

Schedule

18. - 20. of June German Student Championships, Darmstadt
 24. - 27. of June Pro Tour: Brazilian Open
 01. - 04. of July Pro Tour: US Open
 13. - 29. of August Olympic Games, Athen
 (Table tennis: 14. - 23. of August)
 27. bis 29. of August Children's Olympics Borussia Düsseldorf

- Portrait Butterfly
- Tetra Open in Cologne
- Interview with Holger Nikelis

- News
- World's Ranking List Men/Women
- Products of the month
- Expert talk: Rubbers - Part 1

Struse stays in Kroppach till 2005

The German Champion and Butterfly-player Nicole Struse has extended her contract with former Europe-cup winner FSV Kroppach till 2005. This was announced after an enquiry by our partner „Tischtennis Inside“. Decisive for the commitment at the Play-Off club was the confirmation of her position in the Military Sports Group. Now the European Champion of 1996 can focus on sports completely. „I've always said I'd stay in Kroppach, for the Olympic training centre and the Military in Mainz offer ideal conditions“, Struse announced.

A few days ago this nice „Thank-You“ for the support of the ITTF World Junior Circuit 2004 „Coupe du Monde Junior“ in New Caledonia arrived



ITTF-head Sharara worried about China's dominance

The World Federation ITTF obviously looks at China's dominance with growing concern. ITTF President Adham Sharara carried out a „hidden appeal“ about a month after the double triumph of Asia at the Team-WCC in Katar. Again he asked for intensive efforts to compete with China's aces. „I refuse to accept the idea, that China's opponents might be disillusioned and have lost the interest in competing with those marvellous players. For such a hopeless attitude there's no room amongst our elite“, the Canadian wrote in his personal note for the news page of the ITTF website with the headline „Fame or blame?“.

Four months before the Olympic Games in Athens the experts predict „China-weeks“ in spite of the limited participants per nation, and the ITTF obviously is in fear of a loss of attractiveness of the „product Table Tennis“, especially in the Chinese market, by those Chinese „walk-troughs“. Compared to former times the TV-ratings within the billion-people-empire were quite low.

Sharara, who usually only sticks to his „President Forum“ at the ITTF website, frankly confirms this point of view: „Of course it's true, that spectators and television viewers even in China could loose their interest, if China or any other nation dominates our sports for too long and the result of the final becomes predictable.

Before the WCC the ITTF-head called upon China's competitors for more effort: „Everyone talks about China being unbeatable. If you want to beat China you have to do everything to become stronger. One can't expect China to become weaker“, Sharara said in Doha.

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Butterfly's World

Butterfly - everyone knows this name in the Table Tennis World. The for decades continuing leading position of the brand in the international market yet has a reason: For Butterfly Table Tennis is the whole world.

Let it be rubbers and blades, clothing, shoes, accessories and fan-articles, let it be equipment like tables or scorers - Butterfly can fulfil all (Table Tennis) needs. And this on highest level. „Our highest values are quality and service. Perfect product quality is essential, to stand up in the market“, director Yuki Kamizuru of Tamasu Butterfly Europe located in Moers/Germany emphasizes the efforts of the Japanese company.



Hikosuke Tamasu, founder of the successful company

And of course the highest possible standards of Butterfly products in all areas finds acceptance - at hobby or amateur players as well as at world class athletes. „Butterfly is a class of it's own“, the German „Top-10“ player Timo Boll states. The former leader of the World's Ranking list trusted in Butterfly since he was a child, for Butterfly trusted in the „little Timo“ at an early age. Boll in review: „Aged 10 I had a contract with another brand, but they did not want to extend it. The reason: according to my needs I had asked for 28 instead of eight rubbers. Obviously this was too many for them and so Butterfly took over with good conditions. This was the beginning of a super partnership.“

The literal closeness to the athletes is truly the heart of the Butterfly philosophy and an important secret of the success of the prestigious brand. „In our opinion players are partners. Their views and their attitude are important to us and we always have an open ear for their wishes. Only with the practical experience we can develop our products for the basic player as well. The goal is to improve the quality and hopefully the player himself, too“, Kamizuru emphasizes.

