



CONTACT: Willy Leparulo
EMAIL: championships@nctta.org

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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Top Seeds Look to New Talent to Deliver on Elevated Expectations

The 2010 College Table Tennis National Championships are inundated with new talent. Nowhere is this more evident than the rosters of the top three seeds, Lindenwood, Texas Wesleyan, and Princeton. Half of the players on the combined rosters of the top three seeds are freshman, with No. 1 Lindenwood leading the way with an astonishing six new players this season.

Lindenwood, in its second year as a scholarship school, has climbed into an elite group of college table tennis teams faster than many thought possible. Coach Randy Kendle says, "last year we took 5th place in the Coed division and our team is stronger than last year's team. We had a very good spring 2010 recruiting season and knew that we would be very competitive in both the Coed division and the Women's division."

Clearly the infusion of new talent has helped propel Lindenwood to new heights; including a Midwest Division title, one of the highest ever team ratings and of course a No. 1 ranking heading into the Championships.

"Breaking 10,000 for a team rating was quite exciting. Now we just need to execute to be championship contenders," says Kendle who downplays any additional pressure these expectations might have brought on his team. "There's no real pressure. Texas Wesleyan is still the team to beat being 6-time defending national Coed champions."

You might not believe that from talking with Texas Wesleyan Coach, Jasna Rather. When it comes to Texas Wesleyan entering the Championships as a No. 2 seed for the first time ever, Rather says, "We know that there are many great teams, and we cannot go into the tournament with high expectations, but the best we could do is fight hard and hope for the best."

Sounds more like the mindset of an underdog than the perennial powerhouse that has won 38 out of 52 possible national titles in the past eight years. But perhaps managing overconfidence has been key to Texas Wesleyan's success.

3rd-seeded Princeton is hoping a blend of youth and experience will take them from frequent Championship contender to National Champion. The team is anchored by senior Adam Hugh, a veteran from the Princeton teams that finished 2nd place in the 2007 and 2008 Championships.

Hugh, often a fan favorite, missed the 2009 Championships due to injury. This year he's joined by a pair of new recruits Thomas An and Amaresh Sahu that have been a big reason for Princeton's resurgence this season. After several years as runner-up, this may be their year to bring a national championship home to Princeton, New Jersey.

Spectators enjoy a jam-packed weekend 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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