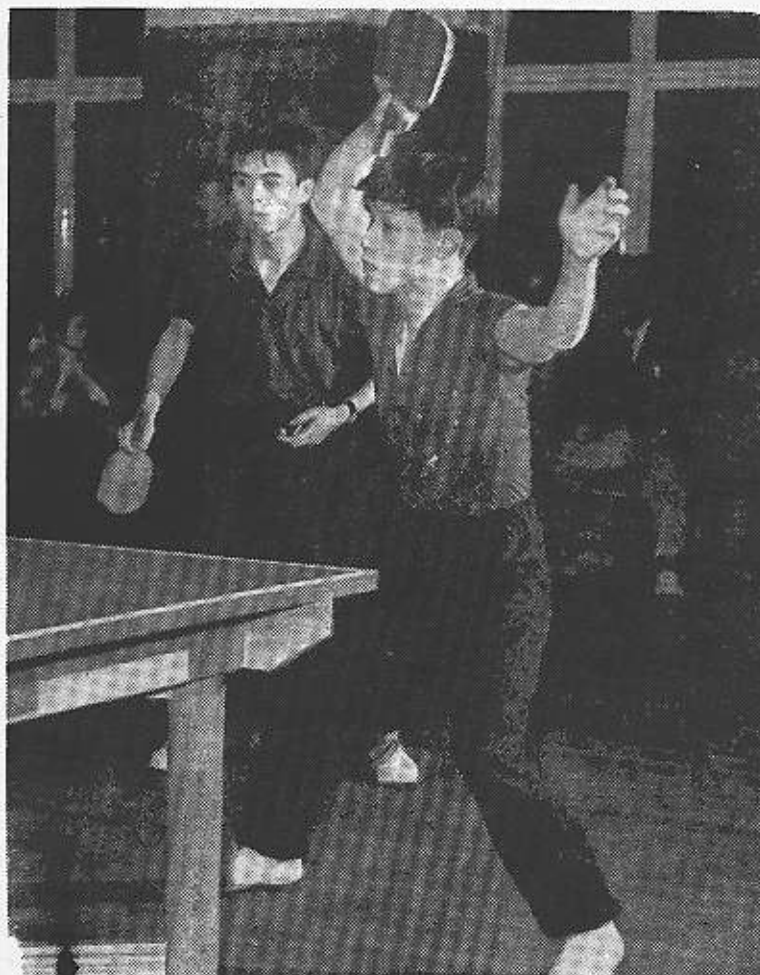

CANTERBURY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
In conjunction with
THE NEW ZEALAND TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
(Incorporated)

Civic Theatre—Thursday, 22nd August, 1957



"Star-Sun"—Photo.

JAPAN v. NEW ZEALAND
(4th TEST)

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Canterbury Table Tennis Association

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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 Hagunauer, 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.

From the Editor :

We welcome once again, our visitors from Japan and also the test players from the North Island and Otago. We do so, however, with a certain sadness which springs from the fact that the short but strenuous tour of the World Champions will shortly draw to an end. The magnificent table tennis exhibitions we have witnessed will be long remembered while the lessons—and there are many—which our players have learnt from Mr Tanaka and Mr Ogimura will no doubt be manifest in the improved standard of table tennis in New Zealand in the future.

Not only for the actual play are we indebted to the World Champions, however, since a tour of this nature has other ramifications. As amateurs in the strictest sense of the word, the visiting athletes have made considerable sacrifices in order to undertake this tour. They have benefitted the sport of table tennis and at the same time they have proved wonderful ambassadors of goodwill. There is no doubt that international understanding has also benefited from his tour. In this connection, Mr H. Shimizu deserves a special mention for his readiness to co-operate at all times and the humour and cheerfulness which he has instilled in the team as a whole.

Once again, welcome and thanks for the "super" table tennis.

Finally, a word of thanks to the appreciative audiences who have patronised this match and the provincial match.

E. D. KWOK,

Hon. Secretary, Canterbury Table Tennis Association.

