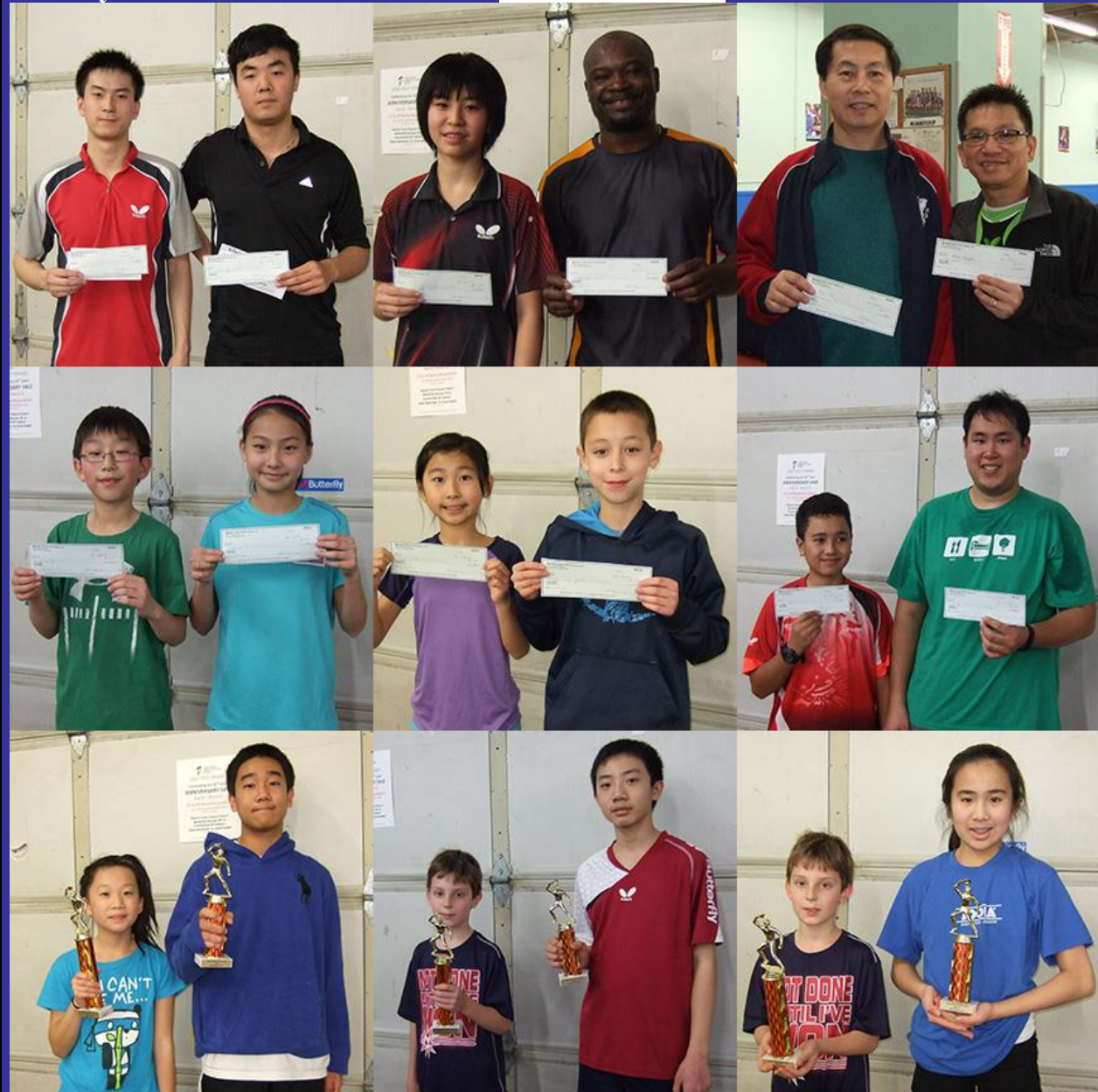


MDTTC News

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MDTTC March Open Finalists!

