



HW Global Foundation's Talent Development Program  
End-of-semester Tournament & Celebration at MDTTC on Sunday, Jan..28, 2018  
Special Guest Coach: Olympic Gold Medalist Chen Longchen

## Archive of Past MDTTC Newsletters

Welcome to the 69<sup>th</sup> 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](#) 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.

## **CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Butterfly MDTTC February Open: Feb. 10-11
- Table Tennis Clinics: Coming Up on Feb 7 with Coach Alex (Rating 2650+)
- "No School Day" Camp: Feb. 19
- Spring Break Camp: March 26 -31
- World Veterans and USA Nationals
- USA Team Selection Procedures
- Capital Area League - Final Results
- MDTTC Leagues
- MDTTC Junior Programs
- MDTTC Adult Program
- Private Coaching
- Birthday Parties and Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events
- MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages
- Tip of the Month: Playing the Crafty Veteran
- Bonus Tip of the Month: Best Way to Learn – Watch, Mimic, Practice

## **BUTTERFLY MDTTC FEBRUARY OPEN: FEB 10 - 11**

[Our next tournament is Feb. 10-11](#) – the \$2700, 3-star February Open! Events include Open, U2400, U2200, U2000, U1900, U1600, U1300, U1000, Over 50, Under 15, and Under 12. All events start with round robin, with the top two players advancing to single elimination. Hope to see you there!

## **TABLE TENNIS CLINICS: FEB. 7<sup>TH</sup> WITH COACH ALEX (RATING 2650+)**

On FIRST and THIRD Wednesdays of each month, 7 – 8 PM, table tennis clinics will be held at MDTTC to focus on specific areas of your game. Number of spots is limited to allow for individualized instructions. Participants must have previous table tennis training. Please [email MDTTC](#) to reserve a spot. \$15 each session, members; \$20 each session, non-members

- February 7 & April 4: Forehand and footwork
- February 21 & April 18: Backhand and blocking
- March 7 & May 2: Serve and Return of Serve
- March 21 & May 16 Short game and footwork

## **MDTTC “NO SCHOOL DAY” MINI-CAMPS: FEB. 19**

MDTTC will have a [one-day mini-camp](#) on President's Day, Feb. 19. Full or half day options. Early Drop Offs at 8:30 am

## **MDTTC SPRING BREAK CAMP: MARCH 26-31**

The [MDTTC Spring Break Camp](#) will be March 26-30, when local schools are closed. There will also be a one-day camp the following Monday, April 2, as schools are also closed that day (Easter Monday).

## **2018 USA TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES**

Here are the various [USATT Selection Procedures](#) for the various USA Teams, including Men's, Women's, and Junior, Cadet, and Mini-Cadet for boys and girls. There is also the [ITTF Hopes Program](#), with regional camps and tournaments around the U.S. - MDTTC will be holding one April 27-29...More on that next issue.

## **WORLD VETERANS AND USA NATIONALS**

The [World Veterans Championships](#) will be held in Las Vegas, June 18-24. Then, after a week's break, the [USA Nationals](#) will also be held there, July 1-7. (USATT wanted to run them back to back, with one day in between, but the World Veterans has a contract that doesn't allow any other tournament in the region one before or afterwards.)

The World Veterans is for anyone over age 40. There are currently [3600 entries](#), with the entry deadline March 1 or 5000 entries, whichever comes first. Here's Coach Larry's article on it, [Istvan Jonyer and Others at the 2018 World Veterans Championships in Las Vegas](#). Coach Cheng Yinghua will be one of the favorites in the 60-64 age group, in both singles and doubles (with Dan Seemiller).

The USA Nationals is for any USA citizen. The entry form will likely come out in February. We're hoping to have a big contingent from MDTTC!!!

## **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
- [Sunday Elite League](#). This is primarily for players over 2000, and is on Sundays at 1:00PM.

