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State Games Male Athlete of the Year

By Paul Lewis, Iowa Games Table Tennis Commissioner

The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) announced on October 5 the male and female athletes of the year at an awards dinner held in conjunction with the NCSG Annual National Symposium.

Houshang Bozorgzadeh, of Independence, Iowa was selected as the male athlete of the year, and cyclist Renee Coppock was the female athlete of the year. The award winners were chosen from more than 500,000 athletes who competed in one of 37 recognized State Games programs in 2002.

The award is by nomination and recognizes an athlete who best personifies the ideals of the State Games: participation, sportsmanship, effort, and positive attitude. Houshang was the first table tennis player and only the second Iowan ever to receive the recognition.

The awards dinner, held at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California, featured two-time Olympic bronze medallist Dwight Stones as the keynote speaker. Stones set the world record in the high jump 10 times during his career. Preceding the awards dinner, Houshang and former U.S. Men’s Singles Champion Attila Malek dazzled the crowd with a table tennis exhibition.

Houshang, 66, won gold medals at the 2002 Iowa Summer Games in championship singles, over 40 singles, and championship doubles (paired with 2297 Michael Liu). Houshang’s table tennis career began at age 10, and he has been involved in table tennis as a player, coach, and promoter ever since. Among his accomplishments:

- 1958 – Captain of the Iranian team that finished 3rd at the Asian Games.
- 1958 – First Iranian sportsman/athlete for any sport to receive an invitation to come to the United States by invitation of a USA governing sports body (in this case, the U.S. Table Tennis Association). Houshang, as part of this opportunity, appeared on the national-wide Ed Sullivan show with U.S. national champion and future Hall-of-Famer Bernie Bukiet.
- 1959 – Houshang won the World Consolation Championships in Dortmund, Germany. He finished the year ranked #6 in the world, which would prove to be his highest ranking as a player.
- At the U.S. Open Team Championships in 1962, he was voted “Outstanding Player.”
- In 1958 and 1966 he was a Men’s Singles Bronze Medallist at the Asian Games.
- 3-time U.S. National Champion, Men’s Over 40 Singles.
- He coached five Iowan’s (John Stillions, Scott Butler, Jim Butler, Dhiren Narotam, Michael Liu) that eventually became national junior champions and one (Jim Butler) an Olympian.
- He was elected to the USATT Hall of Fame in 1987. (See www.usatt.org/organization/halloffame.)
- 1977-1993 (15 consecutive years), USA national team captain and coach. During this span, he coached at:
  - 6 World Championships
  - 3 Pan American Games
  - 4 Olympic Sports Festivals
  - The first World Cup appearance by the USA team (1978)
  - 1980 and 1983 U.S. Open, where the USA team won the team championships
  - 1990 French Open Championships, where USA won multiple senior national championship titles
  - Dozens of USA-Canada team matches at the Canadian National Exhibition tournament in Toronto

Houshang retired as an Activities Specialist in August of 2002 after 32 years of service at the Mental Health Institute in Independence, Iowa. He has two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • January/February 2003
President's Report
By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

As we move into 2003, I want to provide you with a "State of the Association" for this issue's association primer series.

It was a particularly busy year for me. As I looked back over the 2002 calendar, I realized that I had spent 109 attending functions on top of handling daily USATT presidential activities. I'm grateful to the vast number of USATT's volunteers who have recently assumed greater levels of responsibility in fulfilling association functions.

ELECTION

Congratulations to returning Board members who were successful in their candidacies: Dr. Jing Wang (Executive Vice President), Tong Lee (Treasurer), George Brathwaite and Barney Reed, Sr. (Vice Presidents). It was, as usual, a hotly-contested election. The re-election signified the membership's desire to see continuity of Board membership. I appreciate the membership's vote of confidence as we enter a new chapter for USATT. Congratulations also to 2001's Men's National Champion, Eric Owens, who was elected to the Olympic Athlete Representative position.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clark Mitchell (see photo), formerly the executive director of the San Diego Table Tennis Association, recently joined USATT as the executive director. Clark has been a USATT member since the mid-1970s.

The Board was pleased to be able to offer the position to someone who had worked closely with USATT recently. His hard work, especially related to creating inroads at the Chula Vista Olympic Training Center, merited him the President's Award last year. Top USOC representatives were pleased to see us hire him. Clark had been our point of contact for the 2000 Olympic team training, a USATT Board meeting held in San Diego as well as USATT team trials. Clark's business background, outside of table tennis, included management experience, television and Internet communications expertise, and marketing/sponsorship procurement.

Obviously the rapid turnover of Executive Directors over the past decade has been a source of concern to both the Board and the membership. Clark had shared this same concern. It motivated him to step forward. I appreciate his attitude of "servant leadership" at a time when accepting the position carried some heavy baggage. Expressing his desire to develop a long-term career with us, he stated, "I've already been with the sport for many years. I'm planning on staying for many years to come."

Clark and I are working in unison to lay out a more orderly functioning of USATT's activities. He clearly understands the importance of staff functioning in the business operations role and Board setting policy and direction. We look forward to setting forth a clearly-articulated strategy for setting USATT on the road to overall success, marked by grassroots development, a financial surplus and elite athlete achievement.

For the first time in recent years, we will soon post an annual calendar for 2003, which will include key dates for USATT, USOC and international events. Look for more meaningful communication and more frequent updates at www.usatt.org.

FAREWELL TO MARGARET

Margaret Smith recently accepted an offer from Ray Essick. Ray, who previously had briefly served as USATT's executive director, deserves credit for effectively designing USATT's new office space. It turns out his wife Toni specializes in office design and layout. Shortly after his departure, he accepted a position which required additional staff and tapped Margaret. I am sure that I speak for virtually everyone in extending her warm wishes in her new career path. As many people have remarked over the years, Margaret was often seen as the "glue that held things together."

USATT SERVICES & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Larry Hodges and Robert Mayer have worked tirelessly to present you with more accessible league options, namely the upcoming USATT League. (More on that in upcoming issues.) George Brathwaite will continue to promote competitive, inter-club leagues in 2003 through the Northeastern League.

As directed by USATT's Board, the executive director is reviewing several USATT functions to determine ways to meet the needs of our members more effectively and efficiently. The demand for human resources will surely be high and I encourage you to consider serving the sport as we post requests for assistance on our website. Thanks to the many other volunteers who already are helping on projects for the growth of our sport.

USOC RELATIONS

With the presence of the USOC's President, Marty Mankamyer, and Chief Executive Officer, Lloyd Ward, at our events over the past year, we have had the opportunity to engage in a more meaningful relationship with the USOC. During our Performance Based Assessment meeting and, later at our Board meeting, the USOC noted favorably that our sport has a particularly engaged, energetic and passionate group of volunteers and staff. USATT is fully cooperating with the USOC on all fronts. We look forward to continuing to make improvements in our interaction with the USOC.

OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTERS

One of our priority areas is to utilize USOC training centers for our elite athletes. Besides the Chula Vista center, USATT has strongly backed a proposed training center in Pompano Beach, just minutes from Fort Lauderdale. As a nearby resident, I have often served as USATT's representative at meetings. I thank the many other South Floridians who have also shown their support for the project. If all goes well with these developments, we look forward to offering substantially improved training programs.

Back When They Were Just Players

Clark Mitchell and U.S. Men's Champion Eric Owens in action in Under 4200 Doubles at the Western Open in San Diego, May 18-19, 2002. (They lost early.) Since then, Clark was hired as USATT Executive Director, and Eric Owens was elected Olympic Representative on the USATT Board. Look closely, note where Eric's hit the ball, and ask yourself: Who's carrying the team here?
ELITE DEVELOPMENT

Bill Lui recently accepted the chairmanship of the Elite Athletes Committee. Former chair David Roberts is being relocated to China by his law firm. David shared insights gleaned through his experiences training in China with several of our athletes and coaches; we look forward to having him continue to assist us while he resides there. Bill, who dedicates most of his life to table tennis, unleashed his penchant for organizational skills and has undertaken an effort to set up effective long-term planning to bring the U.S. into medal contention.

At USATT’s November Board meeting, the Board established our priorities as relates to elite development: 1) high performance clubs, 2) international tournament play, 3) over-seas training, 4) home opportunities and 5) elite international and domestic training camps. As Acting Technical Director, Doru Gheorghe has taken the lead in these areas.

BRIGHTON DECLARATION

In November the Board ratified approval of USATT as a signatory of the Brighton Declaration. The declaration, in brief, calls for the creation of opportunities for women in all aspects of sports from competition to volunteer leadership positions. The IOC has already set a minimum target of 20% women in all levels of sport administration and leadership. The ITTF has requested that all member associations act on these principles.

ITTF RELATIONS

As a member of the ITTF Executive Board, the ITTF funded me to attend several ITTF meetings last year. USATT realizes the unique challenge that the world is looking for us to achieve in order to increase global exposure to our sport. Be assured that a primary topic of my conversations with ITTF officials is the opportunity for mutual collaboration and cooperation.

CREATION OF NATTU

Recently the associations from North America met and established initial By-Laws for the creation of the North American Table Tennis Union as well as drafted a proposed Continental Agreement for 2003. ITTF Continental funding in 2003 will support several continental training camps, an elite coaches’ workshop and two officials’ seminars. In support of women’s development, we also included a special camp for female coaches and athletes. USATT will publicize information and selection criteria in the near future.

The establishment of NATTU created a continental group aimed at maximizing our resources to mutual advantage. This was a major accomplishment. I thank Aly Salam and Ross Brown for their assistance to me, as the ITTF’s North American Continental Vice President. They spent countless hours preparing documents for our consideration. We also appreciated seeing Richard McAfee’s training facility as well as visiting with Wendell Dillon during our trip to Atlanta.

PING PONG DIPLOMACY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Thanks to entrepreneur Robert Blackwell for organizing a celebration commemorating the American tour component of the 30th Anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy. Expect to see more coverage of the event in the next issue.

STATE GAMES’ ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

USATT salutes Houshang Bozorgzadeh for being named the State Games’ Athlete of the Year. Houshang recently traveled back to Iran to serve as the head coach at an ITTF-certified camp for elite athletes representing a handful of countries from the Asian Table Tennis Union. Congratulations, Houshang! (See article on page 9.)

THE ROAD AHEAD

USATT, like everyone, encountered sharp increases in our insurance premiums. In order to replenish cash reserves, the Board pared down expenses to a bare minimum, while still setting aside a $20,000 surplus. On the revenue side, we included only income that has historically come in. In the coming issues of the magazine, we will share with you initiatives undertaken and progress made on the financial side of our association.

On the staff side, in addition to Clark Mitchell, Pam Ramsey has also joined the USATT staff. When I met her in 1974, she was already a long-time player. Together she and Clark have been a catalyst for change in the San Diego area. It is a pleasure to begin 2003 with capable staff leadership. May the year bring us all many blessings!
Quaker City Open

Event Staff: Richard Lee, Wendy Troy, Fong Hsu, Zachary Sneg, and Brian Pace
Referee: Terry Bell
Honorary Chairman: Bill Meklejohn

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Tournament Information:
Proof of Membership: All participants must be able to show proof of current membership with USATT or an ITTF recognized body. Membership can be renewed or purchased at the event.

Venue: U. of Pennsylvania, Pottruck Recreation Center. 3701 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Wood floors and excellent lighting. See website for map and directions.

Official Tournament Equipment: Stiga Expert Tables, Barriers, and orange 40mm 3-star balls.

Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, March 14, 2003. Entries postmarked late will either be accepted with a $20 late fee, or be rejected, based on available space.

Refunds: After the entry deadline, no refunds.
Ratings: Ratings from the January/February issue of USATT Magazine will be used.

Policies: Players may not enter two events with identical start times. Events can be cancelled or combined at the discretion of the tournament committee. No prizes will be awarded for splits, dumps, default losses or no-shows. Players agree to follow USATT rules.

Airport: Philadelphia International Airport
On the Web: www.natabletennis.com for NATT Store, Table Information, Tournament Reports, and Tour Stop Announcements.

Online Registration Available!

Official Tournament Hotel
Sheraton University City Hotel
36th and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Mention N.A. Table Tennis for $89 rate.
215-387-8000

North American Table Tennis, Inc.
932 Hungerford Drive, Suite 118
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301-738-8250 Fax: 301-838-8921 E-mail: info@natabletennis.com
Tables used at the 2002 Stiga North American Table Tennis Teams and the 2002 Stiga North American Tour are for sale! All tables are used only once and sold at an extremely low prices and we guarantee your satisfaction. For more info or to order a table, visit us at www.natabletennis.com!

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Highest Quality Tables with Excellent Table Surface • Easy to Assemble  
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They Said It...
By Larry Hodges

"I do play a mean game of ping pong! That's something many people don't know about me." - DC mayoral candidate Carol Schwartz (R), when asked during a political debate to say something about herself people might not have heard in her one minute closing statement. (She didn't win.) Contributed by Julian Waters.

"You know, with congress out of session, you should put a ping-pong table here." - Josh, in TV show "The West Wing," to a congressional leader as they walked through the capital, Nov. 20, 2002.

"Yeah, I signed a lot. I just remember when I was a kid and when a couple of Ping-Pong players signed autographs, it just stayed with me. And I think if they are kids, I always love to sign it. Because, you know, they take it home and maybe it is going to inspire them to play tennis or work harder. I was in their shoes once." - Monica Seles, when asked why she signs so many autographs. From CBS Sportsline. Contributed by John Jarema.

"They're for another generation. I prefer more classic games like ping-pong." - Paolo Maldini, member of Italy's national soccer team, of video games. From CBS Sportsline. Contributed by John Jarema.

"A golf bag is difficult enough to travel with; I can't imagine having to do it with a ping-pong table!" - Tiger Woods, when asked (via "Club Tiger") if he traveled with a ping-pong table, so that he could play between rounds. Contributed by John Jarema.

"They get into it too heated. If those guys are going to be like that in their matches as much as they do in table tennis, it's going to be tough [on the Europeans]." - Golfer Scott Hoch, of the USA Ryder Cup Team's nightly table tennis matches, which included Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Scott Verplank and others. From New York Post, Sept. 26, 2002.

CORRECTION
In the previous issue (and in issues before that), A.J. Brewer of Indiana was mistakenly left out of the Under 10 Boys' Rankings. He should have been ranked #7 at 944 in the previous issue.
**Power Pong Table Tennis Program**

**OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN 7 DAYS PER WEEK!**

Membership Fees: $79/MO. Includes Sports Membership to Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club

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<td>Individual Sessions</td>
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<td>Group Sessions (Juniors On)</td>
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*Training programs at Power Pong include membership to Los Caballeros Racquet & Sports Club, unlimited play and use of the Robo Pong 7 days per week.*

**Orange Coast College Table Tennis Program**

Open Play: January 4 - June 1, 2003  
Days: Saturdays and Sundays  
Non-Members: $10 at the door  
Fees: $76  
Time: 6-10 PM  
**$1.65 a day!**

**Round Robin Tournaments:** Every Saturdays at 6 PM.  
Top 8 finishers will receive cash prizes!  
Entry Fees: $10; $15 non-members

**Group coaching sessions on Sundays 6-7:30 PM**  
Fees: $10; $15 non-members

**Good News and Information at:**

[www.powerpong.org](http://www.powerpong.org)
THE BENEFITS OF TABLE TENNIS

I would like to share this story, which I found to illustrate some of the greatest benefits Table Tennis activity can bring to an American family. To this 15-year-old, table tennis has provided a physical activity that is physically demanding, mentally challenging, and a common interest shared by his father, and is fun. Derek found table tennis to be a productive and enjoyable activity in supporting his personal health goals of weight loss and greater fitness along with proper diet and a balanced fitness program.

At a time when the health of our American youth shows high levels of physical inactivity and obesity that can lead to early stages of morbid conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, I consider this a shining example of a family coming together to achieve a greater level of health and fitness for life through table tennis.

-John Allen, USATT Certified Coach & Kentucky Champion.

DEREK'S RECENT JOURNEY WITH TABLE TENNIS

By Derek Kinder

Table tennis is a great sport. And despite the majority of non-table tennis players' opinions, it really is a sport. A definition of sport is: "Physical activity that is governed by a set of rules and customs and often engaged in competitively." Table tennis covers every part of the definition. Everyone knows that table tennis has a set of rules. But what most people don't know is that it involves a great deal of physical exertion. So much in fact, I am usually covered in sweat after only 10 minutes of play with any real competition. I was a big guy, 6'2", 240 pounds. It's hard for a person that big to move around the table at super fast speeds. I did my best; I played and practiced often with my dad at home. We both participated at local open play venues. I showed a great deal of improvement. But I knew the speed factor would always give my opponent an advantage. I knew I needed to get quicker. So I figured I'd lose some weight... or at least try to.

About this time my dad purchased new weight training equipment. I was reading through the manual that came with the equipment and it had a fitness and diet program. I figured, "Hey, why not give it a try!" It gave me a strict diet to follow and certain exercises I had to do three days a week. That sounded easy enough. So I did it. I followed the diet and I did the exercises. And sure enough, I started losing weight. But during all this dieting and working out, I was also playing table tennis just as much as I had been before. Which means I was doing the diet, working out on weight training, and playing table tennis all at once. I believe these three things together helped me lose the weight. Even after losing just a small amount of weight, I could already feel my game speeding up. After a small amount of time had elapsed, I competed in the Kentucky Bluegrass State Games, a statewide tournament held each year for a variety of sports, mine being table tennis. It was my first organized tournament. I came out with a silver medal in the 19 and under singles division. An accomplishment to be very proud of!

I kept playing at home with my dad, we kept playing at a local league, I kept dieting, and I kept losing weight. The more weight I lost, the more my game improved. After it was all said and done, I weighed only 180 pounds. Table tennis inspired me to lose 60 pounds. Now, I try to eat healthy and maintain myself as best I can. In the end, table tennis changed my life for what I believe was for the better.

"Table tennis inspired me to lose 60 pounds."

Derek Kinder table tennis to be a productive and enjoyable activity in supporting his personal health goals of weight loss and greater fitness along with proper diet and a balanced fitness program.

"2-Star"☆☆

$1,500 STIGA "Cary Cup" Open — March 15, 2003

Where: Bond Park Community Center; 150 Metro Park Dr.: (in Bond Park off of Highhouse Road) Cary, North Carolina (near Raleigh).
When: Saturday 03/15/03 (Tennis: Check-in 8:15-8:30 am); Warm-up 8:30-8:50 am; Plan of Day 8:50 am - 9:00 am; Play begins 9 am - 6:00 pm; Awards 6:10 pm.
Format: Stiga-Seed Round Robin. Up to thirty (30) top quality tournament tables will be used for this tournament in the oversized double gymnasium Bond Park Community Center. A maximum of 112 athletes can participate so its "first come first serve" based on pre-paid registrations. The last two local STIGA tournaments were completely filled-up with waiting a list a month before the tournament was held so register early. Matches will be 3 or 5 of 7 games to 11 however, the final cross over matches will be 4 or 7 of 7 games. Floor playing surfaces in the gymnasiums are wooden, and the facility is (quiet) air-conditioned with excellent lighting.

AWARDS AND ASSUMED GENERAL SKILL LEVELS

CLASS "A" Advanced to Elite skill levels 1st/$500, 2nd/$350, 3rd/$250, 4th/$150 CLASS "B" Above-aver to Advanced 1st/$100, 2nd/$75, 3rd/$50, 4th/$25
CLASS "C" Above-average skill level 1st through 4th Place Trophies CLASS "D" Average skill level 1st through 4th Place Trophies
CLASS "E" Intended for non-tournament players or players with established ratings < 1000 points 1st through 4th Place Trophies

ENTRY FEES: Flat entrance fee of $33 per person plus a $3 per person rating fee ($36/person total) and if applicable, USATT membership fee (see USATT) or a USATT $7 one-time playing pass fee. A $10 late fee will be assessed if your entry is received after March 8, 2003, however, if the entry is received in time, it will be filled-up already so get your entries in early.

For directions info send email to: mbabuin@ci.cary.nc.us. Send signed waiver and fees via regular mail to: Mike Babuin P.O. Box 3401 Cary, NC 27519.

TENTATIVE STARTING TIMES/SCHEDULE:

Check-in 8:15 am - 8:30 am; Warm-up/practice 8:30 am - 8:50 am; Table assignments & plan of the day from Tournament Director 8:50 am - 9:00 am; Play begins 9 am - 6:00 pm; Awards 6:10 pm - 7:00 pm.

Match times are estimated as follows (subject to final modification at discretion of Tournament Director on day of tournament). Preliminary RR 9:00 am - 11:00 am. 1st Round RR 11:15 am - 5:15 pm. 2nd and Final Cross-over Round 5:15 pm 6:00 pm. - Awards Ceremony 6:10 pm.
AF 2003 USA Table Tennis World & Pan Am Trials

March 19-22, 2003

Butterfly as the proud sponsor invites everyone to come out to watch and support their favorite players.

