

# MEDIA GUIDE

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## **iSET COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND ROCK, TX**

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### THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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- Web site: [champs.nctta.org](http://champs.nctta.org)
- April 20-22, Round Rock, Texas at the Round Rock Sports Center
- Athletes - The 300+ top college table tennis players in the US and Canada, representing 50 of the top college teams; qualifying through divisional and regional play
- An annual event since 1993
- This year's competition will include international players attending college in the US & Canada that represented Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Egypt, India, New Zealand, Guyana, Mexico, Italy and USA just to name a few
- Defending champions:
  - Men's/Coed Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Women's Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Men's Singles: **Jishan Liang, Texas Wesleyan**
  - Women's Singles: **Lily Zhang, UC Berkeley**
  - Men's Doubles: **Jishan Liang/Zhe Feng, Texas Wesleyan**
  - Women's Doubles: **Wang Chen/Yue Wu, Texas Wesleyan**

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### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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#### **Friday, April 20**

- 9:00 am Men's/Coed and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds
- 5:00 pm Opening Ceremonies
- 6:00 pm Men's and Women's Doubles, Women's Singles, qualifying rounds
- 9:00 pm End of competition day

#### **Saturday, April 21**

- 8:30 am Men's Singles and Women's Doubles, qualifying rounds continued
- 11:00 am Men's/Coed and Women's Teams, early rounds
- 2:00 pm Men's/Coed and Women's Teams, quarterfinals, semifinals and finals
- 7:00 pm End of competition day

#### **Sunday, April 22**

- 9:00 am Men's and Women's Singles, knockout rounds
- 12:00 pm Men's and Women's Doubles, Singles, semifinals and finals
- 5:00 pm End of competition day

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## THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

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- Started as an upper class parlor game in 19<sup>th</sup> century England
- Developed into a competitive sport in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; the first World Championships of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) was held in 1926
- An Olympic sport since 1988
- The second most played sport in the world after soccer
- Professional table tennis leagues exist in many countries; the most prominent are in China, Germany, Japan, Russia
- The top table tennis players in the world earn ~\$1 million including endorsements
- The table is 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, 2.5 feet high; the net is 6 inches high; the court space is 1000 square feet minimum
- The ball is 40mm in diameter and 2.7 grams in weight, traveling nearly 100mph and spinning at nearly 10,000rpm
- Matches consist of the best 4 out of 7 games (singles semifinals and finals) or best 3 out of 5 games (doubles events, early rounds of singles events, or team events). Games are first to 11 points, alternating serve every two points.

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## NCTTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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- The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is the governing body for college table tennis in the US and Canada
- A non-profit organization, run purely by volunteers
- The Championships is the culmination of the 2017-2018 NCTTA League
- 175 participating colleges, competing in 6 regions, subdivided into 30 divisions, played in fall and spring academic semesters or quarters.
- NCTTA offers college scholarships, and some colleges offer their own table tennis scholarships
- Many international student-athletes
- Primary competition format is teams: 4 singles plus 1 doubles
- Categories are Men's/Coed Teams and Women's Teams; women may play in both
- [www.nctta.org](http://www.nctta.org)
- <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeTT/>
- <http://www.twinesocial.com/collegett>

## PARTICIPATING TEAMS

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- A total of 24 Men's/Coed teams & 15 Women's teams qualified through regional events
- Men's/Coed teams:
  - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Fort Worth, TX) – 13 time men's/coed team; 2017 Champion; led by 2017 Men's Singles Champion Jishan Liang as well as Jinxin Wang former US Open champion and #2 seed in Men's Singles
  - **Mississippi College** (Clinton, MS) – 2015 Champion, runner-up 4 out of 5 years, only school to defeat Texas Wesleyan in College Table Tennis history
  - **Pillar College** (Newark, NJ) – features US Olympian Timothy Wang; 2017, 2018 Mid-Atlantic Region Men's/Coed Champion; has #1 Men's singles player too in Kaden Xu
  - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2017, 2018 West Region Men's/Coed Champions, led by US Olympian, Lily Zhang; 2017 Championships 2nd
  - **New York University** (New York, NY) – 2018 NYC Division Team winners, features two USA Table Tennis National team stars, Adar Alguetti and Tom Feng. Coach YanJun Gao is former NCTTA 2010 Men's Singles Champion
  - **Lindenwood University** (St. Charles, MO) – 2017, 2018 Midwest Region Champion
  - **Northeastern University** (Boston, MA) - 2018 Northeast Region Men's Champion
  - **University of California, Davis** (Davis, CA) – Brother/sister duo Kunal , Aditi Chodri
  - **University of Maryland** (College Park, MD) - 2018 Mid Atlantic Regional Men's/Coed Champion, led by Nathan Hsu a top USA Junior now in College
  - **SUNY Stony Brook** (Stony Brook, NY)
  - **University of Florida** (Gainesville, FL) – led by Florida's #1 player Vinay Desai
  - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)
  - **University of California at San Diego** (San Diego, CA)
  - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
  - **University of California-Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **Binghamton University** (Binghamton, NY) – Led by USA standout Kai Zhang



