



Role Models for Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games

WANG LIQIN & JÖRGEN PERSSON



WANG LIQIN

Mr. Big Power

Looking at the world of table tennis today, it is easy to think, from a pure high performance point of view, one sport - one country.

The Chinese dominance at major events is not only fatiguing the fan base but also posing somewhat of a silent threat to the growth of the sport itself. Predictability has become our enemy, forced upon us by a training system perfected over the last 20 years or so.

TEXT: MIKAEL ANDERSSON PHOTO: REMY GROS/ITTF

In June this year I travelled to China for the Youth Olympic Games inspired "Road to Nanjing" Training Camp, initiated by the International Table Tennis Federation in liaison with the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA).

Rubbed Shoulders with Elite

During 19 days in Shanghai, I rubbed shoulders with the dominators themselves.

I met and worked neck to neck with key coaches and educators from the CTTA, talked closely with the new powers from the Chinese Table Tennis College and discussed the future with one of the greatest champions we have ever seen in this sport, a player who was a part of painting the table tennis world as we know it all in red; Wang Liqin - three time Men's Singles World champion and a true sporting hero for the mighty nation of China.

By the way, we are not just talking some random meeting with Wang Liqin. Instead, we are invited into his kitchen - his new workplace for a 20 day long meet and greet. In fact, we are visiting him on the grounds that he basically rules, getting an inside look at the daily whereabouts of one of the most intensive players I have ever seen in the court.

Even if memories sometimes are better served fresh, I can clearly remember Wang Liqin on fire in the Shanghai 2005 World Championships. He was the guy that time and the forces backing him, like the entire city of Shanghai, made that event one of the best World Championships ever.

Nine Years Later

Today, nine years later, Wang Liqin is living the afterlife following a long and incredibly successful career.

He officially retired from playing after completing the Chinese Super League season last year and is now installed as the Director of the Shanghai Training Base where the Road to Nanjing training camp was staged. Other official duties involve him being the coach/manager of the Shanghai team in the Chinese Super League.

Training Starts

The Training Camp starts and any doubts or thoughts that things would not live up to expected standards are quickly dismissed. In fact, it was enough to just walk into the venue to understand that nothing had been left undone in the preparations. In the training hall - home of 35 plus training courts presented in the best conditions we can clearly feel the spirit of greatness only by looking at the many posters of Chinese champions hanging from the roof.

Wang Liqin pops in for the opening of the camp to interact with his old friend Jörgen Persson, who will be the second ITTF Role Model for Table Tennis in Nanjing and as the camp rolls on, we see him now and then in the practice hall chatting with master coach Li Xiadong or simply checking on the proceedings.

Observations

When I later ask him to draw a few conclu-





sions based on his observation of the Training Camp, Wang Liqin remains upbeat about the future opportunities to help the ITTF to develop table tennis around the world.

Wang Liqin explains:

"I think this camp is the perfect scene to teach other players and their coaches how the Chinese training system works – what we do on a daily basis to keep the very high level of performance. The players and coaches coming here will get a short term boost, this I believe but also for their long term development they can learn about our methods of training and apply it in their home environment. Clearly and as Mr Cai Zhenhua said many times – we have an important role to play when it comes to developing table tennis globally. This is not done only by winning medals, instead we have to become active contributors and work together with the ITTF. I have met not only players but also fans of the sport when I have been travelling the world. We do this for them also and I believe that we are on the right track by staging activities of this nature."

Respect for System

After a few days watching Wang Liqin carry

“Together with Yan Sen I played such a good doubles that we managed to beat not only two great team mates but also the best doubles pair in the world at the time, Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang

out his new daily duties, I am thinking; this is a new life for one of the hardest working players we ever had. He spent 20 years in the National Training Centre in Beijing as a professional player always ready to defend the honour of his country. However, as I have the chance to speak to him, what shines through is indeed the deep respect for the system itself, for the country that made him a champion.

Add to that another factor that according the Chinese coaches and players is essential to

not only survive but also to embrace the daily grinding training sessions ; Pure love for the sport!

Even though it is a test to your very own system of thoughts to imagine Wang Liqin behind a desk, with a pile of documents in front of him, obliged to honour a busy meeting calendar - and not as the tiger in the playing court, there is a special intention applied to the situation. Here, in Chinese table tennis, and I am guessing all sports in China, they value the playing competence - the intense knowledge that you somehow built up as a top athlete.

