

## Newsletter September, 3-2006

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

Let's get started for a new season. After the summer break pro and amateur players are very much looking forward to the upcoming season which will have two very attractive highlights in 2007: the European Championship in Belgrade in March and the Single World Championship in Zagreb two months later.

Many international celluloid stars will involve the newly opened table tennis centre in Duesseldorf in their preparation training. andro is supporting this trend-setting project offering ideal conditions for professional table tennis and gives an introduction about it in this newsletter.

Further topics in this edition are the future plans of Polish andro star Xu Jie after her entry into the German Bundesliga as well as the introduction of partner clubs in Germany. Last but not least andro is offering the chance to test the new PLASMA rubber that is based on the TENSOR-BIOS-technology. This rubber delivers a high-class, non-harmful alternative to conventionally fresh-glued rubbers already now.

Enjoy reading,  
Your andro team

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### New era in German table tennis “Pure table tennis” in Duesseldorf's new TT centre

A new era has begun for German table tennis since the German Table Tennis Centre (GTTC) opened for players and teams in Duesseldorf at the beginning of August. Now a sports centre with ideal training prerequisites will establish for German TT pros like Christian Suess or younger talents like 14-year old Ricardo Walther, also member of the andro ProTeam.

The new “home” of the German Table Tennis Association cost approximately



five million Euro. The whole sum of the construction was carried by city, county and country so no additional costs did occur for the national federation. The initiator of the GTTC Hans-Wilhelm Gaeb describes the extraordinary state-run engagement during times of empty public cash boxes as “wonder”. Further additional support of the overheads will probably lead to break-even for the German Table Tennis Association.

The core of the highly modern centre represent two table tennis specific playing halls with ideal floor and light conditions and a table tennis boarding school for up to 16 German talents. The building is in the proximity to the top club of Borussia Duesseldorf whose management is responsible for running the centre as well. “The GTTC is now the main place for our sports advancement”, describes national head coach Dirk Schimmelpfennig the role of Duesseldorf among the table tennis bases in Germany.

The training conditions in the GTTC are excellent like in almost no other centre in Europe or even globally. Two times German cadet champion Ricardo Walther and girls talent Katharina Michajlova are two young members of the andro ProTeam who started a new stage of life when they well-motivated moved in the GTTC at the beginning of the school term. Finally the DTTB is putting emphasis on the educational supervision and the accommodation for their talents. “This was very important. We have found outstanding and well-experienced people in Roman Heber and Florian Noe to fill these positions”, DTTB president Thomas Weikert underlines their awareness for the human responsibility of the federation. “It is also about the personal development of each member here in the centre”.

The circumstances for the continuation of the positive development of the young andro duo and the other members are certainly very supportive. The motto when building the centre could have as well been “pure table tennis”: the playing halls, fitness centre, sauna, catering, medical and physio treatment, seminars, community events and personal leisure activities can all be reached within short distances. The pros of the female team like Wu Jiaduo and Nadine Bollmeier are very enthusiastic after their first course in the new GTTC. Duesseldorf resident Christian Suess summarises his impressions after the first weeks: “For me who knew Duesseldorf and the Borussia centre before it is a change getting used to all the additional new players who are now constantly in the GTTC. Overall it is a fantastic project. I think it is a great opportunity for our sports in Germany.”

The regular presence of German and international pros is very important to the sports management of the centre. On the one hand the young players will benefit from the high level training opponents. On the other hand Duesseldorf with its ideal infrastructure shall become a centre for preparation and training of whole European’s elite players in regards to global events like world championships or Olympic Games. This topic is already being discussed on an international level.

The perfect conditions in Duesseldorf are also supported by andro. Along with other table tennis brands andro is one sponsor of the GTTC. The broad support by the industry it is guaranteed that the players can always prepare for international events with the respectively used material. In the GTTC nothing shall be left to coincidence.

andro wishes the DTTB and its GTTC the best of success for the future.

## German andro-teams in season 2006/07 Kroppach wants the Champions-League semi-final



Champions League or remaining in the second league – the seven German andro teams follow different targets and thus state the diversity of sponsoring in the brand's homeland.

