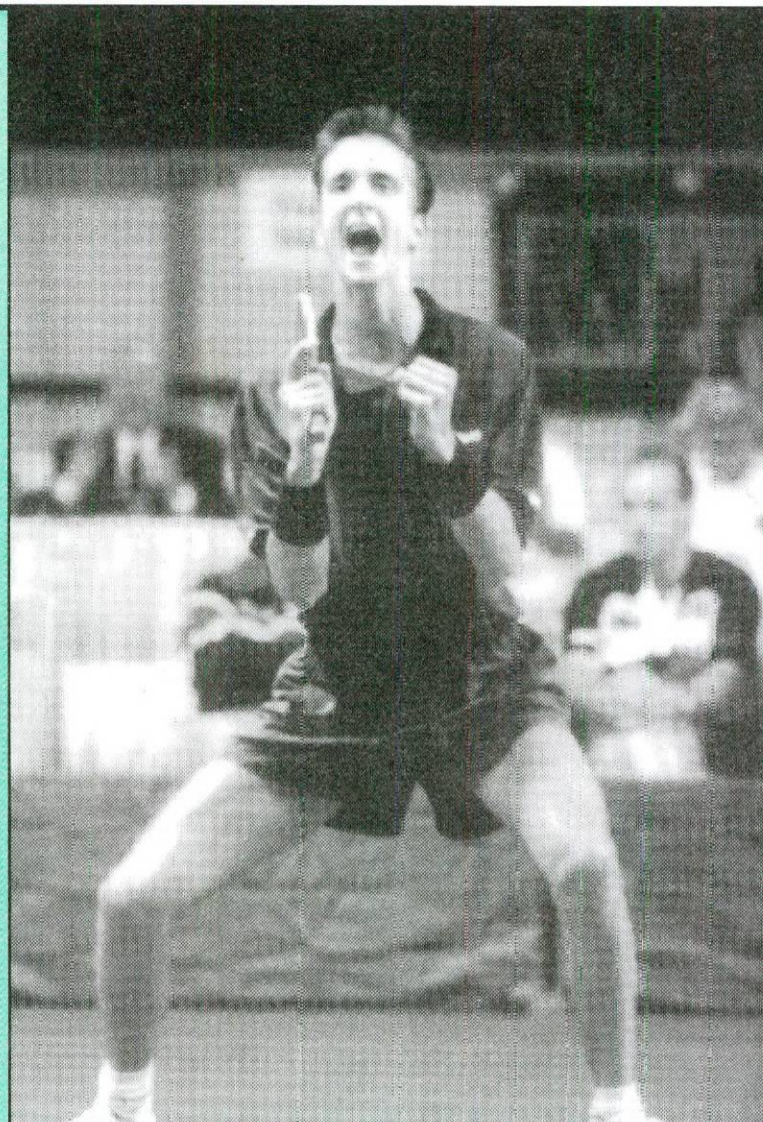


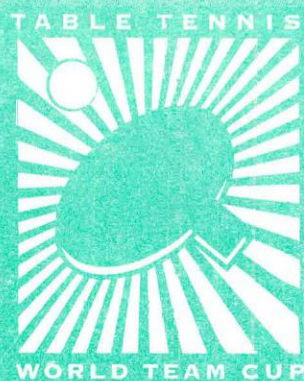
The Magazine of USA Table Tennis

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**THE 1995 WORLD TEAM CUP**

**Matthew Syed Wins  
3rd Straight Sears  
Invitational**  
See Page 20



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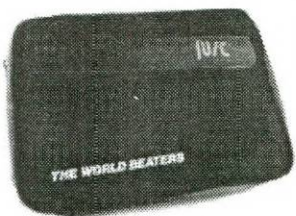
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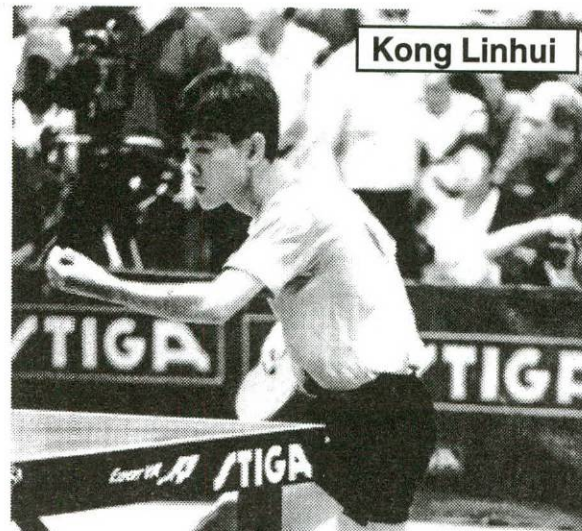
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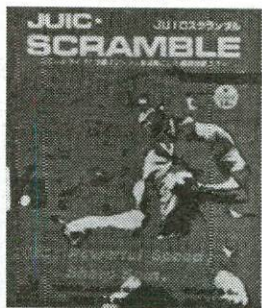
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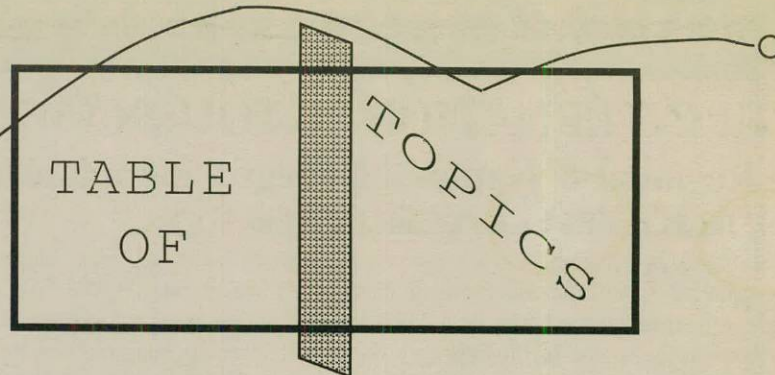
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# TABLE TENNIS TODAY

The Official Magazine of



## USATT Headquarters

One Olympic Plaza  
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### President:

Terry Timmins

### Editor:

Larry Hodges

### Page Design & Typesetting:

Larry Hodges

### Operations Administrator:

Linda Gleeson

### Circulation Director:

Margaret Smith

### Advertising:

Larry Hodges

### Editorial Board:

Paul Montville, Donna Sakai,  
Dan Seemiller, Terry Timmins

### Consultants:

John Olson, Julian Waters

### Staff Writers:

Tim Boggan, Larry Hodges,

Laurence Johnson,

Sheri Soderberg Pittman,

Wei Wang

### Photographers & Artwork:

Houshang Bozorgzadeh,

Joe Holman, Mary Jung,

Charles Merydith, John Oros,

Alex Rabinovich, Yoshiko Reisman,

Diego Schaaf, Michael Wetzel,

Stephen Yeh

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Signing autographs at the Sears Invitational, L-R: top, Leszek Kucharski, Khoa Nguyen & Michael Hyatt; bottom, Alan Cooke, Jim Butler, Matthew Syed.



Photos by John Oros ©1995

# COLLEGE STUDENTS

## ACUI INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT The Regional & National College Championships

by Jeff Davis, ACUI Table Tennis Director

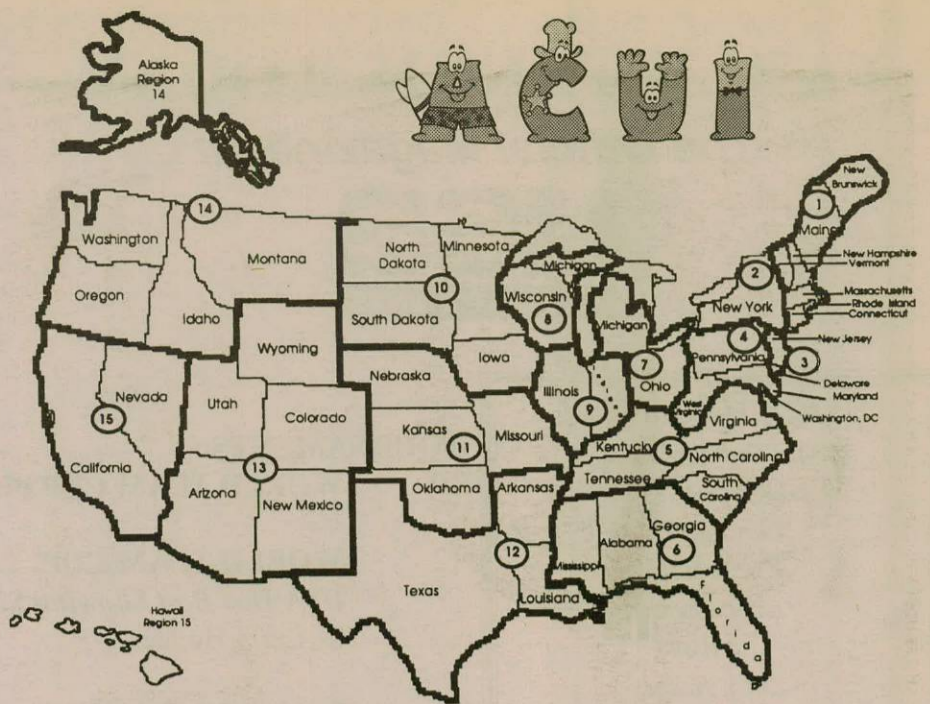
Coming up in February, 1996 are the Association of College Unions International regional qualifying tournaments for the international tournament in April. To qualify to compete at the international, players MUST compete at their regional tournaments. All of the regionals take place during February, but your local college campus may hold their local qualifying tournament at any time prior to the regional. Some may hold the regional during the fall semester. I encourage any table tennis players to contact their advisor on campus to inquire about the local tournament. Other people to contact for information would be the activities advisor in the student union, recreation director, intramural director, or the union director. One of those people will have information or be able to direct you to the individual that does have information about the dates of their own local tournaments to qualify for the regionals.

If you are unable to contact an individual on campus that has the necessary information, please contact your regional coordinator (listed below) or myself for information.

The 1996 International Tournament will take place at Georgia State University, April 25-28, 1996. We will have both men's and women's divisions in singles. At this time we haven't finalized the rest of the tournament format; we anticipate a doubles competition and potentially a team competition. These details will be announced shortly. This information will be available from the regional coordinators.

**Jeff Davis**  
ACUI Table Tennis Director  
Assistant Director for Operations  
University Center

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
P.O. Box 7150  
Colorado Springs, CO 80933  
719-593-3491  
Internet [jdavis@mail.uccs.edu](mailto:jdavis@mail.uccs.edu)



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Paul Montville

Over the past couple of months, I've received several questions about marketing in general and the ACOP (Atlanta Centennial Olympic Properties) contract in particular. I'll do my best to address the issue by making a long story short:

The ACOP agreement is a joint-marketing contract in which Olympic National Governing Bodies (NGBs) received up-front cash in exchange for the rights to market their events, programs and trademarks. I refer to the deal as "golden handcuffs," because while we gained the benefit of guaranteed sponsorship payments, we are severely restricted in sponsorship marketing and fundraising.

ACOP was signed by USATT and all the other NGBs in 1993, and the contract expires at the end of 1996. The USOC is currently working on a new joint-marketing program ("Son of ACOP") for the post-Atlanta period. While there are few specifics available, I do know from meetings with the USOC and other NGBs that our concerns have been duly noted. The concept of joint-marketing is basically sound, especially for a small NGB like ours. The challenge for the USOC and their Joint-Marketing Task Force is to come up with an agreement that preserves the positive aspects of ACOP while allowing the NGBs the flexibility and autonomy needed to raise the money we need for our programs.

As I mentioned above, this is a very simple explanation of a hugely complex issue. If you would like more information on ACOP and/or fundraising, please feel free to contact me at headquarters or we can discuss this in person at the Nationals, where I hope to see many of you.

### EDITOR'S REPORT

by Larry Hodges

Lots of International Competition! From the World Team Cup in Atlanta to the Sears Invitational in Palatine, Illinois, we've got internationals all over the U.S. And we haven't even mentioned the Missouri Open or the Sun TV Open yet!

And there's also the CNE, Brazil Open, European Maccabi Games, King Kar Global Youth City Cup, Sam Lima Open, Rhode Island Games, Texas Round Robin, Arizona Open, Waco Round Robin, MATTC Open, Decatur Round Robin, NTTC's August & September Opens, and the Rocky Mountain Open.

Belgium Superstar Jean-Michel Saive explains why he attended, but did not compete in, the World Team Cup, and other interesting facts, in an interview by Sheri Soderberg Pittman, while Ed Hogshead gives us the goods on former Chinese Superstar Liang Geliang, who competed at the Sears Invitational.

What happens when the greatest players in U.S. history get together? Ruth, Gehrig, Cobb, Wagner, Young, Johnson? Er—make that Dick Miles, Marty Reisman, Sol Schiff, Laszlo Bellak, Doug Cartland and Lou Pagliaro. Add Tim Boggan to the mix, and you've got the article "Reunion."

If it's coaching you're after, see another of those excellent "centerfolds" by former U.S. Women's Champion Wei Wang and Photographer Diego Schaaf, this time featuring Zoran Primorac. Or see our new regular feature, "Playing Tips," with an article by U.S. Olympic Festival Men's Singles Champion Todd Sweeris on attacking short balls (flipping) and another by, uh, me, on attacking the middle.

If all you want to do is play, then see the tournament schedule near the back or any of the tournament ads in this issue. If you're a college student, make sure to check out the dates for the Regional ACUI College Championships on page 4.

Or just browse the issue, pick out the best ads, and get out that charge card!

REGION 1	J. "Tank" Floyd, 203-486-3423 Playing site: TBA Dates: March 2-3, 1996
REGION 2	Kristi Brosseau, 518-783-2919 Playing site: Ithica College Dates: February 24-25, 1996
REGION 3	TBA Playing site: TBA Dates: TBA
REGION 4	Harry A. Metz, 412-938-5927 Playing site: University of Maryland-College Park Dates: February 2-4, 1996
REGION 5	Dana F. Hinnant, 423-974-1070 Playing site: University of Tennessee-Knoxville Dates: February 23-25, 1996
REGION 6	Charlotte Thompson, 904-392-1637 Playing site: University of South Alabama Dates: February 9-11, 1996
REGION 7	Mark Schuelke, 616-592-5916 Playing site: University of Michigan Dates: February 23-25, 1996
REGION 8	Keith Andes, 414-465-2012 Playing site: Marquette University Dates: February 23-24, 1996
REGION 9	Steve Lawson, 217-333-6122 Playing site: University of Illinois at Urbana Dates: February 23-25, 1996
REGION 10	Daniel M. Asmus, 612-641-8207 Playing site: University of Minnesota Dates: February 9-11, 1996
REGION 11	Bob Potter, 316-341-5860 Playing site: Kansas State University Dates: February 24-25, 1996
REGION 12	Mark E. Packer, 817-565-4266 Playing site: University of North Texas Dates: March 1-3
REGION 13	Judy Schroeder, 602-965-3642 Playing site: Arizona State University Dates: February 22-24
REGION 14	Mike Hooblar, 509-335-4679 Playing site: Montana State University Dates: February 22-24
REGION 15	John C. Lopez, 818-885-2491 Playing site: University of California at Davis Dates: February 16-18

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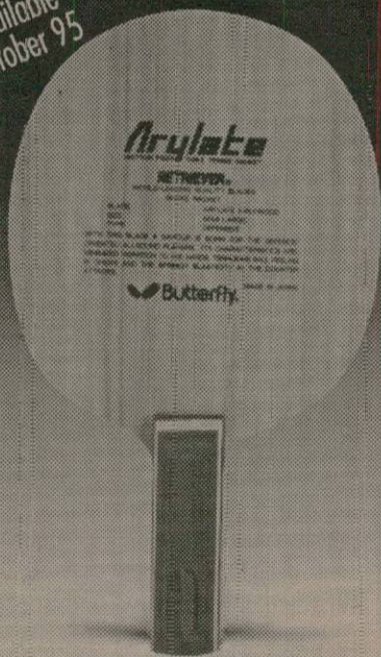
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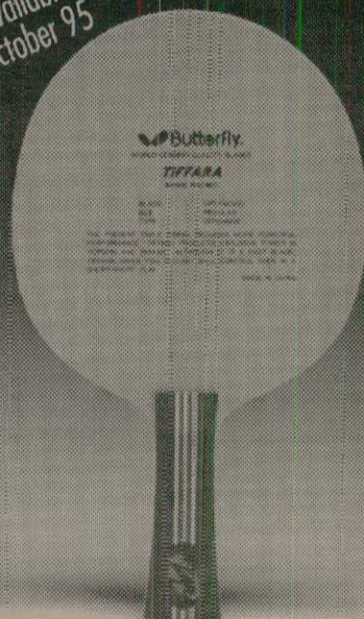
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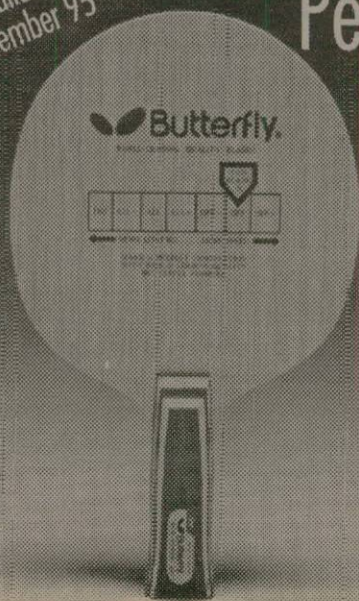
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A 5-ply descendant of one of 1995's most popular Butterfly blades: the 7-ply Clearfield. The Tiffara has explosive power for offensive play. Even faster than the Clearfield due to a thicker center ply and two mahogany secondary plies. Medium head size. 93 grams.

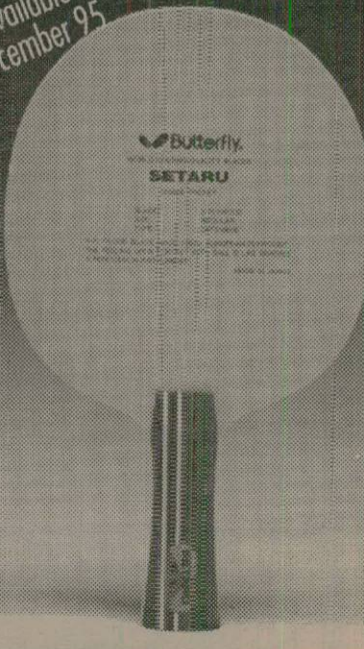
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## Petr Korbelski-AN,ST

The Petr Korbelski is the same blade as the popular Adolescen, but without shellac on handle. Best suited for European style powerplay. Highly recommended for players seeking topspin & power in their shots. Medium size head. 90 grams.

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A light, medium speed blade designed for consistent topspin offensive play from all points in the court. Made from fine European plywood, this blade will inspire a Grubba-like performance. Medium head size. 77 grams.

## WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

### Ideas For Your Club

by Larry Hodges

Okay, so you've got a club going, a place to play, and when club night comes around, it's ping pong time. But... is that all there is? Are you missing something?

Night after night, just you and the others (on club night, anyway), just playing challenge matches or winner stay on... is there more?

#### YES!

Whether you're the club president or simply an active member, you can be the one who takes the next step. And boy, are there a lot of steps to choose from! Take your pick—here's a list, with helpful suggestions to get started. Get ready to go where nobody in your club has gone before!

• **Run a tournament.** It's really not as hard as it seems! Step one: Call USATT (719-578-4583) and ask for a copy of the Tournament Guide and Tournament Sanction Forms. Step two: Do what it says!

A brief synopsis of what you'll need to do would be: 1. Design an entry form; 2. Send it to Regional Tournament Coordinator along with sanction fee and sanction forms; 3. Advertise the tournament either by a mailing or in *Table Tennis Today*. (Once it's sanctioned, the tournament will appear in the Tournament Schedule—but tourna-

ment ads are half-price, so you might want to run a separate ad as well—contact the editor—me—for further information at 301-838-8571). If you choose to do a mailing, you can order mailing labels for your region from USATT for 3 cents each. 4. Run the tournament—really, unless you get a big turnout, it's not so hard. 5. Start planning your next one!

• **Set up a league.** There are many possible variations. At our club, our League Committee (Frank Fuhrmann, Sean Lonergan, Gary Elwell) devised a 3-person league, whereby each player plays all three other players, plus the #2 and #3 players play a doubles match, a total of 10 matches, so a team match can end in a 5-5 tie. Each team plays one team match each week, and the two teams (each of which has a captain) work out on their own which night they play. If a player can't make a team match, a substitute who is rated lower may substitute. Scoring is 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. At the end of the season, ties are broken up by whichever team has the better match record.

This is just one possible league. Use your imagination, and set one up! If you've run a successful league, send us your format so we can publish it.

• **Teach a table tennis class.** I don't care if you're only a 1500 player (or lower), you can teach a class—you know more than, and

are a better player than at least 99.9% of Americans. (This ain't China!) Simply decide on a day & time (i.e., Mondays from 7-8 PM for 10 weeks, \$60/person), and fax or mail info to all the local papers. They will usually run it for free in their calendar sections. You should put together a flyer, and distribute it everywhere, and tack it up on every bulletin board you can find. You might need an assistant, depending on turnout. Don't be afraid to make a profit—this is America!

• **Set up a coaching clinic at your club.** Contact a local top coach or top player, and invite him to run a clinic, perhaps a weekend clinic, at your club. If this hasn't been done at your club before, the club members are probably coaching-starved, and they'll all show up. When all is done, both the coach and the club will profit, and the players will go away with enough enthusiasm to last them years.

• **Challenge another club.** Proud of your club? Then challenge that know-nothing club on the other side of town (or state) to a team match, your club against theirs. When it's all done, go out for Chinese food together.

• **Go as a group to a major tournament.** Pick a major tournament, such as the U.S. Open or Nationals, and sign up as many members of your club as possible to go as a group. Get club T-shirts, and the world will take notice.

July 6, 1995

Dear Mr. Clemett

[Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee],

This is to bring to your attention a provision of Table Tennis which is stirring a lot of debate. I really never gave this particular rule much thought until recently when it was brought up in a protest in a club tournament. I was simply dumbfounded. In my 14 years experience as an International Umpire, I have never been confronted with a problem as ticklish as this—when you find yourself having to decide between the intent of the law and the letter of that law.

#### FACTS OF THE CASE

With the score at 19-20, Player "A" is serving in the third and deciding game of a match. The service is declared a fault by the umpire who promptly awards the point, game and match to Player "B." Player "A" files a protest. His protest, however, is not about his service being declared illegal. His protest is based on what he claims was the wrong interpretation of the rules by the umpire.

He pointed out that it was wrong for the umpire to award his opponent a point as this conflicted with the provisions of Rule 2.6.6.3 which clearly states: "Whenever there is a clear failure by the server to comply with the requirements of a good service, no warning shall be given and the server shall lose a point on the first as on any other occasion."

It is the contention of Player "A" that the rule clearly provides that the server shall lose a point, and nowhere in the rule is it mentioned that the receiver shall be awarded a point.

He argued that if the rule were strictly followed, the score would then be 18-20, and the game certainly not yet over. The matter was referred to me as Tournament Referee for Resolution. Not wanting to be drawn into a lengthy debate over seman-

tics, I immediately upheld the decision of the umpire, explaining that it was the intent of the particular rule to penalize the errant server by awarding a point to the receiver.

If, in fact, it was the intent of the rule, why does it not simply say what it means and mean what it says? Meanwhile, the controversy has persisted.

It is the general feeling that rules must be written with utmost simplicity, concise and precise—with no room for more than one interpretation. This, they say will lead to a better understanding and appreciation of the rules by players and enthusiasts of the sport alike.

#### ANALYSIS

While there is no doubt it is the intent to penalize the illegal server by awarding a point to the receiver, the rule failed to convey this when an error was made in the choice of a very simple word which gave the rule a totally different meaning. The choice of the indefinite article "a" as in "a point," instead of the definite article "the," made the big difference. (See Rule 2.6.6.3 above.)

Thank You,

Felipe G. Pigao

USATT International Umpire

July 25, 1995

Dear Mr. Pigao

I have now discussed with my colleagues your letter of 6 July about the wording of Law 2.11 - A point.

We agree that the present wording is unsatisfactory but we do not think that the simple solution you proposed would entirely overcome the problem. As the printing of a new Handbook gives us the opportunity, we have decided to make a more drastic change, by altering the whole basis of the wording. Instead of saying "A player shall lose a point if he fails to make a good service etc." we now say "A player shall score a point if his opponent fails to make a good service etc. The amendments are not all as simple as this, but I am sure you will understand the principle. We have made corresponding amendments to the other laws and I will do the same in the Handbook for Match Officials when it is revised later this year.

It is interesting that the wording "A player shall lose a point" has been in the laws for as long as I can trace, and surprising that no one has questioned it until now. I am very grateful to you for raising the matter and I hope you will be satisfied as to the outcome when you see the new Handbook. With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Colin Clemett

Chairman, ITTF Rules Committee

### Azmy Ibrahim's Performance Recognized

During the recent Taiwan Youth International Tournament, International Umpire Azmy Ibrahim was selected as the Chair Umpire for the Women's Singles Semi-Finals and the Men's Singles Finals.

This is yet another indication that USA Table Tennis umpires are recognized worldwide for their outstanding performances. Congratulations, Azmy!

## IT'S THE LAW!

by Mal Anderson, Chairman  
USATT Legislative Committee

The following questions were sent to me by Mr. Edgar B. Stein of Los Alamos, New Mexico:



1. How to define "clearly contrasting" as it applies to clothing color with respect to ball color. The relevant USATT Rule is:

20.8 Any question of the legality or acceptability of playing clothing shall be decided by the referee, except that he may not rule illegal or unacceptable a design which has been authorized by the ITTF or USATT.

Thus, although I sympathize with Mr. Stein's feeling that a used ball can be the same color as a light gray shirt, the referee of the tournament does make this decision.

2. A tournament referee allowed a player to use unidentified rubber, after playing against it and deciding it played like "conventional" rubber. The rule is:

2.9.3.4 The E.C. will have the authority to grant approval of equipment to be used in sanctioned play.

The referee exceeded his authority in this case. Only the E.C. can grant approval of rubber. E.C. approval is based on meeting all ITTF specifications (thickness, color) and payment of the approval fee. Allowing unidentified rubber would mean a loss of income to the USATT, as well as allowing a possible advantage to the user.

3. An umpire didn't enforce the service rule—he seemed to think that "no one complained, so let them play, and should this always be done? NO!!! The service rule should always be enforced! I've noticed this is the most difficult part of umpiring—when I assess an umpire, the first thing I look at is how well he enforces the service rule. Many International players will test an umpire—see if they can get away with illegal serves. If you call the first one, they try again, because many umpires will call it once, but not again. If you call it the second time, these players will then serve legally the rest of the match, as they now know you will always call it—even at 19-20.

One common misconception is that a player has the right to receive a warning the first time he serves illegally. Not true—the only time the umpire can warn a player is if he cannot see the serve (which often happens if there is no assistant umpire). In this case, the umpire should call a let the first time this happens (even if he thinks the serve was legal) and warn the player that in future if he cannot see the serve, and HE THINKS IT MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL, he will call a fault.

4. The ITTF and USATT rules disagree on allowing players to wear slacks during play. Not really—the relevant ITTF rule is:

3.1.2.1 Except as provided in 3.1.2.1.1, the Laws (Chapter 2) shall apply to World, Continental and Olympic title competitions, open tournaments and, unless otherwise agreed by the participating Associations, to international matches.

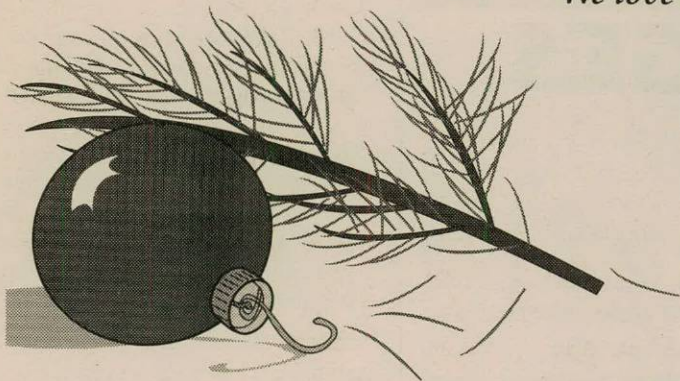
Thus, the only U.S. tournaments that are governed by the ITTF rules (Chapter 2) are the International events at the U.S. Open, and the occasional ITTF event like the just completed World Team Cup and the Olympic Games. All other U.S. tournaments are governed by the USATT Rules; the relevant USATT rule is:

20.10 Slacks may be worn but shorts are preferred.

Incidentally, the ITTF rules do not mention slacks at all—they state that track suits may be worn only with the referee's permission.