No doubt that rewards will come to those deserving when a long career is called to an end. You successfully serve the system as a top athlete for such long time and the system is going to serve you one way or the other.

Ideal Choice

On the other hand there is no doubt in my mind that Wang Liqin is perfectly cut out to be a great representative not only for Chinese table tennis - but also in the long run for international governing bodies in sports.

He most definitely has that diplomatic sense and seems to be in all what he does a true class-act. Another positive thing is that his knowledge of the English language also is there - maybe a bit hidden - but yet good enough to support him in front of an international crowd.

Like many top athletes in China, Wang Liqin walked the familiar route of early detection, regional selection and promotion to the national team. He started to play at the age of six and was picked for the Shanghai City Provincial team six years later. The National Team came calling at the age of 15 and from that point there was no turning back.

Visited Sweden

A rather funny story from the deep rumors mill of Swedish table tennis tells the story about a 15 year old Wang Liqin visiting Sweden for one month of practice in 1993 - the same year he was picked for the National Team in Beijing. The Swedish sparring partners at the time actually did not think much about the young lanky Chinese player who clearly struggled to find his game during his first stint abroad. Little did these guys know what was to come only a few years later.

World Champion

The World Championships debut came in

Manchester 1997 where he held a 17-13 lead in the deciding game with Vladimir Samsonov. " Just lacked the experience ", said master coach, Li Xiadong, when the match came up for discussion on the first day of the camp.

Notably, the first Men's Singles title came 2001 in Osaka to be followed by the memorable triumph in Shanghai 2005 and the comeback win against Ma Lin in Zagreb 2007. Olympic success in the shape of a Men's Doubles gold medal happened in Sydney 2000 - a win that Wang himself dubs to be one of his finest;

"Together with Yan Sen I played such a good doubles that we managed to beat not only two great team mates but also the best doubles pair in the world at the time, Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang", said Wang Liqin. "It was such a great achievement and my most memorable title of all."

Respect for Roles

When we finally get together for the formal part of the interview - I am eager to check some of the rumours about him basically resisting retirement and wanting to play for another few years. The answer to that question; better say no reflection on the issue as such. Again the deep respect for the roles you have to play for the system to work - comes into the picture, I am guessing that in Chinese Table Tennis you are better off leaving the personal agendas or emotional wishes at home.





"For a long time I was a professional player trying hard for my country – this is not the case anymore – but I am still fighting for the success of Chinese table tennis; what I did as a player, I am also doing now, just in a different way", said Wang Liqin. "Part of the responsibilities I have in my new role as the Director of this centre is to help young players develop and in the future perhaps stand on the top of the table tennis world; I am still doing, on a daily basis important work for table tennis and I am happy and proud to do it."

Other Duties

I follow up with another kick at the can – was it hard to stop playing – do you miss it?

"Of course I still love to play table tennis – to experience the feeling of training hard but not as a professional player anymore; since I have other duties the lack of time is becoming a factor", continued Wang Liqin. It does happen that I go down to play table tennis but then we are some good friends getting together just for fun."

What about the hard times –how did you tackle them and was there any special tricks that kept you going in such a competitive environment like the National Training Centre for such a long time?

Wang Liqin explained:

"True there are times as an athlete when you struggle to reach the next level. The only thing you

can do is to work hard and remain patient. Hard work is actually a very important factor in the Chinese training system. We train many hours and that gives us strength – also when you represent China in international competitions you have try extremely hard each time – this will also push you forward even if you happen to be struggling with your game. Our system is very different from other countries. In Europe for example we have seen many talented players, like my Athletes Role Model in Nanjing colleague Mr Jörgen Persson, sustaining a very good level with less practice and more competitions. This is not the case in China –we believe in the hard way and that you have to love what you do – in the end the love for the sport is what will keep you going –especially when the times are tough."

Zagreb and Beijing

The interview moves along and we touch on many topics connected to Chinese table tennis in general and his great career specifically. Memorable matches like the great battles with Ma Lin in 2007 World Championships and the Beijing Olympic Games 2008 comes up for discussion.

