SINCE 1949, NO U.S. TEAM HAS REACHED THE SEMIFINALS OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION...

...UNTIL NOW

World Team Cup MVP Jim Butler defeats Belgium's Philippe Saive to advance USA into the quarterfinals, where they would then upset France.

THE 1995 WORLD TEAM "UP"
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Juic World Beaters Case
SALE PRICE: $19.95
This deluxe black case with deep purple trim makes a great gift. Holds two paddles with room for balls and wallet. Pocket on the outside measures 12" by 9".

The Blade and Rubber of World Men's Champion Kong Linghui and Runner-Up Liu Guoliang--available from the Paddle Palace!

THE BLADE:

AVALOX WORLD CHAMPION BLADE
Made in Sweden expressly for the Chinese National Team. Available in 5-ply or 7-ply, Shakehands Flared or Straight handle, or Penhold with Chinese grip.

5-Ply: The Avalox 5-ply is the one used by World Champ Kong Linghui and Ma Wenge. It is a fast allround blade designed for the new Chinese drive-loop style. SPEED: OFF-

7-Ply: The Avalox 7-ply is used by Liu Guoliang, World Champion runner-up. It is designed for close to the table quick-hitting and off the table counter-looping. SPEED: OFF+

THE RUBBER: JUIC 999
The spin, speed, and touch of JUIC 999 has done it again! World Champion Kong Linghui used JUIC 999 Hardtype (forehand) and JUIC 999 Attack (backhand). World Champion Runner-Up Liu Guoliang used JUIC 999 Attack (forehand) and JUIC 889 (backhand).

These rubber sheets also recommended for the Avalox Blade:

SCRAMBLE
KAIZA
SPINSPIEL

JUIC SCRAMBLE: For powerful offensive play.
JUIC KAIZA: For Speed, speed, and more speed.
JUIC SPINSPIEL: For super sticky powerful spin with touch.

Avalox Blade: $44
JUIC 999Rubber: $29 per sheet
Blade and two sheets JUIC 999:
Only $96.90
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Signing autographs at the Sears Invitational,
L-R: top, Leszek Kucharski, Khoa Nguyen & Michael Hyatt; bottom, Alan Cooke, Jim Butler, Matthew Syed.
ACUI INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT
The Regional & National College Championships
by Jeff Davis, ACUI Table Tennis Director

Coming up in February, 1996 are the Association of College Unions International regional qualifying tournaments for the international tournament in April. To qualify to compete at the international, players MUST compete at their regional tournaments. All of the regionals take place during February, but your local college campus may hold their local qualifying tournament at any time prior to the regional. Some may hold the regional during the fall semester. I encourage any table tennis players to contact their advisor on campus to inquire about the local tournament. Other people to contact for information would be the activities advisor in the student union, recreation director, intramural director, or the union director. One of those people will have information or be able to direct you to the individual that does have information about the dates of their own local tournaments to qualify for the regionals.

If you are unable to contact an individual on campus that has the necessary information, please contact your regional coordinator (listed below) or myself for information.

Jeff Davis
ACUI Table Tennis Director
Assistant Director for Operations
University Center
Colorado Springs
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
P.O. Box 7150
Colorado Springs, CO 80933
719-593-3491

The 1996 International Tournament will take place at Georgia State University, April 25-28, 1996. We will have both men’s and women’s divisions in singles. At this time we haven’t finalized the rest of the tournament format; we anticipate a doubles competition and potentially a team competition. These details will be announced shortly. This information will be available from the regional coordinators.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
by Paul Montville
Over the past couple of months, I’ve received several questions about marketing in general and the ACOP (Atlanta Centennial Olympic Properties) contract in particular. I’ll do my best to address the issue by making a long story short:

The ACOP agreement is a joint-marketing contract in which Olympic National Governing Bodies (NGBs) received up-front cash in exchange for the rights to market their events, programs and trademarks. I refer to the deal as “golden handcuffs,” because while we gained the benefit of guaranteed sponsorship payments, we are severely restricted in sponsorship marketing and fundraising.

ACOP was signed by USATT and all the other NGBs in 1993, and the contract expires at the end of 1996. The USOC is currently working on a new joint-marketing program (“Son of ACOP”) for the post-Atlanta period. While there are few specifics available, I do know from meetings with the USOC and other NGBs that our concerns have been duly noted. The concept of joint-marketing is basically sound, especially for a small NGB like ours. The challenge for the USOC and their Joint-Marketing Task Force is to come up with an agreement that preserves the positive aspects of ACOP while allowing the NGBs the flexibility and autonomy needed to raise the money we need for our programs.

As I mentioned above, this is a very simple explanation of a hugely complex issue. If you would like more information on ACOP and/or fundraising, please feel free to contact me at headquarters or we can discuss this in person at the Nationals, where I hope to see many of you.

EDITOR’S REPORT
by Larry Hodges
Lots of International Competition:
From the World Team Cup in Atlanta to the Sears Invitational in Palatine, Illinois, we’ve got internationals all over the U.S. And we haven’t even mentioned the Missouri Open or the Sun TV Open yet!

And there’s also the CNE, Brazil Open, European Maccabi Games, King Kar Global Youth City Cup, Sam Lima Open, Rhode Island Games, Texas Round Robin, Arizona Open, Waco Round Robin, MATTC Open, Decatur Round Robin, NTTIC’s August & September Opens, and the Rocky Mountain Open.

Belgium Superstar Jean-Michel Saive explains why he attended, but did not compete in, the World Team Cup, and other interesting facts, in an interview with Sheri Soderberg Pittman, while Ed Hogsdell gives us the goods on former Chinese Superstar Liang Geliang, who competed at the Sears Invitational.

What happens when the greatest players in U.S. history get together? Ruth Gehrig, Cobb, Wagner, Young, Johnson? Er—make that Dick Miles, Marty Reisman, Sol Schiff, Laszlo Bellak, Doug Cartland and Lou Pagliaro. Add Tim Boggan to the mix, and you’ve got the article “Reunion.”

If it’s coaching you’re after, see another of those excellent “centerfolds” by former U.S. Women’s Champion Wei Wang and Photographer Diego Schaaf, this time featuring Zoran Primorac. Or see our regular feature, “Playing Tips,” with an article by U.S. Olympic Festival Men’s Singles Champion Todd Sweet on attacking short balls (flipping) and another by, uh, me, on attacking the middle.

If all you want to do is play, then see the tournament schedule near the back or any of the tournament ads in this issue. If you’re a college student, make sure to check out the dates for the Regional ACUI College Championships on page 4.

Or just browse the issue, pick out the best ads, and get out that charge card!
Exalter-FL

Retriever-ST
With this blade a savior is born for defense oriented allround players. The first Polyarylate defensive blade has minimal vibration, exceptional ball feeling during chops, and springy elasticity for successful counter attacks. Large head size. 100 grams.

Petr Korbel-AN,ST
The Petr Korbel is the same blade as the popular Adolescent, but without shellac on handle. Best suited for European style powerplay. Highly recommended for players seeking topspin & power in their shots. Medium size head. 90 grams.

Tiffara-FL
A 5-ply descendant of one of 1995's most popular Butterfly blades: the 7-ply Clearfield. The Tiffara has explosive power for offensive play. Even faster than the Clearfield due to a thicker center ply and two mahagany secondary plies. Medium head size. 93 grams.

Setaru-FL,ST
A light, medium speed blade designed for consistent topspin offensive play from all points in the court. Made from fine European plywood, this blade will inspire a Grubba-like performance. Medium head size. 77 grams.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
IDEAS FOR YOUR CLUB
by Larry Hodges

Okay, so you've got a club going, a place to play, and when club night comes around, it's ping pong time. But...is that all there is? Are you missing something?

Night after night, just you and the others (on club night anyway), just playing challenge matches or winner stay on...is there more?

YES!
Whether you're the club president or simply an active member, you can be the one who takes the next step. And boy, are there a lot of steps to choose from! Take your pick—here's a list, with helpful suggestions to get started. Get ready to go where nobody in your club has gone before!

• Run a tournament. It's really not as hard as it seems! Step one: Call USATT (719-578-4838) and ask for a copy of the Tournament Guide and Tournament Sanction Forms. Step two: Do what it says!

A brief synopsis of what you'll need to do would be:
1. Design an entry form;
2. Send it to Regional Tournament Coordinator along with sanction fee and sanction forms;
3. Advertise the tournament either by mailing or in Table Tennis Today. (Once it's sanctioned, the tournament will appear in the Tournament Schedule, but tournaments ads are half-price, so you might want to run a separate ad as well—contact the editor— for further information at 301- 838-8871).

If you choose to do a mailing, you can order mailing labels for your region from USATT for 3 cents each. Run the tournament—really, unless you get a big turnout, it's not so hard. Start planning your next one!

• Set up a league. There are many possible variations. At our club, our League Committee (Frank Fuhrmann, Sean Lonerger, Gary Elweiss) devised a 5-person league, whereby each player plays all three other players, plus the #2 and #3 players play a doubles match, a total of 10 matches, so a team match can end in a 5-5 tie. Each team plays one team match each week, and the two teams (each of which has a captain) work out on their own which night they play. If a player can't make a team match, a substitute who is ranked lower may substitute. Scoring is 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. At the end of the season, ties are broken up by whichever team has the better record.

This is just one possible league. Use your imagination, and set one up. If you've run a successful league, send us your format so we can publish it.

• Teach a table tennis class. I don't care if you're only a 1500 player (or lower), you can teach a class if you know more than, and are a better player than at least 99.9% of Americans. (This isn't China) Simply decide on a day and time (i.e., Mondays from 7-9 PM for 10 weeks, $50/person), and fax or mail info to all the local papers. They will publish it if they're interested in their calendar sections. You should put together a flyer, and distribute it everywhere, and tack it up on every bulletin board you can find. You might need an assistant, depending on turn out. Don't be afraid to make a profit—this is America!

• Set up a coaching clinic at your club. Contact a local top coach or top player, and schedule a new clinic, perhaps a weekend clinic, at your club. If this hasn't been done at your club before, the club members are probably coaching-starved, and they'll all show up. When all is done, both the coach and the club will profit, and the players will go away with enough enthusiasm to last them years.

• Challenge another club. Proud of your club? Then challenge that know-nothing other club to a team match, your club against theirs. When it's all done, go out for Chinese food together.

• Set up a group to a major tournament. Pick a major tournament, such as the U.S. Open or Nationals, and sign up as many members of your club as possible to go as a group. Get club T-shirts, and the world will take notice.

July 6, 1995
Dear Mr. Clemett
[Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee],

This is to bring to your attention a provision of Table Tennis which is stirring a lot of debate. I really never gave this particular rule much thought until recently when it was brought up in a protest in a club tournament. I was simply dumb-founded. In my 14 years experience as an International Umpire, I have never been confronted with a problem as ticklish as this—when you depend on yourself having to decide between the intent of the law and the letter of that law.

FACTS OF THE CASE

With the score at 19-20, Player A “A” is serving in the third and deciding game of a match. The service is declared a fault by the umpire, explaining that it was the intent of the particular rule to penalize the errant server by awarding a point to the receiver.

If, in fact, it was the intent of the rule, why does it not simply say what it means and mean what is says? Meanwhile, the controversy has persisted.

It is the general feeling that rules must be written with utmost simplicity, concise and precise wording. A tolerate anything that limits the interpretation. This, they say will lead to a better understanding and appreciation of the rules by players and enthusiasts of the sport alike.

ANALYSIS

While there is no doubt it is the intent to penalize the illegal server by awarding a point to the receiving team, the question stands: Did it really come about so the point was penalized?

One point was made in the choice of a very simple word which gave the rule a totally different meaning. The choice of the indefinite article “a” as in “a point,” instead of the definite article “the,” made the big difference. (See Rule 2.6.6.3)

Thank You,
Felipe G. Pigao
USATT International Umpire

July 25, 1995
Dear Mr. Pigao

I have now discussed with my colleagues your letter of July 6 about the wording of Law 2.11 - A Point.

I agree that the present wording is unsatisfactory but we do not think that the wording which you propose would entirely overcome the problem. As the printing of a new Handbook gives us the opportunity, we have decided to make a more drastic change, by altering the whole clause in the wording. Instead of saying “A player shall lose a point if he fails to make a good service.” we now say “A player shall score a point if his opponent fails to make a good service etc.”

The amendments are not strictly in line with this, but I am sure you will understand the principle. We have made corresponding amendments to the other laws and I will do the same in the Handbook for Match Officials when it is revised later this year.

It is interesting that the wording “A player shall lose a point” has been in the laws for so long as I can trace, and surprising that no one has questioned it until now. It does seem to call for raising the matter and I hope you will be satisfied as to the outcome when you see the new Handbook.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,
Colin Clemett
Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee

Azmy Ibrahim’s Performance Recognized

During the recent Taiwan Youth International Tournament, International Umpire Azmy Ibrahim was selected as the Chair Umpire for the Women’s Singles Semi-Finals and the Men’s Singles Finals.

This is yet another indication that USA Table Tennis umpires are recognized worldwide for their outstanding performances. Congratulations, Azmy!

Azmy Ibrahim's Performance Recognized

IT'S THE LAW!

by Mal Anderson, Chairman, USATT Legislative Committee

The following questions were sent to me by Mr. Edgar B. Stein of Los Alamitos, New Mexico:

1. How to define "clearly contesting" as it applies to clothing color with respect to ball color. The relevant USATT rule is:

20.8 Any question of the legality or acceptability of playing clothing the server shall be decided by the referee, except that he may not rule illegal or unacceptable a design which has been authorized by the ITTF or USATT.

Thus, although I sympathize with Mr. Stein’s feeling that a used ball can be the same color as a light gray shirt, the referee of the tournament does make this decision.

A tournament referee allowed a player to use unidentified rubber, after playing against it and decided it played like “conventional” rubber. The rule is:

2.9.3.4 The E.C. will have the authority to grant approval of equipment to be used in sanctioned play.

The referee exceeded his authority in this case. Only the E.C. can grant approval of rubber. E.C. approval is basic for using any ITTF sanctioned specification (thickness, color) and payment of the approval fee. Allowing unidentified rubber would mean a loss of income to the USATT, as well as allowing a possible advantage to the user.

3. An umpire didn't enforce the service rule—he seemed to think that “no one complained, so let them play, and should this always be the rule?” The rule shall always be enforced! I’ve noticed this is the most difficult part of umpiring—when I assess an umpire, the first thing I look at is how well he enforces the service rule. Many International players will test an umpire—see if they can get away with illegal serves. If you call the first one, they try again, because many umpires will call it once, but not again. If you call it the second time, these players will then serve legally the rest of the match, as they know you will always call it—even at 19-20.

