

Butterfly® December 2005

NEWS

Grand Finals: Successful „Butterflies“



Read more about the Grand Finals on the next pages!



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Outstanding Timo Boll wins Gold in Singles and Doubles

Fuzhou. Two weeks before Christmas the Butterflies of the House of Tamasu celebrated their advanced feast at the Grand Final of the ITTF ProTour in the South of China. In all of the titles in the four main competitions Tamasu-partners were involved, ahead of all Timo Boll. World's No. 2 from Germany won the title in the singles as well as in the doubles. While Olympic Champion Zhang Yining from China dominated the singles without serious challenge, the born Chinese Gao Jun, now playing for the USA, surprised by winning the doubles. Besides the four Gold medals, the Butterfly double Oh Sang Eun / Lee Jung Woo secured silver at the Men. In the U21 competition of the Women Italian Nikoleta Stefanova became second.

Timo Boll will be able to do some relaxed Christmas shopping in the remaining days. For his titles the player from Gönnern took home 43.000 Dollars, of which 38.000 were for his victory in the Singles. But this was not it. Alike Zhang Yining the World Cup winner was given an additional New Beetle Cabriolet by the main sponsor of the event.

But before both of the tournament winners earned their salary by three days of outstanding Table Tennis. Zhang Yining emphasized her exceptional position in the World by not giving away a single game, even in the final against World's No.3 Li Jia Wei (Singapore). The young women from Shanghai did not struggle against Nicole Struse (Germany) either, who was the only female European player in the Quarter Finals besides Butterfly-colleague Tamara Boros (Croatia). On their way both beat Hongkong players – Boros against Lin Ling and



For World's No.2, Timo Boll, the Grand Finals were a successful finish of the year.

22nd of January 2006

Pro Tour: LIEBHERR Slovenian Open, Velenje

24th of January to 28th of January 2006

Pro Tour: LIEBHERR Croatian Open, Zagreb

17th of February to 21st of February 2006

Pro Tour: LIEBHERR Qatar Open, Doha

21st of February to 24th of February 2006

Pro Tour: LIEBHERR Kuwait Open, Kuwait City



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All prices are recommended retail prices.

Struse against Zhang Rui. As the fourth Butterfly player Gao Jun reached the round of the best eight by beating Sun Bei.

Two times short programme and two times freestyle – this could be a description of the performances of Timo Boll in Fuzhou. Against the Tamasu Partner Chuan Chih-Yuan (Taiwan) as well as against Ko Lai Chak (Hongkong) it was hard work over full distance. Yet afterwards Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min (Hong Kong) and Belgium's Table Tennis idol Jean Michel Saive suffered a fascinating demonstration of the art of Table Tennis by Boll: „Today I played my best Table Tennis in the semi final and the final, after I had much more effort than I would have preferred with the strong and uncomfortable opponents of the first two rounds. But one can only wish for such a finish of a year. It couldn't be better.“

Content with only one exception was South-Koreas WCC-third Oh Sang Eun, who reached the semi-final in the singles and lost only one double with his partner Lee Jung Woo in the final against Boll and Partner Christian Süß. Oh: „In total this was a good tournament for me. But I should have taken a 3:0 lead against Saive...“ Oh's partner in the doubles, Lee Jung Woo surprisingly lost to the Russian Fedor Kuzmin and little successful was the performance of former World Champion Werner Schlager, too. The Austrian lacked a chance against Adrian Crisan in round one.

The most surprising title was won by the US-American Gao Jun at the side of Spanish Shen Yanfei. The left-right-combination set the base to their title by a totally unexpected success in the quarter-final against the Chinese favorites Guo Yue and Guo Yan.

For the first time host China had to satisfy itself with only one title at the Grand Finals. In the end it was a result of their own politics. The Asian country had accepted that its top-stars Wang Liqin, Wang Hao and Ma Lin were not qualified due to only few starts. Only representative at the Grand Finals was 17-year old World Junior Champion Ma Long, who dropped out in the quarter final against Oh Sang Eun. Men's Head-Coach Liu Guoliang might not allow himself such a loss of prestige too often.

