

Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games
Table Tennis Event
7-15 October 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Flash Quotes

15 oct 2018 (Day 9)

SUN Yingsha (CHN) / WANG Chuqin (CHN) after defeating Miu HIRANO (JPN) / Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Finals:

WANG Chuqin:

“I think he changed some of his tactics and strategies that were not within my expectation, and I wasn’t able to handle and adapt to the changes, so I think I didn’t play well. And also because I was still feeling bit up & down.”

SUN Yingsha:

“I had expected that I will have to play all 5 games with Hirano, and was even prepared to lose, because she lost the previous encounter here, so I knew she will go all out to challenge me today. She played really well today, but when she made a fault service at 9-7 in the 4th game, I knew I still had a chance to come back because I could tell that she was eager to win at that point.”

“After deuce in that game, the score went 11-11, 12-12 and so on, I think at the crucial moments of the match, I was still more firm and determined than her.”

SUN Yingsha (CHN) / WANG Chuqin (CHN) after defeating SU Pei-Ling (TPE) / LIN Yun-Ju (TPE) 2-0 in the Mixed Teams Semifinals:

SUN Yingsha:

“For the finals against Japan, we will for sure be putting our best efforts to play against them & fight for another Gold. We are confident that we can do it.”

Miu HIRANO (JPN) / Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating Sabina SURJAN (SRB) / Truls MOREGARD (SWE) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Semifinals:

Miu HIRANO:

“We could finally reach the final, we really want to win this match. We will do our best and give in all our efforts to play well & try to win the Final.”

Tomokazu HARIMOTO:

“I wanted to win my match against Moregard, but in the key moments of the match, I made some errors and couldn’t play well.”

14 Oct 2018 (Day 8)

SU Pei-Ling (TPE) / LIN Yun-Ju (TPE) after defeating Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) / Cristian PLETEA (ROU) 2-0 in the Mixed Teams Quarterfinals:

LIN Yun-Ju:

“It was a tough match even though I won 3-1. This is my first time playing against Pletea, he’s really strong in rallies, but overall I think I still had the upper hand against him.”

“The umpire didn’t count that point (4-3) in the third game because he spotted a flash in the audience, Pletea asked me about it and I also told him that I didn’t see the flash, so that point should have been his, but it’s ultimately the umpire’s decision and there’s nothing we could do. After Pletea gave up on the next 2 points in protest, I was also quite surprised, but I can’t be affected and lose focus, so I just continued to play my game.”

Miu HIRANO (JPN) / Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating NING Jing (AZE) / YU Khinhang (AZE) 2-0 in the Mixed Teams Quarterfinals:

Tomokazu HARIMOTO:

“I took the silver medal in the Men’s Singles event, so now I want to win the Gold! I want to improve the aspects that I’, still weaker in and give everything in the next match.”

Sabina SURJAN (SRB) / Truls MOREGARD (SWE) after defeating Aleksandra VOVK (SLO) / Vladislav URSU (MDA) 2-0 in the Mixed Teams Quarterfinals:

Sabina SURJAN:

“It was a very tough match, I played very well, I’m so happy!”

Truls MOREGARD:

“It feels really good to make top 4, we are both positive and good in shape, so it’s will be a fun & tough semifinals. We will watch how our opponents play & study them and fight our best tomorrow.”

Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) / Cristian PLETEA (ROU) after defeating Archana Girish KAMATH (IND) / Manav Vikash THAKKAR (IND) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Round of 16:

Andreea DRAGOMAN:

“It’s a pity I couldn’t win my match against Kamath, I was leading 2-1, 9-7, but I got nervous and was too eager to win, and lost the match. Luckily Cristian played very well in his match and won, and we were very motivated in the mixed doubles to win.”

Cristian PLETEA:

“This is the first tournament we play doubles together and I think we played very good together, now we are in the quarterfinals, we will work hard to win another to make it to the semifinals next.”

