Champions All Over!

Baton Rouge...
- Zhou Nguyen, Louisiana
  - Athlete Men's Champion

San Jose...
- Jorge Fernandez
  - Savings & Loan

Potomac...
- Cheng-Vinh Hieu
  - Vietnamese New Year

Mar Del Plata...
- Alan Stiles
  - Men's Singles & Doubles

Atlanta...
- Lily Yin Pan An
  - Women's Singles Silver Medalist

Princeton...
- University of Maryland
  - 3-peat National Collegiate Champions
Las Vegas, December 1994

1994 U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Amy Feng
Titles: Women's Singles
Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles
Equipment: Keyshot-FL
Ekrips 2.1
Sriver-FX 2.0

David Zhuang
Titles: Men's Singles
Men's Doubles
Mixed Doubles
Equipment: Chinese-Carbon
Resilon 1.7
Tackiness-C 1.3

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

Dan Seemiller
Title: Men's Doubles
Equipment: Grubba Pro-FL
Sriver 2.0
Super Anti 2.0 w/
Seemiller Sponge

Butterfly®
Volume 65, Number 3
May/June, 1995

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Who is this person? For hint, see USATT ranking list. For answer, see page 39.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Paul Montville

A few random notes on upcoming events and happenings from headquarters:

- Details for the 1995 U.S. Open are complete, and player registrations are coming in at a brisk pace. You won't want to miss this great event, which will be held July 5-9 at the Anaheim Convention Center, with the fabulous Anaheim Hilton serving as our host hotel. If you haven't made your plans to come to the Open, you are encouraged to send in your entry form as soon as possible (the deadline is May 20th).

- One of the most exciting international events in recent years is on tap for this summer, as the World Team Cup comes to Atlanta. From August 11-13, 16 men's and 12 women's teams representing the top table tennis countries in the world will compete for the Cup. The Georgia World Congress Center, which is also the site for the Olympic table tennis event, will be the venue. Make plans now to see the World Team Cup, brought to you by the ITTF, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and USA Table Tennis.

- We are proud to announce a grant program for groups working in grassroots development of table tennis. Please see the ad in this issue of Today for details.

- The 1994 Annual Report is complete, with the financial results and recaps of the year’s table tennis business. A copy of the report will be sent to each affiliated club for the benefit of club members. If you would like a copy, please send a stamped, self-addressed 8.5 by 11 envelope and $2.00 postage and handling to USATT headquarters, attn: Fran Boardman.

See you in Anaheim!

---

1995 Board of Directors Election Results

On March 15, 1995, a total of 6,044 ballots were mailed to eligible USA Table Tennis voters. A total of 2,029 ballots were returned by the April 17 deadline. A summary of the votes received is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Vice President</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dan Seemiller</td>
<td>Y. C. Lee</td>
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<td>...........</td>
<td>...........</td>
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<tr>
<td>927</td>
<td>1,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Timmins</td>
<td>Jim McQueen</td>
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<td>...........</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Executive Vice President</th>
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<tr>
<td>George Brathwaite</td>
<td>Donna Sakai</td>
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<tr>
<td>341</td>
<td>1,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Hogshatd</td>
<td>Terese Terranova</td>
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<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>768</td>
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<tr>
<td>George “Gus” Kennedy</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>...........</td>
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<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Jjing Wang</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>...........</td>
<td>...........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,331</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The elected candidates will take office on June 1, 1995.

---

EDITOR'S REPORT

by Larry Hodges

Oops! If you look at page 4 of the last issue (or to the right, where it’s reproduced), you’ll see what the cover was supposed to have looked like. Unfortunately, somewhere during the prepress processing, the words “Training in” were left off, and so the cover was left with the single word, “Sweden.” Hope it still made sense—the U.S. players pictured all had trained in Sweden over the past year.

In the continuing saga of “Things Stolen From the Editor,” add my Gateway 2000 Laptop computer, and my car. (Previous items included my wallet, playing bag, numerous table tennis videos, and coaching files.) During the Waterfront Open in Philadelphia, someone broke a window in my car to get at a bag I’d left partly hidden in the back seat. Unfortunately, not wanting to carry my laptop computer all day with me, I’d hidden it in there. Exit one computer (although Barney J. Reed & Brian Londergan passed the hat and got over $180 in donations to help cover it, and insurance covered most of the rest, so I should be able to replace it).

About one week later, a couple days after having the broken window fixed, the car itself was stolen out of the parking lot in front of my apartment in Maryland. The car was recovered a week later, in downtown Washington DC (15-20 miles away), completely stripped—all four seats, engine, fenders, sun roof, brake system, tires, even the maps from the glove compartment. All that was left were a few old copies of TTToday in the back seat. This car, which had taken so many table tennis players to so many tournaments, did not deserve to go this way.

I’m starting up a “Top Ten List” feature for TTToday. Send in your own list to TTToday/NTTC, 15916 Indianola Drive, Rockville, MD 20855, or fax to 301-816-9304. I’m also interested in printing table tennis cartoons—send ‘em in! Also, I’m still trying to find West Coast writers for tournament coverage. Did you get the last-minute flyer that was mailed to USATT members and attacked president Dan Seemiller? To whoever sent it, next time 1) sign it; 2) give numbers. It’s an embarrassment to have you involved with our association.

May/June 1995
**OFFICIALS' VIEW**

Dress Code for USATT Officials

by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

As the sport requires the players to adhere to a certain dress code, it is logical that all umpires and officials represent the USATT in a standard uniform. The Officials Committee appointed a task force headed by Erich Haring to establish such dress. The following are the specifications of a uniform which has been approved by the Officials Committee.

The umpire's uniform is a dark blue blazer, light gray slacks, white shirt, and black shoes. The following are the specifications of a uniform which has been approved by the Officials Committee.

- The blazer's shoulder epaulets should be of a matching color to the blazer.
- The blazer should be worn with a white shirt and black shoes.
- The shirt should be unadorned except for a name tag, which is worn on the left breast pocket.
- The white blouse and black slacks. A tie is optional, but if worn should be a red tie. A skirt should have the hemline at or below the knee. If a female umpire opts to wear slacks, then she must wear socks of the color specified above.
- The name tag is to be provided by the USATT.
- The female umpire opts to wear slacks, the hemline at or below the knee. If a female umpire opts to wear slacks, then she must wear socks of the color specified above.

Centered on the left breast pocket of the blazer is the USATT patch. The IU (or IR) pin is worn centered on the left lapel. A name tag is worn on the right side where a right breast pocket might be. The left lapel is unadorned except for the name tag.

- The name tag should be a plastic laminate. The background should be the same color as the blazer with white letters. There should be nothing on the name tag other than the umpire's name. It is unnecessary for anything else to be on the name tag.
- The Officials' Committee would like all umpires and officials to use the above specified uniform when attending any tournament.

How Much Discretion Does a Referee Have in Altering the Draw?

A director of a tournament came to me and told me that in conducting the draw the referee insisted on placing player #1 and player #4 in the upper half, and player #3 and player #3 in the lower half. Later when I met the referee, who is a competent RU, I discussed the incident with him. I informed him that the new rule stipulates that players #3 and #4 have to be placed by a draw. His first response was that he did not hear about the new rule, then he added that the referee has the discretion to change the draw.

Yes it is true that the referee has the discretion to change the draw. However, the new rules have limited that option to specific situations. The ITTF and USATT rules allow the change when two players from the same geographical location will meet each other especially in the first rounds. The term geographical location includes the same association, country, state, home town, or club. The intent of the rule is to avoid the possibility that players will travel to a tournament and find themselves playing the same players they play in their localities. In case there are four slots to fill, and one of the slots already has a player from Germany, and one of the coming players is from Germany, then that player should have a draw to place him in one of the other three brackets. The rest of the players will be placed in the remaining places by a draw. Another situation which a referee should try to avoid is when two players keep meeting each other in the first rounds of different tournaments. The new ITTF rules book, and the USATT tournament guide have specific directions of how to conduct the draw. I recommend to each official to consult these two references before conducting the draw.

**GOOD LUCK!**

---

**POINT...COUNTERPOINT**

**WHY COLLEGIATE TABLE TENNIS SHOULD BE #1 PRIORITY FOR USATT**

by Larry Hodges

Six big reasons:

1. Facilities
2. Manpower
3. Money
4. Recognition
5. Receptivity
6. Creates a need

Facilities: Why are there so few TT clubs in the U.S. when there are over 19,000,000 recreational players? Because we are not using the facilities that are available to us. The primary opportunity for ready-made TT clubs are the colleges. Almost every college or university has 1 to 2 tables in a rec room. They are usually run by student activities. We should offer them a program to assist them in starting a college/community TT Club.

Manpower: The colleges have the people. They have staffers and students. With some direction, they can organize a club, run it on a regular basis, and use it as a fund-raiser for student needs.

Money: Brother, it's there. When you want money, go to the biggest pot. I learned that a few years ago at a Sports Management conference. The biggest pot is the Federal Government, next is State Government, next is City/County Government, next is Boards of Education/schools. The colleges have budget money for activities; all we have to do is show them the value.

Recognition: Let's face it, we are considered one of the non-traditional sports, maybe even just in the game category, like foosball. We must put a better face on the sport if we want to be taken seriously by the public.

Our quickest route is using a national playoff system through the colleges. It shouldn't be the NCAA to start with, it should be a club sport. That's the route rowing has taken.

Racket Sport: With the tables in place, we should too-and that takes care of the USATT priority that's been on the table tennis front. According to Richard McAfee, director of the National Schools Program, 40% of schools already have tables or a table tennis program of some sort, and my experience concurs with this. With the tables in place, all we have to do is organize it. Since many sports are oriented around school, we need to take advantage of this.

So how do we get all these junior programs? Just look around on a nice afternoon, and you'll see kids outside playing organized baseball, basketball, soccer, and pretty much everything else—except table tennis. If it's an organized sport, that means there is an adult who is coaching or directing the session. What we need to do is to make table tennis an organized sport, and get those adults out there who are volunteering their time for other sports to volunteer their time for table tennis. Since these other sports rely on volunteers, we should too—and that takes care of the money problem. All we have to do is organize it. It can be done, region by region, with the USATT organizing. However, the problem is that there is no program director for USATT to do the organizing at this time. When money becomes available for this position, and organizing table tennis for junior groups all over the U.S. becomes a USATT priority—that's when our sport will take off. I can't wait.
CHAMPION, AFTER CHAMPION, AFTER CHAMPION, AFTER CHAMPION, AFTER CHAMPION, COUNTS ON

MARIE SVENSSON
1994 European Woman’s Champion.

RANDY COHEN
Numerous National Junior titles.

JASON ST. GEORGE
Two Time U.S. National High School Champion.

PETER KARLSSON
1994 Swedish National Champion and three time World Champion.

BRIAN SHAPIRO
Junior Olympic Champion.

JIM BUTLER
Three Time U.S. Men’s Singles Champion and 1994 Men’s Olympic Sport Festival Champion.

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Evansville, IN 47706
THE HEIGHT OF THE TABLE
by Dr. Rufford Harrison, Chairman
ITTF Equipment Committee

Dr. Mike Scott's proposal to raise the table by a couple of inches (Jan/Feb issue, p. 4) gives me a sense of deja vu: The ITTF Equipment Committee discussed it early in the 1970's, after it was suggested by Martin "yellow-ball" Sklorz, of Germany. He suggested it for the reason cited by Mike, namely the alleged increase in height of the players.

I suspect Sklorz got his idea from Kjell Johansson's rather bent 6'5" (I think that's his height), but I don't recall any similar move when Johnny Leach was winning his world titles in '49 and '51; Johnny must be significantly over six feet. And there were others before him. Anyways, at Sklorz's suggestions we did begin a study. We have found several tabulations, unfortunately no longer in my files, of the heights of factory workers in 1900, army privates in 1937, Yale undergraduates in 1951, and so on. But surprisingly, we found no trend between 1900 and 1970.

Now Mike makes the equally surprising statement that the worldwide height of the human being has increased by several inches since 1930. What's the source of this one, Mike? Actually I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. You can prove most things by statistics, particularly if you compare apples and oranges. For instance, it is quite possible that, worldwide, height has indeed increased — though several inches sounds excessive. After all, the standards of nutrition in some of the developing countries have improved. But has the height of an American or European player increased much? The existence of Jimmy Butcher, Kucharski and Klinkworth, I doubt it.

Furthermore, I think the Johanssons and Leach's didn't use any back braces. Crab-like stance? Did you ever look at a speed-skater?

I'm not deliberately being negative here; merely pointing out that we need a little more information before obsoleting the millions of dollars invested in tables around the world. I'll look forward to seeing what the Sports Science Committee has to say about it.

I probably wrote something on this for Topics twenty years ago, but of course I can't find it now. Which brings up a project for someone. How about compiling an index? You could start with annual ones for the last few years, and then, at your leisure, work back in say, five-year segments. You'd find Tim Boggan eternally grateful.

Incidentally, I fully agree with Mike's point about lower tables for younger players. The ITTF Equipment Committee discussed that a couple of years ago, and recommended that, if there is any adjustment, it be either continuous or in 5 cm increments — rather close to Mike's two inches. Some tables like that are already available.

To Editor Larry Hodges

Re: Dr. Rufford Harrison's Letter To The Editor

I consider the world authorities on Table Tennis equipment to be Dr. Rufford Harrison (ITTF Equipment Chairman) and Jimmy McClure (USA Equipment Chairman and Olympic Chairman).

Rufford, with his customary scientific thoroughness, asks several pertinent and valid questions. For instance: "What is the source of humans increasing in size since 1930?" As Rufford implies these questions are not easily obtained. For USA records I relied on:

3. Information from the University of Washington Medical School.

From the statistics I obtained the USA average height:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Height (inches)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>6'0&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>6'2&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average Height of Top male players in 1930's = 6'2"
Average Height of 1955 USA male table tennis players = 6'1"
Therefore both the average USA male and the Top Table Tennis male players increased 4" in size over 60 years.

The equation I used to determine a potential increase in table height was:

USA Average Male Height 1930 = Table Tennis Height 1930's
USA Average Male Height 1990 = X

"X" being what I consider should be today's table tennis height; therefore:

6'0" + 4" = 6'4"
70" = X
"X" is then 31.82", which I rounded up to be a 2" increase in height.

In regards to my comment about "Crab-like stance" Rufford asked: "Did I ever look at a speed skater?" My answer is, yes. In fact, I did IOC drug testing on them at the World Speed Skating Championships in Calgary. Incidentally, as a side benefit, I was invited to go down the Olympic Bob Sled Course as #2 man in a 4-man bob-sled. Fortunately Rufford didn't mention my former sport of wrestling in regards to "crab-like stance".

As Rufford correctly implies, I do not have World Wide Statistics to prove my theory. I do know that the average height of the Chinese National Team's Male Table Tennis Player is 5'9" and for females it is 5'4". While in China, I'll attempt to learn what their heights were in the 1930's.

