L-R: Ding Song, Ma Wenge, Wang Tao, Liu Guoliang, after winning Men's Team. (Not shown: Kong Linghui, who would later win Men's Singles.)
THE 1995 WORLDS TAPES ARE HERE!

The Just-Released 1995 43rd World Championships Tapes are available now at the Paddle Palace. Reflex Sports has done it again, with top-quality results!

1-800-547-5891

Congratulations, Kong Linhui, 1995 World Men's Champion!

With his JUIC 999 Rubber, Kong Linhui won the Gold Medal for Men's Singles at the 1995 World Championships. He also won the Silver Medal in Mixed Doubles and lead the Chinese Men's Team to the Gold Medal in the Team Competition.

JUIC SYSTEM #1

LAST CHANCE
AT THIS VERY LOW PRICE!

Zoran Kalinic
Gold Medalist (Men's Doubles) in 1994 European Championships
plays with JUIC Kalinic blade and JUIC Scramble rubber.

JUIC Kalinic Blade with two sheets of any JUIC rubber!

ONLY $65

Price good thru 8/31/95

$99 value

The Kalinic blade is a medium-fast 5-ply blade with great touch. Speed it up or down with your choice of any JUIC rubber. Handle: flared, anatomic, conic, or straight.

JUIC SYSTEM #2

DUE TO THE INCREDIBLE POPULARITY OF THE NEW SUPER POWER SPECIAL, WE ARE CONTINUING IT THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1995

The Kalinic

Super Power Blade with two sheets of any JUIC rubber!

ONLY $75!

$106 value

New, from JUIC, The Kalinic Super Power is designed for POWER. Recommended for players who play with an aggressive forehand and backhand attack. The Super Power is a 7-ply blade with two plys of "Fire Wood" inside providing explosive speed and power. Flared Handle, 7-Ply, Fast+ Speed
### THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

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by Ben Nisbet

We are please to announce that the 1994 USATT Annual report has just been completed! For the first time in the Association’s history this report will be distributed to all the clubs and made available at the upcoming U.S. Open. It provides the membership with a detailed account of fiscal year 1994 as well as commentary on our plans to grow the sport in the future.

USATT in Fiscal Year 1994, reported a 4% increase in revenues to $877 thousand. This growth was fueled by the income received from the U.S. Open and from increases in the membership account (comprised of membership, club fees and the new ratings system). In terms of our revenue picture, the most important event was not the revenue growth itself but the improving quality of these revenues! By bringing in the ratings database in house we added $52 thousand in new monies for the USATT, an income stream that will likely be repeated year after year. Furthermore, and just as important, was a noticeable growth in our membership numbers to 7300 at year end. Expenses in Fiscal Year 1994 did exceed revenues by $6 thousand but this was well within our tolerance limits as our budget had forecasted only a $5 thousand surplus. The expense account for 1994 was divided as follows:

Expenditures for Each Dollar of Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athlete Support</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Open</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Service &amp; Technical Support</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Nationals</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing/TV</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters/Board of Directors</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1995 will be an excellent year for USATT. Our revenues are expected to exceed $925 thousand, primarily from additional ACOP funding, and from our new merchandising and fund raising programs to be rolled out this year. In addition, the start-up costs for bringing the ratings system in house and from managing the tournament in Anaheim are now behind us, giving us expected reductions in expenses.

The increase in revenues will be passed directly down to the various support programs, including athlete development and for the opening of the new Elite Training Center in Davidson, Michigan. In addition, the 1995 budget, for the first time in a number of years is projecting a sizable surplus. This surplus is needed to build fund balance and help us solve the lack of liquidity during certain times of the year.

The future however is not without its challenges. In 1996 and beyond, we expect significant cutbacks from USOC funding as the pool of monies after Atlanta is expected to fall. Furthermore, our contract with ACOP expires in 1996. Combined, these factors could leave a funding gap in excess of $100 thousand. USATT is well positioned to meet these challenges. Table Tennis is a participant sport and there is an unlimited potential to boost membership. We have in place an Executive Director and Staff that are focused, hard working and prepared to meet the challenges.

For anyone interested in receiving a copy of USATT’s 1995 Budget, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Ben Nisbet, USATT, 67 Ridgeway Drive, Irvington, NY 10533

by Malcolm R. Anderson

The ITTF has made two significant rules changes that you should know about. I’ve asked our EC to change the USATT Rules to comply, and in any case they will apply to the U.S. Open, as it is an International Open. The changes are:

Delete USATT Rule 14.2.3 - “Require the loser to make the first choice.” This refers to the choice of serves and ends—from now on the winner of the toss must choose either who serves or which end each player starts at, with the loser then making the other choice.

Delete USATT Rule 4.4.2 - “After August 1, 1995, no adhesive that uses any solvent may be used to attach the rubber to the blade.”

This will leave the following rule still in place:

4.4.1 Only adhesives that have been approved by the ITTF for this purpose may be used to attach the rubber to the blade.

In short, the ITTF has canceled the total glue ban, you may still reglue WITH AN APPROVED GLUE. (Note that the Korean player Kim Taek Soo was disqualified from the semifinals of the World Championships, after apparently beating World #2 Wang Tao of China in the quarterfinals. Kim’s racket tested positive for toluene and xylene—both banned solvents—after the match. The ITTF is completely serious about banning toxic solvents—we can do no less.

The following questions have been asked:

1. Suppose I hit a ball that just dribbles over the net. I raise my hand and say, “Sorry!” but my opponent makes an incredible diving return of the ball—but just misses. Since I talked during the point, do I win or lose the point, or is it a let?

The relevant rule in this case is:

10.1 A rally is a let:

10.1.1 If, in the opinion of the umpire or assistant umpire, failure to make a good service or a good return or otherwise to comply with the Laws is due to a disturbance outside the control of the player.

If the umpire decides that your talking distracted your opponent, the rally is a let. Otherwise you win the point.

2. Suppose, in the middle of a rally, I hit the ball into the net. I look at my racket, and discover it is wet. Is the rally a let?

The same rule applies here. If the umpire decides the wet racket caused the miss, the rally is a let. Otherwise you lose the point.

In both cases above the umpire’s judgment is final. The referee can overrule the umpire on a point of law, but not on a point of fact.

3. Can my opponent change rackets during a match? If so, how often?

Yes, whenever he wants between points. The relevant rule is:

4.12 At the start of a match and whenever he changes his racket, a player shall show his opponent and the umpire the racket he is about to use and shall allow them to examine it.

Note that examining a racket means looking at it, but not touching

However, note also the following rule: (A Rally is a let)

10.1.6 If it is interrupted for warning a player for a service of doubtful correctness or that he has failed to notify a change of racket. If a player fails to notify the umpire and his opponent when he changes his racket, the umpire shall immediately report this to the referee. On the first occasion the referee shall warn the player; on any subsequent occasion the referee shall disqualify him.

Thus, you must ALWAYS notify your opponent and the umpire EVERY time you change rackets, even if you are switching back and forth between the same two rackets.

If anyone has questions on the rules of TT, don’t hesitate to contact me at 32D Forest Acres Drive, Bradford, MA 01835.
**Butterfly®**

**New 95!**

---

**Primorac Carbon**

The carbon blade designed by Zoran Primorac that combines Carbon and Cypress plies for power play.

**Ekrips**

Ekrips' rubber surface provides soft touch at impact. The sponge's high elasticity gives your shot extra power.

---

**Primorac Power Feeling**

Offensive blade which ideally combines speed and touch. More power for hard smashes and spins, while retaining touch for variations and accurate placements.

---

**Grubba Variant**

Allround blade for experienced players who want control and accuracy in all strokes.

---

*Table Tennis Today* 5
Congratulations and Appreciations

by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

Let’s start by congratulating those who won their seats in the recent election: Terry Timmins as the new president, Y.C. Lee as the vice president, and Dr. Wang as the secretary. Now that the dust has settled, we can direct our attention to the responsibilities and work for the coming years. During the election we heard new ideas and read about new visions. We wish all the officials a successful term, which will help them realize their dreams and visions.

Something was different about this election. It was the involvement of the officials. Several of them ran for offices. To my knowledge Terese Terranova, Larry Kesler, Y.C. Lee, and Terry Timmins entered the arena. It was refreshing to see many officials wanting to get involved. and it was more rewarding to see that the members of the USATT gave their confidence to two officials, Terry Timmins and Y.C. Lee. I am confident that they will live up to everyone’s trust. It is also a golden chance for all officials to do their best to ensure the success of this administration. Let us remember that it takes more than those sitting in office to create new diwms. It is also a wake up call to other officials reminding them that it is possible to get involved and it is worth taking the risk of putting themselves on the line. It is possible as an official to run and to get elected. Yes, it takes a lot of hard work and organization, but for the sake of the sport it is worth it. After all, one can assume that many of the officials are deeply concerned about the sport in general and the USATT in particular.

This is not just a time for congratulations, it is also a time for appreciation. Appreciation of those individuals who do not have a large part of their lives serving the USATT. Let us not forget that those who lost their seats recently have been serving the organization for years. Ex-president Dan Seemiller did his best during his term and all the years as a player and umpire of the U.S., and he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1995. Gus Kennedy has donated his energy, time, money and effort to the USATT on the national and international level for many years. Mal Anderson has served on the USATT and the ITTF rules committees for over 20 years. Let us express our appreciation to those individuals, and many others, for their commitment and dedication to the sport. Let us ask them to remember that this is just a changing of the guards, not an abandonment of the ship. The ship is still sailing and it needs their services and experiences. Many sports try to include their ex-officers by honoring them in their major tournaments, and ask for their symbolic participation in the ceremonies. It is good for the sport and USATT to always extend invitations to those significant officers who contributed to it. It is also a time for appreciation.

During the election we heard new voices, new ideas and fresh approaches to old problems. It is also a time for appreciation.

We have been reprimanded previously by the ITTF for our casual approach toward assigning tournament officials. I hope this was but a facet of omission and not a neglect. Let us work together to make every tournament live up to a higher standard.

Dear USATT
I felt that you needed to know, since you have faithfully sent my husband Dick Tucker Table Tennis Today; that he passed away on December 29, 1994. He was in the hospital two weeks and unknown to us and himself, had terminal colon cancer. He played serious table tennis up to the beginning of December, but then started having pains and health problems. He loved his table tennis and helped organize Greensboro’s club. I truly believe his continual playing of ping pong (table tennis, sorry) gave him the exercise that allowed him to continue with a good quality of life. It always was a fun time for him to sit down and read his Table Tennis Today every time they came. He hadn’t played in many tournaments these past few years, but maybe 10 years back was quite active. At one time, he was the top senior player in North Carolina. One of his greatest joys in life was his enjoyment of table tennis. I am sure you will let us know sooner, but I seem to be slow in doing that very thing. He was 68 years old on June 24, 1994 and a tremendous table tennis player in the last days. Thank you for your publications that were so very important to him. I am not a player myself, just a spectator. He was the dedicated one to table tennis. Sincerely, Grace Tucker

Dear Editor,

Our dear friend, Joe Henneke from Palm Bay died last Sunday from a head injury sustained during a fall in the shower. He was a kind, gentle person that I had become to like very much as I’m sure had all of the members of the Melbourne T.T. Club. His friendship and dedication to our sport will long be remembered.

Sincerely,

Randall Hess

TABLE TENNIS TODAY

Officals’ View

CHRIS & BERNIE

by Tyra Parkinson & Michael J. Scott, MD

Although we do not advocate gambling, we must mention the outstanding accomplishment of our fellow table tennis club member Christian Van Ness. Chris is rated around 2000, but he is universally known for his poker skills. He has won several such tournaments with 5 all his figure awards. None however top his April 25 First Place win in Las Vegas for $315,000.00 at the 26th Annual World Series of Poker. The entry fee was $1,500.00 and attracted 560 entrants from around the world.

Chris had acquired a substantial chip lead when all but the final three contestants were eliminated and he never relinquished that position.

Bernie Bukiet was a very close friend of all three of us. We were just ready to phone Bernie about Chris’s windfall when we learned of his death. For many years at the National Table Tennis Tournament in Las Vegas we have shared a small table at the Banquet with Bernie, Bobby Fields, Ruben Gomes and Von Schleimerman, Tim Boggan, Gusfick, Jack Howard, Gus Kennedy and Richard McAfée frequently joined us whenever they attended the function.

This year we will leave a vacant chair at the table in memory of our dear friend Bernie. He always looked forward and was delighted to dance with Tyra during the yearly event. Bernie will certainly be missed by the Table Tennis scene and we look forward to Bobgan’s tribute to him in the next issue of TT Today.

U.S. Officials Excel at 43rd World Championships

Over 150 International Umpires from associations around were invited to officiate at the 43rd World Championships in Tianjin, China on May 1-14, 1995. Representing the United States were Y.C. Lee of Palos Verdes Estates, California, and Aly Salam of Duluth, Georgia. Because of their outstanding performance during the 43rd World Championships, the two International Umpires from the USA were bestowed with special honors:

- Y.C. Lee was selected as Chief Umpire for the Men’s Doubles Final.
- Aly Salam was selected as the Chief Umpire for the Men’s Team Final.

Thanks to our officials for a job well done!

Y.C. Lee was selected as Chief Umpire for the Men’s Doubles Final.

Y.C. Lee was selected as Chief Umpire for the Men’s Doubles Final.

Y.C. Lee was selected as Chief Umpire for the Men’s Doubles Final.

CLUB LISTING CORRECTION

Because of a clerical error, the USATT-Affiliated Clubs in the states of Washington and Wisconsin were inadvertently omitted from the May/June issue of Table Tennis Today. USA Table Tennis would like to apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Texas

Top of Table Tennis Club
c/o Paul C. Dodgen
President
1522 S. Lipscomb
Amarillo, TX 79102
Contact: Paul C. Dodgen
Phone: 806-374-0862

Washington

Bellevue TTC
Crossroad Center
1600 N.E. 10th Ave.
Bellevue, WA 98008
Contact: Daniel Sie
Phone: 206-957-4471

Boeing Employees TTC-Kent
Boeing Kent Act. Center
22649 83rd Avenue, South
Kent, WA 98016
Contact: Pete Williams
Phone: 206-228-5063

Boeing Employees TTC-South
c/o Joe Romanyko
7714 18th Avenue, S.W.
Seattle, WA 98106
Contact: Joe Romanyko
Phone: 206-662-4826

Mountlake TTC
Alder Crest Learning Center
2545 N.E. 200th Street
Seattle, WA 98155
Contact: George Kawamoto
Phone: 206-485-3136

Tri-City TTA
c/o Keith Fiene
1907 Forest Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
Contact: Keith Fiene
Phone: 509-946-8843

Wisconsin

Oshkosh Table Tennis Group
5114 State Road 44
Oshkosh, WI 54904
Contact: Dick Dorsey
Phone: 414-589-4652

St. Luke Parish TTC
St. Luke Parish (Carpenter Hall)
18000 W. Greenfield Ave.
Brookfield, WI 53045
Contact: Dan Bauer
Phone: 414-544-6678

Wisconsin TTA
Univ. of Wisconsin Waukesha
8975 South 13th St.
Oak Creek, WI 53154
Contact: Paul Dadan
Phone: 414-762-9058

Grace Tucker

July/August 1995
SERVES YOU RIGHT.
NEWGY ROBO-PONG 2000
YOUR PERSONAL TABLE TENNIS ROBOT
With the Features You Asked For

**Special Offer**
**USATT Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$495</td>
<td>Robo-Pong 2000 (retail $595)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$99</td>
<td>Robo-Master (retail $139)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$34</td>
<td>Robo-Tote (retail $44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$49</td>
<td>Robo-Balls, gross (or or wh.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No Assembly — You can take the robot out of the box, slide it onto your table and be playing with it in less than 5 minutes.

Improved Collection Net — Comes with side nets and front net already attached to the main net. Fewer balls end up on the floor, letting you play for a longer time without stopping.

More Consistent — Our ball discharge system has been re-engineered to provide a more consistent ball trajectory and landing spot.

- Easily select any spin—top, back, side, even combination spins!
- Set ball speeds from 10-75 MPH.
- Delivers from 17-85 balls/minute.
- Choose from 8 oscillation zones.
- Height/depth adjustments from short serves to high lobs.
- Comes complete with collection net, remote control, 48 balls, videotape, owner handbook, and table tennis instruction manual.

Quieter & Smoother — The ball feed and oscillator mechanisms have been redesigned to operate substantially quieter and smoother.

Portable — The robot is so compact and lightweight that it can be placed in its optional Robo-Tote carrying case and carried on your back or in your car to your club or friend’s house. Weighs less than 25 lbs.

Durable — Because we know you will give your Robo-Pong 2000 plenty of use, we have reinforced key wear points. With a history of long use and reliability, Newgy provides 1-year limited warranty and a 5-year service policy with each robot.

ALSO TRY PONG-MASTER
THE WORLD'S FIRST ELECTRONIC INTERACTIVE TABLE TENNIS GAME

Try Pong-Master, the perfect companion to Robo-Pong 2000. Combine this game with Robo-Pong 2000 or 1929 Newgy Table Tennis Robot for more great fun.

You score points by hitting the sensor target with your returns; The robot scores points on elapsed time. Pong-Master keeps the time and score.

Beat Robo-Pong 2000 at Pong-Master and you can beat anybody.

1-800-55 NEWGY
Call us NOW!

Robo-Pong & Pong-Master make great gifts!
TIM BOGGAN WINS ORDER OF MERIT AWARD

DIDJA KNOW?

by Bob Green

Photo by Mal Anderson

1995

ORDER OF MERIT AWARD

TIM BOGGAN WINS

Championships.

per and from 1948-95 has attended 21 World

author of several very well-received table

Table Tennis

8 Table Tennis Today

and doubles matches in the team event.

ues to be serialized in current issues of the

Coaches Who Raised

$10,000 JOOLA PRIZE

KILLER TABLE TENNIS

The book, "Tricks of the Trade for Kids," edited by Jerry Dunn, is out in book-

stores now, including Waldenbooks, B.J. Dalfon, Borders, and Crown Book Stores.

Included in the book is a chapter entitled "Play Killer Table Tennis." by Table Tennis

Today Editor and USATT Certified Na-

tional Coach Larry Hodges. (Hodges re-

cieved no money for the work, just an assurance

that the book would include the USATT's phone number, which it does.)

The book includes chapters written by Arnold Schwarzenegger, Ronald Reagan,

Culin Powell, Jerry Seinfeld, Lise Iacocca, William F. Buckley Jr., Mister Rogers, Buzz

Aldrin, Dennis Conner, Peggy Fleming, Tom Sito (head of animation at Disney Studios),

LeVar Burton (Laforge from Star Trek), William Fikre of Star Trek: The Next Gen-


Overhead at the St. Joseph Valley Open &

North American Championships at St.

Joseph Valley, Indiana, May 27-29:

"I'll never have kids," Todd Sweeters, who (along with Cheng Yinghua & Sean

Lorongar) sat in front of a baby on their flight to the St. Joseph Valley Open. The

baby never stopped screaming.

"I used to play table tennis in college with a member of the Grand Cayman Island

Olympic Team. He played with sandpaper and switched hands to hit the ball." Cab

driver at the the North American Champions-

ships.

"That gives you great incentive." Sean Lorongar to Dave Fernandez, after Dave

had noted that if he beats Dan Seemiller (at North American Championships), he'll play

Cheng Yinghua.

"It's really not fair. They're professionals, who play twice a day. They get salaries from the Canadian Association. We have to work for a living and train in our spare
time." U.S. Women's Champion Amy Feng

"Counselor Troi convinced me should try

for major tournaments. were not engraved.

"I bet if Saive and Waldner went to China,

even in a province, their level would be

full-time player Jim Butler in the Allstar

of the ball. and brushing off the hand.)

"I may have my best chance ever against

God in this humidity." Derek May, just

"If the player is weaker than you, serve

long. If the player is stronger than you,

"If I win, it's for the college boys." Col-

lege student Todd Sweeters, before playing
time player Jim Butler in the Allstar

Men's Singles. He lost...

Heard anything interesting at the table tennis club recently? Send it to: NTTC, 1301 Indiana Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-816-9304 (fax).

They Said It...

"At least I won something this week." Dan

Seemiller, after winning the Pennsylvania

State Championships the same week he

lost in the USATT Presidential election.

"I bet if Suive and Waldner went to China,

even in a province, their level would be below average in the province team." Ding

Wu, on Internet, May 12, 1995

"Didn't know [well-known, controversial U.S. Umpire who was not at Worlds] was
going to be there." Larry Bass, on hearing about Kim Taeck Soo's default at the World

Championships for illegal glue.

"Counselor Troi convinced me should try the new table tennis program. That game is not as easy to look at," Commissioner

William Biker of Star Trek: The Next Gen-


Overhead at the St. Joseph Valley Open &

North American Championships at St.

Joseph Valley, Indiana, May 27-29:

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time." U.S. Women's Champion Amy Feng

"Counselor Troi convinced me should try

for major tournaments. were not engraved.

"I bet if Saive and Waldner went to China,

even in a province, their level would be below average in the province team." Ding

Wu, on Internet, May 12, 1995

"Didn't know [well-known, controversial U.S. Umpire who was not at Worlds] was
going to be there." Larry Bass, on hearing about Kim Taeck Soo's default at the World

Championships for illegal glue.

"Counselor Troi convinced me should try the new table tennis program. That game is not as easy to look at," Commissioner

William Biker of Star Trek: The Next Gen-


Overhead at the St. Joseph Valley Open &

North American Championships at St.

Joseph Valley, Indiana, May 27-29:

"I'll never have kids," Todd Sweeters, who (along with Cheng Yinghua & Sean

Lorongar) sat in front of a baby on their flight to the St. Joseph Valley Open. The

baby never stopped screaming.

"I used to play table tennis in college with a member of the Grand Cayman Island

Olympic Team. He played with sandpaper and switched hands to hit the ball." Cab

driver at the the North American Champions-

ships.

"That gives you great incentive." Sean Lorongar to Dave Fernandez, after Dave

had noted that if he beats Dan Seemiller (at North American Championships), he'll play

Cheng Yinghua.

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$7,700 SUN TV OPEN

TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Greentree Racquet Club, Pittsburgh, PA
August 19-20, 1995

NATIONAL ALLSTAR SERIES EVENT

***FULLY AIR CONDITIONED***

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<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
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TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:
SITE: Greentree Racquet Club, Pittsburgh, PA
DIRECTORS: Dan Seemiller & Barry Rodgers
REFEREE: Bill Walk
AGES: As of August 19, 1995
ELIGIBILITY: Events #3-5 are open to U.S. ITTF Eligible players only. All other events are open to anyone. Adult and junior players must be members of any USATT or ITTF affiliate or purchase a USATT membership.
DRESS: Solid, non-white clothing and soft-soled shoes must be worn. USATT dress code will be enforced.
EQUIPMENT: 14 Stiga tables, 6 Butterfly tables, Butterfly white balls, air conditioned.
PLAY: Events 1, 3 & 4 are best of five. All others are best of three except finals.
RR - Round Robin.
NOTE: Tournament management may modify, combine or cancel events, limit entries and assign temporary ratings for unrated players. All USATT rules will be enforced.
DEADLINE: Entry deadline is August 12, 1995. Any late entries, entries without payment or phone entries will be charged a fee of $10.00. Please send entries to: SUN TV OPEN, 307 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15227, 412-884-5864. Make checks payable to: Sun TV Open Table Tennis.

DIRECTIONS TO TOURNAMENT:
FROM WEST: Take Ohio Turnpike to PA Turnpike and take exit 3. Follow one mile to 79 South to 279 North Pittsburgh. Exit Greentree. Turn left at light. Take left at next light, and follow down hill past Holiday Inn. Take 2nd right up Marriot Drive. Take right on Iron City Drive.
FROM SOUTH: 70 East to 79 North to 279 North, then follow directions from West.
FROM EAST: PA turnpike to exit 6. Take 376 to 279S. Exit Greentree/Crafton, take left exit. Take left at stop sign and follow downhill to Marriot's second entrance. Follow up hill and take right on Iron City Drive.
FROM NORTH: 79 South to 279 North, then follow directions from West.

Hotels:
GREENTREE MARRIOTT
101 Marriott Drive, 412-922-8400
$60/night (Regularly $89/night)
(Mention Table Tennis Tournament for discount)
Next Door to Playing Site

Motel 6
$28.95/night for a single
211 Beechem Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-922-9400
six miles from playing site

NAME_________________________________ ADDRESS_______________________________
PHONE________________ BIRTHDATE_______ RATING______ USATT EXP. DATE__________

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NAME_________________________________ ADDRESS_______________________________
PHONE________________ BIRTHDATE_______ RATING______ USATT EXP. DATE__________

I hereby assume all risk and responsibility for my participating in this tournament. I release tournament personnel from any claims for injury or loss suffered due to my participation in this tournament. I will abide by all rules and decisions of the tournament director(s).

