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God Bless America

WELCOME TO THE
WJTTTC 2007 PALO ALTO





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Welcome to the WJTTC 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the land of the Pyramids, the cradle of civilization, to one of the most modern lands in recent history, the World Junior Championships makes its trek from Cairo to Palo Alto in Silicon Valley. As this still very young event adds a fifth year to its existence and visits the North American continent, we can proudly say that the World junior Championships have become the highlight of the table tennis year. It is the barometer of the present and the window of the future.

THE BEST JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS IN THE WORLD travel from all continents to converge onto Palo Alto to compete for the

2007 World Junior titles. The future of our sport will be showcased during the days of competition, while the participants forge new friendships and solidify old ones. Serious competition, in a spirit of friendship, within the icon of high education, Stanford University, will be the setting for this year's World Junior Championships.

ON BEHALF OF THE ITTF I would like to thank the USATT, the USOC, the Palo Alto TTC and the local organizing committee and all the local volunteers for their valuable contribution in making this event a great success.



I also would like to thank all our sponsors for their financial contribution securing the success of the event. To the participants I wish you all the best in your competition. Some of you will experience their last event as a Junior, while others will be soon preparing for the next Championships in New Zealand. In both cases I hope that this experience motivates you to challenge the top senior players in the world in the near future

Adham Sbarara
ITTF President

A WORD FROM THE LOCAL ORGANIZERS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of BASOC – the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee and the 2007 World Junior Table Tennis Local Organizing Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome all the competitors, coaches, umpires and guests – the entire table tennis family – to Stanford University and California.

I know I speak for all members of the 2007 LOC in saying we are excited to meet you and to cheer for you as you compete. We are committed to upholding the Olympic Charter “educating youth through sport to build a better and more peaceful world.”

Sports has a way of bringing the world together and we know this 2007 Junior World Championships will continue in this great

tradition. The facilities at Stanford University are championship caliber and we have continued to strive to provide the finest competitive conditions for all athletes so that you may achieve your personal goals.

I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE the work and dedication of the many people who have made these world championships possible – from the International Table Tennis Federation, ITTF Global Junior Program, representatives from USA Table Tennis, the United States Olympic Committee, members of the Local Organizing Committee, Stanford University and the Stanford Athletic Department and the Palo Alto Table Tennis



ClubWe are also grateful for the many volunteers and interns from local colleges who are helping to make this event a success.

FINALLY, TO THE COMPETITORS, thank you for your commitment to your exciting sport of Table Tennis and for traveling to this important junior competition. May you all enjoy much success and enjoy your stay in California.

Sincerely,
Anne Warner Cribbs
President & CEO Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC)
1960 Olympian

A WORD FROM THE USA TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Welcome to Palo Alto and Stanford University for the 2007 World Junior Table Tennis Championships. When a World Junior Championships is awarded to a nation it is an extreme honor and an awesome responsibility! The overall goal is to make this a most rewarding experience for all participants.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY IS RECOGNIZED as one of the leading institutions in the USA in terms of academic and sport achievement. Having hosted Olympic Games and World Cup events in the past, we are most pleased to be guests within their truly beautiful campus.

We must also recognize the efforts of the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC) led by Olympian Anne Cribbs for their contributions in helping stage the 2008 WJTTC. A special thank you goes to Dennis Davis for his outstanding perseverance to accommodate the needs of the athletes and the foreign delegations as the Director of this event.

USA TABLE TENNIS IS PROUD to lend their name to this event as the host National Federation. The U.S. Olympic Committee has also supported this event and has a keen interest in the success of the sport of Table



Tennis and to the objectives of the International Table Tennis Association. Many volunteers and staff members have worked and will work countless hours to make this event one that you won't easily forget. We hope that you enjoy your stay in Palo Alto, San Francisco, the Bay Area and in California in general! We wish you all the best in terms of a successful competition. We hope that life long friendships, mutual respect and warm feelings are a part of your experience at this 2007 WJTTC.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Cavanaugh
Interim Executive Director – USA Table Tennis

Success is **not** a Product of Coincidence

* Available in November 2007

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FUTURE SPIN VS ADHAM SHARARA

Six questions for the ITTF President

It is time for the fifth ITTF World Junior Championships since the starting point in Santiago 2003. In this feature Future Spin Magazine throws six quick questions at the ITTF President, Adham Sharara.

TEXT: Mikael Andersson. **PHOTO:** Mariann Domonkos.

Are you, as the ITTF President, happy with the response these championships have received from the ITTF Membership associations? There is still some debate regarding the value for national associations to make the World Juniors a yearly priority for their top juniors.

– Yes, I am very happy with the progress. The most difficult part was to get it started. Many Presidents before also tried, but the problem is the “right timing” and the financing for the event. We can now say that the quality of the event has improved tremendously both on the organisational level and the technical level of the players. It should also be noted that the event is being held in a different continent every year. This is great for the development of our sport.

Regarding the importance and the priority that each Association gives to this event, this is an internal matter within each member Association. However, those that don't make the WJTTC a priority are being very short-sighted as it is the window to the future.

The 2007 ITTF World Junior Championships in Palo Alto marks the first time for an official ITTF World Championships event to take place in North America. Do you consider this as an important milestone and do you feel that there is more to come?

– The event being in Palo Alto is a great step forward. Whether this will bring other World Championships to North America, I'm really not sure. However, this event this year could have a tremendous impact on the USA and its development if used and promoted correctly. I hope that the USATT will take full advantage of having such a prestigious event in their country

and treat it as their opportunity to promote the sport in their country. The previous events held in Chile (2003) and Egypt (2006) had tremendous impact on the development of Juniors in those countries.

The ITTF Global Junior Programme has been in operation since 1 Jan 2003 providing increased opportunities for young players. Looking at the effects from a continental point of view the programme seems to have difficulties in gaining momentum in the USA and Canada with relatively few young players participating in worldwide junior activities on a regular basis. Is a different approach needed from the ITTF and do you think that the national associations in the USA and Canada are taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by the ITTF GJP?

– The main problem here is finances and priorities. In my opinion both Canada and the USA should focus their attention on their junior squads and push them as far as they can go.

You can see that happening every once in a while, but not on a consistent basis. For example Csaba and Kassam of Canada were bronze medal winners in Chile in 2003. Don't forget that they beat Chinese and German pairs (today on the senior national team of their country). But where are the two Canadian boys? This is the main problem in North America, the transition between the junior and senior ranks. It happens exactly at the time when the players go to University and focus on their studies. Or, the follow-up opportunities for the player to continue to progress are not



there, and then we seek “quick-fix” methods of sending players to foreign leagues in a foreign environment. To me there is no secret, what is needed is a “group” of junior

players large enough, that even if you lose 75 % of them after the junior years, you would still have a good base to continue the progress. All countries that just have one good player have to resort to sending him/her abroad

and hence weaken the domestic programme and often these “quick-fix foreign solutions do not work for a variety of reasons. More or less the same applies to the USA.

You know Table Tennis in the USA better than most people. Are you happy with the general progress of our sport in the United States?

– I am happy with the progress in terms of “promotion” of the sport, and the efforts made to spread the sport further. The problem, as I see it, is that the structure in the

USA is weak and not conducive for sustained development. The association is based on a small number of volunteers, supported by a small number of professionals doing their best. But a lot of time is spent on internal disagreements and a diversity of clashing philosophies. There is a need for a clear and precise plan with measurable objectives. There is also a need for a “movement” to popularize the sport as a cool sport. When Americans take up TT, they love it. They breathe, eat, drink and sleep TT. So perhaps we need a dual structure in the USA, one to look after the “members” and administrative functions, and another parallel structure to look after the “promotion and popularization” of the sport. Now, will that double the inner disagreements? Or will it push the sport forward? It should be tried to know. This is something I would like to do after I retire from the ITTF. By the way, I do not envy anyone who holds the office of the USATT President. It must be one of the toughest TT positions.

For an active young player living in North America pursuing the sport of Table Tennis

you face many challenges in finding good elite structured training environments. In addition to that you have to trust your parents or hard-to-find private sponsors to raise the necessary funds to compete and get daily practice. This is very different than in Europe and Asia where support definitely is more accessible. Any advice for eager young players living in the USA wanting to pursue a pro career in Table Tennis?

– The problem is not only in North America. This problem exists also in Latin America, Africa, some parts of Asia and many parts of Europe as well, especially Eastern Europe. As time goes by you will see less and less “service sport”, which means sport funded by municipal clubs, local governments, etc. More and more the professional independent clubs will have to emerge, as is the case in some parts of the World. North America is far behind because the system never benefited from government-funded clubs at the local level. That concept does not exist. Instead, clubs or teams are formed by the parents or communities and they fight hard to raise

funds and to support these clubs financially. The problem is NOT the system, because in Canada the system works well in some sports (Ice-Hockey, Girls Soccer, Swimming, etc.), the problem is the popularity and promotion of the sport itself to create the need for such clubs to be formed by the parents and local communities. So, again, what is still missing is the “promotion” of the sport in a professional way to develop immense interest to create the same parental and communal movement as in other popular sports.

Those wishing to pursue a professional career in our sport end up travelling abroad. That also slows down the process of popularizing the sport at home. There has to be a two-pronged approach. On the one hand we structure and develop, and educate and administer the sport within the confines of the association, and on the other hand we need a professional promotional thrust popularizing the sport. The two have to go together. Regarding the elite level, we need a large group of young motivated players forming a group aiming for the top. All these ingredients have to come together at the same time for success to be achieved.

You have visited Stanford University and the playing venues for the 2007 World Juniors. This is a truly unique sporting environment opening up for our sport. What is your gut feeling for the 2007 World Juniors and what do you personally feel could be the legacy from such a project in the future?

