Playing for her adopted country, Gao Jun becomes the first USA player to reach the quarterfinals of singles at the Worlds since 1959.
STIGA SUPREME™

Table Tennis Table

- ITTF Approved for tournament play
- Includes tournament grade net and posts
- 1” Tournament grade blue laminate top
- Edgebanding and striping—regulation style
- 2¼” Wood support apron for extra table support
- 2” Square self-opening legs
- Leg levelers on outer legs provide level play
- 4” Ball-bearing wheel casters for easy mobility
- Playback and Storage Positions

Available Fall 2003

For The Best Tables & The Best Equipment, Visit STIGA’s North American Distributor:

Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464) • Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664)

Experience The Advantage Of STIGA Tables!

Authorized STIGA Table Retailer

VISIT ping-pong.com for The Best Price - Guaranteed!
NEW Insole E.R.S.

A: Soft and elastic EVA* forefoot area allows for maximum comfort and flexibility.
B: High density EVA foam provides unparalleled arch support for the rigors of tournament play.
C: Shock-absorbing heel inserts actively reduce impact, foot fatigue and joint pain.
D: High density EVA foot bed in heel region gives high stability to your foot.
E: "I" shape dome torsion fills the mid-foot cavity and provides control.
F: "S" shape energy return composite-urethane promotes efficient push-off.

* Ethylene Vinyl Acetate

Premium E.R.S.
A high-tech lightweight shoe perfect for the hardest courts. Premium E.R.S. with the unique and specially designed for table tennis E.R.S. insole is a world class table tennis shoe. The Premium E.R.S. is a lightweight shoe that uniquely allows the player to have firm contact with the floor. The upper part of Premium E.R.S. has breathable material for extra comfort.

Dynamic E.R.S.
This shoe is built for maximum comfort for serious tournament play. This specially designed table tennis shoe was built to give you maximal comfort that's provided through the EVA midsole and guaranteed support from the non-slip flexible one-piece outsole and the unique and specially designed E.R.S. insole.

Future
A "high-tech" shoe with a mid-high cut for secure lateral movement and support. Maximum grip on the floor with the non-slip flexible "one-piece" outer sole.

Rapid
A natural light table tennis shoe with maximum grip on wooden floors.

For The Best The Best Equipment, Visit STIGA's North American Distributor:
Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464) • Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664)
ttpioneers@ping-pong.com ping-pong.com
Be Sure To Check Out Ping-Pong.com For A Full Line Of Donic Products • Web: ping-pong.com
e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com • tel: (800) 319-PING (7464) fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664)

JOOLA MAMBO - Scound that inspires!
Why is the SAMBA one of the most popular rubber sheets in Europe? Because more than half of all players prefer soft rubber sheets! JOOLA has a lot of experience with soft flexible rubber sheets. The success of SAMBA and AIRROSNE® results mainly from the soft and sensitive playing feature. With the JOOLA MAMBO we continue these two successful series. The proportion of chemical packing material in the sponge and in the upper rubber are increased to the maximum levels permitted. This technique has a positive influence on the feeling of the ball and the sound without affecting flexibility and speed. The result can be both heard and felt.
- Extremely soft - only 35° hardness
- Extremely high flexibility of the surface rubber
- Absolute feeling and maximum click when fresh glued

JOOLA KOOL! - The Rocket!
Some like it fast - especially our hard hitting friends! At their request we have designed a blade that is not easy to control (speed value: 125), but offers unimaginable opportunities to the uncompromising offensive player and more than compensates for the speed loss following introduction of the 40 mm ball. Hard pine tree, Linder for stabilityl, Tracelam for the Big Spots Spots, very thick Busa core - that is how the blanks are constructed, just hardened offensive. In order for the ball feedback to still reach the player we added the sensor-optimized KJ-Net grip in the proven KAG® technology.

CHECK OUT ALL OUR UNBELIEVABLE JOOLA PRODUCTS AT PING-PONG.COM or call 1-800-319-PING (7464), e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com for further information
Europa 25 Stationary

$699.99

Centrefold 25 Rollaway

$949.99

- Tournament used tables from the U.S. Open are on sale
- Prices include freight
small tables
small prices

big savings

Butterflyonline.com
1.800.611.7712

charges anywhere in the continental U.S. • Reserve yours today • Prices subject to change
The Table Tennis Pioneers

adidas has used its years of knowledge and expertise to produce the ultimate clothing and shoes specifically designed for table tennis.

**3-STRIPE TRACKSUIT**
- black/white
- 100% Polyester
- Elegant woven tracksuit with attractive 3 stripes and piping along both the jacket and the pants. Jacket and pants both have mesh linings. There is a side zipper pocket on the jacket and a hem opening in the leg of the pants.

**JANGTSE POLO**
- satellite/black, collegiate red/black, green/black
- 100% cotton, single jersey
- Classic and sporty polo shirt with practical snap buttons. Functional mesh inserts under the arm for improved ventilation. Raglan sleeve for better freedom of movement with interesting 3-stripe design.

**JANGTSE SHORTS**
- black/white
- 60% Baumwolle/40% polyester
- Functional male table tennis shorts. Elastic waist with draw string for individual adjustment.
- Two side pockets.

**3-BARS T-SHIRT**
- black/orange/yellow, orange/black/yellow - 100% cotton
- T-Shirt with valuable rib collar and comfortable raglan sleeves.
- Attractive print design in the front.
- Size XS - XXL

**BALL T-SHIRT**
- scarlet/sky blue, sky blue/dark onix - 100% cotton
- T-Shirt with attractive rib collar and attractive print design in the front.
- Size XS - XXL

For a Full Line of adidas Table Tennis Gear at The Best Price - Guaranteed! Visit ping-pong.com
Tel.: 1-800-319-PING (7464) • Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664) • e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com
Executive Director’s Report

By Teodore “Doru” Gheorghe

Doru Gheorghe was recently hired as USATT Executive Director

For those of you that don’t know me, here is some background information.

I’ve been in table tennis for 38 years. I started playing when I was 12 years old, and finished my career as a player at 36. During this time I played for the Romanian National Team, and participated in four World Championships, three European Championships, and dozens of international tournaments. I have won 15 Romanian national titles, including men’s singles five times.

For seven years I was the General Secretary (which is similar to Executive Director) for the Romanian Table Tennis Federation. I was responsible for all phases of table tennis, including administration, coaching, player and coach development, umpire development and testing, Olympic Centers, competitions at all levels and maintenance and development of an extensive club network.

I was the Table Tennis teacher at the coaching school at the Academy of Physical Education and Sports, which was the National Coaching School for all sports in Romania.

I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Economic Science, and Level One Coaching Certification for Table Tennis – the highest level.

Since 1997 I’ve been the USA Women’s Team and National Training Center Coach. As USA Women’s Team coach I’ve trained and coached the National Team members and also the Junior and Cadet girls’ team.

My goals as Executive Director for USA Table Tennis are as follows:

**Short-term goals**

1. Make HQ operational according to USATT goals.
2. Create the USATT Strategic Plan with the help of the Board of Directors, and implement it with the help of USATT members.
3. Form a new structure of USATT Committees with the help of the Board of Directors according to USATT Strategic Plan needs.
4. Focus USATT efforts on athlete support.
5. Create a better flow of communication between Board, Committees and members.
6. Develop and maintain better relations with the USOC and use USOC resources and facilities for developing Elite athletes.

**Long-term goals**

1. Olympic medallists.
2. A larger and wealthier association.

Since I was hired as USATT Executive Director on April 15, I have worked together with the HQ staff to accomplish as much as possible. Here is a short rundown of happenings.

Richard Lee, president of North American Table Tennis (NATT) is the new Tournament Director for 2003 U.S. Open, and he and his staff will do this pro bono.

After the U.S. Open we will nominate the Tournament Director for the 2003 Nationals.

The Selection Procedures for the 2004 Olympic and World Team Trials were sent to USOC for approval. As soon as the Selection Procedures are approved we will post the information on the USATT web page and determine the host cities for the Trials. A couple of cities have expressed interest in holding them. Keep an eye on the USATT web page. As soon as USOC approves our Selection Procedures we will post the bid for the 2004 Olympic and World Team Trials.

As most of you know, we outsourced the ratings to NATT, and on April 11, Richard Lee came to USATT Headquarters and installed the software needed on our end, and went over procedures necessary to facilitate this process.

Starting June 1, 2003 Tommy Perkins (currently our intern) will join the USATT staff as Marketing and Program Coordinator. He has a Bachelor’s Degree with a major in Marketing. I would like to take this opportunity and thank USATT headquarters staff members Chris McCartney, Felisa Huggins, Deborah Gray and Tommy Perkins for the great and hard work they are performing.

Also a special THANKS to Robert (Bob) Allshouse for the great person that he is and the support that he has always given me no matter what.

During my seven years in the U.S., I’ve met many wonderful and enthusiastic people in the family of USA Table Tennis, and I have to say that without you, the members of USATT, it would be very difficult to achieve our goals. So, please join me and work with me in this long road to the Olympic podium.

I know that I need as much help as I can get from all of you no matter which side of politics you are in. My only politics is Table Tennis! If you really love table tennis, nothing can keep you from helping USATT and I know there are many people out there with great potential and skills that can help us achieve these goals.

If you would like to volunteer in helping USATT achieve these goals, please contact me at ed@usatt.org.

Support the People Who Support USA Table Tennis!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advertiser</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weston</td>
<td>38-43,30-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneers</td>
<td>2-3,5,8,85,86-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly</td>
<td>6-7,81,88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddle Palace</td>
<td>10-11,14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newgy</td>
<td>44-45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North American TT</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bumpernets</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macy Block</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eXtreme Trade Company</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDTTC</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Awards</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Las Vegas Convention Center</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of USA Table Tennis</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalox</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you like to advertise in USA Table Tennis Magazine?

See www.usatt.org/magazine, email larry@larrytt.com or call 240-686-0127
With the fantastic new JUIC Ultima sponge, JUIC compensates for the larger 40mm ball by successfully adding "Tension" to the sponge itself. Thinner, stronger cell walls enable the "Super High Tension Sponge" to be 10% lighter. The Ultima high-tension sponge allows for more flexible play, softness, and greater power.

**JUIC Scramble 21 Ultima**

JUIC's Ultima sponge is combined with the Scramble 21 topsheet. Increases exponentially the bouncing rate of the rubber as well as the ball feeling at impact.

- **Speed:** 9.4
- **Spin:** 9.2
- **Price:** $26.95
- **Item:** RJSCTU

**JUIC Scramble EX Ultima**

Double High Tension sponge adds an extra Ultima dimension, giving explosive rotation and speed.

- **Speed:** 9.5
- **Spin:** 9.1
- **Price:** $26.95
- **Item:** RJSCTE

**JUIC SpinSpiel Ultima**

Ultima sponge combined with JUIC SpinSpiel topsheet. Explosive spin, powerful drives, and stable control.

- **Speed:** 9.3
- **Spin:** 9.5
- **Price:** $26.95
- **Item:** RJSSU

**JUIC Dany V Ultima**

Ultima sponge combined with Dany V topsheet = success for the power allround player. Great for a mixed game.

- **Speed:** 9.1
- **Spin:** 8.8
- **Price:** $26.95
- **Item:** RJDVU

**ALL ULTIMA RUBBERS ON SPECIAL!**

**ONLY $22.95**

**YOUR CHOICE**

**JUIC® TITANIUM SERIES**

The JUIC Titanium series, with the combination of meshed Titanium and wood, has been greatly improved with weight and grip. By introducing the process of electric-drying system, the racket has been reduced in weight by 10-15%. The meshed titanium provides excellent power and speed even with its lightness. For 40mm ball play, this blade is highly recommended with the JUIC ULTIMA rubber series.

**TITANIUM TURBO**

The fastest of the JUIC Titanium Series. Turbo-charged play!

- **Speed:** OFF+
- **Handle:** FL, AN, ST
- **Wgt:** 87 gm
- **Plies:** 5 W, 2 T
- **Blade only:** $77.95
- **Item:** XSJTT

**TITANIUM CHOP**

Rated ALL-, this is a relatively fast defensive blade.

- **Speed:** ALL-
- **Handle:** ST
- **Wgt:** 87 gm
- **Plies:** 5 W, 2 T
- **Blade only:** $74.95
- **Item:** XSJTC

**COMBO SPECIAL**

- **TITANIUM TURBO** $102.95
- **TITANIUM CHOP** $99.95

Offers expire Aug 14, 2003

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR JUIC PRODUCTS**

**STIGA®**

30% OFF ALL STIGA APPAREL

SEE COMPLETE LINE OF CLOTHING ON OUR WEBSITE OR CALL FOR FREE FULL-COLOR CATALOG.

- **Winner Tracksuit**
  - Item: LSWWI
  - Reg $75.95
  - **Price:** $53.95
- **Classic Polo**
  - Item: LSPCL
  - Reg $27.50
  - **Price:** $19.95
- **Match Polo**
  - Item: LSPMA
  - Reg $28.45
  - **Price:** $19.95
- **Classic Shorts**
  - Item: LSSCL
  - Reg $23.70
  - **Price:** $16.95

Tiger Tracksuit
- Item: LSWTI
- **Price:** $31.30

Tiger Shirt
- Item: LSTI
- **Price:** $31.30

Tiger Shorts
- Item: LSTI
- **Price:** $24.65

Omnipod®

Offers expire Aug 14, 2003
**COMBO SPECIAL**

$89.95

Item: XSNANVL

**ANV WL World Champ “Wang Ligin”**


Speed: OFF  
Handle: FL, ST  
Wgt: 85 gm  
Plies: 5W  
Blade only: $67.95  
Item: XSNANVL

**COMBO SPECIAL**

$87.95

Item: XSNANVN

**ANV WN5 World Champ “Wang Nan”**


Speed: OFF  
Handle: FL, ST  
Wgt: 92 gm  
Plies: 5W  
Blade only: $65.95  
Item: XSNANVN

Each Combo Special Price includes Blade+2 Sheets Nittaku Rubber

---

**3 STAR PREMIUM BALLS**

The highest grade Nittaku, manufactured in Japan to higher specifications with higher quality material than any other ball! Nittaku 3-Star Premium balls are more consistently round, are more consistent in hardness, and last longer than any other ball in the world. Label on ball says "Made in Japan".

40mm: $9.50 for 6 balls / $18.95/dozen balls

[white or orange] Item: BN4P

---

**BULK PACK SPECIAL!**

Buy 10 dozen 3-Star Premium Balls only $156.75  
[includes 5% bulk discount for orders over $130]

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS**

Air-Capsule System [ACS] applied to the top sheet further increases the responsiveness of this rubber sheet with more tension. Mega-Tension+ amazing! "Molecule-walls" are thinner than ordinary top sheets, thus creating more tension without increasing the weight, causing quicker rubber recovery.

- **Neos - extra speed.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNE
- **Neos Tacky - offensive tacky spin.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNET
- **Neos Sound - ultra light, extra speed.** Approx. 15% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNES

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR STIGA PRODUCTS**

The Nittaku ball, universally regarded as the best in the world, is also the official ball of the U.S. Nationals and U.S. Open and most international competitions.

---

**3 STAR PREMIUM BALLS**

The highest grade Nittaku, manufactured in Japan to higher specifications with higher quality material than any other ball! Nittaku 3-Star Premium balls are more consistently round, are more consistent in hardness, and last longer than any other ball in the world. Label on ball says "Made in Japan".

40mm: $9.50 for 6 balls / $18.95/dozen balls

[white or orange] Item: BN4P

---

**BULK PACK SPECIAL!**

Buy 10 dozen 3-Star Premium Balls only $156.75  
[includes 5% bulk discount for orders over $130]

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS**

Air-Capsule System [ACS] applied to the top sheet further increases the responsiveness of this rubber sheet with more tension. Mega-Tension+ amazing! "Molecule-walls" are thinner than ordinary top sheets, thus creating more tension without increasing the weight, causing quicker rubber recovery.

- **Neos - extra speed.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNE
- **Neos Tacky - offensive tacky spin.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNET
- **Neos Sound - ultra light, extra speed.** Approx. 15% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNES

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR STIGA PRODUCTS**

The Nittaku ball, universally regarded as the best in the world, is also the official ball of the U.S. Nationals and U.S. Open and most international competitions.

---

**3 STAR PREMIUM BALLS**

The highest grade Nittaku, manufactured in Japan to higher specifications with higher quality material than any other ball! Nittaku 3-Star Premium balls are more consistently round, are more consistent in hardness, and last longer than any other ball in the world. Label on ball says "Made in Japan".

40mm: $9.50 for 6 balls / $18.95/dozen balls

[white or orange] Item: BN4P

---

**BULK PACK SPECIAL!**

Buy 10 dozen 3-Star Premium Balls only $156.75  
[includes 5% bulk discount for orders over $130]

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS**

Air-Capsule System [ACS] applied to the top sheet further increases the responsiveness of this rubber sheet with more tension. Mega-Tension+ amazing! "Molecule-walls" are thinner than ordinary top sheets, thus creating more tension without increasing the weight, causing quicker rubber recovery.

- **Neos - extra speed.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNE
- **Neos Tacky - offensive tacky spin.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNET
- **Neos Sound - ultra light, extra speed.** Approx. 15% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNES

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR STIGA PRODUCTS**

The Nittaku ball, universally regarded as the best in the world, is also the official ball of the U.S. Nationals and U.S. Open and most international competitions.

---

**3 STAR PREMIUM BALLS**

The highest grade Nittaku, manufactured in Japan to higher specifications with higher quality material than any other ball! Nittaku 3-Star Premium balls are more consistently round, are more consistent in hardness, and last longer than any other ball in the world. Label on ball says "Made in Japan".

40mm: $9.50 for 6 balls / $18.95/dozen balls

[white or orange] Item: BN4P

---

**BULK PACK SPECIAL!**

Buy 10 dozen 3-Star Premium Balls only $156.75  
[includes 5% bulk discount for orders over $130]

---

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS**

Air-Capsule System [ACS] applied to the top sheet further increases the responsiveness of this rubber sheet with more tension. Mega-Tension+ amazing! "Molecule-walls" are thinner than ordinary top sheets, thus creating more tension without increasing the weight, causing quicker rubber recovery.

- **Neos - extra speed.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNE
- **Neos Tacky - offensive tacky spin.** Approx. 10% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNET
- **Neos Sound - ultra light, extra speed.** Approx. 15% lighter than a regular rubber sheet. Item: RSNES

---
Register Online

You can now register online at: www.natabletennis.com

Name: Eastern Open
Location: Rutgers U. – Piscataway (NJ)
Date: 8/9-10

Name: Western Open
Location: Fremont (CA)
Date: 8/30-31

Matthew J. Murad Mem. Open
Location: Hagerstown C. C. - Hagerstown (MD)
Date: 9/20-21

NAME OF TOURNAMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>CHAMPION</th>
<th>FINALIST</th>
<th>SEMIS</th>
<th>QUARTERS 8's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Singles RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 22 Men’s RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 22 Women’s RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U18 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U18 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U16 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U16 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U13 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U13 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U12 Boys RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U12 Girls RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 40 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 50 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 60 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2500 SE</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$130</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2375 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$55</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2250 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2125 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U2000 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1850 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1700 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1550 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1400 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1250 RR</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U1100 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U950 RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U800/Novice RR</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U4200 Doubles SE</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U3200 Doubles SE</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Registration Form:

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ________________________________ State: ________________________________ Zip: ____________
Phone Number: ____________________________ Gender: MALE / FEMALE
USATT ID: ____________________ Expiration: ____________ Rating: ____________ Date of Birth: ____________

E-mail: ____________________________

Please list event number:

1) ____________ 2) ____________ 3) ____________

USATT Rating & Registration Fee: $5

USATT Membership Fee: $16.20 (5-3: $7.50)

2003 NA TOUR T-shirt: T-shirts $15 each

Make checks payable to NATT

Total Event Entry Fee: $____________

USATT Rating & Registration Fee: $5

USATT Membership Fee: $16.20 (5-3: $7.50)

T-shirts $15 each

Make checks payable to NATT

Total: $____________

CONTACT US

North American Table Tennis, Inc.
912 Hungerford Drive
Ste #118
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 301-738-8250
E-mail: info@natabletennis.com

Eastern Open

Tournament Info: Referee: Kerry Bell
Venue: Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ at the Werblin Recreation Center. Wood floors and excellent lighting.
Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, August 1, 2003.
Check-in: Starts on Saturday, August 30, 2003 at 8AM at the venue.
Participants are required to check-in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
Rating: August issue of USATT Magazine will be used.
Airport: Newark International Airport.
Official Tournament Hotel: Siere Suites 732-235-1000
411 S. Randolphville Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854
Mention North American Table Tennis for special $59 rate.

Western Open

Tournament Info: Referee: Amr Ibrahim
Venue: City Beach Fremont at 4020 Technology Place in Fremont, CA. Paratex flooring and excellent lighting.
Entry Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by FRIDAY, August 1, 2003.
Check-in: Starts on Saturday, August 30, 2003 at 8AM at the venue.
Participants are required to check-in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
Rating: August issue of USATT Magazine will be used.
Airport: San Jose, Oakland, & San Francisco International Airports.
Official Tournament Hotel: Fremont Marriott 510-413-3700
46100 Landing Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538
Mention North American Table Tennis for special $59 rate.

Matthew J. Murad Memorial Open

Tournament Info: Referee: Terry Bell
Venue: Hagerstown Community College, 11400 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740 at the Athletic, Recreation, and Community Center (ARCC). Wood floors and excellent lighting.
Check-in: Starts on Saturday, September 20, 2003 at 8AM at the venue.
Participants are required to check-in 30 minutes prior to their first event.
Rating: August issue of USATT Magazine will be used.
Airport: Dulles, Reagan National, and BWI Airports.
Official Tournament Hotel: Four Points by Sheraton Hagerstown 301-790-3010
1910 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD 21740
Mention North American Table Tennis for special $74 rate.

TABLES FOR SALE!

Tables used at the 2003 Stiga N.A. Table Tennis Tour are for sale!
All tables are used once and sold at extremely low prices and we guarantee your satisfaction.
$550 Price includes a Net Set!

Highest Quality Tables with Excellent Table Surface
Easy to Assemble "ITTF Approved" Surface
Takes up little space
Excellent value
Great for home and club use

* All Stiga floor table for shipping anywhere in the Continental United States.
GENERAL INFORMATION
Proof of Membership
All participants must show identification of current membership for USATT, CTTA, or ITTF. Otherwise, USATT membership must be purchased. Tournament passes will not be accepted. You must supply your membership number or a $5 ID number look-up fee will be charged.

Equipment
All USATT and ITTF rules and regulations will be followed. Stiga Expert tables will be used with Stiga orange 40mm three-star balls. To purchase tournament tables, see ad on the last page for details.

Check-in
Check-in starts Thursday from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. On Friday, check-in resumes in the morning at 7:30 AM. All teams must check-in before being cleared to play. There will also be individual check-in so that each player can pick-up their own entry pass.

TEAMS INFORMATION
Teams
Please select a team name with less than 30 characters. Teams with an average rating over 2400 must select a name that represents a sponsor or place of origin. Teams consists of 3-5 players. Seeding in the tournament will be decided by averaging the highest ratings. Each tie will be 5 out of 9 matches except for Division A playoffs. Each match will be 3 out of 5 games to 11. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change any team names that are deemed inappropriate without notice. Most recent ratings will be used and seeding will be based on average of the top 3 players in a team. **Boosting your team’s rating by using other players’ rating who will not be attending the tournament will be subject to a $150 penalty.**

Divisions
If your team is eligible for the Women’s, U-18 Boys’ or Girls, Collegiate, or O-40 Senior’s divisions, please circle the appropriate team type. The age cut-off date is November 28, 2003 for juniors, December 31, 2003 for seniors. All players on collegiate teams must be enrolled in college. All teams will be placed into one draw and divisional prize money as stated below will be given to the team with the highest finish in the tournament for that particular division.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE
President: Richard Lee Director: Feng Hsu Registration: Wendy Troy Staff: Brian Pace, Krishmin Rai, Jose Palmer, TBD Referee: Bill Walk

The 2003 Stiga North American Teams Table Tennis Championships
Entry deadline: Postmarked by October 31, 2003. Entry postmarked by November 14, 2003 will be accepted on a space available basis with a $50 late fee.

Early-Bird Special: Register by June 27, 2003 and only pay a $440 registration fee. Register by August 8, 2003 and only pay $460 registration fee. You may submit a PAID team entry without a roster to make the early-bird deadlines, however, if the team entry is withdrawn, only 75% of the fees paid will be refunded.

SECURITY & SPECTATOR PASSES
Due to increased security regulations, we now require that all persons entering the venue must obtain an entry pass. Players will receive a pass when they check-in for registration. Each player must check-in individually and the team captain must check-in for his team at the registration desk. Spectators, family, and friends can either purchase a pass ahead of time on this entry form for $3 per person for the entire duration of the tournament or purchase a pass at the tournament for $10. For lost passes, a replacement must be purchased.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
Thursday 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Registration
Friday 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Registration
9:00 AM - 6:30 PM Teams Championships
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Coaching Clinics Expositions
Saturday 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Conclusion of the Teams Championships
Sunday 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Explore the Inner Harbor

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOTEL
Hyatt Regency Baltimore
300 Light Street
410-528-1234

Mention North American Table Tennis for the special rate!
Up to two adults: $96
Up to four adults: $106

Tournament T-shirt $15 each (write in quantity):

We agree to abide by all USATT and ITTF regulations. We accept full responsibility for our participation and relieve all associated parties of any liabilities resulting from injury to ourselves or damage to our property.

Captain’s Signature for team (Adult/Guardian for minors):

E-mail for confirmation:

* For each USATT member, an extra $5 will be charged for players that do not supply a membership number.
Juniors of the Month

By Don Patch

Lani & Oliver Lei

Age/DOB:  
Lani: 14 (12/31/1988)  
Oliver: 15 (10/27/1987)

Residence:  
Kennewick, WA

Highest Rating:  
Lani: 2036  
Oliver: 2176

Current Rating:  
Lani: 2024  
Oliver: 2176

Equipment:  
Lani: Stiga Clipper blade with TSP Spectol 2.0 on the forehand and Donic Vario 2.0 on the backhand.  
Oliver: Stiga Clipper blade with Donic Coppa 2.1 on the forehand side and Stiga Innova 2.0 on the backhand side.

Style of Play:  
Lani: Hitter and blocker  
Oliver: Forehand looper

Local Club:  
Tri Cities Table Tennis Assoc. in Richland, WA

Sponsor:  
Our mom

How old were you when you started to play and how did you get started?  
Lani: I was 8. I started to play in Keelung, Taiwan on the varsity team at my elementary school. I came to the United States two years ago. I joined the team because Oliver played on it first and I followed him.  
Oliver: I was about 9 when I started. There was a teacher at our school who played ping-pong very well and wanted to form a team. He asked me to join so I did.

Who were your coaches when you started and who are your coaches now?  
Lani & Oliver: The teacher who started our school team in Taiwan coached us then but we have no coach now.

Who do you practice with and how often?  
Lani & Oliver: We practice about twice each week at the club in Richland. We practice with each other because there is no one else around here to practice with.

What are your best titles, tournament results or rankings?  
Lani: I was on the USA Team as the first alternate, and I got third place in the North American Cadet Girls’ Team. I won the 2001 Stiga Western Open, U13 Girls’ division, and I placed second in the 2001 Stiga Open in the Under 1900 division.  
Oliver: First alternate for Junior Boy’s Team. I was a semifinalist at the 2002 North American Cadet Challenge. And I was 2001-02 Stiga North American Tour Under 16 Boys’ Champion.

What techniques are you working on to improve your game?  
Lani: Probably my forehand loop because I don’t loop very well.  
Oliver: My backhand loop.

