Mark Hazinski, 15, Goes 17-1 To Finish Second at U.S. Team Trials
STIGA

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With Innova and Innova Ultra Light
Featuring the Brand New Air-Capsule System Technology!

STIGA has developed the Air-Capsule System, a brand new rubber technology that will revolutionize table tennis. The ACS-technology allows very high speed to be combined with maximum springiness/elasticity in an ultra-light rubber with outstanding control.

This phenomenon must be experienced first hand.

The only two rubber sheets that have STIGA's unique ACS-technology are STIGA INNOVA and STIGA INNOVA ULTRA LIGHT.

STIGA's Air-Capsule System is made up of numerous microscopic air-capsules with very thin walls. These thin walls create a lighter rubber sheet with more air capsules (since less material between the air capsules is used). This technological breakthrough vastly increases springiness/elasticity thus delivering the ultimate spin, speed and power.

Sean O'Neill, 5 x U.S. Champion
"If you like ripping the ball but don't want to give up any touch, then Innova is your perfect choice. I've tried it in practice and it will be staying on my racket from this point forward. The soft and springy sponge allows for outstanding control against the heaviest attack while giving you extra kick when you want to finish the point."

Jack Kabraelian, TTP Assistant Sales Manager
"I've tried a lot of different rubber sheets. After trying the Innova Ultra Light on my forehand and the Innova on my backhand, I realized that this was the best combination that I ever found till now. I invite you all to try it!"

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ITTF approval date July 1st, 2001

STIGA® is a registered trademark of Stiga AB, Sweden
STIGA TABLE COMPARISON CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Table Top Color</th>
<th>Playing Surface</th>
<th>Net Set</th>
<th>Folds for Storage</th>
<th>Playback Feature</th>
<th>Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Wheel Casters</th>
<th>Leg Construction</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Includes 2 dozen Stiga 3 balls &amp; 2 free rockets</th>
<th>Added Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Master Navy</td>
<td>3/4&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>3&quot; double wheel</td>
<td>1&quot; 1/2&quot; square steel</td>
<td>$399.85</td>
<td>2 Stiga Nova</td>
<td>$59.10</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>247</td>
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<td>2&quot; square steel</td>
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<td>2 Stiga Omega WRB</td>
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<td>$849.95</td>
<td>2 Stiga Prestige WRB</td>
<td>$109.10</td>
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</tbody>
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*Satisfying all of your Robot Needs!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>302</th>
<th>402</th>
<th>402 B</th>
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**TTmatic 402 & 402 B**

*Incredible value!*

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<tr>
<td>Price</td>
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**TTmatic 302**

*What a price!*

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price</td>
<td>$1284.95</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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*PST*

Power and Spin can be adjusted independently from each other.

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info@natabletennis.com
Phone: 410-695-2587
Fax: 707-667-1914

www.aaujrogames.org
# NORTH AMERICAN TABLE TENNIS

Introducing the 2001 Stiga North American Table Tennis Tour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Champion</th>
<th>Finalist</th>
<th>Semi</th>
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<tr>
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<td>$12/ea</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
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**registration Form - Name of Tour Stop:**

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone: ( ) Male / Female
USATT ID: Birthdate:
Expiration: Rating:

Please fill in events:
1) 2) 3)
4) 5) Doubles Partner:
6) 7)
8) Total Event Entry Fee: $ 5.00

USATT Rating and Registration Fee: $ 5.00
USATT Membership Fee: U18:$20  Ad:$30  3-Y:$75 $ 5.00
T-Shirt $15 each __S __M __L __XL __XXL $
TOTAL: Make checks payable to: N.A. Table Tennis. Returned checks will be charged a $25 fee.

email: info@natabletennis.com

**CONTACT INFO:**
North American Table Tennis
P.O. Box 491
Odenton, MD 21113
Phone: 410-695-2587
Fax: 707-667-1914
Email: info@natabletennis.com

**THE 2001 North American TABLE TENNIS TOUR**

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President's Report
By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

I am pleased to welcome Dwight Johnson as the Acting Executive Director of USA Table Tennis. He was brought to our attention by Dan Cloppas, the Executive Director of USA Badminton. Dwight began working with us on March 26. At the U.S. Open, Dwight will present a strategic plan to the Board. USATT will publicize the time and location of the meeting. Based on Dwight’s 100-day lead-in to the U.S. Open, as well as the presentation of his strategic plan, the Board will then take up the issue of removing “Acting” from Dwight’s title.

As you will see from reading Dwight’s statement, he possesses a unique blend of professional and personal attributes that will help our sport to move forward in different spheres at the same time. Dwight’s primary focus is on “empowerment.” In his first morning at work, he held a staff meeting and shared his empowerment model with the staff. As I have stated previously, I strongly believe in a staff-driven association. With Dwight’s leadership, we are on our way to a dynamic transition process.

The new paradigm will empower the Board to act more expeditiously. The Board retains a fiduciary duty to oversee association matters and to provide directives to headquarters regarding the Board’s vision. Dwight has committed to improving the flow of information to the Board. With an improvement in communications in place, the Board will be kept better informed. This will lead to a clarification in the roles of staff and volunteer leaders. Ultimately, Board members who have assisted heavily in several operational functions will be relieved of that burden and will be able to focus their energies exclusively on governance issues.

Dwight’s empowerment approach will have a positive impact on you, our members. Dwight is a strong believer in customer satisfaction. He will be reviewing membership benefits and assessing input from members and affiliated clubs to determine ways in which our association can strengthen our membership base. He is looking not only to retain more of our members but also to launch programs to multiply our growth in membership. Dwight clearly understands the importance of the timely processing of ratings.

Dwight will assume primary responsibility for procuring sponsors and for ensuring their satisfaction. He will serve as our association’s operational contact with the USOC. He also will assume many responsibilities related to international communications and negotiations.

In this issue’s “association primer series,” I will focus on topics mentioned in the previous paragraph: 1) recent sponsorship developments; 2) USOC’s evolving role in USATT, especially regarding our marketing plans, and 3) the need to focus on increased international involvement.

BOARD VOTES TO AWARD BUTTERFLY TABLE SPONSORSHIP

USATT received two bids for table sponsorship of the U.S. Open and U.S. Nationals. Just as Stiga had been awarded the clothing contract in 1999 based on its aggressive proposal, Butterfly made an outstanding bid for the table sponsorship. USA Table Tennis is deeply grateful to Stiga/Escalade Sports for its past sponsorship. Treasurer Tong Lee estimated the total value of the bid, over the quadrennium, to exceed $500,000. More details of the sponsorship will be revealed in the next issue.

USOC OFFERS USATT SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE IN MARKETING OUR SPORT

USOC NGB Marketing Director Blair Tripodi was in Fort Lauderdale in late March and asked to meet with me to discuss the USOC’s NGB Marketing Strategic Plan. Staying true to the course the USOC had revealed last spring, the USOC is marching forward with its concept to teach national governing bodies to fish, rather than to rely on the USOC’s largesse.

Under the new system, Blair will team up Leslie Gamez, one of the Sports Partnership Team members assigned to USA Table Tennis, to develop our own customized plan. In their strategic overview, they will help us analyze key opportunity areas and develop strategies and initiatives.

The USOC will reverse its previous reactive and proactive approaches. It will move towards being proactive in assisting NGBs with marketing opportunities, whereas in the past the USOC was seen as being primarily interested in policing logo usage. The USOC’s mission statement for this new standard is “lead and deliver sustainable marketing/branding initiatives to the NGB, while being part of the integrated effort of the USOC Marketing Team, the Olympic Family of Sponsors, and the Sports Partnership Division.”

Among the strategies the USOC will utilize toward assisting NGBs on the quest toward “teaching ourselves to fish” are 1) USOC attendance at our events in order to help them advise us on maximizing the revenue growth potential associated with our association’s properties and events; 2) USOC-NGB exploration of NGB priorities that coincide with and would mutually benefit identified USOC sponsors; 3) USOC-provided
education to NGBs of “best practices” strategies currently utilized by NGBs within the USOC family; 4) development of an integrated USOC/ NGB marketing team; and 5) integration of USOC marketing and branding opportunities across NGBs and Sport Partnerships; and 6) establishment of measurement tools to analyze success.

The plan includes an aggressive implementation and execution strategy, dubbed the “90-Day Plan,” beginning with the NGB’s execution of this Quadrennium’s Joint Marketing Agreement (JMA). Historically USAATT has always signed the JMA. This year’s JMA departs radically from previous JMAs in that the USOC is stemming the flow of “fish,” to continue with the metaphor. 2001 will be the pivotal year. Beginning in 2002, NGBs will derive significantly less income from the USOC. At the same time, the USOC will eliminate several sponsors from their “exclusive category” privileges. The USOC estimates that NGBs with strong marketing plans will be able to attract willing sponsors who will contribute more money than NGBs currently obtain through what the USOC terms passive sponsors (those who preempted a marketing category, but didn’t seek either to enhance their sponsorship through separate NGB relationships or to capitalize on its exclusive sponsorship relationship).

For an NGB to succeed under this new paradigm, it is essential that we see the enormous opportunities this new approach presents to us. It is a direction that will ultimately provide us with greater autonomy and a sense of greater empowerment, which brings this piece full circle: it’s already the direction we’re seeking to embrace.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES**

As each NGB contemplates its inherent marketing strengths, so we also look to our own association’s ability to position itself. In my opinion, our greatest marketing tool is a culmination of the following facts. China dominates our sport. China is the primary country that many huge U.S. businesses are seeking to enter or to expand their business presence in. Our two associations have enjoyed a long-standing friendly relationship. Our two associations can mutually assist and benefit in a marketing alliance. Our two associations have already successfully concluded a joint partnership (along with the ITTF) through last fall’s Enron Millennial Friendship Tour.

At this year’s world championships, I will continue to work on behalf of our association to work with the Chinese Table Tennis Association toward this end. While I don’t anticipate any “breaking news,” since these talks will pertain more to joint marketing concepts than to executing any oil the spot agreements, I will certainly provide updates to you through our daily updates on our website, www.usatt.org. Editor Larry Hodges will be providing extensive daily (and sometimes hourly) coverage of all of the latest news and results. The world championships begin the last week of April and continue through the first week of May. Next year there will be no world championships since this year’s event encompasses both the team and the singles/doubles events. The ITTF seems likely to adopt a yearly plan in which world championships will be held each year, alternating the team event with the individual/doubles events.

Good luck to this year’s team members!

**SEE YOU AT THE U.S. OPEN!**

As I said, I look forward to the opportunity this year’s U.S. Open will give us to keep you, the membership, informed of ongoing association developments. I look forward to talking with you in Fort Lauderdale, July 4-8!

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Executive Director's Report

By Acting Executive Director Dwight Johnson

It is my pleasure to become the acting Executive Director of USA Table Tennis (USATT). I am now making the transition from my career in the Air Force (from which I recently retired) and am ready to face civilian life with enthusiasm.

Serving in this position is going to be a challenge, and I know that I will make mistakes. However, I also know that we will be able to work together to help our sport grow. My past will serve me well, as I spent years reporting to Colonels and Generals on ongoing issues and their solutions. I understand and appreciate the lines of command and communication that need to be in place.

I have already met with the USATT Headquarters staff and discussed the importance of customer service, a top priority. I believe you will continue to receive outstanding service from them.

One of my objectives is to take over the responsibilities that the Board has been overseeing by default. By doing this, the organization will be more staff driven and the Board will become more visionary and policy driven. I will communicate to the staff the priorities designated by the Board so that we work in unison.

One of my jobs will be to keep tabs on products and programs that are important to the organization as set down by the Board.

I believe very strongly in empowering people. If you give people a vision and an end result and let them fill in the middle, you will receive a better product and/or program. The Air Force gave me the opportunity to run a large business that had to make a profit. I did this by using empowerment and accountability within the staff.

To keep focused on what is important, I am using the six goals that the Board agreed in principle to follow as priorities. Those goals are:

1. Develop Olympic and World Championship medallists
2. Increase Funding Sources
3. Create a Professional Structure for Domestically held Events
4. Implement a National Schools Program
5. Establish a high level of involvement and visibility within the international community
6. Foster an environment in which USATT affiliated clubs grow and prosper

Within each of these goals are objectives that I will present to the Board in July. This road map to the future will include timelines for each objective that we will meet at headquarters. This road map will enable us to help grow the sport. I will give you future updates so that you will see that we are on the right road toward achieving these objectives, timelines and goals.

I am honored to have this opportunity to have a positive impact on the sport of Table Tennis. It is a tremendous responsibility, but with your support there are no obstacles we cannot overcome.

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Coaching Report

By Dan Seemiller
USATT Coaching Development Director

In our last article, we mentioned how important coaching is to the Association and that we are hoping to attract more members to take the test and become certified. The test is not that difficult, and you will learn just by taking it. We want “more” coaches; don’t worry about not passing. Our goal in coaches education is to identify the areas where you are less knowledgeable on the test and help you improve them.

When you become a certified coach at any level, you will be eligible for many benefits. These include coaching seminars at the U.S. Open and U.S. Closed, weekend seminars at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, a coaching manual containing many technical articles, yearly mailing of coaching related materials such as new coaching articles from other publications, 2-hour video, and more.

If you are interested, the certification cost is $25, and is renewable every three years. You can call Dawn Simon at USATT headquarters (719) 578-4583 to receive your application form.
2001 CORAL SPRINGS CHINESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
US OPEN WARM-UP TOURNAMENT****
Co-Sponsored by City of Coral Springs,
NEWGY / INFOTERIA / IRSI / IRON HORSE BIKE CO. / SPINTECH

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, June 30 + July 1, 2001
WHERE: Coral Springs Gymnasium
2501 Coral Springs Drive, Coral Springs
COMMITTEE: Marty Prager Director, Terese Terranova Referee, Sug Chan Ester Leung Cindy Chow staff
EQUIPMENT: 40 Joola tables and Nittaku 40mm 3 star balls
RULES: All USATT rules will apply. Director may modify, limit or cancel events. Unrated players will not advance from RR events. Check schedule in case of time changes: All events 2 out of 3.
ELIGIBILITY: players must be members of USATT or ITTF. Juniors and Seniors must be under or over specified age as of June 30, 2001
QUESTIONS: For more info on hotels and tournament bonus', visit our web www.tabletennistournaments.com or call # 954-963-0204 Fax # 954-584-1901

# EVENT DAY TIME FEE 1st 2nd 3+4 5-8
1 Championship Singles* SE Sun 11:30 am $25 $1000 $500 $200 $100
2 Women SE Sat 6:30 pm $20 $200 $100
3 Hardbat SE Sat 6:30 pm $16 $150 $75
4 Under 2500 RR Sat 9:00 am $20 $400 $200 $100
5 Under 2400 RR Sun 9:00 am $20 $300 $150 $75
6 Under 2200 RR Sun 12:30 pm $20 $200 $100 $50
7 Under 2000 RR Sat 2:00 pm $20 $200 $100 $50
8 Under 1900 RR Sat 11:30 am $20 $100 $50 $25
9 Under 1750 RR Sun 9:00 am $16 T T T
10 Under 1600 RR Sun 12:30 pm $16 T T T
11 Under 1450 RR Sun 9:00 am $16 T T T
12 Under 1300 RR Sat 2:00 pm $16 T T T
13 Under 1150 RR Sat 11:30 am $16 T T T
14 Under 1000 RR Sun 9:00 am $16 T T T
15 Under 800 RR Sat 9:00 am $14 T T T
16 Under 600 RR Sat 6:30 pm $14 T T T
17 Juniors U12 Boys RR Sat 4:00 pm $12 T T T
18 Juniors U12 Girls RR Sat 4:00 pm $12 T T T
19 Juniors U15 Boys RR Sat 5:30 pm $14 T T T
20 Juniors U15 Girls RR RR Sat 2:00 pm $14 T T T
21 Juniors U18 Boys RR RR Sat 4:00 pm $16 $100 $50
22 Juniors U18 Girls RR RR Sat 4:00 pm $16 T T T
23 Seniors 040 SE Sat 5:30 am $20 $150 $75
24 Seniors 060 SE Sat 5:30 pm $16 T T T
25 2800 Doubles** SE Sun 1:30 pm $12ea. T T
26 4000 Doubles SE Sun 1:30 pm $14ea. $200 $100

* Event #1 Players U2000 $20 ** Event #25 top rating must be U1700

HOTELS
Courtyard Marriott, 620 NW 98th Ave
Coral Sps., Fl 33071 $69 + tax
954-227-1300
Wellesley Inn, 3100 University Dr.
Coral Sps., Fl 33071 $62 + tax
954-334-2200
LaQuinta Inn, 3701 University Dr.
Coral Sps., Fl 33071
954-753-9000
Radisson Hotel, 11775 Heron Bay Bl
Coral Sps., Fl 33071
954-753-5598
See map on website

Make checks payable to : Marty Prager, 2681 E. Marina Dr. Ft. Laud., FL 33312
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY STATE ZIP
AGE DATE-of-BIRTH RATING EX. DATE
Please register me in the following events circled below:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
Doubles Partner: 2800_______________________________4000
Entry Fee $_
Reg. Fee $3.00
Rating Fee $3.00
Membership $_
TOTAL $_

I agree to comply with all USATT rules. I accept full responsibility for my participation and relieve the sponsors and USATT of any liability for injury to myself or my property.

SIGNATURE______________________ Tele. #__

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • May/June 2001
By Larry Hodges, USATT Club Programs Director

Instructor's Guide to Table Tennis. Both of these documents can be ordered from USATT, or accessed online from the USATT Club Programs Page at www.usatt.org/club_programs. A number of other materials are also linked to that page, including the Beginning Class Primer, Club Handbook and links to USATT coaches and clubs.

This is the second of the three club programs being set up. The first, Beginning Classes, has already begun. (See articles in previous two USATT Magazines.) The third one is a rated USATT Club League (more on that next issue, or read about it at the USATT Club Programs page under Report to the Board.)

Visit the USATT Club Programs Page at www.usatt.org/club_programs

The goal of this program is to instigate junior training programs in clubs all over the U.S., with a target starting date the first week in July. Now's the time for you help table tennis take a step that has already been taken by every other major sport in the U.S. – from Little League Baseball or Pee Wee Football to gymnastics and martial arts.

