

# TMS 2017 COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDIA GUIDE

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## THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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- Web site: [champs.nctta.org](http://champs.nctta.org)
- April 7-9, Eau Claire, Wisconsin at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Athletes - The 300+ top college table tennis players in the US and Canada, representing 56 of the top college teams; qualifying through divisional and regional play
- An annual event since 1993
- This year's competition will include international players attending college in the US & Canada that represented Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, Egypt, India, New Zealand, Spain, Mexico, Greece and USA just to name a few
- Defending champions:
  - Men's/Coed Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Women's Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Men's Singles: **Yichi Zhang, Mississippi College**
  - Women's Singles: **Ying Wang, Ohlone College**
  - Men's Doubles: **Bruno Ventura Dos Anjos & Shuai Wang, Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Women's Doubles: **Anastasiia Rybka & Edina Haracic, Texas Wesleyan University**

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## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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### **Friday, April 7**

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles, qualifying rounds  
1:00 pm – Men's and Women's Doubles semifinals and finals  
4:00 pm – Opening Ceremonies  
4:30 pm – Men's and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds  
9:00 pm – End of competition day

### **Saturday, April 8**

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Teams, qualifying rounds continued  
11:00 am – Men's and Women's Singles, early rounds  
2:00 pm – Men's and Women's Singles, quarterfinals, semifinals and finals  
6:00 pm – End of competition day

### **Sunday, April 9**

9:00 am – Men's and Women's Teams, knockout rounds  
12:00 pm – Men's and Women's Teams, semifinals and finals  
4:00 pm – End of competition day

## THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

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- Started as an upper class parlor game in 19<sup>th</sup> century England
- Developed into a competitive sport in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; the first World Championships of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) was held in 1926
- An Olympic sport since 1988
- The second most played sport in the world after soccer
- Professional table tennis leagues exist in many countries; the most prominent are in China, Germany, Japan, Russia
- The top table tennis players in the world earn ~\$1 million including endorsements
- The table is 9 feet long, 5 feet wide, 2.5 feet high; the net is 6 inches high; the court space is 1000 square feet minimum
- The ball is 40mm in diameter and 2.7 grams in weight, traveling nearly 100mph and spinning at nearly 10,000rpm
- Matches consist of the best 4 out of 7 games (singles semifinals and finals) or best 3 out of 5 games (doubles events, early rounds of singles events, or team events). Games are first to 11 points, alternating serve every two points

## NCTTA COLLEGE TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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- The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is the governing body for college table tennis in the US and Canada
- A non-profit organization, run purely by volunteers
- The Championships is the culmination of the 2016-2017 NCTTA League
- 169 participating colleges, competing in 6 regions, subdivided into 29 divisions, played in fall and spring academic semesters or quarters.
- NCTTA offers college scholarships, and some colleges offer their own table tennis scholarships
- Many international student-athletes
- Primary competition format is teams: 4 singles plus 1 doubles
- Categories are Men's/Coed Teams and Women's Teams; women may play in both
- [www.nctta.org](http://www.nctta.org)
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Collegiate-Table-Tennis-Association/21419228959>
- <http://www.twinesocial.com/collegett>