The Sporting Club at Windy Hill

Location:
The Sporting Club at Windy Hill (Atlanta’s premiere health and racket club)

135 Interstate North Parkway, NW
Atlanta, GA 30339

For info contact:
Richard McAfee, Competition Manager at (770) 953-1100
The New Service Rule: "From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server’s end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner."

Dear Readers,

Over the past two weeks we have received a lot of input regarding the new Service Rule. This was solicited by me and also by the URC Umpires Secretary. This input is very valuable but clearly demonstrates the new Service Rule. This was solicited by me and also by the URC completely and fairly describes the rule as it was intended.

Let me start by reminding ourselves that we are the ones who have to apply the rules objectively, regardless of our subjective sentiments toward them. During the last couple of years we have witnessed some changes in our sport. Some of us – officials, coaches, and players – accepted them willingly and others resented them severely. Rumors floated about the fact that some associations are not adopting these new changes. Others claim that prominent teams are going to quit. Let me say that nothing of the sort has happened and the sport is still going as usual.

It is our responsibility and duty as officials and umpires to enforce the rules when they are changed. We may suggest further revisions, or ask for some reexamination to some aspects of the new additions to the sport. But we have to enforce and perform according to the existing regulations and rules at a given time. Umpires or officials have to understand that they have no right to make their own interpretations of the rules. If somebody feels strongly against the new rules, then he/she can relieve themselves of their duties for the time being.

With this harsh introduction I find myself compelled to share with you the messages as they are coming regarding the service rule. I feel I cannot summarize or edit them for fear of misinterpretations. I also hope that each and every umpire will read these correspondences before he umpires at any tournament. The reason for publishing all three emails is to give an opportunity to all umpires regardless of their level, IU – NU – RU – CU, to be acquainted with the new rule and its applications.

The first message is from Adham Sharara, President of ITTF, followed by ones from Aly Salam (Secretary of Umpires, Umpires & Referees Committee) and Colin Clemett (Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee).

Keep It Simple
Dear Fellow Umpires

Over the last few months I have received numerous emails regarding the new service rules that went into effect September 1, 2002. Most were asking for guidance on how to apply the new rule of “The ball shall not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.”

Our objective should be “Keep it Simple.” There is no need to add personal interpretations or elements that are not written in the rule. Applying a worldwide standard that is consistent with the written words is absolutely critical at this stage.

The main purpose is to make the ball visible to the receiver at all times during service. The serving player or pair must not take any action which should prevent the receiver from seeing the ball from the time at which it leaves the server’s hand until it is struck. Consider the intent of the law rather than dwelling on specific words or terms used – primarily:

The ball must be visible to the RECEIVER at ALL times from the moment it leaves the free hand to the moment it is struck. That is it – no more and no less.

In applying the rule, when there is an umpire and assistant umpire at the table, then one of them surely will see the entire path of the ball. If in the “judgment” of either the ball is not completely visible to the RECEIVER, then a fault must be called and an explanation must be given. Note, with two umpires present, there is no allowance for a warning as previously permitted.

When there is only one umpire, then he must “JUDGE” that the receiver sees the ball at all times during the serve, even if the umpire does not fully “SEE” the ball. If in doubt, then the umpire can give a warning and explain to the player why the service is doubtful. Whenever there is a clear failure, no warning shall be given and the receiver shall score a point. The ways to “JUDGE” whether a service is legal or not when the umpire cannot “SEE” the ball are contained in the “interpretation of the rule.”

1. As soon as the free hand and arm has projected the ball upwards, the free hand and arm must be “immediately” removed to the side. The free arm must not remain in any area between the ball and the receiver.
2. If the server could imagine a triangular space created by the ball and both net posts, then extends this space upwards to head level, the server must then ensure that no part of his body or clothing enters this space (or remains in this space) after he projects the ball upwards in service.
The best service ITTF officials can provide to the sport at this time is to study the updated rules and regulations—posted on the ITTF website (www.ittf.com/service) and mailed to every association in June; read the official text, view the purpose and intent of the rule, look at the pictures and sample videos of proper and improper service actions. Please pay particular attention to gallery photo 6—that is LEGAL service—even though the free hand is within the imaginary triangle between the ball and the net posts, it is above the ball and the ball is always visible to the receiver.

In the few events that implemented the new rules since September 1, 2002, most players were complying with the wording and intent of the new rules. A few were pushing the window by going as close as possible to the limits—that is acceptable. However, it is when a player exceeds the limits that the umpire must act. Otherwise by not applying all of the rules—consistently and uniformly—the umpire is providing a disservice to the sport. ITTF umpires should pay close attention to all elements of a proper service—not only what is new. Just because the ball is visible to the receiver it does not mean that it can be thrown backwards or tossed less than 16cm.

The ITTF umpires and referees committee will release a set of video segments covering different aspects of service and behavior examples and expected uniform actions by all umpires. More information will be mailed to each association and placed on the ITTF website under the Umpires and Referees Committee section.

In the meantime, please share with us your ideas and suggestions on improving the process. You can find contact information at www.ittf.com. Aly Salam, Secretary of Umpires, URC

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The New Service Rule: Opinions from the Masters
By Peter Jensen & Christian Heyerdahl, care of ITTF

Having come into effect a little over a month ago, the new service rule has now been used at several international events. It seems like the majority of players agree with the intent of the change, but it seems that there are still some doubts about the rule—and that some players are still trying to see how far they can go.

The service rule changed on September 1st in order to force players not to hide the ball with parts of their body at the moment the ball is struck.

Until now points could be decided directly on the service because the server could hide the ball and obstruct the view so that the receiver was not able to judge the spin by seeing contact.

The idea with the new rule is to make it easier for the receiver to see what kind of spin is put on the ball—in order to make the rallies longer and the game more spectacular.

Opinions on the new service rule:
- Zoran Primorac (CRO): "I think that returning services has become easier. Before you just had to take a chance trying to figure out the rotation by looking at the mark on the ball. Now instead you get the opportunity to look at the very service itself."
- Kim Kyung Ah (KOR): "For me it is an improvement. Now I see the ball all the way. However, some players are still not serving correctly. It could be because they are tense and nervous."
- Jorgen Persson (SWE): "I think the new rule is not very clear. Some players remove their arm very late—I am afraid that we will soon be back to where we were."
- Mihaela Steff (ROM): "I am not winning so many points anymore directly on my own service. I think that some players are still going close to the limit or over the limit and violating the new rule."
- Tamara Boros (CRO): "Now I can see the ball when my opponent strikes it, and that is an improvement. However the question is also the impact on your own service. At the Women's World Cup the Chinese went right to the limit. In my opinion they are challenging the new rule by removing the arm only immediately before they strike it. That gives them a better coordination in the service, but then the limit between a legal and an illegal service is not clear."
- Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE): "You will always find players who, especially at the end of the game, start serving illegally, players who are actually cheating."
- World Cup Winner Zhang Yining (CHN) did not like the rule from the very beginning: "It has been difficult for me, but slowly I am getting used to it. Whether it has any impact on the game? I would like to wait a little before I say anything about that."
- Chinese National Coach Ni Xiao Dong: "We have followed the new rule for a few months in the Chinese league, and the interpretation differs from match to match and umpire to umpire. We will have to wait and see—but for sure some players will suffer more than others. Every time we make a rule change, some specific players will be 'sacrificed.'"
- Umpire Maurice Poole (AUS): "Players and umpires still have to get used to it, but I think services have been improved, even though some players still don't remove their arm as they are supposed to. However nobody tries to hide the ball with the body anymore."
- Umpire Piet van Egmond (NED): "During the Japan Open I saw a lot of illegal services which were not called."

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The Service Law

One of the commonest questions received about the new service law concerns a part which was not affected by the changes, and it is: "Does the umpire need to see the ball during service?"

Since 1967 the service law has included the statement: "It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service." The umpire has to check that the ball is resting freely on the palm of the server's free hand, that it is projected vertically upwards, that it rises and falls without touching anything until it is struck and that during service it is behind the server's end line and above the level of the playing surface. How can I be sure that these requirements are met if he cannot see the ball from the start of service? It may not matter if the ball is momentarily hidden during its flight by, say, the server's free arm as he moves it away, provided the umpire is satisfied that the ball has not touched anything. There is nothing new in this; the situation is the same this season as it was last season and in the previous 34 seasons. The only change is that the umpire, instead of having to decide whether the ball is struck behind the rearmost part of the server's body, must now decide whether it is hidden from the receiver.

It is true that with an umpire operating alone, the same service may be legal when the player is at one end of the table and illegal when he is at the other, depending on whether he has his back to, or is facing, the umpire. But, again, this is not new; it is why in 1983 the concept of an assistant umpire was introduced for international competitions. It has sometimes been suggested that players should have the right to ask the umpire to move to a position from which he can see the service better. With a single umpire, the only practical way to ensure that a service is legal irrespective of the player's position is to require the ball to be struck behind the server's body and his end line, but this has repeatedly been rejected as being too restrictive. It seems to be a matter of choosing between two imperfect solutions, and so far the preference has been to accept the inconsistency that can occur when there is no assistant umpire.

Colin Clement
Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee

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JIMMY McCLURE HONORED
By Tim Boggan

ITTF Hall of Famer and the USATT's 2001 Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award winner Jimmy McClure has been invited for the second time in recent years to Japan. He leaves Dec. 16 for a 7-day all-expenses-paid stay (so will reluctantly have to miss presiding over the annual USATT Hall of Fame Awards Banquet). Jimmy will be the recipient of an Award given by Hikosuke Tamasu for the "People's Table Tennis Magazine." He's to be lauded for his post World War II successful efforts with officials to bring the Japanese TTA into the International Federation. Fly friendly skies, Jimmy.
A MATCH BETWEEN

By Guy W. McLean

He is elderly - I am middle-aged. His paddle is a combination of long pips and anti-spin to suit his devious nature. It’s probably as slow as a black hole. Mine is speedy and spiny because I love the power game. We face each other across the table, two ping pong gladiators about to do battle.

The warm-up begins. Immediately concerns develop. Though his paddle is a nightmare tool for an intermediate counter driver/looper to face, he is able to deliver smooth gentle topspin balls to my forehand and backhand. This is bad news. Returning consistent topspin cupcakes is hard with that kind of paddle!

I experiment with chop and loop to both sides. Same thing. The ball comes back medium paced and slightly topped.

I win serve. Good lucks are exchanged. I decide to open with speed, speed, and more speed. Let’s find out early who the man is. The straight crosscourt topspin serve takes him by surprise. He’s late to the ball and for the first time he chops! It’s a hummer, low and fast. I’m flat footed so it might as well be. I grit my teeth and know the party’s over. If I insist on sacrificing blast for seeing more strokes I’ll have to be careful.

“I’m 75 now. Can’t move and hit like I used to. I’ve got an artificial knee and arthritis in my back.” He’s smiling with a twinkle in his eye as he says it, knowing that he’s slipping me the needle.

This game to me is slog. Push and slow counters waiting to be pounded, while hoping for a sitter. But in the end it does help: I’m beginning to apply more and more pace and spin. But it’s not soon enough to save the game. I am down 2-1.

The fourth is mine. I get the bit in my teeth with a lucky backhand smash. I’m back to having fun, taking risks, ripping off both wings. The sweat flowing. He’s four feet off the table now, chopping moon balls into a buzz saw. Two all quickly comes. As we switch he compliments me on the game. I’m feeling like the match is mine.

But of course he digs in. His chops slither lower and his blocks bite sharper. He unveils a never before seen serve and nails a third-ball to the 2000 barrier. It hits the net and dribbles pitifully short and unreachable on my side. The match is over. Inside I whither and die.

September 10-8 in a blink. My serve is cautious and neutral. Because I’m on the precipice of losing, and he smashes for the first time in the match off serve. It hits the net and dribbles pitifully short and unreachable on my side. The match is over. Inside I whither and die.

But as we meet to shake hands, I smile and point out:

“You were right, they do even out.”

“It’s been a glorious match. I’ve played my best. Losing hurts, but you’ve still got to love the swirl of tactics, speed, control, and athleticism. Speed chess on steroids. We sit on the side together, both spent.

“How long have you been playing?” he asks.

“Four years. How about you?”

“Over fifty years,” he replied. “I’m 75 now. Can’t move and hit like I used to. I’ve got an artificial knee and arthritis in my back.”

“Wow. almost 2000. That’s my goal.”

He peak at 58. So close to the 2000 barrier.

“Wow, 2000. That’s my goal.”

“Mine too!” he said. His smile deepening, but his eyes didn’t twinkle anymore. They looked off into the distance, wistfully.

Suddenly I felt choked up. His dream and mine are both still shining bright before us. Mine far away but still possible. His as far away but no longer in front of him. We had been two dreamers lost in the muse together. For five games it gleamed alive for both of us - equally vibrant and attainable. But now he must face his mortality and I perhaps my lack of commitment.

He watched me think these things and I could tell he knew my thoughts. He clapped me on the back.

“Two dreamers nine feet away bashing the hell out each other. What a great game.”

We both smiled and knew it was true.
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.

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United Airlines is proud to support USA Table Tennis.
My able Tennis Adventures in China

By Dr. Marius Wechsler

It was a muggy mid-August Beijing evening, my second in China. My daughters, overcome by jet lag, had collapsed in the hotel bed. I seized my opportunity. I convinced my wife, who is originally from Shanghai and has accepted my addiction over the years, to call a few nearby clubs to inquire about their hours and available practice partners. Armed with one club’s address and my hotel card, I hailed a taxi cab and headed out into the night along Beijing’s posh main artery, Chang An Jie. In my plastic bag I carried my paddle, balls and a few sheets of translated table tennis terms, which my friend David Zhou had copied from a Chinese Internet site.

The taxi dropped me next to Dong Dan Sports Complex, a block-long athletic center bustling and kicking soccer balls courts. Inside an adjacent building I was directed to the third and last basement. There, in a large hot playing hall, I saw a collection of about twenty tightly clumped Double Happiness Tables, of various quality and age, but uniformly dusty, each lit by one overhanging ceiling light, and occupied by a good crowd of mostly middle-aged and elderly men and women working up a sweat. The level of play was roughly 1300-1800. The only way to play here was to bring a friend and rent the table by the hour. Otherwise, one had to use the services of one of the 6 coaches pictured on the wall for about $9/hr. A coach in his 60’s was feeding multiball on one table to a man in his 30’s. I got a relatively young coach, in his late 40’s, to part with his cigarette and hit with me for an hour. He blocked my loops for about 50 minutes using a pips-out penhold racket with rubber that looked like it had witnessed the Cultural Revolution. I received a good workout but no coaching, as the language barrier was a problem. In the last 10 minutes I played him a 3/5 match that I easily won, as he appeared to lack stamina after so many years of nicotine drags. I left impressed by the number of people playing and the easy availability of coaches, but saddened by the absence of youngsters, who apparently no longer see table tennis as a “cool” way to stay fit.

As I wandered through Beijing’s alleyways, parks, and restaurants during the next few days, I found many young professionals sporting badminton rackets in the off hours, even a large gathering of badminton players in the park surrounding the Temple of Heaven. Some hairdressers short on business even hit the badminton birdie on the sidewalk outside my hotel. The hotel itself had a superb swimming pool, weight room, tennis courts and two table tennis tables as well, but the latter did not get much action. Billiards was also a rather popular pastime, as evidenced by the crowd around the Red Army Guards pool table in the courtyard of the Forbidden City. I did hear the staccato of some table tennis games on the outskirts of the city once and saw one television ad featuring Kong Linghui, but overall table tennis did not appear to occupy a very prominent role in the life of the city.

The highlight of my Beijing table tennis experience was the 90 minutes at the Beijing Women’s Team training facility, located in a school campus near the Temple of Heaven. The facility contained the men’s training hall on the ground floor and the women’s on the second floor. The large air-conditioned room had about 12 top-notch Double Fish tables well lit by fluorescent lighting. I watched for about 45 minutes as the women and girls as young as 11 went through repetitive drills meant to sharpen their skills. Some were long pips choppers sending off loops on each side. Some were counterlooping off the bounce. Most were shakehand players. One woman from Netherlands was there practicing with the team. Late in the session, I spotted a familiar looking face on a far-off table. It was Pan Lin, an American junior I had seen just weeks before taking lessons from David Zhuang at the New Jersey Table Tennis club, there on the first day of a training camp. It’s a small world after all.

Overseeing the training were about four coaches, the youngest of whom, a friend of Wang Chen, was nice enough to spend a half hour coaching me as I looped and blocked against a 14-year-old shakehand looper. At the end the coach encouraged me to play a best of three match against my ~2250 practice partner, which I lost 2-1. She then invited me to play against their best player, a shakehand attacker with long pips on the backhand, to whom I lost 2-0 without embarrassing myself. I was grateful to have this glimpse into the training of some of the best women players on the planet.

The final stop on my trip was Shanghai, the shopping Mecca of the Far East, as far as I could see. The very afternoon I arrived at my hotel, I strolled a block away to check out a centrally located table tennis school for young kids, taught by the mother of one of the best players in New York. The air-conditioned hall contained six well-lit tables. I spent the next two hours playing mostly matches against Fan Ze Wei a 12-year-old ~1500 penholder, complete with a reliable reverse backhand loop, and very tricky serve, not to mention a steady attack.

Although I did not fare too well, I did get my revenge on my third visit to the school, when I began to better read some of his serves. My second visit to the school provided me with an unexpected surprise. The playing hall was deserted because the coach was away at a local meet. The guard at the elementary school entrance told me to go to the third floor. As I climbed to the second floor, I was surprised to find another air-conditioned playing hall, with six more tables with some 4- to 6-year-olds lifting their paddles up to the surface to strike at the balls. I went to the third floor, where I saw only two very good adults, a man and a woman, practicing on one of the six tables in that hall. The woman shocked me by addressing me in flawless English. When I told her I was from the U.S., she asked if she had seen me at the U.S. Open. As I never make it out to tournaments that far from New Jersey, I had to tell her that I had not been so lucky. She asked if perhaps I had heard of her and introduced herself as Ni Xia Lian. I was delighted to meet the former U.S. Open Women’s Champion in these surroundings and stopped to watch her practice with her Shanghaiese partner, who, like herself, had lived and played in Luxemburg. In her long-pip blocks her powerful loops frequently met their premature death. She was nice enough to chat with me about her upcoming World Cup tournament, about her son in Luxemburg and about her passion for the game. She proclaimed herself the “old lady” of the game and said she still enjoyed competing and planned to keep playing internationally as long as she could still perform at a high level. A former resident of Shanghai herself, she informed me, as an
asial, that the table tennis school we were at was by no means the biggest school in Shanghai.

On a subsequent evening, one of my relatives took me to play the two best players she had personally known, two older gentlemen whose past had been laced with glory in their local regions. The venue was a dingy, hot, second floor parlor in a run-down forgotten corner of the city, where two decent tables that appeared to gather dust much of the time, shared space with four pool tables attended by some youngsters with haloes of smoke above their heads. An adjacent room was filled by locals, having what looked like a political party meeting. My partners, in their late 60's and early 70's, playing at about 1850-1900 level, took turns squeezing the sweat out of me and themselves during a couple of hours of play. They appeared a little out of practice.

I played twice more in Shanghai, at Jing An Sports Center, where a few more coaches were earning their living teaching kids part of the day, and scavenging for the occasional drifters like myself looking for ping-pong action the rest of the time. A few retirees also played there on one of the days, having rented a table by the hour. One of the coaches, Qian Jin Xin, had been there for 18 years, another apparently longer. They fed me multiball, did drills and played games against me on some of the ten tables in the air-conditioned hall. Although they played at a 2050-2100 level, I was able to win the matches, as the coaches lacked adequate mobility. As everywhere else, only one-star balls were used for training and competitive play, as the cost of three-star balls was similar to the U.S., and the difference in quality was not deemed worth the expense.

Table tennis merchandise in these cities was available in sparse quantities at many department stores, with a wider selection at the largest ones. Only the Chinese brands of rubber and blades were sold at a discount. Shoes bearing the Stiga label were available for $15 up to size 11. DHS Warrior shoes were cheaper still. Clothing bearing the Butterfly, Donic, even Tibhar labels (I question authenticity because they do not resemble catalogue designs) were available in the largest department stores at bargain prices. One Butterfly store was selling expensive merchandise right next to the central Shanghai table tennis school where Ni Xia Lian had been practicing. Table tennis definitely did not occupy a prominent role in the general merchandise or even the sports retail world of Beijing or Shanghai.

At the end of my table tennis escapades in China I came to a few conclusions. Clubs are still relatively easy to find in big cities and their casual players are mostly middle-aged and elderly men and women. There must be little or no organized league or tournament activity for the multitudes of middle aged and elderly players who might be interested in a competitive outlet for their passion. (I understand that this is not the case in Hong Kong.) Some above average aging players go into coaching and many people must avail themselves of their services. Many of these coaches also teach at table tennis schools where there are still a large number of youngsters coming to learn the game. However, the place of table tennis among favorite Chinese past-times is declining (especially among the cities' teens and young affluent adults). My sixth grade niece in Shanghai does not even have table tennis in the physical education curriculum, although she is certainly taught how to play badminton and basketball. However, I did spend my last evening in China watching the final of the Women's World Cup on national TV, the coverage including the semifinals and final in their entirety.
Many of my senior (0-40) students have asked me to do an article on the use of long pips, for close-to-the-table play. This style is very popular with the older players as it allows them to slow down play and to put the focus on using their hand skills rather than movement and power to win points.

