

December 31, 2024 Volume 7, Issue 6

## U26 USA1 final

*Shaded boxes indicate the team with seating rights for that segment of play.*

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	SET #5	SET #6	SET #7	SET #8	Penalty (IMPs)
1	<a href="#">Wan</a>	106	13	50	18	25					
2	<a href="#">Kolesnik</a>	140	49	21	24	46					

## U26 USA2 Quarterfinal

3	<a href="#">Chen - wins tie</a>				230	27	67	84	52		
6	<a href="#">Yeung</a>				115	45	25	12	33		
4	<a href="#">Zheng - wins tie</a>				77	13	20	19	25		
5	<a href="#">Eckert</a>				285	83	74	60	68		

## U21 USA1 final

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
1	<a href="#">Ge</a>	107	49	19	12	27	
2	<a href="#">Silverstein</a>	191	38	53	53	47	

## U21 USA2 semifinal

#	TEAM	IMPs Total	SET #1	SET #2	SET #3	SET #4	Penalty (IMPs)
3	<a href="#">He - wins tie</a>	154	56	13	34	51	
4	<a href="#">Xie</a>	109	24	28	42	15	

**U26W STAGE 2**

[Link to Live LoveBridge Results \(Cross-IMPs not official, doesn't include carryover\)](#)

Standing	Pair #	Player	Player	TOTAL	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Carryover
1	1	Jasmine Bakhshi [I]	Kyra Helmbold [SV]	58.78	14.11	6.89	11.30	12.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.84
2	9	Cecilia Ehrlichmar	Katie Hwang [SW]	56.15	15.24	14.93	8.70	12.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.90
3	3	Yichen Cai [NE]	Helena Hsieh [SW]	50.18	7.36	18.46	5.05	3.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.54
4	10	Katie Sullivan [NE]	Caroline Zhao [SW]	47.42	4.76	10.42	14.95	15.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.30
5	5	Helen Chow [NE]	Nicole Qian [SW]	47.07	12.64	9.58	17.50	7.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	8	Ava Donnellan [NE]	Margot Donnellan	45.01	3.29	13.11	11.25	16.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11
7	6	Ella Su [NE]	Sharon Chu [SW]	33.31	16.71	5.07	2.50	4.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.02
8	4	Leyi Chen [NE]	Maiya Clouse [SW]	26.06	5.89	1.54	8.75	7.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27

[Link to Live LoveBridge Results \(Cross-IMPs not official, doesn't include carryover\)](#)

Pair #	Player	Player	TOTAL	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Carryover
1	5 Jeff Xiao [NE]	Andrew Chen [SV]	77.22	11.46	16.69	10.73	19.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.37
2	9 Adam Hemmer [I]	Kate Lee [SW]	61.91	11.68	15.10	14.67	13.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.28
3	12 Ryan Wolpert [NE]	Kaining Sheng [S]	55.56	17.42	4.90	16.91	16.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	3 Kevin Wei [NE]	Arjun Chaunal [S]	50.10	14.28	10.32	5.33	9.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.62
5	2 Jayson Lee [NE]	Lee Blocher [SW]	42.18	8.32	11.91	9.27	3.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00
6	4 Kyo Chen [NE]	Zinnia Meyer [SW]	39.47	8.54	8.09	3.09	10.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.30
7	7 Chloe Chow [NE]	Eli Shuster [SW]	38.21	5.72	3.31	11.51	6.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.86
8	11 Demian Li [NE]	Brandon Wolpert	21.69	2.58	9.68	8.49	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.92

**USBF President**  
Aaron Silverstein

**USBF Vice President**  
Lynn Baker

**USBF COO & Secretary**  
Jan Martel

**USBF CFO & Treasurer**  
Max Schireson

**USBF Recorder**  
Jack Oest

**Bulletin Editor & Chief Communications Officer**  
Suzi Subeck

**Directors**  
McKenzie Myers, DIC  
Chris Wiegand

**Tournament Organizer**  
Jan Martel

**Chief Technical Expert**  
Al Hollander

**Online VuGraph Organizer**

**Appeals Administrators**  
Suzi Subeck, Chairman

**Appeals Panel:**

Cheri Bjerkan  
Bart Bramley  
Kitty Cooper  
Rich DeMartino  
Mitch Dunitz  
Marty Fleisher  
Ron Gerard  
Marty Hirschman  
George Jacobs

Ralph Katz  
Bobby Levin  
Chip Martel  
Adam Wildavsky

**Junior Committee Chair**  
Joe Stokes

**Junior Program Co-Ordinator**  
Alex Kolesnik

**Junior Training Camp Officials**  
Amber Lin  
Kevin Rosenberg



SAM AMER UNITED STATES BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Kidding Aside

# Happy New Year!

# Teams Entered

## U26:

Brezak	Luke Brezak, Capt Alan Hale	Chris Staszak Cade Johnson
Chen	Tianyang Chen, Capt Philip Wang Fangqing Yuan	Rory Xiao Jonathan Yue Will Duan
Eckert	Kai Eckert, Capt Matthew Rippin	Isaac Stone Levi Katriel
Jiang	Kevin Jiang, Capt Ryan Carlson Zihao Sun	Alex Safonov Andy Zhang Jingcheng Dai
Kolesnik	Finn Kolesnik, Capt Harrison Luba Ethan Wood	Michael Xu Bo Han Zhu Michael Hu
Wan	Stella Wan, Capt Brent Xiao Cornelius Duffie	Olivia Schireson Richard Jeng Jacob Freeman
Yang	Yanlai Yang, Capt Ruizhe Wang	Renyu Li Eric Shao
Yeung	Alan Yeung, Capt Evan Alexis	Dan Irish Rohan Srivastava
Zheng	Lixin Zheng, Capt Vasisht Ganesh	Weilong Shen Tom Ye

## U21:

Ge	Brandon Ge, Capt Brian Zhang Charlie Chen	Kayden Ge Arthur Gong Eric Xiao
He	Edward He, Capt Nathan Gong	Eric He Jason Yao
Hoagland	Michael Hoagland, Capt Owen Jiang	James Fu Eric White
Silverstein	Avery Silverstein, Capt Sam Pahk Ethan Derman	Daniel Balof Michael Haas Jack Boge
Xie	Ethan Xie, Capt Kyle Lin	Zach Posternak Keith Lin

