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USA TABLE TENNIS APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New USATT Executive Director
Paul Montville

USA Table Tennis is pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Montville as Executive Director, effective June 6, 1994. Montville has had a career in marketing and fundraising spanning 22 years, including the start-up of a AAA professional baseball franchise and most recently as Marketing and Development Director at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs.

I’m flattered to be chosen as USATT’s Executive Director, and can’t wait to get started,” said recently. “I look forward to meeting our members and working with the Executive Committee as we move toward taking table tennis to the next level of popularity, competitive excellence, and prosperity.”

NEW JUNIOR REGIONAL CAMP DATES!

Some new dates and region changes have been made for the camps scheduled for this summer at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. First place finalists from the Junior Regional Championships are invited to attend. Invitations and information packets will be sent out approximately six to eight weeks prior to camp starting times. For more information, contact USAIT Headquarters.

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING DATES & REGIONS HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR THE JUNIOR REGIONAL CAMPS

...North & Mountain
June 15-19
Arrival: June 15
Departure: June 19

...Midwest, Northwest & Southeast
August 10-15
Arrival: August 10
Departure: August 15

...East & Pacific
August 23-28
Arrival: August 23
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NEW USATT MEMBERSHIP RATES

In all areas of our lives, everything just seems to be getting more and more expensive. The costs at USATT Headquarters over the past 10 years have doubled and in some cases quadrupled (see article below). In order to continue to provide programs and the quality services our membership deserves, the USATT Executive Committee approved a membership rate increase effective July 1, 1994.

The Increase

The following membership rates have been approved by the USATT Executive Committee and will be effective as of July 1:

* Adult 1 Yr. $25.00
  3 Yr. $60.00
* Junior 1 Yr. (w/Mag) $8.00
  1 Yr./w/Mag) $12.00
* Family 1 Yr. $45.00
* Table Tennis Today Magazine Domestic $20.00

Please Note that the two year adult membership has been eliminated.

As a special consideration to long time members:
A) Anyone who signs up for a three year membership will pay $60, which is $20 per year. Therefore, they keep the $20 a year rate
B) The rate increase will be effective July 1 after the U.S. Open giving many people the opportunity to renew at the old rate.

Why An Increase?
1. From 1984 to 1994, cost of living has increased dramatically. For example, the cost of food, service, and household operations have risen 44 percent.
2. Mailing costs have doubled over the past 10 years. First Class Postal Rates, the primary method of mailing Executive Committee election ballots, membership cards and other membership material, have increased from $0.22 to $0.25 over the past ten years. Another postal rate increase from $.29 to $0.32 is expected in the year 1995. Now that there are more registered members and with escalating postal increases, projected costs for 1994 mail is $31,000.
3. Other variable expenses such as copy, printing, telephone and supplies have also increased since 1984. For instance, minimal printing costs have increased 400 percent from $5,900 in 1984 to over $51,000 projected for 1994. USATT prints the following member publications:
   - Table Tennis Today
   - Instructor’s Guide to Table Tennis
   - Club Handbook
   - Tournament Guide
   - Tournament Souvenir Programs
   - Official Rules
   - Other Pertinent Information

4. USA Table Tennis pays $35,300 per year to provide headquarters and affiliated clubs with liability insurance. USATT provides insurance to clubs at no additional cost in order to prevent club directors from having to obtain cost prohibitive liability insurance on their own.

Service

Membership fees are “recycled” at USATT Headquarters so that you, our members and clubs, may reap the benefits. Generated revenue is spent specifically on the following:

* Providing members with the latest information on the sport of table tennis.
* Supplying members with adequate administrative support.
* Operating the national computerized ratings system.
* Covering the complete cost of both the U.S. Open and U.S. Nationals every year. These are two of the largest table tennis competitions in the U.S.
* Paying liability insurance for affiliated clubs and sponsored events.
* Providing forms and labels to clubs upon request.
* Providing a 1-800 number for membership information.
* Publishing bi-monthly magazine.
* Sanctioning tournaments.
* Assisting the development of junior and grassroots programs.

The ANAHEIM HILTON BONUS PACKAGE
by Andrea Stigleman

Many athletes planning to participate in the U.S. Open believe the price of $75 a night at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers is a little too high to pay for lodging while in California, and are seeking shelter elsewhere. Let us present two words regarding the Anaheim Hilton and Towers: Convenience and Bargain.

When you’re playing in a tournament, the last thing any competitor wants to worry about is tidiness to the tournament. The Anaheim Hilton is the closest hotel to the Anaheim Convention Center. Aside from allowing you to avoid maneuvering around the constant traffic jam of Los Angeles, it will allow friends, family and children the freedom to come and go from the Hotel to the Convention Center as often as they like. The hotel contains a pool, workout facility and six different restaurants for your travel companions to enjoy, especially while you’re sitting around watching other competitors on the center court. Everyday. (Remember, they may not LOVE it like you do)

Many people aren’t aware of the Anaheim Hilton’s four-star quality. They also aren’t aware that a normal room at the Anaheim Hilton costs approximately $150 per night. USATT members are being asked to pay only $75 per night, less than half the original cost. A family of four (as long as they are related) or two adults can all stay in the same room at the Hilton for that price. In the past we have been paying extra fees. What a bargain!

I would like to humorously remind you that you have relationships with people—the kind of relationships that are irrelevant. Invite them to this one. This tournament gives you the perfect situation to invite those that you love to enjoy a glamorous hotel for a bargain basement price and all the sites located conveniently nearby while still participating in your favorite sport! I’m sure that at some point you have sworn to never bring anyone along on these trips because past experiences have been something you’d rather forget. Not this tournament! The hotel is absolutely exquisite... and romantic. How does a second honeymoon sound?

Staying at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers will be well worth it. See you in June!

TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITED IN AAHPERD CONVENTION

During the 1994 American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) National Convention and Exposition, Newgy Industries and USA Table Tennis were selected to be one of the 1995 feature presenters of the National Schools Program from more than 1000 submitted proposals. The event was held in downtown Denver, Colorado April 12-16.

AAHPERD is known as one of the largest conventions to unite people and organizations that teach or promote healthy lifestyles and the need for physical activity for people of all ages. Approximately 200 exhibitors, ranging from the American Red Cross to Springfield College, participated in four days of over 400 "visionary" sessions, workshops, and presentations of programs and ideas.

"This is the elite place to present for physical education in the world," said Richard McAfee, Chairman of the National Schools Program. "We're going to be teaching professionals across the country how to start table tennis programs right here at the National Convention."

For the past four years, Newgy has attempted to have the National Schools Program selected as a feature presentation at the AAHPERD convention.

"Over the last few years, the growing success of the National Schools Program is beginning to gather national attention and the interest has increased to the level where we have been selected to make a major presentation," said McAfee. "This presentation may very well be a major milestone in our efforts to have table tennis recognized as a legitimate sport in school curriculums."

AAHPERD is made up of seven national organizations. They are: National Association for Sports and Physical Education; National Dance Association; American Association for Leisure and Recreation; Association for Research, Administration, Professional Councils and Societies, Association for the Advancement of Health Education, National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, and the Research Consortium.

The 1995 AAHPERD Convention will be held in Portland, Oregon.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

Since the implementation of ratings processing at USATT Headquarters, we’ve encountered situations where people who are not USATT members are playing in sanctioned tournaments.

USATT Bylaw 3.7.1 dictates that:
(Qualifications for entry. All entrants must have a valid membership as defined in by-law 2.2.1.)

Regulations require that we do not process ratings for any matches in which the player is a non-member or if his/her membership has expired. If this policy was adhered to there would be a delay in returning tournament results to the tournament director. It would also drastically affect those players who compete against non-members since their matches would not be calculated. Additionally, processing these "non-members" also requires staff time that has not been paid for. To date, USATT has been processing the ratings for those "non-members" as a service to current members to ensure result continuity.

Therefore, in fairness to "Dues-Paying" members,

On May 2 we will begin auditing the hosts for all non-members and expired members who participate in USATT sanctioned tournaments.

Please contact USATT headquarters if you have questions.

Can you imagine Newgy Industries and Harvard Sports, two challenge-


This match was one of many exhibitions the two companies performed before interested participants of the convention in order to promote table tennis programs in schools.

The AAHPERD Convention, held annually in various cities across the country, is considered to be the largest gathering of educators and companies associated with promoting healthy lifestyles and physical activity for people of all ages. Over 400 sessions, workshops and presentations were offered during the four day exposition to increase awareness of programs among people within the health and educational community.

USA Table Tennis would like to express its thanks to both Newgy Industries and Harvard Sports for all their efforts during the AAHPERD Convention and in keeping the schools programs alive.

Richard McAfee, Chairman of the National Schools Program, and Larry Thoman of Newgy, at AAHPERD.

May/June 1994
This issue's topic comes at the request of two players, Harry Ehrmantraut and Bill Guiffait. Bill asks, "How to play against long pips; what to do when they flip sides; what to do when they hit with the pips; and can spin serves do any damage to long pips players?"

Harry asks the opposing question, "How do you play with it and how can I hit harder with it?" I feel comfortable answering the former and will try to give some suggestions for the latter. Maybe National Team Member Derek May could add some additional tips in his Chop Talk now that he is back in the U.S. from a successful tour in Sweden.

Playing against long pips can be very frustrating to anyone. The ball often acts as if it had a mind of its own: jumping, floating, bitting and spinning on an imaginary axis. The better the long piper the more they can get out of the rubber. Before you go on there are two main types of long pips, one with a smooth pip top and the other with an unsmooth pip. Most players use the unsmooth pip because it allows for some creation of spin due to the unevenness of the top of the pip. This characteristic also allows for heavier tops and the ability to attack pushes quite effectively.

The biggest key to improving your result against this type of rubber is to play against it on a regular basis. Just as with lefties, the more time you spend competing with them the more comfortable you will become. When you run into a player with long pips and their rating is under 2000, they are usually using it to cover a weakness. It could be serve returns, a weak backhand or they simple want to slow the game down. Don't fall into the obvious trap and hit away from the stuff. Go right at it! Once your opponent realizes you are not intimidated by it they will try to be very aggressive with it. Stay the course. Keep forcing your shots into the long pips and wait for an easy pop-up. But, Sean when I hit my shots into that crazy material the ball goes into the net or off the end, how can you expect to consistently play shot after shot and to wait for this so-called easy pop-up?

Don't worry, I hear you and know the feeling. The first step is to become more aware of your spin, not your opponent's. Long pips needs spin to create its some-what unsteady returns. If you know exactly what type and how much spin your shot contains you are halfway there. Pay careful attention to your strokes and try, as difficult as it may sound, to disregard the strokes of your opponent, they will only fool you.

Scenario #1: You have a good underpin serve or push, and your long pip opponent pushes it back. Why does your following loop go off the end of the table? The reason is you treated your opponent's return as underpin instead of the no-spin return it was. Rule #1: Long pips likes to reverse or take off spin. In this case the underpin was neutralized and sent back with heavy spin. Looping no-spin as if it had underpin will surely send the ball off the end of the table. The adjustment that needs to be made is to cover the top of the ball when you loop (or to hit it flat) and to go straight through the ball without lifting up. This seems like it would send the ball into the net but it won't. As long as you generate adequate racket speed, you should be able to drive or hit the ball forcefully. The lower your underpin serve or push goes over the net the more difficult it will be for your opponent to make a low return. Looping or hitting a higher no-spin ball is much easier than a low one.

If the player is a relatively strong player, there is a chance they will get a racket on the ball and return your attack! Reduce their chances of doing so by attacking to the position on the table where they cross over from forehand to backhand, or hit at an extreme wide angle. If they manage to use their long pips to return your attack, there is an excellent chance that the shot you sent them will be returned with heavier underpin. You will then have two choices: simply push the ball back and get ready for another no-spin (or slight underpin return if they use an unsmooth long-pips) return, or (the better decision) try to loop this ball again.

Don't make a feeble loop attempt, remember the spin is based on your previous shot, not the stroke of your opponent. Lift and spin the ball over the net as if the net was at least 12 inches high instead of the actual 6 inches. If this one gets returned, understand that the spin is going to continue to increase each and every time it crosses the net if you topspin. That's why you sometimes see loopsers using their legs to lift themselves off the ground to lift underpin. At anytime you can push if the ball gets too heavy. However, by opening the face of your racket along with using your legs you should be able to loop enough to get that easy pop-up 1 mentioned earlier. When it occurs, it has heavy, heavy underpin. Smash forward and through the ball. Sometimes you'll need to aim off the end of the table to overtake the underpin. Smashes are the most difficult shot to return and this should end the point. Bunting a long-pip player this way takes a lot of energy and strength. If you are up for it, be prepared to sweat and to play long points.

Scenario #2: You serve sidespin and topspin into a long pips block and then proceed to hit the next ball in the net. The mistake was failing to realize that the spin got reversed, and even though they blocked it, it had some underpin. No problem, just do the same serve and get ready to spin the ball up and over the net. Refer to the previous strategy if you want to continue to loop or if you push (their return push has no-spin, right!) One big tip against long pips is to try to stay away from putting too much sidespin on your shots. This will cause your opponent's shots to jump more due to the bending of the pips. Personally, I like to use either topspin, chop or no-spin as my main server against long pips. The final tip is to serve with no-spin (try to disguise it as underpin) and to expect the pop-up immediately. This high ball will be different than the pop-up you created by looping repetitive shots; it has no-spin. Smash over and through this ball. The trick is to sneak this type of serve in after a few heavy ones. To serve with no-spin keep your wrist firm instead of loose and try to bump the ball over. Practice this with the same motion as your underpin and you'll reap big dividends.

Harry also asked if David Zhuang and Lily Yip use their long-pips to hit or to block. Today, most penholders use it to simply cover the non-playing side of their racket. Before shots could be hit with wood, but now those shots are illegal. David or Lily might return a serve or two with long pips during a match for deception, but that's about all. Also, if you want to be more aggressive get the long pips that are not smooth. When your opponent's push a return, try to block the ball with a slightly open rackets (this is sometimes called a bump and can be very effective).

To sum things up to beat the stuff: 1. understand your own spin, 2. don't be afraid to hit consecutive shots into the long pips. 3. your spin affects their return more than their stroke. 4. Keep sidespin to a minimum and 5. Use no-spin shots to create instant setups. Thanks again to the numerous others who send great questions, we'll get to them next time.

