dropped to 3-3. Darko went to 6-0 with a default from back-injured Dan Seemiller.

Last year’s team members Todd Sweeris and Khoa Nguyen continued their allstars as they both drop to 0-6, with Todd losing to Artile Makita (-20,19,17), and Khoa losing to Eric Owens (-16,18). This win would be the beginning of the end for David’s chances.
Zhuang gets a default from Dan Seemiller to O'Neill continue undefeated as John defeats wide open—anybody could still get it. even Jim Butler defeats Sean O'Neill (15, 3, 17).

Zhuang does not come in first, the last (fifth and so Zhuang, O'Neill and Butler are all

Derek May defeats Attila Malek for that all-important fifth spot. —It's his to lose

Onifade, O'Neill, Butler and Rop will make their first wins (Todd over Eric Owens. Zhuang is now 8-1, while DArkO finishes in fourth ($2,500) while Brian masters 21-13, to finish with a 9-2 record. Lily also finished 9-2, but placed third ($3,300) since she lost to Wei, head-to-head.

Anna Zakharyan had a disappointing match against Lily. After losing the first 21-18, she played even up with Lily in the second for most of the game—then got defeated for illegal serves five times! The umpire said she was not tossing the ball up six inches, although many disputed this. Some, however, agreed, or at least said her serve was questionable. Alas, Anna lost the second game 21-15 (in tears). She also lost to sixth seed Tawny Banh (14, 18), who also later haunted her and cost her a spot on the team.

Tawny Banh upset Virginia Sung, a member of last year's team, at 16-18. With her win over Anna, and by defeating all lower rated players, she finished 5-3 and grabbed the fourth and fifth spot ($2,500).

Anna and Virginia came tied for fifth, with Anna winning head-to-head and so getting the fifth spot. Virginia Sung dropped to sixth.

Peggy Rosen, seeded seventh, came in seventh. Ninth seed Wan-Ling Cheng came in eighth via her win over eighth seed Toni Gresham—both dropped to 1-7.

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Peggy Rosen, seeded seventh, came in seventh. Ninth seed Wan-Ling Cheng came in eighth via her win over eighth seed Toni Gresham—both dropped to 1-7.
**SENIOR EVENTS**
by Richard McAfee

**Anderson College Head Coach**

There is the "heart and soul" of our sport more apparent than in its senior ranks. This year's National Championships, held in the beautiful Las Vegas Convention Center, went off without a hitch to a triumphant conclusion. Large senior draws, as well as senior players impacting most of the rating events, gave evidence to their contribution to our sport.

**OVER 30S & 35S**

The top four seeds marched routinely through this huge (59 player) field. The only mild upset came early as Loc Ngo (CA) through this large (59 player) field. The sport more apparent than in its senior ranks.

**OVER 40 SINGLES**

Danuta Andrzejewska (FL) went into this event with a 400 rating point advantage over her nearest competitor. The difference showed as she would hold her opponents under 13 points a game. In the final she defeated Mary Kleinhenz (TX) at 9, 13. **SENIOR ESQUIRE OVER 40**

This event also featured a large (50 entries) and very strong field. Perhaps the main story of this event was the play of Neil Myers (OH). Neil, rated at 1795, pulled upset after upset to reach the finals. Included in this upset run were: Louis Kenkens (1974), Hugh Lax (1810) and Tom Boggman (2066). His opponent in the final was Leon Ruderman (CA). Leon earned his way into the finals with a thrilling victory over George Hendry (MO) at 18, -17, 21. This was an especially satisfying win, as George had beaten Leon in the final of last year's championship in a similar three-game match. Having gotten by his old rival Hendry, Ruderman was not to be denied as he defeated Myers easily in the final at 12, 13. **VETERAN OVER 70**

The girls events, unfortunately, had few entries. However, those that showed fought hard and well. Wan-Ling Cheng won the Girls' title, defeating Nguyen Nhu in the final at 11, 16, 15 in an all-California affair. Virginia Sung, defending champion, did not play this year due to her many commitments. She led up to the finals in the Women's Team Trials, but she teamed up with Nan Li to win High School Girls' Doubles over Karen Chang & Sally Dahn. Karen Chang then won the Junior High Girls' Championship over doubles partner Sally Dahn at 5-18, 15. The National Under 16 Girls' Champion Vivian Lee easily swept the competition in Primary School Girls' Singles, defeating Jeanie Cheng in the final at 18, 10. Elementary School Singles for girls was unseeded, with no entries...

**NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
by Larry Hodges

For the third year in a row, it was a David Hendry and Melanie Hendry event. This year Hendry defeated Dave Fernandes in the final at 17,-19,19. In the semifinals, he defeated Barney J. Reed, who had to earlier in the semifinals of under 2300. Both players had some difficulty, as the first match was played on the somewhat slippery court, while the second match was played on the grippy rubberized red floor. Hendry also won High School Doubles, teaming with Sean Lonergan (who went to Dartmouth in the semifinals of the singles.) There was some complaining about Jason and Sean's being in the event at all, since both had graduated from high school. The entry form itself seemed to contradict itself, in that during the second tournament they only be under 19 years of age, while in another saying players rejected needed proof of school enrollment. In the end, both were allowed to play. Shashin Shodhan defeated defending partner Tim Boggman in the semifinals of the boys' Junior High School Singles in a 17,16,19 battle, while Richard Lee defeated fellow phenom Norman Yeh in the other semifinals at 13,13. In the final, Shashin's backhand loop proved too much an advantage, as he won point after point with cross-court loops to Richard's left forehand.

Philip Lim waltzed his way to the final of Primary School Boys. In the final, after losing the first game 21-14, T.J. Beebe turned up his level of play and won the second game 21-17. However, Philip's quick penhold blocking and hitting was too much in the third as Lim won, 21-14. Beebe, however, teamed up with Richard Lee to win Junior High School Doubles in a huge rating upset over Shashin Shodhan & Jimmy Guan.

Only one person entered Elementary Boys' Singles, and so Michael Grinostrome is the National Champion.

**Boys' Events**

The girls events, unfortunately, had few entries. However, those that showed fought hard and well. Wan-Ling Cheng won the Girls' title, defeating Nguyen Nhu in the final at 11, 16, 15 in an all-California affair. Virginia Sung, defending champion, did not play this year due to her many commitments. She led up to the finals in the Women's Team Trials, but she teamed up with Nan Li to win High School Girls' Doubles over Karen Chang & Sally Dahn. Karen Chang then won the Junior High Girls' Championship over doubles partner Sally Dahn at 5-18, 15. The National Under 16 Girls' Champion Vivian Lee easily swept the competition in Primary School Girls' Singles, defeating Jeanie Cheng in the final at 18, 10. Elementary School Singles for girls was unseeded, with no entries...

**MULTIPLE WINNERS AT THE NATIONALS**

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**Quadruple Winner**

Amy Feng---Women's Singles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Team Trials

**Triple Winner**

David Zhuang---Over 30 Singles, Men's Doubles, Mixed Doubles

**Double Winners**

Gabe Gabriel---Under 1400, Under 1100
Howard Grossman---Over 50 Doubles, Under 2100

George Hendy---Over 70 singles, Over 60 Doubles

Dave Sakai---Over 40 Doubles, Over 40 Mixed Doubles

Donna Sakai---Over 40 Women, Over 40 Mixed Doubles

JASON ST. GEORGE---High School Boys' Singles, High School Boys' Doubles

Tuan-Anh Tran---Under 2200, Under 4200 Doubles

Piotr Zajac---Under 1600, Under 1500
1993 U.S. Nationals Results:

Men's Singles—Final: Jim Butler d. David Zhuang, 11,15,14,14,19; SF: J. Butler d. Darko Rog, 16,12; Zhuang d. Sean O'Neil, 15,17,8; QF: Zhuang d. Marc Raphael, 16,12,14,18,20; RF: Don Seemiller, 17,20,18,17,21; Butler d. Todd Sweetser, 12,15,16,18,18; Zhuang d. Kritsanatun, 12,14,14,18,20.

Women's Singles—Final: Amy Feng d. Lily Yip, 15,14,12,17,14,17,14,17,14; SF: Amy Feng d. Lily Yip, 15,14,12,17,14,17,14,17,14; Yip d. Peggy Rosen, 15,14,12,17,14,17,14,17,14; Masters d. Zhuang, 12,13,14; O'Neill d. Khoa Nguyen, 14,15,11.

Junior High Boys Singles—Final: Ruste Yip/Shahin Jani, 15,18,19,18; SF: Ruste Yip/Shahin Jani, 15,18,19,18; Masters d. Zhuang, 12,14,15,14,14; O'Neill d. Khoa Nguyen, 14,15; Def.: Masters d. Zhuang, 12,14,15,14,14; O'Neill d. Khoa Nguyen, 14,15.

Boys' Elementary Singles—Final: Michael Grismore, 15,18; SF: Michael Grismore, 15,18; Yip d. Ryan Gubler, 15,18; Lee d. Phong Ho, 19,15; Yeh d. Thien Tran, 15,23,22.

Junior High Girls Singles—Final: Chiptaeng, 16,18; Vostry d. Courtney Roberts, 17,17,18.

Boys' High School Singles—Finals: Jason St. George, 14,16,17,19,14; SF: Jason St. George, 14,16,17,19,14; Masters d. Zhuang, 12,14,15,14,14; O'Neill d. Khoa Nguyen, 14,15; Def.: Masters d. Zhuang, 12,14,15,14,14; O'Neill d. Khoa Nguyen, 14,15.

Boys' Junior High School Singles—Finals: Shashin Shodhat d. Richard Lee, 16,12; SF: Shashin d. Jimmy Guan, 17,16,19; Lee d. Norman Yeh, 13,15; QF: Shashin d. Bryant Patterson, 15,16; Guan d. Jeff Hill, 12,16; Lee d. Pho Hong, 15,19; Yeh d. Thien Tran, 15,23,22.

Table Tennis Today 23

January/February 1994

*NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS*
Table tennis rubber topsheets come in countless varieties, from traditional inverted attack rubber to anti-spin to short, medium and long pips. This article will look into some technical aspects of the topsheets and how they relate to certain playing styles.

Materials Employed and Physical Properties:
Table tennis top sheet rubber is universally made of vulcanized natural or synthetic rubber blends. Vulcanization is the process whereby a blend of uncured (raw) rubber, sulfur, accelerators, and other ingredients are heated under pressure until the sulfur bonds with the rubber, forming very large chain molecules. The higher the percentage sulfur employed, the higher the resilience (see definition) of the material. Also rubber with a higher percentage of certain synthetic materials have a slightly higher resilience than ones based only on natural rubber. On the other hand many natural rubber top sheet tops will quite often have a slightly higher resilience. (it will stretch less for a given force) than the synthetic ones. The table tennis rubber designer is faced with literally thousands of possible choices. The mature designer is aware that the speed, spin and control of a top sheet is related in some way to the material properties. Let us look at one factor, the so called "speed" of a rubber.

If you were to take a number of top sheets from different manufacturers and bounce a ball on them you would find a big difference in the height of the bounce. You might guess that the rubber for the top sheet that had the highest ball bounce would be the fastest rubber. Most likely, you would be wrong. You might also postulate the top sheet with the highest bounce also is the one which imparts the most spin. The truth is it is not always the fastest rubber material that has the highest spin. The spin of the rubber, sponge and blade for a long time. What happens when a player has a style which requires pips on the backhand (short dwell time) and inverted (long dwell time). The choice of the blade becomes more complex. A novel solution to this problem is to employ a two-speed blade, where one side is flexible and the other side is stiff. A number of manufacturers make such blades but they are generally only provided to team players.

You may be familiar with the gears in a car transmission. Likewise, top sheets, sponge and blades also can be considered to have gears. Let us look first at the concept in a blade and then apply it to sponge and rubber top sheets. Blades are made with only a few gears fall into two categories: slow defensive blades or all out attack blades. You are all familiar with the defensive players who, no matter how fast they strike the ball, it always comes back with a relatively slow speed. On the other hand, you may have all tried out a blazing fast blade where it is almost impossible to produce a slow ball. Some of the examples of equipment which have relatively few gears. The defensive racket has only first and second gears while the offensive one has only fourth and fifth gears. Top sheets (and sponge) can also be made with a variety of gears types. However, it is very often the case that a top sheet has more gears than possible for a slow ball.