*Kai Zhang of Binghamton University*

*Photo Credit (Xinye Ji)*

- **Duke University** (Durham, NC) – Led by New Zealand international Roger Rao and Michael Zhang
- **Brown University** (Providence, RI)
- **Northwestern University** (Chicago, IL)
- **University of British Columbia** (Vancouver, BC, Canada)
- **University of Washington** (Seattle, WA)
- **University of Ottawa** (Ottawa, ON; Canada) – Led by Filip Ilijevski (Canada intl)
- **Brandeis University** (Waltham, MA)
- **University of Texas at Dallas** (Dallas, TX)

- Women's teams:
  - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Fort Worth, TX) – 2017 South Region Women's Champion; 6-time championship winners
  - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2015 National Runner-Up; 2018 West Region Champions; Led by US Olympian Lily Zhang and US National team member Angela Guan
  - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN) – Led by former UW Madison star, Yixin Zhang (transfer)
  - **University of British Columbia** (Vancouver, BC Canada)
  - **Lindenwood University** (St. Charles, MO) – Led by Guyana international, Chelsea Edghill
  - **University of Washington** (Seattle, WA)



*University of Washington women vs UCLA women in 2018 West Regional Championships (Photo courtesy of Utako Kase)*

- **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
- **University of Ottawa** (Ottawa, Ontario; Canada)
- **New York University** (New York, NY)
- **University of Texas** (Austin, TX)
- **Brown University** (Providence, RI)
- **Bryn Mawr College** (Bryn Mawr, PA) – Coach is former Temple University standout, Daniel Moon, 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA and 1<sup>st</sup> time at the Championships
- **George Washington University** (Washington DC)
- **University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA)
- **Arizona State University** (Tempe, Arizona) – 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA Championships

## TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF NOTE

### TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (FORT WORTH, TX)



- 13-time Men's/Coed Team Champion
- 2017 Men's/Coed and Women's Team Champion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2018 South Region Champion –Men's/Coed and Women's Team
- Coached by Jasna Rather – Olympic bronze medalist (Yugoslavia)
- Offers table tennis scholarships
- **Bruno Ventura Dos Anjos** (Undergraduate)
  - 2016 NCTTA Men's Doubles Champion (with Shuai Wang)
  - Former member of Brazilian national team



*(Photo courtesy of Yujing Cen)*

- **Yue "Jennifer" Wu** (Undergraduate)
  - 2017 Women's Doubles Champion (with Wang Chen)
  - Preparing for Olympic games
  - [http://ramsports.net/roster.aspx?rp\\_id=2871](http://ramsports.net/roster.aspx?rp_id=2871)
  - <http://ramsports.net/index.aspx?tab=tabletennis&path=tt>



*(Photo courtesy of Grant Bergmann)*



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## MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE (CLINTON, MS)

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- 2015 Men's/Coed Team Champion; ended Texas Wesleyan's 11-year run at the title
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships
- 2018 South Regional Men's/Coed Team Runner up



- **Qingwei Sun** (Undergraduate) – Runnerup in Men's Singles, 2016 College Table Tennis Championships
- **Tomotaka Yoshitomi** (Undergraduate) – highest rated player on team at (2709), 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in Men's Singles



by Grant Bergmann

*(Photo courtesy of Grant Bergmann)*

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BERKELEY, CA)

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Women's Teams at the 2014, 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2017 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2017, 2018 West Region, Men's/Coed Team Champion
- Men's/Coed Team seeded #4; Women's Team seeded #2

- **Lily Zhang** (Junior)

- Member of US Olympic Team
- 2015, 2017 College Table Tennis Champion, Women's Singles
- 2014 Youth Olympic Games Women's Singles Bronze Medalist
- <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Lily-Zhang>



- **Angela Guan** (Freshman)

- 2014-15 USA World Team member
- 2016 Pan American Junior Championships Team Champion; Junior Girls Bronze
- 2016 US National Championships—Women's Singles Semifinalist
- 2018 West Region Women's Singles Champion



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## LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY (ST. CHARLES, MO)

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- 4<sup>th</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2016, 2017, 2018 Midwest Region Champion, Men's/Coed Team
- Offers financial assistance for Table Tennis in the form of scholarships
- **Alex Legaria (Junior)**
  - Member of Mexican National Team
  - Junior National champion 2013; 4 gold medals in Central American Championships



- **Massao Kohatsu (Freshmen)**
  - 2014 ITTF World Junior Circuit champion (twice)
  - 2014 Under 18 National Brazilian Champion





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## NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (NEW YORK CITY, NY)

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- 2017 Northeast Region Runner up (Men's/Coed Team)
- **Tom Feng** (Transfer student)
  - 2016 Olympic USA Team member; 1<sup>st</sup> year at NYU transferred from University of Georgia, #4 seed in Men's Singles
- **Adar Alguetti** (Freshmen)
  - 2017 USA National Team member, USA National Team doubles with Tom Feng, #9 seed in Men's Singles



- **Mudit Dani** (Freshmen) – Indian international, Top 10 standing in ITTF World Junior Circuit



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	<p>NCTTA – Organizer  <a href="http://www.nctta.org">www.nctta.org</a></p>
	<p>iSET – Title Sponsor</p>
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