Clockwise, from top right: Philip Lim (with 1991 World Champion Jorgen Persson), Sean O’Neill, Randy Cohen, Derek May, Jimmy Guan, Eric Owens, Brian Masters, Michael Squires, Barney J. Reed, Dave Fernandez, Shashin Shodhan, and Jim Butler.
NEWGY ROBO-PONG 2000
PERSONAL TABLE TENNIS ROBOT

Now With the Features You Asked For

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.

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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.

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Makes A Great Gift!

- Set ball speeds from 10-75 MPH.
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- 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.

Special Offer-USATT Members

*Order before 5/1/95 and receive a FREE Robo-Tote Carrying Case with every Robo-Pong 2000 purchase.

Save $145
Regular Price-$595 -Robo-Pong 2000, $45-Robo-Tote

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Call us NOW! 63949
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Former U.S. Team Member,
Now Full-Time Player & Coach in Sweden

14 BARNEY REED SR.
Coach of Barney Reed Jr. & Dave Fernandez,
Full-time Coach in Sweden, 1992-93

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Up-and-Coming Junior
Trains in Sweden for One Month

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NEWS FLASH!
Stop the Presses!
Men’s Team Trials Just Completed--
Congratulations to New U.S. World Team:
1. Cheng Yinghua 2. David Zhuang
3. Jim Butler 4. Darko Rop

Volume 64, Number 2
March/April, 1995

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**WANTED: WEST COAST WRITERS!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We need writers to cover tournaments on the West Coast! If interested, call me at 301-816-9305. Thank you!

Larry Hodges
Editor
Table Tennis Today

---

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

by Paul Montville

This is a very busy time at USATT Headquarters, as we wrap up 1994 and look ahead to the many events on the horizon in 1995. Of specific interest right now are:

The Board of Directors Election. As most of you know, there are four Board positions up for election this year. Ballots are in the mail, and should be received by all eligible voters within two weeks. Remember, USA Table Tennis belongs to you...please exercise your right to vote, and help shape the future of your association.

Member Survey. Included in your election ballot will be a member survey. Please take an extra minute to fill it out and return it with your vote; results of the survey will help us serve you more effectively and efficiently.

The U.S. Open. It hardly seems possible, but we’re already hard at work on the Open, which will be held in Anaheim once again, this year from July 5th through the 9th. The Anaheim Hilton will be giving an encore performance as the host hotel, and those of us who stayed there last year can attest to the high level of service, convenience and value that will be available again. Entry forms appear in this issue, and will be mailed to all members in mid-March. Make your plans now for a great trip to sunny southern California!

On behalf of the board of Directors, I’d like to thank all of our members, sponsors, suppliers and volunteers for your generous and tireless support of our great sport...1995 looks to be a banner year indeed!

---

**EDITOR'S REPORT**

by Larry Hodges

I hope you all will enjoy this, the 20th issue of my tenure as editor. Above you'll see the illustrious “first” 20, with the hope that (assuming the magazine stays bi-monthly) there will be a “100th” in July/August, 2008! Any comments or recommendations on what the “best” or “worst” covers are would be appreciated for future guidance.

This is the second issue that was printed in Colorado Springs, instead of Maryland, where my office is. (Printing in Colorado seems to be cheaper.) You may have noticed that you received this issue (and last issue) either earlier or later than usual. If you’re on the east coast, you probably got it later, care of bulk mail. If you’re from the mid-west, you probably got it earlier.

Glen Clark of Sun City, Arizona informs me that the umpire in the final of the Over 75 Singles at the U.S. Nationals got the names wrong, and so it was reported in TTtoday that Eugene Wilson won the Over 75's— but it was Clark who won—and he has the trophy to prove it! Congratulations to Glen.

I'm still looking for someone from the West Coast who goes to the major tournaments who would like to write up these tournaments for TTtoday. This is my third request for help in this matter. If interested, give me a call at 301-816-9305. Help!!!

Finally, let me remind all of you that the USATT election ballots are on the way! Make sure and vote...and don’t forget to get your airline tickets for the 1995 U.S. Open!
It’s time to make plans for the 1995 USA Table Tennis Open in Anaheim, CA!

USA Table Tennis is proud to invite you to the U.S. Open. Because of the overwhelming turnout and popularity of Anaheim, we’re going back! The Anaheim Hilton and Towers will once again be the host hotel and the Hilton is only 25 steps away from the Anaheim Convention Center, where all tournament matches will be played.

Right in the heart of southern California, there are enough sites and sounds to keep you busy for weeks. Sightseeing, shopping and recreation will fill your days with fine dining and entertainment to fill your nights.

Take advantage of the special rates and stay at Anaheim’s only Four-Star Hotel; play 18 holes of golf on the Indoor Golf Center’s simulator; dine at award-winning restaurants and work out at the Hilton’s 25,000 sq. ft. sports and fitness center.

Make your reservations today so you won’t miss your chance to compete against and/or watch some of the world’s best table tennis players, including past and future Olympians, in beautiful southern California! There are events for players of every level. Don’t miss this Disneyland vacation opportunity!

Call the Anaheim Hilton at 1-800-233-6904 in California or 1-800-222-9923 outside California to make your room reservations. Mention Table Tennis and reserve your single or double room for only $79 a night!

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the 1995 USA Table Tennis Open Championships

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- Enjoy Extra Amenities and Service on our Towers Concierge Level
- Work out at our 25,000 sq. ft. Sports and Fitness Center Featuring Aerobics, Basketball, Lifecycles, Stairmasters, Massage, Tanning and More
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Table Tennis Today 5
Eligibility: The 1995 USA Table Tennis Open is open to all members of USATT and to members of ITTF-affiliated associations. USATT membership must be valid through June 20, 1995. Only events that are non-members or those with memberships that have expired must enclose membership fees with their entry forms.

Venue: Play will be held on two surfaces - red rubberized concrete. Open International Championships Events 1-4 will be played on red rubberized floor. (Some qualifying matches for Events 1-4 may be played on a concrete floor).

Equipment: Stiga tables and nets and Nittaku 3-star orange balls are the Official Approved Equipment for the 1995 USA Table Tennis Championships.

Clothing: The USATT/ITTF Dress Code will be enforced. Players must wear the assigned player numbers when competing.

1995 USA Table Tennis Open Championships

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1995 USA Table Tennis Open Championships
Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California
July 5-9, 1995

Entry Deadline May 8, 1995 - Late Entries Postmarked After May 8 Require $25 Late Fee
Entries Postmarked After May 20 Will Be Rejected

Please print or type all information

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>USATT ID</th>
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Are you a U.S. citizen?  Yes  No If "no," list I-151 Registration No.  -

*M Based on March/April 1995 issue of Table Tennis Today

List below a maximum of 8 events

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<th>Event #</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
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Event Fees (per table above) $  
Late Fee ($25 for entries postmarked after May 8) $  
Doubles Fees ($5 per person for each doubles pairing done by tournament committee) $  
Party Fee ($5 per person) $  
Rating Fee $5.00  

Membership Fees
All players must be members of USATT or must include payment for the appropriate membership with their entries. Membership must be valid through July 1995.
- Adult Memberships: $25 - One Year; $60 - Three Years
- Junior Memberships: $12 - One Year (with magazine), $8 - One Year (no magazine)

Tournament T-Shirt
Only $10 each when purchased with entry. Limited quantities available at tournament for $12 each.
- Quantity:  _ Small  _ Medium  _ Large  _ Extra-Large

TOTAL FEES (Including ALL Fees) $  

*J A R U * 17 or younger as of July 1, 1995

Your may charge your entry fees to your MasterCard or Visa by completing the section below:

Name on Card:  
Card No.:  
Exp.:  
Signature:  

***ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT***

I will abide by all USATT regulations for tournament play. A signed Release and Waiver of Liability form must accompany registration (back).

Make checks payable to: USA Table Tennis Open, USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5769  
Telephone: 719-578-4583  
FAX: 719-632-6071

Make checks payable to: USA Table Tennis Open, USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5769  
Telephone: 719-578-4583  
FAX: 719-632-6071
USA Table Tennis

Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement ("Agreement")

1. IN CONSIDERATION of being permitted to participate in any way in USA Table Tennis sanctioned events, I and/or my minor child, our personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin:

2. ACKNOWLEDGE, agree, and represent that I and/or my minor understand the nature of Table Tennis Activities and that I and/or my minor child are qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I further agree that if at any time I believe conditions or equipment to be unsafe, I and/or my minor child will immediately discontinue further participation in the Activity.

3. FULLY UNDERSTAND that (a) TABLE TENNIS ACTIVITIES INVOLVE RISKS AND DANGERS OF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH ("RISKS"); (b) these Risks and dangers may be caused by me and/or my child's own actions, or inactions, or the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW, (c) there may be OTHER RISKS AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LOSSES either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I FULLY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES, COSTS, AND DAMAGES I and/or my minor child incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

4. HEREBY ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, AND ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOSSES, COSTS, AND/OR DAMAGES FOLLOWING SUCH INJURY, DISABILITY, PARALYSIS, OR DEATH, EVEN IF CAUSED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" NAMED BELOW;

5. HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE USA TABLE TENNIS, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, and employees, other participants, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place, (each considered one of the "RELEASEES" herein) FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES ON MY ACCOUNT CAUSED OR ALLEDGE TO BE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASEES" OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND I FURTHER AGREE that if, despite this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT I and/or my minor child, or anyone on my and/or my minor child's behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE, AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE RELEASEES from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which may incur as the result of such claim.

6. I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW AND AGREE THAT IF ANY PORTION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS HELD TO BE INVALID THE BALANCE, NOTWITHSTANDING, SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Signature of Participant
(only if age 18 or over)

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian
(if participant is under age 18)

Date:

Print Name of Minor Child

Anaheim Hilton and Towers
Don't forget to make your hotel reservation at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers - 800-222-9923 or 800-233-6904 in California. Rates are only $79 per night (plus tax) for a single or double room.

United Airlines
Call United at 800-521-4041, Code 577ET, to receive a special rate on airfare to Anaheim.
Y. C. Lee

CANDIDATE FOR USATT VICE PRESIDENT

OVER 40 YEARS OF TABLE TENNIS INVOLVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

USA Table Tennis:
• Board of Directors, USATT Foundation, Inc. (1989 - present)
• Chairman, Officials Committee (1992 - present)
• International Umpire (certified 1990)
• First American certified as International Referee (1992)
• U. S. Open Deputy Tournament Chairman (1994 & 1995)
• Los Angeles Local Organizing Committee Chairman (1994 & 1995)
• Deputy General Manager of U. S. Youth Table Tennis Teams. (1994)
• AWTTA Wheelchair Certified International Umpire (certified 1994)
• Active player: Gold medalist mixed doubles, Huntsman World Senior Tournament. (1994)

Sports-related Community Involvement:
• Advisory Board of Los Angeles Alpine Recreation Center
• Secretary of the Executive Committee of American Sports Fund
• President/Chairman of Los Angeles Chinatown Table Tennis Club
• Advisory Board/Tournament Committee of Chinese American Athletic Assoc.

Business Experience:
• President, Southern California Young Homes (1991 - present)
• Vice president, Accurate Tax, Inc. (1991 - 1993)
• President, 300 S. Parking, Inc. (1989 - 1993)
• Vice President, LICO Realty & Management Co. (1974 - 1992)
• Manager, Xerox Corporation, General Electric and RCA (1954 - 1988)

If elected Vice President, I will continue my work toward both improving the USATT and increasing the image of the sport. Some of the issues I will address as vice-president are:

• Players' development - We need more resources assigned to the development of all levels of players.

• Umpire/referee development - We need more umpires and referees for domestic and international tournaments.

• Streamline organizational management - I will run USATT like my own business. I will make sure we get the maximum benefit for every dollar we spend.

• Committee structure - We need stronger committees to provide support for various aspects of this sport, such as support for the clubs around the country.

• Players' involvement - I will encourage players to become involved in all USATT business aspects.

With my considerable experience in both table tennis and business administration, I will make significant contributions to the USATT. I would appreciate both your support and vote in this election.

Sponsored by the Committee to Elect Y.C. Lee
Dr. J.T. Wang, Committee Chairman; Linda Hsing, Campaign Manager; and Yungtai Hsu, President, Pacific Auto Co.
What Are Those Officials Up To? by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

Let me start by congratulating those who brought recognition to the officials of USATT. Bob Partridge and Aly Salam have received the excellence award at the Global Youth Tournament in Tokyo (see article this issue). Tom Miller had umpired at the English Open in London. It is a great honor that we are invited more often to International tournaments. Unfortunately, after his arrival from Tokyo, Bob Partridge had a car accident. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

The following is the report which was submitted by Y.C. Lee, Chairman of the Officials Committee. This report is a brief description of the committee's activities during a period from January 1, 1994 to December 31, 1994.

1. The total number of umpires has increased from 293 to 326, an increase of 33, representing over a 10% increase. There are 47 International Umpires, 9 National Umpires, 59 Regional Umpires, and 211 Club Umpires. The most important fact is that there is an increase of 3 International Umpires and 2 National Umpires. This is an indication that our general quality of umpires has improved and there is a desire for umpires to progress to a higher level.

2. In order to keep up with the ITTF's determination to have higher standards for international events, the Officials Committee has established the National Referee Level. The new National Referees will be ready to take a referee's position at the U.S. Nationals and other four- or five-star championships domestically; and at the same time, they are prepared to take the International Umpires to officiate in the 1995 World Championships.

3. The procedures of the incentive system for umpires and referees has been worked out and is working. It includes the following:
   a. Travel subsidies for all umpires attending the U.S. Open, U.S. Nationals, and limited foreign major tournaments according to travel distance and number of work days in the tournament.
   b. No charge for qualified USATT umpires to take I.U. and I.R. examinations.

4. The Appointment Committee has functioned successfully for several tournaments (i.e., ITTF Equipment Committee meeting. It has actually functioned for the different major tournaments and foreign assignments in a fair manner. The selection procedures were approved by the Officials Committee during the 1994 U.S. Open Officials Committee meeting. It has actually functioned successfully for several tournaments (i.e., Sears, 1994 U.S. Open Teams, 1994 U.S. Nationals, 1995 English Open, and 1995 World Championships in Japan). This committee will continue to play a major part in our future operations.

5. The following is reprinted from the Internet Bulletin Board:

   **Dear Readers,**

   I appreciate that people are frustrated by the inadequate facilities and lack of opportunity to participate in high level table tennis in the US. However, the table tennis community (i.e. everyone) is to blame.

   In order to have good facilities, there must be lots of interested players who are willing to pay for them. I don't know how it is in other countries, but in the US, there are maybe 1-2 million tables in private homes; mostly garages and/or basements where beginners learn to play. The problem is, that's where they stop. There are not many clubs, and those that do exist don't do a particularly good job of advertising their existence. Haven't you noticed how many inquiries we get about TT clubs? Only a dedicated garage player will ever find these clubs.

   In my opinion, these clubs should:
   1) Contact all the local sporting goods stores, and provide them with information on the club.
   2) On a national level, persuade the big retailers to include a club list with their mass-market beginner sets, or at least information on the USATT.

   Once the dedicated garage player discovers a club and gets up the nerve to attend, she is liable to be intimidated by the level of play. If they are not greeted in the first 5-10 minutes, they will never be back. Should they end up actually playing, they will feel incredibly awkward as they are totally outclassed on the table.

   Again, they will not return, unless they are actively encouraged. This is often NOT the case, as the "better" player is anxious to get into a game with a "good" opponent and not hit with some mere beginner. The now-traumatized garage player will, at this point, feel as though she is being asked to crawl back under the rock from whence they came, humiliated.

   I think each club should have a well-advertised (local newspaper "what's happening" column, YMCA bulletin board, etc.) beginner's night at least every other week in which all play is between players of unequal strength. In this way, beginners will feel at home and club memberships will increase.

   Perhaps you feel, "Hey, I don't have enough time to play as it is. I'm not willing to give up one of my NT night to hit with lower-ranked players." In that case, get used to playing in poorly lit areas with cement floors, because that's all there will ever be. In all honesty, table tennis is the least hospitable/accessible hobby I've ever engaged in. I should know. I'm one of those garage players whose level of play is just above "the crawlback from whence you came" level.

   Coincidentally, I also play both go (wei-qi) and squash. It is much easier to find people and clubs to play these sports/games than it is to find TT clubs and players. Since these hobbies have a much smaller following/recognition level, there must be something drastically wrong with the manner in which TT is being promoted by its participants.

   Most sincerely,

   Richard Fee

GEORGE HENDRY vs. THE TABLE

**Dear Editor,**

George Hendry, well-known senior champion, has had an unfortunate accident. A table tennis table fell on George as he was moving it, breaking his leg and damaging his heel.

George says he feels no ill will toward the table, but was greatly surprised, because he loves table tennis. "Why me?" was his first thought. George, many-time U.S. Open and Champion and former World Over 70 Champion, can't play for at least six weeks—no Nationals for him, a definite blow.

However, after pain and suffering, George concluded that perhaps fate had decreed some other senior players should be given a chance to win a few events. George, of course, was not overjoyed at his enforced absence from table tennis, but is resigned to this Fate. No national titles for George at the 1994 Nationals, but if at all possible, I know George will be on the sidelines rooting for all the new champions.

Sincerely,

Bob Lee

---

**OFFICIALS’ VIEW**

---

**Y.C. Lee**

Chairman, Officials Committee

December 15, 1994

March/April 1995

---

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**Goldway 59-a quick bounce rubber, gives a clean block ... $15.99**

**Friendship 729 ... $14.99**

**Stora 6-ply, large sweet spot, Swedish style, made in Beijing ... $33.00**

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Austin, TX 78764

(We pay postage!)
I'm ED HOGSHEAD and I have the passion, energy, experience, and commitment to push or pull USA TABLE TENNIS forward and I need your vote for EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT this month. Please call the special 800 number listed above to direct any comments or suggestions directly to me. My platform is based on communication, accountability, and representation. Let me hear from you!

