

Butterfly® NEWS

December 2006

Join in and win!



For the third year running our „Butterfly Newsletter“ is issued. Although the feedback on our current information is very positive, we would like to improve our service. Therefore we are asking for your help at the end of the year. We would be glad if you could fill out the questionnaire on the next page and send it back to us by the 15th of January 2007.

We are going to have a raffle among those who sent in the answers and you can win 5 x 2 of Butterfly Rubbers.

www.butterfly-world.com

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Fragebogen Newsletter (December 2006)

Name: _____
 Club: _____
 Age: _____
 Address: _____

Join in and win!

Fill in the questionnaire and fax it to:
0049/ (0)2841/90532-20



Since when do you know about the Butterfly-Newsletter? _____ (Jahr)

How did you get to know about the Newsletter? ☐ Internet ☐ Friends ☐ _____

What do you think about the Newsletters? ☐ good ☐ middel ☐ bad

Which columns do you like best? _____

Which articles do you use for your game? _____

Do you have any suggestions or wishes? _____

If i win: 1. name of rubber: _____ colour: _____ sponge: _____

2. name of rubber: _____ colour: _____ sponge: _____



16. January - 20. January 2007
Pro Tour: Croatian Open

23. January - 27. January 2007
Pro Tour: Slovenian Open



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Gold for Zhang Yining and two Butterfly-Youngsters



Gold for Zhang Yining and two Butterfly-Youngsters

Four times Gold and twice Silver – at the end of 2006 we saw once again a lively appearance of the „Butterflies“ at the Pro Tour Grand Finals in Hong Kong. The outstanding athlete playing with Butterfly material was once again the number one of the World Ranking List Zhang Yining. The defending Champion from China won the titles in the single and doubles (together with Wang Nan) event, altogether endowed with 48.000 dollars and received a symbolical key for the special

prize of the tournament sponsor, a middle class sports car. There were Gold medals for the junior „Butterflies“ in the junior competitions, where the Hungarian Janos Jakab and the Czech Iveta Vacenovska used their material to their advantage. Silver medals went to Oh Sang Eun (men single) and to Gao Jun (starting for America) in the women's doubles, who could not defend her title together with the Spaniard Shen Yanfei.

After the German, Timo Boll, won both titles in the men's event last year, a Tamasu representative was very close to victory in the men's single. Despite brilliant performances, against his Butterfly colleague Timo Boll („Oh has played unbelievably well. You must simply acknowledge that. I was angry, but life goes on...“) and a 4:3 in the Semi Final against the four times World Cup winner Ma Lin (China), the South Korean Oh Sang Eun had to submit to Wang Hao in the Final. The Chinese penholder player continued to play brilliantly after winning the title in the Asian Championships two weeks ago. Despite losing unluckily in the sixth set, Oh was more than satisfied with his result in the Grand Final: „I played very

well as the victories against Timo and Ma Lin confirm. Getting to the Final in such a strong tournament is a big success.“

Before beating Boll in the quarterfinals, Oh threw Chua Chih-Yuan, another Butterfly partner, out of the competition. Former World Champion Werner Schlager (Austria) went out after his first match against Ma Lin, his country man Robert Gardos lost against the winner Wang Hao, the Czech Petr Korbel didn't find an appropriate recipe against China's defence specialist Hou Yingchao and the South Korean defender, Joo Se Huyk, lost against Chen Qi, China's left handed player.

Everything but easy was the victory of the World number one, Zhang Yining, this time. The World Champion was 2:3 down in sets against the hard attacking Li Xiaoxia, before she managed to win the majority of the long rallies against her young challenger. Zhang Yining: „This was a very hard match for me today, but I had expected it. We know each other very well from training.“ Zhang was in clear command in all matches apart from the Final. There were only two other female Butterfly players starting in the singles: Gao Jun lost in six sets to the former Olympic Champion Wang Nan and Austria's hope Liu Jia had to give up because of injury when she was 0:3 down against the Singapore Chinese Li Jia Wei and couldn't take part in the doubles on Saturday either.