One common misconception is that a player has to serve perfectly the first time he serves illegally. Not true—the only time the umpire can warn a player is if he cannot see the serve (which often happens if he is an assistant umpire). In this case, the umpire should call a let the first time this happens (even if he thinks the serve was legal) and warn the player that in future he cannot see the serve, and HE THINKS IT MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL, he will call a fault.

4. The ITTF and USATT rules disagree on allowing players to wear slacks during play. Not approved in the ITTF rule is:

A.2.1 Except as provided in A.3.2.1.1, the Laws (Chapter 2) shall apply to World, Continental and Olympic title competitions, open tournaments and, unless otherwise agreed by the participating Associations, to international matches.

Thus, the only U.S. tournaments that are governed by the ITTF rules (Chapter 2) are the International events at the U.S. Open, and the occasional ITTF event like the just completed World Team Cup and the Olympic Games. All other U.S tournaments are governed by the USATT Rules; the relevant ITTF note is:

20.10 Slacks may be worn but shorts are preferred.

Incidentally, the ITTF rules do not mention slacks at all—they state that track suits may be worn only with the referee’s permission.

November/December 1995

6 Table Tennis Today
"I recommend this (Robo-Pong 2000) for anyone serious about their improvement." — Sean O'Neill, 5 time U.S. Men's Singles and Doubles Champion

"We love the robot and it is in constant use!" — Melanie A. Barnes, Bristol, CT

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"...the robot helped me develop my game much quicker." — Keith Alban, current U-12, U-14, & U-16 U.S. Open Champion

- Easily select any spin—top, back, side, even combination spins!
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- Delivers from 17-85 balls/minute.
- Choose from 8 oscillation zones.
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- Comes complete with collection net, remote control, 48 balls, videotape, owner handbook, and table tennis instruction manual.

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

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

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THE WORLD'S FIRST ELECTRONIC INTERACTIVE TABLE TENNIS GAME
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"Pong-Master... is a must for real competitive excitement." — Sean O'Neill, 5 time U.S. Men's Singles and Doubles Champion

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Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 2000

Tallest players

Fastest footwork, rating under 2000

Worst players, pound for pound

Best trash-talking player

Heaviest it players

Best individual U.S. record

Worst players, pound for pound

• Best trash-talking player

• Fastest footwork, rating under 2000

• Tallest players

• Best trash-talking player

• Best individual U.S. record

Heaviest it players

Send nominations to:
Table Tennis Today, 15916 Indiana Drive, Rockville, MD 20855, or fax to 301-836-8572.
Send in your nominations for:

• Hardest hitters

• Fastest footwork, rating under 2000

• Best players, pound for pound

(bello, Keith?)

• Worst players, pound for pound

(permisson of player required)

• Tallest players

• Heaviest players (permission of player required)

• Weirdest Styles

• Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 2000

• Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 1500

• Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 1000

• Best trash-talking player

• Oldest rated player

• Youngest rated player

DID’JA KNOW?

by Bob Green

The first World’s University Championships were held at Hanover, Germany in 1973. A total of 27 nations were represented. The USSR was the big winner as they walked off with the men’s team, women’s doubles, mixed doubles and women’s singles. A Czechoslovakian woman won the women’s singles. Great Britain took the men’s singles consolation and the women’s consolation title went to France.

The U.S. Men’s team finished 12th out of 16 countries. The U.S. Women’s team finished next to last in 9 teams.

The U.S. team members for this historic championship were Bill Lesner, Jeff Smart (who later became the official USSTA National Coaching Chairman), Jack Wiener, and Greg Gingold. The women competing were Alice Kline, Sue Green and Janice Martin. The best individual U.S. record was scored by Bill Lesner, with 8 wins and 5 losses, followed by Jeff Smart’s 3 wins and 5 losses. In the women’s division, Alice Green won 3 and lost 5, while Janice Martin lost all her matches.

Final World Standings: USSR, Yugoslavia, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Austria, Romania, France, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Italy, USA, Belgium, Israel, Turkey, and Korea, for the men’s division. West Germany finished first among the women’s team, followed by Czechoslovakia, USSR, Romania, France, Great Britain, Sweden, USA, and Canada.

THE FRACTURED BALL AWARD (this award is given to people who really and truly deserve it). Today it is being awarded posthumously to former Italian dictator, Mussolini, who banned handshaking before and after table tennis matches. The reason and I quote the decree, “Intimacy between opponents in sports is an ugly red that needs to be uprooted.”

Professor Von Looper says: “If you haven’t figured out what’s wrong with your game, you haven’t been listening to your friends.”

THEY SAID IT...

“...I’m not so surprised because I saw the U.S. team playing against Sweden yesterday. They are home. For them, that’s big motivation. They are big fighters. They played very good. And so it’s not so big of a surprise.”

Thomas Benjamin, the U.S. team’s manager, was quoted as saying that the U.S. team was going to play Sweden out of the World Team Cup.

“Cheng’s a little bit over the hill, don’t you think?” A spectator in the stands at the World Team Cup of the 38-year-old, just before he defeated World No 1 Jan-Ove Waldner.

“The kids would be playing Ping-Pong in the basement if it was always a struggle to get them to come upstairs for dinner... nobody wanted to end the night on a loss, especially Junior. ‘Just one more game, Mom.’”

Vi Ripken on her son Cal Ripken Jr.

In Memoriam:

ITTF PRESIDENT LOLLO HAMMARLUND

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of ITTF President Lollo Hammarlund, on October 14, 1995.

Mrs. Hammarlund leaves a wife and two daughters, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

In Memoriam:

SCOTTY GRAFTON

Table Tennis Today was saddened to hear of the passing of long-time Missouri player Scotty Grafton on June 19, 1995. He had no children for some months and the discovery that he had cancer came too late for surgery.

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The decision has been taken.

The Olympic Games 1996, Atlanta, will feature JOOLA table tennis equipment (tables, nets, counters and surrounds).

The International Table Tennis Federation have opted for the top bid and at the same time chosen the Company which for decades has supported the sport of table tennis idealistically, financially and by the production of high class table tennis equipment.
Sweden’s Jan-Ove Waldner—still the Master, if not the King. The defending 1992 Men’s Singles Gold Medalist & 1989 Men’s Singles World Champion.


Peter Karlsson of Sweden.

1995 Men’s Singles World Champion Kong Linghui of China

China’s Wang Tao, now ranked #1 in the world, won every match easily, but saw his team lose in the quarters to Korea. So what’s a few extra pounds?

Liu Guoliang of China peeks out from under his arm while serving. The 1995 Men’s Singles Finalist at the Worlds did not have a very good tournament here.

Nigel Christopher of Sweden

China’s Ding Song created havoc at the Worlds, but didn’t play in China’s big match against Korea.

France’s Damien Eloi, ranked #31 in the world, lost matches to USA’s Cheng Yinghua & Jim Butler.

Ilije Lupulesku of Yugoslavia

Csilla Batorfi of Hungary and Nicole Struse of Germany, ranked #6 & #2 in Europe, are half sisters, with the same mother.
The moment of victory—Korea's Yoo Nam Kyu has just completed comeback in winning deuce in the third in the 9th in the final against Jorg Rosskopf.

World #4 Kim Taek Soo defeated both Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner in the final.

Belgium's Thierry Cabrera, world #44. He and teammate Philippe Saive had wins over Jan-Ove Waldner, and losses to USA's Cheng Yinhua & Jim Butler.

Germany's Jorg Rosskopf, world #6, lost deuce in the third in the 9th in the Final against Korea's Yoo Nam Kyu.

Germany's Steffen Fetzner defeated Yoo Nam Kyu in opening match in final.

Belgium's Andreas Podpinka, ranked 46th in the world, is a cousin of former star Tibor Klampar.

Yugoslavian Coach Karakasevic gives pointers to U.S. Under 16 Boys' Champ T.J. Beebe during club night at Chastain Recreation Center just before tournament.

The Brazilian women's team poses with "Izzy."

This is it—the (in)famous glue-testing machine. Retailing at about $150, the apparatus did what few could do—knock Kim Taek Soo out of the Worlds.

China's Deng Yaping went undefeated...as usual. She's the defending champion for just about everything.

Krisztina Toth of Hungary, world #39, Europe #11.

Hungary's Vivien Ello seemed to be having a good time.

Germany's Elke Schall lost to USA's Wei Wang, but it was the only win for the U.S. Women's Team.

Irina Palina of Russia, World #36, Europe #9.

Elena Timina of Russia, world #42, Europe #13.
Players from 17 countries competed here in the second strongest gathering of world class players anywhere in the world this year (only the World Championships was stronger). Teams competing included the top eleven men’s teams in the world (China, Sweden, Korea, Russia, Germany, Japan, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Austria, Italy, and Czech Republic), and the #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 ranked women’s teams (China, Korea, Romania, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, and Russia). USA, whose men & women were ranked 25th and 20th, respectively, were not expected to make much of an impact. Apparently, nobody told the USA Men’s team of Jim Butler, Cheng Yinghua & David Zhuang, who had the best finish for a USA team in international competition since 1949! (see Tim Bogdan’s article on this pg. 32.)

The format for all team ties was best-of-five, with two players from each team playing two singles matches each against the top two players on the other team, and the third player playing the other team’s third player singles match. This was the same format used in the men’s team competition at the World’s, and (starting with the next World’s) in the women’s competition as well.

The venue was the one to be used for the 1996 Olympics. The 1000 seats (to be expanded to 5000 for the Olympics) were packed for the final matches.

Security was everywhere—way too much for this competition, but a good warm-up for next year’s Olympics. Spectators (who by a 2-1 margin, by my poll, brought their rackets) were not allowed anywhere near the actual playing areas.

Eight tables were set up for the competition, with a barriered-off area containing eleven more tables for the players to practice on. From the top of the stands, you could just see into the practice area—and the first thing I saw from there was loop/blocker Wang Tao practicing his chopping against chopper/looper Ding Song!

It became a game for some to get autographs and photos of the players in the few seconds available as they moved from one secure area to another, always with security watchfuling. The Swedes were in great demand, but except for Jorgen Persson, seemed reluctant to sign autographs.

“The organization was outstanding,” said Zhang Xielin, the Chinese women’s coach. The matches were on time, the conditions were near perfect, and there was a lot of interest for the fans, giving the previous day’s results with several short articles. Thanks to all who organized the event—there are too many to be named.

USA’s Jim Butler was named Men’s MVP, for his two victories against Belgium in the preliminaries, and for his victory over France’s Damien Elias in the fifth match to match USA into the semifinals—read on! Emilia Cious of Romania was named Women’s MVP. Congratulations to both!

MEN’S COMPETITION

There were 16 teams in the competition, divided into four groups of four, with the top two teams advancing to the quarterfinals. Present were the top 9 players in the world, 13 of the top 15, and 27 of the top 50, including USA’s Cheng Yinghua, ranked #40. Missing were China’s Ma Wenge, World #10, and Canada’s Johnny Huang, #14.

Present but not playing were Belgium’s Jean-Michel Saive and Croatia’s Zvonar Primorac, ranked 3rd & 9th in the world. “It’s not in my program to play,” said Saive. “I’m just here to practice, and see the playing site for the Olympics.” (see interview of Saive by Sheri Pitham on pg. 18.) Presumably the same was true of Primorac, whose country didn’t even send a team. Belgium, even without Jean-Michel Saive, was still a formidable team, with Jean-Michel’s brother Philippe Saive (world #26), Thierry Cabrera (#38) and Andras Podpinka (#47).  

PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

USA Men

USA vs. Sweden

The U.S. was in a group with Sweden, Belgium and Australia. The U.S. started right off with Sweden, #2 in the world. Match #1 would be U.S. #1 Cheng Yinghua versus Sweden’s #1, Jan-Ove Waldner. Sure, Cheng often dominates U.S. competition, but this was the big time!

Just before the match began, a top U.S. player said, “Cheng’s a little bit over the hill, don’t you think?” Cheng was the oldest in the competition at 38.

In the first game, Cheng leads 15-11, with Waldner serving. Waldner, who normally uses a forehand serve from the backhand corner, suddenly used a backhand serve from the forehand corner! Four times in a row, and Waldner scored each time, 15-11. But Cheng gets the serve, and goes up 19-15. Waldner serves at 16-19, and uses his favored forehand serve again, with vintage Waldner follow-ups—17-19, 18-19, 19-19. But Cheng flaws the next serve, they get into a counterlooping duel—and Cheng gets an edge. When Waldner blocks a Cheng loop into the net, Cheng’s won the first game.

In the second, Cheng leads 16-15—but Waldner runs it up, 21-17!

In the third, Cheng takes a quick lead, and holds it to 11-9. Cheng serves two short balls in a row to Waldner’s backhand, Waldner drops them both short to Cheng’s forehand, and Cheng flips kills two consecutive spectacular winners. Cheng is up 17-11, and the World #1 player is in trouble.

And then, to the dismay of the U.S. audience, Waldner ties it up, 17-all. Then 18-11. Then Waldner serves into the net! Waldner serves and follows on the next point, but Cheng quickblocks it, and Waldner misses the finish line loop! Match to Cheng Yinghua, over World #1 Jan-Ove Waldner!

Now all the U.S. has to do is win two more matches.

Match #2 is Jim Butler versus Sweden’s Kayode Kadiri, who seems to be Sweden’s newest rising star. If Jim and Cheng can both beat Kadiri...

In the first game, it’s all Sweden, 21-13. In the second, it’s all USA, most of the way—5-0, 17-11—the same lead Cheng had on Waldner the previous match. Deja vu, as Kadiri scores 7 straight to lead, 18-17. But just as Cheng had held off Waldner’s comeback in the previous match, Jim held off Kadiri, going up 20-18 and finally winning, 23-21.

In the third, the two battle to 12-all, but the Swede is not to be denied, winning 21-18.

Match #3 is David Zhuang versus Jorgen Persson. And surprise—David wins the first game against the 1991 World Champion, 21-15! In the second, Persson leads all the way, winning 21-15. In the third, Persson again jumps to a quick lead, 11-6, and wins, 21-16.

Match #4 is Cheng versus Kadiri. And here is where a lack of recent international play showed itself! Cheng simply couldn’t return Kadiri’s serve effectively. He’d had no trouble with Jan-Ove Waldner’s serve, often called the best in the world—but he’d played Waldner before, and was used to that type of serve. Kadiri’s serve, somewhat similar to Waldner’s, has more motion, and Cheng simply couldn’t pick up the spin consistently. Add to that Kadiri’s great power, and Cheng and the U.S. lost, 17 & 16.

