

PRESS RELEASE



Countdown Starts to World Championships in December U.S. Table Tennis Teammates Dazzle in S.F. Exhibition

Future Olympians – Bay Area Stars Ariel Hsing & Lily Zhang
Volley with Adult Celebrities Ed Baxter and Yau-Man Chan

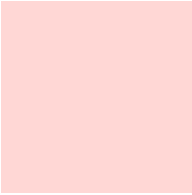

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(San Francisco) June 19th, 2007: The countdown to the World Junior Table Tennis Championships (WJTTC), December 8 – 15, at Stanford University, commenced today in downtown San Francisco in the Atrium at 101 Second Street. U.S. Junior teammates Ariel Hsing and Lily Zhang, both members of the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club, wowed and dazzled a noontime crowd with an array of volleys, lobs, serves, and kill shots. Only 11 years old, they paired against serious amateur players Ed Baxter of KGO-AM 810 and Yau-Man Chan of “CBS Survivor Fiji”, and showed little respect to their elders dispatching them with no show of regret.

“I love being in front of a crowd that’s never seen table tennis played the way we can, and show them how exciting it is”, said Ariel Hsing. “When the crowd says WOW, we know we’ve really demonstrated how tough and hard the sport is”, added Zhang.

The Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC) is hosting the WJTTC, with 32 teams from 30 countries sending 190 players to compete for seven (7) world titles. An official International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) championship, the Palo Alto Table Tennis Club joined with BASOC to provide the sport expertise to conduct the tournament, in coordination with Stanford University. Table tennis, an Olympic event since 1988, it is second only to football (soccer) in global popularity and participation. The U.S. has yet to earn an Olympic medal in either men’s or women’s classes.

Hsing and Zhang are on pace to earn spots on an Olympic team, perhaps by 2012. Both are no strangers to pressure, regularly matched against players much older than themselves. Hsing for instance has played with billionaires Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, both avid amateur players and followers of the sport.



“The reaction of the crowd today is no surprise, Ariel and Lily are just amazing. We’re really glad to present this exhibition and urge everyone to plan on attending the Championships at Stanford in December”, said Anne Cribbs, BASOC President & CEO. “They will have a great time and be truly thrilled at the skill and athleticism of the athletes”.

Powerhouse teams already qualified and expected to be at Stanford include China, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Korea, India, Spain, England and France.

“Hosting the Junior Worlds is a great honor for the United States, and a real opportunity for our team to elevate its level of play to eventually be among the best in the sport”, said Dennis Davis, President of the Palo Alto Tennis Club serving as Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the World Championships in December.

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** The San Francisco Bay Area Sports Organizing Committee (BASOC) was established in 1987 to bid for the 1996 Olympic Games. Since then BASOC has successfully bid for and helped stage several major international events including the 1992 World Figure Skating Championships, 1994 World Cup, 1999 Women’s World Cup, 2005 Roller Hockey Men’s World Championships and 2006 FINA Masters World Championships. BASOC earned the “silver medal” in the 2012 domestic bid competition for the Olympic Games. BASOC will host the National Senior Games, with 15,000 athletes aged 50 and over, the summer of 2009.