

## TABLE TENNIS

# Oh rallies to claim national title

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South Korean table tennis whiz Oh Sang-Eun had to fight all the way to capture the men's A-grade open singles title at the New Zealand championships in Christchurch yesterday.

The former world No 5 is the most high-profile name to compete in a tournament in this country.

He won silver in the teams event at last year's London Olympics and also made the quarterfinals in the singles at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The 36-year-old did not have it all his own way in the final against second seeded Aucklander Teng Teng Liu.

Liu claimed the first set 11-7, before Oh fought back to grab the second 11-9. Liu responded, taking the third set 11-9, before Oh's class finally began to tell winning the next three sets to take the title.

Oh was also victorious in the men's doubles with Auckland's Phillip Xiao. They were too powerful for the Otago pairing of Miroslav Janca and Jesper Villadsen, winning the final three sets to love [11-3, 11-3, 12-10].

Canterbury-based former Serbian international Timea Tapai was the dominant player in the women's competition.

She was too accurate for Auckland's Lu Guiting in the women's A-grade singles final, winning 11-6, 11-8, 11-7, 11-4.

Tapai teamed up with Manawatu's Catherine Zhou in the women's doubles. They crushed the Auckland

duo of Kim Jung Mi and Vicky Yang 3-0.

Tapai added a third national title to her collection, sealing victory in the mixed doubles with provincial teammate Yi-Sien Lin.

Tapai and Lin prevailed over Jongeub Han (Canterbury) and Kim Jung Mi (Auckland) 11-3, 11-6, 11-2.

Results of matches played at the Blenheim Rd stadium, Christchurch during the weekend:  
(A Auckland, BP Bay of Plenty, C Canterbury, KOR Korea Republic, MN Manawatu, N Nelson, NH North Harbour, NL Northland, O Otago, S Southland, WK Waikato, WT Waitemata, W Wellington):

#### Open men

Open men's singles quarterfinals: Oh Sang Eun (Kor) beat John Cordue (A) 11-5 11-6 11-6 11-5, Phillip Xiao (A) beat Ivo Mikulec (C) 11-8 11-6 11-7 11-9, Jong Eub Han (C) beat Oliver Scarlett (A) 7-11 13-11 11-7 11-13 12-10 11-8, Liu Teng Teng (A) beat Miroslav Janca (O) 11-6 11-5 11-6 11-4. Semifinals: Oh Sang Eun beat Xiao 11-7 11-6 11-1 12-10, Liu beat Han 11-6 11-7 11-8 11-2. Final: Oh Sang Eun beat Liu 7-11 11-9 9-11 11-8 11-4 11-9. Open men's doubles quarterfinals: Oh Sang Eun and Phillip Xiao (Kor/A) beat Malcolm Darroch and Lyndon White (C) 11-7 11-6 14-12, Stephen Hirst and Yi-Sien Lin (W and C) beat Matthew Ball and Lei Zhang (MN) 13-15 11-7 11-3 11-8, Miroslav Janca and Jesper Villadsen (O) beat Myles Collins and John Cordue (WK and A) 14-12 11-9 11-8, Liu Teng Teng and Kevin Wu (A) beat Ivo Mikulec and Jonathon Wang (C) 11-5 11-7 11-5. Semifinals: Oh and Xiao beat Hirst and Lin 11-8 11-8 11-6, Janca and Villadsen beat Liu and Wu 8-11 11-9 3-11 11-5 12-10. Final: Oh Sang Eun and Xiao beat Janca and Villadsen 11-3 11-3 12-10.

