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Steve Carr, director of the epics "Next Friday" and "Dr. Dolittle 2," is getting ready to take you inside the ultra-thrilling world of ... table tennis.

The man who has helped actors talk to animals is set to slap balls on the Disney/Spyglass comedy "Balls of Fury," which is on the fast track due to its mesmerizing premise. Carr was also recently attached to the Warner Brothers sci-fi comedy "Icemen."

"Balls of Fury" is based around ping-pong and is loosely inspired by the 1973 Bruce Lee martial arts action feature "Enter the Dragon."

**STILL NO MIXED DOUBLES**
Olympic chiefs, determined to stop the expansion of the Summer Games, have decided to drop one weight category in boxing at the 2004 Athens Olympics, and refused requests to introduce mixed doubles in tennis and table tennis.

**USA WHEELCHAIR TEAM VISITS BUDAPEST**
September 13-15, 2001
By Mary Beth Vorwerk

The U.S. Wheelchair Table Tennis Team traveled to Budapest, Hungary, Sept. 10-16, for the Fifth Annual ALU-KOR Cup International World Ranking List Table Tennis Competition. About 165 players from 23 countries attended the competition, which ran Sept. 13-15.

The five players representing the U.S. were Jennifer Johnson, Andre Scott, James Williams, Norman Bass and Wayne Lo. All five competed in Singles and Teams competitions.

Johnson played with a Hungarian woman in the Women's Class 1-5 Teams. Scott partnered with a German player in the Men's Class 5 Teams. Bass and Lo both competed in the Men's Class 7. Williams and his partner from Poland took third place in the Men's Class 4 Teams. Bass finished third in the Men's Individual Class 7, while Lo won the third place trophy in Men's Individual Class 8. Johnson was the semifinalist in women's singles, and Scott was a quarterfinalist in Men's Class V Team and Class V Singles.

**SO HOT THEY POPPED**
A container in Hong Kong packed with more than a half-million ping-pong balls burst into flames. The blast probably happened because the heat caused the air inside the table tennis balls to expand. It was 93 degrees in Hong Kong, but the temperature inside the metal container was far higher. From Washington Post, Aug. 9, 2001.

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**HARPO Speaks!**
From Harpo Marx's 1961 Autobiography
Contributed by Bill Baker

The event happened in the mid 1930's and involved a famous German music composer, Arnold Schönberg, who had been chased out of Germany by Hitler. The Marx Bros. were getting ready to film one of their movies, "A Night At The Opera," and needed a musical score. Schönberg needed money and was recommended to write the score by Arturo Toscanini, so Schönberg met with the Marx Bros and the film director and producer in Hollywood. It was a warm, southern California day, but Schönberg came to the meeting wearing a hat, an overcoat and carrying a violin case. In fact, Harpo said that everytime he saw the composer over the next several weeks he was always dressed the same and always had his violin case. Harpo said he couldn't understand why he always had the violin with him and deduced that it must have been a Stradivarius, or some other violin too valuable to leave at his home.

One night, Harpo and Schönberg were at the home of the Gershwins' and Harpo decided to solve the mystery of why Schönberg always had his violin with him, so he asked, point-blank. Schönberg smiled and opened the violin case, revealing four table tennis paddles and several balls. "One must be prepared," Schönberg said, "One can never tell where one might find a pingpong table."

And, the Gershwins did have a table in their rec room along with two pianos. As a matter of fact, throughout the book there are several references to these star-type people getting together for parties and playing table tennis, croquet, or other similar games.

**USATT Approved Equipment and Dealer Listing**
Pages 53-55

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**Mount Rushmore & Table Tennis?**

In the August 6 issue of Sports Illustrated, page 80, a listing was made of possible figures from each sport that could populate Mount Rushmore. Table Tennis wasn’t left out! Listed for table tennis, to replace the likes of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and T. Roosevelt, were Wang Tao, Lu Lin, Liu Guoliang ... and Forrest Gump. Contributed by Tyra Parkins.
By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

On September 11, the savage acts of terrorism left an indelible impression upon our American landscape and psyche. I received sentiments from our table tennis friends throughout the world. I want to share them with you as we recover and rebuild the fabric of the American way of life.

My God, I don’t believe this is happening in the States, thank Goodness you are safe and OK. May God bless you all. This is a disastrous thing, the worst nightmare. We were shocked and astonished. My deepest sympathy to all the American people. Please if there is anything I can do, please don’t hesitate to let me know. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Abdulla Al-Mulla, Vice President of Qatar TTA 9/12

I am so sorry about the horrific situation in your country. I hope everything is OK with you, your family and the Table Tennis Family. May I help? Best regards.

Miguel Angel Delgado, Guatemala
ITTF Continental Vice President – Latin America 9/12

My thoughts are with you and all Americans, especially those who have been touched so directly through the loss of loved ones. Such horrific scenes have been broadcast from New York and Washington and some of the details of the phone calls from the aircraft are truly heart rendering. Last night I walked just a few minutes from my house to view our local airport. At that time there were at least 22 international flights that had been diverted here and more followed. That image really confirmed the realness of the situation which, through TV coverage, seemed somehow unreal and almost movie-like. Today, just 100 yards from my building at the University, there were over 500 travelers in temporary accommodations in a gymnasium. We assume that at least by late tomorrow many of them will finally reach the US. This will have a dramatic affect on all of us for a long time to come.

Bruce Burton, President of Canadian TTA 9/12

I do not know how and with what kinds of words I should use to express my sincere condolence to you and to the people of America. What a horrible and inhuman terror it is!!!!!!! I hope the USA can find those who are responsible as quickly as they can. It is a very sad and incredible incident. I feel relief to know that all of the USATT family are safe, as well as your family. I am sure all the peace loving peoples all over the world are with you and wish you a very fast recovery so that you can get back to the normal life. May the Lord’s blessings be with you all.

Han Sang Kook, Korea, ITTF Exec. Committee Member 9/13

During this terrible moment, I just would like to tell you that all French people are currently thinking about all the victims and their families. Today, we are ALL Americans! French TV channels are running live 24 hours a day to cover this act of war against the American people. I’m more than pleased to know that you, your family, and our table tennis friends are safe.

Christian Veronese, France, ITTF Staff Member 9/13

We are all tremendously shocked. I’d like to express my sincere solidarity to suffering American people. I sincerely greet my many American table tennis friends all over the US, and to you as the president of the Association. The civilized world is with you!

Zdenko Uzorinac, Croatia 9/13

We follow the media coverage of the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon, killing an incredibly high number of innocent people. We also want to let you know that the German Table Tennis Family is wholeheartedly behind all those who lost relatives and friends. Furthermore, we would like to express our solidarity and sympathy for the American people. We deeply condemn the attacks against the United States and the civilized world, and we hope that everybody involved in the planning and execution of the attack will be identified in the very near future and brought to justice. Our thoughts are with you in these darkest days of the beginning of the 21st century.

Walter Grundahl, President of the German TTA 9/13

Our thoughts are with you. It’s very difficult to comprehend what has happened.

Ian Marshall, England, Editor of TT Illustrated 9/13

We are very shocked to know the terrible news about what occurred in New York and at the Pentagon. We cannot believe it. We watch the news on TV and we hope that peace will come very soon. We are hoping that everything is going very well for you.

K. Hirose, Japan, Nittaku 9/14

I’d like to offer my condolences to you on the US National Day of Prayer and Remembrance. Please accept my deep-felt sympathy in your great bereavement. I have no relatives in your country and I know only a few people there but I cannot stop watching CNN and thinking of your nation after this horrible terrorist attack. In Hungary, life stopped for three minutes this noon and we were all lost deep in thought. We were all with the victims in spirit. The whole world will never again be the same. Nobody is safe any more, but we have to continue our free and democratic life and we should hope not to have such terrible tragedies in the future. The thoughts and prayers of the Europeans go out to the Americans in these hard days - it is sure.

Zita Pidl, Hungary, Development Officer of European TTU 9/14

The whole table tennis world is with you and USATT members during this tragic moment. It is good to learn that so far table tennis people do not seem to be victims of the horrible terrorist attacks. Let us hope that this will not be changed. Although nothing will be as it was before, I am convinced that we should try to return to our sports life as soon as possible, not to assist the terrorists’ intention to destroy our western society. Sheri, I wish you, your association, your players, coaches, officials, umpires and friends all the best. Be assured again, we are with you.

Rudi Sporrer, President of Austrian TTA 9/13
I was shocked by the terrorist catastrophes in New York and Washington on the black Tuesday. I hope that might be the end of the sad news all over the world. My heartfelt condolences go to you and the American people for the dramatic incident. I wish to hear from you soon that everything is going in the right direction and that you and the table tennis family in USA are completely safe.

Khaled El-Salhy, President of Egypt TTA 9/14

Please accept my sincere condolence to the Americans and if there is anything I can do to be of help, please let me know. I am willing to do whatever I can.

Etsuko Enami, Japan, ITTF Staff Member 9/16

Please consider myself, the Italian and the European table tennis friends close to you, to the USATT association and to all the American people in this horrible and criminal tragedy. As a sportsman I've no more words.... All the best for the future.

Stefano Bosi, Italy, ITTF Continental Vice President - Europe 9/16

Since the 11th of September I wanted to send you a message of sympathy for this big tragedy. As we continue with our lives, we will never forget those who have lost ones in this tragedy and especially the heroes who are trying to save them. God bless you, and bless your great country, America.

Michel de Chadarevian, Lebanon 9/17

On behalf of the Hungarian Table Tennis Association, I would like to express the deepest sympathy for the victims of the terrible attack in the USA. We do really hope that all the people of the US table tennis family are OK and survive these difficult days safely. Best wishes to all of you from Hungary.

Judit Faragó, Hungary 9/19

I would like to express my heartfelt condolence and deep sympathies of sadness to you and your esteemed family on the sad tragedy of the terrorist attack in New York. I pray to Almighty God to bestow eternal peace upon their souls and to grant you patience and forbearance.

Shahrokh Shahnazi, President of I.R. Iran TTF 9/26

We were shocked by this inhuman act at the WTC on September 11th, 2001 which shook the whole world. We strongly condemn these terrorist activities. India has also been facing this problem for the last few years and we can understand the feelings of US people. On behalf of the Indian Federation, I convey our deep condolence on the loss of thousands of lives. We are relieved to note that there were no casualties or injuries to USATT family members. We pray to the Almighty for the safety of all the athletes of USA.

M.C. Chowhan, India, ITTF Continental Vice President – Asia 10/5

I extend sincere gratitude to our many friends throughout the world who expressed condemnation of the terrorist acts, condolences, solidarity and hope for the future. May we all work together in unison.

Xu Yinseng, president of the Chinese TTA, recently expressed his ongoing desire to help us move forward. He wrote, in part, “I shall be very pleased to work with you to promote the technical standard of American players as well as our traditional friendship....”

ITTF President Adham Sharara and I also communicate regularly. He asked me to reiterate what he had stated previously, “The ITTF is willing to invest [in the USA]; but the desire to succeed, the passion to perform and the commitment to engage belongs to USATT.” We have been discussing holding the 2002 Pro Tour Final in conjunction with our U.S. Nationals in Las Vegas. I look forward to continuing to strengthen and expand the bonds within our table tennis community, especially during a time like this.
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Information and Entry Forms for the 2001 Stiga North American Teams Championships are available at the North American Table Tennis Website.

Top Five Tour Point Finishers:
Han Xiao 707
Sean Patrick O'Neill 627
Khaleel Aegarali 599
Wang Chen 506
Nazruddin Aegarali 422

Top Five Tour Earners:
Yiyong Fan $4,550
David Zhuang $2,025
Atanda Musa $1,800
Dsezgo Racz $1,500
Pradeeboonsong Peter-Paul $1,250

Thank you to all the players who attended out events! We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed serving you. Keep your eyes open for the 2002 edition of the North American Table Tennis Tour!

Your North American Table Tennis Crew:
Richard Lee, Wendy Troy, Fong Hsu, Alan Williams, and Zachary Sng

To the Local Organizing Committees, Supporters, and Friends, Thank you: Ronald and Gloria Murad, John Miller and the Austin Texas Table Tennis Club, Greg Dell and the Newark Delaware Table Tennis Club, Krishna Kanuga and the Rutgers Table Tennis Club, Pam Ramsey, Clark Mitchell, Kamran Azimzideh and the San Diego Table Tennis Association, Dr. Grady Gordon, Terry Bell, Linda Hsing, Dewayne Zint, Rob Kerner, John Jarema, Allen Barth, Margaret Smith, Fran Boardman, Tong Lee, Dennis Taylor, Shiri Pittman, Tim Bogdan, Dr. Jiing Wang, Robert Mayer, Jerry Wartski and the Manhattan Table Tennis Club, Judy Hoarfrost, Ben Nisbet, Atanda Musa, Marco Bonillo and friends, Khoi Than and the Johns Hopkins Table Tennis Club, Rick Mueller, Robert Mayer, Larry Hodges, Our Friends at USA Today, Cheng Yinghua and the Maryland Table Tennis Center, Fan Yiyong, David Zhuang, Tony Kisenhofer and Canadian Table Tennis Association, Johnny Hess, Terese Terranova, Marty Prager, Attila Malek and Power Pong, Krishnim Rai, Chris Troy, Marc LaPorte, Larry Bavly, Barry Dattel, Lily Yip and the New Jersey Table Tennis Clubs

Players who attended 3 Tour events: Andre Scott, John Jarema, Douglas Ayag, Malcolm McDonald, Chen Wang, Saibal, Chakraborty, Han Xiao, Yibert Williams, Joseph Wang, Marcia Thompson, Barney J. Reed, Valeryi Ort, Atanda Ganiyu Musa, Michael Lazarev, Nobuhiko Koyama, Eric Finkelstein, Mark Coleman, Allen Brady, Khaleel Aegarali, Nazruddin Aegarali, David Yong-Xiang Zhuang, Nirav Parekh, Dimitry Lanies, Larry Bruce Hodges, Yi Yong Fan, and Pradeeboonsong Peter-Paul

Players who attended 4 Tour events: Jack Gelman, Sean Patrick O'Neill

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Players who attended 5 Tour events: Jack Gelman, Sean Patrick O'Neill
The Paddle Palace Open

a warm-up event to the U.S. National Championships

Balboa Park Activity Center, San Diego, California
December 15-16, 2001

Contact Information: On Opposite Page  Event Staff: Richard Lee, Zachary Sng, Alan Williams  Referee: Linda Hsing

Visit www.paddlepalace.com

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Tournament Information:
- Proof of Membership: All participants must show proof of current membership with USATT or an ITTF recognized body. Membership can be renewed or purchased at the event.
- Venue: Balboa Park Activity Center, San Diego, CA. Wood Floors, Excellent lighting. See website for map and directions or call us.
- Official Tournament Equipment: Butterfly Tables, Barriers, and Nittaku 40mm 3 star balls.
- Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by December 5, 2001. Entries postmarked late will either be accepted with a $20 late fee, or be rejected, based on available space.
- Check-in: Starts on Saturday, December 15, 2001 at 8:00 AM at the venue. Participants are required to check in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
- Refunds: Once the tournament begins, refunds will not be allowed.
- Ratings: Ratings from the November/December Issue of USATT Magazine will be used.
- Policies: Players may not enter two events with identical start times unless the events are listed as SE and RR. Events can be cancelled or combined at the discretion of the tournament committee. No prize money will be awarded for splits, dumps, default losses or no-shows. Players agree to follow USATT rules.

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Paddle Palace Open Registration, December 15-16, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>Official Tournament Hotel: Inn Suites 619-296-2101</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City/State/Zip:</td>
<td>Phone: ( ) - Male / Female</td>
<td>Phone: ( ) - Male / Female</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Birthdate:</td>
<td>Expiration:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rating:</td>
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Please fill in events:
1)  5)  8) doubles partner:
2)  6) doubles partner:
3)  7) doubles partner:
4) Total Event Entry Fee: $5.00

USATT Rating and Registration Fee:
- U18: $20 Ad: $30 3-Y: $75
- T-Shirt $15 ea. S M L XL XXL

Total: Make checks payable to: N. A. Table Tennis

email: ________________________ for confirmation and mailing list
Results of 2001 USATT Election

*Names in Bold were elected

President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number of Votes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Sheri Soderberg Pittman</td>
<td>1206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean O’Neill</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
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Secretary

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<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Tim Boggan</td>
<td>1442</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Titrud</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
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Vice President (Two Positions)

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<tr>
<td>*Jiing Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Robert Mayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lily Yip</td>
<td>422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rong Lilleroos</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Tretheway</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azmy Ibrahim</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
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During President Truman’s term at the White House, his daughter, Miss Margaret Truman, became as keen on Table Tennis as on other form of sport. The President likes to watch the game himself and rarely misses an hour at his television set when the various State champions are relayed over one or other of the television networks.” - Frank L. de Baughn, 1952; Contributed by Tim Boggan

"By the time you’ve figured out the other guy’s game, you’re already on the plane." - Steve Huber, on adjusting to the new 3 of 5 game 11-point format. Contributed by Berndt Mann

"I’m competitive at everything. I don’t like to lose, whether I’m playing golf, a video game, basketball, card or ping-pong. I won’t embarrass you, but I’ll try to beat you every time." - Ken Griffey, Jr., at www.sportscardshark.com/motivationalu.htm. Contributed by Shashin Shodham

Once again, Florida coach Steve Spurrier has upstaged one of his quarterbacks. The biggest news coming out of Gainesville, Fla., should be the fact that freshman Rex Grossman won the Gators’ starting quarterback job Saturday.

Instead, Spurrier is making all the headlines after taking a nose dive into the wall at the home of Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley while playing Ping-Pong. The coach appeared on his Sunday television show sporting a shiner suffered in the fall.

"I went for a low shot and my legs gave way," Spurrier said in The Gainesville (Fla.) Sun. "I can’t move like I used to. I’m icing it up. It’s not too bad. I’m giving up Ping-Pong. It can be a dangerous sport, as I learned. It’s too rigorous for me." From The Pigskin Post, Oct. 9, 2000, SEC East Notebook, at www.onlineathens.com/stories/101000/dog_1010000042.shtml. Contributed by Shashin Shodham

"In Tim Burton’s Planet of the Apes, there’s a villainous general named Thade – a diminutive, sadistic-despot who bounces around the forest like a Ping-Pong ball, propelled by raw fury." - Entertainment Weekly, Aug. 3, page 39.
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• 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

• 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 $_________

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001
GIRL SCOUTS FUN & FITNESS DAY AT THE U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER
Colorado Springs, Colorado • September 16, 2001
By Debbie Doney

The Girl Scouts annual Fun & Fitness Day was held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for girls from six to eighteen. The Olympic Training Center provided an opportunity for 600 girls to experience many different Olympic sports, including table tennis, volleyball, field hockey, gymnastics, synchronized swimming and team handball.

There were concerns from parents that the Girl Scouts would postpone the Fun & Fitness Day because of the current terrorist and security issues, but those concerns were soon laid to rest when the Olympic Training Center continued with “business as usual” along with heightened security.

The OTC gym was filled with smiling parents as they watched their children laughing and having a the time of their lives trying sports they might never have had the opportunity to try before. Every now and then parents were seen alongside their child trying their hand at the sport.

Table Tennis was no exception, as parents jumped right in to pick up balls, or to help the girls hit forehands. A parent observing the Girl Scout table tennis group she had brought over stated, “The kids love this sport! They sign up for it every year.”

