

Butterfly[®]

NEWS

May 2006

**Butterfly celebrates
the opening of the new
development center**



The Butterfly development center, a far reaching extension of the Tamasu Co. company was opened on Friday the 31st of March 2006 under rough weather conditions in Nasu situated in the Province Tochigi. The guests were welcomed in rain and snow.

The Butterfly development center, only a 15 minute drive from the JR Nasu – Shiobara station, is from now on the heart for reseach and development of table tennis rubbers.

The target is a continuous improvement of the quality of these rubbers as the President Shunsaku Yamada of the Tamasu Company explains: “Our leading thought is that the progression of table tennis starts here in Nasu.” He adds: “It is our target to develop a new generation of table tennis rubbers and by this bring more innovation to the world of sports.”

**WC in Bremen:
Gold for China
Bronze for Timo und Co.**



**More about the Team-
World Championships on
the following pages!**

www.butterfly-world.com

In this issue:

WC-Review	02
WC-Interview Werner Schlager	04
World-Ranking-List	05
The Interview Mario Amizic	06
Stars under the Magnifier Werner Schlager	08
Products of the month	11
Butterfly Inside	12



48th Table Tennis Team – World - Championships



The 48th Table Tennis Team World Championships have come to an end. It is no surprise that the new World champion in the women as well as in the men's event is China for the third time in a row after Osaka 2001 and Qatar 2004. Butterfly won one of the desirable Gold Medals with China's top player Zhang Yining, a partner of the company. Butterfly collected medals of all colours in Bremen. The Butterfly team of South-Korea won silver lead by the contract player Oh Sang Eun, Timo Boll and Bastian Steger won bronze and Viktoria Pavlovich with White Russia who sensationally beat the favourites from South-Korea 3:2 in the Quarterfinals where Pavlovich won two matches.

Seven fascinating WC – days ended in the AWD – Dome of Bremen on May 1st with the victory of the title defenders China who beat the team of South-Korea 3:0 in front of 9000 spectators in a spectacular finish of a noticable WC 2006. 899 team matches and about 2500 singles, 108 Nations (104 Men Teams, 76 Women Teams) and 685 athletes (399 men, 286 women), 300 helpers and about 3500 accredited people and members of delegations, officials and representatives of the media. Altogether 27 TV stations from all over the world broadcasted from the AWD Dome, more than ever.



May

2006



1st of June – 4th of June 2006

Pro Tour: Volkswagen Korea Open, Do

8th of June – 11th of June 2006

Pro Tour: Chinese Taipei Open, Taiwan

15th of June – 18th of June 2006

Pro Tour: Volkswagen China Open



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The manner in which the table tennis world champion China underlines its dominance by winning both titles is remarkable. Germany's men and the women of White Russia were remarkable too by winning the bronze medal and leaving unforgettable moments for the altogether 60000 visitors. The highlight of this event was without question the effort of the German team in the Semifinals to break the chinese wall by force. In the end it was only a trial but 12000 enthusiastic fans made the AWD – Dome temporarily vibrate.



The titles for the Chinese were no surprise. The men as well as the women didn't loose a match in the preliminary rounds and won all matches without loosing one game. On the whole the best National teams in the world gave away only two matches: in the women's final against Hongkong and in the men's semifinal when the 2nd of the world ranking list and Butterfly Star Timo Boll beat Chinas ace Ma Lin after a bad start and being 2:0 down 3:2. (Boll „I think I was a bit too impressed by this scenario in the beginning“) Later he lost to World Champion Wang Liqin closely in the 5th.



Butterfly player Oh Sang Eun could not prevent that the challengers from South Korea were 1:0 under in the final. Their National Coach Yoo Nam Kyu, the first olympic champion in 1988, was still proud of his players: "We must recognize that China has the best team at the moment. But we showed everybody that we have improved. Winning the first silver medal for South Korea is proof enough." Europe, whose teams could only occasionally compete up to that level was criticised even more by the most prominent South Korean table tennis player who is a hero in his home country: "Europe has missed picking up talents additionally to the great players of the nineties, who nearly all stopped by now. The distance to the Asian teams will only get less for a few nations in the near future." Germany is the only one in Europe with international standard to achieve results against Asian teams comments China's national coach Liu Guoliang: "Germany has got an interesting team around Timo Boll and young players are following. This team has got a future."



