

MDTTC News



MDTTC Players at Junior Olympics in Detroit, L-R: Leon Bi, Nathan Hsu, Chen Bown, Adam Yao, Tournament Director John Miller, Kaylee Zhou, Jessica Lin, Amy Lu, Helen Yao, Coach John Hsu. Missing: Lilly Lin, Lisa Lin, Sameer Shaikh, Jason Wei.

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Archive of past [MDTTC Newsletters](#)

Welcome to the latest 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 [James Wu/Llewellyn realtor](#). Make sure to read mydaily 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](#)

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Summer Camps - Ends August 23

Only 3 weeks of MDTTC camps remaining; weekly camps from Mon-Fri, for all levels, ends on August 23! (Which is good timing - the next MDTTC tournament is Aug. 24-25.) This is our 22nd consecutive year of MDTTC summer camps. It's mostly for junior players, but adults are welcome. (Not sure about it? Come attend for a day or one three-hour session and pay a pro-rated rate.) See our [Training Camps](#) page.

2013 North American Teams Championships - Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 @ Washington DC

SAVE \$150 on North American Teams Championships Registration Fee if you register as one of MDTTC's teams. This year's event will take place nearby in DC. We are looking to form five or more teams. Players of all levels are welcome! For details, please email Wen at Marylandttc@gmail.com or drop by the sign up at MDTTC.

Maryland Junior League

We'd like to set up a Maryland Junior League. This would be a team league, tentatively for two Saturday nights each month. The format (also tentative) would be six players on a team, with the 1-2 players on each team playing the 1-2 players from the other team (two singles matches each, plus a doubles, so five matches total), and the same for the 3-4 players and the 5-6 players, with the entire team match best of 15. However, I don't have time to set up and run it. If you are interested in volunteering to run this, contact me (Larry Hodges, larry@larrytt.com), and we can meet to discuss it.

Junior Olympics Results

Congratulations to the following MDTTCers at the 2013 Junior Olympics in Detroit, July 29-31!

GOLD

Girls U10 Singles - Lisa Lin
 Girls U10 Doubles - Lisa Lin & Jessica Lin
 Girls U10 Team - Lisa Lin, Jessica Lin & Helen Yao
 Boys U12 Singles - Adam Yao
 Girls U16 Doubles - Kaylee Zou & Shirley Hu
 Boys U18 Doubles - Chen Bowen & Nathan Hsu
 Division I - Sameer Shaikh
 Division J - Jessica Lin

SILVER

Girls U10 Singles - Jessica Lin
 Boys U16 Singles - Chen Bowen
 Girls U18 Singles - Lilly Lin
 Boys U18 Team - Leon Bi, Chen Bowen, Nathan Hsu
 Division H - Lisa Lin

BRONZE

Girls U12 Singles - Helen Yao
 Girls U14 Singles - Amy Lu
 Girls U18 Doubles - Lilly Lin & Amy Lu
 Girls U18 Team - Amy Lu, Kaylee Zou & Lilly Lin
 Boys U16 Team - Jason Wei & Adam Yao

Northern Open Results

Congratulations to the following MDTTC players at the 2013 Northern Open in Detroit, July 27-28! (**Photo:** Sameer Shaikh and hardware, and John Hsu, who coached him at the Northern Open.)

Open Doubles Champions: Chen Bowen and Nathan Hsu
Under 2500 Champion and Open Quarter-finalist: Chen Bowen
Under 800, Under 950, and Under 1100 Champion, and Under 1250 Runner-up: Sameer Shaikh

Under 1400 Finalist: Leon Bi

Passo Butterfly Tracksuits

For Members Only: New [Passo Tracksuits](#) available at special 30% discount - retail price is \$99.99; now at MDTTC only \$69.99 (limited time and quantity). To order yours contact [Wen Hsu](#).

Rental Space for Corporate and Private Events

MDTTC offers space rental for special corporate and private events. 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.

Ongoing Programs

- **Junior Class.** This is for beginning and intermediate juniors ages 6-13, with Coach Larry Hodges (with John Hsu and Raghu Nadmichettu assisting), and are held Saturdays 10:30AM-Noon and Sundays 4:30-6:00 PM. See the [Group Training page](#).
- **Group Sessions.** While this is primarily for juniors, all ages are welcome - it's about 1/3 adults. They meet on Sat & Sun, 4:30-6:30. The first 30 minutes is practice/warm-up, then 90 minutes of matches. See the [Group Training page](#).
- **Private Coaching,** by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Larry Hodges, Wang Qing Liang ("Leon"), Chen Bo Wen ("Bowen"), Chen Jie ("James"), John Hsu, and Raghu Nadmichettu. See [Private Coaching page](#).
- **Leagues.** MDTTC runs three different leagues. Take your pick! They are the [Tuesday and Friday Leagues](#) (for all ages and levels), and the [Elite League](#).

TIP OF THE MONTH: Adjusting to Weird Serves and Shots
By Larry Hodges

There are two ways to adjust to "weird" serves and shots. One is to practice against *every single one of them*, until you are comfortable against *every single one of them*. Since there are a huge number of ways to serve or hit a ball, and anything that's not "orthodox" can be considered "weird," this would mean basically turning your practice sessions into just practice against these weird shots, as opposed to developing a foundation to your game. This would be a mistake.

While you should sometimes practice against seemingly weird serves and shots you might see in a match - especially the more common ones - it's better to focus on developing a strong foundation to your shots. This allows you to develop complete command over your shots. When developing a shot, but before a player really has command of it, he mostly does the shot robotically, meaning he can do it against the same incoming ball over and over, but can't adjust to anything different, i.e. "weird." But with practice, you develop command of the shot and it becomes so ingrained that adjusting to different shots becomes easier and easier. But it takes experience - not against every possibility, but experience adjusting to different incoming shots until you become used to making adjustments and have confidence you can do so.

You don't need to practice against every type of weird incoming shot to be able to deal with each of them. What's needed are two things: command of your shots, and general experience in adjusting. By playing lots of matches against lots of different players (whether practice, league, or tournament) you develop the habit of adjusting. And then, when you do play something different, you don't need to spend huge amounts of time learning to adjust to it; you've already developed that habit. If you have command of your own shots, and have developed the habit of adjusting to different shots, then you'll have little trouble adjusting to whatever an opponent can throw at you. This, and a little tactical thinking to figure out the weakness of the opponent's shots, are all that's needed to give you the advantage.

The key thing to remember is this - if the opponent is doing something weird, then pretty much by definition it's not standard technique, and there's probably a reason for that. If you have command of your shots and are used to adjusting to opponents, and do a little tactical thinking to figure out the weakness of the opponent's technique, then your more standard technique will give you an advantage over this less standard technique.

One hint that'll help against most "weird" rally shots: keep the ball deep on the table, and you'll have more time to react to their shots. Remember that they are used to your more standard shots, while you are not as used to theirs.

Beginners dread playing against "weird" players. Top players look forward to it knowing the player's game is flawed.