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2008 College Table Tennis National Championships

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WEBSITE: <http://www.nctta.org/champs/2008/index.html>

****NEWS RELEASE****

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MEN'S SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDUP: NEW STARS ARE BORN

In recent years, Texas Wesleyan, has dominated with their star filled, scholarship table tennis team. This weekend new stars are born! Virginia Tech player challenges top seed. In one of the day's first men's matches, Ganesh Balasubramanian posed a spectacular if short-lived challenge to top-seeded Adam Hugh of Princeton. For a game-and-a-half, the Virginia Tech hopeful outplayed Hugh, as Virginia Tech players celebrated on the sidelines. Hugh remained composed, upped his game, and came away with the victory.

University of Minnesota players notch victories. Ming Curran, a PSEO student at the U of M, upset Alden Fan of Princeton. Fan, with his powerful looping game from both sides, had won a dramatic 5-set match against Washington and Lee's Ekkaphap Thengtrirat. But against Curran's intense play, unusual lefty serves, and considerable power, Fan's run came to an end.

Anders Truelson, a sixteen-year-old U of M student studying calculus and Russian, swept his initial match with Portland State's Renjith Retnamma. Truelson then squared-off against Texas Wesleyan's Dinko Kranjac, eventual quarterfinal challenger to top-seeded Adam Hugh. Anders played well against Dinko, playing competitively but falling 3-1.

Kansas State's Zach Moore, despite a 1700s rating, played a tough match against powerful Colombian native Andres Molano (Bellevue). Molano's power and nearly-2200 ranking proved to be too much, despite Moore playing him to two deuce games.

Quarterfinal Play

As luck would have it, the finest of the quarterfinal matches was played on Table 1. Texas Wesleyan's Carlos Chiu lost to Alfred Najem of Emporia State (Kansas). Najem, a four-time Lebanese National Champion, played with great focus and intensity against the gifted young Chiu. After winning the match on an intense deuce game in the fourth, Najem said "He played very well. I didn't want to go to a 5th game, because then I would lose my advantage. I knew that every point I won put him under more pressure."

Adam Hugh advanced with a big win over Dinko Kranjac knocking off another Texas Wesleyan athlete giving this year's championship a new look to the final four.

Misha Kazantsev of USC ended the Ming Curran from Univ of Minnesota and crowd and tournament favorite Tahl Leibovitz dispatched of top player from Texas Wesleyan Ludovic Gombos in a tight fist pumping 5th set win!

Semifinalists are ready to rumble in Minnesota!

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