Zhang Yining, shy but happy and a gifted language talented single entertainer in world table tennis commented on her fourth WC medal with the Chinese team in an official press conference to a German journalist in her best mood and useful German: "Isch bin 'glücklich'. Auf Wiedersaehen, Bremen."

I am full of hope and visions

Mr Schlager, how went the Team-World – Championships for you?

The Austrian Team can be very satisfied. We have reached our target. We got to the Quarterfinals and missed a medal in a close match against Hongkong. Hongkong was in the end the better team. So, seen as a whole we can be very satisfied with our result.



How do you see the further development of the Austrian team in view of the Olympic Games 2008 in Peking and the next Team WC? Are there also younger players with a perspective for your team?

Our younger players are not mature enough for 2008 but they are our future and we will do everything to promote them accordingly. Personally I am really looking forward to Peking, because table tennis has an unbelievable high status in China.

How do you judge the new Team playing system for the Olympic Games? That is something completely new and one double is included again.

I can't see a big difference. It is the same number of players and games. You have got to wait and see how the system affects the players.

There are strong critics about the new playing system, because without doubt different team playing systems are practiced everywhere and now a new one is introduced again. Where is the transparency for the table tennis fan but also for the general sport enthusiasts? ITTF President Adham Sharara has now announced to think about a unification of the team playing system world wide. Is that a step in the right direction?

That would be very, very desirable, but one mustn't forget that we sometimes play with 3 and sometimes with 4 players on a team. It is really not so easy to bring all that under one hat. All federations, national and international have to pull the same strings. And that is not so easy. In the end it really would be great if that could happen.

The other topic of the WC: glueing. As always it was also in Bremen one of the main topics. Normally fresh glueing should have been forbidden next year from the 1st of Sept. 2007. Now this deadline was surprisingly prolonged for a year, so that glueing is still allowed at the Olympic Games in Peking. The IOC and the ITTF were pressurizing to forbid glueing because of the health risks. What is your opinion towards this topic?

I think it is positive, because there are no real alternatives for the players on offer at the moment. We are still walking in the dark about what the future brings. By the way that is not only for the professional players but also for the amateurs. I think the decision is very reasonable, because in two years the industry can do a lot.

On the other hand the manufacturers say that the new rubbers on the market, with their long term fresh glueing effect, come very close in their playing quality to the normally freshly glued rubbers. Your sponsor Butterfly has just recently presented the new power sponge rubbers. Did you try the BRYCE PS?

Yes, I have and I must admit that I am fascinated. But I have also got to be honest and say, that they still don't reach the same speed acceleration which you get from normal glueing. I am surprised by the long effect and the speed acceleration lies with about 70%. That is quite a lot and as I know Butterfly research is that not the end of the development. As a top player I could probably compensate the loss of speed through more power and I could live with it. For amateur players a lot more problems will be involved, because they can't afford about 20 rubbers per season. It should be possible to find an alternaty for these people like glue without poison.

Another surprise from the ITTF was the decision that the women should for a short time receive the same prize money as the men. Is that really fair?

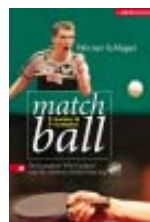
I don't want to devaluate the achievements of the women but I do think that there is an obvious difference in achievement between women and men. I can understand the women that they wanted to be treated the same as the men but as ITTF I have also got to think economically. Who are actually the magnets for the spectators, because of which players do the spectators come and which players fill the halls? These are surely not the women but the men. But I am the last one who thinks that the women don't deserve it.

That is very charming of you Mr Schlager. You were 2003 after you won sensationally the Single World Championships in Paris sportsman of the year. You have presented your new book „Matchball – Dreams & Triumphs“ which was unbelievably popular – at least for a table tennis player- in Austria. In short: you are an idol in Austria. What else can a Werner Schlager do in Austria to promote table tennis even more?

I can still do a lot. But time will show so let's wait. I am full of hope and visions and we will see how I can realize these in the future.

Not only the autographs of the Ex-Worldchampion are desirable but his new book also generates a lot of interest among table tennis fans. It is of course also available at www.butterfly-world.com

In the German speaking countries there are about 1 million people playing table tennis in the clubs and accordingly more privatly. They all know Werner Schlager. „Matchball“ tells his story. It is the story of somebody, who didn't have a chance but used it: His family was poor. His mother accompanied him for years to tournaments with packed food, because there was no money to buy anything in the hall. His father was his first coach who taught him the rhythm of table tennis with Polka music. But Werner Schlager did succeed: he became World Champion in 2003, 2005 European Champion in the doubles. This autobiography with Werner Schlager's 11 strategy tips and a DVD included (with the WC game and the best rallies in his career) **must** be read by a table tennis player. The numerous anekdotes –from sawn off legs of a table tennis board in his youth and his unforgettable meeting with Bill Gates- make „Matchball a pleasure to read for every sport fan.



