

Newsletter May 2006

Table tennis players, andro customers, fans of the fastest sports on earth!

The warm season has arrived – this means that a break from the table tennis season is just ahead of us. A time-out deserved also for all the players and participants of the past, exciting team WTTC in Bremen. andro has presented all new products for the first time during the WTTC as well as the new catalogue 06/07. Impressions from Bremen and more information about the new product range are yet to come in this edition of the newsletter. Enjoy reading it,
Your andro team

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Team World Championship in Bremen from the andro angle

andro-Star Suess „the positive discovery of Bremen“

Light and shadow is what the Team World Championship in Bremen meant for the players of the andro ProTeam. Outstanding was the performance of youngster Christian Suess: the vice world champion in men's double established his position as Germany's no. 2 behind Timo Boll on the way to the targeted bronze medal and thus proved his potential for future success stories.

Less lucky did the event go for andro-idol Jean-Michel Saive who became injured at the start of the tournament and therefore could not lead the Belgian team as planned. The results of German women's national team players Elke Wosik and Wu „Dudu“ Jiaduo were not more than on an average level. The results of the Polish national teams of whom andro is supplier since beginning of this year ended being according to expectations.

The highlight from the andro angle was doubtless Christian Suess. After the 20-year-old had solved his challenging pre-round games with an impressive sovereignty he became the match-winner in the quarter-final against



Russia: by breaking former Europe-Top-12 winner Alexei Smirnov ranked 27 positions higher than the German, Christian paved the way for Germany's step to the semi-final. In the round of the last four against title defender China Suess strongly resisted against world ranked no. 1 Wang Liqin so that the single world champion repetitively was close to losing a set. Many spectators thus were expecting good chances for the red-haired in the potentially decisive 5th match against Ma Lin. Yet the 1:3 – defeat of the German team happened before. Head coach Dirk Schimmel-pfennig pointed out the performance of Suess: "Christian was our positive discovery", he described. The young man from Duesseldorf also found himself being on the right way: "I had intensively prepared myself for the WTTC and therefore I felt confident. That the work now paid back makes me very satisfied. I am glad that I could confirm the coaches' trust in me. Apart from bronze for the team I am also very happy about my personal success especially against such a strong player like Smirnov."

Also Elke Wosik and Wu Jiaduo could achieve “big points” but in the end disappointment was prevailing with the two German women. Wosik, ranked 31st of the world, usually is a player bringing safe points. In the group matches she could still get a surprising victory against Moon Hyun-Jung (no. 21) from South Korea. But in the crucial matches against Austria (0:3 in the pre-round and 1:3 in the last-sixteen playoff) she could not find a strategy for beating Veronika Heine who is ranked 154 places lower. For the former European Champion in women’s double the match for the jump into the quarter finals went specifically tragic when she lost after being up 2:1 sets, leading 9-3 and even having one match point. “I did not feel quite comfortable during all the matches”, she summarised and complained about the lack of concentration in tense moments: “We never outgrew ourselves”. Wu could gain points against the higher ranked players Li Jiao (Netherlands) and Wenling Tan-Monfardini (Italy) but on the other hand she lost too many matches against nominally same or lower level players. “I have learned much in the tactical field during my first WTTC”, Dudu stated. Team coach Joerg Bitzigeio criticised mainly the lack of stability: “That surprised me. Dudu I needs to work on it.”

The frustration of „Jean-Mi“ was of a different kind because the tournament was already over before it could really start for world no. 10, after receiving a muscle injury in his first match against French Damien Eloi (2:3). In the top match against Patrick Chila the Belgian idol could already not play any more: “Never before in my career did I have to give up during a team event, but the danger of the muscle potentially tearing was just too high.” After some intensive care he was able to come back for the important pre-round match against Croatia (3:0) to reach the round of the last sixteen but there in the revenge match against France (1:3) Saive could not help to get to the quarter final. Though the former world ranked no. 1 could return to the match after 0:2 sets and tie to 2:2, the French yet won the last set. A Saive not suffering from an injury would have clearly been able to lead Belgium to much more than the 12th place.



