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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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Despite Drama and Early Round Upsets, Top 2 Seeds Meet in Mixed Doubles Final

It's 9am on Friday, April 9th, 2010 and the weather here in Waukesha, WI is below freezing, but the action inside the Center Court complex is hot! The top collegiate table tennis players in the United States are battling it out as today kicks off the 2010 NCTTA College Table Tennis National Championships.

In the Mixed Doubles competition, noteworthy upsets were scattered around the round of 16, with two teams overcoming 100+ point rating differentials! These matches were won by Chen/Simcox (Texas Wesleyan) and John/Barbosa (Lindenwood), each in 5 games over the higher seeded pairs of Sun/Sahu (Baruch/Princeton) and Wei/Leibovitz (Penn/Queens), respectively.

The most thrilling match was the quarterfinal on Court 2, which featured Stephanie Shih (Columbia)/YanJun Gao (LaGuardia CC) against 2nd-seeded Karin Fukushima/Fernando Yamazato (Lindenwood). The match went to a decisive 5th game, and the tension was high when the Lindenwood team hit an unreturnable net cord to fight off match point, 9-10 down.

The drama continued as Shih stabbed an incredible reflex block off a Yamazato loop, erasing their own match point, down (12-13). After a succession of deuces, Lindenwood was able to stave off the upset bid with Yamazato's final loop barely clipping the net to throw off Gao. Match to Fukushima/Yamazato 17-15 in the 5th! The Lindenwood duo moved on to face the #1 seed Hazinski/Hazinski of Texas Wesleyan in the semifinals, losing that one in four games, 10,-7,6,6.

The mixed doubles final was strictly a family affair as the #2 seed, brother and sister duo Adam and Judy Hugh facing off against husband and wife, Sara and Mark Hazinski. The Hughs had won the 2008 mixed doubles championship, while Mark Hazinski won the 2009 mixed doubles championship with teammate Ines Perhoc.

In the end, husband and wife prevailed over brother and sister, with Hazinski/Hazinski winning in three straight games with scores of 4, 5, and 11. Championships production coordinator, Joe Wells explains the difference in this Championships final, "Sara and Mark had a great combination of steadiness, power and touch to offset Adam and Judy's efforts."

Spectators can enjoy a fantastic weekend of table tennis at the 2010 College Table Tennis Championships which continues through 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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