Local table tennis athletes and coaches also volunteered their coaching skills and performed a short exhibition for each group. Overall, 215 girls learned table tennis basics and got a chance to hit with a real “pro.” Table tennis relay races were also incorporated into each group session to add skill variety.

A special thank you goes to Bob Tretheway, Larry Rose, Kevin Young, and Rosie Kilpatrick for volunteering their time to help promote table tennis in the local community!

Did’ja Know?

Hiroji Satoh won the 1952 world singles title at Bombay, India, a victory that focused international attention on sponge rackets.

Satoh, using a one-half inch pure sponge pad on thin wood, swept the men’s field, defeating USA’s Marty Reisman and world champions Ferenc Sido, Richard Bergman, and Johnny Leach, losing only four games along the way.

The pure sponge toppings had been around for several years, mostly in Asian countries and was manufactured in Japan where it was used by as many as 50 Top players. Satoh, a watchmaker by trade, made his old version with a softer more aerated sponge. Being more fragile and easily damaged, he kept the racket in a box except when in use.

Satoh’s former tournament records were not impressive, seldom winning in Asian events and frequently losing to his countrymen. Ranked fifth in Japan, he was brought along with the team to Bombay hoping he would give some players trouble. They were so right.

Satoh’s style of play and the soundless sponge contributed greatly to his wins. Using a penholder grip, he held the racket in an almost vertical position directly in front of his body. The racket was held almost stationary. He moved rapidly behind the table using body speed to make the shots. This further confused his opponents.

With no sound from the racket and absence of conventional strokes, they were at a loss to tell the location or speed of the return. With a slight extra body action he imparted heavy sidespin to the returns. Pushing with him was useless, as any high return would be hit with a quick body lunge that gave no indication of direction or speed. After tumbling world champions, subsequent players panicked and easily lost. The Japanese team felt that he was fortunate in that he did not meet any person who had any experience against sponge, and his previous tournament records seemed to verify that.

The ITTF later limited the sponge thickness and added a rubber surface to it. That was the birth of the sandwich racket we use today.

TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS BACKPACK MONTANA

Montana table tennis players, including (L-R) Ramona Doll, Allen Watson and USATT staffer Debbie Doney, enjoyed a 4-day hike through Montana’s Stillwater River Canyon over Labor Day weekend. Everyone survived the 30-mile trek and avoided downed trees, fallen rocks, and best of all, bears! The only real challenge was contending with a few blisters (and you thought table tennis footwork gives you sore feet!). The Stillwater River starts just North of Yellowstone National Park and eventually meets up with the big Yellowstone River, flowing just outside of Columbus, MT. A big “thank you” goes to Carlah Watson for driving round-trip a total of 6 hours to drop the hikers off!
**Change Is Not Always Good**

An open letter to the participants of USATT’s two major tournaments, the U.S. Open and the U.S. Nationals

The preliminary scheduling for either of these two tournaments begins only two weeks after the completion of the previous event, mid-July for the upcoming Nationals in December, and in early January for the next U.S. Open. The master time schedule cannot be finalized until after the entry deadline has passed and all players are entered in all the events that they wish to be. After the totals are in and the exact number of entries for each event can be determined, then the final time schedule can be massaged into place, taking into consideration our best scheduling choices for avoiding conflicts (which we have successfully reduced every year).

Then the master time schedule is sent to me for making the table assignments for all 3000 matches. I, in turn, send my completed work to Margaret Smith, where she catches all my mistakes. One final review is made by Margaret, Norm Chouinard and myself, and then Margaret inputs all the table assignments manually. This info, coupled with the corrected draws (as NetEdge does not do geographical separation), is untangled by the computer, the results of which becomes each player’s individual time schedule.

Somebody, presumably Margaret, hits the "print" button and out comes 700-800 of these schedules. As you know, these schedules are printed as if every player won every event that he/she enters. Obviously, it doesn’t end here. Player packets must be put together with player numbers, general info, etc.

But by now you are probably wondering what all this stuff has to do with the title of this article.

Sadly, a full schedule and a lack of extra table space are largely why we don’t have the ability to un-default somebody who misreads their schedule, can’t find their racket, or can’t find a big thing like a shuttle bus. (i.e. the 2001 U.S. Open, on Friday, had only six open and available table slots all day long.) Since we, the tournament staff, realize the possibility of a mistake on our part (with 800 players and 3000 scheduled matches), we sometimes need to use what little table space there is to correct one of our boo-boos. We feel very strongly about our obligation to make things right if we screw up.

Norm Chouinard is a wizard at making the master schedule, but at best, it’s not an exact science. There probably will always be conflicts and occasionally a miscommunication occurs.

To all of you who wish for a complete redraw of an event due to a perceived imbalance, all individual players’ schedules would then change and the results would be chaotic.

Additionally, we regret the fact that one or two players always seem to fall through the ratings cracks. As the system now stands, a new player can win a previous tournament, and if the best player he/she faces is rated 2180, then that player’s calculated rating will be something around 2200+, even if the winning player plays at the 2400 level.

Unfortunately, we estimate that even the simplest of changes affect a minimum of six people and could possibly affect dozens. The ripple effect of re-locating your opponent who, after a default, has already been told that he won and then re-scheduling your match on some other table, multiplied by the number of such requests we receive daily, would result in our tournament running an hour or two late. I think that we all agree this leaves a bad taste in everybody’s mouth.

On another subject, please remember that ITTF guidelines dictate that a player’s age must be questioned before playing a match and the results of any match(es) played shall be reckoned (the presumption being that any prior matches were played in good faith).

In short, what I guess I’m trying to say is that it’s not that we don’t want to accommodate your requests, it’s just that, most often, in consideration of other players and the big picture, we simply can’t without running the risk of great problems as a by-product.

So please, players, parents and coaches, try to keep this article in mind when you attend one of our major tournaments, and don’t forget that it’s 15:45 is 3:45 PM, not 5:45 PM.

Sincerely,
Allen Barth
2001 U.S. Open Referee and Tournament Committee Member
WHO COACHES THE COACHES?

At the invitation of Dan Seemiller, USATT National Men's Coach, we gathered from all four points of the compass at the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Twenty coaches, all with a common purpose: to improve our coaching skills and techniques for the benefit of our athletes — and maybe along the way improve our own games.

The invitees were mainly Club or State level coaches. The Seminar was scheduled for three days, from Friday afternoon to Sunday lunchtime. I had been looking forward to this since calling Dawn Simon at USATT to register. As I flew into Colorado Springs I could see a spectacular view of what I would later be told was Pikes Peak, sprinkled with a light frosting of snow. After a short trip from the airport in the company of the Stanford Ladies Swimming Team and Bob, our driver, we pulled into the very impressive USOTC.

As an early arrival, I asked at reception if any of the other Coaches had arrived yet. I was told that "two guys" were in the room next to mine. So after taking a few minutes to settle into my room, I ventured to meet these "two guys." The door to their room was partially open when I knocked, not knowing what to expect; to my surprise and delight, these "two guys" were Dan Seemiller and Coaching Chair Mark Nordby! Dan was stretched out on the lower bunk bed and Mark was sitting at a desk busy with paperwork — a pattern which was to be repeated. Mark is an organizer who likes to make sure everything is prepared and ready. A characteristic he and I share! In coaching, good preparation is everything. After exchanging pleasantries, we agreed to meet for dinner.

Wow! Me, dining with a living legend and his partner in "crime." Well, I missed the deadline and went too early. A tendency in my looping game as well! As I was finishing my first course in the excellent restaurant, I was joined by Dan, Mark and two other coaches who had just arrived. After a very pleasant evening, which set the tone for the Seminar, I went to bed.

The following morning, after a wonderful English breakfast of scrambled eggs on toast, bacon, fried potatoes and coffee (and you thought this was only an American breakfast), it was time to get to work. No playing table tennis yet! The tables had to be transported from the local club to the OTC. So six of us were off to get them. Well, Dan, Mark and myself (who volunteered for the most dangerous part of the mission), went to pick up Big Red. Big Red was the truck we used to pick up the tables. So there I was, the filling in a sandwich with Dan driving and Mark giving Dan driving advice as we bumped along. I am as happy as Pig in a mud hole! Well, the truck was a beast to drive, and between Dan and Mark we made it to the club. I did offer to photograph the action if we rear-ended someone or ran a red light, but fortunately Dan had mastered the beast and we didn't have any trouble.

Now we get down to the serious business. The first session was a review of the book "Train to Win." After introductions from Dan and Mark, all the guest coaches introduced themselves. The book review was fascinating as Dan and Mark chose and introduced the golden nuggets, explained and commented upon them. The value of each topic was explained and illustrated with personal experiences. It was very clear that they worked well together as a team, making the learning both relevant and fun. This brought us to dinner, and another chance to enjoy the excellent food in the restaurant........
After dinner it was time to see some videos of the best players in the world, to watch their stroke production. Dan and Mark gave very useful comments for each video segment on each player and stroke example. Very, very useful. All too soon it was over and time to retire. What could top this tomorrow?

After another wonderful breakfast dressed in full kit (English for playing clothing), we gathered in Gym One. It was colossal, and divided into three full-size gyms! This morning’s topics were a techniques review, discussion, and a demonstration by Dan and Mark. This was to be followed by each coach being videotaped demonstrating the strokes, to be used in a group review later. Guess what happened next! Lunch, and another excellent meal in the restaurant. After an opportunity to visit the gift shop it was time for some fun – we got to PLAY!

A small round robin competition with a different challenge. The challenge was to put two or three new things we had learned this morning into practice, as well as try to win the Round Robin. Dan and Mark were to look for those who put these ideas into practice. This was the prize for me – I would excel at learning. This I might win. So I set my objectives: to attack the serve, to keep on the balls of my feet when receiving, to choose the right stroke for the incoming shot, and to play with maximum intensity. Well, the first three went better than I could have hoped, but for the last one I ran out of energy. Even so, Dan and Mark put me into the top three for this competition. I was well pleased, because I had educated my mind and body in areas I desperately needed to improve. A lesson well-learned about motivation that will now be more valuable to my students. Time for dinner – you know what comes next! After dinner we chilled, watched some football and retired for a well-earned night’s sleep.

Sunday dawned bright and clear, with frost on the ground and snow on the mountains. Time for the coaches’ critique. Uh – oh! What would they say about me? As much as possible was my hope. I was ready to take notes to improve these areas later for my students and myself. Well the most important lesson I learned was to select the ONE most important area for improvement and work on that. The other areas can come later. Too many areas at once would confuse athletes with technique overload. A point well taken. As coaches, this is a critical area of our job, to zoom in on the critical area for most improvement.

And so, a wonderful experience all too soon came to an end. It was time to fly home with more knowledge, expertise and skills than I arrived with.

Here in the USA, we need more coaches. If you are interested in helping to promote and develop our sport, and the competitiveness of the USA, then contact Dawn at USATT for details (719-578-4583 or admin@usatt.org).

If you get the opportunity to work with Dan and Mark, TAKE IT. They are excellent to learn from, pleasant to work with and interesting to listen to.

It remains for me to thank all my fellow coaches for their camaraderie, humor and earnestness of sharing, to Dawn Simon for administration, to Mark and Dan for their enthusiasm, organization, expertise, insights and personal encouragement to us all, but especially for their friendship and the fun we had together with them.

Ratings, what ratings? We had FUN, seriously!
Something to Think About
By Paul Kovac, International Umpire

Some of you may still remember the late sixties when it was fashionable to wear lapel buttons with all sorts of slogans on them. Some were really funny. I saw one during that time that read, “Be kind to communists, they are misdirected, but they mean well.” I think that the same can be said about those who voted for some of the recently enacted changes in the rules of table tennis. Last year it was the larger ball, and this year it is 11-point games. And all this just to make television love table tennis which, in turn, is supposed to make everybody involved in the sport rich and happy.

Granted, some changes we have experienced since the birth of ITTF are good and reasonable. Since trickery should not be encouraged by rules of any sport, there is no reason to object to the two-color rule for the racket covering, or next year’s changes to the service rule. For the same reason, there will be no reason to object when, finally, somebody will manage to get through the rule making illegal the use of rubber coverings that result in unpredictable spin or bounce.

Before I would go into details I’d like to state that I would like somebody, or at least the history, to prove me wrong. I’d like to see, or at least my grandsons to see, that the major changes we have already done or about to do to the Rules of Table Tennis will, indeed, make this sport more popular, make the television love it, show it every weekend on several major networks, etc. Because I love table tennis, I’d like to see that the history of table tennis is longer than when I called the ideas that the size of the ball and other rules “desperate attempts to increase the popularity of table tennis.” (See my article in Nov/Dec 1999 issue of this magazine). Although I am skeptical about their effectiveness I would be very happy to see that these measures make the difference everybody is long for in our sport. Please do not be misled by the fact that some entities involved in table tennis have already benefited from the changes. The companies that sell table tennis equipment are already becoming more prosperous and love these changes. They can sell millions of large balls, gallons of glue and many more rubber coverings than ever before, because rubber now loses its elasticity faster, as a result of frequent regluing. These companies are now praying for higher nets and who knows what else, a longer table perhaps?

To make my point, let’s look at what we are doing to table tennis, how good and reasonable are the changes to the rules, and how the players of table tennis respond to them. I am sure everybody agrees when I say that frequent gluing had become popular long before the 40mm ball was introduced. The best players first started it, and regluing quickly became very popular even among average players, for the simple reason that it made the ball fly faster. In other words, even with the 38mm ball, the best players found the speed of the ball too slow, and wanted to add speed to the sport. There is nothing wrong with that, of course. Sportmen and sportswomen want to be able to perform better than the other guy. A pole vaulter wants to jump higher, so he uses a laminated pole instead of a wooden one. A swimmer wants to swim faster, so he/she wears the tiniest piece of cloth that decency allows. Times are long gone when tennis players used traditional rackets. So a table tennis player, in order to outdo his/her opponent, when he/she could not impart more spin to the ball, and has exhausted all possibilities to make the play more effective in any other way, resorts to making the ball fly faster. Table tennis players do not think about television, they think about winning.

Not so those who regulate the sport. In the best of their intentions, they feel that players should accommodate television and play slower, because television would then love the sport, broadcast it and, as a result, the sport will become as popular as baseball, basketball or golf, which would bring money in. The best table tennis players are human, they do not detest money, so when somebody suggests that a bigger ball will make them rich, they do not object. They accept the bigger ball and, as everybody knows, they start regluing even more often, to compensate for the adverse effect of the larger, heavier ball. One does not have to be a rocket scientist to conclude from this that professional table tennis players do not want the play to be slower. It is a crazy circle. ITTF wants to make the play slower, the players want to make it faster. Even though none of the parties would admit it, it’s “them against us.” But hear this: The President of the ITTF sounds like he is saying, “oh no, we are not trying to do anything that players do not like.” When commenting on speed glue, he stated (and this is the verbatim quotation from the recent ITTF Bulletin No. 274, page 453): “It is not our intention to limit speed or affect the players in any negative way.” Now how do you like that? How does that sound to you, dear readers? Wasn’t the larger ball introduced because it was supposed to limit speed?

Within the misdirected crusade to make television love table tennis which, in turn, is supposed to increase the popularity of the sport, we now have 11-point games. This is to make the sport more exciting to the spectators, by eliminating “dull” periods when the outcome of a match has been practically decided due to the difference in the players’ level. Well, with all due respect, adopting this rule is going to have the same effect as increasing the size of the ball, namely nil, zilch, nada, nothing.

And regarding those dull moments, is it not exciting to see a well-motivated player turn things around and win a game, when just a few minutes ago he/she was down 6-14, or even more? Or is it unpleasant to watch two players, at 7-19 in the last possible game of a match, turn it into an exhibition? One wonders what would have to happen to make these misdirected officers of table tennis understand that there is no need to make table tennis more attractive to spectators. They come to watch because they like it already. They liked the sport with 21-point games, and they will not like it more with shorter games. And as far as the television executives are concerned, they will not be able to tell the difference. The players and/or table tennis enthusiasts are used to 21-point games. The players knew the strategy they had to use in a 21-point game, and spectators knew what to expect.

Simply stated, we need to do something other than change the rules in order to make table tennis more popular. And when we succeed, television executives will beg us to give them rights to broadcast it. Not the other way around. Television has never made any sport more popular. Those who care for the sport will have to do it. Don’t you wonder what else would have to be done to the rules of table tennis, in the quest for increasing its popularity, so that even those who love it now would, instead of coming to the next U.S. Open, rather go fishing?

Viktor Samsonov
Born September 7, 2001
SUN, FUN AND TABLE TENNIS
By Mimi Bosika, U.S. #1 Ranked Under 22 Women

There’s nothing like a sunny relaxing day at the beach. Yet, this summer, while vacationing on the Black Sea coast, 16 American table tennis players spent four intense hours per day training with members of the Romanian Junior National Team in Constanta, Romania. For the fourth year in a row, Jon Bosika, with the support of Davison Athletic Club, organized a three-week training camp from June 12 to July 2 at a club which is home to former European junior champion Andrei Filimon, defending European junior champion Constantin Cioti, and European cadet girls’ silver medallist Iulia Necula.

Needless to say, the American players had a great time in the sun, but more importantly, they had a chance to witness and be a part of a European Style training regimen, which has produced champions in the past and today.

The following is an interview with Jon Bosika, 1996 U.S. Olympic Coach, who organized the trip and who will share his thoughts and experiences from Romania.

Give us a summary of your experience in Romania during the last four summers.
Jon: In 1998, I took a team of three players. Next year there were 6 and the next there were 11. This year our team had 16 players. Each year the trip has been more successful than the last. The training is intense and rewarding, the practice partners are of high quality and many are on the Romanian junior national team. The coaches are prestigious and the vacation is fun and unique. Furthermore, the price of the entire trip is much lower than what it would be in another European country. The players have always been satisfied with their improvement in Romania. I’d have to say that the greatest success of one of the trip’s former participants was Ashu Jain’s qualification for the U.S. National Team.

Why did you choose Romania and more specifically Constanta?
Jon: I’ve known Romanian National Team coach Viorel Filimon for about 25 years, since I was a coach in Yugoslavia. Therefore, I knew that the table tennis aspect of the trip would be a dream-come-true for many American players. They would have a very rare opportunity to train in Europe with top players and coaches. Having been a coach in Europe, I knew that by focusing on technique, tactics, and conceptual aspects of the players’ games, in a very intense setting for three weeks, would lead to a noticeable difference in their levels, if not right away, then in a few months after the trip.

What are your plans for next year?
Jon: The interest in this trip grows each year. Furthermore, my satisfaction has increased each year knowing that I am able to help American table tennis players, and that I can give them the opportunity to visit another country, experience a new culture, meet wonderful new people, and have an unforgettable vacation.

Therefore, it is my wish that my team will consist of 20 players in 2002. Since next year would be my 5th consecutive summer in Romania, it is very likely that next year’s trip will also be the last. I’d like to thank all those who decided to undertake the adventure. However, the grand finale – the 2002 trip – will be even more unforgettable.
Early this summer I received a phone call from Dennis Davis, the head coach of the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club, asking if I might be interested in leading a group of junior players to Shanghai for a couple of weeks. My first question was if the trip was for serious training or simply a vacation for the kids. Dennis assured me that each member was there for one reason and one reason only: to improve as much as possible. I then asked if I had his permission to push the kids as hard as I was pushed when I trained in China, to which he replied, “Of course. Just please don’t kill them the first week!”