"In Zagreb when I came back to win the title against Ma Lin I must credit my mental work in that match. Even though I was down in the match one-three I kept calm and felt confident. When I

won the fifth game I could feel that Ma Lin perhaps lost a little of his energy and confidence and started to feel the pressure and I turned the match around”, said Wang Liqin. “In the Olympic semi-final in Beijing I was unlucky to drive my racket into the edge of the table and that ruined the rubber; the umpire would not let me continue and I had to take my reserve racket which was difficult – table tennis is a game of details and that time it did not work very well for me.”

Any thoughts on Ma Lin winning in Beijing?

“First of all Beijing is our capital and to be able to play the Olympic Games 2008 was such an honor for all of us”, explained Wang Liqin. “I have to say that Ma Lin was our best player in that event – he was in such a good shape also in the team event – really came out sharp to beat me and also Mr Wang Hao in the final; he clearly deserved to win the Olympic gold.”

Suzhou 2015 World Championships

As expected Wang Liqin calls a pass on some of the more tricky questions like predicting the Men’s Singles winner in the Suzhou 2015 World Championships, on the other side he credits the new generation for developing the game itself –and not only by adding power – it is more in the details.

“Of course Fan Zhenong, Zhang Jike, Ma Long and Xu Xin – the new generation are very, very powerful players; when I make the comparison with how we played the game – thinking forehand all the time these players have all been able to improve on strategy and backhand work, the winner in Suzhou – I think it is very difficult question”, said Wang Liqin who and actually rolls around on all the new Chinese players without finding the answer.

“Maybe Xu Xin and Ma Long are in very good condition now but we all know that Zhang Jike has the experience from winning major events”, added Wang Liqin. “The hard thing with the World Championships is that you have to have all the things working for you; It’s a knock out competition and you can get a tough draw – there are so many details involved that is what making is hard to predict.”

Three Intense Weeks

Highly anticipated training days quickly piles up to a week and before we know it the three week training camp is nearly finished. I am amazed by the spirit shown and also how well the Chinese sparring partners – junior national

”The hard thing with the World Championships is that you have to have all the things working for you; It’s a knock out competition and you can get a tough draw – there are so many details involved that is what making is hard to predict.”

team level have trained.

They managed to maintain a good work ethic and energy level despite playing most of the time with slightly weaker foreign opponents. The overall set up with educational sessions added to a training schedule that Wang Liqin called “exactly like we trained in the national team ” is of course tough on some of the weaker players – but overall the spirit remained high and some individual players have really stepped up their game.

During the last two days the players clash in a ranking tournament with the expected outcome – all Chinese dominance – so nothing changed there – yet. At the same time you have the feeling that the more eager foreign players are opening their eyes for the general need to visit China more regularly for training – and those thoughts are all in line with the ITTF desired outcomes for the whole Road to Nanjing concept.

Unique Experience

On the last day of camp the entire group is taken to a venue nearby to watch the Shanghai team in the Chinese Super League. They are up against the Army team and the feature match is of course Xu Xin versus Fan Zhenong.

The setting is pretty good but the match is slightly slower than expected and the players themselves, perhaps in a typical Chinese way, are not really selling the product despite live CCTV broadcast and a reasonable crowd of estimated 700-800 filling the perhaps 1000 available seats.

Xu Xin – the star of the Shanghai team puts on two lacklustre performances dropping both matches in front of his home crowd, paving the way for a three-one loss to the Army. He looks slow and uninspired – much like he did in the training hall the last few days; his private coach called down from the Beijing National Team

Centre does not look very happy sitting on the sidelines. Just a few days ago he also gave his charge an earful for around 20 minutes in the training hall – so all in all things are not pleasing the coach right now.

Chinese Super League

Overall the Chinese Super League is what it is; despite more commercial interest from the teams themselves most of the funds made available for salaries and bonuses still comes from the league itself – CTTA and government controlled.

When I asked Wang Liqin for his opinion about both the Shanghai team this season as well as the development of the league itself he is again pretty straight forward recognizing both the up and downsides with the league – model.

Wang Liqin replied:

“The Shanghai team is perhaps slightly weaker this year, I am not playing. We are trying to offer some opportunities for young players so this is the policy and I am fine with that; the league itself I think is very important for Chinese table tennis and we have to like that more and more foreign players like Dimitrij Ovtcharov and Timo Boll are attracted to the League and want to play with the best Chinese players.