“We had good tactics before the 5th game, At 10-10, we just tried to place every ball on the table and not make any mistakes.”

Aleksandra VOVK (SLO) / Vladislav URSU (MDA) after defeating Adriana DIAZ (PUR) / Nicolas BURGOS (CHI) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Round of 16:

Aleksandra VOVK:

"It's unbelievable that we won to make top 8 here! I lost my match easily 0-3 to Adriana, so Vladislav's match was crucial to keep us going."

"The mixed doubles match was really tough, we were leading 2-0, then they caught up to 2-2, in the last game, our strategy was just to put as many balls on the table as possible and not think too much. It worked and we finally won 12-10."

Vladislav URSU:

"In my match against Burgos, I was trying my best to play my game and not be affected by anything else. I played good and eventually won, I think it's all thanks to my backhand flick, that's my strength."

13 Oct 2018 (Day 7)

Andrea PAVLOVIC (CRO) / Martin BENTANCOR (ARG) after defeating GOI Rui Xuan (SGP) / Koen PANG Yew En (SGP) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

Andrea PAVLOVIC:

"We are happy to win our match against Singapore, we definitely played much better than yesterday. Our opponents yesterday were also better so matches much tougher, but we give our best."

"Martin & I are good friends, we play very good in the doubles, and I hope we have the chance to play more matches together."

Martin BENTANCOR:

"It was really really good, I lost my match 1-3 against Pang, I played good, but he was playing better, especially at the crucial points. Andrea & I talk a lot & we train a lot for mixed doubles, I hope we get to play mixed doubles in future tournaments as well."

Adriana DIAZ (PUR) / Nicolas BURGOS (CHI) after defeating Jinnipa SAWETTABUT (THA) / Yanapong PANAGITGUN (THA) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

Adriana DIAZ:

"I think the match was very good, I started my match a little slow, but I started playing better and got more confident. I'm very happy that we managed to win in the end, we really played doubles very good."

"We are friends and even though this is our first time playing mixed doubles, but we play good together. Now I'm feeling very confident and I trust him a lot."

Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) / Cristian PLETEA (ROU) after defeating Amy WANG (USA) / Kanak JHA (USA) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

Cristian PLETEA:

“It’s a great victory, now we will be first in our group and have a better chance for a good draw and for the medal.”

“It was a tough match, Andreea lost her first match, it was hard for me because if I lose, the match will be over. My match against Kanak, I was up 2-1, 9-5, then Kanak got 2 lucky balls and I lost that game, but I managed to recover in the 5th game and won my match. We played unbelievable in the doubles.”

Andreea DRAGOMAN:

“We now hope to have a good draw and we will fight for a medal.”

12 Oct 2018 (Day 6)

Annika LUNDSTROM (FIN) / Jann Mari NAYRE (PHI) after defeating LEE Ka Yee (HKG) / Nathael Elyes HAMDOUN (TUN) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

Annika LUNDSTROM:

“I never played with him before, but I think from this morning’s match & this match, I think we played quite good together, so it’s nice to play with him. He plays really aggressive in his game, and this match we really found till the end and we are very happy that we eventually won 2-1.”

“It’s nice to play together with someone from another country and culture that I have never came into contact before, and it’s just fun for me to make new friends. Buenos Aires has been amazing for me, it’s so nice just being able to play here and experience everything, watch other sports and meet so many different athletes.”

LIN Yun-Ju (TPE) / SU Pei-Ling (TPE) after defeating Nadezhda BOGDANOVA (BLR) / Ioannis SGOUROPOULOS (GRE) 2-1 in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

LIN Yun-Ju:

“I think the match went normal for us, I played against Sgouropoulos earlier in the Singles event as well, so I’m familiar with his playing style and how I should play against him.”

SU Pei-Ling:

“Before the match we discussed a lot about strategies and how we are going to play in the mixed doubles match, but I think the most important is still our adaptation & on the spot reaction on court that matters more.”