The most important results:

Men's Singles

1. Timo Boll GER
3. Oh Sang Eun KOR

Women's Singles

1. Zhang Yining CHN

Men's Doubles

1. Timo Boll GER (with Christian Süß GER)
2. Oh Sang Eun/Lee Jung Woo KOR

Women's Doubles

1. Gao Jun USA (with Shen Yanfei ESP)

U21, Women

2. Nicoletta Stefanova ITA



Zhang Yining is the most successful Butterfly of the World

Guangzhou. Butterflies are sensitive beings in normal life, which beguile their viewers by their lightness of being and their elegance. For Zhang Yining all this counts without any restriction. The young woman from Beijing goes for the most important medals and titles of the globe with an easiness, that makes most competitors loose their confidence while marvelling. This happened last at the 15th of December 2005: only a few days after winning the title of the Grand Finals of the ITTF Pro Tour, World's best female Table Tennis player ends her year of sport with a triumph at the Women's World Cup in Guangzhou. And as partner of the Tamasu Company Zhang Yining is clearly the most successful Butterfly ever.

Was there a Grand Slam in Table Tennis, Zhang Yining would have earned it in 2005. The Chinese won all important titles of the globe within 12 month: World Championships in Shanghai, Grand Final of the ITTF Pro Tour last Sunday, and today the World Cup of the Women. In the final of Guangzhou the exceptional athlete wrote a new chapter of Table Tennis history by beating friend and team-mate Guo Yan in a clear 4:0.

The most effort was surprisingly caused by Gao Jun in the group, where she left the table as winner after seven tough games against the Butterfly contract partner. The US-American surprised in the groups and entered the quarter-final by winning against Olympic-third Kyung Ah (South Korea). There the later third Ai Fukuhara (Japan) stopped the triumph march of the born Chinese.

Up to the quarter final a third Butterfly acted quite straightforward. Croatian Tamara Boros booked a remarkable victory of her group, where she beat favourite Chinese Guo Yue and Butterfly-colleague Viktoria Pavlovich (Belarus). It was later finalist Guo Yan who ended Boros' dream of a medal.

Austria's European Champion Liu Jia this time was not able to leave the groups and had to step aside for Guo Yan and the Hongkong-Chinese Tie Yana.

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (12/2005)

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

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (12/2005)

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	LIU Jia AUT
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	STEFF Mihaela ROU
3	Li Jia Wei SIN	18	ZHANG Rui HKG
4	GUO Yan CHN	19	TOTH Krisztina HUN
5	NIU Jianfeng CHN	20	Li Jiao NED
6	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	21	FAN Ying CHN
7	WANG Nan CHN	22	WANG Yue Gu SIN
8	TIE Yana HKG	23	MOON Hyun Jung KOR
9	BOROS Tamara HRV	24	STRUSE Nicole GER
10	LIN Ling HKG	25	SONG Ah Sim HKG
11	GAO Jun USA	25	FUKUHARA Ai JAP
12	CAO Zhen CHN	27	KIM Hyang Mi PRK
13	LAU Sui Fei HKG	28	CHANG Chenchen CHN
14	PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR	29	WOSIK Elke GER
15	LI Xiaoxia CHN	30	SHEN Yanfei ESP

(Butterfly-players are marked!)



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...Timo Boll: „A perfect finish of the year“



Butterfly: Mr. Boll, two titles so shortly before Christmas at one of the most important tournaments of the World. Was this an early Christmas present?

Boll: „In terms of sports – yes. This was a perfect finish of the year, with which I’m very pleased. WCC second in the doubles, Champions League Winner, World Cup Winner, victories at the Japan and Swedish Open and now the Grand Final. This is hard to exceed.“

Butterfly: You traveled to Fuzhou with much confidence...

