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## ***2008 College Table Tennis National Championships***

April 11-13 in Rochester, Minnesota

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

**\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\***

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008**

### **MIXING IT UP WITH MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In the quarterfinals of the 2008 ACUI College Mixed Doubles National Championship, top-seeded Ludovic Gombos and Ines Perhoc (Texas Wesleyan) fell to Paralympic champion Tahl Leibovitz (Queens College) and his partner Barbara Wei (University of Pennsylvania). After trading games dominated by unforced errors and lack of concentration, Leibovitz and Wei caught fire. Leibovitz's extraordinary ability to touch and control the ball, and Wei's alternating deep push returns of serve and powerful topspin attack leveled the match at 2-2. At 3-all in the deciding game, and sensing a lack of concentration, Leibovitz called a time out. He and Wei returned to dominate the remainder of the game, and on the penultimate point Ines played the ball deep into Leibovitz's forehand court. So surprising was his lunging return that Ines played the shot out of turn to spoil any chance of a comeback.

In the second quarterfinal, brother and sister combo Adam and Judy Hugh from Princeton and Rutgers showed great patience and concentration in their match with Jasna Reed and Chiu, one of four mixed-doubles pairings from Texas Wesleyan. The Hughs took game one by taking care of the ball and being patient, waiting for their best opportunity to attack; Reed's spectacular blocking and backhand flip, and Chiu's ability to loop balls nearly at the floor, won the second. But Jasna's flip eluded her in the third, and Adam showed a thrilling ability to retrieve powerfully deep loops with a flat defensive chop, sustaining the point beyond their opponents' patience and resolve. The Hughs won it going away, alternating finesse and power, and sustaining intensity.

The championship match between Hugh/Hugh and Leibovitz/Wei highlighted the quickness of Judy's Hugh's backhand loop and her brother's power and finesse, whether touching returns at the table or top-spinning from deep retreats. Tahl Leibovitz had been spectacular throughout the competition, winning with intensity and accuracy, but in the Mixed Doubles final he had lapses of concentration. And despite his partner Wei's solid play, those letdowns helped the Hugh duo power to a 3-1 win.

After the match, Judy Hugh said that she was pleased that they had played so well, acknowledging that she and Adam had begun the competition a little slowly. They struggled at times in their match against Aldis Presley and Yen Pham (Texas Wesleyan). "Judy was tired having gotten in [to Rochester] after 3:00 a.m. last night," said Adam, though Judy acknowledged that "it was probably closer to 1:00 a.m.; so, yeah, it took a while for us to find our game."

Just in time to win a National Championship!

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