---

ITTF Athlete Advisory Board
by Sean O'Neill
ITTF Athlete Advisory Board
5-time U.S. Champion * 2-time Olympian

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You Are Under the Microscope
by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

Striving for high standards and quality of Table Tennis officials, the ITTF and the USATT are seeking ways and means to help those who are active in serving the sport. Yes there are exams and common standards to become an official, i.e. an umpire, but these alone may not be enough. Possession of these qualifications does not guarantee the ability to umpire or officiate successfully at a major competition. For this reason a system for the practical assessment of IU’s was instituted in 1989. Reports by ITTF observers on umpires at most major international competitions are collated by the Rules Committee, and are taken into account in the selection of officials for World title events. At the U.S. Open in 1993, Mal Anderson and Ruben Kaity conducted the ITTF evaluation of the officials at the tournament. At the World Championships in 1993 in Sweden, video cameras were used to videotape umpires.

In the same spirit of developing quality officials the USATT Officials Committee established a system of evaluation. At the U.S. Open in 1993, Tom Miller and Ruben Kaity conducted the ITTF evaluation, and at the Nationals in 1993, Tom Miller and Azmy Ibrahim carried out the task. In addition, all umpires who served at the tournament were asked to submit a report about the whole tournament to the Chairman of the Officials Committee, Y.C. Lee, within 30 days.

There are some differences between the goals of the ITTF assessment and the USATT evaluation. The Rules Committee of the ITTF is interested in selecting the most qualified officials to serve in World competitions. The USATT Officials Committee is trying to help the development and preparation of the U.S. officials to qualify for the ITTF standards. While the assessment of the ITTF is judgmental, the USATT evaluation is mainly trying to educate the officials and improve their performance. With that in mind, the USATT Officials Committee added a procedure of immediate feedback of the evaluation. Each umpire who was evaluated was given an oral feedback after the evaluation. Such an approach helped the umpire to improve his or her performance during the remaining matches of the tournament and hopefully in the future. In the same trend all the umpire’s reports about the tournament were summarized by the Officials Committee Chairman and sent to all officials who attended the tournament. By the end of the process each official has an idea about his or her performance, the suggestions, and ways and means to improve their future performance.

Several aspects are considered for the USATT evaluation. The following are the main points which are being observed. An umpire’s appearance is an indication of their respect for the sport. Besides the required uniform, attention is given to the umpire’s alertness and attentiveness while in the court, the professional attitude presented to all while on duty, and handling themselves properly in and out of the court. Site preparation and attendance is another area. Umpires are expected to arrive at the playing area at least 5 minutes prior to match time. Their job is to check the surroundings, the table, the net, the debris on the floor, and all other equipment necessary for the match. Once the players arrive, the umpire has to check their clothing, numbers, rackets, selection of the balls, serve and side, and start the match by the proper announcements. During the game, the umpire is in charge of timing the practice period, intervals, towelering, retrieving the ball, and the game itself for the possibility of implementing the expedite rule. Umpires also have to perform the score calling, hand signals, observe the serve, the behavior of the players and the coaches, give warnings, apply the penalty system, and display the adequate cards. At the end of the match the umpire has to announce the results, collect all the equipment, re-set the indicators and prepare the court for the following match. During all the performances an umpire has to communicate successfully with the referee when necessary.

I would like to conclude by appealing to the players, coaches, parents, friends, and guests to help the officials to do their job adequately. Please remember that the officials are there to perform their job according to the rules of the game, to the best of their abilities, and they are being observed and evaluated at the same time. Let us help each other to create the best environment which facilitates the best performance of the sport.
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JUNE, 14-19
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PITTSBURGH, PA
JULY, 12-17
THIS 6 DAY CAMP WILL BE HELD AGAIN AT SOUTH PARK TABLE TENNIS CLUB. DAILY SCHEDULE: 9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. ALSO SOME MATCH PLAY AT NIGHT IS OPTIONAL.

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A MODEST PROPOSAL
To the Editor:

We have heard and read about making the game of table tennis more interesting to both the spectator and the player. Various proposals have been bandied about, we tried out the "big ball" as a non-rating event at tournaments for a couple of years, but it wasn't universally loved. Here's a suggestion that could be tried as a non-rating event and evaluated by USATT for possible use. After reading Dave Sakai's suggestion for a new rating scheme, I figure the floor is open to new ideas.

Imagine a service followed by four good returns—that's a point. Then, the server strikes the ball four times. At that moment the player winning that rally would get two points instead of one. This would (a) produce longer play and more interesting rallies; (b) slow the game down a little, as opposed to the 2.4 strokes (or whatever the current average is per rally); and (c) give each player more incentive to work for the one good shot.

How would it be administered? In a match where there is a referee, he or she could count...one, two, three, four...and then both players would know they were in a two-point rally. In a match without a referee, it would be the server's obligation to count so that both players would be aware of the point value of that rally.

But wait, you say, won't this disrupt keeping track of who is serving, when some serves eventually result in two points and some in only one? Maybe at first, but table tennis players are a resilient and innovative lot and would soon work it out.

There is ample precedent in other sports—for "incentive points"—the 21-foot three-pointer in basketball; the two-point conversion in American football, which may well be extended to the NFL in the near future. I am not promoting the above concept for immediate adoption by USATT, only that it is something to think about and possibly try. I do hope, however, that it does not stir up as great a ruckus as Dave Sakai's rating scheme!

John G. Yos
Indian Head, MD
301-753-6208 (b), 800-548-4007 (w)

Dear Editor,

Azmy Ibrahim (before whom the ITTF should grovel for misspelling his name) notes in the March/April issue that in some countries one can see concrete tables. Why not here? I ask? We'll work on my mountainside, where the wind often reaches 30 knots. And not, perhaps, on the frigid slopes of Alaska. But areas around where outdoor play is often quite feasible.

A few years ago I did a study of concrete tables, and found some that looked identical to wooden ones. Furthermore, they played like wood. If you fancy making one or a dozen, and would like some advice, call me at 603-495-3908, or fax to 603-495-1093. Perhaps you can persuade your local park-and-recreation department to join you in the venture.

Rufford Harrison
Chairman, ITTF Equipment Committee

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JCC—W Bloomfield MI

Location: Jewish Community Center on the corner of Maple (15 Mile Rd) and Drake.

Equipment: 21 Butterfly tables. Yellow Butterfly balls.

Time: Round robins begin 8AM.

Director: Cody Jones (810) 360-5901
daytime. (810) 360-5903 evenings.

Referee: Joseph Helfand

Fees: $33 (includes rating fee) payable to
Cody Jones, 3050 Union Lake Rd 8H,
Commerce MI 48382.

Entry deadline: Sunday, August 14.

Format: Round robin groups of 9-10 players. Top ten rated players are in group A, players rated 11 through 20 in group B, etc.

Ratings: Ratings from July/August 1994 issue of Table Tennis Today will be used.

Directions: From I-696 go N on Orchard Lk and W on Maple to Drake.

AWARDS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>$600</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>$150</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Other Groups

1st $100

Name: _____________________________ Phone: _____________________________
Rating: 1________ 2________ 3________ 4________ 5________ 6________ 7________ 8________ 9________ 10________
Street: _____________________________ City: _____________________________
State/Zip: _____________________________
USAATT expiration: ______________

Tournament T-shirt $10 each with entry. (Limited quantities at tournament for $12)
Quantity_ Small _ Medium _ Large _ Extra Large

USATT membership fee if not current:

Adult: $20—1 yr, $35—2 yr, $50—3 yr
Junior: $10—1 yr w Table Tennis Today, $5—1 yr w/o

Event fee (includes $3 rating fee) $33

Total enclosed

I agree to abide by all decisions of the tournament officials and assume full responsibility for any injury or property loss I may incur. Signature (parent if minor)

Sincerely,

James Hall
Fayetteville, ARK.

Editor's Note—For use in your decision-making, the cost of the magazine comes to about $6/year/per member, after taking into account both costs and advertising revenue.
Gentle Readers,

I'm writing in response to the recent clamor to modify our current rating system. I think we have a fine, well-run system, and it spooks me to hear all this talk about tinkering with it. I've returned to the sport after a 15-year absence, and I have found our present rating system to be a great motivating factor in my continuing to play. There are many reasons—here are a couple:

1) It makes every match important. Even if you are not one of the fortunate few who win or place in an event, you can come away from a tournament feeling very satisfied, having won something in the form of rating points, even if it's only 2 or 3. There's something on the line every time, which makes every match a battle.

2) You get immediate feedback on your progress (or lack thereof). I disagree strongly with the idea of taking match results from a 3 or 4 month period and determining ratings from those results on a quarterly or tri-yearly basis. One of the biggest (if not chief) advantages and motivators in our current system is that you get immediate positive reinforcement for doing well. I don't want to have to wait 4 months to be rewarded for an accomplishment or to wonder how painful a loss is going to be, and I doubt anyone else in our membership does either. This is America, and we like instant gratification in these here parts. One of my biggest training motivators is knowing that if I work hard, I might, in the space of a day, jump up 200 points. Why deny us that overnight rags-to-riches possibility? And taking results over an arbitrary long time period doesn't guarantee any more accuracy than taking them over the very short-term; in fact, the opposite may occur. A player might do very badly at the beginning and majority of a time period and then much improve late in the period. He would then be very under-rated compared to his actual ability, with no prospect for correcting this inaccuracy for another 4 months! No, I think the current system gives a much more accurate and up-to-date reflection of a player's ability. And if that player turns in an uncharacteristically poor (or good) performance under our current system? Then the very "volatility" in our system that Robert Mayer and Dave Sakai decry would benefit from being allowed the opportunity to play in a tournament setting without the rating pressure, a sort of a "dress-rehearsal" for the real thing; and those who are a little rusty wouldn't have to bypass a tournament for fear of risking hard-won points.

The players would have to claim this designation before any play commenced and, of course, could not change their mind during the tournament. Also, I think a "no-rating" player should not be allowed to collect prize money in any singles event (besides handicap), lest the top-seeded players in a tournament use this new designation as an upset dodge, not allowing lesser-rated players a shot at their points. Finally, a limit should probably be set on how many times/year someone could claim this designation (say, once or twice) so that one's rating doesn't become grossly inaccurate and adversely affect seedings, and to give the more neurotic among us a gentle shove out of the shell.

Those are my proposals. I think they will have little adverse effect because they address directly the needs of the minorities without affecting the rest of us much. Obviously, large numbers of players choosing the "no-rating" designation would be undesirable, but I just don't think that's going to happen. The key in making it work with a minimum of adverse effects will be in what limitations are put on it.

James Hall
Fayetteville, Arkansas

---

This summer we've got you covered

B Case
Nylon racket case with protective foam padding and front zipper pouch. Colors: black, royal, purple.

Fellow Case
Soft PVC case which holds two rackets & 4 balls. Colors: black, silver, red, navy

Tour Bag
Heavy duty 50 lb. medium size bag w/ 2 end pockets & side pouch for single racket case. Black w/ royal trim. Size: 22" x 11" x 11 1/2".

Tour-DX Bag
Large heavy duty bag w/ main storage area accessed by double zip opening and 2 end compartments. Black w/ purple trim. Size: 26" x 11" x 13".

May/June 1994
With every match a best of three (even the Open final), and with so many big titles with prize money at stake, the Hall of Fame Open is an annual pressure cooker for top players. On the other hand, one can lose in one money event and still go home with checkouts from multiple events.

For the men, there were three “big” events—the Open (for all players); the National Allstar Men, for those who are Olympic-eligible; and the All-American Men’s Singles, for citizens only. There was also Men’s Doubles, won by Dan Seemiller & Derek May over New Yorkers turned Pennsylvanians turned Marylanders turned Pennsylvanians turned who knows where next Barney J. Reed & David Fernandez (the 2250 winner here), who’d upset Jim Butler & Brian Masters in the semifinals.

The women also had three events—the Open, the National Allstar Women, and the All-American Women. The turnout, unfortunately, was not very good, and Women’s Doubles had to be canceled. Mixed doubles was won by Lily Yip & Barry Dattel over Brian Pace & Andrea Butler.

The tournament’s most famous event (or at least most fun)–the Parade of Champions—started at 7 pm on Friday, with something like half the tournament entries in it. Each match in this event is a single game, and you don’t have to win by 2. Jim Butler loop killed Dan Seemiller’s serve at 2-1 in the semifinals to make the final, while Barry Dattel won 3-0 in the other semis against Christian O’Neill.

But USATT President took quite a bit of kidding.) Could there be commercial prospects in this? Men’s Allstar

There were 29 competitors in this event, which meant that there would be 28 matches in the event. 26 of them were 2-0 wins, with the other two both 19-18 and 19-18. But Sean matches him, making a spectacular countertop, and then smashing Brian’s loop to score two in a row, 19-18. Sean loops an edge ball, and But USATT President took quite a bit of ribbing when he showed up with his own Nike’s to compete against Sean’s Reeboks. “(So unpresidential!” he was kidded.) Could there be commercial prospects in this?

Men’s Allstar Final

Cheng Yinghua vs Jim Butler

The final, like all other matches in the Hall of Fame Open, was best of three. Jim Butler served with a 1-0 lead and it’s David Zhuang 1, 2, 3 deucing it up—including a great counter-smashing point at 20-17. At 20-20, Jim wins two quick ones, and he’s into the final, 20 & 20.

Cheng Yinghua vs Sean O’Neill

Two weeks before in the semifinals of another tournament, Sean had battled Cheng to deuce in the fourth battle before going down. Now Sean came out against Cheng again with reckless abandon, using his point-winning forehand to end the rallies before Cheng could take control with his all-around looping & blocking game. But Cheng managed to hold him off in the first, 21-18.

In the second, as Sean puts it, he did better against Cheng then his previous round opponent had done against Sean—21-3 Cheng. ‘Nuff said.

Cheng Yinghua and Jim Butler square off in the National Allstar Final. They also played in the Open final, with Cheng winning both times.

Jim Butler, David serves with a 20-17 lead in the first. But 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and first game to Jim Butler, 22-20.