The black-yellow figurehead in Germany is the women's top club FSV Kroppach. The team from Western Germany has set the goal to get into the semi-final of the Champions League – last season the team around andro star Wu Jiaduo still failed the round of the final four. "In our group matches we had to play the later finalists TTC Castelgoffredo and TTC Langweid and we had them both very close to a defeat. This demonstrates that we were very unfortunate in the last season. Now with our new team we are very optimistic to get much further this year", states "Dudu" her team's review and preview.

The purchasing policy emphasises Kroppach's international ambitions. The Singapore-Chinese Tan Paey Fern, ranked in the world's top 80, is the new number three and one of six players of the top 100 in Europe's probably strongest league. Despite the concentration on the Champions League the Bundesliga is not neglected at all. The German champion of 2002 wants to participate into the battle for the title as well. "Within the best four", is the (under-) statement about their goal of manager Hans-Juergen Bertling. Also Kroppach finished the past season as vice German Champion. Even though the team won the unofficial vice title belated: the team from Busenbach who originally ranked second was taken the points from two matches because they had used the top 10 player Tie Yana who did not have a playing admission. Bertling regards the upgrade of his team as the feedback for their straightforward work: "The deduction of points for Busenbach is the result of a breach of the rules. This means for us that we were the number two team in Germany behind Langweid – this encourages us a lot for the new season."

Highly-motivated is league competitor TuS Bad Driburg as well – however with significantly smaller goals. “We can only go for keeping the first league level. We probably cannot expect more”, describes manager Franz-Josef Lingens their target. This seems as a realist aim because Bad Driburg strengthened the team only by the Romanian youngster Cristina Kont as new number five player. Otherwise Driburg remains with the same team as in the past season when they finished with the seventh place. The diversity of objectives like Kroppach and Bad Driburg is similar for the five andro men’s teams in the second Bundesliga.

Manager Horst Reitmeier of the FC Tegernheim in the south division is very clear about any dreams of playing in the first league: “If there will be a chance we would basically not be against it.” His retention is mainly due to the traditionally unknown financial figures linked an advancement into the first Bundesliga. From a sports perspective Tegernheim is one of the favourite teams. Tegernheim exchanged four players and one can be especially excited about the new Australian Oceanic champion William Henzell who now enters the German Bundesliga after playing several years in Sweden.

Not quite a little favourite but yet an ambitious outsider is the team from Borussia Dortmund in the north division. The team is keen on challenging the favourite and former first league team Werder Bremen. Borussia’s goal can probably only be a ranking in the midfield because the black-yellow club did not recruit strong new players for 2006/2007.

DJK Germania Holthausen wants to improve their former season’s result and gain a position in the upper midfield. “I assume we will play for place three to six”, states manager Jens Korte their expectations. With the new top player Ryusuke Sakamoto who was exchanged with Youth World Champion Jun Mizutani from German record champion Borussia Duesseldorf and David Daus as number two Holthausen aims not only at a good ranking but also at a better identification between



team and audience. This shall be underlined by the new team members Siawash Golshahi in the middle and Bjoern Helbing at the bottom both from the regional division club TTF Boenen. The contract of Miroslav Broda was not prolonged and the reliable old Christian Franzel practically ended his career. In contrast to Dortmund and Holthausen the team TTC Bergneustadt, last season ranked number three, will presumably remain behind these goals. The persons leaving of Youth European Champion Steffen Mengel to Champions League winner TTV Goennern and of the Japanese talent Seiya Kishikawa to first league club TTC Juelich represent quite a step backwards. The newcomers from Belgium Yannick Vostes and Herve Delporte will hardly be able to close the gap. “Staying in the Bundesliga”, is therefore the modest season target of leading player Vlado Broda.

Same is the minimum goal for the team of ITTC Sachsen Doebeln from East Germany. Manager Alberto J. Ammann even wants to go for position seven. A big disadvantage could yet be the lack of routine players: despite the new number one, 28-year-old Chinese Tian Zichao who played for first league team Borussia Duesseldorf a few years ago, the average age of the team is still below 21 years. The team structure though fits well to the club philosophy: the Saxons want to offer young players from the Eastern region like andro player Hendrik Fuss the opportunity for their top sport.