Boll: „Yes, I went there to win the title. I’m World’s No.2 and I knew that normally I’m able to beat any player when reaching my form. But two titles I did not dream of.“

Butterfly: Was this the best Boll available?

Boll: „I’m still working hard and I hope I can still improve. This time almost everything was perfect. The first rounds I had to work, but the opponents were uncomfortable for me. Afterwards I played almost perfectly. It can’t be much better.“

Butterfly: Zhang Yining, you won the title without giving away a single game. Would you have thought this possible?“

Zhang: „I never think about such things. Important is, that one is on the top of the pedestal in the end, no matter if won tightly or clearly. Some games have been tight as well.“

Butterfly: You’re an exceptional sport-women. Do you think about losing as well?

Zhang: „I’m not unbeatable. Many good Chinese players have not started this time. But I try to think positive all the time. I do not deal with my negative thoughts but rather try to play my best Table Tennis and to win by this. If it does not work out – luckily it happens rather rarely – I try to analyze the reasons to be more successful next time. „

Butterfly: Is there a secret to your success?

Zhang: „No. I’m ambitious and I always want to win. That’s why I always try to go into competition and be perfectly prepared with the help of my coaches. For the Grand Finals I was perfectly prepared and I hope I will be able to confirm my form from Wednesday on at the Grand Finals of the Women once again. But it will be harder. All Chinese will be there.“

...Zhang Yining: „I was very well prepared“





In 1999 Mario Amizic became Butterfly Sports Director, after he had been on a successful hunt for titles with the German record champion Borussia Düsseldorf for twelve years becoming the World's most successful club coach. A year later the born Croatian was given the permission by Butterfly to face another task, on which other well known coaches before have failed: to discover young Japanese talents and bring them into the international elite. How Mario Amizic dealt with the task, which paths he went and how his top players do today, you will be told in this interview in two parts. His experiences and ideas can be transferred to other areas of Table Tennis.

Part 1

„I was incredibly curious“

Mr. Amizic, since 1999 you work as Sports Director for Butterfly. But this is not your only job. Already in the year 2000 you started to work as talent scout and promoter for the Japanese Table Tennis federation. This was a totally new task in a new field for you. Was it hard to accept the job?

The decision was not hard, but the circumstances were. The former Swedish National Coach Sören Alen had given up at the Japanese Federation just a few months before. He had made bad experiences in Japan. And now again a foreigner for Japan, this was truly a difficult consideration. The approval by Butterfly made the decision. Actually I had been very curious about the job. And I had worked in several countries. I have not really been afraid of the job.

So a dream job?

I wouldn't say so, for there were and are a number of difficulties. But it was a very attractive job. To move something in such a grand Table Tennis nation like Japan with a great tradition, this was a big challenge.

As you started in the year 2000 in Japan, the Japanese Federation did not have any internationally promising talents. The perspectives were towards zero, the junior section was devastated. Did you have a specific concept how to lead Japan out of this crisis?

The junior section was not devastated. This would be wrong to say. Yet the Federation did not have a real concept or system, how to bring talented youngsters to the international top. This was the difficulty: there are many accurate and studious coaches and teachers at the basis, partly working for free and doing a gigantic job. But I had to convince them that it was not enough to bring kids to the national top. No, they had to be led to the international top. And therefore they had to leave Japan and go out into the wide Table Tennis World to gather experience. This was new to them, the international aspect was alien to them. And they did not have the experience, so they weren't in favor of my idea. And besides I couldn't promise how it would end up, of course.

Your contract said that you would only need to be present in Japan in phases of sighting and training events. You still live in Düsseldorf. What is the concept in detail?