The world class players can perform the slowest drop shot through the fastest loop kill shot. They know how to shift through all the gears of their equipment. In fact the "shifting through the gears" analogy does give some insight as to how the best players accomplish the variety of shots in their arsenal with such great regularity. Many of us have experienced what happens to a car when we shift prematurely from one gear to the another—the car engine and transmission lugger or lurched. Top sheet rubber works best when one accelerates the racket head smoothly. That is why one should start the contact at a slow speed and then try to accelerate through the ball. During a stroke very often one will feel the deformation of the rubber, sponge and blade for a long time. It is very often the case that a player is going through the gears of the racket and "loading" up the energy into it. If one makes a jerky shot many types of rubber will just not load up. The reason for this is that the amount of energy stored in rubber is dependent on the so-called "frequency" of an impact. The higher the frequency the faster the ball comes off the blade and the lower the percentage of energy that is put into a stroke by a player is transferred into stored energy into the rubber. Conversely, low frequency impacts store a high percentage of energy in the top sheet and sponge. One of the reasons for this is that when a top sheet rubber starts to embrittle and loses a great deal of its elasticity. The result is an uncontrollable shot. This is why a slap shot can be used only in a few circumstances. These phenomena are also responsible for defining the height, the angle and the "throw" of a racket impact speed there will be little or no increase in the speed of the ball. All top sheets and sponges have this threshold. In the case of anti-spin rubber the design purposes employ materials (top sheet and sponge) which have a very low threshold.

Most top quality inverted rubber was designed to have a full range of gears. How this is achieved varies significantly from product to product. For example, the approach used in Butterfly Sriver is to use a medium speed top sheet on stiff fast sponge. Under low frequency impacts the top sheet dominates while under high frequency shots the sponge dominates. Yasaka Mark V on the other hand uses a very fast top sheet on a somewhat softer and not as fast sponge as Sriver. (Some players would argue that the Mark V has a lower power gear ratio.) One of the more recent approaches to this problem is utilized by both Donic in Donic Desto, and ASTI in Apex Lightspeed. In this approach the inverted pips are slightly elongated and spaced out a little more than traditional rubber. This allows for a progressive stiffening of the pips at higher impact speeds. In addition the angle of the top sheet is thinned. This allows the rubber to be able to function in a "sliding shot" mode when the top sheet is stretched (fully loaded). Another approach employed is typically used by a number of Chinese manufacturers such as Friendship 729. This approach involves to the loss of the rubber top sheet and the thickness of the base of the top sheet. Each of these approaches has its strength and weaknesses with regard to different playing styles.

It is important that when a player chooses the components for a racket that they understand how the various gears of the blade, sponge and rubber work together. This is sometimes described by players as the "synchronicity" of parts of a racket. They are referring to how well each of the components work in harmony with each other. It turns out this meshing of the various gears is very complex and subtle and is influenced by the style and level of a player. Let us look at an example of how synchronicity works. Some players like to employ a medium high arc loop while others like the low arc loop. Can one adjust the natural arc of a shot by a change in equipment? The answer is a definite yes, let us use the imaginary player who wishes to increase the height of the arc of his shots. This player currently plays with a very stiff fast blade with the fastest attack and spin. This results in a slow drop shot through a very fast loop kill shot. There are various ways this problem could be addressed. First, the player could switch to a flacky slower blade or the player could change to a slower rubber with an increase in tack. If the player was very knowledgeable or had a good deal of time to experiment, they would know that certain rubbers have characteristic trajectory angles which can be dialed in with blades which have their own characteristic trajectory angles. (I guess this is why we have coaches.) Even the sponge thickness has an effect on the trajectory angle of a table tennis rubber. The thicker the sponge the more distance the ball sinks into the rubber for a given ball impact force. This affects the so-called "throw" angle of the pips, which in turn changes the throw trajectory. The throw angle and speed of throw of a rubber is very much effected by the synchronicity of the top sheet and sponge. Blades but they are generally only provided to team players.

There is a simple test that players use to test the characteristics of a rubber mentioned above without having to play the game. If you are right-handed, the procedure is as follows: 1) Throw the ball with your left hand horizontally into the racket and adjust the racket angle so the ball bounces upwards vertically a few feet. Some players give a little vertical movement to the blade when they do this.) 2) Allow the ball to drop downwards and strike the ball with the racket with an upward move so that it goes up vertically again. Your racket head should be at an approximately 45 degree angle when doing this. 3) Allow the ball to fall on the racket face again with the same angle as in step 2. The ball will fly out to the left, where you catch the ball with your left hand.

During step 3 look carefully at the amount of spin/speed on the ball and the general speed at which the ball hits the table. A recent study by HLF scientists in Europe indicated that there is a wide variation in rubber throw angles (and the percentage energy converted into spin versus speed) between various brands.

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McAFEE
MECHANICS
by Richard McAfee
USTTA Certified National Coach
Head Coach, Anderson College
DEVELOPING YOUR SERVE
GAME

The serve and the serve return are the most important techniques in the game. After all, the first chance that you have to control the point is either on your serve or with the return of your opponents serve. No other area of the game offers as many variations, or is as complex as serve and serve return. For that reason, you rarely see much specific information in print about these subjects.

This is the first in a six-part series on Serve and Serve Return.

In this article I will discuss Serve Mechanics. Following articles will cover: Serve Practice Techniques, Selecting the right serves for your style, Using your serves in a game, Returning long serves, Returning middle range and short serves.

**SERVE MECHANICS**

• **Biomechanic Principal #1:**
  Contact the ball as close (low) to the table as possible.

  Contacting the ball high above the table will create a downward force that will cause the ball to bounce higher on your opponent's side. By contacting the ball close (low) to the table, the ball bounce will be lower and more difficult for your opponent to attack.

• **Biomechanic Principal #2:**
  Learn to create spin by contacting different parts of the ball. When you contact the ball at any point off center, you create torque (spin). You can learn to produce different spins by making contact with different parts of the ball. You can also learn to read your opponent's serves by watching which part of the ball is contacted.

• **Biomechanic Principal #3:**
  Accelerate your racket on contact, to produce maximum torque (spin).

  Learn to use your forearm and wrist in a whip-like action to accelerate the racket as quickly as possible on contact with the ball. This will produce maximum spin.

• **Biomechanic Principal #4:**
  Change your grip for a better serve. Try gripping your racket between your thumb and fore-finger, holding the blade, not the handle. The fingers should be completely off the fore-finger, holding the blade, not the handle. This type of grip allows for a larger range of hyperextension of the wrist. This greater movement of the wrist aids in producing spin and in disguising the serve.

• **Biomechanic Principal #5:**
  To produce a deep fast serve, the first bounce should be close to your end of the table. For a short serve, the first bounce should be close to the net. When producing a fast, deep serve you need to use all of the nine foot table length as possible. By having the first bounce as close as possible to your end line, you can produce the maximum amount of speed and still land the ball on your opponent's side safely.

  Producing a very short serve is just the opposite. If you make contact close to your end line, there will be too much forward motion on the ball, and it will carry too deep on your opponent's side. Only by having the first bounce close to the net will you be able to produce a quality short serve.

• **Biomechanic Principal #6:**
  After serving return to the proper ready position. Many players have serve deliveries that leave them out of position for the next shot. You must return to the proper ready position immediately after serving. You must also recover into a position which cuts off the possible return angle from your opponent. Example: If you are serving (forehand serves) cross-court from your backhand side to your opponent's backhand, your recovery position would anticipate a cross-court return. You would assume a ready position covering this return with your forehand. However, if from the same service position, you gave a short service to your opponent's forehand, your recovery position would anticipate a return towards your forehand side. Thus your recovery position would be more towards the middle of the table.

  I hope that each of you will take some time and analyze your serves using the above principals. These principals cover the science part of serving, the easy part. The next several articles will cover the art of serving. More specifically, how to select your serves based on your style, how to practice them effectively, and how to best use them in matches.

  Remember, the quickest way to improve your game is through practicing your serve and service return.
PONG PADDLE ASSAULT

"Cleveland Indians outfielder Albert Belle has been accused of hitching a taunting spectator across the face with a ping pong paddle at a nightclub, police said Friday.

No charges were filed and the matter has been referred for possible mediation, city Prosecutor Barbara Danforth said.

First two paragraphs of an article in Erie Pennsylvania Times-News article in September, 1993. Decisions of this incident from different newspapers were submitted to the editor.

MIDWEST LEAGUE FORMING

Indianapolis — April 3, 1994

The Midwest League will begin play this summer, offering a $30 registration fee at each tournament meet, 2-13-94.

The winning team in the B and Jr. division win trophies. The MVP's in the B individual division wins $450 plus a revolving division trophy that they will accumulate the most team points over the four tournaments.

Prizes: The winning team of each division wins $450 plus a revolving division trophy that they will still have time to finish the match before they have to go. There are 22 points left, and I win!"

Players Try to Finish Match

"Don't think about Jessica Shen being the best player in the world. I mean, you can't lose a point from your score!" A: "This is the most pointless argument I've ever been in..."

A: "Really?"

B: "If I have 22 points, and I lose a point, I already have 21 left — so I win!"

A: "But that's my point. I've never won a game in 22, and you've already got 22!"

B: "Ha! You can't ever win! Game is to 21, and you've already got 22!"

B: "But the first time I lose a point, I have 21 points left, and I win!"

A: "You can't lose points in table tennis!

B: "Really?"

A: "I mean, you can't lose a point from your score!"

B: "If I have 22 points, and I lose a point, I have 21 left — so I win!"

A: "This is the most pointless argument I've ever been in..."

B: "Of course, this all assumes I lose a point, and don't find it afterwards. If I looked around, and found the point I'd lost, I'd be back to 22, and so I lose after all.

A: "AAAAAAAAAAH!!!!!!"

B: "Could you get to the point?"

"I don't think there is any question that I am the best player in the U.S., pound for pound." Mitch Seidenfeld, World Dwarf Champion, commenting on statements recently released by his rival, Mitchell Seidenfeld, regarding his own abilities. Mitch, rated 223 at 85 pounds, is rated 26.0 points per pound; Jessica Chen, rated 1734 (before having a couple of bad tournaments recently) at 70 pounds, was rated about twice the weight of the average professional player.

For the past twenty years, there has been a table tennis club recently? Send it to me for a listing in the next issue of TTToday!

The City Recreation Monitor, who heard interesting things at the table tennis club recently? Send it to: NTTTC, 15414 Indiana Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882 (ph), 301-670-6967 (fax).

ROBBERS HOLD UP TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Players Try to Finish Match

"Dickie wouldn't have been able to do it. He hit a few shots with the long pipe on his racket before their tournament match."

"I'd tell you to play to his backhand, but I don't know where he is." Roger Persaud, offering pre-match advice to Robert Mayer on playing (unorthodox style) Joe Cummings.

Overheard at a recent tournament.

Player A: "I bet you twenty dollars I can spot you 22 points and beat you."

Player B: "You're on!"

(Players shake on it.)

A: "Ha! You can't ever win! Game is to 21, and you've already got 22!"

B: "But the first time I lose a point, I have 21 points left, and I win!"

A: "You can't lose points in table tennis!"

B: "Really?"

A: "I mean, you can't lose a point from your score!"

B: "If I have 22 points, and I lose a point, I have 21 left - so I win!"

A: "This is the most pointless argument I've ever been in..."

B: "Of course, this all assumes I lose a point, and don't find it afterwards. If I looked around, and found the point I'd lost, I'd be back to 22, and so I lose after all.

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ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Students interested in competing in this 61 year old traditional college tournament should check with your college student union for qualifying tournament information. Another quality tournament played with Newgy 3-Star balls on Newgy Centurion tables.
The Backhand Loop of JORG ROSSKOPF

European Champion ★ ★ ★ World #8 (Formerly #4)

by Wei Wang
USTTA Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion

(NOTE--In sequence shown, the images of the left-handed Rosskopf are reversed to create a right-handed Rosskopf, with apologies to left-handers)
ROSSKOPF'S BACKHAND LOOP

Yes, friends, you saw correctly. It's a right-handed Jörg Rosskopf! Left-handers, please forgive me. This may be the only way we right-handers get to study that shot in a way that makes any sense to us. Not being left-handed myself, I've always felt that we lose something in the "translation" unless we can directly visualize it. If you've ever taken the time to set up a mirror in front of your TV and watch a player you're very familiar with, you will find you won't recognize him by his movements. Rosskopf's phenomenal backhand has been of special interest to me for a while. One of my students, a right-hander, has always had a special affinity for a backhand attack shot, and so I decided that if he was going to do that, he might as well make the shot as strong as possible. Rosskopf's notorious rip shot became the model, and I am happy to see that we have been able to integrate that shot into my student's game. It is not yet quite as righties, but the mechanics are directly transferable. As in my previous article, let me point out, that this series of articles is only intended to analyze a particular top player's shot. Whether or not it makes sense to try to include it as a whole or parts of it into your own game is a decision you or your coach have to make based on the knowledge of your own capabilities.

In this article, I will use "right" and "left" as they appear in these pictures, not in reality, and I will refer to individual frames by the logic established in the first three.

