**STIGA SUPREME™**

- ITTF approved for tournament play
- Includes tournament grade net and posts
- 1" tournament grade blue laminate top
- Edgebanding and striping—regulation style
- 2 1/4" 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
- Perfect for any club wanting to save storage space

**Best Price - Guaranteed!**

---

**STIGA PRESTIGE**

- Patented Quick-Play feature—front box to play in 3 minutes or less!
- 1" blue top with edge banding, painted stripes, corner pads, performance surface
- Built-tough chassis for added strength and support
- Self-opening 2" square steel legs for sturdy, secure playability
- 2" steel apron for additional support and level play surface
- Locking 4" ball bearing casters ensure safe play
- Quick fold table position and roller casters allow for easy mobility and storage
- Classic playback position for individual play and practice
- Includes tournament grade net and posts

**Best Price - Guaranteed!**

---

**Tables for Every Price Range - The Perfect Christmas Gift!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Top Color</th>
<th>Playing Surface</th>
<th>Net Sets</th>
<th>Folds for Storage</th>
<th>Plyback Feature</th>
<th>Weight (lbs)</th>
<th>Wheel Centers</th>
<th>Leg Construction</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Quickplay I</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>5/8&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>2&quot; double wheel</td>
<td>1 1/2&quot; round steel</td>
<td>BEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Quickplay II</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>3/4&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>3&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>2&quot; square steel</td>
<td>PRICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Master</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>3/4&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>3&quot; double wheel</td>
<td>1 1/4&quot; square steel</td>
<td>GUARANTEED!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Eurotech</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>3/4&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>3&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>2&quot; square steel</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Prestige</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>1&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>4&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>2&quot; square steel</td>
<td>ONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Elite Roller</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>1&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>4&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>1 1/4&quot; square steel</td>
<td>CAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Quickplay Outdoor</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>1&quot; Aluminum</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>4&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>1 1/4&quot; square steel</td>
<td>SELL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Expert Roller</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>1&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>4&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot; x 1 1/2&quot; square steel</td>
<td>FOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiga Supreme</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>1&quot; wood</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>4&quot; ball bearing</td>
<td>2&quot; square steel</td>
<td>LESS!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**For The Best Tables and The Best Equipment, Visit STIGA's North American Distributor:**

Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464)
Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664)
tpioneers@ping-pong.com
ping-pong.com
The Optimum ball is the official ball in more than 20 countries, including Sweden, England, Switzerland, and Canada. It is also the official ball of the three largest series of tournaments in North America: the North American Tour, the Canada Cup, and the Quebec Circuit.

The Optimum ball is the optimum ball for every player. Our new manufacturing process has produced balls of unparalleled consistency. These balls are carefully tested to ensure professional-quality roundness, weight, and stability.

Every ball in every box is perfectly round, with a true bounce, and no soft spots to allow you to take your game and enjoyment to the highest level. The STIGA 3-Star Optimum uses only the best grade of celluloid material. ITTF approved.

Our hardest ball for your strongest shots!

Available now at: ping-pong.com

ttppioneers@ping-pong.com • Tel: 1-800-319-PING (7464) • Fax: 1-800-319-PONG (7664)
FEATURES

FEATURE INTERVIEWS:

USATT Technical/High Performance Director Ben Grigore by Larry Hodges ........................................... 14
Paralympics Bronze Medalist Tahl Leibovitz by Larry Hodges ................................................................. 26
Training in China by Joseph Wang and Thomas Art .................................................................................. 22
History of U.S. Table Tennis by Tim Boggan Review by Si Wasserman .................................................. 32
Peter Chen in 2008? by Bruce Liu ........................................................................................................... 74
USATT CLUB OF THE MONTH: Rockford TTC by Ed Hogbeg ................................................................. 10
USATT LEAGUE OF THE MONTH: MDTTC Elite League by James Duan .................................................. 20
USATT JUNIOR OF THE MONTH: Judy Hughes by Larry Bavly ................................................................. 75

TOURNAMENTS

2004 OLYMPICS by Dan Seemiller, Dora Gheorghe and Ken Muhr ........................................................... 34
2004 PARALYMPICS by Sean O'Neill ........................................................................................................ 66
North American & Canadian Junior Championships Results ....................................................................... 28
ITTF Pro Tours - China and Japan .............................................................................................................. 26
USA Tournament Results .......................................................................................................................... 66
Matthew Murad Memorial Open by Alan Williams ..................................................................................... 70
Western Open by Alan Williams ................................................................................................................ 72

COACHING

Tips of the Month by Carl Danner ............................................................................................................. 69
Mental Preparation For Major Competitions by Sports Psychologist Dr. Wayne Hurr ................................. 76
The Footwork of Ryu Seung Min by Wei Wang, Photos by Diego Schaaf .................................................. 66

USATT AND OTHER NEWS

Ad Listing .................................................................................................................................................. 9
Short Stuff .................................................................................................................................................. 9
They Said It! by Larry Hodges ................................................................................................................ 9
Cartoon by Marek Zochowski ................................................................................................................... 10
Executive Director’s Report by Doru Gheorghe ...................................................................................... 16
President’s Report by Sheri Pittman ........................................................................................................ 16
2004 USATT Hall of Fame Inductions and Roster .................................................................................. 18
Cartoon by Cartoonjazz.com ................................................................................................................ 20
Senior Corner and Meiklejohn Senior Championships by Olga & Stan Kahn .......................................... 24
Obituaries: Bohdan Davidowicz, John Van, Chuck Focht, Michael Leissering ........................................ 30
USATT Board Motions and Votes ............................................................................................................ 31
An Official’s View by Azmy Ibrahim ...................................................................................................... 32
USAT Ratings by NATT .......................................................................................................................... 58
USATT Tournament Schedule ................................................................................................................ 65

ON THE COVER:

2004 Athens Paralympics Bronze Medalist Tahl Leibovitz by Sean O’Neill ©2004;
Cover design by Tom Nguyen

SUBSCRIPTIONS: SUBSCRIPTIONS: All USATT memberships include either 1 issue or a subscription. Rates in the U.S. and Canada are $40/year; $100/three years; Household $60/year or Junior $20/year. For all other countries, the fee is $50/year or $150/three years. Single copies are $4.95 plus postage, prepaid for addresses in the U.S. or Canada and $7 elsewhere. Subscription orders and inquiries concerning subscriptions should be sent to USATT Headquarters, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909. All subscription orders are payable in U.S. currency only. For CHANGE OF ADDRESS, send both old and new addresses and label from the most recent issue, or e-mail the address change to admin@usatt.org. Reproduction without written permission is prohibited. Copyright ©2004. All rights reserved.

Banking
Bank of America
Apparel
STIGA
Energy
ChevronTexaco

Official
Sponsors
Table
Butterfly
Ball
Nittaku
Matt Bauer

USA Table Tennis Magazine
VOLUME 75, NUMBER 6

PUBLISHER
USA Table Tennis
One Olympic Plaza • Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719-866-4583 (ph) • 719-632-6071 (fax)
www.usatt.org • usatt@usatt.org

PRESIDENT
Sheri Soderberg Pittman

EDITOR, DESIGNER & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Larry Hodges

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Felissa Huggins • 719-866-4583 • ratings@usatt.org

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

HEADQUARTERS STAFF
Doru Gheorghe Executive Director
Ben Grigore Technical/High Performance Director
Tommy Perkins Programs & Marketing Coordinator
Felissa Huggins Tournament & Equipment Coordinator
Carolyn Van Der Wege Accountant
Joyce Grooms Administrative Coordinator

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

PRINTER
Publication Printers, Denver, CO

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: USA Table Tennis Magazine, c/o USATT, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5708.

This publication is owned and published by USATT, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to supporting the sport of table tennis.

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

Advertising inquiries may be directed to the editor. An advertising rate card is available upon request, and linked at www.usatt.org/magazine

USA Table Tennis Magazine
November 2004
Introducing andro's latest rubber sheets...

Rocket 2.0, max
andro developed Rocket to have better characteristics when speed glued, a solid ball feel, and accuracy even when producing powerful speed and spin. Rocket is the rubber used by Jean-Michel Saive, former world #1. Since the 40 mm ball was introduced, Jean-Michel prefers, as do a lot of other top players, rubber sheets that produce a more solid feeling when hitting the ball.

Rocket Medium 2.0, max
andro adds another item to the successful Rocket series. Rocket Medium combines the improved top sheet of regular Rocket with a medium-hard sponge to produce a softer feel than regular Rocket. While Rocket Medium was designed for players with spin-oriented offensive strokes, we recommend it for all types of players, especially those with medium to fast arm acceleration.

Rocket Soft 2.0, max
Rocket Soft offers the optimum feeling for the spin-oriented player. The top sheet produces high spin in all offensive strokes. When speed glued, Rocket Soft provides the right sound. You will love Rocket Soft when executing mid-distance loops and drives. We recommend Rocket Soft for all types of players, especially talented youngsters with slower racket acceleration.

Jean-Michel Saive
NEW FOR 2004-2005

- Schlager Inspire (OFF+) $69.99
- 44mm Ball $4.99
- Mini Scoreboard $14.99
- Kumpuru (OFF+) $74.99
- Kraanga Aeros (OFF+) $89.99
- Effect Shirt $64.99
- Rushawa Cleaner $9.99
- Combi Clean $5.99
- Lagnus DX Case $24.99
- Rain Windbreaker $59.99
- Butterfly Ruck $49.99
- Butterfly
- Iolite ST (OFF+) $123.49
- Tees Tracksuit $109.99
- Laxford Shoulder Bag $34.99
- Laxford Sport Bag $44.99
- Laxford Maxi Bag $79.99
Firehand-CS (OFF+) $57.99
Bolgard (OFF-) $99.99
Primorac 2000-CS (OFF) $59.99
Lorfic Light (ALL) $59.99
New Basic Shorts $29.99
Competition 25 Rollaway $849.99
Line wrist band $4.99
Line head band $4.99
Centrefold 25 Sky Rollaway $1,499.99
D'OR $39.99
Sriver-G2 $46.99
Europa 25 Sky Stationary $1,249.99
Raystorm 2.1mm $35.99
Logo T-shirt (black) $14.99

1.800.611.7712 • butterflyonline.com
prices are subject to change
At ping-pong.com, we carry the complete line of TTmatic robots...

Made in Germany 2 Year Guarantee

TTmatic Professional Table Tennis Robots

All TTmatic Robots Are Hand Tested to Ensure the Highest Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>101</th>
<th>202</th>
<th>302</th>
<th>402</th>
<th>402-B</th>
<th>500</th>
<th>500-B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sit on table</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has own stand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topspin, backspin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power, Spin Tech (Independent Power &amp; Spin control)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topspin pin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360° sidespin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic increase/decrease of speed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic short/long balls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic topspin/backspin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Random program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillation in 2 steps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillation in 4 steps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillation in 2 x 4 steps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillation can be programmed to stop and start</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball container on top for ~ 140 balls</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball container under table for ~ 100 balls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum ball rate (balls per minute)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball sequence can be programmed to stop and start</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can not attach to table</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe &quot;Profi&quot; net attaches to table</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe &quot;Profi B&quot; net attaches to robot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TTmatic 500

Standing robot. A new dimension in robot training. The experience and knowledge of 30 years of table tennis robot production is built into this machine. A sophisticated computerized remote control and a specially developed double-head system offer unlimited training possibilities.

Similar to model 402, but with two rotating heads. Each head can be independently programmed as can the changeover from head A to head B. For example, 3 balls from A with backspin followed by 7 balls from B with topspin. The number of balls can be set from 1 to 9 for each head. The stop and go sweep can be set separately for head A, head B, or both heads can be set together.

Remote control board: 11 buttons, 3 LEDs, 1 main switch.

TTmatic 500-B

Same as model 500, but the net is not fixed to the table. It is solidly fastened to the frame of the machine. The sides can be folded.

Yes, we are the robot specialists! We also carry the complete line of NEWGY and AMICUS robots
USATT Election

The results of the 2004 USATT election will be out around the middle of November. Up for election were four positions—USATT President, Secretary, and two Vice Presidents. To see the results, go to the USATT home page at www.usatt.org and see the news items.

Balls of Fury
Table Tennis Movie picked up by New Line Cinema

*Balls of Fury* is about a washed-up ping-pong champion who must reclaim his skills when he goes undercover to bust a crime lord who hosts an annual tournament in which all the losers are executed. The opening line of the announcement about the movie in The Hollywood Reporter was, “Could pingpong be the next geek sport to hit it big a la dodgeball?” Tom Lennon and Robert Ben Garant wrote the screenplay, and Garant will direct. Lennon will take a role in the film. Upcoming films they’ve written include “Taxi,” starring Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon, and “Herbie: Fully Loaded” starring Lindsay Lohan. They also co-created and starred in the Comedy Central series “Reno 911!”

Corrections

On page 35 of the last issue, in the “An Official’s View” article, the subtitle was incorrect. The correct subtitle should have been, “The Plight of the Officials and Umpires.”

On page 58 of the last issue, the photo of Steven Chan was mislabeled as Jeff Huang. Jeff Huang is pictured below.

**They Said It…**

By Larry Hodges

“Could pingpong be the next geek sport to hit it big a la dodgeball?” From the Hollywood report on the upcoming table tennis movie “Balls of Fury.” (See article this issue.) First submitted by Robert Mayer:

“Neuroscientists have created a computer game based on table tennis that people can play using nothing more than the power of their minds. It is hoped that the technology will one day train people to generate neural signals that could control a wheelchair or communication device.” The first paragraph of an article in the Aug. 27, 2004 online issue of Nature Magazine titled ‘Mental ping-pong could aid paraplegics.’ Submitted by Robert Mayer.

“That 10-5 second game lead will haunt Timo for years to come.” USA Men’s Coach Dan Seemiller, on Timo Boll’s blowing a lead on Jan-Ove Waldner in the quarterfinals of Men’s Singles at the Olympics.

“Elena Dementieva kept floating her funny serves, slow and spinning Frisbees more suited for table tennis than the hard courts at Flushing Meadows.” From the Sept. 10, 2004 online tennis.com report on the U.S. Open. Submitted by Roger Abbott.

“This is the proof that Matthew Murad himself is gone, but not forgotten. This was the fourth four-star tournament held in his memory.” Alan Williams, on the annual 4-star Matthew J. Murad Memorial Open, an annual 4-star tournament.

“Bogdan’s probing point of view elevates what could have been dull, dry and dismal into vivid, vibrant and vigorous narration.”...“Three tomes of his towering and noble labor of love are reality. Four more would culminate a seven volume tour de force.” Sti Wasserman, in his review in this issue of Tim Bogdan’s History of U.S. Table Tennis.

**Congrats David on the HoF!**

Love, Donna, Dawn, Kim, Michele and Jennifer

See page 18!
The Rockford Table Tennis Club (RTTC) may be one of the oldest organized clubs in the United States. The archives at the local newspaper contain stories of league play during World War II - even an election of club officers made the front page of the sports section during the 1940's. The club, as it exists today, was rekindled during the 1960's by Joe Newgarden (owner of Newgy Industries), Gary Gatchel (instrumental in designing the Newgy RoboPong), Paul Erickson, and others.

The club meets at the Flodin Boys and Girls Club in Rockford, Illinois on Mondays from 7 PM until 10 PM and Thursdays from 4 PM until 10 PM. Adult club members coach up to 30 members of the Boys and Girls Club on Thursdays from 4 PM until 5 PM with the advanced juniors staying until 7 PM. Adults can receive free coaching from 5 PM until 7 PM, also on Thursdays.

Over the past year, the RTTC has held USATT tourneys (more on the tourneys later), formed two-man handicap leagues, played a draw doubles tourney, completed a full-club singles round robin tourney, and just finished the club traveling trophy tourney won by Ed Hogshead for the eighth straight year - although it may be his last as many are improving quickly.

The RTTC also helps sponsor and coach the Northern Illinois University Table Tennis Team consisting of Mike Nowicki, Kevin Kuchar, Julian Shin, Justin Kazwell, and others. Mike and Kevin have advanced extremely fast - 18 months ago they were rated less than 1000 and now they are approaching the 1800 rating level. It is truly a pleasure to watch these young players excel.

Gayle Dixon, director of Flodin Boys and Girls Club, and her staff, Jeanne, Artese, and Cedric deserve special thanks for their continued support. They constantly ask our club for a date for the next USATT tourney so the building is available for us - what a pleasure!

Our club members have also stepped to the plate to help the Boys and Girls Club. We began an extensive remodeling project earlier this year. Cement block walls were cut, new block walls were laid, doors installed, painting done, electric rewired, and plumbing repaired to make a homework room out of an unused locker room. All of this was completed with RTTC volunteer labor and minimal material cost. Gayle believes in schoolwork first with sports and recreation second. RTTC also sponsors a weekly woodshop wherein the youth have built a stationary bicycle rack, an outdoor wooden slatted trashcan holder complete with roof, and installed a new mailbox in concrete.

RTTC's efforts to support juniors goes deep. In addition to coaching and other Boys and Girls Club support, our USATT tourneys offer half price fees for all juniors who enter rated events. Many parents of the competing youth thank us as the reduced entry fees allowed their children to play in more events. RTTC also believes in giving credit where credit is due - any playing member of a U.S. national team (junior or adult) pays no entry fee and the highest rated player just pays the rating fee.

Appreciation goes to our officers: Ed Hogshead, President; Kevin Kuchar, Vice-President; Curt Born, Treasurer; Ricky Huynh, Secretary; and Tom Lawson, Past-President. Thanks also to club members Paul Fermanich, Kevin Kuchar, and Mike Nowicki for their extensive help in coaching the juniors.
Check our site for blowout sale items! www.dhsamerica.com

THE MARK OF TIMELESS QUALITY

- Rainbow
- Expert Compact
- Supreme Pro
- Bridge
- Eurostar
- Rising Star
- Elite
- Master Pro
- Competition

EXCLUSIVE REGIONAL DEALERS (warehouses)

- NORTH EAST: NY, CT, MA, NH, VT, NJ, ME, RI
- MID ATLANTIC: PA, MD, VA, DE, DC, SC, NC
- SOUTH EAST: MS, AL, GA, FL, TN
- GREAT LAKES: KE, OH, WV, IL, IN, MI
- NORTH CENTRAL: MT, NE, ND, SD, WY, WI, IA, MN, MO, KS, CO, UT
- SOUTH WEST: AR, NM, TX, AZ, LA, OK
- PACIFIC: CA, NV, WA, ID, OR

Farmingdale, NY 11735
Vacant
Vacant
Florence, KY 41042
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant
Carson, CA 90810
Fairfield, CA 94533

Tel. 905.761.6605, Fax. 905.761.6724, www.dhsamerica.com
Toll Free: 1-877-PLAY-DHS (7529-347) info@dhsamerica.com
what is in your winter

how about a Stiga Expert Table...

just $899

includes shipping and net set

* highest quality tables with excellent table surface
* ITTF approved 1” table top
* takes up very little space
* great for home or club use
* table used on the 2004 Stiga North American Tour and Teams
* convenient to fold and move into storage
wonderland?

for more information:
North American Table Tennis
401 N. Washington Street, Suite 110
Rockville, MD 20850
TEL: 301.738.8250  EMAIL: info@natabletennis.com
or order online at:  www.natabletennis.com
Interview with Benone "Ben" Grigore

USATT Technical/High Performance Director

By Larry Hodges

USA Table Tennis recently hired Benone “Ben” Cristian Grigore as its first ever Technical/High Performance Director. Ben started work on Sept. 1, 2004.

Ben was the Head Coach for the Koping International Table Tennis Academy and Kopings Table Tennis Club in Sweden. He was born in Romania, was once a top twelve player in his country and played in the Romanian Super League. He has been involved with the sport as a player since 1972 and as a coach since 1984.

You were recently hired by USATT as their Technical/High Performance Director. How did USATT convince you to come to America?

First thing is that ever since I was a little boy I dreamed about USA, and wanted to work and live here.

Second thing is that I’ve known Teodor “Doru” Gheorghe, our Executive Director, for 20 years and I work well with him.

The third thing is that I like challenges and for foreign trainers, coaches and leaders in table tennis, USA is a great challenge ... and it is a challenge for me!

Where and when did you work with Doru?

Twenty years ago when he was my coach and teammate in Bucharest, Romania.

What exactly does a “Technical/High Performance Director” do?

My role with USA Table Tennis will consist of many duties including: the planning and coordination of all national teams in collaboration with the Elite Athlete Committee; Develop, implement and coordinate the coaching education and certification program in collaboration with the Coaching Committee; Coordinate and oversee activities at Regional and National Training Centers; and to develop, implement and coordinate grassroots programs and activities.

Can you tell us some of your goals for USATT?

To improve the level of players and coaches, and grassroots development. My long-term goal is to help American players win a medal for USA at the Worlds or Olympics!!!

What is your background as a player?

I started to play table tennis in 1972 at I.T.A. Prahova Ploiesti, Romania. In 1984 I played as a professional player in the Romanian Super League for the Mecanica Fina Steaua Bucharest Table Tennis Club, together with Doru (he was my coach and teammate at the time). After this, in 1990, I played as a professional player in the German Division 1 for Bayer Munchen Table Tennis Club. In 1992 I played again as a professional player in the Romanian Super League, for the Strirom Bucharest Table Tennis Club. In 1994 I played as a professional player in the French Division 1 for the Moulhouse Table Tennis Club. In 1995 and 1996 I played as a guest player for Cyprus Top 12 Tournament in Nicosia. After this I moved to Sweden and I played as a professional player for Norrkoping Table Tennis Club in the Swedish Division 2. After this, I played as a professional player for the Koping Table Tennis Club in the Swedish Division 2, after in Division 1 and after that in Division Elite (Swedish Super League).

I participated in the Romanian Top 12 Tournament in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1993 and 1994, as well as in the Romanian Men’s National Team B. For many years I was a practice partner for the Women’s and Men’s Romanian National Team.

What is your background as a coach and in other table tennis positions?

In 1984 I started my career as an instructor for beginners in table tennis. In 1986 I was assistant trainer at Mecanica Fina Steaua Bucharest Table Tennis Club, Romania. In 1988 I was trainer for the same club. In 1990 I was Head Coach for Bayer Munchen Table Tennis Club in Germany in Division 1. In 1992 I was trainer for Strirom Buchares Table Tennis Club in Romania. In 1994 I was Head Coach for the Moulhouse Table Tennis Club in France in Division 1. In 1995 I was Federal Coach to Cyprus Table Tennis Association. In 1997 I was Head Coach for Norrkoping Table Tennis Club in Sweden. After this I was Head Coach to Koping Table Tennis Club and Kopings International Table Tennis Academy at the Swedish Table Tennis Center from Koping.

Other table tennis functions: I was marketing director to Kopings International Table Tennis Academy, teacher and senior consulting to Skinnskattebergs Table Tennis Folk School, consulting member to Swedish Table Tennis Association, and a member of the Swedish Psychological Sport Association.

Anything you’d like to add?

I am looking forward to working with all the coaches in USA and I want to let everybody know that if they need help or they have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact me at USA Table Tennis:

Phone: 719-866-4583 ex.1
Fax: 719-632-6071
Email: technical@usatt.org

© 2004 Google's Olympic Table Tennis design!

Winners of the Table Tennis competition from the 2004 U.S. Transplant Games, an Olympic-style sports competition for all transplant recipients, returned home victorious and among them was Calvin Nakamoto, silver medalist in Table Tennis. Battling back from his heart disease at age 54, Calvin received a heart transplant and is unstoppable now.
You Are Just One Click Away

From Spinning The Spintech Way

Apply Online For A E-Catalog or by Phone at 1-877-TRY-SPIN

SPINTECH TABLE TENNIS INC - 11877 Douglas Road, Suite 102-305, Alpharetta, GA 30005 USA - TEL: (404) 242-7746 - FAX: (770) 667-6898
Executive Director's Report

By Doru Gheorghe

The 2004 U.S. Nationals in Las Vegas are approaching fast, and I would like to remind you to send in your entry forms. For your convenience, you can download the entry forms or enter electronically on the USATT web page, at www.usatt.org. Unfortunately Half C2 was already booked for this year and we couldn't get that hall. We plan to provide mops so that players can use them to wipe away dust to make the floor non-slippery.

I would like to thank those who donated money to the floor mat fund-raising drive. As of today we have raised $5,360, and we can now purchase three courts. As in past years, we hope to have a successful event and everybody entered will have fun and enjoy the tournament. As always, USATT acknowledges the importance of volunteers and participants in making this event a success and invites you to be a part of it. USATT is working on having door prizes as we did last year.

The Trials for the 2005 USA National, Junior and Cadet Teams will be held in Las Vegas. You can find the playing format at the USATT web page. We wish you Good Luck!

I would like to welcome our new USATT High Performance/Technical Director, Benone “Ben” Grigore. He is working together with the chair of the coaching committee on the new coaching certification system and curricula for each coaching level. For your convenience more information will be available on the USATT web page. His other duties include planning and coordination of all National Teams programs in collaboration with the Elite Athlete Committee; coordinate and oversee activities at Regional and National Training Centers; and develop, implement, and coordinate grassroots programs and activities.

The Olympic Games are over and you'll find in this issue Dan Seeniller's report on the USA Men's Team and mine on the USA Women's Team.

Judy Hugh, Barbara Wei, Jon Leach and Jeff Lin Huang will be on the North American Team at the World Cadet Challenge Cup in Madeira, Portugal, Oct. 25-Nov. 1, 2004. The junior boy's team lost their match against Canada and so did not qualify for the World Junior Championships. The junior girls will play against Canada on October 1, 2004 in Vancouver, Canada.