The New Zealand Players:

GARRY FREW (Northland)

NOTED not only for his considerable table tennis talents, but also as an authoritative table tennis journalist, he may well be called the "Keith Miller" of table tennis—in New Zealand in any case. A measure of his keenness for the game and his desire to improve may be gained from the fact that although he lives in Whangarei, he plays his club table tennis in Auckland.

Frew is ranked second in New Zealand at present but he caused considerable surprise in 1954 when he was selected to represent New Zealand at the World Championships at Wembley in 1955. Other members of the team that year were Bob Jackson (Auckland), Owen Jaine (Auckland), and Murray Dunn (Wellington). In 1954, Canterbury table tennis was particularly strong and many thought that players from this province had better claims to places in the New Zealand team. However, the results achieved by the four youngsters showed that their selection was well justified.

The first ripple of excitement during this tour of the Japanese was caused by Frew when he extended both Tanaka and Ogimura in their first match in New Zealand. Although he lost to both, he earned well-deserved praise for scoring 17 points and 18 points from Tanaka and losing to Ogimura by only 16-21 and 17-21. This good form shown by Frew was confirmed when he did even better in the First Test at Auckland when he was beaten by Tanaka 19-21, and 22-20 and took one set off Ogimura in losing 19-21, 22-20 and 9-21.

By far the best pimple rubber bat player, Frew is only 22 years

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old. His rise in top flight table tennis has been meteoric. In 1953 he won the New Zealand Boys Singles and in 1955 he won the Scottish Championship and the Auckland Singles title also.

At the forthcoming North Island v. South Island contest, Garry Frew will be playing No. 2 for the North Island and will be teamed with Jaine in the doubles.

ALAN TOMLINSON (Auckland)

THIS will be the fifth time that Alan Tomlinson has met the Japanese, but only the second time he has played in singles against them. Included in the three previous test teams as a doubles partner for Bob Jackson, he has thoroughly earned his place as No. 2 for New Zealand in this test match. Tomlinson completely surprised the table tennis world when he had a comfortable victory against the former world champion, Ogimura in the tourists' second match of the tour against Auckland. On the same night, Jackson beat the world champion, Tanaka and earned Ogimura's estimation that he would be ranked in the first ten in the world if he competed at the world championships. Tomlinson's win on this occasion was in straight sets, 21-15 and 21-16. Ogimura considered that Tomlinson's back-hand half-volley was as good as he had ever seen.

Alan Tomlinson is the third ranked player in New Zealand at present and holds the National doubles title with Bob Jackson. He is another member of the Auckland fraternity who uses a sponge bat.

BRYAN FOSTER (Otago)

THE present South Island Open Champion, Under 18 Singles and Doubles Champion, Bryan Foster, plays for the North-east Valley Club in Dunedin. At 17, he will be representing New Zealand for the third time in this test. Foster has been tipped as a coming New Zealand champion.

His selection for the New Zealand team was automatic in view of his outstanding performances in the New Zealand trials. He was beaten only by the present New Zealand and Australasian champion, Bob Jackson, in all the matches that counted on the first day's play. Foster disposed of the National No. 2 seed, G. Frew and the No. 3 seed, A. Tomlinson, the No. 4 seed, M. Dunn, and the No. 6 seed, J. Crossley. These seedings were based on last season's national championships at which Foster won the under 18 singles title. However, Bryan Foster has now earned 4th ranking in New Zealand.

Bryan comes from a well-known table tennis family. His father once played outstanding table tennis in Dunedin while his brother, Ron, who is 19 has been selected as a South Island player with Bryan. Foster has been playing table tennis since he was 12 and has been in "A" grade competition matches for the past two seasons. His rise in first-class table tennis has been rapid, however. This year he represented Otago seniors for the first time, disappointing against Canterbury but playing brilliantly to gain one set from the world champion, Tanaka when Otago played the Japanese tourists. The scores were 21-18, 16-21 and 16-21. While still not Otago's No. 1, he is regarded highly in New Zealand table tennis.

Foster uses a bat with black sponge on one side and pimple rubber on the other. He has an orthodox grip and a side-spin serve with the black sponge.

