



Butterfly® NEWS

11 2007

DTTL 07/08: Greater Chances for the future by rule changes



The contenthouse GmbH will stop its productions of the matches from the highest class in men's table tennis for the moment being and will send the play offs from the ongoing season in April next year. The club representatives from the DTTL and the managers of contenthouse agreed on that during a meeting in Frankfurt. Benno Neumueller, contenthouse business manager: "We did not succeed to refinance the costs for the high class TV and Internet productions by marketing of our available advertising space. We had an excellent start with fantastic TV (DSF) and Internet (www.DTTL.tv) ratings but there are still a lot of things which have to be put in place to

reach the full potential of the without doubt highly attractive sport. At the beginning of December the DTTB main committee will decide about a proposal which the top sport committee together with the 1. Women Bundesliga, the DTTL and contenthouse prepared. This proposal suggests many changes in the playing system, which is supposed to reach more media presence with live broadcasts on Free TV. The table tennis sport must become more suitable for TV by numerous measures and new sponsors must be found. Christoph Reuhl, chairman of the Liga committee: „This is a great chance for German table tennis. The suggested changes in the media proposal are a presupposition to bring our sport forward. We still believe in the success of the DTTL and stand behind our partnership with contenthouse.“

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Liebherr Men's World Cup in Barcelona (12th to 14th of October)

Timo Boll as the best European to the semi-finals of the world Cup for the third time

Nearly twelve month after his poor performance in Paris the Butterfly Star Timo Boll played himself back into the lime light during the second weekend in October in Barcelona. Just like his victories in Jinan in 2002 and Liege 2005 the number four of the World Ranking List from Duesseldorf reached the semi – final of the most prestigious single tournament after the Olympic Games and the World Championships. In a competition which was dominated by Asian players Boll was once again the best European player. Winner of the World Cup for the first time the world number one Wang Hao (China) took revenge for the defeat in the final of the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004 against Ryu Seung Min from South – Korea. Wang Liqin (China) came third beating Boll in the little final.



Altogether five athletes with a Butterfly on their shirt were qualified for Barcelona but South – Korea's defender Joo Se Hyuk finished the tournament already after the first set of his first World Cup single against Ma Lin because of a painful back injury.

Ex – World Champion Werner Schlager reached at least the Quarter Finals but lost against the three times World Champion Wang Liqin just like Timo Boll a little later. Two further Butterfly players, Oh Sang Eun (South – Korea) and Chuan Chih-Yuan (Taiwan), lost unlucky in the preliminary rounds. The number six of the World Ranking List Oh missed out on the round of the best eight with third place in group D behind the unbeaten Butterfly colleagues Timo Boll and Werner Schlager. Chuan Chih-Yuan had eight match balls against in his group match against Ryu and needed only one point to move on to the quarter finals instead of the South – Korean. During the following press conference Chuan was unhappy about the missed opportunity: "I had to use one of my chances. That is very annoying."

The only one with a real reason to be satisfied was in the end Timo Boll. Just a month after his resignation at the Chinese Open because of severe back pains and only one week after resigning from the World Team Cup in Magdeburg because of flu the 26 year old Duesseldorf player managed to win against world class athletes like his Butterfly colleagues Werner Schlager and Oh Sang Eun as well as Vladimir Samsonov (White Russia) in the quarter finals without proper preparation. The German Champion lost only three sets against these exceptional players. Boll: "That is something new for me too, that I can play so quickly again on top level. I never expected to come to

7. November - 11. November 2007
Liebherr German Open, Bremen

15. November - 18. November 2007
Pro Tour: Swedish Open, Stockholm

13. December - 16. December 2007
Pro Tour: Volkswagen Grand Finals, Peking

Our Photo-Partners



Manfred Schillings

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03 Review Men 's World Cup

the semi finals of the World Cup this time. The matches against the Chinese were very important for me because here you get the opportunity to play against them. This is very important so that you get used to their speed and their level which you can't simulate in training."

Boll lost the matches against the top stars relatively easily but he demonstrated in several rallies that the Chinese may be in reach: "I played well in Barcelona but not in top form. The tournament proved though that I am on the right way. The most important factor is that you get back the feeling for the ball very quickly. It does help a great deal of course to have first class equipment and material from Butterfly."

