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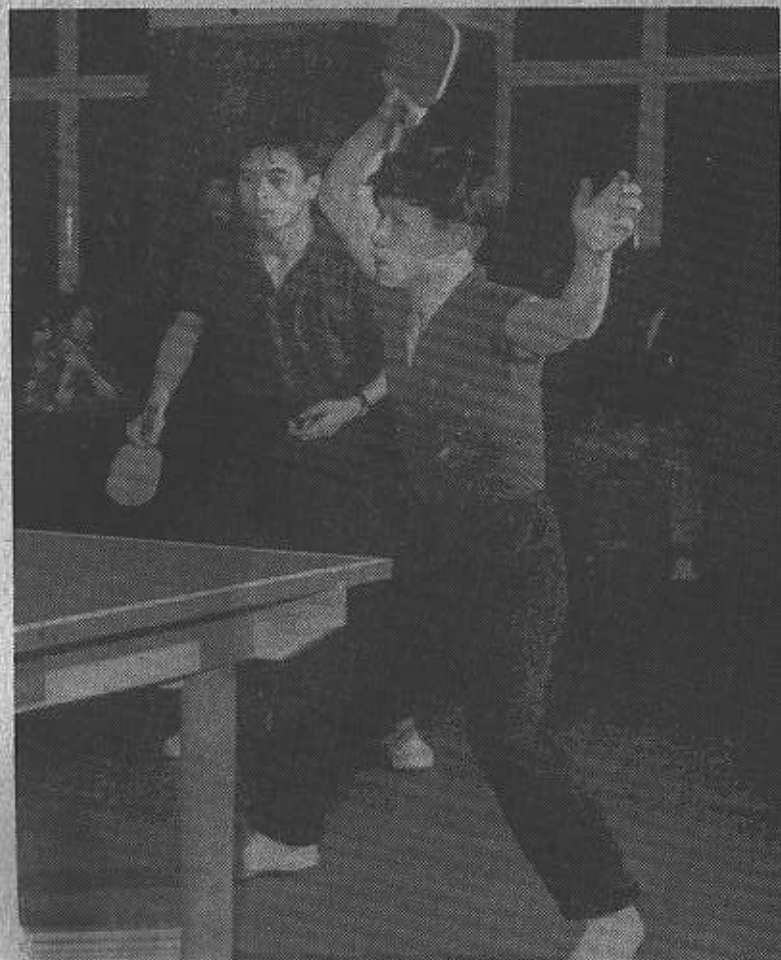
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Published by Aristo Press, 10 Victoria St., Christchurch.

Canterbury Table Tennis Association

CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, 1st August, 1957



"Star-Sun"—Photo.

JAPAN v. CANTERBURY

Souvenir Programme 1/-

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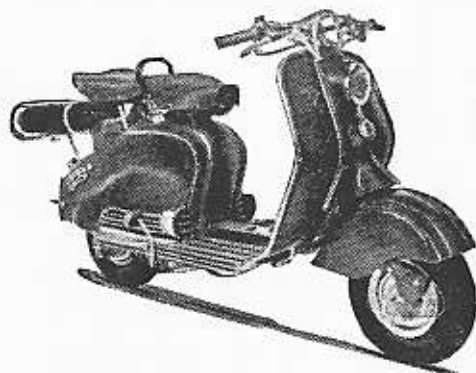
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A Message from the President

The Canterbury Table Tennis Association was founded in 1937. In that year shortly after the formation of the Association, we had our first visit by overseas players. They were Michael Szabados and Istvan Keler who played in, what is now, the Latimer Hall. These players gave early Canterbury players a very good idea of how table tennis differed from ping-pong and laid the foundations of the high standard of play that has been maintained in Canterbury through the years.

It is now twenty years since the Association was formed. During that time, we have had visits by such great players as Victor Barna and Laszlo Bellak, Richard Bergmann with Barna again, Johnny Leach and Michael Haguenaer, Szabados (who settled in Australia) again and Phil Anderson. Perhaps the most popular of our visitors until now have been the young English twins—Diane and Rosalind Rowe.

It is fitting that the twentieth anniversary should be the occasion when the Association gives the players and the public of Christchurch the opportunity of seeing the reigning world's champion, Toshiaki Tanaka and the previous champion, Ichiro Ogimura.

I hope that all will enjoy seeing these players and that the visit will help to further improve the high standard of the game in Canterbury.