Top, L-R: Open Champion Wang Qing Liang and Finalist Steve Dong;
Under 2400 Champion Crystal Wang and Finalist Larry Abass;
Under 2250 Champion Lixin Lang and Finalist Nam Nguyen.
Middle, L-R: Under 2050 Champion Jason Lu and Finalist Jie Lu;
Under 1900 Champion Tiffany Ke and Finalist Ryan Dabs;
Under 1650 Champion Luc O'Young and Finalist Richard Heo.
Bottom, L-R: Under 1400 Champion Jessica Lin and Finalist Michael Li;
Under 1150 Champion Daniel Sofer and Finalist Telon Yan;
Under 13 Champion Daniel Sofer and Finalist Callie Xu

Archive of past MDTTC Newsletters

Welcome to the 22nd 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](#). 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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22nd Year Anniversary Sale - Hurry! Ends on March 22

MDTTC has been opened since 1992. To celebrate our 22nd year, we are offering **12% off all Butterfly orders greater than \$150** (except robots) now through March 22. Free delivery of Centrefold 25 or Europa 25 Tables to your home! (\$150+ value)

New Arrivals: New Butterfly Shirts & Return of MDTTC Kiru Team Shirts

Due to popular demand, we are again offering the MDTTC Kiru Team Shirts for only \$20 in limited sizes and quantity. Plus, new styles of Butterfly shirts (@\$39.99 & up) arrive this week at MDTTC. You may personalize these new shirts with your name for only \$5.99 extra. Color options: black, gray, red, blue, sky blue, pink & green. Drop by MDTTC to check out all the new styles available for your selection!

Mini-Camp on March 28

With Montgomery Country Schools closed on March 28, MDTTC will run a mini-camp on that date, 10AM-6PM.

Junior Group Classes

1) Next Ten-Week Classes Begins on March 22 & 23: Saturdays 10:30 AM-Noon or Sundays 4:30-6:00 PM. This is for beginning and intermediate juniors ages 6-14, with Coach Larry Hodges (and John Hsu & Raghu Nadmichettu assisting)

2) Thursday Classes begins on APRIL 3, 6-7PM: registering through Montgomery County Recreation Department. USATT & ITTF Certified coaches: Larry Hodges & John Hsu.

Other Ongoing Programs

- **Adult Beginning/Intermediate Class**, Mondays, 6:30-8:00 PM. The session started Feb. 17, but there was no session on March 3 due to snow, so we've only had two of the ten sessions. You are welcome to join any time with a pro-rated fee. Here's the [info flyer](#).
- **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"), John Hsu, and Raghu Nadmichettu. 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](#). The Friday league is pretty much jammed, so we're hoping to get more in the Tuesday league.

[MDTTC Tournaments](#)

Mark your calendars! We have three more tournaments scheduled at MDTTC for 2014: April 5-6, Aug. 23-24, and Oct. 18-19. Here's a link to the [entry form](#). Special thanks go to Charlene Liu for running these tournaments.

[MDTTC March Open Summary & Results](#)

A total of 79 players from five states competed at the MDTTC Open on March 1-2, run by Charlene Liu, with referee Paul Kovac. Congrats to the winners! Below are the main results; complete results are [online](#), including preliminary matches. See the pictures of the finalists at the top. Interesting note - in five of the nine events, the eventual winner lost the first game in the final.

As usual, chopper/looper Wang Qing Liang ("Leon") started slow in the final, losing the first game to lefty Steve Dong, but also as usual, once he got going he was unbeatable, winning still another MDTTC Open. In the semifinals he faced a challenge from just-turned-12 Crystal Wang as she won the second game, 13-11, but he dominated the rest of the way. (Crystal would go on to win Under 2400 over Larry Abass.) The other semifinals was a wild one. Raghu Nadmichettu won the first two against Steve, and leading 3-2 in games and 9-7 in the sixth before losing in seven in a wild shot-making contest.