Robot training is particularly useful when learning and practicing these techniques as few players can consistently attack against this style. In fact, as you are learning this style many players may become frustrated and not want to practice with you at all.

Let’s take a look at the six basic strokes that should be in the arsenal of any close to the table long pips player. All of these strokes are described as backhand strokes.

1. Lift against backspin: This stroke is executed with a slightly open blade. The stroke itself is very simple. At contact, push forward and slightly up. Use mostly the forearm and little or no wrist action. This stroke, when executed with long pips, allows you to use your opponent’s backspin to produce a controlled topspin attack. This is the only stroke in which you can produce enough topspin to hit with speed.

2. Sidespin attack against backspin: This is an unusual looking stroke to most inverted players. The stroke is executed much like the straight lift against backspin, but at contact, the racket is pushed forward and pulled to the right (for right-handed players). Depending on the racket angle this return will produce a wide range of no-spin, sidespin, or light topspin returns, all with some degree of sidespin. This stroke can force many errors from your opponents.

3. Attacking backspin by pushing: Pushing with long pips can be very aggressive. When pushing, if light contact with the ball is made, the return will be a dead ball (no-spin). If harder racket contact is made (more force), a light topspin can be produced. This leads to a lot of high and very attackable returns from your opponent.

4. Controlled counter attacks: The key to attacking with long pips against topspin is to remember that controlling the speed of your returns is the key to success. Do not over-hit. Your returns will carry some backspin, so there will always be a limit on the amount of speed you can produce. Generally speaking, if you are using long pips without sponge this stroke will be quite slow and carry heavier backspin. If you are using long pips with sponge, this return will be faster but without as much spin. Once again, keep the stroke simple using only a forward pushing motion, with the forearm. Remember, when counter attacking with long pips, let the racket do the work for you. It is the ever-changing spin on your returns that will force errors from your opponent, not the speed of your returns.

5. Defensive chop blocks: This stroke looks just like its name suggests—a block with a downward chopping motion. When used against heavy topspin, this stroke can produce heavy chop returns. Often your opponent will be forced into pushing this return back, which will allow you to attack.

6. Pullback block: Once again, the name says it all. Against a topspin attack, you simply pull your racket slightly back at contact, thereby taking most of the pace off the ball. This can be used to produce a very short return, making it impossible for your opponent to continue an attack. This technique works best with long pips without sponge.

There you have the major long pips, close-to-the-table techniques. When used properly, these strokes can make life very difficult for your opponents. Fortunately, your robot will not mind at all while you practice and perfect these techniques.

My next article will deal with robot match drills for the long pips close to the table player.

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**Close to the Table Long Pips Attack and Defense Techniques**

### Table 1: Strokes and Advantages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stroke</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lift against backspin</td>
<td>Executed with a slightly open blade, pushes forward and up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Pulls back slightly at contact, takes most of the pace off the ball.</td>
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FREEDOM TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL
1956—1968: When Mike’s about six months old, his Doctor gives him a normal virus shot but the hypodermic needle accidentally bruises his spinal cord and he loses the use of his legs. “With me,” he says, “being in a wheelchair wasn’t a matter of readjusting. You might have a period of bitterness when you have something and lose it, but this being the only thing I ever knew, I’m not bitter. I was always a pretty happy kid.”

1969: Mike competes in the least disabled category. The more so then with him the saying, “It’s Ability, not Disability that counts.” U.S. Wheelchair Champion John Gray brings 13-year-old Mike to the National Wheelchair Games, an unseeded newcomer, and he takes the gold. It will be the first of at least 30 National Championships in his Class he will win.

1970-71: Mike improves by competing against able-bodied players at his Columbus, Ohio club. In July of '71, he’ll have his first international triumph — a gold at the Pan-Am Wheelchair Games in Kingston, Jamaica, where he’s coached by Jim Beckford. There’ll be many more international medals for him with the help of Coaches Chris Lehman, Christian Lillieroos and Rong Li.

1972: At the Heidelberg Paralympics, Mike scores a silver—loses to Israel’s perennial Champion Sam Hagai.

1973: Back home among the Ohio able-bodied, Mike is ranked #1 among Young Adults in Ohio when in that event at a tournament he defeats Men’s winner Ricky Seemiller. At Stote-Mandeville, England, Dempsey wins the Singles from Hagai.

1974: Mike graduates from Gahanna Lincoln High School. There he was awarded a Varsity sport jacket “for his achievements in table tennis and basketball” and was inducted into the National Honor Society “for his scholarship, character, leadership, and service.”

1975-82: In England in ‘75, Dempsey and Sam Fletcher win a gold in Doubles. Now World wins come rolling in. Ty Kaus tells us how in the fall of ‘82, at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England, Mike is playing Altendorfer a 2/3 match for the Open Championship. The Austrian, up 1-0, and, having just won several hard-fought points to pull to 17-all in the second, points his racket defiantly at Dempsey, but Mike, is not intimidated, prevails at 19. Kaus then delights in describing what happens next:

“Mike came alive and buried the Austrian with a succession of beautifully executed and deceptive angled pushes as he constantly flipped and twirled his Mark V/Silver Killer combination bat, forcing error after error. Suddenly, amazingly, the score was 20-3 Dempsey. Then Dempsey uncorked three of his awesome forehand kills....He missed the first two, but the third struck paydirt, a tremendous smash that sailed far into the spectator seats.”

1983-87: At the Vienna Sports Festival Mike wins two golds and a bronze. Meanwhile, business calls? Back in 1972, Mike had met Rainer Kuschall, a Swiss who’d invented an ultra-lightweight, ultra-manueverable wheelchair that used weight-reducing aluminum tubing (a steel chair weighed maybe 50 pounds, an aluminum tubing one perhaps not 20). After accepting an offer by Kuschall allowing him to produce these chairs in the U.S., Dempsey, by 1985, has his own wheelchair company with his own designs.

1988: In winning the Paralympics Open at Seoul, Mike plays two gutsy matches — his 23-21, 21-19 semi’s versus world-ranked #1 Tom Kreidel; and his 19-in-the-third final against Frenchman Guy Tisserant.

1989-1992: Andre Scott/Anderson begins challenging Dempsey for supremacy. At the 1990 World Championships in Holland, Kreidel beats Mike for the gold. At the ‘92 Barcelona Paralympics, Mike again has to be content with silver.

1993-1999: Win or lose, Mike remains, if not a kid, still pretty happy. And why shouldn’t he be? He has a good time at the ‘99 Parapanam Games in Mexico City, and begins to get more of the accolades he deserves.

2000-: In addition to having received earlier the National Wheelchair Athletic Association’s Male Athlete of the Year Award and induction into that body’s Hall of Fame, as well as inductions into the Ohio WAA Hall and, later, the California Hall, Mike enjoys what is perhaps his finest moment. He has the honor in Sydney of being Flagbearer for the 2000 U.S. Paralympic Team.
2002 Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

DICK MILES

1941-44: Miles, Lou Pagliaro, and Tibor Hazi win ‘41 Intercities (Dick’s first—he’ll be on half a dozen more winning N.Y. teams). Strict grandmother locks him out when, obsessed with table tennis, he comes home in the wee hours from Lawrence’s fabled Club. “Some nights I’d be sitting out there in the hall crying until finally someone would open the door and I’d hear my grandmother yell at me, “You’re a bum! We don’t want a bum in the family!”

1945: In Detroit wins the first of his record-breaking 10 National’s. Michigan TTA President Graham Steenhoven, on presenting Dick with his trophy, says, “Here, I hope you behave like a Champion.”

1946-47: At the ‘47 Paris World’s, Dick finds such a cold venue that he’s out there on court with two hot water bottles tied to his waist. Loses to England’s Johnny Leach. A combination of the cold and nerves forces Dick to repeatedly cramp up so that his forearm locked up. Suffers long-term psychic consequences: sometimes feels he has to attack when he doesn’t want to, else fears his arm will tighten. Sick at heart, he loses in the Team’s to the vaunted Czechs—Vana, Andreidis, Tereba. Wins U.S. Open Singles and first Mixed with England’s ‘47 World runner-up Betty Blackbourn.

1948: English Coach Jack Carrington describes Dick’s game:

“The ‘Miles Forehand’ threatens to become as famous as the ‘Barna Backhand.’ It is produced by an unbelievably fast circular whip of the forearm and wrist…. [if you] try to follow the ball with your eye, you will find it almost impossible.

The effect is a fast bounding ball imbued with twice as much topspin as most players use. Miles can take the ball so early he can keep most opponents scouting the deep….

As for defense, the speed with which he falls back and the controlled returns from either wing are beautiful to watch.”

1949: At the Stockholm World’s, Miles is again beaten by Leach, deuce in the fifth, after Dick has two match points. On this World trip, Miles, Reisman, and Cartland, “professionals,” are not happy with the food or their accommodations. They express their displeasure, make changes, maybe miss an exhibition or two. As a result, the USATT suspends all three of them for a year.

1950-52: In ‘51 U.S. Open final Dick rallies from two games down to again beat Reisman. But in ‘52, though he wins the Doubles with Schiff (he’ll also win with Smael, Reisman, and Van de Walle), he loses an expedited 5-game final to Pagliaro.
1953-58: At the '54 World's Dick is 13-1 in Swaythling Cup play. In Singles, he beats Zarko Dolinar, World runner-up in '55, then, up 2-0, he can't hold on against Japan's Tomita. In '55 he wins the U.S. Open from Richard Bergman with whom he's been on a Globetrotters Tour. Also wins the Mixed with Millie Shahian. At the '56 World's he upsets Andreasis, loses to Ongiruma in the quarter's.

1959: At the Dortmund World's he beats Iran's Houssang Bozorgzadeh (who would soon move to the U.S.) in five, then two Chinese. In the semi's is up 2-1 against a third Chinese, Jung Kuo-tuan, but can't finish him.

1960-85: In '62 Dick wins his last National's – over Norbic Van de Walle, whom he enjoys giving USO shows with, be they in Alaska or Cambodia. "I'm a non-worker," he quips. Dick will continue playing in U.S. tournaments for more than a decade, but his last World's is in '67 at Stockholm where, almost 42, he plays a five-gamer with Gomzovk, the #1 Soviet player. In '68 his The Game of Table Tennis is published. In '71 he's on the historic 1971 U.S. "Ping-Pong Diplomacy" trip to China. He continues to write articles for Sports Illustrated. Is a colorman at World Championships for ABC's Wide World of Sports. Involves himself as a USTTA Executive Committeeman in the running of U.S. Opens. And all the while carries on his Dick Miles line of equipment with Sears and Montgomery Ward.

A non-worker? Don't you believe it. Had his grandmother been able to look ahead to see his lengthy accomplishments, she'd have said, "Got your key, Dickie? Make sure you've got your key, dear, in case you come in late."

ATTENTION GALYAN'S SHOPPERS –
THE TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITION WILL NOW BEGIN!

By Mimi Bosika

Recently, a new mall opened in St. Louis, and when I hear people talking about it, it's very common for someone to say, "Have you been to that Galyan's store? It's amazing!"

Without a doubt, I have to agree. Not only have I been there to shop, but I also performed four 90-minute table tennis exhibitions with Scott Preiss during Galyan's opening weekend. Now, every time I go to the store, a huge grin appears on my face as I chat with the familiar friendly employees that helped make our performances a success.

First, I have to describe this store. It has two levels filled with equipment for just about any sport one can imagine, such as kayaking, yoga, ice skating, jogging, boxing, soccer, baseball, archery, and of course, table tennis. There is no official door for the store. To enter, the public climbs by an escalator while staring in awe as the colorful selection of goods that appears all around. During the weekend of the exhibition, Galyan's featured several professional athletes from St. Louis who were signing autographs. My personal favorite was the appearance of Olympic gold medalist gymnast Dominique Dawes, who was friendly enough to chat with me and give me support in my future table tennis endeavors.

When they were not shopping, getting autographs, or climbing the store's rock-climbing wall, hundreds of people in the store were watching our table tennis exhibition. Scott is amazing when it comes to attracting an audience with his witty remarks and sky lobs. The most exciting parts of our show were the points that involved me smashing Scott's lobs and points that began with Scott's famous 50-foot serve. Even though I've done exhibitions with Scott in the past, he never fails to surprise me with his consistency in returning my shots and his ability to make me laugh.

The crowd was entertained by Scott's decision to occasionally switch his rackets. He would play a point with his oversized racket, which measures about 15 inches in diameter, and then with his undersized, which had a surface of about 1 inch in diameter. Sometimes, he would play with only "half" of a racket, which is actually a racket that is cut in half. He would only use this one if his opponent were "half as good" as him. When he was on a roll, Scott would take out his "mirror" racket, to make sure that his hair looked good for the public.

The crowd had a great time laughing and staring in amazement when points lasted several minutes. In addition, the "victims" from the audience, or those brave enough to challenge Scott, also provided great entertainment. At certain times, they were so determined to beat Scott that they even started diving for the ball and attempting some pretty crazy shots. Nevertheless, their effort was recognized and they always walked away with a gift from Stiga.

Stiga and Escalade Sports are the reason why Scott has been performing at Galyan's openings nationwide. Galyan's stores carry Stiga table tennis equipment and the exhibitions are intended to increase the popularity of the sport and encourage people to begin participating. As always, being included in exhibitions with Scott serves as a reminder why table tennis is such a great sport and I'm grateful for the opportunity to promote it. So when someone asks me if I've been to Galyan's, I just smile and nod. It was an amazing experience.
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Offers expire Feb. 15, 2003
The Seattle Juic Team made the final: Fan Yi Yong, David Zhuang and Cheng Yinghua.

seemed they might have won. Adam opened against Xavier Thierien (27/14), and after losing the 3rd 16-14, came back in the 4th 16-14 to stay in the match, then was leading in the 5th before losing at the 1-9 wire. Han, still not finding his game, couldn't hold a 2-1 lead against Anson Bishpham. Misha, after coming back to win the 4th from last season's North American Cadet Champion, 2632-rated Pierre-Luc Hinse, lost it, was down 10-1, then found it, got to 7. Thierien disposed of Han in 4, and what might not have been a rout at all was turning into one. But Adam bombed curley-headed Hinse, and Misha, despite bleeding his nose (“I hit myself on my serve”), kept the team alive with a 12-10 in the 5th over Bishpham (“Two big ending rips from the little guy” says Danny). Han tries to keep the comeback coming, but from 7-all in 5, Hinse is just too good. So, close, but no cigars, no quarter's, for the kids.

The other 11:00 a.m. match to watch was the Chicago KS4 (B team) vs. the N.Y. TTC 2 (C team). First up: U.S. Team member Ashu Jain, 11-8 in the 4th, over Russian expatriate Nison Aronov, who himself in 2001 came within one match of making the U.S. Team. Sasa Drinic upped the ante, but though Tahl Leibowitz wasn't flufforable, from 11-all in the 4th he couldn't come away a winner. With a 2-0 lead, the Killerspin Four weren't going to be catchable unless Shao Yu, having gone into the 5th, could do in Arturo Shiu - which he did. But in the next match Sasa was first-up, and Nison seemed psychically out of it - so, Sasa, 11-8 in the 4th. Killerspin 3, N.Y. 1 Again Shao took control, put a leash on the Michiganer, make that the former Michiganer, the Wolverine, Jain. Tahl, however, against Arturo, was coming up short. Then, down 2-0, he got 10, 9, 8 better and better - and came off the table to smile and high all around. “I'm #1 on the Team now, right?” he says gleefully. And a little later, feeling good, and always wanting action, he says with mock-bravado. “I'll cause some havoc.” Meanwhile: “See,” says an onlooker, “if Tahl controls his temper, he wins.” The Killers 3, the Intended Victims 3. No blood.

Now a very big match: Sasa vs. Shao Yu. Sasa rightfully screams, not at going into the 5th but at a guy in his line of sight who's up close trying to picture a man. This time, however, Shao, even though he's coached by David Zhuang, can't help. It's up to Nison to save the team. But, with an eye to the Sasa/Shao play on the adjacent court, and down 2-0 to Arturo after losing a 10-6 lead in the 1st, he doesn't lose inspired. However, by this time he has not one but two coaches in attendance. There's the Baltimore, stop-by-for-a-visit Coach Boris Shafir, and the very busy U.S. National Coach and International Umpire here, Cleveland's Valery Elmanov. Maybe Aronov will get into the match?

Certainly the umpire is trying to help - he's come in the middle of the match, has more than once faulted lefty Shiu on serve, and properly hasn't allowed him a time out. He, however, Shao, even though he's coached by Ricky Seemiller and Richard Lee fell, 5-4. into Rich Burnsibe's Snake Pit, where Dave suffered three venomous puncture wounds (which I'm happy to report he'll recover from).

Actually, I'm almost positive Tahl had a relaxing couple of hours, for in the 4:00 p.m. match, he beats 2939-rated Bence Casaba of the Canada 1 team deuce in the 5th - and without blowing a 10-7 lead. Win or lose, he's clearly more composed - has come a long way. This Canadian team remains undefeated, but Paul David and Shao Yu have wins over Ignacio Cabrera.

The Canada 2 (B team) is given an even bigger jolt when the N.Y. 2 (D team) average of its players? 52 - upset them 5-3. The Canadians opened with back-to-back wins - Hinse over Li, who earlier had stirred the spectators by beating 4-time U.S. Champion
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BUILDING TOMORROW'S CHAMPIONS
Division 9 Winners “Malev”: Peter Vanyik, Zoltan Barabas, Coach Laszlo Varga, Soma Fekete, Hungarian Under 10 Champion Daniel Schaffer. Some may remember Coach Varga as the coach of Hungarian team that has won three times before, and was on the verge of making the final last year when the controversial “Bubblegate” led to his team being knocked out in the semifinals when Fan Yi Yong was defaulted.

David Zhuang, and Therien over Tam. But then Liu, down 2-0 to Bispham, rallied to turn the tie around. Li and Liu followed with wins over Therien, and Tam and Li got the better of Bispham. Someone said Li had been “reborn,” but in truth he’s been playing with both body and spirit in the German leagues for many years, and is still very much the professional. Canada 2 survived this loss, however, for the U.S. Juniors had beaten N.Y. 2, and Canada had beaten the U.S. Juniors, hence, when the tie had been broken both matches won and lost between the three teams, Canada (8-7) prevailed.

Canada 3 with its 3 wins against Texas Wesleyan might have seemed to anyone just noting the score to have put up a gallant fight. But Peng Gao was given his opening match when David Wang, up 1-0 and 10-6, pulled a lower back muscle, tried to continue, but then, rather than risk serious injury, retired, conceding his two remaining matches as well. Christian Lillicroft, Wesleyan Team Captain and Coach, tells me that David, 21, just became a U.S. citizen, that he played for Henan Province, and that at 15 was Southern China Champion. After moving to the U.S. with his well-known painter parents, he stopped playing for a while but has now taken up, at least for this weekend, paddle not palette.

Table Tennis About was also a 5-3 winner. Strange happening in this tie though. N.Y. Now’s De Tran, warming up, about to play his first match, comes rushing in for a drop, catches his bat on the table edge, and sends the head flying. Oh, has he another racket? Yes, back at the hotel. (Just the place for it, huh?) Does he want now to hurry back for it? Nah – he’ll get it later, play with it tonight. He borrows teammate Festus Ayinde’s racket, takes the rubber off, puts on his own Blackjack...and, while three birds for a time fly into the hall and keep looking for a way out, proceeds with soft, spiny strokes to bludgeon away all three opponents, Sean Lonergan, Sean O’Neill, and Brian Pace. Will Tran play with Festus’s racket tonight? Nah.

The 7:00 p.m. matches pit the #1 and #2 teams in each round robin against one another, and though all eight will advance to tomorrow’s single elimination play, perhaps one of the original four teams given a bye will be upset — their choice position in the draw taken over by the upsetter?

Having to preoccupy myself now with the contending teams, I can only quickly mention a note or two about the others. Liang Pham’s 8-in-the-5th win over Bernier and 9-in-the-5th win over Jean-Paul Roussy 5-4 threw the Lord of the Ping into the Snake Pit. Dickie Fleisher’s P2 Curl wasn’t 9-11 in the 5th quite enough to scare, or at least distract, Alex Tam or his winning Senior Division teammates into losing this tie, but, had Dickie worn a Harpo wig, it might have given every Chinese in the house, young or old, goose bumps. Lily Yip found navigable channels through the Seagate — beat Bogdan Kucharenko 13-11 in the 5th, Idi Lewis 11-9 in the 5th, but, beyond, the Allstars weren’t shining and Lily and her team lost their way. In
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**Overview of Amicus 3000**

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N.Y. Now’s 5-3 loss to the Big Apple runner-up Team, and both teams may or may not have played with their back-up racket but again he won all 3, Teammate Steve Horowitz, eager to pick up first-hand whatever learning opportunities might be available to a budding International Coach, was hoping to try out for himself Ayinde’s racket with Tran’s rubber, or Tran’s unbroken racket with Ayinde’s rubber.