Like Boll („No other company cooperates so professionally with it's players in terms of rubber- and product development“) many other prominent players all around the globe are convinced by this very human approach for decades. Other than the European Champion of 2002 currently Olympic Champion Kong Linghui, World Champion Werner Schlager, Europe Top-12 winners Nicole Struse and Michael Maze as well as the WCC-third Kalinikos Kreanga, former Asian Champion Kim Teak-Soo, former World Cup winner Zoran Primorac and World's leading women, Zhang Yining together with Europe Top-12 winner Tamara Boros are the Butterfly labels.





In total the sympathetic Butterfly players won around 40 WCC titles in the fastest rally game of the World. Frequently the fraction of Butterfly partners at World- or European Championships were more than 50 percent.

On club level there are cooperations with ETTU-Nancy-Evans-Cup-winner Levallois S.C.TT as well as with Champions-League Finalist TTV RE-BAU Gönnern, and recently with record- European-Cup-winner Borussia Düsseldorf. In addition Butterfly with it's internationally highly reputed Sports-Director Mario Amizic supports numerous talents worldwide, especially in it's home country Japan and in Europe.

The best example for Butterfly quality is definitely the SRIVER. The rubber entered the market in 1967 and has been a classics for quite a while now. Constant development makes the SRIVER series attractive to any player even after 40 years.

Innovations and new developments, not only at the SRIVER, are possible due to the company's training and research centre in Tokyo. The quality standards are watched by no other than Taisei Imamura, for many players the „Guru“ amongst the material experts. „Only those truly confident with our product stick to us and recommend us“, so Imamura's credo, „therefore we do anything for our customers and players.“

The origin of the „World of Butterfly“ was a business idea of Hikosuke Tamasu. For the former Japanese national player the founding of Tamasu Co.Ltd. in December 1950 in the small city of Yanai was fulfilling a life's dream, for today's senior director turned his hobby into his profession. His philosophy is still valid: „Every player is different. Every player has his strength and weaknesses. By an individual material I wanted to help players from the beginning on to emphasize their individuality.“

In this sense and by creativity, endurance and especially competence Tamasu led his company to the top, made his breakthrough in the beginning of the sixties with the rubbers ALLROUND D13 and TEMPEST D13. The SRIVER brought the company to the top of the international brands. Six years after the SRIVER Tamasu Butterfly Europe was founded in Moers, where in the years before Dr. Bela Simon had coordinated the distribution of Butterfly products in the old continent.

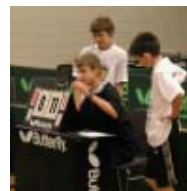
Since 1991 Tamasu's son Kimihiko is in charge and has again positioned the group perfectly with it's worldwide about 200 employees (around a dozen in Europe) in times of globalisation in Table Tennis as well.

It seems secured that the symbol of Hikosuke Tamasu's work of life will be a symbol for many future Table Tennis generations: the butterfly. The logo had been chosen for a reason: „The butterfly stands for peace, spring and joy. And Table Tennis brings people together world wide.“

„Family“ has always been a great value at Butterfly. Here at the WCC 2003 in Paris.



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Successful premiere of the „Tetra Open“ in Cologne

Holger Nikelis well prepared for the Paralympics



More than 40 participants of 15 nations met beginning of June in Cologne's ACR Sports Centre and thereby provided a proper environment for the 1. Tetra Open. For local hero and tournament director Holger Nikelis the performance before home audience in competition class 1 (Tetraplegics, all four limbs affected in terms of functionality and movement) ended already in the round of the best sixteen. Against World Champion Hae-Gon Lee it was a 1:3, but yet the man from Cologne was not unhappy: „I did not play bad and lost to the current World Champion. After breaking my hand beginning of the year there was no power left. A day before I had won against Lee 3:0 in the teams. If I start training regularly it looks good for the upcoming Paralympics.“

More successful was the performance of the leader of the World's Ranking list in the team-competitions. In a true drama he and his partner Walter Kilger beat the Korean favourites Jae Kwan Cho / Kang Lee in the fifth and crucial game with 12:10 after being behind 6:10.

In competition class 2 (Tetraplegics, intact shoulder functionality) Otto Vilsmaier lost to the Korean Kyung-Mook Kim by 1:3, yet was pleased by his performance in Cologne: „Kim was simply better than me. If I reach this result in Athens I'd be very happy.“

Summary: a successful premiere and a good rehearsal for the Paralympics.





