



Yokohama 2009: Tenergy is Everybody's darling

Maturity report: Japan's blooming prospects

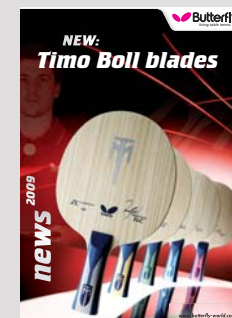


Yokohama. One month has passed since the 50th Single World Championships in Yokohama with the victory of Butterfly star Zhang Yining and the first triumph of Wang Hao as the highlights at the end. In Japan the final results were like two years ago at the Championships in Shanghai and in Zagreb five titles for the table tennis super power China who set a new record by winning 17 of 20 possible medals.



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While China's assumed strongest and most dangerous opponent, the injured Timo Boll, was following and commenting the Butterfly WC report from home the final analysis of the past three fights for the title makes cynics suggest that the flood of medals for China's aces can only be stopped by reducing the number of participants. Europe which ended up completely empty handed in Yokohama has only got a little sense of humour for such kind of jokes whereas the host nation seems to be looking forward to a brighter future. Japan attracted attention with a whole row of young talents and that not only by winning the bronze medal of the Butterfly double Jun Mizutani/Seiya Kishikawa.

The impressive appearance of the numerous talents is also due to the Butterfly coach Mario Amizic who built up a new generation of players in Japan and Germany for the Japanese Association and for Butterfly during the last eight years. 2005 in Shanghai the Croatian with Duesseldorf as his chosen home said to German journalists: „The Team WC 2006 in Bremen is probably a little bit too early for the young Japanese generation but winning a medal is only a question of time.“ The coaching icon Amizic should be right once more: 2007 the double Mizutani/Kishikawa reached in vain for a medal in the quarterfinals in Zagreb but in



Laid the foundation for Japanese success:
Butterflycoach Mario Amizic

February 2008 Nippon came third on the podium of the team WC. Following this was the semi final at the Olympics in Peking which ended without winning a medal and now in 2009 in Yokohama the well deserved bronze medal for Mizutani/Kishikawa in front of the home crowd.

One ingredient of the success recipe for Japan's young stars is the self confidence with which they approach their opponents independently of their strength or nationality. Even Olympic Champion Ma Lin got a taste of that against Kenta Matsudeira. Ma Lin could just about save his skin against the former Junior World Champion with class but also with a lot of luck when he was 1:3 down in sets and managed to win the match. Butterfly Jun Mizutani explains one part of the success philosophy: „Defeats like two years ago in the doubles quarterfinals make a player more mature. We profited from that during this WC. The distance to China is big but if we work hard we can shorten it. We have a young team and can all develop further.“ The ones who have seen the Japanese youngsters in Yokohama don't doubt that. Dirk Schimmelpfennig, top sport director of the European top nation Germany sees Japan after China as a serious opponent for the fight for Olympic - and WC medals for the coming years: „After the good performances



Two of the Japanese young stars:
Jun Mizutani and Seiya Kishikawa

in Peking Japan has also impressed in Yokohama. Mizutani and Co. are candidates for medals for the next years and there will be some exciting duels in the future. But we must keep looking upwards and keep trying just like Japan to attack the Chinese.“

At the moment the reign of the empire in the middle at the World Championships and Olympic Games is without any challenge. Therefore ITTF-President Adham Sharara is not getting tired of encouraging the other nations, „learn from the best players in the world and rise to the challenge. That is very important for our sport.“ If you don't look at the women for once where China is light years ahead of the rest of the world, technically and athletically, and the last three World Champions (Zhang Yining 2005 and 2009, Guo Yue 2007) all playing with Butterfly material, then the other few who could tear some holes into the Chinese wall recently were all athletes from Tamasu Butterfly: the surprise World Champion from Paris 2003 Werner Schlager (Austria), Germany's super star Timo Boll with silver in the team event at the Olympics, two World Cup and numerous Pro Tour successes, Denmark's WC third from 2005 Michael Maze as well as the defending artist Joo Se Hyuk (South Korea) with silver in 2003 and the WC third from 2005 Oh Sang Eun.

