

# MDTTC News



Crystal Wang, Coach Larry Hodges, and Derek Nie at the ITTF Hopes Trials in Westchester, NY  
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## Archive of past MDTTC Newsletters

Welcome to the latest 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. 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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### Ongoing Programs

- **Beginning Junior Class.** This is for beginning juniors ages 6-13, with Coach Larry Hodges (with John Hsu and Raghu Nadmichettu assisting), and are held Saturdays 10:30AM-Noon and Sundays 4:30-6:00 PM. 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, Larry Hodges, Wang Qing Liang ("Leon"), Chen Bo Wen ("Bowen"), Chen Jie ("James"), and Zhangliang Bojun ("Brian"). *Note: Coach Brian also gives private lessons in Virginia (limited hours available Mondays – Fridays). Ask for Coach Cheng to make arrangements.* See [Private Coaching page](#).
- **Leagues.** MDTTC runs three different leagues. Take your pick! They are the [Tuesday and Friday Leagues](#) (for all ages and levels), and the [Elite League](#).

### Summer Camps

Start making your summer plans! MDTTC will hold ten consecutive weeks of summer camps, each Mon-Fri, from June 17 to Aug. 23. (Which is good timing - the next MDTTC tournament is Aug. 24-25.) This will be our 22nd consecutive year of MDTTC summer camps. See our [Training Camps](#) page.

### North American Hopes Trials

They were held April 20-21 in Westchester, NY, for the best 12 and under players in North America. Congrats to Crystal Wang, who went undefeated - not even losing a game! - in winning the Girls' Trials. Here's a picture of [Crystal with her parents and trophy](#). She will be going to the ITTF Hopes Week in June at the Werner Schlager Academy in Austria, a training camp with a tournament at the end. Crystal was featured afterwards on NBC 4 News - [here's the video](#) (4:34)! Derek Nie also did pretty well, making it to the semifinals of the Boys' Trials where he lost 11-9 in the fifth after leading 9-7.

### Butterfly / MDTTC April Open

Here are the main results of the MDTTC April 6-7 Open. You can see [complete results here](#).

**Open Singles - Final:** Chen Bo Wen d. John Wetzler, 6,6,6,4; **SF:** Chen d. Bojun Zhangliang, 6,1,8,8; Wetzler d. Richard Doverman, 8,2,2,2; **QF:** Chen d. Raghu Nadmichettu, 8,9,-4,-13,4; Zhangliang d. Nam Nguyen, 6,8,8; Wetzler d. Khurram Aziz, 8,4,9; Doverman d. Khaleel Asgarali, 9,9,13.

**Under 2400:** Raghu Nadmichettu d. Richard Doverman, def.

**Under 2250:** Roy Ke d. Lixin Lang, 6,7,9.

**Under 2050:** Josiah Crow d. Reginald Willis, 7,-7,-5,8,7.

**Under 1900:** Robert Gabay d. Yanghang Tang, 7,14,6.

**Under 1650:** Deapesh Misra d. Igor Lozitskiy, 9,2,9.

**Under 1400:** Tony J. Wang d. Ara Sahakian, 7,-10,5,4.

**Under 1150:** Darwin Ma d. Bowen Zhang, 6,7,10.

**Under 12 (age):** Frank Yingze Xie d. Ryan Dabbs, 8.-9.8.-9,6.

## **2013 Potomac Spring Open**

Congrats to Coach Wang Qing Liang ("Leon") and Nathan Hsu (Maryland's top junior player), the April 20-21 Potomac Open Champion and Runner-up!

### ***Table Tennis Tactics for Thinkers***

Larry Hodges' new book came out in March. You can buy a copy at the club (\$18), or at [Amazon](#) (\$16.16 plus shipping). Larry's around much of the week if you want it autographed. So far there have been 15 reviews on Amazon; thirteen 5-star and two 4-star. The ITTF did a [feature on the book](#).

### **New MDTTC Club Shirts**

Get your MDTTC Club Shirts ([Butterfly Pelluci](#)) for only \$29.99! (Retail @ \$49.99.) To personalize with your name costs \$5.99 extra. Color options: lime green, black, or red. Limited sizes and quantity are available now at the club.

### **Have a Used Table?**

A local school is looking for a used table tennis table. They will pick up. If you have a table to donate, please contact [Wen Hsu](#).

### **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.

### **TIP OF THE MONTH: The Many Ways to Receive a Short Backspin Serve**

By Larry Hodges

I am often left in open-mouthed astonishment when watching matches as players will return short backspin serves the same way, with simple long pushes to the opponent's backhand, over and Over and OVER!!! There is little attempt to vary these returns or do much of anything to mess up the server. And yet they seem surprised that the server is ready for these simple pushes, usually with a big third-ball loop attack. If the opponent serve and pushes, then perhaps pushing the serve back long over and over will work. But that's mostly at the lower levels. If you want to reach the higher levels, you have to do a bit more with the receive.

If the serve is long, it's a bit more simple - just loop the serve, forehand or backhand. If you don't loop, at least play aggressive, since a passive return of a deep serve is easy for the server to attack, since he has more time than off a short serve. (Aggressive usually means a topspin return, i.e. a drive or loop, but it can also be an aggressive push.) The same is true of a short sidespin or topspin serve (which is somewhat rare at the lower levels) - you should flip it.

However, against a short backspin serve, you can't loop, and flips are a little trickier. But you have more options to mess up the server, if you only use them. So what should you do against a short backspin serve? There are three main possibilities, but with countless variations.

1. **Push long.** Do this to the wide backhand or wide forehand, and sometimes at the opponent's middle (the playing elbow) against a two-winged attacker, so he has to decide between forehand and backhand, and move to do so. Push quick, heavy, low, deep, and wide, with disguised placement. If you do some of this well, but some poorly, your push will be poor; it's better to do all six decently. (Here's an [article](#) on this.) Experiment with pushing with sidespin, especially a sidespin that breaks away from the opponent on his wide backhand side. A sudden quick push to an opponent's wide forehand is often a free winner since they get this so rarely.
2. **Push short.** This stops the opponent from looping. But don't just push short; sometimes aim to push short one way, and go the other. Top players finesse their pushes so sometimes they drop them short at the point of the net closest to their contact point, other times at angles to the forehand or backhand. Often the best move is to fake a short push to the opponent's stronger side against short balls, then go the other way.
3. **Flip.** This can be done forehand or backhand. These days more and more players attack short serves with a [backhand banana flip](#), using it even against short serves to the forehand. Focus on consistency and control, and save the flip kills for serves that actually pop up at least slightly, or (at higher levels) where you really read the serve well. Learn to aim one way and go the other way at the last second.

Never forget that your purpose in returning a serve is to mess up your opponent. You don't do this by being predictable with passive returns; you do this with unpredictable and effective returns.