



**CONTACT:** Andy Kanengiser

**PHONE:** (800) 581-6770

**EMAIL:** [championships@nctta.org](mailto:championships@nctta.org)

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## **Pittsburgh Fans Love TMS Championships**

Pittsburgh table tennis fans like Bill Walk didn't have far to travel to the 2014 TMS College Table Tennis Championships.

The April 4-6 tournament in Monroeville, Pa. is practically in the neighborhood for area residents like Walk. The 77-year-old retiree is the founder of the South Park Table Tennis Club that's among the oldest in the USA. With 60 members, the club got started in 1962.

Over the years, the Pittsburgh club has produced some big-name players. Danny Seemiller began playing the Olympic sport at age 11 at the club in the Steel City and advanced to become the 18<sup>th</sup> best player in the world. Seemiller remains active with the sport today as a coach of some of the best players in the USA.

Bill Walk remains active in the sport as well. He's served as an international referee since 1972 and international umpire since 1979.

The retired eye doctor this weekend is eyeballing more than 250 of the best collegiate table tennis players in North America. They've come together at The Club in Monroeville to battle it out. Perennial national champion Texas Wesleyan seeks to win its 11<sup>th</sup> straight coed team title. No. 2 Mississippi College and schools like New York University are in hot pursuit of a championship.

Walk brought a number of family members along for the ride. His wife, Marilyn, is here and the couple brought their two sons, Mike Walk of Pittsburgh and Dan Walk of Erie, Pa. to serve as volunteers.

"They could beat me when they were little kids," Marilyn Walk said of her two grown sons. She's one of the scorekeepers at the three-day tournament. If they were keeping score today, her sons would win again.

A nurse and homemaker, Marilyn is enjoying her role as a big-time table tennis fan. "I've always supported what my family gets into as a wife and mother."

Other fans in the stands watching the action Friday traveled hundreds of miles to see the tournament in Pittsburgh Pirates country. Rudy and Edith Cheung of Boston were here to cheer on their son, Kevin Cheung, who plays for the Penn State team. Rudy Cheung, 59, who is semi-retired plays at the Boston Table Tennis Club. "Table tennis keeps me young.," Rudy said. "It keeps my body in shape."

*The 2014 TMS College Table Tennis Championships is hosted by the [National Collegiate Table Tennis Association](#) and the Visit Monroeville and is one of the most competitive table tennis tournaments in North America featuring 6 events: Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles, and Men's/Coed Teams, Women's Teams. The event is sponsored by TMS International, Newgy Industries, Butterfly.*

*Players and spectators alike will enjoy a jam-packed weekend of table tennis at the [2014 College Table Tennis Championships](#). The event starts Friday April 4th and continues to Sunday April 6th at the Club Sport and Health in Monroeville, Pennsylvania.*

### **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](http://www.nctta.org)

### **About USA Table Tennis**

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, USATT is the national organizing body for table tennis in the United States, serving 9,000+ members and nearly 300 clubs. USATT sanctions 200+ events a year including the US Open and US Nationals. USATT is affiliated with the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), as well as the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). [www.usatt.org](http://www.usatt.org) & [tabletennis.teamusa.org](http://tabletennis.teamusa.org)

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