There seems to be wide agreement that the single most important factor that helped swing the balance from total Chinese domination of our sport to a European predominance in Men's Singles was the development of the backhand loop as a pressure shot. It was quite apparent to me at this year's World Championships that the trend towards strengthening the backhand has, if anything, accelerated. Players like Andreas Podpinka of Belgium, Vladimir Samsonov of Belarus, Zhang Lei of China, Christophe Léger of France, Steffen Fetzner of Germany and many others have developed their backhand attack to a point where it is equally dangerous to their opponent as their forehand. But nobody is more spectacular than Rosskopf. Let's look at some of the details:

At 0.0 sec, Rosskopf is setting up for his backhand attack as his opponent is pushing back his underspin serve. See at the width of his stance and how much he leans forward. His hand is already dropping, and his feet are almost parallel to the end line. Between 0.1 sec and 0.2 sec, he starts flattening out the angle of his blade, almost parallel to the ground, and then, through about 0.5 sec, he swings the racket backwards, the blade actually at calf level. From 0.1 sec through 0.4 sec, he lowers his body so his eyes are just about at ball level, and, along with his hand motion, his "right" shoulder drops and his knees bend to 90 degrees. At about 0.4 sec, he starts pushing upwards with his "left" leg, beginning the weight transfer to the "right", and raises his upper body. Now, at 0.5 a, a key element comes into play: His elbow moves forward and upward while his wrist pulls the racket head even further backwards. The two frames 0.6 and 0.6 show a very clearly, how he achieves a whip effect as he moves toward contact. If you look carefully, you can see the ball just coming into the frame, on the edge of 0.6 a, and over the "A"-marking on the table in 0.6 b. By now, Rosskopf has brought up his shoulder, continued to straighten his upper body and transferred his weight to the right. Before contact, the racket head points back down, and his elbow has reached the height of contact—chest level. Contact occurs at 0.7 sec. Between 0.6 b and 0.7 a, he snaps his wrist, apparently from one extreme to the other, which of course is what imparts the tremendous spin needed for this shot to work. At 0.7 b, his racket head is almost pointing backwards again.

At this point, it seems that his effort with the "right" leg is at its greatest—his "left" leg is almost lifting off the ground. What follows between 0.8 and 1.0 is an extremely pronounced follow through, and his weight transfers almost completely to his "left" leg. Initially, I couldn't make much sense of it, but I started understanding, that he uses the momentum in his arm and body to turn and take the next shot with his forehand.

Often though, as in this case, this shot marks a quite decisive end to the rally and he doesn't need to complete his turning motion. It is important to note that on his follow through he first leads his racket upwards, higher than his head (0.8), before he ends up with his arm stretched out and backwards (0.9). I have often seen attempted imitations of the stroke that seem to only pull the racket backwards after contact, never reaching the necessary height. You can make the shot that way, but the percentages will drop dramatically, because now the ball's trajectory becomes too flat. You can avoid this mistake by paying attention to frames 0.7 through 0.7 b and noticing that at contact much of the motion is a rotation along the axis of his upper arm, which is what brings his racket up to the necessary height. Only then does he start pulling his upper arm back.

Another factor that helps lift the ball over the net is Rosskopf's characteristic weight shifting, from leaning forward extremely at the beginning of the stroke to slightly backwards at follow through. Here, again, it is very important to note, that there is no real backward motion—which would take all the power out of the shot—but merely a shifting of his center of gravity towards the back.

Despite having seen the ball zoom past his opponent, he still finishes his recovery (1.0 to end).

Throughout his stroke, Rosskopf's head remains completely stable and facing in the same direction—a fact we also observed when we analyzed Waldner's backhand loop in the last issue. If you want to try this shot, be careful. I don't know for sure, but it looks to me like there is quite a potential for injury if the shot is not executed properly. Most of us have not built up the muscle groups necessary to support such an extreme motion, so start with slow shadow strokes in front of a mirror and see if it is possible to try it. After all, you never know if you might not enjoy it.
Sixty years ago, who could imagine it? But the Big Bang 1932 Chicago-Westchester) New York City match at The Palmer House started it...led to the now how diverse players in Int-Cities...and after to the ever-accelerating National Team Championships...and on in a hurting rush to what already seems the outer reaches of the present: a Cobo Hall United States Open Team Championship. Such galactic energy those behind this burgeoning tournament have, such optimism—and and rightly so, for this Thanksgiving weekend all the star-struck felt a giddy Boo’s Brothers exhilaration at a record-breaking 132-table, 92-tee, 740-player event.

Thanks can’t wait—must go with the 9 a.m. Friday morning Preliminary Matches to the 12-year evolving efforts of Tournament Director Bob Allshouse, his partner Gordy Bright, and, for a decade and a half now, the longtime Tournament Facilitator Bob Beaty (all ably assisted by this year’s Control Desk volunteer, among whom, I remember particularly, were David Marcus, Mel Mel Ma, Tony McGill, Diane and Sarah McAffe, and the Canadians Sheila and Delvet von Notbeck, Canada, I must mention, offered as usual great support for this tournament; indeed, perhaps 25% of all the entries were from the provinces—from Quebec to British Columbia.

Who won the tournament?...Oh, c’mon, you know. The Chinese men—led by the world’s #1 Asian player, Ma Wenge—and the U.S. women—led by North American and U.S. Champion Amy Feng who, like her teammates, learned to play the game right, in China. Moreover, thanks particularly to Bob Allshouse’s newest addition, Andrew Grounsell, our weekly evening rounds, are newly animated with the idea of a measured pace: “Play for the Win, and...” And let’s not forget the annual awards banquet in which the winners are announced...and the ever-accelerating National Team Championships...and on...the ever-accelerating National Team Championships...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and...and.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to visibly wish for a caravansary and just stops playing: 21-16 game and important lead-off match to Anderson.

vors, Pace's powerful loops had beaten back both our spirited when Umpire Detlev von Nottbeck makes the match even more interesting by pulling out and waving directions to Brian. Proper, von Nottbeck warns, this is not.

who, in the Olympic spirit of fair play, shall here remain enough to stop the other's initial attack....

ripping the ball, is up 12-3 in the deciding game? Xin Ping, throwing caution to the winds, can clap? Except that the unpredictable Rittmaster still has to play the final gusta alive. Which he does—laws out 1-2-3-4-5 points.

and the tie's a tie.

ago, Rittmaster had a chance to be on TV but he lost the blankly. Of course he broke his wrist.

had done nothing more than look at him without comment, with Rittmaster holding his breath and the ad, there's a serve off—but he doesn't win the point either. And now, Bob Allshouse had pushing for more and more TV exposure (35 hours on Prime last year). Obviously, the more prestigious that the TV games are, the more foreign teams it would attract, and thus the more helpful round robin competition for our players, all at a savings of the thousands of dollars we might (or might not) have spent repeatedly sending our men and women overseas.

At the start of which thing is necessary to say that, should the U.S. lose to favored Slovakia, they would still be in the quarter's against Great Britain. Why? Because two teams would advance out of the Group (into already, since upsets were unlikely, pre-established positions) to the two teams they could lose to the other U.S./Slovakian opponents—the Augusta Barrel Racers, the Japanese women, and the English women. (Don't laugh, Danny, Sean, Todd—Sweeris almost last to one of the English girls, alive but 1-17 down...), said Todd at his moment of crisis. "Yeah," said Dan, for "about a day.") Still, the U.S. wanted a victory, for by upsetting Slovakia they would be able to play the less formidable colleague Japanese in the quarter's and if they could beat them they'd be at least $400 a man richer.

The International Umpire for this match was Canadian Peter Kosek. It was he who, with the cooperation of our International Chair Gus Kennedy, had fostered an International Exchange Program that, beginning with his own countrymen, had brought the Slovak, the Canadian and to the U.S. Open at Midland, MI last year and, allowing them to make their own choice, to these Detroit Championships this year rather than to the earlier Labor Day Toronto CNE tournament. An impartial umpire, do you think? Yes, I do. But an impartial umpire. U.S. International Umpire Kathy Reed would have been no less, no more, impartial. It is for sure... let's face it. If not enough U.S. qualified umpires for the important matches—situation Todd President Gordy Bright promises to rectify next year.

Against lean, bespectacled Jaromir Truka, World #76, who last year as "Jaroslav Truka" lost to Lupulelopou in the quarter's of the Midland U.S. Open, Dave Sakai is a 6-0 off-a fast 14-4, 16-11, 18-11 easy-game win. Impressed by Dave's sweeping flip-return of Vimy's short serves and Bob's Brother Alan Fendrick, in the rigueur polka-dot bandana, gets up from his analytic position behind Coach Li Zhengli to tell me, that, as an opening stage, he had expected him to learn much better than when he'd seen him play before....

In the second game, Vimy is a little better. But, from 14-11, Truka moves to 18-14 and has a great chance to put the game away. But Todd, Todd, Todd. After Truka's encouraging progress in blocking and counter-looping, he still has to learn how to win. For now Vimy puts together six points in a row and goes game-point up. Todd finishes—fights in a backhand. And then sets up a ball which Vimy swats away for a winner.

At 12-all in the third, Todd seems to be holding up. And then heservest...and, 19-13 down, has apparently lost his focus. Game and match to Vimy.

Sean, too, against Patrick Marek, the Slovakian Coach's son, is known for his determination. Interpolls, his concentration seems poor, and he can’t put combinations together even while in intense a position as Sean shot. Finally, down 1-0 and 12-13, he gives his fans, before losing, at least a filigree of bravura shotmaking—slaps in "Ball change" says someone in the audience") three incredible forehand winners. Slovakia 2-U.S. 1.

Against Vimy, Danny is again off to a determined 8-2 start. He's certainly focused. Down 20-9, Vimy looks totally disinterested. Undoubtedly, it's backhand. It seems to me, though, that Danny’s mixed up chip and block returns disrupt the Slovaks' accustomed rhythms as they try to follow their first loop. In the second game, Danny's up 12-6 with nary a problem, to 20-9, 25-17, 29-17 down and talking to himself. "Not one point in these matches have I hit two balls in a row!"...Nor can he win the second...

Slovakia.

At 18-all in the first against Marek, whose world ranking is roughly 120 places better than Todd's, Sweeris makes a beautiful placement, but instead of going 20-18 up he misses an easy loop kill. Then at 19-all, forced back to lob, Todd gets a break when Marek fails to convert the much needed point. And now the Slovakian partner in a backhand and it's deuce. Now Todd—you, he does his best to learn how to win—misses another loop and loses the game.

In the second, however, from 15-all, Todd takes control, and, as Marek, he did, goes back, to his bench.

the Slovak coach sees a little more demonstrative with his son than he's been with the others.

The third, Todd is done—valiantly rights himself up in the battle into the end game. But, down 17-18, he can't stop Marek's backhand opening and forward hand...can’t win. 4-2—Slovakia.

O'Neill against Vimy—this of course is a match the U.S. has to have. With Sean up 14-14 in the first, Dave Sakai, mindful of what had happened to Sweeris with such a lead, calls out a warning, "You gotta play, man!" And teammate Danny is just as insistent, "O.K. Right here!" Sean responds, does not let the game slip away. Sweeris should have learned a lesson! In the second, he's up 18-15 and serves off—a big point. For, through Sean, down 20-18, is muttering how soft ("So soft, so soft") his last loop has been. Vimy twice pushes Sean's serve off, and it's deuce. Then Sean misses a "Sean shot", but Vimy hangs long. On they go...until O'Neill prevails 26-24, 4-3—Slovakia.

Now, if Todd can somehow beat Truka in the 8th match, Danny should be a $400 favorite over Marek in the 9th.

But Sweeris, after his losses, is not exactly brimming with confidence. "Don't be negative! Stay up! Stay up!" urges Sakai as Todd, having finished his last match about the same time as Sean, comes up smiling, looking...well, as glum as he ever looks. "I need..." he takes off his wet shirt, puts on a dry one.

I look over to the Slovak bench—Marek, who might have to play the 9th match, is busy glaring his racket.

In the first, Todd can't ask for a better start—up 6-0. Then Truka, on an afterthought, goes 3-4 Truka serves off, and at 0-4 Todd has his 6-point lead back. But not for long. Up 12-8, he goes 14-12 down. At which point Truka serves off again...then increases his lead to 17-13.

"You're alright! You’re alright!" comes the mean-encouraging words from Todd’s corner. But isn’t "And So..." says Sweeris..."And so..." is the game over.

As he waits for Todd to start the second game, Truka practices bouncing the ball on the edge of his racket. A moment or two later, he's off to a different, far more precise start—his old self. He takes off his wet shirt, puts on a dry one.

I look over to the Slovak bench—Marek, who might have to play the 9th match, is busy glaring his racket.

The British—Captain Don Parker, World #53 Alan "Cookie" Cooke; their last year's #8 Junior, Alex Perry; Andrew "Ginger" Eden ("no world ranking but some recent good domestic results"); and the Welsh #1, Stephan Ward, World #39—had advanced to the quarter’s without working up more than a 5-4 sweat. Japan, #7, --- remember, too a point when Kenichi Minagawa downed the Welshman Ward—who incidentally swore he once saw a high-toss serve where the guy mistakenly tossed up his bat rather than the ball.)

