

European Championships in Stuttgart

The way to the title in the men's single goes past the Butterflies

This is a fact without any doubt: The way to the title in the men's single the European Championships 2009 in Stuttgart (13th-20th September) is past the strong Butterfly players who are four of the five top seeded players. Only one is going to be chased, the

supreme athlete of the previous two events. Butterfly super star, Timo Boll, won 2007 and 2008 everything what could be won, six times gold in the singles, the doubles and the team event.

If the number four

of the World Ranking List is triumphant again this autumn he will add another historic success to his career.



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The expectations at the Porsche Arena and the Hanns-Martin-Schleyer hall in front of a home crowd are accordingly high. And again the exceptional player doesn't allow anybody to look into his cards before the tournament. During his preparation camp at the Faaker Lake Timo Boll mainly worked on his fitness to prevent future problems with his back. This has prevented Boll's participation at the World Championships in Yokohama. Boll declined his participation at the Chinese and Korean Open in favour of his fitness programme. „The season on national and international level is again long and hard so that I must prioritize“, stresses the twice winner of the World Cup. „Everything is planned for the EC. That is the reason why I went through my schedule again and crossed out the Euro – Asia All Stars matches and the pre-season tournaments in Asia. Total fitness is the most important factor for me“, continues Boll.



In the men's single the seeding list is set up for another final between Timo Boll and Vladimir Samsonov who also played against each other in the final of the European Top 12 in February in Duesseldorf. It wouldn't be a surprise if those two brilliant players of the old continent would face each other in the final again. But his Tamasu colleagues could make life difficult for him.

Austria's Ex World Champion Werner Schlager, who is ready again after his „baby break“, Denmark's former Europe Top 12 winner Michael Maze and the speedy runner Kalinikos Kreanga from Greece are some of Boll's strongest opponents. Boll is also keen on defending his first place in the doubles with Christian Suess in Stuttgart. Following this top quartet is for example the third from last year, Robert Gardos (Austria), Petr Korbel from Czechia and Croatia's statue Zoran Primorac. The results of the young French star Adrien Mattenet could also be interesting. He has now already a fair chance against the other stars on a good day with his both sided powerful tenergy topspins.

In the women's event it will be much more difficult for Butterfly athletes to climb up on the podium. The best chances to stand up against the top seeded Austrian, Liu Jia and the Dutch winner from 2007, Li Liao, has the Hungarian Krisztina Toth with all her routine, who won gold in the doubles, silver in the singles and silver in the team event last time. The finalist of the German Open Viktoria Pavlovic, the Romanian Daniela Dodean, and the forever fighting Tamara Boros from Croatia as well as the Italians Nikoleta Stefanova and Wenling Tan-Monfardini are five other seeded Tamasu Athletes among the top sixteen who are considered more like candidates for the medals than title aspirants.

The title championships in Germany are promising also considering organisation. There are only a few tickets available on the day and the Porsche Arena is one of the nicest competition halls in Europe. Timo Boll: „We once played a German League match there with our Butterfly team Duesseldorf. It is a fantastic hall and a fantastic atmosphere. I hope to stay in all three competitions as long as possible and hope to be able to enjoy the support of the spectators.“



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Dates

13. Septembre - 20. Septembre 2009

**Liebherr European Championships
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9. October - 11. October 2009

World Cup Women Guangzhou/China

16. October - 18. October 2009

World Cup Men Moskau/Russia

22. October - 25. October 2009

World Team Cup Linz/Austria

Our Photo-Partners



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ITTF World Ranking

Mens - August 2009

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



ITTF World Ranking

Women - August 2009

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

Table tennis show at an unusual place

Normally the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul is used for traffic between the European and Asian part of the Turkish capital. This time the bridge, which was built in 1973, was used for a table tennis show. Reason for this was advertising for the event of the „Euro-Asia All Stars“ which is supported by Butterfly. The event takes place on the 10th and 11th of November 2009 in Istanbul.