I am pleased Rufford agrees about "lower tables for younger players". USA Coach Li and Jimmy McClure have similar thoughts.

I hope the ITTF Sports Science meeting in Beijing, China will be able to answer Rufford's and my inquisitiveness about height increase over the past 60 years in their individual countries. If the USA is any indication these statistics will be difficult to obtain.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Scott
Chairman, USA TT Sports Medicine Committee

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR NEW AND CONTINUING USA TT OFFICERS

Dear USATT Board of Directors,

Once again, we've had a USATT election, and once again much mud has been splung. It's inevitable, being the nature of politics. However, now that we've driven through the dirt, it's time to go to the car wash.

In the book, Media Advocacy and Public Health (Sage Publications, 1993) Lawrence Wallack gives perhaps the best review questions for evaluating success. These are questions that I hope you will ask yourself constantly. From page 16:

1. Did we do what we said we would do?
2. What have we gained?
3. What have we changed?
4. How might resources be better allocated to tasks?
5. Is there something that should be dropped because it is not working?

A Few Further Points to Ponder:

1. Will you develop a plan on what you want USA Table Tennis to do, and a plan to make it happen? Or will you simply hope things happen?
2. Will you work for the best interests of USA Table Tennis, or for the most vocal special interest groups?
3. Will you base decisions on the best interests of USA Table Tennis, or on who gives the best presentation?
4. Will you learn from the mistakes (and successes) of the past?
5. Will you use the same energy you used to get elected to advance the interests of USA Table Tennis?
6. Will you, when faced with problems and apathy, address the problems or become apathetic yourself?
7. Will you open and welcome others' ideas, or be secretive & uncommunicative?
8. Will you develop a vision on where USA Table Tennis should be in 2010?
9. How will you measure your effectiveness?
10. How will you approach the problem of a declining membership?

Good luck!

Sincerely,

Larry Hodges
Editor, TTToday

Dear Editor:

A few issues ago, you printed a letter from my good friend Stan Robens, which was somewhat critical of the fact that the Phoenix TT Club does not have a coach. Stan's point, I believe, was that every club should have a paid coach. Of course, we would like to, but over the past years we have had trouble with finances and simply providing facilities for table tennis was all we could manage, let alone paying for a coach. However, for several decades we have had the services of a coach, Sy Kenig, who has coached every homegrown Arizona champ for as long as any of us can remember, and Stan well knows this for he visits and plays at Sy's each week. The only difference is that players must pay for these private lessons, and this system has worked quite well. Additionally, we have always had better players ready and willing to coach, either informally or formally, whenever they have been asked. On several occasions over the years, we have brought in top players, or taken advantage when they were in town, to have coaching clinics sponsored by the Phoenix Club. What our club has done is to offer good competition in leagues and open play to thousands of players for over 40 years, the oldest continually operating club west of the Mississippi.

In January of this year one of our members, Robert Trudell, took it upon himself to arrange for Cheng Yinghua, recognized by rates as the #1 player in the U.S., to spend nearly 2 weeks in the Phoenix area giving private lessons at Robert's table tennis room and also at Sy Kenig's house and holding clinics at ASU and at our club. Of course, to set the record straight and give credit where credit is due, Rob not only set this up, but financed it himself. Cheng was all over the Valley of the Sun, even playing in one of our "table tennis bars" for a few hours. The Phoenix club was not asked to financially support this event, and probably could not have afforded to do so, but we certainly supported it by providing space and opportunity as much as we could and most players who got coaching are Phoenix club members. Luckily for us, Franz Hermann, former #1 Arizona ranked player and now playing in the German league, was in town visiting Paul and Nadine Groening, and an exhibition was arranged between them at the Phoenix club, which was enjoyed by all who watched.

My main points are these: The Phoenix club was not asked to financially support this event, and probably could not have afforded to do so, but we certainly supported it by providing space and opportunity as much as we could and most players who got coaching are Phoenix club members. Luckily for us, Franz Hermann, former #1 Arizona ranked player and now playing in the German league, was in town visiting Paul and Nadine Groening, and an exhibition was arranged between them at the Phoenix club, which was enjoyed by all who watched.

May/June 1995
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MEMBER SURVEY
by Herbert Wilson, Jr.
Life Member of USATT

It would seem more appropriate to issue a survey to the membership upon assuming office than just prior to an election. The survey in this instance becomes meaningless if the person issuing the survey does not get reelected because he/she will not have the opportunity to act on the results of the survey.

I have been a member of the USATT since the early fifties and have been enjoying table tennis perhaps for a decade longer. I always did have a great desire to see Table Tennis grow to the point that other sports in America such as baseball, basketball, football and more recently soccer have. I have freely given the advice that the only way to do that was to involve the very young in the schools and recreational centers in the sport. That is still my advice and I thought that persons such as Bowie Martin in North Carolina and Yvonne Kronlage in Baltimore had the right idea by introducing Table Tennis to the schools in their respective areas.

When I was coming up as a young child, soccer was a sport that foreigners played in other countries. Sports for girls/women were severely limited and almost non-existent. Some sports for women were even considered unlady-like. Tomorrow I will watch the women’s final four in basketball, something that was not even dreamed of for women in earlier years. Things have now progressed in America to the point that my daughter at 8 years old played in an organized soccer league 6 years ago and last year the World Cup in soccer came to the U.S. By now you will realize that the school approach is the best method and it is do-able. With the emphasis by the Federal Government in fitness with persons such as Florence Joyner and Tom Macmillan, they should be able to tap these resources to find those Americans that are athletically gifted. It can be done, and if you don’t believe it look at the records of the late Mr. Herman Prescott and his efforts in Hampton, VA and Brooklyn, NY with the Boys Club of America. As well as other good players, he did produce a National Junior Champion in the boys under 18 in the person of Ronald Hobson. This is what responsible management could do. Why is it that it is the Government of China that goes to the small islands of the Caribbean such as St. Kitts/Nevis and takes equipment to foster the sport and its players, and not the USATT? There is much to do. When are we going to do it?

Dear Editor,

During this past week most members received the 1995 election ballot in the mail. It was good news-bad news. First, the good news. USATT finally is sending materials out under the non-profit bulk rate permit system; in the past these things have arrived with first class postage on them. Finally!

But now the bad news. Among all the campaign statements and ballyhoo about professionalism, we are asked to complete yet another survey. This survey is worth a close look.

First, any valid survey should offer the respondent one more choice of response, that of “don’t know/no opinion.” A new USATT member is required to rate USATT with him/her as excellent, good, fair or poor, even though he/she may have had no such communication yet. Now look at the items in the survey. In the first section there is “Membership,” “Value of Membership,” and at the bottom page is yet another section called “Value of Membership.” With apologies to Tim Boggan’s writing style, I must ask, “???”

Now look at the last entry on the survey, which reads, “What did you become a member of USA Table Tennis?” That’s not even a complete sentence. Let’s see…should the first word be “When?” If so, surely the data base has information on when its members joined? Why would that be solicited from the entire membership again? Maybe the first word should be “Why.” If so, it begs the obvious answer, “to play table tennis and participate in tournaments.” I doubt that USATT will glean any useful statistics from members’ responses to this question.

The point is, if we’re in the pursuit of excellence and professionalism, don’t let amateurs put out an amateurish survey instrument like this one. Surveying—and the compilation/analysis of the results—is a well-established discipline in today’s management world. Let the professionals do it. And above all, someone at Colorado Springs should at least proof read these things before they are sent out.

Sincerely,

John Vos
Indian Head, MD

---

USA Table Tennis is pleased to announce the opportunity for its member organizations to submit grant proposals for 1995 consideration. This program is designed to provide financial assistance for the development of table tennis in the United States. Of special interest to the Grant Review Committee are:

- Junior Development
- Coaching Development
- Grassroots Development
- Increased USATT Membership

Grant amounts can reach $1,000, and all clubs in good standing for a minimum of two years are eligible to apply. Each grant must be initiated during 1995 and be presented with an ending point. Criteria will be judged on the following:

- Demonstrated need for grant
- Plan including goals and objectives
- Ability to sustain program over time
- Evaluation of project success

For more information on the USATT Grant Program or to receive a grant application and proposal guidelines, contact USATT Headquarters at (719)578-4583.

---

MEMBER SURVEY
by Herbert Wilson, Jr.

Dear Ron Von Schimmelman,

Please know of my continuing thanks for your going to the trouble to establish and manage the Hollywood Club, and for routinely welcoming all players there for the Friday Night Open Round Robin.

I define its attraction this way: You created an atmosphere where only limitations were our own—where one night a week we could freely compete—escape our limitations, and little by little overcome them.

For me, the implementation of the large group “open” round robin format made it a night of concentrated competition where my soul was free to sing. Even the youngest and oldest players could emerge from our Friday night hard-fought dueling ready to tackle the rest of the hurdles of a new week in the world. Many great players recognized this and weekly accepted the participation of all as simply part of the game. You provided a challenging space wherein each of us was the principal judge of our own progress.

Additionally, many thanks to Howard Grossman and others who also promptly opened, arranged the draws and closed, well past midnight, when you couldn’t go to the club. I’m sure I’m not alone in appreciating you for your consistent support of table tennis.

Thanks for the legendary Hollywood Club.

Sincerely,

Millie Drake
Long Beach, CA

---

MEMBER SURVEY
by Herbert Wilson, Jr.

Dear Reader,

When I was coming up as a young man I was a regular at Boggan’s. Ron, is there any question that he was the player I admired most? In the galleries, in the cubby holes and on the courts, he was the one who was the principal. For me, the implementation of the large group “open” round robin format made it a night of concentrated competition where my soul was free to sing. Even the youngest and oldest players could emerge from our Friday night hard-fought dueling ready to tackle the rest of the hurdles of a new week in the world. Many great players recognized this and weekly accepted the participation of all as simply part of the game. You provided a challenging space wherein each of us was the principal judge of our own progress.

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- Ability to sustain program over time
- Evaluation of project success

For more information on the USATT Grant Program or to receive a grant application and proposal guidelines, contact USATT Headquarters at (719)578-4583.
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May/June 1995
Dan’s again, 21-14.

The last two matches in this round were Sean Lonergan’s 12 & 12 loss to his coach, Cheng Yinghua, and David Zhuang’s 7 & 14 win over Dave Fernandez.

Semi-finals:

David Zhuang used a “fadeaway” forehand to Dan Seemiller’s wide forehand, won a number of times, and generally blocked and smashed ala 2700 enroute to a 15 & 9 victory in one half. The two would later team up to win Open Doubles, defeating Cheng Yinghua & Sean Lonergan, 19 in the third. Dan would also win the Over 40’s, while Dave would split the Over 30 prize in the final with a tired Cheng Yinghua.

Cheng Yinghua versus Khoa Nguyen—isn’t Cheng supposed to win, well, two straight? Or was that Khoa Classic, and this was New Khoa?

Up 12-8, Khoa hit three straight backhand winners down the line to Cheng’s forehand to lead 15-8. But Cheng promptly wins six in a row, 15-14—but it’s all Khoa the rest of the game as Khoa Nguyen’s (wins), 21-16. The last point came on a spectacular counterloop from the barrier.

In the second, Khoa goes up 8-5, then is down 8-10. But down 15-16, Cheng scores six in a row to win, 21-16. Throughout the match, it seems Khoa would gradually build up a lead—only to see Cheng suddenly score five or six in a row. In the third, Khoa again built up a lead, up 10-7 at the switch. Jumping to the end, Khoa is serving, up 16-14. He serves long, Cheng backhand loops—but whiffs! 17-14. In the next rally, Khoa is caught out of position, pops up a ball to Cheng’s backhand, Cheng kills it—off the end! 18-14, Khoa. Cheng would later tell me that after missing the backhand kill that he was still very confident—but said, “I attacked very hard the rest of the game with my backhand loop.”

The end was fantastic as both started pulling off the shots. But it was Cheng who started to dominate with his backhand loop at the very end, and Khoa who attempted, but missed, several key counterloops. Finally, when Khoa loops three, and rips the fourth off the end, it’s match to a relieved Cheng, who’d finished by scoring 7 of the last 8 to win, 16-16,19. Khoa can only wonder about what might have been—and wait for the rematch the next day in the American Allstar Series.

Final:

In the first, David Zhuang goes up 12-8, only to watch Cheng score four in a row to tie it. It’s close to 17-all, then Cheng, spinning everything into David’s penhold pip, goes up 20-18. All is silent as Dick prepares to serve...and serves off! (He’d also served off leading 15-14.)

Throughout this and most of his other matches, Cheng was constantly looping softly but consistently, rarely going for big winners, due to the slow conditions (due to flooring). The slower conditions made it more difficult than usual to hit or loop winners.

In game two, Cheng pulls away quickly with a continuous but consistent topspin attack, going up 9-4, 13-7, 16-10, 20-12, 21-14. Open Singles to Cheng Yinghua, 18 & 14.

Women’s Singles:

With several top women just returning from the Pan Am Games and choosing to take a break, the draw dropped off sharply after top seed Amy Feng. However, that didn’t mean the competition played dead as Amy was pushed somewhat.

In the semifinals, Suzanne Schilhab pushed Amy to three before going down, 12–18, 14. In the other semis, Yumiko Payton pulled out a close one in upsetting Peggy Rosen, 19, 21.

Final:

After Amy won the first, 21-16, Yumiko began to battle—ultimately forced Amy into another three-gamer. Match to Amy, 16, 19.

American Allstar Men

Quarter-finals:

David Zhuang & Cheng Yinghua both advanced easily, over Sean Lonergan & Dave Fernandez, respectively. Khoa Nguyen had a relatively close one with Darko Rop, but after losing the second, Khoa was up 10-2 at the switch in the third in winning, 18–17, 14. Dan Seemiller chopped back Jim Butler’s serves throughout their match (with the inverted side of his racket), forcing Jim to loop—and when Jim had trouble following up his serve, Dan won the second game, 22-20, with a mixture of chopping, blocking and looping. But Jim gradually pulled away in the third to win, 9–20, 13.

Semi-finals:

In a match dominated by the server, Jim Butler & David Zhuang played two straight close games. In the first, Jim flipped in a winner at 19-17, and then looped a ball that David smashed off, 20-19.

In the second, Jim is serving and leading 20-17 match point. Jim smashes a backhand off, and David smashes a forehand on, and it’s 20-19. But Jim serves and backhand smashes to win match, 19, 19.

Cheng versus Khoa II—or how about Table War II? Khoa jumps to a 6-0 lead at the start to show the earlier match was no fluke. He continues to pour it in, winning, 21-14. Cheng stops using his favorite forehand serve, switching almost entirely to a backhand serve the rest of the match.

