

**Nomination of Tim Boggan
for the George Steinbrenner III Sport Leadership Award
by
Sean O'Neill, 1988 & 1992 US Olympian
& Larry Hodges, USATT Hall of Fame Member**

If George Steinbrenner was choosing a manager for the Yankees from the Olympic family there is only one person he would interview and select for the job, fellow New Yorker Joseph R. “Tim” Boggan. For the last four decades, no American has made a greater contribution to the sport of table tennis than Tim.



A member of the historic 1971/1972 Ping-Pong Diplomacy Tour that helped bring China and the United States together, Tim performed the role of ambassador and journalist for his sport and country. In fact, forty years later, in [interviews](#) and appearances—most recently in trips to China and in a [Ping-Pong Diplomacy Rematch](#) at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, CA—he's still doing that.

Tim has served the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) as a Vice President and a Council Member for North America for multiple four-year terms. Long an active member of the ITTF's Media Committee, Boggan also was in charge of the 1990 Tournament of Champions (US Open, World Veterans, and Junior International) Press Committee.

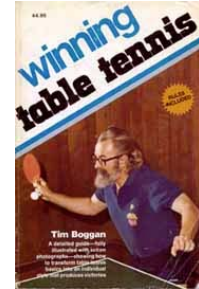


Serving both the ITTF and PASO, Boggan was selected as North American Technical Director for Table Tennis for the 1991 Havana Pan-Am Games to ensure a fair playing field for all countries that participated. Later, at the 1999 Winnipeg Pan Am Games, Tim, in ITTF President Adham Sharara's absence, was Adham's personal representative, and as such was instrumental in reconciling a rift between players and officials that threatened to destroy the Table Tennis competition.

Known for always looking out for both players and officials, Tim successfully argued against a proposed ITTF *Handbook* Directive stating that umpires needed to be less than 60 years of age for world title competition. Fighting against discrimination made perfect sense to Tim as many of the best US umpires were over the age of 60 and had been awarded for their outstanding performance internationally.

Because of Tim's unwavering support and outstanding work he has been honored by the USTTA's Barna Service to the Sport Award (1971) and by the ITTF's Order of Merit Award (1995).

As a profession, Tim taught English at Long Island University in Brooklyn for 33 years and was recognized by the prestigious PMLA as one of the 40 best Freshman English teachers in the country. While teaching, Tim served as a three-term President and Secretary of USTTA, edited the official magazine *Table Tennis Topics* for 13 years and 92 issues and was the author of the book, [Winning Table Tennis](#). He is currently the Chair of the USATT Magazine Editorial Advisory Board.



As editor or official, Tim had made contributions to the National Sports (later, Olympic) Festivals in the 1980's. Later, he was selected Information Services Manager for the 1995 Olympic Test Event and again for the 1996 Olympic Games. As a member of the Competition Management Staff his team produced over 160 bulletins to serve the international media family.

In 1996 the ITTF began publishing *Table Tennis Illustrated* and Tim continued his contributions to that, as well as to the [Swaythling Club International's](#) News publication. For more than forty years he's been the most prodigious writer for the USTTA/USATT Magazines.

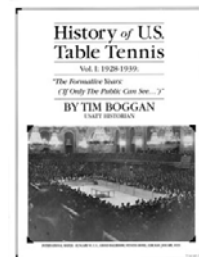


Tim has represented the U.S. in more than twenty-five World or International Championships as an official or journalist and was Captain of Team USA in 1975 in Calcutta, India. Tim also led the US Junior Team to the Scandinavian Open Championships in Sweden as head coach and fundraiser.

Recognized as the authoritative expert on the sport, Tim wrote entries on Table Tennis for Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia and Encyclopaedia Britannica. Further, Tim added lengthy articles for both the three-volume Encyclopedia of World Sports and the three-volume International Encyclopedia of Women in Sports.

As the current Historian of USA Table Tennis, Tim has profiled over [125 USATT Hall of Famers](#), in addition to being the driving force behind the Hall of Fame Committee and annual banquet.

Tim is currently finishing up his eleventh volume of the [History of U.S. Table Tennis](#) which chronicles the sport from 1928 through 1982.



From his own [Profile](#) on the USATT website, we learn that posted above his writing desk is the following quote: "The building blocks of culture are inextricably ethical, bound up with memories of duty to the dead, of duty to the future, of moral obligations to tell the truth and defeat lies, and give people what they deserve." It's his credo as USATT Historian.

Tim was inducted into the [USATT Hall of Fame](#) as an official/contributor in 1985 and in 2006 received the [Mark Matthews Lifetime Achievement Award](#).

Again from his [Profile](#), we read from the close of his Lifetime Achievement Award acceptance speech not of Table Tennis's debt to Tim, but to Tim's debt to Table Tennis:

"Table Tennis made me a *player*...in the largest sense of the word. Gave me decades worth of interesting people and their activities to write about. Taught me something about organizing, and working for a cause. Helped me to see the World and slowly become more understanding, more mature; maybe even, against my better judgment, almost at times mellow. It's permitted me to take great pride in my supportive wife and our accomplished sons. Above all, Table Tennis has given me a chance to care about others, enduringly so. Their historic photos live permanently, immortally, for me in my open files and boxes. Friends, acquaintances, strangers no longer strangers—all are there to be seen, greeted and talked to by me, as they were, as they are, year after year.

"The Sport has allowed me to do more than care about my table tennis work, it's allowed me to feel passionately about it. It's given me a place and an identity in the world of my choosing. Indeed, it's finally brought me—more than 70 years after playing ping-pong on a makeshift table with my father in the basement of our home in long ago suburban Dayton, Ohio—to where I am at the moment. From such a nondescript beginning, how could I not be proud—but also very grateful before you...and to you for helping me to receive this esteemed honor tonight."



As a player through six decades, in addition to some modest early tournament success (for example, as two-time U.S. Intercollegiate Champion and ranked U.S. Men's #7), and later some success in World Veterans Championships (two-time Men's Doubles Finalist), he has been the U.S. Over 40, 50, 60, and 70 Singles and Doubles Champion.

Tim and his wife Sally have been married for over 50 years. Both of their sons, [Scott](#) and [Eric](#), were U.S. Junior then U.S. Men's Singles and Doubles Champions. Both are in the U.S. Table Tennis Hall of Fame.