SIGNATURE__________________________________________
Parents must sign for minor(s)

Sponsored by SUN TV & APPLIANCE COMPANY

July/August 1995
Two weeks of non-stop table tennis action—and most of us had to miss it! No problem—on the following 18 pages, you'll live it through the eyes of our very own North American Vice President, Tim Boggan (with help from Diego Schaaf, who wrote up the Men's Singles, and Gary Ruderman's "Through the Camera Lens.") You'll see it through ready, the field had been cleared of some eyes of our very own North American Vice President, Tim Boggan (both of whom who graciously allowed us to it! No problem—on the following 18 pages, you'll live it through the camera lens of Mal Anderson, Diego Schaaf, The Butterfly Report and China Sports Magazine (both of whom who graciously allowed us to use their photos). Enjoy!

**MEN'S SINGLES**

by Diego Schaaf

China was ready! We could already tell the tournament live to hundreds of millions of people all over the world. And China was watching: Every day Chinese TV carried several hours of the tournament. Literally thousands of volunteers participated in the organization of the event, and some of them were able to see the inside of the competition halls.

The attention by the fans was so intense that the Chinese athletes had to be escorted by police from the venue and their hotel, which was immediately adjacent to the hall. Occasionally one of them would try to make it through the halls by himself, and he'd be swarmed by dozens of autograph seekers.

And China was watching: Every day Chinese TV carried several hours of the tournament live to hundreds of millions of spectators. The hall was well filled for most of the time, and from about the quarters onward there was not an open seat in the house.

With such pressure, all Chinese players started the tournament somewhat shaky. Yet as events unfolded, they would dominate in an unprecedented fashion. Both Men's and Women's events were won by the host. The comet-like ascent of young star Kong Linghui, who a mere year ago played what he called "my best tournament so far" when he won the U.S. Open, already culminated in an unprecedented fashion. Both Men's and Women's events would be won by the host.

**Tianjin, China**

China Sweeps Everything!

May 1-14, 1995

Gary Ruderman’s "Through the Camera Lens.") You’ll see it through the cameras of Mal Anderson, Diego Schaaf, The Butterfly Report and China Sports Magazine (both of whom who graciously allowed us to use their photos). Enjoy!

**World Men’s Singles Champion**

Kong Linghui

Tianjin, China

China Sweeps Everything!

May 1-14, 1995

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**World Men’s Singles Runner-up**

Liu Guoliang

The Infamous Round of 16

The stage was set for what was to become the start of a bloodbath for European Table Tennis. Of the 16 players, six were members of the Chinese National Team, one was Korean, eight were Europeans and one was a Chinese representing Austria (Ding Yi).

There were so many ironies and significant coincidences bunched together in the events of this one day: After long 5-game matches, the last three World Champions all fell to China’s up-and-coming stars—all three matches finishing within 7 minutes of each other. In fact they went down in reverse order of their ascent—the ‘83 champion Gatien lost his match first (to Kong Linghui), then the ‘91 champion Persson (to Ding Song) and minutes later ‘89 champion Waldner (to Liu Guoliang). Kong and Liu were in their early teens when China lost its dominance in ‘89. Ding a couple of years older, and they all must have been picked right around that time to be the ones to regain that position for their country. After that six “gestation period,” what a better setting to succeed in than at home.

As if to validate the championship he won a couple of days later, Kong Linghui almost physically took the crown out of the reigning champion Gatien’s hand by defeating him head to head. In a beautiful 5-game match Kong proved those wrong who had seen him in a very promising, but not quite mature player. A European coach had commented on Kong after his some-what rocky performances in Italy and Sweden: “He is a technically brilliant player, has good serves and plays a very good topspin game from both sides. With this very European-like style, he will be an important tactical variation against Asian competitors, but against a good European player his backhand is too soft.”

Well, it might have been last year, but Kong learnt fast! Gatien’s legendary forehand just didn’t work against Persson during his nervous first match (to Ding). Waldner found himself a couple of times with very little placed in the middle of the table from a good two feet behind his body. In the second game Liu took a quick 4-1 lead and continued to a 18-12 advantage by smashing Waldner’s loops in all conceivable directions. And then it was almost his turn to let a big lead evaporate. Waldner, serving, attacked with authority, won his five service points and then tied it at 19-all. At 20-20, Liu looped Waldner’s serve right into his hip, and won the game by lifting a net-dribbler. Against Ding that does not work well. The slightest hint of a drop shot brings him forward to the table, and by the time the ball bounces, he is in perfect position to loop or smash the ball. However, when he was too far out, he had a complete attack arsenal: He can loop with his forehand, his backhand— inside-out, straight, hook— from any part of the table.

Frequently he bypasses the chop portion of his game altogether and plays straight attack for a while. When he does chop (he uses short pops on the backhand), his balls are so hard to read that none of the Europeans seemed to be able to continue looping enough balls. They either got lured into a mistake or were forced to try a drop shot—with the results I mentioned above. Persson put up a valiant fight, but ultimately he couldn’t solve the puzzle and lost 11-9, 11-7, 11-4.

Waldner’s loss was quite surprising, because he had thus far looked in such splendid form that some thought he might take the title again. His meeting with Liu Guoliang called to mind the result of the previous international tournament, when he had burst onto the scene with a victory over Waldner.

Initially both had great difficulty receiving serves. A fiery Liu pounded on every possible opportunity. Undaunted, Waldner took a 17-13 lead in the first game, but then Liu stopped him dead in his tracks: He got the serve and scored 5 points, handing him a couple of times with very little placed in the center. Waldner, now down 17-18, attacked hard, but his put-away nicked the net. Liu flicked the next receive in for a clean winner, and won the next game 11-5. Waldner’s fast, long topspin serve to the forehand corner and hooking it back onto the table from a good two feet behind his body. In the second game Liu took a quick 4-1 lead and continued to a 18-12 advantage by smashing Waldner’s loops in all conceivable directions. And then it was almost his turn to let a big lead evaporate. Waldner, serving, attacked with authority, won his five service points and then tied it at 19-all. At 20-20, Liu looped Waldner’s serve right into his hip, and won the game by lifting a net-dribbler over carefully with no spin but a big momentum. Against Ding that does not work well. Waldner into a counterlooping error.

The match continued tight, but it looked more and more like experience was about to overwhelm youthful fire. Waldner brought his whole arsenal to bear in the next two games, including a much bigger backhand loop than we’re used to seeing from him. He forced a fifth game, and although Liu was doing his job very well, more of Waldner’s power and accuracy was the key to victory thus Waldner into a counterlooping error.

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China's Ding Song chopped and looped his way to the semi's with upsets over Jean-Michel Saive and Jorgen Persson.

Fine form. With Waldner serving with a 10-5 lead after they changed sides, not too many were betting on Liu anymore. Liu got an edge, then Waldner missed a block by an inch or so, and suddenly the opposite side of the ball erupted in loud cheers. Kong had won his match against Gatien. Waldner and Liu waited a little for the noise to abate and continued. Liu seemed more vigorous. Maybe he won his match against Gatien. Waldner and Liu seemed to be in full swing. Suddenly the hall erupted in loud cheers: Kong had taken out Peter Franz (GER). He was the only European player who was able to inflict a clean past him. Of course, a hot shot to his backhand and reached the ball more than looping it. wound up rolling the ball near the table! Kong lost his concentration a little or at least not enough. He won the match in three straight games 18, 15, 16.

Another horrible incident marred the last final: Kim Taek Soo. Historically in trouble against Wang Tao, this time he turned a match this clearly? Kim was totally befuddled by Wang so differently from other times, would he not have won anyway? If he can smash so many balls and make them go in, does the additional speed really make a difference? Remember, the comparison is not speed glue vs. no speed glue. It is the difference between one type of speed glue solvent and another. Granted, the old, banned glues are more effective. But by how much? Enough to turn a match this clearly?

Kim's steadfast denial of using an illegal glue supports a scenario offered in an article in the official German Table Tennis magazine: During the World Championships in Göteborg, some German players voluntarily had a mixture of two ITTF approved glues tested and the result was—to their complete amazement—positive. Kim had taken out Peter Franz (GER), Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), the European junior hope, who had advanced against his Bundesliga team mate Jorg Rosskopf (GER), and as mentioned above, Blaszczyk. The evening session—the quarterfinals—was scheduled for 5 pm. The match-ups were: Ding Song—Blaszczyk, Karlsson—Kong Linghui, Samsonov—Liu Guoliang and Wang Tao—Kim Taek Soo.

Blaszczyk was totally befuddled by Ding Song and never really in contention. He lost at 11, 10 and 16.

Liu Guoliang—always amazing—didn't seem to mind any part of Karlsson's game. The very backhand that less than a year ago was too soft to intimidate Europeans now seemed to prevail in most exchanges and even in the traditional strength of players from the old continent, the forehead counterloop. Kong came out ahead most of the time. When receiving serves, he often just pushed so heavy that Karlsson, in his attempt to loop it, wound up rolling the ball on the table! Kong lost his concentration a little (apparently that goes with table tennis genius—Waldner suffers from the same phenomenon) and dropped the second game at 23-25, but he easily cruised through the next two games at 11 and 11. (18, 23, 11, 11).

From the first time we have seen Vladimir Samsonov he has impressed us with his well-placed, powerful shots. There is a beautiful simplicity to his game. His strokes are smooth even under tremendous acceleration needed to produce the dazzling power that is typical to his shot. Under normal circumstances, his anticipation is almost flawless, he is rarely caught wrong-footed and almost no one can play a ball clear past him. Of course, a hot shot to his backhand and reached the ball only with the edge of his racket. For reasons only he knows, Waldner gave Liu another long serve. Liu fearlessly turned and looped the ball right back to Waldner's hip. Match to Liu 17, 20, 16, 17, 19.

The notable exception to the pronounced shift in balance from Europe to Asia was Lucian Blaszczyk (POL). He was the only European player who was able to inflict substantial damage to the Chinese. He is extremely quick and with his somewhat unorthodox strokes generates an amount of power that simply is amazing. After defeating the U.S. #1 player Cheng Yinghua in the second round, he won a tight 5-game struggle against Feng Zhe. He was just too fast and his shots too powerful for Feng. Ma Wenge was his next opponent. Ma, injured on his shoulder late last year, had reportedly not been able to participate in the preparations for this tournament and was not at his best. Blaszczyk's power-loops from the forehand and the backhand—right off the bounce—didn't give Ma enough time to unfold his game. He lost in three, 18, 15, 16.

The Quarterfinals

By the time the morning session was over, only three Europeans were left: Peter Karlsson, the last Swede in the field, who
It was not a good tournament for many of the top European stars, or for some of the Asian stars as well. Early losers included (clockwise from top left), Belgium’s Jean-Michel Salive (3-0 to China’s Ding Song), Sweden’s Jorgen Persson (3-2, from up match point against Ding Song), Germany’s Jorg Rosskopf (in 5 to Croatia’s Vladimir Samsonov), Sweden’s Jan-Ove Waldner (shown losing last point against China’s Liu Guoliang, 19 in 5th), Sweden’s Peter Karlsson (3-1 to Liu Guoliang), France’s Jean-Philippe Gatien (3-2 to China’s Kong Linghui), Mia Wenge (3-0 to Poland’s Lucian Blaszczyn), and You Nam Kyu (19 in 5th to China’s Fan Zhe).

admits to having used a mixture of two approved glues. Although chemists say that this is not possible, some further investigation might be in order.

Of course none of those questions really address the issue. During team competition, Kim reportedly had been warned that his glue was not acceptable. This was the rule, and however much he might have disagreed with it, all players are expected to abide by it. For whatever reasons, Kim did not.

This left Wang Tao in an extremely uncomfortable position. In an interview he gave after hearing of Kim’s disqualification, he said that indeed he had been surprised by it. He said that he would play the semifinal if he was told to, but in his heart he knew he had already lost this tournament. One can easily feel that he didn’t cherish the task of facing Ding Song. Beautiful points were played, but ultimately, Wang knew very well where to put the ball to give Liu a chance to put it away. As if he wanted to show the world that he could, if he wanted, Wang won the first game, but then he lost the next three. It left a sad note. Days before, he was celebrated as the new World Champion in the team event, and now he was seen losing twice in a row. But Wang Tao will be recognized as a true Champion. As his team’s #1 he bore the brunt of the pressure of having to win at home, and he contributed strongly to that success. Even though his performance in the singles event was less than stellar, the fact that he absorbed most of the media and fan attention seemed to have freed up his junior teammates and helped them perform at their best.

The other semifinal was another display of Kong Linghui’s ability to disssemble choppers. Those who have seen him play against Matthew Syed (ENG) in the team final of last year’s U.S. Open had an idea of what was in store for Ding Song. Ding’s magic suddenly didn’t seem to work anymore. He made the same shots that had left his previous opponents flabbergasted, but nothing seemed to confuse Kong. He refused to miss, but the spin, and he smashed and spun and dropped almost at will. Ding put up a valiant effort, and they played great points, but Kong beat him in three games that felt less close than 12, 18 and 18.

The Final

Again, last year’s U.S. Open was called to mind. The same two players played the finals. In Anaheim, Kong had destroyed Liu Guoliang, and we were hoping that this would be a closer match. Liu came out rearing, won the first six points they played (he lost one on a service fault call), took a 10-3 lead, let Kong catch up to 11-9, but then went ahead to finish the first game at 17. Kong stepped it up a notch. He looked much more aggressive in the second game. Liu reacted and managed to stay close until 15-15. On his serve, Kong ripped a couple of backhand winners, then got a point on what is best described as a backhand side/underspin block (straight out of Waldner’s “private collection”), and finally he looped two powerful forehands to put the score at 20-15. Game two to Kong 21-16. In the third game Liu took off from 14-13 to win 21-15. Kong came out to the fourth game playing uncharacteristically hurried. Again, he quickly dropped to a 3-10, then a 6-12 deficit. But suddenly he was on again, as if someone had thrown a switch. Now every loop found the corner, every push was huge, and his serves were outstandingly effective. From this point on, 1-2 down in games, in the fourth, he allowed Liu another 12 points for the whole remainder of the match! Finally, he caught up and took a 14-12 lead. Liu managed to tie at 14, but Kong shut him out for the rest of the game: 21-14. The fourth game started even, but Kong was helped to a 9-6 lead by three nips and edges. But then, although he got a couple more nips which led Liu to look up to the ceiling in despair, Kong started ripping loops left and right, blocked like a wall and just plain outplayed his teammate to claim the title.

Can I possibly resist the temptation of the obvious and not call him “King,” but Emperor Kong? Instead, which is more in keeping with his country’s tradition? At any rate, his game has a royal quality. Certainly there are still a number of things our new champion needs to work on. His concentration is spotty, although he can generate absolute absence to full concentration in a second flat.

He displayed that ability very clearly in his match against Gatien. As he was playing the third game, Kong gradually started to watch the Ding Song-Persson match on the table next to his, the winner of which he would play—if he won. He’d play a point, turn and watch a point of the other match and then continue playing. He lost the fourth game doing that—his coach probably .

For the rest of the game: 21-14. Nobody, including Kong and his coach, seemed to have noticed the point for Gatien. and the

A PRAISE TO SPORTSMAELSHIP

Gatien’s Good Deed

One of the outstanding features of the top competition of our sport is their honesty and sportsmanship, which they display to a degree we unfortunately hardly ever see in other sports. A good example of this was given by Jean-Philippe Gatien during his match against Kong Linghui (8ths of Men’s Singles), but it almost went almost unnoticed. Spectators following the match saw a tight score progression displayed on the official score card. They say 15-15, then 19-all. After missing his loop into the net, ostensibly to reach a score of 20-19, Gatien grabbed his towel and headed over to his coach, Kong, ready to play on, watched, a little confused, and waited until the umpire tried to call Gatien back. Upon seeing Gatien’s gesture indicating “Finished,” the umpire awarded a point to Kong, and the game went into the books as 21-19.

What had happened became clear only upon review of a videotape of the match. 11-13, Gatien made a powerful forehand loop which nicked the net and then missed the table by a fraction of an inch. The referee thought it hit and counted the point for Gatien, and the official score became 14-13 instead of 13-14. Neither player nor his coach, seemed to have noticed, and play continued. This error of course carried through the rest of the game, and when Gatien missed his shot at 19-19, he knew—having counted along correctly in his head—that the score should have been 20-18, and thus, after his miss, he declared the game over.

I don’t believe anyone noticed the mistake when it occurred and just chose to avoid confusion at that point, or if he was never aware of it and just trusted his own counting, but the fact is that he declared the game finished in a stage in which officially it was still very well within his grasp. For this degree of integrity, I believe Jean-Philippe Gatien deserves to be saluted.
WOMEN'S SINGLES

Deng Yaping defeats Qiao Hong by Tim Boggan

Well, it wasn't an all-Asian 8ths—there were Europeans such as Jie Schopp, Nicole Struse, and Cuyla Batorfi, none of whom would make the quarterfinals. But surprisingly, there weren't any Japanese or Koreans, all of whom had been knocked out early. Of special interest was the absence of the Japanese ace Chie Koyama, alias He Zhili, the 1987 World Singles Champion from China, now living in Japan. (See box.)

So Japanese, no Koreans, in the last 16. How about other Asians—you know, Chinese but not representing China?

Well, let's see. There was Canada's Li Geng—a World Singles runner-up and twice a World Doubles winner for China. Apparently she was a favored member of what the Chinese media called the "overseas corps" (an organized subdivision of the establishment?). Feeling a bit disoriented as an ex-Chinese media called the "overseas corps," I myself thought that Geng was soft rather than that Deng was hard. Anyway, Deng to the semi's.

In the round of 16 Germany's expatriate Chinese, Jie Schopp, faced China's World #8 Liu Wei who, able to off-the-bounce counter the lowest of low balls, had R, I4, 8 destroyed World #45 Asa Svensson. But, after fighting so hard against Sato and then looking so strong in winning the 1st game at 8 from Liu, Schopp suddenly did a complete turnaround and -7, -9, -15 didn't seem to want to reach this round of 16 match after all. How explain such a reversal? Schopp or rather chop isn't what it used to be?

Also in the round of 16, Taipei's World Women's Champion Deng Yaping told reporters, "will come from former Chinese Nationals living in and playing for other countries. If I meet them I will get tougher." So, if she can't get tough with Koyama, she will with Geng? It might 3-0 seem so, but I myself thought that Geng was soft rather than that Deng was hard. Any- way, Deng to the semi's.

In the round of 16 Germany's expatriate Chinese, Jie Schopp, faced China's World #8 Liu Wei who, able to off-the-bounce counter the lowest of low balls, had R, I4, 8 destroyed World #45 Asa Svensson. But, after fighting so hard against Sato and then looking so strong in winning the 1st game at 8 from Liu, Schopp suddenly did a complete turnaround and -7, -9, -15 didn't seem to want to reach the quarter's.

Deng's best win was in the round of 16 over China's World #10 Chen Zihe who provided her with enough equilibrium to even a match tied at 1-1, Amy serving. But later how she'd written Coaching Con- pleasant 17-year-old Yang Ying, World #20, who'd won the '94 Yugoslav Open. But after that neither she nor anyone else could provide her with enough equilibrium to even begin to see-saw back and forth in an even match with Qiao Hong. The spectators seemed oddly quiet this China/Taipei match and Chen herself played without enthusiasm, as if she were grounded. Qiao Hong to the semi's.

Taipei had finished an unimpressive 12th in the Team's, but its "sleepless" entry in

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<td>Omni</td>
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<td>Strad</td>
<td>ST, AN, (SC)</td>
<td>89 grams</td>
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<td>5 ply: (Engleman spruce) + 4 mahogany</td>
<td>Outstanding medium-fast all-around. Our smoothest feeling wood blade. Vertical grain Engleman Spruce core also used to make some of the finest violins, hence the name &quot;Strad&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polaris</td>
<td>ST, AN, (M)</td>
<td>87 grams</td>
<td>$63.95</td>
<td>5 ply: (Engleman spruce) + 2 carbon + 2 African Obechi</td>
<td>Medium speed all-around, unique 2 carbon design. Incredible incredible range of speed from slow to fast. An extraordinary looping blade for the player who wants maximum spin on shots</td>
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<td>Spectrum</td>
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<td>5 ply: (Engleman spruce) + 4 mahogany</td>
<td>Similar playing characteristics to the well known European 5 ply all-around wood blades. Designed for a range of playing styles which require a medium to fast all-around blade.</td>
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Legend:

Handles:(Head) |Gram weights: | Handles: ST-Straight, AN-Anatomic, SA-Superanatomic, FL-Flared, CN-Conic; Heads: Large (L), Medium (M), Compac (C), Sub-Compact (SC). For Conical, Superanatomic handles: Add $3.00.

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much to Tang's forehand? Is that what her concentration comes and goes? Struse's made a forest. She's temperamental? Or that her concentration comes and goes? Struse's made a force, a forehand's on... Struse serves and backhands into Tang's middle: 19-19. Struse's down flat on her back again, but, deliberately playing to Tang's forehand, decites it. Struse gets the ad, serves into Tang's forehand—and she swats it in! She's tough too. Struse counters a forehand—off, then tries another lunging forehand and, though this time she's again on the floor, the ball doesn't go in. Struse loses 24-19, 11th.

Rising from the floor she begins to cry. Somebody hands her a towel, a couple of people try to comfort her. She sits on her bench and her head in her head, sobbing—wings she's careful of, a particularly photogenic; naturally she can't resist coming closer and closer to capture the history-making moment. It will enable Struse won't forget—and neither will I.

Alright, now dutifully back to the other European, Hungary's strong looper, Batorfi, who also made the last 16.

Against China's Qiao Yingying, Batorfi had one chance to get into the match when, down 1-0 but up 18-17 in the 2nd, she was forced to lob and her lob luckily caught the back table edge. But, despite her usual tenaciousness, she couldn't hold the lead and in the end popped up the ball to lose the game.

Qiao Yingying has much smoother strokes than Tang and a very good backhand. It's not surprising that her quarter's match she's up 2-1. In the 4th, it's no contest at all. Down 16-4, Tang shakes her head.

Down 17-4, she smiles, and serves into the net. Qiao Yingying to the semi's against Qiao Hong. Semifinals:

Deng Yang over Liu Wei, 12, 14, 17, 19. No coaches are in evidence for this match between the righty shakehand loops. How could one Chinese root against another? I have the strong feeling that the outcome is predetermined. Unexpectedly, at least to me, the match is expedited. With Liu up 17-13 in the 4th, it appears to going into the 5th. But Deng with a burst wins the game and the match at 18, then jumps and yells in happy triumph.

Qiao Hong over Qiao Yingying, 23, 17, 14. Qiao Yingying would definitely win. There's one fun point here I noted. When in the 1st game Qiao Hong is 21-20 down, she makes 1-3-4-3 good kills as Qiao Lumping keeps lobbing them back. Then, instead of hitting out again, she lightly drops the ball to win the point. That's as close as Qiao comes to beating Qiao.

Final:

Deng over Qiao, 14, 17, 17, 14. In the 1st Deng's at the table in position forking hard returns from Qiao, and up 5-0. But then Deng's forhead finds a pinpoint trajectory that sends ball after ball long. What a streak! You might say that Deng outmatches Qiao. In the 2nd game, Deng ties it up at 12-12 after winning a long, exhibition-like mid-game rally, then is down 15-12...16-14. Now, though, she instinctively makes a fast-hands block/counter—just flashes out her perfectly placed racket and the ball rockets back to Qiao. In an aisleway way up in the stands, a high-priest figure in a yellow robe and a headdress resembling a bishop's mitre, offers the kudon flag as a blessing in the midst of a multitude below. "Peace, Friendship, Prosperity, Development"—may they always be with you. I look back to the score—6 straight points Deng's won. She's up 20-16 and Qiao is shaking her head. How Deng can anticipate. She closes out the game with a great side-to-side attitude.

In the 3rd game, Qiao is again leading, 14-11. But now both players begin looping the ball off the end of the table... With Deng leading 18-17 there's exceptional counterplay. Deng runs out the game 21-17.

In the 4th, Qiao is up 6-0...39! Deng's chopblocks are ineffective. Qiao immediately begins a loop attack. She Deng, trying out her repertoire, so to speak, takes to hitting and dropping. Game to Qiao, 21-14.

Deng and Qiao traded shots “as if they were on the practice table,” a Hong Kong paper would say the next day. Which might not have been a bad assessment except for some final moments still remaining in this match. In the 5th, Deng is up 8-1. Sometimes you've seen Deng blow on her racket hand—but a better reminder, to the audience if not to her, that she's not to blow this game, this title, comes when she again and again in between points carefully places her hand on the table and says, in effect, This is serious business, my friends.

Hey, no sweat. Deng. No way, given your great career, you possibly be humiliated by losing from 20-8. Play freely.