*"I recommend this (Robo-Pong 2000) for anyone serious about their improvement."* — Sean O'Neill, 5 time U.S. Men's Singles and Doubles Champion

*"We love the robot and it is in constant use!"* — Melanie A. Barnes, Bristol, CT



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*"...the robot helped me develop my game much quicker."*  
—Keith Alban, current U-12, U-14, & U-16 U.S. Open Champion

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- Delivers from 17–85 balls/minute.
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- Comes complete with collection net, remote control, 48 balls, videotape, owner handbook, and table tennis instruction manual.

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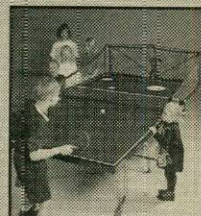
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## THE TABLE TENNIS OSCAR NOMINATIONS

It's time to find out who's the best of the best, the cream of the cream, the lord of the, well, the following categories. We know who the best players are, but we aren't looking for that. We want you, the readers, to tell us who really are the best in the following, or in categories not listed below. Send nominations to: Table Tennis Today, 15916 Indianola Drive, Rockville, MD, 20855, or fax to 301-838-8572.

Send in your nominations for:

- Hardest hitters
- Fastest footwork, rating under 2000
- Best players, pound for pound (hello, Keith?)
- Worst players, pound for pound (permission of player required)
- Tallest players
- Heaviest players (permission of player required)
- Weirdest Styles
- Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 2000
- Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 1500
- Best or smoothest looking players, rating under 1000
- Best trash-talking player
- Oldest rated player
- Youngest rated player

### DID'JA KNOW?

by Bob Green

The first World's University Championships were held at Hanover, Germany in 1973. A total of 27 nations were represented. The USSR was the big winner as they walked off with the men's team, men's doubles, mixed doubles and women's doubles titles. A Czechoslovakian woman won the women's singles. Great Britain took the men's singles consolation event and the women's consolation title went to France.

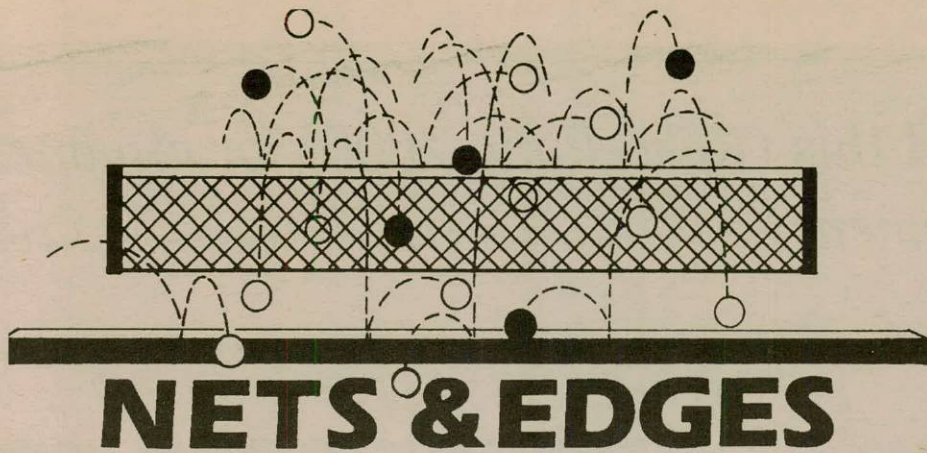
The U.S. Men's team finished 12th out of 16 countries. The U.S. Women's team finished next to last in 9 teams.

The U.S. team members for this first historic championship were Bill Lesner, Jeff Smart (who later became the official USTTA National Coaching Chairman), Jack Wiener, and Greg Gingold. The women competing were Alice Kimble nee Green and Janice Martin. The best individual U.S. record was scored by Bill Lesner, with 8 wins and 5 losses, followed by Jeff Smart's 3 wins and 5 losses. In the women's division, Alice Green won 3 and lost 5, while Janice Martin lost all her matches.

Final World Standings: USSR, Yugoslavia, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Austria, Rumania, France, Great Britain, Luxemburg, Italy, USA, Belgium, Israel, Turkey, and Khmer, for the men's division. West Germany finished first among the women's team followed by Czechoslovakia, USSR, Rumania, France, Great Britain, Sweden, USA, and Canada.

**THE FRACTURED BALL AWARD** (this award is given to people who really and truly deserve it). Today it is being awarded posthumously to former Italian dictator, Mussolini, who banned handshaking before and after table tennis matches. The reason, and I quote the decree, "Intimacy between opponents in sports is an ugly reed that needs to be uprooted."

**Professor Von Looper says:** "If you haven't figured out what's wrong with your game, you haven't been listening to your friends."



## WORLD RANKINGS

October, 1995

### WOMEN

1	1862	DENG Yaping	CHN
2	1750	QIAO Hong	CHN
3	1619	LIU Wei	CHN
4	1615	CHAI Po Wa	HKG
5	1597	GENG Lijuan	CAN
6	1579	WANG Chen	CHN
7	1558	CHEN Jing	TPE
8	1557	WANG Nan	CHN
9	1551	KOYAMA Chire	JPN
10	1547	CHEN Zihe	CHN
11	1528	YANG Ying	CHN
12	1514	QIAO Yunping	CHN
13	1507	SCHOPP Jie	GER
14	1506	JING Jun Hong	SIN
15	1487	LI Ju	CHN
16	1486	WU Na	CHN
17	1481	STRUSE Nicole	GER
17	1481	VRIESEKOOP Bettine	NED
19	1480	BADESCU Otilia	ROM
20	1470	CHAN Tan Lui	HKG
20	1470	CIOSU Emilia	ROM
22	1466	PARK HaeJung	KOR
23	1463	BATORFI Csilla	HUN
24	1454	TANG Fei Ming	TPE
25	1452	SVENSSON Asa	SWE
26	1442	XU Jing	TPE
27	1416	ZHANG Ling	CHN
28	1412	TU Yong	SUI
29	1408	PARK Kyung Ae	KOR
30	1404	RYU Ji Hye	KOR
31	1402	SVENSSON Marie	SWE
32	1395	ABBATE-BULATOVA Fliura	ITA
33	1393	KAIZU Fumiyo	JPN
34	1391	WANG-DRECHOU Xiaoming	FRA
35	1378	CHENG To	HKG
36	1377	SATO Rika	JPN
36	1377	PALINA Irina	RUS
38	1363	ARISI Alessia	ITA
39	1363	TOTH Krisztina	HUN
40	1357	NI Xia Liang	LUX
41	1352	FENG Amy	USA
42	1335	TIMINA Elena	RUS
43	1331	KIM Boon Sik	KOR
44	1328	ZHANG Hui	CHN
45	1322	POPOVA Valentina	SVK
46	1322	KIM Moo Kyo	KOR
47	1320	ENDO Mitsue	JPN
48	1317	LEE Kyung Sun	KOR
49	1315	HOOMAN Mirjam	NED
49	1315	MELNIK Galina	RUS
83	1148	YIP Lily	USA
100	1105	WANG Wei	USA
193	913	BANH Tawny	USA
236	858	SUNG Virginia	USA

### MEN

1	1660	WANG Tao	CHN
2	1645	KONG Linghui	CHN
3	1624	SAIVE Jean-Michel	BEL
4	1607	KIM Taek Soo	KOR
5	1603	WALDNER Jan-Ove	SWE
6	1593	ROSSKOPF Jorg	GER
7	1575	GATIEN Jean-Philippe	FRA
8	1572	LIU Guoliang	CHN
9	1569	PRLMORAC Zoran	CRO
10	1558	DING Song	CHN
11	1549	MA Wenge	CHN
12	1525	KARLSSON Peter	SWE
13	1516	HUANG Johnny	CAN
14	1489	PERSSON Jorgen	SWE
15	1485	YOO Nam Kyu	KOR
16	1481	SAMSONOV Vladimir	BLR
17	1443	WANG Yonggang	CHN
18	1438	GRUBBA Andrzej	POL
19	1419	CHEN Xinhua	ENG
20	1414	LU Lin	CHN
21	1405	CHILA Patrick	FRA
22	1388	CREANGA Calin	GRE
23	1383	LINDH Erik	SWE
24	1371	LIN Zhigang	CHN
25	1366	YANG Min	ITA
26	1357	DING Yi	AUT
27	1356	APPEL REN Mikael	SWE
28	1355	WANG Hao	CHN
29	1354	XIONG Ke	CHN
30	1348	PREAN Carl	ENG
31	1344	SAIVE Philippe	BEL
31	1344	ELOI Damien	FRA
33	1343	MATSUSHITA Koji	JPN
34	1339	CHENG Yinghua	USA
35	1338	LUPULESKU Ilija	YUG
35	1338	SHIBUTANI Hiroshi	JPN
37	1337	KORBEL Petr	CZE
38	1327	MAZUNOV Dmitrij	RUS
38	1327	FRANZ Peter	GER
40	1323	BLASZCZYK Lucjan	POL
41	1322	CHAN Kong Wah	HKG
42	1315	KEEN Trinko	NED
42	1315	FETZNER Steffen	GER
44	1301	CABRERA Thierry	BEL
45	1296	ZHANG Lei	CHN
46	1285	PODPLINKA Andras	BEL
47	1275	HALDAN Paul	NED
48	1269	LO Chuen Tsung	HKG
49	1267	SOLOPOV Igor	EST
50	1253	CHIANG Peng-Lung	TPE
72	1198	BUTLER Jim	USA
155	992	O'NEILL Sean	USA
158	988	ZHUANG David	USA
184	921	NGUYEN Khoa	USA
228	857	SEEMILLER Dan	USA
229	856	MASTERS Brian	USA
253	831	ROP Darko	USA
276	806	MAY Derek	USA
283	792	OWENS Eric	USA
298	774	REED Barney	USA
353	699	SWEERIS Todd	USA

## THEY SAID IT...

"...I'm not so surprised because I saw the U.S. team playing against Sweden yesterday. They are home. For them, that's big motivation. They are big fighters. They played very good. And so it's not so big of a surprise." *Belgium team member Thierry Cabrera, of the U.S. team knocking Belgium out of the World Team Cup.*

"Cheng's a little bit over the hill, don't you think?" *A spectator in the stands at the World Team Cup, of the 38-year-old, just before he defeated World #1 Jan-Ove Waldner.*

"The kids would be playing Ping-Pong in the basement, and it was always a struggle to get them to come upstairs for dinner... nobody wanted to end the night on a loss, especially Junior. 'Just one more game, Mom.'" *Vi Ripken on her son Cal Ripken, Jr. Time Magazine, September 11, page 70.*

"Gee, that looked like a Ping-Pong shot." *Commentator John McEnroe at the U.S. Open Tennis Championships, about a close-to-the-net, wristy shot by Andre Agassi. Contributed by Julian Waters.*

"Please ban long pips—except mine." *Peter Chamberlain, proud long pips user, at the Missouri Open.*

If you can, beg, borrow or steal the most recent [September/October 1995] issue of *Table Tennis Today*. The obituary by Boggan is really movie material. Escapes from concentration camp trains, World War II intrigue, etc. *Message on internet bulletin board by Bob Shain, September 20, 1995*

"Intimacy between opponents in sports is an ugly reed that needs to be uprooted." *Benito Mussolini, Italian dictator during World War II, who used this to justify the banning of handshaking before and after table tennis matches. See Did'ja Know? column elsewhere in this issue, by Bob Green.*

Heard anything interesting at the table tennis club recently? Send it to: NTTC, 15916 Indianola Dr., Rockville, MD 20855, 301-838-8572 (fax).

### COACH COCHRAN?

by Tak Y. Wong

Imagine Johnnie Cochran as your table tennis coach:

- "If you can't hit, you should quit."
- "If you can't loop, you should regroup."
- "If you can't win, you should spin."
- "If you can't chop, you should stop."
- "If you can't lob, you should sob."

Of course, Johnnie will always insist that you serve legally.

### In Memoriam:

#### ITTF PRESIDENT LOLLO HAMMARLUND

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of ITTF President Lollo Hammarlund, on October 14, 1995.

He had not been well for some months and the discovery that he had cancer came too late for surgery.

Mr. Hammarlund leaves a wife and two daughters, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

### In Memoriam:

#### SCOTTY GRAFTON

*Table Tennis Today* was saddened to hear of the passing of long-time Missouri player Scotty Grafton on June 19, 1995. He was a past president of the Kansas City Table Tennis Association and a long-time player.



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The Olympic Games 1996, Atlanta, will feature JOOLA table tennis equipment (tables, nets, counters and surrounds).

The International Table Tennis Federation have opted for the top bid and at the same time chosen the Company which for decades has supported the sport of table tennis idealistically, financially and by the production of high class table tennis equipment.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner--still the Master, if not the King. The defending 1992 Men's Singles Gold Medalist & 1989 Men's Singles World Champion.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Sweden's Jorgen Persson, 1991 Men's Singles World Champion.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

1995 Men's Singles World Champion Kong Linghui of China

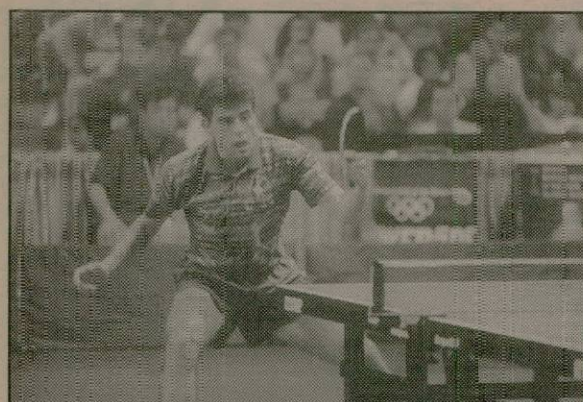


Photo by John Oros ©1995

1993 Men's Singles World Champion Jean-Philippe Gatien of France.

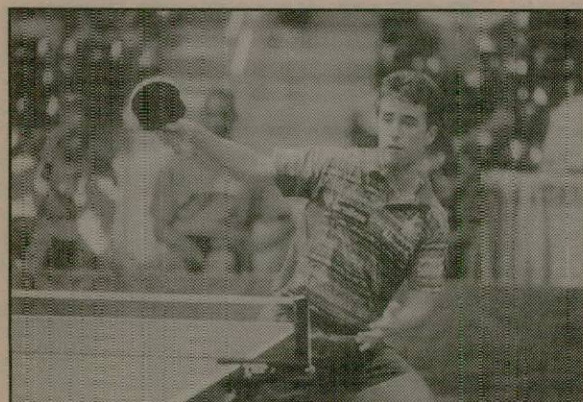


Photo by John Oros ©1995

France's Damien Eloi, ranked #31 in the world, lost matches to USA's Cheng Yinghua & Jim Butler.

*Atlanta, Georgia*

**SCENES  
FROM  
THE  
1995  
WORLD  
TEAM  
CUP**

*August 11-13, 1995*

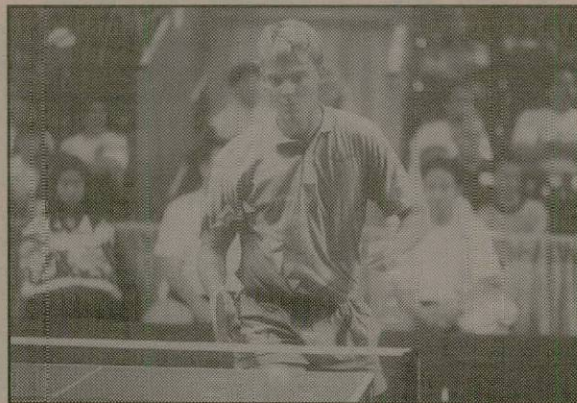


Photo by John Oros ©1995

Peter Karlsson of Sweden.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Nigel Christopher of Sweden

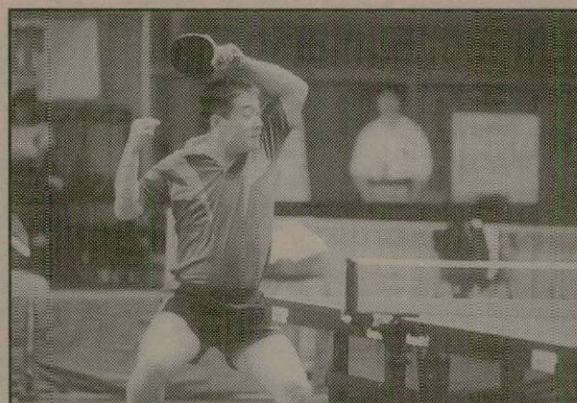


Photo by John Oros ©1995

China's Wang Tao, now ranked #1 in the world, won every match easily, but saw his team lose in the quarters to Korea. So what's a few extra pounds?

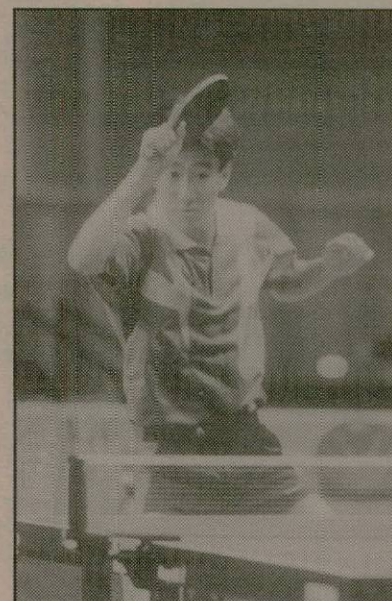


Photo by John Oros ©1995

China's Ding Song created havoc at the Worlds, but didn't play in China's big match against Korea.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Liu Guoliang of China peeks out from under his arm while serving. The 1995 Men's Singles Finalist at the Worlds did not have a very good tournament here.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Ilije Lupulesku of Yugoslavia

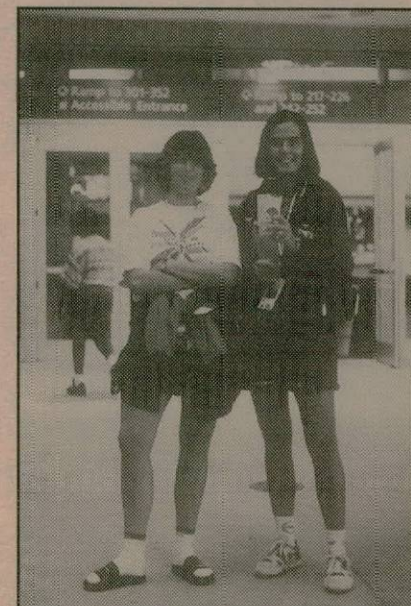


Photo by Michael Wetzel ©1995

Csilla Batorfi of Hungary and Nicole Struse of Germany, ranked #6 & #2 in Europe, are half sisters, with the same mother.



Photo by Michael Wetzel ©1995

The moment of victory--Korea's Yoo Nam Kyu has just completed comeback in winning deuce in the third in the 9th in the final against Jorg Rosskopf.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

World #4 Kim Taek Soo defeated both Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner in the final.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Belgium's Thierry Cabrera, world #44. He and teammate Philippe Saive had wins over Jan-Ove Waldner, and losses to USA's Cheng Yinghua & Jim Butler.

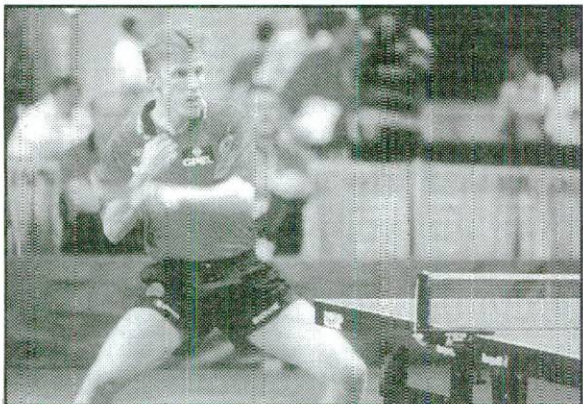


Photo by John Oros ©1995

Germany's Jorg Rosskopf, world #6, lost deuce in the third in the 9th in the Final against Korea's Yoo Nam Kyu.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Germany's Steffen Fetzner defeated Yoo Nam Kyu in opening match in final.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Belgium's Andreas Podpinka, ranked 46th in the world, is a cousin of former star Tibar Klampar.

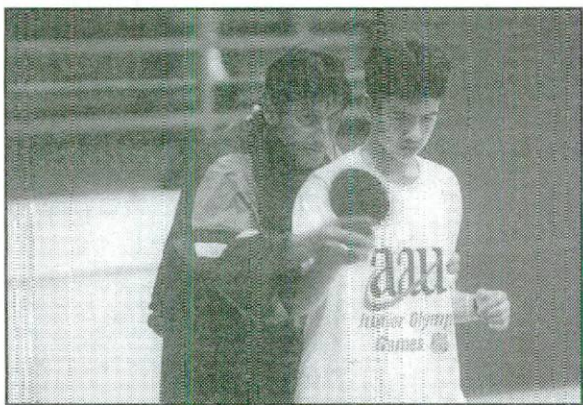


Photo by Michael Wetzel ©1995

Yugoslavian Coach Karakasevic gives pointers to U.S. Under 16 Boys' Champ T.J. Beebe during club night at Chastain Recreation Center just before tournament.

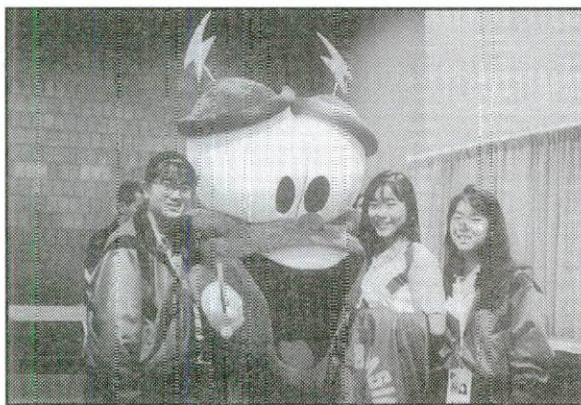


Photo by Michael Wetzel ©1995

The Brazilian women's team poses with "Izzy."

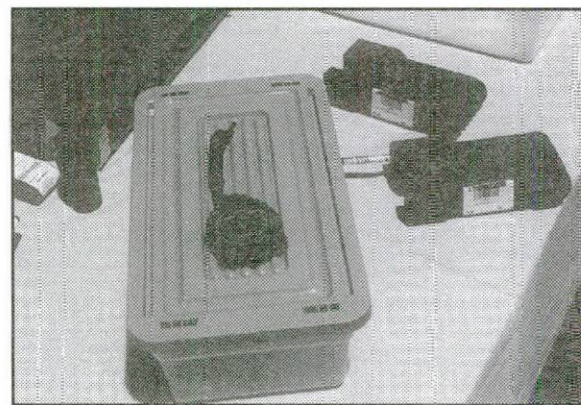


Photo by Michael Wetzel ©1995

This is it--the (in)famous glue-testing machine. Retailing at about \$150, the apparatus did what few could do--knock Kim Taek Soo out of the Worlds.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

China's Deng Yaping went undefeated...as usual. She's the defending champion for just about everything.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Krisztina Toth of Hungary, world #39, Europe #11.



Photo by Michael Wetzel ©1995

Hungary's Vivien Ello seemed to be having a good time.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Germany's Elke Schall lost to USA's Wei Wang, but it was the only win for the U.S. Women's Team.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Irina Palina of Russia, World #36, Europe #9.



Photo by John Oros ©1995

Elena Timina of Russia, world #42, Europe #13.

# The 1995 WORLD TEAM CUP

Atlanta, Georgia

by Larry Hodges

August 11-13, 1995

WTSP

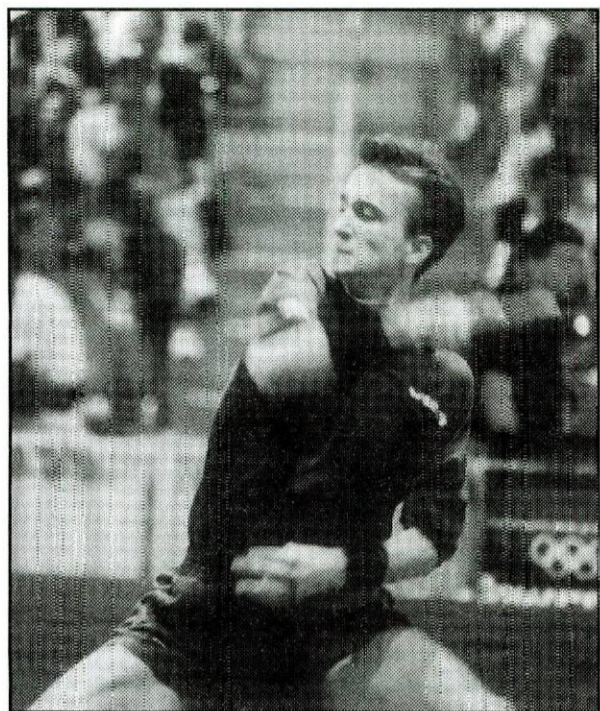


Photo by John Oros ©1995

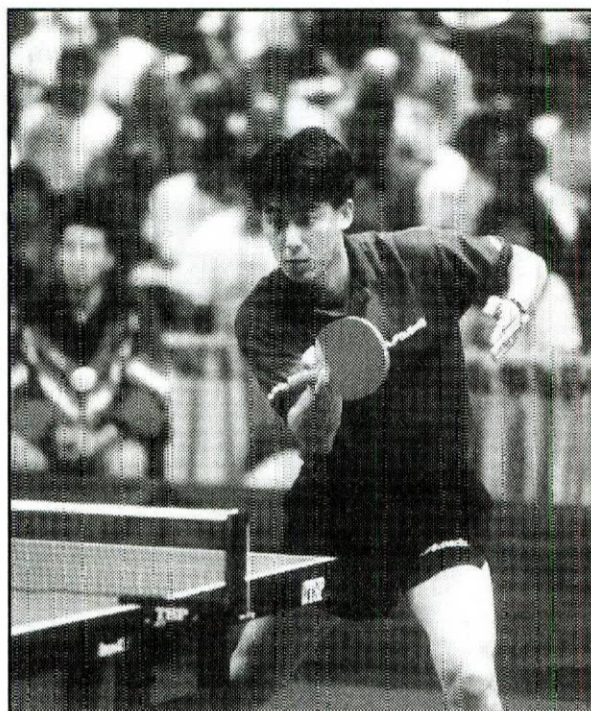


Photo by John Oros ©1995

Players from 17 countries competed here in the second strongest gathering of world class players anywhere in the world this year (only the World Championships was stronger). Teams competing included the top eleven men's teams in the world (China, Sweden, Korea, France, Germany, Japan, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Austria, Italy and Czech Republic), and the #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 ranked women's teams (China, Korea, Romania, Sweden, Germany, Hungary, and Russia). USA, whose men & women were ranked 25th and 20th, respectively, were not expected to make much of an impact. Apparently, nobody told the USA Men's team of Jim Butler, Cheng Yinghua & David Zhuang, who had the best finish for a USA team in international competition since 1949! (See Tim Boggan's article on this, pg. 32.)

The format for all team ties was best-of-five, with two players from each team playing two singles matches each against the top two players on the other team, and the third player playing the other team's third player one singles match. This was the same format used in the men's team competition at the World's, and (starting with the next World's) in the women's competition as well.

The venue was the one to be used for the 1996 Olympics. The 1000 seats (to be expanded to 5000 for the Olympics) were packed for the final matches.

Security was everywhere—way too much for this competition, but a good warm-up for next year's Olympics. Spectators (who by a 2-1 margin, by my poll, brought their rackets) were not allowed anywhere near the actual playing area.

Eight tables were set up for the competition, with a barriered-off area containing eleven more tables for the players to practice on. From the top of the stands, you could just see into the practice area—and the first thing I saw from there was looper/blocker Wang Tao practicing his chopping against chopper/looper Ding Song!

It became a game for some to get autographs and photos of the players in the few seconds available as they moved from one secure area to another, always with security watch-

**The USA Men's team (clockwise from below: Cheng Yinghua, Jim Butler & David Zhuang) had the tournament of their lives, knocking off Belgium and French, and battling with Sweden in the preliminaries and Korea in the semifinals.**

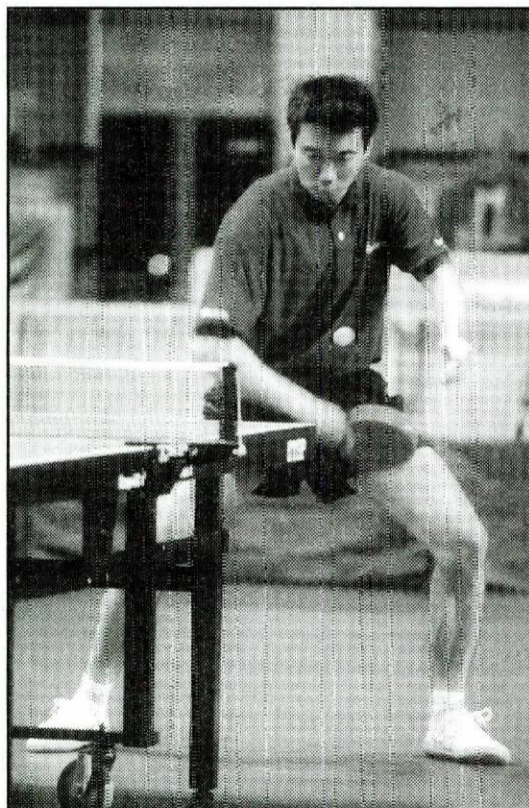


Photo by John Oros ©1995

ing. The Swedes were in great demand, but except for Jörgen Persson, seemed reluctant to sign autographs.