Starting Jan. 1, 2005 the stipends and incentives based on performance for players and coaches will be implemented. The criteria of implementation will be posted on the USATT web page.

Next year USATT will open 2 regional training centers and I encourage all clubs that fulfill the criteria to apply. Info on this will go public later on.

I would like to share with you some ideas for improving the structure and development of table tennis in the USA. The Board agreed with the idea of forming State Associations, which I believe will be a big step forward in developing table tennis in each state by using local human and financial resources. USA is a huge country with 50 states, and compared to Europe it's like a continent with 50 countries. It is difficult to run and organize activities with only one association for so many states. It is impossible not to avoid missing details, facts or opportunities that exist at the local level when you have only a few people to work with. Local clubs and members know the local situation better, and have a better idea how to promote and develop table tennis at the local and state level. Giving the State Associations the recognition and the power to run table tennis in the state will allow better promotion of table tennis in each city and also open the opportunity for better use of local TV and other media.

The State Associations would be in charge of developing state team leagues and other state tournaments, according to their needs and resources. The winner or top two finishers of each state would play in Regional Team League Championships, and the winner of this regional league would play in the National Championships, during the U.S. Nationals or somewhere else. The future National Team League would be televised and organized as a showcase event. Developing the team league will allow clubs to find more sponsors, and using local resources and USATT, find more sponsors and promote table tennis on TV. This is the first step in developing professional table tennis in the U.S. This is going to be a long process and we would like to ask you to be patient and work with us. I personally would like to ask everyone for their input on this matter by sending your opinion in regarding what obstacles you may confront, and also the logistical and legal issues in forming your state association. Also, I would like you to answer some of my questions:

- How do you see the structure of the state associations? With a Board of Directors and committees?
- For the states that don’t have enough members, could several states join together and form an association?
- Do you see it necessary for larger states to have local federations/associations within the state?

Starting next year, in order to develop a stronger generation of table tennis players, USATT will organize more summer camps for top juniors and cadets, under the supervision of the best coaches in the U.S.

In order to help clubs to develop young players and improve their coaches’ level, USATT will nominate regional coaching directors that will help clubs in their region with assistance in running clinics and other table tennis related issues.

I would like to thank those who sent me their opinion and advice, or who helped USATT directly by volunteering your time. As always, if you have questions related to USATT, please feel free to email me at ed@usatt.org.

President's Report

By Sheri Soderberg Pittman

In the last President’s Report, I discussed what happens at Board meetings. The next meeting in mid-November will not only be the first post-election meeting, but also the first meeting of the 2005-2008 quadrennium. In my campaign materials, I have already described where I would like to see USATT go. Regardless of who is elected president, however, the Board should commit to concrete plans for the next four years in terms of both policy-setting and budgetary strategies. In this issue’s “association primer series,” I’m going to share what the future holds for USATT’s marketing efforts.

But first, let’s take a quick glance at where we’ve been. With the tenure of Doru Gheorghe as executive director, USATT has made rapid improvements in many areas. The primary improvement has been in staff assuming more and more operational responsibility. USATT’s first High Performance/Technical Director is positioned to work closely with coaches, committees, clubs and the general membership to start significant new improvements. NATT has helped get ratings and tournament operations professionalized. Treasurer Tong Lee has helped USATT achieve record financial success. General Counsel Dennis Taylor has saved USATT tens of thousands of dollars and improved our legal positioning. Larry Hodges has helped introduce our association to a large number of potential new members through the USATT League, various club programs, as well as improved communications through the magazine, website and online forum. The core infrastructure is now well established. All of this adds up to simple reality: USATT is better positioned than ever to assume an aggressive marketing campaign to help fund USATT’s future. In the near future, USATT and ITTF representatives will meet to discuss what lessons USATT can learn from the ITTF’s successful marketing division. From there, USATT will move forward in establishing what I’ll call “USATT Marketing.” USATT Treasurer Tong Lee, an MBA in marketing, has agreed to use his expertise to help implement our marketing strategy. He has written much of the following material.
Marketing Division of USATT

Introduction
In the past, we had expected and relied on the executive director to generate revenue from sponsorships. This is an unrealistic expectation for any executive director because he just doesn’t have the time to manage the day-to-day affairs of USATT, oversee USATT’s tournaments, perform marketing functions, seek sponsorships, and provide sponsorship fulfillment. In addition, without an operating budget, any marketing effort would be limited and insufficient to produce significant sponsorship revenue. We, therefore, have not been able to realize the full potential of our assets and properties.

Several years ago, USATT instituted a 20% commission incentive for individuals who bring in sponsorship money. (Recently the Board authorized the Executive Director to set the rate.) That approach wasn’t successful because there was no coordinated effort to make it work. Thus, it is not surprising that USATT has not made much headway in generating the amount of sustained profits that are required to fund other programs and to fulfill its mission as the national governing body of table tennis. The time has come for USATT to seriously address this issue and take a bold step forward to professionalize its efforts in marketing and finding sponsorships with the creation of a marketing division of USATT.

Mission
As a profit center, USATT Marketing shall create and identify sponsorship opportunities and generate sponsorship profits through the optimal utilization of all of the assets and properties of USATT.

Goal
The goal of USATT Marketing is to generate most of its annual revenue from sponsorships and other improved marketing efforts.

Functions
The primary functions of USATT Marketing are to:
- Identify and analyze USATT’s assets and properties and develop revenue-generating potential;
- Develop sponsorship packages, including brochures, CDs, and other sales materials that would be attractive to sponsors by showing the value of a USATT sponsorship to them;
- Identify potential sponsors, especially those that are outside the table tennis industry, and contact them to sponsor USATT events, and interact with them in sponsorship fulfillment;
- Manage independent commissioned agents or representatives seeking sponsorships and grants for USATT, and coordinate their marketing efforts;
- Help in the production and the showcasing of all major tournaments on national TV.

Organizational Structure
The primary and day-to-day activities shall be the responsibility of a marketing director reporting to the USATT executive director. USATT staff shall provide appropriate administrative support whenever necessary and appointed Board representatives will assist in the oversight of USATT Marketing.

Start-up Finances
It is envisioned that USATT Marketing shall not only be financially self-sufficient, but also be a major profit center for USATT. However, it needs some seed money to help it get started. It will be proposed to the Board that USATT commit $50,000 in the first year of its operation for the support of a marketing director and for marketing expenses. The marketing director shall work on a base salary and on commission based on sponsorship revenue generated by USATT Marketing.

Stay Tuned
Assuming the Board approves the above-mentioned proposal, there will be an announcement at www.usatt.org that will provide details about how to apply for the position.

Other New Directions
I have had the opportunity to meet and work with “the best of the best” among the table tennis family globally. It is clear to me that USATT could benefit significantly from the knowledge and strategic ideas of a handful of people. Expect to see the staff expand as our resources allow.

Election Results
We will soon know the election results. I will be honored to serve for this quadrennium, should I succeed. If I don’t, I’d like to give a final round of applause to the many volunteers and staff members who have done an outstanding job over these past several years.
The 22nd Annual Hall of Fame Awards Banquet will be held at the Stratosphere Hotel, Las Vegas, Thursday evening, Dec. 16, 2004. As usual, there will be a cocktail period beginning at 7:00 p.m., then dinner, then the Awards presentation.

This year’s distinguished inductees are: Norbert Van de Walle, former U.S. Open Boys, Junior, and Men’s Doubles Champion, and U.S. Open Men’s Singles finalist; Lily Yip, 2-time U.S. Olympian and 3-time Pan-Am medallist; and Dave Sakai, many-time U.S. Open/Closed over 40 and over 50 Champion.

USATTT Hall of Fame Members

Note - Tim Boggan has written profiles of all members. See link at www.usatt.org

AARONS, Ruth Hughes (Player–1966)
ACTON, Sharon (Player–1983)
AKI, Shonie (Official–1997)
ANDERSON, Mal (Official–1997)
BELLAK, Laszlo (Player–1980)
BELLINI, Valerie Smith (Player–1983)
BENGTSSON, Angelica Rosal (Player–1996)
BERENBAUM, Abe (Player–1979)
BHUSHAN, Insook (Player–1993)
BLATTNER, Robert “Bud” (Player–1979)
BOGGAN, Eric (Player–2003)
BOGGAN, Scott (Player–2001)
BOGGAN, Joseph R. “Tim” (Official–1985)
BOZORGZADEH, Houshang (Official–1987)
BRATHWAITE, George (Player–1989)
BUKET, Bernard (Player–1989)
BURNS, Charles “Chuck” (Player–1984)
CARTLAND, Douglas (Player–1984)
CHENG, Yinghua (Player–2000)
CHOTRAS, Bernice Charney (Player–1983)
CINNATTER, Elmer (Player–1984)
CLARK, Coleman (Player–1984)
DEMSEY, Mike (Player–2002)
DETROITER (Player–inducted 1979)
DANNIER, Fred (Official–1993)
FIELDS, Bobby (Player–1988)
FOLKE, Peggy McLean (Player–1980)
FULLER, Emily (Player–1979)
GENERAL SPORTCRAFT CO., LTD. (Contributor–1979)
GREEN, Bob (Player–2000)
GROSS, Sanford (Player–1991)
GUNN, William A. (Player–1980)
GUSIKOFF, Bobby (Player–1984)
HARRISON, J. Rufford (Player–1984)
HARVARD TABLE TENNIS CO. (Contributor–1981)
HAWTHORN, Davida (Player–1994)
HAZI, Tiber (Player–1981)
HEITNER, Tyrone (Player–1997)
HENDRY, George (Player–1984)
HICKS, Richard (Player–2001)
HOARFROST, Judy Bocheski (Player–1997)
HOEK, Bernard (Contributor–1984)
HODGES, Larry (Contributor–2003)
HOLZRICHTER, William C. (Player–1980)
HOWARD, Jack (Player–1994)
ICHKOFF, Peggy (Player–1987)
ISAACSON, Steve (Player–1994)
JACOBSON, Jimmy (Player–1985)
KAMINSKY, Barbara Chaimson (Player–1985)
KIMBLE, Alice Green (Player–1995)
KLEIN, Erwin (Player–1981)
KRONLAGE, Yvonne (Contributor–1994)
KUENZ, Dolores Probert (Player–1979)
LAWRENCE, Herwald (Contributor–1996)
LEE, Dal-Joon (Player–1983)
LEE, He-ja (Player–1984)
LEE, Y.C. (Contributor–1999)
MALEK, Attila (Player–2000)
MARTINEZ, Patty (Player–1993)
MATTHEWS (SCHUSSHEIM), Mark (Player–1979)
McCLURE, Jimmy (Player–1966)
McLWAIN, Will (Contributor–1994)
MILES, Dick (Player–1966)
MILLER, Tom (Official–2001)
MONNESS, Reba (Player–1981)
MOSKOWITZ, Manny (Contributor–1994)
NASH, Garrett Gray (Player–1991)
NEUBERGER, Leah (Player–1966)
NIPPON TAKKYU CO., LTD (Contributor–1988)
P. BECKER AND CO. (Contributor–1981)
PAGLIAIO, Lou (Player–1979)
PINNER, Edward (Player–1985)
PRICE, William R. (Contributor–1980)
PROUTY, Sally Green (Player–1979)
PURVES, J. Jack (Player–1979)
READ, John (Official–1989)
REISMAN, Marty (Player–1981)
SAKAI, David (Player–to be inducted Dec. 2004)
SAKAI, Donna Chaimson (Player–1996)
SCHIFF, Sol (Player–1966)
SCHNEIDER, Dr. Michael (Contributor–1999)
SEEMILLER, Danny (Player–1995)
SEEMILLER, Ricky (Player–1998)
SEEMILLER, David (Player–1984)
SHIPMAN, Mildred (Player–1980)
SMYTH, Neil (Contributor–1996)
SOMAEL, John (Player–1983)
SOMAEL, Pauline Robinson (Player–1991)
SOMMER, Helma “Tybie” (Player–1980)
STEENHOVEN, Graham (Official–1988)
STOCKWELL, Wendy Hicks (Player–1994)
SUSSMAN, Cy (Player–1985)
SWEERIS, Connie (Player–1987)
SWEERS, Dell (Player–1987)
TAMASU CO., LTD (Contributor–1987)
VARGA, John (Player–1980)
WALDE, Norbert Van de (Player–to be inducted Dec. 2004)
WAND, Wes (Player–2002)
WILSON, Sharlene Krizman (Player–1997)
YIP, Lily (Player–to be inducted Dec. 2004)
ZIEGSBERG, Carl (Official–1981)
ZHUANG, David (Player–2003)

MARK MATTHEWS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

1999: Bobby Gusikoff
2000: Sol Schiff
2001: Jimmy McClure
2002: Dick Miles
2003: Marty Reisman
2004: Rufford Harrison

The Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Rufford Harrison, former USATT President and long-time ITTF Equipment Chair.

Profiles of the honorees will be posted after the inductions, and published in the Jan/Feb USATT Magazine.

The Banquet Room is always filled to capacity, but seating arrangements can be made early. Tickets are $40 if purchased in advance from HOF President Jimmy McClure, 4226 Country Club Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33904 (Phone: 239-945-1718).
Butterfly Maryland Table Tennis Center
18761-Q Frederick Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20879 • (301) 519-8580 • www.mdttc.com

All Levels Welcome!

Christmas Camp Dates:
DECEMBER 26-31

DAILY SCHEDULE
Dec. 26 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Dec. 27 10:00AM - 1:00 PM
            3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Dec. 28 10:00AM - 1:00 PM
            3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Dec. 29 10:00AM - 1:00 PM
            3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Dec. 30 10:00AM - 1:00 PM
            3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Dec. 31 10:00 AM - 1:00 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: Rating:
Address: 

Amount Enclosed: $
Walk into the Maryland Table Tennis Center (MDTTC) on a Saturday morning and you may see high-level table tennis players making shots like they belong in the Olympics. No, I don’t mean the well-known MDTTC coaches Cheng Yinghua and Jack Huang. I’m talking about the aptly named MDTTC Elite League, a USATT League designed for players with ratings over 2100.

The Elite League is the strongest USATT League in the country in player ratings, and for good reason. Among the players that frequent the league are old veterans like John Wetzler, Napoleon “Rocky” Reyes, and David Sakai. Age and experience are not the only things found here, however. The Elite League has helped prepare junior stars such as 17-year-old Han Xiao to make the 2004 National Men’s Team. Han was also the 2002 National Men’s Doubles Champion with his partner and coach, Cheng Yinghua, as well as 2002 USOC player of the year. The league also helped Khaleel Asgarali (17) make the Trinidad National Team this year.

Other notable junior/youth players who frequently participate include Katherine Wu (18), Michael Shao (18), and Ragh Nadmichettu (17). Making the league — i.e. getting a rating over 2100 — has become a goal for many other up-and-coming local juniors, and several are very close.

The Elite League is held every other week on Saturday mornings. Play starts with players being split into round robin groups based on rating. Depending on the finishing place within the group, each player then participates in cross-over matches against players from other groups. In order to encourage players to try their best throughout a match, placing is determined by the game win/loss ratio, not the match ratio. Even if you lose nearly every match, you can still come out in good standing by winning some key games.

The Elite League is run jointly by James Duan and Han Xiao (both of whom also play in the league), with assistance from Wei Xiao. If you are ever in the Gaithersburg, MD area and want to play or watch high quality table tennis, drop in on one of our leagues. For more information on when leagues are held, how to get to the club, player rankings, or anything else you would possibly want to know, please visit the Elite League section on the MDTTC web site at www.mdttc.com. The club also has a Friday night league for all levels.

MDTTC Ratings (Oct. 1, 2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDTTC Elite League Members</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>USATT Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xiao, Han</td>
<td>2467</td>
<td>2545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratti, Stefano</td>
<td>2292</td>
<td>2241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asgarali, Khaleel</td>
<td>2266</td>
<td>2218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reyes Jr., Napoleon F.</td>
<td>2262</td>
<td>2254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdass, Larrie Larry</td>
<td>2261</td>
<td>2251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duan, James T.</td>
<td>2256</td>
<td>2238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duan, Changping</td>
<td>2246</td>
<td>2210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santelices, Tacky</td>
<td>2222</td>
<td>2209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly, Ronnie</td>
<td>2213</td>
<td>2148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnside, Rich</td>
<td>2208</td>
<td>2226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetzler, John</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>2304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakai, David</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>2194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asgarali, Nazzuddin</td>
<td>2196</td>
<td>2217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shao, Michael</td>
<td>2187</td>
<td>2193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodges, Larry</td>
<td>2185</td>
<td>2148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadmichettu, Raghu</td>
<td>2159</td>
<td>2221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wu, Katherine</td>
<td>2156</td>
<td>2126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lang, Lixin</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td>2098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson, Morris</td>
<td>2134</td>
<td>2110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le, Daniel</td>
<td>2127</td>
<td>2137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOT Open & 5th Zhi Yu Cup
Table Tennis Championships
3 Star USATT Sanctioned – Nov. 20-21, 2004
Fashion Institute of Technology
Building A - 7th Avenue at 27th Street
New York, New York 10001-5992

TOURNAMENT Committee: Kerri McTierman,
Wayne Chin, Lily Yip

REFEREE: Yang Shao Ming, IU

EQUIPMENT: 12 DoubleFish Tables & Nets, 3 star
40mm orange balls.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Entries must be postmarked
by Nov 14, 2004. Late entries will be charged $5.00.
Entries may be rejected if space does not permit.

ENTRY POLICY: All entries must include
payment.

RULES: All USATT laws and regulations apply.

ELIGIBILITY: All players must be USATT members or members of an ITTF affiliated association. Bring your membership card or receipt. Non-members
MUST join USATT at the tournament. USATT membership: $400 yr, $100/3 yr for adults; $20 for juniors; $60/yr for household (2 adults + minors). Adult
players who have never been USATT members may purchase a One-Time Tournament Pass for $10. **Player ratings will come from the**
September/October 2004 USATT magazine. The tournament committee reserves the right of acceptance or refusal of all tournament entries.

FORMAT: The Team Event (Event 1) will consist of 3 players. Each
Team tie will be the best of five matches. The format of play will be two
tillogues than doubles and two more singles. No player may be over
2500 and the combined total team rating must be under 7200.

Each player on a team will only be allowed to play a maximum of
2 matches per team tie.

All events marked RR will play in a round robin group of three or four players.
The player or team with the best record in the group will advance to the single
elimination draw.

All matches are 3 out of 5, 11 point games except for the semis and finals of the
Open which are best 4 out of 7 games. The tournament committee reserves the
right to modify the format or cancel events due to insufficient entries.

INFORMATION: Contact: Lily Yip 732-748-9712, Email atlanta96@msn.com or www.doublefish-us.com

PAYMENT: Make checks payable to Lily Yip Sports, Inc. and send to: 14 Dock Watch Hollow Road, Warren, NJ 07059

FIT Open & 5th Zhi Yu Cup Table Tennis Championships
November 20-21, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event No.</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Entry Fee</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd/4th</th>
<th>Entry Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>U-2500 Team Event</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>Sat. 11:30Am</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3 players total a7200)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Sat. 2:30Pm</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Under 2300</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Sat. 1:30Pm</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Under 1900</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Sat. 11:30Am</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>NCTTA Team</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>Sun. 9:00Am</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Sun. 10:00Am</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Under 1800</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>Sun. 1:00Pm</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Under 1600</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Sun. 11:00Am</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Under 1400</td>
<td>RR</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Sun. 9:00Am</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*** NCTTA is an Invitational Only Northeast College Team Event

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • Nov/Dec 2004
Training in China  By Joseph Wang

Joseph Wang of Maryland, 13, a student of Cheng Yinghua and Jack Huang, is U.S. #4 in Under 14 Boys with a 2053 rating

As it becomes harder and harder to improve and go up I turned to overseas training as an answer. This summer I traveled to Xi’an, Shaanxi in China to train at the Shaanxi Yinhe Table Tennis School. My parents accompanied me on this trip. I first arrived at Beijing after 13 hours of nonstop flying and was received by my relatives. We stayed in Beijing for two days then took a train to Xi’an. After another day and a half we were finally in Xi’an. I immediately started training right when I get there.

Perhaps I should explain a little about Xi’an. Xi’an was the capital of China before Beijing, and was the capital for 18 dynasties. It is rich in culture and no trip to China is complete without a visit to Xi’an.

The training facility is of top quality: hardwood floors, great lighting, over thirty tables, but no air conditioning, which I was prepared for. Upstairs has about 30 more tables and the same conditions. The players are divided into four divisions: one being the best and four being the worst. I was placed into division one. Right away I saw I had much competition to look forward to. My coach was Zhang Qi Yeh, who previously was on the Bu-Yi Dui, which is one level lower than the Chinese National Team Two. Everyone in my group was better than me and I learned a lot from them. However, the players in division one are not the best; next door is the Shaanxi Yinhe Elite Table Tennis Club. Players who take table tennis as their profession train there and their best players play in the Super League’s Division A, one level lower than the famous Chinese teams tournament.

The level of skill in my group is roughly 2000-2400, and the ages were 11-17. For the first two weeks we trained eight hours a day, two hours in the morning, three in the afternoon, and three at night. This was to accommodate the younger children’s schedules because they also go to school. After their summer break started (about two weeks after ours), we stopped training at night, and after that we trained for only six hours per day. We generally played

---

David Zhuang’s Training Camp in China

By Thomas An

Thomas, 13, is in the top 20 for his age in the U.S. with a 1781 rating, and previously wrote about the NJ Youth League in the July/Aug issue this year. He recently moved to Pennsylvania.

From July 19 through Aug. 5 this summer, nine New Jersey juniors (Taiyee Chien, Aldan Fan, Wesely Fan, Eric Finklestein, Ethan Harel, Kevin Kuznetzow, Ryan Lau, Oleg Troffmov, and myself) participated in David Zhuang’s table tennis training camp in Jiangmen, China. David Zhuang, the head coach and coordinator of the trip, chose that city because it was where he had been trained as a young player in the Guangdong province of China. For me, it was not the first time to return to China, but the sights and the special moments during the trip made it one of the memorable times of my life!

Our hotel facilitated a table tennis training hall with eight tables that was right across the parking lot from our living quarters. This turned out to be very convenient, for it was less than a two-minute walk from our dormitory rooms. The playing conditions were also excellent, with hardwood floors and great lighting. But besides the playing hall, the hotel also accommodated a swimming pool, bowling, and a pool table for entertainment in our free time.

In addition to Coach Zhuang, four or five coaches from a local club also trained us. They would usually block or feed multiball to us, all the while correcting our strokes or teaching us new techniques. During a normal day, our schedule looked like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 – 8:10</td>
<td>Morning Jog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:15</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-12:30</td>
<td>Morning Training Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-1:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-3:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-6:30</td>
<td>Afternoon Training Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45-7:30</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The morning training sessions usually concentrated on the fundamentals (forehand, backhand, looping, service return, etc...), with the group focusing on a different concept every couple of days. Over the entire trip, these vigorous and high intensity morning training sessions greatly helped my all around consistency, as I’m sure it did for others as well. In the afternoon sessions, we usually had round robins with local junior teams. Occasionally, local clubs would send three to four adults to come and play us too. On the first day of round robins with one of the junior teams, Eric Finklestein, rated 2235 and our team’s highest-level player, had three wins and two losses. One of the losses was a nail biter 11-9 in the fifth match to a lefty penhold looper. That match had many great rallies and impressive finishing shots, and both were applauded afterwards on a match well played.

Although table tennis training had been the main purpose of the trip, it didn’t mean that it would be the only thing we would do. On one Saturday, Coach Zhuang took us to the Chen Jing Table Tennis club to see how professional level competitors train. In the huge playing hall, only about eight of the tables were being used. On the right side of the hall were the men, on the left side were the women. Although the women were practicing mock points from games, the men seemed to be training one particular scenario over and over again for hours. Our impression was that the players would train until this scenario was practically committed to muscle memory. That way, in a real match, they wouldn’t have to take as much time to react to the situation. Another observation our group tried to incorporate into our playing was to take a shorter backswing. Every single one of the players at this professional club was able to take an earlier timing on the ball, thus giving their opponents less time to react, because of this concept.

Even though training on table tennis was our focus, shopping was also a favorite among our group. It was always interesting to take a look at the low prices that the street vendors had to offer and receive great deals on electronics. We all brought home many CDs and DVDs, all in English, with significantly discounted prices.

Overall, the trip was an excellent experience for everyone who participated. And I would like to thank Coach David Zhuang for coordinating the entire event. I would also like to extend my gratitude to others in China who helped make this trip possible. I’m sure that along with the improvement in everyone’s table tennis game, countless memories were created that will be cherished for a long time to come.
My day was like this six days a week. Usually we had Sundays off, where I could go sightseeing the local attractions with my family, unless our coach called for training that day. Some famous attractions I went to were the Terra Cotta Warriors of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the Stone Forest with hundreds of stone slabs all carved with intricate calligraphy, and the Da Yan and Xiao Yan Pagodas.

In the middle and end of my training we played tournaments against the juniors in the Elite Club next door. In the first tournament only four juniors went, with me tagging along. We played four juniors next door whose styles all differed. There was a girl who played an aggressive attacking style, a lefty, a boy with medium pips on his backhand, and a nine-year-old all-around player. I did not do very well against any of them, but I tried my best and played my game. Overall, I enjoyed my trip and I hope I will be able to go again next year.