F. H. G. JOHNSTONE,
President, Canterbury Table Tennis Association.

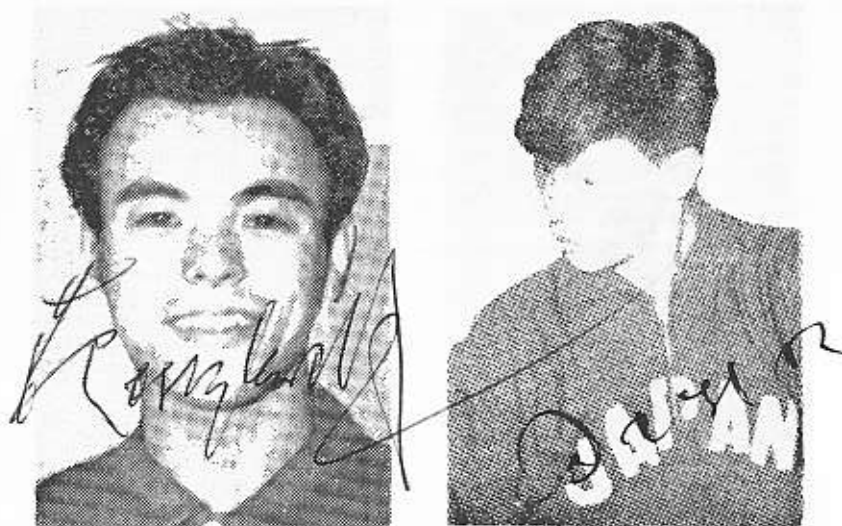
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The Japanese Players :



"Press" Photo

TOSHIAKI TANAKA

AGED 22, "Tosh," as he is known to his friends at the World Championships, is the smaller of the two players visiting Christchurch. Weighing just under 8st. 10lb. and only 5ft 3in in height, Toshiaki nevertheless has the amazing stamina to go through to win the World Championships twice in 1955 and 1957. The present world title holder's occupation is not unsimilar to many of New Zealand's top players—Clerk of the Company Yawata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. He is also a graduate of Nihon University, Tokyo.

Tanaka first figured prominently in world table tennis at Utrecht in 1955. Already the Champion of Japan, the World Singles Crown was his when he beat Dolinar in a sponge v. sponge final which began at 7.35 p.m. and was all over by 7.51 p.m. Jack Carrington maintained that it occupied less time—13 minutes. The type of bat which the opponents use against Toshiaki does not seem to worry him as a leading player has said of Tanaka that he "... has no respect for the covering on a bat and will hit rubber, sponge or sausage skin; it makes no difference to him."

Competent critics have said that Tanaka's drive is the hardest yet seen especially as a consistent weapon and not just for the odd kill. His bat in 1955 was a fancy sponge-sandwich-rubber arrangement but this was only the medium by which he would despatch balls returned by his opponents with a forehand drive (penholder circular arm and body swing) so venomous that one heard the crack of the wood through his sponge covering. Jack Carrington assures us, however, that there is no truth in the theory then current that

Tanaka was ordered to cover his bat with soft sponge so that he did not break the ball each time he made a winner.

Playing record in brief:—1955: won Japanese Singles Title; 1955: won Men's Singles 22nd Table Tennis World Championships, Utrecht; 1956: Finalist, Men Singles 23rd Table Tennis World Championships, Tokyo; 1957: won Men's Singles 24th Table Tennis World Championship, Stockholm.

ICHIRO OGIMURA

BORN in 1932, Ichiro (meaning first-born) was always a very keen sports all-rounder. Taking up Table Tennis at school in 1948 (when only 15), his natural ability attracted attention of coach Yamamuta. Ogimura has since represented his University (Nihon in Tokyo) in Table Tennis and been ranked No. 5 for the Japanese team at the 2nd Asian Championships in 1953. He did so well at these championships that he earned the current ranking of All-Asia No. 2 (jointly with Tomita). In that year he also won the Men's Singles and Doubles Student and Japanese National titles. 1954 saw Ichiro ranked All-Japan No. 1 and it was in this year that he won his first Championship of the World Singles title. A quarter-finalist in the singles next year, he was beaten by the opportunist Szomogy (21-17, 22-20, 21-19). Ogimura once again won the World Table Tennis Championships Men Singles title at Tokyo in 1956, but was again edged out of the title by Tosh this year at Stockholm.

A graduate of Nihon University, Ichiro had been a typical sporting undergraduate. With his black mop of untidy hair, he still managed to look the least "Oriental" of the Japanese team. He has a sense of fun but applies considerable shrewdness and thought to his play. In spite of reaching the top in table tennis, he is always learning by watching and experience. The most important aspect of his training is the emphasis on fitness; Ogimura always does his special keep-fit exercises daily, particularly flexing and arm strengthening exercises to meet the abnormal arm-strain of his style. He has the real champion's ability to be able to completely relax when not playing.