## RONA (GIRLS):

### 2024 Sam Amer Junior USBC - U26W PAIRS

Stephanie Bergman  
Rachel Yoken

Leyi Chen  
Maiya Clouse

Alexandra Deschenes  
Avery Liang

Ava Donnellan  
Margot Donnellan

Cecilia Ehrlichman  
Katie Hwang

Kyra Helmbold  
Jasmine Bakhshi

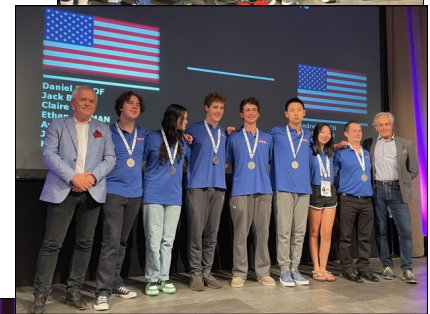
Helena Hsieh  
Yichen Cai

Nicole Qian  
Helen Chow

Ella Su  
Sharon Chu

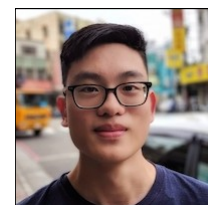
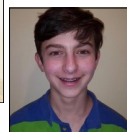
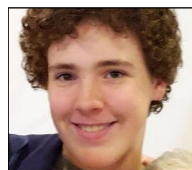
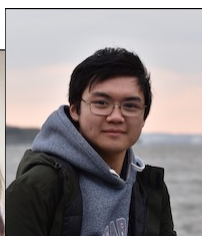
Katie Sullivan  
Caroline Zhao

Yihan Xiao  
Zara Weiss



### 2024 Sam Amer Junior USBC - U16 PAIRS

Beatriz Aldana	Ethan Wu
Andrew Chen	Jeff Xiao
Ryo Chen	Jeremy Zhang
Joseph Hoagland	Clayton Kaneko
Jayson Lee	Lee Blocher
Kate Lee	Adam Hemmer
Zinnia Meyer	Kyo Chen
Eli Shuster	Chloe Chow
Kevin Wei	Arjun Chaunal
Brandon Wolpert	Demian Li
Ryan Wolpert	Kaining Sheng
Alex Xu	Derek Deschenes



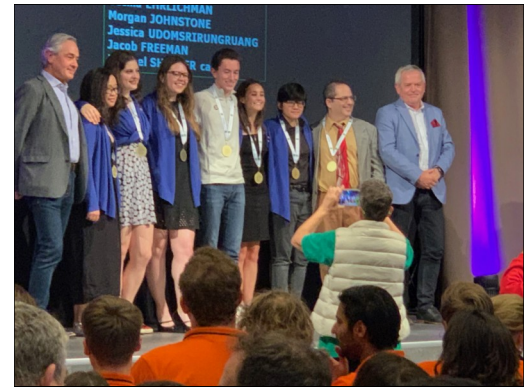
# U26 Schedule:

Schedules continued on pages 4 and 5

Day	Date	Time (EST)	Boards
<b>Training Camp</b>			
Thursday	Dec 26	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Optional evening session
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Details TBA
<b>ROUND ROBIN</b>			
Saturday	Dec 28	5:30-6:35 6:50-7:55 8:10-9:15	Match 1 Boards 1-10 Match 2 Boards 11-20 Match 3 Boards 21-30
Sunday	Dec 29	11:00-12:05 12:20-1:25 1:40-2:45  3:45-4:55 6:10-7:15 7:30-8:35	Match 4 Boards 31-40 Match 5 Boards 41-50 Match 6 Boards 51-60 60 Minute BREAK Match 7 Boards 61-70 Match 8 Boards 71-80 Match 9 Boards 81-90
<b>USA1 Semifinal &amp; USA2 Stage 1</b>			
Monday	Dec 30	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45  4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
<b>USA1 Final &amp; USA2 Quarterfinal</b>			
Tuesday	Dec 31	11:00 - 12:45 1:00 - 2:45  4:00 - 5:45 6:00 - 7:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
<b>USA2 Semifinal</b>			
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:00 - 11:45 12:00 - 1:45  3:00 - 4:45 5:00 - 6:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60
<b>USA2 Final</b>			
Thursday	Jan 2	10:00 - 11:45 12:00 - 1:45  3:00 - 4:45 5:00 - 6:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15 Segment 2 Boards 16-30 75 minute Break Segment 3 Boards 31-45 Segment 4 Boards 46-60

All the colors I am  
inside / Have not  
been invented yet.

Shel Silverstein



Jan Kamras, Jessica Udomsriungruang, Cecilia Ehrlichman, Morgan Johnstone, Jacob Freeman, Katie Sullivan, Khan Tran Nguyen, NPC Michael Shuster, Eric Laurent



Bruce Zhu, Harrison Luba, Nathan Gong, Michael Xu, Arthur Gong, Olivia Schireson, NPC Roger Lee

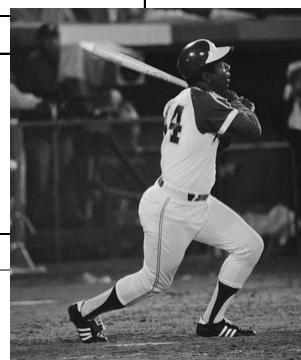
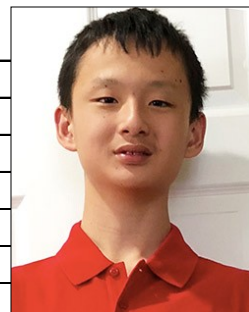
"Let's gather up the rope," said Tom coyly.  
"Welcome to my tomb," said Tom cryptically.  
"I can't find the oranges," said Tom fruitlessly.  
Sometimes they require a little more thought to get:  
"Don't you love sleeping outdoors," Tom said intently.

"Let's trap that sick bird," Tom said illegally.  
"I lost my trousers," said Tom expansively.  
"I just ran over my father," Tom said transparently.