You can't talk about coincidence any longer. The brilliant placements are surely also a consequence of very reliable and good material. Since the ban of fresh gluing from the 1st of September 2008 this has become more obvious than

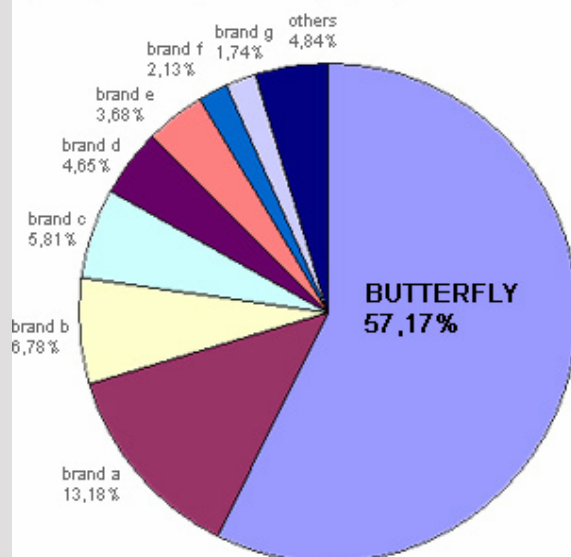
before. In Yokohama, for example, not only the Tamasu contract players but also many of the other prominent athletes who preferred other material before used the top product Tenergy. A European coach, who has a contract with another company, explains the momentary problem of the choice of material in world table tennis as follows: „Since the ban of glue there is a class society concerning rubbers and many are still looking for the optimal product. Topping the list at the moment are the Chinese and Butterfly-rubbers and then there is a big gap which the players don't want to get too big. The Tenergy has advanced to everybody's favourite at the moment.



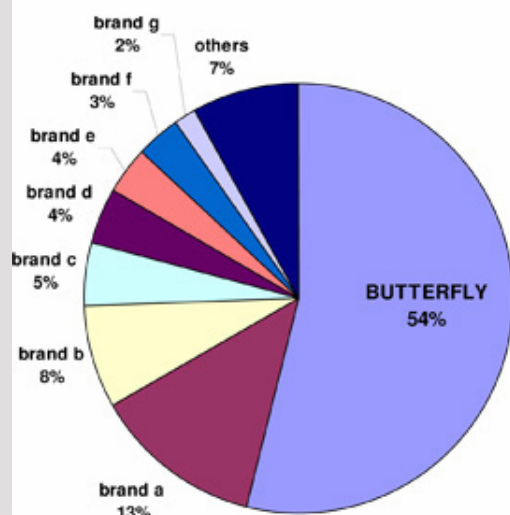
Brilliant placements with brilliant material

The number four of the World Ranking List, Timo Boll, who will go hunting for titles again in September and wants to convince against China's aces at the World Cup a month later could improve his consistency in the game with Tenergy: „Until my injury before the WC I played constantly on such a high level as never before. I also managed victories against the two best Chinese Ma Lin and Ma Long. I would like to continue with this form in autumn. If I succeed in this I can finally forget about the missed WC.“

Blade share at the 2009 World Table Tennis Championships in Yokohama, Japan
(survey ratio: 97,4% of all players)



Blade share at the 2008 World Team Table Tennis Championships in Guangzhou, China
(survey ratio: 94,6% of all players)



Blade selection

A table tennis blade usually consist of several layers (exception: 1-ply Hinoki blades, e.g. Senkoh 90). The reversed gluing technique gives the blade its stability. Depending on the different woods or the combination thereof, the blade varies in its rigidity, hardness and weight. We select only the best quality of woods for our blades. The harder African woods like limba, koto and anegre, are used for the outer layers. Softer woods, for instance, the European pine-tree or African abachi, make up the core layer on the inside, which produces the unique BUTTERFLY feeling. 300 year-old Japanese cypress Kiso is used for our carbon blades giving their outer layers a powerful feeling. Prior to its market launch, each BUTTERFLY blade has to undergo strict quality control as far as the bending strength and flatness of the surface is concerned. The creative combination of different woods and various thicknesses is the secret of the BUTTERFLY technology. Woods always differ on speed and ball control, which can be classified for each playing strategy.

DEF: Bilateral defence from a far distance; controlled play close to the table

DEF jam: Safe, bilateral defence with regular jamming attacks, preferably from the forehand position

ALL-: Safe chop and block play with rare offensive hitting

ALL: Controlled use of all playing styles

ALL+: Accurate block and counter hitting with controlled topspins, mostly from the forehand position

OFF-: Variable, spin oriented offensive play, often from a medium distance

OFF: Bilateral offensive play close to the table and spin variations with a direct tempo

OFF+: Direct offensive tempo, preferably close to the table; hard bilateral spin, block and hard hitting

Which blade suits best for you depends on your playing strategy on the one hand and on your ball feeling on the other hand. As mentioned previously in our rubber article, every human has a different sense of touch. The player's hand perceives the vibration of the blade during ball impact in a different way depending on the person.

