



Schedule

22.01. - 25.01.04	Croatian Open
23.01. - 25.01.04	Europe Junior Top 12 in Le Creuzot
07.02. - 08.02.04	Europe Top 12 in Frankfurt/Main
18.02. - 19.02.04	World Junior Circuit in Orebro (SWE)



- Timo Boll successful
- Players of the year
- Preview TOP 12 in Frankfurt

- ITTF World's Ranking Lists
- Product of the month
- Schnuppermobil on Tour

- Expert-talk: Taisei Imamura
- And much more.....!

Kishikawa/Muramori win Gold at the World Junior Championships

No doubt the World Junior Championships are the most important tournament of the ITTF Global Junior Programme – With the Future in Mind!™. In Santiago de Chile at the end of December boys and girls from all over the world offered thrilling matches for eight days and showed their talent to experts and spectators. Out of the Butterfly point of view the young players currently taken care of by World class Coach Mario Amizic in Düsseldorf were in the focus of attention.

And it was them who caused a sensation at this first World Junior Championships. While in all other competitions the young Chinese dominated the Japanese combination Muramori/Kishikawa won the WCC crown in the doubles of the boys against the thrilling match was decided in the Japanese combination was Mizutani Seiya Kishikawa and bronze medal.

By the way: the necessary gathered by all three Japanese in Muramori (right) plays for the Hagen, Seiya Kishikawa (left) is Holthausen in the same league. for DJK Borussia Münster.



Portuguese Apolonia/Freitas. The sixth game. In the team as well the successful. Together with Jun Minoru Muramori achieved the

competition for this success was Germany. While Minoru 2.Bundesliga team of Post SV in the team of DJK Germania Mizutani plays in the 3rd division

Europe Top 12 in Frankfurt/main – Butterfly lottery: 11 out of 24 for the title.

The prestigious Europe Top 12 on the 7th and 8th of February advances to a “parade of the Butterflies”. No less than eleven out of 24 actors in the Main-City carry the Butterfly dress when competing at the first event of the Olympic year. The strong gender are the women: seven women of the Butterfly squad stand up against four men in this elite field. Amongst this quartet there are several aspirants for a victory at the most important tournament of the continent after the ECC. Ahead of all Timo Boll: At his “home play” the world’s No.6 goes for the first “hattrick” in the 33 years of history of the event. He won in 2002 and last year and not even Sweden’s Table Tennis idol Jan Ove Waldner was able to triumph three times in a row at the Europe Top 12 during his long time career. For Boll a great motivation: “Then I would be ahead of such Table Tennis Icons in one thing”.

Former World’s No.1 does not have to be afraid of meeting current European Champion Vladimir Samsonov. After loosing the last two finals Boll managed to beat the White-Russian in the final of a high class tournament in Chicago. Samsonov had won this tournament in 1998, 1999 and 2001 and is ranked five positions higher than the German. Boll: “The victory gave me much confidence for future duels with Samsonov”.

Tough competition awaits the defending champion within the Butterfly camp, for Kalinkos Kreanga (Greece), WCC third, second at the World Cup and only three ranks behind Boll, as well as World Champion Werner Schlager have to be considered as favourites as well. While Kreanga hopes for his first title at a major event once again, Schlager wants to return into the World’s top ten four years after his only Europe Top-12 victory.

At the women-tournament the chances for high flying Butterflies are not bad either. As only Top-10 player No.8 of the World’s Ranking list, Tamara Boros (Croatia), has to be considered top favourite. Further the Hungarian Krisztina Toth and the Rumanian European Champion Otilia Badescu as Butterflies are amongst the circle of the five highest ranked players. Toughest rival for this trio might be Badescu’s fellow Miheala Steff, who is ranked five positions behind Boros, as well as defending champion Jie Schöpp (Kroppach). Out of the circle of Butterfly stars Nicole Struse is always in for a title as well. The former European Champion has the home bonus like Boll. “I have been close several times, but a success in my home country of course would be great”, the Kroppach-player states and hopes for a surprise in spite of position 39 in the computer. “During such a tournament much can happen to the favourites and alleged outsiders can rise to great form. I’m going to seek my chances!”