The most contested tie of the evening was Texas Wesleyan’s 5-4 squeaker over Table Tennis About. Since Razvan Cretu didn’t accompany the Wesleyan team, Lilliehoos had to go with Wang whether he was fit to play or not — and predictably David lost all 3. This created a potentially perilous position because Brian Pace, after his sojourn in Romania last year and his summer play against high school and university players in Shanghai at Gao Jun’s Club this year, had learned more what his game was all about.

And he almost beat a stork-thin Jimmy Butler, losing 11-9 in the 5th when, as one analyst said, Brian, playing patiently, at the end got control and powered at least four balls at Jimmy — all well and good, but they all had the same pace, and Jimmy was able to withstand the onslaught and win the point, game, match. However, against Eric Owens, whom Brian says he figures to have problems with because he’s a power player, whereas Jimmy prefers to angle his pace. and Jimmy was able to withstand the unexpected drop that catches Khoa off guard.

Though Johnny then wins the 3rd, Khoa doesn’t go down, finishes the 4th by rocketing in a flamboyant, off the bounce counter — then wins the 5th and the match. Later, Johnny will balance with a win over Yaniv. Levi and Karakasevic play as if their objective is to get through the match in a friendly 4 games, of which will surely go to the Yugoslav. Karakasevic serves non-stop, like the Europeans of old. He goes through the motions...the acquired skill of his lifetime. Match over, job done, the two comradely slap hands.

Nguyen will shortly play his second match against Karakasevic — and again will go 5, though this time he won’t win. The Yugoslav looks and plays like this is just so much “busy” work; he only wants to get on with it. As they say, he plays with reckless abandon, or at least abandon. Also, he occasionally carries on with comments and complaints to whoever watching will understand him. Khoa is in this match...until from 7-6 in the 5th, Karakasevic finishes him. Khoa says lefty spinners like Karakasevic are harder for him to play than hitters like fast-hands Huang.

Geir Erlandsen, the current Norwegian Champ, is another new face — though back in 1996 he was the U.S. Open U-15 Champion. He loses to Yaniv. But will later score wins over Idan and Khoa.

Now the controversial match — Yaniv vs. Karakasevic. I try to consider how people might view it. The first two games are so unengaging that the stocky Yugoslav feels he has to spice things up. I don’t know how fit he is, but he certainly looks to have talent. The audience wants to be entertained, right? More to the point, Karakasevic wants to be entertained? So after winning the first two games easily, and seeing no prospects of a fight in the early 3rd, he begins exhibition play. O.K., he might think, to an experienced eye, maybe this smacks of arrogance, and maybe in context it is demeaning. But how many experienced eyes are there here? And, really, how seriously can I take this match, this tie, this tournament? In Europe it would be different, I wouldn’t do it — but of course I’d have better competition in Europe.

Yaniv is pleasantly into this boyish exhibition. He’s become Karakasevic’s equal — they play, joke, in tandem. On up, up, goes the score until the game is finally won by Sharon. This is fun, he thinks. The exhibition play has given him practice, loosened him, and the won game has given him confidence. “Let’s continue playing this way,” he says he says to Karakasevic. The Yugoslav is not so sure. He doesn’t consent to that — maybe serious is better? Of course he hasn’t been too serious — he hasn’t had to be. Does he have to be now? Certainly he isn’t focused to play seriously.

Yaniv seems to be taking his cue from Karakasevic who seems not to have a clue as to definitive action. Like one of their high lob, the match seems up in the air. The audience is suspended too, for Yaniv, playing better and better, wins the 4th. It’s now apparent that we’re watching, or have been watching, the anomaly, the paradox, of a “competitive exhibition.”

In the 5th, Yaniv is playing to win — and Karakasevic is tightening, outside and inside? Especially now as the Israeli corner, particularly in the person of Idan, begins cheering point after point for Sharon. Is that sporting? Well, maybe not — but it’s giving everyone a buzz. This match is no longer fun for Karakasevic. He’s no longer thinking about pleasing the spectators. Down 10-8, he’s thinking about pleasing himself.
Quarterfinals

Quarter’s Draw: #1 seed Canada 1’s on top-top; #2 Killerspin’s at bottom-bottom. #3 Seattle and #4 Texas Wesleyan are flipped – Seattle into top semi’s position, Wesleyan into bottom semi’s position. KS4’s already played Canada, so it’s flipped into bottom half against...Wesleyan. Pioneers has already played Killerspin, so it’s flipped into top half against...Seattle. Canada 2’s already played Seattle, so it goes to the remaining bottom position against Killerspin. Table Tennis About has already played Wesleyan, so it goes to the remaining top position against Canada 1.

You follow, I presume – but, alas,...you won’t be too pleased with the one-sided results.

Canada 1 blanked Table Tennis About. Every time I saw Sean Lonergan he seemed to be forcing himself into some mild form of that which he insists he doesn’t practice – yoga. But talk about a stretch. Canadian National Coach Dejan Papic had his charges half hidden behind the bleachers going through all sorts of back-bending contractions. But since Papic himself was on crutches, maybe Lonergan knew what he was about. Anyway, there was a certain symmetry to TTA’s best efforts...all lost deuce in the 4th, with Lonergan, stretching, stretching, losing the 3rd to Csaba, 18-16, as well.

Seattle gave up just one match to the ambitious, not to say immodestly, named Pioneers World Team. No match went 5 games in this tie either; Yaniv beat Cheng 3-2.

Killerspin 5 – Canada 2. Er, make that Killerspin 5-0 over Canada 2. Just before this tie gets underway, Luplesku, who, in addition to being 4-time Yugoslav National Champion with estimable World, Olympic...and European Doubles success, is warming up with Erlandsen. As Lupi is moving increasingly left, exchanging curl-around loops, his racket suddenly goes flying from his hand maybe 20 feet out in front of him. What the...Turns out an umpire has come across behind him and,...intent on tidily straightening out some slightly uneven side barriers, is apparently oblivious to the players in the court – to the professionals and their wide-ranging abilities. Lupi’s caught him on his swing through. The umpire goes on by as if, in his desire to do his job properly, he’s still unaware he’s been in Lupi’s way. Lupi gives him a look, picks up his racket, brings it back to the table, inspects it minutely, pronounces it O.K. And if it weren’t?

Lefty Erlandsen, World #79, is extended 11-9 in the 4th by Hinse. But, ah, we are going to have a 5-gamer. Lupi’s 1-1 with Therien when the Canadian from 7-all scores on two serve follow-ups, the second bringing him down on one knee – and goes on to take a 2-1 lead. Lupi, in his 30’s now, looks a little slow...but he dominates 11-3 in the 5th.

The one contested quarter’s tie is won 5-4 by Texas Wesleyan over Chicago Killerspin 4. In the start-off match, Wesleyan’s Wang, down 2-1 and 10-9 in the 4th to Ashu Jain, takes the forehand he should, but misses. Later, David will lose 11-9 in the 4th to Drinic. But still later, with his team down 4-3, he’ll win the match they need against Shiu.

Owens, 2001 U.S. Singles and Doubles Champ (shouldn’t someone be sponsoring lettering or logo on his distinctive headband?) opens with a win over Shiu. Then against Shiu he’s 1-1 and down 10-7 in the 3rd, 10-8, then...a gutsy serve and smash, followed by another – and he’s deuced it. But Ashu gets the ad, and an edge to win it. After which Eric loses the 4th, 11-9, by swatting one off. Putting a good face, he’s...but he dominates 11-3 in the 5th.

Out comes another guy, name of Kawai. He is Patience personified. He does drills with you for maybe half an hour. You really enjoy this. Then he instructs you on how to return short serves that come to your forehand. “Get that right knee under the table, and come through with your stroke over the table,” he says. You appreciate his efforts because you know you have a terrible forehand. Any ball you manage to hit in is like the Hammer of Thor – it always comes back.

Turns out this animated coach who’s enthusiastically teaching you was a member of the 1954 Japanese World Championship Team. You think, He hasn’t lost a whole lot. He still moves amazingly quick for his age, and can generate plenty of spin. This play is fun for you – Kawai, who speaks of the great American players Miles and Schiff, knows how to make you look good.

Afterwards, you are given little presents – a Butterfly t-shirt, a towel. And there are commemorative photos of your visit – back home you can show yourself in the company of Kawai, Ms. Sakai, the Tamasu Marketing Agent, and Mr. Satoh, former head of Tokyo Disneyland.

You think, This wasn’t a bad idea to have given the Dojo a call. You recommend others do it too.

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Meanwhile, Butler against his opening opponent, Sasa, is 1-1 and 9-all, at which point he gets a very welcome net. Sasa slaps the dumb ball, sends it flying. But it comes snapping back via a Butler backhand. Jimmy goes on to win in 4, then wins in 4 again from Shiu. With the tie 4-4, Butler holds three-straight steady against jain — though there is an abrupt moment of stimulation when Ashu makes a wondrous shot around the net that catches the table edge and bounces up to the rising ohhhs of the crowd.

Semifinals

There's a different format for the semi's. Best of 5 matches, not best of 9; 4 games to win, not 3; and one of the three team players will play only the 3rd match of the tie. But now not only were the ties uncontested but so were almost all the matches. Seattle beat Canada 1, 3-0. U.S. #1-rated Fan 5, 2, 8, 4 downed Kassam, 4-0. Cheng — surviving a 12-10 1st game with Cabrera to take advantage of the Canadian's lack of confidence, his helplessness really — jumped to 10-2, 10-4 leads in the 2nd and 3rd games. Yes, Cabrera came back to win the 4th, but that seemed freakish, for Cheng, again clearly outplaying him, hurried to another 10-2 lead in the 5th.

Fortunately for the spectators, a great many of whom had to stand because there weren't enough bleacher seats to accommodate them, our 4-time National Champion David Zhuang played a 5-4 bang-up match with young Csaba. Up 10-8 in the 1st, David's no lock — Bence draws to
10-9. Whereupon David, with a high toss, tosses away the point—serves off. Then is ad down; fortune’s fool, he’s lost 4 in a row. But he really does know how to serve when he has to, and proves it with a fearless follow. From 12-all he finishes with two compact winners. Up 10-8 in the 2nd, you know he wins the next point because there’s Bence flipping his racket tableward. His aim isn’t good—it teeters, falls...Csaba himself, however, does not go down. He rallies—takes the next two games. Match all even. And all even after two more. At 4-all in the 5th, Bence makes a great lob get and then, seemingly fastened to the floor, makes a 20-feet-back-from-the-table side-swing chop at the ball—the most refreshing shot of the match—that just misses catching the table. As David increases his lead, yells as he goes up 8-5, the crowd for the first time implies he’s their favorite. When his next ball nicks the edge and he goes over and kisses where it hit, he’s definitely their man.

The Killerspinners will of course join Seattle in the final—just as soon as they unjoin Wesleyan. Butler wins the 1st from Karakasevic, and in the 2nd, after the Yugoslav catapults in two of his much admired backhands, Butler snaps in his own backhand winner in defiance. Unfortunately for him it’s just one of two points he gets this game. Game Butler is, but Karakasevic is too good—finishes off Jimmy with a mighty swing.

Huang and Owens...what can I say? That Eric’s pretty consistent—loses the 1st, 3rd, and 4th at 6, 5, 5. Only in the 2nd game is he deviant—down 9-0, he scores, and raises his hands in mock triumph. Always good to keep one’s sense of humor, eh? Erlandsen vs. Wang, 2, 5, 6, 2, I’ll stick in here.

**Final**

How many matches will this final tie go? Three. How many games will be won by those about to be killed in play? Three. Fan, leading off against Karakasevic, looks ready. Is up 7-3 and running down the ball. His backhand loops bound in, rivaling his opponents’. Someone speaks of how he cleverly mixes the spin on his blocks. He wins the 1st at 7. Early in the 2nd, however, he’s in discomfort, keeps wiggling his neck. He gets behind, more or less gives up. After Karakasevic bullets two fast serves by Fan’s immobile forehand to win this game 11-3, Fan comes back to his corner where Huang looks to be lightly rubbing ointment to his neck. What’s happening? Fan loses the next game at 4.

As they prepare to start the 4th, the umpire doesn’t realize the game scores on his scoreboard are reversed. Spectators welcome the divertissement, help him out. Fan isn’t finished...yet. Up 4-0, 6-2, he fends off Karakasevic’s protest about something—that Fan’s returned the ball off his shirt? One is privy to so little. Errors now from Fan. Twice on missing, he spins around, provides ballet-drama...eventually loses 11-8. In the 5th he gets to 9 before Karakasevic signatures by one last caroming, bravura backhand.

Huang’s prepared for his match with Zhuang by a last-minute warm-up with Lily Yip. A penholder attacker, moving the ball here, there, she gives him good touch. No wonder she’s a coach, a practice partner for so many—it’d be good for anybody to warm up with Lily. Against Johnny, David is 6-all-in-the-1st holding his own. It’s a battle of fast-hit forehand exchanges, fast picks. But then—how account for it?—Johnny wins 19 points to David’s 3. That is, Huang is up 2-0 and 3-0 in the 3rd. But, up 10-8, he does not win this game. There’s brutal firepower from both players at this point, but David stands tall. After almost miss-servings he wins the 3rd, 12-10. In the 4th, however, he falls 7-1 behind. Still, regardless of the score, the two have flashy forehand counters that the spectators enjoy. Up 3-1 in games, Johnny’s again off to a fast 3-0 start, and from 5-all streaks to an 11-6 win.

In the last match of the tournament, Erlandsen, coached for 9 years by Norway’s National Coach Jochen Leiss, former German National Champion and the 1977 U.S. Open winner, meets Cheng Yinglin, himself a 2-time U.S. Open, 3-time Nationals winner and of course much sought after U.S. Coach. Indeed, Cheng’s so booked he’s no time for practice. Still, he almost wins the 3rd from Erlandsen who, down 10-9 gets a cramped forehand in. Then despite Cheng’s famous basiliik-like look, goes on to take the game 12-10. In the 2nd, Erlandsen’s back-from-the-table returns give the illusion of an exhibition, but nobody doubts it’s for real: Erlandsen 11-Cheng 4. In the 3rd Cheng, attacking right and left, his confidence rising, continues having trouble getting through Erlandsen’s topspin defense, but the points are longer, and Cheng is scoring. He has two ads, but can’t convert. At 13-all, he tries to keep the ball short, but Erlandsen pulverizes it, then adds a clincher.

Cheng’s persistence pays off. At 9-all in the 4th, he makes a perfectly anticipated block return that rebounds in for a point-winner, then gets Erlandsen to pop up his serve return. The match, the tie, continues. As the 5th game progresses, Cheng, as is his habit, gives his racket a little shake, then sends off one serve or another Erlandsen has trouble reading. But Erlandsen’s serves work to his advantage too. And his youth. And his constant competitive play. So, good try by Cheng, but 11-9 game, match, tie to Killerspin.

"I’d like to have seen more matches like this last one," says a fellow on the way out before the Trophy Presentation. Says another, "I wish someone would train players to play so it’d all be more interesting to the spectators."

Wow, the very life of the Sport itself has got to be a struggle, huh!

### The Teams at the Teams

**By Larry Hodges**

Each year brings the annual conundrum: what should we call our Team at the Teams this year? Many, of course, go for geographical names, or other straightforward ones. Others turn it into a creative outlet. (To find out who played on each of these teams, go to www.natabletennis.com.)

This year there were the usual returning teams: "The Boo’s Brothers, "The Hammer of Thor," and the various Don Iguana teams ("Don Iguana Lab Lizards," "Don Iguana Select"). (Missing in Action: Pong Gods.) There were the obligatory "Ring" series names: "Lord of the Ping," "The Fellowship," and "The Baggins." Sadly, there were no Harry Potter names, and only "The Four Jedis" from Star Wars.

Some of the more interesting ones:

- "The Oranges of Space Seeds" (Think Charles Darwin.)
- "Quod Liicet Jovi, Non Licet Bovi" (Latin for "What is allowed or permitted The Gods is not permitted the cattle.")
- "Team O’Bell" (Who’s the #1 European right now?)
- "Off the Hoo-Zee “Fo” Shee-zee" (I have no idea!)
- "Jan’s Olive" (The most obscure of all. In 1989—when I was not the editor—a photo from Jan-Ove Waldner ran in USATT’s magazine, but it was labeled "Jan Olov Waldner." So this team made photo copies of the photo and caption from 13 years ago, put them on little trays, put olives with toothpicks in them on the tray, and offered them to opposing teams and editors.)
The fourteenth Stiga Pacific Rim Tournament took place November 9-10 at Portland Community College. Sponsors, patrons and helpers, together with Tournament Director Jim Scott, have made the event possible and successful. Escalade Sports especially and Paddle Palace and PCC once again provided the equipment and the venue, while patrons have boosted prize money to $2000 for first place in Men's, $1000 for first place in Women's, and $7550 total.

180 players plus paying spectators enjoyed Veteran's Day Weekend in the Rose City, with competition on 20 Stiga Tables in 27 events starting from Under 300. Players from all regions of the U.S. and from British Columbia participated in the four-star tournament.

In Men's Singles, Fan Yi Yong and Atanda Musa met in the final. As we've seen before, their match was fireworks with looping, counter-looping and counter-hitting. This time Fan prevailed 9, 7, 5, 10, though with 9-9 in the first and a 10-8 lead in the fourth Musa had a chance for a different outcome.

But Fan was in powerful looping form, and he likewise beat Mark Hazinski four straight in the semifinals, 6,7,9,7. Play was excellent with Hazinski scoring on numerous powerful backhand punches quick off the bounce.

Musa's semifinal with Sasa Drinic was the most suspenseful of the tournament. Early in the match, Musa controlled position with spin variation and counter-looping, and he won the first two at 6 & 5. Drinic then notched up his attack and counter-attacks to win the next two at 12 & 4. Game five is the best of all, with a one-point spread most of the way. But Musa's curve-blocks and counterhitting prevail. In game seven, Musa again controls the court. Further helped by his loop off the edge and Drinic's net push just missing the edge, he gains a commanding 6-2 lead. With controlling loops Drinic fights back to 4-6, but a couple of Musa's surprise plays and unforced misses leave a final gap of 11-5.

In Women's Singles, Wang Chen, a former national team member of China, breezed to a 7,8,3 victory in the final over Caribbean champion Kibihi Moseley. In a hard-fought semifinal, Moseley bested Simone Yang -6,11,8,-8. The match displayed looping and counterhitting rallies, Moseley scoring on numerous inside-out backhand punches wide to the forehand.

Open Doubles featured an exciting upset, with Killerspin partners Hazinski and Drinic overcoming the #1 rated man and #2 rated woman in the U.S., former teammates Fan Yi Yong and Wang Chen. (With Chang Jun Gao playing overseas for much of this year, Wang is arguably the top ranked woman in the U.S.) Scores were 7,9,6,3,6.

Open Doubles - Final: Mark Hazinski/Sasa Drinic d. Fan Yi Yong/Wang Chen 9,7,6,3; SF: Fan d. Mark Hazinski 9,7,6,4; Musa d. Sasa Drinic 6,5,-12,-4,12,-6,5; QE: Fan d. Samson Dubina 7,2,7,3; Musa d. Misha Kazantsev 5,4,5,11; Hazinski d. Peter Miraflor 8,11,8,7; Drinic d. Danny Ho 3,5,7,5.


Open Doubles - Final: Mark Hazinski/Sasa Drinic d. Fan Yi Yong/Wang Chen 9,7,6,3; SF: Fan d. Mark Hazinski 9,7,6,4; Musa d. Sasa Drinic 6,5,-12,-4,12,-6,5; QE: Fan d. Samson Dubina 7,2,7,3; Musa d. Misha Kazantsev 5,4,5,11; Hazinski d. Peter Miraflor 8,11,8,7; Drinic d. Danny Ho 3,5,7,5.


Over 40: Ken Lin d. Alex Berentebay 5,9,7.

Over 50: Phieu Tran d. Phil Goldsmith 8,-9,9,8.

High School: Enoch Yiu d. Kevin Phung 9,3,10,5.

Under 16: Katie Poon d. Donavan LeDoux 5,-9,4,10.


U1900: Greg DiMarco d. Ken Lin 8,11,-7,-11,12.

U1700: Jerry Li d. Biser Asenov -7,-7,7,4.


U1400: M.K. Wong d. Don Swetch 4,5,12.

U1250: York Chen d. Eric Chen 8,7,5.

U1100: Chris Trinidad d. Tang -5,2,-9,5,5.

U900: Chris Trinidad d. Bo Liu -8,8,9,9.

U700: Andre Berning d. Joy Yiu 2,-9,8,3.