What hobbies do you have outside of table tennis?  
Lani: I swim, skate, and ride my bicycle.  
Oliver: Tennis. I play for my varsity school team.

What are your table tennis goals?  
Lani: I want to make the North American Junior Team.  
Oliver: I want to make the USA Team.

What are your non-table tennis goals?  
Lani: I want to get straight A’s in school. I haven’t decided what I want to be when I grow up.  
Oliver: Get a better GPA.

Anything else?  
Lani & Oliver: The Tri Cities Table Tennis Club that we play at is about five minutes away from our house. We live on the edge of Kennewick, next to Richland, so it is very close. There are only adults playing at the club. It is open three times a week and located in a community recreation center.

Our parents play table tennis for fun only. We don’t have a table at our house and there are no coaches in our area. When we practice at the club we help each other by talking about what technique we should be working on and try to improve by ourselves. Lani says her brother “needs to stop lobbing to improve his game. He is always lobbing because he is really good at it,” she adds. Oliver says, “Lani needs to work on her footwork and her. Her hand-foot is much better than her backhand. She needs to improve her backhand so she can use it more as a weapon.”

They get adult coaching only occasionally when they attend a camp like the USATT Star Camp or when they go back to Taiwan for fun about once every two years.

Lani says, “Friends from school don’t really know about table tennis, but they think it’s cool that we play. Most don’t even know that it is an Olympic sport.” Oliver added that, “There are some tables at school but they are really bad.”
Paddle Palace: North American Distributor for Tibhar Products

TIBHAR
New Rubber

Supra $26.95
Unique sponge layer with soft core and hard skins gives you more control on slow balls and more speed on hard hits.
Speed: 8.7 / Spin: 9.4
Sponge: 1.5, 1.8, 2.1
Item: RTSU

Black Techno $26.95
Only in Black. Backhand rubber for impressive rotation and speed with control.
Speed: 8.9 / Spin: 9.3
Sponge: 1.5, 1.8, 2.0
Item: RTBT

Speedy Soft D.Tecs $26.95
APS Out. Disarm your opponent's block or counter balls with this fast new Dynamic technology.
Speed: 9.2 / Spin: 8.9
Sponge: 1.5, 2.0
Item: RTSSD

SEE COMPLETE LINE OF CLOTHING ON OUR WEBSITE OR CALL FOR FREE FULL-COLOR CATALOG.

USA Shirt
Item: LTPF
Reg $29.95
$20.95

Havana Tracksuit
Item: LTVH
Reg $86.95
$60.95

Deluxe Shirt
Item: LTPD
Reg $29.95
$20.95

USA Shorts
Item: LTFS
Reg $23.95
$16.95

Havana Shorts
Item: LTSH
Reg $23.95
$14.95

Havana Shirt
Item: LTPH
Reg $29.95
$20.95

Duo T-Shirt
Item: LTDD
Reg $16.95
$11.95

Premium Tracksuit
Item: LTWP
Reg $86.95
$60.95

USA Shorts
Item: LISF
Reg $23.95
$16.95

Havana Shorts
Item: LCTH
Reg $23.95
$14.95

Havana Shirt
Item: LCPH
Reg $29.95
$20.95

Offers expire August 14, 2003
paddlepalace.com
1-800-547-5891

We will match our competitors' prices!
President's Report
By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

The previous issue of the magazine contained a lengthy “Letter to the Editor” from Grant Mishbach. USOC staff members Chris Vadala and Leslie Gamez (the USOC Sports Partnership Team assigned to serve as liaisons with USATT) shared some similar views with the Board at our last meeting in May. Another person wrote to ask after hearing a rumor that USOC was decertifying USATT as an NGB. In this “association primer series,” I will address their concerns.

Grant cited a friend’s summary of the association that “they are just always fighting among themselves.” Chris shared with us the same observation and added that this was of particular concern to the USOC. The USOC has recently adopted the slogan “Athletes First.” Chris stated that USATT’s preoccupation with problems and in-fighting unfortunately shifts the focus away from our number one priority: the athletes and development of the association towards serving our athletes and cultivating medallists.

Grant’s letter focused on three recommendations:
- Greater transparency, including full financial information;
- The need for a strong, competent executive director who is allowed to run the organization; and
- A very strong code of ethics and conflict of interest policy that is strictly followed.

Chris impressed upon the Board the serious nature of the review being conducted by the USOC’s Membership and Credentials Committee. Just to make sure no one was uninformed about the power of the USOC in regard to national governing bodies, Chris stated that, if an NGB does not address USOC concerns, it is within the authority of the USOC to decertify it (after an extensive and exhaustive process). He cited previous concerns with USATT’s financial situation and a series of turnovers in the executive director position as potential threats to the perceived viability of USATT as an NGB.

Concerning athletes, Chris cited the extreme concern that no money from the USOC was allocated for national team training camps. Without training camps, athletes cannot be properly prepared for competitions. Without proper preparation, it is unlikely our athletes will achieve “sustained competitive excellence.”

Chris added that he was disturbed to have received an unusual volume of communications from USATT members other than USATT’s official liaison, the executive director. In regard to the executive director, Chris stated that he and Leslie were extremely pleased both that Doru Gheorghe had been promoted to the position and that a three-year contract had been entered into.

Chris and Leslie graciously remained at the meeting in order to answer questions. Since Chris was going to be presenting a report on USATT to the USOC’s Membership & Credentials Committee the following day, I asked him to share the following information (which also responds to Grant’s concerns):
- USATT has in place an Executive Director highly regarded by the Sports Partnership Team;
- The termination of the Oakbrook Training Center contract will save USATT in excess of $85,000 in otherwise encumbered expenses (through the end of 2004);
- That contract termination also restores the right of USATT to hold training camps at a location other than Oakbrook (that did not appeal to athletes);
- Virtually all of the money saved would mean an additional funding for elite athlete development (due to USOC funding requirements);
- USATT achieved other cost savings by retaining Dennis Taylor as Legal Counsel on a pro bono basis;
- USATT’s financial situation has improved so significantly that both USATT’s independent auditor, Waugh & Associates, and the USOC auditor submitted extremely positive reports (see Tong Lee’s separate report in this issue);
- The magazine continues to produce record ad revenue;
- The recent outsourcing of ratings to NAIT has already resulted in timely processing of tournaments and will continue to result in providing a more efficient and improved membership service, freeing up the staff to focus on USATT’s core objectives;
- Pro bono event management by NAIT ensures that the U.S. Open is in good hands and opens the possibility of an additional win-win outsourcing arrangement, which would further free up staff resources;

Grant’s letter focused on three recommendations:
- USATT’s Board unanimously approved the appointment of Bob Fox, a person with years of excellent working relations with the USOC, to fill the vacant Board position;
- USATT has developed a new league concept, identified Paddle Palace and Siaga as the sponsor, and will market it to the recreational table tennis market;
- This opportunity could also provide USATT with an excellent vehicle to launch a joint marketing venture with the USOC, known as the OXL (affinity card) basis;
- USATT is now receiving ITTF funds, through the North American Table Tennis Union agreement with the ITTF, for elite athlete development programs, including camps;
- USATT’s national junior women’s team recently qualified for the first-ever Junior World Championships; and
- USATT’s recent team trials were well conducted (at the time of the meeting, Gao Jun had not yet had her near-medal performance at the world championships).

I had already given my president’s report to the Board, citing new measures that I would seek to have ratified at the meeting and calling for adoption of certain proposals being recommended to the USOC by its own internal reform task force. In brief, one recommendation called for the creation of three Board working groups: planning, finances, and oversight. Another recommendation was the clearly articulated increased empowerment of the ED. Later in the meeting the Board embraced both measures.

Board members excused themselves when issues presenting a potential conflict of interest were taken up. USATT follows a code of ethics that is almost identical to the USOC’s. It is published at: www.usatt.org/organization/USATT_Code_of_Ethics.pdf. Every Board member and employee must sign this code of ethics and each is expected to abide by it. The code of ethics deals primarily with conflicts of interest and is a guide to the actions, conduct and behavior of Board members and staff.

I commend Grant for submitting his letter, which was thought provoking and instructive. Please note that to the extent that transparency conflicts with the need to refrain from discussing staffing issues, I follow legal counsel’s advice to favor a conservative approach.

USATT’s Board is extremely appreciative to Chris Vadala and Leslie Gamez for their candor and time spent addressing issues of vital importance to the ongoing viability of USATT as our sport’s national governing body.

As USATT’s staff and volunteer leaders, Doru and I, respectively, are cooperating on all levels with the USOC. Doru’s leave necessitated that I represent USATT at a recent NYC2012 USOC/NGB meeting in which the collaborative effort to win the 2012 Olympic bid and strategy was conveyed.

To facilitate improved USATT communications and relations, Chris initiated a monthly conference call with the executive director, president and athlete representative. (Eric Owens has not yet been able to participate.) All concerns, challenges, and rumored problems are discussed freely and directly.

Other important issues, including the timing of Doru’s vacation and my absence at the world championships, were discussed and okayed.

Interestingly, the very people criticizing my absence in Paris are the same ones who have previously attacked my record of representations as USATT’s president as “personal vacations.” Given the seriousness of the SARS epidemic, all members of USATT’s delegation (including team members) were given the option of attending the world championships. This was consistent with the USOC’s policy on SARS. Both my employer and my husband urgently requested that I not travel internationally under the circumstances.

I nominated Aly Salam to replace me as the North America’s Continental Vice President and withdrew my name from the ITTF’s Executive Vice President election. My decision is to dedicate my primary energy and attention as a volunteer to national table tennis issues; I have agreed to serve on ITTF matters, as requested, on a scaled-back basis.

As I conclude, I would like to remind everyone, as Doru did also, that USATT needs its members to act like a TEAM—“Together Everyone Achieves More.” USATT’s staff and volunteer leadership welcomes, preferably by email, sincere inquiries and constructive criticism based on facts, not rumors or disinformation, as well as individuals dedicated to the promotion of table tennis and advancement of our national governing body.
Treasurer's Report

By Tong Lee

FY2002 Financial Report

In fiscal year 2002, the USATT made significant progress in its continuing rebuilding mode to strengthen its financial position and to increase reserves. Revenues were $1,203,313 and expenses were $1,070,426, resulting in a net change in assets of $132,887. Of these, $117,300 was derived from grants from USOC and El Pomar Foundation for the purchase of a 17% equity share of a building at which USATT headquarters is now located. Net total assets, defined as total assets less total liabilities increased from $38,335 to $171,222 during the year.

Highlights of Fiscal Year 2002 are as follows:

- The U.S. Nationals and the U.S. Open together incurred a net loss of $14,000. The U.S. Nationals generated a surplus of $27,000 due primarily to keeping a watchful eye on expenses with a modest increase in entry fees. On the other hand, the U.S. Open generated a deficit of $41,000. A new and unexpected ITTF requirement that USATT provide two days instead of one, and a satellite uplink to enable live broadcast of Pro Tour matches to China incurred $32,000 more in TV expenses compared to the year before. If not for these, the deficit for the Open would have been reduced to $9,000, and the net income from operations for the year would have been even significantly more impressive.
- The expenses of USATT headquarters, including those for the ratings coordinator, totaled $277,000, and the net expenses (total expenses less advertising revenue) for the magazine was $59,000. Against these two expenses of $336,000, the Association generated $228,000 from membership and ratings fees.
- Our outside auditor Ken Waugh and Associates commended the Association for implementing all of their prior year’s recommendations. The accounting firm further commented that our accounting records improved significantly during 2002 because of our hire of a professional accountant in February 2002. In addition, the USOC auditor wrote in her report that “all funds paid to USAFT during 2002 are fully supported.” They have strengthened internal controls and it appears they are on track to rebuilding their reserves.

For more financial details on FY2002, please view USATT 2002 tax return, IRS Form 990, at www.usatt.org. The independent auditor’s report will not be available on the web site, but USATT members may request in writing a copy of this 11-page report from headquarters. Please include a check of $3.25 to cover the cost of photocopying and postage.

Looking Ahead

Although the FY2002 results were encouraging, fiscal year 2003 will be a challenging year. Several primary sources of revenue such as USOC funding, and USTTA Foundation funding have seen declines in the past several years. At the same time, inflation increases overhead and operating expenses. Health and liability insurance have increased significantly in the past several years, and particularly since 9/11. The difference of over $100,000 between revenues from membership and rating fees and expenses from headquarters and publication of a quality magazine must be reduced. The Board of Directors will continue with its policy to run the Association on a full budget and to build up reserves. In addition to spending wisely and controlling expenses, we must increase our efforts to generate more revenues from as many sources as possible. Hopefully, the membership will step up to the plate to contribute their share in this endeavor.

USA Table Tennis Magazine Sold at Amazon.com

It’s a tad over-priced at $44.37/year (they need to make a profit), but USA Table Tennis Magazine is now sold online at Amazon.com, under magazine sales through subsidiary “Magazine Discounters.” From Amazon.com: “USA Table Tennis Magazine is published every month. It contains articles on such things as Ping Pong Tournaments, coaching, clubs of the month, junior pages, and USA Table Tennis and other news.” Info is at www.magazinediscounter.biz/tennis_magazine. (Go to second page - first page is all tennis magazines.)

USATT Board of Directors

President: Sheri Soderberg Pittman
1520 Dale Lane • Delray Beach, FL 33444
(561) 276-4615 • sheripittman@yahoo.com

Executive Vice President: Dr. Jing Wang
11511 E. Garvey Ave. • El Monte, CA 91732
(626) 443-8891

Treasurer: Tong Lee
1295 Quandt Court • Lafayette, CA 94549-2624
(925) 937-5044 • tlee94549@yahoo.com

Secretary: Tim Boggan
12 Lake Avenue • Merrick, NY 11566
(516) 868-0434 • timboggan@aol.com

Vice President: George Brathwaite
580 Main St., Apt. 756 • Roosevelt Island, NY 10044
(212) 980-8442 • chiefghb@yahoo.com

Vice President: Bob Fox
832 Seal Street • St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 647-1375 • Bob.Fox@metrostate.edu

Vice President: Robert Mayer
1126 Eastbourne Lane • Pearland, TX 77584
(713) 436-2529 • pong_god@yahoo.com

Vice President: Barney D. Reed
6826 Wertzville Rd. • Enola, PA 17025
(717) 697-5264 • pingpongrobot@yahoo.com

Vice President & Foundation Representative: Jimmy McClure
4226 Country Club Blvd. • Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 945-1718 (ph) • jncole4sports@wmconnect.com

Interim Group B Vice President: Henry McCoullum
320 Toftrees Ave., Apt. 142
State College, PA 16803
(814) 238-7962 • hwm1@psu.edu

Olympic Athlete Representative: Eric Owens
OC Hall, 1201 Wesleyan St. • Ft. Worth, TX 76105
(817) 534-3883 • ericowenstt@hotmail.com

National Athlete Representative: Todd Sweeris
7401 Westlake Terrace, #312 • Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 365-7282 • toddsweeris@yahoo.com

National Athlete Representative: Tawny Banh
1132 Montecito Dr. • San Gabriel, CA 91776
(626) 570-1728 • tawnybanh@yahoo.com
Stellan Bengtsson: Heading to USA?

Care of ITTF

Stellan Bengtsson, 51, the legendary 1971 World Champion and a renowned coach for many years, is looking for new challenges in the USA.

“...My contract with my Swedish club Falkenberg BTK expires in July and after that we will slowly start to prepare for this new adventure. In many ways I owe this to my wife who is originally from the San Diego area,” said Bengtsson.

“We are now in the process of finalizing the details. I have opened job discussions with the USA Olympic Committee and they seem to be seriously interested in offering me a position at one of their Olympic Training Centers.”

Where coaching is concerned there is no doubt that USA and of course Table Tennis in North America will get a tremendous boost by bringing in Stellan Bengtsson amongst a thin Chinese dominated coaching mix.

After a successful playing career he has been a club coach as well as a personal mentor for players like Jorgen Persson and Peter Karlsson.

“I will still honor my current contract with Stiga and continue to work with some of their younger players. Coaching is still my bread and butter. But as a family we are ready for a new challenge,” Stellan explained.

The final timeline for the move is not yet set.

The family house, beautifully located on the rugged coastline in Steninge North of Falkenberg, will go up for sale and there are still other details to be finalized at the other end.

“There is no rush. These things take time. We might look at between three and eight months in getting all the details in place,” Stellan said.

Whitney Ping Awarded a $1000 Grant by Women’s Sports Foundation

Table Tennis athlete Whitney Ping of Beaverton, OR has been awarded a $1000 Travel & Training Grant from the Women’s Sports Foundation. Whitney is currently ranked #2 in Under 18 Girls in the U.S. and #10 in Women’s rankings.

A pool of $25,000 was awarded to 18 individuals and six teams, representing 19 sports. Since the introduction of the Travel and Training grant in 1984, $1,152,995 has been awarded to 1,167 individuals and teams who exhibit regional, national or international ranking or the potential for such a ranking.

Applications for the 2003 grant program are available now by downloading applications from www.WomensSportsFoundation.org or by calling 1-800-227-3988.

ITTF Appoints USA’s Richard McAfee as Competition Manager for Brazilian Open

Care of ITTF

Since Zlatko Cordas moved to Qatar, Richard McAfee from Atlanta, USA has been appointed by the ITTF as the Competition Manager during the next Brazilian Open.

He has developed strong skills over a thirty-year career of progressive management responsibilities within the world of sports and recreation as program development, event management, team building and volunteer recruitment.

From May 1994 to August 1996, Richard’s responsibilities included the complete planning, organization, management and execution of the 1995 World Team Cup and the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Table Tennis event.

They Said It...

By Larry Hodges

“Definitely Roddick.” -Patrick McEnroe, referring to Andy Roddick, when asked in online discussion who the best ping-pong player is on the USA Tennis Team. Submitted by John Jarema.

“Are you planning to play table tennis here?” -Lee Won-chang, a South Korean lawmaker, when newly-elected opposition politician Yoo Si-min took the oath of office without suit or tie. He was wearing beige slacks and a white T-shirt under his navy blue jacket, and was booted by the legislators. Submitted by John Jarema.


“To relate the facts accurately requires a suspension of my traditional modesty.” -Marty Reisman in his letter to “Nostrodamus” in this issue.

18 USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • July/August 2003
MACY BLOCK OPEN
TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
August 23 & 24, 2003
Greentree Racquet Club, Pittsburgh PA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT #</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>1ST</th>
<th>2ND</th>
<th>3-4</th>
<th>5-8</th>
<th>9-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>U.S. Pro Elite Men*</td>
<td>$22.</td>
<td>Sat. 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>U.S. Pro Elite Women*</td>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Sat. 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Sun. 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Open Doubles</td>
<td>15 ea.</td>
<td>Sat. 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>U-22 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sat. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>O-40 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sat. 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>O-50 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sun. 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>O-60 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sun. 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>U-2500 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sun. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>U-2375 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sat. 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>U-2250 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sun. 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>U-2125 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sun. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>U-2000 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sat. 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>U-1875 r/r</td>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Sat. 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>U-1750 r/r</td>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Sat. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>U-1625 r/r</td>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Sun. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>U-1500 r/r</td>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Sat. 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>U-1350 r/r</td>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Sat. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>U-1200 r/r</td>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Sat. 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>U-1000 r/r</td>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Sat. 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>U-18 r/r</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sun. 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>U14 r/r</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Sat. 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>U-4100 Doubles</td>
<td>10 ea.</td>
<td>Sat. 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>U-3600 Doubles</td>
<td>10 ea.</td>
<td>Sat. 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Doubles events #23 & #24 start at the same time. Players may enter only one event; either #23 or #24.**

ENTRY BLANKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2003!!!!!!!

TOURNAMENT HOTEL
Greentree Radisson
101 Radisson Drive
(412) 922-8400 $64/night (mention table tennis tournament)
(Next to playing site)

For More Info 574-654-7476

*To enter Pro Elite event, player must be U.S. Citizen*

**Rating Fee $4.00**
**Registration Fee $2.00**
**Membership Fee**
**T-Shirt ($13 ea)**

TOTAL FEES:________________________

**Doubles Partner:**

Signature of Participant: (For minors, parents must sign)
I hereby assume all risk and responsibility for my participation in this tournament. I release tournament personnel, Greentree Racquet Club, et al, from any claim for injury or loss suffered due to my participation in this tournament. I will abide by all rules and decisions of the tournament director.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • July/August 2003
Steve Isaacson, in his article entitled, The Future (?) Of Table Tennis on page 34 in the March/April issue of Table Tennis mentions that Miles and I “would be massacred by our own Eric Owens or Sean O’Neill.” He’s right, but even someone in a catatonic state knows these players as well as others mentioned in the article are armed with weaponry literally makes what they are playing a totally different game.

His article deceives the reader into believing that Mr. Owens and Mr. O’Neill are far superior players than Dick or I ever were by his failing to mention the incomparable advantages of their souped-up equipment over our pimped hardbat in such an encounter.

So his comparison is ludicrous unless Mr. Isaacson informs the reader under what equipment circumstances a match resulting in our massacre would be played. Having always been an inconsequential player throughout his playing career, Steve Isaacson’s comprehension is blurred and is apparently unable to distinguish the difference the equipment makes. [Editor’s Note: Isaacson had been ranked #10 in the U.S., was Illinois State Champion, and was two-time U.S. Collegiate Champion – so “inconsequential” is in the eyes of the beholder here.]

To relate the facts accurately requires a suspension of my traditional modesty. Miles and I during our prime were recognized worldwide contenders for the world title in classical table tennis, each having been a semifinalist as well as regarded as being the equal of every top player in the world, something no American player has since been able to match. And, I might add, without benefit of a coaching and training program.

Miles demonstrated when he was slightly past his prime that, as a hard bat player, he had maintained world-class status even during the modern game era. At the 1959 world championships in Dortmund, at the age of 37, Miles beat two of the Chinese sponge players to reach the semifinals. That year he barely missed winning the Worlds when, after losing two matches to the Chinese, he pulled off an upset victory over the world champion, Lian Xiaochun, to reach the final.

Unfortunately, Miles lost the final to the Chinese player, Zong Yuhua, 3–0. Miles later criticized the U.S. coaching and training system, calling it “inconsequential.”

In our sport, classical table tennis, Miles and I got to the top of the heap, with Miles bridging the gap between the changed technologies more effectively than I did. Since that time, no American players have ever again been in contention for a world singles title.

So contrary to Mr. Isaacson’s distorted perspective of what Sean O’Neill would do to me in a match, let me set the record straight on that matter. Consistent with putting my money where my mouth is, at age 70 I challenged Sean O’Neill to play me hardbat to hardbat (Leland rubber) for $5,000. He never responded.

I had my 73rd birthday and my original challenge to Mr. Isaacson’s modern-day marvel still stands. Preferably it would be for Mr. Isaacson’s money or any portion thereof if he wants to back up his opinion, as well as for anyone else’s money that cares to get into the act.

If Steve Isaacson, as a sponge sycophant, wishes to diminish Miles’ as well as my world-class status in the history of the sport, I would suggest writing an article without distortion and omissions.
Maryland Table Tennis Center
18761-Q Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879 • (301) 519-8580 • www.mdttc.com

Butterfly
www.butterflyonline.com

Butterfly

All Levels Welcome!

Training Camp Dates:
July 14-18
August 11-15

Coach Cheng Yinghua
• #1 Ranked U.S. Player for most of the past 12 years
• U.S. #1 Senior
• 2000 Olympic Team Member
• 1996-97 & 1999 U.S. Men's Champion
• Former Head Coach for the Szechuan Province of China
• Chinese National Team, 1977-87
• 1985 & 1993 U.S. Open Men's Champion
• USATT's Coach of the Year, 1996
• Butterfly-sponsored full-time coach

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

Coach Larry Hodges
• Author of Table Tennis: Steps to Success
• USATT's Developmental Coach of the Year, 2002
• Director/Manager/Coach at Resident Training Program for Table Tennis at Olympic Training Center, 1985-89
• Many-time U.S. Junior Team Coach
• Certified by USATT as a National Coach
• USATT Coaching Chairman, 1991-95
• Former full-time coach

Catch the Excitement!

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

Fee
• $220 (MDTTC members: $190)
• Minimum deposit: $50
• Make checks out to MDTTC
• Enter Early! Only first 24 players are guaranteed spots!

Housing
• Holiday Inn, 301-948-8900
  One mile away, at the intersection of Frederick Rd. and Montgomery Village Ave.
• Free HBO, CNN, ESPN, coffee

*Mention "Table Tennis" for best rate.*

Camps are primarily junior camps, but adults are welcome as well.

Name: Phone: Age/DOB:
Address: Rating:

Camps you are entering (circle one): July 14-18 Aug. 11-15

Amount Enclosed: Signature
Is It Time to Get Rid of a Joke?
Enforce the rules or let everyone serve illegal
By Mark Wood

The service rules in table tennis tournaments are a joke. I recently played in a tournament and 1/3 of the players used illegal serves at one time or another. Examples from the tournament:

A. The refereed 3200 doubles final where one player was tossing the ball only 2 inches (a friend, was on the other team – I told him about the serve during the match – his comment was, “we know, but we are trying not to let it bother us”).

B. Men’s Open Finals where Atanda Musa was playing Fan Yi Yong. Atanda was hiding his serve with his forearm. After 2 or 3 serves Fan complained. Atanda started yelling that he wasn’t doing anything wrong. A yelling match continued.

The tournament director warned both players to be silent or face point penalties. The crowd joined in the yelling. Then Atanda started yelling at the crowd of 300 people watching the match. The yelling continued, both players were assessed a point. Atanda served twice more and then received a yellow card. Atanda served four more times (every serve was illegal from where I was sitting), then he was assessed a point for illegal serve. The referee before the first serve. All serves were legal or close to it during the match. We lost.

I saw their next match. They both reverted to old habits and were serving illegally. The team they played had one guy who served legally, but his partner served straight out of her hand, using her hand to spin the ball. Needless to say, the two teams had a heated discussion for four minutes about the illegal serves. It ended up that they did not call a referee and both sides continued serving illegally. I thought there was a certain justice and irony in the match-up of these teams playing each other.

Other experiences from people were there at other tournaments:

3) The Nationals in Las Vegas
A friend told me about a refereed match where he lost several points from illegal serves. He later saw the open final; one of the players was serving exactly like the ones he had lost points on. He saw the player who refereed his match, and asked the referee what was the difference. The referee, basically, indicated that there was a difference between the levels of the players. My friend was not happy with that answer.

4) A Tournament on East Coast – a major tournament with players from other countries.
The officials started calling illegal serves. The players from the other countries threatened to leave the tournament and started packing. The U.S. officials backed off and all the players brought out their “finest” illegal serves.

A lot of the top players serve illegally, and they get away with it unless the other player complains, and sometimes even then. It seems that the default (almost unconscious or automatic) serve of the top players is an illegal serve.

I would like to see some basic serve rules agreed to, put in place, published, and enforced by referees. Right now, the serve rules are not being enforced until one player complains. If the rules are not going to be enforced, the rules should be done away with and everyone should have equal opportunity to do what are now illegal serves.

Suggestion on Fixing The Problem
Players Referees at “Entry” Rounds
One friend said if everyone called for an umpire when there were illegal serves, “There would not be enough umpires to go round.” Basically, if a player knows the rules I have no problem with him umpiring my match. I would get a pool of volunteers, as many as possible, for the event. If, worst comes to worst, I would rather have an umpire from my round robin than not have an umpire at all – if I suspect the other player is playing illegally.

A Ping Pong Movie?
This movie has already opened in New York! From: www.bROLS.com/pages4/myfiest.html
Ping Pong (Japan - 2002), 114 minutes, InJapanese with English subtitles
A techno fever dream about table tennis champions growing up and becoming heroes, PING PONG is the greatest eXtreme sports movie ever made and the sport is table tennis?? Shoo nuff. By the time the last plastic ball has been smacked into dust you’ll believe that a ping-pong player can fly. PING PONG races through your veins at the speed of adrenaline, beating America’s weepy old baseball movies to their creaky old knees, while leaving your heart thudding and your synapses shooting sparks.
STILL EXCITING.

