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# 2025 MEDIA GUIDE

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# NCTTA TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS ROCKFORD 2025

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## THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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- Web site: [2025 NCTTA Championships](#)
- April 4-6, UW Health Sports Factory, Rockford, Illinois
- Athletes - The 250+ top college table tennis players in the US and Canada, representing 50 and more 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 United States that represented Brazil, Canada, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, Taiwan and Argentina just to name a few
- Defending champions:
  - Men's/Coed Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Women's Team: **Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Men's Singles: **Nikhil Kumar, University of California - Berkeley**
  - Women's Singles: **Zhen Deng, Texas Wesleyan University**
  - Men's Doubles: **Sharon & Gal Alguetti, Indiana University**
  - Women's Doubles: **Zhen Deng & Jiaqi Lin, Texas Wesleyan University**



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## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

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### Friday, April 4

- 9:00 am Men's Doubles Main Draw
- 9:30 am Women's Singles Preliminary Round
- 11:00 am Women's Doubles & Men's Singles Preliminary Round
- 2:00 pm Opening Ceremonies
- 2:30 pm Women's & Coed Team Event
- 7:30 pm Doubles Semifinals and Finals

### Saturday, April 5

- 9:00 am Men's/Coed and Women's Teams main draw
- 1:00 pm Men's/Coed and Women's Teams, Finals
- 6:00 pm End of competition day

### Sunday, April 6

- 9:00 am Men's and Women's Singles, knockout rounds
- 1:00 pm Men's and Women's Singles, semifinals and finals
- 5:00 pm End of competition day

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## THE SPORT OF TABLE TENNIS

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- Started as an upper-class parlor game in 19th-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 100 mph and spinning at nearly 10,000 rpm
- Matches at these Championships are best 3 out of 5 games, except for singles semifinals and finals, which are best 4 out of 7 games. consists of the best 4 out of 7 games. 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 2024-2025 NCTTA League
- Over 175 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
- The 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
- <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeTT/>
- [www.instagram.com/nctta](http://www.instagram.com/nctta)

## PARTICIPATING TEAMS

A total of 24 Men's/Coed teams & 16 Women's teams qualified through regional events

### MEN'S/COED TEAMS:

- **Texas Wesleyan University** (Fort Worth, TX) – 14 time men's/coed team champion; 2025 South Regional Champions. They are featuring 2 players (Senura Silva and Jonatan McDonald) in Major League Table Tennis. They are currently the only scholarship school in the team competition.



- **University of California, Berkeley** (Berkeley, CA) – 2017, 2018, 2023 West Region Men's/Coed Champions, led by Major League Table Tennis Player and US International, Sid Naresh and US National team player Nikhil Kumar. Kumar represented the USA in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

- **New York University** (New York, NY) – 2023 Defending Coed Team Champions, 2019, 2025 NYC Division Team winners, 2019, 2024, 2025 Northeast Regional Champions and 2018, 2022, 2023 National Champion Team winners, features Coach Yan Jun Gao a former NCTTA 2010 Men's Singles Champion and current Men's Team US Collegiate team coach and Canadian



Team star, Jeremy Hazin who was in the 2020 Olympics.

- **University of California Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA) – 2023. 2025 West Region Champions; 2024 West Region Runner-ups featuring a star-studded team led by US Junior and National Team players, Angie Tan, Joanna Sung and Kai Zarehbin
- **University of Pennsylvania** (Philadelphia, PA) - 2025 Mid Atlantic Regional Champions. Upenn is led by New Zealand international, Nathan Xu and former USA junior phenom, Sushant Lebaka
- **Georgia Institute of Technology** (Atlanta, GA) - 2024, 2025 Georgia division champions and wildcard in 2024 event; Led by USA Juniors, Daniel Ng, Sabrina Zhu and University of Michigan transfer, Yilin Deng
- **Yale University** (New Haven, CT) - Wildcarded into this event, led by Canadian standout Kevin Guo, #15 in Men's Singles and former USA Table Tennis junior star, Tia Hsieh.
- **Cornell University** (Ithaca, NY) - 1st place in the 2023 Upstate NY West Division and wildcard in this year's event, led by former US-based youth star Nathan Wu and Canadian Women's Singles Champ, Gina Fu



