



Welcome to the fifth 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 [James Wu/Llewellyn realtor](#). Make sure to read my [daily table tennis blog](#) - I often write about MDTTC happenings there.

I'd also like to personally invite you to enter the [\\$2600 MDTTC October Open](#) (Oct. 20-21). I'll be running it, and I hope to see you there. See the segment on this below.

-Editor and Coach Larry Hodges

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Ongoing Programs

- ? **Beginning Junior Class.** This is for beginning juniors ages 6-13, with Coach Larry Hodges, and are held Saturdays 10:30AM-Noon and Sundays 4:30-6:00 PM. (We get more players on Sundays, so Raghu Nadmichettu assists.) See the [Group Training page](#).

- ? **Group Sessions.** While this is primarily for juniors, all ages are welcome - it's about 1/3 adults. They meet on Sat & Sun, 4:30-6:30. The first 30 minutes is practice/warm-up, then 90 minutes of matches. See the [Group Training page](#).
- ? **Private Coaching,** by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Jeffrey Zeng Xun, or Larry Hodges. (Jeffrey is currently in China, so no new lessons from him for now. Coach Jack is on vacation in China from Oct. 2-29.) Coaching is also available from Wang Qing Liang, Chen Bo Wen, and Raghu Nadmichettu. See [Private Coaching page](#).
- ? **Leagues.** MDTTC runs four different leagues. Take your pick! They are the [Tuesday and Friday Leagues](#) (for all ages and levels); the [Corporate League](#); and the [Elite League](#).

Butterfly MDTTC October Open

[Don't miss our October Open!](#) It's on Oct. 21-22. With \$2600 in prize money and (*breaking news!*) much larger trophies (16" for first, 14" for second), you want to be there. The four events on Saturday are Open Singles, Under 2300, Under 2150, and Under 2000; the four events on Sunday are Under 1850, Under 1600, Under 1350, and Under 1100. You can email your entries directly to [Larry Hodges](#). However, if you do enter via email without payment you are responsible for your entry fee unless you withdraw by 5PM on Thursday.

Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events

MDTTC offers space rental for special corporate and private events. Here is [Facility Rental Information](#), and here is info on [Birthday Party Packages](#).

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.

MDTTC Video

County Cable Montgomery in Maryland runs a regular TV segment called Parks Rec n Roll. They did a feature on racket sports here in Montgomery County, featuring tennis, badminton, racquetball, and of course table tennis at the Maryland Table Tennis Center. The entire video is 30 minutes long (and will be shown locally a number of times on Comcast & RCN Channel 6 and on Verizon Channel 30), but here are the table tennis segments, which are a little under six minutes total. The video features me, Tong Tong Gong, Derek Nie, Crystal Wang, Amy Lu, Nathan Hsu, Wen Hsu, Timmy La, Chen Bo Wen, Mort Greenberg, and Sammy Snitskovsky. (One little problem: at 28:05 it puts the MDTTC web address on screen, but they got it wrong, putting in "org" instead of the "com" in www.mdttc.com.) Here are links:

- ? [Entire video](#) (30 minutes)
- ? [Two seconds at the start](#), featuring Kyle Wang clowning around for the camera (starting at 0:08)
- ? [Twenty seconds](#) starting right at the two-minute mark
- ? [The main feature](#), starting at 23:10 through 28:30 (so five minutes 20 seconds long)

MDTTC Goes to the Birds

Earlier this month a bird visited the Maryland Table Tennis Center. No, not the Baltimore Orioles mascot or Larry Bird; an actual bird! [Here's the video](#)(3:47), starring Nathan Hsu, Derek Nie, Raghu Nadmichettu, Tong Tong Gong, and a seemingly very tame (but probably just traumatized) bird. I can't believe I missed all of this, but I wasn't there for the big event.

Table Tennis Club Advertisement

Nathan Hsu created two hilarious video ads for the table tennis club he started at his school, both about 37 seconds long. [The first version](#) was deemed "inappropriate" for school due to the violence implied. [Here's the second version](#) that was allowed. The videos star Nathan and Andy Zheng as "the little kid." Don't get beat up by a little kid!!! (My favorite part in both videos - see the part where Nathan looks in through the door.)

\$2600 Butterfly MDTTC September Open

By Larry Hodges

Seventy-three players competed in eight events for \$2600 in prize money plus trophies at the September Open at the spacious [Maryland Table Tennis Center](#). The events were dominated by local junior players, with at least one junior player in seven of the eight finals. In the Open, it was chopper/looper Wang Qing Liang (17, rated 2644) over two-winged penhold looper Chen Bo Wen (15), -6,6,9,7,-9,6. In the semifinals they defeated a pair of former Maryland junior stars, Wang over Raghu Nadmichettu (6,7,9,5) and Chen over Khaleel Asgarali (10,3,8,7).

After losing to Chen Bo Wen in the Open Semifinal, Raghu came from down 0-2 to win Under 2350 over Hung Duy Vo, -9,-15,6,11,8, in the only final without a junior player.

Roy Ke, 13, had an exceptional tournament, winning Under 2200 with a string of upsets over Chen Qiming (2121), Nazruddin Asgarali (2187), and coming back to win the final over Lixin Lang (2127), -6,-5,4,8,8. His new rating is 2188.

Another junior having an exceptional tournament was Anthony (Tony) Qu, 12, who not only won Under 2050 over John Olsen, but upset Richard Doverman (2349, 11-9 in the fifth) and Derek Nie (2170, 13-11 in the fifth) to make the quarterfinals of the Open. His new rating is 2194.

