STIGA technology creates tomorrow's blades for you today: Carbo OverSize.

On demand from players wanting a very fast blade with maintained maximum touch and feel, STIGA is now launching the STIGA Carbo OverSize blade, a blade with a completely new construction technology. The total numbers of layers is 13 (7 wood and 6 carbon), the microscopical carbon layers have been placed between each veneer. The total hardness of the carbon layers are as much as 66 degrees.

Ultra-thin, non-solid carbon layers with a total hardness of 66 degrees. Due to the construction of the layers they increase the speed of the blade without stopping the natural movement & resiliency of the wooden veneers.

The STIGA technicians have in this way evaded "the natural laws". Thanks to the innovative construction of Carbo OverSize, the speed is increased without allowing the carbon to stop the natural movement and resilience of the veneer layers.

The benefits are INCREASED POWER WITH EXTRA TOUCH AND FEEL.

A conventional carbon blade is based on five layers (of which two are carbon). This technique creates an extremely fast blade but with less touch and feel. Historically a fast blade has always sacrificed control until STIGA's Carbo OverSize breakthrough.

STIGA OverSize:
Extra speed
Extra stability
Increased touch and feel

Available From:
The Table Tennis Pioneers  Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464)
Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664)  ttpioneers@ping-pong.com
For All Your Stiga Blade Needs Visit ping-pong.com

STIGA® is a registered trademark of Stiga AB, Sweden
STIGA Expert Roller

Official Table of The 2001 STIGA North American Team Matches

Buy it Brand New Today for Only... $899.95

Super for Home, Institutional, Club, or Tournament Use!

1" Tournament Blue Top
Painted Stripes
Edge Banded
2 1/4" Wood Support Apron
Square Steel-Self Opening & Leg Construction- 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"
Made in U.S.A. by Escalde Sports
Wheel Casters 4" Ball Bearing

Others
Special Features...
Table Weight 332lbs
Folds Easily for Storage
Available in a Playback Feature
Includes STIGA Tournament Net and Posts
SUPER Heavy Duty Euro-Design chassis

This Fantastic Table Can Also Be Purchased Used* For Only INCLUDING SHIPPING $689.95

Note: If you pick up your table up in Baltimore, you get an Extra $75 OFF

GET YOUR TABLE RIGHT AFTER THE TOURNAMENT. BUT YOU HAVE TO BOOK NOW. THESE TABLES ARE GOING FAST.
HURRY UP AND RESERVE YOUR EXPERT ROLLER TODAY. THEY ARE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.

*These are the actual Tables used at the STIGA North American Team Matches.

Contact us today to reserve YOUR STIGA EXPERT ROLLER
Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464) Fax: 1-800 319-PONG (7664) ping-pong.com ttampions@ping-pong.com
Table of Contents

SPECIAL FEATURE:
2001 U.S. Open/ITTF Pro Tour ....................................................... 34-59
by Larry Hodges, Tim Boggan and Alan Williams

FEATURES:
11 Point Games Are Here! by Larry Hodges ................................. 9
Interview with Joe Krzys of “AmericasTeams” by Larry Hodges .... 22
First Time at the Worlds by USA Team Member Ashu Jain ...... 72
Changing Table Dimensions by Tim Boggan ............................. 80
Germany’s Olga Nemes by Tim Boggan ....................................... 84
Book Review: ITTF 1926-2001: Table Tennis Legends Review by Tim Boggan ............................. 85

TOURNAMENTS:
Special Feature: Tournament Row!
• $20,000 St. Joseph Valley Open by Dan Seemiller .............. 60
• Meiklejohn National Senior Open by Tim Boggan ......... 62
• NATT Tour Stop #2: Matthew Murad Memorial Open by Alan Williams .... 64
• NATT Tour Stop #3: Eastern Open by Alan Williams .... 66
• CancerQ Garden State Open by Larry Hodges ............ 68
• Coral Springs CCA U.S. Open Warm-up by Larry Hodges .. 69
• Dave Ramsey Memorial Open by Kamran Azimzadeh ..... 70
• Golden State Open by Dennis Lui .......................... 71

COACHING:
Heavyweight Table Tennis by Larry Bavly .......................... 80
The Beginner’s Series, Part IV: The Block by Larry Hodges ...... 81
Zhang Yining: Time for Anticipation by Wei Wang, Photo Sequences by Diego Schaaf ...................................................... 82

USATT AND OTHER NEWS:
President’s Report by Sheri Soderberg Pittman ........................ 10
Executive Director’s Report by Dwight Johnson ....... 12
Netserve by Tim Titrud ................................................ 12
They Said It! by Larry Hodges ........................................ 12
Letters (including letter from ITTF President Adham Sharara) ... 20
Officials’ View by Azmy Ibrahim ........................................ 24
Obituaries: Joe Bland and Jack Loth .................................. 24
Ye Holy Ratings by Fran Boardman ...................................... 72
Tournament Schedule ................................................................. 79

ON THE COVER: Liu Guozheng ©2001 By John Oros

USA Table Tennis Magazine
VOLUME 72, NUMBER 5

PUBLISHER
USA Table Tennis
One Olympic Plaza • Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-578-4583 (ph) • 719-632-8071 (fax)
www.usatt.org

PRESIDENT
Sheri Soderberg Pittman

EDITOR, DESIGNER & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Larry Hodges
13403 Demetrias Way • Germantown, MD 20874
240-686-0127 (ph) • 240-686-0128 (fax - call if busy)
ttworld@erols.com

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Margaret Smith • 719-578-4583 • usatt@iex.net

EDITORIAL BOARD
Tom Wintrich (Chair), Tim Boggan, Jim McQueen, Sheri Pittman, Dennis Taylor, Wei Wang

CONSULTANTS
John Oros, Julian Waters, Dave Williams

HEADQUARTERS STAFF
Dwight Johnson Executive Director
Margaret Smith Director of Operations
Debbie Doney Director of Programs
Al Prast Financial Manager
Fran Boardman Ratings Coordinator
Dawn Simon Administrative Coordinator
Kathy Stabler Administrative Assistant

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Kamran Azimzadeh, Larry Bavly, Tim Boggan, Larry Hodges, Azmy Ibrahim, Ashu Jain, Dennis Lui, Dan Seemiller, Tim Titrud, Wei Wang, Alan Williams

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Mal Anderson, Roger Brown, Larry Hodges, Sungill Kim, Tong Lee, Jyh-Han Lin, Joe Holman, John Oros, Jose Ransome, Diego Schaaf

PRINTER
Publications Printers, Denver, CO

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and other locations. USA Table Tennis Magazine (ISSN 1089-1870) is published bimonthly at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and is the official magazine of USA Table Tennis (USATT), a Class “A” member of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: USA Table Tennis Magazine, 200 USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5769. This publication is owned and published by USATT, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to supporting the sport of table tennis.

The views published within this publication are those of the contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the opinion of USA Table Tennis Magazine or USA Table Tennis. Similarly, the products and/or services included in this magazine are not necessarily endorsed by USATT.

Advertising inquiries may be directed to the editor. An advertising rate chart is available upon request, and at www.usatt.org/magazine/ad_rates.html.
Wants to give you $5000!

Have You Always Wanted The Best Equipment For Your Club But Could Not Get It?

NOW Stiga will make it possible!

Further Benefits:

Test Sets
All Stiga Clubs can test Blades & Rubbers absolutely FREE OF CHARGE. Test Sets are limited so reserve yours today!

Service
We offer The Best and Most Personalized Service Available in the Industry Today.

For Further Information About The Stiga Club Program, Contact Jack Now
e-mail: jacky@ping-pong.com  • 1-800-319-7464 ext.222  • Web: www.stigaonline.com/club
NEW Propel Tracksuit/Propel Shirt  XXS-XXXL  NEW Dodger Tracksuit/Dodger Shirt

NEW SBC Forte  409/m
NEW SBC Primorac  61/31# il
NEW H.S. Cryzer
NEW Kong Linghui Euro
NEW Primorac Slim

CALL BUTTERFLY  1 800 611 7712  YOU DESERVE IT
NEW Pips Brush

NEW Tackifire Special Soft

NEW Adhesive Film

NEW Osaka Towel

NEW Key Chains

NEW Timo Bolt Slim

NEW CN7

NEW Aeolus

NEW Repiaredo

NEW Spinart
The Best Robots at The Best Price Guaranteed!

TTmatic Present...

IN STOCK & READY TO GO!

TTmatic 500 & 500 B
New dimensions in robot training
The complete know-how of 25 years of table tennis robot production is built into this top machine. A clever remote control computer and a specially developed double head-system offer training perspectives which fill every table tennis professional with enthusiasm.

Satisfying all of your Robot Needs!

TTmatic 402 & 402 B
Incredible value!
$1499.95 (402)
$1589.95 (402B)

TTmatic 302
What a price!
$1274.95

SPECIAL until October 31st
FREE shipping + FREE Gross (144) of Stiga 3*** 40 mm balls + FREE Ball Bag
OVER A $150 VALUE

Made in Germany
2 YEAR GUARANTEE

Power Spin Tec
PST
Power and Spin can be adjusted independently from each other.

Available from The Table Tennis Pioneers • ping-pong.com or call 800-319-PING (7464)

The Table Tennis Pioneers & DONIC
ARE PROUD TO OFFER YOU THESE BRAND NEW...

BLADES Featuring IMPULS TECHNOLOGY
IMPULS BLADES offer superior acceleration, unmatched control, optimum weight, perfect sound, & highest durability.

Waldner IMPULS
WALDNER IMPULS 6.0
The complete allround blade among the IMPULS Blades
control 8+ speed 8+

WALDNER IMPULS 6.5
The power-allround version in the new IMPULS series
control 8 speed 8+

Persson IMPULS
PERSSON IMPULS 7.0
Blade for all offensive strategies. Extremely speedy
control 7+ speed 9+

PERSSON IMPULS 7.5
The climax of speed
control 7 speed 9+

SUPERSONIC S40
The soft-version of the new SUPERSONIC System of thicker sponges
control 6 spin 9+ speed 8+

SUPERSONIC M40
The medium version of the new SUPERSONIC System of thicker sponges
control 5 spin 9+ speed 9

NEW COPPA TAGORA
One of the most sensational innovations from Japanese rubber production in over 10 years! Ideal synthetic choice for offensive and allround players. Available in 2.1 and Maximum Thickness
control 7 spin 9 speed 7+

For all your Donic Needs, visit ping-pong.com or call 800-319-PING (7464)
The New Rules

11-Point Game Rules (Sept. 1, 2001 – Next Year)

2.11 A Game
2.11.1 A game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring 11 points unless both players or pairs score 10 points, when the game shall be won by the first player or pair subsequently gaining a lead of 2 points.

2.12 A Match
2.12.1 A match shall consist of the best of any odd number of games.

2.13 The Order of Serving, Receiving and Ends
2.13.3 After each 2 points have been scored the receiving player or pair shall become the serving player or pair and so on until the end of the game, unless both players or pairs score 10 points or the expedite system is in operation, when the sequence of serving and receiving shall be the same but each player shall serve for only 1 point in turn.

2.13.6 The player or pair serving first in a game shall receive first in the next game of the match, and in the last possible game of a double match the pair due to receive next shall change their order of receiving when first one pair scores 5 points.

2.13.7 The player or pair starting at one end in a game shall start at the other end in the next game of the match and in the last possible game of a match the players or pairs shall change ends when first one player or pair scores 5 points.

2.15 The Expedite System
2.15.1 Except where both players or pairs have scored at least 9 points, the expedite system shall come into operation if a game is unfinished after 10 minutes play or at any earlier time at the request of both players or pairs.

2.15.3 If the expedite system is introduced, or if a game lasts longer than 10 minutes, all subsequent games of that match shall be played under the expedite system.

3.4.4 Intervals
3.4.4.1 Play shall be continuous throughout a match except that any player is entitled to
3.4.4.1.1 an interval of up to 1 minute between successive games of a match;
3.4.4.1.2 brief intervals for toweling after every 6 points from the start of each game and at the change of ends in the last possible game of a match.

New Service Rule (Effective Sept. 1, 2002)
(The wording was only recently finalized)
The New Rule
2.6.5 When the ball is struck, no part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner shall be within the triangular area formed by the net and imaginary lines between the ball and the tops of the net posts, at a height where it could hide the ball from the receiver.

Whitney Ping Awarded Training Grant

Whitney Ping, of Beaverton, Oregon, was recently awarded a Women’s Sports Foundation Travel and Training Grant. A maximum of $2,000 can be awarded per individual. To qualify for the grant, the individual or team must demonstrate regional, national or international ranking or the potential for such a ranking. Whitney is currently ranked #2 in the U.S. in Under 16 Girls. She was among 38 athletes and 15 teams from 31 sports that were awarded grants this Spring. In the past 17 years over $1.1 million have been awarded to more than 240 teams and 890 individuals.

Applications for the 2001 fall grant program are available now by calling the Foundation at 800-227-3988 or online at www.WomensSportsFoundation.org.

Founded in 1974 by Billie Jean King, the Women’s Sports Foundation is a charitable educational organization dedicated to increasing the participation of girls and women in sports and fitness, and creating an educated public that supports gender equity in sport. The Foundation’s Participation, Education, Advocacy, Research and Leadership programs are made possible by individual and corporate contributions.

World Championships in the U.S.?

At the recent U.S. Open in Ft. Lauderdale, preliminary steps were taken to bring the 2005 or 2007 World Championships to the United States. USATT President Sheri Soderberg Pittman, Dave Sakai and Dan Seemiller met informally with representatives of the ITTF to discuss our desire to host the Worlds, and were favorably received. The USATT Executive Board has given verbal approval for Dave Sakai to head up the task force.

New 11-Point Games Are Here!

By Larry Hodges

As USA Table Tennis Magazine was about to go to press, the USATT Board of Directors voted to adopt the new ITTF 11-point game rules as of Sept. 1. The motion allows a grace period through Dec. 31 where tournament directors may use either format (11-point or 21-point games). It also states that the U.S. Nationals in December will use 11-point rules. The motion passed was as follows:

“All USATT-sanctioned tournaments played after January 1, 2002, shall follow the ITTF 11-point game rules. From September 1 to December 31, 2001, tournaments may utilize either 11-point or 21-point games, with the number of games per match (best of five, seven, etc.) specified for all the events listed on the entry form. The 2001 USA Table Tennis National Championships shall use 11-point games.”

Summary of the new 11-point rules
• Games are to 11 points; you still have to win by 2 points.
• Players alternate serves every two points until deuce (10-all).
• Tournament Directors may decide whether matches shall be best of five, seven, or whatever else they choose (just as they currently decide between best of three or best of five).
• Players may take a one-minute break between games (compared to the current two minutes)
• Players may towel off every six points (compared to the current every five points)

Whitney Ping Awarded Training Grant

Whitney Ping, of Beaverton, Oregon, was recently awarded a Women’s Sports Foundation Travel and Training Grant. A maximum of $2,000 can be awarded per individual. To qualify for the grant, the individual or team must demonstrate regional, national or international ranking or the potential for such a ranking. Whitney is currently ranked #2 in the U.S. in Under 16 Girls. She was among 38 athletes and 15 teams from 31 sports that were awarded grants this Spring. In the past 17 years over $1.1 million have been awarded to more than 240 teams and 890 individuals.

Applications for the 2001 fall grant program are available now by calling the Foundation at 800-227-3988 or online at www.WomensSportsFoundation.org.

Founded in 1974 by Billie Jean King, the Women’s Sports Foundation is a charitable educational organization dedicated to increasing the participation of girls and women in sports and fitness, and creating an educated public that supports gender equity in sport. The Foundation’s Participation, Education, Advocacy, Research and Leadership programs are made possible by individual and corporate contributions.

World Championships in the U.S.?

At the recent U.S. Open in Ft. Lauderdale, preliminary steps were taken to bring the 2005 or 2007 World Championships to the United States. USATT President Sheri Soderberg Pittman, Dave Sakai and Dan Seemiller met informally with representatives of the ITTF to discuss our desire to host the Worlds, and were favorably received. The USATT Executive Board has given verbal approval for Dave Sakai to head up the task force.

New 11-Point Games Are Here!

By Larry Hodges

As USA Table Tennis Magazine was about to go to press, the USATT Board of Directors voted to adopt the new ITTF 11-point game rules as of Sept. 1. The motion allows a grace period through Dec. 31 where tournament directors may use either format (11-point or 21-point games). It also states that the U.S. Nationals in December will use 11-point rules. The motion passed was as follows:

“All USATT-sanctioned tournaments played after January 1, 2002, shall follow the ITTF 11-point game rules. From September 1 to December 31, 2001, tournaments may utilize either 11-point or 21-point games, with the number of games per match (best of five, seven, etc.) specified for all the events listed on the entry form. The 2001 USA Table Tennis National Championships shall use 11-point games.”

Summary of the new 11-point rules
• Games are to 11 points; you still have to win by 2 points.
• Players alternate serves every two points until deuce (10-all).
• Tournament Directors may decide whether matches shall be best of five, seven, or whatever else they choose (just as they currently decide between best of three or best of five).
• Players may take a one-minute break between games (compared to the current two minutes)
• Players may towel off every six points (compared to the current every five points)
President’s Report
By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

Tournaments such as the U.S. Open present a wide range of opportunities to our members. Most participants enjoy the chance to prove themselves at the table, to watch the elite players in action and to catch up with old friends while making new ones. It is my duty and honor to represent our association. This month’s “association primer series” focuses on the behind-the-scenes work that I typically do as USATT president.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

It is my responsibility to see that all logistics are delegated properly so that the event runs smoothly and reflects positively on our association. Thanks to the great cooperation by everyone — including the tournament staff, the USATT participants and the Pro Tour players — all went well. We especially appreciate the extraordinary support by the 20+ Japanese umpires.

Because our staff and volunteers handled the event so professionally, my direct intervention was not necessary on most matters. However, at one point a question arose as to whether Wang Chen should be allowed to represent USA in the ITTF Pro Tour. The evening before the preliminaries began, Yu Bin, a Chinese Table Tennis Association Vice President, and I were in the lobby when a fax arrived from the CTTA protesting her participation. On the morning of the preliminaries, the question was still unsettled. ITTF Competition Manager Zlatko Cordas was exchanging e-mails with ITTF’s Executive Director Jordi Serra; Yu Bin and I were similarly engaged in discussions. Within a short time, taking all of the relevant details into account, they agreed to allow her to play as a USA-designated player.

I regularly touched base with Zlatko and other tournament officials. When Zlatko spoke at this year’s tournament party, he declared that our ITTF Pro Tour is “among the top four in the world.”

SPONSORSHIP RELATIONS

The U.S. Open is also a showcase event for our sponsors. Their products are seen and used. I need to ensure that our sponsors are pleased with our investment decision.

Earlier this year, the Board opted to go with Butterfly as our new table sponsor. Through its many years as our table sponsor, Stiga had previously set the standard regarding service expectations. Martin-Kilpatrick’s Chris Burner deserves credit for making this transition seamless. He personally oversaw every detail of the tournament set-up. He was also instrumental in upgrading Butterfly’s sponsorship after the U.S. Open. With the support of Martin-Kilpatrick’s owner Bowie Martin and Butterfly’s representative Hideko Konishi, Butterfly has since invited USATT to send up to 4 juniors every year to the world-famous Butterfly Dohjo training center for one month. Thank you, Martin-Kilpatrick and Butterfly, for the wonderful job you did at the U.S. Open and for your generous sponsorship!

USATT Executive Director Dwight Johnson and I formally met with Mitch Rothfleisch of The Table Tennis Pioneers, our Stiga clothing sponsor. I have accepted Mitch’s invitation to meet again at the Stiga Western Open in San Diego in September to discuss future joint USATT/Stiga activities. The presidents and other executives from Escalade Sports, Sweden Table Tennis and The Table Tennis Pioneers will attend the meeting.

I entertained Mr. Hirose and Nittaku’s special guests at the U.S. Open on two occasions. Mr. Hirose expressed deep satisfaction with our association and with Paddle Palace, their US distributor.

USATT’S CONTRACT WITH “AMERICASTEAMS”

Over the past 12+ months, USATT has signed a series of Internet collaborative agreements with a company now known as AmericasTeams. Those legal documents ranged from promises of confidentiality, to exclusive negotiating agreements, to an actual agreement. I encouraged Joe Krzys, the originator of the masterplan, to attend our Board meeting. Since he was unable to travel at the last minute, he agreed to be teleconferenced into the Board meeting. Joe gave our association permission to divulge news of the deal. Through our AmericasTeams contract, our association will have a financial backer supporting our market niche as the unequivocal website for US table tennis information. For more details, see the interview with Joe Krzys on page 22.

NATT’S PROPOSED NEW TOURNAMENT & RATINGS SOFTWARE

I attended a software demonstration by Fong Hsu and Richard Lee of North American Table Tennis. The software — which features tournament processing, ratings recalculations and ratings histories — is currently being beta-tested. If it is adopted as USATT’s official software, tournament directors will have an easier time running events and everyone will benefit from more timely and accurate ratings updates.

ITTF RELATIONS

Unfortunately for us, ITTF President Adham Sharara was unable to attend this year’s event. After the tournament, I received this e-mail from him, “Congratulations on a successful U.S. Open. I heard from all that it was the best organized U.S. Open so far. Again, I am sorry I missed it ....”

For the first time, the ITTF sent its own press person. ITTF Media & Communication Manager Peter Jensen prepared regular

ITTF Continental Vice President for Latin America Miguel Delgado agreed to be recognized as the ITTF’s representative when we learned that Adham could not attend. Miguel spoke both at the tournament and at USATT’s Board of Director’s meeting. Miguel and I continued to discuss the possibilities of a USA-held Pan American Youth Championship as well as an ITTF-recognized training center in the U.S.

**FUTURE USATT-RUN ITTF EVENTS**

Dave Sakai is heading up a task force to put together a USATT bid to host the world championships before the end of the decade. I arranged for us to meet with Zlatko and Peter to help get him started.

As a prelude to that bid, I have initiated talks with the ITTF about hosting the ITTF Pro Tour Final in 2002 in conjunction with our U.S. Nationals. Compared to regular Pro Tour events, the Pro Tour Final requires much less of a financial investment on our part, yet virtually guarantees the world’s top pool of athletes. The primary financial requirements for the host association are to assume players’ hospitality and event facility fees. For once the stars are aligned in our favor. Hotel rooms are inexpensive. And, in an ironic twist of a financial investment on our part, yet virtually guarantees the world’s top pool of athletes. This solution would also mean that USATT would continue to be listed as the host of an ITTF Pro Tour (an important objective for the ITTF), and would give us flexibility regarding next year’s U.S. Open. USATT has already reserved Las Vegas convention center space for the December 14th weekend in 2002.

At my request, ITTF President Sharara has promised to lend us the assistance of ITTF’s Marketing Director Anders Thunstrom to advance USATT’s marketing strategies.

**PREPARATION FOR THE 2008 OLYMPICS**

The U.S. Open concluded just prior to the IOC’s vote to award the 2008 Olympics to Beijing. We prepared ourselves for that outcome. Prior to the U.S. Open, Dwight and I worked together to impress upon the CTTA and the USOC the importance of meeting in Fort Lauderdale. We are delighted that this meeting occurred. Since then Blair Tripodi, the USOC NGB Marketing Director has followed up with Yu Bin to begin discussing some proposed events leading up to the 2008 Olympics. The USOC/CTTA meeting has already boosted our image within the USOC and among many of its affiliated national governing bodies. Most important, though, these efforts to increase funding, add press exposure and expand our accessibility to China’s training techniques will directly benefit our 2008 Olympians.

**USOC RELATIONS**

Besides meeting with Yu Bin, Blair Tripodi and I discussed proposed joint USATT/LATITU initiatives with Miguel Delgado.

Dwight Johnson reported to the Board the progress we’ve made toward completing our USOC-mandated strategic development plan. Since the U.S. Open, I have drafted our international relations portion of the plan in keeping with USOC President Sandy Baldwin’s vision of adopting a global approach in our association’s development strategies. I have also informed Adham Sharara that we will forward the plan to the ITTF. As he himself wrote (see page 20), the ITTF could be another willing investor in our future.

**USATT ELECTIONS**

The current Board has restored the right of the membership to choose your association officers. As I’ve previously reported, we are transitioning into a quadrennial election cycle. Please exercise your right to vote! The successful candidates will attend the next Board meeting in November. ITTF President Adham Sharara has accepted an invitation to attend the meeting and will also be available to meet separately with USOC representatives at that time.
This month I will profile the website of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA). www.nctta.org. NCTTA is a student-run organization dedicated to promoting competitive table tennis at the collegiate level. NCTTA was established in 1992 as the League of Northeast Intercollegiate Table Tennis (LNITT). The name was changed in 1999 to reflect the growth of the league to schools throughout the nation.

NCTTA-member schools compete in regional divisions throughout the academic year, with the winner of each division competing in the NCTTA Championship Finals in the spring. In the 2000-01 season, there were 40 schools competing in 9 divisions, from as far south as Florida and as far west as Oregon.

Table tennis is one of the least developed sports at the collegiate level. NCTTA takes this as a challenge; their goal is to make table tennis a competitive sport and to someday have table tennis be in the NCAA. Being a student-run organization, the NCTTA's budget is very small, and so the website is a valuable tool for the organization.

I myself became involved in NCTTA through the web site. In Oregon, we had four colleges with table tennis programs, but with no formal organization. While I was surfing table tennis sites, I came across the NCTTA website, and I found it to be quite professional and informative. The site gave me the clearly-defined rules of the organization, information on how to join, contacts, and a list of all the teams. What I found most interesting is that the site has a list of all the matches of every player.

The website inspired me with the result that last year the Northwest division was born, with me as the first Northwest Region Director. Next year we will expand from four to seven schools with the addition of three schools from Washington state.

Check out their web site and find out how you can support college table tennis in your area. Let's make the dream of the NCTTA to make table tennis an NCAA sport a reality.

Executive Director's Report

By Acting Executive Director Dwight Johnson

I was recently asked by "What do you do as the Table Tennis?" That got me to thinking that many of you at USATT Headquarters. So what each person does here at membership, ministrative Coordinator. She and updating the membership coaching activities, processing Dawn is the one you want to contact about membership.

Fran Boardman is our Ratings Coordinator. Her main focus, although not limited to this, is updating ratings and processing tournaments. She also investigates discrepancies within the tournaments to ensure that the ratings are as accurate as possible. So if you have a question about your rating, call Fran.

Al Prast is our Financial Manager. He is responsible for the finances within USATT. He does all invoicing, billing, and accounts receivable. He also interfaces with our bank and auditors.

Margaret Smith is our Operations Director. She is the backbone of this organization. Margaret oversees all the activities above and more. She runs all the USATT sponsored tournaments, elections, national team activities, officials activities, board votes, international relations and competition, elite youth activities, web activities, and interfacing with the editor of the magazine. Margaret is busy all the time but always tries to find the time to talk with you the member.

Debbie Doney is our Program Director. She is responsible for all the programs throughout USATT, such as grassroots programs, corporate sponsorship, membership drives, club ideas, coaching programs, communications and media liaison, and many others too numerous to mention here. If you have an idea please contact Debbie and I know that she will help develop or let you know what is going on with USATT Programs.

As the Executive Director I am ultimately responsible for all the above. I also interact with the Executive Directors of other USA sports and the U.S. Olympic Committee. Corporate Sponsorship is another activity that demands a lot of attention. So does international relations with other countries, the ITTF, and other sports bodies throughout the world. I also set up contracts for our national tournaments, making sure that we get the biggest bang for the buck.

Running this organization is easy when you have busy and productive people like we have here at headquarters. So the next time you have a question or issue, don't hesitate to call or e-mail us. Until next time keep the ball on the table.

They Said It...

By Larry Hodges

"Every year the U.S. Open gets better and better. This year was the best yet - everything was scheduled, on time, and well organized." -Johnny Huang, newly crowned North American Men's Singles Champion and ITTF Pro Tour Men's Singles Finalist.

"20-11, and people have to walk in late like that!" -ITTF Pro Tour Competition Manager Zlato Cordas, when a group of relatively loud spectators came into the arena during the Werner Schlager-Allan Bentson third-game deuce battle at the U.S. Open ITTF Pro Tour.

Werner Schlager is always coming back." -USA Women's Coach Doru Gheorghe, when Schlager was behind 20-18 in third game against Johnny Huang in the 8ths of Men's Singles at the U.S. Open. He won the next four points. The round before, Schlager had lost the first two games to Allan Bentson, and fell behind 16-11 in the third - and came back to win in five.

"Ohh, don't write that. I'll read it - and it'll make me sick." -Parviz Mojaverian, to writer Tim Boggan, about writing about his 24-22 in the third loss to George Braithwaite at the Meiklejohn Seniors. (George had been up 20-17 triple match point before Parviz deuced it.) Tim did.
In the Upcoming Election, Please Vote For the Team Of

Sheri Pittman
Incumbent President
Residence: Delray Beach, Florida
Occupation: Special Projects Manager, Palm Beach County Sports Institute
Previous Professional Work:
- Lawyer-Lobbyist in MN
Education:
- JD, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (1991)
- BA, Santa Clara University, CA
Table Tennis Experience:
- USATT President (since 1999)
- ITTF Executive Board Member/ North American Continental Vice President (since April, 2001)
- USATT Board Member (1993-1995, didn’t seek re-election, 1998-present)
- Author of numerous USATT magazine features
- US Women’s Team Leader, 1994 World Team Cup in France
- USATT Member since 1972

Tim Boggan
For Secretary
Residence: Merrick, New York
He has done... EVERYTHING!
- 1993-2001 ITTF Vice President/Council Member for North America. Three-term USATT President, 2-term Vice-President.
- 13-year Editor of USATT magazine.
- USATT Historian. Member of ITTF Media Committee. Member of 1971’s “Ping-Pong Diplomacy” Team. Captain of U.S. Team to Calcutta World Cup. President and Director of Press Corps at 1990 World Veterans/U.S. Open Championship. Journalist for 96 Olympics. Regular contributor to USATT Magazine and web site. Author of several books, including History of U.S. Table Tennis – Vol. I, Longtime member of USA Table Tennis Hall of Fame.

Robert Mayer
For Vice President
Residence: Houston, Texas
USATT member and player since 1983
Tournament Director since 1989, including the last three South Central Regional Tournament Coordinator
Board of Directors, Houston Table Tennis Association, Inc., a non-profit organization
- Computer software developer
- Main areas of USATT interest:
  1. Exploring new ways to attract recreational players
  2. Developing a plan to reduce attrition among our most talented young players
  3. Automating and improving the USATT web site, including an enhanced Ratings Search feature
  4. Assisting in the development of USATT Club Programs Director Larry Hodges’ Club League Program

Dr. Jiing Wang
Incumbent Vice President
Residence: El Monte, California
Occupation:
- President and physician, Duke Medical Clinic
- Part owner and general manager, North America Television
- Board of Directors, Health & Life Found., Pacific Times Newspaper
Education:
- M.D., Taipei Medical College
Table Tennis Experience:
- Founder/owner of San Gabriel Valley TT Club, open 7 days a week with a full-time coach (Grace Lin, rated 2495), 14 juniors and 30-40 adults
- USATT Board Member, 1995-present, Executive VP, 1995-1998
- Former Chair, USATT Youth and Club Committees Team Leader & Sponsor, 1994-1996 U.S. Junior Teams to Taiwan
- Raised over $65,000 in sponsorship for 1994 & 1995 U.S. Opens
- Major sponsor for Chinese New Year Tournament, 1991-1995

Open Elections...First-class Magazine...Club & Junior Programs
A Team that Fulfills its Promises!

It’s taken us years to finally get a board that will work together and unite behind the twin USATT goals of grassroots and elite development. We made club & junior programs top priority, but are working on both ends, especially with our elite juniors.

We brought you a first-class magazine.

We promised you a lot when those on the “Pittman” slate first ran for office. You will note that you are now voting for the USATT President – which you would not be doing if we had not fulfilled this campaign promise to bring this vote back.

On these five pages (which we paid for), we’d like to show you what we’ve accomplished these past two years (promises kept), and what we plan. Sheri Pittman and Dr. Jiing Wang are running for re-election; we’d like to welcome Robert Mayer & Tim Boggan to the Team!

From USATT Board Members/Candidates: Sheri Pittman, Jiing Wang, Robert Mayer, Tim Boggan, Barney D. Reed, Khoa Nguyen, Hank McCoultum, Tong Lee and Dennis Taylor

Ads on this and following four pages paid for by the Committee to Elect Pittman, Wang, Mayer & Boggan; Tong Lee Treasurer
Members of USA Table Tennis were startled by two major Board decisions 3½ years ago:
- the cancellation of the membership’s right to select its own officers;
- the in-house magazine that resulted in low-quality, late magazines.

Then-USATT Executive Vice President Dr. Jiing Wang set out to reverse those decisions by recruiting a new team, one committed to returning your vote and your magazine.

In 1998, you began electing that new team onto the Board. Last year, we reached the 2/3 majority required to amend the By-Laws to bring the vote back to you. We succeeded.

