

Butterfly®

April

2006

NEWS

WC on TV!

Times on Eurosport

This sports channel is going to show more than 15 hours mainly live from the AWD - Dome.

At the moment the following programs are planned:

Wed. 26.4.	2 - 3.30 p.m.	Women preliminary round Germany - South Korea LIVE
Thur. 27.4.	10 - 12.30a.m.	Women preliminary round LIVE
Thur. 27.4.	1 - 3.30 p.m.	Men preliminary round China - Sweden LIVE
Fri. 28.4.	2 - 3.30 p.m.	Women Quarterfinals LIVE
Sat. 29.4.	6.30 - 8.00 p.m.	Men Quarterfinals
Sun. 30.4.	7 - 9 p.m.	Men Semi - finals LIVE
Mon. 1.5.	12.30 - 1.30	Women Final
Mon. 1.5.	1.30 - 4 p.m.	Men Final LIVE



Timo Boll: to be in the media eye

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Team W C in Bremen

Zhang Yining: Miss Perfect

Even an broken arm isn't a broken leg for Zhang Yining: the undisputedly best player in the world managed to overcome a tricky injury for table tennis players apparently effortless during the summer in 2005 and is now back with impressive results in the second half of the year. World Cup or Grand Finals of the Pro Tour - there was no way past the Butterfly - Star like six month before at the Single - WC in Shanghai - before her injury during a training session. The same applies for the top position in the world ranking list for three years.

Zhang's Tamasu colleague Nicole Struse, who could win against the Chinese World Number One in the beginning of 2004 during the Greek Open in Athens as the last European player up to now, sees the strength of the 24 year old especially in the consistency on a very high level. „She doesn't make easy mistakes. She is extremely consistent in game situations so that you must take a high risk as her opponent to win a point,“ describes the former European Champion and Europe - Top - 12 winner of 1994 the record World - Cup - Winner (four victories) as „Miss Perfect“.



24th of April – 1st of May 2006

LIEBHERR Team

Worldchampionships, Bremen

1st of June – 4th of June 2006

**Pro Tour: Volkswagen Korea Open,
Do**

8th of June – 11th of June 2006

**Prp Tour: Chinese Taipei Open,
Taiwan**

15th of June – 18th of June 2006

Pro Tour: Volkswagen China Open



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All prices are recommended retail prices.

Zhang wants to write one more success story with the Chinese National Team at the imminent Team - WC in Bremen. „We want to defend our title from 2004 successfully but we must be careful because there are also other strong teams“, says the young woman from Peking before her departure to Europe. With all due respect for the opponents such statements may be taken as understatements: since 1993 the Chinese have been unbeaten in WC - competitions and every other Women Team Champion apart from China would be the biggest sensation in all sports since decades.

A triumph in Bremen would mean the fourth Team Gold at WC tournaments for Zhang Yining. In 2000 the right handed player was a member of the Chinese team for the first time but in the shadow of the in her time dominating Wang Nan.

The change in leadership for the Queen of the table tennis world of nowadays happened two years ago at the Olympic Games in Athens: Zhang used the early knock out of Wang to win the Gold Medal.

Trough this most important triumph in the table tennis sport the Asian player, who also won the doubles with Wang in Hellas, put away all doubt about her position as number one. Zhang had taken the leadership of the World Ranking List at the beginning of January 2003. Nevertheless the lead on the computer ranking didn't bring her any luck in the beginning: Zhang lost to Wang at the Single World Championships in Paris after a so called clear lead of 3:0 in the same year.

Zhang Yining considers the fact that she had to be satisfied with Silver again in Eindhoven 1999 as an important experience to mature to a dominating player nowadays: „Paris has only made me even more ambitious.“

In Bremen Zhang Yining wants to satisfy her hunger for success a little bit again.



Befor the WC: Werner Schlager

What is the meaning of the Team WC for you and what is your target in Bremen?

The Team WC is the highlight for this year. My target is a medal for Austria.

How was your preparation for the WC up to now and do you think that you can start in Bremen in top form?

The preparation is starting soon. I am very satisfied with my form at the moment and I am convinced that I can improve even more until Bremen.

What do you think about Germany and Bremen as a host for the Team WC?

The geographical closeness suits me a lot.

Table tennis is an individual and a team sport. Which meaning has the team event in table tennis in general and the Team WC in particular?

In general I try to consider both disciplines with the same degree of attention. The Team WC is because of its tradition something very special of course.

What do you think about the mode of playing at the WC? Some insiders maintain that the momentary system is not optimal and the event is too big considering the number of participating teams.



ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (04/2006)

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

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (04/2006)

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	STRUSE Nicole GER
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	FUKUHARA Ai JAP
3	GUO Yan CHN	18	STEFF Mihaela ROU
4	Li Jia Wei SIN	19	JIANG Huajun HKG
5	LI Xiaoxia CHN	20	LI nan CHN
6	WANG Nan CHN	21	MOON Hyun Jung KOR
7	BOROS Tamara HRV	22	FAN Ying CHN
8	TIE Yana HKG	23	TOTH Krisztina HUN
9	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	24	LIU Jia AUT
10	NIU Jianfeng CHN	25	Li Jiao NED
11	GAO Jun USA	26	WANG Yue Gu SIN
12	LIN Ling HKG	27	ZHANG Rui HKG
13	CAO Zhen CHN	28	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
14	LAU Sui Fei HKG	29	KIM Hyang Mi PRK
15	PAVLOV ItCH Viktoria BLR	30	SHEN Yanfei ESP

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

The decision about a playing system is always a compromise which can never satisfy all participants. If there are problems with the schedule, necessary changes have to be made.

