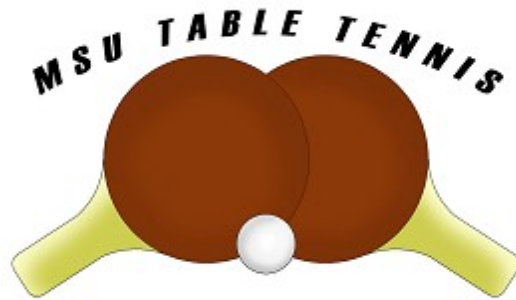


MSU TABLE TENNIS OPEN

Tournament Results



Sanderson Center

February 5 and 12, 2009

Hosted by the MSU Table Tennis Club

Summary

The first MSU Table Tennis Open was held on February 5 and February 12, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm each day. 32 slots were available, and all were filled by the time the tournament began, although not all entrants showed up on the first day, causing some to automatically forfeit.

The tournament began at a hectic pace, slightly later than the 7:00 pm scheduled time on February 5. Matches were played as “best of 3” games, and the large skill difference between many players resulted in quick games and fast progress along the tournament bracket. There were, however, many new players who had never been to a MSU Table Tennis Club-hosted event before, and consequently could not identify their opponents. But eventually everyone (except those who did not arrive) found their opponents and played their games. By the end of the first day, the tournament had progressed to round 4, with some round 5 games scheduled to be played next. Since the goal of the first day was simply to make it past the second round, this was an excellent result.

On February 12, the second and final day of the tournament, all matches were played as “best of 5” since so much progress had been made on the first day. The final of the winner's bracket was played as a “best of 7” match. The pace of the second day was much more relaxed; competitors were more equal, and games took longer on average. Nilantha Bandara, a tournament competitor and Vice President of the MSUTTC, brought a camera and several participants were able to film some of the matches.

In the semifinals of the winner's bracket, Nilantha played Yicheng Du, one of the top players on the MSUTTC A Team in previous years. After several close games, Nilantha emerged the winner. The other semifinal match of the winner's bracket passed more quickly and with less contest as Zhongyuan Huang defeating Kamal Upadhyaya in three straight games.

Kamal and Yicheng met in the loser's bracket and Yicheng emerged the victor. After defeating a previously unknown player, Jeong Pil Song, Yicheng moved onto the final match of the loser's bracket. Song also earned the distinction of being the highest ranked player in the tournament who did not enter it as a member of the MSUTTC (although he joined before the tournament ended).

Nilantha found himself in the loser's bracket after being defeated by Huang in the finals of the winner's bracket. Huang played excellent defense in the first game, returning several smashes by Nilantha that no one, including Nilantha, expected to see back on his side. Although Nilantha stepped up the intensity of his offense and managed to blow past Huang's defense in the later games, Huang's consistency eventually won out and earned him the \$100 grand prize.

On the right side of the loser's bracket, Jian Zhang defeated Jim Watkins in the quarterfinals, but lost to Nilantha Bandara in the semifinals of the loser's bracket.

The final game of the loser's bracket was a rematch between Yicheng Du and Nilantha Bandara. The initial games were very close and it seemed like a repeat of their previous match might occur. But after a grueling and intense match with Huang, and his subsequent match with Jian Zhang, Nilantha's endurance was wearing thin. With each passing game, Yicheng's victory looked more and more certain. Although Nilantha mounted one final offensive push, attempting several hard slams in a row, his energy was gone and with it went his consistency. Yicheng emerged the winner of the loser's bracket, winning the \$50 second place prize, and Nilantha left with a hard-earned \$25 dollar prize.

Katrina Zhong and Jingjing Cui, the two top female competitors, were both eliminated in round 5. To determine the winner, a tiebreaker match was held between them, which Katrina won. However, since Katrina is not a student at MSU, she could not claim the \$25 prize awarded to the top female competitor, so Jingjing earned the prize money, while Katrina earned the distinction of being the #1 female player in the first MSU Table Tennis Open.

Results and Prizes

1st Place

Zhongyuan Huang - \$100.00



2nd Place

Yicheng Du - \$50.00



3rd Place

Nilantha Bandara – \$25.00



Top Female Players

#1

Katrina Zhong – \$0.00*



#2

Jingjing Cui – \$25.00



**ineligible to receive monetary prizes since she is not a student.*

Congratulations to all who participated, especially the winners. I would like to thank all who came out and made this such a successful event. The MSU Table Tennis Club looks forward to holding more events like this in the future.

John Barnes
MSUTTC President

For detailed results of the tournament bracket, see the attached “Tournament Bracket – Results.pdf”