U500: Sean Beebe d. Peter Chen 8,5,8.

U300: Cynthia Tan d. Daniel Gerig 8,-8,8.

Over 40: Ken Lin d. Alex Berentebay 5,9,7.

Over 50: Phieu Tran d. Phil Goldsmith 8,-9,9,8.

College: Roger Castle d. Hoa Binh Do 3,-5,6,10.

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T-R: Mark Hazinski serves to Fan Yi Yong in the semifinals; Atanda Musa and Sasa Drinic, who played in the semifinals. In the final, Fan defeated Musa.
The Bernard Hock Open is still growing. After its beginning with four tables in Hock Hall, it now plays on nine busy tables in three rooms. The fact that this “three-ring circus” ran smoothly and relatively on schedule is a tribute to the hard work of John and Richard Riley, with a lot of help from Don Brazzell, Neal Griffin, Referee Cindy Marcum and many others. This writer’s hat is off to all who contributed to the success of this tournament, and the apparent enjoyment of all who came.

The Southern Indiana Table Tennis Association (SITTA) has been the home of a bunciation cellinuous ball for nearly 70 years, and this weekend was certainly no exception. The competition was hot and heavy, as expected. But it was also a fun time, as one player loudly counted the time while his opponent, who “needed a minute,” sprinted for the men’s room. There was also a doubles match in the team play on Sunday, Artman/Nordby versus Allen/Banet, in which each of the four players carried on a running conversation with himself. It was difficult to hear and understand any one of them.

Play was great, and sometimes emotional, like Steve Banet’s comeback from 1-3 to win the Open Final over Randy Cohen. In Over 40, Richard Hicks had to go the entire distance to best John Allen, 21-19 in the fifth. Yes – they were playing 11-point games.

There were several round robins that were decided by tiebreakers, so close was most of the competition. In the elimination rounds, most matches were played “hammer and tongs.” Many contests were very close and even emotional, but the only anger I saw all day was a guy who was upset with himself. This writer didn’t see many easy matches, and certainly every class was won by someone who earned it.

If you look at the tournament results, you’ll find some old familiar names. You will also find some new and unfamiliar ones mixed in. That’s one of the things that makes this game so great – the established players try to keep on winning, but the newcomers keep knocking at the door. We call it table tennis! It’s a great game, and it’s fun!

Open Singles: 1st Steve Banet; 2nd Randy Cohen; 3rd Mark Nordby; 4th Mark Artman.
Open Doubles: 1st Randy Cohen/Chao Nguyen; 2nd Mark Nordby/Chau Nguyen.
U2100: 1st Chao Nguyen; 2nd Aleksander Kheyfets.
U1900: 1st Mark Weber; 2nd Allen Grambo.
U1700: 1st Mike Bowles; 2nd Randy Burnett.
U1500: 1st Ping Poulson; 2nd Ed Molenda.
U1300: 1st Walter Rey; 2nd Galen Mabe.
U1100: 1st Jake Kim; 2nd Robert Forthofer.
Hardbat: 1st Steve Banet; 2nd Aleksander Kheyfets.
Over 40: 1st Richard Hicks; 2nd John Allen.
U3200 Doubles: 1st Jin Lu/Xin Bu; 2nd Jeff Smith/Gary Schroeder.
Class A Teams: 1st Steve Banet & John Allen; 2nd Mark Nordby & Mark Artman.
Class B Teams: 1st Scott Barone & Stan Pease; 2nd Chris Earl & Jeff Smith.
2002 MILLCREEK OPEN
Erie, PA • Oct. 19-20, 2002
By Sam Steiner

Another record draw at this annual competition caused serious scheduling problems as we attempted to stay on track using the best-of-7 format as advertised. After the first few hours it became clear that this just wasn’t going to work, with each round-robin group of four players taking up to two hours to complete on two tables. We switched all remaining events on Saturday to best-of-three, and were able to finish up at a reasonable hour. With fewer entries on Sunday, we returned to best-of-seven without a problem other than exhausted and cramping competitors.

Dan Seemiller of South Bend and Gbenga Ogundimu of Detroit easily reached the Open final where we knew sparks would fly. They played a tough seven-game match, which saw Gbenga scoring repeated winners using powerful “no-rise” loops on both sides. But Dan rose to the challenge, and with a combination of mobility and quick at-the-table blocks and counters, was able to control Gbenga’s spin, finally eking out a win.

Dan’s club in South Bend appears to have “graduated” their previous class of juniors, including most notably Mark Hazinski who is presently training in Germany. This year Dan and assistant coach Mark Nordby brought along a new crop of promising young kids who won several awards here and will be heard from again in the future. One talented youngster looped and killed his way through many higher-rated opponents but was unable to sign his name on the sign-in sheet because he “hasn’t learned cursive yet.”

The owner of Newmar Industries in South Bend passed away recently, which was Dan’s club’s major financial sponsor. The strong proven junior development record of this club make it a real asset to U.S. table tennis, so now is the time for another major sponsor to step up to the plate and keep this program on track. If you are, or know of, a potential sponsor for the South Bend club, please call Dan at 574-654-7476. This is an important and worthwhile investment in the future of U.S. table tennis.

Special thanks go to tournament financial sponsors the Millcreek Rec & Parks Dept., Tom Burik, Bob Glecos, Dave Dickson, and Bob Brickell.

Open – Final RR: 1st Dan Seemiller, 3-0 (d. Gbenga Ogundimu 4-3; d. R. Seemiller 4-0; d. Dubina 4-0); 2nd Gbenga Ogundimu, 2-1 (d. R. Seemiller 4-1; d. Dubina 4-0); 3rd Randy Seemiller, 1-2 (d. Dubina 4-2); 4th Samson Dubina, 0-3.


U2400 – Final: Mark Nordby d. Randy Seemiller, 4-2; SF: Nordby d. Samson Dubina, 4-3; Seemiller d. Don Hamilton, 4-1.

U2200 – Final: Don Hamilton d. Chip Coulter, 4-1; SF: Hamilton d. Dan Walk, 4-1; Coulter d. Mike Walk, 4-2.

U2000 – Final: A.J. Carney d. Joey Cochran 3-1; SF: Cochran d. Dave Berenson, 3-1; Carney d. Brian Pollard, 3-0.

U1800: Amanda Dubina d. Tom Burik, 3-0.

U1750: Bill Walk d. Amanda Dubina, 4-2.

U1600: Tam Lam d. Nicole Lynch, 3-2.

U1450: Jay Sivisankaran d. Carlo Wolff, 4-3.

U1300: Joe Banko d. Daniel Obrieci, 3-0.

U1100: John Scarnato d. Thomas Neul, 3-1.

U900: Mark DiCostanzo d. Tomas Oroszco, 4-3.

Over 40 – Final: Dan Seemiller d. Gary Martin, 3-0; SF: Seemiller d. Harry Ward, 3-0; Martin d. Tom Burik, 3-1.

Over 60: 1st Gus Kurz; 2nd Bill Walk; 3rd Bob Brickell.


3400 Doubles: Jim Burik/Joe Grandalski d. Chris Malis/Roger Dickson, 3-0.

2800 Doubles: Miklos Balogh/Tundi Balogh d. Chris Malis/Tim Malis, 4-0.

UPPER VALLEY GIANT ROUND ROBIN
Norwich, VT • Oct. 19, 2002
By Douglas Haynes

Jean-Philippe Haid of Belgium, currently residing in Manchester, NH, won first place in the Upper Valley Giant Round Robin held in Norwich, VT on Oct. 19th. Haid and Tommy Haynes of Hanover, NH finished tied with identical 5-1 records but Haid won the head to head match, 7-6, 11-8. David Haugh finished third.

The most underrated players in the tournament were the twins of the Open. and Mark won Under 2400.

There was a team component to the competition. Teams were given points on the basis of their placement in various round robins and the number of wins by their most successful players. The Bedford NH TTC came in first with 63 points, the Upper Valley TTC came in second with 57 and the Champlain Valley (VT) TTC came in third with 53.

Group A: 1st Jean-Philippe Haid; 2nd Tommy Haynes; 3rd David Haugh; 4th Bob Brickell.

Group B: 1st Ken Cameron; 2nd Tim Akey; 3rd Jim Baird; 4th Helmut Schmidt.

Group C: 1st Jeremy Whitney; 2nd Richard Shea; 3rd Hank Puding; 4th John Olaparuth.

Group D: 1st Tim Barbour; 2nd David Onne; 3rd Joe Tomas; 4th Constantine Brocoun.

Group E: 1st Tom Barbour; 2nd Anisa Mahommed; 3rd Pete McAllister; 4th Sharlene Squier.

Group F: 1st Ben Cassaday; 2nd Dennis Faugno; 3rd Hao Yang; 4th Iain Prendergast.

Group G: 1st Saif Mahommed; 2nd Frank YiFeng Huang; 3rd Robbie Brown; 4th Jack Yaguda.
**Mark Tremonti:** Rock Star & Table Tennis Player Visits Bumpernets

By Roxanne Rousseau

Mark Tremonti, member of the rock band Creed, didn’t expect to play table tennis with a Senior Olympic Champion during his tour stop in Birmingham, Alabama. But when Homer Brown, owner of BumperNets in the Riverchase Galleria, heard that Tremonti was a table tennis player, he knew that the band member would love his store.

“Bumpernets is a unique concept, there is nothing like it anywhere,” said Brown, who designed BumperNets as America’s first table tennis store and pro-shop. At BumperNets, customers can buy tables, custom rackets, and even play table tennis, pool and other games in the store. Customers can also get lessons with Brown, although Tremonti didn’t need any.

“He is a very good player, and he really enjoys the game,” said Brown. “Table tennis is a great exercise, good for coordination and relieving stress.” Tremonti likes playing so much that the band travels with a table so he can play anywhere.

“Table tennis can be addictive, anyone who enjoys playing knows that,” said Brown.

After playing table tennis with Brown and the other staff members in the store, Tremonti invited Brown to play before and after the concert at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center. In the VIP room before the show, Brown and Tremonti played with such enthusiasm that soon others were asking to play. Tremonti only gave the table to warm up for the band’s performance. Right after the show, Tremonti came back to the VIP room, full of energy and eager to play. These two enthusiasts kept the ping-pong ball moving into the early hours of the morning. They could have played longer, but Tremonti had to continue with the Creed tour the next day. Who could have guessed that a Senior Olympic champion-businessman and a rock star could have anything in common? This is just one example of how the great sport of table tennis can bring people together.

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**POTOMAC OPEN**

Potomac, MD • Nov. 16-17, 2002

By Larry Hodge

Brian Pace, who recently re-located to Maryland, and now trains and works for North American Table Tennis, overcame a preliminary round loss to John Wetzler, and dominated the rest of the way in winning the Open. In the semifinals, he revenged his loss to Han Xiao at the U.S. Open, winning at 10-7,9,8,5. In the final, he again dominated, defeating Sean Lonergan, 7-10,4,4,3. The key to his success seemed a much-improved backhand and strong serve return (especially flips off short serves) to go with his always dominating forehand.

In the other semifinal, Lonergan defeated Hung Pham at 8,10,11,-11,6. Pham had just squeaked by Wetzler in the quarterfinals apparently played on cloud nine: 9,-9,9,-9.

The tournament, with 90 players, started out as a "Big Four," with 2500 players Pace, Lonergan, Xiao and Sean O’Neill. O’Neill lost in the preliminaries to Stefano Ratti, rated 2078, and to 15-year-old Khaleel Asgarali, rated 1850.

The local junior program brought out two new stars, Joseph Wang (11) and Jeffry Zhang (12) who took Under 1700 and Under 1500, respectively. Jeffry, rated 1222, hadn’t even been over 1000 until late September.

Jay Ryan, rated 1356, didn’t win any events, but he defeated players with ratings of 1804, 1723, 1684 and 1664, plus another unrated player with an estimated rating of 1850.

Open Singles – Final: Brian Pace d. Sean Lonergan, 7-10,4,4,3; SF: Pace d. Han Xiao, 10-7,9,8,5; QF: Pace d. Khaleel Asgarali, 12,4,4; Xiao d. Napoleon Reyes, 6,4,5; Pham d. John Wetzler, 9,-9,9,-9,9; Lonergan d. Stefano Ratti, 5,4,-7,9.

U2400 – Final: Larry Hodges d. Stefano Ratti, 9,-9,10,7,2; SF: Hodges d. Napoleon Reyes, 8,6,-4,12; Ratti d. Khaleel Asgarali, 8,10,-9,5.

U2150 – Final: Stefano Ratti d. Ed Watts, 5,2,6; SF: Ratti d. Julian Waters, 9,9,9; Watts d. Raghuv Nadmicheti, 2,-9,0,4.

U1900: Eric Dang d. Rolando Quibote, 4,-12,2,2.


U1500: Jeffrey Zhang d. Orlando Russell, 8,8,-7,10.

U1200: Misho Sakian d. Richard James, 11,8,8.

Over 40: Larry Hodges d. Changing Duan, 3,-9,9,-9,7; SF: Hodges d. Lixin Lang, 7,9,9,-8,7; Duan d. Nazruddin Asgarali, 5,10,-7,11,9.

Under 14: 1st Peter Li (6-0); 2nd Amareesh Sahu (5-1); 3rd Andrew Marcus (4,2); 4th Tomer Aronheim (3-3).

Under 11: 1st Charlie Sun; 2nd Vikash Sahu.

U4200 Doubles: Lixin Lang/Stefano Ratti d. Charlene Liu/Changing Duan, -6,7,7,10,13.

U3600 Doubles: Julian Waters/Wei Xiao d. Paul Kovac/Roger Xu, -9,-9,6,3,6.

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**The next 4-star Buckeye Open will be held in March, 2004. We are skipping 2003.**

Steve Slaback, director
sславback@columbus.rr.com
**BIGGEST LITTLE RENO SPARKS TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

Reno, NV · Oct. 5, 2002
By Mimi Ortegon

Table Tennis is safe in the hands of our youth. Anthon Plake (9 years old), Donovan Le Doux (15), top-rated Auria Malek (16), and RSTTC newcomer Bong-Geun Kim (21) did their parts to make the second Biggest Little an exciting event.

Anthon triumphed not only in the **U900** novice division where he won 5,9.3,3, over Jenny Chen, but with partner Ming Zhang, taking the **U3000 Doubles** contest over Joe Badrena and Bob Mahler, 8,6,9.8. Donovan bested Jeff Plake in the **U1650** singles, 7,4,8,9. Playing in his first USATT event, Bong-Geun Kim took veteran Avishy Schmidt to four crowd-pleasing games before experience prevailed and Avie won, 6,9,10,8 in Open Singles. Top-rated Auria Malek tested his many skills against Avishy in the final match of this exciting Open event, with Avie finally winning, 7,8,6,9,8,11,9.

A perfect day, a great facility featuring eight professional tables, really good refreshments (polish dogs with everything and noodle cups proved most popular) added to the crowd’s enjoyment. A variety of past Championship Table Tennis videos and games (checkers, Sorry, Jigsaw puzzles) kept families as well as resting players entertained.

Our thanks to the 59 players and their families and friends for making our Second Biggest Little a big success, and our thanks always to the faithful RSTTC members who worked hard to assure us of a great event.

**Open:** Avishy Schmidt d. Auria Malek, 7,8,6,9,8,11,9.
U2000: Trung Ma d. Kingston Gee, -11,9,12,7,6,9,12.
U1825: Nicholas Garratt d. Alex Varady, 3,4,7,8.
U1475: Alex Perras d. Al Hess, 9,13,6,5,8.
U1300: Bob Mahler d. Don Wimer, 3,5,9,8,8.
**U3000 Doubles:** Anthon Plake/Ming Zhang d. Joe Badrena/Bob Mahler, 8,6,9,8.

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**1ST ANNUAL CENTRAL FLORIDA FALL OPEN**
Lakeland, FL · Oct. 19, 2002
By Ray Spann

The Simpson Park Community Center in Lakeland, Florida was the site of the 1st Annual Central Florida Fall Open Table Tennis Tournament. The Lakeland Table Tennis Association, sponsored by Stiga, held the USATT sanctioned tournament, the first of its kind for the local association. Players were attracted from all over the state of Florida, from the Atlanta, Georgia area and from Maryland. A total of 82 players participated in eight events with both prize money and trophies awarded to the 1st & 2nd place finishers.

In the Open Event, Keith Evans from Atlanta, Georgia, finished first and collected $300 prize money. Finishing second was Brian Pace from Maryland and collecting $150. Entering the tournament, Pace had a USATT rating of 2459, slightly ahead of Evans’ 2409. Both players had several challenging matches during the Swiss system round robin format tournament.

Brad Woodington, the President of the Lakeland Table Tennis Association, expressed sincere thanks to the officials at the Simpson Park Community Center for their excellent work and cooperation with this major USATT sanctioned tournament. In addition, special thanks went out to Blake Chamberlain, Joseph Aracri, Rudy Berzins, Merv Gatchell, Blair Richards, Ray Spann, and Ray Look who all volunteered as tournament officials. Wendell Newton, one of our tournament directors is also to be commended for his dedication. He is now recovering from a heart attack.

The next USATT sanctioned tournament has been tentatively planned for February or March of 2003, with more details to be released at a later date. The Lakeland Table Tennis Association invites all players to attend the practice sessions available at the Simpson Park Community Center. Table Tennis is available on Wednesday and Friday nights from 6:00 PM until 9:30 PM, and on Sunday afternoon from 1:00 PM until 5:30 PM. All players are invited to attend. For additional information, you may visit our website at: www.eteamz.com/LakelandTableTennis or e-mail us at TableTennis@email.midflorida.com, or phone us at 863-965-0760.

**Open:** 1st Keith Evans; 2nd Brian Pace.
U2000: 1st Carlos Estrada; 2nd Phuong Tran.
U1850: 1st Carlos Villanueva, Jr.; 2nd Robert Ashmeade.
U1700: 1st Robert Hoffman; 2nd Sam Phan.
U1600: 1st Mark Plyler; 2nd Carl Simons.
U1450: 1st Mirella Delzo; 2nd Sasiikanth Malladi.
U1350: 1st Mirella Delzo; 2nd Rene Deguia.
U1200: 1st Stanley Szamiel; 2nd Sasiikanth Malladi.
**9.5, 4.9.**

**STIGA WORLD OPEN**

Lodi, NJ - Oct. 13, 2002

Open: 1st Ajayi O'reilly; 2nd Santos Shihi.
U2250: 1st Wally Green; 2nd Ronald Joseph.
U2050: 1st Jimmi Chou; 2nd Wojciech Kisielewski.
U1850: 1st S. Eslamroo; 2nd Kevin Powell.
U1650: 1st Marco Monzon; 2nd J. Hing Fong.
U1450: 1st John Keung; 2nd Julia Lisova.
U1250: 1st John Keung; 2nd Motoshi Nakamatsu.

**DAVISON SEPTEMBER OPEN**

Lodi, NJ - Sept. 27, 2002

Open: 1st Scott Endicott; 2nd Erol Hadzializagic.
U2200: 1st Erol Hadzializagic; 2nd Mark Merritt.
U1950: 1st Danil Rapoport; 2nd Kin Chan.
U1850: 1st Stefan Mitrivo; 2nd Danil Rapoort.
U1750: 1st Lynn Johnson; 2nd Gene Miron.
U1650: 1st David Witt; 2nd Lynn Johnson.
U1550: 1st Lynn Johnson; 2nd Xue Shu.
U1350: 1st Jerry Sagady; 2nd Jan Miron.
U1250: 1st Fred Dunlap; 2nd Jan Miron.

**DAVISON OCTOBER OPEN**

Lodi, NJ - Oct. 26, 2002

Open: 1st Mark Merrill; 2nd Cody Jones.
U2050: 1st Cody Jones; 2nd Mitchell Foster.
U1850: 1st Mark Merrill; 2nd Mitchell Foster.
U1750: 1st Phil Weatherley; 2nd Gene Miron.
U1650: 1st David Witt; 2nd Avery Capwell.
U1550: 1st Lynn Johnson; 2nd Joseph Helfand.
U1350: 1st Mike Ward; 2nd Ron Root.
U1250: 1st Fred Dunlap; 2nd Eric Whisnant.
U1150: 1st Phil Landan; 2nd Ari Reich.

**MDTTC OPEN**

Gaithersburg, MD - Oct. 19-20, 2002

Open – Final: John Wetzler d. Origene Nyangulie, 7-8, 9-7, 7-6, 8, 8. SF: Nyangulie d. Georgiy Bunyakyn, 6, 11, 7, 8. WF: Wetzler d. James Daan, 9, 9, 10, 8.
U1500: Sohit Charania d. Halil Adeshari, 8, 8, 9.
U900: Daniel Weisz d. Reza Ghiasi, 7, 7, 10, 6.

**PIEDMONT OPEN**

Greensboro, NC - Sept. 7, 2002

Open: 1st Amir Amid; 2nd Tony Provenzano; 3rd Corey McElvane; 4th Gerald Singleton.
Class B: 1st Sam Sadanat; 2nd Sam Magitinan; 3rd Chris O’Brien; 4th Mark Gatlin.

