



Tiffany Ke (MDTTC), Sabrina Zhu of Georgia and Lisa Lin (MDTTC)
U-18 Girls Division Champions & Division Four Winners at the North American Teams

Welcome to the 55th 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](#); Publisher Wen Hsu.

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MDTTC HOLIDAY HOURS

Good news! MDTTC will be open almost every day in December, except we will close early on December 24 & 31 at 1 pm and all day on December 25 & January 1, 2017.

MDTTC WINTER BREAK CAMP

The annual Winter Break Camp will be held Dec. 26 - 31. Hours are 3-6 PM on Dec. 26; 10 AM- 1 PM, 3-6 PM on Dec. 27 - 30; and 10 AM – 1 PM on Dec. 31. The training camp is for all levels and ages. Chinese food may be ordered in the morning to be delivered for lunch.

HWGF TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM JUNIORS SUCCESSES AT POTOMAC OPEN

Here are the [main results](#) of the tournament, held Nov. 12-13 at the Potomac TTC.

Highlights & Photos



#1



#2



#3

Photo #1: U1500: Nicole Deng of Virginia (age 10) won 1st; Stanley Hsu of Maryland (age 8) won 2nd.

Photo #2: U1300: Nicole Deng won 1st; Lance Wei of Maryland (age 9) won 2nd.

Photo #3: U1100: Lance Wei won 1st; Kurtus Hsu of Maryland (age 10) won 2nd.

U2000: William Huang, TDP Volunteer Assistant, won 1st place.

NORTH AMERICAN TEAMS RESULTS

Congrats to the many MDTTC players who did well at the North American Teams! Here are [complete results](#) (set top menu to "2016 JOOLA NA Teams") – yes, every match, including the preliminaries, the main groups, and the playoffs. Junior players in the [HW Global Foundation](#) Talent Development Program performed especially well.

Highlights:

- U-18 Girls Champions: MDTTC New Star (Tiffany Ke, Lisa Lin, Sabrina Zhu of Georgia)
- Division 4 Winners: MDTTC New Star (Tiffany Ke, Lisa Lin, Sabrina Zhu of Georgia)
- Division 10 Winners: MDTTC/HWGF1 (Stanley Hsu, Hanfei Hu, Ryan Lee) defeated MDTTC/HWGF2 (Jackson Beaver, Mu Du, Andy Wu) 5-2 in the Finals.
- Division 1: JOOLA/HWGF (MDTTC players Wang Qingliang, Nathan Hsu, and Jeffrey Zeng, with Joerg Roskopf of Germany and Rajko Gommers of Netherlands) made the quarterfinals.

Here are two **Photo Galleries** from the Teams, mostly of the MDTTC/HWGF kids and coaches.

[Gallery by Ping Du](#) (45 pictures)

[Gallery by Steve Hsu](#) (8 pictures)

MDTTC JUNIOR PROGRAMS

Table tennis is not only a fun and safe way to exercise, but it also helps kids develop quickness, agility & balance and improve their hand-and-eye coordination, concentration, mental strength and much more!

- [Beginning- Advanced Beginners Group Classes](#) (age 6 - 14). The Winter Session starts on Jan. 8, 2017 on Sundays 4:00-5:30 for ten weeks. Players are grouped by skill levels and age, from novices, beginners to advanced beginners. Instructors/Coaches: Larry Hodges, John Hsu and others assisting.
- [Thursday Beginners Group Classes](#) (age 6 - 14). [Register Online](#) with the Montgomery Country Recreation Dept. for the Winter Session from January 19 to March 23, 2017. Time: 6 – 7 PM. Players are grouped by skill levels and age, from novices, beginners to advanced beginners. Instructors/Coaches: Larry Hodges, John Hsu and others assisting.
- [Tuesday Junior Level 2 Group Classes](#) (age 8 -15). The Winter Session starts on Jan. 10, 2017 on Tuesdays 6 - 7 pm. This program is for players who have taken at least one year of beginning group or private classes. In addition to improving the basics, players will learn how to serve and receive more effectively and how to win games. Small class size, instructed by John Hsu, USATT/ITTF certified coach.
- **Junior Boys Training** with Coach Cheng Yinghua, for serious boys rated over 1700, or with coaches' recommendation. The training is on Fridays from 5 – 7 pm and/or Saturdays from 4:30-6:30 pm. For more info, contact Cheng at MDTTC, 301-519-8580.
- **Junior Girls Training** with Coach Jack Huang, for girls rated over 1800, with coaches' recommendation. Fridays 5-7PM. Contact Coach Jack directly at MDTTC, 301-519-8580.
- **Private coaching.** Advanced reservation required. Please call Head Coach Jack Huang at 240-506-9592.