USA vs. Australia

Aaaahhh... a routine 2-0, 2-0, 2-0 win. No drama as USA methodically goes down under and comes out ahead. Jim Butler defeats Paul Langley at 16 & 6, David Zhuang defeats Russell Lavelle at 20 & 14, and Cheng Yinghua defeats Dennis Makali at 9 & 14.

USA vs. Belgium

13-9. Soon, Cheng Yinghua said, shortly before the tie was to begin. Belgium had gone five with Sweden when both Philippe Saive and Thierry Cabrera defeated a seemingly dispirited world #1 Jan-Ove Waldner. According to one Sweden watcher, “Waldner makes more money from being ranked #1 in the world then by being World Champion. That less [to Cheng Yinghua] cost him many thousands of dollars.” Since both Belgium and USA had lost to Sweden, the winner of their tie would advance to the quarterfinals, while the loser would be eliminated.

Cheng started things off against Philippe Saive, ranked 28th in the world. Like his brother Jean-Michel, Philippe is an all-loop server, and is so able to keep Cheng blocking for much of the match—but not the whole time. Cheng scores the first two games, both at 17. In the third, Cheng is looking very much his backhand more as he takes a 14-11 lead—and wins the last 7 in a row! Match #1 to USA, 17-11, 17-11.

Jim Butler, not to be overshadowed by Cheng, goes...
after Thierry Cabrera, world #38, with a succession of backhand smashes off Belgium’s constant two-winged-looping. Up 5-1, 16-6, Jim cruises to a 10-0 first game victory. In the second, Jim is down 7-2, 11-6, and receives serve near the end down 16-14—only to score all five on Cabrera’s serve! Up 20-16, Jim closes the next two points, and at 20-18, Cabrera loses Jim’s serve on the edge. But USA is not to be denied as Jim wins the next point and the match to give USA a 2-0 lead in the best of five.

David Zhuang follows against Belgium’s Andreas Podpivka, world #47 and cousin of former Hungarian superstar Tibhar Klaman, who strongly resembles both in his features and his playing style & strokes. Podpivka wins the first, 21-14, and leads the second, 20-18. At 20-19, David catches Podpivka with two straight penhold backhand attacks against pushes, and leads 21-20—but David then serves into the net (21-all) and Podpivka pulls out the point with ease.

Jim Butler next goes out to try and match Cheng’s defeat of Philippe Saive. Saive leads the first, 14-11, but Jim comes back and leads 20-19, 21-19, 21-19. But Saive—a game—the exception cannot countermash it to force. But Saive misses Jim’s serve, and Jim bullet-kicks Saive’s serve in to win the first, 21-18. In the second, Jim pulls away generally, hanging on and leads 20-16, and over and over and playing at a pace Saive just doesn’t seem comfortable with. Game, match and tie to USA when Jim wins the second, 21-15! World #8 Belgium is now out of the competition, and USA has advanced to the quarterfinals to face France.

I’m not so surprised because I saw the USA playing a game again yesterday,” said Thierry Cabrera, of USA’s win over Belgium. “They are home. For the, that’s big motivation. They are big fighters. They played very good. And so it’s not so bad with this tie.”

Group Winners
Winning Group A was world #1 China, winning all three matches 3-0 over Yugoslavia. World #25 USA is in the semi-finals, as is Brazil. Italy upset Yugoslavia 3-1 when both Massimiliano Modello and Min Yang upset the Yugoslavian ace, Filipe Lupulescu, and so Italy also advanced while Yugoslavia and Brazil (who lost all three) are out.

Winning Group B was Sweden, defeating Belgium 3-2, USA 3-1, and Austria, 3-0. USA, by virtue of its upset of Belgium, also advanced.

Group C was thrown into a 3-way tie when Korea, sitting out world #15 Yoo Nam Kyu, lost to Austria, 3-2, despite world #5 Kim Tae Soo winning both his matches. Korea’s Lee Chul Seung (world #48) was upset by both Werner Schlager and Kostadin Lengerov. However, Korea had defeated Japan 3-1, and Japan had defeated Austria 3-0, and Austria was eliminated—but Japan advanced in first, with Korea second.

Group D was won easily by France, a 3-0 victor over General Motors-sponsored Germany, with Jean-Philippe Gatien (world #26) and Thierry Cabrera (#3), 19-7. Patrick Chilla (#22) upsetting Jorg Rooskopf (#7), 18-7, 18, and Damien Eoi (#26) defeating Richard Prasue (#60), 16 & 19.

Quarterfinals
The four quarterfinals were flipped, with teams from the same preliminary group put on opposite sides. Imagine the consternation when the #1 and #3 seeds, China and Korea, were drawn in the quarterfinals, care of Korea’s loss to Austria earlier.

USA vs France
Cheng started things off by serving a down the line ace for the first point against world #26 Damien Eloi. The scores bounced around—7-2, Cheng then 7-7, 16-10, 16-20, 16-19, Cheng still leading. Cheng ended it by blocking on the edge, 21-19. In the second, Cheng served from down 16-20, and deuces it. Then it’s 21-all 22-all 23-all 24-all 25-all 26-all 27-all. Can you imagine the suspense? Finally, Eloi wins a “winner” to Cheng’s wide backhand—and Cheng backhand loops a down-the-line winner to go up match point, and then wins the game and match—and 19 & 27.

Jim Butler followed against Jean-Philippe Gatien to give France an upset of the #3 seed, 3-1 win into the semifinals.

Semi-finals
USA vs Korea
Winning Group B was Belgium & France, giving Sweden a scare, and making it all the way to the semifinals, what could USA do for an encore? For an answer, see the several thousand fans on hand cheering wildly for USA here in this match. And again, USA gave everyone their money’s worth.

For this match, the USA fans had finally gotten organized, and led by Barney D. Reed Sr., Todd Sweetser, Eric Owens, Randy Cohen and Herson Go, they really went at it with every imaginable cheer—like any normal basketball or football game. The Korean fans also were organized, and while the teams competed on the field, there was an equally strong competition going on in the stands. The cheering started slow—at first, nobody would join in. Todd Sweetser said, “I’m disgusted with the crowd’s support. At a basketball game, I couldn’t even hear myself speak.” But slowly, more and more of the crowd joined in until there was a happy bedlam in the stands.

Once again, Cheng was up first, against Yoo Nam Kyu. Just before the match, the muscular Yoo, in the middle of some pretty intimidating stretching, did a complete split on the court, with each leg going 90 degrees sideways. Our 38-year-old Cheng, of course, wouldn have some difficulty in touching his toes. But so it is of USA to always be the underdog—see Rocky IV and Ivan Drago.

But on the court, USA was very Rocky-like, and once again USA was ready to battle—but not in the first match, as Yoo won easily, at 13 & 16. Jim Butler followed against Kim Tae Soo, and battled to 17—all—then lost the last four points to the Korean. In game #2, Kim took a 19-15 lead. Jim scored the next point, served at 16-19, and ran out the match, scoring the last six in a row to win, 21-19! Yes, the crowd went crazy—we were in this tie!

But from 12-10 in the third, Jim took super shot after super shot, allowing only two more points in winning 21-12.

David Zhuang was up against Liu Guoliang—beater Lee Chul Seung—and quickly lost the first, 21-16. But starting in the second game, David’s blocking became more and more precise, his smashes more and more potent—and he wins the next two
World-class Butterfly tables to be used at the 1995 U.S. Open Team Championships are now on sale. To reserve your table(s), which will be shipped November 27, or for more information, call the Butterfly Table Tennis Center at 1-800-334-8315.

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U.S. Open Team Championships, Detroit, November 1995

Official Sponsor of the World’s Largest Tournament
Germany vs Japan

Japan decided to sit out their #1, Koji Matsudaira, for several reasons. Not because the Germans are supposed to be good against defensive players, Germany started out strong, winning the first two matches, with Steffen Fetzner defeating Ryu Tuzawara at 11-20, and Jorg Rosskopf defeating Toshio Tasaki at 19 -16. From here on, it's not over! With Steffen Fetzner defeating Ryo Yuzawa in 14-16, it was all downhill for Japan.

Between games, Yoo practice>, a serve and loop kills two in a row, off, and then misses a counterloop, winning ovation. In the match, Yoo served and makes an incredible shot, Rosskopf backhand loop, and then misses a counterloop, Rosskopf serve & loops. Yoo pops the block and the Germans could only wonder... if Virginia sung their victory song at the end of the match? Unfortunately, it was not to be, But we'd see plenty of her later. In the second, Schall again pulled away, from 5-1, the third, 15-11. Slovenia won it with a pair of side spin backhand loops, catching Virginia and winning the game, 26 -24. In game #2, from 5-1, Slovenia pulled it back, and 14-19, and served and looped against Germany, but the match is still on.

In the third, Yoo serves and makes an incredible shot, Virginia backhand loop. Schall won the first, 21-17.

In match #2, Germany played their ace. In match #1, Lily Yip took on World #2 Qiao Hong. In the third, however, Lily scored 7 in a row, and then misses a counterloop, and then missed a counterloop, losing, 21-12. In the second, Lily scored 7 in a row, and then misses a counterloop, losing, 21-14. In the first, Yip scored 7 in a row, and then misses a counterloop, losing, 21-16. In the first, Yip scored 7 in a row, and then misses a counterloop, losing, 21-20.

In match #1, Lily Yip took on World #2 Qiao Hong. In the first, down a 10-17, Lily served and made an incredible shot, Virginia backhand loop, and then misses a counterloop, losing, 21-17. In the second, Schall again pulled away, from 5-1, the third, 15-11. Slovenia won it with a pair of side spin backhand loops, catching Virginia and winning the game, 26 -24. In game #2, from 5-1, Slovenia pulled it back, and 14-19, and served and looped against Germany, but the match is still on.

In the third, Yoo serves and makes an incredible shot, Virginia backhand loop. Schall won the first, 21-17.
The Detroit Table Tennis Club invites you to participate in the U.S. Open TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS to be held November 24-26, 1995 in the Cobo Exhibition Center in Detroit.

ELIGIBILITY: The tournament is open to all valid and current members of USATT or of ITTF affiliated associations. Top players (rated over 2200) must play for teams representing their country of citizenship or country of residence (at least 1 month). All teams must have names representing geographical areas (U.S. or Canadian cities, states, provinces, or countries). Otherwise, teams may be comprised of players from any geographical areas.

To be eligible for the prizes for the highest finishing men and juniors, teams must consist entirely of men (any age) or juniors (17 or under) as of Dec. 1, 1995. College teams must be comprised of members of the same college or university. College team members must demonstrate proof of enrollment. All members of senior teams must be age 40 or over as of Nov. 24, 1995.

FORMAT: The Swatch cup system (best of 9 singles) will be used for every tie except the semifinals and finals of group A. Only the semifinals and finals of group A (O) (in) will be played under the new modified Swatch cup system, as used in the men's event in the 1995 World Championships.

All teams, except senior teams, will play in one division open to men, women and juniors in any combination. At the start of the tournament, teams will play Preliminary Group (P-Group) round robin against other teams to determine which Final Group (F-Group) they will be placed in for the remainder of the tournament. A team tie (match between teams) will be won by the best of nine matches, and a match by the best of three games. A team will consist of up to five players of which only three will play in any one team tie. A team with only one or two players may play a tie, but will lose the absent players' matches as they are scheduled to occur. Senior teams will play in a separate division.

AWARDS: Cash awards for Open Teams in the Top Division will be:

- Winner .... $6,000
- Runner-Up .... $2,400
- Semi-Finalist .... $1,200
- Highest Women's Team .... $1,800
- Highest Junior Team .... $1,800
- Highest Senior Team .... $600
- Highest College Team .... $600
- Highest College Team .... $600

ENTRY: Entry fee for all teams will be $265.00 in U.S. funds, plus $5.00 per play rating fee. Mail entries and checks payable to Detroit Table Tennis Clubs, P.O. Box 917, Detroit, Michigan 48226. A 10% discount will be extended to clubs or associations entering ten or more teams comprised of players of that club or association. Foreign entries (other than Canadians) must be submitted through USA Table Tennis. FAX entry to 810-658-9194.

DEADLINE: Entry deadline is November 10, 1995. Late entries may be accepted until final draws are made, but will be assessed as $30 late entry fee. Entries will be confirmed by mail to the address listed for the team captain. If no confirmation has been received by Monday, November 20, the team captain should immediately notify the Tournament Committee.

PENALTY: A penalty of $100 will be assessed to teams entering a top player who fails to attend and who, in the sole opinion of the Tournament Committee, was included for the purpose of raising the team rating.

SCHEDULED TIMES: Play for all teams will begin at 9:30 A.M. on Friday, November 24, 1995. Team captains must report to the control desk 30 minutes before the tournament begins. If a team is not ready and available for its preliminary group matches, that team will be defeated into a lower final group for the remainder of the tournament.

RULES: USATT rules will govern play. All decisions of the Tournament Committee will be final and all participants, upon entering, agree to abide by them.

EQUIPMENT: Orange and white Butterfly balls and Butterfly paddles.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

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FACILITIES: The hotel Pontchartrain will make rooms available to tournament participants at the reduced rate of $65.00 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. The hotel is located directly across the street from Cobo Hall. To receive the reduced rate, identify yourself as a tournament participant and make reservations with: HOTEL PONTCHARTRAIN, Two Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48226, 313-965-0200 or 800-333-3333. Reserve by October 31 for reduced rate.
Interview with Jean-Michel Saive

1994 European Champion • Ranked #1 in World most of 1994-95
by Sheri Soderberg Pittman

TTT: People want me to ask you for the record why it was decided that you wouldn't play.

Saive: Well, it was decided a long time ago—two months ago—that I wouldn't play because now I am starting to prepare for the Olympics. I came here to prepare for the Olympics. I came here to prepare for the season. We have a training camp with Zoran Primorac and the Korean team. And I just started to prepare for the whole season. It was too early in my programming for this competition. It's quite a big competition and I'd want to fit. This was not the case, so it was better not to play like Waldi and other professionals did, for example. I didn't want to not even fighting. So, when I'm not ready, I'm not playing. But it was good for me to come here because I had a good opportunity to stay in the same place as we will be playing next year.

TTT: So the main reason is because you didn't feel up to it?

Saive: No, the main reason is to prepare for the Olympics and to see everything. I would have come here to Atlanta anyway. I came because the others were here and they had to play the competition matches, so I came with them. If there was no competition, I would have come anyway.

TTT: Because you were training here?

Saive: Yes, because I was training here in the same place where I will train for the Olympics and for Romania. I will train in Romania.

TTT: What do you think about the venue for the Olympics?

