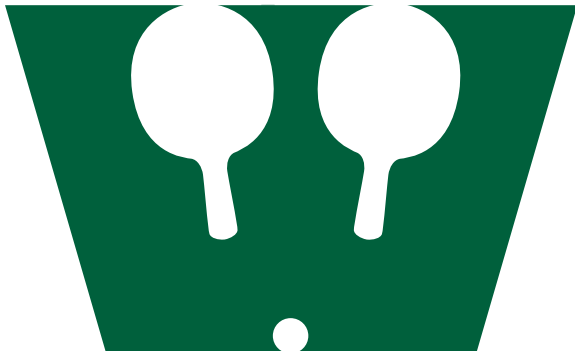


The 97th

WESTCHESTER TABLE TENNIS OPEN

January 25-26, 2020



Some Players to Watch

Westchester Table Tennis Center
www.westchestertabletennis.com

African Star

DEREK ABREFA

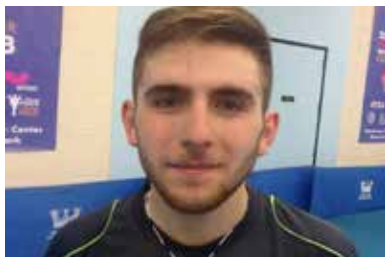


Photo: Jono Searle

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."

ADAR ALGUETTI



Rating: 2535
Home: Tenafly, NJ
Birthdate: Dec. 7, 1999 (20 years old)
Birthplace: San Diego, CA
• Third-year student in NYU Business. Member of the 2018 NCTTA championship team.

TAHL LEIBOVITZ



Rating: 2383
Home: Ozone Park, NY
Birthdate: June 1, 1975 (44 years old)
Birthplace: Haifa, Israel
• Five-time Paralympian. Once world-ranked #2 in para class 9.

JIAN LI



Rating: 2554
Home: Fresh Meadows, NJ
Birthdate: Aug. 13, 1988 (31 years old)
Birthplace: Shandong Province, China
• Three-time winner at Westchester. Full-time coach at the Topspin TTC in Hillsborough, NJ.

JUAN LIU



Rating: 2654
Home: Flushing, Queens, NY
Birthdate: Feb. 14, 1985 (24 years old)
Birthplace: Hubei Province, China
• U.S. Open champion, 2012 & 2018. Three-time champion at Westchester.

CEDRIC OBA



Rating: 2464
Home: East Orange, NJ
Birthdate: Dec. 11, 1992 (27 years old)
Birthplace: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
• Former table tennis champion of Côte d'Ivoire. Nine-time U2500 winner at Westchester.

ELIEL SOSIS



Rating: 2327
Home: Sharon, MA
Birthdate: Jan. 24, 2002 (18 years old)
Birthplace: Manchester, CT
• Semifinalist in Junior Doubles and Junior Teams at the 2019 U.S. Nationals.

CHEN WANG



Rating: 2472
Home: New York, NY
Birthdate: Jan. 17, 1974 (46 years old)
Birthplace: Beijing, China
• Owner of the Wang Chen Table Tennis Club. Quarterfinalist at the 2008 Olympics.

SHENG XI



Rating: 2780
Home: Wuhan, China
Birthdate: Jan. 1, 2000 (20 years old)
Birthplace: Hunan Province, China
• Chinese Super League player. Won the Aurora Cup last weekend.

KAI ZHANG



Rating: 2630
Home: Pleasantville, NY
Birthdate: June 22, 1997 (22 years old)
Birthplace: Beijing, China
• 22-time champion at Westchester. Plays professionally in Germany this year.

JAYDEN ZHOU



Rating: 2458
Home: Short Hills, NJ
Birthdate: Jan. 24, 2005 (15 years old)
Birthplace: New York, NY
• Junior Boys singles champion at the 2019 El Salvador Junior & Cadet Open

Westchester Open Records

- Oldest winner: Lucjan Blaszczyk (43), June 2018; youngest: Kai Zhang (15), Nov. 2012
- Most frequent winners: Kai Zhang (22 times); Junhan Wu, Kaden Xu (7 each)
- Highest ITTF-ranked player: Andrej Gacina, Croatia (#20), Sept. 2016
- U.S.-born winners: Sharon Alguetti (6 times), Adam Hugh (1)
- Female winner: Juan Liu (3 times)
- Related finalists: Sharon and Gal Alguetti (twins), Dec. 2019
- Most-watched YouTube video of the Westchester Open: Robert Gardos vs. Tae Hoon Kim, Feb. 2019 (32,600 views to date)
- Prize money awarded: \$531,040 (Oct. 2011 - Dec. 2019)