Interview with Holger Nikelis

Holger Nikelis has reached the top. Since January 2003 the Cologne-born is on position 1 of the World's Ranking list and is one of the candidates for a medal at this year's Paralympics, if things go well. Not so well things went for the 26-year old in private. On a holiday in Spain in 1995 the sportsman broke his 6. cervical when jumping into shallow water. Since then he has been paraplegic from the breast downwards with massive limitations of arms and hands. After his High-school degree in 1997 Holger Nikelis started to study Media and Business at the University of Siegen and added Computer Science in January 2003. From then on the sympathetic sportsman together with his coach Michael Meißner focused completely on sports - with outstanding effort.

What brought you into Table Tennis after your severe accident?

I had played Table Tennis before, but not very well, on county level. In the clinic one of the rehabilitation courses was Table Tennis and I've tried it. It was hard to switch, but after a while it was really fun. End of 1997 I finished my school and then trained more intense - twice a week - till 1999, when it suddenly went extremely well.

In the meantime you've reached the World's top in a short period of time. How often do you train now?

Daily, at least until I broke my hand a few weeks ago. Now I slowly increase my training again and when preparing for Athens I'm going to be back in daily training.

Can you make a living of your sports alike your non-handicapped colleagues?

No, my main sponsor are rather my parents. Our sports is not as advanced yet and there is no prize money at tournaments. I have a contract with Butterfly, which helps enormously and I'm supported by the German Sports Aid and the Sport Fund of Nordrheinwestfalen. Without these partners I would be unable to do my sports and of course I'm always looking for new sponsors willing to engage themselves in our sports.

Rubber and blade are of major importance at the non-handicapped. Does this count for you as well?

This is hard to compare. At our play one does not recognize the differences that much. For example I now play the rubbers I've been playing before my accident. The blade is an exception, for it's the new Butterfly VSG-21 4000, which offers more control.











You once said, one „has to read the ball“. What does that mean?

This has been quite a while, I think it was 2001 at the ECC. Our movements are very limited and so our play is not dominated by speed, but tactics with high and short balls. Hereby it's extremely important to be able to realize and neutralize the rotation.

After the Tetra Open Athens is next on your schedule. What does the participation at the Paralympics mean to you?

Luckily I had already qualified by winning the European Championships last year. It's any sportsman's dream to participate. For me it's the first time and I'm really curious, for I've only heard great things about it.

Die aktuelle Weltrangliste (Top 10)

1	Holger Nikelis		2000
2	Walter Kilger		1655
3	Rolf Zumkehr		1380
4	Matti Launonen		1258
5	Daniel Haylian		990
6	Janos Kaiser		850
7	Haekon Lee		760
8	Erwan Fouillen		675
9	Seounghoon Kang		450
10	Patrick Rochet		425

How do you estimate your chances in September?

I hope to be able to get back to the strength I had before breaking my hand. I'm on a good path. I hope I'm still No.1 in the World's ranking and so No.1 in the seeding. With this good seeding I have a chance for the semi-final and for a medal.

You now belong to the World elite. Are there any further goals after the Paralympics?

Of course! First to win further tournaments, then to beat the other players constantly. In Korea at the WCC I „only“ had become Vice-World Champion, so I can make it better at the next WCC 2006 in Switzerland. And of course as organizer of tournaments I have the aim to make our sports more professional and to establish a position in the media. With a professional press-work we have already made a start, which the tournament in Cologne has proved.

Are there role models for you?

To be honest - no. Or better - I haven't found anyone yet, who has similar goals or attitudes.

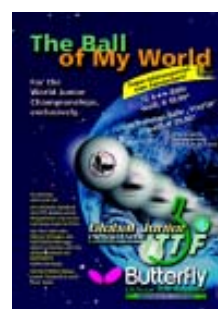
Which headline would you like to read in the newspaper about you?

There are several. It would be nice to read: „Nikelis wins Gold for Germany in Athens!“



Found in the net!

In the Internet as well Butterfly is more and more in the focus of attention. On the pages of our partner www.tischtennis-inside.de there's a link to our newsletter.



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

Contact:
Yuki Kamizuru
02841/90532-0

Products of the month

At well assorted distributors!



Link www.butterfly-world.com



Toilet bag Laxford

Size: 25x15x6 cm (l/w/h), Material: Denim 840,
Details: many practical inner cases and safe compartments

8,40 Euro



Travel bag Laxford Maxi

Size: 80x40x38 cm (l/w/h),
Material: Denim 840,
Details: large inner case with optional separations, 2 outer cases, stable rolls and a foldaway holder.

