



Schedule

**26th to 29th of
June 2003**

ITTF Pro Tour: Brazilian Open
Rio de Janeiro awaits the World-elite

**9th to 11th of
June 2003**

World Cup men
Defending champion as at the
Europe Top-12: Boll and Butterfly

**6th to 11th of
December 2003**



ITTF Pro Tour: German Open
Bremens City-hall wants to give it's
recommendation for the WCC 2006

**11th to 14th of
December 2003**

Grand Finals ITTF Pro Tour
The last duel Europe vs. Asia in 2003



Werner Schlager - the king of Paris!



The City of Love was a good stage for the players of the Butterfly-team. Ahead of all Werner Schlager provided the great sensation and gained the first WCC-gold for Austria after 66 years. By a phenomenal 4:2 victory in the final against the Korean Joo Se Hyuk the 30-year old climbed the table-tennis throne. After the Olympic victory of Kong Linghui in 2000 and Timo Boll winning the World Cup in 2002 this impressively proves that everything is possible with an outstanding performance and adequate materials. And so Schlager, who spontaneously considered ending his career after his triumph in Paris, stated a new aims: "There still are the Olympic Games in Athens next year..."

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Kamp-Lintfort**
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Butterfly-gold for Schlager and
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Timo Boll: In and at the net!

Timo Boll belonging to the World's absolute elite at the net is no secret anymore. But „in the net“ Timo Boll is active as well and present at www.timo-boll.de. Everything you want to know about the popular celluloid-artist. On his pages under “Kolumne” the World's No.1 gives his personal impressions of his recent experiences. What else is to be found? Timo's tips, photos, autographs for download and much more! You can communicate with Timo or other fans in forum or chat or look for materials and clothing in Timo's online-shop!



In the Online-shop fans will find anything their heart desires!

The World-Champion visiting Kamp-Lintfort

60 kids of the clubs TuS Borth and PSV Kamp-Lintfort were excited about the arrival of the World Champion, who had offered himself for autographs and questions after an invitation by Butterfly. With the regional press and Mayor Dr. Christoph Landscheidt present Werner Schlager demonstrated his skills at the table to the enthusiastic audience as well. Schlager: “The hype about my person is quite big at the moment, three appointments a day are not unusual. But I had looked forward to meet the kids for they are tomorrow's stars!”



Enthusiastic about the World-Champion (from left to right): Mayor Dr. Christoph Landscheidt, Yuki Kamizuru (general manager Butterfly-Europe), Manfred Klessa – Head of Division PSV

The PSV-talents Andreas Kothén and Matthias Uran in action with Werner Schlager



A champ in touch!

ITTF World's Ranking List (Extract, June 2003)

(Butterfly-players are marked!)

- 1 **SCHLAGER Werner AUT**
- 2 MA Lin CHN
- 3 **BOLL Timo GER**
- 4 SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR
- 5 WANG Liqin CHN
- 6 **KONG Linghui CHN**
- 7 CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE
- 8 WANG Hao CHN
- 9 **KREANGA Kalinikos GRE**
- 10 **CHIANG Peng-Lung TPE**
- 11 **OH Sang Eun KOR**
- 11 **RYU Seung Min KOR**
- 13 **PRIMORAC Zoran CRO**
- 14 LIU Guozheng CHN
- 14 SAIVE Jean-Michel BEL

- 16 SMIRNOV Alexei RUS
- 17 LIU Guoliang CHN
- 18 KARLSSON Peter SWE
- 19 **KIM Taek Soo KOR**
- 20 WALDNER Jan-Ove SWE
- 21 **MAZE Michael DEN**
- 22 JOO Se Hyuk KOR
- 23 PERSSON Jorgen SWE
- 24 HEISTER Danny NED
- 25 WOSIK Torben GER
- 26 HAKANSSON Frederik SWE
- 27 MA Wenge CHN
- 28 QIU Yike CHN
- 29 CHEN Weixing AUT
- 29 TANG Peng CHN

www.butterfly-world.com

47th WCC in Paris (19th to 25th of May 2003):

Impressive outcome : Werner Schlager and Zhang Yining get Gold for Butterfly

The 47th World Championships in Paris have ended. The monumental events brought 70.000 spectators into the Palais Omnisport within one week. For Butterfly it was a complete success in the final spurt: In front of 12.000 enthusiastic spectators the Austrian Werner Schlager in the Men's singles and the Chinese Zhang Yining in the Women's doubles gained Gold for the Japanese sports brand, whose accounting with two further Silver- and five Bronze-medals is outstanding. The total of nine Butterfly-players were involved in the 20 medals given away in five competitions...