The results of Hong Kong show clearly that all the Chinese and South Korean athletes still profited from their good form from the Asian Games two weeks ago. The Europeans didn't seem to be in top form for season highlights at the moment. So it is not surprising, that without exception all titles went to China. Early conclusions for the World Championships in 2007 should not be drawn from this event.

The successful Butterfly partners in Hongkong

Gold

Zhang Yining CHN (Damen-Einzel, Damen-Doppel mit Wang Nan)

Iveta Vacenovska CZE (U21 Damen)

Janos Jakab HUN (U21 Herren)

Silver

Oh Sang Eun KOR (Herren-Einzel)

Gao Jun USA (Damen-Doppel mit Shen Yanfei)

The results of the Finals with Butterfly participation

Women Single

Zhang Yining CHN - Li Xiaoxia CHN 4:3 (-9,3,2,-7,-8,6,7)

Men Single

Wang Hao CHN - **Oh Sang Eun KOR** 4:2 (-7,8,-4,2,8,10)

Women Double

Zhang Yining/Wang Nan CHN - Gao Jun/Shen Yangfei (USA/ESP) 4:1 (6,-8,9,8,10)

U21 Men

Janos Jakab HUN - Patrick Baum GER 4:1 (9,-8,5,12,9)

U21 Women

Iveta Vacenovska CZE - Carole Grundisch FRA 4:3 (-8,-14,9,8,-8,11,3)

Interview with Zhang Yining

Did you think that you would be so hard pressed in the final?

Zhang: „I knew that it could become difficult. Li Xiaoxia is a very good player and we know each other very well from training.“



You were slightly injured on your hand. Did that disturb you?

Zhang: „No, definitely not. I think you could see in the Final, that it was a match on a very high level from both sides.“

Did you think at any time during the Final, that you could lose?

Zhang: „No. I only tried to play my best table tennis, point for point. Today I succeeded in the important phases of the game.“

We get the feeling that you always manage to play even better in dangerous situations. Is that right?

Zhang: „I permanently try to play very concentrated, the score doesn't matter. Perhaps I succeed better than others when the score is close. The quality of my game is determined by continuance. This includes the material of my sponsor, with whom I have been working together for many years. At important moments I must rely on my equipment just as much as on my own ability. On this level little details are the deciding factor.“

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (12/2006)



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

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (12/2006)



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

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

10 Years of Partnership

Since 10 years there has been very successful co-operation between Butterfly and the Department La Loire Atlantique. The Department is well known as one of the largest French regions with more than 5500 players. Young talents are regularly coached at the regional trainings centre.



Successful coaches with their kids: Fabrice DAVIS (Head coach to the left) and Gael CHARRIER.

Holger Nikelis is Cologne's sportsman of the year

For many years he has been one of the best in wheelchair table tennis – 2006 Holger Nikelis became World Champion. He played his first international handicap tournament 1999 in Austria, where he only won one game. That made him even more ambitious to achieve international success. It followed a whole series of victories. Here are his highlights up to now: European Champion 2001, 2003 and 2005, Vice – World Champion 2002. 2004 he won the Gold Medal at the Paralympics and finally this year the greatest achievement of his career: the title of World Champion in Montreux (Switzerland) on the 27th of September 2006. After his final education as an IT specialist 2003, Holger became a professional player and practices intensively four to five times a week. Apart from that the man from Cologne is engaged in many things, for example showing others how important mobility is for disabled people. A sportsman through and through, somebody who knows, what he wants and nothing – not even paralysis – can lead him astray.



Push with the number 1 in the world

The exceptional Chinese player Zhang Yining is by far the best player in the world. The Butterfly player is not only feared because of her spectacular offensive game with brilliant forehand and backhand attacks but also because she is a master in the so called little game over the table. Part of that is the art of pushing. Her backhand push is very precise in placement and very variable in the amount of spin. The unbelievably consistent Chinese is the best proof that this stroke has to be perfect, if you want to be at the top, independently at which level you are playing. Especially at the lower levels pushing is very often neglected, although many of the important points are won by pushing. Naturally the number of points gained through pushing increases the lower the league – in the lowest league players push more than the professionals-, but also top players often win points by pushing the ball, may be as a short return of serve or an offensive aggressive push, which can really confuse the opponent. In a game against defence you can't do without it. Now let's have a closer look at Zhang Yining's backhand push.