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Jim Butler vs. Sean O’Neill

Jim Butler of Fidal jumped off to a quick 9-4 lead in the first, and expanded it to 14-7 in winning the first game 21-13. He seems to be using a longer stroke when he loops, which helps him when he’s counterlooping or loop killing, but gives him trouble when he’s rushed—but he never seemed rushed this game.

“It's not intentionally longer,” said Jim later, “but it might be. I’ve changed it, and it's a better shot now.”

In the second, Sean’s loop kill comes alive as he leads 13-11. But in quick succession, Jim runs off eight in a row to go up 19-13, and quickly wins the title and $500, at 13 & 15. Said Sean afterward, “I have a new serve that Jim had trouble with—but I didn’t feel comfortable following the serve up, and so had to stop using it.”

**All-American Women**

With Virginia Sung not eligible (not yet a citizen), the All-American women’s event became an All-Lily event as she easily won the event, defeating Augusta’s Andrea Butler in the final at 13 & 5.

**Open Singles**

Most of the top players in the event were told in advance that whoever won the open here would be on the cover of the May/June TT Today. Forget the title, the money—now they had something to play for! Since Cheng had swept both the Open and the Allstar event at the Chinese New Year tournament in California a few weeks before, and had already won the Allstar event here, it would be ironic if someone else took the cover by winning the open here.

**8ths**

The big upset of the Open was Roland Rittmaster’s deuce & deuce victory over Todd Sweeris—both games from down 17-10. So Roland rolled into the 8ths to meet up with Japanese-turned-Marylander Masamichi Kubo, who hasn’t met a ball he could’t loop. After Roland won the first, 21-8, Kubo figured out those serves of Roland’s, and won the next two at 17 & 19. Into the quarters for Kubo, who would later win 4600 doubles with Dave Sakai over Barry Datell & Dell Sweeris.

Jim Butler ran into trouble here early against Qiumars Hedayatian, the man with legs thicker than most people’s waist. (Next year’s special Hall of Fame event: the leg press challenge between Qiumars and Brian Pace.) After Qiumars won the first, 21-19, thoughts of Qiumars on the cover instead of himself must have spurred Jim on as he won the next two at 10 & 13—but not before Qiumars led 4-3 in the third.

Dan Seemiller also went down this round, to Anderson #1 Nigel Christopher, at 11, -16, 19.

The best match of this round, however, had to be World War III between Sean O’Neill and Brian Masters, in their third match-up this tournament. Sean had won the first time; Brian had “won” the second time, only to have collaborated with Sean in blowing it; so Sean was now going for a three-peat, as he put it.

Brian won the first, 21-12. Sean quickly ran up a 15-6 lead in the second in winning the second, 21-16. Between games, Brian banged his head on the table (did all-star wrestling start this way?), and then put his shirt on backwards, button-down collar in back. This put the logos on the back on the front, which made the shirt illegal, so Brian put it back on correctly, and began the third.

Up 19-15 in the third, it looks like Brian’s finally mastered Sean. Brian’s looping relentlessly, and his jabbing, angled off blocks are wearing down Sean. But now, just like the previous match earlier, Brian starts to make mistakes—he misses his own serve, pushes into the net, misses an easy block, then whiffs a loop—almost a video replay of how he’d blown his earlier match against Sean! 19-all! Brian misses another easy block, and Sean’s up match point, 20-19. But Brian finds the table with his loop, and Sean blocks off, deuce.

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Quarterfinals

Cheng defeated Christopher at 18 & 14; Cheng one else got more than 16 in losing. Zhuang closed game. Nigel Christopher lost the O'Neill, -12, 16, 20.

Match to Sean's serve into the net, Sean has pulled to get match point. When Brian pushes pulls off a ferocious winning counterloop shots back from the barriers—then and then.

Semifinals

O'Neill defeated Mexico's Guillermo back. and systematically begins to come Cheng Yinghua vs. Sean O'Neill

Derek May at 16 & 13. Munoz at 8 & 13; and Jim Butler defeated Yinghua, and stretched it to 7-0 before Cheng returns short, and Sean flip-kills a "Serve short!" Whereupon he serves short, "Why am I serving long?" Sean yells.

The third also looks pretty straightforward as David takes leads of 5-0, 7-2, 10-4, 12-7. Jim scores four in a row here to pull to 12-11. But a moment later, David has hit and blocked his way to an 18-12 lead, with Jim to serve.

Jim serves & loops; serve and backhand hits; and in general serve and follows relentlessly in scoring five straight on his serve to pull to within one. David now serves, still up 18-17.

Up 19-18, David serves and smashes to go up 20-18 match point. He then serve and smashes again—only this time Cheng loops the smash back, and David misses the return, 20-19. When Jim hits the next serve down the line to David's wide forehand, catching David going the wrong way, David hits it weakly into the net, 20-20. But only for a few minutes, and then he's back to his normal cheerful self.

Final

Cheng Yinghua vs. Jim Butler

"Aren't you even going to warm up?" asked one of his confederates to Cheng. "No, just rest," answered Cheng, who continues to defy conventional wisdom by winning without practicing, or even warming up. However, he's got 20 years training in China under his sleeve, maybe he's had enough training?

Down 8-7, Jim Butler scores five in a row on his serve to go up 12-8 in the first game. He continues to lead at 15-10, but Cheng gradually comes back. Cheng is very forehand aggressive, but Jim's backhand hitting is giving Cheng trouble when he backhand loops.

Cheng pulls to 19-all, but Jim gets the ad with net-ticking loop. When Cheng whiffs a backhand loop against one of Jim's twisting, sidespin serves, it's game one to Jim Butler, 21-19.

Cheng pulls to a 7-3 lead in the second, but Jim wins a series of counterlooping points to pull to within one, 9-8. Jim seems able to stay out of these type of points except when he gets the initiative, so over and over it's Jim looping hard while Cheng retrieves at the barriers—and over and over Jim wins the points.

From this point on, Cheng seems to change his strategy. He stays at the table,
His Editorship needed all the paddle he could hold in making the second round of the Parade of Champions.

looping balls off the bounce or blocking, and he attacks over and over to Jim’s forehand. The strategy pays off as he pulls away this game to win 21-15.

The third is the same as Cheng keeps up an onslaught attack at Jim’s forehand, and repeatedly counterloops winners off the bounce. Down 13-7, Jim hits off, the ball hits Cheng’s paddle, and Jim reflexively raises his hand as if to say, “sorry.” Only, of course, the paddle point rule is no longer in effect, and so Jim laughs at his mistake along with the crowd. 14-7 Cheng, and soon Cheng wins the game, the match, -19, 15, 14, the title, and $600.

Said Jim Butler, “After the first game, he (Cheng) kept turning it up, raising his level of play, and I just couldn’t raise mine.” He shook his head, and continued. “I made too many mistakes, and my legs started to get tired, and then everything started to go.”

Junior Events

There were quite a few junior players in this tournament, many from Florida and Tennessee making the trip. Hopefully, this trend will continue.

The under 18 event was dominated by Marty Prager-coached players from Florida, with all four semifinalists from his club. (Makes it easy on the coach!) Anthony Torino defeated 10-year-old Keith Alban in one semifinal at 18 & 15 while 12-year-old T.J. Beebe downed 13-year-old Michael Loiy at 18 & 21 in the other.

In the final, Anthony held off T.J.’s last-minute charge to win the first 23-21, and won the second at 16 to win the title.

Lock Sourintheone (one of four Sourintheone brothers here!) dominated the under 14’s, winning five straight matches 2-0 in winning the title over Sean O’Neill-coached 11-year-old Michael Squires at 13 & 15. Michael had defeated another Sourintheone, Noi, in the semis at 14 & 22, while Lock had taken down Ed Stephenson at 8 & 12. (It was about this time that a big fight broke out in the stands—and yes, the two players involved were thrown out of the tournament.) Noi would later win the regional under 12 event, while still another Sourintheone—Jay—would take the under 16’s. Other regional junior champions were Thomas Plaisted, the under 18 winner here, and Geoffries Alken in the under 14’s.

Senior Events

Dan Seemiller completely dominated the senior events, winning three—the over 30’s, the over 40’s, and the National Allstar Seniors (over 40). (Technically, he’s not quite 40 yet, just 39, but all ages are as of December 31.) As Dell Sweeris told Dave Sakai (both of whom went down to Dan in the over 40’s), “It’s just a few more years before we’ll be 50.” And, of course, Dan only has three more years before Cheng Yinghua becomes a senior—and two more before Jack Huang. But for now, it was Dan over Brian Masters in the over 30’s (with Cheng resting for the Open); over Dave Sakai in the over 40’s; and over Augusta coach Xin Peng in the National Allstar Seniors.

Dan, in fact, would win five events here—besides the senior events, he won open doubles (with Derek May) and the 2550’s over Nigel Christopher, who he’d lost to in the Open. And, of course, he was one point away from making the final of the Parade of Champions.

In the over 50’s, it was Houshang Bozorgzadeh (camera in one hand, hard rubber racket in the other) over flamboyant tournament director and defending champion, Pete May, -20, 14, 19.

(Results next page)
"AUGUSTA" a tradition in United States Table Tennis

HOME of the 5 time Collegiate Team Champions Augusta College Jaguars and Current U.S. Champion Jimmy Butler.

HOME of 1989 and 1991 U.S. Collegiate Singles Champions Scott Butler and Derek May.


HOME of the Original $30,000 Regency Mall Table Tennis Jamboree and the annual Hall of Fame Championships.

**Schedule of Events**

**Augusta College Table Tennis Club**

**Summer 94 Training Squad**

<table>
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**Butler's Breakfast Club and Thursday Night Senior Club**

Training at 6am and 7pm respectively. Supervised by:
Ray Heath: 706-855-5614

**Busch Jackson's 1 Table Emporium**

Noon and afternoon casual play for ladies.

<table>
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<td>John Timmins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Stephenson</td>
<td>2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noi Sourinthone</td>
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**Annual Thanksgiving Detroit Senior Cup**

Training at 6am and 7pm, respectively, supervised by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Derek May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Cooper</td>
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**A Five Star hats off from the following: Power Poon-The "Dean" of America's Tournament Directors.
Terry Timmins-Responsible for the fantastic Orange Coast Club and Tournament.
Ludie St. Georg-The driving force behind the"the" Tournament, The Detroit Teams, Macau of U.S. Table Tennis.
John Groves—The brains behind the scenes of the highly successful Augustia College program.
Richard McAfoe-The great organizer and Director of the pioneer program in college Table Tennis, Anderson.
Andrei Lue-Spearhead of the annual Table Tennis Championship at Princeton.
Marty Prager-The Miami coaching guru who gives us new rising juniors every year.

**Hall of Fame Results:**


Open Doubles—Final: Sung d. Brian Masters, 7,12; SF: Sung d. Barry Dattel, 3-1; Butler d. Christine Reilly, 3-0.

Open Mixed Doubles—Final: Cheng Yinghuida d. Rafael Reif, 3-1; SF: Cheng d. Barry Dattel, 3-1; Butler d. Christine Reilly, 3-0.


Open Mixed Doubles—Final: Young Lee d. Rafael Reif, 3-1; SF: Young Lee d. Barry Dattel, 3-1; Butler d. Christine Reilly, 3-0.

Open Women’s Doubles—Final: Cheng Yinghuida d. Rafael Reif, 3-1; SF: Cheng d. Barry Dattel, 3-1; Butler d. Christine Reilly, 3-0.


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Terry Timmins-Responsible for the fantastic Orange Coast Club and Tournament.
Ludie St. Georg-The driving force behind the"the" Tournament, The Detroit Teams, Macau of U.S. Table Tennis.
John Groves—The brains behind the scenes of the highly successful Augustia College program.
Richard McAfoe-The great organizer and Director of the pioneer program in college Table Tennis, Anderson.
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Marty Prager-The Miami coaching guru who gives us new rising juniors every year.
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This four-time World Champion and internationally-renowned coach will offer Stiga Table Tennis Clinics to any participant in the U.S. Open. The cost is $60 and space is limited. He will also make scheduled appearances at the Stiga booth.

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Escalade Sports
With fans shouting their approval of every blistering point, 1993 U.S. Open winner Cheng Yinghua successfully defended his Chinese New Year title by defeating National Champion Jim Butler. The newly ITTF eligible Cheng also won the American All Star event over David Zhuang while Amy Feng demonstrated why she’s the National Champion by defeating former European champ Anita Zakaryan in the Women’s Open final and besting Wei Wang in the American All Star Women’s final.

The 36-year-old Cheng proved his reputation for steadiness with a come-from-behind win over Butler in the first game, 23-21, dropping the second game, 21-18, and then holding the Swedish-trained Butler to 10 points in the final two games. Cheng also claimed the Open Doubles title, with help from partner Dan Seemiller, defeating Xu Huazhang and Amy Feng at 16, 15. Seemiller won the Senior American All Star title by defeating Costa Mesan and 1979 National Champion Attila Malek, 13, 14.

This year’s Chinese New Year International & American All Star Championship drew 220 players from around the country and Mexico to compete in 23 events for over $8,000 in cash and prizes. It is the first time for Junior Regional events with the winners being invited to train at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Junior Regional winners are: Mark Liu, Under 15 Boys; John Ling Cheng, Under 15 Girls; Andrew Do, Under 16 Boys; Philip Lim, Under 15 Boys; Michelle Do, Under 14 Girls; Gabe Gabriel, Under 12 Boys; and Jeanie Cheng, Under 12 Girls.

The organizers of this year’s event wish to thank its sponsors and workers. They are Dr. Jiing T. Wang, Pacific Auto Co., USATT, SCTTA, Chinatown TTC, Orange Coast TTC, Associated Students of OCC, NITTAKU, referee Dr. Azmy Ibrahim, desk director Dr. Julius Margolis, computer consultant Dr. Ichiro Hashimoto, and all of the regular crew. We all look forward to the U.S. Open in Anaheim, California this June.

Open Singles: Cheng Yinghua d. Jim Butler, 21-18, 10, 10; SF: Butler d. David Zhuang, 17, -12, 8, 20; Cheng d. Xu Huazhang, 14, 17, 11.


Women’s Singles: Amy Feng d. Anita Zakaryan, 7, 11.

American Women All Stars: Amy Feng d. Wei Wang, 15, 17, -9, 15.


