

Butterfly[®] NEWS

September 2006



In the media

Since 1973 the European Centre for Tamasu Butterfly GmbH is residing in Moers. The company was expanding continuously and has moved only a few weeks ago with its 12 workers to new offices (only a few meters away from the old place). This was also an event for the media as the articles show.



Building



Team



Showroom

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Interview with Petr Korbel - Borussia Düsseldorf

„I would like to win again!“

Petr Korbel, after your farewell from Borussia Düsseldorf for more than ten years ago you are playing for the German Record Champion and Butterfly club since the beginning of the season again.

Yes, of course. I have known Düsseldorf's manager Andreas „Enno“ Preuss for many years. We always kept in touch and I have watched some of the matches in Düsseldorf every now and again and got to know the new „Borussen“ centre. The new table tennis centre was new to me as well as for everybody else at the beginning of the season.

How did it happen, that you returned from the ex – champion Mueller Wuerzburger Hofbraeu to Düsseldorf?

The Butterfly sports manager Mario Amizic, who was coaching me when I used to play for Düsseldorf before and now coaches the Japanese talents in Düsseldorf, was the starting-point. He asked me at the beginning of the year during the Croatian Open if I could imagine playing for Düsseldorf again. For several reasons that really was the case, so I phoned „Enno“ from Zagreb and three, four days later everything was o.k.

What were the main reasons for your decision?

I knew from my former time at Borussia that the structures and conditions in Düsseldorf are good. Additionally there is the new training hall and a young, hungry team which puts me as the top player under pressure and that is exactly what I need. The most important factor was the optimal training conditions Düsseldorf can offer. You can concentrate fully on your training because everything from A to Z is right.



21. - 24. September 2006

Pro Tour: Volkswagen Japan Open, Yokohama

18. October - 22. October 2006

Pro Tour: Serbian Open, Belgrad

27. October - 29. October 2006

Men's World Cup, Paris

01. November - 05. November 2006

Pro Tour: Eurosib Russian Open, St. Petersburg



Impressum:

Editor + Kontakt

Yuki Kamizuru, 02841/90532-0

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All prices are recommended retail prices.

Duesseldorf's leaders gave you, apart from the task as a top player, also the role as a leading player. How do you deal with that?

I know this job from Wuerzburg. Mario has prepared me for that, but I know for myself, what I have got to do in this role. I see the trust, which Borussia puts in me in this area, but also the honour.

What is the job of a leading player? Do you assist in training and coaching?

Other people are responsible for the training, first of all our coach Dirk Wagner. I am more some kind of small psychologist, who talks to the boys and changes the general atmosphere every now and again. You must watch all players and their attitudes and handle it with care, because in table tennis, that is clear, everybody is also egoistic. Everybody is also different.

In Wuerzburg you had some clauses in your contract to set you free to play the Super Circuits in Japan. How often are you going to play for Duesseldorf?

In Wuerzburg it was clearly written down that Japan was my first priority. But now it is still not clear if the Super Circuit will take place at all in 2007. If it keeps going, it will be smaller and with fewer tournaments so that I will have more time for Borussia. There were also penalties in Japan, if you didn't turn up. That will definitely be different now. It is going to be invitational now and without penalties.

What does your contract say in case of double bookings?

I don't think that important matches for Borussia are affected by this. If the Super Circuit continues next year it will be organized by Duesseldorf's former player Koji Matsuhita and his agency. He knows only too well that it doesn't make much sense to put the dates for the Super Circuit tournaments during the deciding periods of the Bundesliga.

Back to the sporting aspects: you had a brilliant start in the Bundesliga and ended up on the title page of the German magazine „Tischtennis“. Before the match break, because of the Pro-Tour-Tournaments in China and Japan, your balance is 3:3. Are you satisfied with your start?

From the playing point of view I am satisfied. Recently I lost two games against Champions-League-Winner TTV Goennern 2:3 against Joerg Roskopf and 2:3 against Timo Boll. That was a bit unlucky, but the deciding factor was that our team won despite of this. If we win without any points from me as number one, it says all about the quality of this year's Borussia team and that is very comforting for me. On top of that I do know that there will be times when I can win the deciding games. But once again: Borussia has a very homogeneous team, which can compensate when the top player doesn't win. I have played for many clubs but didn't experience something like that for a long time.

How do you judge the development in table tennis with your experience?