## Tom Swifties

## Tournament Schedules... continued from page 3

U21 Schedule			
Day	Date	Time (EST)	Boards
<b>Training Camp</b>			
Thursday	Dec 26	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Optional evening session
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 3:15 PM	Details TBA
<b>ROUND ROBIN</b>			
Saturday	Dec 28	4:10-5:15	Match 1 Boards 1-10
		5:30-6:35	Match 2 Boards 11-20
		6:50-7:55	Match 3 Boards 21-30
		8:10-9:15	Match 4 Boards 31-40
Sunday	Dec 29	11:00-12:05	Match 5 Boards 41-50
		12:20-1:25	Match 6 Boards 51-60
		1:40-2:45	Match 7 Boards 61-70
			60 Minute BREAK
		3:45-4:55	Match 8 Boards 71-80
		6:10-7:15	Match 9 Boards 81-90
	7:30-8:35	Match 10 Boards 91-100 [exact board # might change]	
<b>USA1 Semifinal</b>			
Monday	Dec 30	11:00 - 12:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:00 - 2:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			75 minute Break
		4:00 - 5:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	6:00 - 7:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60	
<b>USA1 Final &amp; USA2 Semifinal</b>			
Tuesday	Dec 31	11:00 - 12:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		1:00 - 2:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			75 minute Break
		4:00 - 5:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	6:00 - 7:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60	
<b>USA2 final</b>			
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:00 - 11:45	Segment 1 Boards 1-15
		12:00 - 1:45	Segment 2 Boards 16-30
			75 minute Break
		3:00 - 4:45	Segment 3 Boards 31-45
	5:00 - 6:45	Segment 4 Boards 46-60	



## The Atlanta Braves...

Aaron hitting his 715th homer!

The Braves began a lackluster run after they began playing in Atlanta in 1966, finishing somewhere between the middle and the bottom of the National League (1966–68) or their division (1969–81) for 16 years. The one exception was 1969, when the Braves won the NL West but lost the National League Championship Series (NLCS) to the New York Mets. Despite the team's struggles, Hank Aaron continued a career that included 25 appearances in the All-Star Game, three Gold Gloves, and a constant barrage of home runs.

When the 1974 season began, it was clear that Aaron would quickly break Babe Ruth's record of 714 career home runs. He did so on April 8, 1974, during a game at Atlanta–Fulton County Stadium against the Los Angeles Dodgers. Braves radio announcer Milo Hamilton declared, "There's a new home run champion of all time, and it's Henry Aaron!"

U26W SCHEDULE			
Training Camp			
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
STAGE 1			
Sunday	Dec 29	10:30 - 11:30	Round 1 Boards 1-9
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 2 Boards 10-18
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 3 Boards 19-27 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 4 Boards 28-36
Monday	Dec 30	4:10 - 5:10	Round 5 Boards 37-45
		5:20 - 6:20	Round 6 Boards 46-54
		10:30 - 11:30	Round 7 Boards 55-63
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 8 Boards 64-72
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 9 Boards 73-81 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 10 Boards 82-90
		4:10 - 5:10	Round 11 Boards 91-99
		STAGE 2	
Tuesday	Dec 31	10:30 - 12:15	Round 1 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 2 Boards 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:15	Round 3 Boards 31-45
		5:30 - 7:15	Round 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:30 - 12:15	Round 5 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 6 Boards 16-30 60 MINUTE BREAK
		3:15 - 5:00	Round 7 Boards 31-45

U16 SCHEDULE			
Training Camp			
Friday	Dec 27	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
Saturday	Dec 28	11:00 AM - 9:00 PM	Details TBA
STAGE 1			
Sunday	Dec 29	10:30 - 11:30	Round 1 Boards 1-9
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 2 Boards 10-18
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 3 Boards 19-27 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 4 Boards 28-36
Monday	Dec 30	4:10 - 5:10	Round 5 Boards 37-45
		5:20 - 6:20	Round 6 Boards 46-54
		10:30 - 11:30	Round 7 Boards 55-63
		11:40 - 12:40	Round 8 Boards 64-72
		12:50 - 1:50	Round 9 Boards 73-81 70 MINUTE BREAK
		3:00 - 4:00	Round 10 Boards 82-90
		4:10 - 5:10	Round 11 Boards 91-99
		STAGE 2	
Tuesday	Dec 31	10:30 - 12:15	Round 1 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 2 Boards 16-30 75 MINUTE BREAK
		3:30 - 5:15	Round 3 Boards 31-45
		5:30 - 7:15	Round 4 Boards 46-60
Wednesday	Jan 1	10:30 - 12:15	Round 5 Boards 1-15
		12:30 - 2:15	Round 6 Boards 16-30 60 MINUTE BREAK
		3:15 - 5:00	Round 7 Boards 31-45

Tournament Schedules... continued

**No Electronic Devices are Permitted in the Playing Area. This applies to both players AND kibitzers. Severe penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule. Please turn off all cell phones and check them at the door. The USBF reserves the right to randomly wand attendees as they enter the playing field.**



## Pun-ctuality!

A photon checks into a hotel. The front desk asks if it has any luggage. It replies "no, I'm traveling light"

Did you hear about the glass blower who accidentally inhaled? He got stomach pane.

If you see an Apple Store get robbed, does that make you an iWitness?

Why couldn't the pony sing in the choir? He was a little horse.

Did you hear about the woman who loved making archery supplies? Every day she went to work, she quivered with joy!

The past, the present and the future all walk into a bar. It was tense.

What's the body temperature of a Tauntaun? Luke Warm.



Why did the hipster burn his mouth on pizza? Because he ate it before it was cool.

Wan (U26)	Zheng (U26)	Open	6N	W	♠6	=	1440	13	On Board 48 in Monday's Knockout Round, there were a record number of swings. 5 of the 6 matches produced double digit IMPs when 1 team bid slam and the other stopped in game.
		Closed	5♦	E	♣T	+2	640		
Kolesnik (U26)	Chen (U26)	Open	6♦	E	♦3	+1	1390	12	
		Closed	4N	W	♥2	+3	720		
Yang (U26)	Eckert (U26)	Open	4♥x	S	♣K	-7	1700	7	
		Closed	6♦	E	♣T	+1	1390		
Brezak (U26)	Yeung (U26)	Open	6N	W	♠6	=	1440	13	
		Closed	3N	W	♠6	+2	660		
Ge (U21)	Xie (U21)	Open	3N	W	♥2	+4	720	12	
		Closed	6♦	E	♠K	+1	1390		
Silverstein (U21)	He (U21)	Open	6N	W	♠6	=	1440	12	
		Closed	7♦	E	♠K	=	2140		

The most impressive score was in the U21 Silverstein/He match where Haas and Pahk of the Silverstein team were the only pair to bid the cold diamond grand.