The basic idea is that most kids don't want to show up at a club where they will play adults and get beaten badly. They want to play other kids their age. Currently, few clubs have a program for junior players; now's the time for you to set one up! You can do it as a volunteer – or you can do it as a paid coach. (Most coaches make can make over $50/hour teaching a junior training program, double what you make doing private coaching.)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (contact info is above). I will be out of the country approximately April 18 to May 8 (World Championships in Japan), so please bear with me if I don't get back to you right away during that period.

The Problem

It happens over and over in clubs all over the country.
• Someone walks into a table tennis club. Either he is avoided by the experienced players, who don’t want to play a beginner, or he plays someone and gets killed. You never see him again.
• A mom walks into a club with two kids. She asks if there are any programs for her kids. There aren’t any, and so she leaves and enrolls her kids in little league baseball. Or a kid shows up at a club, gets killed by an experienced adult, and he leaves to find a program in another sport where he can play against other kids his age and level.
• A regular club player gradually plays less and less, and finally doesn’t show up at all. We have no programs for him, just disorganized open play.

How do we keep these players?

The Solution

Let’s look at the three cases above. In the first, the new player couldn’t compete and didn’t have any way of learning about the sport. The solution? A beginning class where he learns about the game, develops basic techniques, and gets to play his own peer group – the other beginners in the class. The Beginning Class Primer was written for this, and was sent to all USATT Clubs and Coaches in February.

In the second case, the club needs to have a junior training program. A Junior Training Primer has been developed for this, and sent to all USATT Clubs and Coaches.

In the third case, the club needs a league to hold current players’ interest. A Club League Primer, to help set up a rated USATT Club League, is being developed for this.

The Result - Everybody wins!
• New Players learn the basics of the sport and become part of their own peer group.
• The Club gets new members while making a profit.
• USA Table Tennis gets new members.
• The Coach/Promoter who sets up and teaches the class is well paid.

The Goal

• Beginning Classes in clubs all over the country, starting in April, 2001 (already started).
• Junior Training Programs in clubs all over the country, starting in July, 2001
• Club Leagues with a rating system in clubs all over the country, starting in Sept., 2001

Visit the USATT Club Programs Page at www.usatt.org/club_programs

The Ten Commandments of Sport and Everything Else

By Hugh Fullerton
Contribution by Alan Williams

1. Thou shalt not quit.
2. Thou shalt not lie.
3. Thou shalt not gloat over winning.
4. Thou shalt not sulk over losing.
5. Thou shalt not take unfair advantage.
6. Thou shalt not ask odds thou art not willing to give.
7. Thou shalt always be willing to give the benefit of doubt.
8. Thou shalt not underestimate an opponent nor overestimate thyself.
9. Remember that the game is the thing, and he who thinks otherwise is no true sportsman.
10. Honor the game thou playest; he who plays the game straight and hard wins even when he loses.
MARYLAND TABLE TENNIS CENTER

2001 Summer Training Camps

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Camp Dates
• June 20-24
• July 11-15
• August 8-12

Daily Schedule
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Fee
• $220 (MDTTC members: $190)
• Minimum deposit: $50
• Make checks out to MDTTC
• Enter Early! Only first 20 players are guaranteed spots!

Housing
• Econo Lodge, 301-963-3840.
1/3 mile away. Mention Table Tennis for best rate.
• Free HBO, CNN, ESPN, coffee
• Mention “Table Tennis” for best rate

Coach Cheng Yinghua
• U.S. #1 Senior and #1 Ranked Player
• 2000 Olympic Team Member
• 1996-97 & 1999 U.S. Men’s Champion
• Former Head Coach for the Szechuan Province of China
• Chinese National Team, 1977-87
• 1985 & 1993 U.S. Open Men’s Champion
• USATT’s Coach of the Year, 1996
• Butterfly-sponsored full-time coach

Coach Jack Huang
• Former Head Coach for the Guangxi Province of China
• Chinese National Team, 1976-83
• U.S. #1 Player in 1990
• Former U.S. Senior and Men’s Doubles Champion
• USATT’s Developmental Coach of the Year, 1997
• Butterfly-sponsored full-time coach

Coach Larry Hodges (If large enough turnout)
• Author of Table Tennis: Steps to Success
• Director/Manager/Coach at Resident Training Program for Table Tennis at Olympic Training Center, 1985-89
• Many-time U.S. Junior Team Coach
• Certified by USATT as a National Coach
• USATT Coaching Chairman, 1991-95
• Former full-time coach

CATCH THE EXCITEMENT!

Name_________________________Phone_________________Age/DOB_________________

Address_______________________Rating___________________________

Signature______________________Amount enclosed $__________Camp Dates__________________
ELECTION 2001

The 2001 election will be for President, Secretary and two Vice Presidents.

- All elections are at-large.
- The term of office is Dec. 2001-Dec. 2004
- Incumbents whose terms expire this year

Contact Margaret Smith for nomination forms. Completed forms must be received by the nominating committee NLT June 1. The Nominating Committee will submit its selection of candidates to the Board by June 15. Candidates not selected by the Nominating Committee may be added to the ballot by submitting at least 150 signatures of adult members.

Wendell Dillon
Nominating Chairman

USA TABLE TENNIS MEMBERSHIP CLUB CONTEST WINNERS

By Debbie Doney, USATT Director of Communications and Planning

USATT congratulates Portland Table Tennis Club, Schaumburg Table Tennis Club, and Spinner's Table Tennis Club for having the most new and renewal memberships in 2000. Portland TTC, the first place winner, won a robot, graciously donated by Paddle Palace. Schaumburg TTC came in second and acquired a brand new Butterfly Centerfold table, generously donated by Martin Kilpatrick. (Portland TTC gave up the first place table prize because they felt the need for a robot instead!). Third place goes to Spinner's TTC, which won a gross of Nittaku balls. Once again, Paddle Palace came through and supplied the balls. USA Table Tennis would like to thank the participating equipment dealers, Martin Kilpatrick and Paddle Palace, for supporting USATT programs and donating these wonderful prizes.

They Said It...

By Larry Hodges

“I remember always getting the most candy and awards for hitting them off the other side of the table.” -Junior Star Katherine Wu, recalling her early days.

“No way.” “That's great, he won a game, but he has no real chance.” -Dan Seeniller, recalling his comments during then 13-year-old 1650-rated Mark Hazinski's upset win over 2350-rated Norman Yeh in 1997.

“I proudly told people that I went to Vegas ... to play ping pong!” -U.S. Team Member Ashu Jain, after returning from the Supershows in Las Vegas.

Special on Marty Reisman (see interview):

“...I discovered, early on, how to play faking a basket case in order to get a bet.”

“Anybody can make great shots when the bankroll is not threatened.”

“We were the only table tennis act to develop a musical routine playing ‘Mary Had A Little Lamb’ and ‘Jingle Bells’ with pots and pans. Doug and I were prohibited from using this routine in London’s Wembley Stadium because we were not members of the Musicians’ Union.”

“I went to war-torn Hanoi and Haiphong to indulge in black market for currency transactions, smuggled 21 kilos of gold bullion and, in between, played money matches against the best players in the Orient from Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Philippines. I lived for three years as a youngster in the Far East during Terry and the Pirates times. I was entertained by Maharajah of Baroda, played a command performance for President Magsaysay in Manila, and charged a sugar baron $5000 to play a table tennis show on his plantation in Mindanao. The Governor of Cebu, Sergio Osmentia, and I played nightly money matches at his estate in Manila that sported a Jaques table.”

The modern era has produced a mind-boggling number of products. At my local grocery store a whole row is needed for the wide array of breakfast cereals available. A friend of mine will place his young son in front of this row and let him decide what box of cereal he would like. My friend is usually finished with his shopping before the boy has made up his mind.

I know how this boy feels when I face the decision of what rubber and blade to purchase. Not only are there many manufacturers to choose from, but each manufacturer has many different types of rubbers and blades to choose from. How to choose? The web sites Table Tennis Equipment Ratings & More (www.interlogic.com/~waldi/home.html) and Pongland (pongland.homepage.com) are excellent resources for anyone faced with this difficult choice.

Table Tennis Equipment Ratings & More gives ratings on a scale from 1 to 100 for the rackets and rubbers of sixteen major table tennis companies. The rubbers are rated for speed, spin, and control. The blades are rated for speed, control, “ABVH,” weight, and the number of plies. “ABVH” means “Ability to Bend Vertically and Horizontally,” which can also be described as the stiffness or hardness of a blade. There is also a section that gives players’ opinions and subjective comparisons of the various brands of table tennis equipment.

Pongland is very useful when selecting rubber and blades. The rubbers are divided into the following categories: beginner, defensive play, looping, all round, short pips, super spin, extremely fast, and Chinese. Each rubber’s good and bad points are described. The blades are divided into the following categories: defensive, all round, fast, and power. The description of the blades is good and includes each blade’s feel, sweet spot, and weight.

Both these sites will help you choose the right equipment. I give Table Tennis Equipment Ratings & More a 3-star rating and Pongland a 2-star rating.
If there were a stat just for spirit, together we’d hold the record.

No matter where we live, or who we are, there’s a part of us that needs to celebrate the success of others. And while many of us are athletes, all of us are fans. And on hardwood, turf, grass and clay, we find our common ground.

BE UNITED

United Airlines is proud to support USA Table Tennis.
Dear Editor,

I’ve almost given up writing letters because I don’t think they do much good, but someone has got to rebut the editorial by Masaaki Tajima in the March/April USATT Magazine.

In brightens my day when I read, much too rarely, of an umpire who enforces the rules in a tournament. It’s too bad the referee mentioned in the editorial talked the umpire into ignoring the infraction because of its “pettiness,” to use Mr. Tajima’s word. I won my first local “ping pong” tournament in 1938, and went through the change from the knuckle-ball, finger-spin serves mentioned elsewhere in the magazine, to the original flat-hand service rule. I think the change was made in the ‘40s, but I’m not sure. At any rate, as I’ve mentioned before, a Topics article said in essence that the intent of the new rule was to put everyone at the same disadvantage (my emphasis). One who does not serve in accordance with the rules has an advantage over one who does. I’ve asked several people why they serve from a cupped hand. “It’s easier” is the universal response.

I agree completely with those who state, “You need to teach your students how to serve legally and this won’t happen.” That statement is not at all related to the one about properly raising kids who later in life might make a mistake. Mr. Tajima’s guidelines on serving – “perfect and legal as possible” – imply that a legal serve is impossible. This is hogwash. A legal serve may not be as effective as an illegal one, and is probably more difficult to do, but it is certainly possible. Serving legally should be as routine and automatic as a guy putting on his pants before going to work. The fact that some or all of Mr. Tajima’s students do not serve legally and usually get away with it is just an unfortunate result of the weak umpiring in our sport and probably poor instruction by coaches.

Of course officials makes mistakes – even in our highly-paid professional sports – but not enforcing the rules should not be one of them. When there is a clear violation of a rule, the violator should be penalized.

Mr. Tajima finally says, “But this type of umpiring is intolerable.” Not so; it should be standard practice rather than an exception. If you don’t like the rules, work to get them changed, but comply with them as long as they are the rules.

Sincerely,

Edgar B. Stein, Los Alamos, NM
Dear Editor,

There may be some truth to the article in the last issue regarding ratings systems. Enough to argue over & waste time. The system isn’t perfect, but I think it is pretty good; and I say that to new players at our club.

What keeps most players from joining is: if I spent the money to joinUSATT, and spend the money to enter a tournament, and take time to go and play, and even if I like it, where do I go from there?

Like any other sport, to get better you need to create a game plan, get serious, find a way to fit the drills, practice and playing into your life. If it’s golf you go to the driving range or take lessons; if it’s baseball you go to the batting cage; etc.

I have been travelling for my job and have had the privilege and pleasure of visiting clubs all over. With rare exceptions the complaints are all the same. Not enough available time for a sport not taken seriously by most people. We try to acquire more time but are turned away. More time at another location means spending thousands on tables & barriers; and if attendance drops it is snatched away. A sad and recurring theme.

Our club is thriving with no local advertising, with 30+ players competing for time on eight tables once a week. Would they pay more to play more? Some. If we had more time and more kids came out, would they volunteer to coach? Some, maybe. Few to count on. If if if......

The reality is I play the most popular indoor sport in the world in a country where it isn’t all that popular. Compared to other sports it’s affordable, reasonably free of corruption and bad press, multicultural and fun at any age or level.

I think the rating system could use some tweaking, (amount of time between tournaments a factor), but otherwise I think my rating truly reflected my ability compared to others. That’s how we are rated. We are not playing it com-se. or throwing a ball down a lane. It’s adversarial. One against one. Rating points are a reflection of what you did, not what you are. I’m 1600 going on 2000.

Right now table tennis in America is elitist. Only those already involved move forward. It seems the same people go to the same tournaments. Growth is accidental. The few major tournaments don’t usually draw big locally. Last year’s Butterfly Open in Raleigh, NC, proved that.

Maybe we need 20 three-star tournaments instead of four four-star ones. Just a thought. Right now the attitude is USATT focuses on a few expensive tournaments, a few up & coming juniors, the Olympics and that’s it. Imagine the ratings process new or old with 1000 new entrants; 10,000 more.

We act small time here because we are small time. Don’t get me wrong, I love it. I wouldn’t trade what I have for all the basketball courts in town. Don’t tell me the faults are because of the rating system. Dedicated people, local and national support make good clubs. That’s where we need to focus.

John Pahl, Charlotte, VA
Interview With Marty Reisman

By Tyra Parkins

How did you become a world-class player and what was the secret of your fame?

Marty: I succeeded in table tennis because of an accident of birth. My game improved without much hard work or training. It was fun all the way. All I did was to play countless money games with lots of people from the very worst to the very best and, presto, I became a world-class player. I learned very quickly what to do and what not to do while under pressure. Anybody can make great shots when the bankroll is not threatened. I have enjoyed some degree of fame because of the impact I have on the audience as well as on the media. The life I have led, the places I have been and the things I have done seem to make good copy for the press. I have had major publicity and, to some extent, transcended more than any other player, as a personality, the narrow and limited confines of table tennis.

My autobiography, The Money Player, was bid for by six publishers. William Morrow finally bought it. It has been under option for eight years and in various stages of development for a feature film. Three treatments and two screenplays were written. Over $100,000 was spent by the producers before the option was dropped. I expect to reinvigorate the film project as well as republishing the book.

I had ventured to very interesting places during very historical times and had the courage to do whatever was necessary in order to survive or achieve my goal. I went to war-torn Hanoi and Haiphong to indulge in black market for currency transactions, smuggled 21 kilos of gold bullion and, in between, played money matches against the best players in the Orient from Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Phillipines. I lived for three years as a youngster in the Far East during Terry and the Pirates times.

I was entertained by Maharajah of Baroda, played a command performance for President Magsaysay in Manila, and charged a sugar baron $5000 to play a table tennis show on his plantation in Mindanao. The Governor of Cebu, Sergio Osmentia, and I played nightly money matches at his estate in Manilla that sported a Jaques table. The world has changed dramatically. These times and circumstances are gone forever.

Describe your early days in table tennis when you started playing for money?

Marty: Within days after picking up a sandpaper paddle at age 12, I was cleaning all the kids out of their nickels, dimes and quarters in the various parks and settlement houses in my neighborhood. I discovered, early on, how to play faking a basket case in order to get a bet.

Months later I ventured up to Lawrence's on Broadway and 54th Street, the great mecca of American table tennis where many of the best players in the U.S. hung out – Dick Miles, Lou Pagliaro, Doug Cartland, Sol Schiff, Johnny Sosme, et al. Almost immediately, I got into the swing of things, creating the action, excitement and drama, playing money matches four and five hours daily against anybody who cared to wager based on a carefully negotiated handicap for either myself or my opponent. The size of the bet ranged from $1 to $20. Ten dollars was a major win in those days, considering that a Coca Cola, coffee and the subway cost a nickel and it was only 65 cents to see Sinatra at the Paramount Theater along with a stage show and first run movie. However, a big portion of my winnings was lost to Dick Miles who, in the initial stages of my development, would spot me 10 points. I didn’t mind losing money to Dick because my main goal was to become a National Champion. Nobody even thought about the World Championships then. All of Europe was still occupied by Nazi Germany and the invasion of Europe by the Allies was just getting under way. Eventually, the war ended in both Europe and the Pacific and soon Lawrence’s, around 1945, was flooded with dozens of new players, fresh out of the military, some still in uniform, but all loaded with mustering-out pay. The economy at Lawrence’s flourished as never before.

From 1947 to 1952, four habitués from Lawrence’s, well seasoned and groomed from exposure under pressure in countless money matches, were soon recognized as being equal to the best players in the world. Miles, Pagliaro and I were all, at one time or another, World semifinalists. Doug Cartland and I were also semifinalists in the World’s doubles in 1951 in Bombay, the year I won the World’s consolation men’s singles title. Amazingly, this was accomplished without benefit of even one second of a USTTA coaching program. No such thing existed in those days.

“I discovered, early on, how to play faking a basket case in order to get a bet.”

You once toured with the Harlem Globetrotters as a halftime attraction. What kind of experience was that?

Marty: Doug Cartland and I toured the world as the halftime star attraction with the Harlem...
played at your famous table tennis emporium?

Ma, 47: Beigmatin, Bukiet, Miles, Fuji, Dolinar, Marinko, Miles, Tomita, Hayashi, Satoh, Sih Su Chu, Mai Van Wah, et al.

Who were the better known players who matched or came close to Richard's astonishing record of incredible comeback victories in major tournaments? Marty: Richard Bergmann, four-time World Champion. But paradoxically, he was the easiest to play against but the most difficult to beat. His touch and placement were uncanny. Most of all, his desire to win was frightening. As the game went on, he got stronger until it was impossible to hit through his defense or catch him on a drop shot. Alex Ehrlich, a three-time World singles finalist, who, incidentally, survived three years in a concentration camp only because he was spared by the guards who recognized him as the former German table tennis champion, even though he was Polish, once described Bergmann as an “animal.” Such was his reputation for ferocity among his peers. Erlich also said that Bergmann was weak on the backhand side but, “I never saw him push a ball into the net or off the table.” No player past or present has ever

Who were some of the better known players who played at your famous table tennis emporium?

Marty: Bergmann, Bukiet, Miles, Fuji, Dolinar, Marinko, Miles, Tomita, Hayashi, Satoh, Sih Su Chu, Mai Van Wah, et al.

Who were the world-class players you defeated during your career?

