



Review of the Pro Tour in June after 9 of 15 tournaments







Butterfly stars win five of eight titles

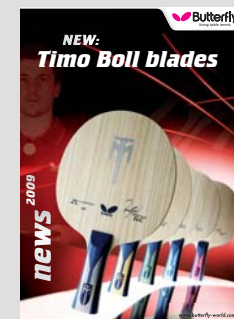
Nearly a third of the Pro Tour tournaments of the year 2009 have been played. The last two international Championships in June before the summer break belong to the most prestigious ones of the running season. Reason enough to have a short review of these two top events and having a look at the point standings of the Pro Tour from the point of view of the Butterfly players after nine of fifteen events before the Grand Finals which traditionally take place in Asia in the middle of December.

In China and Japan Butterfly protagonists could secure five of eight possible titles. In the men's single Oh Sang Eun could put the crown on his head in Wakayama. Additionally the doubles competitions were a rich bounty for the Tamasu stars, who were part of all four titles with Jun Mizutani/Seiya Kishikawa, Sayaka Hirano (with Reiko Hiura) and Guo Yue (with Li Xiaoxia).

More about this on the next Page!

In this issue:

	Review Pro Tour June	02
	Products of the month	03
	Dates/WRL (06/09)	05
	News	06
	Interview Adrien Mattenet, France	07
	Tecnique tips Part IV: The active forehand spin block in comparison with the forehand counter topspin away from the table	09



Rückblick auf die Pro Tour im Juni/Zwischenstand nach 9 von 15 Turnieren

Butterfly-Stars gewinnen fünf von acht Titeln

Mizutani/Kishikawa an example of steadiness



One and half a month after the World Championships in Yokohama Jun Mizutani and Seiya Kishikawa proved their exceptional position as one of the world best and most steady doubles at the China Open at the beginning of June and only a week later at the Japan Open in Wakayama. Mizutani/Kishikawa were simply the best in China where the prize money was 330.000Dollar which was the highest up to now at the Pro Tour. Twice they beat the aces of the host nation. The Japanese

example of steadiness beat Xu Xin/Zhang Jike in the final after having beaten the Olympic Champion Ma Lin and former World Champion Wang Liqin clearly 4:0 in the round of the last sixteen. „Our target was to continue there where we stopped at the WC. But two titles within one week is something special“, explain Mizutani/Kishikawa after their triumph in Wakayama.

Oldtimer Oh Sang Eun didn't begin the summer break less satisfied than the Japanese youngsters. The number 3 of the WC 2005 lost in China against the winner Ma Long (China) but won the Gold Medal in the singles seven days later in Wakayama after a brilliant performance and got silver together with Yoon Jae Young in the doubles. Oh won the final in seven sets against the strong German qualifier Patrick Baum who beat Austrian's Butterfly star Werner Schlager who appeared for the first time after his four month paternal break in the

semi finals. Oh didn't give his Tamasu colleague Kaii Yoshida a chance in the semi final. Oh said after his victory: „For me personally this was a very important success after a long period without any titles. I hope that I can continue like this during the second half of the year.“

Likewise Guo Yue and Sayaka Hirano were convincing in the singles and doubles. China's number two of the World Ranking List and the Japanese winner of the German Open won both silver in the singles and gold in the doubles – Guo in Su Zhou and Hirano in Wakayama. Worth mentioning is also Joo Se Hyuk's achievement. The South Korean defending artist in Butterfly outfit managed to reach the semi finals at the China Open as the only non Chinese player and lost like Oh only to the winner Ma Long.

Butterflies reaching for the Grand Final

The successes of the two tournaments in June and the previous seven Pro Tour events of the year 2009 result in interesting point standings. This is not the final table because of the qualification criteria of the ITTF and because the high number of points is depending on the amount of prize money. In the men's single the German Open winner Timo Boll (place number 2), Oh Sang Eun (6), Joo Se Hyuk (7) and Jun Mizutani (12) following the momentary standing are the Butterflies with the best chances to qualify for the sixteen players of the Grand Finals with a prize money of 365.000 Dollar in December. In the women's event Guo Yue (2), Sayaka Hirano (4), China's World Champion Zhang Yining (5) and White Russia's defending ace Viktoria Pavlovic (9) are heading for the showdown of the best. In the doubles the door is wide open for the leading Butterfly stars Jun Mizutani/Seiya Kishikawa and the momentary fourth Timo Boll (with Christian Suess) as well as the leaders in the women competition Guo Yue/Zhang Yining and the fifth from Hong Kong Tie Yana (with Jiang Huajun). The left handed player Guo has even a second option at the side of Li Xiaoxia with whom she won the title in Yokohama. Presupposition for the participation at the Grand Finals in the doubles is the participation as a pair in four tournaments. In the singles the players have to take part in six tournaments or played on three continents.