After speaking with my wife and a number of web clients, I sent Dennis my passport and started packing for what was to be 18 days of intense training. We decided I would come out to San Francisco a couple of days earlier to meet with the kids, their parents, and to coach a training session at the club. One of the primary reasons for agreeing to the trip on such short notice was to show my support for all the hard work that Dennis has provided the kids at the Palo Alto Club. For me to be able to show up on a Saturday morning andfind over 30 juniors in a structured program with coaches dedicated to their improvement was a real treat. Although Dennis isn’t able to spend as much time coaching as he did when he was the USATT Coaching Committee Chair, his influence on the program and the kids remains apparent.

The Malek family hosted me for my two nights before we took off for China. I had wonderful Persian food and battled with Auria’s younger brother, Shayon, on their new pool table. On the way to the airport, we stopped at Chevy’s Mexican Restaurant for our last meal before heading westward. I was completely caught off guard when, as we were about to leave, all the waiters began singing, “Happy Birthday!”, while they planted a straw sombrero on my head and presented me with some ice cream on my 34th birthday.

I could see that our youth team of Jackie Lee (15), Michelle Hu (18), Auria Malek (15), Danny Bruno (14), and David Rudesill (20) were seasoned travelers as each had summer school books or plenty of batteries (for their CD players) for the flight. Everyone had been to China before with Dennis, which made the trip much easier as everyone knew what to expect from food to training to even how to deal with mosquitoes.

We arrived in Shanghai close to 10 p.m., and were greeted by Coach Ai, Ms. Wang (a former Shanghai University player), and Xu Jia (a top Shanghai player playing in Slovenia) after clearing immigration. Coach Ai remembered me as a player from the 1991 World Championships when he was Japan’s head coach. He also worked with many of the Palo Alto players on their last trip to China.

The newly built Pudong airport is quite possibly one of the nicest airports I have ever visited. Hi-tech signs, modern luggage systems, and spotless marble floors greeted us after our 13-hour flight. This was a clear sign that Beijing will be ready to host the world in 2008 for the Olympics. We took a 45-minute bus ride in the dark and checked into our hotel next to the Shanghai University. Color TV with remote, AC, filtered water dispensers, phone, firm mattresses, modern bathroom, and no mosquitoes! We were all quite impressed!

Our first practice started at 8:30 a.m. the next morning, and everyone woke up prior to sunrise, still on Pacific Coast time. Wide-eyed and ready to play, the kids wolfed down their scrambled eggs and French fries before heading over to the training hall next to our temporary dining hall. During breakfast it became apparent that Michelle’s Mandarin translation skills would be a life saver as the phrase, “Michelle, how do you say...” became our team’s catch phrase.

The training hall was ideal. Twenty Double Happiness tables spacedly laid out on a beautiful wooden floor, perfect lighting, and AC. Filtered water dispensers. Phone, firm mattresses, modern bathroom, and no mosquitoes! We were all quite impressed!

The morning sessions began with all the Shanghai players getting a pep talk from their coach prior to some basic stretching exercises. Each day our players were paired with different opponents with varying
styles of play. Choppers, loopers, pips-out hitters, and counter-drivers between the ages of 9 and 20 showed our team what it meant to be professional junior players in China. The University of Shanghai is somewhat unusual as it also allows Chinese parents to enroll their children in the program for a fee along with others that are selected based on their level of play. This was obvious as some of the very youngest 7- and 8-year-olds seemed easily distracted while playing.

Drills were 10 minutes per person and focused on serve, serve & attack, looping, blocking, and footwork. After the first 30 minutes we found out that due to an upcoming team match with the Beijing women’s team, the AC wouldn’t be used since the playing conditions for the local match would be sans AC. David got the Mr. Sweat award as his shirt was often soaked by the second drill.

While everyone did basically the same drills, in the morning Danny focused on his forehand and backhand loops, while Michelle worked on her smash and loop off underspin. David paid special attention to tempo and controlling the rallies. Auria’s goal was to wait longer for the ball on his backhand and to keep his elbow down on his forehand loop. Jackie spent most of her time improving her loop drive and smash, especially against underspin. My job was to supplement the advice from Coach Ai and to keep the intensity high during each drill. One thing that I have noticed with many of our younger players in the U.S. is that they raise their elbows too early when looping and thus eliminate any type of forearm snap from their stroke. I’ve seen almost no Chinese players that have this problem. Possible reasons for this difference could be due to the lighter rackets that we use and the lack of importance placed on creating maximum spin.

Often the last 30 minutes of morning practice included games where the winners would move up and the losers would move down on the tables. Beating the 10- to 12-year-olds (est. rating of 2000) became the measuring stick and any wins over the 13- to 15-year-olds (est. rating of 2350) got high-fives. Michelle had a number of great battles with some of the youngest practice partners in which it was common to hear her say, “You’re all mine now!”

A real big treat for our team was to see U.S. and North American Champion Chang Jun Gao training with the Shanghai University Team. Due to husband Frank’s recent business venture in Shanghai, the two of them had an apartment only a subway ride away. Gao mentioned that she was offered a spot on the Shanghai University team next year to play in China’s Super League, but hadn’t made up her mind. Clearly, her outstanding results in the recent World Cup were based on her rigorous practice in Shanghai.

Afternoon practice was brutal as half of it was multi-ball. Each table had three to four players, so you only had a brief rest before you were back up for 250 balls of looping or random placement drills. Both Coach Ai and Ms. Wang were experts in delivering the perfect tempo to force Auria, Jackie, and David to push themselves for each shot. I worked closely with Danny and Michelle to deal with timing and technique issues. Picking up the balls with the two-stick and pillow strip Ball Grabber became quite fun exercises, as well as watching Danny do his bent-knee shoeless shimmy shuffle.
On Saturday night of the first week, we got a chance to see the Shanghai University Women's team beat a very strong Beijing team in a Super League match. The spectators were as wet as the players when the match was finished due to the extreme heat. The absence of AC during the training session really seemed to pay off. Two of the Beijing players were on the national team, so it was quite an upset. After getting back to the room, we were quite surprised to see men's matches on TV. Table tennis is shown weekly on television in China, including challenge matches, league matches, and international opens. The most amazing thing we saw on TV were the commercials with Kong Linghua, Wang Lijin, Liu Guozheng, Cai Zhenhua, and Wang Nan all endorsing different sport shoes.

Our first Sunday off found us at the open market in Shanghai where we got to barter for many Chinese-made American goods.

Interview with David Rudenburg

By Dennis Davis and Sean O'Neill

Age: 20
Home Club: SCTTC, PATTC
Coach: Dennis Davis
Years playing: 6

What were your overall impressions of China and table tennis in Shanghai?
David: Absolutely the best. China's approach to table tennis is very much a perfectionist approach to table tennis training, a bit different from how the Swedes approach training. The venue was superb: wood floors, good lighting, nice tables, and even a new bathroom with western style toilets (thank God). China is extremely humid in the summer, so most of us were sweating buckets each training session...I myself went through a good 3-4 shirts every three-hour session.

The players at the Shanghai Club were very solid. It was obvious that their training reinforces strong consistency, solid technique, overall perfectionism. This is not to say that every player had perfect technique...but every player was very consistent, something lacking in the majority of American players, at any level. The players ranged from 2200-2500...I trained with all of them, giving me the opportunity to challenge different styles and strategies. The club had several choppers (another style not done very well in the U.S.), lefties, pips players, penholders, two-winged loopers, and so on.

What was the funniest moment for you on the trip?
David: I was just leaving a large outdoors market, after a long day of shopping. This shopping trip was relatively near the beginning of our stay in China, so I was still reacquainting myself with Chinese currency (I also trained in Shanghai three years ago). As I made my way to the Subway, a very old and very homeless woman gestured very violently that she wanted some change. Looking as old and pathetic as she was I couldn't help but give her my change, so I pulled out the majority of what I had in my pocket and handed it to her with a smile. She gave no "your welcome," she just began analyzing how much she just had received. Evidently, what I gave her was something short of 20 cents...but in the form of many coins, so I gave her the illusion of giving more than I gave (by accident of course). The old woman without hesitation pitched the money back at me as I began to walk away. Seeing as many poor and needy individuals as I had seen during my trip, the contrast of some old beggar throwing my money back at me with that of others who might have accepted my mishap-charity...I found it rather humorous.

What did you work on and what did you learn the most?
David: Since the players over there were all so consistent, I found myself returning to the states with a refreshed sense of ball feeling and overall consistency. Certain truths about the sport which I had learned years ago we rediscovered during my training there. Everyone "knows" that each ball should be played individually, and yet a player still looks to find a groove by which those balls are played. While training I rediscovered the importance (as I was pushed harder there than training over here) of truly treating each ball, regardless of the shot, with individual importance.

Favorite non-table tennis experience?
David: I had the opportunity to be a sit-in teacher for an English class at the University of Shanghai. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I conversed with people (in English of course) who had never spoken to a foreigner before; some of these people were in their late 20's to early 30's!! The class and I talked about everything from our cultures' differences, to favorite movies, and even cultural stereotypes which bothered us. I hope to go back there and maybe take up a full-time teaching position someday (and play table tennis in the meantime...of course!!).

What will you take from the trip?
David: All the sights, sounds, smells, which made the city of Shanghai what it is, China is so different from America, it operates on a different frequency (not just electric), a different tone than we do. No American can truly empathize until they go there.

Would you like to go back? Why?
David: Most definitely. Aside from some of the best training available in the world, there are so many people which I would love to see again.

What would you do differently?
David: Before going next time, I would exercise much more (including weight training), in order to maximize my training in Shanghai. Though much more in shape than the first time I went, I still feel that my lack of physical preparation hindered some potential improvement.

How was Sean as coach and team leader?
David: Sean was great!! Each and every day he was first up, ready to go for breakfast. Aside from being a parental figure for the younger players, Sean acted as our coach and training partner. It was very reassuring to have such a wealth of table tennis talent and experience acting as our team leader.

Fun strategy question. Let's say you are buying an item at the downtown market. The original price is 200 Yuan. You really want the item. How much do you initially offer? And how much would you be willing to ultimately spend on it?
David: You offer no more than 100. don't go past 115. I bet Auria would get it for like 60. and Danny would state that he'd pay no more than 12...DORKS!!!

Any additional thoughts or comments?
David: Great fun, can't wait till next summer.
Clockwise from above: Auria Malek is wide-eyed with happiness with his new friends; Coach Ai feeding multiball; Danny Bruno ready to receive.

Backpacks, wallets, jackets, pens, lighters, and of course CDs, VCDs, and DVDs were the main attraction. Auria showed his negotiating ability along with Danny and David while I showed Jackie and Michelle the finer points of knowing when to walk away during the final bid. Everyone got plenty of gifts for their relatives, and Danny definitely got the award for purchasing the most CDs. KFC and Pizza Hut helped make our day off feel like home, and hosts Chen Bin and Ms. Wang helped us with all of our tourist needs.

Week two went as fast as the first week, and I had a chance to fill in when we were a player short for some of our round robin competitions. The first thing I noticed when playing our practice partners was the importance of keeping one's serve short and being able to finish the point. I got beaten often enough to convince me it might be a good idea to start running in the morning prior to breakfast and to work on some new short serves during evening serve practice. I was quite pleased to see our players hanging tough and fighting for each point during the competition.

On our second and final day off, we visited Tiger Hill and did some more shopping. Although I know it was painful for the kids not to be bartering for VCDs downtown, I am sure the cultural experience will be appreciated later in life, or at least when they use those teapots we purchased! By the end of the day everyone was really pooped out and ready for bed.

The last four days featured more match play, multi-ball drills, and a growing desire to return home to show everyone what we had learned from the trip. Apart from a somewhat interesting departure at the airport, I can say I too was happy to be returning to the good old U.S. of A. We landed back at San Francisco airport as we had left – maybe a few points lighter, but definitely wiser and ready for 11-point games.

I would like to publicly thank our hosts, the University of Shanghai, Coach Ai, Ms. Wang, and our practice partners. Dennis Davis and Coach Wang get all the credit stateside for making this trip happen. My team of Auria, Danny, Jackie, Michelle, and David were a pleasure to work with and I wouldn’t hesitate in taking this group of great kids back again.

Sean’s final parting words of advice

Auria Malek – Wait for that backhand, and flip at the top of the bounce. Your decision to look at serve practice as an opportunity to improve rather than as punishment really impressed me.

Michelle Hu – Remember to keep your backswing and follow through about the same length. Make sure you hustle your classmates at Duke like you did the 8-year-olds!

Danny Bruno – Keep your back straight and elbows out. C’mon, we’re not wrestling! The next time we go running as a group I know whom to bet on.

David Rudesill – Relax that forearm for maximum torque on your forehand loop. Half the battle is believing in ourselves; the other half is not setting any limits.

Jackie Lee – Add a little more underspin to those drop shots and use your weight transfer on your loop. The next time you see a set of stairs and an elevator, I hope you will remember which one to take, even if I am not there.
The Beginner's Series:

Part V: The Push

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

This is the fifth 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 push is a passive backspin shot done against backspin. It is generally done against a serve or push which you don't want to or can't attack. It is done more often on the backhand; on the forehand, it is done mostly against short balls that are hard to attack. The key is to push so the opponent cannot attack effectively. Keep the ball low, place it well, and give it a good backspin.

Backhand Push

Backswing
Point the elbow forward, open the racquet, and bring the racquet slightly backward, rotating at the elbow. The elbow should not move much during the stroke.

Forward Swing
Rotate the racquet forward and slightly down.

Contact
Beginners should contact the ball as it drops. Let the ball fall onto the racquet, grazing the bottom back of the ball to create backspin. More advanced players can push quick off the bounce, but for beginners that may be too difficult to control. Top players do it both ways.

Follow Through
Do not stop at contact. Follow through by extending the arm at the elbow.

Forehand Push

(Description is for a right-hander, although sequence is of left-hander.)

Backswing
The elbow should be slightly in front of the body. Open the racquet and bring the racquet backwards and up. The elbow does not move throughout the rest of the stroke.

Forward Swing
Rotate the racquet forward and down at the elbow.

Contact
Contact is the same as on the backhand push. Let the ball drop onto the racquet, grazing the bottom back of the ball to create backspin. More advanced players can push quick off the bounce, but for beginners that may be too difficult to control. Top players do it both ways.

Follow Through
Do not stop at contact. Follow through by extending the arm at the elbow.
Reading the Ball

By Francisco Mendez • 9-Time Mexican Champion • ITTF Certified Coach

Throughout the years, table tennis development has experienced significant changes. Our sport is so sophisticated, and the accuracy of the techniques so difficult, that these characteristics may be part of the reason table tennis is not a popular sport. Ironically, the recreational face of this sport, ping-pong, is popular. Hundreds of thousands have tables and play at home. Nonetheless, it is its complexity that makes this sport so beautiful and magical.

Among the great factors of Table Tennis are Spin, Speed and Placement. Spin is the most complex, the most controversial, and perhaps the most important of the three due to its variety, disguise and difficulty in dealing with.

"Reading the ball" is the player's capacity and ability to know and identify the following information:

- Type of spin
- Amount or intensity of spin
- Trajectory of the ball or type of curve in the air
- Speed

It also includes:

- Height & depth of the ball
- Bouncing effect on the table.

Development and mastery of the skills required to read the ball takes years of practice. Complicating this task further, we have to add other difficulties:

- Hidden serves (these will be outlawed as of Sept. 1, 2002)
- Diversity of rubbers breaking the spin pattern
- Players that have mastered the art of deceptive spin

For all this, Reading the Ball is extremely important during the point, especially when receiving, as every point starts with a serve. Following are some basic and advanced steps to develop a good reading of the ball.

A. Watch the Movement of the Opponent's Arm and Bat When Contacting the Ball

This method is the most basic and important one. Mainly, it will help you know the type of spin on the ball. (Don’t forget that each player has a different way to serve, spin, and hit the ball - not to mention the capacity to disguise spin with body movement.)

B. Watch the Way the Opponent Brushes the Ball at Contact

This is particularly effective in determining the amount of spin. Remember, it is not enough to know the type of spin; you also need to know the amount or intensity of spin.

C. Watch the Label on the Ball

This method is a good but advanced one to help detect serves with 'no spin,' 'dead ball,' or 'very little spin.' If you can see the label on the ball, you know it's coming with little or no spin.

D. Wait for the Bounce of the Ball

This method is very effective for curvy serves and serves with a lot of bouncing curve, like the 'side topspin serve' and the 'side backspin serve.' For these serves, it is best to wait until the ball bounces on your side of the table to make your final spin determination. You will have more time and less spin effect. For short serves, you will typically want to hit the ball at the height of the bounce. Top players, however, can return the serve in many different ways.

E. Listen to the Sound at Contact

During the seventies and part of the eighties (until 1983 when the rule was changed), some players used two different rubbers (one side long-pips or anti, and the other side sticky inverted) of the same color. Liang Keliang, John Hilton, Huang Liang and many others switched the side of the racquet under the table when serving in order to deceive the opponent. Such difficulty in determining spin forced players to develop new techniques to assist in reading the ball. Chief among them were watching the ball's label and listening to the sound of the ball at impact. It is important to distinguish between a 'Contact Sound' and a 'Brushing Sound.' When you hear a 'contact sound,' the ball will be coming with little or no spin. When a 'brushing sound' is heard, a spinnier ball is coming as the ball has been grazed. Of course, serving players understand that you may be listening and may stomp a foot while serving in order to confuse the sound at impact.
O

e of the most common experiences most competitive table tennis players in the USA share is our first time out of the basement. Most of us get started in the basement or garage banging it around with friends. Because we have an aptitude for the game, we begin to have a vastly unrealistic opinion of our skill. It is understandable. When you haven’t been beaten in years, you get a big head. It is only when exposed to the light of real competition in the SPORT of table tennis that realization settles in. You are a beginner at an incredibly fast and intricate sport. You have no idea how to play. You suck. When you haven't been beaten in years, you get a big head. It is only when exposed to the light of real competition in the SPORT of table tennis that realization settles in. You are a beginner at an incredibly fast and intricate sport. You have no idea how to play. You suck.

And we all lose. Table tennis remains either a basement recreation or an elitist game with an insignificant support base when compared to other sports. Because it is small-scale, we never get to see events like the Olympics or the Worlds on television. Finding a place that’s convenient to play will be an effort. Top athletes in this country will continue to play other sports, so we won’t get to see a USA World #1. In short, things stay the same as they are now.

I am not short-changing the way things are now. Because of selfless people who love the sport, we have places to play. We have tournaments, coaching, and places to buy top-notch equipment. Each issue of our magazine highlights some of these people. I read all these articles, and pause to think of the friends I have in Rochester, NY, who make it all happen here. I am grateful to them.

But they need help. I suggest that each of us who benefits from the way things are now and gets to play this incredibly fun sport make some changes in how we take care of our game:

1. New players are not threats to our table time. They are the future source of expansion and success. They may become the next 2000-level player at the club. They will be a source of revenue. They may be part of a player support base that enables table tennis seven days a week at a dedicated venue. If they become part of the playing community, they will spread the word about what a wonderful game we play. Treat them as the valuable commodity they are.

2. When you go to tournaments, you pay your entry fees and have a good time. Realize that some people work their butt off to make that happen for you. At least once a year, offer to help in some way.