The English players were quite upbeat. There were roughly 150 million Government pounds ($225,000,000) for Sports available this year, and the Sports Council so

Table Tennis

#### January/February 1994

#### The Semifinalist Slovakian Team.

#### The Semifinalist British Team.
The Japanese women’s team finished second in the women’s division (after USA women). Clearly, though, Britain, great or small, was no semi’s threat to China Jianbo. Not even the exuberant Ginger Ninja himself could storm the first parapet of their castle walls. Without a straight-set double—from Ma Ying-Chuan to Zhong Song and their opening deuce game with Cooke (“Well played!”) to Xu’s closing 19-game with Eden (“Good lad! Good effort!”)—the China Jianbo team just had too much power. There were rather anticlimactic but nonetheless good practice matches for final Team positions—but Britain and Slovakia would not play. Since the semifinal prize money was the same, and since the Brits wanted to sit out Cooke and the youngsters, all the young Czechs and Slovaks played. But the Slovaks wanted primarily to test themselves against Europe #26, the only tie that occurred between them was away from the tables.

Women’s Matches

Which for me, anyway, causes no regret because this time I’m beginning to get a bit tired, went on to finish my play, cover the climactic final matches, and bring this taxing but fun 132-table tournament to a close.

The Japanese women’s team was quite young. Two years ago in Granada at the European Championships, 19-year-old Deacon and Sally Marling had won a silver in the Cadet Doubles and a bronze in the Cadet Team. Now much was expected of them in their last year of Junior eligibility in next year’s Championships in Paris. Katie Goodall, 18, it was said, was on the verge of making the Senior Team.

Britain’s Team Leaders, Don and Jill Parker (nee Jill Shirley, later Jill Hammersley—formerly one of Europe’s strongest players), were happy to come to the States. It was a great chance for match experience, and Delta, through their Olympic connection, had offered them free flight tickets. So they’d gotten into the suburban Detroit area several days before the tournament, had leisurely explored their surroundings—even a Mexican restaurant, shopped for several days before the tournament, had leisurely explored their surroundings—ate at a Mexican restaurant, shopped for their surroundings—eating at a Mexican restaurant, shopped for...
national Champion (as were his wife, daughter, and son!) also
dogs or cellophane sandwiches at the Hall-box lunches if
before. Meals at the Pontchartrain were O.K., but no hot
they'd even played in a New Jersey tournament the Sunday
though they understood it might be necessary, they wished
women in the TV Arena on that special carpeted floor, but,
getting used to it; in fact, it's not a bad idea. But now, they
Marling goes the limit to down Fujimura, and it's England
happens, the last match, for again Sasamori, at 19 the
youngest player on her team, rises to the occasion, beats
being up against Beavis, Butthead, and Mr. Big? "They
more singles. In the opening match, U.S. Champ Amy
Zhang Li, holds Sasamori to under 10 in both games. But
is likewise beaten badly. What can one say? Including, I
with her best alternative, the lefty Fujimura, a quarterfinalist
at this year's Japanese Intercollegiate's. But they're no
professional, wins two straight. If the 9th match were
to Goodall at the outset of their match, then, relentlessly
Marling tries to get it back ("Middle!" calls Parker in the absence of von Nottbeck or any
anot so good Goodall. Deaton tries to get it back ("Middle!
that actually happened...). But this is the 8th and, as it
happens, the last match, for again Sasamori, at 19 the
youngest player on her team, rises to the occasion, beats
wins the tie for Japan.
Jill Parker seems satisfied with her girls' performance.
she says they haven't played any Asian competition—are
used to playing spinners, not nips-out-blockers—and-flat
hitters. That's why, later in the crossovers, they'd enjoy
beating against Beavis, Batthead, and Mr. Big? "They
were going to beat us 5-nil," Jill said (heh, heh, heh).

Women's Final

The Corallion Cup format for the Women's final between the U.S. and Japan had two singles, two doubles, and,
if necessary (though of course we know it won't be), two
more singles. In the opening match, U.S. Champ Amy
Feng, with or without help from her mentor, U.S. Coach
Zhang Li, holds Sasamori to under 10 in both games. But
our Lily, as if she had what in golf they call the Yips, or
even in table tennis the Pips, at least when she's playing
Nishi and her timing, her swing, is anything but rhythmic,
is likewise beaten badly. What can one say? Including, I
have no words for the TV commentary. Never mind the cam-
eraman back in the truck like the pretty women. They
move in for close-ups. Smiles, serve, and by all means follow—
very photogenic. Better, though, if they wore short skirts.
Anyway, there's only one Nishi, so for doubles she teams
with previous Doubles winner Zhibin Ma, the "national quarterback" at this year's Japanese Intercollegiate's. But they're no
match for just the one Feng and the one Yip. As for the
decide of the tie? Given from the beginning the nod from
Nishi who represents the "the never mind. The mind of
Amy gives herself at least a 5-point favorite. As expected,
the U.S. Women are the $1500 Champs.

Men's Final

The Sweathy Cup format for the Men's final between
the United States and the National Table Tennis Centers
Team had already been used in the 2-3 semi's. Now
the 3/5 question was: given that this show is being beamed to
both a U.S. and China audience, and that there are six
Chinese-trained players involved, what would be best for
everyone? You either had a quick exhibition, an even quicker
extermination, or something less determinate? Perhaps the
answer was: Hey, just let the players play, and people will see
what they want to see.

January/February 1994
SOUTHERN OPEN

Chancellor's Racquet Club
Houston, Texas
October 23-24, 1993
by Tournament Referee Terry Canup

Southern Open Champion Huazhang Xu.

Houston, Texas hosted its first Southern Open at Chancellor's Racquet Club on October 23 and 24. This is the largest tournament to be held in Houston since the 1975 U.S. Open. Sponsored by Snapite Sports and The Aldridge Company (computer software), over $9000 in prizes were awarded.

"This is our first foray into sponsoring U.S. table tennis. The commitment to excellence that the players display matches perfectly with our commitment to excellence in software and support," said Aldridge Company spokesperson Valerie Burson. With the firm commitment of The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Roland Schilhab and Sporttech were able to put the event together on just a couple of months notice. Dedicated efforts by Steve Ashy and former mayor Jim McComman of the bureau have assured that this will be the first of a series of tournaments to be held here.

“We want people to see what Houston has to offer the international traveler and table tennis. This is why we are helping to promote the sport here. We are already working on next year’s event,” said Steve Ashy. Great pains were taken to involve the local association in the event. “This is the key to a successful tournament,” said Tournament Referee Terry Canup. “When the USATT runs an event out of Colorado Springs the local organization can feel left out. We enlisted the aid of our neighboring organizations in Dallas and Beaumont in order to make this a regional effort. Without their help, we could not have run this as successfully.”

This was the first coordinated effort with the three organizations. There were inevitable small snafus that occurred causing the tournament to slip about an hour behind schedule. Not bad for a effort of this size. Special thanks to Scott Ryan and John Self from way up north and Jim Wilson from out east. The HTTA was exemplary in its performance from table construction to communications to tear down on Sunday night. The list of volunteers is too long to mention here but you folks know who you are and so do we. A post tournament thank you dinner was held for the volunteer staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to Ovi Frusina who supplied part of the PA system and then was defaulted because he did not hear his match called, oops...

Of the 140 or so entrants there were 40 with ratings over 2000. You had to go down 53 places to get to 1900! The average rating of all entered was 1746. (This compares to the USATT average of approximately 1350). This event was definitely weighted to the top and allowed spectators to see some of the best that the U.S. and Mexico have to offer. There were 13 players who had competed in World Championships, 1 former World Champion in attendance, 1 Olympian, 4 U.S. National Champions and 4 members of the current U.S. World Team. This was a competitive tournament!

Perhaps the presence of a Channel 20 news crew sent to interview him inspired Eric Owens to reach new heights. The Junior National Champion reached the quarterfinals of the open by beating Mexico’s #1 and #2 players. He then defeated #3 seeded Khoa Nguyen in a 5-game thriller to face Dan Seemiller in the semifinals. Eric’s fearless attack off of both wings kept constant pressure on Khoa. With everything to gain and nothing to lose, he kept firing bullets down the line and opening up the table by flipping Khoa’s services wide to the forehand. Khoa regrouped and appeared to figure Eric’s game out, but by this time Eric would not be denied. Not on his home court, not in front of the TV crew, not in front of his grandparents! The outcome was inevitable. On the table just to Eric’s left was another 5-game thriller involving Sean O’Neill and Darko Krop. Darko had won the last two meetings between them and his rating had plummeted from 2670 to 2567. Sean played a strong and determined strategy that could have prevailed had this not been Darko’s home court. Moving with precise footwork, Darko covered everything that Sean tried. Constantly attacking he fought from behind to win the 5th game and advance to meet Huazhang Xu in the semis.

Dan, in the mean time, had a much easier draw and faced David Fernandez and Amy Feng on his way to meet Eric. Both players made Dan work but he was not tested as were Eric and Darko. Xu had to defeat long-time nemesis De Tran in the quarters. This made Dan the freshest of the 4 semifinalists.

In the semis it became apparent that Eric had no fault in his ability to beat Dan. This being his first brush with the top players at this level of competition, he simply was unable to overcome the fact that Dan has been at the top of U.S. table tennis since Eric was a baby. At five, when Eric started to play, Dan must have seemed like an impossible target. It was not a walk over, but it was never in question. “Allright, 10 points!” yelled Eric in the third. Six months from now, perhaps the awe will have worn off. Dan into the finals.

The other half was a much more exciting affair. Perhaps Darko’s Eastern European training is different from ours? Does a 3 out of 5 event where you come from mean you have to play all 5 games (Darko’s? let’s see) Sean 5 games, Xu 5 games, later De Tran 5 games, Khoa 5 games... hmmm, I think I see a pattern here.) Darko leapt out to a 2-0 lead and appeared to be on the way to the finals when Xu stepped back, towed off, and ran 6 straight points to go up 20-15 in the third. Now it was Darko’s turn to be determined, and with total concentration, he attacked all 5 of Xu’s services and brought the game even at 20-20.

Xu seemed very calm and unconcerned as he saw the effort it took out of Darko. Sensing an easing up of Darko’s intensity, Xu quickly won the next two points. The fourth game was all Xu as he jumped out early and maintained the lead until he was up 20-12. Is Xu so astute that he thought about Darko’s 5-game match half an hour earlier with Sean, and the effort that Darko expended? Or is Xu that keen to duck to the previous game? There would after all have to be a 5th game if Xu won, so did he plan to drain Darko some more? Or did Darko just turn up that extra notch and power back to 20-20 again (there is NO quit in this guy) just to lose steam, again. Either way the result is the same. 5th game, Darko exhausted. Darko has but no strength to make the shots go on. Xu into the finals winning at 10.

The finals was a battle to the finish between the smoothly spinning Xu and the blocking/looping Sean. Normal off-the-table spinning shots were somewhat disrupted by Dan’s in and out, first inverted, then anti blocks, with quick winning loops whenever Xu made a weak shot. In the end, it was Xu, 21-19 in the fifth.

In women’s singles, Amy Feng who made the quarterfinals of the open, faced no serious threat. Susanne (Karlsson) Schilhab playing in her first tournament since suffering a back injury 4 years ago, met Amy in the semis by defeating Mexico’s #1 but was absolutely never in the match. “If she hit the ball to me, I could play her,” said Susanne. “But, she wouldn’t hit it to me!” Peggy Rosen reached the finals on the other side by defeating Bianca Alejo in a good match, but fared no better than Susanne against national Allstars Men’s event played entirely on Sunday, and was the second premiere event of the tournament. Dave Sakai, who had booked himself an early flight out, seemed to be trying to play all of his matches at the same time. Of course Dave likes to get all the exercise he can so he makes them all go the distance. He stayed just long enough to beat Eric Owens in a 14-hour marathon (so it seemed), then came to the desk, defaulted the rest of his matches and flew away. This put Khoa through to the semi with a default.

Darko reached Khoa in the semis by virtue of a 5-game victory over De Tran that seemed to have again drained him, but 30 minutes later there he was playing Khoa and jumping to a 1-0 lead. The second game was one of the most amazing as Darko seemed to have it all at his fingertips. This was the opening of Darko’s 5-game match and an hour earlier with Sean, and the effort that Darko expended? Or is Xu that keen to duck to the previous game? There would after all have to be a 5th game if Xu won, so did he plan to drain Darko some more? Or did Darko just turn up that extra notch and power back to 20-20 again (there is NO quit in this guy) just to lose steam, again. Either way the result is the same. 5th game, Darko exhausted. Darko has but no strength to make the shots go on. Xu into the finals winning at 10.

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Eric Owens did get his due in Open Doubles as he and Sean, who were 10 seconds (literally) from default, showed up in time to march through the competition and win the event over a feisty Barney Reed and David Fernandez.

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National Junior Champion Eric Owens upset Khoa Nguyen to make the semifinals.
game, and Khoa won the next three in a row to reach the finals 3-2.

