

**University of Maryland Regional Champions!****Brian Shen, Rohith Jayarajan, Rui Xu, Nathan Hsu (Captain), Ananth Hari****HW Global Foundation Sponsors the Talent Program at MDTTC.****They need your support! See segment below.**

Welcome to the 71st 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](#) 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

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Butterfly MDTTC April Open

[Our next tournament is April 14-15](#) – the \$2700 3-star April Open! Events include Open, U2400, U2200, U2000, U1900, U1600, U1300, U1000, Over 50, Under 15, and Under 12. All events start with round robin, with the top two players advancing to single elimination. Hope to see you there!

HW Global Foundation Talent Development Program - They need your support!

They are trying to raise funding to help juniors from the Talent Development Program to go to the upcoming U.S. Nationals Championships with their coaches. Here are three ways you can help!

1. On Thursday, April 8, from 4-9 PM, place your orders from [Potomac Pizza](#) at the Traville Gateway Center in Rockville and tell your server that you're here to support HW GLOBAL FOUNDATION or bring [this the promotional flyer](#) with you and they will add you to the totals. 20% of all proceeds will be donated to HW Global Foundation Talent Development Program.
2. At the MDTTC April 14-15 Open, the HW Global Foundation Talent Program Kids will hold a bake sale - come support them!
3. Please DONATE at HWGF TDP's [GoFundMe page](#). [Watch these Kids in Action Video](#) (2:49, care of [PongMobile](#)). THANK YOU!

MDTTC Summer Camps: June 18 - August 31

The [MDTTC Summer Camps](#) start June 18 and continue all summer, Mon-Fri, through Aug. 31. (The only exception is July 2-6, during the USA Nationals.) These camps are primarily for kids of all levels, but adults are welcome as well.

USATT Hopes Camp and Tournament: April 27-29

MDTTC will run one of the six regional Hopes camps and tournaments, on April 27-29. This is primarily for kids born in 2006 or 2007, but others under age 16 are also welcome in the camp and the rating events in the tournament. Here is the [Camp and Tournament flyer](#). Here is the [USATT Hopes Qualifier Page](#), with info on all six regional qualifiers and selection procedures for the 2018 USA Hopes Team. The camp is April 27-28 (Friday 4:30-6:30, 7:30-9:30, with a pizza party in between; Saturday 12:00-2:30 PM, 5:30-7:30PM), and the tournament on April 29 (Sunday). The camp will be run by USATT National Team Coach Pieke Franssen, assisted by MDTTC coaches Larry Hodges, Wang Qingliang, and others. Coach Larry will run the tournament.

Regional Collegiate Championships Results

University of Maryland upset top-seeded Pillar College, 3-1 in the Final, to win the Regional College Championships, highlighted by Nathan Hsu's 3-0 (6,7,9) win over 3-time USA Men's Champion Timothy Wang. Maryland was represented by Nathan Hsu, Rui Xu, Rohith Jayarajan, and Ananth Hari. Nathan and Rui Xui both made it to the semifinals of Men's Singles. The National Championships are in Round Rock, Texas, April 20-22. (Nathan and Timothy both represented Team USA last summer at the World College Championships in Taipei.)

In the semifinals against Duke, it was 2-2 in matches. In the deciding doubles, Nathan Hsu/Rui

Xu were down 1-2 in games and 1-6 in the fourth but came back to win, 5,-6,-7,9,7, to advance to the final in an incredible comeback! Here are the results from the Team Final:

- Nathan Hsu (UMD) d. Timothy Wang (Pillar), 6,7,9
- Kaden Xu (Pillar) d. Rohith Jayaraian (UMD), 3,7,1
- Rui Xu (UMD) d. Cheng Yau Jiang (Pillar), -5,6,-5,9,9
- Ananth Hari (UMD) d. Esteban Lizana (Pillar), 3,5,4.

