



Coach Cheng Yinghua and MDTTC – Featured in [Washington Post](#)

Welcome to the 56th issue of the MDTTC News! Happy 2017! We are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year, with more coaches and better programs to help table tennis players of all ages & all levels! As usual a special thanks to MDTTC sponsors [Butterfly](#), [HW Global Foundation](#), and [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](#); Publisher Wen Hsu.

CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE:

- MDTTC Celebrating 25th Anniversary: "Refer a Friend" Reward Program
- Registration for Junior Classes - Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday Group Sessions Starting on Jan. 8
- New Saturday Junior League - Starting Jan. 21
- 2017 MDTTC Tournaments- Bigger & Better: Upcoming Feb 18-19
- Sunday Adult Training - resuming Jan. 8
- Private Coaching - more coaches available
- Washington Post Feature - Coach Cheng & MDTTC
- North American Teams – Junior Champions!
- 2016 U.S. Open
- Birthday Parties and Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events
- MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages
- Tip of the Month: Maximize Coverage For Your Stronger Side

MDTTC Celebrating 25th Anniversary with "Refer a Friend" Reward Program

The first 25 current members who refer a friend to join our annual membership in 2017 will receive a \$25 MDTTC Gift Certificate. New regular annual members receive free gifts from MDTTC. Please join us!

Register Now for Junior Group Classes: New sessions begin soon!

For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#).

- **Sunday Junior Group Training for Novices, Beginners & Advanced Beginners (ages 6 - 14).** The next sessions start on **Jan. 8, 2017 from 4:00-5:30 PM** for ten weeks, with Coach Larry, with John Hsu and others assisting. (If you join in mid-season, your fee will be pro-rated.)
- **Tuesday Advanced Beginners 2 Junior Group Training (ages 8 - 15).** The next sessions start on **Jan. 10, 2017 from 6 - 7 PM** for ten weeks, This is for players who already have some table tennis training and want to improve their skills. Small class size for individualized instruction with USATT/ITTF certified Coach John Hsu. (If you join in mid-season, your fee will be pro-rated.)
- **Thursday Group Training.** The next sessions start on **Jan. 19 from 6-7 PM** for ten weeks. These are for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 6-14, with Coach Larry (with John Hsu and others assisting). [To register, click here](#). (If you join in mid-season, your fee will be pro-rated.)
- **Intermediate & Advanced Junior Training** with Coach Jack Huang or Cheng; coach's permission required. The training is on Fridays from 5 - 7 PM or Saturdays from 4:30-6:30 PM. For more info, contact Jack or Cheng directly at MDTTC, [301-519-8580](tel:301-519-8580).

New Saturday Junior League (Coach directed & coach's permission is required)

This coach directed league runs from January 21 - June 17, 2017. Time: 6:30-8:30 PM. [Click here for the full League schedule & fee details](#). Head Coach is [U.S. National Team Coach Qingliang Wang](#), assisted by other MDTTC coaches. This league is intended for junior players committing 100% effort to improve their table tennis game. This league program includes warm up, match play, game analysis & physical training.

Other MDTTC Leagues

- [Tuesday and Friday Night Leagues](#). All ages and levels. 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](tel:301-519-8580) BEFORE 7:20 PM, otherwise YOU WILL BE TURNED AWAY
- [Wednesday Night Adult Recreational League](#). Adults only, self-run by players. Play is from 7:15 - 9:00 PM.
- [Sunday Elite League](#). This is primarily for players with USATT ratings over 1900. Please arrive prior to 12:30 PM.

2017 MDTTC Tournaments – Bigger and Better!

Our [2017 tournaments](#) have expanded! The regular tournaments are now 3-star events, and have been expanded to two days, with three more events, and the prize more than doubled to \$2670. There will be five tournaments held at MDTTC in 2017 – four regular ones and the Maryland State Championships. All these tournaments will be underwritten or sponsored by HW Global Foundation.

- **Feb. 18-19 – \$2670 Butterfly February Open**
- **Apr. 8-9 – \$2670 Butterfly April Open**
- **June 10-11 – \$5000 Maryland State Championships**
- **Aug. 26-27 – \$2670 Butterfly August Open**
- **Oct. 14-15 – \$2670 Butterfly October Open**

MDTTC Adult Programs

- [Sunday Adult Training](#) resumes. Please note **NEW class time: 7:00- 8:30 PM**. No pre-registration is required, but if you have any questions, [email](#) Coach Larry. *Be prepared to improve!!!*
- [Tuesday and/or Friday Lunch Group Training](#) 1:00 - 2:00 PM for all levels. **SORRY, NO CLASSES from JAN 16 - Feb 28. This Group Training resumes in March 2017.** 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).

MDTTC Private Coaching by Coaches Jack Huang, Cheng Yinghua, Larry Hodges, Jeffrey Zeng, Ruichao Alex Chen, Wang Qingliang, Bowen Chen, and John Hsu. See [Private Coaching page](#).

WASHINGTON POST FEATURE: COACH CHENG AND MDTTC

Here's their recent article, [The calming presence pushing table tennis out of the basement and into the spotlight](#). The story features Coach Cheng Yinghua. (See picture at top.)

North American Teams – Junior Champions!

In the last issue we congratulated MDTTC teams that did well at the North American Teams. One was left out: Under 18 Boys MDTTC (Derek Nie, Roy Ke, Klaus Wood, Xie Tianming of Texas) was the highest finishing Junior Boys' Team.

2016 U.S. OPEN

The Open was held in Las Vegas, Dec. 12-17. Here are [complete results](#). (Make sure to set dropdown menu to "2016 US Open.") We had a relatively small contingent this year, with few of our junior players going (due to finals and there being no youth team trials). Here are Marylanders who did well:

- **Chen Bo Wen:** Under 2600 Runner-up (defaulted due to injury).
- **Ryan Lee:** Under 9 Boys' Singles Quarterfinalist
- **Larry Hodges:** Hardbat Doubles Runner-up (with A.J. Carney), Over 40 Hardbat Singles Semifinalist.
- **Dave Sakai:** Over 50 and Over 60 Men's Doubles Champion (with Dan Seemiller), Over 65 Men's Doubles Champion (with Dell Sweeris), Over 40 Doubles Runner-Up (with Dell Sweeris).
- **Donna Sakai:** Over 65 Women's Doubles Runner-up (with Connie Sweeris).
- **Charlene Liu:** Over 60 Women's Singles Champion, Over 50 Women's Singles Runner-up, Over 60 Women's Doubles Champion (with Patty Wasserman), Over 60 Mixed Doubles Champion (with Changping Duan)
- **Changping Duan:** Over 60 Mixed Doubles Champion (with Charlene Liu)

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: Maximize Coverage For Your Stronger Side

By Larry Hodges

Whether you are stronger on the forehand or backhand, you should maximize coverage with your stronger side. Ideally, you'll be equally strong on both sides, but that is rare. At the very least, most players are stronger on one side in some situations - for example, better on the backhand in fast rallies, better on the forehand when attacking against slower shots.

And yet many players do not maximize the coverage of their stronger side. Analyze your game, and decide which side is your stronger side in any given situation. For example, many top players receive short serves better with their backhand, usually with a banana flip. So when they see a short serve coming, they often step over and receive with their backhands, even from the forehand corner. Others may have very strong rallying backhands, and so might cover over half the table with their backhands. Or (more commonly at the higher levels) they might be stronger on the forehand, and so cover more of the table with that.

So start training to use your stronger side to cover more of the table in given situations - because using a stronger shot to cover more of the table makes you a stronger player!