In the media



Technique with Petr Korbel



Back from the summer break: DTTL again on TV and in the Internet

Good news for the German table tennis fans. The 2009/10 season of the German Table Tennis League will be live on the internet like last year (www.DTTL.tv) and sent at special times on the German sports channel (DSF). Also for the new season 2009/10 the company contenthouse guarantees table tennis transmissions of high quality. In cooperation with PLAZAMEDIA the media agency from Munich will present pictures from all 18 top matches of the season plus six Play – Off- matches of the DTTB FINAL FOUR. Apart from all matches in full length the DTTL.TV user gets – like in the previous season - the rally of the day, the informative DTTL interview and the highlights of the match of the day presented on their own PC.

Jun Mizutani wins his first gold medal at the ITTF Pro-Tour in Seoul



Jun Mizutani, no. 17 on the ITTF world ranking list, celebrated his first tournament title during the ITTF Pro-Tour series. The 20-year old defeated no. 3 seeded Chinese Hao Shuai (no. 9 on the ITTF world ranking list) in five sets in the finals at the KAL Cup Korean Open in Seoul, winning his first gold medal at the ITTF Pro-Tour. One week earlier, Hao Shuai lost the Chinese Open Pro-Tour finals against his fellow countryman Wang Hao. The no. 8 seeded Mizutani reached the last round of the Korean Open after

beating Joo Se Hyuk (Korea) in the quarter-, and Dimitrij Ovtcharov (Germany) in the semi-final matches. Both players are ranked above him on the ITTF world ranking list. During the final match between the two lefties from Japan and China, Mizutani quickly took the lead with his constant, yet aggressive fore- and backhand strokes. When Mizutani had to defend a high ball from half distance, he put Hao on the spot and scored again. Although the Japanese player lost the third set, all in all his first Pro-Tour success was unquestionable.

Jun Mizutani plays with his Japanese Butterfly signature blade „Jun Mizutani ST“. He uses „Tenergy 64“ on both fore- and backhand.

Omri Ben Ari, Israel

I want to get into the top 100



The Israeli national player Ormi Ben Ari is only 19 years old. On the World Junior Ranking List U21 he is at the moment number 192 and in the men's 612. The Butterfly player played his first single world championships in Yokohama. One year earlier he was a member of the Israeli National Team which took part in the team world championships in China. The highly motivated offensive player is the number one of the juniors in Israel and is doing his

military service which lasts for three years in the army. He would love to find a professional club in Germany where he could develop further. His targets are clear. Omri Ben Ari joined us for this interview in Yokohama.

Omri, you are a member of a so called little association. What is your ranking position in Israel?

With 19 years I am the youngest player on the national team. The other three are 30 years and older. I am the number 1 in my age group and in the men's class I am about number 4. We have a further junior and a youngster with us who are supposed to get some experience here at the WC in Yokohama. That is a chance for all of us.

Is table tennis marching forward in Israel?

Yes, it is okay again after we were quite low down until two years ago.

Who is the coach of Israel's national team?

Two Israeli coaches. Izik Abramovic is our team leader and head coach. He is also coaching the juniors and cadets. He also takes over some important management jobs in our association. Izak Ibramov is our playing coach and responsible for the men.

How many players are there in Israel?

About eight hundred to one thousand, but I am not quite sure. The numbers definitely went up again a lot after some changes in personnel two years ago. There was a lot of quarrelling before and the numbers went really down.

How often do you practice on average per week?

I am a member of the Israeli army like all young men of my age. If you are excellent in one sport you have the possibility to join the sports department of the army. Luckily I succeeded in that. I am allowed to practice every day four to five hours close to my home and my club.

Sometimes, time allowing, I practice twice a day. That doesn't work out all the time but in any case I try to practice every day.

How do the leagues work in Israel?

There are 18 clubs in the first division at the moment, which play in a round robin system with nine teams in a group. The first four teams of each group continue with a knock out system and six teams get relegated. These are far too many teams and therefore the level is not very high. The association wants to reduce the number to twelve teams during the next two years. This would be very good progress.

Are there any foreigners in the first league?

Not really, apart from one young Chinese girl who plays in the men's league and beats all the others apart from the six best Israeli.

How long do you still have to serve in the army and what are your plans afterwards?