It is good for the development of table tennis but, we also have to recognize some of the problems with the League and try to make improvements like drawing attention from spectators and especially for younger fans to start following our league. It is a huge challenge for us.”

Ideal Representative

Forty five minutes open office talk – back and forth is drawing to a close and we need to join the training group for lunch. It is clear enough that Wang Liqin will be a person to count on as a future representative for China and the sport itself. He already is a member of the ITTF Athletes commission and we can expect more moves around his person.

Someone whispered in my ear that even frontline duties as the successor to the Men’s team national coach Li Guoliang might be in the picture for the 37 year old multiple world champion. Whatever happens –it will work; this is the feeling you get.

Wang Liqin is open for a good talk – but yet diplomatic, friendly and refreshing. Another thing that makes him a future winner is – and here comes a very personal observation; his

”I am honored to be selected as one of the Athletes Role Models in Nanjing and it will be honor for me”

face and the sharp eyes – the very same eyes that you see with with all great champions in this sport – sharp and searching. The face is open – friendly – happy and at the same time we know how fierce and incredible intense it can be. No matter what we (the ITTF) should be proud to have Wang Liqin and Jörgen Persson engaged as Athletes Role Models for the Nanjing Youth Olympic Games.

“I am honored to be selected as one of the Athletes Role Models in Nanjing and it will be honor for me”, said Wang Liqin.

Nicknames

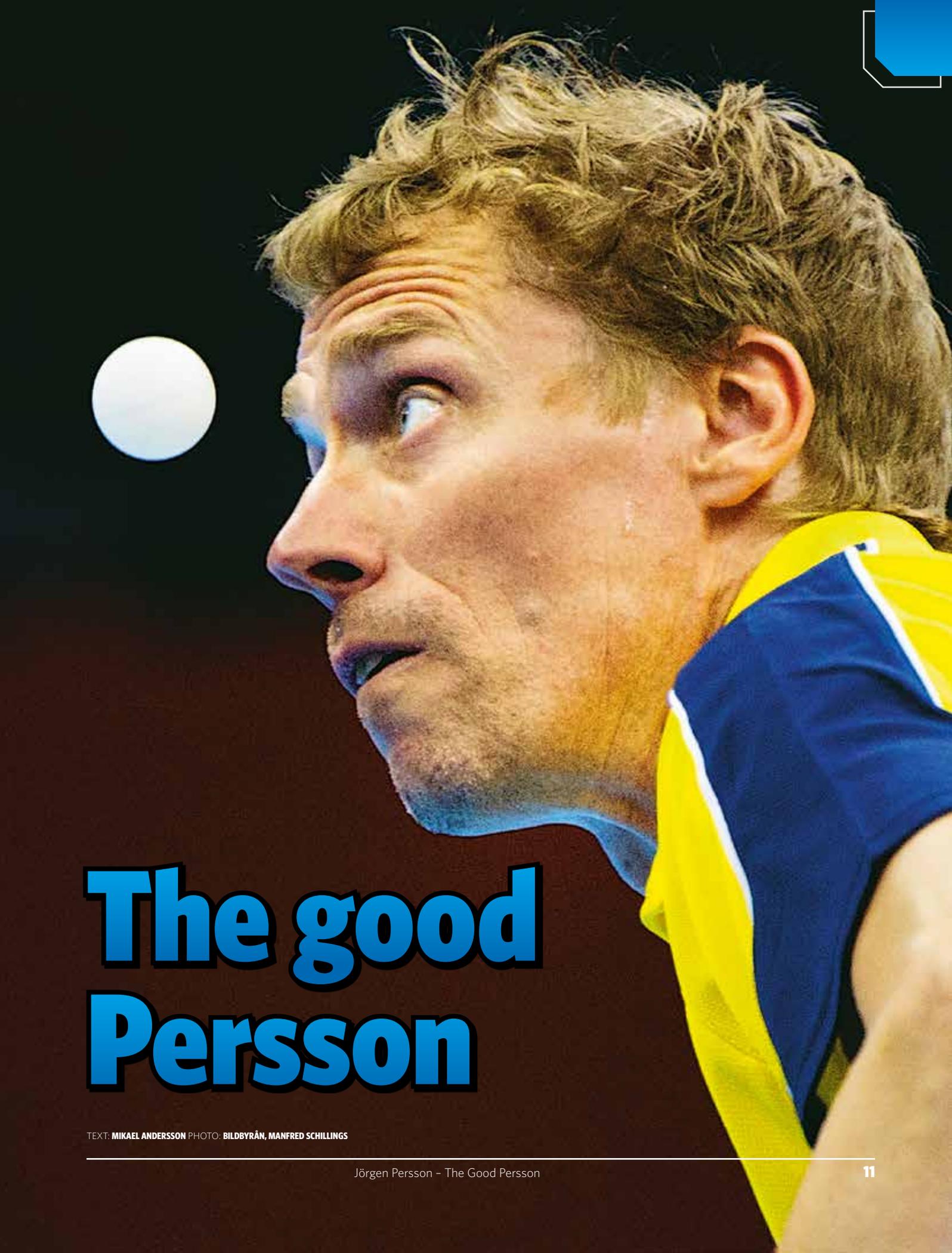
Before we leave for lunch the very last question touches on my personal fascination with the accuracy and deeper meaning of the nicknames attached to the top players in China. Among many players we have Ding Ning as the “Big Baby” and Zhang Jike carrying his name with great precision; “The Tibetan Fighting Dog”. So the final question is what is your nickname, Mr. Champion?