Picture 1: Yining is standing in the neutral position: legs parallel upper body slightly bent forward, the bat in the neutral position in front of the upper body. Simply perfect and her legs look very relaxed.



07 Stars under the magnifier



Pictures 2/3/4: Yining gives up her basic position and takes the right foot slightly forward. She moves towards the ball. Precisely that is the secret of pushing. The ball is not only pushed with the forearm, but includes good footwork, so that you are always in the optimal stroke position. At the same time Yining bends her forearm from the elbow backwards and slightly upwards. The position of the bat is open.

Picture 5: When contact with the ball is made, she moves forward and slightly bends her upper body. You only need to compare this to pictures 4 and 5 to recognize the movement towards the ball. At the moment of contact with the ball the forearm is moved forward. The wrist also supports this movement and is also moved forward. The speed of the arm and wrist movement decides on the amount of spin, the faster the movement, the more spin. Therefore many talk about „hacking“, because of the fast movement of wrist and forearm when pushing the ball. When we follow the line of the stroke, we can see that it goes down in a slight curve. This becomes very clear on the picture.



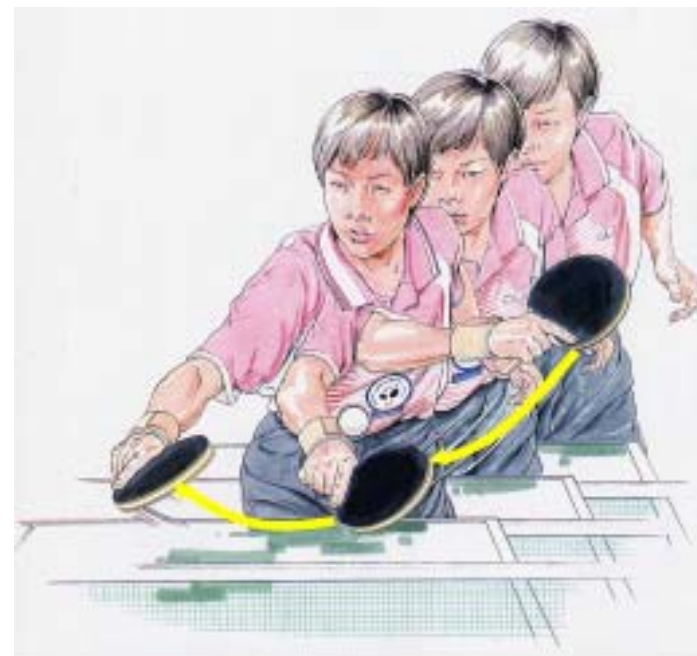
Picture 6/7: At the end of the movement the bodyweight is on the right front foot. The back foot even comes slightly off the ground. The stretching of the arm forwards and downwards becomes very clear.



Picture 8: Yining moves back to the neutral position.



This drawing shows Zhang Yining from the front. It shows clearly how she moves towards the ball and her bat follows a slightly curved line.



Octet 25

Solves your storage problems. Now with Anti Skid surface and „Sky“ look. Each of the two halves is assembled on wheels for easy movement. With ball-bearing swivel wheels and good protection by its stable metal frame.

Storage dimensions

Width: 1560 mm

Height: 1640 mm

Depth: 570 mm

(not assembled)

ITTF approved, green or blue [Euro 500,00](#)

Octet 22 (not pictured) [Euro 460,00](#)



December
2006

Europa 25

Used in many international tournaments. 25 mm playing top with the „Sky“ look and Anti Skid surface. As a table of DIN class A (top sports) the EUROPA 25 has been used at many World and European Championships as playing table. With two stable rolls positioned on the inner side of each of the two halves it is easy to move and very space-saving. Due to its stable wooden legs it is very durable and especially constant regarding the evenness of the surface.