The hand is a perfect fitter in diamonds... and Haas/Pahk had a good auction to get to the grand.

Haas opened 1strong NT with 17 HCP and a singleton DK.

- 1NT=14+-17
- 4H= KC in D
- 5D=2+trump Q
- 5H=K ask
- 5NT=HK

Pahk checked for spades by responding Stayman. When Haas showed four hearts, Pahk showed his strong diamonds. Haas bid keycard... somewhat unusual by the opening NT bidder but right on this hand... Pahk showed two keycards with the DQ and the HK.

That was enough for Haas who showed his strong club holding at the six level in case NT was the right strain. Pahk opted for diamonds and brought home 13 tricks. Yao led the SK and Pahk had 13 top tricks: 1 spade, 6 diamonds, 3 clubs and 3 hearts without a finesse!

It is not a great contract if the diamonds don't behave. They need to split 3-3 or the DJ needs to come down in three rounds.

Bridge always involves an element of luck and on this hand, East/West had luck on their side. 12 IMPs to Silverstein when Edward He and Eric He stopped in the small slam at the other table.

Defending doubled, vulnerable part scores in IMPs can be a dangerous thing. Big swings may be created either way.

On Board 39 of the U26 match on Monday, Wood opened 1S; Hu made a mixed raise to 3S; Yuan made an aggressive takeout double with good shape but few HCP. Wang, with ATxx of spades and the AKJ of diamonds thought it would be an easy contract to defeat. Dutifully, he passed.

Wang led the DA and when Yuan played the DJ, he shifted to the H6. Wood won in dummy and went after trump. Wang won his SA and continued hearts to his partner's king. With the CA still outstanding, a third round of hearts will promote Wang's ST for the setting trick. Yuan thought it best to cash his CA before leading the heart. Unfortunately for E/W, that was devastating. After cashing the CA, Yuan played the H7. Wood ruffed with the SK while Wang pitched a club. At this point, South could successfully pick up the trump suit and claim his 9 tricks.

11 IMPs to Kolesnik

1	Wan (U26)	Zheng (U26)	Open	4♠	S	♦A	-1	100	5
			Closed	3N	W	♠3	-1	100	
2	Kolesnik (U26)	Chen (U26)	Open	3♠x	S	♦A	=	730	11
			Closed	3♠	S	♦A	+1	170	
3	Yang (U26)	Eckert (U26)	Open	4♠x	S	♦A	-1	200	2
			Closed	4♦	E	♣K	=	130	
4	Brezak (U26)	Yeung (U26)	Open	4♠xx	S	♦A	-1	400	7
			Closed	4♠	S	♦A	-1	100	
5	Ge (U21)	Xie (U21)	Open	4♠	S	♦K	-1	100	6
			Closed	3♠	S	♦A	=	140	
6	Silverstein (U21)	He (U21)	Open	3♠	S	♦A	=	140	-
			Closed	3♠	S	♦A	=	140	

Only in the Silverstein/He match was there no swing.

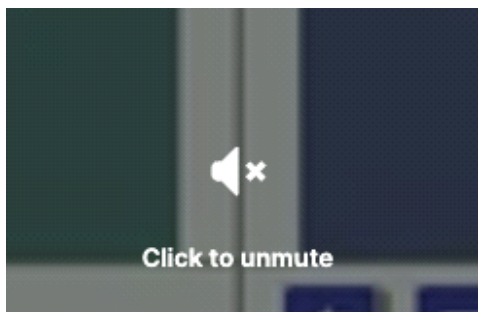
# Kibitzing...

Our site is undergoing a migration and some things may not work as expected. We appreciate your patience.

## There will be delayed kibitzing for all of the 2024 Sam Amer JUSBCs on LoveBridge

You can follow the Sam Amer JUSBC on the [LoveBridge website](#). There will often be voice commentary, which you can access by clicking on the TV icon.

If you get to the voice commentary and there is no sound, you need to "unmute." When you first get to the page, there is a small icon of a speaker in the middle of your screen with an x on it:

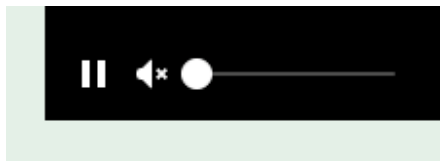


Just click on it to unmute.



A grand slam is cold.  
But the bidding's not bold.  
They stopped in the game.  
That won't gain them fame!

If you miss that icon, you can still unmute - move your cursor to the bottom left of the screen and you should see a similar icon:



[LoveBridge website](#)

(Kibitzing, continued on page 9)

Click on the speaker. It should unmute your machine.

Vugraph is delayed for 30 minutes or until all tables have completed play on a board, whichever is later.

One day, on the savannah, a lion, a cheetah, an elephant and a warthog were all sitting around after their respective meals and discussing which species has the biggest potential for success. The elephant suggested that they settle this, once and for all, and that they take a cue from humans and test this by starting their own businesses, and then checking in a month to see who did best.

The Warthog decided to hire other warthogs to occupy the shadiest groves, and then charged animals \$5 to lay in the shade.

The Elephant built an elaborate harness for his back, and charged other animals \$15 for elephant rides.

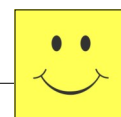
The Lion started a personal protection racket, offering gazelles protection from the lions in exchange for a fee of \$10.

But the Cheetah had the best idea of all, starting a courier service, using his incredible speed to bring messages from animal to animal, all across the savannah, for \$20. Within weeks, all the animals were using the Cheetah's service to communicate, while the lion, elephant, and warthog sat mostly idle.

Finally, a month had passed, and the elephant, cheetah, warthog, and lion met up again with their bank statements to try and guess who might win. The Warthog had earned \$150, the Elephant had earned \$185, the Lion had earned \$200.

But Cheetah's bank statement showed only \$2. The other animals were shocked, because "Fast Cat Courier" was the most successful business by far. The other animals asked Cheetah what went wrong.

"Business has been great," the spotted cat said, "but alas, Cheetahs never prosper."