“Well – some people started to play around with my name and instead of Wang they made it to Da – then combined that with Li instead of Liqin”, explained Wang Liqin. “So Da Li in Chinese – which is if you translate it to English; Big Power!”

There you have it. Another slam dunk when it comes to finding suitable nicknames. I must say that the Chinese have this ability to paint everything in bright colours, yet it still can be explained in black and white leaving nothing to doubt.

Well, Mr. Big Power, table tennis nerds like me will associate the name with a couple thunderous forehand top spins. Others might think of other things – after all, it is a fact that we have Wang Liqin appearing in various welcome messages when we arrive into Shanghai Pudong and the same guy saying goodbye and welcome back when we stand in line for the customs clearance.

Not bad – not bad at all. ■



The good Persson

TEXT: MIKAEL ANDERSSON PHOTO: BILDBYRÅN, MANFRED SCHILLINGS

When Jörgen Persson is done with his latest assignment, to serve as the Athletes Role model for the 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympic Games, he can look back on having participated in NINE Olympiads – if you count the two Youth Olympics in Singapore 2010 (duties for the Swedish NOC) and Nanjing 2014 (ITTF/IOC appointed Table Tennis role model.)

So, it is not like the forty-eight year old is getting another kick at the can, he is just called in do what he actually does best; interact with people, be a good friend and yeah, show a little bit of compassion with the young athletes, and basically most people he will meet in the venue and in the Olympic village. Because the truth is that you will NOT find many nicer, more approachable people than the tall Swede, who by so many of us (my generation) should be remembered as one of the greatest players to ever played the game. As an active player, he is one in a group of three players having participated in all Table Tennis events since the inclusion of the sport in Seoul 1988. And...here comes a bit of a scoop – I know for a fact that some thoughts are now and then popping up in his mind, that maybe – maybe it was not goodbye forever in the London 2012 Games. With Rio 2016 only two years away, I guess it is normal for the top athletes to start thinking along those lines.

“Let’s see – I wouldn’t rule out completely that I will try to play a few events in 2015 to get my ranking status back and kind of see how it feels. But of course you do not want to put you self out there just to participate – you have be able to play and win matches as well. The only thing I am not sure of is how to do the whole thing – the fun part

“Let’s see – I wouldn’t rule out completely that I will try to play a few events in 2015 to get my ranking status back and kind of see how it feels. But of course you do not want to put you self out there just to participate – you have be able to play and win matches as well.

would be try something completely different in terms of training. Another part is the body itself, can it hold together. I am not sure, said Jörgen.”

Tried the coaching path

Like for most top athletes – having done one thing and one thing only; practice and compete in Table Tennis, it can be a trying time in your life when searching for the clear path out from the active playing part. Coaching is of course one way – and Jorgen did try that in Qatar 2005-2006, with his old friend and mentor Stellan Bengtsson.