In the second, Khoa again leads—16-12, and Cheng is near elimination (but Khoa has to remember that 18-14 lead last time...) Khoa leads 17-14, but once again Cheng goes on a streak just when he needs it, scoring four in a row to lead 18-17, his first lead of the match. Up 20-19, Cheng can’t convert as Khoa backhand loops a net-ticker that Cheng blocks into the net. When Cheng misses a counterloop, Khoa has a match point. Cheng serves & loops—and Khoa almost pulls off a great match-winning counterloop—but it just goes long, 21-19. Cheng has a game point at 22-21, but backhand loops off. Finally, after
two quick backhand exchanges, Cheng has pulled it out again, 22-24, to force a third game.

Once again, Khoa gradually pulls away, leading 9-6. 13-10, 14-17, 21-16. and finally 20-15—seven match points—just as he'd had Jim Butler! Cheng serves and scores the next two, 20-15, with Khoa to serve—just as he had against Butler earlier! Cheng again keeps coming, pulling it to 16-20, 17-20—but Khoa (who told me this tactic was to "play like crazy"), played like crazy, and finally looped in that last ball that'd eluding him in making Cheng out, 14-22, 17.

**Final**

Sohow did Nguyen win, according to Wu, who took the notes in the final?

In the first game, Jim jumps to a quick 8-2 lead, and holds the lead throughout, 13-7, 15-10, 19-11, 21-17. Jim is controlling the points with his serve, while Khoa keeps making mistakes.

In the second, down 2-3, Khoa scores all five on his serve to lead 7-3, and holds the lead almost to the end. Down 10-14, Jim scores four in a row to tie it up 14-14, then 16-16, but then Khoa plays three quick points and goes up 19-16, and wins, 21-18.

In the third and final game, it starts out close (with an "unbelievable" point at 6-6, with Khoa loopy, Jim blocking). Jim serves from up 8-7—Khoa scores all five! Khoa seems to know Jim’s serves by now, and Jim can’t stop Khoa from attack- ing every ball. Khoa extends his lead to 15-10 and 18-13. Jim scores three, 18-16, but Khoa rips a forehand to go up 19-16. Down 16-19, Jim serves—and misses his own serve! 16-20, 17-20, then Jim backhand smashes a ball off. Match to Khoa, - 11, 18,17.

So what’s Khoa been doing to raise his level of play so much? Drinking turtle blood, like the Chinese swimmers claim raises their performance?

“I’ve been practicing my backhand footwork,” Khoa said after his win over Cheng. “That helps both sides—forehand and backhand.”

Later, Jim was overheard telling Roland Rittmaster, “You know what...I think Khoa may be the best player in the U.S. right now.”

**American Allstar Women**

Unlike the women’s singles, Amy Feng Romeo’s 19, 19, 19 win in the semifinals’ against Suzanne Schilhab. In the final, it was Amy (who defeated Johannie Fu in another half, 14 & 17) over Peggy, 15 & 15.

**Results**


AA Singles—Final: Ravzan Cretu d. Barney J. Reed, 17, 16; SF: Cretu d. Dave Fernandez, 13, 15, 17; Reed d. Sohail Kiani, 11, 21, 16.

AA Singles: Niraj Oak & George Tai split prize.


BB Singles: M’Vela d. Mirda Ebin, 6, 17, 14.

BB Singles: Barney D. Reed d. N. Agrimundie, 18, 18, 17.

B Singles: Bin Xu d. D. Rountree, 12, 19.


CCC Singles: Peter Sze d. B. Oporowski, 19, 14.

C Singles: E. Green d. T. Hongsonklang, 10, 18, 19.


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May/June 1995

Table Tennis Today 13

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1994 U.S. OPEN and other VIDEO TAPES

**Tape 1**

Men’s Singles QF: #1: Chris Leung (CHN) - Li Ling (CHN) #2: Allen (FRA) - Zoug (CHN) Men’s Doubles: #1: Chun Yen / Young Ming (TPE) - Zoug / Qian (CHN) #2: Sze / Kiang (HKG) - Leung / Cheung (CHN)

**Tape 2**


**Tape 3**


**Tape 4**

Women’s Singles Final: Gao Jun (USA) - Amy Feng (USA)

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Table Tennis Today 13
VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT
San Jose, California
January 28-29, 1995

by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

California Star Khoa Nguyen finished third after Cheng Yinghua & Jim Butler, but his win over Butler in the preliminary foreshadowed his Giant-Killing two months later at the Louisiana Open.

T
able tennis has become one of the highlights of the Vietnamese New Year celebrations which takes place annually in the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in San Jose, California. The players are always a part of the annual parade and/or the lighting of the Torch of Freedom. The credit for the success of the tournament goes to the Nguyen family, with John soliciting the sponsors, Roger administering the tournament, and Khoa performing at the table. This year the prize award for first place in the Open was $2,000.00, a prize good enough to bring the best players in the USA as well as some players from overseas, such as Canada and Norway. (Hint-Hint)

This year three divisions were played, the Open, the Bay Area Invitational, and a Junior division. The introduction of a Junior division was refreshing. It was wonderful watching the juniors with ratings over 2000, the future of the sport, demonstrating their talents. It was also an incentive to families who attended the tournament to encourage their children to participate in the sport and become champions. There was also another unpublicized division which took place on Friday night. It was a small tournament for the Vietnamese Senior players. In all matches the quality of the games was raised to a higher level. No matter how a game began with a huge discrepancy between the players, it was equalized at 19-19 and deuces.

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All matches of the Open event were played as 3 out of 5 games. While the audience enjoyed the length of the games, and graciously supported every good point regardless of who won it; the players paid a heavy burden for the length of the matches. All in all it was a cosmopolitan atmosphere, which included all ages, sexes, ethnic origins, and nationalities.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

OPEN:
Group 1: Cheng Yinghua; Yong Jaing Lui, De Tran, Chi Sun Shui, Shashin Shodham
Group 2: Jim Butler, Khoa Nguyen, Marcus Torge, Da Zhi Guo, Loc Bao Ngo
Group 1 finished exactly as seeded. In Group 2, Khoa played really well. He has been training to go to the World's this year in China. He won his group 4-0 beating everybody three straight except Butler in four. In this event, the top three from each group advanced to the final RR. Order of finish: 1. Cheng, 2. Butler, 3. Khoa, 4. Liu, 5. De Tran, 6. Guo.

CLASS A:
Group 1: Jimmy Guan, Phuong Le, Masaaki Tajima, Dave Roberts, Eric Hamilton, Quan Huynh
Group 2: Hung Nguyen, Voltaire Trillo, Duc Au, Phong Ho, Azmy Ibrahim, Patricia Hocke

In this event two RR of six players took place, with two advancing from each group for a crossover final. The order of finish: 1. Phuong, 2. Voltaire, 3. Duc, 4. Jimmy.

JUNIORS:
Group 1: Philip Lim , Freddie Gabriel, Andrew Do, Stacey Lee, Jaque Tseng, John Liu
Group 2: Phong Ho, Peter Zajac, Vineet Agarwal, Michelle Tseng, Michelle Do, Christian Buckholts

The top two of each group advanced for a final RR. Vineet surprised the group by winning all his matches. The final round ended as follows: 1. Philip, 2. Vineet, 3. Freddie, 4. Peter.

Congratulations to all the winners, and hope to see everybody and many more next year.

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<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Allstar Girls U18 RR</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sat 4 p.m.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Allstar Jr U16 RR</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sat 5 p.m.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
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**CLARION HOTEL** 31525 W 12 Mile Rd, Farmington Hills MI just off exit that goes to JCC. Take Orchard Lake Rd exit north off I-696 and turn left at 12 Mile. Hotel is immediately on left. Six miles from playing site. Phone 1-800-CLARION or 1-810-553-0000.

**Tournament Information:**
**DIRECTOR:** Cody Jones
**VIDEO:** Take home your matches on tape. Call Stan Talifer (313) 835-6629.
**REFEREE:** Joseph Helfand
**AGES:** As of July 15, 1995
**ELIGIBILITY:** Events # 3-5 are open to USA citizens & USA residents w green cards. Events # 22-24 are open to USA citizens or residents of USA over 6 months. All players must be members of the USATT or ITTF affiliate or purchase a USATT membership.
**DRESS:** USATT dress code will be enforced.
**EQUIPMENT:** 25 Butterfly tables, Nittaku orange balls courtesy of TG Enterprises.
**BOOTH:** Full line of quality table tennis equipment by TG Enterprises (800) 825-7664.
**PLAY:** Events 1, 3, & 4 are best of five. All others best of three.
**FOOD:** Hot food for sale at snack bar by swimming pool. Please keep food and drinks confined to player lounge.
**DEADLINE:** July 3, 1995. Any late entries, entries without payment or phone entries will be charged a fee of $10.00.

**USATT memberships:** Adult $25 1 yr / $60 3 yr Jr U18 $8 1 yr / $12 1 yr w Today
College table tennis athletes descended en masse to Princeton University as the National Championship awaited a new suitor. April 1-2 marked the 23rd time that the collegiate nationals were held, and it was the tenth consecutive year that the Princeton University Table Tennis Club had hosted the event. This year, the event was also co-hosted by the League of Northeast Intercollegiate Table Tennis (a coalition of a dozen schools with table tennis programs).

Adding to the excitement of the two-day tournament was the unexpected first-time entry of a United College California team, as well as a team from the University of Florida. Other schools who made the trip to Princeton for the first time were Drew University and Montgomery Community College. In all, the tournament drew nineteen teams and eighty-five individual participants. At the tippy top of class was two-time defending National Champion University of Maryland. The Terrapins had come in hopes that they could accomplish that which only two other schools had done before: win for the third consecutive year. Augsburg College of Georgia had a three-year run in the early nineties, and Rutgers University dominated the sport for much of the eighties, culminating in seven straight national titles, a record that (like John Wooden’s UCLA teams of basketball) will probably stand the test of time. Nevertheless, a mini-dynasty was at stake, and the boys from Maryland were understandably nervous. 1993 Tournament MVP and team standout Todd Sweeris was conspicuously absent from the hollowed halls of Dillon Gymnasium this year, due to illness in the family. Present were 1994 MVP Xu Huazhang, former Taiwan National Team Member Ernest Hung, Larry Hodges, Rung-Kai Tsay and Andre Scott, still a formidable lineup.

Standing in their way to a three-peat were strong teams from Montgomery Community College, Ivy standout Pennsylvania, and the two newcomers from California and Florida.

A lot of the most exciting action took place on Friday night, before the first real team tie was played. The pre-tourney MVP awards were all swept by Princeton team members. First-year Julie Le and sophomore Bill (“O.D.”) O’Donnell tagged as Hospitality Chairs, and did not sleep a wink until all early-arriving athletes had been picked up at the airport, and settled into their housing spots. Seniors Boyd Goodson, Humberto Dorta and David Wagner displayed the skills borne of experience as they effortlessly set up the playing site and control center. Way to go, gys.

Day one would consist of all round robin matches, mostly within conference, although some crossover matches also loomed for certain teams. The idea of day one is to provide the tournament committee with enough data to make seeding decisions the day two single elimination draw possible. What this means for the teams is a lot of competition—five team matches, minimum. The Northern Division, headed by Maryland, United Collegiate California (U.C. Irvine and Stanford), Rutgers I and Princeton I, played out as expected. Other schools included SUNY-Stonybrook, New York University, Brown II, Princeton II, Boston University/M.I.T., and Princeton III, with Princeton providing the only upset in their 4-2 win over Brown II. The Southern Division was taken by Montgomery Community College. The fight for second place resulted in a monster of a match between Pennsylvania I and University of Florida. Unfortunately, this match occurred in an almost-empty gymnasium, as all other teams had already finished and were relaxing at the player’s party! Little did everyone know that a full-scale war was going on, with all matches going the full three games except one. The battle reached a suitably dramatic conclusion, as Penn came out on top with the upset win, deuce in the third in the final and deciding match. The Pennsylvania team seems to thrive as the pressure mounts. David Rosenzweig is the captain of a squad that presents a different look to opponents at every step of the way, as well as (in the case of wildman Ravi Ponamgi) a different listen. Ponamgi provides a non-stop one-man commentary of his game as he plays (volume set to eleven), much to the delight of everyone except his opponent. He’s also somewhat of a table tennis trash talker, which is not entirely new to the competitors, but Ponamgi has definitely revolutionized the art form. His performance is usually repeated with fist-pumpings, victory dances, animal noises, bilingual profanity...you get the picture, which in Ponamgi’s case is worth at least a thousand words, all of which must be muttered, screamed or bellowed before the first side change.

After the conclusion of competition on Saturday, the players congregated to the comfortable surroundings of Princeton University’s International Center for the Player’s Party/Dinner. Meanwhile, the tournament committee was busy calculating the seedings for Sunday’s single elimination draw, from which the 1995 champion would emerge. Maryland locked up the top seed, while Montgomery, United California, Pennsylvania I, Florida, Rutgers I, Princeton I and Brown I rounded out the top eight, respectively.

Play-in team matches were won by Cooper Union (over a haggard Princeton III), Drew University in a tight match over Brown II, and the Terrors of Western Maryland over Princeton II, who would learn the true meaning of fear during their first-round encounter with their top-seeded eastern state mates. All the top eight teams survived the first round to make it into the quarterfinals. Brown I pulled out a close match over a feisty SUNY-Stonybrook team, but all other matches were one-sided.

Quarterfinals

Per Berglund, Princeton’s Swedish transplant and chopper extraordinaire, showed great fighting spirit to extend Montgomery’s #1 Sean Lonergan to a third game, but that was Princeton’s last hurrah, as Montgomery stormed into the semifinals with a 4-0 whitewashing of the home team. Pennsylvania rode David Rosenzweig’s tough win over Rutgers #1 Larry Bavlly to a 4-1 win and a second consecutive trip into the Final Four. With defending champion Maryland’s easy 4-0 win over Brown, there was only one spot left in the semis left for either United California or Florida.

Both Tuan Pham and Sun Wei, California’s #1 and #4, had flights to catch back to the Golden State scheduled for early Sunday evening, and as their quarterfinal match progressed, time became an added source of stress for the Californians. Sunshine State’s University of Florida didn’t make things easy as they scrapped hard in every game. The clash between The Luminecsts resulted in a blinding display of team table tennis, and emotions were running high both on the table and the sidelines as well. Leading 3-2, Tuan Pham lost a close match to Florida’s super-smooth shakehander, Tan Kean Seong. On the sidelines, with time running out before becoming a permanent resident of New Jersey, Pham must have experienced pure agony while watching teammate Sailu Nemana battling Florida’s captain Kan Heng-Chuan in a close match. Perhaps it was thoughts of sunny California (as well as the urgings of captain Sam Shen) that broke hisHamlet-like paralysis and sent him scurrying for Newark Airport, with the final result still unknown. As he would later find out, teammate Nemana would secure match and team match point while he was busy counting the cars on the New Jersey Turnpike.