3. At tournaments people who don't know anything about our game often are watching. Some are friends, others are relatives and wives. If the tournament is held in some sort of multi-use facility, the general public often stops to watch. Try to observe common rules of conduct and courtesy. Screaming, expletive-filled speech and temper tantrums do not impress anyone and mean our ambassadorship of our game is failing.

4. Are you a mentor? If you’re rated over 1500, then you should be. Someone rated under 1000 does not know what you know. Personally speaking, I would have never reached my present rating of 1600 without someone taking the time to explain the finer points of the game. And don’t worry that you’re not a coach. And you aren’t orthodox in how you play. Plenty of knowledge about the game has nothing to do with stroke production or footwork. Example: How to read spin and where to hit the ball to counter it. Make a point of offering advice to beginners in a kindly way. I know that when someone did that it made me feel welcome in the club, and most of it helped me.

Table Tennis might never make it “out of the basement” as far as the general public is concerned. But if those of us who take it to the level of sport take pride of ownership in our conduct and stewardship of the game, it will always be a wonderful thing to be involved in.
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Lucjian Blaszczzyk: Pushing the Timing Envelope

Poland #1 player • World #19

By Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001

Photos by Diego Schaaf ©2001
Since Andrzej Grubba’s retirement, Lucjan Blaszczzyk (pronounced “Blash-chick”) has been Poland’s number one player. After a few years in the middle of the world table tennis scene, he advanced into the upper ranks (currently #19) when he reached the quarterfinals of the 1995 World Championships in Tianjin, China. On the way he defeated local favorites Feng Zhe and Ma Wenge. Blaszczzyk plays the Polish variation of the European looping game which has an emphasis on touch and unpredictable placement. He uses shoulder fakes and a lot of wrist movement to keep his opponents off balance. Oddly enough, we saw him in practice playing left-handed very fluently, another reminder of his famous predecessor. Blaszczzyk’s specialty is a quick close to the table attack game which depends on his lightning fast footwork to take the ball very early on its bounce. Although this article deals with one of his forehand shots, his backhand is equally dangerous if not more so.

We’ll analyze his drive loop off underspin – one of the most dangerous shots in the game. It is very effective, because the ball is played at the top of the bounce and therefore doesn’t require as much of an arc to clear the net. That makes very high speed possible. Although the contact timing is somewhat like in a smash, this shot is played with a loop stroke which imparts strong topspin with it and with it increases the margin of error. This makes it a safer shot than the smash. Since the contact occurs so far forward – right over the endline – it allows much wider angles than a conventional loop. The variation in timing it provides when used as an alternative to regularly-timed loops makes it a very effective way to put pressure on your opponent.

This is a very advanced stroke, and a player must have a solid grasp of the conventional loop off underspin, which generally requires a slightly later timing and more arc, but also puts less time pressure on both players. In addition, the footwork – skip, cross-step and turning motion – must be quick and flawless. It requires very early commitment, because most of this stroke has to be completed while the ball is still on the rise in order to make contact at the top of the bounce.

Equipment also plays an important role. It is easiest to perform this shot with a light, springy 5-ply blade covered with a soft, speed-glued rubber. If the hand speed is high enough – as in this sequence – the shot can be performed without adjusting the racket angle much.

The downside of this technique is that it requires a full commitment of the body’s momentum, which can cause a problem if the ball comes back, because it oftencomes back very quickly. Recovery is therefore critical.

The sequence starts with Blaszczzyk having recovered from serving an underspin ball. As he tracks the return, he decides to take a forehand. At the beginning of his step around, the ball, his head and upper body remain almost in the same place, while his legs skip to his left (Row 1, Frames 1-3). As he completes the step, he starts his backswing, and his upper body turns until it points sideways. His weight has transferred completely to his right leg by the time the ball bounces on the table (R1F5). As the ball rises off the bounce, he completes his backswing and cocks his wrist (R2F4). He pushes off his right leg strongly and drives his whole body up and forward while he performs the stroke. At contact, he has already rotated his shoulders back and throws his right shoulder forward. Note that both his feet leave the ground at contact! This can work for you, but if done incorrectly, it will sap all your power from the shot, so until your timing is as good as his, I’d recommend keeping contact with the floor. His follow through takes the racket all the way to his left hip, and at R3F3, he is in the most vulnerable position, with all of his weight resting on his left foot, his racket in an unusable place on the opposite side of his body, and the table wide open. Aware of that, he immediately gets back up and gets ready to play the next shot, if need be. Until after contact, it is not clear that Blaszczzyk is driving the ball to the right on an inside-out loop. As it happens, his opponent, lefty Trinko Keen from the Netherlands, gets to the ball with his forehand but misses.

As I mentioned before, this is not a shot for beginners. But once you have achieved a level that allows you to loop underspin balls with great consistency and confidence, when your footwork has developed to the point where you can start playing around with your shot timing, you will love this additional dimension in your game. Used in conjunction with standard timing, this shot can yield a wealth of points.
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The future of USA Table Tennis was on display August 2-4, 2001. Not one, not two, but three table tennis Championships were held on consecutive days in Newport News, VA, the site of the 2001 AAU Junior Olympics. Over this short span of time, the USATT Junior Nationals, Team Championships and Junior Olympic titles were decided as 138 enthused young people sought national recognition, medals and personal achievement.

The importance of these championships was easily noticed in the depth and quality of the field, nearly 40% larger than last year, and in the expertise of the adults who coached and supervised them. Here, in support of their students, were some of the best and most dedicated coaches in America. You could hardly walk across the gym floor without bumping into a former champion or the coach of champions. Danny Seemiller, Attila Malek, Richard McAfee, Cheng Yinghua, Mark Nordby, Marty Prager, Terese Terranova, Thor Truelson. Larry Hodges. Their presence alone, plus their compatriots from across the country, from both coasts and the heartland, from sweltering Georgia to frigid Minnesota, from the states and the commonwealths, unrateds and veterans of the World Championships, they all brought their best game to the table as the competition began for the AAU titles.

A crowded field of Boys’ Under 10 came down to the quartet of Kevin Ma, Shelby Lane, Preston Chin and Marcus Jackson. Jackson d. Chin 15,10 to determine Gold and Silver, while Lane, after a tough three-game loss to Preston in the semis, beat out Ma for the Bronze, 26,18. The Girls’ U-10 was an all-Florida affair, with the order of finish in their RR producing Amy Huang, Andrea Lin, Adrian Lam and Gillian Wu. There are few forces of nature with the energy and enthusiasm of these ladies from the Sunshine State!

Six RR groups of U-12 Boys’ proved that ratings are secondary to performance. Nathaniel Curran, sporting an 879 rating, narrowly lost to 1396 Andrew Lin, (16.-25,17) in the semifinals, and upset 1305 Michael Mast in the match for the Bronze, 21.-20.17. Completing the upset nature of the category, Andrew Lin defeated Joseph Cochran (1610) for the Gold, 17.-16,17. Yuliya (call me Julie!) Lisova proved her mettle in capturing the Girls’ U-12 Gold. Three Round Robins fed the Quarterfinals, where Lisova squeaked by a determined Linden Li, -20,17.16. In the Semis, Lisova defeated the eventual Bronze Medalist Jennifer Mast, 15.-18,17, and in the Final again went three games, trumping the Silver Medalist, Diana Li (-17,15,18). 986, lIly foot!

It was a long road and a crowded field that led to the Under-14 Boys’ Semis, where Eric Finkelstein faced A.J. Carney and Yao Xu took on Gordon Cochran. Carney is a notable pitcher in his local Little League, but Eric solved his delivery at the table, 15,8. Cochran plays like a bulldog, tenaciously defending and returning against the aggressive Xu, but comes to grips with the looper too slowly, 6,15. Two well-played matches later, Xu has the Gold (19,16) to Finkelstein’s Silver, while Cochran wears down Carney -17,18,19 to determine Bronze and Copper.

The Girls’ U-14, by contrast, shared a single group, where the order of finish became the medal order. Sarah Zheng was ‘Queen of
the Hill’ dropping games only to Jane Li and Barbara Wei. Rita Wu upset practice partner Wei (-14,17,18) to capture Silver, leaving Wei with Bronze and Li in fourth.

The competition became more rarified in the Boys’ U-16, where seven groups fed the SE bracket. It was Peter Randall’s bad fortune to meet event favorite Han Xiao in the Quarterfinals, eliminating his medal chances, 4, 11. The Semis pitted Xiao against Khaleel Asgarali, and Han demonstrated the difference between 2400 and ‘merely’ 2000, 7, 9. Michael Shao had a terrific match with New Yorker Pan Lin, winning deuce in the third, but settled for Silver in the Final, losing to practice partner Xiao, 11, 14. Pan Lin cemented his Bronze finish 12, 17 against Khaleel.

Four Under 16 Girls advanced from their RR’s to meet in the Semifinals, a quartet familiar to each other and to anyone who drops by the Maryland TT Center, Chao (Kathy) Wang, Katherine Wu, Sherri Geng and Elaine Kwok. During the competition they were destined to meet repeatedly, and then, their matches decided, put their paddles down and return to their group discussion (of whatever it is Girls’ U-16 discuss). Here, Kwok overturned Wu to reach the Final, joining Wang who dispatched Geng. Wang takes Gold, Kwok, Silver as Wu hands Copper to Geng and keeps Bronze for herself.

Mark Hazinski dominated the Boys’ U-18. No one can claim to be surprised by that statement. A 2600 level player and a member of the U.S. Men’s Team, Mark is a great talent and an excellent sportsman. But he doesn’t win by throwing his paddle on the table and walking away. A determined line of competitors do their best to ‘de-throne the king’ and wrest the Gold medal from his grasp. Four very competitive RR’s yielded eight players for the Quarters, where Hazinski beat Joseph Podvin, Cory Eider ended Andrew Cochran’s event, James Duan prevailed against Donald Settle and Jared Lynch over Michael Amren. Eider went out fighting to Hazinski in the Semis, 14, 13. He was philosophical after the match. “If you only lose to one guy, you’ve still had a good tournament, right?” Jared Lynch, Mark’s teammate, (and consequently often lost in the glare of Mark’s star) posted an impressive two-gamer over Duan, 15, 17, to reach the Final.

Hazinski takes Gold (8, 10), Lynch gets Silver, and Cory Eider and James Duan wage a great battle for the third and fourth spots, with Eider victorious, -20, 20, 17.

Dana Huang did not lose a game in claiming Gold in the U-18 Girls’, Lydia Brekke earning Silver by virtue of three game victories over Louise Giam and Shuai Chen. Head to head, Giam bested Chen to take Bronze.

In contrast to the younger age events, the U-22’s were lightly populated, with Thomas Yost coming to the top against Michael Squires (Silver) and Michael Fan (Bronze). Vivian Lee was a walk-over in the U-22 Women.

With the aim of injecting some fun into the event, we heeded Larry Hodges’ suggestion for a ‘Parade of Champions: the ‘one game to three points’ format popularized in years past by Pete May. “This will be great,” Larry assured us. Without warming up, the players play a single game to three points, alternating serve. the lower rated

Continued on page 38

JOEL FARRELL AWARD

By Alan Williams

The Joel Farrell Award is presented annually to a player at the Junior Olympics for combined excellence in performance and sportsmanship. The past three winners of the award were Santiago Coste, Mark Hazinski and Han Xiao. These three excellent individuals provide ‘large shoes to fill.’

The tournament committee decided to eliminate the previous award winners for contention in 2001, convinced that the gold medals they won, as well as the previous Farrell Awards, constitute sufficient recognition. We decided to use their excellent example to inspire this year’s winners rather than honor them again, though their performances can only be called ‘excellent.’

We decided also to award both a male and a female participant. There was no shortage of candidates, as so many of the young people showed the required great play and outstanding behavior. We believe in their dedication to training, their skills acquired to this point, and in their ability to be gracious in victory or defeat. We felt that these two people bring honor to their families, their clubs, their states, and we have no doubt they will represent the United States in a manner that would make us proud.

The 2001 Joel Farrell Award was presented to Eric Finkelstein of New Jersey and Katherine Wu of Maryland.
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Smarter Aerobic Training
By Larry Thoman

With a robot, a player can practice table tennis while getting a tremendous aerobic workout. This is because a robot enables constant stroking and footwork without stopping. (Aerobic conditioning requires, in general, non-stop movement of at least 20 minutes.) I personally have done this while having my heart rate monitored and I get just as good of an aerobic workout on my Newgy robot as I do running. It's a whole lot more fun and is also developing table tennis specific skills at the same time.

Running, on the other hand, is a good aerobic conditioner, but does little if anything for a player's table tennis game. Almost all table tennis athletes (including most all world-ranked ones) run to increase/maintain aerobic fitness. Why? Because that is the way "it's always been done." They can get the same aerobic benefits while continuing to hone their strokes and footwork if they use a robot. They don't because they have never been trained that way and their coaches have never considered using robots in that fashion.

More Training Tips Online At http://www.newgy.com/coachforum.htm
Junior Olympics continued from page 35

player serving first. No deuce games, 3-2 constitutes a winning score, and may the best (or luckiest) player win.

So we put all the names into a coffeepot, and the evening before created, yes, a Single Elimination bracket of 138. Standing in front of the charted bracket, hanging out balls and shouting the match-ups, recording the results, Richard and I had that ‘firing squad feeling’ as 138 youngsters jostled, crowded and yelled results at us. Half an hour later, the field was reduced to two players. Richard and I were reduced to something more like Jell-O. Fong turned Asgarali and Fan’s best effort into silver.

Asgarali and Charles Fan in the Semis (18, 16). Han Xiao and Michael Shao had no trouble reaching the final as a 4400-rated pair. and turned Asgarali and Fan’s best effort into silver medals (15, 16).

Mark Hazinski and Jared Lynch went through the field like a hot knife through butter in the U-18 Boys’ Doubles, reaching the finals without much of a threat being mounted against them. The team of Eli Kahn and Andrew Cochran (3586), however, were continually tested and found their way through adversity. First it was the California pair of Michael Amren and Peter Randall, a very even match at 19, 19. Then Khan and Cochran had to play Cory Eider and Joseph Podvin, sporting a 4200 combined rating. In three games, they pulled off the upset, 15-15, 16, to meet Hazinski and Lynch in the Final. Mark and Jared (4786) were just too much for Eli and Andrew, 17, 13.

Elaine Kwok and Dana Huang dominated the distaff half of U-18 Girls’ Doubles for the Gold. Shuai Chen and Jane Li rebounded for the silver over Sherri Geng and Louise Giam.

Pan Lin and Carlos Colon claimed gold in the U-22 Doubles with a seesaw win over Michael Squires and Michael Fan, 10-10, 19. David Landry and Stephen Wah earned the Bronze.

Continued on page 43
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Allround Oversize WRB

The thicker blade offers approximately 10% extra speed compared to conventional blades. Larger head offers extra stability of touch and feel. Speed: ALL+, Handle: FL(lg), FL(sm), AN, ST, Weight: 85, Piles: 5W, Price: $46.75 Item: XSSOVAL

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Under 10 Boys
1: Marcus Jackson (PV)
2: Preston Chin (GA)
3: Shelbi Lein (MN)
4: Kevin Ma (PV)

Under 10 Girls
1: Amy Huang (FL)
2: Andrea Lin (FL)
3: Adriann Lam (FL)
4: Gillian Wu (FL)

Under 12 Boys
1: Andrew Lin (FL)
2: Joseph Cochran (IN)
3: Nathaniel Curran (MN)
4: Michael Most (OH)

Under 12 Girls
1: Yuliya Lisova (NY)
2: Diana Li (FL)
3: Jennifer Mast (OH)
4: Sheena Mah (GA)

Under 14 Boys
1: Yao Xu (PV)
2: Eric Finklestein (NJ)
3: A.J. Carney (NY)
4: Gordon Cochran (IN)

Under 14 Girls
1: Sarah Zheng (FL)
2: Rita Wu (PV)
3: Barbara Wei (PV)
4: Jane Li (FL)

Under 16 Boys
1: Han Xiao (PV)
2: Michael Shao (PV)
3: Pan Lin (NY)
4: Khaled Asgarali (FL)

Under 16 Girls
1: Chao Wang (PV)
2: Elaine Kwok (PV)
3: Katherine Wu (PV)
4: Sherri Geng (PV)

Under 18 Boys
1: Mark Hazinski (IN)
2: Jared Lynch (IN)
3: Cory Eider (MN)
4: James Duan (PV)

Under 18 Girls
1: Dana Huang (PV)
2: Lydia Brekke (MN)
3: Louis Giam (PV)
4: Shuai Chen (FL)

Under 20 Boys
1: Thomas Yost (OH)
2: Michael Squires (PV)
3: Michael Fan (PV)
4: Vivian Lee (PV)

Under 20 Girls
1: Elaine Kwok (PV)
2: Chao Wang (PV)
3: Katherine Wu (PV)
4: Dana Huang (PV)

JUNIOR NATIONALS

Under 10 Boys
1: Preston Chin (GA)
2: Marcus Jackson (PV)
3: Shelley Lane (NH)
4: Kevin Ma (PV)

Under 10 Girls
1: Amy Huang (FL)
2: Andrea Lin (FL)
3: Adriann Lam (FL)
4: Gillian Wu (FL)

Under 12 Boys
1: Andrew Lin (FL)
2: Marcus Jackson (PV)
3: Joseph Cochran (IN)
4: Shelby Lam (TN)

Under 12 Girls
1: Yuliya Lisova (NY)
2: Jennifer Mast (OH)
3: Diana Li (FL)
4: Amy Huang (FL)

Under 14 Boys
1: Yao Xu (PV)
2: Eric Finklestein (NJ)
3: A.J. Carney (NY)
4: Gordon Cochran (IN)

Under 14 Girls
1: Sarah Zheng (FL)
2: Barbara Wei (PV)
3: Rita Wu (PV)
4: Jane Li (FL)

Under 16 Boys
1: Han Xiao (PV)
2: Michael Shao (PV)
3: Pan Lin (NY)
4: Khaled Asgarali (FL)

Under 16 Girls
1: Chao Wang (PV)
2: Elaine Kwok (PV)
3: Sherri Geng (PV)
4: Chao Wang (PV)

Under 18 Boys
1: Mark Hazinski (IN)
2: Han Xiao (PV)
3: Cory Eider (MN)
4: Jared Lynch (IN)

Under 18 Girls
1: Katherine Wu (PV)
2: Elaine Kwok (PV)
3: Shuai Chen (FL)
4: Dana Huang (PV)

Under 20 Boys
1: Thomas Yost (OH)
2: Michael Squires (PV)
3: Michael Fan (PV)
4: Vivian Lee (PV)

Under 20 Girls
1: Elaine Kwok (PV)
2: Chao Wang (PV)
3: Katherine Wu (PV)
4: Dana Huang (PV)

JUNIOR TEAMS

Under 10 Boys
1: Marcus Jackson, Amareesh Sahu, Kevin Ma, Vincent Ning (PV)
2: Preston Chin, Derrick Styles (GA)
3: Michael Chen, Collin McLeod (FL)
4: Peter Li, Charlie Sun (MD)

Under 10 Girls
1: Amy Huang, Andrea Lin (FL)
2: Gillian Wu, Adrian Lam (FL)

Under 12 Boys
1: Brian Lam, Andrew Lin (FL)
2: Martin Qian, William Wang, Max Li, Robert Yang (PV)
3: Anders Truelson, Nathaniel Curran (MN)
4: Kevin Chiu, Jonathan Li (FL)