Every sport keeps developing and becomes more dynamic. In our case everything is very depending on the material. A very concrete example is the ball: many people want longer rallies but the quality of the balls is generally too bad. At the tournaments in Japan the quality of the balls is much better and consequently the rallies are longer. I can say this for most of the players who take part in the Super Circuit. Everywhere else the balls are not round, they are like eggs, one half is softer and one half is harder with most of the balls. The speed of the game and the normal reaction time can't be controlled any more by normal people and therefore the rallies are not so long. In the mean time the ITTF has also noticed this after six years that there is something wrong with most of the balls.

Your contract with Duesseldorf runs up to 2008. Are the Olympic Games in Peking your great target?

Peking was one of the main reasons for me to go to Duesseldorf. I am glad that I am at Borussia, because I have got ideal conditions here to qualify for Olympia again. The suppositions I have got in Duesseldorf are probably the best in Europe. I would be very happy if I could take part in the Olympic Games for the fifth time. Not many athletes managed that. In Czechia there were probably only five.

Olympia is looming on the horizon. Do you ever think about your future after Peking?

No, I am only concentrating on Borussia and the qualification for the Olympic Games. Afterwards I will decide if I continue playing internationally or only for a club or stop completely.

Finally once again the topic Borussia: after three victories in three matches Duesseldorf went into the Pro Tour break as the leader of the table. Are you and your club on title course?

Originally we said that our target was reaching the play offs and qualify for the Champions League. Now we have won against three of our opponents for places in the play offs and we know now already that we are not only a candidate for the play offs but also for the championship. I can honestly say, that I have got a good feeling regarding our team in view of the championship. I can't say now already that that we will become champion but our chances are better than many thought before the start of the season. Our opponents must have got great respect of us. Our biggest trump is that our young players have got potential and will improve. On top of that I personally really fancy to win again.

Petr, thanks a lot for the interview.

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (09/2006)



1	WANG Liqin CHN	16	LI Ching HKG
2	BOLL Timo GER	17	SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL
3	MA Lin CHN	18	CRISAN Adrian ROU
4	WANG Hao CHN	19	KONG Linghui CHN
5	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	20	MA Long CHN
6	Chen Qi CHN	21	KORBEL Petr CZE
7	OH Sang Eun KOR	22	MAZE Michael DEN
8	RYU Seung Min KOR	23	CHEUNG Yuk HKG
9	CHEN Weixing AUT	24	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
10	HAO Shuai CHN	25	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
11	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	26	KO Lai Chak HKG
12	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	27	BLASZCZYK Lucjan POL
13	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	28	CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE
14	LIU Guozheng CHN	29	LEE Jung Woo KOR
15	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	30	WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (09/2006)



1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	WANG Yue Gu SIN
2	GUO Yue CHN	16	LAU Sui Fei HKG
3	GUO Yan CHN	18	STEFF Mihaela ROU
4	TIE Yana HKG	19	PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR
5	WANG Nan CHN	19	LI nan CHN
6	LI Xiaoxia CHN	21	LIU Jia AUT
7	Li Jia Wei SIN	22	STRUSE Nicole GER
8	NIU Jianfeng CHN	23	PARK Mi Young KOR
9	BOROS Tamara HRV	24	TOTH Krisztina HUN
10	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	24	FAN Ying CHN
11	CAO Zhen CHN	26	SHEN Yanfei PRK
12	GAO Jun USA	27	Li Jiao NED
13	LIN Ling HKG	28	MOON Hyun Jung KOR
14	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	29	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
15	JIANG Huajun HKG	30	ZHANG Rui HKG

Boll invited the World Cup



As the defending champion and number 2 of the world ranking list his nomination was only a formality, but now the official invitation of the ITTF has come: Timo Boll will take part in the LIEBHERR World Cup from the 27th to the 29th of October in Paris. The player from Goennern is one of altogether 16 top stars, who will play for a total of 135.000 US-Dollars. Apart from the defending champion, the winners of the continental championships

and leading world ranking list players, three wild cards will be given away.

List of participants: Timo Boll GER, Vladimir Samsonov BLR, Lashin El-Sayed EGY, William Henzell AUS, Liu Song ARG, Bence Csaba CAN, Wang Hao CHN, Wang Liqin CHN, Ma Lin CHN, Oh Sang Eun KOR, Ryu Seung Min KOR, Chen Weixing AUT, Kalinikos Kreanga GRE, Patrik Chila FRA, Werner Schlager AUT, Joo Se Hyuk Kor
Reserves: Chuan Chih-Yuan TPE, Li Ching HKG



The Japanese table tennis coach Masafumi INOUE worked for a few years for the development of our sport in Uruguay. He took the Butterfly – Robot Amicus 3000, which he bought with the help of his employers JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agencies) from us, with him to intensify his coaching work. Although he and his family left the country this spring, our robot continues to work busily.