About one more year, and then I really want to find a good club in Europe. Since two years the so called „excellent athletes“ have the possibility to play for a foreign club during their time of service. The only condition is that you have to be the number one in your age group in Israel and that you find a club which guarantees further progress. I

would go straight away if I could find a club. At the latest I will go at the end of my military service otherwise I won't get any further.

Where would you like to go?

Preferably to Germany, there are the strongest leagues in Europe but France and Spain is also interesting.

What if you don't succeed with a change next year?

Then I will continue to play and practice in Israel and try to play as many Pro Tour Tournaments as possible to get more experience internationally and to climb up in the world ranking list. It is very important to get higher up. The problem is though that I have to finance the participation partially myself.

You are still young. What are your sporting targets?

In Israel I want to become number one in the seniors. Internationally I would like to get into the top 100 of the WRL. I think I can manage that. My greatest wish is to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Colours, light and movement is the fascination of the Brazilian Roque Silva

„Harmony of ball and movement – Table Tennis is Art“



„Table tennis is art“, this is the motto of the building artist Roque Silva, an exhibition which has its premiere at the European Championships in Stuttgart in September. The small but nice show of 10 to 12 pictures can be seen in the area for honourable guests during eight days of the EC 2009 where the Brazilian has captured moments of the table tennis sport with colours.

Roque Silva's pictures, all captured on canvas with acrylic colours are simultaneously fascinating and powerful. Among the great art objects are expressionistic pieces of the Butterfly stars Timo Boll, Werner Schlager and Zhang Yining as well as surreal-abstract paintings which show a symbiosis of art and table tennis which has not been seen before. Roque Silva explains the secret of his paintings: “It doesn't matter if it is expressionism or surrealism, I try to capture the soul of table tennis with every stroke of the brush – that for me is harmony of ball and movement.”



It is remarkable that Roque Silva succeeded straight away with his first table tennis project because the 35 year old artist from Salvador da Bahia, the third biggest city in Brazil, only got accidentally to the fastest ball game in the world. For two decades Roque Silva became known in the

north-east of Brazil through expressionism and surrealism – sport was not a part of the painter. „A good friend who worked as a journalist at many events was responsible“, says Roque Silva. „There were permanently some magazines lying around in his house and I virtually soaked up all the impressive table tennis pictures. The fascination became so strong that I decided to devote part of my work to table tennis this year. I really like the topic and I will continue.“

The result is worth watching. The fascination which evolves from the pictures of the Brazilian catches the viewer particularly by the mix of powerful colours and the spreading of light which gives his work speed. It is also impressive how accurately Roque Silva succeeds in catching typical movements of the athletes and of the table tennis



The president of Butterfly Europe welcomes projects like this „art is table tennis“:“ We have a heart for spreading culture in general. Sport is serving culture too, which enriches human life.“ If you like to know more about the art of Roque Silva you can get more information here in the Butterfly Newsletter. If you would like to see other works of the artist you can do this from the 10th of September online on the website

www.arte-bahia.com

which shows only works of the Brazilian. You can also get in touch with Roque Silva directly. Contact person is Manfred Schillings, masch.photo@gmail.com

sport on canvas. Surrealistic - expressionistic playful Silva doesn't need the faces of the stars, the movement alone identifies them. Roque Silva:“ This athletic sport contains a lot of art – for example the filigree and the sensitivity but also the intuition and concentration. Table tennis players and artists must be focussed on the moment but to complete their piece of art they must not lose the final target. Therefore is the name of the project: Table tennis is art.“



Table tennis basics with Richard Prause Part II - the grip



The German national coach Richard Prause is starting with a new series on practical aspects: basics of table tennis. He will try to give some useful tips which are easy to learn for all those players who are interested to improve their game. The former German national player has been working for the German Table Tennis Association as a national coach for ten years. Since 2004 he has been head coach of the men's team. Timo Boll is not only one of his players but he has also a close relationship to Germany's

and Europe's number 1. In the second part of the new series Richard points out the important factors of how to hold the bat. Have fun with Richard Prause and his advice. If you have any questions or wishes, please send us a mail.

