



**Men's Singles at the \$5000 Maryland State Championships:  
Lyu You (3rd), Wang Qingliang (2nd), Jeffrey Zeng (1st); and referee Paul Kovac**

### [Archive of Past MDTTC Newsletters](#)

Welcome to the 50<sup>th</sup> issue of the MDTTC News! As usual, there's lots of news to report and new and ongoing programs, and we hope to see you at some of them. As usual a special thanks to MDTTC sponsors [Butterfly](#), [Go Table Tennis](#), and [HW Global Foundation](#). Make sure to read my [daily table tennis blog](#) - I often write about MDTTC happenings there. And if you have a nice picture taken at MDTTC, email it to me and it might make the newsletter!  
-Editor and Coach [Larry Hodges](#); Publisher Wen Hsu.

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**Due to the U.S. National Championships in Vegas, MDTTC IS CLOSED**

Sunday, July 3 at 1 PM to Sunday, July 10

**The club will resume its Summer Hours on Monday, July 11.**

### **CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE:**

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## **\$5000 MARYLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

By Larry Hodges, Tournament Director

(The following story was published as USATT and Butterfly news items.)



**Women's Singles at the \$5000 Maryland Closed:  
Tiffany Ke (1st), Lisa Lin (2nd), Jessica Lin (3rd)**

The [\\$5000 Maryland State Championships](#) were held June 25-26 at MDTTC.

(Mark your calendar: The 2017 Maryland State Championships will be held on June 10 & 11, 2017!)

Here are [complete results](#) of the 2016 Maryland State Championships, care of Omnipong.

The two biggest winners at the tournament were MDTTC Coach Jeffrey Zeng (29, rated 2549) and MDTTC junior star Tiffany Ke (11, rated 2260). Jeffrey, a full-time coach at MDTTC with a steady two-winged looping attack and blocking, dominated in Men's Singles, defeating fellow MDTTC coaches Lyu You (17) 4-1 in the semifinals, and chopper/looper Wang Qingliang (20) in 4-0 in the final. Wang defeated lefty penhold looper/blocker Richard Lee (owner of North American Table Tennis and JOOLA USA, and a former national junior champion) in the other semifinals, 4-0.

Zeng also teamed with student Derek Nie (15, rated 2427) to win Open Doubles over Wang and Lyu. Derek is the #2 player on the USA National Cadet Boys' Team (15 and under). Nie also

won Under 18 Boys over Roy Ke (17, rated 2437), who had just returned from a year of training in China.

Tiffany likely became the youngest Maryland Women's Singles Champion ever at age 11. It was probably the youngest final ever, as her opponent in the final was 12-year-old Lisa Lin, another MDTTC junior star. It was also one of the closest matches as well, with the score reaching 8-8 in the fifth, with Tiffany scoring the last three points in a row. Both are members of the four-member USA Under 12 Girls Hopes Team. Tiffany is currently #2 in USA Under 12 Girls.

Tiffany also won Under 18 Girls' Singles over Lisa, and Under 15 Girls over Jessica Lin (no relation to Lisa), with Lisa finishing third in that event. Lisa actually defeated Tiffany in Under 15 Girls, but lost to Jessica, who lost to Tiffany – and the three-way tie was decided by games won and lost among the three, with Tiffany coming out on top. (Jessica finished third in both Women's Singles and Under 18 Girls.) The three girls train together full-time at MDTTC.

Ryan Lee, 9, the son of men's semifinalist Richard Lee, won Under 10 over Adrian Yang, 9. Yang was also in the final of Under 12 Boys, where he lost to Alexander Yang (no relation), 11. George Li, 13, won Under 15 Boys over William Huang, 13.

Lixin Lang, 56, won Over 50 Men over Thomas Sampson, 58; Michael Clarke, 69, won Over 60 over Mark Radom, 67; and Gordon Gregg, 74, won Over 70 over Su Liu, 81.

Under 2400 was won by Stefano Ratti over Raghu Nadmichettu; Under 2100 by Ernest Byles over Ronald Chen (age 12); Under 1800 and Under 1500 were swept by Ranjan Bhambroo, over Ara Sahakian and John Miller; Under 1200 by Lance Wei (9) over Giovanni Ratti (12); and Under 1000 by Andy Wu (8) over Lance Wei (9).