Bagseries STYLE

Innovative bag collection with many details; highly functional sport bags in best quality and attractive design
100% Jacquard Polyester
colours: black – silver – red

MAXI

Two spacious outer pockets, one large inner compartment, outer pocket with zip, separated clothing bag inside, reinforced bottom, solid wheels and handles, retractable bail, functional and adjustable carrying straps
Size: 80x34x34cm, with rolls
Price: 79,90 €



MIDI

Two spacious compartments outside, one pocket with zip, separated clothing bag inside, reinforced bottom, functional and adjustable carrying straps
Size: 60x32x32cm
Price: 39,90 €

TROLLEY

All in one: Sport- and travel bag, solid wheels, retractable bail, spacious inner compartment, outer pocket, cushioned back part
Size: 45x32x18cm
Price: 69,90 €



SPORTSBAG

Two spacious compartments outside, one pocket with zip, separated clothing bag inside, reinforced bottom, functional and adjustable carrying straps
Size: 70x32x32cm
Price: 44,90 €



At well assorted distributors!

04 Products of the month



Double Case

Very solid, with side handle. Main compartment with separating net for accessories, removable hard plastic divider for extra protection, outer pocket

Price: 19,90 €



Single Case

One compartment, with side handle, removable hard plastic divider, outer pocket

Price: 14,90 €

Bag Pack

Large, spacious main compartment with partition, smaller pockets in the front, outlet for earphones, comfortable back straps, solid, cushioned back part

Size: 43x28x12cm

Price: 24,90 €



Single Case Enamel

Fashionable, elegant single racket case

100% Polyester

colours: black – silver

Price: 24,90 €



Shoulder Bag

Large, separated main compartment, smaller pocket for accessories in the front, solid shoulder straps

Size: 35x32x13cm

Price: 24,90 €



Bag Enamel

Fashionable, elegant shoulder bag for everyday use

100% Polyester, washable

Fabric: black – silver

size: 40x30x16 cm

Price 49,90 €



At well assorted distributors!

Dates

01. July - 12. July 2009

25. Summeruniversiade, Belgrad

07. July - 10. July 2009

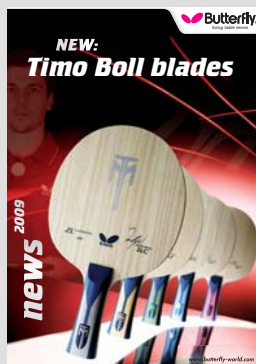
Pro Tour: Morocco Open, Rabat

12. August - 16. August 2009

Pro Tour: China Open,

19. August - 23. August 2009

Pro Tour: Korean Open, Seoul



Our Photo-Partners



Manfred Schillings

Impressum:

Editor + Kontakt

Yuki Kamizuru, 02841/90532-0

No liability for eventual errors and omissions.

All prices are recommended retail prices.



ITTF World Ranking

Mens -June 2009

1	WANG Hao CHN	16	LI Ching HKG
2	MA Long CHN	17	RYU Seung Min KOR
3	BOLL Timo GER	18	CHEUNG Yuk HKG
4	MA Lin CHN	19	PERSSON Jörgen, SWE
5	WANG Liqin CHN	20	MITZUTANI Jun JPN
6	SAMSONOV Vladimir BLR	21	PRIMORAC Zoran, HRV
7	Chen Qi CHN	22	JIANG Tianyi HKG
8	HAO Shuai CHN	23	SÜSS Christian GER
9	JOO Se Hyuk KOR	24	KO Lai Chak HKG
10	KREANGA Kalinikos GRE	25	GAO Ning SIN
11	MAZE Michael DEN	26	TANG Peng HKG
12	CHUAN Chih-Yuan TPE	27	CHEN Weixing, AUT
13	OVTCHAROV Dimitrij GER	28	YOON Jae Young KOR
14	OH Sang Eun KOR	29	GARDOS, Robert AUT
15	SCHLAGER Werner AUT	30	KAN Yo JPN