---

Dan Seemiller’s Christmas Table Tennis Camp
South Bend, Indiana

When: December 27-31
Cost: $245 per camp week ($75 deposit required)
Head Coach: Dan Seemiller, 5-time U.S. Men’s Singles Champion
Assistant Coach: Mark Nordby

Send form and check to:
Dan Seemiller
P.O. Box 608
New Carlisle, IN 46552

Reasonable hotel rates nearby
Juniors may apply for free lodging

For more information contact:
vseemiller@earthlink.net or (574) 654-7476

---

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State __________________________
Zip Code ______ Phone # ________ Deposit $75 ________
Senior Corner and the Meiklejohn National Senior Championships

By Olga & Stan Kahan, USATT Senior Committee Co-Chairs, 949-830-6699 (ph), 949-240-7167 (fax)

This year seems to be passing by so quickly. A lot of encouraging news has been scrolling on the 2004 Senior Table Tennis screen. One of the good pieces of news from the USATT Board was a reduction of a lifetime membership to $100 for those over 70 years of age. One of the first to take advantage of this Senior Special was a California table tennis enthusiast and the treasurer of the Meiklejohn National Senior Championships, Walt Wehrli. To his delight, Walt promptly received his new lifetime membership. It expires in the year 2840! We advised Walt to be sure to get his money’s worth. He said he would. He intends to renew it at the expiration date. That’s a lot of table tennis journals for the next 800+ years, and think of all those tournaments he can enter as a lifetime member! Walt has promised to give his old journals to senior clubs in 300 years.

Is there any exciting news from the 12th World Veterans’ Championships held this June in Yokohama, Japan? Oh, yes! Our jetsetter from Springfield, Massachusetts, Lynwood Smith, playing with Kai Meritaa of Finland, came home with a gold medal and a new title, “World Over 70 Doubles Champion.”

At the same time an 80-year-old Irishman, Bertie Levinge, performed even better – returning home with two precious gold medals for singles and doubles and becoming Ireland’s first World Table Tennis Champion.

If you watched the opening ceremonies of the Athens Olympics, you might have seen a table tennis player proudly carrying his national flag. That was Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium, a finalist in men’s singles at the 1993 Worlds and the 1998 U.S. Open Men’s Singles & Doubles (with USA’s Cheng Yinghua) Champion. There are rumors that he is retiring from his beloved sport. However, we hope that when he reaches the mature age of 40, he will join us seniors in World Senior Competitions and we hope that by that time we will be running a U.S. Senior Open and Senior Top-Professional Play exhibitions, on a regular basis. This would be similar to the famous Meiklejohn National Seniors tournaments.

This year it was not an exception for the Meiklejohn National Seniors, with over $15,000 in prizes, 206 players and 32 events, June 3-6, in Laguna Woods, California. The tournament went exceptionally well thanks to its organizers, volunteers, and their highly efficient teamwork. The organizers were well, taking the first two games from David Zhuang in the final. During the game break, David was conferring with his coach when it occurred to him and he was crushed. David had accidentally taken the ball with him. Getting a new ball, Linda had the match resume and David received a yellow card. Down 0-2, David won the third. Musa looked at the strange new ball, and lo and behold, it was transformed into a crushed ball. Out popped another yellow card, this time for Musa. The senior audience looked thoroughly confused. After a few careful words between all involved, the match resumed with its third ball. Fortunately, the ball avoided any destructive impulses and David defeated Musa, 4-2, for the Championship.

With the approach of 2005 we wish all readers a happy and victorious New Year!

Meiklejohn National Senior Championships

Laguna Woods, CA - June 3-6, 2004

Results:

Senior Elite - Final: David Zhuang d. Atanda 8,9, SF: Zhuang d. Atilja Malek, 4,4,10,3; Musa d. De Tran, 8-8,9,9, QF: Zhuang d. Tung Phan, 6,8,6; Malek d. Ernest Virgo, 9,9,7; Tran d. Rudy Miranda, 6,9,5; Musa d. Lily Yip, 4,7,6.

Over 40 Singles - Final: David Zhuang d. Atanda Musa, 7-9,4,4,7,5; SF: Zhuang d. Rudy Miranda, 3,3,3,4; Musa d. Lily Yip, 8,7,9,7; Malek d. Ernest Virgo, 5,5,7; Tran d. Rudy Miranda, 6,9,5; Musa d. Lily Yip, 4,7,6.

Over 40 Women - Final: Lily Yip d. Hong Zhao, 3,7,6,8.

Meiklejohn Seniors officials

Stan Kahan, Walt Wehrli, Olga Kahan and Ray Kunze.
Over 50 – Final: Attila Malek d. Lim Ming Chui, -8,7,2,5; SF: Malek d. Stanley Tang, 5,-5,9,8; Chui d. Changping Duan, -9,-8,7,8.

Over 50 Women – Final: Bella Livshin d. Charlene Liu, -5,7,8; SF: Livshin d. Donna Sakai, 5,4,7; Liu – Bye.

Over 60 – Final: George Brathwaite d. Howard Grossman, -10,-11,9,4,9; SF: Brathwaite d. Nick Mintsiveris, 8,9,4; Grossman d. Houshang Bozorgzadeh, 6,7,6.

Over 60 Women – Final: Pui Hai Chan So d. Su Chen Liu, 0,5,8; SF: So d. Kuniko Jessup, 5,2,5; Liu d. Harriet Quon, 5,0,0.

Over 70 – Final: Nick Mintsiveris d. Chason Koh, 6,7,8; SF: Mintsiveris d. Si Wasserman, 6,8,8; Koh d. Tony Fischer, 2,2,2.

Over 70 Doubles: Barlow/Johnson d. Kahan/Opperman, 6,7,7.

Over 75 – Final: Ivan Slade d. Byng Forsberg, 5,4,-8,5; SF: Slade d. Grant Misbach, -7,5,10,6; Forsberg d. Si Wasserman, 4,7,3,3.

Over 75 Doubles: Lee/Opperman d. Forsberg/Smyth, 7,7,-8,6,7.

Over 80 – Final: Ivan Slade d. Si Wasserman, 7,0,10,6; SF: Slade d. Julius Margolis, 7,2,2; Wasserman d. Richard Lee, 8,8,6,4,6.

Over 85 Singles: 1st Ivan Slade; 2nd Herb Gilbert.

Over 90: 1st Harry Bloom, 0-2. 2nd Romo Chemoff, 1-1.

Hardbat- Final: Lily Yip d. Loc Ngo, 11,12; SF: Yip d. James Therriault, -9,11,8; Ngo d. Lim Ming Chui, -18,17,16.

U2400 – Final: Ernest Virgo d. Loc Bao Ngo, -9,4,10,-9,10; SF: Virgo d. Lon Dean, 8,9,7; Ngo d. Jun Fernando Valencia, 7,-3,7,8.

U2300: Ramin Samari d. Avisly Schmidt, def.

U2050: Howard Grossman d. Renjie Liu, -4,10,-13,6,7.

U1900: Chia Wu d. Allen Silberman, 6,-6,8,10.

U1800: Alexander Salecido d. Tony Rodriguez, -6,5,-9,5.

U1600: Leszek Kasowski d. Bob Chew, 9,6,-11,2.

U1450: Scott Roberts d. Ting Ning Cheung, 10,9,6.

U1300: Cuong Chi Lam d. Asadur Chilingirian, -5,9,5,-2,9.

U1200: Ming Chen d. Minh Lu, 5,5,-8,9.

U1100: Dana Cheng d. Steve Cookson, 10,9,8.

Draw Doubles: Atanda Musa/Robert Johnson d. George Brathwaite/Louis Montes, 9,12,-7,2.

U4800 Doubles: Rudy Miranda/Lily Yip d. Atanda Musa/Ajayi Ohore.

U4500 Doubles: Tung Phan/James Therriault d. Lim Ming Chui/Hank McCoullum, 5,8,10,10,9.

U4200 Doubles: Ngo/Salcido d. Schmidt/Chang, 4,-9,9,7.

U3400 Doubles: Tran/Yamashita d. Chua/Vu, 5,10,8.


U2300 Doubles: Ming Chen/Dana Cheng d. Edward Nakanishi/Pham, -7,7,9,10.

Atanda Musa (L) and David Zhuang in the Over 40 Final.

We're running for President!

Dick! Dick! Tell me what to do!

I have a weapon of mass destruction....

Shhh! Don't tell anyone where Osama's bin hidin'!

I'm going to serve short ...
no, long ... to his backhand ...
no, to his forehand ...
no wait....

Help is on the way!

I wanna play!
Interview with Tahl Leibovitz
2004 Paralympic Bronze Medalist, Men’s Singles Class 9
By Larry Hodges

Major Titles
2005 USOC Elite Athlete
2004 Paralympic Bronze Medalist
2004 US Olympic Doubles Qualifier
2004 USOC Elite Athlete
2003 Para-Pan Am Triple Gold Medalist
2003 USOC Elite Athlete
1998 IPC World Championships Bronze Medalist
1997 World Maccabiah Games Double Bronze Medalist
1996 Paralympic Gold and Bronze Medalist
1995 Czech Open Paralympic Champion
• 9-time US Paralympic Team Member
• 7-time US National Paralympic Champion
• 6-time US Open Paralympic Champion
• 4-time China Town Open Champion
• 2-time US National Men's Doubles Semifinalist
• 2-time US Maccabiah World Team Member
• 2-time NYC Open Champion

Where are you from, and where do you practice?
I live in Queens, NY. I practice at the Brooklyn Table Tennis Club. They have a league every Thursday night. The league has been very helpful in regard to my improvement. The matches are very intense and so many people come and play. I think all clubs should have leagues. It really helps players improve.

Who is your sponsor, and what equipment do you use?
I am sponsored by Stiga through Table Tennis Pioneers (www.ping-pong.com). I use Energy Wood blade. Table Tennis Pioneers has been so great to me. They are very helpful in so many ways and offer great advice. Jack helped me choose the racket I am using now. When I first got sponsored by TT Pioneers I wasn’t sure what to use. I was always using 2.0 rubber. Jack told me to use Maximum on both sides with Mendo MP on my forehand. That really helped my game and I have gone up over 200 rating points since. Newgy is my sponsor through the US Paralympic Team and I can assure you that I would not have been successful without the Newgy robot. I use it in my ongoing training. I played with the Robot at least four times a week. Probably more. I am also sponsored by FILA through Team Continuum and some private sponsors as well. I have an Elite status when it comes to the USOC. They are a huge sponsor also.

Who do you practice with, and who is your coach?
My coach for the past two years has been Sean O’Neill. Sean really showed me what it takes to be a serious table tennis player. He has great vision for the game and is the most positive individual I have ever met. He also has an incredible energy for the game as a coach. No one could ask for a better coach. Sean has showed me that the key to being successful in table tennis is never worrying about the results and never trying to satisfy others with your performance. Sean says that we have no control over the results. We only have control over our physical, mental and tactical training. He says that being able to execute is the key factor in most top-level matches. Whether it be under pressure, in a first round or a final. You need to be able to execute your game plan. Thinking about things that you have no control over during the match will get you beat. Also believing you can’t lose or thinking you can’t win will get you beat. Sean’s way of thinking about the game is impressive. He takes a very different approach. Even here in Athens – the first thing he said to me was “Medals are won and lost in the Village.”

What advice would you give up and coming players?
I would have to say there are a lot of different dynamics when it comes to a table tennis match. It’s both preparation and execution. First you need a good solid foundation in your game, both offense and defense. You should have good service and good service return. You should practice hard on a regular basis. Then and only then will you be ready to compete against players your level and above. At the highest level the game is 80 percent mental. Try and play the point, not the score.

I was singing because that helped me ease the pressure.
I was watching the letters on the ball because that helped me take my mind off the crowd and arena.
I was hopping around and moving because I know when I get nervous I tend to stand in one spot while I play.”

Who is your biggest US rival in Table Tennis?
Beside myself – because I am my biggest opponent physically and mentally – my biggest rival is Paul David. I really have such a hard time against his style. We have played some incredible matches. Always really long points. He played a really close match against Thomas Keinath at the Stiga Delaware tournament. I thought he would win that match for sure.

How would you describe your playing style? And what have you worked on the most in recent times?
I would classify myself as a control spinner. I would also say that I play at broken rhythm speed. I don’t like to give a player too many of the same types of spin.

Who do you practice with?
I have been getting really great practice from a number of people in the last six months. Paul David has been great practice. He really helped me improve. Also De Tran. John McFadden is also a great practice partner. He really boosts my confidence. Training with Cameron Scott is really great too because he is an excellent blocker. Sean Pirzada is very good for me. I get nervous I tend to stand in one spot while I play.

My coach for the past two years has been Sean O’Neill. Sean really showed me what it takes to be a serious table tennis player. He has great vision for the game and is the most positive individual I have ever met. He also has an incredible energy for the game as a coach. No one could ask for a better coach. Sean has showed me that the key to being successful in table tennis is never worrying about the results and never trying to satisfy
Tell us about your toughest match at the Paralympics.

The toughest match I had in the Paralympics, and I would say my entire career as a table tennis player, was the Bronze Medal match against the #2 player in the world. I have never felt so much pressure. I was able to deal with the pressure in a few ways.

First I started singing before the match. Then I started singing during warm-up. I also started to focus on the letters on the ball to ease the pressure. Finally I started just trying to move my feet. I refused to stay in one spot. I started moving and hopping around.

I was singing because that helped me ease the pressure. I was watching the letters on the ball because that helped me take my mind off the crowd and arena. I was hopping around and moving because I know when I get nervous I tend to stand in one spot while I play.

Going into the Paralympics, what were your expectations? Did you think you could medal?

I had won a Gold Medal in 1996 so I knew I was capable of playing in these games and playing well. However, winning the Gold Medal in 1996 in Class 7 was equivalent to winning the Under 2400's at the Nationals. Winning here (I am in Class 9 now) is a bit different. It’s much harder. Sean said it is equivalent to making the semi’s of the Nationals, level-wise. Sean values my win of equal proportion and significance to a Singles and a Doubles National Title in Vegas. He said, “I showed the same guts and determination when the pressure was on.” I’ve never concentrated so hard on every single point. I think Sean needs to be drug tested! No, actually he’s been really pumping me up and it's been helping a lot.

I understand you and your twin sister Maja started a Corporation together. What is it all about?

We just got incorporated recently. The Corporation name is Leibovitz & Leibovitz. I am the founding partner and also the Chief Operating Officer (COO).

We are an event management firm dedicated to improving professional standards in the financial industry. We will be holding a special event in honor of the Olympics and Cancer patients, and guests will have the opportunity to challenge me in an unprecedented game of table tennis where the proceeds will go directly to New York Cancer patient care and services in hospitals such as St. Luke’s Hospital and Columbia University medical center. This is in conjunction with Team Continuum, a team that my twin sister and I are a part of, to run the New York City marathon to raise money for cancer patients.

No one would have believed it a few years ago, but you are now married and working for a living. Tell us about married and working life.

My marriage is really great. My wife, Dawn, has been such an inspiration and a motivator to my success. She is the greatest partner, friend and wife anyone could hope to have. In the Bronze medal match, I played that match for her, with her on my mind every point. I am truly blessed.

She is really great to be around. Very intellectual and funny. We have a great time playing table tennis. She loves watching the games. She never knows what’s going on though. A lot of times she’ll be cheering and clapping for my opponent.

I currently work with The American Youth Table Tennis Organization (AYTTO). I have the best job. I teach about four hours a day and I’m having a blast all day. The kids are great. I get to practice a bit of my own game also.

The kids of the AYTTO are mostly at-risk youth who I believe are getting a tremendous chance at overcoming the daily obstacles of just being a kid in the time we live in.

Most kids are overlooked. If they can’t compete in sports like basketball and baseball they are swept under the rug. Table Tennis gives these kids a renewed confidence. It brings out the best in them academically, mentally and physically. I have had such a great time working with all these kids. They are the future of NYC. I can truly come into work every day and say my job is awesome because it really is.

What are your future plans?

I am planning on training for the 2008 Paralympics. I’m going to take a break for a bit. Perhaps six months. I really want to spend a lot of time with my wife. Perhaps go to a few Broadway shows and concerts. I remember one of my friends just went to a concert and saw Prince, what a waste of money.

Finally I just want to thank a few people and then you can skip over a few pages and check your rating. It probably went down like 600 points.

Thank you to my twin sister Maja who has always been there for me since the very beginning. She will always hold a place deep inside my heart.

We don’t have enough space for a personal thank you to everyone, so I’ll just list the names. Thank you teammates Jennifer and Wayne. Thank you AYTTO, Ben Nisbet, Newgy John McFadden and his wife Elizabeth, Paul David, De Tran, Crazy John Bauer, Cameron Scott, Steve Berger, Sean Pizada, Peeru Pizada, Sean O’Neill, Paul Nicholls, CEO of Team Continuum, Team Continuum, Fila and the CEO of Fila, Brooklyn Table Tennis Club, Nison Aronov, Dr. Michael Patin, Laura Ryan of the USOC, William St. Charles TR (our medical trainer), Jay Swartout, Dr. Fisher, Andre Scott, Maja Leibovitz, Ed, Jasmine, Kirin and my wife Dawn Leibovitz as well as her entire family, especially Das.

I also want to put out a special thank you to Larry Hodges. First of all for letting me sleep on his floor in 1993 along with 30 other juniors. I’ve said it once, I’ve said it a million times and I’ll say it again. You really have a lot of dedication towards this sport. Why? I’ll never know. Thank you.

Again thank you all, thanks for your support. If I missed anyone. Sorry about that. There’s always next time.
In Memoriam: Bohdan Dawidowicz
(1937-2004)
By Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

Polish-born Bohdan Dawidowicz decided to enter the U.S. in 1971, and by 1974 had established his family here. Of course it's to them that I and I'm sure Bohdan's many friends in table tennis extend our deepest regrets and sympathy.

Bo, as some affectionately called him, entered the USATT record books in 1976 when, at Philadelphia, he won his first U.S. Open title—the Parent-Child Doubles with daughter Kasia who, in taking the U.S. Open Girls Under 13 title the previous year, had started her own considerable collection of major Championships.

Thereafter, for more than a quarter of a century, until incapacitated by the brain tumor from which he could not recover, Bohdan's great defensive play, abetted by point-winning backhand flicks, enabled him, in U.S. Open and Closed Over 40, 50, and 60 events, to be a finalist more than 30 times. A remarkable accomplishment.

He began his 25-year run at the 1977 U.S. Open by pairing with Bill Hodge to win the Over 40 Doubles. Other players he'd win U.S. Open or Closed Doubles titles with were Tim Boggan, Houshang Bozorgzadeh, Dave Sakai, Ron Von Schimmelman, and his two longtime regular partners, Howie Grossman and Marv Leff.

In Memoriam: John G. Vos
(1935-2004)
By Gary McCone

Table tennis lost one of its unsung heroes on September 11 with the passing of John G. Vos. Born in Manchuria to missionary parents and raised in Kansas, John spent most of his life in Maryland where he was very active in table tennis clubs throughout the state.

With Jim Williams, John founded the colorful Hammer of Thor (complete with Viking-like helmets and matching T-shirts), which competed in the North American Team Championships for seven years, finishing second in Division 12 in 2002.

Putting his desktop publishing skills to good use, John routinely produced forms, match sheets, certificates, schedules, announcements and other publications enabling many tournaments to operate smoothly.

John was also a long-time volunteer in running tournaments around the state from the Maryland Medallion in Cumberland to the Maryland Table Tennis Association's monthly Maryland Circuit and Eldersburg Giant Round Robin tournaments.

John's playing prowess centered around his feared Ginzu Chop, which flummoxed newer players and was a force to be reckoned with even for those with more experience.

John combined a deep joy for the game with a generous spirit that made matches with him unforgettable.

Typical of John is a story related by Genie Sachs following a recent Maryland Circuit match: "I remember playing him recently in a tournament when, at my request, he took the time to show me how to return his serve. I shall never forget him."

In Memoriam: Chuck Focht
(1939-2004)
By Sean O'Neill, USA Disabled Coach

The Disabled Table Tennis Community lost one of its greatest advocates on Aug. 29 when the Lord called Charles "Chuck" Focht of Pennsylvania back home. Chuck was a member of countless U.S. teams in addition to the 2003 Para Pan Am team that participated in Brazil.

As the ultimate team player Chuck helped out and coached in matches when he wasn't playing and was always on the sidelines cheering for his teammates at every opportunity. Chuck was also an excellent archer and participated in archery at various levels.
In Memoriam:  
Michael M. Leissering  
(1935-2004)  
By Janice Giagnacova  

When Michael M. Leissering (his friends called him MM) passed away on April 17, 2004, the table tennis community suffered a tremendous loss. Born in Berlin in 1935, Michael was a hard worker with a winning philosophy that earned him many successes. He was an internationally renowned numismatist, an award winning competitive ballroom dancer and a significant influence in the world of table tennis.

Michael and his wife Lu first moved to Florida in 1987, living in Miami and Key Biscayne. In 1993, they settled in a condo in Grove Isle, where Michael was introduced to table tennis. It was love at first sight. Poring himself into the newfound passion, Michael quickly achieved proficiency far exceeding his beginner status, the result of practice sessions as long as 7 hours a day! When he discovered long pips, it was a match made in heaven. Though he changed his rubber brand many times, pips were a constant that became his trademark.

In 1999, at the Maryland February Open, Michael made his ratings debut with an 837. By December 1999, he'd ratcheted it up to 1040. At the 2000 U.S. Open in Ft Lauderdale, Michael won a trophy for 2nd place in Under 1300. Buoyed by the competition, he sought more tournaments throughout 2003, finishing his last at the USA National Championships Las Vegas with an all-time high rating of 1662. This was quite an accomplishment for someone who had begun playing table tennis at the age of 63.

In 2003, Michael conceived the idea of opening a premier table tennis club in South Florida. He and Lu bought a house in Weston where Michael spared no expense designing the ideal table tennis club in his own backyard. Competitors at all levels came to play at the club and enjoyed Michael and Lu's hospitality. Soon after, the Weston Table Tennis Club was named USATT Club of the Month for August, 2003 in USATT Magazine.

Michael then expanded the club to include supplies and a line of his own clothing and accessory designs. For the first time in South Florida, table tennis enthusiasts had a place to play and buy equipment seven days a week, morning to night.

Michael was an extraordinary individual, whose spirit, energy and ambition drew people to him. In just the six short years he devoted to the table tennis community, he left a legacy that will endure much longer.

USATT Board Email Votes  

August, 2004
Motion One: To approve the committee members of the Training Center Committee, chaired by Morris Jackson: Todd Sweeiris, Whitney Ping, Ping Zhang, Masaki Taima and Francisco Mendez.

Motion by Sheri Pittman; Seconded by Tong Lee  

Motion Passed: 12-0
In Favor: George B, Barney R, Tong L, Robert M, Willy L, Sheri P, Todd S, Bob F, Jimmy McC, Jiing W, Eric O, Tawny B.; Against: None; Abstain: None; No vote: Tim B

Motion Two: To add Jennifer Johnson as co-chair of the Disabled Athletes Committee.

Motion by Sheri Pittman; Seconded by Bob Fox  

Motion Passed: 12-0
In Favor: Tim B, George B, Barney R, Tong L, Robert M, Willy L, Sheri P, Todd S, Bob F, Jiing W, Eric O, Tawny B.; Against: None; Abstain: None; No vote: Jimmy McC

September, 2004
Motion One: Moved that the Board authorize the Executive Director to file for arbitration to collect U.S. Open expenses from Killerspin as outlined in the USATT-Killerspin contract. [NOTE: If this motion passes, Doru will engage Dennis M. Taylor of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, P.C. to represent USATT.]

Motion by Tong Lee; Second by Sheri Pittman  

Motion passed: 12-0-0-1
In Favor: Barney R, Tim B, Tong L, Robert M, Willy L, Sheri P, Todd S, Bob F, Jimmy McC, Eric O, Tawny B, George B; Against: None; Abstain: None; No vote: Jiing W

Motion Two: Moved that ballots for the 2004 USATT election be re-issued in accordance with standards previously set by USATT and/or the USOC

Motion by Jiing Wang; Second by Tong Lee  

Motion passed: 12-1-0-0
In Favor: George B, Tawny B, Tim B, Tong L, Robert M, Willy L, Sheri P, Todd S, Bob F, Eric O, Barney R, Jiing W; Against: None; Abstain: Jimmy McC; No vote: None

Blackwell Grievance

Robert Blackwell submitted petitions to the USATT Nominating/Elections Committee on July 31, 2004, that were sufficient to fulfill one element of eligibility to be placed on the ballot for the Fall 2004 USATT elections as a candidate for a Vice President position. The USATT Nominating/Elections Committee ruled on August 3, 2004, that Robert Blackwell had not met the eligibility standards to be a candidate for election to the USATT Board of Directors. The committee decision was based on Nominating/Elections Committee Standing Rule #2, “All eligible adult USATT members may run and/or vote for officers.” Mr. Blackwell was not a member of the organization on August 1, 2004, the date the committee had set for eligibility to be established. The committee chair so notified Mr. Blackwell.

Mr. Blackwell filed a grievance with the USATT President on August 6, 2004. Pursuant to USATT procedures, the President appointed Cindy Marcum, a member of the Grievance Panel, to chair a hearing panel to make an expedited decision under Bylaw XX(5)(H). The Board, in an email vote, approved the nomination of Cindy Marcum. The results of the Board vote were: 10 votes in favor (Banh, Boggan, Brathwaite, Lee, Leparulo, Mayer, McClure, Reed, Sweeiris), 0 votes opposed, 0 abstentions, and 3 not voting (Fox, Owens, Wang). In turn, Ms. Marcum appointed Grievance Panel members Richard Hicks and Todd Sweeiris to join her on the Hearing Panel. This appointment did not require Board approval.

The Hearing Panel conducted its hearing on August 11, 2004, well within the 10-day framework of the Bylaw’s expedited hearing provision. On August 12, 2004, the Panel, without comment, announced its decision to uphold the grievance and ordered Mr. Blackwell’s name to be placed on the ballot. Ross Brown, chair of the nominating/Elections Committee appealed the Hearing Panel’s decision to the Board the same afternoon.