Already on Tuesday and Wednesday the international tournament circuit is continuing in Kazan (Russia). The European Super Cup with prize money of 120.000 Dollars is an invitational tournament of the European Union which takes place for the first time. Altogether five of the eight players are wearing the Butterfly on their chests: Timo Boll, Werner Schlager, the former third of the WC Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece), Michael Maze (Danmark) and Czech's top player Petr Korbel.

The results of the World Cup

(Butterfly players printed in fat)

Final

Wang Hao CHN - Ryu Seung Min KOR 4:0 (12,3,8,7)

Match for third place

Timo Boll GER - Wang Liqin CHN 0:4 (-8,-7,-3,-9)

Semifinal

Wang Hao CHN - **Timo Boll GER** 4:0 (8,8,7,4)

Ryu Seung Min KOR - Wang Liqin CHN 4:2 (7,-4,6,8,-4,3)

Quarterfinal

Wang Hao CHN - Gao Ning SIN 4:2 (2,11,-11,4,-3,3)

Timo Boll GER - Vladimir Samsonov BLR 4:1 (3,8,7,-2,7)

Wang Liqin CHN - **Werner Schlager AUT** 4:0 (7,4,7,9)

Ryu Seung Min KOR - Ma Lin CHN 4:1 (10,7,-6,11,10)

Preliminary rounds with Butterfly players

Group A

1. Round

Wang Hao CHN - **Chuan Chih-Yuan TPE** 4:2 (11,-7,-9,7,8,5)

Ryu Seung Min KOR - William Henzell AUS 4:0 (12,8,4,8)

2. Round

Wang Hao CHN - Ryu Seung Min KOR 4:1 (-13,7,8,5,6)

Chuan Chih-Yuan TPE - William Henzell AUS 4:1 (-6,7,9,5,8)

3. Round

Wang Hao CHN - William Henzell AUS 4:1 (8,6,-8,4,3)

Chuan Chih Yuan TPE - Ryu Seung Min KOR 4:2 (13,-7,-7,7,-7,18,9)

Group Final Position: 1. Wang Hao 3:0, 2. Ryu Seung Min 2:1, **3. Chuan Chih Yuan** 1:2, 4. William Henzell 0:3

Group B

Joo Se Hyuk KOR

Group D

1. Round

Timo Boll GER - **Werner Schlager AUT** 4:0 (7,7,2,10)

Oh Sang Eun KOR - Pradeeban Peter-Paul CAN 4:1 (5,10,10,-5,4)

2. Round

Timo Boll GER - **Oh Sang Eun KOR** 4:1 KOR (7,-7,7,6,6)

Werner Schlager AUT - Pradeeban Peter-Paul CAN 4:0 (3,6,7,6)

3. Round

Timo Boll GER - Pradeeban Peter-Paul CAN 4:0 (7,7,2,10)

Werner Schlager AUT - **Oh Sang Eun KOR** 4:1 (6,4,-9,7,7)

Group Final Position: 1. **Timo Boll** 3:0, 2. **Werner Schlager** 2:1, 3. **Oh Sang Eun** 1:2, Pradeeban Peter-Paul 0:3

Table tennis structure in India

By Sunil Babras (A National Coach of India)

At the lowest level many clubs are registered by the district association, which is again affiliated to the respective state association, that is further affiliated to the National Federation of India. The clubs elect the district officials, who then elect the state officials, who further go on to elect officials of the Federation.

The total number of table tennis players is about 80,000 to 100,000. This can be guessed by the fact that our sport is played in more than 26 states out of altogether 28. Furthermore there are more than 50 institutions or schools, where young players sleep, learn and practice table tennis. The unorganised people, who play in housing societies, clubs, offices, resorts, hotels, etc., may be around 50,000. This is my guess through the increasing sale of table tennis tables and other equipment here.

We do have an organised club system, but it is not run as professionally as you would find in Europe or other places. Lack of big sponsorship is the reason why the club league is not well developed. But at the grass-root level, i.e. at the district and the state levels we do have inter-club matches and also inter-office matches. For example, in my place Pune we regularly have our yearly inter-club tournament at the beginning of the season, in June, where a total of 25 club teams play for winning trophies. But in Mumbai the scale is much bigger. Since far more players participate, the league is divided in divisions starting from third going to the top. This happens both in offices and clubs. The total number would be more than 3,000 players. This type of loose structure is there all over India as all the present and past players started their playing days in the club only, since there is no other place which has infrastructure. Also the most basic coaching is done at the club level only.