Under 12 Girls
1: Linden Li, Chantal Taylor (PV)
2: Brittany Malek, Callie Cargill, Emily Randall (CA)

Under 14 Boys
1: Yao Xu, Wei Fan, Eric Ma, Duncan Chou (PV)
2: Gordon Cochran, Joseph Cochran, Jeffrey Smith (IN)
3: Kevin Lam, Cory McLeod, Sutton Ng (FL)
4: Justin Mah, Edina Ufot (GA)

Under 14 Girls
1: Rita Wu, Barbara Wei, Cindy Li (PV)
2: Diana Li, Sarah Zheng, Halona Ng (FL)
3: Cindy Li (PV), Halona Ng (FL)

Under 16 Boys
1: Michael Shao, Khaled Asgarali, Charles Fan, Alex Pan (MD)
2: Pan Lin, Eric Finklestein, Jiayi Hao (NJ)
3: A.J. Carney, Mike Caplan, Chuck Caplan (NY)
4: Josh Kuhn, Paul Westhart (CA)

Under 16 Girls
1: Katherine Wu, Chao Wang, Elaine Kwok, Sherron Geng (PV)
2: Chao Wang (PV)
3: Khaled Asgarali (PV)
4: Chao Wang (PV)

Under 18 Boys
1: Mark Hazinski (IN)
2: Han Xiao (PV)
3: Cory Eider (MN)
4: Jared Lynch (IN)

Under 18 Girls
1: Katherine Wu, Chao Wang, Elaine Kwok, Sherron Geng (PV)
2: Arianne Mah, Sheena Mah (GA)

Under 20 Boys
1: Mark Hazinski, Jared Lynch (IN)
2: Han Xiao, James Duan (PV)
3: Cory Eider, Joseph Podvin, Abraham Langseth (MN)
4: Michael Arenen, Ngai-Chi Chung, Peter Randall (CA)

Under 20 Girls
1: Louise Giam, Dana Huang (PV)
2: Shuai Chen, Jane Li (FL)

JUNIOR DOUBLES

Under 10 Boys
1: Shelley Lane (NV)/Kevin Ma (PV)
2: Preston Chin (FL)/Marcus Jackson (PV)
3: Janell Li (PV)/Vincent Ning (PV)
4: Amaresh Sahu (PV)/Peter Li (PV)

Under 10 Girls
1: Amy Huang (FL)/Andrea Lin (FL)
2: Gillian Wu (FL)/Adrian Lam (FL)

Under 12 Boys
1: Andrew Lin (FL)/Brian Lam (FL)
2: Michael Mast (OH)/Joseph Cochran (IN)
3: Anders Truelson (MN)/Nathaniel Curran (IN)
4: Martin Qian (PV)/William Wang (PV)

Under 12 Girls
1: Sheena Mah (GA)/Jennifer Mast (OH)
2: Linden Li (PV)/Chantal Taylor (PV)
3: Callie Cargill (CA)/Emily Randall (CA)

Under 14 Boys
1: Yao Xu (PV)/Wei Fan (PV)
2: Gordon Cochran (IN)/Jeffrey Smith (IN)
3: Eric Finklestein (NJ)/A.J. Carney (NY)
4: Eric Ma (PV)/Alan Giam (PV)

Under 14 Girls
1: Rita Wu (PV)/Barbara Wei (PV)
2: Diana Li (FL)/Sarah Zheng (FL)
3: Cindy Li (PV)/Halona Ng (FL)

Under 16 Boys
1: Michael Shao (PV)/Han Xiao (PV)
2: Khaled Asgarali (PV)/Charles Fan (PV)
3: Michael Terao (PV)/Raghu Nadimiche (PV)
4: Mike Caplan (NY)/Jiayi Hao (NJ)

Under 16 Girls
1: Katherine Wu (PV)/Chao Wang (PV)
2: Arianne Mah (GA)/Melissa Feliciano (PR)

Under 18 Boys
1: Jared Lynch (IN)/Mark Hazinski (IN)
2: Eli Kahn (IN)/Andrew Cochran (IN)
3: Roger Abbott (PV)/James Duan (PV)
4: Joseph Podvin (MN)/Cory Eider (MN)

Under 18 Girls
1: Elaine Kwok (PV)/Dana Huang (PV)
2: Shuai Chen (FL)/Jane Li (FL)
3: Sherron Geng (PV)/Louise Giam (PV)

Under 22 Boys
1: Pan Lin (NY)/Carlos Colon (PR)
2: Michael Fan (PV)/Michael Squires (PV)
3: David Landry (AL)/Stephen Wahn (AR)

JOEL FARRELL AWARDS

Male: Eric Finklestein
Female: Katherine Wu

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

1: Mark Hazinski
2: Kathy Wang
3: Tom Yost & Han Xiao

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001
Yao Xu swept all the Under 14 Boys’ events, playing Eric Finkelstein in both Singles finals, winning Doubles with Wei Fan, and Teams with Wei, Eric Ma and Duncan Chou. In game above, down 14-3 in first of Under 14 Nationals, Yao would get to 19 before losing to Finkelstein, but win the next two games.

Junior Olympics continued from page 38

**DAY TWO**

The first day of the tournament had run like clockwork, ending with the day’s medal ceremony. On Friday, after a good night’s sleep, the same cast of characters came together to contest the USATT Junior National titles. Welcome assistance at the control desk was provided by volunteers David and Sheri Terao, just when the flood of matches was at its crest.

Today there would be no Copper medals, but a pair of Bronzes for the Semifinalists, with all the events played as Single Elimination. While a complete list of category winners follows, some situations and matches deserve special notice.

In Boys’ U-10, Preston Chin reversed the previous day’s outcome against Marcus Jackson in a real barnburner of a Final, 21,20. Marcus also added a Silver in the next age group up, the U-12, playing a three-gamer with Andrew Lin, who held on to double his Jr. Olympic Gold. Jennifer Mast stepped up to a Silver in the Girls’ U-12, and pushed Julia Lisova to the limit (19,20) in their final.

Yao Xu and Eric Finkelstein again went Gold/Silver in the Boys’ U-14, but this time it took three games to settle the issue in Yao’s favor, 19,10,16. The Boys’ U-16 was a very crowded field. Silver medallist Michael Shao had to get past Finkelstein in the Quarters (11,22,19) and Charles Fan in the Semis (8,16) to reach Han Xiao in the Final. Han (9,14) took the Gold and gave Maryland a solid sweep of the category as Asgarali and Fan shared Bronze.

A quintet of Maryland Women swept the U-16, U-18 and U-22’s. In the U-16 the order was Katherine Wu, Elaine Kwok, Sherri Geng and Kathy Wang. In the U-18 it was Katherine Wu, Kathy Wang, Elaine Kwok and Dana Huang. In the U-22 it was Elaine Kwok, Kathy Wang, Katherine Wu and Dana Huang. (I told you they would meet a lot!) And then they all ran off to talk about whatever Junior National Champions talk about.

Early in the Boys’ U-18 (aka ‘Who Can Stop Mark?’), Casey McLeod pulled off a fine upset of Michael Shao, 22,17. In the next round he extended Finkelstein (-12,8,13) in a fine pair of matches. Khaleel Asgarali derailed James Duan ,11,18,14, but Jared Lynch ends his run, 18,17. Cory Eider needed three to dispatch Finkelstein, 9,-21,15. for the right to meet Hazinski in the Semis. (If you only lose to one player, you’ve still had a good tournament, right?) Meanwhile, Han Xiao is on cruise control until he finds Jared Lynch in his Semi-final match. Lynch takes the first game to deuce, but no further, and drops the second at 13, leaving Han and Mark to settle the last ques-

Continued on page 46

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Scenes From The Macy Block Open


USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001
A Macy Block Open
PITTSBURGH, PA • AUGUST 18-19, 2001 • BY LARRY HODGES

Somehow, in what may be the last major USA tournament with games to 21 points, many of us expected the final to be between Mike Obeyode and Mark Hazinski. They were the top seeds at 2588 and 2575, and Mark had recently been in the mid-2600s. In contrast, 5-time U.S. Men's Singles Champion Dan Seemiller was less thought of as "Player" Dan Seemiller; he was now "Coach" Dan Seemiller. Mark Hazinski's 20:

2588 and 2575. and Mark had recently had trouble with that," Dan said of his 19, 19, 17 win over Mike in these semifinals. right?

Barney J. Reed is usually in the 2550 range, but with a recent string of not-so-good tournaments (the let-down that happens after the Worlds), he'd seen his rating drop to 2453. So he too would be happy to make the semifinals, right?

The all-lefty final was decided in the first game. in fact possibly by one point. Leading 16-15, Barney got stuck off the table, and did a "funny lob," i.e. threw the ball up with sidespin, with a fast side-to-side motion with his racket to disguise the spin - the type of thing that works with 1800 players. It's doubtful if Dan has ever missed against this shot in his career - but he misses the easy smash! Barney leads 17-15, then 20-17. Dan pulls to 20-19. Then Barney serves a topspin ball, and Dan loops off.

"I knew it's topspin!" Dan yells.

"I knew he knew it was coming - he's my coach!" Barney exclaims.

From there on, it was all Barney and his two-winged looping game as he coasted to a 19, 12, 12 win. (See Interview with Barney in this issue.)

Although entries were a bit down this year, the tournament was once again run very well, with the Seemiller clan and Chip Coulter (he's really a Seemiller anyway, isn't he?) once again putting together a fine event.

Eight players won or were in the finals of two or more events
- Abass Ekun (Under 2500 and Open Doubles, Over 40 Finalist)
- Mark Hazinski (Under 22 and Under 18, Open Doubles Finalist)
- Dan Seemiller (Over 40 Champion, Open Singles & Doubles Finalist)
- David Lau (Under 2125 and Over 50)
- Khaleel Asgarali (Under 2000 and Under 16)
- Julian Waters (Under 1875 and Under 2500 Doubles)
- Kevin Ma (Under 13 Champion, Under 1350 Finalist)
- Andy Seto (Under 3500 Doubles, Under 1675 Finalist)

Curiosity #1: Only one of these double-winners/finalists (Kevin Ma) were among the "Big Ratings Gainers" at the Macy Block - in fact, only 4 of the 16 "Big Rating Gainers" made the final of an event.

Curiosity #2: While Dave Williams was gaining 92 points, father C.J. Williams was losing 92 points (1309 to 1217). All in the family? The family that wins together loses together? For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction? Equilibrium?

### Big Rating Gainers at the Macy Block!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Finish</th>
<th>Gain Finals</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guruprakash Radhakrishnan</td>
<td>1297</td>
<td>1622</td>
<td>325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wally Narcum</td>
<td>1298</td>
<td>1593</td>
<td>295</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Scarnato</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>243</td>
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<td>Richard Moss</td>
<td>1032</td>
<td>1216</td>
<td>184</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jimmy Taylor</td>
<td>1212</td>
<td>1394</td>
<td>182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorin Petroj</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>2139</td>
<td>178</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rong Xu</td>
<td>1289</td>
<td>1467</td>
<td>178</td>
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<td>Benjamin Hines</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>1022</td>
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<td>Alex Pan</td>
<td>934</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malcolm McDonald</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>991</td>
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<td>Kevin Ma</td>
<td>1144</td>
<td>1283</td>
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<td>Dale Klobusnik</td>
<td>1251</td>
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<td>Chin Shiek</td>
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<td>David Ott</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Abbott</td>
<td>1686</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave Williams</td>
<td>1646</td>
<td>1738</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open Singles – Final: Barney J. Reed d. Dan Seemiller, 19,12,12; SF: Reed d. Mark Hazinski, 3-1; Seemiller d. Mike Oyebode, 19,19,17; QF: Reed d. Abass Ekun, 3-1; Dan Seemiller d. Vijay Madhavan, 3-0; Hazinski d. Lee McCool, 3-1; Oyebode d. Randy Seemiller, 3-0; QF: Reed d. Abass Ekun, 3-1; D. Seemiller d. Vijay Madhavan, 3-0; Hazinski d. Lee McCool, 3-1; Oyebode d. Randy Seemiller, 3-0.


U2500: Abass Ekun d. Randy Seemiller, 14,16.


U1675: Saiibul Chakraborty d. Andy Seto, 2-0.

U1500: Bob Cox d. Hafeng Zhang, 16,12.

U1350: Chin Shiek d. Kevin Ma, 2-1.

U1200: Ron Howard d. Jennifer Mast, 2-0.

U1000: Alex Pan d. John Scarnato, 13,17.

Over 40: Dan Seemiller d. Abass Ekun, 14,16.

Over 50: David Lau d. Dave Sakai (default - injury).

Over 60: Neil Myers d. Paul Miller, 2-0.

Over 70: Khaleel Asgarali d. Jared Lynch, 10,8.

Under 16: Khaleel Asgarali d. Michael Shao, 2-1.


Junior Olympics continued from page 43

ion. Even the AAU organizers find seats to see this battle. “The ball sounds different when these guys hit it,” they observe. Mark takes the first at 18, loses the second at 19 and wins the category, 17 in the third. Eider and Lynch share bronze.

In the Under 22, Jared Lynch is unceremoniously shoved aside in the Eighths by Thomas Yost, 12,18, in a fine upset win. Michael Shao refuses that fate, downing Yost in the Quarters, to make the ‘Final Four’ Han Xiao, Mark Hazinski, Cory Eider, and himself. Han goes through Michael, 6,14 and Mark beats Cory 13,8. (If you only lose to one player...)

So again, Xiao and Hazinski. This time, Han takes the first, but can’t get back there as for the second time in a day. Mark (-22,18,18) finishes strong and tough against his friend and rival.

Once again the music plays, the medals are hung and the parents and coaches applaud. But there is no rest for the weary (who’s weary? Where do these kids get the energy?) as tomorrow brings the third and concluding day of competition, the Junior Teams Championship.

DAY THREE

Again, I had to be impressed with the enthusiasm and good sportsmanship of the juniors as they began play against each other for the third straight day. By golly, if you didn’t know better, you’d sweat... Who won the match? I have no idea. Our official score sheet shows different scores. And that doesn’t matter in the least. Because they continue. “Is it okay if we finish?” the young man asks. There is nothing on the line. Parents are delighted when Han beats Eric and Pan Lin beats Fan in a nice three-gamer, 19 in the third. The tournament is nearly over. Nearly, but not quite. The last matches to actually be played went off just before the medal ceremonies, the Final of the Boys’ U-16 Teams.

PVA’s entry of Khaleel Asgarali, Michael Shao and Charles Fan face the NJ entry of Eric Finkelstein, Pan Lin and Jiayi Hao. Shao beats Eric and Pan Lin beats Fan in a nice three-gamer, 19 in the third. PVA takes the doubles to draw ahead 2-1. With no other matches being played, and the medal ceremonies still to come, parents are nervously glancing at their wristwatches and consulting their travel plans. It is decided to start the last two singles side by side, in case a fifth match is needed. Pan Lin delivers an 18-point first game win against Shao. Shao breaks back with 10 in the second game. Hsiao beats Charles Fan at 13 in their first game. Just as Shao beats Pan again (15 in the third to end the tie), Fan draws even to a game apiece in the now meaningless fifth match.

“That’s it, gentlemen!” I call out, with all the medals and order of finish decided. But amazingly (to me) Finkelstein and Fan wish to continue. “Is it okay if we finish?” the young man asks. There is nothing on the line. They have been playing for three straight days. But the sparkle in Eric’s eyes brings me up short. They love it. When all is said and done, they are playing because they love it. And this, the final moment of the AAU Junior Olympics is the one that I will always remember most vividly. Who won the match? I have no idea. Our official score sheet shows no third game score. And that doesn’t matter in the least. Because they played it out of sheer joy. And that is what matters most.
21ST UNIVERSITY GAMES
Beijing, China
August 23-29, 2001

Men's Teams – Final: China d. China Taipei, 3-0; Li Guozheng (CHN) d. Su Tianhao (TPE), 24,11; Wang Liqin (CHN) d. Chuang Chi-Yuan (TPE), 18,-18,8; Liu Guoliang (CHN) d. Guo Zhong (CHN), 6,8,9,6: SF: Wang Liqin (CHN) d. Su Tianhao (TPE), 24,11; Wang Liqin (CHN) d. Chuang Chi-Yuan (TPE), 18,-18,8; Liu Guoliang (CHN) d. Guo Zhong (CHN), 6,8,9,6.

Women's Teams – Final: Korea d. Taiwan, 3-0; Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Lii, Guorheng, 20,9; Lee Young Kim (KOR) d. Chitang Chi-Yuan, scored 10 in a row before losing 21-19. SF: Korea d. Taiwan, 3-0; Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Lii, Guorheng, 20,9; Lee Young Kim (KOR) d. Chitang Chi-Yuan, scored 10 in a row before losing 21-19.

Men's Doubles – Final: Wang Liqin/Tie Yana (CHN) d. Lin Kuo Jiao/Chen Chieh Wei (TPE), 9,12,6,9; Men's Doubles – Final: Wang Liqin/Tie Yana (CHN) d. Lin Kuo Jiao/Chen Chieh Wei (TPE), 9,12,6,9; Women's Doubles – Final: Kim Bok Rae/Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Wang Xi (CHN), 9,12,6,9; Women's Doubles – Final: Kim Bok Rae/Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Wang Xi (CHN), 9,12,6,9.

2001 USA TABLE TENNIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS


Men's Singles – Final: Park Soon Pil (KOR) d. Lee Seung Hoon (KOR), 8,15,12,9,8; Men's Singles – Final: Park Soon Pil (KOR) d. Lee Seung Hoon (KOR), 8,15,12,9,8; Women's Singles – Final: Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Ryu Ji Hye (KOR), 8,9,5,6; Women's Singles – Final: Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Ryu Ji Hye (KOR), 8,9,5,6; Women's Doubles – Final: Kim Bok Rae/Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Wang Xi (CHN), 9,12,6,9; Women's Doubles – Final: Kim Bok Rae/Kim Kyung Ah (KOR) d. Wang Xi (CHN), 9,12,6,9.

2001 KOREAN ITTF PRO TOUR
Seoul, Korea
September 17-21, 2001

Men's Singles – Final: Kim Tae Kook (KOR) d. Lee Ceul Sung (KOR), 7,7,12,8; SF: Kim d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), -9,9,3,10,8; Lee d. Zhan Jian (CHN), -6,5,5,10,8; SF: Kim d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), -9,9,3,10,8; Men's Singles – Final: Kim Tae Kook (KOR) d. Lee Ceul Sung (KOR), 7,7,12,8; SF: Kim d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), -9,9,3,10,8; Lee d. Zhan Jian (CHN), -6,5,5,10,8; SF: Kim d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), -9,9,3,10,8.

Women's Singles – Final: Yue Yoko (JPN) d. Niu Jianfeng (CHN), -6,15,9,6,8; Women's Singles – Final: Yue Yoko (JPN) d. Niu Jianfeng (CHN), -6,15,9,6,8; Mixed Doubles – Final: Wang Liqin/Tie Yana (CHN) d. Park Soon Pil/Jyeon Hee Hwa (KOR), 2-0; Mixed Doubles – Final: Wang Liqin/Tie Yana (CHN) d. Park Soon Pil/Jyeon Hee Hwa (KOR), 2-0.
FAIRFIELD JULY OPEN
Fairfield, California • July 28, 2001
Open: 1st Kingston Gee; 2nd Mike DeWynter.
U2100: 1st Kingston Gee; 2nd Scott Gordon.
U1800: 1st Asia Fong; 2nd Joe Bedrena.
U1650: 1st Joe Bedrena; 2nd Donovan LeDoux.
U1500: 1st Cecilia Chang; 2nd Donavan LeDoux.
U1350: 1st Steve Perry; 2nd Ruben Quevedo.
U950: 1st Dennis Liu; 2nd Justin Sloan.