Who will take the first three places in the women and men event?

Men:

1. China
2. Austria
3. Korea
3. Germany

Women:

1. China
2. Korea
3. Hong Kong
3. Japan

We have to count on surprises - positive as negative. Therefore my lists are only speculation.

Before the WC: Sebastian Steger

Which meaning has the Team C for you and what is your target in Bremen?

Naturally this is something very special to be allowed to play a WC in your own country. Everybody wants to play his best to play as successful as possible. The biggest achievement would be to win a medal and I don't mind which one.

How was your preparation for the WC up to now and do you think you can play in top form in Bremen?



We had a lot of competitions up to now and were travelling a lot. Then you miss time good training. During the next weeks we have got a lot of time to work towards a good form. I am optimistic that I can be in good form in Bremen and support the German team as good as possible.

What do you think about Germany and Bremen as a host for the Team WC?

I think that such big events are very good in Germany. They are always organized very well with very good playing conditions. Additionally there is always a big interest from the spectators.

Table tennis is an individual and a team sport. Which meaning has the team event in table tennis in general and the Team WC in particular?

It is always great fun to play in a team, especially during a WC you want to help your team to be successful and it is big fun to support the other players.

What do you think about the mode of playing at the WC? Some insiders maintain that the momentary system is not optimal and the event is too big considering the number of participating teams.

Surely you can think about that. Nevertheless a different playing system will not prevent that the best will win! Therefore the system is not the most important issue with such a tournament.

Who will take the first three places in the men and women event?

Men:

1. China
2. Korea
3. Germany
3. Hong Kong

Women:

1. China
2. Hong Kong
3. Korea
3. Singapore

Before the WC: Zoran Primorac

Which meaning has the Team C for you and what is your target in Bremen?

It is a very big tournament and a big responsibility because you are not only playing for yourself. You play for your team mates, for your coach and for your country.

How was your preparation for the WC up to now and do you think that you can start in Bremen in top form?

The preparations went well. We had a good camp together with Hong Kong, Serbia and Slovenia. I hope to be in top form in Bremen.

What do you think about Germany and Bremen as a host for the Team WC?

I think it is the best choice for the team WC, because table tennis is very popular in Germany and the German Association is well known for their brilliant organisation.

Table tennis is an individual and a team sport. Which meaning has the team event in table tennis in general and the Team WC in particular?



The meaning is especially important for the national associations. Here you can show if you belong to the powerful table tennis nations.

What do you think about the mode of playing at the WC? Some insiders maintain that the momentary system is not optimal and the event is too big considering the number of participating teams.

The playing system is correct. I think it is impossible to find the perfect one.

Who will take the first three places in the men and women event?

Men:

- 1. China**
- 2. Korea**
- 3. Germany**
- 3. Croatia**

Women:

- 1. China**
- 2. Hong Kong**
- 3. Korea**
- 3. Croatia**

Timo's magic forhand serves, part II

In the March issue we have studied Timo's forehand serves as a whole and learnt about the main movement points. Today we want to concentrate on the moment of ball contact. Which and how much spin the ball receives. Here it is important to perform the movement so speedily and similarly that the opponent can recognize it only with great difficulties. And that is exactly Timo's strength. Like nobody else is he able to vary the spin with his forehand serves. Naturally it is not only the spin but also the speed and placement but we don't want to discuss that here. Timo is one of the very few who can give side - spin to the ball from right to left (see picture 1) as well as from left to right (see picture 2), and that in combination with more or less backspin or as pure side - spin. This originally Chinese speciality was developed in Europe by Jan-Ove Waldner and now Timo is the perfectionist.

We see four sequences of three pictures of Timo's forehand serves, taken once from the side perspective and once from a half sloping view. Timo shows us once his left - right side-spin variety (pictures A-F) and his right-left version (pictures G-L).

The left-right version (A-F) is commonly used by left handed players. Accordingly is the right-left version used more often by right handed players. After the racket is moved away from the body in the preparatory phase, it is moved back towards the body and contact with the ball is made on this stretch. This serve movement is the easier one from the point of view of co-ordination and therefore the one you see more often.

The much more difficult version from the point of view of co-ordination is the right-left version (G-L). Using the same preparatory swing movement the ball is hit after the turning point away from the body. We can observe this very well on the pictures G-L. If the opponent doesn't recognize the difference in rotation the ball will surely go out.

On all four sequences the perfect action of the wrist can be seen. Depending on the angle of the blade and the direction of movement of the blade the ball receives different side-spin. A vertical position of the blade hints at pure side-spin (picture H,L) and a slightly open blade at side-backspin (picture E). You can also produce backspin if the racket head is pointing downwards (picture B).

If the ball is hit more sideways -horizontally the sidespin is increased. How much spin can be generated is depending on the wrist movement and the speed of the racket when contact with the ball is made. Much wrist movement produces much spin, little movement less spin. That is why services may be played with little or no spin if the wrist is fixed at the moment of contact with the ball. A „no spin“ variety has surprised many opponents.

If a table tennis outsider watches the serves he would say: „they look all the same to me!“ That is exactly Timo's secret. From the outside all serves look the same but the difference lies in the contact with the ball. Sometimes his opponents and onlookers can only guess what he has „put in it“ now.

08 Stars under the magnifier



09 Stars under the magnifier



10 Stars under the magnifier



11 Stars under the magnifier