## Kibitzing Schedule (EDT)

**For all KO days** of the 2024 Sam Amer JUSBCs, kibitzing times will be :

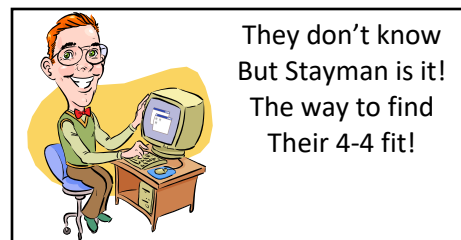
Segment 1: 11:30 am EDT

Segment 2: 1:30 pm EDT

BREAK

Segment 3: 4:30 pm EDT

Segment 4: 6:30 pm EDT



**For Round Robin days**, each kibitzing segment will start 30 minutes after play starts. There will not be voice commentary during the Round Robins.

## More information

Do you want to listen to commentary? Search for the TV icon! It will send you to the page where you can choose from the available live commentary. If it doesn't do anything, no one is commenting.

## Nail biting!

Do you want to be deeply involved? Choose the "Match view" at the starting page of your event. Your screen will be divided into four small screens – two of them showing the two tables of the match you choose, the other two having the scoresheet for your match and the current scores of the other matches. In the 2x2 view you can also personalize the content in all your windows. (The 2x2 view is not available on mobiles.)

## Think together!

When watching a table, click on a name and choose "Kibitz". Instead of seeing all 4 hands, you will see what the player sees, and you can decide what you would do and see the result.

## More Information:

Be well informed and tell your friends: while following the play, you can click many items. The image of the sticker with the number of the board (upper right) takes you to the results of the board, in the bottom right corner the arrow takes you to the scoresheet, the DDS shows the double dummy analyses, beside that there is a button for the other table of the same match, at the top left corner you can see the bidding with alerts and the explanations (mouse over), the tricks already played, and the double dummy analysis for the available number of tricks with the par score.

## Navigation icons:

While surfing here and there, there are icons to help you. You can always go back to the main page with the "house" or to the standings with the "scores". If you cannot see the icons, move your mouse, or touch your screen and they pop up immediately. There is also a built-in back button because the back button of your browser will always take you to the starting page. If this is not what you wanted, push next in your browser and you can continue where you were.

## Replay:

After the event you can find every board from every table easily. While replaying the hands, the only surprise can be the way "next board" button works. If you have arrived from a scoresheet, it navigates through the scoresheet. If you have arrived from a screen where the results were shown for a given board then the same buttons move you through the list. Push every button and enjoy!

# Sudoku

Answer to Logic Puzzle on Page 13

2008	Andy	Cycling	Rhode Island
2007	Olga	Hiking	Wyoming
2006	Yvonne	Hang gliding	Oregon
2005	Zachary	Skydiving	Utah
2004	Pam	Kayaking	Virginia
2003	William	Camping	Delaware
2002	Lillie	Hunting	Maine

Sudoku 2

	9			3	7		
						8	
			2	7			6
	4	6			5		1
			4				
1		5			7		
		1	9	6			
3							2
				2		7	

A trick consists of four cards, one from each player in turn, clockwise around the table. Hence, there are 13 tricks to be won on each deal. The first card played to each trick is called the lead. • If it is your turn to lead, you may play any card in your hand.

There's a misconception that bridge is very difficult to learn, but it really just requires practice to become familiar with it. The rules start out simple, but progressively get a little more complicated.

	9	3			6	8		
		1		3				
2								
		2		7		4		
5				9		7		
					1		5	
	7			4				
		4			2			1
3						6		9

Sudoku 1

Answers to Sudokus on Page 14

## Random Bridge Facts

Bridge can trace its ancestry at least to the early 16th century in England (first reference 1529 in a published sermon by Bishop Latimer) and through succeeding centuries when prototype forms of whist were played under such names as triumph, trump, ruff, slam, ruff and honors, whisk and swabbers, whisk, and whist.

Bridge departed from whist with the creation of Biritch (or "Russian Whist") in the 19th century, and evolved through the late 19th and early 20th centuries to form the present game.

In 1925, the game that we know today was derived from auction bridge and plafond. Contract bridge was invented by the American Harold Vanderbilt, who had some invaluable idle time on a steamship cruise.

The "dummy", which comes from the French word for silent, is the declarer's partner and places the hand face-up on the table after the "bidding" is done and the "opening lead" is made by the player on declarer's left. The other two players are the defenders for that hand.

# Puzzle Page

## Winter

Find and circle all of the Winter related words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a Japanese proverb.

L S O S E K A L F W O N S E L C I C I N  
L E Y C E K R A I M N D D R A Z Z I L B  
A S C A W V K A I O E C I K C A L B R D  
B W A R D R O T E S N O W S H O V E L C  
W E R F A I T L C W A F I R E P L A C E  
O A N P I E L I G E R N H E A D B A N D  
N T I S N C P O L S Y E S E T A K S S W  
S S V S N M E T H K E A D N D F R N E M  
T H A M Y O S F S C K T N N O L O H A R  
Y I L L R A W E I O C W O E U W O G S W  
E R O S C O R S W S O I I B B G M C O I  
S T E W A I T S H L H V T O O S N A N N  
N K O P T M O S P O G I A S T G O O N D  
D N I W P L T W T O E R N C O E G U L C  
S E O I S I O S N W D S R G A R E A P H  
E N L T N N L G I F R E E Z E T F L N I  
S R I S S G G S M R O N B O O D I K S L  
T C F I R E W O O D H A I L S T O O B L  
E H S S T N A P I K S C H P A C T I N K

BLACK ICE  
BLIZZARD  
BOOTS  
CARNIVAL  
CHRISTMAS  
COLD  
EGG NOG  
FIREPLACE  
FIREWOOD  
FOG  
FREEZE  
FROST  
GLOVES

HAIL  
HEADBAND  
HIBERNATION  
HOCKEY  
HOLIDAYS  
ICE FISHING  
ICICLES  
KNIT CAP  
LONG UNDERWEAR  
MITTENS  
OLYMPICS  
PARKA  
SCARF

SEASON  
SKATES  
SKI DOO  
SKI PANTS  
SKIING  
SLED  
SLEET  
SLIPPERY  
SNOW CASTLE  
SNOW PLOW  
SNOW SHOVEL  
SNOW TIRES  
SNOWBALL

SNOWBOARD  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
SNOWSHOES  
SOLSTICE  
SOUP  
STEW  
STORM  
SWEATSHIRT  
TOBOGGAN  
VACATION  
WIND CHILL  
WOOL SOCKS

# Funny!

What language do bridges speak? Span-ish.