Storage dimensions

Width: 1525 mm

Height: 1377 mm

Depth: 144 mm

(ready assembled)

ITTF approved, green or blue [Euro 520,00](#)

Europa 22 (not pictured) [Euro 480,00](#)



www.butterfly-world.com

Centrefold 25

The best quality BUTTERFLY table with „Sky“ look. The new Anti Skid surface increases the consistency and reliability of the bounce against both topspin and chop. It reduces the skid and gives you more confidence to play your shots. The semicircle on the side of the frame together with the red table legs gives the impression of a floating table on a dark red playing floor. This picture of a modern table could be seen at several international top events, where the legs vanished into the background and the surface became the focus of attention. Still the CENTREFOLD 25 is of course the solution for all storage problems and offers DIN class A (top sports) quality on highest level. Wheelchair Friendly. The distance between the end of the table to the first leg is 400 mm in accordance to the Paralympic requirements. Space saving system solves all storage problems.

Storage dimensions

Width: 1525 mm

Height: 1605 mm

Depth: 430mm

(ready assembled)

ITTF approved, green or blue

[Euro 660,00](#)

Centrefold 22 (not pictured)

[Euro 610,00](#)



„The player must be a lot more complete nowadays“



Christophe Legout, for today table tennis expert for French TV

The likeable French professional, Christophe Legout, belongs to the French top players since 15 years. The 33 year old left handed player had his greatest success of his career in 1999 in Split, where he became second in the European Top 12. This result got him up to number 14 of the World Ranking List. His move to the German Bundesliga Club TTF Liebherr Ochsenhausen in 1999 and several injuries made him drop down a

lot. In the meantime the „fighter Chris“, as he is called by his friends, has fought his way up again. He is playing for the French first division club Istres Sport. Together with Michel Martinez and Chang Yuen they are on fifth place in the Pro - A - Series. Last year he became French Single Champion and in June this year he was in the Final of the Taipei Open, where he lost closely to his Korean opponent Oh Sang Eun, the number 7 of the world. At the moment Christophe Legout is on place 62 of the World Ranking List. Since 10 years he has been a Butterfly player and is very satisfied with our products. At the World Cup in Paris he was a co-commentator for the French TV and for Eurosport.

France has organized big table tennis highlights like the Pro Tour Final 1999, the World Championships 2003 and now the World Cup 2006. Did those events bring table tennis forward in France?

There were many spectators for each of these events in the halls. 12.000 at the Pro Tour Final, over 80.000 at the WC in Bercy and now nearly 14.000 spectators. This proves that France has got a brilliant table tennis audience.

Considering the sporting aspects, we are at the moment in a phase between two generations. In comparison to Germany we didn't succeed in bringing up a player to the top 70 of the World Ranking List. Germany succeeded in this with 9 players. That is a problem.

What is your position in the French Ranking List and for which club are you playing?

I am number 3 and play in the first division for Istres Sport together with Michel Martinez and the Chinese Chang Yuen.

The favourite in the Pro-A Series is without any doubt U.T.T. Levallois, or?

Yes, Levallois is very strong with Peter Karlson, Damien Elois and Michael Maze and up to now without a loss.

Did the French 1st division continually become stronger over the last years?

Yes, obviously. A player, who got to know the Bundesliga in Ochsenhausen, knows why. There is less pressure in the French league. The clubs are mainly financed by the towns and regions. The responsible people don't know so much about top sports. In opposite to that, the German managers have to work very hard each year to find money for their teams, to find sponsors. They, of course, want to see their team win. That provides enormous pressure. One reason which makes the French league interesting for international stars is the day we play our matches. The Pro-A is playing on a Tuesday. Players, who participate in the Pro Tour Tournaments of the ITTF don't have any problems with the fixtures. Also older, well known players, who just want to finish their career quietly, have time for their families during the weekends.

With Michael Maze a younger player of the new generation of Europe came to France. Isn't that a special sign?

I think so. He has found a club in Levallois, which has got a lot of means for the future. I have also contact to many internationally well known players, who are more and more interested to play in the French Pro-A-Series and contact me because of that. I think there will be more movement.

How is the public interest in the Pro-A-table tennis in France?

In comparison to the German Bundesliga clearly less. The reason for that is, that some clubs didn't change their teams for years. Players like Maze in Levallois or Kreanga in Pontoise are very important to create more interest.

One word about international table tennis. You still play with great engagement internationally, play a lot of Pro Tour Tournaments, became second in the Taipei Open and are the number three of the French National team. How did international table tennis change over the last years?

