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****NEWS RELEASE****

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PATIENCE, PROWESS and POWER: TEXAS WESLEYAN DYNASTY CONTINUES IN MEN'S/COED TEAM EVENT; MINNESOTA FINISHES TOP 4

Men's/Coed Team Quarterfinals

Puerto Rico won the deciding doubles match in the first Quarterfinal with patience, power ... and slippery rubber. Puerto Rico's Walter Alomar and Khaleel Asgarali played spin and no spin, power and no power, to win a hard-fought, tie-breaking doubles match against a talented Rutgers team. Rutgers' Iuliana Radu, upended in a very lengthy singles match earlier in the tie against Walter Alomar and his anti-spin rubber, said, "My style is a defensive style, too, but when I need to attack I can. Against anti-spin rubber? It is so difficult."

In another quarterfinal match, Princeton earlier proved too much for the University of Illinois, itself coming off a win against the University of Washington. Princeton rolled to victory, however, setting up a classic semifinal match up with newcomers Universidad de Puerto Rico!

Men's/Coed Team Semifinals

Princeton Stops Powerful Puerto Rico in semi final number one. Princeton standouts Adam Hugh and Eric Finkelstein led the way to a 3-0 victory against a remarkably talented Puerto Rican team. Finkelstein's win against Walter Alomar, a defensive specialist alternating anti-spin rubber and conventional sandwich rubber, was brilliant. After his win, an obviously pleased Finkelstein said "Loops that are winners against anyone else just came back!"

Minnesota's Curran upsets Texas Wesleyan's Presley. Minnesota's Ming Curran notched an exciting upset victory over Aldis Presley in a test of talented lefthanders. "It was our best matchup against Texas Wesleyan" said Thor Truelson, father of Anders Truelson, Minnesota's youngest player at age 16. Curran's was Minnesota's only win against the eventual national champs as Minnesota fell to Texas Wesleyan University in the second semifinal.

3rd Place Match

The Cinderella story ends for University of Minnesota as they fall to Puerto Rico and take 4th place. Walter Alomar continued to give opponents fits with his anti-spin rubber taking down Minnesota's Ming Curran. Curran had adjusted well to Alomar's slippery blocks, slowing the pace and patiently pressing the attack. Still a great finish for the hometown boys with little support from their University. Hopefully their 4th in the nation finish will change that.

Championship Match

Texas Wesleyan, champions again. How good, and how deep, is the Texas Wesleyan squad? Princeton's Adam Hugh, the highest seed from the men's singles draw challenged by the fiery Jasna Reed, top seed in the women's draw. Reed pushed Hugh to the limit, winning game 2 outright, and losing games 1, 3 and 4 at 11-9. Jasna was at her best, serving ultra-short, looping with confidence, and counter-attacking with power and precision. After Hugh's win put Princeton on the board first, the match then went Texas Wesleyan's way. The second match, Ludovic Gombos (Texas Wesleyan) vs. Princeton's Pan Lin was a rematch of the deciding singles match from last year's final. Pan Lin gave Gombos all kinds of trouble a year ago, but looked overmatched this time around with the lefty Gombos' inside-out forehand loops often finding the empty table for winners. Hats off to Pan Lin for correcting the umpire's call on an edge ball in the second game. His lead, which might have enabled him to square the match at 1-all, was reduced from 10-7 to 9-8. Gombos went on to take the game at 15-13, and never looked back.

Carlos Chiu faced Eric Finkelstein in the third singles, with Chiu's serves giving Finkelstein fits in the early going and several well-placed power shots from Chiu later in the match enabled him to close it out. With a 2-1 Texas Wesleyan lead, the pressure was on Princeton's Alden Fan going against Dinko Kranjac to even the score and force doubles. A tense and hard fought match all around, the pressure clearly getting to both players, as both players had missed serves at key times in the match. Kranjac took game one, while a back and forth second game went Kranjac's way at deuce. Fan battled back to take the third, having some success serving short topspin to Kranjac's forehand. Fan wasn't making it easy, but Kranjac managed to regain the edge with more focused play in game four to secure the Championships for Texas Wesleyan.

That makes 3 straight years that Princeton and Texas Wesleyan have met in the Men's/Coed Final and 3 straight years that the TWU Rams have emerged with a National Championship.

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