In short, table tennis is growing here and it will definately be always a popular sport, because in India the biggest celebrities like cinema actors, cricket players and politicians play this sport for health reasons here. This is the biggest plus to the game.



ITTF World Ranking, Mens (10/2007)



1	WANG Hao CHN	16	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE
2	MA Lin CHN	17	LI Ching HKG
3	WANG Liqin CHN	18	KAN Yo JPN
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	PRIMORAC Zoran CRO
5	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	20	KORBEL Petr CZE
6	MA Long CHN	21	CHEN Weixing AUT
7	OH Sang Eun KOR	22	MAZE Michael DEN
8	Chen Qi CHN	22	TANG Peng HKG
9	RYU Seung Min KOR	24	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER
10	HAO Shuai CHN	25	KO Lai Chak HKG
11	GAO Ning SIN	26	SAIVE, Jean-Michel BEL
12	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	27	SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
13	HOU Yingchao CHN	28	LEE Jung Woo KOR
14	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	29	PERSSON Jorgen SWE
15	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	30	CRISAN Adrian ROU

ITTF World Ranking, Women (10/2007)



1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	SUN Bei Bei SIN
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	GAO Jun USA
3	WANG Nan CHN	18	WU Jiaduo GER
4	LI Xiaoxia CHN	19	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
5	GUO Yan CHN	20	FUKUOKA Haruna JPN
6	Li Jia Wei SIN	21	ZHANG Rui HKG
7	JIANG Huajun HKG	22	WANG Chen USA
8	WANG Yue Gu SIN	23	SHEN Yanfei PRK
9	TIE Yana HKG	24	KANAZAWA Saki JPN
10	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	25	BOROS Tamara HRV
11	NIU Jianfeng CHN	26	PARK Mi Young KOR
12	FUKUHARA Ai JAP	27	LAU Sui Fei HKG
13	LIU Jia AUT	28	TOTH Krisztina HUN
14	Li Jiao NED	29	DING Ning CHN
15	LIN Ling HKG	30	TAN MONFARDINI Wenling ITA

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

Guo Yue und Zhang Yining secure China's Women's World Cup



Two weeks after winning twice silver and twice bronze at the Women's World Cup two Butterfly aces won the Gold Medal at the World Team Cup in Magdeburg. The World Champion, Guo Yue and the number one of the World Ranking List, Zhang Yining lead China's World Champion Team to the expected win of the title with a 3:0 victory against the Butterfly Team from South Korea. Guo Yue won her single and the double with Li Xiao Xia and through that the 3000 Dollar price money for the best player of the tournament beating Zhang Yining on the final lap. China's Team received a cheque for 50.000 Dollars for their win in the final.

Many Butterflies were involved in medal successes during the World Team Cup. The Butterfly Team from Hungary and the Hong Kong National Team also in Butterfly equipment and led by Tie Yana both came third in the women's event. In the men's event the Butterfly Cheung Yuk came second with Hong Kong, who lost to World Champion China in the final. On third place followed the Butterfly team from South Korea with his in Magdeburg unbeaten Joo Se Hyuk and Oh Sang Eun, who couldn't find to his form this time. Werner Schlager led his Austrian Team to third place.

After the World Team Cup, which was a test for the new playing system the athletes were mainly positive about it. Zhang Yining meant: „The system is interesting especially because it is good for the spectator. It would be better if there were four instead of three players.“

Host Germany could be satisfied with the organisation and about 9000 spectators during three days. On the sporting level they were hoping especially in the men's competition for a better result than third place in the group. The tournament was finished for the European Champion Germany after the preliminary rounds due to the loss of their top player Timo Boll. The Butterfly representative from number 4 of the World Ranking list could not start because of flu and it is still not sure if he can start at the Men's World Cup in Barcelona. Boll is hoping for a speedy recovery: „I did not play this World Cup because my body would not have been able to cope with this in point of view of all the upcoming fixtures. I hope to be able to play in Barcelona but considering the circumstances I will surely not be one of the favourites.“