The “Butterflies“ at the Europe Top 12 in Frankfurt/Main in an overview:

Men: Timo Boll (Gönnern/World’s Nr. 6), Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece/9), Werner Schlager (Austria/12), Petr Korbel (Czech Republik/27). **Women:** Tamara Boros (Croatia/World’s Nr. 8), Krisztina Toth (Hungaria/16), Otilia Badescu (Rumania/27), Liu Jia (Austria/31), Csilla Batorfi (Hungaria/37), Nicole Struse (Kroppach/39), Viktoria Pavlovich (White-Russia/40).

Timo Boll successful



Germany’s best Table Tennis player has ended the year 2003 with three enjoyable events. First Boll made an advisory contract with the well-known marketing agency cmg. Then shortly after Christmas he won a private tournament in Chicago noted 60.000 Dollars, where he beat European Champion Vladimir Samsonov in the final. And on new years eve the 22-year old married his fiancée Rodelia Jakobi in front of major Reiner Guth as registrar. Boll: “We’ve chosen this date on purpose, for one can’t forget new year’s eve as wedding day...”

Schnuppermobil

The table-tennis „Schnuppermobil“ is a mobile event program of the German Table Tennis Federation in cooperation with Butterfly. A car filled with Table Tennis has been travelling through the different regions of Germany for over a year now. Teamer Alexander Murek, responsible for bookings, coordination, realisation, schedule und calculations is carrying a large package of fun: two competition-tables, one school-table, a midi- and three mini-tables. Oversized-, competition-, midi-, and mini-rackets. Elephant-, XXL-, competition-balls. A tt-robot, a speaker-system for the newest chart-hits.



Schedule

January

- 24.1. Table Tennis Promotion of SKG Bickenbach

February

- 6.2. DTTB-Event: Day of the schools during the Europe Top 12 in Frankfurt/Main
29.2. Table Tennis day in Upper Franconia

March

- 26.-28.3. DTTB-Event: Hobbysport event at the National German Championships in Cottbus

Germany's players of the year: Boll on Position 1, Struse second

Table Tennis fans and experts in Germany have elected Elke Wosik, Timo Boll and Christian Süß as players of the year 2003. Nicole Struse became second tightly behind surprise winner Wosik. At the men Europe Top 12 winner Timo Boll dominated for the fifth time. The comeback of record National player Jörg Roßkopf in combination with his ECC bronze medal was honoured by the participants by the second rank. Butterfly ace Bastian Steger became fifth. The category Junior Player of the Year was won by European Junior Champion Christian Süß for the third time in a row as a farewell to this age category. Enjoyable was position five for Ruven Filus.

Men

1. **Timo Boll** 46,1
2. Jörg Roßkopf 25,9
3. Torben Wosik 20,2
4. Christian Süß 2,7
5. Bastian Steger 2,2

Woman

1. Elke Wosik 30,4
2. **Nicole Struse** 25,7
3. Jie Schöpp 16,5
4. Kristin Silbereisen 13,0
5. Tanja Hain-Hofmann 4,3

Youth

1. Christian Süß 37,9
2. Kristin Silbereisen 30,4
3. Dimitrij Ovtcharov 6,1
4. Patrick Baum 4,4
5. Ruven Filus 4,0

ITTF World's Ranking List, Women (Extract, 01 - 2004) (Butterfly-players are marked!)

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

ITTF World's Ranking List, Men (Extract, 01 - 2004) (Butterfly-players are marked!)

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

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

Contact:
Yuki Kamizuru
02841/90532-0

Product of the month

At well assorted distributors!



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



Amigo ball collecting net

Details: uncomplicated ball collector (16 x 28 cm) with telescopic handle (61 to 106 cm) for a low price.

19,90 Euro



Backpack for balls

Size: 22,5 x 22,5 x 40cm

Details: the ball backpack is suitable for more than 200 balls and can be placed directly on the table.

