

January 2020

DEREK ABREFA



Photo: Jono Searle

Fact Sheet

- Born Feb. 15, 1992, in Accra, Ghana
- Started playing table tennis at age 12 on an outdoor table he passed on his way to school
- As a boy he took money his father gave him for lunch and used it instead for table tennis training
- Became Ghanaian national champion at age 15, the first of 12 national men's titles
- 3x competitor in the Commonwealth Games
- Bronze medalist (team) at the 2015 African Games
- 2018 African Top 16
- Current ITTF ranking: #410; highest: #206 (Oct. 2018)
- Specialty: Backhand loop
- Hero: Aruna Quadri (Nigeria)
- Works for the Ghana Immigration Service
- Devout Pentacostalist
- First time in the U.S.
- Quote: "When I was growing up, I heard Ghana was a great table tennis nation. We had star players. I want to be like them."

February 2020

JEREMY HAZIN



Photo: Rich London

Fact Sheet

- Born Feb. 27, 2000, in Richmond Hill, Ontario; turns 20 this week
- Home: Richmond Hill, Ontario
- Palestinian-born father designs circuit boards; his mother is a bank accountant of Chinese descent
- Started playing table tennis at age 8 at a local club where his father was a member; began formal training at 10
- Won the 2017 Canadian men's singles title at age 17, the youngest Canadian champion ever; repeated in 2018
- World-ranked #146 by the ITTF
- USATT rating: 2614
- Favorite shot: Block
- Hero: Ma Lin
- Speaks English, Cantonese, and Mandarin
- Loves to sing and record music, especially Chinese pop
- Blade: Viscaria; rubbers: Tenergy 05 Hard (FH), Tenergy 05 (BH)
- Has competed eight times previously at Westchester — winning once (Oct. 2018), runner-up once (Oct. 2017), twice reaching the semifinals, and three times the quarterfinals