

TMS 2015 COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDIA GUIDE



THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Web site: champs.nctta.org
- April 10-12, 2015, McPhee Physical Education Center, University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
- Athletes - The 250 top college table tennis players in the US and Canada, representing 50 of the top college teams; qualifying through divisional and regional play
- An annual event since 1993
- This year's competition will include four former or reigning US National Champions (Lily Zhang, Ariel Hsing, Peter Li and Michael Landers), three Olympians (Lily Zhang, Ariel Hsing, Erica Wu), plus international champions attending college in the US & Canada
- Three athletes (Ariel Hsing, Michael Landers and Lily Zhang) recently starred in the Top Spin Movie (topspinmovie.com) currently showing at film festivals around the country.
- UWEC, as competition host, receives an automatic berth to the tournament, but will probably be underdogs in most every contest
- Defending champions:
 - Men's/Coed Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
 - Women's Team: **Princeton University**
 - Men's Singles: **Cheng Li, Mississippi College**
 - Women's Singles: **Ariel Hsing, Princeton University**
 - Men's Doubles: **Razvan Cretu & Zhedi Bai, Texas Wesleyan University**
 - Women's Doubles: **Vivien Zhou & Xixi Guo, University of Toronto**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 10

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles, qualifying rounds

1:00 pm – Men's and Women's Doubles semifinals and finals

4:00 pm – Opening Ceremonies

4:30 pm – Men's and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds

9:00 pm – End of competition day

Saturday, April 11

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds continued

11:00 am – Men's and Women's Singles, early rounds

2:00 pm – Men's and Women's Singles, quarterfinals, semifinals and finals

6:00 pm – End of competition day

Sunday, April 12

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Teams, knockout rounds

12:00 pm – Men's and Women's Teams, semifinals and finals

4:00 pm – End of competition day

THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

- Started as an upper class parlor game in 19th century England
- Developed into a competitive sport in the early 20th century; the first World Championships of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) was held in 1926
- An Olympic sport since 1988
- The second most played sport in the world after soccer
- Professional table tennis leagues exist in many countries; the most prominent are in China, Germany, Japan, Russia
- The top table tennis players in the world earn ~\$1 million including endorsements
- The table is 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, 2.5 feet high; the net is 6 inches high; the court space is 1000 square feet minimum
- The ball is 40mm in diameter and 2.7 grams in weight, traveling nearly 100mph and spinning at nearly 10,000rpm
- Matches consist of the best 4 out of 7 games (singles events) or best 3 out of 5 games (doubles events, early rounds of singles events, or team events). Games are first to 11 points, alternating serve every two points

NCTTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE



- The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is the governing body for college table tennis in the US and Canada
- A non-profit organization, run purely by volunteers
- The Championships is the culmination of the 2014-2015 NCTTA League
- 162 participating colleges, competing in 6 regions, subdivided into 29 divisions, played in fall and spring
- NCTTA offers college scholarships, and some colleges offer their own table tennis scholarships
- Many international student-athletes
- Primary competition format is teams: 4 singles + 1 doubles
- Categories are Men's/Coed Teams and Women's Teams; women may play in both
- www.nctta.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Collegiate-Table-Tennis-Association/21419228959>

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

- A total of 24 Men's/Coed teams and 14 Women's teams qualified through regional competitions
- Men's/Coed teams:
 - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Forth Worth, TX) – Defending National Champion; South Region Champion
 - **Lindenwood University** (St. Charles, MO) – Midwest Region Champion
 - **McMaster University** (Hamilton, ON) – Great Lakes Region Champion
 - **Pennsylvania State University** (State College, PA) – Mid-Atlantic Region Champion
 - **Princeton University** (Princeton, NJ) – Northeast Region Champion
 - **University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA) – West Region Champion
 - **Mississippi College** (Clinton, MS) – 2014 National Runner-Up
 - **Columbia University** (New York, NY)
 - **Duke University** (Durham, NC)
 - **Harvard University** (Cambridge, MA)
 - **McGill University** (Montreal, QC)
 - **New York University** (New York, NY)
 - **Rutgers University** (New Brunswick, NJ)
 - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA)
 - **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
 - **University of California, San Diego** (La Jolla, CA)
 - **University of Central Florida** (Orlando, FL)
 - **University of Maryland, College Park** (College Park, MD)
 - **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
 - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)
 - **University of Texas at Dallas** (Richardson, TX)
 - **University of Wisconsin – Madison** (Madison, WI)
 - **University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire** (Eau Claire, WI)
- Women's teams:
 - **Princeton University** (Princeton, NJ) – Defending National Champion; Northeast Region Champion
 - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Forth Worth, TX) – South Region Champion
 - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2014 National Runner-Up; West Region Champion
 - **University of Western Ontario** (London, ON) – Great Lakes Region Champion
 - **University of Wisconsin - Madison** (Madison, WI) – Midwest Region Champion
 - **Cornell University** (Ithaca, NY)
 - **Duke University** (Durham, NC)
 - **New York University** (New York, NY)
 - **Ohio State University** (Columbus, OH)
 - **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
 - **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor, MI)
 - **University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA)
 - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)
 - **Washington University in St. Louis** (St. Louis, MO)

TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF NOTE

TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (FORTH WORTH, TX)



- 11-time defending Men's/Coed Team Champion
- 4th place in Women's Teams at the 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2015 South Region Champion – Men's/Coed Team and Women's Team
- Coached by Jasna Rather – Olympic bronze medalist (Yugoslavia)
- Offers table tennis scholarships

- **Emil Santos** (junior)
 - 2013 NCTTA Men's Singles Champion
 - Member of Dominican Republic national team



- **Zhe Feng** (graduate student)
 - Former member of Chinese national team
 - Silver medalist at 1999 World Table Tennis Championships in Mixed Doubles
- **Zhedi Bai** (junior) – 2nd place in Men's Singles, 2013 College Table Tennis Championships
- <http://ramsports.net/index.aspx?tab=tabletennis&path=tt>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzNtPziYgkM>

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (PRINCETON, NJ)



- Defending Women's Team Champion
- 2015 Northeast Region Champion – Men's/Coed Team and Women's Team
- **Ariel Hsing** (sophomore)
 - Defending NCTTA Women's Singles Champion
 - Member of 2012 (London) US Olympic Team; Ariel's round of 32 match against eventual gold medalist LI Xiaoxia (CHN) was one of the most exciting matches of the tournament.
 - US National Champion, 2010, 2011 and 2013, Women's Singles (first title won at age 15)
 - In the summer, plays in the China Table Tennis Super League, for the Jinhua Bank team
 - Highest world ranking: #73
 - <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Ariel-Hsing>
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ariel_Hsing
 - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ariel-Hsing/216134205183261>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw7m1EluD9s>
 - http://espn.go.com/olympics/summer/2012/tabletennis/story/_/id/8210877



- **Erica Wu** (freshman)
 - Member of 2012 (London) US Olympic team
 - <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Erica-Wu>
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erica_Wu
 - <http://espn.go.com/video/clip?id=8180705>



- **Shirley Fu** (sophomore) – Two-time Canadian National Champion
- <http://www.princeton.edu/~puttc/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PrincetonTT>

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE (CLINTON, MS)



- 2nd place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2012, 2013, and 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2015 South Region Runner-Up, Men's/Coed Team
- **Cheng Li** (junior) – Defending NCTTA Men's Singles Champion
- **Yichi Zhang** (sophomore) – 2nd place in Men's Singles, 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- <http://www.mc.edu/student-life/table-tennis/>

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BERKELEY, CA)



- 2nd place in Women's Teams at the 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- 4th place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2015 West Region Champion, Women's Team; West Region Runner-Up, Men's/Coed Team

- **Lily Zhang** (freshman)

- Member of 2012 (London) US Olympic Team
- Bronze medal, girls' singles, 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing – the first ever medal in the Youth Olympic Games for the USA
- Bronze medal, women's team, 2014 World Junior Championships, as a member of the US Junior Team – the first ever medal at the World Junior Championships for the USA
- US National Champion, 2012 and 2014, Women's Singles (first title won at age 16)
- Highest world ranking: #67
- <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Lily-Zhang>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lily_Zhang
- <https://www.facebook.com/lilyzhangtt>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmJcRudy4s4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QfPU7a9WuM>



- **Peter Li** (junior)

- 2011 US National Champion, Men's Singles
- Member of 2013 US National Team
- Men's Singles Semifinalists, 2013 and 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Peter-Li>

- <https://www.facebook.com/calttc>

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NEW YORK, NY)



- 5th place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2015 Northeast Region Runner-Up, Men's/Coed Team and Women's Team

- **Michael Landers** (junior)

- 2009 US National Champion, Men's Singles (at age 15)
- Featured on the Kellogg's Corn Flakes cereal box in 2012
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athletes/LA/Michael-Landers>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Rjmdu5koH0>



- **Tahl Leibovitz** (graduate student)

- Four time US Paralympian
- Gold medal, men's singles, 1996 Paralympics
- Bronze medal, men's teams, 1996 Paralympics
- Bronze medal, men's singles, 2004 Paralympics
- Men's Doubles Champion, 2008 and 2009 College Table Tennis Championships
- <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Tahl-Leibovitz>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJCSXAp_hrg



LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY (ST. CHARLES, MO)



- 3rd place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2015 Midwest Region Champion, Men's/Coed Team
- Two-time Women's Team Champions
- Consistently placed in the top 5 in Men's/Coed Teams for the last five years
- Offers table tennis scholarships
- <http://lindenwoodlionssls.com/index.aspx?path=tennis&tab=tabletennis>

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (LOS ANGELES, CA)



- 3rd place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2013 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2015 West Region Champion, Men's/Coed Team; West Region Runner-Up, Women's Team
- **Grant Li** (junior)
 - Men's Singles Semifinalist, 2013 and 2014 College Table Tennis Championships
 - Member of 2012 US National Team
- <https://www.facebook.com/uscpingpongposse>

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|  | <p>USA Table Tennis – National Governing Body www.usatt.org</p> |

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