Marty: Andreadis, Bergmann, Leach, Barna, Sido, Hagenauer, Ammorges, Stipek, Soos, Ehrlich, Flisberg, Kocsian, Fuji, Dolinar, Marinko, Miles, Tomita, Hayashi, Satoh, Sih Su Chu, Mai Van Wah, et al.

What were your greatest victories and your most memorable matches?

Marty: My most illustrious and meaningful victory was in beating Victor Barna, five-time World champion, in the finals of the 1949 British Open in Wembley Stadium before 10,000 spectators. (See segment in “Legends” video.) Earlier, I beat Dick Miles in the quarters and the stubborn Alex Ehrlich, three times a runner-up in the Worlds, in the semis. All of the matches were five bitterly contested games. One of my most memorable matches was defeating Ivan Andreadis, the celebrated Czech and that year’s favorite to win the World title, in the 1949 Stockholm World Championships. As we walked onto the court, the first point of a ladies match in an adjacent court was in progress with the ball just being pushed back and forth. I wiped out Andreadis three straight, very quickly with a devastating attack. As we left the court, that first point between the ladies had still not ended! I still have a vivid recollection of a third-round men’s singles match in Wembley Stadium in the 1948 World’s against Richard Bergmann. He won the first, I won the second, he the third. Throughout the match, he had been crashing into the barriers in order to return my smashes. During the rest period, in a fit of anger, he started stomping down all the barriers surrounding the table and shouted, “I must have more room!” as he flung them aside. The tournament committee ruled that the barriers be reset and that the match must be played within its original confines. Bergmann beat me in five, and Vana in the finals. (The following year, the court was lengthened three feet and my attack was cited as the reason for doing so.)

Globetrotters from 1949 through 1951. It was mostly a great educational experience. I visited many of the great museums and saw the extraordinary historical and cultural wonders of the world. I became acquainted with a great variety of different ethnic foods and got to know great champagnes, vintage wines and superb liquors. I familiarized myself with the sa i-tori iii of the world. I became acquainted with a great many of the great museums and saw the variety of different ethnic foods and got to know great champagnes, vintage wines and superb liquors. I familiarized myself with the sa i-tori iii of the world. I became acquainted with a great many of the great museums and saw the variety of different ethnic foods and got to know

Who was your toughest opponent and why?

Marty: Richard Bergmann, four-time World Champion. But paradoxically, he was the easiest to play against but the most difficult to beat. His touch and placement were uncanny. Most of all, his desire to win was frightening. As the game went on, he got stronger until it was impossible to hit through his defense or catch him on a drop shot. Alex Ehrlich, a three-time World singles finalist, who, incidentally, survived three years in a concentration camp only because he was spared by the guards who recognized him as the former German table tennis champion, even though he was Polish, once described Bergmann as an “animal.” Such was his reputation for ferocity among his peers. Erlich also said that Bergmann was weak on the backhand side but, “I never saw him push a ball into the net or off the table.” No player past or present has ever matched or come close to Richard’s astonishing record of incredible comeback victories in major tournaments from what seemed to be totally hopeless situations.
Interview With Homer Brown

Owner of BumperNets • By Larry Hodges

What is the current status of BumperNets?

Homer: BumperNets, Inc. is financially strong and has been very successful. In fact, our business doubled in December of last year over the previous December of 1999 in a mall that was very slow. BumperNets has been in business for about two years and has been operating America’s very first table tennis store and center in Brookwood Village Mall in Birmingham, Alabama. Recently, due to major renovations at this mall, we decided to move to Alabama’s number one tourist attraction, the Riverchase Galleria Mall. Our company was asked to start with a small store in the best location of the mall in the food court until a larger store becomes available. We thought a small store would be the best approach and also give us a chance to test our brand as a small pro shop concept, versus the larger store and sport center.

Do you plan to return to the other mall which opens in November of this year?

Homer: We are currently negotiating with Colonial Properties a large well know REIT which owns many malls in the Southeast. We are discussing a great location in this mall which is located in the well known Mountain Brook area of Birmingham, Alabama. We have worked hard to establish the brand and concept with Colonial and they like how our business drives families and players to their mall for parties, tournaments, team building and table rentals.

Have you registered the brand and unique concept?

Homer: Yes, the concept has been registered and we would like to begin licensing the store concept for other malls early next year after we finalize our two company stores in Birmingham, Alabama. These two stores will eventually become training stores for new potential managers.

Who owns BumperNets, Inc. and what is your mission for the company?

Homer: Currently I own 100% of the private stock of the company. However, with the potential growth in malls I will be looking for the right investors that believe in the sport and can wait awhile for their investment to grow. Most malls are looking for a proven concept, long-lease obligations, and a strong financial company that knows the business. We believe that we have the experience and are committed to making table tennis grow in the U.S. market. Our mission is to grow table tennis by utilizing regional malls and marketing to the families and players. We also do exhibitions for schools as our community outreach and that drives a lot of business to our store for game tables and lessons. As you know I personally love the sport and believe it is truly a great lifetime sport for all ages and abilities.

Do you plan to make the U.S. Open this year to maintain your world record?

Homer: Yes, this will be 33 in a row. I hope to share the status with all my table tennis friends on BumperNets in July. I also want to thank everyone for supporting Table Tennis ONE and BumperNets the last few years as we continue to promote the sport of table tennis in the U.S. market.

THE #1 TABLE TENNIS BOOSTER

By Jim Scott

Over a considerable period of time, Bob Viducich has been the Portland TT Clubs #1 booster. In a club which dates back to the 30’s, Bob has been there since the mid-40s. Many players play at clubs around the country, but few contribute considerable sums of money as well as running the clubs as Bob has done.

At a high school student at Benson Tech, Bob won the City Championships in 1947, two years after he started playing. He worked tirelessly at that time to restart the postwar PTTC. In 1949 he had put together enough of the previous players to meet at Shattuck School at reform the club. Bob was the vice president, E.J. Coffey the president.

Prior to this time, Bob wrote a weekly column in the daily paper for several months which effectively got the word out.

Bob was awarded a junior letter at Benson Tech in 1948, having led his team to the city high school titles. Later he became the dominant player at Vanport College. After that he received a B.S. degree in engineering at the University.

Two decades down the road Bob dropped in on the Paddle Palace, which by now had 11 of the top 100 players in the U.S. He played several players, from beginners to some of the best. One of the better players thought Bob was about a 1500-level player, although Bob had no idea what ratings were. Quite remarkable, since Bob had played little in the preceding years.

No longer in competition, Bob started a historical record of table tennis in the Pacific Northwest TT Open Program of 1979. In the 1980 program he provided 14 pages of photos and history from 1942-68. Others filled in prior to 1942 and after 1968. This issue, he believes, is the most comprehensive rendering of TT history of any tournament program, before or since. I believe him, since I helped produce the program.

In recent years, Bob has donated prize money to weekly tournaments and donated considerable amounts to most of the Pacific Rim Open Championships. He has personally helped us to stay very close to the first place prize money in men’s and women’s singles at the U.S. Nationals.

We call him Bob “Viducich," as he has produced several full-length videos of our major events, including the BIG WHACK, school exhibitions, and tournaments. They are great!

Bob brought a Romanian boy several times to our club as well as introducing other junior players to the sport. He makes financial contributions to our juniors programs as well.

For his support spanning 50+ years, Bob was awarded in 1998 the title of #1 Lifetime Booster of the Portland Table Tennis Club. He tells me he will continue his support as long as his health permits.

If you’re ever in Portland for a tournament or just spending time at the club, be sure to say hello to Bob Viducich.
With strong organization and leadership, the North Alabama Table Tennis Club in Huntsville, Alabama, has blossomed into one of the top clubs in the Southeast. Formed in 1983 under the direction of Bill Mobley, David Wilder and Dean Thomas, the club now possesses 14 Butterfly Europa tables, 25 barriers and two playing facilities. No, there are no Olympians or national champions who call the club home. The NATTC focuses on having fun. The 50 or so active club members who meet Thursday nights for three hours enjoy the competition and fellowship. With players ranging from 20 to unrated grandmothers, the club runs an organized league under the direction of John Lewis. The popular format pits players of similar playing ability in round-robin competition. The night’s winner of a group will move to a more advanced group the following week. The player with the fewest wins drops to a lower table.

In addition to competitive play at the club, the NATTC has found plenty of success running tournaments. It has played host to the Alabama State Championships annually since 1984. Many of those state champs are NATTC card-carrying members. Don Gaither has won the state title 16 times, Ralph Kissel 3. and Jungki Lee 2. Club President Ernesto Kawamoto will be defending his 2000 state crown on his home court. April 21, Alabamajunior champion and club member David Landry, 14, continues to hone his skills as one of the top young juniors in the Southeast.

In 1992, club officers Walt Chenault and Michael Wetzel began the now-popular Decatur Open. It has grown into one of the top two-star tournaments in the nation. With the help of generous sponsors, the tournament provides all entrants with free t-shirts, Pepsi, pizza and door prizes. Two Olympians are counted among the tournament’s winners. The NATTC also is active in its community, promoting the sport of table tennis and enriching the lives of the local citizenry. The NATTC often helps local youth and church groups run tournaments. The club also runs clinics and has given numerous exhibitions. In 1989, Gaither and Kissel put on a five-minute show before 3,200 at halftime of a high school championship basketball game. In the past decade, the club has given more than $1,500 to local charities including United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Meals on Wheels. The NATTC has promoted the sport with shirts, pins and bumper stickers with the club logo.

When the Olympics came to Atlanta in 1996, three club members - Chip Patton, Wetzel and Kawamoto - served as volunteers. In 1997, the club took its message "on-line" when Patton established the club’s website (www.nattec.com). Club activities, tournament results and state history dominate the site. Anthony Dang now serves as webmaster. In 2000, the NATTC received Gold and Bronze “Club Medals” from tabletennis.about.com for court size and number of tables. The club continues to grow and prosper, in part thanks to a close working relationship with the Huntsville Recreation Services and Landscape Management Department and Decatur Parks and Recreation. The city departments provide the Brahan Spring Recreation Center’s gym and Aquadome for club activities. This allows the club to keep its fees low. Annual membership is $36 for adults, $18 for students and $50 for families. Visitors play for free.
EUROPE TOP 12

Wels, Austria • February 3-4, 2001

Vladimir Samsonov

Michelle Saive (BEL), 2-0 (d. Kreanga, 10,15; d. Schlager, 21,12); 2nd Werner Schlager (AUT), 1-1 (d. Kreanga, 22,14); 3rd Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE), 0-2.

Group C: 1st Peter Karlsson (SWE), 2-0 (d. Eloi, 13,6; d. Primorac, 21,19,13); 2nd Zoran Primorac (CRO), 1-1 (d. Eloi, 14,10); 3rd Damien Eloi (FRA), 0-2.

Group D: 1st Petr Korbel (CZE), 2-0 (d. Chila, 16,15; d. Rosskopf, 18,16,19); 2nd Jorg Rosskopf (GER), 1-1 (d. Chila, 20,14); 3rd Patrick Chila (FRA), 0-2.

CROATIAN OPEN

Zagreb, Croatia • March 15-18, 2001

Men's Singles - Final: Ma Wenge (CHN) d. Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE), 17,15,-13,15; SF: Ma d. Lujuan Blaszczyk (POL), 24,17,15,20; Chiang d. Peter Franz (GER), -18,19,17,22; Blaszczyk d. Petr Korbel (CZE), 19,16,15,20; Ma d. Torben Wosik (GER), 20,18,11,16.

Some early round matches:


Women's Singles - Final: Guo Yan (CHN) d. Li Nan (CHN), 17,15,-16,15; SF: Guo d. Niu Jianfeng (CHN), 18,17,11,17; Li d. Michaela Steff (GER), 20,20,20; SF: Niu d. Viktoria Pavlova (BLR), 12,11,14; Guo d. Olga Nemes (GER), -26,-11,19,17; Li d. Asa Svensson, 13,14,17; Steff d. Jie Schopp (GER), 7,19,14.


Women's Doubles - Final: Bai Yang/Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Judith Herczig/Jia Liu (AUT), -19,12,5; SF: Herczig/Liu d. Ni XiaLian/Peggy Regenwetter (LUX), 14,5; Bai/Niu d. Mayu Kawagoe/Akiko Takeda (JPN), 14,21.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • May/June 2001

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Csilla Batorfi

Photo by Canumart ©2000
ENGLISH NATIONALS
March 9-11, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Matthew Syed d. Alex Perry, 20,19; SF: Syed d. Bradley Billington, 19,19; Perry d. Gareth Herbert, 17,21,10; QF: Syed d. Andrew Eden, 10,11; Billington d. Terry Young, 19,14,20; Perry d. Andrew Baggaley, 16,16; Herbert d. Alan Cooke, 19,19,20.
Women's Singles - Final: Nicola Deaton d. Kubrat Owolabi, 17,15,15; SF: Deaton d. Natalie Bawden, 14,17; Owolabi d. Helen Lower, 18,19.

SWEDISH NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Fredrik Hakansson d. Peter Karlsson, 12,15,13,16; SF: Hakansson d. Mikael Appelgren, 19,16,19,22,15; Kai d. Peter Nilsson, 9,14,17,18,16; QF: Hakansson d. Jens Lundqvist, Karlsson d. Magnus Molin; Appelgren d. Magnus Mansson; Nilsson d. Mikael Zongling. (Note: Jan-Ove Waldner lost in Kths to Zongling; Jorgen Persson pulled out, presumably due to injury.)

FRENCH NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Jean-Philippe Gatien d. Patrick Chila; SF: Gatien d. Damien Eloi; Chila d. Christophe Legout.
Women's Singles - Final: Ann Boileau d. Sylvie Plaisant; SF: Boileau d. Anne-Claire Palut; Plaisant d. Agnes Le Laimic.

GERMAN NATIONALS
March 2-4, 2001
Women's Singles - Final: Christina Fischer d. Elke Schall, 20,12,19,12; SF: Fischer d. Hain-Hofmann, 15,15,18; Schall d. Olga Nemes, -24,-17,19,17.

BELGIUM NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Jean-Michel Saive d. Philippe Saive, -19,9,19,12; SF: J-M Saive d. Herve Delporte, 12,19,22,12; Saive d. Martin Bratanov, 18,17,17.
Women's Singles - Final: Martine Hubert d. Cecile Ozzer, 19,12,19,17; SF: Hubert d. Nathacha Regnster, -18,12,11,20; Ozzer d. Karine Bogaerts, 9,14,21.

AUSTRIAN NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Werner Schlager d. Kostadin Lengerov, 19,20,8,16.
Women's Singles - Final: Liu Jia d. Judith Herczig 3-0.

NETHERLAND NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Danny Heister d. Trinco Keen, 16,14,16,18; SF: Heister d. S. Toriola, 19,19,12,19,19; Keen d. L. Qiang, 5,10,12.
Women's Singles - Final: X. Ni d. E. Timina, 20,21,15; Timina d. J.Le, 19,16,14.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Petr Korbel d. Martin Olejnik, 20,22,12; SF: Korbel d. Tomas Pavelka, 14,16,14,18; Olejnik d. Marek Klasek, 13,17,14,13.
Women's Singles - Final: Jana Dobesova d. Alena Vachovcova, 19,19,15; SF: Dobesova d. Hana Bartosova, 11,15,16,13,21; Vachovcova d. Ivana Weberova, 19,18,10,12.

SWISS NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Mens Singles - Final: Raphael Keller d. Thierry Miller, 7,15,19; SF: Keller d. Nenad Stevanovic, -13,19,22,6; Miller d. Marc Schreiber, -20,14,15,14,18.
Women's Singles - Final: Tu Diii Yong d. Gabriela Wust, 3,4,22; SF: Yong d. Cindy Cotting, 8,18,9; Wust d. Christelle Cherix, -16,12,20,17.

POLISH NATIONALS
March 1-4, 2001
Men's Singles - Final: Blaszczyk d. Kusinski, 3-2; 3*4*; Krzysztof Kaczmarek & Michal Dzubianski.
Women's Singles - Final: Januszuk d. Stefanka, 3-2; 3*4*; Paulina Joanna Narkiewicz & Wioletta Matus.

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USA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

SOUTH BEND OPEN
South Bend, Indiana • January 17, 2001
Open: Ilya Lupulesku d. Mark Hazinski 3-1.
U2250: Nate Troyer d. Don Hamilton 16,15.
U1750: Eli Kahn d. Joe Cochran 2-0.
U1600: David Creel d. A. Horgan 2-0.
U1200: Steve Fisher d. Nick Enz 2-0.
U3400 Doubles: Mark Hazinski/Nicholas Enz d. Lee Miller/Alain Wilson 2-1.

CLEVELAND WINTER OPEN
Cleveland, Ohio • January 20-21, 2001
Open: 1 't Terry Robinson; 2"1 Ron Root.
U1300: 1 " Andrew Belinfanti-Knight; 2"1 David Bernson.
U1100: 1 " Adeleye Ayomikun; 2"1 Marcus Jackson.
U1000: 1 " Andrew Belinfanti-Knight; 2"1 David Berenson.
U900: Roger Magitman/Edward Levy.
U800: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U700: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U600: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U500: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U400: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U300: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U200: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U100: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U80: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U70: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U6: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U5: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U4: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U3: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U2: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.
U1: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Schreiber.
U0: 1 tlustin Schneider; 2,1 Brian Fiocchi.