The Board twice appointed Sheri Pittman USATT president. Since then, the Board has fulfilled our team’s pledges and reconnected with the USOC and the ITTF. With the USOC’s participation, we crafted a new High Performance Plan to plan out our future. Now, in 2001, we seek your support in our ongoing efforts to shape the New Millennium USA Table Tennis.

**TEN PROMISES MADE...**

**...TEN PROMISES KEPT**

1. We’ve returned the vote to you, our members, *as promised*.
2. We’ve made Youth & Club Development a TOP priority, *as promised*, with four PAID staff working on developmental programs:
   - USATT Programs Director Debbie Doney
   - USATT Club Programs Director Larry Hodges
   - USATT Coaching Development Director Dan Seemiller
   - USATT Touring Coach Doru Gheorghe.
3. We’ve laid the groundwork for Regional Training Centers, *as promised*, and listed the bid specifications on the USATT website.
4. We’ve provided you with a greatly improved, on-time magazine, *as promised*, along with online coverage of major tournaments and web-based availability of virtually every association publication.
5. We’ve turned our nationally-run tournaments over to experienced professionals, *as promised*, with internationally-acclaimed results.
6. We’ve made our sponsors a top priority, *as promised*, and negotiated internationally-acclaimed results.
7. We’ve reinstated the right to purchase Life Memberships, *as promised*.
8. We’ve restored regional diversity in our committees, *as promised*, with 11 states represented in the 15 different committees.
9. We’ve stopped the decline in USATT membership, *as promised*.
10. We’ve communicated to you about important USATT, USOC and ITTF topics through the President’s Report/association primer series, *as promised*.
Other Challenges Pursued...

1. Develop Olympic & World Championship Medalists
   • Achieved first-ever junior player on Olympic Team, Michelle Do, while another, Mark Hazinski, finished second at the U.S. Team Trials
   • Co-developed and implemented the $50,000 Enron Millennium Friendship Tour of China
   • Took U.S. Juniors on a tournament tour and training camp in Europe
   • Supported Whitney Ping’s successful Women’s Sports Foundation grant request
   • Sent Jasna Reed and Tawny Banh to Women’s World Club Championships
   • Finished in the Women’s Team First Division at the World Championships
   • Funded 5th place team players to 1999, 2000 and 2001 World Championships

2. Increase Funding Sources
   • Produced over $1.1 million in revenues, exceeding $1 million for the first time ever
   • Negotiated cash payments in each of our supplier contracts for the first time ever
   • Signed Internet contract that will give us at least $124,000/year when fully executed
   • Established an Audit Committee to propose new internal financial procedures
   • Working on joint marketing projects with the USOC and the Chinese TT Association

3. Create a Professional Structure for Domestically-Held Events
   • Negotiated ITTF-assistance for, and oversaw management of, 2 ITTF Pro Tours
   • Negotiating with NAIT to conduct USATT beta-testing of newly-developed software that processes tournaments, ratings and ratings histories. Will supply tournament directors with this tournament software, if it is adopted
   • Provided support to Richard Lee’s NA Tour 4-star tournaments and NA Teams championships that promote participation, membership growth, and spectator interest among the general public, and signed four-year contract for the NA Teams
   • Recruited Fran Boardman to rejoin the staff as the Ratings Coordinator

4. Implement a National Schools Program
   • Signed contract with the Warren Company to develop the national schools program
   • Initiated pilot program in New York (in 13 School Districts in 9 counties)
   • Designing National Association for Sports & Physical Education funded and certified elementary/middle/high school curriculums
   • Co-developing USATT-branded school equipment kits
   • Expanding program into Texas, California and Illinois in 2002

5. Establish a High Level of Involvement & Visibility within the International Community
   • Accepted responsibility of ITTF Continental VP position, poising our association for a run at the newly-designated female ITTF Executive Committee seat in 2003
   • Rejuvenated alliance with the Chinese Table Tennis Association begun by Ping Pong Diplomacy
   • Discussing establishment of a US-based, Pan-American ITTF-recognized international training center and future US-held Pan-American Youth Championships with Latin America TT Union

6. Foster an Environment in which USATT-Affiliated Clubs Can Grow and Prosper
   • Set up a nationwide Junior Training and Beginning Classes program
   • Holding Coaches Clinics at every US Open and US Nationals
   • Developed criteria for Touring Coach Program, currently evaluating applications
   • Reactivating the early-1990s Club Catalyst & Creation Program
   • Starting a National Club League and a Regional League this fall

If you agree we’ve made a pretty good start... please vote for us!
www.NewMillenniumUSATableTennis.com
Most people who know us are aware that we have dedicated our lives to coaching and developing juniors. Sheri Pittman has been a welcome change from the endless parade of USATT presidents who give lip service to supporting junior programs when they’re running for office but whose help and interest disappear once they’re elected. Sheri’s help and support have been greatly appreciated for our junior program here in South Florida. It’s nice to have a president who actually cares about kids and is willing to do what she can to further help junior programs.

Sheri Pittman and Dr. Jiing Wang have helped USA Table Tennis tremendously. They have made junior development a priority. As table tennis coaches who would like to see the sport continue to grow in this country, we urge you to re-elect Sheri, Jiing and their team, Tim Boggan and Robert Mayer, so that they can continue to work on the priorities they’ve set.

Cheng Yinghua & Huang Tong "Jack" Sheng
Head Coaches, Maryland Table Tennis Center

As president of USATT, Sheri Pittman is dedicated to developing the sport and making table tennis first-class in the U.S. Please vote for Sheri and her team of Dr. Jiing Wang, Tim Boggan and Robert Mayer.

Gao Jun, Gaithersburg, Maryland
U.S. Women's Champion & U.S. #1 Woman

I’ve known Sheri for over 20 years. Sheri has demonstrated strong leadership during her first term as President of USATT. She will continue to bring integrity and openness that are critical to the growth of USA Table Tennis.

Khoa Nguyen, San Jose, California
Member, USA Olympic Team & USATT Board of Directors

Sheri does not earn her livelihood from table tennis, so she is free from conflicts of interest. She was elected in a very difficult political climate, yet she has managed to make important progress for our association. I would like to see her return to office so she can continue her agenda. I urge you to join me in voting for her in the upcoming election.

Ross Brown, Athens, Georgia, Regional Umpire

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Mrs. Sheri Pittman and her team. Mrs. Pittman is highly motivated, optimistic, and a hard worker. She has dedicated much of her time and energy in making table tennis grow in the U.S. and has established good relationships with the ITTF, China, North/South/Latin America.

I believe Mrs. Pittman possesses the necessary leadership qualities to continue to take us into the 21st Century. She should be re-elected as President of USA Table Tennis.

Coach Tang Gao Lin, Monterey Park, California
Professional Coach

Please support the Team of Sheri Pittman, Tim Boggan, Robert Mayer and Dr. Jiing Wang in the upcoming election!

Jerry Wartski, New York City
Owner, Manhattan Table Tennis Club

I am proud to support Sheri Pittman for president. She understands the path friendships must play if the USATT wants to produce quick results that will also be long-lasting. She has obviously found a very powerful friend in the Chinese TT Association! Please join me in voting for her and her team.

Ross Brown, Athens, Georgia, Regional Umpire

Please let the team of Sheri Pittman, Tim Boggan, Robert Mayer and Dr. Jiing Wang continue the work they have started!

Sol Schiff, New York City
Former U.S. and World Champion & USATT President
Table Tennis Legend

Sheri may not have been a top table tennis champion at the table but is a fantastic world-class table tennis champion away from it. Sheri has given thousands of hours of her time voluntarily to the sport of table tennis and, over the years, has championed the sport of table tennis more and better than anyone I know.

Sheri has a total commitment to the betterment of the sport, she is a very bright woman with excellent ideas, and she is an excellent communicator and delegator. Sheri has my vote for USATT President.

Rich Sinykin, Minneapolis, MN
Former Minnesota State Doubles & Junior Champion

Three years ago, this administration made promises to the membership. Among them were returning the vote for officers and Regional Training Centers. Regional Training Centers are about to become a reality, and you can now vote for President – two resounding examples of why we are better off now than we were two years ago. There are many more.

Peter Chamberlain, Bartlesville, Oklahoma
International Umpire

Sheri knows our sport very well, but best of all she knows most of the players by name. She has been involved with our sport in many ways through the years, and has the all-around experience it takes to make things happen. Sheri has both the legal and political background to protect and promote our association. We can be assured that Sheri cares about our sport and also has no conflicts of interest that could jeopardize our organization.

Homer Brown, Birmingham, Alabama
President, BumperNets Table Tennis

Thumbs Up on the 2001 U.S. Open in Ft. Lauderdale. There was a very professional atmosphere during the entire event. It was fun, entertaining and competitive. I think it was the best I’ve attended."

Pete May, Augusta, Georgia, Boos Brother
Sheri Pittman injects a much-needed dose of professionalism into the executive committee of USA Table Tennis. She is organized and well prepared for meetings and special events. She understands the importance of presentation and her role in representing USATT. And she sincerely wants to work with anyone who is willing to contribute their time or talent to improving table tennis in the United States. Sheri came to her position with the intention of moving the organization forward and a set of detailed plans for how to do it. I would like to see that she gets a chance to realize her vision.

Mitch Seldinfield, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Professional Coach & League Director

I feel our sport was at a very important crossroads when you gave the membership back the vote. Keep up the good work, and THANK YOU!

Dave Sakai, Bowie, Maryland

I have known Sheri since the early 1970s. It is a very easy decision to endorse her candidacy for USATT President for a number of reasons:

- Integrity
- Lack of a conflict of interest
- Proven administrative skill
- Dedication to table tennis in the U.S.

Houshang Bozorgzadeh, Independence, Iowa
USA National Team Coach for 14 years

Please vote for Sheri Pittman, Robert Mayer, Tim Boggan and Dr. Jiing Wang in the upcoming election. They’re the team!

Brian Pace & Rafael Flores, Florida

I supported you before and I will support you again this time. I think you are doing a good job as president of USATT. That is also the consensus in the Schaumburg Table Tennis Club.

Primo Madrigal, President
Schaumburg Table Tennis Club, Illinois

Since you have become president, I have noticed a great improvement in how national tournaments are run. I am sure that a lot of credit for the improvement is due to the people running the tournaments; but the tone for this comes from the top. You deserve credit for creating these conditions.

Robert Burke, Aurora, Colorado

As a regular tournament player, I am grateful for the improvements in our sport that Sheri and her team have begun. We seem to expect our sport to fix itself overnight, but that won’t happen. Sheri and her group have started the process to develop our sport; don’t vote them out and make us start all over again.

Bruce Liu, Santa Clara, California

Sheri, I’m definitely supporting you!

USA Table Tennis is fortunate that Sheri has “found her niche” and is the consensus in the Schaumburg Table Tennis Club.

Please vote for Sheri Pittman, Tim Boggan, Robert Mayer and Dr. Jiing Wang.

Barney B. Reed, Hank McCoullum, Dennis Taylor, Tong Lee and Khoa Nguyen

We need a unified Board to finish what we’ve started. Don’t split the board in half!

From USATT Board Members

Dick Miles, New York City
10-Time U.S. Open Men’s Singles Champion
Table Tennis Legend

Sheri Pittman’s accessibility, openness, energy, and enthusiasm for growing our sport impresses me. President Pittman has an unwavering focus on laying the foundation for allowing table tennis to flourish. Visibility on an international level, nurturing grassroots and club growth, and ensuring the professionalism to attract the best players are just some of the objectives that we share. It is no surprise to me that the top officials in the ITTF have placed their confidence in her and the goals of her administration. I look forward to creating and growing these future exchange programs with President Sheri Pittman to promote the sport of table tennis in the US and in the global community.

Quamars Hedayatian, Boston Table Tennis Center

USA National Team Coach for 14 years

Over the 27 years I have known Sheri Pittman, I have observed her hard work and dedication in supporting and promoting table tennis in the USA and abroad. It was a great pleasure working directly with her on getting the USA Olympic Table Tennis Team, the USATT Annual Board Meeting and the USA Team Trials to San Diego in the past year. She also has given her full support in our newly formed USA Olympic Development Team here in San Diego, and I look forward to working with Sheri in the future for the betterment of table tennis overall.

Pam Ramsey,
Member, San Diego TTA Board of Directors
California Table Tennis Hall of Fame, Board of Directors

Re-Elect Sheri Pittman as USATT President. Sheri is really moving our sport upward to success in all areas – both on the national and international scene, especially with the ITTF and China. You’ll be backing a real winner!

Stan Robens, Scottsdale, Arizona

USA Table Tennis is fortunate that Sheri has “found her niche” as USATT President

Sheila ODougherty, Minneapolis, MN
Former USATT Treasurer and National Team Member

Sheri Pittman and her team have my complete support!

Please vote for them!

Marty Reisman, The Money Player
Table Tennis Legend

Dear Sheri: Congratulations! The 2001 U.S. Open was one of the best I’ve ever seen! Your quiet, meticulous, behind-the-scenes management – especially your fine instinct for delegating authority to the right people – was apparent throughout. The same congratulations, I feel, are also due you for your assiduous, forward-looking management of our sport. I’m sure that all of us who love it, and are addicted to it, will make certain that you’ll continue to lead us for at least another term, or, if we’re lucky, ten.

Bruce Uu, Santa Clara, California
The 2001 North American Table Tennis Tour - Stiga Open

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Champion Cost</th>
<th>Finalist Cost</th>
<th>Semi Cost</th>
<th>Quarter Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Open Singles</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Women's RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. U22 Men's RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. U22 Women's RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. U18 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. U18 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. U16 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. U16 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. U13 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. U13 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. U10 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. U10 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Over 40 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Over 50 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Over 60 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. U2500 SE</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. U2375 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$120</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. U2250 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. U2125 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. U2000 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. U1850 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. U1700 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. U1550 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. U1400 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. U1200 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. U1000 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. U800/Novice RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Hardbat RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Open Doubles SE</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$12/ea</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. U3200 Doubles SE</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$12/ea</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration Form - Name of Tour Stop:

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City/State/Zip: ____________________________
Phone: ( ) - ______ Male / Female

Please send completed entry form with payment to:
North American Table Tennis
PO BOX 491
Odenton, MD 21113

Deadline: Postmarked by 10 days prior to the tournament start date.

T-Shirt $15 each __S _M ___L ___XL ___XXL

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

Returned checks will be charged a $25 fee.

email: info @natabletennis.com

Contact Info:
North American Table Tennis
P.O. Box 491
Odenton, MD 21113
Phone: 410-695-2587
Fax: 707-667-1914
Email: info @natabletennis.com
2001 Stiga North American Teams Table Tennis Championships

entry forms can be found at http://www.natabletennis.com.

Entry Deadline: Postmarked by November 1, 2001. Registration fee is $385 per team plus $5 rating fee per player. Entries postmarked by November 15, 2001 will be accepted on a space available basis with a $25 late fee.

Early-Bird Special: Register by September 1, 2001 and only pay a $365 registration fee.

Table and Entry Special: Order a table and enter the tournament for one great price of $999. Price includes shipping and a net set, entry for one team, and tournament t-shirts for your entire team.

*Over 140 New Stiga Expert* Roller Tables

The 2001 Stiga North American Teams Table Tennis Championship will be held at the Baltimore Convention Center, centrally located in Downtown Baltimore’s Inner Harbor District! There are great attractions, plenty of shopping, great seafood and lots more to do all within walking distance!

Thanksgiving Weekend
Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, Maryland USA

HARDBAT
November 22-23
2001

TEAMS
November 23-25
2001

*A Total of $20,000 will be* Given in Prize Money

Official Tournament Hotel:
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
300 Light Street
410-528-1234
For special rate mention
North American Table Tennis

Www.natabletennis.com

Tables For Sale!

For Sale at Unbelievable Prices!

Used Stiga Expert Rollers from the 2001 Stiga North American Table Tennis Tour for $690! You can get $75 off if you pick it up at any of our events. Each table comes with a free net set and shipping!

Contact us for additional prices for your club!
Dear USA TT Members,

Although Table Tennis has traditionally been popular in Asia and Europe, we must remember that our sport is also popular in many other parts of the world. Since joining the ITTF Executive Committee several years ago, I have discovered many places where table tennis is either very popular or gaining in popularity. Unfortunately, I have also discovered other parts of the world where our sport has been relegated to third-class status.

The role of the ITTF is to help develop our sport all over the world. However, this is an unrealistic task if we cannot count on the help and enthusiasm of local associations. The ITTF cannot by itself popularize the sport within each of the 187 member associations. We must focus our attention to those areas where our contribution will have the most effect. We must also respond to initiatives launched by some of our member associations. In other words, our choices are made in the same manner that investors choose their investment portfolio. Which investment will provide the best return? And which partner (association) will be the most cooperative and eager to develop our product?

In my opinion, the USA is the one of the countries that has the potential to transform our sport into a “big league” sport. It is a difficult task but one that, if implemented properly, would provide the best return on investment. The ITTF is willing to invest; but the desire to succeed, the passion to perform and the commitment to engage belongs to USATT, its membership and its leadership. The ITTF can only act as the catalyst for success, but the dynamo must be USATT. When I say USATT I mean every member, every official and every parent. In fact, all those who have chosen table tennis as an activity have also chosen to develop the sport.

• Do not ask why we do not have enough table tennis on TV. Call the TV stations yourself and ask them to put table tennis on TV.
• Do not ask where the nearest club is. Form a club yourself on your own block.
• Do not ask how much money you will receive for coaching. Start coaching and be good at it and the money will come.
• Do not ask how much prize money will be offered at the next tournament. Use whatever connections you have and find a sponsor to put up prize money.

Do not ask. Do! These sentences should be familiar to any American who remembers JFK or who has seen Nike commercials. It is the American spirit.

The ITTF Pro Tour is meant to promote our sport all over the world by highlighting the table tennis elite. The U.S. Open is part of the Pro Tour and the ITTF hopes that it will remain so forever. However, it is up to you, the table tennis enthusiast, to use this event and to popularize our sport. Think about it and find ways to do so. You will succeed.

Adham Sharara
President, International Table Tennis Federation

Dear Dr. Ping Pong,

I am a regular table tennis player and read as much as possible about this fabulous sport. I have to say the advice you give each week in the column “Tip of the Week by Dr. Ping Pong” at www.usatt.org has been helping me a lot, for both its clarity and efficacy. Each piece stands alone and could be as short as 80 words! By the way, do you have a book with a collection of these valuable pieces of advice?

James Shu, Houston, TX

Dear James,

The exact origin of Dr. Ping Pong’s weekly tips, and in fact the very identity of Dr. Ping Pong, remain a mystery. Theorists theorize that a Mrs. Ping Li might have married a Mr. Steve Pong, and then received a Ph.D.; however, this is pure speculation. All we know is that these tips of gold are read worldwide; it is rumored that the Chinese national team reads these tips each Monday morning while champing self-talk encouragement to themselves.

There is no book as of yet with these nuggets, but you can read all past ones, as well as the Photo of the Week and Tournament of the Week, at the USATT Home Page at www.usatt.org. The weekly items all go up on Mondays, but all past ones (going back to December, 1999) are online for your reading pleasure.

Larry Hodges, Editor, USATT Magazine

Dear Editor,

In the last issue, Sheri Pittman wrote about the six priorities and preparing a club league system so USATT-affiliated clubs could grow and prosper.

Our Roanoke club is a small club (4-6 regulars and 5-8 others) with a wide range of ratings. Our league was extremely successful, if you use turnout and enthusiasm as the judge. We had 12 people showing up regularly for hours and hours.

Our secret was that we made it a “handicapped” league, meaning we used the official point handicap system in the USATT tournament guide to level the playing field between the 1900 player and the 900 player. In some cases, the lower level player was getting 16 points! Everybody liked it. The higher rated players were forced to play their “A” game rather than get slackers, so it helped them maintain an edge. In fact, they say it heightened it because they were forced to play from a “come from behind” position. Of course, the lower level players loved it because it gave us a chance.

Our league lasted six weeks, with a possible adjustment at three weeks. We did this because we had some unrated players at different levels and wanted to recreate balance if someone’s handicap was out of whack. Prizes were awarded at the end, and interestingly, all levels got in on it. A lower-level player got the first prize, a mid-level player got third, and two upper-level players got second and fourth. It was great fun!

Dean Kapsalakis, Catawba, VA

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001
# Power Pong Open October 26-28, 2001
Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club ♦ 17272 Newhope St, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**Friday, October 26**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>O/70 Men RR</td>
<td>9:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>O/70 Women RR</td>
<td>9:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>60-69 Men RR</td>
<td>9:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>60-69 Women RR</td>
<td>9:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Senior Women's dbls</td>
<td>10:30 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Senior Men's dbls</td>
<td>10:30 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Senior Mxd dbls</td>
<td>11:30 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>O/40 Open</td>
<td>12:30 p.m</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>50-59 Men RR</td>
<td>1:30 p.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>50-59 Women RR</td>
<td>1:30 p.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, October 27**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>U/1400</td>
<td>9:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>U/1800 O/40</td>
<td>9:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>U/1550 RR</td>
<td>10:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>U/1200</td>
<td>10:30 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>U/1900 RR</td>
<td>11:00 a.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>U/1750</td>
<td>12:00 p.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>U/1300</td>
<td>12:30 p.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>U/1650</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>U/3900 dbls</td>
<td>1:30 p.m</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>U/1800</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday, October 28**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Open dbls</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>U/2050</td>
<td>10:00 a.m</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Open singles</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Women Open</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>U/2150</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>U/4200 dbls</td>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>U/2350</td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>U/2250</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Juniors U-18</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Juniors U-12</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Juniors U-10</td>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USATT Membership:**
- One-Year Adult - $30
- Three Year Adult $75
- One Year Family $50
- One Year Junior(U18) $20
- Three Year Junior(U15) $50

Players must register with officials at least 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time of their events. Entries are restricted to current members of USATT and those eligible adults who purchase a once in a lifetime "Tournament Pass" for $6.00. Unrated players may sign up for rated events of their choice, but they may not advance when they win their match. They can advance in open singles, and open woman.

All USATT rules will apply. The director reserves the right to modify, limit or cancel events.

**Make your cheks payable to Power Pong****

Mail your entries to Attila Malek 1697 Gisler Ave. Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Name__________________________ Phone__________________________

Address________________________

City__________________________ State__________ Zip__________

USATT ID:_________ Expiration_________ Birthdate___________ Rating___________

Please fill in events: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. Total Event Entry Fee: USATT Rating and Registration fee: $5 USATT Membership Fee: __________ Total Fees: __________
The following is the first in a series of interviews introducing our members to the Internet Collaborative agreement reached between USA Table Tennis and AmericasTeams.

What was the premise that you sought to promote in the initial stages of what was then-called the Internet Collaborative Agreement? How did you anticipate you could help NGBs like USA Table Tennis?

The premise for the Internet Collaborative was that small NGBs would not have the resources, staff, or expertise to build an Internet site that could raise funds for the NGB, be constantly changing to attract high viewer activity, and would provide all the business functions that would minimize labor costs for the NGBs. We anticipated that the NGBs in a collaborative would have the potential for becoming one of the most valuable sports websites on the Internet and could attract significant funds to attain such a goal.

We felt we could help the NGBs by facilitating a process in which the NGBs would understand their worth on the Internet and would have options to select the most beneficial NGB strategy possible on the Internet.

The project has now taken on the formal name “AmericasTeams.” What phase are you in regarding securing NGBs, investors and finalizing all legal arrangements?

To date, 32 of the original 33 NGBs have signed documents committing them to establishing a for-profit company utilizing the Internet for marketing, revenue creation, simplified business functions, NGB expansion, education, video streaming of events, and numerous other benefits.

We have secured an investor to put in $30 million in equity. They are completing their due diligence on the signed NGB agreements. Their funds are from a bond that must be sold. The sales process for the bonds is in effect and it is anticipated that funds, by agreement, will be available in about 60 days.

What are the projected timelines over the course of the next year?

When the funds arrive for AmericasTeams, there will be about 3-6 months of upgrading of the NGB sites in partnership with the NGBs and with technical support provided by AmericasTeams. The NGBs will also receive a minimum of $100,000 at the time that the funds close.

How does AmericasTeams relate to the sports expansion contract USA Table Tennis previously signed with the Warren Company and what is the status of that program?

AmericasTeams is an independent company that is working with The Warren Company on the sports expansion. The expansion of Table Tennis (and five other NGBs) has had several positive milestones:

a. It has developed a model for in-school and after-school programs that is highly desirable by school districts and city/town recreation programs.

b. It has secured the endorsements for the program by the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and by the New York State Recreation and Parks Society, and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

c. It has created a partnership with the National Association of Sports and Physical Education to develop curriculum for schools that would give teachers academic credits for training provided by The Warren Company/NGB.

d. It has created age-appropriate equipment kits to be sold to schools by Sportstime, the largest seller of Physical Education equipment to schools, with a royalty going to USATT.

e. It has programs in 13 school districts in New York State with about 1.5 million students.

f. It has been invited to expand into Texas.

g. It has plans to expand into California, Illinois and North Carolina in the next year.

From the market research that was conducted as part of this effort, what are the specific opportunities that USA Table Tennis will benefit from this alliance?

USATT will benefit by increased membership, increased revenue, more instructors, more information to members, more exciting website activity, events being video streamed (in the future), less administrative costs over current costs, many business functions being done on-line versus manually as now occurs, among numerous other benefits.

Congratulations, Homer Brown! 33 U.S. Opens in a Row!
If there were a stat just for spirit, together we’d hold the record.

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

BE UNITED

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

United Airlines is proud to support USA Table Tennis.
By “Dr. Azmy”

Interpretation of the Rules

Let us celebrate a successful, smooth running Pro-Tour Championship. The level of play was superb and the performance was excellent. The #37 ranked player on the world women’s list defeated the #2. Most of the matches lasted five games. Johnny Huang on the men’s side gave the audience a treat till the last point of the fifth game of the final match.

Moving to the officials’ side, an added flavor was the highlight of the presentations. The idea was thought up and implemented by Aly Salam, with the cooperation of Richard McAfee and Allen Watson. Umpires and officials marched between the matches on the final day, surprising the audience by tossing them balls signed by the Pro-Tour players.

Acknowledgment for the success of the tournament goes to the efforts and dedication of many individuals. The president, the Board members, the Directors, Referees, the Chief Umpires, the Umpires, the managers, the staff, the volunteers, etc. An acknowledge should go to the unknown soldiers. The Norm Chouinards, who stay on the computer 18 hours a day. The one who has to be the first individual in the arena, and the last one to leave. The one who wrote up what happened and fed the world, live, news from the tournament.

A few players registered with the Pro-Tour as USA players, while the World Ranking by the ITTF had them under other Associations. Discussing the issue led to a lot of confusion. Some thought that they cannot play. This misunderstanding was due to a proposal which was introduced in Osaka by the ITTF Executive Committee, “A player shall not represent different associations within a period or 3 years, unless both associations (last association represented and current association) agree to reduce or waive the waiting period. This proposal did NOT pass. Margaret Smith, the tournament manager, emailed the ITTF and the response was very clear. The rule applies only to team events. Therefore, all players were allowed to play in the Pro-Tour events.

Our Officials seminar took place on Wednesday night. It was well attended due to the eagerness to learn about the new rules: the 11 point games and the new service rule. Both issues were covered at the seminar and are covered in the last issue of the USATT Magazine under the Officials View. Another dimension was added to the seminar, the interpretations of several rules.

Conceding a Game: Although not specifically forbidden by current rules, it was generally accepted that a player could not concede a game without conceding the match.

Racket Changing: There was no guidance in the regulations on the action to be taken if a player was reported to have changed an undamaged racket. It was agreed that normally the player should be disqualified but that the referee should have the discretion to give only a warning on the first occasion. When changing a damaged racket, it has to be with identical specifications. It is advisable in the players packets to include a statement asking players to come to the table with two identical rackets.

Authority of the Umpire: It was agreed that players should be regarded as being under the authority of the umpire from the time at which they arrived at the playing area until the time at which they leave it, and that the umpire’s authority should cover the playing area and its immediate surroundings (three meters).

Authority of the Referee: It was agreed that the referee’s authority covered the whole of the playing and practice areas but the extent to which it applied to other areas are still under further discussion.

Obstruction Rule: A player obstructs the ball if, or anything he wears or carries, touches it in play when it is above or traveling towards the playing surface and has not passed beyond his end line, not having touched his court since last being struck by his opponent. The main controversy is “Traveling Towards.” Sometimes the ball may be traveling away from the table, however, it may curve back toward the table. That means if it was obstructed while it was traveling away from the table, it is NOT an obstruction, but if it is obstructed after it curved back towards the table then it is an obstruction. Also if the ball is obstructed while traveling in a straight line besides the table and did not pass the receivers’ end line, it is NOT an obstruction.

Good Serve: When a player clearly does not comply with the rule of a good serve, NO WARNING shall be given and the receiver shall score a point. This is contrary to the common belief of many players and some umpires that a warning should be given for bad serves.

Procedures of Racket and Drug Testing: The tests are administered after the match. The reason is that when it was administered before the match, the rest of the players, who are not included in the test, knew in advance and did whatever they pleased. With the new rule, nobody will know who will be tested. During the World Championships in Osaka, even the umpires did not know in advance which players would be tested. The information was given to them after they arrived at the table. What will happen if the test proved a violation? The player will lose the match, and could face further disciplinary actions. What will happen if this is the last match of the event or the tournament? Information will be submitted to his association and the ITTF for further action.

I hope the above information is helpful to our players, coaches, umpires and officials.

Hock Table Tennis Co.

Championship equipment since 1951

Toll free: 8774 HOCKTT
(877-446-2588)
Email: Dpong2119@aol.com
VOTE FOR
Dr. AZMY
VICE PRESIDENT
DEDICATION, EXPERIENCE, HARD WORK, INTEGRITY

*PLAYER:  • JUNIOR - ADULT - SENIOR

*OFFICIAL:  • INTERNATIONAL REFEREE
• INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE
• CERTIFIED WHEELCHAIR I.U.
• 2 TIMES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE I.U.
• CA. HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

*COMMITTEES:  • TASK FORCE EVALUATION OF
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
• ITTF RULES COMMITTEE
• USATT OFFICIALS COMMITTEE
• AUTHOR, EDITOR, OFFICIALS VIEW
• USATT TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
• CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME

*TOURNAMENTS:  • DIRECTOR, REFEREE, DEPUTY REFEREE
• UMPIRE of WORLD, OLYMPIC, PARALYMPIC
• INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, LOCAL

*CLUBS:  • FOUNDER, DIRECTOR, COACH, and MANAGER.

WILL REPRESENT YOUR INTERESTS: USATT, ITTF, INDIVIDUALS,
GROUPS, SPECIAL GROUPS, OFFICIALS, COACHES, MANAGERS,
CLUBS, AND VOLUNTEERS

Paid Advertisement
In Memoriam

JOE BLATT (1912-2001)
By USATT Historian Tim Boggan

Joe Blatt was one of the stars of Parker Brothers’ American Ping-Pong Association. At the 1932 APPA Nationals, held in the swank Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, Joe forced the winner, Coleman Clark, into his only 5-game match of the tournament. In that pioneering Westchester, N.Y. area, where there were many good players, including 1933 APPA Champ Jimmy Jacobson, Joe was the 1933 Mt. Vernon City Champ, and had a standout victory over Jacobson in winning the New Rochelle Open. Also, in August of that year, with his unusual shovel grip, using only one side of the racket, he won the Men’s Singles at the first annual Provincetown, Massachusetts tournament, a prestigious event that offered unique fish-shaped trophies to the vacationing winners.

Joe’s father was a launderer, and after graduating from Long Island University in Brooklyn, Joe went to a laundry school in Joliet, Illinois, and, as he was serious about a profession, that ended his vigorous competitive play. That is, until 1980 (!) when, after playing socially, he began participating in U.S. National Senior Sports Organization (USNSO) tournaments. I note, too, that in 1982 he was runner-up to Ulpiano Santo iii the U.S. Open Over 70’s. In 1995 his love for the Game was still strong - he wrote me that he spent “8 hours a week instructing and coaching t.t.” in the Upper Arlington Senior Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Joe’s many friends in the table tennis world extend their sympathy to his sister Florence, daughter Elaine, son Mort, and grandchildren Robert, Michael, Sheri, and Wendy.

In Memoriam

JACK LOTH (1918-2001)
By Nicolette Loth

Jack was born Dec. 26, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois, where he grew up. During World War II, he served with the Army Air Corps. While he was on active duty, one of his assigned posts was the Lowery Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. There he met his wife, Gerry McDaniel. They were married on Nov. 2, 1942, and had four children – Michael, Nicolette, Rodger, and Patrice. Gerry died on Mar. 23, 1997.

After the War Jack returned to Chicago to pursue a career as an electrician. When he retired he moved to Colorado where three of his four children had moved.

His first exposure to table tennis started during his military service. In the early 1960’s, looking for a leisure activity, he took up the sport and thereafter went to many tournaments. Our mantel was lined with trophies.