STILL ENTERTAINING.

STILL ENERGIZING.

STILL THE BEST WAY

to get away.

LAS VEGAS

FREEDOM TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL
Why should you buy this expensive ($33) book? Because you are a table tennis athlete, aficionado or serious student of the art of historical research or excellence in rhetorical writing. If the subject of this book were of a high-profile sport, rather than a history of the arcane sport of table tennis, this review would be written by George Plimpton, Norman Mailer or, perhaps, Hunter S. Thompson. Nonetheless, Tim Boggan’s Vol. II of his projected multi-volume history of American table tennis belongs on the bookshelf beside the leviathans of historical writing: Carlyle, Gibbon and Toynbee, who spent years of their lives painstakingly excavating the detritus of the past. In this instance, the people and events which contributed to the development of this esoteric – but grand – sport of table tennis.

What is the task of a book review? First, to accurately describe what the author intended in writing the book and how well he achieved it. Second, explain to the readers why they might want the book. And finally, to place the book in some larger, literary and historical context. Ernest Hemingway admonished that, “To like the works of friends is beautiful as loyalty, but can be disastrous as judgment.” It’s a risk I will have to take.

What Tim Boggan has set out to do in this second volume of his history is to describe in detail the players and events during the years of the Second World War and after, up to the advent of the sponge era at the 1952 Bombay Worlds. Each chapter in the book has an overview of its contents, followed by an in-depth description of the tournaments and matches in great detail, down to the deuce/add scores in the exciting matches.

The year is 1940. Nearly every war has a long fuse, and WWII was no exception. But it is ironic that in that year the Japanese association decided to invite the U.S. to send a team to play friendship matches when a year and a half later they would be bombing Pearl Harbor. War had already put the lights out for table tennis in Europe, canceled the Worlds scheduled in Paris that year, to be re-scheduled seven horrible years later. Many European players had to flee their homelands for safety in England and the U.S. Some, like Sandor Glancz and the great Victor Barna, lost brothers to the Holocaust. On coming to the U.S., Glancz joined the U.S. military, as did some of our own top players, including Jimmy McClure and Sol Schiff.

But here at home in the states, these war years were to foster the beginning of two careers that would dominate American table tennis for many years: Dick Miles and Marty Reisman, the Yin and Yang of the sport: quiet, elegant grace versus flamboyant, provocative showmanship. Their mastery of the sport inspired awe and envy in a generation of players, including this reviewer, who at the age of 16, the state junior champion of West Virginia, was taken by his mentor and coach, Herman “Whitey” Lykins, to Columbus, Ohio, to see the U.S. Open at the Ft. Hayes Armory in 1948. It was a classic final between Dick and Marty that was to be repeated many times during this period was played, and financially supported by, several famous musicians and composers, including Jascha Heifetz, George Gershwin, Oscar Levant, Paul Whiteman and Arnold Schoenberg. Gershwin and Whiteman could swing, but Schoenberg’s backhand was a bit dissonant. In another field, the psychoanalyst, Carl Jung, also was a player but we haven’t time to get into his motivation here!

Music lovers may be interested to read that table tennis during this period was played, and financially supported by, several famous musicians and composers, including Jascha Heifetz, George Gershwin, Oscar Levant, Paul Whiteman and Arnold Schoenberg. Gershwin and Whiteman could swing, but Schoenberg’s backhand was a bit dissonant. In another field, the psychoanalyst, Carl Jung, also was a player but we haven’t time to get into his motivation here!

But now we must fast forward because my allotted time and space are nearly up. It is 1952, that seminal year in simmering Bombay and our sport is about to change forever. The war is long past – but never forgotten – and Japan is to return to international competition in an unexpected and dramatic fashion. On the Japanese team at Bombay is Hiroji Satoh (Japan #5) who arrives with a bat like no other: sponge rubber over Hinoki wood. Although there is no U.S. team at this Worlds, Marty Reisman and Doug Carlstadt are there as individual entrants and to witness Satoh’s relentless march to the men’s world singles title.

Here Tim Boggan’s book ends (To Be Continued) and so must this reviewer, but not before he closes with this tribute. If you read this book (or James Joyce’s Ulysses), will it make you a great table tennis champion? Probably not, but it will tell you a lot about those who were our great champions, about those eccentrics, clowns and gentle giants who love this game. This book will also tell about the sweat that, bleeding through every page like pentimenti revealing the hidden masterpiece within, produced these beginning volumes of a history that is still unfolding, and will continue until the author’s time and stamina, like ours, is over. Until that time, demonstrate your love of this game. Buy this book.
“If you read this book (or James Joyce’s Ulysses), will it make you a great table tennis champion? Probably not, but it will tell you a lot about those who were our great champions, about those eccentrics, clowns and gentle giants who love this game. This book will also tell about the sweat that, bleeding through every page like pentimenti revealing the hidden masterpiece within, produced these beginning volumes of a history that is still unfolding, and will continue until the author’s time and stamina, like ours, is over. Until that time, demonstrate your love of this game. Buy this book.”

-Dick Evans
(see review, previous page)
**The 2003 USA Pro Tour**

Interview with Dan Seemiller, USA Pro Tour Director
By Larry Hodges

What is the USA Pro Tour?
It is a series of 4-star tournaments that have $9,000 minimum prize money.

How is it funded?
The USATT Elite Committee funds 2/3 of the Pro Tour Men's and Women's event, and the tournament host puts in 1/3.

How many USA Pro Tour events will there be this year? Where and when are they?
There are five scheduled events for this year. [See Box]

What are the eligibility requirements?
To be eligible for the Pro Tour events, participants must be U.S. citizens.

How can a tournament become part of the USA Pro Tour?
To become eligible to host a Pro Tour event a tournament must have the following:
- First-class playing facility
- $6,000 prize money (minimum)
- Local involvement and cooperation
- Experience in hosting events

What is the vision or goal of the USA Pro Tour?
The goal is to provide competition for U.S. players, where the top 12 men and women can compete regularly and win prize money. For the U.S. team to compete internationally, our U.S. tournaments need to improve both in presentation and prize money. I like to think of the Pro Tour like this: Someday in the near future, someone is going to ask this question: "How did the U.S. team dramatically improve on the international level?" The answer will be a thriving Pro Tour with 16-20 4-star tournaments. These tournaments will provide competition, incentive to train and prize money to win. If our domestic tournament schedule is not a strong, well-organized and cohesive one, we will never be able to compete with the World's best. It is simply too expensive to travel overseas on a regular basis. We need to save that money and build something that works here.

There are many other benefits that would come with a tour event. There's nothing better for grassroots development than to stage a large table tennis tournament. After an event like this, players want more coaching, others want to open a club, and spectators at the event want to join and play organized table tennis.

Mark Hazinski, winner of the first Men's Pro Tour event

Also, these events attract media coverage that promotes the sport in a positive way. The list goes on and on. This is how you build a bigger, stronger USATT. We just need more of these tournaments and the USATT and Elite Athlete Committee believe in this program.

Are there any plans for expanding it?
Next year, we hope to expand from 6 to 10 events.

**2003 USA Pro Tour Schedule**

- **39TH ST. JOSEPH VALLEY OPEN**
  - (Done – See article this issue)
  - South Bend, IN ★ Apr. 12-13
  - Sponsored by: Newmar Corp., Butterfly

- **"CANCER Q. CUP" GARDEN STATE OPEN**
  - (Being played as this issue is being completed)
  - Westfield, NJ ★ May 30 - June 1
  - Sponsored by: Cancer Q

- **MACY BLOCK OPEN**
  - Pittsburgh, PA ★ August 23-24
  - Sponsored by: Macy Block, Butterfly

- **SPINMANIA OPEN**
  - Atlanta, GA ★ September 6-7
  - Sponsored by: Spintech

- **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OPEN**
  - San Diego, CA ★ October 11-12
  - Sponsored by: NATT

Out of Numbers? This is what happens when an umpire (at the World Championships, no less!) runs out of numbers and has to improvise. The score is 21-20.
The Men and Women Who Would Be King
By Guy McLean

Approximately five years ago I joined USATT as a result of entering a tournament as an unrated rookie. Over the next few weeks I waited for my card and membership materials. Instead, the first thing I got was a political manifesto concerning the suitability of some group wishing to manage our sports ruling body. This seemed strange to me.

Eventually I got the mailing I expected which included the magazine. At the time, the magazine was nothing like we have now, and was filled with campaign ads. Some of the political verbiage was downright shocking in its negativity towards other people running for office.

My initial reaction to all the political stuff was to ignore it. I just wanted to play good table tennis. The excitement and fun of the game had me really charged up. There was enough about the game in the magazine to satisfy me. Since then, the magazine has gotten better, my game has gotten better (a little), and I have progressed in my commitment to the game to the point where I care about it beyond whether or not I have a table to play on.

For two years I paid attention to the incumbent political platforms and the opposition groups’ opinions as well. I decided to listen and think carefully about what I heard and read. I indicated to my local club governing body that I wanted to help in our own local table tennis world. That has progressed satisfactorily. I am now in my rookie year running a league. But during this time of my own growth I have been still more amazed at what appears to be a building political storm in USATT.

Even locally, our club has politics. Opinions differ in how to solve problems. I try to think of how much more magnified the problems of conflicting vision are at the national level. I am beginning to understand the nature of the beast. Some thoughts keep running through my mind:

1. Never forget that the table tennis masses just want to play. Any time you require more of them than that, they are more irritated with the strings attached than concerned with the greater good. Ideally table tennis should be free and readily available to suit their schedule. Paying a SMALL amount of money to play is a necessary evil. This attitude really angers club officers, but probably just goes with the territory.

2. Twenty to thirty percent of local playing talent have a view beyond that. They feel responsible to carry their share of the load. They want better conditions, better competition, and more tournaments. They understand this means sacrifice of time and money, beyond practice and small fees. But again, ideally someone else should organize and implement. They will occasionally pitch in.

3. Perhaps ten percent want to give back. They are willing to act as ambassadors to newcomers. Set up and take down equipment. Handle money and answer questions. Plan events and administrate. That ten percent become officers and key workers in a local club. At this point it’s all good. Caring, dedicated people are nurturing the club. They inevitably make rules, establish fees, and govern. Politics is a reality.

4. Vision is individual. Shared vision is fortunate coincidence. Compromise is a necessity and conflict the means of resolution. Odds are the ten percenters are intelligent, capable, motivated personnel. They want to give back altruistically to their sport and community of players. They will think at times that they have the best way to solve problems. Others as purely motivated will disagree. Someone will win and another lose. Sometimes the emotional fallout is bitter and unforgiving. Sometimes one of the ten percenters will walk away and we all lose.

5. I think this is the essence of what goes on at the national level. The people are more talented, their commitment to the game is more intense, and of course the stakes are higher. Interaction is obviously much more complex because more people and bigger egos are involved. Money becomes a much more dominant issue than at a local club.

6. I am so impressed by the resumes of our national players on the political table tennis scene. As I read their voting pitches, I want all of them to be part of the group that charts our destiny. They are educated, motivated, and resourceful. Many have forged actual professions out of table tennis, which gives them sterling credentials to prove they are capable to be in positions of power and control. Others are successful in a variety of professions and couple that with a history of tireless work on behalf of table tennis. Still others are icons in our sport because of the talent they display at the table and beside it while coaching.

7. And then there are the current playing elite. They must have a voice in policy or we will alienate them with governance without representation.

8. We also have in every group some who are attracted to power, are driven to win any battle, and make the process of ruling the sport a contest. They may fall into any of the other arch types. They will insist on the correctness of their own vision. They are the biggest challenges to compromise and consensus. But they also may be tireless workers and have talents badly needed to make the organization succeed.

9. Finally, we have the people who feel wronged, alienated, or discarded. These feelings might be valid. Quite often these parties become the guerrilla element of the political process. They have narrow agendas of redress and justice. They may attack personally members of the power structure. Their influence can destroy our trust in those who govern. We have to remember that every decision or policy can adversely affect someone. Democratically we must give them their voice and consider their words, but not allow it to destroy the program in place. I have frankly been afraid that some of our people might resign over the strife this type of person can create.

Remember the saying “My country right or wrong”? We elect our President of the United States in a democratic process, which is quite often bitterly contested. But after the process is over the winner must be honored and supported. The President has won the right to form a cabinet that shares the vision and can deserve the trust bestowed upon them. The President must also build bridges to the opposition because they have talents and power that he needs to get things done. Let all the men and women who would be kings and princes in our sport fight each political contest with vigor and integrity. But once the contest is over—meet the winners halfway on the bridge. Join the process and help in any way they can. We have a wonderful talent pool of leaders and tremendous potential to better our sport. But we need to let the regime implement the vision they won the right to put in play. Every two years we’ll all have a chance to change directions. In between times——enjoy the game—help the process—support our leaders.

In Memoriam

By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

James Lawrence writes to tell me that Bill Papier, a long-time Columbus, Ohio player whose daughter Cheri was taught by Dal Jooy Lee, won local Mixed Doubles titles with John Tannehill, and, later as a collegiate, reportedly was a Champion in Israel, died in his sleep on March 6 at the age of 93. His long obituary in the Columbus Dispatch is impressive. “He’s listed in ‘Who’s Who in Government’, ‘Who’s Who in the Midwest’, ‘American Men and Women of Science’, and ‘Who’s Who in American Education’...”

A humorous article Bill wrote for the June/July, 1964 issue of the U.S. table tennis magazine, Topics, described “New Strokes for Would-Be Champs” – among them the “Fly-Swatter Smash,” the “Disappearing Swipe,” and the “Jet-Stream Chop.”

Bill loved the Game, but throughout his long life repeatedly urged even young champions to stress education over athleticism.
**New Mexico Table Tennis Club**

New club chooses pay-to-play, Debuts competitive format, Celebrates 34th anniversary

By Tom Wintrich

The New Mexico Table Tennis Club may be less than six months old but the spirit of the club goes back 34 years, ever since Dennis and Liz Gresham gathered informally with several others to play in the basement of one of the medical buildings at the University of New Mexico in 1969. In 1970, a young man named Vic Smith joined the mix and not very long after that, the one-table club had grown to eight and the basement had given way to a huge gym on Kirtland Air Force base on the south edge of Albuquerque.

Vic Smith became the president of this cooperative effort called the Albuquerque Table Tennis Club around 1973, and held office for the next 28 years. He was the master of procurement, including that gym on the air force base. Ever the gentleman, Vic, or most often, "Smitty," lead with soft-spoken diplomacy and a natural charm that helped convince people they should donate goods or services to his club. For years on tournament days, he would show up with donuts, coffee and juices as a gesture of hospitality to the participants. Club member Karen Hambleton increased the largesse of this courtesy, adding a lunch spread and a larger assortment of snacks in the late 90's. Just last March, 2003, the new New Mexico club once again provided complimentary snacks and drinks to the participants in its first sanctioned tournament and once again, Vic Smith contributed to the tradition he had started years ago.

Smith was also the past president of his Toastmaster's club, as well as his beloved Buffalo Soldier's organization and he has organized the Senior Olympics for table tennis for some 15 years. Smith's natural friendliness and sincere demeanor has won people over continually for decades and the players who formed the heart of the Albuquerque Table Tennis Club and who now comprise the New Mexico Table Tennis Club are grateful to have had his leadership and friendship for so many years.

It's not like he's gone; Smitty agreed with his friends when the decision was made to switch from a free venue supplied by the Albuquerque Parks and Recreation department to a pay-to-play venue located in the city's nicest health club. Sound crazy to give up a free gym for one that costs $62 a month for each player? Not really — not when you get a private gym with wood floors and adjoining storage room three times a week plus a couple of swimming pools, two hot tubs and enough machines and free weights to challenge every muscle in your body. Besides, locating table tennis clubs within private health clubs may be the future of table tennis in the U.S. as the partnership between health club and table tennis club is near perfect. The health club provides superb playing conditions and a host of health-related amenities while the table tennis club provides income and programming opportunities for the health club.

Dennis and Liz Gresham, along with daughter Toni, agreed and were quick to support the formation of the NMTTC within the health club. Aside from being the first family of table tennis in New Mexico, the Greshams, as noted, have been present from the very beginning with Toni virtually growing up amidst bouncing balls. No other members in the last 34 years have come close to attending as many club nights as Dennis and Liz. They stand alone in that regard and represent the literal foundation of the club. In addition, Dennis functioned as treasurer for many of those 34 years while Liz directed many of the tournaments. Toni went on to participate in USATT's first resident training program in Colorado Springs in the late 80's, breaking the 2000 level under the guidance of coaches Henan Li Ai and Ai Liguo.

Through thick and thin, Dennis and Liz Gresham have been there for table tennis in New Mexico, even when life dealt some tough cards for Dennis to play. Right-handed Dennis used to have one of the most wicked sidespin backhand loops in the country. He would swing his racket back to the right side of his right hip, backhand side facing out, racket head pointed down, and draw it forward quickly in front of his body in a sweeping arc from right to left, contacting the outside of the ball. This sweeping swing and follow-through would often produce pure sidespin shots that tortured his opponents. Most of the time he generated a combination of topspin and sidespin that was no easier to deal with. I had the pleasure of watching this shot land successfully again and again in a doubles match we won together over Ray Guillem and Tony Koyama somewhere back in the late 70's or early 80's. He had a more conventional loop off the forehead and a potent forehead kill, plus a few other strokes and tricks necessary to maintain a 1900 level game.

No more. Dennis Gresham had to give up the right arm to win his match against a rare form of cancer called malignant fibros histiocytoma, which attacks the sheaths of the nerves. Radiation therapy and two surgeries didn’t stop it and while there was no guarantee that amputation would, he was pretty much guaranteed the cancer would ultimately spread to his chest if the arm remained attached. Eliminating the pathway for the cancer to spread offered the best strategy to defeat his toughest opponent. He succeeded and is back playing the game as a lefty, showing up every night without fail and taking care of the club's finances as treasurer. I have never heard him utter a single complaint about his fate.

I joined the New Mexico crew in 1975 and over the years made a few contributions of my own to this cooperative club, which most recently let me introduce a new competitive format for our first tournament as the New Mexico Table Tennis Club. I call the format Progressive Single Elimination, the ITTF calls it Progressive Knockout, but by either name it's a single elimination event in which no one is eliminated, yet it truly cannot be called a round robin, although as a round robin, you are guaranteed a certain number of matches. Essentially, the winners and losers are funneled into progressively smaller single elimination brackets within the overall draw. The benefits are:

1. No one is eliminated from the draw.
2. Every time you play you have an opportunity to improve your position in the draw.
3. Each succeeding round naturally produces more significant matches for all players.
4. Everyone plays a semifinal and final match.
5. Everyone finishes in a specific place in the draw.
6. The format is easy to time schedule.
7. Conflicts need never occur.

The format was so well received by the participants in our Albuquerque Rating Championships last March that the NMTTC will use it again in August in the running of a two-man team event. You can see an example of the basic progressive knockout draw on page 12 of the 1997 ITTF Handbook for Tournament Referees or you can visit the USATT web site's Tournament Director's page to see the more colorful progressive single elimination draw.

The New Mexico Table Tennis Club is the end result of a close-knit group of table tennis friends who have well represented themselves, the game and the association for over three decades. On behalf of the members listed below, I say happy 34th anniversary to this six-month old club founded by Don Geeze, Dennis Gresham, Liz Gresham, Tony Koyama, Gary Gurtiza, Dan Hambleton, Karen Hambleton, Ken Lewis, Vic Smith, Marv Sommers and myself.

Karen Hambleton, Ken Lewis, Vic Smith, Dan Hambleton, Liz Gresham, Gary Gurtiza, Dan Hambleton, Karen Hambleton, Ken Lewis, Vic Smith, Marv Sommers and myself.
Weston Table Tennis Club
By Dickie Fleisher

One thing about Michael and Lu, when they do something, it is always first class. The same can be said for their new table tennis club.

The Weston Table Tennis Club was founded in November, 2002. Joining a very elite group, the club is open seven days a week, with its great location just west of Fort Lauderdale.

The club has over 70 members, including 19 rated over 2000.

A larger facility is being looked at, one which would have 10 tables and a pro shop. The pro shop would carry over 20 different brands of rubber and equipment.

Since I turned them on to the “Dark Side” (long pips) of table tennis, they have carried every long pips rubber made. They even have complete playing attire with the Weston logo available.

Starting soon, Michael and Lu will be holding 2- and 3-star tournaments. They are a welcome addition to the table tennis scene in the U.S., and their love for the sport is greatly appreciated by all of the players. For more info, see their web page: www.westontabletennisclub.com.

---

Cary Cup Open, March 15, 2003

Near the end of a grueling day of playing 13 matches, my last opponent informed me he was tired and would default. While most were done playing, I had time to take a shower and still catch the semis & finals of the tournament involving Mark Hazinski, Dan Seemiller, Brian Pace and Lee McCool. A real treat for most of us, this being the first tournament attended by the TT elite here in a long time.

Maybe it was a second wind, maybe it was competitive spirit, but my 13th opponent decided to play after all, so we grabbed an empty court and began. Right from the warm up I knew I was in trouble. He had a few years on me in both age & experience, played with short pips on one side & inverted on the other. He seemed content to just keep the ball in play I had fast spinny rubber on both sides, and liked to initiate the attack. The first two games were a blur; he pushed and pushed, kept the ball on the table until I pushed off or attacked and missed. When I sacrificed speed for accuracy, he blocked back my forehand attack as I had pretty much given up the backhand side. I was now a one-dimensional player, attacking weakly from one side, with him in control playing his game.

My short-term goal recently had been to raise the level of my loops, both forehand and backhand. Watching the elite players today, I was of course impressed with their big shots, but was just as impressed with the short game and set-up shots. I was even critiquing players in my group going for big shots they had little chance (experience) in landing. Now it was time for me to heed my own advice.

I went into the third game thinking:
1. Push and wait for a better ball; he hasn’t been attacking much so even high long pushes were safe.
2. If he returns my forehand attack, who knows what’s on it now so go back to the plan and push until an opportunity opens up again.
3. Soft spinny backhand loops were producing high dead blocks off his pips I could jump on with a quick backhand smash.

It was working. Of course it was working; if it was the right strategy for the big boys, it was right for me. The only difference was in my ability to execute the shots. I was hoping the change in strategy was enough, coupled with 1500 level loops and smashes.

Confidence goes a long way: mine was up and his was waning. It was difficult to stay with the plan as I gained momentum; it was tempting to rush the attack, to go for the big opening shot, show him I could do it. I decided to stay with what worked. Three games later he was a good sport and I tried to be gracious as my son and I checked the roster to find he was 200 points my senior going into the match. It doesn’t get any better.

I learned a lesson, my son is now also concentrating on percentage shots over power, and hopefully more wins will come our way if we stay with the plan.

Do you have a “War Story” to share? They should be by non-elite players, roughly 200-500 words. The best ones sent might get published (one per issue). Send to Editor Larry Hodges, larry@lanytt.com.
Any avid fan of our sport immediately associates Sweden with table tennis because of its reputation as a world powerhouse, producing the likes of Jan-Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson, Peter Karlsson, Mikael Appelgren, Stefan Bengtsson, Jens Lundqvist, the list goes on and on. So when the opportunity to train in Sweden at their newly opened National Table Tennis Training Center was presented to me, I jumped at the chance. Doru Gheorghe, the National Women's and Junior Team Coach, had a good friend visiting him named Benone (Ben) Grigore. Ben is the head coach for international players and he and Doru were able to arrange for me to practice there for one month in preparation for the U.S. National Team Trials. Of course it is always more fun to go with friends, so I talked with my buddy Misha Kazantsev who said he was interested in coming along. And just like that, we were off to Sweden.

The training center is in Koping, about an hour and a half driving distance from the Stockholm airport. A very nice man named Mikael, who is also a player's father, picked up Misha and me. When we arrived in Koping, Mikael took us to meet Ben who was running a training session. My first impression of the Center: Well, you can tell that I am a table tennis player when I describe the playing venue as a "thing of beauty." It is a sight to see—a table tennis coach's and player's dream; equipped with brand new top-of-the-line tables, perfect lighting, plenty of room, locker and weight rooms, and incredible flooring. The floor is similar to the Taratlex flooring that we see at the U.S. Nationals but I think it is better because it is harder (meaning one can bounce a ball on it and it would bounce back) and a bit less grippy. Kjell-Ake Waldner, Jan-Ove's brother and the Swedish Table Tennis Association's High Performance Director, said he chose this floor because it is easier on the knees for training. They designed this center with the athlete in mind, and in my eyes, as well as in Misha's, it is as close to perfection as you can get.

Ben took us to the Hotel Scheele where we would be staying for the next month, and showed us around Koping. It is a very small but beautiful and humble town, packed with more snow than people (population: 2500). He then showed us around the high school, which is located only a few steps away from the training hall. Nearly all of the players, both Swedish and international, do not live in Koping, so they stay in apartments and get bikes to get around town. It is apparent that the Swedish Table Tennis Association has everything covered, as the high school is ideal for all the players because it allows them to continue their schooling while still getting in high-quality and quantity practice time.

For the next month, Misha and I practiced about five to six hours a day, with Sundays off to rest. The level of the players that trained in Koping ranged from 2150 to 2700, with ages ranging from 14-20. Johan Axellqvist, Sweden's top male junior, was the best player there along with a 20-year-old Chinese player who came to play for Club Koping in the Swedish leagues and to train with Johan. Besides the Swedish players (most of whom were girls—many of the Swedish Junior Girls' Team members train at the Center), there were also quite a few international players (mostly boys) from Belarus, including Dmitry Davidovich, the cadet boy's European doubles champion and member of the Belarusian National Team, and also players from Latvia, Estonia, Wales, and Poland. A few days before we got there, the number one ranked Australian junior girl, Claire Cambellines, who is my age (16), also arrived and was staying for the same length. Claire became good friends with Misha and me, and we often walked to practice and ate meals together, exchanging American and Aussie slang.

For the most part, the Swedish players practiced amongst themselves, as did the international players, but they combined for a few sessions per week. Misha and I were fortunate to be able to split our time between both; about a week after we arrived the international players went on a trip to Denmark, so we trained with the Swedes under Coach Soren Ahlen. Soren is a great person and also a great coach who used to coach the Swedish, Japanese, and English National Teams. He was tough on physical training and we had some really demanding workouts after practice. The Training Center also had a sports psychologist come to talk with us in both group sessions and one-on-one. He told me to keep a simple training log, scoring myself after every day on areas like: Technique, Mental Attitude, Physical Fitness, Match Play, and Effort. The log was to show evidence of hard training in order to build confidence and also monitor your performance. I noticed that after a hard physical training workout, my self-scores in my training log went down for one or two days after but after the soreness was gone, they started to go higher and higher; until of course we had another grading workout.

We began every practice with a light physical warm-up that lasted 10 to 15 minutes, with music in the background kicking it off and popping things up. There was a joke between the players about how the Swedes take a longer time to jog and stretch, so we always knew that if it was a Swedish player, it was going to be a long one! Practice was generally a serious time where we all focused on our table tennis game; but during breaks and after practice we were able to talk, relax, and have a good time. The coaches run most of the drills but every session we got to choose what we wanted to work on, and on Tuesday afternoons the coaches left it to the players to run practice. Soren said they did this so we can learn how to train hard even without a coach. One of my favorite drills that I learned was to loop one forehand from the middle of the table to the blocker's backhand, and then the blocker blocks that to either the forehand or backhand side, after the person doing the drill returns that shot, the blocker then blocks back to the middle, and the drill continues. Both Misha and I could tell that our level of play was steadily improving each week, because we were becoming more consistent in the drills. I did well in match practice, playing even with the top Swedish girls.