ARIZONA OPEN
Mesa, Arizona • March 24-25, 2001
Open Singles - Final: Simen Potaychuk d. Mario Lorenz 11,14,18; SF: Potaychuk d. Alex Liu, 15,21,9 Lorenz d. Bryant, Jr., 20,20,17.
Open: 1' 1st Dominique Mantelli 2ild Thien Dang.
Women: 1st Yvonne Kronlage 2nd Thien Dang.
Under 18: 14 Jay Jones; 2nd Ray Chen.
Under 16: 14 Chet Lord; 2nd Scott Grodevant.
Novice/Under 1000: 1' Joseph Alex; 2nd Phillip Sarris.
Chris Naukas/Chris Kettleson.
Open: 1' 1st Dominique Mantelli 2ild Thien Dang.
Women: 1st Yvonne Kronlage 2nd Thien Dang.
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Chris Naukas/Chris Kettleson.
ACUI AND NCTTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Johns Hopkins University • Baltimore, Maryland
March 30 – April 1, 2001
Write-up and complete results next issue

Men's Singles
1. Kurt Liu, Univ. of Michigan Flint
2. Jia Wang, Houston HCC
3. Michael Bartl, Univ. of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
4. Wei-Chong Gho, Univ. of Washington

Women's Singles
1. Kyna Fong, Harvard
2. Boglarka Masters, Augusta College
3. Rebecca West, Pennsylvania State
4. Helen Huang, MIT

Men's Doubles
1. Kurt Liu/Charnchait Tangpong
2. Jason Zhao/Jia Wang
3. Steffen Shebesta/Andrew Belafanti-Knight
4. Ujwal Walke/Martin/Hansjoerg

Women's Doubles
1. Kyna Fong/Helen Huang
2. Boglarka Masters/Danielle Pope
3. Rebecca West/Jennifer Leer
4. Tavia Dawson/Robin Walker

Mixed Doubles
1. Kurt Liu/Rosaline Muigai
2. Boglarka Masters/John Mar
3. Jiri Kabalac/Helen Huang
4. Jeff Hsin/Rebecca West

NCTTA Finals (College Teams)
1. Bradley University, 4-1
2. Johns Hopkins University, 4-1
3. Rutgers University, 4-1
4. Cornell University, 2-3
5. Harvard University, 1-4
6. Florida State University, 0-5

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • May/June 2001
SDTTA DOUBLE ELIMINATION CLOSED
San Diego TTA • February 18, 2001
By Aharon Shapiro

The San Diego Table Tennis Association ran this Double Elimination Tournament with an entry fee of $5, no seeding and a random draw to add to the excitement. There were 26 players, which enabled the organizer to run two separate tournaments. The ratings used were the SDTTA Club ratings. The dividing rating was 1800. The above 1800 included 12 of the top players in the club and the below 1800 included 14 players of all different levels. Two players with ratings below 1800 also played in the above 1800 so this resulted in two tournaments of 14 players each. The standard Double Elimination draw is for 16 players per section, so this worked out very well and resulted in only two random byes per tournament being included in the draw. The money prizes were $35, $20 & $10 for the Winners, Beaten Finalists and 3rd Place for both tournaments. This added to the competitive nature of the tournament.

In a Double Elimination Event each person must lose twice to be eliminated. The losers are placed in the losers' bracket with the eventual winner of the losers' bracket contesting the final with the winner of the winners' bracket.

Over 1800: The top players in our club, Dave Umel Jr., Dave Umel Sr., Don Kim, Wen Tsay and Tom Plaisted, were the pre-tournament favorites. The matches were hard fought with many long drawnout three-setters as the rating differential between the top players was small. To win, one player was going to have to play outstanding table tennis and keep on winning to avoid all the extra games in the losers' bracket. To qualify through the losers' bracket you have very little rest between games. The random draw split the top players evenly across the draw and the scene was set for an outstanding spectacle of high-class table tennis.

In round one Samir Targhiesty played his best to pull off a huge upset by beating Dave Umel Sr. There were no other upsets, and the semifinals saw Dave Umel Jr. beat Don Kim and in a surprise. Tom Plaisted was just too consistent and beat Wen Tsay. Tom looked in top form and beat Dave Jr. in the winners' final to earn a place in the final and a well deserved rest.

In round two of the losers' bracket, Dave Sr. again went down in an upset, this time losing to Ron Spencer. In round three, Bill Ryan had a good win over Samir Targhiesty to end Samir's run, and Ron Spencer was just too powerful for Aharon Shapiro. This set up two intriguing encounters in the losers' bracket semifinals. Don Kim was just too steady for Bill Ryan and Wen Tsay proved to be just that much quicker and so ended Ron Spencer's bid for the title.

The losers' bracket final was another battle royale between Don Kim and Wen Tsay. Don's consistency wore Wen down and Don won to meet Dave Jr. in the 3rd place match with the winner to play a well rested Tom Plaisted.

This time Don was able to wear Dave Jr. down and gain revenge for his earlier winners' bracket semifinal loss.

In the final, a closely contested three-setter with many exciting long rallies, Don ran out of steam and Tom was able to win 21-17 in the third to become the Champion.


Over 1800 Losers' Bracket - Final: Don Kim d. Wen Tsay; SF: Tsay d. Ron Spencer; Kim d. Bill Ryan.

Over 1800 Final: Tom Plaisted d. Don Kim; 3rd: Don Umel.


ARKANSAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
By Duke Stogner

We were very pleased with our returning juniors as well as the new crop of both boys and girls. Justin Case (14), who took top honors last year, had to settle for second place in Junior A's this time as he lost to newcomer and Arkansas No. 2 ranked Boy's 14 and under tennis player, Drew Sosebee (14). Another first timer, Clifton Burdette (13), won out over Ben Core (12), Justin's younger brother, in an exciting 23-21 in the third match to take home the Junior Champions title.

The first Junior Girls title since who-knows-when, went to Mary Case (9), over her school mate and practice partner, Tiffany Thompson (9). They also had a great match, 22-20 and 21-11.

Another first-time player and brother to Tiffany, Tucker Thompson, had the honor of being the youngest at age 7. With Tucker's enthusiasm and will to win, we are expecting a great future for him in tennis.

Men's Singles: 1st Don Jackson; 2nd Wee Hui Kit.

Women's Singles: 1st Delsie Levin; 2nd Bonnie Davis.

Open Doubles: 1st Don Jackson/Wee Hui Kit; 2nd Jamey Hall/Andy Blossom.

Over 50: 1st Glen Davies; 2nd Duke Stogner.

We decided to move the date to this time of year versus having it in the fall. In the fall it conflicted with the college football and hunting season as well as being too early in the playing season for players to be at their peak. The change seems to have worked well plus we had a slightly higher turnout, including several new faces.

The finals of the Men's and Women's Singles did not change, however, from last fall's event. Don Jackson was at the top of his game as he defeated Hui Kit Wee to win his sixth Men's singles title. He's only two away from tying the record of eight set by Bud Caughman between 1984 and 1992.

Dext Levin made it two straight Women's singles titles as she won over Bonnie Davis, who had to settle for another second. Ms. Levin will also be going to Baton Rouge, LA in July to compete in the National Senior Games, the Senior Olympics. She qualified with first place in her age division last September in the Arkansas Senior Olympics.

FAIR LAWN OPEN
Fair Lawn, NJ • March 4, 2000

In spite of the history-making storm of the century in the northeast – or at least the storm that made history by not happening – Fair Lawn's first tournament came off with flying colors. It brought in eight new USATT members, including five locals; the club now has 34 members.

This small club (5 tables) did a great job, with Chris Lehman refereeing, Larry Bavl directing, and John Jarema advising from the start. It was run beautifully from the start, with two brand new Double Fish tables and all-new Double Fish barriers and nets, all purchased from Lily Yip. With high ceilings, great lighting and a new gym floor, it was a great playing site.

A number of Fair Lawn club members donate their time every Monday night to teach the mentally handicapped at the North Jersey Developmental Center. They also have donated paddles, balls and nets. Lily donated a table for us to use. At the end of the tournament, when Douglas Li won $75 for Under 2000, he donated his winnings to start a fund for a new table for "The Diamonds," the name the locals who are working to be in the Special Olympics have chosen for themselves. Many of the Special Olympics trainees will enter Lily's upcoming tournament, the Cancer Cup, May 19-20.

Open - Final: Abbas Ekan d. Barry Datell, 15-16,8,22; SF: Ekan d. Lily Yip, 15,19,16,14; Datell d. Ashu Jain, 21,15.


Under 2000 - Final: Douglas Li d. Sung Yim, 18,15; SF: Li d. Peter Kam, 19,12; Yim d. Jim Klein, 13,14.


Aiden Fang in action at Fair Lawn.
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2001 Hawaii Senior Open
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA • January 25-26, 2001 • By Tim Boggan

This quite successful Senior Open, held at the Hawai'i Convention Center opposite Waikiki Beach, was promoted by the Japanese TTA for Over 40 through 80-aged players. Participants could play with either the 40 or 44mm ball. A very great majority (say, 85%) of the more than 600 entries listed in the Program (a number of whom didn't show) consisted mostly of hundreds of vacationing Japanese who yet took their table tennis seriously. Of these, 75% were women - 60% of whom played with the 40mm ball. Also participating by invitation, playing almost exclusively with the 40mm ball, were a much smaller contingent from the U.S. - perhaps 40 or so island locals and a dozen or more players from the mainland.

I’ve nothing but praise for the organizers and sponsors of this tournament. It was a class production. Congratulations to Tournament Chair Hijime Shigemura, to Tournament Director Yuko Motomatsu and his three Vice Tournament Directors, Masanori Yamada; the U.S. mainland’s Shonie Aki, recovering from a successful hip operation and ready for another; and Hawai’i’s Billy Kanae who, with John Romoa’s help, did indefatigable managerial work to insure the tournament would proceed smoothly. My own liaisons were Co-Vice Tournament Chair Y.C. Lee, who personally took my entry and urged my wife Sally and me to attend the elegant evening Buffet Party at the swank Ala Wai Hotel that would precede the opening day’s play, and our 5-time U.S. Champion Sean O’Neill, who, among his other duties, was responsible for securing the contributions of 130 Honorary Sponsors whose names he displayed prominently at the tournament site.

Tournament Referee Noboyuki Shirakawa and his Deputy Azmy Ibrahim, assisted by a bevy of International Umpires, were on call - but smiles, bows, photo-friendly competitors made any question of dispute over decorum moot. One of the Japanese women’s doubles teams, in what appeared to be de rigueur matching outfits for many, requested that Dick Miles and I practice as partners. Dick and his ilk were relationships that they wanted to play against Americans. More color was added to the tournament by the Aloha playing shirts provided each contestant (I also received a quality commemorative sports shirt, which, come summer in New York I’ll wear out on the links.)

The lighting, the tables, the barrier-off courts were all first-rate. Thank China’s Double Fish Co. and USA’s Lily Yip Sports for that - “Take a note, Tim,” said Lily, striding here and there to accommodate customers behind her wares of neatly placed-out piles of rackets and rubber, “biggest booth in history!” Yes, it probably was, but she hadn’t an exclusive - walk a little further and there was distributor Mike Bochenski behind the Nittaku booth, eager to start his post-tournament-play in this envied islanded-vacation-land, and Nittaku’s Koichi Hirose, whom I’m happy to have known and admired for decades, making the rounds with, it might be, special presents of honey cake.

The Program showed the care with which the JTTA prepared for this tournament. All the dollars and cents of the victory money was reaped, but also the numbers (how nice, if one has to have them pinned on, to see and feel they’re in oil cloth not that flimsy paper that often flaps up, folds, and can’t be read). Since every match was time-scheduled, the tournament ran quite smoothly. Among those on hand to present medals to the winners was Co-Vice Tournament Chair Shoji Kimura, 1963 and ’65 World Mixed Doubles Champion.

I have to say at the outset that for two reasons I can only mostly report on my own rather revolving-door involvement at this Convention Center venue. First, because I was at the tournament only for one day - desirous of course of playing matches, but also of making continual sightseeing arrangements since Sally and I and our younger son Eric were in Hawai’i for the first time primarily for a vacation and to visit our friends Dick and Mary Miles (Dick having spent winters in Waikiki for many years). And, second, because there were relatively few U.S. players whom I knew by name here at the Center (Hi, Irina Borisova, Wiley Butler, Tom and Marilyn Miller) and even fewer medal winners to deservingly acknowledge.

However, I will say - though you’d not find any mention of anything about the tournament in the local papers - that in the Over 40’s New Jersey’s Barry Dattel, though he lost in the semis of the singles to the Japanese winner, Matsuoka, did pair with singles runner-up, fellow mainlander Tao Xiaobin, to take the doubles over Hawaii’s Allen Kaichi and Paul Wessel. And that in winning the 50 singles over contending Hawaiians, runner-up Hermann Chinn and 3rd-place medalist Peter Pan, Nevada’s Ralph Stadelman left no doubt he’d gone home. In both the semi’s and the final I was extended. First by the Japanese Tanaka (illustrious name, that), who I’d thought earlier, in jacket, trousers, and carrying a strapped camera bag, might have been a reporter observing me. Then in the final by the Island’s Hoa Ming Yeung, a surprisingly athletic septuagenarian who’d knocked out Forsberg in the semi’s, and who seemed to take boundless delight in bouncing the ball, while various members of his family watched from the sidelines, filmed him for posterity, and eventually congratulated me with such warmness that everyone, including Yeung, seemed just as pleased he’d lost as won.

Sally watched, cringed as I not so silently mouthing my displeasure on missing shots, and continued knitting a baby blanket for a young relative. “Oh,” says a nice Japanese woman apparently admiring the blanket. “That’s dirty.” Which rather astonished Sally until she realized apparently admiring the blanket. “That’s dirty.” Which rather astonished Sally until she realized apparently admiring the blanket. “That’s dirty.”

Of course Sally, Eric, and I had a great vacation. Like everyone else, we had to see the film of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor at the Visitor’s Center. And then go on to the USS Arizona Memorial. Much of the time we spent in Waikiki but in traveling about O’ahu by foot, car, bus, submarine, and helicopter. Finally we spent a day touring Hawai’i, the Big Island, where we were quite struck by the huge volcanic craters and the surreal landscapes.

All who participated in this fun tournament have undeniably aged over the years - but I’m sure there isn’t one of us who’s seen everything yet ... certainly not in Hawai’i.
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In somewhat of a departure from the format of this series, I’ve decided to write about doubles. We rarely hear or read anything about this format, yet it is one of the events in all major competitions and as such deserves more attention than it generally gets.

Although all skills from the singles game are used, there are additional techniques required that are specific to doubles and have no counterpart in singles. The recognition and development of these techniques often results in a doubles team that is better than the sum of its individual strengths, and we frequently see a well-practiced team with lower combined ranking beat one made up by two stars thrown together for one event.

Certain combinations of doubles players are advantageous. A lefty and a righty generally struggle less to stay out of each other’s way, and when moving correctly, can play mostly with their forehands. In the photo sequences, the team wearing red shirts is 2000 Olympic Doubles Gold Medalists Wang Liqin and Yan Sen, just such a lefty/righty combination.

Matching styles - two loopers or two choppers, for example - make for a clear game plan and less confusion, but – as the World’s #1 doubles team of Liu Guoliang and Kong Linghui (1997 & 1999 World Champions, and 1996 Olympic Gold Medalists) proves – a hitter and a looper, both right-handers, can work like a charm.

One of the most important factors for a successful team is cooperation. There must be an ongoing dialog – verbalize between points, as far as the rules allow, or with signals before serving or sometimes even before receiving. This teamwork must extend into the psychological realm. Good doubles partners encourage each other and never reprimand their partner for a mistake. We often see a doubles team “run hot,” because the excitement is contagious. But negativity is equally contagious and must be avoided.

It is critical to assess each player’s strengths and weaknesses. This allows you to try to force your opponents to play a ball that your partner likes.

Footwork in doubles is different from singles. It mostly focuses on getting out of your partner’s way and has a greater combination of forward-backward and side-to-side movement. As mentioned before, that is less of an issue in a lefty/righty combination. The first sequence shows this clearly: Wang, the right-hander, receives Liu’s serve and steps out to his left, pretty much where he would be in a singles game, ready for a big forehand. Yan waits in the background, where he can clearly see the table. As soon as Wang moves away he steps in a bit and is right where he needs to be. Although Kong makes a good shot deep into his backhand corner, he still has time to turn and blast a forehand down the middle, and after Wang’s big shot he’s right there again ready to deal with Kong’s block. In the righty/righty combo, Kong – following his momentum – is forced to crouch down and move in front of Liu after his shot, which puts them at a disadvantage.

In sequence two the Kong/Liu find a smoother rhythm. After receiving, Kong moves back while Liu slides in from the left. Since the ball is in the middle of the table it allows Liu to quickly back out to his left, giving the open table to Kong and enabling Kong to control the point with his backhand and then move slightly to his right. Again, Liu’s ready to move in, but since the ball comes at a sharp angle to his backhand corner, he stays and takes a big crosscourt shot.

Generally, a righty/righty combination will require the server or receiver to move away to his right and backwards. The other player will have to determine his path based on the placement of the opponent’s ball: If it is in the middle or backhand side, he can take his shot and move to the left, but if it requires a big move to the right, he has to move across his partner’s line of sight, slide out to the right and immediately move back to the center. If during the rally two consecutive shots come to the same side of the table, shakehand players have to circle around each other – on the forehand side clockwise, on the backhand side counterclockwise. In the example above, Liu as a penholder prefers to rely on his speed rather than his backhand, so he waits on the left wing and uses his forehand.

Training footwork for doubles is best done against a singles player because it is easier for one player to control placement. First have him hit the ball to one side only so you can practice getting out of each other’s way. Then have him vary placement to sharpen your team’s ability to move and adjust during a point. Multiball training is very beneficial, because it makes extended “points” possible, which allows a doubles pair to find and groove their optimized paths more quickly and efficiently.

There are specific techniques and strategies you need to develop:

- You must learn to serve in a way that doesn’t leave your partner having to fend off a strong attack. Most often, a well-placed, short serve accomplishes this.
- More even than in singles, it is important to take the offense as soon as possible. Defense in doubles is very difficult and often leads to disarray.
- If you can identify one of the opponents as the weaker player, adjust your strategy so the one playing to his backhand usually is back a bit, waiting to see what you are going to do.
- Usually, one hitting rotation is stronger than the other because of individual styles. When you have the opportunity, choose to receive at the beginning of the game and then use your stronger rotation, if you can determine it. More important than having the strong rotation at the end of a three-game match is the psychological advantage of winning the first game and leading early in the third. By the time you reach the end of the third game, both teams have warmed up enough to where the difference between the two rotations is less significant, and usually you can bring an early big lead home.

Playing doubles has an immediate positive effect on your singles game. You will find improved movement, improved anticipation, improved variation and, most importantly, a whole new area of fun.
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The Beginner's Series:  
The Backhand Drive

By Larry Hodges, USATT Certified National Coach
Edited by Dan Seemiller & Mark Nordby
Photo sequence of Mark Nordby

This is the second in a series of articles for beginning players. More advanced players can learn as well — even advanced players need to periodically review their basic techniques.

The backhand can be done against any type of spin, but is often strongest against topspin. Beginners should probably push with their backhands against backspin, at least at the start. The backhand is generally not as powerful as the forehand. Therefore, consistency and quickness are more important. It is done differently with all three grips (shakhand, penhold and Seemiller/American), but we will only explain the shakhands grip backhand in detail.