I'm a 25 year 'LIFE' member of USATT, umpire, coach, certified tournament director, certified TOPSPIN coach, tournament director of over 50 Rockford Tournaments, 3 time President of Rockford Table Tennis Club, Tournament Co-Director of 3 SEARS Invitational Tournaments. I've played on Table Tennis teams in the well organized leagues in Germany for 2 years.

I'm President of Northern Illinois Machinery Co. which I created, President of BPG Ltd., past board member of a $12 million per year sales company, past Vice President of a $10 million per year international sales company, consultant to Dunn and Bradstreet, commercial pilot, with 5 years of college who worked two years as a German Translator for the U.S. Government. I developed strategic planning for each of these entities that resulted in substantial gains in production, sales, and income.

BEFORE I decided to run for national office I flew twice to Colorado at my expense, once to meet with Paul Montville and his able staff, and once to attend the USATT Board Meeting in November as an observer. I THEN read the last 25 years of the USATT Newspaper, compiling all of the comments, suggestions, ideas, and criticisms. I obtained the BUDGET and EXPENSE Report and a list of the COMMITTEES and members. With this data and my experiences in Table Tennis and Business, I PRODUCED a 25 page STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM GOALS FOR USA TABLE TENNIS. A shortened 4-page version was handed out at the US Team Tournament in Detroit in November and at the US Nationals in Las Vegas with fantastic support.

PETITIONS for Executive Vice President were signed at Detroit and in Las Vegas with many members asking to sign after they read the shortened version. I'm on the ballot. I need your vote. USATT NEEDS your vote. YOU NEED YOUR VOTE FOR ME - USE IT!

TAKE A LOOK AT FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE PLAN:

1) Double MEMBERSHIP from 7000 to 14000 in 5 years by efficiently and diligently communicating with all members, past, present, and future utilizing all types of media, all types of E-mail, and our best assets - OUR MEMBERS. Breaking this down into 4 areas: Retrieve old members; Conserve present members (develop value in being a member); Recruit new members (hold membership contests among our current members); Target JUNIOR members in schools, organizations, and churches.

2) COMMUNICATION using: Membership and club booklet (Extremely detailed); Elect Vice Presidents by region so that they are accountable, responsible, and answerable to that region. Membership forums at National and Regional Tournaments; Distribute 'HOW TO' pamphlets on clubs, coaching, umpiring, junior development, tourneys, etc.; News media faxes from USATT Headquarters; Set-up USATT booths to promote at tourneys; Recognize accomplishments in national paper (best promoter, most improved, most new members recruited, most rating points advanced etc.) Fill up national committees and fire them up.

3) JUNIORS AND GRASSROOTS development is OUR FUTURE and requires more funding and inspired promotion with: Regional training sites; increased budget; separate youth grants; supporting ESCALADE's superior effort at promoting Table Tennis in schools. Allow Juniors to pay one half of adult fees.

4) The whole world revolves around MONEY! First and foremost, the Board of Directors needs to free up Paul Montville by doing more of the jobs currently assigned to the Executive Director. We need the MAJORITY of his time devoted to obtaining Corporate Sponsors. Then we need to create a national sales force coordinated by the Executive Director of the USATT in Colorado who are hopefully USATT members paid by commission to acquire National and International sponsors. EXCITE tournament activity resulting in more tournaments and more income by awarding additional rating points to each tournament participant on a schedule of 5 points per 1 star, 10 points per 2 star, 15 points per 3 star, and 25 points per 5 star (or something similar) and awarding top tournament directors with recognition and prizes.

"If elected, I will professionally combine 25 years of business with 25 years of Table Tennis using every tool possible including a STRATEGIC PLAN and all of YOU to promote USA TABLE TENNIS!"

THANK YOU!

ED HOGSHEAD FOR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT !

DIAL 1-800-300-0073 IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT USA TABLE TENNIS

DO NOT READ THIS, unless you're ready to move USA TABLE TENNIS into the next century as the respected successful Olympic Sport here in the United States as it is in the rest of the world.

March/April 1995
INTERVIEW WITH
BRIAN MASTERS
Former U.S. Team Member, Now a Professional
Player & Coach in Sweden

January 7, 1995
by Larry Hodges

TTToday: What do you do for a living?
Brian: I play table tennis for a club which I get paid for; I train children in the evenings, usually two or three nights a week, and I study full time, which I get paid to do.

TTToday: What do you study?
Brian: Last semester, I studied a little bit of everything: data, economics, math, and Swedish. This semester; I am studying only Swedish.

TTToday: This is in college?
Brian: No, this is high school level courses in the Swedish language.

TTToday: Do you get paid both as a coach and as a player?
Brian: Yes.

TTToday: Who pays you as a player?
Brian: I am paid by a club called Istrum and play at that club in the South part of Sweden.

TTToday: Is that where you live and train?
Brian: No, I don't live there. I live right outside Stockholm and usually train in Stockholm.

TTToday: Tell us about your family?
Brian: Well, there's not much to say right now. My wife, Kicki, was working full-time and playing part time last semester; this semester, she will be studying full-time and working part-time. She studies at the University of Stockholm.

TTToday: In 1983, you won the Men's Singles Gold Medal at the Pan Am's, which is probably the biggest title of any U.S. Player. Tell us about it.
Brian: Well, there's not really much to say at the time; the 2-color rule was not yet in effect. I wasn't a good player really, but I was tricking everybody. I was serving straight out of my hand, either no spin or heavy underspin. I would loop with either side of my racket (inverted or antispin surfaces); very slow—so either it was spinnny or no spin, and everyone was just making simple mistakes because they couldn't read the ball.

TTToday: So your only problem than was that you weren't a very good player.
Brian: I am much better now, but the game has changed so much. I had 2.5 mm anti-spin so you couldn't hear it.

TTToday: What year did they change the rule?
Brian: I think it 1984 or maybe in 1983.

TTToday: Describe your playing style and how you developed that style.
Brian: I am a safe spinner and I block a lot with the Seemiller grip. I got started with Yvonne Kronlage, who taught me to play regular, with the shakeshand grip. At a Dave Sakai clinic—a couple of years later—when I was blocking I turned the racket over a lot, like the Seemiller grip, and Danny [Seemiller] stopped in as a special guest. He saw me play and said "As long as you block that way, you might as well do it the same as me." He gave me a sheet of anti and I started playing that way.

TTToday: Who else of the U.S. have you seen training in Sweden?
Brian: I have seen Jimmy Butler, Derek May, Barney Reed Jr., Dave Fernandez, Eric Owens and Randy Cohen. They are all playing this season.

TTToday: Do they all train at the same club? Do you practice with any of them?
Brian: No, they don't all train at the same club. I practice with Derek May once a week.

TTToday: I heard that a group of juniors from California were training in Sweden?
Brian: Oh, they are probably somewhere else in Sweden.

TTToday: How is Swedish Table Tennis set up differently than the U.S.?
Brian: Well, they have so many clubs. There is a club in every little area. Once you are a member of the club, they take care of your expenses, like tournament entries. They usually get the money from Bingo—they take a lot of money that way, especially from Bingo lottery tickets. The club makes about $2,000 for each one that they sell. They usually sell 500-10,000, depending on how many kids they have to distribute them and how big the club is. That's how the clubs get their money in Sweden. They have the regular Bingo, which is the kind where the older people get together and all the profits go to the Sports club. All clubs have a coach and trainer, paid for mostly by this Bingo money.

TTToday: Explain the Bingo lottery.
Brian: Well, it's a lottery. It's 3 games when you open the ticket up. It's on TV every Saturday night from 6:30-8 PM. Usually they sell about 3 million a week (out of 8 million people inside Sweden) because some people play 2 or 3. This is for all sports, not just table tennis. Older people love it, you play a game and they have these drawings and you these numbers and they give out cars and other good prizes every week. Usually three or four cars plus ten or twenty prizes. That's how they raise their money and how they can afford to pay for players.

TTToday: Is it organized by the clubs or by the government?
Brian: By the clubs. If you are a sports club, you fill out some forms and then you are allowed to start selling them. The lottery cost 25 crowns, which would be $3.00, and the sports club gets about 1/2 the money for each one that they sell. A certain amount goes for prizes and payment for workers, the rest goes for sport. It's like a lottery in the U.S.

TTToday: If the U.S. sold lottery tickets, sort of like Bingo, wouldn't that work?
Brian: Yes, it's similar to that but it has to be something that people will want to play, although people also buy them to support the sports clubs. Maybe they even pick one for the week, but they don't look at it or they check it later to see if they won.

TTToday: When and why did you move to Sweden?
Brian: The first time when I played in Sweden was for a half a season in 1984. I liked it there, I liked the people and the way that they set up table tennis, and right before I left I met Kicki. Then I went back to the U.S. and tried out for the World's and I made the team, so instead of going back to school in the U.S., I decided to go back to Sweden. It was in 1985 and I was preparing for the Worlds, which was being played in Sweden. I came back to the U.S. for about 2 years, but during that time Kicki was coming to the U.S. several times a year, and I went to Sweden about four or five times a year. We were still seeing each other quite a bit. We were getting along really well, so I moved there in 1987. That's when I became a permanent resident there.

TTToday: When you first went there, were you making a living as a player, coach or both?
Brian: When I first went there, I don't know that I would call it making a living. I was surviving from just playing! Then I started meeting people from other clubs and got 1 or 2 coaching jobs. At that time, I was probably making half my money from coaching and half from playing; after the first year, I started coaching. I usually coached about 10 hours a week.

TTToday: These days, what percentage of income is coaching and what percentage as professional player?
Brian: I think about 70% is from playing and 30% from coaching.

TTToday: What were your best wins/titles other than the Pan Am Men's Singles?
Brian: Besides that, maybe the best that I have done is winning Men's Doubles or Mixed Doubles—that's probably in my next biggest title—At the Nationals.

TTToday: What years were you on the U.S. Team?
Brian: Well, if you are thinking about the top-two—we'll, then probably every year that I tried out since I was 15 or so.

TTToday: How many times have you represented the U.S. at the Worlds?
Brian: Only once—I made the team a couple of other times, but it was during the off years—it wasn't a World Championship Year!

TTToday: How many times in total did you finish one spot out of it?
Brian: Oh, I think I had a record for that. I finished as first alternate about 5 times if not more.

TTToday: Someday we will look up the record and count just how many times you missed by one spot.
Brian: Well, I tied for the 5th spot at least 3 times and lost out. I might have had better game scores, but that's how it's counted.

TTToday: I know that you have been called the "Hard Luck Master."
Brian: Yeah, I had some bad luck. This year I finally got real lucky. I barely qualified for the team, and made the semi-finals in Men's Singles.

TTToday: What equipment do you use?
Brian: I am not sponsored by anyone. I play with the Butterfly Hard Drive Classic using Super Anti with the Steriver Killer Sponge, and I play with anything I can get a hold of on my forehand [attacking side].

TTToday: What's that mean about anything you can get hold of? Your club gives you equipment, doesn't it?
Brian: Whatever they want to give me, I play with. I use everything.

TTToday: There are some players that are real picky about their sponge?
Brian: I use any, I don't care.

TTToday: The Anti-spin—you have to take the surface off the "Super Anti" and put it on the Steriver Killer sponge?
Brian: No, Butterfly actually makes special sheets for Danny, Eric or only U.S. players, I guess. They don't make them anymore. They stopped that probably about 5 years ago, but I still use the same ones. The old Steriver Killer anti sponge I use is much dearer than the stuff they make now.

TTToday: Do you play in the Swedish league?
Brian: I play in Division I for Istrum. That's in the southern part of Sweden. Currently we are one point out of first place.

TTToday: How many teams are in the First Division?
Brian: 8 teams in the North and 8 teams in the South.

TTToday: How many players on each team?
Brian: About 4 players play, but each team has 5.6 or 7 guys.

TTToday: What's the play format?
Brian: First, you start off with each player playing two singles matches.

TTToday: Is that top two playing bottom two?
Brian: It's usually like this—in the first
RE-ELECT:

DAN SEEMILLER
For President

DONNA SAKAI
For Secretary

DR. JIING WANG
For Executive Vice President

"Dr. Wang raised $52,000 for the 1994 U.S. Open. He is the most prolific fund-raiser in USATT history. Dr. Wang is the kind of candidate who can make a positive difference for USA Table Tennis."

-Dan Seemiller

Vote For The Experienced, Dedicated Team Of:
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round, #1 plays #3, and #2 plays #4. 2nd Round: #1 plays #2 and #3 plays #4. Than you go into 2 doubles - #1 & #2, but you can switch, so you never know who you are going to play. You can do whatever you want.

T7Today: So there is a lot of strategy involved in something like this?
Brian: Sure, it's real tough. With the order, you have to figure out which players best suit each other. For instance, we have a Chinese defensive guy on our team, so when we play other teams with Chinese guys, we don't want them to play him.

T7Today: In the format used, how many matches are played?
Brian: If it goes the full distance, every player plays 3 singles and 1 doubles. Each player misses one player on the other team.

T7Today: How often do you practice?
Brian: Normally I practice twice a week for about an hour with very good players. Right before a big tournament or an important team match I play every day for 4 or 5 days, then rest for two days before the tournament.

T7Today: How old are you now, and when is your birthday?

T7Today: Do you see Jim Butler much?
Brian: Yeah, I pick him up at the airport all the time when he is coming back or going to the U.S. He usually stays two or three days.

T7Today: How long does a match take?
Brian: Usually about three or four hours.

T7Today: Are you sponsored right now?
Brian: Only by my club, Istrum. They pay me to play, pay how I do and how the team does.

March/April 1995

Wanted:

TABLE TENNIS VIDEOS

Send info and price list to-
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Los Angeles, CA 90064

Table Tennis Today 13
INTERVIEW WITH BARNEY REED SR.

Barney is the U.S. coach for 16-year-old Barney J. Reed (his son) and 17-year-old Dave Fernandez, the current U.S. High School Boys’ Champion and current U.S. Under 18 Boys’ Champion, respectively, both of whom are now training in Sweden, both of whom have been rated over 2500. Barney Sr. was a full-time coach in Sweden in 1992 & 93.

February 11, 1995

TTToday: Tell us about Swedish Table Tennis.
Barney: It’s extremely well organized. Everyone involved takes their job extremely seriously. Players, tournament organizers, coaches, everybody. I think that comes from having created world champions. Table tennis should be more difficult to develop in Sweden than in the United States. They have some of the same existing problems that we have here, in higher degree. For example, the cost of equipment is much higher there—rackets, tables, robots.

TTToday: How many table tennis players are there in Sweden?
Barney: 200,000 table tennis players and 16,000 registered table tennis players. Sweden is built on the table tennis structure in the United States.

TTToday: The Falkenberg Club, home to 1971 World Champion and Coach Stellan Bengtsson is probably the most famous club in the world. It even has a table tennis drill named after it, the “Falkenberg Drill.” Jim Butler trains there.

TTToday: How much competition do they play?
Barney: They have league matches every week, and two or three tournaments a month. They practice twice a day, about five hours a day.

TTToday: Which tournament do they play in?
Barney: The table tennis structure in Sweden is built around serve, return, and scoring the point. In other places, like China, the foundation is built on repetition—100 forehands, 100 backhands, etc. You can take a 13-year-old in China and he’ll be able to loop 100 balls in a row, while an average Swedish player won’t have that consistency, but he’ll know how to score points. The best players are the ones who had private instruction early while being exposed to a Swedish-like environment.

TTToday: When were you in Sweden?
Barney: In September of 1994. Barney played for the Uppsala Vasby club. We had two matches a day. In the morning, we had two matches, and in the afternoon, one match. The school was set up as sports school, and so arranged players’ schedules around their activities.

TTToday: Why is this training so important to them?
Barney: It is important to keep improving, and as micro-teams. That’s where our up-and-coming players suffer the most. An example: where might Jim Butler and Sean O’Neill be now if they had a more intensified program through their mid-teen years? Also, Eric Owens and Randy Cohen lost critical time going through those years, as did many of our other hopefuls. The association doesn’t do enough to motivate aspiring young players. This is why there is a lack of good home-bred material to keep the level of our current U.S. team.

TTToday: How are Barney and Dave compared to the Swedish juniors?
Barney: Since their return from the Global Youth Championships, they played in the Moludal-Trofen, a Grand Prix Junior event. There, Barney lost in the semis, 18 in the third, to the eventual winner. Dave lost in the final.

TTToday: Tell us about your activities as a coach in Sweden.
Barney: I was the assistant coach at Tamperekloko in Lyckeby, Sweden, a table tennis high school. We had two trainings a day, one in the morning during school, and one in the afternoon. The school was set up as sports school, and so arranged players’ schedules around their activities.

TTToday: How many players were in the program?
Barney: 20-22 students, aged 16 to 19.

TTToday: How many table tennis players are there in Sweden?
Barney: There are 16,000 registered table tennis players in Sweden. Members of the Swedish Table Tennis Association. That’s out of a population of 8 million. China, for comparison, has about 8 million players alone—equal to the total population of Sweden! If it had the same proportion as Sweden, we’d have over 500,000 USATT members.

TTToday: Why are so many of our top players now training in Sweden?
Barney: Because of the competitive environment.
When I was coaching in Sweden, we had to restrict players to three tournaments a month, plus league matches—otherwise they’d play every weekend! We wanted to make sure they had at least one weekend off per month. The competitive environment, and the serve and return of serve play in Sweden is just so much stronger than what it is in the U.S. Even the jokers around where I was was in the U.S. Even the jokers didn’t play. Our own World and Olympic level players raise the quality of our sport. Everything we did to make sure our sport to our sport and everyone involved. When this happens, everything happens. You start a program somewhere, a school, YMCA, Boys’ Club, Girls’ Club, etc., you can expect it to continue because the importance is now there. It now gives the media something to run with—successful U.S. athletes at the highest level. Therefore, elite development (which includes junior elite) should be very high in the priority list with our association. I feel there should be club incentives offered to clubs offering group programs for our juniors.

