



Tournament Results - 2016 Fall Championship

We had another great Tournament, with forty (40) players from four (4) separate states. Players came from Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. In addition, three (3) Joplin City Council members competed as a team against a team of three (3) Joplin City Staff members in the City Challenge Exhibition Match.

Event	1st Place	2nd Place
City Challenge	Team - Joplin City Council	Team – Joplin City Staff
Novice	Evan Cherryholmes, Joplin, MO	Kaden Seward, Joplin, MO
Under 1500	Mike Patel, Oklahoma, OK	Brian Flinn, Tulsa, OK
Under 2000	Ray Pestridge, Stillwater, OK	Jamey Hall, Fayetteville, AR
Open Singles	Winfred Addy, Moore, OK	Russ Hamilton, Bentonville, AR
Open Doubles	Winfred Addy, Moore, OK Jamey Hall, Fayetteville, AR	Alanis Hamilton, Bentonville, AR Russ Hamilton, Bentonville, AR

City Challenge – Exhibition Match

In the first ever Joplin City Challenge two teams faced off against each other in a bid to win the “City Champs” trophy and bragging rights for 2016. The two teams were comprised of members from the Joplin City Council and the Joplin City Staff.

City Council Team	City Staff Team
Ryan Stanley	Sam Anselm
Dan McCreary	Leslie Haase
Peter Edwards	Paul Bloomberg

As one of the Tournament sponsors with a full sized banner of himself serving as the backdrop, Ryan Stanley and the City Council certainly had home field advantage. But the City Staff would not be daunted and came out swinging. Leslie played a finesse game, Paul applied power and Sam used style. But it wouldn't be enough to overcome the dominance applied by Dan, Peter and Ryan and **the City Council ultimately prevailed in winning the title of City Champs.**

The matchup provided lots of laughs and fun. Joplin Table Tennis Club would like to thank both the Joplin Council and City Staff members for their support to 2016 Fall Table Tennis Championship.

Under 2000 Event

The 2016 Fall Table Tennis Championship opened with a full slate of 16 participants competing for the U2000 prize. Group 1 was a tight race which came down to a 3-way tie between Tom Jourdan, Mike Patel and Ray Pestridge forcing the Umpire to perform the tie-breaking calculations. Ray Pestridge emerged the winner. However, Groups 2 – 4 were decisively decided as Lloyd Blankenship, Jamey Hall and Alex Tupas all won their respective groups without dropping a single game.

The Semi-Finals matched Ray against Lloyd and Jamey against Alex. Lloyd put up a fierce battle against Ray in the first game of their match with Ray squeaking out a 12-10 win over Lloyd. But it appeared Ray was just using game 1 to scope out his opponent as he only allowed an additional 4 points over the next 2 games. Meanwhile the contest between Jamey and Alex was more evenly matched. However, Jamey had no issues, eliminating his opponent in 3 straight games.

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In the finals, Ray and Jamey fought an intense game 1 with Ray prevailing in a 15-13 win. But in the next 2 games Ray turned on the gas winning the title of U2000 Champion in a 3 game match.

Novice Event

Another 16 players took to the floor to test themselves against their fellow competitors. And let me tell you, there was a lot of energy in this group with 4 players under the age of 18. Group 1 included one of those players, Alanis Hamilton. Alanis emerged victorious in her group taking besting two of her opponents in just 3 games. Her final match against Ed Emmanuel Jr. was a complete roller-coaster. Game one went to Alanis, game two to Ed, game three to Alanis, game four to Ed before Alanis finally prevailed in game five. Jeremy Williams also fought hard to win Group 4 while Kaden Seward and Evan Cherryholmes had no such issues winning Groups 2 & 3 without dropping a single game.

In the Semi-Finals it was (Alanis vs. Kaden) and (Evan vs. Jeremy). They played tight matches going to four games each. But Kaden and Evan ultimately prevailed to move on to the finals. This was a repeat from the Spring tournament when these same two Joplin Table Tennis Club members made it to the finals of the Novice division. Kaden proved more of a challenge this time, splitting the first two games with Evan. Evan easily won game three 11-3. Then Kaden rallied in game four, but it wasn't enough as Evan took the match 13-11 and the title of Champion of the Novice event.

Open Singles Event

The premiere event, Open Singles, began at noon as 15 players took to the floor to compete for the grand prize of \$120. In Group 1 Winfred Addy mastered the field winning each match in 3 games, moving on without even breaking a sweat. Looking to extend his winning streak from earlier, Ray Pestrige also advanced in Group 2 without dropping a game. In fact, domination was a theme in the Round Robin portion of the Open Single as Alex Tupas and Russ Hamilton also advanced from their groups without a single loss as well.