Backswing
Start the stroke by rotating the lower arm and racquet towards the stomach, bringing the racquet down to about table level. The elbow should be at about a 90 degree angle. The racquet should open slightly during the backswing. The elbow itself stays stationary. Do not use the shoulder, legs, waist, etc., in any part of the stroke.

Forward Swing
Rotate the lower arm and racquet forward and slightly up on the elbow. The elbow moves forward just enough to keep the racquet going in a straight line. Make sure to stroke the ball in front of the body, not from the side.

Contact
At contact, snap the wrist up and over the ball, closing the racquet. The racquet rotates around the ball, creating topspin. For extra power, stroke straight through the ball with less spin, sinking the ball straight into the sponge and wood.

Follow Through
The arm continues to extend forward and slightly up, with the elbow extending forward to keep the racquet going in a straight line until the very end of the follow-through. At the end of the stroke, the racquet should point a little to the right of the direction the ball was hit. The elbow is now almost fully extended.

Backhand Smash
A backhand smash is simply a very hard backhand. Use a longer backswing and snap the wrist hard at contact.
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DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Men's Preliminaries & Van Accident

Except for the crash of the van transporting a number of players (more on that later) things went pretty much as expected in the Men's Preliminaries. There were no Women's Preliminaries. Nine players played a compete round robin, with six to advance to the Final Twelve. The top six seeds all advanced. In fact, for the first few rounds there wasn't a single upset, and it wasn't until the top six were pretty much decided that upsets began to take place. Most of the upsets were at the expense of the preliminaries top-seed, Ashu (who prefers that spelling to his often-used Ashoo version). Jain, who won his first four matches, then lost the next four to (in order) Loc Ngo, Tahl Leibovitz, Nison Aronov and Mark Hazinski.

The dominant player for the day was 15-year-old Mark Hazinski at 8-0. He lost only one game, to Nison Aronov (16-,16,15). Aronov won the rest of his matches to finish second (7-1), with Ashu the only other player to get a game from him. Aronov, now from New York, is not well known to U.S. players, being a recent arrival from the Tajic Republic (a former part of the Soviet Union). He was, in fact, the Tajic Champion for seven straight years, from 1981-1988, and again in 1991. His coach both then and now – he was here to coach Aronov – was Velarly Elnatanov, a former top coach for the Soviet Union, now living in Cleveland.

Finishing tied for third at 5-3 were Tahl Leibovitz and Loc Ngo. Since Tahl won their head-to-head match (6,17,13), he finished third, Ngo fourth. Tied for fifth were Jain and 18-year-old Lee McCool, with Ashu defeating McCool (18,13) and so coming in fifth, McCool sixth.

Since the order of finish didn't really matter (there were no carryovers – for one thing, the Preliminaries were best of three, while the Final Twelve would be best of five), all that mattered was finishing in the top six, and so the advancees were Mark Hazinski, Nison Aronov, Tahl Leibovitz, Loc Ngo, Ashu Jain and Lee McCool.

Not advancing (and not winning any matches against the six advancees) were 12-year-old Misha Kazantsev (7th at 2-6), 17-year-old Jared Lynch (8th at 1-7) and 17-year-old David Umel Jr. (9th at 0-8). These players didn't challenge the top six players very strongly this time around, but they may have gained the experience needed to battle with them next time. (To be eligible for these trials, men had to be rated over 2300, but boys under 18 and over 2000 were eligible; similarly, women had to be over 2000, but girls under 18 and over 1800 were eligible.)
There was a scary moment this afternoon when the van transporting a number of players to lunch was in an accident—one that came very close to being a very serious one. USATT Vice President Barney D. Reed was driving the van, with passengers Chang Jun Gao, Tawny Banh, Jackie Lee, Whitney Ping, Allison Seibel and Jack Wu.

Suddenly, a car two lanes to the left had a tire blow-out, and spun out of control. It hit a car to the left of the van, and that car hit the van. The van spun 180 degrees around, hitting another car in the process. Incredibly, no one was hurt, although Gao mentioned that her shoulder was sore from it.

The players and staff are staying at the San Diego Olympic Training Center dorms (with free meals at their cafeteria). The competition is at the San Diego Table Tennis Club.

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

The men played four rounds today, while the women played three.

The day had two names: Hazinski andjuries. Hazinski went 4-0 with four upsets; and player after player came down with injuries. At the end of the day, the major injury list was as follows:

- Todd Sweeris: wrenched back from looping, unlikely to continue.
- Chang Gao Jun: injured shoulder from car accident from day before, and unable to do much more than block. She said she could win against the weaker players this way, but may not be able to compete against the stronger players.
- Whitney Ping: sprained ankle while playing, had to default her last two matches.
- Virginia Sung: wrenched back from looping, having great difficulty playing and not certain whether she will be able to continue.
- Allison Seibel: bruised ribs from car accident the day before.
- Lily Yip: sore shoulder from playing.

Several others are also hurting in various ways, but mostly from straight exhaustion or minor muscles strains. The trainers are being worked nonstop.

Men's Round One

Five of the six matches were pretty straightforward. The interesting match was Brian Pace vs. 15-year-old (but 6'2'') Mark Hazinski, the six and seventh seeds.

Pace won the first two games at 18 & 19. Hazinski pulled out the next two, 19 & 15. In the fifth, Hazinski was up 15-10 and serving—and lost all five! He then lost the first two on Pace's serve—seven in a row. Hazinski's coach, Mark Nordby, called a timeout. After the timeout, Pace scored his eighth in a row to go up 18-15. But then Hazinski answered by scoring the next five in a row, to lead 20-18 match point! Pace got an edge ball, 20-19. Pace next backhand flipped Hazinski's serve, catching him out of position—but the flip was just off! Match to Hazinski, 18-19, 19, 15, 19.

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Lee McCool, 11, 9, 6; Eric Owens d. Ashu Jain, 19, 8, 18; Todd Sweeris d. Loc Ngo, 8, 14, 9; Barney J. Reed d. Tahl Leibovitz 11, 15, -20, 12; and Shashin Shodhan d. Nison Aronov, 18, 17, 14.

Men's Round Two

For the second straight round, the match of interest was Hazinski's, this time upsetting Barney J. Reed in another 5-game thriller, deuce in the fifth. In the fifth game, down 3-6, Reed won seven in a row to lead 10-6. He soon led 13-7—then Hazinski won six in a row to tie it at 13-all. They traded points to 19-all. Reed served fast & deep to Hazinski's backhand, and Hazinski...
is caught off guard, looping off. Up match point, Reed serves slightly long, and this time Hazinski loops it. Reed blocks, and Hazinski loops a winner, deuce. Hazinski then serve & loops a ball that seems to go into the net – and Reed raises his fist and begins to yell “Choe!” But the ball has so much topspin it shoots upwards to the top of the net, rises above the net, drops back on top of it, and goes over! Point to Hazinski, who goes up match point, 21-20. The players walk around the court for moment, then Reed gets set to serve, and serves – into the net! Hazinski wins, 19,18,18,13,20.

Another five-gamer that could make a difference later on was sixth seed Brian Pace’s five-gamer over fifth seed Shashin Shodhan, -23,17,16,-13,16. Another five-gamer was Loc Ngo over Lee McCool, 18,-19,-14,14,14.

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Ashu Jain, 15,10,15; Eric Owens d. Tahl Leibovitz, 15,9,-16,12; and Todd Sweeris d. Nison Aronov, 11,13,-18,9.

**Men’s Round Three**

Once again five of the six matches are pretty straightforward – and the unstraightforward match is again Mark Hazinski pulling off still another upset, his biggest of all. This time he defeats second-seeded Eric Owens, 21,8,19. Owens led the first, 20-18 and 21-20, and (after losing the second 21-8 from down 16-4) led the third 13-7 and 17-14. Serving from down 17-18, Owens served off. At 18-20 match point, Owens serve and rips a winner, 19-20. Then he serve and rips another forehand loop. Hazinski blocks it to his wide backhand, Eric goes way, way around, and loops another forehand from way over on the backhand side – but Hazinski punch-kills a clean backhand to the wide forehand that Owens doesn’t even attempt to go for. Match to Hazinski, 20,8,19.

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Loc Ngo, 13,17,17; Todd Sweeris d. Brian Pace, 9,11,11; Barney J. Reed d. Shashin Shodhan, 13,-12,9,7; Nison Aronov d. Lee McCool, 20,21,16; and Ashu Jain d Tahl Leibovitz, 10,19,7.

Three players are now undefeated at 3-0: David Zhuang, Todd Sweeris and Mark Hazinski. Eric Owens and Barney J. Reed are each 2-1. Shashin Shodhan, Brian Pace, Nison Aronov, Loc Ngo and Ashu Jain are all at 1-2. Tahl Leibovitz and Lee McCool are falling back at 0-3.
**Men’s Round Four**

Two matches were of interest. The continuing Hazinski saga continued, with another “upset” - this time over Ashu Jain (rated 2428 to Hazinski’s 2427), 19,21,10. The Gods were smiling on Hazinski – down 20-21 in the second, he won two in a row on net balls.

Of far more impact was second-seeded Todd Sweeris’ injury against fourth-seeded Barney J. Reed. At 12-all in the third (they split the first two), Todd looped a ball from the wide forehand down the line - winning the point - but wrenching his lower-left back in the process. He took an injury time-out (ten minutes), and had a trainer work on it during that time, but still wasn’t really able to continue. When he returned, he played several points blocking, but it was obvious he couldn’t play at all. In a round robin, you get two points for a win, one for a loss, and zero for a default. So if Todd defaulted, he would get zero – which is essentially like losing two matches. Rather than do that, and wanting to keep his options open for the next day in case he was able to continue, he played out the match, but lost each point as quickly as possible. When serving, he’d usually just toss the ball up five times and catch it each time – and lose all five – while returning all servers into the net. (One exception – he popped one serve back in the fourth game that so surprised Reed that he missed it, giving Sweeris one point that game.) Match to Reed, 17,16,14,1. Afterwards, Sweeris said he probably wouldn’t be able to continue, but would see how his back was in the morning. He made arrangements to meet with a trainer early on Friday morning.

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Tahl Leibovitz, 14,16,8; Eric Owens d. Shashin Shodhan, 14,14,8; Brian Pace d. Lee McCool, 19,11,15,12; Nison Aronov d. Loc Ngo, 9,17,15,12;

**Women’s Round One**

The match of interest this round was Lily Yip vs. Simone Yang. The higher rated Yip (2367) won the first, 21-19, but Yang (2289) won the next three, -19,14,18,18. In the other five matches, the higher rated player won 3-0. Jun Gao Chang d. Allison Seibel, 10,7,14; Jasna Reed d. Whitney Ping, 10,6,11; Tawny Banh d. Jackie Lee, 12,12,12; and Virginia Sung d. Michelle Do, 16,20,11.
**Women's Round Two**

Whitney Ping sprained her ankle while practicing and had to default to Chang Jun Gao—a welcome reprieve for Gao, who was having shoulder problems.

The best match here was pips-out penholder Lily Yip's 15-17, 17, 21 win over chopper Virginia Sung. In the fourth game, Yip led 17-11—and lost eight in a row! The two were playing long, patient rallies, with Lily rolling or driving ball after ball, rarely smashing. Virginia played almost purely defensive. Yip goes up 20-19 match point, but Sung chops a net dribbler which Yip pushes into the net. Sun goes up 21-20, but Yip wins the next three.

In other matches, Jasna Reed d. Michelle Do, 18-19, 13, 14; Tawny Banh d. Simone Yang, 15-19, 16, 11; and Jackie Lee d. Allison Seibel, 8, 13, 10.

**Women's Round Three**

Tawny Banh and Virginia Sung battled and split the first two games—and then, mimicking almost exactly what Todd Sweeris had done just a few minutes before, she looped a winner from her wide forehand down the line, and wrenched her back in exactly the same spot! She continued the match, but obviously she was no longer able to play effectively. She is iffy about whether she will be able to continue. Match to Banh, 20-19, 8, 11.

Another big match was Lily Yip against Jasna Reed. Reed was shell-shocked the first game, but recovered to win the next three, 7, 18, 12, 17.

In other matches, Chang Jun Gao d. Jackie Lee, 4, 13, 7; Simone Yang d. Allison Seibel, 16, 11, 9; and Michelle Do d. Whitney Ping, def.

**DAY THREE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

"Survivor"

Both the men and the women played three rounds today. Injuries continued to take their toll—with Shashin Shodhan joining the injury list with back problem. While Todd Sweeris and Whitney Ping were eventually forced to drop out (Sweeris—back injury, Ping—sprained ankle), the rest continued: Chang Jun Gao and Lily Yip with injured shoulders; Shodhan, David Zhuang and Virginia Sung with back injuries; and Allison Seibel with a bruised rib. The injured players had the most trouble in the morning, but as the day went on, most seemed to play better. By the final round, most seemed to be playing at or near normal.

**Men's Round Five**

Things started heating up this round as the matches both became more competitive and more important toward the final standings.

Todd Sweeris' back was no better than the day before, and he was unable to play. However, he still wanted to keep his options open in case he was able to recover enough to play later. In the scoring system for a round robin, a player gets 2 points for a win, 1 for a loss, and 0 for defaulting. The referee made it clear that he had to physically play the match all the way through or it would be considered a default. So, since he couldn't really play but didn't want to default, he arranged a simple procedure in his match against Eric Owens: when Sweeris served, he'd just throw the ball up five times in a row and catch it. When Owens served, Sweeris would put his free hand on the table, and Owens would simply catch the ball. Since Sweeris' free hand was on the table during the point, he'd lose the point. The two completed the best of five in three minutes, with Sweeris getting one point each game—Sweeris didn't want to lose at zero!

In a match that could have become a spoiler match, 0-4 Lee McCool played his practice partner, 3-1 Barney J. Reed. They split the first two games; in the third, Reed led 20-16, but McCool scored six in a row. But Reed won the next two to win, 19, 19-20, 16, 11, and go to 4-1.

In another big match, Shashin Shodhan won the first two games easily against Ashu Jain. But Jain won the next two easily. Shodhan recovered and won the match, 16, 8, 17-10, 16.
4-0 Mark Hazinski had a scare against the 0-4 Tahl Leibovitz. When the two stand next to each other, it looks like Ivan Drago and Rocky Balboa in Rocky IV. Tahl, who has won numerous medals in the Paralympics, has benign bone tumors, including ones in his knees, back and playing arm, as well as three pinched nerves and a herniated disk. Sort of like Rocky near the end of his fight with Drago! In this case, "Rocky" almost pulled it out, leading 10-8 in the third after splitting the first two games. Somehow, now that he was seemingly out of the running, Leibovitz was letting loose, making shots all over the place. However, "Death from Above" scored the next seven in a row. In the fourth, Leibovitz came from behind to tie it at 16-all. However, Hazinski went on another run to win the game and match, 19-17.17 - a match that Leibovitz came from behind to tie it at 16-all. However, Hazinski went first two games. Somehow, now that he was seemingly out of the running, Hazinski went on another run to win the game and match, 19-17.17 - a match that Leibovitz came from behind to tie it at 16-all. However, Hazinski went first two games. Somehow, now that he was seemingly out of the running, Hazinski went on another run to win the game and match, 19-17.17 - a match that Leibovitz came from behind to tie it at 16-all. However, Hazinski went

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Nison Aronov, 10,13,16; and Brian Pace d. Loc Ngo, 18,19,12.

Men's Round Six

Sweeers finally had to drop out of the tournament, and so defaulted to Ashu Jain. For the moment, the three matches stood, so Brian Pace, Nison Aronov and Loc Ngo all had losses against him, while the other eight players would all get wins against him. This was somewhat controversial due to rules that were somewhat contradictory, that would soon have to be ruled upon.

Mark Hazinski's run of 13 straight wins (including eight in the preliminaries on Wednesday) finally came to an end against David Zhuang. Both were 5-0 coming in, and Hazinski had pulled off four upsets. But Zhuang's a level above the competition here, and he wins easily. 12,16,13.

Tahl Leibovitz continued his hot streak, this time ripping winners from all over the place to defeat Shashin Shodhan. 15,9,17.15. (In game three, Shodhan led 10-2 and 13-7, then Leibovitz tied it at 16-all before losing.) This hurt Shodhan in particular, who came in seeded fifth (with seven a level above the competition here, and he wins easily. 12,16,13.

In probably the most spectacular match of the tournament, Nison Aronov, after losing the first two games, nearly lobbed the powerful Brian Pace down. Who would have believed it possible - Pace has, well, way too much pace on his shots to be lobbed down. But Aronov might very well be the best lobber in the country, and between lobbing, fishing and blocking, became a nearly impermeable wall. He pulled out game three at 18, and led 19-17 in the fourth. Pace played four straight spectacular points - Aronov lobbing all four points - to win the match, 13,19,18.19. This was a particularly important match because the winner would be in a strong position to make the U.S. Team.

In other matches, Jack Lee d. Loc Ngo, 14,12,17.

At this point, things were starting to shape up. With Sweeers out, there was an additional "open" spot that Sweeers (3-0 at the time of the injury) presumably would have taken. David Zhuang (6-0), Mark Hazinski (5-1), Eric Owens (5-1) and Barney J. Reed (5-1) were pretty much locks for the team. Brian Pace (4-2) was looking very strong for the fifth spot. Others in the hunt were Ashu Jain, Shashin Shodhan and Nison Aronov, all 2-4. At 1-5 - but not yet eliminated - were Tahl Leibovitz and Loc Ngo. Lee McCool was pretty much out at 0-6.

Men's Round Seven

David Zhuang lost his first game against a very hot Brian Pace. Zhuang served from down 17-20 in the first, and deuced it - getting Pace to push two serves into the net at 18-20. But Pace then went up 21-20, and then did a spectacular step-around-the-backhand-corner against a quick Zhuang block, and ripped a game-winning loop. The next three games were also close - until the end, when Zhuang pulled away each time. Match to Zhuang, -20,14,16,14

Shashin Shodhan knew that he needed to beat Mark Hazinski to have a realistic chance of making the team - and he responded by playing a spectacular match, looping winners off the bounce and snapping in backhand winners against Hazinski's best loops. But Hazinski has so much two-winged power that you have to do this just to stay in the match. They split the first two games at 19, then Hazinski won the third at 16. In the fourth, Shodhan led 20-18, but Hazinski scored four in a row to win, 19-19,16,20.

In other matches, Eric Owens d. Loc Ngo; Ashu Jain d. Lee McCool, 18,18,13-20; Barney J. Reed d. Nison Aronov, 16,15,16; and Tahl Leibovitz d. Todd Sweeers, def.

