

GRAND FINAL  
2014  
NORTH AMERICAN  
TABLE TENNIS TOUR

Feb 6-8, 2015



WESTCHESTER TABLE TENNIS CENTER  
Pleasantville, NY

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## GREETINGS

The Westchester Table Tennis Center welcomes you to the Grand Final of the 2014 North American Tour.

### Schedule

#### **Friday, Feb. 6 (6:00-10:00 pm) — Welcome Party**

Food and drink

Meet the players

Greeting from Peter Scherer, the mayor of Pleasantville

Handicap contest, with cash prizes for the players and spectators

#### **Saturday, Feb. 7 (10:00 am - 6:00 pm) — Preliminary Matches**

Four round robin groups of four players each

Each match is allotted 40 minutes including warm-up

Conducted on two JOOLA tables in the Westchester TTC's main hall

Followed by dinner for the players, officials, and guests at the Pleasantville Country Club

#### **Sunday, Feb. 8 (11:00 am - 4:00 pm) — Playoffs**

Single elimination

Conducted on one table in the center of the hall

Followed immediately by the prize ceremony

### Tournament Committee

Organizers: Bruce Liu, Will Shortz

Referee: Roman Tinyszyn (IR)

Directors: Robert Roberts, Rawle Alleyne

Operations: Neville Roberts

Communications: Gail Kendall

Publicity: Irene Silbert, Richard Finn

Program: Bharati Bhalla

Banners/T-shirts: Wayne Wolf, Blue Cup Design

Chief Photographer: Warren Rosenberg

Assisted by numerous members of the Westchester Table Tennis Center

## ABOUT THE TOUR

Started in 2013 by Bruce Liu of San Francisco, the North American Table Tennis Tour has grown in one year from 15 to 25 elite (2-star and up) tournaments from coast to coast. (See list at [www.battf.com/2014\\_NA\\_Tour](http://www.battf.com/2014_NA_Tour).)

At each tournament on the Tour the top eight players in the open event earned Tour Points. The champion earned 8 points, the runner-up 4, semifinalists 2 each, and quarterfinalists 1 each. The results for 2-star tournaments were weighted 1.0, 3-star tournaments 1.5, and 4-star tournaments 2.0. Players had to play in at least two tournaments on the Tour to qualify for the Grand Final. At the end of the year the 16 players with the most Tour Points were invited to the Grand Final. Two of the 16 positions, left unfilled because the qualifying players couldn't attend, were awarded to promising Juniors.

The goal of the Tour is to raise the level of table tennis in the United States by encouraging the best American players to compete in tournaments more often and by attracting top foreign players to the U.S. for Americans to compete against.

### Prizes for the 2014 Grand Final

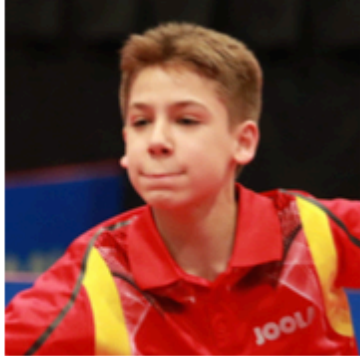
1st — \$3,500	2nd — \$1,750
3rd-4th — \$850 each	5th-8th — \$400 each
9th-16th — \$200 each	

### Rules

The 16 finalists have been seeded into four round robin groups, based on the number of Tour Points they earned. Ties were broken by USATT rating (as of Dec. 31, 2014).

The preliminary matches of the Grand Final will take place on Saturday. Two players will advance from each round robin group. Single elimination playoffs will take place on Sunday. All matches are best of 5, except the semifinals and finals, which are best of 7.

## GAL ALGUETTI



Seeding: No. 12  
 USATT Rating: 2499  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: American  
 Age: 13 (born May 14, 2001)

Place of Birth: San Diego, CA

Current Residence: Tenafly, NJ

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, 2014 U.S. Nationals Minicadet
- Member, 2015 U.S. National Junior & Cadet Teams

## JIMMY BUTLER



Seeding: No. 8  
 USATT Rating: 2534  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: American  
 Age: 43 (born February 15, 1971)

Place of Birth: Iowa City, IA

Current Residence: Houston, TX

Among his Achievements:

- Bronze Medalist, 1995 World Team Cup
- 4-time and current U.S. Champion, 2-time Olympian

## BOB CHEN



Seeding: No. 4  
 USATT Rating: 2730  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 21 (born January 5, 1994)

Place of Birth: Guang Xi, China

Current Residence: Milpitas, CA

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, April 2014 Westchester Open
- Champion, December 2014 ICC California State Open

## RUICHAO CHEN



Seeding: No. 6  
 USATT Rating: 2620  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Left  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 17 (born August 1997)

Place of Birth: Sweden

Current Residence: Germantown, MD

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, December 2014 Westchester Open
- Finalist, Under 18, 2014 U.S. Open

## NATHAN HSU



Seeding: No. 16  
 USATT Rating: 2520  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: American  
 Age: 18 (born May 24, 1996)

Place of Birth: Chicago, IL

Current Residence: Rockville, MD

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, Boys Under 14/16/18 Singles, Doubles, & Team events, 2009-14 AAU Junior Olympics
- Recipient, 2011 AAU Junior Olympic Joel Ferrell Award