Semifinals

The Final Four pitted Maryland against Pennsylvania, and an undermanned California against Montgomery. Both matches were anticlimactic, as the two top seeds let nothing get in the way of their expected showdown in the finals. Maryland versus Montgomery, neighbors and friends from the National Table Tennis Center, would fight for the right to take The Pequot Trophy home for a year.

Third-Fourth Place

In an act of gamesmanship that exemplified the spirit of this tournament, Pennsyl-

vania agreed (actually, they themselves requested) to reformat the team match to a best-of-five, 2-on-2 structure for the match between themselves and California, who only had two players left. Once again, California came out on top of a real barnburner, winning 3-2, and claiming a

16 Table Tennis Today

May/June 1995
1995 ACUI NATIONAL COLLEGIATE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Georgia State University
April 21-22, 1995

by Michael Hyatt

Men's & Women's Singles Final. Runner-up Carl Eriksson loops to Champion Sean Lonergan on left, Champion Jane Chui loops to Runner-up Carla Medeiros on right.

Photos by Richard McAfee ©1995

Women's Singles Champion, Jane Chui of University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

The 1995 ACUI National Collegiate Championships was sponsored by ACUI, USATT, Newgy Industries, and Georgia State University. Special thanks to our sponsors and the host school Georgia State University. Also thanks to Chastain and the Coan Park Table Tennis Club, which provided several volunteers for this event.

Men's Singles--Final: Sean Lonergan d. Carl Eriksson, 19,-17,16,-14,14; SF: Lonergan d. Mark Dublin, -19,19,23; Eriksson d. David Rosenzweig, 14,17; 3rd: Dublin d. Rosenzweig, -18,11,18; QF: Lonergan d. Jason St. George, 15,10; Dublin d. Andrew Chen An, -16,17,22; Rosenzweig d. Eugene Shuster, -20,19,17; Eriksson d. Leo Shuster, 12,11; Women's Singles--Final: Jane Chui d. Carla Medeiros, 6,9; SF: Chui d. Bi Tran, 15,-15,14; Medeiros d. Linjin Xu, -18,12,12; 3rd: L. Xu d. Medeiros, 15,-15,14; QF: Chui d. Kim Low, 13,14; Tran d. Young Xu; L. Xu d. Debbie Doney, 8,14; Medeiros d. Alla Ginzburg, 13,14.

Men's Doubles--Final: Carl Eriksson/ Jason St. George (Case Western Reserve University, -18,17,16,14; SF: Lonergan/St. George d. David Rosenzweig, 14,17; 3rd: Rosenzweig d. Eugene Shuster, -17,19; Eriksson d. Leo Shuster, 12,11; Women's Doubles--Final: Jane Chui/ Carla Medeiros d. Andrew Petty/ Young Xu, 15,-15,14; Shuster/Chui d. Mark Dubin/ Alla Ginzburg, 13,14.

Mixed Doubles--Final: Andrew Chen An/ Carla Medeiros d. Eugene Shuster/ Jane Chui, 15,-17,16; SF: Chen/ Medeiros d. Andrew Petty/Young Xu; Shuster/Chui d. Mark Dubin/ Alla Ginzburg.

Elite Singles--Final: Sean Lonergan d. Carl Eriksson, 19,-17,16,-14,14 (same match as Men's Singles Final); SF: Lonergan d. David Rosenzweig, 15,-17,19; Eriksson d. Jane Chui, 19,-13,18; 3rd: Chui d. Rosenzweig, 8,-17,8.


the second consecutive yeart by defeating Carla Medeiros of Wichita State University, 6 & 9.

The Men's Singles final was an exciting affair and featured two of the highest rated collegiate players in the country. Lonergan (2455) and Eriksson (2430) gave a good display of top class table tennis to an appreciative audience. There were many long forehand counterlooping points in a match that was exciting from start to finish. Lonergan's consistency and smart play prevailed in the end, and having fought back from being match point down twice in earlier rounds, truly deserved to be crowned the 1995 ACUI Men's Singles Champion.

Andrew Chen An (Pittsburgh State).

Over 55 athletes representing 40 Colleges and Universities attended the two-day event which featured the top collegiate players in the country. This year's event saw a record number of participants in both the men's and women's divisions, with 30 men and 18 women.

These athletes competed for eight National titles, and qualified for this event by placing in the top 4 in their Regional tournament. The 1995 ACUI National Championships featured three new events in the Expert and Elite singles, as well as the Regional team title.

Conradson's top effort in the match was notable. He delivered a series of signature topspin effort in his match with the University of Maryland's Manager/Player "Bad Boy" Andre Scott, National Wheelchair Champion and 2000 player. He's also a manager for the University of Maryland/Joe Smith Basketball Team.

conditional third-place finish.

The Finals

The championships started off on a strange note, as Montgomery's Pal Jonsson defaulted to Maryland's road warrior Andre Scott due to injury. Coming off a three-month suspension brought upon by excessive use of his mouth, Scott proved that he hadn't lost a step in his absence by claiming that Jonsson defaulted because he knew that he had no chance. Nevertheless, Montgomery charged back into contention with consecutive wins. Sean Lonergan gave Maryland's #2 ringer Ernest Hung more than he could handle, while the fired up consequtive wins. Sean Lonergan gave Maryland #1 Xu Huazhang steadied himself after an error-laden first game, to defeat Masamichi Kubo and tie the match at 2-2. Going into the doubles match, Maryland was understandably nervous. Andre Scott, tough as he is, is nevertheless a difficult partner in doubles. But partner Larry Hodges displayed a delicate pair of feet, and the two pulled off an improbable upset to give Maryland a 3-2 lead. Xu Huazhang once again shrugged off a bad start to defeat Sean Lonergan and clinch the title, for the third time in a row, for the University of Maryland. The Pequod Trophy will be on display at College Park for a full year before returning to Princeton for next year's championships.

The Finals Standings

1. University of Maryland
2. Montgomery College
3. United Collegiate California
4. University of Pennsylvania
5. Brown I
5-8. University of Florida
5-8. Princeton I
5-8. Rutgers I
9-16. Boston University/M.I.T.
9-16. Cooper Union
9-16. Drew University
9-16. Pennsylvania II
9-16. Rutgers II
9-16. SUNY-Stonybrook
9-16. Western Maryland
16. Princeton II
16. Brown II
19. Princeton III

Congratulations to all participants for making the trip to Georgia State University. Your participation is what makes this competition possible (in the words of Penn's David Rosenzweig) "the best #2.5 & #10 tournament of the year! Special thanks to Christopher Lehman, tournament referee. For more information about next year's tournament, contact Andre Liu at 6 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542. E-mail: AXL8@AOL.COM

May/June 1995

Table Tennis Today 17
If you love Table Tennis and want to have chills run up and down your spine, then go to the Pan American games when they are in South America.

The South Americans have no reservations about showing their emotions during team sports. They love their team and hate your team. They scream at you, they stamp their feet, they whistle when you serve, they boo you in the opening ceremonies. Team sports are a passion to our neighbors in the "South."

What thrilled me so much was the intensity that was generated by the Table Tennis competition. This was my first time to see Table Tennis played where the outcome truly mattered to the audience. I have seen good team matches in Detroit, but not when many people really cared who won. I have seen good individual matches at the U.S. Open and the U.S. Closed and at other regional tournaments around the United States. But in all honesty, maybe a parent or several close friends, or a teammate or club member paid close attention to the match and even cheered, but that is rare. But WOW, in the Pan American Games, the crowd (and I mean a full house) was emotionally involved in every match the Argentines played. And they showed it.

Now I know that if we can create a real interest in who wins and who loses, Table Tennis can become great entertainment. Team events seem to be the catalyst.

Results of the Team Competition:

Men's Team:
The U.S. (Jim Butler, Sean O'Neil, Derek May, and Chi-Sun Chiu) beat a good Canadian team to win the silver. Joe Ng, Francis Trudel, and Horatio Pintea gave us all we wanted before we took the silver.

Canada then defeated Cuba for the Bronze medal.

The critical match to get to the medal round was the match with Argentina. This was perfect, if you were a promoter. You were a good situation for the USA. Derek wins the first game, and it looks like a cake walk. But no such luck. The Argentine, who goes up 2-1, and John has to beat the upstart that almost beat Jim. This would not have been a good situation for the USA—if he loses, we are out. I was impressed by the team spirit of both the men's and women's teams. All team details were handled by team leader Bob Fox, who did an incredible job. He seemed to do everything from driving the van, planning schedules, making sure the draws were fair, passing out uniforms, and clearing medical records. The list is endless. Where does he get the energy? Dr. Michael Scott was there as an official. But due to the wide-spread illness on the team, he did much doctoring. He brings class to everything he does. We are lucky to have suchfine people like these two in U.S. Table Tennis.

My wife, Patty, and I felt honored to be the sole USA rooting team in the stands. Thousands of Argentine fans tried to drown our cheers by hooting unknown staccato Spanish phrases continuously. It was an experience we will never forget. The opening ceremonies were elaborate. The Argentine people were wonderful and Mar Del Plata was a beautiful seacoast city. The food was exotic. And the five-hour train ride from Buenos Aires was quite an adventure. To all U.S. team members, Thanks for the memories.

**Women's Teams**: USA defeated Guatemala 3-0; Defeated Argentina 3-1; Defeated Chile 3-0. 

**Women's Singles**: USA Women's Team- 3rd: Lijuan Geng (CAN); Silver: Lily Yip (USA); Bronze: Diana Gee (USA) & Tawny Banh (USA). 

**Women's Teams**: USA defeated Guatemala 3-0; Defeated Argentina 3-1; Defeated Chile 3-0. 

**Women's Singles**: USA Women's Team- 3rd: Lijuan Geng (CAN); Silver: Lily Yip (USA); Bronze: Diana Gee (USA) & Tawny Banh (USA). 

**Men's Singles**: Gold: Brazil; Silver: USA; Bronze: Canada; 4th: Cuba; 5th: Chile; 6th: Jamaica; 7th: Argentina; 8th: Barbados. 

**Men's Team**: USA defeated Brazil to win the Bronze. Argentina finished 5th; Chile finished 6th; Peru 7th and Dominican Republic 8th.

**Final Impressions**: This was my first time to see Table Tennis played where the outcome truly mattered to the audience. I have seen good individual matches at the U.S. Open and the U.S. Closed and at other regional tournaments around the United States. But in all honesty, maybe a parent or several close friends, or a teammate or club member paid close attention to the match and even cheered, but that is rare. But WOW, in the Pan American Games, the crowd (and I mean a full house) was emotionally involved in every match the Argentines played. And they showed it.

Canada squeaked by us to gain the Gold medal. It was too much Geng. Cuba defeated Brazil to win the Bronze. Argentina finished 5th; Chile finished 6th; Peru 7th and Dominican Republic 8th.

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**Women's Singles**: USA Women's Team- 3rd: Lijuan Geng (CAN); Silver: Lily Yip (USA); Bronze: Diana Gee (USA) & Tawny Banh (USA).
SENIOR TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT (Age 50 and over)

Held in conjunction with the annual HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES
St. George, Utah - October 17 - 20, 1995

REGISTRATION FEE:
$59 to be received by DEADLINE of September 25. If received by August 25, you may take a $10 discount and pay only $49. There is also a $10 fee to cover ratings, etc. The general registration fee includes a participant's shirt, opening banquet, opening ceremonies, official program, identification badge, HWSS gift, gold, silver or bronze medals, and an official results booklet, mailed afterwards, listing all the winners in all events.

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

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

FOR INFORMATION
1-800-562-1268 (Office, USA only)
1- 801-674-0550 (Office & Local)
1-801-674-0589 (Fax)

FOR REGISTRATION PACKET:
Write to:
Huntsman World Senior Games
50 East 100 South #211
St. George, UT 84770

Please send registration packet to:
NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________
CITY: ____________________________ STATE: __________ ZIP: __________

EVENTS:

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<th>Men's Singles</th>
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<td>4. All Ages</td>
<td>9. Age 70-74</td>
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1-801-674-0589 (Fax)

Director .................. Grant Misbach
Co-Director ............... John Roseander
Referee .................... Tom Miller
Special Assistant .......... Marilyn Miller
Special Assistant .......... Cathy McCarthy
Chief Umpire ................ John Garnett
Free Professional Inst. .... Tybie Sommer
1994 WORLD TEAM CUP

Nimes, France

October 12-16, 1994

by Sheri Soderberg Pittman

I had the privilege of escorting the U.S. women's team to the 1994 World Team Cup in Nimes, France. The team consisted of Lily Yip, Wei Wang, Anita Zakharyan, and Coach Zhang Li. We were placed in the same round robin as China and Russia, which was ironic since our three players consisted of two natives of China and one of Russia. It made for more pronounced drama since the women on our team were in memory (at least for me) of the training techniques and the competitive strategies of our opponents. The reality, though, was that all of our opponents were full-time table tennis players who train as a topto players who had trained together just the week before the competition.

Because no country from Africa came, we were given a bye in the first round. China defeated us 3-0, as did Russia in the next round. Our women made a valiant effort, though. Even when the games weren't as close as we would have hoped, each of our team members gave it their best shot, so to speak. Wei was ever the optimist and kept spirits high. She practiced hard for the training sessions and worked even harder during her matches. Anita shared her ideas regarding the methodology of the teams we were scheduled to play against and fought her hardest, too. Coach Li, the official of this well-seasoned group of competitors, aces it from her psychological and tactical insights.

The team made a very professional impression, as despite the fact that we lost both team matches 3-0, it'd like to point out that we lost to the number one seed (China) and to the number one finisher (Russia).

The Chinese men's team defeated Sweden in the final, 3-1. The whole men's competition was a little unbalanced. Several teams came minus their star: Belgium/Jan-Ove Waldner withdrew due to physical injury; Poland/Andrzej Grubba, the Chinesemen's team defeated Swe-

The event. The teams were selected regarding the methodology of the teams we

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EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP 1995
Karlsruhe, Germany
January 13-15, 1995
Final Stages
Final: Sweden d. Russia,3-1; Karlsson d.
D. Mazunov,12,-17,10; Persson d.
A. Mazunov,13,13,13; Waldner/Persson d.
D. Mazunov/A. Mazunov,17,71; Persson d.
D. Mazunov,18,18,16; SF: Russia d.
Germany,3-2; D. Mazunov d. Franz,12,14;
A. Mazunov d. Rosskopf,18,16; D. Mazunov/A.
Mazunov d. Franz/Woolf,15,24; D. Mazunov
d. Persson,13,16; A. Mazunov d. Franz,19,18,20; Sweden
d. England,3-0; Karlsson d. Cooke,18,18,14;
Persson d. Syed,9,12; Karlsson/Persson d.
Billington/Perry,16,13.