"The organization was outstanding," said Zhang Xielin, the Chinese Women's coach. The matches were on time, the conditions were near perfect, and there was even a daily bulletin for the fans, giving the previous day's results with several short articles. Thanks to all who organized the event—there are too many to be named.

USA's Jim Butler was named Men's MVP, for his two victories against Belgium in the preliminaries, and for his victory over France's Damien Eloi in the fifth match to move USA into the semifinals—read on! Emilia Ciosu of Romania was named Women's MVP. Congratulations to both!

## MEN'S COMPETITION

There were 16 teams in the competition, divided into four groups of four, with the top two teams advancing to the quarterfinals. Present were the top 9 players in the world, 13 of the top 15, and 27 of the top 50, including USA's Cheng Yinghua, ranked #40. Missing were China's Ma Wenge, World #10, and Canada's Johnny Huang, #14.

Present but not playing were Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive and Croatia's Zoran Primorac, ranked 3rd & 9th in the world. "It's not in my program to play," said Saive. "I'm just here to practice, and see the playing site for the Olympics." (See interview of Saive by Sheri Pittman on pg. 18.) Presumably the same was true of Primorac, whose country didn't even send a team. Belgium, even without Jean-Michel Saive, was still a formidable team, with Jean-Michel's brother Philippe Saive (world #28), Thierry Cabrera (#38) and Andras Podpinka (#47).

## Preliminary Competition

### USA Men

#### USA vs. Sweden

The U.S. was in a group with Sweden, Belgium and Australia. The U.S. started right off with Sweden, #2 in the world. Match #1 would be U.S. #1 Cheng Yinghua versus Sweden's #1, Jan-Ove Waldner. Sure, Cheng often dominates U.S. competition, but this was the big time!

Just before the match began, a top U.S. player said,

"Cheng's a little bit over the hill, don't you think?" Cheng was the oldest in the competition at 38.

In the first game, Cheng leads 15-11, with Waldner serving. Waldner, who normally uses a forehand serve from the backhand corner, suddenly used a backhand serve from the forehand corner! Four times in a row, and Waldner scored each time, 15-all. But Cheng gets the serve, and goes up 19-15. Waldner serves at 16-19, and uses his favored forehand serve again, with vintage Waldner follow-ups... 17-19... 18-19... 19-all. But Cheng loops the next serve, they get into a counterlooping duel—and Cheng gets an edge. When Waldner blocks a Cheng loop into the net, Cheng's won the first game.

In the second, Cheng leads 16-15—but Waldner runs it out, 21-17.

In the third, Cheng takes a quick lead, and holds it to 11-9. Cheng serves two short balls in a row to Waldner's backhand, Waldner drops them both short to Cheng's forehand, and Cheng flip kills two consecutive spectacular winners, 13-9. Soon Cheng is up 17-11, and the World #1 player is in trouble.

And then, to the dismay of the U.S. audience, Waldner ties it up, 17-all. Then 18-all. 19-all. Then Waldner serves into the net! Waldner serve and follows on the next point, but Cheng quick-blocks it, and Waldner misses the finishing loop! **Match to Cheng Yinghua, over World #1 Jan-Ove Waldner!**

Now all the U.S. has to do is win two more matches.

Match #2 is Jim Butler versus Sweden's Kayode Kadiri, who seems to be Sweden's newest rising star. If Jim and Cheng can both beat Kadiri...

In the first game, it's all Sweden, 21-13. In the second, it's all USA, most of the way—5-0, 17-11—the same lead Cheng had on Waldner the previous match. Deja vu, as Kadiri scores 7 straight to lead, 18-17. But just as Cheng had held off Waldner's comeback in the previous match, Jim held off Kadiri, going up 20-18 and finally winning, 23-21. In the third, the two battle to 12-all, but the Swede is not to be denied, winning 21-18.

Match #3 is David Zhuang versus Jörgen Persson. And surprise—David wins the first game against the 1991 World Champion, 21-15! In the second, Persson leads all the way, winning 21-15. In the third, Persson again jumps to a quick lead, 11-6, and wins, 21-16.

Match #4 is Cheng versus Kadiri. And here is where a lack of recent international play showed itself—Cheng simply couldn't return Kadiri's serve effectively. He'd had no trouble with Jan-Ove Waldner's serve, often called the best in the world—but he'd played Waldner before, and was used to that type of serve. Kadiri's serve, somewhat similar to Waldner's, has more motion, and Cheng simply couldn't pick up the spin consistently. Add to that Kadiri's great power, and Cheng and the U.S. lost, 17 & 16.

#### USA vs Australia

Aaaaahhhh... a routine 2-0, 2-0, 2-0 win. No drama as USA methodically goes down under and comes out ahead. Jim Butler defeats Paul Langley at 16 & 6, David Zhuang defeats Russell Lavale at 20 & 14, and Cheng Yinghua defeats Dennis Makaling at 9 & 14.

#### USA vs Belgium

"I want Belgium," Cheng Yinghua said, shortly before the tie was to begin. Belgium had gone five with Sweden when both Philippe Saive and Thierry Cabrera defeated a seemingly dispirited world #1 Jan-Ove Waldner. According to one Swede, "Waldner makes more money from being ranked #1 in the world then by being World Champion. That loss [to Cheng Yinghua] cost him many thousands of dollars." Since both Belgium and USA had lost to Sweden, the winner of their tie would advance to the quarterfinals, while the loser would be eliminated.

Cheng started things off against Philippe Saive, ranked 28th in the world. Like his brother Jean-Michel, Philippe is an all-forehand looper, and so is able to keep Cheng blocking for much of the match—but block Cheng does. The two split the first two games, both at 17. In the third, Cheng is looping his backhand more as he takes a 14-11 lead—and wins the last 7 in a row! Match #1 to USA, 17-17,11.

Jim Butler, not to be overshadowed by Cheng, goes

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after Thierry Cabrera, world #38, with a succession of backhand smashes off Cabrera's constant two-winged looping. Up 5-0, 16-6, Jim cruises to a 21-10 first game victory. In the second, Jim is down 7-2, 11-6, and receives serve near the end down 16-14—only to score all five on Cabrera's serve! Up 20-16, Jim loses the next two points, and at 20-18, Cabrera loops Jim's serve on the edge. But USA is not to be denied as Jim wins the next point and the match to give USA a 2-0 lead in the best of five.

David Zhuang follows against Belgium's Andras Podpinka, world #47 and cousin of former Hungarian superstar Tibhar Klampar, who he strongly resembles both in his features and his playing style & strokes. Podpinka wins the first easily, 21-14, and leads the second, 20-18. At 20-19, David catches Podpinka with two straight penhold backhand attacks against pushes, and leads 21-20—but David then serves into the net (21-all) and Podpinka pulls out the game and match, 23-21.

Jim Butler next goes out to try and match Cheng's defeat of Philippe Saive. Saive leads the first, 14-11, but Jim comes back and leads 20-19. Jim smashes to win the game—except Saive countersmashes to deuce it. But Saive misses Jim's serve, and Jim bullet-loop kills Saive's serve in to win the first, 22-20. In the second, Jim pulls away gradually, banging backhands over and over and playing at a pace Saive just doesn't seem comfortable with. Game, match and tie to USA when Jim wins the second, 21-15! World #8 Belgium is now out of the competition, and USA has advanced to the quarterfinals to face France.

"...I'm not so surprised because I saw the U.S. team playing against Sweden yesterday," said Thierry Cabrera, of USA's win over Belgium. "They are home. For the, that's big motivation. They are big fighters. They played very good. And so it's not so big of a surprise."

#### Group Winners

Winning Group A was world #1 China, winning all three matches 3-0 over Yugoslavia, Italy and Brazil. Italy upset Yugoslavia 3-1 when both Massimiliano Modello and Min Yang upset the Yugoslavian ace, Ilije Lupulesku, and so Italy also advanced while Yugoslavia and Brazil (who lost all three) were eliminated.

Winning Group B was Sweden, defeating Belgium 3-2, USA 3-1, and Australia, 3-0. USA, by virtue of its upset of Belgium, also advanced.

Group C was thrown into a 3-way tie when Korea, sitting out world #15 Yoo Nam Kyu, lost to Austria, 3-2, despite world #5 Kim Taek Soo winning both his matches. Korea's Lee Chul Seung (world #48) was upset by both Werner Schlager and Kostadin Lengerov. However, Korea had defeated Japan 3-1, and Japan had defeated Austria 3-0, and so Austria was eliminated—but Japan advanced in first, with Korea second.

Group D was won easily by France, a 3-0 victor over General Motors-sponsored Germany, with Jean-Philippe Gatién (world #8) defeating Steffen Fetzner (#41), 19 & 7, Patrick Chila (#22) upsetting Jörg Roskopf (#7), -18, 7, 18, and Damien Eoi (#26) defeating Richard Prause (#60), 16 & 19.

#### Quarterfinals

The four quarterfinals were flipped, with teams from the same preliminary group put on opposite sides. Imagine the consternation when the #1 and #3 seeds, China and Korea, were drawn in the quarterfinals, care of Korea's loss to Austria earlier!

#### USA vs France

Cheng started things off by serving a



USA Women (L-R: Wei Wang, Lily Yip, Virginia Sung) didn't make it out of their preliminary round robin, where they were stuck with superpower China and Germany.

down the line ace for the first point against world #26 Damien Eloi. The scores bounced around—7-2 Cheng, then 7-7, 16-10, 16-14, 20-16, 20-19, Cheng still leading. Cheng ended it by blocking on the edge, 21-19. In the second, Cheng served from down 17-20, and deuces it, 20-all. Then it's 21-all. 22-all. 23-all. 24-all. 25-all. 26-all. 27-all. Can you imagine the suspense? Finally, Eloi smacks a "winner" to Cheng's wide backhand—and Cheng backhand loops a down-the-line winner to go up match point, and then wins the game and match—19 & 27!

Jim Butler followed against Jean-Philippe Gatién—but the 1993 Men's Singles World Champion is too strong, winning at 16 & 9. During one point, the fleet-footed Frenchman was forced to jump the side barriers to lob a return, and was able to jump back onto the court and race to the side barrier on the other side, where he just missed lobbing another return.

David Zhuang was up next against World #55 Christophe Legout (that's right, there's no "r" at the end of his first name, and his name is pronounced "Christophy Legoo"). David wins the first relatively easily, 21-17, but gets shellacked in the second, 21-11. In the third, with the crowd cheering every point, David begins to pull away, 10-7, 16-11, 20-14, 21-15! USA leads 2-1!

Cheng Yinghua now plays Gatién to try to end the tie. Cheng had upset the then-World Champion and World #1 at the 1994 World Singles Cup, just 8 months previously. But this time the incredibly fast Frenchman seems in position to loop-kill everything—if he has a backhand, Cheng can't find it. Match to France, 15 & 14.

So it all came down to Jim Butler versus Damien Eloi. And with the partisan crowd cheering him on, Jim responds with perhaps some of the best playing of his life—taking early leads both matches and holding them all the way, despite Eloi's constant attack. Match to Jim Butler & USA, at 18 & 17—and by defeating World #4 France, World #25 USA is in the Semifinals!

#### China vs Korea

Despite an overweight Wang Tao's heroics in defeating both Yoo Nam Kyu and Kim Taek Soo (at 16 & 17, and 17 & 12), Kong Linghui showed none of the abilities he'd shown in winning Men's Singles at the World Championships, losing to both Yoo and Kim (at 9, -19, 11 and 21, -17, 16). Kong also had trouble holding leads, watching an 18-12 lead on Kim become 18-all (but winning that game), and then losing from 18-12 in the first against Yoo. Worse for the Chinese, Men's Singles Finalist (and U.S. Open Champion) Liu Guoliang looked absolutely awful in losing to Lee Chul Seung at 12 & 13—the same Seung who would have his own troubles later with USA's

David Zhuang. When all the dust had cleared, top-seeded China was out in the quarterfinals.

#### Germany vs Sweden

After watching a seemingly not-quite-here Jan-Ove Waldner lose to Cheng Yinghua, Philippe Saive and Thierry Cabrera, Sweden decided to sit Waldner out here, and played Jörgen Persson & Kayode Kadiri in the top two spots, and Peter Karlsson in the third position. Kadiri, who may be the next Swede to reach the top rankings, early on looked extremely good, with wins over Philippe Saive, Thierry Cabrera (thereby saving Sweden from losing in the preliminaries, when Waldner lost to these two) as well as Cheng Yinghua & Jim Butler. Here, however, he was unable to win against either Steffen Fetzner in the

opening match (-19, 17, 14) or Jörg Roskopf in the deciding fifth match (18, 15). In between, Persson lost a fatal match to Roskopf (11, -23, 18) while defeating Fetzner (14, 13). Karlsson defeated Richard Prause in a close battle (18, -20, 19), but it was to no avail. So the top two seeds in the tournament, China and Sweden, are both out in the quarterfinals.

#### Japan vs Italy

Koji Matsushita, world #34, was the hero of the day, winning both his matches for Japan against Massimo Constantini (14, 14) and Min Yang, world #31 (-11, 17, 11). Although Min defeated a red-hot Toshio Taskaka (who'd already upset Kim Taek Soo and Ding Yi earlier) at -17, 19, 11, Japan's #3, Ryo Yuzawa defeated the Italian #3, Massimiliano Modello to give Japan a 3-1 win into the semifinals.

#### Semifinals

#### USA vs Korea

After beating Belgium & France, giving Sweden a scare, and making it all the way to the semifinals, what could USA do for an encore? For an answer, see the several thousand fans on hand cheering wildly for

USA here in this match. And again, USA gave everyone their money's worth.

For this match, the USA fans had finally gotten organized, and led by Barney D. Reed Sr., Todd Sweeris, Eric Owens, Randy Cohen and Herson Go, they really went at it with every imaginable cheer—like any normal basketball or football game. The Korean fans also were organized, and while the teams competed on the field, there was an equally strong competition going on in the stands. The cheering started slow—at first, nobody would join in. Todd Sweeris said, "I'm disgusted with the crowd's support. At a basketball game, I couldn't even hear myself speak." But slowly, more and more of the crowd joined in until there was a happy bedlam in the stands.

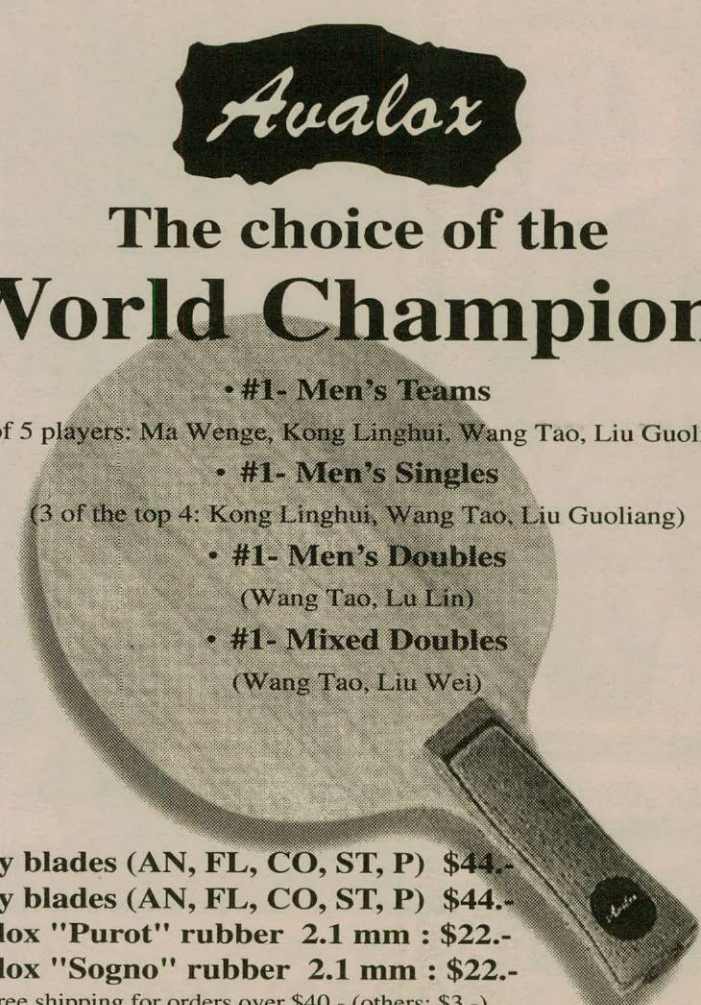
Once again, Cheng was up first, against Yoo Nam Kyu. Just before the match, the muscular Yoo, in the middle of some pretty intimidating stretching, did a complete split on the court, with each leg going 90 degrees sideways. Our 38-year-old Cheng, of course, would have some difficulty in touching his toes. But so is the lot of USA to always be the underdog—see Rocky IV and Ivan Drago.

But on the court, USA was very Rocky-like, and once again USA was ready to battle—but not in the first match, as Yoo won easily, at 13 & 16.

Jim Butler followed against Kim Taek Soo, and battled to 17-all—then lost the last four points to the Korean. In game #2, Kim took a 19-15 lead. Jim scored the next point, served at 16-19, and ran out the match, scoring the last six in a row to win, 21-19! Yes, the crowd went crazy—we were in this tie!

But from 12-10 in the third, Kim took super shot after super shot, allowing only two more points in winning 21-12.

David Zhuang next was up against Liu Guoliang-beater Lee Chul Seung—and quickly lost the first, 21-16. But starting in the second game, David's blocking became more and more precise, his smashes more and more potent—and he wins the next two





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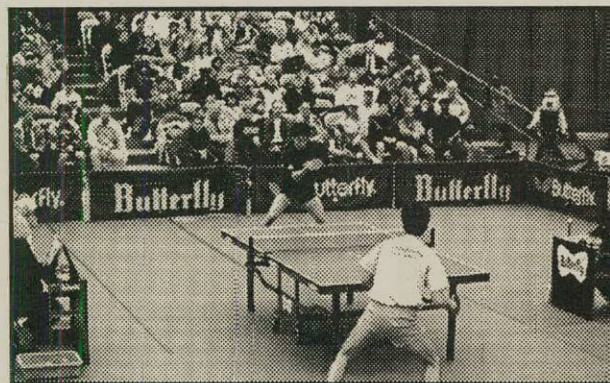


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games at 18 & 16! It's not over!

Cheng was now up against Kim Taek Soo. With leads of 12-5 in the first, and 15-11 in the second, is it safe to say that Cheng won, and that the tie was into the fifth and final match? Unfortunately, it was not to be, as Kim turned up the firepower at the end of each game, winning both at 19 & 18.

USA was out, but they were also in, as the crowd gave them a well-deserved standing ovation.

#### Germany vs Japan

Japan decided to sit out their #1, Koji Matsushita, for some reason, possibly because the Germans are supposed to be good against defensive players. Germany started out strong, winning the first two matches, with Steffen Fetzner defeating Ryo Yuzawa at 11 & 20, and Jörg Rosskopf defeating Toshio Tasaki at 19 & 16. From here on, things got a little more interesting.

Ichiro Imaeda defeated Richard Prause (9, -20, 16) to open the door a crack for Japan. Toshio Tasaka added Fetzner to his list of victims this tournament, 20, -12, 12. It all came down to the final match, with the German ace, Rosskopf, against Japan's Ryo Yuzawa, who normally played in the third position. As expected, Rosskopf won easily, at 11 & 14, to advance Germany into the final.

#### Final

#### Korea vs Germany

The battle between these two would be a battle between the Korean "Turn & Burn" strategy (i.e. penhold forehand powerloops from all over) versus the German's two-sided looping games.

Fetzner has one of the best backhand counterloops in the world, and although it didn't come into play that often, it was perhaps the most spectacular shot of the tournament. In match #1, between Fetzner and Yoo Nam Kyu, nearly every point became either a counterlooping point, or one player played a topspinning fishing defense—and Fetzner was a threat to counter-attack from both sides. Down 20-18, and 21-20, Fetzner won the first, 23-21. In the second, up 12-7, Yoo is lobbing—and penhold backhand counterkills! Yoo leads 17-13, and is serving up 19-16—and then it's 19-all. Yoo serve and loop kills two in a row off, and Germany has won the first match, 21 & 19.

Jörg Rosskopf next faced Kim Taek Soo in a battle of power players. Kim, of course, has great forehand power (as does Rosskopf), but Rosskopf has perhaps the best backhand loop kill in the world, and one of the most aggressive flips. The points were over very quickly—often with one player ripping a "winner," and the other going for the counter-rip. In game one, from 16-all, Rosskopf fell behind 16-19 and 18-20, and lost at 18 on a net ball. In the second, Rosskopf led 16-12, then was behind 17-20—and again lost on a net dribbler! Korea tied it up 1-1, 18 & 17.

World #48 Lee Chul Seung has had his ups and downs in his matches with Liu Guoliang and David Zhuang, but most thought he'd defeat world #60 Richard Prause. Up 10-5 in the first, it looked like he would. But Prause kept counterlooping, fishing, keeping the ball in play while looping from way, way back, and Lee—another "Turn & Burn" style player—became erratic. Down 13-16, Prause scored seven in a row in winning the first, 21-18. In the second, with Lee up 13-12, whoever received had outscored the server 20-5! Down 16-19, Prause serve & loops four straight winners, and eventually he wins the game and match, 25-23, on another serve & loop kill—perhaps he's taking a liking to this "Turn & Burn" strategy? Germany now led 2-1.

In match #4, Kim clearly overpowered Fetzner—although from down 18-12 in the

first, Fetzner scored five in a row, only to lose, 21-17. In the second, Kim runs away with it—at 20-9, they play an exhibition point, with Kim leaping the side barrier and lobbing a net dribbler for a winner. Korea ties it up 2-2, at 17 & 9.

As always seems the case, the final match is the best—and this one, between lefties Rosskopf and Yoo, was clearly the match to watch. Yoo is consistently powerful, while Rosskopf is more erratic—a shotmaker who can make or miss five in a row at any time. In the first, Yoo leads 13-11—and only scores one more point! Rosskopf is hot.

Between games, Yoo practices a serve at the table. The ball double bounces, goes off the end, hits the ground, bounces backward, and rolls straight as an arrow under the table right back to Yoo. Some backspin!

Down 5-9, Rosskopf scores eight in a row (which he'd also done in game one from down 11-13). Up 18-14, the German team is on their feet, sensing victory. But Yoo pulls out two serves which Rosskopf pushes in the net, and then misses a counterloop, and it's 18-17—and the crowd is chanting, "Yoo Nam Kyu!" over and over. Up 19-17, Rosskopf still can't hold it, missing four straight loop kills, including two of his trademark backhand rip loops. But the match is now into the third game of the fifth match.

After finishing so poorly in the second, Rosskopf came out in full blazing glory in the third, "locking" up the match and the championship with a 13-5 lead. But never count out 1988 Men's Singles Olympic Gold Medalist Yoo Nam Kyu, who scores five in a row, 13-10. Then Rosskopf pulls away again, 16-10. Again, Yoo scores five in a row, the first four on Rosskopf's serve—and the huge German lead is now only 16-15. Rosskopf leads 18-17—then is down 18-19.

Yoo serves and makes an incredible loop kill, acing Rosskopf—only, only, the umpire signals fault! Yoo's service contact was over the table, Umpire Erich Haring later explains. "The one before was also illegal, but I waited too long to call it," he said.

And so instead of Yoo and Korea being up 20-18 championships point, it's 19-all!

Rosskopf takes the attack the next point, and (how come the best points always come at the end?) Yoo backhand fishes over ten in a row before Rosskopf powers a forehand past him to get game, match, tie and championship point for the Germans, 20-19. Then

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Yoo pops a push up, Rosskopf backhand loop kills—off the end! 20-20.

There is a two minute hold-up while they search for the ball, which Rosskopf's miss-hit backhand loop had hit way off under the stands. When they finally find it, Rosskopf serve & loops, Yoo pops the block up—and Rosskopf misses another easy winner! 21-20 game, match, tie and championship point for the Koreans. When Rosskopf backhand loops Yoo's next serve off the end, Yoo has won the match, -14, 19, 20, and Korea has pulled it out! Korea is the 1995 World Team Cup Men's Champions!

The Germans could only wonder... if only Rosskopf had held that 18-14 second game lead... if only he'd held that 13-5, 16-10 third game lead... if only he hadn't missed those two easy balls in a row from up 20-19 championship point in the third... if only... if only....

#### WOMEN'S COMPETITION

There were 12 teams in the women's team competition, including China (World #1), Korea (#2), Romania (#4), Sweden (#5), Germany (#6), Hungary (#7) and Russia (#9). USA, ranked 20 in the world, was seeded 9th in the tournament. The format was four groups of three, with the top two in each group advancing to the quarterfinals.

#### Preliminary Competition

#### U.S. Women

The U.S.'s round robin was China and Germany, and they started out the tournament at 9:30 AM on Friday with China. China decided not to play World #1 Deng Yaping, to the disappointment of U.S. fans. But we'd see plenty of her later.

In match #1, Lily Yip took on World #2 Qiao Hong. In the first, down a respectable 10-14, she lost the last seven in a row. In the second, Lily took a quick 4-0 lead, but Qiao tied it up, 7-all...12-all...13-21 for Qiao.

In match #2, USA Chopper Virginia Sung took on a pips-out penholder Chinese with the interesting name of Ying Yang (or more correctly, "Yang Ying"). Ying won easily, at 15 & 7.

In match #3, Wei Wang started out pretty poorly, losing the first game to Lui Wei in this all-Wei match, 21-8. However, Wei went on a hitting binge in the second, and seemingly couldn't miss in winning 21-18 against the shakehands looping Chinese. In the third, however, Lui found the Wei and began to pull away from 8-9 to 10-17 to 12-21 Lui.

That afternoon, China would make equally short work of Germany, winning 3-0, with only Lui losing a game.

#### USA vs Germany

At 9:30 AM Saturday, USA and Germany had it out—only one would advance.

In match #1, Wei Wang took on Elke Schall—and Wei demonstrated the definition of "fast-attack." Mixed in with opening forehand loops were continuous forehand smashes, backhand quick-hits and smashes, and quick-hitting blocks to set up still more smashes. Match to Wei Wang at 12 & 15—and things looked good for USA.

In match #2, Germany played their ace,

Nicole Struse, against the USA's ace, Lily Yip. Down 4-10 in the first, Lily scored 7 in a row—only to lose the game, 21-16. In the second, at 11-all, Struse showed why she's the German ace, running off 10 in a row to win the match, 16 & 11.

At this point, it looked like Struse would win both her matches. However, after Wei Wang's drubbing of Schall, it looked like Lily Yip should be able to win against her. Therefore, the deciding match to see who would advance would be Virginia Sung's match against Olga Nemes, the German #2, who was playing in the third position (to lock up a third match, apparently, to go with Struse's apparent lock on two matches). However, the problem for the Germans was that Nemes was known to not be particularly good against choppers—and since the U.S. had chopper Virginia on their team, why was Germany risking their #2 in the third position where her only match might be a chopper?

Nemes played much of the match pushing, pushing, then suddenly backhand looping, trying to catch Virginia too close to the table. Virginia played a very passive defensive game. In game #1, down 14-17, Virginia tied it up 18-all... 19-all... was then down 19-20, 20-21, 21-22, 23-24, and all tied up again at 24-all. (She'd had one ad, 23-22.) But Nemes won it with a pair of sidespin backhand loops, catching Virginia, and winning the game, 26-24.

In game #2, from 5-all, Virginia pulled to a 14-9 lead, then Nemes tied it at 15-all. But at 17-all, Virginia ran it out, including a nice running forehand smash, 21-17.

Nemes took a 5-0 lead in the third, however, and held or increased the lead the rest of the way, finally winning the match, 21-14.

For the U.S. to win, Lily would now have to beat Schall, and then Wei would have to beat the German ace, Struse, in the fifth. However, it was not to be—Schall began to loop more, began to pin Lily down with her backhand loop. Schall won the first easily, 21-13.


In the second, Schall again pulled away, and led 19-14. Lily scored two, 19-16, and served at the end. But a moment later, Schall held her off to end USA's hopes, 21-17.

#### Group Winners

Unlike the men's competition, the women's competition only had one upset, with world #9 Russia upsetting World #4 Romania 3-2 in Group C, with both advancing over the third team, Nigeria. Four of the five matches between Russia and Romania were 3-gamers, with Romania's ace, Otilia Badescu, losing a pair of deuce- or 19-in-the-third matches, 17, -15, 20 to chopper Elena Timina, and in the fifth and final match, 13, -22, 19 to Irina Palina.