TTToday: What was school like in Sweden? Michael: The classrooms are smaller in both size and number of students. You stay with the same people the whole day rather than switch, like they do in the U.S. The same teacher teaches all the different subjects. They have English classes that concentrate on speaking English, plus math, history, Swedish history, sewing classes, P.E., religion class, and others.

TTToday: Were the classes taught in Swedish? Michael: No, mostly were taught in English. They speak English a lot there, but about 2/3 of the time they speak Swedish. They spoke mostly English in my classes for practice and for me.


TTToday: You won under 12 in the Swedish tournament? Tell us about it. Michael: Yes! By Ola Werner, who is one of the top five coaches in Sweden. He’s a full-time coach at the Club Frej. I was also coached by Stefan something, I don’t know his last name.

TTToday: Did you see many top players in Sweden? Michael: Jan-Ove Waldner was supposed to come to one of the tournaments I played in, but he was injured and had to drop out. Jim Butler was also supposed to come, but injured his leg and also dropped out, so I didn’t see him. I didn’t see any of the other U.S. players while I was there. I had lunch one time with a player named Johan Liljero, who lived in Virginia for a while.

TTToday: There was a feature newspaper article about you in a Swedish paper, with lots of pictures. How did that come about? Michael: It was because I was from the U.S. This place was a pretty small town, and they don’t usually have U.S. players there.

TTToday: How is Swedish Table Tennis different than U.S. Table Tennis? Michael: It’s the third biggest sport in Sweden (after hockey and soccer). A lot of people play table tennis. They play in clubs. TTToday: Tell us about Bordtennis Klub Frej (BTK), the club you played at. Michael: It has the top juniors in the region. It has 12 tables, and two full-time coaches.
CAN CHINA WIN BACK THE SWAYTHLING CUP?  
Yes, Says Swedish Commentator
Reprinted Courtesy of China News Digest

Swedish experts predicted that China will regain the men's team title at the World Table Tennis Championships, which will be held May 1-14 in Tianjin, AFP reported.

Staffan Lindenberg, a commentator of Swedish TV for eight years, said the aging of the Swedish team, the title holder since 1989 when they ended eight years of Chinese rule, and the huge ping pong population of China, are the key factors.

The leader of the defending champion team, Jan-Ove Waldner, is 29 years old. His teammates are all around thirty, except Peter Karlsson, who is 25. The next generation of the Swedes, such as Tomas Von Scheele, Peter Nielsson, and Fridrik Hakansson, are still not experienced enough. At least 200 million people are playing table tennis in China, where it has been the national sport since the 50's, when Jung Kuo-Tuan won the first world champion in any sports for the country.

Fewer than 10 million people live in Sweden.

"Sweden's run of three gold medals has been a superb achievement for the country, but I don't believe the rise of China's men back to the top can be stopped," he said.

However, said Waldner, who just beat fellow countryman Erik Lindh to win the European top 12, only Wang Tao and Ma Wenge, the current world No.2 and No.7 in the world, are the backbone of Team China. Waldner, the 1989 world champion and 1992 Barcelona Olympic gold medalist, said Wang is the only Chinese player with world champion qualities.

"Wang is quick, can play all the shots, is very strong. He also has the intelligence all champions need and can beat anyone on his day."

A young Chinese team, lead by Liu Guoliang, world No.13, and Ding Song, No.21, won last year's World Cup team title while Wang and Ma were playing at the Asian Games. But they have yet to impress Waldner. He does not think either of them, or other young players like Kong Linghui, Wang Yonggang, Lu Lin (the current world and Olympic doubles champion, with Wang Tao), Xie Chaoqie or Wang Hao, can shine in Tianjin, because they need time to get experience.

Ironically, in the country whose previous men's singles champions — Rong, Chuang Tse-Tung, Hsi En-Ting, Guo Yuehua and Jiang Jialiang were all penholders, there is not a single world class male player using that kind of grip. The left-handed Wang Tao uses handshake grip. Waldner believes the South Korea Team, headed by the current top world penholder Kim Taek-Soo (world No.4), will be a strong challenger of the men's Team title. However, Lindenberg said, the most important Chinese grip will be on the men's team champion trophy, the Swaythling Cup, no matter how they hold the bats.

Barney Reed Sr. Strongly Urges You to Vote
DR. JIING WANG
for USATT Executive Vice President

"Dr. Wang initiated and sponsored the U.S. Junior Team's trip to the World Youth City Championships in Taiwan last year, taking 15 of our junior players with him. He has the background and leadership ability to build USA Table Tennis into a strong organization. With leaders like Dr. Wang, U.S. Table Tennis can begin to promote Junior & Club programs so badly needed. For the future of our sport, please vote for Dr. Wang."

(Barney Reed Sr. is the coach of Barney Reed Jr. and Dave Fernandez, and spent a year in Sweden as a full-time coach.)

SHASHIN SHODHAN
by Richard Springer
India-West Staff Writer

Shashin Shodhan, currently a senior at Mission High School in Fremont, California, is developing the necessary skills to become "a prime-time player in the future," said his coach, Dennis Davis.

"He learns very quickly, makes good decisions during points, has the mental strength and the calmness. He can read spin, and he works very hard," Davis told India-West newspaper one rainy afternoon at the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club at Cubberly High School.

Davis, who was once ranked in the top 30 in the U.S. but now spends most of his time coaching, said that Shashin's disadvantages are that he can only spare time from his studies to practice twice a week, and that he lacks the training time necessary to reach the top ranks.

He also needs to develop leg strength to match up against the powerful European and Asian players who dominate the sport, Davis added.

What Shashin has accomplished so far is remarkable, given the fact that many players he faces in major tournaments practice five to seven times a week.

He has beaten many higher-ranked competitors, including one of Sweden's top juniors and a highly-ranked Japanese player. The Indian-American youth won the Junior High School Singles (Under 16) at the Nationals in Las Vegas in 1993 by ousting several higher-ranked players.

Just last month Shashin upset his playing partner and friend Chi-Sun Chui in a tournament in Oregon. Chui, a member of the U.S. Pan Am team, is one of the top three players in the San Francisco Bay area, an area that is fast developing players who may vie for the top spots on the U.S. National team in the next 10 years.

Davis admires that it would be a major upset if Shashin leapfrogs over higher-tanked players to become "a prime-time player in the future," said his coach, Dennis Davis. "To have a world champion by ousting several higher-tanked players."

"He learns very quickly, makes good decisions during points, has the mental strength and the calmness. He can read spin, and he works very hard," Davis told India-West newspaper one rainy afternoon at the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club at Cubberly High School.

"He really helped me a lot with my forehand," he told India-West.

Shashin has good grades and is applying to college, but he knows that he will need to take time off from school to pursue his goals. He said he is willing to make the sacrifice.

"Right now I am applying to college, but I know that if I want to advance in table tennis, I may have to take a year off from my studies to train. I'm willing to do it," Shashin said.

Davis said that funds will be needed to send Shashin back to Sweden for more extensive training, and he urged the Indian-American community to contact him at 415-494-0880 if anyone is interested in providing financial support earmarked for this purpose. Sweden now has many of the best players in the world, with the best U.S. player, Jimmy Butler, training full-time there.

"Somewhere out there (in the U.S.) there's a Michael Jordan of table tennis," Davis said. "To have a world champion from the U.S., that would be something. Shashin has the mental toughness and the confidence. He just needs the training."
ELECTING TERRY TIMMINS AS PRESIDENT MEANS NEW PRIORITIES

WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

WHERE OUR MONEY SHOULD GO

HOW IT CAN BE DONE

★ Junior Development: Establish 8 Regional Training Centers around the country. Sites include: Santa Cruz, California; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Augusta, Georgia; Rockville, Maryland; Detroit, Michigan; New York City; Houston, Texas; and Portland, Oregon. USATT currently devotes only 2.4% of its budget to junior development and .5% to grassroots development. I would raise the funding of junior and grassroots development to that of elite development which is currently at 18% of the total budget.

★ Form a Junior Committee consisting of tournament directors, junior coaches, parents-at-large, and a male and female athlete.

★ School Programs: We need a school program committee made up of key sponsors and supporters such as Escalade Sports and Butterfly to coordinate grassroots development such as school leagues.

★ Sponsorships: We can attract new and larger sponsors both locally and nationally. Achieving this goal requires running our business like a business with a squeaky clean image untainted by conflicts of interests and by providing more USATT support to local promoters.

★ Establish a USATT Advisory Committee so the association can benefit from the collective advice of those people who are high achievers in their business lives.

★ Bring the publication of Table Tennis Today to Headquarters: This can allow us to establish a staff position (75% TTT, 25% media/public relations/publications) thus, saving $18,000 a year by 1996 (E.D. Report, 11-94). This added revenue can support junior and grassroots development, and by combining the publishing with public relations we can release important press notices for the Olympic trials and upcoming Olympic games.

★ Membership: Infusing more funding and committee work into junior and grassroots development programs can increase our membership.

★ Regional Representation: Board members should be elected from regions of the country based on proportionate membership between regions. This will encourage regional leagues and balance regional development through equitable funding of deserving programs. Each region would have a USATT regional training center.

★ The Foundation: USATT needs to have a closer relationship with the Foundation. The Foundation and its stewardship of $1.3 million is a vital resource for advancing table tennis.
The atmosphere was thick with upset fever. San Jose, California resident and local favorite Khoa Nguyen had just defeated National Champion David Zhuang in a blistering 3-straight semifinal. The crowd wondered how he would fare against defending perennial champ Cheng Yinghua. This was Cheng’s first big tournament since defeating World Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien at the World Cup. Meanwhile, Zhuang sat high in the bleachers appearing dazed after the two-winged lightning attack from Nguyen. Nguyen’s relentless ferocity forced the National Champ to mentally grapple before each serve as he struggled to penetrate Nguyen’s seemingly impregnable offense.

In the other semifinal at the adjoining court, Cheng was struggling in the first game with Jim Butler, narrowly etching out a win and going on to defeat his rival at 20, 14, & 14. The two champions had just finished 1st and 2nd at the TET Festival in San Jose the previous weekend. With the finalists now decided, they would relax while the women finalists offered a sprint by covering 4 more courts to the end of the gymnasium, carefully picking up bundles of ball barriers along the way.

The crowd went wild and Tran went on to win, 16, 18 & 19.

I wish to thank the sponsors for this year’s highly successful and perfectly scheduled tournament, featuring 222 players. They are: USATT, Southern California Table Tennis Association, Dr. Jing T. Wang, Pacific Auto Care, NITTAKU, and the Orange Coast Table Tennis Club. Special thanks are extended to Y.C. and Faye Lee, Dr. Azmy Ibrahim, Dr. Julius Margolis, Ichiro Hashimoto, Joe Tran, Ramin Samari, Quang Vo, SuJan Das, Raul Rasay, Joel Waldman, Chris Marble, Scott Malek, and Olga Feingold.

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When the Chinese National Team decided to have equipment custom made for players like Ma Wenge, Wang Tao and Lu Lin, the “Rolls Royce” of table tennis equipment was designed. Now, the majority of Chinese National players including ‘94 U.S. Open Champion Kong Linghui and ‘94 World Team Cup MVP Liu Guoliang play with this equipment:

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To order call: 1-800-500-5057
The $105,000 1994 World Cup (men only—next year, though, for the first time the women will have their World Cup too)—sponsored by the Koos Group (China Life Insurance Company and the Chintau Trust Bank), with valuable assists from China Airlines, the Asiaworld Plaza Hotel, Evian, IMG, and our host President Chuan Tsunche and his Taipei TTA—was held, Dec. 15-18, at the Taipei National Physical College Auditorium to an encouraging daily turnout of enthusiastic spectators.

The elite 16-man field, made up of the top 10 players from the August, '94 Epson World Ranking List and the 6 Continental Champions, was divided into first-stage, four-man round-robin groups playing 2/3 game matches—after which only the top two finishers from each group would continue to play, advancing to the 3/5 game quarter's. Afternoon and evening matches were programmed every 40 minutes—with competitors needing to play only one match per session. Players who finished 4th in each group were awarded $1,500; those who finished 3rd, $2,750. Losing quarterfinalists received $5,000; losing semifinalists (forgoing a scheduled $12,000/$8,000 play-off) $10,000.

I had to catch a plane and so couldn't see the final, but as luck would have it for the evening's $16 ticket holders who thought they were also going to see a play-off for 3rd Place, the match must have been (1st Prize $32,000, 2nd Prize $16,000) wonderfully climactic, for current World Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien—Belgium's current European Champion and (better not to think of it) current World Cup Champion—indeed, of the whole tournament —was the last-minute substitute Chiang Peng-lung, the young Taipei #2, who of course was a great gallery favorite. A penholder with a back-from-the-table, long sweeping forehand and an over-the-table, off-the-bounce, angled-off-backhand jab-attack (abettted by a good backhand topspin defense), Chiang, cheered on by the largely Taiwanese audience, played a tremendous point to deuce the 1st game with Sweden's Peter Karlsson, then won it when Peter missed a go-for-broke backhand and followed by floating his serve return long. Chiang lost the 2nd game at 14, but then jumped off to an 8-2 lead in the 3rd and to accelerating applause had no trouble fast-hands holding it.

When Karlsson, who'd hurried here straight from a league match in Belgium, hadn't even a sleep-deprived prayer against Wang Tao, he was out, and Chiang, who'd also lost in straight games to Wang (but at times with a boyish grin), was in.

Group D—beginning with the Gatien—Cheng Yinghua match—offered by far the most exciting action. "No top player has better anticipation or faster reflexes than about his business—wins the 3rd. At one point he doesn't seem to move self or racket and yet effortlessly blocks back at least half a dozen of Rosskopf's loops, then counter-cracks in a backhand. Later, the German, taking a powerful swing, misses a ball almost straight up ceilingward, takes one quick look up, then turns from the table and walks blindly, resolutely back to that part of the court where instinctively he knows the air current will waft the ball down. Yes, it is bit drafty in the Hall.

You've heard the expression "Couldn't win for losing?" Well, in Group C, Aussie Paul Langley, the Oceanian Champion, showed he could win for losing. Not only did he gain valuable experience, but for each game he lost he was paid $250. Bet he wishes he could have played more, huh?

The surprise of this Group—indeed, of the whole tournament —was the last-minute substitute Chiang Peng-lung, the young Taipei #2, who of course was a great gallery favorite. A penholder with a back-from-the-table, long sweeping forehand and an over-the-table, off-the-bounce, angled-off-backhand jab-attack (abettted by a good backhand topspin defense), Chiang, cheered on by the largely Taiwanese audience, played a tremendous point to deuce the 1st game with Sweden's Peter Karlsson, then won it when Peter missed a go-for-broke backhand and followed by floating his serve return long. Chiang lost the 2nd game at 14, but then jumped off to an 8-2 lead in the 3rd and to accelerating applause had no trouble fast-hands holding it.

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Group D—beginning with the Gatien—Cheng Yinghua match—offered by far the most exciting action. "No top player has better anticipation or faster reflexes than..."
Gatien" someone was saying. Do you sup-
didn't win that game. All was far from lost.
tied twice in the end game, Gatien had been
decue, was being interviewed. With the score
back in Maryland: he didn't choke, and
choke. But let Cheng tell this to his students
anxious Taiwanese moving to his backhand
very tricky down-the-forehand-line serve that
he waits, then fires. He's also got a very fast,
forced backhand block, and at 31 remains
allowed him to prevail in 3— which of course
Gatien's lucky—the ball catches the top
of the net and topples over. Woe is Wu, but
imet-suited entourage included,
ch 1-1 with World #1!
backhand...off! Primorac attacks, Gatien blocks high, and
serves two more there for practice,
richard of some courtside towels. The
umpire warns him. Perhaps it's this same
pointthough is what can the Croat say to self
hand to do so, and draws an I-had-to-stop-
play-when-I-saw-your-hand-go-up protest
Primorac and Cheng in games; if
winner to advance, and the loser to advance
if that's Primorac. Gatien with a 2-zip
win can still come 1st (with a 3-2/2-2/3)
edge over Primorac and Cheng in games; if
Gatien wins 2-1 he comes 2nd (losing in games 3-3 to Primorac's 3-2 but beating
Cheng's 2-3). So, though Cheng has won
two matches, the only way he can advance is
if Primorac beats Gatien—in which case
Gatien sportingly takes his $2,750 prize
money and wishes Cheng the best.

Unhappily for Cheng, in the 1st
when serves more there for practice,
which draws laughter from the gallery. Up
18-13 in the 2nd, Gatien looks like a straight-
winner. But though Primorac slips, he
makes quite a comeback, then slips again,
the floor, goes for his face towel, rubs
the floor with it, and finally at 19-all seems
to have composed himself. Gatien serves,
Primorac attacks, Gatien blocks high, and
Primorac swats it with his backhand...off!
But then, down match-point, Zoki blasts
back a very gutsy forehand counter....In a
moment, though, a risky Gatien game-point-
down backhand bravely brings him back to
deuce. And deuce again. Oh, oh, Primorac
slipped again, and has no time to get up...
but Gatien misses the shot. Ad to
Primorac—and game when a wind-up back-
hand goes in.