The winner of the years 2002 and 2005 is despite of this one of five Butterfly Stars who may dream of a medal in Barcelona if things go well. If Joo Se Hyuk and Werner Schlager can keep up their form Magdeburg they are dangerous for every opponent. There is a question mark behind the form of the number 6 on the World Ranking List, Oh Sang Eun, who was disappointing in Magdeburg and Chuan Chih Yuans (Taiwan) who did not play in Magdeburg. Schlager took a break in the semi-finals against China to recover: „I had a minor influenza and did not want to wear myself out more than necessary.“

In Catalonia the three Chinese leaders of the World Ranking List will be hunted: the Asian Champion Wang Hao, the record World Cup Winner, the defending Champion Ma Lin and World Champion Wang Liquin. The White Russian Vladimir Samsonov belongs to the extended circle of favourites on the winning cheque of 44.000 Dollars.

Matsushita: The Backhand Side-Spin Serve

This time we have a real classic in our analysis of techniques: the backhand side-spin serve. Without doubt the backhand serves are more of an exception nowadays. But they have still not disappeared completely. The Croatian Butterfly player Zoran Primorac is probably the best known representative because he uses more backhand serves than forehand. The number five of the World Ranking List, Vladimir Samsonov from White Russia, and the Belgian Ex-European Champion Jean-Michel Saive use the backhand serve against certain opponents in certain situations. The latest example is the young German star Dimitrij Ochterov, who shows us an extremely good backhand serve and played himself up into the top 25 of the world.

There is one group of players where the backhand serve still plays a very dominant role. The defenders use it quite often because they can get much faster into a more favourable position afterwards. So it is nobody less than Koji Matsushita, who will demonstrate the backhand side-spin serve. The Japanese defensive artist belonged to the best defenders in the world for nearly 20 years and even managed to be one of the top 20. At the moment he is ranked 54. He is known to be an elegant player and a perfectionist in technique.

Koji is standing on the forehand side slightly square to the baseline (see also picture S1). Bat and ball are near the middle of the table (picture 1). The upper body is bent at the hips. The ball is lying in the tensed and almost stretched inside of the hand. The view is fixed on the ball. His concentration is now directed towards his own movement and the anticipated next stroke. The whole body is lowered by bending the knees. The body weight is on his forward right leg with right handed players (picture S1). It is vice versa with left handed players. The bat in the right hand is slightly lower than the ball in the left hand.



07 Stars under the magnifier

The movement starts with throwing up the ball (picture 2 and S1) when throwing up the ball Koji stretches his body and puts his body weight on his right leg because he takes up his left foot. That is not absolutely necessary but it can be seen very often because it is easier to turn the upper body when standing on one leg. He is still looking at the ball. It is also interesting to see how he stretches the palm of his hand to increase the impulse while throwing up the ball. The playing arm remains in the same position.

Koji throws up the ball to the height of his eyes and still looks at it intensely (picture 3). He draws the left arm backwards.



08 Stars under the magnifier

When the ball reaches its highest point Koji moves the playing arm in front of the body slightly upwards (picture 4). He continues the movement of the playing arm in the direction of the left shoulder. On picture 5 he has reached the end of the semicircle like movement while the ball is on the way down. Now the real stroke movement starts.



The stroke and the moment of contact with the ball (picture 6)

Now Koji moves the bat speedily with a semicircle movement and a slightly open bat forwards and down. The movement of the playing arm is almost identical with the preparatory movement only that it is a lot faster to create the necessary spin (picture 6). It is interesting to see that Koji does not stretch his forearm but bends it even more by lifting the right shoulder. This sudden movement in the shoulder in connection with a little movement of the wrist can produce enormous spin. It is not possible to see any movement of the wrist on pictures 5-7 but that doesn't mean that he doesn't use it. Sure is – and that can be concluded from the curve and the position of the bat – that this is a long serve with side-spin.