WORLD ALL-STARS CIRCUIT
Tokyo, Japan
Japan Series
January 20, 1995
Final: J.M.Saive (BEL) d. Kim Tack Soo
(KOR),12,18,20; SF: J.M.Saive d. P.Saive
(BEL),13,11; Kim d. Wang Tao (CHN) ,16,15,9;
QF: J.M.Saive d. Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR) 17,20;
P.Saive d. Yuzawa (JPN) 12,16,19; Kim d.
M. Gatien (FRA) 12,18, Wang d. Y.Matsushita
(JPN) 7,16.

January 22, 1995
Final: Gatien (FRA) d. K. Matsushita (JPN)
11,19,10; SF: Matsushita d. J.M.Saive
(BEL),20,18,17; Gatiend. Wang Tao (CHN)
19,14; QF: J.M.Saive d. Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR)
15,17,12; Matsushita d. Imaeda (JPN) 13,16,7;
Gatien d. Kim Tack Soo (KOR),14,14; Wang d.
P.Saive (BEL),13,15,16.

January 25, 1995
In Kahoku-machi,
Noorkoping, Sweden
Final: J.M.Saive (BEL) d. Kim Tack Soo
(KOR),16,9,10; Wang d. Kim Moo Kyo
(KOR),17,18,12; QF: Liu d. Ryu Ji Hae
(KOR),17,18,12; Wang d. Yoo Nam Kyu
(KOR) 19; SF: Matsushita d. Noorkoping
(SWE) 19,17,15; Karlsson d. Lin Zhigang,
17,17; Karlsson d. Kong,18,14: SF: Sweden d.
China,3-2.

1994SWEDENOPENCHAMPIONSHIPS
November 23-27, 1994
Kungsladugard, Sweden
Final: Sweden d. China,3-1. Waldner d.
Kong Linhui,17,15; Karlsson d. Lin Zhigang,17,17;
Persson/Waldner d. Lui Guoliang/Lin,-21,20;
Waldner d. Kim Tack Soo, 16,-19,21,14: SF: Yoo
Nam Kyu d. Wang Tao (CHN) 18,14,16;
QF: Saive d. Karlsson (SWE) ,18,17,16;
Primorac d. J.M.Saive (KOR) 17,-8,17,14;
Ding d. Kim Tack Soo (KOR) ,18,14,16;
QF: Saive d. Karlsson (SWE) ,18,17,16;
Primorac d. Persson (SWE) ,18,22,14; Kim d.
M. Gatien (FRA) 8,11,24,14; Ding d.
Wang Tao (CHN) ,17,18,12.

Women's Singles—Final: Wang Huei-Yin
(TPE) 5,8,18; QF: Jing d. Yang Ying
(CHN) 14,21,19,7; SF: China d. Italy,3-2.

Women's Doubles—Final: Yang Ying (CHN)
d. Kyo,19,15.

1995KOREAN NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS
December 12-17, 1994
Seoul, Korea
Men's Singles—Final: Yoo Nam Kyu d.
Kim Tack Soo,16,19,21,16; SF: Yoo d. Yoon
Sang Jun,9,15,15; Kim d. Lee Sang Jun,
18,18,19,16.

Women's Singles—Final: Park Hae Jung d.
Kim Bun Sik,19,17,17; SF: Park d. Ryu Ji
Hae,16,17,20,18; Kim d. Lee Un Sil,14,17,15.

Men's Doubles—Final: Yoo Nam Kyu/Kim
Bong Chai d. Yoon Sang Jun/Park Kwang
Pyung,19,16.

Women's Doubles—Final: Park Hae Jung/
Ryu Ji Hae d. Park Kyung Ae/Kim Moo
Kyo,19,15.

Mixted Doubles—Final: Yoo Nam Kyu/Park
Kwang Ae d. Lee Yoo Jin/Ryu Ji Hae,17,19.
KUDOS TO OUR TOP TWO JUNIORS

Dave Fernandez and Barney J. Reed each made an important breakthrough recently. Dave, whose rating hit 2500 in the Nov/Dec issue of TTToday, is the first player in U.S. history to break 2500 in four years of play! Dave, now 17, started playing four years ago at age 13.

Barney J. Reed became the first U.S. junior player to achieve a world ranking. In the March ITTF rankings, Barney's ranking in the world was 318. (It's only in recent times that the ITTF ranked players past the top 100, and some of our top players would have achieved world rankings as juniors if the current system had been in use.)

Don Iguna, meanwhile, continues to star as the world's top-ranked three-year-old, with a rating of 24. You can look it up.

TOUGH SPORT

No, it wasn't an April Fool's joke. On Saturday, Apr. 1, 1995, during the NBC coverage of the McMoRan Golf Classic, there was talk of how pro golfer Mike "Radar" Reid had recently been injured...playing ping-pong. "Tough sport," says commentator Johnny Miller.

"It is the way he plays it," responds Dave Fernandez and Barney J. Reed. "He's still got the serve, but now he's got the guts to play it!"

VIVIAN LEE RECEIVES GRANT

On April 1, 1995, the first National Intercollegiate Table Tennis Championships were held in Philadelphia. The tournament was organized by Thomas C. Bradley Jr., who hosted the event.

The first National Intercollegiate Table Tennis Championships, for the newly created Thomas C. Bradley Cup, were held in November of 1937 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The event was well attended by teams from different states.

The Intercollegiate National Championships are annual events organized by the NCAA. They were first held in 1937 as a way to promote competition among college teams across the country.

USATT INSURANCE POLICY

USA Table Tennis apologizes for any confusion that has occurred regarding club liability insurance. It appears that club directors were being told by the carrier that USATT liability insurance covered sanctioned events only and not practices or club play; however, after negotiations between the agent and the insurance company, coverage now includes all club play under USATT's general insurance policy. For more information, contact Trish at Accordia at 1-800-332-9256 or Jennifer Brickle at American Specialty Insurance, 1-800-245-2744.

DIDJA KNOW?

by Bob Green

The first National Intercollegiate Table Tennis Championships, for the newly created Thomas C. Bradley Cup, were held in November of 1937 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The event was well attended by teams from different states. They were divided into four groups for round robin play. Group A was won by CCNY (New York); Group B by De Paauw (Indiana); Group C by Princeton (New Jersey); Group D by Penn (Pennsylvania).

At the semi-final round, Penn defeated Princeton and CCNY defeated De Paauw. The finals was won by Penn defeating CCNY 3-1 and Princeton 3-0. The University of Pennsylvania team top players were Izzy Bellis and Len Senar. Top individual honors went to Bernard Grimes of CCNY with 3012 matches and losing games. This was the start of many successful Intercollegiate National Championships.

Some mathematical genius (would you believe maybe Nosredan?) came up with a chart showing the percentage probability of an upset, during the table tennis matches, between players of reasonably stable ratings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Probability (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>200</td>
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</tbody>
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Warning: be aware that the above percentages are theoretical and will be changed by such things as styles of play, temper tantrums, poor lighting, slippery floor, breaks against you, junk rubber, or an umpire who doesn't like you.

Today's helpful hint: Does the ball frequently hit your finger during play? Don't despair, as there is a surgical cure for this problem.

THE EDIBLE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

by Greg Brendon

Recently during a doubles match, a debate occurred over which team should serve next. It was the second game, team B had served first in the game to team A, and the score was 16 to 15. A debate ensued as to which team was supposed to serve next despite the fact that both teams agreed that team B had served first in the game. There is a quick way to determine which team serves next, provided it's known which team served first in the game. If the last digit of the total game score is 0 (zero), 1, 2, 3, or 4, then team A served first, and then team B served first in the game. If the last digit of the total game score is 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, then team A served first, and team B served second in the game

The one exception occurs after a 20 to 20 score: in that case the team that served first in the game serves at deuce; when either team has the ad, the team that served second in the game has the serve. If the last digit of the total game score is 0 (zero), 1, 2, 3, or 4, then team A served first, and then team B served first in the game. If the last digit of the total game score is 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, then team A served first, and team B served second in the game.

The above formula also works in singles. And of course, when an error in order of service is discovered, all points scored up to that time still count, and the correct service order is promptly restored.

HEARD ANYTHING INTERESTING AT THE TABLE TENNIS CLUB LATELY?

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OLYMPIC TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

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May/June 1995
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** ** THE ROCKVILLE, MD CLINIC WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE MONTHLY TOURNAMENT AT THE NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CENTER, SAT. & SUN, JUNE 17-18.

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Entry form will appear in the July/August issue of Table Tennis Today

This event is sponsored by:
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May/June 1995
The Forehand Serve of JIM BUTLER

Three-Time U.S. Men's Singles Champion

by Wei Wang

USATT Certified National Coach...1990 National Champion
Jim Butler's Forehand Serve by Wei Wang

Jim Butler has been among the top U.S. men's table tennis players for a decade—and yet he is only 24 years old. He started playing at the age of 6, reached about a 1500 level at 9 and from age 14 on has been a member of the U.S. National Team. He won his first of three National Championships the same year as I did in 1990 in San Diego. Jim has spent six months of each of the last six years playing in the Elite and Division I leagues in Sweden. During that time he realized the importance of developing a sharp serve and decided to learn from one of the best—Peter Karlsson. After emulating his motion, Jim developed his own distinctive version.

Jim has built a very effective style around a backhand that is so consistent and sharp that his opponents at times forget when he missed the last one. His whole game, including his stance, his ball placement, his serve and his overall strategy, is based on that big weapon. Although this does cause him to give up something on the forehand, he forces the opponent to return the ball where he can take it with his backhand. Unless an opponent succeeds in breaking that tendency, he is usually doomed. I have watched many of Jim’s matches at the World Championships, where he left top-ranked players completely befuddled about how to best play him. The usual strategy of controlling a shakehand on his backhand side never works for them, because they probably have rarely played anyone with such a punchy, quick and stingy backhand.

Jim’s serves are an integral part of his game. They are among the world’s best, not only for their spin, speed and placement, but mostly for how well they fit into the rest of his game. The sidespin he imparts carries the ball back to him with just the right arc so he can comfortably take it with his backhand and pressure the opponent. His variations are very effective, particularly when he serves fast, because it gives the receiver little time to see what’s on the ball, and the topspin version looks almost the same from the receiver’s view as the underspin one, and that is usually a major problem.

In this sequence, Jim serves a fast, long topspin ball. The point was played during the december, 1993 U.S. Championship final against David Zhuang. Before he serves, Jim sets up next to the table rather than behind it, his arm reaching over the table from the side, but his hand and the ball resting behind the end line. He starts his motion by raising his racket to head level. Notice how he is holding the racket: He has released the grip somewhat, slid his index finger up on the blade with the other fingers resting close to the side of the handle. That way, he can have more mobility with the racket head for controlling the spin and the direction. He later immediately regrips solidly to continue the point. He is leaning forward with his weight mostly on his left foot.

Now he starts the actual toss. His left hand follows the ball all the way to eye level. Only at 0.3 sec does the ball finally leave his palm. As the ball rises, his weight moves backwards to his right foot. Now, before the ball reaches the highest point of the toss, he drops his racket to close to his right hip (0.5a - 0.5b). As the ball falls past his eyes, he pulls his elbow up high behind his back and lets the racket head drop. Only now does his motion show which serve is coming, but his body completely hides that clue from his opponent. In this case, he will serve topspin with counter-clockwise side spin which will make the ball curve to the left. At 0.7a, the ball is behind Jim’s arm, just below his right eye. We inserted arrows in the following frames to indicate the position of the ball. It falls very close to his body—by now completely out of Jim’s view—and at 0.8a he starts his forward stroke. He pushes off with his right foot and his body moves around the falling path of the ball. Due to his initial body position, the thrust is actually away from the net which brings his body just far enough back to be in compliance with the service rules when he makes contact. (The exact moment of contact falls between 0.8b and 0.9) This motion with his body in conjunction with the explosive forward “stab” with his arm gives his serve its dangerous speed (We calculated that the ball in frame 0.9 is traveling about 20 mph, which is very fast for a serve!) The wrist motion is mostly responsible for the amount and direction of the spin. The first bounce is about 8" from the end line (0.9a), and the ball is moving in a very flat trajectory. Jim’s arm continues with the followthrough. The racket’s upward movement with the striking surface pointing forward after contact further indicates that the ball carries topspin, and this is one of the few clues the opponent can actually get from Jim’s motion (1.0 sec) After his underspin serve, the racket head usually points more forward. After contact, Jim continues his movement away from the table to reach his ready position. In order to get a sharp serve you must practice it as much as possible. Jim spent a few months practicing his new serves at least an hour a day and until now has specific serve training sessions 3 or 4 times a week. He points out the importance of keeping the contact low and moving the whole body in one quick motion.

The serve is an important component of the game that you can actually practice by yourself. I don’t know anybody who has developed excellent serves without regularly taking a bucket full of balls and spending hours perfecting the timing and motion. You should consider the serve as important as any other shot in the game.

I should mention, though, that the advantage gained by the serve is often exaggerated. Particularly at the top level, the server often wins only a little over half of the points (During the ’93 World Championship finals, Gaiten won only 53% of the 94 points he served, Saive only 50% of his 96). That is, because the art of receiving serves has been developed to keep up with the quality of the serves. If the serve is not developed to a high degree, serving will actually become a disadvantage, as unlikely as that sounds.

At lower levels, the impact of the serve is often greater, which confirms that service receiving, although learnable, is the most difficult part of the game. It is important to find a balance between the quality of your serve and the rest of your game. If you get many points outright from your serve, be sure not to neglect your continuation. Often such players rely on their serves too much, “waiting” for their serves to finish up a game when they are ahead. This will invariably backfire as soon as they meet a good receiver.

To simplify the serve issue for yourself, study it once carefully, pick a couple of serves that work particularly well for you, find a video tape with a player you want to copy, and spend a few months perfecting the motion. You will then have an arsenal that is strong enough and you can now concentrate on improving your receiving game.

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, Gaiten, Primorac, Waldner, Karlsson, the Mazunovs, Rosskopf, Fetzner, Saive, and others has never before been available!

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Potomac Open
Potomac, Maryland
by Larry Hodges

April 15-16, 1995

Talk about a strong draw—remember, this was only a 3-star tournament! All the local stars were out in force, except for 2556-rated U.S. Women’s Champion Amy Peng, who had left early for the World Championships. Except for the U.S. Open and Sears Invitational, this was the strongest singles championships. Even the U.S. Open and Sears Invitational, compared to this baby—see box. Though comparable, fell short when compared to this event.

The depth was there, with numerous players in the 2300-2500 range, including 2450+ youth stars Dave Fernandez, Barney J. Reed, and Sean Lonergan. The 8ths of the tournament scattered with 2300 players and even one 2600+ casualty. In the 8ths, Barney J. Reed upset Huazhang Xu, due to-the-third, to advance to the quarters against Jack Huang. In the quarters, Todd defeated his second straight 2600+ player with a deuce-in-the-third win over Gao Jun (a lot of matches like that today!). Cheng Yinghua, David Zhuang and Jack Huang had no trouble in winning each of their matches 2-0 over Sean O’Neill, Dave Fernandez and Barney J. Reed.