– I am very familiar with Stanford University. During my University days at McGill University in Montreal I travelled often to Stanford on exchanges. I also visited it recently for the WTTTC inspection. It is a great environment that has produced hundreds of Olympic Gold Medallist in many sports. As a matter of fact John McEnroe and Tiger Woods attended Stanford. The set-up is good and the campus is very nice. It all depends how the local organizers and the USATT could take advantage of this event and the Stanford backdrop to promote our sport. In the USA Universities are businesses and if the University sees a business opportunity of course it would respond positively. But Stanford in particular is also a very “sports oriented” University even if Academics are a priority. So hopefully the World junior Championships will create new opportunities for our sport in the USA.



Elisabeta Samara, ROMANIA, making her fifth start in the World Juniors in Palo Alto.

Driving down Memory Lane

In a very short period of the time the ITTF World Junior Championships has developed into a premier World Title event. Representing the ITTF Junior Commission we are extremely proud of the commitment shown by local organizers and participants in relation to the World Juniors.

We also believe that it is important to remember how we got here in the first place. **TEXT:** Mikael Andersson. **PHOTO:** Mariann Domonkos.

It all started with an ITTF AGM decision in Osaka 2001 asking the ITTF to formally organize a yearly World Junior Championships. This was the starting point for some furious and very creative footwork from the ITTF Management paving the way for what today is known as the ITTF Global Junior Programme.

Funding was initiated, sponsors found and off we went to Santiago and Chile in 2003.

ORGANIZATIONALLY IT WAS A CHALLENGE for both the local organizers and the ITTF. Following a number of inspections and hands on work by the Junior Commission the doors opened to the old Mapocho train station in the heart of Santiago and

the ITTF World Juniors were underway, and what a championship it was! Well presented, good crowds and overall a very enthusiastic atmosphere.

It so happened that the USA Junior girls' national team competed in Santiago in 2003. They fought bravely and played quite well under the leadership of their coach, a confident man by the name of Dennis Davis. I still remember that evening, at the dinner table... "We can do this in the States... we can organize the ITTF World Junior Championships in California", Dennis said.

YOU SEE EVERYTHING STARTS with an idea and a vision. We now write 2007 and the original vision has translated into plenty

"This was the starting point for some furious and very creative footwork from the ITTF Management paving the way for today is known as the ITTF Global Junior Programme."

of hard work and effort. No matter how things will be received, we can be proud of one thing and one thing only – The ITTF World Junior Championships 2007 is the first official ITTF World Championships organized in North America. That is a spectacular achievement, which is as good as anything.

We have been lucky to present some very good World Junior organizers in the last four years. The overall atmosphere in Santiago, Chile, and Kobe, Japan in 2004 with the perfect set up, Linz in the heart of Austria presenting the championships very well in 2005, and of course the warm hospitality provided by the organizers in Cairo, Egypt last year.

THE CHALLENGE IS NOW laid out for Palo Alto this year and North Shore in New Zealand in 2008 to complete a full cycle of continental rotation. Six years – six continents. We are not there just yet – but we are not far from that reality.

On behalf of the Junior Commission – we present a huge thank you to the local organizers, world wide as well as local sponsors and finally to those individuals brave enough to believe in the future of Table Tennis.

From the bottom of our heart we would also like to express a very special thank you to the Stanford University athletic departments for allowing us access to some of the very finest sporting facilities in the world. We truly appreciate the opportunity for our sport to be presented in a friendly, safe environment where sport, on a daily basis plays an important role in young people's life.

Welcome to Palo Alto, USA and the ITTF World Junior Championships 2007 – where the Future Begins...

*Tony Yue, Chair of the Junior Commission
Mikael Andersson, ITTF Global Junior Programme Manager*

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Pyramids, juniors and development

The last World Junior Championships was held with the backdrop of the Giza Pyramids but when ITTF Development and Global Junior Program staff get together we talk about developmental pyramids and what can we do to fill any gaps in the pyramid to give our juniors from all continents the best possible chance of success. **TEXT:** Glenn Tepper.

The ITTF Development Program began in 1999. The focus was on Coach Education and Equipment Assistance to build a broad base of the pyramid.

Over the years the Development Program has expanded significantly to include over 100 courses worldwide as well as equipment assistance to over 30 countries.

At the same time ITTF Pro-Tour was working on the pinnacle of the pyramid and expanding in both size and professionalism.

There was a gap in the middle though... how do we get our players from coaching courses at the base level to the ITTF Pro-Tour at the top of the pyramid?

"With the future in mind" the "ITTF Global Junior Program" was masterminded by Mikael Andersson and the ITTF, creating a 3 pronged attack on the middle

section of the pyramid, providing stepping stones for juniors worldwide to the world elite.

THE ITTF GLOBAL JUNIOR PROGRAMME commenced in 2002 and today includes:

- ITTF World Junior Championships – 16 teams in boys and girls qualifying through the continental championships and by world rankings
- ITTF World Cadet Challenge – continental teams plus the host and the highest ranked country, making 8 teams in boys and girls
- ITTF World Junior Circuit-now includes 210 events covering all continents.

IN 2007 THE World Junior Circuit finals featured all 6 continents for the first time. Strong evidence that the program is working...



The ITTF Development Program and ITTF Global Junior Program work closely together with the Development Program funding training camps prior to most of the World Junior Circuit events as well as funding all continental teams participation at the World Cadet Challenge.

The second stage was to introduce "With the Future in Mind" scholarships for talented juniors in developing countries.

2 types of scholarships are offered, one through Olympic Solidarity and the other through the Global Junior Program major sponsor Butterfly, who are also looking for ways to assist table tennis to grow worldwide.

AT THE RECENT World Cadet Challenge, Europe beat Asia in the Boy's Team final. No great shock there, but Latin America

"With the future in mind, the ITTF Global Junior Programme was masterminded by Mikael Andersson and the ITTF, creating a 3 pronged attack on the middle section of the pyramid, providing stepping stones for juniors worldwide to the world elite."



To the left: The tsunami project in Madives. Above left: "Every table is a table tennis table" in Kiribati. Above right: "Isbraq" women's project in rural Egypt-changing perceptions of women in a traditional society.



lost a titanic struggle 2-3 in the first round with Europe and Africa lost to Europe 3-1 in the semi final. Many pundits ask what could have happened if at 1-1, 2-0 and 10-10 Africa has converted...

The gap between the continents are narrowing, the gaps in the developmental pyramid are being filled, and you can be sure that in the back rooms of Palo Alto, the ITTF Development Program and

ITTF Global Junior Program staff and committee members will be planning the next means to provide opportunities for juniors worldwide.

(Watch out for opportunities connected to the worse kept secret, the Youth Olympic Games scheduled for 2010. Don't tell anyone).

Egypt's bright Future

Egypt as the last organizer of the World Junior Championships provided many lasting memories for the participants, but what of Egypt's table tennis future and a legacy of this event? **TEXT:** Glenn Tepper.

We need to look no further than the Assar brothers, Omar and Khalid. Both were present recently in Cape-town, South Africa, Omar participating in the World Junior Circuit Finals and Khalid participating in the World Cadet Challenge.

Omar is tall, talented and with a fighting spirit that both excites the spectators and inspires his teammates.

As African Cadet Champion in 2006 and African Junior Champion in 2007 he has already stated "my goal is to be World

Champion. I have already been African Champion". Not a wild claim, but a young man looking for new challenges and a strong motivation to give himself the best possible chance...

...and how will you achieve this?

"I currently train 20 hours a week including at least one hour a day of physical including strength and conditioning and running. I am looking for means to go to Europe to train and compete to raise my level".

...your chances in Palo Alto?

"I will do my best and let's see. In the teams I hope we can achieve a Top 10 finish".

OMAR HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL on the ITTF World Junior Circuit,

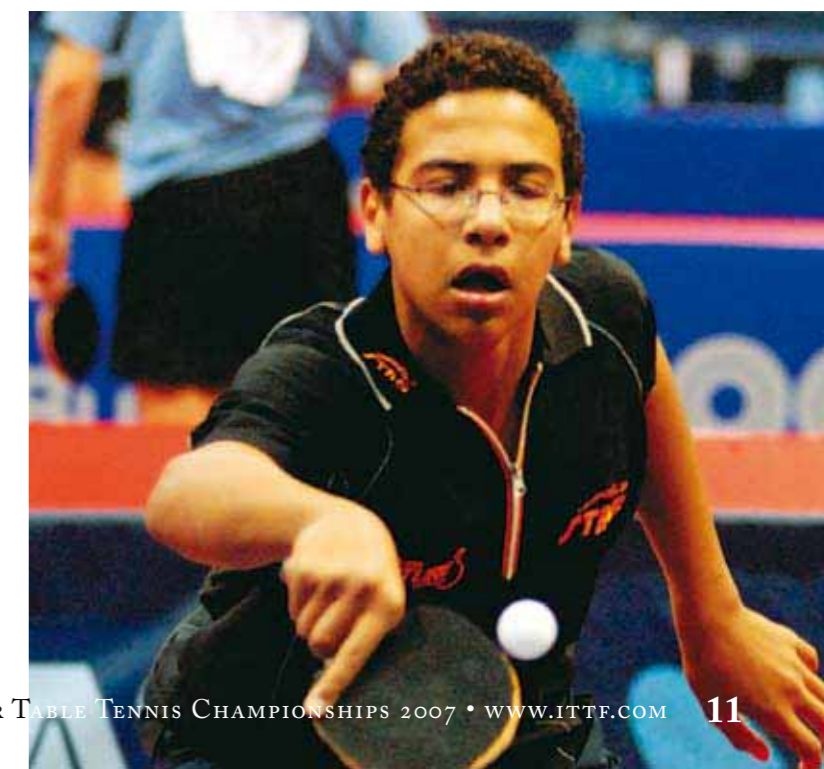
Omar Assar, the african champion from Egypt currently trains 20 hours a week. For the World Junior Championships he hopes his team can achieve a top 10 finish.

winning the 2007 Congo World Junior Circuit event, and making the semi-finals of both Canada and UAE 2007 World Junior Circuits. This together with points gained in Tunisia, Sweden and India World Junior Circuit events placed him No 3 in the overall points standings.