Truly, besides the mentioned idea I did not have a concept. The concept has evolved while we went along. At the beginning I traveled through Japan a lot to sight talents, visit Table Tennis schools and training centers. Then I set up a talent group, held training camps with them and traveled abroad with them to do training camps with colleagues. I wanted to open their eyes and show them that there is another Table Tennis besides the Japanese. After I while I realized, that the circumstances for bringing Japanese talents to the World's top were insufficient at that point of time. And so today's concept evolved. Out of need, out of instinct, out of my visions. And the success seems to support me. The most talented players had to leave Japan.

What does „leave Japan“ mean?

I chose the most talented players at that time. Then we had many talks and negotiations with the National Olympic Committee of Japan to find a financial concept to promote players abroad. That they were able to live there, train professionally and play to reach an international level, which a Table Tennis Nation like Japan deserves. The negotiations have been successful and the model is on solid financial base until today.

To promote Japanese talents abroad means Germany. Presently four Japanese talents live in Düsseldorf and train in the Table Tennis Center of Borussia, play for German first- and second Bundesliga clubs. Was that the plan from the beginning on?

No, this happened rather spontaneously. As I realized the situation in Japan I tinkered, means looking for opportunities how to manage to let them train in a professional environment abroad. For this Borussia Düsseldorf turned out as best place. Because I had been head coach at Borussia for more than twelve years (Mario Amizic is considered the most successful club coach ever) Düsseldorf is my living room. The sports environment in Düsseldorf is the best of Europe. The Table Tennis Center offers perfect logistic. And Düsseldorf is a Japanese city. Far the most Japanese people in Germany live here (more than 8000). My Japanese children can eat Japanese, shop, have a Japanese barber and find all Japanese media. It eases the homesickness.

You talk about your children?

Yes, indeed. My job not only happens in the hall as a coach. Actually I have to take care of everything: housing, school, problems and, and, and... As like one's own children. But with this Tasei Imamura from Butterfly Europe helps a lot. Moers, the headquarter of TBE, is not too far from Düsseldorf.

When did the first players come to Düsseldorf?

In 2002 Ryusuke Sakamoto and Seya Kishikawa came. Sakamoto was 18 years old at the time and Kishikawa 15. Jun Mizutani, 14 years old, followed in 2003 and Taku Takagiwa, 17, came half a year ago.



Kishikawa



Mizutani



Sakamoto



Takagiwa

More than talents: Kishikawa, Mizutani and Takagiwa became World Team Champion only a few days ago in Linz.

Gönnern's manager Mai: A chance with risks after the sponsor withdraws.

Norbert Mai, recently the announcement of the withdrawal of the name-sponsor caused much commotion at the TTV RE-BAU Gönnern. Normally successful clubs attract sponsors almost magnetically; the more it's curious, that a Champions League winner loses its main sponsor. How can this be explained?

The upcoming withdrawal of our partner has no connection to the results of our team. The decision of RE-BAU is rather a consequence out of the bad economic situation in the building industry. The company is very solid in general, but times, in which the budgets have to be minimized, are no times for sponsorship, no matter how successful. The withdrawal was a decision for the company and not against Gönnern.

The company has supported Gönnern for almost ten years and was part of all the success. Such long-term cooperation is often characterized by better options for the sponsor. Isn't this a chance for Gönnern for a better funding as Champions League winner?

This is true regarding the fact, that we will look around in market and its possibilities up to a certain point. The result of these efforts can be seen as a clue about the worth of Table Tennis in general, after many positive tendencies could be noticed for our sports in Germany, especially after the success of our top-player Timo Boll. The problem might be, that only few international companies invest in Table Tennis. As such this chance brings a great risk as well.

Did the withdrawal come unexpected?

After the death of the general manager, who was well connected to us, it was clear that the former engagement would be questioned. For this the thoughts about today's situation are older. Yet the talks about it have been held recently. At least the early point of decision leaves us time to look for a replacement.

This situation raises memories about last autumn, as your club considered a withdrawal from the professional section due to financial problems...