„Hot on Wins“ is the team from Werder Bremen also in the new table tennis season. Not only on the football field but on the green table in the 2. Bundesliga



From left to right
Bing Tang, Sebastian Door, Allan Bentsen, Sascha Greber (team leader), Christian Tamas (coach), Constantin Cioti, Mads Sørensen, Hong Yang.



Timo Boll Beats World Champion and Wins China Open 2006

Timo Boll won the Men's Singles title at the Panasonic China Open in Guangzhou on Sunday 17th September 2006 beating the reigning world champion Wang Liqin in the final.

Timo won in six games: 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-4, 9-11 and 11-8.

Petr Korbel's Backhand – „Chiquita“ Spin - Part 2

In the first part of this article we introduced the backhand „Chiquita“ spin in general and looked at this exceptional stroke from a sideways position. In this part we are going to look at the stroke from the front and differentiate between two varieties:

- the „Chiquita“ spin looped from the side of the body (pictures A1 – A5)
- the „Chiquita“ spin looped in front of the body (pictures B1 – B5)

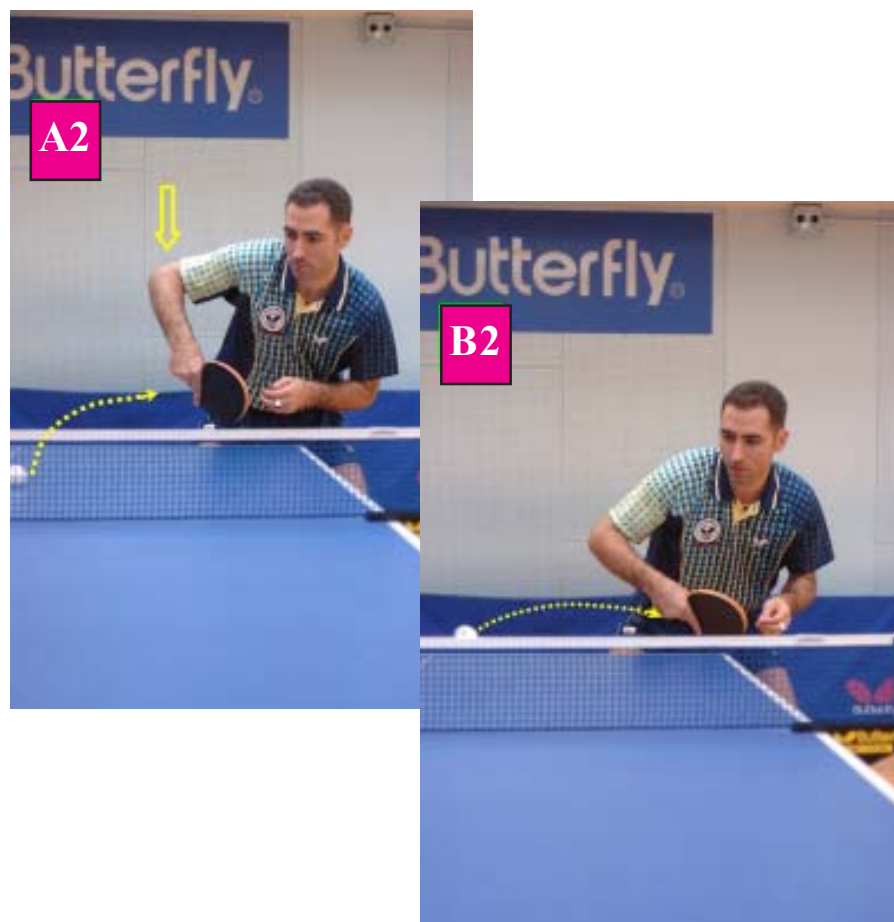
It is important to manage both varieties, so that there are more possibilities to return the serve.

Pictures A1/B1: Petr Korbel is standing on the far backhand side of the table. This is the position which he normally uses to return the serve. Petr is a brilliant backhand player but his forehand is feared just as much. He takes long services to his backhand also with his forehand because he is very speedy too.