Early in the 3rd, Gatien, swinging,
comes out of his shoes, or, well, literally, one
of them. Down 8-6, Primorac, off balance,
slashes out with a counter. Who would even
try such a shot? Uh, it goes in. Down 11-8,
Primorac misses, flings his racket in the
direction of some courthouse towels. The
umpire warns him. Perhaps it's this same
umpire who, a short time later, having
the irresistible urge to scratch his nose, raises
his hand to do so, and draws an I-had-to-stop-
play-when-I-saw-your-hand-go-up protest
from Primorac. More to the more important
point though is what can the Croat say to self
that will help him and Cheng to win this
match!...Anything?...No.

Quarter's
The first quarter's—18-year-old Chiang
Peng-lung's unexpected 5-gamer with Saive,
whose jump-suited entourage included,
among others, a Chinese Coach and, I be-
lieve, Jean-Michel's own personal physi-
cian—is by far the best. With Saive up 19-12
in the 1st, the match couldn't be more pre-
dictable? But then, in the 2nd, the upstarts
gallery is surging with delight—Chiang has
gone 7-0 up on the European Champion! But
can he hold this lead? No, it's too much to
ask...10-7...11-11...The players are into long,
drill-like exchanges. "It's the glue that makes
these fast counters possible," someone says.
"Balls that used to go in for winners are
routinely being countered now." Down 19-
17, Chiang surprises Saive with a short
return of serve. Paradoxical, is it, that in today's
power game the slightest touch there or here
is of paramount importance? Down 20-18,
Chiang surprises everyone—deuces it up
with two All-World forehand counters. Saive
is shaken. He pushes a serve return into the
net. 21-20. Then misses a forehand: 22-20.
The highly partisan crowd can hardly be-
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these fast counters possible," someone says.
It's his turn now to pile up a big lead?...Nope - 4-all. Chiang is again jabbing backhand winners down Saive's open forehand. "I've never seen a top player with such a glaring weakness," Chiang says. "This is his Achilles' heel. Why move to attack if you're going to leave yourself open to be passed off?" Uh. Well, can Saive help it if this local substitute is playing the match of his life? Now, in the 3rd, they're at 19-14. Saive loops, misses, 20-14. Saive misses the mistake of being too soft—and Chiang backhand punishes him. Saive's right that no stretch of the imagination can make it even try for it.

Down 2-1, Saive has to change something...starts with the shirt of his rival, a player-cum-Woo Wen-chia but is called back by the umpire. In the 4th, the Belgian is up 5-1...but the ball is too far out. Someone points out there are no Asians yet in the competition. "Every place you've seen them all? But they're not going to now, it's 14-all. Someone points out..."

The Swede's moody and uncertain. In the 4th, instead of 10-15, he catches a high-spirited, away-from-the-table ball at his side. Wang makes more shots like this. But, when the Swede stays ahead 11-9...14-11, he seems very slow-moving. He doesn't really want to stretch for that forehand, so why should he? However, when Kong, down 17-16, fails to return serve, this is 16-17. After which, missing his serve, seemingly always the same—backhand from the tableward and backhand-counters in a win-win.

At 19-17, he nets Huang's serve. There, isn't that better? When Waldner (it takes away some of the pressure?) pursues his lobs and blaps a little current of air, the lock of hair falling over his forehead rises, quickly settles down. First game to Kong...easy. But the 2nd game is no sooner under-way than the Swede is repeatedly popping the ball up. When he serves to the net, Waldner looks exasperated by his errors. To hell with it—his serve swings wildly and is down 8-1...Now Kong has nothing to lose—this game's decided. You recall I was telling you about the marvelous play of Chiang, the Taipei 2? Well, now Kong decides to show his forehand counters and angled-forehand backhands. They're not bad. Down 17-8, Waldner throws up his hands, but Kong is 21-8 taking no prisoners.

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WE ARE CLOSED FROM, MAY 9-15, 1995

The U.S. Team at the English Open

by Wei Wang, U.S. Women’s Team Member

Only hours after ringing in the New Year, the members of the U.S. Team boarded flights that would carry us to the English Open. The women’s team consisted of Lily Yap, Diana Gee and myself, and the men’s team was represented by Sean O’Neill, Derek May and Chi Sun Chui, all under the leadership of coach Chung Long.\n
Before leaving for Amsterdam, the team were Tawnny Barnh who was going to play in Japan at the Global Youth Championships, and Jimmy Butler who had other commitments.\n
The tournament was part of our preparation for the Pan American Games to be held in Argentina in March. We all met at Heathrow, London, from where we flew—barely awake—to Newcastle airport, an hour’s drive away from the tournament site in Cleveland.\n
The men’s and women’s singles events were designed with three stages: A qualifying round robin, in which 8 groups of 4 players competed for 8 open spots in the second stage. All our U.S. men were directly seeded into the second stage which consisted of 16 groups of 4 players. The winners of each of those 16 groups would proceed into the third stage, a single elimination round of 64.\n
The men’s field was extremely strong. Each player in the second stage groups played at about a 2600 level which made the groups even stronger than those in the World Championships. Our men players played very well, won several matches, but ultimately were kept out of the third stage by strong first seeds in their group. Individual results were not supplied with the final print out, so I cannot report them.\n
The women’s field was also very strong, with the average level in the second stage groups at about 2300. Lily and I were seeded into the main draw and did not have to play the first or second stages. Diana, in her first appearance as a U.S. team member in a few years, won two matches in her second stage group but couldn’t quite stop Belgium’s Severeine Thone. Lily started with a 3-2 against Cornelia Bötcher (GER). Her second round match was against England’s #1 Lisa Lomas, a chopper. Lily played great, won the third game, but Lisa prevailed 3-1. My first match was against France’s #2, Agnes Le Lannic, also a chopper. Unfortunately I couldn’t put enough pressure on her, and she beat me 3-0.\n
But I had the women’s doubles event to pick up my spirits. Since Lily and Diana were paired, I was assigned Petra Fichtinger of Austria, with whom I was to go on to my best finish in international competition.\n
We won the qualifying round against a team from Slovakia. In the first round of the main draw, Peterson and Jonsson of Sweden and in the second round Vachkovova and Dobesova (CZE). Now Petra and I had to face the tournament’s top seeds, Timina and Palina (RUS), both defensive players. Having never played with my partner before this tournament, we felt our chances were fairly slim, but with our confidence strengthened by the victories in the previous rounds we were not just going to roll over. Chopper Derek helped me warm up for the match, and when we started, both Petra and I felt it could be done.\n
We had the ultimate cheering section—to the amusement of all spectators: The complete U.S. team, the complete Austrian team and the complete Chinese team were gathered behind the court and were cheering for us very loudly. In addition, we also had the full support of the spectators who were rooting for the underdogs. How could we lose?... Our 2-1 victory took us into the semifinals where we played Noor and Bakker of the Netherlands. By now our confidence was great, and we beat them 2-1. Suddenly we realized that we both had reached our first final in international competition! People were already coming to congratulate us, although the final was still to be played. European champion Marie Svensson and her partner Asa Svensson (no relation) were our opponents. Our complete cheering section assembled again and outcheked the Swedish team very clearly. We managed to win the first game, but then couldn’t hang on. We lost 1-2. Still, it was an exhilarating feeling to be able to stand on the podium and get a medal in front of so many world class players.\n
The men’s singles event suffered from the withdrawal from competition by several top seeds: Kong Linghui (CHN), Matthew Syed (ENG) and Chen Xinhua (ENG) all couldn’t start due to shoulder injuries. Top seed Peter Karlsson (SWE) was eliminated in the first round by Damien Eloi of France (22,14,19,19). With Kong’s withdrawal, Xiong Ke was China’s top entry. I didn’t recognize his name until he pointed out that at the age of 13 he had joined the Beijing team, shortly before I left, and he reminded me that I had always gone out of my way to get him and make him practice with me. By now, he has grown up to be a strong left-handed attacker. He eliminated three members of the Swedish team, beating Peter Nilsson in the first round (16,-15,17,-16,15), then Mikael Appelgren in the quarterfinal (18,-19,14,-20,19), and Erik Lindh in the final (12,16,18). In the final he met Damien Eloi. I have never seen Eloi play this well. In earlier tournaments, his high speed, high risk game had led to too many mistakes which kept him from reaching the very top, but in this tournament it all came together. His speed, inventiveness, great serves and excellently controlled receives made for a beautiful final which Eloi won 3-1 (-15,14,15,18). He also took top honors in men’s doubles with his partner Christophe Legout, beating Li Jing/ Xiong Ke (CHN) 12,16 in the final.\n
The women’s singles belonged—almost uncontested—to Bettine Vrieskoop (NED). Only Alison Gordon (ENG) managed to even take a game from her. On the other side of the draw, Europe Champion Marie Svensson lost the semifinal to Andreas Holt (ENG) (-8,15,22,18), but Holt’s final against Bettine was, except for one game, quite one sided (6,21,13).\n
The U.S. team spirit was great. Our highly visible uniforms and the fact that we sat together most of the time when we were in the hall not only made that team unity clear to our opponents and the spectators, but it enhanced our pride to be representing the United States. I am looking forward to going to the Pan Am games this time with our complete team, including Jimmy and Tawnny.\n
English Open Results:\n
**Men’s Singles—Final:** Damien Eloi (FRA) d. Xiong Ke (CHN), -15,14,15,18; SF: Eloi d. Thierry Cabrera (BEL), 15,24,11; Ke d. Erik Lindh (SWE), 13,12,-10,14,17; QF: Eloi d. Peter Karlsson (SWE), 22,14,-19,19; Cabrera d. Thomas von Scheelle (SWE), 20,17,22,10; Ke d. Mikael Appelgren (SWE), 18,19,-14,20,19; Lindh d. N Evan Karkovic (Cro), 12,16,18.\n
**Women’s Singles—Final:** Bettine Vrieskoop (NED) d. Andrea Holt (ENG), 6,12,13; SF: Vrieskoop d. Asa Svensson (SWE), 18,17,10; Holt d. Marie Svensson (SWE), -8,15,22,18; QF: Vrieskoop d. Pernilla Pettersson (SWE), 10,20,11; A. Svensson d. Tong Fei Ming (ESP), 16,15,15; Holt d. Melissa Muller (NED), 9,16,22; M. Svensson d. Lisa Lomas (ENG), 3-0 (n.s.).\n
**Men’s Doubles:** Damien Eloi/Christophe Legout (FRA) d. Li Jing/Xiong Ke (CHN), 12,16.\n
**Women’s Doubles:** Marie & Asa Svensson (SWE) d. Petra Fichtinger/Wei Wang (AUT/USA), -14,14,15.\n
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The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) needed a safeguard against the disastrous Romanian-Hungarian Swathyng Cup match in the 1926 World Championships. This was the match that lasted eleven hours over three evenings. Tournament schedules and even the tournament’s existence would be in jeopardy if such long push matches were allowed to continue. The legislators of Table Tennis censured and formulated the original Time Limit Rule #9. Briefly, the rule states, if a game is not finished in twenty minutes, a let will be called, and the game will be awarded to the player (or doubles pair) leading in that game score. If the score is tied, an additional five minutes will be allowed and the first contestant to score a point is the game winner. If no point is scored, during this additional time, the game is declared no contest and no one wins it. That game is removed from the match. The rule would then apply to subsequent games except the time is reduced to ten minutes a game. If, in the deciding game of a match, neither player has a lead in games or score, when the time period has elapsed, both players are disqualified and eliminated from the draw. The rule was mandatory for all international events; however, each country could use its own anti-pushing rule for international competition. The rule was very controversial and caused international protests. These protests escalated after the women’s world singles champion Ruth Arons, from the USA, and G. Prizitz, of Germany, were both disqualified in the finals. Due to many protests, the ITTF began looking at other anti-pushing rules, and while they would not give up the Time Limit Rule, it was voted to amend the ITTF rule #9 to permit an alternate. After much debate, a modified version of the USTTA Expedite Rule was accepted. All international events had to state, in advance, on entry blanks and tournament rules which application form would apply for that tournament.

It was a step in the right direction; however, most affiliates thought this modified Expedite Rule had a lot to be desired. USTTA International Chairman, Rufford Harrison, worked hard to get further improvements but did not get a whole lot of cooperation from the ITTF.

In international play today, anti-pushing rules are seldom used as the fast sponge rubber attacking game, with shorter rallies, games and matches seldom exceed the time limits.

Professor Von Looper’s tid-bit for today: Jan-Ove Waldner, the Swedish World Champion, won a Porsche 924 sports car as the first prize in the 1985 German Grand Prix Championships. However, he couldn’t drive it home as he didn’t have a driver’s license.


Contact Mr. Ed Kearney at the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss your accommodation needs. Because there are a limited number of rooms available, we encourage you to make your plans as soon as possible.

Mr. Kearney can be reached at (719)635-7506 ext. 135 or at (1-800-DO-VISIT).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE TENNIS ON JEOPARDY!!!</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 24, 1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>When Jimmy Yeh gave the club a call to alert us to the new category, the whole club lined up to watch. Sure enough, table tennis was one of the categories in the Jeopardy game on TV!</td>
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Here are the questions:

For 100 points: “Its debut as a medal sport at the 1988 Olympics took place in what city?”

For 200 points: “The first person to score this many points wins.”

For 300 points: “Although most are shakehands, some players do it penhold. What is this?”

For 400 points: “This common name for the game was patented by Parker Brothers.”

For 500 points: “The center line divides the table for this game.”

(Answers to this difficult quiz are on lower right.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE “J” THEORY</th>
<th>by Alexander Chien</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Posted on Internet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ever notice...</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The current #1 man is Jean-Michel Saive</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The current #2 man is Jan-Ove Waldner</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The #1 man’s world champion is Jean-Philippe Gatien</td>
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<td>• The Olympic champion is Jiang Jialiang</td>
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<td>• The 91 men’s world champion was Jorgen Persson</td>
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<td>• The 89 men’s world champion was Jan-Ove Waldner</td>
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<td>• The 87 men’s world champion was Jiang Jialiang</td>
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<td>• The 85 men’s world champion was Jorgen Persson</td>
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Paul Vancura Invents Computerized Scoreboard

Paul Vancura of Little Rock, Arkansas, an international umpire for the USATT, working with Richard Mowrey, has invented an electronic, computerized scoreboard for table tennis. A 75-year-old sheet metal contractor, Vancura and Mowrey spent a year perfecting the device. They say there is a demand for the scorekeeper both in the U.S. and in Europe. Plans for a battery operated version are being made.

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Min Kuan of Canada reports on the Internet that there was a recent TV show that talked about the development of the latest soccer shoes, which can curve a soccer ball more than before. The guy who designed the shoes got the idea from table tennis—and actually played some table tennis in the interview on TV to demonstrate how he got the idea.
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March/April 1995
The Cross-Step Footwork of PHILIPPE SAVY
Belgium Team Member ... World #33
by Wei Wang
USATT Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion
Cross-Stepping in Both Directions

Demonstrated by Philippe Saive of Belgium

by Wei Wang

During the last U.S. Nationals in Las Vegas, I was happy to see that we now have a whole new "crop" of junior players coming up. In just one year, some of them have gone from still child-like play to real competition-style table tennis, with excellent technique and good spirit. I noticed that most of them have very good ball-handling capabilities—their strokes are orthodox and efficient, their recognition of spin quite accurate and their play is very brave. In fact, I felt that most of them actually only need to catch up a little on their footwork to be able to make even better use of their solid foundations.

Footwork practice is usually not very well liked by juniors because it often involves off-the-table drills, and many juniors initially have trouble connecting those drills with what they think of as table tennis. The value of accurate footwork cannot be overstated. No matter how well practiced your strokes may be, you cannot use them unless you manage to get your body into the precise position relative to the ball you need to perform those strokes. That footwork also helps you to maintain a good balance so you can get to the next ball. That's why there is a complete set of steps specific to table tennis that must be practiced. Most drills I was required to do when I played for the Beijing team were combination stroke/footwork drills. These drills' benefits seem to be internationally recognized since whenever we watch top teams practicing at international tournaments, they all do these same combined drills. Without exception, all top players have developed their own brand of footwork around the specific steps mentioned above, each one modifying them slightly to their own liking.

Lately, the name Saive has made quite a mark in table tennis. But although Philippe Saive has not yet had as outstanding a series of successes as his older brother Jean-Michel, he nonetheless is a very impressive player in his own right, currently ranked #33 in the world. His movements are somewhat smoother than his big brother's, and a lot of what he gives up in strength he makes up by having a more elaborate game strategy. Lately, he has again improved quite a bit. At the World Team Cup in Nimes, his improved backhand drew notice from all observers and especially from his opponents.

A common problem area for many players is the footwork which is required after a wide forehand shot to make a backhand with authority. Many players, even in the higher ranks, are often forced to chop or lob such a ball, because they are off balance and cannot get close enough to the ball to perform an attack stroke. The problem often starts with their movement to the wide forehand. If that cross-step is not made carefully and precisely, it is extremely difficult to regain balance and get back into position to make another strong shot.

In this sequence, Philippe Saive is playing a team match against World Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien. Gatien pushes Saive's serve wide to his forehand. The first frame shows Saive recovering from the serve. He just recognized the direction of the return and starts turning to his forehand. His weight shifts onto the right leg (0.2 sec) and his racket hand drops to his right knee. At 0.2 b his position is almost like a sprinter running parallel to the endline of the table, but his head is turned towards the ball. At 0.4 a his forward stroke starts, and as he contacts the ball (0.4 b) both his feet appear to be off the ground. Right at contact he crosses his left foot in front of his right foot (hence the term "cross-step"), steps down immediately after contact, and then lets the turning force of the stroke brings his right leg back over to his right (0.6 a and b). Saive stops his momentum with his right foot (0.8 sec) and leans to his left to regain his balance. Even though he is in a fairly extreme position, there seems to be very little movement between 0.8 a and 0.8 b as Saive watches Gatien's block. At 1.0 sec, he realizes that the block will go deep into his backhand. He starts by "pulling" both feet back under him (1.0 b) and then he pushes off his right foot to start the reverse cross-step (1.2 sec). At the same time, he swings back his racket hand to prepare for the backhand loop. At 1.4 sec he crosses with his right foot for a big step that will bring him into reach of the ball. As he turned around on his forehand side at 1.6 b, he also stepped back a little. Then he uses this space to move slightly forward toward the ball. As he steps down with his right foot he begins the forward swing, his elbow leading his forearm (1.6 sec). Contact occurs at 1.6 a. The force of his shot is generated almost exclusively by his arm's big movement. Only during the follow-through does his shoulder turn. Meanwhile, his left foot moves over to the left to catch his balance as Saive prepares for the next shot.