And—wow!—do they both? Had the next week been professionally choreographed as other those amazing spectacular acts—in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies (which I've no time, or space, or even energy now to report on)—they couldn't have been as skillfully entertaining. For 6 points what happened out there on court seemed as spontaneous, as giving, as funworthy as any high-quality final (men's or women's) I've ever seen. And for those 6 points I knew that there was artistry in our Sport and always would be.

CHIRE KOYAMA Alias HE SHILI by Tim Boggan

Before the '95 World's Women's Singles Championship began, the 96th position in the 128-entry China-dominated draw proper (of course there were also Qualification Rounds) belonged to the #5 seed, Chire Koyama. Koyama is clearly a Japanese name—and because in the Asian Games in Hiroshima last October Koyama beat both China's 1991 World Women's Singles Champion Deng Yaping, 20, 14, 20, 16 in the final, and China's 1989 World Women's Singles Champion Qiao Hong, 17, 14, 17, 19 in the semi's, she was established as one of the favorites, perhaps the favorite, to win this year's title.

A Japanese woman who can win a World Championship? It hadn't been done in over a quarter of a century—not since Toshiko Kowada did it in Munich in 1969 when the Chinese, still suffering from the throes of their Cultural Revolution, were not participating. So, though today Japan-China cooperation is "vital," as China Daily insisted, who would expect that "Friendship first, Competition second," the Ping Pong Diplomacy treaty of 1971, would prevail in a major championship in the '90s? No, in Tianjin, the #1 seed Deng, who had headed the ITTF computerized rankings for the last four years, and the #2 seed Qiao, would definitely be intent on "CHIN-A! CHIN-A!" overcomin the foreign opposition.

But this 31-year-old Chire Koyama really so foreign? Had one already forgotten her story? In New Delhi in 1987 she had won the World's Women's Singles Championship, and back then, when her name was He Zhili, she wasn't Japanese at all, she was Chinese, born in Shanghai.

So why had she become an expatriate, even changed her name? The story I heard was that she was not selected as a Chinese National Team member for the '88 Seoul Olympics because in the '87 World's she'd refused to throw a match to a competitor as she was asked to do. So, not being wanted, she went over to Japan, became their Champion.

This move by He Zhili did not sit well with the Chinese media and with many of her previous fans—they called her a "traitor." John Crean, in an article very helpful to me in the South China Morning Post, described their feelings this way:

"The Beijing Youth News reported the question why a woman with pure Chinese blood in her veins' and 'raised on Chinese food' could stand proudly under a Japanese flag at the medal ceremony in Hiroshima."

Another commentary in the same paper added: "So this is how she repays your great career, you can possibly be humiliated by losing from 20-8. Play freely. And—wow!—do they both? Had the next week been professionally choreographed as other those amazing spectacular acts—in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies (which I've no time, or space, or even energy now to report on)—they couldn't have been as skillfully entertaining. For 6 points what happened out there on court seemed as spontaneous, as giving, as funworthy as any high-quality final (men's or women's) I've ever seen. And for those 6 points I knew that there was artistry in our Sport and always would be.

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July/August 1995
**MEN’S TEAMS**

*China Defeats Sweden 3-2 in Swaythling Cup Final, Ending 6-Year Drought by Tim Boggan*

Despite Sweden’s 1989-90-93 dominance in World Championship play, it could be no surprise to aficionados that in 1995, as it was in 1961, the only other time the World’s were played in China, the Chinese would be prepared to win the Men’s Swaythling Cup competition. This time, though, it was not in Beijing but in the new, 10,000-seat, flying-saucer-shaped Stadium especially built by workers conscripted for these Championships in table-tennis-touted if not table-tennis-crazed Tianjin.

The great Swedish player, Jan-Ove Waldner, the former World, World Cup, and Olympic Champion (his name in Swedish actually means “World Champion”), still seems an ageless wonder—strong enough certainly to win the only two matches he could play in during the final Championship tie against China. But no matter how good any one player is, or how honorably he’s played in China, the Chinese would be pre-occupied with, repeatedly, the combined singles wins of Waldner, Persson, and Peter Karlsson. But here in Tianjin, the aging Appelgren (as far back as ’82 he’d won the first of his three European Championships) and his long-time teammate Erik Lindh (so helpful to Sweden in the ’87 World’s) could not be counted on as they had been in the past, and in the climactic tie with China neither Persson nor Karlsson could add the one match to Waldner’s two Sweden needed to retain its title.

World #2 Wang Tao and Tianjin’s own young players to seize the day—and 1994 China had a choice of, well, not 2.1 billion people but at least 1-2-3-4 marvelous young players to seize the day—and 1994 Swedish Open winner Ding Song. China’s young Chinese, Kong Linghui, soon to be 32-year-olds who couldn’t be selected, and China had on theirs two 19-year-olds who could have been selected. That made a big difference, physically and psychologically.

Of course Anders was referring to the two young Chinese, Kong Linghui, soon to be the new World Men’s Singles Champion, and the finalist he’d beaten, Liu Guoliang, both of whom would reprise their ’94 Athens U.S. Open final in Tianjin—an historic first.

Naturally I’ll be coming round to describe this China-Sweden final in some detail, but, as Team play, especially the Men’s Team play, is generally thought to be the most interesting part of the Championships, I’m first going to take you through the ties, the matches, that leading up to the (foregone?) final seem to me most worth commenting on. (The U.S. Ties I’ll speak of elsewhere.)

**Stage 1: Group A**

Defending Champion Sweden, who would come first in the A Group (see else-where my article explaining the system of play) began with a 3-1 win over Romania—but Appelgren, playing this first tie with Waldner and Persson, lost to Cristian Toi, 18, 21, 15, 21. A little later, in the Sweden over Russia (3-1) and Sweden over Japan (3-1) ties, Lindh would lose in straight games to Dmitrij Mazunov and Hiroshi Shibutani. After this halfway point in the Teams, in which Appelgren and Lindh both played three ties, Sweden, for its remaining two ties in Stage 1 (it would rumble France and South Korea 3-0 and for its quarter’s, semi’s, and final ties in Stage 2, would play exclusively Waldner, Persson, and Karlsson, though not always in that order.

In Sweden’s last Stage 1 tie against South Korea, Yoo Nam Kyu and Kim Tae Soo may have mixed up the largely unknowable Chinese audience by wearing each other’s player numbers, but there could be no doubt of the beginning supremacy of the Swedes. Snapshot Persson as knee-down he followed through with an end-game loop, or Karlsson, as, after rallying to deuce, he finished off a game point with a bullet forehand and a pumped-up fist. As for Waldner, who would play all 10 ties, he would have a E-1 record (would lose only to Jorgen Kjaerhov, 19 in the 3rd, in the quarter’s tie against Germany) and so would win the Joola Trophy and the 5,000 deutsche marks given the MVP for the Team competition.

At the other extreme of play in the A Group, that Romanian Tol who, though not ranked among the top 200 world-class players, had given Appelgren his only loss, had another big win when he beat World #46 Andrei Mazunov, 22, 14, in the 5th match of the Romania-Russia tie. As it turned out, this first-day match was of great significance to these two teams, for had Russia won, Romania (who finished 7th), not Russia (who finished 8th), would have been relegated out of the Top 6.

Russia would 3-1 extend the Japanese, losing the last three games of the tie, 19, 20, 25 (really, it was getting so you couldn’t take any Group A or Group B team for granted). Later the Russians would have another chance to avoid relegation, but would again lose a close 3-2 tie—to the Czech Republic (who finished 6th). The two Czechs who’d formerly played for the Dusseldorf Club in

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the German Bundesliga (all the European players seemed to be paid to play in some first or second division League somewhere), the bonds of solidarity were broken. Wing-attacker Peter Korbel, a World #32 look-alike for and thereby a quick responder to the nickname "Sampras," won two, while his teammate Josef Plachy, 19, 20, again made poor Andrei Mazunov the 5th match loser.

Japan, who, through its 7 Group A, 1 Transitional, and 3 Second Stage ties, couldn't beat anybody 3-0, began encouraging—first by getting with the Czechs, 3-1, then upsetting the French, the 1994 European Team Champions, 3-1, when one of the Matsuhashi twins can't tell them apart?, not the penholder attacker, Yuki, but the shakuhakkan attacker, Shuichi. While defending World Singles Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien and his teammate Patrick Chii, and Kiyonobu Iwasaki, a substitute for the bespectacled Japanese National Champion Hiroaki Imada, stopped the alway
determined Christophe Legout, semi-finalist, some may recall, in our 944 U.S. Open. So, even with the expected losses to Sweden and South Korea, Japan was now assured of coming a "safe" third in the Group and so making the quarter's?

Nope. Because the very next morning what did they do? Allowed themselves to be beaten by both the Belgians and the Australians. Very aggressive lopper Vasilie Florea won the big 24-22 first game from Koji Matsushita, then rallied to do in Shibutani, 19-17, 19-21, 21-17, 1-0. Japan was looking strong and South Korea to give not only the Japanese but the French their second and third loss, which would then give both Japan and Russia 1-3 records. Unfortunately the head-to-head tie-breaker, would allow Japan that "safe" 3rd place entry into the quarter's.

Switzerland (i.e. strong enough) but in their opening match South Korea had looked a little shaky when China's Yang Min, or rather now Italy's World #52 Yang Min, beat both '88 Olympic Champion Yoo Nam Kyu and Yoo Nam Su. China's second Roadie, however, Massimiliano Mondello, sleek black hair in samurai bun, nor 36-year-old veteran Massimo Costantini, whose arm was still sore from playing in Birmingham in 1994 an era-ending tournament). At the other extreme, Hong Kong fought hard in a series of ties to keep from being relegat
ed, but to no avail.

The first tie they had a chance to win was in the last second of the 2nd game of the match when the current veteran Common
tion Champion Chan Kong Wah, 14, 21, added to '88 World Cup winner Andrej Grubba's 1-1 start. Chan won, 21-9, 21-19, 3-2. According to a recent article in Holiday Which? magazine, India has overtaken Egypt as the country most likely for holiday visi
tors to get sick at—but that was no May Day! coincidence, for India has, having had to endure in Birmingham in 1994 an era-landing loss of a medal in the European Championships for the first time in 14 years, now had to leave China on the Hong Kong side halfway through this tournament.

But Poland's World #6 Lejuy Blaszczyszk (who later would beat our U.S. #1 Cheng Yinghua in straight games and then two ties in the last two tie-dates, and then score a win in the last tie against Britain), lost a 19-13rd match to World #35 Filipke Saive. Then with the help of the now not so acrobatic Chin Xinhua, at one time the highest paid player in the Bundesliga, who was a spin-varying, sometimes high-and-low ball defender, and can сохать преотрадамето to call upon top this last tie, was locked into a 14-2, 14-20, 14-21 game win over them and finished 6th with a 2-6 record.

Against Austria Hong Kong fought gamely to the end. In the first match the best of the Austrian Chinese, World #25 Ding Yi, was the favorite over Lo (who every time I saw him seemed to be playing a down-to-the-wire match). But, thought I rallied from 19-16 down in the 3rd to win 5 in a row and keep the Hong Kong hopes alive, that was the Crown Colony's last hurrah.

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The first tie they had a chance to win was in the last second of the 2nd game of the match when the current veteran Common
tion Champion Chan Kong Wah, 14, 21, added to '88 World Cup winner Andrej Grubba's 1-1 start. Chan won, 21-9, 21-19, 3-2. According to a recent article in Holiday Which? magazine, India has overtaken Egypt as the country most likely for holiday visi
tors to get sick at—but that was no May Day! coincidence, for India has, having had to endure in Birmingham in 1994 an era-landing loss of a medal in the European Championships for the first time in 14 years, now had to leave China on the Hong Kong side halfway through this tournament.

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ニシ與tie to determine 2nd and 3rd place in this B Group (with the advantage being that the 2nd place team in this or the A Group could be drawn into the quarter’s so that they wouldn’t have the possibility of meet- ing Sweden or China until the semi’s).
two teams by their respective 3-0 losses to China didn't seem to yield much. Against Belgium, Wang Tao gave up a game to Philippe Saive, 13-year-old Kong Linghui, whom someone called "the Chinese Waldner" because of his calmness and control, lost one to Andras Podpinka—but neither Chinese player was really threatened.

According to Germany, Ding Song, China's defensive sensation—he plays with a no-nonsense 802 on one side and Xu Shaofu 999 on the other—gave up a game to Jorg Rosskopf, and Liu Guoliang, the penhold lifter who can backhand loop with inverted or pips, lost one to Steffen Fetzner. But only Ding was ever in danger. At 21-11 in the 1st, Rosskopf served into the net, then quickly looped one off the inside. But, seemingly unaffected, he never wavered, was never tentative in the 2nd game, not even when Ding, down 19-13, scored again and again to move to 19-18. Good as Ding’s returns were, Rosskopf’srocking loops were better.

Surely observers are right when they say that Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves, is indeed always ready to attack (though who isn’t nowadays), is indeed always on the rise. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. Indeed, Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. Indeed, Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. Indeed, Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. Indeed, Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. Indeed, Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. Indeed, Rosskopf has the best backhand of any German player ever. Because he thinks nothing of attacking serves. 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there on court had been negatively shaking his head, the little group of French supporters, led by Gatien, got in, sang, but not the Marseillaise, something equally appropriate. The French are ready: bring on Gatien.

In the first, from 17-15 down, Gatien goes to 20-17 up. The French brass rally behind him. Waldner wants to throw up? Then Waldner pulls away. stretches out, and his 20-17 ball goes in. France 1-Sweden 1.

Waldner gets together with the French they have nothing to cheer about: all...all...all. Then Waldner pulls away, stretches out, and his 20-17 ball goes in. France 1-Sweden 1.

Gatien himself 3rd-ball wallops in a shrugs. At 23-all he misses a killer loop. then immediately follows with a forehand. misses.

Chinese team splits (they won't play Doubles either.)

Although I'm going to use by way of example here just the Men's teams, it should be understood that the Women's Corbillon Cup follows the same pattern of play (though the number of Women's Teams that actually showed were ? compared to 77 for the Men, and though the Women's format differed from the Men's in that, both needed 3/5 matches a win to take the tie: A vs. X, B vs. Y, a mandatory Doubles match (that could involve, though it almost never did, entirely new players), and, if need be, A vs. Y, B vs. X, the men played only Singles: A vs. X; B vs. Y; C vs. Z, and, if need be, A vs. Y, B vs. X. (At the next World's, the Women's 3/5 matches at a win to format, breaking with decades of historic Corbillon Cup precedent, will be the same as the Men's, with the Women will not play Doubles either.)

As of course was agreed upon beforehand, the Top 16 ranked Men's Teams from the 1992 World Championships were drawn, two at a time, in order of ranking, into the 1993 First Stage round robin competition.

The 8-team A Group was led by Defending World Champion Sweden (#1) and included South Korea (#5), France (#7), Japan (#8), Czech Republic (#10), Poland (#11), and Romania (#16). The 8-team B Group was headed by home-court challenger China (#2) and included Germany (#3), Belgium (#6), Austria (#9), Poland (#12), the Netherlands, the Netherlands, the Netherlands.

Why, by the way, some may well want to know, didn't the oft reclusive North Korean match to Korea. Tie: 1-1. "CHIN-a! CHIN-a!" The rhythmic demand continues to ring out from all four corners of the Stadium. No chance for Lee Chul Seung against Kong (though the Korean 3rd could play he'd have Karlsson down 2-0 in the Singles). China 2-Korea 1. A guy with a big red flag goes running round the whole 10,000-seat by Tim Boggan.

Since many readers are no doubt interested in the somewhat complicated system of play for the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup Team Ties that allow each individual Team to be precisely ranked, let me briefly illustrate the point here: How do we know our U.S. Men's Team could lose only one Swaythling Cup tie in Tianjin and yet finish 20th in the final standings, and how our U.S. Women's Team could win only one Swaythling Cup tie in Tianjin and yet finish 20th in the final standings. As you will see, much of this seeming paradox has to do with our Women, but not our Men, being initially grouped among the Top 16 teams.

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What the Heck Happened?

The System of Play For The 1995 World Team Ties

Group A or Group B (including of course the U.S. also had a chance to stay in contention, but their path of advancement was not easy. First, such contending teams had to win their 9-team round robin C-D Group. Then they had to go on to play so-called Transitional tie against E vs. F — Yugoslavia beat Belgium (C) — to have the winner of the D vs. J — Denmark (D) beat Hungary (J) — and the winner of E vs. H — Slovakia (H) beat Belgium (C) — to have the winner of G — Croatia (G) beat Slovenia (F). The two teams that would emerge from all this (Yugoslavia over Denmark and Croatia over Slovenia) would now have to play one more tie of any sort before they face the 8th finishing team in Group A or Group B, and the two winners (Yugoslavia over the Netherlands and Japan over Croatia) would then join the Top 3 from Group A and the Top 3 from Group B to make up the so-called group AA Second Stage.

On qualifying into these AA quarter's, each team, win or lose, would play three more ties, to determine not only the World Championship runner-up, but the team finishing 2nd in the order of the Top 8 finishers. China beat Japan, South Korea, and in the final Sweden to finish 1st; Sweden beat Germany, then France, to finish 2nd; South Korea beat Belgium, losing to China finishing 3rd; France with its quarter's victory over Yugoslavia, finished 4th; Germany rebounded from its quarter's loss to Sweden by lowering Yugoslavia and Japan to finish 5th; Japan, after it beat China, beat Belgium and so was 6th; and Yugoslavia, after losing to France and Germany, also beat Belgium and so finished 7th to tie with the 8th.

Group A and B teams that had originally finished 6th, 7th, and 8th (Italy, Czech Republic, and Romania; Austria, England, and Poland) would be joined by the Netherlands and Croatia, the two teams that almost qualified for the AA quarter's (they lost the last match of the Transitional ties), and, win or lose, they would all play three more ties in the so-called BB Group to determine the 9th-16th places.

Thus in this system of play 14 of the 16 top teams were guaranteed to stay in the advantageous Group A and Group B round robin for the 1997 Manchester, England World's.

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Therefore, for the 1995 World's, the Women who were ranked a lowly #34 at the last World's but who now boasted two ex-Chinese stars (Lijuang Geng Pingtca, a former World Women's and Mixed Doubles Champion, and Barbara Chiu), won 7 straight ties in their original Group C and 3 more Transitional ties. Then (how much did it really matter if they were 9th or 16th?), sure of having advanced into the Top 16 at the Manchester World's, they immediately conceded their BB Group quarter's to Taipei by sitting out their Chinese stars. No doubt it was politically correct to finally give the other two members of their Women's Team a chance to play.

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to give him the run-around. Also, Wong not only has intimidating loops and counter-loops—once the exchange came so fast I lost sight of the ball—but a great drop shot. The outcome is inevitable—Wang Tao over Kim Taeck Soo in straight games. That Wang will later lose in the Singles to Kim only shows, some say, that (as somewhere unseen to my eye, a drummer in the audience accompanies the "CHIna!" chants) Wang plays for his country and not for himself.

3rd Place:

Korea (3)—France (2)

Though both the 3rd and 4th Place teams would receive identical bronze medals, Korea and France certainly put on a very competitive show with four of the five matches going three games. After Kim Taeck Soo has beaten Legout in straight games, Yoo ties it up by losing the 1st at 9,... then, looking like "Do I really care?", by serving off in the 3rd at 12. In the 3rd match, and by now you'll notice that Gaten and Chila are not playing, Nicolas Chartalens spoils Chu Kyo Song's 11th hour Team debut by 21-7 quickly running out the clock on him in the 3rd.

At which point poor Mal Anderson, who usually on the floor assessing umpires but who for this Medal Match is in an assigned Stadium seat, stands it another second. Rather than suffer any more of that now unbearably close French horn-blowing he leaves, says he'll watch the rest on TV. Meanwhile, though China of course isn't playing, a group of kids in white shirts and red ties want to have their "Chin-a, Chin-a" faint voices heard.

After the horn-blowing dies, so gradually does France's spirit. In the 4th match, Eloto, who's known for his emotional ups and downs—he sometimes throws out his hands to Fate, yells exultantly or slaps himself—looks victimized and loses to Yoo. In the 5th Legout loses to Yoo.

**Table Tennis Today** 1995

**Tianjin Sports Hall, the playing site, above: The great Wall of China.**

Does Waldner with the serve at the end intimidate even the most experienced Chinese?

Next up: Persson vs. Ma Wenge—with the U.S.'s Aly Salam as umpire. For a beginning, what an odd mix! One could scarcely know which player to watch. Ma may still have a little shoulder trouble—but he's very fit. Question is: Can he win? At mid-game in the 1st there's some wonderful counter-driving. But then Persson nets two straight serve returns and whiffs a third! 14-11 Ma. Persson fights back with a passing forehand and a beautiful backhand placement... Up 19-16 Ma backhands Persson's serve—off; then is caught wide open on the forehand. Down 19-18 Persson misses what should have been a winner. In the folksy context of the English-speaking journalists having, did someone choose this point to be the turning point in the game, the tie? But though he's down 20-18 Persson hasn't lost the game yet. Indeed not. Ma lost and looped long, then tries to loop in Persson's serve. Deuce. And after the Swede is partially pinned, caught trying to get off a cramped forehand, it's deuce again. Finally, after having had three chances to get the point he needs, Ma's the first-game loser.

Swedish Coach Soren Ahlen couldn't have been the only one who was "a little surprised" that China had chosen Ma for this all-important tie. But later, Coach Cai Zhenhua, asked why he'd played Ma after his arm surgery and his two losses to the Koreans earlier, said, "I wanted to strengthen the Team's confidence." Yeah! Well right now, after losing the first match and that first game in the 2nd, Team China might not be too confident.

In the sudden echoing silence of the Arena, a drummer in the audience goes off, and they wouldn't average out to 3 seconds apart. One aficionado said that, though Ma substantially wins points with his serve, he didn't have the opportunity against Waldner to hit his serve that Waldner has the instinct, like a good boxer quick with hand and eye, to anticipate when Ma is going to step back and, so he can take advantage of the opening. Rather than lose control of position and the point, Ma plays more back-hand against Waldner than he did like.

Play does pick up in the 3rd game, especially at the end where during one exciting point Ma is all over the court retrieving the ball. But Waldner is just too strong. If any one player is to give his team confidence, surely it's Waldner, for he has the ability to win when he has to. China 2—Sweden 2.

To Jorgen Persson the victory brings ever-celebrated on by ecstatic thousands (“CHIna! CHIna!”) and flanked off-court by at least 200 photographers, may seem the fastest over-the-table player in the world. He's a good blocker of course but, forehand or backhand attack, his off-the-bounce hand speed is incredible. He beats Persson very convincingly, then sinks to the Arena floor, happy and fearful as his teammates rush to embrace him.

One of the first questions a reporter asks Persson later is, "Did the highly partisan Chinese crowd bother you?" "No," he said, "it's fun to play when the crowd's intense." Undeniably true, however, at this long Team's journey end, the only fun is being had by the exuberant Chinese. They're joyously tossing Cai Zhenhua into the air—"We're going to win! We're going to win!"—and he's the first to catch them. China returns with a vengeance to win every event—all 7 of the World Championships. Would anyone be surprised if, after having accomplished this feat, Cai's imagination were on the rise to think that perhaps...

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  (3 of the top 4: Kong Linghu, Wang Tao, Liu Guoliang)

* #1 Men's Doubles
  (Wang Tao, Lu Lin)

* #1 Mixed Doubles
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Table Tennis Today 1995
China Beats South Korea 3-2

China's Deng Yaping (shouting forehand) and Qiao Hong (background) continue to dominate women's table tennis. They finished 1st-2 in singles, and won both Women's Team and Women's Doubles.

World #76 Emily Noor, her weakest player, when they might have played Hooman or Geedie Keen, runner-up in the 4th European Championships. Interestingly, these same four players--Vriesekoop, Hooman, Noor, and Keen--represented the Netherlands at the 38th World's. Can China say that about their team?

Against France it was Vriesekoop's two singles wins and her doubles win with Hooman that carried the day. Poor Hooman: she couldn't have felt too good about being 9-0 down in the 3rd to World #202 Sylvie Vriesekoop. Although Sylvie was always playing better when she came back after having a baby. But maybe Marie just had a banana or two too many? I'd heard that the health-conscious Vriesekoop, up 1-0 on Hooman but down 20-19, Svensson serves again and. seeing Vriesekoop falters, so does her team. She falls victim to a good drop shot but makes an intense Vriesekoop, now World #19, took a mild loop that makes a point. In the tie-deciding 3rd, Ciosu misses a hanger. Then misses a drop shot, but makes a top-spinning, pushing and top-spinning.

Obviously she thinks she can score a patient looping attack of which she's capable, opts, instead to return serve. "Don't be a coward!" Geedie Keen, runner-up in the 4th European Championships. Interestingly, these same four players--Vriesekoop, Hooman, Noor, and Keen--represented the Netherlands at the 38th World's. Can China say that about their team?

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Transition tie.