Saive: Well, I think they're organized quite well. But it was better this year in the hall. Housing may be different. Many countries changed the place where they will sleep because of where we stayed this year. I hope it will be much better next year for the Olympic Village. But it was not ready. It was cold. Many countries had to buy some blankets. Many countries moved into hotels—like Belgium, Sweden, France. But except for that, it was okay. The first thing I noticed in the playing hall, it's good that they made this special room you have to walk in two times, otherwise it's too windy there. The practice hall is not good. The carpet is directly on the floor, so it's too hard. If it's a wood floor, like in the main hall, then that would be perfect. But for the rest, it's okay.

TTT: Are you disappointed for your team?

Saive: Of course. Even if I'm not playing, we expect better results. I mean, last year they were in the semifinals without me. I did not play last year in this competition. So, of course, when you are from my country, you expect good results—even if I am not playing.

TTT: So, primarily you're here for mental and other preparation for the Olympics?

Saive: Yeah, to prepare for next year and to see the conditions before I arrive next year, because [the Olympics] is one of my biggest goals. I don't want to arrive next year and everything is new to me and we have to change this and this and this. Now we've learned. We've seen how it is. And if we have to improve on something we will do it.

TTT: What's your strategy for preparing for next year?

Saive: Well, we have to play one full season next month. Normally with the European Championships, the top 12 European Masters—a lot of competition in Europe. And then you have to prepare 1 1/2 months for the Olympics to be physically and mentally prepared.

TTT: Will anyone else on the Belgian team automatically qualify?

Saive: Well, I don't know. My brother should have qualified before this competition, he played not so good—I mean, he doesn't have such good results, so I don't think he's automatically qualified. He should be on the border—maybe yes, maybe not. I don't know. We have to look at all the results after this competition and then see what happens.

TTT: What else do you have to say regarding this event?

Saive: I think that this event favors the second tier of players. They are quite hot to play in this competition. All of the others—they are not ready. The season was quite long last year with the World Championships in China. And everyone here is calculating what the world rankings will be [for Olympic selections and seedings].

At the World Team Cup in Atlanta, L-R: Leovid Brown, Scott Wong, Jean-Michel Saive, Michael Hyatt, Zoran Primorac.

Photo by Mary Jane Jung

Olympic selections and seedings.
Kong Linghui (CHN), 9-11, 11-9, 11-8; Wang Tao (CHN) d. Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR), 11-17, 11-16, 11-4; Lee Chul Seong (KOR) d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), 12-13, 11-9, 11-8; Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR), 11-17, 11-16, 11-4.

Germany d. Sweden, 3-2: Steffen Fetzner (GER) d. Jorgen Persson (SWE), 11-13, 11-8, 11-12, 11-8; Jorgen Persson (SWE) d. David Zhuang (USA), 9-11, 11-9, 11-8; Andreas Podpinka (BEL) d. David Zhuang (USA), 10-19, 11-9, 11-7; David Zhuang (USA) d. Dennis Makaling (AUS), 9-14, 11-7, 11-6; Dennis Makaling (AUS) d. Jim Butler (USA), 14-16, 11-12, 11-7; Jim Butler (USA) d. Paul Langley (AUS), 11-8, 11-9, 11-7; Paul Langley (AUS) d. Dennis Makaling (AUS), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

China d. Hungary, 3-2: Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Lily Yip (HUN), 11-13, 11-9, 11-8; Lily Yip (HUN) d. Qiao Hong (CHN), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8; Emilia Ciosu (ROM) d. Pernilla Pettersson (SWE), 16-14, 11-9, 11-7; Pernilla Pettersson (SWE) d. Emilia Ciosu (ROM), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

USA d. Australia, 3-0: Jim Butler (USA) d. Paul Langley (AUS), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8; Paul Langley (AUS) d. Jim Butler (USA), 8-11, 11-9, 11-7; Jim Butler (USA) d. Paul Langley (AUS), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

USA Men's Preliminary Results:

China d. Hungary, 3-2: Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Lily Yip (HUN), 11-13, 11-9, 11-8; Lily Yip (HUN) d. Qiao Hong (CHN), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8; Emilia Ciosu (ROM) d. Pernilla Pettersson (SWE), 16-14, 11-9, 11-7; Pernilla Pettersson (SWE) d. Emilia Ciosu (ROM), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

USA Women's Preliminary Results:

China d. Germany, 3-1: Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Lily Yip (HUN), 11-13, 11-9, 11-8; Lily Yip (HUN) d. Qiao Hong (CHN), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8; Emilia Ciosu (ROM) d. Pernilla Pettersson (SWE), 16-14, 11-9, 11-7; Pernilla Pettersson (SWE) d. Emilia Ciosu (ROM), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

USA Women's Preliminary Results:

China d. Hungary, 3-2: Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Lily Yip (HUN), 11-13, 11-9, 11-8; Lily Yip (HUN) d. Qiao Hong (CHN), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8; Emilia Ciosu (ROM) d. Pernilla Pettersson (SWE), 16-14, 11-9, 11-7; Pernilla Pettersson (SWE) d. Emilia Ciosu (ROM), 11-9, 11-7, 11-8.

USA Women's Preliminary Results:

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Matthew Syed Wins Third Straight!

Palatine, Illinois
by Laurence Johnson
September 17, 1995

Thanks to sponsors such as Sears, British Petroleum, Motorola, United Airlines, Craftsman, Holiday Inn and Leon's Bakery, Illinois had another high level international table tennis tournament this year. Sears has been doing this a way to promote table tennis in the USA and they supply the tables, barriers, balls, scoreboards, and whatever else is needed. Prime Network Television has been broadcasting these world class matches since the Sears Challenge began in 1992. Carrying the table tennis promotion ball for BP - A has been Homer Brown. Along with Scott Preiss, Homer is one of the most determined promoters I know. He has played in more than 25 U.S. Opens and he devotes loads of time to our sport.

The Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn is the host hotel for the Illinois Sears Challenge and it stages a demonstration by the professionals the evening before the tournament. The ball control displays in the Holidome are always exciting for crowds of spectators. Scott Preiss is the driving force behind these extravaganzas and he really knows his stuff.

Players in this tournament were:

**Group A:**
- Khoa Nguyen (USA), a member of the U.S. National Team since 1987, recently ranked #2 in the U.S.
- Alan Cooke (England), former English National Men's Singles Champion, and a semifinalist at the Sears Invitational in 1993 & 94, this year a finalist.
- Leszek Kucharski (Poland), formerly ranked in the top 10 in the world and a former finalist in Men's Doubles at the World Championships.
- Kazuyuki Yokoyama (Japan), current Japanese National Collegiate Men's Singles Champion.

**Group B:**
- Michael Hyatt (Jamaica), a member of the Jamaican Olympic and National Team, and the 1992 U.S. Collegiate Men's Singles Champion.
- Matthew Syed (England), who has now won the Sears Invitational three years in a row, is a spectacular chopper on the English National and 1992 Olympic Teams.
- Liang Geliang (China), a former Men's Singles semifinalist at the World Championships and a many-time member of the Chinese World Championship Men's Team. (See article on Liang by Ed Hogshead, pg. 22.)
- Jim Butler (USA), 2-time U.S. National Champion, and a member of the U.S. National and 1992 Olympic Teams.

Early Sunday morning of the 17th had the players arriving at Harper College by 8:00 AM. By 8:30 AM the tournament was ready to begin, thanks to tournament director Primo Madrigal and volunteers from his Schaumburg Table Tennis Club. Peter Bjurman, Phil Moy, Dewayne Zint and Ed Hogshead were also working hard to keep things running smoothly.

**GROUP A MATCHES**

**Khoa Nguyen vs Alan Cooke**

Khoa Nguyen amazes me by being at the top of our player ratings even though he is a computer professional. His match with the experienced Mr. Cooke was very close, with small leads going back and forth. The American bested the Englishman in game one, 21-19. The second game went the same way, 21-19.

**Leszek Kucharski vs Kazuyuki Yokoyama**

Leszek Kucharski had quite a bit too much know-how for Kazuyuki Yokoyama and won 21-8 and 21-15, trying out his under-the-leg service in game two.

**Leszek Kucharski vs Khoa Nguyen**

Kucharski/Nguyen begins with Khoa taking the lead, 14-11. Then Leszek evened the game at 19-19. He gets game point, but Nguyen deuces it and Leszek has to run two more points to win a 22-20 win. Kucharski tries close to the net, low shots to wrap-up this encounter but he cannot hold an early lead and Khoa draws away slowly but surely to take number two at 18. Game three is even in the beginning, but Nguyen's touch annoys Kucharski enough to make him toss his paddle a bit. The lead grows too much for Leszek to get back into it and Nguyen wins it 21-17 for a 2-1 victory.

Alan Cooke vs Kazuyuki Yokoyama

Yokoyama again faced a player with vast experience at
the highest levels of competition—Alan Cooke—and the match went quickly to the Englishman, 21-9, 21-10.

**Khoa Nguyen vs Kazuyuki Yokoyama**

Khoa Nguyen has to work hard against Kazuyuki Yokoyama's chopping skills to win, but his greater experience at this level of play brings Khoa victory at 12 and 15.

**Alan Cooke vs Leszek Kucharski**

Alan and Leszek were both in the semifinals last year, but this year Alan has it all over Leszek. He wins at 17 and 14 and will join Mr. Syed, Mr. Hyatt and Mr. Nguyen in the afternoon semifinals.

**GROUP B MATCHES**

**Michael Hyatt vs Matthew Syed**

The first match had Michael Hyatt, a spectacular hitter and long-distance lobber, playing against the defending champion, the artistic chopper from England, Matthew Syed.

Hyatt went after Matthew right away, using his power well. He drew away to a 14-9 lead. Matt punched back with some counter-drives and his chops were finding the range better towards the end of the game, but the Jamaican-American combined power with drop shots in winning 21-15. The second game was much closer, with Matt getting a 7-5 lead through his analytical tactics. His special backhand service from his forehead corner also got going. Syed chopped very well a number of times, but Hyatt powered through him, 21-19.

**Jim Butler vs Liang Geliang**

The next set of matches brought Jim Butler, beaming with energy after his strong showing at the U.S. Open and his Most Valuable Player performance in the World Team Cup, where he helped the USA team reach the semifinals, against Liang Geliang from China. Liang owns more gold medals from World Championship competition (team, men's, and mixed doubles) than any other Sears tournament competitor. His ball control in the 1970's confounded numerous world class players.

Butler got off to a quick lead against the greatly experienced Chinnaman. Using his backhand crusher, Jimmy made it 12-9, Liang's chopping style taxed Butler's spin-reading capacity even enough to even it at 12-12. Butler pulled back to a 20-17 lead, but the slower, more spin-varied strokes of Geliang made it a deuce game, and soon Geliang had won the first game, 23-21. Butler started playing better in game two, getting a seemingly sure-thing lead of 13-6. Liang dipped into his vast fund of know-how to get to 13-12. Liang got the lead and held it until Butler smashed and service-pointed his way back for a 17-17, then 19-19 score. Tension was great as the American had to win this game to stay in the match. Spin variations from Geliang became too tricky for Jimmy and the game ended 21-19, a 2-0 victory for Liang Geliang.

**Matthew Syed vs Liang Geliang**

This was a match between two chopping masters. Matt was leading 8-6 in the first when Liang ended a long exchange of hits with a drop-shot winner. Syed used a lot of power to get a heavy 19-13 lead that woodworker Liang Geliang could whittle down very little. It ended 21-15, Syed.

In the second game, Liang troubled Matthew with the same skills he had used against Butler and got an early 11-9 lead. Matt came back with a fantastically long series of chops 11-11, 14-14. Sometimes Matthew would follow a long chop with a run to in blast a winner, making Liang exclaim in displeasure. The defending champion ran it out to 21-17 for a 2-0 victory.

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**Jim Butler vs Michael Hyatt**

Game one was tight in this battle between Jimmy's close-to-the-table punching against Michael's free-ranging lob and counter-drives, 9-9. Hyatt's serves are tough, with a forehand serve that reminds one somewhat of Ma Wenge's, and a smooth backhand service, which he uses often. Jimmy sticks to the feared forehand service. Michael goes from 10-12 down to 19-16 up. He is even willing to leave the court to lob back one of Jimmy's smashes. Great entertainment for the fans. The first game ends 21-18, Hyatt.

Butler breaks back into the match with a strong 5-1 lead in game two. His backhand is crushing winners. At 18-12, the spectators enjoy a thrilling display of counter-driving. Hyatt comes back a bit, but Butler wins at 15. In the third game, Butler wins a crowd pleasing smash-lob rally for a 3-2 lead. Mike takes the lead and holds it for a while, playing very creatively far from the table. Butler recovers to even it again. Things are tense when it is 19-17, Michael leading. Butler returns firmly; it is now 19-19. A moment later, it's 22-20, Hyatt, who wins the match 2-0.

**Liang Geliang vs Michael Hyatt**

Game one starts evenly, 5-5. Then the experienced Chinese master draws away from the vibrant Jamaican 13-6. Liang's touch and change of pace is baffling. Using the smash when appropriate, Liang leads 19-9. Hyatt's powerful loop pulls him to 19-14, but Liang's lead and his knowledge are too great for Mike: 21-14 for Geliang.

Game two saw Michael drawing away to a 9-4, 14-11, 18-14, 21-16 win. Both players are intense in this game three, but Liang Geliang, using a wide variety of tactics, shows why it is he has so many world championship gold medals. A service point, 8-5 Liang. A chop winner, 10-5. The lead grows to 18-12. Mike keeps trying but this match goes to Liang, 21-13.

**Matthew Syed vs Jim Butler**

Syed's touch in the Sears remains true and Butler's trouble with that touch is the same this year as it was in 1994. Matthew gets a shut-out, winning at 16 and 17.

---

During the two hour lunch break, Scott Press conducted some of his table tennis exhibitions and so did Leszek Kucharski and Liang. Scott was very entertaining and his dedication to the promotion of our sport was apparent. Leszek and Liang demonstrated their truly great ball control and considerable skill as humorists.