Sr. All Stars: Dan Seemiller d. Attila Malek, 13, 14.

Esquires Singles: Howard Grossman d. Lloyd McQueen, 11, 14, 13.

U2000: Ramin Samari d. Chaiyapho Choptaeng, 14, 11, 16.

U2300: David Chiu d. Ralph Muramoto, 15, 17, -16, 16.

Winners: SC KHAC DUNG LE d. HENG HO, 14, 15.


U1900: Suotmaa d. Ralph Muramoto, 15, 18, 16.

U1500: F. Bince d. Chang, -18, 18, 12.


Under 18 Boys: Mark Liu.


Under 16 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 15 Girls: Michelle Do.


U1300 Doubles: Quach/Le d. Sierra/Valiblancav, 16, 13.

U1200: Archibald Curtis d. Jim Terry, 15, 22.


U1000: Scott Malek 16, 13.

U800: Mark Liu.

U700: Girl.

U600: Boy.

U500: Boy.

U400: Boy.

U300: Boy.

U200: Girl.

U100: Girl.

Under 12 Boys: Mark Liu.

Under 12 Girls: Michelle Do.

Under 11 Boys: Andrew Do.


Under 10 Boys: Gabe Gabriel.

Under 10 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 9 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 9 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 8 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 8 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 7 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 7 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 6 Boys: Andrew Do.


Under 5 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 5 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 4 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 4 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 3 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 3 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 2 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 2 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

Under 1 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 1 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

U3000 Doubles: Quach/Le d. Sierra/Valiblancav.

The newly ITTF eligible Cheng also won the U.S. National title by defeating former European champ Anita Zakaryan in the Women’s Open final and besting Wei Wang in the American All Star Women’s final.

Competitors at the Chinese New Year Open, l-r: Open Finalist Jim Butler; Women’s Singles & American Allstar Women’s Singles Champion Amy Feng; Open Singles & American All Star Men’s Singles Champion Cheng Yinghua (back); Hostess & Competitor Kitty Irvine; Herson Go (back); and Open Semifinalist Huazhang Xu.

U1500: F. Bince d. Chang, -18, 18, 12.


U1300: Gene Chiu d. Arnoldo Castro, 12, 15.

U1200: Archibald Curtis d. Jim Terry, 15, 22.


Unrated: Khac Dung Le d. Heng Ho, 14, 15.

Under 18 Boys: Mark Liu.


Under 16 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 15 Girls: Michelle Do.


U3000 Doubles: Quach/Le d. Sierra/Valiblancav.

U1500: F. Bince d. Chang, -18, 18, 12.


U1300: Gene Chiu d. Arnoldo Castro, 12, 15.

U1200: Archibald Curtis d. Jim Terry, 15, 22.


Unrated: Khac Dung Le d. Heng Ho, 14, 15.

Under 18 Boys: Mark Liu.


Under 16 Boys: Andrew Do.

Under 15 Girls: Michelle Do.


Under 13 Girls: Andrew Do.

Under 12 Boys: Gabe Gabriel.

Under 12 Girls: Jeanie Cheng.

U3000 Doubles: Quach/Le d. Sierra/Valiblancav.

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Table Tennis Today
SENIOR TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT (Age 50 and over)

Held in conjunction with the annual HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES
St. George, Utah – October 18-21, 1994

EVENTS:

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Rated Singles

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FACILITY:
To be announced later.

EQUIPMENT:
Stiga tables, nets and barriers; Nittaku orange balls; scorers and umpire tables at each playing site.

HOUSING:
There are many fine motels and hotels in the area and information on them will be included in your registration packet.

REGISTRATION FEE:
$59 to be received by DEADLINE of September 20. If received by August 20, you may take a $10 discount and pay only $49. There is also a $5 fee to cover ratings, etc. The general registration fee includes a participant’s shirt, welcoming banquet, welcoming ceremonies, official program, identification badge, HWSG souvenir, gold, silver or bronze medals, awards ceremonies, banquet and an official results booklet, mailed afterwards, listing all the winners in all events.

WOMEN NEEDED:
This is the only USATT sanctioned event that has so many events for women over 50. Men in the past have outnumbered the women about 3 to 1. So more women are needed, especially for the mixed doubles (a fun event).

FOR SPECIFIC TABLE TENNIS INFORMATION:
Call either of the directors.

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801/373-8009

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801/628-1851

John Garnett
Chief Umpire
719/576-7365

You must play in your age group, but you can play in doubles below your age group if your partner is in that age group. If you need a partner, put “needed” on the application and we will do our best to get you a partner. Age is considered your age as of 12/31/94.

FORMAT:
All matches will be 2 out of 3 games. The age group singles events will start out as round robin (probably 4 in a group) and the winners will advance to a single elimination. All other events will be single elimination. USATT rules apply.

AWARDS:
The top three winners in each event will be awarded Olympic-type medals of gold, silver and bronze.

Bernie Bukiet, Sylvia Wunderli, Tybie Sommer and John Romney.
“THIS IS YOUR LIFE, GEORGE NISSEN”  
by Houshang Bozorgzadeh

It was an evening to remember, the surprise birthday party for George Nissen on the occasion of his 80th at Treasure Island Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 3, 1994.

The party was a tremendous undertaking and an artistic success as George’s daughter, Diane, and his wife, Annie, were able to keep the event a secret up until the last minute. In attendance were nearly 120 guests, including five World Champions in gymnastics and trampoline, plus national coaches, all friends of George. This reporter was honored and privileged to represent the USTTA at the fete.

Among George Nissen’s many interests has been that of table tennis and he has touched our game in so many positive ways over the years. He sponsored no fewer than 14 Nissens Open Table Tennis Championships, these held either in Cedar Rapids or Cedar Falls, Iowa. Dana Seemiller is something of a record holder in that competition, having won the Nissen title eleven times.

Then there were the years when he would help clothe our World’s team in street attire. Of course, he was a pioneer in manufacturing plants in the U.S. and Mexico. (Sweden Table Tennis AB = Stiga & Randa)

GROUP PURCHASES SWEDEN

The Bandstigen family of Sweden has earlier.

May he continue doing them into the 21st century.

April 1994

USA Table Tennis Executive Committee Meeting

February 25-27, 1994

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

MOTION SYNOPSIS

MOTION #1: TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION PASSED 9-0-0.

MOTION #2: MOVE TO ADOPT MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE, PER PROPOSAL, DELETING 2 YEAR MEMBERSHIP FEE AND 1 YEAR MEMBERSHIP AT PRESENT TIME, WITH THE STIPULATION THAT A PORTION OF THE MONEYS FROM THE 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIPS BE SET ASIDE. 6-2-0

MOTION #3: TO ACCEPT TIM SIMMONS MEDIA PROPOSAL FOR THE 1994 U.S. OPEN. 9-1-0

MOTION #4: MOVE TO ADOPT THE USOC ETHICS POLICY AS A PROTOTYPE FOR THE USATT ETHICS POLICY. 10-0-0

MOTION #5: TO ACCEPT THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR NATIONAL HEAD COACH AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR BOTH COACHES AS AMENDED. 9-1-0

MOTION #6: TO ACCEPT BOB ALLHOUSE AS TEAM LEADER THROUGH DECEMBER 1996. 7-0-3

MOTION #7: TO ACCEPT BOB FOX AS ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER THROUGH DECEMBER 1996. 10-0-1

May/June 1994
1994 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Birmingham, England
April, 1994

Men's Team Results


Women's Team Finishes


THE 1994 EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Multi-Camera Broadcast Quality Coverage...

Dramatic Slo-Motion Replays...

Complete Matches... Learn from Europe’s Greatest Stars!

Presents

THE 1994 EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tapc A - 120 minutes - Men’s Team Competition Final

From your court-side seat you’ll see the determined French team battle the World Champion Swedes to a cliffhanger finish in the deciding set in one of the most competitive and exciting team finals in recent memory. Waldner, Karlsson and Lind are matched against Gatien, Legout and Patrick Chila, who shows that his victory against Persson in the ’93 Worlds was no accident.

Tapc B - 120 minutes - Individual Competition

Men’s Final 1 & 2 Quarter-Finals, Women’s Semi-Finals

Jean-Michel Saive outplays young phenom Vladimir Samsonov and in the Quarter-Finals meets Chen Tinhao in a classic duel of a powerhouse attacker and acrobatic defender.

Quarter-finals excitement continues with Jan-Ove Waldner taking on the ever dangerous Jorg Rosskopf, and with Patrick Chila great down to the wire comeback against Jean-Michel Saive’s brother, Philips. In the Women’s Semi-Finals Marie Svensson overcomes defensive star, Jie Schopp while Gerdiene Keen and Nicole Struse counter in an intensely fought live game thriller.

Tapc C - 120 minutes - Individual Competition

Women’s Final, Men’s Semi-Finals

You’ll be awed by the new level of power spinning as the European men demonstrate why they dominated the ‘93 worlds.

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Jean-Michel Saive

THE 1994 EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

May/June 1994

Table Tennis Today 23
The Forehand Flip of Belgium's JEAN-MICHEL SAIVD

#1 Ranked Player in World ★ ★ ★ 1994 European Champion

by Wei Wang

USATT Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion
JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE'S FOREHAND FLIP

by Wei Wang

Jean-Michel Saive (pronounced “Save”, except the a-sound is more open, somewhat like in “man”) of Belgium is a phenomenon. He is tall, muscular, sometimes a little clumsy looking, but always a very effective player. Many of us first heard his name when he won the ’89 U.S. Open. He steadily worked his way up through the ranks, helped lead the Belgian team to a third place finish in the ’91 World Championships in Chiba, Japan, and then, at the World’s in Gothenburg last year, he made it to the Men’s Singles final, where he lost a tight match to Frenchman J.P. Gatien. Listed #1 in the April ’94 ITTF rankings, he finally won his first “big one” on April 4 when he clinched the title at the European Championships in Birmingham, England, defeating Olympic Champion J.O. Waldner of Sweden. As dominant as Waldner has been against the rest of the field, Saive has always given him a hard time. Their head to head record since 1989 is 18-17 in Waldner’s favor, but this year, Saive has improved most over the European average is his short ball game, traditionally a strong point of the Chinese technique. Due to his size and strength, Saive can play a short ball with authority and still be back for a counter looping rally in this ability makes him, in Waldner’s words, “one of the best receivers in the world...”

This picture sequence shows Saive attacking a short underspin serve that was placed to the middle of the table. Although you cannot make it out from this angle, his reaction is extremely wide relative to the table. His right foot is on the extension of the left side line, his feet are spread about twelve shoulder width, so he offers a completely open table.

The series picks up while the server (his team mate Andreas Podpinka) tosses the ball. Saive is rising from his low position. Just when the server contacts the ball, he always takes a very pronounced leap forward (0.1 - 0.4 sec). He doesn’t seem to care very much about the exact placement of the serve. Since he lands on his right leg after hopping, he can adjust the placement of his left leg according to the serve, and even if the serve is long to his forehand, he seems to find a way to make a strong shot, although he initially hopped forward toward the left corner of the table. In this case, since the ball is coming short to the middle, he first lands on the right foot, about 1.5” behind the end line, and then he places his left foot next to the table so his body is very close to the extension of the end line (0.6 sec). At the same time he raises his racket. Now he leans forward toward the ball and continues to raise the racket until his arm is almost parallel with the end line, just above it, the racket tip pointing in the horizontal direction of the end line (0.8 sec). The racket face is completely vertical. The ball comes into view on 0.7 b, and it seems that his racket has just reached the highest point of the “backswing” when the ball bounces on his side of the table. At 0.8 sec, he starts lowering the racket again, moving it forward into the path of the ball. He makes contact at 0.9 a. Between 0.7 b and 0.9 a, he leads the racket from about a foot above the table to a couple of inches over the surface and back up to the contact point. That means that at contact his racket is moving upwards at what looks like maybe a 45-degree angle. The initial raising of his racket (0.7 b) might just be for timing purposes. At contact, he leans his upper body forward even more, and he snaps his forearm forward and the wrist upward. This wrist motion becomes clear when you look at the index finger at 0.9 sec where it points down and at 1.0 sec where it points forward. That whipping, along with the forward motion of the arm and body, overpowers the underspin on the ball and ensures that the ball clears the net. The stroke itself is a very quick, intense motion, happening in barely over a tenth of a second and the remainder of the time is dedicated to first setting up for the shot correctly, timing the stroke and controlling the balance. When I spoke to him and his coach about this shot, he pointed out that it is important to fully commit to it. You must hold your upper body’s balance strongly while you are over the table and make the shot with authority.

This shot essentially stays the same for most short balls, whether it is a spinny serve or a dead drop shot during the rally. Unlike the traditional way to attack a short ball, which required an open racket to provide the necessary lift and thus was very sensitive to spin variation, Saive’s shot gets the lift from the grippiness of the rubber, so he can easily adjust for different amounts of spin by varying the amount by which he snaps his wrist upward.

Of course, this is not all there is to the shot. Your forward - backward footwork must be good if you want to take full advantage of it, but if you master this even just as a receive, you are likely to make your opponent think twice about trying to outplay you with a short ball.

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March 26-27
by Andre Liu

Princeton University’s Dillon Gymnasium was the site of table tennis’ version of “March Madness,” as seventeen teams representing thirteen different schools took part in the 1994 National Collegiate Team Championships. Over seventy individual athletes began Stage I competition on Saturday, March 26, their teams jostling for seeding positions in the Stage II single elimination showdown on Sunday. The format consisted of four person teams playing a best 4-of-7 team tie (four singles, one doubles, two singles). The initial groups were divided as follows:

Northern Division
Pennsylvania I, Princeton I, Brown, Western Maryland, New York University, Rutgers II

Central Division
Maryland, Harvard, Pennsylvania II, Princeton III, Westfield Club Juniors

Southern Division
Anderson College, Cornell, Rutgers I, Cooper Union, Princeton II, Edison High School

* Exhibition teams comprised of top local high school students.

For the first time, the tournament committee encouraged the participation of two high school teams on an exhibition basis (i.e. they played in the Stage I round robin, but did not advance in Stage II), in an effort both to expose these talented high school students to the best table tennis colleges, and to give the high schoolers a taste of the collegial atmosphere.