Gary Johansen, Deputy General Counsel of USOC indicated that all Board members on the ballot, not just Robert Mayer and Bob Fox (incumbents running for the same position as Mr. Blackwell), are conflicted by Ross Brown’s appeal of the Hearing Panel’s decision. He also suggested that USATT General Counsel Dennis Taylor should administer the appeal. President Pittman acceded to both of his suggestions, and asked Mr. Taylor to administer the appeal.

The question presented to the Board on August 14, 2004, was whether to affirm or overturn the decision of the Hearing Panel. The results were: 4 votes to affirm (Leparulo, Owens, Reed, Sweeiris), 2 votes to overturn (Brathwaite, Lee), and 2 not voting (Banh, who was competing at the Olympics, and McClure, who had no power due to the hurricane in Florida). In addition, Jiing Wang protested the determination that he had a conflict and wished for the record to reflect that he supported affirmation of the Hearing Panel’s decision.

On the morning of August 17, 2004, Mr. Taylor declared the Board to have affirmed the decision of the Hearing Panel and notified Mr. Brown to take the necessary steps to insure that Mr. Blackwell’s name appeared on the USATT ballot.

Dennis M. Taylor  
USATT General Counsel  
Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, P.C.
An Official’s View
The Players, Gentlemen, The Players!
By “Dr. Azmy”

Our concern, gentlemen, should always be the welfare of our players. The performance of our players is at stake. It is rather surprising to see that some players, and sometimes many players, do not hear about rule changes. It is also frustrating for young developing players to bloom and blossom and at their first appearance on a national or international level to find out that their serves are questionable, if not illegal. It is not unusual to hear a player screaming at an umpire, “I have been playing all these years and this is the first time an umpire faulted my serve.” The tragedy will mount when the coach of that player will start defending the improper serves of his player.

The conclusion is that many of the mistakes of players come from improper coaching.

In the last two years, since the new change of the service rule regarding the position of the free hand, I have written about the new rule, even with a diagram. At the Nationals and International tournaments, I insisted that a copy be placed in the players’ packages. However, this is the least solution. In a way it is too late. A player who did not hear about the change of the rule, or did not enforce it during his/her practice, will find it difficult to adhere to it and follow it during the heat of a match. This weekend I was the referee for the Western Open, and believe it or not, some high level players were arguing with me that their serves were legal because the ball was not hidden from the opponent, and that the position of the free arm has nothing to do with it. I had to show them a copy of the rule and the diagram to settle the dispute. The faults of the players regarding the rules are a product of their coaches.

Forgive this long introduction, but behind it is the controversy surrounding the issue of asking coaches to take the club umpire exam.

1. One should consider it just a tool of information, as all coaches will be aware of the new rule changes. After all, it is an open book exam. The issue of translation for non-English speakers can be arranged. We do have competent senior umpires and officials from every corner of the world. When there is a will, there is a way.

2. Some people will say the rules are posted on the Internet. Not every player has a computer, and of those who do, not every one will go online to look for rule changes.

3. We also offer umpire seminars about twice a year, at the U.S. Nationals and the U.S. Open. These are open to the public and the coaches are always welcome to attend them. They are usually offered on Wednesday night after the matches are over.

Let us consider these steps as a chance for cooperation between coaches and umpires. This will render a great service to all our players, from beginners to national and international level players.

---

Review of History of U.S. Table Tennis, Vol. III
By Si Wasserman

U.S. Table Tennis scene for over five decades, has delivered Vol. III of his sweeping history of U.S. Table Tennis. Every faithful follower of the Game, for little more than the cost of a sheet of rubber, can own this comprehensive copy of the years 1953-1962 that chronicles an evolutionary and turbulent chapter in the realm of Table Tennis.

In the opening segment of Boggan’s continuing saga, he flashes back to 1952 when Hiroji Satoh, ranked No. 5 in Japan, and wielding a novelty sponge covered bat, demolishes the world’s elite players to snatch the Bombay world singles title. This stunning coup launched the sponge bat era! Boggan proceeds to explore the metamorphosis of hard rubber into sponge, which spawned vehement controversy that resonates to this day!

Boggan’s panorama of U.S. Table Tennis ranges from extensive coverage of tournaments, consequential USATT Executive Committee decisions, selection of teams to international events, and personality profiles to the latest skinny about the motley denizens at Herwald Lawrence’s famous Broadway emporium featuring such luminaries as Miles, Reisman, Cartland, Paplaro, Schiff, Somael and Neuberger, the globe-trotting exploits and sometimes zany adventures that earned suspensions for precious scholars formidable dream: The fascinating, Kaleidoscopic Odyssey of U.S. Table Tennis.

Note: Tim Boggan’s History volumes are $33 each. Send check to Tim at 12 Lake Ave., Merrick, N.Y. 11566, phone: 516-868-0434; e-mail: timboggan@aol.com.
Introducing the Killerspin
The perfect Combination of Performance and Convenience

The reference for top level competition. A concentration of innovations for an exceptional table whose performance remains unequalled on the world market. Approved by the international Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)

Win a Killerspin THUNDER Outdoor Table!

Enter to win the THUNDER, the all new Killerspin table designed to withstand the conditions associated with outdoor play, yet possessing the playability characteristics which make it equally at home by the pool or in the house.

Register online www.killerspin.com

Get your free copy of Success in Table Tennis with every order a $35.00 Value

World-class products available NOW!
For more information on Killerspin products, events and promotions visit www.killerspin.com

1-866-471-1843
1-312-782-4085
Men's Singles at the Olympics

By USA Men's Coach Dan Seemiller

The Olympic Men and Women's singles gold medals are probably the most coveted awards a table tennis athlete can win. Our sport generally doesn't receive top billing in the sports world. But, when it comes to the Olympics, it moves up several notches. For instance, in 1992 when Jan-Ove Waldner won the title it was Sweden's only gold medal of the games. That will surely make you well known in your homeland.

The men's singles had a staggered draw. In the first round, players seeded #33-64 would play by draw with the winners advancing to play #17-32 in round two. The second round victors would then compete against #1-16. So the top 16 players received two byes.

In the Round of 32.......

There were several upsets at this stage. Ko Lai Chak won over Peter Korbel in seven tough games. Kalinikos Kreanga, the local favorite, flamed out losing 4-0 to the experienced Swede, Jorgen Persson. Jean-Michel Saive, notoriously bad against defense, lost to the defender from the Dominican Republic Ju Lin, 4-2. Last but not least, Europe Top Twelve winner Michael Maze goes down in his first match, 4-1 against Chu Yan Lung from Hong Kong. The favored Chinese all advanced with Ma Lin punishing Zoran Primorac 11-5, 11-3, 11-3 in the first three games in an easy 4-1 victory.

In the Round of 16.......

Wang Liqin, the favorite, was easily over world runner-up Joo Se Hyuk, 4-1. Jorgen Persson, who looked so spectacular in his 4-0 blitz over Kreanga, comes back down to earth and shows his age (38) against Ko Loi Chak in a lackluster performance, 4-1. Chuan Chih-Yuan, the fifth seed, wins three deuce games to just slip by 4-2 over Oh Sang Eun. Wang Hao, #3 seed, easily dispatches Ju Lin and he's on to the quarterfinals.

The most athletic match of this round features a 7-game battle between penholders Ryu Seung Min and Chiang Peng-Lung. The rallies are long and spectacular as Ryu takes control in the seventh as he moves on to the quarters, 11-4.

Chu Yan Leung, who upset Michael Maze, makes it two upsets in a row as he defeats the dangerous Samsonov. In game seven, Samsonov is down 6-2 but recovers to 7-all when Chu Yan Leung hits an amazing backhand loop (he's a penholder) to go up 8-7 and goes on to win 11-8. Schlager and Boll is a back and forth encounter with Timo controlling game seven to advance, 4-3.

Of course the match of this round brings us the #2 seed, Ma Lin, and J-O Waldner. After watching Ma manhandle Primorac the general feeling is Waldner will be lucky to just hang in there with Ma. But Waldner has other ideas. Even at age 38, Jan-Ove can still bring it. With a near capacity crowd watching and 90% rooting for Waldner, it is the match of the tourney. Waldner's change of pace, serves, backhand loop and forehand counterloop puts Ma on the ropes. Ma is visibly nervous and rightly so.

Waldner is playing like he's 23 again. After four games J-O is leading 3-1 and the spectators in the arena are loving it. In game five Ma starts to assert some control and leads 9-6 but two points for J-O and Ma's bench calls time out. It's 8-9... Ma's serve... J-O drops short on the forehand but Ma starts to loop but realizes it's too short, tries to adjust, and pushes into the net. Momentum Waldner... and the legendary Swede will be serving for the match at 9-all. Ma does not look good--he actually looks like he's having difficulty breathing. Waldner knocks out the #2 seed 11-9, stunning Ma Lin, 9-10, 7-5, 9. The hall is electric; one of the greatest pressure performances of all times. J-O Waldner is in the quarterfinals.

Down to the Final Eight.......

In the first quarter: #1 seed, Wang Liqin wins 4-1 in a rather routine match against Ko Lai Chak. Ko defeated Korbel and Persson but was no match for the tournament favorite.

In the second quarter: #5 seed, Chuan
Chih-Yuan takes a 2-1 lead over #3 seed Wang Hao but then plays rather poorly the rest of the way and loses 4-2.

Ryu Seung Min, the U.S. Open champ, is quickly down 0-2 to Chu Yan Leung. Chu has defeated Maze and Samsonov and now has #4 seed Ryu in serious trouble. Ryu, who has a powerful forehand and blazing footwork and one of the best serves in the game today, rights the ship and wins the next four games rather easily. Ryu has all the tools to be #1 in the world.

The final quarterfinal match between Timo Boll and J-O Waldner features youth versus veteran. In game one, Waldner is extremely aggressive and Timo, who likes to block, can't find the touch. 11-7 for Jan-Ove. In game two Timo takes the attack and controls J-O and it's up 10-5. Timo becomes a little passive waiting for a mistake but J-O fires five winners in a row and it's 10-all... then 11-all. Waldner, still the aggressor, wins the game 13-11 to go up 2-0. Boll loses another 10-5 lead just like he did to Qiu Yiki in Paris last year. This game was the match, had Timo won (which he should have), I think this would have been a victory for him and he'd have been on to the semifinals. In game three Timo controls the game and it's 2-1. But Waldner wins game four easily and leads 10-8 match point in game five. One last stand for Timo as he fights off two match points and takes the ad 11-10. A down the line counterloop by J-O and two points later it's Waldner 4-1 through to the semi's. That 10-5 second game lead will haunt Timo for years to come.

The Final Four........

In these Olympic games, players only compete once per day so the athletes are fresh and they have had at least 24 hours to make a game plan for their opponent. In the first semi, it's #1 Wang Liqin versus #3 Wang Hao. Wang Liqin usually has his way with his fellow teammates, but not on this day. Wang Hao's reverse penholder backhand loop is giving him fits. Hao's return of serve is excellent and Liqin is seeing few opportunities for his lethal forehand. Wang Hao upsets the tourney favorite, 8-5, 6-9, 3, and he's in the Olympic final.

In the second semifinal, it's J-O versus 1992 gold and 2000 silver medalist Jan-Ove Waldner. J-O has defeated Ma Lin and Timo Boll but Ryu is probably a tougher opponent. Ryu has an incredible offense but more importantly, he can rally and play defense (block). Ryu's serve has also been difficult to return. On the other hand, Waldner has played brilliantly. His forehand and backhand attacks have never looked better.

In game one Ryu's serve is bothering J-O and he controls the game 11-9. In the second, J-O's offense, especially his backhand loops, start working and he even the match at 1-1. The turning point of the match occurs with Ryu leading 10-9 in the third and he calls timeout. Ryu has the serve and he goes with his favorite side-top that J-O flips wide to the forehand. Right shot... only it misses. Game three to Ryu, 11-9. J-O is clearly not comfortable as Ryu's forehand starts to loosen up and he scores repeatedly. Midway through this fourth game, it doesn't look good for J-O as he loses 11-5 and with very little resistance 11-5 again in game five. The incredible run in the 2004 Olympics is over for Waldner. Ryu, the 21-year-old Korean was just too tough, 9-9, 9-5, 3.

In the match for the bronze medal, Waldner just didn't have it as Wang Liqin wins, 10,3,8,7,9.
Each Combo Special Price includes Blade: 2 Sheets Nittaku Rubber

VIOLIN
A finely tuned instrument! Nittaku has applied to the production of the table tennis blade a special binding method originally used for crafting the finest stringed instruments. This special process succeeds in preserving the wood's natural elasticity. Every ply and stage of production receives special handling and scrutiny, the same quality craftsmanship used for the best quality stringed instruments in the world. Ultimate feeling of mastery.
You will appreciate the unique hitting feeling and never forget it.
Speed: OFF Handle: FL, ST Wgt: 82 gms Plies: 5W Blade only: 148.95 Item: XSNVI

FEMINIST
A very fast and light blade for offensive play.
Two plies of Kevlar, two carbon, and three wood. Handle is slightly smaller than average. Really outstanding quality blade with great touch!

LONBALDIA
Nittaku's latest entry in the quest for the perfect blade!
The 7-ply wood gives very solid and stiff feel. Light and fast for a stable offensive attack!
Speed: OFF Handle: FL, ST Wgt: 82 gms Plies: 7W Blade only: 89.95 Item: XSNLO

SHARAIDEN
Light, allround blade that gives superior control and feel.
Five plies of wood. Very versatile for the allround player who wants to do it all.
Speed: ALL+ Handle: FL, ST Wgt: 78 gms Plies: 5W Blade only: 84.95 Item: XNSH

HANEYOSHI
Named for the outstanding Japanese chopper.
Use this blade for outstanding defensive play with a feeling of lightness. Two plies Kevlar and five plies wood.
Speed: DEF Handle: FL, ST Wgt: 82 gms Plies: 2K,5W Blade only: 113.95 Item: XSNHA

OFFICIAL BALL SPONSOR OF THE CHINESE NATIONAL TEAM

NITTAKU: THE OFFICIAL BALL of 2004 World Championships in Doha, Qatar 2005 World Championships in Shanghai, China USA Table Tennis

paddlepalace.com 1-800-547-5891
PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NITTAKU PRODUCTS
TIBHAR

Torpedo Soft
This soft version of the Torpedo rubber possesses a sensational sound and a very good feeling. Besides a high spin potential for a soft rubber, it also has outstanding speed values and it is the ideal rubber for speed gluing. Thickness: 0.8, 2.0, Max Price: $39.95, Item: RTTS
Speed 6.4 Spin 9.4
Control 9.0 Power 9.4

Bungee
A new product "made in Japan" very convincing because it gives you the feeling that you can do everything with this rubber. You feel the elasticity of the rubber and the combination of more natural, dynamic rubber surface will give you a new game sensation. Best Spin and speed values. Thickness: 1.5, 1.8, 2.0, Max Price: $35.95. Item: RTBU
Speed 8.9 Spin 9.4
Control 9.1 Power 9.3

Rapid D. TecS
Speed Glue Effect...without the glue! A progressive rubber with incredible rotation and speed. You get the effect of speed gluing, i.e. the sound, speed and rotation of a speed glued rubber without the application of the speed glue. Sponge: 1.6, 1.8, 2.0. Max Price: $34.95. Item: RTDR
Speed 9.3 Spin 9.0
Control 9.0 Power 9.3

Rapid X-Press
Based on TIBHAR'S best-selling RAPID rubber, developed with the help of Vladimir Samsonov. Has explosive, spin-friendly surface, but makes half-distance strokes easier and more powerful. The combination of rubber and relatively hard sponge gives extraordinary power and sound when speed gluing. Sponge: 1.6, 1.8, 2.0. Max Price: $34.95. Item: RTRAX
Speed 9.3 Spin 9.0
Control 9.0 Power 9.3

Rubber Specials

Speed Glue Effect...without the glue!
A progressive rubber with incredible rotation and speed. You get the effect of speed gluing, i.e. the sound, speed and rotation of a speed glued rubber without the application of the speed glue. Sponge: 1.6, 1.8, 2.0. Max Price: $34.95. Item: RTRD
Speed 9.3 Spin 9.0
Control 9.0 Power 9.3

Tibhar Combo Specials include 2 sheets Tibhar rubber. Save up to $50!
Add $5 per sheet for Torpedo, Grass Devil or Grass D.TecS

1-800-547-5891
paddlepalace.com

We will match our competitors' prices!
Gold Medalist
Ryu Seung Min

On to the Final

This is what every player dreams of and it has come true for the 21-year-old Ryu Seung Min and the 22-year-old Wang Hao. Yes it is a young man's game at this level. I expect a spectacular match as both of these players are in peak form.

In game one it's all Ryu as Wang can't get started and his backhand loop, which is his #1 weapon, is being re-looped by Ryu. This is the start that the Korean needed as he has never beaten Hao before. Game two and Wang is starting to show signs of his #3 ranking in the world. Ryu is #4. Wang pulls out the 2nd at 11-9 and it's all even at 1-1. Games three & four are close but Ryu's forehand and athleticism are just enough as he goes up 3-1 winning 11-9 in both games.

On to game five and the Chinese contingent is worried. They have won the other three golds but this one may slip away. Ryu is playing the match of his life and Wang is just not using his forehand enough. Wang seems content to loop his backhand but Ryu is consistently re-looping it. In game five it's 8-4 for Ryu and he can see the gold medal. But Wang has other ideas. Playing with great composure, he closes the game from 6-9 to 9-all. The Chinese players are so mentally tough. Over the years it has just amazed me how resilient they are. Ryu has one match point but he can't close as Wang holds on 13-11. It's now 3-2 for Ryu.

Game six starts like game five as Ryu is just too strong and leads 8-5. Wang fights back again and ties the score at 9. Ryu is visibly nervous. He couldn't close out game five and now he's done the same in game six. Wang has the serve. Ryu has been returning short to the backhand for the most part, but this time - surprise - he plays a quick cut wide to the forehand. Wang moves over to loop but his timing is off and he loops wide. Match point for Ryu. Wang serves short underspin and Ryu plays short but high to the backhand. Wang loops the backhand to the middle backhand but Ryu is ready and he turns and counterloops the winner to Wang's forehand, and it's 3-9, 9-9, 11-9 for Ryu. The last five games were all decided by two points. The difference was probably the first game when Ryu came out hot and won 11-3. Gold medal and the 2004 Olympic Championship goes to Ryu Seung Min of Korea.
World Champions play DONIC

SONEX X40 & X45

VARIO COOPER 5

SONEX FORMULA XF40 & XF45

NEW

SONEX

DONIC

VARIO
couper

NEW

COOPER S

NEW

WE create success

Available from North America’s Donic Distributor - The Table Tennis Pioneers • Web: ping-pong.com
E-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com • Tel.: (800) 319-PING (7464) fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664)
Let's see now... Which Robo-Pong...?

**ONLY $229.00**
Buy Robo-Pong 540 get Pong-Pal FREE (SAVE $20)

**$35**
Buy Robo-Pong 540 order Ball Catch Net II for many of your returns. Pong-Pal provides quick retrieval even in hard-to-reach spots.

Upgrade Robo-Pong 540 to Robo-Pong 540 with the Robo-Pong 540 Upgrade Kit...

Get Info, Tips & Training Advice in the

**Newgy Coaching Forum**

[www.newgy.com](http://www.newgy.com)

**Building Tomorrow's Champions**

Newgy Industries, Inc. • 805 Teal Drive • Gallatin, TN 37066 USA
Phone: 615-452-6470 • Fax: 615-230-9785 • e-mail: newgy@newgy.com
**SPECIALS GOOD THRU**
December 31, 2004

**ONLY**

**ONLY**

The next step up is this great robot for intermediate and tournament level players. Includes all features of Robo-Pong 540 plus oscillation and more powerful speed/frequency controls. Bucket Extender expands ball capacity for longer continuous play. Ball Catch Net III captures your returns and enables manual recycling of the balls. Add optional Ball Catch Net II & Side Nets for manual recycling of your returns. Pong-Pal provides quick and easy retrieval of stray balls, even in hard-to-reach areas.

Upgrade Robo-Pong 1040 to Robo-Pong 2040 with the Recycling Net Upgrade Kit.

**OPTIMAL ACCESSORIES FOR ROBO-PONG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCESSORY</th>
<th>540</th>
<th>1040</th>
<th>2040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recycling Net Upgrade</td>
<td>$379.00</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP 540 Upgrade Kit</td>
<td>$169.00</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Catch Net II</td>
<td>$74.95</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side Nets (for BCNII)</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robo-Tote</td>
<td>$49.95</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pong-Master</td>
<td>$139.95</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robo-Caddy</td>
<td>$69.95</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pong-Pal</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bucket Extender</td>
<td>$24.95</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40mm Robo-Balls</td>
<td>$59.95</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38mm Robo-Balls</td>
<td>$49.95</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tray Liners</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I=Included</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ROBO-PONG FEATURES CHART**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>540</th>
<th>1040</th>
<th>2040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recycling Net</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Bucket</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Control</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscillation Control</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Angle Adjustment</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin Selection</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin/Speed Range</td>
<td>1-9</td>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>1-10</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>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videotape</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Book</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CALL US NOW**
1-800-55-NEWGY

For more information or to order visit us online at www.newgy.com

**Whichever you choose, you can't lose!**
Cost Effective • Upgradable • Add Features Quickly & Easily
Women's Singles at the Olympics

By Ken Muhr, care of ITTF

Gold Medal Match
2004 Olympic Gold Medallist, Zhang Yining!

China's world #1 and Olympic top seed, Zhang Yining, 22, fulfilled her ranking by defeating Kim Hyang Mi, 24, from the People's Republic of Korea, 8,7,2,2, to win the Athens Olympics women's singles gold medal. It was Zhang's second gold medal - she had already won women's doubles with Wang Nan.

Earlier in the competition, Kim, who is relatively unknown outside of her country, had caused opponents problems with her sharp-punched backhand, with strange medium length pimples, and a looping forehand, and it took Zhang the critical 1st game to get the measure of how to play against her.

Zhang took that game and the 2nd was fairly close, but by the 3rd and 4th games she could win points at will, spinning mainly forehand loops and some backhand loops all over the table, and picking off big winners.

Nothing Kim could do, not her sharp backhand or her looped forehand, could trouble Zhang who raced away for an easy victory.

An absolutely delighted Zhang acknowledged the support of the large and vocal Chinese contingent in the crowd. Kim should be happy with coming from relative obscurity to secure silver for the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

Luyuan Sheng, Zhang's (Chinese) coach, commented, “She played very well. We had a big conversation today and I tried to prepare her mentally for the match, making her believe she is the best. We have never played against Kim before and so I thoroughly researched her.”

Bronze Medal Match
Kim First Defensive Olympic Singles Medallist

Although Kim Kyung Ah (Korea) lost in the semifinals to world #1 Zhang Yining (China), in beating Li Jia Wei (Singapore), -9,8,7,5,8, for the bronze medal, she became the first defensive player ever to win an Olympic singles medal.

Li, the 23-year-old former Chinese player who in the 1/8th had put out the #3 seed from China, Niu Jianfeng, reached the Olympic women's singles final by beating, Li Jia Wei (Singapore), 23, who had deposed the defending Olympic gold medallist, Wang Nan (also from China).

Kim remained on top in the 3rd and 4th games, but Li started well in the 5th, leading 4-1, before Kim immediately tied it. From 8-8, Kim defended immaculately, taking the last 3 points for the match.

Her tearful coach, Lee Elisa, said, “I'm very happy for my player. She played very well. It was a huge success.”

Li Jia Wei was very disappointed. “I was stressed from yesterday (when she lost to Kim Hyang Mi) and I couldn't play as I wanted to. Furthermore, Kim had a lot of backspin on her returns and I couldn't attack as powerfully as I wanted. I'm very sad about the result.”

Semifinals
Kim Hyang Mi (PRK) Makes Final

Kim Hyang Mi, a relatively unknown player from the People’s Republic of Korea, who in the 1/8th had put out the #3 seed from China, Niu Jianfeng, reached the Olympic women's singles final by beating, Li Jia Wei (Singapore), 23, who had deposed the defending Olympic gold medallist, Wang Nan (also from China).

Japanese Teenager Beats USA Star

By Ken Muhr, care of ITTF

A 15-year-old rising star from Japan, Ai Fukuhara, ended USA's Olympic women's singles prospects when she outplayed and upset the former Chinese national team player and 1993 world singles bronze medallist, Gao Jun (USA), ranked #12 in the world, in their 3rd round clash.

A pimpled bat penholder of the old Chinese tradition, Gao serves well, pushes with heavy backspin, and plays a controlled block on both wings, being particularly effective on the backhand where she sometimes chop-blocks as well. However, none of this seemed to trouble young Fukuhara, who topspin hit through Gao's containing style, winning in straight games, 3,6,8,9.

Afterwards, Nishimura, Japan's coach, said that Fukuhara was very relaxed and that Gao Jun's style suited her. “Gao plays too softly with pimples, which Fukuhara is used to. It was better than playing a European, when the ball would come at her stronger.”

Fukuhara said, “Just before the match I was told to attack aggressively. Gao is older than me, so if the match went to seven games I didn't mind, it was better for me than her. I am very happy and didn't get nervous today. I was fully prepared for this, having done a lot of training. I could see everything, the corner, the ball, the table, the spectators, and had a cool mind.”
Kim won, -8,6,-0,-8,8,6,9. but halfway through the match when she was behind 1-3 in games (and having lost one game 11-0), it looked certain to be a Singapore victory.