ITTF World's Ranking lists, mens (05/2006)

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

ITTF World's Ranking lists, women (05/2006)

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

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

Interview with Butterfly-sportdirector Mario Amizic

The chinese too have got problems

Mario Amizic, China has confirmed its leading position in the world at the Team WC in Bremen. Is there a chance at all to break the dominance of the Chinese?

China has dominated again on paper. The team was the strongest team in Bremen. But even though I think that the top has moved closer together.

Which impressions justify your evaluation?

The Koreans can annoy the Chinese with Ryu Seung-Ming. If Oh Sang-Eun plays a bit more stable, they can be a very strong team. Germany has also come a bit closer to the Chinese and I think as well that the Chinese have got problems too.

On the way to the title China has mainly used its experienced players. A talent like Ma Long, who has beaten nearly all world class players, has only played once during the preliminary rounds. In former times the Chinese could have played such a tournament with their number three, four and five and still win. China played it safe and used Wang Liqin, Ma Lin and Wang Hao a lot, which proves that perhaps the Chinese too have got problems.



ITTF President Adham Sharara is mainly worried about the development of Europe in comparison to Asia and especially China. Sharara mentioned the Japanese team in Bremen as a positive example and points out that Japan's players train in Europe and are coached by you, a European. How do you see Europe's situation from your point of view?

Well, we can tease a lot of nations with Japan in four years time. But that is not the point. The distance between the Europeans and the Asians has in fact increased, which could be seen in the direct competition in the Quarterfinals. The European teams are very dependent on their top player. You have got a good team if you have the number 12 of the world ranking list on your side but it is not enough for something big. It is noticeable as well that many teams have got problems with their number 3 and there are too few teams with better balance at top level.

What are the reasons for this?

In Asia and even more in China the focus is directed much more on the international perspective in the mens class. In Europe the best young players play their way up through cadet and junior classes. During these years the coaches also want their own success and neglect automatically the very big target to prepare the best ones for the senior classes. The Europeans lose many valuable possibilities because the youngsters simply lack the basis without the long term build up for the senior level. On the opposite a talented player is directly included in the senior programme in China because he might be a potential Olympic – or World Champion.

We mentioned the development of the Japanese team under your leadership. How satisfied are you yourself with the situation at the moment?



I am more than satisfied because all my kids got a real chance for the first time. I am glad that our association had the courage and the long term view to let the boys start at the WC in Bremen.

This great opportunity was a good and important experience for them. That team has got a future. You must consider that a Jun Mizutani, a real exceptional player, is only 26 years old in ten years from now. Winning the title of the Junior WC last Dezember showed what potential is lying there.

What are your targets with the team?

It would be nice if we can manage to qualify for the Olympic Games. But we don't have to reach this target, that will anyway be a very close race. I think mainly about the Team WC 2010. There will probably be a few backlashes during the next one or two years but after that, I am sure, it will only go upwards. 2010 fits perfectly into this plan.

But Japan is already the host in 2009 in Yokohama for the single WC. The Japanese are surely ambitious for the title Championships in their own country, or not?

Hosting the WC is surely important for table tennis in Japan, but for my boys that tournament is probably one year too early – perhaps with the exception of Jun Mizutani.

Once more back again to the WC in Bremen. Did your good eyes see any noticable tendencies?

Table tennis has become very athletic. The best players play very aggressively and very consistent. Table tennis is enormously attractive. The discussions about the serves are superfluous, if good players meet one another, you get nearly always good matches.

Which developments do you see in technical areas?

The passive playing doesn't exist any more. The players play with full risk right up to the limit from the return of the serve. Altogether table tennis has become even more complicated.

How is that?

A good player needs more than a good forehand and backhand nowadays, but a good worked out plan for the whole year. You have got less and less time for the elements you must learn. How much time you have got is decided by the good ones: they are always ahead of their opponents.

Mr Amezic, thank you for this conversation.

08 Stars under the magnifier

Werner Schlager's backhand loop

The backhand loop is nowadays one of the basic strokes of every attacking player, not only at world class level but also for good amateurs. The game between attacking players has become too fast so that the whole table can be covered by forehand strokes only. On special occasions you still run around the backhand side for aggressive forehand actions. In the end you don't stand a chance without a pressing and variable backhand loop.