Dates

03. June - 07. June 2009

Pro Tour: China Open

14. June - 20. June 2009

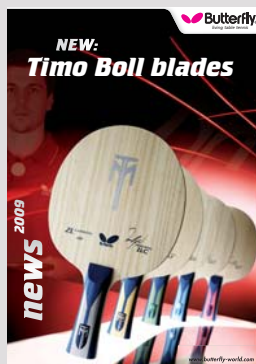
Senior-WC in Porec, Kroatien

11. June - 14. June 2009

Japan Open, Wakayama

07. July - 10. July 2009

Pro Tour: Morocco Open, Rabat



Our Photo-Partners



Manfred Schillings

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All prices are recommended retail prices.



ITTF World Ranking

Mens -May 2009

1	WANG Hao CHN	16	CHEUNG Yuk HKG
2	MA Long CHN	16	RYU Seung Min KOR
3	MA Lin CHN	18	LI Ching HKG
4	BOLL Timo GER	19	PERSSON Jörgen, SWE
5	WANG Liqin CHN	20	MITZUTANI Jun JPN
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	PRIMORAC Zoran, HRV
7	Chen Qi CHN	22	JIANG Tianyi HKG
8	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	23	SÜSS Christian GER
9	HAO Shuai CHN	24	KO Lai Chak HKG
10	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	25	TANG Peng HKG
11	MAZE Michael DEN	26	YOON Jae Young KOR
12	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	27	GAO Ning SIN
13	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER	28	CHEN Weixing, AUT
14	OH Sang Eun KOR	29	HOU Yingchao CHN
15	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	30	KAN Yo JPN



ITTF World Ranking

Women - May 2009

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	FAN Ying CHN
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	DANG Ye Seo KOR
3	LI Xiaoxia CHN	18	Li Jiao NED
4	GUO Yan CHN	19	GAO Jun USA
5	WANG Nan CHN	20	PARK Mi Young KOR
6	FENG Tianwei SIN	21	LI Qian POL
7	LIU Shiwen CHN	22	TOTH Krisztina HUN
8	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	23	PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR
9	JIANG Huajun HKG	24	LI Jie NED
10	Li Jia Wei SIN	25	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
11	WANG Yue Gu SIN	26	WU Jiaduo GER
13	DING Ning CHN	27	LIN Ling HKG
12	TIE Yana HKG	28	YAO Yan CHN
14	LIU Jia AUT	29	WANG Chen USA
15	CAO Chen CHN	30	SUN Bei Bei SIN

Landmark for Legendary Name

Borussia Düsseldorf: ECL Winner



Borussia Düsseldorf, a legendary name in table tennis, captured the European Champions League Men's title on Sunday 17th May 2009, recording a convincing three matches to nil victory over German National League adversaries, TTF Liebherr Ochsenhausen.

Legendary and the result a landmark, it adds to the legend. It is the 50th Men's Club team title secured by Borussia Düsseldorf; a

club that has been the home for many a world star and has stood the test of times. Clubs come and go; they rely heavily on the initiatives of one person; not Borussia Düsseldorf. The club goes on and on and from strength to strength. On Sunday 17th May 2009, it was very much a team effort with Dimitrij Ovtcharov, the rising star of European table tennis, providing the spark for victory. In the previous week, in the first leg of the final, he had experienced defeat on both visits to the table, suffering at the hands of Adrian Crisan and Chuang Chih-Yuan, who also beat Timo Boll, as Borussia Düsseldorf suffered a three-two reverse on home soil. However, in the second leg, he set his team on the road to victory. In four games he beat Chuang Chih-Yuan to gain revenge. The win eased the pressure. Butterfly-Star Timo Boll repeated the success of the first leg by once again beating Adrian Crisan whilst Christian Süss did exactly the same to bring matters to an end by overcoming Tiago Apolonia. It was gold for Borussia Düsseldorf; another chapter. (Photo: Matthias Ernst, Borussia Düsseldorf)