## Speed-Gluing, part 5: The new PLASMA rubber –prepare yourself already now for the “time after”

Despite the postponement of the speed-glue ban through the ITTF andro is putting focus on future rubber technologies. The PLASMA rubber is available since a couple of weeks and it offers a real strong alternative to conventional fresh gluing now two years before the rule will be changed.

Top players are convinced by the slogan “Play PLASMA – do the change now”. “After I could test the new PLASMA rubber I am facing the speed-glue ban rather relaxed. The PLASMA provides me for the future with the certainty of fantastic speed and spin characteristics. Changing my technique won’t be necessary, at most I need to adapt it a bit”, summarises Double Vice World champion Christian Süss his experience with the revolutionary TENSOR-BIOS-technology.

Due to an innovative process the highly important fresh-gluing effect – the catapult impression when hitting the ball - is already integrated in each rubber. The health proven TENSOR-BIOS-technology within the new PLASMA makes the by experts as dangerously regarded gluing with volatile organic solvents obsolete without players having to change their style or technique.

In addition to the cleanness of the rubber by being significantly below ITTF’s future threshold of solvents it also convinces by its diversity. The PLASMA is a rubber for all players from lower to high class levels because it comes with three sponge densities as 380, 430 and 470 model. Every player can already now prepare himself for the “time after”.

For andro newsletter subscribers there now is a special opportunity: 15 PLASMA BIOS rubbers will be raffled within the newsletter community and can then be intensively tested.

To take part in the raffle you have to send an email to [news@andro.de](mailto:news@andro.de) no later than September 15th 2006. The email needs to contain name, address, playing level and the preferred PLASMA rubber. More information about the PLASMA at [www.new-rubber.de](http://www.new-rubber.de)



## andro Material-Intro: Blade News - The BLAX series

Best built-in vibration control - Balsa core with woodfibre strengthened cross-ply technique

Pure ajous-woodfibres are manufactured in a rectangular order in the BLAX. This set-up is enforcing the balsa core and prevents distortions during hard strokes. The amazingly fast oscillation absorption frees the play from inconvenient blade vibrations. For the ideal ball-feeling experience!

Advantages to conventional blades:

- Higher ball bounce across the whole blade area
- Extremely large sweetspot-zone
- High level of mistake tolerance
- Fast vibration absorption
- Excellent ball feel experience
- Light in weight by the balsa core plies



## **BLAX ALL +**

The BLAX ALL+ is a very light-weight all-round blade with a balsa centre of 4,5mm thickness. The super-soft playing perception combined with very good speed features are the best prerequisites for a successful all-round to offensive strategy. The specific characteristics of the BLAX-technology create self-confidence even in tight matches. Very good ball control. Recommended for players of all playing levels.  
weight 73g                      blade design : l 53mm                      S 85    C 95    R 95

## **BLAX OFF**

An offensive blade for players that love the inimitable balsa feeling. Within the construction of the wood explosive power is hiding, only waiting to be released – this can be felt by a slight top-heaviness. Ideal ball feeling experience despite the low weight. The 6-mm thick balsa centre is struttred with 22 ajous cross venezers to promote the energy transfer. Hardly any variation mistakes with difficult strokes. An excellent recommendation for players from mid to high playing levels.  
weight 78 g                      blade design: l 49 mm                      S 92    C 92    R 96

## **Interview with Xu Jie: In China I never had a chance for the Olympics**

**Xu Jie, after your change from the French first league club Montpellier TT to TV Busenbach the preparations for the new season are more or less completed. What are your fist impressions of your new club?**

Good, very good. There is a very good spirit in the team, my new team-mates are very friendly and the club is well-managed. I am particularly happy about Liu Liping with whom I have a Chinese coach - in general there are relatively many Chinese players around.

**What has been the decisive reason for your move from France to Germany?**

The proximity to Poland. From France it has always been quite difficult to travel back to Poland for training camps or international matches. That is much easier now from Busenbach. And of course Busenbach is well-known for offering high-level practice with good sparring partners. Finally it is one of my goals to establish myself in Europe's best league.