Under 4000 Doubles was won by the experienced senior team of Jeff Smart and Steve Hochman over juniors Darwin Ma (16) and George Li (13); Under 2400 Doubles was won by Stanley Hsu (7) and Hanfei Hu (10) over Kurtus Hsu (10) and Lance Wei (9).

*Thanks to all the participants and the tournament sponsors [Maryland Table Tennis Center](#) and [HW Global Foundation](#).*

**WASHINGTON POST: A TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT AND STORIED CLUB HELP BUILD LIFE SKILLS** [Here's the article](#) from the Washington Post, on June 26.

#### **MDTTC SUMMER CAMPS**

Our summer camps continue all summer, Mon-Fri, until Aug. 26 (except the week of July 4). Camps are 10 AM - 6 PM each day, Mon-Fri, with a two-hour lunch break. You can drop off kids at 8:30 AM. Chinese food can be ordered in the morning to be delivered for lunch. Here is the [MDTTC Camps Page](#), and the [MDTTC Camp Flyer](#). (Camps are for all ages and levels, but are dominated by junior players.)

#### **JUNIOR OLYMPICS: AUGUST 1-3 (DEADLINE COMING UP SOON!)**

Table tennis is back in the Junior Olympics! They will be held this year in Houston, TX, Aug. 1-3. Here is the [info page](#) and the [entry form](#). We expect a good group from Maryland to attend, so come join us! Some will be going down a few days early as they will be holding the JOOLA Teams South in the same venue immediately before the Junior Olympics, on July 30-31; here's the [entry form](#). So you can get five straight days of table tennis! To book walking-in distant hotel to the playing venue, with MDTTC group discount, [please click here](#). If you have questions, please contact [Wen Hsu](#).



## ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS

[Tuesday and/or Friday Lunch Group Training \(1:00-2:00 pm\)](#) *for all levels.* Improve your table tennis skills while getting great physical and mental exercises. Every player will get one-on-one playing time with Coach Jeffrey Zeng (2550+ rating).

## BIRTHDAY PARTIES & RENTAL SPACE FOR CORPORATE AND PRIVATE EVENTS

MDTTC offers birthday parties ran by our popular Coach Larry. We also regularly host community events and team-building activities for local businesses. Space rental for special corporate and private events are available. Here is [Facility Rental Information](#), and here is info on [Birthday Party Packages](#).

## TIP OF THE MONTH: React to Opponent's Swing

By Larry Hodges

When a player hits the ball very hard at a top player, often the top player often effortlessly returns these shots as if he has reflexes far beyond those of normal people. This isn't really true. In fact, in non-table tennis things, where he hasn't trained for many years, he might have only average reflexes. And yet he seems to react instantly to these smashes and loop kills. How does he do this?

From years of training, a top player develops fast reactions to things they train for. You could argue they have faster reflexes in table tennis and be correct, but only for those things they have trained for.

But there's a second thing going on here. Most players barely react to an opponent's shot until the ball is coming toward them, or at most at the last second as the opponent hits the ball. But the reality is that the huge majority of the time you can judge where the ball is going and how fast almost the instant the opponent starts his forward swing. If you watch top players react to smashes and loop kills, watch how they begin to move into position as the opponent begins that forward swing – it's almost as if they know where the ball is going to be hit – because they do. (Not consciously, of course; it's all trained subconscious, i.e. muscle memory.)

How can you do this? It's all about observing the opponent, and learning to react to his movements. Just as you learn to subconsciously react to an opponent's spin based on his movements, you should learn to make the connection between an opponent's swing and the direction the ball will go, as well as its speed, spin, trajectory, etc., so that reacting to it becomes second-nature. You may have to observe this consciously at first, but soon it becomes a subconscious habit.

For example, you can read much about the direction an opponent is about go by watching his shoulders. So be aware of the opponent's shoulders, and you will develop the proper reactions to his shots, reacting faster and faster. It's not about having faster reflexes; it's about developing proper reactions that just make you appear to have fast reflexes.