He was "talent-spotted" by the eagle-eye of ITTF Global Junior Programme Manager Mikael Andersson several years ago and has been a part of the ITTF "With the Future in Mind" Scholarship holders since, the partnership now reaping dividends.

EGYPT HAVE QUALIFIED in both girls and boys events for the World Junior Championships, an accomplishment credited to their excellent club structure and professional coaches.

Look out for the tall be-spectacled, fist-pumping machine named "Omar Assar" in Palo Alto.



God Bless America!

I have now lived in North America for almost ten years with my great passion for sport. Here we are great consumers of sport, especially on TV. Just a quick ride with the remote control in any market in North America will give you an easy and flashy update on the whereabouts of sport in less than a minute.

TEXT: Mikael Andersson.

You will get the latest NBA, tons of football in all shapes and forms, some quick pitches of baseball and if you are lucky a few goals from the NHL, plus if you're having the day of your life, one or two goals from a soccer game. When the crunch time comes and the athletes in all the pro sporting leagues in North America are starting to play for real, in the "Play Offs", the entertainment is taken to another level – Tremendous TV productions, in depth analyses and exciting atmosphere will give you the perfect evening on the TV sofa...

Sport here is **BIG, RICH, PRO ORIENTED** and **WELL PACKAGED**. It is a media oriented environment, driving amateur sports, with some few exceptions such as bigger college and university sports in the USA, completely to the sidelines in terms of visibility.

Sure every fourth year, leading up to the Olympics people start to care and wonder – but other than that most amateur sports – table tennis very much included are left alone to die or to strive as best as they can.

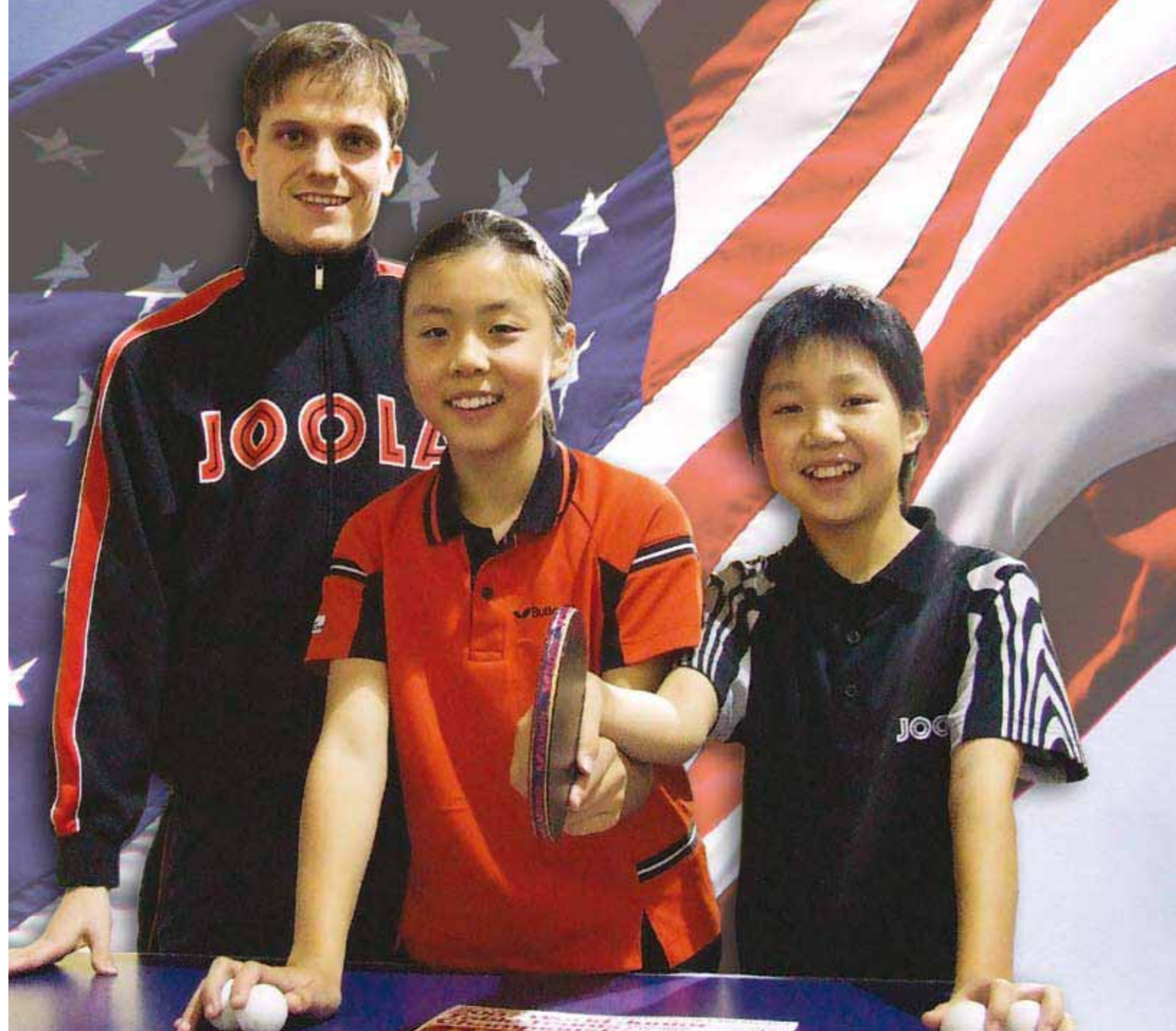
TABLE TENNIS IN THE USA is one of these sports carried on the shoulders of a hard core group of enthusiasts with great love and passion for their sport. From time to time there is the odd promoter jumping into the mix with ideas, visions and events letting everybody know that what they are doing is the only way forward.

Overall Table Tennis is a fascinating mix of people, ideas – the one wilder than the other and most of all very **PASSIONATE** players. Not an easy environment for organized, structured national activities that's for sure.

Lost in the occasion are often the young talented players, their coach and a passionate support cast of parents willingly spending money, feeding the dream of success for their child. A strong private coaching system is very much alive and kicking all over the continent and the coaches doing their thing are actually, many times both experienced and good.

ALSO THERE IS REALLY NO SHORTAGE of talented players. In fact the two youngest athletes participating in the 2007 ITTF World Junior Championships are born and bred in the USA.

Both Ariel Hsing 12 and Lily Zhang 11 years old are not only extremely talented for their age, but also tested on the international scene, latest at the 2007 ITTF World Cadet Challenge in



Cape Town, South Africa where both girls turned some heads returning back to Northern California with excellent results.

Living in the land of opportunity, both girls are working extremely hard trying to improve their level. Daily practice, sometimes twice a day, responsible schoolwork, plenty of travel and frequent competitions are already in the mix.

BOTH LILY ZHANG AND ARIEL HSING are a product of great parental effort and interest for the sport, but also scooped up and promoted by the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club under the leadership of Head Coach Dennis Davis. The club operates three times a week – Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday and each session features a great mix of older players, young beginners and a striving junior programme. The facilities, an elementary school gym features fifteen tables with no room to spare.

A NEW FULL TIME FACILITY is very much on the wish list of Dennis Davis who for the last few years has been living, along with his coaching duties, with the pressing role as the event director responsible for the 2007 ITTF World Junior Championships. And that's not to mention his normal work in the human resources recruitment business.

"When I work with them I try to give them coaching on many areas and with an emphasis on developing their styles for bigger things to come."

– I am hoping that we somehow can get key people interested in the sport and pave the way for a full time facility/training center for Table Tennis in this area. That would be the best legacy that could result from organizing these championships, admits Dennis, who surprisingly enough also have to use one hand to fight off local city officials pushing to double the rent for the club next year.

– For the moment I am paying a good rent for the use of this facility and we are doing a pretty good job keeping this place alive Dennis said. The city is now asking to double the rent for next year. That is a tough one for the club to swallow and will definitely impact the possibilities for me to pay coaches for the youngsters playing here.

After some frequent visits to the area as the guest coach of Palo Alto Table Tennis Club plus some pretty successful appearances in national level tournaments, Stefan Feth from Germany made Palo

Local heroes!?! Palo Alto TTC coach Stefan Feth with the two youngest participants in the 2007 WJTTC; Ariel Hsing, 12, and Lily Zhang, 11 years old.

Alto his home in May 2006. Hired by Dennis to work part-time for the club, Stefan also takes on private lessons for local players in order to make a full time living from Table Tennis. Both Lily Zhang and Ariel Hsing are frequent guests in the small training facility located in an empty office space offered by the local company.

"Although the facility is not on the same level of world class training conditions that I grew up with, it is a good facility sufficient for our current training needs. We have good good quality JOOLA tables, Taraflex flooring, A/C & heating availability, I truly appreciate the training facility that I have, said Stefan during my last and final coordination visit to Palo Alto. "Table Tennis is growing here", he says. There are a lot of people playing the sport with great passion and also many young promising players. Right now maybe Lily and Ariel are the noticeable talents. I am trying to give as much support and knowledge as I can to both players. They are really world class talents for their age and if the daily work that we do here can carry over to an international career I am more than happy", said Stefan

"When I work with them I try to give them coaching on many areas and with an emphasis on developing their styles for bigger things to come. When I grew up as a player I was competing with Timo Boll on a frequent basis in Germany and I have been fortunate to follow, at a close range, an athlete rising to the top. That's my inspiration", said the 26-year-old German coach.

BOTH FAMILIES – the Hsings and the Zhangs show a great deal of commitment to the progress of their yet very young athletes.

"As long as Lily is happy we will continue to do this. For the moment, she clearly is enjoying it. School is important – but table tennis is also giving her some unique opportunities. She was very proud coming back from the recent World Cadet Challenge in Cape Town with some great stories and new friends", said Lilian Zhang the mother of Lily.

Also the Hsing family sees the positive connection to sport.