**How did the change happen?**

Our coach called me and asked about my interest in playing for Busenbach's team. Also the further contract details we discussed via telephone.

**What are your personal goals for your Bundesliga debut with Busenbach?**

That's difficult to say. I know that Busenbach has strong ambitions for Champions League and the Bundesliga. But I don't know most of my opponents yet and therefore I cannot give forecasts or set myself precise goals. But it is for sure that I want to improve my game and give my utmost to support Busenbach's success.



**Lets stay with questions about your person: you are ranked in the world's top 80 currently. What is your ranking target in the mid-term?**

I want to play the Olympic Games 2008 in Beijing. Therefore I need a ranking around top 40. That will be tough but I certainly want to try it.

**You have a Polish passport since 2003. What were the reasons for getting the citizenship?**

When I first came to the Polish league seven years ago I did not expect this development. I was not even 17 years back then. Later I was asked if I could imagine to play for Poland also including at the Olympics. In China I would never had the chance to play there so I agreed. Also it is a bit easier for me to play in Europe.

**About your development since moving to Poland several things are already known. How did your career in China look like before?**

I started playing professional table tennis in a club in Tianjin when I was eleven. Some time later I moved to a stronger club in Shanghai where I practised and went to school as well. After a certain time my parents convinced me to concentrate completely on my school education in case I would want to go to university. One and a half years later I got the chance to play in Poland via some friends. As I still loved playing table tennis I took the chance and went to Poland.

**Due to the past years you already have some insight into European table tennis. What are the differences between training in your motherland China and in Europe in your opinion?**

The coaches make the crucial difference. The coach in China is working highly professional and he is the most important person in all systems. In China the coach is doing the thinking for the player to 100%, whereas in Europe decisions are only based on the coach's view to one half and the other half lies within the player.

## Player Portrait

**Name:** Jie Xu

**Birthday:** 21.01.1982

**Nationality:** Polish

**Height:** 1,69 m

**Weight:** 64 kg

**Nickname:** Ksenia

**Club membership (history):**

99-05 AZS Ajd Czesochowa (Poland),  
05-06 TT Montpellier (France),  
06-07 Busenbach (Germany)

**Which material are you using (rubbers/blade)?**

andro COR Emotion / andro Supercore Carbon off



**Success Story:**

2004-2005 + 2005-2006 Polish Champion (single, double, mixed)

**Career highlight:**

World ranking No. 49

**Life attitude:**

Do your best for everything, and be happy!

**Hobbies:**

read books, watch movies

**How did you start to play table tennis?**

My mother is a coach and so I started to practice with her.

**What is the fascination about table tennis?**

It's a very complex sports where you can never practice enough.

**What is your tip for successful training?**

Full concentration.

## NEWS

**International tournament overview 2006**

The Pro Tour series will end its summer break at the beginning of September for there are yet some very important events to come before the Grand Final in December. The Polish Open in mid November will be completely equipped by andro this year as well as in 2008.

Here is an overview of the upcoming Pro Tour events including some other important international tournaments of the second half of 2006:



**Sep 7 - Sep 10 2006** Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Open - Singapore (Singapore, SIN)

**Sep 14 - Sep 17 2006** Pro Tour PANASONIC China Open (Guangzhou, CHN)

**Sep 21 - Sep 24 2006** Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Open - Japan (Yokohama, JPN)

**Sep 29 - Oct 1 2006** Women's World Cup (Urumqi, CHN)

**Oct 19 - Oct 22 2006** Pro Tour Serbian Open (Belgrade, SCG)

**Oct 27 - Oct 29 2006** LIEBHERR Men's World Cup (Paris, FRA)

**Nov 1 - Nov 5 2006** Pro Tour EUROSIB Russian Open (St. Petersburg, RUS)

**Nov 8 - Nov 12 2006** Pro Tour LIEBHERR German Open (Bayreuth, GER)

**Nov 15 - Nov 19 2006** Pro Tour LIEBHERR Polish Open (Warsaw, POL)

**Dec 14 - Dec 17 2006** Pro Tour VOLKSWAGEN Grand Finals (Hong Kong, CHN)

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