**SEMIFINALS**

**Matthew Syed vs Khoa Nguyen**

The first semifinal was between Matthew Syed and Khoa Nguyen. Khoa came on strong in the first game, grabbing a commanding 9-2 lead and showing the talent that has brought him to the top ranks of USA Table Tennis. Matthew lobbed, chopped and counter-smashed his way back into the game, coming in from long range defense to put away winners, and ties it up, 9-9. After 14-14, Nguyen surpassed Syed.
in timing and tactics and made it 20-18. In the last few points, both players treated the audience and the TV cameras to some table tennis acrobatics before the game ended with a 21-18 win for Khoo. Game two begins with Syed's consistent looping as Syed works to get his magnificent chopping game zoned-in. Syed leads most of the way, but Khoo evenst it at 15-15. Then Matthew breaks his service plan, impressively, and takes the lead 17-14. Game three has Syed employing his unusual and effective backhand serve from the backhand side. His change of speed and placements makes this game perplexing for Khoo and after falling behind early, he comes racing back to win 21-19 and take a 2-1 lead. Syed's growing energy supply is very evident in game four. His speed and power propelled him to a 14-9 lead. Michael tries everything, but can get only one more point in this game, 21-10. Cooke, who ties up the match, 1-1. Game three has Matthew leading 10-7. Sharp angle play makes it 13-9, and Syed looks like he has it for Hyatt to come back. He doesn't. 21-14, Cooke, and the match is 2-1 for him. Pressure is now on Michael. But Alan has found the angles for dealing with Michael's shot-making. Hyatt gets a 14-7 lead. Cooke, as he goes up 14-7. The two Olympic athletes play excellent table tennis which will make fine television viewing, but the outcome becomes clear as the game progresses. Alan Cooke wins with an improved Hyatt, 21-12, in the fourth game.

**FINAL**

Matthew Syed vs. Alan Cooke

This is what Syed/Cooke match, like 1994 at the Sears Pong Challenge, but this time it is the Final. It is hard for anyone who has watched all of these tournaments to doubt Matthew's ability to prevail in a Sears final in Illinois. But Michael has as much experience in this even as Matthew does and he has been learning all along.

Game one begins with Syed looking so loose and confident that he can, seemingly, make it 7-0 without too much trouble. Michael does severely, but Alan stays with him and soon wins the first game, 21-19. The second game saw Cooke playing the angles well, getting a 4-6 lead. Over the next ten points the game is 12-3 lead. Alan tried to beat Matthew's long range game with hit drop shot combinations. It wins him some points, but Syed maintained control of the game. At 11-8 they play a trademark Syed/Cooke soft serve or more or less the way they did in the first game. They fans loved it. But it ends with Alan catching the net again and he has to yell at himself over that. Syed gets to 17-12, and runs it out to 21-12 for a 3-1 win, for his third consecutive victory in this supreme Illinois tournament.

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"When the dust settled at PC Magazine Labs, though, the only clear standout was the Brother Multi-Function Center 4500 ML."

- PC Magazine June 13, 1995

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ZORAN PRIMORAC’s SERVE & FOLLOW

Despite his relatively young age, Zoran Primorac of Croatia has been in the table tennis spotlight for quite a long time. In a previous article, in which we studied his forehand loop, we mentioned some of his achievements as a former member of the Yugoslav National team and of the famous doubles team of Primorac and Lupulesku. After the breakup of his country, Zoran lived in Germany and Belgium and has continued developing—even at a faster pace than before. Please refer to this year’s January/February issue of Table Tennis Today for more information on his career.

A very characteristic feature of Primorac’s game is his backhand serve from the right side of the table, followed by a quick turn and a forehand attack. Unlike most other players, who generally serve from the left side of the table in order to have good coverage of all sides without needing to move very much, Primorac approaches the early part of the point differently: He sets up in a spot that seemingly leaves his backhand wide open and then moves to a spot that allows him to attack. This has several effects:

First, the receiver immediately faces an unusual situation with the server standing on the “wrong side.”

The temptation to try to exploit that opening by placing the receive to the backhand is great, but it is also somewhat obvious. Receiving the ball to the forehand side is dangerous even when the player served from the other side. In this case, he’s right there.

Second, the sidespin pulls the ball toward Primorac’s forehand side, so the right-handed receiver is forced to deal with an uncomfortable position. It is very easy to miss the table when the receiver attempts precise placement to the forehand. Consequently, a receive to the forehand will usually land well in from the sideline—in easy reach for Primorac.

Third, the receive is quite predictable: If the receiver wants to use the forehand, the limited degree to which he can angle his wrist outward virtually guarantees that the sidespin will bring the ball into Primorac’s forehand and allow an attack. If the receiver reaches over with the backhand, the situation is a little more dangerous for Primorac. Although an extreme placement to the forehand is unlikely, a backhand receive provides more flexibility, and Primorac knows to pay attention to that. He usually places the serve in a way that makes a backhand receive awkward and avoids the problem that way.

One of the keys to the success of this technique lies in the direction of the sidespin. When this serve is returned to his backhand, the spin “bites” into the rubber just right to make it easy to lift the ball, and on the forehand side, it favors a sharp angled inside-out loop to the opponent’s backhand.

The beginning of the sequence shows Zoran’s unusual position: The feet are set up a little past parallel to the end line, the left foot back a few inches, but they are not more than about four inches apart. He starts the toss by bending his knees and presenting the ball right at table level. The whole beginning of the serve is very slow and deliberate. He then raises his racket hand in front of his body and tosses the ball, both his arms stopping at about shoulder level (1.2 sec). As the ball starts to fall, Primorac shifts his weight to the right leg. He lifts his left leg, pulls his racket under his left arm, and, as he goes to set his left leg down, he contacts the ball (1.8 sec), sweeping across its back and up a little (1.9 sec) for a side-topspin serve. He knows that a short receive off this serve is unlikely. He continues his momentum to his left, and as he steps down with his left leg, he pushes off his right leg (1.9 sec) to start his turn. At 2.2 sec, he completed his first step and has recognized where the receive is placed. He immediately continues for a full turn by once again pushing off his right leg and stepping out very wide with his left foot (2.7 sec). The ball bounces just after 2.8 sec (it is visible in the frame). During the whole second step, Primorac swings back his racket, so at 3.0 sec he is ready for a powerful loop, using his right leg to add momentum to his arm and shoulder rotation.

A precondition to using this serve effectively is an unwavering confidence in your backhand. You have to be able to attack strongly from the backhand side to discourage the receiver from placing the ball there. You also need quick, precise footwork and the ability to anticipate placement based on the receiver’s racket angle and choice of forehand or backhand. The serve must have enough sidespin, and there must be good variation in the underspin-topspin component.

Zoran Primorac is among the confirmed entries in the upcoming $125,000 Beverly Hills International Tournament (Jan. 6-7, 1996). This will provide many of you the opportunity to study his game along with that of some other top players (see ad for this tournament in this issue). When you do see him, pay particular attention to his timing. There is no rush to get to the ball, although quite a bit of movement is required, and the general looseness of his motion is punctuated with strong, tight strokes. Primorac is a dynamic, creative, and smooth player—qualities that make him one of the most pleasant players to watch.

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The first two games and the third & fourth games of this match were two completely different matches played by completely different people. Overall, Gao Jun could do so easily block & hit his way through Xu in the first two at 12 & 15, and then Xu could so easily spin and loop winners past David in the next two, 15 & 14. So who would show up for the fifth game? David, it would seem. Competitive title to David Zhuang, 12, 15, -15, -14, 18. Women’s Singles

There wasn’t a single upset in the entire draw, as the higher rated player won every match. In the semifinals, #2 seed hitting penholder Lily Yip upset top seeds loop hitter penholder Gao Jun at 15 & 16. Amy Feng out-looped Jen Huang, a visitor from Taiwan, 18 & 18.

In the final, Gao Jun was just too steady for Amy Feng, running away with it 21-9. In the second, they stayed close the whole way to 17-18, with the now almost recklessly aggressive Amy leading. However, Gao scored the next three to lead 20-18, and (after Amy got an edge ball to get to 19) went on to win, 21-19.

American Allstar Men

Only one match in this round was really contest. Khoa Nguyen led 2-1 in games against Brian Puce, and was serving with a 20-16 match point lead in the fourth. However, Brian simply took his shots, and ripped five straight winning shots before finally winning, 24-22.

In the fifth, however, Khoa took complete control right from the start, 8-0, 12-1, 18-8, 21-12.

Quarterfinals

December 3 vs Khoa Nguyen

Dan led Khoa 20-19 in the first, but couldn’t hold on, losing it, and the second game, at 20 & 18. In the third, Dan led 16-14, but did not score another point as Khoa advanced.

Todd Sweevers vs Darko Rop

Todd played a mostly forehand looping, backhand banging game in winning the first two games against Darko. Darko began to find the range and pick up the pace in the third, and pulled it out, 21-9. The fourth, however, was all Todd, 9-3, 12-7, 20-10, 21-14.

David Zhuang vs Xu Haitao

Up 18-11 in the first against Xu, David had things well in hand, but Xu scored the next seven in a row to tie it up. Up 20-18, David served into the net, and then Xu scored four in a row to win 22-20. However, David won the second easily, 21-13, won one more in a row from 18-all in the third, and won the fourth easily, 21-12.

Jim Butler vs Norman Yeh

Jim, after falling behind early in the first and second games, won easily against up-and-coming Norman Yeh, 15, 18, 11.

Semifinals

Todd Sweevers vs Khoa Nguyen

Todd had never beaten Khoa, but he hadn’t played him since last December, and not since going to pipps on his backhand. In the first, it was all Todd, 21-14. In the second, Khoa finally established his forehand attack, and won up 18-14—but Todd battled back to win it, 22-14. In the third, up 8-9, Khoa scored the last three points on Todd’s serve; down 12-8, Todd scored all five on Khoa’s serve. Khoa followed by scoring all five on Todd’s serve to take a 17-13 lead. Todd scored the next three (that’s 16 straight points scored by the receiver), but Khoa pulled away at the end with a typical barrage of forehand loops, 21-17. In the fourth, Todd goes up 10-4, but Khoa ties it up 11-all. At 15-17, Khoa scores four in a row to win it 22-20. However, Todd wins the second easily, 21-13, wins one more in a row from 18-all in the third, and won the fourth easily, 21-12.

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November/December 1995

Table Tennis Today 27
While millions of Americans stayed at home to watch Mike Tyson and Peter McNeeley punch it out for 89 seconds, 225 came to spend the weekend punching it out among themselves in the table tennis version of the French Open Tennis Championships, i.e. clay court i.e. slower conditions due to the rubber type floor. This leads to longer and (to many) better rallies, just like the French Open.

The draw here also showed the aging of the U.S. players, reminiscent of the famed Hungarian team of the 1970's and 1980's, who kept getting older and older, until they were no more. Seven of the top eight seeds here were over 30 years old, with Todd Sweeris (22) the only exception.

Open Singles Quarterfinals

Without doubt, the match of the tournament was Dan Seemiller's quarterfinal deuce in the fifth upset win over Jack Huang, who time and again seemed to almost, but not quite, win the match. The crowd, equally split between Dan's hometown Pittsburghers and Jack's Maryland supporters, roared on into third, fourth, and fifth games. In the first, Jack led 16-11—only to watch Dan winseven of the last eight points. A number of the rallies were ferocious but tenacious, with Jack looping all over, and Dan somehow getting it all back, until finally, just when he thought he'd found the opening, Jack would loop off. Jack gets back to deuce, and loops in Dan's serve to go up match point, 21-20. Dan pops the serve up, Jack ripsthe winner—but Dan blocks it out, a winner, deuce! Then Dan wins the game, 23-21, to force the fifth game.

In the fifth, it's Dan's turn to pull away, going up 17-11. But Jack, playing at 22-21—and then it's Dan's turn to go up—23-22 match point, then 24-23—and finally, Dan serve & loops, Jack blocks off, and Dan's vertical is one that would attract basketball scouts. "I had it all the way!" Dan exclaims. Match to Seemiller, -12, 18, -20, 21, 23.

In other quarterfinal action, Abass Ekun won the first game against Cheng Yinghua, 21-19, and led 20-18 in the second—but Cheng won that game, 23-21. Complaining about a rip in his sponge, Abass changed sponge between loops, Jack blocks off, and Dan's vertical is one that would attract basketball scouts. "I had it all the way!" Dan exclaims. Match to Seemiller, -12, 18, -20, 21, 23.

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Ashu Jain won American Allstar Under 16 and the Under 2125’s, and made the final of Under 2250.

beat him anyway,” led to this epidemic.

American Allstar Women—Final: Virginia Sung d. Jessica Shen, n.s. (Core) + Plies Performance Description

Handcrafted ASTI Blades - For championship play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blade</th>
<th>'Handles:(Head)</th>
<th>Gram weights</th>
<th>List</th>
<th>(Core) + Plies</th>
<th>Performance Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omni</td>
<td>ST,FL,AN:(SC) 80 grams</td>
<td>$24.95</td>
<td>3 ply: (Mersawa) + 2 Mersawa All-around, superb balance and touch suitable for beginner and intermediate players alike.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striker</td>
<td>ST,FL,AN:(M) 72, 77 grams</td>
<td>$34.95</td>
<td>7 ply: (balsa) + 6 ply birch Lightweight, quick and stiff over the table. A power blade for the player who wants a low weight racket.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro-Flex</td>
<td>ST,FL,AN, CN:(SC) 89 grams</td>
<td>$69.95</td>
<td>5 ply: (red cedar) + 2 carbon + 2 mahogany European style loop blade. An elegant blade for the modern attack/loop style player.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strad</td>
<td>ST,FL,AN:(SC) 89 grams</td>
<td>$44.95</td>
<td>5 ply: (Englemann spruce) + 4 mahogany Outstanding medium-fast all-around. Our smoothest feeling wood blade. Vertical grain Englemann Spruce core also used to make some of the finest vislins, hence the name “Strad.”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polarus <em>NEW</em></td>
<td>ST,FL,AN:(M) 87 grams</td>
<td>$63.95</td>
<td>5 ply: (Englemann spruce) + 2 carbon + 2 African Obechi Medium speed all-around, unique 2 carbon design. Incredible dynamic range of speed from slow to fast. An extraordinary looping blade for the player who wants maximum spin on shots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectrum <em>NEW</em></td>
<td>ST,FL,AN:(M) 85 grams</td>
<td>$39.95</td>
<td>5 ply: (Englemann spruce) + 4 mahogany Similar playing characteristics to the well known European 5 ply all-around wood blades. Designed for a range of playing styles which require a medium to fast all-around blade.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:

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

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<tr>
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<th>Super speed and spin rubber for the power player</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attack Plus: 1.5, 2.0, 2.2</td>
<td>For the advanced player who places more of an emphasis on speed rather than spin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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November/December 1995

Table Tennis Today 29
The flip is a stroke used to attack a ball that lands short. On the backhand side, a flip is essentially the same as a normal backhand.

On the forehand, however, it is slightly different. Below is a step-by-step procedure for flipping with the forehand.

**Ready Position**
- Start off in basic ready position (knees slightly bent, legs slightly farther apart than shoulder width, feet) ready to move quickly in any direction.