In the royal competition, the Men's singles, Butterfly was present three times at the awarding – with the new World Champion Werner Schlager and the semi-finalists Kong Linghui (China) and Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece). And the second-important competition, the Women's singles, was formed by two Tamasu-players: World's No.1 Zhang Yining and the Croatian Tamara Boros. Zhang failed only in the final after a great fight against Olympic Champion Wang Nan, who became most successful player of Paris with three titles. Boros entered medal-ranks in the Women's singles as first European after European Champion Otilia Badescu ten years ago.

After the Olympic victory of Kong Linghui in 2000 and Timo Boll winning the World-Cup in 2002 the new World-Champion comes from Butterfly as well. Schlager's victory in six games over the South-Korean defence-artist Joo Se Hyuk tears a large hole into the Chinese table-tennis-wall, out of which Europe was unable to break even a stone in 1999 and 2001. Though China still exceeded the expectations of head-coach Cai Zhenhua by four-times Gold in pure Chinese finals – three titles had been given as the aim for the Individual WCC – failing in the royal competition of the Men's singles is a hard blow for the giant. A year before the Olympic Games in Athens Europe owns all major titles by Timo Boll's triumph at the World Cup and Werner Schlager sensationally winning the World Championships.

Schlager deserved the title for he presented himself with the best nerves of all players, fighting off match-balls against defending champion Wang Liqin (five) and super-technician Kong Linghui (one) in the quarter- and semi-final. The new Champion considers his triumph as a result of many factors: "Everything one needs came together: A good form, a good seeding, a good mind, excellent material, great audience and the necessary bit of luck in the crucial moments." And great fighting spirit was presented by the honourable winner as well: In the final against Yoo Se Hyukm, a defender who attacks nearly every forehand-ball, Schlager turned around a 7:10 in the fourth game, a 3:7 and a 9:10 in the sixth game.



Gratitude to 12.000 spectators

By winning this title Schlager takes over the lead in the World's Ranking list of the German Timo Boll, who had been there for five month. Europe Top-12 winner Boll fell behind Schlager and the Chinese Ma Lin after surprisingly dropping out by a 2:4 in the second round against the semi-finalist of the Japan Open, the seventeen year old Chinese Qiu Jike. Boll: "I was physically not fit enough at this WCC. After one and a half years of success with much stress there had to come a set back. But Qiu played very well, too. Actually I like his way of playing and most of the time I was in control, but I missed many of my chances":



Positive decisions were made in the WCC-week of Paris outside of sports at the Annual General Meeting of the ITTF. Much discussed after being set up the new regulations for service were given a useful addition: The servicing player has to take away his free arm away from the body clearly and immediately after throwing up the ball. China withdrew it's controversial proposition to return to 21. One thing was made clear by the dramatic and exciting matches in the Palais Omnisport. Counting to 11 increased the attractiveness of our sports by introducing more elements of thrill, manifested in many dramatic matches, an enthusiastic atmosphere and the "La Ola Waves" made by a world-class audience. Who ever has seen this WCC cannot seriously consider returning to 21!

Butterfly-medal-winners at the 47th World Championships: 2x Gold, 2x Silver, 5x Bronze

Men's singles:

Gold: Werner Schlager (Austria)
Bronze: Kong Linghui (China)
Bronze: Kalinikos Kreanga (Greece)

Women's singles:

Silver: Zhang Yining (China)
Bronze: Tamara Boros (Croatia)

All results at www.mondialping.com

Women's doubles:

Gold: Zhang Yining (China) with Wang Nan
Bronze: Lee Eun Sil (South Korea) with Suk Eun Mi

Men's doubles:

Silver: Kong Linghui (China) – with Wang Hao
Bronze: Oh Sang Eun / Kim Taek Soo (South-Korea)



www.butterfly-world.com



“Please tweak me, am I really world-champion?”

Interview with World Champion Werner Schlager

Mr. Schlager, please be frank: have you thought about returning to Austria as World-champion before the tournament?

No. It has been my aim to reach the quarter-final. But I've been playing on a constant high level for years and I knew I might be able to win a medal if things go well. Becoming champion I did not think of. And still I can hardly believe it. I have to realize it for myself. It is like a dream! Please tweak me, am I really world-champion?

Which factors were important for your triumph?

My good form, a good seeding, a good mind, excellent material and the necessary bit of luck. With Wang and Kong I met the two Chinese I'd prefer to the others. Sometimes everything depends on one ball as in the match against Wang Liqin, who had five match-balls. I especially have to thank the spectators in the Palais Omnisport. They were behind me like one man in the matches against the Asians. This was a fantastic feeling. And in the final the spectators helped simply to forget the upcoming exhaustion.