Tatiana KUKULKOVA (SVK) / Rohit PAGARANI (BIZ) after losing 1-2 to Jinnipa SAWETTABUT (THA) / Yanapong PANAGITGUN (THA) in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

Tatiana KUKULKOVA:

“My match was so tough because Sawettabut is a good player. But I played very well today, I found that her forehand was her weakness and I used that to my advantage, I’m very happy that I managed to win my match against her.”

“I think pairing with a player from another country is a good experience for me, and I made many new friends here at the Youth Olympic Games as well.”

Adriana DIAZ (PUR) / Nicolas BURGOS (CHI) after losing 1-2 to Mariia TAILAKOVA (RUS) / Vladimir SIDORENKO (RUS) in the Mixed Teams Preliminary Round:

Adriana DIAZ:

“I think I played awful, I’m not feeling very good here, but I hope I can play better. It’s very good getting to pair with a player from another country, Nicolas is playing good here and I’m very happy for him.”

Nicolas BURGOS:

“At the start, Adriana was under pressure, but she played good, it’s a pity that she eventually lost 1-3 in the first match. Second match I was initially playing not very good, but then I got comfortable playing my forehand, backhand and serves, my receives was especially important in winning my match against Sidorenko.”

“Doubles was tough, Tailakova & Sidorenko know each other well and their coordination was good, on the other hand, this is my first time playing together with Adriana, so it was really hard.”

10 Oct 2018 (Day 4)

WANG Chuqin (CHN) after defeating Tomokazu HARIMOTO (CHN) 4-1 to take the Men’s Singles Gold:

“I’m happy that I could win the title, it’s definitely a boost to my confidence, and by far the most important victory in my career. Harimoto’s skills and world ranking are very high and is a strong player, so I came into the match with the mindset to learn.”

SUN Yingsha (CHN) after defeating Miu HIRANO (JPN) 4-1 to win the Women’s Singles Gold:

“Of course it feels great to win Gold here at the Youth Olympic Games! Hirano is one of the top players in Japan, a World Cup Champion and has won three our top Chinese players at the Asian Championships last year, so before this match, I couldn’t leave anything to chances, I had to prepare myself in the mindset of a challenger in the match and fight for every point.”

“The first game was crucial to the victory, after winning that, even though I lost the second game, I wasn’t panic and still felt I had control of the entire match.”

Kanak JHA (USA) after defeating LIN Yun-Ju (TPE) 4-3 to take the Men’s Singles Bronze:

“It’s dream come true, it’s absolutely unbelievable, the competition here is tough with so many top level players competing, I couldn’t imagine taking a medal here, but I’m so happy that I did it!”

"I knew this was going to be a tough match, Lin Yun-Ju is a top player not just in juniors but also in the seniors category. After he caught up to level the score at 3-3, I was slightly affected, but I knew I had to refocus and concentrate in the last game. I'm so glad I made it."

Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) after defeating Archana Girish KAMATH (IND) 4-1 to take the Women's Singles Bronze:

"I'm very happy about my performance, and I have no words to describe how I feel right now! It was a tough match, she was a good player, we were playing almost the same game in the match, I told myself it's not over, and tried to look for her weakness and used it to my advantage and improve my game."

WANG Chuqin (CHN) after defeating Kanak JHA (USA) 4-0 in the Men's Singles Semifinals:

"I think I've gotten used to the environment and the playing field so I was able to play better and better."

"Next match against Harimoto, he's now the top 2 players in the Japanese senior team and has represented Japan in several international tournaments, he's more experienced and there's definitely stuff that I can learn from him."

"He has also defeated many of the top players in our Chinese National team, so he's a strong players. But I have the desire to win the title here and am confident fighting against him. In terms of skills, I think we are on the same level, what's important will be the on court adaptation and performance later."