PROGRAMME

Event No. 1:

ICHIRO OGIMURA v. A. J. FREW

Umpire: Mr A. D. McCallum

Winner

Scores

Event No. 2:

TOSHIKI TANAKA v. A. R. TOMLINSON

Umpire: Mr P. A. Williamson

Winner

Scores

Event No. 3:

**TOSHIKI TANAKA and ICHIRO OGIMURA
v.**

A. J. FREW and A. R. TOMLINSON

Umpire: Mr R. T. Oakley

Winners

Scores

N.Z. Team Manger: F. H. G. Johnstone.

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Event No. 4:

ICHIRO OGIMURA v. A. R. TOMLINSON

Umpire: Mr N. R. Woods

Winner

Scores

Event No. 5:

TOSHIKI TANAKA v. A. J. FREW

Umpire: Mr C. A. Clark

Winner

Scores

Event No. 6:

TOSHIKI TANAKA v. ICHIRO OGIMURA

Umpire: Mr V. N. Brightwell

Winners

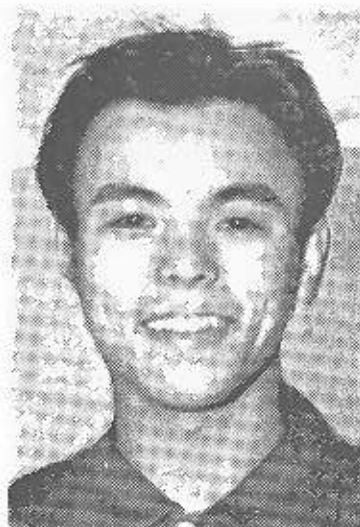
Scores

The C.T.T.A. reserves the right to alter the teams and order of play for reasons beyond its control.

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The Japanese Players :

"Press"—Photo.



ICHIRO OGIMURA



TOSHIKI TANAKA

TOSHIKI 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

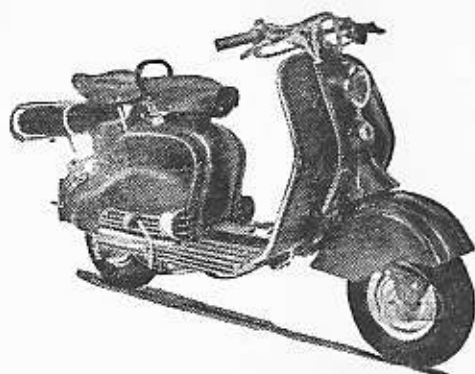
The Manager of the Japanese team, Mr Shimizu, is a Director of the Japan Table Tennis Association. The third University graduate of the touring party, Mr Shimizu was educated at the Chuo University, Tokyo, where he is at present a lecturer. Mr Shimizu has also shown his ability as a player during the tour in exhibition combined doubles.

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WHAT'S NEXT IN CHRISTCHURCH?

THESE WERE THE OTHER NEW ZEALAND TEST SIDES:

At Auckland (1st Test) 15th August: R. V. Jackson (Auckland), G. J. Frew (Northland), A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland).
At Wellington (2nd Test) 16th August: R. V. Jackson (Auckland), B. A. Foster (Otago), A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland).
At Dunedin (3rd Test) 19th August: R. V. Jackson (Auckland), B. A. Foster (Otago), A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland).

CANTERBURY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tomorrow night, the Canterbury Open Championships will begin at the Table Tennis headquarters, the "Fowlhouse", on the corner of Selwyn and Harmans Streets. If you have enjoyed tonight's matches, then see the "near misses" for the test team in action. It will be worth while to see the improvement in their play and style. Remember that the finals will be played on Sunday night at 7.15, but that the sectional play will be played on Friday, 23rd August, at 7.15 p.m., and Saturday, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 7.15 p.m. to ??

AND THEN THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Hutt Valley, Here we come!

A strong team from Canterbury will make a determined bid to wrest the table tennis supremacy from Auckland. The red shirted Canterbury team consists of:

Men's Team (for Keen Shield Contest): R. W. R. Mercer (Christchurch), T. R. D. Flint (Selwyn), V. N. Brightwell (Selwyn) (Captain), R. J. Orr (Linwood), N. B. Radford (North Beach), R. M. Radford (High School Old Boys), P. S. Alexander (Selwyn) emergency if required.