Misha and I ate at the school cafeteria for breakfast and lunch during the weekdays and were given a frozen dinner pack for dinner. We had a tomato and cucumber sandwich every morning. And we basically had potatoes for lunch and dinner on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; and pizza on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Perhaps it is a slight exaggeration but it seemed as if potatoes were the staple food of Sweden, much like rice is in Asia; at the cafeteria, there were three types of potatoes—mashed, boiled, and slice—every day. But douse it with some gravy and it wasn't bad at all. The pizza on the weekends came from a nice pizzeria called Stellat that Misha and I looked forward to going to on Fridays. They gave us big big personal pizzas; Misha's toppings most often consisted of shrimp and clam (?!), and I just liked just on mine but we both really liked the ox once we tried it. And even though Stellat was good, by Sunday night we were ready to go back to potatoes and meatballs until the next Friday. Ben also bought snacks to keep us going through the day like bread and sandwich meat, yogurt, frozen meals, and fruit; and Misha and I discovered how good the salad bar in Sweden is. We were treated very well by everyone while we were there, especially by Ben, and we both really appreciated it. Looking back, it is a blessing that we were able to meet such great people.

Another positive aspect of Sweden is the TV channels. At the Hotel Scheele where we got separate but adjacent hotel rooms, our thing to do was to keep calling each other and say, "Hey! The Simpsons is on channel five! Oh wait, ER is on channel fourteen!?" Unlike many other European countries, Sweden does not dub the English with their language; instead they put over the English with their language: instead they put Swedish subtitles. Maybe that is one of the reasons why the Swedes speak such good English, and by the end of the month, I was able to pick up a few basic Swedish terms. However, there was a grave downside to the continuous showings of Jay Leno, CSI, and the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air: it distracted us from our homework! But no worries, we are finally caught up now...

Another cool thing that we got a chance to see while in Sweden were some European Team League matches. We watched the Men's Team (Fredrik Hakansson, Jens Lundqvist, and Magnus Molin) play for the European Team League (Vladimir Samsonov, Evgeni Chichetetin, and Dmitrij Chumakov). The rankins went accordingly with Samsonov beating Molin, Hakansson defeating Chumakov, and Lundqvist downtime Chichetetin. With Sweden up 2-1, Jens was set to play Samsonov. I had my video camera with me and was trying to get some footage, but every couple of points I was forced to put it down so I could cheer for Jens, the Swedish and under-
In the middle of our third week in Sweden, junior players from all over the world came to the Training Center for the ITTF World Junior Elite Camp that was held prior to the World Junior Circuit event. The World Junior Circuit (WJC) is similar to the ITTF Pro Tour but for junior players only. The six-day camp was a blast. The first day and half of the next, everyone (boys and girls) trained at the same time. The caliber of the players was extremely high; some of the very best were there, as well as our friend Pierre-Luc Hinse from Canada. There was also a very large group of Japanese university players who were the Camp’s special guests. On the second day, we split into groups. The girls’ group was led by Thomas von Scheele, who is the 1991 Men’s Doubles World Champion (with Peter Karlsson) before he hurt his back. He is now the Swedish Women’s National Team Coach. It was a great experience to play against all sorts of different styles and players from different nations. There was one Japanese shakehand player who had invented on one side and long pips on the other with some of the most incredible serves I’ve ever seen. At the end of our training session one day, all of us crowded around a corner table for quite a while, standing in awe (and perhaps a bit of envy) of her serves.

We took our meals at the hotel where all the players were now staying, and we had an equally good time at night because many of us often got together to eat lunch and dinner. One night we had Misha, Claire, Kyle Davis (Australia), Kate Stewart (England), Zeina and Zeid Shaban (Jordan), and myself, all eating and playing the card game, Uno, for hours until it was time to rest up for another fun, but demanding day.

On Tuesday, all the players took a bus to Orebro, a city an hour away from Köping, where the WJC was to be held right before another tournament, the “Safir Internationella.” The initial round robin matches began Wednesday morning. The top seed on the girls’ side was Georgina Pota from Hungary, who is the current European Girls’ Champion; for the boys’ it was Germany’s next star and also top European junior player, Christian Suss. I was seeded second in the fifth group. Number one in my group was a left-handed player named Marina Marzoeva from Estonia whose Under 18 world ranking was #36. I squeezed out a nine in the fifth win, through some great counterlooping points, and eventually finished first in my group. Because of this, I was given a bye in the round of 32. In the 8ths I played Renata Krawczyk from Poland who was second seed in the tournament. I played too passively and she was able to get the first attack in most of the time with her forehand, which was very strong and sneaky. She also rarely pushed long so I had hard time initiating my backhand attack like I normally like to do. I lost 4-1; and she went on to win the next two rounds but lost in the semifinals to Georgina Pota, who proved her dominance on the junior scene by winning the event without dropping a single game! Misha faired not as well in his group, failing to advance out of his round robin but of course he was not expected to come out because of the strong field of players. Minoru Muramori won the boy’s event, defeating his fellow Japanese compatriot, Yoichi Tokiyoshi, in the final. Johan Axelqvist went down in the semi, as did Brazil’s lefty-penholder Cazuo Matsumoto (who had upset Suss, 9 in the seventh).

The next day the Safir tournament began. Safir is one of Europe’s biggest, if not the biggest junior tournament of the year. There were over 600 participants representing 33 countries (mostly juniors), and I think it’s safe to say that every single player was a respectable, well-trained player. In the Women’s Elite event, I was seeded third in my group and played the first seed, Magda Chichoka from Poland, who is currently ranked #29 in the world in Under 18 and got a really terrific win, 3-1. Just the day before I was telling Claire that I thought she was one of the strongest players in the WJC, so this victory was definitely a surprise to me, but it also made me realize that I can hang with some of these players. However, I lost to the second seed, which forced a three-way tie, and Chichoka advanced.

What is amazing about this tournament is the number of female players. I was playing in the Women’s 20 and Under Women’s, and in just this event alone there were 109 competitors! In the U.S. we would be lucky to have 15 entries in our Women’s Singles at our National Championships! Another clearly noticeable aspect was the organization of the tournament. Every match (yes, all 2550 of them) was umpired by one of Safir’s 280 volunteers. They also had a 96-page tournament program that had the draws and times of every event and the draws were up on the Internet weeks in advance.

In the round of 16 of the 20 and Under Women’s, I beat Fu Lei, a Chinese piping-pen holder who was seeded in the top ten in the Women’s Elite event, 3-2. In the 8ths, I lost to a Japanese chopper, 3-1, who really outplayed me with her consistency and her deceptive ability to change up the spin.

What was supposed to be my best event, the Junior Girls’ 17 & Under, began on Sunday with 91 players. I had a bye in the first round and if I won my next two matches, I was set up to meet Renata Krawczyk again, the player I had lost to in the WJC. However, I lost in the second round and I was put in some good wins, which took me to the quarterfinals. In the quarters I played Maria Viktorchek from Belarus. We both fought hard but in the end, she claimed the win, 9 in the fifth. I was disappointed but overall very happy with my performance in the tournament. For reaching the quarters in that event, I won a lava lamp.

Overall, Misha did well and maintained a good fighting spirit. He started off slow in the beginning but as the tournament went on he got stronger and stronger, playing a close match against 13-year-old Jun Mizutani from Japan. Mikael Andersson, the ITTF Junior Coordinator, put it very well in the tournament booklet when he stated this in his letter, “Jun Mizutani, Japan... No more or no less. Just make note of time and table. It is well worth it!” At first I did not understand what he meant by this — until I saw this kid play. He is a lefty with incredible touch, a killer backhand chop block, and the ability to counterloop almost anything with his forehand. If you remember this name now, I think that there is a good possibility that you will be hearing it again in more prestigious events within the next five or six years.

The Men’s Singles had nearly all of the very best players from the Swedish leagues entered as well as some foreigners; most notably; Jörgen Persson, Werner Schlager, Jens Lundqvist, Martin Monrad, Mikael Appelgren (who is still amazing to watch even though he is not the player he once was), and Kim Song Hui. Lundqvist won the event, defeating Persson in the semi’s (9-10, 7, 9, 9), and Chen Jian in the final, 4-2. The Women’s Singles field was quite a bit weaker, but Georgina Pota came out towering above her competitors.

After the Safir tournament, Misha, his father and I returned to Köping to pack up for our trip home. Before I left I put in two more practice sessions with the Luxembourg team that was training at the Center in preparation for their National Championships. Then we said our goodbyes, took some last-minute pictures, walked around town, and ate at Stellat for “old times sake.” We both had identical opinions of our stay in Sweden — it was the best overseas trip we had ever taken. I would like to thank Doru Gheorghe and Benone Grigorie for making the trip possible; and our new international and Swedish friends for making it memorable.
Tibhar IV-L
Regular Price $41.95
ONLY $26.00

Donic Vario Mach 1
2 for
Regular Price $41.95
ONLY $37.95

ORDER HOTLINE: 1.800.530.0578
Joola Panther

Regular Price $41.95

ONLY $45.00

Friendship 729, 729FX and 837 Long Pips

you choice 3 pieces

Regular Price $38.25

ONLY $22.99

www.westontabletennisclub.com

email: weston@westontabletennisclub.com
Regular Price $8.95
ONLY $5.85

Regular Price $71.20
ONLY $49.00

Regular Price $52.00
ONLY $39.80

Regular Price $52.00
ONLY $39.80

Regular Price $28.00
ONLY $17.80

Regular Price $45.95
ONLY $29.00

Regular Price $31.95
ONLY $19.85

ORDER HOTLINE: 1.800.530.0578
LOOK AT OUR SPECIALS

SAVE MONEY

EQUIPMENT

CLUB

TOURNAMENTS

* THE BEST PRODUCTS
* SUPERB SELECTION
* LARGE INVENTORY
* GREAT PRICES
* TOP SERVICE
* SUPER DEALS

www.westontabletennisclub.com

email: weston@westontabletennisclub.com
**ARMSTRONG** is well known as the inventor of sponge and sandwich rubber, and we continue to strive for the advancement of table tennis products and its technology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong 3M</td>
<td>This rubber is for fast attack close to the table. The pips are slightly higher than an ordinary pips rubber sheet. It's easy to loop and hit.</td>
<td>29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Seifuku SS</td>
<td>The world top players have chosen this rubber. Great flexibility in speed and spin, while maintaining very good control. Comes in 3 sponge hardness.</td>
<td>32.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hikari SR7</td>
<td>This rubber is good for speed and spin, while maintaining very good control. Suitable for speed glue play.</td>
<td>29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Attack 3L</td>
<td>Great for fast attack close to the table. With the slightly higher pips it's very easy to create a loop ball and hit a chop ball.</td>
<td>29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack 8M</td>
<td>Great for fast attack close to the table. Easy to loop and hit a ball, because the pips are slightly higher than the ordinary ones.</td>
<td>32.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Anti Spin Rubber</td>
<td>New type of anti spin rubber, good for block, cut and even attack. At Novi Sad the Chinese won the world titles by using this type of rubber.</td>
<td>29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Chopper Rubber</td>
<td>Ideal for chop/super defense/maximum effect/slower the speed ball.</td>
<td>27.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Long Pips Rubber</td>
<td>This Long Pips Rubber has long been known as the magic rubber. It will confuse any opponent.</td>
<td>27.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong's Red Mark</td>
<td>World famous reversed rubber/easy to control. Famous Players have used Red Mark.</td>
<td>29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSIN</td>
<td>For close to the table fast attackers. Due to a high performance sponge you can hit very powerful and block comfortably.</td>
<td>27.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Twister Rubber</td>
<td>Great for top spins/maximum flexibility. The surface of the pips is very rough to increase spin power.</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong Vector Rubber</td>
<td>Top rubber for spin, speed and control. VECTOR comes in sponge hardness.</td>
<td>29.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With any purchase of Armstrong rubbers, you get 6 Nitaku Premium 3 Star Balls Free.
You like to sell your products in the USA -- aggressive and professional please contact us

Weston serving all your table tennis needs

* EQUIPMENT *
* CLUB *
* TOURNAMENT *

Come and visit our pro shop
A lot of specials are waiting for you

www.westontabletennisclub.com
email: weston@westontabletennisclub.com

ORDER HOTLINE: 1.800.530.0578
**Specials Good Thru August 31, 2003**

**Robo-Pong 540 Upgrade Kit**

**Price Drop!**

$169.00 (was $199.00)

Converts your Robo-Pong 540 into a 1040! More than doubles ball capacity and increases ball speed and frequency. Adds oscillation for side-to-side delivery. Includes Bucket Extender, full-size Control Box, oscillator controls, and more powerful transformer. Bucket Extender available separately.

**Robo-Pong 540**

Your first step to seeing how robot practice can revolutionize your game. This model is ideal for recreational players and the budget-minded. Lower speed and frequency ranges and static delivery accommodate untrained strokes. Set on top of table and twist base to desired trajectory. Improved bucket design ensures reliable ball feed.

**Amazing Transforming Robots!**

**Only**

$229.00

Order Robo-Pong 540 and get 48 additional balls FREE ($28 Value)

**Robot System Advantages:**

- Cost Effective
- Upgrade As Needed
- Add Features
- Maintain Your Skills
## Robo-Pong Features Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>RP 540</th>
<th>Robo-Pong 1040</th>
<th>Robo-Pong 2040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recycling Net</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$379.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Bucket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$49.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$69.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillation Control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$139.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Angle Adjustment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin Selection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$24.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency Range</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>1-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Capacity 40mm</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># 40mm Balls Included</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Tape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Book</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Optional Accessories for Robo-Pong

- **Recycling Net Upgrade**: $379.00
- **RP 540 Upgrade Kit**: $199.00
- **Ball Catch Net**: $49.95
- **Robo-Tote**: $49.95
- **Pong-Master**: $139.95
- **Robo-Caddy**: $69.95
- **Pong-Pal**: $19.95
- **Bucket Extender**: $24.95
- **40mm Robo-Balls**: $59.95
- **38mm Robo-Balls**: $49.95
- **Carrying Strap**: $5.00
- **Tray Liners (set)**: $16.00

**Additional Products**

- **40mm Robo-Balls**: $59.95/144
- **38mm Robo-Balls**: $49.95/144
- **Tray Liners (set)**: $16.00
- **Instructional Book**: $5.00
- **Videotape**: $39.95
- **Carrying Strap**: $5.00

### Order Information

- **Newgy Industries, Inc.**
  - P.O. Box 959
  - 805 Teal Drive
  - Gallatin, TN 37066 USA
  - Phone: 615-452-6470
  - Fax: 615-230-9785
  - E-mail: newgy@newgy.com

- **Special Offer**
  - Order Robo-Pong 2040 and get 72 additional balls FREE ($42 Value)

- **Robo-Pong 2040**
  - Only $359.00

- **Recycling Net Upgrade Kit**
  - Only $379.00

- **Robo-Pong 2040**
  - Only $695.00

### Additional Information

- Each product comes with a 30 day money-back guarantee, 1 year warranty and free 5 year service policy.
- All Models Accept Both 38 and 40mm Balls!
Men's Singles
By Dan Seemiller, USA Men's Coach

I've Le France! Table tennis is alive and well in Paris at the 47th World Championships. Sold out crowds of 15,000 appreciative spectators cheered their favorite players on the world's greatest stage.

I have played in eight and coached at four World Championships, and this event was the most spectacular. The separation of singles and doubles events from the team event led to fresher and more focused athletes. As a result the level of play was truly outstanding.

Recent changes by the ITTF were a resounding success. The bigger ball led to better and more athletic rallies. The scoring system to 11 points led to double, maybe triple, the drama. I was literally on the edge of my seat at least a dozen times. And the rule change where the receiver must see contact led to less receive errors, which in turn produced longer rallies.

upsets started early and often. Ali Saleh Ahmed, an upcoming Egyptian ranked #129 in the world, took out perennial top player Lucjan Blaszczyk, #32, 4-1. Daniel Gorak, a top Polish junior (#212), won against Philippe Saive (#66), 4-3.

Michael Maze, #21 in the world and a close 5-game laser to Kong in Osaka, lost 4-2 to Guomundur Stephenson (#257), from Iceland. A monumental upset of the talented Dane by a player from Iceland in round one, no less.

Everyone was looking to see the form of the great champion, Waldner. As you may know, Jan-Ove broke his ankle and was out four months. Jan-Ove drew Konstantinos Papageorgiou of Greece, #372. This should be easy on paper but what the fans wanted to see was his form. Waldner, looking a little heavy and certainly slow-footed, looks...can I say it?..."horrible." The Grecian player is whipping him technically (i.e. getting the first attack) and Jan-Ove is behind the whole match, down 2-1 in games, then 3-2. The Swede wins game six easily and there is hope. Oh, no......arguably the greatest player ever is down 10-1 in game seven. (He even gives up during one rally at 7-1 - remember that.) Jan-Ove smacks in a couple of "I don't care" winners followed by two errors by Papageorgiou who is starting to show stage fright. The champ has now climbed back to 8-10 and he has the serve. Can it be the best comeback of all time? Sadly, no, as Jan-Ove bows out meekly missing an easy backhand. It's tough when legends fall but this is sport, it happens. Papageorgiou, ranked 353 spots behind Jan-Ove in the world rankings, pulls the upset of his career.

Round of 64
What can we call this round?..."The day the veterans took it on the chin"? Or, "Sweden is gone...long gone." The first to fall is French favorite Jean-Philippe Gatien, who loses easily 4-1 to Adrian Crisan from Romania. The crowd tried to back their star but like Waldner he played so poorly there was nothing to cheer about. Slobodan Grujic (YUG) took out veteran Jorg Rosskopf, 14-12 in the seventh. The older players crumbled under the pressure of the 11-point scoring. Kim Taek Soo bravely squeaked by Alan Bentsen - down 5-1 in game seven he came back to win 12-10. Did I say the new scoring system tripled the drama? Let's just say it was off the charts.

Other upsets in this round that turned one's head: Daniel Gorak (#212) over Tang Peng (#24), the first Chinese to fall. They have seven players in the draw......make that...
Werner Schlager Wins!

six. Peter Korbel (#39) takes out Liu Guozheng (#14), 4-3. China's down to five. Zoran Primorac, a veteran...oh, oh......falls apart in game seven to Lars Hilscher (#81) from Germany. Zori was seeded 10th. Zoki seems to crumble under pressure when leading 6-4 in game seven only to lose 7 of the next 8 points. Another flameout for the well liked Croatian.

Se Hyuk Joo (#61), remember this name, easily handles #16 Smirnov, 4-1. Jorgen Persson loses badly to Chu Yan Leung of Hong Kong, 4-0. Also Jens Lundquist, Sweden, falls easily to Chen Weixing of Austria (#42). On to the round of 32....oh, wait!.....What about the #1 player in the world, Timo Boll? How is he handling the pressure? You be the judge. Timo has drawn a difficult opponent in 17-year-old Qiu Yike of China (#40) in the round of 64. He starts out awesome, wins the first at 3 and second at 7. His techniques and game are razor sharp. He's making Qiu look like the teenager he is. Qiu storms back to win game three at 7. Boy. is he fast. Game four is crucial but it goes to the young Chinese, 14-12. The momentum has completely changed as Qiu leads 9-4 and 10-5. Timo is in serious trouble. You can see it in his body language and eyes. Timo plays well, brings it back to 9-10. Timo fires 1.2 then 3 loops at Qiu. Qiu, off balance, sticks his racket out and...oh, no......net dribbler. Timo smacks the ball out of the court and gets yellow carded. In game six Boll settles down, leads 9-4 then 10-5. A couple of great points then 2 errors by Timo bring it to 10-9...Qiu's serve. Timo does not look good. "He should take a time-out," I'm thinking. At 10-9, Timo takes control of the rally and has Qiu pinned in the backcourt. An easy winning shot for Timo.....only he whiffs. He thinks Qiu has had a double hit, finger then racket, but Qiu waves him off. Another winner for Qiu, 11-10....match point. Boll takes a time-out. Not a good move from my viewpoint. He should have taken one at 10-9 or at 10-all. It's soon all over. Qiu Yike has knocked off the favorite 12-10, 4 games to 2. Timo is stunned. He just sits there with a blank look on his face. As an athlete there are highs and plenty of lows. Timo is way down there on this day. All this happened on Day One. Wow.

**Round of 32**

Things quiet down completely in this round with only one minor upset. Joo Se Hyuk (Korea) defeats Ching Li of Hong Kong (#51). What was significant about this match? Ching had three match points before losing. Joo is a defender.....chops the ball on the backhand harder and heavier than anybody in the history of the sport. What else does he have?...An incredible forehand loop and re-loop that has to be seen to be believed. Other winners in this round: Qiu Yike, Crisan, Oh Sang Eun, Kong Linghui, Schlager, Kim Taek Soo, Chiang Peng-Lung, Wang Liqin, Samsonov, Kreanga, Chen Weixing, Wang Hao, Chuan Chih-Yuan, Hakansson, and Ma Lin.

**Round of 16**

Who will be the next world champion? Defending champion Wang Liqin has been playing well. Kong hasn't lost a game and Ma Lin is the highest ranked player left and certainly has had the best results in the last year. Samsonov hasn't lost a game and he just dominated the European championships two months ago. As we wind down to the final rounds many people fear an all-Chinese semifinal and that takes all the excitement away. So we move on.

Qiu Yike continues his marvelous play with a relatively easy 4-2 win over Crisan of Romania. Peter Karlsson was in Crisan's bracket but withdrew due to injury. Kong Linghui was down 2-1 to Oh Sang Eun, but won the crucial fifth game 12-10 to move into the quarters, 4-2.

Next up, two veterans, Taek Soo Kim vs. Werner Schlager. They are even 1-1 in games when Schlager wins games three and four at 10 and 11. In game five, the Austrian leads 9-5 and Kim is......well,.......toast? Not yet, as the Korean penholder rallies to win at 10 and leads 5-0 in the sixth. Comeback artist Schlager stages his own rally to win 11-8 and out goes the hard luck Korean star. Wang Liqin wins the big fourth game at deuce to

Continued on page 50
Continued from page 47

hold off Chiang Peng-Lung of Taipei 4-2 and the titleholder is in the quarters.

The next match features Vladimir Samsonov and Kalinikos Kreanga. What a match this was. Kreanga was red-hot firing his famous backhand at will. Samsonov hangs in there to win the sixth game to tie it 3-all. But it was not to be as the explosive Kreanga upsets the European champion 4-3. Samsonov was once again too soft throughout this match. I've seen him do this before, at the Olympics and the Osaka Worlds. Give credit to Kreanga though, as this match had the capacity crowd on its feet cheering wildly at the spectacular shot-making ability of the speedy Kreanga.

Wang Hao, world #7, loses to defensive specialist Chen Weixing (#42). This match rent the distance and was 9-till in the seventh before Chen pulled the huge upset.

Chuan Chih-Yuan, #5 in the world, vs. Joo Se Hyuk (#61). A mismatch by ranking but Chuan is said to struggle against chop. What is this?.......another chopper vying for a spot in the quarters? The chopping style is back as Joo easily wins 4-1. So, after many upsets in the early rounds we've had three in a row in the round of 16.

The last match is Ma Lin vs. Fredrik Hakansson. Hakansson leads 2-1 in games before Ma embarrasses the Swede in games four, five and six at 4, 1, 3. Amazing.

Quarterfinals

Kong Linghui vs. Qiu Yike. Kong is the heavy favorite and sets the tone with an 11-1 first game win. The second game, the teenager plays better but loses 11-9. In the third, Qiu wins easily 11-4 to go down 2-1. Any chance of an upset is gone as Kong puts the hammer down, 11-1 again in game four. It's Kong into the semi's, 4-1.

Wang Liqin, the defending champion, has been looking good so far. Werner Schlager has come close before (semi's of World's in 1999 and quarter's of Olympics 2000). Wang wins the crucial fourth game 15-13 to go up 3-1. Schlager stays alive winning the fifth, 11-9. In the sixth it's all the defending champ as Wang leads 10-6.......four match points. Schlager fights them all off, wins the game 13-11, and the comeback artist has tied the match 3-3. Wang is visibly nervous, pacing the court and constantly looking at his coach. It was if he was saying, "How did i get myself in this mess?" and moments later he's out 11-5. Schlager wins in seven. Four match points for Wang....what a way for the defending champ to lose.

In quarterfinal #3. Kreanga wins rather easily, 4-0 over Chen Weixing. Chen looked
Kaliniko Krenanga's devastating backhand, Kong Linghui's more controlling forehand.

Ma Lin vs. Joo Se Hyuk. I'm surprised to hear that Ma has in the past struggled against defensive players. Joo had beaten him two years ago in the World Club Championships. Joo wins the first, 13-11, but Ma comes back to win games two and three to go up 2-1. Joo, playing spectacularly and with the crowd behind him (the spectators always love a chopper), wins the fourth to tie Ma at two games apiece. In game five Ma plays well attacking Joo's middle and winning easily to go up 3-2. Joo fights back to win game six, 11-8. What a match this is! Ma, considered by many as the best in the world, is in deep trouble. Joo is a master at switching tactics. In game seven they work their way to 9-all. Joo chops a couple of Ma's loops then jumps on a forehand counterloop to have match point, 10-9. Ma and Joo ready for the showdown point, but just before the serve are stopped when the umpire yellow-cards the Korean coach. This little stop in play, I think, distracts Ma as he misses a makeable forehand and the Korean defensive player is in the semi's with an 11-9 winner in the seventh.

How could Ma lose? Joo neutralized Ma's serve and third ball attack, and Ma's "reverse penhold" backhand loop was ineffective against the chopper/looper. Also, Joo's counterloop and placement of it scored repeatedly against Ma's penhold defense.

Semifinals

Schlager vs. Kong. They played in the Sydney Olympic quarterfinals where Kong won 3-2. Certainly the Austrian has a shot but clearly Kong is the favorite.

Schlager, using the momentum from his match with Wang Liqin, comes out firing and controls the first, 11-9. In the second, Kong stays in his "safe" mode as Werner's shots begin to miss, 11-7 for Kong. It's one apiece. Schlager keeps on the attack and wins close games at 10 and 8 to go up 3-1. The last Chinese player in the draw (they started with seven of them) is in serious danger. As expected, Kong comes out of his protective shell and starts firing that missile of a forehand of his. He wins games five and six rather easily and it's 3-all. The atmosphere in the

Continued on page 54
Women's Singles
Compiled from ITTF Reports

Wang Nan does a "Hat Trick," and wins her third straight Women's Singles Title.

Wang Nan wins her third straight Women's Singles Title.

Final
Tears welled in Wang Nan's eyes as she mouthed the words of the Chinese national anthem to herself at the presentation ceremony of the Women’s Singles awards.

Wang Nan had retained her women's singles title, but to achieve the feat she had been extended the full seven-game distance by her teammate Zhang Yining.

In the final, the defending champion sped to a three games to nil lead and technically showed herself to be a complete player. However, Zhang Yining was not beaten, she mounted a spirited comeback, and with her strong forehand topspin in overdrive, she leveled matters at three games all. It was at this stage that Wang Nan showed herself not only to be technically a complete player but also a player who could cope with a crisis.

In the decisive seventh game she took command and emerged victorious to etch her name in the record books as one of the world's greatest-ever female players. Match to Wang, 7, 8, 4, 5, 6, 8, 6.

"I think that Zhang Yining wanted so much to win that she played too safe at the start of the match," explained Wang Nan. "However, when I got the lead then perhaps I was the one who became anxious and conservative; in the seventh game I decided to be aggressive and it worked."

Wang Nan recently had missed several international events, having been elected a delegate to the Chinese Communist Party, and after disappointing results in the Asian Games last year she had thought seriously about retiring from competitive play.