ITTF World Ranking

Women - June 2009

1	ZHANG Yining CHN	16	CAO Chen CHN
2	GUO Yue CHN	17	FAN Ying CHN
3	LI Xiaoxia CHN	18	Li Jiao NED
4	GUO Yan CHN	19	GAO Jun USA
5	WANG Nan CHN	20	TOTH Krisztina HUN
6	FENG Tianwei SIN	21	PARK Mi Young KOR
7	LIU Shiwen CHN	22	LI Qian POL
8	KIM Kyung Ah KOR	23	LI Jie NED
9	WANG Yue Gu SIN	24	WU Jiaduo GER
10	JIANG Huajun HKG	25	YAO Yan CHN
11	Li Jia Wei SIN	26	PAVLOVICH Viktoria BLR
12	DING Ning CHN	27	HIRANO Sayaka JPN
13	TIE Yana HKG	28	LIN Ling HKG
14	LIU Jia AUT	29	FUKUHARA Ai JPN
15	DANG Ye Seo KOR	30	WANG Chen USA

Holger Nikelis wins Gold –Double at the European Wheelchair Championships After winning the singles he also won the team event with his partner Walter Kilger

Holger Nikelis achieved even more after his triumphant victory in the singles at the European Wheelchair Championships: The 31 year old also won the Gold Medal in the team event class 1 with his partner Walter Kilger in Genua(Italy) and repeated his double success from the EC 2005. „Winning two titles that I could only dream about two weeks ago“ said a happy Holger Nikelis.

In the final of the team event it looked like the defending champions Nikelis/ Kilger had to be satisfied with silver against a strong French team. After the first two singles the German duo was 2:0 down. While Holger Nikelis lost clearly 3:0 against Jean Francois Ducay and could not continue with his strong performance from the singles („after a break for two days I lost a bit of the excitement“), Walter Kilger lost really close 18:16 in the fifth to Jerome Guezenec.

Great support from the German team



„Naturally we didn't give up but we knew that it would be very difficult now to beat the French“ analyses Nikelis in retrospect. But the two Germans fought their way back into the last match of the EC tournament at Vaillant Palace – also thanks to the support of the whole German EC team.

Side by side they won the doubles with 3:1 against the two „material“ players. Holger Nikelis followed with a close 3:2 victory against Guezenec. Walter Kilger had to win against the Bronze Medal winner, Ducay, in the singles which he managed sensationally with 3:1. „Walter played fantastic“, said Nikelis. „That was a great fight, which we put on. This was something we will remember for a long time.“

Already on Tuesday Holger Nikelis' dream was fulfilled when he won the EC title in the singles after 2001, 2003 and 2005 for the fourth time in his career. In the final the number one of the world and Paralympics Champion of Peking 2008 beat Andreas Vevera and won the Gold Medal without losing a set. „That could not have been expected this year because there were so many good players around“, says Nikelis. „You could say that this was my tournament.“

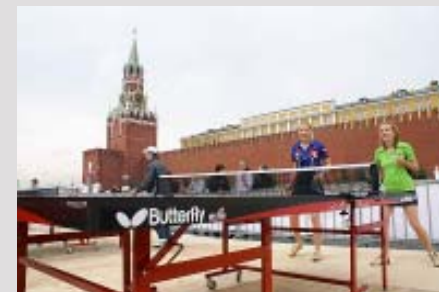
Honored as the best European player

The officials of the International Table Tennis Federation“ (ITTF) saw this the same way. They honored the man from Cologne for winning two Gold Medals at the fare well party on Saturday evening as „Best player of the European Region“. „A great recognition and for me the highlight of my successes“, says Nikelis proudly.

During the following weeks the Paralympics winner of Athens 2004 will take a break. „We will concentrate on fitness training“, says Nikelis, who is planning to participate in the German Open in Stuttgart and probably the Brazilian open in autumn. The next big highlight is the World Championship 2010 in Korea.

Table Tennis on the „Red Square“ in Moscow!