This situation can not be compared with 2003. This was a different dimension. At that time we had to cope with an immediate withdrawal of a sponsor and the bankruptcy of another leading to financial losses within a running season. Today we have the opportunity to find another main

sponsor until the beginning of next season. The team is safe for the upcoming season. If we qualify we will be able to play the Champions League with a proper team and be in Europe's top in 2006 as well.

There are different figures about the hole in Gönnern's budget of the new season...

For a top team in the Bundesliga at the moment we lack between 100.000 to 150.000 Euros.

Does this upcoming withdrawal endanger Timo Boll's engagement in Gönnern?

No, this is not affected.

How does it influence the staff planning?

We do not make any talks besides our three fix positions Timo Boll, Jörg Roßkopf and Slobodan Grujic. Any interested players are asked for patience until the situation is clearer. We plan in different categories. At today's state we will work with inexpensive, so young and eager players for positions four and five. Should the tendencies change we would wish for a stronger team, for we want to offer Timo Boll the chance to become German Champion with us. In this case we would rely on the player's market.

Last let's enlighten Gönnern's sportive result at the end of the year. Does the season after the Champions League triumph match your expectations?

We are on a Play-Off position in the Bundesliga. This and winning the group in the Champions League is perfect.

In the European king's class Gönnern will meet TTC Grenzau in a German quarter final. How do you see your chances?

I think we can beat Grenzau. It's my impression that our players are even slightly better in the Champions League than they are in the Bundesliga.

Mr. Mai, thank you for this interview.

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By an intensive research we managed to produce the high-tension rubbers BRYCE, BRYCE FX, CERMET, CATAPULT and SRIVER G2, that fulfill the highest quality standards:

- perfect tackiness of the surface stays as we know it from the other rubbers without any special protection foil.
- when in contact with oxygen the surface does not stain for sure.
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- because of the balance of tension the rubber does not warp.

Test it yourself and put the rubber without glue on an even surface. You will see that it does not coil. The playing attributes of BRYCE, BRYCE FX, CERMET, CATAPULT and SRIVER G2 will thrill you!

Permanent high tension causes pure passion. With the BUTTERFLY High-Tension technology the future has started.



Bryce FX

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Category: Power Spin

Speed: 11,75 Spin; 9,75

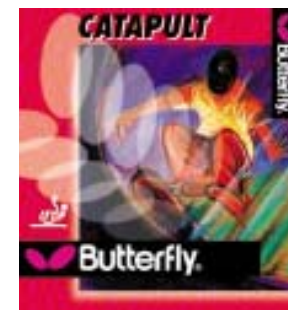
Thickness of the sponge: 1,9/2,1

Hardness of the sponge: soft

Price: 41,40 €



Catapult



Catapult – like speed glued without speed gluing. With the Catapult eight years of development have led to a high-tech rubber which is played as if speed glued. The „sound“ already tells you. And even more the spin and the catapult-like unchained power. The highly elastic rubber surface and the extremely resonant sponge are evenly shifted in their high tension and provide these effects. For this the extensive High-Tension-by-BUTTERFLY production method is necessary, which guarantees durable tackiness of the surface without any protection foil. And the rubber does not stain either. Test the CATAPULT

Category: Power Spin

Speed: 11,0 Spin; 9,0

Thickness of the sponge: 1,9/2,1/Max

Hardness of the sponge: soft

Price: 33,40 €



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Category: OFF

Veneers: 7

Handles: AN,FL,ST

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Price: 49,90

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Category: OFF

Veneers: 5

Handles: AN,FL,ST

Weight: (approx) 85 g

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Sizes: XXS-3XL

Colors: marine/red/white, logo: silver

Price: 89,90 €



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Functional mixed fabric „Cotton Feeling“ of 60% cotton, 40% polyester. Cuffs of the sleeves with contrasting color, raglan-cut with contrasting stripes for perfect freedom of movement.

Sizes: XXS-3XL

Colors: marine, light blue, gray

Price: 34,90 €