“The tough part with that was the players themselves. Well educated, relatively talented young guys – but with very little desire for practice and overall lacking the proper motivation. This was not the right place for us – hard-nosed competitive Swedes with the desire to be the best. I remember one time when we travelled to China for a camp and how I got the motivation to play again only by watching the Chinese practice groups go to work.”

The Beijing comeback

All that led to the Beijing 2008 comeback with Jorgen in the singles event suddenly getting a sniff on the missing Olympic medal. Following a dramatic match with Vladimir Samsonov – famous for the edge-ball discussion, Jorgen would eventually run into Wang Hao in the Olympic semi-final.

“Of course it is a special feeling playing the Chinese guys in China. They are not only strong at the table, but also off the court. I remember in Beijing that we all were sitting in the training hall before the matches preparing our racket. I followed my routine of course and went there prior to the semi-final just to have the chief referee appear with the message that – this was not allowed – we had to go outside to fix our rackets. Small things – but that’s the way it is – they have the tendency to try to cover all bases when the heat is on.”

Still – Beijing was the bonus chance – the opportunity that made him again a true sporting hero in Sweden, where the interest for the sport actually runs much deeper than people may believe. Four years later, London came and went just like that, with a calf injury bothering the Swedish legend. *“It was not good at all. I missed preparation time and with the singles competition as the first event it was difficult to play, I had zero feeling Jörgen said*

The real shot was Sydney

Looking back at the whole Olympic experience



from the start in 1988, the best chances for a medal appeared within the stretch; Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and in Sydney 2000 where Jörgen was, according to him, in his best shape.

“Well... I remember all the Olympic Games pretty well. Barcelona, in 1992 was I guess OK. For sure I had a tough draw that time playing MA Wenge with whom I had big problems – we also played our quarterfinal in the corner of the venue with JP Gatien in the court beside – the whole venue was into his match and the noise was unbelievable – so there I was fighting to stay alive with MA in the backhand to backhand exchanges, it was hard too hard Jörgen recalled.

In Atlanta I was feeling good after training hard the whole summer – but we made one mistake and that was not playing enough competitions during our preparation. The playing format was groups of four players with only one player advancing. I won my first match against the weakest player in the group and then had to play Hugo Hoyama from Brazil in the second match. Hugo was in good form + had tricky services and most importantly he came in with one win as well having beaten Kim Song Hy in his first match.. That was a tough situation and I really never got going, felt insecure and shaky the whole match..

Sydney I also remember very clearly. The Swedish team came well prepared – we were the defending World Champions again after Kuala Lumpur 2000. I can still recall some fantastic matches between myself and Jan Ove in training prior to the competition and I have to say that I did feel strong that year. In the singles event I beat Liu Guozheng in the quarterfinal but lost to Kong Lingui in the semis.. I kind of had him there up 12-9 in the third game, but after that I started to serve just awful – I think I went 2-8 on the next eight serves and that was it. Game over according to Jörgen.”

Athens 2004? You lost early in the singles event - and dropped a medal in the doubles as well.

“Yeah, lost to the Hong Kong lefthander KO Lai Chak. Didn't play well at all – still cannot put my finger on what was wrong – just a poor showing I guess? In the doubles I paired with JO Waldner and we played a fantastic doubles match in the quarterfinal when we beat Kong / Liu but then lost to Maze / Tugwell from Denmark. Never felt that JO came up to his best standard in that match. Got the feeling that he most of all was focusing on the singles competition as he was still competing.”

Since the ITTF signed the agreement to have Jörgen as one of the Athletes' Role models in



Nanjing, we have spent more time together the last year, than in the previous twenty-nine. I was a young career coach getting my first gig with Halmstad Table Tennis Club when I met Jörgen for the first time. He was on his way to stardom already and spent of course 85 % of his practice time outside the club – mainly with the national team or simply on the road for international competitions.