It was obvious, that you caught up many backlogs in crucial situations in Paris. Against Wang as well as against Kong and in the final against Joo...

That's true. I'm a player who can focus even better lying behind towards the end of the game. It might sound strange, but this gives me another kick to focus 100% on the essential.

Did you have a special tactics before the final?

No, I knew what I had to expect. Joo plays similar to my national-team-mate Chen Weixing: He defends with pimples on his backhand and attacks very good on his forehand – actually he's not really a defender in a classical sense. But because of Chen I knew this system of modern defence and was not afraid. Rather the opposite, I like it.

China's head-coach Cai Zhenhua said, the European play mentally more freely than the Chinese. Do you agree?

Yes, we don't have that much pressure to win. Nobody tears our heads off if we loose in the quarter-final of a WCC. I think it was clearly visible that there's much pressure on the Chinese.



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Product of the month



Shirts YORK

Mixed fabric „Cotton-Feeling“ of 60% cotton + 40% polyesters, XXS – XXXL
 3 single coloured shirts as follows:

1. main colour black, collar und cuffs red with thin yellow stripes.
2. main colour red, collar und cuffs black with thin yellow stripes.
3. main colour marine-blue, collar und cuffs grey with thin blue stripes.



31,90 EURO



Link www.butterfly-world.com „Start-page novelties 2003“

The Equipement of the

BRYCE is our Top-product, with which Werner Schlager became World Champion!

In 1997 BRYCE entered the World-market as the only rubber with built in tension. No other rubber was so quickly accepted by the Top-players. An innovative production process causes the molecular structure of the of the surface rubber to built up a great, even tension, which gives a so far unknown energy and dynamics to the ball.

Speed 12.0
 Spin 9.5
 1,9/2,1 mm

41,00 EURO



World Champion!

The Blade of the World Champion! “Schlager Carbon Off+”

Werner Schlager has designed his blade together with our development department and now plays it himself. The characteristics of the carbon now are more efficient due to a new construction of the blade. Amongst the Butterfly-blades WERNER SCHLAGER OFF+ is the fastest.

Handle: An, Fl, St

81,50 EURO



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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.

Expert talk with Mario Amizic: Analysis of the own play

Mario Amizic is regarded one of the World's best table tennis coaches. From 1996 to 1999 the 49-year old Croatian was head-coach of the German record-champion Borussia Düsseldorf and with his top-club he collected national and international titles as no one before. Since 1999 he observes and supports the national and international youngsters as Sports-Director of Butterfly. Contracting Mario was an undoubted milestone on the way to a global network of promotion. Besides this the father of two sons, with Düsseldorf as the residence of his choice, is responsible for the promotion of young talented players in the Japanese Table Tennis Federation. With great patience and endurance he has taken a new and – for Japanese culture – an unusual path to bring the former table tennis "world power" back to the top, which starts to show first results. It was always his challenge to go for difficult tasks. Such table tennis "craziness" has it's roots. His father, who recently had passed away, was "Mr. Table tennis" in his home town of Zadar. For 50 years he was in the hall of the local club training the youth – "without payment", as Mario emphasizes with much respect.

What is typical for the modern offensive play and what has changed in the last 10 to 15 years.

The pros have become more professional and more athletic. Besides the training of the technique the importance of fitness and endurance has increased a lot: quickness, power and endurance. Only a strong body can take the stress of today's professional table tennis. Further the game has become much faster due to the development in the area of materials. But speed is not everything. Today's offensive player must be complete, which means he has to be able to play passive as well as active. Players like Gatien or Roskopf are extremely good in the active part, but are weak playing passive.

What does "passive play" mean exactly?

These are the "little" balls, which provide the "little" points: a safe and intelligent return, a controlled, variable and well placed block, a precise and soft push, generally placing and control of the strokes. Timo Boll or Vladimir Samsonov are outstanding examples for this type of player. It is for a reason that they are No.3 and 4. in the World. They are stable in their strokes, perform the active offensive spin-play as well as the passive part, especially the blocking with much variations. Their safety and variability is enormous. This reliable mix of chosen activity and passiveness is their guarantee for success. They can adapt their play according to each opponent again and again. Therefore there are nearly unpredictable and this is asked for nowadays.

You name World-class athletes as examples, but how can a "normal" player of county or regional standard can profit from this?

