



# TABLE TENNIS

Chris De Splentere

# PING PONG ?



NO ! TABLE TENNIS :



# DEFINITION

A sport in which two or four players hit a ball across a table divided by a net and using a small, round racket.



# HISTORY

- Invented in England at the end of the 19th century.
- Quickly became popular all over the world.
- Improvements : rubbers and celluloid ball.
- International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) founded in 1926.
- Olympic sport since 1988.
- Today more than 260 000 000 players in the world...



# CLICHÉ ?

... and some people say lots of the best players are from China, Japan and Korea.

**Do you think it's true ?**





# IS IT TRUE ?

Yes, it is !

National sport + infrastructures  
+ best players are true stars = lots of young players.



# IS IT TRUE ?

The 3 best players in the world are from China :

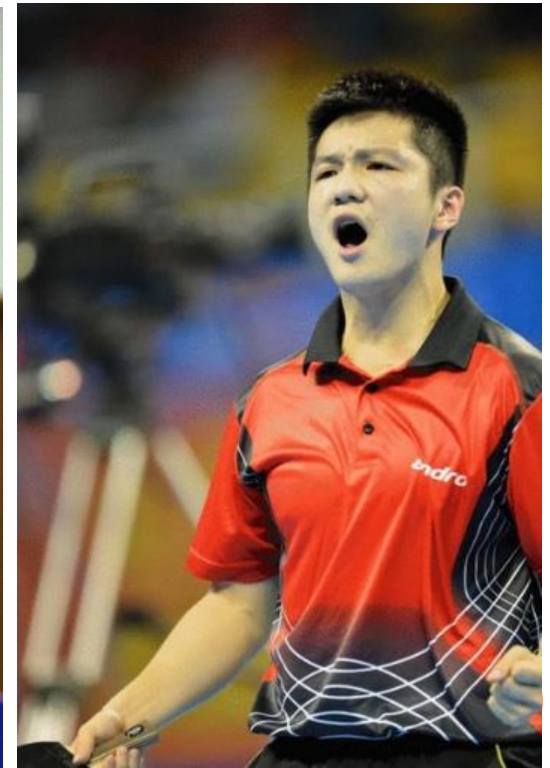
Ma Long (n°1)



Xu Xin (n°2)



Fan Zhendong (n°3)