"Ariel is doing well in school with more or less straight A's and she is such a very hard worker. She now wants to learn both the Korean and Japanese language to be able to communicate with her new friends that she met in South Africa. So, we bought her two language courses which is not a bad birthday present. We also have a playing area set up at home in order for Ariel to practice on a daily basis with sparring partners on hand", said the father in the family Hsing.

There you go – two very young athletes born and bred in America. Perhaps both of these hard working girls will be able to lift the sport of Table Tennis to another level in the USA. The land of equal opportunity is there to be taken starting with the ITTF World Junior Championships in Palo Alto 2007.

"Well let's see... I can play another six ITTF World Junior Championships", Ariel Hsing said at the dinner table, "that's not bad."

No, definitely not bad at all, but this one coming up is of course for learning only. Remember that Lily and Ariel, father and mothers included – winning comes later.

PARTICIPANT AND TEAM LIST WJTTC 2007

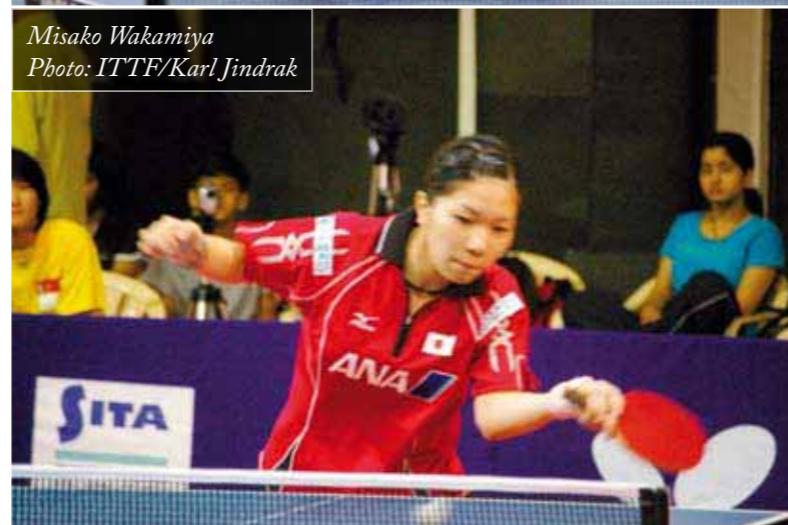
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6	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZE	BOYS	EU
7	EGYPT	EGY	BOYS	AF
8	ENGLAND	ENG	BOYS	EU
9	FRANCE	FRA	BOYS	EU
10	GERMANY	GER	BOYS	EU
11	JAPAN	JPN	BOYS	AS
12	KOREA REP	KOR	BOYS	AS
13	POLAND	POL	BOYS	EU
14	RUSSIA	RUS	BOYS	EU
15	TURKEY	TUR	BOYS	EU
16	USA	USA	BOYS	NA



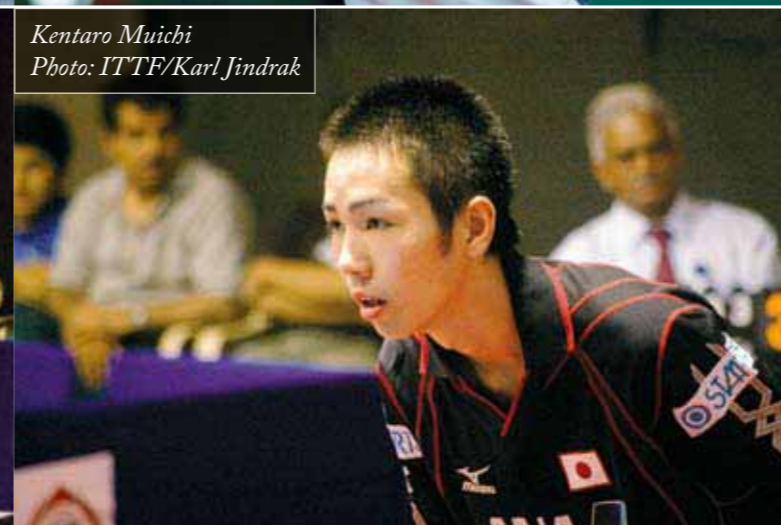
Song Shichao
Photo: ITTF/Pablo Rubio Martin



Elena Troschneva. Photo:
ITTF/Dr Stephan Roschner



Misako Wakamiya
Photo: ITTF/Karl Jindrak



Kentaro Muichi
Photo: ITTF/Karl Jindrak

NR	NAME	CODE	EVENT	CONTINENT
21	BRAZIL	BRA	GIRLS	LA
22	CANADA	CAN	GIRLS	NA
23	CHINA	CHN	GIRLS	AS
24	CHINESE TAIPEI	TPE	GIRLS	AS
25	COLOMBIA	COL	GIRLS	LA
26	EGYPT	EGY	GIRLS	AF
27	FRANCE	FRA	GIRLS	EU
28	GERMANY	GER	GIRLS	EU
29	JAPAN	JPN	GIRLS	AS
30	KOREA REPUBLIC	KOR	GIRLS	AS
31	NEW ZEALAND	NZL	GIRLS	OC
32	POLAND	POL	GIRLS	EU
33	ROMANIA	ROU	GIRLS	EU
34	RUSSIA	RUS	GIRLS	EU
35	SLOVAKIA	SVK	GIRLS	EU
36	USA	USA	GIRLS	NA

BOYS			
NR	NAME	ASSOC.	DOB
101	DAVIS Kyle	AUS	18-Jan-89
102	FRANK Robert	AUS	22-Jan-90
103	CARTER Trent	AUS	11-Sep-89
104	TOWNSEND Wade	AUS	17-Jul-90
105	REITER Christoph	AUT	08-Apr-89
106	STORF Martin	AUT	04-Oct-89
107	PLATTNER Dominique	AUT	10-Oct-90
108	HEIMBERGER Martin	AUT	26-Feb-91
109	ROGIERS Benjamin	BEL	24-Oct-89
110	MANHANI Humberto	BRA	03-Aug-89
111	MANCINI Eric	BRA	11-May-89
112	YAMAZATO Fernando	BRA	21-Jul-90
113	BARBOSA Jose	BRA	02-Nov-90
114	SHEN Qiang	CAN	11-May-90
115	HO Andre	CAN	11-Apr-92
116	YANG Ling Kun	CAN	14-Dec-90
117	JIANG Yang	CAN	05-Aug-91

118	XU Ruifeng	CHN	29-Mar-92
119	ZHANG Shengwunan	CHN	22-Mar-94
120	YAN An	CHN	12-Jan-93
121	SONG Shichao	CHN	19-Dec-91
122	OBESLO Michal	CZE	02-Aug-89
123	TREGLER Tomas	CZE	01-Nov-90
124	CRHA Jakub	CZE	04-May-89
125	PLACEK Frantisek	CZE	02-Jul-89
126	VILA Juan Antonio	DOM	21-Apr-90
127	SANTOS Emil	DOM	16-Apr-90
128	ASSAR Omar	EGY	22-Jul-91
129	EL-SOBKY Mohamed Tarek	EGY	30-Mar-90
130	ABU EL MAGD Kareem	EGY	27-Jan-90
131	ZAGHLOUL Mahmoud	EGY	14-Mar-91
132	DRINKHALL Paul	ENG	16-Jan-90
133	KNIGHT Darius	ENG	22-Feb-90
134	REED Daniel	ENG	05-Dec-89
135	EVANS Gavin	ENG	15-Apr-93
136	DONADO Josue	ESA	02-Feb-90

137	DIAZ David Edgardo	ESA	27-Jan-92
138	SALIFOU Abdel-Kader	FRA	07-Dec-89
139	BAUBET Vincent	FRA	19-Nov-89
140	LE BRETON Thomas	FRA	10-May-92
141	GAUZY Simon	FRA	25-Oct-94
142	BOTTROFF Erik	GER	09-Feb-90
143	FRANZISKA Patrick	GER	11-Jun-92
144	FUSS Hendrik	GER	04-Sep-89
145	STEINLE David	GER	31-Aug-90
146	CHENG Chor Fung	HKG	14-Jun-89
147	LI Chung Him Samuel	HKG	07-Mar-91
148	KOVAC Borna	HRV	26-Feb-91
149	SLAVIC Ivan	HRV	01-Jan-89
150	KAI Yoshikazu	JPN	04-Jun-89
151	MATSUDAIRA Kenji	JPN	06-Apr-89
152	MIUCHI Kentaro	JPN	12-Apr-89
153	UEDA Jin	JPN	10-Dec-91
154	LEE Sang Su	KOR	13-Aug-90
155	JUNG Young Sik	KOR	20-Jan-92

156	LEE Jun Sang	KOR	19-Oct-90
157	SEO Hyun Deok	KOR	09-May-91
158	BURGIS Matiss	LAT	31-Aug-89
159	HELLERUD Kristoffer	NOR	27-Feb-90
160	RONNEBERG Espen	NOR	24-Dec-89
161	CHOJNOWSKI Patryk	POL	05-Apr-90
162	CHODORSKI Piotr	POL	10-Dec-91
163	GOLEBIOWSKI Mateusz	POL	20-Jul-90
164	FERTIKOWSKI Pawel	POL	12-Nov-90
165	SILVA Andre	POR	08-Feb-89
166	SILVA Diogo	POR	23-Sep-91
167	VOINEA Radu	ROU	05-Jul-89
168	SZOCS Hunor	ROU	24-Mar-92
169	PAYKOV Mikhail	RUS	31-Jul-89
170	UTOCHKIN Artem	RUS	05-Apr-89
171	SHIBAEV Alexander	RUS	09-Sep-90
172	MERZLIKIN Taras	RUS	25-Jul-91

continues on page 16

continued from page 15

173	KOBES Kristian	SVK	04-Oct-90
174	JEZO Filip	SVK	25-Mar-90
175	OJAKANGAS Jimmy	SWE	30-Apr-89
176	KARLSSON Kristian	SWE	06-Aug-91
177	OVERSJO Mattias	SWE	26-Aug-91
178	SONDELL Johan	SWE	27-Jan-89
179	CHANG Shun-Hung	TPE	13-May-91
180	WANG Juo-Lin	TPE	06-Aug-89
181	CHEN Po-Huang	TPE	18-Aug-89
182	YEH Chih-Wei	TPE	08-Feb-90
183	MENGE Gencay	TUR	18-Apr-89
184	JIANG Pengfei	TUR	02-Mar-89
185	DOGAN Hasan	TUR	17-Jul-90
186	GULER Selim	TUR	29-Sep-93
187	CHAN Steven	USA	01-May-90
188	COCHRAN Joseph	USA	08-Aug-89
189	LEACH John	USA	26-Apr-89
190	YACK Justen	USA	29-Jan-93
191	JACKSON Marcus	USA	12-Jan-92
192	BREWER Anthony Joshua	USA	08-Jul-93