There certainly were higher expectations of the performance of the Polish teams in Bremen. While the men ended 21st and thus could not confirm their seeding, the women lead by andro player Xu Jie ended on place 16 and did much better than seeded.

The new andro-teams played mostly solid table tennis but they just did not succeed to really surprise in any match. Even though top player Lucjan Błaszczyk beat former world champion Werner Schlager in the initial match against Austria. But the player from Bundesliga team TTC Zugbruecke Grenzau could not keep the standard in the following matches and finished the tournament with a 2:5 match balance. Team coach Stefan Dryszel could note a positive all-over result only for Wang Zeng Yi with 5:4 victories. On the female side Xu Jie played positive with 7:6 though the no. 76 of ITTF ranking remained without luck against higher seeded opponents.

KiO and andro at the WTTC: Successful charity for children in need

Small go big: Apart from the celluloid balls this slogan applied during the WTTC in Bremen also for the charity activity of the “Kinderhilfe Organtransplantation (KiO)” – a children help fund for organ transplantation - together with andro. The co-operative initiative for children who can survive only by receiving a new heart, kidney or liver turned out to be a big success. Over 1.000 fans paid a fee and tried out the specially designed KiO-wheel of fortune: the participants could take prizes from the andro collection like rackets, bat covers, T-shirts, towels or printed balls home. Also the VIPs came to the andro booth and queued up for the activity. Most popular were former world champion in double and today’s DTTB vice president Steffen Fetzner, ETTU general secretary Jeanny Dom and of course KiO chairman and DTTB honours president Hans Wilhelm Gaeb – they all challenged their luck. The big winner however was KiO: the charity activity could raise a total revenue of more than 1.400 Euro – which andro rounded up to 1.500 Euro. Further the event awoke a general interest in the topic of organ transplantation within the spectators; they could get information from a folder supported by Christian Suess. The distribution of many organ donation passes made the co-operation of KiO and andro even more successful. Gaeb who is supported in his commitment for KiO by many German sports idols like Franz Beckenbauer, Boris Becker and ski queen Rosi Mittermaier was very happy about the dedication of the popular table tennis brand as well as the WTTC visitors. “It is great that andro helps us on the charity field.”



And it is even more remarkable that there is such a high feedback of the sports fans to this humanitarian action", said the president of the foundation 'Deutsche Sporthilfe'.

For KiO basically every support also from individual persons is very welcome. The organisation that arose from the very successful „Verein Sportler für Organspende VSO“ (sportsmen for organ transplantation) is dedicated to help children who cannot yet help themselves in their young life. Often the juniors and their parents are waiting for an organ and need additional help by professional consulting or material support because the governmental funds cannot cover all the many, many cases. KiO helps also by providing confidence and courage and to overcome their fate together.

andro continues its support. It is planned that the KiO wheel of fortune will have the next appearance at the andro Kinderolympiade end of August in Duesseldorf.

You can help, too. Organ donation saves lives.

Speed-Gluing, part 4: The ban starts after the Olympic Games 2008

Perplexity instead of clarity: The postponement of the so-called speed-gluing ban by one year to September 1st 2008 by the ITTF-Executive committee at the WTTTC in Bremen has noticeably surprised the table tennis scene. The majority decision represents indeed a remarkable change to the previous politics of ITTF president after the Canadian had – driven by the health risks - massively pushed the earliest possible ban of organic solvents in glues.

The reactions to this step back were diverse. The players were relieved about this decision had they initially expected to get detailed information about the handling of the glue prohibition in Bremen. Whereas the manufacturers were incomprehensible as they invested a lot of time, manpower and financial resources into the preparation of the after-glue-area. Still there remains the strong opinion of the experts. "Speed-gluing is harmful and contradicts the Olympic charter. We are endangered to be banned from the Olympic sports and we risk to make people ill", comments Dr. Georg Nicklas head of rubber manufacturer ESN the decision.

The reasons given by the ITTF for the postponement (lack of alternatives, according tests and the time period for the players to switch) are not accepted by Nicklas with regards to products like the andro PLASMA, a rubber already introduced in Bremen and a time frame of still 15 months between the single WC 2007 in Zagreb and the start of the Olympic games in Beijing. He considers that the ITTF might not have been in control of the procedure any more: "There obviously was a massive lack of information."