The first few games were played out mainly on the backhand, Kim hitting harder and flatter and Li more inclined to backhand loop, the players perhaps fearing each other's respective forehands, Kim's loop and Li's flat pimples hit. It was a tense match but there were not many good rallies to watch.

After the players had taken one game each, Li used her backhand loop to totally dominate the 3rd, 11-0! By the 4th game, both players started switching more to the forehand, and Kim began to attack more with her forehand loop - and got the better of a forehand attacking exchange – which was perhaps a positive omen for her although she still lost it from 7-5 up. Although Kim was still troubled by Li's backhand loop to either side of the table, she continued to attack more with her forehand, winning the last point this way to win the 5th game.

By the 6th game, Kim was less worried about playing the ball to Li's forehand or crossover, and the Singapore player seemed less confident on that side. And, ominously for Li, Kim absorbed a flurry of Li backhand loops to go to 10-6 and win that game, 11-8. The deciding game was very close but it was Kim who appeared mentally stronger, increasingly switching to Li's forehand and forehand looping herself. From 8-9 she forehand looped to even the game score 9-9, then smashed to a high push return to gain match point. But it was a strong backhand to Li's backhand that gave her the match.

By the 6th game, Kim was less worried about playing the ball to Li's forehand or crossover, and the Singapore player seemed less confident on that side. And, ominously for Li, Kim absorbed a flurry of Li backhand loops to go to 10-6 and win that game, 11-8. The deciding game was very close but it was Kim who appeared mentally stronger, increasingly switching to Li's forehand and forehand looping herself. From 8-9 she forehand looped to even the game score 9-9, then smashed to a high push return to gain match point. But it was a strong backhand to Li's backhand that gave her the match.

Kim's coach Ri Hyong Ill blamed himself for Kim's early difficulties in the match. "It was my mistake, the strategy was wrong especially in the 3rd game where she lost 11-0. After that, we just adjusted our tactics and finally we won."

Li said, "At the beginning I was feeling very well and played with little stress. When the match was at 3-1, I started to feel a little bit nervous. In the 5th game I couldn't play as much attack as I wanted, and as a result I lost the game and the match. I am very upset at losing the match, especially because of the great start I had. I will try to find the reason why and learn from my mistakes, so I can gain from the experience for my next match."

Zhang breaks Kim's Defense to Reach Final
Zhang Yining, the 21-year-old world #1 and Olympic top seed from China, not unexpectedly reached the Olympic women's singles final via Korean defender Kim Kyung Ah, 27, the Olympic #4 seed and world #6, who she has never lost to.

However, Zhang had to concentrate and work hard for her 11,8,6,-5,8 victory over the best defensive woman in the world and the only defender to have reached the semifinals in an Olympic Games, which made for a great spectacle.

The topspin looping Zhang had greater difficulty with Kim's heavy long pimples backhand chop, and concentrated on attacking wide to Kim's forehand, where the Korean mixed not-so-heavy chop with topspin returns, followed by a smash to the middle of the table. Nevertheless, Kim still returned a huge number of great Zhang shots, and picked off the occasional forehand winner herself. She also often chopped wide on her forehand with her backhand, so Zhang had to play some drives to her backhand and then switch to her forehand to get the returns she could handle more easily.

Although Zhang made a series of forehand loop and smash errors to fall behind 7-10 in the first game, she briefly switched her attack to Kim's backhand to level it 10-10, eventually winning 13-11 with a kill to the middle of the table. Zhang continued to pressure Kim's forehand and then switch to the middle or occasionally the backhand to make a winner, taking the second game 11-8. In this game Kim played an extraordinary backhand counter-hit winner far from the table from her forehand side.

The 3rd game was one-way traffic to Zhang, but in the 4th she lost her concentration and Kim capitalized to win.

---

America's First Table Tennis Store
Celebrating 5 Years in Business!
Riverchase Galleria Mall
Birmingham, Alabama • 205-987-2222 • 800-366-7664 • bumpernets.com
Mon-Thur, 10AM-9PM • Fri-Sat 10AM-10PM • Sunday Noon-6PM

Store Offerings
★ Lessons with a Pro
★ Table rentals in the Store
★ Custom rackets & tables available
★ Ping Pong tournaments every Friday night

Holiday Store Specials
★ Killerspin DVD 2003 Extreme 1 ..... $ 18.99*
★ Killerspin DVD 2003 Extreme 2 ..... $ 18.99*
★ Butterfly Personal Table .................. $289.99*
★ Stiga Master Table .................... $319.99*
★ Butterfly Playback Table ............... $339.99*
★ Stiga Eurotech ......................... $369.99*
★ Butterfly Premium Table ............... $449.99*
★ Most tables are in stock and shipped next day
★ Call for great shipping prices

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • Nov/Dec 2004
**NEW**

**COMBO SPECIAL**

**$199.95**

**Item:** XSNVI

**3 STAR PREMIUM BULK PACK SPECIAL**

Nittaku's highest grade balls! Made in Japan, they are more consistently round and hard, and last longer than any other ball. Item BNAP...

**$179.95**

**Item:** BN7

**3 STAR GROSS SPECIAL**

High grade Nittaku balls exceed highest standards for ITTF approval. Item BNAC...

**$136.22**

**Item:** BN3

**FEMINIST**

A very fast and light blade for offensive play. Two plies of Kevlar, two carbon, and three wood. Handle is slightly smaller than average. Really outstanding quality blade with great touch!

**$94.95**

**Item:** FE9A

**FEDERAL**

Very fast! Great for fast play: smashing, attacking and topspin play. Excellent for aggressive topspin, attack, smashing, and counterdriving. Sponge: 2.0, 2.2. Reg $29.95. Item: RNHA

**$69.95**

**Item:** RF91

**Hammont Pro Alpha**

This is the magic rubber you have been waiting for!!! Extremely fast and spinny, with amazing feel. This has more power than any rubber on the market and it has fantastic control.

**$26.95**

**Item:** HR91

**Midship**

For lightning fast smashes and overpowering loops. Excellent for aggressive topspin, attack, smashing, and counterdriving. Sponge: 2.0, 2.2. Reg $28.95. Item: RNMS

**$23.95**

**Item:** RM91

**CARBO and CARBO SOUND**

Carbon + Titanium have revolutionized blade production for a new generation of players. Now STIGA extends its carbon fiber technology to rubber sheets, with fantastic results. Although carbon is a very stiff material, the elasticity of these rubbers is maintained, offering a tremendous catapult effect when striking the ball is quite loud. The sound produced when striking the ball is quite loud.

**$33.95**

**Item:** ST5

**TITANIUM 5.4 WRB**

For those who demand extreme speed, but won't tolerate a loss of feeling or control. Built around 4 non-solid layers of titanium and 3 layers of wood veneers. Instead of adding multiple sheets of titanium, STIGA developed a special technique to mix the Ti layers of rubber with a unique bonding glue. This special technique guarantees consistency throughout the complete playing surface and makes the blade more powerful and extremely light.

**$89.95**

**Item:** STA5

**OFFICIAL BALL**

**OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT**

**Nittaku® THE OFFICIAL BALL of 2004 World Championships in Doha, Qatar**

**2005 World Championships in Shanghai, China**

**PADDLE PALACE: NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR STIGA PRODUCTS**
Japan Nationals, Seikolseki, 2004 Men’s

Scramble 21
Designed for the 40mm ball. Inherent tension in the rubber sheet itself improves attacking capability, and actually increases the offensive player’s advantage. Exceptionally durable and long lasting, even at the world-class level of play.

Scramble 21 SV
The same great Scramble 21 topsheet, with a softer sponge. Sponge 2.0, 2.5mm. Reg $28.95. Item RJSTC

Scramble
One of our all-time best-sellers! Inverted rubber made for aggressive offensive players. Generates great speed and spin with superior consistency in performance. Similar to Mark V. Sponge 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, Reg $28.95. Item RJSCTU

Joola Scramble 21 Ultima
Joola’s Ultima sponge, with the Scramble 21 topsheet, increases exponentially the bouncing rate of the rubber as well as the ball feeling at impact. Sponge 2.0, 2.5, Reg $28.95. Item RJSCTU

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

Speeds and Spin Characteristics:

- Speed 9.2, Spin 8.5, Control 7.7, Power 8.7
- Speed 9.0, Spin 8.0, Control 9.0, Power 8.3
- Speed 9.4, Spin 9.0, Control 7.7, Power 8.3

Your Choice

Joola Ticker
A lightweight blade with excellent control values. The special Swedish gluing of the veneers provides an irresistible feeling when hitting the ball. We use special materials from the K-series. Thus the blade guarantees the best possible ball control.

- Speed 8.1, Spin 7.4, Control 7.1, Power 8.4
- Speed 8.0, Spin 7.7, Control 7.7, Power 8.7

Joola Torre
A slightly different veneer combination provides better speed compared to the Joola Ticker. The Swedish veneer has outstanding playing characteristics and despite better speed still allows a soft and sensitive ball response on the blade. Same K-series grip design as the Joola Ticker.

- Speed 8.5, Spin 7.4, Control 7.1, Power 8.4
- Speed 8.5, Spin 7.7, Control 7.7, Power 8.7

Joola Sting
An offensive blade will not be missing from the new Joola range. The Joola STING OFF encompasses 50 years of experience of Swedish blade construction. The combination of firmness, speed and control makes the blade a new wonder weapon especially for fresh gluers.

- Speed 8.3, Spin 7.1, Control 7.1, Power 8.4
- Speed 8.1, Spin 6.9, Control 7.7, Power 8.7

Special Offers:

- $29.95
- $28.95
- $29.95

Paddle Palace: North American Distributor for JOOLA Products

NEW

COMBO SPECIAL
$79.95
Item: XSOTI

Ticker

COMBO SPECIAL
$86.95
Item: XSOTOR

Torre

COMBO SPECIAL
$92.95
Item: XSOST

Sting

NEW

COMBO SPECIAL INCLUDE BLADE + 2 SHEETS JOOLA RUBBER. Add $5/sheet for Fakir.

Mambo

Mambo C

Mambo H

Combospecial includes blade + 2 sheets JOOLA RUBBER. Add $5/sheet for Fakir.
The 5th game was tense. Zhang more rigidly sticking to her plan of attacking to Kim's forehand and playing winners to the center of the table. There was a fabulous rally with first Zhang and then Kim attacking, forcing the Chinese to lob, but eventually ending with a missed Zhang kill to take the score to 6-6. Gradually Zhang took ascendancy, and she had three match points at 10-7. Kim returned an edge to save the first one, but the Chinese called time-out to ensure victory, which was immediately achieved.

Zhang said, "Because of our previous matches I knew her enough to set my tactics. I played my forehand into her forehand. The fact that I am right-handed helped me to do so. Playing at the Olympic Games has no similarity to any other of our previous competitions."

Kim was respectful of Zhang. "She out endured me in the rallies and she deserves to be ranked #1 in the world rankings."

**Quarterfinals**

**Olympic and World Champion Out**

Wang Nan, 25, the reigning world champion and 2000 Olympic gold medalist, seeded #2 here in Athens, was surprisingly upset, 7-7, 11, 9, 8, by 23-year-old former Chinese Li Jia Wei, the world #8 and seeded 6th, in the quarterfinals of the Olympic women's singles.

Apart from some nerves at the end of the later games, the right-handed shakehands Li, who was a good player in China but not part of the national team, totally out-played Wang.

She was faster and sharper over the table, winning numerous points by smashing winners into Wang's left-handed backhand, and catching her with crosscourt backhand punches to her forehand.

It was one-way traffic for two games and 4-0 in Li's favor in the third, with the Chinese coach then calling time out. Li won three more points to go to 7-0 but then, briefly, Li faltered and Wang, who often played too soft, started playing with more tactical courage. The Chinese won seven consecutive points to tie it, but Li then pulled away to lead 10-7. Then Li started displaying real nerves, missing forehand kills that she had been comfortably executing earlier, with Wang eventually winning 13-11.

Although there was a similar story in the 4th game, with Wang coming back from 4-9 down to tie it at 9-9. The last point with a tremendous crosscourt backhand counter of a Li forehand drive, this time Li responded with a similar backhand, and went on to win the game 11-9. Li was slightly ahead in most of the 5th and final game, using her sharp forehand to great effect. Wang continued to fight, but never looked settled, and finally, on the second of three match points against her, she forehand killed the ball skyward, and

Li claimed victory to the rapturous applause of the Singapore supporters.

**Defender Kim Reaches Semifinals**

It is tough being a successful defender in the modern attacking era, but Kim Kyung Ah showed it could be done, becoming the first defensive player in the history of the Olympic Games to reach the singles semifinals.

Despite a spirited push, topspin drive and flat kill performance by Hong Kong's Tie Yana, 25, Kim patiently weathered the storm, including the loss of the 2nd game, by solidly and consistently chopping back every ball with heavy spin and good depth. She also sometimes attacked herself, though not to the extent that some modern day "defenders" do, and won her women's singles quarterfinal match, 6-10, 9, 7, 7.

**World #1 Zhang’s Strong Under Pressure**

Europe's top woman player, Tamara Boros (Croatia), 26, the world #7 and Olympics women's singles #5 seed, might have greater fire power, but world #1 Zhang Yining showed she had a safer game and a stronger mind under pressure, winning 10, 13, 11, 3.

Zhang's safer closer-to-the-table style of containing and topspinning, with softer touch, kept her in the game, and at key moments when it mattered she was able to attack more positively with her forehand, or produce rapid change of direction, such as a sudden backhand to the wide forehand.

Boros led 10-8 in both the first and second games. In the third, it was Zhang who led 10-8, with Boros winning three in a row to go up 11-10. Yet, despite all these game points, Boros found herself down 0-3. The 4th and final game was totally dominated by a now more confident and aggressive Zhang over a demoralized Boros.

A ruthless Boros said, "I missed too many game points. You just cannot afford to miss opportunities at this level, and it is not the first time that I have missed key points when in a winning position against the top Chinese. Just for one or two seconds it went through my mind when it was close, 'not again!' If I could have won just one game it would have given me confidence. I don't think the Chinese are better than me. I believe that Zhang is not better than me in backhand strokes. I tried to attack the first ball into her forehand and the 2nd one into the middle of the table. I think Zhang is the favorite to win the gold medal."

**North Korean on the Move**

In other quarterfinal matches, Kim Hyang Mi (PRK) defeated Zhang Xueling (Singapore), 7, 4, 9, 8, 8, 10 - and the relatively unknown North Korean was now become more and more noticed - and even more so when she'd later win the Silver.
ATHENS 2004
OLYMPIANS CHOOSE BUTTERFLY

RYU SEUNG MIN
ZHUANG YINING
KIM HYANG MI

MICHAEL MAZE
KIM KYUNG AH

BUTTERFLYONLINE.COM • 1.800.611.7712
USA Women at the Olympics
By USA Women’s Coach Doru Gheorghe
The USA Olympic Team arrived in Athens, Greece on Aug. 5.
The team processing was held on Aug. 6, at the American College of Greece, the base for USOC staff and a training base for USA athletes.
We began our training on August 7 at the Galatsi Olympic Stadium training hall, with two sessions almost every day through August 13. Each team had a chance to practice 1-2 hours in the main hall.

Top-left: Tawny Banh wins a big one against a Korean.
Top-right: Jasna Reed. Above: Gao Jun

Women's Singles

Round One

The first USA women’s match in singles was Tawny Banh against Yoon Ji Hya (KOR), world #152 (to Tawny’s 146). Tawny played with lot of pressure and not much confidence, and lost the first game 11-8. In the second, she started very well with some very good shots, but Yoon tied it at 5. They went head to head till 7-all when Tawny made two good backhands followed by a forehand smash and took the lead 9-7, and won 11-9. In the third, Tawny started very well, went up 7-3 — but Yoon fought back, and tied it at 7-all. Tawny lost her concentration and Yoon won, 11-9. The fourth was crucial — Tawny didn’t want to fall behind 1-3. Yoon took the lead from the beginning and led all the way, until 10-8. Now it was Tawny who had the energy and mental strength to come back and lead 11-10 with some nice rallies. Tawny finally pulled it out, 16-14. Tawny started the fifth missing lots of balls, and with Yoon making good shots, it was 11-3 for the Korean. Tawny was focused in the sixth, and took the lead 4-2, then 5-3, then 6-4. But Yoon fought back, scoring three in a row to lead 7-6. I called a time out. After that, Tawny started to use a new serve that Yoon didn’t like and it gave Tawny an advantage. Tawny also started to return Yoon’s serve better. Tawny won five of the last six points to win game six, 11-8. In the seventh, it was 2-2, then Tawny went up 4-2. Now it was Yoon’s turn to call time out. Yoon came back to level it at 4-4, then 5-5, then 6-6. But that’s when Tawny decided to win this game and she turned it on, winning five points in the row to win the match, -8,-9,-9,14,-3,8,6.

Tawny was so happy that she started jumping around, and as Ian Marshall, editor of the ITTF’s Table Tennis Illustrated said, “Her efforts thrilled the crowd and she stole the show in an Olympic hall.” Tawny’s celebration was presented on the USOC highlights from the Olympic Games.

Jasna Reed played Sröbikova Renata (CZE) in the first round. Renata was #60 in the world, to Jasna’s #107. Jasna’s confidence was very low in the beginning of the match, but she didn’t give up and she fought hard even though she lost the first two games, and was down 10-8 in the third — a pretty deep hole! She deuced it at 10, and after some very long and very fast rallies, she came back to win the third, 15-13. By winning this game, Jasna’s confidence grew, and point by point it increased as she won the fourth, 11-4. From down 0-2 and 8-10, it was now all tied up! In the fifth, Jasna went up 8-2, making a number of good shots and controlling of the game. Renata staged a mini-comeback, but there was nothing that Renata could do to stop Jasna from winning, 11-8. In the sixth, Jasna lost some of her concentration and Renata went up 5-1, but again Jasna fought back and tied it at 6-6. Renata had two very nice serves, and followed each with backhand down-the-line winners to go up 8-6, and then 9-7 — but it would be the last points she would score. Jasna made two very good serve returns to tie it at 9-all, and won the last two on her serve in winning the match, -9,-6,13,4,8,9. That made two consecutive nice showings by the USA Women! But now things would get tougher.

Round Two

Tawny Banh played against Li Chunli (NZL) #44 in the world, a very experienced player, very tough mentally. Tawny played well but missed a couple of balls at the end of each game. Li Chunli controlled the games with a very strong backhand smash, an unbelievable will to win, great confidence, and never missed easy balls. In the first three games Chunli led from beginning to end, not allowing Tawny to take the lead at all. Tawny kept them close, losing them at 8,10,9. In the fourth, Tawny started well, leading 3-1, then 4-4, then went on to win the game, 11-8. If she could have pulled out one of those close first three games, it would be all even now. In the fifth, they went head to head till 5-all, when Chunli made two unbelievable serve and down-the-line backhand smashes to lead 7-5. Tawny tied it at 9-all, but missed two easy shots as Chunli won, 8,10,9,-8,9. Every game was close, and she was only outscored 53-47 for the match — yet only won one game.

Jasna Reed next played Zhang Xueling (SIN), world #47. Zhang Xueling played very well in the first two games, with a very consistent backhand and a really powerful forehand loop. Jasna lacked confidence at the start, missing easy balls and serve returns, and Xueling won the first two games, 11-7, 11-7. In the third, Jasna started better, controlling play and surprising Xueling with a couple of backhand winners down the line. She took the lead from beginning to end, and won, 11-8. The fourth was the same as the first two games, with Xueling making very good backhand shots down the line as she again won 11-7, and she won the fifth as well to advance, 7,7,-8,7,5. Zhang Xueling would reach the quarterfinals in these Olympic Games — her level was higher than her ranking.

Round Three

Because she was ranked in the top 16 (#12 in the world), Gao Jun didn’t play in the first two rounds. In the third round, she played her first match, against Ai Fukuhara (JPN), #27 in the world, the Japanese junior phenom. Gao (1992 Olympic silver medalist in women’s doubles for China) tried her best but none of her favorite shots seemed to trouble Fukuhara who played very well, and didn’t miss easy shots. Fukuhara advanced, 3,6,8,9, and out went the last hopes of the USA women in singles.

Women’s Doubles

Round One

Tawny Banh/Gao Jun played against Luisana Perez/Fabiola Ramos of Venezuela. It was a routine match for Gao and Tawny as they won the match easily, 3,4,6,6, and advanced to the second round.

Jasna Reed/Whitney Ping played their first match against the more experienced team from Singapore, Tan Paey Fern/Zhang Xueling, and lost 8,4,5,11. The Singapore team led all the way, from beginning to end. In the last game, Tan/Zhang were up 10-6 match point, but Jasna/Whitney fought hard to make it to deuce before losing 13-11.

Round Two

Tawny/Gao met two defensive players from Korea, Kim Kyung Ah/Kim Bok Rae, ranked #6 and #48 in the world. Tawny/Gao didn’t do too well against this team that would later reach the semifinals. Match to the Koreans, and the last hopes of the USA women in doubles, 4,3,7,9.

Overall the USA Team did the best they could and I’m very proud of the way they fought and did their best in representing USA.

USA Women’s Results at the Olympics

Women’s Singles

Gao Jun – Round One: Bye; Round Two: Bye; Round Three: lost to Ai Fukuhara (JPN), 3,6,8,9.

Jasna Reed – Round One: defeats Renata Sröbikova (CZE), -9,-6,13,4,8,9; Round Two: lost to Zhang Xueling (SIN), 7,7,-8,7,5.

Tawny Banh – Round One: defeats Ji Hye Yoon (KOR), -8,9,-9,14,-3,8,6; Round Two: lost to Li Chunli (NZL), 8,10,9,-8,9.

Women’s Doubles

Gao Jun/Tawny Banh – Round One: defeats Luisana Perez/Fabiola Ramos (VEN), 3,4,6,6; Round Two: lost to Kim Bok Rae/Kim Kyung Ah (KOR), 4,3,7,9.

Jasna Reed/Whitney Ping – Round One: lost to Tan Paey Fern/Zhang Xueling (SIN), 8,4,5,11.
USA Men at the Olympics

By USA Men's Coach Dan Seemiller

We arrived in Athens on August 5th and with the competition scheduled for the 14th we had plenty of time to practice and adjust to the different time zone. We were practicing twice a day at Galatsi Hall preparing for the games.

Khoa Nguyen

Khoa Nguyen would play our first match in singles versus William Henzell of Australia. Both of these players are ranked very close to each other on the world ranking list, so it should be a tight match. Khoa has been training hard the past four months, preparing (he took a leave of absence from his job) in China and Germany.

In game one Henzell, a right-hander with an excellent backhand, controls play and the score as he goes up 5-1, 7-3 and holds on easily to win 11-7. Henzell is attacking first and Khoa is not seeing many forehand chances. In game two, Khoa’s serve is opening up the attack for him as he leads 8-2 at one point as he evens up the match 1-1. Game three is a replay of game one. Henzell again leads 5-1 and wins 11-7. The Australian is winning the short game and this is forcing Khoa into bad positions as he tries to counter attack.

In the Olympics, it’s all single elimination so the pressure and playing an unknown opponent is giving Khoa difficulties. It doesn’t improve in game four as Khoa drops an 11-4 game. Game five sees Khoa down 3-1 but up 9-7. Henzell flips a net-edge that makes it 9-8 and this gives Henzell the momentum to win four in a row to win the match, 7-6, 7-4, 9-7. A little bit of nervous play cost Khoa the chance to extend this match to the sixth game. The short game is so critical to win at this level and the Australian controlled the opening attack with his excellent net play.

Ilija Lupulesku

Next up is Ilija to play in the Men’s Singles. His first round opponent is Juan Papic from Chile, a veteran penhold player who has had a recent win over Martin Bratanov of Belgium. As it turns out, this is a perfect style for Lup, as he dominates the Chilean. Ilija is spinning the ball deep all over the table and Papic has no answer. Lupi, in almost embarrassing fashion, wins 2, 4, 5, 2. Ilija’s feel and touch was spectacular this match as it seemed as though every ball that touched his racket found the table.

In the next round Ilija played Adrian Crisan from Romania. Crisan is a counter-attacking type player with an excellent short game and flips. Lupi is a decided underdog in the match so he needs to get off to a quick start. The play in the first game is sloppy, but Lupi is in control at 5-3, 7-5 and 9-6. At 9-6 Ilija softens a bit and Crisan makes a run to win the all-important first game, 11-9.

Ilija is unsure as to how to play Crisan because if he attacks, the Romanian quickly blocks him out of position. Keep changing the pace and mixing the play is best against Crisan. In game two, Lupi, keeping Crisan off balance, leads 6-3 before a series of errors costs him the game. Now, down 0-2, Ilija becomes more aggressive and leads 7-5, but with all these leads he can’t finish the games. Crisan makes another run and leads 10-8. One good block and two power loops later Lupi leads 11-10. Crisan ties it and they deuce two more times as the Romanian wins 15-13 to lead 3-0. So many chances to win a game and make this a match but it’s all over as Crisan wins 11-8 and takes a 9, 8, 13, 8 victory. Our players have difficulties at the end of games because we don’t participate on a regular basis on the Pro Tour. Lupi played well in his first match but was clearly uncomfortable against Crisan. Had he won one of the early games, this match could well have turned his way.

Ilija Lupulesku/Mark Hazinski

In the Men’s Doubles, Ilija Lupulesku and Mark Hazinski (who was only playing doubles) would play Nigeria. Monday Merotohon and Segun Toriola. A difficult pair but with Mark and Lupi controlling the play, after an early 2-6 deficit in game one, they win easily 4-0. The scores were not close at 7, 4, 5, 5. The Nigerian pair played poorly and the Americans controlled the serve and receive game. Mark and Lupi, being a righty/lefty team, had the two right-handed Nigerians on the move throughout the match.