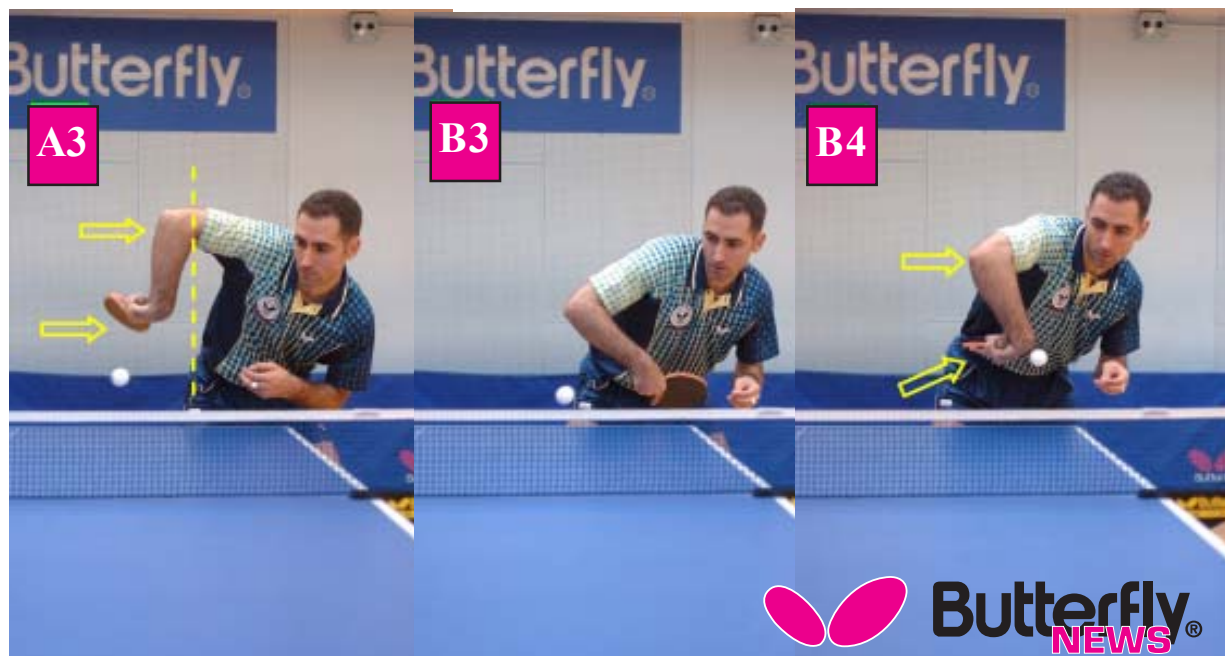


07 Stars under the magnifier

Pictures A2/B2: Petr prepares his stroke. It is noticeable that he lifts his elbow clearly higher in variety A in comparison to variety B. The ball is flying not to the very far backhand but more to the middle of the backhand. That is the deciding factor for using this „Chiquita“ variety. In opposite to this, the ball is played far more to the far backhand side in picture series B.



Pictures A3/B3/B4: picture A3 shows the spectacular „Chiquita“ stroke impressively. The elbow is almost above shoulder level. The racket is moved backwards and up at the beginning. The wrist is extremely bent backwards. The racket head points backwards. This creates an extreme pre – tension which is lost at the moment of contact with the ball and produces extreme spin on the ball. Petr is standing relatively straight at the table, whereas he stands a lot more sideways with variety B. In this variety B he hits the ball in front of his body, because the ball is coming diagonally to his far backhand. There would be no point to play the banana spin on the side of his body, because he would have to step sideways away from the table to get into the ideal position like he would do for a forehand stroke from the backhand side. The player has less space for the preparatory movement with this variety. He compensates this by turning the shoulder of the playing arm clearly forward and lifting the elbow as high as possible.



08 Stars under the magnifier

Pictures A4/A5/B5: the stroke itself and the finish is nearly the same in both varieties. The ball is touched – as it is typical for sidespin strokes – at the side from the bottom to the top.

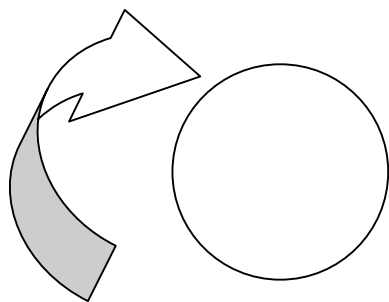
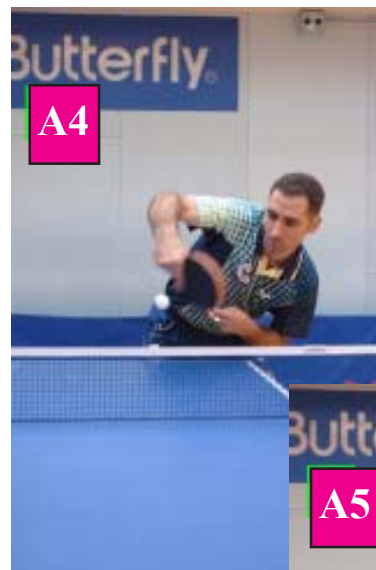


Illustration 1
sidespin ball contact point

As mentioned at the beginning, the „Chiquita“ backhand spin provides the player with more varieties to return the serve, but it can also be used successfully in short ball rallies. Now you can observe many of the top players using the „Chiquita“ sidespin with the backhand from half-distance.