09 Stars under the magnifier

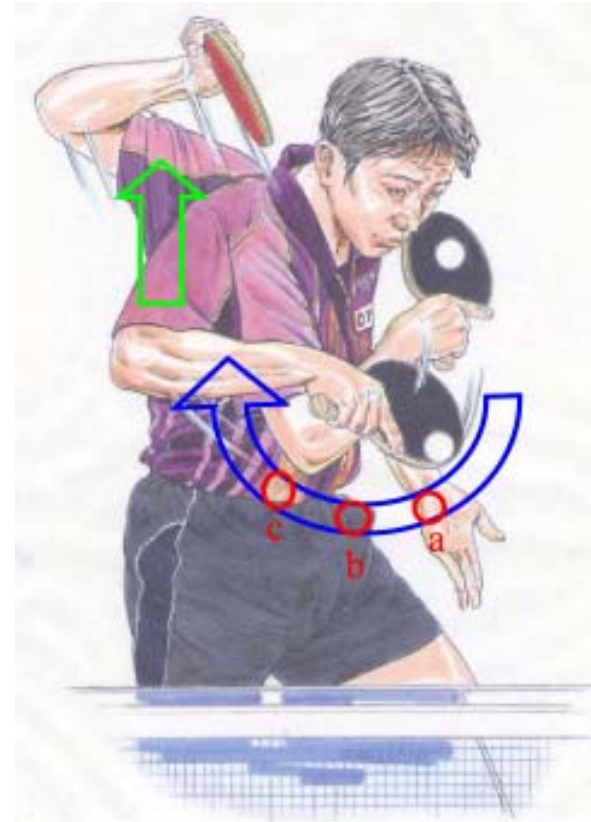
End of movement (picture 7-9,S2)

After making contact with the ball Koji lifts the bent playing arm up to the height of the shoulder (picture 7). The bat is even above the head (picture 8). This shows how speedily even explosive he has moved his arm as soon as the ball was falling down. On top of that it proves that the backhand side-spin demands extremely well coordinated movement of the whole body, which demands accurate timing.



10 Stars under the magnifier

Picture S2 shows us as well that the body weight is shifted from the front right leg to the back left leg at the end of the movement.



Principle semicircle and conclusion (Z)

The drawing clearly shows the circle like movement of the backhand side-spin serve. If you are hitting the ball while the circle like movement is going down you get more backspin (a). If you hit the ball exactly at the horizontal phase (b) of the movement you produce side-spin. If you hit the ball while the bat is going upwards you produce even side-top spin (c). If you now play these serves with different bat angles (from open to neutral) and different use of the wrist you can imagine the number of spin variations. Therefore there will always be some players on world class level who will choose the backhand side-spin serve. For this reason it should always be included in the basic table tennis training.

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World Champion Werner Schlager – Part 8: Backspin Defence

In 2003 Werner Schlager became sensationally World Champion in the Men Singles in Paris. Not all experts thought this possible. The rise of the Austrian to the top of the world was not easy. With courage, strength and endurance the right handed player managed the stony way to the top. Werner Schlager lives and lived table tennis like nobody else. His professional attitude towards sport is exemplary. For Butterfly the 34 year old is an important counsellor concerning the development of products. In his book: „Matchball – Dreams and Triumphs“, which was published last year, he describes his career, his successes and disappointments, his opinions about table tennis and his very personal quite philosophical thoughts about life. A very good book, not only for table tennis players. In the new Butterfly series „Tips & Tricks from the World champion“ he answers many questions concerning all areas of competition and training: technique, tactic, psychology, endurance, organisation of training, competition, player development and culture, material, rules, coaches. Barely practical issues. The Butterfly team and Werner Schlager wish you, dear reader, good entertainment and joy. If you have further questions about a topic, send us a mail. Previous articles: push, counter hit, forehand - topspin, Backhand-topspin, Flip, smash, ballon defence

The technique we are talking about today is surely not one of your best techniques but you can play it. We are talking about the backspin defence. Did it ever play a role in your table tennis life?

In my game the backspin defence only plays a minor role. Despite that you can sometimes change the course of a match with it.

Genius players like the Swede Jan-Ove Waldner or also the Pole Andrzej Grubba were not afraid to play such a backspin ball in certain situations to surprise their opponents. I think you have played these balls too. When does it make sense to play such a ball?

A backspin defence ball just happens in certain situations. The purposeful use of a technique you are not used to doesn't make sense.

Defending without pimples is technically very difficult. Why is so difficult?

The bat of an attacking player is very fast. Accordingly difficult it is to control the ball when defending. It is well possible though to defend with a slow non pimple rubber.