USATT Historian Tim Boggan speaks of several of his memorable tournaments. At the 1984 National’s, he was a finalist in the Over 60’s to 1942 U.S. Open runner-up and Hall of Famer Chuck Burns. In 1990, in the semi’s of the U.S. Open 70’s, Jack was beaten by George Hendry, that year’s World Over 70 Champion. Five years later, at the U.S. Closed, in the final of the 75’s, he again lost to George. All this of course was a very good showing, for if Jack wasn’t a superstar, he still had his shining moments.

One of these, Tim remembers, was his indignation on receiving his “A” (for Award) after bravely contesting that ’95 final with Hendry. “An ‘A’!” he said. A show and tell certificate! “What are we? Little kids in a playground tournament! This is a National Championship!”

Feisty Jack died June 16, 2001, doing what he loved – playing table tennis. He was always actively promoting the sport as a great way to stay fit and meet people.

In addition to his four children, he has six grandchildren and one great granddaughter. We will all miss him.
Lily Yip
Candidate for USATT Vice President

Reasons for running for USATT Vice President:

1. Table Tennis is and has been my life long passion.
2. I want to volunteer my time energy and experience to the sport of Table Tennis on a National Level.
3. I think the sport of Table Tennis has great potential to succeed and I am already working very hard towards that goal.
4. Being a Vice President of USATT will give me the credibility that businesses and organizations want when introducing the great sport of Table Tennis to them for sponsorships, leagues and other events.

Qualifications:

1. Life Member of USATT
2. Athlete Representative to the USATT Board of Directors
3. Past/Current Member of USATT committees (Officials Selection, Elite Athlete, Hall of Fame Committee and Hard Rubber Committees)
4. USATT Certified National Coach
5. YMCA Table Tennis Coach
6. Two Time US Olympian for Table Tennis
7. Nine years as a member on the National Team
9. Coached and developed from ground zero, two national junior champions and many top level junior players within the last four years.
10. Ran many successful Table Tennis clinics in NJ with many satisfied students
11. Ran two successful four star USATT Sanctioned Tournaments with a total of over 450 players and raised more than $10,000 from sponsorships.

Goals:

1. Increase USATT membership, through schools, colleges, YMCA’s, Boys and Girls Clubs and Department of Parks and Recreations Centers
2. Increase sponsorship of USATT from the business world
3. Increase Publicity for Table Tennis through TV, newspaper and magazines
4. Increase Communications from the Board of Directors to the members
5. Push for better management of the USATT yearly budget

I have done these things on a local level and look forward to having the opportunity to get them accomplished on a National Level.
First Time At The Worlds

By U.S. Team Member Ashu Jain

S
ince I started playing table tennis, one of my major goals was to compete at the highest level possible. At first, this seemed very unlikely and I was not even considering trying out; I then found out that the field would not be as competitive as in the past, and that I could try out for the U.S. National Team, to be held in mid-February in San Diego. However, the Team Trials was right in the middle of my last semester at the University of Michigan, where I am majoring in Engineering Physics. Going into the trials, I thought I had little chance, not being in practice and from concentrating on school instead. However, with the unfortunate luck of Todd Sweeris dropping out due to a back injury, and winning two crucial matches, I succeeded with the improbable task of making the U.S. National Team.

Once I made the team, I knew I needed to practice and train, just to be able to make a respectable appearance at the World Championships. Therefore, I withdrew from my final semester in college (the finals were at the same time as the Worlds), because I knew it was either one or the other. School, I could always return and finish, but this may be a once in a lifetime opportunity for me to represent the U.S. and to meet and play against the best players in the world! Therefore, I made the difficult decision to take a leave of absence from my senior year in college to prepare for the 46th World Championships. I only had a couple of weeks, and I used them to train with Coach Danny Seemiller and Mark Hazinski, and even went to Canada for ten days to train with the Canadian National Team.

This was the first time I had formally trained ever, and it was clear that my game had improved. My strokes were smoother and my shots were more consistent. However, only three weeks of training was not going to be a match for the 15 years others had put in!

We arrived in Osaka, Japan on Friday, April 20th. From just making the team, I was not as enthused as expected. My friends and family were in much higher spirits than I, but I knew that making the team alone means very little unless I would represent my country well.

We didn’t have much time to train, and once we arrived in Japan, I felt butterflies in my stomach thinking of the matches ahead. However, I was not the only person with ambitions of “doing some damage.” One could see the look of focus and concentration in all the other team members’ eyes. Either that, or the fatigue and jet lag from the 16-hour time difference!

Osaka is a beautiful city. Leaving the airport, which was built on a man-made island, we were able to see much of the city. It’s amazing; all of the highways in the city were built above ground, and there were very few traffic jams even with the high volume of vehicles. We stayed in nice hotels as well, but the rooms were quite small. There were four hotels for the Worlds; we stayed at the Miyako Hotel, along with the Korean team and some other lower-ranked teams. Each hotel had a frequent shuttle service to and from the venue site, which was less than a half hour away.

The first sensation of being at the Worlds was when I sat next to Kim Taeek Soo and Oh Sang Eun on the bus ride over to the venue. We have seen the top players up close in the past but only as a fan and an admirer, never as a peer! The Koreans looked at the American team, and gave a little acknowledging smile! It was a strange feeling, to be at the same level (not really, of course) as the rest of the top athletes there.

Once we got to the venue, just our first look said that this was no ordinary tournament. We were in a large dome-arena, and I can easily say that I have never seen the ball so clearly! Every table was matted (even the practice tables) and we had bright blue tables with excellent white lighting. The conditions were literally perfect; the tables were all wood even, so the bounce was pure and consistent, every time.

We practiced for about two hours or so the first day, just to get a feeling of the environment. We were all tired, however, and after a nice dinner, we all went back to the hotel and relaxed. The first few nights everyone had a tough time adjusting to the 13-16 hour time difference; I woke up at 3am the first two nights and was unable to go back to a deep sleep. However, this did not last too long, and we all quickly adjusted.

The Japanese people were extremely hospitable. Everything that we needed was given to us promptly. We each had daily meal tickets and credentials that allowed us into the appropriate sites and events. Everything was done extremely efficiently and accurately and there were no complaints! They also had ample volunteers and guides everywhere to answer any questions we had and immediately assisted us.

Our Team draw included playing Nigeria and Indonesia; Indonesia being the #1 team, and Nigeria the third in the 3-team round robin. Nigeria was our first match, and they were hot, coming into the tournament as the Commonwealth champions just a week before. Indonesia was also a tough team; however they did not send their number one player, Anton Suseno, which made them a little bit easier. We played our top three players; David Zhuang, Eric Owens, and Mark Hazinski. The Nigerians, however, were too strong and experienced and were able to take us down. After losing to Nigeria, we knew we had to defeat Indonesia; otherwise, we may drop into the third division. With this in mind, we did not let the earlier defeat bring us down; instead we scoped out Indonesia as they played Nigeria, and they looked pretty impressive. They actually had Nigeria on the ropes in a few matches, but couldn’t hang on. We knew the next day we would need to play our best, as Indonesia was tough. In this tie, David and Eric stepped up their play and won tough matches. Barney played well, but was not able to pull out the win; we came out 3-1 vs. Indonesia.

After coming in second, we competed for the 25th 48th spots, where each win or loss would completely change our outcome. This second division looked very tough though, with Denmark, Nigeria, Finland, and other tough teams in it. But then again, this is the World Championships, and there are no easy matches out there! Our next tie was against Finland, and we beat them 3-1, so we now moved into the 25th-40th bracket. By this time, I was getting very excited, and could not wait till I got to play. Watching other people play and getting involved in the match only inspired me to play more.

Danny Seemiller finally gave me the green light and put Mark, Barney, and myself against a very strong, fast, and all-lefty Vietnamese team. Mark and Barney both lost their matches in a good fight, but 2-0. Both the players had excellent serves and great opening shots. And the balls that we thought were impossible to get to, they got to; not only did they get to them, but they made excellent shots on them! When I got up to play, the third
MARYLAND TABLE TENNIS CENTER
Christmas and Senior Training Camps

www.butterflyonline.com


18761-Q Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879 • 301-519-8580 (ph) • www.mdttc.com

All Levels Welcome!

**Daily Schedule**
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
(Christmas Camp: First and last days are 1/2 days)

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

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

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

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

**Coach Larry Hodges**
- 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!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Age/DOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Rating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Amount enclosed $</td>
<td>Circle one: Xmas Camp Sr. Camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
player looked just the same as the first two; I guess the coach taught them all the same style of play. This was my first match at the World Championships, and even though by now I had seen a few matches, I still did not know what to expect going into the match myself. My opponent, Tuan Quynh Tran, on the other hand, knew exactly what he had to do; I could see it in his eyes! I felt very nervous at first, but what was worse was that I did not have any rhythm. I never felt comfortable or confident in my shots, and my opponent just kept on blowing shots by me. The first game the only thing that kept me in the game was my serves; the guy must have missed about 10 serves in that game, but I still lost the game at 17.

Coming back to Coach Danny at the end of the game, he could easily see that I was perplexed out there and basically told me to relax and take my time, and just let the game flow. I did this the second game, and won it. However, the third was again his turn, ripping winners back and forth, and giving me great disguised serves. Welcome to the World Championships! He took a big 14-5 lead in the third, when we called a time out. I came back into the match, thinking positively, and just started to put the shots on. I started to come back, and the next score was 20-17, his serve. At this time, I was very excited, and saw that I could make this comeback. My teammates were also getting very energized, as I would often see them jump in excitement. At 20-17, my opponent gave me a bad serve, one that came up high and short to my backhand. I saw this opportunity, and got overexerted, rushing into the shot, and went for the winner on a flip. The ball hit the top of the net and ended up going just an inch long.

I was very disheartened about this match because I did not play to the best of my best ability. At this level, with this opportunity, one has to put out his best, which I was not able to do. At this time, the rest of the team lifted me up and appreciated the fight, which made me feel much better. But I promised myself that next time I would do better.

We now had 2 ties left: Luxembourg and Brazil. Luxembourg had a strong team, all lefties again, who were able to defeat our young team, 3-1. Coach Danny decided to give us the chance to experience more matches, which would hopefully lead to something better in the future.

After losing to Luxembourg came our final team match vs. Brazil, for the 39th or 40th position. This one we wanted to win, so we put in our strongest player David. Barney played second, and I played third. Brazil's #1 player, Hugo Hoyama, about a 2800-level lefty, and the others were also very tough competitors. David won his first match vs. their #2, Thiago Monteiro, and Hoyama beat Barney. Then came my match against Thiago Takayama. I won the first game close, and lost the second close. In the third, again I started off slow, and was down 17-11 before calling a time-out. This changed the momentum a bit, and I came back fired up and won 21-19! This win put us in charge, thinking that Barney and David would have a good chance of winning their matches. However, the Brazilians played too tough, and ended up beating us 3-2.

This was it for the team competition. We finished 40th; last time we finished 36th, but this year we had a much younger team and Danny took out David in many of the later ties to give the rest of us a chance to play. So comparatively, it was not that bad, although we had hoped to do a lot better.

During the team tournament, we heard some very disappointing news about the upcoming individual events. Usually there is a consolation round for the players that do not come out of the qualifiers (a majority of the players), and the qualifiers are 3 out of 5 in a round robin format. Well this year, they made the qualifiers single elimination, 2 out of 3, and NO CONSOLATION round! That meant that the first player you play is about 2600 level, second 2700, and the third about 2800, before even making it into the main draw; so presumably a player can play only one match, and that's it! Most players were irate at this decision. But the individual event didn't start for another few days, so we had time to prepare and scope out our opponents. In the meantime, we had the chance to watch other team ties, and saw perhaps the greatest tie in the history of table tennis! After the big upset of the Swedish men's team by Belgium, everyone had expected China to win it all without any fight. But no one ever thought Korea would have given them such a fight! It started out with the new "Tiger" as I call him, Liu Guozheng. He took out Oh Sang Eun pretty easily in the first match. Kim Taek Soo played Kong a tough match, and pulled out an impressive win. The third match was crucial, which went to Ma Lin of China. At this time, most had given up hope on the Koreans, as Kong was heavily favored against Oh in the fourth (and the probable final) match. However, very few people expected Oh to play as well as he did, and just go "hotsie." Now matter what Kong did, Oh had an answer, with a rip, right off the bounce. During this match, the crowd started getting involved in the match, hoping that Oh would be able to take down the legend, as his teammate did earlier. Who knew it... Oh defeated Kong 2-0! I certainly wanted Korea to win this tie; I love Oh and Kim's games, and wanted to see someone else win for a change. By the time Oh defeated Kong, the whole crowd was up on their feet, and I could feel the excitement. (As a note, and to rub it in, Coach Danny left the building, thinking that there would be no competition once Ma won the third match ... boy did he miss out!) By the time Kim stepped out on the court against Liu, the tie had changed, and now the match favored Korea - Kim, a very strong, experienced player, versus Liu Guozheng, a younger, less experienced player. This match was so huge, especially since the winner of this semifinal match would be a heavy favorite versus Belgium in the final. In the first game, Kim did as expected, and won. In the second, he was up 9-3, when Liu called a time-out. The next score was 12-12, and now you can start to see the pressure felt by each player in front of 4,000 fans going crazy, perhaps more so than the seventh
I did not feel the pain. I was too much into the match. (Yes, this tie was

However once again, the young tiger fought back to make the third
	hold up to this type of pressure? (We could see the stress on the players’ faces, and literally see the hands shake before the point started!

However once again, the young tiger fought back to make the third
game deuce.

The crowd was into the game as if they were playing themselves. I remember Kim hitting an edge, and Eric said “SORRY!” thinking that it was he that was playing the point! I was jumping up and down in the seats, because I could not take this excitement sitting down! The whole crowd was going insane! I remember one huge point at deuce, where Kim missed a counter-loop after a GREAT point; I thought he was going to put that shot for a winner but he missed. I jumped up to see him make the shot, and as he missed, I came down... but not on my feet. It was ok, I did not feel the pain. I was too much into the match. (Yes, this tie was THAT exciting!) After another couple of match and championship points, the crowd was going insane! I remember one huge point at deuce, where Kim missed a counter-loop after a GREAT point; I thought he was going to put that shot for a winner but he missed. I jumped up to see him make the shot, and as he missed, I came down... but not on my feet. It was ok, I did not feel the pain. I was too much into the match. (Yes, this tie was THAT exciting!) After another couple of match and championship points by Kim, that darn Tiger just kept on fighting back, and pulled out with the huge impressive win over Kim.

After the match, for the next few days, that team tie was the only thing on everyone’s minds. Never has there been anything so exciting in table tennis (not that I can recall at least). That evening, we saw the Korean team coming into the dinner room, and as they walked in, everyone stopped their conversations, and just kept their heads down. We could not even start to imagine the pain they felt; even though they fought their hardest, this must have been a very painful loss. We should have stood up and clapped for them, for putting up on such a good fight, but at that time we didn’t know what to do. The Koreans’ loss was felt by each and every one of the athletes at the World Championships!

After this match, anything else that we watched seemed boring. This experience alone was worth going to the tournament. But soon after, we regained our focus, and prepared for the singles event. I watched my opponent, Sergiy Nigeruk of the Ukraine, and he looked impressive; probably 2650 or 2700 level. He was a strong looper from both sides, and seemed to have very good control of the ball. When I played him, I was able to get through him with the big shots, but it was the small points that he always won, with simple strategic plays. I played him close the first game, but he pulled out a few big shots himself, and continued playing very well the second game. So that was all for me... done for the tournament, having played only one match in the singles event. We still had one full week left in Japan, so I wanted to make something out of it, and perhaps learn something.

My final record was 1-3, and I was rather disappointed that I did not make a better appearance at my first World Championships. However, as a great team captain, David came up to me and congratulated me on my only win. He told me how difficult it is to win, in such an environment, and it takes time to adjust and get used to, to be able to play your best. That along with some other things that he said, lifted me up some, and that was a nice thing of him to do.

So back to watching the players, one thing I noticed was the mental play of the players. Everyone has full control of their shots, and rarely ever go for winners early in the point. Especially when it is close, they will play a very safe and mature game. Once they are in the point and loosen up, then the big shots come out. But just about no one lost easy points. The good players always put the first ball on the table, and control the point until they see the clear opportunity to put away the ball. The pressure is on both players; so the more experienced ones let the other lose the point, but knew when not to give the others the opportunity. Also, you would never see the better players rush into their shots, and end up making a poor decision or missing as easy ball, as I did.

Mentally, each player was like a tiger, getting ready to hunt down his prey. Nothing else was on the players’ minds other than how to
win the next match, and giving one hundred percent on every point. The difference between the others and myself was clear; when waiting to play my next match, I felt nervous, beset, and mainly just wanted to try to win, somehow. Quite frankly, I did not know what to expect, and had no plan going into the match. My opponents, however were zoned, like they were in another world; they were strategizing each point in the upcoming match. Coming into the match they knew exactly what serves to use, which shots to use, and just demonstrated that they had a plan for every point in the match. This was a sign of experience and maturity.

Also, the physical fitness of these athletes was just incredible. There were shots that players would hit, and no one would expect anyone to be able to touch the ball, but these players were able to cover the table so fast and make a counter-loop on just about everything. They moved faster than my eyes could follow, and most of the time I was just left in awe observing their footwork, balance, and just overall quickness.

I always knew one had to be fit to be good at table tennis, but nothing to this degree!

The focus and ability to “step it up” is another thing I noticed in the top players. Many times I saw a good player was down towards the end of a game, but they always seemed to pull out the win, with composure and confidence. Instead of going for big shots, they made smart shots, placing the ball well, regulating the spin, and staying close to the table. They are able to see when things weren’t going their way, and changed the game around very quickly. It takes us almost a whole game to recognize the strategy and what to do, and what not to do. It takes them less than five points to do the same!

The inexperienced players have a tendency to overplay the point, or let the excitement dictate the play. The good players treat each ball differently and always stay focused on playing each ball well and making sure it goes on. Sometimes if I see a slow ball, I simply go for a winner, instead of going for a smarter set-up shot by spinning and placing the ball. At the higher level, I saw that there is no such thing as a shot that can’t be returned. Therefore it is imperative to place the ball and keep the ball on the table. Also, in general the people that stay close to the table tend to win the points.

The 2700 or even 2800 players’ shots aren’t more powerful or spinnier than most 2500 players, but they can put those shots on 9 out of 10 times, where they want to put it, and put the spin they want to put. In my case, I can hit the ball as fast as anyone and make spectacular shots, but the consistency is low. This is a losing game!

After the tournament, on Monday night, Mr. Jerry Wartski of New York took us all out to dinner. He invited the whole U.S. team and contingent, and about 12 showed up. It was a nice evening, and a toast to the World Championships.

Once the tournament was over (in the playing sense) the rest of the time was spent watching matches and meeting players from other countries. I made a lot of friends there, and got a chance to hang out with a lot of the famous players, which finally started to feel normal after a while! I had a chance to talk to players from the Swedish, French, Romanian and German teams. It was just like living in a dream world. Many of the top players knew me by my first name (which knocked me for a loop), and we went out to night clubs together, danced, and just had a great time. It was truly a unique and wonderful experience. I had the chance to chat with Badescu, Persson, Legout, Karlsson, Fetzner, Steff, Saive (just to mention a few), and as I mentioned earlier, it was different than in the past. They treated me as a peer and we had some fascinating conversations!

At first I felt that it was a waste for the USATT to send five players to the tournament; all that money, and I played only four matches. Also, if there were four players on the team, then each one would have played more, and perhaps been better overall for the team. When USATT President Sheri Pittman asked me whether it was worth it to send the five players, I actually replied “No!” However, since I have been back, and especially from talking with my peers, I am beginning to realize just how much those four matches affected me. It was the environment in which we were, and watching the top players up close for two weeks that really affected the way I now play. Before when someone would loop, my first instinct was to block, and now, I would go for a counter-loop. If someone served a ball a half inch long, I would push, instead of going for a spinny open-up. There were many little changes to the way I now think and play, and, in the long run I know they will help me a lot. At first, it hurt my performance, since I am trying to change the way I play, but with enough practice I will start to make those shots. I have to take it one step at a time. For the people that have not
seen me play in a while, they will definitely see a difference in the style of play, which should soon start increasing my level.

I did, however, gain tremendously from this experience; I met many wonderful people, learned a lot about table tennis, and to even a grander scale I learned a little bit about humanity and myself! The Japanese were such honorable people, extremely polite, respectful, efficient, and just good-natured. On the streets the vendors would leave their merchandise open in front of thousands of people, and no one would steal. At nighttime, the cars in the front row of intersections would turn off their headlights so that they would not blind the pedestrians crossing! The taxi drivers did not even accept tips when we tried to show a gesture of appreciation!

As the time approached to depart Japan, a feeling of nostalgia came over me. But we were all pretty much ready to leave at this time, to return to a well-known environment and eat regular food and come back into the normal lifestyle. The trip, however, was definitely a worthwhile experience. Before I even left, I knew I would miss that place and all the people I met. And finally the best outcome of this trip was the inspiration it gave me to continue to develop my table tennis game. As graduation was approaching, I did not know where my table tennis career would go, but after this tournament, I know that I am going to continue table tennis and try to become a much better player.

To go to this tournament, I gave up a year's worth of salary and job, withdrew from school with less than two months to graduate, and spent a lot of time preparing; and at first, I did not think it was worth it. As time goes on, and I think more about the experience I had and the people I met, I now look at it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. But this experience will not be left as only a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, I plan on being there again, and this time I know what to expect and what to do going into the best tournament in the World!

I want to especially thank Mr. Jerry Wartski, a man of true character, who supported the U.S. team and showed his enthusiasm. I also want to thank the USATT, its officials and volunteers, who gave me a chance to experience this truly great event. I want to thank Coach Danny Seemiller and my fellow Team members who not only shared my dream with me, but also inspired and supported me. I finally wanted to thank Stiga and CancerQ, for supporting me, and a special thanks to all the people at the New Jersey Table Tennis Club (Westfield), which was a second home to me, and where I learned everything (the little) that I know.

Look out for me again, because this was not just a ONCE in a lifetime experience.
U.S. Open Results

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE * September/October 2001

ITTF Pro Tour Events

North American Championships Events

North American Men's Singles - Final: Johnny Huang (CANA) d. Pradeeban Peter-Paul (CUSA), 19,18,14; SF: Huang d. Bence Csaba (CANA), 10,12,18; Peter-Paul d. David Zhang (USA), -12,14,18; QF: Huang d. Eric Owens (USA), 19,8,14; Csaba d. Barney Reed (USA), 15,19,16; Peter-Paul d. Mark Zhang (USA), 13,11,6; Zou d. Faizil Kassam (CUSA), 16,15,14.

North American Women's Singles - Final: Chang Jun-Gao (CUSA) d. Jasna Reed (CUSA), 7,16,17; SF: Chang d. Virginia Sung (USA), 11,12,8; Reed d. Simone Yang (USA), -14,15,12; QF: Chang d. Jackie Lee (CUSA), 16,13,7; Sung d. Petra Caden (CUSA), -20,14,19,19; Reed d. Wennin Chiu (CUSA), 9,15,10; Yang d. Chris Xu (CUSA), -15,21,24,13,13.

North American Women's Doubles - Final: Bai Yang/Fu Yu (CUSA) d. Wang Ting Ting (CUSA), 14,12; Konishi/Yuka Nishii (JPN), 14,17; Shin/Umemura d. Elke Schall (GER), 11,19.

North American Men's Doubles - Final: Chang Jun-Gao (CUSA) d. Jasna Reed (CUSA), 7,16,17; SF: Chang d. Virginia Sung (USA), 11,12,8; Reed d. Simone Yang (USA), -14,15,12; QF: Chang d. Jackie Lee (CUSA), 16,13,7; Sung d. Petra Caden (CUSA), -20,14,19,19; Reed d. Wennin Chiu (CUSA), 9,15,10; Yang d. Chris Xu (CUSA), -15,21,24,13,13.

North American Women's Doubles - Final: Bai Yang/Fu Yu (CUSA) d. Wang Ting Ting (CUSA), 14,12; Konishi/Yuka Nishii (JPN), 14,17; Shin/Umemura d. Elke Schall (GER), 11,19.

U.S. Open Results

Over 30 Men's Singles - Final: Atanda Muda d. Abasse Ekun, 17,13; SF: Muda d. Brian Masters, 13,18; Ekun d. Alexis Perez, 19,19,8; QF: Muda d. Roberto Brito, 14,15; Masters d. Hui Yuan Liu, 16,19; Ekun d. Derek May, 16,14; Perez d. Sean O'Neill, 18,18.

Over 30 Women's Singles - Final: Chris Xu d. Simone Yang, 14,10; SF: Xu d. Lily Yip, 18,15; Yang d. Bik-yin Lin, 6,8.


Over 50 Men's Singles - Final: George Brathwaite d. Dave Sakei split; SF: Brathwaite d. Richard Hicks, -15,7,16; Sakai d. Henry McCoullum, 16,19; QF: Brathwaite d. Steve Federico, -16,13,8; Hicks d. Jim McQueen, 18,18; McCoullum d. Bohdan Dawidowicz, 16,10; Sakai d. Nick Mintsivis, 19,17.

Over 50 Women's Singles - Final: Barbara Kaminsky d. Suzanna Sanders, 11,16; SF: Kaminsky d. Danuta Andrzejewska, 18,17,19; Sanders d. Mahin Roufeuf, 12,19.

Over 60 Singles - Final: George Brathwaite d. Elman Concepcion, 12,11; SF: Brathwaite d. Pete May, 18,18; Concepcion d. Nick Mintsivis, 15,13,11; QF: Brathwaite d. Marvin Left, 17,12; May d. Lynnwood Smith, 19,19,11; Concepcion d. Bohdan Dawidowicz, 21,16,16; Mintsivis d. Richard Hicks, 18,19.


Over 75 Singles - Final: Gaye Gordon d. Helios Bezzera; SF: Bezzera d. Joe Ballruts, 15,18; Gordon d. Pete May, 18,10.

Over 80 Singles - Louis Radzeli d. Arthur Chase, -17,10,15.


Over 50 Doubles - Final: George Brathwaite/Dave Sakai d. Richard Hicks/Nick Mintsivis, 11,11; SF: Brathwaite/Sakai d. Jose Cortes/Steve Federico, 12,13; Hicks/Mintsivis d. Pete May/Jim McQueen, 15,14.

Over 60 Doubles - Final: Richard Hicks/Nick Mintsivis d. Bohdan Dawidowicz/Marvin Left, 22,16,15; SF: Hicks/Mintsivis d. Concepcion/Cortes, 7,10; Dawidowicz/Left d. George Brathwaite/Pete May, 18,16.

Over 70 Doubles - Final: Tim Bogban/Leon Ruderman d. Stanley Kahan/Walter Witkowski, 5,16.

Junior/Youth Events

Under 16 Boys' Singles - Final: Ka Chun Tse d. Santiago Gabriel, 16,14; Jain d. Arturo Pan Shiu, 18,18.

Under 16 Girls' Singles - Final: Jackie Lee, 9,11; SF: Caden d. Renata Peluchova, -12,18,15; Lee d. Kibbi Moseley, 17,14; QF: Caden d. Whitney Png, 12,9; Peluchova d. Angela Sun, 7,21; Lee d. Bogliarla Masters, 13,19; Moseley d. Mimi Bosika, 18,18.

Under 22 Men's Singles - Final: Jose Miguel Ramirez d. Asu Jan, 19,12,17; SF: Ramirez d. Santiago Gabriel, 16,14; Jain d. Arturo Pan Shi, 8,15,16.

Under 22 Women's Singles - Final: Marie-Christine Rouff d. Mimi Bosika, 18,14; SF: Rouff d. Jackie Lee, 19,13; Bosika d. Wennin Chiu, 14,15.


Under 16 Boys' Singles - Final: Ka Chun Tse d. Santiago Coste, 18,18; SF: Tse d. Adam Hugh, 11,11; Coste d. Han Xiao, def.; QF: Xiao d. Rami Shola, 10,10; Coste d. Ricardo Clarke, 8,10; Tse d. Yin Wang, 16,11; Hugh d. Kevin Farley, 15,12,14.
Under 16 Girls' Singles - Final: Jackie Lee d. Whitney Ping, 12,9; SF: Lee d. Laura Leach, 12,13; Ping d. Judy Hugh, 12,12.
Under 12 Boys' Singles - Final: Sherif Shola d. Lorenzo Lupulesku, 16,16; SF: Shola d. Jorge Pujo, 21,8; Lupulesku d. Andrew Lin, 15,16.
Under 10 Girls - Final: Linden Li d. Amy Huang, 14,18; SF: Li d. Gillian Wu, 1,4; Huang d. Viviana Rubio, def.
Under 18 Girls' Doubles - Final: Maria Alejandra Solares/Maria Jose Solares d. krystle Harvey/Sabrina Worrell, 18,9,13.
Under 16 Boys' Singles - Final: Jude Chang Jun Gao d. North American Women's Singles & Doubles
Dave Sakai: Over 40 Men's Doubles, Over 50 Doubles
(Also: Split Over 50 Men's Singles Final.)
George Brathwaite: Over 60 Singles, Over 50 Doubles.
(Also: Split Over 50 Men's Singles Final.)
Tim Boggan: Over 70 Singles & Doubles
Under 16 Girls' Singles - Final: Judy Hugh d. Susan Dhamee, 14,17; SF: Hugh d. [Unreadable], 13,14.
Under 12 Boys' Singles - Final: Daniel Toadjer/Lorenzo Lupulesku d. Atha Fong/Judy Hugh, 9,13; SF: Toadjer/Lupulesku d. Corone/Santos, 8,13; Fong/Hugh d. Yepez Mora/Crespo Ca, 13,17.
Hardbat Events
Hardbat Singles - Final: Lily Yip d. Alexis Perez, 11,15,18; SF: Yip d. Freddie Gabriel, 19,11,16; Perez d. Hoff, 14,18,9; QF: Gabriel d. Steve Berger, 16,13,17; Yip d. Larry Hodges, -22,8,16,14; Hoff d. Rudy Miranda, -20,15,14,19,10; Perez d. John Jarema, 10,11,10.
Hardbat Doubles - Final: Larry Hodges/Ty Hoff d. Steve Berger/Tahl Leibovitz, 19,17,19; SF: Hodges/Hoff d. Tim Boggan/Lorin Benedict, 17,15; Berger/Leibovitz d. Don Varian/Bernett Mann, 17,13.
Rating Singles Events
Under 1900 - Alphonso Murray d. Thomas Haynes, 18,16,16; SF: Murray d. Walter Alomar, -10,18,19; Haynes d. Hector Berrios, 17,11,12.
Under 1800 - Final: Geraldo Gandia d. William Maisonet, 17,16; SF: Gandia d. Anthony Maharaj, 18,20; Maisonet d. Evan Monios, -16,12,12.
Under 1000 - Final: Evan Ng d. Preston Chin, 19,10; SF: Ng d. Charles Lin, 13,-16,15; Chin d. Derrick Poon, 16,17,14.
Rating Doubles Events
Under 3700 Doubles: Newton/Thomas d. Cochran/Leach, 16,11.
Paralympic Events
Men's Wheelchair Singles, Class 1-2 - 1st Michael Lo Russo; 2nd Barry Butler; 3rd David Wagner.
Men's Wheelchair Singles, Class 4-5 - 1st Andre Scott; 2nd Mike Dempsey; 3rd Bove Fabrizio.
Men's Standing Disabled, Class 6-7 - 1st Norman Bassi; 2nd Wayen Lo; 3rd Odalis Gomez.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida • July 4-8, 2001

There were actually four tournaments:
- The ITTF Pro Tour
- The U.S. Open
- The North American Championships
- The Paralympic International Championships

So you were/weren't there? Then you can read about what you did/didn't see, and relive/live it again/for the first time! You'll see Canada's Johnny Huang pulling out one close one after another (two deuce in the fifths–down match point both times!) ... Austria's Werner Schlager coming from behind over and over ... Taipei's Chuan Chi-Yuan, the "forgotten" Taiwanese, beating his countrymen and almost taking it all ... China's Niu Jianfeng, now a confirmed star ... Japan's Aya Umemura, the Brazil Pro Tour Women's Champion, going for two in a row ... and the rest!

SOME NUMBERS
$92,000 ....... Prize money awarded
949 ............ Number of players
69 ............. Number of events held
40 ............. Number of staff
55 ............. Number of umpires
55 ............. Number of Countries taking part
81 ............. Number of tables being used
$66,000 ....... Value of the tables being used
$660,000 ....... Estimated economic impact on Ft. Lauderdale
93 ............. Oldest player, Ulpiano Santo of Virginia
7 ............... Youngest player, Adrian Lam of Florida
21 ............. Men ranked in the top 20 in the World
15 ............. Women ranked in the top 20 in the World
5 ............... Women ranked in the top 60 in the World
15 ............. Women ranked in the top 60 in the World
Offensive Oversize WRB

Offensive blade is oversized and has the WRB system. Great for the attacking player. The thicker blade offers approximately 10% extra speed compared to conventional blades. Larger head offers extra stability of touch and feel. Speed: OFF, Handle: FL(lg), FL(sm), AN, ST, Weight: 91, Plies: 5W, Price: $51.45 Item: SSOVOF

+2 sheets Stiga Rubber* $81.95

WRB System accelerates the blade face for faster returns, more power and extra sensitivity of touch.