Werner Schlager's topspin is surely not as spectacular like Kalinikos Kreanga's, Timo Boll's or Peter Korbel's but it is consistent and variable. Let's have a closer look at the backhand loop of the World champion from 2003.

Picture A: At the beginning Werner takes an optimal starting position:

- The legs are parallel and a little bit wider than shoulder width
- The knees are bent slightly, by which the centre of gravity is lowered and a tension in the muscles of the upper leg is produced.
- The upper body is slightly bent forwards. The main body weight remains on the front foot.
- The racket is in the so called neutral position, in the middle of the body.

These four movement features have the effect that the player in view of the coming ball is more moveable, can react better and is more variable concerning the technique of the stroke he is going to use.

Picture B: Werner begins his hit by lowering the upper body(1) and moves the racket down and backwards(2).



09 Stars under the magnifier

Picture C: Werner reaches the lowest point of the backswing. His body is now over the ball and his right stroke arm shoulder is slightly turned forward(3). Through this the elbow is in front of the racket and causes an optimal pre-tension in the muscles of the upper arm. The ideal tension in the lower arm is reached through extreme wrist-movement. Werner angles the the racket downwards and back(4) as if he wants to throw it away like a frisbee. This pre-tension is vital to achieve as much speed as possible while hitting the ball. It is also important that the racket is practically in between the legs at the end of the starting movement and not at the side of the body as it can sometimes be seen. The player gets optimal control of the stroke through this.



Picture D: Werner hits the ball ideally in front of the body in height of the belly button. The line of the stroke is like drawn with a ruler sloping from the back to the front top(5). The racket position is closed and touches the ball slightly to achieve maximum rotation. The photo seems to be taken a few millimeters before he makes contact with the ball because the head of the racket is still sideways-back. The backwards bent wrist shows this explicitly. Looking at picture E you can guess what happens in the split second after. The wrist must come up explosively in the next part of a second. Only then the stroke is successful. Exactly this is the reason why the backhand loop is such a difficult stroke, which demands optimal timing and precise co-ordination of the player. If you one talks about players with a „good hand“ usually a player with brilliant wrist movement in combination with good feeling for the ball is meant.



Picture E: The end of the swing is reached. The wrist is straight and the head of the racket points forward and up. The arm is nearly stretched out because of the speed of the racket. The upper body is straightened up a bit like in the starting position.