USATT National Ranking Youth Tournament Results

[The event](#) was held in Davie, FL, March 29- April 1. Congrats to:

- Tiffany Ke: 1st in Cadet Girls (under 15)
- Nicole Deng: 3rd in Hopes Girls (under 12)

MDTTC Junior Programs

- **Tuesday Beginning Level 2 Class for ages 8-15. The new session begins April 2** (Tuesdays, 6-7PM, ten weeks, ending June 5) This is intended for kids 8-15 who enjoy playing table tennis and want to improve their game. Players must know the basics in table tennis and/or have taken table tennis lessons previously. The class is kept small for individualized instruction. Sessions are Tuesdays from 6-7PM with Coach John Hsu. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#).
- **Sunday Beginning/Intermediate Junior Class. The new season starts April 8** (Sundays 4:00-5:30, ten weeks, ending June 10). This is for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 6-14, with Coach Larry, John Hsu, and others assisting, depending on number of players. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#).
- **Thursday Beginning/Intermediate Junior Class. The new seasons starts on April 12** (Thursdays 6:30-7:30, nine weeks, ending June 7). This is for beginners to advanced beginners, ages 7-13, with Coaches Larry Hodges and John Hsu. For more info, see the [Junior Group Training Page](#).

MDTTC Adult Program [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).

MDTTC Private Coaching by Coaches Cheng Yinghua, Jack Huang, Larry Hodges, Jeffrey Zeng, Wang Qingliang, Martin Jezo, Ruichao Alex Chen, Bowen Chen and John Hsu. See [Private Coaching page](#).

Butterfly MDTTC Writer

Do you want to be a writer? Want to get published? Butterfly Table Tennis would like to find someone from MDTTC who can do regular articles for their weekly In the Loop newsletter and their [news page](#). Articles could be on topics such as coaching, equipment, tournaments, leagues, and profiles of coaches and players. Writer will likely get paid in free equipment! If interested, contact [Larry Hodges](#) (who can also help you come up with article ideas).

MDTTC Web and Facebook Pages

Don't forget to see the regularly updated [MDTTC Facebook page](#), and make sure to "like" it! Stop by and see all the photos, read the latest news, or post your own comments. Also see the [MDTTC web page](#) for regularly updated info.

Tip of the Month: Finding Simple Tactics That Work

By Larry Hodges

I was going to write about this topic when I realized I didn't have to - I already had. Chapter One of my book, "[Table Tennis Tactics for Thinkers](#)," starts with this:

"Tactics isn't about finding complex strategies to defeat an opponent. Tactics is about sifting through all the zillions of possible tactics and finding a few simple ones that work."

What does this mean? Rather than explaining it again here, I'll simply quote from the book - and hopefully you will learn how to win the tactical battle and make the game simple and easy!

Tactics isn't about finding complex strategies to defeat an opponent. Tactics is about sifting through all the zillions of possible tactics and finding a few simple ones that work.

In simpler terms, the purpose of tactics is to mess up your opponent.

You do this by messing up his game, and by forcing your game on his. More specifically, tactics is finding ways to get your strengths into play while avoiding your opponent's, and going after the opponent's weaknesses while not letting him go after yours. It's figuring out how you win and lose points.

To do this, you have to know both your game and your opponent's. While you might go into a match not knowing much about your opponent (though ideally you would have scouted him out in advance), you should know all about your game. How well do you know your game?

If you couldn't write a book about your game, either you don't know your game, or you have no game. (We'll get back to this shortly.)

Table tennis is a game of utter complexity and utter simplicity. If you get too caught up in the myriad of complex strategies available, you'll be lost in a sea of uncertainty. Think KISS—"Keep It Simple, Stupid." Most matches are tactically won on at most two or three tactical things, not the zillions that are possible. It's finding those two or three out of the zillions that's key. On the other hand, if your thinking is too simple, you aren't maximizing your play.

There's no conflict here. Much of tactics involves simplifying things so the game becomes simple and easy. If you use tactics that force your opponent into predictable returns that feed into your strengths, you've won the tactical battle and made the game simple and easy.

Bonus Tip of the Month: What You Should Be Watching

By Larry Hodges

Most of the time you should be watching the ball, but not always. If the ball is moving slowly, you should watch it all the way into your racket. If the ball is moving fast, you can't react at the last second, so there's no point in watching the ball right to contact. In both cases, as soon as watching the ball no longer is beneficial, you should be looking up to watch your opponent. You should generally be aware of the opponent and what he's doing and where with peripheral vision, but actually looking up to watch him is even better. That allows you to quickly prepare for whatever he's doing. You should pick up the ball again just before he hits it, and then watch the ball the rest of the way - until it's time to look up again to see your opponent.