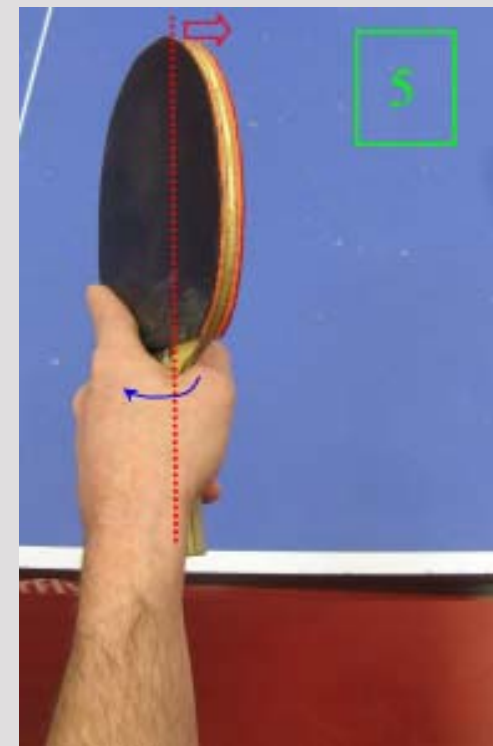
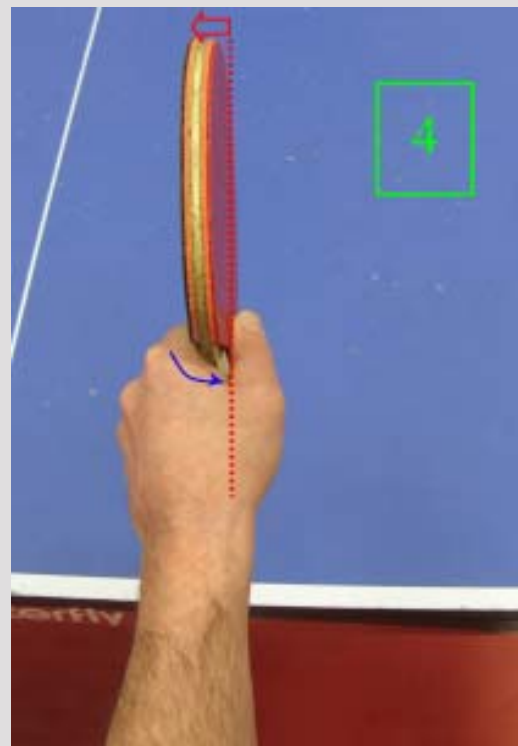
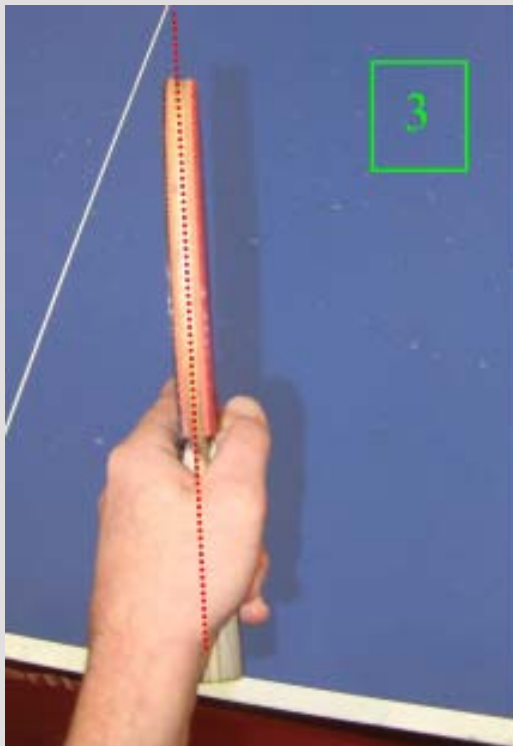
How should I hold the bat?

Hold the bat relaxed between thumb and index finger (picture 1). The other three fingers are around the grip (picture 2). The wrist is in its natural basic position (red line on picture 1), which means neither bent upwards nor downwards. The head of the bat points slightly upwards (picture 1). That is the basic or neutral grip. Everybody who starts playing table tennis should begin like this. This applies also to players who have played for a while and top amateur players because you can basically play all the different strokes without any problems. At top level players started to change between a forehand and a backhand grip ten to fifteen years ago.



