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Toronto Women Upset Princeton Doubles Team

Sports fans always seem to root for the underdogs, whether it's basketball, football or table tennis.

At the 2014 TMC College Table tennis Championships in Monroeville, fans cheered when the Toronto women's doubles team knocked off a powerful Princeton squad on Friday afternoon.

"It was a huge upset," said NCTTA president Willy Leparulo minutes after the Toronto duo prevailed. The Canadian team consisting of Vivien Zhou and Xixi Guo was relentless as they defeated Princeton standouts Ariel Hsing and Shirley Fu. The 18-year-old Hsing of Fremont, California was a celebrated member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic table tennis team.

Big crowds looked on Canada's stars pulled off one of the nice early upsets of the three-day event near Pittsburgh.

The two Toronto players also excel in the classroom. Vivien Zhou is an applied math and statistics major from Foshan, China. Xixi Guo is an economics major from Changsha, China. Both are seniors.

"We are happy we won. My partner, Xixi, was very good today," Vivien said moments after the games ended. "Princeton has good players. We were fighting for every point."

At the University of Toronto, "everybody likes table tennis," Xixi said. It was also a busy time for the 47,000-student university back home with exams going on in early April. Many students brought their books and computers to the tourney to study between games.

Xixi Guo has been competing since she was 7-years-old and played until she was 14. She shook the rust off on her paddle and picked up the sport once again when enrolling at Toronto.

Toronto coach Ali Reza, who's a doctoral student in Canada, was on hand to applaud the women's success, from one point to the next.

For Xixi, it marked her debut in the NCTTA championship games. At the same time, it will be her final collegiate tournament. She hopes to keep playing in the Toronto area.

Princeton's Shirley Fu, an 18-year-old from Vancouver, Canada, like Ariel Hsing, will keep competing at

NCTTA tournaments the next three years. Both are freshmen.

Tournament play opening at the spacious Club Sport and Health featured some other stellar women's teams. They included the 2013 champs, Texas Wesleyan, and the University of California at Berkeley. "We are a very balanced team," said Cal player Sylvan Guo, 21, of San Francisco, after UC defeated Western Ontario in three straight games.

Guo, Tammy Gu of San Diego, and Jasmine Nguyen of Anaheim are all top players with 2000 ratings, Teammate Ellen Hwang of Thousand Oaks, California isn't far behind at 1900.

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

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 & tabletennis.teamusa.org

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