FAIRFIELD SEPT. CLASSIC
Fairfield, California • September 15, 2001
Open: 1st Russ Hamilton; 2nd Shuja Jafar; 3rd James Therriault.
U1800: 1st Trevor Runyan; 2nd Jim Bjornsson.
U1600: 1st Trevor Runyan; 2nd Tom Evans.
U1400: 1st Mike Young; 2nd Ruben Quevedo.
U1200: 1st Fumi Christensen; 2nd Erika Pugh.
U1000: 1st James Ma; 2nd Justin Sloan.
U800: 1st Anton Plake; 2nd Nat Foster.

KANSAS EARLY SUMMER CLASSIC
Wichita, Kansas • June 23, 2001
Class A: 1st Christian Lillierees; 2nd Yufei Xiao; 3rd Dennis Prather; 4th Richard Catlin.
Class B: 1st Guy Hendrickson; 2nd Les Ruthven.
Class C: 1st Nancy Hill; 2nd Kasey McDowell.
Class D: 1st Vladimir Obrosov; 2nd Charles Rucker.
Class E: 1st Steve Stark; 2nd Peter Chung.
U3600 Doubles: 1st Christian Lillierees/Steve Stark; 2nd Guy Hendrickson/Aaron Hendrickson.

THREE RIVERS FALL OPEN
Fort Wayne, Texas • September 15, 2001
Open: 1st Mark Hazinski; 2nd Robert Powell & Jared Lynch.
Open Doubles: 1st Mark Artman/Mark Nordby; 2nd Mark Hazinski/Jim Lynch.
Elite Over 2100: 1st Mark Hazinski; 2nd Robert Powell.
U2100: 1st Ivan Mast; 2nd Dave Skrzypek.
U1950: 1st Jim Repasy; 2nd Eric Leventhal.
U1800: 1st Jim Lynch; 2nd Darrel Austin.
U1600: 1st Amanda Dubina; 2nd Alex Kotlyar.
U1400: 1st Jordan Mitchell; 2nd Nicole Lyon.
U1200: 1st Jordan Mitchell; 2nd Jennifer Mast.
Recreational Open: 1st Ricky Reid; 2nd Lai Quoc Tan.
Recreational Under 16: 1st Willy deVilliers; 2nd Tess Petersen.
U3600 Doubles: 1st Tom Dannenfelser/Dirk Petersen; 2nd Denizl Flemming/Nicole Lynch.

OZARK OPEN
Springfield, Missouri • June 2, 2001
Open: 1st Rick Seller; 2nd Dale Boswell; 3rd Carl Miller; 4th George Taplin.
Open Doubles: 1st Carl Miller/George Taplin; 2nd Dale Boswell/Toby Kiser; 3rd Zafar Khan/Paul Liu; 4th Bill Hall/Rex Burks.
Over 50: 1st George Taplin; 2nd David Christiano; 3rd Paul Liu; 4th Richard Medley.

LAKE HAVASU OPEN
Lake Havasu, Arizona • Sept. 15-16, 2001
Open Singles: 1st Tuan Le; 2nd Loc Ngo; 3rd Rudy Miranda.
Open Doubles: 1st Tuan Le/Loc Ngo; 2nd Attila Malek/Nick Mintsiveris.
Women’s Singles: 1st Huiping Fuschino; 2nd Jane Magnas.
Hardbat: 1st Rudy Miranda; 2nd Nick Mintsiveris.
U2100: 1st Simon Potaychuk; 2nd David Rubin.
U1900: 1st Robert Bryantner; 2nd Marc Quigley.
U1750: 1st Marc Quigley; 2nd Tony Gumataotao.
U1600: 1st Josh Kuhn; 2nd William Cooper.
U1500: 1st Josh Kuhn; 2nd Franz Schaver.
U1400: 1st Alex Crane; 2nd Todd Crane.
U1300: 1st Todd Crane; 2nd Cyril Mika.
U1150: 1st Todd Crane; 2nd Jane Magras.
U1000: 1st Maria Cassidy; 2nd Hsiang Kiang.
Unrated: 1st Morgan Gavish; 2nd Debbie Trudell.
Over 40 Singles: 1st Gia Lev; 2nd David Rubin.
Over 40 Doubles: 1st Ralph Stadelman/David Rubin; 2nd Nick Mintsiveris/Huiping Fuschino.
Over 60 Singles: 1st Ragnar Fahlstrom.
Over 60 Doubles: 1st Roger Balder/Vince McMenary; 2nd H.B. Barlow/Shih Lin.
Draw Doubles: 1st Roger Balder/Marc Quigley; 2nd Bernard Savitz/Viktor Troppman.
U9500 Doubles: 1st Roger Balder/Marc Quigley; 2nd Bernard Savitz/Viktor Troppman.
U2800 Doubles: 1st Abe Crane/Todd Crane; 2nd Cyril Mika/Lin Lu.

WILLoughby Hills GIANT RR
Willoughby Hills, Ohio • Sept. 8-9, 2001
Open: 1st Tuan Le; 2nd Samson Dubina; 3rd Tom Yost.
U1850: 1st Steve Slaback; 2nd Fumio Yoshikawa.
U1650: 1st Damian Koteczki; 2nd Everett Hall.
U1500: 1st Amanda Dubina; 2nd Bob Sajovec.
U1000 A: 1st Huixiong Zhang; 2nd Aaron Thompson.
U1000 B: 1st Ormond Brathwaite; 2nd Jeremy Bernard.
U1000 C: 1st Jim Newman; 2nd Viral Patel.
U1000 D: 1st Charlie Kilfoil; 2nd Kevin Kilfoil.

DAVISON AUGUST OPEN
Daveison, Michigan • August 25, 2001
Open: 1st Dave Skrzypek; 2nd Ivan Popov.
U2200: 1st Dave Peradotto; 2nd Dave Skrzypek.
U2050: 1st Dave Skrzypek; 2nd Dave Peradotto.
U1950: 1st Suzana Badea; 2nd Yang Meng.
U1850: 1st Miron Eugene; 2nd Sid Stewart.
U1650: 1st Miron Eugene; 2nd Stefan Mitro.
U1500: 1st Mike Monahan; 2nd Daniel Black.
U1350: 1st David Witt; 2nd Jeff Tomsa.
U1250: 1st John Anderson; 2nd Mike Monahan.
U1050: 1st Daniel Markus; 2nd Joey Yashinsky.
U1000: 1st Jordan Friedman; 2nd Joey Yashinsky.
Under 18: 1st Myuysr Dweckat; 2nd Suzana Badea.
U3600 Doubles: 1st Suzana Badea/Muysr Dweckat; 2nd Ivan Popov/Daniel Rapoport.

CAN-AM TABLE TENNIS OPEN
Alexandria Bay, New York • June 30, 2001
Tournament Director Greg Walsh awards check to Open Winner Harry Hawk.
Open: 1st Harry Hawk; 2nd Brian Pollard; 3rd Bruce Holck; 4th Gary Sherwood.
Class A: 1st Tom Nil; 2nd Greg Walsh; 3rd Bill Lawless.
Class B: 1st Bill Armstrong; 2nd Kevin McBeth; 3rd Scott Owe.
Class C: 1st David Bartlett; 2nd Jason Pfotenher; 3rd Vernon Auk.

MARYLAND CIRCUIT
Eldersburg, MD • August 11-12, 2001
Open: 1st Julian Waters; 2nd Dominique Mantelli.
Over 40: 1st Julian Waters; 2nd Mark Davis.
Under 18: 1st Alan Giam; 2nd Jesse Wasserman.
U2100: 1st Dominique Mantelli; 2nd Julian Waters.
U1900: 1st Steve Hochman; 2nd Julian Waters.
U1700: 1st Yvonne Kronlage; 2nd Phil Sarris.
U1500: 1st Peter Zombori; 2nd George Williams.
U1300: 1st George Williams; 2nd John Zydel.
U1100: 1st Tom Huff; 2nd Michael Todd.
U900: 1st Robert Fuller; 2nd Tung Phan.
U3000 Doubles: 1st Steve Hochman & Sujoy Deb; 2nd Cathy & Julian Waters.

MARYLAND CIRCUIT
Eldersburg, MD • September 8-9, 2001
Open: 1st Steve Hochman; 2nd Julian Waters.
3000 Doubles: 1st Yvonne Kronlage/Rick Martin; 2nd Steve Hochman/Sujoy Deb.
Over 40: 1st Julian Waters; 2nd Donnie Lee.
Under 18: 1st Jeremiah Tsang; 2nd Jesse Wasserman.
U2100: 1st Julian Waters; 2nd Khaleed Asgarali.
U1900: 1st Julian Waters; 2nd Jason Cao.
U1700: 1st Salbal Chakraborty; 2nd Yvonne Kronlage.
U1500: 1st Rick Martin; 2nd Sujoy Deb.
U1300: 1st William VanWright; 2nd Gary McCona.
U1100: 1st Robert Fuller; 2nd William VanWright.

COLUMBIA AUGUST GIANT RR
Columbia, South Carolina • August 18, 2001
Class A: 1st Sven Mestchen; 2nd Dwain Dick; 3rd Gerald Singleton; 4th Joey Drolet.
Class B: 1st Mike Dukes; 2nd Corey McElveen.
Class C: 1st Derek Czarnocki; 2nd Doyle Dye.
Class D: 1st John Pahl; 2nd Ernie Powell.
Class E: 1st Michael Yip; 2nd B.N. Collie.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001
### DECATUR OPEN

Decatur, Alabama • August 18, 2001

**1-R: Co-Tournament Director Michael Wetzel, Open Winner Sean O’Neill, Open Runner-up Tai Long Tey, Co-Tournament Director Walt Chernault.**

**Championship Division:** 1st Sean O’Neill 2nd Tai Long Tey 3rd-4th Keith Evans & Kwazi Didi DeSouza 5th-8th Soon Chian Lim, Donny Flowers, Todd Rose, Richard McAfee.

**Class AA:** 1st Johnny Billy 2nd Barry Putman 3rd-4th Richard Bartelt & Joseph Mozur.

**Class A:** 1st Steve Sebastian 2nd Michael Louis 3rd-4th Tracy Hancock & Preston Chin.

**Class BBB:** 1st Shelby Lane 2nd Peter Sourinthon.

**Class BB:** 1st Ed Griffin 2nd John Pollard.

**Class B:** 1st Raja Rapaka 2nd Morgan Tang.

**U900/Novice:** 1st Robert Carmack 2nd Cathy Waters.

**TOURNAMENT DIVISION**

**13 & Under Co-ed Singles**
- Gold - Michael Tu (Carmel)
- Silver - Uday Kumar (Carmel)
- Bronze - David James (Rossville)

**Under 1500 Co-ed Singles**
- Gold - Mike Maloyvanni (Indianapolis)
- Silver - George Adrian (Indianapolis)
- Bronze - Brian Kuchas (Bargersville)

**Under 2000 Co-ed Singles**
- Gold - Jerry Marcus (Mooresville)
- Silver - Alan Grubbo (Indianapolis)
- Bronze - Ohuwole Ayagande (Indianapolis)

**17 & Under Male Singles**
- Gold - Chris Hromas (Indianapolis)
- Silver - Michael Tu (Carmel)
- Bronze - David James (Rossville)

**18-45 Male Singles**
- Gold - John Riley (Lanesville)
- Silver - Jin Lu (Carmel)
- Bronze - Jon Bradford (Greenwood)

**46 & Over Male Singles**
- Gold - Richard Hicks (Indianapolis)
- Silver - Alan Grambo (Indianapolis)
- Bronze - Larry New (Bedford)

**Female Singles**
- Gold - Marie Petty (Indianapolis)
- Silver - Kathy Brader (Indianapolis)
- Bronze - Carl Bleke (Greenwood/Indianapolis)

**Male Doubles All Ages**
- Gold - Tom Cox/Larry New (Mitchell/Bedford)
- Silver - Carl Bleke/Aaron Ehlers (Greenwood/Indianapolis)
- Bronze - Earl Baute/Robert Sluder (Columbus/Columbus)

**FLORIDA STATE CLOSED**

Orlando, Florida • August 25-26, 2001


**Women’s Singles:** Beata Wronska d. Danuta Andrzezewska, 11,10.

**U2200 – Final:** Rafael Flores d. Hector Rodriguez, 17,13,19; SF: Flores d. Michael Arkhangelsky, 17,14; Rodriguez d. Richard Ciz, 16,15.

**U1950:** Mark Herbert d. William Maisonet, 15,15.

**U1800:** Eric Penny d. Steve Rigo, 19,19,19.

**U1650:** Jason Leim d. Robert Hoffman, 17,11.

**U1500:** Sam Phan d. Philip Sweeting, 17,19.

**U1300:** Zach Nas d. Jane Li, def.

**Over 40 – Final:** Bin-Hai Chu d. Carlos Estrada, 17,12; SF: Chu d. Jim Beckford, 15-16,17; Estrada d. Dickie Fleisher, 18,19.

**Over 50 – Final:** Steve Federico d. Jim Beckford, 16,17,16; SF: Federico d. Tommy Jenkins, 17,18; Beckford d. Ray Look, 17,17.

**Under 18 – Final:** Casey McLeod d. Andrew Lin, 20,15; SF: McLeod d. Diana Li, 20,18; Lin d. Sarah Zheng, 14,9.

**Under 13:** Andrew Lin d. Sarah Zheng, 19-16,10.

**LATTAT CORNER**

**From LATTAT Public Relations**

Amidst all the sadness and rage from the 9-11 Tragedy, the Los Angeles Table Tennis Association (LATTAT) conducted the first-ever election for a new president. A total of 41 players came and cast their votes. This is totally unprecedented. The forty-plus players represent a third of the total number of players in Los Angeles. Considering the busy lifestyle of everybody in LA, and the fact that our Election Day was on Sept 11, just five days after the tragic attacks in New York and Washington DC, this is a miracle. Democracy hasn’t died, not even shaken.

The elected new president of LATTAT is Mr. Binky Lee, a player in the Los Angeles area for fifteen years. Binky is an engineer and a scientist by profession. In his two-year term, Binky hopes to raise enough funds for the club to rent a larger facility with better playing conditions for the players. Prior to the election Binky was the main supporter of the Youth Program in LATTAT, a program with the goal of producing national level players of the future.

**MDTTC OPEN**

Gaithersburg, MD • October 6-7, 2001

**U2300 – Final:** Michael Leshinsky d. James Duan, 8-9,6,6,8,9; SF: Leshinsky d. Lixin Lang, 9,5-10,6,11-7; Duan d. Charlene Xiaoijing Liu, def.

**U1900:** John Anderson d. Saibul Chakraborty, 6-8,9,6,10,9.

**U1800:** Fui Utkash d. Saibul Chakraborty, 9-7,7-6.

**U1500:** Orlando Russell d. Joseph Wang, 8-9,11-20,9.

**U1200:** William Wang d. David Tom, 1-8,11,6.

**U900:** Anmeresh Sahu d. William Wang, 9,9,5.

**OPEN DIVISION**

**Male Singles**
- Gold - Gold - Richard Hicks (Indianapolis)
- Silver - Mark Brader (Indianapolis)
- Bronze - Craig Teegarden (New Palestine)

**Male Doubles**
- Gold - Bob Petty/Tyronn Petty (Indianapolis/Rossville)
- Silver - Jerry Marcus/W-K. Yeh (Mooresville/Greenwood)
- Bronze - Gary Dodge/Kris Pangburn (Jeffersonville)

**Female Singles**
- Gold - Arlene Yeh (Indianapolis)
- Silver - Cindy Marcus (Mooresville)
- Bronze - Melody Ang (Indianapolis)

**Mixed Doubles**
- Gold - Cindy Marcus/Richard Hicks (Mooresville/Indianapolis)
- Silver - Nicole Lynch/Tom Dannenfelser (Indianapolis/Greenwood)
- Bronze - Cris Armstrong/David Noeker (Cambridge City/Richmond)

**60 & Over Co-ed Singles**
- Gold - Bob Petty (Indianapolis)
- Silver - Jerry Marcus (Mooresville)
- Bronze - Carl Bleke (Greenwood)

**USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001**
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<tr>
<th>BALL MACHINES</th>
<th>USATT Approved Equipment</th>
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**RUBBER**

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**USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE** November/December 2001
USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • November/December 2001
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Alpha Products (1)

California Table Tennis (2)

Diego Schaaf

Sydney Asser

Hong Kong, PA 94550

Phone: 800-500-5057

Web: www.alphatabletennis.com

(Avonax Rubber)

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<th>Hallmark Table Tennis Ltd. (5)</th>
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<td>Demarth, Vale of Glamorgan</td>
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<td>CFE #4 2WN ENGLAND</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.hallmarkt.com">www.hallmarkt.com</a></td>
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California Table Tennis (2)

1367 Berkeley Place

Livermore, CA 94550

Phone: 800-521-1507

Web: www.catabletennisco.com

(Armstrong and Andron Rubber)

To be continued

In Memoriam:

MARY “JEAN” KENNEDY

By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

“Jean” Kennedy, former wife of longtime USATT Executive Committeeman George “Gus” Kennedy, died at her daughter Colleen’s home in Tucson, Arizona, July 3, 2001, of pancreatic cancer.

In the late 1950’s and early 60’s, Jean worked at Dayton’s Department Store in Minneapolis, where at the age of 21 she was an Assistant Buyer. Pretty and shapely, she was named “Miss Dayton” of 1960, and rode the store’s float in that year’s Aquatennial parade. After leaving Dayton’s and marrying Gus, she gave birth to a son Roger and then a daughter Colleen, nicknamed “Muffin.”

As Minneapolis promoter Charlie Disney rose to become USATT President, and Gus came to prominence inter leaving Dayton’s and marrying Colleen, she became more and more helpful in assisting them at all levels of table tennis work.