If a kid won't take a nap, is that "resisting a rest"?

What do you call a dog magician? A Labracadabrador Retriever.

How many ears does Captain Kirk have? Three, the right, the left, and the final front ear.

A king, wanting to host an elaborate wedding for his daughter, raised taxes on all citizens of the kingdom by thirty pieces of gold. Everybody paid, except for one young count.

The king sent a tax collector, but the count refused. "This is unfair, and I shall not pay!"

The king sent the sheriff, but the count refused. "I will not support the king's new tax!"

Finally, the king had the count arrested, and thrown in the dungeon. He explained to the count that failure to pay was treason, and he would be executed, yet still, the count refused.

So, the king had him brought to the top of the tower, and neck on the block, with the executioner's axe raised. The king asked the count to pay. He defiantly shouted, "Never!"

Then, as the executioner's axe began to fall, the count shouted "OK! I'll pay!". But it was too late, the executioner couldn't stop the heavy axe, and the count was killed.

The moral of this story? Don't hatchet your counts before they chicken.

What do you call a lawyer who can cook? A sue chef

Did you hear about the World War I soldier who survived both pepper spray and mustard gas? He was a seasoned veteran.

Why do Buddhist monks avoid sending word documents? They're supposed to avoid attachments.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

Broken pencils are pointless.

Did you hear about the actuary who wouldn't make whipped cream? She was whisk-averse.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I don't enjoy computer jokes. Not one bit.

I changed my phone's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

Jokes about german sausage are the wurst.

I got a job at a bakery, because I knead dough.

What do you do when you find Niacin and Thiamin at your front door? You vitamin, of course!

What do Russian kings order on their pizzas? Czardines.

Did you hear about the banker who left her job? She just lost interest.

How do you measure the quality of my puns? A sighsmograph!

A Mexican magician told his audience he would disappear on the count of three. He wrapped his cape around himself and counted. "Uno... Dos..." and then disappeared without a Tres.

A Steak Pun is a Rare Medium Well Done

Did you hear about the exorcist who offers a payment plan? Apparently if people fall behind on payments, they'll get repossessed!

Did you hear about the antiques collector who found an old Coca-Cola lamp? She was soda lighted.

Did you hear about the Celiac Disease sufferer who went to a wheat processing plant? She was a real Gluten for punishment.

My friend fell into an upholstery machine. He's fully recovered now.



From the Editor:

If you find an interesting hand and want to call my attention to it, please send the board #, the names of the players, the session in which it was played and any relevant comments to me at:

stansubeck@prodigy.net

Extra eyes and ears are always appreciated! Please address any Letters to the Editor, tournament tales or fun photos to that address as well.

Thank you! I will include as much as I can daily! And give you credit!  
Suzi

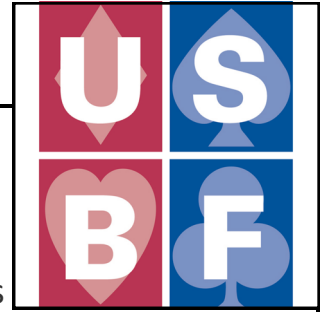
Good Luck!	Friends							Activities							States						
	Andy	Lillie	Olga	Pam	William	Yvonne	Zachary	camping	cycling	hang gliding	hiking	hunting	kayaking	skydiving	Delaware	Maine	Oregon	Rhode Island	Utah	Virginia	Wyoming
	2002																				
	2003																				
	2004																				
	2005																				
	2006																				
	2007																				
	2008																				
	Years	Delaware																			
Maine																					
Oregon																					
Rhode Island																					
Utah																					
Virginia																					
Wyoming																					
States	camping																				
	cycling																				
	hang gliding																				
	hiking																				
	hunting																				
	kayaking																				
	skydiving																				
Activities																					

**Fiendishly Hard  
Logic Puzzle!**

**Answer to Puzzle can be found on page 10**

Years	Friends	Activities	States
2002			
2003			
2004			
2005			
2006			
2007			
2008			

- The holiday with Olga wasn't in Rhode Island.
- The trip with Zachary is either the Utah vacation or the 2007 trip.
- The 2002 trip wasn't in Wyoming.
- Of the 2008 trip and the 2005 trip, one was the skydiving holiday and the other was in Rhode Island.
- The 2006 trip was the hang gliding trip.
- The holiday with Zachary was before the holiday with Yvonne.
- The camping holiday was 4 years before the hiking vacation.
- Neither the 2005 holiday nor the camping holiday is the holiday with Lillie.
- Neither the vacation with Andy nor the kayaking holiday is the Oregon holiday.
- The Virginia vacation was 1 year after the camping trip.
- The vacation with William was 1 year after the holiday with Lillie.
- The hunting vacation was before the kayaking vacation.
- The Delaware holiday is either the trip with Yvonne or the camping holiday.
- The vacation with Pam, the 2005 holiday, the Oregon trip, the Rhode Island vacation, the camping holiday and the 2007 trip are all different trips.
- The 2002 holiday wasn't in Oregon.
- The Utah trip was after the holiday with Lillie.
- The holiday with Olga wasn't the hang gliding holiday.
- The 2004 vacation was the kayaking trip.



# USBF Supporting Membership

If you don't want to play in the USBF Championships that choose teams to represent the USA in the World Bridge Federation Championships, but do want to aid our events, a **Supporting Membership** can be the perfect way for you to be involved.

A Supporting Membership is \$25 for one year (\$75 for 3 years) and your donation will be used to cover inevitable expenses: attorney fees, accounting fees, website support services, tournament directors, insurance, WBF dues, and vugraph operators.

The USBF is an **all-volunteer** organization.

Our meetings are by conference call and at NABCS. Board members and the organization's officers are not compensated for meetings, travel, or hotel expenses.

