

# Butterfly® September 2004

## NEWS

**The Butterfly story of success continues:**

### Holger Nikelis wins Gold

In the duel of the World's best in competition class 1 the wheelchair player Holger Nikelis from Cologne showed the limits to his main rival Hae Gon Lee from Korea. Two years ago the Korean had taken the title in the final of the World's Championships.

It was already in the first match of the pre-round when both rivals met. Though the German led 7:3 in the fifth game this meeting still went to the Korean, who thereby won the group and the direct entry into the semi-final.

In the final they were in for Gold. The 26-year old won the first game 11:8 and had to fight hard in the second ending 13:11. „This time I will show it to Lee“ he had announced the evening before, highly motivated. And he finally managed to win the third game by 11:9 as well. Gold for Nikelis!

In the other competition classes it was Gold for Butterfly as well. Read more about it on the next pages.

Paralympics Athen 2004



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## A Shower of Gold at the Paralympics in Athens

After the Gold of Holger Nikelis the shower of medals continued for the „Butterflies“ in Athens. In class 6 (handicapped at arms and legs) there was a pure German final between the friends Daniel Arnold from Munich and Rainer Schmidt from Offenburg. Arnold, having won everything except for paralympic Gold, beat the experienced Schmidt in a high class match by 3:0. „This is the best thing that ever happened to me“, Arnold commented joyfully. „For this I have trained a year, five days a week.“ Another Gold medal was provided by Natalia Partyka. The Polish cadet, supported by Butterfly, had already dominated the Junior ECC 2004 by two times Gold (Cadet-Mixed and singles).



Natalia Partyka



Daniel Arnold

## Table Tennis Wedding of the year

Two of England's leading table tennis players were married on Sunday 29 August 2004 at St James Church, Barlborough, Derbyshire in England. These were 5 times Champion Nicola Deaton and former Men's Champion Alex Perry. Nicola dominated the domestic game, winning the Women's Singles in the National Championships for five successive years from 1998 to 2002. Alex has been a regular member of the England Men's team for ten years, was Commonwealth Doubles Champion in 2001 and a member of the England team that won a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002. Both Nicola and Alex come from table tennis families. Nicola's father, Colin Deaton, was a former England Junior International and a well known personality within English table tennis whilst Alex's mother, Penny, has been very well known on the England tournament scene for more than thirty years.



## Schedule

**16. to 19. of September**

**Pro Tour: Volkswagen Open, Shanghai (CHN)**

**23. to 26. of September**

**Pro Tour: Volkswagen Open, Kobe (JPN)**

**24. to 31. of Oktober**

**World Cadet Challenge, Finale, Funchal/Madeira (POR)**

**11. to 15. of November**

**Volkswagen German Open, Leipzig**



**28. of November to 5. of Dezember**

**World-Junior Championships, Kobe (JPN)**

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## Volkswagen Open in China

**Timo Boll and Christian Süß only stopped in the final at their tournament premiere**

Changchun. „We were allowed to dream of Gold for a short period of time. But in spite of our tight defeat in the final we can be very pleased- with our presentation throughout the tournament and with the final as well“. The first international performance of the new formed double Timo Boll/Christian Süß at the Volkswagen German Open in Changchun ended Saturday in an incredibly tight final 12:10, 10:12, 6:11, 8:11, 9:11. Before winning the Silver medal against the Olympic Champion of Sydney 2000 and the finalist of Athens, Kong Linghui and Wang Hao, the promising DTTB-duo had had beaten three Asian World class doubles in a row at their impressive premiere.

Yet in the singles World's No.9 Timo Boll had dropped out on Saturday in a dramatic seven-game quarter-final match against Chinese Chen Qi. All other DTTB-actors had dropped out earlier. Alike the week before in Wuxi all four titles went to host China, which at men and women's singles even provided all semi-finalists. The singles were won by Olympic third Wang Liqin and by the Queen of Athens, the double Gold medallist Zhang Yining.

The path to Peking 2008 is long and hard, yet the first step was achieved by the 23-year old Boll (TTV RE\_BAU Gönner) and his four years younger partner from Borussia Düsseldorf at their premiere in an impressive manner. Before the final against the highly decorated Chinese stars Boll/Süß had convinced by victories against Kim Song Chol/Pak Won Chol (North Korea), the Hongkong Chinese Leung Chu Yan/Cheung Yuk, and in the semifinal by clear five games against Choi Hyan Jin/Lee Jung Woo. Before the North-Korean had awakened the Silver-medallists of Athens, Ko Lai Chak/Li Ching (Hongkong), out of their dreams.