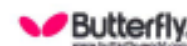
Butterfly „on the net“

Now he is „online“ too: Michael Maze, the Danish Butterfly star has his own homepage:

www.michaelmaze.dk



II BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CAMP



zonatt.com

Venue:	Calella de la Costa (Barcelona) C.T.T. Calella's Technical Centre (Fàbrica Llobet)
Dates:	20th - 24th July 2009 (Monday to Friday) 27th - 31st July 2009 (Monday to Friday)
Main coach:	Peter Engel Coach at the high level Training Centre in Barcelona.
Accommodation:	Hotel Internacional** Hotel Calella Top Palace**** "Top all inclusive" service
Best prices:	471 € adults / 180 € children It includes camp, hotel, full board, 2 opens and taxes. Great discounts (groups up to 3 players).

Sparring Partners of High International Level



II ZONA TT INTERNATIONAL OPEN II SUMA INTERNATIONAL TRIOPEN

Venue:	Calella de la Costa (Barcelona) C.T.T. Calella's Technical Centre (Fàbrica Llobet)
Dates:	25th - 26th July 2009 (Saturday and Sunday)
Prices:	Official support from Butterfly for one year 300 € for 3 points

Visit for more information:

www.calella-tt.com www.zonatt.com



Mikael Andersson, Junior & Youth Development Manager, ITTF

We want to develop table tennis around the world



The Table Tennis World Federation, ITTF, is offering several programmes under the name of Global Junior Programmes to promote the table tennis juniors around the world. In 2002 the ITTF Junior Circuit was established, an international series of tournaments with precisely fixed terms which should help to raise the standard of juniors of the so called little table tennis nations and bring them up to international level. One year later the ITTF World Junior Championships were founded and take place every year. Accordingly there is a U21 and a

U18 World Ranking List since the end of 2002 and since last year also a U15 World Ranking List. Apart from all these competition measures the ITTF has a broad development programme which includes the promotion of players (Training Camps), coaches (Coaching Camps), umpires and girl's/women table tennis.

Butterfly has supported the activities of the ITTF on junior level right from the beginning and is still one of the biggest sponsors. Mikael Andersson is the Director of Education at the ITTF. He is together with Glenn Tepper, the ITTF Development Director in charge of the projects on junior level. The ITTF WORLD HOPES TEAM is the latest project and is supported by Butterfly. From 169 applicants seven boys and five girls were nominated with their coaches for a team which will take part in a special education, training and competition programme for one year.

Mr Andersson, Butterfly and the ITTF have been in close cooperation for years concerning several projects to promote table tennis for juniors around the world. As the person in charge for education and development in the ITTF could you explain to our readers what this cooperation looks like?

Indeed the cooperation with Butterfly is very close. Butterfly is a big sponsor of our youth development programme (Global Junior Programme) world wide. I am very happy about the fact that Butterfly and we always come up with new enlightening ideas and put those in practice like now the WORLD HOPE TEAM. This is one of the numerous promising initiatives which we have developed recently. This is our first try but we have had a good start so that I believe that many member countries will be involved in the project in the future.

Is one of the targets of the WORLD HOPES TEAM to involve table tennis development countries more and make them stronger?

We want to develop table tennis world wide. That is our target. I think that many of the responsible people of the big table tennis nations in Europe and Asia have not really noticed that a lot has happened in the small table tennis countries if you compare that to the situation of ten or fifteen years ago. Our activities lead in some cases to a completely new situation for our sport. We had to become active on these markets. We had to give young players the possibility to reach professional standard. If you think about that we have only worked intensively for 10 years and if you look at the successes that brought to our sport you can imagine that table tennis may become a lot more popular around the world in the future.

How many players and coaches are going to be involved in the project?

This year we have selected twelve players, seven boys and five girls. They are going to take part in two events. The first one is in China. They are participating in a training camp and play in some small HOPES competitions. At the tournaments where our HOPES team is starting we will present our ideas with logos and cooperation with the organisation and publicity to get even more countries interested.

You say that the WORLD HOPES TEAM is one of the projects of the ITTF to promote junior sport around the world. Who else is supporting these projects apart from table tennis companies?

Our projects are numerous and we have accordingly numerous supporters. One example is the International Olympic Committee with its national establishments, who support our coaches and our junior education.

You said before that many of the people in charge in Europe, coaches among them, have not noticed all the positive things which have happened in the table tennis world. Why is that so?