The people of Moscow experienced unusual sporting festivities on their red square. Soldiers and spectators were presented with volleyball, basketball, football some fighting sports and table tennis. Alexej Lomaev, IT expert and active table tennis player shows a selection of pictures:



Adrien Mattenet, France

When the hall is alive, table tennis is real fun



According to the opinion of Butterfly sports director, Mario Amizic, the French national player Adrien Mattenet is one of the few young Europeans who could become really good. The 21 year old Butterfly player reminds Mario Amizic of Werner Schlager because he is very humble, doesn't attract

attention and seems to think a lot. Mario thinks that he is very clever and in deciding game situations the both sided attacking player may become very explosive. His backhand can't be foreseen and his forehand is extremely powerful. He is skinny and tall and despite that he has speedy legs and can put his opponent under a lot of pressure from half distance. In October 2008 he was ranked 191 on the World Ranking List. Now he has moved up to place 74. In the next season he will be playing for the French first division team Pontoise-Cergy together with the top player Chuang Peng Lung and they want to fight for the title.

Adrien, you played a fantastic match against the Chinese defending champion Wang Liqin in the round of the last 32 at the WC in Yokohama. You lost close 2:4 and two of those sets you lost only with two points difference. Also last autumn at the EC in ST Petersburg you came close to a sensation but it wasn't quite enough against Vladimir Samsonov. Do these matches have a special meaning for you?

The match against Samsonov was very important to me. It was 3:2 in sets for Samsonov and I was leading 10:7 in the fourth and still couldn't win the set. Obviously this defeat was hard but it pushed me

forward. At the time I was number 190 of the World Ranking List and after this match I realized that I can keep up with the top. This brought me forward, emotionally and with my game. I have steadily developed further and climbed up more than a hundred places on the WRL. My self confidence increased dramatically. That was my frame of mind when I met Wang Liqin. Obviously I had the necessary respect of him but I also wanted to show my game. I succeeded in that but it wasn't enough to win the match.

Adrien, your game is very offensive but still very easy to describe. You like variations. How would you characterize your game?

My game is simply polyvalent, with a lot of changes and varieties. Therefore it is very difficult to work out what I am playing. Basically I can do everything. I don't have brilliant strokes but I don't have any weak ones either. My motto is that the one who returns the ball once more than the opponent wins the point.

If you want to come closer to the top and some real experts like Mario Amizic predict that you still have to work on something. What do you have to improve on?

Mainly I think the forehand. I have to shorten my strokes especially when using spin and I must increase the speed. My service returns with the forehand must be better. I can still improve on my footwork with close movements at the table but also further away from the table. And- this is very important - I must not move away from the table and go backwards. I must become more aggressive and look for my chances at the table and put more pressure on my opponent.

When one observes you one gets the impression that you are thinking a lot in between the rallies. You are not so much the intuitive as the intellectual player. What role does your mind play?

Yes, that is true. I am thinking a lot. My coach during my junior years taught me that. He always wanted me to play consciously and think about what was happening tactically and how I could change that. Obviously you must not think too much because that can also cause a block. The right thought at the right time is good.

In certain situations you can also be very emotional.

I don't know (he laughs). Yes, yes, no question about that.

May be, that is difficult to judge for me and I am not always conscious about that. But I must admit that I try to get the spectators on my side. Then I play better. It is nice when there is a real atmosphere in the hall. Then table tennis is real fun.

You have now changed clubs and are playing in the first French division for a really strong team, Pontoise. Why did you play in the second division up to now?

For years I have been practicing in Paris at the national training centre INSEP. That went well and led to success.

You decided relatively late to become a table tennis professional, when you were 18. Is that true?

Not quite, I wanted to become a professional earlier but I wasn't so sure. If I am honest I really decided about a year ago in May 2008. Then I knew I could make it. I have invested a lot and that was right.

That is a bit unusual. Many players dreamt a lot earlier about a career as a professional.

May be, I am different. I always found it difficult to be fixed on just one thing. That is why I studied IT in Paris as well. Obviously I can't follow the course like all the others because of all the fixtures. Even though, I manage quite well. Studying gives me the necessary balance in my private life and also in sports.

How did you start to play table tennis?

I started when I was 7. My sister, Audrey, who is a national player too was playing already and motivated me to come and to join the club training. When I was 9 I became French Champion of the „Benjamin's“ (youngest age group). Since that time Butterfly is supporting me and I am very grateful for that and happy that we prolonged the contract just now.

The French national team is about to change. What is your opinion about the momentary situation?

