

MDTTC News



MDTTC August 24-28 Camp

(not pictured : Coach Cheng, Coach Qingliang Wang & a few other campers)

See below for **Junior Training programs**, the **Capital Area Team League**, and to find out which **MDTTC Coach** is being inducted into the **USATT Hall of Fame!**

(Hint – see far right on picture.)

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Archive of Past MDTTC Newsletters

Welcome to the 40th issue of the MDTTC News! As usual, there's lots of news to report and new and ongoing programs, and we hope to see you at some of them. As usual a special thanks to MDTTC sponsors [Butterfly](#), [Go Table Tennis](#), and HW Global Foundation. Make sure to read my daily table tennis blog - I often write about MDTTC happenings there. And if you have a nice picture taken at MDTTC, email it to me and it might make the newsletter!

-Editor and Coach [Larry Hodges](#)

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COACH JACK HUANG selected for [USATT HALL OF FAME](#)

Here's the [USATT announcement](#), with a very brief listing of his accomplishments. Here's his [MDTTC bio page](#). He joins an illustrious MDTTC coaching staff that already has two Hall of Famers, Cheng Yinghua and Larry Hodges. The induction ceremony will take place at the USA Nationals in Las Vegas, at the Hall of Fame Banquet on Thursday night on Dec. 17. Why not join us there, where you can compete, spectate, browse the equipment booths, enjoy Las Vegas, and see Jack inducted?

CAPITAL AREA TEAM LEAGUE – Deadline is Monday, Sept. 7

You don't want to miss the chance to compete in Season Two of the [Capital Area Team League](#)! Last season we had 74 players on 13 teams; let's double that!

You can either create your own teams, with 3-6 on a team, or you can put your name on the "[Players Looking for Teams](#)" listing. (If so, just [email Coach Larry](#) and he'll put you on it – he's the webmaster for the league.)

One big change from last season: the league only meets once a month. The meets will be on Saturdays from 6-10PM, on Sept. 26 (MDTTC), Oct. 17 (WDCTT), Nov. 7 (MDTTC), and Jan. 9 (WDCTT), with the Grand Finals on Jan. 30. (WDCTT is the Washington DC Table Tennis Center run by Charlene Liu and Changping Duan.)

NEW PROGRAMS for COMPETITION/TOURNAMENT JUNIOR PLAYERS

In addition to the existing Junior Programs, MDTTC has created 2 new programs to enhance the development of our junior players.

- **Saturday Advance Junior Group Training (4:30 - 6:30 pm):** Coach Cheng is starting a new training program for juniors rated roughly 1500-2100. Cost is \$20/session. For more info, contact Cheng directly at MDTTC, [301-519-8580](tel:301-519-8580) or his cell: [240-423-3147](tel:240-423-3147).
- **Sunday Talent Development Program (5:30 - 7 pm):** Thanks to the HW Global Foundation, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 educational organization, a small number of talented young players have been identified by MDTTC coaches and then selected for this program. Full commitment from the players & their parents is a pre-requisite to acceptance into this program. For more info, contact the Program Director Wen Hsu at marylandttc@gmail.com.

FRIDAY ELITE GROUP TRAINING

This program resumes in September on Fridays 5 - 7 pm. Players with USATT ratings above 2100 are welcome to participate. MDTTC coaches have improved this program to help get elite players tournament ready. Other players who compete in tournament regularly may participate, but MDTTC coaches' pre-approval is required.

BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE JUNIOR CLASSES: Thursdays & Sundays

The new sessions start on Sept. 17 (Thursdays 6-7 PM) and Sept. 20 (Sundays 4 - 5:30). This is for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 6-14, with Coach Larry (with John Hsu and others assisting). For quality instruction, the number of spots is limited. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#). (If space is available, you may join in mid-season, and your fee will be pro-rated.)

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM (year-round with limited space)

The MDTTC Afterschool program will start up again this Fall, and continues throughout the school year. The program combines table tennis and schoolwork, with courtesy pickups at schools or houses. MDTTC coaches and staff will pick up students after school (from selected areas), and bring them to the club where they will have a one-hour table tennis session, practice time, and do homework with our resident tutors. The academic tutors are Larry Hodges and Wen Hsu. [Here's the info flyer](#).

ADULT GROUP TRAINING PROGRAM

[Tuesday & Friday Lunch Break Classes](#) (1 - 2 PM) All levels welcome. These classes are intended for adult players who would like to improve their table tennis skills while getting great physical and mental exercises. Individualized instructions will be provided by 2600 rated Coach Jeffrey Xun Zeng. Ball robots will be used as a part of this year round program. Cost: MDTTC regular members, \$100 for 10 lesson pass; all others, \$125 for 10 lesson pass; Drop-ins \$15 per lesson

Sunday Adult Training (6:30 - 8 PM) All levels, except for complete beginners are required to take at least one hour of private coaching in advance. This program is run by Coach Larry Hodges, assisted by Coach Raghu Nadmichettu, and it's primarily for adults, but minimum age is 13, or permission of instructor. We expect players

from beginners to advanced, and players will generally be paired with players of roughly the same level, with players taking turns hitting with Raghu. Cost is \$15/session for MDTTC regular members, \$20/session for all others. No pre-registration is required, but if you have any questions, [email](#) Coach Larry. *Be prepared to improve!!!*

MDTTC PRO SHOP

Stop by to get all your table tennis needs at the MDTTC Pro Shop. Few know that we're actually one of the largest ones in the country, with sales going up each year. As of now, we have the second most sales of any Butterfly club in the USA. (We were #1 for the month of June.) We were #7 in 2013, #5 in 2014, so we're movin' on up – help us take over the #1 spot! Sign up now to receive special offers by emailing to Marylandttc@gmail.com!