Saive is playing Gatien, so the ball actually did come back despite his beautiful shot, but it went long. Most of us are not faced with the task of making this shot stick against the World Champion, but as the sport progresses—probably by the time you juniors reach the necessary level to compete against the world's elite—this shot will actually be nothing special anymore. It will be expected and anticipated by your opponents. So, the sooner you get comfortable with it, the sooner you can think about what to do after this.

To practice this shot, you need a steady practice partner who can place the ball very precisely. Actually, this is a good example of a technique that is best learned initially with the help of multi-ball training, since you don't have to be concerned with actually making the shot in order to continue the drill. You can concentrate on your footwork, even if in the beginning the ball doesn't hit the other side of the table very often. As you become more fluent in your steps and control your balance better, your hand will feel more and more comfortable. You'll notice that if you can do this drill during multi-ball training, it actually becomes a lot easier to do it in real play, because the timing is much more logical.

And then, maybe it will soon be up to you to invent the next step in the progress of Table Tennis.

NEW!! "World Class Practice"

We have put together two hours of the very footage Wei has been using for the analyses in the center pages of this magazine. We have chosen twelve of the best players in the world and show how they practice—close-up, so you can learn exactly how they do a certain shot. This way of studying the mechanics of greats like Ma Wenge, Gatien, Primorac, Waldner, Karlsson, the Mazunovs, Rosskopf, Feltsner, Saive, and others has never before been available!
3RD GLOBAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
The Sasakawa Cup
Tokyo, Japan
January 9-12, 1995
by Li Zhenhui, U.S. National Team Coach

There were 28 countries entered in this under 20 tournament, including Sweden, China, South Korea, Japan, Hungary, Romania, Germany, and Russia, with many good players under 20 years old. The U.S. sent its best youth players to this tournament. The men's team was Barney Reed, Eric Owens and Dave Fernandez. The women's team was Virginia Sung, Tawny Banh, and Aly Hendra.

After four days of competition, Japan's Men's Youth Team won the Youth Team Championship. South Korea was second, while the supposedly stronger teams, Sweden and China, both lost in the semifinals.

In the Youth Women's Teams, South Korea beat China in the finals. Romania and Hungary lost in the semifinals.

In Men's Youth Singles, David Gustafsson from Sweden came first, defeating Wang Fei of China 4-3 in the finals. (All matches were made up of games to 11.) The two semifinalists, Mika Zieba and Fredrik Hakansson, were both from Sweden as well.

Two Chinese girls were in the Women's Youth Singles finals. Zia Feng came in first place over Bye Alloy of Korea. Song Mu of China lost in the semifinals.

Junior Men's Singles (Under 17) was won by Wang Li Qin of China. South Korea's Kim Nam Song was second, while Hungary's Zoltan Dobo was third.

Junior Women's Singles Champion was Wang Mu of China. Participants were Koshizaki and Broman of Sweden, and Keiko Matsumoto from Japan. Semifinalists were Konishi and Tanara of Japan, and the U.S.'s Nan Li.

The Junior Women's Team Champions was Sweden. The U.S. sent a Women's Team while Canada sent a Women's team; in 1994, it was reversed. This was also the case in 1995.

The U.S. Team

This was the first time the U.S. sent both a men's and a women's team to Japan at the same time for the Global Youth Championships. (In 1993, the U.S. sent a Men's Team while Canada sent a Women's team; in 1994, it was reversed.) This was also the case in 1995.

USA's Nan Li (far right) on the awards stand with her bronze medal for Under 17 Girls.

We led 3-2, with Barney Reed taking two matches and Eric Owens one, but couldn't pull away. The last two matches of the final match, we lost to Russia 4-0. Only one team advanced, so we were eliminated.

In the Youth Women's Team event, in the preliminary groups, we were handily defeated to Egypt because Nan Li's flight arrived late and didn't make the match on time. Tournament rules said you had to have at least three players on a team. After Nan lost the second in a row, the playing hall to play her match against South Korea. We lost to them, 4-0, and so didn't advance from the group.

Overall, the U.S. players did a good job, and everybody tried their best.

On the first day of the competition, Barney Reed played well against the German team, defeating T. Keinath and S. Kostner Later that night, he got sick and had to go to the hospital. The next morning, he still played, and tried hard, but lost.

Eric Owens won the first match against S. Kostner of the German team. He played well in the next match against German Schroder Thomas, but lost. He also had a close match with Frederik Hanksan, of Sweden, a Youth Men's Semifinalist.

David Fernandez had a good match against Schroder Thomas of Germany and Against a Chinese player from Brazil, but lost those matches.

Virginia Sung almost beat a Croatian player, S. Jurinec, losing 4-3. In the last game, Virginia was down 7-1, but she came back to lead 9-7 (remember, games are to 11). She wasn't consistent the last few points and so she lost, but it still was a good match.

Tawny Banh won a match against A. Miuncu of Romania, 4-3, in the first stage of the Women's Youth Singles. She finished second in her group but only one advanced and so she was out of the event, despite playing very well.

We had a good time with the whole team. I believe the U.S. Youth players need more training, more tournaments to get the referee experience. If we work right, work hard, then we have a chance to become a very good team. Good Luck to Everybody!

30 Table Tennis Today

March/April 1995

Our second effort was that evening, Women's Team, Japan vs Hungary. Hungary won in five matches. We did everything by the book. The referee seemed very pleased by our performance and we went home exhilarated and exhausted, ready for a good night's sleep. No such luck! At 1:00 AM, Aly had to take Barney Reed to the hospital.

It turned out OK, but Aly was beginning to suffer from exhaustion.

The next morning we did the team tie between Brazil and Czechoslovakia. This
Jean-Michel Saive is using the Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubber sheets. To become the 1994 European Champion and the 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.

Vmax. "Jean-Michel Saive" This is a rubber development with a number of remarkable features. It has been developed as a result of close co-operation with J.-M. Saive and Schildkröt. The new weapon for attack creates extra speed for the ball, almost like a catapult. Developed for use without the need to use speed glue. Thicknesses: 1.3/1.8/2.1 mm and max.

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ADVANCED SERVE AND RECEIVE STRATEGY
by Larry Hodges
USATT Certified National Coach
Reprinted from Table Tennis: Steps to Success, Human Kinetics Publishers

Even a chopper like England’s Matthew Syed used intricate serves in winning the Sears Invitational in 1993 & 94.

To play your best, you must learn the proper tactics for your personal playing style. For example, if you’re a hitter, you wouldn’t want to be serving the types of serves a looper would use! All players are different, and although there are many “golden rules,” there are always top players who routinely break them with success. It comes down to knowing which ones you can break and when. That cannot be taught here—only experience and intelligent thinking can do that.

SERVICE STRATEGY
The type of serves you will use depend on your strengths and weaknesses. For example, if you are weak against backspin, you wouldn’t want to use serve backspin or a smart opponent will simply push them all back! You’d probably serve topspin. (Of course, if he’s a chopper, you’re in trouble!) When preparing to serve, watch your opponent. See how he sets up. Does he stand wide or narrow? He probably wants to return with his forehand. A fast few passes to his wide forehand corner might make him set up more in the middle, and then you can serve into his backhand. You can ask yourself dozens of questions like this. Does he seem to be getting ready to attack the serve or just get it back? How has he returned your serves in the past? Most important, how do you want to follow up your serve? This is what should be going through your mind as you prepare to serve. It is before you serve that you must do your thinking—once the rally begins it’s too late.

Most players develop certain surprise serves that can be used to win a point outright, but which are risky if used too often. A good example of this would be a sudden fast deep-the-line serve to an opponent’s forehand, catching him off guard and winning the point outright. The problem with serves like this is that if the player is not caught off guard, these types of serves are often easy to attack. If the fast deep-the-line serve doesn’t win the point outright, the return will probably be an aggressive topspin shot, and the server is already on the defensive. So don’t rely too much on this type of serve. You shouldn’t make a habit of using these surprise serves every time the score is close, for example. You might have one or two that you hold back on until you really need it, but it’s best to space these serves out over the course of a game, and then the score might not ever reach deuce. Examples of surprise serves are sudden fast serves, very short serves after serving long many times in a row, a fake heavy spin that really has no spin, or a serve with a jerky motion or exaggerated follow-through to disguise the spin. Serves can be divided into two categories: deep and short. Each is strong against certain types of players and weak against others. They will each allow your opponent only certain types of returns.

Deep Serves
Deep serves (also called long serves) are ideal for hitters, blockers and counter-drivers. They will set you up to hit or block, and if that is your style, you should use them frequently. Other styles shouldn’t use them as frequently. If you are a looper, the serve usually won’t set you up for a loop and so you should use a different serve. However, if your opponent returns deep serves passively, by all means use them.

A fast deep serve is best done wide to the wide backhand corner, as fast and as deep as possible. You should vary the spin on it, but flat serves, as discussed earlier, are usually very effective on fast serves. Try not to telegraph your intentions—surprise is important.

Although top players can get full spin on the ball and keep it short, that can be difficult. Rather than take some spin off the ball to keep it short, it’s often better to go for deep spin and let the ball go deep.

Serving deep is also effective in backing a player off the table, keeping them from hitting the next shot too quickly off the bounce. Deep serves also force opponents to return the ball from as far away from their target (your side of the table), thereby forcing mistakes. Deep serves also cut off the wide angles on the return.

When using deep spin serves, remember that the opponent has more time to react and move into position to return the serve, and a good player will often attack it with the forehand. Deep spin serves usually aren’t effective against a good looper, but if the opponent has trouble attacking the serve, or is too slow to cover the wide backhand (after looping with the forehand from the backhand corner) then deep spin serves to the wide backhand are about the best serves to use.

When serving deep Sidespins, note that a spin that breaks away from a player is often more difficult to return than one that breaks in. This means that a forehand pendulum or high toss serve, which breaks to the right, is usually more effective served to the backhand than a backhand sidespin serve because the attacker can keep most players from looping. If they do step back and use a forehand from the backhand corner, they will be out of position and a good block to the forehand will often win the point. However, if your opponent is fast enough to step around and still cover the wide forehand, you should probably try another serve. If he is anticipating your serve and stepping around too soon, a fast serve to the wide forehand will win a quick point and prevent him from moving too soon next time. In general, don’t serve deep too often or your opponent will get used to it. If he starts attacking the serve hard with his backhand drive, it’s time to try another serve!

Tactical Reasons for Using Deep Serves
- To backhand opponent off
- To force opponent to contact ball at a distance from his target (your side of table)
- To allow full spin on serves
- To cut off angles on return

Short Serves
A short serve is more difficult to attack than a deep serve, and most top servers serve them as frequently. Unless the opponent has a good flip (or a good short push against a short chop serve), a short serve will set you up for an attack.

Short serves are used by almost any style of play. They are most effective at stopping loops from looping. (Since the vast majority of top players loop, this is very important.) Loopers especially like to serve short to set up their loops.

Short topspin or side spin serves are return similar, and so they are covered separately, by all means use them.

China’s rising stars Kong Linghua & Liu Guoliang, U.S. Open Finalists, prepare to receive in doubles.

The U.S.’s Darko Popov shows proper form for returning a short serve.

The most important things to consider are services, probably to short chop. You should divide side spin serves into two types of side spins: those that break away from you, and those that break into you. A typical backhand side spin serve will break into you if served to your backhand, but break away from you if served to your forehand side. In both cases the spin is the same, and the ball breaks the same way—it is simply served to your opponent’s backhand, except that here the angle is into the backhand, which is easy to handle but takes away your forehand attack. If your serve is being flipped to wide angles, try serving to the middle—it takes away the extreme angles as well as making your opponent decide whether to return with a forehand or a backhand.

Short topspin or side spin serves will nearly always be returned long, usually by a flip. You don’t have worry too much about them being returned short, as side spin serves are ideal for hitters, blockers and counter-drivers. They will set you up to hit or block, and if that is your style, you should use them frequently. Other styles shouldn’t use them as frequently. If you are a looper, the serve usually won’t set you up for a loop and so you should use a different serve. However, if your opponent returns deep serves passively, by all means use them.

A fast deep serve is best done wide to the wide backhand corner, as fast and as deep as possible. You should vary the spin on it, but flat serves, as discussed earlier, are usually very effective on fast serves. Try not to telegraph your intentions—surprise is important.

Although top players can get full spin on the ball and keep it short, that can be difficult. Rather than take some spin off the ball to keep it short, it’s often better to go for full spin and let the ball go deep.

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March/April 1995
If a serve is breaking into you, you will have to contact the ball on the outside of the ball—the far side of the back of the ball. If the serve is breaking away from you, you will have to get inside the ball, contacting it on the inside back of the ball. These two adjustments will make the ball go in the direction you are aiming. Note that it is generally far easier to return a ball that is breaking into you (contact on outside of ball) than away from you (contact on inside of ball).

Returning Deep Serves

Unless you're a defensive player or have tactical reasons for doing otherwise, there is one general rule of thumb when returning deep serves: Attack! It doesn't matter whether you attack by hitting or looping, and you don’t necessarily have to attack hard, but you must attack. The reason is simple. You are hitting the ball from farther away than you would against a short serve. This gives your opponent more time to react to your receive. If you return passively, your opponent can just tap dance into position, take a big windup and stand off to the backhand side some, giving the server the initiative. The advantage, of course, is that it is easy to do and so you won't be giving away points on missed returns. Some players, even good ones, have trouble with a low, slow serve, and even those that are good against it can be caught off guard if you throw it at them now and then. Also, sometimes your opponent is just too slow to get backhand and attack against it. Or he might be a defensive player. In either case, all you need do is push deep to the backhand (use a fast or spin push) and you're safe.

One of the most effective returns of

services against short chop serves is a short push. It keeps the opponent from looping and, if kept low, is difficult to flip well. Done properly, it takes away the server’s advantage. It is the most common receive at the highest levels against a short chop serve. The disadvantage, of course, is that it requires more touch than a long push, and you will make more mistakes. Unless you are a very good blocker, a short push is extremely important.

A more aggressive receive is the flip, a topspin return of a short serve. It can be done against any type of short serve. A good flip is a must for everyone. It allows you to attack the short serve (or a short push) and take the initiative from the server in one shot. Of course, it is more risky than a short push, and the penalty for trying to get the initiative on the opponent’s serve is that you will give some points away if you flip too aggressively. You have to judge how often to flip. Done too often, the opponent gets used to it and might even attack it back.

It is best to vary your receive, using all three serves against short chop serves, and varying the placement and speed of your flip versus short topspin or sidespin serves. And keep in mind that the very threat of a flip is often enough to keep your opponent from attacking a more passive receive effectively. He has to guard against your attack, and can’t anticipate your receive. Tactics Against Short Serves

• Sudden push to wide angle
• Push short
• Flip to wide angle

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:
• What serves do you have that will often win shots after the serve.


March/April 1995

Memorial Day Weekend
May 27th & 28th, 1995

Svenhard’s Swedish Bakery’s

21st Annual

Golden State Open
San Francisco Bay Area

For Information and/or Entry Form, Call, Write, or Fax...

Bob Partridge
P. O. Box 1023
Lafayette, CA 94549-1023
Phone/Fax 510-933-1014

Table Tennis Today 33
A GRASS ROOTS PROGRAM FOR RURAL AMERICA
by Thomas Fox

(Editor’s Note—I thought the following prescription for table tennis to be worthy, although some parts are controversial, such as the hard rubber suggestions. What do you think?)

Table Tennis has over 19 million people participating in this country. These are people playing in unorganized environments. You can go to almost any town in America and find several clubs and competitive level players in basketball, male and female. They even play on outside courts on a consistent basis. TT doesn’t have a public place to play, with one table, in the majority of small towns.

So, start an adult club in your town! One person can do this very easily. You will need three ingredients to be successful: participants, tables, and a place to play.

**PHASE I**

**FINDING PARTICIPANTS**
- Notify your local newspaper that a formative meeting will be held in the near future.
- Make your own notices and post these on the front window of your local grocery store, service station, sporting goods store, etc. (with the proper permission of course).
- Notify friends and acquaintances of known players.

**AT YOUR FIRST MEETING**
- Stress to people that this is a fun and usually safe activity (compared to others sports). The way to get people involved is physical and aerobic exercise, at least equal to 1 mile of walking for every hour of play.
- Stress to people that this is a very cheap activity compared to others, such as: bowling, golf, frisbee, hockey, swimming, pool, etc. A low cost paddle can be purchased for under $10.00.

**PLAYING FACILITY**
- Based on your group estimate of participation, you will need to find a place with room for 1-8 tables.
- Possible places are: elementary, middle, or high schools, small college, inac-
  tive business building at night, church build-
  ings, community recreation center, bar, etc.
- If insurance is needed, contact the USATT about club sanctioning & insurance for $15.00.

**OBTAINING TABLES**
- One or more of your club members will need to finance the tables, or find a local community or business sponsor. You will probably have to charge each person per person per night to recoup your investment.
- Your club does not need all new tables or tables in perfect condition, initially.
- Used tables can be found: garage sales, local newspaper advertisements, friends and acquaintances.
- New tables can be purchased as low as $60.00 from some lumber yards.
- New tables can be purchased from discount department stores for as low as $100.00.
- Better quality tables can be purchased from suppliers advertising in *Table Tennis Today*.