GIRLS

NR	NAME	ASSOC.	DOB
201	DUBKOVA Alena	BLR	11-Sep-91
202	ZHYSHKEVICH Natallia	BLR	08-Aug-89
203	YAMADA Jessica	BRA	13-Oct-89
204	KOCK Gabriela	BRA	06-Jul-89
205	FUKUSHIMA Karin	BRA	14-okt-91
206	MIZOBUCHI Livia	BRA	16-Jan-91
207	ZHANG Mo	CAN	17-Jan-89
208	YAN Shirley	CAN	08-Aug-90
209	LEVESQUE Marie-André	CAN	09-Aug-89
210	HSIEN Peggy	CAN	16-Apr-93
211	WEN Jia	CHN	28-Feb-89
212	LI Xiaodan	CHN	06-Mar-90
213	YANG Yang	CHN	08-Jan-89
214	CAO Lisi	CHN	19-Nov-91
215	MEDINA Paula	COL	12-Apr-89
216	ZULUAGA Luisa	COL	21-Mar-91
217	OCAMPOS LOPEZ Aura	COL	06-Aug-90
218	MATELOVA Hana	CZE	08-Jun-90
219	KUCEROVA Aneta	CZE	12-Nov-91
220	ONDRISKOVA Kristyna	CZE	16-Apr-90
221	ELSHOBARY Reem	EGY	15-Apr-91
222	TAREK Rawan	EGY	22-Jul-90
223	YOSSRY Noha	EGY	07-Feb-92
224	NASSER Galilah	EGY	04-Mar-93
225	SOLICHERO Carmen	ESP	26-May-89
226	RIERA Nadina	ESP	02-May-91
227	DESSAINT Aurore	FRA	12-Sep-91
228	PEROCHEAU Laura	FRA	16-Aug-90
229	BRUNET Lorine	FRA	05-Jul-90
230	PAVOT Marine	FRA	05-Jan-92
231	SOLJA Amelie	GER	29-Sep-90
232	SOLJA Petrisa	GER	11-Mar-94
233	STAHR Rosalia	GER	16-Sep-90
234	ZHAN Ying-Ni	GER	03-Mar-89

235	LEE Ho Ching	HKG	24-Nov-92
236	NG Wing Nam	HKG	09-Aug-92
237	DURAK Mirela	HRV	10-Mar-90
238	MAGLICIC Mateja	HRV	06-Feb-89
239	AGGARWAL Neha	IND	11-Jan-90
240	MONDAL Soumi	IND	24-Feb-90
241	SEHGAL Sanya	IND	22-Jan-92
242	DESHPANDE Divya	IND	29-Mar-90
243	ISHIGAKI Yuka	JPN	22-Jul-89
244	WAKAMIYA Misako	JPN	23-Jun-89
245	ISHIKAWA Kasumi	JPN	23-Feb-93
246	FUJII Yuko	JPN	06-May-90
247	JANG Jung Min	KOR	21-Apr-89
248	CHOI Jung Min	KOR	06-Mar-89
249	SONG Ma Eum	KOR	08-Nov-92
250	KIM Min Hee	KOR	08-Apr-91
251	HUNG Jenny	NZL	23-Mar-91
252	SHU Sophie Wei	NZL	02-May-89
253	YAN Villa	NZL	28-Nov-92
254	CHEN Helen	NZL	02-Aug-92
255	PARTYKA Natalia	POL	27-Jul-89
256	GRZYBOWSKA Katarzyna	POL	30-Apr-89
257	BAK Natalia	POL	24-Mar-89
258	ZAK Anna	POL	11-Aug-90
259	NEVES Ana Cristina	POR	30-Apr-89
260	XIAO Maria	POR	19-May-94
261	SAMARA Elizabeta	ROU	15-Apr-89
262	GHEMES Ioana	ROU	27-Nov-89
263	HIRICI Cristina	ROU	06-Apr-92
264	HOZA Irina	ROU	07-Oct-89
265	KOLOGYAZHNAYA Ekaterina	RUS	14-Dec-90
266	TROSHNEVA Elena	RUS	16-Feb-89
267	LEMESHEVSKAIA Valeria	RUS	15-May-89
268	BARANOVA Olga	RUS	12-Oct-90
269	SIM Kai Xin Zena	SIN	06-Nov-90
270	LIM Pei Xin	SIN	08-Apr-89
271	FUHRER Monika	SUI	08-Aug-90
272	SCHARRER Laura	SUI	19-Dec-90
273	HUDECOVA Sona	SVK	21-Jun-90
274	BALAZOVA Barbora	SVK	18-Mar-92
275	MEDRIKOVA Jana	SVK	20-Oct-89
276	DAUBNEROVA Andrea	SVK	01-Jul-91
277	MELCHER Madeleine	SWE	14-Feb-90
278	PETTERSSON Malin	SWE	28-May-91
279	PENG Wan-Hua	TPE	01-Nov-89
280	CHANG Ya-Chuan	TPE	27-Maj-93
281	HSIUNG Nai-I	TPE	20-Jan-90
282	CHENG I-Ching	TPE	15-Feb-92
283	TRIFONOVA Polina	UKR	24-Jan-92
284	PESOTSKA Margaryta	UKR	09-Aug-91
285	HUGH Judy	USA	12-Sep-89
286	FONG Atha	USA	23-Jan-89
287	SHIH Stephanie	USA	31-Jan-90
288	SOWERS Olena	USA	29-Maj-91
289	HSING Ariel	USA	29-Nov-95
290	ZHANG Lily	USA	16-Jun-96

Assoc. = Association, DOB = Date of birth

Time schedule WJTTC 2007

■ **Day Zero: Friday December 7th 2007 (Kissick Auditorium)**
15:00 Jury Meeting and Draws for the TeamEvents

■ **Day One: Saturday December 8th 2007 (Burnham and Ford Halls)**
09.30-11.30 First Stage: Girls' Team, Round One
11.30-13.30 First Stage: Boys' Team, Round One
15.30-17.30 First Stage: Girls' Team, Round Two
18.00-20.00 First Stage: Boys' Team, Round Two

■ **Day Two: Sunday December 9th 2007 (Maples and Burnham Halls)**
09.30-11.30 First Stage: Girls' Team, Round Three
11.30-13.30 First Stage: Boys' Team, Round Three
15.00-16.00 OPENING CEREMONY
16.00-18.00 Second Stage: Girls' Team Quarter Finals and matches for positions 9-16
18.15-20.15 Second Stage: Boys' Team Quarter Finals and matches for positions 9-16

□ **Day Three: Monday December 10th 2007 (All the three halls in use)**
09.30-11.30 Second Stage: Boys' and Girls' Team matches for positions 5-16
12.30-14.30 Second Stage: Boys' and Girls' Team matches for positions 5-16
15.30-17.30 Second Stage: Girls' Team Semi Finals
18.00-20.00 Second Stage: Boys' Team Semi Finals

■ **Day Four: Tuesday December 11th 2007 (Burnham and Ford Halls)**
09.00-13.00 Mixed Doubles, qualification round and round of sixty-four.

■ **Day Four: Tuesday December 11th 2007 (Maples Hall)**
16.00-18.00 Second Stage: Girls' Team Final
18.00 AWARD CEREMONY FOR THE GIRLS' TEAM EVENTS *
* Or as soon as the Girls' Team Final finish, the earliest.
18.30-20.30 Second Stage: Boys' Team Final
20.30 AWARD CEREMONY FOR THE BOYS TEAM EVENTS *

* Or as soon as the Boys' Team Final finish, the earliest.

■ **Day Five: Wednesday December 12th 2007 (All the three halls in use)**
09.30-11.30 First Stage: Girls' Singles, Round One

11.30-13.30 First Stage: Boys' Singles, Round One
14.00-16.00 First Stage: Girls' Singles, Round Two
16.00-18.00 First Stage: Boys' Singles, Round Two
18.00-20.00 First Stage: Girls' Singles, Round Three
20:10-21:10 Mixed Doubles, Round of thirty-two

□ **Day Six: Thursday December 13th 2007 (All the three halls in use)**
09.30-11.30 First Stage: Boys' Singles, Round Three
11.30-12.30 Girls' Doubles, round of 64
12.00-13.00 Boys' Doubles, round of 64
12.30-13.30 Girls' Doubles, round of 32
13.30-14.30 Boys' Doubles, round of 32
15.00-15.30 Girls' Doubles, round of 16
15.30-16.00 Boys' Doubles, round of 16
16.00-17.20 Girls' Singles (Main Draw), Round of sixty-four
16.40-18.00 Boys' Singles (Main Draw), Round of sixty-four
18.00-19.20 Girls' Singles (Main Draw), Round of thirty-two
18.40-20.00 Boys' Singles (Main Draw), Round of thirty-two
20.15-20.45 Mixed Doubles (Main Draw), Round of sixteen

■ **Day Seven: Friday December 14th 2007 (Maples Hall)**
09.30-10.15 Mixed Doubles Quarter-Finals
10.30-11.50 Girls' Singles, Round of sixteen
11.50-13.10 Boys' Singles, Round of sixteen
13.10-13.50 Girls' Doubles, Quarter Finals
13.50-14.30 Boys' Doubles Quarter Finals

16.00-16.45 Mixed Doubles Semi-Finals
17.00-17.45 Girls' Singles Quarter Finals
17.45-18.30 Boys' Singles Quarter Finals
18.30-19.15 Girls' Doubles Semi Finals
19.15-20.00 Boys' Doubles Semi Finals
20.15-21.00 Mixed Doubles Final

■ **Day Eight: Saturday December 15th 2007 (Maples Hall)**
10.00-10.40 Girls' Singles – Semi-Final One
10.40-11.20 Girls' Singles – Semi-Final Two
11.20-12.00 Boys' Singles – Semi-Final One
12.00-12.40 Boys' Singles – Semi-Final Two
15.00-15.35 Girls' Doubles – FINAL
15.35-16.10 Boys' Doubles – FINAL
16.10-16.45 Girls' Singles – FINAL
16.45-17.30 Boys' Singles – FINAL
17.30-18.30 AWARD CEREMONY FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

PAUL DRINKHALL Tried, Tested and True

A player to watch in Palo Alto is the seventeen-year-old Englishman, Paul Drinkhall. Competing in his second World Junior Championships, success could be just around the corner for a bona fide superstar who despite his young age already has been tested in all aspects of future stardom.