Top-seeded and last year’s champion, the Terrapins of the University of Maryland returned with arguably the best college team-an incredible testament to the depth of their program—considering that their ratings ranged from Nigel Christopher’s 2450 to Armeal Thompson’s 2100. The Terrapins included the most talented players in the nation—topping the competition, headlong into a collision with Anderson College, who did not drop a single match en route to the finals. In fact, the Trojans of Anderson held an unbelievable match record of 32-2 against opponents before the finals. Individually, the Anderson players won 64 out of 67 games (that’s a winning percentage of 96%, folks). Anderson defeated a much-improved Brown squad, and then overcame a solid Pennsylvania team, whose top two players, David Rosenzweig and Michael Grant, battled Anderson’s Jason St. George (All-Tournament Basketball King, with 28 points, 16 rebounds, 4 steals and 2 blocks, most of them coming against yours truly) and Robert Hyatt to the bitter end.

Meanwhile, the Terrapins dispatched Rutgers II in the quarterfinals and then Princeton I in the semis by identical scores of 4-0. The home team Tigers, who had given Maryland a little trouble last year in the Stage I round robin tie, couldn’t seem to rekindle the old magic after reaching the Final Four—or perhaps Maryland’s Coach Larry Hodges decided that being put up in student dormitories was cost-effective, but detrimental to his team’s level of play, considering the noise level of Saturday night at Princeton. Either way, Maryland stayed in hotel rooms and the home team could barely manage a gasp before they were rocked out of the draw. Still, it was a grueling tournament for graduating senior, Dennis Hwang, completing his great college career (two Ivy League titles and three Final Four appearances) and looking forward to joining the ranks of America’s professional table tennis players.

Much of the beauty and drama of the National Collegiate Team Championships lie in the diversity of playing level. Only four teams can make it to the prestigious Final Four, only two can distinguish themselves by making it into the finals, and only one can take home the crown. But for each
and every school there comes a moment—a defining moment—where they meet the team that they simply must beat, for their months of preparation to bear fruit, for them to fall, yeah, we did good. For teams such as Western Maryland, Princeton II, Cooper University, and Rutgers II, this moment comes in the first round. Staring at them, across the table, is an opponent who they just know they can beat—if they play their hearts out. It’s definitely one of the most rewarding parts of running this tournament, as well as one of the most entertaining, to see two schools screaming for their teammates on every point. Nobody’s thinking about winning any titles, nobody’s thinking about losing 21-2, 21-4 to Todd Sweeris in an epic seven-and-a-half-minute match. Case in point: Brown and Harvard meet each other in the first round. These two teams drove down together, and now they get to play for the right to take on...oh great, Anderson. Hopeless, right? You couldn’t tell by the volume surrounding that team tie. At one point, Sylvia Lee faces Brown’s new top gun, Bing Li, who had earlier defeated Princeton’s Dennis Hwang, rated 2100. Both Sylvia and her Harvard teammates know that she’s not at the top of her game, and moreover, this guy is good. But it’s no great surprise, not at this tournament, when Sylvia wins two drama-filled deuce games after dropping the first at 18. No, it’s no surprise, but it is a tournament first to see her teammates give her the Wayne and Garth “We’re not worthy! We’re not worthy!” salute. Don’t worry, Sylvia. You’re definitely worthy. Way!

Still, it’s the finals that the fanatics have paid to see. And so, with just a touch of pomp (but no circumstance), the crowd settled in to watch what promised to be an electrifying final. Anderson College, as was mentioned beforehand, had been coolly and systematically destroying their opponents. Maryland had entered the tournament with the swagger of the returning champions, but had been feeling the pressure to repeat. Todd Sweeris bore the majority of this pressure. Xu was probably going to win his two points, but where would those other two points come from? Both Andre Scott and Rung-Kai Tsay, Maryland’s #3 and #4, respectively, were solid players but out of their league against Anderson’s main strength—the ability to go deep into their roster with little drop off in ability.

As expected, both Greg Riley and Robby Hyatt won their matches two straight, as they proved why Anderson’s program is so complete. Andre Scott did put up a characteristically tough fight, but Hyatt’s topspin attack was just too much. Match number three was a surprise, as Maryland flipped #1 Xu and #2 Sweeris. Xu therefore had the benefit of playing Anderson’s #2 (Nguyen Than) first. But this put Sweeris right into the hot seat, because everything worked for him. Nguyen had entered the tournament at #1, Nigel Christopher. Xu had no problem with Nguyen, winning at 12 and 11, setting the stage for the match that would most likely determine the winner of the whole team tie. If Christopher came out on top, Anderson would undoubtedly wave to a 4-1 victory by winning the doubles match (which teamed the #3 and #4 players with each other). If Sweeris won, things would look pretty good for Maryland. Although they would be down 3-2 after the doubles, both Xu and Sweeris would be playing the two remaining crossover singles against opponents rated 100 above themselves.

Both players started out a bit tentatively, but Sweeris quickly gained control of the first game. He controlled Christopher with well-placed shots and stayed away from the power rallies that Christopher excels in. First game to Sweeris at 15. Both players came out in game two, ready to turn up their game a few notches. Only one of them did. Sweeris seemed to gain more and more confidence, and it was quickly evident that he was outplaying his opponent handily. It seemed that Christopher was never able to get his game on track, and with a clenched fist went game two and match to Sweeris at 12.

After Maryland deemed the doubles match as hopeless, they conceded the match to Anderson. Up 3-2, Anderson had two chances to take one point. But the odds were definitely stacked against them. First Xu went up against Christopher, who continued to struggle. It was easy to see the pride and fighting spirit of this great player, but it just wasn’t to be, and he was doomed to frustration. Match to Xu at 11,7.

Now the crowd really started to get restless. For the second year in a row, the finals had come down to the final match, winner take all. Nguyen Than was a definite underdog, especially after the way Todd had played earlier, but Than had beaten Sweeris at Christoer’s request. Would it be Sweeris or Nguyen? Would the champion’s trophy stay in Maryland, or would it be heading south to Anderson?

In a sentence, Todd Sweeris could not be stopped. This match had to rank up there in Sweeris’ list of clutch performances to date. “I can’t believe I played that well!” he exclaimed, moments after his unbelievable 21-7, 21-7 victory. Give Than a ton of credit for never giving up, but this was Sweeris’ day, period. The stats tell the story. In game one, he won the first eight points to effectively end Than’s chances. In game two, he held leads of 6-0 and 8-2. He came out blazing in both games, controlled his emotions and his opponent, and made less than five unforced errors in the entire match.

Anderson coach Richard McAfee was one of the first to congratulate Todd after his stellar performance; a classy action and a tribute to Anderson, the tournament, and all of collegiate table tennis. Congratulations to the University of Maryland for their second consecutive national title. Special thanks go to the Princeton University Table Tennis Club, and to umpires Christopher Lehman, Erich Haring, and John Jaremka. Kudos to Princeton club officers Timothy Negron, Ashanthi Pereira, Humberto Dorta and all the other club members. Everyone did great. See you next year!

The National Collegiate Table Tennis Team Championships is hosted by the Princeton University Table Tennis Club annually in late March. All undergraduate and graduate students in NCAA or NAIA institutions are eligible. Please contact Tournament Director Andd Liu at 6 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ, 08542 if your school is interested in participating.
TTToday: Tell us about yourself.
Gao: I am from Baoding, which is about one hour south of Beijing. I have one younger sister, who is 19 years old. I am 25.
TTToday: What were your greatest table tennis accomplishments and most memorable competitions in table tennis?
Gao: The 1991 World Championships in China, Japan were the most meaningful one. I won women's doubles. It was meaningful because, in the team event, China lost because of losses by me. Winning the doubles helped redeemed myself. Our opponents in the final were Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong, China's number one team.
TTToday: It sounds like the doubles was very, very competitive. One of the impressions we have here in the U.S. is that these important matches between Chinese team members are sometimes decided in advance by a coach. But it sounds like here that this was a very important match.
Gao: Because there were no more opponents down the road (since this was the final), and the match was all Chinese, the match was not set up, and so the winner was whoever played best at that time.
TTToday: How is table tennis different in the U.S. and China?
Gao: I first came from the United States, my chances of winning a medal at the Olympics would be very slim, because the environment for someone to develop their table tennis game here is not strong. If you look at basketball or baseball, players get paid a lot more; which produces an atmosphere where players will spend the time to develop their games, because there is the possibility of a huge payoff in money in the future. But for table tennis, if you are from the United States, there is no such reward afterwards. People cannot make a real living playing professional table tennis. Another thing is there is not yet a professional support group, like clubs in Germany or Sweden.
TTToday: When will you be able to represent the U.S. in international competition?
Gao: I believe that there is a six-year rule. I have to live in the U.S. for six years before I can play on the U.S. team. However, if I become a citizen, I will be able to play singles at the world championships and other competitions. I feel that this rule is very good. Otherwise, every time I went to a competition and played against another Chinese player, particularly one from the Chinese national team, it would not be much of an experience for us, because we would have practiced and practiced together so much before as teammates. And now, all of a sudden, this person becomes my opponent. And so I don't feel it would be a fair match for them.

As of now, I haven't decided whether I will play for the United States or not. If I do decide to play for the U.S., then I will probably think it a very unfair rule! (Laughter)

TTToday: In what other ways is the U.S. different from China?
Gao: When I first got here, the first thing I noticed was the environment (in Potomac, Maryland). It was not as dirty or dusty as China. I also noticed that there was not as much pressure in the United States as in China. When I was in China, most of the people I was in contact with were other Chinese team members and my coaches, my competitors, and the ones who watched after us. In that type of environment, there was tremendous pressure on me. Here, there is no pressure, and so I feel very relaxed.

TTToday: If you decided to train seriously in the U.S., how well could you play?
Gao: If I did play for the United States, my level could not be better than it was before. I couldn't even consider getting a medal at the world championships. The level of play all over the world is going up, particularly in China, Korea and the European countries, so it would be even harder for me to compete. It would be particularly hard to compete against younger players—I am already old (25)! The time I had to put into training is almost impossible to do in the United States. There are also great financial problems.

TTToday: What do you think about playing against men in tournaments?
Gao: If I play in U.S. tournaments, my opponents are men—I won't like that very much. It's a different game. Men have more power, more spin, the ball moves faster. If I practice with men, then I could probably learn to play them, but it is a completely different game. After I practice with men, when I play against women, I am not used to them at all.

TTToday: Could you maintain your level in the U.S.? Or even improve on your World #4 ranking?
Gao: I could continue to play at the professional level, but in order to do that, I would have to practice. In China, I used to practice at least four hours a day. You also have to have a good practice partner. There are no practice partners in the U.S., but the level is usually not strong enough. So all I could do in the United States is maintain my level. I could not improve any more.

An example of someone who came up early, and may have difficulty in holding her level is Deng Yaping (current world #1). She developed early, and is only 21.

TTToday: Are you interested in coaching?
Gao: To be a good coach, you must have great patience. I have never coached anyone before, and so I don't know if I have the patience to coach anybody or not. But I could probably try and see what happens! (Laughter)

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Avalox

now available in the U.S.

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These components were finely tuned to maximize each of their most desirable characteristics. For players looking into a future without speed glue: Although there is no substitute yet for the feel of glue, a similar arc and drive can be generated with this equipment. The Avalox line is especially designed for attack styles and is therefore limited in its number of different products. Available:

- 5-ply blades (80-85 grams) (as used by Ma Wenge) $44.95
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To order call: 1-800-500-5057

May/June 1994
MATCH PLAY

USE YOUR SERVES IN MATCH PLAY

by Richard McAfee
USTATT Certified National Coach
by Richard McAfee
MCAFEE MECHANICS

This article deals with how to best use your serves in actual match play. Whenever possible, try to use your service in your serve strategy against your opponent beforehand. The following are general techniques you can apply in developing your own service strategy against the most common styles.

THE ATTACKER

The all-out attacker has excellent footwork and a strong, dynamic forehand drive. Attackers are known for their short game and will run around deep serves to the backhand side to use their forehand loop. Their weakness will be the middle distance serves—that is, serves where the second bounce falls close to the end line. Not sure whether to loop or flip this return, the Attacker will often take a high-risk shot. Once he misses a few returns, the Attacker can lose his confidence. Then, you will be able to open your own attack. This style of player is also often insecure against deep fast serves to his wide forehand.

THE COUNTERDRIVER

This style of play features strong reflexes, and a steady style of play. Most often, these players lack a strong loop. Serve this player as deep chop/side serves to the wide backhand. Then attack the following return, hard to the middle. Also, try serving middle distance serves into his right elbow and attacking wide to either corner.

THE AGGRESSIVE DEFENDER

This style of player can present a real problem. They feature variations of chop, racket flipping and hard smashes. When serving to this style, put the emphasis on deception and placement over spin. Try to keep your serves out of the middle of the table. Serve very short or very deep, using chop or spin. Pay close attention to which side of the racket is used on the return, and try to attack down the line whenever possible.

Remember, becoming an effective server is more than just developing good serve technique. You must learn to anticipate your opponent’s returns. Good servers are a lot like good baseball pitchers. They find a player’s weakness, exploit that weakness, and always keep their opponents guessing.

WHOOOMP---THERE IT IS!
The PREAN blade

Carl Prean
'92 Olympics Player
1992 European Champ

The Carl Prean Blade: A medium-fast 7-ply blade designed for QUICKNESS, POWER, & SPIN.
The Prean has “Black Spot” wood inside, which increase speed and spin as they widen the sweet-spot. The Prean is designed to harmonize with fast rubber, giving the control you need for a quick as well as powerful game.

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The Paddle Palace is so excited about the fast new JUIC KAIZA rubber, that we are offering the Prean blade and KAIZA rubber for this bargain price. Who needs regluing when you can have the fantastic speed of KAIZA rubber? The Prean blade is an excellent choice to use with KAIZA because it has a wide, reliable sweet spot and great control.

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This article represents, as it were, my own sorrowful stitches in the already more than 36,000 panels the San Francisco-based Names Project Foundation has collected, as sections of its AIDS Memorial Quilt continues to pass through cities, towns, villages all across the country.

Andy Diaz was only 35 when just a year ago he again sought office as your USTTA E.C. Vice President. More than 650 people were hoping he’d come through—but the odds against him were just too great. Now...I heard the sad news last night when veteran New York League and tournament player “Tommy” Cestano...called...Andy will not run again.

