

Butterfly® May 2005 NEWS

WCC in Shanghai: Gold for Butterfly



Photo:

Young players from La Loire Atlantique, which regional federation is sponsored by us. By the way, the favourite product of the kids: the „surprise egg“, in which there is an xxx-ball from Butterfly.



Infos on page 3 and 4

www.butterfly-world.com

In this issue:

Review WCC 02

Interview: Zhang Yining 03

News - World's Ranking List 04

Products of the Month 05

Expert Tip: M. Amizic Part 2 06

VDTT Practice Tip 08

WCC: Six medals for Butterfly First WCC-Gold for Zhang Yining

Shanghai. The 48. World Championships in Shanghai have ended, but will stay in mind for quite a while. This not only, because the tournament in the 14-Million metropolitan was almost completely sold, or because it became the expected triumph march of the host, who won five times Gold and 15 of the 20 medals in total. Besides the sports organizer China presented himself like a World Champion. Beginning at the opening festival until the final ceremony they gave an impressive preview of what the World has to expect in 2008 at the Olympics in Beijing.

Back to the competitions, at which the brand Butterfly sent six of their athletes on the pedestal. Three times Gold, once Silver and twice Bronze was the excellent loot. Not unexpected was the large part of Olympic Champion Zhang Yining, who won the title of the Women's singles for the first time in her impressive career (final against Guo Yan). As well she won the doubles (with Wang Nan). Experienced Kong Linghui (with Wang Hao) gained Gold in the Men's doubles, where Germany's Butterfly star Timo Boll (together with Christian Süß) surprisingly was to be found. Surprisingly, because the duo was formed right after the Olympics in Athens and had only played a few tournaments so far. Boll: „Entering the WCC final was a dream. Christian and me just harmonize well and have played an almost perfect double in the semi final“. There Boll/Süß managed to beat the Olympic Champions Ma Lin / Chen Qi (China) by 4:1 and before they had conquered Olympic third Michael Maze/Finn Tugwell (Denmark).



Schedule

9th to 12th of June 2005

Pro Tour: „Korean“ Open, Seoul

16th to 19th of June 2005

Pro Tour: „Chinese Taipei“ Open, Taiwan

26th of June 2005

Pro Tour: „Brazilian“ Open, Rio de Janeiro

30th of June to 4th of July 2005

Pro Tour: Chile Open, Santiago

Impressum:

Editor + Kontakt

Yuki Kamizuru, 02841/90532-0

One can assume no liability for expected errors and omissions.

All prices are recommended retail prices.

In Shanghai Butterfly-star Michael Maze achieved the greatest success of his career so far. Beating Chinese Hao Shuai in the quarter-final was a little fairy-tale after being behind 0:3 and 6:10. The match seemed lost by the Dane at the end of the fourth game, when he started to withdraw into defence. Then the 18-year old Chinese started to make mistakes at the balloon-balls of the Europe Top-12 winner of 2004. Maze stole the game and Hao Shuai became more and more nervous with each ball, for Maze stayed passive and awaited the mistakes of the Chinese, which came one after the other. This match of the cool Dane reminded of the legendary Tennis final of Roland Garros, where an helpless Michael Chang started to make services from below against Ivan Lendl, who was totally confused and finally lost. Maze: „I came back into the match at a point, where everything seemed lost. I felt Hao becoming more and more nervous and knew, I would be able so exploit my chances. I'm overwhelmed by the Bronze medal“. Even though Maze stayed chanceless in the semi-final against Ma Lin his medal was well deserved by him beating two Chinese players. Before Hao Shuai the lefthander had beaten Wang Hao after an excellent performance in a clear 4:0.

The South Korean Tamasu-partner Oh Sang Eun dealt mainly with Europeans on his path to the semi-final. From the round of the best 32 on it were Europe-Top-12 winner Alexei Smirnov (Russia), European Champion Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) and then the Swede Peter Karlsson on his list. It was the later World Champion Wang Liqin, who turned out too strong for Oh, who was satisfied in the end. „I knew I was in a good shape. Yet the seeding was not easy. The WCC-medal is great!“.

The 48. World Championships in Shanghai was filled with surprises. Concerned were players out of the house of Butterfly as well. Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min („I'm still looking for my top-form. It's not good at the moment“) suffered an Out (against Dutch Danny Heister) in round two just as Taiwan's Top player Chuan Chih-Yuan, who was victim of the talent of the 15-year old Jin Mizutani coached by Butterfly Coach Mario Amizic. Austria's World Cham-

pion Werner Schlager surprisingly dropped out in round two as well against Spain's senior-Chinese He Zhiwen. Schlager did not look for excuses afterwards: „While 2003 in Paris I became World Champion because of my head, this time I lost because of the lack of a clear mind. This was the main reason for this defeat.“ In the round of the best 16 the tournament ended for Greece's Kalinikos Kreanga (against Hao Shuai) and for Timo Boll, who led 8:3 in the crucial game in a remake of the German open final against Chinese Liu Guozheng, but lost. In the end-phase he admitted a foul ball without hesitation and at least was awarded the fairness-trophy of the ITTF.