They are too fixed on European table tennis. They lack the knowledge that you can play table tennis professionally all over the world by now, especially young players. Here I mainly think about events in America which are very well organized. With young players a different planning and organization of training is necessary. It is important for them to achieve international successes because success produces success. Here some re-thinking must happen.

What is the meaning of WORLD HOPES TEAM?

This year there are three European countries involved: Lithuania, Poland and Cyprus. From Asia there are Thailand, Malaysia and Korea and participants from America and Africa. We want to manage the teams professionally and train at top level. We have not yet made all decisions concerning personnel.

Does the table tennis super power China support the development projects of the ITTF?

Yes, we have their support. They are sending sparring partners to the training camps and they take part in the Junior World Championships and the Junior Circuit. They also play an important role here but by far not as clearly as in the senior areas. That is important for the other young players who may learn also that the Chinese can be beaten too.

Mr Andersson, you are really engaged in developing the table tennis sport all over the world. What will table tennis look like in 20 years from now? Do you have a dream?

Rather ask me who is going to win the next Olympic Games. I could probably guess that (he laughs). No, I don't have a dream. We do have a vision though: to give young players the opportunity to do this, independently where they come from as long as they want to play table tennis professionally and are talented. That way our sport will continue to grow. We have experienced that new good players from the so called little countries really increase general sport and got the media interested. That leads to a growth of table tennis on national level. In development countries one good player and one good coach is enough already. The promotion of this couple is our task. If they manage to get to the top the country where they are coming from will prosper.

Finally one word about Butterfly. Especially in the beginning of the WORLD JUNIOR PROGRAMMES Butterfly supported the ITTF immensely. What does the engagement look like today?

We would not have had these results if Butterfly hadn't supported and sponsored us so much right from the beginning. At the time we didn't know if our efforts would be successful. Today we know more: it works very well.

Iveta Vacenovska, Czech

I always wanted to be the best European player



The Czech player Iveta Vacenovska is only 23 years old. Since her years as a junior player she is known as an exceptional talent. When she was 16 years old she played already for the Austrian record champion Linz AG Forschberg. There she developed her both sided attacking game steadily further but never quite managed to get to the European top. During a period of four years she was ranked between 82 and 123 on the World Ranking List. But now during the World Championships in Yokohama the Butterfly player finally got her break through. She got to the quarterfinals and really challenged the Bronze Medal winner Liu Shiwen

against whom she lost 4:2 and played with fantastic backhand loops and a lot of self confidence. In the end she climbed up the World Ranking List to place 77, her up to now best placement.

Iveta, you were the only European who surprisingly reached the quarterfinal and played a fantastic game against the number 12 ranked Chinese Liu Shiwen. How did you experience this game?

I couldn't play any better. I played 100%. Naturally I was a bit lucky with the draw. That is part of it. But the match against Liu was extremely difficult and I could keep up but the Chinese are always two or three points better. They are simply a class of their own.

Even though, a big compliment to you. You played unbelievably aggressive and concentrated. You didn't show any respect and you really had a chance. I have not seen any European for a long time who played so well against a Chinese.

Yesterday I watched Liu's match against her team mate Guo. That was embarrassing for Guo. She didn't get into the game. Then I hoped that I would do a bit better. I was a bit afraid. But then I said to myself: „Make the best out of the situation“ and that is what I did.

Were you disappointed after losing?

Of course I was sad for a few moments but then I thought that I had played my best tournament. I really played well and felt well and now I feel stronger than before considering my mind and tactics. Now every European player should be afraid to play against me. At least I hope so. The WC was surely good for my name.

Definitely, following this performance. You are now the number 95 of the World Ranking List. Are you going to move further up?

I hope so, but I have beaten players in the first rounds who are ranked lower than me. Reaching the quarterfinal should have earned me some points. I hope that after stagnating for three to four years that I can now move further upwards. Perhaps finally things are happening again after Yokohama.

You are now 23 years old and there should still be a lot possible.

For the Chinese this is already old, for Europe this is still young. In Europe you need a strong head and a lot of experience to make it to the top. In the past I was not so strong mentally but I have already improved on that. You only come forwards when you are mentally strong.

How did you manage that? Did you do something special or take up mental training?

Not really. The year 2008 was a catastrophe for me from the sporting point of view. I didn't manage to qualify for the Olympics. From the sporting point of view there is nothing worse. First I failed closely at the European qualification and then at the world qualification where I had a really good chance. I was really down and thoughts of stopping altogether crossed my mind. But I learnt from these two tournaments.