Group A was dominated by China, defeating both USA and Germany 3-0. When Germany defeated USA, they advanced.

Group B was dominated by Korea, with Hungary (whose coach, Istanov Fulop, a football fan, went to the nearby Falcons-



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# Huntington Banks 1995 U. S. Open Team Championships

## Cobo Hall - November 24-26, 1995

### Tournament Information

The Detroit Table Tennis Club invites you to participate in the U.S. Open TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS to be held November 24-26, 1995 in the Cobo Exhibition Center in Detroit.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The tournament is open to all valid and current members of USATT or of ITTF affiliate associations. Top players (rated over 2200) must play for teams representing their country of citizenship or country of residence (at least 3 months). All top group teams must have names representing geographical areas (U.S. or Canadian cities, states, provinces, or countries). Otherwise, teams may be comprised of players from any geographical areas.

To be eligible for the prizes for the highest finishing women and juniors, teams must consist entirely of women (any age) or juniors (17 or under) as of Dec. 1, 1995. College teams must be comprised of members of the same College or University. College team members must demonstrate proof of enrollment. All members of senior teams must be age 40 or over as of Nov. 24, 1995.

**FORMAT:** The Swaythling cup system (best of 9 singles) will be used for every tie except the semi-finals and finals of group A. Only the semi-finals and finals of group A (3 ties) will be played under the new modified Swaythling cup system, as used in the men's event in the 1995 World Championships.

All teams, except senior teams, will play in one division open to men, women and juniors in any combination. At the start of the tournament, teams will play Preliminary Group (P-Group) round robins against other teams to determine which Final Group (F-Group) they will be placed in for the remainder of the tournament. A team tie (match between teams) will be won by the best of nine matches, and a match by the best of three games. A team will consist of up to five players of which only three will play in any one team tie. A team with only one or two players may play a tie, but will lose the absent players' matches as they are scheduled to occur. Senior teams will play in a separate division.

**AWARDS:** Cash awards for Open Teams in the Top Division will be:

Winner .....	\$6,000
Runner-Up .....	\$2,400
Semi-Finalist .....	\$1,200
Highest Women's Team .....	\$1,800
Highest Junior Team .....	\$600
Highest Senior Team .....	\$600
Highest College Team .....	\$600

**ENTRY:** Entry fee for all teams will be \$265.00 in U.S. funds, plus \$5.00 per play rating fee. Mail entries and checks payable to Detroit Table Tennis Clubs, P. O. Box 917, Detroit, Michigan 48231. A 10% discount will be extended to clubs or associations entering ten or more teams comprised of players of that club or association. Foreign entries (other than Canadians) must be submitted through USA Table Tennis. FAX entry to 810-658-9194.

**DEADLINE:** Entry deadline is November 10, 1995. Late entries may be accepted until final draws are made, but will be assessed as \$30 late entry fee. Entries will be confirmed by mail to the address listed for the team captain. If no confirmation has been received by Monday, November 20, the team captain should immediately notify the Tournament Committee.

**PENALTY:** A penalty of \$100 will be assessed to teams entering a top player who fails to attend and who, in the sole opinion of the Tournament Committee, was included for the purpose of raising the team rating.

**SCHEDULED TIMES:** Play for all teams will begin at 9:30 A.M. on Friday, November 24, 1995. Team captains must report to the control desk 30 minutes before the tournament begins. If a team is not ready and available for its preliminary group matches, that team will be defaulted into a lower final group for the remainder of the tournament.

**RULES:** USATT rules will govern play. All decisions of the Tournament Committee will be final and all participants, upon entering, agree to abide by them.

**EQUIPMENT:** Orange and white Butterfly balls and Butterfly tables.

**TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:**

Bob Allshouse, Tournament Director  
David Marcus, Tournament President  
Bob Beatty, Entries and Facilities  
Bill Walk, Tournament Referee  
Mei-Mei Ma, Registration  
Tony McGill, Public Relations

**Control Desk:**

Terri Weaver  
Sarah McAfee  
Diane McAfee  
Sheila Von Nottbeck

**INFORMATION:** Bob Beatty - 810-548-0075

**SANCTION:** Five-star tournament sanctioned by USA Table Tennis.

**HOTEL:** The Hotel Pontchartrain will make rooms available to tournament participants at the reduced rate of \$65.00 (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. The hotel is located directly across the street from Cobo Hall. To receive the reduced rate, identify yourself as a tournament participant and make reservations with: HOTEL PONTCHARTAIN, Two Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48226, 313-965-0200 or 800-333-3333. Reserve by October 31 for reduced rate.

### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM



Huntington Banks  
U. S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS  
COBO HALL - NOVEMBER 24 - 26, 1995



TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AFFILIATED CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE KEEP IT SHORT - 26 CHARACTERS OR LESS)

IS YOUR TEAM ELIGIBLE FOR - THE WOMEN'S PRIZE? \_\_\_\_\_ JUNIOR PRIZE? \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE PRIZE? \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS A SENIOR TEAM? (WE WILL PLAY ONLY SENIORS) YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

1. CAPTAIN (playing) \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED USTTA RATING: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

2. MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED USTTA RATING: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

3. MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED USTTA RATING: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

4. MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED USTTA RATING: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

5. MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ESTIMATED USTTA RATING: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

WE AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL USTTA AND LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS. WE HEREBY RELEASE THE DETROIT TABLE TENNIS CLUB AND THE USTTA FROM ANY AND ALL ACTIONS, CLAIMS AND DEMANDS OF LOSS, DAMAGE OR INJURY SUSTAINED TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY AND FURTHER AGREE THAT WE ASSUME FULL RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT.

TEAM CAPTAIN SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY

Dolphins game) coming in second, Australia 3rd.

Group D was won by Sweden, 3-2 over Canada, with Brazil coming in third.

#### Quarterfinals

Three of the quarterfinal ties were quick 3-0's. Canada averaged 10.2 points per game against powerhouse China, who to all intents and purposes (for the fans, if not the players yet) was already ceded this tournament. Hungary made almost equally short work of Russia, losing only one game in the tie. Korea defeated Germany 3-0 as well—but in all three matches, lost the first game. In second and third games, Germany averaged 14 points a game.

Romania had to struggle to defeat Sweden, 3-2, as Sweden's Asa Elizabeth Svensson won both her matches, defeating Emilia Ciosu at 6 & 22, and Otilia Badescu at -18, 19, 11. In the fifth match, Ciosu defeated Sweden's Pernilla Pettersson, -20, 18, 19. It was Romania's second straight tie that had gone 19-in-the-third-in-the-fifth—but this time they won.

#### Semifinals

##### China vs Hungary

Once again, China slam-dunked their opponent, this time Hungary, winning 3-0 without losing a game. Hungary battled, however, with several close games. In the opener, in a battle of shakehand loopers, Qiao Hong won relatively easily against Krisztina Toth, 17 & 17.

In match two, Deng Yaping, with her "claw" grip (developed on her own, she said) clawed her way to a 20-17 lead against Csilla Batorfi, who had switched from a high-high toss serve that Deng was attacking easily to a backhand serve that seemed to give her trouble. Batorfi battled her way back to deuce and a 22-21 lead. Down game point, Deng flip-killed the serve, and wins 24-22 on a drop-block against a Batorfi loop that landed so short Batorfi barely touched it. In the second game, it's all Deng, 21-11. Curiously, Batorfi stopped using the backhand serve that had given Deng so much trouble in the first game, and instead went to the high-high toss serve which Deng attacked at will. Near the end of the game, Batorfi went back to the backhand serve, but it was too late.

In the final match, Ying Yang seemed too much for Vivien Ello, taking an 8-0 lead and winning the first, 21-9. In the second, Yang leads 20-15, and is serving with five game, match, and tie points—and loses all five! Ello simply ripped four reckless-like winners, and at 20-19, Yang served into the net! Yang has further game, match, and tie points at 21-20 and 22-21, but loses both of those as well. Ello then has an ad at 23-22, but also can't convert. Finally, this dramatic finish to a seemingly undramatic final comes to an end when Yang finally puts the ball away to win, 26-24.

##### Korea vs Romania

Although the match ended up being a 3-0 win for the slightly underdog Romanians, it was probably the best women's tie of the tournament. The first match was between Romania's Emilia Ciosu and Korea's Ryu Ji Hye, who has pips on the backhand, with a hitting, looping forehand. Ryu wins the first 21-19, and has three match points in the second before losing, 26-24. In the third, Ryu has two more match points at 20-18, and has three more match points in deuce. Up 21-20 match point, Ciosu thinks Ryu's serve is a let and stops the rally—but the umpire disagrees, and so the point goes to Ryu, deuce. Down 23-22, Ciosu counterloops an edge ball from the barriers. Up 25-24, Ciosu is back lobbing, lobs six in a row before missing a backhand countersmash. Finally, up 27-26, Ciosu is lobbing again, then suddenly chops—and

## INTERVIEW WITH JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE

1994 European Champion • Ranked #1 in World most of 1994-95

by Sheri Soderberg Pittman

**TTT:** People want me to ask you for the record why it was decided that you wouldn't play.

**Saive:** Well, it was decided a long time ago—two months ago—that I wouldn't play because now I am starting to prepare for the Olympics. I came here to prepare for the Olympics. I came here to prepare for the season. We have a training camp with Zoran Primorac and the Korean team. And I just started to prepare for the whole season. It was too early in my program to play in this competition. It's quite a big competition and I'd want to be fit. This was not the case, so it was better not to play like Waldi (Waldner) did, for example, because he was not even fighting. So, when I'm not ready, I'm not playing. But it was good for me to come here because I had a good opportunity to stay in the same place as we will be staying next year.

**TTT:** So the main reason is because you didn't feel up to it?

**Saive:** No, the main reason is to prepare for the Olympics and to see everything. I would have come here to Atlanta anyway. I came because the others were here. And they had to play the competition matches, so I came with them. If there was no competition, I would have come anyway.

**TTT:** Because you were training here?

**Saive:** Yes, because I was training here in the same place where I will train for the Olympics next year (Rome, Georgia).

**TTT:** What do you think about the venue for the Olympics?

**Saive:** Well, I think they're organized quite well this year in the hall. Housing may be different. Many countries changed the place [they will sleep] because of where we stayed this year. I hope it will be much better next year for the Olympic Village. But it was not ready. It was cold. Many countries, they had to buy some blankets. Many countries moved into hotels—like Belgium, Sweden, France. But except for that, it was okay. The food is good. And in the playing hall, it's good that they made this special room you have to walk in two times, otherwise it's too



Photo by Mary Jung © 1995

At the World Team Cup in Atlanta, L-R: Levold Brown, Scott Wong, Jean-Michel Saive, Michael Hyatt, Zoran Primorac.

windy there. The practice hall is not good. The carpet is directly on the floor, so it's too hard. If it's a wood floor, like in the main hall, then that would be perfect. But for the rest, it's okay.

**TTT:** Are you disappointed for your team?

**Saive:** Of course. Even if I'm not playing, we expect better results. I mean, last year they were in the semifinals without me. I did not play last year in this competition. So, of course, when you are from my country, you expect good results—even if I am not playing.

**TTT:** So, primarily you're here for mental and other preparation for the Olympics?

**Saive:** Yeah, to prepare for next year and to see the conditions before I arrive next year, because it [the Olympics] is one of my bigger goals. I don't want to arrive next year and everything is new to me and we have to change this and this and this. Now we've learned. We've seen how it is. And if we have to improve on something we will do it.

**TTT:** What's your strategy for preparing for next year?

**Saive:** Well, we have to play one full season starting next month. Normally with the Eu-

ropean Championships, the top 12 European Masters—a lot of competition in Europe. And then you have to prepare 1 1/2 months for the Olympics to be physically and mentally prepared.

**TTT:** Will anyone else on the Belgian team automatically qualify?

**Saive:** Well, I don't know. My brother should have qualified before this competition. He played not so good—I mean, he doesn't have such good results, so I don't know if he's automatically qualified. He should be on the border—maybe yes, maybe not. I don't know. We have to look at all the results after this competition and then see what happens.

**TTT:** What else do you have to say regarding this event?

**Saive:** I think that this event favors the second tier of players. They are quite hot to play in this competition. All of the others—they are not ready. The season was quite long last year with the World Championships in China. And everyone here is calculating what the world rankings will be [for Olympic selections and seedings].

Ryu loops it into the net! Match #1 to Romania, -19, 24, 26—despite Ryu and Korea having three match points in the second game, and five in the third, a total of eight match points.

In match #2, Otilia Badescu pulls out the first game, 26-24, against Hae Jung Park, who, like Ryu, has pips on the backhand. Park wins the second, 21-15, and leads in third, 15-14—but only scores one more point as Badescu wins 7 of the next 8 points, 21-16, to give Romania a 2-0 lead.

The third match is between Park Kyng Ae and Georgeta Cojocar, a shakehand counterdriver with an erratic (and rarely used) loop. Just before the match, a spectator was commenting that Korea should have played Ae in the top two positions, since the Romanian's probably would be less used to her pips-out penhold style than the two shakehands players (with pips-out backhands) Korea had played instead. He seemed to be right, at first, as Ae absolutely dominated the first game, 21-8. However, Cojocar dominated the second, winning it 21-14. In the third, Cojocar, now completely tuned into Ae's style and forcing her to block defensively, takes a 6-0 lead. But from down 11-16, Ae ties it up, 16-all. Then it's 17-all, 18-all, 19-all. At 18-all, Park

scored with a net ball; at 19-all, Cojocar pushes Ae's serve back on the edge to take a 20-19 game, match, tie and championship point... which she converts a moment later, to put Romania into the final.

#### Final

##### China vs Romania

Once again, China completely dominated the tie, making for a quick & boring 3-0 win—sort of like the '27 Yankees?

Romania's ace, Otilia Badescu, is not having a good tournament, and only scores 8 & 9 against China's ace, Deng Yaping, in the opener. Emilia Ciosu does better against Qiao Hong in match #2, winning the first, 21-18 (only the third game taken from the Chinese this tournament—the other games being taken by USA's Wei Wang and Germany's Elke Schall), but losing the second, 21-12. In the third, Hong's 12-6 lead dwindles to 19-18, but she wins the last two points to win the match, -18, 12, 18.

Match #3 is all China and Ying Yang, as she defeats Cojocar at 13 & 15.

For the record, the Chinese women's tie record for the tournament was 5-0; their match record was 15-0; their game record was 30-3; their point record was 673-441 (60.4%-39.6%); and the average score of their games was 20.4 to 13.4.

#### World Team Cup Results

##### MEN'S TEAMS

###### Final

**Korea d. Germany, 3-2:** Steffen Fetzner (GER) d. Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR), 21,19; Kim Taek Soo (KOR) d. Jörg Roskopf (GER), 18,17; Richard Prause (GER) d. Lee Chul Seung (KOR), 18,23; Kim Taek Soo d. Steffen Fetzner, 17,9; Yoo Nam Kyu d. Jörg Roskopf, -14,19,20.

###### Semifinals

**Korea d. USA, 3-1:** Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR) d. Cheng Yinghua (USA), 13,16; Kim Taek Soo (KOR) d. Jim Butler (USA), 18,-19,12; David Zhuang (USA) d. Lee Chul Seung (KOR), -16,18,16; Kim Taek Soo d. Cheng Yinghua, 19,18.

**Germany d. Japan, 3-2:** Steffen Fetzner (GER) d. Ryo Yuzawa (JPN), 11,20; Jörg Roskopf (GER) d. Toshio Tasaka (JPN), 19,16; Ichiro Imaeda (JPN) d. Richard Prause (GER), -9,20,16; Toshio Tasaka d. Steffen Fetzner, 20,-12,12; Jörg Roskopf d. Ryu Yuzawa, 11,14.

###### Quarterfinals

**USA d. France, 3-2:** Cheng Yinghua (USA) d. Damien Eloi (FRA), 19,27; Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA) d. Jim Butler (USA), 16,10; David Zhuang (USA) d. Christophe Legout (FRA), 17,-11,15; Jean-Philippe Gatien d. Cheng Yinghua, 15,14; Jim Butler d. Damien Eloi, 18,17.

**Korea d. China, 3-2:** Kim Taek Soo (KOR) d.

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Kong Linghui (CHN), 9,-19,11; Wang Tao (CHN) d. Yoo Nam Kyu (KOR), 16,17; Lee Chul Seung (KOR) d. Liu Guoliang (CHN), 12,13; Wang Tao d. Kim Taek Soo, 17,12; Yoo Nam Kyu d. Kong Linghui, 21,-17,16.

**Germany d. Sweden**, 3-2: Steffen Fetzner (GER) d. Kayode Kadiri (SWE), -19,17,14; Jörg Roskopf (GER) d. Jörgen Persson (SWE), -11,23,18; Peter Karlsson (SWE) d. Richard Prause (GER), 18,-20,19; Jörgen Persson d. Steffen Fetzner, 14,13; Jörg Roskopf d. Kayode Kadiri, 18,15.

**Japan d. Italy**, 3-1: Koji Matsushita (JPN) d. Masimo Costantini (ITA), 14,14; Min Yang (ITA) d. Toshio Tasaka (JPN), -17,19,11; Ryu Yuzawa (JPN) d. Massimiliano Mondello (ITA) 19,-15,8; Koji Matsushita d. Min Yang, -11,17,11.

**WOMEN'S TEAMS**

**Final**

**China d. Romania**, 3-0: Deng Yaping (CHN) d. Otilia Badescu (ROM), 8,9; Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Emilia Ciosu (ROM), -18,12,18; Ying Yang (CHN) d. Georgeta Cojocaru (ROM), 13,15.

**Semifinals**

**China d. Hungary**, 3-0: Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Krisztina Toth (HUN), 17,17; Deng Yaping (CHN) d. Csilla Batorfi (ROM), 22,11; Ying Yang (CHN) d. Vivien Ello (HUN), 9,24.

**Romania d. Korea**, 3-0: Emilia Ciosu d. Ryu Ji Hye, -19,24,26; Otilia Badescu (ROM) d. Park Hae Jung (KOR), 24,-15,16; Georgeta Cojocaru (ROM) d. Park Kyung Ae (KOR), -8,14,19.

**Quarterfinals**

**China d. Canada**, 3-0: Deng Yaping (CHN) d. Petra Cada (CAN), 12,10; Ying Yang (CHN) d. Michaela Cada (CAN), 12,4; Liu Wei (CHN) d. Chris Ngo (CAN), 9,14.

**Hungary d. Russia**, 3-0: Krisztina Toth (HUN)

d. Elean Timina (RUS), 18,18; Csilla Batorfi (HUN) d. Irina Palina (RUS), 18,-18,17; Vivien Ello (HUN) d. Galina Melnik (RUS), 14,17.

**Romania d. Sweden**, 3-2: Otilia Badescu (ROM) d. Pernilla Pettersson (SWE), 16,14; Asa Elizabeth Svensson (SWE) d. Emilia Ciosu (ROM), 6,22; Georgeta Cojocaru (ROM) d. Jenn Jonsson (SWE), 16,14; Asa Elizabeth Svensson d. Otilia Badescu, -18,19,11; Emilia Ciosu d. Pernilla Pettersson, -20,18,19.

**Korea d. Germany**, 3-0: Ryu Ji Hye (KOR) d. Nicole Struse (GER), -19,14,16; Park Kyung Ae (KOR) d. Olga Nemes (GER), -16,16,15; Park Hae Jung (KOR) d. Elke Schall (GER), -17,11,12.

**USA Men's Preliminary Results:**

**Sweden d. USA**, 3-1: Cheng Yinghua (USA) d. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE), 19,-17,19; Kayode Kadiri (SWE) d. Jim Butler (USA), 13,-21,18; Joergen Persson (SWE) d. David Zhuang (USA), -15,15,16; Kayode Kadiri (SWE) d. Cheng Yinghua (USA), 17,16.

**USA d. Australia**, 3-0: Jim Butler (USA) d. Paul Langley (AUS), 16,6; David Zhuang (USA) d. Russell Lavale (AUS), 20,14; Cheng Yinghua (USA) d. Dennis Makaling (AUS), 9,14.

**USA d. Belgium**, 3-1: Cheng Yinghua (USA) d. Philippe Saive (BEL), 17,-17,11; Jim Butler (USA) d. Thierry Cabrera (BEL), 10,19; Andreas Podpinka (BEL) d. David Zhuang (USA), 14,21; Jim Butler (USA) d. Philippe Saive (BEL), 20,15.

**USA Women's Preliminary Results:**

**China d. USA**, 3-0: Qiao Hong (CHN) d. Lily Yip (USA), 10,13; Ying Yang (CHN) d. Virginia Sung (USA), 15,7; Lui Wei (CHN) d. Wei Wang (USA), 8,-18,12.

**Germany d. USA**, 3-1: Wei Wang (USA) d. Elke Schall (GER), 12,15; Nicole Struse (GER) d. Lily Yip (USA), 16,11; Olga Nemes (GER) d. Virginia Sung (USA), 24,-17,14; Elke Schall (GER) d. Lily Yip (USA), 13,17.

**Men's Competition**

GROUP A	CTRY	CHN	YUG	ITA	BRA
China	CHN		3-0	3-0	3-0
Yugoslavia	YUG	0-3		1-3	3-1
Italy	ITA	0-3	3-1		3-1
Brazil	BRA	0-3	1-3	1-3	

GROUP B	CTRY	SWE	BEL	USA	AUS
Sweden	SWE		3-2	3-1	3-0
Belgium	BEL	2-3		1-3	3-1
United States	USA	1-3	3-1		3-0
Australia	AUS	0-3	1-3	0-3	

GROUP C	CTRY	KOR	JPN	AUT	CAN
Korea	KOR		3-1	2-3	3-0
Japan	JPN	1-3		3-0	3-0
Austria	AUT	3-2	0-3		3-0
Canada	CAN	0-3	0-3	0-3	

GROUP D	CTRY	FRA	GER	CZE	NGR
France	FRA		3-0	3-0	3-1
Germany	GER	0-3		3-0	3-0
Czech Republic	CZE	0-3	0-3		3-0
Nigeria	NGR	1-3	0-3	0-3	

**Women's Competition**

GROUP A	CTRY	CHN	GER	USA
China	CHN		3-0	3-0
Germany	GER	0-3		3-1
United States	USA	0-3	1-3	

GROUP B	CTRY	KOR	HUN	AUS
Korea	KOR		3-0	3-0
Hungary	HUN	0-3		3-0
Australia	AUS	0-3	0-3	

GROUP C	CTRY	ROM	RUS	NGR
Romania	ROM		2-3	3-1
Russia	RUS	3-2		3-0
Nigeria	NGR	1-3	0-3	

GROUP D	CTRY	SWE	CAN	BRA
Sweden	SWE		3-2	3-0
Canada	CAN	2-3		3-1
Brazil	BRA	0-3	1-3	

# 1995 SEARS INVITATIONAL



## Matthew Syed Wins Third Straight!

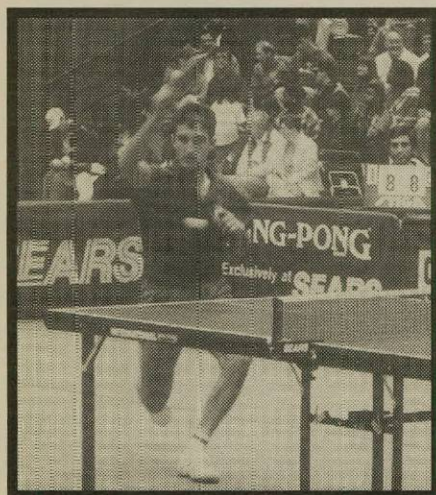
Palatine, Illinois

by Laurence Johnson

September 17, 1995



Photo by Charles Merydith ©1995



Matthew Syed (above) defeats Khoa Nguyen (below), -18, 16, 9, 7.

Photo by John Oros ©1995

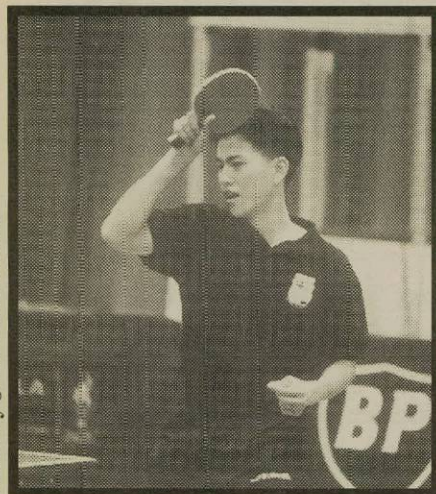
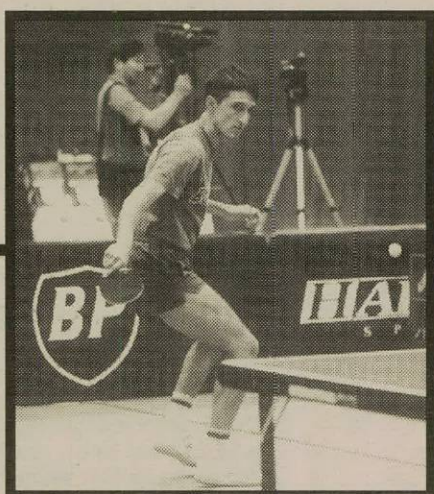


Photo by John Oros ©1995

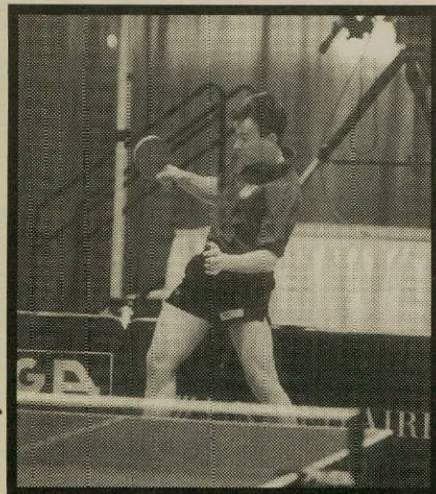


1992. Carrying the table tennis promotion ball for BP has been Homer Brown. Along with Scott Preiss, Homer is one of the most determined promoters I know. He has played in more than 25 U.S. Opens and he devotes loads of time to our sport.

The Rolling Meadows Holiday Inn is the host hotel for the Illinois Sears Challenge and it stages a demonstration by the professionals the evening before the tournament. The ball control displays in the Holidome

Matthew Syed (above) defeats Alan Cooke (below), -19, 15, 18, 12

Photo by John Oros ©1995



Alan Cooke (above) defeats Michael Hyatt (below), -18, 10, 14, 12.

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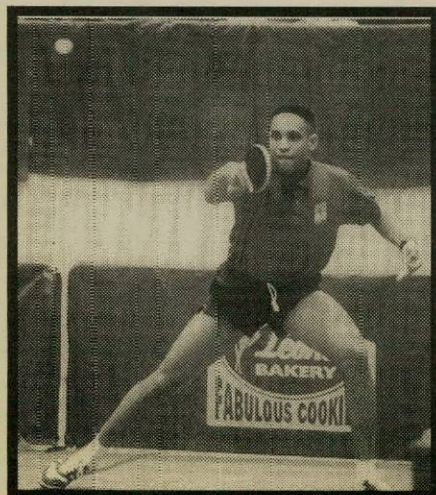
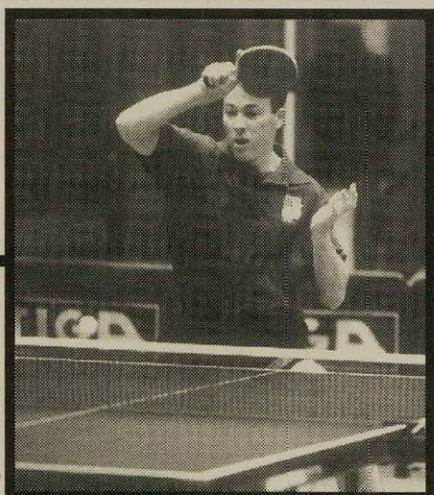


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Singles Champion, and a semifinalist at the Sears Invitational in 1993 & 94, this year a finalist.

- Leszek Kucharski (Poland), formerly ranked in the top 10 in the world and a former finalist in Men's Doubles at the World Championships.
- Kazuyuki Yokoyama (Japan), current Japanese National Collegiate Men's Singles Champion.

### Group B:

- Michael Hyatt (Jamaica), a member of the Jamaican Olympic and National Team, and the 1992 U.S. Collegiate Men's Singles Champion.
- Matthew Syed (England), who has now won the Sears Invitational three years in a row, is a spectacular chopper on the English National and 1992 Olympic Team.
- Liang Geliang (China), a former Men's Singles semifinalist at the World Championships and a many-time member of the Chinese World Championship Men's Team. (See article on Liang by Ed Hogshead, pg. 22.)
- Jim Butler (USA), 2-time U.S. National Champion, and a member of the U.S. National and 1992 Olympic Teams.