Women's Team (for Teagle Shield Contest): Mrs P. M. Purdon (Christchurch), Mrs J. M. Prisk (Panthers) (Captain), Mrs J. Shadbolt (Eagles), Mrs J. May (Selwyn), Miss E. Brown (Selwyn), Miss B. Taylor (Mid-Canterbury), emergency if required.

It is interesting to note that the Auckland selectors have chosen a men's team consisting entirely of sponge-rubber-bat players to defend the Keen Shield in the N.Z. inter-provincial tournament in Hutt Valley on September 2 and 3. The Men's Team is W. O. Jaine (Captain), R. V. Jackson, A. R. Tomlinson, G. L. Cox, G. E. Smith.

The Women's Team is Miss M. M. Hoar (Captain), Miss B. C. Packwood, Miss K. Lye, Mrs S. Biddle and Mrs V. MacMurray.

The selectors have omitted the brilliant attacking pimped-rubber-bat player Brien Dwyer despite his grand inter-club and trial form. Dwyer has lost only one match in inter-club play this year—to Jackson—and in the trials he beat everyone except Jaine, Tomlinson and Graham Cox (who won 24-22 in the third set).

Apparently, the selectors preferred the promising youngster, Smith, despite his inferior inter-club record and his defeats in the trials by both Dwyer and George Wilkinson.

TABLE TENNIS IN JAPAN IS SERIOUS BUSINESS

During a visit to the Hutt Valley High School, I. Ogimura told pupils there that in Japan, table tennis is taken very seriously. It is among the subjects from which the choice of compulsory sport in Japanese schools is offered pupils. Thousands take it up. Those

showing exceptional skill are added to squads for special training. It includes morning runs to improve the wind, followed by exercises with the emphasis on developing strong legs—an essential strength to offset the extra physical demands on the Japanese because of their use of the "pen grip." The players are then taken to 9ft x 5ft tables and made to practice strokes. They spend hours in perfecting one stroke. It is perhaps a dreary procedure for the players but it gets results.

THE STANDARD OF TABLE TENNIS IN NEW ZEALAND

In a genuine attempt to assess the strength of New Zealand table tennis in world class, Mr Ogimura rated this country's table tennis as about second or third class. However, being equally sincere, he rated Bob Jackson, Alan Tomlinson and Murray Dunn (Wellington) as first class players, adding that there were perhaps about 100 first class players in the world.

The Oldest and Youngest Players to Meet the Japanese

The Bay of Plenty table tennis which met the Japanese tourists included the oldest and youngest players encountered on the tour. F. Paton, aged 51, who won the national title first in 1935, lost to T. Tanaka only 22-20, 23-21. Tanaka's other opponent on the evening was C. Ross, aged 14, whom he beat 21-9, 21-8. Paton is one of the old-time pen-grip players. He won the veteran's singles at the last New Zealand Championships.

NORTH ISLAND v. SOUTH ISLAND, AT HUTT VALLEY

The table tennis teams (in playing order) for the annual inter-island matches at over Hutt on August 31 are:—

North Island:—Men: R. V. Jackson (Auckland), G. A. J. Frew (Northland), A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland), W. O. Jaine (Auckland); **Women:** Miss M. M. Hoar (Auckland), B. C. Packwood (Auckland), J. E. Brown (Hutt Valley), D. T. Keast (North Taranaki).

South Island:—Men: B. A. Foster (Otago), R. W. R. Mercer (Canterbury), R. L. Foster (Otago), T. R. D. Flint (Canterbury) (Captain); **Women:** Mrs P. M. Purdon (Canterbury), Mrs J. M. Prisk (Canterbury), Mrs J. E. Magorian (Otago) (Captain), Miss V. Braumann (Otago).

Owen Jaine maintains his record of having played in every inter-island match. This will be the 12th annual series. Trevor Flint is South Island captain for the 2nd successive year.

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