## Sudoku 1

4	9	3	1	5	6	8	2	7
8	5	1	2	3	7	9	6	4
2	6	7	4	8	9	1	3	5
6	1	2	5	7	3	4	9	8
5	3	8	6	9	4	7	1	2
7	4	9	8	2	1	3	5	6
1	7	6	9	4	5	2	8	3
9	8	4	3	6	2	5	7	1
3	2	5	7	1	8	6	4	9

## Sudoku 2

6	9	2	5	8	3	7	1	4
5	3	7	1	4	6	2	8	9
8	1	4	2	7	9	3	5	6
7	4	6	8	3	5	9	2	1
9	8	3	4	1	2	5	6	7
1	2	5	6	9	7	8	4	3
2	7	1	9	6	8	4	3	5
3	6	8	7	5	4	1	9	2
4	5	9	3	2	1	6	7	8

## Puzzles on Page 10

Becoming vegetarian was a huge missed steak.

I was was going to tell a joke about a dead parrot, but it was way too Macawbre.

How do trees feel in the Spring? Released.

Why do defense lawyers go out for Mexican food when they're feeling down? To get some case-ideas!

Did you hear about the sale on paddles? It was quite the oar-deal.

If a Wizard uses magic to hold up a camera and take a picture of himself, is that a Spellfie?

Did you hear that the Devil is going bald? Yeah, there's gonna be hell toupee.

# Meet the Players:

Walla Walla native **Daniel Balof** began playing bridge at 6 surrounded by player-parents Barry Balof and Claire Valente and sister Mary Elizabeth. The youngest member of the American Contract Bridge League in Walla Walla, Daniel scored a spot at the international 2023 World Youth Bridge Championships July 31-Aug. 7 at the NH Eindhoven Conference Centre Koningshof, Veldhoven, the Netherlands. He played as part of the USA2 team, U-16 division, with partner Ethan Derman of Baltimore. He has played in tournaments since 2015. At the regional level, he has several wins with his sister in intermediate Gold Rush events.

At the sectional level, he has won open team events, partnering with Barry, Claire, and Walla Wallan Karen Morton at the Tri-Cities Sectional Bridge Tournament in Richland for each of the last two years, and has sectional wins at tournaments in Spokane and youth-only events at the national tournament.

Daniel has built on his skills through “practice, practice, practice,” Barry Balof said. “Daniel played a lot online during the pandemic, and we often play as a family. The junior program pairs players with professional mentors who meet with them and watch/instruct them on play each week,” his father said.

“Claire and I ... like to travel to tournaments, and having our kids play was cheaper than babysitting,” Barry Balof said.

Daniel has also participated in the United States Bridge Federation Junior Training Program for several years.

Entering his senior year this fall at DeSales Catholic High School, Daniel continued his involvement in student government by serving as ASB president. He has been a starting center fielder in varsity baseball, plays varsity basketball and has anchored the Knowledge Bowl team.

An honor student with a 4.0 grade-point average, he has taken several AP courses and participated in Whitman's enrichment program. His goal is to study mathematics in college.

He is following in the footsteps of his academically minded family. Barry is a professor of mathematics at Whitman College; Claire is a medieval historian who teaches at DeSales Catholic High School, but has taught for Whitman and the Quest Program at Walla Walla Community College; and Mary Elizabeth is studying civil engineering at Notre Dame.



Siblings Daniel and Mary

Elizabeth (left) after winning the 2022 Gold Rush Pairs at the Penticton Regional.

Daniel a DeSales Catholic High School center fielder, celebrates the 2023 baseball district championship with his dad, Barry Balof. (right)

Daniel is playing in this competition as a member of the U21 Silverstein team in partnership with Avery Silverstein.



**BOARD:** 12  
**DEALER:** WEST  
**VULNERABLE:** N-S

♠ 9654  
♥ KJ  
♦ A76  
♣ KQ54

♠ KJ7  
♥ 76  
♦ T432  
♣ T932

♠ AQ82  
♥ T98  
♦ K985  
♣ A6

♠ T3  
♥ AQ5432  
♦ QJ  
♣ J87

Par: 140

NS	8	5	9	6	7
E	4	8	3	6	5
W	3	:	:	:	:

Home team Visiting team Room By = IMP

The USA1 Final rates to be exciting and close. Both teams are well matched with expert junior players.

On Board 12, Team Kolesnik picked up 13 IMPs by effectively "right siding" the heart game.

While the contract can be defeated from either North or South, it is much harder to lead the necessary spade from East than it is to lead either a spade or diamond from West. Leading from an AQ is never routine! As such, Wan made the normal lead of the HT.

Wan (U26)	Kolesnik (U26)	Open	4♥	S	♠K	-1	100	13
		Closed	4♥	N	♥T	+1	650	

HOME CARDS SPLIT

W	N	E	S
PASS	1♣	DBL	1♦
PASS	1♥	PASS	2♣
PASS	2♦	PASS	2♥
PASS	2NT	PASS	3♥
PASS	4♥	PASS	PASS
PASS			

1C=2+  
1D=H  
2D=forced  
2H=H inv  
2NT=max

LoveBridge

♠ 9654  
♥ KJ  
♦ A76  
♣ KQ54

N Harrison Luba

♠ KJ7  
♥ 76  
♦ T432  
♣ T932

W Olivia Schireson

♠ AQ82  
♥ T98  
♦ K985  
♣ A6

E Stella Wan

♠ T3  
♥ AQ5432  
♦ QJ  
♣ J87

S Bo Han Zhu

DDS

Luba won his king and pulled a second round of trump. He played a club toward the jack ... Wan ducked. It was too late for her to successfully rise and play a spade to Schireson for a diamond through since the club was set up for the diamond discard. Luba won the jack, pulled the last trump, knocked out the CA, and when Wan exited her hand with a low diamond, Luba's diamond loser evaporated and he made his contract with an overtrick.

At the other table, this auction:

Xu	Jeng	Kolesnik	Xiao
W	N	E	S
PASS	1♦	1♠	2♥
2♠	PASS	PASS	DBL
PASS	4♥	PASS	PASS
PASS			

1D=10-15 HCP and 2+D  
2H=NF

With West on lead, any spade or diamond will defeat the game... and it was easy for Xu to lead from either holding once partner's spade overcall made spades safe and he had nothing to protect in diamonds.