Should I change grip during the game? Why should I change it?

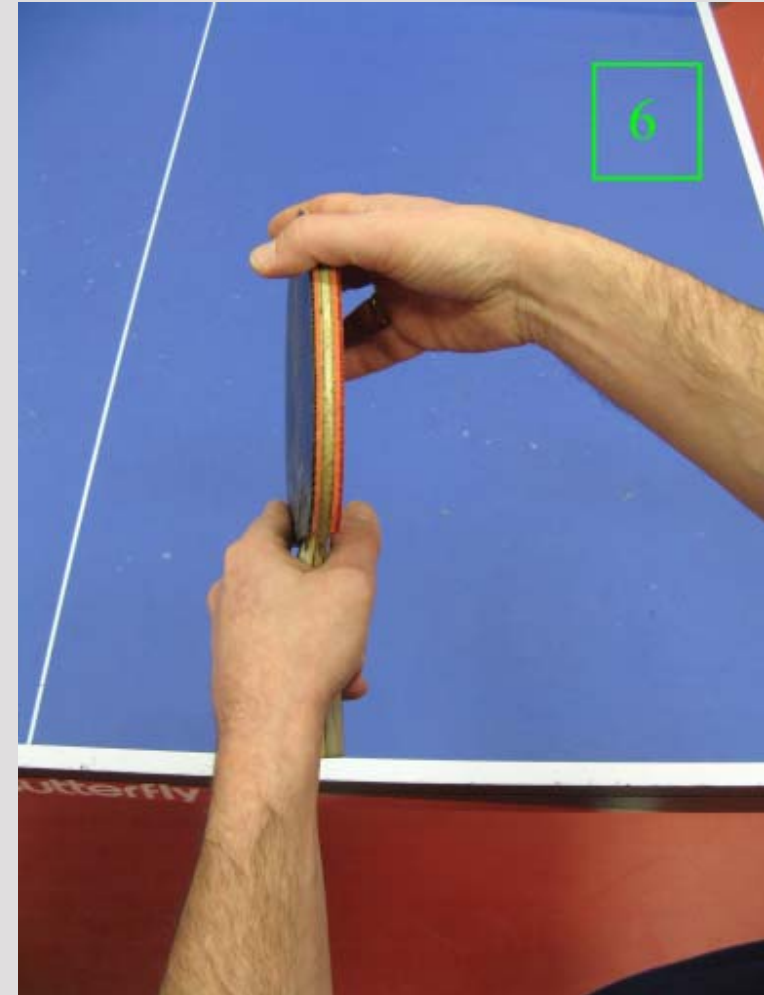
That is certainly depending on your level of play and on your quantity of training. The grip must be changed very speedily and that is not so easy but it provides the optimal presupposition for the execution of the different techniques. All top players change their grip permanently. We talk about a forehand and a backhand grip. Pictures 3-5 show you the difference. Picture 3 shows you the above mentioned neutral position. If you imagine the surface of the bat as an extension of the flat hand both areas should be parallel and the bat is straight (dotted line, picture 3). Do you now change grip then you have two possibilities. You change to the backhand or forehand grip. With the backhand grip the bat is slightly turned inwards. This results in a better angle for the backhand techniques and more use of the wrist (picture 4). With the forehand grip it is vice versa. Now the bat is turned outwards. Again you get a better angle and the opportunity for better wrist movement for the forehand techniques. How much you change the angle is very individual. It is a fact that Timo Boll, Dimitrij Ovtcharov and Christian Suess (all German national players) and all the other international stars change their grip permanently and with that the angle of the bat for an optimal forehand and backhand technique. This all happens during very speedy rallies. The change of grip has become standard. That was different fifteen, twenty years ago. The top players at that time who definitely weren't bad either preferred one grip: either backhand, or forehand or neutral grip. Accordingly they were known as backhand, forehand or all-round specialists. They did not change their grip during the rallies.



When should I start changing grip?