At this point, David Zhuang (7-0), Mark Hazinski (6-1), Eric Owens (6-1) and Barney J. Reed (6-1) were pretty much locks for the team. Brian Pace was in the lead for the fifth spot at 4-3. Just trashing him was Ashu Jain at 3-4 - with the two set to play at 7PM Saturday. Falling back were Tahl Leibovitz, Shashin Shodhan and Nison Aronov, all at 2-5, and Loc Ngo (1-6) and Lee McCool (0-7). Jain, with upcoming matches with Reed, Pace, Aronov and Ngo, seemingly has the best chance of overtaking Pace. Leibovitz, with upcoming matches with Pace, Aronov, Ngo and McCool, also was in the running - his record is deceptive since he hadn't played all the highest seeds. Aronov has a seemingly harder draw, with matches coming up against Owens, Hazinski, Leibovitz and Jain. Shodhan also has a difficult draw, with upcoming matches against Zhuang, Owens, Ngo and McCool.

Mathematically, only Zhuang has clinched his spot. Six players can still get as many as six wins, so Owens and Reed need one more win to clinch their spots. Only Loc Ngo and Lee McCool (and Todd Sweeers, since he withdrew) are out mathematically.

Women's Round Four

Chang Jun Gao's shoulder was really hurting her this morning. She struggled against Michelle Do in their 11AM match, and was down 19-17 in the first before scoring four in a row. She managed to block Do down to win the match and stay undefeated, 19,13,13.

In a spectacular match, Jasna Reed defeated Tawny Bankh, 19,16,16,17, in a battle of the second and third seeds. In the fourth game, Bankh led 10-4, but lost four in a row before calling a timeout. It didn't help this time - she was soon down 16-13, and Reed held that lead to the end. It was a vintage match of a European style shankender - Reed - versus a Chinese-style shankender - Bankh. How are they different? Bankh, with pips on the backhand, plays close to the table, bangs her backhands out extremely quick and fast, and loops from close to the table over and over. Reed, with inverted on both sides, will play from all over the court at all speeds.

Virginia Sung, still struggling with her back injury, came back after a bad first game to win against Allison Seibel, 10,13,15,6.

In other matches, Lily Yip d. Whitney Ping, def.; and Simone Yang d. Jackie Lee, 10,18,13.

Women's Round Five

Chang Jun Gao's shoulder was beginning to loosen up, but she was still hesitant to really hit her forehand. Her blocking was enough against Simone Yang, 12,12,9.

The best match this round was Michelle Do's upset of Lily Yip, a battle of extremely fast rallyers. Do won the first two games, and led 14-8 in the third - but the experienced Yip fought back to win that game at 19, and the next one at 15. In the fifth, at 5-all, Do ran off five in a row on her serve, and held that lead to win the match, 20,10,19,15,14.

In other matches, Jasna Reed d. Allison Seibel, 17,7,17; Virginia Sung d. Jackie Lee, 10,8,13; and Tawny Bankh d. Whitney Ping, def.

Women's Round Six

In a battle of sore-shouldered players, the mostly-blocking Chang Jun Gao defeated the still-hitting Lily Yip - often wildly hitting - at 9,17,5.

The best match this round was Virginia Sung versus Simone Yang in a match where the winner nearly had a lock on making the team - while the loser would still be favored to make the team. Most of the match had Yang...
mixing in pushes and steady loops, while Sung would sometimes push or chop every ball, and other times loop all-out. Especially impressive were Sung's counterloops — she rarely missed, and it became dangerous for Yang to loop to Sung's forehand. It was also dangerous to push her serve back, as Sung would sometimes serve and loop winner after winner. Chopper Sung won the first and third easily; Yang won the second easily. In the fourth, Sung served from up 19-16 — and lost all five! On to the fifth. But first...

...knowing I had some time before they would be into the fifth game, I walked to the control desk (100 feet), got online on my computer, typed in the results of the other matches played that round, uploaded them, did a short one-paragraph write-up of that round (including the Sung-Simone match, leaving a blank for the winner), checked email, answered two emails, read several notes on the table tennis newsgroup, received a phone call, made a phone call, and then suddenly realized I'd forgotten about the ongoing match! I rushed back...

...and the score in the fifth was only 6-4!

In the fifth, Sung led 11-7, but lost the next five. Then, down 13-16, Sun ran off six in a row to lead 19-16. Up 20-17 — expedite was called! (Roughly speaking, if a game takes longer than 15 minutes to complete, expedite is called, where players alternate serves, and the server has 13 shots to win the point, or the receiver wins the point.) But they only played one expedite point — a nice one, with Yang hitting all-out, but missing on about the eighth hit. Match to Sung, 9-10, 15-19, 17.

In other matches, Jasna Reed d. Jackie Lee, 11,13,15; Tawny Banh d. Michelle Do, 9,11,16; and Allison Seibel d. Whitney Ping, def.

At this point, the top four spots are pretty much locked up by Chang Jun Gao (6-0), Jasna Reed (6-0), Tawny Banh (5-1) and Virginia Sung (4-2), Simone Yang (3-3) is also looking very good. At 2-4 were Lily Yip and Michelle Do. At 1-5 were Jackie Lee and Allison Seibel, while Whitney Ping (who actually only played one match before defaulting due to her sprained ankle) was 0-6.

Mathematically, Gao and Reed have clinched their spots. Tawny at 5-1 still has to win one more to do so — with three rounds to go, seven players could still get five wins. Only Whitney Ping (already out with her sprained ankle) is mathematically out.

**DAY FOUR: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

For much of Saturday, it was thought that Todd Sweeris' three wins (over Brian Pace, Nison Aronov and Loc Ngo) before he was forced to withdraw due to injury would count. However, on Saturday night, the tournament committee met and ruled that, based on the rules posted and the instructions given to the players in advance, his matches did not count toward standings (although played matches did count toward rating). Similarly, Whitney Ping's one played match (a loss to Jasna Reed) did not count toward standings, although in this case it made no difference.

**Men's Round Eight**

The big match here was Barney J. Reed's grueling win over Brian Pace, 20,13,16,16,15. Reed led 17-13 in the first, but Pace won at 20. Pace led 9-6 in the fifth, but was suddenly down 10-13, and then 13-19. This win clinched Reed's spot on the team.

Tahl Leibovitz continued his last-minute drive, defeating Lee McCool, 11,19,21,12. Leibovitz's forehand loop kill against pushes was becoming devastating — it never seemed to miss, opponents could rarely tell where it was going, and so it rarely came back.

Ashu Jain survived a scare from Loc Ngo. Down 2-1 in games, and leading 20-16, Jain barely held on to win at 19, but won the fifth game easily and the match, -17-13,-11,19,6. If he had lost this match, it would have had severe repercussions on the team trials. As it was, Jain was still in the battle for the fifth spot.

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Shashin Shodhan, 12,15,18; and Eric Owens d. Nison Aronov, 10,15,9.

At this point, four of the five spots on the team have been clinched by David Zhuang, Mark Hazinski, Eric Owens and Barney J. Reed. Battling for the fifth spot are Brian Pace (4-3), Ashu Jain (3-4), Nison Aronov (3-5), Shashin Shodhan (3-6) and Tahl Leibovitz (2-5). (Due to the Sweeris matches that do not count, players have different numbers of matches played.)

**Men's Round Nine**

Going into this round, Brian Pace led the race for the fifth spot. After his 9,16,13 loss to Eric Owens dropped him to 4-4, he still led, but narrowly.

Ashu Jain had the chance to make up lost ground, but instead he lost to Nison Aronov, 13,14,17. In the third game, down 19-14, Jain had an injury time-out due to the latest injury — an injured shoulder. But it didn't help in this match. Jain (3-5) was still in the hunt, but this win for Aronov (4-5) put him in sixth place after this round. Throughout this match (and other matches), Aronov continued to lob down opponent after opponent.

Tahl Leibovitz had a difficult match with Loc Ngo, but pulled out each game at the end, 21,-16,18,15, and so stayed in contention at 3-5.

In other matches, David Zhuang d. Barney J. Reed, 19,13,11; and Mark Hazinski d. Lee McCool, 17,10,-19,19.
Men's Round Ten

The biggest match of the round was Brian Pace versus Ashu Jain—especially since, at this time, it was not known that the Sweeris matches wouldn't count, and so whoever won would simply need to win his final match to clinch his spot. Either way, the winner would be in the driver's seat in the battle for the final spot on the team. Pace started out well, and went up 2-1 in games. In the fourth, Jain led 20-12—and suddenly it was 20-19, with Pace serving! But what looked like a short serve that went long gave Jain the loop kill off the serve he needed to win—although Pace almost blocked it back. Match to Jain, -17,13,-11,19,11—one of the most acrobatic of matches between these two physical shotmakers.

In a battle mostly for who would be #3 in the final standings—but one with some of the best counterlooping rallies seen in the U.S.- Eric Owens defeated Barney J. Reed, -19,14,12,16. On counterlooping rally in particular—well, you just had to be there.

Mark Hazinski had long ago clinched his spot on his team—and now seemed under pressure to hold onto the #2 spot on the team. Tawny Bahn had nearly clinched it—only a farfetched set of scenarios would keep her off the team. Virginia Sung was also almost sure to make the team.

Gao, despite her shoulder problems, had no trouble with chopper Virginia Sung, 11,8,8, playing a mostly steady rolling game and smashing only occasionally.

Lily Yip, in her last-ditch effort to make the team, went up 2-1 in games against Tawny Bahn—scoring seven in a row at 14-all in the third. Bahn ran away with the fourth game, and at 8-all in the fifth, pulled away to 15-9 in winning the match, -17,16,14,14,14.

In other matches, Jasna Reed defeated Loc Ngo, 2-0, then there could be a three-way tie between Do, Yang and Lee. Lee could not win, due to her 3-0 loss to Yang, unless she had beaten Do 3-0. And so it would go to points. Also, if Jackie Lee were to beat Lily Yip in the next round, then the winner between Do and Yang would get the final spot on the team.

Out of contention are Lily Yip (2-5), Allison Seibel (1-6) and Whitney Ping (default due to injury). Yip could get into a tie for the fifth spot, but every scenario has her tying with players she has lost to (Do and Yang) and unable to win in the tie-breaking procedure.

If only one of these three wins, then the one who wins would make the team.

If all three lose (with Seibel thereby defeating Pace), and Shodhan loses to Ngo, then there would be a four-way tie among Pace, Jain, Aronov and Leibovitz.

If all three lose (with Leibovitz thereby defeating Pace), and Shodhan defeats Ngo, then there would be a five-way tie, to be decided by points!

Women's Round Seven

Going into the round, Chang Jun Gao and Jasna Reed had clinched their spots on the team. Tawny Bahn had nearly clinched it—only a far-fetched set of scenarios would keep her off the team. Virginia Sung was also almost sure to make the team.

Yip, in her last-ditch effort to make the team, went up 2-1 in games against Tawny Bahn—scoring seven in a row at 14-all in the third. Bahn ran away with the fourth game, and at 8-all in the fifth, pulled away to 15-9 in winning the match, -17,16,14,14,14.

In other matches, Jasna Reed defeated Simone Yang, 19,12,17; and Michelle Do defeated Allison Seibel, 15,11,7.

By defeating Lily Yip, Tawny Bahn clinched her spot on the team. Losing to Yip, Yip was eliminated. As a side result, with Yip eliminated (and her win over Sung in a potential tie-breaker), Virginia Sung clinched her spot on the team. This left three players competing for the final spot: Simone Yang (3-4), Michelle Do (2-4) and Jackie Lee (1-5). Jackie, however, could only make the team if she won her next two matches against Lily Yip and Michelle Do; she'd have to beat Do 3-0, and Do would have to beat Simone Yang 3-0. In this case, Lee, Do and Yang would all be 4-5; they'd be tied in games, and so it would go to points. Also, if Jackie Lee were to defeat Do and Yip, but not beat Do 3-0, then there could be a three-way tie between Do, Yang and Lee. Lee could not win, due to her 3-0 loss to Yang, unless she had beaten Do 3-0.

Out of contention are Lily Yip (2-5), Allison Seibel (1-6) and Whitney Ping (default due to injury). Yip could get into a tie for the fifth spot, but every scenario has her tying with players she has lost to (Do and Yang) and unable to win in the tie-breaking procedure.

Women's Round Eight

The important match this round was Michelle Do's match with Jackie Lee. Lee needed to win 3-0 to have a chance of making the team—and she won the first two! However, Do won the third to knock Lee out of contention. Lee won the match, 22,14,-17,18. However, one consequence of Do's loss was that if Lee were to beat Lily Yip in the next round, and Do were to beat Simone Yang, it would force a three-way tie between Lee, Do and Yang. Lee couldn't win (due to her 3-0 loss to Yang), but Do would now have to defeat Yang 3-0 in this scenario. If Lee were to lose to Yip in the next round, then the winner between Do and Yang would get the final spot on the team.

In other matches, Jasna Reed defeated Virginia Sung, 9,13,20; and Lily Yip defeated Allison Seibel, 4,5,11.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • May/June 2001
In a battle between the top 8 leaders, Chang Jun Gao d. Jasna Reed, 19,17,9.

However, there were really two matches of interest this round: Michelle Do versus Simone Yang, and Jackie Lee versus Lily Yip. If Yip were to defeat Lee (and Yip is rated 252 points higher), then the winner between Do and Yang would make the team. However, Lee just had come off upsetting Do, and was playing very well — and she defeated Yip, 20-18,19,12. (Yip came back from down 15-10 in the second to win.) This meant that if Do defeated Yang, there would be a three-way tie between Do, Yang and Lee — and unless Do defeated Yang 3-0, Yang would grab the final spot on the team. Yang won the first game, so when shortly afterwards (during game three) Lee won against Yip, Yang clinched the final spot on the team. However, the two played on. Down 19-17 in the third, Do called a timeout, and after returning, won the next four points and the game. Do went up 21-20 match point in the fourth (Yang had the 20-19 game point), but lost the game 23-21. Yang went on to win the match, 15-16,19-21,11.

In the other match played, Tawny Banh d. Allison Seibel, 12,8,10.

And so here are the final standings (with Whitney Ping’s matches no longer counting), with the top five making the U.S. Team.

1. Chang Jun Gao 8-0
2. Jasna Reed 7-1
3. Tawny Banh 6-2
4. Virginia Sung 4-4
5. Simone Yang 4-4
6. Jackie Lee 3-5
7. Michelle Do 2-6
8. Lily Yip 2-6
9. Allison Seibel 0-8

D DAY FIVE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Men’s Round Eleven

With all the possible scenarios, four of the five matches in the final round could have an impact on who took the final spot on the U.S. Team. However, once Hazinski defeated Nison Aronov (14,9,-23,8), Ashu Jain had control of his fate: if he won his match against Barney J. Reed, he would get the final spot.

Jain led most the first game of this counterlooping duel, and won 21-18. He was blown out the second, 21-13. Reed led 19-15 in the third, but loses five straight (19-20) before calling a timeout. He deuced it, but Ashu got an edge at 20-20 to get game point. Barney rolled a ball off the end to lose it, 22-20. In game four, Ashu led 19-20 match point, Reed serving. Then 20-16... 20-17... 20-18... 20-19! But then Reed served and backhands weakly off the table — and the match is over. Or is it? Apparently Jain moved the table in returning the serve, and so instead of winning, it is deuce! There is no protest. Reed whiffs a backhand loop to go down match point, and Jain then wins on a net dribbler. Match to new U.S. Team Member, Ashu Jain, 18-13,20,20.

However, this wasn’t the only drama going on. Brian Pace and Tahl Leibovitz were going at it, into the fifth, both having a chance to make the team until late in the fourth game, when the
Jain-Reed match ended. But Pace slowly pulls away in the fifth, 14-11, 16-12, 17-15, 19-17, 17-12, 14. Because Owens had lost to Hazinski 3-0, and Zhuang had defeated Hazinski 3-0, in the three-way tie between them, Zhuang came in first. Hazinski second, Owens third.

And so the order of finish was finalized, with the top five making the team:

1. David Zhuang 9-1
2. Mark Hazinski 9-1
3. Eric Owens 9-1
4. Barneys Reed 6-4
5. Ashu Jain 5-5
6. Brian Pace 5-5
7. Shashin Shodhan 4-6
8. Nison Aronov 4-6
9. Tali Leibovitz 3-7
10. Loc Ngo 1-9
11. Lee McCoool 0-10

A special thanks goes to the many volunteers and sponsors of this tournament, who put in hundreds of hours of work in putting these trials together. Let's all take a few minutes to honor not only our ten USA Team Members and the other players, but the staff that put on the Trials: Tournament Director Wayne Johnson, Referee Azmy Ibrahim, Transportation Coordinator Christian Lilieroo, National Team Chair Dennis Taylor, the Local Organizing Committee (Clark Mitchell, Kamran Azmizadeh, Pam Ramsey and Christian Lilieroo), umpires Irena Borisova, Linda Hsing, Yelena Karshedt, Larry Kesler, Joseph Lee, Tom Miller, Andre Scott, Allen Watson, Joe Yick, the ARCO Olympic Training Center, including Dave Stow, Tracy Fudge and Stacy Becerra, and the San Diego Table Tennis Club (www.sdttac.org).

An Official's View By "Dr. Azmy"

Recommendations for Future USA Team Trials

I hope this article will in no way be considered a criticism of the team trials tournament. In fact, it was a successful and pleasant tournament. Let me start by congratulating all those who attended it, especially the players. All players who attended should consider themselves great champions. Those who made the team deserve our thanks for a great effort and best wishes for a greater performance at the World Championships.

Thanks also to those who contributed to the success of the tournament. Clark Mitchell and Pam Ramsey succeeded in hosting the coaches, staff, umpires and Board members at the Olympic Training Center. It is a serene place on rolling hills facing a calm lake. The morning breeze added more charm to the place. The venue where the tournament took place was somewhat farther away from that beautiful setting, in Balboa Park, San Diego, California. A well-organized, hospital and efficient staff in both places went out of their way to make us comfortable and secure. Wayne Johnson, the tournament director, developed a smooth-running schedule which helped the tournament to run efficiently and successfully.

However, we always learn a little bit from every tournament. It seemed like there were a lot of matches for each player, especially those who advanced out of their qualifying round and joined the final round robin stage. Some players became tired. Physical fatigue, such as shoulder and muscle strain, was apparent. Richard McAfee, a pillar in the sport, looked at it this way. He said that Team Trial tournaments are not a place for practice, or for playing the most matches. It is a tournament for the highest level of play in our country. Many players will reach that level maybe once in their lives. Therefore, it should be treated as such.