On the other half Sean first hammered Barney J. Reed who also had an excellent tournament, then dispatched Dan in a 4 game match that was all his after Dan pulled out the first. Dan seemed to be more than content to have reached the finals of the open and less than inspired to play at his top form against Sean, even with the consuel of Perry Schwartzberg. This set up a Sean/Khoa finals that did not disappoint.

Khoa, having regained confidence after his loss to Eric, played like the U.S. World Team member that he is. The fact that Sean is the 5 time National Champion and jumped out to a lead in every game did not discourage Khoa. Khoa used excellent attacks into Sean’s backhand to keep constant pressure. It seemed that Khoa was waiting for Sean to loop first and then started pounding block kills down the lines to force Sean to react at break-neck speed, thus forcing him to make weaker shots.

For Sean’s part he was confident in his ability to handle all of Khoa's shots, looking for every opportunity to loop-drive to gain control of the table and force Khoa to back up and spin instead of hit. This was as close a fight as you can have with both players executing precisely. First game 22-20, Sean. Second game 23-21, Sean. Third game 21-19, Sean. This was U.S. table tennis at its absolute best. The only problem was there were only a hundred or so people left to see it at 6:00 PM on Sunday night. Next year we will make sure to fill the stands and give them the appreciation that they deserved.

For once there were enough umpires to handle the event. Rarely, other than at a U.S. Open or Nationals, are there sufficient numbers of officials on call to cover all of the major events. Although still a far cry from being able to umpire ALL of the tournament matches, there were enough to handle elite events and still satisfy all requests from the rest of the field. Special thanks go out to Scott Ryan, Jimmy Wilson, Buddy Melamed, Meyers Hudson, Gary Grogan, Mary Kleinheinz, Lawrence Clark, Rong Lillierroos, Roberto Byles, and all the others that assisted. Now that we are finally fielding reasonable numbers of umpires for major events, it seems strange to eliminate the umpire dedicated funding. Perhaps further review of this action is warranted?

I know that I have focused on the elite players. As a 1300 level player myself, I know how important that the lower round matches are to those who played in them as well as to the future of table tennis in the U.S. I apologize for not being able to report specifics of these matches. But suffice it to say that there were 25 events and all were hotly contested. Thank you for participating and bear with us for next year, we will get better. By the way Ovi, Xu was defaulted out of the Open Doubles so don’t feel slighted.

Results:
Open Singles—Final: Huazhang Xu d. Dan Seemiller 3-2(19 in the fifth); SF: Xu d. Darko Rop 3-2; Seemiller d. Eric Owens 3-0; QF: Xu d. De Tran 3-1; Owens d. Khoa Nguyen 3-2; Seemiller d. Amy Feng 3-1; Rop d. Sean O’Neill 3-2.
Open Doubles: Sean O’Neill d. Eric Owens 2-0.
American Allstar Seniors: Dave Sakai d. Henry Chen 3-2.
A Singles: Dave Fernandez d. Barney J. Reed 2-0.
B Singles: Donna Sakai d. Gerald Kempa 2-1.
C Singles: Howard Chen d. Wallace Collins 2-0.
12200: Muhammed Uppal d. Enrique Chavez 2-1.
12200: Jimmy Chen d. J. Hall 2-1.
12000/040: Caesar Serna d. Cody Jones 2-1.
12000: Jimmy Chen d. J. Hall 2-1.
12000/040: Caesar Serna d. Cody Jones 2-1.
12150: Falola Alimot d. Rod Demahy 3-1.
U1400: Eddy Wu d. Liza Modlich 2-1.
U1400: Eddy Wu d. Liza Modlich 2-1.
U1400: Eddy Wu d. Liza Modlich 2-1.
U1200: Falola Alimot d. Rod Demahy 2-1.
U2000: Jimmy Chen d. J. Hall 2-1.
Handicap Singles: R. Ritz d. G. Munoz 2-0.
A Doubles: Ryan/Massoth d. Mayer/Hall 2-1.
B Doubles: Ryan/Chen d. Shu/Zhuang 2-0.
Under 18: Igor Chernomazv d. Caroline Chen 2-0.
Under 14: Howard Chen d. Aaron Struth 2-0.
Under 12: Susan Kassam d. Steven Chang 2-0.
Under 20: Tennis Today 35

Terry Canup (R), tournament referee, & writer, in his early playing day (1953), versus Nancy Morris (L).

January/February 1994
Attila Malek won the 1993 Edward H. Both Memorial Pacific Coast Open by defeating Kazuyuki Yokoyama in three straight. Malek pocketed $500 for his effort while runner-up Yokoyama took home a cool $300. Over $2,000 in cash and prizes were awarded to the other champions and finishers thanks to a generous donation in memory of Edward H. Both, a good friend and fan of table tennis who passed away in March.

Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California played host to 261 entrants who battled October 30 and 31 on 18 Bista tables in 18 events. Organizing sponsors were the Orange Coast Table Tennis Club and the Southern California Table Tennis Association. This was one of the most successful Pacific Coast Opens ever with all events running exactly on schedule and no complaints thanks to desk director Julian Margolins’ crew: Philip Claflin, Randy Mullins, Sujan Dos, Fred Martin, Ron Ely, and Art Wirtzschied. Computer draws by Margaret and Ichiro Hashimoto and time scheduling by Diego Schaaf expedited the rounds like a finely crafted watch work.

The Open Doubles concluded with De Tran and his partner Phoong Le, both of San Jose, defeating Loc Ngo of Pasadena and Fernando Valencia of Los Angeles 2 games to 1. Open Singles semis saw Kazuyuki Yokoyama defeating De Tran in a hard fought match ending in 15, 19, and 15. The other semis had Attila Malek struggling to find his game in a slugfest with good friend and training partner Zoltan Paszti, with Malek finally prevailing 18, -16, -14, 10, and 15 to advance to the finals.

The final between Malek and Yokoyama was a clinic on how to play a chopper. Malek was relentless as he pushed one return and looped the next two, ending the crowd-pleasing rallies with a smash. Winning in three games straight, Malek appeared focused and energized while Yokoyama seemed exhausted and bewildered by this 40 year old’s youthful agility and determined attitude.

Attila has been coaching youngsters at the Costa Mesa Boys and Girls Club, promoting youth development programs in the area, and training regularly. His efforts are paying off as shown in his recent tournament successes and the increased numbers of new young players playing at OC TTC.

Many thanks are due to the players and staff of this year’s Both Pacific Coast Open. And to the Both family, mother Harriett, son George, and rising junior star, grandson George Jr., a special thanks for generously contributing to the tournament in memory of father and friend, Edward H. Both. This tourney was a tune up for the Nationals in Las Vegas and the Chinese New Year and American Allstar event scheduled February 12 & 13 at Orange Coast College. Local organizers are in high gear preparing for the 1994 U.S. Open in Anaheim, California, by Disneyland Park, June 30 to July 4, 1994. Mark your calendar for some California dreamin’ in ‘94.

Results:


U2100—Final: Joey Kuok d. Bunny Lee, 15, 15. SF: Kuok d. Ferdinand Trinidad, 16, 18; Lee d. John Schneider, 18, -16, 12.


U1900—Final: Doong Pham by def. over Joe Tran. SF: Pham d. Bill Ryan, 14, 22, 19; Tran d. Norman Bass, 20, -19, 16.


Juniors—Final: Adrian Ramirez d. Jeanie Cheng, 12, -18, 13, 12; Ramirez d. Scott Malek, 14, 19; Cheng d. Chris Malek, 13, 16.


Unrated—Final: Oswald Chan d. Allan Mayor, 18, 11. SF: Chan d. Behrouz Dizehchi, -18, 18, 24; Mayor d. Tim McCana, 11, -17, 11.

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This was the seventh year for the World Senior Games, which now has 15 sports including table tennis, which was held the second week, October 19-22. Competition is for those 50 and older.

On Tuesday October 19th, there was a practice and get acquainted session. Tybie Sommer, a former world mixed doubles champion, gave free lessons to all who signed up and waited their turn. This was a very popular event.

That evening the welcoming banquet was held at the Dixie College campus. Afterwards the participants and guests marched into an auditorium for an opening ceremony. The table tennis people, wearing their participants’ shirts, all marched together behind a big banner with each person waving a flag. Then an outstanding program was put on for everyone.

The table tennis people, wearing their participants’ shirts, all marched together behind a big banner with each person waving a flag. Then an outstanding program was put on for everyone.

**Results:**

**WOMEN**
- 70 & over 1. Christa Knauer (Stuhr, Germany) 2. Jo Splistiser (Seattle, WA) 3. Sara Cericola (Albuquerque, NM)
- 60 & over 1. Margaret Fox (PALos Verdes Estates, CA) 2. Jane Mills (Muncie, IN) 3. Manie Absher (St. George, UT)
- 50 & over 1. Franz Kluender (San Antonio, TX) 2. Richard Gomes (Miami, FL) 3. Walter Gomes (Stuart, FL)

**MEN**
- 70 & over 1. Lester Enslin (St. George, UT) 2. Arthur Chase (San Antonio, TX) 3. Richard Gomes (Miami, FL)
- 60 & over 1. Christa Knauer (Stuhr, Germany) 2. Mary Ann Bessinger (New York, NY) 3. Kay Bowen (St. George, UT)
- 50 & over 1. Richard Clark (New York, NY) 2. John Mann (St. George, UT) 3. Margaret Fox (Palos Verdes Estates, CA)

**MIXED DOUBLES**
- 70 & over 1. Jordan Wen/MaryAnn Bessinger 2. Edgar Stein/Jeanne Stein 3. Margaret Fox/Mary Kleinhenz
- 60 & over 1. Margaret Fox/Franz Kluender 2. Dean McNulty/Salvatore Putzulu 3. Rudy Hartman/Fred Martin

We also want to thank Huntsman Corporation, the major sponsor of the world Senior Games, which contributes a substantial amount each year in support of these Games.
National Table Tennis Center

DEFEATS U.S. TEAM

by Larry Hodges

National Table Tennis Center (NTTC) in Gathersburg, Maryland, defeated the U.S. team 3–1 in a team match. Admission was $5 each (free for NTTC members). Both teams journeyed afterward to the U.S. Open Team Championships in Detroit, which the Chinese team won, while the U.S. came in fifth.

Playing for China (sponsored by Janbio, the official drink of the Chinese National and Olympic Team) was Ma Wenge, the number one Chinese player, ranked 4th in the world and a two-time World Cup Singles Champion; Chen Zhabin, a former China Open, Hong Kong Open and Swedish Open Champion, now starring in the German Bundesliga; and Huzhang Xu, former Chinese team member now living in the U.S. and a former Eastern Open Champion (Leach, Reisman, Ogimura...), partnered U.S. #6 Schiff and Neuberger, partnered U.S. #6 Pauline Somael before beating U.S. #5 Robert Varadi. Also, she partnered both U.S. #1 Leah Neuberger in Women’s Doubles during these years, and that could hug her. So, though it was the Stream and that could hug her. So, though it was the Stream, from the Stream and that could hug her. So, though it was the Stream.

Afterwards, as if not to be outdone by the previous drama (who can say nowadays that sports should be treated as mere entertainment?), Marianne’s exuberance for table tennis could first be seen from afar when in the spectator stands at the 1994 Wembley World Championships she herself caught the tournament at the age of 15. She would become President of that Association, and it would be two more years before she could begin to solidify her perennial U.S. #13 ranking. She always wanted to be a good player, always wanted to be more, and if she could keep up with their play, she could, as we’re to see, keep up with their travels. To understand Marianne’s characteristic ebullience, her great love for the Sport, one has only to note that when she was finally ranked among the Top Ten (for the 1960–61 season) she was almost 40 years old—or no doubt she should say, “40 years young.”

While Marianne’s name was later than ever, and accompanied by future Hall of Fame Official Bill Gunn (the two of them nationally ranked that year in Mixed Doubles), was back to see another Wembley World Championship in which 3-time U.S. Champion-to-be Bernie Bukiet got to the quarters of the Men’s and also to take a side trip to Limerick where in the Irish Open she and her partner got to the final of Women’s Doubles.

In 1986 Gunn was not only the Captain for the March White Plains U.S. Nationals. At this U.S. Open, Marianne, having been put in charge of Housing and Entertainment, did such a Party Time good job that she and Herwald Lawrence, who was in charge of Operations (he of Reisman, Leach, Ogimura...) and some risque tales to tell of the legendary World Champion Richard Bergmann who had loved with a Manila girl...for at least a week; of peeping Tom and Thomson...holes in bedroom walls, or topless restaurants with side-room one-way mirrors— the kind of on or off the record thing all historians, voyeurs themselves, you might say, are naturally interested in. There were other tales, too, of course. Freudian or not: there was this trick of putting money in a coin slot and watching a folded-up ping pong table with net automatically straighten out for play; and the time when former World Champion Ferenc Sido gave Marianne a bag of little pieces of burnt money (a WW II bomb had fallen on this burned clothing?) and asked her, please, if she could get dollars for it, and she did.