It is a lot easier to defend with long pimples. Why is that?

Long pimples are used with thin or no sponge which reduces the speed and increases the control. As I said the difficulty lies in controlling a fast rubber/blade combination.

Looking at the whole body coordination the long backspin defence is just as difficult as topspin. Some experts still maintain that defenders need more feeling and fine coordination than attacking players. What is your opinion?

I think it is not a question of feeling but of training. Both techniques are very complex movements, which must be trained accordingly often.

Do you play defence just for fun when training perhaps even with a defensive bat?

I like to play a defensive ball in between to get a better feeling for my material. Changing the bat would be counter productive.

How could you find out that a talented junior player might be more suited for defence?

13 Tips and Tricks

I think that is primarily a decision about the player's personality. It is hardly possible to talk to a player about defence if he doesn't play it anyway all the time.

Is this expression right: „If you can push well you can defend well with backspin.“

It is surely easier for him to defend than for somebody who has problems pushing the ball.

Is it more difficult to defend with the forehand or backhand? Some people maintain that defenders are weaker on the forehand side.

When defending with the forehand more muscle groups have to be coordinated so it must be more difficult to learn that stroke. To say generally that defenders are weaker on the forehand side is wrong in my opinion.

Nowadays the backspin defence is hardly considered in basic training any more. The offensive techniques are clearly dominating. Is that the reason why there are so few defenders in Europe?

I don't think that the backspin defence has to be included in the basic training for attacking players. I only think that the rule changes over the last years made it nearly impossible for classical defence players without a strong attacking stroke to compete internationally.

Also with amateurs there are less and less defenders. Isn't that boring for table tennis?

Rule changes which reduce the variety always lead to less complexity. The sport itself does not have to become more boring. As a modern defence player you can still make it right up to the top.

How do you realize if there is a lot of spin or less spin on a ball?

By the sound and the flight projection sometimes also on the stamp on the ball. A lot of experience makes it easier.

Is it true that some professionals play a bit of defence just for fun during their training sessions to improve their feeling for the ball or their coordination?

Yes, some professionals do that. I don't know if it is a lot of them. I certainly enjoy it.

Is there a defender who really impressed you?

The Chinese Chen Xin Hua, „Der Laechler“ (the smily) had an extraordinary player personality.

The few defenders who are world class play with long pimples on the backhand and no pimples on the forehand. At the moment the best defender Joo Se Hyuk from South Korea was your opponent in the final in Paris 2003. What is so dangerous about the backspin defence?

It is not so much the variety of spin than the control of the defence and the danger of their attack which define the last defending artists.

I play backspin defence...just for fun, or in an emergency.

Against backspin defence I play...with my brain.

I think about backspin defence as...attractive.

The effect of backspin defence should... never be underestimated.

Backspin defence is...my favourite.

Interview with Tamara Boros, Croatia

Since 7 years under TOP 10

The Croatian Tamara Boros belongs to the very top of Europe for over 10 years. For years she was the best. In 2002 she achieved her best world ranking position: no.2. A year later she won a bronze medal at the World Championships in Paris. A superb achievement if you think about the fact that only two other Europeans managed to win single medals in between 1973 and 2007. Last summer she became sick after participating in a Pro Tour Tournament in Chile and had to take a break for nearly a year. This year at the World Championship in Zagreb she started again still not with her full strength but with great ambitions. In Peking the 29-year-old wants to attack the Chinese on their home ground. She is known as a hard worker, very ambitious and her topspin game from both sides is very attractive. Why shouldn't she manage another coup like in Paris?

Tamara, when and where did you begin to play table tennis?

When I was 8 years old in Senta, a little town in the Serbian Vojvodina near the Hungarian border.

Have you not been to Sweden for a longer period?

Yes in 1991, when the war on the Balkan broke out I went to Sweden for two years. When I came back in 1993 my parents and I settled in Zagreb where I still live and can hopefully stay for a long time to come.

Who discovered your talent when you were 8 years old?

Don't laugh but I wasn't considered to be a talent when I was young. In Croatia they even said that I didn't have enough talent to make it to the top.

When did the turn in your career come?