In the semi, Cheng and Jack played a quick exhibition, with Cheng advancing. David Zhuang, wearing an illegal shirt, had no trouble with Todd Sweeris in the first game 21-9, then on a 9-1 streak to win the second 21-16 from down 10-13, and came back from down 16-18 in the third to win 21-19, despite serving off from up 19-18.

Playing each other in the finals of a tournament for about the 99th time was, once again, Cheng Yinghua and David Zhuang. And although David often challenges Cheng and beats him occasionally, Cheng came through once again—but David made him earn it in five long, tiring games.


U2500—Final: Dave Sakai & Nazmuddin Asgaralli split prize; SP: Sakai d. Patrick Mualem, 10, 17; Asgaralli d. Heng-Chi Chang, n.s.


U1900: Joseph Steward, Kevin Giles, n.s.


Jimmy Yeh, 21, 12; Kubo d. Deepak Jain, 15, 19.

U1500: Xeng Ly d. Travis Jones, 18-15, 19.

U1300: 1st: George Anderson, 4-1; 2nd: Mel Ketchel, 3-2.

U1000: 1st: Frederick Chen, 4-0; 2nd: Michael Fan, 3-1.

Novice Singles: Charles Fan, Iris Lee, 5, 8.

Over 40: 1st Dave Sakai, 2-0; 2nd: Terry Lonergan, 1-1; 3rd: Fred Halbig, 0-2.

Under 14: David Hsin d. Michael Wah, 19, 18.


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Tournament Information

RULES: USATT & ITTF rules will be used.

EQUIPMENT: USATT approved table balls.

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Age Events: Juniors as of 6/2/95.

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May/June 1995

26 Table Tennis Today


INTERVIEW with

MICHAEL JORDAN

by Bill Hanley

It was March 8, 1994 and the end of spring training was imminent. I thought it might be nice to drive up to Sarasota and see the Chicago White Sox and of course Michael Jordan. I had gone to several games up the road in Fort Myers to see the Twins and the Red Sox and even ventured three hours and half a day north Haven to see the Cleveland Indians. The White Sox were playing the Blue Jays that day and game time was 1:05. I like to get to the games early to watch batting practice and if possible get autographs of my favorite players.

I’ve learned over the years that the best way to get information is to talk to the security people at the field. They can tell you the best times and the exact locations to get someone’s autograph. Even though there were many superstars at this game such as Frank Thomas, Roberto Alomar, and John Olerud, I wanted to know about Michael Jordan. The security person I spoke with told me that Jordan rarely steps after the game to sign because he usually heads for the clubhouse and plays ping pong. He said the magic word or words, I thought, “Jordan, you’re going to have to go here; this is great.” I became very interested at this point and asked how could I get in the clubhouse to see this. He told me I would have to get permission from the public relations director for the White Sox. I spoke to Mr. Doug Abel and asked if it would be possible to interview Michael Jordan on behalf of Table Tennis Today Magazine and he gave me a qualified yes.

Qualified of course meant there were conditions. I was thinking to myself that that since this was the next to last day of spring training I’m not going to be able to do this, at least this year. He told me I needed to get authorization from the editor of our magazine on official permission to cover this.

This didn’t seem like an insurmountable task, but again not something I could get done in 24 hours. I thanked him and said I’d see you later. Things were getting in the way of the sports that night on WGN, the Chicago channel, they not only gave the scores of the baseball game but the scores of the ping pong games. Jordan lost 2 straight to Alex Fernandez. They spoke about how the ball players love to play ping pong each day in the clubhouse. All of this of course set the stage and was what led up to the actual interview.

It was now January 1995 and the new spring season was about to begin. A call to Editor Larry Hodges was in order. I explained the situation to Larry and he didn’t hesitate to get me what I needed. Once I received Larry’s authorization I sent it to Sarasota to the public relations department. Having received Larry’s permission, Mr. Abel of the White Sox called me and said everything was in order. He suggested I might want to go again a couple of weeks to see if the strike is settled, and then I could interview some of the others like Frank Thomas. Seemed like a good idea; however, having watched the news and reading the paper, it didn’t seem like things were getting any closer to a settlement. The situation actually appeared to worsen when I heard that the union was considering minor leaguers who were playing in games as replacements as strike-breakers. I knew that if this were the case and the strike wasn’t settled I wouldn’t be interviewing anybody.

I called Mr. Abel on February 21st. He told me I could come up the next day, and he would have a media pass for me at the gate. On February 22, I arrived at Sarasota’s Ed Smith Field at 9:15 AM. It’s a beautiful day—not a cloud in the sky and about 65 degrees. I’m told by the guard that my pass is in the clubhouse. My one-day pass was a sticker that I put on my shirt. The rest of the media had permanent passes on chains around their necks. I figured I’d stick with them as they seemed familiar with where to go, etc.

Looking for Jordan could have been a task with half a dozen ball fields and over a hundred players, and everyone playing at the same time. I needed help. “Hey,” I asked a channel 4 news reporter, “do you know where Jordan is?” “He’s on [field] 4,” he said. And there he was, fielding balls in the outfield while another player was taking batting practice. A few more hits and it’s Michael’s turn to bat.

As he prepared to bat, he’s less than two feet away, so I took some film of him, although none came out too great. He then took about 10 swings. Afterwards, one of the reporters asked Jordan if he played at all. He said quite well, said “Hey, Michael, my notes say you missed 5, fouled off 2, and hit 1. That’s better than last year, Michael!” Michael’s response, “Yeh, that guy last year kept quick-pitching me and I didn’t do too well.”

I then watched Michael go through various drills, such as fielding balls off the outfield wall, running sprints and a vigorous weight training program. Finally, at about 2:30 PM, Michael finished his day’s duties and entered the locker room. I’m right there because this is where interviews are given to the media.

As I enter the locker room, I see a table and two fellows playing a match. I wanted to take a photo, but photos are not allowed to be taken in the locker room while players are present. They have one table and a box full of paddles and balls. The table is located in the center of the room, so balls will often stray into a locker or hit other players if they are at their locker.

I think it’s important to set the mood of the players at this point in time, including Michael. I asked questions of the security people, and in particular those that were there last year so that they may contrast this year to last. This year things are much more serious, as every player is working to make the team. Last year, the major leaguers were under contract and didn’t have the burden of trying out for the team and things were much more relaxed. They played a lot of “ping pong.” This year, things are a lot different. The replacement players are here to earn a spot on the team, and playing “ping pong” could be construed as a lack of interest in their primary job. It’s very important to make this point.

Finally, the interview begins!

Bill Hanley: “Hi, this is Bill Hanley and I’m in Sarasota with Michael Jordan. Those of us that are members of USA Table Tennis and subscribers of Table Tennis Today Magazine are interested in what you have to say about table tennis. For example, when you play, do you feel you derive any benefit, I mean does it improve your reflexes?”

Michael Jordan: “You need to have good reflexes for the game. That’s true. But yeah, I play because I love the game. I love the competition. It’s a minor phase of tennis.”

Bill Hanley: “Are you as passionate about table tennis as you are about basketball or baseball?”

Michael Jordan: “No. I mean I play strictly for the relaxation and enjoyment of it, whenever I see fit to do that, but I don’t rank it up there with those two sports right now in terms of my activities.”

Bill Hanley: “Do you have a table at home?”

Michael Jordan: “No.”

Bill Hanley: “You don’t?”

Michael Jordan: “But I’m thinking of getting one.”

Bill Hanley: “Okay, thank you very much for your time.”

Michael Jordan: “All right.”

What thoughts were going through Michael’s mind, just days before his decision to return to basketball? Writer Bill Hanley was able to get this close-up snapshot of a contemplative Michael in Spring Base Baseball Training, shortly before the interview. (Cameras were not allowed in the clubhouse during the interview.)

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Bill Hanley: “Okay, thank you very much for your time.”

Michael Jordan: “All right.”
Alice Green Kimble

Aug. 28, 1951—that’s Alice’s birth date. Which means that in the spring of 1963 Alice is 11 years old and, in her Dad, Hal (USA #8 for the Hal and in the hovering in the background, beat Connie Sweeins in 5. Shortly after, in the 4/5’s of the National’s against Wendy Hicks (Wendy would push, open to Alice’s backhand; Alice would push, forehand counter any easy topspin), Alice, up 2-0 and 17-14, would hold without difficulty. But then Fate intervened. A New York player began practicing on an adjacent table, and Hal, father/coach extraordinare that he is, was, and always will be, disconsolate, Alice is... A new opportunity for the fall Long Island Open Hal and Alice have reached an understanding. He has worked out signals for her, and from time to time, much to the consternation of umpire Cyril Ledner, he’s (“3 honey”) shouting them out to her. But Alice has a mind and a voice of her own. “Oh, please hit the table, please,” she plaintively cries—but the forehead doesn’t go in and Alice loses this final to Connie. At the 1970 USOTC’s, Alice with a 15-3 record is selected for the ‘71 World’s. But for whatever reason she decides against going to Nagoya—and, sure was and was to Peking and so misses the “Ping-Pong Diplomacy” trip of a lifetime. She is, however, in Atlanta for the infamous ‘71 National’s—and so is Hal. No protest against the看上去 almost implausible results—Alice plays a better than the slippers— but the Draw, that’s another matter. The Ranking Committee admits to a mistake, a compromise is reached, and the Women will depart from tradition by playing a semifinal round robin. Not that it does Alice much good—she loses to Connie, Wendy, and Barbara Kaminisky.

Some consolation: in ’72, when the Chinese come on their second tour to the US, Alice gets to participate. Alice didn’t make our ’73 World Team, but that didn’t stop her from going abroad. In Feb. of ’73, she and Janice Martin made up the Women’s wing of our U.S. Team that attended the World University Championships in Hannover, West Germany. She beat the #7 Czech Pankoukerova and won games from notable European players—from future World Mixed Doubles Champion Bergeter of France (whose she’d been corresponding with since the Munich World’s), from former USSR Champ Pogosova, from the Swedes Johansson and Armas, and from the West German Hendriksen. Apparently this experience was of great help to Alice, for a few months later, at the U.S. Open, she beat Judy Bochenski in 5 in the 4/5’s and Angelita Rosal in 4 in the semi’s—after which she dashed off court into her father’s open arms...prematurely some cynics might say, for in the final she was beaten convincingly by three-time Champion Violetta Nesukaitis of Canada. In 1974 Alice won the Eastern’s over ‘73 U.S. World Team Member Sue Hildebrandt. But in ’75, at the U.S. Open and again at the CNE, Alice ran afoul of visiting Yugoslav penholder Irena Cordas and her troublesome serves: -15, 15, 21, -19, -15 in the 3rd, Hal was quickly on court to hug her, for again she’d made the U.S. World Team. Indeed, her 10-1 record was outstanding. She lost only to Insook—and after this she’d beaten Insook 21-6 the first game and was at an expedited 16-16 in the 2nd! No wonder she was chortling to the E.C. (who’d put into effect an “ageist” rule among the Men that, if you were 22 or over, unless you finished first or second in the Trials, you weren’t assured of making the 5-man Team). “You think I’m too old to play at 22,” she told them. “I’m 25 now and I’ve never played better.” (Which I think was true.) “I feel good. I think I have a future in this game. I feel my table tennis life is just beginning.”

At the ’78 (West Germany, U.S., South Korea-attended) Invitational Goodwill Women’s Games in Seoul and Busan, South Korea, and in ’79, at Pyongyang, North Korea (where she covered the World’s and what you might call “Ping-Pong Diplomacy II” for the Long Island paper Newsday), Alice would not get the local attention the Ko- rean-born Insook and Je Ha Lee would, but that was ok., Alice was not one to feel left out. At the ’79 Closed, Alice, who was now teaching at the prestigious Dalton School in Manhattan, seemed off to a good start in her 1/4’s match against Faun Yeen Liu, was up 20-13 in the 1st, only to lose that game and the next two as well. When she couldn’t read the spin, her flat, angled-off hitting prowess was of no value. At the 1980 Closed, Alice had a good 5-game quarter’s win over Sheila O’Dougherty, but then lost to Judy in 4. Disconsolate, Alice was the #2 U-15 Juniorin the semifinal. Also in 1965 Alice was the #2 U-15 Juniorin the semifinal. Also in 1965 Alice was the #2 U-15 Junior.
Danny Seemiller

Mar. 2, 1969—let’s start there: the 3-year-old Danny had come out of the basement where he learned to play with older brother Bill, lost in the PA Team Championships to both Erich Haring and Mal Anderson, now more familiarly known as “Dancin’ Dick” in jazz.

But by the 1969 USOTC’s, 15-year-old unranked Danny, with his unusual, one-side-of-the-racket “window-wiper” style augmented by his ability to strategically flip his anti and regular spins, was not only the best Junior in PA but among the best in the Midwest: in the USOTC Junior Division he was 23-3, losing one of those matches to Moskupov’s MVP winner Lester Divine. Danny had beaten the former in four, but in that season too, he was beaten in the U.S. Open U-15 final by Texan Kevin Bell, but won the U-15 doubles with Bill Zatek and the Under 17 A doubles with Don Zatkoff for the first National Championship. One might argue that, though Danny always preferred singles to doubles, he would be an even better doubles player.

In the summer of 1970 Danny made sacrifices to sharpen his game for the prestigious Toronto Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) tournament—especially the U.S. vs. Canada Junior International Matches. Danny would remember the thrill of dueling with Zoran “Zoki” Kosanovic, a former member of the ‘69-’70 dian Paul Klevinas. Nordidhe won the Open followed he was beaten (as he was earlier in England). Danny’s aging mentor and doubles specialist Zoran “Zoki” Kosanovic, a former member of the ‘69-’70 dian Paul Klevinas. Nordidhe won the Open followed he was beaten (as he was earlier in England.

The ‘71-’72 season, Jack Howard’s computer ratings had Danny listed as U.S. Open’s #6 seed and fall went to train with Sweertis (“It wasn’t for Dell, I’d be nothing,” he day later, and took on, what few prospects could or would do with their lives, the full-time job—such as a singles player. His first big tournament win was at the ‘73 Toronto CNE, where he had not yet perfected his powerful, point-winning loop. Shouting “That’s it! That’s it!”—his clenched fists raised high as point after point he repeatedly shocked a circle of coiled, concentrated energy away from but always back to the thrust of his never-budge-from-the-table blocking game—he defeated two-time U.S. Open runner-up John Tannehill in 5. “I met another warrior was the way John, who’d been working out the elbow injury, generally, put it in the 1st set. This win was the beginning of a singular dominance by Danny here in Toronto: for 9 straight years he was in this CNE final, losing only in 1979 to the charismatic visiting French Champion Jacques Secretin (after being up 2-0) and in 1980 to the following year’s U.S. Open Champion, Zoran “Zoki” Kosanovic, a former member of the Yugoslav National Team who’d im-

in doubles by beating major Eastern opposition—the teams of Errol Resek/Dave Philip, Bernie Bukiet/Mark Seafield, and Sam Hammond/Alex Shiroky. And in the U.S. Open he’d won another Doubles Championship—the Mixed A’s with attractive fellow teenager Sae Hildebrand.