"However, my coaches and my teammates inspired me to continue; that's why I was a little emotional after today's final," explained Wang Nan.

Semifinals
The Chinese star gradually assumed control in the Wang Nan-Tamara Boros (CRO) semifinal, and totally focused on the task in hand, she gained confidence as the match progressed, winning 12, 8, 3, 4.

"The first game was crucial," explained Cai Zhenhua, the head coach of the Chinese team. "In the last two games she was much more relaxed and we changed the tactics somewhat; Boros had consistently attacked Wang Nan's forehand so in the third and fourth games we were aware of this and she was ready for the attacks."

The last female player to win all three singles/doubles events at the Worlds (Women's Singles & Doubles, Mixed Doubles), was Lin Huqing, also of China, in 1971 in Nagoya, Japan; it was a feat never achieved even by the legendary Deng Yaping. The last female player to achieve the distinction of winning four titles (the fourth title being Teams) on the same occasion was Angelica Rozeanu of Romania, a feat she achieved in 1953 on home soil in Bucharest.

Wang Nan not only won the “Hat Trick” at these Worlds but also is the reigning Women’s Team Champion from the last Worlds (2001), before singles & doubles were separated from the team event. In fact, at the last Worlds, she also won a “Hat Trick” — winning Women’s Singles, Doubles & Teams — but not Mixed Doubles.

"It never becomes routine to win a World title," said Wang Nan, shortly after taking her third title. Women’s Doubles. "I am excited every time, of course your first titles are special but the three I won here mean a lot to me, because I have had poor results during the last year."

Meanwhile, there was a smile on the face of Zhang Yining. "Yes, I was disappointed yesterday after the singles final but that wasn’t on my mind today. When I woke up today, my first thought was about women’s doubles, not about the women’s singles." Zhang lost to Wang in the Women’s Singles Final, but only after a ferocious near-comeback.
Wang Nan was of the same opinion. “I was nervous at the start of the match but winning the first game was a great boost. In the last two games I protected my forehand more and tried to place my returns so that it was difficult for Boros to attack my forehand with her strong topspins.”

In the other semifinals, Zhang Yining was the victor over Chinese compatriot Li Ju. “Zhang Yining played very well,” smiled a resigned Li Ju. “It’s always difficult playing someone who is from your own team. The second game was crucial. I led 10-5 and eventually lost 17-15.”

Quarterfinals

Two fourteen-year-olds had reached the quarterfinal stage of the women’s singles at the World Championships in Bercy, Ai Fukuhara of Japan and Guo Yue of China; both gave performances beyond their years and both bowed out to the very best.

Fukuhara fell in straight games to the top seed and world ranked #1, Zhang Yining (2,11,3,4), whilst Guo Yue was beaten in six games by the reigning Olympic and World Champion, Wang Nan (-8,4,8,3,-8,2). “She was simply too good,” said Ai of Zhang. “I tried my best but she had an answer for everything I did; there are no weaknesses in her game. It’s easy playing against her, it’s just she’s so very good at everything she does.”

Earlier in the day she had said that her aim was to win a game against the top-seeded player, it didn’t happen but she came mightily close: “I’m very happy that I got to 10-10 in the first game,” she said, but at the end of the day it was Zhang Yining who held all the aces. “She’s so flexible with her tactics,” added Ai. “It’s so hard to know what to do next.” Nevertheless, Ai had won the hearts of the crowd, and with her coach holding her arm aloft she received a rapturous ovation from the adoring crowd at the end of the contest.

Meanwhile, Guo Yue, three months older than Fukuhara, belied her tender years when confronted with Wang Nan. “I didn’t play my best today, I played much better in the earlier rounds,” she said, seemingly somewhat disappointed that she hadn’t posed more of a threat to the defending champion. “With her strong topspins.”

Undoubtedly, both have benefited from the visit to Paris and both will no doubt grace the table tennis arenas of the world for many years to come.

In other quarterfinal matches, Li Ju (CHN) defeated Niu Jianfeng (CHN), 11-9,10-8,10-7,2, and Tamara Boros (CRO) defeated Chang Jun Gao (USA), -9,1,-9,1,11,7,-2,6. For write-up of the latter, see the USA Women’s write-up, and the box about Gao’s results.

Exit Waldner

From ITTF Reports

The enforced time away from the sport through injury took its toll on former World and Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner in the first round of the men’s singles.

A player who over the years has been at his best in crucial situations almost performed the great escape, but in the end it proved to be a bridge too far. Trailing 1-10 in the seventh and final game against Konstantinos Papageorgiou of Greece, the Swedish star, encouraged by the crowd, gradually clawed his way back. The Greek player, on the precipice of the best win of his career, was finding the one point necessary to be increasingly elusive. At 3-10 he took a “Time Out,” but Waldner remained composed, and five more points went the way of the man whom many regard as the greatest player ever to have graced the table tennis arena. Finally, at 8-10, a Waldner backhand topspin found the net, and to the undoubtedly relief of Papageorgiou, a victory he will never have forgotten had been achieved.

Even family support could not see Waldner through. In his corner to give advice was his elder brother Kjell-Åke, who after the contest was quite realistic about the result. “It was his first tough game for eight months and it showed; his concentration was up and down. He tried his best but he never had a lead early in any game and that puts extra pressure on you,” sighed the resigned brother/coach. “He said his injury wasn’t causing him any problems but you never know; if you can win such a match then you forget any injuries and confidence grows; to be realistic it was too much to ask that he could reach the latter stages.”

USA’s Chang Jun Gao Makes the Quarterfinals!

By Larry Hodges

USA’s Gao Jun made the quarterfinals of Women’s Singles at the Worlds, and came ever so close to making the semifinals. In the quarterfinals, she went the full seven games with Tamara Boros of Croatia (world #5) before losing. -9,1,-9,11,7,-2,6. In the fourth game, she led 10-9 game point, on the verge of going up 3-1. Gao had beaten Boros at the World Cup the last time they’d played, in 2002. (To see Gao’s other results at the Worlds on her road to the Quarterfinals, see USA Results and the article on USA Women.)

Interesting tidbit: Gao is the first (and only) USA player to reach the quarterfinals in singles at the Worlds with sponge. So how does this match up with past USA performances? The last time a USA player reached the quarterfinals of singles at the Worlds was ... 1959! Dick Miles made the semifinals that year, using a hardbat, chopping and pick-hitting. The last time a USA women made the quarterfinals in Women’s Singles? Back another ten years... Thelma “Tybie” Thall Sommer reached the Women’s Singles semifinals in ... 1949!

Other “notable” USA results in moderately recent times.

• Eric Boggan made the 8ths of Men’s Singles in 1983.
• Dan & Ricky Seemiller made the quarterfinals of Men’s Doubles in 1977.
• Erwin Klein and Leah Thall Neuberger won Mixed Doubles in 1956.
• Before the sponge era, USA players won numerous titles.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • July/August 2003
Continued from page 51

hall is electric. Fourteen thousand fans were cheering for the European underdog. Schlager. Only about one thousand fans were behind Kong. In game seven Schlager takes the early lead, but Kong is right there. It finally comes down to 9-9 when Schlager scores to have the first match point. Kong deuces it. The Austrian has another match point at 11-10, but Kong answers the pressure, 11-11. Schlager takes a risk and serves long and fast to Kong’s backhand. Kong turns the corner but Kong answers the pressure, 11-11.

Austrian has another match point at 11-10, the first match point. Kong deuces it. The down to 9-a when Schlager scores to have the Korean hits in a beautiful counterloop to #5), Ma Lin (#2) and finally, Kreanga (#9).

five upset matches in a row, defeating Alexei Joo Se Hyuk is coming in at #61. Joo has won Olympic champ as he makes a poor serve that whistling. This may have distracted the crowd thinks Kong was delaying and they start whistling. Schlager flip-kills wide to his forehand. Kong pushes Werner’s serve in the net. He then misses a backhand opening and it’s over. Schlager has beaten Wang Liqin and now Kong Linghui. He’s in the final.

In the other semifinal it’s Kreanga vs. Se Hyuk Joo. Many people feel Kreanga will win because he blitzed chopper Chen Weixing 4-0 in the quarters, and Joo’s style is similar. I didn’t think so because Joo is more aggressive and faster than Chen and his forehand re-loop is better. Also, anyone who can beat Ma Lin, like Joo did in the quarters, has to be the favorite in my book.

Joo wins the first 11-5, but Kalin quickly even it with an 11-3 win of his own. No one knows where this match is headed. Joo quickly asserts himself as the animated and often-agitated Kreanga loses games three and four to go down 3-1 in games. Joo is now dominating and thrilling the crowd with his brilliant defense/offense style of game. Yes, Joo is a chopper....his backhand chop, his forehand loop and counterloop are just spectacular. Kreanga rallies game five to deuce, but a couple of Se Hyuk’s loops and it’s finished, 4-1 for the Korean.

Final

Who would have picked this unlikely pair for the men’s singles title of the world? Schlager has had big wins over Kim Taeck Soo, Wing Liqin and Kong Linghui, so he should be the favorite. He’s also #6 in the world while Joo Se Hyuk is coming in at #61. Joo has won five upset matches in a row, defeating Alexei Smirnov (#16), Ching Li (#51), Chi Yuan Chuan (#5), Ma Lin (#2) and finally, Kreanga (#9).

Who will win? It’s anyone’s guess....and the reason why the sold-out stadium is rocking with anticipation.

Joo leads early in game one, and goes up 8-5. Werner is trying the power game but Se Hyuk is ready. Werner forges an 8-8 tie but the Korean hits in a beautiful counterloop to go up 9-8. Then it’s 9-all. Schlager loops to Joo’s body and he has game point, 10-9. Joo misses a counterloop and a possibly pivotal game one goes to the Austrian, 11-9. In game two from 6-all, Schlager rips a huge backhand and Joo makes three errors in a row to 10-6. Werner closes it out 11-6 and he’s up 2-0.

In game three, Joo must win this one, and he does just that, 11-6. Joo in the first two games had trouble re-looping Schlager’s spinny loop. He begins chopping the forehead some and this gets him back in the match. Joo and Schlager are both excellent at changing tactics. So, this is not just a physical match-up.....there’s a lot of mental strategy out there.

In game four, Schlager is up 2-0 then down 2-3. At 3-all they split great rallies to go 4-4. The spectators are loving this match. Schlager loops five times....Schlager’s blocking is amazing....with the fifth one giving him the point, 5-4. Se Hyuk moves to 7-4. At 7-6 Joo again loops three times and it’s 8-6. Soon Joo leads 10-7. The comeback artist fires two backhand loops, 10-8, Schlager blocks Joo’s loop then fires in one of his own, 10-9. A great rally is won by Schlager, 10-9. The Austrian now gets a net ball, 11-10, and Joo misses a fast serve to his forehand middle, and Werner Schlager is one game away from the title. He leads 3-1. Joo’s inexperience showed this game and it could prove fatal.

In game five, Se Hyuk jumps to a 2-0 lead with a loop from outside the table that hits the edge on the way up. Yes, on the way up. Joo looped it from just off the floor. Schlager complains about the call but the ball was good. Joo moves to 6-2 then 8-3 as Werner’s losing patience, is trying to blast his way to the title. Great comeback by the Austrian....so, what else is new? It’s now 8-9, but two errors later, the score is 11-8 and Joo has won game five.

Game six. Again, Se Hyuk leads 2-0 but Werner settles in and, moving the ball around, scores six in a row to lead 6-2. He’s so close he can taste it. Joo scores two in a row, the second a counterloop, to bring it to 4-6. Schlager scores to go up 7-4. And now, the Korean youngster, quite shockingly, scores five in a row to bring the audience to a frenzy. It’s 9-7 Joo. Oh, no....Joo misses an easy backhand winner....9-8. Schlager scores two in a row and it’s match point, 10-9. Se Hyuk has already fought off three match points earlier in this tournament, and he fights off a fourth one with an amazing backhand sidespin chop that Schlager nets....10-all. At 10-all Joo takes the offensive with a counterloop and Schlager blocks one, then two. Then, anticipating Joo’s next loop, he steps around the backhand corner and re-loops it down the line and it’s 11-10, match point #2 for Schlager. One of the greatest pressure shots of all time. Joo misses a counterloop and it’s over, 12-10....four games to two for Werner Schlager. Werner Schlager is the new world champion. A deserving winner who fought off five match points and is now the champion.

How did he do it? Let me count the ways..... He has excellent serves (Kong missed three in a row) during the match. His receive game is one of the best. His backhand loop and backhand play are great. Werner has big power and amazing touch. He has guts (he flip killed Kong’s serve at match point if you remember), he has the ability to change tactics and he’s experienced. You put it all together and you find the new World Champion.....Werner Schlager.

---

From ITTF Reports

Two players from Yemen and Saudi Arabia were banned by the ITTF from international competition for the rest of the year after refusing to play an Israeli at the Worlds.

Israel’s team at the World Championships in Paris protested after Hani Al-Hammadi of Yemen and Nabeel Al-Maghawhi of Saudi Arabia did not show to play Gay Elenski in qualifying matches this week. The two did play each other, with Al-Maghawhi winning.

Al-Hammadi showed up at the table for his qualifying match Monday, but walked away when he saw Elenski waiting. The next day, Al-Maghawhi refused to play the Israeli. Elenski was declared the winner in each match.

“I wasn’t surprised at what happened,” said 19-year-old Gay Elenski, Israel’s top-ranked player. “Even so, I can’t help feeling something.” Elenski lives in Nantes, and plays in the French national league. This was Elenski’s first world championships.

Israel’s delegation protested that the two players’ actions were an “unacceptable political demonstration.” As punishment, the two may not play in any ITTF competition for the rest of 2003.

The Saudi did not explain his actions. The Yemeni said he was tired and cited transportation problems from his hotel.

“We cannot prove anything about their reasons for not playing, but what we do know is that they broke our rules,” said ITTF President Adham Sharara. “Before the championships, all team leaders signed promises that their players would play opponents from any country.”
USA PIyers – Results at the Worlds

Numbers after country codes are world rankings

**Women Singles**

**Chang Jun Gao**

- Preliminaries: Seeded out
- Main Draw
  - Round One: Defeats Zeina Shaban (JOR/356), -10,6,8,5,4
  - Round Two: Defeats Svetlana Ganina (RUS/54), 2,7,6,8
  - Round Three: Defeats Elke Wosik (GER/55), -9,8,5,9,-5,8,4
  - Round Four: Defeats Kim Kyung Ah (KOR/17), 12,8,5,9
  - Round Five (Quarterfinals): Defeats Fabio Andreoli/Bernd Bercy (ITA), 5,9,4,9,8,7

**Jasna Reed**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Iveljic Dragana (BIH/474), 9,-11,4,7,6
  - Loses to Chiu Soo Jin (MAS/476), -8,6,1,6,-5,9

**Tawny Banh**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Berangine Pouelet (COG), def.
  - Defeats Mariana Guanchez (VEN/454), 3,7,5,1
- Main Draw
  - Round One: Loses to Lu Yun-Feng (TPE/127), 6,8,6,11

**Lily Yip**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Patricia Molik (POL/304), 7,0,3,4
  - Defeats Nathalia Vioculescu (ROM), 8,4,1,18
  - Loses to Mantu Ghosh (IND/298), 6,-5,-11,2,5,3
- Advances in first place out of a three-way tie
- Main Draw
  - Round One: Defeats Tatyana Kostromina (BLR/68), 9,-2,5,7,-5,9
  - Round Two: Loses to Jie Schopp (GER/25), 3,5,9,7

**Simone Yang**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Melveen Richmond (TAH), 2,8,4,7
  - Defeats Sofija Tepes (CHI/313), 10,5,-3,6,-5,0,7
- Main Draw
  - Round One: Loses to Li Chunli (NZL/50), 5,2,7,9

**Women's Doubles**

**Chang Jun Gao/Jasna Reed**

- Round One: Bye
- Round Two: Defeats Anastasiya Koutsova/Elena Brus (UKR), 4,8,9,8
- Round Three: Lose to Tatyana Logatzkaya/Veronika Pavlovich (BLR), -5,-5,7,10,4,7

**Tawny Banh/Lily Yip**

- Loses to Chris Xu/Marie-Christine Roussy (CAN), -12,10,-4,7,6.

**Men's Singles**

**David Zhuang**

- Preliminaries
  - Loses to Umberto Giardina (ITA), 9,8,-4,6,7
  - Loses to Nosiru Kazeem (NGR/231), def. (Zhuang is sick)

**Mark Hazinski**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Anthony Corbin (TRI), 8,0,9,4
  - Loses to Valentijn Bazenov (SVK/313), 13,-12,-11,6,9,-7,6

**Eric Owens**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Alexandr Dvugai (UZB), 5,8,8,2
  - Loses to Marc Schreiber (SUI/472), -9,-9,9,8,8

**De Tran**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Artur Silva (POR/465), 7,9,5,12,8
  - Loses to Hugo Hanashiro (BRA/335), 5,7,11,-12,6,6

**Darko Rop**

- Preliminaries
  - Defeats Guillermo Munoz Ronquillo (MEX/447), -9,9,10,15,8,3
  - Loses to Hamad Al-Hammadi (QAT/342), 4,-9,-10,5,8,7

**Men's Doubles**

**David Zhuang/Mark Hazinski**

- Round One: Defeats Todor Kessov/Kiril Popov (BUL), 12,8,3
- Round Two: Defeats Dukhail Al-Habashi/Ali Al-Kondrai, 5,7,4
- Round Three: Defeats Ma Lin/Qin Zhijian (CHN). (Zhuang is sick)

**Eric Owens/De Tran**

- Round One: Loses to Bojan Tikic/Gregor Komac (SLO)

**Mixed Doubles**

**David Zhuang/Chang Jun Gao**

- Round One: Bye
- Round Two: Defeats Shane Laugesen/Karen Li (IRL), 8,5,9
- Round Three: Defeats Fabio Andreoli/Wenling Tan Monfardini (ITL), 5,4,-7,8
- Round Four: Defeats Toshio Tasaki/Ai Fujimina (JPN), 9,9,10,20
- Round Five (Round of 32): defaults to Ferenc Pazsy/Zita Molnar (HUN). (Zhuang is sick.)

**Eric Owens/Jasna Reed**

- Round One: Loses to Andrei Filimon/Nathalia Vioculescu (ROM), 4,6,8

**Mark Hazinski/Tawny Banh**

- Round One: Loses to Wang Yu/Simone Spinicchia (ITA), 6,4,11

**De Tran/Lily Yip**

- Round One: Defeats Damien Lynch/Tara Fusco (IRL), 9,8,4
- Round Two: Loses to Gregor Komac/Hijiana Todorovic (SLO), 11,6,-4,5

**Darko Rop/Simone Yang**

- Round One: Defeats Gerardo Sanchez/Guadalupe Gomez-Sanchez (PER), 4,7,7
- Round Two: Loses to Yeven Prischepa/Anastasiya Koutsova (UKR), 8,4,2

---

**Chang Jun Gao on Playing Chopper Kim Kyung Ah**

Care of ITTF

A ttack against backspin players can prove an exhausting experience for some, but USA's Chang Jun Gao made life look very easy in her fourth round match against the defensive skills of Korea's Kim Kyung Ah.

The adopted American, playing in the traditional Asian pips-out penhold style, expended only minimum energy in beating her Korean opponent in four straight games, 9,8,2,5.

"My tactic against defenders is not to be too aggressive, slow topspins and wait for the opportunity to play a drop shot or to kill the ball; it's crucial to remain focused throughout and be patient, you must wait for your chance and seize the moment," said Chang.

Certainly, it was a tactic she executed to good effect: "I have no power, it's a big hall in Bercy, the ball flies slower than in a smaller room but so long as I keep playing slowly I make fewer mistakes and I gain in confidence," she explained.

"However, you must realize that every defensive player is different. In China, Wang Hui and Cheng Hongxia were both very solid backspin players but now there is Fan Ying, who like the men players, has a strong forehand topspin. I think it depends to a great extent on your character as to whether you become a defender or an attacker; if you are a quiet person then I think defending is for you but if you are an extrovert then become an attacker!"

Chang Gao Jun and Niu Jianfeng both overcame backspin players in the fourth round of the women's singles in Bercy and both are from the same town in China, Baoding in Hebei province, to the north of Beijing. Coached by Tang Yinsheng, the club also has within its ranks Bai Yang, and they have proved not only to be good at developing players who can play against defense but also those who can defend.

It is the club where Jie Schopp (now of Germany) learned her skills.

---

**USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • July/August 2003**
USA Women at the Worlds  By Teodor “Doru” Gheorghe, USA Women’s Coach

The USA Women’s Team, composed of Chang Jun Gao, Jasna Reed, Tawny Banh, Lily Yip and Simone Yang, arrived in Paris on May 16 after all team members decided to participate at the Worlds despite the SARS’s threat.

The tournament started Monday morning, May 19th with the qualification rounds for mixed doubles.

Mixed Doubles
Tawny Banh/Mark Hazinski lost against Simone Spinicchia/Wang Yu (ITA), 3-0, and Jasna Reed/Eric Owens lost against Andrea Filimon/Nathalia Voiculescu (ROM), also 3-0. De Tran/Lily Yip played against Damiene Lynch/Tara Fusco (IRL) and won 3-0, but they lost 3-1 the next round to Gregor Koniaci/Biliana Todorovic (SLO).

Simone Yang/Darko Rop won 3-0 against Sanchez/Gomez-Sanchez (PER), but lost 3-0 to Yevhen Prishchepa/Anastaysia Koutsova (UKR).

Chang Jun Gao/David Zhuang came out of qualification rounds, defeating Shane Langesen/Karen Li (NZL) 3-0, and Fabio Andreoli/Tan Monfardini (ITA) 3-0. David Gao were the only ones that made it to the main draw, where they played Toshio Tasaki/Ai Fujinuma (JPN). After a very exciting match (where, in the fourth game, the umpire said 10 minutes had passed and the expedite system would start in the next game), Gao/David won 4-0. Unfortunately, in the second round, David couldn’t play because of a very bad sore throat and body ache, so they lost by default against Ferenc Pazsy/Zita Molnar (HUN).

Women’s Doubles
Because of the withdrawal of the North Korean Team, Gao/Jasna were seeded in the main draw. Lily/Tawny played in the qualification rounds and lost to the Canadian pair, Chris Xu/Marie-Christine Roussy.

In the first round, Jasna/Gao played Anastasia Koutsova/Elena Brus (UKR), and they won 4-0. In the second round they lost to Tatyana Logatskaya/Veronika Pavlovich (BLR), 4-2.

Women’s Singles
The qualifying rounds were composed of round robin groups of 3-4 players. Chang Jun Gao was the only USA player seeded into the main draw.

Jasna Reed was in a group with Iveljic Dragana (BIH) and Chiu Soo Jin (MAS). She finished second in the group, defeating Dragana 4-1 but losing 4-2 against Chin.

Tawny Banh won her group by defeating Mariana Gunchez (VEN) 4-0, and getting a walkover against no-show Berangine Poulet (COG). She advanced to the main draw.

Lily Yip was in a group of four players. She won against Patricea Molik (POL) 4-0, after 10 minutes of arguments with the umpire regarding Lily’s paddle. (The wood on the back of her penhold paddle was uneven.) Next match was against Mantu Ghosh (IND), where she lost 4-2. In the final match, against Nathalia Voiculescu (ROM), she won 4-0, and in a 3-way tie, came in first, and so advanced to the main draw.

Simone Yang advanced to the main draw, winning 4-0 against Melveen Richmond (THA), and 4-3 against Soliija Tepes (CHI).

In the first round of the main draw, Tawny lost 4-0 against Lu Yun-Feng (TPE). In the main draw, Lu Yun-Feng (TPE) would win against Aya Umemura (JPN) and Csilla Batorfi (HUN) before she lost the round before the quarterfinals against eventual finalist Zhang Yining (CHN).

Simone Yang lost to Li Chunli (NZL), 4-0.

Lily Yip won 4-2 against Tatyana Kostromina (BLR) after a very nice and spectacular match. The win of Lily against Kostromina was a big upset, considering their world rankings: Lily 687 (an old ranking), Kostromina 68. In the next round, Lily lost 4-0 to Je Schöpp (GER).

In the first round, Gao Jun defeated Zeina Shaban (JOR), a very promising young player, 4-1. In the second round she played Svetlana Ganina (RUS), a defensive player, and Gao easily won 4-0. In the third round Gao played Elke Wosik (GER). Wosik had upset Li Nan (CHN) in the previous round. Gao lost the first...
game at 9, but won the next three at 8, 5, 9. She lost the fifth game at 5. The sixth game Gao started 3-0 when the German coach called time-out. Wosik had a couple of very good shots and at 6-6 Gao served and smashed twice, 8-6 for Gao. Wosik didn't give up and after couple of good shots and long rallies she won the game, 11-8. In the last game Gao had a very good start, took the lead from the beginning, and won 11-4.

In the 8ths, Gao played Kim Kyung-Ah (KOR) a defensive player, and she won easily, 9,8,2,5.

In the quarterfinals, Gao played Tamara Boros (CRO), world #4 player, who she had beaten at the World Cup the year before. In the first game Gao was up 10-7 when Boros hit an edge, but nobody saw it except Gao. Boros went to her coach, the umpire turned the score to 11-7, but Gao called Boros back to the table to continue the game. Boros won two more points, but Gao finished the game 11-9 with a nice forehand. In the second game Boros started very strong and won easily, 11-1. In the third game they went head to head all the way to the end, with Gao finishing with a serve down the line to win, 11-9. In the fourth game Boros was up 9-7, but Gao came back to lead 10-9. She served short, stepped around and smashed down the line but just missed, and she lost the game, 13-11. Gao lost the fifth game at 7, but won the sixth 11-2.

In the last game, Gao missed the first forehand attack and Boros got three lucky points, two nets and one edge. At 4-1 for Boros I called time-out, but it didn't help. When the game is so close, three lucky points means a lot! Gao tried to catch up but Boros played very strong with powerful shots, and she was very confident. Boros won the seventh, 11-6.

Gao and the USA Team were so very close to a medal! We didn't get the medal but the result is unbelievable for us. I believe that USA has the potential to win medals but we need more training camps, international tournaments and more incentives for athletes.

USA Men at the Worlds  By Dan Seemiller, USA Men's Coach

The U.S. Men's team did not fare well at the championships. Each of our players lost close matches in the qualifying groups in singles and just missed out. Below is a recap of their performance.

**David Zhuang** started well as he and Gao won a tough mixed doubles match. Mark Hazinski and David won their qualifier in Men's Doubles, defeating a Bulgarian team in four and a Kuwaiti team 3-0. In David's qualifier he lost to a strong Italian player, Umberto Giardinia, who was unranked coming in. (David's ranking was 153.) Umberto handled Dave's serves well and he spun well off both sides. Dave lost the first two games at 9 and 8. Zhuang played well in game three and won 11-4 and seemed...
to be playing better. The Italian was focused and he won, 4-1. David is a bit stunned. The and looping balls even while out of position, Giardina is a quality player.

Hours but wasn’t able to play any more matches. Chang Jun Gao. David recovered in about 36

win his group he would need to defeat Valentin of them and loses the important first game 15-

having trouble with Valentin’s serve; misses two (Mark’s ranking was 494.) In the first, Mark

serving to Mark’s backhand primarily in the first crucial as Valentin wins. 11-6.

easily and it’s 3-all. In game seven it’s 4-all

this was his first World’s. Against Hugo

as seeded third in his group as

American service must always be

and design of advertisements on clothing

in advertisements and design of advertisements on clothing

for the purposes of the advice regulations; j,

advisers, the advisers will be treated as a unit

individually, including during

and design of advertisements on clothing

for the purposes of the advice regulations

against Marc Schrieber from Switzer-

of the main draw because David was sick. They

4-2, but does not advance.

