

From the Heartland of the Sport to the Top of the NCTTA



Mississippi College

As their team of all Chinese players might indicate, Mississippi College has a table tennis program built upon outstanding international student resources. The college's recruiting office in China has helped bring in the 330 international students that now attend MC. Students come from countries like China, India, and Nepal, where table tennis is most popular. It took Ken Qiu, organizer of the club and talented player, to seek out and unite the international talent on campus.

In the summer of 2007, Ken began to network with other college table tennis clubs in the Jackson, Mississippi area. He learned more about the NCTTA and decided to take a team to the fall regional tournament, spearheaded by himself and Jie Zhou. Both players had success at the tournament, but MC took second to Mississippi State University. The team was in need of a third higher-level player. They found just what they were looking for when Haijing Wu joined the team this spring. Now with three outstanding players, the team improved and was able to clinch their division at the spring regional by beating every opponent either 4-1 or 5-0, thus securing their trip to nationals.

Though Ken says it is hard to start a new table tennis program at an old southern school like Mississippi College, the club has enjoyed more attention and support in light of their latest accomplishment – making it to nationals in their first year with the NCTTA. The Mississippi College players are currently working to get even more support in the student body and in the community, and finished 14th at the national championships. “Hopefully what we do can help promote one of the best Olympic sports, table tennis, in the Jackson, Mississippi area,” said Ken.