Still, patches of his accomplishments and more, his secret hope, not for himself but for others (“He was long on ambition,” said Westfield Club President Barry Dattel amusingly)—remains for us to remember him by.

By the late 1970’s, Andy was out of his Catholic-boyhood teens and into the New York City tournament scene, where in just a few years he’d raise his rating 300 points. I remember my older son, Scott, ‘81 U.S. Men’s Champion, being impressed that Andy could play both penholder and shakehands so well. In fact, Scott said wryly, “He once beat me in a League match.”

But it is not an Over 2000 competitor that Andy is best remembered for. Few within a year or two of their early 20’s could unremittingly devote themselves to improving their game, even if they wanted to. Andy had to combine his Table Tennis interests with making a living.

Andy had learned a good deal about how tournaments are run from former USTTA President Mel Eisner to the end of Mel’s long tenure earlier as Greater New York (GAN) Table Tennis League President. Mel remembers Andy from that mid-to-late ’70’s time as one of the few volunteers who offered to help and who seemed to want to understand and solve the many problems connected with running a large, successful tournament. For his 1981 U.S. Open atPrinceton, Andy had been greatly helped by Paul Lee, who was involved in promoting Atlantic City junkets for various groups and who had the connections not only to bring the first Chinese stars to our Open but to take them afterwards to Washington for a meeting with former President Nixon. Paul, too, saw Andy’s commitment to the Sport and, with his good offices, enabled Andy not only to do promotional work for him but for Table Tennis.

Gradually, Andy’s overwhelming interest in contributing to the growth of the Sport became a vital passion with him. At schools or youth clubs, at social or promotional events of all kinds, with a team of exhibition players—Horace Roberts and Fu-lap Lee come readily to mind—he was successful in making more and more people aware of the Sport. But though one might say Andy was a man with a mission, he certainly had a disarmingly easy-going attitude about him. My younger son, Eric, once accompanied him to a trade show in New Orleans, spent four days with him, and was pleased to find that he was a very easy-going, helpful, compatible fellow.

“He really cared about the Game,” said Fu-lap, who’d known Andy from the time he was Food and Beverage Manager at New York’s Barbizon Hotel. “Andy was never pre-occupied with trying to make money in Table Tennis terms. Most of the time of the day, thinking of others. He was honest and caring—really, he was like a brother to many.”

For his 1981 U.S. Open Champion, being impressed that Andy could play both penholder and shakehands so well. The way of Mammoth’s, but I remember them. Usually he’d have four nicely barriered-off courts (a local Coors Beer distributor was one name-embossed sponsor), and a wooden floor. Thousand Oaks, Oxnard, and Costa Mesa are involved in other sports, but table tennis was among the best.

Eric’s Passion in life was table tennis. He was a junior majoring in dietetics at San Francisco State University.

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USATT TABLE TENNIS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

by Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

As Table Tennis Today goes to press, USTTA Hall of Fame President Jimmy McClure and his Board members are in the process of voting on the newest players, Officials, and Contributors to the Hall. Since the Players have already just been named, we want to give them what recognition we can as soon as we can, so I’m going to tell everyone a little something about them here. The Officials and Contributors, who have not yet been named, will receive their just due in the next issue of TTT.

Of course all 1994 Player, Official, and Contributor inductees will be honored at the special Awards Banquet in Anaheim at the 1994 U.S. Open.

In addition, a California Table Tennis Hall of Fame will be instituted at this same Awards Banquet and its first inductees honored.

At last year’s HOF Banquet in Indianapolis, there was not enough room for people trying to get tickets at the last minute to be seated, but California Hall of Fame Committee Chairs Mary McIlwain and Shonic Aki feel that this year everyone who buys tickets reasonably early will be accomodated. Inquire at the Open Registration Desk on arrival if you think you’d like to attend—maybe early will be accomodated. Inquire at the Open Registration Desk on arrival if you think you’d like to attend—maybe early will be accomodated.

Here, then, are the 1994 Player inductees:

DAVIDA HAWTHORNE (fl. 1942-48):
- 1945 U.S. Open Women’s Champion
- Really rose to the occasion: beat 3 U.S. Open Champions—Sally Green, deuce in the 5th in the quarter’s; Reba Blackbourn (she was ‘47 World Singles Runner-up) before losing to Slar (‘47 World Men’s Doubles Champion with Vana) and Depetrisova (World Women’s Champion in ‘39, World Runner-up in ‘38). *1947 World Women’s Doubles semifinalist
- Partnered with Leah Neuberger. They lost to Parkas and Pritze (both World Women’s Singles Champions)

WENDY HICKS (fl. 1966-72):
- 1972 U.S. Open Women’s Champion
- 1969 and 1971 U.S. Open Women’s Runner-up
- 1970 U.S. Open Under 17 Champion
- 1968 U.S. Open Under 15 Champion

JACK HOWARD (fl. 1966-74):
- 1967 Canadian National Exibition Winner (to Czech #1 Yaroslav “Yardo” Stanek)
- 1968 and 1972 U.S. Open Men’s Singles Runner-up to Dal Joon Lee
- 1969 U.S. Open Men’s Singles semifinalist (lost to winner Lee)
- 1969 Canadian National Exhibition Winner (to Czech #1 Yaroslav “Yardo” Stanek)
- 1966-71 USOTC match record: 87-42
- 1971 U.S. Closed Runup Walker Tournament
- 1968 U.S. Open Men’s Champion
- 1976, 1979, and 1980 U.S. Closed Champion
- 1977 and 1978 U.S. Closed Runner-up
- 1977 Kingston, Jamaica Benson & Hedges Open semifinalist
- Member of 1979 U.S. Team to Pyongyang World’s
- Board members are well aware that there are other very deserving players, some of whom (hardly in danger yet of not being remembered before they’ve one unsneakered foot in the grave) are still quite active, for all possible nominees have had their records year-by-year researched. If your favorites didn’t get in this year, don’t feel slighted, they’ll not fade from view; we’ll bring them back next year—and maybe induct them.
- In the meantime, please wish us all some serious moments and lots of fun in Anaheim.

DID’JA KNOW?

by Bob Green

Early in an organized game, there was no limit on the time it took to play a match. Two matches in the 1936 World Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia hastened the writing of the infamous ITTF Time Limit Rule, and later on the USTTA Executive Committee Research Committee USTTA Rating System, later on the USTTA Executive Committee Research Committee.

During a singles match between Poland’s Alex Ehrlich and Romania’s Farcas Panele, on the first point of the match, they pushed the ball back and forth for 2 hours and 55 minutes before one of them missed. The entire match lasted 7 hours.
- In the same championships, the Swaythling Cup team match between Austria and Romania lasted over 11 hours.
- On the other side of the coin, England’s Desmond Douglas and Alan Cook set an unofficial record for the fastest rally. They banged the ball at each other across the net 170 times in one minute.
- Closer to home, a player in the top 20 in the U.S. was explaining to a former national champion that his new very expensive custom-built pistol grip racket would boost him into the top five in the nation. The former champ said “no way” would this racket do that without boosting his skills and level of play first. After much discussion and a small wager, it was agreed to play a quick 11 point game to demonstrate the powers of this special racket. The National Champion won easily by blocking back all the shots, using the box that the exotic bat came in as a racket.

Famous Last Words: I have NEVER lost to a penhold player.

Old TT Players never die, they just turn up in the Sun Cities. Charlie Disney, past president of the USTTA, showed up to visit friend Gordon MacDowell (Senior Olympics Bronze Medalist), formerly of Minneapolis. Also here is TTToday’s “Did’ja Know?” columnist Bob Greene, and Dorothy Irving, Sun Cities women’s champion and U.S. #1 over 70. Photo Contributed by Jan MacDowell.

Table Tennis Today
Inverted Top Sheet Surface Characteristics

Virtually all players enjoy playing with a brand new sheet of inverted table tennis rubber straight out of the package. There is something about a "shiny" clean sheet that inspires our confidence and elevates the quality of our shots. But have you ever thought about what gives the surface of a new sheet of rubber a shiny look, and why it dulls with usage and care?

Rule 3.4.6 from the ITTF states that the surface of a rubber sheet "shall be uniformly dark-coloured and matt..." (Are you surprised by the fact that the surface is supposed to be matt?) In the ITTF technical leaflet, T4, the definition of the matt surface is further defined in terms of its gloss, a technical term which relates to the ability or inability of a surface to reflect light in the way that a polished mirror would reflect light; a polished mirror would have high gloss where as a black matt surface would have a low gloss. The section goes on to say that a rubber surface would be unacceptable if it... "is so shiny as to permit the shape of a light-source to be distinguished in its reflection." So how do the manufacturers of high quality rubber make a surface look shiny but still meet the ITTF rule that the surface of the rubber must be matt. The secret lies in the geometry of the surface texture of a top sheet.

If you look carefully at the surface of a brand new sheet of rubber, preferably with a magnifying glass, you will see thousands of pips all over its surface. (Some Chinese manufactured rubber does not have this pattern on the surface.) These patterns are made up of three dimensional objects thousandst and sometimes tens of thousands of an inch in size. By the use of these patterns the rubber designer tricks the eye into thinking that the rubber surface is "shiny", while still meeting the regulations that the surface must be matt. However, this is not the only function for having a surface texture on a sheet of rubber. In reality, the geometry of the surface pattern also affects the performance characteristics of the rubber because the pips create a spinning motion either forcing it into the spin, speed and through angle over a range of shots.

Imagine, you are playing with inverted rubber having millions of microscopic pips all over its surface. Of course these pips are not shaped anything like the ones you see on top players, is to surface of the rubber and a process called rubber oxidation, these microscopic pips are worn down and eventually disappear. You are left with a dull looking piece of rubber which often times plays uncontrolably.

5) Exotic top sheet fluid

6) The use of a good foam, liquid or aerosol table tennis cleaner works well on removing the dust particles mentioned above. However, be aware of what most of these cleaners employ some amount of hydrocarbon based solvent in their formula- tion. These compounds can affect the short and long term playing characteristics of table tennis rubber by swelling the surface of the rubber. Look for the one with an anti-stat agent if you regularly play in a dusty environment, as many table tennis rubbers have a static charge, which will quickly pick up airborne dust particles.

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3) The third approach typically employed is to clean the rubber using a wet sponge between serve changes or at regular intervals during practice. This can work well in many instances but is not always a foolproof method. What happens is that the dust and dirt particles hide in the valleys of the microscopic pip pattern and are not dislodged from the surface of the rubber by the wet sponge. Thus you end up wiping the larger dust/dirt particles from the surface leaving the smaller particles behind. These small dust particles eventually fill in all the microscopic valleys of the rubber making its surface appear to be aged and dull. A proper cleaning of such rubber often reveals that the sheet is actually in perfect condition.

2) Another approach employed, typically by top players, is to wipe the dust off with their hand after they have breathed on the rubber to moisten the surface. This works well under critical game conditions but still reduces the lifetime of the rubber because the oils in the hand interact with the rubber forming complex compounds which accelerates the other aging processes, eventually affecting the long term performance of the rubber. In some critical game situations this is the player’s only choice as they are not allowed to take a break from play.

1) A popular method is to rub the rubber against your shirt. This can remove the dust and dirt but at the expense of scratching and eventually destroying some of the microscopic pips. Just as someone with eyeglasses avoids scratching their lenses with a dry cloth so should the economy-minded player avoid doing the same thing with their table tennis rubber.

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THE POLICE COME TO VISIT THE NJTTC
by Rhoda Samkoff

When you were a kid somebody probably told you, “You can trust a policeman; a policeman is your friend.”

Then you learned to drive, and along with practicing looking cool by hanging one arm out the window and doing pancake turns, you developed a sixth sense about cops and how they park in driveways, headlights off, waiting in the night. You also experienced a new kind of cold sweat response triggered by the sight of flashing lights in your rearview mirror or by the question, “May I see your license and registration?” It so happens that the Westfield police station is just down the street from the club, and two of its members have been spotted frequently on the “routine check” on our way home from practice. So what were the police doing INSIDE the NJTTC on March 19th? Armed with paddles and a desire to win, the police department team was part of an Invitational Tournament to celebrate Westfield’s Bicentennial. There were firemen, too, and members of the rescue squad — and Westfield High School also showed up. The suggestion for the town tournament came from club member Dr. Al Lisman. It was high time that the club reached out to the community. Although the NJTTC has been around for over twenty years at its present location on the second floor of a building on a busy main street, only Westfield High School also showed up. The tournament was followed by an exhibition by Barry Duttel and Lily Yip. Youngsters hung over the barriers to get as close as they could to the action as the two experts warmed up. The audience was quiet, awed by the pair’s ability. The exhibition was like a shot of adrenaline for the visitors who enthusiastically participated in a free clinic conducted by Barry, Lily, Chris Lehman, Alex Rubinovich, and other certified coaches. This was followed by an opportunity for the public to challenge any club member (identified by a name tag.) All sorts of people showed up for this. My match was against a very determined basement player wearing shaggy shorts and a beard to match, who was unaware of the club’s existence. In addition, table tennis is a nighttime activity here, and even a hairdresser on the second floor of a building on a busy main street, over one hundred townspeople discovered life in the loft.

Congratulations to Bicentennial committee chairwoman Linda Maggio, Councilman Norman Greco, Anne and Phil Robinson, Dan Dickel, Chris Lehman, and the NJTTC club members who put table tennis on display for the town. Many people are still talking about the event, calling up, and dropping by. About a month after that auspicious occasion a policeman swinging a flashlight approached a group of us in the parking lot at night as we left the club. True to form, I jumped to the conclusion that something was wrong. He had caught the table tennis fever that Saturday and kept telling his friends loudly to “watch this.” But my lessons paid off, and the disgruntled guy left the club. True to form, I jumped to the conclusion that something was wrong. He had caught the table tennis fever that Saturday and kept telling his friends loudly to “watch this.” But my lessons paid off, and the disgruntled guy left the club. True to form, I jumped to the conclusion that something was wrong. He had caught the table tennis fever that Saturday and kept telling his friends loudly to “watch this.” But my lessons paid off, and the disgruntled guy

May/June 1994
The last stop on the Newgy Southern Tour had all the makings of a great tournament. On the prize table sat $3,000 in cash and more than $1,500 in prizes. The top twenty Tour Point Leaders were closely bunched and everyone dreamed of taking home their share of the $500 runner-up prize. Julian Millan (Anderson College) beat his practice partner, Scott Butler (Augusta, GA) by only 7 points, 178.5 to 171.5, to win first place and $1,000 cash.