59,90 Euro



Shirt Fleet

Sizes: xxs-xxxl,
Colours: dark blue, light blue,
grey, Material: 60% cotton,
40% polyester

34,90 Euro



Sports socks Line

Sizes: s-l,
Material: cotton, acrylics, nylon,
polyurethan

4,90 Euro



Shirt ESK

Sizes: xxs-xxxl,
Colours: black/blue,
black/grey,
Material: 60% cotton,
40% polyester

36,90 Euro

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(Butterfly-players are marked!)

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

ITTF World's Ranking List, Men (Extract, 06 - 2004)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

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

The Material of
our players!

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Blade:</u>	<u>Forehand</u>	<u>Backhand</u>
BOLL, Timo	Boll spirit straight	Sriver L max red	Sriver L max black
SCHLAGER, Werner	Schlager Carbon flare.	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
KREANGA, Kalinkos	Primorac Carbon straight	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
KONG, Linghui	Kong Linghui Spez. anat.		Bryce 2,1 black
CHIANG, Peng-Lung	Chiang Peng-Lung (Penh.)	Bryce 2,1 red	
OH, Sang Eun	Special edition	Sriver L max red	Sriver L max black
KORBEL, Petr	P.Korbel flare	Sriver L max red	Sriver L max black
MAZE, Michael	Maze straight	Bryce 2,1 red	Sriver EL max black
PRIMORAC, Zoran	Primorac Carbon flare.	Sriver EL max red	Sriver EL max black
KEEN, Trinko	Jonyer Hinoki anatomic	Ekrips max sch	Bryce 2,1 red
MAZUNOV, Dimitri	A.Mazunov straight	Sriver EL max red	Bryce 2,1 black
LEGOUT, Christophe	Boll Spirit flare	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
MATSUSHITA, Koji	Matsushita Pro	Tackifire D 1,9 bl.	Feint Long II Kawa 0,5 red
HIELSCHER, Lars	L.Hielscher flare	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
STEGER, Bastian B.	Steger anatomic	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
TSIOKAS, Ntaniel	Matsushita Pro	Tackifire Spec. 1,9 red	Feint Long II 1,3 black
SCHLICHTER, Jörg	Boll Spirit flare	Bryce 2,1 black	Bryce 2,1 red
YOO, Seung Min	KimTaek Soo (Penh.)	Bryce 2,1 red	
JOO, Se Hyuk	Diode straight	Tackifire D 1,9 red	Feint Long II 1,3 black
ZHANG, Yining Zhang	Yining flare	Tackifire C max red	Sriver EL max black
KIM, Kyung Ah	Diode straight	Tackifire D 1,7 red	Feint long II 1,3 black
BOROS, Tamara	Viscaria flare	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
UMEMURA, Aya	Umemura conic	Ekrips Soft 2,1 red	Ekrips Soft 2,1 black
TOTH, Kisztna	Special edition	Sriver EL max. black	Sriver EL max red
LIU, Jia	Boll Spirit flare	Bryce 2,1 red	Bryce 2,1 black
GAO, Jun	Matsushita Pro	Challenger Attack	- (Penholder)
KIM, Hyon Hui	Defence straight	Sriver L 2,1 red	Feint long II 1,3 black
STRUSE, Nicole	Power Drive flare	Sriver EL 2,1 red	Sriver EL 2,1 black
BADESCU, Otilia	SK 7 flare	Speedy P.O. 2.1 black	Challenger Attack 1.9 red
BATORFI, Csilla	Special edition	Sriver FX 2,1 red	Sriver FX 2,1 black

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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 „Twist system“

We have much to offer for defence- or defensive allround-play!

The last Expert-Talk with Butterfly-Sports-Director Mario Amizic was about defence play. Of course the name of the South-Korean Joo Se Hyuk was mentioned, who is currently the best defence player. Joo ist Butterfly contract player. What are his materials?

On forehand TACKIFIRE D 1,9 mm, on backhand FEINT LONG II with 1,3 mm sponge.

You say TACKIFIRE D. This rubber does not show up in the current Butterfly catalogue 2003/2004. Is the model obsolete?

Truly, in Europe we have taken it off the market. In Asia it's still available. At the moment we intensively work on the improvement of the TACKIFIRE D. But yet I can't say when we will be finished.

If the TACKIFIRE D is still on the Asian market, it's available on request at TBE in Moers, isn't it?

Of course it is. One phone call is enough.