Germany’s Struse, by opening with a 16, 18 win over Park Hae Jung, and by teaming with Schall to win the first game of the doubles, tried her best to give Germany the impetus it needed, but the follow-up just wasn’t there. Park and Park had no trouble with Schopp and chop.

Undeated Korea beat undefeated Hong Kong in the climactic tie of this B Group and so gained the strategic position in the draw opposite China.

Ryu Ji Hye, first off, is 15, 13 routed by Chai Po Wa who favors high-toss serves and forehand follow through, change of pace blocks, and backhand thrusts into the corners. But Chan Tan Lui can do no better against Park Kyung Ae. Tie 1-1.

When Hong Kong’s Choi and Chan, with their come-close-to-winning World and World Cup doubles prowess, won the 1st game from the Koreans but lose the match, it’s again up to Chai to put her red headband back on and see if she and her racket can’t find the right color combination to outmaneuver fast-play, pips-out penholder Park Kyung Ae. Park’s strategy is to warily court counter. In the end-game 3rd, Park is outmaneuvered fast-play, pips-out penholder Chai has a very well-controlled placements that give her a well-deserved 19-19 point. More charted. And now Park takes a very long time to serve, and Chai pushes her return off. Park then spots the ball on the table, adjusts herself, picks up the ball, serves—and Chai moves over, takes the ball on her forehand, and loops off. Korea 3—Hong Kong 1.

Transitional Play:

Joining the 6 teams from Groups A and B who theoretically still had a chance to win the tournament were Japan and Germany, both of whom backed into the quarter’s—Japan by beating Canada, Germany by beating Belgium.

On the Germans’ advanced to its final play-off spot for the quarter’s, first, by defeating the strong Yugoslav team, 3-2, to win its “C” Group. Li Geng Pintea, 1985 World Women’s singles runner-up, and ’87 World Women’s Doubles and ‘87 World Mixed Doubles Champion had to go three to beat World #06 Fatima Isaisovic of the historically famous Zagreb Mladost Club. But World #44 Jasna Fazlic-Lupulesku, the #1 European qualifier for the ’88 Olympic Games but who often looks now like she doesn’t want to play at all, squared the tie with a 3rd game win over (no American nicknames on the official Players List, please) Xiaowen ("Barbara") Chen Chiu, 1990 Canadian National Champion before temporarily retiring to have a child. Fortunately for Canada, ’85 Pan-Am Champs Geng and Chiu then survived a scary 21-19, 17 doubles match—else, after Geng’s easy win over Fazlic-Lupulesku, World #86 Chiu would likely have had a difficult time with the Bosnian Isaisovic, who later in the Singles will be up 2-4 on Sweden’s Asia Svensson.

Canada then 3-1 eased by Australia, though China emigrant Catherine Kwon Ying, another recent mother, was too good for Chiu. Against the Ukraine, Canada had it 3-2 struggle. Though losing the doubles, 19 in the 3rd, Geng beat both World #14 Marina Kravchenko and World #82 Elena Kovtun before, to Coach Marianne Domonosko’s delight, Chiu downed Kravchenko for the win.

In the Canada-Japan tie for entry into the quarter’s, Geng, who’d just had a 9-pound baby boy, James Ross, in mid-January, and who’doken stretched herself to bring her home to tiny tot 2-3-4 eye-catching gold medals from the Argentina Pan-Am Games in mid-March, played a suspenseful -15, 19, 9 match against Okazaki, the Japanese with the commencement serve. Okazaki’s more conventional weapons are a dead chop returned sometimes rather high, a shovel block, and a hard-hit forehand. This combination continued to give Geng lots of trouble. But could she lose from 20-14 in the 3rd? Canada, weakening, can’t hold on to win the games it needs. Chiu, who made the ‘92 Olympics (by beating our Insook Bhushan among others), played a troublesome up-at-the-table block/shove defense against Sato but was topped in the 2nd, 21-19. Then, when the Canadians lost the doubles, 23 and 17, Geng’s win over Sato wasn’t enough, for Barbara had already shown in the doubles that she hadn’t the slightest idea how to read Okazaki’s semaphoric hand-play and the often fast serve with the you’re-gonna-lose message that so flagged her spirit.

Belgium had advanced to its play-off spot for the quarter’s, first, by outlasting the Czech Republic to survive what must have been the closest 3-2 tie of the whole tournament. Belgium’s Cecile Ozer, World #15, opened with a 19-in-the-3rd victory over World #19 Renata Peluchova, then paired with World #26 Els Billen, “Team-MI” Saive’s pretty blonde girlfriend, to beat Peluchova and World #16 Hana Plachova. And finally, after World #79 Jana Doboveska, 22-20 in the 3rd held off Ozer and all Belgium, Billen rallied to down Peluchova in 3 to give Belgium their Group “C” win.

Then they moved 3-0 through Israel and 3-1 over Armenia when, though Billen and Ozer lost the doubles, deuce in the 3rd, to World #105 Anna Pogossian and World #44 Armine Makinian, Ozer bested both Makinian and Pogossian in 3, and Billen scored over Pogossian 21 and 19.

Of course, despite these heroics, Belgium had no chance against Germany in the play-off.

Quarterfinals:

China 3—Germany 0.

Germany can’t win a game, but Struse fights—loses 23-21 in the 2nd to 1989 World Champion Qiao. Schopp drops two straight to 1991 World Champion Deng. And when the Chinese let up in the doubles, as they surely do, there’s quite a 4, 21 difference. Go, Struse/Schall!

Later Deng denied that there was any truth to the rumor that she might go to Germany to play. “It’s not necessary,” she said, as if she’d never heard of Deutsche marks. “My main rivals are in Asia.”

Romania 3—Hungary 0.

Once the Romanians won their 18-in-the-3rd matches—Ciosea over Batoori and Badescu over Toth—the lefty/righty shakehands Hungarian duo, who’ll go on to...
Doubles, seem a little sluggish, a little slow, the bronze medalists in the Women's Hong Kong 3-Japan 0.

China yet. Individually, Okazaki and Sato cooperation is this? Well, Hong Kong isn't continued to play the tournament of her life, Korea 3--Sweden 1.

12,11; 9,13; 17,9. with a game spot—she and her teammates the Mixed, can't beat Park Kyung Ae even the 20, 17 win may suggest that Ryu Ji needs more than just a little improvement. But surely mitigating that theory the unoffending air with the best of them, is who can snap the ball in hard from anywhere, and who on missing a winner she badly needs is capable of cutting an arc into the unoffending air with the best of them, to realize that the European women are getting better, feistier. How else explain Ciosu beginning this most-seriously-taken tie with a 14, 20 win over World #2 Qiao Hong?

"CHIN a? CHIN a?" Badescu tries but can only extend Deng to 19 in the 2nd. After which, China decides to stop the nonsense—wins the doubles 14 and 7 and the remaining singles, Deng over Ciosu, 4 and 9. Coach Zhang also said that the skills of the Europeans "will surely count in the future though they are still immature at present."

There was some speculation that the Hong Kong Chinese might not really want to beat the Koreans and have to play China in the final. With China's 1987 World Champion He Zhihao branded a trainer for becoming Chinese? Can't understand what they Chinese? Can't understand what they are" suggests the Year of the Dog...a short dog...suestra paredes all around the length of the upstairs aisle way.

Against Park Hae Jung, Deng Yaping, who will win the Fooyou Trophy and the 5,000 Deutsche marks for her perfect 10-0 Team record, breaks away, as if from an 8-all drum strokes in preparation for Deng's serve, then turns it. A whistle blows from the gallery, but...17-14...20-14...play doesn't stop. China lose the point. Still, her anticipation's so big time. Chai has very fast hands—occasionally she'll nervously bring one to her lips, as if she's hiding something, a little cough perhaps, but mostly she keeps them moving, blocking or hitting. But if a ball doesn't come to her forehand, if Park's got get her predictably defending, she's likely to lose the point. Still, her anticipation's so good that many of the balls Park cracks in keep coming back, are sometimes even countered by this bat of hers that has something of a hard rubber sound to it. Up 16-13 in the 2nd, Chai serves off, and then, pressured, her hands get a little higher...and it's 19-0. Park attacks, but each of her two good forehands are countered, and Chai goes up 20-19. Then she serves and follows for the game. As for the match, though, Chai, down 11-2 in the 3rd, will not be able to equalize.

In Hiroshima, Park Hae Jung and Ryu Ji Hye had lost to Deng and Qiao 22 and 19; here they beat Chan and Chai 22. 21. Which makes them all about even, does it?

China Daily, not only but on this day, said that Hong Kong played "well below their best." And a Hong Kong Coach reported that his two players were just "too mentally and physically exhausted to raise their game in the semifinals." Hong Kong was the only Top 16 team to use just two players in their ties—something at least so the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do. But the Hong Kong players did manage to recover enough to beat Romania for 3rd Place when World Rank 10's, when the Women's format is brought into alignment with the Men's, that team won't be able to do.

Girls in red hats and short white skirts, waving pom-poms, join the Dog in marching round the Stadthum's upper reaches. Soon they all come to a stop, turn the corners and mix in mock rivalry. The doubles? China 3-0, 40-50. After twice serving into the net, China leads 17-12, confidently wins the 1st. The 2nd game is 13-12 close until China, up 17-12 again, threatens deja vu. Now, however, the Koreans do play well and are at 19- All. At which point, China serves, once, twice, and Korea fails to return either serve. China 3—Korea 0.

"What's that? You can't understand the Chinese? Can't understand what they say?...Well," said one wit, "wait till you hear the English in Manchester."

Meanwhile, here in Tianjin, all the Chinese newspaper—they, the photographers, the reporters—surround Coach Zhang Xieli, snap photos of him from every conceivable angle, thrust tape recorders and writing pads at him so as to take note of every word he says.
MEN'S SINGLES—Final: Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Djordje Zimonjic (SRB), 11,15,10,15,15. Semifinals: Li Chao (CHN) d. Chen Ching Liang (TPE), 11,15,15; Jiang Huajun (CHN) d. Jorgen Persson (SWE), 11,15,15. Quarterfinals: Cheng Chao (CHN) d. Zimonjic, 11,15,15; Li Chao d. Zimonjic, 11,15,15; Kilian Open, 11,15,15; Li Chao d. Zimonjic, 11,15,15. Men's Singles—Gold: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15. Women's Singles—Gold: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Doubles: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Canary Islands: Men's Singles—Gold: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15. Women's Singles—Gold: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Doubles: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Canary Islands: Men's Singles—Gold: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15. Women's Singles—Gold: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Doubles: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Canary Islands: Men's Singles—Gold: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15. Women's Singles—Gold: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Doubles: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Canary Islands: Men's Singles—Gold: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15. Women's Singles—Gold: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Doubles: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Canary Islands: Men's Singles—Gold: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao (CHN), 11,15,15. Women's Singles—Gold: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15. Doubles: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Silver: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15; Bronze: Li Chao/Liu Guoliang (CHN), 11,15,15.
Table Tennis Today

by Tim Boggan

Because the U.S. Men, ranked #20 from the 1993 World's, were not among the Top 16 Swathing Cup teams, and because they had the misfortune, through a so-called "snake" system, to draw in their initial round robin Croatia. A team headed by the 1993 World Cup winner Zoran Primorac, they were badly positioned from the start to improve their World Ranking. Indeed, although they won out of the 1st tie they played, it was impossible for them to do any better than 25th. (See my System of Play article elsewhere for an explanation.)

We out to play Panama in our first tie (not exactly a challenge)—and find that they’ve only two men! Which means of course that they’re already forfeited the third match of the tie. And that since they’re so weak there’s little practice for Jimmy and for (3,11) David, and none for Darko. U.S.A. (3)—Panama (0). Bravo!

And now, unbelievable, the next tie’s with Ghana—and do three players show up, or do none? One? The court’s there: we walk over, walk back.

And now, unbelievable, the next tie’s with—at a wait a minute! What’s happening here? Didn’t just write that? There must be some mistake—the next tie’s with Columbia, isn’t it? What? They didn’t show either! Unbelievable!

Our 4th tie is with United Arab Emirates. Hoorah! They can field a team! Though not as good as ours: Jimmy beats Mohammad, 9,16. Cheng beats A.S. Al-Attas, 7,14. David beats M. Al-Attas, 14,16.

The Team matches in our round robin are half out. But it’s hard to say whether we’re undefeated or not: everybody wants to play but nobody’s play. Maybe that’ll give us an edge?


Our National Champion. U.S. Closed finalists for the last three years, looks a little shaky, he needs more play. But who doesn’t? Jim beats Roberto, 12,12. Anything wrong, anything right, with Jim’s game? Can Coach Li Zhenshi tell? Tell anything yet?

This is a hell of a way to prepare for Croatia. There’s only one tie in between us now. Can Switzerland be any good? We couldn’t lose that tie, could we? We’d empty out! Reader, you want to be Li Zhenshi? Against Switzerland who do you play?

SWITZERLAND

In the U.S. it’s quick behind, 6-2 to World #177 Thierry Miller. He plays 16-all even, then falls back. Up 18-16, Miller tries to flip in David’s serve, misses. Now, though, there’s a turning point: David’s maneuvered the ball so he’s got a forehand he can swat, but strangely he passes up the opportunity; and the tie becomes in attack position to win the point. David is shaking his head. He sticks up a finger to his bench, as if to say, I know, you don’t have to tell me, and exclaims to self, “So Stupid!” Miller then 21-17 runs out the game.

Back over the net, it’s back hand, backhand, in, and Cheng is batting his front side of the table. Down 5-2, he himself a shaking a shock. His game plan needs to be a good dusting, with here and there a strategic thought or two replaced, returned, replaced, returned.

Ah! That better. David’s keeping the ball short, isn’t giving Miller much chance to loop from either side. And what a different look the match abruptly has. Whereas, before, it looked like David might throw in the towel, now it’s clear he’s not different. Jimmy’s back to his old self—and Cheng and Jim both win in straight games. The tie is over and we’re looking pretty good. But a lot of nets the Croatian’s been getting—Cheng finally comes to backhand...but it’s late.

Our 4th tie is with United Arab Emirates. Hoorah! There must be some mistake—the next tie’s with Columbia. A team because they had the misfortune, through a so-called “snake” system. To draw in their initial round robin Croatia. A team headed by the 1993 World Cup winner Zoran Primorac, they were quickly down 1-2. But back he comes—only to be stopped when Karlovic winds up on David’s high toss and power it in. Game, 21-17, to the Croat.

David starts the 2nd game with another high toss; Karlovic won’t smack it on—it goes into the net. Where is David’s concentration? A lot of times there’s a second ball down, up 9-4, but to one of the coaches the umpire sees coming. Karlovic ties it up at 12-all, then goes ahead 16-13, and never gives up the lead. Croatia 3—U.S.A. 0.

Ah, regret again. But for the, if like the Canadian meet we were to lose a second tie in this round robin we might finish embarrassingly where they did, where no U.S. team has gone before, in 7th place. Bad enough to have to explain why we finished 25th—that is, if we could finish 25th; we tied for 4th four times earlier in the season. Most likely there was Spain who, Primorac aside, seemed pretty evenly matched against the Croatians. Khou, Darko, can one or both of them be played now?

Unbelievable!

This time Jim starts us off badly: he’s upset by Torres two straight—the 2nd at deuce when, after cracking in two backhands, he gets caught by a very good short return by the Spaniard... Nor can David, who Li is understandably playing in the “C” position, win out of the 2nd tie. The seeming crisis is solved when both Jim and Cheng take the 4th and 5th matches with ease.

That, at least, puts us safely in the Group DD quarter’s and 2nd Stage. Marking the way is far from easy...but it’s there. And just like that we’ve won for sure, for any half-decent player just loops them anywhere, for any half-decent player just loops them anywhere, for any half-decent player just loops them anywhere, for any half-decent player just loops them anywhere, for any half-decent player just loops them anywhere.
USA WOMEN'S CORBILLON CUP PLAY
by Tim Boggan

The first and most damaging setback that befell our U.S. Women's Team in Tianjin occurred even before any of the players went out on the court. Our 3-time U.S. Champion Amy Feng was not going to be able to play to the top of her game in the CORBILLON CUP Team matches.

I first heard all the pertinent details of this story when Team Leader/Manager Bob Allhouse came hurrying over to me to show me a letter he'd drawn up and signed - the most relevant passage of which was as follows:

"The USA TT registered her (Amy's) name in good faith. The registration was not questioned until after the U.S. Team was selected; The People's Republic of China then informed us that she had played in the 1985 Polish Open. She was 16 at the time. The Tianjin Club sent a junior team to this tournament; it was registered as a Chinese National team to allow the juniors to compete. She did not become a member of the Chinese National Team until four years later. When we finally represented China, she answered no to realizing that this junior team had been representing China instead of Tianjin."

Naturally, being the responsible fellow he is, Bob wanted to know if, as North American Vice-President, couldn’t pleads on our behalf. It's the ITTF that had to successfully appeal this for us disastrous eligibility block.

God knows as quickly and as competently as I could I spoke on Amy's behalf, appealed to the highest court, and at least got a hearing. Then at that point I had nothing more could be done. However, as there are no extenuating circumstance in Amy's case, perhaps with the right approach a successful appeal is still possible?

Without Amy the U.S. Women on the elite Group B were just hopelessly outclassed. We had our experienced Lily Yip of course, but though Virginia Sung had been on our team in '93 in Gothenburg and had even gone to Shanghai to practice before this World's, it was still a bit overpowered for her to have to face again and again some of the world's most experienced and accomplished players, and of course rather overwhelming for Tawny Bahn, too, who was playing in her first World's. Moreover, we'd sure better hope that none of our three girls got injured, for that would make the burden even worse. Our former U.S. Champ Wei Wang had been as a supporter, as was her husband Diego Schaalf, but it was as impossible for us to play the one as it was the other.

So, what would our Coach Zhang Li, China's '79 World Women's Doubles Champion have us do but try?

H Kong 3—USA 0

First off, we faced Hong Kong. Lily, World #119, beautifully kept her poise, was uninhibited by her opponent. And Tawny played perhaps her best match of the tournament. However, against World #21 Chann Tan Lui's attack, World #2545 Virginia had no defense. As for our doubles team of Lily and Tawny—we were dependent on that combination and Lily had moments when they were not just warm but hot. Tawny good faith, not realizing that this junior team had been representing China instead of Tianjin.

Lily couldn't score the game-winning point. At 20-19 she finally watched helplessly as the Korean got an edge to close it. Then in the 2nd game she got a respectable 16. All in all she was pretty pleased with her play. as well she should be. She both puts up her hand and loses an exchange in which Toth catches Lily by surprise—she hadn't seen that serve before. But, o.k., Lily's up 20-17—and surely she isn't thinking of that last 12-17 lead she had with Park? Is she? No, Lily! No! After a failed forehand, and a passive block, Lily is all down! But she stays alive.

Suddenly, though, at this suspensorial moment, play is interrupted. The umpire gives the Hungarian Coach the yellow-card, a warning for coaching—surely one of the stupidest rules in all Sportism. The umpire’s own Y.C. Lee! Assuredly not. Usually Y.C.'s kept busy in some court or other on the playing floor—later, he'll have the umpires in for the 5th, and doesn't have time for the 4th. It was readily borne out in this kind of major competition that unless Lily won her two singles and the doubles we couldn't win the tie. Against the Ukraine, represented by World #70 Mantu Ghosh, Lily made the quarter's here. It would have meant, ready as Tawny was to play, we couldn't win the tie. And Lily's second doubles opponent is World #70 Holt, Mixed Doubles winner with An- dren Eden ("The Ginger Ninja") in the '95 Commonwealth Games. Later, in the Singles, you'd be able to see how competiti- ve she is, for, down 2-0 in the rubber, Tawny had two matches to play.

So against the U.S. is Taipei playing Lily's friend Tang Fei Ming? No?...She's not on the Team, will just play Singles? Don't you see? you'll have heard she at our Open and by then you'll have heard she made the quarter's. It would have meant that in the match we couldn't win the tie, though, for the other Taipei players to be friendly, or unfriended. Six games into the tie they had quite an imperious win over us. Virginia, I'd like to say played well in getting 18 one game from World #110 Chou Ching Ching. Lily couldn't be done. However, as there are no extenuating circumstance in Amy's case, perhaps with the right approach a successful appeal is still possible?

USA 3—Bulgaria 1

You read it right, we’re winning here. And if we were desiring some title simply in our Second Stage quarter's, we won the right one—any other would have put us farther back. In this tie Bulgaria did not play 1990 European Champion and current World #57 Daniela Guergueltcheva whose two wins over bulls had closed out Bulgaria's "A" Group. Instead they went with players ranked World #172 and #269. Still, it has to be to Tawny’s credit that she 17-in-the-3rd competed with the best of these, Katayma Vichveha, whom Lily herself 23-, 19-18 was uncomfortably pressed by.

Because of Virginia's back-from-the-table defense, it was reasonable for Coach Li to think (compare, say, Germany's defender Jie Schopp who played not doubles, only singles) that Virginia would win both her matches. There was thus more opportunity for Tawny (adding Lily's strength to her own) than for Virginia to take a playing in the games she played. This was even more true after the previous tie with Bulgaria in which Tawny had made her best singles showing and had actually won a match—the doubles with Lily. It was readily borne out in this kind of major competition that unless Lily won her two singles and the doubles we couldn't win the tie. Against the Ukraine, represented by World #238 Mantu Ghosh and World #14 Maria Krachenkov, Tawny played perhaps her best match of the tournament. She and Lily posted a second doubles win—and a very exciting 23-19 one at that. As it happened, Tawny had an added incentive, for although she was listed for a time in a tie that would be a second singles match. Which meant, I'm sorry to say, that Lily had lost a single—match to Krachenkov, who later in the Singles would beat the German #3 Schall. Which meant, ready as Tawny was to play, we couldn't win the tie.

USA 2— India 1

Losses in straight games in this tie—except for Lily's straight game win over World #103 Jaroslava Mihokova. Amy, Amy, you wanted to play and how we needed you! USA 2—India 1—but not for Lily.

Well, on to the individual events. And, by gosh, there was Virginia—almost a qualifier with a win over India's World #238 Mantu Ghosh. Bravo, Virginia, way to persist. No wonder you girls keep winning.

And Tawny, too, almost a qualifier, but still not able to solve Vichveha's game. But Tawny, that Tawny—that 15 in the 3rd win with David over Kiyonobu Iwasaki and Keiko Okazaki. That was sensational!

Table Tennis Today 25 July/August 1995

Bench, Amy Feng, Lily Yip, Virginia Sung.
I have made videotape documentaries of World Table Tennis Championships since 1985, and each tournament has been a unique experience. Not only have I gotten to see different parts of the world, but also I have learned to resolve the ever-present problem of filming over public business street, particularly in Taiwan. Match officials in China, our capable interpreters were lifesavers in solving problems, including one that almost stopped our production before it got started.

Upon arriving in Beijing, we planned to spend a few days here and then go to Tianjin. I found that my worst nightmare had become a reality...a bag containing a large portion of vital videotaping equipment was missing. After three days of "we can’t locate it" from the airplane, the interpreter, and the airlines, it was guesswork as to when we'd get it back for the tournament. The championships had been scheduled to be held in Belgrade, but the war there forced a change of venue. When Tianjin decided it wanted the tournament, the residents and business community stepped up to provide money and unloading enough money to get the stadium built—and finished on time. The main arena had eight tables comfortably spaced, with seating for ten thousand. The second room, separated from the main area by a long hall alongside a sales area, had twenty-four tables in purpose-made cabinets, with seating for 2,000. Adjoining the stadium was a huge new press complex, capable of handling the needs of more than one thousand newspaper and television journalists. On the evening of the opening ceremony, a bus picked us up to take us from our hotel to the stadium. We were given VIP treatment, a police escort, no less. The city was decked out, with thousands of banners with the tournament logo along every street and table tennis tableaus in blinking lights at strategic locations. As we got closer to the stadium, we exchanged the equivalent of a ticker-tape parade. We set up our camera high in the stands to get a glimpse of their table tennis heroes. An incredible scene of thousands of beautiful young women in angel costumes, holding lit candles and singing, while searchlights created a blinding effect. Persson, who seemed to have recovered from an auto accident a year ago, fought Ma Wenge to the wire, but didn’t quite make it. Ding Song won and battled Persson to the wire, winning the first game. But as I studied the match later on our editing room monitor, I realized it could be a highlight tape on its own. The crowd showed its appreciation as it loudly cheered the long counterpoint rallies. The spectators were a show in themselves. Korean fans constantly beat drums while the Chinese blared their horns after winning a point...well, during a point...actually all the time. The top cheerleader prize would be a close call between a bare-chested (male) Japanese with painted face, sporting a headband and a long (and very long) braid. China’s father, who after every French victory, would hurl his bacle and lead a singing chorus, even getting sections of the audience to cheer along with him. The German’s fighting spirit against China, and anticipation grew to a fever pitch. With hordes of photographers and T.V. news crews focusing on this match, we had to stake out optimum camera position well in advance. Bob Allthouse volunteered to use his girl, as I believe he put it, "to place our cameras on the main floor for our game." The floor police often objected to the fact that I place my camera two feet higher than anyone else’s, but I am adamant about shooting from a spectator’s perspective and raised enough money to get the stadium built—and finished on time. The main arena had eight tables comfortably spaced, with seating for ten thousand. The second room, separated from the main area by a long hall alongside a sales area, had twenty-four tables in purpose-made cabinets, with seating for 2,000. Adjoining the stadium was a huge new press complex, capable of handling the needs of more than one thousand newspaper and television journalists. On the evening of the opening ceremony, a bus picked us up to take us from our hotel to the stadium. We were given VIP treatment, a police escort, no less. 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The final between Liu Guoliang and Kong Linghu was a rematch of last year's U.S. Open final, with the same outcome. The tenor of the match, though, was quite different. In the U.S., the match was slow and technical, while the Tianjin match was an all-out slugfest between two of the hardest hitters in table tennis, both highly skilled in all aspects of the game. The result was one of the most intense exhibitions of smashing and loop-killing ever witnessed, with the match seesawing back and forth as one player or the other dug deeply to generate a string of winners. Neither would give in—Liu won the first and third, and was far ahead in the fourth, but Kong found a combination that worked, and he persisted with power and precision to take the last two games. A new World Champion was crowned (do we dare suggest calling him King Kong?) in his first try for the title. It was a match to remember.