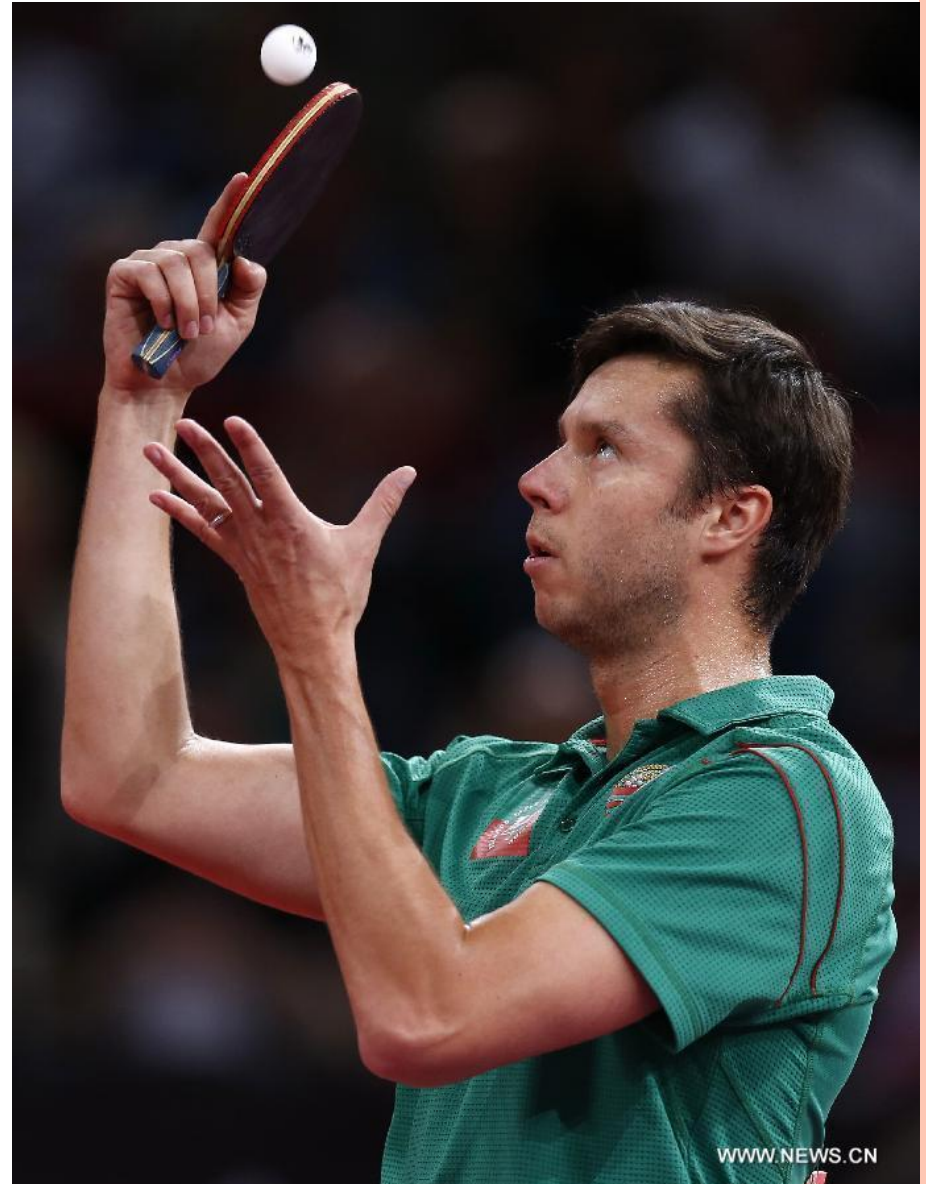




## IN EUROPE AND NEARBY

### **Vladimir Samsonov :**

- 12th in the world.
- 26 ProTour titles.
- Bielorussian.
- 39 years old.
- World cup : winner in 1999, 2001 and 2009.
- Europe top 12 : 4 times winner.



## IN EUROPE AND NEARBY

### **Timo Boll :**

- 8th in the world.
- Has been n°1 during 6 months.
- German.
- 34 years old.
- World cup : winner in 2002 and 2005.
- Europe top 12 : 5 times winner.