In round two, Mark and Lupi would play Chinese Taipei’s Chiang Peng-Lung and Chuan Chih-Yuan, ranked #14 and #5 in singles on the world ranking. In game one the Americans trailed throughout, but scored three in a row at 8-10 to lead game point 11-10 and again 12-11. Two game points and a big chance to lead 1-0 but Taipei wins game one, 14-12. In game two our team is behind 2-7 and the match is looking bleak. A couple errors by the Taiwanese team and superb play from the Americans as they win 9 out of 10 points to even the match at one game apiece.

In game three an excellent counterlooping rally goes to Taipei as they lead 1-0. It’s clear that Chuan and Chiang are working Mark’s backhand every chance they can. They go back and forth 3-3, 4-4, 5-5, 6-6, Taipei takes an 8-6 lead. Two forehand loops by Mark ties it at 8. At 9-9 Lupi misses a loop after the U.S. team had pinned the Taipei team away from the table. At 11-10 for the Americans, Lupi misses a backhand flip. Then Mark serves long and we are down 11-12. At 11-12 Lupi loops the serve but a power block from Chiang and Mark’s attempt at a loop goes long. Three game points ... two in game one and one in game three and possibly we should be up 2-1 or even 3-0.
In game four Lupi keeps setting up Mark for power loops as they lead 6-4. Two quick points against Haz’s serve but they lead 12-11 and 13-12... four more game points... but they can’t finish it as they lose 16-14. At this point Mark and Lupi had seven game points in games one, three and four and lost them all as they now trail 3-1.

In game five the momentum is with Chuan and Chiang as they lead throughout by 2. Mark and Lupi, down 9-7, tie it at 9 but again, can’t play the crunch points well and they lose 11-9, and Chinese finish it as they lose 14-16. At this point Mark and Lupi had seven game points in games one, three and four and lost them all as they now trail 3-1.

Men’s Singles
Gold: Ryu Seung Min (KOR)
Silver: Wang Hao (CHN)
Bronze: Wang Liqin (CHN)

Men’s Doubles
Gold: Ma Lin/Chen Qi (CHN)
Silver: Ko Lai Chak/Li Ching (HKG)
Bronze: Michael Maze/Finn Tugwell (DEN)

Women’s Singles
Gold: Zhang Yining (CHN)
Silver: Kim Hyang Mi (PRK)
Bronze: Kim Kyung Ah (KOR)

Women’s Doubles
Gold: Zhang Yining/Wang Nan (CHN)
Silver: Lee Eun Sil/Suk Eun Mi (KOR)
Bronze: Guo Yue/Niu Jianfeng (CHN)

USA Men’s Results at the Olympics

Men’s Singles
Iljja Lupulesku – Round One: defeats Juan Papic (CHI), 2,4,5,2. Round Two: Lost to Adrian Crisan, 9,8,13,8.
Khoa Nguyen – Round One: lost to William Henzell (AUS), 7,6,7,4.

Men’s Doubles
Iljja Lupulesku/Mark Hazinski – Round One: defeats Monday Merotten/Segun Toriola (NGR), 7,4,5,5; Round Two: lost to Chiang Peng-Lung/Chuan Chih-Tuan (TPE), 12,8,11,14,9.
When Tai Long Tey didn’t see an Olympian among the 78 players of the 13th annual Decatur Open, he gave a sigh of relief. Tey, a former world team member for Malaysia, breezed to his fourth Decatur Open crown knocking off Chandramouli Shankaren 4-1 in the finals. Tey is a seven-time finalist in the tournament—losing only to Olympians Sean O’Neill (2 times) and Amy Feng. Tey of Memphis has won $1,375 in his seven Decatur tournaments.

Though the second-seeded Shankaren, a student at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky., was disappointed with his second-place finish, he had nothing but praise for Tey and the tournament.

"I realize Tai doesn’t play many tournaments any more, but his game is still there," the Indian native Shankaren said. "After I won the first game, I thought I could get past him with the same strategy, but he is a smart player with a lot of experience, good serves and a strong forehand. He changed his game and just proved too strong for me. He is a class player and I am not ashamed losing to somebody of his caliber."

The tournament turned away more than 20 players again, selling out three weeks in advance. "The tournament treats all the players the same," Shankaren said. "It doesn’t matter if you are a beginner or the top seed, the committee makes you feel special. I like the format. It provides quality matches for all players and finishes on time."

All players received a t-shirt, full-size Gatorade towel with “table tennis” screened in green and a Gatorade sports bottle, compliments of Decatur Pepsi. Also about 30 door prizes were awarded.

Players enjoyed free Pepsi products and pizza at lunch.

Again, the media coverage was excellent. Co-tournament director Michael Wetzel was interviewed by the Decatur ESPN sports talk radio WWTM 1400-AM for 12 minutes three days prior to the tournament.

Staff writer Paul Huggins and photographer Dan Henry of the Decatur Daily did a front-page centerpiece on player Joe Mozur the day of the tournament. Dr. Mozur was a State Department Russian interpreter for President Reagan in Moscow in 1988. Mozur didn’t let the extra media attention bother him. He won the tournament’s Class AA.

Decatur Daily photographer Emily Saunders snapped several digital images of action and a color photo of Class AA semifinalist Yixi Tu ran in the Aug. 22 edition of the Daily.

Scott Theisen of NBC TV affiliate in Huntsville shot footage and interviewed Shankaren. The footage aired at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. on WAFF-TV sports.

This year’s tournament included 78 players from nine states. Stan Lim drove from Key West, Fla., 1,054 miles, to play in the tournament. Also, Danya Budiman flew in from Salem, N.H., to help call some matches.

Championship: 1st Tai Long Tey; 2nd Chandramouli Shankaren; 3-4: John Mar & Jens Kujat; 5-8: Jason Denton, Rafael Veliz, Billy Carlisle & Terry Hamilton.

Class AA: 1st Joseph Mozart; 2nd Johnny Billy; 3-4: Carl Lewis & Yixi Tu.

Class A: 1st Glenn Johnson; 2nd Patrick Sullivan.

Class BBB: 1st Michael S. Harris; 2nd Paul HOLLiger.

Class BB: 1st Keith Peterman; 2nd Chris Sharp.

Class B: 1st Aaron Sagraves; 2nd James P. Johnson.

Sponsors: Lane Music Co., Pepsi Cola, The Decatur Daily, Commercial Images Photographic Services, Robbins Table Tennis Specialties, BumperNets, Lang’s Sporting Goods, Jimmy Smith Jewelers, Awards and Engraving Plus, Microlot Inn and Suites, Pfizer Inc., and Eisai Inc.

Hosts: Decatur Parks and Recreation Department and the North Alabama TTC.

Tour Committee: Co-directors Walt Chenault and Michael Wetzel, Chip Patton, Fred B. Mitchell II, Danya Budiman, Don Johnson, Ed Watts, Jim Norris, Glenda Norris.
Waco Summer RR
Waco, TX - July 31, 2004 - By Grady Gordon

For the second year in a row, all 60 players who had entered in our giant round robin, one-day event showed up and played their hearts out for the great sport of table tennis. It was played in the cool gym of Reichler High School, which has a solid wood floor and adequate lighting. This year, the west windows were securely covered with sheets of Styrofoam, which allowed a little light but no glare. Setup of the tables, barriers and other items was done in a swift and orderly manner by both players and hired crew on Friday afternoon in preparation for the Saturday event.

Two out-of-state players came from Kansas and Louisiana, but most came from east and central Texas, with a few from San Antonio, Houston and Austin. The player ratings ranged from 615 to 2252, with five players rated over 2000.

The battle for the title was between Sam Smith of Dallas (seeded #1) and Randy Medcalf of Houston (seeded #2). Smith had come in second last year so he was eager to savor the sweet taste of victory. Medcalf, who only a couple of years ago was playing at the 1950 level, was rated 2158. Their final was a classic with Medcalf winning the first two games at 7 and 8, but Smith coming from behind to win the final three games at 7, 5 and 6. Scott Ryan (2008) of Euless showed consistently good play to come in third and Steven So (1758) of Plano surprised many with his fourth place finish.

Twelve tables were used to play the hectic, intense and grueling schedule of the three round robin event in one day. Those players who got to the finals in the crossover played a total of 11 singles matches. And if they played in the doubles event, they got to play an additional five matches — 16 matches within the space of 12 hours. Now, that represents a lot of effort for one day! At the end of the day, there were a few complaints of being exhausted but most said that they really got their money's worth.

Singles Results
Class A: 1st Sam Smith; 2nd Randy Medcalf; 3rd Scott Ryan.
Class B: 1st Daniel Rutenber; 2nd Drew Roring; 3rd Chihiro Legris.
Class C: 1st Meredith Elston; 2nd David Livings; 3rd Sam Latham.
Class D: 1st Albert Lin; 2nd Frank Opp; 3rd Stephen Bell.
Class E: 1st Harold Wood; 2nd Clint Stutts; 3rd Jack Gilbert.

Doubles Results
Class B: 1st Jimmy Dorroll/John Stovall; 2nd Jon Dorn/John Nunn; 3rd Ben Lewis/Shun Au-Young.
Class C: 1st Frank Opp/Larry Sangren; 2nd Albert Lin/Scott Young; 3rd Harry McKeever/Thomas Taylor.
Class D: 1st Ryan Garrett/Gwen Pruitt; 2nd Drew Boring/AllWhimer; 3rd Richard Murray/Rick Ryer.

Ohio Closed
Columbus, OH - July 17, 2004 - By Greg Brandon

The Ohio Closed, held by the Columbus Table Tennis Club at their new and improved site in an attractive neighborhood of the northwest outskirts of Columbus, was won easily by repeating state champion Samson Dubina, who didn’t drop a game. His smooth, effortless double-winged attack loop drives had too much speed for his opponents. He unleased backhand shots that appeared as devastatingly fast and accurate as his forehand.

Facing Robert Powell in the Open final, Dubina won four straight games at 8, 3, 7, and 4. His sister Amanda Dubina defeated talented 13-year-old Elena Mykaylevskaya in the women’s final at 11, 8, and 6. Elena won the Under 16 age event final over Michael Mast at 8, 7, and 3. The Dubina siblings were the class of the tournament in their respective men’s and women’s divisions.

By contrast, there was suspense between frequent state finalist, six-time state champion Powell and surging Tom Yost, who has been coached by Carl Hardin, who also has coached the Dubinases, Powell and many other skilled players. Yost had earlier used strong counters and smashes to upset 2300+ player Don Hamilton, who employed an off-table topspin game.

Powell dropped his first two games in the Open semi-finals against Yost. It looked at first in the best of seven series that Yost might effect another upset. Then Powell’s mixture of sidespin loops and strong drive loops took over. He pulled out the third game and then won the next two.

Looking tired and breathing heavily, Powell struggled in the next game, getting behind early. He fought his way back into the lead with a mixture of spins and speed to win the game by a slim margin. So Powell came in second in the Open, with Yost finishing a respectable third.

With his strong counters forging the way, Yost soon after won a match against Robert Cordell, another multiple state championship winner. When Yost was asked some time ago if he looped much, he said he would wait until he finished college to work on it. One spectator wondered just how did a player who primarily counters — without looping much — do so well?

Years ago one summer in Columbus, Phil Panno, a close-to-the-table player, squeaked by top seeded Saubana Adio and other higher rated players during hot temperature and high humidity. Yost, however, has excellent anticipation. He displayed excellent form and strokes in the Under 1800 Hard Bat event to defeat hard-hitting William McLaughlin. The clarity and grace of Mathew’s strokes appeared artful for spectators and exhibited one reason for the resurgence of hard bat play.

In a tight final, Newark club president Paul Miller defeated Soren Tannelli in Under 1600 at 7, 6, 8, 9, and 9. George Moses II won Under 1400 over David Wu at 13, 3, 7, 3, and 5.

David’s brother Kevin Lu won Under 1200 over Matt Fullen at 9, 6, and 6. David won the Under 13 age event over Chan Bu at 13, 10, -10, and 3, and Jonathan Mast came in third. David’s sister, Helen Wu, won the Under 11 age group over Melanie Lie at 3, 5, and 3.

Fullen won the Under 1000 three games to one over Danny Moses. In a hard-fought Under 3500 Doubles final, Aleksandr Brodkin and George Moses II defeated Elena Mykaylevskaya and Paul Miller, 6-9, 6, -5, and 7.

The unexpected, proficient volunteer help of international umpire Chris Williams of the Newark club did much to help expedite the tournament.

Open: 1st Samson Dubina; 2nd Robert Powell; 3rd Tom Yost; 4th Robert Cordell.


Women: 1st Amanda Dubina; 2nd Elena Mykaylevskaya.

Over 40: 1st Robert Powell; 2nd Robert Cordell.

Over 50: 1st Larry Hawkins; 2nd Tadao Inui.

Over 60: 1st Tadao Inui; 2nd Neil Myers.

Over 70: 1st Mark Shapiro; 2nd Gus Kurz.

Under 16: 1st Elena Mykaylevskaya; 2nd Michael Mast.


Under 11: 1st Helen Wu; 2nd Melanie Lie.

Under 1800: 1st James Hamilton; 2nd John Lie.

Under 1900 Hardbat: 1st Jacob Mathew; 2nd William McLaughlin.

U1000: 1st Mark Shapiro; 2nd Panno.

U1400: 1st George Moses II; 2nd David Wu.

U1200: 1st Kevin Lu; 2nd Matt Fullen.

U1600: 1st Matt Fullen; 2nd Danny Moses.

U3500 Doubles: 1st Aleksandr Brodkin/George Moses II; 2nd Paul Miller/Elena Mykaylevskaya.

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • Nov/Dec 2004

53
The Northern Kentucky Fall 2004 Round Robin Open was held on Sept. 11, 2004 at the Campbell County YMCA in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. The two-star tournament included 56 players from many different states competing in six different rating groups for trophies, cash prizes, and rating points. Players' ratings ranged from 343 to 2370.

The morning groups featured dominant performances by the winners in the E (ratings ranged from 1036 to 1313) and F (from 343 to 1019) groups. Bryson Samuels defeated all seven opponents to finish the day undefeated in Group E. Chris Sharp was able to do the same in Group F, winning all seven matches. Group D (from 1375 to 1445) was as tightly contested as the ratings reflect with George Moses II capturing first place with a 7-2 record.

The afternoon/evening groups featured some of the top rated players in the country. Petra Sestakova, currently ranked fifth among women in the US, challenged a field in Group A that also included higher ranked Samson Dubina. However, the night ended with a match between two undefeated players for the title of Group A. Samson Dubina defeated Bob Powell in three straight games for the victory. The Group B title was won by 13-year-old Michael Mast with a record of 8-1. Group C also featured a dominant performance with Krish Divekar winning all nine matches to go undefeated in his group.

Group A: 1st Samson Dubina; 2nd Bob Powell; 3rd Petra Sestakova; 4th Tom Yost.
Group B: 1st Michael Mast; 2nd Amanda Dubina.
Group C: 1st Krish Divekar; 2nd Conrad "Bud" Henthorn.
Group D: 1st George Moses II; 2nd Ruying Chang.
Group E: 1st Bryson Samuels; 2nd Jayant Geete.
Group F: 1st Chris Sharp; 2nd Danny Moses.

The Northern Kentucky Open
Fort Thomas, KY • Sept. 11, 2004 • By Greg Thompson

Class A Champion Samson Dubina; Class B Champion Michael Mast; Class C Champion Krish Divekar.

The Northern Kentucky Fall 2004 Round Robin Open was held on Sept. 11, 2004 at the Campbell County YMCA in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. The two-star tournament included 56 players from many different states competing in six different rating groups for trophies, cash prizes, and rating points. Players' ratings ranged from 343 to 2370.

The morning groups featured dominant performances by the winners in the E (ratings ranged from 1036 to 1313) and F (from 343 to 1019) groups. Bryson Samuels defeated all seven opponents to finish the day undefeated in Group E. Chris Sharp was able to do the same in Group F, winning all seven matches. Group D (from 1375 to 1445) was as tightly contested as the ratings reflect with George Moses II capturing first place with a 7-2 record.

The afternoon/evening groups featured some of the top rated players in the country. Petra Sestakova, currently ranked fifth among women in the US, challenged a field in Group A that also included higher ranked Samson Dubina. However, the night ended with a match between two undefeated players for the title of Group A. Samson Dubina defeated Bob Powell in three straight games for the victory. The Group B title was won by 13-year-old Michael Mast with a record of 8-1. Group C also featured a dominant performance with Krish Divekar winning all nine matches to go undefeated in his group.

Group A: 1st Samson Dubina; 2nd Bob Powell; 3rd Petra Sestakova; 4th Tom Yost.
Group B: 1st Michael Mast; 2nd Amanda Dubina.
Group C: 1st Krish Divekar; 2nd Conrad "Bud" Henthorn.
Group D: 1st George Moses II; 2nd Ruying Chang.
Group E: 1st Bryson Samuels; 2nd Jayant Geete.
Group F: 1st Chris Sharp; 2nd Danny Moses.

The Northern Kentucky Open
Fort Thomas, KY • Sept. 11, 2004 • By Greg Thompson

Class A Champion Samson Dubina; Class B Champion Michael Mast; Class C Champion Krish Divekar.

The Northern Kentucky Fall 2004 Round Robin Open was held on Sept. 11, 2004 at the Campbell County YMCA in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. The two-star tournament included 56 players from many different states competing in six different rating groups for trophies, cash prizes, and rating points. Players' ratings ranged from 343 to 2370.

The morning groups featured dominant performances by the winners in the E (ratings ranged from 1036 to 1313) and F (from 343 to 1019) groups. Bryson Samuels defeated all seven opponents to finish the day undefeated in Group E. Chris Sharp was able to do the same in Group F, winning all seven matches. Group D (from 1375 to 1445) was as tightly contested as the ratings reflect with George Moses II capturing first place with a 7-2 record.

The afternoon/evening groups featured some of the top rated players in the country. Petra Sestakova, currently ranked fifth among women in the US, challenged a field in Group A that also included higher ranked Samson Dubina. However, the night ended with a match between two undefeated players for the title of Group A. Samson Dubina defeated Bob Powell in three straight games for the victory. The Group B title was won by 13-year-old Michael Mast with a record of 8-1. Group C also featured a dominant performance with Krish Divekar winning all nine matches to go undefeated in his group.

Group A: 1st Samson Dubina; 2nd Bob Powell; 3rd Petra Sestakova; 4th Tom Yost.
Group B: 1st Michael Mast; 2nd Amanda Dubina.
Group C: 1st Krish Divekar; 2nd Conrad "Bud" Henthorn.
Group D: 1st George Moses II; 2nd Ruying Chang.
Group E: 1st Bryson Samuels; 2nd Jayant Geete.
Group F: 1st Chris Sharp; 2nd Danny Moses.

The Northern Kentucky Open
Fort Thomas, KY • Sept. 11, 2004 • By Greg Thompson

Class A Champion Samson Dubina; Class B Champion Michael Mast; Class C Champion Krish Divekar.

The Northern Kentucky Fall 2004 Round Robin Open was held on Sept. 11, 2004 at the Campbell County YMCA in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. The two-star tournament included 56 players from many different states competing in six different rating groups for trophies, cash prizes, and rating points. Players' ratings ranged from 343 to 2370.

The morning groups featured dominant performances by the winners in the E (ratings ranged from 1036 to 1313) and F (from 343 to 1019) groups. Bryson Samuels defeated all seven opponents to finish the day undefeated in Group E. Chris Sharp was able to do the same in Group F, winning all seven matches. Group D (from 1375 to 1445) was as tightly contested as the ratings reflect with George Moses II capturing first place with a 7-2 record.

The afternoon/evening groups featured some of the top rated players in the country. Petra Sestakova, currently ranked fifth among women in the US, challenged a field in Group A that also included higher ranked Samson Dubina. However, the night ended with a match between two undefeated players for the title of Group A. Samson Dubina defeated Bob Powell in three straight games for the victory. The Group B title was won by 13-year-old Michael Mast with a record of 8-1. Group C also featured a dominant performance with Krish Divekar winning all nine matches to go undefeated in his group.

Group A: 1st Samson Dubina; 2nd Bob Powell; 3rd Petra Sestakova; 4th Tom Yost.
Group B: 1st Michael Mast; 2nd Amanda Dubina.
Group C: 1st Krish Divekar; 2nd Conrad "Bud" Henthorn.
Group D: 1st George Moses II; 2nd Ruying Chang.
Group E: 1st Bryson Samuels; 2nd Jayant Geete.
Group F: 1st Chris Sharp; 2nd Danny Moses.

The Northern Kentucky Open
Fort Thomas, KY • Sept. 11, 2004 • By Greg Thompson

Class A Champion Samson Dubina; Class B Champion Michael Mast; Class C Champion Krish Divekar.

The Northern Kentucky Fall 2004 Round Robin Open was held on Sept. 11, 2004 at the Campbell County YMCA in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. The two-star tournament included 56 players from many different states competing in six different rating groups for trophies, cash prizes, and rating points. Players' ratings ranged from 343 to 2370.

The morning groups featured dominant performances by the winners in the E (ratings ranged from 1036 to 1313) and F (from 343 to 1019) groups. Bryson Samuels defeated all seven opponents to finish the day undefeated in Group E. Chris Sharp was able to do the same in Group F, winning all seven matches. Group D (from 1375 to 1445) was as tightly contested as the ratings reflect with George Moses II capturing first place with a 7-2 record.

The afternoon/evening groups featured some of the top rated players in the country. Petra Sestakova, currently ranked fifth among women in the US, challenged a field in Group A that also included higher ranked Samson Dubina. However, the night ended with a match between two undefeated players for the title of Group A. Samson Dubina defeated Bob Powell in three straight games for the victory. The Group B title was won by 13-year-old Michael Mast with a record of 8-1. Group C also featured a dominant performance with Krish Divekar winning all nine matches to go undefeated in his group.

Group A: 1st Samson Dubina; 2nd Bob Powell; 3rd Petra Sestakova; 4th Tom Yost.
Group B: 1st Michael Mast; 2nd Amanda Dubina.
Group C: 1st Krish Divekar; 2nd Conrad "Bud" Henthorn.
Group D: 1st George Moses II; 2nd Ruying Chang.
Group E: 1st Bryson Samuels; 2nd Jayant Geete.
Group F: 1st Chris Sharp; 2nd Danny Moses.

The Northern Kentucky Open
Fort Thomas, KY • Sept. 11, 2004 • By Greg Thompson

Class A Champion Samson Dubina; Class B Champion Michael Mast; Class C Champion Krish Divekar.
Portland State University was once again home to the BIG WHACK. Saturday was devoted to round robin play, followed by single elimination, for the elementary and middle school events. Sunday was for the parents and teachers events, followed by the high school events.

There were 36 schools this year:

Roosevelt High
Benson High
Lake Oswego High
Parkrose High
Lakeridge High
David Douglas High
Central Catholic High
Reynolds High
Westview High
Reynolds High
Central Catholic High
West Sylvan Middle
David Douglas High
Lakeridge High
Oregon Episcopal
Beaumont Middle
South Albany High
Metro Learning Center
Oregon Episcopal
Beaumont Middle
Binnsmead Middle
South Albany High
Laurelhurst Elementary
Metro Learning Center
Margaret Scott Elem.
Oregon Episcopal
Mary Rieke Elem.
Beaumont Middle
Vestal Elementary
Binnsmead Middle
Portland State Univ.
Cheldelin Middle
Fernwood Middle
Univ. of Portland

In past years, going back to 2000, we have involved 30 other schools for a total of 66 in the last five years. The Portland Table Tennis Club did exhibitions at many of the schools and helped them to form clubs. Central Catholic has a 58-player ladder. Laurelhurst has 40 boys and 10 girls on its roster, with 16 tables!

Nicole Pan was a repeat winner last year in the elementary event. She was very dominant over all the girls, in contrast to last year when she had to deal with Kathy Lu and Lydia Ping.

Danya Nesterenko repeated in the high school category by defeating her classmate from David Douglas, Oksana Groz. This high school team champion this year.

Michael Chen, last year’s elementary winner, won the middle school championship, being only in the sixth grade.

Valerie and Brian Chia have proud parents as they won the middle girls and elementary boys, respectively. Valerie was fourth and Brian second in the same categories last year. Many of the kids have played in the BIG WHACK for 6-10 years.

Weil Pan, Nicole’s father, lost to two people in his round robin group but still made it out as the #2 survivor in his group. He won the adult event, winning from down 0-2 in the semifinals, and avenging a round robin loss to Marc Cioching in the final.

Anton Tulisov won the boys’ high school division after losing a match to Ziling Zhao in his round robin group. Anton goes to Reynolds, the largest high school in Oregon. After four years of looking, we found him through helping Reynolds start a program at their school. Coach Marc Ciochina put together an excellent boys’ and girls’ teams for our high school league this year.

Xuefeng Ziang is Wayne Xun’s mother. She bested Monya Phung, another penholder in the adult division. Xuefeng and Jianping Xun are always looking for training partners for Wayne, a third grader at Findley, the elementary school team champion this year.

Of the list of schools, we could have a club of the month every month and probably never be right because so many of them are outstanding clubs.

Each of these schools has its own detailed story and wow, are they waiting every year with trepidation and eager anticipation for the finals of the BIG WHACK!

We at the Portland TTC keep pushing and engineering. We help the schools to form clubs. We do assemblies and cafeteria exhibitions with sign-ups. We help with TT tables. We resurface their crummy paddles with good used rubber with the generous support of Paddle Palace. We subsidize some of the more needy players into our club and tournament play. We help with transportation. We coach. We don’t accept that a school is not interested. I know the kids at every school are interested.