The rating events were dominated by junior players. Ten-year-old Jason Lu, rated only 1827, won Under 2050 over 11-year-old Jie Lu. Nine-year-old Tiffany Ke won Under 1900 over 10-year-old Ryan Dabbs, and also caused havoc in other events with her 1668 rating. Ten-year-old Jessica Lin, with a rating of just 1047, won Under 1400 over 13-year-old Michael Li, and decimated the ranks in other events, knocking off a number of higher-rated players, including two over 1500. Ten-year-old Daniel Sofer won Under 1150 over 13-year-old Telon Yan, as well as Under 13 over Callie Xu. Luc O'Young, about ten, won Under 1650, while Nicholas O'Young made the semifinals of Under 13.

But it wasn't all just juniors in the rating events. Lixin Lang, who helped run the tournament, won Under 2250 over Nam Nguyen. And Richard Heo made the final of Under 1650.

[Afterschool Program](#)

Starting in January MDTTC has an afterschool program that 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.. [Here's the brochure](#) with further info, including background on the tutors.

[MDTTC Birthday Parties](#)

Want to have a table tennis birthday party? We've had five the last couple of months. Parties include tables, paddles & balls, a private party room, and one hour of coaching and games led by an MDTTC coach, usually Coach Larry.

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: Winning with Ball Control

By Larry Hodges

If you cannot match up with your opponent with speed or spin, then you need other weapons. One of the best ways to beat faster and more powerful players ("bashers") is with ball control. Just as an all-out attacker uses his serve and receive to set up his attack, a ball control player uses serve and receive to take control of the rally. For him, it's all about ball control, placement, and shot selection. If he's able to use his ball control to make the basher uncomfortable, he's won the battle. So how do you do this?

Start with receive, for it is while serving that bashers dominate, given the chance. But is he really dominating on his own, or are you letting him dominate? For example, if the basher has a strong forehand, and follows his serve with

his forehand over and over, what are you doing to stop this? Few players can really dominate the whole table with the forehand against well-placed shots. Does the basher really do so, or is the receiver keeping the ball well inside the corners, so the basher doesn't have to cover the whole table? Ball control means ball control; the ball control player needs to be able to return the serve anywhere on the table. This means mostly one of two things: either pinning the basher down by relentlessly returning the ball to the extreme wide backhand (even outside the corner if returning crosscourt), or by aiming it there, and last-second returning it to the extreme wide forehand (again, even outside the corner for crosscourt shots). If you can't do this, then you don't have the ball control (yet) to play a ball control game. How can you learn to do so? By practicing it in game after game until you get it down.

Now supposed your opponent attacks off his serve from both wings, so wide-angled returns to the backhand aren't really effective. Now the basher is ready to bash from both wings - or is he? Try quick returns to his elbow (or a little to his backhand if he favors the forehand from the middle), and watch his shots begin to crumble as he makes last-second decisions. Plus, by going to the middle, it draws the basher out of position, giving you an opening to the corners on the next shot.

Now we move on to serving. The basher serves so he can attack, usually trying to end the point as quickly as possible. The ball control player should also mostly serve so he can attack, but in his case he's not trying to end the point quickly. He's looking to attack to make the basher uncomfortable, because the basher isn't comfortable when he's not attacking. So attack first, and force him to either defend or go for difficult counter-attacks. The key again is placement. Go to the side that gives the attacker the most trouble. If he can't block or counterloop consistently on the forehand, then nail him there over and over. Even if he does make the return - even a strong one - it opens him up on the backhand side. Or attack his middle (roughly his elbow), which should be your default opening attack anyway. Or if he's weak on the backhand defense (usually blocking), then go there. Or drive him crazy by going everywhere. Just do each shot with a purpose - to make the basher uncomfortable, and to take him out of position for the next shot.

Once in the rally, the ball control player has a 2-1 advantage over the basher. He wins most of the points when he has the initiative, as does the attacker. But when neither has the initiative, guess who has the advantage? The ball control player, who has successfully taken away the basher's attack, thereby bringing him down a level.