**HUTCHINSON FALL OPEN**

Hutchinson, KS - Oct. 26, 2002

Class A: 1st Stan Stoodley; 2nd Matthew Cushing.
Class B: 1st Xiangson Li; 2nd Jim Wendl.
Class C: 1st Rob Sharp; 2nd Bill Lyon.
Class D: 1st Brett Barton; 2nd Roger Liecy.
Class E: 1st Wes Tappmeyer; 2nd Mark Hukil.
Under 12: 1st Kyle Beckstrom; 2nd Tessa Hendrickson.
U3600 Doubles Consolation: Guy Hendrickson/Terry Pentecost.

**UTAH STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Salt Lake City, Utah - Sept. 19-21, 2002

Open: 1st Zoriz Radaassen; 2nd Vieng Chantrath.
Open Doubles: 1st Glen Brown/Stephanie Charmot; 2nd Laiing Ma/Vieng Chantrath.
Class A: 1st Doug Hansen; 2nd Laiing Ma.
Class B: 1st Mark Tyler; 2nd Ryan Wadele.
Over 40: 1st Vieng Chantrath; 2nd Glen Brown.
Over 50: 1st Glen Brown; 2nd George Majors.
Over 60: 1st Laiing Ma; 2nd Grant Misbach.
Under 18: 1st Bruce Majors; 2nd Carl Majors.
Class A Doubles: 1st Wayne Southwick/Leroy Bybee; 2nd Wally McCormick/Jordan Glew.

**SCHAUMBURG OPEN**

Schaumburg, IL - Oct. 19, 2002

Open: 1st Don Angeles & Spenser Lam split prize.
U2250: 1st Scott Endicott; 2nd Milan Djakovic.
U2050: 1st Jorge Vanegas; 2nd Nared Nazar.
U1850: 1st George Siav; 2nd Pin "Mark" Xue.
U1650: 1st Leo Lucas; 2nd Toni Wintrich.
U1500: 1st Lailing Maf Vieng Chantharath.
Over 1900 Finalist Tom Wintrich, and Open Champion Leo Lucas.

**CHARLOTTE FALL OPEN**

Charlotte, NC - Oct. 19, 2002

Class A: 1st Nigel Christopher; 2nd Jim McQueen; 3rd Lokesh Pillai.
Class B: 1st Gerald Singleton; 2nd George Blumh; 3rd Darius Czarnocki.
Class C: 1st Mike Dukes; 2nd Ira Goodman.
Class D: 1st Doug Brock; 2nd Mark Magitiman.
Class A Doubles: 1st Lokesh Pillai/Tim Hoagland.
Class B Doubles: 1st Ira Goodman/Ray Filz.
Class C Doubles: 1st Dean Kapsalakis/Mark Magitman.
Giant Killer Award (Biggest Upset): Tom Provenzano.

**CINCINNATI GIANT RR**

Cincinnati, OH - Oct. 20, 2002

Group A: 1st Randy Cohen; 2nd Arjun Shankaree; 3rd Tom Yost; 4th Nick Snider.
Group C: 1st Jeff Spektor; 2nd Randy Burnett.
Group D: 1st Pezham Shams; 2nd Eli Bortz.
Group E: 1st Galen Mabe; 2nd Merle Garrison.
Group F: 1st Todd Rielage; 2nd Tim McFadden.

**STIGA WORLD NOVEMBER OPEN**

Lodi, NJ - Nov. 16-17, 2002

Open: 1st Shao Yu; 2nd Li Yuxiang; 3rd Adam Hugh.
U2250: 1st Shawn Embleton; 2nd Min Xin Guo.
U2050: 1st Hsin-Cheng Chou; 2nd Bill Vogel.
U1850: 1st Sherif Elsamra; 2nd Bruno Ramirez.
U1650: 1st Motoshi Nakamatsu; 2nd Bruno Ramirez.
U1450: 1st John Keung; 2nd Motoshi Nakamatsu.
U1250: 1st Harvey Vazquez; 2nd Motoshi Nakamatsu.
U1000: 1st Giovanni Quiniones; 2nd Steven Saxon.

**VALLEY OF THE SUNS OPEN**

Phoenix, AZ - Nov. 16-17, 2002

Over 40 Champion and Open & Under 1900 Finalist Tom Wintrich, and Open Champion Leo Lucas.

**Open Singles**: 1st Leo Lucas; 2nd Tom Wintrich; 3rd Robert Hallquist.
**Open Doubles**: 1st Derrick Cone/Louis Houed; 2nd Gia Leu/Mario Lorenz.
Over 40: 1st Tom Wintrich; 2nd Robert Bryant Jr.
**Over 40 Doubles**: 1st Leo Lucas/Kent Haas; 2nd Bernard Savitz/Alex Lai.
Over 40/U1600: 1st Dan Bryan; 2nd Robert Bryant Jr.
**Over 50**: 1st Bernard Savitz; 2nd Roger Baldwin.
**Over 60**: 1st Choung Lee Cheng; 2nd Peter Au.
**Hardbat**: 1st Bernard Savitz; 2nd Wayne Johnson.
U1900: 1st Derrick Cone; 2nd Tom Wintrich.
U1800: 1st Mark Ma; 2nd Morris Leichter.
U1700: 1st Dan Bryan; 2nd Mike Fuschiho.
U1600: 1st Roger Baldwin; 2nd Choung Lee Cheng.
U1500: 1st Jerome Pioux; 2nd George Zillmer.
U1400: 1st Mark Wei; 2nd Robert Bryant III.
U1300: 1st Pat Connolly; 2nd Wayne Aenni.
U1200: 1st Mark Wei; 2nd William Wong.
Unrated: 1st Kiet Pham; 2nd Roger Putman.
U2900 Doubles: 1st Rick Chartand/John Warren; 2nd Mike Fushino/Tim Wright.

**USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE** • January/February 2003 45
2002 Colorado Springs Open
Colorado Springs, CO • Oct. 19-20, 2002 • by Larry Rose

The 18th Annual Colorado Springs Open was held the 19th and 20th of October at the Hillside Community Center in Colorado Springs. The tournament had 73 players, including 19 juniors—the best junior turnout at the Colorado Springs Open in years. The growth in junior participation is directly related to two successful junior programs—one at the Table Tennis Center of Colorado Springs, and the other at the tournament’s host club, the Pikes Peak TTC. The Open Singles final pitted Scott Priss of Manitou Springs against one of those 19 juniors, John Leach of Boulder. The match featured spectacular returns by both players. Point by point and game by game, Leach held on to overturn Priss’ 4-2 lead. Leach was in control for the final game, which ended at 4.

John and his sister Laura teamed up for Open Doubles, but fell to doubles veterans Roger Kuskeris and David Edwards. Multiple winners at the event included Brian Taylor of Colorado Springs (U-18 boys and the U-1800s), Mike Tarter of Peyton (U-3200 Doubles and C Singles), and Tom Winrich of Albuquerque (O-40 Singles and the recipient of the Paul Cracraft Memorial Sportsmanship Award). Several families joined the Leaches in garnering multiple awards—Austin Priss defeated brother Adam in the U-14 Boys’ final and also finished 2nd in Class D. Keli Lianza defeated sister Kristi Lianza in the U-14 Girls’ final (both are daughters of Open Singles semi-finalist Bo Lianza).

Many thanks to the helpful staff of the Hillside Community Center, as well as to the officials: Bob Tretheway and Debbie Moya.

Open – Final: John Leach d. Scott Priss, -9,8,-7,-7,6,9,8; SF: Priss d. Bo Lianza, 8,8,-6,5,10,10; Leach d. Roger Kuskeris, 6,9,-7,-8,4.5,-11,7.

Open Doubles – Final: Roger Kuskeris/David Edwards d. John Leach/Laura Leach, 6,8,-9,8; SF: Kuskeris/Edwards d. Scott Priss/Dana Jeffries, -5,13,-6,6,7; Leach/Leach d. Bo Lianza/Tim St. Germain, 6,7,7,9.

A Singles (U1950): Derek Stanley d. Allen McDermott, 9,7,-11,-8,6,8; McDermott d. Shawn Schmiedlen, 16,8,9,9,7,9; Stanley d. David Taylor, 7,6,-6,6,5,5.

A Singles (U1950): Brian Taylor d. Sanjiv Thakor, 6,-13,12,-8,6; SF: Taylor d. Gary Green, 5,7,6,4; Thakor d. Greg Castillo, 5,8,11,-9,5.

“T” was terrible, at 10-4. I started to be too careful, and as soon as you are not aggressive, Kong comes at you,” said Boll. “Of course, beating the World Champion and the Olympic Champion to win the World Cup is the greatest win in my career until now,” said the new World Cup holder.

Men’s Singles – Final: Timo Boll (GER) d. Kong Linghui (CHN), -8,10,9,9,11; SF: Kong d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 2,-5,7,9,-5,9; Boll d. Zoran Primorac (CRO), 9,5,-12,-1,4,8,-2; Primorac d. Schlager, 4,-0; QF: Kong d. Oh Sang Eun (KOR), 2,9,-10,-7,10,12; Schlager d. Chin Peng-Lung (TPE), -6,9,-7,8,6,6; Boll d. Wang Liqin (CHN), 9,5,4,6; Primorac d. Ma Lin (CHN), 9,6,8,8,9,9.

Preliminaries

Group A: 1st Oh Sang Eun (KOR), 2,1-7-5 (d. Lavale, 7,2,4,9,3; d. Wang, 7,8,7,9,8,9); 2nd Wang Liqin (CHN), 2,1-5-5 (d. Lavale, 3,5,2,6; d. Chuan, 9,5,-11,6,3,3); 3rd Chuan Chin-Yu (TPE), 2,1-5-7 (d. Lavale, 8,11,6,3,4; d. Oh, -7,4,-7,9,7,7,8); 4th Russell Lavale (AUS), 0,3.

Group B: 1st Ma Lin (CHN), 3,0 (d. Hoyama, 6,9,4,9; d. Kong, 9,7,9,5,9,5; d. Kim, 9,2,8,2); 2nd Kong Linghui (CHN), 2,1-7-10,6; d. Kim, 9,7,-7,10,9,11; 3rd Kim Taek Soo (KOR), 1,2 (d. Hoyama, 8,4,5,13); 4th Hugo Hoyama (BRA), 0,3.

Group C: 1st Timo Boll (GER), 3,0 (d. Huang, 7,8,7,7,7,7,7; d. Saive, 8,2,7,10,4; d. Chiang, 9,7,9,1,5,3,5; 2nd Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE), 2,1 (d. Huang, 7,6,10,9,5; d. Saive, 10,9,3,10,13); 3rd Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 1,2 (d. Huang, 9,8,2,6,11,7).

B Singles (U1800): Mike Tarter d. Rick Chartrand, 7,13,8,9; SF: Mike Cody d. Austin Priss, 13,8,9; SF: Wally Collins Jr. d. John Hope, 8,1,6,2.


U3200 Doubles: Sanjiv Thakor/Mike Tarter d. Wally Collins Jr./Bill Munch, 5,2,6,5.

Under 18 Boys Regional Championships: Brian Taylor d. Alex Huceau, 6,4,7.

Under 14 Boys Regional Championships: Austin Priss d. Adam Priss, 6,5,9,7.

Under 18 Girls Regional Championships: Keli Lianza d. Kristi Lianza, 6,6,7.

Over 30 Singles: Jiri Mracek d. Tim St. Germain, -9,2,11,7; SF: St. Germain, d. Tom Wintrich, -9,8,7,5,5; Macek d. Bo Lianza, 6,4,7,7.

Over 40 Singles: Tom Wintrich d. Carlos Barrientos, -8,6,-8,5,9; SF: Wintrich d. Jiri Mracek, -10,8,7,7; Barrientos d. Alan McDermott, 4,8,7.

Over 50 Singles: Carlos Barrientos d. Bob Leatherwood, -12,5,6,5; SF: Leatherwood d. Alan McDermott, 10,12,8; Barrientos d. Paul Ng, 4,6,5.

2002 Paul Cracraft Memorial
Sportsmanship Award: Tom Wintrich.

2002 Asian Games
Busan, Korea • Oct. 1-9, 2002

Men’s Singles: 1st Wang Liqin (CHN); 2nd Chuang Chih Yuan (TPE); 3rd: Oh Sang Eun (KOR), Kong Linghui (CHN).

Women’s Singles: 1st Z Ying (CHN); 2nd Wang Nan (CHN); 3rd: Li Jia Wei (SIN), Ryu Ji Hae (KOR).

Men’s Doubles: 1st Lee Chul Seung/Ryu Seung Min (KOR); 2nd Kim Taek Soo/Oh Sang Eun (KOR); 3rd: Ma Lin/Kong Linghui (CHN), Wang Liqin/Yan Sen (CHN).

Women’s Doubles: 1st Lee Eun Sil/Seok Eun Mi (KOR); 2nd: Zhang Yining/Li Nan (CHN); 3rd: Wang Nan/Guo Yan (CHN), Ryu Ji Hae/Kim Moo Kyo (KOR).

Mixed Doubles: 1st Cheung Yik/Tie Ya Na (HKG); 2nd: Ryu Seung Min/Ryu Ji Hae (KOR); 3rd: Wang Liqin/Wang Nan (CHN), Ma Lin/Li Nan (CHN).

Men’s Teams: 1st China; 2nd Korea; 3rd: China Taipei, Hong Kong.

Women’s Teams: 1st DPR Korea; 2nd China; 3rd: Japan, Singapore.

International

MEN’S WORLD CUP
Jinan, China • Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2002
By Peter Jenson, Care of ITTF

The Men’s World Cup in Jinan, China, became the final breakthrough to the world top for young Timo Boll of Germany. He took home the World Cup and $44,000 after beating Yugoslavia’s Zoran Primorac in the quarterfinals, World Champion Wang Liqin of China in the semifinals, and Olympic Champion Kong Linghui, also of China, in the final. In the preliminaries, he defeated Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium), Peng-Lung Chiang (Chinese Taipei) and Johnny Huang (Canada).

Boll started out a little “shaky” in the final and Kong easily won the first game, 11-8, supported by the enthusiastic home crowd. In a crucial second game, however, Boll came out on top, 12-10, after a few crises, and with the game won and the confidence gained, Boll was in control. He took the next two games 11-9 each.

Boll was in control for the final game, which ended at 4.

Kong came all the way to 10-10 and the crowd was lifting the roof with their shouting.

Boll, however, got his act together, led 11-10, lost another match point but at last won, 13-11.

Johnny Huang (CAN), 0-3.

Group D: 1st Werner Schlager (AUT), 2,1-6-5 (d. Toriola, 9,3,4,9; d. Kreanga, -8,7,5,6,7); 2nd Zoran Primorac (CRO), 2,1-7-6 (d. Toriola, -7,8,4,9,5,5; d. Schlager, 8,8,-5,7,10,8); 3rd Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE), 2,1-5-7 (d. Toriola, 9,7,-2,8,11,6; d. Primorac, -6,-17,9,3,9,5,3); 4th Segun Toriola (NGR), 0-3.
**GERMAN ITTF PRO TOUR**

Magdeburg, Germany • Oct. 17-20, 2002

Men's Singles — Final: Ma Lin (CHN) d. Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), 7-10,8,10,12; SF: Ma Lin d. Alexei Smirnov (RUS), 12,4,11,3; Samsonov d. Kalinikos Kreanga (GRE), 9,8,9-4,11,8; QF: Ma Lin d. Ma Wenge (CHN), 11,7,8,4; Smirnov d. Toshio Tasaki (JPN), 5,8,8,5; Samsonov d. Jean-Michel Saive (BEL), 10,5-5,10,6,8,5; Kreanga d. Timo Boll (GER), 3,6,11,9,7; 8ths: Ma Lin d. Patrick Chila (FRA), -11,7,5,7-6,7; Ma Wenge d. Kong Linghui (CHN), 6,10-8,8-7; Tasaki d. Liu Guozhong (CHN), -7-7,9,7,10,7; Smirnov d. Fredrik Hakansson (SWE), -9,9,8,9,7; Samsonov d. Michael Maze (DEN), -10,8-11,6,3,5; Saive d. Damien Elios (FRA), 9,9-6,8,8-7,17; Kreanga d. Jon Persson (SWE), 10,9-6,7-5,10; Boll d. Lucjan Bleszczky (POL), -4,2,9,8,8.

**Women's Doubles** — Final: Ma Lin/Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Chen Weixing/Koji Matsushita (AUT/JPN), 2,12,8,7; SF: Ma/Kong d. Ma Wenge/Yan Sen (CHN), 8,5,4-6,6; Chen/Matsushita d. Danny Heister/Trinko Keen (NED), 6-9,4-5,5; QF: Chen/Matsushita d. Werner Schlager/Karl Jandruck (AUT), 13,12,11,8; Keener/Keen d. Fredrik Hakansson/Per Karlsson (SWE), 4,8,7,7; Ma/You d. Aleksandar Karakasevic/Rade Markovic (YUG), 7,8,5,5; Ma/Kong d. Sebastien Jover/Michel Martinez (FRA), 9,5,2.

**Women's Singles** — Final: Tamara Boros (CRO) d. Fan Ying (CHN), 8,6,7,8; SF: Boros d. Guo Yue (CHN), 8,5,8,8; Fan d. Niu Jianfeng (CHN), 4-9,7-6,11,9,7; QF: Boros d. Jing Jun Hong (CHN), 6,10,7,4; Guo d. Chang Jiao Guo (USA), 10,8-2-4,6,9-7; Fan d. Elke Wosik (GER), -9-5,3-7,7-6,9; Niu d. Jie Schopp (GER), 2,10,5,4; 8ths: Boros d. Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 8,4-9; Boll d. Csilla Batorfi (HUN), 6-8,2-6,6; Chang d. Li Jia (CHN), -6-8,10-5,10,8; Guo d. Eva Odorova (SVK), 9,8-15,9-9; Fan d. Petra Lovas (HUN), 2,13,7,8; Wosik d. Ai Fujinuma (JPN), -6-8,12-10,5,6; Schopp d. Keiko Okazaki (JP), 8,5,3,9; Niu d. Irina Palina (RUS), 6,5,5,9.

**Women's Doubles** — Final: Li Jia/Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia (CHN), 4,5-6,6-7,7; SF: Li/Niu d. Fan Ying/Wang Tingting (CHN), 7-6,12,4,9; Guo/Li d. Judith Hercyz/Liu Jia (AUT), 8,6,7,6,4; QF: Guo/Li d. Jing Jun/Jia Wei (SIN), 12,4,10,9,9; Herzcyz/Liu d. Satoko Kishida/Aya Umemura (JPN), 10,6-19,6-7,8; Li/Niu d. Marika Fazekas/Zita Molnar (HUN), 6,8,4-7; Fan d. Svetlana Ganina/Irina Palina (RUS), 9,8,3-13,3,2.

**DUTCH ITTF PRO TOUR**


Men's Singles — Final: Wang Hao (CHN) d. Chuan Chih-Yuan (TPE), 3-8,3,5-5,5; SF: Chuan d. Ma Lin (CHN), 8,12-7,3,8; Wang Hao d. Hou Yingchao (CHN), 8,5,10,12,11; QF: Ma Lin d. Zoran Primorac (CRO), 8,9,6,5; Chuan d. Kong Linghui (CHN), 4-8,6,10,10,9; Wang Hao d. Vladimir Samsonov (BLR), 14,4-2,2,11-6,6,8; Hou d. Werner Schlager (AUT), 9,8-6,9,5; 8ths: Ma Lin d. Trinko Keen (NED), 6,10-1,5-5,4,1; Primorac d. Michael Maze (DEN), 9-7,9-6,10-7,8; Chuan d. Patrick Chila (FRA), 8,6,9,13,12,6; Kong d. Lucjan Bleszczky (POL), -9-8,6,9,11-6,9; Samsonov d. Magnus Mansson (SWE), -9-8,9-9,4,19; Wang Hao d. Danny Heister (NED), 8,7,3,3; Hou d. Liu Guozhong (CHN), 4,8,6,6,8; Schopp d. Koji Matsushita (JPN), 13,7,7,7.

Men's Doubles — Final: Ma/Lin Kong Linghui (CHN) d. Ma Wenge/Yan Sen (CHN), -9,5,9,8,7,8; SF: Ma/Kong d. Liu Guozhong/Wang Hao (CHN), 3,9-10,9,9; Ma/You d. Dmitrij Mazunov/Alexei Smirnov (RUS), 6,7,8-8,5; Mazunov/Smirnov d. Lucjan Bleszczky/Tomasz Krzeszewski (POL), 9,8,7-10,4; Ma/You d. Zoltan Fejher-Konner/Bastian Steger (GER), 9,5,9,6,6; Liu/Wang d. Danny Heister/Trinko Keen (NED), 8,5-11,15-7,7,8; Ma/Kong d. Chuan Chih-Yuan/Zoran Primorac (TPE/CRO), 3,4,1,5,12.