When I won the Junior top 12 Tournament in 1994 and I became European Youth Champion a year later. 1998 even my critics realized that I did have some talent, when I qualified for the European Women top 12 and reached the Final of the European Championships a short time later. From then onwards they thought that I could become the best in Europe if not in the world.



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How long have you been ranked among the top 10 in the world as the best European?

For 7 years.

Let's talk about your game, which was for women table tennis during the last years of the last century very attractive and even is today. You belong to the few women who can play a very aggressive backhand-and forehand topspin.

Yes, I try to put the pressure on from both sides. That is my game. At the moment I even think that my backhand is stronger but anyway I like to attack from both sides, because I am not so fast on my feet to run around my backhand all the time.

And then you have the high thrown serves in your repertoire.

Czilla Batorfi taught me those when I was about ten years old. My topspin attack especially from the backhand I learnt from my coach Neven Cegar. I am working together with him now for 14 years.

So to speak your father?

Yes, of course (Tamara laughs), I was surely more together with him than with my father.

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What does a good table tennis coach need to gain your trust?

Both must pull at the same end that means they must have the same targets. We are both very ambitious, very motivated and table tennis mad. Apart from that we cooperate on the same level. It doesn't happen very often that the coach and the player stay together for so long but it just worked out like that for us.

You are also well known for your hard and extensive training.

Fitness training is very important for me. I was for example never injured which I trace back to the hard physical preparation. Generally table tennis players should take fitness training very seriously. It pays off.

What about men as sparring partners?

Very important. I think that I train 70% of the time with men.

You are now 29 years old, which is no age in table tennis to think of stopping to play.

Of course not, everything is possible.

For European female players it is in view of the Chinese dominance of good players very difficult to make it to the top of the world. 2003 you won a Bronze medal at the WC in Paris. What really is the difference between Chinese and European table tennis?

That explanation is simple. They are better in the so called „little“ points: serve, return of serve, the short-short game and the first long push. They clearly make fewer mistakes here. Concerning the big points – like topspin against topspin – we are no worse. It is the details, and we are not practicing them enough. With us it has to go faster and faster: the faster the better. That is the wrong way. Nobody likes to practice short-short and the long push. That is boring but that is the game. The game doesn't start with topspin, before that come the little strokes. Everybody knows that.

From the summer of 2006 up to spring this year you had to fight against a nasty infectious disease and couldn't train and play. Finally you could play again at the World Championships in Zagreb, not yet one hundred percent fit but at least you could play. What are your targets?

I will do everything to participate next year in the Olympics in Peking. I have nearly lost a year and despite that I hope to reach the form again which I had before my sickness. This will be very hard of course, because I will lose a number of games which I normally wouldn't lose. But now I need a lot of match practice.

Since 1996 you have a Butterfly contract. What material do you play with?

I play with a normal BRYCE 2.1 on both sides since 10 years. I am very satisfied with it and especially with my blade which is almost identical with the TIMO BOLL SPIRIT OFF.

What do you think about the gluing prohibition, which will commence finally after the Olympic Games in 2008?

At first I was afraid that it might come. But Mr Imamura, Butterfly's material expert, who really looks after us optimally, took my fear away and said that Butterfly will do everything possible that no player will be disadvantaged. I believe him because Butterfly has never let me down. Butterfly has got the best products.

Which dream would you like to come true in your career?

One of my dreams came true already when I won the Bronze Medal at the WC in Paris. If I could succeed to win a medal in Peking that would be a dream. I will definitely do everything to make it possible.

If you were President of the ITTF what would you change?

The service rule is not o.k. and the playing conditions at some of the Pro Tour Tournaments are not sufficient. These tournaments have to be checked better before and if necessary be cancelled. I caught my infectious disease during a Pro Tour Tournament in Chile last summer. The temperature in the hall was 8 degrees. That can't be right.

BRYCE SPEED and BRYCE SPEED FX – the new generation of High tension Rubbers



Productexpert Rüdiger von Berg (right) with Michael Janknecht (middle) and (Sebastian Rangs)

Mr van Berg, at the beginning of November two new top products of the Butterfly rubber technology are coming on the market: the BRYCE SPEED and the BRYCE SPEED FX. What is so special about these rubbers?