Potentially it was just the stronger lobby of the manufacturers who were not yet ready with the development of the "glue for the future". Also possible is that the players mentioned to Sharara a sensitive topic when stating their doubt that the ITTF president in Beijing wants to present table tennis on its highest level in order to upgrade the sports to the Top3 of international TV quota during the summer games. The fulfilment of this wish however could due to the health debate even during Olympia become an issue for table tennis then.

Sharara keeps the backdoor open. "It may be that till the next ITTF congress 2007 in Zagreb all manufacturers will have developed adequate glues which the players can handle easily. If that is the case we can still introduce the ban from September 1st 2007 like planned originally."

Nicklas faces the problem more realistic: "Those who did their homework would have been ready in 2007, the others still won't be ready in 2008." In his opinion it is now necessary to make the best use of the additionally given time. Nicklas: "The prohibition can now be realised more precise in all areas. Suitable controlling devices could have already been in the market end of 2006, but now the controls can be perfectly organised. The best would be an all-over control-duty. The national federations must do a very good job in informing and handing out regulations. Hence the anachronism of speed-gluing will be overcome very quickly. In 2008 one will not be in disadvantage if playing without gluing."

Interview Nadine Bollmeier: I am still very motivated

Nadine, after your move to the Dutch Champions-League-club TTV Fürst Heerlen you have been a little less in the centre of public. Your visit at the WTTTC in Bremen was only your second table tennis visit at home after the German Championship in Minden. What impression did you get in Bremen?

I saw some very impressive matches. It was a good event.

At season's start you still speculated on a potential WTTTC participation. How difficult is it to be just a spectator?

Last autumn my chances sank to a minimum by the naturalisation of Wu „Dudu“ Jiaduo. The team was fixed already quite early. I played quite well on an international level just like the past years. But the extraordinary result was just missing.

Since beginning of this year there is a new federal coach. New coach, new luck?

I am not sure. First I do no longer belong to the squad. It seems not to fit into the coaches concept that someone playing table tennis on a high level is studying in parallel.

Shouldn't primarily the performance count?

Of course. That's the reason why it would be easier to accept for me if there was a constant route.

Do you yet see prospects on the international level?

The squad content is not yet final. I was told that I will get another chance if I play accordingly. I do not yet see the end of my table tennis career. I will finish university in one year but I do not want to start the professional life immediately. Therefore I will try to finance the participation in international events by myself.

The fight for a return into the national squad is linked with a good club. Is it already fixed where you will play the next season?

I stay in Heerlen – that has been quite clear for me at an early stage and it is fixed since a couple of weeks.

Last year you changed from Uerdingen (who withdrew) to the Netherlands with some time pressure. What was the key for another season abroad?

The sportive level is good and I have a real challenge by the Champions League.

A return to the German Bundesliga was not in discussion?

It is always a topic. But there were no comparable offers. Besides the financial factor, also the sportive perspective and the atmosphere would need to be very convincing when returning to the Bundesliga. I don't want to play in a team whose goal is only to keep the league and avoid relegation from the first day. It would need to be a real Bundesliga level club.

Heerlen does not offer great conditions for practice. How will you structure your practice for the new season?

I will be part of the training group in the German table tennis centre in Duesseldorf which is opening this summer. That is agreed with Women's national team coach Joerg Bitzigeio, who will be based in Duesseldorf.

That means you will be more in the centre of visibility of the national coaches...

True but first I will wait and see how my development will proceed in Duesseldorf. I hope that I will get some return for my initiative and that I will not just be a practice partner. I am still very motivated and I will like two years ago do an 8-day intensive preparation course at the French top club Montpellier right before the season starts. Maybe the coaches only want to provoke a counter-action in me by their decision.

Back to the WTTC: The gap between the female Asian players (especially the Chinese) and the Europeans seems to have even become bigger. What do you think are the reasons for it?

There are various reasons. But in a lot of fields the Chinese are just many years ahead of us.

Can you describe this precisely?