8,00 Euro



“Surprise egg”

Colours yellow, blue, green, pink

72 pieces per cylinder

A white ***-ball in a plastic hull

2,00 EURO per egg

119,00 EURO 72-cylinder



Fun Ball XXL

Training ball orange, double pack

1,80 Euro



Ballholder

Details: Ball holder for two 40mm balls with clip for hanging

2,40 Euro

Ball holder Triangel

Colour: blue, red, silver

Details: hard ball holder for 3 balls.

5,00 Euro





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“

Sriver – unbelievable, but true

Mr. Imamura, Sriver has been one of the most successful rubbers world wide for more than 30 years, if not the most successful. Actually quite unbelievable considering the changes the game of Table Tennis has gone through not only in technical terms.

As we launched Sriver many considered it as too fast and too difficult to control. Truly the difference to its predecessor TEMPEST in terms of speed were enormous. The breakthrough was caused by our contract players Tibor Klampar, Istvan Jonyer and Gabor Gergely. They showed what was possible with the Sriver.

Especially these three former top stars have improved the topspin play as well with forehand as with backhand enormously.

Such it is. Not to forget: Jacques Secretin or Dragutin Surbek and many more. Sriver was simply ideal for a powerful and variable offensive play with spin – and it still is today. Look at Timo Boll. But there was another point: the Hungarian top trio started to speed-glue the Sriver in 1978. And 1979 they became World Champion, after they had beaten China in the groups as well as in the final. With this date the “wedding” of the Sriver began and it lasts till today.

Is Sriver especially suited for speed-gluing?

Definitely. After the WCC in 1979 the speed-gluing continuously grew. First in the top sector, then on amateur level as well. Many rubbers caused problems when speed-glued, showed bubbles or cracks. With Sriver it worked well. Responsible for this is the sponge, which is unique and only produced for Sriver. Many have tried to copy this sponge, but no one succeeded so far.

The Sriver sponge is considered quite hard. Where's the difference to the Sriver EL and Sriver FX?

The surfaces of all three Sriver-versions are the same. The difference lies in the sponge. The FX has the softest sponge, Sriver the hardest and the EL is in the middle. With this we wanted to give players the option to adjust their material finer and more individual. Who prefers more feeling goes for FX, who needs direct hardness sticks to the Sriver and who wants to compromise plays EL.



Many players ask, how thick “max” is?

When adding the thickness of the surface rubber and the sponge one should get 3,8 mm. This means the sponge is about 2,2 to 2,3 mm thick.

The Sriver surface is considered not that grippy compared to rather “sticky” Chinese rubbers.

That’s not true. The grip of a rubber is not only determined by the surface but by the combination of surface and rubber. And you will always have to define the grip of a rubber always in relation to the technique played. At some techniques it’s mostly the surface that primarily manipulates the ball, for example the service of chopping over the table – and at this the sticky Chinese rubbers will provide more rotation. Playing topspin, especially counter-spins, at which the ball enters deeply into the rubber again Sriver will provide more rotation. Timo Boll and Petr Korb, both known for their extremely effective spin play, use Sriver on forehand and backhand.

Many claim that Sriver is a very durable rubber, which can be played for a while. Considering today’s prices an important argument for the amateur sector. Is this true?

Today definitely. At the beginning we too had our problems, but this is an advantage, when a rubber is produced for such a long time. Of course we have continuously improved it. Especially the surface has become more grippy and elastic and wears off slower. And we have changed the inner pimples as well. And Sriver does not need a cover foil to keep up it’s grip. Therefore I believe that the rubbers of the Sriver family are technically mature and so durable.

Is Sriver a rubber for anyone? One can see that it is played on all levels of skill and in all age groups.

Of course Sriver is a rubber for anyone. For with Sriver, Sriver EL and Sriver FX in the meantime there are three variations on the market all in thickness from 1,3 mm to max – a large choice. And I think it’s a temptation for young players to play with the rubber of your idol. And that Timo Boll plays Sriver is not a commercial lie but the pure truth.

Are there new plans for the Sriver programme?

Yes, this summer the new Sriver G2 will be launched. G2 stands for Generation 2, so the Sriver of the next generation.

A Sriver with of the new High Tension generation, so with built in high tension and speed glue effect?

Possible, but I don’t want to give away more details at the moment.

