



The Origin of CHO !!!

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CHO!!!!!!!!!! CHO-LE!!!! CHO-SA!!!! SA!!!!
SAKIDAMO!!!! AYA!!!! BA DA BA BA BA!!!! FIGHT!!!!
MOM! STOP VIDEO TAPING ME WHILE I'M IN THE BATHROOM!!!!

People shout all sorts of crazy things at intense table tennis tournaments. Some young females who share a first name with Disney's Little Mermaid might even yell some of these catchy words four times between points. A lot of people wonder... "what are these people saying?" "What does CHO! mean?" Since most of my readers don't speak a lick of Chinese and I am fluent in Mandarin, I will inform you that the word CHO has a few common uses:

CHO (noun, adj., proper noun)

1. (noun) ball. (rhymes with Tahl)
ex.- Hao cho! = Good ball.
2. (adj) stinky. (rhymes with Finky... a nickname for a talented young player for Princeton's table tennis team)
ex.- Gross, Eric! Your socks are very CHO!
Why do you put them in my refrigerator?
3. (proper noun) last name of popular, Korean comedian, Margaret Cho. (rhymes with Whoa!)
ex.- Whatever... I'm tired of examples.

Now that you know the most popular meanings of "CHO!" you might wonder, why would someone yell "BALL!" or "STINKY" or try to get Margaret Cho's attention after winning a point during a match? Well... tell me this, Mrs. Smarty Pants... to win the point, what did you just hit? BALL! After working so hard to win the point, what are your arm pits? STINKY! (Unless you're Adoni Maropis... his armpits smell like roses all the time.) And if you could have one famous, female, 41-year-old, Korean comedian watching you win that point... who would you want it to be? I know, there are way too many to choose from. You can get back to me on that one.

The truth is, no one really knows the meaning of CHO when it is yelled after a point. Some say it's just a meaningless word and a great sound to help you release all of the air that's been trapped inside you during such an intense point. Sort of like how people recommend that you scream when you are on a rollercoaster to avoid getting sick.

While there are many other sounds that are used that work well, I think it's the "OH!!!!" sound that really does the trick. SO!... if you want some cool points in my book, next time you play say something unusual like "SNOW!" or "FRO!" or "AVOCADO!" and you will not only refresh your body, but you will DEFINITELY be enjoying yourself, entertaining any possible spectators and possibly laughing which will keep you loose and able to play your game (along with completely distracting your opponent). It also wouldn't surprise me if you quickly became the talk of the town. Don't forget to keep it fun, stay creative, take care of our planet and each other... and until next time...as we say in Chinese, hasta lueCHO!!!!