



Defending 2016 Maryland State Champions!

Above, L-R - Men's Singles: You Lyu (3rd), Wang Qing Liang (2nd), Jeffrey Zeng Xun (1st), and Referee Paul Kovac.

Below, L-R - Women's Singles: Tiffany Ke (1st), Lisa Lin (2nd), and Jessica Lin (3rd).



Archive of Past MDTTC Newsletters

Welcome to the 61st 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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\$4500 Maryland State Championships - Anyone may enter rating events!

The [Maryland State Championships](#) are coming up! They are June 10-11 at MDTTC. The deadline to enter is 7PM on Thursday, June 8. There are 24 events to choose from!

Note that while you must be a resident of Maryland to compete in championship events (i.e. non-rating events), **anyone may enter rating events.** (Non-rated players may not enter rated doubles or advance from the preliminaries of a rating singles event.) **Military Personnel assigned to Maryland and full-time Maryland students are immediately eligible.**

Great thanks goes to sponsors [HW Global Foundation](#), [Newgy Robo-Pong](#), and Asian Pacific! (We will be using AP balls, which are seamless and play like Xushaofa balls – you can buy them at the MDTTC Pro Shop.)

Summer Camps (June 19 – September 1, except for July 3-7)

[MDTTC Summer Camps](#) start June 19! They continue all summer, Mon-Fri each week (except for July 3-7, when the coaches and many players will be at the USA Nationals in Las Vegas). The daily schedule each day is, 10AM-6PM, with a 1-3PM lunch break in the middle. The camps are for all ages and levels, though they are dominated by kids.

USATT and SuperMicro Announce First Pong4Kids Grant Recipients

[Here's the article.](#) One of the recipients is HW Global Foundation, which sponsors the Talent Development Program at MDTTC. Here's an excerpt:

Founded in 2014, the Germantown (MD) based HW Global Foundation's Talent Development Program is designed to help kids develop physically, mentally and emotionally to their fullest potential. Through table tennis training and competition, these children learn to master their table tennis skills, focusing on problem solving, perseverance, hard work, and sportsmanship. The program emphasizes the importance of the process; positive performances follow.

“The Pong4Kids grant will allow us to support and serve more and more kids as we continue to grow the positive work of the foundation through table tennis,” said founder Wen Hsu. “Having been involved in competitive table tennis for a long time – and as the mother of an elite level player – I have seen firsthand the tremendous impact the sport can have physically, socially, and mentally. I am so thankful to Supermicro, Stephanie, and USATT for providing these opportunities to our kids.”

America's Teams and Westchester 4-Star Open Results

Several MDTTC players traveled to Illinois and New York for these tournaments and did well.

America's Teams:

HW Global Foundation finished second in the Championships Division (MDTTC players Nathan Hsu, Chen Ruichao, and Wang Qingliang). They were seeded third, but in the match against the #2 team, they won 5-4. Nathan Hsu played the ninth match, and was down 2-5 in the fifth against Dan Seemiller before coming back to win 11-8.

Sweet n' Spicy won Division 4 (MDTTC player Jessica Lin was a member of the team).

Westchester Open:

Roy Ke, Under 2500 Champion

Tiffany Ke, Under 2500 Semifinalist

Kurtus Hsu, Under 1300 Champion and Under 1150 Finalist

Stanley Hsu, 12 & Under Champion and Under 1750 Semifinalist

Ryan Lee, Under 1750 Quarterfinalist

Capital Area League: Fall 2017 Season Finale June 17 at MDTTC

The [Capital Area Table Tennis League](#) has had four meetings so far this season, with one more to go on June 17 at MDTTC. Check out the results, and don't forget to enter the Fall season!

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 BEFORE 7:20 pm, otherwise YOU WILL BE TURNED AWAY
- [Wednesday Night Recreational League](#). Play is from 7:30-9:00PM.
- [Sunday Elite League](#). This is primarily for players 1900+, Sundays at 12:30PM.

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 7:00-8:30PM. No pre-registration is required, but if you have any questions, [email](#) Coach Larry. Complete beginners should take several private coaching sessions first so they can hit basic forehands, backhands, and push. *Be prepared to improve!!!*

MDTTC Junior Programs will resume in September!

Sign up your kids for [MDTTC Summer Camps](#) while MDTTC Junior Programs are taking a break for the summer.

MDTTC Private Coaching

Please check out the [Private Coaching page](#) for each coach's bio. Please call Jack Huang and Cheng Yinghua to schedule in advance your private lessons in the summer month. Additional coaches include: Larry Hodges, Jeffrey Zeng, Wang Qingliang, Bowen Chen, and John Hsu.

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: Advantage of Passive Receives

By Larry Hodges

Most coaches stress the importance of playing aggressive. This is especially true when you are serving, where you should generally follow up your serve with an attack unless the receiver does something to stop it. But many coaches also stress the importance of being aggressive on receive, and many players adopt this, and so are constantly attacking the serve. Against long serves, you should almost always be aggressive, but many are just as aggressive against short serves.

There are many advantages to this. By attacking the serve, the receiver takes control of the point, and the more he does this, the better he gets at it. There is, of course, the downside that if you are aggressive when receiving, you'll make more mistakes. But that's part of attacking, and is often offset by the points won by attacking the serve.

But there are also problems that arise with players who habitually attack the serve, especially short serves. Many players make it central to their game to flip nearly every serve, whether forehand or backhand. The first problem that comes out of this is that this type of player is predictable. An aggressive flip of a short serve is more effective when it is unexpected. When the receiver does this over and over, the server can adopt a serving plan specifically for that – focusing on serving very low, with great spin and/or spin variation. They can also position themselves after the serve for the predictable flip coming. Between the missed flips and the server being able to anticipate and prepare for the predictable flip, a smart server will have the advantage here against players his own level. This alone is reason enough for a smart receiver, even an aggressive one, to vary his receive.

But there's a more hidden long-term problem with being overly aggressive against short serves. Players who habitually push short serves back long, giving the server the attack, learn to handle those attacks. Their games become much more flexible as they are comfortable both attacking and reacting to an opponent's attack. (Note I didn't say defending – some handle the opponent's attack by counter-attacking, usually with aggressive blocking or counterlooping.) Players who attack most short serves often do not always develop this flexibility, and are only comfortable on the attack. This especially happens as a player improves and plays better players, who can counter-attack more effectively against these flipped receives – and so the attacking receiver, who might be used to dominating rallies with their flips, suddenly find themselves dealing with counter-attacks they aren't used to or able to handle, and so have great difficulty in learning to deal with it – which wouldn't have been a problem if they'd developed a more rounded receive from the start, with both aggressive and non-aggressive receives.

So it's important to develop the skill of pushing short serves back long and handling opponent's attack as at least one aspect of your receive game. Key to this, of course, is pushing long effectively – something you can only learn to do by doing it, just as you can only learn to flip a short serve or push it short by doing it. Practice all three – pushing long or short, and flipping – and you'll have a much better receiving game and more developed game overall. Sometimes the best way of doing this is to have stages where you focus on one of these three receives until you are comfortable with it, and then focus on another – and eventually use all three interchangeably, depending on the opponent.