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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\*\***

**APRIL 11, 2010**

### **Elite Emerge in Team Quarter- and Semi-Finals**

We are down to the quarterfinals of the Coed Teams Division at the 2010 NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships. Three top seeds have already advanced to the semis in dominating fashion, namely No. 2 Texas Wesleyan (over No. 9 De Anza College), No. 3 Princeton (over No. 12 California), and No. 1 Lindenwood (over No. 6 Virginia Tech).

The last Quarterfinal, between very strong teams from No. 5 Mississippi College and No. 4 Ottawa, is made much more interesting due the lineup strategy used by the Mississippi team. Starting off with their #2 player, Lishun Lu, vs. Ottawa #1 Pierre-Luc Hinse, Mississippi is saving their top player, Yuling Cai, for a later match! There is a considerable "buzz" about Hinse, a member of the Canadian National Team. Heads are turned to this match when Lu takes the third game from Hinse, but the Canadian exacts his revenge, closing out the match in 4 games, 11-2 in the fourth. When Ottawa #2 Briant Won defeats Mississippi's Huan Qiu 3-1, deuce in the 4th, it appears that Ottawa is relatively safe, up 2-0.

Cai defeats Ottawa's Sara Yuen, quickly in three games. His incredible playing raises the question, could he have competed with Hinse? Match 4 between Renping Ge of Mississippi and Derek Wong of Ottawa soon goes 2-0 in favor of Ge, punctuating game 2 with three huge forehands. With his back against the wall, and a tough doubles match vs. the top two Mississippi players looking imminent, Wong suddenly becomes more aggressive, mixing well placed forehand loops with biting backhand blocks with his short pips, to great effect! Two games in a row to Wong, and the 5th game is a nail biter. Wong holds the lead much of the game, but Ge battles to 10-9 down and his forehand topspin.... just clips the net and flies out, game and match to Wong. Ottawa wins 3-1!

Afterward, a jubilant Wong is mobbed by his teammates. His thoughts on the match: "He (Ge) had difficult serves. I struggled with them." About his comeback, he recalled, "I was more aggressive and tried to play with more spin." These aggressive forehand topspins won him the match! Ottawa moves on to face the deep and talented top-seeded Lindenwood crew in the semifinal. Can Hinse defeat one of the strong, Brazilian players at the top of the Lindenwood lineup?

The women's semifinals are fairly quick affairs, with No. 2 Lindenwood advancing past No. 6 Wisconsin, and No. 1 Texas Wesleyan overcoming a spirited effort from the Judy Hugh-led Rutgers squad (seeded fourth).

The two coed semifinals are much tighter and run concurrently. Spectators keep switching back and forth between two spectacular contests. On tables 3 and 4, No. 1 Lindenwood's Brazilian trio of Paulo Rocha, Fernando Yamamoto, and Jose Barbosa are threatening to oust Hinse and No. 4 Ottawa in three straight matches. Yamamoto and Barbosa soon overcome Briant Won and Sara Yuen, respectively. The Hinse-Rocha, however, goes all the way down to the wire. All eyes are glued to Table 3 as Rocha takes game one, 11-9. Hinse shows spectacular form, countering all Rocha has to give in taking the next two games,

but Rocha counters to take game 4 and force a decisive 5th. Hinse hits a succession of ridiculous shots to lead first 7-1 and at 9-4, but the Lindenwood man is tough. He forces the score to 10-9 down, and Hinse's backhand down the line clips the net, DEUCE and a loud "cho" from Rocha! The two trade deuces back and forth, until, at 12-all, Hinse misses a backhand, then a forehand. Game and match to Rocha, Lindenwood defeats the Hinse challenge and advances to the Coed Final.

The other semi pits two elite teams No. 2 Texas Wesleyan, led by the husband-wife duo of Mark and Sara Hazinski, and No. 3 Princeton, featuring the highly rated Adam Hugh and Amaresh Sahu. These two teams are more accustomed to meeting in a Championship final, having done so in 2006, 2007, and 2008, with Texas Wesleyan winning all three.

Princeton works their singles lineup to avoid Mark Hazinski facing either Hugh or Sahu, with Hazinski instead easily besting Thomas An in the #1 singles spot. 2-1 down in the team match, Princeton needs Sahu to overcome a spirited effort from Wesleyan's Chance Friend, the slightly higher rated Sahu being pushed to the limit, with spectacular counter-looping rallies the norm rather than the exception! Both seem perfectly comfortable playing this kind of away-from-the-table game.

Eventually, Sahu wins 11-6 in the 5th, and it goes to the deciding doubles once again. NCTTA lineup rules mandate that the #1 singles player must participate in the doubles, so Princeton sends out An to pair with Adam Hugh against the Hazinski duo. Try as they may, the Princeton team is unable to make an impression, the Texas Wesleyan doubles team wins 3-0 to setup another premier contest with Lindenwood in the Coed finals (they're also slated to face each other in the Women's final).

## **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](http://www.nctta.org)**

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