PARA PROGRAM: Navin Kumar in the News – Again!

[Here's the story](#) from the Big Ten Network, "Bionic Maryland Grad Has the Heart of a Competitor."

MDTTC AUGUST OPEN RESULTS

It was held Saturday, Aug. 22. Here are [complete results](#), care of Omping. (Next tournament is [October 24](#).) Thanks goes to Tournament Director Charlene Liu and Referee Paul Kovac, and to sponsor Butterfly. Here are the main results:

Open Singles – Final: [Ruichao Chen d. Jianho Sun](#), 5,5,6,-1,3; **SF:** Chen d. Chen Bo Wen, 9,5,8,3; Sun d. Wang Qingliang, 5,-6,-7,6,-8,3,6; **QF:** Chen d. Jeff Hsin, 6,4,10; Chen d. Sun Xizi, 9,10,9; Wang d. Allen Lin, 9,10,10; Sun d. Derek Nie, 6,8,6.

Under 2300 – Final: [Ryan Dabbs d. Spencer Ip](#), 7,-9,8,-10,4; **SF:** Dabbs d. Allen Lin, 6,8,6; Ip d. Sun Xizi, 8,9,-1,-6,6.

Under 2000 – Final: [Spencer Ip d. Eric Li](#), 5,6,6; **SF:** Ip d. Leonid Korolov, 8,9,3; Li d. Mohamed Kamara, 13,7,3.

Under 1700 – Final: [Sam Berry d. Leonid Korolov](#), 9,8,5; **SF:** Berry d. Louis Levene, 7,-12,10,5; Korolov d. Hal Barnes, -10,8,13,5.

Under 1300 – Final: [Hassam Alkadi d. Walid Alkadi](#), -5,7,-4,7,0; **SF:** H. Alkadi d. Liu Kallista, 5,11,3; W. Alkadi d. Jeff Howes, 7,-7,13,3.

Over 50 – Final: [Nazruddin Asgarali d. Jeff Pepper](#), 7,1,6; **SF:** Asgarali d. Chris Buckley, 4,9,5; Pepper d. James Wilson, 3,11,1.

Under 16 – Final: [Derek Nie d. Ryan Dabbs](#), 4,6,5; **SF:** Nie d. Bowen Zhang, 4,6,5; Dabbs d. Eric Li, 7,9,9.

MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages

Don't forget to see the regularly updated [MDTTC Facebook page](#), and make sure to "like" it! Stop by and see all the photos, read the latest news, or post your own comments. Also see the [MDTTC web page](#) for regularly updated info.

TIP OF THE MONTH:

Controlling a Match

By Larry Hodges

A match doesn't always go to the player with the best shots. Just as often it goes to the player who knows how to control play. It doesn't matter how strong the opponent's shots may be if he rarely gets a chance to use them effectively. How do you do this?

You control a match primarily with serve and receive, which sets up your first shot in the rally. When choosing these shots you should ask yourself three questions:

1. **What serve/receive is your opponent weakest against?**

This is the most obvious and needs little explaining. It's also the most overused, as opponents expect this, and develop ways to overcome these weaknesses. This doesn't mean you shouldn't pound your opponent on his weaknesses, but if that's the limit of your tactics, you'll have trouble controlling a match against many players.

2. **What serve/receive will put your opponent into a weak position?**

Sometimes this overlaps with #1 above, but not always. For example, a player may have a very good forehand flip against a short serve to the forehand, but it draws him over the table, and if he's weaker on the backhand, it might leave him open on that side. So you might sometimes serve short to the forehand, and prepare to block his flip to his backhand, and then take control of the rally. Or, against a strong forehand player, sometimes challenge his forehand by serving deep there, and quick block to the weaker backhand side, and take control of the rally. (The reverse of both of these also works, where you serve to

the backhand and block to the forehand.)

The same idea works when receiving. For example, a player may have a strong forehand loop against backspin, but if you aim your receive to the forehand, and then at the last second instead quick push to the backhand, it takes away the opponent's forehand loop and puts him in a weak position. In general, if an opponent is strong on one side but weaker on the other, you might want to go wide to the strong side first, then quick block to the weak side, catching the opponent out of position and forced to use his weaker side while moving or reaching.

3. **What serve/receive is your opponent not expecting?**

This is probably most underused tactic. If a player has trouble with a certain serve, receive, or shot, he'll likely be expecting it. While you should still pound him on this weakness, you'll do even better if you regularly catch him off guard with the unexpected. Examples are endless - you simply vary all of your serves, receives, and shots to keep the opponent off guard, forcing erratic or weaker returns, and then take control of the rally. But there are a number of standard combinations that can keep an opponent guessing. For example, using the same serving motion, serve either short to the forehand with varying spins (including no-spin), and deep, breaking serves to the backhand. The opponent doesn't know if he's got to be ready to step in for the short serve to the forehand or cover the wide, deep backhand. Then throw in a few other serves, such as a fast no-spin to the middle, and watch the opponent wither.

This tactic is also way underused when receiving. Far too many players receive predictably over and over rather than catch the opponent off guard. This is often because a player doesn't have confidence in more than one type of receive against a given serve - but rather than resigning himself to mediocrity, why not develop a full range of receives, so that you can both receive in the way the opponent has the most trouble against (#1 above), as well as being able to vary the receive and so leaving your opponent never knowing what to expect?

Always remember - whoever has the bigger serve & receive arsenal - and knows how to use it to control play - usually wins.