

## No Place to Play but Rochester



*California State University, East Bay*

What started about two years ago as just a few friends getting together to play table tennis has turned into a surprisingly talented CSU Eastbay table tennis team. Much like Mississippi College, a lot of talent was floating around the CSUEB campus when Henry Sit, president of the table tennis club, and his friends, decided to gather the best players and organize a club. The club now consists of about 30 players, including a coach, many of who are 1600+ level players.

The club practices at area athletic clubs outside of the university, which provides limited hours of practice time for the club to play at their facility. Henry said of the university, "They seem to be holding us back. Since they think other sports are much more important than table tennis, we are always the last to get a say."

Even so, the CSUEB team has managed to win their division and advance to nationals in their premier season with the NCTTA. "We did not think we could make it to the championship, so this is a big surprise for us," said Henry. The team competed with some of the best collegiate table tennis teams in the country and performed well at the championships in Rochester, MN, finishing 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Perhaps their success will bring more support from the school.

Henry attributes their achievement: "I guess the golden rule to success is to get together and keep practicing; we never turn down a challenge, and we never give up."