## PARTICIPATING TEAMS

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- A total of 24 Men's/Coed teams & 16 Women's teams qualified through regional events
- Men's/Coed teams:
  - **Mississippi College** (Clinton, MS) – 2015 Champion, runner-up 4 out of 5 years, 2017 South Region Champion
  - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2017 West Region Men's/Coed Region Champions, led by US Olympian, Lily Zhang
  - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Forth Worth, TX) – 12 time men's/coed team; 6 time women's team winners; 2016 Champion
  - **Lindenwood University** (St. Charles, MO) – 2017 Midwest Region Champion
  - **Ohlone College** (Fremont, CA)- 2017 West Region Women's team Champion
  - **Pillar College** (Newark, NJ) – 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA, features US Olympian Timothy Wang; 2017 Mid-Atlantic Region Men's/Coed Team Champion
  - **Baruch College** (New York, NY)- 2017 Northeast Region Men's/Coed Champion
  - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
  - **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor, MI)- 2017 Great Lakes Region Men's/Coed Team Champion; Led by Lester Lee (former Canadian Junior international)
  - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)
  - **Princeton University** (Princeton, NJ) – Led by former US Olympian, Erica Wu
  - **Duke University** (Durham, NC)
  - **University of California-Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **Northeastern University** (Boston, MA)
  - **Brown University** (Providence, RI)
  - **Ohio State University** (Columbus, OH)
  - **SUNY Stony Brook** (Stony Brook, NY)
  - **New York Institute of Technology** (New York City, NY)
  - **University of British Columbia** (Vancouver, BC, Canada)
  - **University of Wisconsin – Madison** (Madison, WI)
  - **University of California at San Diego** (San Diego, CA)
  - **College of William and Mary** (Williamsburg, VA) – 1<sup>st</sup> time in Championships
  - **Cornell University** (Ithaca, NY)
  - **University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire** (Eau Claire, WI) – Host school
- Women's teams:
  - **Texas Wesleyan University** (Forth Worth, TX) – 2017 South Region Women's Champion; 6 time championship winners
  - **Ohlone College** (Freemont, CA) – 2017 West Region Women's Champion; Led by Ying Wang 2016 Women's Singles Champion
  - **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2015 National Runner-Up; 2017 West Region Women's Runner-Up; Led by US Olympian Lily Zhang
  - **New York University** (New York, NY)
  - **University of British Columbia** (Vancouver, BC Canada)
  - **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
  - **Ohio State University** (Columbus, OH)
  - **University of Pennsylvania** (Philadelphia, PA)
  - **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA)
  - **University of Texas at Austin** (Austin, TX)

- **University of Iowa** (Iowa City, IA)
- **University of Illinois** (Champaign, IL)
- **Duke University** (Durham, NC)
- **Brown University** (Providence, RI)
- **University of California, Davis** (Davis, CA) – 1<sup>st</sup> time at NCTTA Championships
- **Northwestern University** (Evanston, IL)

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## TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF NOTE

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### MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE (CLINTON, MS)

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- 2015 Men's/Coed Team Champion; ended Texas Wesleyan's 11 year run at the title
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016 NCTTA College Table Tennis Championships
- 2017 South Regional Men's/Coed Team Champions



- **Yichi Zhang** (senior) – Champion in Men’s Singles, 2016 College Table Tennis Championships



- <http://www.mc.edu/student-life/table-tennis/>

- New Freshmen and highest rated player at (2786), TomoTaka Yoshitomi



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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BERKELEY, CA)

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Women's Teams at the 2014, 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2016 West Region, Men's/Coed Team; Champion in Women's team
- 2017 West Region, Men's/Coed Team Champion

- **Lily Zhang** (sophomore)
  - 2016 US National Champion, Women's Singles
  - Member of 2016 US Olympic Team
  - 2015 College Table Tennis Champion, Women's Singles
  - 2014 Youth Olympic Games Women's Singles Bronze Medalist
  - <http://www.teamusa.org/usa-table-tennis/athletes/Lily-Zhang>



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## TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (FORTH WORTH, TX)

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- 12-time Men's/Coed Team Champion
- 2016 Men's/Coed and Women's Team Champion
- 2nd place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2017 South Region Champion –Women's Team
- Coached by Jasna Rather – Olympic bronze medalist (Yugoslavia)
- Offers table tennis scholarships
  
- **Zhe Feng** (graduate student)
  - 2015 NCTTA Men's Single Champion
  - Former member of Chinese national team



- Silver medalist at 1999 World Table Tennis Championships in Mixed Doubles
  
- <http://ramsports.net/index.aspx?tab=tabletennis&path=tt>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=020zIoGTKsU>

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## LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY (ST. CHARLES, MO)

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- 4<sup>th</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2016, 2017 Midwest Region Champion, Men's/Coed Team
- Offers financial assistance for Table Tennis in the form of grants

- **Alex Legaria** (junior)



- Member of Mexican National Team
- Junior National champion 2013; 4 gold medals in Central American Championships

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## OHLONE COLLEGE (FREMONT, CA)

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- 2016 West Region Champion; 1<sup>st</sup> time in NCTTA
- 2017 West Region Champion-Women's Team
- **Ying Wang** (Graduate student)- 2016 Champion in Women's Singles
- **Weida Guan** (junior) – 2016 Sacramento Winter Open – Open Singles Champion

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SPONSORS

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