If you are young and want to make it to the top you should learn it as early as possible and practice it a lot. It is also possible to learn that at a later stage. That is a question of motivation and training. Picture 6 shows you how you can try the different grips so that you can feel it yourself. Change your grip once to the forehand and once to the backhand and observe carefully what is changing. Try the different strokes with both grips to experience the advantages of the changing of grip yourself.

In the next basic article Richard Prause will answer the question which grip is right and which is wrong. He will point out the importance of thumb and index finger.



The aggressive push from short-short play

The Japanese national player Mikie Tasei, number 51 of the World Ranking List, is demonstrating the aggressive backhand push from a short ball in this picture series. This variety can be used against a short serve or against short-short play. This pushing variety is especially dangerous, providing that you can play it optimally concerning length, speed and backspin. This stroke opens up possibilities to put your opponent under pressure or tempt them to a poorly played attacking ball. Points which are won in this manner are usually called the „little“ points. Especially these „little“ points are according to experts so deciding. Many insiders think that the Chinese are so exceptional particularly because of their brilliant pushing game. But pushing must be learned and trained, especially this variety shown here. Now let's have a look at the aggressive push with the backhand after a short ball from Mikie Tasei.

Basic position and starting phase – pictures 1-3: On picture 1 we see the Japanese right handed player in the basic position: her legs are more than shoulder wide apart, her feet are parallel, her upper body is slightly bent forward and her bat is in the neutral position in front of her body.



15 Technique tips

Pictures 2 and 3 show us how Mikie is starting the stroke after recognizing the placement of the coming ball. She lifts her right foot and brings it forward. Simultaneously she lowers her upper body and takes her playing arm into position.

Main phase – pictures 4-6: on **picture 4** Mikie puts down her right foot with her heel to roll over to the front of her foot



16 Technique tips

(pictures 5-7) She is leaning over the table with her upper body to reach the short ball. This demands a high level of balance, because you are not allowed to move the table. The playing arm is still bent at the elbow. At the moment of making contact with the ball the forearm is stretched speedily and must be coordinated with a short movement of the wrist (picture 6). The bat angle is wide open so that Mikie can get underneath the ball and is able to push aggressively against heavy backspin. This becomes very clear on picture 7 during the backswing. The bat is opened extremely wide at the end of the movement. The comparison YES/NO points out the importance of the bat angle and the movement of the playing arm.



17 Technique tips

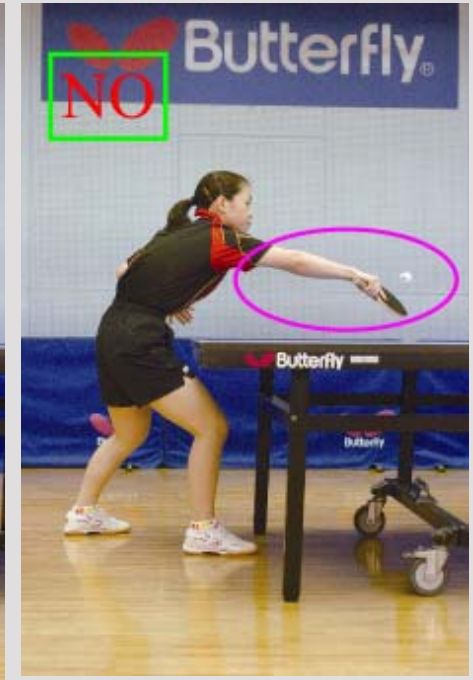
Back swing – pictures 7/8: Mikie reaches the lowest position at the end of the backswing (**picture 7**). This picture shows very clearly how the player virtually „stabs“ into the ball. On **picture 8** we notice that the Japanese is moving away from the table again to get ready for the next stroke.

Conclusion: The aggressive push against a short return demands a lot of feeling, agility and power of the right upper leg. This stroke must be included in all training sessions so that it can be used effectively and consistently. Some coaches categorize it as an offensive stroke when it is executed correctly.



18 Technique tips

Mistakes YES/NO from the side view: the right picture NO shows that the ball is met too late, the playing arm is too high and the bat is not underneath the ball.



Mistake YES/NO from the front: the right picture NO shows that the bat is not underneath the ball and the bat angle is not open enough.