Concerning the game, a lot has changed. You play a lot more sideways out of the table with a lot of sidespin and the according varieties. A player has to be a lot more complete nowadays. A super forehand is not enough today. The backhand has become much more important. The block has developed a lot more varieties. Also in the area of marketing the international table tennis has developed further. The Pro Tour has really developed well since its foundation ten years ago. The playing conditions and the hospitality is nearly always o.k. The only problem is TV coverage definitely in Europe, but there are interesting possibilities for our sport in the area of cable TV and internet.

Since when are you a table tennis professional?

I think from 1990/91, that means altogether for about 15 years.

You are now 33 years old. Are you not starting to think about the end of your career now?

Of course I am thinking about it. When I went to play in the German Bundesliga I was number 14 on the World Ranking List. Afterwards I fell apart and found myself at number 81. That happened very quickly. Before that I knew only the way upwards and forwards, but no steps back. This experience was very important to me. I started to rethink my future. At the moment I would like to continue until the Olympic Games 2008 and if possible qualify for the Games. Afterwards I would like to stay with table tennis, may be as a coach, club manager or build up a Butterfly table tennis school in France. The momentary problem is, that I can't pursue these targets more in detail, because my job and my targets take up all my time. I love the table tennis scene and therefore I would like to continue working there after my time as an active player.

Since 1996 you have a contract with Butterfly. Will you tell our readers what you are playing with?

Naturally I play with my own Butterfly blade CHRISTOPHE LEGOUT. My rubbers on both sides are BRYCE 2,1mm and I glue with Butterfly „Fair Chak“.

The new dream team: Boll and Borussia



The move of Butterfly Top star Timo Boll within the „Butterfly family“ from Champion League winner TTV Goennern to the German Record Champion Borussia Duesseldorf will change the face of the European table tennis map. For years the number three of the world makes the club from the Rhineland to favourites for the

title of the Champions League as well as in all other competitions.

„The offer from Borussia Duesseldorf was so good, that I could avoid joining a foreign club“, said Boll in his only interview about the move at the beginning of the Christmas week. He explains the reasons for his „decision with head, stomach and heart“ in the internet magazine of the Butterfly partner: „Tischtennis Inside“ (www.tischtennis-inside.de).

Goennern couldn't make a competitive offer to their long lasting guarantee for success, because of the lack of sponsors. Apart from financial reasons, Duesseldorf convinced the double World Cup winner mainly with sporting arguments. Borussia, who start the New Year as leaders in the Bundesliga, has an excellent training group and are regularly welcoming top foreign players to their training sessions. They are the organizers of the German Table Tennis Centre (DTTZ) in the Rhine Metropolis as the central training place for the German National Team.

„Money wasn't the main deciding factor but the possibility for an optimal preparation for the Olympic Games. My load in Duesseldorf will be less“, explains the triple winner of the Pro Tour in 2006 (China, German and Polish Open) his reasons for his decision. Another reason is the closeness to his personal main sponsor. The insurance company ARAG AG has their headquarters in Duesseldorf.

Germany's best player and Germany's most successful club – many fans were expecting this „Dream team“ for many years, before Boll started to think during autumn for several weeks about his future. Goennern didn't have the financial means and apart from Duesseldorf's offer the Doubles World Vice Champion received also interesting alternatives from foreign countries, especially from the Belgian Champions League Finalist Royal Villette Charleroi and also from China.

The success of Duesseldorf's efforts for the former number one of the World Ranking List means an early Christmas present. The targets of the club, where also the Butterfly aces Petr Korbel and Jun Mizutani are playing, will be pointing more in the direction of international success. „Duesseldorf has been the German table tennis capital for many years. We must think more globally and eventually we want to be the best club. We can only achieve that with Timo“, says team manager Andreas Preuss after extensive reports about the coup in all important German newspapers.

Boll too, who will, according to restrictions in his contract, probably play less matches in the Bundesliga than at the moment with Goennern, is aiming for more success internationally in the future: „If the club sport is going to develop positively, there surely will be a European League soon. Being at the top of such a league is a big target.“