- [Saturday Junior League](#). For ages 6-18, from 6:30-8:30PM, about twice a month. Run by Coach Wang Qingliang, it includes warm-up, match play, game analysis, and physical training (time permitting). Players must be pre-approved by Coach Wang. Upcoming sessions are February 17 & 24, March 3 & 10, April 7 & 21, May 5 & 19

#### MDTTC JUNIOR PROGRAMS

- **Sunday Beginning/Intermediate Junior Class**. The current session began Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018 (Sundays 4:00-5:30, ten weeks), but you can join in mid-session, with a pro-rated fee. This is for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 6-14, with Coach Larry, with John Hsu, and others assisting, depending on number of players. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#).
- **Tuesday Beginning Level 2 Class for ages 8-15**, 6-7PM. This is intended for kids 8-15 who enjoy playing table tennis and want to improve their game. Players must know the basics in table tennis and/or have taken table tennis lessons previously. The class is kept small for individualized instruction. Sessions are Tuesdays from 6-7PM with Coach John Hsu. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#).
- **NEW! Wednesday Beginning Level 3 Class for ages 9 -18**, 6-7 PM starting April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Thursday Beginning Junior Class**. The Winter Session is FULL. Next session begins on April 12 (Thursdays 6:30-7:30, nine weeks). This is mostly for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 7-13, with Coaches Larry Hodges and John Hsu. Please register [ONLINE](#) via Montgomery County Recreation Department.

#### MDTTC ADULT PROGRAMS

[Sunday Adult Training](#), 7:00-8:30PM. **Please note: No sessions on Feb. 4 - Superbowl - and Feb. 11 - MDTTC tournament.** 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!!!*

[Tuesday and/or Friday Lunch Group Training](#) (1:00-2:00 pm) for all levels. **Please note: NO CLASSES from February 13 – March 27** while the instructor is on vacation in China. This class resumes on Friday, March 30th.

**PRIVATE COACHING** by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Larry Hodges, Wang Qingliang, Bowen Chen, Martin Jezo, and John Hsu. See [Private Coaching page](#).

#### 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: Playing the Crafty Veteran

By Larry Hodges

Suppose you have your opponent outgunned - you simply are the better player, shot for shot. And yet, somehow he's rated about the same as you. How is this possible and how do you beat him?

Most likely he's a lot more experienced than you are, and almost by definition, he knows exactly what he does to play at your level, even with a weaker game. But that takes experience. So how to you beat the Crafty Veteran? Here are five tips.

1. Don't let the Crafty Veteran do what he wants to do. Figure out what it is as early as possible, then do whatever you can to make sure he can't do it. If he likes to give you loaded pushes, perhaps serve topspin. (Or learn to spin those heavy pushes consistently.) If he likes to give you slow, spinny forehand loops, put the ball to his wide backhand. (Or learn how to counter-attack them.) If he wants to block you out of position, stay in position.
2. Take your time and pick your shots. If you play too aggressively or try to force your shots, the Crafty Veteran will know when you are going to attack and will be able to choose what shots you get to attack. Instead, attack softer than usual until you have an easy put-away, and focusing on consistency and placement, since his goal is to make you inconsistent.
3. Be flexible with your tactics. If you start winning, the Crafty Veteran will likely change tactics, and you have to as well.
4. Stay focused. If you outplay the Crafty Veteran most of the time, but have one bad streak now and then, that's all he needs to win. If you win 60% of the points, but lose focus one time and lose three in a row, instead of leading 9-6, it's 9-all.
5. Dominate with your game. If you have the better game, and follow the tips above, then you should be able to tactically force your game on the Crafty Veteran. Ultimately, this is the most important part, but you have to do the items above in order to do this. If you truly have the better game, you have winning tactical options, so figure them out.

Finally, if you do lose to a Crafty Veteran, don't get angry; get even. You may have the better game, and yet somehow he won. Give him credit for finding a way to win, but *make sure you know how he won*, and make sure it doesn't happen again.

### **BONUS TIP OF THE MONTH: Best Way to Learn – Watch, Mimic, Practice**

By Larry Hodges

Often the best way to learn table tennis is to watch a top player and mimic what you see. Pick out someone whose game or strokes you like (or ask a coach to suggest someone to watch), and just watch how they do their shots. Then copy them by shadow-practicing (practicing your stroke without the ball) until you can the shot as well as that player . . . at least without the ball. Then find a coach or practice partner and practice the shot until you *CAN* do it as well as the player you were copying.

Feel free to ask the player if you have any questions on how he does it. Most players are glad to help out – and since many top players spend many hours every day thinking about their game, they may be just dying to talk about it! You should also have a coach see how you are doing to really hone the technique.

Try watching a top player just before you play a match. You'll be amazed at how much better you can do the shot in a game if you first watch someone else doing it really well. In table tennis, it's often monkey see, monkey do!