After Marianne had again and again been among all these world-class players, after she’d been out there on court as a participant with them, it can be any surprise that in her “Over the Net” Topics column after the 56 Tokyo World’s, Pauline Robinson (later Hall of Fame Sido) said of Marianne that “perhaps her new sponge hat was responsible, but I think her all-over [sic] game has advanced vastly.”

No wonder over the next several years she began to play doubles with a succession of top players: she won Sol Schiff in October of ‘56, lost 22-24 in the 5th with Chuck Walle and Shari Krimzan in the ‘57 National’s, got to the ‘58 CNE final with U.S. #6 Andrew Ecsary before losing to Schiff and Neuberger, partnered U.S. #6 Daniel Schiff in the CNE final with George Ferris Memorial with Frank Wally, and in the ‘61 Eastern’s team with former U.S. #5 Robert Varadi. Also, in Women’s Doubles during these years, she partnered U.S. #1 Leah Neuberger and Canadian #1 Denise Hnusius.

From the mid-60’s, almost unnoticed, she resisted traveling far and wide to tournaments. In 1991 in Vegas she and the U.S. played over 40 Mixed Doubles together, and with her friend Mary McMillan she participated in the ’92 World Veteran’s Championships in Dublin. She also took part in Senior Olympic competition. The late-1970’s found her working for the Westfield Club in New Jersey where, with her usual ambition and enthusiasm, she enjoyed taking lessons from Chris Lehman.

In the late-60’s, Marianne gradually played less and less table tennis, and after she married in 1967 she gave up the game. Even after her husband died in 1979 of “Lou Gehrig’s” Disease, she would go on to compete and to say, before she’d return with her old passion for the Sport.

Of course once again she couldn’t resist traveling far and wide to tournaments. In 1991 in Vegas she and the U.S. played over 40 Mixed Doubles together, and with her friend Mary McMillan she participated in the ’92 World Veteran’s Championships in Dublin. She also took part in Senior Olympic competition. The late-1970’s found her working for the Westfield Club in New Jersey where, with her usual ambition and enthusiasm, she enjoyed taking lessons from Chris Lehman.

Perhaps, then, who she had taught children for so long, for 40 years, had become again as a little child herself. As while we who cared about her could say the light was in her eyes, it never was not yet gone out, perhaps she, with all her heart, with all her soul, perhaps, the Westfield Club had given Marianne a Teddy Bear with a key in the side—just in case, and that could hug her. So, though it was not exactly as the poet said, “No dancing bear was so genteel/Half so2 degage,” this Teddy was a comfort to her and she expressed a wish that she might be with them.


MARTY PRAGER
A Player's Coach: Past, Present, and Future
by Tim Bogdan

Marvin “Marty” Prager, perhaps more bright-eyed now than ever in his near 40-year coaching career, is a man formed for a task: he wants kids to enjoy table tennis, become Champions. Of course he’s always wanted that, but now he has a Center, the equivalent of a real Club, in the Laurel Gardens complex in Coral Springs, Florida. Here, under Activities Director Calvin McLeod, and with the help of former World Wheelchair winner Teresa Terranova, he can present the highly-structured Coaching Program he’s so carefully evolved throughout and abroad since the mid-1950’s. No wonder then that at this year’s U.S. Junior Olympics, Janubio U.S. Junior National’s and Open Team Championships more and more players and spectators were beginning to take notice of what he’s accomplished with the youngsters he’s been working with a mere 13-16 months.

Perhaps, though I’ve never considered it, more so as a coach, deserves the recognition I personally want to give him here. First I recall meeting him at the National Team Championships in Indianapolis, where (it’s my job as Managing Editor of Topics to know such trivia), his record was 10-1. That was the ’55-’56 season—the one in which I won the first of my two International Collegiate Championships and the one where, because of my strong play in part because of my writing for Topics, I even made the finals of the Western’s, the finals of the Western’s, the finals of the Illinois Open, and in the semi’s of the St. Joe Valley—I was being seriously considered for the U.S. Team to the Utrecht World’s.

The following, ’56-’57 season Bukiet, Prager, and Van di Wallis were all on the U.S. Team to the Stockholm World’s, and I was gone from the Sport, I thought forever. Perhaps, though I’ve never considered it until now, Bukiet, Prager, and Van di Wallis had something to do with prompting the drastic changes that were about to take place in table tennis and the reason I never thought our paths would cross again.

Marty and Norbert would sooner or later pursue table tennis possibilities abroad, and I, surprising myself though not perhaps as much as with my wife, would again pursue them too...10 years later, from a new home in the East, and a new and not so innocent perspective.

From 1968-74, Marty, I would learn later, was on the French Riviera. Like (such was Marty’s agile on-court step and spring) the well-off, retired Cary Grant in that well-known Hitchcock cat-burglar movie? I’m afraid not. Nothing quite so romantic as that—as one of Marty’s reminiscences will make clear. In 1988 at the U.S. Open in Miami—that’s the one where the now current World Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien almost killed Michel Appelgren in the final—the Captain of the French Team was looking for Marty, eager to renew their old acquaintance. Twenty years earlier, this Frenchman had been the top player and coach of the Mouillereau Club and he remembered playing Marty’s Club and Marty himself—in a bar.

Never mind—one has to start somewhere. By 1972-73, Marty had helped hundreds of kids enjoy the Sport (he’d always said he’d gotten more satisfaction from Van de Walle’s wins than his own), had built up a Club Team that in the beginning was not in class with a thousand others but which would eventually be the #3 League team in France, and had advanced, annually, at least one of his pupils to a position on either the Junior or Senior National Team. No American Coach before or since ever made such a contribution, or continued to make such a contribution, for a number of his players went on to become coaches and were able to make a living in the Sport.

But why, thought Marty, continue to develop Internationals for France? Why not try to do the same for the U.S.?” Though even as he returned, it was clear that he was no longer going to be in a, say, sunny Nice where Table Tennis was subsidized.

As Marty reminds me, I was the USTTA President on his return, and he well remembers how Jack Howard, who’d been the U.S. Team’s alternate to the U.S. Open, had personally told me that Marty was “the most knowledgeable person in U.S. Table Tennis” and had urged me and my E.C. to send Marty to Coach the U.S. Open Team round the country. Remembering Marty and knowing Jack very well, I’m sure I took the request seriously. But for whatever reason—likely it was a matter of funding, though by the end of 1974, in deference to my increasingly difficult situation, I had retained the Editorship of Topics but had given up the Presidency—Marty’s Tour never came about.

That was almost twenty years and, difficult to keep up one’s enthusiasm with no help, no recognition from an always underfunded Association, how many players age in the Sport, some, ideas that I’ve developed, why I’ve built the Laurel Gardens complex are highly programmed. Personally every move they make, says Marty, “is under my supervision, whether I’m actually in their presence or not. Everything is down on paper: the particulars of a Training Program, lessons, tactics, logistics for round robin competition and for playing every tournament in sight.”

Is he quite discriminating in choosing the youngsters he might recruit? Not ini-
I had a feeling that doing an interview with Lily wouldn't be easy for me. I'm just too much of a fan. Too much in awe of her skill. Actresses are interviewed, and I was having trouble finding the light switch! With the interview at a complete standstill I called Larry Hodges. "I need time to rethink this," I told him, and was granted a reprieve.

Then, a few nights later, as I wrestled with the problem of how to approach the interview from a different angle, I got a call from a Thursday Night League player who wanted me to sub for him. Now, you must understand that the Thursday night league has a long history of attracting only the best players in the club. On my own I could never hope to be a regular with the Thursday elite, but now, not only was I going to sub, but I would also play alongside Lily! We were going to be teammates, for crying out loud! Cinderella, Queen For a Day. This was going to be good. Fate had skipped across continents and time to pair us up. If I couldn't make use of this fortuitous experience I'd better turn in my typewriter. (They say that a good writer can be walking down the street, get hit on the head by something as simple as an acorn, and it will become the subject of his next article.) So Lily and I talked.

It seems that way back in the '60s I was a teenager trying to pass ninth grade World History course with a strict teacher named Miss Wiser. At the same time that I was memorizing the dynasties, Lily was busy being born in China. It was the year of the rabbit (attributes: honest and peaceful).

Lily was an athletic child. She remembers "trying everything" especially roller skating. She started to play table tennis at the age of seven. Lily's first coach was Chen Len Huo. "He is 40-something years old now, still single, and still teaching in the primary school."

By the age of seventeen Lily had finished in the top 16 times at the Chinese Nationals, and finished third in the women's doubles. She went on to Guangzhou Physical Education College.

After three years Lily was asked to coach the Canton's Women's Team, but Lily had a different idea; she wanted to come to the United States.

"I knew that the American culture was interesting. I would have a good opportunity to play in the U.S. That made my leader very upset. I left all my teammates. My coaches tried to stop me from coming here. They didn't sign all the documents for me to apply for the visa."

Lily's next stop was Cocoa Beach, Florida which is near the Kennedy Space Center. There she had a practice partner named Randy who was rated 1700.

"I had to tell him how to train me with much skill."

While in Florida, Lily heard from David Zhuang, who was still in China, and who was planning to come to the States. Lily saw some shuttle promotions and went to Disneyland—but no rides.

When I was in Sweden at the World Championships I went to an amusement park with Virginia Sung. I got on a roller coaster by mistake. I didn't know that it would go so fast. I looked okay. Then it went fast and around, and I was scared and couldn't get off."

Lily continued her studies here, but in a different direction altogether, computer science, at New Jersey's Middlesex College. Although a large photo of Lily hangs in the school, very few people know that Lily competed in the 1992 Summer Olympics and shook hands with George and Barbara Bush.

"I wanted to take an ESL test (English as a Second Language) in the summer, but because I'm taking full-time college classes I can do 90-lb. squat lifts." Lily also skips rope in preparation for tournaments. She says that the tournament in Detroit (Thanksgiving Weekend) is for "practice."

She'll start serious practice, every other day (Thanksgiving Weekend) is for "practice."

45 minutes once a week. I lift weights and I can do 90-lb. squat lifts." Lily also skips rope in preparation for tournaments.

Lily says that the tournament in Detroit (Thanksgiving Weekend) is for "practice."

She'll start serious practice, every other day for at least two hours to get ready for Nationals (her fourth) and for the Olympics.

She has developed a taste for Frosted Flakes with bananas and Raisin Bran as her two favorite breakfast foods. She drinks Gin Seng Angelica and eats quite a bit of Chinese food. In her six years in this country, Lily has learned to cook American dishes from cookbooks.

When asked how she felt when competing against a female player who is much younger than her, Lily told me, "I don't look at the age. I just think she's good because I didn't probably could beat me. If I think I'm better, I might not fight!"

Lily also talked about thinking during a match. "I try to build a self up...be confident, and think about strategies. I practice with Barry Dattel, Parviz Mohajarian, and David Zhuang. My goals are to do well in the U.S. Open Teams and the Nationals. I would like to win the National Women's title."

There is another side to table tennis: exhibitions. Lily teamed with Barry Dattel to give an exhibition at Sports Fun in Cliffwood Beach (Aberdeen Townships) New Jersey where they demonstrated the use of the robot. Barry played with hard rubber, and switched to a small paddle. They accepted challenges, giving ten or eleven points to the players.

I discovered that Lily's favorite color is purple, her favorite number is eighteen, and her lucky jewelry is a necklace and a bracelet that she wears constantly. She prefers to wear dresses to her classes, and "real shoes" because she spends so much of her time dressed in sports clothes.

I asked Lily what she thought about female athletes who insist on wearing lip-stick and feminine clothes when they compete. Without hesitation Lily answered, "If I were feminine clothes to play in, I wouldn't be able to concentrate as well. Also, last year I decided to grow my hair. I feel more like a woman when I wear it down, but when I play I wear it in a ponytail."

Lily has friends all over the world. She keeps in touch with Catherine Ying Kwock (Australia #1), Barbara Chen (Canada #2), and May Tong (Canada #4). She has met many people at tournaments, too. Lily relates, "I've been to the Pan American Games in Canada twice to Barcelona, twice to Japan, and the Worlds in Sweden. I've traveled to Canada, Czechoslovakia, and Vienna. I would like to go to Australia and Paris.

Like the roller coaster rider in Sweden, Lily's competitive life has been careened along from place to place and year to year as she continues to climb higher and higher.

Off, and on Lily and I talked, and she seemed less shy and more eager to share her feelings and experiences. Then the Thursday Night League finally arrived. Lily looked fresh and energized as she walked easily through her matches. I, on the other hand, scrambled for every point, buoyed by the fact that I was on the same team as Lily Yip. For a little while I found out what it was like to compete with the best; to be side by side with a seasoned professional.