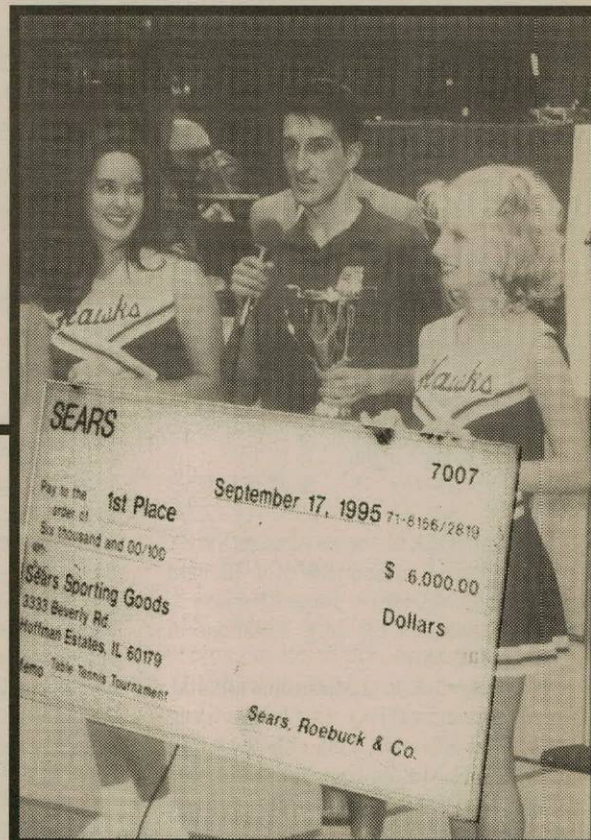
Early Sunday morning of the 17th had the players arriving at Harper College by 8:00 AM. By 8:30 AM the tournament was ready to begin, thanks to tournament director Primo Madrigal and volunteers from his Schaumburg Table Tennis Club. Peter Bjurman, Phil Moy, Dewayne Zint and Ed Hogshead were also working hard to keep things running smoothly.

### GROUP A MATCHES

#### Khoa Nguyen vs Alan Cooke

Khoa Nguyen amazes me by being at the top of our

Photo by John Oros ©1995



player ratings even though he is a computer professional. His match with the experienced Mr. Cooke was very close, with small leads going back and forth. The American bested the Englishman in game one, 21-19. The second game went the same way, 21-19.

#### Leszek Kucharski vs Kazuyuki Yokoyama

Leszek Kucharski had quite a bit too much know-how for Kazuyuki Yokoyama and won 21-8 and 21-15, trying out his under-the-leg service in game two.

#### Leszek Kucharski vs Khoa Nguyen

Kucharski/Nguyen begins with Khoa taking the lead, 14-11. Then Leszek evens the game at 19-19. He gets game point, but Nguyen deuces it and Leszek has to run two more for a 22-20 win. Kucharski tries close to the net, low shots to wrap-up this encounter but he cannot hold an early lead and Khoa draws away slowly but surely to take number two at 18. Game three is even in the beginning, but Nguyen's touch annoys Kucharski enough to make him toss his paddle a bit. The lead grows too much for Leszek to get back into it and Nguyen wins it 21-17 for a 2-1 victory.

#### Alan Cooke vs Kazuyuki Yokoyama

Yokoyama again faced a player with vast experience at

the highest levels of competition--Alan Cooke—and the match went quickly to the Englishman, 21-9, 21-10.

#### **Khoa Nguyen vs Kazuyuki Yokoyama**

Khoa Nguyen has to work hard against Kazuyuki Yokoyama's chopping skills to win, but his greater experience at this level of play brings Khoa victory at 12 and 15.

#### **Alan Cooke vs Leszek Kucharski**

Alan and Leszek were both in the semifinals last year, but this year Alan has it all over Leszek. He wins at 17 and 14 and will join Mr. Syed, Mr. Hyatt and Mr. Nguyen in the afternoon semifinals.

#### **GROUP B MATCHES**

#### **Michael Hyatt vs Matthew Syed**

The first match had Michael Hyatt, a spectacular hitter and long-distance lobber, playing against the defending champion, the artistic chopper from England, Matthew Syed.

Hyatt went after Matthew right away, using his power well. He drew away to a 14-9 lead. Matt punched back with some counter-drives and his chops were finding the range better towards the end of the game, but the Jamaican-American combined power with drop shots in winning 21-15. The second game was much closer, with Matt getting a 7-5 lead through his analytical tactics. His special backhand service from his forehand corner also got going. Syed chopped very well a number of times, but Hyatt powered through him, 21-19.

#### **Jim Butler vs Liang Geliang**

The next set of matches brought Jim Butler, beaming with energy after his strong showing at the U.S. Open and his Most Valuable Player performance in the World Team Cup, where he helped the USA team reach the semifinals, against Liang Geliang from China. Liang owns more gold medals from World Championship competition (team, men's and mixed doubles) than any other Sears tournament competitor. His ball control in the 1970's confounded numerous world class players.

Butler got off to a quick lead against the greatly experienced Chinaman. Using his backhand crusher, Jimmy made it 12-9. Geliang's chopping style taxed Butler's spin-reading capacity enough to even it at 12-12. Butler pulled back to a 20-17 lead, but the slower, more spin-varied strokes of Geliang made it a deuce game, and soon Geliang had won the first game, 23-21. Jimmy started playing better in game two, getting a seemingly sure-thing lead of 13-6. Liang dipped into his vast fund of know-how to get to 13-12. Liang got the lead and held it until Butler smashed and service-pointed his way back for a 17-17, then 19-19 score. Tension was great as the American had to win this game to stay in the match. Spin variations from Geliang became too tricky for Jimmy and the game ended 21-19, a 2-0 victory for Liang Geliang.

#### **Matthew Syed vs Liang Geliang**

This was a match between two chopping masters. Matt was leading 8-6 in the first when Liang ended a long exchange of hits with a drop-shot winner. Syed used a lot of power to get a heavy 19-13 lead that woodworker Liang Geliang could whittle down very little. It ended 21-15, Syed.

In the second game, Liang troubled Matthew with the same skills he had used against Jimmy Butler and got an early 11-9 lead. Matt came back with a fantastically long series of chops 11-11, 14-14. Sometimes Matthew would follow a long chop with a run in to blast a winner, making Liang exclaim in displeasure. The defending champion ran it out to 21-17 for a 2-0 victory.

#### **Jim Butler vs Michael Hyatt**

Game one was tight in this battle between Jimmy's close-to-the-table punching against Michael's free-ranging lobs and counter-drives, 9-9. Hyatt's serves are tough, with a forehand serve that reminds me somewhat of Ma Wenge's, and a smooth backhand service, which he uses often. Jimmy sticks to the feared forehand service. Michael goes from 10-12 down to 19-16 up. He is even willing to leave the court to lob back one of Jimmy's smashes. Great entertainment for the fans. The first game ends 21-18, Hyatt.

Butler breaks back into the match with a strong 5-1 lead in game two. His backhand is crushing winners. At 18-12, the spectators enjoy a thrilling display of counter-driving. Hyatt comes back a bit, but Butler wins at 15. In the third game, Butler wins a crowd pleasing smash-lob rally for a 3-2 lead. Mike takes the lead and holds it for a while, playing very creatively far from the table. Butler recovers to even

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it again. Things are tense when it is 19-17, Michael leading. Butler returns firmly; it is now 19-all. A moment later, it's 22-20, Hyatt, who wins the match 2-0.

#### **Liang Geliang vs Michael Hyatt**

Game one starts evenly, 5-5. Then the experienced Chinese master draws away from the vibrant Jamaican 13-6. Liang's touch and change of pace is baffling. Using the smash when appropriate, Liang leads 19-9. Hyatt's powerful loop pulls him to 19-14, but Liang's lead and his knowledge are too great for Mike: 21-14 for Geliang. Game two saw Michael drawing away to a 9-4, 14-11, 18-14, 21-16 win. Both players are intense in game three, but Liang Geliang, using a wide variety of tactics, shows why it is he has so many world championship gold medals. A service point, 8-5 Liang. A chop winner, 10-5. The lead grows to 18-12. Mike keeps trying but this match goes to Liang, 21-13.

#### **Matthew Syed vs Jim Butler**

Syed's touch in the Sears remains true

and Butler's trouble with that touch is the same this year as it was in 1994. Matthew gets a shut-out, winning at 16 and 17.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the two hour lunch break, Scott Preiss conducted some of his table tennis exhibitions and so did Leszek Kucharski and Geliang. Scott was very entertaining and his dedication to the promotion of our sport was apparent. Leszek and Liang demonstrated their truly great ball control and considerable skill as humorists.

#### **SEMIFINALS**

#### **Matthew Syed vs Khoa Nguyen**

The first semifinal was between Matthew Syed and Khoa Nguyen. Khoa came on strong in the first game, grabbing a commanding 9-2 lead and showing the talent that has brought him to the top ranks of USA Table Tennis. Matthew lobbed, chopped and counter-smashed his way back into the game, coming in from long range defense to put away winners, and ties it up, 9-9. After 14-14, Nguyen surpassed Syed

in timing and tactics and made it 20-18. In the last few points, both players treated the audience and the TV cameras to some table tennis acrobatics before the game ended with a 21-18 win for Khoa. Game two begins with Nguyen's consistent looping as Syed works to get his magnificent chopping game zoned-in. Syed leads most of the way, but Khoa evens it at 15-15. Then Matthew breezes masterfully for a 21-16 win to make the match 1-1. Game three has Syed employing his unusual and effective backhand serve from the forehand side. His change of speeds and placements make this game perplexing for Khoa and after falling behind early, he comes racing back to win 21-19 and take a 2-1 lead. Syed's growing energy supply is very evident in game four. His strokes are well zoned-in and he goes up 14-2! He is loose and experimenting with tactics he may use in the final. A few more winners for 21-7 and Matt has the match and is in the finals for the third straight year.

#### Alan Cooke vs Michael Hyatt

The players do some acrobatics during this match, which should look fine when Prime Network broadcasts the match. From 15-15, Hyatt lobs and hits in pulling out a 21-18 victory. Alan serves to start game two but Hyatt gets an early lead. Both players have very tough services. Many of us can recall Alan winning service points against Chinese star Ma Wenge in a 1993 Prime Network broadcast of the U.S. Open Team Championships in Detroit. Cooke plays the angles well to even the game up at 7-7 and then draw away for a 17-9 lead. Michael tries everything, but can get only one more point in this game, 21-10 Cooke, who ties the match up, 1-1. Game three has Alan leading 10-7. Sharp angle play make it 13-8, Cooke. Soon it is 16-11 and tough for Hyatt to come back. He doesn't. 21-14 Cooke, and the match is 2-1 for him.

Pressure is now on Michael. But Alan has found the angles for dealing with Michael's amazing defense and he goes up 14-7. The two Olympic athletes play excellent table tennis which will make fine television viewing, but the outcome becomes clear as the game progresses. Alan Cooke wins the match over Michael Hyatt, 21-12 in the fourth game.

#### FINAL

#### Matthew Syed vs Alan Cooke

Another Syed/Cooke match, like 1994 at the Sears Tournament, but this time it is the Final. It is hard for anyone who has watched all of these tournaments to doubt Matthew's ability to prevail in a Sears final in Illinois. But Mr. Cooke has as much experience in this even as Matthew does and he has been learning all along.

Game one begins with Syed looking so loose and confident that he can, seemingly, make the ball do what he wants. Matt chops severely, but Alan stays with him and soon wins the first game, 21-19. The second game saw Cooke playing the angles well, getting a 9-6 lead. Over the next ten points the crowd sees a number of long rallies, as is expected with players of such styles. Alan had the lead until he stumbled and fell about halfway through the game. It was not serious, fortunately, but his play seemed less fierce after that. Matthew's play began to dominate, and he closed it out 21-16, one game all. Game three started with Alan showing that he was now all right by taking a 4-1 lead. Long, loose chops by Syed evened things up and then he takes the lead, and wins the third, 21-18. Toward the end he was doing quite a bit of lighthearted exhibition play on his defensive lobs and chops—I will be eager to see all of this on TV. Backhand or forehand, Syed's ser-

## LIANG GELIANG: Man, Myth, and Master!

by Ed Hogshead

Liang Geliang, holder of 13 World Table Tennis Championships, competed in the Fourth Annual Sears Ping Pong Challenge on September 17, 1995, at Harper College, 30 minutes northwest of Chicago. Liang speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, German, and very little English. Therefore, I was asked to help translate German for the six days he and his lovely wife, Ma Li Jun, spent in the Chicago area.

We'll start with Liang, the Man, because his warm, personable, caring attitude transcended all of his Table Tennis accomplishments. Liang and his wife (her first time ever in the USA) arrived in Chicago from Germany on Tuesday evening, September 12, 1995. During the following four days, he gladly and willingly gave numerous Table Tennis exhibitions at schools, recreation centers, and headquarters of the tournament sponsors. He played with and coached anyone who asked him, from the top players to those who never played outside of their basements. After one of the school exhibitions, he was as excited as the students who had never seen such high level Table Tennis. He was shaking with exhilaration saying, "This is what needs to be done in the USA! Exhibitions in the schools! I could do this for the next year! Wow! The kids were really into it!" Scott Preiss also deserves much credit for the success of these exhibitions.

Now, Liang, the Myth or maybe better stated, the Legend: In Chicago, as in many other large U.S. cities, there is a section called Chinatown. Liang and his wife twice visited Chicago's Chinatown, which consists of approximately 20 square blocks and maybe 20,000 people. As Liang and Ma walked down the street and shopped in the many specialty stores, he was recognized. Recognized by people who had never met him, never seen him in person, and never even talked to him. They knew him from his vast Table Tennis achievements for China. They wanted to play Table Tennis with him at the local recreation center and get his autograph. China has around one billion people, and these fans know him by sight! It's said that during the 1970's one could send a letter addressed "Liang, China" and he would receive it! Imagine walking down the street in any town USA with Arnold Palmer, Willie Mays, or Kareem Abdul Jabbar! Impressive.

Lastly, Liang, the Master of Table Tennis: Liang made the Chinese Team as a penhold chopper at the age of 16! He was on four of China's world championship men's teams. He won the men's doubles with Li Zhenshi, the current U.S. men's team coach, and won mixed doubles once. He came in third in the World's men's

vices are fun to watch and obviously hard for his opponents to deal with. All the nets seem to be going in Matt's favor and his play is just too strong for Alan to get back into contention as Matt takes a 12-3 lead. Alan tried to beat Matthew's long range game with hit/drop shot combinations. It wins him some points, but Syed maintained control of the game. At 13-8 they play a trademark Cooke/Syed rally of twenty or more hits, which the fans loved. But it ends with Alan catching the net again and he has to yell at himself over

that. Syed gets to 17-12, and runs it out to 21-12 for a 3-1 win, for his third consecutive triumph in this supreme Illinois tournament.

I only had one question for Matthew after his victory: "What is the major reason you do so well here?"

He answered, "Because I love it here."

**Final:** Matthew Syed (ENG) d. Alan Cooke (ENG), -19,15,18,12; **SF:** Syed d. Khoa Nguyen (USA), -18,16,9,7; Cooke d. Michael Hyatt (JAM), -18,10,14,12.



Photo by John Oros © 1995

Liang Geliang prepares to receive serve against Jim Butler at the Sears Invitational. Liang won, 19 & 21.

singles twice. (A note of controversy exists here in that China decided, in order to further diplomacy in the 1970's and 1980's, the Table Tennis Team should only win three titles at each World Championship. Liang and other top Chinese players were asked to lose intentionally. In 1977, Liang lost in the semi's to a player he had always defeated.) Liang was on the Chinese Team during the "Ping Pong Diplomacy" of 1971 when China finally reopened their borders to foreigners after many years of closure by inviting in the USA Table Tennis Team. In 1972, Liang and his teammates visited President Nixon at the White House. (He would have been one of the players competing against Forrest Gump in that imaginary movie!) Another interesting note is that Liang started out playing penhold with pips-out rubber on one side and inverted rubber on the other. During his play in China (he moved to Germany in 1985) he was asked to change the pips-out to inverted rubber because it would make his game more "appealing." He did it and still made the team. He then changed his grip to shakehands because it was more fun. He also has won six Over 40 World Championships.

Ma Li Jun, Liang's wife, is a very charming, down-to-earth person with an infectious laugh who is Liang's biggest fan. It has been said that behind every successful man stands a woman. Ma fills that role with pleasure.

It's been an honor to meet Liang and Ma. Thank you.

#### Preliminary Round Robins:

**Group A: 1st:** Khoa Nguyen (USA), 3-0: d. Cooke, 19,19; d. Kucharski, -20,18,17; d. Yokoyama, 15,17; **2nd:** Alan Cooke (ENG), 2-1: d. Yokoyama, 9,10; d. Kucharski, 17,14; **3rd:** Leszek Kucharski (POL), 1-2: d. Yokoyama, 9,15; **4th:** Kazuyuki Yokoyama (JPN), 0-3.

**Group B: 1st:** Michael Hyatt (JAM), 2-1: d. Syed, 15,19; d. Butler, 18,-15,20; **2nd:** Matthew Syed (ENG), 2-1: d. Liang, 15,17; d. Butler, 17,15; **3rd:** Liang Geliang (CHN), 2-1: d. Butler, 21,19; d. Hyatt, 14,-19,14; **4th:** Jim Butler (USA), 0-3.

## SEVEN EXHIBITIONS BOOST SEARS TOURNAMENT VISIBILITY

by Charles Merydith

While more than 1,000 table tennis fans attended the 1995 Fourth Annual Sears Ping-Pong Challenge, thousands more witnessed table tennis at its best thanks to a series of exhibitions preceding the main event.

Table tennis is visually exciting and makes great television viewing, as two of Chicago's television news personalities challenged Scott Preiss and Liang Geliang to exhibitions. WBBM-TV (CBS) News invited Preiss and Liang to play Sports Reporter Jim Berry in their Chicago studio. WLS-TV (ABC) News Reporter Frank Mathie visited Preiss and Liang at a Chicago exhibition held at Illinois Center in Chicago's Loop. Both newscasts were showed table tennis at its entertaining best to Chicago's prime-time viewers.

These two exhibitions were supple-

mented by seven others. Two other exhibitions were held at Sears and Motorola's headquarters for lunch-time viewers. Another two exhibitions were staged at junior high schools in Palatine, the site of the tournament. Cheering youngsters greeted Preiss and Liang as they thrilled the crowd with acrobatic smashes and returns. The local newspaper (Pioneer Press—Northwest ) photographed the students as they battled the champions. As a benefit to the students, Sears donated tables to all four Palatine Junior Highs and offered free tickets to the Sunday event.

Chicago's Chinese youth were invited to challenge world-champion Geliang at an exhibition held at the Chinese American Service League. Liang battled a number of talented Chinese teenagers in an event that was also

covered by a photographer from Associated Press. The following day, Jim Butler and Jamaica's Michael Hyatt performed an exhibition for the Boy's and Girls Clubs of Chicago at The Robert Taylor Homes, an inner-city public housing project on Chicago's South Side. Butler and Hyatt thrilled the club's traveling table tennis group and a host of other area youth. This event was covered by a camera crew from Fox Network News (Channel 32), but was bumped from airing because of more important news (notably a policeman shot and killed that day).

The final exhibition was performed the evening preceding the tournament at the Holiday Inn in Rolling Meadows (tournament hotel). All eight tournament players performed for the throng of spectators and signed autographs.

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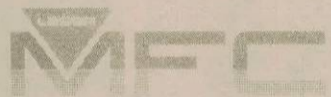
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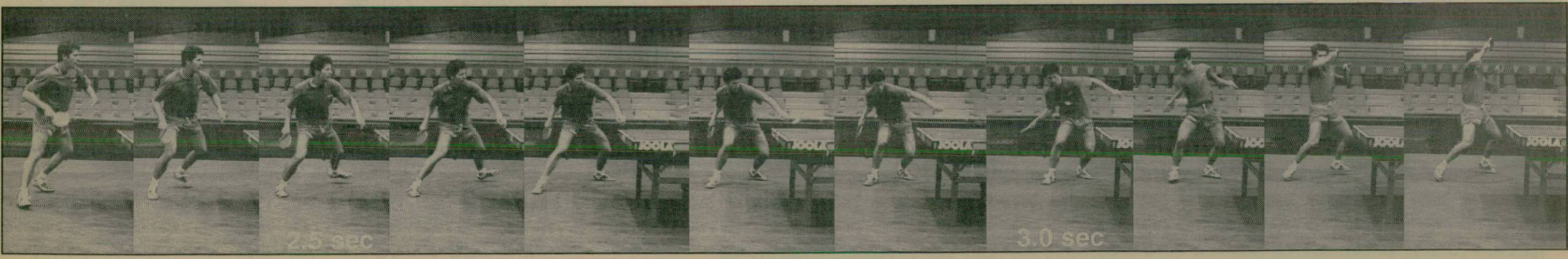
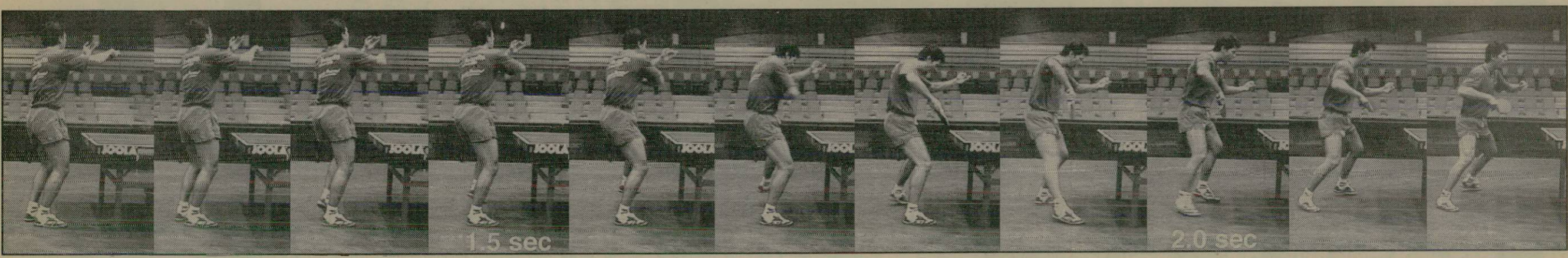
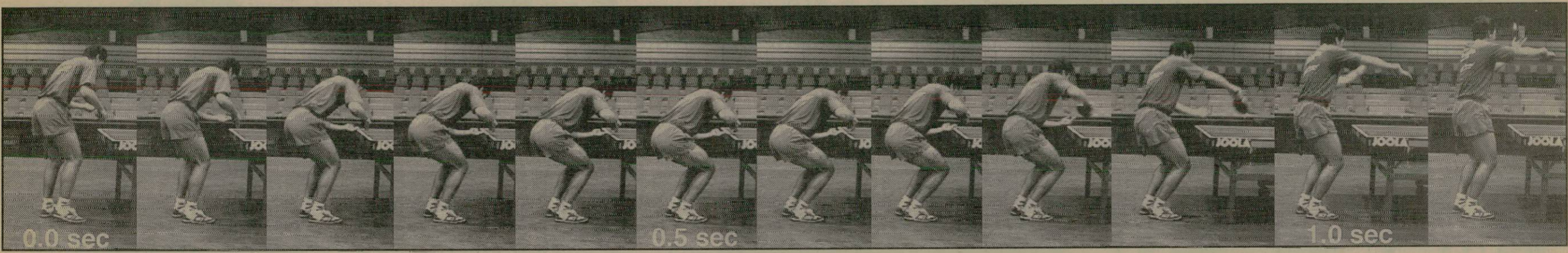


Photo sequence by Diego Scharf © 1995



## ZORAN PRIMORAC'S SERVE & FOLLOW

Despite his relatively young age, Zoran Primorac of Croatia has been in the table tennis spotlight for quite a long time. In a previous article, in which we studied his forehand loop, we mentioned some of his achievements as a former member of the Yugoslav National team and of the famous doubles team of Primorac and Lupulesku. After the breakup of his country, Zoran lived in Germany and Belgium and has continued developing—even at a faster pace than before. Please refer to this year's January/February issue of *Table Tennis Today* for more information on his career.

A very characteristic feature of Primorac's game is his backhand serve from the right side of the table, followed by a quick turn and a forehand attack. Unlike most other players, who generally serve from the left side of the table in order to have good coverage of all sides without needing to move very much, Primorac approaches the early part of the point differently: He sets up in a spot that seemingly leaves his backhand wide open and then moves to a spot that allows him to attack. This has several effects:

First, the receiver immediately faces an unusual situation with the server standing on the "wrong side." The temptation to try to exploit that opening by placing the receive to the backhand is great, but it is also somewhat obvious. Receiving the ball to the forehand side is dangerous even when the player served from the other side. In this case, he's right there.

Second, the sidespin pulls the ball toward Primorac's forehand side, so the right-handed receiver is forced to deal with an uncomfortable position. It is very easy to miss the table when the receiver attempts precise placement to the forehand. Consequently, a receive to the forehand will usually land well in from the sideline—in easy reach for Primorac.

Third, the receive is quite predictable: If the receiver wants to use the forehand, the limited degree to which he can angle his wrist outward virtually guarantees that the sidespin will bring the ball into Primorac's forehand and allow an attack. If the receiver reaches over with the backhand, the situation is a little more dangerous for Primorac. Although an extreme placement to the forehand is unlikely, a backhand receive provides more flexibility, and Primorac knows to pay attention to that. He usually places the serve in a way that makes a backhand receive awkward and avoids the problem that way.

One of the keys to the success of this technique lies in the direction of the sidespin. When this serve is returned to his backhand, the spin "bites" into the rubber just right to make it easy to lift the ball, and on the forehand side, it favors a sharp angled inside-out loop to the opponent's backhand.

The beginning of the sequence shows Zoran's unusual position: The feet are set up a little past parallel to the end line, the left foot back a few inches, but they are not more than about four inches apart. He starts the

toss by bending his knees and presenting the ball right at table level. The whole beginning of the serve is very slow and deliberate. He then raises his racket hand in front of his body and tosses the ball, both his arms stopping at about shoulder level (1.2 sec). As the ball starts to fall, Primorac shifts his weight to the right leg. He lifts his left leg, pulls his racket under his left arm, and, as he goes to set his left leg down, he contacts the ball (1.8), sweeping across its back and up a little (1.9 sec) for a side-topspin serve. He knows that a short receive off this serve is unlikely. He continues his momentum to his left, and as he steps down with his left leg, he pushes off his right leg (1.9 sec) to start his turn. At 2.2 sec, he completed his first step and has recognized where the receive is placed. He immediately continues for a full turn by once again pushing off his right leg and stepping out very wide with his left foot (2.7 sec). The ball bounces just after 2.8 sec (it is visible in the frame). During the whole second step, Primorac swings back his racket, so at 3.0 sec he is ready for a powerful loop, using his right leg to add momentum to his arm and shoulder rotation.

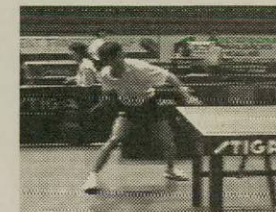
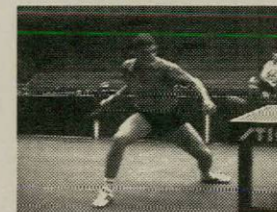
A precondition to using this serve effectively is an unwavering confidence in your backhand. You have to be able to attack strongly from the backhand side to discourage the receiver from placing the ball there. You also need quick, precise footwork and the ability to anticipate placement based on the receiver's racket angle and choice

of forehand or backhand. The serve must have enough sidespin, and there must be good variation in the underspin-topspin component.

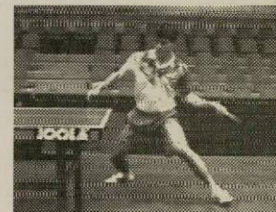
Zoran Primorac is among the confirmed entries in the upcoming \$125,000 Beverly Hills International Tournament (Jan. 6-7, 1996). This will provide many of you the opportunity to study his game along with that of some other top players (see ad for this

tournament in this issue). When you do see him, pay particular attention to his timing. There is no rush to get to the ball, although quite a bit of movement is required, and the general looseness of his motion is punctuated with strong, tight strokes. Primorac is a dynamic, creative and smooth player—qualities that make him one of the most pleasant players to watch.

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# 1995 MISSOURI OPEN

Jefferson City, Missouri

by Larry Hodges

September 9-10, 1995



28 players from 23 states, aged 5 to 78, converged on Jefferson City in Missouri for the first Missouri Open. Another 47 entered after the deadline, but with the large numbers and the already difficult scheduling problems with so many players, they were unable to enter. That's 275 players, and we're nowhere near the huge population bases on the coasts. As they learned a few years earlier in St. Joseph Valley, if you run it (and it looks like it'll be run well), they will come. And come they did, along with 600 spectators in all.

