

Chinese masters on their home grounds.

13th World University Table Tennis Championships, Shanghai (CHN), 25 to 29 October.

These 13th World University Table Tennis Championships were special in two ways—they were the first event to be held by our movement in the People's Republic of China and second because this event will be included in the next Universiade to take place in the Chinese capital in 2001.

Shanghai, a city of 13 million inhabitants, is often referred to as the economic centre of the East China Sea. This was the venue of the World University Championships from 25 to 29 October. To correspond with the spirit of our movement, the Chinese Association of University Sports and the local organising committee judiciously chose the University of Sciences and Technology of Eastern China and more particularly its gymnasium as the centre for this event.

Before going into the results of this tournament, it should be mentioned that for the first time

in our championships, in keeping with the rules of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), 40 mm balls were used instead of the 38 mm balls, by the sixteen participating countries.

Asia traditionally takes the lion's share in these events. This edition was no exception to the rule, since, of the twenty-eight medals offered by the games, twenty-four stayed on the Asian continent. Among the Asian countries present (CHN, JPN, KOR, MAC, NEP, TPE), the People's Republic of China and China Taipei dominated the entire games, carrying off twenty medals for those two countries alone! Japan with three medals and Korea, which took the bronze in the woman's team event, rounded off the Asian victory. Germany and France each won two medals for the championship total.

The Chinese team, led by two of the world's best players, Wang Lijun and Sun Jin managed of taking as many gold medals as in the previous edition. In 1998, in the Bulgarian capital, China pocketed five gold medals out of seven in the competition. We can also note that as compared to the 12th championships in Sofia, Japan lost its position to China Taipei, and Poland, the best European medal-winner, ahead of Germany and Russia, totally disappeared from the prize list. Despite the disappointing results of its team in Shanghai, the Polish association will be organising the next World University Championship in this specialty in 2002. The event will take place in the town of Wroclaw, capital of lower Silesia.

The two events that got away from the Chinese were the men's doubles and the men's team events. In fact, China

Taipei put teams on both sides for men's doubles finals. Chiang and Chang won the match in two sets against Chuang and Kuo. But that was the only event that was not disputed by a member of the Chinese team! The men's team event opposed the best two countries present, and despite a better overall performance, China took a severe defeat at the hands of China Taipei, losing four sets to one. The same two countries faced each other for the men's singles, that concluded with the victory of Guozheng Liu over ChinYuan Chuang with clear-cut scores of 21-16/21-12/21-15.

The supremacy of the Chinese team was particularly clear in the three finals with the ladies (women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles) where team members played on both sides. In fact, the women's singles was a grand slam Chinese victory—everyone on the podium was a member of the team! This was also the closest challenge as Honxia Cheng, who took the first two sets, had to play up to a fifth set to best Jin Sun and the take world title. In conclusion, the results of the women's team from the People's Republic of China were better than their male counterparts.

Of the other two medal-winning Asian teams, Japan showed the most disappointing performance, winning only three bronze medals, as compared to six in Sofia: one gold, two silver, and three bronze. The Koreans, for their part, kept only their silver medal for the ladies' team.

After the bronze medal won in 1998 by Jeorg Bitsigelo in men's singles, Germany confirmed its presence in the Table Tennis elite of the university world by winning two bronze medals in this edition. France showed the

best team results for Europe. Like the Japanese, it took bronze medals in the inter-team events.

This championship was a great success, both from the standpoint of organisation and of participation, which bodes well for the tournament to be held during the 21st Universiade games in Beijing. This is the first time an organising committee has chosen to include table tennis as an optional sport. There can be no doubt that the Chinese team will do everything to honour its audience and will be a real challenge to beat.



ÉQUIPES HOMMES MEN'S TEAMS

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1 | TPE |
| 2 | CHN |
| 3 | JPN |
| 3 | FRA |

EQUIPES FEMMES WOMEN'S TEAMS

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1 | SUI |
| 2 | CZE |
| 3 | FRA |
| 4 | GER |