## JISHAN LIANG



Seeding: No. 2  
 USATT Rating: 2656  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Left  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 23 (born November 8, 1991)

Place of Birth: China

Current Residence: Flushing, NY

Among his Achievements:

- Quarterfinalist, 2012 U.S. Open
- Finalist, Under 21, 2012 U.S. Open

## YONGHUI LIANG



Seeding: No. 5  
 USATT Rating: 2691  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Left  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 23 (born January 6, 1992)

Place of Birth: Guangxi, China

Current Residence: Milpitas, CA

Among his Achievements:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 2014 Los Angeles Open
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2013 North American Tour Grand Final

## DAN LIU



Seeding: No. 14  
 USATT Rating: 2553  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Penholder  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 22 (born July 17, 1992)

Place of Birth: Nan Yang, China

Current Residence: Milpitas, CA

Among his Achievements:

- Finalist, 2014 U.S. Open U-2600
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 2013 North American Tour Grand Final

## CRYSTAL WANG



Seeding: No. 15  
 USATT Rating: 2421  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: American  
 Age: 12 (born February 23, 2002)

Place of Birth: Tucson, AZ

Current Residence: Boyds, MD

Among her Achievements:

- Bronze medalist, Women's team event, 2014 World Junior Championship
- Finalist, Women's Singles, 2014 U.S. Nationals

## JACK WANG



Seeding: No. 11  
 USATT Rating: 2524  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: American  
 Age: 14 (born December 5, 2000)

Place of Birth: Chicago, IL

Current Residence: Livingston, NJ

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, Boys Under 18, 2014 North American Championships
- Champion, Boys Under 18, 2014 U.S. Nationals

## RUI WANG



Seeding: No. 10  
USATT Rating: 2637  
Style of Play: Offense  
Handed: Right  
Grip: Shakehands  
Nationality: Chinese  
Age: 17 (born September 22, 1997)

Place of Birth: China

Current Residence: Milpitas, CA

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, U-18, 2014 Los Angeles Open
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2014 U.S. Open U18

## EUGENE WANG



Seeding: No. 7  
USATT Rating: 2799  
Style of Play: Offense  
Handed: Right  
Grip: Shakehands  
Nationality: Canadian  
Age: 29 (born November 13, 1985)

Place of Birth: Hebei, China

Current Residence: Victoria, BC, Canada

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, 2013 U.S. Open
- Quarterfinalist, 2012 Slovenian Open

## TINGLEI WU



Seeding: No. 13  
 USATT Rating: 2433  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 15 (born October 4, 1999)

Place of Birth: China

Current Residence: New York, NY

Among his Achievements:

- Semifinalist, 2014 U.S. Open Junior Boys
- Champion, U-2500, April 2014 Westchester Open

## KAI ZHANG



Seeding: No. 1  
 USATT Rating: 2684  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 17 (born June 22, 1997)

Place of Birth: Beijing, China

Current Residence: Pleasantville, NY

Among his Achievements:

- 11-time champion, Westchester Open
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Under 21, 2014 U.S. Open

## XIANG JING ZHANG



Seeding: No. 3  
 USATT Rating: 2732  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 19 (born October 28, 1995)

Place of Birth: Hebei, China

Current Residence: El Monte, CA

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, 2013 North American Tour Grand Final
- Former Chinese National Team Member

## ZIRUI ZHAO



Seeding: No. 9  
 USATT Rating: 2673  
 Style of Play: Offense  
 Handed: Right  
 Grip: Shakehands  
 Nationality: Chinese  
 Age: 15 (born January 5, 2000)

Place of Birth: Anhui, China

Current Residence: Livingston, NJ

Among his Achievements:

- Champion, September 2014 Westchester Open
- Played in China B-League

## FUN FACTS ABOUT TABLE TENNIS

- Table tennis was invented in England in the 1890s. It became a worldwide craze in 1903.
- Today table tennis is the most popular racket sport in the world. In terms of participation it is the second-most played sport in the world (after soccer). Over 10 million players compete in sanctioned tournaments each year.
- Table tennis became an Olympic sport in 1988 in Seoul. So far China has won 24 of the 28 gold medals awarded in the sport.
- More than 250 clubs are affiliated with USA Table Tennis, the governing body of the sport in America. Hundreds more clubs are members of the National Collegiate Table Tennis Association or are independent.
- The name "Ping Pong" was originally trademarked in the United States by Parker Brothers. It continues to be a proprietary term.
- A table tennis table is 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, and 2-1/2 feet high. The net is 6 inches high. The ball is slightly more than 40 millimeters in diameter. Beginning in 2014 the composition of the ball was changed from celluloid to plastic.
- China, Germany, Japan, and South Korea are currently the world powers in table tennis. As of January 2015 the U.S. men's team ranks 43rd in the world. The women's team ranks 22nd.
- Table tennis enthusiasts include the actress Susan Sarandon, who co-owns the SPiN club in New York City; actor Judah Friedlander, formerly of "30 Rock"; and Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware, who has a USATT rating of 1223.
- Top players smash a table tennis ball at speeds over 100 mph.

## SPONSORS

The 2014 North American Table Tennis Tour is made possible by JOOLA USA, Newgy, WGSigma Systems, Habitera, and all the host tournaments on the 2014 Tour.