By opening up the coffers and offering hospitality to most top players, the tournament committee was able to attract nearly every top player in the U.S., with the notable exception of Cheng Yinghua, who had been hired by Taiwan to train their national team for two months.

Jim Butler, David Zhuang and Dan Seemiller performed an exhibition the day after the tournament in front of 500 students at Jefferson City High School. Many thanks to these players.

## Open Singles

### 16ths

Two come-from-behind, down-the-wire matches highlighted this round. In the first, Barney J. Reed, after losing the first two games to Amy Feng at 11 & 14, won the next two before finally losing, 24-22 in the fifth in this battle between the lefty U.S. Junior Champion and the lefty U.S. Women's Champion. In the other, Michael Hyatt cruised past Lily Yip the first two games with his usual lobbing & looping style—and then was battling for survival at the end before finally winning, 19 in the fifth. Lily would also lose 19 in the third in the 2500's to Dave Fernandez.

### 8ths

Top-seeded Khoa Nguyen seemed on his way to the next round, winning the first against Amy Feng 21-7. But he started having trouble with Amy's serves, and Amy kept looping down-the-line winners as she won the next two games. In the fourth, Khoa led 9-2—but Amy tied it up 10-all, and soon pulled away to a 20-16 match point lead. Khoa loop killed two of Amy's serves in a row, and then Amy pushed into the net—20-19. Khoa loop killed the serve again—off, and suddenly the tournament was absent the top seed as Amy prevailed, -7, 14, 19, 19.

Hyeon Bhoo won the first game against Huazhang Xu before losing the next three. None of the other six matches here went five, although Brian Pace, now playing with pips on his backhand, pushed Darko Rop to 19 in the fourth.

## Quarterfinals

### Gao Jun vs Dan Seemiller

Can world #3 woman Gao win close games or what? Against the experienced Dan Seemiller, she came back from down 19-17 in the first to win 22-20. After losing the second 21-15, she came from down 8-0 and 13-7 to tie up the third at 13-all. Down 20-18, she came back again, winning 22-20. In the fourth, Gao went up 7-0 and 15-10, but Dan came back to 17-18, but Gao pulled it out again, 21-19, to advance, 20, -15, 20, 19. How close was the match? The final point score was 80-all.

### Huazhang Xu vs Amy Feng

In the first game, down 19-20, Amy suddenly chops a ball, and Xu looped it into the net. But a moment later, Xu is off the table lobbing & spinning—and Amy smashes into the net to lose the first, 22-20. The rest of the way was all Xu as he won easily, 20, 12, 12.

### Darko Rop vs Jim Butler

Someone said that Darko has a good style to play Jim, since he plays off the table, which gives him time to react to Jim's powerful backhand smashes. And react to them he does, over and over and over and...

In the first, Jim led 15-10—but Darko scores the next five, and goes on to win, 21-19. Jim wins the second easily, 21-15. In the third, Jim leads 20-17—but Darko ties it up, 20-all. Down 20-21, Darko smashes—and Jim counter-hits an edge ball to win! Darko wins the fourth, 21-19, but immediately falls behind 4-0 in the fifth. Then it's 7-all, then 10-7 Darko, then 10-all. They stay within a point of each other all the way to 18-all—then Darko wins three in a row on his serve to win the match, 19, -15, -20, 19, 18.

### David Zhuang vs Todd Sweeris

Todd, who switched to pips on his backhand two



U.S. Men's Doubles Champions Dan Seemiller & David Zhuang won Open Doubles here; Dave went on to win Open Singles, Dan the Over 40's.

Photo by Houshang Bozorgzadeh ©1995

months previously (and seen his rating skyrocket to 2693 after winning the Olympic Festival) seemed in complete control at the start, looping forehand and smashing backhand winners at will in winning the first, 21-16. However, in the second, it was David who romped, winning 21-8. In the third, Todd led 7-4, then David led 16-13, then Todd led 18-17. A missed loop, missed backhand smash, a push in the net, and a block off the end and David won the third, 21-18. In the fourth, the two battled again to 10-9 David leading—and then David could do no wrong, running it out to 20-11, and (after three exhibition points for the crowd), 21-14.

## Semifinals

### Huazhang Xu vs Gao Jun

This would be Xu's third straight match against a woman, defeating Hyeon Bhoo and Amy Feng in previous rounds. Xu can spin forever, and Gao can block forever. What happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object? Xu spun backhands and ripped forehands to win the first, 21-11. Xu, whether he's on or off, is the most natural and smoothest looking player in the U.S.—and when he's on, he can do no wrong. However, Gao's blocking was too steady in the second as Gao tied it up, 21-18. Xu again took control in the third, winning 21-16, but Gao again tied it by winning the fourth, 21-13. In the fifth, Xu begins to pull away at 12-all, and leads 17-13—and suddenly he's down 18-19 and in danger of losing! But Xu came through, looping two winners, and then Gao looped Xu's serve off the end to end it. Match to Xu, 11, -18, 16, -14, 19.

### David Zhuang vs Darko Rop

As usual, David blocked Darko all over the court, and Darko would either spin through David's block defense (as he did in the first, 21-14) or flail away at balls just barely in reach (as in the second, won by David, also 21-14). Down 10-6, David tied the third up at 15-all, and won it, 21-19. In the fourth, David began to pull away gradually at 10-all, and won the match, -14, 14, 19, 15.

## Final

### David Zhuang vs Huazhang Xu

The final, which didn't start until just after 11 PM, would be a vintage shakehand looper (Xu) vs. a vintage pips-out penhold blocker/hitter (David). Most rallies seemed to start with Xu spinning his backhand and looking for a chance to rip a forehand or (in spectacular fashion) to rip a backhand loop winner. David's steady side-to-side sidespin blocking kept Xu off guard.



6-year-old Tara Hendrickson is interviewed for TV.

Photo by Houshang Bozorgzadeh ©1995

The first two games and the third & fourth games of this match were two completely different matches played by completely different people. Only that can explain how David could so easily block & hit his way through Xu in the first two at 12 & 15, and then Xu could so easily spin and loop winners past David in the next two, 15 & 14. So who would show up for the fifth game? David, it would seem. Open Singles title to David Zhuang, 12, 15, -15, -14, 18.

## Women's Singles

There wasn't a single upset in the entire draw, as the higher rated player won every match. In the semifinals, pips-out hitting penholder Lily Yip lost to pips-out blocking penholder Gao Jun at 15 & 16; Amy Feng out-looped Jen Huang, a visitor from Taiwan, 18 & 18.

In the final, Gao Jun was just too steady for Amy Feng, running away with it 21-9. In the second, they stayed close all they way to 17-18, with the now almost recklessly aggressive Amy leading. However, Gao scored the next three to lead 20-18, and (after Amy got an edge ball to get to 19) went on to win, 21-19.

## American Allstar Men

### 8ths

Only one match in this round was really contest. Khoa Nguyen led 2-1 in games against Brian Pace, and was serving with a 20-16 match point lead in the fourth. However, Brian simply took his shots, and ripped five straight winners, and went on to win the game, 24-22. In the fifth, however, Khoa took complete control right from the start, 8-0, 12-1, 18-8, 21-12.

## Quarterfinals

### Dan Seemiller vs Khoa Nguyen

Dan led Khoa 20-19 in the first, but couldn't hold on, losing it, and the second game, at 20 & 18. In the third, Dan led 16-14, but did not score another point as Khoa advanced.

### Todd Sweeris vs Darko Rop

Todd played a mostly forehand looping, backhand banging game in winning the first two games against Darko. Darko began to find the range and pick up the pace in the third, and pulled it out, 21-19. The fourth, however, was all Todd, 9-3, 12-7, 20-10, 21-14.

### David Zhuang vs Huazhang Xu

Up 18-11 in the first against Xu, David had things well in hand, but Xu scored the next seven in a row to tie it up. Up 20-18, David served into the net, and then Xu scored four in a row to win it, 22-20. However, David won the second easily, 21-13, won three in a row from 18-all in the third, and won the fourth easily, 21-12.

### Jim Butler vs Norman Yeh

Jim, after falling behind early in the first and second games, won easily against up-and-coming Norman Yeh, 15, 18, 11.

## Semifinals

### Todd Sweeris vs Khoa Nguyen

Todd had never beaten Khoa, but he hadn't played him since last December, and not since going to pips on his backhand. In the first, it was all Todd, 21-14. In the second, Khoa finally established his forehand attack, and went up 18-14—but Todd battled back to win it, 24-22. In the third, up 8-9, Khoa scored the last three points on Todd's serve; down 12-8, Todd scored all five on Khoa's serve; Khoa followed by scoring all five on Todd's serve to take a 17-13 lead. Todd scored the next three (that's 16 straight points scored by the receiver), but Khoa pulled away at the end with a typical barrage of forehand loops, 21-17. In the fourth, Todd goes up 10-4, but Khoa ties it up 11-all. At 15-all, Khoa scores four in a row with his serve to lead 19-15. Todd scores the next point, and serves, down 16-19—and pulls out his "Liu Guoliang" serves for the first time! It has a shorter toss and more motion—and Khoa puts two in the net and pops two up as Todd scores all five to win the game & match, 14, 22, -17, 19.

### Jim Butler vs David Zhuang

Jim took complete control of this match early, winning the first 21-15, and taking an unbelievable 17-3 lead in the second! No one could remember David being this far behind in any game ever. David makes a mini-comeback, but loses the second, 21-13. The momentum seems to have changed, however, as Jim's domination stops here as David wins the third, 21-18. Down 19-18 in the fourth, the two

have one of the best points they've ever had (remember the final point between the two at the 1993 Nationals?). David scores the point, and Jim gives him a thumbs-up—and then serve & backhand kills a winner. David suddenly twirls his racket, loops Jim's serve with the inverted side—but Jim blocks a clean winner to the wide forehand to win the match, 15, 13, -18, 19.

#### Final

#### Todd Sweeris vs Jim Butler

Before the final was to have been played, Jim played the semifinal of Open Doubles. Partnered by Michael Hyatt, the two lead 17-13 in the first game against National Men's Doubles Champions David Zhuang & Dan Seemiller. Jim gets a cramp in his leg and begins to hobble about, and the lead shrinks to 18-16. Michael told Jim it wasn't worth it, and to save himself for the Allstar Final, and so the two default the match, and Jim leaves to rest or have his leg worked on. Zhuang/Seemiller defeat Todd Sweeris & Huazhang Xu in the doubles final (13, -20, 9), and then Todd (who also won 3600 doubles with 9-year-old Michael Liu) reglued for the singles final. Finally, they call for the match. But Jim says his leg is still cramping, and defaults! So there is no final, and Todd wins the event by default.

#### American Allstar Women

With Gao not eligible, the event becomes a joy ride for Amy Feng and Lily Yip. Amy defeats 13-year-old Jessica Shen in the semifinals, 10, 6, 14, and Lily defeats Rong Lillieroos, 19, 9, 9. The two split the final—so there is neither a Men's nor a Women's final in the American Allstar Series.

#### Senior Events

Dan Seemiller was the double winner here, winning both the American Allstar Senior event (over Dave Sakai, 17 & 15) and the Over 40 event (over Houshang Bozorgzadeh, by default). Houshang made his second final in the over 50's, but George Hendry (World Over 70 Champion) pulled it out, -15, 14, 20. Tom Clendenin defeated Victor Meredith in the Over 60 final in another humdinger match, 11, -12, 19.

#### Junior Events

Barney J. Reed avenged his loss to Norman Yeh earlier by winning the Allstar Junior Boys' Final, 15 & 15. Jessica Shen romped through the Allstar Junior Girls' event, winning the final at 12 & 8 from Lindsey Wommack. Jessica also made the final of the Allstar Under 16 event, losing to Bartlesville's Nicholas Agimudie in the final, -16, 14, 15. Nicholas then became a double winner by winning the Under 14 Boys, 15 & 16 over 1750 winner Michael Squires, while Jesse Reinhold defeated Emily Racker in the Under 14 Girls' Final, 9 & 11. Michael Grismore defeated 9-year-old Michael Liu (who teamed up with Todd Sweeris to win 3600 doubles), at 18, -18, 9, while Amy Todd won Under 12 Girls, 19 & 16 over Amanda Stegeman.

The Missouri Open had several sponsors—no wonder they were able to give such excellent hospitality! For the record, many thanks are due the Jefferson City Convention & Visitors' Bureau, the main sponsor; as well as Union Electric, Sprint, Exchange National Bank, and the Capital City Table Tennis Club. After the tournament, a letter was sent to all participants with complete results & interesting facts—a nice touch that no one (to my knowledge) has done before.

**Open Singles—Final:** David Zhuang d. Huazhang Xu, 12,15,-15,-14,18; **SF:** Zhuang d. Darko Rop, -14,14,19,15; Xu d. Gao Jun, 11,-18,16,-13,19; **QF:** Zhuang d. Todd Sweeris, -16,8,18,14; Xu d. Amy Feng,

20,12,12; Gao d. Dan Seemiller, 20,-15,20,19; Rop d. Jim Butler, 19,-15,-20,19,18; **8ths:** Zhuang d. A. An, 12,9,9; Feng d. Khoa Nguyen, -9,14,19,19; Xu d. Hyeon Bhoo, -12,16,15,13; Seemiller d. Michael Hyatt, 17,16,-11,16; Gao d. Bernie Braun, 10,10,10; Butler d. Sean Lonergan, 12,13,-18,8; Rop d. Brian Pace, 6,13,-23,19; Sweeris d. Stephen Hylton, 15,15,16.

**Women's Singles—Final:** Gao Jun d. Amy Feng, 9,19; **SF:** Gao d. Lily Yip, 15,16; Feng d. Jen Huang, 18,18; **QF:** Gao d. Rong Lillieroos, 14,18; Yip d. Hyeon Bhoo, 18,16; Huang d. Yumiko Payton, 15,-15,17; Feng d. Mimi Bosika, 16,18.

**Open Doubles—Final:** David Zhuang/Dan Seemiller d. Todd Sweeris/Huazhang Xu, 13,-20,9; **SF:** Zhuang/Seemiller d. Jim Butler/Michael Hyatt, 18, def.; Sweeris/Xu d. Khoa Nguyen/Darko Rop, 18,18; **QF:** Zhuang/Seemiller d. Jiqiang Chen/Jen Huang, 14,11; Nguyen/Rop d. Stephen Hylton/Vick Suboni, 15,17; Sweeris/Xu d. Sean Lonergan/Brian Pace, -18,16,18; Butler/Hyatt d. Dave Fernandez/Barney J. Reed, 12,20.

**American Allstar Men's Singles—Final:** Todd Sweeris d. Jim Butler, def; **SF:** Sweeris d. Khoa Nguyen, 14,22,-17,19; Butler d. David Zhuang, 15,13,-18,19; **QF:** Sweeris d. Darko Rop, 15,18,-19,14; Nguyend. Dan Seemiller, 20,18,16; Butler d. Norman Yeh, 15,18,11; Zhuang d. Huazhang Xu, -20,13,18,12; **8ths:** Nguyen d. Brian Pace, -19,18,18,-22,12; Seemiller d. Sean Lonergan, 12,16,11; Sweeris d. Bernie Braun, 15,16,14; Rop d. Barney J. Reed, 11,21,-20,10; Butler d. Brian Thomas, def.; Yeh d. Samuel Smith, 9,14,14; Xu d. Dave Fernandez, 21,15,17; Zhuang d. Brian Lonergan, 6,9,10.

**American Allstar Women's Singles—Final:** Amy Feng & Lily Yip split; **SF:** Feng d. Jessica Shen, 10,6,14; Yip d. Rong Lillieroos, 19,9,9.

**American Allstar Seniors—Final:** Dan Seemiller d. Dave Sakai, 17,15; **SF:** Seemiller d. James Schnorf, 14,17; Sakai d. George Cooper, 15,16; **QF:** Seemiller d. Dave Scott, 15,8; Schnorf d. George Hendry, 20,-16,16; Cooper d. Houshang Bozorgzadeh, 18,-17,18; Sakai d. Carl Miller, 13,15.

**American Allstar Junior Boys—Final:** Barney J. Reed d. Norman Yeh, 15,15; **SF:** Reed d. Ryan McQuillen, 10,15; Yeh d. John Beaumont, 17,12.

**American Allstar Junior Girls—Final:** Jessica Shen d. Lindsey Wommack, 12,8; **SF:** Shen d. Laura Stegeman, 5,7; Wommack d. Emily Rackers, 8,11.

**American Allstar Under 16—Final:** Aaron Struth d. Jessica Shen, -16,14,15; **SF:** Struth d. John Beaumont, -19,12,18; Shen d. Nicholas Agimudie, 14,16.

**Over 40—Final:** Dan Seemiller d. Houshang Bozorgzadeh, def.; **SF:** Dan Seemiller d. George Cooper, 14,8; Bozorgzadeh d. Stephen Kraly, 19,19.

**Over 50—Final:** George Hendry d. Houshang Bozorgzadeh, -15,14,20; **SF:** Hendry d. Lloyd Layton, 14,14; Bozorgzadeh d. Fred Halbig, -17,17,10.

**Over 60—Final:** Tom Clendenin d. Victor Meredith, 11,-12,19; **SF:** Clendenin d. Hardy Dunn, 15,14; Meredith d. Tom Klutho, 19,19.

**Under 2500—Final:** Vick Subonj d. Dave Fernandez, 15,-20,17; **SF:** Subonj d. Norman Yeh, -14,17,17; Fernandez d. Lily Yip, 12,-18,19; **QF:** Yeh d. Barney J. Reed, 12,-7,19; Subonj d. Sean Lonergan, 15,14; Fernandez d. Jen Huang, 14,13; Yip d. Brian Pace, -20,9,13.

**Under 2350—Final:** Yumiko Payton d. Dave Sakai, -17,16,18; **SF:** Payton d. Andrew An, 10,10; Sakai d. Bernie Braun, 15,12,

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**Under 2050—Final:** Clifford Copley d. Dennis Prather, 16,17; **SF:** Prather d. Samuel Smith, 17,-16,23; Copley d. Bill Curtiss, 14,14.

**Under 1900—Final:** Ooi Wei d. Reed Kyker, 12,17; **SF:** Wei d. Paul Olivier, 17,16; Kyker d. James Winn, -19,19,19.

**Under 1750—Final:** Michael Squires d. Richard Catlin, 18,18; **SF:** Squires d. Bob Kyker, -18,23,16; Catlin d. Zibi Mastylo, 19,14.

**Under 1600—Final:** Joel Moots d. Dale Boswell, 17,15; **SF:** Moots d. Greg Miller, 17,16; Boswell d. Reza Ahrabli, 18,-13,15.

**Under 1400—Final:** Zaqif Zainald. Darrell Beaven, 18,-20,17; **SF:** Beaven d. David Stucker, 21,19; Zainald. Jim Turner, 12,-17,22.

**Under 1200—Final:** Eric Niemann d. R. Douglas Logan, 17,11; **SF:** Logan d. Larry Rhea, def.; Niemann d. Kyle Machulis, 18,20.

**Under 1000—Final:** Alfonso Sasieta d. William Barrett, 13,6; **SF:** Barrett d. David

Edwards, 14,11; Sasieta d. Michael Liu, 18,10.

**Novice—Final:** Miller Prosser d. David Edwards, 14,16; **SF:** Prosser d. Tom Maureillo, -20,19,11; David Edwards d. Gerald Edwards, 17,-10,17.

**3600 Doubles—Final:** Todd Sweeris/Michael Liu d. Nicholas Agimudie/R. McQuillen, 13,-21,15; **SF:** Sweeris/Liu d. Soongoo Hong/Yi Liu, 19,-14,5; Agimudie/McQuillen d. Victor Meredith/Jim Meredith, 19,18.

**Under 14 Boys—Final:** Nicholas Agimudie d. Michael Squires, 15,16; **SF:** Agimudie d. Michael Golde, 4,8; Squires d. Michael Grismore, 7,-18,15.

**Under 14 Girls—Final:** Jesse Reinhold d. Emily Racker, 9,11; **SF:** Reinhold d. Julie Edwards, 10,1; Rackers d. Amy Todd, -18,9,18.

**Under 12 Boys—Final:** Michael Grismore d. Michael Liu, 18,-18,9; **SF:** Grismore d. William Todd, 6,2; Liu d. Christopher Agimudie, 7,9.

**Under 12 Girls—Final:** Amy Todd d. Amanda Stegeman, 19,16; **SF:** Todd d. Tara Hendrickson, 4,4; Stegeman d. Erica Downing, 5,7.

# 1995 SUN TV OPEN

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

by Larry Hodges

August 19-20, 1995



While millions of Americans stayed at home to watch Mike Tyson and Peter McNeely punch it out for 89 seconds, 225 came to spend the weekend punching it out among themselves in the table tennis version of the French Open Tennis Championships, i.e. clay court i.e. slower conditions due to the rubber type floor. This leads to longer and (to many) better rallies, just like the French Open.

The draw here also showed the aging of the U.S. players, reminiscent of the famed Hungarian team of the 1970's and 1980's, who kept getting older and older, until they were no more. Seven of the top eight seeds here were over 30 years old, with Todd Sweeris (22) the only exception.

## Open Singles

### Quarterfinals

Without doubt, the match of the tournament was Dan Seemiller's quarterfinal deuce in the fifth upset win over Jack Huang, who time and again seemed to almost, but not quite, win the match. The crowd, equally split between Dan's hometown Pittsburghers and Jack's Maryland supporters, 70+ strong, were loud, partisan, and great. After splitting the first two games, the two played three straight deuce games. In the third game, Jack won 22-20 to go up 2-1. In the fourth, Jack led 16-11—only to watch Dan win seven in a row! Several of the rallies were ferocious but tenacious battles, with Jack looping all over, and Dan somehow getting it all back, until finally, just when he thought he'd found the opening, Jack would loop off. Jack gets back to deuce, and loops in Dan's serve to go up match point, 21-20. Dan pops the serve up, Jack rips the winner—but Dan blocks it back, a winner, deuce! Then Dan wins the game, 23-21, to force the fifth game.

In the fifth, it's Dan's turn to pull away, going up 17-11. But Jack, playing very slowly, very gradually pulls back into it, and ties it up at 19-all in the fifth. Then Dan takes the attack, forces Jack to lob, and smashes a winner, 20-19 match point for Dan. Then Dan again takes the attack, and now Jack's lobbing for his life against Dan's jump-in-the-air, scissors-kick smashes—one, two, three, four, five, six—and the sixth lob hits the edge! Deuce!

As if to rub it in, Jack follows by pushing a net dribbler to go up match point, 21-20. Dan deuces it, but Jack gets his third match point at 22-21—and then it's Dan's turn to go up 23-22 match point, then 24-23—and finally, Dan serve & loops, Jack blocks off, and Dan's vertical is one that would attract basketball scouts. "I had it all the way!" Dan exclaims. Match to Seemiller, -12, 18, -20, 21, 23.

In other quarterfinal action, Abass Ekun won the first game against Cheng Yinghua, 21-19, and led 20-18 in the second—but Cheng won that game, 23-21. Complaining about a rip in his sponge, Abass changed sponge between games, but perhaps he shouldn't have—he lost the next two at 12 & 15. Darko Rop revenged his earlier loss to Barney J. Reed (in the American Allstar Men's Singles), this time winning three straight, 17, 14, 14 over the "I need food!" lamenting Reed (who downed a sandwich between games). Barney had upset John Onifade in the previous round. David Zhuang had little trouble with Todd Sweeris, 12, 14, 18.

### Semifinals

The turning point of the match between Cheng Yinghua and Darko Rop came in the third, after Cheng had won the first, 21-15, and Darko the second, 21-18. Leading 13-12, Cheng broke the game open, winning the next five to go up 18-12, 21-15.

He continued his surge in the fourth, 7-3, 15-10, 21-13, to win the match at 15, -18, 15, 13.

In the other semifinal, David Zhuang easily blocked and smashed his way past an

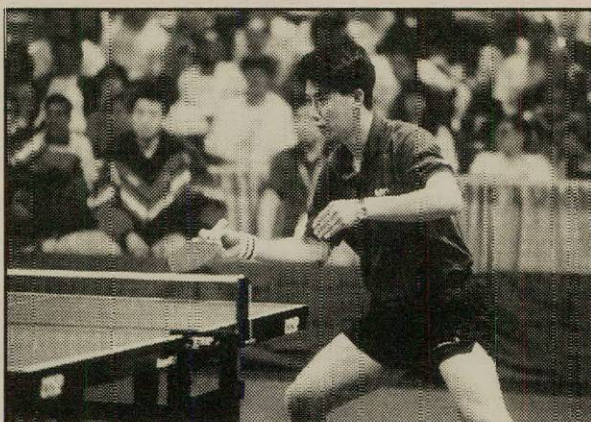


Photo by John Oros © 1995

David Zhuang won American Allstar Men and Over 30, and led 2-1 in the Open final before losing to Cheng Yinghua.

exhausted Dan Seemiller, 10, 10, 8.

### Final

#### Cheng Yinghua vs David Zhuang

David took a 2-1 lead in games, but the key to the match came with Cheng leading 10-7 in the fourth. Cheng hits what he thinks is a winner, but the umpire called a let on a ball rolling by, and Cheng and David get into an argument—but the umpire's ruling stands. A visibly angry Cheng simply tore up the tables the rest of the way, winning the last eleven points in a row to win game four, 21-7, and winning the fifth, also 21-7, to complete a post-argument 32-7 run. To quote Bill Bixby, "Don't get me angry. You wouldn't like me when I'm angry!" (See *The Incredible Hulk*.)

#### American Allstar Men

#4 and #8 seeds Darko Rop and John Onifade were knocked out in the 8ths, care of Barney J. Reed (3-2) and Sean Lonergan (3-1). All other matches this round were quick 3-0's. In the round before, the 16ths, Todd Sweeris had to go five games with Parviz Mojaverian—for the second year in a row here. After getting by the 8ths more easily (3-0 over Ashu Jain), Todd again had to go five, this time coming back from down 2-1 to Barney J. Reed.

After winning the first against Dan Seemiller, Dave Fernandez led 16-14 and 18-17 in the next two games, both times with the serve—but Dan won both, and the fourth, 21-14. The final two quarterfinals were Cheng Yinghua over Randy Cohen and David Zhuang over Sean Lonergan, both quick 3-0's.

### Semifinals

After losing the first to David Zhuang, Todd Sweeris led the second, 19-16—but lost the match 3-0, 12, 20, 13. In the other semi's, Cheng won by default over Dan Seemiller, who was saving his energy for later matches (see quarterfinals, Open singles). It paid off, apparently, as Dan not only won the big Open quarterfinal match, but he also won Over 40 Singles (over Parviz Mojaverian, by default) and Open Doubles (with David Zhuang, 18-in-third over Cheng Yinghua & Todd Sweeris).

### Final

Both players (both here, and in their other matches) are, because of the slower



Photo by John Oros © 1995

Virginia Sung won American Allstar Women without losing a game, and also won the Under 2250's.

conditions, playing very consistent games, not taking too many big shots. Cheng mostly spins rather softly and consistently, while David dead blocks over and over, smashing less than normal. The result is long, long topspin rallies. After splitting the first four games, David goes up 4-1 on his serve; down 4-6 on Cheng's serve; and then up 8-7 on his serve. At 12-all, David finally pulls away, going up 16-12 and 17-13. Cheng pulls to 17-16, but David runs out the last four points, winning the Allstar event, 12, -13, 17, -18, 16.

#### American Allstar Women

Only four players were entered, with the normal top seeds, Amy Feng and Lily Yip, absent. Top seed by far Virginia Sung won 3-0 over 13-year-old Jessica Shen in the final. Virginia & Jessica had won their semifinals 3-0 over 14-year-old Laura Lin & Joannie Fu, respectively.

#### Senior Events

David Zhuang added the Over 30 (over a defaulting Barry Dattel) event to his ever-increasing load of checks (Allstar Men, Open doubles, Open Finalist). In the semi's, Zhuang & Dattel both advanced by default—and three of the four quarterfinal match-ups were also won by default! A combination of "I'm tired and want to go home," and "I can't

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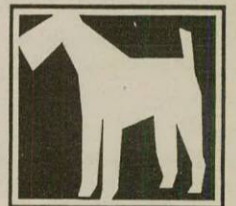
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Photo by Alex Rabinovich © 1995

**Ashu Jain won American Allstar Under 16 and the Under 2125's, and made the final of Under 2250.**

beat him anyway." led to this epidemic.

Dan Seemiller defeated Parviz Mojaverian, also by default, in the Over 40's—he'd also received a default in the semifinals in this fast-spreading disease. Terry Lonergan defeated Neil Ackerman at 13 & 14 to win the Over 50's in the only senior event final played.

**Junior Events**

Barney J. Reed waltzed through the competition, not giving up more than 15 points in the finals (over Norman Yeh, 13 & 15) or semifinals, (over Nate Troyer, 15 & 14). Norman defeated Keith Alban in the other semifinals, pulling out the close first game to win at 20 & 14.