- **University of Toronto** (Toronto, ON Canada) - 2025 Great Lakes Regional Team champions, 2025 Greater Toronto Division Champions. Led by Canadian National Team and World University Team member Max Ji and former Sichuan Province team member Jayden Jiang
- **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** (Champaign, IL) - 2024, 2025 Lower Midwest Division Champions; Led by new Masters student recruit, Jiixin Ren #6 in Women's singles, #39 in Men's singles, Akash Pardeshi
- **Boston University** (Boston, MA) - Runner up in the 2025 Northeast Regional Championships Team competition and 2025 Lower New England Division winners. They are led by Major League Table Tennis star, AYTTO coach and US Table Tennis youth team member, Emily Tan





**Harvard University** (Cambridge, MA) - 2025 UNE 1 Division Team winners, led by former Hong Kong Women's Table Tennis Champion, Kelly Yenn. Yenn is also #2 seed in Women's singles.. Harvard University features a female dominated coed team.

○ **University of British Columbia** (Vancouver, BC Canada) - One of five Canadian schools in these championships. 2025 Pacific Northwest Division champions, led by Canadian World University team member, Edison Huang

- **University of Texas at Dallas** (Dallas, TX) – 3rd place in 2022 NCTTA South Regional Championships; Runner-up in 2024 NCTTA South Regionals led by US Based star and #26 in Men's singles, Oliver Wang
- **University of Washington** (Seattle, WA) - 2nd place in the 2025 PNW Division, led by Chien CHia Hung #26 in Men's Singles
- **Carnegie Mellon University** (Pittsburgh, PA) - 2025 Pennsylvania Division Champions led by the Zhou brothers Keenan and Mitchell.
- **Washington University in St. Louis** (St Louis, MO) – 3rd place in 2024 Midwest Regional and 2025 Midwest Regional Champions; Led by former USA Cadet Boys team member, Shawn Fong
- **University of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN) – 2025 Minnesota Division Champions and qualified as a wildcard for this event. Francis Zhang, #30 in Mens Singles leads their team.
- **Brown University** (Providence, RI) - Wildcard school in this event led by Wei Zhang #50 in Men's singles event
- **University of Virginia** (Charlottesville, VA) - 2023, 2024 Virginia Division Champions; 2024 Mid Atlantic Regional Champions, Shahir Qadiri #49 seed in Men's Singles
- **Stanford University** (Stanford, CA) - Wildcard school in this event. Led by #24 seed, Revant Kasichainula
- **McMaster University** (Hamilton, ON, Canada) - Wildcard school in this event. Led by former Canadian Junior player, Glacier Sung from Ontario

- **Purdue University** (West Lafayette, IN) - Winner of 2024, 2025 Upper Midwest Division Led by former US Table Tennis junior team member, Jensen Feng
- **University of Southern California** (Los Angeles, CA) - Wildcard in this event, led by Wenhao Wu #38 in Men's singles. USC is nicknamed the Ping Pong Posse

## WOMEN'S TEAMS:

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- **University of California, Los Angeles** (Los Angeles, CA) - 2023, 2024, 2025 Women's West Regional Champions. 2023 Women's Team National Champions. Led by US National team members Angie Tan & Joanna Sung



- **New York University** (New York City, NY) - 2024, 2025 Women's Northeast Region Champion, Led by former US Junior team player, Tiffany Lam
- **Harvard University** (Cambridge, MA) - 2nd place in 2025 Northeast Regional Women's Team event, led by former Hong Kong Women's Table Tennis Champion, Kelly Yenn. Yenn is also #2 seed in Women's singles.
- **Cornell University** (Ithaca, NY) - 2025 Great Lakes Women's Regional Team Champion. Led by Canada's own Gina Fu
- **University of Maryland** (College Park, MD) - 2022, 2023, 2024 DC Division Champions; 2024 Mid Atlantic Regional Champions, led by Stephanie Zhang, winner of the 2021/2022 NCTTA Scholarship

- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** (Champaign, IL) - 2024 Women's Midwest Region Runner-up, 2025 Women's Midwest Region Champions led by Jiaxin Ren #6 in Women's Singles event
- **Boston University** (Boston, MA) - 2025 Women's Team Lower New England Division Champions; led by Emily Tan #1 seed in Women's Singles



- **University of California, San Diego** (San Diego, CA) - 2025 Socal East Women's Team division winners; 2nd place in 2025 West Regional Championships

- **Ohio State University** (Columbus, OH) - Led by Huixin Wang #11 seed in Women's singles event
- **Rice University** (Houston, TX) - 2025 Texas Division Champs, 2025 South Region Women's Team Champions; Led by former Columbia University player and Brazilian international, Daniela Yano



- **University of California at Davis** (Davis, CA) - Wildcard team in this event; Led by #1 player Evelyn Ng
- **Duke University** (Raleigh, NC) - 2025 Carolina Division Women's Team Champion, Led by Yee Lam Xiong
- **McGill University** (Montreal, Quebec, CANADA) - 2025 Great Lakes Regional Women's Team runner-up
- **Purdue University** (West Lafayette, IN) - 2025 Upper Midwest Division Women's Team Champions
- **University of Central Florida** (Orlando, FL) - First time for University of Central Florida in this competition. 2nd place in 2025 South Regional Women's Team competition
- **University of Michigan** (Ann Arbor, MI) - 2025 Ohio East Division Women's Team Champions

## TEAMS AND PLAYERS OF NOTE

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### TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY (FORT WORTH, TX)

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- 14-time Men's/Coed Team Champion; 2024 Men's/Coed Team Champion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Men's/Coed Teams at the 2015, 2018, 2022, 2023 College Table Tennis Championships
- 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 South Region Coed Champion
- Coached by Jasna Rather – Olympic bronze medalist (Yugoslavia) and Doru Gheorghe (former Romanian International)
- Offers table tennis scholarships



#### **Senura Silva** (Undergraduate)

- 2024, 2025 Men's South Regional Singles Champion; plays in Major League Table Tennis

#### **Jonatan McDonald** (Undergraduate)

- 2024 Men's South Regional Singles Champion; runner-up 2025 Men's South Regional Singles; plays in Major League Table Tennis

*(Photo courtesy of Grant Bergmann)*

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY (BERKELEY, CA)



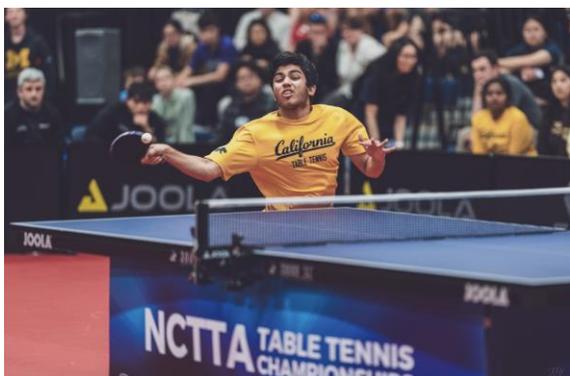
- 2017, 2018, 2023 West Region Men's/Coed Champions,
- Led by Nikhil Kumar who represented the USA in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics
- Ved Sheth, freshman, #2 in Men's Singles, top 8 finisher at the 2024 US Olympic Team Trials
- Sid Naresh, freshman, USA National Team player

### **Nikhil Kumar** (Undergraduate)

- #1 in Men's Singles
- US National Team player

### **Ved Sheth** (Undergraduate)

- #2 in Men's Singles



## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES (UCLA) (LOS ANGELES, CA)

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- 2024, 2025 Southern California Division West Men's/Coed Champions and West Regional Team Champions
- Women's team led by former US Junior team players Joanna Sung, Faith Tung, Crystal Liu, Kary Fang and Angie Tan



(Photo by Trinity Sung)

## SPONSORS

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