We should accommodate those who come to compete by giving them an opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities. He recommended that we start with mini round robins, in which all players compete. Then eliminate two or three players from the bottom of each round robin to reach a reasonable number for the final round robin. Those who advance into the final round robin will carry over their matches with others who advanced.

For example, suppose we have 14 players. We can start with two round robins of seven players each. At the end of this stage the bottom two players in each round robin are dropped. That leaves us with five players from each of the round robins to form a final round robin of 10 players. The advantages of such a system are as follows:

1. All players are playing from the first round.
2. Each player will play all his or her matches seriously, as they are carry-over matches.
3. Each player will play less and have an equal number of matches.

A problem occurred during the tournament that caused much debate. Two players—one man and one woman—were injured after playing matches, and were forced to withdraw. It became a critical issue for those who lost to them before they withdrew from the tournament. Should these matches count? An appeal was made, and the Athletic Committee called for a meeting under the direction of Dennis Taylor, the National Team Committee Chair, to deal with the matter. The Referee (myself) attended, as a non-voting member, and explained the rules and regulations. All other members were given a chance to state their opinions and suggestions. The meeting ended with a unanimous vote, that all matches played by those who withdrew due to injury would be considered defaults. The meeting was conducted by Dennis Taylor in a very professional manner, and the vote taken indicated a reasonable comprehension of the spirit of the sport. There is always a fear that players may try to default to each other at the end of a round robin, rightly or wrongly, to help others become members of the team. While driving back and forth with Wayne Johnson we discussed the situation and he suggested the following remedy: a system where all points gained and lost in every game in the tournament, with the standings decided by the ratio of points gained to points lost, may eliminate the possibility of players trying to give games or points to each other. It will also make players take every point seriously.

In conclusion, two main suggestions were proposed after the tournament which could help improve our future Team Trials.

First, all players start in a few small round robin events, ending with a final round robin with carry-over matches. Second, the ratio of points won to points lost in all matches played would be used to determine the ranking of players on the team.

I hope that the Board will consider these suggestions in upcoming Team Trials.
FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN, TWENTY AND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
From the May/June USATT Magazines
By Larry Hodges

5 years ago...1996
- Jean-Michel Saive and Deng Yaping are the world #1 players.
- Jim Butler, David Zhuang, Todd Sweeris, Lily Yip, Amy Feng, Wei Wang make U.S. Olympic Team.
- Canada's Johnny Hung comes back from down 0-2 to win North American Men's Championships over USA's Cheng Yinghua, -19, -17, 18, 16, 14, while Canada's Li Juiuan Geng defeats USA's Amy Feng in Women's Final, 10, 17, 14, 14.

10 years ago...1991
- Huazhang Xu wins Eastern Open over Johnny Huang; David Zhuang wins Sun TV Open; Jack Huang wins Louisiana Open.

15 years ago...1996
- Sol Schiff defeats incumbent president Tim Boggan for USATT Presidency, 567-489
- Hank Teekaveerakit defeats Brian Masters in five in Louisiana Open Final, while Insook Bhushan defeats Mariann Dominkos in four in Women's Final.
- Khoa Nguyen and Chandrika Ghosh win Men's and Women's Singles at ACUI (College) Championships.

20 years ago...2001
- China sweeps all seven titles at Worlds.
- U.S. Men's team makes first division at Worlds by finishing 18th.
- Dan Seemiller wins Louisiana Open; Perry Schwartzberg wins Texas Open.

25 years ago...1976
- Sol Schiff defeats Bobby Gusikoff for President, 570-302.
- Dan Seemiller wins tournaments at Dayton OH, Wisner, NE, Baton Rouge LA and Eastern Open at Riverdale, MD.
- Jacques Secretin and Jill Hammersly win European Championships; Li Zhenshi wins Welsh Open.
- Soon-to-be-defunct Players Association breaks 300 members.
- Winning Table Tennis by Tim Boggan and Table Tennis by David Philip are hot off the press.

In Memoriam:
David Ramsey (1920-2000)
Dave Ramsey was the San Diego Table Tennis Association's backbone & treasurer for 36 years. He served under every SDTTA president in the history of the club. Dave is one of 5 SDTTA members ever awarded the prestigious "SDTTA Gold Lifetime Award" for his tireless efforts and contributions. Dave was the most honest, loyal & dedicated member of all the SDTTA and was recently nominated by Mary McIlwain as a future inductee to the California Table Tennis Hall of Fame.

Dave grew up in Florida and at age 20, entered the U.S. Army Air Corps where he was stationed in Australia, Philippines and Japan. Dave settled in San Diego where he worked at Rohr Aircraft Corp. and retired thirty-five years later as an FAA Inspector/Quality Control division. During these years, nothing left Rohr without his final inspection for Boeing, McDonnell-Douglas aircraft and the NASA Space Programs. He had the privilege of shaking hands with Astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Dave and Dorothy Ramsey had one child, Pam Ramsey (who followed her father's footsteps on the current SDTTA Board of Directors). When interviewed a few years ago, Dave mentioned his greatest achievement in table tennis was not his own, but in coaching his daughter to the finals of the 1969 U.S. Open junior event. Dave and Dorothy would have celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. (Dorothy Ramsey passed away a couple months later in Dec. 2000.) Other than table tennis, Dave had a passion for his two grandsons. He was their best friend, hero and coach. Dave also enjoyed coaching little league and won several awards for Little League Manager/Coach of the Year.

Dave suffered a major stroke at the end of July 2000. At the funeral, Dave was remembered for his family devotion and his contributions to table tennis and baseball. His oldest grandson and namesake, David (18 yrs.) placed Dave's table tennis racket in the casket to be buried with him ... his youngest grandson Brian (16 yrs.) added a baseball to symbolize his years of coaching him through little league and Dave's love for that sport. Daughter Pam Ramsey had pinned an Olympic/Table Tennis symbol to his lapel. Pam also placed a white rose in the casket on behalf of her mother and a red rose from herself ... with a mini table tennis racket dangling from the stem.

Upon his death, numerous SDTTA members sent flowers & cards and/or attended the funeral. The UDATT Hall of Famer Neil Smyth made a donation to the Juvenile Diabetic Association in his name. SDTTA Members Clark Mitchell, John Tentor and Dave Tennant acted as Pallbearers at the funeral with Dave's grandsons and nephew. At the cemetery site, Dave was honored with the Air Force Honor Guard out of March Air Force Base.

More condolences came from the other side of the world from 1971 World Champion Stellan Bengsston and his wife Angie Rosal ... and across the country from USATT notables such as Tim Boggan, Danny Seemiller, George Brahithwaite, Sheri Pittman, Judy Bochenski-Hoarfrost (Paddle Palace), Ichiro Hashimoto, Mary McIlwain, YC Lee, Howie Grossman and other close table tennis friends such as Patty Martinez (former U.S. Women's Champ), Larry Goldfarb, Robert Lam, Ron Von Shimmelman, Christian Lillieroos, Mike Veillette, etc.

Dave Ramsey was the friendliest, happiest go-lucky gentleman on earth with no enemy in the world. He had a smile that lit up the room, a great perky and goofy sense of humor and a warm, caring heart. He went out of his way for everyone and will truly be missed by all.

The SDTTA's "Dave Ramsey Memorial Open" will be held May 11-13, 2001.

In Memoriam:
Phil Thompson (1960-2001)
By Doug Byrd

The table tennis community recently lost a dear friend with the passing of Phil Thompson of Stevenson, Alabama. On the heels of a heart attack he suffered one month previously, Phil died March 8, 2001, at the age of 40. He was a long-time active member of both the Chattanooga and North Alabama Table Tennis Clubs, faithfully driving the two-hour round trip to each club.

Phil was a very giving person. He gave of his time, resources, and knowledge to anybody fortunate enough to cross his path. One didn't need an invitation to go over to Phil's house; dropping by was the standard practice of his large number of friends. He was one of the most well liked persons I have ever known.

By trade, Phil was a pharmacist, par excellence, touching the lives of countless individuals; but his passion was table tennis. Many players in the southeast have improved their level of play, in part, due to Phil's tireless hours of practicing with them and his on-going encouragement. He was a regular practice partner and close friend of the legendary Don Gaither of Hazel Green, Alabama.

Phil only knew one way to do the things that interested him - all out. Whether it was football and weight lifting in his younger days, or table tennis in his later years, he put everything he had into his activities. One of the pastors at his funeral service very accurately referred to Phil as a man of strength. He possessed both physical power and dogged determination to achieve his goals.

The table tennis community and the lives of countless individuals have been greatly enriched for having been touched by Phil Thompson. He is, and will be, sorely missed.
In Memoriam:
William R. Haid (1922-2001)
By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

Bill Haid, Editor from Oct., 1947 through Feb., 1949 of the official USATT magazine, "Table Tennis Topics," and Executive Director of the USATT from Jan., 1978 through May, 1984, died Feb. 2, 2001, at age 78, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. Those who knew Bill, as I did, or knew of him, I'm sure will want to extend with me their sympathies to his wife Sarah, his two sons, William and Stephen, his daughter Rita, his sister Evelyn, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. USATT members of my generation will remember Bill for his gentlemanly demeanor, and his desire to work with others in a straightforward and respectful way. He was, as they say, a nice guy.

Bill's obituary in the St. Louis "Post-Dispatch" spoke of how he was repeatedly being recognized for his oil paintings, so no surprise his strength as a graphic artist was apparent in the attractive covers he designed for "Topics" in issues 30 years apart.

With his experience in printing and publishing, advertising and marketing, and his varied background in sports - as a semi-pro in fast-pitch softball, as a U.S.T.A. umpire (he played tennis, and golf too), as an official in both AAU Track and Field and the Golden Gloves, and as a fatherly figure in Boy Scout and YMCA recreational activities - he had to be an exceptional candidate for the difficult job of being the USATT's first modern-era Executive Director.

Certainly Bill brought energy and enthusiasm to his work. He urged the Membership to help him with a $1,000,000 Development Fund Drive. "It's time this sleeping giant was awakened," he said. But the Sport, as it had for decades, stayed somnolent. In 1979, for example, Bill put out a well-received "Table Tennis Annual" - but the Membership wouldn't buy it, and there was never another.

However, though sponsors during his tenure were extremely difficult to come by, he did get Coca-Cola and Chrysler to contribute - in Coke's case $10,000 - to the U.S. Team's expenses in Peking after the '79 Pyongyang World's. Also, in Dec. of '79 he successfully re-established the USATT Hall of Fame that had been initiated in 1966 by Steve Issacson, and so promoted the initial Awards Banquet at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, the first of the 18 that have continued to this day.

In 1980, Bill helped arrange a one-year ESPN TV contract - and how excited he was at the impact he expected this to have on U.S. table tennis. But the group who were going to film 52 ninety-minute shows of tournaments held round the country couldn't deliver - so that after 38 were shown (including quite a few that, in offering neither quality players nor many interested spectators, more hurt than helped our image), the money ran out, and our year-end National's was never showcased. Similarly, in '81, Sportcast TV canceled its coverage of our National's.

The Sport - as it had throughout its history - needed help, and doubtless Bill did, too, with what must have seemed a discouraging and thankless task.

But in the fall of 1980, our USATT Headquarters moved to its Olympic quarters at Colorado Springs, and Bill's hopes had to have been raised, for now he would be aided in his attempts to improve the image of our Sport by benefits sure to accrue from his association with the USOC. In managing a much busier Headquarters, and becoming an ever-ready USATT liaison figure with the Olympic family, he would be supported by his wife Sarah, whom he'd married 33 years earlier just as he'd taken over the Editorship of "Topics," and who would now become the USATT Membership Chair.

Bill liked his work, had a very efficient secretary in Emily Hix, and - as he was a man who for 30 years did much to further reunions of his World War II shipmates who'd seen combat in the Pacific - he enjoyed the Colorado Springs camaraderie of those representing different sports, and surely learned quite a bit from them. USOC Assistant Executive Director Baaron Pittinger, for example, was a good friend.

In 1984, after he'd been more than six years in his Directorship, Bill's contract was not renewed by the USATT E.C. who felt that what the Association needed more than anything else was a fund-raiser - someone, after nearly 70 years now of trying, the Sport has yet to find.

I attended the Farewell Party for Bill at Colorado Springs, and so well was he liked by his co-workers that he not only received goodbye cards and presents, but another, rarer kind of homage: several of those who were close to him openly cried at his leaving.

Such a man, they knew, would be missed.

United States Anti-Doping Agency
The independent testing agency for Olympic sport in the United States

Created in the fall of 2000, the United States Anti-Doping Agency is responsible for managing the testing and adjudication process for U.S. Olympic, Pan American and Paralympic athletes. USADA is equally dedicated to preserving the integrity of sport through research initiatives and educational programs.

Call the USADA Drug Reference Line at 800-233-0393

For additional information, please visit the USADA web site at www.usantidoping.org
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I hear a prowler downstairs
And all you grab is your table tennis racket?
It's a carbon fiber blade with titanium mesh addit--

Cartoon by A.L. Miller ©2001
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon-Flie ......................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Halex Silver ......................................</td>
<td>No. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon-Kawa ......................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Harvard Classic Series ......................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon-O .........................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Harvard Overized Racket ....................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Relap Pack .........................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Harvard Tournament Series .................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Stiga Clipper VM ...............................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Stiga Cup .........................................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Stiga Elite .......................................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Stiga Tournament ................................</td>
<td>No. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Tibhar Clip ......................................</td>
<td>No. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Tibhar Smallest ...............................</td>
<td>No. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>RUBBER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Backside 35% ............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Backside 33% ............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Backside N .........................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Focus ......................................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Classic ...................................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Granet ....................................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Impuls ....................................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Logo .......................................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Maxx Revolution ....................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Revolution Fire .....................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Revolution Glue .....................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Schoeller Mickey Elan ..........</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Schoeller Scooter .....................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Victory 40% ............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Victory 45% ............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Victory 50% ............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro V.I.P. .................................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Andro Zenith G ..............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Armstrong King Maker .....................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Armstrong Maxwell ...........................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Armstrong New Chopper .....................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Armstrong Vector ............................</td>
<td>No. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>ASTI Lightspeed .......................</td>
<td>No. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Avalox Euro ...............................</td>
<td>No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Avalox Sogno ...............................</td>
<td>No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Avalox Pronte ...............................</td>
<td>No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Addoy .............................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-C4-A002 ............</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-C4-A003 ............</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-D13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-D13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-E13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-I13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-I13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-B13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-B13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-I13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-I13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-I13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Resilon ............................................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
<td>Butterfly Allround-I13 ..................</td>
<td>No. 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tibhar Extra Long ......................... No. 20
Tibhar Grass .................................. No. 20
Tibhar Grass Spezial 2000 .................. No. 20
Tibhar Grass Spezial 3000 .................. No. 20
Tibhar Hohe Leistung ........................ No. 20
Tibhar Learn Cont .......................... No. 20
Tibhar Learn Spin ........................... No. 20
Tibhar Maskss .................................. No. 20
Tibhar Norm ................................... No. 20
Tibhar Rapid ................................... No. 20
Tibhar Rapid Soft ............................ No. 20
Tibhar Red Power ......................... No. 20
Tibhar Rookie D. Tecs ...................... No. 20
Tibhar Serie 2000 .......................... No. 20
Tibhar Speedy Soft .......................... No. 20
Tibhar Speedy Soft Pro ..................... No. 20
Tibhar Speedy Spin .......................... No. 20
Tibhar Speedy Spin Premium ............... No. 20
Tibhar Spico Speedy Spin ................... No. 20
Tibhar Standard ............................. No. 20
Tibhar Storm ................................... No. 20
Tibhar Super Defense ....................... No. 20
Tibhar Supra .................................... No. 20
Tibhar Vari Sp. ............................... No. 20
Tibhar Van H. Speedy Spin ................ No. 20
TSP 730 Regular ............................ No. 21
TSP 730 Speed .................................. No. 21
TSP 730 Super Speed ......................... No. 21
TSP 730 Ultra .................................. No. 21
TSP Cozmo ................................. No. 21
TSP Curl P-1 ................................... No. 21
TSP Curl P-1R ............................... No. 21
TSP Curl P-2 ................................... No. 21
TSP Curl P-3 ................................... No. 21
TSP Curl P-4 ................................... No. 21
TSP Curl P-3AR .............................. No. 21
TSP Curl-O ................................. No. 21
TSP D-Top Defensive ......................... No. 21
TSP D-Top Offensive ......................... No. 21
TSP Miracle ................................. No. 21
TSP Spectol ................................. No. 21
TSP Spin Drive .............................. No. 21
TSP Spin Pips ............................... No. 21
TSP Spin Pips MD ............................ No. 21
TSP Spinwell .............................. No. 21
TSP Super Drive ......................... No. 21
TSP Tarbit ................................. No. 21
TSP Triple Power ............................. No. 21
TSP Triple Speed ............................ No. 21
TSP Triple Spin ............................. No. 21
TSP XS .................................. No. 21
TSP XS F-IV .................................. No. 21
TSP XS Powerspin ......................... No. 21
Winning 729 TSS Super ................. No. 18
Winning 738 ................................ No. 18
Winning King Power ....................... No. 18
Winning Komann ......................... No. 18
Winning NP-8 Pips ......................... No. 18
Winning Super Fit ........................ No. 18
Yasaka A-1-2-A-1 ........................ No. 22
Yasaka A-1-2-A-2 ........................ No. 22
Yasaka A-2-3-3 .................................. No. 22
Yasaka Cadet ............................. No. 22
Yasaka Cobalt ................................ No. 22
Yasaka Cobalt X1 .......................... No. 22
Yasaka Cobalt X2 ........................... No. 22
Yasaka Do .................................. No. 22
Yasaka Extreme Speed .................... No. 22
Yasaka Extreme Spin ..................... No. 22
Yasaka Large Pro .......................... No. 22
Yasaka Mark M-2 ......................... No. 22
Yasaka Mark V ............................... No. 22
Yasaka Mark V GPS ......................... No. 22
Yasaka Mark V HP ......................... No. 22
Yasaka Original .......................... No. 22
Yasaka Original A-1 ........................ No. 22
Yasaka Original A-2 ........................ No. 22
Yasaka Original Extra ........................ No. 22
Yasaka Phantom 007 ..................... No. 22
Yasaka Phantom 008 ..................... No. 22
Yasaka Phantom 009 ..................... No. 22
Yasaka Phantom 0012 ...................... No. 22
Yasaka Rally ............................... No. 22
Yasaka The Optone ......................... No. 4, 22
Yasaka Top 12 .............................. No. 22
Yasaka Tornado ............................. No. 4, 22
Yasaka Viseo .............................. No. 22
Yasaka Wallie .............................. No. 4, 22
Yasaka Wei ............................... No. 22