World's Nr. 9: Timo Boll (Photo by Takahashi/ITTF)



Boll/Süß agreed after their first common act: „At our debut in Changchun we have played together well from the start and became better from match to match.“ Coach Richard Prause added: „One can hardly play better at a premiere. The lost match does not decrease the performance of Timo and Christian. How good this double really is can be judged only after they have played for a while. But we can look forward to their common presentations.“ Next week the duo will have their next international trial at the Volkswagen Japan Open on Kobe. Jörg Roßkopf has cancelled his participation at this tournament as well as the injured Peter Franz.



In the new expert talk provided by Butterfly exclusively for it's 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.

**Mr. Amizic, first a question about recent events: How do you estimate the Table Tennis results at the Olympic Games in Athens? Were there any surprises?**

Yes and no. On the one side the winner of the men, the South-Korean Ryu Seung Min, has deserved winning. On the other hand it is likely there would have been another winner if the tournament had been played a week later. The top is very, very close together. And it was good, that no Chinese won the Men's Singles. I do not have anything against the great Table Tennis nation China, rather the opposite, I have much respect. Yet the victory of Ryu has showed that the Chinese are beatable. And this is a boost in motivation for the other nations.

**What do you say to Waldner's sensational comeback?**

After the great matches against Ma Lin and Timo Boll Jan-Ove was not as fresh anymore. Against Ryu Seung Min this was clearly visible. He played great. Yet out of an European point of view it is disappointing, that a 38-year old is the best European. I ask myself, where the young European players with high demands are? I don't want to drop names, yet it's a pity. Let me emphasize – I have much respect for Jan-Ove's performance, but still I have to ask the question: What are our young players doing?

**Talking about age – up to which age one can play top as a professional player?**

I think Jan-Ove has given this answer. Of course he's the „player of a century“, but what's more important: he's an all-round player. Due to his technical and tactical flexibility he can stand up against any systems. This proves, how important a flexible schooling for a successful play is. He's a genius, no worker who plays with much effort and I believe he might continue at this level. For him there is no age. What is age in sports anyway? There's only strong or weak.

**Let's get to our actual topic of psychology in Table Tennis. What are the adjectives of a player with strong nerves?**

This is a very complex issue and a difficult question. Every player moves within a certain frame: in play, physically and mentally. How people react in certain situations in competition is hard to predict on the one side, but then again they have to show a certain behaviour to reach high level. Mental components can surely be trained, sometimes maybe with the help of specialists. With young players this is different. If the coach builds up a close relation to these players he creates trust and can have influence in



psychological terms as well. For example to encourage him to play certain combinations, even if they fail in the first place. If a player fails at a certain risky combination at 9:9 a hundred times, but succeeds at the 101. time, this can cause enormous self-confidence and improves the player psychologically. But back to the original question. Good and strong players are firm against pressure. If two players stand up against each other separated by the table many things happen in and by the mind. Already the body language shows, in which mental state each of them is. The language of the hands, how they walk to get the ball, joy about good strokes or sadness about mistakes or unlucky balls – this all happens within the small playing box and shows much to the opponent. Those who are able to control all this, which means to show as little negative feelings or doubt as possible, have strong nerves. Sometimes one has to hide something, which means not to show your true feelings. That's a game that runs in your head. Those who control this game in the head can cope with the pressure in competition, no matter how they train. And this is the base to reach the top. Good players play best when under pressure.

**You named the example with the 101<sup>st</sup> try, that succeeds and brings the player ahead. One could draw the conclusion, that one has to loose to be able to win later on?**

At the moment I work with young Japanese talents aged 14 to 19, who are quite advanced in the cadet- and junior field on international level, but have to step into the senior section now. If they are able to deal with losing for one or two years until the moment comes, when they beat a „big one“, then they will have the motivation to continue. This is like a truth – you can play top, you can make it. Then they have much confidence in themselves and in me as a coach. And then you can achieve something. Take the new Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min as an example. Already as a Junior he was good. Now he's 22 years old. Yet in the recent three years he has hardly moved. It was only in this year that something in his mind made „click“. In spring he won three Pro Tour tournaments. For him this was the great boost and I believe he thought: „Now I can beat anyone“.

With this attitude he travelled to Athens and made it. Already three years ago he was able to beat anyone, but had to go through a valley to reach the peak.

**Some claim that strong nerves and winning mentality are genetic. Already kids can be separated in winners and losers. The example of Olympic Champion Ryu yet shows, that one has to stick through bad times with many defeats to reach the top.**

Absolutely clear. I can't allways win, so I have to learn to deal with losing in a way, that neither my self-confidence nor my believe suffers.

**Can strong nerves or psychological strength be trained?**

I want to name it different. In top sports – and this is no secret – one can reach much with good acting. Of course I don't mean true acting, but certain things can be learned. An example: If you don't enter the box and are able to show „I want to win!“, your opponent will surely feel this. Another example: You believe you're in a bad shape and don't have a chance to win. Now the acting can start by passing the point of negative thinking saying to yourself: „Okay, I'm in a bad shape and might have little chances, but I will do my best and – this is most important – won't show this weakness to my opponent. I act confident and strong though I am not.“ This can be learned and trained. I have often seen players acting over their fear or nervousness and so came to success.