Back to Joo. The Korean speed-glues his forehand. Is that true?

Yes, that's true. By this his forehand attack is much more aggressive and dangerous. A few years ago he tried to glue his backhand as well, but he quit again after a while.

Besides Joo Butterfly has another defence player of extra class under contract, the Japanese Koji Matsushita. What's the difference between the two?

It's the forehand. Actually Joo is not a defender in the classic sense. He rarely defends with his forehand, but tries to play topspin as often as possible. Therefore his forehand defence is quite sensitive. For me Joo is more of an allround player, who defends with long pimples on his backhand. He strongly reminds me of the Chinese Ding Song, who was the last successful defender on international top level. Meanwhile Matsushita is a classical defender mainly playing defence on both sides, and this very safe. Therefore he attacks rarely and is more predictable out of the attackers point of view.

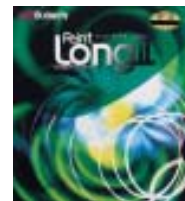
What does Matsushita play?

In the forehand a black TACKIFIRE D 1,9 mm and a red FEINT LONG II with 0,5 mm sponge on the backhand - so rather the classical combination.

Mr.Imamura, how do you see the future of the defence play as material expert?

This strongly depends on the thinking of the coaches. For me the chances of becoming World Champion as a defender are nearly at 0%. Still one has to see, that there are hardly any strong defenders left especially in Europe. And if you don't train against defence you will forget how to play against it. Last week at the International Polish Junior Championships there were only two defenders, a German and a Japanese, both truly not outstanding. But both came out top. For that I can't really make a prediction. The allround-defence system is definitely not dead, especially at the base, for not every player is the aggressive attacker.

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Butterfly offers a lot of material for defence players, rubbers and blades. And at the base in the local or regional leagues there are quite a few defensive players. Does Butterfly take these players seriously?

Very seriously, for we know exactly, that these basic players do play different than the top. Especially defence- and defensive allround-players can be found in large quantities. Our assortment of rubbers and blades has much to offer for those players and we are trying hard to bring new products into the market.

Let's talk first about the long pimples. The pimple-outwards section offers the FEINT SOFT and the FEINT LONG II, both as well available in the OX version without a sponge. What's the difference between those two classics?

FEINT LONG II is the true long pimple rubber of Butterfly. He has the longest pimples the ITTF regulations allow.

What's the actual long pimple effect?

I can give the most backspin against topspin.

And where is the problem at the FEINT LONG II, for every advantage usually brings a disadvantage?!

Of course the play above the table or at the table when pushing or returning is not easy; one has to work to get the feeling.

And what about the FEINT SOFT?

The FEINT SOFT actually has medium pimples, but the sponge is quite soft and intended for defence. Of course the FEINT SOFT, like a short pimple rubber, offers more options. Therefore its chop-defence is not as dangerous as with the FEINT LONG II.

A word about the OX version without a sponge?

To defend by chopping without a sponge is definitely the safest method. The defence is very controlled. But it is totally passive. For players only wanting to return with their backhand it's recommendable. But for players that want to play active and variable with their long pimples, for example by blocks or topspin, I would strongly recommend not to use the OX version.

You said topspin with the FEINT LONG II or the FEINT SOFT. Did I get this right?

Yes, yes, of course one can attack with both rubbers; the thicker the sponge, the better. Compared to the sandwich rubbers of course it's more difficult and has to be practiced intensively. But who is able to play such variations will cause much confusion at his opponent.

Other Table Tennis companies have brought several long pimple rubbers into the market. Some of them were titled as „secret weapons“. The market has to be large. Are there new developments at Butterfly?

We know the market should not be underestimated. Especially at medium or lower level. But our highest principle - this goes for our complete assortment of rubbers - is quality. We know very well that other brands produce softer long pimples than we do. We as well want to launch a softer long pimple rubber, for it's more dangerous in terms of rotations and variation. But at the same time we know, that soft pimples have great stability problems. Softer pimples break more easily. At top level it might be, that in the fifth game two or three pimples are missing. Why is the FEINT LONG II so successful, very likely the World's most successful long pimple rubber? Because it's stable. That's why it's played by the Vice-World-Champion as well as by the local-league player. But as mentioned, we are working very hard to develop a softer, but still rigid long pimple rubber.

In August we will continue the topic defence at our Material Talk. Then it's about sandwich rubbers and defence blades.