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, Plies: 5W, Price: $46.75 Item: SSOVAL

+2 sheets Stiga Rubber* $78.95

New Ultima Rubber Sheets from JUIC

SUPER HIGH TENSION SPONGE = POWER PLAY!

Driva Smash Ultima! [SMOOTH] To compensate for the new 40mm ball, JUIC has successfully added "Tension" to the sponge itself. Thinner, stronger cell walls enable the "Super High Tension Sponge" to be lighter, and allow for more flexible play, and greater power. As fast as the popular Driva Smash but feels lighter, spongier and more powerful. Receives Paddle Palace's high recommendation!

Offense Ultima! [PIPS OUT] Super High Tension Sponge is changing the future of table tennis, compensating for the new 40mm ball! Has new Super High Tension Sponge with thinner, stronger cell walls, which makes it lighter and gives more flexible play and more power.

PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR JUIC PRODUCTS

ULTIMA!

Speed: 9.3, Spin: 7.4, Sponge: 2.0, 2.5 Item: RJOFU

Speed: 9.3, Spin: 9.4, Sponge: 2.0, 2.5 Item: RJDRU

PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR JUIC PRODUCTS
COMBO Specials

Choose from these four outstanding blades from Stiga, plus any two sheets* Stiga Rubber for an incredibly great price!

* Add $5 per sheet if choosing Innova or Innova Ultra Light Rubber

Offensive Classic
An attacking, lightweight blade. Offensive Classic is built to suit fast and technical attacking play. Speed: OFF-, Handle: FL(lg), FL(sm), AN, ST, Weight: 89, Plies: 5W, Price: $33.95 Item: SSOF

+2 sheets Stiga Rubber* $72.95

Allround Classic
A perfect balance between speed, weight and feel lies behind Allround Classic's enormous popularity among competitive players, who choose the best. Speed: ALL, Handle: FL(lg), FL(sm), AN, ST, Weight: 85, Plies: 5W, Price: $29.25 Item: SSALC

+2 sheets Stiga Rubber* $69.95

Nittaku
NEW 40mm BALL
YOUNG STAR

The world's best practice ball, from Nittaku. The Nittaku Young Star balls are now available in the 40mm size. Top-quality practice balls at a great price. Available in white or orange. Dozen: $5.95/Gross (12 dozen): $46.95

PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS
Sean O’Neill for President

- Five-time US Men’s Singles Champion and two-time US Olympian
- Co-creator of USATT website with Roy SeGuine
- Current member of USATT Athletes’ Advisory Committee
- Former member of USOC International Relations Committee
- National-level coach and former USATT Coaching Chair
- Guide for About’s table tennis website (tabletennis.about.com)

My Goals

- Find and retain corporate sponsorship
- Develop a real junior program that keeps them playing past high school
- Enhance USATT website and develop an online mailing list of 25,000 players
- Create new programs to enhance tournament and club play
- Spend our money wisely

Rong Lillieroos for Vice-Pres.

- Three-time National Women’s Collegiate Singles Champion
- Table Tennis Pro for Lillieroos Academy of Table Tennis in Oklahoma
- US Open and US Nationals volunteer staff member
- Coach of USA Paralympic Team since 1992

My Goals

- Improve training of USATT-certified coaches and instructors
- Increase participation of young girls and women in our sport
- Better integrate paralympic athletes into USATT programs and events
- Partner with other racquet sports to attract sponsors
- Develop junior exchange programs with other countries

Vote for Sean, Rong,
David Marcus for Vice-President

- Created and maintains “Rating Histories” section of USATT website
- Has been tournament director or co-tournament director for numerous tournaments, including regional tournaments, state games, US Opens, US Nationals, US Open Team Championships, and US Olympic Trials
- Vice-President of Boston Table Tennis Center, Inc.
- President of MIT Table Tennis Club

My Goals

- Ensure prompt processing of ratings and posting of rating histories
- Coordinate promotion of major tournaments
- Create universal software for tournament directors
- Foster intercollegiate table tennis growth
- Place US Open and US Nationals on a sound financial footing

Tim Titrud for Secretary

- Organizes table tennis programs for Lot Whitcomb, Bilquist, and Woodmere grade schools with over 60 student players
- Founder and President of Oregon Table Tennis, Inc.
- President of Woodmere Table Tennis Club
- Vice-President of Portland Table Tennis Club
- Writes the “Net Serve” column that appears regularly in USATT Magazine

My Goals

- Increase number of grade and high school programs nationally
- Provide online audio transcripts of USATT Board meetings
- Encourage formation of new clubs and improvement of existing clubs
- Ensure USATT committees keep the membership informed of their activities
- Stop annual increase of US Open and US Nationals entry fees

David, and Tim!
Men's Singles
By Larry Hodges

Men's Singles Qualifier

52 men were entered in the Qualifier, placed in 13 groups of 4. (Five didn't show.) The 13 #1 finishers would all advance to the main draw, along with three #2 players, who would be selected at random, to fill out the main draw.

For those interested in USA results, there were USA players in every group except groups 2 and 8. Especially see group 12 to read of the many match points of USA's 16-year-old Mark Hazinski and the final conversion of one - in the most contested group.

Group One: World #109 Finn Tugwell of Denmark easily advanced, winning all three matches 2-0. His only close match was with USA's Michael Oyebode, a former member of the Nigerian team, now living in Atlanta. Tugwell won that match at 20 & 19.

Group Two: World #110 Michel Martinez of France advanced with 3-0 record, losing a game to Greece's Konstantinos Lagogiannis, world #397.

Group Three: Usa's Fan Yiyong, with no world ranking (he'll get one now!) dominated the group, winning his three matches by scores of 11,13,14,8,17,11, against players ranked (respectively) 434, 395 and 121. The poor opposition probably never knew what they were up against!

Group Four: While Japan's Muncaki Mimmura (world #124) easily won his three matches all 2-0, USA's Abass Ekun (world #388) came in second. His most difficult win was over unranked Elis Rondon of Venezuela, 14-19,18. So Abass has a 3 in 13 chance of being one of the lucky second-place finishers chosen randomly to fill out the draw - yes, a 23.1% chance! (Unfortunately, he's the only USA man with a chance to advance - but Mark Hazinski, as you'll read shortly, came sooo close...!) As luck would have it... Abass was one of the three selected, and so has advanced into the main draw.

Group Five: World #133 Gareth Herbert of England dominated this group, winning two matches at 15 & 14 and 8 & 7. His other match was with USA's Barney J. Reed, who defaulted out of the event due to illness.

Group Six: World #142 Robert Gardos of Austria won all three matches, but had to struggle with USA's Jim Butler. Jim, showing signs of his old form at times, came up 12-14,11 short, and finished third (with a default from no-show Arturo Shiu of Panama). His other loss was to one of Canada's junior phenoms, Bence Csaba, 11 & 14.

Group Seven: World #143 Panagiotis Gionis of Greece completely dominated the group, winning by scores of 12,16,9,10,6,16. USA's Ashu Jain lost his first two matches (to Gionis, 6 & 16, and to Canada's Pradeeban Peter-Paul (world #305), 16 & 12. For unknown reasons, he defaulted his last match, to unr 2, liked Estuardo Wer of Guam.

Group Eight: Karl Jindrak of Austria, better known as one half of the Werner Schlager/Jindrak doubles team that challenges any team in the world, is only ranked #153 in singles. However, that was sufficient to win all three matches - including a default from Wang Fei of China (now living in New York City), who apparently was injured.

Group Nine: World #169 Steun Feth of Germany advanced at 3-0. USA's

Advance 3D

Technicians at Yasaka have constructed the powerful Advance blade by integrating synthetic fibres within the plywood blade. This unique innovation of two directional synthetic fibre glued into veneers, using Yasaka's own temperature and fixing methods, gives offensive players new dimensions to their attacking play. The 3D technology guarantees a more flexible blade to give faster ball speed.

Yasaka Carbon

One of the best control Carbon blade on today's table tennis market. The large sweet spot supports consistent shots. A light and very well balanced compact blade. Used by Tawny Banh, US Team member.

Yasaka Enterprises
Table Tennis Equipment Company
29393 Murray Crescent
Southfield, MI 48076-1679

To receive our color catalog call: 800-825-7664 or Fax: 248-355-5871
or log on to: www.tgenerprises.com

Men's Singles Champion
Liu Guozheng of China

Speed: 9.9
Control: 7.8
Weight: 2.9

Speed: 8.9
Control: 7.8
Weight: 2.9

$36.95

$49.95

$149.95

Manufactured sourcing process for easy rubber removal and blade protection is included!
Step up to the table and take control!

Written by one of the best coaches I've ever worked with.

Cheng Yinghua
3-time U.S. Men's Singles Champion

The best presentation of table tennis techniques and strategies ever written. At last! A book that really covers the sport.

Todd Sweeris
U.S. Olympic and World Team member

Even a good player who reads this book will become much, much better.

Amy Feng
Four Times U.S. Women's Singles Champion

Written by master teacher, coach, and player Larry Hodges, Table Tennis: Steps to Success is the most extensively researched and carefully developed table tennis skills instruction book ever published.

Table Tennis is a breakthrough in sport skill instruction with its development of complete learning progressions—the "steps to success." Each of the steps you take is an easy transition from the previous one. When you reach the top of your climb to success, you will have gained the ability and experienced the satisfaction of becoming an accomplished player.

So learn how to play the competitive and challenging game of table tennis today and let your opponents keep on playing "Ping Pong"!

To place your order call TOLL FREE:
In the U.S. 1-800-747-4457
In Canada 1-800-465-7301
Outside the U.S. and Canada 217-351-5076
Order online at www.humankinetics.com
Complete system includes net, robot body, electrical controls, video, & manuals. Accepts either 38 or 40mm balls. Compared to Robo-Pong 2000, this robot has improved, smoother oscillation and pivoting mechanisms and more consistent ball feed. Comes with forty-eight 40mm Robo-Balls.
It looks like the 40mm balls are here to stay. Have you made the switch yet? If not, what are you waiting for? Your competition is leaving you behind. Flip the switches on the new Robo-Pong 2040 to practice and bring your skills up to date with the new standard 40mm ball. Or flip the switches again to tune up the old skills for the upcoming 38mm tournament. Robo-Pong 2040 can handle either ball with ease!

If you already have a Robo-Pong 2000, you can protect your investment and upgrade your robot to the 40mm ball with our affordable Robo-Pong 2040 Upgrade Kit. Gives you all the capabilities of a new Robo-Pong 2040, but for much less money. Install the upgrade quickly and easily in less than 10 minutes. Upgrade Kit will also fit Robo-Pong 1000 robots, but not the obsolete Model 1929 robots (1988 to 1994). Call us about special pricing if you bought your robot after 1/1/99.

SPECIAL PRICING FOR UPGRADES EXPIRES 12/31/01!
Get Your Upgrade Now Before This Offer Expires!

Robo-Pong 2000
The most popular robot in the world! Uses 38mm balls only. Net system recycles returns for non-stop play. No assembly required. Quick and easy set-up and take-down. Folds down for compact storage and transport. Comes with forty-eight 38mm Robo-Balls.

Robo-Pong 1000
Our most economical model! Ball bucket hold approximately 100 balls. No net included. Can be placed on top of table or on a chair, Robo-Caddy, or other support in back of table. Bucket can be turned to allow multiple angles and trajectories. Comes with thirty-six 38mm Robo-Balls.

Robo-Pong 2040 Upgrade Kit
The 2040 Upgrade Kit permits you to easily and quickly retrofit your existing Robo-Pong 2000 or 1000 robot to accept the new 40mm ball. No trade in required – you keep your old robot body. Can use either 38 or 40mm balls. Comes with forty-eight 40mm Robo-Balls.

Robots permit identical adjustment of spin, speed, frequency, oscillation, and trajectory. Product is covered by a 30 day money back guarantee, 1 year warranty, and 5 year service policy.
Brian Pace, after his heroics the day before in the North American Qualifiers (where he went 3-0), cooled down considerably, losing both matches badly to Feth at 9 & 9, and to Denmark’s Morten Knudsen (world #250) at 12 & 10. Perhaps his mind was still on the North Americans? He received a default in his final match from India’s Satish Patel, and so finished third.

Group Ten: This group came down to a showdown between World #177 Terry Young of England, and unranked Yang Hee Suk of Korea, with Yang winning, -15,11,18. USA’s Santiago Gabriel (from Puerto Rico) lost all three matches.

Group Eleven: World #177 Cedric Mirault of France dominated, although he lost a game to Korea’s unranked Kim Seung Hwan, 18,-16,14. USA’s Razvan Cretu played well, winning a game against Hwan (16,-18,13), losing to Mirault (13 & 14) and to world #239 Marc Clossset of Belgium, 12 & 20.

Group Twelve: This was by far the most contested group, with all four players (including USA’s 16-year-old star Mark Hazinski) roughly equal. At the start, most feared China’s unranked Guo Keli would dominate — until he lost his first match, to world #229 Raymond Gonzales of Norway, at -12, 17, 11.

In the second round, Mark played world #189 Kunihiko Tasei of Japan, a pips-out penholder. Down 9-16 in the third, Mark went on an 11-2 hinge, and served with a 20-18 match point lead! But Tasei deuced it. At 20-21 match point for Tasei, they played a furious point, with each hitting over ten counters or loops — and Mark’s continuous power loops finally deuced it, 21-11. Then Mark made a strong opening loop — and Tasei blocked on the edge! A moment later, it was match to Tasei, 17-11, 21-7.

In the second round, Mark played Gonzales. He won the first at 16, but was down 12-16 in the second — and then scored eight in a row! Down 20-16 match point, Gonzales scored four in a row — was Mark about to blow another match after multiple match points? Not this time; he pulled it out, 23-21. While this match was going on, Guo was busy beating Tasei, deuce in the third.

At this point, all four are 1-1, so anyone can win. However, in the last round, Mark falls to China’s Guo, 16,6, while Tasei defeats Gonzales, 12,10,12. Tasei and Guo both finish 2-1, with Guo coming out first due to his head-to-head win over Tasei.

One side result — Mark defeated a world-ranked player at the recent World Championships, so this is his second one. To get a world ranking, you have to beat two world-ranked players - so Mark should have a world ranking as soon as this tournament is processed.

Group Thirteen: World #193 Mads Sorensen of Denmark dominated, winning his three matches by scores of 14, 22, 17, 19, 17, 9. USA’s Keith Alban, not really in practice since going into semi-retirement a year ago, whitewashed Lee 21-9 in the first, a large USA crowd had gathered, cheering David on. In the same round, Mark played world #189 Kunihiko Tasei of Japan, -16,17,19. With a huge cheering section, world #12 David advanced past one of the best doubles teams in the world (Werner Schlager is the other half). Jindrak, ranked #153 in the world, is better at doubles, but he’s no slouch in singles. David was up 2-1 in games, and led 15-12 in the fourth. But Jindrak scored six straight to lead 15-18. David mishits a ball to almost eye level — but Jindrak backhand loop kills it awkwardly into the net, 16-18. When Jindrak scores the next point (16-19), he yells “Cho!”! It’s the last “Cho” he’ll be able to do. David serves at 16-19 — and scores five straight to win.

Iljia Lupulesku (YUG) d. Abass Ekuon (NGR), 5,20,12. On the draw, Abass was listed as Nigerian, and Lupulesku as Yugoslavian. Both are living in the U.S. For all intents and purposes, it was USA vs. USA, with USA winning.

Other matches:

- Aleksandar Karakasevic (YUG) d. Michel Martinez (FRA), 11,-17,18,20
- Yang Hee Suk (KOR) d. Geir Erlandson (NOR), 18,20,-6,21
- Marc Clossset (BEL) d. Zoltan Fejer-Konnerth (GER), -20,15,11,-17,18
- Ryo Yuzawa (JPN) d. Guo Keli (CHN), 13,8,-15,14
- Martin Bratanov (BEL) d. Mads Sorensen (DEN), 15,13,-15,11
- Allan Bentsen (DEN) d. Cedric Mirault (FRA), 10,19,-20,17
- Robert Gardos (AUT) d. Hugo Hoyamura (BRA), 14,13,16
- Gareth Herbert (ENG) d. Eric Varin (FRA), 14,17,19
- Liu Song (ARG) d. Stefan Feth (GER), 17,15,13
- Joo Se Hyuk (KOR) d. Finn Tugwell (DEN), 15,-19,18,12
- Chang Yuan-Su (TPE) d. Panagiotis Gionis (GRE), 16,11,17
- Slobadan Grujić (YUG) d. Muneaki Mitamura (JPN), def.

First round byes: Liu Guozheng, Trinko Keen, Danny Heister, Lucjan Blaszczyk, Jorg Rosskopf, Torben Wosik, Toshio Tasaki, Jean-Michel Saive.

Round Two (Round of 32)

Lee Chul Seung (KOR) d. David Zhuang (USA), -9,16,21,17

David Zhuang almost pulled off the day’s top upset — he was 13-all in the fifth with world #3 Lee, an all-out forehand penhold looper (but with a surprisingly good backhand — including a penhold backhand loop). After whitewashing Lee 21-9 in the first, a large USA crowd had gathered, cheering David on. In the third game, with the match tied one game each, David goes up 3-0. At 3-1, Lee pulls off what probably is the shot of the tournament, one that will be tough to top. David does a sidespin block to Lee’s extreme backhand, with the sidespin making the ball break even wider. Lee had already started to step around to loop his forehand, and he ends up going all the way over to where the scorekeeper is, and rips a forehand loop around the net, below net level, so it hits the table and barely bounces! Possibly shaken by this shot, David falls behind 5-14 — and then scores eight in a row to get to 13-14! But Lee responds by scor-
World-class Butterfly tables used at the 2001 US Open/ITTF Pro Tour are now on sale. Call Butterfly Table Tennis Center at:

1-800-611-7712

Prices Include freight charges anywhere in the Continental U.S.

www.butterflyonline.com

EUROPA STATIONARY
- 5 Minute Assembly
- Storage Dimensions: L 60"x W 6"x H 54"
- Includes National League Net Set

$649

CENTREFOLD ROLLAWAY
- No Assembly Required
- Storage Dimensions: L 60"x W 15"x H 63"
- Includes Europa Net Set

$849

Also available:
- Used Europa Barriers $25 each + Freight
- Umpire Tables $62 each + Freight
- Used Europa Scoreboards $36 each + Freight
ing five in a row and won easily. In the fourth, David goes up 7-3, but Lee ties it up at 12-all. David goes up 18-16, then loses three in a row, 18-19. At 19-all, David blocks off, and yells, “Stupid! What are you doing!” He then surprises Lee by serving and backhand hitting, and Lee blocks off, 20-20. David goes up 21-20, then it’s 21-all. Lee flips into the net, 22-21; then David blocks Lee around, and forces Lee to try an off-balance loop that misses, 23-21. In the fifth, at 13-all, Lee takes over, scoring six in a row on his way to winning 21-17, to the groans of the crowd. The last USA player is out of the event.

Werner Schlager (AUT) d. Allan Bentsen (DEN), 20,-17,20,12,16

World #50 Bentsen is a lefty power looper, with a spectacular backhand loop that he was unafraid to use at any time. After winning the first two games, Bentsen led 16-11 in the third – and then Schlager (world #7) tied it up at 19-all! Then, with his usual fearlessness, Bentsen absolutely rips a backhand loop off Schlager’s slightly long serve – but it goes just off, 20-19 Schlager. Undaunted, Bentsen absolutely rips another backhand loop – this one hits, deuce. Then Bentsen serves and backhand hits again – but whiffs the ball! Schlager goes up 21-20. They then have the point of the match – a vicious counterlooping point, with a mixture of power loops, soft topspin returns, and backhand counterloops, and full-court coverage. It finally ends with Bentsen backhand chipping into the net – game to Schlager, 22-20. (Immediately afterwards, a spectator was asking if he could buy a tape just so he could see this point again!) Schlager then wins the next two relatively easily.

Johnny Huang (CAN) d. Robert Gardos (AUT), -15,18,14,-17,22

What a match, and what a way to finish – with Huang (a shakehand with pips on both sides, world #38) winning on a net ball at 24-22 in the fifth (after being down match point), against world #142 Gardos!

Other matches:
- Liu Guozheng (CHN) d. Jaromir Truksa (SVK), 18,14,9
- Trinko Keen (NED) d. Chetan Baboor (IND), -19,12,17,10
- Danny Heister (NE) d. Aleksandar Karakasevic (YUG), 21,8,16
- Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL) d. Yang Hee Suk (KOR), 12,10,22
- Jorg Rosskopf (GER) d. Marc Cloister (BEL), 11,14,20,11
- Ryo Yuzawa (JPN) d. Torben Wosik (GER), -20,18,9,13
- Toshiro Tasaki (JPN) d. Ilia Lupuleska (YUG), 9,15,19,18
- Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) d. Martin Bratanov (BEL), 20,-19,11,15
- Oh Sang Eun (KOR) d. Gareth Herbert (ENG), 10,18,21
- Timo Boll (GER) d. Liu Song (CHN), 15,7,17
- Kaliniko Kretanga (GRE) d. Joo Se Hyuk (KOR), 19,17,13
- Chuan Chi-Yuan (TPE) d. Chang Chi-Yuan (TPE), 13,14,9
- Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE) d. Sbobadan Grujic (YUG), 10,16,16,13

ROUND THREE (ROUND OF 16)
Liu Guozheng (CHN) d. Trinko Keen (DEN), 21,19,8

Left-handed Trinko Keen has very fast reflexes, and seemed able to react to anything top-seeded Liu sent to him. In the first, Keen took an 18-14 lead. However, he then put Liu’s serve into the net three straight times – Whatever serves Liu had held back on and unleashed had done their job. Liu scored the three in a row as well (six in a row total), and led 20-18, finally winning 23-21. When Liu won the second one, another close one at 21-19, it pretty much ended Keen’s chances – and Liu killed him in the third.

Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE) d. Lee Chul Seung (KOR), 10,9,9

Second-seeded Chiang could do no wrong, and poor Lee absolutely had no answers. That’s why penhold looping & jabbing Chiang is fifth in the world.

Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) d. Toshio Tasaki (JPN), 15,14,13

This was your usual, spectacular display by Saive, who roved the court, lobbing, fishing, and racing around his backhand to loop forehands. Tasaki played with more discipline, stayed at the table, smashed efficiently. and generally had difficulty scoring against Saive’s acrobatic style. Saive is probably the most entertaining of players, and he uses more of the court than anybody. One worrisome note – Saive has been struggling with arm problems recently, but seemed all right here – so far.

Johnny Huang (CAN) d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 11,14,-20,19,21

This was the best match of the round. At the start, Huang was killing Schlager – basically killing everything Schlager could loop. Huang won the first two games, and led 20-18 match point in the second. However – USA Coach Don Gheorghe said, “Schlager is always coming back. Never count him out!” Schlager won four in a row to win. In the fourth, it is

Huang’s turn to come back. Down 15-18, Huang scores four in a row – but once again, it is Schlager who comes back, winning the next three points to win – including the point at 19-20 where Huang smashed all out, and Schlager looped back a winner. So the match went into the fifth – and Huang takes an immediate 5-0 lead on Schlager’s serve, then 6-0. But Schlager (“Never count him out!”) ties it at 11-all. Down 17-14, Schlager ties it at 17-all. Then he goes up 20-18 match point! But again, it is Huang’s turn to come back from this score, just as Schlager had in game three. Schlager has another match point at 21-20, but Huang wins the next three in a row, winning 23-21 in the fifth, in a match where the tide turned faster and more often then a ping pong ball. It was Huang’s second straight deuce-in-the-third win.

Chuan Chi-Yuan (TPE) d. Kalinikos Kretanga (GRE), 15,25,-20,10

Chuan, a close to the table two-winged looper (who looks younger than his 19 years, and small for his age), won the first, and led 20-16 in the second. But Kretanga’s two-winged looping scored four in a row to reach deuce. Then Chuan served into the net! Soon, Kretanga seems to win, 25-23 – only Kretanga tells the umpire the ball hit the edge, and the point is Chuan’s (who didn’t seem to notice either). So much for nice guys – Chuan wins the game, 27-25, and after losing the third at deuce, easily wins the fourth.

Other matches:
- Jorg Rosskopf (GER) d. Ryo Yuzawa (JPN), 20,13,16
- Oh Sang Eun d. Timo Boll (GER), 14,16,18,13
- Lucjan Blaszczyk (POL) d. Danny Heister (DEN), 17,15,14,17

QUARTERFINALS
Johnny Huang (CAN) d. Oh Sang Eun (KOR), -16,28,16,5

Oh won the first, and led 20-18 in the second – but Huang deuced it, helped by Oh’s missed backhand smash at 20-19. (How many times have players blown 20-18 leads today already?) It took 58 points, but Huang finally pulled this game out, 30-28, and he dominated the rest of the way. In game four, Huang led 8-5 – and scored the next 13 in a row to win 21-5!

[Con’t on page 55]
How can you compensate for spin loss due to the greater diameter of the 40mm ball? - and also speed up the game? The solution is MAKSS, the rubber sheet with an extremely thin rubber surface and 2.4mm and 2.6mm sponge thickness. The newly developed shorter inverted pip manages slow balls while the new thickened sponge provides the answer for faster balls. In spite of the thickness of the sponge, Makss offers enhanced ball control during slow strokes [service, backhand, block and push]. It is also very effective against hard, fast strokes like topspin.

Makss, TIBHAR's goal was to give the sponge more freedom of action to reach the optimum boundaries of speed and spin. Advice for speed glue players: the thickness/volume of the sponge have considerably increased, thus requiring more speed glue and increasing the time necessary for the glue to soak into the sponge. The result is simply amazing!

Speed: 9.2, Spin: 9.4, Sponge thickness: 2.4, 2.6

$30.95

Vladimir Samsonov is a classy star. His elegant game and exemplary fair play make him an extraordinary ambassador of our sport. Give your game its best shot: play with the same top quality brand equipment of one of the world's best!

Vladimir Samsonov Alpha: The Champion's Weapon!

One of the world's top players, Vladimir Samsonov developed this offensive blade himself. Precious wood outer plies, with extra strong middle layer, guarantees better resilience with more control. For controlled, spin-oriented attack game w/lots of pressure. Speed: OFF. Handle: FL, AN, ST. Wgt: 80 gms. 5-ply. Price: $43.95 Item: XSTSA

CUSTOM COMBOS FROM TIBHAR

EUROPE'S FAVORITE BLADES

$78.95

Paddle Palace: North American Distributor for Tibhar Products

1-800-547-5891
www.paddlepalace.com

Offers good thru 10/16/01
THE MULTIPLE PARK KYUNG AE

Korea’s Park Kyung Ae is a well-known star, ranked 85th in the world (in new rankings just out). When she was entered, she was seeded out of the qualifier, as is due to someone of her ranking — only, she wasn’t one of that ranking! It turns out there are two Park Kyung Ae’s — Korea neglected to anyone that the Park entered was not the Park who was ranked 85th in the world! According to ITTF Pro Tour Director Zlatko Cordas, this is the first time this has ever happened in the Pro Tour.

According to Tim Boggan, this happened in golf as well. How did they handle it? The two Gordon Brand’s — who are not related — are called Gordon Brand Sr. and Jr., which is somewhat confusing to those who think they must be father and son.

Even worse, a little investigation revealed ... that the Park Kyung Ae who was ranked 85th in the world ... had recently died in childbirth.

IN ... OUT ... IN ...

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF WANG CHEN

Wang Chen, the former World #4 woman from China now living in New Jersey, had her ins and outs. As the preliminary round robins got underway, at one point Wang Chen’s name was removed from her qualifying group due to a protest lodged by the Chinese Association. However, after a huddle between USATT President Sheri Pittman, CTTA’s Vice President Yu Bin, and ITTF Competition Manager Zlatko Cordas, her name reappeared on the drawsheet. She quickly won her three qualifier matches (she no longer has a world ranking, and so was unseeded) and advanced to the main draw.

WOMEN’S ITTF PRO TOUR QUALIFIER

27 women were entered in the Qualifier, placed in six groups of four and one of three... (three didn’t show.) The top two finishers in each group would all advance to the main draw, along with two #3 players, who would be selected at random, to fill out the main draw.

USA players were in six of the seven groups, all but group four (with two USAers in group five). It was a bad time to be top seed — only one of the seven top seeds finished first. In fact, of the seven #1 seeds, one finished first; three finished second; two finished third; and one finished fourth.

Group One: World #201 Pia Finnemann of Denmark won both her matches easily (11&14 and 11&9), and received a default from USA’s Angela Sun. She would be the only #1 seed to win her group. Coming in second and advancing was Ruth Alvarez of Guam.

Group Two: First she’s in ... then she’s out (and marked so on the draws and online)... then she’s back in again! But all this controversy didn’t affect her play — Wang Chen (listed as USA) dominated her group by scores of 11&12 and 7& 11. Top-seeded Natalia Tzygankova of Belarus (world #202) was a no show. Also advancing in second was Mariana Guanchez of Venezuela.

Group Three: In this group of three, Korea’s unranked Kim Bok Rae dominated, defeating USA’s Virginia Sung (the group’s top seed at world #202 — tied with Tzygankova above) at 11 & 8. However, Virginia defeated second-seeded N.R. Indu of India (world #338) at 8 & 16, and so advanced along with Kim.

Group Four: Another unranked Korean, Yoon Ji Hye, won all three matches in straight games without being seriously challenged. Coming in second and advancing was India’s Poulomi Ghatak (world #217).

Group Five: This group had two USA players (top-seeded world #224 Simone Yang and #4 seed Mimi Bosika), while group four had none. The group also had the strangest results. For one thing, only two matches were played. Second-seeded Annadilia Chakraborty of India (world #297) didn’t show. Simone was told by someone that she played at 11AM — which was 45 minutes after it started, so she was defaulted in her match with Mimi Bosika. So the only matches played were between China’s unranked Fu Yu and the USA players. Fu defeated Mimi at 18 & 13, and Simone at 13 & 15. Yet, Mimi, losing her only match, came in second and advanced, while Simone, also losing her only match, came in third, and was in the running to advance as one of the wild cards. (Nope, she didn’t get it.)

Group Six: With one close game and five one-sided wins, China’s unranked Jia Beibie easily won her three matches. In the original results,
Tamasu Company, manufacturer of the comprehensive line of Butterfly products, and its distributor, Martin Kilpatrick, appreciate the opportunity and the experience of being the new table sponsor at the 2001 U.S. Open/Pro Tour. We pledge that we shall continue to strive for excellence in bringing more enjoyment to participants and spectators at the U.S. Open/Pro Tour and the U.S. National Championships, just as we do in bringing quality products to our customers.

As part of our desire to strengthen the cooperative relationship between Butterfly and USA TABLE TENNIS, and to play an active role in the development of elite junior U.S. athletes, Butterfly and the USATT are pleased to announce the inauguration of the USATT-Butterfly Junior Training Program. USATT will select up to four juniors every year and Tamasu Company will sponsor them to train for a month at the Butterfly Dohjo.
Official STIGA USA Clothing Available From The Table Tennis Pioneers www.ping-pong.com

Barney J Reed
U.S. National Team Member

Ashu Jain
2000 U.S. Collegiate Champion

Fredrik Hakansson
Swedish Champion

Dress Like a World Champion
STIGA’s Fantastic Shirts and Shorts for Tournament Play

Match Shirt
All Stiga Match Shirts are 100% cotton Available in sizes XXS - XXL
Colors: Navy/Yellow, Royal/Black, Red/Black

Champ Short
Available in Black with White Stripes Sizes XS - XXXL
35% cotton, 65% polyester

Classic Shirt
All Stiga Classic Shirts are 100% cotton Available in sizes XXS - XXXL
Colors: Green & Navy

Classic Shorts
Available in Black & Navy Sizes XS - XXXL
35% cotton, 65% polyester

Future Shoes
High Stability with Extreme Comfort

Pride T-Shirt
Train Hard in Stiga’s New Pride T-Shirt Available in both Black or Navy 100% cotton, sizes XS - XXL

Winner Tracksuit
Available in Royal/Black or Navy/Yellow 35% cotton, 65% polyester sizes XXS - XXXL

STIGA Classic Tracksuit worn by the U.S. National Team 35% cotton, 65% polyester sizes XXS - XXXL

Official Clothing Supplier to the USA National Team

The Most Comfortable Tracksuits in Table Tennis Today!

Distributed in North America by The Table Tennis Pioneers www.ping-pong.com

Web: www.ping-pong.com • e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com • Tel: (800) 319-PING (7464) • Fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664)
Barbados/USA's Kibibi Moseley was listed as defeating top-seeded Mantu Ghosh of India (world #251) at 14 & 13. It ended in a three-way tie for second (between Kibibi, Ghosh and Luisana Perez of Peru, world #308), going to 14 & 13. It ended in a three-way tie for second (between Kibibi, Ghosh and Perez). With Ghosh coming out! She was way tie for second (between Kibibi, Ghosh and Perez). It was all an error (Good Ghosh!) - that Ghosh (world #251) won both her matches easily against the unranked player, Li Qiangbing. From USA's Mahin Roufeh, who lost her first round and advancing was Canada's junior star Marie-Christie Roussy - who plays with the "Seemiller" (windshield wiper) grip.