Ichiro is now employed as a Clerk of Company, Ogimura Industrial Co. Ltd., but while at the University he was much sought after as a representative in Soft-Ball, Japanese Wrestling, and Real (or Royal) Tennis as well as Table Tennis. He has been 1952 All-Japan Soft-Ball champion. For those who are statistically minded, Ichiro Ogimura's height is 5ft 5½in. and weight 8st. 2½lb.

MR HITOSHI SHIMIZU

The Manager of the Japanese team, Mr Shimizu, is a Director of the Japan Table Tennis Association. The third University graduate of the touring party, Mr Shimizu was educated at the Chuo University, Tokyo, and is at present a Director of the Fuki Tea Manufacturing and Sale Co. Ltd.

PROGRAMME

Event No. 1:

TOSHIAKI TANAKA v. T. R. D. FLINT.

Umpire

Winner

Scores

Event No. 2:

ICHIRO OGIMURA v. J. ARMSTRONG

Umpire

Winner

Scores

Event No. 3:

TOSHIAKI TANAKA and MRS PAT. PURDON

v.

ICHIRO OGIMURA and MRS JOAN PRISK

Umpire

Winners

Scores

Event No. 4:

TOSHIAKI TANAKA v. V. N. BRIGHTWELL

Umpire

Winner

Scores

Event No. 5:

ICHIRO OGIMURA v. R. W. R. MERCER

Umpire

Winner

Scores

Event No. 6:

TOSHIAKI TANAKA and ICHIRO OGIMURA

v.

V. N. BRIGHTWELL and T. R. D. FLINT

Umpire

Winners

Scores

EXHIBITION MATCH:

TOSHIAKI TANAKA v. ICHIRO OGIMURA

Umpire

Winner

Scores

All matches will be the best of three games.

Japanese Team Manager: Mr. HITOSHI SHIMIZU.

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THESE GAMES HAVE YET TO BE PLAYED

Saturday, Aug. 3: v. Marlborough, at Blenheim.
 Monday, Aug. 5: v. Nelson, at Nelson.
 Tuesday, Aug. 6: v. Hutt Valley, at Lower Hutt.
 Wednesday, Aug. 7: v. Wairarapa, at Masterton.
 Thursday, Aug. 8: v. Manawatu, at Palmerston North.
 Friday, Aug. 9: v. Hawkes Bay, at Napier.
 Saturday, Aug. 10: v. Rotorua, at Rotorua.
 Monday, Aug. 12: v. Bay of Plenty, at Tauranga.
 Tuesday, Aug. 13: v. Franklin, at Pukekohe.
 Thursday, Aug. 15: v. New Zealand (1st Test), at Auckland.
 Friday, Aug. 16: v. New Zealand (2nd Test), at Wellington.
 Saturday, Aug. 17: v. Bush, at Pahiatua.
 Monday, Aug. 19: v. New Zealand (3rd Test), at Dunedin.
 Tuesday, Aug. 20: v. Southland, at Invercargill.
 Thursday, Aug. 22: v. New Zealand (4th Test), at Christchurch.
 Saturday, Aug. 24: v. West Coast, at Hokitika.
 Monday, Aug. 26: v. West Coast, at Reefton.
 Tuesday, Aug. 27: v. Buller, at Westport.
 Wednesday, Aug. 28: v. Canterbury, at Ashburton.

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The Canterbury Players:

RAY MERCER

RAY has thoroughly earned his No. 1 placing for Canterbury this year through his consistent play. 1956 saw Mercer striving hard for the Canterbury and South Island titles, but both eluded him when he was beaten by Neville Brightwell in the finals. Christchurch table tennis patrons will long remember the thrilling finals last year when Ray returned almost everything the attacking Brightwell sent over the net. Mercer was once again Runner-up in the South Island title this year to 17-year-old Brian Foster of Otago. Foster has been included in the training squad for the Tests but when he was beaten convincingly by both Mercer and Armstrong in a representative fixture the week after he won his title, it was foremost in everyone's mind that Mercer and Armstrong at least deserved a similar chance to show their worth. Both the Canterbury players went down to Foster in the championships but they certainly looked the more competent players a week later.