If you are interested in this approach and would like to help us raise some serious money for a national program, please call me at 503-261-0672. I know we still have not scratched the surface.

Elementary School Girls – Final: Nicole Pan (Image) d. Honor Hehn (Laurelhurst), 11-6,11-4,11-2. 3rd Katelyn Hart (Laurelhurst) d. Bryanna Hickman (Margaret Scott), 11-7,8-11,11-7,11-5.

Elementary School Boys – Final: Brian Chia (Findley) d. Wayne Xun (Findley), 11-8,9-11,11-6,11-5. 3rd Rohan Vora (Mary Rieke) d. Graham Schreiber (Mary Rieke), 8-11,9-11,11-7,11-9.

Middle School Boys – Final: Michael Chen (Salen) d. Kolby Newton (Robert Gray), 11-7,11-8,11-7,3rd Ben Martin (Gregory Heights) d. Dylan Stokes (Robert Gray), 11-6,9-11,11-8,11-5.

High School Girls – Final: Danya Nesterenko (David Douglas) d. Oksana Groz (David Douglas), 11-8,11-8,12-10. 3rd Cari Chan (Benson) d. Allison Lu (Westview), 11-8,11-4,11-5.

High School Boys – Final: Anton Tulisov (Reynolds) d. Bo Lin (Lake Oswego), 12-10,11-6,11-5. 3rd Geoff Schwind (Sunset) d. Ziling Zhao (Lake Ridge), 11-7,4-11,11-6,11-16.


Adult Men – Final: Wei Pan (Vancouver) d. Marc Ciochina (Reynolds), 17-15,11-6,11-11,11-5. 3rd Charlie Liu (Lake Oswego) d. Rick Potter (Catholic), 6-11,9-11,12-10,11-8,11-9.

High School Boys’ Teams – Final: Central Catholic High & Westview tie 8-8, will play tie-breaker later on.


Elementary School Girls’ Teams – Final: Laurelhurst d. Margaret Scott, 83-14 (not a misprint – a 10 vs. 10 match, with 3 matches not played!).

The Chia’s - Mom Sara, Elementary Boys’ Champion Brian, Middle School Girls’ Champion Valerie, Dad Jerry - and Director Jim Scott.
Spin Mania Open
Atlanta, GA • Sept. 11-12, 2004
Open Singles – Final: Kwaovi Didi DeSouza d. Kim Bong Geun, 9,8,9,7; SF: DeSouza d. Chandramouli Shankaran, -8,14,8,7,12; Kim d. Preston Chin, 9,8,7,7,5; QF: Shankaran d. Kit Jeerapaet, -9,-8,7,6,13; Chin d. Shelby Lane, 5,3,8; DeSouza-bye; Kim-bye.
U2350 – Final: Chandramouli Shankaran d. Preston Chin, 5,10,8,2,10; SF: Shankaran d. Kit Jeerapaet, 5,-6,-6,9,5; Chin d. Kim Bong Geun, -10,9,-8,9,10.
U2200 – Final: Kit Jeerapaet d. Preston Chin, 7,7,7; SF: Jeerapaet d. George Cooper, -3,9,-7,9; Chin d. Shi Mingfei, 15,9,8.
U2100 – Final: George Cooper d. Preston Chin, 9,8,4; Cooper d. Shi Mingfei, 6,6,-9,9; Chin d. Ameb Shaw, 8,-7,7,4.
U2000 – Final: Edmund Suen d. Ananth Sundaram, -9,-10,9,9; SF: Suen d. Willy Leparulo, -7,9,-9,9,3; Sundaram d. Ross Brown, 6,-7,9,-7,7.
U1900: Ameb Shaw d. Michael Lalvani, -3,-7,10,7.
U1800: Faisal Khan d. Michael Harris, 9,-10,-13,6,10.
U1700: Serge Poncin d. Michael Harris, 5,4,7.
U1600: Alex Lehocky d. Jon Gastavson, 6,10,4.
U1500: Bailey McKay d. Michael Harris, -8,10,8,10.
U1400: Vasanth Babu d. Steve Newby, 6,-2,6,8.
U1300: Steve Newby d. Ge Andy Zhang, 9,9,6.
Over 40/U1200: George Cooper d. Gary Pratt, 7,9,9.
Under 14: 1' Jake Jones; 2' Willy Xiao; 3' Jarod Mark Frost; 4' Justin Watts.
U3600 Doubles: 1' Roman Tinyzsin/ Michael Lalvani; 2' Scott Lane/Shelby Lane.

Arizona Sizzler
Aug. 14-15 • Phoenix, AZ
Arizona Champion Semen Potaychuk and Runner-up Mitsitosh Nakada.
Open Singles: 1' Semen Potaychuk; 2' Mitsitosh Nakada.
Open Doubles: 1' Luis Houis/Mitsitosh Nakada; 2' Derrick Cone/Lucas.
Over 40: 1' Jim Tarkowski; 2' Tom Migliaccio.
Over 60: 1' Li Yuxiang, 2' Manh Loc Moc.

Power Pong Open
Fountain Valley, CA • July 31 – Aug. 1, 2004
Open: 1' Juan Carlos Acosta; 2' John Thach Tran; 3-4: Duang Khanh & Tri Dinh.
Open Doubles: 1' Duang Khang/Tung Phan; 2' Christopher Acosta/Tri Dinh.
U2250: 1' Jeff Huang; 2' Zoltan Boldy.
U2150: 1' Trung Nguyen; 2' Priscilla Uem.
U2000: 1' David Dang; 2' Albert Senter.
U1900: 1' David Dang; 2' Hiep Nguyen.
U1800: 1' Chi Tran; 2' Tin Nguyen.
U1700: 1' Alex Horvath; 2' Tin Nguyen.
U1600: 1' Ivan Lung; 2' Scott Roberts.
U1500: 1' Hieu Phan; 2' Giang Le.
U1400: 1' Hieu Phan; 2' Pierre Hackache.
U1300: 1' Jackson Musk; 2' Patrick Yuan.
U1200: 1' Martin Yeh; 2' Rob Little.
U1100: 1' Robin Wan; 2' Dan Huyn.
Novice: 1' Mathew Ma; 2' Robin Wan.
Unrated: 1' Pat DeLos Reyes; 2' Craig Strazzeri.
Over 40/U1650: 1' Christopher Portillo; 2' Michael Hoang.
Under 18: 1' Kyle Landry; 2' Anthony Chau; 3' Eugene Chau; 4' Anisa Mohammed.

Prof. Onasanya Inaugural Open
Becker College, NY • July 17, 2004
Men’s Singles – Final: David Zhang d. Chetan Baboor, -3,4,4,5,8,7; SF: Baboor d. De Tran, 9,9,7,9; Zhang d. Jun Tran Gao, 14,8,7,14; QF: Zhang d. Valrity Ort, 3,6,4; Gao d. Michael Oyebode, 9,-3,5,8,6; Dep. Atanda Musa, 10,-8,5,-8; Baboor – bye.
Women’s Singles: 1' Wung Chen; 2' N.R. Indu; 3' Yongmei Li; 4' Ruth Crowley.
Over 45: 1' Frank Dwelly; 2' Led Tam; 3' Greg Nikolich.
Under 17: 1' Kyle Landry; 2' Anthony Chau; 3' Eugene Chau; 4' Anisa Mohammed.

Schaumburg Open
Schaumburg, IL • Aug. 7, 2004
Group A: 1' Lukasz Fita; 2' Spenser Lam; 3' Lukasz Klimas; 4' Dick Peregrine.
Group B: 1' Jim Weiland; 2' Dave Fossett; 3' Scott Rief; 4' Kent Sham.
Group C: 1' Dave Stuckey; 2' Bob Uremovich; 3' Frank Matlion; 4' Ed Molenda.
Group D: 1' Brett Ogorzek; 2' Jeff Schill; 3' Stanley Chan; 4' Stephen Roberson.

Front row: Cheng Wang, Cliff Li, Paul Hadfield, Terry Huey, Xin Fu, Ben Phillips;
Back row: Aaron Montemayor, Wayne Myers, John Thaden.
Biggest Little Reno-Sparks Open
 Reno, NV • Sept. 18, 2004
 Open – Final RR: 1st Aura Malek, 1-1/4-4 (d. Kosan, 9,8,3,9); 2nd Misha Kazantsev, 1-1/4-4 (d. Kosan, 9,16,-7,9); 3rd Martin Kosan, 1-1/4-5 (d. Malek, 8,5,-3,6,8).

Rocky Mountain State Games
Colorado Springs, CO • July 31 - Aug. 1, 2004
Open: Gold: Roland Bozo; Silver: Richard McAfee; Bronze: Sanjiv Thakor.
Open Doubles: Gold: Slavomir Belha/Mike Mui; Silver: Jiri Mracek/Roland Bozo; Bronze: Mike Tarter/Sanjiv Thakor.
Recreational Juniors: Singles: Gold: Ryan Story; Silver: Daniel Capra; Bronze: Gregory Myers.
Seniors: Gold: Richard McAfee; Silver: Richard Howell; Bronze: Alfred Adjie.
Juniors: Gold: Markus Hannon; Silver: Philipp Hannon; Bronze: Alex Hureau.
U1900: Gold: Slavomir Belha; Silver: Nobuyuki Shiogat; Bronze: Charles Solomon.
U1600: Mike Tarter; Silver: Lance LaCerte; Bronze: Brian Workman.
Men 46-60 Singles: Gold: Michael Fushino; Silver: Lucas McNatt.
Women Over 40 Singles: Gold: Wendy Olson; Silver: Ping Fushino.
Women Over 40 Doubles: Gold: Wendy Olson; Silver: Ping Fushino.

International Police and Fire Games
Las Vegas, NV • Aug. 9, 2004
Open Singles: 1st Gold: Michael Fushino; Silver: Wendy Olson; Bronze: Robert Sarianna.
Men Under 30 Singles: Gold: Brian Workman; Silver: Lucas McNatt.
Men 31-45 Singles: Gold: Alex Vdovicin; Silver: Richard Jablonka.
Men 46-60 Singles: Gold: Robert Sarianna; Silver: Michael Fushino; Bronze: Vladimir Ul’yanov.
Women’s Singles: Gold: Wendy Olson; Silver: Ping Fushino.
Women Over 40 Singles: Gold: Wendy Olson; Silver: Ping Fushino.

Show-Me State Games
Columbia, MO • July 25-26, 2004
Open: 1st Gold: Roland Bozo; Silver: Richard McAfee; Bronze: Sanjiv Thakor.
Women: 1st Judy Todd; 2nd Claudia Bullock.
Over 40: 1st Jeff Johnston; 2nd Fred Halbig; 3rd John Browning; 4th Richard Tompson.
Under 17: 1st Andrew Louvier; 2nd Bold Bayarsaikhan; 3rd Jimmy Pan; 4th William Todd.
U1900: 1st Jeff Johnston; 2nd Andrew Louvier.
U1750: 1st Randy Kendle; 2nd Robert Simmons.
U1500: 1st Jimmy Pan; 2nd David Capps, Jr.
U1300: 1st Roger Powers; 2nd Dong Xu.
U1150: 1st Roger Powers; 2nd Kelly Kendle.
Class A Doubles: 1st Randy Kendle/Kelly Kendle; 2nd Bob Beckman/Judy Todd.
Aurora Malek d. James Therriault, 9,4,6,7,9.
Steve Varela d. Ralph Stadlerman, 9,7,-8,6,10.
Michael Liu d. Bob Mahler, -10,6,2,5,6.
Michael Liu d. Yuri Kretov, -9,8,3,10.
Glen Johnson d. Steve Reiling, -7,7,-8,8,3,9.
Antony Chen d. Allan Fermenberg, 10,5,5,6,3.
Jerry Swart d. Michael Low, 7,6,8,5.
Mike Sturtevant/Joe Bulatao d. Bob Mahler/Bob Vanslyke, 9,6,12,11.

Davison Open
Davison, MI • Aug. 28, 2004
Open: 1st Dennis Cobb; 2nd Mike Mast; 3rd Ivan Mast.
Under 30: 1st Andy Korby; 2nd Danny Duckin.
U2250: 1st Krishman Chandru; 2nd Dennis Cobb; 3rd Jennifer Mast.
U1200: 1st Jennifer Mast; 2nd Mike Mast.
U1950: 1st Dave Scarantino; 2nd Stefan Mitro.
U1800: 1st Teymour Sepahbodi; 2nd Justin Berchts.
U1700: 1st Dave Scarantino; 2nd Teymour Sepahbodi.
U1600: 1st Charles Sherman; 2nd Teymour Sepahbodi.
U1500: 1st Hicham Chami; 2nd Justin Herskyl.
U1350: 1st Hicham Chami; 2nd Bilal Chami.
U1250: 1st Allen Lim; 2nd Bilal Chami.
U1000: 1st Bilal Chami; 2nd Mike Miroamandi.
U3600 Doubles: 1st Dave Scarantino/Charles Sherman; 2nd Sam Darling/Kevin Spencer.

Are You Licensed to Spin the Spintech Way?

10% Discount
On All Orders before Dec 15, 2004

USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • Nov/Dec 2004
If you believe you should be on the Olympic Eligible list, contact Tommy Perkins at USATT, 719-866-4583, programs@usatt.org. You must be an Olympic Eligible USATT member and have played in the past year to be on the list.

**TOP OLYMPIC ELIGIBLE MEN**

1. MD 2643 Gao, Jun
2. CA 2472 Reed, Jasna
3. CA 2405 Banh, Tawny
4. NJ 2431 Yip, Lily
5. TX 2346 Golic, Biljana
6. CA 2335 Lee, Jacqueline
7. NY 2274 Ping, Whitney
8. OR 2274 Yang, Simone
9. CA 2269 Zhao, Hong
10. CA 2260 Wu, Katherine
11. CA 2260 Li, Lei
12. CA 2260 Xiao, Ling
13. CA 2260 Tao, Xing
14. CA 2260 Huang, Tong Sheng
15. CA 2260 Wu, Ning
16. CA 2260 Jiang, Hong
17. CA 2260 Ding, Yixing
18. CA 2260 Zhang, Wei
19. CA 2260 Liu, Jun
20. CA 2260 Chen, Li
21. CA 2260 Guo, Yifan
22. CA 2260 Li, Meng
23. CA 2260 Wang, Lei
24. CA 2260 Zhang, Shuai
25. CA 2260 Zhao, Hong

**NEW BLADES ON COMBO SPECIAL!**

**JOOLA**

**NEW BLADES ON COMBO SPECIAL!**

**TICKER**

Outstanding playing characteristics. Better speed, but with soft and sensitive ball response. Plays SW.

**TORRE**

Outstanding playing characteristics. Better speed, but with soft and sensitive ball response. Plays SW.

**STING**

The combination of timeliness, speed and control makes this the blade of a new wonder weapon especially for fresh grouts. Plays 7W Item: SOST. Speed OFF Blade only $43.95

**COMBO SPECIAL PRICE**

- **$79.95**
- **$86.95**
- **$92.95**

**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 Lead Ratings Officer. 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.

**USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • Nov/Dec 2004**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Singles</th>
<th>Women's Singles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Liu Shuang, David</td>
<td>1. Liu Shuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Wang, Chen</td>
<td>3. Wang, Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chen, Qing</td>
<td>4. Chen, Qing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ma, Xiaoli, Donna</td>
<td>5. Ma, Xiaoli, Donna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over 30 Men</th>
<th>Over 30 Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NJ 2720 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>1. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NJ 2720 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>2. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. NJ 2222 Hugh, Judy</td>
<td>3. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
<td>4. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50 Men</th>
<th>50 Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. CA 2311 Chen, Peter</td>
<td>1. CA 2311 Chen, Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. CA 2212 Hicks, H. Richard</td>
<td>2. CA 2212 Hicks, H. Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CA 2212 Bradfirth, George</td>
<td>3. CA 2212 Bradfirth, George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. CA 2192 Dong, Guang-Kui</td>
<td>4. CA 2192 Dong, Guang-Kui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. CA 1954 Minvestvis, Nick</td>
<td>5. CA 1954 Minvestvis, Nick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. TX 1963 Gordon, Grady Cox</td>
<td>8. TX 1963 Gordon, Grady Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. CA 1943 Bass, Norman</td>
<td>10. CA 1943 Bass, Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. CA 1324 Irving, Dorothy</td>
<td>11. CA 1324 Irving, Dorothy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. CA 1350 Uepppatayakul, Bill</td>
<td>12. CA 1350 Uepppatayakul, Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. NJ 1921 Kukakis, Mike</td>
<td>13. NJ 1921 Kukakis, Mike</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over 70 Men</th>
<th>Under 18 Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NY 2283 Bradfirth, George</td>
<td>1. MD 2490 Xing, Feng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. CA 1954 Minvestvis, Nick</td>
<td>2. NY 2313 Dickson, David C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. MO 1980 Hendry, George J.</td>
<td>3. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. IA 1970 Bogdzicek, Huelck</td>
<td>4. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. TX 1963 Gordon, Grady Cox</td>
<td>5. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. OH 1961 Orlu, Tadao</td>
<td>6. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CA 1324 Irving, Dorothy</td>
<td>7. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. CA 1350 Uepppatayakul, Bill</td>
<td>8. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over 70 Women</th>
<th>Under 18 Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. MD 2643 Gao, Jun</td>
<td>1. OR 2274 Ferguson, Whitney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NY 2490 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>2. NY 2490 Zhuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CA 2496 Chen, Jeong</td>
<td>3. CA 2496 Chen, Jeong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. M 2472 Reed, Jessica</td>
<td>4. M 2472 Reed, Jessica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. NJ 2431 Yip, Lily</td>
<td>5. NJ 2431 Yip, Lily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over 40 Men</th>
<th>Over 40 Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NJ 2720 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>1. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NJ 2720 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>2. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. NJ 2222 Hugh, Judy</td>
<td>3. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
<td>4. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>50 Men</th>
<th>50 Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. CA 2311 Chen, Peter</td>
<td>1. CA 2311 Chen, Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. CA 2212 Hicks, H. Richard</td>
<td>2. CA 2212 Hicks, H. Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CA 2212 Bradfirth, George</td>
<td>3. CA 2212 Bradfirth, George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. CA 2192 Dong, Guang-Kui</td>
<td>4. CA 2192 Dong, Guang-Kui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. CA 1954 Minvestvis, Nick</td>
<td>5. CA 1954 Minvestvis, Nick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. TX 1963 Gordon, Grady Cox</td>
<td>8. TX 1963 Gordon, Grady Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. CA 1943 Bass, Norman</td>
<td>10. CA 1943 Bass, Norman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. CA 1324 Irving, Dorothy</td>
<td>11. CA 1324 Irving, Dorothy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. CA 1350 Uepppatayakul, Bill</td>
<td>12. CA 1350 Uepppatayakul, Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. NJ 1921 Kukakis, Mike</td>
<td>13. NJ 1921 Kukakis, Mike</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over 70 Men</th>
<th>Under 18 Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NY 2283 Bradfirth, George</td>
<td>1. MD 2490 Xing, Feng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. CA 1954 Minvestvis, Nick</td>
<td>2. NY 2490 Zhuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. MO 1980 Hendry, George J.</td>
<td>3. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. IA 1970 Bogdzicek, Huelck</td>
<td>4. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. TX 1963 Gordon, Grady Cox</td>
<td>5. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. OH 1961 Orlu, Tadao</td>
<td>6. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CA 1324 Irving, Dorothy</td>
<td>7. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. CA 1350 Uepppatayakul, Bill</td>
<td>8. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. NJ 1921 Kukakis, Mike</td>
<td>9. CA 2316 Samari, Ramin R.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 18 Girls</th>
<th>Over 18 Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. OR 2274 Ferguson, Whitney</td>
<td>1. CA 2199 Runyan, Trevor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NY 2490 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>2. CA 2192 Hugh, Lim Fei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CA 2496 Chen, Jeong</td>
<td>3. CA 2496 Chen, Jeong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. M 2472 Reed, Jessica</td>
<td>4. CA 2402 Eav, Wendy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. NJ 2431 Yip, Lily</td>
<td>5. CA 2106 Fong, Ahia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. NY 2482 Li, Yuxiang</td>
<td>6. CA 2121 Chen, Steven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. CA 2496 Chen, Jeong</td>
<td>7. FL 1992 Deiso Infante, Mirella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. CA 2643 Gao, Jun</td>
<td>8. CA 1924 Li, Wei, Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. CA 2643 Gao, Jun</td>
<td>9. OH 1865 Mast, Jennifer Mac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. CA 2643 Gao, Jun</td>
<td>10. CA 1924 Li, Wei, Barbara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Under 18 Boys</th>
<th>Over 18 Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. MD 2545 Xiao, Han</td>
<td>1. MD 2545 Xiao, Han</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NY 2490 Zhuang, David</td>
<td>2. NY 2490 Zhuang, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CA 2411 Kazantsev, Mira</td>
<td>3. CA 2411 Kazantsev, Mira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NJ 2274 Lin, Jeff</td>
<td>4. NJ 2274 Lin, Jeff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. CA 2643 Finkelstein, Eric</td>
<td>5. CA 2643 Finkelstein, Eric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. CA 2121 Chan, Steven</td>
<td>6. CA 2121 Chan, Steven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. MD 2211 Nadamchettu, Raghu</td>
<td>7. MD 2211 Nadamchettu, Raghu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. CA 2121 Chan, Steven</td>
<td>8. CA 2121 Chan, Steven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. CA 2402 Eav, Wendy</td>
<td>9. CA 2402 Eav, Wendy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. CA 2106 Fong, Ahia</td>
<td>10. CA 2106 Fong, Ahia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. FL 1970 Watson, Kane</td>
<td>11. FL 1970 Watson, Kane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. CO 2142 Leach, John</td>
<td>12. CO 2142 Leach, John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. CA 2131 Chen, Steven</td>
<td>13. CA 2131 Chen, Steven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. CA 2142 Hicks, Dickie</td>
<td>14. CA 2142 Hicks, Dickie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. FL 1550 Edwards, Aaron</td>
<td>15. FL 1550 Edwards, Aaron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ng</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbe</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbott</td>
<td>VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absher</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abrahamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abreu</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abernathy</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ackerman</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adair</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adairson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamey</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adao</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**USATSA Tennis Magazine**  • Nov/Dec 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Difference (higher - lower)</th>
<th>Lower player wins</th>
<th>Higher player wins</th>
<th>Lower player loses</th>
<th>Higher player loses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-37</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38-62</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-87</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88-112</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113-137</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138-162</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163-187</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188-212</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USATSA Rating Chart**

**Special**

The above table outlines the ratings for various skill levels in tennis, showing the difference in scores between higher and lower players, along with the number of wins and losses for each category. The chart helps players understand their performance relative to others in different skill ranges.
November 6 - “Dave Zapatka” Fall Open Classic, Springfield, MO. Contact: William Lewis, 417-890-8092. epucotmagic@aol.com. ☑

November 6 - Atlanta Giant Round Robin, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Wendell Dillon, 770-923-5110. pong35@mindspring.com. ★

November 6 - Austin Fall Round Robin, Austin, TX. Contact: Mike Hendry, 512-635-7942. mvsmith@ix.netcom.com. ★

November 6 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 6 - November 6 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 6, 7 - High Desert Open, Victorville, CA. Contact: Blake Hoard, 760-962-8846. blakekibo@iwon.com. **

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

November 6 - Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 6-7 - High Desert Open, Victorville, CA. Contact: Blake Hoard, 760-962-8846. blakekibo@iwon.com. ★

November 6-7 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 6-7 - NTATT November Open At NYTTF, New York, NY. Contact: North American Table Tennis, 301-738-8250. info@natabletennis.com. ★

November 6-7 - Northeast PA Open TT Championships, Nanticoke, PA. Contact: David C. Dickson Jr., 570-759-8659. d.dickson@bwkip.com. ★

November 6-7 - Mary Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 6-7 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. ★

November 6-7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 6-7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 6-7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 7 - November 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. ★

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

November 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. 0 Star

November 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. ★

November 7 - Piedmont TT Open, Greensboro, NC. Contact: Douglas A. Paul, 910-769-3222. pingpong54@aol.com. ★

May 21-22 - NJTTC May Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

March 21-22 - NJTTC May Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

April 16-17 - Oregon Closed Championships, Salem, OR. Contact: Bob Mahler, 503-589-4878. admin@sunbutech.com. ★

March 21-22 - NJTTC May Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

May 28-29 - Golden State Open, Moraga, CA. Contact: Philip J. Schafer, 925-689-7463. phlitchi@hotmail.com. ★


December 5 - Pensacola FL Holiday Open, Pensacola, FL. Contact: L.A. Johnston, 850-494-1784. mermaid_services@juno.com. 0 Star

November 20 - Cary Open Giant RR Jamboree, Apex, NC. Contact: James A. McQueen Jr., 919-787-3788. jmrcqueen@nc.rr.com. 0 Star

November 20 - Highland Giant Round Robin, Highland, IN. Contact: Keith Jones, 219-838-0114. kjonezy@aol.com. ★

November 20 - Maryland Giant RR, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

November 20 - November 20 - Nicholas Group Sunburst Tour #7, Clearwater, FL. Contact: Margo Lindsay, 727-669-0899. blackbart500@aol.com. ★


November 21-22 - Power Pong Open, Fountain Valley, CA. Contact: Vi Bloom, 562-430-9026. halfboom@dsexteme.com. ★★★

November 22-23 - 2005 Winter Broward TT Open, Davie, FL. Contact: Carlos Zeller, 954-962-8833. cz953956@aol.com. ★★


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

January 9-10 - January 9-10 - Maryland Circuit, Eldersburg, MD. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star


February 5-6 - February 5-6 - NJTTC February Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

February 5-6 - NJTTC February Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Yvonne M. Kronlage, 410-489-7291. 0 Star

March 5-6 - NJTTC March Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

March 5-6 - NJTTC March Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

March 5-6 - NJTTC March Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

March 5-6 - NJTTC March Open, Westfield, NJ. Contact: Larry Bavly, 732-828-3511. profbav@verizon.net. ★

March 12 - Atlanta Giant Round Robin, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Wendell Dillon, 770-923-5110. pong35@mindspring.com. ★★
Two weeks after the 28th Olympic Games concluded, the 12th Paralympic Games, with 3,969 athletes from 136 countries, took center stage to show the world the heartfelt meaning of dedication, inspiration and courage.