**ROUND ONE (ROUND OF 64)**
Kim Bok Rae (KOR) d. Wang Chen (USA), 19,7,14
Although still a citizen of China, and despite the controversy regarding her being allowed to play, Wang was allowed to play as a "USA" player. However, it didn't last long. Formerly #1 in the world, she lost to the unranked Korean player.

Jasna Reed (USA) d. Li Qiangbing (CHN), 16,12,22,10,14
This was a banner match, with Jasna playing one of her best matches in coming back, winning the last two games easily against the unranked Chinese.

Tawny Banh (USA) d. Marie-Christine Roussy (CAN), 9,15,12

Virginia Sung (USA) d. Chris Xu (CAN), 11,14,14
In these two matches, USA picked on Canadian women with contrasting styles. Tawny's all-out two-winged attacking (looping forehand, pips-out hitting backhand) was too much for "the Seemiller" gripped Roussy, and Virginia won the battle of the choppers.

**Other matches:**
- Pia Finnemann (DEN) d. Mimi Bosika (USA), 16,18,19
- Kim Kyung Ha (KOR) d. Ruth Alvarez (GUA), 19,7,14
- Olga Nemes (GER) d. Park Kyung Ae (KOR), 12,14,16
- Yoo Ji Hye (KOR) d. Eldijana Aganovic (CRO), -10,18,19,-19,18
- Jia Bei Bei (CHN) . Peggy Regenwetter (LUX), 18,6,21
- Petra Cada (CAN) d. Mariana Guanchez (VEN), 10,11,15
- Fabiola Ramos (VEN) d. Lin Xiu Zhen (USA), def.
- Fu Yu (CHN) d. Das Mouma (IND), 14,14,7
- Yuka Nishii (JPN) d. Mantu Ghosh (IND), 10,12,8
- Shin Soo Hee d. Chiu Wennen (CAN), 15,17,17
- Lee Hyang Mi (KOR) d. Poulomi Ghatak (IND), 12,17,17


**ROUND TWO (ROUND OF 32)**
Chang Jun Gao (USA) d. Fabiola Ramos (VEN), 18,16,12
Chang block & hit through the strong two-winged looper from Venezuela, ranked #251 in the world.

Lee Eun Sil (KOR) d. Tawny Banh (USA), 18,17,14,13

Asa Svensson (SWE) d. Virginia Sung (USA), 17,12,17

Ryu Ji Hye (KOR) d. Jasna Reed (USA), 13,12,13
End of the road for the rest of the USA Team. Tawny looked like her match was going to be close, but Lee pulled away the last two games.

Jia Bei Bei (CHN) d. Krizstina Toth (HUN), 15,13,18,17

Csilla Batorfi (HUN) d. Yoon Ji Hye (KOR), 9,16,13,14,21
Played side-by-side, these were two of the most spectacular matches - with Batorfi (world #21) pulling out the deuce-in-the-fifth win against the unranked Korean, while Toth (world #22) becoming the first highly seeded player to lose, going down to the unranked Chinese.

Fu Yu (CHN) d. Elke Schall (GER), def.
World #56 Schall defaulted due to a back injury, deciding to focus on doubles only, where, with a first-round bye and a second round win, she would advance into the quarterfinals (with partner Tanja Haim-Hofmann).

Other Matches:
- Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Kim Kyung Ha, 21,11,18
- Bai Yang (CHN) d. Kim Bok Rae (KOR), 11,15,13
- Olga Nemes d. Pia Finnemann (DEN), 14,13,20,16
- Aya Umemura (JPN) d. Kim Soon Sil (KOR), 11,11,17
- Ni Xia Lian (LUX) d. Tanja Haim-Hofmann (GER), 10,11,12
- Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Petra Cada (CAN), 15,13,12
- Yuka Nishii (JPN) d. Guo Yun (CHN), 19,17,-17,21
- An Konishi (JPN) d. Shin Soo Hee (KOR), -19,-20,14,15,7
- Wang Tingting (CHN) d. Lee Hyang Mi (KOR)

**ROUND THREE (ROUND OF 16)**
Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Chang Gao Jun (USA), 11,15,-20,19
USA's Gao admitted before the match that she wasn't very confident about this match, up against the world #19. It wasn't the ranking that bothered her - she just knows how hard the Chinese team trains (she was one of their stars before moving to the U.S.), and so knows what she's up against - and she no longer trains seriously. However, after losing the first two games pretty badly, Gao began to get back some of her former world #1 abilities. She makes it to 19-all (smashing Niu's loop over and over) - and then, when Niu pops the ball up, Gao disarmingly smashes it into the net! However, she wins the next three points (smashing Niu's loop at 20-20), and wins. In the fourth, Gao goes up 6-1, Niu ties it at 10-all, then Gao goes up 19-18, with Niu serving. Niu serve and loops three straight times, and wins 21-19. USA is out of the event.

**Women's Singles Semifinalist**
Ryu Ji Hye of Korea

Photo by John Oros ©2001
Ryu Ji Hye (KOR) d. Asa Svensson (SWE), 10-18,18,17,17

Although Ryu, in the new rankings just out, had dropped from 8th to 11th, she was still well ahead of Svensson’s world #52 ranking. But Svensson, lobbing aggressively from both wings, won the first two against the forehand looping, backhand hitting Ryu. They were 17-11 in the third, then 17-19; Svensson finally deuces Ryu down to get to 18-19, but loses at 18. Svensson stays with Ryu for much of the fourth as well, but Ryu pulls away at the end. In the fifth, there is a point at 8-10 where Svensson is back lobbing, counterloops suddenly, gets back into the point, and is forced to lob again before losing the point! Ryu gradually pulls away to win.

Zhang Yining (CHN) d. Bai Yang (CHN), 15,19,11

This was a battle of very tall and thin women – which seemed to describe a number of the members of the Chinese National Team, which seems to be a head taller than their teams of the past. Zhang, now ranked #2 in the world in new rankings just out, pulled out the close second game, and romped in the fourth.

Wang Tingting (CHN) d. An Konishi (JPN), 20,11,13

Konishi is known for her vicious counterdriving – but against chopper Wang, she seemed barely able to score after the first game. Wang put on a chopping show with her nearly impregnable defense.

Other Matches

- Olga Nemes (GER) d. Csilla Batorfi (HUN), 15,11,19,7
- Aya Umemura (JPN) d. Jia Bei Bei (CHN), 20,19,15,8
- Ni Xia Lian (LUX) d. Lee Eun Sil (KOR), 15,8,11,16
- Fu Yu (CHN) d. Nishik Yuka (JPN), 12,18,6,18

QUARTERFINALS

Olga Nemes (GER) d. Zhang Yining (CHN), 17,15,20,7

Who would have believed it! World #38 won the first two against World #2 Zhang! In the third, Zhang led 18-13 – but Nemes scored five straight (Zhang takes a timeout), and then goes up 20-19 match point. Zhang blocks six in a row, and finally deuces it – and wins, 22-20. Zhang takes complete control in the fourth... 21-7. However, in this match, there was no contest. Niu so controlled play that it was as if no match was being played, they were just rallying until Niu looped a winner or Aya missed. In the third game, Niu led 9-0 and 16-1. Niue dominated the backhand hitting attack, and leads 14-11. But at 15-13, Aya scores four in a row. Olga calls a timeout, but it doesn’t help. Aya wins and advances to the final.

Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Ryu Ji Hye (KOR), 13,15,5

This match-up was similar to the Umemura-Nemes match-up, in that Ryu plays somewhat like Olga (looping forehand, hitting backhand), while Niuel loops somewhat like Aya (looping from both sides). In both matches, the player with controlling backhand loop controlled play and won. In this case, Niu, using a #1 in the world to Ryu’s #9, dominated from start to finish. In the third game, she led 9-0 and 16-1.

FINALS

Niu Jianfeng d. Aya Umemura, 11,13,2

Here we have two players ranked #21 and #90 in the world in an ITTF Pro Tour Final! However, the #21 really should be somewhere in the top five. However, in this match, there was no contest. Niue so controlled play that it was as if no match was being played, they were just rallying until Niue looped a winner or Aya missed. In the third game, Niue led 11-0 and 19-1, and won at 2. China’s Niu Jianfeng is the 2001 U.S. Open ITTF Pro Tour Women’s Singles (and Doubles, with Bai Yang) Champion.

SEMI FINALS

Aya Umemura (JPN) d. Olga Nemes (GER), 16,18,13,17

World #39 Olga Nemes has been the sensation of the women’s singles so far, with wins over top-seeded and world #2 Zhang Yining, and world #21 Csilla Batorfi. Now she’s up against world #90 Aya Umemura – at least, in the ratings on hand. One week before, Aya had won women’s singles at the Brazilian Open, so you can junk that #90 ranking. She’s a very powerful two-winged looper – she basically plays a “man’s” power game, with feet wide, and threatening to loop winners from both wings off anything. In contrast, Olga loops her forehand, but hits her backhand – and the result was that Olga spent most of the match blocking while Aya tied her up with one loop after another. Aya won the first two relatively easily. Olga ran away with the third when Aya’s loops became erratic, and Olga’s hard-hitting backhand kept going through Aya. In the fourth, Olga continues to press the backhand hitting attack, and leads 14-11. But at 15-13, Aya scores four in a row. Olga calls a timeout, but it doesn’t help. Aya wins and advances to the final.

The TV Booth (Dan Seemiller on left)

Hardbat Champion Lily Yip

She had been in the hardbat final of a “Major” (U.S. Open, U.S. Nationals, North American Championships) six times before, but only had six second-place finishes to show for it. Lily finally broke the ice and won this year’s U.S. Open with a totally dominating performance. At the last Nationals, a chopper (Steve Berger) won for the first time; now a woman won for the first time.

She only lost one game along with the way, to this writer in the quarterfinals, in compiling a 15-1 game record. In the final, she defeated North American Hardbat Champion Alexis Perez, who she had lost to in the final last year, 11,15,18. She defeated Freddy Gaburl and in the semifinals (who’d knocked off National Champion Steve Berger in the quarters), 19,11,18.

Ty Hoff, who in recent years has dominated the event (winning the 1999 & 2000 U.S. Opens, and the U.S. Nationals in 1998 and 1999) lost to Perez in the semifinals, 14,18,9. Ty has never seemed quite as strong since the introduction of the 40mm ball – he used to pin players down on their weaker side, but the 40mm seems to give opponents more time to react.

HARDBAT DOUBLES

However, Ty and this writer did win Open Doubles for the third straight year in a 19-in-the-third thriller (19,17,19) against Tahl Leibovitz and Steve Berger. After the doubles final, Ty and Steve gave a hardbat clinic to promote hardbat and as a fundraiser for the hardbat committee.

HARDBAT UNDER 2000

Lori Benedict kept the title in Northern California, “as God intended,” wrote Scott Gordon, the winner at the Nationals (but not present to fight for this title). In the final, Lori defeated Simon Jacobson, 17,22.

HARDBAT BENEFIT

There was also the regular Bobbie Gusikoff Fundraising Benefit Hardbat Tournament, run by Ed Ball and won by Lily Yip over a chopper using a clipboard for a racket, who shall remain nameless unless you see the byline above.
World #4 Chiang Peng-Lung lost in the quarters, but won Men's Doubles.

[Con't from page 48]

Chuan Chi-Yuan (TPE) d. Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE), -16,19,21,9

Several years ago, the ITTF stopped using geographical separation in the draws, supposedly so Chinese players wouldn’t be spread out, and end up taking up all the final spots. (Much better to have them knock each other out.) So not only did Chuan have to play teammate Chang Yuan-Su in his first match, he had to play his other teammate – the Taipei #1 – Chiang in the quarterfinals. (These were the only three players from Taipei.) Against the world #5 player, Chuan should have little chance… right? But teammates get comfortable with each other, and using his backhand loop to pin Chiang down on his backhand, Chuan relentlessly looped his way to victory, taking out the tournament’s second seed. In the third, Chiang had a 21-20 lead, but pushed Chuan’s serve into the net. In the fourth, Chuan was playing so well that even Chiang was smiling and shaking his head in disbelief.

Liu Guozheng (CHN) d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), -12,9,18,11

Liu Guozheng has a reputation of being a slow starter, but a fast finisher. In this match, he was true to form – he got creamed by a red-hot Saive in the first game (where he was down 16-5), but from there on, it was mostly all Liu. Saive took a 15-9, then 16-12 lead in the third, but Liu scored seven in a row to take the lead, with Saive missing his serve three times in a row from 16-all (looping one into the net, the next two off). Up 19-18, Liu mis-hit and popped a serve up in the air – but Saive missed a loop kill that would have tied it. Liu won that game at 18. Saive, who had been having arm problems recently, grabbed his arm a number of times in the fourth (won easily by Liu at 11), and it was obvious he was having problems with it, although it didn’t seem to affect him much until late in the match.

Johnny Huang (CAN) d. Chuan Chi-Yuan (TPE), -15,19,17,12,11

This would be an interesting contrast of styles: Johnny’s pips-out on both sides shakehands grip, with an all-out close to the table hitting style, against Chuan’s acrobatic two-winged close-to-the-table looping style.

Let’s look at Johnny’s “march” to the final:
- Defeats Robert Gardos, -15,18,14,-17,22 (down match point, wins on a net ball)
- Defeats Werner Schlager, 11,14,-20,19,21 (down 20-18 and 21-20 in fifth)
- Defeats Oh Sang Eun, 16,28,16,5 (down 20-18 in second after losing first)
- Defeats Chuan Chi-Yuan, -15,19,17,12,12 (down 13-7 in third after losing first two)

He’s like an escape artist, isn’t he? Once again, Johnny “escaped,” this time after losing the first two games. Down 9-5 in the third, Johnny takes a timeout, but it doesn’t seem to help. He falls behind 7-13. Chuan is able to play at Johnny’s relentless pace.. He’s making powerful backhand loops even off of Johnny’s best backhand hits, and seems relentless in his attack. He’s just come off beating world #4 Chiang Peng-Lung, and he’s up 2-0 and 13-7 on Johnny.

So Johnny scores six in a row, and it’s 13-all. Down 13-15, Johnny scores five in a row again, 18-15. A few points later, and Johnny has survived, 21-17 – but he’s still down 2-1 in games.

At 2-2 in the fourth, after a great rally of Johnny smashing Chuan’s loops, and Chuan looping them right back, Chuan misses a shot. He then asks Johnny if the ball hit his shirt during the rally. In answer, Johnny walks over to the scoreboard and flips the score to give Chuan the point, 3-2 Chuan. However, it would be the last lead Chuan would have this match as Johnny ran away with the last two games, both at 12. Chuan seemed to get more erratic as the match went on – were he getting tired from all the acrobatic play? There wasn’t much for Chuan’s fans to cheer for in the rest of this match, except perhaps for the spectacular catch by a cameraman of a ball mishit off his racket edge and out of the court.

FINAL

Liu Guozheng d. Johnny Huang, -13,17,-17,14,17

Most thought Liu would win this easily – he is ranked #4 in the world, to Johnny’s 38th However, Johnny, the 1992 U.S. Open Men’s Singles Champion, has been ranked in the top 20, and his all-out hitting style, when on, gives nearly everyone trouble. Liu’s spectacular two-winged looping game – similar to Chuan’s, but more powerful – seems invincible to all but the best. The points were sensational, but can’t be adequately described in print. However, none of the first four games were particularly close. There were times when either player became so hot there was nothing the other player could do except wait for him to cool down, or match him in hotness.

In the fifth, Huang takes an 11-7 lead, and Liu takes a time-out. The transition was immediate – Liu scores 9 of the next 12 points, and leads 16-13. At 18-15, Liu wins a point on a net, 19-15. Johnny then hammer three backhand kills to score one point, 19-16, and is serving at the end.

He’ll remember the next point for some time. He launches a tricky serve that Liu pops up – but Huang, with one of the best smashes in the game, misses! So instead of 19-17, it’s 20-16 match point. You can see the utter disgust in Johnny’s face. As if to make up for it, Johnny gets a net ball to win the next point (20-17), but Liu loops in Johnny’s next serve to win the point, game, match and the Men’s Singles crown. Liu Guozheng, the hero for China at the recent World Team Championships, is the 2001 U.S. Open ITTF Pro Tour Men’s Singles Champion.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001

Photos by John Oros ©2001
North American Championships

By Larry Hodges

USA NORTH AMERICAN QUALIFIER

Winning the North American Championships is more than just a title - the winner represents North America at the World Cup - and even the last-place finisher gets several thousand dollars. So it's a hotly contested title.

Every year, USA and Canada negotiate the format of the North American Championships. This year, the agreement was that there would be four USA players and four Canadian players, so the event would start with the quarterfinals. The USA's thinking was that the top four players from the U.S. World Team Trials would be the four USA players. However, since this was not made clear to players before or during the team trials, a number of players protested - with the result that a qualifier was held the day before the U.S. Open.

The North American Men's Championships would now have three parts:

Part 1: USA Men's Qualifier. (Canada didn't need one as they already had their players set.) This would be a round robin of four players (Jim Butler, Keith Alban, Brian Pace and Ashu Jain), with only the top finisher to advance to Part 2. This took place on Tuesday, July 3, the day before the U.S. Open/ITTF Pro Tour began.

Part 2: The top USA man and top Canadian man (David Zhuang and Johnny Huang, respectively) were seeded out of this round. The #2, 3 and 4 players from USA and Canada, and the qualifier would play two round robins of four, with the top three from each group advancing to Part 3.

Part 3: This would be single elimination, with eight players - the six who advanced from Part 2, and the two who were seeded out (Zhuang and Huang).

USA MEN'S QUALIFIER

The Jim Butler of the past might have won this easily, but he's just coming out of retirement, and Brian Pace's overpowering forehand loop was too much for him. He also struggled with Keith Alban, winning 19,13,22 after serving himself back into the match from down 16-19 in the third.

But Brian is on fire, and it comes down to his final match with Ashu Jain. If Brian wins, he advances. If he loses ... it could go down to points between Brian, Jim and Ashu. And it looks like Ashu will win, as he leads 18-13 in the third against Brian....

- Brian serve and 100mph rips, 18-14!
- A rally, 18-15!
- Brian serve and flip kills, 18-16!
- Ashu flips to Brian's wide forehand, Brian misses, 19-16!

(We take a breather as Ashu gets set to serve....)

- Ashu serves, Brian 100mph loop kills it, 19-17!
- Ashu serves and loops, Brian 100mph counter-loop kills it, 19-18!
- Ashu serves short, Brian 100mph forehand flip kills it, 19-19!
- Ashu calls a timeout, and talks to coach John Jarema. How do I stop this???
- Ashu serves short to Brian's backhand, Brian 70mph backhand kills it! (OK, he played it safe this time, and Ashu almost blocked it back!) 18-19!
- Ashu serves and quick-pushes - and Brian 100mph loop kills it - off! 20-20!
- Brian serves and quick pushes, Ashu pushes, and Brian 100mph loop kills it, 20-21!
- Ashu serves - and Brian 100mph loop kills the serve! 20-22!

So Brian wins 16-17, 20, and advances.

Results for the Qualifier: 1st Brian Pace, 3-0 (d. Butler, 19,12; d. Alban, 18,13; d. Jain, 16, 17,20); 2nd Jim Butler, 2-1 (d. Alban, 19,13,22; d. Jain, 14,15); 3rd Ashu Jain, 1-2 (d. Alban, 16,9,18); 4th Keith Alban, 0-3.

MEN'S SINGLES

Preliminaries

Group One

Eric Owens (USA), USA junior star Mark Hazinski and Canada's junior star Bence Csaba all finished 2-1 - but Csaba had beaten Hazinski 2-0 (7,15), while losing deuce in the third to Owens (-14,15,20). Hazinski had beaten Owens 2-0 (19,7). When it went to games to break the tie, Csaba came in first, Hazinski second, Owens third. However, the top three all advanced (but with a better draw for coming out higher), with Canada's Jean-Francois Roussy finishing 0-3 and not advancing.

Group Two

Canada's Pradeeban Peter-Paul had to work hard, but he managed to win all three matches: -19,19,12 over Brian Pace (USA), 19,16 over Faazil Kassam (CAN), and -19,17,13 over Barney J. Reed (USA). Reed, Pace and Kassam all finished 1-2, (Pace d. Reed, 13,18; Pace d. Kassam, 15,18,21; Faazil d. Reed, 17,10,16.) In the tie-breaker that went to games, Reed came in second, Kassam third, and Pace fourth, so Pace did not advance.

QUARTERFINALS

USA's David Zhuang had little trouble with Kassam, winning at 16,15,14. Peter-Paul had even less trouble with Hazinski, winning at 13,11,6. The big battle was Csaba's 15,18,19,16,12 win over Reed. The fourth quarterfinal, between Canada's Johnny Huang and Eric Owens, was rescheduled for Saturday morning (the other matches were on Friday night), since Huang had ITTF Pro Tour matches on Friday night, when the other quarterfinal matches were playing. He defeated Owens at 19, 8, 14 (with Owens leading 19-18 in that first game).

SEMIFINALS

As expected, Huang had no trouble with Csaba, winning at 10,12,18. It was also expected that Zhuang would win relatively easily against Peter-Paul. It was not to be - the Canadian was able to rally everything Zhuang threw at him, and ended up winning, 12,18,14,18,12.

North American Women's Singles & Doubles

Champion Chang Gao Jun of USA
The long-delayed final got underway at 8PM on Friday night, after most players and fans had already left. It was not expected that Peter-Paul could put up much of a fight against Huang, but after his win over Zhan, anything was possible, especially since Huang, like Zhan, uses short pips. In the first game, Peter-Paul does take a 19-18 lead. From there on, it’s all Huang.

WOMEN’S SINGLES
Preliminaries
Group One
USA’s Jasna Reed completely dominated the group, not losing a game. Coming in second was USA’s Virginia Sung, with a -15,14,19 win over teammate Simone Yang. Simone came in third, and so advanced, by defeating Canada’s Marie-Christine Roussy, 13,18, who did not advance.

Group Two
USA’s Tawny Banh was sick and defaulted out, so the other three advanced. Canada’s Petra Cada easily won her two matches, and Canada’s WENNIN CHIU defeated USA’s Jackie Lee at 20,-13,14 to get the third spot.

SENIOR EVENTS

Over 30 to Over 80  By Tim Boggan

It used to be that the average age of a World Champion was 23; after that, the athlete began his gradually perceptible decline. As this is an article about U.S. Open Age Events (the noticeably Aging!), I’ll start by mentioning the new (for the event is new) Under 30 holders. Both are Canadian Internationals – proven veterans (small “v,” though, for at least one of them must wait – and good luck to him – for more than 40 years of victories yet before he reaches the official big “V,” the USATT’s “Veterans”). The Men’s winner: Pradeeban Peter-Paul; the Women’s, Petra Cada.

Peter-Paul is an emigrant who follows the Caribbean custom of using his father’s first name as his last. His Under 30 final (18,19) opponent was the Romanian-trained, former U.S. World Team member Razvan Cretu, who’d earlier downed Latin American U-21 Champ Jose Ramirez after Jose had knocked out USA hope Ashu Jain, Cada, a Czech emigrant, overpowered California’s Jackie Lee in the final, but had 23-21 2nd-game trouble with former Czech star Renata Peluchova in the semi’s. “A bad day,” said Renata. I did everything wrong, I beat myself.” But as a friend of Renata’s told me, it didn’t help that just last week she had to have an infected wisdom tooth pulled.

In the 30 and Over event, as in the 29 and Under, both winners – Attanda Musa for the Men, Chris Xu for the Women – didn’t drop a game.

Er, wait, check that. Musa, who manages and coaches at Jerry Wartski’s NYC Broadway Club, did lose one 19 game to Barry Dattel who, barely avoiding an international incident with an opaque umbrella, had to admit that, for the moment of his triumph, he was “awesome.” The 42-year-old Musa, with his scimitar cheek scars that help to differentiate his native Yoruba tribe within a tribe (Nigeria has literally thousands of different dialects), also did away, not with a ferocious scowl but with his usual amiability, Roberto Brito, the Dominican Republic’s Caribbean Champ. Roberto, having found himself one of the 17 needing to qualify for the event, had advanced past Puerto Rico’s Luis Ruiz, last year’s finalist to China’s Wang Tao. The honor of being Musa’s 6th and last opponent fell to New York player/coach Abass Ekn, who was initially pressed in the semi’s by another Wartski Club habitue, Hardbat finalist Alex Perez.

Chris Xu, also an emigrant to Canada, and another of their Internationals (with a 2469 rating), had little challenge, either in the semi’s from t.t.’s rising entrepreneur and Hardbat winner Lily Yip, or from U.S. World Team member Simone Yang, given free entry (10,5... 6,8) to the final when California’s Xiu-Zhen “Grace” Lin, the #1 seed, didn’t show.

Musa also won the Men’s 40’s – this time really without dropping a game, though pressed to deuce by both Dattel and finalist Hui Yuan Liu, Manager/Coach at the N.Y. Table Tennis Club in Flushing (see forward-looking map on the back of his business card for directions to his Club). Liu had beaten native Jamaican Keith Evans in the semi’s 3 in 3 after Keith had repelled an earlier onslaught by Abass, 1st-round victor over U-1800 Over 40 winner Lon Dean.

Liu and Dave Sakai won the 40 Doubles – but back in their opening match, down 18-11,20-18 in the 3rd to Hank McCoulloin and Barney Reed, they looked to be losers – until Liu smashed in those match-turning, mind-numbing winners.

The 40 Women’s featured the usual suspects – with U.S. Hall of Famer Barbara Kaminsky outlasting Iranian-born Mahin Roufeh, 17 in the 3rd, in the final. Roufeh’s pips confused Barbara (“I couldn’t hit off her red side – or maybe it was the black side,” she said after the match). As for Kaminsky’s husband/coach (“You can’t sit there,” said the umpire to Bob, stationed alone a few seats from Barbara’s court, “if you’re her coach, you have to move over here”), he was confused, for he told Barbara, who plays best by following her own instincts, that she should push to Mahin’s forehand – “That’s the red side, Barbara, you pick balls off that.” Oh, well. If it’s any solace to Roufeh, she should win the Sportsmanship Award for calling a point against herself that no one else saw. No consolation for Mahin’s semi’s opponent, Donna Sakai, though. Down 0-1 and at deuce in the 2nd, she persevered into the 3rd. Then, behind 20-18 double match point, she rallied to 21-20 – only to be later victimized by an edge and eventually lose 26-24.

Did Dave have time to shed a tear for Donna? Afraid not. Both he and “The Chief,” George Brathwaite, had so many matches to play in so many events, and had so stumbled their way into the 30’s final – Dave wenching 21-19 games from previous winner Nick Mintis/veris and last year’s runner-up McCoulloin, George being forced into
the 3rd by Steve Federico and Defending Champion Richard Hicks — that they decided to split the prize money, and move on ... to hurry, uncontested, through the 50 Doubles. A word of sympathy from me, though, for Allen McDermott. Federico, down match point to McDermott, scored with what he called a “flying armpit” shot that allowed him to survive and win, while poor Allen had to endure a query from me about his U-2000 Hardbat semi’s loss to Simon Jacobson after he’d led 20-15 in the 3rd. Friendly knock-ups, as the English say, but hard knocks, in this Sport.

In the Women’s 50’s, Barbara Kaminsky was again the winner — this time over Suzanna Sanders who, with day in, day out practice-partner/husband Bob, kept fit and busy off court by bicycling about in the heat outside, and doing Staff Operations air-conditioned work inside the 81-table Convention Center. Sanders (rated 1640) scored two big upsets (in each case after losing the opening game badly) — first, over Sakai (1817) though Suzanna started this match by serving her first three serves off, and then over Ruffeh (1948), who couldn’t adjust to Sanders’ increasingly more aggressive play. Kaminsky, meanwhile, breathed a windfall sigh of relief to get by Danuta Andzejewska who would have played Barbara in the 40’s had her opponent not insisted on being given a default when, as Danuta said, she was 15 minutes late for the match. Kaminsky, down 6-0 but up 20-19 in the 3rd, won when Danuta, hoping to surprise Barbara with a forehand slice-serve she hadn’t used before, surprised herself by ... whiffing the ball.

Brathwaite easily took the 60’s, downing in the final Floridian Elmer Concepcion who’d knocked out former winner Nick Mintsiveris and last year’s runner-up Bohdan Davidowicz. Mintsiveris, despite having been out of practice due to a bout with the flu, had what he said was a rare win over Defending Champion Hicks — and with a hard bat yet. “Dick,” he said, “brings back balls when you’re not looking” — i.e., when you think you’ve won the point and are no longer looking outward to see the unexpected return but are inwardly foolishly congratulating yourself on the shot you’ve just powered in. Before losing to Brathwaite, Pete May (chopping) was extended by Lynwood Smith (backhand rolling) who earlier in a pin of a match had 19-in-the-3rd escaped Leon Ruderman.

Marcus turned the tables and handed Zevallos his only loss, 15,16 in the decisive games.

Junior Events

By Alan Williams

There is nothing more impressive to add to your resume than a U.S. Open Title, proof positive that you know the importance of excellence and how to achieve it. For the junior players who competed at the U.S. Open, it was time to put their hard work to the test. For the winners there would be impressive hardware to add to their luggage, and for the rest, incentive to prepare harder for next year.

BOYS UNDER 10: Roberto Torres Zevallos of Peru made the final, leaving in his wake Michael Chan, Hari Seshadri, and Preston Chin, all in straight game victories. His final opponent, Maryland’s Marcus Jackson, advanced past Manuel Adorno, Hector Vila, and then passed a tough Semi with Tennessee’s Shelley Lane, 2-2,15,18. Zevallos continued his winning ways, taking the first game against Jackson at 18, but Marcus turned the tables and handed Zevallos his only loss, 15,16 in the decisive games.

BOYS UNDER 12: Almost two dozen entrants crowded this bracket, strewed with Internationals and Unrated Unkown. Top Seed Sergey Gutkin (1770) of California passed Florida’s Kelly Huang, 14,16, and then met the Dominican’s Ercilio Santos in the semifinals. Santos who, with day in, day out practice — except this time Defender Louie Radziell was forced to give up the opening game to former National 80’s Champ Arthur Chase. Louie, I have to say, is often a hoot, especially when in a close game he snaps in a winning backhand, repeated fasters hand to mouth, doffs his playing cap, and in asides to the audience tries to get into his opponent’s head. A Game-Player, the archetypal Hustler — that’s Louie ... less an exemplar, more an example, for all.

BOYS UNDER 14: Adam Hugh (2299) sought to avoid Sergey’s fate. He breezed past Guatemala’s Miguel Delado 2,10 and then faced Florida’s Under 10 Girls ham it up!

you think that up 1-0 and 20-15 match point I’d lose 7 straight! Well, I did — and if Grady hadn’t been doing double duty as an Umpire he might have been more focused so as not to have to try to rally again from 20-15 down in the 3rd.

Of course, Gordon, a spry 74-year-old who has racket in hand five days a week — “keeps me limber,” he says — was eligible for and won the 75’s over the underrated Brazilian entry from the Sao Paulo Santos Club, Helios Bezerra, who eliminated veteran-Veteran Joe Baltusz in the semi’s.

The Over 80’s final was a replay of last year’s — except this time Defender Louie Radziell was forced to give up the opening game to former National 80’s Champ Arthur Chase. Louie, I have to say, is often a hoot, especially when in a close game he snaps in a winning backhand, repeatedly flutters hand to mouth, doffs his playing cap, and in asides to the audience tries to get into his opponent’s head. A Game-Player, the archetypal Hustler — that’s Louie ... less an exemplar, more an example, for all.

BOYS UNDER 16: White hot American player Grant Wendorf was downed in three straight games by the Defending Champ Hicks after he’d been forced to give up the opening game to former National 50’s Champ Hicks — and with a hard bat yet. “Dick,” he said, “brings back balls when you’re not looking” — i.e., when you think you’ve won the point and are no longer looking outward to see the unexpected return but are inwardly foolishly congratulating yourself on the shot you’ve just powered in. Before losing to Brathwaite, Pete May (chopping) was extended by Lynwood Smith (backhand rolling) who earlier in a pin of a match had 19-in-the-3rd escaped Leon Ruderman.

You think that up 1-0 and 20-15 match point I’d lose 7 straight? Well, I did — and if Grady hadn’t been doing double duty as an Umpire he might have been more focused so as not to have to try to rally again from 20-15 down in the 3rd.

Of course, Gordon, a spry 74-year-old who has racket in hand five days a week — “keeps me limber,” he says — was eligible for and won the 75’s over the underrated Brazilian entry from the Sao Paulo Santos Club, Helios Bezerra, who eliminated veteran Veteran Joe Baltusz in the semi’s.