All those who remember Jean’s industry and cheerfulness will, I’m sure, want to offer their sympathy to her family and friends.
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.
## TOP MEN
1. WA 2829 Fan, Yi Yong
2. MD 2770 Cheng, Yinghua
3. IL 2713 Lupulesku, Ilija
4. CA 2660 Nguyen, Khoa Dinh
5. TX 2638 Owens, Eric
6. NY 2637 Musa, Manda Ganiyu
7. NJ 2631 Zhuang, David
8. CA 2629 Racz, Dezso
9. TX 2594 Butler, Jim
10. IN 2565 Hazinski, Mark
11. GA 2565 Oyebode, Michael
12. CA 2548 Gabriel, Santiago
13. TX 2522 Reed, Barney J
14. NY 2521 Reed, Jasna
15. TX 2511 Butler, Mike
16. IN 2511 Seemiller, Daniel
17. GA 2510 Polski, Stefan
18. TX 2500 Butler, Jon
19. CA 2500 Malek, Attila
20. MD 2500 Xiao, Han
21. PA 2500 Moseley, Kibibi lone
22. CA 2499 Malek, Attila
23. CA 2471 Chang, Jun Gao
24. CA 2470 Huang, Yao Xi
25. NY 2469 Butler, Mike
26. CA 2468 Hu, Hua
27. CA 2467 Ng, Joanne
28. CA 2466 Wu, Wei Yang
29. CA 2465 Khasanova, Alina
30. CA 2464 Gabriel, Freddie
31. CA 2463 Wu, Wei Yang
32. CA 2462 Gabriel, Malcolm
33. CA 2461 Wu, Wei Yang
34. CA 2460 Wu, Wei Yang
35. CA 2459 Wang, Chao
36. CA 2458 Wang, Chao
37. CA 2457 Wang, Chao
38. CA 2456 Wang, Chao
39. CA 2455 Wang, Chao
40. CA 2454 Wang, Chao

## TOP WOMEN
1. MD 2611 Chang, Jun Gao
2. TX 2500 Reed, Jasna
3. CA 2471 Chang, Jun Gao
4. CA 2470 Huang, Yao Xi
5. NY 2399 Sung, Virginia
6. OR 2333 Yang, Enerys
7. CA 2288 Moseley, Kibibi lone
8. MO 2276 Bosi, Miri
9. NJ 2263 Yip, Lily
10. CA 2231 Zhao, Hong
11. CA 2217 Lee, Jacqueline
12. CA 2207 Do, Michelle
13. CA 2189 Sun, Angela
14. PR 2155 Garcia, Enerys
15. IL 2108 Wu, Katherine
16. CA 2103 Ping, Whitney
17. FL 2062 Wronska, Beata
18. TX 2042 Alejo, Blanca
19. CA 2032 Kwok, Elaine
20. CA 1998 Bastrzyk, Marta
21. OR 1988 Ping, Emily
22. MD 1986 Kyakobye, June
23. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
24. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
25. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
26. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
27. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
28. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
29. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
30. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
31. CA 1985 Huang, Yao Xi
32. NY 1907 Kaler, Natalie
33. MD 1904 Liu, Charlene Xiaoying
34. KS 1903 Hill, Nancy
35. OR 1902 Watson, Heather Hua
36. TX 1878 Roufeh, Manin
37. CA 1872 Seibel, Allison
38. CA 1869 Kamenisky, Barbara
39. CA 1859 Smallwood, Barbara
40. CO 1855 Leach, Laura

## Tournaments Included in Ratings
- 2001 DFW TT Summer RR
- 2001 Springfield Table Tennis Open
- 2001 Seattle Open
- The 2001 OH TT Team Championships
- Grand Canyon State Games
- Hoosier State Games TT
- Pensacola Summer Open
- Schaumburg Open
- 2001 Kansas Early Summer Classic
- 2001 CSCCA Open
- Glen Park Open
- Georgia State Games

David Wolgin, USA Under 10 #1 Marcus Jackson, and Jonathan Wolgin show what they think of table tennis!

It was David's 9th birthday, and to celebrate he and his brother came to watch the Stiga Open.
<table>
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**USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE**

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**USA Table Tennis**

**Tennis Tournaments**

November 3-4 - NJTTC November Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly. Phone: 732-828-3511. Atlanta96@msn.com. ★★★

November 3-4 - Stiga Pacific Rim Open, Portland, OR. Contact: Sam Ignazzitto. Phone: 503-653-0946. petcne@webtv.net. ★★★★

November 10-11 - Maryland November Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage. Phone: 410-489-7291. (0 Star)

November 11 - Columbia November Open, Columbia, SC. Contact: Francis Kovach. Phone: 803-755-0071. (0 Star)

November 17-18 - Potomac Open, Potomac, MD. Contact: Lixin Lang. Phone: 301-963-1009. lang@helix.nih.gov ★★


November 17-18 - Champions November Open, Eldersburg, NY. Contact: Edmund Suen. Phone: 917-932-8710. rhmayer@delos.net. ★★

November 17-18 - Outpost Open, Mesa, AZ. Contact: Robert Rudell. Phone: 602-649-8113. toutingotl@aol.com. (0 Star)


December 1-2 - Maryland December Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage. Phone: 410-489-7291. (0 Star)

December 8-9 - NJTTC December Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly. Phone: 732-828-3511. Atlanta96@msn.com. ★★

December 8-9 - Friends of Ping Pong, Houston, TX. Contact: Robert Mayer. Phone: 713-932-8710. rhmayer@delos.net. ★★

December 8-9 - Boston TTC December Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus. Phone: 617-492-4317. tournaments@bostonttc.com web: www.bostonttc.com (0 Star)

December 17-23 - US National Championships, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: USA Table Tennis. Phone: 719-578-4583. tournaments@usatt.org, www.usatt.org. ★★★★★

January 5-6 - Boston TTC January Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus. Phone: 617-492-4317. tournaments@bostonttc.com web: www.bostonttc.com (0 Star)


February 2-3 - Orlando Winter Open, Orlando, FL. Contact: Olga Soltész. Phone: 407-830-4009. ★★

February 16-17 - NJTTC February Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly. Phone: 732-828-3511. Atlanta96@msn.com. ★★

February 16-17 - Boston TTC February Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus. Phone: 617-492-4317. tournaments@bostonttc.com web: www.bostonttc.com (0 Star)

March 2-3 - Rochester Giant RR, Rochester, NY. Contact: Jeff Koch. Phone: 716-964-7243. mrjkoch@aol.com ★★

March 16-17 - Buckeye Open, Columbus, OH. Contact: Steve Slaback. Phone: 614-899-1415. ssslaback@comumbus.rr.com. ★★★★★


---

**2001 PRO TOUR VIDEOS**

**A TOP LEVEL WORLD EVENT AT THE U.S. OPEN IN FORT LAUDERDALE**

As last year, Alpha Productions, in association with USATT, has produced a three-tape set of videos of this magnificent tournament. The set contains footage covering the Pro Tour finals, semi-finals as well as some earlier round matches. Each tape is two action packed hours long.

**TAPE A:** Werner Schlager (AUT) - Allan Bentzen (DEN)
FanYiyong (USA) - Jaromir Truska (SVK)
Oh Sang Eun (KOR) - Johnny Huang (CAN)
Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL) - Danny Heister (NED)
Liu Guozheng (CHN) - Jean-Michel Saive (BEL)

**TAPE B:** Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) - Tasaki Toshiro (JPN)
Johnny Huang (CAN) - Werner Schlager (AUT)
Liu Guozheng (CHN) - Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL)
Chuan Chi-Yuan (TPE) - Johnny Huang (CAN)

**TAPE C:** Chiang Peng Lung (TPE) - Slobodan Grujic (YUG)
Timo Boll (GER) - Oh Sang Eun (KOR)
Niu Jiafeng (CHN) - Umemura Aya (JPN)
Liu Guozheng (CHN) - Johnny Huang (CAN)

$25.00 EACH OR $65.00 FOR THE SET + $3.95 shipping

PACKAGE DEAL: 2000 AND 2001 video sets : $110.00 + $6.45 shipping:
1- 800-500-5057 or order on-line at
www.alphatabletennis.com
Western Open

SAN DIEGO, CA • SEPT. 1-2, 2001 • BY ALAN WILLIAMS

The 11-point Era Begins

San Diego has emerged as possibly the brightest, most progressive Table Tennis City in the United States, thanks to the energetic and well-organized efforts of the SDTTA and the enlightened city government that built the Balboa Park Activity Center dedicated to badminton and table tennis. So it was with great pleasure that NATT returned to the city for the second annual Western Open.

With double last year’s participation, 220 players met the entry deadline. The SDTTA’s volunteers and NATT staff took 30 STIGA Expert Rollers from box to floor in less than 17 hours, with bleachers, barriers, banners and walkways set for play. Adding to the pending excitement, the venue was awash in campaign literature as incumbents and candidates for USATT offices ‘pressed the flesh’ throughout the weekend. As if that was not enough, Escalade Inc, STIGA Sweden and The Table Tennis Pioneers chose this weekend, this city, to hold their semi-annual STIGA marketing meeting. We watched with pride as TTP President Mitch Rothfleisch personally escorted STIGA’s Swedish President Mats Bandstigen, and the four representatives of Escalade Sports: President Dan Messmer, Executive Vice-Presidents David Jensen and Phil Piccolo, and Marketing Manager John Hetzel to courtside seats for the Open Finals.

How ironic that the San Diego Union-Tribune chose that morning to run a photo of the tournament’s only Swedish entrant, Robert Hallquist, above their page two story, an article that attracted an additional 300 non-playing spectators to see the Open Singles contests. Even Tournament Referee Linda Hsing got into the media act, pulling in reporters from the World Journal, a nationwide Chinese language newspaper. Yet with all this fanfare, hoopla and buzz, it was a different issue that occupied the thoughts of NATT officers as Saturday dawned, for this was to be the very first Four-Star American tournament to use the new ITTF 11-point game, in the ITTF recommended ‘best of seven games’ format.

Computer wizards Zachary Sng and Fong Hsu had no trouble converting NATT’s tournament software to allow 11-point games and 9-game matches, but it was ‘Terra Incognita’ as to what impact the new format would have on table scheduling and tournament timing. The subject of intense Internet debate for weeks, the Western Open was planning best of seven game matches for every match of the tournament, expanding to best of nine for the Open Singles Quarterfinals and beyond.

Many had expressed a loathing of a ‘three of five games’ format, counting the number of points and comparing it to the ‘old’ best of three to 21. But reality proved to be as grim as feared, when the first matches went out at 9AM on Saturday morning. Up to 45 minutes per contest per table were being consumed. The ‘acid test’ of real tournament management was now upon NATT as the carefully plotted table assignments and schedules diverged from the trickle of clipboards returning to the control desk. By 10:30 AM, the event was 90 minutes behind schedule and a knot was growing in our stomachs. The NATT ‘perfect record’ of on-time performance was gone, and worse, was lost in front of a crowd of officials and industry heavyweights.

Ever flexible, Fong and Zach hurriedly scanned table assignment charts and rerouted matches and groups of players to tables as they became available. By noon, the tournament was back on schedule. But as each large category of Round Robins went out, the deficit would reappear. In the entire 26 hours of play, they never left the control desk as they waged war against time, righting the tournament and bringing it home at 8PM on Sunday night. The understanding participants were easy on us, fully aware that we all were going ‘where no one had gone before.’ Together, the players and organizers of the Western Open began a new era in the history of the sport.

Our efforts were rewarded by the outstanding play of the entrants as they showed that no matter what format you use, Table Tennis is an excitement, a fever and a joy. Certainly there was joy for the Crane family when brothers Todd and David made the finals of the U-1200. Likewise, the Leach clan was pleased when Laura Leach won the Girls U-16 to bookend John Leach’s U-13 triumph over Sergey Gutkin. (See profile of Laura and John in this issue.)

Alina Khasanova came close to a World high jump record on the final point of her upset victory over Lon Dean, enroute to a runner-up finish to Oliver Lei in the U-2000. Ramin Samari was the tournament ‘iron-man’ advancing deep into several events, winning the U-1400. Likewise, the Leach clan was pleased when Laura Leach won the Girls U-16 to bookend John Leach’s U-13 triumph over Sergey Gutkin. (See profile of Laura and John in this issue.)

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It was the ‘Boys from Indiana’ sharing the laurels in the Men U-18, with Mark Hazinski relegating his friend Jared Lynch to second, and Hazinski again in the U-22 with a 6-game victory over teammate Ashu Jain. But the match that had people talking was Kibibi Moseley’s shocking upset of Michelle Do in the Women’s Singles Final, decisively 2,6,7,10. “I was ready to play,” the modest Moseley said afterwards.

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The Final 2001 NATT Stop

The fifth and final stop on the 2001 Stiga North American Tour, the four-star Stiga Open in Newark, Delaware, featured great play, a strong turnout and flawless tournament operation. Despite recent anxieties about travel, more than 200 participants from Florida, Canada, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and we are very pleased to say, Manhattan, produced some of the best match play of the year. NATT ended the 2001 season on a strong note with this outstanding event.

Tournament President Richard Lee had expected the players to like the venue, a four-basketball court sized gym in the Carpenter Sports Building of the University of Delaware, a building the students call ‘Little Bob.’ Wooden floors, good lighting and 28 Stiga Expert Rollers surrounded by barriers gave good conditions for play. Tournament Director Fong Hsu presided over a flawless time schedule. The decision to play best of five in the RR’s and best of seven in the SE proved to match up ideally to the 2 of 3 to 21 and 3 of 21 time frames. With the help of sponsors Table Tennis Pioneers, About.com and Senoda, Inc., with Tournament Referee Terry Bell checking the draws, the tournament was up and ready to run on Saturday, September 29th, 2001.

A strong field of challengers for the nearly $3,000 in Open Singles prize money included a large Canadian contingent. With experienced coaching and impeccable manners, the Canadians were both a force to be dealt with and a welcome addition. They showed their impact on the coaching and impeccable manners, the Canadians were both a force to be dealt with and a welcome addition.

The Asgarali duo, father and son Nazruddin and Khaleel, also had reason to celebrate as Khaleel won the U-2125 and placed second to Gary Gudzenko in seven games for the Over 60 crown. Defeating Gary Gudzenko in seven games for the Over 60 crown.

The “Canadian Effect” was felt immediately when Mathieu Raymond reached the Final of the U-2500 event on Saturday morning, posting a hard-fought win over Keith Evans along the way. His opponent for the final was Paul David. Paul is a player who can run hot and cold, but he was definitely hot in Delaware, ousting Xiao in the Semis and defeating Raymond four straight by identical scores of 8. Close, but no cigar for the clearly disappointed Mathieu.

No such disappointment for the Canadians in the Open Doubles, where two teams from ‘Up North’ met in the final. On one side, the brilliant juniors Bence Csaba and Faazil Kassam, and on the other, Wonder Women Petra Cada and Marie-Christine Roussy battled it out for the title and cash. This was an outstanding match in which four players, thoroughly familiar with each other, displayed flawless form and movement. Student spectators were attracted, of course, by the tall, blonde athlete Cada, and her elfin teammate, but they soon were swept into the drama of the game, and superficialities forgotten.

The women took a commanding 3-1 lead, 9-6, 5, 10 and Bence and Faazil had their backs to the wall. The anti-spin and pips-out backhand blocks of the women had frustrated the boys’ powerlooping approach. With wicked precision, they sideblocked to the center of the table, denying the angles for sweeping loop attack. Csaba’s powerful backhands and Roussy’s effective service return had the men talking to themselves. Faazil had special trouble with service return in the first four games, and it seemed the Wonder Women were going to close out the match in five. With no room for mistake, and no backing off in their approach, Csaba and Kassam kept the pressure on. Long rallies of power shots and ‘do or die’ break points resulted in a sweep of the last three games, 9, 9, 6 to send the steel-eyed Cada and her partner to defeat.

Petra also gave us a Women’s Singles to remember. Matched with New Jersey’s Wang Chen, Cada dropped the first two games, 12, 5, at which point Wang seemed to have her measured. But Cada is a fierce competitor and stung Wang at 4 and 9 to even the slate. A deep breath for Wang Chen and 9, 5 she took the lioness’s share of the Women’s money.

Open Singles

As at all the other Stiga Tour events, the top 12 players, by rating, received byes to a second-stage Round Robin on Saturday afternoon. The other entrants played through Saturday morning Round Robins and single elimination matches to determine the four ‘D’ seeds in the second stage groups. That resulted in the following group of 16 that began the chase for $1,500 first place money and the title, ‘Stiga Open Champion.’

Group 1: David Zhuang, Abass Ekun, Petra Cada, Paul David

By this was by far the most bizarre Open Round Robin of the Tour. Abass

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In Open Singles, Kibibi also became a qualifier, set to join the ‘Second Stage Round Robin’ on Saturday afternoon. As at the other North American Tour Stops, the top 12 entrants in the Open were seeded into three Round Robin groups. The rest of the field played a series of RR and SE matches to select the four Qualifiers that would join them in pursuit of the $2,950 in prize money offered in the event.

In addition to Ms. Moseley, the first woman to clear an NATT Open qualifier, Thomas Plaisted, Hiroyuki Hikawa and Ramin Samari made the cut. Two players would advance from each group to play Sunday’s Quarterfinals.

**Group 1**

**Fan Yiyong, Francisco Mendez, Tuan Le, Kibibi Moseley**

Fan, as expected, dominated his opponents with straight game victories to finish 3-0. When Le and Moseley both defeated Mendez, (Kibibi at 13-11 in the 7th game!) it left the second position up to a head to head meeting between the two. Tuan snared the 5th and 6th games, and 8,7, to join Fan in the Quarters.

**Group 2**

**Pradeeban Peter-Paul, Attila Malek, Ian Levi, Thomas Plaisted**

Here Canadian Olympian Peter-Paul was dominant, dropping no games as he finished 3-0. Plaisted managed to take a pair of games from Malek, but dropped in straight games to Levi to make the pivotal match the Malek-Levi match. Malek’s heavy spin game left Ian shaking his head more than once, as seemingly innocent returns proved to be loaded landmines. After splitting the first four games, Attila punched his ticket to the Quarters with 9,10 fifth and sixth game wins the group’s best match.

**Group 3**

**Mark Hazinski, Ashu Jain, Kevin Au, Hiroyuki Hikawa**

Both Au and Hikawa managed to nick Hazinski for a game, but he easily advanced, 3-0. When Ashu defeated both of them 4-1, Au and the footsore Hikawa agreed to default the irrelevant sixth match. Mark and Ashu go forward, as the 1 and 2 seeds, respectively.

**Group 4**

**Barney Reed Jr., Sean O’Neill, Jared Lynch, Ramin Samari**

Ramin Samari had worked hard to make the group and was determined to make the most of his opportunity. He managed a game from Barney, but really put O’Neill through the blender with a six-game struggle, -7,8,9,10,7,6,7,8,3, Sean prevailing. Jared Lynch had less luck, losing to both Barney and Sean in straight games, although he twice pushed Barney to 8 points. Jared and Ramin shook hands on the now meaningless default as Sean and Barney advanced. But the Barney-Barney match still had a lot of importance. The winner would be guaranteed the bottom half of the QF draw, a maximal distance from Fan. The loser could still be flipped into Fan for the QF, a position no one wanted. This was a war. Sean won the first two at 7, and Barney took the third at 7 also.

The all-important fourth game went to O’Neill at 16 (!) giving him a commanding 3-1 lead in the best of seven. But Barney has lifted his game in the past month, and set for a possible match. 5,10,2 fought off deuce in the sixth and wins the #1 position.

**Quarterfinals**

The Quarters, in accordance with the players’ request, became a best of 9 format.

These are pivotal matches in the ‘money picture,’ with the losers getting a mere $50 and the winner guaranteed 500% of that for reaching the Semis.

**Fan vs. Malek:** Is all Fan, a straight-game triumph. Attila was gracious and realistic about the match. “Fan is much younger than I am, and he’s playing great. I cannot be expected to win against him today. Too much, too much.”

**Hazinski vs. O’Neill:** Sean’s punishment for finishing second in his group is to meet Mark in Fan’s half of the draw. Mark goes in front 6,7, but Sean wins the third at deuce. Hazinski goes in front 3-1 but loses the fifth to a determined O’Neill. Youth is served when Mark (6,7) closes the match in 7 for a 5-2 win.

**Peter-Paul vs. Jain:** Leading 2-1 after three, Ashu seems on course to eliminate the Canadian, but Pradeeban does not yield another game, 10,5,6,8, to make the Semis.