Ashu Jain, having a great tournament, added the Under 16 event to the 2125's he'd already won (as well as making the 2250 final). Ashu defeated Keith Alban in the final by default (shades of the senior events?), and upset Sunny Li in the semifinals, 14, -17,11.

**Rating Events**

Practice partners Sean Lonergan & Masamichi Kubo won the two highest rated events, the 2500's and the 2375's, respectively, over Vic Subonj & Randy Seemiller. Virginia Sung became a double winner when she added the 2250's to

her American Allstar Women's event. Ashu Jain did the same, adding the 2125's to his Under 16 crown, as well as making the 2250 final against Virginia Sung. There were no double winners in the rating events, and only Ashu made two finals in rating events.

**Open Singles—Final:** Cheng Yinghua d. David Zhuang, -8,13,-13,7,7; **SF:** Cheng d. Darko Rop, 15,-18,15,13; Zhuang d. Dan Seemiller, 10,10,8; **QF:** Cheng d. Abass Ekun, -19,21,12,15; Rop d. Barney J. Reed, 17,14,14; Seemiller d. Jack Huang, -12,18,-20,21,23; Zhuang d. Todd Sweeris, 12,14,18; **8ths:** Cheng d. Anini Lawson, 9,6,9; Abass d. Brian Pace, 3-1; Reed d. John Onifade, 3-1; Rop d. Vic Subonj, n.s.; Huang d. Dave Fernandez, -17,19,16,16; Seemiller d. Masamichi Kubo, 3-0; Sweeris d. Barry Dattel, 3-1; Zhuang d. Ashu Jain, n.s.

**American Allstar Men—Final:** David Zhuang d. Cheng Yinghua, 12,-13,17,-18,16; **SF:** Zhuang d. Todd Sweeris, 12,20,13; Cheng d. Dan Seemiller, def.; **QF:** Zhuang d. Sean Lonergan, 3-0; Sweeris d. Barney J. Reed, 3-2; Seemiller d. Dave Fernandez, n.s.; Cheng d. Randy Cohen, 11,5,18; **8ths:** Cheng d. Joe Griffis, 10,11,11; Cohen d. Barry Dattel, 21,18,21; Fernandez d. Dylan Martis, 3-0; Seemiller d. Deepak Jain, 10,11,11; Reed d. Darko Rop, 3-2; Sweeris d. Ashu Jain, 3-0; Lonergan d. John Onifade, 3-1; Zhuang d. Dave Sakai, 3-0.

**American Allstar Women—Final:** Virginia Sung d. Jessica Shen, 3-0; **SF:** Sung d. Laura Lin, 12,9,10; Shen d. Joannie Fu, 10,19,13.

**Over 30—Final:** David Zhuang d. Barry Dattel, def.; **SF:** Zhuang d. Abass Ekun, def.; Dattel d. Ray Gutowski, def.

**Over 40—Final:** Dan Seemiller d. Parviz Mojaverian, def.; **SF:** Seemiller d. Mark Wedret, def.; Mojaverian d. Dave Sakai, -19,19,19.

**Over 50—Final:** Terry Lonergan d. Neil Ackerman, 13,14; **SF:** Lonergan d. C. Gorcheck, 2-1; Ackerman d. Mark Kuklakakis, 14,18.

**American Allstar Boys' Under 18—Final:** Barney J. Reed d. Norman Yeh, 13,15; **SF:** Reed d. Nate Troyer, 15,14; Yeh d. Keith Alban, 20,14.

**American Allstar Girls' Under 18—Final:** Jessica Shen d.

Margaret Lu, 18,15.

**American Allstar Under 16—Final:** Ashu Jain d. Keith Alban, def.; **SF:** Jain d. Sunny Li, 14,-17,11; Alban d. Jessica Shen, n.s.

**U2500—Final:** Sean Lonergan d. Vic Subonj, 13,-18,19; **SF:** Lonergan d. Brian Pace, 13,8; Subonj d. Randy Cohen, 17,16; **QF:** Lonergan d. Barney J. Reed, 18,20; Pace d. Dave Fernandez, n.s.; Subonj d. Victor Tolkachev, 15,-17,10; Cohen d. Masamichi Kubo, -18,19,17.

**U2375—Final:** Masamichi Kubo d. Randy Seemiller, 2-1; **SF:** Kubo d. Dave Sakai, -19,17,17; Randy Seemiller d. Hui Yuang Liu, -11,11,21; **QF:** Kubo d. Ricky Seemiller, 17,-17,17; Sakai d. Victor Tolkachev, 2-1; Liu d. Rich Burnside, 14,16; Randy Seemiller d. Virginia Sung, 11,14.

**U2250—Final:** Virginia Sung d. Ashu Jain, 2-1; **SF:** Sung d. Rich Burnside, 17,-10,19; Jain d. Dylan Martis, n.s.

**U2125—Final:** Ashu Jain d. Chang Ping Duan, 17,-18,18; **SF:** Jain d. Gary Elwell, n.s.; Duan d. Joe Griffis, 15,19; **QF:** Jain d. Terry Lonergan, n.s.; Elwell d. Mark Allen, n.s.; Griffis d. Mark Stuart, n.s.; Duan d. Morris Jackson, 25,-13,16.

**U1875—Final:** Mike Leitzel d. Gunther Schroeder, 2-0; **SF:** Lietzel d. Lewis Bragg, 17,15; Schroeder d. James Sierra, 15,15.

**U1750—Final:** Bill Marcuson d. Michael Master, 16,18; **SF:** Marcuson d. Rich Logan, 2-0; Master d. John Parry, 2-0.

**U1625—Final:** Jack Knicely d. Ray Gutowski, 15,15; **SF:** Gutowski d. S. Ramachandran, 16,16; Knicely d. Rusty Nunnally, 15,11.

**U1500—Final:** John Parry d. Rich Moss, 2-1; **SF:** Parry d. Carl Hawkins, 17,-15,15; Moss d. Chris Williams, 14,17.

**U1350—Final:** Chris Doyle d. J. Chou, -18,11,8; **SF:** Doyle d. Roger Amore, n.s.; Chou d. Paul Matkovic, n.s.

**U1200—Final:** Andy Black d. Stephen Gallagher, 10,16; **SF:** Black d. Joe Arena, n.s.; Gallagher d. H. Elson, 2-1.

**U1000—Final:** Horace Clouden d. Terr Akers, 19,13; **SF:** Clouden d. D. Ho, 2-0; Akers d. J. Hamilton, n.s.

**U4000 Doubles:** Dattel/Lowe d. B. Lonergan/M. Lu, n.s.

**U3400 Doubles:** Hamiton/Hamilton d. G. Kendall/H.Y. Liu, n.s.

## Playing Tip:

### ATTACK SHORT BALLS BY FLIPPING

by Todd Sweeris

1995 U.S. Olympic Festival Men's Singles Gold Medalist • 1993 U.S. Team Member

The flip is a stroke used to attack a ball that lands short. On the backhand side, a flip is essentially the same as a normal backhand. On the forehand, however, it is considerably different. Below is a step-by-step procedure for flipping with the forehand.



#### Ready Position

- Start off in basic ready position (knees slightly bent, legs slightly farther apart than shoulder width, weight on front part of the feet), ready to move quickly in any direction.

#### The Start

- Make split-second decision: is the ball going to land short?
- Step forward with right foot (for righties) in the direction of the ball, with foot well under table.
- Left hand should be up for balance.
- Lower body so that head is closer to the ball.

#### Racket Position & Angle

- Determine the spin on the ball.
- If underspin, racket tip should be down, almost touching the table, with racket perpendicular to the table.
- If topspin, racket should be slightly closed, with racket tip only slightly down.
- To flip down the line, tilt racket backward from the wrist.

#### Contact

- Against underspin, contact the ball slightly below the center of the back of the ball.
- Against topspin, contact the ball slightly above the center of the back of the ball.
- Against backspin, brush the ball upwards

slightly so as to create a light topspin.

- Against topspin, contact should be more flat.
- Against backspin, you should imagine you're just lifting the ball over the net; against topspin you should stroke straight through the ball.
- Snap through the ball with both forearm and wrist, about 70% forearm, 30% wrist. (Penholders usually use more forearm, less wrist.)

#### Follow-through

- Follow-through should be short, relaxed, and in the direction of the target. If stroke is done correctly until this point, follow-through should be natural.

#### The Next Shot

- The important thing about flipping is not to win the point with the flip but to set up the next shot. Immediately after flipping, get back into ready position and continue to attack. Many players are not ready to continue the attack after flipping, and become flat-footed and defensive.

#### When & How to use

- If used properly, the flip can become one of your best weapons.
- You can use it to attack a short serve or a

short push.

- It is a valuable shot in starting the attack since otherwise you'd probably have to push, and let your opponent attack first.
- Many players use the flip only to win the point off a weak short ball, rather than use it as an aggressive shot against a low and short ball.

#### Placement

- One of the most important things when flipping is to think of the placement of the flip. A soft flip to the right place is as effective as a strong loop. You should always flip to one of three spots: the wide forehand, the wide backhand, and to the opponent's elbow (midway between their forehand and backhand shots, forcing them to make a split-second decision). Observing your opponent's tendencies will help you decide where to place the ball, i.e. if your opponent has a strong forehand and steps around often, flip to the forehand; if he stays in the middle of the table, you'd flip mostly to his backhand or middle.
- When flipping to the forehand or backhand, most players flip the ball inside the corners. Instead, flip the ball outside the corners (even if you have to slow down your flip). This will make your opponent take an extra step, put him well out of position, and make his return somewhat predictable, as it will be difficult for him to return anywhere but cross-court.

#### Drills

- Serve short underspin. Have partner push short. Flip the ball to a predetermined spot, then play out the point.
- Partner serves short, mixing up the spins. Flip the serve to a predetermined spot, then play out the point.

## Playing Tip:

### PLAY THE MIDDLE

by Larry Hodges

USATT Certified National Coach

There are only three directions you can hit the ball: to your opponent's forehand, backhand or somewhere in between. But most players play shot after shot to the forehand or backhand, simulating exactly what your opponent has probably spent much of his practice time doing—hitting forehands or backhands.

Instead, try hitting at an opponent's middle. Define that to be the opponent's playing elbow, the midpoint between the forehand and backhand. If the opponent is close to the table, you should generally play the ball a little toward the forehand side of the elbow; if the opponent is a little off the table, generally play the ball a little toward the backhand side of the elbow.

As long as you hit the ball aggressively (that's important), your opponent has very little time to decide whether to take a forehand or backhand, move into position using footwork not often practiced, and then make the shot. Contrast this with hitting into an opponent's forehand or backhand, where all your opponent has to do is... make the shot. Try this out, and you'll be amazed at the results.

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#### Tape 2 (2H01MIN)

#### MEN'S SINGLES:

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Feng Zhe (CHN) - Ekun Abass (USA)  
Chiang (TPE) - Lim Chang Kook (KOR)

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# A Reunion of Fact and Fiction

by Tim Boggan, USATT Historian

On the evening of Sept. 23, 1995, at Dick Miles's home in New York City, six former U.S. Champions, all world-class players in their day, got together with a number of well-wishers to talk about old times and to celebrate...well, being alive.

The Who's Who feted were (and I've settled for merely a one-line identification tag here):

- Laszlo "Laci" Bellak (84), 3-times World Singles finalist and World Mixed Doubles Champion;
- Doug Cartland (81), World Quarterfinalist and U.S. Open Men's and Mixed Doubles Champion;
- Sol Schiff (78), World's Men's Doubles Champion and U.S. Open Singles and Men's and Mixed Doubles Champion;
- Lou Pagliaro (76), World Semifinalist and 4-time U.S. Open Champion;
- Dick Miles (70), World Mixed Doubles Champion and 10-time U.S. Open Champion; and
- Marty Reisman (65), World Semifinalist and U.S. and British Open Champion.

Naturally, with conversations going on all around me, I jotted down whatever I could. However, what I've thought best to select to present to you here and how directly or indirectly to do that presented a problem—though nothing compared to the larger one facing me with my multi-volume *History*.

Fortunately, Dick's cardiologist, Dr. Steve Horowitz, started the historic evening off just right. He showed us all a little purchase he'd recently made—an antique, long-handled vellum-racket set with a most unplayable ball.

Bellak, of course, was right away reminded of 1928—when his lifelong friend Sandor Glancz was a very good player but one who could also be very temperamental. At the Stockholm World's, in the Men's Doubles semi's, against



Photo by Yoshiko Reisman © 1995

the Austrian pair Liebster and Thum, Glancz disputed a point and began arguing with the umpire. When Bellak, his partner, tried to quiet him and told him, since after all they were leading, to just calmly play on, Sandor erupted, screamed that Laci, too, was against him. Leaving Bellak alone at their side of the table, Glancz hurried off court, to go, harried, tormented by thoughts too subjectively ideal, round and round the arena...until there was nothing left for the Referee to do but default the two of them. How uncharacteristic this

L-R: Sol Schiff, Dr. Charlie Post, Dr. Steve Horowitz, Dick Miles, Laszlo Bellak, Lou Pagliaro, Tim Boggan, Doug Cartland, Marty Reisman.

was of Sandor I would have thought, recalling how a decade later he was the suave sophisticate playing the ultra-exclusive Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center with our one and only World Singles Champ Ruth Aarons.

Laci also recalled his singles losses to the inimitable

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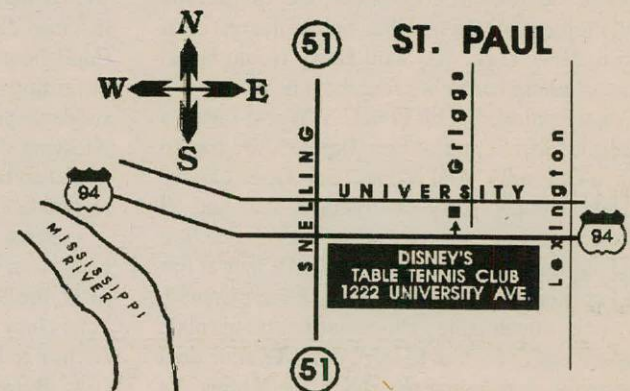
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Victor Barna in the finals of the 1930 and '33 World's. Laci's two-fingered grip always prevented him from getting more needed power, he said, and as for his much-admired angled-off deceptions and drops, well, they didn't fool Victor: "He knew my game too well." Also, said Laci, "Barna's back-hand grip, with the thumb at the edge of the racket, allowed the ball to stay on the racket longer and gave him wonderful sidespin control."

By the time he was 23, Barna had amassed 20 of his 22 World titles before breaking his arm in a 1935 car accident, after which a metal plate to hold the bones in place had to be inserted just above his wrist. Victor, everyone at the party agreed, was deservedly a legend, but was any Hungarian ever ordered to lose to him? "Never!" said Laci.

Bellak also spoke of his 1937 U.S. Open final with 1936 Czech World Champion Standa Kolar—but, he said, if I wrote what went on between the two of them, "I kill you."

In the 1937 Open, Ruth Aarons defeated Emily Fuller, who would be her successor. "Ruth was a strong-willed woman; she wasn't always easy to get along with," said Laci, who was with her in India when during the War, long after her retirement, she'd been giving exhibitions before our servicemen abroad and her New York partner, Johnny Abrahams, just up and left her. Later, Ruth was a successful booking agent and a good friend of the actress Celeste Holm. Naturally questions were asked about Ruth's private life and how she died, and about Emily's private life (like Ruth she retired at the height of her fame—a move suggested by her singing teacher in order that she, Emily, might the more seriously pursue a singing career) and how she died. Death, like Life, even to the elderly, was often mysterious.

And whatever happened, not to 1932 New York TTA Champion Marcus Schussheim—we know his alias and where he is—but to 1933 New York TTA National Champion and 1935 USTTA Mixed Doubles Champ (with Aarons) Sidney Heitner? He married 1934 USTTA Champ Iris Little, whose father was a VP at Prudential, then fled the not so secure house and home, the insurance business, to risk being a freedom-minded cab driver in Florida. Later he died under strange circumstances. Or so someone had heard.

Talk of Barna's car accident, and/or aging, shadowy Death, brought back memories. Remember U.S. #3 for both the '39-40 and '40-41 seasons, Charlie Schmidt—his celebrated accident? Schmidt was driving a group of players to a Philly tournament when "Charlie," says one of his passengers, "watch that truck up ahead..." "I see it," he acknowledges..."Charlie!" the passenger yells. "Watch that truck ahead!" "...I see it," he says. Then drives right into it....Charlie, who after this was out of the game, recovering, for a while, used to say catchily, "He vas good, but I vas better."

And poor Harry Cook, the defensive star who in 1936, in the pushing panic affecting the USTTA, was disqualified from the Middle Atlantic States Open and thereafter barred, as were several others, from a succession of important tournaments for not playing an offensive game! Cartland well remembers how Harlem Globetrotters owner Abe Saperstein liked Doug's then partner Cook's showmanship half-time antics (the ping-pong ball high up through the hoop—that was his favorite). In Tennessee, coming back from an exhibition, Harry, Doug, and Johnny Abrahams were in an accident and the car they were in turned over completely. "I remember," said Doug, "we had a marvelous driver. He turned off the ignition, told me just where to place my hands to brace myself. But Harry must have been asleep in the back, for he was thrown out of the car, and was the only one of us really injured. At the hospital, before the rest of us continued on to New York, they said Harry would be all right. But it wasn't long before we found out he was dead."

Pagliari was reminded of his 1938 U.S. World's Men's Teammate Bernie Grimes and of how Bernie's life turned for the worse to end sadly. And of 1944 U.S. Open Champ Johnny Somael: "I felt so sorry for Johnny," said Lou. "I remember we hadn't seen him for a while and invited him and his wife Pauline to a Thanksgiving Day Dinner at our home. When I opened the door I saw this old blind man with a cane. Later, at the dinner table Pauline had to turn his plate around to make it easier for him to eat." When Pauline died quite unexpectedly, it was just too much for Johnny, he couldn't cope.

Reisman remembered 1950 U.S. Champ Reba Monness, long a friend of Marty's and Laci's, and my friend too, a caring person, despite the fact that with her appalling prejudices and volatile outspokenness she could be both a private and public embarrassment. Her vanities, her frailties—her humanness—her kindness, her love of the dramatic, were all laid out there, in conversation, like pictures from the past.

Bellak, perhaps motivated in part by thoughts of Reba—

# FINALLY, AFTER DECADES

## The Great U.S. Teams of the 1930's & 1940's

by Tim Boggan, USATT Historian



GREET YOUR GRAND TEAM AT NEWARK!

### TABLE TENNIS TOPICS

A National News Monthly

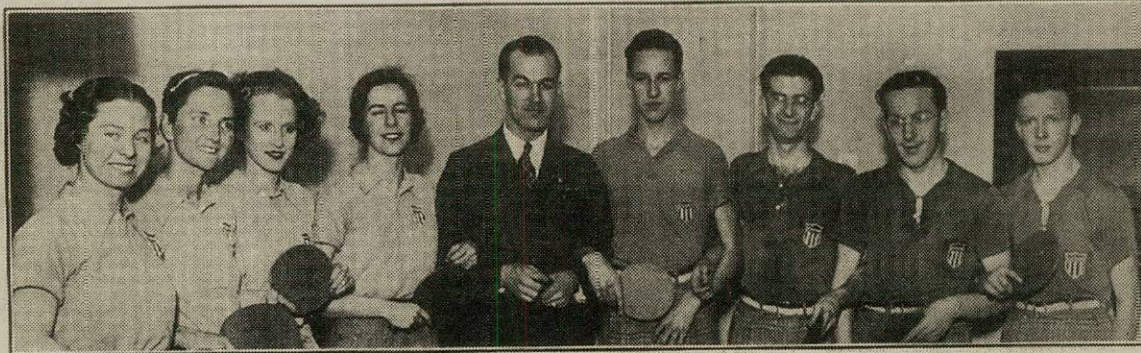


VOL. 4, NO. 6

MARCH, 1937

PRICE: SEE PAGE 2

#### Bergmann Wins Men's World Title; Blattner and McClure Repeat; "Pusher" Deadlocks Ruth



Dolores Kuenz Jay Purves Ruth Aarons Emily Fuller Elmer F. Cinnater Bud Blattner Abe Berenbaum Sol Schiff Jimmy McClure  
ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL: AMERICA'S STARS WHO WON BOTH WORLD TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP CUPS  
(Photographed in Duna Sport Club, Budapest, Hungary, by Egyszult Fotoripor Syndicate and kindly forwarded by Ervin Brody)

Contributed by Tim Boggan

On the cover of the March, 1937 *Table Tennis Topics*: the U.S. Team, just back from winning both the Men's and Women's Team Championships at the World Championships: L-R, Dolores Kuenz, Jay Purves, Ruth Aarons, Emily Fuller, Elmer F. Cinnater, Bud Blattner, Abe Berenbaum, Sol Schiff, Jimmy McClure.

The (Cheng Yinghua, Jim Butler, David Zhuang, Li Zhenshi-coached) U.S. Men's Team's advance to the semi's over Belgium and France before losing to South Korea in the Atlanta World Team Cup this summer was, historically speaking, such a long-awaited success that one has to go back to the late 1930's and '40's to find a comparable U.S. Team accomplishment.

In 1937 (see accompanying pic), the U.S. was the first country (and even as of today only one of three—Japan and China being the other two) to win both the Swaythling Cup Men's Team and the Corbillon Cup Women's Team in the same year.

Then, in '38, when Hungary (their Team included the '37 and '38 U.S. Open Champion Laszlo "Laci" Bellak) was the Swaythling Cup winner, the U.S. Men's Team (Sol Schiff, Jimmy McClure, Bernie Grimes, Lou Pagliaro, and George Hendry—with Morris Bassford as Non-Playing Captain) came second in one of the two round robin Groups after a 3-way (#1 Austria, #2 U.S., #3 England) play-off tie.

On resuming Swaythling Cup play after the War in '47, the U.S. (Schiff, Pagliaro, Dick Miles, and Billy Holzrichter—with Carl Nidy as NPC), after beating

France, Hungary, and England, lost in the final to Czechoslovakia.

In '48, the U.S. (Miles, Marty Reisman, and Garrett Nash—with Bill Price as NPC), after beating England, Hungary, and Sweden, lost in the semi's, again to the eventual winner Czechoslovakia.

And in '49—the only other year the U.S. women (Peggy McLean, Mildred Shahian, and Thelma Thall) won the Corbillon Cup—the U.S. men (Miles, Reisman, and Doug Cartland—with McClure as NPC of both our teams), after beating last year's runner-up France and Yugoslavia, came second in one of two Groups to the eventual winner Hungary

In these years the U.S. men and women, as their singles and doubles records show, were among the very best of the hard-rubber players. But after the gradual world-wide acceptance of sponge in the late '50's and early '60's, and then the proliferation of well-conditioned, well-coached athletes abroad, U.S. Teams fell embarrassingly behind, with only now and then a player to remind them of their acclaimed past. Hence, these many years later, History welcomes the resurgence of U.S. Team play shown in Atlanta.

they'd won the U.S. Open Mixed together in '41—decided that the talk might be getting just a little too grim, so back he went to his halcyon days with Barna. There was this party—in those days there were always lots of parties—and the English-speaking hostess, very much a stranger to Bellak, but sitting there quite comfortably between him and Barna, suddenly prompted Laci to raise his glass, lean around her as if to toast Victor, and say in Hungarian, "You know, this lady has a hand on my knee." To which Victor, raising his glass, responded, "You know, she has two hands."

Barna was a winner, Reisman thought, and not just because in Victor's last international Singles event at the age of 37, the 1949 British Open, Marty beat him in 5 in the final. "I had him 1-1 and 20-15 in the 3rd, and just eased up waiting for him to miss," said Marty—"and he won 7 straight."

"Barna was my idol," said Paggy. "But when I played him in Paris in '47, he couldn't handle my chop." That was a first-round match, which Paggy won in 5. Lou then advanced all the way to the semi's where he met Hungarian Ferenc Sido, who'd earlier gotten by Sol Schiff in 5. Down 2-1, but up 20-16 in the 4th, Lou said at that point he thought he'd scored an edge ball, but the umpire saw it differently and he lost 6 in a row and his chance for the World Championship. Sido, destined to be World Champ in '53 and runner-up in '59, afterwards lost to the Czech Bo Vana

who'd beaten England's Johnny Leach in the other semi's. For 7 straight World's, beginning in 1937, with 7 years of Championships lost because of the War, either Vana or the Austrian-become-naturalized-Briton, Richard Bergmann, was a Men's finalist.

"I thought I could beat Bergmann," said Pagliaro, "his ball was so high. But I never got to play him."

Schiff's match with Bergmann in '37 was brought up, replayed. After Sol had posted that remarkable 21-1 Swaythling Cup record (including a 19, 20 win over Bergmann) he was the favorite to take the Singles title. But, so the story went this evening, when some in the crowd began booing Schiff's perfectly legal use of devastating fingerspin serves against his fellow teenager, Sol said to himself, "I can beat this guy without the spins." But then, after being up 2-1 and finding himself in the 5th, he tried fingerspinning again...to no avail. Bergmann then went on to defeat the Pole Alex Ehrlich in the final in 5. "Bergmann's spirit beat Ehrlich in Baden," someone said who wasn't there. "Though physically, too, he always outlasted his opponents."

Poland's Alois Ehrlich, 3-time World runner-up, who'd suffered five years at Auschwitz and Dachau, and was a friend of Cartland and admired as a multilingual raconteur by Reisman, invited Doug and Marty to his one room, walk-up tenement apartment after the War. "There was a window,



a little cot, a metal locker there," said Marty. "Is very nice, no?" said Alex. And opening his little refrigerator, he added, "And here I have my nourishment," and took out a piece of cheese. Marty, not exactly living a life of splendor himself, was nevertheless quite struck by Ehrlich's genuine appreciation of his "advantages" and so could comprehend a little better the life Alex had endured in those concentration camps. (See article *The Longest Rally* elsewhere in this issue for more about Ehrlich, who was one of the two players involved in the longest tournament rally ever—135 minutes.)

For our host Miles those post-War Championships in which he and Marty and Doug were so historically prominent offered perhaps as many painful as pleasant memories. In the quarter's of the 1948 World's, Dick, though leading Vana 16-9 in the 5th, couldn't win. And in 1949, when he was generally considered to be the best player in the world, Dick, after beating Barna, Bergmann, Leach, Sido, and other world-class Champions or Champions-to-be in the Swaythling Cup, lost to Leach in the quarter's, deuce in the 5th, after having three match points. Do winners like to talk about such losses? Not tonight.

But, as Pagliaro was trying to get a word in about his 1952 U.S. Open win over Dick—seems he only went to that Nationals because he heard they were offering a car, and then, surprise, when he got to Cleveland the offer had been withdrawn—not even Yoshiko, Marty's so sensibly dutiful wife, could stop Marty, with his usual indefatigable exuberance, from interrupting.

In '49, Marty was saying, he and Doug were not only at the Stockholm World's, they were up in what Marty described as Lapland among the below zero table tennis herders who in exchange for exhibitions and participation in a tournament or two were offering them more and more reindeer meat, actually nothing but reindeer meat. After so many Lord Mayors, so many obligatory speeches, so many dear little dinners, Cartland finally lost it. Yep, Doug got up and in a loud voice exclaimed, "I hate Sweden and I hate Swedes." Beautiful! The American sense of humor. The ironic wit. Everybody loved it.

Another time up there in Lapland, said Marty, he and Doug were playing in the final of a local tournament for a prize of two ski poles. After a time Doug was infuriated by the umpire, for he felt he'd made not just this one bad call Doug was now arguing with him about, but several bad calls—calls which in each instance Doug had objected to. As the spectators again began to express their displeasure over Doug's poor sportsmanship with their Nay-Nay-Nay footstamping, Doug, thoroughly exasperated, turned round to them and yelled, "Oh, go to hell!" Of course as Reisman tells the story, he, Marty, won the ski poles, though by this time there weren't enough people left in the hall to give him his just due.