**The Start**
- Make split-second decision: is the ball going to land short?
- Step forward with right foot (for righties) in the direction of the ball, with foot well under table.
- Left hand should be up for balance.

**Racket Position & Angle**
- Determine the spin on the ball.
- In underspin, racket tip should be down, racket perpendicular to the table.

**Follow-through**
- Follow-through should be short, relaxed, in the direction of the target. If stroke is done correctly until this point, follow-through should be natural.

**The Next Shot**
- The important thing about flipping is not to win the point with the flip but to set up the next shot. Immediately after flipping, get back into ready position and continue to attack. Many players are not ready to continue the attack after flipping, and become flat-footed and defensive.

**When & How to use**
- If used properly, the flip can become one of your best weapons.
- You can use it to attack a short serve or a short push.
- It is a valuable shot in starting the attack since otherwise you'd probably have to push, and let your opponent attack first.
- Many players use the flip only to win the point off a weak short ball, rather than use it as an aggressive shot against a low and short ball.

**Placement**
- One of the most important things when flipping is to think of the placement of the flip. A soft flip to the right place is as effective as a strong loop. You should always flip to one of three spots: the wide forehand, the wide backhand, and to the opponent's elbow (midway between their forehand and backhand shots, forcing them to make a split-second decision). Observing your opponent's tendencies will help you decide where to place the ball, i.e. if your opponent has a strong forehand and steps around often, flip to the forehand; if he stays in the middle of the table, you'd flip mostly to his backhand or middle.
- When flipping to the forehand or backhand, most players hit the ball into the corners. Flip outside the corners (even if you have to slow down your this will make your opponent take an extra step, put him well out of position, and make his return somewhat predictable, as it will be difficult for him to return anywhere but cross-court.

**Drills**
- Serve short underspin. Have partner push short. Flip the ball to a predetermined spot, and then play out the point.
- Partner serves short, mixing up the spins. Flip the serve to a predetermined spot, then play out the point.

---

**On the forehand, however, it is considerably different. Below is a step-by-step procedure for flipping with the forehand.**

- **Ready Position**
  - Start off in basic ready position (knees slightly bent, legs slightly farther apart then shoulder width, weight on front part of the feet), ready to move quickly in any direction.
- **The Start**
  - Make split-second decision: is the ball going to land short?
  - Step forward with right foot (for righties) in the direction of the ball, with foot well under table.
  - Left hand should be up for balance.
- **Racket Position & Angle**
  - Determine the spin on the ball.
  - In underspin, racket tip should be down, racket perpendicular to the table.
- **Follow-through**
  - Follow-through should be short, relaxed, in the direction of the target. If stroke is done correctly until this point, follow-through should be natural.
- **The Next Shot**
  - The important thing about flipping is not to win the point with the flip but to set up the next shot. Immediately after flipping, get back into ready position and continue to attack. Many players are not ready to continue the attack after flipping, and become flat-footed and defensive.
- **When & How to use**
  - If used properly, the flip can become one of your best weapons.
  - You can use it to attack a short serve or a short push.
  - It is a valuable shot in starting the attack since otherwise you'd probably have to push, and let your opponent attack first.
  - Many players use the flip only to win the point off a weak short ball, rather than use it as an aggressive shot against a low and short ball.
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  - Serve short underspin. Have partner push short. Flip the ball to a predetermined spot, and then play out the point.
  - Partner serves short, mixing up the spins. Flip the serve to a predetermined spot, then play out the point.

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**'95 U.S. OPEN**

**PLAY THE MIDDLE**

**Playing Tip:** by Larry Hodges

**USATT Certified National Coach**

There are only three directions you can hit the ball: to your opponent’s forehand, backhand or somewhere in between. But most players play shot after shot to the forehand or backhand, simulating exactly what your opponent has probably spent much of his practice time doing—hitting forehands or backhands.

Instead, try hitting at an opponent’s middle. Define that to be the opponent’s playing elbow, the midpoint between the forehand and backhand. If the opponent is close to the table, you should play the ball a little forward the side of the elbow; if the opponent is a little off the table, generally play the ball a little toward the backhand side of the elbow.

As long as you hit the ball aggressively (that’s important), your opponent has very little time to decide whether to take a forehand or backhand, move into position using footwork not often practiced, and then make the shot. Contrast this with hitting into an opponent’s forehand or backhand, where all your opponent has to do is... make the shot. Try this out, and you’ll be amazed at the results.

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A Reunion of Fact and Fiction

by Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

On the evening of Sept. 23, 1995, at Dick Miles's home in New York City, six former U.S. Champions, all world-class players in their day, got together with a number of well-wishers to talk about old times and to celebrate...well, being alive.

The Who's Who feted were (and I've settled for merely a one-line identification tag here):

• Laszlo "Laci" Bellak (84), 3-times World Singles finalist and World Mixed Doubles Champion;
• Doug Cartland (81), World Quarterfinalist and U.S. Open Men's and Mixed Doubles Champion;
• Sol Schiff (78), World's Men's Doubles Champion and U.S. Open Singles and Men's and Mixed Doubles Champion;
• Lou Pagliaro (76), World Semifinalist and 4-time U.S. Open Champion;
• Dick Miles (70), World Mixed Doubles Champion and 10-time U.S. Open Champion; and
• Marty Reisman (65), World Semifinalist and U.S. and British Open Champion.

Naturally, with conversations going on all around me, I jotted down whatever I could. However, what I've thought best to select to present to you here and how directly or indirectly to do that presented a problem—though nothing compared to the larger one facing me with my multi-volume History.

Fortunately, Dick's cardiologist, Dr. Steve Horowitz, started the historic evening off just right. He showed us all a little purchase he'd recently made—an antique, long-handled vellum-racket set with a most unplayable ball.

Bellak, of course, was right away reminded of 1928—when his lifelong friend Sandor Glancz was a very good player but one who could also be very temperamental. At the Stockholm World's, in the Men's Doubles semi's, against the Austrian pair Liebster and Thum, Glancz disputed a point and began arguing with the umpire. When Bellak, his partner, tried to quiet him and told him, since after all they were leading, to just calmly play on, Sandor erupted, screamed that Laci, too, was against him. Leaving Bellak alone at their side of the table, Glancz hurried off court, to go, harried, tormented by thoughts too subjectively ideal, round and round the arena...until there was nothing left for the Referee to do but default the two of them. How uncharacteristic this was of Sandor I would have thought, recalling how a decade later he was the suave sophisticate playing the ultra-exclusive Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center with our one and only World Singles Champ Ruth Aarons. Laci also recalled his singles losses to the inimitable...

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The Great U.S. Teams of the 1930's & 1940's
by Tim Bogdan, USAATT Historian

On the cover of the March, 1937 Table Tennis Topics: the U.S. Team, just back from winning both the Men's and Women's Team Championships at the World Championships: L-R, Dolores Kuenz, Jay Purves, Ruth Aarons, Emily Fuller, Elmer F. Cinnater, Bud Blattner, Abe Berenbaum, Sol Schiff, Jimmy McClure.

The (Cheng Yinghua, Jim Butler, David Zhuang, Li Zhensho-coached) U.S. Men's Team advanced to the semi's over Belgium and France before losing to South Korea in the Atlanta World Team Cup this summer, was historically speaking, such a long-awaited success that the cub might be getting just a little too grim, so back he went. "I thought I could beat Bergmann," said Pagliaro, "his ball was so high. But I never got to play him."
Marty, he and Doug were playing in the and in a loud voice exclaimed, "I hate Swe-
glish Association agreed to pay their hotel
ill, so he was sorry, but how could he partici-
bitions in England and just weren't going to
speeches, so many dear little dinners,
participation in a tournament or two were
indefatiguable exuberance, from inter-upt-
because he heard they were offering a car,
inadequacy of their lodgings, their meager
(Cartland of course had received a tele-
ated, turned round to them and yelled, "Oh,

dined, given pocket money to gamble with,
class Champions or Champions-to-be in the
my nourishment, and took out a piece
"Is very nice, no?" said Alex. And opening
a little cot, a metal locker there," said Marty.

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tournament from any and all actions, claims, and demands resulting from loss, damage, or injury sustained to persons or property.

EVENTS CIRCLED: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

baskets. 25 All other matches are 2 out of 3 games.

Winnies (and perhaps many-to one) of each RR advance to single elimination draw.


Sanctioned by: USATT, Two-stars

Referee: Dave Howes, Tel: (301) 530-4077 Fax: (301) 530-4077

Location: Potomac Community Center (PCC)

11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: (301) 985-8471

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

1. Entry deadline: November 16, 1995. Entries received after Nov 16 and entries not accompanied by payment are subject to $5 processing fee.

2. Open singles, seniors and finals are 3 out of 5. All other matches are 2 out of 3 games. Winnies (and perhaps many-to one) of each RR advance to single elimination draw. Non-participating entries may be canceled at any event but will not advance to SE draws in related events. Doubles are single elimination.

3. 12 Butterfly tables, butterfly 3-star balls (White). Only USATT-approved equipment will be used. All USATT regulations apply, including dress code.

4. Proof of USATT membership will be required. Membership may be purchased at the tournament: $25 yearly (50 for Junior under 18; $20 today), $60 for 3 years. First-time adult players may purchase a pass for $6 (valid this tournament only).

5. Players must seed a minimum of 20 minutes before the start of their entailed event.

6. Any player abusing equipment or harassing tournament officials will be disqualified immediately. Anyone deliberately defining a match may, at the tournament officials discretion, forfeit all prizes.

7. Ratings will be based on the September/October issue of Table Tennis Today. Future ratings may be established or canceled due to lack of entries.

DIRECTIONS:

1. From North: Take Washington Capital Beltway 495 West, Exit 35 onto I-270 North, get off Montrose Rd. West (Exit 40), turn left onto Falls Rd. (Old 191 South) to Potomac Community Center (on the left side).

2. From South: Take Washington Capital Beltway 495 North, take River Road West (老 355), turn right onto Falls Rd. North to Potomac Community Center (on the right side).

ENTRY BLANK: Cut along the line and mail it together with the entry fees (payable to PCTTC) to: Potomac Country Table Tennis Club (PCTTC), 9503 Parkhill Terr. Bethesda, MD 20814.

Please enter me in the events listed above.

Event Fees Starting Time Prize
1. Open Singles RR $20 10 Sat. 3:00 pm 1/2-3-4-5-6 $100 100 20
2. U-2400 RR 10 Sat. 18:00 am $120
3. U-2250 RR 10 Sat. 11:00 am $180
4. U-2100 RR 10 Sat. 1:00 pm $200
5. U-1800 RR 10 Sat. 9:00 am $250
6. U-1700 RR 10 Sat. 8:00 am $300
7. U-1500 RR 10 Sat. 10:00 am $350
8. U-1400 RR 10 Sat. 11:00 am $450
9. U-1300 RR 10 Sat. 12:00 noon $500
10. U-1200 RR 10 Sat. 1:00 pm $550
11. U-1000 RR 10 Sat. 12:00 noon $600
12. U-17-Junior 5 Sat. 9:00 am $700
TECRO invitational
13. U-2400 Singles RR $150
14. U-2000 RR $200
15. U-15-Junior 5 Sat. 9:00 am $250


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November/December 1995 Table Tennis Today 33

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RAILWAY CITY CUP CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Dr. Azmy Ibrahim

Taipei is a city determined to put its name on the Table Tennis World map. For the second year Taipei hosted the Junior International Tournament. Thanks goes to two USATT officers, Dr. Wang, Executive Vice President, and Y. C. Lee, Vice President, who worked all year long to make this trip to Taiwan a reality. They took with them six junior teams, four boy’s teams and two girls teams.

On the other side of the Pacific the people of Taipei showed their commitment and pride to holding a friendly, beautiful and strong tournament. The tournament included an armistice ceremony which gave the players a sense of importance and recognition, a welcoming dinner party, a closing award ceremony, and a farewell dinner party. The farewell party included some fun games, singing and dancing. Each country put their juniors in a talent show, which proved to be entertaining. An army of volunteers did their best to make the event as fun and going and organized. Their hospitality and friendship were highly appreciated. The venue was donated by the government. Many dignitaries attended the ceremonies and the tournament. Every game was umpired and the awards were given.

Men’s Singles
1st Place: Joo Se Hyuk (Korea) 2nd Place: Chong Yen Su (Taipei City-Taiwan) 3rd Place: Kwou Chi Siang (Taiwan City-Taiwan) 4th Place: Shin Ming (Taipei City-Taiwan)

Women’s Singles
1st Place: Seo Hyuk (Korea) 2nd Place: Huin-Chu Hsien (Taiwan) 3rd Place: Taipale Blue (Taiwan) 4th Place: Tainan City Taiwan

RHODE ISLAND GAMES

by Charlie M. Caviechil

Rhode Island State Games Championships, L-R: Lance Friedel (silver); Brian Conforti (gold); Bing Li (bronze).

The inaugural year of the Rhode Island State Games competitions saw table tennis draw some of the best response and participation of the Games. A total of 40 entries were received, both the sanctioned and novice division events.

Table tennis truly represents the epitome of state games and Olympic competition in that this so-called “lessor” sport does not receive the recognition of some of the more popular sports in the United States. People play this game for the love of it, and not for the fame or fortune that it might bring, as in the case in the so-called top four sports. The state games in Rhode Island were successful in attracting 15 novice players to this year’s event and hopefully that number will grow exponentially as the game develops in the movement. Additional requests for playing information were received as a result of publicity surrounding the games.

Also for the first time the RITTA hosted a tournament away from the home location at the Mansville Community Center. The games were held at the Ocean State Sports Center located in Lincoln, Rhode Island. The round robin format assured all players of an adequate number of matches to be played, and in some cases, too many matches.

The USATT sanctioned tournament was highlighted by an open event in which RITTA members battled for the medals. It came down to a tie-breaker decision to separate the eventual winner, Brian Costi of West Warwick, R.I. The second place went to Lance Friedel, both from the U3000 Doubles, and third place to Bing Li of Providence.

Open Singles: 1st: Brian Conforti; 2nd: Lance Friedel; 3rd: Brian Costi; 4th: Nicky Garrett; 5th: Sam Roberson

Open Doubles: 1st: Conforti/DeCesare; 2nd: Honig/Caviechil.

Singles: 1st: Brian Conforti; 2nd: Lance Friedel; 3rd: Brian Costi; 4th: Nicky Garrett; 5th: Sam Roberson

Doubles: 1st: Conforti/DeCesare; 2nd: Honig/Caviechil.