**WEEKLY PARTICIPATION**
- Determine how often and what mix of sexes is desired.
- It could be like your local bowling participation, even if children separated on different nights, once a week; everyone likes common fellowship.
- Do not try to play too much. This is just a night out for most people.

**PHASE II**

**MAKE COACHING AVAILABLE**
- Have one of your better players obtain certification from the USATT as a club coach. This will give him credibility. He should possess at least one training video.
- Design group training sessions at a cost of $2.50 or less per person, per session.
- Make individual lessons available on a fee basis of $10.00 or less per hour. Coaching and instruction doesn’t make you a pro.

**ORGANIZE RECREATIONAL LEAGUE(S)**
- Determine what type will have ad-
  equate participation: males over 18, females over 18, or children 12-18.
- Once a week is adequate. Design it so a person can miss a week occasionally without jeopardizing their competitive standing.
- The team concept promotes participation and business sponsorship.
- Consider making everyone use the same type of paddle, say hard rubber. This game is too complex for once a week recreational players. This also takes the service complexity out of the game and should make the rallies longer, which is fun. The competitive players can even enjoy themselves playing with hard rubber.
- Obtain business sponsorship for the cost of trophies.
- Send weekly results to the local newspaper. Players and sponsors like recognition.

- Determine how often and what mix of age/sex play. This is the bowling team concept, one night out for fun, without being too serious.

**PHASE III**

**COMPETITIVE PLAYERS LEAGUE**
- The recreational club has inspired a few players to play a higher competitive level. Organize a traveling league for 2 men or 2 women teams to play teams in towns located within 30 miles of each other.
- Send a notice to all small towns that a league will be forming and set a date for a meeting. The address of the local newspapers can be obtained from your county library. Only one table will be required for your one night of participation.
- A team would play 5 matches (4 singles & 1 double), against one other team. This should take about 2 1/2 hours, not including commutes.
- Once a week, December through February.
- Again, consider a hard rubber only league for those players with a 1300 rating level of USATT members.
- Trophies will be given for singles and teams playing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

**USATT TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION**
- Some players are seeking a higher level of competition.
- A group of players join the USATT and form groups to go to sanctioned tournaments.
- Consider Phases II and III, if appropriate.

- When participation reaches 100 USATT members start a club which is open every night with monthly dues.

**CONCLUSION**

The whole purpose is to have fun and create competitive play within the sport of table tennis. Two new USATT members from every county in the USA would more than double the current membership. Adult members of our sport are very important to provide a source of players and promotion and business sponsorship. These adults will provide inspiration to children and other adults. This concept will also build a spectator base for future college and professional leagues in this country.

What is L-NITT? Now in our third school-year, the League includes: Boston University, Brown University, MIT, Harvard University, Wellesley College, and the Universities of Pennsylvania, and the Northern division and Cooper Union, New York University, Hofstra University, Yale University, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Renssellaer Polytechnic Institute, and University of Pennsylvania in the Wenonah division. More specifically L-NITT can be considered a coalition between the table tennis teams of these 13 schools, an athletic conference of sorts dedicated to our sport. Today the League can boast over 100 collegiate Table Tennis clubs (quite a mouthful of words, hence the abbreviation will be preferred) has its own T-shirts for league members, a championship trophy for the winner of the L-NITT Finals, and even an e-mail network allowing easy communication and announce-
ments for folks interested in table tennis events taking place in our area (at tennis@world.std.com).

L-NITT’s goal is for a member school to compete against each of the other schools in its division once. The format has been four singles and a double match between the teams of 4-6 people each, with each match consisting of best of-three games. The two best teams at the end of each division will compete in the play-offs in late Spring. To mini-
imize travel pain, this year up to ten matches will be played. The best five matches out of the total of 10 will decide the winners. This format is a well short when compared with a college basketball team’s season and learn much from the experiences of one another. This format is very likely to make L-NITT run. We have benefited in the past from dedicated individuals such as Nelson Chin of Boston University, who co-
founded L-NITT and was presi-
dent last year. Since Mr. Chin’s graduation we have seen others step up their commitment to our league, which is now headed by Sylvia Lee of Harvard University who has plenty of table tennis credentials back from Maryland and is an ex-
volunteer for USTTA at Colorado Springs. Usually after each meet is when the teams get together and head for a good Chinese restaurant for a feast. This is also the best time to plan our next intercollegiate competition and trading other useful news.

Then there is always the modern computer network to continue the discussions.

L-NITT is not in direct affiliation with USTTA, although some of our member clubs are and these schools have hosted USATT-sanctioned events. Many of our players are USATT members and we do share many of the visions for the growth of our sport. We also like to go by the USATT rules to have good quality play; at least for the moment L-NITT is not planning to burden its members with more fees and paperwork. In conclusion, however, I believe that the lack of direct affiliation should not hamper cooperation between the leaders of L-NITT and USTTA. The reason why either organization can exist is that people, even college students, love to play table tennis. I hope in the future L-NITT or similar organizations can develop that can campuses so that our college players can have the incentive to stay sharp and compete for their alma mater. We L-NITT folks would be happy to share with the leaders of clubs in other regions of the States or even other English enactment. It is time that the forma-

L-NITT gains wide recognition as a landmark event in American intercollegiate table tennis.

March/April 1995
## TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**PLAYING SITE:**
- University of Notre Dame
- Joyce Athletic Center
- South Bend, IN.
- Players using this entry blank will be sent directions & map with tournament & motel location.

**DIRECTIONS:**
- Brad Balmer
- Jason Dentman
- Phil Schmucker

**ELIGIBILITY:**
- Events #1 & #2 are open to Canadian and U.S. citizens who are ITTF eligible.
- Events #4–9 are open to U.S. ITTF eligible players only.
- Event #25 is open to all unrated players.
- Events #30–35 are open to juniors with 6 months residence status in Midwest region (IN, IL, MI, OH, KY). Participants may enter only one of these events.
- All age event cutoffs will be 05/27/95.

**NOTES:**
1. Tournament management may modify, combine, or cancel events, limit entries & assign temporary rating for unrated players.
2. All USATT rules will be enforced.
3. North American final rounds will be played on Sunday.
4. Events starting after 1 PM on Saturday may carryover final rounds to Sunday.
5. Entry Limitations—PLEASE DO NOT enter 2 rated events with same starting time OR more than 7 total events.
6. Unrated players will not advance from round robins.
7. Ratings will be from the March/April Table Tennis Today.
8. Any questions regarding the tournament, eligibility, or entry should be directed to Brad Balmer at 219-634-3745 between 6:00 PM and 9:30 PM EST.

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**Table Tennis Today** 35

March/April 1995
News of his death came to me over the phone from Marty Reisman, whose wife Yoshiko had learned of the sad but inevitable end via an early-morning call from her sister-in-law in Japan. Marty was quickly in touch with the press, and it may well be that his persistent interest helped to insure the Ogimura obituary in the New York Times the following morning.

**Ogimura as Player**

Although it’s a scarcely a well-known historical fact, Marty—World Men’s Singles semifinalist in 1949 and World Consolation Champion in 1952—and Doug Cartland—World Men’s Singles quarterfinalist in 1952—were hired by the Japanese Table Tennis Association to coach for a few days at several Japanese universities. At Nihon University in Tokyo in 1952, two of the players set up and dozens of eager students—their time rigorously monitored by an official blowing a (“Time’s up!”) whistle—would turn these showing how globe-trotting U.S. players used their own world-class potential. You think I’m exaggerating? One student was Ichiro Ogimura, another his arch-rival Toshiki Tanaka. From 1954 through 1957, these two—and only these two—would be the World Men’s Singles Champions... And they owe it all to one inspiring moment with Reisman and Cartland.

Uh...not to be flippan—but I am trying to present Ogimura’s life in miniature here, the remarkable player/coach/official energy of the man, and in remembering him we do want to recognize and share his sense of humor, O.K.? Like Marty, Ogi, relentlessly serious as he was, surely had to allow himself a sly smile: for, as Marty tells the story, Cartland could hardly wait for the guy to blow the whistle (“Next”), since Tanaka, one of the hardest hitters who ever played the game, was making World quarterfinalist Doug look real bad.

No doubt Ogimura and Tanaka were inspired by 1952 Japanese World Champion Satoh’s breakthrough success with the sponge racket—Ogimura himself at this time played with 10 mm. rubber—but young Ichiro’s path to the ’54 World Championship would make far more rigorous demands on him than politely taking some this-or-that-way pointers from Reisman and Cartland.

In 1971 Ogi confided to U.S. Team member Olga Soltesz, whom he’d coached in Japan, how he used to be afraid to carry his paddle on the streets because people would make fun of him.” Amazing, but he said he didn’t begin playing table tennis until he was 16 (some refused to believe this...said it was impossible for one to start at such a late age and achieve what he did). But, self-confessedly “untrained” and “unlearned,” how to be a Champion, and his bottom-line advice to Ms. Soltesz was “You must overcome yourself before you can overcome your opponents.”

Perhaps it might not be too fanciful to speculate that the Ogimura who then spoke no English but who was to become so Westernized might have taken a thought or two from a fellow Japanese who’d also feared being taunted in his youth, and who, seven years older than Ichiro, was already famous—the critically acclaimed writer and “artistic extremist” Yukio Mishima.

I myself scarcely knew Ogimura at all, but many people I’ve talked to who felt they knew him if not the whole, enigmatic man, parts of him—wanted to focus on just how Japanese he was, or, conversely, just how Westernized he was. Though no clear answer can possibly come to me, or perhaps anyone else who knew he had a Buddhist mother and a Christian father, I want, intuitively, to address this question—and to that end want to quote what I believe may be a significant passage from Ms. Soltesz’s [1970 New York Times article on Mishima:]

> I myself scarcely knew Ogimura at all, but many people I’ve talked to who felt they knew him... said Dick that “it’s all I did, for course both these penholders were all-out attackers.”

Still, no matter how physically prepared, how practiced, Ogimura and his teammates were, they still had to get to the World’s. And that meant somehow being able to play the Japanese TTA couldn’t—the travel costs from Tokyo to London.

After dinner, as we sat with glasses of brandy and he [Mishima] puffed a big cigar, I remarked that although he constantly calls for a return to basic Japan’s value system and his life style indicate a certain ambivalence about the West.

He shook his head. “If you look at my house, it seems completely Westernized,” he said after a pause. “But I am living in a double house. There are only the table house. But I also live in an invisible house which you cannot see. Let me give you a simple explanation for the Western civilization you see here.

> “Here are two floors of a house. How to get from the first to the second is a basic problem. In Western culture, the solution is to make a stairway. Then anyone can climb up from the ground floor.

> “The stairway is method—not technique, not civilization, but method inherited from the ancients. They adopted this method in building their culture.

> “Since the 19th century, the Japanese have learned the Western way of using a stairway. We imported this stairway, this method, from the West and with the method we immediately improved all the traditional methods of Western civilization to modernize our country.

> “But in our own Oriental way of thinking, there is no stairway at all. We never believed in method. It has been said of Noh acting that its highest discipline is a flower. How can you reach a flower? There is no method. You can only try hard by yourself. Independently. A teacher may suggest something but he cannot help you. So it is with climbing to the second floor. You must try hard to climb by your own enthusiasm and ambition. Maybe you will jump up. Maybe you will climb a pillar. But you must decide yourself and not rely on method...”

Rising presumption, I think and feel that much of the Ogimura I slightly knew and have researched for this remembrance might well flower in the fineness of these Mishima lines. Repeatedly I’ll come back to them.

In a 1967 article in which he championed Condition Training, Ogimura described an instance of how, young and ambitious, he ‘d not relied on any established physical training program for table tennis but, picking and choosing, had decided for himself.

> “I believe that I was the first table tennis player who incorporated running, skipping and gymnastics routinely into his daily program of training.” [He speaks specifically of “Usagitori”—a Japanese training method to develop springy-legs] (I believe by “skipping on the toes”). “Since I rose to the elite of world table tennis, this can be an example to all. I did this in a working gymnasium, which lay on my way to school.”

Ogimura, then, was ready for the 1954 World’s! Dick Miles, who’d already won 7 of his 10 U.S. Championships, thought so, and he ought to have known. For while on a USO Tour in the Far East in 1953, Dick, at a GI recreation club in Tokyo, had occasion to play after hour, day after day, with both Ogimura and his future World Champion Men’s Doubles partner, Yoshio Tomita. “Chop, chop, chop...” said Dick, “that’s all I did, and course both these penholders were all-out attackers.”

Still, no matter how physically prepared, how practiced, Ogimura and his teammates were, they still had to get to the World’s. And that meant somehow being able to play the Japanese TTA couldn’t—the travel costs from Tokyo to London.

At our ’89 Miami U.S. Open, Ogimura told Bob Morsut, the then editor of the USA publication Table Tennis Topics, that the Japanese Association had prom-
**July 1, 2, 3, 1995**

**MEIKLEJOHN NATIONAL SENIORS T.T. TOURNAMENT**

**LEISURE WORLD, LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Entry Fees</th>
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<tr>
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<td>(min. rating over 1000)</td>
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<td><em>(each for 5th to 8th)</em></td>
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<td>A6. U-1600</td>
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<td>100 50 25 25</td>
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**SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1995**

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**MONDAY, JULY 3, 1995**

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<td>C3. Under 1200</td>
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<td>C4. U-1100</td>
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<td>C5. Over 70</td>
<td>12:00 N.</td>
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<td>C6. O-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>C10. O-80</td>
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TBA - To Be Announced. None of the TBA events will start before 1:00 P.M. of that day.

For Further Information:
- Walter Wehrli 714-380-0513
- Julius Margolis 714-854-3911

**ENTRY FORM**

Please enter me in the following events. My fees in the full amount of $______ are enclosed. I will abide by all regulations, those of the sponsor and the USATT. I relieve the sponsors and L.H.T.T.C. of any liability for injury to myself and/or my property.

Entry Fee | Number and name of event | Doubles partner |
---|---|---|
$______ | | |

Signature

May 1995

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Ogimura as Japanese team member.

In 1959 (the World Championships were every two years now), Ogimura and his teammates won their fifth straight Swaythling Cup Championship, and Ogimura himself, in addition to winning the Mixed, also won his second Men’s Doubles crown—with Teruo Murakami. Nor did he exactly disgrace himself in the Singles: be he beat future great Chuang Tse-tung, 3-0, in the quarter’s, then, after leading in the 5th, he lost to 1953 World Champ Ferenc Sido (whom New York star Bobby Gusikoff had beaten in the Team’s). Also, in ’59, Ogii won the prestigious English Open. That season, though, he was ranked 9th in Japan! Which gives you some idea how he did in the Japanese National Championships, on which the ranking was surely based.

In an Asian Championship in the late ’50’s (I think 1958), Ogi lost in the semi’s to teammate Ken’iie Tsuchida, but it was the quarter’s of that tournament that long-time U.S. Team Captain Houshang Bozorgzadeh so well remembers: ohh, Ogi beat him three straight.

In 1960 Ogimura won the Asian’s beat World #28 Dal Joon Lee in the final—that same Lee of course who in a record-setting burst from 1968-73 would be our U.S. Open Champion. I mentioned earlier Ogimura’s change of tactics in playing Miles; now against Lee, who’d beaten Ogi in the Team’s and two strong Japanese, Nobuya Hoshino and Teruo Murakami, in the Singles, Ogimura found a successful lob defense—a way to get to the second floor, as Mishima might have said—against Lee’s very innovative at that time “loop” attack.

Ogimura’s playing career might have been coming to a close, but in the ’62 Asian Games he got to all three finals—lost to the ’61 World finalist Keichi Miki in the Singles, lost in the 5th in Men’s Doubles with Koji Kimura, but won the Mixed with Kimiyoshi Matsumoto who, 10 years later, would write an (How I Would Play Again) article for the Ogimuroshoji Company’s Table Tennis Journal.

Additionally, in both the ’61 and ’63 World Championships, he was still good enough to get to the quarter’s. In ’61, in Tokyo, he lost to the three-time World Champion Chung Tse-tung, 3-0, and in ’63 in Prague (where he beat Miles in the Singles and both Dick and our 4-time U.S. Champ Erwin Klein in the Team’s), he lost to another great Chinese player, Chang Shih-lung, 3-2.

Ogimura as Coach.

Although just before the ’65 World Championships Ogimura was still ranked #7 in the world, he had by this time built up a very successful coaching career. He was the first Asian penholder to coach in America. In 1959 the STTF (Swedish TTA) hired him as National Coach and Manager—and in 1960 Hans (“Hasse”) Aker won the first of his many Swedish National Championships then followed up by winning the 1962 European Championships.

With Ogimura’s help, and the rise of (“The Hammer”) Kjell Johansson, Sweden was on its way to beating Japan. It was Stefan Bengtsson, though, preparatory to winning the 1971 World Championship in Nagoya, who was quoted as saying, “I studied with Ogimura.” In the fall of 1980 U.S. Team member Ricky Seemiller was training in Japan and later in a Topics article he said he learned at least one thing Ogimura had taught Bengtsson: “That mentally I was never to give up. [Just retain the will to “Fight!” but never give up thinking?] That if I was ahead in the match I should go at my opponent’s strongest side for if now he lost points he would often give up.”

Most coaches, most players would be too down-the-line method to think in paradox.

By 1967 Ogi was not only the Japanese National Coach, he was in the judgment of many “the best coach in the world.” But then came the strange news to the U.S. that, at 34, Ogimura had abruptly retired because of “ill health.” Was this a precurser of what, a quarter of a century later, was to come about?

And did this mean that we in the States had heard the lust of this famous man?: Who could believe it?