**Reed vs. Le:** Tuan is determined to show that Reed is not taking the ‘easy route.’ He fights back to tie the match at two each, 6,10 in the third and fourth games. He never quits as Barney finds three in a row, 8,7,9.

**Semifinals**

**Fan vs. Hazinski:** The large and vocal crowd is clearly on Fan’s side, but when Mark wins the second game at 9, a murmur of appreciation for his work is heard. But it’s all he can muster as Fan goes (6,9,8,3,5,6) for the jugular. The scores belie the quality of the play as Mark did ‘whatever it took’ to stay in the point, often roaming the full court and countering from the barriers against the dominant player in the country.

**Peter-Paul vs. Reed:** Barney is confident, eager to counter his Eastern Open loss to Peter-Paul in July. He’s had a great tournament, winning the U-2500 and his RR group in the Open. But Peter-Paul again has his number and leads 2-0 (7,6). Barney exerts himself and gets to deuce in the third game, clearly hoping to turn the tide. When Pradeeban prevails at 12, the wind goes out of Reed, and he leaves in straight games (2,4). From the look on Barney’s face it is clear that he did not come here to be third, but third is what he gets.

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**Final NATT Tour Points (Top 50)**

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Ekun defaulted all three of his matches. David Zhuang defeated Cada, 3,4,5,6. Then Paul David, the U-2500 winner, shocked the world with a straight game victory over Zhuang, 8,7,9,12. David’s victory whoop echoed off the gym walls as a disgusted DZ flung his racket into his gym bag. This year’s tour has been tough on Zhuang, losing first to Cheng Yinghua in the Semis at the Murad, and then to Musa in the semi at the Eastern Open. With all this prize money available, Zhuang had only laid claim to two $250 finishes. Now Cada muddies the picture completely by defeating Paul David, 11,7,8,12. Three players stand 1-1. Totaling the points scored and allowed, David Zhuang finishes first, Paul David finishes second, and despite an equal match and game record, Petra Cida stays behind.

Group 2: Pradeeban Peter-Paul, Barney Reed, Renata Peluchova, Han Xiao

Peter-Paul has been a delight throughout the Tour, and displays his mastery with straight game wins over Han Xiao (9,8,10,6) and Peluchova (8,9,7). Reed defeats Renata 6,8,3,3,11, but in the process turns an ankle and is forced to withdraw from both this event and the Open Doubles, where he and Musa had hoped to be ‘in the money’. That makes Renata’s match with Han determinative for the second slot. It takes all seven gaines, but (2,-8,8,-6,-5) Peluchova beats Han to advance in a match where one end of the table was apparently luckier than the other.

Group 3: Bence Csaba, Alexis Perez, Keith Evans, Anson Bispham

Bence Csaba is an outstanding junior, winning both the U-18 and U-22 events in straight games against Han Xiao. In fact, as the #3 seed in the Open Singles there were more than a few people in the room who hoped to see a breakthrough win for him and an Open Singles title. He’s looking good through this group, defeating Evans (5,6,7,10) and Bispham (9,8,9,7). Anson puts up a strong fight with Perez, but bows out. Keith Evans likewise cannot solve the creative and powerful Perez, 6,7,7,-10,9. Evans grants Bispham the default in a now meaningless match. No such understanding between Perez and Csaba, however, as each wants to avoid being the second seed and flipped against Zhuang or Peter-Paul in the Quarters. It’s an exciting match between two players filled with fire. Bence loses the first game at 7, but manages a 13-11 victory in the second. Perez absolutely swamps him in the third game, 11-1. Csaba makes it two apiece, but drops the fifth game at 2, placing himself in a dangerous position. But as in the doubles final, Bence plays well with his back to the wall and (9,7) relegates Alexis to second in the group.

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Final: Fan Yiyong vs. Pradeeban Peter-Paul

A rematch of the Eastern Open Semifinal, Pradeeban is playing now in front of his sponsor, a month later and a coast away. But Fan reminds him quickly that his attention needs to be at the table, 3,3,6, snapping backhand winners, seemingly at will. Is it a late surge by Peter-Paul or Fan’s desire to hold spectator interest that leads to the 11,11 fourth and fifth games? Again, as he did at the Murad and the Eastern, Fan has dominated the field, laid claim to the $1,500 first place money and the title. He clearly deserves to be the 2001 Western Open Champion.

Now only the STIGA Open in Newark, Delaware remains for the 2001 Tour, and the still unanswered question, can anyone deprive Fan Yiyong of a Tour Title? At this point, it seems unlikely. But that is why we play the games.

Western Open Results

Open Singles – Final: Fan Yiyong d. Pradeeban Peter-Paul, 3,3,6,11,11; SF: Fan d. Mark Hazinski, 6,9,8,5,3,6; Peter-Paul d. Barney J. Reed, 7,6,12,2,4; QF: Fan d. Attila Malek, 3,4,7,2,1; Peter-Paul d. Ashu Jain, -4,7,-6,10,5,6,8; Reed d. Tuan Le, 9,9,6,10,8,7,9; Hazinski d. Sean O’Neill, 6,5,10,6,6,7.

Women: Kibibi Moseley d. Michelle Do, 2,6,7,10.

Over 40: Mark Wedret d. Rodel Valdoria, 9,10,9,8.

Over 50: Bill Ukapatayakon d. David Sakai, def.

Over 60: Ragnar Fahlstrom d. Leon Ruderman, 2,2,3,4.

Under 22 Men: Mark Hazinski d. Ashu Jain, 5,9,10,5,9,6.

Under 22 Women: 2* Michelle Do; 2nd Alina Khasanova.


Under 16 Boys: Oliver Lei d. Auria Malek, 3,8,4,5,1.

Under 16 Girls: 1st Laura Leach; 2nd Atha Fong.


Under 13 Girls: 1st Lani Lea; 2nd Atha Fong.

U2500: Barney J. Reed, d. Sean O’Neill, 7,9,10, -10,5,8.

U2375: Tuan Le d. Ramin Samari, 16,9,9,9,9,9.

U2250: Ramin Samari d. Courtney Roberts, 7,8, -7,16,6.

U2125: Don Kim d. Auria Malek, 5,5,6,8,7.


U1850: Hugh Lu d. Jerry Li, 6,9,5,9,9,9.


U1550: Larry Beatty d. Bob Chew, 11,10,12,8.

U1400: Josh Kuhn d. Earl James Alto, 4,9,10, -13,6,8.

U1200: Todd Crane d. Jeff Crane, 4,9,6,8,7.

U1000: John Kiang d. Sang Mai, 4,9,9,3.

U800/Novice: 1st Richard Kim; 2nd Katie Poon.

Hardbat: Ashu Jain d. Fernando Valencia, 6,5,8,8.


U3200 Doubles: Escobar/Beatty d. Ramirez/ Zhang, 6,9,4,9,6.
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Group 4: Atanda Musa, Wang Chen, Faazil Kassam, John Wetzler

Faazil displays great heart, but is eventually over-powered by the ‘Pride of
Manhattan,’ Atanda Musa, 8,-8,9,7,-6,9. Likewise, Kassam has no quit against Wang
Musa in a nail-biter, Wang winning -10,10,10,10,7. Whew! Faazil takes a five-
gamer over Wetzler, 8,-6,8,5,9 to finish with a 1-2 record. John Wetzler just can’t seem to
get the blocks down on the table to finish points against the top two seeds, and yields
to Musa (9,10,6,5) and Wang (9,5,6,4). Musa completes his 3-0 record (9,8,8,9) over Wang
Chen, and the Quarterfinal field is set.

Quarterfinals

Peter-Paul vs. Paul David: Pradeeban can’t take the match lightly; knowing Paul is
carrying yesterday’s win over Zhuang in his pocket. He tries to reinforce the status quo from
the beginning of the match. Peter-Paul is leading 3-0 (4,5,7) when Paul David withdraws due
to injury, an injury that also causes him to
default his U-2375 Final later in the day.

Musa vs. Perez: These two know each other well, but that doesn’t diminish the quality of play in a spectacular match. Musa takes the early lead, going up 2-0 in the best of nine games.
Perez searches for ways to drag Musa wide out to the forehand and then incinerate a winner
down the opposite line, but the athletic Musa shows great court coverage. When Alexis man-
gages to create an 11-8 third-game win, Atanda strikes back. Trailing 3-10, Perez sends a wide and high sidespin loop into Musa’s FH court which somehow, incredibly, tracks down and
flat-hitting, sends a winner around the net post
which he somehow, incredibly. tracks down and
pens his U-2375 Final later iii the day.

Peter-Paul vs. Musa: No holds barred. No rest for the weary, either, as Musa straight
from the Over 40 Final enters single combat with the Canadian Olympian. It’s a barrier-
crashing all-out battle from the start, Musa winning the first 11-7, and losing the second
15-13! ‘Yes!’ shouts Pradeeban, but Musa returns the favor with a 13-11 deuce game
victory of his own. After five games, Peter-Paul trails 3-2. ‘It’s as close as he’ll get,’ Musa
wins the sixth game, 11-9, and at 11-1 in the seventh game, Peter-Paul can’t find the crucial
point. Both players left everything on the
court, in an astounding match.

Final: Zhuang vs. Musa

At the Eastern Open, David had been dispatched in this same match-up in the semifinals.
Musa has not lost a match in this hall all weekend. DZ has had months to contemplate this re-
encounter, and he has evidently put them to good
use. He does not allow Musa’s BH attack to
penetrate in the 6th, losing at 1. Musa makes
an 11-8 victory in the fourth game, but
Musa has got to be one of the most exciting players in the country, and however, and he (11-7) makes one last rush at the big check. But
(5,8,4) David has conquered doubt, Wang Chen,
Bence Csaba and now Atanda Musa in landing
that big fish that has been getting away all year.
This time, the Zhuang family leaves with smiles,
finally over-powered by the ‘Pride of
Manhattan,’ Atanda Musa, 8,-8,9,7,-6,9.

Zhuang vs. Csaba: David is looking for a convincing win here to right his floundering
course through the event. For Csaba, a voyage
of discovery as he attempts to deal with the penhold blocks and flat-hitting forehand of the U.S. Men’s Singles Champion. David finds Csaba a straightforward opponent, and
(11-4,11-6) controls Csaba’s loops with the
devastating blocking-off-the-bounce game he is famous for. When Csaba settles in com-
fortably against serve, DZ unveils something new, and aced the junior. 11-5, 11-5, Csaba is on the verge of elimination. But a consulta-
tion with his coach, and Csaba tries a new tact.
Now his loops and counters contain more sidespin and move DZ away from his com-
fortable table positions. It’s too little too late, however as 14-12, DZ has reached the Finals
through troubled waters.

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court, in an astounding match.

Final: Zhuang vs. Musa

At the Eastern Open, David had been dispatched in this same match-up in the semifinals.
Musa has not lost a match in this hall all weekend. DZ has had months to contemplate this re-
encounter, and he has evidently put them to good
use. He does not allow Musa’s BH attack to
penetrate in the 6th, losing at 1. Musa makes
an 11-8 victory in the fourth game, but
Musa has got to be one of the most exciting players in the country, and however, and he (11-7) makes one last rush at the big check. But
(5,8,4) David has conquered doubt, Wang Chen,
Bence Csaba and now Atanda Musa in landing
that big fish that has been getting away all year.
This time, the Zhuang family leaves with smiles,
finally over-powered by the ‘Pride of
Manhattan,’ Atanda Musa, 8,-8,9,7,-6,9.

Zhuang vs. Csaba: David is looking for a convincing win here to right his floundering
course through the event. For Csaba, a voyage
of discovery as he attempts to deal with the penhold blocks and flat-hitting forehand of the U.S. Men’s Singles Champion. David finds Csaba a straightforward opponent, and
(11-4,11-6) controls Csaba’s loops with the
devastating blocking-off-the-bounce game he is famous for. When Csaba settles in com-
fortably against serve, DZ unveils something new, and aced the junior. 11-5, 11-5, Csaba is on the verge of elimination. But a consulta-
tion with his coach, and Csaba tries a new tact.
Now his loops and counters contain more sidespin and move DZ away from his com-
fortable table positions. It’s too little too late, however as 14-12, DZ has reached the Finals
through troubled waters.

Peter-Paul vs. Musa: No holds barred. No rest for the weary, either, as Musa straight
from the Over 40 Final enters single combat with the Canadian Olympian. It’s a barrier-
crashing all-out battle from the start, Musa winning the first 11-7, and losing the second
15-13! ‘Yes!’ shouts Pradeeban, but Musa returns the favor with a 13-11 deuce game
victory of his own. After five games, Peter-Paul trails 3-2. ‘It’s as close as he’ll get,’ Musa
wins the sixth game, 11-9, and at 11-1 in the seventh game, Peter-Paul can’t find the crucial
point. Both players left everything on the
court, in an astounding match.
Laura Leach, 15, and John Leach, 12, from Erie, Colorado, are making a name for themselves by moving up the junior table tennis circuit at a rapid pace. This sister and brother dynamic duo, rated 1855 and 1899 respectively, is vastly becoming a force to be reckoned with among their opponents. They first started playing table tennis in 1997 when their father, Chris, bought a table. Chris was a former tennis champion in high school and had the desire to indulge in a similar game on a smaller scale. Laura said, "We just loved the game. Competing against each other was so fun we couldn't stop."

The tandem gained a deeper understanding for the sport of table tennis from National coach Dana Jeffries from July 1997-99. Coach Jeffries' style of coaching enabled them to work on mastering strokes, spin, long pips, and gaining strong strategic management. Then Laura and John changed coaches and took instruction from their father Chris, who strengthened their mental toughness. In 2001, Francisco Mendez, a 9-Time Mexican National Champion, started coaching Laura and John in April. "Francisco has us train 3 days a week, incorporating running and lifting weights into the regimen, but we both hit 6 days a week," Laura said. Mendez places a great emphasis on the importance of the loop, and the strategy of the sport. Although cardiovascular and physical fitness play a large role in the equation, attention to detail is his strongest quality.

On Wednesdays, they frequent the Boulder Table Tennis Club to play practice matches. While at home, John and Laura become consummate practice partners because there aren't any other juniors playing in the area at their level. On Sundays, the Aurora Table Tennis Club has become their home away from home, as they spend an hour and a half taking weekly lessons from Zhang Li, a former World Champion. Li works on Laura and John's footwork and topspin loops and adds needed weapons to their arsenal.

They are both currently without a sponsor. John and Laura both use a Bside blade. Laura feels comfortable with Sriver FX on both her forehand and her backhand. John also likes the Sriver FX backhand, but prefers the Bryce forehand. Laura is convinced her rating is not that big of an issue at this time due to the fact she is working on skills that should raise her rating in the months to come. Her main focus is dedicated to working on looping, which she says has been a difficult transition. John is also dedicated to improving his skills for the future. He makes an effort to continuously work on the motion and movement of the spin, which he feels, will cause problems for opponents. John says he likes to play table tennis because "this game is real challenging ... The ball doesn't move like any other sport and there is always something to work on."

Laura and John are academically advanced for their age because they have the luxury of being home-schooled by their mother. John is accelerating through middle school, currently at the eighth grade level with science and math as his favorite subjects. Rapidly surpassing peers of her own age, Laura is scheduled to graduate high school in May. She plans on attending the University of Colorado next year to study engineering with a minor in finance, being that physics and math are her passion. Besides Laura and John, there are over 100 other home-schooled students in their surrounding area. They get together for various activities such as bowling, skating, and hiking in order to enjoy social interaction. Laura is very determined and one of her goals is to make the U. S. National Team within the next three years, and the Olympic Team in 2004 or 2008.

"I hold the Rocky Mountain Regional close to my heart because that is where I won two of the first three sanctioned table tennis events I ever played in."

John (namesake of the four-time Men's Singles Champion from the Hardbat days) has witnessed success of his own in 2001, rising to the cream of the crop to hold the #1 ranking among the Under 12 Boys' singles division in the Jan-Feb USATT Magazine. He won Under 13 Boys at the 4-star Western Open, propelling his rating upward. John has been working on different facets of his game, particularly in the defensive area. He feels blocking too much is an aspect holding him back in close, tight matches. John says, "I think my defensive spin technique has come a long way, and look for this move to be critical in my upcoming success. The hardest aspect about the new 11-point games is serving only twice and trying to get into a rhythm." John has his sights set on making the National team by 2004, and being on the Olympic team in 2008.

These two up-and-coming juniors have certainly found their rhythm within the table tennis community. Laura and John are very driven, goal-oriented individuals who look to succeed at whatever challenge crosses their path, and rest assured their impact on the game will be felt.
Interview with

Barney J. Reed

U.S. Team Member and Macy Block Open Champion
By Larry Hodges & Tahl Leibovitz • October 3, 2001

Age: 23
Club: Manhattan Table Tennis Club
Equipment: Stiga Clipper with Innova Rubber max.

How old were you when you started to play, and how did you start?
I don’t really know. Probably one or two years old. When I started my dad tied a ball to the end of a string, and hung it from the ceiling. As you hit it, it swung back and forth like a pendulum. I had to hit it every night before I went to sleep to learn a stroke. Then my dad cut the legs off a table and set it on crates. He would play me on his knees. I was able to hit fifty forehands in a row before I could count to fifty.

Who are your coaches when you started out? Who are your coaches now?
My first, and still my coach, is my father. [Editor’s note: that’s USATT Vice President Barney D. Reed. See middle initials – “D” is for Dad, “J” is for Junior.]

Who are your sponsors/supporters?
My parents, Newgy, Stiga and Manhattan Table Tennis Club (Jerry Wartski) and numerous friends who are always there for me. Without all of these people, reaching my goals in table tennis could not be possible.

Who do you practice with, and how often?
I practice between 4-6 hours six days a week. My practice partners are Newgy robot, Atanda Musa, Tahl Leibovitz, Lee McCool, Wang Chen, Jerry Wartski, Alexis Perez, Renata Pitravich and Wally Green (he is in Germany training now).

What are your major titles?
• 1997 U.S. National Under 18 Boys’ Singles Champion
• 1998 National Men’s Doubles Champion
• 1998 North American Men’s Doubles Champion
• 1998 Under 22 Men’s Singles Champion
• 4-time U.S. Team Member

Have you ever trained overseas? Where?
Yes. I’ve trained in China, Taiwan, Japan, Sweden, Croatia, England, Dominican Republic, Germany, so yes, basically everywhere table tennis is played seriously.

Who is your favorite player and why?
Waldner is my favorite player because of his innovation and anticipation of the ball. Also he has been on top for so long.

Outside of table tennis, what do you like to do? Hobbies, sports, etc.
I like playing basketball, running and working out. I like watching basketball.

Are you a full-time table tennis player?
Yes.

What are your table tennis goals? Both short-, intermediate- and long-term?
My short-term table tennis goal is to win the nationals. My intermediate goal is to be the #1 player in this country. My long-term goal is to be the first player in the United States to win a Medal in the Olympics for table tennis.

How about your non-table tennis goals?
Securing my future financially and emotionally. Also being able to share the beauty of life with my girlfriend.

Any advice for new players who would like to someday make the USA Olympic Team?
Train and work hard. No matter what you do never give up. You can always improve, if there’s a will there’s a way.

Anything else you’d like to say?
I want to thank all my fans and supporters that have stood by me over the years and believed in my goal of becoming the best table tennis player I can be.
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