A total of 19 sports fought for gold, silver and bronze medals in events such as wheelchair basketball, tennis, shooting, swimming, athletics, and of course table tennis, plus some not on the Olympic program like rugby and boccia.

Disabled table tennis is made up of 10 distinct classes for both men and women. Classes 1-5 are dedicated for wheelchair players, while classes 6-10 are for standing disabled events. Although no doubles are contested, Corbillion (or Davis Cup) team events are played in most of the classes.

The United States Paralympic Table Tennis Team, while small in size, was big on experience and desire. Led by Team Captain Jennifer Johnson from Port Chester, NY, participating in her sixth straight Paralympics (three gold, three silver and one bronze medal), the team was made up of Tahl Leibovitz from Elmhurst, NY (1996 Gold and Bronze Medalist) and newcomer Wayne Lo from Sunnyvale, CA. Due to the small size of the team, Sean O’Neill from Charlottesville, VA doubled as the Head Coach and Team Leader.

Qualifying to participate in Athens was no easy task. Players needed to win their regional qualifications (Para Pan Am Games) or be ranked in the top 10 in the world in their class. A total of 239 athletes from 43 countries saw table tennis action at the Galatsi Olympic Hall.

Our group gathered in Washington, DC for team processing on September 8 prior to leaving two days later after receiving an abundant amount of Adidas, Roots and STIGA clothing. Athletes were also fitted for rings and watches to commemorate being members of the 2004 United States Paralympic Team.

The entire delegation took a charter flight from Dulles International Airport and arrived in Athens ready for action. After a few days of intense practice in the training hall and in the main table tennis venue, the team got a little break for some culture and visited the Acropolis and did some downtown shopping.

The Opening Ceremonies were simply amazing. For Wayne it was his first and clearly a night he will never forget. Team USA marched behind the flag bearer and 9-11 World Trade Center Survivor Kevin Szott from the sport of Judo.

The Competition

**Women’s Class 4**

In Jennifer’s first match she faced a very capable opponent in Marie Teresa Arenales Huerta of Mexico. Huerta and Johnson both use long pips on their backhands so it was a classic battle of placement and surprise attacks from the forehand side. Jennifer had slow starts in both the first and second game, falling 3-11 and 4-11, and got nipped at the end of game three, 9-11.

In her second match Jennifer ran up against eventual Class 4 silver medalist Valeria Zorzetto of Italy, a cagey lefty also with long pips on her backhand and again had trouble with getting her offense going. The final scores were 7,5,5. The combination of a softer ball and slower table than Jennifer is accustomed to seemed to be a major factor in the match.
The Official Shirt of the US Table Tennis Olympic Team

Shirt Diamond
Red / Navy / Grey

Shirt Diamond
Navy / Grey / Wine-Red

Shirt Diamond
Royal / Navy / Yellow

For A Full Line Of Stiga Clothing Contact Us Today. The Table Tennis Pioneers Web: ping-pong.com e-mail: ttpioneers@ping-pong.com Tel: (800) 319-PING (7464) Fax: (800) 319-PONG (7664) Best Price - Guaranteed!

Stiga is a registered trademark of Stiga AB, Sweden
I

in the tradition of Anglo-American law, nothing carries more weight than testimony. Attesting to something, providing first-hand accounts, bearing witness, is the ultimate proof. At this year’s Matthew J. Murad Memorial, there was a whole lot of testifying going on, proof of performance was rendered, and in the end, a convincing verdict.

This is the proof that Matthew Murad himself is gone, but not forgotten. This was the fourth 4-star tournament held in his memory, and once again it attracted top players and a large group of enthusiasts. Held at the Discovery Sportcenter in Boyds, MD, spacious court sizes and a space-age sports floor gave better than usual tournament playing conditions. Matt would be proud of the progress made in the tournament, and, I think, in the sport overall in the years since his untimely departure.

Kudos to Tournament Director Fong Hsu and Tournament Ref Terry Bell for a well-managed competition! Table Tennis Pioneers was on hand is support of the tournament, the fourth stop on the 2004 STIGA North American Tour. Jack and Mozart did a brisk business and enjoyed their location next to Table One.

Matt’s parents, Ronald and Gloria, have created a living memorial to their son that is worthy of his name. Players are impressed not just with the prize money, but also with the concept of an annual trophy. Only two names appear on that loving cup, the only two players to ever have won the tournament are David Zhuang and Fan Yi Yong. That’s pretty steep competition!

Competition is not limited to the highest levels of play, however, and great competitive matches were to be found at all levels of play. Reza Ghiasi managed to win both the Boys’ Under 13 and Boys’ Under 16, overcoming a 0-3 game deficit to Taiyee Chien. Dominique Flexer was happy to claim second, twice! She made the finals of both Under 1550 and Under 1700, making valiant efforts against both Dimitri Moundous and Gary Schagger. No disappointment on her face when she held aloft her award and announced, “My first Trophy!” Chance Friend won both Under 950 and Under 800, but appeared to cherish most his 4-1 victory over his father, Todd in Under 800. Mackenzie Friend added to the family’s hardware haul by taking the Girls’ Under 10 title with brother Spencer contributing a second place in Boys’ Under 10 as well.

Some notable upsets included Xavier Therien’s convincing 4-1 victory over a defeated Barney Reed in Open Singles Round Robin play. Barney came out on the short end of a three-way tie that advanced De Tran and Therien to Quarterfinal matches. Samson Dubina, the Under 22 Men’s champ, came second in Under 2375 to Raghu Nadmichettu, a wonderful win for Raghu, especially given the fact that the visibly improved Samson was playing exceptionally well, as his other results bear out.

Quarterfinals

Thomas Keinath vs. Paul David

A reprise of the Eastern Open final, only here it occurred in the Quarters. Paul was able to hang with Keinath, but as he often does, Thomas showed “an extra gear” when he needed it. At the table, Thomas does not fool around, and made an effort to close the door, which he does in straight games, 7,5,9,9.

Gao Yan Jun vs. Xavier Therien

The most exciting match in this round! Gao had dropped a match to Samson Dubina in the Qualifying Round Robin, a real breakthrough for the kid from Ohio. It’s hard to make up my mind about Gao, despite this being the third tournament I’ve seen him play. At first he seemed to be a forehand threatening machine, and that is a nice shot, but he’s much more reliable on his backhand wing, and here he seemed a more backhand oriented player. With his companion/coach/moral support, Helen, in his corner, Xavier split the first two games with his German opponent, then took a 2-1 lead, largely by driving through Gao’s forehand corner. Gao mounts a fine comeback and takes games four and five by identical 11-9 scores. The crowd is completely focused now, as each point is a real cliff-hanger in this competitive match. Gao establishes a 9-6 lead in game six, and is “right there,” only two points from advancing. Xavier takes a timeout and comes back to the table determined to leave nothing in his tank. Amazing!! One, two, three, four, yes, fans, five straight points gives him the sixth game and a fresh start.

Adding the 2-0 start to game seven, and that timeout led to seven straight points for Xavier against the Bundesliga player. But Gao isn’t folding, so naturally, the seventh game goes to deuce. How could it be otherwise in this fine competitive match? Xavier comes up big in a match that it’s a shame for anyone to lose, 7-11, 11-9, 9, 9, 10.

Samson Dubina vs. Tahl Leibovitz

Taking the first game 11-9, Samson is threatening to continue his big weekend, but Tahl, preparing for the Paralympics, slated for Athens, and determined to increase his Tour winnings, makes it the only game Samson can find. Tahl is a tough nut to crack, and it’s one of the finest matches I’ve seen him play as he eliminates the form-perfect young looper, 9,8,4,9,6.

De Tran vs. David Zhuang

Coming straight from a TV interview to the match, De has to take on the buzzsaw that is David. De Tran finds himself in his backhand corner, hitting forehands into David’s justly famous backhand blocks. There’s no hope here, as David pounces to a quick and I mean quick 3-0 lead. It’s a lot less formal in the fourth, and David nearly lets it get away from him as he switches into enjoyment mode, but in the end, these two find there way to a 5,7,11 result for the man from Westfield.

Semifinals

Thomas Keinath vs. Xavier Therien

You gotta feel good for Xavier to see him going deeper and deeper in the Open events, but here’s the rub! Sooner or later you encounter the top seed. It’s a superior service game, an extra shot per rally and the learning curve is steep, as Thomas begins the match three-balling mercilessly. Xavier is getting the hang of it as the match progresses, but this is no place to be doing your homework, you either have a practice partner capable of playing like a German Nationals Men’s semifinalist, or you don’t. Keinath sparks Xavier for not having faced International players daily, 5,4,8,9.

David Zhuang vs. Tahl Leibovitz

Similar circumstances for Tahl, who has to advance past a multiple U.S. Men’s Singles Champion if he wants to reach the Final. But Tahl is completely controlled by David, and while there is no shame in that, there’s no way to get by him, either. David wins by scores of 6,4,5,5. Tahl takes his semifinal money and his medicine at the hands of his friend.

Championship Match

David Zhuang vs. Thomas Keinath

So in the end it once again came down to the pairing of David Zhuang and Thomas Keinath in the Championship Final. These two have contributed several exciting matches to table tennis in the recent past, David’s big victory against Thomas in last year’s Teams final, Keinath’s wonderful come-from-behind win at the STIGA Open being the two most recent. But today David was in control all the way to take the title and add his name for a third time to the annual trophy.
What I noticed in this match was the way David dominated play with his backhand penhold block. There were many backhand to backhand rallies, but not by Keinath’s choice! Zhuang effectively pinned the younger man down by varying his block’s spin, pace and placements, and Keinath, try as he might, could not loop through it with consistency. Playing to David’s forehand was far more effective for him, but he simply couldn’t get there often enough. In response to David’s famous service game, Thomas showed a few high-toss serves of his own, but not to any great effect. David was definitely at the top of his game in this match! The normally unflappable Keinath was talking to himself before it was all over, but seemed unable to provide any good answers. It’s David alf the way, today, and not even a third game timeout can help Thomas. No ghosts for David! He wins by scores of 7,8,6,6.

But when the two players posed for photographs with the Murads, it was evident that the answers are all good. Hard-fought points and games behind us, we record the match results and embrace in mutual respect and a shared love for our sport.

Kudos to Tournament Director Fong Hsu and Tournament Ref Terry Bell for a well-managed competition! Many thanks to Larry Hodges and Larry Bavly for their umpiring help. Table Tennis Pioneers was on hand is support of the tournament, the fourth stop on the 2004 STIGA North American Tour. Jack and Mozart did a brisk business and enjoyed their location next to Table One.

For the NATT staff, it was time to pack up the control desk and roll away the STIGA tables. Matthew would be proud.

Open Singles – Final: David Zhuang d Thomas Keinath; 7,8,6,6; SF: Thomas Keinath d. Xavier Therien, 5,4,8,9; David Zhuang d. Tahl Leibovitz, 6,4,5,5; QF: Thomas Keinath d. Paul David, 7,5,9,7; Xavier Therien d. Gao Yan Jun, 7,6,9,9; Tahl Leibovitz d. Samson Dubina, 9,8,4,9; David Zhuang d. De Tran, 5,7,7,11.

Women’s Singles: Charlene Liu d. Donna Sakai, 9,8,3,5.

Over 40: De Tran d. Changping Duan; 9,8,12,8.

Over 50: Changping Duan d. Gary Fraiman; 7,6,9,9,5,7.

Over 60: 1st Tommy Castronova; 2nd Raymond Chen.


Under 18 Boys: Eric Finkelstein d. Thomas An, 8,9,7,9.

Under 16 RR: Reza Ghiasi d. Taiyee Chieri, 7,9,9,7.

Under 16 Girls: 1st Isabella Chen.

Under 14 Boys: Reza Ghiasi d. Thomas An, 8,9,7,9.

Under 13 Girls: 1st Isabella Chen; 2nd Yi Amy Xiao.

Under 10 RR: 1st Vikash Sahu; 2nd Spencer Friend.


U2500: Xavier Therien d. Paul David, 3,8,8,8,4,8.

U2375: Raghu Nadmichettu d. Samson Dubina, 5,8,8,4,8.

U2250: Eric Finkelstein d. Richard DeWitt, 4,10,9,2,6,7,6.


U2000: Bill Vogel d. Fadi Kaddoura, 3,10,9,8,9.

U1850: Richard Johnson d. Andreas Muenchow, 7,6,9,5.

U1700: Gary Schlager d. Dominique Flexer, 13,6,9,7,9.

U1550: Dimitri Moundous d. Dominique Flexer, 9,7,3,8,8,5.

U1400: Norman Yao d. Richard Shrou, 10,6,7,9,7.

U1250: Douglas Debelak d. Rohit Dewan, 8,7,10,10.

U1100: Rohit Dewan d. Steve Neumann, 6,8,5,8,2,5.

U950: Chance Friend d. Edward Foxwell, 7,9,9.

U800/Unrated: Chance Friend d. Todd Friend, 5,5,9,8,7,3.

U4200 Doubles: Eric Finkelstein/Alden Fan d. Ben Johnson/Caro Lehmanian, 10,9,8,3.

Western Open

on the STIGA North American Tour

FREMONT, CA • SEPT. 4-5, 2004 • BY ALAN WILLIAMS

California is always a special treat for us on the North American Tour. Aside from the fact that California is so beautiful and weather-perfect every time we're there, in stark contrast to flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes we've encountered elsewhere, the California players are a special treat. Enthusiastic and good-natured, they treated us to a very special weekend this Labor Day.

The final stop of the 2004 Tour gave us a brand new champion, someone who had never before won the open title at one of our events. We met Bill Lu's latest junior Phenom, Melody Wang, who won the Under 1100, the Under 1250, and came second to the 1500ish Kim Dongwook in the Under 800/Unrated. Melody was practically a one-woman show! We were also treated to a VSOP (Very Special Outstanding Performance) by the nearly legendary Peter Chen, long pip blocker. (See box.) Peter, 68 years young, won the Under 2250 event, beating hot junior Trevor Runyan. He had another of his legendary battles with Dave Sakai, this time coming second in the Over 50 in a seven game that lasted well over an hour. He qualified for the Second Stage Round Robin in Open Singles where he defeated the stylish lefty Ludovic Gombos and came within two points of upsetting 2004 Olympian Khoa Nyguen!

Congratulations are also in order for Misha Kazantsev, winner of both Under 22 and Under 18 Boys, over Auria Malek and Trevor Runyan, respectively. Kudos as well to Jackie Lee, Women's Singles Champ., who smacked a 7-game battle with Heather Wang to take the title.

When the Quarterfinals began in Open Singles, there was only one previous STIGA NA Tour Champ in the field of 8 players, US Olympian Khoa Nyguen, who captured the Golden Gate Open at Fort Mason in 2000. Three Canadians reached this level and five Americans, three from California and two from New York.

Here's what happened.

Quarterfinals

Misha Kazantsev vs. Pradeeban Peter-Paul

Pradeeban has been a consistent entrant over the years on the STIGA tour, and while often close, has never laid claim to the "Top Slot." His game is all fast-twitch and very muscular, often serving long and deep to begin points as full-soft mano-a-mano at the table contests of reflexes. If he is forced from the table, he goes soft, and is as likely to lob as to counterloop. Misha is a rising American junior who is rapidly learning to balance that forehand that attracted so much early attention with equally potent backhand play. Here, serve return became critical, and as the match progressed, Misha had trouble dictating the points. Pradeeban was often set up for the kill, and won in four straight games, 4,12,0,6.

Barney Reed vs. Paul David

Both of these players had something to prove at the tournament, as Paul wanted to consolidate that wonderful performance at the Easterns, and Barney wanted to erase the memory of failing to reach the Quarters at the Murad. When Paul David took the first two games, he had established complete control. A distraught Barney raised his voice to the heavens, "What is WRONG!?" but Paul could just as easily have asked that in the fifth game when Barney mishit a lob which landed short on Paul's FH side, and then bounded wickedly away as Paul set up in his BH corner for a smash. That point proved crucial to the game, which Barney took, along with the last. Afterward, Paul said, "I forgot what was working and started to play his forehand." Barney advanced, 3,-9,7,8,9,7.

Tahl Leibovitz vs. Xavier Therien

Therien is undemonstrative and poised, while Tahl is all fire and passion. Every game was close, although the match was quickly decided. Tahl earned a yellow card from Umpire Saul Weinstein with a tentative table service, an error that he had not committed in any previous match. Tahl stormed back from a 10-4 deficit to force a deuce. He had lost in game three. The game was on, and Tahl's serve took the 10-6 final.

Homayoun Kamkar-Parsi

Homayoun has a build, stocky, short-armed, that we all are familiar with from club play, what I call a "short-armed looper." No big, extravagant strokes here! All compact motions and quickness, Kamkar-Parsi also struck me as "tactically advanced." I believe that he knew, or quickly realized, that Khoa's textbook strokes and devastating forehand attack is based on rhythm, and then did whatever he could to disrupt that rhythm. Throughout the match, Khoa would have difficulty getting his feet set, and whenever he began to shape for a stroke, Kamkar-Parsi was sure to find the most awkward angle to present, adjusting his blocks and backhand flips to the most inconvenient spots. One point stands out in my memory as epitomizing the problem Khoa was confronting. From his backhand corner, Khoa attacks Homayoun dead center. He counters with a backhand loop, which, as it bounces, takes an I-Kid-You-Not eight-inch sideways break! Khoa's backhand answer is a last moment adjustment, leaning to his left. Homayoun shapes the same shot, and now Khoa moves to the sidepips break, but there is none. Now he is leaning to his right as he backhands into Kamkar-Parsi again. He adjusts himself by moving back to his left, into the backhand corner, and is passed outright at the Canadian takes the ball right off the bounce and flicks a clean winner down the forehand corner as Khoa moves away from that spot. Nasty! In five hotly contested games, Khoa cannot establish the movement and rhythm that makes his "A" game so devastating. In the final game, clawing back from four points down, everything slows, with Kamkar-Parsi holding serve until the instant Khoa's concentration breaks. Despite repeated protests to the umpiring crew, Khoa can't get a call, and Kamkar-Parsi shrugs, seemingly oblivious to any problem. But (bounce the ball/palm the ball/bounce the ball) he's in no hurry to start the points, either. And when the ball is finally put into play, it's a nasty short topspin number that Khoa flips a good two feet off the table. In response to my question after the match, Khoa, picking up Quarterfinal money, said "Heck, yes! It's annoying!" It looked it. Kamkar-Parsi moves to the Semifinals, 10,-6,9,8,7.

Semifinals

Xavier Therien vs. Homayoun Kamkar-Parsi

It really pays to keep your head and your wits about you, and these two players, whom I presume have frequently encountered each other in Canadian play, give us a good one! Xavier keeps his focus very well, and is not afraid to use a timeout to regain it when he needs it. The points are his whenever he can bring it longer.
Pradeeban Peter-Paul

Barney J. Reed

Homayoun Kamkar-Farsi

Xavier Therien

Khoa Nguyen

Jackie Lee

Misha Kazantsev

Paul David

Auria Malek

Images from the Western Open

Photos of Peter-Paul, Therien, Nguyen, Lee and David by Gerry Chua ©2004.


USA TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE • Nov/Dec 2004
The Footwork of Olympic Men's Singles Gold Medalist

Ryu Seung Min

By Wei Wang, USATT Hall of Famer and Certified National Coach
Every once in a while, a player appears on the scene who changes the whole equation of carefully studied strategies. Generally, these have evolved based on empirical data acquired over the course of the existence of the sport. These have led to assumptions about how quickly a human can get from one point to another given a certain set of circumstances. Patterns were developed, designed to place a shot outside of the opponent's range. Although his predecessor and now-coach Kim Taek Soo had pushed the envelope of that range throughout his illustrious career, U.S. Open and Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min has introduced a new paradigm: What if a player extends his range to where there are no more "dead spots," no more areas where he can not reach the ball? This summer, it must have seemed that way to many of Ryu's opponents. Widely considered to be the fastest man in table tennis, the young Korean stunned his competitors at the Killerspin U.S. Open and at the Olympics by not only running down balls that seemed way beyond anyone's reach, but powering them back with uncanny accuracy.

This leads us to a further area, in which Ryu has taken over from Kim Taek Soo: It is the lead in the "biggest bomb" category. Despite his moderate size, the 22-year-old has developed such a monster forehand that even the master of blocking J.O. Waldner could not get the ball down on the table even when he anticipated the placement perfectly. In addition to the tremendous drive, Ryu apparently generates more spin than the current top players can handle.

That power results from a perfectly timed sequence of events that coordinates the energy flow from his legs, hip, torso, shoulders, upper arm, lower arm and finally his wrist to achieve maximum racket speed just when the ball reaches the center of his power zone. This technique translates directly into shakehand play, although due to the nature of the equipment and grip, penholders will continue to have the edge on power.

The picture sequences make it quite clear where that power comes from. In both sequences, Ryu is running around the backhand to take a strong forehand - one of his favorite ways to start an attack. Both times, the power shot was set up by an excellent serve. fronting a certain set of circumstances. Patterns were developed, designed to place a shot outside of the opponent's range. Although his predecessor and now-coach Kim Taek Soo had pushed the envelope of that range throughout his illustrious career, U.S. Open and Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min has introduced a new paradigm: What if a player extends his range to where there are no more "dead spots," no more areas where he can not reach the ball? This summer, it must have seemed that way to many of Ryu's opponents. Widely considered to be the fastest man in table tennis, the young Korean stunned his competitors at the Killerspin U.S. Open and at the Olympics by not only running down balls that seemed way beyond anyone's reach, but powering them back with uncanny accuracy.

This leads us to a further area, in which Ryu has taken over from Kim Taek Soo: It is the lead in the "biggest bomb" category. Despite his moderate size, the 22-year-old has developed such a monster forehand that even the master of blocking J.O. Waldner could not get the ball down on the table even when he anticipated the placement perfectly. In addition to the tremendous drive, Ryu apparently generates more spin than the current top players can handle.

That power results from a perfectly timed sequence of events that coordinates the energy flow from his legs, hip, torso, shoulders, upper arm, lower arm and finally his wrist to achieve maximum racket speed just when the ball reaches the center of his power zone. This technique translates directly into shakehand play, although due to the nature of the equipment and grip, penholders will continue to have the edge on power.

The picture sequences make it quite clear where that power comes from. In both sequences, Ryu is running around the backhand to take a strong forehand - one of his favorite ways to start an attack. Both times, the power shot was set up by an excellent serve.

Men's Singles Quarterfinal

Vladimir Samsonov (BLR) - Peter Franz (GER)
Ryu Seung Min (KOR) - Joo Se Hyuk (KOR)

Men's Singles Final

Chuan Chih Yuan (TPE) - Ryu Seung Min (KOR)

Men's Doubles Final

Chuan Chih Yuan / Lin Ju (DOM) - Lee Chih Seung / Ryu Seung Min (KOR)

Men's Singles Final

Chuan Chih Yuan (TPE) - Ryu Seung Min (KOR)

THE 2004 KILLERSPIN
US OPEN PRO TOUR - ON DVD!

After a one-year absence, the ITTF Pro Tour has come back to the US. By courtesy of Killerspin, Alpha Productions brings you the most important matches of this event - the last major tournament before the Athens Olympics - on a DVD set containing 6 hours of the official ITTF broadcast footage. Exciting matches, complete from first to last point, including a two-minute highlight re-cap at the end of each match.

$25 per DVD + $3.85 shipping

Special offer: BUY TWO GET THE THIRD FOR $5:

$55 + $3.85 shipping

FOR THE SET OF 3 DVDs

Call 1 800 500-5057 or visit
www.alphatabletennis.com
Who Has?

The Best Customer Service

The Best Prices - Guaranteed!

The Largest Selection Of Products & Brands

Great Savings On Numerous Specials, Including Combo Specials

A Newly Redesigned Web Site With Fantastic Weekly Specials

Unbelievable Advantages With A Frequent Buyer Program

Up To Date Online Inventory, And Tracking

The Best Deals On Tables & Robots

Rush Delivery

The Table Tennis Pioneers @ ping-pong.com would like to extend our warm wishes to the entire table tennis community for a happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.
ONLY 1 ANSWER...

ping-pong.com
1-800-319-PING (7464)

DEDICATED TO SERVING ALL OF YOUR TABLE TENNIS NEEDS
Tournament Used Tables
from the 2004 U.S. National Championships in Las Vegas, NV

Centrefold 25 Sky Rollaway

$1099.99*  $1499.99 regular price

- 1" thick top
- Edge Banding
- 2" x 3/4" Steel Rim
- 2" Square Steel Legs w/ adjustable feet
- Europa Net Set Included
- 5" Rubber Wheels

Europa 25 Sky Stationary

$949.99*  $1249.99 regular price

- 1" thick top
- Edge Banding
- 2" x 3/4" Steel Rim
- 2" Square Wooden Legs
- National League Net Set Included
- 1 7/8" Rubber Wheels

* Prices include freight charges to most destinations within the 48 contiguous United States.