Women's Singles — Final: Niu Jianfeng (CHN) d. Li Jia (CHN), 9,6-3,12-6,7; SF: Niu d. Fan Ying (CHN), 9,11-8,9,6,6,9; Li Jia d. Aya Umemura (JPN), 10,9,3,8; QF: Li Jia d. Tamara Boros (CRO), 7,7-8,5,8; Umemura d. Li Jia Wei (SIN), 1,8,9,6; Fan d. Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Niu Jia Wei (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Jia Wei (SIN), 19,8,9,6; Fan d. Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Niu Jia Wei (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Jia Wei (SIN), 19,8,9,6; Fan d. Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Niu Jia Wei (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Jia Wei (SIN), 19,8,9,6; Fan d. Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Niu Jia Wei (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Jia Wei (SIN), 19,8,9,6; Fan d. Wang Tingting (CHN), 8,5-8,7,11,7; Niu Jia Wei (CHN).
We emptied our coffers to pay expenses for Mark Hazinski. Ashu Jain and Ilija Lupulesku to fly to Traverse City and stay at an upscale resort on the Bay. The three did a free exhibition for the locals which was covered on local NBC TV, then Ilija reported not feeling well and defaulted his matches and went back to Chicago (I was truly disappointed but gave him a bag full of gags anyway).

In the final, Ashu and Mark treated us to a great five-game match in which Ashu emerged victorious, 9-7, 10-8, 10-9, 8-10, 10-6.

First prize was an arrow through the head, which Ashu let Mark try on. Both players shared the wealth of our appreciation which included, of course, rubber chickens, rattlesnake eggs, spilled coffee mugs, phony squirt ketchup and mustard bottles, fly in ice cube jokes, fake cigarette burns, car exhaust whistle gags and the shared grand prizes, Hot Air Balloon Rides.

The two were taken aloft on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon, attaining an altitude of 3,500', where Ashu experimented with the acceleration of gravity, using 40mm TT balls. Ashu timed the decent and reported it took a full minute to hit the ground (my calculation yields average mph of about 40) the fourth ball hit someone’s roof whereupon the balloon captain halted further testing!

Mark Hazinski & Ashu Jain with some prizes.

The golf portion had Ashu on the links for his first experience. I’ve instructed many beginners on the practice range, and with Ashu’s “other physical skills,” one would have thought that he’d at least make contact with the ball in his first five swings, but no ... Mark, who possesses a silky-smooth and effective golf swing, refrained from making fun of his fellow Team Killerspin member and just watched bemusedly as the sweat flowed from Ashu’s bewildered body.

Ashu, however, had the last laugh, as I’d given him an exploding golf ball with which he made perfect contact on the 1st tee. When the dust was settling we were entertained by Mark’s raucous laughter of shock and delight.

The two also enjoyed jet skiing on Grand Traverse Bay and took home several boxes of Traverse City’s mainstay, fudge.

For information on your region, contact the person below. If you aren’t sure of your region, contact the one that seems closest, or National Coordinator Hank McCoullum.

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University Park, PA 16802
814-863-0285
hwm1@psu.edu

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dwttimmann@wcupa.edu
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Includes: CA, GU, HI and NV

The organizers expressed their appreciation for the help and support of the local community.

2003 ACU1 Regional Collegiate Championships

Region 1
Fitchburg State College
February 22, 2003
Contact: Dennis Proulx, Region 1 Recreation Chair
dproulx@landmark.edu
802-387-6820
Includes: CT, ME, MA, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, NH, Nova Scotia, RI, VT, Prince Edward Island

Region 2 - TBA
Contact: region2@aciuiweb.org
Includes: Eastern Ontario, NY and Quebec

Region 3
New Jersey Institute of Technology
February 15, 2003
Contact: Glennroy Shelton, Recreation Coordinator
973-877-1926
shelton@essex.edu
Includes: DE, NJ, New York City and Philadelphia

Region 4
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
February 7-8, 2003
Contact: Matt Ducatt, Recreation Coordinator
301-867-4151
mduccatt@frostburg.edu
Includes: MD, PA, DC, WV

Region 5
Clemson University
February 21-23, 2003
Contact: Rich Thompson, Recreation Coordinator
757-221-3432
rmth02@wm.edu
Includes: KY, NC, SC, TN, VA

Region 6
University of Georgia
February 7-8, 2003
Contact: Greg Albanese
706-542-8541
clemalban@uga.edu
Includes: AL, FL, GA, MS, and TN

Region 7
University of Toledo
February 15-16, 2003
Contact: Dave W. Timmann
610-436-2984
dwttimmann@wcupa.edu
Includes: OH, MI (lower Peninsula) and South Western Ontario

Region 8
University of Wisconsin-Madison
February 21-22, 2003
Contact: Dan Abler
414-288-7202
Daniel.Abler@Marquette.edu
Includes: Chicago Metro Area, MI (Upper Peninsula) and WI

Region 9
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
February 14-16, 2003
Contact: Brian Peach
765-494-8990
bppeach@purdue.edu
Includes: IL (excluding Chicago Metro Area), IN
In Memoriam:
W.C. Cleveland
(July 31, 1937 – Sept. 5, 2002)
By Ralph Presley

When I first heard that “Mr. Cleve” had passed away, I thought USATT had lost a gallant volunteer. Second Peter: Chapter 1: verse 5 and 6 reads:

“And Beside this, giving all Diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge.”

“And to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.”

In these original words is the way that I describe Mr. Cleve. He was a patient man when it came to youths. He was a diligent man when it came to kids. He was a Godly man. He loved his family. He loved his wife, he loved his children. He loved his son. He loved to bowl. He loved table tennis. He always had patience when it came to helping others. He would always have a kind word to say when the youths were doing well. But he would never criticize the youths when they would not do well.

The youths will miss that smile of his. It is hard to believe he is gone. I can’t believe that he is gone. The youths are waiting for him to give them a call so that they can come to Coan Park to play table tennis. That call will never come.

Mr. Cleve was not a great man. He did not want to save the world. He did not want to save the whales. He did not want to change mankind. All he wanted to do was to help the youths. Mr. Cleve was just a good man.

We would travel together over the eastern United States taking youths to table tennis tournaments. He would always have encouraging words for the kids.

All of the youths respected him. They would call him Mr. Cleve; just like saying Dad. His table tennis members would always nominate him to be the leader or the president to help organize. We have lost a very important member of our society. All his peers respected him.

When Mr. Cleve went to the state prison for a table tennis demonstration, one of his former players was there. He was ashamed to know that a young person who he had trained was in jail. That is the type of person that Mr. Cleve was. Mr. Cleve was always concerned about the next man.

I last remembered him at the 8th District Sports Festival. That Festival really brought a smile to his face and he was happy to be with his family and the kids. I know it was special because one of his youngest recruits won his first medal.

Mr. Cleve is not gone. He has just gotten a promotion. I know that his promotion is with our Lord. I would like to take this promotion to finish what he wanted to start. A week before he died, he told me that he was not going to run a tournament that he had run for the past 15 years to raise money for local youths. I thought that he was just tired. I did not know that he was going home. We have a personal angel to watch over us at all times now. He cannot be gone if we always keep him in our hearts. But in the meantime, Mr. Cleve has left a big hole in my heart. Mr. Cleve has left a big hole in a lot of People’s hearts.

Mr. Cleve cannot be gone. But he has gone away. I won’t say good-bye. I will just say so long. Mr. Cleve.

Mr. William Charles Cleveland began his life July 31, 1937, in Ben Hill, Ga. to the late Sadie B. Wilson Cleveland of Atlanta and Myron Cleveland of Detroit, MI.

The Lord called him on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2002, after he rolled his first bowling ball, which was a strike to heaven. In celebration of life Mr. Cleveland will be forever cherished by his loving and devoted wife of 37 good years. Mr. Cleveland leaves behind his wife, one daughter and one son. They were married in 1964. Mr. Cleve had a smile on his face, because he knew he had a good wife, Jeanette.

Mr. Cleve graduated from South Futon High School in 1955. He furthered his education at Clark College in Atlanta. After college, he served in the United States Army where he received an honorable discharge. In 1963 Mr. Cleve went to work at Ford motor company where he began to play table tennis. Mr. Cleve received numerous awards and recognition. Mr. Cleve started as a player; however, that was not enough, and he had to get more people involved, so he organized tournaments for adults and children throughout the states. He was definitely an inspiration to everyone at the recreation centers.

All who knew him loved Mr. Cleve and he will be missed, but he will remain in our hearts forever.

United States Anti-Doping Agency

The independent testing agency for Olympic sport in the United States

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

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

For additional information, please visit the USADA web site at www.usantidoping.org
TOP MEN
1. IL 2738 Lupulesku, Ilija
2. NJ 2724 Zhuang, David
3. MD 2713 Cheng, Yinghua
4. TX 2707 Owens, Eric
5. CA 2577 Turbok, Attila
6. TX 2626 Butler, Jim
7. NY 2593 Musa, Atanda
8. CA 2677 Turbok, Attila
9. NY 2583 Oyebode, Michael
10. IN 2574 Hansen, Mark
11. CA 2713 Cheng, Yinghua
12. IL 2738 Lupulesku, Ilija
13. NY 2551 Wang, Fei
14. NY 2540 Shao, Yu
15. IL 2515 Jain, Anitha
16. NY 2509 Seemiller, Daniel
17. CA 2499 O’Neill, Sean
18. CA 2491 Roberts, Courtney
19. NY 2488 Ekun, Abbas
20. MD 2481 Xiao, Han
21. CA 2470 Aronov, Nison
22. WA 2466 Pace, Brian
23. PR 2469 Mirafiori, Peter
24. NY 2454 Leibovitz, Tahl
25. NY 2445 Perez, Alexis
26. NY 2432 Evans, Keith
27. PR 2410 Coate, Santiago
28. NY 2409 Tran, De
29. TX 2405 Oshodi, Taiju
30. TX 2403 Wang, David
31. CA 2402 Peng, Xing
32. TX 2397 Tey, Tai Long
33. CA 2397 Wu, Wei Yang
34. NY 2388 Lewis, Iddi

TOP WOMEN
1. NY 2507 Wang, Chen
2. CA 2459 Banh, Tawny
3. TX 2409 Reed, Jasna
4. NJ 2362 Yip, Lily
5. OR 2329 Yang, Simone
6. NY 2293 Sung, Virginie
7. CA 2254 Mosley, Kibibi
8. CA 2245 Lee, Jacqueline
9. OR 2237 Ping, Whitney
10. MD 2172 Wu, Katherine
11. PR 2145 Garcia, Enerys
12. MA 2135 Chui, Jane Hone
13. NJ 2133 Hugh, Judy
14. MA 2101 Kabaeva, Anna
15. NY 2094 Yi, Sophia Dan Dan
16. KS 2005 Xiao, Laura
17. NC 1997 Mun, Hye-Sook
18. VA 1994 Kwok, Elaine
19. FL 1988 Wronska, Beata
20. WA 1981 Lei, Lani
21. MD 1981 Liu, Charlene
22. CA 1960 Birukova, Victoya
23. CO 1948 Leach, Laura
24. VA 1924 Wang, Chao
25. NY 1919 Panich, Svetlana
26. MD 1918 Wei, Barbara
27. TX 1913 Roufeh, Mahin
28. NM 1906 Gresham, Toni M.
29. CA 1901 Seibel, Allison
30. NY 1878 Cheung, Wan Yee
31. NY 1874 Chiu, Felicia
32. CA 1867 Feng, Atta
33. PR 1864 Rosario, Sarita
34. CA 1856 Livshin, Bella
35. NJ 1844 Alvarez, Ann
36. CA 1835 Goh, Sue May
37. PR 1834 Melendez, Darilyn
38. GA 1822 Kuye, Moji
39. FL 1814 Zheng, Sarah
40. CT 1805 Chimoto, Fumi

Tournaments Processed
This list was compiled on 12/9/02 and includes all tournaments played through 10/13/02. Ages are as of 1/1/03. Due to space limitations, only current members who have played since 8/1/02 are included. This document may not be reproduced without prior written permission of USA Table Tennis. Copyright 2003.

Ratings Questions?
All ratings-related questions should be directed to Felisa Huggins, 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 719-866-4583 or by e-mail at ratings@usatt.org.

Tournaments Included in Ratings
Keystone State Games
Colorado State Games
Piedmont TT Open
South Bend Open
AAU Jr Olympics/Jr Nationals
2002 Indianapolis Summer Open
Boston August Open
Maryland Circuit
Tallgrass Prairie Open
11th Annual Decatur Open
Fox Valley Open
Macy Block Open
San Francisco Summer Open
2 Much Fun!!
Glenview Class – Age Grp
Maryland Giant RR
California Open
David August Giant RR
Florida State Closed
Spinnaker 2002
Back to School Open
Piedmont TT Open
Boston September Open
Maryland Circuit
Stiga Cary Fall Open
Stiga World Sept Open
Utah State TTC
BCC September Open
Glenview Fall Open
Matthew Murad Mem Open
Sacramento Sept. Open
Maryland Giant RR
Pacific Coast Open
September Open
Willoughby Hill Giant RR Open
2002 New York State Closed
Arkansas Open
Biggest Little Reno-Sparks TTT
NJTTTC October Open
Piedmont TT Open
Three Rivers Fall RR
Huntsman World Senior Games
17th Annual Bernard Hock Open
Fox Valley Open
Maryland Circuit
NW Fall Giant RR
Stiga World TTC October Open
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**Tournament Results**

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**Tournament Locations**

- **US Open**: Flushing Meadows, New York
- **Australian Open**: Melbourne Park, Melbourne
- **French Open**: Roland-Garros, Paris
- **Wimbledon**: All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon
- **US Indoor Championships**: U.S. Tennis Center, New York
- **Australian Indoor**: Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Melbourne
- **French Indoor**: Roland-Garros, Paris
- **Wimbledon Indoor**: All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon

**Tournament Dates**

- **US Open**: August 29 - September 11
- **Australian Open**: January 13 - 23
- **French Open**: May 29 - June 10
- **Wimbledon**: June 26 - July 8
- **US Indoor Championships**: November 6 - 18
- **Australian Indoor**: December 21 - 30
- **French Indoor**: January 5 - 15
- **Wimbledon Indoor**: August 11 - 23

**Tournament Entry List**

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<td>Jordan Thompson</td>
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<td>37</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Tournament Venues**

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- **Australian Indoor**: Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, Melbourne
- **French Indoor**: Roland-Garros, Paris
- **Wimbledon Indoor**: All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon

**Tournament Format**

- **US Open**: 128 players (64 in each draw)
- **Australian Open**: 128 players (64 in each draw)
- **French Open**: 128 players (64 in each draw)
- **Wimbledon**: 128 players (64 in each draw)
- **US Indoor Championships**: 32 players
- **Australian Indoor**: 32 players
- **French Indoor**: 32 players
- **Wimbledon Indoor**: 32 players

**Tournament Schedule**

- **US Open**: August 29 - September 11
- **Australian Open**: January 13 - 23
- **French Open**: May 29 - June 10
- **Wimbledon**: June 26 - July 8
- **US Indoor Championships**: November 6 - 18
- **Australian Indoor**: December 21 - 30
- **French Indoor**: January 5 - 15
- **Wimbledon Indoor**: August 11 - 23

**Tournament Prize Money**

- **US Open**: $4,500,000
- **Australian Open**: $3,000,000
- **French Open**: $1,800,000
- **Wimbledon**: $1,500,000
- **US Indoor Championships**: $200,000
- **Australian Indoor**: $100,000
- **French Indoor**: $50,000
- **Wimbledon Indoor**: $25,000

**Tournament Location Map**

- **US Open**: Flushing Meadows, New York
- **Australian Open**: Melbourne Park, Melbourne
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- **Wimbledon Indoor**: All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon
December 27-29 - 2002 Killerspin Open, Chicago, IL. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★

January 4 - W.C. Cleve Memorial Open, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Ralph Presley, 404-346-5891. rampresley@aol.com. ★★★

January 5-March 3 - W.C. Cleve Memorial JR TT League, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Ralph Presley, 404-346-5891. rampresley@aol.com. 0 Star

January 11 - Pensacola Winter Open 2003, Pensacola, FL. Contact: L.A. Johnston, 850-454-1784. memraiservices@junio.com. 0 Star

January 11-12 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star


January 24-25 - Power Pong January Open, Fountain Valley, CA. Contact: Attila Malek, 714-549-0925. ★★★

January 25 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

January 25-26 - Boston TTC January Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus, 617-492-4317. davidmarcus@alum.mit.edu. ★★★


January 25-26 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★★

February 1-2 - 2003 MDTTTC February Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixia42@hotmail.com. ★★★


February 28-March 2 - Rochester Giant RR, Rochester, NY. Contact: Jeff Koch, 585-964-7243. mrjkoch@aol.com. ★★★

March 1-2 - Boston TTC March Open, Medford, MA. Contact: David Marcus, 617-492-4317. davidmarcus@alum.mit.edu. ★★★

March 1-2 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★★

March 8 - Atlanta Open Giant RR, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Wendell Dillon, 770-923-5110. pong35@mindspring.com. ★★★

March 8-9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

March 15 - Stiga Cary Cup Open, Cary, NC. Contact: Mike Babuin, 919-462-3931. mbabuin@ci.cary.nc.us. ★★★

March 22 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star


March 29-30 - Quaker City Open, Philadelphia, PA. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

April 5-6 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

April 12-13 - 2003 MDTTTC April Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixia42@hotmail.com. ★★★

April 19-20 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★★

April 26 - Maryland Closed, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

May 4-5 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

May 8-9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

May 17 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

May 24-25 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★★

May 31-June 1-2003 MDTTTC June Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixia42@hotmail.com. ★★★

June 7-8 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

June 14-15 - Stiga Open on the 2003 Stiga North American Tour, Newark, DE. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

June 21 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

June 21-22 - Stiga World TTC Open, Lodi, NJ. Contact: Manuel Tan, 201-982-7572. mdtan@optonline.net. ★★★

July 2-6 - U.S. Open, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Contact: USATT, 719-866-4583, admin@usatt.org. ★★★★★

July 12 - 13 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

July 13 - Allentown 'Sportsfest' 2 Person TM, Allentown, PA. Contact: Fred Kisler, 610-797-6637. lvattc@yahoo.com. ★★★

July 26 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star


August 23 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

Activities on the 2003 Stiga North American Tour, Hagerstown, MD. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★★★★★

October 4-5 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

October 11-12 - 2003 MDTTTC October Open, Gaithersburg, MD. Contact: Wei Xiao, 202-927-1958. weixia42@hotmail.com. ★★★

October 18 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 8-9 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

December 6-7 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star
Huntsman World Senior Games
St. George, Utah • Oct. 7-11, 2002 • By Grant Misbach

Competition was again held this year in the Dixie Convention Center. Virtually everyone agreed that this has been our best venue. Because of plenty of space we were able to add two more tables this year, making a total of twelve. We hope to get four more tables for next year. This should make it possible to have round robins to start out the rated events.

The Opening Ceremonies on Tuesday evening were again excellent. I was not able to attend these ceremonies because of an unexpected visit to the hospital for two days with a bleeding ulcer. The doctor took excellent care of me and I was able to help with the tournament the rest of the week. Thanks to everyone for your concern and interest.

The rest of our crew did a terrific job of taking over while I was gone. They were Shonie Aki, Tom and Marilyn Miller, Stan and Olga Kahan, Wilfredo Escobar, Dee Osborn and Ann Mumford. They are a great team.

Women’s Singles
50-54: 1st Susan Salzgeber (NC); 2nd Corinne Botterbusch (IL); 3rd Jan Stuckey (IL).
55-59: 1st Lai Fun Lukey-Ott (CAN); 2nd Phyllis Tetzlaff (FL); 3rd Angie Fischinger (CA).
60-64: 1st Ingrid Schaar (GER); 2nd Joanne Gipple (CO); 3rd Kathy Zambor (CAN).
65-69: 1st Margarete Heger (GER); 2nd Jenny Longee (CA); 3rd Ruth Gove (TN).
70-74: 1st Harriet Brin (CA); 2nd Jo Splistiser (AZ); 3rd Patricia Thomas (TX).
75-79: 1st Betty McCloskey (CA); 2nd Tybie Sommer (AZ); 3rd Kay Bowen (UT).
80-84: 1st Mary Coonan (CAN); 2nd Valley Ellingsen (MT).

Women’s Doubles
50-59: 1st Susan Salzgeber/Lai Fun Lukey-Ott (NCCAN); 2nd Corinne Botterbusch/Jan Stuckey (IL); 3rd Ilse Krellwitz/Julie Chase (TX).
60-69: 1st Ingrid Schaar/Margaret Heger (GER); 2nd Jan Cline/Margo Lindsey (FL); 3rd Violet Bloom/Jenny Longee (CA).
Over 70: 1st Harriet Brin/Olga Kahan (CA); 2nd Kay Bowen/Mary Coonan (UT/CAN); 3rd Mini Ortegon/Patricia Thomas (NV/CA).