2003 World Championships Results
Complete results at www.ittf.com

Men’s Singles – Final: Werner Schlager (AUT)

Ying (CHN) d. Ma Lin (CHN), 9,4,9,7

Adrian Crisan (ROM), 4,11,7,9; Wang Liqin d. Jan-Michael

Samsonov (BLR). -8,3,8,5. Guo d. Suk Eun Mi (KOR), 9,8,8,7; Tie d. Kim Kyung Ha (KOR), 9,8,8,7; Fukuhara d. Li Jia (JPN), 9,8,8,7; Zhang d. Nicole Sturse (GER), 1,6,7,3.

Rules Changes
Passed at the Worlds
By Azmy Ibrahim

• That the upper limit of density of the pimples of pimpled rubber be reduced from 50/sq. cm to 30/sq. cm.

• As soon as the ball has been projected, the server’s free arm must be removed from the area between the server’s body and the net.

• A clearly illegal service must always be penalized, but an umpire who suspects, but is not certain, that a service is illegal

• The differences in the number, size, color and design of advertisements on clothing do not violate the requirement for uniformity for teams and for doubles pairs from the same association.

• The players must remain within three meters of the playing area throughout an individual match, including during intervals and time-outs.

• When a doubles pair has two nominated advisers, the advisers will be treated as a unit for the purposes of the advice regulations.

• That an adviser who is sent away from the playing area for giving advice illegally cannot be replaced by another adviser.
USATT Motions and Votes

Note: Motions, Votes and Minutes of past USATT Board Meetings & votes are online at www.usatt.org/organization/minutes

March Email Vote (Motions I & II from March email votes were in last issue.)

MOTION III: Move to accept the following USATT candidates for the following ITTF nominations:
- Sheri Pittman - Executive Committee
- Aly Salam - Executive Board (Continental Vice President)
- Richard McAfee - Nominating Committee
- Dr. Michael Scott - Sports Medicine
- Tim Boggan - Media
- Azmy Ibrahim - Rules
- Aly Salam - Umpires & Referees
- Delegate to the AGM - Aly Salam
- Second Delegate - Tim Boggan
  Proposed by Sheri Pittman; seconded by Tim Boggan
  Passed: 9-0 (Tawny Banh, Eric Owens and Todd Sweeris not voting; all others for.)

April Email Votes

MOTION I: Moved to promote Teodor Gheorghe to Executive Director effective April 8, 2003.
  Proposed by Sheri Pittman; seconded by Tawny Banh
  Motion to Table: Moved to table this motion until such time that the Board convenes at the May 2003 Meeting.
  Amended to: Moved to postpone this matter to a certain time.
  Proposed by Hank McCoulum; seconded by Todd Sweeris
  Did not pass, 3-6 (For: George Brathwaite, Hank McCoulum, Barney D. Reed; Against: Tawny Banh, Tim Boggan, Tong Lee, Robert Mayer, Jimmy McClure, Sheri Pittman; Not voting: Eric Owens, Todd Sweeris, Jiing Wang)
  Motion I Passed: 8-4 (For: Tawny Banh, Tim Boggan, Tong Lee, Robert Mayer, Jimmy McClure, Eric Owens, Sheri Pittman, Todd Sweeris; Against: George Brathwaite, Hank McCoulum, Barney D. Reed, Jiing Wang)

MOTION II: Moved to approve the Early Termination of Operation of Oakbrook Training Center Agreement and the Employment Agreement for Teodor Gheorge
  Proposed by Sheri Pittman; seconded by Tong Lee
  Passed: 11-0 (Hank McCoulum did not vote; all others voted yes)

MOTION III: Move that the Board appoint Dennis Taylor as the Pro Bono Legal Advisor.
  Proposed by Sheri Pittman; seconded by Tim Boggan
  Passed: 11-0. (Hank McCoulum did not vote; all others voted yes)

MOTION IV: Moved to appoint Bob Fox to fill the vacant Vice President position on the USATT Board.
  Proposed by Sheri Pittman; seconded by Todd Sweeris
  Passed: 12-0

MOTION V: Move that the Board accept the proposed revisions in our Financial Policies and Procedures Manual.
  Proposed by Tong Lee; seconded by Todd Sweeris
  Passed: 11-0.

MOTION VI: Move that the Board accept a Change in our Vacation Leave Policy #504 for both Exempt and Non-Exempt Employees.
  Proposed by Tong Lee; seconded by Bob Fox
  Passed: 11-0.

MOTION VII: Move that the Board implement the ITTF/USATT Rating Conversion Chart prepared by Barney D. Reed, subject to revision by the USATT Rating Committee.
  Proposed by Barney Reed; seconded by Hank McCoulum.
  Passed: 11-0.

MOTION VIII: Moved that the motions and votes of the Board shall be published on the USATT’s web page within five (5) days of the closing of the vote; and that the minutes of Board meetings, reflecting the motions and votes therein, shall be published on the USATT’s web page within forty-five (45) days of adjournment.
  Proposed by Tim Boggan; seconded by Barney Reed.
  Passed: 11-0.

MOTION IX: Move that the Board rescind its Nov., 2002 elimination of the 15% commission to clubs for selling USSTA memberships. The elimination of the commission was mentioned in the discussion of the 2003 Budget, and reflected in the Budget passed by the Board.
  Proposed by Jiing Wang; seconded by Barney Reed.
  Passed: 9-0 (Tawny now permanently absent; Sheri very briefly absent).

MOTION X: Move that, due to the SARS epidemic, members of the U.S. Team shall be given the choice of going or not going to the 2003 Paris World Championships without jeopardizing their stipend, insurance coverage, or Athlete Agreement.
  Proposed by Bob Fox; seconded by Todd Sweeris.
  Passed: 10-0.

MOTION XI: Moved that the USATT strongly encourage the ITTF to take aggressive measures to ensure the safety of all delegations (athletes, officials, supporters) at the 2003 Paris World Championships.
  Proposed by Bob Fox; seconded by Todd Sweeris.
  Passed: 10-0.

May Email Vote

MOTION: Moved to approve the nomination of the Chairs for USATT Committees as follows:
- Steve Gibson - Ratings
- Terry Bell - Tournaments
- Hank McCoulum - Elite
- Olga & Stan Kahan - Seniors
- Jiing Wang - Clubs
  Passed: 11-0. (Not voting: Bob Fox, Eric Owens)
I love the entrance – invariably dark and unadorned – of a ping pong club. The muffled sounds of bouncing balls and screeching shoe soles form an old, familiar song that beckons. Before I push the door – I wait a second, or two, just to listen more.

I love the tables. Standing on eight heavy wooden legs, their frames reinforced with steel, tops glossy and level, edges perfectly smooth and straight – there is precision and permanence everywhere I look. I think I understand them. The gleaming blue tables stand quietly, like pianos wanting for a pianist, just begging to be played. I reach for my racket, look around for a partner and obligie.

I love the high-pitched growl of the zipper as it rounds the sides of my racket case, opening it. It is my Pavlovian call – the sound of the beginning. My racket emerges – and I always admire it anew – the deceptively rough looking fi

I love being able to make the ball listen, even when it doesn’t want to. Often it’s a struggle, and the spinning ball is a blur as it zooms in to peck my racket, then shoots back out unpredictably. But not now, not tonight. Now it slows down, it stops spinning, it doesn’t bounce away. It obeys. My opponent’s speeding ball lumber into my racket for a lazy, sloppy kiss and emerges to skate along the ephemeral track that I’ve carefully laid for it, away from my racket, gliding over the edge, over my side, over the net, over his side, gliding to a finish, winning the point.

I love the sound the ball makes as it collides against my racket – loud, hollow, subtle.
The European Championships

Table Tennis on the Road to Perfection

By Azmy Ibrahim

In the serene environment in the side of Mount Blanc (The White Mountain), the highest mountain in Europe, the European Championship took place. The town is Courmayeur, a small quiet ski resort. There is not a single straight street in the whole town. The windy streets are narrow to the extent that while the van was going through, the side mirror hit the wall of a building.

The convention hall was great, with seating arrangements in the main hall so you could see all the tables from anywhere. Table #1 was assigned for TV. One big screen on the top and all the TV sets in the building are locked to a close circuit all the time.

The standard of the tournament was so high that not a single #1 seed reached the final. Miracle strokes and unbelievable shots left the audience stunned. It is not enough anymore to just hit bullet shots with all your might; it is your consistency that makes the difference.

A new generation of players is coming up. Players who never heard or believed in the concept of "giving up." A player will be losing 2-10, and guess what – he ends winning. Miracle strokes and unbelievable shots left the audience stunned. It is not enough anymore to just hit bullet shots with all your might; it is your consistency that makes the difference.

Another aspect that added to the atmosphere was a high level of sportsmanship. The players are mostly composed at the table. Dress code was followed with shirts tucked in. Players were willing to change the color of their shirts to accommodate others. The numbers were worn all the time. They are at the right place to choose the balls, and the right time to be at the table. In fact, hardly any noticeable problems were observed. One coach from Croatia was asked to leave the arena. However, he is known to all referees to be somewhat difficult.

A modest buffet was at the arena, open from 6 to 11 p.m. You could eat the beautiful Italian food, such as pizza and pasta. While the van was going through, the side mirror hit the wall of a building.

The Championship closed with a modest banquet, which witnessed the farewell hugs and kisses, and almost some tears.

To complement the Championship was the royal treatment of the officials, which included a special lounge for the umpires. There were 78 umpires and 10 referees. (Remember, we had only 20 tables to work with for the tournament.) They were divided into teams of two each. Every match was umpired by two umpires, from the beginning to the end of the tournament, with a very convenient schedule. Each umpire got a day off during the tournament. It was a golden chance to see the top of the world from the mountaintop, where there is nothing but whiteness. The heads of the mountains are covered by snow, and the clouds are solid white under you. No wonder they are called the WHITE MOUNTAIN.

There was an opening ceremony where the music and clothes of the traditional Italian Alps fascinated the audience. A closing ceremony introduced the modern Italian art of dancing to modern music.

The Champions were

Men's Singles - Final: Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) d. Torben Hosik, 4-2, 8-7, 7-11, 11-8
Women's Singles - Final: Otilia Badescu (ROM) d. Claire Palut (FRA), 15-13, 11-9, 11-8
Men's Doubles - Final: Chen Weixing/Wang Weixing (CHN) d. Werner Schlager/Valentin Hovyc (AUT), 11-9, 11-9, 11-9
Women's Doubles - Final: Tamara Boros/Mihaela Steff (GER) d. Csilla Batorfi/Kristizina Toth (HUN), 9-11, 11-9, 11-9
Mixed Doubles - Final: Werner Schlager/Kristizina Toth (AUT/HUN) d. Chen Weixing/Viktoria Pavlovich (AUT/BUL), 11-9, 11-6, 9-11, 11-9

There were 78 umpires and 10 referees. (Remember, we had only 20 tables to work with for the tournament.) They were divided into teams of two each. Every match was umpired by two umpires, from the beginning to the end of the tournament, with a very convenient schedule. Each umpire got a day off during the tournament. It was a golden chance to see the top of the world from the mountaintop, where there is nothing but whiteness. The heads of the mountains are covered by snow, and the clouds are solid white under you. No wonder they are called the WHITE MOUNTAIN.

There was an opening ceremony where the music and clothes of the traditional Italian Alps fascinated the audience. A closing ceremony introduced the modern Italian art of dancing to modern music.

The Championship closed with a modest banquet, which witnessed the farewell hugs and kisses, and almost some tears.

The European Championships was the royal treatment of the officials, which included a special lounge for the umpires. There were 78 umpires and 10 referees. (Remember, we had only 20 tables to work with for the tournament.) They were divided into teams of two each. Every match was umpired by two umpires, from the beginning to the end of the tournament, with a very convenient schedule. Each umpire got a day off during the tournament. It was a golden chance to see the top of the world from the mountaintop, where there is nothing but whiteness. The heads of the mountains are covered by snow, and the clouds are solid white under you. No wonder they are called the WHITE MOUNTAIN.

There was an opening ceremony where the music and clothes of the traditional Italian Alps fascinated the audience. A closing ceremony introduced the modern Italian art of dancing to modern music.

The Championship closed with a modest banquet, which witnessed the farewell hugs and kisses, and almost some tears.

To complement the Championship was the royal treatment of the officials, which included a special lounge for the umpires. There were 78 umpires and 10 referees. (Remember, we had only 20 tables to work with for the tournament.) They were divided into teams of two each. Every match was umpired by two umpires, from the beginning to the end of the tournament, with a very convenient schedule. Each umpire got a day off during the tournament. It was a golden chance to see the top of the world from the mountaintop, where there is nothing but whiteness. The heads of the mountains are covered by snow, and the clouds are solid white under you. No wonder they are called the WHITE MOUNTAIN.

There was an opening ceremony where the music and clothes of the traditional Italian Alps fascinated the audience. A closing ceremony introduced the modern Italian art of dancing to modern music.

The Championship closed with a modest banquet, which witnessed the farewell hugs and kisses, and almost some tears.

To complement the Championship was the royal treatment of the officials, which included a special lounge for the umpires. There were 78 umpires and 10 referees. (Remember, we had only 20 tables to work with for the tournament.) They were divided into teams of two each. Every match was umpired by two umpires, from the beginning to the end of the tournament, with a very convenient schedule. Each umpire got a day off during the tournament. It was a golden chance to see the top of the world from the mountaintop, where there is nothing but whiteness. The heads of the mountains are covered by snow, and the clouds are solid white under you. No wonder they are called the WHITE MOUNTAIN.

There was an opening ceremony where the music and clothes of the traditional Italian Alps fascinated the audience. A closing ceremony introduced the modern Italian art of dancing to modern music.

The Championship closed with a modest banquet, which witnessed the farewell hugs and kisses, and almost some tears.
**$5000 California Open**

**Fremont, CA • April 19-20, 2003 • By Larry Hodges**

**Open Singles Champion Fan Yi Yong and Runner-up Khoa Nguyen.**

Fan Yi Yong begins his onslaught against Lu Guo Hui (2342), 2,4,7,5.

247 players competed on 29 tables in 30 events at the City Beach Fremont facility in this first stop in the 2003 Stiga North American Tour, run by North American Table Tennis (NATT). The facility is somewhat unique, with 42,000 square feet devoted to such activities as rock climbing (their specialty), badminton, volleyball, basketball, bocce ball, "hyper bowling," and of course, table tennis. The playing area was well lit, with grippy Taraflex flooring that looks and feels like wood. With the large turnout, the tables had to be closer together than some would have liked, but that's the price we pay as the sport grows.

The best part of all, however, was the food. Tired of living on hot dogs at tournaments? The Pineapple Bar and Grill was about 50 feet from the playing area, and I personally attest they make the best pizza I've ever had.

Table Tennis Pioneers had an equipment booth at the tournament—but the truck, with 34 boxes of equipment, never showed up! The boxes with table tennis clothing and shoes had been sent separately, and so that's all they could sell during the tournament.

City Beach Fremont recently started a table tennis program, with Dennis Davis as the Table Tennis Director and the resident Head coach. Right now the Junior Team Training is only on Thursdays, but starting in June the program expands to five times a week during the summer. The City Beach Table Tennis Club is currently open seven days a week for its members. Davis, who used to be a full-time coach, is now a recruiter for technical companies—but is toying with returning to the game full-time. "But I have a family to support," he says, "and wouldn't do it as a coach, but as both an organizer and coach."

Fan continues his onslaught, defeating Angela Sun (2358), 5,5,5,5.

**The Open**

The top 12 seeds in the Open were seeded into four groups of four. The fourth player in each group was determined by an Open Preliminary stage, which was run single elimination until the semifinals, with the four semifinalists — Kevin Au, Young Ren, Michelle Do and Steve Nguyen — advancing to the final 16. The top two finishers in each group would advance to the quarterfinals of the Open. From the quarters on, matches would be a mind-numbing best of nine to 11.

Fan continues his onslaught, defeating Angela Sun (2358), 5,5,5,5. In Group One, as already noted, Fan won his three matches easily over Lu Guo Hui, Michelle Do and Angela Sun. Coming in second was lefty looper Lu Guo Hui, with a -9,5,5,8,9 win over Sun, and a 4,-8,8,6,7 win over Do. Do would upset Sun for third, -5,8,8,11,6, but would not advance.

In Group Two, there were no surprises, as top seed Khoa Nguyen (2595) won all three matches, with only Young Ren (2299) getting a game off of him. Second-seeded Khaled Zeine (2433, whose last name was Zeinelabedin before he shortened it) came in second, defeating Young Ren 6,9,13,7, and presumably defeating Avishy Schmidt (2313) 4-2—but the original draw sheets have scores showing a 5-1 win for Khaled. Ren upset Schmidt for third, 4,5,9,11.

In Group Three, things got a bit wild. Top-seeded Asha Jain (2591) came from behind to defeat the third seed, USA's top 14-year-old, Misha Kazantsev (2340), in a long seven-gamer, 3,5,5,-5,8,1,6. Misha turned around and defeated the second seed, Sean O'Neill (2442), 9,11,-9,9,9. Sean had earlier defeated Misha in the semifinals of Under 2500, in a match where Sean had been using experimental serves and missed some at the start, but which later worked when Misha started missing them. This time, Sean twice led at the end and lost. He said poor shot selection at the end of these games cost him, as did missing his own serve twice. "Playing Misha for me is like playing Scott Butler back when I was 12. He has a good opening that often forces me to leave the table too quickly and play one more defensive shot than I would like ... just like when I played Scott back in the '80s, the key for me [against Misha] is a solid, short and spinny serve and then a strong opening." For those not historically enlightened, Sean and Scott (Jim Butler's older brother) were big rivals as junior players in the 1980s.

Sean put aside the Misha loss and turned it on in his next match, defeating Jain, 7,7,4,12. Going into the match, he knew he had to win 4-0 or 4-1 to advance. He won 4-0, he said, by using solid placement, attacking Ashu's middle, and setting the offensive tone each rally without playing too risky of an attack.
In the tie-breaking procedure, with only results among the three tied players, all were 1-1 in matches. In games, Misha was 7-5; Sean was 5-4; Ashu was 4-7; so Misha came in first, Sean second, and Ashu was out. Coming in fourth was Kevin Au, who didn’t win any matches, but won two games from Sean, and one from Ashu.

Said Misha of his match with Sean, “I attacked his serve, or dropped it short and attacked the next ball, which usually went long. I played very aggressively, and the shots kept hitting.” Misha, who normally practices 4-5 times a week, is only practicing about 3 times a week right now as it’s baseball season, and he’s a shortstop — but also plays pitcher, second and first. (He says he’s a good fielder with a good batting average.) His regular practice partners are Coach Masaaki Tajima, and Kevin Phung, Wallace Liu and Hiro Hikawa.

Said Coach Massaki, “He usually gets enough practice time, considering baseball and school, but his training situation isn’t great – he needs to play better players.” On Misha’s game and practice, he said, “His forehand is very strong, and he has good anticipation. He has improved his receive, and needs to keep working on his backhand. Mostly, he needs to work on keeping his focus — he can blow leads of 8-1 or 9-2.”

In Group Four, the top seed, Michael Hyatt (2534) won easily, helped in part by the second seed, Wang Chen (2513) not showing up. Michael defeated Shashin Shodhan (2340) at 8,6,9,7, and Steve Nguyen (2306, no relation to Khoa) at 3,3,9,9. In the battle for the second spot, Steve won easily over Shashin, 3,7,7,9. The one-sidedness was somewhat of a surprise as Shashin had defeated Steve in the semifinals of Under 2500, 2-8,6,7-5. Said Steve, “After Shashin lost to Michael, he seemed tired and demoralized against me.”

Quarterfinals

Fan continues his onslaught in the quarterfinals, defeating Khaled Zeine (2433), 8,6,7,8,3.

The other three quarterfinals were also relatively one-sided, as Misha defeated Steve Nguyen (who would win Under 4200 Doubles with still another unrelated Nguyen, this time Dinh), -9,7,5,5,7,6; Michael Hyatt defeated Sean O’Neill, 5,5-8,7,4,10; and Khoa Nguyen defeated Lu Guo Hui, 6,8,7-4,5-9. Lu plays almost the same way Khoa does, but is left-handed — sort of a mirror image of him, with both looping from both wings, as well as hitting backhand winners.

Said Misha of his match with Steve and making the semifinals, “When I’m on, I’m on, and everything goes in. It’s all in the head. My recent trip to Sweden was helpful. Right afterwards, I played horrible for three weeks, but now I’m playing well.” When’s the last time a 14-year-old ever made the semifinals of the Open in a 4-star tournament?

Said Michael of his match with Sean, “Sean pushed my serve, rarely flipped, and most of his pushes went long, so I was able to loop. So I was able to attack all-out. He was even pushing my short topspin serves.” For those not in the know, you can push a topspin serve, more of a chop block, where you chop down at contact to keep the ball low, but this shot usually goes long. Sean almost pulled off a great comeback in this match, coming back from down quadruple match point, 6-10 in the sixth, to get to deuce — but Michael won the next two points when Sean served and whiffed a loop, and Michael served and ripped a winning loop.

Sean said, “I played too aggressively the first two games, and then settled down and controlled the short game — I have a much stronger short game, but he was winning all the loose points. The other problem was I wasn’t moving in and out quick enough — I would get a mini-meatball and then biff it in the net or off the end.”

Semifinals

Fan continues his onslaught in the semifinals, defeating Misha Kazantsiev (2340), 5,5,3,6,9.

“Anything I do, he countered immediately,” said Misha of this match. Misha did well, especially in the last two games, scoring more than (spoiler alert!) Fan would give up in the final.

The other semifinal was the match of the tournament, as Khoa Nguyen and Michael Hyatt played an 11-9 in the ninth counterlooping match. Both are two-winged loopers, but with somewhat different games. Khoa is possibly the smoothest player in the U.S., and everything he does looks effortless. (Of course, the amount of hours it took to achieve this “effortlessness” was far from effortless.) He can loop from both wings with ease and great power (especially on the forehand), and his backhand hitting and counting is among the best in the U.S. Michael is pure athlete, with a bigger swing on both wings, and who tends to roam around the court more, counterlooping from farther back. He has a huge backhand loop, and goes for more risky loops — and that seemed what kept him in the match, as he seemed to be able to loop a winner whenever it was needed. Like O’Neill, Khoa often tried to push

Open Singles Semifinalists Michael Hyatt (who lost 11-9 in the ninth to Khoa Nguyen) and Misha Kazantsiev.

Misha also won Under 22 Men’s and Under 18 Boys’ Singles, and made the final of Under 2375 and semifinals of Under 2500.
Michael's short topspin serves short, and they went long or high and were ripped. Michael tends to favor a backhand serve, while Khoa mostly uses a forehand pendulum serve.

The match started with Khoa dominating and winning the first two games easily at 6 and 2. However, at 6-10 in the first, Michael had hit a barrier in his backswing when counterlooping, and apparently hurt his hand while missing the shot. In irritation, he picked up the barrier and threw it into the audience – and was yellow-carded. He then took an injury time-out to ice the hand. The time-out apparently worked, as he went up 5-0 in the third, winning 11-7. But Khoa went up 6-0 in the fourth and won 11-2 to go up 3-1 in games.

Over the next three games, Michael played out of his mind, ripping both forehand and backhand loops from all over the court, and winning most of the points when it was close. In game five, up 10-7, Michael kept bouncing the ball before his serve, and the umpire warned him to stop stalling. He continued to bounce the ball, despite a second warning, and was then assessed a penalty point, so the score was now 10-8. But he won the next point, and the next game 11-7, and won four in a row in the seventh from up 7-6, and now led 4-3 in the match.

At 8-8 in the eighth, someone called out, “Michael's playing out of his mind!” Khoa immediately won the next three points to force a match-deciding game nine.

At 1-1 in the ninth, Michael, out of position, switches hands and misses a lefty loop off of a push. He ties it at 4-4, but Khoa soon leads 7-5. Michael calls a time-out. When he returns, Michael serves, and Khoa pushes the serve back short - and Michael catches the ball, saying it was a let serve. The umpire and Khoa both say otherwise. The stands seem split on it, but few were close enough to really see it. Michael argues vehemently with the umpire, but to no avail - the score is now 8-5 Khoa. Michael at first refuses to continue play, and decides to default - and offers his hand to Khoa. But Khoa won't take his hand, and tells him to continue. Michael returns to his side of the table, and decides to play it out. But three points later, he's down 5-10 match point.

The problem was that there were three groups, with the winner of each group advancing to the semifinals. Since that would mean only three players, the winner of Wang's group had a bye in the semifinals – and so was in the Final. With Wang out, the second seed in Group One, Allison Seibel (1972), with a 6,4,3 win over Thuyetien Goodwin (1844), advanced with this one win ... into the Final!

The problem was that Allison was seeded sixth in the event – and while she made the final by winning her only match over an 1844 player, the other four seeds - rated 2358, 2244, 2222 and 2212 – had to battle it out just to make the semifinals, with four players in each of the other two groups.

“I think it’s great!” Allison said, jokingly, as she sat around waiting to see whom she’d play in the final.

In Group Two, Angela Sun (2358) battled it out with Michelle Do, barely pulling it out 3-2, 11,-8,8,5,8, to advance to the semifinals. Donna Sakai (1749) came in third, while Fumi Christensen (1176) came in fourth. Michelle would go on to win Under 22 Women over Allison.

In Group Three, Jackie Lee (2222) upset Moseley Kibibi lone (2244), 9,9,-9,8, to advance. Coming in third was Carmenile Alexandrescu (1490), while Dominique Flexer (1342) came in fourth.

In the semifinals, Angela Sun defeated Jackie Lee, 6,-6,4,9,-5,8. Jackie was having trouble with her foot, which she had hurt a few days before, and was icing it at the playing site. On Saturday night, she finally had to default out of Under 2375, and later defaulted her Sunday events. But she won Under 18 Girls' Singles before defaulting out.

In the final, in her fifth match, Angela won the first game against Allison, playing her second match. Allison won the second, but it was all Sunny from there on, 8,-7,5,7,4.

Other Events

Sean O'Neill (whose regular practice partner, John Williamson, is around 1500) won the Under 2500's over Shashin Shodhan, 7,-10,4,10,7, reversing his loss to Shashin at the recent USA Team Trials (where Sean had had three match points before losing). Sean said, “I attacked every ball possible with both backhand and forehand drives. It got to the point where he had no confidence in his short serve, and I was ripping with ease. When
he did get a chance to open up, I counter-attacked down the line for a winner. The constant pressure was what was lacking in Atlanta, as when I got a lead there I got a bit passive.”

But Shashin was not to be denied in Under 2375, where in the final he defeated Misha Kazantsev (who would make the semifinals of the Open and Under 2500, and win Under 22 Men’s Singles and Under 18 Boys’ Singles), 7-11, 6-10, 5-4. “Misha dominated the first four games,” Shashin said. “We split the first four, but I had to come back to win both games at deuce – he was up 6-1 in the second, and 10-8 in the fourth. I had been pushing long to his backhand. I started flipping to his forehand and coming back to his backhand, or dropping his serve short, and was able to stop his attack this way.”

Players winning at least one event and making the final of another:

- **Sean C. Lee**: Under 13 Boys’ Singles Champion, Under 1550 Champion, and Under 1700 Semifinalist.
- **Misha Kazantsev**: Under 22 Men’s Singles Champion, Under 3200 Singles Runner-up, Under 4200 Doubles Runner-up, Under 2500 Finalist.
- **Anthon Plake**: Under 10 Boys’ Singles Champion, Under 1400 Runner-up, Under 1250 Semifinalist.
- **John Leach**: Under 16 Boys’ Singles Champion, Under 1400 Runner-up, Under 1250 Semifinalist.
- **Shashin Shodhan**: Under 2375 Champion, Under 2500 Runner-up.
- **Voltaire Benedicto**: Under 2250 Champion, Under 4200 Doubles Runner-up.

