



2018 Maryland State Champions

Men's & Women's Singles and Open Doubles Finalists

Men's Singles: Jeffrey Zeng (4th); Wang Qingliang (2nd); Lidney Castro (1st); Martin Jezo (3rd).

Open Doubles: Jeffrey Zeng/Wang Qingliang (2nd); Lidney Castro/Martin Jezo (1st)

Women's Singles: Iva Laginja (1st), Caroline Kajihara (2nd), Si Cheong (3rd)



**Sincere thanks to ALL of you who helped HW Global Foundation
reached its fundraising goal and raised \$15,500 for its Youth Table Tennis program!!**

Welcome to the 73rd 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.

NOTE - due to travel during June and July, this is a joint June/July issue.

CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE:

- MDTTC Summer Camps: Starting June 18 – August 31 (except July 2-6)

- MDTTC Adult Program continuing during the summer
- Maryland State Championships
- Americas Team Championships
- Serve and Receive Tactics Seminar: Raised \$400 for HW Global Foundation Youth TT
- USATT Hall of Fame Banquet
- World Veterans and USA Nationals
- MDTTC Leagues
- Private Coaching: Schedule Appointments Today
- Birthday Parties and Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events
- MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages
- USA Team Selection Procedures
- Tip of the Month: The Balance Between Tactical and Strategic Thinking
- Bonus Tip of the Month: Serve and Attack . . . Almost Always

MDTTC SUMMER CAMPS

The [MDTTC Summer Camps](#) start June 18 and continue all summer, Mon-Fri, through Aug. 31. Except No Summer Camp July 2-6, during the USA Nationals. Full Day or Half Day (morning or afternoon sessions) option Available. These camps are primarily for kids of all levels, but adults are welcome as well.

MDTTC ADULT PROGRAM

[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).

MARYLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

[Here is the write-up, results, and photos.](#) They were held at MDTTC June 2-3. Make sure to click on the event names to see pictures of the finalists! Here was the [Point of the Tournament](#) (55 sec), from the Men's Singles final between Lidney Castro and Wang Qingliang, care of [PongMobile](#) - the foremost way to view ratings!

AMERICAS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two teams made up of MDTTC players did well at the tournament, held May 26-27 in Rockford, IL. JOOLA A (Martin Jezo, Lidney Castro, Wang Qingliang) came in second, while JOOLA B (Richard Lee, Vikash Sahu, Caroline Kajihara, Ryan Lee) finished seventh. Here's the [home page](#) for the event, and here are the [results](#).

SERVE & RECEIVE TACTICS CLINIC

23 players took part in the Serve & Receive Tactics Clinic held at MDTTC on May 31, run by Coach Larry. [Here's his blog](#) about it, and [here's the group picture](#). (Alas a few had already left and missed the picture.) Larry will be [running another one](#) at the USA Nationals. \$400 was raised to benefit HW Global Foundation Talent Development Program. Thank you, Larry!!!

USATT HALL OF FAME BANQUET

If you are going to the [USA Nationals](#), July 2-7 in Las Vegas, you don't want to miss the [USATT Hall of Fame Banquet](#), Thursday night, July 5, 6:00-9:30PM. Tickets are \$55, and are almost sold out - they have a limit of 90, and as of this writing only about 15 are left. (No tickets will be on sale at the Nationals - they'll be sold out by then.) MDTTC's Larry Hodges is getting the annual [USATT Lifetime Achievement Award](#). (Larry makes this offer to MDTTC people going: he'll pay \$30 of your \$55 ticket fee. If interested, [email him](#).) They will also be inducting [new members](#) into the [USATT Hall of Fame](#). (MDTTC's Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, and Larry are members.) At the banquet you'll get to mingle with many of the greats from our sport, such as

Dan Seemiller, Sean O'Neill, Insook Bhushan, Diana & Lisa Gee, Dell & Connie Sweeris, Dave & Donna Sakai, and many more.

WORLD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND USA NATIONALS

They will be held almost back-to-back in Las Vegas, June 18-24 and then July 2-7. Lots of MDTTC and other local players will be going. Why not follow their results online?

- The [World Veterans](#) has over 4000 players all over the world. Here's the [player listing](#).
- The [USA Nationals](#) over 640 USA players. Here's the [player listing](#).

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
- [Saturday Elite League](#). This is primarily for players over 2000, Saturdays at 1PM, but sign up by 12:45PM. Due to various special events on Saturdays, please call the club in advance.

MDTTC JUNIOR PROGRAMS

All the novices, beginners & intermediate group sessions restart in the fall - but there are camps at MDTTC all summer! See segment above.

MDTTC PRIVATE COACHING

by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Larry Hodges, Jeffrey Xun Zeng, Wang Qingliang, Chen Bowen, 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](#).

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 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: The Balance Between Tactical and Strategic Thinking

By Larry Hodges

You should both tactically and strategically develop your game. What does this mean?

First, let's define these terms. Tactical thinking is what you do when you are looking to win now. Strategic thinking is what you do when you are looking to develop in the long run. You need both.

Let's assume you have a big weakness in your game - say, a weak blocking game. You could tactically find ways to hide this weakness, which is something you should do when needed in an important match. But the great majority of matches are practice matches where you should be developing your game. So instead, you should tactically realize you have a big weakness in your

game, your blocking, and strategically play and practice to develop this weakness into a strength. But it starts with tactically understanding what parts of your game need strategic developing - both weakness and strengths, where the goal of the latter is to make them overpowering strengths by making them stronger and by developing more ways to get it into play.

But if you always are playing strategically, you never develop the tactical skills to win a given match. The result is you might have a better game than an opponent, but you lose because the other player is better tactically. What this means is that if you only think strategically, your tactical skills will suffer.

So you must find a balance. Decide in advance which matches you will focus on the strategic, and which ones on the tactical. Or sometimes play strategically until it's close, and then try to win tactically. Or the reverse, which many players neglect to do - when it's close in a practice match, if you always play tactically, you won't developed the deep-rooted confidence in the shots you are trying to develop, so sometimes try to win with those shots, even if it means occasionally - or often, at first - losing a match that you might have won.

BONUS TIP OF THE MONTH: Serve and Attack . . . Almost Always

By Larry Hodges

When serving, don't *look* for a ball to attack. Unless the receiver does something to stop you from attacking, serve and attack over and over. If you aren't confident in your attack, then this will make your attack much stronger and turn you into a better player.

There are tactical exceptions to this, but they are relatively few. Defensive players such as choppers and blockers might serve and only attack if they see a relatively easy attack, but even they should look to serve and attack every chance so as to *develop* their attacks. Against a receiver with a weak attack you might tactically wait for a better shot rather than force the attack off your serve against a relatively good return - but even there it's good practice to serve and attack so you keep getting better at it. Sometimes it's good tactics to catch your opponent off guard by not attacking, such as a sudden drop shot or quick push against a player expecting you to attack and not ready to attack themselves. But generally, and perhaps even relentlessly, you'll find more success if you serve and attack whenever the receiver doesn't do something to stop you from attacking.

None of this means you have to serve and rip a winner every time. You only do that if you do get a relatively weak return. Attacks should be varied - forehand or backhand; hard, medium, or soft; usually deep, but when attacking more softly vary the depth; to the opponent's middle (elbow) or wide corners, or even outside the corners; and with varying amounts of topspin and sometimes sidespin. Never serve and blindly attack; attack, but attack with purpose!