What did you learn? To cope with losing in a better manner? Or did you have an attitude like: now I am going to show them?

That is really difficult to describe. Finally I continued playing and when I started winning again I somehow had the feeling that my work paid off. I enjoyed it again. I identified the problem. During the past years I lost a lot of games 3:4 despite several match balls. I was too afraid in such situations and was thinking about it before I even started the match. I changed this negative thinking completely. Now I am only thinking: „You have got the possibility and you will manage!“ I believe in myself. I completely lacked this self confidence before.

In the match against Liu and in the round before that against your Czech friend Renata Stribikova you really showed how self confident you are now.

The reason for this is that I am no longer afraid of losing but I say to myself: „Try everything and when you lose it doesn't matter. Life goes on“. So I play that what I have trained. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. That is what sport is about. Everything is possible.

You are playing in Austria in the „Staatsliga“. Since when?

Since six years I am playing for Linz. The club has been Austrian Champion 15 times. This year we won the women's Champion League for the first time. That was a great success. We will do everything to repeat this victory next season.

Let's have a look back in time. When did you start playing table tennis?

I really enjoyed playing table tennis right from the start. The husband of my mother's best friend was one of the best coaches in Czech and was training with me from the age of six to twelve every day, like I was his child and completely free of charge. I am still grateful to him.

If you look at your game today what do you have to improve on to move further on? Noticeable in the game against Liu was surely your aggressive backhand.

Yes, that is true. I have recently worked hard on my backhand. If you want to keep up with the Chinese you need a strong backhand and a strong forehand. A strong forehand and a mediocre backhand is not enough. I am definitely not afraid to play with my backhand against the Chinese. I must improve on my serve returns and the first ball with spin. There I need more consistency which is necessary in tight game situations. You must play well when the score is 10:10 not when it is 2:2. I have now realized that I can keep up with the Chinese and I know why I didn't win.

Which targets are now important for you after a successful WC in Yokohama?

What I am saying now hasn't got anything to do with the WC. I always wanted to be the best player in Europe. That was always my dream. This will remain my target as long as I am playing seriously. On world level I would like to become a serious opponent for the Chinese.

What is fascinating for you with table tennis and what don't you like at all?

The training in table tennis is very hard and occasionally also monotonous. Every day four or five hours at the table, that can be nerve wracking. But if you don't give everything – independently of the sport – you will never make it to the top. Drill and discipline are part of it. What I really like in table tennis is winning. I always wanted to win it doesn't matter if it is table tennis, a card game or any other competition. In former times I cried, quit often when I lost. But winning is great, even if you can't win all the time.

4th International Butterfly Table Tennis Summercamp of the Hessian Tabletennis Association

TRAIN LIKE THE PROS

2009 – A STORY OF SUCCESS WILL BE CONTINUED

29TH OF JULY TO 5TH OF AUGUST 2009

SPORT SCHOOL OF LSB IN FRANKFURT/M.

After the great success in the previous years, the Hessian Table Tennis Federation with its partner Tamasu Butterfly offer in 2009 any Table Tennis player the opportunity to train under **HTTV-head coach Helmut Hampl** (Coach of TTV Gönner) and his team professionally.

Costs and Logis in EUR	Full board 3-bedded room	Full board 2-bedded room	Full board Single room	Training only
29 th of July to 5 th of August 2009 7 Overnight Stays	620,-	670,-	740,-	350,-

Program: Arrival at Wednesday 29th of July 2009 until 14:00 h. Departure on Wednesday 5th of August 2008, from 14:00 h. Daily 2 trainings units of 2 to 2-1/2 hours and on the day of departure 1 unit are scheduled. From Thursday to Tuesday evening physical training or swimming and sauna are possible.

- Training groups for all ages and levels
- Video-Analysis
- Many-Balls Training
- Material Consultation
- Service Schooling
- And much, much more ...

Registration latest until 1st of May 2009 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 and Registration at the Hessian Table Tennis Federation, Post Box 1140,
35411 Pohlheim, Germany, e-mail: geschaeftsstelle@httv.de or at www.httv.de



Block variations part III: The active block as a spin or counter variety

In the previous Butterfly News we looked at the passive block. Now we are taking a closer look at the active block. Again Kenji Matsudaira is demonstrating the technique. The 19 year old national player is one of the Japanese generations of players who managed to get to the top of the world and proved this impressively at the World Championships in Yokohama. Kenji's both sided offensive game is attractive and powerful, his blocking game has a lot of varieties. Let's now have a look at his active backhand block.