TEXT: Mikael Andersson.
PHOTO: ITTF/Dr. Stephan Roschner.

Drinkhall is a young man destined to carry the hopes of a nation on his shoulders for the next few years leading up to the ultimate goal, London Olympic in 2012.

When I met Paul earlier in the year, at the Canadian Junior Open in Montreal, we came to talk about upsides, but also the more weary parts of a pro life in table tennis such as travel, hard training and competition days eating up more time than you ever could imagine. Many young players ready to make the commitment to world class Table Tennis or any sport for that matter, has to make radical and pressing choices, especially when it comes to schooling issues.

AT THIS POINT IN HIS CAREER, Paul Drinkhall is at least well aware of what he needs

and where he stands. The last few years have passed quicker than a blink of the eye for the seventeen-year-old lad from Middlesbrough in the north east of England.

“Yeah, sometimes you feel that you lose the perspective of time. I am basically on the road all the time”, said Paul Drinkhall. “Altogether I am happy to have five days per month or so at home with my family.”

While friends in the same age are sweating school work of some sort, Paul’s life is completely zeroed in on table tennis.

“In fact I haven’t finished elementary school yet, in my last year of school I was simply away too many days for the teachers to approve my graduation”, continued Paul Drinkhall. “I will need to look at some kind of catch up work in order to fix the problem, that’s for sure.”

CATCH UP OR NOT

– Paul Drinkhall is off to a good start over in Europe, seeing eye to an eye on a weekly basis with world class athletes in the German Bundesliga.

“Paul has been playing some fantastic Table Tennis for Gönnern in the German Bundesliga with a score so far of four wins and four losses competing against the other teams’ best players. I strongly feel that Paul is one of these athletes who can make it all the way to the top. In some aspects he

needs to understand what it takes from a commitment point of view and also be able to stick to it for a longer time. It’s up to him for the moment to make the correct decisions said the experienced and well traveled Dane- Steen Kyst Hansen, who for some years now has been overseeing the national team operations in England.

GOING INTO THE 2007 WORLD JUNIORS the English team is made up with Paul Drinkhall, vastly improved Daniel Reed, young and promising Gavin Evans and a left handed “joker” by the name of Darius Knight. Although young Mr Knight

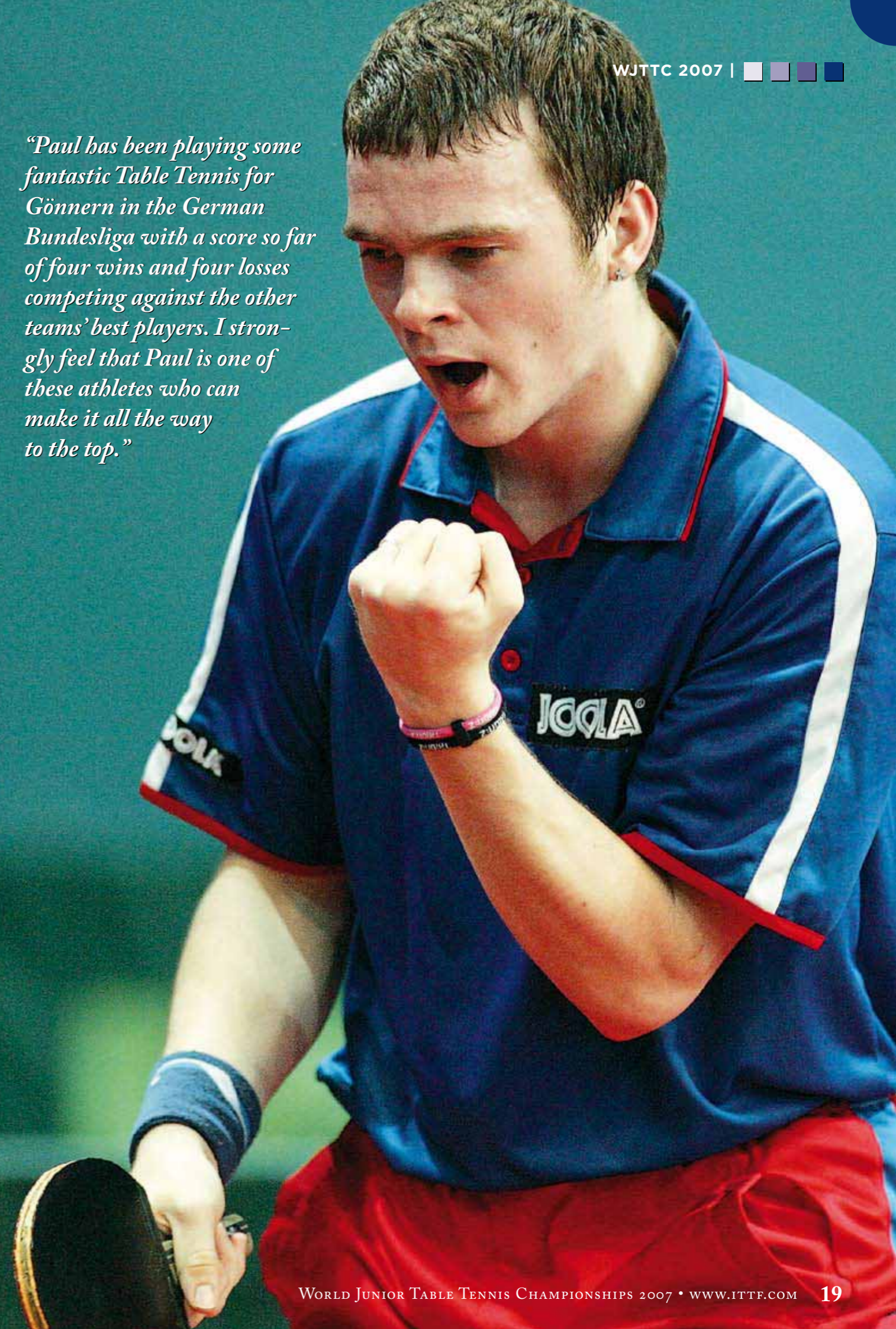
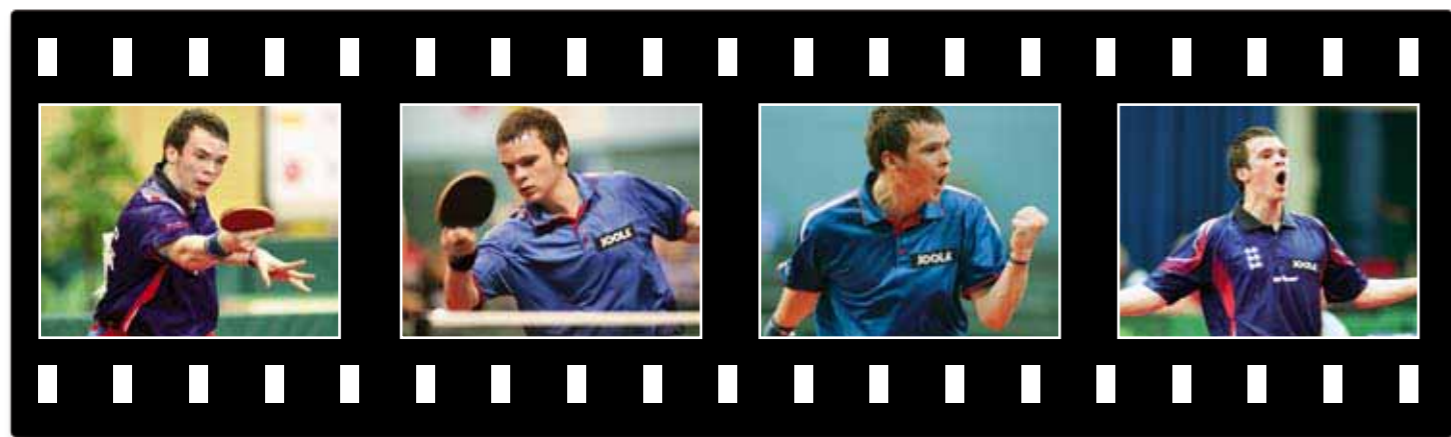
mostly has left the wheels spinning in the mud during a disappointing second junior year, there are some welcomed signs of improvements lately.

Well I am happy that Darius is showing some improvements. He played much better than

before in the French Open Pro Tour lately and I hope this will boost his self-confidence. If he is on his game I think we have good chance to come home with at least one medal from Palo Alto. That’s our goal anyway. This time we will prepare well with a ten day training camp prior to taking the flight over said Steen Kyst Hansen over the phone from the UK.

“Yeah, sometimes you feel that you lose the perspective of time. I am basically on the road all the time”.