At the women it was the constant performance of defender Viktoria Pavlovitch (Belarus) and her repeated entry into the quarter-final, which stood out besides Zhang Yining out of the Butterfly point of view. Europe's highest betted aces, European Champion Liu Jia (Austria) and Tamara Boros (Croatia) lost early to Li Jiao (Netherlands) and later third Lin Ling (Hong Kong).

The 48. World Championships with it's result made clear, what the World's Ranking List shows as well. China dominates; there was only one non-Chinese final in five competitions. Yet one thing was visible in some matches (Wang Hao, Chen Qi, Hao Shuai, Ma Lin): when the physically and technically perfect Chinese start laying behind, they are vulnerable same as when confronted with creativity, like Michael Maze or Timo Boll are able to celebrate once in a while. Therefore one can look forward to the next meeting of Europe vs. Asia at the Team-WCC in Bremen in 2006.

The Butterfly-medal winners:

Gold Women's Singles: Zhang Yining CHN

Gold Women's Doubles: Zhang Yining CHN

Gold Men's Doubles: Kong Linghui CHN (with Wang Hao)

Silver Men's Doubles: Timo Boll GER (with Christian Süß)

Bronze Men's Singles: Michael Maze DEN

Bronze Men's Singles: Oh Sang Eun KOR

Interview with World Champion Zhang Yining

Zhang Yining, for the third time in a row you were in the final of the WCC. Now you won the title for the first time. Is this a satisfaction for you?

The title has a great meaning to me and was longed for. To become World Champion is the goal for any sportsman. At the recent WCCs I only lost to Wang Nan. With this WCC I now won all major titles and that's pleasing. Even more important is that China dominated with all five titles.

Have you been surprised not to meet Wang Nan in the final?

Wang Nan is a great player and has dominated the World for years. I have learned a lot from her. I have not thought about who I would play in the final before the tournament. I have only focused to win the title if possible and it has worked out.

Your opponent Guo Yan demanded everything in the final...

Yes, she played very well. China has a balanced team and there's no guarantee for beating a team-mate. All players can win the title.

How have you felt during the WCC in your home country?

The WCC in Shanghai was a fantastic event. There was a great atmosphere in the hall and everything was organized very well. Of course it is something special to become World Champion in your home country.

You are Olympic- and now World-Champion as well. You have won everything one can win. What are the goals for Zhang Yining?

For me every tournament, at which I take part, is a challenge. I'm not yet tired at all. A great goal is of course the Olympic Games in my home town Beijing. To win the title there is a great task, on which I have to prepare in long terms. I want to improve further, this is one of my greatest aims.

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, mens (04/2005)

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

ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (04/2005)

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

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

At well assorted distributors!

Link www.butterfly-world.com



Octet 25

Our wonder in terms of space. Now with new 25mm surface and ITTF approval. DIN Class A (Top-sports). Halves of the table mounted on an individual chassis. Suitable for all forms of training and competition.

460,00 €



Centrefold 25

Our top-product. ITTF approved, DIN class A (top sports). Parallel folding system of both sides for perfect storing measures. Stable 25mm surface for long lasting top quality.

620,00 €



Europa 25

Our classics. ITTF approved, DIN Class A (Top sports), easy to move for it's two stable rolls attached on the inner side of the table halves. Especially even 25mm surface.

480,00 €



Europa

ITTF approved
Net colour black
39,00 €



National League

ITTF approved
Net colour black
29,00 €



In the new expert talk provided by Butterfly exclusively for its Newsletter-subscribers we will discuss many different issues with Mario Amizic: Training and competition, development and culture of playing, tactics and psychology, technique and fitness. Of course we would appreciate your questions to Mario. Mail them to us under the label "Mario Amizic". We will then try to consider your questions in one of the upcoming talks.

In the last interview in February Butterfly Sports Director Mario Amizic talked about the current state of the international Table Tennis. He highlighted new developments in organisational terms and took position on the contemporary culture of play. Today the second part of the interview.

Clever players have to evaluate their schedule better

You said, today's top players play with much speed and very aggressive, yet have a high degree of control in their strokes. By what do they acquire this, by new training methods?

I don't believe, the time the players spend in the hall has increased. The amount of training has stayed the same. The top players play with more risk altogether. The passive play is withdrawing, the classic passive block hardly exists anymore. The players try to go over the ball actively. By this the game itself becomes faster and the legs of the players have to become faster, or they can't keep up. This quickness has to be worked for in training specifically. And not to forget the material. To control such a high speed you have to have the perfect material.