**This interview with Mario Amizic about the psychological aspects of Table Tennis will be continued in the next newsletter.**

## Ryu Seung Min - on the Olympus with future Table Tennis



Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min does not lack trademarks: The penholder player is unique for his dangerous serve, his extremely hard forehand, his dynamic and aggressive play and for his quick legs. Not few experts account the triumph of the Butterfly star as a significant preview of the modern Table Tennis of the upcoming years.

Still the 22-year old is realistic enough not to draw a claim for future dominance out of his success in Athens. The right-hander is too much aware of his existing weaknesses, which gave him the role of the underdog in the semi final against Sweden's Table Tennis monument Jan-Ove Waldner as well as in the final against top favourite Wang Hao. „I didn't expect to win Gold. Now I will have to continue to work hard to become a real champion and maybe one day World Champion.“, said Ryu especially in respect to his backhand problems.

This problems could be compensated better and better by the South-Korean prior to Athens. The path to success of Ryu, playing for SSV Niederösterreich in the upcoming Champions League Season, resembles much the one of his German Butterfly colleague Timo Boll. For Ryu was long accounted as one of the most prospectus players and played himself into the World's top and into a proper starting position for the Olympics within one year's time.

In the „hot phase“ before Athens Ryu, who had before only won a doubles title at the Asian Championships in 2002, was especially good. Since the beginning of the year he celebrated titles at the Egypt and US Open and entered the semi-final at four major Pro-Tour tournaments. Regarding this results it was no surprise that the two-times Asian Junior Champion of 1999 was marked most dangerous opponent even before the European hopes like Butterfly-World-Champion Werner Schlager, Boll or European Champion Vladimir Samsonov by China's men's coach Liu Guoliang, former Olympic Champion of Atlanta himself.

In review the weakest result of „wunderkind“ Ryu in the Olympic year seems peculiar: Only once within his tournament starts the sympathetic guy from South Korea's capitol Seoul and with 15 years youngest National player of his country, failed early in the round of best sixteen. And this was at the so called Olympic final rehearsal at the Greek Open in January in Athens Galatsi Olympic Hall.

After his triumph at the same location seven months later Ryu hopes for a revival of Table Tennis in his country. At the time his fellow Yoo Nam-Kyu succeeded at the Olympic premiere of Table Tennis in his hometown in 1988 he had been only six years old and just about had started his first attempts with the racket. „After Yoo's Olympic title Table Tennis in Korea went through a rise, of which now nothing is left. I wish a lot, that my success will help to give our sports the recognition it deserves.“ His Olympic victory should not be his last contribution to it.

## Less is more for Butterfly-star Michael Maze



Foto by Takahashi/ITTF

2004 – in Europe only Michael Maze is entitled to talk about „his year“. After his final breakthrough with his triumph at the Europe Top-12 last February in Frankfurt the Butterfly ace acquired the only medal for the old continent. Together with his partner Finn Tugwell he won Bronze and confirmed his

I'm sure that the European Championships 2005 in Aarhus will now get more attention.“

Attention is something Michael Maze is used to for a while now. Since his transfer to Düsseldorf seven years ago the teenager, regarded as „rough diamond“, was always under special observance. The expectations of the environment and the supporters did have a reason, for Maze had awoken some hopes first as European Champion of the Cadets and later of the Juniors. But it was only in the last two years, when – already bookmarked as all-time talent – his wild temperament and dangerous forehand topspin came to place and made him to a personality and a real top player.

The base for his expected rise to a true champion Maze, who is assigned an „even better hand than Timo Boll“ by his club coach Andreas Preuß, sees in his strengthened physis: „Other than in the years before this time I stayed without major injuries and this is the premise for great victories.“

That his body is his stock, the son of a former second-league soccer player out of the small town of Fakse realized end of 2002. Generally very susceptible to injuries he drew his consequences. With the Butterfly club Düsseldorf he agreed on a limitation of his matches to 18 per season and accepted financial setbacks. „A normal season with 30 to 35 matches would be too much for a player like me. Now I have the time necessary for physical training and prophylaxis“, Maze describes the change in his season planning: „This helps a lot and for this understanding I'm very thankful to Borussia.“

In spite of all the hype about the successful year of 2004 Michael Maze stays grounded. „I can't believe I now will always be successful in the upcoming tournaments. The next match starts at 0:0 and the other players will be especially motivated. My goal is to stabilize my play and to reach the next level.“ It is likely there will be plenty of opportunities for him.

rise to the level of World Class. On the pedestal at the two most important single Events of the year – no other European can show a better result.