In our talk with experts, which Butterfly offers exclusively for subscribers of the Newsletter, we discussed different topics with our top trainers Mario Amizic and Helmut Hampl: training and competition, development of the game and its culture, tactic and psychology, technique and fitness. We would be very happy, of course, if you have questions to our trainers. Send us a mail, key word: „expert talk“. We will then try to answer your questions in the following talks.

Butterfly material expert Taisei Imamura, 49, informs in this issue about the new Power Sponge technology, which will set new standards concerning fresh gluing without glue. Additionally the Japanese expert will explain the secrets of the new Butterfly blade Boll TriCarbon, a blade which will set new standards in the OFF+ category.

We have come a long way with our Power Sponge (PS) technology

The table tennis world federation (ITTF) came out with a big surprise during the Team World Championships in Bremen: the so called gluing prohibition was postponed to the 1st of September 2008, thus after the Olympic Games in Peking. How surprising was this decision for you, Mr Imamura?

I didn't expect that. I also didn't know that so many players were afraid of the gluing prohibition. We, as the producers, began years ago to prepare ourselves for this time.

You mean the Power Sponge Technology, which you presented in Bremen?

Yes, indeed the Power Sponge Technology is a big step in the direction to manage without fresh gluing.

Butterfly is not the only producer which brought new fresh gluing technologies on the market. Was this progression not known to the ITTF?

There were gaps in communication. Some producers didn't want to let people know about the development of new techniques too early. Others do this very early. That has got something to do with instinct. Reality is that players and the ITTF were not informed sufficiently.

Is it possible that the date 1.9.2008 is being moved forward for a year?

I don't exclude that, especially because the ITTF itself is not happy with this decision and there are different opinions. Table Tennis should be „clean“ in Peking, the ITTF guaranteed that to the IOC. There are still a lot of question marks.

So we have to wait. In the meantime Butterfly is ready for the future with the Power Sponge Technology. What is the difference between the PS gluing effect from the real gluing effect?

The real gluing effect is still more effective, but we did come a long way and are getting closer and closer to the fresh gluing. At the moment we offer Sriver L, Sriver FX, and Bryce FX in the PS version. The research and development in this area is running full power in our Japanese laboratories. We are very optimistic that we can completely satisfy our contract players and our customers.

Whom would you advise to use the Power Sponge rubbers at the moment, while gluing is still allowed?

All those, who don't play so often, but want to play with the effect of fresh gluing and want to dispense with the bothersome gluing. Players with expectations in high achievement and a lot of training will continue to glue as long as it is allowed. Every player glues differently and with different glues. Therefore the racket is tuned very individually.

Can you glue Power Sponge rubbers?

You can do that of course but we strongly advise against it. The tension in the rubber, especially the surface, can become too high and tears can happen already after a short while. Therefore we don't give any guarantees for freshly glued Power Sponge rubbers.

How long can the effect of fresh gluing last with Power Sponge rubbers?

Not for ever of course, but with the especially developed AluBag CO2 you can keep the effect for three to four months. That is the same as with a rubber with is glued permanently. If you don't use the AluBag CO2 the effect can disappear already after a month or less, depending on how often you play. Therefore we recommend urgently the use of the AluBag. The through a straw exhaled CO2 of the player provides a higher pressure in the AluBag than outside the normal packaging. Through this, the tension of the rubber is retained. We offer an accordingly larger bat case for the AluBag CO2, the PRO CASE Large.

So, the one who has enough of fresh gluing but wants to play with a rubber including the gluing effect and the feeling for a fresh glued rubber should change to PS rubbers?

Exactly, whether in two years or perhaps in one year, a change is due for players of all levels.

Let's talk about another top product from Butterfly: the new blade Boll TriCarbon, which contains for the first time – at least with Butterfly – three layers of Carbon. What is so special about these blades?

More and more players show the tendency to very fast blades from the OFF+ category. We chose a for our house a completely different construction for the Boll TriCarbon. In the middle of the balsa centre is one of the Carbon layers. Carbon supplies hardness, balsa feeling and lightness. For the outer layer we chose the very hard and uncoloured Paduk wood from Africa. The Boll TriCarbon lies concerning speed close to the top limit, but provides through its innovative construction with a soft balsa centre a lot of feeling. With only 95 grams it is very light in this speed category.

So, no blade for new beginners.

Of course not. It is meant for players who love the fast game and want to have a light racket with a lot of feeling.

More information about the Power Sponge under:

www.butterfly-world.com

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