The Over 80’s final was a replay of last year’s — except this time Defender Louie Radziell was forced to give up the opening game to former National 80’s Champ Arthur Chase. Louie, I have to say, is often a hoot, especially when in a close game he snaps in a winning backhand, repeatedly flutters hand to mouth, doffs his playing cap, and in asides to the audience tries to get into his opponent’s head. A Game-Player, the archetypal Hustler — that’s Louie ... less an exemplar, more an example, for all.
the U-12 Champion, Sherif Shola. Shola managed a more respectable 14,10 against the New Jerseyan. Sergy Gutkin fought to the quarterfinal, where Adam eliminated him, 12,13. That led to Jamaica’s Walter Alomar, who had not yet dropped a game on his way to the semifinals. But Adam won, 11,14. In the other half, Eric Finkelstein’s strong run (winning over the skilled Jamaican, Kanu Watson, 19,15 in the Round of 16) was stopped decisively by #27 seed Daniel Toadjer of Yugoslavia, 7,7, in the quarterfinals. Against the Jamaican, Kanu Watson, 19,15 in the Round of 16) was stopped decisively by the #2 seed Misha Kazantsev in the semifinals, Toadjer was all business and dispatched the Californian, 11,15. Hugh and Toadjer for all the marbles was one of the best junior matches of the tournament. Daniel broke out early at 18, then an energized Adam leveled the match with a 21-18 second game win. Toadjer refused to collapse and took the third and deciding contest to send double deuce and triple deuce. The noise that rocked the hall was deafening. Adam fought to the quarterfinal, where he met Judy Ma (19,14,20) in the quarters. Judy did have the satisfaction of reversing her U-14 final with Karen Ma (19,14,20) in the quarters. But it was all Jackie Lee in the final, quick work at 12,9 over Whitney in a gracious and well-mannered manner.

BOYS UNDER 16: Neither Han Xiao nor Adam Hugh, the top seeds, would reach the final in this event, which was less about upssets than about new discoveries. Santiago Coste is no stranger to the U.S. Open, giving a good account of himself in previous years. The Puerto Rican came in as the #4 seed, and made his path with exciting and hard-fought victories over Anderson Carrington (16,19), Daniel Toadjer, the U-14 finalist, (20,17,15), and Ricardo Clarke, (8,10). Set to meet Han Xiao in the semifinals, Coste caught a breather when Han was defaulted. The shuttle just wasn’t fast enough to allow Han to retrieve his cold remedy from the hotel. #1 seed: showing up is half the battle. With a USAATT rating of 1602, Ka Chun Tse of NY was seeded 21st out of the 59 entrants. He showed the inaccuracy of that number (based on three previous matches) by ripping through Walter Alomar (15,14) Howard Lamb (18,8,12) and the 2124 rated Yin Wang (16,11). Adam Hugh won a big quarterfinal from Barbadosian Kevin Farley, -15,12,14. Leading to Discovery #2 when Ka Chun Tse, late of Hong Kong, demolished Adam, 11,11 in the semifinals. This kid can play, and he resisted the best effort of Santiago Coste in the final, 18,18, to win the event.

BOYS UNDER 18: More than 60 entrants made this bracket one of the most highly contested events at the U.S. Open. Canadian Bence Csaba (2554) did not drop a game on his way to the semifinals, moving past Hector Gatica (14,13) and Jared Lynch (15,15). Santiago Coste posted an impressive 17,14 win over U-14 Champion Adam Hugh, and he fought hard against Csaba in the semifinals but was unable to match the Canadian’s attack, 15,17. In the other half of the bracket, Han Xiao looped past Shannon Doughlin (20,15) and Terence Kalicharan (16,14) to reach the semifinals. Samson Dubina lost to Aluko Bascombe (19,13), who in turn bowed out to Faazil Kassam (8,13). Han was completely overwhelmed against Kassam, 5 and 10 in the semifinals, leading to a final between countrymen, teammates and friends, Bence Csaba and Faazil Kassam. Typical of practice partners, they were closely matched, but Csaba emerged with the goods, -20,10,20. The Canadian pair are well ahead of their contemporaries, with neither dropping a game until they met each other.

WOMEN UNDER 21: The four semifinalists dominated the event, with U-18 Champ Shi eliminating Maria Alejandra Solares (15,9) and a gamely whitening Whitney Ping (23,12) to punch her ticket. Her opponent, Mimi Bosika, had no struggles with Maria Jose Solares (5,7) and Krystle Harvey (8,5). Mimi did have the answer to Wennis’ quickness and made the final with a 14,15 decision. Jackie Lee went through Rebecca West (14,9) and Johana Garcia (9,10) to make the semifinals. There she found Canadian star Marie-Christine Roussy, a 9,10 winner over Laura Leach and the conqueror of Enerya Garcia (9,13). The Seemiller-style Roussy would not retreat and maintained her position at the table’s edge in eliminating Jackie 19,13. Bosika was also at a loss in trying to dislodge the energetic Canadian, and it was Roussy’s title, 18,14.

MEN’S UNDER 22: There was no easy route through a thicket of 50 players which included many former titlists, a field so strong that current U.S. Team member Ashu Jain was relegated to the #5 seed. But the ratings and seeding mean nothing when play begins, as reality is established by result. #42 seed Jose Miguel Ramirez of Guatemala came forward to the semifinals. He had beaten four successive opponents to arrive at this doorstep, including Freddie Gabriel (seeded third), -17,10,17, and the U-16 Discovery, Ka Chun Tse (-18,10,19) to meet the redoubtable Santiago Gabriel. Santiago had defended his first-position seed against Robert Andersson (10,15) and Jean Francois Roussy (16,10). But the reality is that the #42 beats the #1 in the semifinals, Ramirez over Gabriel, 16,14, and he seems to be gathering momentum.

Things are no walk in the other half, either. Samson Dubina scores perhaps his biggest victory, beating T.J. Beebe, -18,13,19, which earns him a date with Arturo Pang Shiu in the quarters, where Shiu advances, 14,16. Meanwhile, Ashu Jain comes in as the first-game loss to Keith Alban (-19,18,6) and then faces Arturo. The first is all Ashu, at 8, but Shiu wins the second game at 15 to knot the match. Jain fights off the spirited Shiu at 16 in the third and now faces Ramirez in the final. Ashu’s fans feel good about his first game win at 19, but Ramirez didn’t come this far to quit now. He dominates the middle game at 12. And when he finishes the match and the event in a 21-17 win, there is no doubt he has earned his prize.

The players, their parents and the paraphernalia are all gone now, the hall is devoid of tables until next year. But the lasting value of victory, a National title from the U.S. Open, will stay with these young people for the rest of their lives.
Has there ever been this many big tournaments at once? We've already covered the U.S. Open/ITTF Pro Tour/North American Championships in this issue. Now we bring you...

Tournameent Row!

$20,000

St. Joseph Valley Open

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA • MAY 26-27, 2001 • BY DAN SEEMILLER

The 37th Annual St. Joseph Valley Open was held on Memorial Day weekend at the University of Notre Dame Joyce ACC Center. The Joyce Center is a spectacular venue that easily held 50 tables and had excellent lighting for the 252 competitors. A total of $20,000 in prize money and trophies for 4 places per event were awarded.

NEWMAR, INC., a motor home manufacturer, was the major sponsor of the tournament. Virgil Miller, president of NEWMAR, and his wife Sarah Miller are great supporters of table tennis as well as a participant in this tournament. Other tournament sponsors were: BUTTERFLY Table Tennis (supplied 30 tables and 300 barriers), Newgy Robots, Paddle Palace, T.G. Enterprises and Table Tennis International. We thank them for their support.

On to the tournament: Age events – Juniors. In the boys U-12 it was Joe Cochran of South Bend winning in two close games over Winston Kalicharan of Toronto. In the Boys’ U-15 Han Xiao (Maryland) was dominant over the field defeating up-and-coming John Leach of Colorado in the final. In the Boys’ U-18 we had a great matchup of U.S. #1 junior Mark Hanziski against Canada’s Bence Csaba, with Hanziski prevailing in a spectacular Saturday evening match at 19-14,17. In the girls’ events it was Jennifer Mast (Ohio) over Esther Gusov (MO) two straight. In the U-15 girls, Laura Leach (CO) defeated Nicole Lynch (IN) in straight games, while the U-18 girls was won by Marta Bastrzyk (Chicago) over Laura Leach at 19,16.

On to the Senior events as Randy Seemiller won the O-40 event defeating Dave Sakai in the semifinal and receiving a default in the final from Cheng Yinghua. The O-50’s saw #2 seed Paul Lamse upset defending champion Dave Sakai in the final at 17,17.

RATING EVENTS

In the U-2550, Michael Hyatt won over Sasa Drinic 2-1 in a highly charged topspin battle. The semifinalists were Shao Yu and Keith Evans. Keith Evans, continuing his winning ways, won the U-2400 final over fellow left-hander Idan Levi. Randy Seemiller and Han Xiao lost in the semifinals. Tai Long Tey from Memphis won the U-2300-2-1 over Origene Nyanguile. Gordan Panic (St. Louis) defeated Don Hamilton 2-1 to win the U-2200. Pretrap Arangil defeated Adrian Rosu in the U-2100 final. In the 74 player U-2000’s it was Aaron Avery (Milwaukee) with Junhao Zhao at deuce in the 3rd. In the U-1900 Joe Yoon (Chicago) won 2-0 over Nick Snider and Meng Yang (Milwaukee) won against John Yoon in the 80-player U-1800 final. In the U-1675 final, Gerry Miller defeated Tomasz Jablonski 18:16 in the 3rd. Ivan Popov defeated Jacek Wisniewski 2-0 to capture the U-1550 event. In the U-1400 event, Winston Kalicharan defeated Azrai Ali 2-1. Jeff Smith (South Bend) won the U-1200 over Guy Thostenson (MN). Guy won the U-1000 over Wayne Liu (South Bend) and the U-800’s was won by Joel Christo over Francesca Hartop.

OPEN SINGLES

The feature Open Singles event awarded $13,000 in cash prizes, with $5,000 going to the champion. The top four seeds of Fan Yi Yong, Cheng Yinghua, David Zhuang, and Iljia Lupulesku seemed to be a level above the competition as they all moved easily into the semifinals for the showdown at South Bend. Other Open matches of note – Mark Hanziski defeated fellow U.S. team member Ashu Jain 3-0 in the round of 16 then lost 3-0 to U.S. Champion David Zhuang in the quarters. Bence Csaba, the junior sensation from Canada, gave Cheng a scare before losing 3-1 in the quarterfinals.

Semifinal #1: #1 seed Fan Yi Yong versus #4 Iljia Lupulesku. In game one, Fan doesn’t have his timing right and in a sloppy game Iljia leads 20-17. Fan has the serve and hits two outright winners and after a mistake by Iljia it’s deuce. The all important 1st game between these two goes to Fan as he scores 5 in a row to win 22-20. If you remember the Buckeye Open in March, Fan defeated Iljia 31-29 in the fifth. So, you can see the importance of every point between these two evenly matched players. As is usually the case, Fan keeps the momentum and wins game two at 17. In the third game, Iljia, more relaxed now, plays steady topspin all over the table and Fan loses concentration early. 21-14 for Iljia, but still a 2-1 game lead for Fan. When Iljia is down it is hard for him to play his relaxed topspin game and in game four he goes all-out power topspin and loses 21-13 as Fan moves on to the final. In retrospect the 1st game was “the match and when Iljia lost from 20-17 ahead it was uphill the rest of the way for the Yugoslav star. Fan’s fighting spirit and quick backhand made the difference in this semifinal.

Semifinal #2: #3 Cheng Yinghua versus #2 David Zhuang. David defeated Cheng in this year’s Closed final 3-2 and David has had a spectacular year with the 40mm ball. Cheng has slowed a step but is always a formidable opponent. This would be the first time that David could be considered the favorite over Cheng and that alone changes the psychology of the match. Sure enough, Cheng, playing relaxed and looping everything, wins a big first game at deuce. After that David just couldn’t stop Cheng’s topspin onslaught and Cheng wins with surprising ease, 3-0.

Open Final: Fan Yi Yong versus Cheng Yinghua. In their last two matches, they split, but Fan looks faster and more powerful than Cheng this time. In game one, Fan’s quick backhand loop controls play. Cheng makes a strong run at the end but loses 21-18. Fan is too fast at the table this time and Cheng looks bewildered as game two and three are easily won by Fan. Fan wins the championship and the $5,000 first prize. Cheng Yinghua has to settle for runner-up and $2,500.

In the Open doubles final Iljia Lupulesku and Sasa Drinic win a hard fought 2-1 match and $500 over Fan Yi Yong and local star and national team member Mark Hanziski.
Special thanks to our tournament committee of Phil Schmucker, Brad Balmer, Jason Denman, Jim Lynch, Jerry Goeller, Matt & Pam Hazinski, Dan & Mary Cochran, Mike & Kay Edgerton, Paul George and to referee Chris Williams. Also, thank you to the many individuals who made donations to the South Bend Junior Table Tennis Program and the many club members who gave their time and talents to make this event a success.


**Open Doubles:** Ilia Lupulesku/Sasa Drinic d. Fan Yi Yong/Mark Hazinski, -21,10,16, SF: Fan/Hazinski d. Cheng Yinghu/Han Xiao, 4,-15,8; Lupulesku/Drinic d. David Zhuang/Yao Shu, 19,19.

**Women’s Singles:** Wang Chen d. Cui Ling Chen, 8,15

**Hardbat:** Dan Seemiller d. Roy Schlabach, 10,17,19.

**Hardbat U2000:** John Oros d. Don Varian, 11,15.

**U2550:** Michael Hyatt d. Sasa Drinic, -10,21,16.

**U2400:** Keith Evans d. Juan Levi, 19,17,17.

**U2300:** Tai Long Tey d. Orgene Nyguniline, 7,-14,17.

**U2200:** Goran Panic d. Don Hamilton, 19,-12,18.

**U2100:** Pratap Arangil d. Adrian Rosu, 19,13.

**U2000:** Aaron Avery d. Jun Liu Zhao, -19,19,20.

**U1900:** Joe Yoon d. Nick Snider, 10,13.

**U1800:** Meng Yang d. John Yoon, n.s.

**U1765:** Garry Miller d. Tomasz Jablonski, 15,-13,18

**U1550:** Ivan Popov d. Jacek Wisniewski, 13,16.

**U1400:** Winston Kalicharan d. Azrai Ali, -19,19,21.

**U1200:** Jeffrey Smith d. Guy Thosterson, -19,13,17.

**U1000:** Guy Thosterson d. Wayne Liu, 18,15.

**U800:** Joel Christo d. Francesca Hartop, 2-1.

**Over 40:** Randy Seemiller d. Cheng Yinghua, def.

**Over 50:** Paul Lamse d. Dave Sakai, 17,17.

**Under 18 Boys:** Mark Hazinski d. Bence Csaba, 19,-14,17.

**Under 15 Boys:** Han Xiao d. John Leach, 2-0.

**Under 12 Boys:** Joe Cochran d. Winston Kalicharan, 15,21.

**Under 18 Girls:** Marta Bastrzyk d. Laura Leach, 19,16.

**Under 15 Girls:** Laura Leach d. Nicole Lynch, 2-0.

**Under 12 Girls:** Jennifer Mast d. Esther Gusov, 2-0.

**U4000 Doubles:** Lim/Ellis d. Hamilton/Hamilton, 14,-16,13.

**U3400 Doubles:** Miller/Giometti d. Nazar/Lane, 18,12,14.

---

**Scenes From The St. Joseph Valley Open**

This year’s 26-event Bill Meiklejohn National Seniors Tournament, with Treasurer Walt Wehrli prepared to dole out over $14,000 in prizes, had reached a record-setting 207 competitors when Chair Julius Margolis and Director Olga Feingold-Kahan finally had to say “Enough!” and cut off entries. Fortunately, Marilyn Miller and a dozen or so experienced California Control Desk operators, including Shonie Aki, walking spryly now after his second successful hip replacement, were able to move the three full days of matches along rather quickly.

Dominating the Senior Elite/Men’s Over 40’s field, as expected, was the former Nigerian star Atanda Musa, who, for six straight years in the 1980’s was a fixture at the prestigious World Cup. Today, he lives in New York, is sponsored by the peripatetic player/patron Jerry Wartski, and manages Jerry’s Broadway Club.

In the Friday Senior Elite (for which players had to have at least a 2000 rating), Musa, continuing to give on the average only 13 points a game, easily defeated his final opponent, Francisco “Cisco” Mendez, now a green-card Denver resident after 22 years on the Mexican National Team. Musa’s semi’s opponent was Rey Domingo, who says he can’t range as far back from the table as he used to, for the big ball drops sooner. Rey feels his game is too soft and in an effort to regain his former control has switched to a carbon blade.

Both Mendez and his semi’s opponent George Brathwaite were hard-pressed to advance. Cisco barely outlasted 2452-rated Hui Yuan Liu, manager of the N.Y. Flushing Club, 27-25 in the 3rd, and George, after being up triple-match-point on Parviz Mojaverian, shaky survived, 24-22 in the 3rd. (“Ohh,” said Parviz, “don’t write that. I’ll read it – and it’ll make me sick.”) Also, in another tension-filled match, Mark Wedret, before losing to Brathwaite (deuce in the 2nd), scored a 20-20, 20, 18 win over former Iranian National Alireza Hejazi. Ali, who, though out of practice, was up 1-0 and 10-3 in the 3rd, lamented that “When you don’t play, you may still win lots of points in a row, but for sure you can also lose lots of them the same way.”

Christian Lilieroos, Musa’s victim in the quarter’s, at the well-attended California Hall of Fame Banquet Friday evening, paid apt homage to the multi-time World Disabled Champion Mike Dempsey. (Other honored inductees were Attila Malek and Don Gunn. Among the attendees I was surprised and delighted to see, for the first time in decades, both looking eternally young, Milla Boczar, once owner of the famous Hollywood Club, and the former Priscilla Resek, one-time U.S. Open Women’s finalist.)

In the Sunday Men’s Over 40’s, featuring the same notables that were in the Elite, Musa’s final opponent was Hui Yuan Liu, who, after losing back-to-back deuce games in the Elite to Mendez, and the first, 23-21, here in his repeat match with him in the 40’s, went on, undaunted, to an $800 recovery, knocking out Mojaverian in a 4-game semi’s. Said Rudy Miranda, who’d lost to Liu earlier, “I never played against anyone who could serve down my backhand white line so consistently. Then, when I moved over, he began serving down my forehand line. It was uncanny.” In the other semi’s, Musa lost his only singles game of the tournament to Domingo. All in all, including a Draw Doubles win with Lee Swander, The Champ went home with more than $2,000 in prize money.

The Saturday Men’s Over 50’s was won by Augusta penholder Xin Peng over Domingo in a surprising 10, 12 final, for Rey had eliminated him in three in the Elite. “I beat him every year – easy,” said Rey, emotion in his voice rising, as if anyone would think otherwise. But, he confided, he was having trouble with his knees, and just couldn’t move. Dave Sakai, who, after losing badly to Peng and his troublesome serves in the Elite, said he’d do better against him in the 50’s, and he did – took a game. Hejazi, too, improved his play, Starting 21-18 slowly against current U.S. Over 40 and 50 Women’s Champion Mahin Roufeh (“in Iran, I used to give her 14 points a game”). Ali then overpowered Bohdan Davidowicz, and went on to a 19 game with Domingo. Later, on Sunday, in the 2300’s, he bested Stan Tang in a -19, 20, 20 $100 match.

“She looks comfortable,” said Referee Tom Miller to Bohdan’s wife, who, feet up, was relaxing in a chair. “I’d rather be at work,” she said. My wife sympathizes – as does my sister who on recently moving into this Laguna Woods community (average age of the residents?...78) was given a very friendly welcome by President Art Wirtschafter. The three of us found time over the weekend to visit the famed Getty Center and was delighted to see, for the first time in decades, she had in their previous encounter at last year’s Vegas National’s, here 17, 14 rather docilely lost to her. Donna’s sister, Barbara Kaminsky, was likewise more than a mite disturbed on losing architecture, courtyard, gardens, and pavilion gallerys (in one of which you could view a striking Rembrandt self-portrait).

I wasn’t there to see it, but no way could Peng’s prominence in the Hardbat event be ignored – he just 8, 9…6, 8…10, 5…10, 12 brushtroked some artwork of his own. The $150 runner-up prize was won by Miranda over Ralph Stadelman, -16, 19, 15. Ralph, who plays hardbat exclusively, made me believe he wasn’t disappointed at losing so close a match.

Disappointment was obvious, however, in the Friday Women’s Over 50’s. Not for winner Bella Livshin, who arrived in the U.S. from the Ukraine in ‘93. As a strong player in the Crimera, Bella had stature – the more so because beginning in ’68 she worked as a successful coach at a sports school in Yalta. Today she enjoys coaching more than playing – especially coaching beginners, for, as she says, both aspiring player and coach can clearly see the benefit of their work, and then both are happy. Nor could runner-up Donna Sakai be disappointed, for she hadn’t contested the final, and, indeed, had come perilously close to losing an early-round match.

Downright upset was the greatly improved Irina Borissova. She’d come into this event much underrated at 1499, but with a table at home and playing three times a week she’d increased her stroke speed, and this was evident in the vigorous counter-exchanges she’d thrilled the spectators with in her self-berating -18, 19, -20 loss to 1817-rated Donna. Also wanting another chance was Sakai’s semi’s opponent, Roufeh, who instead of beating Donna 2-0, as she had in their previous encounter at last year’s Vegas National’s, here 17, 14 rather docilely lost to her. Donna’s sister, Barbara Kaminsky, was likewise more than a mite disturbed on losing...
early to unranked Pui Har So, -19, 16, 21 - especially as she was leading 10-5 in the 3rd. "Barbara hit too much," said husband/coach/critic Bob, "and she didn’t have presence of mind to realize that So’s racket was causing the ball again and again to go long."

The Women’s Over 40 was won with equal ease by another expatriate - the youthful-looking, Chinese-trained penholder Hong Zhao. With her long-pip dead balls and flat-hit forehand she also took both the U-4800 Doubles with Peng and the U-4500 Doubles with Miranda. Kaminsky was the losing 40 finalist, and from her earlier play against So you might have thought that she and Bob, having already been to the Nixon Museum at Yorba Linda, might be finding time for some more touring.

But in the quarter’s, against Sakai, after losing the first, Barbara found herself up 15-5 in the 2nd. Perhaps Donna’s mind had momentarily wandered to that Las Vegas Country Club condo she and Dave were in the process of moving into? After all, it was her job.

And that’s just what she did. Having pulled to 27-25 in the 3rd win over D. G. i whittled out a 27-25 in the 3rd win over D. G. Van Vooren. Turns out that D. G. (“Want a red fish? ... A feathered trumpeteer swan? ... A Michelangelo?”) has another hobby - wood carving. “You can’t play table tennis all the time,” he says.

And, finally, in the 3-man round robin finish of the 80’s, Arthur Chase prevailed 19 in the 3rd over Harry Ehrmanr in and runner-up Slade, 18, 20, 15. Arthur’s heart bypass has given him better circulation, and new lenses have opened his eyes to vistas of National Championships. As for Slade, who’s just been through another colon operation, he seems no worse for wear. “As long as you’re not taking an inch at a time, I’m o.k.” he says.


Over 50 Women – Final: Bella Livshin d. Donna Sakai, 16, 10. SF: Livshin d. Pui Har So, 8, 7; Sakai d. Mahin Roufeh, 17, 14.


Over 80 Men – Final: 1st Arthur Chase; 2nd Ivan Slade; 3rd Harry Ehrmanr.


At Towson State University on June 16th and 17th, 140 players brought their best game to the table in memory of Matthew Murad. The second stop of the 2001 Stiga North American Tour was played in honor of the young man, whose tragic automobile accident shocked the Maryland Table Tennis community in November of 1999. Matt's parents, Ronald and Gloria, were pleased to see a great field of players, especially in Open Singles, where 13 U.S. Men's Singles Titles were represented. But in the end, the winner in that star-studded field was not an Olympian, not a U.S. Men's Singles Champion, and not a member of the U.S. Team.

With the sponsorship of Stiga, Table Tennis Pioneers and About.com, the tournament was played on 22 new Stiga Expert Rollers, forming a field of blue in the bannered hall. Burdick Hall featured wooden floors, good lighting and no air conditioning. Naturally the Baltimore weather brought near 90 degree temperatures and sweltering humidity for Saturday. Towels were at a premium and the floor fans resembled a laundry line as the entrants battled their way through 24 event categories.

The Barbour family certainly left with no regrets, when twin brothers Tim and Tom met in the Finals of the Novice (U-800) and father Bob won the U-1850 category. Similarly, young Barbara Wei was a happy lady, finishing second to Elaine Kwok in the U-16 Girls, and winning the 'Junior Sportsmanship Award' of a year's USATT membership, unanimously. Disregard her sub-1500 rating! Barbara consistently pushed 2000 level players to deuce games and three-game matches. But win or lose, her pleasant demeanor gave no sign of her fate. A smile factory!

Regrets abounded, however, in the Open Singles. In the North American Tour format, the top 12 players are given seeds that place them directly in a 'Second Stage RR' on Saturday afternoon. The other 17 entrants formed four groups for the 'Qualifying RR' on Saturday morning. Only one player would advance from each Qualifying group to meet the 'big dogs' later that day. So why was Michael Oyebode playing a Qualifier?

Despite being undefeated on American soil and holding wins over Mark Hazinski, Michael Hyatt and Sean O'Neill in a recent Nashville tournament, Oyebode still sported a USATT rating of 0. NATT policy of not awarding a seed based on an estimated rating was going to make life very tough in the Qualifier for someone. Oyebode, of course, advanced from the bracket, along with local heroes Qassim Aziz, John Wetzler and Vijay Madhavan. They became the 'D seeds' for the afternoon 'Second Stage.'

Each of the four 'Second Stage' round robins would see two players advance to the Single Elimination Quarterfinals. These matches all went off side by side on tables 1 through 4 in a spectacular display of table tennis talent. No matter where you looked, you saw an intriguing match-up and a great story.

In RR#1, U.S. #1 Fan Yi Yong was thrown into the mix with Wang Chen of New Jersey, the former #4 Woman in the world. Young hot shots Lee McCool and Qassim Aziz completed the quartet. Fan defeated a gamely fighting Wang (the U-2500 champion) 16,18. She then defeated bearded Lee McCool handily, 5,10. So what's this? McCool wins the first game against Fan Yi Yong at 18, and the spectators are buzzing. His pride stung, Fan finishes the match 8 and 9. After dispatching Aziz 11, 13, Fan is assured of his #1 slot in the Quarters.

When McCool makes a third game comeback against Aziz, 15,-15,15, the group is all but set. Seeing no future for himself and suffering leg cramps, Aziz defaults to Wang Chen, placing her second.

In RR#2, Vijay Madhavan find himself grouped with Shao Yu, Sean O'Neill and Cheng Yinghua. Not bad! At 10,19, he knows he was 'in it' against Cheng. The hungry-eyed O'Neill manages to fend off Vijay's blocks and touch game, 14,16. Madhavan manages a game from Shao, 16,-16, 19, and nearly pulls off the upset. When Cheng beats Shao Yu at 12 and 16, Shao's fate hangs on the match with O'Neill. Earlier in the day, Shao had beaten Sean in the U-2500 semifinal, so extra motivation for O'Neill, if any is needed! At 12, 18, O'Neill wins and the field is set with one match left to play. Cheng and O'Neill hold eight U.S. Men's Singles Titles between them. From the intensity of play, this seems anything but a 'meaningless' match. In the first game, O'Neill consistently attacks with backhand smashes that echo in the hall 'THWACK.' But Cheng hangs in with his service game and wins at 18. In the second, Cheng denies the backhand opportunities and takes the #1 position with a win at 8.

In RR#3, the big story was the man who finished fourth. Last year John Wetzler beat Todd Sweeris at the Sun TV Open. 'Fluke!' the knowing fans of table tennis whispered. But anyone who has ever met Wetzler should know better. No one ... no one plays with more intensity or focus than this Pennsylvanian. Twiddling his longpips/inverted combo, John has a 'never say die' attitude and fights for every point. That morning, he was one point, one measly point from defeating O'Neill in the U-2500 QF. Here, he pushes David Zhuang to a 15,15 result. Is that a 2300 player? Against the 'C seed,' rising junior Han Xiao, Wetzler loses 19,20. Against U.S. Team member Barney Reed Jr., Reed wins 17,-18,19, leaving John 0-3. But what an 0-3!

Zhuang, the current U.S. Men's Champion clinches a spot by beating Han Xiao 15,15. When Han loses to Reed 6 and 6, Barney is in the QFs and his 15,15 loss to Zhaung loses its sting.

As exciting as the preceding groups were, RR#4 took the cake. Here were Michael Oyebode, the Nigerian, veteran of the Italian Leagues, undefeated on U.S. soil, placed as the 'D seed' from the Qualifier. Above him, Patrick Mualem. Above him, the Meiklejohn finalist and Manhattan's pride, Atanda Musa. And sitting on top of the group, in his first tournament appearance in more than two years, two-time Olympian and three-time National Champion, Jimmy Butler.
Is Fan still steamed about losing a game to Lee McCool? He must be, because there is no possibility for Barney Reed Jr. to get into the match. Fan Yi Yong advances with a humbling 6,8 result. This is Fan, as I have never seen him. He's always impressive, but in this match...flawless, simply flawless.

The Semifinals bring together O'Neill and Fan. Zhuang and Cheng. Two will advance and two will pocket $250 checks. Umpires Terry Bell and Fong Hsu have the best seats in the house for these 3 out of 5 contests. But they don't get to keep their seats for long.

Just as he did at the St. Joe Valley Open, Cheng makes it straight games past David Zhuang. This time the scores are 13,18, and 8. Apparently David's victory over Cheng for the U.S. National title in December did not redefine their standing. Cheng is a tactical wizard, playing smart when he cannot play young. Whatever the hole he discovered in Zhuang's game after Vegas, he has used it twice, now. David's bid to retain his Murad title is dashed. There will be a new champ this year.

On the other table, O'Neill looks for answers no one has found all weekend. Would that determination counted for points? "Fan Yi Yong is Chinese for 'Threshing Machine,' someone whispers in my ear. At 10, 8, 7 you will just have to take my word for it that O'Neill fought hard on every point, right to the end.

The Finals place $1,500 with the winner and $750 for the runner-up. We are all set for another 'classic match-up' between Fan and Cheng, the archrivals who never speak to each other. Cheng has, in his words, 'semi-retired' and will spend the U.S. Open week coaching in Gaithersburg. Not that Cheng won't try his best to win, but there seems to be (Fan at 7) a new recognition, (Fan at 13) order of things in U.S. Table Tennis and (Fan at 18) a new Champion of the Matthew Murad Memorial Open.

Ronald and Gloria shake the Champion's hand and the spectators head for the exits. Fan Yi Yong not only won, he won so convincingly that you have to wonder if anyone else ever had a chance. He beat a field that held four Olympians, a Pan-Am Gold Medalist and 15 U.S. Men's Singles Titles. He dispatched a member of the U.S. Team by scores of six and eight. In fact for the entire match, Fan won't try his best to win, but there seems to be (Fan at 7) a new recognition, a new (Fan at 13) order of things in U.S. Table Tennis and (Fan at 18) a new Champion of the Matthew Murad Memorial Open.

Under 16 Boys' Singles Champion
Khaleel Asgarali


Open Doubles: 1st O'Neill/Butler, 2nd Parekh/Lanis.
U2375: Han Xiao d. Vijay Madhavan, 21,16,16.
U2125: Larry Bavly d. Paul Lamse, 15,10,11.
U1550: Saibal Chakraborty d. Miledy Garcia, 15,16.
U1200: Roger Chou d. Mark Coleman, 14,24,11.
U1000: David Teroa d. Malcolm McDonald, 19,20.

Handbat Singles: Ty Hoff d. Larry Hodges, 15,19.
Over 40: Cheng Yinghua d. Atanda Musa, 13,17,16.
Over 50: 1st Paul Lamse, 2nd Patrick Lui.
Over 60: 1st Su Feng Liu, 2nd Irving Goldstein.
U22 Men: 1st Ernesto Ebuen III, 2nd Han Xiao.
U16 Girls: Elaine Kwok d. Barbara Wei, 20,16.
U13 Boys: Marcus Jackson d. Martin Qian, 15,16,17.
U3200 Doubles: 1st Zheng/Huff, 2nd Kostkowski/Lord.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001
On July 21 and 22, in the Sonny Werblin Rec. Center of Rutgers University, 186 entrants contested the Eastern Open Table Tennis Championships. The third stop of the 2001 STIGA North American Tour featured great play, an enthusiastic crowd, many interesting matches and another smoothly-run tournament from NATT.

The support of Escalade, Table Tennis Pioneers, About.com and Senoda, Inc. helped make the tournament a glowing success. The air-conditioned hall had wooden floors and good lighting. Tournament Director Fong Hsu and Tournament Referee Terry Bell reviewed the draws on Friday night, and managed to make several last-minute changes to accommodate late entrants. On Saturday Morning at 9AM sharp, play began on 25 STIGA Elite Rollers.