So athletics and, combined with this, an intensive physical training have an increasing role in the top Table Tennis?

This has been like that before as well, or players of the former generation like Primorac, Saive or Roßkopf would not have been able to stay at the top for so long. The difference today is, that a specific physical training already starts much

earlier in the Junior times. This has to be, for the stress in the Junior section has increased enormously. The many travels require a solid fitness, the high speed of strokes and play a quick musculoskeletal system. This improves not only the technique and the footwork but decreases the sensitivity for injuries. And who has problems there at young age won't make it to the top. By the way – this is not typical for Table Tennis, but for many sports, in which there is professional work very early. 12 year old Tennis talents have their own fitness coach and advisor. The deal is simple: the number of tournaments has grown and the speed of the game has increased. With a great technique and super feeling for the ball you won't get ahead. At one point you will break in, if your body is not prepared for this increased strain. The earlier one starts with a specific athletic training, the longer one will be able to stay at the top.

Which conditional sections have a special role?

This has to be specified very individually. In any case the physical training has to be controlled professionally. For in the junior field many things can go wrong, especially when thinking of early weight training.

You mentioned a 12-year old Tennis talent as an example. How often does a 12-year old Table Tennis talent have to train nowadays to have a chance to reach international top level?

A difficult question, for very global, and asked frequently. If there is somebody who works systematically with the player and is convinced to reach top level, then the player has to train every day.

And when should a professional full-time training be started?

Here the starting age has decreased significantly. Latest with 15 or 16.

You said latest. So actually it should start earlier?

I think in some countries of Asia, especially China, it is trained full time earlier. But there the circumstances, mentality and sport-politics are different.

What might be the cause, that so many so called talents give up one day?

This surely can only be identified individually case by case. Yet I believe that the effort is a major factor for such fall-outs. The better a player becomes the greater his field of activity gets. First locally, then the region, the state, the country and in the end internationally. The number of tournaments and matches increases, the level rises and the pressure increases. Then there's training at club level, in camps and cadre. The travelling becomes more and more effort and costs time. Many can't cope with this and at a certain point they stand still or even quit. They lose too much substance and don't want to invest the time.

Talking about time. Isn't the overcrowded schedule a general problem of top-sports?

This can be seen in different ways. One can't run away. Those with a good mind and body, that take care of their nourishment, healthy sleep and fitness, get along. I remember how Jean-Michel Saive had his own fitness-coach and physician 15 years ago and was smiled at for it. Today aged 35 he's still top-fit at the table and plays great Table Tennis.

How will the demands in terms of time develop in the future? Even more dates can't be good, can they?

More is not possible. Clever players have to weigh their dates much more. They can't abandon international tournaments. So they have to withdraw in the national leagues – for example Bundesliga - even when combined with financial losses. The clubs will have to step back in terms of available top players. A player „XY“ rising from position 50 to 10 in the World can't afford to play all matches in a hard league. The players that think they can will suffer a collapse at one point.

How will Table Tennis develop in terms of technique?

I don't expect any major changes in this regards.

Thank you very much, Mr. Amizic



Dear Table Tennis friends,

In cooperation with the Federation of German Table Tennis Coaches (VDTT) Butterfly presents to you practical exercises for your play. Enjoy them!

Return

Part 2 – Short return

After the returning player got close to the net by a proper lunge, now he's supposed to drop the ball short. A short return is crucial at top level to keep the initiative when returning. The semi-short returns, which we will consider in a later edition, built up on the short ones. Once again a rope is of help. It is laid across the table in a distance from the net of about two to three widths of a racket. The service player now plays short into forehand or backhand irregularly. The returns are played parallel between rope and net. This means, the short ball in forehand is returned into the opponents backhand and vice versa.



09 VDTT Practice Tip

To get a feeling for the timing it is recommended to play the ball once when rising, then at it's highest point and then when falling. In competition it is recommended to hit as early as possible to be able to drop as short as possible. Yet many players let the ball fly on purpose, when they face difficulties to read the rotation of the ball. In this case it is good to hit the ball with a short and hard movement in order not to let the rotation take effect on the rubber.

If the incoming rotation is no problem, the ball can simply be let bounced off the racket. One should experiment with the grip. In the forehand a so called forehand-grip can be helpful: the racket is tilted within the hand slightly clockwise, the blade rests on the tip of the forefinger, which gives the feeling. In the backhand the backhand-grip can be recommended. The blade is now tilted anti-clockwise, the thumb presses on the blade slightly and gives feedback of the stroke.



Next month we will learn about the disadvantages of a short service.