As important these successes are for the just 23-year old, so unexpected they were for the lefthander playing for the German record Champion Borussia Düsseldorf. In Frankfurt Maze only stepped into the elite field due to the cancellation of brand-colleague and WCC-third Kalinikos Kreanga. And in Athens the sympathetic North-European was rather accounted for being a candidate for a medal in the singles.

Especially the success in Greece has made „MM“ to a star of first grade in his home country. „There was a lot going on“, the double-ECC-fifth reported about the reaction of media and public in Denmark: „There were a lot of dates in television and many newspaper interviews on my schedule.“

That this hassle is not unpleasant is showed by Maze's winning smile. Yet the young man is very aware of the overall significance of the Olympic medal – one of only eight for the Scandinavians: „I hope this medal brings Table Tennis at home ahead.

## ITTF World 's Ranking lists, men (09/2004)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

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

New number two:  
Olympic Champion and But-  
terfly-player Ryu Seung Min



## ITTF World 's Ranking lists, women (09/2004)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

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



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### Bryce

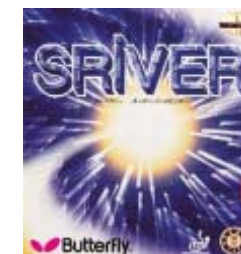
Playing style: power, speed: 12,0, spin 9,5  
Sponge: 1,9/2,1, speed gluing: ideal,  
speciality: speed gluing effect, no coiling up,  
no stains, flat ball trajectory

(Gold Men's Singles, Ryu Seung Min, Pen,  
Bronze, Men's Doubles, Michael Maze, FH)



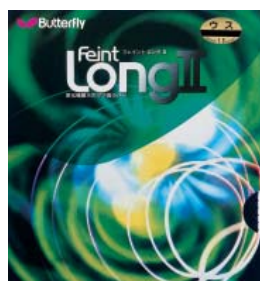
### Raystorm

Playing style: direct attack, speed: 9,75, spin 7  
Sponge: 1,7/1,9/2,1/max. Medium speed  
gluing ideal speciality RAYSTORM offers a  
high degree of spin and control plus speed by  
BUTTERFLY „High-Tension“ technology  
(Silver Women's Singles, Kim Hyang Mi, BH)



### Sriver

Playing style: power, speed:  
10,0, spin: 8,0, sponge: 1s 1,3/  
1,5/1,7/1,9/2,1/max. 1,5/1,7/  
1,9/2,1 medium, speed gluing:  
ideal, speciality: balance  
between speed and spin  
(Silver Women's Singles, Kim  
Hyang Mi, FH)



### Feint-Long II

Playing style: defence, speed: 6,25, spin:  
3,25, sponge: version a (medium), version  
b (kawa/hart), version c (ox/no sponge),  
speed gluing: not recommended, speciality:  
longest and most dangerous pimples in the  
assortment (Bronze Women's Singles, Kim  
Hyang Mi, FH)



### Sriver-EL

Playing Style: power spin, speed:  
9,75, spin: 8,25, sponge: 1,7/1,9/  
2,1/max., speed gluing: ideal,  
speciality: balance between speed  
and spin (Gold Women's singles,  
Zhang Yining, BH, Bronze Men's  
doubles, Michael Maze, BH)



### Fair Chack

ITTF approved, Size: 250 ml, 1 l, details:  
speed glue, the very wide opening of the  
250 ml can simplifies the handling, the  
brush is extra long, thick and about 20  
mm wide. (Gold -amongst others- Men's  
singles, Ryu Seung Min)

### Michael Maze OFF

Playing style: off, layers: 5 wooden, 2  
arylate-carbon, handles: fl, an, st  
Weight: (approx. 85 g, speciality: extreme  
stability and much speed.  
(Bronze Men's Doubles, Michael Maze)



### Gergely Carbon OFF+

Playing style: off+, layers: 2 carbon, 3  
wooden, handles: fl, speciality: perfectly  
suited for hard shots  
(Silver Women's Singles, Kim Hyang Mi)



### Radial TB

Sizes: 35-46, weight: 280 g (per  
piece, size 42), details it's three  
layered sole provide perfect  
damping and stabilisation of the  
ankle.

(Gold Men's Singles, Ryu Seung Min)

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!

## Exercise for Service – Part 2: Side-backspin

The next step in training services lies in the ability to vary your rotation. Most easy is the variation of sidespin to side-backspin. Now the tip of the racket does not point down but slightly sideways. The elbow comes down a little bit and the actual stroke is in a light curve so that the face of the blade is almost at level in the end. As always we need this little quick kick out of the wrist to provide the necessary rotation.

In this exercise we place a bottle in the middle of the table. Now one has to try to play the ball around the bottle. The more backspin, the later the ball leaves the table. Good service players are able to play around the bottle and into the net.

Next month we will continue with a pure backspin service.



[www.vdtt.de](http://www.vdtt.de)