It did not take long for a tone of enthusiasm to show itself, when Alexis Perez and Wang Chen met in the final of the U-2500. Nearly 70 non-playing spectators were treated to an “artistic display” of table tennis talent, as the two players went at it on Table One. Perez won the first game at 22, and then Wang turned the table and prevailed 14,19. Cheers for each player and their high-level play got the tournament off to a rousing start.

It proved to be a “tough day” for many of the hometown New Jersey favorites. Adam Hugh lost to Shannon Doughlin of Barbados in the U-18, and to Han Xiao in the U-22. Shannon won on to the finals of both the U-22 and U-18 Men, losing twice to Han Xiao, 19,19 in the U-22 and in a three-gamer in the U-18, 21, 19, 17. Adam extracted a measure of satisfaction when he bounced Han from the U-2375 and then defeated Don Hamilton, 11, 20, 19 to take the event.

Young Karen Ma showed continued improvement in her play and made her family proud with first-place finishes in the Girls’ U-13 and U-16 and victory in the U-1700. William Ma’s contingent went home with trophies and the respect of the competitors for their strong play and good sportsmanship.

Likewise, father and son Asgarali, Nazruddin and Khaleel, had good tournaments, with Khaleel playing deep into several events and winning the U-16 Men, 13,13 over Eric Leventhal. Father Nazruddin held up his end with a -14,12,6 victory over Igor Kulyba in the U-2250. “It is good to know that when you drive to USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001

Above: Open Winner Fan Yi Yong. Below: Atanda Musa serves to David Zhuang at 19-all in the fifth in the semifinals. Musa won.
South American Tour Point Leaders

1. Han Xiao 404 6. Howard Lamb 335
2. Seen O'Neill 426 7. Nazruddin Asgarali 329
4. Taju Oshodi 391 9. Atanda Musa 304

North American Tour

Stop #3: Piscataway, NJ

Open Singles – Final: Fan Yi Yong d. Atanda Musa, 13,7,6; SF: Fan d. Pradeenban Peter-Paul, 9,12,22; Musa d. David Zhuang, 20,17,15,17,19; QF: Fan d. Michael Oyebo, 17,13,14,18; Peter-Paul d. Barney J. Reed, 9,12,22; Musa d. Seen O'Neill, 18,13,4; Zhuang d. Abass Ekun, 13,14,16.


Women’s Singles: Renata Peluchova d. Wang Chen, 13,15,19.

Hardbat: 1st John Jarema (1-3-2); 2nd Larry Hodges (1-1-3-3); 3rd Ashu Jain (1-2-3).


Over 60: 1st Gary Guzdenko; 2nd George Aitken, Sr.


Under 10 Boys: 1st Allen Shih; 2nd Zach McLaughlin.

Under 13 Girls: 1st Karen Ma; 2nd Judy Hugh.


U2500: Wang Chen d. Alexis Perez, 22-14,19.


U2250: Nazruddin Asgarali d. Igor Kulyba, 14-12,6.


U2000: Alex Mayzlin d. Huang Wenchao, 19-14,19.


U1400: Rick Martin d. Wally Narmgard, 8-14,18.

U1200: Mark Coleman d. Yuliya Lisova, 16,16.


U800/Novice: Charles Lin d. Gizella Hajdu, 14,16.


Quarterfinalist Michael Oyebode
A near-record 282 players entered the second annual CancerQ Garden State Open, the second most entries ever in a 4-star tournament. Play was on 28 tables. Sponsors were CancerQ.com, Lily Yip Sports, Double Fish and Kong Kee Foods.

In the Open Preliminaries (round robin stage), 13-year-old Under 14 and Under 18 Champion Adam Hugh (rated 2295) upset just-back-from-the-Worlds USA Team Member Barney J. Reed (2529), 14 & 17. (Barney was set to get his revenge in the Under 2550 quarterfinals, 12 & 6.) Also just-back-from-the-Worlds Ashu Jain was upset by Alexis Perez (who also made the final of hardbat, splitting the final with Lily Yip). Later, Adam would upset Ashu as well (in Under 22), making it a two-USA-Team-Member tournament for him. But proving that the Worlds wasn’t a disease (although there is quite a letdown afterwards), our final just-back-from-the-Worlds contestant, Virginia Sung, upset Abass Ekun, who’s not the best against chop. (Virginia also made the final of Under 2375, losing to Parviz Mojaverian in the final, 17 & 15.)

All four quarterfinal matches in the Open were one-sided and two straight with the closest match being Virginia over Adam, 15 & 14 (which took the place of the “expected” Barney J. Reed vs. Abass Ekun match, and kept Adam from meeting a third USA team member). Top-seeded Fan Yiyong defeated Tahl Leibovitz, 8 & 11 (Tahl scored a lot of serve & follows, but Fan pretty much scored every point on his serve); Wang Chen (U.S. #2 woman) defeated De Tran, & 11 (Tahl scored a lot of serve & follows, but seeded Fan Yiyong defeated Tahl Leibovitz, 8 from beating a third USA team member). Top-seeded Fan immediately goes up 5-0 – then it’s 6-all, then 12-15, 15-all, 20-17, 21-18 for Fan.

In the third, Fan again takes a quick 4-0 lead, then falls behind 7-9, then goes up 14-11, then it’s 14-all. At 18-all, Fan serves, Musa pops it up – and Fan misses! Then Musa loops the serve, a net-ticker that Fan blocks back, but Musa rips the follow – 20-18 Musa. But Musa drops the next serve in the net, and then pushes the next one in the net (these things happen when you’re trying to stop Fan’s attack!), and it’s deuce. Fan goes up 21-20 and 22-21, but in the end, it’s Musa, 24-22.

In the fourth… the disgusted Fan tees off on everything. (Musa chips in, missing his own serve twice at the start.) 0-1, 7-1, 12-2, 15-5, 19-6, 21-9.

In the fifth, down 5-6, Fan calls a let when a ball rolls by, but pops the ball up. Musa cream the return – and thanks Fan. But Fan wins the next four (9-6), and leads 10-8 at the switch. Finally, at 13-12, Fan makes his move – and from there on, he pulls away, 15-12, 15-13, 18-13, 18-14, 20-14, 21-15. Final scores for $700 winner Fan: -20, 18, -22, 9, 15.

“Thank the best player I usually get to practice with is 2100,” said Fan afterwards. “I’m not used to having to loop over and over. In the fifth game, I just had to play my level.”

Musa gave a special thanks to his sponsor, Jerry Wartski, who pays his way to most tournaments. Musa would also make the final of Over 40, splitting the final with Ajayi Ohore, and would win Under 4200 doubles with Jonathan Talley.

In the semifinals of Women’s Singles, Renata Pelachova won the first, and led 17-13 and 19-14 in the second against Virginia Sung. However, Virginia won the next twelve in a row to win that game and go up 5-0 in the third. Renata won the next five (5-all – that’s 15 in a row for the server). From there on, it was all Virginia, 9-6 (at this point, the server has won 19 of the last 20 points), 21-13. In the other semifinal, Wang Chen defeated Wang Li Jun (no scores available); in the final, Wang (former world #4) won 11 & 12. Wang also won Under 2550 over Abass Ekun, 15 & 12.

Also doing well this tournament was George Brathwaite, winning Over 60, splitting the Over 50 final with Parviz Mojaverian, and teaming with Lily Yip (who co-directed the tournament with Y.C. Lee, with Chris Lehman the referee) to win “Over 90 Doubles” – where your combined age had to be over 90.

Open Singles – Final: Fan Yiyong d. Atanda Musa, -20, 18, -22, 9, 15; SF: Fan d. Chen Wang, 14, 9, 9; Musa d. Virginia Sung, 17, 8, 19; QF: Fan d. Tahl Leibovitz, 8, 11; Chen d. De Tran, 14, 14; Sung d. Adam Hugh, 15, 14; Musa d. Alexis Perez, 10, 14.


U2550 – Final: Chen Wang d. Abass Ekun, 15, 12; SF: Chen d. Lee McCool, 18, 14; Abass d. Barney J. Reed, 19, 18.


U1850: Adam Jackovino d. Judy Hugh, 16, 16.

U1700: Chee Kwan Yeung d. Zhi Wei He, 17, 12.

U1550: Subhash Samant & Kant Li split.

U1400: Vincent Wisniewski & Kant Li split.

U1200: Li-kang Chen d. Mark Coleman, 10, 17.

U1000: Yuliva Lisova d. Justin Green, -19, 18, 17.

Finalist Atanda Musa

Champion Fan Yi Yong

Photo by Roger Brown ©2001
Coral Springs Chinese Cultural Association
U.S. Open Warm-up Open

CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA • JUNE 30 - JULY 1, 2001 • BY LARRY HODGES

On Sunday afternoon, the tournament halted for 20 minutes for a Chinese "Lions Dancing Show," put on by the sponsoring Coral Springs Chinese Cultural Association (CSCCA), and featuring two boys and two girls in two traditional lion outfits (two in each outfit). Dozens of players in green CSCCA outfits – mostly juniors – took part in the tournament, mostly students of local coaches Marty Prager and Terese Terranova (who were given a special award by CSCCA at the end of the tournament, for their contributions, and who also ran the tournament).

Recently, Fan Yiyong has been dominating USA tournaments. A new opponent showed, the newly retired 3-time U.S. Men's Singles Champion Jim Butler. A new threat, or fresh meat?

31 players were entered in the Open. In the fifteen first-round matches, and in the eight 8ths matches, the higher rated player won them all 2-0. (There wasn’t even a deuce game.)

The first serious matches were in the quarterfinals. Finally, there were two minor "upsets": 2435-rated local star Brian Pace defeated 2485 Barney J. Reed, 19 & 18; and 2522 Michael "upsets": 2435-rated local star Bnan Pace defeated 2545 Razvan Ci·etu. After seven nail-biting games, from Ashu and Michael, by scores of 19, 23, 20, 22.

Meanwhile, Fan defeated Brian Pace in the other semifinals (13 & 15) in a powerlooping battle between Fan’s forehand and backhand loops vs. Brian’s forehand loops. Brian was outgunned, two to one. (However, he had enough guns – cannons, really – to powerloop his way to winning Under 2400.)

The final was all Fan’s – 16 & 8. Jim can play at Fan’s level for stretches, but Fan just keeps pulling off shots, and Jim makes too many mistakes. “I need to be faster, and more consistent with my backhand,” Jim said afterwards. But it was a pretty good start, after a three-year layoff.

Keith Albain, still in semi-retirement, won Under 18 Boys. He had lost to Oyebode in the Open 8ths, 19 & 16.

Others having good tournaments included Diana Li, who won Under 15 and Under 12 Girls; Sherif Shola, who won Under 12 Boys and made the final of Under 15 Boys; Ramy Shola, who won Under 15 Boys and made the final (against Keith Albain) of Under 18 Boys; Michael Chen, who won Under 600 and made the final of Under 800; and Kibibi Moseley, who won Under 2200, made the semi-finals of Under 2400, and made the semi-finals of Under 2400 (and would have won Women’s Singles, if there were one).


U2500 – Final: Ashu Jain d. Brian Pace, 18, 19; SF: Jain d. Jacques Casas, 17,20,18; Pace d. Kibibi Moseley, 15,16.


U2200: 1’ Kibibi Moseley; 2‘ Alex Aponte.


U1900: 1’ Aron Friedman; 2’ Wesley Greaves.

U1750: 1’ Bruno Ramirez; 2’ Andrew Williams.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001
Dave Ramsey Memorial Open
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA • MAY 11-13, 2001 • BY KAMRAN AZIMZADEH

This was not an ordinary tournament, but it wasn't so because it was held on the Mothers Day weekend. What made it so special was the celebration of the memory of David Ramsey. David was the SDTTA Treasurer for many years and contributed a great deal to our club. So when I was asked to plan and run a tournament to honor him, considering that I am the current SDTTA Treasurer, it was an honor to do so.

We anticipated the usual crowd of between 110 and 120 participants but the entry forms kept coming and coming. In the end, there were 182 participants. I wonder how many more would have signed up if the tournament had not been held on Mothers Day weekend. Of course, 120 free T-Shirts, beautifully designed and handed out by Pam Ramsey, the honorary daughter, could have been a major contributor to the influx of participants.

In San Diego, we have been proud of running on-time tournaments, so we had reasons to be worried when all these players signed up. Fortunately, thanks to Raphael Ahmed and Mike Dempsey, who assisted me in running the control desk, all went well. Special thanks also goes to Gary Hranek for designing magnificent tournament signs throughout the building.

Special appreciation goes to Pam Ramsey and Clark Mitchell for helping in every aspect of this tournament. Last but not the least, the hard work of Ed deLeeuw in checking in the players and collecting monies is commendable. I appreciate everything that this fine group of volunteers did in order to have a successful tourney. I could not have run this one without the efforts of these friends. Also, on behalf of Pam Ramsey and myself, I would like to convey our full gratitude to those who donated to the David Ramsey Memorial account. Most of the money was used to design and purchase the tournament T-Shirts, and some funds were added to increase prize monies. Finally, we thank Newgy and Paddle Palace for sponsoring the tournament.

Open Singles

Like any other table tennis tournament, this was our main event ... and main event it was. Many players participated in this event, but when the battle was almost over, there were four fine players still on their feet. Two were Dr. Le from the Los Angeles area and Deszo Racz, who flew in from Germany. (He is originally from Hungary but resides in Germany and plays in the German leagues.) The third player was Zoltan Varga, another Hungarian who had flown from Hungary three days prior to our tournament. The fourth was the number one U.S. player, Fan Yi Yong. Fan flew from Seattle and arrived from the airport two hours before the start of the Open Singles event.

After two and a half days of battle ended, 28 eventful events were played, $1,345 in prize money was awarded, and 42 trophies were handed out. Everyone went home full of memories from this memorable tournament.

SINGLES EVENTS

Open Singles: 1st Fan Yi Yong; 2nd Zoltan Varga; 3rd-4th: Deszo Racz & Tuan Le.
Women: 1st Priscilla Umel; 2nd Alina Khasanova.
Over 40: 1st Wen Tsay; 2nd John Schneider.
Over 50: 1st Bill Ukapatayasakul; 2nd Bernard Savitz.
Over 60: 1st Ragner Fahlstrom; 2nd Suressh Kanekar.
Over 70: 1st Chason Koh; 2nd Leon Ruderman.
Under 18: 1st Miguel Sakcido; 2nd Peter Randall.
Under 14: 1st Wendy Eav; 2nd Earl James Alto.
U2350: 1st Ramin Samardi & Rudy Miranda (split).
U2250: 1st David Umel Jr.; 2nd Ozai Sujo.
U2150: 1st John Schneider; 2nd Harold Gomez.
U2050: 1st Harold Gomez; 2nd Lon Dean.
U1975: 1st Lon Dean; 2nd Kamal Farah.
U1900: 1st Lon Dean; 2nd Ky Nguyen.
U1800: 1st Priscilla Umel; 2nd Kenneth Grady.
U1800 Over 40: 1st Lon Dean; 2nd Behnam Kazemi.
U1750: 1st Lon Dean; 2nd Philip Vandewiele.
U1650: 1st Philip Vandewiele; 2nd Ira Framo.
U1550: 1st Ira Framo; 2nd Larry Beatty.
U1450: 1st David Ostrowski; 2nd Danny Diaz.
U1300: 1st Winston Ngai; 2nd Alex Crane.
U1200: 1st Anthony Quintana; 2nd Todd Crane.

DOUBLES EVENTS

Open: 1st Fan Yi Yong/Varga Zoltan; 2nd Remenyi/Racs.
U3900: 1st Nguyen/Lee; 2nd Ernie Delos Reyes/Rodel Valdoria.
U2800: 1st John Funderberg/Ira Framo; 2nd Frisbee/Vern Boyce.

MARYLAND CIRCUIT

Eldersburg, MD
June 9-10, 2001
Open: 1st Dominic Mantelli 2nd Steve Hochman
U3000 Doubles: 1st Thomas Huff & Mark Cohen 2nd Al Whitney & William VanWright
U2100: 1st Steve Hochman 2nd Dominic Mantelli
U1900: 1st Steve Hochman 2nd Ray Chen
U1700: 1st Ray Chen 2nd Phil Van Dusen
U1500: 1st Rick Martin 2nd William VanWright
U1300: 1st Rick Martin 2nd George Williams
U1100: 1st Thomas Huff 2nd Gary McCone
Novice/U900: 1st Ian Dew 2nd Sujay Deb

MARYLAND CIRCUIT

Eldersburg, MD
July 14-15, 2001
Open: 1st Jason Cao; 2nd Steve Hochman
Under 18: 1st Josh Jackson; 2nd Jeremiah Tsang; 3rd Jesse Wasserman; 4th Jimmy Pappadeas.
Over 40: 1st Donnie Lee; 2nd Angelo Astasidis.
Under 1900: 1st Jason Cao; 2nd Nobuhiko Koyama.
Under 1700: 1st Saibal Chakraborty; 2nd Donnie Lee.
Under 1500: 1st George Williams; 2nd Rick Martin.
Under 1300: 1st Rick Martin; 2nd Hugh Barton.
Under 1100: 1st Hugh Barton; 2nd Sujay Deb.
Under 900/Novice: 1st Anthony Lee; 2nd John Zyedell.
Golden State Open
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA • MAY 26-27, 2001 • BY DENNIS LUI

For one day, the Bay Area was treated to a little slice of European showmanship in the classic American setting of the suburban high school gymnasium. It was the professional, overseas factor on display during the second day of the 27th Annual Golden State Open, hosted by the Concord Table Tennis Club. Having just won the Lone Star display during the second day of the 27th Annual Golden State Open, Christian Grund (4-2), who placed second, filled out the final round game (6-1) in the final round robin matches and outplayed German player Christian Grund (4-2), who placed second. Filling out the final round were southern Californian Tuan Le for third place (2-5), with the Bay Area's own Freddie Gabriel taking fourth (2-6). The 2-Star tournament, which featured 23 events, drew 220 players and broke the record for most participants in tournament history.

Asked who his toughest opponent was in winning the title, Racz (speaking through friend and interpreter Frank Remenyi) responded, “Christian Grund. He plays a different style. Plays with his head.” Racz, 27, made his appearance at the tail end of a two and a half week visit to the United States. He described the experience as “good.” Grund, 29, plays in a league in Germany as well, and is actually pretty good. He plays a different style, Grund replied. “I don’t know. Hard to say. It’s not so much different. I played pretty good.”

It was one of the highlight matches of the tournament, as Racz, at an estimated 2600 rating, used deceptive serves and strong, efficient counterdriving to pick apart the fourth-seeded Grund’s constantly mobile, estimated 2600 rating. Use an deceptive serves and strong, efficient counterdriving to pick apart the fourth-seeded Grund's constantly mobile, estimated 2600 rating. Use an deceptive serves and strong, efficient counterdriving to pick apart the fourth-seeded Grund’s constantly mobile, estimated 2600 rating. Use an deceptive serves and strong, efficient counterdriving to pick apart the fourth-seeded Grund’s constantly mobile, estimated 2600 rating. Use a deceptive serves and strong, efficient counterdriving to pick apart the fourth-seeded Grund’s constantly mobile, estimated 2600 rating. Use a deceptive serves and strong, efficient counterdriving to pick apart the fourth-seeded Grund’s constantly mobile, estimated 2600 rating.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the weekend came with the upset of national team member and second seed Barney Reed Jr. (rated 2529), by 36 year-old Tuan Le (rated 2358), in the quarterfinal round of the Open. Le won 7-1, 7-10, 16, before the last-minute entries of the two European finishers. It was expected that Reed would likely be facing off with local favorite, eighteen-year-old Freddie Gabriel, for top honors. Of course, most spectators for the final event were here to cheer Gabriel on against all comers. The third-seeded Gabriel (rated 2470), is arguably the most talented player to come out of host Concord Table Tennis Club's program in its 29 years.

Still, it could be said the theme of this year’s tournament had very much to do with the new: the sparkling and newly renovated gym of Northgate High School, complete with shiny new hardwood floors, and brand new bleachers. So it seemed fitting that its two big winners were also new faces from overseas. That, along with the presence of Reed, 2000 Sydney Olympian Michelle Do, 17, and former Shanghi club team member Angela Sun, 24, lent an international air to the proceedings that may not have been seen in these parts since 1988, the year the table tennis first became an official Olympic sport, and the year when the entire North American Olympic team came by invitation to the tournament.


2001 KANSAS EARLY SUMMER CLASSIC
Wichita, Kansas
June 23, 2001
Class A: 1st Christian Lillieroos; 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 Obrovos; 2nd Charles Rucker.
Class E: 1st Steve Stark; 2nd Peter Chung.
U3600 Doubles: 1st Christian Lillieroos/Steve Stark; 2nd Guy Hendrickson/Aaron Hendrickson.
U3600 Doubles Consolation: 1st Dennis Prather/John Miller; 2nd George Taplin/Aaron Whaley.

BIGGEST LITTLE RENO-SPARKS OPEN
Reno, Nevada
June 16, 2001
Open Singles: 1st Steve Varela; 2nd Ralf Stadlerman.
U2000 Singles: 1st Mike Lee; 2nd Billy Fu.
U1800 Singles: 1st Billy Fu; 2nd Stephen Adams.
U1550 Singles: 1st Alex Paras; 2nd Carlos Ortegon.
U1300 Singles: 1st Derrick Pozen; 2nd Steve Garretson.
U1000 Singles: 1st Debby McCaffrey; 2nd Manny Scudder.
U3000 Doubles: 1st Sipaila/Varela; 2nd Collins/Ortegon.

2001 OHIO CHAMPIONSHIPS
Columbus, Ohio
April 28-29, 2001

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001
### TOP MEN

1. WA 2925 Fan, Yi Yong  
2. MD 2758 Cheng, Yinghua  
3. NJ 2792 Zhuang, David  
4. IL 2713 Lupulescu, Ilia  
5. TX 2398 Owens, Eric  
6. NV 2930 Razc, Dezso  
7. GA 2588 Oyebode, Michael  
8. NY 2582 Musa, Atanda  
9. IN 2569 Hazrati, Mark  
10. GA 2555 Hyatt, Michael  
11. IL 2551 Drinic, Sasa  
12. TX 2533 Suborji, Viktorian  
13. FL 2516 Paco, Brian  
14. PR 2492 Gabriel, Santiago  
15. IN 2488 Seemiller, Daniel  
16. FL 2476 Alban, Keil  
17. NY 2471 Eboue III, Ernesto L  
18. VA 2470 O'Neill, Sean  
19. NY 2464 Shao, Yu  
20. NY 2462 Aronov, Nison  
21. NY 2455 Tae, Ka Chun  
22. CA 2452 Gabriel, Freddie  
23. TX 2445 Osbidi, Taj  
24. NJ 2444 Jain, Ashu  
25. GA 2439 Reed, Barney J.  
26. NY 2437 Ekun, Abass  
27. GA 2431 Masters, Brian  
28. PA 2429 Pandit, Sharad  
29. NJ 2422 Domingo, Rey A.  
30. PR 2420 Coste, Santiago  
31. GA 2412 Evans, Keith  
32. NY 2411 Liu, Hui Yuan  
33. IL 2403 Shiu, Arturo Pang  
34. GA 2402 Peng, Xin  
35. FL 2394 Cubillo, Minor Vindas  
36. GA 2387 Beebe, T. J.  
37. PA 2384 Seemiller, Randy Lee  
38. IN 2383 Cohen, Randy H.  
39. CO 2381 McMonigal, Francisco J.  
40. PR 2379 Ruiz, Luis E.

### TOP WOMEN

1. MD 2611 Chang, Jun Gao  
2. NJ 2515 Wang, Chen  
3. IL 2497 Reed, Jasna  
4. CA 2477 Huang, Yeo Xi  
5. CA 2471 Barch, Tewny  
6. NY 2398 Sung, Virginia  
7. OR 2333 Yang, Simone  
8. NY 2324 Peluchove, Renata  
9. NY 2289 Wang, Li Jun  
10. NJ 2274 Yip, Lily  
11. CA 2251 Moseley, Kibbi  
12. CA 2239 Sun, Angela  
13. CA 2238 Do, Michelle  
14. CA 2231 Zhao, Hong  
15. CA 2217 Lee, Jacqueline  
16. PR 2205 Garcia, Enerys  
17. IL 2144 Kretschmer, Maria  
18. OR 2191 Ping, Whitney  
19. MD 2049 Wu, Katherine  
20. OR 2092 Ping, Emily  
21. IL 2004 Bastrzyk, Marta  
22. MD 1986 Kyotokaye, June  
23. CO 1971 Leach, Laura  
24. TX 1969 Li, Yongmei  
25. FL 1955 Wronska, Beata  
26. VA 1941 Wang, Chao  
27. PR 1931 Garcia, Johana  
28. CA 1928 Livshin, Bella  
29. VA 1927 Kwok, Elaine  
30. CA 1917 Milac, Neda  
31. NY 1907 Panich, Svetlana  
32. KS 1899 Hill, Nancy  
33. CA 1889 Huyhn, Tran  
34. NY 1886 Kaler, Natalie  
35. CA 1872 Seibel, Allison  
36. CA 1865 Khasanova, Alina  
37. VA 1864 Kaminsky, Barbara  
38. CA 1859 Smallwood, Barbara  
39. TX 1855 Routhe, Mahin  
40. PR 1837 Rosario, Sanda

### TOURNAMENTS INCLUDED IN RATINGS

- Alabama State Championships  
- Davison April Open  
- Maryland April Circuit  
- NITTC OPEN  
- PA State Closed Championship 2001  
- Tri-City Open Spring Double RR  
- Atlanta Spring Open  
- Baystate TTC Spring Giant RR  
- STTC 15th Anniversary RR Open-IL  
- St. Louis RR Open  
- Syracuse April 2001 Open  
- Indiana State & Kentucky State Closed 2001  
- Ohio Championships  
- Fairfield May Open-CA  
- Sports Fitness TT Players Series  
- Three Rivers TTC Spring Tournament  
- 2001 Champions Spring Open  
- 2001 WA State Open, Closed, Tri-States  
- Maryland May Circuit  
- AITTA League Singles  
- MD Medallion Championship  
- 2001 Nashville Open  
- City Limits Open Invitational  
- Florida Spring Games 2001  
- San Diego Spring 2001  
- Davison May Open  
- Everyone TT May Open  
- Lone Star Open on the 2001 NA Tour  
- Second Garden State Open  
- Maryland May Circuit - Giant RR  
- 36th St. Joseph Valley Open  
- Golden State Open - CA  
- 2001 DFW TT Summer RR  
- 2001 Springfield Table Tennis Open  
- AATC Georgia State Qualifying  
- Sports Fitness TT Players Series  
- Boston TTC June Open  
- MDTTTC June Open  
- AATC/USATT Junior Olympic Trials  
- Maryland June Circuit  
- 2001 Seattle Open  
- Meiklejohn National Seniors TIT  
- NITTC Closed  
- The 2001 OH TT Team Championships  
- Biggest Little Reno-Sparks Closed - NV  
- Grand Canyon State Games  
- Pensacola Summer Open  
- Schaumburg Open  
- Hoosier State Games TT  
- Matthews Murad Memorial Open  
- 2001 Kansas Early Summer Classic  
- Maryland June Circuit - Giant RR  
- California State Open  
- 1st Annual CAN-AM TT Tournament  
- Ann Van Vooren Memorial Cup  
- Glen Park Open  
- 2001 Coral Springs Open  
- 2001 US Open  
- ITTF Pro Tour  
- North American Championships

All ratings-related questions should be directed to Tami Walker, USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. To find out your rating, send a self-addressed, stamped postcard with your name and the date of your last tournament. You may also contact us at 719-578-4583 or by e-mail at usatt3@iex.net.
### Over 30 Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>2825</td>
<td>Fan, Yi Yong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2768</td>
<td>Cheng, Yinghua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>2729</td>
<td>Zhuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>2713</td>
<td>Lupulesku, Ilija</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2582</td>
<td>Musa, Atanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2620</td>
<td>Kim, Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2333</td>
<td>Suborj, Viorian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>2488</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>2470</td>
<td>O'Neill, Sean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2482</td>
<td>Aronov, Nison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2455</td>
<td>Ochocki, Tai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2431</td>
<td>Masters, Brian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>2439</td>
<td>Pandit, Shardad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>2422</td>
<td>Domingo, Rey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2428</td>
<td>Eklund, Abass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2412</td>
<td>Evans, Keeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2377</td>
<td>Gittelman, Donna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>2311</td>
<td>Roufieh, Jalil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2363</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2321</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2304</td>
<td>Cung, Hiep Hoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2241</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2274</td>
<td>Ling, Yip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>2259</td>
<td>Lin, Andrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2213</td>
<td>Leonhardt, Eleanor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2209</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2208</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2207</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2134</td>
<td>Concepcion, Elman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2124</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2126</td>
<td>Hou, Randy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2124</td>
<td>Wong, Hing Sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>2123</td>
<td>Seemiller, Randy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2121</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2117</td>
<td>Hicks, H. Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2172</td>
<td>Seidai, Skal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2170</td>
<td>Chen, Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2155</td>
<td>Piyavut, Chai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2143</td>
<td>Hejaz, Alireza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2140</td>
<td>Wang, Yi Yong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2124</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2119</td>
<td>Harris, Aliza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2112</td>
<td>Shaw, Lavar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2126</td>
<td>Hou, Randy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2126</td>
<td>Chen, Yeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2124</td>
<td>Wong, Hing Sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>2123</td>
<td>Harris, Jill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Over 30 Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2768</td>
<td>Cheng, Yinghua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2729</td>
<td>Zhuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>2713</td>
<td>Lupulesku, Ilija</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2582</td>
<td>Musa, Atanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2620</td>
<td>Kim, Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2333</td>
<td>Suborj, Viorian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>2488</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>2470</td>
<td>O'Neill, Sean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2482</td>
<td>Aronov, Nison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2455</td>
<td>Ochocki, Tai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2431</td>
<td>Masters, Brian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>2439</td>
<td>Pandit, Shardad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>2422</td>
<td>Domingo, Rey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2428</td>
<td>Eklund, Abass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2412</td>
<td>Evans, Keeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2377</td>
<td>Gittelman, Donna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>2311</td>
<td>Roufieh, Jalil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2363</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2321</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2304</td>
<td>Cung, Hiep Hoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2241</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2274</td>
<td>Ling, Yip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>2259</td>
<td>Lin, Andrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2213</td>
<td>Leonhardt, Eleanor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2209</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2208</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2207</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2134</td>
<td>Concepcion, Elman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2124</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2126</td>
<td>Hou, Randy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2117</td>
<td>Hicks, H. Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2172</td>
<td>Seidai, Skal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2170</td>
<td>Chen, Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2155</td>
<td>Piyavut, Chai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2143</td>
<td>Hejaz, Alireza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2140</td>
<td>Wang, Hing Sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>2123</td>
<td>Harris, Jill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Over 30 Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2768</td>
<td>Cheng, Yinghua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2729</td>
<td>Zhuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL</td>
<td>2713</td>
<td>Lupulesku, Ilija</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2582</td>
<td>Musa, Atanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2620</td>
<td>Kim, Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2333</td>
<td>Suborj, Viorian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>2488</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>2470</td>
<td>O'Neill, Sean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2482</td>
<td>Aronov, Nison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2455</td>
<td>Ochocki, Tai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2431</td>
<td>Masters, Brian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>2439</td>
<td>Pandit, Shardad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>2422</td>
<td>Domingo, Rey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2428</td>
<td>Eklund, Abass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2412</td>
<td>Evans, Keeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2377</td>
<td>Gittelman, Donna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>2311</td>
<td>Roufieh, Jalil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2363</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2321</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2304</td>
<td>Cung, Hiep Hoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2241</td>
<td>Seemiller, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2274</td>
<td>Ling, Yip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>2259</td>
<td>Lin, Andrea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2213</td>
<td>Leonhardt, Eleanor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2209</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2208</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2207</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2134</td>
<td>Concepcion, Elman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2124</td>
<td>Roufeh, Mahin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2126</td>
<td>Hou, Randy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2117</td>
<td>Hicks, H. Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>2172</td>
<td>Seidai, Skal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2170</td>
<td>Chen, Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2155</td>
<td>Piyavut, Chai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>2143</td>
<td>Hejaz, Alireza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY</td>
<td>2140</td>
<td>Wang, Hing Sing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>2123</td>
<td>Harris, Jill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Florida's Andrew Lin, #1 in Boys' Under 12.

