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2010 College Table Tennis National Championships

April 9-11, 2010 in Waukesha, Wisconsin

WEBSITE: <http://www.nctta.org/champs/2010>

****NEWS RELEASE****

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Empire State of Mind: Teams from Competitive New York Division Move on to Championships

“Empire State of Mind,” Jay-Z’s ode to his native New York City, was also his first number one hit, spending 5 weeks atop the charts. “Since I made it here, I can make it anywhere,” proclaims Jay-Z in the first verse. At the 2010 College Table Tennis Championships, 3 teams from New York City are hoping that statement proves true for them as well. Columbia, Baruch College and NYU are all expecting that surviving an ultra-competitive season in the New York City Division will lead to success at college table tennis’ main event.

Columbia has had a tremendous run in the New York City Division over the past several years, having qualified for every team Championships since 2003. However, current team captain Stephanie Shih reflected on the uncertain road this year’s team took to qualify, “I went into the season ready to bear more of a burden [without their top player from last season] and prepared for much tighter competition, and I was not disappointed; both our fall/spring regionals were insanely competitive with almost every team contest going down to the wire.”

Columbia’s performance was good enough to land them in second place in this season’s New York City Division regional competition that featured a record 13 schools and had to be held over two days. Division Champion Baruch College and wild card invitee NYU also qualified out of the division.

Shih thinks the competitive table tennis environment in the city is largely attributable due to its diversity, “New York attracts a much more diverse crowd than most other parts of the country; it expectedly has a bigger concentration of good players.”

That sentiment almost perfectly describes Baruch College, which, with students from over 160 different countries is one of the most diverse college campuses in the nation. Their table tennis team is quickly being considered one of the Cinderella stories of the season. They surprised the NYC Division stalwarts like Columbia and NYU this season to capture the division title.

Baruch College even managed to surprise themselves with their success this season. Says team captain Guido Tay-Lee, "We are very proud and pleased to be going to Nationals. It's an honor for us. We knew we had a good team, but the 1st place finish was a joyous surprise for us."

Tay-Lee was not surprised about the relative strength of the division, however. "It's only normal considering New York has a strong table tennis level of play and a relatively big community compared to the rest of the country."

Spectators can enjoy a weekend full of table tennis at the 2010 College Table Tennis Championships which starts Friday April 9th and continues to Sunday April 11th at the Center Sports Complex in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

About NCTTA

The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is a non-profit organization established exclusively for promoting the sport of table tennis at the college level. As the national governing body for college table tennis in the United States and Canada, NCTTA organizes intercollegiate competition throughout North America. www.nctta.org

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