As player, coach, and even on occasion official, Ogimura had been to every continental association but ours. Finally, in the fall of 1968, he spent a short time in both the U.S. and Canada. But how Rufford Harrison introduced Ogimura to U.S. Top’s readers:

A Japanese with a Swedish accent? That’s Ichiro Ogimura, twice world champion turned exporter and manufacturer of Barbie dolls, who perfected his English while coaching the Swedish.

Ogi must be the world’s number one student of table tennis. Ask him how to beat Joe 

But off court, in between matches, ITTF Rules Committee Chair Colin Clement remembers, Ogi would lie down on a hard bench and go fast asleep—or seem to.

38 Table Tennis Today March/April 1995
Mr. Ogimura confessed that young Japane
ese did not have the nationalistic spirit of pre-
war and war periods...

“They don’t practice the hard way as many
of our former players used to. There are so
many distractions and varieties of entertainment
that the younger generation in many countries
were taking things easy. This has been a phenome
non in post-war Japan too.”

Ogi’s point of view here mirrors Yukio Mishima’s
fostering of the samurai code (bushido) and his dislike of
poet but he had subtly been

great stars of the ‘70’s play in Houston, asked Dick, “Isn’t
years back, on seeing Bengtsson and Johansson and other
say...as an interesting anecdote Dick told me on quite

Tanaka—these players had great speed and power.

ITTF’s Deputy President under Roy Evans. Now, as an
“old boys”

“could hit harder than “The Hammer.”

Ogimura, Vic Landau, U.S. Intercollegiate Champion a few
years back, on seeing Bengtsson and Johansson and other
Vic Landau, naturally, politely pooh-poohed this as typi
cal “old boys” talk. “Nobody back in the ‘50’s,” he said,

Yeah?

Ogi warmed up, then walloped one so hard that the
older man came late. age 30, to a rigorous

The process of technical improvement is
like the recognition of values: on each level, there is
a vague perception of some of the improvement
that results from the work done. I am sure that
everybody has had this experience. The steps
may not be the same for everyone; one may go
slowly, another quickly. Besides, the entire pro
cess is dependent on the conditions.

In another article he offers advice to a young player:
[He] must carefully observe the good serv
ers and imitate them....[He] will only be able to
copy 10% of the service because he lacks the
 technique, but in this fashion he will develop his
own services.

Individuality was as important to an “artist” like
Ogimura as it was to Mishima.

The older man came late, age 30, to a rigorous
physical training—which Ogimura of course had come to
early. Hence Mishima would certainly share Ogimura’s
topio admiration of “Geesink, the judge expert who
says, ‘My body does not have any dead moos
and crannies as those of the Japanese judo players do; they
train only with judo. My muscles have been built up
through soccer, wrestling, and other sports.”

But behind all the coaching and physical condition
that a player needs to be very, very good—as Ogimura
once told Scott Butler, and I’m sure Scott remembered
when later he and his father, Richard, traveled all the way
to an Ogimura training camp in the mountains north of
Tokyo—is this (another echo of the Mishima passage I’d
cited earlier): If you don’t have enthusiasm (a “love for
the game”), you won’t have as much fighting
spirit and won’t want to do what it takes to
develop your...[own unique style] of play” to
its highest potential.

To develop not just a style of play but one
himself?...of man,

Ogimura in action, 1963.
to exercise power but because he wanted to know right away, this minute, a fact, or get another view of a problem he was wrestling with. “One of his favorite expressions,” said Albert, “was ‘Let’s sleep on it.’ But I don’t think he ever slept very much.”

Perhaps, too, from such far-off places he called because he was lonely?... Or afraid he’d fail in what he’d set out to do?...

“Where the cuckoo flies till it is lost to sight—out there a lost island lies.”—Matsuo Basho (1688) (Trans. Harold G. Henderson)

“Another favorite expression of Ogi’s,” said Albert, “was ‘Make sure!’” But when Albert dutifully went to make sure, often someone else sent by Ogi was checking out the very same thing—which is it turned out might not be of any consequence to Ogiamura at all.

“He always had a 100 ideas,” said one half in sympathy, half not, who’d long worked with him. “Trouble was 98 were awful and he never knew which were the two good ones.” Said another, “If Ogiamura had been organized, he could have done so much more.”

But of course, with his spring-up-the-stairs conditioning, it wasn’t his nature to take a step-by-step methodical approach, to delegate. He didn’t think so completely in that ordered, logical Western way.

In an article for a 1987 issue of World Table Tennis Ogiamura seemed more comfortable trying to define the Sport in an elusive, non-rational (would you say “disorganized”) way: “I really believe in the superiority of our sport.... [Playing it] is something like running a half marathon.... It requires a different kind of skills—technique and strategy, imagination and timing. It is an extremely athletic and intelligent sport. I cannot accept a situation in which it is regarded as only a minor sport.”

That Table Tennis might stay a minor sport was uppermost in his mind in 1987 when he was elected President:

“The manufacturers’ aim was to improve the racket as a weapon. This was natural because players will pay more for something that wins them more points. However, it was a near-sighted view and the manufacturers had not realized that if the presentation of the game does not attract the public everyone and eventually the trade will suffer. It is possible we are now at that stage or approaching it.”

This PROBLEM, which as the Sphinx had perhaps tried to tell him, would only get worse.

Early in his tenure, Ogiamura, noting the popularity of table tennis, had gone on record as saying that just because “we are among the most recent sports to join the Olympic movement doesn’t mean that we have to be humbly grateful for acceptance.” But soon some observers were saying that he was too ingratiatingly chummy with IOC President Samaranch. And yet who could blame him for being so disturbed over the lack of success our Sport was having on TV? Imagine if, during his seppuku, blame him for being so disturbed over the lack of success his Sport was having on TV? Imagine if, during his seppuku, Ogi, you did so well—after all, this was the most recent estimate I’d heard—riddling the Sport.

...Shhh, Ogi, shhh. All of us here who’re following your life, we don’t mind the stony silence—you don’t need to tell us, we know the answer:

A morning-glory!

and so—today!—may seem
my own life-story.

—Moriwaki (1852-1894)

(Trans. Harold G. Henderson)

Dear Editor,

I was shocked and grieved to hear of the death of Andrew T. Gad. Andy was a valuable member of the USATT Rules Committee (now the Legislative Committee) for over 15 years. He became an International Umpire in 1982, and could always be relied on to do an excellent job. I first remember him as an umpire during the 1972 tour of the U.S. by the People’s Republic of China’s table tennis team. His contributions to Table Tennis were many and long term—I will miss him.

Sincerely,
Mal Anderson
Chairman, Legislative Committee

Dear USA Table Tennis

On December 21, long-time Dayton Table Tennis Supporter and International Umpire Andy Gad died suddenly. As many midwestern TT players know, Dayton was—until Lyle Thiern’s death several years ago—one of the hotbeds of TT activity due to the many tournaments (one a month) they held.

Andy was instrumental in running those tournaments. When I first started playing in tournaments in the late 70’s, I noticed that many tournament directors tended to spend most of their time socializing with their top seeds. Andy treated everyone well, even 1300 players like I was. When I started beating him, he still was a class act.

Many TT Today readers will probably remember Andy for his infamous default of Ray Guillian several years ago at a Nationals. Yet, for those of us who patronized the Dayton TT Club, Andy was one of the friendlier characters in Midwestern Table Tennis. Please consider this contribution to be from the USATT players in Cincinnati in memory of Andy Gad for the many years of hospitality the DTTC and Andy had extended to us.

I hope the USATT will publish some type of tribute to Andy in its next magazine. He did a lot for the sport.

Sincerely,
Jim Coomb

ANDY GAD

Dear USAATT,

On December 21, 1994, International Umpire Andy Gad passed away in Dayton, Ohio. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his family, for we, as his ‘Ping Pong’ friends, also feel the great loss. He gave so much of himself to the game; his enthusiasm and love for it was infectious. Even his style of play, with a flair for the flamboyant gestures that could almost be considered poetic, were a joy to spectators.

We feel honored to have known him, and will miss his ‘being there’ at the Club, and at Tournaments all over. He was always kind enough to spend at least a few minutes talking about ‘the Game’ with some new person who was just getting into it, when lots of other seasoned veterans wanted little to do with the novice players. We all were novice players once, and that attention and coaching from a good player helped to give us hope that we would someday be good enough to give a veteran a good match... someday. Andy was good at making the novices feel that they had the potential to be “special.” He even had time to play with the kids who still had a long way to go to be champions in the game. We all took pride in how excellently he coached his son, and helped others as if they were his own.

We felt privileged to know him as his position in the USATT and his visibility at National Tournaments gave credibility to our own little area clubs, and the efforts of the masses of regular players who will probably never be featured in USATT’s Table Tennis Today, but keep on trying.

Thanks, Andy, from all of us who miss you....

We already have figured out that you are right now refereeing a match at the CTTC (Celestial Table Tennis Club) between Lyle [Thiern] and Erwin [Kline]. Somebody has to keep score!

Sincerely,
Mark & Mari Weber

New Umpires Certified

The USATT Officials Committee would like to congratulate the following newly-certified USATT Umpires.

Regional Umpires

Peter Chamberlain, Bartlesville, OK
Jamey Hall, Fayetteville, AR
Srinivasa Janardhanan, Baltimore, MD

Club Umpires

Paul Bertram, Harrisburg, NC
Vikram Chandrasekaran, Edison, NJ
Roger J. Cormier, Middletown, NJ
Mozart Francois, Waltham, MA
Myongchan Kim, Rahway, NJ
Roger Kuseski, Longmont, CO
Richard (Hyon) Kwon, Anderson, SC
Kyle Machulis, Bartlesville, OK

Alan William Millett Sr., Sanford, FL
Grant Misbach, Provo, UT
James R. Short, Oklahoma City, OK
Daniel Steward III, Linden, NJ
Jeff Walters, Anderson, SC
James Winn, Bartlesville, OK
Doon Wong, Elmhurst, NY

If you are interested in becoming a USATT-certified umpire, contact USATT Headquarters at 719-578-4583.
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Herzegovina was a condition that could not be denied. India’s bid, too, we had to reject...when compared with the one we accepted from Manchester, England.

Having failed to get the Olympics after hopefully building facilities to that end, Manchester was now going to become the first Western city ever to take on all the financial responsibility of the World Table Tennis Championships. Play would be wonderfully convenient for players and spectators. The venue itself, the largest indoor stadium in Europe, a 3/4 theatre in the round so to speak, was in the heart of the city, with hotels all about, and easy-access-linkage to its International Airport, the 18th largest in the world.

There was a drawback, though: the need for two halls—roughly a mile apart. But where could such a giving sponsor be found who offered just a single venue to accommodate an estimated 96 Men’s and 80 Women’s teams? Moreover, Manchester promised that every team would play in both halls. We all felt India wouldn’t be as satisfactory and unanimously accepted the bid from England.

Unfortunately, there seemed to be at best only a very, very slim chance for any Atlanta World Team Cup sponsor. However, the opinion of people in the know was that, sponsor or no sponsor, many of the top players would still come to the U.S. so as to experience Atlanta in August and the venue conditions that they’d likely be faced with in the ‘96 Olympics. I myself was given at least some confirmation of this in talking to Zlatko Cordas, former Yugoslav international who was here at the World Cup as the Coach of the German star Jorg Rosskopf. (The scheduling was such that they’d likely be faced with in the ‘96 Olympics. I myself was given at least some confirmation of this in talking to Zlatko Cordas, former Yugoslav international who was here at the World Cup as the Coach of the German star Jorg Rosskopf. (The scheduling was such that they’d likely be faced with...)

Just prior to our Meeting, Richard McAfee, T.T. Competition Manager for the ‘96 Olympics, had sent me an Atlanta Update, and so I passed on to the other Board members what information I could.

For the (May 2-8) Team event or the (May 10-14) Individual competition—all about $265; an Everything ticket—about $530.

So much for the most recent Report. But now fortunately we had ITTF’s Technical Committee Chair Yap Yong Yih with us who was privy to the preparations and problems in Tianjin we hadn’t heard about. (Problem: the supposed durability of the intended floor mats had been shown to be suspect; even the four picked for the TV focus point, the Main Arena, looked a little scruffy. Should new mats be bought, ship will be 48 foreign dollars—)

Question: Why had it been so difficult if not impossible to get the actual names (and addresses, phone and fax numbers) of Tianjin table tennis people in authority whom the ITTF Secretary-General could then pass on to various Committee Chairs? All in due time—

Finally, Yap, you must remember: China protocol takes precedence over ITTF protocols. Don’t worry, in Tianjin you won’t have liaison problems. They’ll be plenty of walkie-talkies.

Question: Would anyone have any problems getting the proper ID? Mr. Yap was again at the ready. If all has been carefully prepared for, if the person in question’s name is on a bona fide list, there will be no problem at all; if not, getting an ID will be a bureaucratic nightmare. Security will be very tight.

Computers, said Mr. Yap, will be everywhere—China has new table tennis software that will be very helpful in making Draws and running off Results.... They even have Warning Systems, he said.

Yes, there will be facilities for mandatory Dope Testing. And Glue Testing. And hopefully an airy place for all who need to glue and re-glue.

Final Question (for the moment): What was the Umpire situation? That’s already been determined, said Mr. Yap. We have 25 umpires—(the allocation based on the number of countries in the Continental Associations)—12 from Europe, 18 from Asia, 6 from Latin America, 6 from Africa, 3 from Oceania, and 3 from North America.

On my return home, I spoke to both Adham Sharara, Director-General of the Canadian TTA, and Y. C. Lee, the USATT Officials Committee Chair, and since at past World Championships Canada has had the edge over the U.S. in the number of umpires allotted, there was absolutely no problem in everyone agreeing upon a 2-1 apportionment favoring the U.S.)

1997 World Championships

We rejected Belgrade’s bid for the ‘97 World’s (though we allowed it, at least with certainty, to retain its option for 1999). Word was that the Yugoslavs, who had just run a successful Yugoslav Open, had already spent $5,000,000 in the hope of getting the ‘97 Championships. But the war that was still going on in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a condition that could not be denied. India’s bid, too, we had to reject...when compared with the one we accepted from Manchester, England.

Having failed to get the Olympics after hopefully building facilities to that end, Manchester was now going to become the first Western city ever to take on all the financial responsibility of the World Table Tennis Championships. Play would be wonderfully convenient for players and spectators. The venue itself, the largest indoor stadium in Europe, a 3/4 theatre in the round so to speak, was in the heart of the city, with hotels all about, and easy-access-linkage to its International Airport, the 18th largest in the world.

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Show: Show our sport to everyone!

Play: Get everyone to Play!

USATT: Get everyone to join the USATT!

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Now... Get With It!!!

This message brought to you from S.P.U.R., Society for the Promotion of USATT Resurgence

March/April 1995
USA DISABLED TABLE TENNIS TEAM SELECTIONS

At the conclusion of the USA Table Tennis National Championships, twenty men and six women were selected to the 1994 United States Disabled Table Tennis Team. Ten of the players, eight men and two women, have been also tentatively selected to represent the United States at the 1994 Atlanta Xth Paralympic Games.

The Atlanta Paralympic Games are to be held on August 16-27, 1994, twelve days following the close of the Summer Olympic Games. 4,000 disabled athletes from more than 160 nations are expected to compete in 17 sports. Disabled Table Tennis features wheelchair and standing events using standard rules with some variations for wheelchair play.

The selected disabled athletes will be eligible to compete at the following 1995 events:

Apr. 7-9: Austrian Open Wheelchair Table Tennis Tournament, Wiener Neustadt, Austria
Apr. 15-18: Belgian Open for Classes 3, 4, 5, and 6.
May: World Cup/World Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled, Atlanta, Georgia
July: International Stoke Mandeville Games, Aylesbury, England
September: Pan American Games, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1994 USA TEAM TRIALS AND NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE DISABLED

December 13-14, 1994

Men's Singles: Class 1, Sebastian DeFrancesco; Class 2, Ken Brooks; Class 3, James Williams; Class 4, Mike Dempsey; Class 5, Andre Scott; Class 6, Tino Ho; Class 7, Joshua Bartel; Class 8, Mitch Seidenfeld; Class 9, Alford Smith; Class 10, Mary Custecia.

Women's Singles: Class 2, Ruth Rosenbaum; Class 3, LeAnn Shannon; Class 4, Jennifer Johnson; Class 5, Terese Terranova.

USA DISABLED TABLE TENNIS TEAM

WOMEN'S TEAM

Jackie DiLorenzo, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY, Class 5
Terese Terranova, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Class 5
LeAnn Shannon, Orange Park, FL, Class 3

Men's Class 5, Andre Scott, College Park, MD
Men's Class 8, Mitch Seidenfeld, Minneapolis, MN
Men's Class 8, Liang Kong Liung, Framingham, MA
Women's Class 4, Jennifer Johnson, Port Chester, NY.
Women's Class 5, Terese Terranova, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Summary of the 1994 USA Team Trials & National Championships for the Disabled:

MEN'S TEAM TRIALS

Class 1: Sebastian DeFrancesco; Class 2: Diego Bolanos; Class 3, Robert Abatall; Class 4: Ken Brooks; Class 5, Gary Blanks; Class 6, Robert Abatall; Class 7, James Williams; Class 8, John Gray; Class 9, Terry Tierney; Class 10, Mark Kholdi.

WOMEN'S TEAM TRIALS

Class 1: LeAnn Shannon; Class 2: Jackie DiLorenzo; Class 3: LeAnn Shannon; Class 4: Jennifer Johnson; Class 5, Helen Humphries; Class 6, Tereesa Terranova; Class 7, Kelly Knight; Class 8, Carolyn Bethka; Class 9, John Kholdi; Class 10, Mary Custecia.