TABLES

Butterfly Centrefold Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Centre 22 Stationary .... No. 19
Butterfly Europa Warehouse ........ No. 19
Butterfly Home Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Match Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Nikkia Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Octet Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Outdoor Home Rollaway .... No. 19
Butterfly Outdoor Beach Rollaway ... No. 19
Butterfly Personal Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Playback Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Premium Rollaway ........ No. 19
Butterfly Space Saver II Rollaway ... No. 19
Butterfly Space Saver 22 Rollaway ... No. 19
Butterfly Team Rollaway ........ No. 19
Donic Compact ......................... No. 3
Donic Compact Automat ................ No. 3
Donic Persson 25 ......................... No. 3
Donic Waldner 25 ......................... No. 3
Double Fish World 2000 .............. No. 9
Harvard American ....................... No. 4
Harvard Collegiate ...................... No. 4
Harvard Colonial ......................... No. 4
Harvard Eagle ......................... No. 4
Harvard InstaPlay ......................... No. 4
Harvard Liberty ......................... No. 4
Harvard Patriot ......................... No. 4
Harvard Pioneer ......................... No. 4
Harvard Professional ................... No. 4
Harvard QuickPlay I ..................... No. 4
Harvard QuickPlay II ................... No. 4
Harvard QuickPlay III ................... No. 4
Harvard Solar Roller ..................... No. 4
JOOLA 1000-S ............................. No. 6
JOOLA 2000-S ............................. No. 6
JOOLA Atlantic Outdoor 2000 .... No. 8
JOOLA Corsa Tournament ............... No. 8
JOOLA Duomat Tournament ............ No. 8
JOOLA Garden Outdoor ................. No. 8
JOOLA Rollomat Tournament ........... No. 8
JOOLA Trainomat Tournament ........... No. 8
JOOLA World Cup ......................... No. 8
Kettler Excellent Outdoor ............. No. 8
Kettler Munich Outdoor ................. No. 8
Kettler Narvik Indoor ................. No. 8
Kettler Narvik Outdoor ................. No. 8
Kettler Nordik Indoor ..................... No. 8
Kettler Nordik Outdoor .................. No. 8
Kettler Oslo Indoor ...................... No. 8
Kettler Oslo Outdoor ..................... No. 8
Kettler Top Star Indoor ................. No. 8
Kettler Top Star Outdoor ............... No. 8
Ping Pong Continental ................. No. 4
Ping Pong International ............... No. 4
Ping Pong Match Marauder ............. No. 4
Ping Pong Medalist ....................... No. 4
Ping Pong Outdoor Table ............... No. 4
Ping Pong Tournament Challenger .... No. 4
Ping Pong Varsity ......................... No. 4
Stiga Classic Roller .................... No. 4
Stiga Elite Roller ....................... No. 4
Stiga Expert Roller ..................... No. 4
Stiga Outdoor Roller .................... No. 4
Stiga Private Roller ..................... No. 4
Stiga T8283 .............................. No. 4
Stiga T8290 .............................. No. 4
Stiga T8291 .............................. No. 4
Stiga T8292 .............................. No. 4
Tibhar Smash 26R ....................... No. 20
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Top Men

Top Women

Tournaments Included in Ratings

Schaumburg Open
MDTTC February
Mid Ohio Camper Sales Open
South Bend Open
Irving RR
Winter Open
Rhode Island State Games
Daveison Athletic Club Teams
Harold Wheeler Memorial RR
Maryland February Circuit RR
Golden Western Open
Arkansas Closed
March Madness Canton Open
Sports Fitness TT Players Series

Austin Fall RR
November Open
Potomac Millennium Open
North American Open Teams
Valley of the Sun Open
2000 2-Man Team DFW Open
2000 Wichita Teams
Atlanta Winter Open
OR - Mayo Rolf Cup
Pensacola Holiday Open
Sac-Con December Open
South Bend Open
Sports Fitness Player Series
Bay State Giant RR
Friends of Ping Pong

Portland Double RR Open
Maryland December Circuit
NJTC - Fall Open
Neal Natche Portmouth Open
2000 USA Nationals
December Davison Open
Sports Fitness TT Players Series
BumpetNets January Open
Davidson January Open
Maryland January Circuit
MATTC January Open
Fairfield January Open
Cleveland Winter Open 2001

Winter Open
Lincoln Open
Maryland January Circuit Giant RR
Midtown Athletic Center Open
Sac-Rec Winter Open
2001 Michigan State TT Champ.
Quebec Stiga Circuit #4
Star of the North State Games
Sports Fitness TT Players Series
2001 Spinners February Open
Maryland February Circuit
Orlando Winter Open
USA National Team Trials

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NY 1365 Bajorski, Peter
AZ 703 Baffaro, Nancy C
OH 1257 Badger, Phillip
NY 1668 Bai, Jianming
IL 1624 Bahadoo, Tooraee
MD 534 Ayton, Jordan
WI 1919 Avery, Aaron
TX 1560 Arnold, Steve
IN 1588 Austin, Darrel
MD 2017 Asgarali, Khaleel
OH 1592 Arcaro, Ronald Joseph
NC 1572 Averin, Bergey
CA 2082 Ang, Bernie Sane
MI 1183 Anderson, John
OH 1212 Behrendt, Mike
AZ 1599 Anderson, Greg
FL 1862 Andrian, Jean
FL 2069 Anderson, Patrick
OH 1871 Amore, Kevin R.
CA 910 Alto, Don James
OH 1416 Albrecht, Tony
TX 1605 Alamina, Louis
MN 1642 Barron, Jay
TX 1522 Ahuja, Vipan
CA 1821 Ahmed, Sam
PA 1252 Barnes, Dan
IN 1590 Amrhein, Tim
LA 2192 Beaumont, John
KY 2174 Allen, John
RI 986 Allen, John
IL 1710 Alfonso, Jay
UT 1820 Amaya, Edwin
NY 1331 Akker, Michael
NJ 1919 Aiyegbo, John
CA 1624 Ahmed, Raphael
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
CA 2014 Cardenas, Chnstan Paul
CA 2269 Arampatzis, Nick
NY 1791 Aydin, John
CA 1889 Azam, Andrew
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April 21 - April Open, Davison, MI. Contact: Jon Bosika, 1463 Wexford Drive, Davison, MI 48423. Phone: 810-658-8153.


April 21-22 - Maryland April Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784. Phone: 410-489-7291.

April 21-22 - Tri-City Open Spring Double Round Robin, Richland, WA. Contact: Kirk Parker, 2304 Snohomish Ave., Richland, WA 99352. Phone: 509-357-1587. SLVRFOX@owt.com


April 21-22 - Maryland April Circuit Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784. Phone: 410-489-7291.

April 21 - Boystate TTC Spring Giant RR, Springfield, MA. Contact: David Chemock, 104 Cooley Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106. Phone: 413-567-8061.

April 22 - 11th Annual Open on the 2001 NA Tour, Elinhurst, NY. Contact: Coach Shi Li Min, Phone: 631-338-3000.


April 22-23 - Maryland April Circuit Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784. Phone: 410-489-7291.

April 28 - May 1 Annual Maryland Medallion Chain Championships, P.O. Box 327, Frostburg, MD 21532. Phone: 301-869-9941. cjwms@mindspring.com

May 12-13 - City Limits Open Institutional, New Boston, OH. Contact: John Kizer, 3500 Orchard Drive, Portsmouth, OH 45662. Phone: 740-354-6257.


May 19-20 - Pace Table Tennis May Open, Coconut Creek, FL. Contact: Brian Pace, 1505 NW 91st Ave. 10-33, Coral Springs, FL 33071. Phone: 954-341-7064.

May 19-20 - Lone Star Open on the 2001 NA Tour, Downtown, TX. Contact: North American Table Tennis, P.O. Box 491, Odenton, MD 21113. Phone: 410-695-2587. info@natabletennis.com.

May 26 - Maryland May Circuit Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784. Phone: 410-489-7291.

May 26-27 - Golden State Open, Walnut Creek, CA. Contact: Philip Schafer, 3004 Bellwood Drive, Concord, CA 94519. Phone: 925-689-7463.

June 2-3 - Boston TTC June Open, Medford, MA. Contact: Humberto Gil, 407 Rear Mystic Ave. 19D, Medford, MA 02155. Phone: 617-876-2815.

June 2 - Sports Fitness TT Players Series, Clemmons, NC. Contact: Danny Hill, 3 Twin Brook Dr., Clemmons, NC 27012. Phone: 336-764-0010.

June 2-3 - MDITC June Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 18761-Q Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879. Phone: 202-927-1958.


June 16-17 - Matthew Murad Memorial Open - 2001 NA Tour, Towson, MD. Contact: North American Table Tennis, P.O. Box 491, Odenton, MD 21113. Phone: 410-695-2587. info@natabletennis.com.

June 23-24 - California State Open, Santa Monica, CA. Contact: SCTTA/Jo Kidd, 20432 Elkwood St., Winnetka, CA 91306. Phone: 818-700-0948.

June 30 - 1st Annual Can-Am TT Tournament Open, Alexandra Bay, NY. Contact: Greg Walsh, 32 River View Lane, P.O. Box 747, Potsdam, NY 13676. Phone: 315-265-9111.

June 30 - July 1 - Coral Springs Chinese Cultural Association U.S. Open Warm-up, Coral Springs, FL. Contact: Marty Prager, 2681 E. Marina Dr., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312. Phone: 954-963-0204. teresaeldez@hotmail.com.
"You’re here to play Ping Pong?" someone asked me when I first arrived in Las Vegas for the annual Supershow. For those who aren’t familiar with it, the Supershow is the world’s largest sporting-goods trade show, where all the major sporting companies in the world exhibit their products to thousands of buyers. Around two hundred thousand people come to the event, from the small-time Joe there to meet the hundreds of top athletes, to the CEO or head of sales of the world’s largest sporting-goods company, there to make multi-million dollar deals.

I had the wonderful opportunity to represent Escalade Sports, the part owner of Stiga (the company that sponsors me), Harvari and many other companies. Barney Reed Jr., Tawny Banh and I were able to work under the world-renowned table tennis performer Scott Preiss and do exhibitions that were mind-boggling to the public. Out of all the sports represented at the Supershow (and every sport was well represented there), Table Tennis was the main attraction. Everyone has seen football or basketball, but not many have seen a little ping pong ball go back and forth at super high speeds with thousands of revolutions per minute, or the famous Sky-lobs by Scott, where the ball goes up over 50 feet in the air and lands on the table to make his challengers look silly (in a humorous sense, of course), or see a ball go around the net and rip onto the table. Escalade Sports was always in the spotlight, whether it was from the table tennis exhibitions, from Mike Massey (perhaps the greatest all-time pool player) doing his trick shots, or Ted St. Martin showing why he is the world record holder for consecutive free throws, with five thousand two hundred and twenty-one!

This event was great for the sport; table tennis got excellent exposure to the people that sit in high places and make big decisions. It was extraordinary to see hundreds of people lining up to see us do a table tennis exhibition, and the most flattering part was to see the same faces come again and again, to all three exhibitions per day, all four days! Oh yes, I can definitely say that we had some fans. Maybe it was because of the 150 paddles that Escalade Sports gave away, sometimes for no apparent reason, or perhaps to save a lawsuit when one of the players nearly took out a spectator’s head! Perhaps it was the silly remarks that Scott made to cheer up the crowd, or when he’d jump on the table in the middle of a point and exclaim, “Stiga tables… the best tables in the world!” I personally think the crowd was there to see the most amazing sport in the world, which was presented in a very gracious and forthcoming manner.

We took many challenges from the crowd, and no matter how good or bad they were, we made the score close to keep interest up (granted, we sometimes had to cheat and GIVE the opponent some points, but that was part of the fun!). What was even more gratifying was to have the vice president of some multi-million-company come shake hands with us and show his admiration for the sport and us. Or better yet, to have a beautiful model or a professional dancer come to you in admiration, thinking that you are “cool” or something! Oh yes, we felt like celebrities there! No matter where we went, we would get recognized as the ping pong players, followed by pleasing remarks about the sport and our play. In the real world, us ping pong “athletes” don’t get this type of positive reception!

So when I went back to the “real world,” as I finish my final semester at the University of Michigan, I proudly told people that I went to Vegas… to play ping pong!

I would like to thank Escalade Sports for giving me such an opportunity, Scott Preiss for picking this fish out of the sea, and finally Tawny Banh and Barney Reed Jr. for putting on such a great show!
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The first time I saw Mark Hazinski was in the summer of 1993. Brad Balmer, one of the club officers, had asked me to come take a look at the South Bend junior players and give a weekend clinic. Mark was playing on table five; he was eight years old. I was struck by how effortless and technically correct his strokes were.

That September, Brad called me again and asked if I knew anyone who would be qualified and interested in coming to South Bend to coach the junior program. I told him my assistant, Victor Tolkachev, would be perfect for the job. The club hired Victor and he coached Mark for the next 2 1/2 years. Victor was from Latvia and a stern disciplinarian who worked very hard on the fundamentals. Victor laid a great foundation for Mark and the other juniors. Unfortunately, Victor had to return to his homeland in the winter of 1995. I was then offered and accepted the South Bend coaching position in 1996. Mark was 11 years old and rated about 1500.

I believe to be a great player one must have a track record of amazing or astonishing accomplishments. Mark certainly has that. In the summer of 1997 Mark played in the Hoosier State Games—his rating was about 1650. This was the first Open event he ever entered. In the 2nd round, Mark faced the #1 seed Norman Yeh (rated 2350). I had about five students who were participating in close matches at the same time. I figured Mark would gain some experience. Shortly after, one of my students came up to me and said, “Coach, Mark won the 1st game.” My reaction was, “No way.” I moved over to Mark’s table and all I could think was “that’s great, he won a game, but he has no real chance.” Mark quickly goes up 9-4 in the second and I’m beginning to believe that, “Yes, he CAN win,” and he does, 21-18. Mark had just turned twelve and he had defeated a 2350 player 2-0! To Norman’s credit he handled the loss with class and came back through the loser’s bracket to win the tournament. But everyone was stunned at Mark’s maturity and shot selection.

At the 1999 U.S. Nationals, Mark jumped up a couple of levels. He won the Under 2200 and 2400 rated events and the Under 16 Singles and Doubles events at the age of 14. It’s very hard to win one event at the Nationals—and Mark won four of them. He also made it to the final 16 in Men’s Singles. In the round of 32 he drew Brian Masters, a tough veteran player rated about 2500. Mark played brilliantly and was up 2-1 in games and led 18-16 in the 4th. He faltered and Brian drew even, 2-2. In the 5th it started bad and got worse—Mark was down 9-1. One of Mark’s greatest assets is his ability to focus and not worry about the score. You would think a 14-year-old, down 9-1 in the final game, would be finished. You’d think wrong. Mark scored 16 of the next 17 points to lead 17-10, and went on to win the match 3-2.

At the 2000 St. Joseph Valley Open in South Bend, Mark drew Cheng Yinghua in the round of 16. I was a little disappointed. I was hoping Mark would draw someone other than the #1 seed. Cheng won the first game but it was close. Hazinski, who had just turned 15 the month before, won the 2nd game at 18 as the hometown crowd grew excited. In the 3rd, Cheng put his foot down and won easily to lead 2-1. At this point I was just glad Mark won a game and the match was competitive. In the 4th game Mark started playing great and he held a 3-point lead throughout. Cheng finally caught him at 18-17. They then had a great rally, with Mark nailing a backhand loop down the line to lead by one. Cheng rallies to deuce. Mark gets the ad, 21-17, 21-20 and 22-21, and he has the serve but Cheng holds strong and wins, 24-22.

In this issue you will read Mark’s play and finish in the USA team trials. He finished in a three-way tie for 1st (in the tie-breaking procedure that went to games, he came in second to David Zhuang, with Eric Owens third) and will represent the U.S. at the World Championships in Osaka, Japan. Mark is a very quiet and unassuming young man. All of us in South Bend are proud of his accomplishments. Mark has worked hard in the 4 1/2 years that I have been coach here at the South Bend Club. He has almost never missed a practice and we train four times per week.

Mark’s parents, Matt and Pam, have supported his table tennis career and they attend several tournaments each year. His two sisters, Janelle and Katie, have played table tennis for 4 years but have recently cut back to participate in other sports.

Many people have helped to build our program into what it is today. Brad Balmer had the vision and the plan to open a club and hire a full-time coach. There have been many individuals who have contributed to our program and I thank them all. We couldn’t and Mark wouldn’t have come so far without your help. Special thanks must go to Virgil and Sarah Miller and Newmar Corporation for their continued support of our juniors. Also, my volunteer coaches, Paul George, Barry Chan and Gang Li. Finally, a very special thank you to my assistant coach, Mark Nordby, who has spent countless volunteer hours coaching and practicing with Mark and the rest of the South Bend Junior Team. Mark Nordby is an excellent coach with great verbal skills and helped Mark to play his best in the U.S. Team Trials.

I’ll leave you with one last story about Mark. At tournaments sometimes have several juniors playing at the same time. I just look at their faces and I can usually tell how they are doing and who needs help. Mark had a tough match at the Detroit teams three years ago and I didn’t make it to his match. He was sitting there, emotionless as always. I had no idea if he won or lost. I sat next to him and said, “How’d it go?” Mark says, “I lost.” “Was it close?” I asked. “Yeah, deuce in the 3rd.” He just lost a tough match deuce in the 3rd, yet he’s still calm and composed. I knew right then and there, this kid has a real chance to be a very special player.
Katherine, 16, started playing table tennis at the age of 8. She was actually supposed to play tennis because her dad loved tennis, but she was too small to play tennis, so her dad decided to start her out with table tennis. After a year, she told her dad that she wanted to stick with table tennis.

She started out in a table tennis class for beginners at the Rockville Chinese school in Maryland, back around 1993. Mr. Jack Hsu was her teacher and first coach. She remembers always getting the most candy and awards for hitting them off the other side of the table.
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