MDTTC ADULT PROGRAMS

- [Tuesday and/or Friday Lunch Group Training](#) (1:00-2:00 pm) for all levels. Improve your table tennis skills while getting great physical and mental exercises. Every player will get one-on-one playing time with Coach Jeffrey Zeng (2550+ rating).
- [Sunday Adult Training](#) from 6:30-8:00PM. No pre-registration is required, but if you have any questions, [email](#) Coach Larry. *Be prepared to improve!!!* (NOTE – Larry will be away most of December, so next session will be on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017.)
- **Private coaching.** Advanced reservation required. Please call Head Coach Jack Huang at 240-506-9592.

MDTTC LEAGUES

- [Tuesday and Friday Night Leagues.](#) For all ages and levels. Players will be grouped by ability. Please arrive prior to 7:25 pm to sign up. If you know you'll be a few minutes late, please call the club at 301-519-8580 BEFORE 7:20 pm, otherwise YOU MAY BE TURNED AWAY!
- [Wednesday Night Adult Recreational League.](#) If you are looking to play more table tennis, but have no one to play with? This league is for you! On Wednesday nights, recreational players get together to practice and play games informally. This league is self-run by players. Match play is from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, but do feel free to come early to the club to warm up.
- [Sunday Elite League.](#) This is primarily for players over 2100, and is on Sundays at 12:30PM. Players below 2100 may play, but pay an additional \$5 entry fee.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES & RENTAL SPACE FOR CORPORATE AND PRIVATE EVENTS

MDTTC offers birthday parties ran by our popular Coach Larry. We also regularly host community events and

team-building activities for local businesses. Space rental for special corporate and private events are available. 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: Follow the Elbow

By Larry Hodges

Many players are aware that one of the best places to attack is an opponent's middle, i.e. his playing elbow, roughly the mid-point between forehand and backhand. There are multiple reasons for this, as noted in the previous Tip, [Attacking the Middle](#). Many make the mistake of looking for a chance to attack the middle instead of just attacking it, period. Why wait?

However, often a player is told to attack the opponent's middle to set up shots to the corners. This is a highly effective tactic, but unless you do it regularly, it's actually difficult to do correctly. The problem is that after attacking the middle, one of the corners usually opens up – but then you have to almost instantly judge which one that is. If you get it wrong, the opponent often gets an easy shot. Top players are so used to attacking the middle and then going to the corner that opens up that it's instinct – they find it so easily they don't even realize how difficult this is for others.

How do you judge which sides opens up? In covering the middle, the opponent has to move sideways to play a forehand or backhand from the middle. That leaves one side open. After the shot, they are usually either slow in returning into position, thereby leaving that side open, or almost as often move too quickly, often still moving as you hit your next shot, and so leave the other side open. You just have to see and react to which side is open.

But there's a simpler tactic which anyone can do which is just about as effective and is easier to do – and that's to simply keep going after the middle, i.e. "Follow the Elbow." This is an especially good tactic in fast exchanges, especially backhand ones. All you do is keep punching or looping the ball right at the opponent's elbow, no matter where they are. If they start edging over to cover it, you follow the target and keep going after it. The tactic isn't too effective against super-fast forehand players, but most players are two-winged in fast rallies. Even if they know you are going to go to their middle again, they can't really position themselves for it – all that does is move their elbow, and you simply go for it again.

Against such an onslaught to their elbow, many players will just wilt, unable to rally effectively. Have no mercy – keep going at their elbow until they either miss or give you an easy put-away – and then you can go anywhere.