U.S. Maccabi Players Bring Home Silver Medals

Amsterdam, July 7-14, 1995

Aaron Struth, 15 (Bartlesville, OK); Jeffrey Fry, 14 (Melville, NY); and Jonathan Serman, 14 (West Bloomfield, MI) brought home the silver medal in the junior team competition, and Struth brought home the silver medal as a single as members of the first U.S. team ever to compete in the European Maccabi Games. They were among 25 Americans representing the U.S. in three junior events: table tennis, tennis and soccer. The U.S. was one of only two non-European countries (the other was Israel) in the 36-year-old competition. Congratulations!
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Referee: Paul Kovac

EVENT FEE Ist 2nd 3-4 DAY TIME
1. Open SE $12 $150 $100 $60 Sat 1:00 PM
   (All matches best of five)
2. U2450 RR $12 $50 $30 Sat 10:00 AM
3. U2300 RR $12 $50 $30 Sat 12:00 Noon
4. U2150 RR $12 $50 $30 Sat 2:00 PM
5. U2000 RR $12 $50 $30 Sat 10:00 AM
6. U1850 RR $12 $50 $30 Sun 10:00 AM
7. U1650 RR $10 $40 $25 Sun 12:00 Noon
8. U1450 RR $10 T T Sun 2:00 PM
9. U1250 RR $10 T T Sun 10:00 AM
10. Unrated Novice/ U950 RR $8 T T Sun 12:00 Noon
11. Over 40 RR $10 40 25 Sun 2:00 PM
*Prize money for 5-8 only if 12 or more entries

Quotes:
"Come on! Don't fool with this kid." -Merr Trumbore, 59, about Don Yahika, 46.
"I'm a chopper... I'm a chopper..." -Larry Hodges, reminding himself of his new, spirit-of-the-moment style.
"Where's my sunglasses? Haring's legs are blinding me!!" -Don Vastine.

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  Dec. 27-30
  Sat: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
  Sun: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

MATTIC OPEN
Middletown, Pennsylvania September 22-24, 1995 by Mike Leitzel
A record 93 participants made this tournament the largest in the MATTIC's history. There may be a sign of good things to come, like 100+.

The biggest talk of the tournament was the possible match-up of David Zhuang and Gao Jun in the final. Would the gym ceiling be high enough for their serves? But alas, it was only a dream. Gao was unable to attend at the last minute. However, there were plenty of big guns to fill the void, including Zhuang (2668), Abass Ekan (2562) and Barney J. Reed (2456), to name a few. Although a number of players came to see the Gao Jun/David Zhuang match-up, who could not be impressed with Zhuang's incredible speed and Abass' Ekan's spin? They couldn't!! Abass defeated Barney J. Reed in the semifinals in a "you hit it fast, I'll hit it faster" match that went the full five games. Abass' power/speed was a fan favorite as all other eyes seemed to be trained on him. WOW, can he crush the ball, or what!! David showed why he is always a top U.S. player by taking the first two-tie winner of the Decatur Open in the tournament's fourth year. The tourney's fifth-seeded player defeated Tennessee state champion Jay Sourisenthone 21-11, 21-15 in the championship match.

For the day, Flowers...
ARIZONA SUMMER CLASSIC
Tempe, Arizona
August 12-13, 1995
by Bill Gilbert

Our third annual Arizona Summer Classic
offered more events, and brought in more
entrants than any so far. Summer is a great
time for outdoor sports tournaments, when
August temperatures commonly peak
at 110, we don’t expect a big turnout. We
were pleasantly surprised with nearly 1,000
players! The next four pages have summary
scores in conference with the ASU club,
presented an upgraded tourney adding
different special events, i.e. PAYBACKS!
(tm) and Hard Rubber Singles.

It’s worth highlighting the Mixed Doubles
event first. It really deserves special mention
and Hard Rubber Singles.

Several new special events, i.e. PAYBACKS!
Gadwell.

Place, and Stephanee Lawrence 3rd. Dot
round robin easily topping Jo Splistiser, 2nd
round robin, conceding only a single game to
other end of the age spectrum, Glen Clark
in the five player combined U 15, U 19 Juniors
spent a lot of time training under Sy Kenig, our
came in from Sun City to take the First Place
local Tr legend-guru. Matt went undefeated
a cheering, clapping gallery, Groenig needed
Zochowski; 3rd: Sung Hyun Koresh Khalaj,
Chandler, fell to Marek
Open Singles: Paul Groenig d. Marek
Zochowski d. Paul Groenig/Nadine Groenig
Koresh Khalaj, Chandler, fell to Marek
Women’s Singles: Nadine Groenig d. Jo
Splistiser & Stephanee Lawrence.

U1900: U1300: Derrick Cone d. Shelly Gerard
U1750: Binh Nguyen d. Morris Leichter &
Perez
U2450--Final: Dave Sakai d. Sunny Li, 19,20;
U3500Doubles: Carlos Perez/Morris Liechter
d.Marek Zochowski/Roger Baldner.

Veterans Singles: Glen Clark d. Ken Hoover
Arnold & Werner Bridek.

Unis U15: Matt Winkler d. Andrew Ehns
Junior: Keith Cabatana d. Matt Hecker &
Eric Smith

Official Bob Comment: Groenig.

Tournament Committee: Jim Tarkowski, Jeff
Gadwell, Towery Desk Job: John Harrington

NTTC AUGUST OPEN
National Table Tennis Center Rockville, Maryland
August 26-27, 1995

Open Singles—Final: Jack Huang d. Haozhang Xu, 16,15,17; SF: Huang d. Sean Lonergran, 12,13,14; Xu d. Brian Pae, -15, 15,11,13

2450—Final: Sean Lonergran d. Brian Pace, n.s.; SF: Lonergran d. David Cheung, 17,12; Pace d. Nazrudden Arzadali, 14,15

2150—Final: Nazrudden Arzadali d. Gary Ewell, n.s.; SF: Arzadali d. Fred Halbig, 17,19; Ewell d. Chris Ko, -12,19,15

2850—Final: David Cheung d. Terry Lonergran, 21,17,15; SF: Cheung d. Chris Ko, 14,15; Lonergran d. Fred Halbig, 18,11

1450: Herb Wilson & Carlos Ebron split prize.

1650: Dennis Taylor d. Xiaolong Huo, 9,17
1750: John Vos d. Osdeaseo Kentakalo, -12, 16,17

NTTC SEPTEMBER OPEN
National Table Tennis Center Rockville, Maryland
September 30 - October 1, 1995

Open Singles—Final: Jack Huang d. Haozhang Xu, 14,19,18; SF: Huang d. Sean O’Neill, 8,14,18; Xu d. Joe Guan, def.; QF: Huang d. Brian Lonergran, 12,16,14; O’Neill d. Masamichi Kubo, 9,9; Xad d. Richard Lee. 16,15,14; Guan d. Larry Halbig, 15,15,12

U2450—Final: Dave Sakai d. sunny Li, 19,17,14; SF: Sakai d. Larry Halbig, 17,18,17; Li d. Brian Lonergran, 13,17

U2350—Final: Sunny Li d. Dave Sakai, def.; SF: Li d. Larry Halbig, 15,18,14; Sakai d. Brian Lonergran, 12,15

U2150—Final: Cheng-Dong Chang d. Gerald Reed, 19,16,17; SF: Chang d. Xiaolei Huo, 16,16; Reed d. Changping Duan, 12,14.


U1850: Michael Master d. Fred Halbig, 13,24,19.

U1650: Michael Master d. Ron Albright, -16,12,16.

U1500: Jeff Shank d. Sami Sen, 16,18.

U1250: Joe Hammesmied d. Terry Price, 17,14.

U1100: Hue Ly d. Rolf Hendriks, 19,18,17.

U850: Sung Hyun Koresh Khalaj, Chandler, fell to Marek
Women’s Singles: Nadine Groenig d. Jo
Splistiser & Stephanee Lawrence.

U2450-Final: Sean Lonergan d. Brian Pace, -2,0; Xu d. Brian Pae, -15, 15,11,13

U2150—Final: David Cheung d. Terry Lonergran, 21,17,15; SF: Cheung d. Chris Ko, 14,15; Lonergran d. Fred Halbig, 18,11

1450: Dennis Taylor d. Xiaolong Huo, 9,17
1750: John Vos d. Osdeaseo Kentakalo, -12, 16,17

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OPEN
Colorado Springs, Colorado
September 9, 1995

Open: 1st: Roger Kuske; 2nd: Venkat Narayanan.

1st: Roger Kuske/Jim Rooker; 2nd: Dana Jeffries/Tim St. Germain.


1st: Roger Kuske/Jim Rooker; 2nd: Dana Jeffries/Tim St. Germain.


1st: Roger Kuske; 2nd: Venkat Narayanan.

1st: Roger Kuske/Jim Rooker; 2nd: Dana Jeffries/Tim St. Germain.

1st: David Finch; 2nd: Edgar Stein.
NEW USATT AFFILIATED CLUBS

USA Table Tennis would like to welcome the following newly-affiliated clubs:
Aurora Table Tennis Club
Beck Recreation Center
800 Telluride
Aurora, CO 80011
Contact: Nancy Lewis
Phone: 303-433-9825
John N. Hall Club House Foundation
Boys & Girls Club of Harrisburg, Inc.
1700 Hanover Street
Harrisburg, PA 17104
Contact: Martin N. Kogan
Phone: 717-238-0155
or Barney D. Reed
717-697-5264
Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club TTC
Lucile Palmorau Clubhouse
1930 Randall Avenue
Bronx, NY 10473
Contact: Ed Roldan
Phone: 718-893-8254
Lake Havasu TTC
Parks & Recreation Community Building
100 Park Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
Contact: John Ballard
Phone: 520-453-8638
Purdue University Table Tennis Club (PU|TTC)
Recreational Gymnasium (CO-Rec)
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Contact: Priyabrata Chatterjee
Phone: 317-743-5608
Table Tennis Center of Traverse City
9950 East Traverse Highway
Traverse City, MI 49684
Contact: Kevin H. Johnson
Phone: 616-929-2721
ReAFFILIATED CLUBS
USA Table Tennis would like to welcome the following re-affiliated clubs:
Bartlesville TTA
Smith-Taylor Table Tennis Center
122 East Frank Phillips Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74003
Contact: James Winn
Phone: 918-333-1044 (H)
Bay State TTC
Bethesda Lutheran Church Gym
Island Pond Road
Springfield, MA 01118
Contact: David Chernock
Phone: 413-567-8061 (H)
Boeing Employees TTC - Kent
Boeing Activity Center
22649 83rd Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032
Contact: Paul Miller
Phone: 206-228-5063 (H)
Columbia Table Tennis Club
2124 Shepherd Road
Chattanooga, TN 37421
Contact: Doug Byrd
Phone: 423-870-8256 (H)
Cherokee County Table Tennis Club
Centre National Guard Armory
Centre, AL 35960
Contact: Donald (Glenn) Reynolds
Phone: 205-927-3138 (H)
Clinton TTC
Clinton Scout Center
808 East Augusta
Clinton, MO 64735
Contact: Wayne Hall
Phone: 816-885-3985
Dayton Table Tennis Club
Lebey Center
Dayton Recreation & Parks
2366 Giammar Avenue
Dayton, OH 45420
Contact: John Dichiare
Phone: 513-433-6956
Denver TTC
Eisenhower Recreation Center
4300 E. Dartmouth
Denver, CO 80214
Contact: David Zimmerman
Phone: 303-433-7082 (H)
Dayton Table Tennis Club
Three Pyramids Building
66 Day Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Contact: Chris Kalahger
Phone: 508-348-2625
Fitchburg Table Tennis Club
Fitchburg Table Tennis Club
Paul Miller
Phone: 614-928-7720 (H)
Fitchburg TTC
10 Hemlock
Park Forest, IL 60466
Contact: Dewey Helmick
Phone: 708-748-4776
Fordham TTC
14715 Good Hope Road
Baltimore, MD 21227
Contact: Rong Lin
Phone: 301-206-8633
Fischbühl TTC
Facts United Protestant Church
Brownsville, PA 15417
Contact: James Winn
Phone: 412-391-6321
Park Forest TTC
Park Forest TTC
120 1/2 East Main Street
Newark, OH 43055
Contact: Paul Miller
Phone: 614-928-7721 (H)
Fairfield TTC
Park Forest TTC
10 Hemlock
Park Forest, IL 60466
Contact: Dewey Helmick
Phone: 708-748-4776
Fremont TTC
2131 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92154
Contact: Rong Lin
Phone: 301-942-4803
Fremont TTC
2131 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92154
Contact: Rong Lin
Phone: 301-942-4803
Fremont TTC
2131 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92154
Contact: Rong Lin
Phone: 301-942-4803
Fremont TTC
2131 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92154
Contact: Rong Lin
Phone: 301-942-4803
Tri-City TTC
Richland Community Center
650 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352
Contact: Mary Ann Parker
Phone: 509-375-1587
San Jose State Univ. TTC
Student Union
San Jose State University
San Jose, CA 95192
Contact: Roger Nguyen
Phone: 408-980-0665 (H)
USA Table Tennis encourages you to patronize the above clubs and/or any USATT-affiliated club in your area.

USATT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Print one letter in each box
NAME:
ADDRESS:
STATE ZIP CODE
LAST FIRST
STREET
ZIP
MO. DAY YR.
TELEPHONE:
Area Code - Number
$25.00
$60.00
$8.00
$12.00
$45.00
$25.00
$45.00
Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No
* Junior (One Year).......................... $60.00
** Family (One Year).......................... $8.00
* A junior must be under 18 as of the last July 1st.
** All members of one family living at the same address.
USA Table Tennis encourages you to patronize the above clubs and/or any USATT-affiliated club in your area.

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Approved Equipment

This is the official USA Table Tennis Approved Equipment List as of October 11, 1995. Additional approved equipment will be published in a future Table Tennis Today. Help support USA Table Tennis by buying only USATT officially-approved equipment from these suppliers.