Pete May presents $1,000 check to Newgy Southern Circuit Winner Xin Peng.

The fire works started quickly in the Open Event. Twenty players rated over 2200 entered, even the early round matches were hotly contested. The major upset occurred in the quarterfinals when Jason St. George (Anderson College) upset Jimmy Butler in two exciting deuce games. In this match Jimmy was not moving well and seemed content to just hit in backhands. However, Jason possesses a strong backhand drive himself, and at the end of both games, was much more forehand aggressive. A great win for the Anderson College freshman.

The semifinals featured the match of the tournament as Scott Butler defeated Derek May in three tough games. These two have been practice partners for so long that Scott has no trouble reading Derek’s shots. For the spectators, it was a match, welcomed the six out-of-staters and the non-attendees this event pits the top nine rated players in three small robbins (called Class A). The next level of the next highest nine players in sequence for classes B, C and D played in the same format. Kansas, where you have to drive hours to get a match, welcomed the six out-of-saters in our one day tournament with 34 players in rating events and 20 in recreational events. Table Tennis Forever.


Consolation Singles: 1st: Gregg Rempel; 2nd: Jeff Mai; 3rd: Pat Cooper; 4th: Tony Worley.


Consolation: 1st: Donald Bassett.

Class A: 1st: Gregg Rempel; 2nd: Jeff Mai; 3rd: Craig Coulter; 4th: Pat Cooper.

Consolation: 1st: Tom Cyre.

Consolation: 1st: Tony Brake.

Recreational Singles: 1st: Brian Petey; 2nd: Brad Urrah.

Recreational Consolation: 1st: Chuck Mueller; 2nd: Several small robbins, (called Class A). The next level of the next highest nine players in sequence for classes B, C and D played in the same format. Kansas, where you have to drive hours to get a match, welcomed the six out-of-staters in our one day tournament with 34 players in rating events and 20 in recreational events. Table Tennis Forever.


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1994 RITTA APRIL OPEN
Manville, Rhode Island
April 17, 1994
by Art Theroux

After a tournament hiatus of four years, the Rhode Island Table Tennis Association ran the $300 1994 RITTA April Open at its club in Manville on Sunday April 17.

In the first semi-finals match Qiumars Hedayatian (rated 2353 from Brighton, MA) played Ernest Virgo (rated 2287 from Windsor Locks, CT) in an exciting match punctuated with great offensive and defensive play by both. Hedayatian won the first 21-17. The second game started out with the same mode of play when a pivotal point came at 12-13, with Virgo serving. He was called for an illegal serve, making the score 12-14, and proceeded to lose the next four points, making the score 18-12 at the change of serve. Hedayatian won the game 21-16 and the match.

The second semifinals match was equally action-packed with Kurt Douty (rated 2244, from Framingham, MA) playing Razvan Cretu (an 18 year old rated 2292, from Boston, MA). Both players, being attackers, entertained the crowd with their play, with Cretu winning the first game 21-18. In the second game, Douty's victory eluded him when his 19-14 advantage must have given Cretu a wake-up call. With wide-angle loop drives, coupled with Douty's apparent loss of concentration, Cretu deuced the game at 20-20. Cretu then went on to win the game 22-20.

The Open finals match between Hedayatian and Cretu teased the crowed into expecting an exciting finals. That expectation was somewhat short-lived as Cretu, who is just a high school senior, upset the higher rated Hedayatian in two straight games. Cretu won the match with his serve and attack game, by scores of 21-17 and 21-11. Cretu's take home prize money was $150, while Hedayatian received $75.

In the under 2000 rating event, RITIA club member Ray Gross (rated 1724 from Norton, MA) upset top seeded Humberto Gil (rated 1982 from Cambridge, MA) 22-20 in the third and decisive game of a thrilling match. The score seesawed back and forth from the start to the finish. In the end it was an errant serve by Gil at match point, which Gross easily capitalized on, that finally decided the deuce game. Gross won $50 for his effort, leaving Gil with $25 in prize money.

The RITTA, located above the Manville Post Office, has made its home at the Manville site since 1985. A USA Table Tennis affiliated club since the 1950's, it offers both advanced and beginner leagues every week. The club is open three times a week, twice for league play and once for open practice and lessons.

The April Open tournament was a huge success, which was quite an accomplishment for the relatively inexperienced tournament committee. For this USAIT sanctioned tournament, only four of its six Stiga Expert tables were used for the seven events. Delays and player frustration were avoided by the clockwork scheduling of the committee and workers.


**U2000-Final:** Ray Gross d. Humberto Gil, 21,14,20; SF: Gil d. Lance Friedel, 16,14; Gross d. Doug Smith, 19,11.

**U1800:** Krishna Kumar d. Doug Smith, 15,17,11.

**U1600:** Lifan Yang d. Nick Gangi, 18,17.

**U1400:** Bob Decaro d. Rich Wolke, 9,11.

**U1200:** George Schuellein d. John Disanto, 9,12.

**U1000:** Richard Parker d. Len Wetmore, 20,16.
Eisley: 8th: Rodney Peffer; 9-10: 5-7: Collier, Merr Trumbore. David Chris Sciacca; 14th: Jashim Ahmed. Additional Results: and Dave Skoronski of Mountaintop was third. Clark is among the top 20 juniors in the US. Forty Fort (3-3) fourth place. The 1125 (6-0), with Ralph Brimerman of Linden, was won by Dave Dickson of Bloomsburg University.

Using the cross country method of scoring, the team competition would result in:

- 1st: Carlisle #4 (Peffer 8 & MeFadden 20)
- 2nd: Pocono #5 (Sciacca 13 & Ahmed 20)
- 3rd: Philadelphia #2 (Plevinsky 4 & Collier 14)

Oppenheimer (3300 & 2800). Watching Vivian and Jessica Shen (who, along with Caroline, swept the girls under 10, 12, 14 & 16 events at the last Junior Nationals) win 3800 doubles may have been a prelude to the 2000 Olympics in Australia, where their lefty-righty team will be age 19 and 18. Honorable mention goes to Brian Lonergan, who won one event and made the finals of two others. Condolences go to Michael Squires, who made three finals, but couldn't quite pull one out.

U3300 Doubles: Cheng Yinghua/Caroline Oppenheimer d. Brian Lonergan/Michael Squires, 19, 12.
U3000 Doubles: Sean Lonergan/Caroline Oppenheimer d. Dana Hanson/Vel Areng, 11, 18.

U2150-Final: Pat Cox d. Sunny Li, 17, 15; SF: Lonergan d. John Onifade, 12, 17.
U1800 #2: Matthew Murad d. Donald Lee, 22, 21.
U1500: David Yue d. John Sampson, 12, 16.
U1350: John Sampson d. Paul Lui, 17, 15, 10; SF: Cheng d. Sean O'Neill, 2, 7; Li d. Happel, 18, 16.
U1200: John Sampson d. Paul Lui, 17, 15; SF: Coxd. Joannie Fu, 2, 7; Li d. John Sampson, 18, 16.
U1050: Xeng Ly d. Andy Seto, 12, 17.

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NTTCC MARCH OPEN
National Table Tennis Center Rockville, Maryland
March 26-27, 1994

Up to 2-0 games in the final, it looked like an easy victory for Jack Huang, with Cheng Yinghua out of town—especially after Jack’s great play in the semifinals against Sean Lonergan (who’d upset Todd Sweeris to get to the semis, besides winning the 2450’s and 4200 doubles). But no one told opponent Sean O’Neill, who pulled out the third game 22-20, the fourth 21-16, and (with Jack missing a hanger down 18-19) to a 21-19 fifth game victory.

Russian turned New Yorker Stasitskaya Rimma traveled down for her first time here, and went home with lots of cash after winning both the 2000’s and the 1850’s on Saturday—in some of the Loongest matches we’ve ever seen. (Does she ever play U-20?)

Open—Final: Sean O’Neill d. Jack Huang, 18-17, 12-16, 19; SF: O’Neill d. John Onifade, 16-18, 14-15, 14; Huang d. Sean Lonergan, 12, 7; SF: Huang d. Pat Cox, 12, 12, Lonergan d. Todd Sweeris, 6-7, 17-20; SF: M. Kubo d. D. Dickson, 17, 17, 17; O’Neill d. Larry Hodges, def.


2300—Final: Masamichi Kubo d. Thomas Sampson, 19, 17; SF: Kubo d. Richard Lee, 16, 12, 16; Sampson d. Brian Lonergan, 18, 17, 16.


1850 #1: Stasitskaya Rimma d. Andy Tan, 15, 11; SF: Chris Manglitz d. Jimmy Ho, 18, 16.

1850 #2: Matthew Murad d. Donald Lee, 22, 14.


1500: David Yue d. John Sampson, 12, 16.

1350: John Sampson d. Paul Lui, 17, 15, 10; SF: Cheng d. Sean O’Neill, 2, 7; Li d. John Sampson, 18, 16.

1200: John Sampson d. Paul Lui, 17, 15; SF: Coxd. Joannie Fu, 2, 7; Li d. John Sampson, 18, 16.

1050: Xeng Ly d. Andy Seto, 12, 17.

Novice/900: Greg Manglitz d. Celus Weeks, 18, 16.

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Table Tennis Today

ALABAMA CLOSED

Huntsville, Alabama
April 23, 1994
by Michael Wetzel

At present, as in the recent past, Keith LaFrance of Montgomery reigns as the best table tennis player in Alabama. He doesn’t appear about to surrender it any time soon.

LaFrance darted through another Alabama Closed Championships, defeating 16-time state champion Don Gaither in the final, 21-13. He teamed with practice partner Jack Wise to take the championship doubles crown over the Huntsville team of Ralph Kissel and Dan Salinas, 21-19, 22-20.

LaFrance moved to the state in 1987 and promptly won the next year’s state title. In 1989, a work commitment kept him from playing. German native Friedrich Schelp, then a graduate student at Alabama-Huntsville, claimed the title. Since then, it’s been all LaFrance. Six titles in six tournaments.

In Alabama, the heart of Dixie, there’s no anti-spin loop and competitiveness. In fact, it’s a graduate student at Alabama who made Kissel easy going until running into Walt Chenault of Decatur, who made Kissel find the Class A waters this year, when he was forced to go three games in the preliminaries against 3-time winner Ralph Scott. Kissel kept him from play.

Under 18: 1st: Paul Baresel, 4-0; 2nd: McSpadden, 10,14.
A Singles: Yamfang Prateem d. Man, 8,10.
U1250: Ryan McQuillin d. Steven Hoe Chee, 12,13.
U1450: Peter Chamberlain d. Ed Freeman, 18,-9,18,-15,18; Schopp d. Dave Fernandez, 20,-9,18,-15,18.

OKLAHOMA CITY OPEN

March 19, 1994

Open Singles-Best: Barkey J. Reed vs. Dave Fernandez, 1-0,13-9,15-2; Reed vs. Barkey D. Reed, 2018; Fernandez vs. Amaad Uppal vs. QF: B.J. Reed vs. Yumiko Payton, 15,15; D. Reed vs. Bernice Braun, 18,17-20; Uppal vs. Robert Mayer, -17,14; Fernandez vs. D. Tri Dinh, 10,12; McQuillin vs. Michael McCarty, 20,-10.

SAC-REC MARCH OPEN

Sacramento, California
March 5, 1994

U230: Phuong Le vs. James Terriault,-20,14,19.
U210: Jimmy Guan vs. Phuong Le, 19,18,15.
U190: Peter Zajac vs. Hawk Lee, 19,18,15.
U170: Hawk Lee vs. Michael Marias, 12,17.
U150: Jerry Newd vs. Sem Un, 17,21.
U130: Dominic Chan vs. Tom Evans, 24,12.
U90: Ned Doehne d. Tom Evans, 24,12.
U70: Peter Zajac d. Dave McAfee, Curtis Archbold.

TRI-STATE OPEN

Hooksett, New Hampshire
April 30, 1994

Open Doubles-1st: Lim Ming Chui/Tim Kelly; 2nd: Homer Brown/Kurt Lloyd.
Women’s Singles-1st: Tahnya Percy; 2nd: Ruth Crowley.
Over 40 Lim Ming Chu/Homer Brown.
U3000 Doubles-1st: Calr LaChance/Claude Bouard; 2nd: Jim Hayford/Jack Devine.
U1900: 1 Jim Hayford; 2. Harry Hawk.
Handicap-1. Joe St. George; 2. Lim Ming Chui/Ralph Robison.

USATT JUNIOR REGIONAL RESULTS

These finalists are eligible to attend a summer camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

LOUISIANA OPEN

January 22-23

Boys’ Finalists:
William Beaumont, (Under 12)
John Beaumont, (Under 14)
Van Gardner, (Under 16)

Girls’ Finalists:
Allison Han, (Under 14)
Caroline Chen, (Under 18)

CHINESE NEW YEAR

March 19-20

Boys’ Finalists:
Gabe Gabriel, (Under 12)
Phillip Lim, (Under 14)
Andrew Do, (Under 16)
Mark Liu, (Under 18)

Girls’ Finalists:
Jeanne Cheng, (Under 12)
Michelle Do, (Under 14)
Wang Ling Cheng, (Under 18)

NEW JERSEY OPEN

April 9-10

Boys’ Finalists:
Ferne Fernandez, (Under 12)
Sayed Keshmiri, (Under 12)
Sayed Banafi, (Under 14)

Girls’ Finalists:
Joyce Chen, (Under 12)

EUROPE TOP 12

Arseno, Italy
February 4-6, 1994

Men’s Singles—Final: Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) d. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) 17,10,19,15,18.
SF: Waldner vs. Zoran Primorac (CRO) 9,22,20; Saive vs. Peter Karlsson (SWE). 17,9,17.

MS Group A: 1st: Karlsson (SWE); 2nd: Waldner (SWE); 3rd: Rosskopf (GER); 4th: Lindh (SWE); 5th: Ding Yi (AUT); 6th: Korbel (CZE).