“Paul has been playing some fantastic Table Tennis for Gönnern in the German Bundesliga with a score so far of four wins and four losses competing against the other teams’ best players. I strongly feel that Paul is one of these athletes who can make it all the way to the top.”



WJTTC Retrospective

Santiago, Chile 14th-21st December

2003 Junior Boys' Team

Winners: China (Li Hu, Ma Long, Zhang Changgong, Zhang Jike)

Runners Up: Chinese Taipei (Chiang Hung-Chieh, Wu Chih-Chi, Chou Tung-Yu, Sun Wei-Wei)

Junior Girls' Team

Winners: China (Cao Zhen, Li Xiaoxia, Li Xian, Peng Luyang)

Runners Up: Japan (Ai Fukuhara, Mari Hanada, Sayaka Hirano, Midori Ito)

Junior Boys' Singles

Winner: Li Hu (China)

Runner Up: Cho Eon Rae (Korea)

Junior Girls' Singles

Winner: Li Qian (China)

Runner Up: Peng Luyang (China)

Junior Boys' Doubles

Winners: Seiya Kishikawa/Minoru Muramori (Japan)

Runners Up: Tiago Apolonia/Marcos Freitas (Portugal)

Junior Girls' Doubles

Winners: Li Xiaoxia/Li Qian (China)

Runners Up: Gabriela Feher/Eva Tapai (Serbia)

Junior Mixed Doubles

Winners: Zhang Changgong/Li Xiaoxia (China)

Runners Up: Ma Long/Cao Zhen (China)

Kobe, Japan 28th November-5th December 2004

Junior Boys' Team

Winners: China (Li Hu, Lin Chen, Ma Long, Zhou Bin)

Runners Up: Korea (Cho Eon Rae, Kim Jung Kyu, Lee Jin Kwon, Yeo In Ho)

Junior Girls' Team

Winners: China (Chang Chenchen, Fang Ying, Liu Shiwen, Wang Xuan)

Runners Up: Japan (Ai Fukuhara, Yuka Ishigaki, Shiho Ono, Moemi Terui, Yuri Yamanachi)



Junior Boys' Singles

Winner: Ma Long (China)

Runner Up: Cho Eon Rae (Korea)

Junior Girls' Singles

Winner: Chang Chenchen (China)

Runner Up: Liu Shiwen (China)

Junior Boys' Doubles

Winners: Seiya Kishikawa/Jun Mizutani (Japan)

Runners Up: Ma Long/Zhou Bin (China)

Junior Girls' Doubles

Winners: Chang Chenchen/Liu Shiwen (China)

Runners Up: Fan Ying/Wang Xuan (China)

Junior Mixed Doubles

Winners: Zhu Bin/Liu Shiwen (China)

Runners Up: Ma Long/Chang Chenchen (China)

Linz, Austria 10th-17th December 2005

Junior Boys' Team

Winners: Japan (Seiya Kishikawa, Jun Mizutani, Hidetoshi Oya, Taku Takakiwa)

Runners Up: China (Fang Li, Liu Miao, Shi Lei, Yang Ce)

Junior Girls' Team

Winners: China (Cao Lisi, Ding Ning, Liu Kailun, Peng Xue)

Runners Up: Hungary (Barbara Barasso, Mariann Juhasz, Li Bin, Szandra Pergel)

Junior Boys' Singles

Winner: Patrick Baum (Germany)

Runner Up: Jun Mizutani (Japan)

Junior Girls' Singles

Winner: Ding Ning (China)

Runner Up: Peng Xue (China)

Junior Boys' Doubles

Winners: Chiang Hung-Chieh/Huang Sheng-Sheng (Chinese Taipei)

Runners Up: Stanislav Golovanov/Kirill Skachkov (Russia)

Junior Girls' Doubles

Winners: Ding Ning/Peng Xue (China)

Runners Up: Galia Dvorak/Sara Ramirez (Spain)

Junior Mixed Doubles

Winners: Kang Dong Hoon/Shim Se Rom (Korea)

Runners Up: Zolt Pete/Gabriela Feher (Serbia)

Cairo, Egypt 10th-17th December 2006

Junior Boys' Team

Winners: China (Jiang Haiyang, Wu Hao, Xu Ke, Xu Ruifeng)

Runners Up: Japan (Kenta Matsudaira, Kenji Matsudaira, Hidetoshi Oya, Taku Takakiwa)

Junior Girls' Team

Winners: China (Feng Yalan, Mu Zi, Wen Jia, Wu Yang)

Runners Up: Japan (Yuka Ishigaki, Kasumi Ishikawa, Moemi Terui, Hiroe Udo)

Junior Boys' Singles

Winner: Kenta Matsudaira (Japan)

Runner Up: Xu Ke (China)

Junior Girls' Singles

Winner: Feng Yalan (China)

Runner Up: Wen Jia (China)

Junior Boys' Doubles

Winners: Jiang Haiyang/Wu Hao (China)

Runners Up: Xu Ke/Xu Ruifeng (China)

Junior Girls' Doubles

Winners: Mu Zi/Wen Jia (China)

Runners Up: Feng Yalan/Wu Yang (China)

Junior Mixed Doubles

Winners: Kang Dong Hoon/Shim Se Rom (Korea)

Runners Up: Zolt Pete/Gabriela Feher (Serbia)



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Artist/Designer
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www.WildSpin.com

"Stefan Feth Attack" Copyright © 2007 by Steve Reiling

Dreams, Passion and Reality

It is late November in downtown San Francisco and we are in the middle of the final ITTF coordination visit with the hosts of the 2007 World Junior Championships. TEXT: Mikael Andersson.

Dennis Davis, 44, started to play the game of Table Tennis right out of high school in Florida. The interest came very much alive in the small town of Bitburg, Germany where Dennis along with his US Air Force duties, came to spend time with the local Table Tennis club. “Didn’t pick up much coaching there either – but at least I got the taste for some of the best beers in the world”

He moved back to the states in 1987, this time to the San Jose area where his family now lived. “Between 1987 and 1989 I got some pretty good coaching from a Vietnamese coach living in the neighborhood. He didn’t speak much English but knew the game”. Next stop was Sweden for a two year stint with the Ångby Table Tennis Club in Stockholm. “That’s where I probably picked up most of my coaching knowledge,” Dennis remembers”

TODAY HE JUGGLES HIS LIFE between his own company in the recruiting and consulting business and the Head coach-owner duties of the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club.

“Really I would like to coach full time, but of course you have to make a living here as well. My wife and I run a small company that mainly helps small start up companies to get organized from the inside. We help them with staffing needs and in setting up a smooth organization. It’s actually quite interesting and I learn a lot from seeing these young, bright people going to work.”

The family company has however seen very little of the “man of the house” since the 2007 World Junior adventure kicked in to high gear at the beginning of this year. Still, plenty of the stressful thinking generated by a complex situation surrounding the logistics of the event is somehow released, out in the gym when Dennis is coaching table tennis.

“Don’t forget that I am a coach first and foremost”, he says when we are driving to the Sunday afternoon practice in Palo Alto. “I am quite successful too, you have to remember that I am just a “white guy from Nebraska now trying to win the confidence of my members who are mainly of Asian origin and very familiar with the sport.”

At the club this particular Sunday afternoon, the activity level is high and it doesn’t take long for Dennis to jump in with some of the many beginners waiting for their turn at one of the tables. Two hours later the show is over for this time and the young kids



Anne Warner Cribbs and Dennis Davis – the driving forces behind the 2007 WJTTC.

take their rackets and disappear out in the dark but still mild California evening. And a good show it was, with active positive Table Tennis coaching leaving all the youngsters looking for more from their popular head-coach.

“That’s it. I am trying to do the very best I can here and now. In the bigger picture of USA Table Tennis this might seem like a small piece. But at least we are operative and working hard to grow the sport,” Dennis says.

Organizing the 2007 World Junior Championships is a daunting task that now, with only three weeks to go, is very much an around the clock reality.

“Commitment can really drive success. I see it every day in my normal work here in Silicon Valley where young start up companies just come alive. Maybe I am trying to prove a point not only for myself but also for Table Tennis in the USA. We have been stuck in the negative thinking box for such a long time, we are now reaching a point where good people ready to do an honest piece of work are driven out of the sport. We need to start becoming doers instead of nay sayers... You go to a table tennis event in the states today and all you hear is we cannot do this and we cannot do that. Sure there is a lot of risk involved in an event like this. But here we are now, moving forward into the final stages,” Dennis Davis said.

SO MUCH FOR DREAMS AND PASSION – but any project in the world of sport organization needs a solid vision and driving power to become reality

Anne Warner Cribbs is president of Anne Cribbs and Company, an advertising and public relations firm she formed in 1999. For

“Don’t forget that I am a coach first and foremost”, he says when we are driving to the Sunday afternoon practice in Palo Alto.

the last 8 years, she has been CEO of the BASOC – the Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee, a non-profit body committed to bringing the Olympic Games and other international and national sporting events to the San Francisco Bay Area.

In her capacity as the CEO for BASOC she came across Dennis Davis in her work leading up to the 2012 San Francisco Olympic Bid – a bid to become the USA Candidate City that made it to the final stage before losing out to New York.

“I recruited Dennis as the leading local expert in the field of Table Tennis and he joined our bid that way. We had a very good bid going at the time and I also think that the setup for the 2016 Olympic Bid was quite good until we ran into some issues surrounding San Francisco’s proposed stadium, that eventually forced the city to walk away from the ambition of hosting the 2016 Olympics (Chicago is now the selected Candidate city).

Anne, a Stanford graduate and Olympic Gold medalist in Swimming – Rome 1960 is exactly the force you need to make things happen in this area. She is well connected, knows people right, left and center and is not afraid to get her nose dirty.

THE LATTER WAS VERY MUCH PROVEN in one of her early adventures – The American Basketball League – a professional basketball league for women, which lived a short life from 1996 to 1998 until the mighty NBA started their WNBA league, forcing ABL out of business.