In the Semi-Finals it was (Russ Hamilton vs. Alex Tupas) and (Winfred Addy vs. Ray Pestrige). Alex put up a stiff fight in the first game of their match pushing his score to 10 before being beat by Russ. But Russ had seen enough only allowing 7 points over the next two games. Meanwhile, Winfred won the first 2 games 11-9 and 11-9 before Ray used his pips to turn the tables, winning game three 11-9. But Ray's pips wouldn't be enough as Winfred won game four 11-7 to move on to the finals.

Winfred Addy of Oklahoma faced off against Russ Hamilton of Arkansas in the Open Singles Finals. This was a match of strength, dexterity and skill, oh, and repeating numbers, with the score of every game being 11-8. Spectators watched the expertise of these two competitors, both with ratings of over 2200, with awe and admiration. With smooth controlled strokes, Winfred won games 1 & 2. But Russ wouldn't roll over so easily, using his powerful and lightning fast backhand to take game 3. But **Winfred Addy took game 4 and the match to become the undisputed Champion of the 2106 Fall Table Tennis Championship Open Singles and claim the \$120 prize. Congratulations Winfred!!** Lunch is on you. 😊

Under 1500 Event

Having just watched the Open Singles, it was now time for the U1500 competitors to show their stuff. Joplin players Kaden Seward and Evan Cherryholmes did just that once again, advancing out of their respective groups. Brian Flinn also prevailed to advance in his group, while Mike Patel cut through his field of competitors like a hot knife through butter.

The Semi-Finals saw a matchup of (Brian Flinn vs. Evan Cherryholmes) and (Mike Patel vs. Kaden Seward). Evan gave it his all, stealing the second game by a score of 12-10. But Brian cut down his hope taking the match in 4 games.

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In the other Semi-Finals match, Kaden managed to more than double his score in each game against Mike, yet it wasn't enough, and Mike rolled over his younger opponent in 3 straight games.

Then, in perhaps the most hotly contested Finals of the day, Mike Patel began his bid to retain his previous title of U1500 Champion by meeting Brian Flinn head on. But while Mike had made it to this far without dropping a single game, the same would not be true when facing Brian in the Finals. Mike jumped out to an early lead, winning game one 11-5, and it appeared his title was well in hand. However, Brian evened the score in game 2 with a 13-11 win over Mike and then took a 2 -1 lead in a decisive 11-6 put away in game three. Now up against the ropes, Mike fought back. While he wasn't able to stop Brian from getting 11 points, he was able to walk away with a game 4 victory of 13-11. Now with the match tied at 2 games apiece, it all came down to the final of the Finals, game 5. Once again Mike faced elimination but was able to muster the final knockout punch needed to retain his title of U1500 Champion.

Doubles Open Event

The Doubles event, comprised of 12 teams was an interesting combination of ratings and ages. From two teams with no rating to four teams over with combined rating of over 3000 and combined team ages of 16 to a combined team age of . . . well, we won't go there. ☺ There were definite crowd favorites in this event. Most notably was the Piech team comprised of brothers Jason and Alex, also known as "Eyebrow" and "Storm" ages 9 and 7.

Alex and Jason with a combined rating of 1131 faced off against Sage Crane and Lloyd Blankenship with a combined rating of over 3000. With opponents who towered over them in stature, experience and age, this was a classic David and Goliath battle, and the results repeated themselves once again. Eyebrow and Storm shocked their opponents and the thrilled the crowd hurtling a white "stone" with incredible speed and accuracy at their opponents toppling the "giant" 3 games to 1 (12-10, 4-11, 11-8, 12-10). Jason and Alex won 2 of their 3 matches but ultimately lost by decimal point in a three way tie while the team of John Noori and Ashutosh Atre advance to the Semi-Finals out of Group 3.

Another crowd favorite was the father / daughter team of Alanis and Russ Hamilton who dominated Group 2 allowing an average of only 6 points against them to easily advance to the Semi-Finals. Group 1 had another dominate team with paired up Winfred Addy and Jamey Hall who also advanced with ease.

As the top rated team, Winfred and Jamey received a first round bye in the Semi-Finals. So, father and daughter would once again go to work, taking on the team of John and Ashutosh. But they were simply outmatched as Alanis showed great form with solid shots which, with the power of her father Russ, combined to provide a devastating blow their opponents.

Alanis and Russ now had only one more hurdle to overcome in order to claim the Doubles first prize. But this match would be double trouble as they face 2 powerful opponents, Winfred and Jamey, with a combined rating of 4050. While Alanis and Russ fought with heart, they couldn't stop the bleeding as Winfred Addy and Jamey Hall won the match in three games and became the Open Doubles Champion.

The JTTC Officials would like to thank all the participants for making this a fun and exciting Tournament and to our Sponsors for providing their financial support. I would also like to thank the Tournament Officials for all the hard work they put in to promoting and running the tournament and extend special thanks Kevin Seward and Yimin Ding for filling in where needed. We hope to see you all again next Spring 2017.

Sincerely,

Janus Lazarus