What! Miles, Reisman, and Cartland were all suspended in 1949. Uh, why did the USTTA do that? Because, after the English Open, all three were supposed to give exhibitions in England and just weren't going to do them. At least Miles and Reisman weren't. (Cartland of course had received a telegram—here, anybody want to see it?—saying that he had to go home, his mother was ill, so he was sorry, but how could he participate?) Nope, Dick and Marty, given the inadequacy of their lodgings, their meager food allowance, had been forced to move to more suitable quarters, and unless the English Association agreed to pay their hotel and food bill (poor Marty, at first trying to stretch out his few shillings, had actually



# ★★ TECRO POTOMAC OPEN ★★

## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Saturday & Sunday, November 18 and 19, 1995

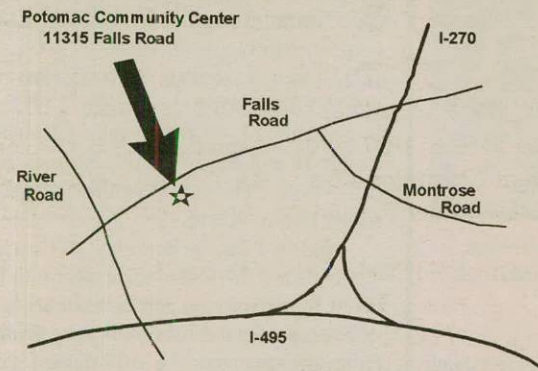
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Potomac Community Center (PCC)

EVENT	FEES	Starting Time	Prize: 1/2/3-4/5-8
1. Open Singles RR	\$20**	Sat. 3:00 pm	\$500/300/150/50
2. U-2400 RR	10	Sat. 10:00 am	\$140/70
3. U-2250 RR	10	Sat. 11:00 am	\$120/60
4. U-2100 RR	10	Sat. 1:00 pm	\$100/50
5. U-4200 Doubles SE	10ea	Sat. 9:00 am	\$120/60
6. Over-40 Senior RR	8	Sat. 3:00 pm	\$50/30
7. Novice RR	8*	Sun. 9:30 am	T/T
8. U-1900 RR	10	Sun. 10:00 am	\$60/30
9. U-1600 RR	10	Sun. 1:00 pm	\$40/20
10. U-1300 RR	5	Sun. 11:00 am	T/T
11. U-1000 RR	5	Sun. 2:00 pm	T/T
12. U-15 Junior	5	Sun. 12:00 noon	T/T
13. U-3600 Doubles SE	5ea	Sun. 9:00 am	T/T
TECRO Invitational		Sun. TBA	T/T

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**Director:** David Cheung, Tel: (301)530-4057 Fax: (301)530-4073  
**Referee:** Paul Kovac, National Umpire  
**Location:** Potomac Community Center (PCC)  
11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD20854  
Tel: (301)983-4471

**TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:**

- Entry deadline: **November 16, 1995.** Entries received after Nov. 16 and entries not accompanied by payment are subject to \$5 processing fee.
- Open singles, semis and finals are 3 out of 5. All other matches are 2 of 3 games. Winners (and perhaps runners-up) of each RR advance to single elimination draw. Non-rated players may enter any event but will not advance to SE draw in rated events. Doubles are single elimination.
- 12 Butterfly tables, Butterfly 3-star balls (White). Only USATT-approved equipment will be used. All USATT regulations apply, including dress code.
- Proof of USATT membership will be required. Membership may be purchased at the tournament: \$25 yearly (\$8 for Junior under 18, \$12 w/Today), \$60 for 3 years. First-time adult players may purchase a pass for \$6 (valid this tournament only).
- Players must check in at least 20 min. before the starting time of their entered events.
- Any player abusing equipment or harrasing tournament officials will be disqualified immediately. Anyone deliberately defaulting a match may, at the tournament officials discretion, be forfeited all prizes.
- Ratings will be based on the **September/October** issue of Table Tennis Today. Events may be combined or canceled due to lack of entries.

**DIRECTIONS:**

- From North: Take Washington Capital Beltway 495 West, Exit 35 onto I-270 North, get off Montrose Rd. West (Exit 4B), turn left onto Falls Rd. (Rt. 189) South to Potomac Community Center (on the left side).
- From South: Take Washington Capital Beltway 495 North, take River Road West (exit 39A, towards Potomac), turn right onto Falls Rd. North to Potomac Community Center (on the right side).

ENTRY BLANK: Cut along the line and mail it together with the entry fees (payable to PCTTC) to:  
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Please enter me in the events CIRCLED: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

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Rating Fee (\$3) and Registration Fee (\$3)	\$ _____ 6 _____	USATT Rating _____
USATT membership fee/tournament pass	\$ _____	USATT Expires _____
Late/phone entry fee (\$5)	\$ _____	Birth Date _____
Total Fees Paid (to PCTTC)	\$ _____	Home Club _____
Name (please print) _____		Phone: (H) _____
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City, State, Zip _____		Partner: #5 _____
Signature _____		#13 _____

By entering this tournament, I hereby release the sponsors, directors, and any individual or corporate body directly or remotely connected with this tournament from any and all actions, claims, and demands resulting from loss, damage, or injury sustained to persons or property.

fainted from hunger), they were not going to cooperate. The English, with, as they put it, a gun pointed to their head, paid...but so did Miles. A year or more later, Dick won \$200 in a tournament at Milwaukee, told the USTTA to keep it, and was reinstated. How proud these players were. How little money there was then for Association after Association to treat their players like Champions.

All right, all right, one more story by Bellak. He was living in Paris, in a little apartment next to the Moulin Rouge, and was giving an occasional table tennis lesson to a millionaire (one lesson equaled two weeks average pay). He was also spending some time playing bridge with this millionaire, his wife, and his wife's boyfriend. "How'd you like to go to Biarritz for a while?" said Mr. Millions to Laci one day when Laci had all of \$5 in his pocket. Why not? Laci, uneasy were such a personage to come knocking on his door, waited outside to be picked up at the Place Pigalle, and from the start had a great time: was wine and dined, given pocket money to gamble with,

was recognized by one and all as a man of considerable means—a millionaire by association. But just about the time Laci was getting used to the good life, to what it was like having money, it was time to go back to Paris, to the Place Pigalle, where waving goodbye to his friends, he reflected with Chaplinesque ruefulness that, well, he still had that \$5 in his pocket.

On this day, Sept. 23, 1995, Laci and

Lily Bellak celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. As a present, I'm going to close by giving Lily the best line of the night. (Yes, of course, some of the wives were there too, telling their own tales.) "The other evening, said Lily, "I couldn't get to sleep. So I turned to Laci and said, 'Laci, tell me a story you've never told me before?'"

Now that's what I want for my History...and not only from Bellak.

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Harrisburg, PA 17104  
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Phone: 717-238-0155  
or  
Barney D. Reed  
717-697-5264

Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club TTC  
Lucile Palmaro Clubhouse  
1930 Randall Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10473  
Contact: Ed Roldan  
Phone: 718-893-8254

Lake Havasu TTC  
Parks & Recreation Community Building  
100 Park Avenue  
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403  
Contact: John Ballard  
Phone: 520-453-8638

Purdue University Table Tennis Club (PUTTC)  
Recreational Gymnasium (CO-REC)  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
Contact: Priyabroto Chatterjee  
Phone: 317-743-5608

Table Tennis Center of Traverse City  
9950 East Traverse Highway  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Contact: Kevin H. Johnson  
Phone: 616-929-2721

**REAFFILIATED CLUBS**

USA Table Tennis would like to recognize the following clubs that have recently re-affiliated:

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Bay State TTC  
Bethesda Lutheran Church Gym  
Island Pond Road  
Springfield, MA 01118  
Contact: David Chernock  
Phone: 413-567-8061 (H)  
413-748-7831 (W)

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Boeing Activity Center  
22649 83rd Avenue South  
Kent, WA  
Contact: Pete Williams  
Phone: 206-228-5063 (H)  
206-237-2188 (W)

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2124 Shepherd Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421  
Contact: Doug Byrd  
Phone: 423-870-8256 (H)  
423-697-4426 (W)

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Centre, AL 35960  
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Phone: 205-927-3138 (H)  
205-235-7112 (W)

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Clinton Scout Center  
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Clinton, MO 64735  
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Phone: 816-885-3985

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Lohrey Center  
Dayton Recreation & Parks  
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Dayton, OH 45420  
Contact: John Dichiaro  
Phone: 513-433-6956

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4300 E. Dartmouth  
Denver, CO 80210  
Contact: David Zimmerman  
Phone: 303-433-7082 (H)  
303-455-4541 (W)

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66 Day Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
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Phone: 508-348-2625

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Newark, OH 43055  
Contact: Paul Miller  
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614-928-7755 (W)

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10 Hemlock  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
Contact: Dewey Helmick  
Phone: 708-748-8476

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Silver Spring, MD 20904  
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FAX: 301-933-9825

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Phone: 619-485-0529

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Student Union  
San Jose State University  
One Washington Square  
San Jose, CA 95192  
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Phone: 408-980-0665 (H)  
408-293-7250 (W)

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Phone: 318-343-0829

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Phone: 708-837-8053

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Richland Community Center  
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Richland, WA 99352  
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Phone: 509-375-1587

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Phone: 814-833-8704

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Erie, PA 16508  
Contact: Robert A. Glecos  
Phone: 814-459-1608

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Phone: 518-276-5747

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This is the official USA Table Tennis Approved Equipment List as of October 11, 1995. Additional approved equipment will be published in a future *Table Tennis Today*. Help support USA Table Tennis by buying only USATT officially-approved equipment from these suppliers.

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**Alpha Productions (2)**  
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FAX: 818-584-6377  
(Avalox Rubber)

**California Table Tennis (3)**  
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1367 Berkely Place  
Livermore, CA 94550  
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Phone: 800-521-1507

**The Detroit (4)**  
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29393 Murray Crescent  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: 800-825-7664  
FAX: 313-356-5871

**Escalade Sports (7)**  
Peter Bjurman  
817 Maxwell Avenue  
P. O. Box 889  
Evansville, IN 47706  
Phone: 812-467-1200  
FAX: 812-425-1425  
(Distributor for Apex, Banda, Harvard, Ping Pong®, Spalding, Stiga, and Yasaka: Balls, Net Sets, Racquets, Rubber, and Tables)

**General Sportcraft Co., Ltd. (8)**  
Don Hirsch, Product Manager  
140 Woodbine Street  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621  
Phone: 201-384-4242  
FAX: 201-387-8128  
(Sportcraft Rubber)

**Gold Palm Trading Ltd. (9)**  
(Friendship Rubber)  
Distributor:  
T.G. Enterprises  
Guenther Schroeder  
29393 Murray Crescent  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: 800-825-7664  
FAX: 313-356-5871

**Joola Tischtennis GmbH & Co. KG (10)**  
D-76833 Siebeldingen/Falz  
GERMANY  
(Joola Balls, Net Sets, Rubber, and Tables)

**Juic Co., Ltd. (11)**  
Peter Shioda  
P. O. Box 6-1 Nobitome 4 Chome  
Niza City, Saitama Pref, JAPAN  
(Juic Balls and Rubber)  
Distributor:  
Paddle Palace  
Lou Bochenski  
8125 Glencoe Road  
Portland, OR 97222  
Phone: 800-547-5891  
FAX: 503-777-4062

**Kettler International (12)**  
John G. Teeuwen  
National Sales Manager  
Sports Division  
P. O. Box 2747  
Virginia Beach, VA 23450-2747  
Phone: 804-427-2400, Ext. 21  
FAX: 804-427-0183  
(Kettler Tables and Net Set)

**Newgy Industries, Inc. (13)**  
Larry Thoman  
400 North Belvedere Drive  
P. O. Box 959  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
Phone: 615-452-6470  
FAX: 615-451-2459  
(Newgy 3 Star Ball, Ball Machine, Table, and Rubber)

**Nippon Takkyu Co., Ltd. (14)**  
Koichi Hirose  
1-1 Kanda-Izumicho  
Chiyoda-Ku  
Tokyo, JAPAN  
(Nittaku 3 Star Ball)

**Pyunghwa Industrial Co., Ltd. (15)**  
J. J. Choi, Managing Director  
P. O. Box 570  
Pusan, KOREA  
(Peace 3 Star Ball)  
Distributor:  
TIDE-RIDER, INC.  
P. O. Box 429  
Oakdale, CA 95361-0429  
Phone: 209-848-4420  
FAX: 209-848-4423

**Regent Sports Corporation (16)**  
Distributor of Halex Products  
Lee Nielsen  
45 Ranick Road  
Hauppauge, NY 11787  
Phone: 516-234-2800  
FAX: 516-234-2948  
(Halex Balls, Net Set, Racquets)

**Schildkröt International (17)**  
Hans Hubertus Von Keller  
PERSEUS Co. Ltd.  
Unit 1001, 10/F, Eight Plaza  
8 Sunning Road  
Causeway Bay  
HONG KONG  
Phone: 881-6900  
(Schildkröt 3 Star Ball; Rubber)  
Distributor:  
Dector Sports  
c/o C. T. Wong  
4103 Oakville  
Houston, TX 77093  
Phone and FAX: 713-449-3627

**Skitt (18)**  
(Skitt Rubber)  
Distributor:  
T.G. Enterprises  
Guenther Schroeder  
29393 Murray Crescent  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: 800-825-7664  
FAX: 313-356-5871

**Tamasu Co. Ltd. (19)**  
Kimihiro Tamasu  
P. O. Box 17  
Suginamiku  
Tokyo, JAPAN  
(Butterfly Balls, Net Sets, Racquets, Rubber, and Tables)  
Distributor:

Martin-Kilpatrick  
Bowie Martin  
P. O. Box 157  
Wilson, NC 27893  
Phone: 800-334-8315  
FAX: 919-291-8203

**Tibhar Table Tennis Company (20)**  
(Tibhar Rubber)  
Table Tennis America  
Peter Hoplovic  
1237 Doe Run Road  
Newark, DE 19711  
Phone: 800-305-9942  
FAX: 302-239-7186

**Winning Sports Company (21)**  
Eric Kwok  
9+17 Tin Lok Lane  
SIU Fung Bldg.  
Flat C2/F  
Wanchai, HONG KONG  
(Winning Rubber)  
Distributor:  
Table Tennis International  
10060 Dedham Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
Phone: 317-894-4676

**Yamato Takkyu Co., Ltd. (22)**  
N. Shimo, Manager  
3-6-3 Nama-Naka, Naniwaku  
Osaka 556, JAPAN  
(TSP Balls and Rubber)  
Distributor:  
Robbins Table Tennis, Inc.  
Dan Robbins  
Phone: 800-741-0333  
800-727-2119  
810-468-8735  
FAX: 810-468-8760

**Yasaka Co. Ltd. (23)**  
Makoto Yaoita  
Sanki Buildings, Room 301  
4-4 Shitaya, 3 chome, Taito-ku  
Tokyo 110, JAPAN  
(Yasaka Rubber)  
Distributor:  
Escalade Sports  
Peter Bjurman  
817 Maxwell Avenue  
P. O. Box 889  
Evansville, IN 47706  
Phone: 812-467-1200  
FAX: 812-425-1425

## Approved Equipment

Ball Machines	
Newgy Robo-Pong 2000	
Personal Table Tennis Robot	No. 13
Balls	
Butterfly 3 Star	No. 19
Butterfly Training Balls	No. 19
Halex 2 Star	No. 16
Halex 3 Star	No. 16
Harvard 3 Star	No. 7
Joola 3 Star Super	No. 10
Juic Super Select 3 Star	No. 11
Newgy 3 Star	No. 13
Nittaku 3 Star	No. 14
Peace 3 Star	No. 15
Ping Pong 3 Star	No. 7
Schildkröt 3 Star	No. 17
Spalding 3 Star	No. 7
Stiga 3 Star	No. 7
TSP 3 Star	No. 22
Net Sets	
Butterfly BTY T1050	No. 19
Butterfly Europa	No. 19
Butterfly Green Support	No. 19
Butterfly International	No. 19
Butterfly National League	No. 19
Butterfly Spring Support	No. 19
Donic Rallye	No. 5
Donic Stress	No. 5
Halex Tournament	No. 16
Harvard Cup	No. 7
Harvard Tournament	No. 7
Joola WM	No. 10
Kettler Professional	No. 12
Stiga Clipper DM	No. 7
Stiga Elite	No. 7



# WANTED-US ATT CLUBS

## willing to help SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES

by joining the South Bend JUNIOR Table Tennis Team in helping the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation  
find a cure for Niemann-Pick Type C Disease

Like any grandfather, the health and well-being of my children and grandchildren are always on my mind. So you can imagine my emotions when my three youngest grandchildren, Michael, Marcia and Christa, were diagnosed as having Niemann-Pick Type C Disease, a genetic disorder that prohibits the metabolism of cholesterol.

The long-term prognosis for the children is not promising unless the pace of medical research is rapidly advanced. As in most of the events of my life I will not accept this situation without a fight.

My family and I have started the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation to find the defective gene responsible for the disease and to develop a treatment and cure. This research may help not only my grandchildren but other children as well. It also may help thousands of adults fighting heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's Disease and other disorders that appear to be related to the metabolism of cholesterol.

We are in a race against time so your help is both needed and appreciated. To paraphrase the Notre Dame fight song, "What though the odds be great or small, with your help we will win over all".

We will find a cure and you will earn the everlasting gratitude of families across America and around the world. Thanks for your support and your prayers.



Ara Parseghian and grandchildren  
Head Coach Notre Dame Football  
1964 - 1974 (2 National Championships)

## The South Bend Junior Table Tennis Team will hold a **24 HOUR TABLE TENNIS-A-THON** and we hope your club will do the same!!

Utilizing our Junior team, the players will alternate in 4 hour shifts starting at 6:00 PM on Friday and ending 24 hours later on Saturday. Parents, friends, and relatives are invited to a FULL day of sleeping bags, togetherness with family and friends, and helping a good cause.

Sponsors will be secured to donate on an hourly basis and we invite your club to join us on January 12th, 1996 in raising funds to help children affiliated with this disease.

As a group we CAN make a difference and in the process you can bring your club together.

# PLEASE JOIN US!!

## THERE IS NO TREATMENT OR CURE, THESE CHILDREN WILL DIE UNLESS FUNDING FOR RESEARCH IS FOUND!!

FOR A VIDEO TAPE AND INFORMATION PACKET PLEASE CONTACT :

BRAD BALMER

by phone: Evenings  
(219) 654-8345

or write: 56611 Tulip Road  
New Carlisle, IN 46552

THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE  
SOUTH BEND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TABLE TENNIS CLUB  
SPONSORS OF THE ST. JOSEPH VALLEY OPEN HELD AT NOTRE DAME





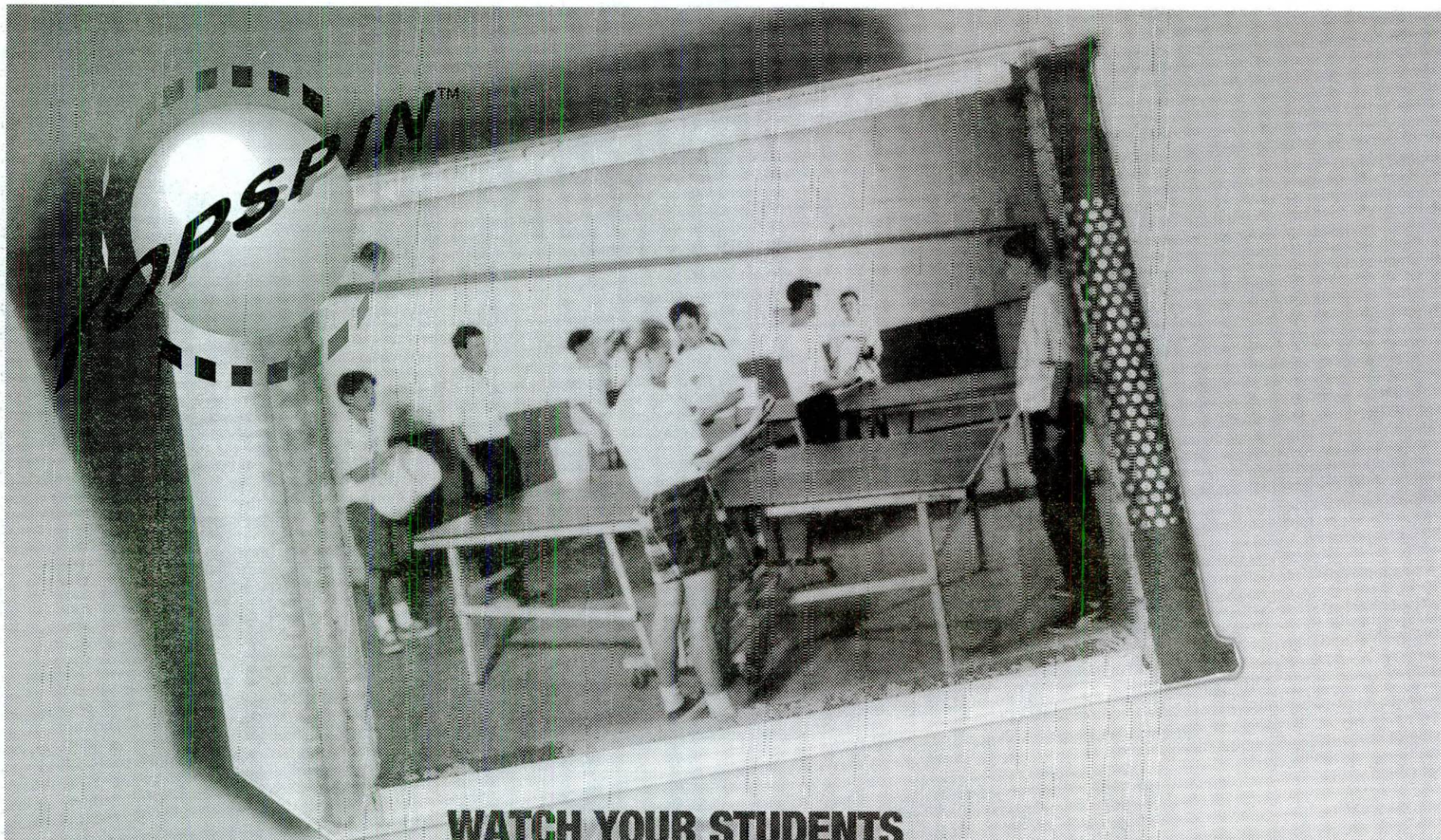












## WATCH YOUR STUDENTS DEVELOP A POSITIVE IMAGE

### TABLE TENNIS IS MORE THAN COMPETITION.

Table tennis builds confidence, increases hand-eye coordination, and develops motor and cognitive skills in the youth. It is a non-discriminatory sport where a student's playing ability isn't dependent on size, gender, or physical strength. And the disciplines learned will be used throughout the student's life.

### EASY TO TEACH.

With the user-friendly Teacher's Manual and easy-to-follow lesson plans, TOPSPIN can be taught by any instructor, regardless of playing ability.

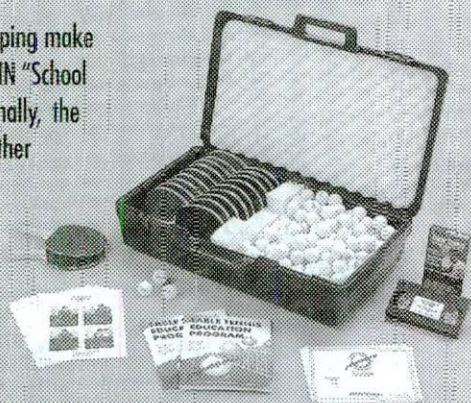
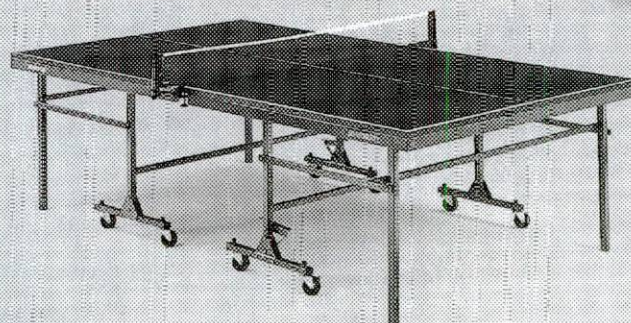
### DEVELOPED BY LEADERS IN THE SPORT.

Scott Preiss, U.S. National Certified Coach and technical advisor/coordinator of TOPSPIN, designed the program to teach students of every playing level, and to accommodate a variety of class sizes. Harvard Sports has developed products specifically for school and institutional use. The tables are built to last, easy to maneuver, and convenient to store in the fold-up position.

### A COST EFFICIENT PROGRAM.

Subsidizing by the manufacturer and freight-free shipping make the program inexpensive to implement, and the TOPSPIN "School Box" starter kit offers considerable cost savings. Finally, the maintenance cost of table tennis is lower than any other major school sport.

Bring TOPSPIN into your school and watch your students develop a positive image right before your eyes.



Call or write to find out how TOPSPIN can become part of your school curriculum.

• Call TOPSPIN at (800) 467-1384 or Scott Preiss (800) 456-PONG

• Or write:

TOPSPIN, Escalade Sports  
Box 889, Dept. T-10  
Evansville, IN 47706



A Table Tennis Educational Program  
by Harvard Sports.

# REGISTER FOR THE TOPSPIN COACHING SEMINAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1995 FROM 9:00-11:30 A.M. IN THE LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER

FEATURED PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

• **SCOTT PREISS**

USATT Certified National Elite Level Coach and  
Topspin Education Program Coordinator

• **STEVE BRUECKER**

Author of The Topspin Curriculum Guide  
and Physical Education Teacher

• **\$40/person registration fee**

Registration fee includes a Topspin designer shirt and a  
Topspin Curriculum Guide

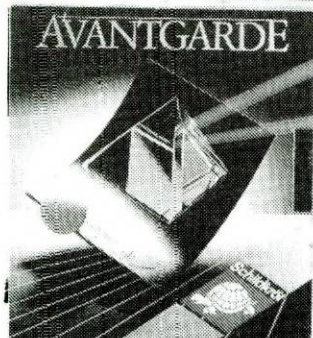
Seminar is limited to 20 persons.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SCOTT PREISS AT 1-800-456-PONG (7664)

**ESCALADE**  
SPORTS

# 1994 EUROPEAN CHAMPION

Jean-Michel Saive is using the Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubber sheets. To become the 1994 European Champion and the World Number "1" rated player is not possible with just any kind of racket and rubber! The new Vmax blade with Vmax and Cmax rubbers were specially developed to give Jean-Michel Saive the best power, speed, and control needed for his devastating loops and lightning quick attacks.



**AVANTGARDE**

**Avantgarde**, the best quality rubber for both grip and durability. Avantgarde is produced from flexible sponge that permits fantastic "drives". Attacking players will obtain excellent results with this rubber.  
Thicknesses: 1,5/1,8/2,1 mm

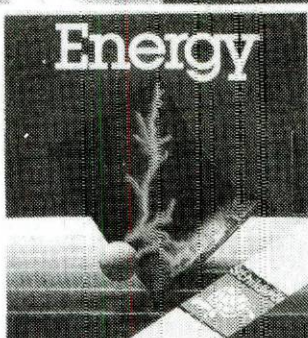
**\$22.50**



**HOT SHOT**

**Hot Shot** - The attacking rubber for players who need strong grip combined with high speed. Even with high speed Hot Shot maintains good control.  
Thicknesses: 1,5/2,0 mm

**\$18.50**



**Energy**

**Energy** - This rubber is full of "Energy". Flexible surface with good a grip suitable for a tactical player. The high density of the sponge helps strong attack.  
Thickness: 1,5 mm, 2,0, 2,2 mm

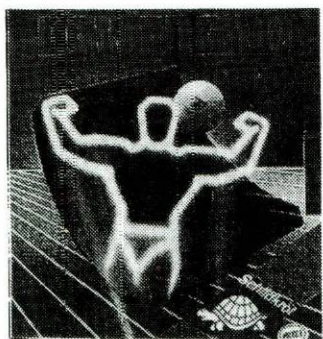
**\$21.50**



**COOL**

**Cool** - This is the ideal rubber for a player embarking in competition. It is very well balanced, durable and at a price which offers excellent value for money.  
Thickness: 1,5 mm

**\$15.00**



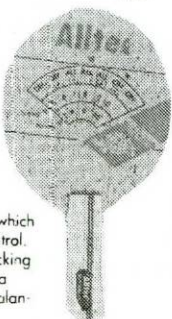
**Powergrip** - Chinese rubber with a special tacky surface. Powergrip produces enormous speed with very heavy spin. The chinese top rubber!  
Thicknesses: 1,6/1,9/2,2 mm

**\$17.75**

**Alltec** is a well tested attacking blade which is suitable for both good speed and control. It's speciality is that it helps control attacking players. The 5 plies are from koto, limba and abachi woods. This gives perfect balance to this blade.

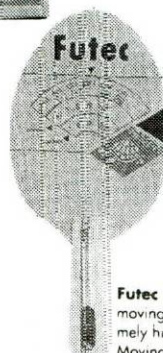
**\$31.00**

schöler micke



**\$30.50**

**Powertec** - A pure power blade! Very fast attacking blade for quick, aggressive play. Particularly hard 5 ply wood combination of walnut, Oregon pine and abachi woods.



**Futec** - The special patented shape is moving the "sweet point" outward. For extremely high speed. 5 ply construction using Movinaui, Limba and Abachi woods.

**\$31.50**

Nittaku



**Skin**, the top rubber with a flexible surface. The very durable specially produced rubber surface provides excellent spin combined with long life. Skin is excellent for control due to the special combination of sponge and rubber surface.  
Thicknesses: 1,5/1,8/2,1 mm

**\$21.50**

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