Men’s Singles
50-54: 1st Lon Dean (CA); 2nd Bernard Savitz (AZ); 3rd Freiherr Von Dietrich (GER).
55-59: 1st Ralph Stadelman (CA); 2nd Danny Nasi (CA); 3rd Karl-Joseph Assenmacher (GER).
60-64: 1st Mark Adelman (CA); 2nd Conrad “Bud” Henthom (OH); 3rd Allen McDermott (CO).
65-69: 1st Ragnar Falkstrom (FL); 2nd Barry Meisel (ESP); 3rd Ray Pestridge (OK).
70-74: 1st Lynwood Smith (FL); 2nd Ernest Junker (GER); 3rd Bill Neely (TN).
75-79: 1st Herb Rossman (CA); 2nd William Brin (CA).
80-84: 1st Edgar Stein (NM); 2nd Richard Badger (CA); 3rd Si Wasserman (CA).
85-89: 1st Ivan Slade (CA); 2nd Arthur Chase (CA); 3rd Henry Splistiser (AZ).

Men’s Doubles
50-54: 1st Lon Dean/Susanne Jorgensen (CA); 2nd Bernard Savitz/Lon Dean (AZ/CAN).
55-59: 1st Allen McDermott/Carlos Barrientos (CO); 2nd Wilfredo Escobar/Ralph Stadelman (CA/CAN); 3rd Danby Nasi/Rod Cowles (CA/NE).
60-64: 1st Mark Adelman/Ragnar Falkstrom (CA); 2nd Zichen Dai/Sherman Hsieh (NY); 3rd Sil Stansel/Conrad “Bud” Henthom (OH).
65-69: 1st Shonie Aki/Tom Miller (CA); 2nd Ray Pestridge/Barry Meisel (OK/ESP); 3rd Carlos Ortegon/Howard Lambert (NV).
Over 70: 1st Len Lukey-Ott/Lynwood Smith (CAN/FL); 2nd Ernest Junker/Guenter Puzicha (GER); 3rd Oltu Kahan/Norman Silver (CAN/CA).

Mixed Doubles
50-59: 1st Freiherr Von Dietrich/Ingrid Schaar (GER); 2nd Karl-Josef Assenmacher/Margarette Heger (GER); 3rd Mark Adelman/Susan Salzgeber (CA/CAN).
60-69: 1st Ragnar Falkstrom/Betty McCloskey (CA); 2nd Bill Neely/Ruth Gove (TN); 3rd Robert Poteet/Jenny Longee (CA).
Over 70: 1st Patricia Thomas/Guenter Puzicha (TX/GER); 2nd Henry Splistiser/Jo Splistiser (AZ); 3rd Olga Kahan/Norman Silver (CA/CAN).

Rated Singles
Over 1800: 1st Karl-Josef Assenmacher (GER); 2nd Ernst Junker (GER); 3rd Lon Dean (CA).
1600-1999: 1st Shonie Aki (CA); 2nd Dick Peregrine (WI); 3rd Conrad “Bud” Henthom (OH).
1400-1599: 1st Howard Lambert (NV); 2nd Edgar Stein (NM); 3rd Robert Poteet (TN).
1200-1399: 1st Alfred Palumbo (FL); 2nd Herb Rossman (CA); 3rd Vin Paul Hau (TN).
1000-1199: 1st Lavone Home (FL); 2nd Jenny Longee (CA); 3rd Jane Magnas (AZ).
800-999: 1st Lai Fun Lukey-Ott (CAN); 2nd Margo Lindsey (FL); 3rd Lavone Home (FL).
Under 800: 1st Margo Lindsey (FL); 2nd Jan Stansel (OH); 3rd David Sterle (CA).

We had approximately 135 enter this year’s competition. California had the most players with 29, followed by Utah with 13 and Florida with 10. Twenty-six states were represented in all. Foreign players came from Canada, Germany, Mongolia and Spain. We are pleased to be getting more coming in the older age brackets and more with higher ratings. Competition is getting tougher. But we still have a good mixture of beginners and the more experienced. We appreciate the sponsorship help given by Staheli Catering (where our awards banquet was held) and by Stiga for table tennis, and to Huntsman, which is the main sponsor for all the Games.

This tournament is held every year in the second week in October (on Columbus Day).

For more info, call 800-562-1268 or 435-674-0550, fax to 435-674-0589, email to hwsg@infowest.com, or visit their web page at www.seniorgames.net. This web site gives lots of information about all the games, local places to visit, tournament results, etc. We are hoping this year to give not only who won medals, but also to post their pictures. So check us out.
I must say that I was honored to be asked to perform a table tennis exhibition for the Opening Ceremonies of the Huntsman World Senior Games for 4,000 athletes and dignitaries from some 20 countries. There were actually two Opening Ceremonies for the Huntsman World Games to accommodate all of the attendees. Football Star Joe Namath spoke for the first Opening Ceremony. It was unfortunate that I missed Broadway Joe as he left when I arrived in St. George.

I thought that it would be appropriate to have the U.S. National Table Tennis Champion as my partner so I called Eric Owens to see if he would be available. Eric and I performed our first table tennis exhibition more than 22 years ago in the lobby of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Houston. He was five then. Here we are many years later doing the same thing, and enjoying it even more.

The stage was set. Literally set, as Eric and I arrived at the Tuacuca Amphitheater located about three miles into the mountains of St. George, Utah. When Eric and I arrived for rehearsal, the glowing mountain backdrop at our 5PM call was breathtaking. We had a chance to warm up for about a half hour as we played to the music of our choice, Wipe Out by the Surfaris and the 1984 Olympic Theme Song by John Williams. Eric and I had played to this music so many times before.

On the big night, Eric and I were to sit in the front row as the High School Drama Clubs, Elementary School Dances and Professional Singers opened the show. The star singer for the show was Maureen McGovern, who had the #1 hit single, “There’s Got To Be A Morning After.”

Our role in the show was to perform for 15 minutes and for me to assist with running with the torch. My job was to run into the hills and receive the burning torch from an Indian whose family has lived in the hills for hundreds of years.

With a full 20-piece band behind us, Eric and I took the stage and the wind started to pick up and we used a mind boggling 15-20 balls just to keep the dream alive. And then it happened, the point that we were waiting for. I smashed and smashed and Eric lobbed and lobbed, and then I smashed and smashed and Eric lobbed and lobbed, the ball was still in play. I moved to my right and jumped off the stage as I curved a forty-footer back to and onto the table. As I dashed back onto the stage to return Eric’s smash, the ball disintegrated, ending the point. After 2000 shows, the ball has never cracked at the end of such a long point!

I realized when I had about five minutes left in my show that I had 24 Stiga paddles to give away in four minutes. So I jumped off the stage and started handing out paddles. Stiga also donated more than $3,000 worth of equipment to the Huntsman table tennis venue. Giving away free things always gets the crowd’s attention.

After bouncing back on the stage I took a moment to talk about how wonderful it was to be in the majestic mountains of St. George and to be with thousands of people who love sports. After Eric and I left the stage we were directed to the front row and waited for my call to come behind the stage and get ready to run into the mountains to receive the Torch from the local Indian Tribe leader.

As Eric sat back and laughed in disbelief (something he told me later), he watched as I ran into the dark mountains to receive the burning torch. I ran the torch about 75 yards onto the stage and met Maureen McGovern who I escorted onto the stage to light the flame to open the Senior World Games.

For years, all of us try and convey to the world what an incredible, fun, and interesting sport table tennis is. This was a day for Eric and I to do just that.
Connecting Strokes II: The Backhand to Forehand Transition of Chuan Chih-Yuan

By Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach

Photos by Diego Schaaf © 2003
This is the second part of our discussion about changing from forehand to backhand and vice versa. In the last issue, we looked at the forehand to backhand change. Here we'll look at the reverse.

A few years ago, a backhand punch was used to set up a forehand. The idea was to put sudden pressure on the opponent's backhand, which would force him to play a relatively safe shot. This gave the attacker time to turn and take a forehand. While this function is still an important part of the game, it has now evolved to where that sudden attack does not require the relatively static, solid positioning required for a punch, but can come in the form of an off-the-bounce loop, naturally and unpredictably flowing out of an exchange. To produce that shot as fluently as necessary, it has become more a matter of being able to freely choose whether to take a forehand or a backhand on any particular ball. Top players like Chuan Chih-Yuan have that freedom of choice on practically any ball that is about a foot in from the sidelines. This makes them extremely dangerous, since at any given time a sharp attack can flow out of his motion without having been telegraphed by a change in stance.

A key to that freedom is his neutral technique, which is based on a great similarity of his right shoulder motion, whether for a forehand or a backhand: His right shoulder drops backwards and to the right from the neutral position, and then it pushes the arm forward and upward during the stroke. Of course, the forehand requires a bigger backswing, but he doesn't have to make that decision until very late in the stroke. The second picture, top row shows that neutral stance — almost identical to the neutral position in last issue's analysis — and from there he pulls his shoulder backward and down. Even though the next picture indicates that he will be taking a forehand, he could at that point still turn the racket around and perform a backhand loop by pulling his hand forward past his stomach. He would then be in perfect position for the backhand. Here, he decides to continue with a forehand. His feet are only slightly out of position, and he compensates for that by leaning backward a bit, making sure he still rotates sufficiently to get enough drive on the ball.

If we were to see only his body movement for a medium forehand loop or a medium backhand loop, without seeing the arm, we would notice that the right shoulder motion describes the same little oval. Seen from above, the motion is clockwise for the backhand and counter clockwise for the forehand. That is the similarity, which allows the smooth transition — and the freedom of choice.

In order to practice this technique efficiently, we need relatively accurate practice partners. Ideally, we would have them block to our backhand, to the middle, to the backhand and to the forehand. If we can't get that accuracy, alternative blocking to the backhand and to the middle will do. Make sure you move your body smoothly with the same rhythm and the same intensity for either the forehand or the backhand. It is also important that you constantly adjust your foot position, keeping your balance and making the necessary micro-adjustments. Once you have achieved a point where you can do a small stroke fluently, gradually increase the size of the motion so eventually both can be strong driving shots.
Laura Xiao

By Chunyen Liu, care of www.geocities.com/chunyenliu

The junior table tennis talent Laura Xiao has been the center of attention at our local club in Overland Park, Kansas. Her being the only regular female player at the club and one of the top players in Kansas, most club members are lining up to challenge her or give her table tennis tips whenever she shows up at the club, although she indicated that some players in the past made funny excuses not to play with her when she was a novice player. With her outgoing personality and excellent work ethic, she has become an indispensable member of the table tennis family here. Her performance continues to amaze many people one tournament after another. This short introduction is more like her biography than an interview because she is intelligent and vocal enough to clearly know and express what she wants and needs to do to fulfill her dream.

Please introduce yourself.
My name is Laura Xiao. I am 14 years old. This year I’ve started high school as a 9th grader. Currently, I play once a week at the Overland Park Racquet Club, which is actually a tennis club, but they have table tennis once a week.

Is table tennis your favorite sport or is it simply because you have better access to it? What do you like about table tennis in general?
Yes, table tennis is definitely my favorite sport. Why would I stick with it for so long if it weren’t? Life’s too short to spend your time doing something that you don’t enjoy. Of course, I play a lot of other sports for fun such as soccer, basketball, swimming, etc. What I like about table tennis in general is how it’s both physically and mentally challenging.

What is your playing style? Have you been playing with the same style?
No, my playing style hasn’t been the same from the beginning. This is because as I have progressed, I’ve picked up more skills. My playing style is offensive loop/hit. Currently I’m focused more on improving on the skills I already have to reach a higher level.

What is your current training schedule? Have you trained overseas?
I currently train 4-5 times a week, at home when not at the club. I’ve never trained overseas—Canada doesn’t count since it isn’t literally overseas.

What areas do you think you can still improve or must improve to reach another level?
I need improvement on my backhand loop, and focus even more intensely on consistency.

In addition to the routine ball-hitting drills, do you do anything else to improve your game, such as watching tutorial videotapes, running, etc?
Currently, I don’t really watch videos or other things because I’m also very involved with school activities such as debate tournaments and others.

Who are your favorite U.S. and international table tennis players and why?
My favorite U.S. player is Fan Yi Yong because he’s got an amazing backhand and quickness. My favorite international players are Waldner (of course) and Fredrik Hakansson because I love the Swedish players’ styles. Also, Oh Sang Eun of South Korea is becoming one of my favorites, too.

Can you say a few words about your major competitors in your age group in the U.S.?
Currently, I have a LOT more competition than I did before. In the past, my main competition was probably Laura Leach and Judy Hugh because of the fact that our ratings were always so close to each other’s. Now, there are many more.

What was the most memorable event that has happened to you in table tennis? Any major disappointments?
My most memorable event was when I won three trophies at the 1998 U.S. Open. This was my first big tournament, and I was so happy, especially since the trophies were about the same size as me! The major disappointment I had was not making the Cadet team for Hungary (World Cadet Challenge) in early 2002, but I’ve had other smaller disappointments. I always get disappointed when I lose a match that I should’ve won.

Laura Xiao's Record

Current rating: 2005
2002 U.S. Open
1st Place: Under 14 Girls’ Singles
2nd Place: Under 14 Doubles (with Barbara Wei)
2nd Place: Under 16 Girls’ Singles
2nd Place: Under 2100 Women’s Singles
2002 Pan American Youth Championships
Selected and sponsored by USATT
4th Place: Under 15 Girls’ Singles
2002 North American Cadet Camp & North American Championships
Selected and sponsored by USATT
2001 North American Teams Championships
Represented USA Cadet Women’s Team. Selected and sponsored by USATT
2000 USA Nationals
Semifinalist: Under 1900 Women’s Singles
2000 North American Teams Championships
Selected and sponsored by USATT
1999 USATT Nationals
1st Place: Primary School Girls’ Singles (Under 13)
1998 U.S. Open
1st Place: Under 10 Girls’ Singles
2nd Place: Under 12 Girls’ Singles
1st Place: Under 1000 Singles

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • January/February 2003
What are your table tennis and non-table tennis goals? Do you have specific time constraints to accomplish these goals?

My short-term table tennis goal is to break 2100. My long-term table tennis goal is just to go as far as my ability and hard work can take me. My non-table tennis goals are to go to a good college and become either a reporter or a journalist.

Who is your major sponsor/supporter? If you are looking for sponsorships, what type of sponsorships are you expecting?

Currently, I'm not sponsored right now. I'm basically looking for a sponsor with good equipment and the best interests in the development of junior players.

What do you like to do outside table tennis?

Like any other teenage girl, I enjoy a lot of things: shopping, reading, going out with friends, working out, etc. Also, music's a big part of my life. I've got a massive collection of CD's, and singing is a great passion of mine. Another big passion and gift of mine is writing, and I am constantly writing.

Interview With U.S. #1

Fan Yi Yong

By Larry Hodges

Home City: Seattle WA. Originally from Shandong, China

Age & Date of Birth: 33 years old, born on Jan. 22, 1969.

What equipment do you use, and who are your major sponsors?

I use a Juic Fan Yi Yong paddle, Juic rubber 999 Elite for my forehand, Montjuic Super for my backhand. Juic and Paddle Palace are my main sponsors.

What was your best ranking ever?

Top 20 world ranking in 1989, and currently #1 in the U.S.

Where are you from, and where did you grow up?

I was born in China. I grew up in Shandong and Beijing.

How did you get started in table tennis, and how old were you?

When I was 8 years old I started to play table tennis at the local sport center for fun.

Who were your coaches and clubs during that time?

I had several coaches. The best coach has already passed away. When I was 12 I played at several training centers in Shandong, and at 16 I was selected to the national team.

Where do you currently play and train?

At my club, the Seattle Juic Table Tennis Club.

How would you describe your playing style?

I play a quick, short, forceful attacking style. My strength is my ability to develop a game strategy. I miss the opportunity to play and train with high-caliber practice partners.

What are your major goals in table tennis?

I would like to have my own full-time table tennis club.

What player in table tennis do you most admire, and why?

I like Jorgen Persson because of his ability to be calm and maintain his concentration and focus when playing. He also has a great backhand.

What is your educational background?

By being a [former] member of the Chinese National Team, I have a sports education degree.

What are your interests outside of table tennis? Hobbies, etc.?

I enjoy different kinds of music, especially soft light popular and classical music.

Any advice for up-and-coming players?

Be determined. Never give up. Practice and practice.
I just received my order from ping-pong.com and I wanted to write you a quick note and thank you for your excellent service, products and price. I am very impressed and it is not easy to impress me in this area. I have spent most of my career with catalog companies - Talbots, L.L. Bean and Lands' End where I was the Chief Administrative Officer and CFO – so I know this industry very well. You guys are just great! The gifts you included in the package – paddle key chain, balls and package stuffers – were excellent and big hit with my children. Keep up the good work. You have made a customer for life out of me.

Bradley K. Johnson

Hello Mr. Mitch Rothfeisch

Thank you for your recent email wishing me happy holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent service I have received from TT pioneers! I am totally satisfied with my childproof paddle and the nittaku balls that I purchased. However the what impressed me most was the polite and efficient service I received from your staff!

Since then several of my friends have bought products from your web site and have been satisfied with their purchases.

Once again thank you!

Wishing you happy holidays and a very happy New year!

With warm regards

Anand Phadnis

Anastasia Gatsinas, Customer Service

Robert Ménard, Customer Service

Alain Abdoo Customer Service

Mercedes Honeinagido Customer Service

Annie Disconzo, Customer Service Coordinator

Robert Minard, Warehouse Manager

Jean Hubert

Guy Kayk

Jessica Reiners

Rachel Anger

Denise Lenoir

LINE ROBIN

Thank you very much.

You are a very professional organization, obviously committed to customer service. By the way you also have one of the best web sites. I’ve seen. Making informed/researched purchases is easy personal and enjoyable. You seem to have thought of every possible angle and tested for it as a consumer. I know that sounds basic but so you know, few do it well.

I’m sure we will do more business, in fact the next item will be a new table, hopefully in 2002.

Kind regards,

Marco Zanetti

I recently received my STIGA Expert Roller table, and wanted to let you know how extremely pleased I am, not only with the quality of the table, but the professional way you at the Table Tennis Pioneers handled the whole process. I must admit I was somewhat hesitant about ordering such a product over the internet but you have changed my view on that. From start to finish you have lived up to everything you stated you would do. You should be extremely proud of your Company and fellow workers. Thanks for coming through during this holiday season!

I will be a repeat customer and will spread the word!

Thanks again,

Steve Rossettor

PING-POG

Everything You Need For Table Tennis!
Dear IPP,

You surely have employed one of the best customer service teams, especially Anastasia, in the business. You definitely will have my business in the future.

Thanks

They Ten

Dear Table Tennis Pioneers,

I would like to take this time to thank you for your excellent and professional service. I ordered my Sligo Mini Table on your website a few days ago, and I just received it yesterday, one day ahead of schedule. Everything went smoothly, and the table is everything you claimed. It was a pleasure doing business with you, and I look forward to future purchases from your company.

Regards,

Ramin

I just wanted to say how great the response from Table Tennis Pioneers has been regarding a few questions I had about the new Sligo Tube Allround blade. Thanks to Mitch, Anastasia, and Angie for the fantastic detailed information they gave me. When they had updates, they e-mailed me back to let me know what they have heard from Sligo.

Posted on Forum at About.com

Keep up the good work guys, and thanks again.

Many thanks, Alain. I already received the new racket today. The integrity and outstanding business ethics demonstrated by The Table Tennis Pioneers in this instance are very much appreciated, and I will certainly do my best to promote The Table Tennis Pioneers wherever and whenever I can in future.

Sincerely yours,

Horst Carbo

All I have to say is WOW, this is my first good racket and I’ve been playing for about 4 years. Thank you so much ping-pong.com.

Eugene

Dear Angie,

Thank you for your quick response. I really do appreciate your service. Although I am just one of many customers who are purchasing from ping-pong.com, you have given me a great deal of confidence in shopping from your site. Thanks again.

Rob

2035 Nadeau, Laval (Québec) H7T 1W5 Canada • Tel.: 1-800-319-PING (7464) Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664) • e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com
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The 1000 model is our fastest VSG blade. Lightweight and extremely powerful, this blade is ideal for punishing the 40mm ball. This is perhaps the prototype blade for the new more horizontal looping game that the 40mm ball has created. AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

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Combine 7-ply power with the new VSG Handle System and you get a unique combination of power with control. This blade is for the power player who wants to execute fast loops and smash from every corner of the court. Limba outer plies. AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

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The 3000 is ideal for the close to the table-attacking player. Butterfly’s new VSG Handle System enables effortless off the bounce loops and quick counter. Quickness, power, and great control, this blade has it all. Hinoki outer plies and Aycus secondary plies. AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)

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The 4000 is the perfect combination of speed and control for the all-round offensive player. The outstanding control of the VSG Handle System will allow you to elevate the speed of your shots without any loss of control. The lightest blade in the VSG series. AVAILABLE IN (AN, FL, ST)