In Heerlen I had a lot of contact with Gao Jun and Ni Xia Lian. I like to call them the "older women" because they play since so many years and can tell stories a young player can take as lessons. That is very fascinating. It starts that the Chinese simply practice more consciously. A lot of things are a tactical question to them while for us it is more about technique, technique, technique. Almost all of us are training the same style. It slowly starts that the training shall become more individual but the Chinese are doing it already since at least ten years. They also put more emphasis on the psychological part resulting in better concentration. Besides they know their body better. Coaches in China take a lot of time to treat the individual player correctly. We just copy these things. And to copy means to do something after another one did it before; thus in China they can already do something new and we cannot decrease the shortfall.

So you are well prepared for your attempt to re-join the National team...

Listen to the Chinese and then play better – it is not quite that simple. The big question is whether one can realize the theory in practice and during the matches. Let's wait and see. I think however that I have already learned a lot in Heerlen.

Player Portrait

Name: Nadine Bollmeier
Birthday: 21.06.1981
Nationality: German
Height: 1,68 m
Weight: 57 kg
Nickname: –

Club membership: TTV Fürst Manderveld/ Heerlen, Netherlands

Which material are you using?
 Revolution C.O.R. max / Kinetic CF OFF

Strengths: backhand topspin / return

Success Story: I started to play table tennis at the age of six years. I was seven years when I won my first tournament and at the age of 15 I played for the first time in the "Bundesliga", Germany's first league.

Career highlight: 1998 German Youth Champion, 2003 + 2005 German Champion (women's doubles), 2004 3rd place Students World championships (women's doubles)

Life attitude: Who stands with both feet on the ground, never changes the underwear

Hobbies: cinema, Inline Skating, to cook together with friends

How did you start to play table tennis?

My sister started to play table tennis in our town and one day I went with her to practise. Until this day I am playing table tennis.



What is the fascination about table tennis?

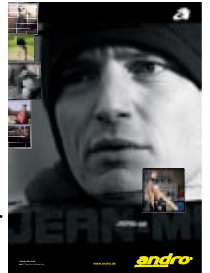
It is a fascination to control such a fast sport. On the one hand table tennis can be very easy, but on the other hand it can be so difficult.

What is your tip for successful training?

One should always be 100% concentrated while practising. If you cannot keep concentration, then it's better to stop practise than to play only with 60% of your concentration.

andro NEWS: New catalogue and Star-Posters

Just for the WTTC in Bremen it was ready. The new andro catalogue 06/07 is now available: new functional table tennis fashion, high-tech rubbers and interesting new blade models. Soon the catalogue will be available for downloading at <http://www.andro.de/de/katalog.php>. For fans of Christian Suess, Jean-Michel Saive and Elke Wosik we also have something very special: we have created a brand-new star poster with many sportive and personal pictures of the three table tennis athletes. Catalogue and star poster are available at the authorised andro TT-specialist stores.



17. andro „TT-Kinderolympiade“

From 25. to 27.08.2006 Borussia Duesseldorf will host the 17. andro Table Tennis-Kinderolympiade. It is the biggest TT-children tournament in Europe, where very year more than 1.400 players up to an age of 15 years from Germany and elsewhere in Europe are participating. No matter if club player or not – all kids interested can join in! A single and a team event (two players build a team) are played on 80 andro TT-tables. Unique about the event „Kinderolympiade“ is not just the dimension of participants but also the diverse and variable side attractions and the Bundesliga match of Borussia during the tournament.

Date:	25. - 27.08.2006
Host:	Borussia Duesseldorf
Location:	Athletics gym Duesseldorf
For:	Children up to age of 15 (year 1991 + younger)
No. of tables:	80 andro tables
Prizes:	Valued €14.000,-
Modus:	Singles and team event
Deadline:	05. August 2006
Services included:	



- 3 day tournament with side attractions
- activities with national team players (team of Borussia Duesseldorf)
- practice with pro-coaches
- participant bag, starting number is lottery coupon
- matches at miniature tables, robots, etc.
- table tennis fair (schöler+micke presents rubbers, blades, textile, etc.)
- Bundesliga match at special conditions
- accommodation in gymnasium

Information and application:

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