A few years later I went the same route with my coaching career and signed with the Danish Association in 1988. One of my strongest memories of Jörgen was in Dortmund 1989, after he lost the singles final to Jan Ove Waldner. There he was alone on the corner – towel over his head, wiping his tears devastated by the loss. From that moment on, I have always felt that the genuine passion and the desire to be the best are some of his best fortunes. Mr Nice Guy off the court – but playing with an all-out “lions-heart” in the court. At least that was the case when he was a top player. Today, perhaps you feel that the Good Persson (Mr Nice Guy) has taken over completely. The necessary focus to be a top athlete has naturally with age slowly evaporated, but the interest for the game and the deep knowledge remain keeping him very much attached to the sport. He can still play on

***“I came here to play in the Chinese Super League right after London. Didn’t get the most friendly of starts since I opened up with a series of matches against MA Long, WANG Hao and ZHANG Jike to mention a few.*”**

a good level – but once you lost the real drive – can you get it back? When he spends time in his own city; Halmstad – Jörgen is of course a recognized citizen. The phone is ringing constantly, We Chat and Viber are running hot and he is also juggling one project after the other over a cup of coffee, or as we say in Swedish, a “fika.” On top of that, if Jörgen is at home, we have a little bit of practice to attend; not much, but just to keep the daily routines going. The club coach and good friend Ulf Tickan Carlsson

benefits from the added star-power, but pulls out the little hair he got left over a smallish warm up, couple of blocks here and there, little bit of service, 20 minutes of multi-ball and off you go... Exaggerated description of the Persson training regime – but often enough not far from the truth

A welcome return...

Despite a busy schedule, Jörgen spent seven days with the Road to Nanjing training camp in Shanghai in June. He was in the hall everyday making himself accessible for the young players.

The meeting with his first Chinese coach from back when Jörgen came to China the first time – Mr Li XIADONG is already documented as a classic meeting between old friends. Lots of respect involved of course:

“I knew from the very beginning that you could be a champion” said Li XIADONG recalling the time many moons ago when he met a fifteen year old Swede travelling for the first time to China. Jörgen on the other hand just saw blood, sweat and tears in front of his eyes: *“Hard to describe how tough it actually was to come here for training the for the first time. The coach just brought a bag of balls and started feeding them two times forehand over the whole table. I was dead after just a minute and you really had to dig deep – that I can promise you recalled Jörgen.”*

It would not take long however for the Swedes to come back to China for learning. As the training camp rolls on, it also becomes clear that not much really changed in the way they train in China – there is still emphasis on solid heavy volume, footwork, service and multiball.

You see there are no short-cuts in this training model. If you want to become a world class player today you simply have to give start spending time in China and it would be fantastic if the CTTA now are prepared to give access to the national team centers or motivated top players to train with. Table Tennis needs this – even the best players actually should come here regularly and try the Chinese way of training. That’s the only way to learn, you can then be smart enough to take bits and pieces with you



and make a push at home. I have always liked the multi-ball practice myself. This is a center-piece in the practice set up here in China Jörgen Persson explained

The business man “Lao Pe”

Quite clearly, “Lao Pe”, as he is called over here, knows China by now. You have to admire him for spending a lot of time in this country – for sure 300 days over the last two years following the 2012 London Games.

“I came here to play in the Chinese Super League right after London. Didn’t get the most friendly of starts since I opened up with a series of matches against MA Long, WANG Hao and ZHANG Jike to mention a few. Since then I have been attached to a training center in Tianjin – coaching a bit and mainly participating in the Chinese second league. I have also tried to be active with Swedish companies doing business in China. It has been OK as I like to be with people and socialize but at the same time it should give something back as well, not only long, fancy dinners. The number one commercial project for the moment is a Swedish dairy company, actually located close to Halmstad. They are trying to penetrate the Chinese market with a product called “Champion Milk” with my picture on the package. So far it is one step forward and one step backwards. We are struggling to find the right distribution channels. Not easy stuff said Jörgen.”

Final stop for this journey is the Nanjing Youth Olympic village. Jörgen is in top form – representing the ITTF and the sport of Table Tennis very well. He is chatty – interactive and approachable, just very fun to be around. The young ladies – and there are many – also seem to take a liking to the tall and blonde Swede with the friendly smile. Selfies are taken by the minute and the new “Yogger” device launched by the IOC is “connecting people” as the famous Finnish mobile giant once said.

“True, I like this. Just to be around people is good and when you see all these youngsters you wish to have the option to roll back time thirty-five years or so. That would be really fun”, Jörgen said smiling before heading out to new duties like The Good Persson he is. ■

Proudly presented by