Primarily a defensive player, Ray Mercer has represented Canterbury regularly and this year as the province's No. 1 has met with considerable success. He won the Marlborough Men's Singles Champion, 1956, the South Island Combined Doubles (with Patricia Purdon) 1957.

☆ ☆ ☆

JOHN ARMSTRONG

ONE of the province's most modest players, John is a keen student of the game and has represented Canterbury for the past 7 years.

His playing record in brief:—1952: Won South Canterbury Men's Singles; 1952: Won Canterbury Men's Doubles title; 1952: Won South Island Men's Doubles title; 1953: Won Wellington Men's Singles; has been ranked 4th in N.Z. (1953) and played against Richard Bergmann, 1954.

☆ ☆ ☆

NEVILLE BRIGHTWELL

THE present Canterbury Champion and 1956 South Island title holder, Neville is possibly the greatest stroke player in N.Z. at present. He has played extensively in England and the Continent and has represented New Zealand in 1949 and 1951.

Since leaving Otago, a province which he represented with considerable success, Brightwell has been a regular member of the Canterbury squad. Playing No. 3 for Canterbury at present, Neville appears to be regaining the form which has placed him at the top for so many years. As a formidable doubles combination with Trevor Flint, he holds the Canterbury title and was runner-up with Ray Mercer (Flint did not make the trip) in the South Island title at Timaru this year.

Record in Brief: Represented N.Z. in Test against Barna and Bergmann, 1949; represented N.Z. in World Championships at Budapest, Hungary, 1950; represented N.Z. in two Tests against Leach and Haguenaue, 1951; played against Richard Bergmann, 1954; represented South Island 1949, 1952, 1956; N.Z. ranking: 7th (1949), 5th (1950), 6th (1951), 10th (1952), 5th (1953), 4th (1954), 5th (1955), 6th (1956).

☆ ☆ ☆

TREVOR FLINT

CAPTAIN of the South Island team in 1956, Trevor has won many South Island and Canterbury titles. At the 1953 N.Z. Championships he was runner-up to Bob Jackson after having eliminated O. Jaine in a semi-final. Trevor is a left-hander and favours patient defensive play spiced with the occasional well-placed topspin attack. At present Flint is the co-holder of the Canterbury doubles title.

Flint has represented N.Z. at the World Championships, Vienna, Austria, in 1951; South Island 1947, 1952, 1956. He has played against Richard Bergmann (1954), and was ranked 2nd in N.Z. 1953.

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PATRICIA PURDON

CANTERBURY'S most successful woman player this year, Patricia (not Pat please!) has most competently taken over the role as Canterbury's female No. 1. So far in Championship and Representative play she is yet to be beaten. The present South Island Singles and Doubles titles holder, Patricia has represented Wellington and in the past few years, one of the mainstays of the Canterbury women's team. As a combined doubles player, she also holds the South Island title with Ray Mercer giving her the South Island triple crown.

1955 was another most successful year for Patricia, when she was co-holder of the New Zealand Women's Doubles title, the South Island Women's Doubles title, and the South Island Combined Doubles title. Mrs Purdon represented South Island in 1955 and 1956 and partnered Richard Bergmann in 1954. She was ranked 3rd in N.Z. 1953.

☆ ☆ ☆

JOAN PRISK

FEW women players have given Canterbury such consistently good service as Joan Prisk has in the past four seasons. Once again representing Canterbury, Joan is having considerable success in her provincial representative contests. Noted for her tight defensive style of play, Mrs Prisk has shown that with either a sponge bat or a pimple-rubber faced bat, she can win against the best. This will not be the first time Joan has partnered a visiting player in chibi-

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tion doubles as she combined with Richard Bergmann in 1954. Her record is an impressive one and the more important titles she has won are: 1954—N.Z. Women's Doubles, South Island Women's Doubles, Canterbury Women's Doubles; 1955—North Island Women's Singles. Joan Prisk also represented the South Island in 1955 when she was ranked fourth in New Zealand.

☆ ☆ ☆

THIS IS A STRENUOUS TOUR FOR OUR VISITORS

Tonight, you will be watching two sportsmen who are undertaking what must be the most strenuous tour ever made in this country. How hard this tour is can be readily seen from the rest of the itinerary which is included in this programme. "Tosh" Tanaka and Ichiro Ogimura arrived in New Zealand on Sunday, July 21, for a stay of 39 days. In this short time, 29 matches, including four test matches are scheduled. Nine matches in 11 days (two days were Sundays) have already been played. In the remaining 28 days, 20 matches are still to be played.



N. V. BRIGHTWELL.

"Star-Sun"—Photo.

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