#### Open women

Open women's singles quarterfinals: Timea Tapai (C) beat Kim Jung Mi (A) 6-11 11-7 11-9 9-11 11-7 11-8, Natalie Paterson (MN) beat Sophie Shu (A) 5-11 11-7 4-11 12-10 11-7 11-7, Lu Guiting (A) beat Catherine Zhou (MN) 11-5 11-6 11-9 11-2, Sara Hu (A) beat Vicky Yang (A) 11-8 8-11 13-11 12-10 9-11 11-9. Semifinals: Tapai beat Paterson 11-3 11-4 11-3 11-8, Lu beat Hu 11-9 11-8 11-8 11-7. Final: Tapai beat Lu 11-6 11-8 11-7 11-4. Open women's doubles semifinals: Kim Jung Mi and Vicky Yang (A) beat Natalie Paterson and Sophie Shu 11-9 14-12 11-7, Timea Tapai and Catherine

Zhou (Cand MN) beat Sarah Hu and Kadia Keller Rice 11-4 11-5 11-3. Final: Tapai and Zhou beat Kim and Yang 12-10 11-6 11-5.

#### Mixed

Open mixed doubles: Jong Eub Han and Kim Jung Mi (C and A) beat Ben Duffy and Catherine Zhou (O and MN) 11-6 11-8 11-8, Oh Sang Eun and Angel Huang (KOR and C) beat Cheng Zhiyang and Sara Hu (A) 9-11 11-3 8-11 11-5 11-9, Miroslav Janca and Kadia Keller-Rice (O and BP) beat Aaron Gong and Vicky Yang (A) 11-7 9-11 3-11 11-5 11-9, Yi-Sien Lin and Timea Tapai (C) beat Matthew Hetherington and Sophie Shu (WK and A) 11-8 7-11 11-3 11-8. Semifinals: Han and Kim beat Oh Sang Eun and Huang 11-7 11-7 6-11 11-5, Lin and Tapai beat Janca and Keller-Rice 11-7 11-2 7-11 9-11 11-9. Final: Lin and Tapai beat Han and Kim 11-3 11-6 11-2.

#### Under-21

Under-21 years men's singles semifinals: Olive Scarlett (A) beat Zhao Yang Lun (WK) 11-4 11-6 9-11 11-7, Kevin Wu (A) beat Cheng Zhiyang (A) 11-6 7-11 6-11 11-5 11-5. Final: Scarlett beat Wu 7-11 7-11 11-9 11-8 11-9.

Under-21 years women's singles semifinals: Lu Guiting (A) beat Mariam Seif (C) 11-3 11-8 11-4. Natalie Paterson (MN) beat Angel Huang (C) 11-6 9-11 11-4 11-6. Final: Lu beat Paterson 11-5 11-6 11-6.

Under-21 years men's doubles final: Cheng Zhiyang and Kevin Wu (A) beat Dean Shu and Roger Wang (A) 11-8 13-11 12-10. Under-21 years women's doubles final: Kyra Portis and Mariam Seif (C) beat Natalie Paterson and Yoon Hyunjee (MN C) 11-6 11-7 11-9. Under-21 years mixed doubles final: Roger Wang and Lu Guiting (A) beat Cheng Zhiyang and Sara Hu (A) 11-6 11-8 12-10.

#### Over-30

Over-30 years men's singles semifinals: Simon Fenwick (C) beat Ben Duffy (O) 11-7 11-9 8-11 11-7. Stephen Hirst (W) beat Craig Dye (A) 4-11 11-5 11-6 11-4. Final: Hirst beat Fenwick 8-11 12-10 11-11 11-8 11-6.

Over-30 years women's singles placings: Catherine Zhou (MN) 1, Kadia Keller-Rice (BP) 2.

Over-30 years men's doubles final: Stuart Armstrong and Simon Fenwick (C) beat Ben Duffy and Craig Dye (O and A) 12-10 11-8 8-11 8-11 11-7.

Over-30 years women's doubles final: Kadia Keller Rice and Mimi Walle (BP C) beat Catherine Fogarty and Yvonne Fogarty (C O) 11-6 11-5 11-3. Over-30 years mixed doubles final: Simon Fenwick and Mimi Walle (C) beat Ben Duffy and Catherine Zhou (O MN) 11-6 11-6 8-11 11-4.