You have probably learned by now in Tim Boggan's report that the Chinese women also dominated in their events, as Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong finished one-two in singles, followed by two of their countrywomen, and the Deng-Qiao duo took the women's doubles. The only non-Chinese to win a medal in a women's event was the doubles team of Batori and Toth of Hungary with a bronze. No surprises there.

Back home, we have been asked many times how the Chinese men managed to come back to win all the top medals. To us, it seems like the Chinese, with their vast pool of talented young players, chose to work with a variety of styles rather than concentrating on one. They have taken the European style to its ultimate, and they have also modified the penhold and chopping styles to create new styles without the weaknesses of the old. Whatever they have done, it worked. We'll have to wait for the Olympics or the next World Championships to see if anyone can rise to the challenge.

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Tape A – Team Competition
From your courtside seat you'll see some of the most exciting table tennis in the 43rd WTTC...too much quality play to put on just one tape! Although France, Germany, Belgium and Korea are stronger than ever, the defending champion Swedes and the ever-powerful Chinese again meet in the Final. Watch the sparks fly in this renewal of their intense rivalry!

Tape B – Continuation of Team Final • Individual Competition
The Team Final goes down to the wire in two hard-fought matches. Despite Waldner’s heroics, the Chinese team prevails. In Individual Men’s Competition, the last three World Champions and the 1995 top ranked player all fall to the new Chinese stars...Waldner to Liu Guoliang; Gatien to Kong Linghu; Persson and J.M. Säve to Ding Song’s unique combination style of heavy chopping and devastating hitting. The feeling prevails that this exciting new star will win it all!

Tape C – Individual Competition
Liu Guoliang’s speed, forehand smash and backhand penhold loop prove too much for Samsonov, and Kong Linghu shows all-around perfection in his victory over Karlsson. Kim Taek Soo defeats Wang Tao, but in a major controversy is disqualified for using illegal glue. In the semi-finals, Wang Tao bows out to Liu Guoliang, while Kong Linghu is incredible against Ding Song’s no longer unbeatable style. The final between Liu Guoliang and Kong Linghu in a slugfest between two of the hardest hitters in the game. This highly-charged battle of technique, overwhelming power and determination is a preview of the future of table tennis!

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July/August 1995

Table Tennis Today 27
The Step-around Footwork of KONG LINGHUI

1995 Men’s Singles World Champion ... 1994 U.S. Open Men’s Singles Champion

by Wei Wang

USATT Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion
1995 $15,000 Sears International
Table Tennis Tournament

Matthew Syed of England will attempt to win his third straight title at the Sears International
In addition to Syed, an Olympic Team member and chopper extrodinaire, this year's tourna-
ment features 12-time World Champion Liang Gellang. Liang was a member of the Chinese National
Table Tennis Team during the Ping Pong Diplomacy and is regarded as the greatest defender of all
time.

The fourth annual tournament also features numerous world-ranked players. Some of the
players expected to compete include:
* Jim Butler -- U.S. Olympic Team Member
* Leszek Kucharski -- Poland Olympic Team Member
* Alan Cooke -- England Olympic Team Member
* Khoa Nguyen -- 1995 U.S. World Team Member
* Kazuyuki Yokoyama -- Japanese National Collegiate Champion
* Michael Hyatt -- Jamaica Olympic Team Member

Also, the Sears/Harvard Sports Open for USA Table Tennis members is scheduled for Sept.
16, 1995 at the beautiful William Rainey Harper College Gymnasium. To receive an entry blank
contact Primo Madrigal at (708) 837-8053 or Scott Preiss at 1-800-456-PONG. All players playing in
the tournament receive two free tickets to the Sears Tournament.

Sponsors for this year's event include Sears Roebuck and Company, United Airlines, BP Oil,
Craftsman, Holiday Inn, William Rainey Harper College, Harvard Sports and USA Table Tennis.

Hotel reservations can be made at the luxurious Holiday Inn of Rolling Meadows. The hotel is
a Holidome facility with an indoor pool, whirlpool, billiards, basketball and volleyball courts and table
tennis for your enjoyment. Holiday Inn will also provide shuttle service to and from the tournament
site for spectators and players on both days. For reservations call (708) 259-5000 and mention table
tennis for a price reduction.
KONG LINGHUI'S  
STEP-AROUND FOOTWORK  
by Wei Wang  

When Kong Linghui came to the U.S. Open last year, he was somewhat of an unknown quantity. I had read about him in a Chinese magazine, but there were not many results to indicate his level. All I knew was that he was supposed to be good. Well, as many of you that had the pleasure of watching him perform in Anaheim know, that is an understatement. At 18 he already knew every shot in the book and then some. In fact it was the completeness of this adolescent's game that impressed me at least as much as the beauty of his style. He displays a degree of gracefulness and inventiveness that so far had been reserved for Waldner, and yet he succeeds in making it look straight forward and easy. Never in a rush, rarely out of balance and always ready with a surprise, he is a pure joy to watch.

Kong Linghui's inventive nature extends into all areas of his life. His teammates tell me that everything he does he approaches with the same dedication, learning things quickly, and immediately applying new knowledge. He is a big sports fan. He follows soccer closely, with the Tennis circuit. He displays a degree of gracefulness and inventiveness that so far had been reserved for Waldner, and yet he succeeds in making it look straight forward and easy. Never in a rush, rarely out of balance and always ready with a surprise, he is a pure joy to watch.

Kong gets himself into position with the same two "hops" we have seen in an earlier series. When we showed a "right-handed" Gatien attack a short ball. From 0.0 sec to 0.2, he scoots over about 12" with his right foot, and a little more with his left which opens his stance a bit. At the same time, his backswing starts. His racket angle is gradually closing as he pulls his arm back. He lands on the front of his feet and "rolls" out for the second, more precise position. By now he has recognized the exact placement of the ball and knows how wide he needs to turn to get to the ball. Although he might have been able to turn wider, he chooses not to do so, because he wants to retain control over the wide forehand corner. In fact, after this shot he does block Karlsson's shot with his backhand. Due to his excellent flexibility and his willingness to use the power in his legs, his range from one position is greater than many other players, and he uses most of that range. At 0.4 he finds the support point for his left foot. Now, already crouched very low, he shifts his waist even farther to his left and continues the backswing. At 0.5 he finishes the full weight transfer. Notice that the backswing includes pulling down the shoulder somewhat. His arm never extends much beyond a 90 degree angle. During the whole motion his eyes stay focused on the ball. He starts his forward motion at 0.6. His shoulders and his upper arm, almost as one piece, start a quick rotation to the left, for two frames, while his still relaxed lower arm seemingly snaps back under the acceleration, and with the same motion he lets the racket angle flatten out to where the forehand striking surface points almost straight down. At 0.7 the shoulder rotation stops, and his lower arm, now under maximum acceleration, catches up. He makes contact with the ball maybe 3" in front of the imaginary line extending from his shoulders. Right after contact his elbow snaps upward as he finishes the stroke with his forearm in front of his forehead. The whole motion is supported by a strong push with his left leg which powers the forward rotation. At 0.8 he briefly catches his weight with his right foot and, as he finishes the follow-through, his weight ends up on his left (the picture before 1.0 sec). In the pictures between 1.0 and 1.2 he moves back to his right to cover the forehand, in case the ball is blocked there. At 1.2 he has already recognized the placement of the block and moves over for a backhand block.

Kong instinctively has found the right formula for how much each component of the three possible dimensions—forward, upwards and sideways—he must apply to his body motion for any given ball. Combined with that correct mix of vectors, Kong finds the right racket angle for each situation to produce an efficient shot.

When learning these shots, finding that balance is often a problem, either resulting in strokes that go up too much, which produces a spiny but powerless ball, or strokes that go forward too much, resulting in a high risk, flat trajectory shot. In addition to that balance, careful attention to the racket angle should be given, because it determines the quality of the contact. Brushing the ball too much—a common problem even with relatively strong players—will waste most of the energy generated so carefully with the stroke. The direct translation of the Chinese expression for a good contact is "biting" the ball. It describes the ball pressing through the rubber onto the wood. That is where most of the drive energy is transferred.

At 19, Kong has learned most of this not so much by being told, but by copying others. In Tianjin he told me he had carefully studied videotapes from all available sources.

And now, sooner than surely even he thought, it's already time for the next generation to study him.
After inadvertently scheduling the North American Championships last year on the same weekend as the St. Joseph Valley Open (thereby splitting the top players), it seemed only fair that this year the North American Championships were held at the St. Joseph Valley Open this year. Which meant that this year, the best players from both the U.S. and Canada were all on hand.

At stake in the Men's event was the right to represent North America at the World Cup Singles Championships, where the winner would win at least $2000 or so just by showing up—and the opportunity to win far more.

MEN'S SINGLES
In the entire men's singles draw (35 matches) there were exactly zero upsets, as the higher ranked players won every time. In the rounds of 32 and 16 (16ths & 8ths), 20 of 24 matches were 3-0, and the other four matches were 3-1.

Quarterfinals:
Top-seeded Johnny Huang of Canada had little trouble with David Zhuang until the third game, winning at 14, 13, 20. Cheng Yinghua had even less trouble with Dan Seemiller, winning at 5, 12, 5.

Jim Butler had lost to Khoa Nguyen twice at the Louisiana Open, but this time won the first two games at 18 & 17. (Down 14-16 in the first, Jim scored all five on his serve.) Khoa won the third, 21-18, and was up 14-7 in the fourth. But Jim went on a rampage, and soon tied it up, 18-17. At 19-9, Jim got a net ball, but Khoa loops in back—a counter-net 20-19 Khoa. But Jim deuces it, and at 22-all, Jim gets his loop in two straight points, Khoa misses two blocks, and Jim wins the match, 18, 17, 18, 22.

Even closer was Canada's Joe Ng versus Brian Masters. In the first, Brian goes up 11-8, then loses 10 in a row and the game. Brian pulls out the second game 21-19, but falls behind 1-0 in the fourth! After losing that game at 11, he wins the fourth at 15. In the fifth, Joe leads 13-11, 17-11, 21-16. Match to Ng, 16, 19, 11, 15, 16.

Seminifals:
Cheng Yinghua (USA) vs Joe Ng (CAN)
In the first game, from 15-all, Joe scores four in a row to go up 19-15. Serving from down 16-19, however, Cheng pulls a rabbit out of his service game as long-time international Joe Ng fails to return four of the five serves, and gets blocked down the other point! First game to Cheng, 21-19. According to Todd Sweeris (who was coaching Cheng between games), Joe had trouble with Cheng's backhand no-spin variations, and sudden fast deep serves.

Down 10-12 in the second, Cheng runs off five in a row, and pulls away to a 21-15 win.

In the third, Joe again leads, this time taking a 19-16, 20-18 game point lead—only to have Cheng deuce it again. Joe took another ad, but failed to return another of Cheng's serve, and finally Cheng takes the match, 19, 15, 21.

Johnny Huang (CAN) vs Jim Butler (USA)
Huang seemed to have trouble with Jim's serve, and from 11-8 in the first, loses 21-14. Jim keeps going to Huang's wide forehand, then back to the backhand, catching the pits-out shakerake (on both sides) a step off the table and vulnerable. Jim had used this strategy to win his last three meetings with World #14 Huang.

The rallies here were far different from the other semi's, which finished just after this match began. While Cheng & Ng were spinning balls back and forth, Jim & Huang was a constant barrage of close-to-table bang-bang exchanges.

But the next three games belonged to Huang, who pulled away early each game. Huang stayed closer to the table, and began to go after Jim's forehand more, moving the pips-out shakehands (on both sides) a step off the table, and vulnerable. Jim had used this strategy to win his last three meetings with World #14 Huang.

Women's Singles—Final: Lijuan Geng d. Amy Feng, 17, 17; Feng d. Michelle Cada, 15, 19.

Women's Singles—Final: Lijuan Geng d. Amy Feng, 17, 17; Feng d. Michelle Cada, 15, 19.

OPEN DOUBLES
Open doubles was marred by a controversial default in the semifinals. Khoa Nguyen and Darko Rop's semifinal match (against Cheng Yinghua & Todd Sweeris), had had to be rescheduled because Cheng was in the middle of a singles match at the scheduled time. Nguyen/Rop were told by the control desk to "stick around, and we'll reschedule the match right after Cheng finishes." Nguyen/Rop say they thought that meant to wait until after Cheng had finished all his matches—and so they went back to the hotel and watched a basketball game. However, the desk scheduled the match for the next day, and限定刘 is her singles match, and when Nguyen/Rop didn't show, they were defaulted, putting Cheng/Sweeris into the final.

In the other semifinals, Canada's Johnny Huang & Joe Ng were battled with U.S. National Doubles Champions David Zhuang & Dan Seemiller, with Canada coming from behind both games to pull out a 22-20, 21-19 win.

RESULTS
Men's Singles—Final: Johnny Huang d. Cheng Yinghua, 14, 15, 15; SF: Huang d. Jim Butler, 14, 16, 18, 11; Cheng d. Joe Ng, 19, 15, 21; QF: Huang d. David Zhuang, 14, 20; Butler d. Khoa Nguyen, 18, 17, 18, 22; Ng d. Brian Masters, 16, 19, 11, 15; Cheng d. Dan Seemiller, 5, 12, 5; SF: Huang d. Dennis Sal, 15, 19, 19; Cheng/Sweeris d. Amy Feng/Sean Lonergan, 16, 12, 11; Nguyen d. Todd Sweeris, 2, 16, 11; Butler d. Barry J. Reed, 17, 14, 9; Ng d. Derek May, 16, 12, 13, 19; Masters d. Bg Gudiinuo, 19, 11, 11, 9; Seemiller d. Dave Fernandez, n.s.; Cheng d. Darko Rop, 15, 14, 8.

Women's Singles—Final: Lijuan Geng d. Amy Feng, 17, 17; SF: Geng d. Lily Yip, 14, 21; Feng d. Virginia Sung, 13, 18; QF: Geng d. Janine Gelb, 7, 6; Yip d. Iris Elkin, 13, 10; Sung d. Joannie Fu, 16, 16; Feng d. Michelle Cada, 15, 19; QF: Geng d. Janine Gelb, 7, 6; Yip d. Iris Elkin, 13, 10; Sung d. Joannie Fu, 16, 16; Feng d. Michelle Cada, 15, 19.


July/August 1995
The editors of PC Magazine wanted to find the best multi-function product on the market. First and foremost, it had to be laser—because no other technology produces flawless printer, fax or copier output. In addition, it needed to be a scanner, so virtually any printed graphic could be added to documents. It also had to be flexible enough to send and receive faxes directly from your PC.

Amazingly, this exact description fits the Brother MFC-4500 ML 5 in 1 Multi-Function Product perfectly. And because it retails for under $1,000 it's no wonder the editors called it "the only clear standout, the best value." Thanks PC Magazine. We couldn't have said it better ourselves.

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From page 32 of Table Tennis Today, July/August 1995:

**ST. JOSEPH VALLEY OPEN**

**South Bend, Indiana**

**May 27-29, 1995**

*by Larry Hodges*

**Men's Allstar Champion David Zhuang**

**Women's Allstar Champion Amy Feng**

**Women's Allstar Runner-up Lily Yip**

**Men's Allstar Runner-up Darko Rop**

With 279 entries, the St. Joseph Valley Open (in its only third year) is now the fourth largest tournament in the U.S., with only the "Big Three" (U.S. Nationals, Open, Open Teams) getting more participants. Players also entered more events this year than last year's 263 entries, with an average of 3.76 events per person, up from last year's 3.27 (based on figures given me by Jason Danman, the computer operator). But with 50 tables (also the fourth most used in any U.S. tournament), there were plenty of tables for all in this Escalade Sports sponsored tournament.

Many of the participants this year were inspired by HBO's coincidental showing the night before of the movie "Rudy," which takes place near the tournament site. Those of us from Maryland were inspired by the stories of our cab driver, who told us, "I used to play table tennis in college with a member of the Grand Cayman Island Olympic Team. He played with sandpaper and switched hands to hit the ball." Cheng Yinghua, Todd Sweeris and Sean Lonergan were all inspired by a baby who sat behind them, crying the entire flight, "I'll never have kids!" swore Todd.

There were some complaints about the Allstar events carrying over to Monday when there were easily enough tables to finish on Sunday. Director Brad Balmer told me that it was so the 45 juniors playing in the open & regional junior events on Monday could watch it was so the 45 juniors playing in the open & regional junior events on Monday could watch

**Quarterfinals**

Two of the quarterfinals were quick 3-0's, as Cheng defeated Brian Masters at 15, 14, 10, and David Zhuang defeated Todd Sweeris at 15, 19, 8 (down 20-44 in second, Todd scored five in row, only to lose 21-19). The other two matches were 5-game battles.

**Khoa Nguyen vs Derek May**

The way Khoa had been playing in recent times, he was the clear favorite over top player Derek. Khoa won the first, 21-17, but gradually fell behind in the second, and suddenly couldn't seem to score at all as Derek won game #2, 21-11. The third was close all the way to 17-all, but Khoa won three in a row and won it, 21-18.

The fourth was Derek all the way, 21-16.

It was becoming obvious that Khoa's strategy in the first game--loop everything hard--wasn't working anymore. In the second and fourth games, Khoa had really looped aggressively, and lost. In game three, he'd played a far more patient game, winning with both power and controlled looping and drop shots. Khoa started the fifth off by looping over and over hard into Derek's defense--and Derek goes up 4-1. From here on, Khoa played more careful, longer rallies, and tied it up at 6-all. At 13-all, Khoa played perfectly--and won the last eight points in a row to win the match.

**Jim Butler vs Darko Rop**

This was a classic match up of strong 2-winged attackers, with both players hitting or forcing winners from both sides over and over. Jim has the better backhand smash, quicker block and better serves, but Darko has a more consistent topspin attack from both sides. Most rallies ended up with one player attacking, the other blocking, or defending with topspin from way back. Darko's heavy backhand push off Jim's serve proved to be very effective, especially at the end.

Jim won the third game convincingly 21-10 to take a 2-1 game lead in the best of five, but Darko stayed with him to 19-all in the fourth--then promptly hit two backhand kills to force the match into the fifth.

Darko took an early lead in the fifth, but Jim came back and soon led 16-13. At 19-all, Jim serve & looped off to give Darko match point. Jim serve & looped again, Darko counteredlooped, and Jim began to block him all over the table. Darko kept spinning, and finally Jim blocked off. Match to Darko, 21-15, 10-19, 19. According to Darko, "After a couple of games, I found the right spot to stand to loop Jim's deep serves."

**Semifinals**

**Cheng Yinghua vs Darko Rop**

Cheng had hurt his back at the World Championships a couple of weeks before, and had aggravated it at this tournament. He was encouraged to drop out in the 8ths, but decided to continue. He finally decided to drop out here, and defaulted. It was one of the few times the indestructible Cheng had shown mortality--he hadn't had a single injury in seven years in the U.S.

**David Zhuang vs Khoa Nguyen**

Early in the first game, both players showed their power by each missing a ball on consecutive points and smacking it completely out of the arena! Few saw it, however--the match started with only nine spectators in the arena, as the rest were watching the hugely entertaining Under 12 Boys' Final being played outside the arena. (As soon as that match ended, the arena filled up.)

The first game was close to the end. David took a 19-17 lead, with the serve, but Khoa deuced it. Down 22-23, Darko got a net--but Khoa returned it, and David pushed the return off to lose the first, 24-22.

When Khoa won the second game easily (21-13), it looked like a quick 3-0. But David won the third 21-15.

In the fourth, Khoa took a 17-13 lead, with David to serve. At 18-16 Khoa's lead, David returned a ball that hit either the side or edge. The umpire/scorekeeper wasn't sure, and Khoa and Darko had greatly diverging opinions on the shot. The crowd mostly thought it was a side (Khoa's point), but the Darko supporters ("It's an edge!") were much louder. Finally, Referee Jimmy McClure is called, and a let was played.

Khoa immediately loses the next point, so instead of being up 19-16 as he'd thought, he's only up 18-17. But at least he's serving. But David gets a point at 19-20, and another at 20-21. He converts the second one, and ties the match at 2-2.

In the fifth, it's once again close all the way. Down 12-13, Khoa scores four of five on David's serve to lead 16-14 with the serve. But Khoa's first serve hits his short, losing him the point. David blocks him down the next two points to lead 17-16. Then, at 18-all, Khoa loops a serve off the end, and then hits a backhand into the net to give David double match point. Khoa pulls off a spectacular off-the-bounce loop of Khoa's drive to pull to 19-20, but hits a backhand long in the next point, and looks stunned--how had he lost this, from up 2-0, leading 17-13 in the fourth, losing a controversial point at 18-16, and from up 16-14 with the serve in the fifth? Match to David Zhuang, 22-13, 15, 20, 19.

**Final**

**David Zhuang vs Darko Rop**

These two have played each other dozens of times, since Darko use to live in New York, nearby David Zhuang's New Jersey. Darko had only won one of their matches, and so went into the match a decided underdog. However, contrary to some expectations, Darko not only didn't fall over and
Brandon was also eligible to play in the 2350’s, but was upset by Mark Dubin, who then went down to Dave Sakai in the semifinals. Local Head Coach Victor Tolkachev, who told me he had “No chance” against Virginia Sung in the quarters, went on to win the event over Dave Sakai. Victor would also team up with Randy Hewitt and Jordan Lynch to win the US6300 and US2800 doubles, respectively. The 2000’s was a preview of the Men’s Singles Final at the Nationals, circa 2001. 13-year-old T.J. Beebe defeated 11-year-old Keith Alban in the final, -15, 15, 15.

**Junior Events**

Noman Yeh went on his usual hitting binge in upsetting top-seeded Dave Fernandez in the semifinals of the Allstar Under 18 Boys’ event. Barney J. Reed had no trouble with Yeh in the final, or with Sunny Li (who did upset Deepak Jain the quarter’s) in the semifinal, although Anthony ‘Football-Man’ Torino won the first 11-3, as he cruises to an easy 21-12 win to make final of Under 2200 and splits final prize with Anthony Torino in Allstar Under 16 Final.

Keith Alban eyes the ball as he makes final of Under 2200 and splits final prize with Anthony Torino in Allstar Under 16 Final.
Only a few of us remember when the U.S. Open Team Championships in Detroit were actually acty championships, where all players were required to be from the same area. Now, of course, that tournament is open to any group of players who gets together, leaving a vacuum in our system.

Pete May’s filled the vacuum, running the first annual U.S. Club Championship in Augusta in June, instead of the annual Hall of Fame Open he’d been running for years. The object of the tournament, besides filling the obvious vacancy, was to let players play as many matches as possible, especially for lower rated players. The higher rated players, of course, played for the $4,500 given away in the Club Championships, and over $3,500 in other events. Some also received free rooms and free rental cars for the weekend, care of Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

It wasn’t just a Club Championship. Other events (all run on Friday night) include the USATT’s Allstar events: Men’s, Women’s, Seniors, and Juniors.

The ever-popular Parade of Champions event was the only non-club, non-Allstar event, and this year the final was, well, how many ways can you say, “The Butler did it?” Or Butlers, that is, as Jim Butler defeated brother Scott Butler in the final, 3-0, for $100 and $50 ($25 going to semifinalists Xin Peng & Brian Pace. (Format for event is one game to 21, three points—you don’t have to win by two.) A change in the service rule led to some interesting consequences. Previously, players alternated serves. This year, whoever was behind served, while if it was tied, whoever served the previous point served again. This led to more comebacks and close matches, but also led to the “Receiver’s Lament” syndrome, as Cheng Yinghua and Randy Cohen both lost in the quarterfinals, both 3-2, with the opponents (Jim Butler & Scott Butler) serving all five balls!