In comparison to recent BASOC events like the 2006 Fina World Masters Championships – 5 aquatic sports – with more than 8000 participants and the upcoming 2009 National Senior Games; the ITTF 2007 World Junior Championships presents a different kind of financial challenge involving a huge portion of marketing and sponsorship. To organize any World Title event in the USA today comes with plenty of risk and not much support.

“Because of the way sport is organized in the United States, you don’t have the same solid financial support and underwriting from various levels of governments that I have seen following this event for a couple of years,” said Anne. “Here we have to find ways to drive the event without financial security, which is stressful and challenging. This event has some

very good values involving young people, international understanding and competition – but our corporate sector is mainly interested in television coverage with recognizable stars.”

IN TERMS OF LEARNING TO KNOW THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS and working alongside with the ITTF, the CEO for BASOC has only good things to say;

“It’s been a great sporting experience. Living in the USA, it is easy to lose track of the outside sporting world. Most of what we see on the television screen is professional and college sports – many times leaving amateur sports with little or no visibility. To see how big this sport of table tennis is in China was quite an incredible experience. I would love to come back and do a team or singles World Championships in the future but then we need to have a title sponsor in place from the very beginning”, Anne Cribbs concluded.



The time is right for the "Boys from Down Under"

Australia, regularly in the top 6 nations in the Olympics medal tally, multiple world champions in swimming, cycling, triathlon, surfing, athletics, rugby, cricket, netball but table tennis...?

TEXT: Glenn Tepper.

China, Japan, France, Korea, England, and Russia present a formidable barrier to obtaining a medal of any color, here in Palo Alto, but are the "Boys from Down Under" ready for an upset?

Kyle Davis and Robbie Frank are the veterans of the team having competed since 2004, when the team came 16th.

Trent Carter joined the team in 2005, and the team moved to 14th

In 2006, Wade Townsend joined the threesome and the accumulated experiences of Davis and Frank started to have an impact, with Australia moving into the top 10 for the first time in 2006.

In 2007, the same team will be present. They are looking now for the next quantum

leap. With 2 weeks preparation in USA under the watchful eye of Stellan Bengtsson, 1971 World Champion and who many consider to be among the world's truly elite coaches and a new young and motivated National Coach Marcus Gustafson direct from Sweden looking to make his mark, the boys are ready.

Globetrotter, Kyle Davis, already part of the Australian Senior Team and with much international experience, last year caused a huge upset defeating Ruwen Filus of Germany to make the last 16, and will look to go out of juniors on an even higher note this year.

Robbie Frank, caused a sensation at the start of 2007 defeating Paul Drinkhall of England in the Australian Olympic Youth Festival. Drinkhall went on to win 4 World Junior Circuit events from 4 entries and was the top of the World Junior Circuit points tally.

TRENT CARTER HAS BEEN THE POPULAR and surprise sensation on the World Junior Circuit this year, traveling alone to Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador and Congo and winning Venezuela World Junior Circuit

along the way defeating players from Sweden, France, Spain and Brasil. Finally he finished 5th in the points tally and earned a place in the prestigious World Junior Circuit finals in Cape Town, South Africa.

Trent also suffers from "chronic fatigue syndrome" which makes his achievements even more remarkable, but you won't hear any complaints from this former World Junior Boomerang Champion, as he too looks to have an impact in his final year.

Wade Townsend, while not as highly credentialed as the other 3 has had good results in Australia and waiting for the chance to achieve at international level.

One cannot overlook the accumulated experience gained by this talented team over the previous 3 World Junior Championships.

ANY TEAM THAT UNDERESTIMATES "the boys from down under" in Palo Alto will do so at their own peril.

We have all heard the familiar cry of "AUSSIE, AUSSIE, AUSSIE" at Olympic Games. Will it be heard again in Palo Alto?



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Don't Skip the Winning Beat!

THE DEBATE WHETHER or not promising top flight juniors can benefit from playing ITTF junior events is still alive out there. Sure, I can also see the full picture of planning and understand the unpleasant pressure of perhaps losing valuable ranking points against lower ranked, but motivated opponents. Having said that we have to remember that you cannot really skip a grade or two in school if you want to finish with good grades.

Translated into Table Tennis coaching language – you've got to learn to win and seek the pressure points more often than avoid them. The ITTF World Junior Championship titles are there to be taken, under pressure and with expectations heavily on the shoulders.

Just a great learning experience – that's all.

ble risk, that by skipping the World Junior Championships they will default their only chance of being a world champion. How st...id is that.

THE ABILITY TO MAP OUT THE SEASON and sort out what to play and how to find time for longer practice periods during the season has perhaps become one of the most important tools of modern coaching. These days it is as much about management of time, level of sparring and rest, as it is about pure backhand and forehand. The ITTF GJP provides opportunities to young players and their coaches to pursue a professional career in Table Tennis. You have to learn to walk before you can run.

ANOTHER POINT TO CONSIDER is the confidence factor. To the victorious belong the rewards of being a recognized champion. Winning a title or two at the World Juniors can be a boost for years to come when you have to battle trained professionals at ITTF major events. And, really, it's not that easy to win world titles is it? Young prominent talents take a considera-

I WILL SHED A TEAR OF TWO, as I always do, when young talents leave the ITTF Global Junior Programme. The left-handed slick playing Romanian Elisabeta Samara, in Palo Alto, will compete in her fifth World Junior Championships. Is it too much to ask for a couple of edge balls and some luck in this her last bid to win a singles medal? I firmly believe that a portion or

two of that is needed for Elisabeta to come through in a very tight and competitive junior girl's singles event.

SOMEHOW, I CANNOT LET GO of my "feeling sorry" for the USA Junior National Teams competing here in Palo Alto. What a great opportunity missed when it comes to using these championships to establish a firm and strong national team programme. Let's see... selection procedures, internal competition, preparation camps.. I guess that the list unfortunately can be made quite long... Make this the turning point and start to support young players in the states – Thanks.

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES are just around the corner and will be a reality for some but not all, young players in 2010. The trick here is to find the best possible balance between macro (IOC) and micro (ITTF) levels. Format, age and the qualification process are subject to views, opinions and negotiations. When it's all said and done however, this will be a great boost for our sport. We are well prepared to present our sport based on years of experience from running a very good and solid junior development programme.

JUST LOVE THE SPORTING ATMOSPHERE at Stanford University... especially in the mornings. A quick twenty minute morning jog and you will pass an incredible set of fantastic sporting venues. Makes you wish that it was possible to turn the clock back some thirty years to restart your career. Best chance if so would be Basketball... drained a couple of jumpers back in elementary school – I firmly remember now. Go Stanford!

STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL OF THIS, we have to remember that without the fearless passion of Dennis Davis and Anne Warner Cribbs we wouldn't be here. Thanks!

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Mikael Andersson ITTF GJP Manager*

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The stars of the FUTURE

One of the more interesting exercises when it comes to the ITTF World Junior Championships is to browse through the entries list in search of the future stars of Table Tennis. This is after all the No. 1 battleground for the next generation of top players. Here is a quick guide just highlighting a few players well worth an extra look when they enter the courts at Stanford. **TEXT:** Mikael Andersson.

The left-handed Korean, *SEO Hyun Deok* has in a very short time established himself on the international scene as the most promising athlete out of a fairly competent group of young players from Korea. SEO displayed a rarely seen calmness and composure just one month ago when he undisputedly won the ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals in Cape Town South Africa. This is a young player with a complete lethal game working his magic close to the table and giving his opponents hardly any time to react.

A PLAYER THAT MOST LIKELY will fly into the Bay Area well under the radar is *Matiss BURGIS* from Latvia. Having spent considerable time at various clubs and practice environments in Germany the last few years, Burgis finally made his big league debut for one of the leading clubs in Germany TTZ Zugbrücke Grenzau last month recording a comfortable win against Steffen Mengel from Germany. Matiss is a tough, hard working and ambitious player that will show his best side in Palo Alto.

It's been a tough year of travelling for the sixteen year old *Borna KOVAC* from Croatia who this year made the ITTF World

Junior Circuit a priority in his search for international stardom. The left-handed Croatian started the year as No. 957 on the ITTF World Ranking list and is now, one hundred and three international matches later, parked five hundred spots higher. Not only do these numbers impress – Kovac is also showing visible signs of stability and progress in all aspects of his game. Well done!

Yan An from China is a young prospect to keep an eye on at these championships. Yan, who recorded his first international victory in the cadet boy's single event at the Asian Junior Championships in Korea this summer, can easily emerge as one of these young Chinese rookies, who often bring both energy and entertainment to the ITTF World Juniors.

TREMENDOUS SUPPORT, but also some significant early pressure accompanied with heavy expectations is the reality facing many young national team players from Japan. The latest darling of the Japanese media is a young left-handed girl by the name of *Kasumi ISHIKAWA*. This young girl has all the right technical tools, and will, if she is given some time to mature

and develop bring great glory to Japanese Table Tennis.

Colombia is a country known for everything but Table Tennis. Perhaps times are about to change with the ITTF World Junior Championships scheduled for Cartagena de Indias in 2009. When the time comes the present star of Colombian Table Tennis – *Paula MEDINA* will be too old. In Palo Alto however she can easily score an upset or two. Paula should be well prepared arriving directly from the ITTF World Academy in Köping, Sweden where she and many other Latin American prospects trains for the moment.

FIFTEEN YEAR OLD *CHENG I-Ching* from Chinese Taipei is continuing to progress as one of the most promising female players in Asia. She is ranked as high as No 16 on the latest ITTF U 18 World ranking list and will most likely move into a seeded position for the individual event. Cheng is a versatile right-handed shakehand player with good touch often displaying excellent shot making as one of her many strengths.

Swedish Table Tennis is still struggling to rebound after a few years of poor international results. The Swedes have now opted to send a full squad of junior players to Palo Alto and are hoping for some success in the individual events. *Malin PETTERSSON* might be their most competitive player this time around. Fifteen years old she already holds the upper hand on many competitors with a full force style of game executed with good techniques.



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