BRYCE SPEED and BRYCE SPEED FX have been further developed from the BRYCE and BRYCE FX. They belong to our High Tension – Family and have been further improved in their tension. The sponge as well as the surface has been optimized concerning tension. The result is a significant increase in speed and spin; naturally without fresh gluing. I would like to stress that the surface of the BRYCE SPEED is completely new and not just the „old“ BRYCE surface with new tension.

There is also the classical BRYCE in a High Tune version. What is the difference to the new BRYCE SPEED?

There is definitely a big difference. The new BRYCE SPEED is a rubber with a completely new concept from our research laboratory in Japan. In opposite to that the BRYCE goes through a High Tune procedure where it is put under tension afterwards. Both procedures are completely independent from each other and suit different player types.

What is the difference between a BRYCE SPEED FX and a BRYCE SPEED?

Butterfly material expert Ruediger van Berg presents the two new top products of Butterfly rubber technology in an interview. Both rubbers will be available from the 1st of November and many are very interested in it now already.

The sponge of the FX is about 10% softer which gives the rubber a little bit more feeling and control. The surface is identical with the BRYCE.

To whom do you recommend these varieties?

The BRYCE SPEED is obviously more speed orientated and the BRYCE FX is more suitable for a player with variable loops.

The concept of the BRYCE SPEED is surely that it is supposed to have nearly the same effect as a freshly glued rubber. How close is the BRYCE SPEED to a glued BRYCE?

You can't give a percentage for that but our tests with our contract players as well as our own experiences have shown that it is very close.

It was said about the classical BRYCE that it demands a good technical level of the player. Is the same valid for the BRYCE SPEED?

Indeed, they are both no rubbers for new-beginners. The player must be concentrated and hit the ball at the right time and at the right point. Then it will show its brilliant qualities. Therefore we present the BRYCE SPEED FX simultaneously this time because it is clearly easier to handle in point of view of technique.

We said at the beginning that the surface and the sponge of the BRYCE SPEED and the BRYCE SPEED FX have tension. How long does this effect last?

The effect does not wear off because both varieties have been made like that from the factory. There is no decrease in tension. That is the reasonable solution of this rubber.

How much does this rubber cost and when will it be available?

It costs 49,90 Euros and will be available at the beginning of November. We will present it in Bremen at the GERMAN OPEN.

Timo Bolls Column

The value of losses

Hello Dear Fans and Readers!

We are now traditionally in the middle of the „hot autumn“ in international table tennis. I feel good which I did not necessarily expect after my flu during the World Team Cup in front of a home crowd in Magdeburg. After the semi final at the World Cup in Barcelona, the victory at the European Super Cup in Kazan and a medal at the Russian Open in St. Petersburg I am optimistic for the next highlights.

I am especially looking forward to my second „home match“ at the German Open in Bremen. It is always something special to play in your home country with the support of the spectators for a title. I like the memories of Bremen where we played a brilliant Team WC in the same hall last year so that the conditions for a great and hopefully successful tournament should be alright from my point of view.

The past weeks have been very successful for me. I was surprised myself that I could play up to a really high standard again despite my lack of training, the playing break in September and the following flu. Victories against opponents like Werner Schlager, Oh Sang-Eun and Vladimir Samsonov can never be taken for granted but with all the problems I had before I am really proud and these wins became even more valuable.

The lost matches against the Chinese Wang Hao and Wang Liqin in Barcelona and also Chen Qi in St. Petersburg were also valuable. It was obvious in all matches that the Chinese are clearly ahead of me about nine months before Olympia in Peking. I



didn't have a real chance in any of those matches I have got to give that to the Chinese. Especially from those matches I can learn and with the help of my coaches draw the right conclusions and with the target Peking try to reduce the gap if not catch up with them completely.

Therefore I have to stay calm up to the Olympic Tournament. I am aware of the fact that I can only catch up by training very concentrated and I am determined to do just that. I am a bit optimistic because I was once very close to the level of the Chinese and that I have a realistic chance to come back to that kind of situation again. It would be really good if that could happen in February at the Team WC in Guangzhou even better of course in Peking.

The experiences from the few matches against the Chinese will therefore perhaps be a lot more valuable than some of the other victories.

See you soon

Yours

A handwritten signature of Timo Boll in black ink.

Timo's own Homepage:
<http://www.timo-boll.de>