**U.S. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The format for the first few rounds were best of nine, with three players playing for each team. Starting in the quarterfinals, a new best-of-seven format was used. Each team listed their players as either ABC or XYZ, and each player would play two of the opposing players, with neither team knowing who would play who until both teams showed their order. This added some randomness to the matches as well as some psychological tactics as each team tried to guess in advance what the other team’s order would be so they could match up their players in the best order. If the match was tied up 3-3, the deciding seventh match would be a doubles match between any two players from each side.

**Semifinals**

**National Table Tennis Center (Rockville, Maryland)**

vs

**South Park Table Tennis Club (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)**

Both sides knew going in that for the underdog South Park Team (Dan Seemiller, Dave Fernandez, Barney J. Reed) to win against NTTC (Cheng Yinghua, Todd Sweeris, Brian Masters), they’d probably need Dan to win two matches, which meant they’d want an order where Dan would avoid playing the NTTC ace, Cheng. (“Cheng = 3,” said Brian.) However, the NTTC team correctly guessed the South Park order (one chance in six), and got the order they wanted.

Cheng started things off with a 8, 14 win over Dave: “Why’d you put me against him?” Fernandez. Cheng prepared for this tournament in his usual way—he slept about 14 hours a day for two days in a row. “He’s a world-class sleeper,” said roommate Todd Sweeris of Cheng’s pre-tournament preparation. On 8 hours sleep, Cheng’s a 2700-2750 player. With 10-12 hours, he’s 2800. With 14 hours—who knows?

In match two, Dan and Todd were going at it like tigers, with Dan taking an early lead, only to see Todd start to score over and over on Dan’s serve in winning the first, 21-18. Dan won the next game easily, 21-14. In the third, up 8-7, Dan ran it out, winning 21-9 on a 13-2 spurt. This match won the “best rallies of the tournament” award, with vicious topspin rallies punctuated by sudden Seemiller chops.

The next two matches were relatively uneventful, as Brian Masters pulled away at the end of each game to defeat Barney J. Reed at 17 & 16, and Cheng ran over Seemiller, 11 & 4.

Brian Masters won the first against Dave, 21-16, but from 13-11 up loses the second, 21-16. In the third, Brian pulls away, and despite a last-minute comeback by Dave to pull with in three at 19-16, Brian serves it out, 21-17 in the third to advance NTTC into the final over South Park, 4-1.

**USA Augusta (Augusta, Georgia)**

vs

**Potomac Country Table Tennis Club (Potomac, Maryland)**

It started out as a rout for Augusta, as they pulled to a 3-0 lead in the best of seven format. Augusta’s Razvan Cretu started it off by defeating Sean Lonergan at 16 & 17. Sean O’Neill of Potomac came from way down to win the first against Jim Butler, but fell short in the match, 18, 10, 13. Match fate was between Augusta’s chopper Derek May and Potomac’s Amy Feng, but long before this match made it to the final game, Augusta’s Jim Butler had defeated Sean Lonergan (avenging his loss at the last U.S. Nationals), at 13 & 10, giving Augusta a 3-0 lead. When Derek won the first against Amy, 21-14, the lead looked insurmountable.

So Potomac went about trying to square it up. Amy won the next two games easily, at 14 & 13, to set up the BIG Amy Feng/Razvan Cretu match.

Why was it big? Because if Amy (who has a history of defeating left-handers) defeats Razvan, it’s 3-2, with Sean O’Neill up against Derek May, who he’s never lost to. The O’Neill-May match began with O’Neill winning the first, 21- 5. Amy wins against Razvan, then it’s all down to the Sean O’Neill/Amy Feng versus Jim Butler/Razvan Cretu doubles match, both strong lefty-righty doubles teams. You call it.

However, Razvan seems to be winning in a rout, starting the 21-11, and leading 13-7, 19-15 in the second. Amy scores the next point, but now it’s 19-16, Razvan to serve—and Amy scores all five! 21-19, Amy, and it’s into the third.

Talk about a topsy-turvy match, how about this?

From 8-9 Amy’s lead in the third:

- Amy scores four in a row to lead 8-13;
- Razvan scores three in a row, 11-13;
- Amy scores three in a row to lead 11-16;
- Razvan scores six in a row to lead 17-16;
- Amy scores three in a row to lead 17-19;
- Razvan scores four in a row to lead 21- 19...and win the game, the match, and the tie!

On again, the order counts, as the NTTC team wants Cheng Yinghua to play Jim Butler, while the Augusta team wants Jim to get the two “sure” wins over Todd Sweeris and Brian Masters. For the second time in a row, the NTTC team correctly guesses the opponent’s order, with Cheng and Jim to play in the first match. In the first, Jim is up 19-16. In the second, it looks like a rout as Cheng goes up 12-5. Jim pulls to 17-13 and 19-16, Cheng serving. Jim rips a forehand loop off Cheng’s first serve to pull to 19-17, but misses a backhand smash the next rally as Cheng gets a 20-17 match point. This time it’s Jim’s turn to come back, scoring the next three to deuce it. But Jim tries to smash Cheng’s backhand loop and misses, and then gets caught when Cheng serves fast down the line. After a rather wild rally with Jim blocking from about eight feet back, Jim gets back to the table, only to block off. Match to Cheng, 19 & 20.

Match #2 is an all-lefty affair between NTTC’s Brian Masters and Augusta’s Razvan Cretu. Brian leads the first 20-17, but Razvan comes back to deuce...only to lose it, 23-21. In the second, from 14-all, the two are never more than a point apart, until Brian finally pulls it out, 22-20. Match to the Master, 21 & 20. NTTC is now 4-0 in deuce or 19 games.

Match #3 is between Todd Sweeris and chopper Derek May. Well before the first game is over, Cheng and Razvan have played match #4, with Cheng again winning easily, 14 & 8, to give NTTC a 3-0 lead.

Todd leads 20-17, but after missing an easy smash of Derek’s soft topspin at 20-19, it’s deuce again as for the third time in this final tie, a 20-17 lead is blown. Up 21-20, Derek pops a ball up, Todd smashers, and it’s the rally to end all ralies! Todd’s just one shot from deucing it up, but Derek keeps returning each smash—’C’mon, already, you can return all the loop

**Final**

**National Table Tennis Center (Rockville, Maryland)**

vs

**USA Augusta (Augusta, Georgia)**

Augusta, Georgia by Larry Hodges

June 2-4, 1995

**USA Augusta (Augusta, Georgia)**

vs

**USA Augusta (Augusta, Georgia)**

**1ST ANNUAL UNITED STATES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Augusta, Georgia

by Larry Hodges

June 2-4, 1995

Butterfly

Todd Sweeris, Cheng Yinghua and Brian Masters, representing the National Table Tennis Center from Maryland, won the National Club Championships in its first year.
kills you want, but not these angled-off smashers! But return him they does, and Todd finally misses an "easy" smash to lose the game—but only after making who knows how many "easy" smashes. The Augusta home crowd goes positively crazy.

In the second, Todd again takes a big lead, this time 17-11. Is it safe? Up 20-17 (uh-oh!), Todd misses a smash, a loop, and it's 20-19. ("Todd makes me nervous!" a nervous Brian Masters said.) But a fast no-spin serve to the elbow ends the game as Derek chops it into the net.

In the third, Todd relentlessly attacks and takes a big lead—this time 18-9, 19-10, finally 20-11. Can Derek?...not this time, as Todd (whose weighting really seems to have added to his loop) wins the game, match and tie, 20-19. 12.

ALLSTAR EVENTS

Allstar Men

In the early rounds, most went as expected. In the 8ths, Dave Fernandez pushed Jim Butler to three games, and Michael Hyatt upset Allstar Senior Champion Dan Seemiller, but other seeded players won 2-0. (All matches, including the final, were best of three.)

Three of the quarterfinal matches were also easy 2-0 wins for the higher seed as Cheng Yinghua defeated Derek Masters, and Kevin McLaughlin defeated Michael Hyatt (15, 15), and Jim Butler defeated Todd Sweeris (16, 16). The big upset was Razvan Cretu over Sean O'Neill, 20-11. Razvan can match Sean power for power on the forehand, but it’s not quite as quick in stepping around. No problem; Razvan’s backhand only looks as much power as just about any of the top forehands in the tournament. When a guy’s got two guns like that, what can you do?

Seminifinals: Cheng Yinghua vs. Brian Masters

But he has a great blocking game, a great change of pace with his antispin surface on one side (Seemiller grip), good creditable performance in the final, butall downhill this game for him. Finals to Cheng and takes a big lead—this time 18-9, 19-10.

Jim Butler vs. Razvan Cretu

Jim Butler has quite a "forehand" on his backhand side, with easily the best backhand smash in the U.S., and one of the best in the world. So take Razvan on, he’s not afraid to take Razvan on, backhand to backhand—just stay away from that ripper backhand he makes a good service return. He seems Razvan gradually comes back—whenever he’s not this time, as Todd (whose weighting really seems to have added to his loop) wins the game, match and tie, 20-19. 12.

Allstar Women

The best in the world. So he’s not afraid to take Razvan on, backhand to backhand—just stay away from that ripper backhand he makes a good service return. He seems Razvan gradually comes back—whenever he’s not this time, as Todd (whose weighting really seems to have added to his loop) wins the game, match and tie, 20-19. 12.

As expected, Dan Seemiller easily ran through in the competition winning still another Allstar Senior event, an event he’s been undefeated in for over a year. This time he faced Xing Peng in the final, rated 2461 (to Dan’s 2579). However, Dan was quite comfortable against the Augusta doctor and pineapple enholder, and continued his undefeated streak, 15 & 14. George Cooper and Barney J. Reed each made the semifinals.

Allstar Juniors

As expected, Dan Seemiller easily ran through in the competition winning still another Allstar Senior event, an event he’s been undefeated in for over a year. This time he faced Xing Peng in the final, rated 2461 (to Dan’s 2579). However, Dan was quite comfortable against the Augusta doctor and pineapple enholder, and continued his undefeated streak, 15 & 14. George Cooper and Barney J. Reed each made the semifinals.

John Cooper and Barney J. Reed, 21, 12; SF: Cheng Yinghua d. Brian Masters, 9-18, 19; F: Cheng Yinghua d. Brian Masters, 9-18, 19.


The Hometown Augusta Team (Jim Butler, Derek May, Razvan Cretu) made the finals.

July/August 1995

Table Tennis Today 35
INTERVIEW WITH KHOA NGUYEN
U.S. Team Member...#2 Rated Player in U.S.
by Larry Hodges

TTToday: Over this past year, you really seem to have improved a lot, from a consistent 2600 player to over 2700. At the Louisiana Open you beat Jimmy Butler twice and you beat Cheng Yinghua once. It seems to have improved a lot, from a consistent player to over 2700. At the last two years left, so I am trying harder. I have a lot of years left, so I am trying to improve.

Khoa: There are actually a lot of things that I have chosen to do during this last year. I realize that I just got married about a year and a half ago, so that's a change. I am really committed to playing now. Actually I just have a few more years left, so I am trying harder. I have a better coach now, Marcel, as well as Per G. Johansson, and it's a lot more fun now.

TTToday: What type of things do you read?
Khoa: Just computer magazines, that's it, but I don't have a lot of time anymore—just keeping up with technology because it helps my career, and it's pretty interesting.

TTToday: What technical things have improved in your game this last year?
Khoa: I have been doing lots of physical training for the first time.

TTToday: What type of physical training?
Khoa: Weight training and some running, mostly distance running. I combine it with weight training, seems to work out okay.

TTToday: Several people have commented that your calves look larger and that your backhand has gotten a lot better:
Khoa: Yeah, that's from the weight training. I have been doing lots of physical training, mostly distance running. I combine it with weight training, seems to work out okay.

TTToday: How old were you when you came to the U.S.? Why did you come to the U.S.?
Khoa: I'm 27, from San Jose, California. Our family came to the U.S. in 1975 when I was about 8 or 9 years old. That's when I started playing and my Dad taught me how to play. I had two older brothers and they played with me. I started going to tournaments and kept at it. I just like playing.

Khoa: You didn't actually start playing until you played in the U.S., right?
Khoa: Yeah.

TTToday: Describe your playing style, how would you best describe it?
Khoa: I'm mostly an offensive player, close to the table attack, both wings.

TTToday: Do you have any pet peeves in table tennis?
Khoa: Bad tournament scheduling and bad tournament conditions.

TTToday: Are there any players that you admire or really idolized when you were developing?
Khoa: Jan-Ove Waldner. He is the best player in the world right now. I think that he is the favorite to win the Olympics in 1996.

TTToday: Tell us about the Worlds.
Khoa: Well, there's not much to say really.

TTToday: The U.S. Men's Team played how many team matches?
Khoa: We played 11 team matches, but two teams didn't show up.

TTToday: So the U.S. Team actually played nine. How many did you play?
Khoa: I didn't get to play in any team matches.

TTToday: Going into the tournament what was our rating and ranking in the U.S.?
Khoa: I was rated 2727, and ranked 82.

TTToday: Some people thought it was unfair that you went to the Worlds, you were ranked number two in the country and had beaten Jimmy Butler twice in Louisiana and Cheng once and almost beat him twice, and then they didn't play you in any of the team matches. Why didn't they play you?
Khoa: I was a little disappointed because I entered the training camp just before the worlds, and that was one of my goals this year, to make the Worlds, so it was just unfortunate that it happened and I hope it never happens to another player.

TTToday: Darko Rop also didn't play.
Khoa: I was a little disappointed because I entered the training camp just before the worlds, and that was one of my goals this year, to make the Worlds, so it was just unfortunate that it happened and I hope it never happens to another player.

TTToday: How many actual matches did you play at the World?
Khoa: I played doubles with Gonzalez from the Philippines. He's a computer, and we didn't play that well. I doubt if we would have had a chance anyway. We lost in the first round of the qualifiers.

TTToday: How many times have you been on the U.S. National Team?
Khoa: First time was in 1987 and I have been on the team every year since except in 1989. In 1991 I made the team, but couldn't go to the Worlds—but I made the 1993 team and the 1995 team.

TTToday: How many worlds have you actually played in?
Khoa: China would be the third worlds, the fourth Worlds that I couldn't go to was Chiba, Japan, in 1991.

TTToday: How come you couldn't go?
Khoa: I couldn't get off work.

TTToday: John Gregson told me that he had that problem too, once! What has been your best result at the Nationals so far?
Khoa: Probably in 1993 when I made the semi's.

TTToday: Are you planning on doing anything specific to train for the Olympics trials?
Khoa: Yeah, right after this tournament I am taking a month off. For the trials, I am going to train harder than ever before, harder than last summer by doing more different things so that I can prepare for the Olympic Trials. I plan to do more physical training.

TTToday: What was different when you played Jim Butler this tournament, with him winning a close one, as opposed to the Louisiana Open, where you beat him twice?
Khoa: Well, I didn't feel good coming to this tournament, I was getting burned out from the training. I played pretty good, but I could have played better.

TTToday: What do you think that the USATT should do to improve in the U.S.?
Khoa: There are so many possibilities. They could go out and try to find sponsors for the national team or for the junior players. I don't think it's that difficult to find a sponsor but I don't think anyone's doing it at the moment. We should try to start up a professional league in the U.S. These kinds of things are not that difficult to do but no one is in charge of doing them. Setting up a league wouldn't be difficult, just start small, it'd grow bigger. It's like any other sport, why not have table tennis? If the U.S. ever wants an Olympic Gold Medalist or World Champion, they'll have to have the money to train the national team. That's where it starts. When a junior sees a national team member making all that money, he's going to want to do it.

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July/August 1995
Tara Hendrickson

Tara Hendrickson and the B.T.T.A. Girls’ Exhibition Team
by Nancy Persaud

When Tara Hendrickson first came to Bartlesville's Smith-Taylor Table Tennis Center in October, 1994, it was simply to accompany her mom, Julie and her dad, Steve, (Bartlesville Tennis Association President), and her brother, Jacob, B.T.T.A. Boys U-10 Champ. The girls’ coach asked if Tara wanted to play. Her parents indicated that her attention span was too short, she was not that coordinated, she didn’t take instruction that well, and she had “a mind of her own.”

Six months later, at the age of almost five, Tara hit 44 forehands in a row with no misses. She has a great backhand stroke, can hit “back and forths,” has hit over 30 serves in a row, serves forehand and backhand, is learning to attack and return attack, has performed in two exhibitions, plays singles and doubles, drills on the robot, and has attended a camp coached by Barney D. Reed. Reed says Tara exhibits talents that could make her the national U-10 Champ at age six.

Tara’s 1000-watt facial expression when she plays proves that she plays for the sheer delight of it. She’s never sure she’s done well by other’s standards until they tell her. Once she was praised for hitting 16 in a row. Another time she was complimented for a hitting streak of 11. When she went home, she asked her mother, “Is 11 more than 16?” Fortunately, Tara still has that necessary mark of a future champion, a mind of her own. And she has her priorities straight. The B.T.T.A. coaches are slow to get excited about new promising girls, having lost so many to other contemporary American pursuits. So Tara was given a quiz one day.

Coach: If you can be a cheerleader when you’re 15, but you’d have to quit table tennis, what would you do?

Tara: Play table tennis.

Questioner: If you could do gymnastics or play table tennis, what would you choose?

Tara: Eat candy!

Tara is on the B.T.T.A. Girl’s Practice Team. When she can hit 20 forehands, 20 backhands, and 20 back and forths, she’ll get her pink card that shows she’s on the Girls’ Exhibition Team. She comes to team practices with Exhibition Team members Brianne Ballard, Angela Parsons, Whitney Richards, Andrea Oliver, Natalie Bogan, Erika Bogan (notice the hopefully-prophetic name!), Lindsey Hollifield, Lacy Saltzman, and Shelly Kaufman, ages 8-13. At practices, the exhibition routine is rehearsed and consistency records are routinely broken. Some records include Brianne Ballard’s over 1200 paddle bounces in the air and over 700 big-ball forehands and 23 mini-paddle (diameter 1 1/2”) forehands. Other achievements are Angela and Lindsey’s 100 forehands together (records are usually made hitting with coaches), Natalie’s 112 back and forths, Shelly’s 80 serves in a row, Whitney and Brianne’s four games each played showing model sportsmanship. Andrea’s lob kills (20), and newest player Lacy’s 306 paddle bounces. All the girls have shown immense improvement in fundamentals and consistency.

The exhibition routine, which has been performed for local TV and as a warm-up routine for an exhibition by Barney J. Reed and David Fernandez, is done to the recorded play of Sweet Georgia Brown. The girls line up at one end of the table with one or two coaches at the opposite end. Each hits a few of a specified shot, then skips steps to the side and goes to the back of the line while the next girl continues without stopping the ball. The girls hit forehand, backhand, back and forths, and lobs and kills. In doubles formation, they hit back and forths with one ball and one coach, then two balls and two coaches. The girls wear identical pink shirts and are a “smashing” success, the B.T.T.A. and Tara Hendrickson, highly recommend this type of activity for clubs desiring to increase junior girl’s participation, interest, enjoyment and skill-level.

1995 Member Survey Results

How would you rate the following...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Blank/Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ratings</td>
<td>326 (28%)</td>
<td>620 (53%)</td>
<td>175 (15%)</td>
<td>36 (3%)</td>
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<td>Value of Membership</td>
<td>166 (14%)</td>
<td>544 (46%)</td>
<td>364 (12%)</td>
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<td>USATT Communication</td>
<td>87 (8%)</td>
<td>446 (38%)</td>
<td>420 (36%)</td>
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<td>Magazine format</td>
<td>204 (17%)</td>
<td>674 (58%)</td>
<td>207 (18%)</td>
<td>40 (3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazine content/focus</td>
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<td>624 (53%)</td>
<td>266 (23%)</td>
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<td>Timeliness</td>
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<td>487 (42%)</td>
<td>330 (28%)</td>
<td>164 (14%)</td>
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<td>Elite programs</td>
<td>95 (8%)</td>
<td>419 (36%)</td>
<td>238 (22%)</td>
<td>72 (6%)</td>
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<td>270 (23%)</td>
<td>331 (28%)</td>
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<td>162 (14%)</td>
<td>299 (26%)</td>
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<td>394 (34%)</td>
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<td>361 (31%)</td>
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<td>Merchandising</td>
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<td>380 (32%)</td>
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<td>US Open</td>
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<td>476 (41%)</td>
<td>171 (15%)</td>
<td>37 (3%)</td>
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<td>US Nationals</td>
<td>170 (15%)</td>
<td>498 (42%)</td>
<td>148 (13%)</td>
<td>18 (2%)</td>
<td>338 (28%)</td>
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On a scale of 1 to 10, how important do you consider the following...

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Very important (1-3)</th>
<th>Less important (4-7)</th>
<th>Not important (8-10)</th>
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<td>International Events &amp; News</td>
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<td>442 (38%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratings</td>
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<td>414 (35%)</td>
<td>186 (16%)</td>
<td>155 (13%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>426 (36%)</td>
<td>390 (33%)</td>
<td>195 (17%)</td>
<td>161 (14%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>338 (29%)</td>
<td>364 (32%)</td>
<td>288 (25%)</td>
<td>182 (14%)</td>
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<td>Tournaments</td>
<td>656 (56%)</td>
<td>297 (25%)</td>
<td>114 (10%)</td>
<td>105 (9%)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*These results were compiled from a total of 1,172 surveys
I had moved to Maryland from England as a teenager and now, more than twenty years later I discovered that I was living in the best area for table tennis in the whole country! As kids in England my brothers and I had played ping pong with really dead paddles (bats) in our garage and this country we played sporadically in the basement. We thought we were really hot. Nobody in the neighborhood could touch us. But I had never seen “real” table tennis until the first night I walked into the NTTC in January 1993. Director Larry Hodges emerged from his office area and greeted me with a stupefying barrage of table tennis trivia: famous players back to the fifties, equipment, technique, USATT politics etc., etc. Eventually I escaped, found a seat and just watched for a while. It was amazing. Later I found out that on this “average” night there were more highly rated 2200+ players just practicing there than you might normally find at many tournaments. What impressed me the most was how many of them were looping and counter looping from across the table, something I had previously seen only once or twice on TV.

I joined the club and started playing with people near my own level, entered my first tournament, receiving a humbling initial rating of 600 or so. I joined a group beginning class taught by Larry Hodges, Cheng Yinghua (U.S. #1) and Jack Huang (then U.S. #2) and started on the long road to try to shed old bad habits and learn better technique. After a few tournaments and a few months of weekly private lessons with Jack, I progressed to about 1600 before leveling off for a while. I have some goals in table tennis, but at 38 I am realistic enough to be in it mainly for fun and exercise. On any night I could be playing with another “hacker,” a talented junior or a wily senior. On the next table could be almost anyone — from first timers off the street to visiting pros from exotic countries; from the newest phenomenon, tiny 8 year old Han Xiao, to his teacher, Cheng Yinghua. I’m totally hooked on the NTTC, living at Hodges’ apartment (which he shares with his wife, Amy Feng) and Virginia Sung. Over 100 hours of coaching take place each week at the NTTC, both in private coaching and group classes. Hodges, the director of the center since its opening, bought the entire club from Cheng & Jack in 1993, although they continue as head coaches. Brian Lonergan was hired recently as full-time manager of the club. Coach Jack Huang to come to the NTTC as coaches (joining several other local coaches, including Sean O’Neill, Hank Teekavarakert and Chang-Shing Hsu), and soon the area began to really explode. Soon, the PCTTC had virtually reached its limit — the club only meets twice a week (with 12 tables). The PCTTC annual tournament is very popular. While only a three-star event, this year’s Potomac Open attracted an even stronger field than the U.S. Nationals!

About five miles away in Rockville, about 15 miles north of Washington D.C., the National Table Tennis Center (NTTC) was begun in 1992 as a private venture by Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang and Larry Hodges. The NTTC has survived without any funding from the USATT whatsoever. (In fact, it sends about $500/month to USATT in sanctioning, membership, rating and advertising fees.) The original center had ten tables, but late in 1993 we moved to a new 10,000 square foot center, with three playing rooms, 16 tables, an office/pro shop and lounge areas. The NTTC is open seven nights a week (and days/ times for top players in training), runs popular monthly tournaments (36 so far) and regular coaching camps. The tournaments attract an eclectic mix of enthusiasts from Maryland, D.C., Virginia and Pennsylvania as well as top players from further away, such as David Zhong, Abbas Ekun and Virginia Sung. Over 100 hours of coaching takes place each week at the NTTC, both in private coaching and group classes. Hodges, the director of the center since its opening, bought the entire club from Cheng & Jack in 1993, although they continue as head coaches. Brian Lonergan was hired recently as full-time manager of the club, manning the phones, cleaning, organizing tournaments, designing and circulating publicity, running classes and camps etc., plus he often worked on the magazine through many wee hours at night. A few months ago, Hodges voluntarily gave up much of the control of the NTTC to local volunteers, and especially vice-president, training director and head coach Jack Huang. The NTTC now has an elected Board of Directors. They are: President Bob Slapnik, Operations Director Cathy Lonergan, Sales & Public Relations Director Brian Loehnert, Treasurer Matthew Murad, and Program Director Larry Hodges. There are numerous other volunteers: League Directors Steven Lohman, Frank Fernandez, Gary Elwell to Vending Director Randall Houli. I should add myself to the list, having designed the all-important logo for the club as well as helping out in other ways. I also designed a distinctive black plus 3-color sport shirt for NTTC. Cheng Yinghua has worn it to many tournaments and Gao Jun wore it at the beat (Amy Feng in last year’s) U.S. Open in Anaheim.

