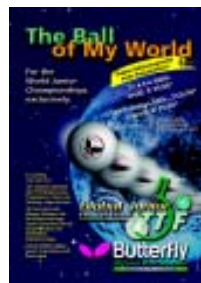


Issue February of 2004



Schedule

18.02. - 19.02.04 World Junior Circuit in Orebro (SWE)



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- Interview Maze
- Preview Team WWC in Dohar

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- Expert-talk: SRIVER G2
- And much more.....!

Europe Top 12 2004 in Frankfurt (7./8. of February 2004)

Michael Maze and Nicole Struse
 - a star is born, a star is back...



The first weekend in February 2004 will be remembered by 10.000 thrilled spectators and at least two players for quite a while. At the Europe Top-12 two Butterfly contract players celebrated their finest hour in special terms in Frankfurt's Ballsporthalle sold out on both days. 22-year old Danish Michael Maze was born as new star on Europe's Table Tennis sky, while 10 year older German Nicole Struse celebrated her resurrection into the circle of the absolute world elite. A star is born, a star is back...
 (more see next page)



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Europe Top 12 in Frankfurt

For Michael Maze, who stepped into the tournament at short notice for the injured Greek Kalinikos Kreanga, a dream came true by his victory in Frankfurt. „I played incredibly good Table Tennis for two days. But at the moment I'm simply overwhelmed and don't really know what to say.“, last year's third commented his victory. The lefthander, who plays for Borussia Düsseldorf in the Bundesliga, beat the second Butterfly player, Austria's World Champion Werner Schlager, not only in the final (4:1) but in the group match as well. In addition he won against Schlager's National team-mate Chen Weixing in the quarter-final and against Czech Petr Korbel in the semi-final, which completed the dominance of the Tamasu athletes in the semi-final.

Nicole Struse won the final against defending champion and double Top-12 winner Jie Schöpp even without losing a game. „We've been playing in the same club for two years now and of course we train together quite often. This was definitely no disadvantage for me“, happy Struse commented her greatest success after becoming European Champion in Bratislava in 1996. The 32-year old Bundeswehr-soldier had already showed an outstanding performance in the semi-final by kicking out (4:2) Tamara Boros, Europe's No.1 and No.9 of the World's Ranking List and Butterfly player, too. Struse's top form was hinted impressively a week before, as she beat World's No.1 Zhang Yining from China at the Greek Open. Schöpp had controlled the Austrian Liu Jia as third Tamasu player in the semi-final.

For the contract partner of both winners, Tamasu Butterfly Europe, this prestigious Europe Top 12 offered even more reasons to celebrate than the two titles. Twelve of 24 athletes in Frankfurt wore the tricot with the Butterfly on it and six of them entered the semi-final. And with the Hungarians Krisztina Toth and Csilla Batorfi only two of them failed to leave the groups. In the quarter-final Victoria Pavlovitch (White Russia) lost to later winner Nicole Struse, and the Rumanian Miheala Steff failed against Jie Schöpp. Disappointed was last year's winner Timo Boll. After twelve matches won in a row and two titles (2002 Rotterdam, 2003 Saarbrücken) at the Europe Top-12 he now had to suffer his first defeat in the quarter-final against Russian Alexej Smirnov. „I would have loved to win the tournament or at least to be in the semi-final tomorrow, especially because of the many spectators here in my home region. But my mind was not clear and I have to accept, that Smirnov was the better player today.“ Before Boll had beaten the Austrian Chen Weixing and former European Champion Peter Karlsson (Sweden) in the group-matches.

A really nice story was provided on the brink of the Europe Top-12 by Butterfly player Otilia Badescu, who had dropped out in the round of the last eight 2:4 against Liu Jia. The European Champion from Romania was touched by a group of wheelchair-users watching the tournament. The young lady with the great heart surprised the enthusiastic Table Tennis fans on wheels unrequested and unnoticed by the masses with blades spontaneously acquired, added by dedications in the programme brochure. A very special gesture of humanity not less recommendable than any victory of a tournament.

Women, Final

Nicole Struse GER - Jie Schöpp GER 4:0 (7,4,9,10)

Men, Final

Michael Maze DEN - Werner Schlager AUT 4:1 (8,-8,10,8,6)

Woman, Half-Final

Schöpp - Liu Jia AUT 4:1 (2,14,1,-10, 14)

Struse - Tamara Boros HRV 4:2 (-5,6,6,-7,6,9)

Men, Half-Final

Schlager - Alexei Smirnov RUS 4:3 (5,-11,-9,5,8,-7,5)

Maze-Petr Korbel CZE (5,-10,-10,9,5,7)

The results of all Tamasu players in Frankfurt:

Men

MAZE Michael DEN Sieger

SCHLAGER Werner AUT Finale

KORBEL Petr CZE Halbfinale

BOLL Timo GER Viertelfinale

Women

STRUSE Nicole GER Siegerin

BOROS Tamara HRV Halbfinale

LIU Jia AUT Halbfinale

BADESCU Otilia ROU Viertelfinale

PAVLOVICH Victoria BLR Viertelfinale

TOTH Krisztina HUN Platz 9-12

BATORFI Csilla HUN Platz 9-12





Talking to Europe-Top-12-winner Michael Maze

I just want to improve continuously

Michael Maze, congratulations for winning the title at the Top 12 in Frankfurt. Have you thought this success possible before the tournament?