## IN EUROPE AND NEARBY

### **Marcos Freitas :**

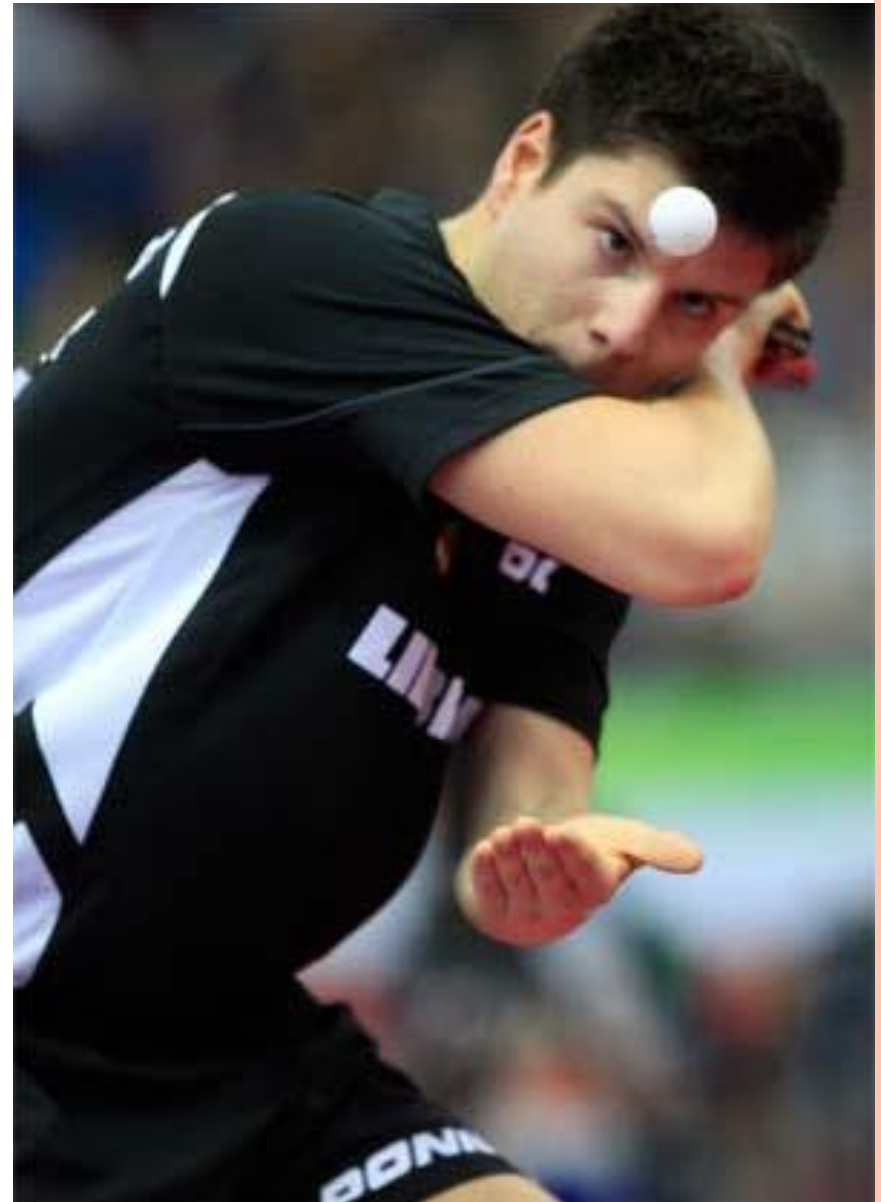
- 7th in the world.
- Recently became a very strong player.
- Portuguese.
- 27 years old.
- Europe top 12 : winner in 2014.



## IN EUROPE AND NEARBY

### **Dimitrij Ovtcharov :**

- 4th in the world.
- Powerful and efficient services.
- German.
- 27 years old.
- Europe top 12 : winner in 2012.





## WHAT ABOUT WOMEN ?

The situation is the same : the best players are mostly from Japan and China and the 3 best players are from China.

Ding Ning



Liu Shiwen



Zhu Yuling





# WHAT ABOUT BELGIUM ?

- More than 40 000 players in 600 clubs.
- Rankings : Unranked, E6, E4, E2, E0, D6, ... , B0  
and then A25 --> A1 for the 25 best players.
- Divisions : 6th provincial --> 1st provincial,  
regional, national 2, national 1 and superdivision.



# WHAT ABOUT BELGIUM

- A season begins in September and ends in April :
  - => 12 teams in a « pool »
  - => 22 meetings in 4 vs 4
  - => 16 matches for each meeting
  - => 352 matches for 4 players in a season
  - => 88 matches for one player in a season.
- Exception in Namur : 2 seasons instead, 2 pools with 6 teams, possibility to go to the upper division twice a year.



## JEAN-MICHEL SAIVE (JEAN-MI)

- The best Belgian table tennis player ever.
- 45 years old.
- 1994 - 1996 : n°1 in the world during 515 days.
- n°1 in Europe during 934 days.
- He has won 130 medals.
- 7 Olympic Games participations.
- Belgian Championship : 25 times winner.



# HOW TO PLAY ?

## 1) Buy some stuffs :

- A wooden racket (20 – 100 euros).
- Two rubbers (5 – 50 euros).
- Shoes that don't mark the floor.
- No need to buy a table and balls.

## 2) Find a club in your region :

- « [myping.be](http://myping.be) » to find it.
- Subscription : about 80 euros a year.



# HOW TO PLAY ?

3) Go to the training sessions to learn the basic rules :

- How to hold the racket.
- How to serve.
- Strokes and positions of the body.
- The most important : the effects on the ball.

4) Now you are ready to go to the meetings on Saturdays.





# VIDEO