I went home invigorated, feeling fifteen years younger. I would call Larry Hodges and assure him that everything was all right. Now I could tell Lily's story.
Lily, as expected, won the Women’s-over Janubio U.S. Junior National Girls’ U-18 Championship and with David Zhuang won a pair of games. She was the only U.S. player to win a game in the 1990 World Junior Championships. In the U.S. Open, she defeated Yip, the defending champion, 4-0, before losing to discs star Natalia Ponomaryova in the finals. In the National Table Tennis Center’s $5,000 Open, Lily won her first match, defeating Japanese player Tetsuya Sakai, 4-0, before losing to discs star Natalia Ponomaryova in the finals.

The Westfield November tournament drew a larger number of entries than the October one. This was due not only to the contingent of National Table Tennis Center players generally familiar with one another, but also to the many other Detroit-bound players who were in the area due to Westfield President Barry Dattel’s open invitation. In the Women’s she prevailed over her fair-sex teammate Nishi, she had lost the previous 25-23 in the deciding second game against Samorasi, the woman in the contingent, in the Women’s she lost a tight first game and soon the match to Lily (who would be decisively defeated in the final by Nishi). In the 2300’s, Lily would -16,19,14, get by Santo Vasquez (he was getting better since he had moved to Oklahoma?) and then just escape, but not before putting cotton in her ears, the “Acheulean” bellowing of John Andrade, before losing to quiet, sensible Ben Nisbet, victim of his friend Dave Fernandez moved to Connecticut.

In the other half of the Open draw, in a quarter’s match against Lonergan, he did not lose his first game to Deuce. Says her soon vanquished Lonergan, “I would have bet money I could beat him. But in the end, I lost. Overall, I think I played pretty good.” And then Lonergan added, “It’s a shame I didn’t have the chances I deserved. But I think I played well.”

In the remaining quarter’s match, John O’Brien also won in three-tripped and his 4-0 victory over Yip was his second consecutive win. The first over 2-time U.S. High School Champ Jason St. George (who was also in the 2300’s) was a hard-fought battle. But in the end, John seemed to be the stronger man, winning 4-0.

In the first game of the tournament, John won his 4-0 victory over Yip with a 11-8 lead in the third game. He then went on to win his second game, 4-0, with a 11-8 lead in the fifth game. Finally, he won his third game, 4-0, with a 11-8 lead in the seventh game. Overall, John played well and deserved his win over Yip.

The Westfield November tournament was a success, with a large number of entries participating. The event was well-organized and provided a great opportunity for players to showcase their skills. The event was also a great opportunity for players to socialize and network. Overall, it was a great day for the Westfield November tournament.
by Richard McAfee, Tour Director
The Southern Tour made its fourth stop at Anderson College on 12/11/93. Winning his second Open Title on the tour was Nigel Christopher (Anderson College). His opponent in the finals was Augusta College star, Brian Pace. Brian controlled the offense in the first game and won at 16. However, Nigel began to return Brian’s serve better and took the next two games at 18, 15.

However the big winner was Gary Bertram. Gary won the U-2000, the 3800 Doubles, and came in second in the 41 pt Handicap Event. He now holds a 30 pt lead in the Tour Points Standings. First place tour prize is $1,000.

Results:
Open 1st: Nigel Christopher 2nd: Brian Pace 3rd: Xin Peng 4th: Greg Riley
U-2400 1st: Jason St. George 2nd: Roland Rittmaster
U-2200 1st: Julian Millan 2nd: David Burns
U-2000 1st: Gary Bertram 2nd: George Cooper
U-1800 1st: Dipak Ahah 2nd: Robert Brown
U-1600 1st: Mike Dukes 2nd: Don Hair
U-1400 1st: Ray Heath 2nd: Jason Dukes
U-1200 1st: Jason Dukes 2nd: Ray Heath
Novice 1st: Richard Kwon 2nd: Tim Hoagland
3800 Doubles 1st: Bertram/Engle 2nd: McAfee/Allen

NEWGY SOUTHERN TOUR
POINT LEADERS AT OF 12/30/93
1. Gary Bertram Charlotte, NC. 97
2-3. Brian Pace Augusta College 67
3-5. David Engle Atlanta, GA. 67
4. Ray Heath Augusta, GA. 64
5. Julian Millan Anderson College 62
6. Jason Dukes Aiken, SC. 59
7. Xin Peng Augusta, GA. 58
8. Scott Butler Augusta, GA. 55
9. Nigel Christopher Anderson College 54
10. Kenneth Dukes Aiken, SC. 51
11-12. Richard Peluso Atlanta, GA. 48
11-12. Bruce Parham Atlanta, GA. 48
13. Huyon Kwon Anderson College 47
14-16. Pete May Augusta GA. 42
14-16. George Cooper Augusta, GA. 42
14-16. Robert Brown Atlanta, GA. 42
17. David Burns Augusta College 41
18. Roland Rittmaster Augusta College 38
19. Bobby Michel Atlanta, GA. 37
20. Tim Hoagland Greenville, SC. 36
* 81 players have earned points.
* More than $4,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

DETOUR BOUND
by Hyon “Richard” Kwon
Anderson College Team Manager
Richard Kwon is a first year student from Korea
What is the most back-aching, neck-hurting, and knee-breaking thing you can do? The answer is traveling in a bus. Our school (Anderson College) and August College had spent a long 14 hours to get to Detroit for the U.S. Open Team Championships. We arrived there on the 24th of November at 3:00pm. We checked in and went into the Cobo center to practice. There were about 4000 tables in an endless hall. The most surprising thing was that every table was occupied with people playing. It is very hard to see people play table tennis in America. But that place was full of people playing the sport I love. I also had a chance to see the world class players playing right in front of me. I went there as a team manager, but I had the chance to play a few times. But most of the time, I was running around getting things for the coach and fellow teammates and wishing that the tournament could be held in a smaller place, so I don’t have to run around the large hall. Our “A” team had a tough match with August College’s “A” team in the college finals. I was there screaming very hard trying to cheer our team, but we lost 2 to 1. My throat was full of pain, but I was proud of our team because they did their best. Our second team won the “C” division. Even though I had to suffer a lot after the tournament due to the bus trip, it was one of the most exciting things I had experienced in my life. I will be there next year, but I will travel by airplane. That is why I am starting to sell candy to raise money for the fare.
DETOUR TO 24
Detroit, Michigan November 7, 1993 by Cody Jones

Due to the popularity of the Detroit Top 24, the Detroit Table Tennis Association expanded the format to 3 round robins of 8. The Detroit Top 24 was held November 7 at Detroit's premier club—the Jewish Community Center. Once again the top three in Detroit (and Michigan) are Victor Olusegon, Florin Petroi (Pera or Peter), and Michael Velette.

In group 1, Florin, Victor easily won all 7 matches without dropping a game. Florin had a strained hip injury from soccer so his performance was not as healing very well. A much improved Tesiliemi Iloh defended his new 2029 rating defeating Gary Elwell of Minnesota who was the open winner in a Grand Rapids tournament just the day before this tournament. Seventh seed Keith McLean moved up to fifth in his group via upsets over James Dixon III and Tom Pallas.

In group 2, Florin was similarly a casual 14 and 0 game winner. Second seed Cody Jones dropped two close games to sparring partner Cody Jones. Chris Giarecki and Barry Carter upset Keith Heinzeitman who in turn had a fine win over Cody Jones.

In group 3, Victor Olusegon started out strong, continuing to play well, counterlooped to victory in the most spectacular match of the tournament. Florin (Pera or Peter) continued to play well, his round robin matches were: (480) were: (4) 250, up 2-1 in games made it to 19 in the fourth before losing the fifth 21-9. David Zhuang also went five with Xu in the finals, coming back from 14-6 down to get 18 in the final game.

Open Singles—Final: Huanzhuang Xu d. David Zhuang. 13,18,20,14,18; SF: Xu d. Sean O'Neil, 13,11,13; Zhuang d. Dan Seemiller, 10,17,19,17; QF: Xu v. Todd Sweers, 4,12,21,19,9; O'Neill d. Amy Feng, 17,11,16; Seemillerd. John Onifade, 17,14,8; Zhuang d. Herson Go, 9,15,18; 8ths: Xud. Gary Elwell, 8,14,17; Sweers v. D. Volkotchkev, -19,19,16,10; Feng v. Stephen Yeh, 19,14,18; O'Neill d. Jason Ste. George, 11,18,7; Seemillerd. Larry Bal, 21,17,14; Onifade d. Ramathan Svinivasan, 17,18,19; Go d. Sean O'Neal, 9,15,18; Zhuang d. Ryan格尔ber, 12,12,13.

U2450—Final: Heron God. Larry Balvay, -12,15,12; SF: Go d. Sean O'Neal, 11,11; Balvay d. Jason Ste. George, 19,12,18.

U2300—Final: Larry Balvay d. Thomas Sampson, 13,18,13; SF: Balvay d. Sunny Li, 12,16,20; Sampson d. Svinivasan, 18,14.


U1850: Mark Wood d. Ryan Gabriel, 18,15,16.

U1650: Ryan Gabriel d. Frank Riddick, 18,10.

U1500: Robert Travers d. Doua Lee, 17,18,5.

U1250: Keenan Bowens d. Cheryl Benoit, 17,18,16.

U1100: Alan Pemberton d. Cheryl Benoit, 18,14.

U900: Novice: Julian Vermund d. Celus Vaneizenga, 18,12,13.


U2300—Final: Sean O'Neal d. Masamichi Kubo, -20,12,13; SF: O'Neal d. Huang Pham, -13,16,17; Kubo d. Richard Lee, 18,18,14.


U1850: Chris Manglitz d. Mark Rater, 14,17,18.

U1650: Dana Hanson d. Frank Riddick, 19,13.


10. John Hildebrand

11. Jeremy Weissm

Table Tennis Today

January/February 1994
Office Environments Presents:

**THE 10TH ANNUAL COLORADO SPRINGS OPEN TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

by Larry Rose

The Colorado Springs Open is the premiere table tennis tournament in the Rocky Mountain region. First played in 1983, the tournament has been host to some of the finest players in the country, including 1-time U.S. National Women's Champion Insook Blushan, 5-time U.S. National Men's Champion Sean O'Neill, and U.S. World Team Members Diana Lee, Lisa Ge, Li Ai, Dhiren Narotam, and Tan Li.

The 10th annual tournament featured defending champion Bohdan Dawidowicz's bid for a third Colorado Springs Open title. Bohdan, a native of Poland, is a resident of Aurora, CO, and is one of the top players on the U.S. senior circuit. Bohdan plays a defensive style which often frustrates his opponents. Bohdan met his doubles partner, Martin Vostry, in the open singles Final. Martin's experience at playing Bohdan helped him win the final, as did a dispute between Bohdan and the umpire. In response to the dispute, Bohdan served illegally during most of the second game, and eventually forfeited the game. After a similar start to the third game, Bohdan went back to his normal style, and played even with Martin, but it was too late.

U.S. National Coach Li Zhenshi teamed with her daughter Nan Li to win the Open Doubles. Coach Li was a member of the Chinese World Championship Team. Nan is one of the top prospects for the U.S. Olympic Team in 2000. Their opponents in the finals were Bohdan Dawidowicz and Martin Vostry of Denver. Dawidowicz and Vostry came out strong in the first game, with Vostry finishing the game with a strong backhand. Li and Li came back to regain control of the match early in the second game with Nan attacking off Bohdan's chops and Li Zhenshi counterhitting Martin's offense. The tournament is proud to welcome Louden Office Environments as a primary sponsor of the Colorado Springs Open. Louden joins the team of the U.S. Table Tennis Association and the Rocky Mountain Table Tennis Association in continuing the excellence of this event.

Results:
- **Open Singles—Final:** Martin Vosty d. Bohdan Dawidowicz 14,2,18; SF: Vosty d. David Jaros 20, -24,23; SF: Barrientos d. Terry Travis 11,11.
- **Open Doubles—Final:** Zhen Shi Li/Nan Li d. Bohdan Dawidowicz/Martin Vostry 19,17, Witherow d. Jim Roecker 1,7.
- **Under 18 RR Singles:** 1. Bryant Patterson (3-0) 2. Anh Thu Ho (2-1).
- **Under 20 RR Singles:** 1. Bryant Patterson (3-0) 2. Anh Thu Ho (2-1).

**1994 CHINESE NEW YEAR INTERNATIONAL & AMERICAN ALL STAR TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

**Sponsored by PACIFIC PACIFIC & JING T. WANG, M.D.**

![SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, CHINATOWN TABLE TENNIS CLUB, ORANGE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS CLUB, AND ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF ORANGE COAST COLLEGE](image)

**Tournament Director: TERRY TIMMINS**

**Chief Umpire: JOE TRAN**

**Asst Chief Umpire: HUNG NGUYEN**

The top eight point earners for the women will receive an invitation to the All Star Finals. The top eight point earners for the men will receive an invitation to the All Star Finals. If any of the top eight decline, replacements will be named by the All Star committee.