Men's Class 1 - 10: 1. Andre Scott 2. Elliot Schloss 3. James Landry
Men's Class 1 - 2: 1 Gary Blanks 2. Ken Brooks
Men's Class 8: 1. Liang Kong Liung 2. Mitch Seidenfeld 3. Dave Skrzypek

Women's Class 1 - 10: 1. Terese Terranova 2. Kelly Knight 3. Carolyn Bethka
Women's Class 1 - 2: 1. Kelly Knight 2. Carolin Bethka
Women's Class 3: 1. Terese Terranova 2. Kelly Knight 3. Carolyn Bethka
Women's Class 7: 1. Terese Terranova 2. Kelly Knight 3. Carolyn Bethka

MEN'S TEAM SELECTIONS

Gary Blanks, Virginia Beach, VA. Class 2
Mike Dempsey, Oxnard, CA. Class 4
Ken Brooks, Lebanon, NJ. Class 2
Joshua Bartel, Manhattan, KS. Class 7
Tin Hoc Banh, Alhambra, CA. Class 6
Marcy Monasterial, Indianapolis IN. Class 10
Mike Dempsey, Oxnard, CA. Class 4
Ken Brooks, Lebanon, NJ. Class 2
Joshua Bartel, Manhattan, KS. Class 7
Tin Hoc Banh, Alhambra, CA. Class 6
MEN'S TEAM

April 15-18: Belgian Open for Classes 3, 4, 5, and 6.
May: World Cup/World Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled, Atlanta, Georgia
July: International Stoke Mandeville Games, Aylesbury, England
September: Pan American Games, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The tournament was a spectacular success in promoting table tennis as an intercollegiate sport, especially with the participation of the Canadian and Japanese College National Teams and the U.S. college teams. Over 700 players from 35 college campuses on the east coast, in partial fulfillment of the unfinished dream of Ichiro Ogimura, the past ITTF President, one of the greatest leaders of our beloved sport. This tournament was conducted in conjunction with the 6th USA-Japan College Table Tennis Exchange Program which had originated later, was the first Open Singles winner at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York...
1994 MILLCREEK OPEN
Erie, Pennsylvania
October 15-16, 1994
by Sam Steiner

This third and most successful of the annual Millcreek fall tournaments drew 95 entrants and finally turned a profit after 2 years of losses. 11 new tables, better scheduling, and free food and drink at the player's party made this tournament one of the highlights of the area circuit. A newly-slimmed down Dan Seemiller (was he ever heavy?) pocketed the $175 first place money by downing brother Randy, a not-so-slim Adio from Cleveland, and Chip Coulter in the final four round-robin. Adio played a tough match with Randy for 2nd, coming back from 20-16 down to win the 2nd game, only to lose the third at deuce.

Nearly 30 entrants chatted in on a total of $1350 prize money in 17 events. Special thanks to the Syracuse and Chicago/Moline contingents for making the long drive. Next year we'll have 5 more tables and more prize money - don't miss it!


VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR ***** INVITATIONAL
San Jose, California
January 28-29, 1995

Open Singles-Final RR: 1st: Cheng Yinghua, 5-0; d. Jim Butler, def.; d. Khoa Nguyen, 15,14,18; d. Yong Jiang Liu, -20,22,10,10; d. De Tran, 19,26,12; d. Dazhi Guo, 10,12,12; 2nd: Jim Butler, 3-2; d. Yong Jiang Liu, 9,15,11,11; d. Dazhi Guo, 16,17,18,3rd: Khoa Nguyen, 14,15,18,3rd: Dazhi Guo, 17,15,20,10; d. De Tran, 17,16,15,15; d. Dazhi Guo, 18,17,18.


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* A junior must be under 18 as of the last July 1st.
**All members of one family living at the same address.

Make check out to USATT

Table Tennis Today 45

March/April 1995
1995 STAR OF THE NORTH STATE GAMES
Virginia, Minnesota January 21-22, 1995 by Rex Harris

The 11th State Games provided much excitement for all those attending. No, we didn’t have 40 below temperatures and 70 below wind chills like last year and no, we didn’t have a blizzard on the way home. Rather we had reasonable temperatures, four heat and a great playing site, the Mesabi College gymnasium. The only negative was we were about 1 hour south of the Canadian border and 1 hour west of Lake Superior. This means we were four hours away from the main body of adult table tennis players and people are still talking about last year’s weather and cars not starting and people ending up in ditches on the ride home.

However, we had a good showing and the people were of fine fighting spirit.

The West Duluth Table Tennis Club dominated the events, winning 11 of the 21 events. Duluth, only four hours away from Virginia, brought over 20 kids including Cory Eider, 3rd ranked nationally in under 12 boys, and Frank Allen, not as highly rated, but practically as good. Much credit must go to the Duluth coaches, Angelo Simone and Gary Hendrickson for all their work with the kids. They work weekly with over 50 kids and their goal is to double the Duluth entries by next year. Their uniting efforts in coaching the kids is probably unmatched nationally, as they have hauled the kids to Detroit several times and the AAU Junior Olympics the past 3 years, including winning gold in 1994. We have seen them in Las Vegas, Nebraska, Canada and North Dakota, along with most of the Disney tournaments in the Twin Cities. A great example for grassroots efforts in junior development.

The Men’s Championships, while lacking some of the top rated players in the state, still had a quality field. Gary Kerkow, former state champ, squared off with Bob Fox in the finals. While the match lasted a very long time, it was a very close and exciting finals with Bob Fox winning two straight, 23-21 and 23-21. Kerkow was trying everything he could while being confronted with Fox’s long, it was a very close and exciting finals. The young Kerkow looked like he was playing well, with Bob Fox winning two straight, 23-21 and 23-21. Kerkow was trying everything he could while being confronted with Fox’s long, it was a very close and exciting finals.

The Women’s Championships was another great example for grassroots efforts in junior developmental. Cory Eider, winner of 3 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze in under 18, 17, and 16. The 1994 Star was 1st: Greg Kerkow and Cory Eider & Greg Kerkow.

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Director Danny Hill
USATT Ratings Department
250 West 39th St.
New York, NY 10018

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Tournaments Processed
Due to space limitations, this list includes only members who have played in a tournament since October 1, 1994.

SPTF, Series-Jun Texas March 15-18; New England January Open
1995 Indy Winter Open
State of North States Games
Clayton January TTT
Orlando Winter Open
vissnianese New Year
Western Open-Soucon State Games

Top Women

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Top Men

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Olympic Eligible Women

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<th>Tournament</th>
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Olympic Eligible Men

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Under 22 Men

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Under 20 Boys

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Under 18 Boys

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Under 16 Boys

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Under 14 Boys

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Under 18 Girls

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Under 16 Girls

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Under 14 Girls

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Under 12 Girls

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Under 12 Boys

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Under 10 Boys

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Under 10 Girls

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Women Over 40

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Women Over 50

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Men Over 50

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Men Over 40

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Table Tennis Today 1995
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Player Name</th>
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</table>
| CA    | 1272 | 1272 | Andrews, David | March/April 1995
| CA    | 1770 | 1770 | Arnold, Frank |
| CA    | 1816 | 1816 | Asberry, Gabriel |
| CA    | 1858 | 1858 | Austin, H.R. |
MY CONTRACT WITH USATT MEMBERSHIP:
• I will make Junior & Club Development Top Priority.
• I will raise money for these programs, as I have in the past.

Dr. Jiing Wang
For Executive Vice President

• President, Duke Medical Clinic
• President, Health & Life Foundation, a non-profit corporation
• President, Pacific Times Newspaper
• Team Leader & Sponsor, 1994 U.S. Junior Team to World Youth City Championships in Taiwan
• Founded/Co-Founded two table tennis clubs
• Raised $52,000 in sponsorship for 1994 U.S. Open
• Major sponsor for Chinese New Year Tournament, 1991-95
• Long-time player from Taiwan, living in the U.S. since 1975

THE PROBLEM
The USATT had large membership increases at least three times in our past: in 1971, during “Ping Pong Diplomacy” with China, and during the 1988 and 1992 Olympics. Each time, we lost all of our gains.

Suppose we did something that really promoted our sport, and brought out thousands—tens of thousands—of new members. If we lost all of our increases in the past, what makes us think we’d hold on to these new members? Obviously, there is not much point in publicizing and promoting our sport until we fix this problem.

Why do we lose these members? Those of us who have been active in the sport probably will agree—we simply don’t offer a great product to sell!

Let’s face it, when a new member of the USATT comes to a USATT club, he’s more than likely to find a poorly-lit and dirty gym with slippery floors. He’ll be told to “call winners” on a table, where he’ll promptly get killed by an experienced player. We’ll never see him again.

Even more important than what he finds is what he doesn’t find—an organized system of leagues, youth programs, or instruction.

The most active age group in sports—juniors—have it even worse. They can play organized baseball, football, basketball, soccer, tennis, martial arts, wrestling—the list is endless. But there are few comparable table tennis programs in the U.S. How can we compete?

CLUB & JUNIOR PROGRAMS—Number One Priority
These are the type of programs needed to improve our sport in the U.S. There are too many special interest groups funded by the USATT that, while deserving, simply do not improve our sport as a whole. Once successful club & junior programs are set up that offer programs for new & current members, we can re-focus on promoting the sport.

I will stand up to these groups and make sure the USATT uses its resources wisely. (Cont next page)
We must look to other sports and see what works. I am experienced in how table tennis is organized in Taiwan and the rest of Asia, and supporters such as Barney D. Reed have helped me understand how it is organized in Sweden. Between the two, we can work out a U.S. model. But it will only happen if a candidate is elected that makes this a priority.

What types of program do we need organize? The USATT needs to be the organizer, the catalyst. It needs to organize clubs so that they set up the following nationwide:

- **Leagues**—so new members can join an organized sport
- **Instruction programs**—so new members can learn to compete on those tables
- **Youth programs**—so that the most active age group in sports, and the future stars of the USATT, have a program that rivals other major sports

The leaders and organizers of these programs are out there—the USATT needs to organize them, catalyze them, push them in the right direction. I believe that many of them are waiting for that push.

Until we take the first step toward organizing these programs throughout the country, they will never happen.

**A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.** I am willing to take that first step.

**SPONSORSHIPS**

I can safely say that I have raised more money for table tennis in recent years than anyone else. I raised $52,000 for the 1994 U.S. Open, and have similarly raised money each year for the Chinese New Year Open. Since 1985, I have sponsored the Chinese team to the U.S. Open six times, raising the level of play and adding prestige to the tournament.

I sponsored the U.S. Junior trip to the World Youth City Cup Championships in Taiwan last year. 15 U.S. juniors from all over the U.S. went for a week of training and competition—and the U.S. placed as a surprising third in the tournament! I will be sponsoring this same trip again this August, and hope to add a 3-day training session in Japan as well.

There are two problems with raising money for the USATT:

- It is difficult to do. I and others who have tried know this. But I have proven my ability to do so, and will continue to do raise money for the sport.
- The money is often wasted. I will make sure that any money raised goes to Club & Junior programs (unless the money is raised for a specific tournament or purpose).

**RUNNING THE USATT**

Every decision made by the USATT Board of Directors should start out with the question: *How does this help table tennis in the U.S.?* This is how a business is run, such as Duke Medical Clinic, the Pacific Times, or the Health & Life Foundation, each of which I am President. Most agree that we need to run the USATT like a business, but most of our leaders simply lack the experience to do so. As a successful businessman, I offer this experience.

**A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.** Please give me your support so we can take that first step.

---

**Support Club & Junior Development**

**Vote Dr. Jiing Wang for USATT Executive Vice President**
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

March 11-12, Westfield March Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavy, 7-A Kent Street, NJ 08873-2187, 908-828-3511. **

March 11-12, Hawthorne/Northrop Open, Hawthorne, CA. Contact: Murzii Kay, 4168 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807. 

March 17-19, Wisner Open, Wisner, NE. Contact: Leroy Petersen, 1000 5th St., Wisner, NE 68791, 402-529-6253. **

March 18-19, NTTTC March Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Brian or Sean Lonergan or Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indiana Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 1-800-671-6882. 

March 18-19, OCTTC Spring Open, Yonk, OK. Contact: Beverly Bell, 204 Madison Avenue N.E., Piedmont, OK 73078, 405-373-2169. 

March 18-19, Jersey Coast Spring Open, Matawan, NJ. Contact: Roger Cormier, 7-A Kent Street, NJ 08873-2187, 908-828-3511. **


March 25-26, RPI Open, Troy, NY. Contact: Kevin Ko, 101 Crockett Hall, RPI, Troy, NY 12180-7108, 518-276-7108. 

March 25-26, Pennsylvania State Team Championships, State College, PA. Contact: Samuel Steiner, 3616 Zimmerly Rd., Erie, PA 16506. 

March 1-2, Arkansas Open. Contact: Eugene Atosa, P.O. Box 6263, Sherwood, AR 72116, 501-835-5291. 

March 1, Michigan State Championships, Dearborn, MI. Contact: Michael Veillette, 6034 Rommoc, Rochester Hills, MI 48036, 313-651-2069. 

March 1-2, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronglone, 14160 Forbythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. 

March 1-2, National College Team Championships, Princeton, NJ. Contact: Andre Liu, 609-921-7888. 

April 1, Fourth Annual Salina Open, Salina, KS. Contact: Clifford Metzger, 2026 Roach St., Salina, KS 67401. 

April 1-2, Waaltham April RR, Waaltham, MA. Contact: Qumaras Hedayatian, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02145, 617-776-2458. 

April 8-9, New Jersey State Championships, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavy, 7-A Kent Street, NJ 08873-2187, 908-828-3511. 

April 15-16, Potomac Spring Open, Potomac, MD. Contact: David Cheung, 9305 Parkhill Terr., Bethesda, MD 20814, 301-530-4057. 

April 22-23, Spring Open, St. Paul, MN. Contact: Rick Brekke, Route 1, Box 153E, Pillager, MN 56473-9801, 218-746-3572. 

April 22-23, Arizona State Closed, Tempe, AZ. Contact: Bill Gilbert, 5618 E. Windsor Ave., Scottsdale, AZ 85257, 602-946-1319. 

April 22-23, Rhode Island Open, Manville, RI. Contact: Arthur Theroux Jr., 12 Baker St., West Warwick, RI 02893, 401-826-8476. 

April 22, Greater Columbia Closed Invitational, West Columbia, SC. Contact: Francis Kovach, 620 Colonial Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169. 

April 22, Alabama Closed, Huntsville, AL. Contact: Michael Wetzel, #101, 2025 Danville Park Drive, SW, Decatur, AL 35003-1838, 205-350-1182. 

April 23-24, Indiana State Closed, Indianapolis, IN. Contact: John Boyle, 7845 Bonita Court, Indianapolis, IN 46219, 317-357-7833. 


April 29, Strike One April Open, Burlington, MA. Contact: Lim Ming Chui, 347 Bedford St., Lexington, MA 02173-3351, 617-862-1551. 

June 10-11, MATTC June Open, Middletown, PA. Contact: Donald Vastine, 20 Woodland Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057, 717-944-7154. 

June 10-11, San Diego Open. Contact: Vern Boyce, 4747 Atlanta Drive, San Diego, CA 92115, 619-583-9303. 

June 10, Wichita Invitational Team Championships, Wichita, KS. Contact: John Potocnik, 6927 Woodbury Court, Wichita, KS 67226, 316-681-3667. 

June 17-18, DETROIT OPEN. Contact: Cody Jones, #8H, 3050 Union Lake Road, Commerce, MI 48382, 810-360-5900. 


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301-670-6882

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(908) 356-8880

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

54 Table Tennis Today

March/April 1995
Kalinic Special!

JUIC Kalinic Blade with two sheets of any JUIC rubber

ONLY $65

An $86 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.

Keep it Clean!

Paddle Palace Rubber Cleaner

The Paddle Palace Rubber Cleaner is specially formulated to remove oil and dirt from your rubber while preserving the original quality of the rubber. Your rubber lasts longer and you play better! Paddle Palace Cleaner comes in a new non-aerosol pump spray bottle that’s good for the environment.

4 oz., pump spray bottle.

SALE: $6.00!

The Kalinic

SUPER POWER

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 plies of “Fire Wood” inside providing explosive speed and power.

Flared Handle, 7-Ply, Fast+ Speed

Limited Time Offer!

Kalinic Super Power Blade with two sheets of any JUIC rubber

ONLY $75!

Special Designer T-Shirt Offer

Paddle Palace Pharaoh Shirt

$18.00 for one or two for $27.95

This unique table tennis shirt was designed by a Portland, Oregon artist. The design is in royal purple and teal, set prominently on the front of the Pyramid. Natural color t-shirt. The shirt is high-quality Hanes Heavyweight 100% preshrunk cotton.

Available in sizes Large and Extra Large.

Price: $18.00 for one, or two for $27.95
My Contract with USATT Membership:

• I will make Junior & Club Development Top Priority.
• I will raise money for these programs, as I have in the past.

The USATT had large membership increases in 1971 (Ping Pong Diplomacy), 1988 and 1992 (Olympics). However, all these gains were lost. Obviously, it is a waste of time to promote and try to sell the sport until we fix the product. This means developing more and better clubs that new and current members will want to play at; and setting up nation-wide junior programs. Juniors are the future of the sport, and the age group most active in sports. If you agree with this, please give me your support.

Vote

Dr. Jiing Wang
Executive Vice President

About Dr. Wang:
Dr. Wang raised $52,000 for the 1994 U.S. Open...He personally sponsored a U.S. Junior Team to the Youth City Championships in Taiwan...A long-time player, he has founded two table tennis clubs...He was the Tournament Chairman of the 1994 U.S. Open...He is currently President of several organizations, including the prestigious Duke Medical Clinic and the Health & Life Foundation, a non-profit organization (as is the USATT).