Xu led the SK. He shifted to the D4 which Xiao ducked to Kolesnik's king. Finn cashed his SA and played a third spade. Xiao ruffed with the HA, pulled trumps but was still forced to concede the CA for down one!



BOARD: 15  
 DEALER: SOUTH  
 VULNERABLE: N-S

♠ T7542  
 ♥ Q98  
 ♦ 2  
 ♣ J842

♠ A93  
 ♥ AK53  
 ♦ JT743  
 ♣ K

♠ QJ8  
 ♥ 742  
 ♦ AQ65  
 ♣ A73

Par: -460

	♣	♦	♥	♠	N
NS	6	2	2	4	2
EW	7	11	11	9	11

♠ K6  
 ♥ JT6  
 ♦ K98  
 ♣ QT965

Home team Visiting team Room By = IMP

NS EW Home Visiting

Wan (U26)	Kolesnik (U26)	Open	3N	W	♠4	+3	490	11
		Closed	6♦	W	♥8	-1	50	

LoveBridge interface showing a hand with the following cards and bidding:

North: ♠ T7542, ♥ Q98, ♦ 2, ♣ J842 (Harrison Luba)

West: ♠ A93, ♥ AK53, ♦ JT743, ♣ K (Olivia Schireson)

East: ♠ QJ8, ♥ 742, ♦ AQ65, ♣ A73 (Stella Wan)

South: ♠ K6, ♥ JT6, ♦ K98, ♣ QT965 (Bo Han Zhu)

Bidding: 1♦ PASS, 2♣ PASS, 2♥ PASS, 2NT, 3♠ PASS, 4♣ PASS, 4♥ PASS, 5♣ PASS, 6♦ PASS, PASS, PASS, PASS.

2D=GF, 2H=Natish stopper, 3S=Natural.

Shireson/Wan pushed to an aggressive slam on Board 15. Had the DK been with North, the slam might have been successful. As it was, Schireson was down at trick two. Luba led a heart. Schireson won in hand and immediately finessed the diamond. Zhu won his king and N/S patiently waited till trick 13 to collect their HQ for down one!

At the other table, Xu/Kolesnik stopped in the NT game. Xu, West, had an easy 11 tricks and actually collected 12 as the cards were played.

Xu Jeng Kolesnik Xiao

W	N	E	S
			PASS
1♦	PASS	2♠	PASS
2NT	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

2S=Inv diamonds  
 2NT=ask  
 11 IMPs to Kolesnik

## CROSS IMPS U26

1.	Bo Han Zhu - Harrison Luba	Kolesnik (U26)	1.40	63.00	45
2.	Finn Kolesnik - Michael Xu	Kolesnik (U26)	0.29	13.00	45
3.	Cornelius Duffie - Jacob Freeman Wan (U26)	Wan (U26)	0.04	2.00	45
4.	Ethan Wood - Michael Hu	Kolesnik (U26)	-0.27	-8.00	30
5.	Brent Xiao - Richard Jeng	Wan (U26)	-0.29	-13.00	45
6.	Olivia Schireson - Stella Wan	Wan (U26)	-1.90	-57.00	30

## CROSS IMPS U21

1.	Isaac Stone - Kai Eckert	Eckert (U26)	1.95	117.29	60
2.	Levi Katriel - Matthew Rippin	Eckert (U26)	1.92	115.14	60
3.	Fangqing Yuan - Philip Wang	Chen (U26)	1.76	52.86	30
4.	Avery Silverstein - Daniel Balof	Silverstein (U21)	1.31	59.14	45
5.	Tianyang Chen - Will Duan	Chen (U26)	1.20	54.14	45
6.	Jason Yao - Nathan Gong	He (U21)	0.74	44.43	60
7.	Jonathan Yue - Rory Xiao	Chen (U26)	0.60	27.14	45
8.	Michael Haas - Sam Pahk	Silverstein (U21)	0.51	15.43	30
9.	Ethan Derman - Jack Boge	Silverstein (U21)	0.19	8.43	45
10.	Edward He - Eric He	He (U21)	0.09	5.14	60
11.	Charlie Chen - Eric Xiao	Ge (U21)	0.05	2.43	45
12.	Ethan Xie - Zach Posternak	Xie (U21)	-0.09	-5.14	60
13.	Brian Zhang - Kayden Ge	Ge (U21)	-0.30	-13.57	45
14.	Evan Alexis - Rohan Srivastava	Yeung (U26)	-0.73	-43.57	60
15.	Keith Lin - Kyle Lin	Xie (U21)	-0.74	-44.43	60
16.	Alan Yeung - Dan Irish	Yeung (U26)	-1.51	-90.57	60
17.	Lixin Zheng - Weilong Shen	Zheng (U26)	-1.91	-114.71	60
18.	Tom Ye - Vasisht Ganesh	Zheng (U26)	-1.96	-117.71	60
19.	Arthur Gong - Brandon Ge	Ge (U21)	-2.40	-71.86	30

## U26W

1.	50.67	Cecilia Ehrlichman - Katie Hwang	30	5	3.67
2.	29.33	Helen Chow - Nicole Qian	30	3	23.00
3.	28.67	Caroline Zhao - Katie Sullivan	30	1	47.33
4.	23.00	Jasmine Bakhshi - Kyra Helmbold	30	4	18.33
5.	16.33	Ava Donnellan - Margot Donnellan	30	2	33.33
6.	-17.67	Helena Hsieh - Yichen Cai	30	7	-48.67
7.	-52.67	Ella Su - Sharon Chu	30	8	-60.33
8.	-77.67	Leyi Chen - Maiya Clouse	30	6	-16.67

## U16

1.	80.67	Andrew Chen - Jeff Xiao	30	2	45.00
2.	72.67	Kaining Sheng - Ryan Wolpert	30	1	59.33
3.	61.33	Adam Hemmer - Kate Lee	30	3	32.00
4.	-0.67	Arjun Chaunal - Kevin Wei	30	5	-20.00
5.	-32.67	Jayson Lee - Lee Blocher	30	7	-32.33
6.	-45.00	Kyo Chen - Zinnia Meyer	30	6	-30.33
7.	-53.33	Chloe Chow - Eli Shuster	30	4	-5.00
8.	-83.00	Brandon Wolpert - Demian Li	30	8	-48.67



**Congrats Team Silverstein  
USA1 U21**