The cornerstone of the NTTC coaching is Cheng Yinghua and Jack Huang, both former long-time members of the Chinese National Team. Cheng has been the top-rated player in the U.S. since his arrival in 1988 (except for a 1-year absence in 1990), Jack has often been ranked #2 in the USA, and #1 in 1990. Both coach 40 or so hours each week, and their junior players have won 19 of the 30 national junior singles titles awarded over the past three years. It is amazing that both these great coaches are in their late thirties and can still win major tournaments considering all their time coaching and no time at all training!

Never in recent table tennis history has there been such an accumulation of top players in one spot in the U.S. as there is now in Maryland, congregating around the sister clubs NTTC & PCTTC. The area dominates in nearly every category — top men, women, college students, junior boys & girls. Currently, the players in the area include:

- The top man in the country (Cheng Yinghua), the only U.S. player ever to be rated over 2800;
- The top two women in the country: Gao Jun, ranked #1 in the world, and Amy Feng, 3-time U.S. Women’s Champion (although if the rumors are true, she has moved away, alas...);
- 9 current or past members of the U.S., China, Taiwan and Nigerian National Teams;
- 9 players who have been rated over 2500 (Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Huazhang Xu, Sean O’Neill, Todd Sweeris, John Omidafe, Gao Jun, Sean Lonergan). This does not include part-time locals Barney J. Reed & Dave Fernandez, both of whom have been over 2500; 19 players rated over 2200, 31 over 2000;
- The University of Maryland National College Team Champions, and Runner-up Montgomery College;
- National Collegiate Men’s Singles Champion Sean Lonergan;
- National Club Champion NTTC and 3rd place finisher PCTTC;
- Six of the ten current national junior singles champions, and 19 of the 30 national junior singles champions over the past three years, all coached by NTTC Coaches Cheng Yinghua & Jack Huang;
- 7 junior players with ratings over 2000, 13 with ratings over 1700 and hundreds of others;
- Many-time U.S. Senior Champions Dave & Donna Sakai;
- U.S. Wheelchair Champion Andre Scott.

All of these players training together has led to a substantial amount of publicity. For example, they’ve been on TV 33 times in the past three years, and in over a hundred articles in newspapers. There was a 3.5 minute special on them on Headline News and CNN, played over 50 times over a 24 hour period, going to 177 countries. They’ve also been on ESPN, in Sports Illustrated, Boys’ Life, The Washington Post and Baltimore Sun. NBC’s Dateline is doing a special on them airing sometime in the next few weeks. Andre Scott, U.S. Wheelchair Champion and a member of the University of Maryland National Collegiate Champions, especially seems to attract attention from the press.

Players from all over the U.S. keep moving to the area to train. Recently, Barney J. Reed and Dave Fernandez, the top two junior players in the U.S., started to train at the NTTC twice a week, with Cheng Yinghua and the U.S.’s top youth players, Todd Sweeris (22) and Sean Lonergan (20). They spent last summer training at the NTTC, living at Hodges’ apartment (in which he shares with Todd Sweeris and Huazhang Xu).

The NTTC surely has the most active group of tournament players in the U.S. The U.S. Open Team Championships (10 hours away in Detroit) had about 750 players last year and about 10% of the players were from NTTC/PCTTC. We chartered a 55-passenger bus for the trip, but it wasn’t enough, so several vans and cars full of people also went, as well as a number who flew.) The finals were played between teams led by “our guys”...
Cheng Yinghua & Todd Sweers (with Dan Seemiller) and Jack Huang (with David Zhuang and Abass Ekun). Along the way the finalists beat teams representing England and Slovakia among others. On the women’s side, “our gals” Gao Jun and Amy Feng (with Virginia Sung) cruised through the competition. Gao Jun’s husband Frank Chang was there to cheer on his talented wife, with the occasional interruption of having to play on my team! The Sun TV Open in Pittsburgh last year (4 hours away) had about 240 entered players from the NTTC/PCTTC. (If you were there you may have seen a lot of my black NTTC shirts walking around and in action!) The junior nationals and junior olympics get nearly 1/3 of their players from NTTC/PCTTC each year, with a typical contender close to 30. NTTC players who stay home enthusiastically root for their fellow members who are off at big tournaments. When we heard that Cheng had beaten Jean-Philippe Gatien (the eventual winner of the tournament) there were loud cheers and high-fives all around.

Training camps at the NTTC have become more and more active, with 33 players in the December 1994 Christmas camp, and 28 players in the April 1995 Spring camp which have been run by Hodges with Jack, Cheng and other coaches. Dan Seemiller sometimes comes down from Pittsburgh to train and teach camps, the last one with help from David Sakai and others. Currently, there are four group classes being taught at the NTTC—a beginning class, an intermediate class, a beginning junior class, and an advanced junior class. However, private lessons remain the backbone of the coaching program.

The NTTC definitely feels like a home away from home. Entering the club, you see no tables at first, but a central enclosed office, restroom, snack area and a large casual area with tables, chairs, friendly den furniture and an antique TV. A dedicated parking area allows the junior players to park with their perpetrators and parents, all in defense of protecting the juniors. The league and greater volunteers support the NTTC junior players. It is a good deal of the training they do receive is of such high quality.

The NTTC juniors are about to begin serious training for the 1995 junior nations and junior olympics. Defending national champions include boys’ Under 16 champion Richard Lee. Boys’ Under 14 Champion Sunny Li; girls’ Under 16 Champion Vivian Lee; girls’ Under 14 Champion Jessica Shen; girls’ Under 12 Champion Carol Oppenheim; and girls’ Under 10 Champion Katherine Wu. Wu, Oppenheim, Shen, and Li are also defending Junior Olympic Champions, as is Margaret Lu (Girls’ Under 16). Top-ranked junior Jimmy Yeh made the finals of Under 18 boys, defeating top seed Barney Rees in the quarterfinals and fellow NTTCer Richard Lee in the semi’s before losing 19 in the third in the final to Dave Fernandez.

College students are beginning to flock to the area. University of Maryland (current squad: Huzhuan Xu, Todd Sweers, Ernest Hung, Larry Hodges, Andrew Scott, & Rungkai Tsay) has won the National College Championships in Princeton three straight years, and Montgomery College of Maryland (Sean & Brian Lomergan, Masanichi Kuo, Pal Jonsson) made the finals this year for an all-Maryland final. One of the best new activities at the NTTC has been a league—ten teams, three players to a team, playing once a week until everyone has played each other. Each evening’s tie consists of nine singles matches and one doubles match. Our league includes players from 1600+ to 2000+, with one team (the eventual winning team) consisted of Todd Sweers (2565), Andy Li (2017) and Jonathan Wilhelm (1190). Although I lost most of my matches I thoroughly enjoyed the league and felt inspired in at least taking single games off of Jessica Shen, Andy Li and others. The league was a great way for me to get to know each other better and develop team spirit. There was a good deal of cooperation between matches and a lot of cheering for teammates. Hodges support reached a fever pitch when three of us actually did the wave while watching one of the last doubles matches! Lower players were able to play against much higher quality players than they would normally. Most of the time the higher players played lower ones pretty seriously without too much gratuitous lobbing. I often gaped and shook my head at the league’s top players such as Todd Sweers, Sean Lonergan, and Maxamichi Kubo casually and apologetically loop-killed balls past me at impossible angles, apparently quite unfazed by my blinding lack of spin and leaden footwork!

The league and greater volunteer support have been very positive and there is a renewed feeling of excitement at our club. Director Hodges has been tireless in his energy and generosity toward the club and for the good of the sport, particularly for the juniors. He continues to be a driving force, but now with a quieter voice. As always, Hodges is full of ideas for the future. We are currently looking into a number of things,” he says. “I’m trying to turn the NTTC into a real country club type of table tennis club. I’m also trying to set up a resident training program at the NTTC, I’d also like to set up National Junior Cup Championship or perhaps National Youth Championships. I’m in contact with several top players who are planning to move here, and we’re making the arrangements for them now. But it’ll take a lot of time and money to get any of this accomplished.”

For the last twenty years as a graphic designer and calligrapher I have put away a lot of effort into my work and career. It now feels very good to be passionately involved with something totally different. I’ve become interested in the mental and emotionally challenging and rewarding. I have only two complaints. We don’t have enough women players and we don’t have enough players who use anything other than the standard inverted rubber on both sides. With the beautiful shakehand blocking and looping style exemplified by Jack, Cheng and their protégés, we all want to emulate that. At the club many of us play basically the same way, so we are often weak when faced with “junk rubber” opponents. I thoroughly enjoy the league and feel inspired in at least taking single games off of members who play differently—a pigs-out pen holder here, a chopper there etc. There are only two pretty good 1900+ level long pipes regular at the club, and one of them, Ted Lonergan, is more of a less a pure chopper. It’s all very well playing opponents who hit a nice clean ball! But how about the guy with the multiple sweatbands and knee braces who flips between long pipes on one side and anit on the other, with the beautiful shakehand blocking and back unpredictable knuckle balls, and has that wild homemade paddle and those funky illegal serves. If you fit this description—please move to Maryland. We need you!

**RATINGS POINTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS**

by Larry Hodges, USATT Certified National Coach

Because few other countries use a rating system such as the U.S. system, there are many problems faced by U.S. players not faced in other countries. The best players in the world—especially those from Asia and Europe—never played in a rating system, and so never faced its unique problems. Worse, many of the best coaches in the U.S. came from systems without a rating. Whether they know it or not, they will never reach their full potential until they adopt the mental side of the game.

A common saying is that table tennis is a game of great skill, but far more than skill is required. The ratings system is an excellent way of gauging one’s level and improvement, and it can be great fun competing in the rating events. However, to the up-and-coming player, the rating system can also be a trap.

An up-and-coming player who...

- avoids playing in tournaments to protect his rating, especially after a good tournament when rating is high;
- avoids playing in rating events where he’d be highly seeded and have to face lower-rated players to win;
- has just as much a problem in their game as a player with a hitch in their forehand stroke. In this case, they have a “mental” hitch in their game. Whether they know it or not, they will never reach their full potential until they fix up this hitch.
- has a “champion’s” mind—fearful of defeat? Does he avoid it because he is afraid of failing? Does he have a hitch in his mental game—fear, or lack of confidence in himself?
- is he trying to succeed? Or trying to avoid failure?
- avoids playing in rating events where he’d be highly seeded and have to face lower-rated players to win;
- is he not working as hard at the
PLAYING STYLES AND RALLYING TACTICS

Part II

by Larry Hodges
USATT Certified National Coach
Reprinted from
Table Tennis: Steps to Success
Human Kinetics Publishers

COUNTERDRIVERS

A counterdriver likes to stand in the middle of the table and just stroke back and forth at the ball. He can seem-

ingly counter your best shots and go on all day doing so. It is a simple game, with placement, consistency and speed of drives the most important elements. A counterdriver wants his opponent to use his weakest side to score points. A counterdriver's basic strategy is to drive balls mostly to the weaker side. If the weaker side is the backhand, then the goal is to keep opponent from stepping around and using a forehand. If the weaker side is the forehand, then the goal is to hit the ball hard enough to the forehand and opponent to make it a smashing return. If an opponent tees off on his shots, the counterdriver has to pick up the speed of his shots. If he starts missing, he should slow down. He should also always be on the lookout for balls to smash.

The weakness of a counterdriver is that his shots are neither quick, fast or spinny. Just as he can drive back whatever you throw at him you should be able to do the same to him. It usually comes down to whether your attack is more consistent than his counterdrive.

You should concentrate your attack at his weakest side. Most counterdrivers are very strong from the corners although they are often weaker or softer on one side. Take your time attacking. Pick your shots, and make sure that the winners that you go for are just that. Take sharp judgement, but you must avoid going for the wrong winners, a tempo is important when playing counterdrivers. Remember— if he can't put the ball past you, you are under no pressure to force the attack.

On the other hand, don't take too long. A counterdriver is going to be more consistent than you at his own game, and if you rally with him too long, you're going to make too many careless mistakes. However, you might counter just long enough until you see a chance to smash, either forehand or backhand. Another way to play the counterdriver is to end the point before he gets a chance to counterattack. The key is to be patient and pick your shots, and make sure that your serve is strong and a good forehand. Against a more aggressive player, it is dangerous to overanticipate a third ball kill too often—a good receive catches you off guard and the receiver ends the point instead. But since a counterdriver is usually less of a threat on the attack, you can play a flexible all-out attack. Look to put the first ball away, but if the shot isn't there, fall back on rallying and looking for a better shot.

General Tactics For Counterdrivers

• Be consistent
• Attack opponent's weaker side
• Build up a countering rhythm
• Force counterattacking rallies early

BLOCKERS

Blockers are similar to counterdrivers except that they contact the ball right after it hits the table. They tend to be almost as consistent as a counterdriver but are constantly putting pressure on you by rushing you. This means that they can go even to your stronger side knowing that you won't have time to go for a strong shot.

A blocker can either block every ball quickly or delay the opponent's move by blocking it, exploiting to the fullest, or block side to side, making the opponent move about and hit on the run. A blocker has to be ready to smash when a weak ball comes or all an opponent has to do is keep the ball in play. He has to anticipate weak returns so you can't attack your weaker side. If corner is weak, the goal is to designate one side (usually the forehand) as the side to smash whenever possible. Many players combine a backhand blockandforehand smashing game. A quick backhand block will often set up the forehand smash.

A weakness of a blocker is his own quickness. To take the ball so quickly he must stand right at the table. He has little time to decide what shot to use, and so even if you make a weak shot, he will often just block it. This is why a blocker needs to anticipate weak balls so as to be ready to kill them. A blocker will also make mistakes by his own attempt to be quick.

Some blockers are very strong in the middle but weak to the corners where they have to move their racket farther. Others are the reverse, being weak in the middle since they have to decide which side to block and when to block it in or much designate one side (usually the forehand) as the side to smash whenever possible. These blockers are usually the ones who can control the rallies. Remember— if you can't put the ball past them, you are under no pressure to force the attack.

On the other hand, don't take too long. A blocker is going to be more consistent than you at his own game, and if you rally with him too long, you're going to make too many careless mistakes. However, you might counter just long enough until you see a chance to smash, either forehand or backhand. Another way to play the counterdriver is to end the point before he gets a chance to counterattack. The key is to be patient and pick your shots, and make sure that your serve is strong and a good forehand. Against a more aggressive player, it is dangerous to overanticipate a third ball kill too often—a good receive catches you off guard and the receiver ends the point instead. But since a counterdriver is usually less of a threat on the attack, you can play a flexible all-out attack. Look to put the first ball away, but if the shot isn't there, fall back on rallying and looking for a better shot.

General Tactics For Counterdrivers

• Be consistent
• Attack opponent's weaker side
• Build up a countering rhythm
• Force counterattacking rallies early

General Tactics Against Counterdrivers

• Be patient and pick shots
• Attack middle
• Don't try to beat counterdriver at his own game
• Use topspin and backspin to break up rhythm

General Tactics Against Blockers

• Hit shots quick off the bounce
• Attack weaker side
• Always be ready to smash
• Vary pace and placement

Choppers are defensive players who win mostly on their mistakes. They go fifteen feet or so away from the table and return each of your aggressive topspin shots with backspin, making it difficult to attack effectively.

A chopper does not simply get the ball back. Chopping is probably the most tactical of games simply because to win a point, a chopper must fool his opponent into making a mistake from the table and the chopper can then exploit the mistake. The chopper is in control. Against a low chop, you can push it and attack the next one instead. Any time you are not sure of the spin you can do this. So how does a chopper win?

From an attacker's point of view, he is in control of the rallies when he attacks. But from the chopper's point of view, the chopper is in control. Against a low chop or push, the attacker can only attack so hard and still be consistent. If the chopper can chop that shot back effectively, he is in control.

Of course, the attacker could just push. But a chopper is usually better at pushing and can do so forever. He can also chop and attack the off-guard by attacking when he sees the chance while the attacker can't do the same since the chopper is expecting it.

In general, if a chopper can return your best drives back without giving you a high ball, he is going to win. But there are...
A common misconception about playing choppers is that you have to overpower them. Nothing could be further from the truth. If you can beat a chopper on pure power, than you would beat him even worse by choosing your shots more carefully.

After a chopper has made one return of a strong drive, he will probably return the same drive over and over again. A chopper can adjust to just about anything if he sees it enough. What does give a chopper trouble is change. Changing the spin, direction, pace, depth or even the arc of the ball can create havoc to his timing and lead to misses and high returns.

A chopper is strongest at the corners unless you can force him out of position and, him into a wide angle. He is weakest in the middle where he must not only decide whether to chop with the forehand or the backhand but also must get his body out of the way so he can make a proper stroke. Generally, when playing a chopper, constantly change depth and direction. Loop (or hit) one deep, then short and spinny. Draw him in close to the table and then attack hard before he can react to it. Force him away from the table and then deep with a follow up return. He is not an hard attack. Have patience, but when the shot is there, take it. If you have trouble reading the spin, push one or attack it soft. Don’t attack to the corners unless you can force him out of position and then drop shot him. Try to go for too many drop shots (as a good ball to attack. Push ten balls, then loop as a variation pops one up. Mix in an occasional spinny turn, and so you can keep on attacking until he commits to one side. If he doesn't commit himself, he should be open on both wings. (And with both sides being equal, you should go to the backhand, just in case.)

Often you will be faced with a relatively easy lob to smash. Make sure to use good form as shots like this are often far trickier than they look.

You should rarely drop shot against the lob. If the ball is deep, an effective drop shot is nearly impossible, and if the ball is short you should be able to put it away. Only drop shot if you are completely caught off guard by the shot. All a drop shot usually does against a lobber is let him back into the point. One exception to this rule is if your opponent has gotten into such a rhythm that he cannot smash past him in the rally. A drop shot might be effective just to throw off his timing. But don’t do it too often.

General Tactics For Lobbers

• Keep ball deep and spinnny
• Hit on diagonal opposite strongest side
• Look for balls to counter attack
• Avoid lobbing except when forced
• Smash to backhand side unless ready to end on one shot
• Against a good lobber, smash kill short lob
• Use good form no matter how easy shot looks
• Rarely drop shot

General Tactics Against Choppers
• Vary degree of backspin.
• Always be ready to attack, especially on serve.
• End points quickly when attacking.
• Try to vary shot seriously, even pushes.
• Don’t underdo drop shots.
• Consider going for expedite rule.

Most players use the lob only as a variation or desperation shot. But some players use it over and over, and if they find you have trouble with it, they will use it again. A lobber has to be strong on both sides or his opponent will simply smash the weak side. Most lobbers are stronger on the forehand side, plus they can counter-attack easier on that side, and so it is a good idea when lobbing to the backhand, to hit the hitter's forehand side, tempting your opponent into smashing the easy way, crosscourt to your forehand. But if your opponent is smart, he won’t fall for it and you will mostly lob to your backhand (which might be what he wants, if that is your strongest Lobbing side), but the most important thing to remember when lobbing is depth. As long as your lob goes deep, you are still in the point. A short lob can be smashed at such a wide angle that there is nothing you can do to get it back.

Lobbers shouldn’t just throw the ball in the air. A lobber should try to put topspin and sidespin on the ball to force mistakes. He should also vary the height of the lob—sometimes very high, other times lower. Against short lobbers, lob very high.

A lobber should always be on the lookout for a chance to get back into the point. Counter-smash every chance you can. If the smash is weak, you might even choose to cut back.

There are two ways to hit a lob, as described in the advanced strokes section. A smother kill is most effective if if hits. A smooth finish kills it. Smoother. You have to judge for yourself. Some players smother kill all lobbers, others never do it. A good balance is to smother kill only against lobbers that land short, near the net, close to your target. Regardless of how you hit the lob you should follow one fundamental rule when playing lobbers, and that is to smash to the backhand. (Of course, somewhere out there is an exception to this rule and you will no doubt play him in your next match, right after reading this.) The forehand lob is usually spinnny, and it is far easier to counter-attack with the forehand than the backhand. So just smash to the backhand over and over until you force either a miss or a weak return. When the weak ball comes (one that is short or less spinny) go to the forehand only if you can smash an effective shot or at least force a keep away. Why? Take chances? When in doubt, keep going to the backhand.

If the opponent isn’t a great threat to countersmash, go for his middle. Many lobbers have trouble lobbing from that spot. When the ball lands short, try to angle it so your opponent cannot throw it back to you.

When you have an advantage on your opponent, you can play to win on every shot, but if you cannot win the point, you can try to make the return of serve look easy, and then when he comes to the net, the ball is looped over and over. You will probably win because your opponent won’t be able to win your point, even if he gets a very good return of serve.

Vary all shots

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Table Tennis Today 21

July/August 1995
Open Singles-Runner up George Brathwaite (L) and Champion Hisashi Kubo.

In an event that might have been more aptly held the Texas Hail Storm Open, due baseball-sized hail that swept through the area on the eve of the tournament, Torsten Pawlowski upset Roberto "Dino" Byles in the Open Singles division championship. What some spectators thought would be a repeat of Saturday's hard-fought Over 30 Championship, won with difficulty by Byles, the Open Championship match turned out to be something different altogether.

Pawlowski, a one hundred point underdog based on the ratings, took the first game 22-20 despite spectacular play by Byles down the stretch. With Pawlowski poised to win the game at 20-18, Byles dove fully extended far to his right and struck a wicked loop down the line to a target area the size of quarter, past the unbelieving eyes of his opponent.

In the second game, Byles immediately won the first 9-1, and the determined Pawlowski was unable to recover. Byles, a former member of the Jamaican National Olympic team and usually leery in his coolness, provided some comedy in the second game. From far out of position to defend against a Pawlowski block, Byles tossed his racket across the table, miraculously striking the ball for a "winner."

Byles took the second game handily 21-12.

From there, the animated and vocal Pawlowski immediately went up 19-9 in the decisive game. Obviously fired up, he was not to be denied the final points, at times chastising himself for mental mistakes. "You're praying, you're praying!" he yelled at himself at one point.

He planted his considerable size near the table and blocked back loop after loop with pin-point accuracy, sending Byles flying all over the end of the table. Pawlowski won the final game 21-14. When asked the difference between his earlier match with Byles and the Open championship, Pawlowski responded with a grin. "There's just something wrong with my game," he said, "I plan on stopping for a cup of beer on the way home."

Cheers to you Torsten.

Other Notables: Despite the storms that wreaked havoc on the event, causing millions of dollars worth of damage (including the Texas Wesleyan Gym and tournament volunteers’ vehicles), the tournament was clearly a success. Over seventy people participated, including approximately twenty non-rated players. This was a highlight for the sport of table tennis, and much of the credit should be given to Tournament Director James Rautis, Pawlowski, Bobby Connerr, and the rest of the Texas Wesleyan TTC for the promotion of the event.

Many of the matches were exciting upset victories, just like the Open singles championship. Underdog players such as Rautis, Richard James, Don Geeze, Ime Nekpong, and Frances Chen all took home first place trophies from players rated over 200 points higher. Frances Chen in particular (a top-rated junior player), was the darling of the tournament, taking several matches from higher-rated players despite barely being able to see over the edge of the table. (By the way, Frances, if you ever look across the net and see a round-spectacled player, dressed all in black and shivering in his Nikes, be especially gentle.) Also, despite being a goon and basically a ball and chain around the feet of his 2000-rated partner Kyle Drueck, the author himself graciously accepted the underdog victory in the Under 3200 Doubles championship. As they say in Texas, even a blind hog finds an acorn now and again.


July/August 1995
MINNESOTA OPEN
April 22, 1995
Apple Valley, Minnesota
by Rex Harris, President
Minnesota Table Tennis Federation

The 1995 Minnesota Spring Open was held April 22nd at the Apple Valley Community Center, Apple Valley, Mn. Apple Valley is a bustling suburb 20 minutes south of Minneapolis and St Paul. This was one of the first combined ventures between the MTTF and Disney’s Table Tennis Center and a local community. The cooperation between the 3 groups was tremendous and the result was one of the largest tournaments in the past 10 years, with over 150 participants. Players came from Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, South Dakota, Wisconsin and even some countries were represented by players who happened to be in the Midwest such as Hungary, Belgium, Germany and New Zealand. The playing facility received many accolades with plenty of room for all twelve tables and good lighting. There was a kitchen and sitting area provided and even showers and lockers available. Our sincere thanks to the Community Center. They are even interested in doing this again next year.