Alreadale Sports & Technology (1)
Waqidi Fallcort
658 Tolimans Creek Road
Ashland, OR 97520
Phone: 585-488-2695
FAX: 585-488-2695
(Apex Lightspeed Rubber)

Alpha Productions (2)
Diego Schaaf
1899 S. Los Robles Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91106
Phone: 818-584-6377
(Rovalon Rubber)

California Table Tennis (5)
Sydney Asser
1367 Berkeley Place
Lieuemore, CA 94558
(Rubber: Armstrong, Andro, Hanno, Scholer-Micke, Nittaku, Taico)
Phone: 800-521-1597

The Detroitor (4)
Bob Hoernschemejer
Division of Michigan Ladder Co.
P. O. Box 1387
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Phone: 517-482-5946
(Detroitor Tables)

Donic Sportartikel Vertriebs Gmbl (5)
(Bonic Net Set, Rubber, and Table)

Distributor:
T.G. Enterprises
Guenther Schroeder
29593 Murray Crescent
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 888-825-7664
FAX: 313-556-5871

Bunlop (6)
(Rubber Rubber)

Distributor:
T.G. Enterprises
Guenther Schroeder
29593 Murray Crescent
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 888-825-7664
FAX: 313-556-5871

Escalade Sports (7)
Peter Bjurman
817 Maxwell Avenue
P. O. Box 889
Evanston, IL 60204
Phone: 812-425-1425
(Distributor for Apex, Banda, Harvard, PingPongl, Spalding, Stiga, and Yasaka: Balls, Net Sets, Racquets, Rubber, and Tables)

General Sportcraft Co., Ltd. (8)
Don Hirsch, Product Manager
140 Woodbine Street
Bergenfield, NJ 07621
Phone: 201-384-4242
FAX: 201-897-8128
(Sportcraft Rubber)

Gold Palm Trading Ltd. (9)
(Friendship Rubber)

Distributor:
T.G. Enterprises
Guenther Schroeder
29593 Murray Crescent
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 888-825-7664
FAX: 313-556-5871

JOOL Tischtennis GmbH & Co. KG (10)
D-76355 Siebingen/Falz
GERMANY
(JOOL Ball, Net Sets, Rubber, and Tables)

Juic Co., Ltd. (11)
Peter Shioda
P. O. Box 87-1 Nobitome 4 Chome
N. Izumi City, Saitama Pref, JAPNP
(Juic Balls and Rubber)

Distributor:
Paddle Palace
Luo Boenshen
8125 Glencoe Road
Portland, OR 97222
Phone: 800-547-5891
FAX: 583-777-4062

Kettler International (12)
John G. Tweedon
National Sales Manager
Sports Division
P. O. Box 2747
Virginia Beach, VA 23450-2747
Phone: 804-427-2400, Ext. 21
FAX: 804-427-8183
(Kettler Tables and Net Set)

Newgy Industries, Inc. (15)
Larry Thomas
4880 North Belvedere Drive
Gallatin, TN 37066
Phone: 615-452-6478
FAX: 615-451-2459
( Newgy 3 Star Ball, Ball Machine, Table, and Rubber)

Nippon Takkyu Co., Ltd. (14)
Koichi Hirose
1-1 Kanda-Izumicho
Chigoda-Ku
Tokyo, JAPNP
(Fittaku 3 Star Ball)

Perygoua Industrial Co., Ltd. (15)
J. J. Choi, Managing Director
P. O. Box 579
Pusan, KOREA
(Distributor for Atara Rubber)

Regent Sports Corporation (16)
Distributor of Halex Products
Lee Nielsen
45 Ranick Road
Hauppauge, NY 11787
FAX: 516-234-2800
( Halex Balls, Net Set, Racquets)

Schildkröt International (17)
Hans Hubertus von Keller
PEREUS Co. Ltd.
Unit 1011, 10/F, Eight Plaza
8 Sunning Road
Causeway Bay
HONG KONG
Phone: 881-6900
(Schildkroet 3 Star Ball; Rubber)

Distributor:
Neator Sports
1210, C. At. I. Tung
4185 Oakville
Houston, TX 77093
FAX: 289-848-4243

Skitt (18)
(Skitt Rubber)

Distributor:
T.G. Enterprises
Guenther Schroeder
29593 Murray Crescent
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 888-825-7664
FAX: 313-556-5871

Tibhar Table Tennis Company (20)
(Tibhar Rubber)

Tibhar Table Tennis America
Peter Hoppological
1237 Doe Run Road
Newark, DE 19711
Phone: 800-385-9942
FAX: 382-259-7196

Winning Sports Company (21)
Eric Kuok
9-17 Tim Lok Lane
SIU Fung Bldg.
Flat C/F
Wanchai, HONG KONG
(Winning Rubber)

Distributor:
Table Tennis International
10068 Redman Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46229
Phone: 317-894-4676

Yamato Takkky Co., Ltd. (22)
N. Shimoo, Manager
3-6-3 Nama-Naka, Naniwakua
Osaka 556, JAPNP
(TSP Balls and Rubber)

Distributor:
Robbins Table Tennis, Inc.
Dan Robbins
Phone: 800-741-8533
FAX: 812-467-1200

Yasaka Co. Ltd. (23)
Makoto Yaota
Sanki Buildings, Room 301
4-4 Shiga, 3 chome, Taio-ku
Tokyo 110, JAPNP

Distributor:
Tibhar Table Tennis Company
1237 Doe Run Road
Newark, DE 19711
Phone: 800-334-8315

(Tibhar Rubber)

Distributor:
Escalade Sports
Peter Bjurman
817 Maxwell Avenue
P. O. Box 889
Evanston, IL 60204
Phone: 812-425-1425

Approved Equipment

Ball Machines
Newgy Robo-Pong 2000
Personal Table Tennis Robot

No. 13

Balls
Butterfly 3 Star
Butterfly Training Balls
Halex 2 Star
Halex 3 Star
Harvard 3 Star
JOOL 3 Star Super
Juic 3 Star Select
Newgy 3 Star
Nittaku 3 Star
Peace 3 Star
Ping Pong 3 Star
Schildkroet 3 Star
Spalding 3 Star
Stiga 3 Star
ISP 3 Star

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Net Sets
Butterfly BYT 11058
Butterfly Europa
Butterfly Green Support
Butterfly International
Butterfly National League
Butterfly Spring Support
Donic Rallye
Donic Stress
Halen Tournament
Harvard Cup
JOOL BM
Kettler Professional
Stiga Clipper BM
Stiga Elite

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Rubber

Butterfly Alan Cooke No. 19
Butterfly Atlantic No. 198
Butterfly Champ No. 19
Butterfly Clearfield No. 19
Butterfly Decamag No. 19
Butterfly Euro-5 No. 19
Butterfly Joe Ng No. 19
Butterfly Katana No. 19
Butterfly Madash No. 19
Butterfly Manarsa No. 19
Butterfly Mazanou No. 19
Butterfly Moonbeam No. 19
Butterfly O'Neill No. 19
Butterfly Power Drive No. 19
Butterfly Primacasz No. 19
Butterfly Secretin No. 19
Butterfly Seemiller No. 19
Butterfly Spryer No. 19
Butterfly Wakaba No. 19
Butterfly K-Star No. 19
Butterfly Yuki No. 19
Halex 1 Star No. 19
Halex 2 Star No. 19
Halex 3 Star No. 19
Halex 4 Star No. 19
Halex 5 Star No. 19
Halex Elite No. 19
Halex Gold No. 19
Halex Platinum No. 19
Halex Silver No. 19
Harvard Competition Line No. 7
Harvard Tournament Line No. 7
Ping Pong Premium Racket No. 7
Spalding Mark 4 No. 7
Spalding Mark 5 No. 7
Spalding Pro Am No. 7
Stiga 1 Star No. 7
Stiga 2 Star No. 7
Stiga 3 Star No. 7
Stiga 4 Star No. 7
Stiga 5 Star No. 7

Butterfly Alpha Slick No. 5
Butterfly Contact No. 5
Butterfly Easyl No. 5
Butterfly Falcon No. 5
Butterfly J. W. Waldner No. 5
Butterfly Slick No. 5
Butterfly Xarer No. 5
Butterfly Zico No. 5
Butterfly Barna Original No. 6
Butterfly RITC 2900 No. 6
Butterfly RITC 563 No. 9
Butterfly RITC 729 No. 9
Butterfly RITC 799 No. 9
Butterfly RITC 882 No. 9
Butterfly RITC Super FR 729 No. 9
Butterfly RITC 999 No. 9
Butterfly Anti-Topspin No. 10
Butterfly Celius No. 10
Butterfly Clipper No. 10
Butterfly Komma No. 10
Butterfly Laser No. 10
Butterfly Marathon No. 10
Butterfly Moskito No. 10
Butterfly Orthodox No. 10
Butterfly Osander No. 10
Butterfly Topspin No. 10
Bamboo Caldo No. 10
Juic Spin Tex No. 11
Juic Spark No. 11
Juic Strip No. 11
Juic Sock No. 11
Juic Sport No. 11
Juic Style No. 11
Juic Spark No. 11
Juic Spinspin No. 11
Juic Spintex No. 11
Juic TT Club No. 11
Newgy Mercury No. 15
Nittaku Glass No. 15
Nittaku Glass+ No. 15
Schildkot Avantgard No. 17
Schildkot C Max No. 17
Schildkot Cool No. 17
Schildkot Energy No. 17
Schildkot Hotshot No. 17
Schildkot Paddcr No. 17
Schildkot Skin No. 17
Schildkot U Max No. 17
Schildkot Mx No. 17
Slender-McBee Sensitive MTS No. 18
Scholler-McBee Joker No. 18
Skiff Absolut No. 18
Skiff Ammon No. 18
Skiff Coppa No. 18
Skiff Coppe Denero No. 18
Skiff Uno No. 18
Sportcraft 1978 Champion 3 Star No. 8
Sportcraft 1979 Champion 4 Star No. 8
Sportcraft 1985 Champion 5 Star No. 8
Sportcraft 1985 Premier 5 Star No. 8
Stiga Agathom C/C No. 8
Stiga Cobra Ultra No. 8
Stiga Mendo No. 8
Stiga Syncro No. 8
Taico Biomax No. 8
Taico Bionox No. 8
Taico Power Feeling No. 8
Taico Selecta No. 8
Tibhar Black Techno Gross No. 20
Tibhar Intra No. 20
Tibhar Rapid Supra No. 20
Tibhar Red Power No. 20
Tibhar Speed Spin No. 20
Tibhar Vari Spin No. 20
TSP Cup P-1 No. 22
TSP Cup P-2 No. 22
TSP Cup P-3 No. 22

Note: The distributor no. references the attached USATT-Approved Equipment List. Please refer to this list for the appropriate distributor's address and/or telephone number.

Table Tennis Today 39
WANTED-USATT CLUBS

willing to help SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES
by joining the South Bend JUNIOR Table Tennis Team in helping the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation find a cure for Niemann-Pick Type C Disease

Like any grandfather, the health and well-being of my children and grandchildren are always on my mind. So you can imagine my emotions when my three youngest grandchildren, Michael, Marcia and Christa, were diagnosed as having Niemann-Pick Type C Disease, a genetic disorder that prohibits the metabolism of cholesterol.

The long-term prognosis for the children is not promising unless the pace of medical research is rapidly advanced. As in most of the events of my life I will not accept this situation without a fight.

My family and I have started the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation to find the defective gene responsible for the disease and to develop a treatment and cure. This research may help not only my grandchildren but other children as well. It also may help thousands of adults fighting heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's Disease and other disorders that appear to be related to the metabolism of cholesterol.

We are in a race against time so your help is both needed and appreciated. To paraphrase the Notre Dame fight song, "What though the odds be great or small, with your help we will win over all".

We will find a cure and you will earn the everlasting gratitude of families across America and around the world. Thanks for you support and your prayers.

The South Bend Junior Table Tennis Team will hold a 24 HOUR TABLE TENNIS-A-THON and we hope your club will do the same!!

Utilizing our Junior team, the players will alternate in 4 hour shifts starting at 6:00 PM on Friday and ending 24 hours later on Saturday. Parents, friends, and relatives are invited to a FULL day of sleeping bags, togetherness with family and friends, and helping a good cause.

Sponsors will be secured to donate on an hourly basis and we invite your club to join us on January 12th, 1996 in raising funds to help children affiliated with this disease.

As a group we CAN make a difference and in the process you can bring your club together.

PLEASE JOIN US!!

THERE IS NO TREATMENT OR CURE, THESE CHILDREN WILL DIE UNLESS FUNDING FOR RESEARCH IS FOUND!!

FOR A VIDEO TAPE AND INFORMATION PACKET PLEASE CONTACT:

BRAD BALMER

by phone: Evenings or write: 56611 Tulip Road
(219) 654-8345 New Carlisle, IN 46552

THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SOUTH BEND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TABLE TENNIS CLUB SPONSORS OF THE ST. JOSEPH VALLEY OPEN HELD AT NOTRE DAME
**Table Tennis Today**

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*Some players have not been rated yet.*
From the beginning, Ehrlich had concluded that he would not be able to win by attacking, so he “chiseled,” pushing everything. He kept the ball towards his right side in order to answer his attack. He had temporary accepted this, and we played the first point as if it were the final point. During the entire game, Ehrlich kept speaking childish ideas and nonsense. I laughed at them, without losing control. I made no mistakes, and neither did he. He wanted to rely on the fact that I would get tired physically and nervously. He wanted to rely on something that I had gone downtown to see a film early in November/December 1995
TABLE TENNIS IS MORE THAN COMPETITION.
Table tennis builds confidence, increases hand-eye coordination, and develops motor and cognitive skills in the youth. It is a non-discriminatory sport where a student’s playing ability isn’t dependent on size, gender, or physical strength. And the disciplines learned will be used throughout the student’s life.

EASY TO TEACH.
With the user-friendly Teacher’s Manual and easy-to-follow lesson plans, TOPSPIN can be taught by any instructor, regardless of playing ability.

DEVELOPED BY LEADERS IN THE SPORT.
Scott Press, U.S. National Certified Coach and technical advisor/coordinator of TOPSPIN, designed the program to teach students of every playing level, and to accommodate a variety of class sizes. Harvard Sports has developed products specifically for school and institutional use. The tables are built to last, easy to maneuver, and convenient to store in the fold-up position.

A COST EFFICIENT PROGRAM.
Subsidizing by the manufacturer and freight-free shipping make the program inexpensive to implement, and the TOPSPIN “School Box” starter kit offers considerable cost savings. Finally, the maintenance cost of table tennis is lower than any other major school sport.

A Table Tennis Educational Program by Harvard Sports.

REGISTER FOR THE TOPSPIN COACHING SEMINAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1995 FROM 9:00-11:30 A.M. IN THE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER

FEATURED PRESENTERS INCLUDE:
• SCOTT PREISS
USATT Certified National Elite Level Coach and Topspin Education Program Coordinator

• STEVE BRUECKER
Author of The Topspin Curriculum Guide and Physical Education Teacher

• $40/person registration fee
Registration fee includes a Topspin designer shirt and a Topspin Curriculum Guide.
Seminar is limited to 20 persons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SCOTT PREISS AT 1-800-456-PONG (7664)
Jean-Michel Saive is using the Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubber sheets. To become the 1994 European Champion and World Number 1 rated player is not possible with just any kind of racket and rubber! The new Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubbers were specially developed to give Jean-Michel Saive the best power, speed, and control needed for his devastating loops and lightning quick attacks.