MEN'S SINGLES SIMPLE MESSIEURS

| Quarter Finals - Quarts de Finale | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| LIU Guozheng (CHN) | b KUNIHITO Tasei (JPN) | 24/21 21/13 21/18 21/12 |
| CHUANG Chin-Yuan (TPE) | b CABESTANY Cedric (FRA) | 21/18 24/22 22/20 |
| XI Minjie (CHN) | b PHUNG Armand (FRA) | 14/21 21/8 21/13 21/6 |
| WANG Lijun (CHN) | b SHINNOSUKE Kiho (JPN) | 21/9 21/4 2 |
| Semi Finals - Demi Finales | | |
| LIU Guozheng (CHN) | b XI Minjie (CHN) | 22/20 16/21 21/16 21/14 |
| CHUANG Chin-Yuan (TPE) | b WANG Lijun (CHN) | 21/19 21/19 21/18 |
| Final - Finale | | |
| LIU Guozheng (CHN) | b CHUANG Chin-Yuan (TPE) | 21/16 21/12 21/15 |

MEN'S DOUBLES DOUBLE MESSIEURS

| Quarter Finals - Quarts de Finale | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| CHIANG/CHANG (TPE) | b ZHANG/CHEN (CHN/TPE) | 21/18 21/15 |
| CHUANG/KUO (TPE) | b GIONIS/PAPAGEORGIOU (GRE) | 21/19 24/22 |
| LIU/ZHANG (CHN) | b CABESTANY/QUENTEL (FRA) | 21/14 21/8 |
| WANG/XI (CHN) | b BITZIGEIO/RICHTER (GER) | 18/21 21/10 21/18 |
| Semi Finals - Demi Finales | | |
| CHIANG/CHANG (TPE) | b LIU/ZHANG (CHN) | 21/16 17/21 22/20 |
| CHUANG/KUO (TPE) | b WANG/XI (CHN) | 21/16 13/21 21/16 |
| Final - Finale | | |
| CHIANG/CHANG (TPE) | b CHUANG/KUO (TPE) | 21/17 21/12 |

WOMEN'S SINGLES SIMPLE DAMES

| Quarter Finals - Quarts de Finale | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| CHENG Hongxia (CHN) | b LEE Mi-Sook (KOR) | 21/14 21/12 20/22 21/11 |
| SUN Jin (CHN) | b OH Yong-Kyeong (KOR) | 18/21 21/18 21/9 21/9 |
| TIE Yana (CHN) | b NAOIMI Yotsumoto (JPN) | 21/16 21/14 22/20 |
| YU Jingwei (CHN) | b LEE Soo-Yeon (KOR) | 21/12 10/21 21/10 21/13 |
| Semi Finals - Demi Finales | | |
| CHENG Hongxia (CHN) | b TIE Yana (CHN) | 21/16 21/15 21/2 |
| SUN Jin (CHN) | b YU Jingwei (CHN) | 21/10 15/21 18/21 21/14 21/12 |
| Final - Finale | | |
| CHENG Hongxia (CHN) | b SUN Jin (CHN) | 21/18 21/17 6/21 9/21 21/18 |

WOMEN'S DOUBLES DOUBLE DAMES

| Quarter Finals - Quarts de Finale | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| SUN/TIE (CHN) | b IZUKA/MURASHIGUE (BRA) | 21/13 21/11 |
| YU/CHENG (CHN) | b NARKIEWICZ/FRACZAK (POL) | 21/14 21/15 |
| DELLE/RISS (GER) | b PALUT/MOREL (FRA) | 21/17 17/21 21/18 |
| TSIU/CHEN(TPE) | b LEE/KIM (KOR) | 21/17 19/21 21/17 |
| Semi Finals - Demi Finales | | |
| SUN/TIE (CHN) | b TSIU/CHEN(TPE) | 21/19 21/4 |
| YU/CHENG (CHN) | b DELLE/RISS (GER) | 21/13 21/16 |
| Final - Finale | | |
| SUN/TIE (CHN) | b YU/CHENG (CHN) | 21/6 21/15 |

MIXED DOUBLES DOUBLE MIXTE

| Quarter Finals - Quarts de Finale | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| WANG/SUN (CHN) | b KUNIHITO/YUKA (JPN) | 21/12 21/16 |
| ZHANG/TIE (CHN) | b CHIANG/CHEN (TPE) | 21/16 21/9 |
| RICHTER/RISS (GER) | b UM/LEE (KOR) | 21/6 15/21 21/19 |
| LIU/YU (CHN) | b PHUNG/PALUT (FRA) | 22/20 21/13 |
| Semi Finals - Demi Finales | | |
| WANG/SUN (CHN) | b RICHTER/RISS (GER) | 21/5 21/9 |
| ZHANG/TIE (CHN) | b SHINNOSUKE/MOTOKO (JPN) | 21/19 21/14 |
| Final - Finale | | |
| WANG/SUN (CHN) | b ZHANG/TIE (CHN) | 21/15 22/20 |