

Meet Your USA Team and our Sponsors

by Lily Yip,
2008 World Championships US Team Leader

I am very honored to serve as the US team leader and I would like to talk about our Team's training in preparation for the upcoming 2008 World Team Table Tennis Championships to be held from February 24 to March 2nd in Guangzhou, China, the capital of Guangdong Province. Also, I will reflect some of our deep appreciation to the sponsors who made everything possible.

Special thanks to the following sponsors:

The Double Fish Sports Group Company The Double Fish Group is one of the leading manufacturers of tt balls, rackets, and tables, as well as badminton, soccer, basketball, and handball equipment.

The Tokyo Art Company (Tai Xing Paper Bag Company) They design and manufacture shopping bags, specialty bags, garment bags, gift packages, and glass products that are sophisticated and original, designed to enhance the charm of product ever more.

The Dickson Metal Recycling Company Providing China with an abundant industrial metal supply to build China's infrastructure and manufacturing capacity.

The Centenio Group For real estate in Nan Hai City, China: apartments, shopping malls, office / industrial, homes, and condominiums. Time to buy or sell? It's the Centenio Group.

YCEA (Youth Culture Exchange Association) Promoting Chinese-American youth exchange.

A Progress Report on Our USA Team

Yes! Our USA Team is ready for the challenge, fine-tuning their preparation for the World Championships. They will have five days of rigorous training with the Guangdong Province Team and the Brazilian Team. Then our Team travels to Zhong Shan City, home of the Zhong Shan City Training Center. This beautiful facility is fully supported by the Chinese Government, and currently the Chinese Women's Team has a closed camp there. We were invited to this center by former World Champion Li Peng, the CEO/General Manager of the Tokyo Art Company. This will include two days of training with some former National Team members and other professional players. We are looking forward to meeting this Mr. Li Peng, a former World Champion

Your US Team members are:

Team Leader : Lily Yip , whose hometown is Guangzhou, China
Women Team's Coach: Doru Georghe
Women's Team Members: Gao Jun, Wang Chen, Yao (Crystal) Huang, Nan Li, and Jacqueline Lee
Men's Team's Coach: Dan Seemiller
Men's Team Members: David Zhuang, Han Xiao, Cheng Yinghua, Mark Hazinski, and Sean Lonergan..

Going into this World Championships, our Men's Team is ranked 36th in the world, and our Women's Team ranked 8th. In the Men's Draw, we are a Division 2 Team in Group G which includes: 1.Portugal, 2.Korea DPR, 3.USA, 4. Vietnam, 5. Indonesia, and 6.Turkey. In the Women's Draw , we are a Division 1 Team in Group A with such powerhouses as: 1. China, 2. USA , 3. Croatia, 4.Russia, 5.Korea DRP, and 6.Sweden.

Table tennis, a stepping-stone to a more productive life.

Mr. Li Peng, the CEO of the Tokyo Art Company, who leads and oversees more than one-thousand employees **is a former World Champion who loves table tennis with a passion and believes in giving back to the sport. He is now a citizen of Japan going by the name of Tokiya Matsuashi.** Tai Xing's Paper Bag Factory is located in Zhong Shan City. It is the same as the Tokyo Art Company.

So what is the story? How did he go from being a top world-class tt player to an enterprising businessman? What lessons did he learn from tt that helped him? He was the Chinese Men's Team member for 33rd World Championship in Calcutta, India, and afterwards he retired from playing and became a Beijing team coach. His students included Wong Tao, Wang Chen, and many others. In 1984 Li Peng met the great Japanese World Champion, the late Ichiro Ogimura, who invited him to coach in Japan. In 1986 he left China and did a lot of coaching for many companies until 2000. He developed many excellent players, including Japanese National Champions and National Team members. He earned a lot of respect from the table tennis community and became well known in Japan. Later he became a Japanese citizen. Another turning point came when Toyko Art owner offered Li Peng a job to coach the company's table tennis team and also manage the art business. Gradually he shifted his focus to the business aspect, and in 2001 was promoted to General Manager when the company invested 2 million dollars in their move from Japan to Zhong Shan City, China.

While table tennis and his reputation as a player/coach opened the door for him, the rigors of the sport had shown him the value of hard work, diligence and effective communication. They say that "Success occurs when preparation meets opportunity." The case of Li Peng certainly proves that point.



Gerald Chang
YCEA - President

Li Peng (Tokiya Matsuhashi)
Tai Xing - General Manager



China's Li Pent from CTTA
Table Tennis News May 1975
(copied from History of Table Tennis Volume VII)

第 49 届世界乒乓球锦标赛（男女团体赛）将于 2 月 24 日 2008 年中国广州市举行，全球共有 134 国家参赛，美国也派出男女队共 10 名（男女各 5 名）运动员于 2 月 16 日提前到广州开始赛前练习。但在开幕式各国运动员入场时，大家就会看到有趣的场面，在星条旗带领下走进来的运动员只有两名是黄头发蓝眼睛，其余都是美籍华人，有的运动员让观众觉得很面熟，没错，他们有的曾经代表中国在世锦赛夺得世界冠军，有的是省市专业队队员。

美国代表团团长-叶瑞玲女士（原广东省运动员），女队：高军（原中国国家队员，曾获得世界女子单打第三），王晨（原中国国家队员），李楠（世界冠军张立和李振峙的女儿）黄女士（来自广东汕头），李女士（出生在美国的华人）。男队：庄永祥（原广东省运动员），成应华（原中国国家队员），肖韩（成应华的学生）。今天大家所看到的场面，使我不得不追忆三十七年前，第三十一届世界乒乓球锦标赛在日本举行时所发生的事情，由于美国运动员--科恩错上中国代表团的汽车而且还得到了连三届世锦赛男团和男单冠军--庄则栋先生赠送的礼物，从而开创了“乒乓球外交”和“小球带动地球”的新局面，也打开了中美两国体育交往的大门。

由于中国发生了“文化大革命”，有几届没参加，总体实力下降而失掉男团冠军杯，在第 33 届乒乓球世锦赛的团体比赛中，中国队派出了李鹏，李振峙，许绍发，梁戈亮，陆元盛五员大将，最终夺回男团冠军杯。当年的“五虎将”随后相继退役，但他们从没停止过为普及和提高中国及友国的乒乓球运动。梁戈亮曾到德国的俱乐部及在国内专业队做教练；陆元盛曾任中国女队总教练 12 年；李振峙曾任美国男队教练多年；许绍发先生曾任中国男队总教练多年，现在是著名的企业家并曾赞助美国队参加 2005 年在上海举行的世乒赛的赛前训练。而这次美国队参加第 49 届世界乒乓球赛（男女团体赛）在中山市的赛前训练也是得到当年的“五虎将”之一李鹏先生的赞助，李鹏先生自退役后先于北京东城区业余体校作教练工作，后经日本乒乓球世界冠军--荻村伊智郎先生邀请到日本执教而今天是日资广东中山市“泰星纸袋制品有限公司”总经理。

第 49 届世界乒乓球（男女团体）锦标赛将于 2 月 25 日 2008 年正式开始。美国男队在世界排名第 36，被排在乙级 G 组共 6 个队：1. 葡萄牙，2. 北朝鲜，3. 美国，4. 越南，5. 印度尼西亚，6. 土尔其。美国女队世界排名第 8，被排在甲级 A 组共 6 个队：1. 中国，2. 美国，3. 克罗地亚，4. 苏联，5. 北朝鲜，6. 瑞典。最后，我们预祝美国男女队在比赛中正常发挥，打出水平，争取优异成绩，我们所有乒乓球爱好者都在为你们加油！