A lot. It starts when training. Knowing that the passive play is as important in the match as the active this has to have consequences. To have the blocking-part is boring for many, as well as exact push- or return-training. Topspins with maximized speed and little variations, this is trendy in the lower classes. This leads to a play at high risk and so the players are under pressure themselves, cannot defend themselves, can't "block" or "counter" this pressure.

What can those “over-active” players change in their training?

An example: How is the situation topspin – block practiced many times? One rolls in a ball, the other one spins as fast as he can – once, twice, maybe three times. But where is this situation in the game? Rarely, I’d say! Normally there’s an opening topspin on backspin – after short-short-long – or after sidespin variations in services of half- or full length. This topspin has a totally different rotation than the one described before, so calls for a different block or counter-spin. And the player training his topspin after rolling in the ball will face major difficulties playing on backspin.

This sounds simple.

It is in principle. A player has to learn to analyse himself. He has to filter the important and recurring situations in his play and train them especially. Everyone can do so provided he thinks about his play.

Can you please name an example?

Assuming a player has problems playing topspin on backspin. But in the match he always serves short with side/backspin etc... He will receive exactly the ball he does not want to – backspin. Therefore he has to change his service-play, serve more at half length or even long to get into his match. Most of the times the player does not even know that he builds up his play in a wrong manner. This is because many players do not analyse their play at all. They try to copy attractive strokes of other players without considering their own weak and strong elements.

How can I train my weak points with more awareness?

Many factors meet. A crucial point is the motivation of the player in the first place. A player has to be angry about a defeat, but aware and not destructive – later can be seen too often. The positive anger leads to the question: what can I learn from this defeat, what do I have to improve so I won’t loose because of the same reasons the next time. In this moment he becomes aware of his play. A player – no matter if local- or world-level – has to acknowledge his mistakes himself. And he has to work on them willingly. This is the key to success, no matter what level. The coach can only be help or service. Only who works on his weaknesses without neglecting his strength will improve. This is why only a few make it to the top. Most of the talents don’t want to work on their weak points – this is hard and time-consuming - , because they don’t have the motivation to torture themselves. Or they are not able to for they haven’t learned to be self-responsible early enough. Many times it’s the fault of coaches being far too dominant. Being 18-years old and looking for the coach to signal him the type of service at 10-10 proves that one cannot model one’s play himself. Latest at 15 you have to have gained this aware self-responsibility.

Of course we want to take a look at the WCC in Paris. Did Timo Boll, for example, disappoint you by his early out in round two against the young Chinese Qui?

The WCC is a specific tournament. Who wins it is not necessarily the World’s best player. He has only proved he can win the most important tournament of the year. “Disappointed” is definitely the wrong word. For more than a year Timo has provided constant outstanding performance like no other and consequently became World’s No.1. It was in Courmayeur at the European Championships where he started to drop off, and still made the Bronze medal. It was bad luck to meet the extremely good Vladimir Samsonov in the semi-final. And now in Paris he simply is not in top-form anymore. Much more important is the fact, that he played himself into the world elite within the recent year.

How do you judge Werner Schlager's title?

Much respect for this performance! I was really happy for Werner. For years he has been playing on high level and now in Paris he called his best performance. A great success for him, which could cause a table-tennis boom in Austria as well.

Interesting that in Courmayeur as well as in Paris defenders were on top again. The Korean Joo in the final of the WCC – nobody would have expected that.

The few defenders surely needed more time to get used to the 40mm ball and the game to 11. But obviously they succeeded. Still for me Joo's result is a temporarily surprise.

By experts the WCC 2003 is considered the best WCC since 1989 in Dortmund. The total of 68.000 spectators have seen the matches. How were your days in Paris?

It was truly great, a top-event and this with no French players on the final days. Table tennis has proved that it can be great sports. And still: I consider such an event with almost 700 participants as too extended. For example there should be only a table of 128 for the singles and 64 for the doubles. And a better presentation in the first days of the event would increase the value of the games – to the fans and the media.

An finally:

Best wishes, Grenzau-Congratulations to Düsseldorf

"It has been six successful years!" Butterfly-director Yuki Kamizuru described the cooperation with TTC Zugbrücke Grenzau. The supply-contract with the Westerwald-club ends this month. Kamizuru: "This has nothing to do with the defeat in the final against Düsseldorf. A while ago we came to the decision to set up new priorities and to focus completely on Gönnern with Timo Boll. We wish Grenzau good luck in the future and of course congratulations to Düsseldorf for an outstanding performance!"



Some of the topics of the next issue (30.KW):

Material-talk with Taisei Imamura: The rubber of the World Champion

A day in the photo-studio with Werner Schlager

The catalogue is out!



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