**MATCHES AND SEEDINGS**

American All Star event winners must be certified as Olympic eligible. A player may be Olympic eligible any time during 1994.

- **Junior Regional Championships/Gamps Events:** To be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place for boys and girls in each age group. The age group is Under 18, Under 14, and Under 12. Format will be single elimination. The junior player may enter only one Junior Regional Championship event which is closest to his/her age. The junior player must meet age requirement on the first day of the event. The junior player may reside in the region for a minimum of six months and must be a U.S. citizen or possess a valid Alien Registration Card (green card). First-place finishes in all categories attend a summer camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Camps are conducted by national coaches Li Zhaung and Zhenhui Li. Each finish receives $100 toward airline, and room and board is provided.

**Note:** All matches will be timed and scheduled not announced over the public address system. Therefore, all contestants are expected to check their posted round time and begin the match within five minutes after reporting to the control desk.

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**Prize Distribution**

- 1st $1000
- 2nd $500
- 3rd $300
- 4th $300
- 5th $150
- 6th $125
- 7th $100
- 8th $75

**REGISTRATION**

Players must register with tournament officials at least thirty minutes before the scheduled starting time of their match.
POCOONO OCTOBER OPEN
Luzerne County Community College Gym
Nanticoke, Pennsylvania
October 10, 1993
by Dave Dickson

The finals of the Pocono Open featured an exciting finals in which Dave Fulcomer rallied and scored five in a row from down 15-19 to 20-19 before dropping a deuce clhffanger to Jashim Ahmed, northeast Pa's #1 active player. Layes Quasem, Bloom营销 University sophomore, won two events and was a finalist in a third.

New trophy winners at Nanticoke were Tim Mullens, Anthony Thornton, and Karl Haas. The Butler TCT players again had a strong performance. Chris Malis captured the U300 event, while Prapapong Sripongvinat, "Pook," won the U1700 and teamed with Dan Barnes to win the U3000 doubles.


POCOONO DECEMBER OPEN
Luzerne County Community College Gym
Nanticoke, Pennsylvania
October 10, 1993
by Dave Dickson

The Pocono December Open was held on December 5, 1993 in the Luzerne County Community College gym. 31 players participated. Sripongvinat Prapapong (underlined by author), aka "Pook," was fulfilling his destiny by playing 200 points above his listed rating of 1499. Pook won the 1600 and the 3000 doubles with Dan Barnes, and was the finalist in both the 1800 and the Open. Some were calling this tournament "Pook's party." Bill Davidson, tennis pro, is making the adjustment to the table game, as he defeated the #1 seed, Harry Hawk, to win the Open, and also defeated Pook twice in both the Open and 1800.

Other multiple medal winners were Barnes, who also teamed with Tony Thornton, to win the 2400 doubles; Mahedhbar Sotthinnemi, winner of the N.E. PA Classic Open; Jon Bilbow, finalist in the School Open; Giria Mandava and Tony Thornton.

U1600: 1. Pook; 2. Bill Metz.

THE WESTSIDE TABLE TENNIS CENTER
by Diego Schauf

The Westside Table Tennis Center (not to be confused with the new West Side TTC of New York City) is a new kind of club for the Los Angeles area. About ten minutes west of downtown Los Angeles, in the historic old Helms Bakery building in Culver City, "Westside" operated for years as the premiere tennis center in Los Angeles. Some of the best tennis coaches in the U.S. teach there, and many a Hollywood actor has gone there to learn their fencing "chops."

When Lloyd McQueen, a local top player, wandered into Westside late last spring he learned that, in addition to increastaff for marketing and sales for fencing, general manager Andy Shaw was interested in establishing a program for table tennis. His intention was to establish a training facility with equally high standards as they had for fencing. Since Lloyd was willing to organize it, he was hired on the spot. Since then he has built a unique program.

Most other clubs in the area are public, so table time is always at a premium. They have to operate by the "challenge system" to ensure that everyone has a chance to play, but that system does not work well, when the player's goal is to train specific techniques rather than playing games. For training, you need to have enough practice time, at least 1 1/2 to 2 hours in one block. Westside is organized as such a training facility. The very reasonable floor fee of $5—coupled with long opening hours, guarantees all players plenty of table time, even if they don't join any of the training groups.

Group training is led by head coach Wei Wang. Each group has 6 to 10 players who work on a individualized practice schedule. Coach Wang specifies each drill and then goes from player to player to work with them on specific points. So far there are group sessions for intermediate and advanced players, but as the club expands, there are plans to add more groups. Always limits the size to a maximum of 10 players to ensure enough attention to each individual player. Since the groups are stable, this has generated somewhat of a "team" spirit, a feeling new to many participants. Individual lessons for players of every level are also available. The coaching staff includes head coaches Vadim Parizek and Mikhail Zaretsky.

Thanks to a great contribution by the owner of the Helms Bakery Building, Wally Marks, Westside just underwent major remodeling and now also looks the part of a high caliber training facility. The lighting is excellent, the beautiful new hardwood floor comfortably accommodates five butterfly tables, and an additional table is set up with a robot in another area. There is a "pro-shop" which carries a good selection of table tennis supplies. A flight of stairs leads up to the loft, where resting players can either look down to the tables and follow matches in the hall or watch some of the club's rich collection of table tennis videotapes in the TV corner. With advertising in all Southern California issues of the Yellow Pages, Westside provides a "walk-in" opportunity for people to find our sport. Daily calls from people interested in table tennis have lead to a substantial increase in new players throughout the area. The existence and viability of this club is a hopeful sign for the future of table tennis in the U.S., proving that the sport can flourish in conditions similar to those of commercial clubs in Europe. To contact the club, call 310-204-2688.

Ksuttc Open
Kansas State University
November 20, 1993

On Saturday, November 20, the Kansas State University Table Tennis Club held its sixth United States Table Tennis Association 1-star sanctioned tournament in the K. S. Hall of the Kansas State University Student Union. Forty-one players from Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas participated in the tournament. The two-state tournament consisted of a round robin tournament followed by four levels of double elimination competition.

Championship: Mohammad Amaad Uppal d. Xu Linjing, 16,13.
Class A: Paul Olivier d. Jothaman Paretsky, 12,9.
Class B: Wallace Collins d. John Potockin., 23,9,23.
Class C: Nick Norgard d. Jeff Mai, 18,25.

January/February 1994

46 Table Tennis Today
October 15-17, 1993
Paris, France

FINAIt of ITTF WORLD CIRUIT
Final: Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 17,15,17; SF: Saive d. Jorge Rosskopf (GER), 19,10,17,24,12; Waldner d. Andrej Grubba (POL), 13,19,10,17,10; SF: Rosskopf d. Wang Tao (CHN), 11,14,19,13; Saive d. Marmurek (FRA), 18,21,17; Grubba d. Ma Wenge (CHN), 14,12,13,21; Waldner d. Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA), 13,16,10,19.

ITTF WORLD CIRUIT
Barcelona, Spain
October 12, 1993
(11 point games)

Final: Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), d. Andrzej Grubba (POL), 10,11,13,7; SF: Grubba d. Wang Tao (CHN), 4-2; Saive d. Peter Karlsson (SWED), 4-2; QF: Grubba d. Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA), 4-0; Wang d. Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 4-1; Karlsson d. Ma Wenge (CHN), 4-2; Saive d. Jorge Rosskopf (GER), 4-0.

PLEASE ENTER YOUR ORDER INFORMATION HERE

Table Tennis Today 47
ARE YOU ATTENDING TOURNAMENTS BUT NOT REALLY IMPROVING?

HAS YOUR RATING STUCK AT A CERTAIN LEVEL AND YOUR CONFIDENCE WITH IT?

MORE TOURNAMENTS ARE NOT THE ANSWER!

RECEIVING TOP LEVEL COACHING AND ATTENDING A MINI-CLINIC WILL DEFINITELY IMPROVE YOUR GAME AND INJECT ENTHUSIASM INTO YOUR PLAY. LEARNING IS THE WAY TO IMPROVE AND ENJOY THE GAME EVEN MORE.

FEB. 19 & 20 - NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CENTER, MARYLAND.
Sessions: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Assistant Coaches: Dave Sakai and Larry Hodges.

MAR. 12 & 13 - SOUTH BEND TABLE TENNIS CLUB, SOUTH BEND, IN.
Sessions: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Assistant Coach: Victor Tolkachev.

APR. 2 & 3 - SOUTH PARK TABLE TENNIS CLUB, PITTSBURGH, PA.
Sessions: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Assistant Coaches: Victor Tolkachev & Randy Seemiller.

MINI-CAMP FEE: $65.00 per player

DEPOSIT: $25.00

NAME ___________________________ PHONE ___________________________ AGE

ADDRESS ____________________________

CAMP CHOICE: (PLEASE CHECK BOX/S)

NTTC, Maryland  South Bend, Indiana  South Park, Pittsburgh
FEB. 19 & 20 ( )  Mar. 12 & 13 ( )  APR. 2 & 3 ( )

** UPCOMING DATES FOR DANNY SEEMILLER'S SUMMER TABLE TENNIS CAMPS **

Pittsburgh, PA. - June 6-11, 1994
Milwaukee, WI - June 14-19, 1994
Pittsburgh, PA - July 12-17, 1994
South Bend, IN - Aug. 9-14, 1994

ANY CLUB INTERESTED IN HOSTING A WEEKEND CLINIC SHOULD CONTACT:

Danny Seemiller
307 Meritt Avenue
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(412) 884-5864
Makers Of The First ITTF Approved Table Tennis Rubber Made In The USA - Apex Lightspeed
Present
The USATT National Rating List
By Dan Simon

-- 1

TOP MEN

TOP WOMEN

AIREDALE SPORTS & TECHNOLOGY, INC.
MADE IN USA

-- 1

Since this is my last issue as Rating Chairman, please refer any future questions on ratings to USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909.
It has been a pleasure serving the players and working with the tournament directors these past 10 and a half years while processing over 2,300 tournaments.

Dan Simon

-- 1

January/February 1994 Table Tennis Today 49
WORLD CLASS EQUIPMENT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>LA LUMBER</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
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<td>San Diego</td>
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<td>Riverside</td>
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<td>CA</td>
<td>NEVADA MAPS</td>
<td>Las Vegas</td>
<td>567 Street</td>
<td>567-8901</td>
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Note: This is just a sample. The actual list could go on for pages.
Thought for the Day: Umpires get paid to get your tennis player's used a frying pan as a racket.

DID'JA KNOW?

by Bob Green

Leah Neuberger, of Columbus, Ohio and New York City, has a women's record that may never be equaled. She is credited with 9 doubles events. It is noted that they reportedly did not eat or drink anything for 16 hours prior to the event so they could equally across the net without stopping or missing for 10 hours and 9 minutes, to enter the history books. It is noted that they reportedly did not eat or drink anything for 16 hours prior to the event so they would not have to make a pit stop. Note: Have a go at it, now that you know how it is done.

Hone up on your playing skills. If they become good enough, you do not really need exotic playing equipment to be a winner.

After assembling the proper equipment people at the YMCA in New Haven, Connecticut, they proceeded to push the ball back and forth across the net without stopping or missing for 10 hours and 9 minutes, to enter the history books. It is noted that they reportedly did not eat or drink anything for 16 hours prior to the event so they would not have to make a pit stop. Note: Have a go at it, now that you know how it is done.

Hone up on your playing skills. If they become good enough, you do not really need exotic playing equipment to be a winner. Case in point:

In an English Table Tennis exhibition played before 2000 spectators, part of the program was a one-game match between the top table tennis champ against the top lawn tennis player. This tennis player was also a part-time table tennis player in the off season, but was not a rated player. The table tennis champ won the game, but just barely, 21-19. The unique thing about this match was that the lawn tennis player’s used a frying pan as a racket.

Throught for the Day: Umpires get no respect.
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"Attack has great control on loops and blocks. The rubber allows for an open racket angle on loops and counter-loops. Lightspeed Attack is an ideal rubber for the European loop style.", Christian Lilleroos, US Para-Olympic Coach

"It blocks like God!"

"Serve return is a snap with Lightspeed Attack."

"I don't worry when counter looping. Just do your normal loop stroke and the ball goes on the table like magic."

"The more spin my opponent puts on the ball the more I like it."

"This is the most elastic rubber I have ever seen on a top sheet."

"Attack Plus reminds me of Coppa but with much better control."

"I put in on the racket for the first time and after a 10 minute warmup went out and played 200 points above my rating."

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1993 US National Championships
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1st 1100 & 1400, 2nd 1200, Semi 1300, 1600
ASTI Euro-Flex with Lightspeed Attack
Peter Zajac, 12 yrs old
1st 1500 & 1600, Semi U-13 Boys
ASTI Euro-Flex with Lightspeed Attack
Aaron Struth, 13 yrs old
1st 1700 with Sitco Carbo-Flex Tetra