

BBM's in Detroit '94

by Andy Barron

The "BBM's" consisting of Andy Barron, Bob Brickell, Robert Maronian, and André Maronian went to Cobo Hall-Detroit, Michigan and played in the "H" Division. Sounds disappointing right? No way. The competition was tougher than ever before as evidenced by a record-setting number of teams. As a result, we were originally seeded in the "H's" and did well just to stay there.

On Friday, we beat the two teams seeded below us and lost to the two teams above us which basically means that we "Held our own." In the "H" bracket, we faced seven teams-four of them from Canada. As some of you already know, the Canadian players are underrated. This makes them even tougher to beat-both individually and team wise. We were able to knock off two of them and also beat a team from North Carolina. But we lost to the other two Canadian teams as well as teams from Chicago and New Mexico. Overall, our team record was 5-6, not great, but not bad either.

Robert Maronian was our best player, even though his match record was only 10-10. He ended up drawing tougher (higher-rated) opponents on a more frequent basis. He came out roaring Friday morning, knocking off two 1900+ level players. to start the day. The big one being a three-gamer over Matthew Cain (1953 rating). Later in the day, he had a solid win over Les Filipowicz (1696), a good player who defeated Bob Brickell for their teams' only win of the match. On Sunday, Robert crushed an 1804 (Kjell Nygren) to finish on an up note. However, the

thing that killed Robert was losing three matches deuce in the third-one on an edge ball, one on a net ball, and one on a clean point.

André Maronian had a good tournament despite his 11-12 record. His best tie was Friday evening, when he went 2-1 against the "G" team which beat us 5-3. One of those wins was a tremendous three-gamer over Premal Patel (1947), in which André hit some absolute scorchers. In beating Patel, he looked like he was 2001! Other good wins for André included Phil Moy (1736), Hong Nguyen (1689), and Isabelle Beaudoin (1692). Also of interest, André trailed Michael Hsu (1398) by a score of 19-11, but came back to win 22-20 and then won the next game.

Andy Barron had an up and down tournament. he started off well, going 6-2 the first 8 matches including a big three-game win over John MacPherson (1902). Tied at 12 in the third game, Andy scored 9 of the last 11 points to win it. Also impressive was a two-straight victory over Kevin Amore (1848) in which Barron blocked him to death. But then disaster struck as Andy lost seven straight matches. After loss #7, Barron ripped the rubber sheets off his paddle, ripping them to shreds and dropping them in the nearest trash can. Andy then bought new rubber (from "Brick"), changed his style of play (to some extent), and went 6-3 the rest of the tournament to finish at 12-12.

One of those wins was an emotional, 19-in the third- triumph over Isabelle Beaudoin (1692 Canadian) who had defeated him last

year in Detroit. Andy also got to play Naum Shkolnik (1893), who he had faced in the finals of U-2000 singles April 12, 1992 back at the old PFH (Polish Falcon Hall). Despite losing to Naum (again), Andy played quite well-enabling him to excel in the next tie, which we won 5-4.

Bob Brickell, whose main function at Detroit is to sell quality supplies and equipment, played five matches for us, winning four of them. This included a 3-0 performance against the Chicago team. He frustrated opponents with his rubber and style of play. He especially frustrated John Davis (1822), holding him under 10 both games.

COLT 45 FAMILY SHOOT'S UP DETROIT

1994 U.S. Open Team Championships Detroit, MI

by Dave Colt

The team COLT 45 consisted of Lucas, DJ, and Dave Colt. Our team was placed in the H group to start Friday preliminary round. Our team played very good on Friday, moving up two letter groups to the F group. Lucas played very well, winning several games that helped win ties that contributed to our team moving up a division.

On Saturday the competition was strong, with the average rated player being mid 1800's to mid 1900's compared with COLT 45: Lucas 1656, and myself at 1699. However, our team has the highest rated player in the F group: DJ was rated at 2024. DJ played super all weekend. When Saturday's match ties were over, our tie record was 3 wins & 2 losses.

Sunday play was two ties. If we win them both, we qualify for the crossover medal round. We win the first tie 5 matches to 4. The last tie match was tied at 4 to 4. Now it was my turn to play. I won the first game, but my opponent makes some adjustments, and wins the next 2

games, and the tie 5 to 4. Maybe next year.

My sons had a good tournament. Lucas had a good tournament-didn't lose a match to anyone who's rating was lower than his all tournament! He also had some wins over higher rated players. DJ had a good tournament, being the highest rated player in the F group. That puts a lot of pressure on DJ, for every opponent is drooling for a chance to get a big win and rating points. But DJ proved that he was up for the challenge with several hard fought wins. DJ finished with 28 wins and 3 losses playing 9 ties.

For me, this was a great tournament having both Lucas and DJ, and myself on the same team for the first time. I enjoyed the opportunity to play in the F group which gave me many chances for some good wins and rating points. I played well this tournament and should have my highest rating ever.

A PERFECT RECORD

by David Jess

The **Rochester II** team of John VanDeursen, Fernando Ofray, and David Jess went to the U.S. Open Teams Table Tennis Tournament in Detroit during Thanksgiving weekend. We went in to have fun and face great competition. This would be Fernando's first U.S. Open, but old hat for John and Dave. Dave has attended every U.S. Open Team Championship since 1986.

The Rochester team did very well in the preliminary rounds starting in J group. We crushed **Princeton II** 5-0. Of course their average rating was less than 1300. The **Princeton I** team returned the favor beating us 5-0. The **Walder Not** team, from the group below us, was competitive, but we beat them anyway 5-3. Shaoze Hu beat all three of us, but we defeated his team mates for the win. The next match was a close (five to four) win over **Design Team Professional** from group I. This match went the distance as Jess managed to defeat Damian Koorey in a rematch from 1992 when Koorey defeated Jess at 21, 21. One of the great things about Detroit is the opportunity to have rivalries against players from other states. **Rochester II's** win over the I group team propelled us into the I group for Saturday.

The good news was that our team moved up one to the I group. The bad news is our team went 0-7 against the other teams—a perfect record. John didn't mind since we would get good competition, a chance for rating points, and have a chance to have fun. Even though we lost all our ties, many of the ties were competitive as we lost 5-3 or 5-4.

Fernando went 9-17 which was pretty good for his first Detroit tournament. Fernando went into Detroit a 1540 player and ended out a 1650+ rating. He had two big wins: Rajesh Ragbir 1775 and Damian Koorey 1661. He also had several wins over some high 1500 rated players.

John VanDeursen had a winning record of 14-13. His high win was over Damian Koorey. The key to John's winning record was that he won the matches that he would be expected to win. In Detroit, ratings are deceptive. John lost several matches to underrated Canadian juniors (under 1350)—but then we all lost against these quick footed hitting machines.

David Jess went into Detroit a solid 1677 only to fall to 1597. Dave finished at 10-18 mainly because he kept losing to those pesky players in the 1550-1650 range. The Canadian juniors were going to chew him up, so he had to win against the American players near his rating. Dave's big win was against Rajesh Ragbir (1775) from the Canadian team **Scarborough Kings II**. Does anybody remember Scott Smith from the Syracuse area? Well he remembered me from 5-7 years ago when he was playing in Western New York. We played his team **Missouri Mashers** for the last tie on Saturday night. I ended out playing a practice match against him since his team beat us 5-0.