MS Group B: 1st: Primorac (CRO); 2nd: Saive (BEL); 3rd: Gaitan (FRA); 4th: Persson (SWE); 5th: Applegren (SWE); 6th: Ralfczek (GER).

Women’s Singles—Final: Schopp (GER) d. Badescu (ROM) 17,16,17,20,15; SF: Badescu vs. Schopp (GER) -11,10,24,13,12; Schopp vs. Hooman (NED) 5,11,10.

WS Group A: 1st: Schopp (GER); 2nd: Hooman (NED); 3rd: Ciosu (ROM); 4th: Svensson (SWE); 5th: Bartofiglio (BUN); 6th: Timina (RUS).

“A” Hooman vs. Ciosu, 3-1; Hooman vs. Bartofiglio, 3-0.

WS Group B: 1st: Schopp (GER); 2nd: Badescu (ROM); 3rd: Bulatova (ITA); 4th: Vrieskoop (NED); 5th: Lomas (ENG); 6th: Gergelische.

THE 12TH FAIR TOURNAMENT

Tahriz, Iran
January 29 - February 3, 1994

Men’s Teams: 1st: China; 2nd: Iran; 3rd: Armenia; 4th: Syria.

Men’s Singles: 1st: Gao Lize (CHN); 2nd: Li Zhaomin (CHN); 3rd: Ehteshamzade (IRN); 4th: Meschino (ITA).

Boys’ Finalists:
Gobo Lize/Li Zhaomin; 2nd: M. Ehteshamzade/IE.

THE 57TH WEST JAPAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPS

Yamii-city, Yamauchi Pref., Japan
February 12-13, 1994

MS Final: Oh Sang Un (KOR) vs. Jung Haec Jong (KOR) 19,15.
WS Final: Chen Jeng (TPE) vs. Chire Koyama (JAP) 9,13,11.
MD Final: Oh Jung (KOR) vs. Wang Kenyoshi (JPN) 12,7.
WD Final: Chen Yu (TPE) vs. Koyama Li (JPN) 8,15.

International (See also 1994 European Championships results, pg. 23)
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• Make checks out to NTTC

Housing:
• Limited Free Housing--call for info
• Comfort Inn, 301-330-0023, one mile away
Free continental breakfast, swimming pool
Mention table tennis for $45/night rate

Juniors:
• Supervision available--call for info

Daily Schedule:
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

NTTC General Information:
• 17 tables
• Great lighting
• Six 2600+ players, seventeen 2250+ players
• All levels of play
• Director: Larry Hodges

COACHES:

Cheng Yinghua
• U.S. #1 ranked player at 2830
• Former Head Coach for the Szechuan Province of China
• Former Chinese Team Member
• 1985 & 93 U.S. Open Champion

Larry Hodges
• National Coaching Chairman
• Director/Manager of USTTA’s Table Tennis Program for five years at Olympic Training Center
• Author of Table Tennis: Steps to Success

Jack Huang
• Former Head Coach for the Guangxi Province of China
• Former Chinese Team Member
• U.S. #2 player in 1993

Sean Lonergan
• USATT Certified State Coach
• 2400+ player
• Manager, National Table Tennis Center
• Has coached at numerous camps


For Further Info, Call Larry Hodges, 301-670-6882

$1200 Monthly Tournaments
at the National Table Tennis Center
2600 Players Galore!

May 21-22 • June 18-19 • July 23-24 • August 27-28
For Entry Forms, contact Larry Hodges at address & phone above

Name_________________________ Phone_________________________ Age/DOB_________________________

Address_________________________

Camp(s) Applying for (circle): June 21-26 July 6-11 July 17-22 July 27 - Aug. 1

Signiture (Parent/Guardian if under 18)_________________________

Amount enclosed $____________

40 Table Tennis Today

May/June 1994
Makers Of The First ITTF Approved Table Tennis Rubber Made In The USA - Apex Lightspeed

The USTTA Rating List

All ratings related questions should be directed to Tim Paime, USTTA Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. To find out your rating, send a self-addressed, stamped postcard with name and date of your last tournament; or call HQ at 719-578-4583. Please allow one month after the tournament for the result to be sent in and processed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<th>Rank</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Wei, Yaping</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Chen, Jun</td>
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<td>Wang, Long</td>
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<td>Chen, Shanshan</td>
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<td>Guo, Liudong</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Chen, Yuxin</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Continued in the same format...)

This table represents a list of players from various countries, possibly from a table tennis tournament or league. Each row includes the rank, player's name, and score, indicating their performance.
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE


May 14, Sun TV Columbus May Open, Columbus, OH. Contact: Steve Zimmerman, 5941 Winstead Rd., Columbus, OH 43235, 614-888-6673. ★★★

May 14, Atlanta Spring Open, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Warren Moon, 5984 Wedgefield Circle, Decatur, GA 30032, 404-284-6030. ★★★

May 14, Schaumburg Open, Schaumburg, IL. Contact: Primo Madrigal, 967 Castlewood Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103, 312-837-8053. ★

May 21-22, NTTC May Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indianola Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882. ★★★


May 22, Strike One May Open, Lexington, MA. Contact: Donald B. Hayes, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02143, 603-654-6620. ★

May 22, 9th Paul Cracraft Memorial Tournament, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavy, 7-A Kent Street, NJ 08873-2187, 908-828-3511. ★★★


May 28-29, Golden State Open, Concord, CA. Contact: Bob Partridge, 3147 Windsor Court, Fairfield, CA 94533, 510-933-1014. ★★★

June 4-5, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. ★★★

June 5, Dell Sweeir's Team Cup, West Bloomfield, MI. Contact: Cody Jones, #8H, 3050 Union Lake Road, Union Lake, MI 48382.

June 11-12, MATTC June Open, Middletown, PA. Contact: Donald Vantine, 20 Woodland Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057, 717-944-7154. ★★★

June 18-19, NTTC June Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indianola Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882. ★★★

June 18-19, Rose City Open, Portland, OR. Contact: James H. Scott, #102, 5144 Southwest Slavin, Portland, OR 97201, 503-223-4539. ★★★

June 19, Strike One June Open, Burlington, MA. Contact: Donald B. Hayes, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02143, 603-654-6620. ★★★

June 25-27, MEIKLEJOHN NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, Laguna Hills, CA. Contact: Julius Margolis, 45 Whitman Court, Irvine, CA 92714, 714-854-3911. ★★★★★


July 9-10, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. ★★★★★

July 16, Commonwealth Games of Virginia, Roanoke, VA. Contact: Flip Carico, 3324 Lakeland Circle, Troutville, VA 24175, 703-977-1307. ★★★

July 16, Melbourne Florida Summer Open, Melbourne, FL. Contact: Joseph Henneke, 740 Burman Lane, Northeast, Palm Bay, FL 32905, 407-724-4067. ★★★

July 17, Strike One July Open, Burlington, MA. Contact: Donald B. Hayes, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02143, 603-654-6620. ★★★

July 23-24, NTTC July Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indianola Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882. ★★★

July 30-August 6, Seafair Pacific NW Championships, Seattle, WA. Contact: Tyra Perkins, 509 Olave Way #533, Seattle, WA 98101, 206-622-9215. ★★★

August 3-6, A&U & USATT Junior Nationals, Palm Bay, FL. Contact: Dick Butler, 1107 River Ridge Dr., Augusta, GA 30909, 706-737-5008. ★★★★★

August 6-7, LOUISIANA OPEN, Baton Rouge, LA. Contact: Power Poos, 4413 Lake Sherwood Ave. E., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, 504-293-0534. ★★★★★


August 13-14, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. ★★★★★

August 14, Strike One August Open, Burlington, MA. Contact: Donald B. Hayes, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02143, 603-654-6620. ★★★


August 21, Detroit Open, W. Bloomfield, MI. Contact: Cody Jones, #8H, 3050 Union Lake Road, Union Lake, MI 48382.

August 27-28, NTTC August Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indianola Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882. ★★★

August 27-28, Florida State Closed, Orlando, FL. Contact: Olga Soltesz, 1739 Shady Ridge Court, Orlando, FL 32807, 407-830-4009. ★★★

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(908) 356-8880

USATT Headquarters
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 578-4583

May/June 1994
Las Vegas, December 1993

1993 U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Amy Feng
Titles: Women's Singles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles
Equipment: Keyshot-FL
Srver-FX 2.0 r&b

David Zhuang
Titles:
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles
Equipment:
Chinese-Carbon
Resilon 1.7 red
Feint-OX black

Lily Yip
Title: Women's Doubles
Equipment:
Chinese-Carbon
Resilon 2.0 red
Feint-OX black

Sean O'Neill
Title: Men's Doubles
Equipment: Cresail-FL
Srver-Kawa 2.0 r&b
APEX Lightspeed Rubber

A review by Christian Lillieroos, USATT Certified National Coach

APEX Lightspeed is a revolutionary new table tennis rubber

About 4 to 5 years ago the benefits of regluing came to the attention of many American players. As word spread, players realized, just as many European players discovered over a decade ago, that regluing or speed-gluing, as it is often called, not only could increase the speed and spin of many table tennis shots but also could improve overall shot control, as a result of the ball staying longer on the racket. For over a decade the regluing revolution has found its way to all parts of the world. (The most recent converts have been the Chinese top players.) The new Apex Lightspeed line of table tennis rubber, I believe, represents a revolution potentially similar in impact to the discovery of the regluing effect.

APEX Lightspeed increases ball contact time

When Airedale initially started to develop their new rubber it was with the intent to create a rubber with the same properties of reglued rubber without the need to reglue. This was at the time considered to be important as the ITTF had stated its intention to ban all liquid based adhesives. After, a considerable amount of research was carried out by Airedale in new sponge technology with no real improvement in performance over existing Japanese sponges, (research in this area is ongoing), it was decided that most of the research effort should be centered on redesigning the top sheet component of the table tennis rubber sheet. By a careful reformulation of the material and geometry of the top sheet, Airedale was able to create a rubber with the ability to dramatically increase the time the ball stays on the racket. When the Apex Lightspeed rubber (Attack and Attack Plus) is reglued, the dwell time is further increased, allowing the ball to stay on the racket longer than with any rubber I have played with in the past, including the established Japanese products such as Silver, Mark V, etc. or the Chinese hard sponge/sticky top sheet rubber (which requires a very special technique and a great deal of effort to produce fast/spinny balls). The result is a rubber which reacts differently than any rubber before offering an unheard of range of shot possibilities for the average and champion level player alike. With the lifting of the ban on regluing by the ITTF until August 1995 and the strong possibility that the Professional Players Association will further pressure the ITTF to continue to allow the use of regluing beyond this date, players have once again decided to take advantages of reglued rubber. By the combining the special properties of the Apex Lightspeed top sheet with the advantages of reglued sponge, most players will find a whole new dimension in playing is open to them.

Beginner and Intermediate Players will benefit the most initially

The traditional 1500 level player who has yet to do advanced shots like the loop off the bounce, short serve returns, smash of loops, etc., and who does not reglue, will find it very much easier to learn these shots even with un-reglued Apex Lightspeed rubber. The main characteristic is the same as with regluing, an increase in speed, spin and control. However, the rubber also allows for a much simplified technique to be used for a large number of different advanced strokes. This is a benefit for the beginner and intermediate players who wish to add these shots to their repertoire as they just need to master only a few new strokes. However, for the more advanced player (2200+) this may be an initial handicap as they have to first unlearn the myriad of different techniques they have mastered when using traditional and more difficult to play with table tennis rubbers. In short, with Apex the same technique can be used for a wide variety of shots.

The proper technique to use with the new rubber

The fundamental principal to keep in mind when playing with this new breed of rubber is that as a result of its highly elastic top sheet, you are able to carry the ball longer than before. This allows you more time to decide which shot you wish to make and gives you the ability to greatly disguise your shot. The critical point in the stroke is the timing at the point of contact with the ball. You should contact the ball at a slow speed with the racket at a slight angle (open angle) then once contact is made start your acceleration. Now you have two options. If you desire to loop a no spin ball stop your acceleration. On the other hand to achieve a fast loop ball the motion has to continue with a long forward carry stroke with the racket angle ending totally on top of the ball. The way to get heavy spin is to finish with the racket higher while using a thinner contact than the fast loop stroke. The racket head as before ends in a closed position. All this is done with less effort with this rubber. The range of shots from no spin, medium to heavy spin is greater and easier for the player to "dial in" than with traditional rubber. Another feature this rubber sheet has is that when you execute a fast or low spinny shot, the ball bounces lower than with any rubber I have played with in the past, including the established Japanese products such as Silver, Mark V, etc. or the Chinese hard sponge/sticky top sheet rubber. In short, with Apex the same technique can be used for a wide variety of shots.

Available in red or black with sponge thicknesses of 1.5, 1.7 and 2.0 mm

Currently the only ITTF approved table tennis rubber made in the USA!

Control - Medium speed and spin rubber for the control player.
Regular- High speed and spin rubber suitable for the all-round player.
Attack- Super speed and spin rubber for the power player.
Attack Plus- For the advanced player who places more of an emphasis on speed rather than spin.

Control & Regular $17.95 a sheet  Attack & Attack Plus $18.95 a sheet
Buy Four Or More Sheets Of Rubber And Receive A $1.00 Discount Per Sheet!
Please add $2.00 to each rubber order for shipping and handling.

Christian Lillieroos

ASTU/SITCO Player Box
1994 US Collegiate Team Championships
André Scott
Member of 1st place team-University of Maryland
Sitco Carbo-Flex Tetra with Lightspeed Attack
April 1994 Denmar Round Robin
Nan Li
1st Open Division
ASTI Euro-Flex with Lightspeed Attack

Contact us about ASTI's 1994 table tennis summer camp schedule with Christian Lillieroos and other highly qualified coaches.

Glue Sheets - Tru-Glu - The revolutionary solid glue sheet 6 Pack 7.00 12 Pack 12.50 price includes shipping/handling in USA
Send Check/Money Order to: Airedale Sports & Technology, Inc. 650 Tolman Creek Rd. Ashland, OR 97520
For General Information on Products Call: 503-488-2695 For Visa/MC, COD or Fax Orders: 800-879-0904

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