And then, amazingly, Danny seemingly overnight went from being a Class A runner-up player to be the #1Qualifier on the U.S. World Team! In the ‘73 Trials to see who’d represent us at the 1973 World, Danny had the best (2-0) record, losing only to perennial U.S. Champion D-J Lee (10-4) and 30-year-old 3-time U.S. Champion Bernie Bukiet (9-5). Later, Bernie was to say, “If Seemiller didn’t have the antispin, he wouldn’t be nearly this good. It’s easy to make errors if it’s (his style of play is like a penholder. He’s young and strong, and with this spin he knows exactly what he’s doing.”

But despite his unprecedented Team Trial accomplishment, 18-year-old Danny’s 80-10 Division 2nd Singles win in the World Cup play in Sarajevo did not yet impress coach Ichiro Ogimura, and, on coming home, his losses in the 8th’s to Rorry Brassington in the Eastern’s and to George Brathwaite in the U.S. Open, where he was suddenly getting, almost embarrassing.

But, with another summer of training (“I always try the weirdest serves I can think of in practice”), Danny finally came into his own as a singles player. His first big tournament win was at the ‘73 Toronto CNE, where he had not yet perfected his powerful, point-winning loop. Shouting “That’s it! That’s it!”—his clenched fists raised high as point after point he repeatedly shocked a circle of coiled, concentrated energy away from but always back to the thrust of his never-budge-from-the-table blocking game—he defeated two-time U.S. Open runner-up John Tannehill in 5. “I met another warrior was the way John, who’d been working out the elbow injury, generally, put it in the 1st set. This win was the beginning of a singular dominance by Danny here in Toronto: for 9 straight years he was in this CNE final, losing only in 1979 to the charismatic visiting French Champion Jacques Secretin (after being up 2-0) and in 1980 to the following year’s U.S. Open Champion, Zoran “Zoki” Kosanovic, a former member of the Yugoslav National Team who’d im-

migrated to Canada. Among Danny’s victims in sometimes very hard-fought matches was early arch-rival Errol Caetano, many time Canadian Champion. (Watching Danny’s ‘74 final with Errol, Ray Seemiller in turn was nervous enough to reassure him. “Tell someone he’d be the #6 in the world.”)

No chance, even back in 1975, that Danny was away world-class players. “Once you’re in with them,” he’d say, “some days you’ve got them.” How ambivalent, how intense, he was. “Oh, if I were only living in Yugoslavia,” he said dreamily, thinking then he could play with Surbeck and World runner-up Anton Stipancic. Generally, Danny’s conduct was exemplary. But sometimes, frustrated, involved in a dispute or disgusted with himself at losing a match, he was understandably human, was not beyond an occasional curse, an out and out name-calling, some serious abuse of his racket. I remember, for instance, he was not too happy about repeated losses overseas to the Dane Claus Pedersen or here in the U.S. to the visiting Thai Charlie Wuvandian. But, characteristically, he faced reality; his game still needed a lot of work: “That block of mine’s always been my nemesis,” he said.

Back in England again, at the Pickwick, now called the Manchester Invitational, Danny finally beat Pedersen, and at the Midsummer Open he had become more aggressive with his serve and follow game, so that he not only won the doubles with brother Ricky but the singles as well—over Denis Neale (currently the Capt. of the English National Team). He also won the respect of English Microwave champion. The story goes that our U.S. Association that Danny “was far and away the better player than the one who was with us last year” and emphasized what “‘American table tennis’ he was.”

In the World CNE had become a world-class player. He played abroad—goes from formidable players: at Karlshamn in the Swedish Open he lost to future World Doubles Champion Yugoslav great Dragutin Surbec in the 8th’s, 1-3 (six months later in the Canadian Open he would lose to him 3-2), and at London in the Pickwick Invitational he lost to top English internationals Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale, 2-1. At the ’75 Calcutta World’s, he started to amass, in Second Division Swaything Cup play (our U.S. Teams during Danny’s prime, though usually backed by world-class players) a series of victories that eventually got him to the British Open. He won the U-17, including three wins in our (as Capt. I couldn’t hold back the tears) 5-4 loss to Poland that kept us from advancing. In ’77, he was 26-0! And in ‘81 (back in the Second Division again), he was 9-0! All in all then, against recognizably good opposition he had a 63-1 record! “If the U.S. had three Danny Seemillers,” someone said, “they’d be the #6 in the world.”

None the less, even back in 1975, that Danny was away world-class players.

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organized 1974 World Team Tryouts—the poor playing conditions, the ridiculous number of matches, the lack of USATT supervision and support—and so had formed a short-lived Players Association. Danny vehemently protested the mere $1500 in prize money being offered at the ’76 U.S. Open in Philadelphia. But ugly as our picketing no doubt looked, it did dramatize the players’ concerns. The USATT refused to pay him more than $3000 for 64 matches here and there. Danny was the only one who had the guts to stand up and be counted. Danny’s radar to 15-all, but can’t win it (small consolation, I’m sure, that he would beat him in his sleep). But in 1976 Danny’s game is far from over. Indeed, he’s just been ranked #16 in the world. After all these years, we’re still traveling around the world, competing in tournaments here in the States, with his brother Ricky. But in 1976 Danny’s game is far from over. Indeed, he’s just been ranked #16 in the world. After all these years, we’re still traveling around the world, competing in tournaments here in the States, with his brother Ricky. But in 1976 Danny’s game is far from over. Indeed, he’s just been ranked #16 in the world. After all these years, we’re still traveling around the world, competing in tournaments here in the States, with his brother Ricky. But in 1976 Danny’s game is far from over. Indeed, he’s just been ranked #16 in the world. After all these years, we’re still traveling around the world, competing in tournaments here in the States, with his brother Ricky.
In Memoriam:
DAYTONIANS DON LYONS and ANDY T. GAD, JR.
by Tim Bogmann, USATT Historian

(Note: I of course read the tributes to Andy Gad in the last issue of TTToday and, encouraged by James Coombs’s request for further recognition of Andy, I herewith submit this In Memoriam article which, as the last issue of TTToday went quickly to press, I hadn’t quite completed.

Just before Christmas, Sid Stanseal, a college classmate of mine at the University of Dayton in the 1950’s and a fellow table tennis player, called to tell me that he’d just been given quite a shock. On reading a Dayton paper, he’d suddenly come across, unbelievably, one following the other, the totally unexpected obituaries of two well-known Dayton table tennis players, Don Lyons and Andy Gad.

Why they died, how they died—Andy was only 53 and Don couldn’t have been too many years older—others will have to tell you about, if they can. I was never the intimate of either, was just one, like so many others, whose tournament paths over the years chanced to cross theirs. Still, I see them as table tennis “family”—the more so, I suppose, of the racket. Often Don could be highly motivated, for example, before the ’68 U.S. Team Championship, in which Ohio (Lee, Tannehill, Lyons, and Farrell) would defeat California in the final, 5-3. He had been playing four times a week, running wind sprints, and had lost 20 pounds. Think his dedication could give him strength when he most needed it? Read on—and since we writers are always stealing from others, I’d like to end this little remembrance of Don with a show of homeland pride by Dick Evans a quarter of a century ago. Here in a Nov. 18, 1966 letter to me from the then Ohio-based Evans is Dick’s account (more enthusiastic that day than mine could be) of a now gone but not forgotten Lyons and his contribution to our Sport’s History. Play it one more time: “And when it was over, there was teeny-bopper Tannehill on Don Lyons’ shoulders around and around Bobo arena as the Ohio delegation went wild.

But the real moment of supreme pandemonium had come the night before when Ohio had been playing New York and our chances of making the finals were fast fading as we experienced one setback after another. Dul Joan, of course, had come through with his expected three wins over Bukiet. Gusikoff and Boggan, but Tannehill had lost squeakers to both Bukiet and Gusikoff while Lyons had similarly lost to the experienced war-horse Bukiet, who had been upset by Boggan. But Don was psychologically up for the Ohio was playing New York and our chances of making the finals were fast fading as we experienced one setback after another. Dul Joan, of course, had come through with his expected three wins over Bukiet. Gusikoff and Boggan, but Tannehill had lost squeakers to both Bukiet and Gusikoff while Lyons had similarly lost to the experienced war-horse Bukiet, who had been upset by Boggan. But Don was psychologically up for the

By the time of Lyons’ retirement from the sport, Andy was one of the uptimes chosen to work part of the 1972 Chinese Team’s two-week recuperative “Ping Pong Diplomacy” Tour of the U.S.—and very professional he looked too among his peers in his all-white uniform. Come the spring of ’73, Andy, who’d been ranked Ohio #43 for the season, was President of the Ohio TTAA.

It may well be that, like so many of us, Andy had his ups and downs in table tennis, thought this, thought that, was at one moment intensely enthusiastic, at another near despair. Sometimes for long stretches I wouldn’t see him at tournaments or for dozens of issues of TTToday would not see his name mentioned. But if there were times he was out of the serious action, he never had any trouble getting back into it if he wanted to. Back in ’73 at that Rkeley Officials time he’d been one of our 16 qualified nation-wide to give prospective umpires their Oral Exams. By ’81, with his interest in officiating stronger than ever, he

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Playing styles and rallying tactics go together because your playing style dictates how you want to rally. As you learn your playing style, you will find yourself using certain rallying tactics for your style, and when you play against a specific style, you will use specific rallying tactics that work against that style. There is no such thing as a patrol playing style. Everyone plays a little bit of different styles, and usually a lot of one. A looper is called a looper because he loops a lot, but he probably blocks or hits on occasion as well. Similarly, there are no rules carved in granite on how to play specific styles since everyone plays a little different and has different strengths and weaknesses. However, you can divide most players into some combination of the following:

- Loopers
- Hitters
- Blockers
- Countershooters
- Countermovers
- Lobbers
- Combination players
- Doubles players—all combinations of the preceding styles, except now there are two different styles to take into account!

...it is up to you to match your strengths against your opponent's weaknesses so that you end up with twenty-one points first.

While reading this section, look at both of your own sides and recognize your own style and how others should play you. Then learn how to combat that with your own personal inventory of shots.

**LOOPERS**

Looper comes in many varieties. Some like to loop the first ball while others will loop ten in a row to win one point. Some run all over the court looping only with the forehand while others cut down on the footwork by backhand looping as well. Some let the ball drop below table level before lifting it in a sweeping but often defensive topspin while others practically hit the ball as it bounces on the table. And then there are those who combine looping with some other shot such as chopping or hitting. There are very few cut and dried rules for loopers.

A looper wants to loop as early in the rally as possible. He should serve with that in mind. Once he loops, he wants to keep looping to the same side, and over with your footwork and over with your partner into the opponent's weaker blocking side. An alternate strategy is to loop over and over into the stronger side, then looping an easy winner through the weak side. This will work if the stronger blocking side is more consistent as fast, giving you the opportunity to keep loopers off balance. A strategy of loopers is to loop over and over with the forehand from the backhand corner, usually into the opponent's deep backhand court.

When an opening appears to loop to either side of the middle. Don't always loop to the corners. Many players are very weak blocking from the middle due to indecision as to whether to use the forehand or backhand. Some are strong there, and weak covering the wide corners. Find out the weakness and go there.

Note that if you loop to a corner, the opponent is likely to block back a winner. Going to the middle, you take away the extreme angle. It does give your opponent an angle down both sides, but if you keep your loop deep, he won't be able to get a good angle, and you will probably be able to keep looping forehands.

Another thing to take into account is variation. Most loopers will get into a rhythm against which they are vulnerable. It is important to know both your playing style and your opponent's, and to know what tactics you should use.

However, the following guidelines should be followed by loopers or loopers playing against a given playing style. If the rule says serve short to a looper, try it! But if he flips winner after winner against it, be flexible: try serving short to a looper's backhand. You will find your opponent vulnerable in various ways. You must move him around as much as possible, both side to side and in and out. Although you hope it will miss, don't expect him to.

Usually you will have to loop the ball that he is using some of his power to put on the spin, some of his shots lose speed. The most obvious way to beat a looper is to not let him serve loop. Serve short and push this loop, and he will have difficulty looping winners—not only do you have more time to react to his shot, but weakness number three comes in. He sacrifices speed for spin. You can plain outlast him if he can't get the ball past you, as long as you can handle his topspin.

Of course, if he does flip or if he serves topspin, take advantage of weakness number two, his longer stroke. Flip the topspin serve aggressively and attack his flip quickly and he will have to back off to backhand to have time to loop, taking away much of its effectiveness. And if he's away from the table, he will have difficulty looping winners—not only do you have more time to react to his shot, but weakness number three comes in. He sacrifices speed for spin. You can plain outlast him if he can't get the ball past you, as long as you can handle his topspin.

A hitter with a good loop has a tremendous advantage if he is able to get both shots going. He can loop them short and deep and spinny as he can, but not too fast. A slower, slower spin will loop the ball up and allow a faster one usually is blocked back faster, giving you little time to get into position to smash.

A hitter is probably the most mentally demanding style to play against. No matter what you do, it seems they are able to hit winners.

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Mental Skills in Table Tennis
by Lily Yip

USATT Certified National Coach
USATT National Team Member

Table tennis and I were made for each other. I fell in love with the sport at a very young age. My thanks go out to the Chinese government for all their help and encouragement throughout the years. For the last twenty years, the Chinese coaches taught me the techniques, skills and strategy of winning. After hundreds and thousands of hours of practice and study, I developed a style of my own. I use the player’s grip that supports a close-to-the-table style of play, backhand block and push for control, forehand loop and drive for fast attacks. I favor a high-toss serve. This style of play, combined with persistence, helped me become a highly competitive player in China and earned me a position on the U.S. Olympic Team.

Since I am now involved in a coaching capacity, players inquire about my training regimen. They ask me questions about long I train per day; what kinds of physical training do I do; and what type of equipment I use. I generally explain that I don’t ask for any special equipment training. My focus is always on the game; there’s no point of perfection. I thrive on the challenge of learning new things. My coaching philosophy is based on two modes. One is the grouping mode. Eight to twelve seconds following the end of a point, the eyes are down. The other is the mental mode. Eight to twelve seconds following the end of a point, mental training can take place. Eight to twelve seconds following the end of a point, my mind is the most focused. I now realize how quickly the game of table tennis can be learned and applied.