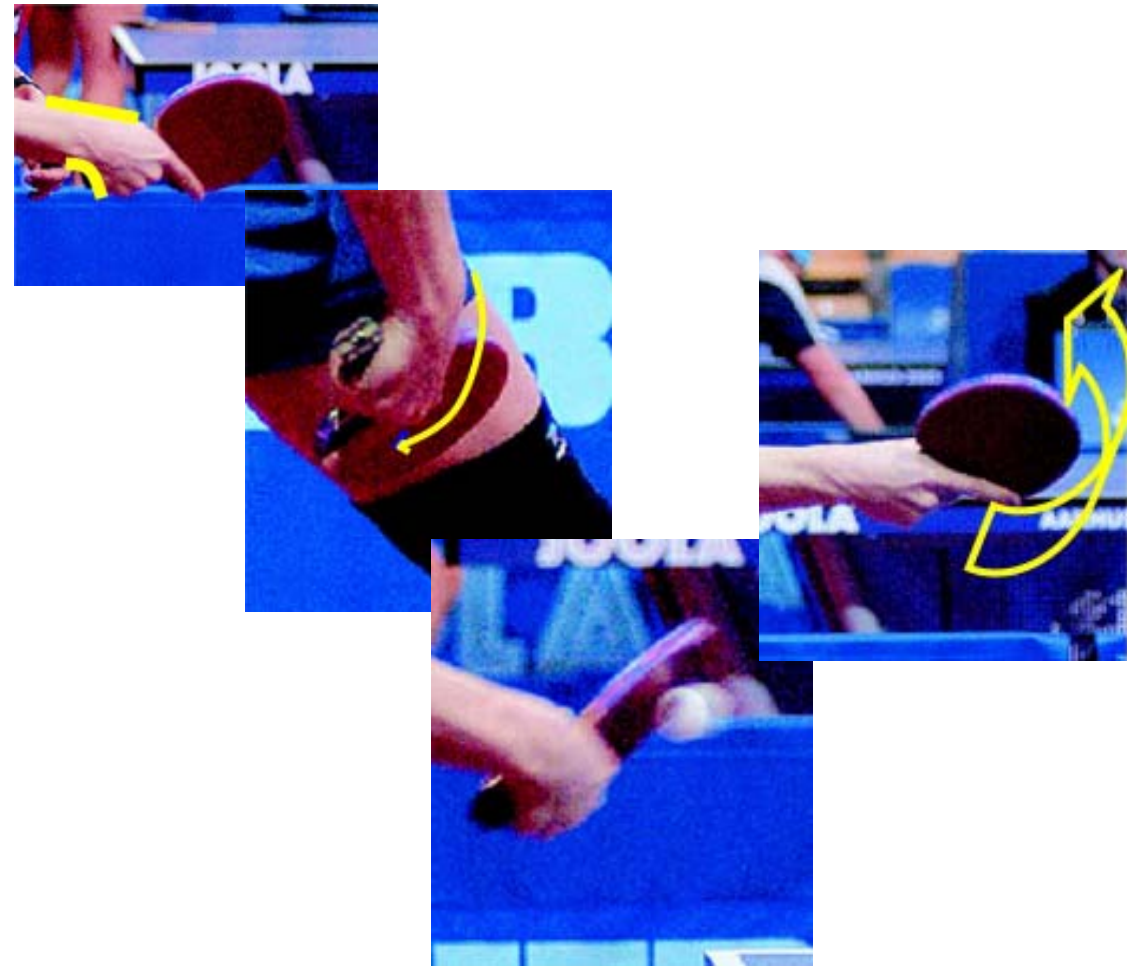


10 Stars under the magnifier

Pictures F + G: Werner is preparing for the following stroke and goes back into the starting position.



The wrist movement: A comparison between of the wrist's position between pictures A,C,D and E is worth its while. Here the whole wrist movement becomes clear. This is most important in the whole sequence of the backhand loop. In other words: all features of the movement might be right but if the wrist movement is too slow or too late the dream of a backhand loop is over and the stroke a failure.



May

2006

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11 Products of the month

At well assorted distributors!

Link www.butterfly-world.com

Batcase series CARRON

- blue/grey/black or violett-black
- reflective sides
- outer pocket with sip
- stable metal pullers
- material: 420D Jaquard and 1200D PVC
- pockets with a seperate wet bag, holders
- rucksack with a compartment for a CD/MP3 player and headphone exit
- shoulder bag with a spacious compartment for accessories, separated inside pocket

Maxi bag
only violett



Shoulder bag
Light-blue + violett



Midi bag
Light-blue + violett



Sportsbag
Light-blue + violett



Rucksack
Light – blue +
violett



Batcase
Single/double



Bumbag
Light-blue + violett



Sportsbag Maxi	80x34x34	59,90
Sportsbag	60x32x32	34,90
Sportsbag Midi	50x25x25	27,90
Shoulder bag	40x32x10	24,90
Rucksack	32x42x16	24,90
Double batcase		14,90
Single batcase		9,90
Bumbag		8,90

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NEWS®

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International Training Camp of the Hessian Federation

Practice like the professionals

24th to 28th of July 2006

Sport-School of the LSB in Frankfurt

For the first time the Hessian Federation with its partner Butterfly offer any Table Tennis player the opportunity to train under HTTV-head coach Helmut Hampl (coach of Champions League winner TTV RE-BAU Gönnern – Timo Boll and Jörg Roßkopf) and his team professionally.



Arrival on Monday, 24th of July 2006 before 14:00 h. Departure on Friday, 28th of July 2006 from 13:00 h on. Nine training units of 2 to 2-1/2 hours each – Monday to Thursday two each, Friday one unit are scheduled. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening physical training or swimming and sauna are possible.

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- Material Consultation
- Service Schooling
- And much more...

5 days all-inclusive
Starting from 330 €
Registration until 1st of May
Maximum of 40 participants

The costs for five days all inclusive are 330 Euro per person in a three bed room. Additional charge for two bed room is 30 Euros per Person, for an individual room 70 Euros per person. Registration latest until 1st of May 2006 at the main office of the HTTV. The registration is only confirmed after the fee has been transferred to the HTTV-account. . The number of participants is limited to 40. Information at the Hessian Table Tennis Federation e.V., Post Box 1140, 35411 Polheim, email geschaeftsstelle@httv.de or at www.httv.de



May

2006

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