Absolutely not. I was glad I was able to play such a tournament with so many top players, though it was on the cost of Kalinikos Kreanga, who cancelled because an injury. I was only his replacement, but I know I would be able to win against one or the other. My goal was to show my best Table Tennis and to be able to claim to have given 100% at the end of the day. Having won the tournament is simply unbelievable. I never would have expected that, absolutely not.

The final and Butterfly-internal duel against World Champion Werner Schlager was your first final at a great tournament. Have you been very nervous?

Nervous – you're always nervous; I was rather tensed. Actually I didn't have any time to be nervous or to become it. 5000 spectators made a fantastic scene and I only wanted to go out there, enjoy the atmosphere and give my best.

You did have a psychological advantage by your victory against Schlager in the groups, didn't you?

Every match always starts at 0:0. Realistically it was hard for me to believe in beating the World Champion twice on a weekend at such a great tournament

Where do you see the reasons for your triumph?

I have been without injuries for quite a while now, almost a year. For this I was able to train a lot, in the physical sector as well, which is very important for me. Because of my physical condition being better my play has improved as well and for this I have reached the next level of performance. Physically I'm not yet at 100%, but it's much better than a half a year ago.

How important is the fact, that you only play 18 matches this season at the German Champion Borussia Düsseldorf, and not the complete program as before?

That's very important for me. After many injuries my body asked for consequences and for changes in my year's planning. Part of this is playing fewer matches for Düsseldorf and having more breaks. I'm very thankful that the club Borussia gives me this option.

Top-12 was Europe's most important tournament in the year of the Olympic games. Will you change your aims for Athens after the team-WCC in Katar?

No, I don't plan one success after the other, this is impossible. I simply want to improve continuously and don't think about the rest.

Team-WCC in Doha/Katar

China's teams as certain Gold-tips – mode very questionable

It is in the Table Tennis Nowhere-land of Katar where a new chapter in the history of the Table Tennis World Championships will be started. This time the competitions will officially only be held for the crowns in the team. 2001 in Malaysia it had been a post-event of the official WCCs. With this the intended split-up of the former major event of the WCC with team- and individual competitions following has been realized by the ITTF. Eight month after the individual WCC in Paris both events can now be better presented.

Chinas teams are undoubted top favourites in both events. The World's Ranking List at the men and women doesn't offer much room for surprises. The more thrilling the fight for the silver and bronze medals might become at the last highlight before the Olympic Games in Athens.

Especially the practical test for new mode set up by the ITTF should be of great interest. Against the great majority of other type of sports the World federation departed from the classical system of crossing winner and second of the groups. Instead now the two winners and the two second teams compete, where the winner of the duel of the group leaders qualifies directly for the final. The loser has to play the winner of the duel of the second teams of the group for the second entry into the final.

If this very strange mode will be played in the next team WCC in Bremen 2006 is questionable. Due to the continuous criticism the ITTF set up a committee to work out simple modes to find the World Champions. For what reason the old regulations, transparent to sport-fans all over the World, have been aborted in the past, now seems even more questionable.

The seeding for the Champions Division at the Team WCC in Doha/Katar (1st – 7th of March 2004)

Men:

Group A: China (Titelverteidiger), Südkorea, Österreich, Frankreich, Japan, Italien.

Group B: Taiwan, Schweden, Deutschland, Hongkong, Russland, Belgien.

Women:

Group A: China (Titelverteidiger), Südkorea, Singapur, Deutschland, Russland, Taiwan.

Group B: Hongkong, Japan, Rumänien, Ungarn, Italien, Weißrussland.





Butterfly presents the Internet magazine „Tischtennis Inside“ (Table Tennis Inside)

Bookworms amongst the German Table Tennis fans will be delighted. Since mid of February „Tischtennis Inside“ – the first Internet Table Tennis magazine – is online. The new magazine at www.tischtennis-inside.de takes a look at the scene each Thursday with background reports, interviews and comments by competent authors. By this Tischtennis Inside fills the great media gap between the daily news of the papers and on several Internet-homepages on one side and the monthly „Deutscher Tischtennis Sport“ on the other. Butterfly is pleased to be able to support this information service for all Table Tennis friends.



Seize the day!