The process I have demonstrated is based on the mental mode. After point 1 ends, about 4 seconds are given to react to the point that has just been completed. This can be a positive or negative reaction, but it should be brief. At this point attention is turned solely to the upcoming point. The next 12 to 16 seconds are spent in low focus. Deep breathing and muscle relaxing, while the eyes are down, are best done here as you would be in a regrouping mode. Seconds 12 to 16 bring you up gradually to high focus again. Imagery, or the internal visualization of what you plan to do with the next point, should be used. By the beginning of the next point, you should have narrowed and intensified your focus; ready to go into high level play.

The process I have demonstrated should (a) enable an intensification of concentration to occur, while actually playing the ball, (b) establish a length and direction for time not actually spent in play, and (c) prepare the eyes, body, and mind for future points and their high demands.

As you can see, after point #1 ends, about 4 seconds are given to react to the point that has just been completed. This can be a positive or negative reaction, but it should be brief. At this point attention is turned solely to the upcoming point. From seconds 4 to 12 time is spent in low focus. Deep breathing and muscle relaxing, while the eyes are down, are best done here as you would be in a regrouping mode. Seconds 12 to 16 bring you up gradually to high focus again. Imagery, or the internal visualization of what you plan to do with the next point, should be used. By the beginning of the next point, you should have narrowed and intensified your focus; ready to go into high level play.

The process I have demonstrated should (a) enable an intensification of concentration to occur, while actually playing the ball, (b) establish a length and direction for time not actually spent in play, and (c) prepare the eyes, body, and mind for future points and their high demands.

Gaining control of your between-point time will prove a major asset to your game as the basic skills I’ve described are learned and applied.
1995 ARIZONA OPEN  
March 4-5,1995  
by Bill Baker  

The Arizona Open continues to grow and attract more players each year and in 1995 well over 100 players came to Phoenix to enjoy the great winter weather in our Valley of the Sun and to compete for trophies in 22 events. Players from all neighboring states and as far away as Hawaii and Illinois played over 1000 games to win trophies and the right to call themselves 1995 Arizona Open Table Tennis Champions.

The Open Singles was the feature event, with 36 players entered, making 12 round robin brackets. Winners in the quarterfinals draw were Bill Ryan, Carlsbad, CA; over Frank Remenyi, West Hills, CA in three close games 17-16,17,9; Marek Zochowski, Phoenix over Chris Castro of Tucson, 12,20, Martin Vela, El Paso, TX d. Rob Trudell, Phoenix, 10,13; and Avishy Schmidt, Sacramento, CA d. Alex Lai, Chandler, 12,18. In semi, Ryan d. Zochowski, 9,15 and Schmidt d. Vela, 17,19. The Open finals was a very good match as Avishy Schmidt had trouble getting his very classic fast loop-drives to score against Bill Ryan’s long pips/spin style, with Avishy losing the first game at 15. Avishy got his game going and Bill seemed to let down, losing the 2nd at 9. The third was very close with Avishy winning at 19.

Some highlights include: Frank Remenyi, up a couple hundred rating points since the last Open, winning the Under 2000 Open Doubles (with Kevin (Kevin Groen) and the Junior U17’s; Bill Ryan, winner of Over 50 doubles with Raghnal Fahslstrom and runner-up in Open Singles. Over 45 Singles, Over 50 Singles and Over 60/Junior Doubles, winner of Over 50 Singles and Doubles Runner-up in Open and Over 40 Doubles.

Tourney director, Bill Gilbert, ran a very good tournament, Hammered again this year with too few tables. We pledge that for the 1996 Open the sponsoring Phoenix TT Club will have at least 2 and perhaps 4 tables for table tennis, which time, which time to draw a return, house, will be much shorter. For all of their various help Bill thanks: to George Lowi, back in town. Bill wishes to thank: George Lowi, back in town. All thanks to: George Lowi, back in town. All thanks to: George Lowi, back in town.

The OCTTC Spring Open came off as a resounding success from its attendance of over 60 players from a seven state area and the many spectators who attended their first table tennis tournament in the newly remodeled Carriage House at the Oklahoma State Fair Grounds in Oklahoma City, OK on Saturday, March 18, 1995.

The Oklahoma City Table Tennis Club (OCTTC) held its fourth annual OCTTC Spring Open Table Tennis Tournament at the Oklahoma State Fair Grounds in Oklahoma City, OK on Saturday, March 18, 1995.

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1995 Michigan State Champion
Bernie Pietrak

Men’s Singles: 1st: Bernie Pietrak d. Oladokun,14,15,-18,16; Veillette,11,16,-18,19,-12; Sexton,15,11,18; 2nd: Tajadeen Oladokun d. Veillette,14,14,14; Sexton,15,11,18; 3rd: Mike Veillette d. Sexton,16,15,12,-12; 4th: Frank Sexton.


Open Women’s Singles: 1st: Mimi Bosika; 2nd: Mary Hurley; 3rd: Lorraine Moore; 4th: Anne Conner.

U1800 Women: Jonelle Holder d. Kellie Colyer-Brown,16,-20,17.

U1600 Women: Isabelle Lautard d. Rhoda Samkoff,12,15.

U1400 Women: Jennifer Johnson d. Lindsey Malinowski,12,15.

U1200 Women: Isabelle Lautard d. Rhoda Samkoff,18,11.-18,10.

U1000 Women: Jonelle Holder d. Barathy Williams,12,15.

U800 Women: Jonelle Holder d. Barathy Williams,12,15.

U600 Women: Jonelle Holder d. Barathy Williams,12,15.

U400 Women: Jonelle Holder d. Barathy Williams,12,15.


U1800 Men: Mike Baby d. Lee Bahlman,11,10,9.

U1600 Men: Mike Baby d. Lee Bahlman,11,10,9.

U1400 Men: Mike Baby d. Lee Bahlman,11,10,9.

U1200 Men: Mike Baby d. Lee Bahlman,11,10,9.

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There are many components that have contributed to the success of Swedish table tennis. It is my intention to discuss one of the strongest contributing components, namely a club which I have been working for as a full-time coach for two years.

Tyreso was founded in 1982 and since 1985 the membership has increased constantly. Today we have over 500 members of whom 350 are active players. Of these about 300 are between 6-13 years old.

Our men's teams play in division one and two and in the National League system. We also have a women's team which plays in division three. For this season we also had the pleasure of an American contribution.

It takes a while to get used to all the new rules and interaction between boys and girls differs as at the same time. They are not used to the same level of competition. Girls playing table tennis, since it is an excellent sport in the art of blade making.

The spirit of cooperation between the two competitors was great, extending to Scott Press and Larry Thomas assisting each other during the floor demonstration times. These 20 minute demonstrations were a real showcase for Scott's great exhibition skills. Behind Scott's tricks and comedy, the underlying message was always the importance of the sport of Table Tennis in America is traditionally school-based rather than club-based, as in Europe. It is not a question of getting Table Tennis into the schools, it is already there. The challenge is bringing the great existing programs under the umbrella of USATT.

The future of our sport is at hand. Please help! The National Schools program needs you. If you would like to start a school program in your area, contact USATT headquarters for further information.

Larry Thomas (L) smacks one in against Scott Press in exhibition.
Table Tennis Today

May/June 1995

USASt Affiliated Club Listing

Alabama

Birmingham Area TTA
Dan A. Hawks Rec. Center
Birmingham, AL 35206
Contact: Harold Kopper
Phone: 205-566-1382

Cherokee County TTC
Centennial National Guard Armory
Center, AL 35960
Contact: James Therriault
Phone: 205-878-3207 (Day)
312-929-6660 (Nite)

Contact: Shonie Aki
Phone: 310-373-7402 (H)
310-399-0121 (FAX)

Contact: Victor Wong
Phone: 815-932-2483

Contact: Joe Hennekke
Phone: 719-673-7849

Contact: Richard M. Johns
Phone: 407-272-5174

Contact: Jack R. Coppedge
Phone: 719-678-3084

Contact: David Zimmerman
Phone: 303-433-7082

Contact: Bob Tretheway
Phone: 719-767-3765

Contact: Marty Finger
Phone: 305-967-3203

Contact: Will Ogren
Phone: 415-540-2951 (W)
415-333-0947 (H)

Contact: Tom Miller
Phone: 719-767-3203

Contact: Terry Timmins
Phone: 503-452-9315(W)
310-399-0121 (FAX)

Contact: Fritz Baresel
Phone: 719-576-7365

Contact: Masaaki Tajima
Phone: 510-452-9315

Contact: Jo Kidd
Phone: 719-673-7205

Contact: Charles B. Smith
Phone: 916-671-6856

Contact: Larry Cross
Phone: 205-356-1974

Contact: Jack R. Coppedge
Phone: 205-367-1382

Contact: David Wilder
Phone: 209-266-3117

Contact: Jack K. Copedge
Phone: 205-867-3198

Contact: Fritz Baresel
Phone: 719-673-7205

Contact: Charles B. Smith
Phone: 916-671-6856

Contact: Jack R. Coppedge
Phone: 205-251-0169

Contact: David Wilder
Phone: 205-356-1974

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U.S. Junior Champion Dave Fernandez.

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TIPS FOR PARENTS OF ELITE ATHLETES
by Dr. Frank Pyke, Executive Director
Victorian Institute of Sport

As an elite athlete you may be very happy with your parents' involvement in your sport or you may be concerned that they are getting in the way. But before you pass judgment on them understand that, whatever they do, parents always believe that it is in your best interests.

They have encouraged your participation in sport by sprinkling a few quality genes in your direction, and by placing and driving, buying there equipment, financing your trips and living through your ups and downs. They try to be good parents, and most do a terrific job but there are a few who simply become a nuisance and in extreme cases, a downright embarrassment.

And so I have jotted down a list of tips for parents of elite athletes which also applies to other relatives and close friends.

1) Be patient with progress. Appreciate that becoming successful in elite sport takes time and a lot of hard work and dedication. Early success as a junior never guarantees career success. It can take at least ten years of consistent training to reach the top in most sports. And remember that while your and daughter is trying to get there, there are many others who are trying to be good parents and most do a terrific job but there are a few who simply become a nuisance and in extreme cases, a downright embarrassment.

2) Be tolerant of mistakes and poor performances. They are inevitable and part of the difficult stages of development. And non-selection. Parental support is as important as the relationship with the coach. The relationship between coaches and athletes is so important that they are getting in the way. But always be prepared to acknowledge that Every "day has its day." Also remember that "Every day has its day." Also, if you are always telling the coach how to do the job, while at the same time berating athletes and complaining about umpires, you will quickly become ostracized from the sport. In the end your son or daughter will be the one who suffers the most.

3) Be calm and dignified at sporting events. Enjoy a victory without going overboard and remember that a loss is not the end of life on earth. Remember that "Every "day has its day." Also, if you are always telling the coach how to do the job, while at the same time berating athletes and complaining about umpires, you will quickly become ostracized from the sport. In the end your son or daughter will be the one who suffers the most.

4) Be tolerant of mistakes and poor performances. They are inevitable and part of the difficult stages of development.

5) Allow plenty of "breathing space." Let athletes enjoy their success within the peer group, or alternatively, come to grips with a loss before you appear on the scene. They need time to assess what has happened, and the reasons behind it, before explaining it all to their parents.

6) Offer praise with success. As the elite level it is well deserved. But don't say "well done" if it wasn't, just because the athlete feels better. They know when they do well and are very hard judges of themselves. It is better to be factual and give your opinion in an encouraging and positive way.

7) Encourage involvement in other pursuits. High performance sport can be all-consuming and athletes need other interests to relieve the pressure and provide some balance in their lives. The family offers one of the best environments in which to do this. As a parent, you should also lead a balanced life. Don't fall into the trap of living your own life through that of your sporting son or daughter.

8) Encourage independence and self-sufficiency. Make athletes responsible for their own preparation for training and competing, including, where possible, their equipment, clothing and transportation arrangements. You don't need to be present at every sporting event in which your son or daughter competes. Every now and then check whether they would like you to watch. The athlete needs to learn that they cannot rely upon or blame others for their performance. They must do it for themselves.

9) Above all, keep sport in perspective. Sport is only a part of life and, while it may be very important for a few years, the development of the whole person should be considered ahead of just being an athlete. The relationship between parents and their sporting offspringpersists well beyond sport and should not be strained by circumstances that arise during this time. Remember that athletes are striving to reach their own goals rather than the ones that you have set for them, just to satisfy yourself.

The best advice that I can give to any sporting parent is to be SUPPORTIVE rather than INTRUSIVE.
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

May 13-14, NTTC May Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Brian Lonergan or Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indiana Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882 or 1-800-671-6882. ★★

May 13-14, Waltham May RR, Waltham, MA. Contact: Qiumars Hedayatian, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02145, 617-776-2458. ★★

May 13, Rockford May Open, Rockford, IL. Contact: Ed Hoghseed, 3260 City View Drive, Rockford, IL, 815-624-6224. ★

May 13, Brevard Florida Open, Melbourne, FL. Contact: Wendell Newton, 857 Croton Road, Rockledge, FL, 32955, 407-631-4736. ★★

May 13, Duluth Superior Open, Duluth, MN. Contact: Angelo Simone, 10 N 64th Ave. W., Duluth, MN 55807-2211. ★★

May 20-21, Westfield May Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 7-A Kent Street, NJ 08873-2187, 908-671-8782. Contact: Roger Cormier, 64 Shady Brook Drive, Middletown, NJ, 07748, 908-671-8782

May 10-11, MATT 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, 619-383-9303. ★

June 10-11, Waltham June RR, Waltham, MA. Contact: Qiumars Hedayatian, 15 Miner St., Somerville, MA 02145, 617-776-2458.

June 10-11, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. ★

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

June 17-18, NTTC June Open, Rockville, MD. Contact: Brian Lonergan or Larry Hodges, National Table Tennis Center, 15916 Indiana Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-670-6882 or 1-800-671-6882. ★★

June 24, Strike One June Open, Burlington, MA. Contact: Lim Ming Chui, 347 Bedford St., Lexington, MA 02173-3351, 617-862-1551. ★★

July 1-3, MEIKLEJOHN NATIONAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, Laguna Hills, CA. Contact: Julius Margolis, 45 Whitman Court, Irvine, CA 92615, 714-854-3911. ★★

July 1-2, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. ★


August 9-13, WORLD TEAM CUP, Atlanta, GA. ★

August 12-13, Maryland Circuit, Columbia, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-489-7291. ★


August 26-27, 27th Annual Koala Springs Open, Westfield, MA. Contact: Tyra Parkins, 505 Ivy Lane, Hewitt, TX 76643, 817-754-5953. ★

September 9-10, FIRST ANNUAL MISSOURI OPEN, Jefferson City, MO. Contact: Brad Wommack, 1-800-743-8233, or Tom Maddux, 314-474-5376. ★★★

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