Practice partners Wesley Duan (11) and Kyle Wang (12) ran amok in four events, taking four second places - Wesley in Under 1900 and Under 1650, and Kyle in Under 1400 and Under 1150. Winning these four events, respectively, were Pat Lui, Quang Lam, Ara Sahakian, and still another local junior, 12-year-old Daniel Yang.

Rating-wise the big winner was William Wung, who gained 549 points in going from 494 to 1043! Others with big gains were Wesley Duan (253, 1432 to 1685), Benjamin Kang (231, 829 to 1060), Roy Ke (186, 2002 to 2188), Tony Qu (169, 2025 to 2194), Quang Lam (154, 1348 to 1502, the only non-junior to gain more than 100 points), and Moonsoo Park (102, 598 to 700). Also welcome to six newly rated players: Tiffany Ke, Deapesh Misra, Sameer Shaikh, Sam Snitkovsky, and Jeremy & Alexi Weinberg!

Special thanks goes to Lixin Lang for helping run the tournament, and to tournament sponsors Butterfly and Llewellyn Realtor James Wu.

Results:

Open - Final: Wang Qing Liang d. Chen Bo Wen, -6,6,9,7,-9,6; **SF:** Wang d. Khaleel Asgarali, 10,3,8,7; Chen d. Raghu Nadmichettu, 6,7,9,5; **QF:** Wang d. Nazruddin Asgarali, 8,5,6; K. Asgarali d. Anthony Qu, 4,6,5; Nadmichettu d. Larry Abass, 9,5,12; Chen d. Sutanit Tangyingyong, 4,5,9.

Under 2350 - Final: Raghu Nadmichettu d. Hung Duy Vo, -9,-15,6,11,8; **SF:** Nadmichettu Lixin Lang, 2,-9,3,7; Vo d. Sutanit Tangyingyong, 5,11,8.

Under 2200 - Final: Roy Ke d. Lixin Lang, -6,-5,4,8,8; **SF:** Ke d. Nazruddin Asgarali, 6,9,7; Lang d. Sutanit Tangyingyong, 10,-13,5,9.

Under 2050 - Final: Anthony Qu d. John Olsen, 8,4,4; **SF:** Qu d. Austin Stouffer, 9,5,-9,6; Olsen d. Josiah Chow, 8,-11,12,-4,10.

Under 1900 - Final: Pat Lui d. Wesley Duan, 9,-10,7,4; **SF:** Lui d. Gahraman Mustafayev, 3,5,3; Duan d. Mohamed Kamara, -4,8,6,-3,7.

Under 1650 - Final: Quang Lam d. Wesley Duan, 8,6,8; **SF:** Lam d. Tang Yanghang, 16,-7,8,-6,14; Duan d. David Goldstein, -3,9,8,9.

Under 1400 - Final: Ara Sahakian d. Kyle Wang, 9,8,7; **SF:** Sahakian d. Quang Lam, 10,8,8; Wang d. William Wung, 5,9,7.

Under 1150 - Final: Daniel Yang d. Kyle Wang, 7,8,8; **SF:** Yang d. Allen Eng, 7,11,12; Wang d. Benjamin Kang, 8,7,7.

Tip of the Month: Why Table Tennis Really Is Chess at Light Speed

By Larry Hodges

We often say table tennis is chess at light speed. It has all the tactics of chess except you don't have time to think things over - there's no time clock, just a ball coming at you, often at dizzying speeds. But table tennis is more like chess in other ways as well.

Most chess openings involve pushing pawns as players maneuver to control the center of the board and attack with their stronger pieces. Most table tennis rallies start with pushing as players maneuver to control the table and attack with their stronger shots.

Chess players try to control the board early on with their bishops and knights, which set up their more powerful pieces, the rooks and queen. Table tennis players try to take control of the rally early on with their opening loops and drives, which set up their more powerful shots, their smashes and loop kills.

Chess players often lose when they bring out their queen too early, before their other pieces are in position to support it. Table tennis players often lose when they try to smash or loop kill too early in the rally, before they've set up the shot.

In chess, if you lose your queen without taking the opponent's queen, you almost always lose. In table tennis, if you can't get your best shot into play while your opponent can, you almost always lose.

In chess you can start off by pushing your pawn one or two squares. In table tennis you can start off by pushing short or long.

Chess players all have a weakness - their king, which they must guard at all times. Table tennis players all have weaknesses, and they must guard those weaknesses at all times.

When a chess player is losing he often tries for a stalemate in desperation. When a table tennis player is losing a point he often lobs in desperation.

In chess the pawns are the weakest shot, but used properly, they can win by supporting stronger pieces, by smothering an opponent, or by getting "queened." In table tennis the push is often the weakest shot, but you can win with it by using it to set up stronger shots, by smothering an opponent with well-placed pushes, or by turning it into a powerful weapon with quickness, placement, heavy backspin, or keeping it short.

When a chess player doesn't know how to react to an opponent's opening, he studies and learns the proper moves. When a table tennis player can't return an opponent's serve, he practices and learns the proper receives.

In chess, you have a lot of time to think and plan before each move. In table tennis you have a lot of time to think and plan before each match.

In speed chess, you have little time to think and plan before each move. In table tennis you have little time to think and plan before the next point.

In chess, you run into time trouble if you can't quickly and instinctively see the right move in most circumstances. In table tennis you run into trouble if you can't quickly and instinctively see the right shot in most circumstances.

So yes, table tennis is just chess at lightning speed. Which means, of course, that chess is simply table tennis at a glacial pace!