For the second year in a row the ITTF World Junior Circuit season will kick off in Örebro, Sweden. In my mind, the Safir International Tournament has become one of the best junior meets in the „World of Table Tennis“. Today, from the top of my head I can think of very few events having the same appeal and attraction as the Safir's tournament.



Behind the success stands a group of dedicated volunteers with Tournament Director, Mr. Lars Elwin at the front. It is a great pleasure for the ITTF to join in and I think, enhance the event by putting the ITTF WJC stamp on the boards. At the same time let me also congratulate the Swedish Table Tennis Association for opening the doors for the ITTF World Junior Elite Camp in Köping prior to the festivities in Örebro. With this perfect blend of activities and joint effort we are indeed moving our sport forward.

The ITTF World Junior Circuit 2004 will include six or seven events played in all six continents. With the help of immediate success = winning the singles event or hard work – picking up points from many events, twelve boys and twelve girls will qualify for the finals scheduled for late October in Funchal, Madeira (Portugal).

The ITTF Global Junior programme has come a long way in a short time since the official launch in January 2002. Today we are offering to associations, coaches and players, a broad variety of opportunities including world title events, training camps, Olympic scholarships and we think, excellent organizational-support.

Behind us for example is the first ever ITTF World Junior Championships held in Santiago, Chile. More than anything this event showcased a friendly future for our sport with several surprising and up-lifting performances.

98 Boys and 66 Girls and counting... a quick look at the entries for the Safir's WJC 2004 and a good quality stamp is prepared. For those of you table tennis fans ready for an extra treat... find the time and table for these young profiles: Marcos Frietas (POR) – a slick lefthander with the making of one of these heavy forehand topspins so crucial for further success. Daniella Dodean (ROU) – better known as the „Tiger from Arad“. Fighting spirit personified. And.. last but not least enjoy Jun Mizutani – a Japanese wonder boy with all the right tools... Good luck at the Safir's 2004. With the future in mind!

ETTU Project „Eurokids“ with Butterfly balls



Besides the engagement in the top sports Butterfly is always interested in supporting the youth. Due to this philosophy Butterfly took it's share at the first „Eurokids Camp“ of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) beginning of February in Buzau. In this Rumanian city kids and teenagers of many countries of the continent and of all levels met for a six day training camp. All parts of the program in terms of sports including the final tournament were held with Butterfly balls. Butterfly welcomed to support this ETTU-event and hopes for a long term success of this task.

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News

Product of the month

At well assorted distributors!



Link www.butterfly-world.com „Start-page novelties 2003”



Basic Chack

Size: 30 ml tube, 250 ml, 1000 ml, Details: our new glue for perfect long-time adhesion

30 ml (Tube) 3,90 Euro

250 ml 13,35 Euro

1000 ml 30,60 Euro



Millennium Chack

Size 250 ml

Details: our fastest glue, solvent free
Adhesion holds for up to a week

24,95 Euro



Fair Chack

The very wide opening of the 250 ml-can simplifies the handling. The brush is extra long, thick and about 20 mm wide. Details: Speed glue

250 ml 12,00 Euro



Fair Chack light

Size: 250 ml, 1000 ml

Details: Speed glue, our new version of Fair Chack. Now even more thin-fluid and more conserving to the rubber.

250 ml 12,80 Euro

1000 ml 30,60 Euro



Stickyfoil New Quick

Details: Sticky foil for the rubber for perfect long-term adhesion.

Thickness: 0,5 mm

2,25 Euro

www.butterfly-world.com



ITTF World's Ranking List, Women (Extract, 02 - 2004) (Butterfly-players are marked!)

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	TOTH Krisztina HUN
2	WANG Nan CHN	17	LI Jia Wei SIN
3	NIU Jianfeng CHN	18	STEFF Mihaela ROU
4	GUO Yan CHN	19	GAO Jun USA
5	GUO Yue CHN	20	ZHANG Rui HKG
6	TIE Yana HKG	21	SONG Ah Sim HKG
7	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	22	KIM Hyon PRK
8	LI Ju CHN	23	WANG Chen CHN
9	BOROS Tamara HRV	24	LI Jia CHN
10	LI Nan CHN	25	LIU Jia CHN
11	LIN Ling CHN	26	CAO Zhen CHN
12	LAU Sui Fei HKG	27	BAI Yang CHN
13	UMEMURA Aya JPN	28	SCHÖPP Jie GER
14	FAN Ying CHN	29	LI Xiaoxia CHN
15	JIANG Huajun CHN	30	FUKUHARA Ai JPN

ITTF World's Ranking List, Men (Extract, 02 - 2004) (Butterfly-players are marked!)