Florida's Andrew Lin, #1 in Boys' Under 12.  
USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • September/October 2001
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Net</th>
<th>Serve</th>
<th>Serve Accuracy</th>
<th>Spike</th>
<th>Block</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Bee</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6'0</td>
<td>180</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Doe</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Lion</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5'6</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Jones</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Wolf</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6'2</td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Players' favorite sources for table tennis supplies:
- American Table Tennis Association
- United States Table Tennis Association
- National Table Tennis Council

Players' social circles:
- Play with friends
- Join local clubs
- Attend tournaments

Players' equipment:
- Rackets
- Balls
- Table

Players' travel:
- Compete in home cities
- Travel to tournaments
- Exchange experiences with players from other cities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rolando Muresan</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>98109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Agassi</td>
<td>NV</td>
<td>89158</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete Sampras</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>90028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John McEnroe</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>90028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Connors</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>33710</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fitzgerald</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>15222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Ashe</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>10022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Connors</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>33710</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John McEnroe</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>90028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Agassi</td>
<td>NV</td>
<td>89158</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pete Sampras</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>90028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Players' favorite sources for table tennis supplies:

- *Paddle Palace* 1-800-547-5891
September 1-2 - WESTERN OPEN ON THE 2001 STIGA NORTH AMERICAN TOUR, San Diego, CA. Contact: Richard Lee, PO Box 59451, Potomac, MD. 20859-9451. Phone: 410-695-2587. rlee@natetabletennis.com

September 1-2 - Boston TTC Labor Day Open, Medford, MA. Contact: Humberto Gil, 407 Mystic Ave, 9-D, Medford, MA 02155. Phone: 617-953-0707. tournaments@bostonette.com

September 8 - Sports Fitness TT Players Series, Clemmons, NC. Contact: Danny Hill, 3 Twin Brook Dr., Clemmons, NC 27012. Phone: 336-764-0010.

September 8 - McAlester Fall TT Championships, McAlester, OK. Contact: Christian Lillieroos, 11109 Leaning Elm Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73120. Phone: 405-755-2062. latt@earthlink.net.

September 8-9 - Maryland September Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784. Phone: 410-489-7291.

September 8-9 - Willoughby Hills Giant RR Open, Willoughby Hills, OH. Contact: Ron Arcaro, 29153 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092. Phone: 440-585-9625. rjarc@rodketmail.com.

September 15 - Three Rivers TTC Fall Tournament, Ft Wayne, IN. Contact: Kirk Petersen, 4512 Spring Burn Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN-46815. Phone: 219-485-4218. dpete4218@fw.com.

September 15-16 - Lake Havasu Open, Lake Havasu, AZ. Contact: John Ballard, 1275 Bombay Lane, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86404. Phone: 520-453-8638.

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

September 22 - Oklahoma City Summer Open RR, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact: Larry Kesler, Rt 2 Box 175, El Reno, OK 73036. Phone: 405-483-5207. tklesler@aol.com.

September 22-23 - Pacific Coast Open, Santa Monica, CA. Contact: SCTTA/Joe Kidd, 20432 Elkwood St., Winnetka, CA 91306. Phone: 818-700-0948.

September 29-30 - STIGA OPEN ON THE 2001 STIGA NORTH AMERICAN TOUR, Newark, DE. Contact: Richard Lee, PO Box 491, Odenton, MD. 21113. Phone: 410-695-2587. Rlee@natetabletennis.com

October 6 - Sports Fitness TT Players Series, Clemmons, NC. Contact: Danny Hill, 3 Twin Brook Dr., Clemmons, NC 27012. Phone: 336-764-0010.

October 6 - Arkansas Open, Little Rock, AR. Contact: Eugene Atha, P.O. Box 6263, Sherwood, AR 72124. Phone: 501-835-5291.

October 6-7 - MDITC October Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 18761-Q Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879. Phone: 202-927-1958. Weixiao42@hotmail.com

October 8-12 - Huntsman World Senior Games, St. George, UT. Contact: Grant Misbach, 3484 N. Canyon Rd., Provo, UT 84604. Phone: 801-373-8009. grant@misbach.org.

October 13-14 - Maryland October Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 14160 Forsythe Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784. Phone: 410-489-7291.


October 20-21 - 2001 Millcreek Open, Erie, PA. Contact: Sam Steiner, 3616 Zimmerly Road, Erie, PA. 16506. Phone: 814-454-7103. Samsteiner@compuserve.com.

October 20 - Austin Open 2001, Austin, TX. Contact: John R. Miller, 13102 Briar Hollow Drive, Austin, TX 78729. Phone: 512-258-3731. john@balconesoftware.com.

October 20 - Fox Valley Open, Aurora, IL. Contact: Roger Jutte, 31009 Bennett Pl., Aurora, IL. 60504. Phone: 630-375-1515. rogerj@att.net.

October 20-21 - Tri-City Open Fall Double RR, Richland, WA. Contact: Kirby Parker, 2304 Snohomish Ave., Richland, WA. 99352. Phone: 509-375-1587. Slyrfox@owt.com.
Heavyweight Table Tennis –
Playing over 2000 over 250 lbs — By Larry Bavly

Do you begin to breathe heavily during the first 10 points of your match? Do you find bending over to pick up the ball the most difficult part of the game? Are table tennis shorts not an option? Do long pips make you think of a big helping of spaghetti? When you attempt to do footwork drills, does it measure on the Richter scale? If you answered yes to any of these, this article may be for you.

I would like to share with you some tips and strategies that have allowed me to play at a competitive level while being overweight. My current playing level is around 2200 and I weigh well, ....., over 250 lbs. Let me begin by stating that I do not advocate playing overweight. A 1950-rated player who weighs 150 lbs striving to break the 2000 barrier should not react to this article with “Hey! I’m going to gain 100 lbs and become a 2000 player!” Certainly, with all else being equal, the physically fit table tennis player has an advantage over the heavyweight player. With that being understood, I will mention some of the inherent disadvantages and offer suggestions how to best cope with them in order to get the most out of your heavyweight game.

THE FOREHAND SERVE – SUCK IN YOUR STOMACH

The forehand pendulum motion serve is an effective technique that can produce high and varying degrees of spin. This serve works best when your arm is loose, hangs directly down from your shoulder, and you contact the ball close to your body. As heavyweights, our stomachs get in the way when our arm hangs straight down. If we contact the ball close to our body, we still need to put our arms out forward to toss the ball in an uncomfortable position just to clear our stomach.

If you can suck in your stomach to the extent that your arm can hang freely and swing side to side in front of your body, I recommend the forehand pendulum serve. Just keep a conscious reminder that you suck in your stomach before attempting the serve. The closer the contact is to the body the better the serve. This is a tip I had to discover for myself. I’ve had several lessons and discussed technique with some highly regarded coaches over my career. It’s amazing that they don’t realize how vitally important it is to suck in your stomach for the forehand serve.

DEVELOP A RELIABLE BACKHAND

The most critical strategy for heavyweight table tennis is to minimize the need to move so that one can conserve energy. A reliable backhand will help you achieve this status. The classic attacking style table tennis player positions himself well over to one side so that he can attack most balls with his forehand. As heavyweights, we don’t have the luxury of cheating to one side – one stiff push to our wide forehand and the point is over. I still position myself to the left of the middle line, but only slightly. Try not to leave two thirds of the table open. Also, avoid backing up as much as possible. It increases the area you need to cover. Your opponent will most likely have the mindset of “make him move.” If you position yourself to cover corner to corner, you don’t have to move. Proper footwork should be avoided if possible because it is much too strenuous.

Depending on your skill level, your backhand may or may not be a weapon to hit winning shots. It will, however, keep you in a rally while minimizing your need to move. An important tip: Don’t attempt a forehand when the ball is in your middle or left of middle. When faced with a ball to my middle in my lighter days, I would apply a swift rotating footwork movement to my left opening up my forehand and I would absolutely blast the ball for a winner. I might be able to pull that off now, but I’ve realized that it’s not worth it because even if I make a winning shot the energy required to do so will certainly make me lose the next four points.

Here’s the key to handling a ball to your middle. Keeping your left foot planted (remember it’s all about minimizing movement) take one big step right (with your right foot, of course). Now you can make a safe backhand stroke without getting tired. If you have a practice partner, have him feed balls to the middle and practice this shot. I admit you won’t generate much power, but it’s a matter of survival. There are two ways your opponent will try to move you – playing wide angles and to your middle. With good positioning and a reliable backhand you don’t have to move much. Instead, make your opponent do all the work.

DESPERATE MEASURES FOR DESPERATE TIMES

Although the reliable backhand strategy will keep the ball in play and conserve energy, you will sometimes face an opponent who is too strong to defeat without moving. That’s when you get desperate and actually move, apply footwork, bend your knees, etc. If you honestly believe you can beat your opponent, than make the effort five points at a time. Towel off between every service change not to wipe your sweat but to get back your wind.

Here are some situations when it’s acceptable to tire yourself out using proper footwork: Near the end of a close game. A potential last match in a tournament – lose and your tournament is over. A finals match for prize money or a trophy.

Don’t tire yourself out too much in practice. A heavyweight can play friendly matches for a couple of hours, but can’t do footwork drills for five minutes. The two hours of “fun” matches will help you more than five minutes of “real” practice. By all means avoid the multiball drill. It may be the best drill for a physically fit player but it’s not for us. The overweight player can develop quick reflexes by playing video games as assistance training.

There may never be an obese finalist in Open Singles at a 4-star tournament. However, if you understand your limitations and play accordingly, you can increase your level of competitiveness and achieve respectable tournament success.

CHANGING TABLE DIMENSIONS

By Tim Boggan

In a recent ITTF paper, George Segun and Abel Toriola concluded that a LONGER – rather than the standard 9” x 5” – table tennis table would promote more rallies and better physical fitness in South African players. They suggested that the ITTF ought to experiment with such a table “to test its suitability for TV coverage and public appeal.”

Interestingly, it’s not only the length of the table that’s been discussed among pockets of players and officials but also its HEIGHT:

ITTF Sports Science Committeeman Dr. Michael Scott (USA) has long felt that the table ought to be higher, and has brought with him to Osaka an article from a U.S. newspaper that he thinks will rationally support his view.

Turns out that U.S. bathroom cabinet makers, to satisfy customers who are tired of stooping to wash their face or brush their teeth, are now raising their vanity cabinets from a standard 30 inches — the exact height of a table tennis table — to as much as 36 inches.

These cabinet makers have become aware that the average height of people not only in the U.S. but other parts of the world has steadily been increasing. In 1851, the height of an average American man was 5’7”. Seventy-five years later, in 1926, when the ITTF was founded and the dimensions of the first World Championship tables were official, the height of the average American man was 5’9”.

It therefore might not be stretching a point to say that the ITTF ought to begin testing not only longer but also higher tables in preparation for the gangly six-footers that without such a change will be towering over the tables at the ITTF’s second 75th Anniversary Championships.
Part IV: The Block

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

Right: 5-Time U.S. Men’s Singles Champion Dan Seemiller and USATT Coaching Chair Mark Nordby demonstrate the forehand and backhand blocks.

This is the fourth 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.

A block is a simple way of returning a hard drive. It is simpler than a drive, and many coaches teach it first for that reason. However, one of the worst habits a player can get into is blocking too much.

A block can be done with either the forehand or the backhand. The stroke is similar to a drive except that there is no backswing and very little follow through. There is also no weight shift. A block is best described as just that – a block. Just stick the racquet in the way of a hard-hit ball. If the racquet angle is correct, the ball will go back low and with good pace.

Another difference in the block is that you should contact the ball earlier. Take it right off the bounce. The block is most effective as a way to return an opponent’s drive as quickly as possible so as not to give him a chance to keep attacking.

In many table tennis drills, one player blocks while the other does attacking and/or footwork drills.

Backswing

Very little backswing. Just get the racquet into position so that the incoming ball will contact it.

Forward Swing

Very little, except on an aggressive block.

Contact

The key to blocking is to use the opponent’s speed and spin to return the ball. Contact should be made right after the bounce. Quickness is the key – you don’t want to give your opponent time to make another strong shot.

Hold the racquet firmly and let the ball sink into the sponge and trampoline back. At contact, move the racquet forward some, more so against a slow ball than against a fast one.

Follow-Through

Although you have no backswing and hardly any forward motion before contact, you do have to follow through. Just move the racquet forward, rotating at the elbow. The harder your block, the more follow through.
Zhang Yining: Time For Anticipation

- World #3
- 1999 World Championships Women’s Singles Finalist
- 2001 World Championships Women’s Singles Semifinalist

By Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach
Zhang Yining is the first successful Chinese player using new Chinese shakehand techniques to join the Chinese women’s team. She is the first one who started out without any vestiges of the traditional Chinese penhold game—a thoroughbred shakehand. Her footwork is more square to the table than her predecessors, and she truly has no preference on whether to play a forehand or a backhand. Also, unlike penhold strategists, placement is not her primary focus, but equal in importance to power. This is a reflection of the Chinese coaches’ decision to emulate the men’s game in their up-and-coming female players. The distinct difference between this style and the European loopers is that it allows aggressive counterlooping from closer to the table, opening up wider angles and putting more time pressure on their opponents.

Once in a while someone will appear like Waldner and Kong, who seems to be born with the complete package—mentally and physically. Zhang Yining impressed me as such a person when I met her the first time. I trained with the Beijing Team before the 1996 Olympics. The then 14-year-old was quiet, unassuming, yet had a tremendous degree of confidence. She was already #2 or #3 on the Beijing team, and while that would be an accomplishment for most to be proud of, she was already restless, asking me when I thought it would finally be her turn to make it to the top—not questioning if or how, but merely when. I had seen her play, and there was no doubt in my mind that it wouldn’t be long. So, mirroring her confidence, I told her it would be soon, but that she needed to be mentally ready when the time came so she could deal with it. A few months later she proved to be ready when she reached the quarterfinals at the Chinese National Championships. That qualified her for the National Team. At age 17, she reached the final at the 1999 World Championship, losing to her elder teammate Wang Nan. This year, at the World Championships in Osaka, she said to me that she had come to win the title, because she felt good enough to beat everybody. The only other player with this degree of confidence I have ever spoken to was Deng Yaping. It was not to be, though. since Wang Nan defeated her in the semifinals.

Her technique is very simple, without unnecessary movement. One of her strongest points is her unfailing anticipation. A bit like Waldner, it allows her to wait for a long time before committing to her shots, so she never seems hurried. The picture sequence illustrates the current Chinese backhand looping technique, which is played closer to the table than the European style. Rather than backing up to make room for a big stroke, Zhang steps in with her right foot (Row 1, Frame 2-4). Her stroke doesn’t require that much space. She adjusts her positioning by stepping out a little with her left foot, and starts twisting her body to her left (R1,F7). She tracks the ball until it bounces, and then drops her right shoulder and pulls her wrist back. While the ball is still bouncing upward, she quickly whips her racket into it, holding it with a firm grip, and pushes off with her right foot. She clearly hops off the ground to get the necessary lift (R2, F3,4). This extra lift makes her early timing possible. In order to get sufficient drive, she extends her arm almost completely.

Now comes a phase that is often left out by other players, but might be one of the keys to Zhang’s success: As she lands from her hop, she has an “assessment” phase. In real time it is very brief and easy to miss, but on video it becomes clear: The time between the two loops is one second. The first 1/3 of that she spends completing her stroke. Then there is a clear “resting phase,” while she absorbs her landing from the hop. Her hands stays high, and she is completely focused on the other side, almost as though she’s taking a break (R2, F6,7). This is the time—short as it may be—at 1/5 sec—when she studies and computes the events that affect her next shot, and the accuracy of that assessment is what results in her excellent anticipation. With this much information, she can now comfortably move exactly to the correct place—no more adjustments needed, no wasted motion—and take a strong shot. And the whole stroke still happens very early in the ball’s trajectory, which puts great pressure on her opponents.

After that “assessment phase,” she adjusts her position with a small hop backwards and starts the second loop. Again, she tracks the ball until it bounces and then pulls her wrist back to prepare for the whipping motion. On this shot she needs less of a hop because the ball already carries topspin, and she can emphasize the forward motion even more.

Obviously, there are many intangibles that go into a top player’s performance. But sometimes— as in this case—differences jump out upon close inspection, differences that can be of great help to our game, if we find a way to incorporate them.
Germany's Olga Nemes

Olga made it to the Semifinals of the U.S. Open ITTF Pro Tour by upsetting top-seeded Zhang Yining of China

By Tim Boggan

I met Olga Nemes almost 15 years ago when she came to the U.S. for the first time on holiday. She'd known my sons Scott and Eric from their play in the Bundesliga, and through a connection with Anagret Steffieen of Schildkrot, Eric's sponsor. She was our welcome house guest for several days—slept, in Scott's absence, in his room, perhaps thinking of how, as she'd come into her teens, she'd quite liked this young man.

Of course my wife and I were privy to Olga's precocious table tennis successes—how, playing for Romania, she'd won the European Top 12 when she was just 14, and had then gone on, in novel fashion, to emigrate, to expatriate to Germany, and become one of the world's best players. Europe #1 in fact.

An adventurous move she'd made—and a much desired one, for Life in Romania was not Life in Germany. While playing in Switzerland, her tournament unfinished, she took a life-changing chance. Helped by we'll call him Agent X, Olga, since she hadn't a passport, and entry from one country to another in those Iron Curtain days was difficult enough anyway, agreed to be smuggled into Germany. She hid in the closed trunk of a car that pulled up to a border check point. Although she couldn't see, she could hear what she didn't want to hear. That the driver of the car in front of her had been asked to open his trunk. My god, I'm caught, she thought. But Agent X was no dummy. He'd brought along his mother. And now as the car made its approach he got out and, showing his passport, walked through the check point—leaving his courageous, aging mother, alias Agent M, to drive up alone to... proceed unhindered.

Naturally on discovering that Olga was nowhere to be found, the Romanian Coach was worried... and embarrassed. But of course the police couldn't help him—Olga was, mysteriously, a missing person. Then, for a time, a wanted fugitive—but a safe one. After her "disappearance," it'd be 3 1/2 years before she'd see her parents again. Since it was her father,Josef, who'd encouraged her to develop into a player, it was he, rather than her mother, who had the least difficulty acclimating to her absence. Meanwhile, young Olga would win the first of her German National Championships, as well as the European Ladies Grand Prix, and would maintain a high world ranking (an incomplete check of which shows that as early as Aug., 1982 she was World #27 and as late as July, '86 she was World #14).

All this I heard about in detail, not when Olga visited us for a few days during those 10 months or so when a thyroid condition was preventing her from playing in the '87 World's and other tournaments, but when I interviewed her this July at the ITTF's Pro Tour U.S. Open.

On graduating from her teens, Olga continued her strong play. In 1990 she was European Top 12 runner-up, and then would go on to have successes in other tournaments and in her Bundesliga matches. As expected, she made technical advances over the years—learned, for example, a chop/block, and to better mix the pace of her blocks. In time she married—Istvan was his name; he was a Hungarian (but not a table tennis player)—and in 1995, on taking a break from Open tournaments, she gave birth to her husband's namesake son, Steven (that being the English equivalent of the Hungarian Istvan). Ten days later she was back practicing, and inside of two months, after wins over Internationals Nicole Struse and Jie Schoepf, she was again the German National Champion.

"I have good staying power," she says, "I have to because I'm always on the run." The more so now since she's divorced from Istvan, who continues to share a genial relationship with their son. Right now six-year-old Steven wants to play soccer, and that's fine with Olga—she herself enjoys tennis and roller skating. "I like it that Steven's interested in some sport, it doesn't have to be table tennis—I'm not putting him up to get into that."

"When I was pregnant and had that lay-off," Olga says, "I saw how much I needed to play—realized how much I appreciated the Game. Before, I'd played for everybody else: from then on I began playing for me." Still, up until recently she was a member of the German National Team, but now, as, and by her own choice, has at least temporarily relieved herself of that responsibility.

Her way was paid to Fort Lauderdale, not by the Deutscher Tischtennis-Bund (none of the Germans playing and vacationing here were funded by their Association), but by her Tus Bad Driburg Club's #1 sponsor, Wadther Glas, who pays her expenses to Pro Tour events.

Ordinarily, as World #39, she would have drawn a first-round bye in this Open. But a quirk of Fate, the World #85 South Korean player, Park Kyung Ae, whom the Tournament Committee thought entered, had not come to the States at all (and unfortunately never would, for back in Korea her heart had stopped in childbirth and she had died). In her place was a lesser, unranked player with the exact same name, Park Kyung Ae, who became Olga's first losing opponent. Then, what fast hands she still had, regardless of the fact that she wasn't practicing so much, and certainly not training—running in the morning heat like her Swedish doubles partner Asa Svensson—she defeated Danish qualifier Pia Finnemann. Then followed by eliminating Hungary's World #16 Csilla Batori.

That brought her—the only non-Asian—to the quarter's and the #1 seed, China's World #3 Zhang Yining. Up 2-0 and creating quite a stir among the spectators-players, Olga rallied in the third, came from 18-15 down to go 20-19 match-point up. Then, as one fellow said, "She made the only mistake of the match." She served long—and Zhang ripped it cross-court in. After which Olga lost two long blocking points. Then in the fourth she was behind 8-0—a hopeless situation. Down 3-0 in the fifth, Olga had to be "toost," as they say—or so everyone, almost everyone, thought. But Olga did have staying power... and up 20-18 she served, as one observer said, "her only high toss of the match," looped a follow, and Zhang, out of position, spun a forehand long.

The USATT's Richard McAfee (who not long ago had conducted an Olympic Solidarity Coaching Course in the West Indies) was watching this upset. "A classic counter-driver," he called Olga, who'd been streaking backhand exchanges through her opponents. "And what's so noticeable, so effective, to me," he said, "is her ability to backhand-stroke from what for many would be an awkward position. Most right-handers make that counter stroke from their midsection and often have to move left to do it, thus leaving their forehand side more open. But Olga can initially reach further to her left than most and still smoothly make the speedy counter—that's a definite advantage."

In the semi's, against the previous week's unexpected Brazilian Open winner, Japan's Aya Umemura, Olga (a bit irritated after initially being faulted three times—"her serve," said the umpire, "went up two inches and back four") was down 2-1 and at 15-all in the fourth. Then, on losing two points, as she had no one in her corner, she called Time herself, but couldn't come back to reach the final (later won by China's Niu Jianfeng).

Still, combining business with outdoor hot tub pleasure, she picked up $2,500 for her singles fifth. "Table Tennis is my job," she says. "I prefer playing to coaching—but I like to help young players. I helped my Romanian friend, Mihaela Steff, come to my Bundesliga Club. When my playing days are over, if I don't coach, I'll do something else. I am not afraid of the future."

Who, seeing in the mind's eye, that trunk door closing in on her, could ever think Olga would be afraid to meet her future—then or now.
In compiling this unique compendium of table tennis lore in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the ITTF, the Croatian Historian and former Yugoslav International Zdenko Uzorinac (abetted by English translator Janko Paravic) devotes himself primarily to profiles of the World's most famous players (of one Champion, he says freshly, she was “round-faced, with glasses such as worn by old ladies playing dominoes”). But since the “Legends” is also an eight-decade summing-up of our Sport, it’s necessary for Zdenko to at least briefly discuss the origin and development of Table Tennis (with special emphasis on the evolution of the racket), to pay homage to outstanding officials, to show how table tennis has been organized on the various continents (Japan played in a tournament in Shanghai as early as 1927), and to detail the considerable advances of the ITTF (as well as give a nod to the 1967-formed Swaythling Club International).

Moreover, he intersperses his text with hundreds of photos, any number of them striking, two of which I’ll mention here—one, in color, of Sweden’s Jorgen Persson serving, his eyes focused on the white ball and white, of Germany’s Jorg Rosskopf as a sleight-of-hand magician, which seems to be centered on his forehead, while, below, the ball’s shadow creeps like a brown malignancy across his nose; the other, in stark black and white, of Japan’s Matsuzaki serving, lib; eyes focused on the white ball...and won the first game. After each point Donald, who 20 years later in Osaka were still loath to vote for the new service rule— that Kalinic was “hiding the ball with his body while serving,” and Japan won that particular match and the title.

Any reader can see that this ambitious book is a labor of love, and that, though the writer feels he must adopt a more or less formulaic thumbnail approach to acquainting us with all these Champions—where and when they were born, how they first became seriously interested in table tennis, their major accomplishments, and their off-court and/or afterlives, to speak—he always tries hard for readability.

And, despite some difficulties in translation, Zdenko CAN write. He talks about the Yugoslav star Anton Stipancic early in his career, in 1968, bringing back “a cup to his native Duga Resa, a cotton industry town, to a magnificent welcome.” Then he follows with the line, “Thus, the Duga Resa spindle spun the finest yarn, equal to the finest Chinese silk.” And so finds the literate transition sentence that enables him to move on to when in Munich in ’69 Stipancic will beat Japan’s Defending World Champion Nobuhiko Hasegawa, while at the same time he reminds us of the dominating Chinese Champions of the ’60’s, who will soon return to competition.

Hasegawa, I might add, who at the Osaka World’s looked the fittest 54-year-old I’ve ever seen, is said by Zdenko to have trained with “lead weights round his waist and sandbags round his wrists in order to improve his footwork and the strength of his arms.” Heavy, huh?

I’d be ashamed to nit-pick about any proofreading errors in this wonderful book, for as a Historian myself I know how easy it is, despite one’s scrupulous attention, to still make mistakes. Let me be specific, though, in telling you what most engaged my imagination in these pages—and that is of course the anecdotal.

Gently humorous is Jean-Michel Saive’s account of how he won his first title. In Belgium’s National Class B Doubles. Women’s Doubles. In his winning pregnant mother’s womb.

Of course that’s stretching it. Also humorous, but not gently so, is Zdenko’s little story about Hungary’s “Enfant Terrible,” Tibor Klampar. The Hungarians are having a practice session when Klampar tells his non-nonsense Coach, Zoltan “Zoli” Berczik, that he wants to leave to go to a Western movie—his girlfriend’s waiting for him. Naturally, Berczik says, Forget that. But, says Klampar breaking his racket, I’ve nothing to play with. Right, says Berczik, so jog 5-times round the stadium. “So, Tibor jogged...to the next pastry shop. The incorrigible Klampi bought fifty pastries and smeared all the glasses of Berczik’s ear...and deflated its tires...They say that Zoli went mad.”

Ah, well, suspended Klampar’s World Champion teammate Istvan Jonyer did say, “...cheek which may border on overheating behavior...drives you to play a crazy, risky game at some point.”

Doubtless, Champions do take calculated risks. The great French player of an early era, Michel Haguenuer, in 1944, on being taken to a concentration camp by the Germans managed to escape by jumping out of the running train. Of course, as Zdenko points out, Haguenuer always was his own man—had a unique hammer grip, swore profusely on court, smoked three packs of cigarettes a day, had three wives, and never gave in to age.

In bygone days, as the Sport was developing, there were more “characters” than athletes. Yugoslavia’s Dragutin Surbek, locked in an embrace with fellow World Doubles Champion Zoran Kalinic 40 years after Haguenuer’s leap for life, never smoked or drank although some might have thought his hotel-room “gymnastic exercises” and use of “Chinese ointments and lotions” excessive.

Whacky, but not as whacky as Klampar, was Surbek’s Team Psychologist who had a tape made for “Surba” and earphones at the ready. “You are the winner, Surbek,” it kept saying. “The opponent is strong, but you are stronger.” He will play the way you want him to...You are the winner, Surbek. The opponent is strong, but you are stronger...

A little strange, you think? But not as strange as what Japan’s Kiimyo Matsuzaki said she saw in a climactic Corbillon Cup tie with the South Koreans at the 1959 World’s. “The coach of the Korean team first took his player [Cho Kyung Cho] aside and hypnotized her. She came back to the table and played as if in a trance...and won the first game. After each point won Cho would look at her coach, who gave her a penetrating gaze, his arms outstretched towards her.” But eventually “the telepathic link began to grow feeble,” and Japan won that particular match and the title.

Coaches do have their special methods. Zdenko says that Hungary’s Csilla Batorfi’s father used to yell out to her during matches, “B-2” or “G-6” or whatever — coded service commands they’d worked out during her practice of “up to 300 (!) serves a day.”

And speaking of serves, China’s World Champion Jiang Jiahui says that at the 1982 Yugoslav Open he finally “just helplessly spread his arms, unable to return Kalinić’s services: not one or two but seventeen (!) missed services in two games.” The problem was of course—and tell it to those who 20 years later in Osaka were still loath to vote for the new service rule—that Kalinić was “hiding the ball with his body while serving,” and Jiang “couldn’t see the rotation imparted to it.”

Who says History doesn’t repeat itself?

And how important IS the past anyway? Well, without it, we wouldn’t have this fact-filled, entertaining book to read in the present—a book that serves as a source of inspiration to allow us to continue to care passionately about Table Tennis in the future.

Well done, Zdenko—and Thank You.
Ping-pong.com

Simple and Easy Navigation
5% Discount on Shopping Cart Orders

The Fastest, Easiest & Most Informative Web Site in Table Tennis Today!

Check Out THE WHAT’S NEW SECTION
For THE MOST Up To Date Table Tennis & Site Information

Updated inventory
You will always know the current stock

And Remember To Join Our...
Outstanding Frequent Buyer Program
We have so many AMAZING FREE GIFTS.

Mass Emailing List
Receive Brand New information about Specials, New Products, and other changes at ping-pong.com before ANYONE ELSE.

Check out ping-pong.com for THE ULTIMATE ON-LINE TABLE TENNIS EXPERIENCE!

Secure Server
Your information is sent to us encrypted

New at ping-pong.com
Combo Special Chart
Check out OVER 21 New Combo Specials featuring 8 Different Brands

STIGA Table Comparison Chart
Gain information on ALL our Stiga Tables

Expert On-Line Help

Fantastic Online Specials
Hundreds of New Products!

STIGA®
Butterfly®
DONIC®
Schildkröt®

HARVARD
JUIC
Nittaku
NEWGY
Reflex Sports®

SUNFLEX
TIBHAR
TTmatic
Yasaka

FRIENDSHIP
The Table Tennis Pioneers
Dedicated To Serving All of Your Table Tennis Needs
With Our Amazing Combo Specials

Double Happiness Offensive Combo+
Double Happiness N32 Blade with any two sheets of Double Happiness rubber for $59.95.

SAVE UP TO $18

All 7 Combos+ come with a single racket case and one Box (3) of 40mm 3*** Balls

Yasaka Deluxe Carbon Combo
Yasaka Gatien Carbon Blade with any two sheets of Yasaka rubbers for $109.95.

SAVE UP TO $23

Liu Guozheng
2001 U.S. Open Champion
Sponsored by Double Happiness

Jean-Philippe Gatien
1993 World Champion
Sponsored by Yasaka

Jan-Ove Waldner
2 X World Champion
Sponsored by Donic

Liu Guoliang
1996 Olympic Gold Medalist
Sponsored by Stiga

Wang Liqin
2001 World Champion
Sponsored by Sunflex

World Champion Combo
Stiga Clipper CR Blade with any two sheets of Stiga rubbers for $99.95.

SAVE UP TO $24

Donic Waldner Combo+
Donic Dicon Blade with any two sheets of Donic rubber for $79.95

SAVE UP TO $61

Sunflex Triple Deluxe Carbon Combo
Sunflex Intercept 3 layer Carbon Blade with any two sheets of Sunflex rubbers for $74.95.

SAVE UP TO $50

All 6 Champions’ Combos come with a Double Racket Case, one Box (3) of 40mm 3*** Balls, a Racket Cleaner, and a Sponge

Wang Nan
2001 World Champion
Sponsored by Friendship

TTmatic 500 B
TT Pioneers is The World’s #1 Seller of the TTmatic 500 B!

SAVE UP TO $78

The Best Place to Buy
TTmatic
Robo-Pong

Check Out ping-pong.com For a Complete List of All 22 Combos Featuring Your Favorite Brands

2035 Nadeau, Laval (Québec) H7T 1W5 Canada • Tel.: 1-800-319-PING (7464) • Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664)
Web: www.ping-pong.com • E-mail: ttTpioneers@ping-pong.com
The Butterfly Amicus 3000 is an exciting table tennis robot, offering a wide range of capabilities for beginners through professionals. There is virtually no limit to the types of standard drills and advanced game related drills that can be practiced on the Amicus; including drills to develop basic strokes & switching skills; footwork drills; and drills where players require random ball placement and/or random ball types.

Overview of Amicus 3000
With the Butterfly Amicus' two wheel design the user is able to create topspin, underspin, sidespin and yes finally ... no spin balls, as the Amicus allows you to set the spin and speed of the ball independently of each other. Additionally, you can then set the distance of the balls, within reason, independently of the spin and speed. And all three of these settings (speed, spin and distance) can be saved in memory!

The Amicus 3000: A programmable robot
The Amicus robot is a great tool for practicing a variety of footwork drills. Additionally you can set the Amicus to send different balls, different speeds, and/or spins to different locations. To keep those precious settings and pattern sequences, there are 6 memory positions to which you can save, and later recall in your next training session.

Additional features of the Amicus 3000
• Step and sample buttons, used together to easily test any of the settings before you run a sequence
• Frequency settings: up to 100 balls/min; A remote on/off switch
• A timer to run the robot for 1-10 minutes, and then pause for up 2 minutes before continuing with the current drill.
• A serve and continue mode: to eject a ball of any type and then continue with a sequence that has been setup.
• Automatic distance adjustment to the corners of the table verses balls delivered the center of the table.

The Amicus is virtually unlimited in terms of the type of drills you can perform with it. As coaches and players begin to embrace the Amicus as an advanced training device, you will most certainly see a whole generation of Amicus trained superstars coming up through the ranks.

www.butterflyonline.com • 1-800-611-7712