Minnesota will be having more events in the future with the addition of the Duluth tournament to be held in May and October. Duluth is in the process of putting together a 4-star tournament for next year with just a couple of items left to take care of. Also, the Des Moines, IA group has been talking about hosting some tournaments in the near future. With the Illinois events and Wister, Neb in March, the Midwest may again become an exciting place to be in the near future. Now, on to the results.

Look out, Brandon Olson is #1!!! He has been playing more and more lately and has won the last 2 Minnesota open events. Todd Petersen has been edged out both times by Brandon playing Minnesota history. Throw in Dan Wilg and Thor Trueblad and it makes for an exciting open in any Midwest event. In the finals, it was Brandon downing Petersen, 16, 15. Olson defeated Trueblad 14, 10, 11, in the semi, with a convincing aubility that Bob Fox as all top seeds made it to the semis. Olson took home a good paycheck with the $150 1st place and 150 in a close 3 game match -19,19,13.

WICHITA INTERNATIONAL TEAM Tournament.
Wichita, Kansas
June 10, 1995
by John Potochnik

The years of playing in basements and small gyms paid off handsomely for the teams from Hutchinson and Wichita. With too many players and too few tables, both of these clubs play lots of doubles in order to involve as many players as possible. Ultimately their strength in doubles propelled these teams to the top of the second annual Wichita Invitational Team Table Tennis Tournament.

This year’s tournament started out much the same as last year’s—the Oklahoma City team showed up with both the highest rated player (Amaad Uppal) and the lowest rating players, a combination that peaked in red, with a distinct, Oklahoma–shaped emblem neatly embroidered on the front. Unlike last year, however, Oklahoma City did not purify these advantages into the tournament championship. Amaad won all of his singles matches, as expected, but otherwise the team did not play to their potential, especially in the doubles competition. The defending champions finished a disappointing fifth.

Carla Medeiros, a former woman’s player on the Brazilian Pan American Team (and now a student at Wichita State University) and Joshua Bartle, a current member of the U.S. Paralympic Team (and a student at Kansas State University), played the most exciting match of the day. Carla and Joshua have played several times during the last year, most notably during a weekly league last Fall that Joshua drove from Hutchinson to Wichita to participate in, a round trip of 250 miles. While Joshua had occasionally taken a game from Carla, he had never won a match and he still hasn’t. Carla won the first game at 18. Undaunted, Joshua responded by winning the second at 17. The third game seesawed as neither player was able to build a substantial lead. As the match progressed, but inexorably to deuce, the gym became schizophrinic. First the muted whispers as Carla would serve, followed quickly by the raucous cheers of Joshua’s teammates as he would hand smash one of Carla’s loops. In the end though, Carla’s consistency proved too much, and she won 22 to 20 in the third, much to the delight of her Wichita team.

While there were many exciting individual matches like the one between Carla and Joshua, this tournament emphasized overall team play. During most of the morning and early afternoon, four of the six teams were in the running. By early afternoon, however, the strength of the doubles teams from Hutchinson and Wichita began to make a difference. As the final three rounds began, it was obvious that one of these two teams would prevail. Wichita won the CD Doubles and Hutchinson came in second. On the flip side, Hutchinson won the CD Doubles and Wichita came in second. Ultimately, Hutchinson ended the suspense, clinching the overall team title on the next to last match of the day.

Like last year, the tournament was an unqualified success. Because the tournament was time scheduled, it began and more importantly ENDED on time for the second year in a row. With two successful years under our belt, we have decided to make it an annual event.

Table Tennis Today 43

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Table Tennis Today 43
March 25-26, 1995

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Penn State University

teams played a grueling series of, for the relatively light turnout. 59 entrants on 17 courtsly trucked in from faraway Erie for the most part, closely-matched opponents applied manpower and facilities.

Coulter bulldozed their way through all competition without being seriously challenged. Hank sandwiched this tournament, having a rare day, and seems poised to particularly impressive with his explosive fast loops and kills.

Overall, the tournament ran smoothly with very few holdups. 16 plus people played with both days ending before 8:30 PM. Congratulations go to Tournament Director Don Vastine, Referee Eich Haring, and all tournament helpers for making it so successful. Fifteen events were played over two days on eight tables. $1000 in prize money was given out. Maybe with turnouts continuing like they have been, MATTC could make it so successful.

MATTCC JUNE OPEN

Middletown, Pennsylvania

June 11-1, 1995

Middletown Area Table Tennis Club held its fifth and final tournament of the season on June 10 and June 11. Thanks to all the participants for making it a very successful one.

If you like heat, humidity and GREAT competition, the Main Street Gym was the place to be. Extra clothing and towels were a necessity, along with a strong will.

Under 2000: Quan Huynh d. Freddie Gabriel, 17,14.
Under 1900: Fred Kistler d. L. Hong, 17,14.

WATERFRONT OPEN

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 3-4, 1995

Open: 1st: Abass Ekun, 2nd: Enoch Green, 3rd: Zoltan Boldy
U2350: Enoch Green/ David Sakai, split prize.
U2150: Arkady Lazbin d. Sanjeev Khurana, default
U2000: Gerald Reed/John Dang, split prize.
Over 40: David Sakai/Oleg Zallesiak, split prize.
U2400 Doubles: De Cong Tran/Chi-Sun Chui, age 21, and Shashin Chi-Sun Chui, age 21, and Shashin
Under 2150: Charles Aebersold d. Jim Cembura, 14,16.
Under 2000 Doubles: Bemi Fricke/Alfred Lee, 14,16.
1800 Doubles: Rod Dorse/David Smith d. Bemi Fricke/Alfred Lee, 14,16.
Under 1800: Fricke/Alfred Lee, 14,16.
Under 1600: Enoch Green/Mark Wilczak, 17,15.

GOLDEN STATE OPEN

Walnut Creek, California

May 27-28, 1995

by Sefton Boyars

Youth came to the fore at the Golden State Open this year. Of the 127 entrants, 27 (over 21 percent) were juniors under the age of 18. The young players also did well in many of the events.

Chi-Sun Chui, age 21, and Shashin Shodhun, age 17, came in first and second in the Open Singles. Shashin won the Under 2400s and Jimmy Guan, 15, came in second. Jimmy also won the Under 2200s. Chui, Shodhun and Guan are all from the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club.

In the Under 2000s, Freddie Gabriel, aged 17, came in second. Freddie also came in second in the Junior Under 18 event, upsetting the top seed on his way. Piot Zajac and Freddie Gabriel came in first and second in the Junior Under 15 event.

Another younger, Terrence Lee (age 11), made his mark in this tournament. Terrence, who has been playing for only nine months, came in second in the Under 1400s and, with a more experienced partner, came in second in the Under 2800 Doubles.

Zajac, Gabriel and Lee are all young veterans from the Concord Table Tennis Club who are being trained by Bill Lui, the Club Coach.

On a more mature note, Wajidi Falcocf from Ashland Oregon, did not travel to the San Francisco Bay Area in vain. Falcocf, who is the President of ASTI, won the Esquires event, beating competitors rated up to 200 points above him.

Open Singles: Final- RR: Chi-Sun Chui, 3-0 (d. Tran, 15,13; d. Valencia, 20,12; d. Shodhun, 20,19); 2nd: Shashin Shodhun, 2-1 (d. Valencia, 10,10; d. Tran, 19,14); 3rd: Fernando Valencia, 1-2 (d. Tran, 11,15); 4th: De Cong Tran, 3-1.
Under 2400: Shashin Shodhun/ Jimmy Guan, -14,13; 5th: Shodhun/ Ramin Samari, 8,15; Guan/ Rudy Miranda, 17,13.
Under 2000: Guan/ Valloto Trillo, 11,-13,20; SF: Guan/Tuan Le, 15,19; Trillo/ Dophy Lim, -17,13,17.
Under 2000: Quan Huynh/ David Sakai, 19,19; SF: David Sakai/ George Sanguinetti, 12,19; Huynh/ Mila Perez. 18,9.
Under 1500: David Sakai/ Oleg Zallesiak, 14,17.
Under 1250: Charles Aebersold d. Jim Cembura, 16,17; Leed Massoud Dehshati, 13,15,16.
Under 1100: James Hsu/ Rick Reynolds, 14,9.
Open Doubles: De Cong Tran/ Chi-Sun Chui d. Fernando Valencia/Ramin Samari, 15,17,15; 3rd: Charles Aebersold/ John Dang, default.
4th: Corpuz/ James Ritz, 16,17; Leed Massoud Dehshati, -13, 15, 16.
Under 1800: Thomas Pritchard/ Daniel Metzger/ Mike Halbig, 18,19,13.
Under 1700: Steve Polk/ David Smith, 14,18,11.
Under 1400: Charles Aebersold/ Terrence Lee, 14,15.
Under 1250: Charles Aebersold/ Jon Cembura, 18,15.
Under 1100: James Hsu/ Rick Reynolds, 14,9.
Open Doubles: De Cong Tran/ Chi-Sun Chui d. Fernando Valencia/Ramin Samari, 15,17,15; 3rd: Charles Aebersold/ John Dang, default.
4th: Corpuz/ James Ritz, 16,17; Leed Massoud Dehshati, -13, 15, 16.
Open Doubles: De Cong Tran/ Chi-Sun Chui d. Fernando Valencia/Ramin Samari, 15,17,15; 3rd: Charles Aebersold/ John Dang, default.
4th: Corpuz/ James Ritz, 16,17; Leed Massoud Dehshati, -13, 15, 16.
$900 NTTC MAY OPEN
National Table Tennis Center
Rockville, Maryland
May 13-14, 1995
Open Singles—Final: Jack Huang d. Barney J. Reed, 14,18,15; SF: Huang d. Dean Fernandez, 10,13,-19,11; Reed d. Sean Lonergan, 20,19,18,17.
U2250: Hishashi Kubo v. Barney J. Reed, split; SF: H. Kubo d. Larry Bavlly, 17,11; Reed d. M. Kubo, 16,19,10.
U1750: John C. Reed, 19,9.
U1550: Xing Ly d. Thomas Golab, 15,16.
U1350: Xing Ly v. Dean Chen, 11,12.
U1150: Tony Munrahan d. V. R. Aker, 11,17.

$900 NTTC JUNE OPEN
National Table Tennis Center
Rockville, Maryland
June 17-18, 1995
Open Singles—Final: Jack Huang d. Gao Jun, 10,17,19; SF: Gao v. Sean O'Neil, 7,10,18,16; Huang d. Barney J. Reed, 12,13,6.
U2250—Final: Barney J. Reed d. Masamichi Kubo, 15,14,18; Reed d. Richard Lee, 18,11; Kubo d. Larry Hodges, 11,17.
U1850: Rolando Guirado d. Roger Martin, 16,23.
U1750: Randall Henri d. Glenn Jenkins, 24,19,17.
U1350: Han Xiao d. Jeff Shanks, 17,23,23.
U1150: John Valentino d. Kyle Suggs, 17,14,16.
U900: Kyle Suggs d. Michael Fan, 18,19,10.

1995 MARYLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
National Table Tennis Center
Rockville, Maryland
April 29, 1995
Open Singles—Final: Gao Jun d. Sean Lonergan, 20,14,10,8; SF: Gao v. Richard Lee, 10,12,12; Lonergan d. Todd Sweeris, 12,13,17,15.
Over 40: David Sakai d. Morris Jackson (default).
Under 14 Boys: Sean Chen d. Han Xiao, 20,8.
Under 12 Boys: Han Xiao d. Charles Fan (split).
Under 18 Girls: Vivian Lee d. Laura Lin, 18,5,16.

CHRIS MANGLITZ MEMORIAL DOUBLES TOURNAMENT
National Table Tennis Center
Rockville, Maryland
April 30, 1995
Under 3800 Doubles: Jack Wah/Andy Li d. Brian Lonergan/Michael Squires, 18,18.
Under 2800 Doubles: Michael Master/Sean Chen d. Vivian Lee/Caroline Oppenheimer, 18,18,18.

NEW JERSEY FEBRUARY OPEN
Westfield, New Jersey
February 11, 1995
U2350: David Sakai v. George Brathwaite, split
U2150: Patrick Mauleam v. Ashu Jain, 22,14,16.
U1750: David Yee d. Jeff Williams, 10,20.
U1550: Pallau Desai d. Jeff Williams, 19,15.
U1400: Gene Tom v. Tom McNally, 15,14.
U1200: Rodolfo Salazar v. Lenney Yeung, 14,6.
U1000: Lenney Yeung v. Lawrence Shieh, 19,10,18.
Seniors: Dan Seinemiller v. George Brathwaite, 17,15.
Women: Lily Yip v. Virginia Sung, n.s.

NEW JERSEY MARCH OPEN
Westfield, New Jersey
March 12, 1995
U1500: Craig Sentah v. Jaime Sierra, 18,15,18.
U1400: Brian Roughan d. Rodolfo Salazar, 17,20,16.
U1000: John McGee v. Lawrence Shieh, 18,17.
Women—Final: Virginia Sung d. Maria Golubovic, 19,23.
Seniors—Final: David Sakai d. Barney J. Reed, 9,12.
U3400 Doubles: S. Vasquez/L. Shieh v. T. Ojebode/Samkoff, 18,17,17.

CRANDIC MEMORIAL OPEN
Boulder, Colorado
Saturday, May 20, 1995
by Sai Kwok
Paul was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of 19. He continued to play table tennis as long as he was able, until he finally died 5 years later. The memory of his courageous fight, will to live, and sportsmanship continue to provide an inspiration for all.

10th PAUL CRANDIC MEMORIAL OPEN
New Jersey May Open
Rockville, Maryland
May 20, 1995
U2100: John Andrade d. Owen Irving, 19,15.
U1700: Ronald Joseph d. Wali Muhammed, 19,11.
U1500: Edwin Flores d. Denzil Kendall, 7,14.
U1350: Yvonne Winiwsky d. Satar Abdool, 18,18.
U950: Lawrence Shieh d. Malcolm Amos, Jr., 9,19.
Women: Milagros Llosa d. Alice Kimble, 0,19.
Seniors: Parviz Mohajerian d. George Brathwaite, 13,11.
Under 14: Natallya Kaler d. Lawrence Shieh, 12,11.
U3400 Doubles: O. Zaleski/S. Gorvits d. Larry Bavlly/Lawrence Shieh, 5,16,10.

GENESEE VALLEY TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE
Classic League—Final Standings
1994-95

Table Tennis Today 45
April 22, 1995
Huntsville, Alabama

1995 ALABAMA CLOSED

by Michael Wetzel
Huntsville, Alabama

1995 ALABAMA CLOSED

Green in the singles final 21-15, 21-11.

time state champion Don Gaither of Hazel
Prichard. LaFrance easily defeated 16-
LaFrance whipped 3-time state chanip
the round-robin tournament by defeating
ousting Bill Mobley 21-18, 21-7 (retired).

Each earned their way to the finals of
the round-robin tournament by defeating
two Huntsville players in the semi-
LaFrance whipped 3-time state champ Ralph
Kissel 21-13, 21-16 as Gaither was out-
busting Bill Mobley 21-18, 21-7 (retired).

Gaither then teamed with Brazilian
exchange student Ernesto Kawamoto of
Huntsville to take the state doubles crown.
They won $30 defeating LaFrance/Spen-

Open Singles-Final:
Hooksett, New Hampshire
New Hampshire College

Open Doubles:
Quimars Hedayatian/Chip Patton.

1995 TRI-STATE OPEN

Open Singles-Final:
Song Kang Hoon of Korea, played
about the Men's Singles final.

The rallies were short with quick,
whipping the longest rally of the night.

In the Commonwealth Championships on
the Island of Man, Cook won, but two
weeks later, at the World's in
the rev. Take revenge. So,
for the last 20 years, up until this match,
they'd stood 1-1.

The rallies were short with quick,
sharply by both players. They
split the first two games. In the 3rd
game, Chan had a 21-19 scare. But
he won the 4th game comfortably at 21-19
and 21-19.

The rallies were short with quick,
sharply by both players. They
split the first two games. In the 3rd
game, Chan had a 21-19 scare. But
he won the 4th game comfortably at 21-19
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he won the 4th game comfortably at 21-19
and 21-19.

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game, Chan had a 21-19 scare. But
he won the 4th game comfortably at 21-19
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and 21-19.

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A DAY TO REMEMBER
by Bernie Bukiet

My name is Bernie Bukiet. ... My name is Bernie Bukiet. ... My name is Bernie Bukiet. ... It’s as if I have to keep reminding myself of that now—things are so different.

To tell the truth, it sounds like I’m back again, in another world, on that old TV program. I remember I was a customer when the train and barely made it to the tournament.

One of the pieces of Carnations from President Terry Timmins representing the USATT. The small people in the next issue of 777— he’s promised to do that, of course in different times and places I did speak English, but a show business celebrity. Award “Oscar” of course, dressed naturally, not in a suit but in an Academy of Ping-Pong. And my students liked me. I had a lot of them—Tim, I’m sure, remember.

The happiest I have ever seen Bernie was in 1981 when he was inducted into the USATT Hall of Fame. “This is the happiest moment of my life,” he said, and somehow you knew he meant it. He was like a professor—$id this, but no one, could ask for a more dignified and impressive service and eulogy than was given by professional Cantor Bernard Savitz who would pause briefly as the planes flew overhead. It was perfect.

What a way to go, Bernie—at the very moment playing the sport that was your very life. Perhaps you will again play Klein in another world. What a way to go, Bernie—at the very moment playing the sport that was your very life. Perhaps you will again play Klein in another world.

How I do this?
**TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

**COMMITTEE:** Steve Downing  
Tom Maddux Chance Key Dr. David Scott  
George Conlee Daryl Heim Tom Clendenin

**DIRECTORS:** Scott Ryan  
Susanne Schilhab

**REFEREE:** Larry Kesler  
Peter Chamberlain

**SITE:** Jefferson City YMCA (Firley Center)

**ELIGIBILITY:** This tournament is open to all USATT Members and members of other international table tennis associations. Non-members may enter by purchasing a USATT membership with their entry. AllStar events are open to ITT. T.F. eligible athletes. For more information contact U.S.A.T.T. headquarters.

**Rules:** Play will be governed by USATT rules

**Registration:** Players must register with tournament official at least 30 minutes prior to their first scheduled match and be ready to play at least 10 minutes before their starting time.

**Equipment:** 10 STIGA tables, 3-STAR STIGA

For yellow balls / green FoxTurf flooring excellent lighting and air conditioning. Locker rooms, showers and whirlpool/spa facilities will be available at the tournaments sites.

**Age Events:** Juniors must qualify as of September 10, 1995 and seniors must qualify as of and December 31, 1995.

**Rated Events:** Based upon July 1, 1995 USATT Published ratings. Tournament committee may modify, combine or cancel events, limit entries and assign ratings to unrated players.

**Format:** Rated events will be round robin; all others will be single elimination. Only rated players may advance from their round robin to the single elimination portion of these events. AllStar events will be single elimination. Matches in events 1, 4 and 5 will be best of seven games. All others will be best of three games.

**Deadline:** Entry blanks and fees must be received by Monday August 28, 1995. All late entries, unpaid entries and telephone entries are subject to $10.00 handling charge.

**Photography:** Flash photography is prohibited on the playing floor. **NOTE:** Any players wishing to have a video tape recording of their tournament matches contact Scott Smith at (816) 563-3577.

**Tournament Hotel:** Capital Plaza Hotel  
800 338-8088 Special rate: $60.00 4 per room  
For further tournament information contact Tom Maddux at (314) 474-5376

---

**MISSOURI OPEN OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK**

Capital City Table Tennis Club  
1214 West High Street  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Name _____________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ Zip ________________

Birth date: ______/____/____  USATT exp ____________ Rating ____________

Doubles Partner(open): _______ Tournament T-Shirt ($14.00) size (circle) S, M, L, XL, XXL $4.50 AT TOURNAMENT

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

**Event Fee:** $__________

**Registration fee:** $__________

**Rating Fee:** $__________

**USATT Membership:** $__________

**Tournament T-Shirt:** $__________

**Total Enclosed (check/money order payable to Capital City Table Tennis Club)**

(Confirmation will follow)
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<td>National Tournament Schedule</td>
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<td>July 22-23, Glen Park Open, San Francisco</td>
<td>July 22-23</td>
<td>Glen Park Open, San Francisco,</td>
<td>Masaaki Tajima, 1646 26th Ave., San Francisco, CA</td>
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<td>CA. Contact: Masaaki Tajima,</td>
<td>94122, 415-566-0127.</td>
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<td>1646 26th Ave., NE, Piedmont,</td>
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<td>CA 70378, 405-373-2169.</td>
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<td>July 22-23, Colorado Springs July Open</td>
<td>July 22-23</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO. Contact:</td>
<td>Dana Jeffries, Apt. 301, 2770 East Untiah, Colorado</td>
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<td>East Untiah, Colorado Springs,</td>
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<td>CA 80909, 719-632-7664.</td>
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<td>July 22-23, Strike One July Open, Burlington, MA</td>
<td>July 22-23</td>
<td>Strike One July Open, Burlington, MA</td>
<td>Lim Ming Chui, 347 Bedford St., Lexington, MA 02173-3351, 617-862-1551.</td>
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<td>July 23, Rhode Island State Games, Lincoln, RI</td>
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<td>Rhode Island State Games, Lincoln, RI</td>
<td>Charles Cavicchio, 25 Greenwood Lane, Lincoln, RI 02865, 401-353-6999.</td>
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<td>July 29, 27th Annual Koala Springs Seafair Table Tennis Tournament, Seattle, WA</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>27th Annual Koala Springs Seafair Table Tennis Tournament, Seattle, WA</td>
<td>Tyra Parkins, 505 Belmont E. #806, Seattle, WA 98102, 206-622-9215.</td>
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<td>July 29, Waco Summer RR, Waco, TX</td>
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<td>Waco Summer RR, Waco, TX</td>
<td>Wickrama Ariyasinghe, 307 Ivy Lane, Hewitt, TX 76643, 817-754-5953.</td>
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<td>August 2-5, JUNIOR OLYMPICS/ JUNIOR NATIONALS, Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>August 2-5</td>
<td>JUNIOR OLYMPICS/ JUNIOR NATIONALS, Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>Richard Butler, 706-737-5008.</td>
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<td>August 5-6, Waltham August RR, Waltham, MA</td>
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<td>Waltham August RR, Waltham, MA</td>
<td>Qumars Hedayatian, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02145, 617-776-2458.</td>
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<td>September 10-12, Strike One September Open, Burlington, MA</td>
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**USATT OFFICERS**

President
Terry Timmins
Cro Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Road
P.O. 5005
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-5005
(714) 432-5833

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818-443-8891

Secretary
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**Table Tennis Today**

July/August 1995
Jean-Michel Saive is using the Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubber sheets. To become the 1994 European Champion and World Number 1 rated player is not possible with just any kind of racket and rubber! The new Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubbers were specially developed to give Jean-Michel Saive the best power, speed, and control needed for his devastating loops and lightning quick attacks.

Avantgarde, the latest wonder rubber for both attack and defensive. Avantgarde is produced from flexi-sponge. Avantgarde comes ready "Shiel". Attacking players will dream number 1 with Avantgarde. Thickness: 1.5/1.8/2.1 mm

$22.50

Hair Shot - The shocking rubber for players who need strong grip combined with high-speed. Even with high speed Hair Shot maintains good control. Thickness: 1.5/2.0 mm

$18.50

Energy - This rubber is full of Energy. Elastic surface with good spin suitable for tactical player. The high density of the sponge helps strong attack. Thickness: 1.2 mm. 2.0, 2.2 mm

$21.50

Cool - This is the ideal rubber for players embarking in competition. It is very well balanced, durable and suitable price which offers excellent value for money. Thickness: 1.5 mm

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Powergrip - Chinese rubber with a special heavy surface. Powergrip produces enormous speed with very heavy spin. The chinese top rubber!

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Althea - a well tuned shocking blade which is suitable for both good speed and control. It's specially tuned to help control attacking player. The 3 pleys are from罰, fibre and attack woods. This gives perfect balance in the blade.

$31.00

Powerwet - A pure power blade! Very fast shocking blade for quick aggressive play. Particularly hard 3 ply wood combinations of maple, Oregon pine and attack woods.

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Futur - The special patented shape is moving the "sweet area" outward for extremely high speed. 3 ply construction using genuine Laminate and Attack woods.

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Skin: the top rubber with a flexible surface. The very durable specially produced rubber surface provides excellent spin combined with long life. Skin is excellent for control due to the special combination of sponge and rubber surface. Thickness: 1.5/1.8/2.1 mm

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July/August 1995