Thanks goes to City Beach Fremont, Stiga, and to the tournament staff (disclosure: I was one!) for another well-run event. NATT will be returning to Fremont for another 4-star tournament, the Western Open, Aug. 30-31, 2003.

---

**Open Singles – Final**: Fan Yi Yong d. Khoa Nguyen, 3-5, 4-6, 4; QF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 5-3, 6-9, 4; SF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 6-5, 7-5, 4; QF: Fan d. Khoa Nguyen, 7-6, 4-6, 5; 5-2.

**Open Doubles – Final**: Steve Varela/Charley Wang, 6-3, 3-6, 10-8; SF: Steve/Varela d. Ted Chen, 7-5, 6-3, 4-6; QF: Steve/Varela d. Michael Liu, 7-5, 10-8, 6-2.

**U2000 – Final**: Wayne Lo d. Toon Mao, 8-4, 5-7, 10-5, 6-2; SF: Lo d. Dennis Ong, 8-6, 7-5, 8-6, 6-7, 7-6; QF: Lo d. Steve Varela, 8-6, 7-5, 6-2; 8-1.

**U2375 – Final**: Shashin Shodhan d. Misha Kazantsev, 7-11, 6-10, 5-4; SF: Shodhan d. Avislyh Schmidt, 12-9, 7-13, 7-11; QF: Shodhan d. Shuja Jafar-Ali, 8-2, 8-7, 9.

**U2250 – Final**: Voltaire Benedicto d. Shuja Jafar-Ali, 3-11, 8-8, 8-3; SF: Benedicto d. Bunny Lee, 7-9, 10-6, 6-4; QF: Benedicto d. Misha Kazantsev, 10-8, 6-2, 7-5, 6-7, 8-6.

**U2125 – Final**: Wallace Liu d. David Sakai, 8-10, 6-7, 7-13; SF: Wallace/Scott d. Siu Kei Chan, 8-10, 6-7, 7-13; QF: Wallace/Siu d. John Leach, 8-10, 6-7, 7-13.

**U1550 – Final**: Shan Hsu d. David Sakai, 9-7, 7-9, 10-8, 10-7, 6-3; SF: Shan d. John Leach, 9-7, 7-9, 10-8, 10-7, 6-3; QF: Shan d. Daniel Sainari, 9-7, 7-9, 10-8, 10-7, 6-3.

**U1375 – Final**: Fan Yi Yong d. Khoa Nguyen, 3-5, 4-6, 4; QF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 5-3, 6-9, 4; SF: Fan d. Khoa Nguyen, 7-6, 4-6, 5; 5-2.

**U1300 – Final**: Fan Yi Yong d. Khoa Nguyen, 3-5, 4-6, 4; QF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 5-3, 6-9, 4; SF: Fan d. Khoa Nguyen, 7-6, 4-6, 5; 5-2.

**U1350 – Final**: Fan Yi Yong d. Khoa Nguyen, 3-5, 4-6, 4; QF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 5-3, 6-9, 4; SF: Fan d. Khoa Nguyen, 7-6, 4-6, 5; 5-2.

**U1400 – Final**: Fan Yi Yong d. Khoa Nguyen, 3-5, 4-6, 4; QF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 5-3, 6-9, 4; SF: Fan d. Khoa Nguyen, 7-6, 4-6, 5; 5-2.

**U1425 – Final**: Fan Yi Yong d. Khoa Nguyen, 3-5, 4-6, 4; QF: Fan d. Misha Kazantsev, 5-3, 6-9, 4; SF: Fan d. Khoa Nguyen, 7-6, 4-6, 5; 5-2.
If you believe you should be on the Olympic Eligible list, contact Tommy Perkins at USATT, 719-866-4583, programs@usatt.org.

TOP OLYMPIC ELIGIBLE WOMEN
1. MD 2636 Chang, Jun Gao
2. IL 2437 Reed, Jasna
3. CA 2416 Banh, Tawny
4. NJ 2405 Yip, Lily
5. CA 2297 Lee, Jacqueline
6. MD 1808 Wu, Rita
7. CA 2297 Lee, Jacqueline
8. OR 2220 Ping, Whitney
9. MD 2509 Pace, Brian
10. NJ 2452 Chui, Chi-Sun

TOP OLYMPIC ELIGIBLE MEN
1. NJ 2720 Zhuang, David
2. IN 2669 Hazinski, Mark
3. TX 2655 Butler, Jim
4. TX 2632 Owens, Eric
5. CA 2555 Nguyen, Khoa Dinh
6. NJ 2469 Jain, Ashu
7. NY 2549 Shao, Yu
8. IN 2511 Seemiller, Daniel
9. NY 2543 Fernandez, David
10. NJ 2518 Tran, De

TOP WOMEN
1 NY 2658 Wang, Chen
2 MD 2636 Chang, Jun Gao
3 IL 2437 Reed, Jasna
4 CA 2416 Banh, Tawny
5 NJ 2405 Yip, Lily
6 CA 2297 Lee, Jacqueline
7 CA 2297 Lee, Jacqueline
8 MD 1808 Wu, Rita
9 MD 1808 Wu, Rita
10 NJ 1614 Samkoff, Rhoda

TOP MEN
1 NJ 2720 Zhuang, David
2 NJ 2720 Zhuang, David
3 IN 2669 Hazinski, Mark
4 TX 2655 Butler, Jim
5 TX 2632 Owens, Eric
6 NY 2549 Shao, Yu

Tournaments Processed
This list was compiled on 6/6/03 and includes all tournaments received through 5/17/03. Ages are as of 6/6/03. Due to space limitations, only current members who have played since 3/13/03 are included. This document may not be reproduced without prior written permission of USA Table Tennis. Copyright 2003.

Northwest spring Giant RR
Cary Open Giant RR Jamboree
Upper Valley May Giant RR Open
Maryland Giant RR
Front Range Open
1st Annual CMCF SL Spring TT Open
Cherokee Spring Open
6th Annual MD Medallion championship
2003 Cleveland Spring Open
Boston TTC May Giant RR
Long Island Championships
Maryland Circuit
Sacramento Spring Open
Piedmont TTC RR Open
Scenic City Open
Paul Cracraft Memorial
2003 IN State Closed

Tournaments Included in Ratings
Spring Classic
2003 PA State Championships Closed
Rose City Open TT Tournament
2003 NJ State Championships Closed
Cary Open Giant RR Jamboree
Hutchinson 2003 Spring Open
TT Team Championships
Maryland Closed
AINT League Singles
Sc. FL Easter Open
Carillon Open 2003 Slg aN.A. Tour
Texas Wesleyan University Seeded RR
Power Pong Butterfly Open
39th St. Joseph Valley Open
2003 MDTT April Open
Houston April RR
Fairfield April Farewell Tournament
Atlanta Spring Open
Maryland Circuit
Michigan Closed TT Championships
Tri Cities Spring Open
North American Championships
W. C. Cleve JR TT League
Piedmont TTC RR Open
2003 Alabama Closed
STTC 17th Anniversary RR Open
Dayton Giant RR Open
St. Louis Spring Open
Golden Western States Open
2003 Belleus Open

Albuquerque Rating Championships
Quaker city Open
2003 Indy Spring Warm Up Tourney
Cary Open Giant RR Jamboree
2003 ACUI Collegiate Nationals
One Day Round Robin
NJTTC March Open
Crazy Eights Cleveland Open
New England Spring Classic
Fairfield March Challenge
Maryland Giant RR
US Team Trakine Round Robin
Sacramento Winter Open
Rhode Island Open
Stiga Cup Open
Davidson March Open

Ratings Questions?
You can now search for all your results online at www.usatt.org. Should you have any ratings-related questions, contact Felisa Huggins, USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. To find out your rating if you cannot access our website, 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.
| 9 WI 1732 | Peregrine, Dick |
| 8 NY 1737 | Shur, Walter |
| 4 OH 1783 | Koganei, Masakazu |
| 15 NJ 1635 | Mallows, Colin L. |
| 5 MI 640 | Hatzis, Christopher |
| 11 CO 1711 | Vescera, Ralph |
| 7 CA 1737 | Miller, Alan L. |
| 3 FL 1420 | Gant, David |
| 14 CA 1907 | Abraham, Vincent |
| 8 CO 1584 | McDermott, Allen |
| 15 CA 2085 | Livshin, Boris |
| 9 CA 2286 | Mao, Toon Siong |
| 8 CO 1924 | McDermott, Allen |
| 14 NY 1870 | Gudzenko, Gary |
| 12 AL 1894 | Peters, Dr. Ronald W. |
| 3 IN 2511 | Seemiller, Daniel |
| 2 NY 2518 | Tran, De |
| 15 WA 2366 | Heinonen, Petri |
| 11 CA 2117 | Shiro, Steve |
| 15 MA 1766 | Wang, Jing |
| 15 WA 2128 | Lei, Oliver |
| 11 CA 2200 | Maiel, Aura |
| 7 CA 2144 | Liu, Wallace |
| 8 MD 2141 | Aggarwal, Khaleel |
| 10 MI 2131 | Leach, John |
| 11 MN 2130 | Popivon, Joseph |
| 12 NJ 2072 | Davis, Artinwal |
| 14 CA 2013 | Gorton, Sergey |
| 15 CA 1997 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**OVER 70 MEN**

| 1 IN 2669 | Huzinski, Mark |
| 2 NJ 2523 | Hugh, Adam |
| 3 MD 2392 | Xiao, Han |
| 4 CA 2392 | Kozhuzhov, Misha |
| 5 NJ 2397 | McColl, Lee |
| 6 NJ 2399 | Lin, Pan |
| 7 FL 2399 | Vaine, Yandi |
| 8 TX 2399 | Lai, Min |
| 9 FL 2399 | Zhang, Nan |

**OVER 70 WOMEN**

| 1 MA 1899 | Dwelly, Frank |
| 2 NJ 1917 | Shih, Shuz-Huang |
| 3 CA 1934 | McDermott, men |
| 4 OH 1818 | Radetzki, Louise |
| 5 NM 1875 | Stein, Edgar B. |
| 6 TX 1662 | Seifert, Robert |
| 7 NC 1537 | Hargis, Frank |
| 8 FL 1410 | Pietro, Walter |
| 9 CA 1356 | Seibel, Allison |

**UNDER 21 MEN**

| 1 CA 1733 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 2 CA 1763 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 3 IN 1773 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 4 MD 1780 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 5 NJ 1787 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 6 FL 1787 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 7 CA 1787 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 8 CA 1787 | Brewer, A.J. |
| 9 CA 1787 | Brewer, A.J. |

**UNDER 16 MEN**

| 1 NB 2533 | Hug, Adam |
| 2 MD 2392 | Xiao, Han |
| 3 CA 2392 | Kozhuzhov, Misha |
| 4 NJ 2397 | McColl, Lee |

**UNDER 15 BOYS**

| 1 NJ 2523 | Hugh, Adam |
| 2 CA 2392 | Kozhuzhov, Misha |
| 3 CO 2138 | Leech, John |
| 4 CA 1997 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 18 GIRLS**

| 1 CA 2297 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 CA 2350 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 CA 2174 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 CA 2162 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 5 KS 2003 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 18 BOYS**

| 1 NJ 2523 | Hugh, Adam |
| 2 MD 2392 | Xiao, Han |
| 3 CA 2392 | Kozhuzhov, Misha |
| 4 NJ 2397 | McColl, Lee |

**UNDER 16 BOYS**

| 1 CA 2297 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 CA 2350 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 CA 2174 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 CA 2162 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 15 GIRLS**

| 1 CA 2041 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 CA 2041 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 CA 2041 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 CA 2041 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 14 BOYS**

| 1 CA 1493 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 MD 1754 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 NJ 1787 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 MD 1754 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 14 GIRLS**

| 1 CA 1304 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 CA 1304 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 CA 1304 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 CA 1304 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 12 BOYS**

| 1 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 12 GIRLS**

| 1 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 2 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 3 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |
| 4 CA 1057 | Zhurkin, Kevin |

**UNDER 10 BOYS**

| 1 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |
| 2 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |
| 3 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |
| 4 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |

**UNDER 10 GIRLS**

| 1 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |
| 2 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |
| 3 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |
| 4 FL 1114 | Huang, Ming |

Adam Hugh, tops in Under 16 and Under 18 Boys: 2# in Under 22 Men.

**Photo by John Oros ©2003**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Ahmad, Abdullah</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Badran, Ahmad</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Dawood, Mostafa</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Eid, Mostafa</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Farraj, Ali</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Ghurairi, Mohammed</td>
<td>Barcelona</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Hussein, Saeed</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jahjah, Abdulrahman</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Khalifa, Ahmed</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Khalifa, Saleh</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Lahham, Omar</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Meftah, Faisal</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Nashar, Ali</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Omara, Ali</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Osheaib, Abdulrahman</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Rasheed, Abdulrahman</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Rehman, Ali</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Rizqi, Ali</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Salem, Mohammed</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Shehri, Ali</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Soleiman, Ali</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Tai, Ali</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Turki, Ali</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Wahab, Ali</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Wiss, Ali</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Yahya, Ali</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Zaid, Ali</td>
<td>Jeddah</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>Saudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Zarouni, Ali</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The above table is a partial listing of names and cities to demonstrate the format of the table. For a full list, please refer to the original document.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-12</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13-37</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38-62</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>63-87</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-112</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>113-137</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138-162</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>163-187</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188-212</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>213-237</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238 &amp; up</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CA 1028 Singh, Tarun
CA 729 Singh, Mandar N
SC 1826 Singleton, Gerald
NY 1920 Sinitskiy, Vladislav
PA 1071 Singh, Gurdial N
MI 1886 Skrzypek, Dave
NY 1395 Skeete Sr., Carl
IN 1154 Smith, Mitch
CA 1732 Tan, Rendinald
CA 1074 Tamaki, Mie
IN 1192 Thomas, E. Lloyd
PA 838 Taranto, Richard
GA 604 Taylor, Brian
CA 1371 Tang, Li
CA 1511 Tan, Huy
CA 1364 Weil, Alicia
CA 1374 Tan, Hoan
CA 1270 Trepakov, Michael
CA 2146 Viong, Vinh V.
CA 1290 Trepakov, Michael
CA 2117 Tang, Min
CA 1270 Trepakov, Michael
CA 1364 Weil, Alicia
CA 1374 Tan, Hoan
CA 1270 Trepakov, Michael
CA 2146 Viong, Vinh V.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2-6</td>
<td>2003 U.S Open</td>
<td>Ft. Lauderdale, FL</td>
<td>Contact: USATT, 719-866-4583. <a href="mailto:admin@usatt.org">admin@usatt.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Piedmont TTC RR Open</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>Contact: Douglas Paul A., 910-769-3222. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Allenstown 'Sportsfest'</td>
<td>2 Person Team, Allentown, PA</td>
<td>Contact: Fred Kistler, 610-797-6067. <a href="mailto:lvutte@yahoo.com">lvutte@yahoo.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12-13</td>
<td>- Maryland Circuit</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>- Cary Open Giant RR Jamboree</td>
<td>Apex, NC</td>
<td>Contact: James McQueen Jr., 919-787-3788. <a href="mailto:jmqueentt@ncrr.com">jmqueentt@ncrr.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td>- New Mexico 2-Man Teams</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM</td>
<td>Contact: Elizabeth M. Gresham, 505-898-3089. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>- Maryland Giant RR Jamboree</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>- Schaumburg Open</td>
<td>Schaumburg, IL</td>
<td>Contact: Primo O. Madrigal, 630-837-8053. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23-24</td>
<td>- Macy Block Open</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td>Contact: Daniel Robert Seemiller, 574-654-7476. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23-24</td>
<td>- Pacific Coast Open</td>
<td>St. Monica, CA</td>
<td>Contact: Jo Kidd, 310-452-9315. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30-31</td>
<td>- Florida State Closed</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>Contact: Ola Soltesz, 407-830-4009. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30-31</td>
<td>- Western Open 2003</td>
<td>Fremont, CA</td>
<td>Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. <a href="mailto:info@natabletennis.com">info@natabletennis.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6</td>
<td>- BCC September Open</td>
<td>Coconut Creek, FL</td>
<td>Contact: Rafael A. Flores, 954-979-2509. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6</td>
<td>- Piedmont TTC RR Open</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>Contact: Douglas Paul, 910-769-3222. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 6-7</td>
<td>- Maryland Circuit</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>- Biggest Little Reno-Sparks TT Tour.</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>Contact: Carlos Ortega, 775-826-8321. <a href="mailto:cjose35@charter.net">cjose35@charter.net</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>- Maryland Giant RR Jamboree</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20-21</td>
<td>- Matthew J. Murad Memorial Open</td>
<td>Hagerstown, MD</td>
<td>Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. <a href="mailto:info@natabletennis.com">info@natabletennis.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>- Cary Open Giant RR Jamboree</td>
<td>Apex, NC</td>
<td>Contact: James McQueen Jr., 919-787-3788. <a href="mailto:jmqueentt@ncrr.com">jmqueentt@ncrr.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>- Texas Teams</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>Contact: John Miller, 512-258-3731. <a href="mailto:john@balconessoftware.com">john@balconessoftware.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>- Piedmont TTC RR Open</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>Contact: Douglas Paul, 910-769-3222. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>- Burke TTC U2300</td>
<td>White Plains, NY</td>
<td>Contact: Jennifer Johnson, 914-937-3932. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4-5</td>
<td>- Maryland Circuit</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6-10</td>
<td>- Huntsman World Senior Games</td>
<td>St. George, UT</td>
<td>Contact: Grant Misbach, 801-373-8009. <a href="mailto:hws@gwest.com">hws@gwest.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11-12</td>
<td>- 2003 MDTTC Open</td>
<td>Gaithersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Wei Xiao, 301-916-4862. <a href="mailto:weixia42@hotmail.com">weixia42@hotmail.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11-12</td>
<td>- So Cal Open</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. <a href="mailto:info@natabletennis.com">info@natabletennis.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>- Central FL Fall Giant RR Open</td>
<td>Lakeland, FL</td>
<td>Contact: Raymond Spann, 863-965-0760. <a href="mailto:rayspann@email.midflorida.com">rayspann@email.midflorida.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>- Maryland Giant RR Jamborey</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>- Schaumburg Open</td>
<td>Schaumburg, IL</td>
<td>Contact: Primo O. Madrigal, 630-837-8053. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18-19</td>
<td>- Huntsman World Senior Games</td>
<td>St. George, UT</td>
<td>Contact: Grant Misbach, 801-373-8009. <a href="mailto:hws@gwest.com">hws@gwest.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>- Cary Open Giant RR Jamborey</td>
<td>Apex, NC</td>
<td>Contact: James McQueen Jr., 919-787-3788. <a href="mailto:jmqueentt@ncrr.com">jmqueentt@ncrr.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2</td>
<td>- 2003 Jersey City Open</td>
<td>Jersey City, CA</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>- State Games</td>
<td>St. George, UT</td>
<td>Contact: Jennifer Johnson, 914-937-3932. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>- So Cal Open</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. <a href="mailto:info@natabletennis.com">info@natabletennis.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>- Austin Fall RR</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>Contact: John R. Miller, 512-258-3731. <a href="mailto:john@balconessoftware.com">john@balconessoftware.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>- Schaumburg Open</td>
<td>Schaumburg, IL</td>
<td>Contact: Primo O. Madrigal, 630-837-8053. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28-30</td>
<td>- North American Teams</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
<td>Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. <a href="mailto:info@natabletennis.com">info@natabletennis.com</a>. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>- Piedmont TTC RR Open</td>
<td>Greensboro, NC</td>
<td>Contact: Douglas Paul, 910-769-3222. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6-7</td>
<td>- Maryland Circuit</td>
<td>Eldersburg, MD</td>
<td>Contact: Yvonne Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>- W.C. Cleveland Memorial Open</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>Contact: Warren Moon, 404-284-6030. 0 Star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
$10,000 39th Annual St. Joseph Valley Open

SOUTH BEND, IN • APRIL 12-13, 2003 • BY LARRY HODGES

6,5,7,3,6,8,7,3,2,9,9,-9,8,7,8,5,6,6,6,5,3,6,2,7,6,9,10,3,1,8,6,8,9,6,9,7,5,6,7,9,3,9,2,6,9,6,7,4,6,8.

These were the scores (in approximate order) Mark Hazinski racked up in winning all five events he was entered in: Open Singles, Open Doubles (with Dan Seemiller), Men’s U.S. Pro Tour, Under 18 Boys, and Under 4100 Doubles (with Nicole Lynch). Final match record: 14-0! In fact, except for the two games he lost to Seemiller in the Men’s Pro Tour Final (after he was already up 3-0), he didn’t lose a game in the tournament, with a game record of 49-2! Total prize money won: $1475.

Hazinski, who practices 5-6 times each week at the South Bend TTC, mostly with Dan Seemiller, Mark Nordby and Jared Lynch, said he has been focusing on his receive game a lot, working especially on his short game, heavy pushes, and variation. He said he’s also doing a lot of random drills. One result of this training: Hazinski and his three practice partners were the four semifinalists at the first Men’s event in the new U.S. Pro Tour, here at the St. Joseph Valley Open! These four all had excellent tournaments, winning eight events and making the final of three more.

253 players on 36 tables battled it out in the 25 events at the 39th running of the St. Joseph Valley Open. It was a first-class event, run at the Indiana University Gym, with good conditions and grippy wooden floors. As mentioned, it was also the first running of the new USATT Pro Tour events for U.S. citizens. (This is sponsored by the USATT’s Elite Committee, which puts up $3000 for each U.S. Pro Tour event, with the tournament directors required to put up an additional $1500.) It was somewhat disappointing that many of the top U.S. players did not attend the tournament, but that was mostly a timing issue, since the tournament took place soon after the USA Team Trials and the Quaker City Open, and many were resting or taking a break.

Top seeded in Open Singles and Doubles (with Sasa Drinic) and the Men’s Pro Tour was Ilija Lupulesku—but the day before, he dropped out, apparently because of a back problem. This moved hometown favorite Hazinski to top seed in all three events, as well as in Under 18 Boys.

USA Pro Tour

Hazinski won this first running of the new Men’s Pro Tour relatively easily. He wasn’t challenged before the final, with the draw relatively weak, with a big drop in rating from the top two seeds (Hazinski and Seemiller, rated 2609 and 2580) and the third and fourth seeds (Rich Burnside and Samson Dubina, rated 2327 and 2317), with several players in the 2200 to 2300 range right behind them. However, both Burnside and Dubina were upset, with Burnside losing to Jared Lynch (2285) in the quarterfinals (7,10,-13,5,7, in a match where nearly every rally was 7-8 shots long, and one of Lynch’s best weapons was a deceptive dead loop), and Dubina losing to Andy Cochran (2057) in the 8ths, 8,-7,7,-3,-9,13,10. In this last match, Dubina led 10-7 match point in the seventh before losing five in a row in this $300 match to Cochran. (Another $300 match this round: John Leach’s 13-11 in the seventh win over Aaron Avery.) Interestingly, Samson’s sister, Amanda Dubina (rated 1903, and the Under 18 Girls’ champion and Women’s Pro Tour semifinalist here) had defeated Minnesota’s prodigy, 12-year-old Nathaniel “Ming” Curran (1862, but apparently even better in the Asian game of “Go”), who had defeated Cochran, who defeated Samson—giving Amanda the bragging rights at the dinner table for this tournament.

When Mark Nordby (2264) defeated Cochran in the quarterfinals, that left the South Bend TTC foursome of Hazinski, Seemiller, Nordby (who splits his time between Chicago and South Bend) and Lynch in the semifinals. (Cochran is also from South Bend.) At that point, reality hit, and it was on to the final for Hazinski and Seemiller.

In the final—against his coach, Seemiller (yes, they play for real when they meet), he easily went up 3-0. However, Seemiller won the next two games, and went up 6-4 in the sixth before Hazinski went on a 7-1 run to end the possibility of a seventh and final game, 2,9,-9,8,7. Hazinski dominated most points with his two-winged looping, with his backhand loop to Seemiller’s forehand especially effective. However, it was his return of serve that sets him up for these shots. When he’s able to match, or nearly match, Seemiller’s receives, he dominates the rallies with pure two-winged steady power. Seemiller’s return of serve is probably his strength, he can block better than anyone at the tournament, and his forehand loop is still almost as strong as Hazinski’s, but in these days of speed-glue looping, Seemiller’s blocking can’t keep up with Hazinski’s two-winged looping.

“It’s tough playing Dan, he knows my game so well,” Hazinski said. “We’ve played so many times before. I have to attack first, get him blocking, and then basically try to overpower him.”

The Women’s Pro Tour event was dominated by Jasna Reed, seeded #1 by nearly 400 points. Reed defeated Marta Bastrzyk in the final, 4,9,7,9. Bastrzyk (2026) had “upset” second-seeded Laura Leach (2044) in the semifinals, 5,6,-8,-9,8,14. Leach played well this tournament, upsetting Richard DeWitt (2226) and having a match point on this writer (2238) — who had to come back from down 2-0 and win a lobbing point from down match point down in the third to win!
The Open

The Open draw moved up a notch in level, with non-USA citizens Sasa Drinic, Keith Evans, Khaled Zeine, Wang Chen, and Canadians Xavier Therien and Anson Bishpham added to the draw. (So only two of the top eight seeds in the Open were in the Men’s Pro Tour.) These six, along with Hazinski and Seemiller, were the top eight seeds. Seven of them made it to the Quarterfinals. Falling by the wayside was forehand-looping, backhand long-pips blocking Zeine. Against another local favorite Jared Lynch, Zeine lost the first, but seemed to have no trouble with Lynch for two games, winning them easily. But from there on it was mostly Lynch, pulling out the match at 8-5, 3-8, 8, 10. (In the last game, Lynch led 7-0, then was down 9-8 before winning 12-10.) Lynch also had made the semifinals of the Men’s Pro Tour, not a bad tournament for the 2285-rated 19-year-old! Lynch said he had been practicing in South Bend about five days a week since December, mostly with Hazinski, Seemiller and Nick Enz (and with Mark Nordby when he’s in town, with Nordby and Seemiller coaching him in tournaments). He’s taking a year off before going to college, and is practicing table tennis and working at a woodworking company that belongs to Minnesota player Nate Troyer’s family. Of his match with Zeine, he said, “I was able to get the first attack by spinning, get him to block, then I could rip my forehand. I sometimes had to spin three or four balls in a row to find one to rip. By attacking first, and by attacking his pips over and over, I was able to stop his attack, which is pretty strong. He also had some trouble with my serves.”

Quarterfinals

In the quarterfinals, three of the matches went as seeded, but two of them were battles. The upset was Keith Evans (2373) over Xavier Therien (2514). The key, according to Evans, was to “...stay in the point, and find the right strategy at the end of each game.” Find the right strategy in the close ones was the key, as he won at 9, 9-9, 6, 6. It was a great match to watch as Evans was off the table fishing against Therien’s attack close to half the points—a strategy that worked both because Therien is more of a control player, and because Evans took full advantage of his 6’3” frame—nothing was out of his reach. Evans also pulled off some tremendous off-the-table backhand counterloops that completely caught Therien off guard.

Three local players played this round. Lynch went down to Sasa Drinic (2568), 9, 7, 8, 3. Anson Bishpham (2351) scored six in a row to win game five against Seemiller from down 10-6—but couldn’t do it again when down 10-6 in the final game as Seemiller won, 9, 9-7, 7-10. And Hazinski played a tremendous match against Wang Chen (2513), fresh off her upset of David Zhuang and Atanda Musa the weekend before in Philadelphia.