1	MA Lin CHN	16	JOO Se Hyuk KOR
2	WANG Liqin CHN	17	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
3	WANG Hao CHN	18	QIU Yike CHN
4	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	19	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL
5	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	20	Kim Taek Soo KOR
6	Chen Qi CHN	21	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
7	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	22	KARLSSON Peter SWE
8	RYU Seung Min KOR	23	PERSSEN Jorgen SWE
9	LIU Guozheng CHN	24	LUNDQUIST Jens SWE
10	BOLL Timo GER	25	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
10	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	26	WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE
12	KONG Linghui CHN	27	CHEN Weixing AUT
13	HAO Shuai CHN	28	KORBEL Petr CZE
14	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE	29	ROSSKOPF Jörg GER
15	OH Sang Eun KOR	30	MAZE Michael DEN

Editor:
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(Vi.S.d.P.)

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02841/90532-0



Taisei Imamura (45) works for Butterfly since 1980. As service man he takes care of the Butterfly-contract-players worldwide and works intensively in the development of new products. Players consider him one of the best and experienced experts for materials. They trust his advice and – as every table tennis does – again and again ask the same question: „Which blade and which rubbers are best for my play? “. In conversation with „Butterfly News“ Taisei Imamura gives many tips, informations and ideas about „SRIVER G2“

The new SRIVER G2



Fast, dynamic and spinny rubber combined with the typical SRIVER-feeling

Beginning of February Butterfly presented the new SRIVER G2 at the ISPO in Munich. With this the legendary SRIVER-family, successful for more than 30 years, gains a new member. Not any member, but a special one – one of the second generation. This is what G2 stands for. Mr.Imamura, what's new about the SRIVER G2?

This is quite simple. We have produced a SRIVER with the HIGH TENSION technology just as the BRYCE has. We wanted to know, how our most successful rubber for decades reacts to HIGH TENSION.

Obviously good, or there would be no SRIVER G2.

Our idea was really good. We have started with the SRIVER L-version, the hardest SRIVER. The surface is nearly unchanged as well as the sponge.

But then where is the difference between SRIVER G2 and the classic SRIVER?

It's clearly faster. Additionally the HIGH TENSION provides more elasticity of the rubber which again makes the SRIVER G2 noticeably more spinny. An all around extremely dynamic offensive rubber.

BRYCE has turned into the top-product of Butterfly in the last years. Recently Michael Maze won the Europe Top-12 in Frankfurt with BRYCE on his forehand. What's the difference between BRYCE and the new SRIVER G2?

There's not much difference in speed. It's more a question of the curve of the topspin balls. While balls played by BRYCE fly lower and more directly we have focused on keeping up the more curved trajectory of the topspin, for which the SRIVER is known. Timo Boll, playing SRIVER L, needs these balls, for he constantly varies his topspins. For this the new SRIVER G2 is constructed. Players seeking the extreme fast and direct play will prefer BRYCE.

Still the SRIVER rubbers are the top-sellers in the rubber assortment of Butterfly. What could bring a player to change to SRIVER G2, if he has been trusting the classic SRIVER – let it be L, FX or EL – for years?

Well, by developing the SRIVER G2 we did not want to invent a new rubber. Those going for SRIVER for years now should find the same typical SRIVER attributes when changing to SRIVER G2. Of course we have tested the SRIVER G2 with our top players. But we did not tell them that it was a new SRIVER. And all of them were of the opinion, that it was a SRIVER, but very grippy, spinny and fast. This confirmed us to continue.

So the typical SRIVER feeling stays?

Necessarily! In these terms we talk about the SRIVER-“Update“. It wouldn’t make any sense to develop a new SRIVER which has nothing to do with it’s predecessor. But to our own joy we saw, how successful HIGH TENSION rubbers were in international competition as well as on the market. So why shouldn’t we combine SRIVER with HIGH TENSION? Of course this is not of interest for all SRIVER friends – for the SRIVER family has become an ALLROUND programme – but for those with offensive orientation a true alternative.

In which thicknesses of the sponge will the SRIVER G2 be offered?

1,7 ; 1,9 ; 2,1 and Max.

The rubbers of the SRIVER family are known to be very suitable for speed-gluing. Do you have any experience with the SRIVER G2?

The SRIVER G2 reacts to speed-gluing as positive as the classic SRIVER L,EL and FX do. Spin- as well as speed-parameters can be significantly increased by speed-gluing. Ware out like warping, cracks or bubbles weren’t observed.

How do you estimate the prospect of success for the SRIVER G2?

We are very optimistic that the SRIVER G2 will play a major role within the SRIVER family, especially because chances are good that several contract players will change to SRIVER G2.

An finally:

New site about Timo Boll in the internet: Timo Boll club

Next to the official Timo Boll homepage there now is another site of the fan-club for his growing community of fans. A portal is in the making as well in French and in English for Timo Boll fans worldwide. Step in...

www.timo-boll-club.de



www.butterfly-world.com