The change over from old to young is not easy anywhere especially when the old ones are still so good and the young ones are objectively not better. Even though I am sure that we will have a strong young team for the Olympics 2012 in London. My dream would be winning a medal. Winning a medal for my country that is the greatest and I will do everything for that.

You are somebody who loves table tennis and is a professional. What don't you like at all in table tennis?

If I am honest, the athletic training. Not running, that works quite well with my long legs, but I don't like gymnastics and endurance training. I know that I have fundamental weaknesses in this area comparing to the Chinese. But I keep working on it as good as I can because I know how important it is.

Block-Variations Part IV:

The active forehand spin block in comparison with the forehand counter topspin away form the table

In the last three Butterfly News we looked closely at the passive backhand and forehand block as well as the active backhand block. At the end of the block series we are dealing with the active forehand spin block. Again the 19 year old national player Kenji Matsudaira demonstrates this technique perfectly.

As a reminder: the main difference between the active and the passive block is that the active block in opposite to the passive block includes an active stroke movement to accelerate the ball actively. This is achieved by two possibilities to make contact with the ball:

- a counter or kick movement, which means the ball is hit more centrally (little spin)
- a spin movement, which means the ball is hit on the side (a lot of spin)

Both varieties – the counter and the spin variety – are very similar in point of view of the stroke movement. From the outside a difference between the active forehand block and the forehand counter hit is hardly noticeable. That applies in the same way for the spin block in this issue. Basically it is decided at the moment of making contact with the ball if the counter or spin variety is used. When using spin, the ball is hit more on the side and the player accelerates more from the forearm and wrist. This bat angle is closed. When using the counter block, the ball is hit more centrally and pushed down more with the kick block the wrist is used.

Let's have a look at Kenji's active spin block from three perspectives. Afterwards we show the forehand counter topspin away from the table and then explain the topspin principle of the spin block at the table.

Picture 1 – basic position: At the beginning of the stroke Kenji is standing slightly square and open to the forehand side at the table. The legs are more than shoulder wide apart. His distance to the table is not too close and about half a metre away from the table. His upper body is bent slightly forward. The playing arm is bent at a right angle and is in front of the body. The wrist is slightly bent down so that the head of the bat is pointing forward.



10 Technique tips

Pictures 2-3, 6-7, 9 – starting movement: From this square basic position Kenji turns his upper body at the hips sideways and backwards for the stroke. This becomes very clear from the bird's eye perspective (picture 9). Simultaneously Kenji lowers his main body weight by bending his knees and takes his bat backwards. A comparison between pictures 2 and 3 shows his lower position clearly. The body weight is more on the right leg. Also the frontal perspective (see pictures 6 and 7) shows the lowering of the body weight. Picture 7 shows also the sideways rotation of the upper body.



11 Technique tips

Picture 4 – main phase and contact with the ball: The contact with the ball can only be seen from the sideways perspective. The ball has just left Kenji’s bat. If you compare pictures 3, 4 and 5 you can see the straight line of the stroke which is actually quite short. In certain game situation it might be even shorter. The bat angle is much closed and the ball is hit while it is rising. The speed of the arm movement is very high to turn around the topspin of the coming ball. The stroke movement while hitting the ball is only slightly supported by raising the upper body and its turning inwards at the hips. That is the reason why there is no great shifting of weight onto the left leg in the backswing.

Pictures 5, 8 – backswing: From both the frontal and side perspective we recognize that Kenji does not shift his weight a lot from the right to the left foot. His bat also remains on the right hand side of the head and does not follow through to the left like after a topspin. From this we can draw the conclusion that the forehand spin block or counter topspin is played mostly with the playing arm. This demands a lot of timing and feeling for the ball.



12 Technique tips

Now a comparison with the topspin from half distance is useful (pictures 11-15). The following differences between a forehand counter topspin close to the table and away from the table can be noticed:

- starting phase – picture 11-13: longer and lower starting movement
- main phase – picture 14: longer stroke distance, more body movement (legs and upper body), making contact with the ball later because of the longer distance to the table
- backswing – picture 15: clear shifting of weight to the left leg and turning of the upper body at the hips to the left

Conclusion: Whatever name we give to the active spin block which is played early or above the table it is a kind of „mini“ topspin which demands a lot of feeling. Therefore many talk about an early counter topspin. In the end it is important that the ball must be hit on the side with a lot of speed with the arm. Speed and spin of the ball must be judged accurately so that the spin block may be successful.