Wang plays with pips on the backhand, and attacks relentlessly from both wings. She can smash and loop equally well on the forehand. But in this match, it was her backhand attack that seemingly kept Hazinski in trouble. Yet Hazinski was able to continue spinning backhands against these hits to stay in the points—and was able to attack at the key points to win three games from 9-all. Match to Hazinski, 9, 9, 9. “She serves mostly deep,” said Hazinski, “and I’d spin her serve. She’d usually block hard with her backhand pips to my backhand, and I’d spin my backhand until I found a chance to rip a forehand. She couldn’t quite get past me with her backhand hitting.”

Seminars

Hazinski continued his surge, defeating Keith Evans, 2, 6, 9, 6, whose fishing simply wasn’t as effective against the powerful loops of Hazinski, and who wasn’t able to stop Hazinski from attacking after his serve. Interestingly, both of these players are 6’3”. In the other semifinal, Dan Seemiller faced Sasa Drinic—both of whom are about 5’8”.

The key stage of this match was late in the fourth game. The first three games had all been 11-9, with Drinic winning the first two, Seemiller the last. In the fourth, Drinic led 10-8, but Seemiller pulled off a leaping backhand smash and a serve & loop to reach deuce. Seemiller had one ad—12-11, where one point would have ended the match—but Drinic pulled the game out, 14-12, to go up 3-1 in games, and win 9, 7, 12, 5.

Final

This was a vintage counterlooping match, as each player fought to loop first, and to counterloop if the other did loop. The match was highlighted by one of the best counterlooping points you’ll ever see, early in the first game. It went forehand to forehand, with both absolutely ripping it back at wider and wider angles. Hazinski suddenly ripped one to the middle, but Drinic unhesitatingly absolutely pulverized a backhand loop, inside-out, to Hazinski’s wide forehand that Hazinski could only watch go by. However, that was Drinic’s high point, as Hazinski would win the match rather easily; 7, 4, 6, 8, and so win the Open without losing a game. Hazinski was successful in his strategy, which was to “...attack first, and go after his middle.”

Other Events

There was some nostalgia in the 8ths of the Under 2375 event, where Cory Rider defeated Dave Sakai in a crowd-stopping 21-19 in the fifth—something you don’t see often in 11-point games! Rider would go on to win the event.

The Over 40 and Hardbat events were both won by Dan Seemiller, who didn’t lose a game in either event. The four semifinalists for the two events were the same, with Seemiller defeating Keith Evans in the Over 40 final, and this writer in the Hardbat final. Mitch Seidenfeld—the world dwarf champion—was in the semifinals of both (as well as three other events—see box!), losing to Seemiller in both events. Evans defeated this writer in the Over 40, but the result was reversed in hardbat, where Hodges was relieved to be free of Evan’s serve & loop game.

In the Under 2500 event, Canadian Anson Bishpham defeated Khaled Zeine, 11-9 in the fifth in the final; Zeine defeated Rich Burnside, 11-9 in the fifth in the semifinals; Burnside defeated Samson Dubina, 11-9 in the fifth in the quarterfinals (from down 2-0).

A big thank you for this class event goes to sponsors Butterfly and Newmar Corp., to Indiana University, to the tournament staff (Virgil Miller award winner Phil Schmucker—for volunteer service to the sport of table tennis; Chris Williams, Brad Balmer, Jason Denman, Jerry Goeller, Jim Lynch, and Dan & Val Seemiller), to Berndt Mann (who donated the $350 in prize money for the hardbat event), and to the city of South Bend, a great place to live or to visit.
Some players having nice tournaments...

- Mark Hazinski ... five events, five firsts....
- Dan Seemiller, who won Open Doubles (with Hazinski), Over 40 and Hardbat, made the final of the Men's Pro Tour and Under 3500 Doubles (with son, Dan Jr., who also made the final of Under 1000), and made the semifinals of the Open... not a bad result for the 48-year-old! Total winnings: $1215.
- Mark Nordby, who won Under 3500 Doubles (with 9-year-old A.J. Brewer), made the final of Under 2375, and the semifinals of both the Men's Pro Tour and Under 2500. Total winnings: $650.
- Jared Lynch, who made the semifinals of the Men's Pro Tour and Open Doubles (with Samson Dubina) and the Quarterfinals of the Open and Under 2500. Total winnings: $580.
- Nicole Lynch, who won Under 4100 Doubles (with Hazinski), and made the final of Under 18 Girls and Under 1500.
- Keith Evans, who made the final of Over 40, and the semifinals of the Open and Hardbat.
- Cory Eider, who won Under 2375, and the made the final of Under 2250.
- Andy Cochran, who won Under 2250 (along the way winning two matches 11-9 in the fifth, and another 11-8 in the fifth), and had the big upset win over Samson Dubina.
- Mitchell Seidenfeld, who was in Five (5!) semifinals: Over 40, Hardbat, Under 2375, Under 2250, and Under 1400 Doubles (with Nathaniel "Ming" Curran). He was also in the quarterfinals of the Men's Pro Tour. (Seidenfeld is the long-time World Dwarf Champion.)
- Anson Bispahm, who won Under 2500, made the final of Open Doubles (with Xavier Therien), and the quarterfinals of the Open.
- Gurhan Gunduz, who won Under 2000 and the final of Under 4100 Doubles (with Zuchi Algaa).
- Algaa Zuchi, who won Under 1875, the made the final of Under 4100 Doubles (with Gurhan Gunduz), and (with a rating of 1803) made the semifinals of Under 2250!
- John Leach, who won Under 14, made the semifinals of Under 18 (where he met up with Hazinski), and won the first Gordon Barclay Award for junior players who exhibit dedication to the sport and good sportsmanship.


Under 18 Girls — Final: Nicole Lynch. who won Under 4100 Doubles (with Hazinski), and made the final of Under 1000), and made the semifinals of the Open... not a bad result for the 48-year-old! Total winnings: $1215.
- Mark Hazinski ... five events, five firsts....
- Dan Seemiller, who won Open Doubles (with Hazinski), Over 40 and Hardbat, made the final of the Men's Pro Tour and Under 3500 Doubles (with son, Dan Jr., who also made the final of Under 1000), and made the semifinals of the Open... not a bad result for the 48-year-old! Total winnings: $1215.
- Mark Nordby, who won Under 3500 Doubles (with 9-year-old A.J. Brewer), made the final of Under 2375, and the semifinals of both the Men's Pro Tour and Under 2500. Total winnings: $650.
- Jared Lynch, who made the semifinals of the Men's Pro Tour and Open Doubles (with Samson Dubina) and the Quarterfinals of the Open and Under 2500. Total winnings: $580.
- Nicole Lynch, who won Under 4100 Doubles (with Hazinski), and made the final of Under 18 Girls and Under 1500.
- Keith Evans, who made the final of Over 40, and the semifinals of the Open and Hardbat.
- Cory Eider, who won Under 2375, and the made the final of Under 2250.
- Andy Cochran, who won Under 2250 (along the way winning two matches 11-9 in the fifth, and another 11-8 in the fifth), and had the big upset win over Samson Dubina.
- Mitchell Seidenfeld, who was in Five (5!) semifinals: Over 40, Hardbat, Under 2375, Under 2250, and Under 1400 Doubles (with Nathaniel "Ming" Curran). He was also in the quarterfinals of the Men's Pro Tour. (Seidenfeld is the long-time World Dwarf Champion.)
- Anson Bispahm, who won Under 2500, made the final of Open Doubles (with Xavier Therien), and the quarterfinals of the Open.
- Gurhan Gunduz, who won Under 2000 and the final of Under 4100 Doubles (with Zuchi Algaa).
- Algaa Zuchi, who won Under 1875, made the final of Under 4100 Doubles (with Gurhan Gunduz), and (with a rating of 1803) made the semifinals of Under 2250!...
Thursday, April 3

27 enthusiastic Cadets (under 15) and their four hitting partners worked hard during an "invitation-only" training camp prior to the North American Championships.

Doru Gheorghe, Dan Seemiller, Bill Lui, and Mark Nordby made up the coaching staff for the U.S. Cadets while Attila Csaba, David Jacques, and Shu-Ying Ling did so for the Canadian youngsters.

Before it’s over, the Cadets will have trained for 12½ hours over a 3-day period. Bill Lui told us the camp went very well and that the youngsters seemed to really enjoy the experience.

Attila Csaba believes these players from both countries show more promise and depth as a group than ever before. He said the girls especially would be very competitive with the European girls.

Dan Seemiller also liked the camp enthusiasm and was very pleased with how well the players and coaches worked together.

Training camp continues tomorrow for one more session. The tournament competition begins tomorrow night.

Friday, April 4

Competition in the North American Table Tennis Championships began last night in San Diego’s Balboa Park Activity Center. Featuring some of the best players from both the U.S. and Canada, the tournament opened with the Junior Team events. The boys’ and girls’ teams were made up of three players from each country. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the high level of competition. In a closely fought duel ending with three straight long deuce games, USA’s Jackie Lee ousted Canada’s Wennin Chiu, 4-11,12,14, in the final match to win the Girls’ Team final for USA, 3-1 over Canada.

Mark Hazinski, the top-rated U.S. male in the N.A.C. competition, beat Canada’s 4th ranked Faazil Kassam 3-1 and made a go of it against the number three from Canada, Bence Csaba. In the second game, down 4-8, a determined Hazinski reeled off the next seven straight points to win the game. But Csaba adjusted and won the match, 3-8,5-7, as Canada won the Junior Boys’ Teams, 3-2, with Csaba pulling of both his matches in five games (winning also over Han Xiao, 3-8,4-6,4).

Saturday, April 5

Table Tennis fans saw lots of excellent competition during Day Two of the North American Championships in San Diego. No team could get any more than seven points against the dynamic duo of Adam Hugh and John Leach in the Cadet Boys’ doubles.

Judy Hugh and Laura Xiao had a much tougher time of it. Down two games to zero in the final against Canada’s Betty Tam and Shirley Yan, the Americans came alive in the third game. Canada had match point in the fourth, but Hugh and Xiao fought back to win that game and the last to win the title, 8,5-8,10,5.

Canada’s number five woman, Wennin Chiu, and Sara Yuen, won Junior Girls’ doubles, beating fellow Canadians Anna Ngan and Stephanie Yuen 3-0 in the final, 8,8,2.

After beating USA’s Jackie Lee and Whitney Ping in the Women’s doubles semi’s, Canada’s top-rated woman in this tournament, Petra Cada and Marie-Christine Roussy, met and beat USA’s Tawny Banh and Lily Yip 3-1 in the final, 5-9,6,3.

Some excellent qualifying-round matches including a five-game humdinger between John Leach and Misha Kazantsev...it went 18-16 in the fifth, with Leach pulling off the upset, 12,8-6,13,16.

Another deuce-in-the-fifth match took place between De Tran and Canada’s Guo Peng in the Men’s Singles preliminaries. Tran went up 7-3 in the fifth, but Peng didn’t panic, he made some adjustments, kept focused, and came back to win 13-11. Tran refused to use the excuse that he’d had to sit in an airplane for seven hours on a Chicago runway!

Play continues tomorrow with fans anxiously awaiting a look at Canada’s premiere player Johnny Huang. You can bet those camcorders will be rolling!!!

Sunday, April 6

It was a picture-perfect San Diego day on the last day of the North American Table Tennis Championships.

Unfortunately the Men’s championship round got off to a rocky start when Khoa Nguyen was defaulted in his first match in the championship round robins (top two advance to semifinals). He told us he knew about the daylight savings time change, but he says he wasn’t aware that the start-time for the event had been changed. Referee Linda Hsing says the correct start-time had been posted all day Saturday and he was given extra time before defaulting. Khoa regrouped and his next match against Canadian Bence Csaba turned into a thriller. It went down to the 7th with Csaba smacking Khoa’s serve down the line at 10-9 to win the match.
Scenes from the North American Championships

Photos by Gerry Chua ©2003
In another nail-biter, Canada’s 2nd ranked player, Pradeebean Peter-Paul, went the full seven against Mark Hazinski. Peter-Paul jumped out to an early lead in the seventh, but Hazinski wouldn’t give up and pulled to within one. Down 7-10, Mark fought back and reached 9-10. But incredibly, at that point disaster struck... Mark served into serve and pulled to within one. Down 7-10, Mark fought back and reached 9:7, 0:30*0#/36.*

The match went six games.

Petra Cada. In the final, Tawny faced 3rd-rated Canadian Chris Xu, a steady, get-everything-back chopper. The match went six games.

Men’s Singles – Final: Johnny Huang (CAN) d. Bence Csaba (CAN), 11,11,9,3; SF: Huang d. Mark Hazinski (USA), 3,1,8,6; Csaba d. Pradeebean Peter-Paul (CAN), 9,8,9,8.

Women’s Singles – Final: Chris Xu (CAN) d. Tawny Bahn (USA), 5,10,9,7,14,9; SF: Xu d. Lily Yip (USA), 5,9,9,7; Bahn d. Petra Cada (CAN), 3,11,12,4,6.

Women’s Doubles – Final: Petra Cada/Marie-Christine Roussy (CAN) d. Tawny Bahn/Lily Yip (USA), 5,9,6,3; SF: Cada/Roussy d. Jackie Lee/Whitney Ping (USA), 7,3,4; Bahn/Yip d. Katherine Wu/Sophia Yi (USA), 5,7,2.

Under 18 Boys’ Singles – Final: Fazzil Kassam (CAN) d. Mark Hazinski (USA), 16,5,9,10,7,6; SF: Kassam d. Bence Csaba (CAN), n,s; Hazinski d. Adam Hugh (USA), 8,8,2,6.

Under 18 Boys’ Doubles – Final: Adam Hugh (USA) d. Misra Kazentsev (USA), 6,8,6; SF: Hugh d. Derek Wong (CAN), 6,3,5; Kazentsev d. Aldrich Leung (CAN), 4,5,9.

Under 16 Boys’ Final Placements: 1st Hugh (USA); 2nd Fanni Csaba (CAN); 3rd Aldrich Leung (CAN); 4th Derek Wong (CAN); 5th Sergey Gukin (USA); 6th John Leach (USA); 7th Kevin Phung (CAN); 8th Guillaume Poulin-Coulteur (CAN).

Under 18 Boys’ Singles – Final: Bence Csaba/Fazzil Kassam (CAN) d. Mark Hazinski/Han Xiao (USA), def; SF: Csaba/Kassam d. Adam Hugh/John Leach (USA), 7,6,7; Hazinski/Xiao d. Pierre-Luc Hinue/Guo Peng (USA), 8,9,10,5.

Under 18 Boys’ Doubles – Final: Adam Hugh/John Leach (USA) d. Guillaume Poulin-Coulteur/Bryan Michaud (CAN), 6,6,3; Hugh/Leach d. Aldrich Leung/Anthony Chan (USA), 4,4,7; Poulin-Coulteur/Michaud d. Derek Wong/Ling-Kun Yang (CAN), 9,9,8.

Under 18 Girls’ Singles – Final: Wenmin Chiu (CAN) d. Jackie Lee (USA), 7,4,12,5,3; SF: Chiu d. Sam Yuen (CAN), 7,6,10; Lee d. Whitney Ping (USA), 1,7,9.

Under 16 Girls’ Singles – Final: Judy Hugh (USA) d. Fanni Csaba (CAN), 8,18,6,7,4; SF: Hugh d. Tracey Yuen (CAN), 5,3,6,8; Csaba d. Lani Lei (USA), 7,8,9,9.

Under 16 Girls’ Final Placements: 1st Judy Hugh (USA); 2nd Fanni Csaba (CAN); 3rd Lani Lei (USA); 4th Tracey Yuen (CAN); 5th Barbara Wei (USA); 6th Shirley Yan (CAN); 7th Betty Tan (USA); 8th Marie-Andree Levesque (CAN).

Under 18 Girls’ Doubles – Final: Wenmin Chiu/Sara Yuen (CAN) d. Stephanie Yuen/Anna Ngan (CAN), 8,8,2, SF: Chiu/Yuen d. Katherine Wu/Sophia Yi (USA), 7,9,4,4; Ngan/Yuen d. Jackie Lee/Whitney Ping (USA), 12,7,10,9.

Under 16 Girls’ Doubles – Final: Judy Hugh/Laura Xiao (USA) d. Shirley Yan/Betty Tam (CAN), 7,8,10,5, SF: Hugh/Xiao d. Marie-Andree Levesque/Cynthia Paulin (CAN), 3,7,5,7; Tam/Yan d. Veronika Birioukova/Rita Wu (USA), 3,6,4,8.

Under 18 Girls’ Team Final – USA d. CAN, 3-1
- Jackie Lee (USA) d. Sara Yuen (CAN), 7,7,4,4
- Whitney Ping (USA) d. Wenmin Chiu (CAN), 11,6,8,8,12
- Stephanie Yuen (CAN) d. Katherine Wu (USA), 7,9,3,12
- Jackie Lee (USA) d. Wenmin Chiu (CAN), 4,11,12,14

Under 18 Boys’ Team Final – CAN d. USA, 3-1
- Bence Csaba (CAN) d. Han Xiao (USA), 3,8,4,6,4
- Mark Hazinski (USA) d. Fazzil Kassam (CAN), 6,8,8,5
- Pierre-Luc Hinue (CAN) d. Misra Kazentsev (USA), 7,6,8
- Bence Csaba (CAN) d. Mark Hazinski (USA), 3,8,5,5,7

Tip of the Month:
Cutting Off Angles
By Carl Banner

When returning shots to the corners, it’s often important not just to move sideways, but forward as well to cut off the angle. This reduces the distance you have to move, helps square your body to the true direction of the shot, and denies time to your opponent. Watch, for example, how world-class players come in sooner to the floor when blocking wide loops off the bounce.

Cutting off the angle is especially important on spin shots to your deep forehand, and when fishing or lobbing from away from the table. The 40mm ball also matters, as spin shots now dive sooner to the floor than they used to. Against players who don’t realize this, you can buy time (and advantage) for yourself simply by spinning wide, especially to their forhands.

By spinning wide, especially to their forhands.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • July/August 2003
Are you tired of your robot producing the same type of spin over and over and over again, to randomly selected locations on the table?

The AMICUS 3000 allows you to program each ball to your specific speed, spin and placement settings.

Above is an example of a simple four ball pattern that the AMICUS 3000 is capable of producing.

Your programmed shots can be saved into one of six memory settings. Each memory setting can hold up to 16 ball variations.

How is that for world class practice!

The Butterfly Amicus 3000 is an exciting table tennis robot, offering a wide range of capabilities for beginners through professionals.

There is virtually no limit to the types of standard drills and advanced game related drills that can be practiced on the Amicus; including drills to develop basic strokes & switching skills; footwork drills; and drills where players require random ball placement and/or random ball types.

Additional features of the Amicus 3000
- Frequency settings: up to 100 balls/min; A remote on/off switch
- Optional control box mount for player's side of table. (See pictures above.)

The Amicus is virtually unlimited in terms of the type of drills you can perform with it. As coaches and players begin to embrace the Amicus as an advanced training device, you will most certainly see a whole generation of Amicus trained superstars coming up through the ranks.
The Reverse Penhold Backhand of Wang Hao

By Wei Wang, USATT Certified National Coach and Hall of Famer

Photos by Diego Schauf ©2003
Wang Hao from China is the most natural user of the “new” penhold backhand. After pioneer Liu Guoliang, who used that technique occasionally and derived its success perhaps more from the variation it provided along with the traditional penhold backhand, Ma Lin reached toward the top with a very effective and consistent use of that shot, and now Wang Hao has taken it a step further. He uses it so naturally that the casual observer sometimes thinks it was a shakehand backhand.

This technique solves the traditional penhold problem on long underspin balls to the backhand and reduces the demands on the footwork. In addition to providing similar flexibility as a shakehand backhand, it actually makes attacking a short ball easier, because the racket reaches down more easily and the wrist can rotate the racket head further. The first two rows of pictures describe that “over-the-table-loop.” Much more than a flip, Wang can make a power shot off a short ball, which makes him extremely dangerous. He bends down low, and while stepping in very close to the table, he lifts his hand over the table, raises his elbow and drives the ball forward with a quick, powerful stroke, with a lot of forward movement.

For a long shot, as in the second sequence, Wang Hao drops his hand very low between his knees. Again he bends down low, turns his wrist inward. When the ball bounces, he starts the forward motion. The contact occurs very early – right over the table's end line. He pushes his right shoulder and then his whole body upward. At contact, he turns his wrist forward. That gets tremendous power and spin on the ball.

Traditional penholders adding this shot should note that Wang’s timing for this backhand is later – very similar to a shakehander's. Also, since the racket has rubber on both sides, it is heavier, which affects the timing on the forehand for a while – you’ll get to the contact point a little late, so start your stroke a fraction of a second earlier to compensate for that. Once you have tried it, you will find it surprisingly easy. In order to use it, you will need to change your foot positioning, rotating a little more toward the backhand. Initially, this might weaken your forehand, until you get used to it. But once you have incorporated this shot, your game will be more balanced.

NEW AVALOX PRONTE
HIGH PERFORMANCE RUBBER
Brand new rubber - custom formulated for the 40 mm ball

AVAPOOL PRONTE - a combination of the latest German and Japanese rubber and sponge technologies. It represents a quantum leap forward. While other products, like G888 or Hurricane, allowed to impart great spin on a 40mm ball, they did so at the price of a loss of feel and high weight.

AVALOX PRONTE changes all that! Lighter and more flexible than its predecessors, PRONTE’s soft sponge, custom designed and manufactured in Japan, provides outstanding dwell characteristics, and the revolutionary molecular composition of the top sheet, developed in Germany, gives the player control over his shots. It produces a high trajectory, which allows energy otherwise expeditiously the ball to be put into forward motion. The result is a devastating drive shot with tremendous spin.

Used by Bundesliga Ace and former Chinese National player Ma

TOP-OF-THE-LINE PERFORMANCE - LOW PRICE!
Introductory price: $24.00

AVALOX BLUE THUNDER
The Blade for the Chinese National Team
Made in Sweden

The feel of the coveted old Swedish blades in a new blade. Small production numbers allow tight tolerances - a blade custom made for pros - available to you at the price of a mass market item. $44.00

A550 - 5-ply - soft, light, springy - a looper's dream! The 40mm ball enhances the "trampoline effect".

A555 - an offensive 5-ply blade - fast, yet great control. Drive the ball with confidence.

A777 - All the power of a 7-ply blade! Without the weight. One of the fastest all-wood blades on the market.
Interview with the Leach Family.
John, Laura, Chris, Martha...

Dom äker till Sverige!
(They're Going to Sweden!)

By Larry Hodges

John is ranked #3 in USA in Under 16 Boys;
Laura is ranked #8 in USA in Under 18 Girls.

Where are you from?
Eric, Colorado (just outside of Boulder).

Where do you train?
We train mostly in our garage. On Sundays we train and take lessons at the Aurora Table Tennis Club, and occasionally play at the Boulder Table Tennis Club.

When will you be leaving for Sweden, and for how long?
We are leaving on July 30th, and returning sometime during summer 2004.

Where will you be staying?
In Stockholm – the exact living accommodations are not firm. We’ve asked for a 3-bedroom apartment or house somewhere in downtown Stockholm.

Why are you going?
We’ve been looking for an opportunity to do extended overseas training, and Sweden (because of connections, friends, and easy access to training facilities and partners) seemed the logical choice.

Where will John and Laura be training?
At the Angby Sports Club, just outside of Stockholm.

What type of training will John and Laura be doing?
Our training schedule will depend on what type of teams we will be placed on. Most teams train 4 to 5 days a week, with a morning and an afternoon session. We will probably practice 6 to 7 days a week, and work in our own training sessions in addition to the scheduled club practice.

What are John and Laura’s goals for the trip?
In general, we would both like to improve our tournament games. Neither of us has access to a lot of tournaments, and we really need more experience in that area. For the most part, we are trying to improve our games, overall, and make the most of the competition we will be exposed to.

What are their ages/date of birth?

Will there be any “big-name” players at the club or region that they will be training at?
Mikael Appelgren (known as “The Apple” at the club) is probably the most well-known player who currently trains there. We will probably get to see other famous Swedes (such as Persson, and possibly Waldner) at tournaments and in league play. One of the top younger players, Robin Morin, also trains at Angby.

Will they be back in the U.S. anytime during their stay in Sweden?
Yes. We are planning on at least two visits back to the states. Once for Thanksgiving and the Baltimore teams tournament, and again for Christmas and the U.S. Nationals.

What will dad Chris be doing in Sweden? Tell us about his work, and how/why he came to get a job in Sweden.
Chris is a finance professor at the University of Colorado, and is currently the head of his department. Every 7 years, professors are allowed a sabbatical, a break from teaching and an opportunity to do research. Chris has accepted a one-year research position at the Stockholm Institute of Financial Research, adjacent to the Stockholm School of Economics.

What will mom Martha be doing?
Martha (our manager) will continue to home-school John, run the house and attempt to master Swedish cooking (or at least cooking from Swedish supplies).

Have any of you been to Sweden before?
All of us have been there at one time or another, but never as a family. In 2001, Laura, John and Chris spent two weeks there training, and played in an international tournament hosted by the Angby club.

Anything else of interest about the trip?
We are all trying to learn Swedish, with very little success. We find it harder than German (Laura and John), Russian (Martha) or Spanish (Chris), but are still working at it.

John will continue his home schooling (10th grade), and Laura will be taking a year off from academics after completing her freshman year of college at CU.
The Table Tennis Pioneers

STIGA®
Play The Best

USA National Team at World Championships in Paris along with sponsors:
- Mathis Ruchteisch, President of The Table Tennis Pioneers
- Mats Bandstigen, President of Sweden Table Tennis (Stiga International)
- Jonas Wilin, Stiga's Product Manager

Stay Dry With Tiger Even During Your Most Heated Matches!

- Made of the finest combed cotton, making the shirt softer and more durable
- Are lighter, feel smoother and are very comfortable and functional

For A Full Line Of Stiga Clothing - Contact Us Today.
Web: ping-pong.com • e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com • Tel.: (800) 319-PING (7464) • Fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664)

Best Price - Guaranteed!
The Table Tennis Pioneers

For the most combos, from the most brands, with the most savings...

There is only one choice

Free gluing and assembly of your custom made rackets!

We have combos for all styles of play...

Allround, offensive & power combos

Everything you need for table tennis!
THE MARKET LEADER WITH...

"We guarantee that we have the Best Prices among all the current table tennis mail-order catalog services in the world. If your order costs less elsewhere, just show it to us and we'll match the price. Our guarantee stays in effect for up to 30 days after your order."

Don't you hate buying something and seeing it on special just a few days or weeks later? We do too! That's why we've extended our Best Price Guarantee to include the 30 days following your purchase. You can rest assured that when you buy from us you are getting the Best Price now and in the future! In other words, if we or anybody else puts the item on sale within 30 days of your purchase, just call us and we'll credit you with the difference!

If your order of regular priced items from any online retailer in North America would cost you less than from ping-pong.com's shopping cart, not only will we match this lower cost we will take off an additional 10%. This is our way of thanking you for helping us assure that...

- WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD!
- WE MATCH ALL OUR COMPETITORS' SPECIALS

TRY OUR ping-pong.com PRODUCTS!

Gift Certificate
The perfect gift for the table tennis fanatic

Keychain
Show your favorite sport to the world

Balls
1 Gross (144 Balls) for 1/2 the price!

All web orders receive a 5% discount off our guaranteed low prices. If you prefer to order by fax or phone we will give you 5% off your order if it is above $130.

These discounts do not apply to tables, robots, combos, or specials.
Bill Lui
USATT Certified National Level Coach
USOC Developmental Coach of the Year for Table Tennis, 1996

Coach Lui holds clinics and training sessions year round.

For more info contact Coach Lui
Ph: (925) 825-6816
E-mail: wclui@aol.com