The main difference is that the active block in opposition to the passive block includes an active stroke movement which is supposed to speed up the ball. That is achieved by two possibilities:

- by a counter and kick movement
- by a spin movement

You can differ between those varieties only by watching them precisely. From the outside there is not a big difference between the active backhand block and the backhand counter hit. This applies also to the spin variety. Basically it is decided at the moment of making contact with the ball if the counter hit or spin variety is used. With the spin block the ball is hit more tangential and the player accelerates more from the forearm and wrist. The bat angle is much closed. With the counter hit variety the ball is being hit more centrally and is pushed down more that way. If the ball is kicked with the wrist it is being hit centrally. This variety is often used as a final smash. Let's now look more closely at Kenji's backhand block. The pictures A-D show Kenji from the front, the pictures E-H from the side.

Pictures A+E – starting position: Kenji is standing on backhand side slightly square to the table (picture A, green line). That way he can put more pressure on the ball diagonally. His feet are more than shoulder wide apart and his upper body is slightly bent forward. He has perfect balance in this position. Noticeable - and that against many opinions of the teaching books – is the position to the table. He is not standing very close to the table (picture E). So he is flexible when receiving the ball because he can also return long balls with pressure. On top of that he has more freedom of movement for his active block. The length of the stroke becomes longer and the speed of the stroke increases. The block can be played very aggressively.



13 Technique tips

Pictures B+F – preparation phase: Kenji lowers his main body weight by bending his knees and his upper body (picture E). He moves the shoulder of his playing arm slightly forwards (picture B). The view from the side and the view from the front show clearly the use of his wrist and the tension in his forearm. The wrist is bent backwards and down. The top of the bat points sideways down and the bat angle is closed.



Pictures C+G – main phase: Kenji hits the ball in front of his body when the ball is still rising. The path of the stroke is sloping upwards and not too flat. The bat angle is much closed. The topspin of the approaching ball is neutralized and turned into an opposite spin by the acceleration of the bat caused by wrist and forearm movement. The speed of the bat and the angle must be very accurate. A lot of training is necessary to play this spin block with high consistency and vary it concerning speed.



14 Technique tips

Pictures D+H – backswing: Kenji stretches the arm at the end of the backswing forward and up. The arm is nearly stretched at the elbow (picture D). Picture H shows clearly that Kenji has executed the stroke slightly upwards (compare picture E with H).



Comparison of counter and spin block

A comparison of picture C (spin block) and C1 (counter block) is worth while. The top of the bat points square upwards at the moment of contact with the ball when playing the counter hit block because the ball is pressed down. When using the spin block the top of the bat points square backwards. Additionally the elbow is down with the counter hit block. Only this makes a fast stroke movement forwards and up possible. Apart from the passive block players should be in command of both active block varieties. The variability of the game increases but also the feeling for the ball and the timing. The one who is able to play all three varieties is surely a long way ahead to become a top player.



15 Products of the month

BOLL TRICARBON *new*

- High speed **owing** to three carbon layers, Balsa core relatively hard Paduk outer plies
- Very powerful and precise
- FL (flared)/ST (straight)/AN (anatomic)
- 6 plies + 3 Carbon layers
- approx. 95 g

61,90 €



BOLL FORTE *new*

- Solid Balance Core System
- Excellent precision and stability
- Proportionally soft core, harder outer layers
- For a direct breakthrough topspin play with the right feeling
- FL (flared)/ST (straight)/AN (anatomic)
- 5 plies, approx. 85 g

37,90 €



SOLID BALANCE is an innovative blade technology providing perfect precision and extraordinary ball control.

BOLL OFF-

- medium hard., spin orientated blade with particular bonding technology
- high precision at all strokes
- AN, FL, ST / approx. 90g
- 5 plies

35,90 €



BOLLALL+ *new*

- excellent control
- for a variable all round an topspin play
- also available as XXS version for Youngsters
- FL, ST, AN (anatomic) / approx. 85 g.
- 5 plies
- approx. 80 g

33,90 € / XXS(FL) Version 27,90 €



BOLLALL

- The Boll blade for advanced beginners
- Offers good precision and control
- Suitable for both all round and controlled offensive playing style
- AN, FL, ST / approx. 85g
- 5 plies

31,90 €



At well assorted distributors!