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating LIN Yun-Ju (TPE) 4-3 in the Men's Singles Semifinals:

"The match was very close, Lin Yun-Ju played at a very high level and is a very strong opponent to have. I think the crucial point to winning the match was that I managed to minimise my unforced errors in the last game and made less mistakes than him."

SUN Yingsha (CHN) after defeating Archana Girish KAMATH (IND) 4-0 in the Women's Singles Semifinals:

"The last time we played against each other was 2-3 year back at the Asian Junior Championships, so we haven't met for a long time, she was well prepared and played well today. In the fourth game, I felt I let my guards down."

"Next match against Hirano is the final battle for Gold, I will definitely have to prepare well, play carefully and fight for each point in the match to challenge against her."

Miu HIRANO (JPN) after defeating Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) 4-0 in the Women's Singles Semifinals:

"I think I played well, my service, attacking and placement were good in the match. I don't know who my next opponent will be in the Final, but I will get ready and I hope to play even better."

9 Oct 2018 (Day 3)

WANG Chuqin (CHN) after defeating Truls MOREGARD (SWE) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals:

"I played well against Moregard today, this is probably my best match so far here at the Youth Olympic Games, he is a very strong opponent, very highly skilled, and gave me a lot of difficulties in the match, but I came into the match well prepared and was able to adapt quickly to overcome these difficulties in the end."

LIN Yun-Ju (TPE) after defeating Ioannis SGOUROPOULOS (GRE) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals:

"I'm happy with the victory, I was fast and serves was good, but Sgouropoulos has the advantage when it came to rallies in the match."

"Next match against Harimoto, I just hope to play my best and fight point by point."

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating Cristian PLETEA (ROU) 4-2 in the Men's Singles Quarterfinals:

"It was a tough game but my backhand was strong and effective and I'm happy to win eventually. My next opponent will be a tough one, so I will get ready for the next match mentally & physically."

SUN Yingsha (CHN) after defeating Bruna TAKAHASHI (BRA) 4-0 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"I think I played normal today, Bruna is also a strong player and gave me some difficulties in the match. There's two more matches to go in the Singles tournament, next match against Archana, I think she must be a very strong player to be able to make top 4 here so I will go back and prepare myself well for the semifinals against her."

Archana Girish KAMATH (IND) after defeating NING Jing (AZE) 4-3 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"It was a very tough match and she fought till the very end, so I'm very happy that I could win but she played really well. I'm really excited for the semifinals tomorrow."

Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) after defeating Amy WANG (USA) 4-2 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"It was a very hard match and she's a very good player, but I think I played good and I'm very happy that I was able to handle it well to win. I think I'm in good form now and I'm happy about this."

"I will now prepared for my semifinals against Hirano, she's a very good player, but I have nothing to lose against her so I will just play my best table tennis."

Miu HIRANO (JPN) after defeating Mariia TAILAKOVA (HKG) 4-0 in the Women's Singles Quarterfinals:

"I'm very excited to make it to the semifinals, I think I did my best and I'm ready for the next match."

"I don't know who my next opponent will be next but my goal here is to be the Champion."

Kanak JHA (USA) after defeating Guilherme TEODORO (BRA) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Round of 16:

"I think this match was a very close match even though it was 4-1, each game was very close. Guilherme is a real fighter so I knew it was going to be a hard match going in. I was good in the serve receive, in the beginning of the match, I was more nervous and more passive, but as the match went on I got more confident, and this allowed me to get the first attack after the good receive."

I'm happy that I won and I'm ready for the quarterfinals!"

Archana Girish KAMATH (IND) after defeating LEE Ka Yee (HKG) 4-2 in the Women's Singles Round of 16:

"Lee Ya Kee is a very good player so I'm extremely happy to have won this match. The match was very close and she was fighting every point till the end. In the match I just tried to play my game, took more risks, there were points where she was playing really well, but I didn't stop there."

PANG Yew En Koen (SGP) after defeating Amin AHMADIAN (IRI) 4-0 in the Men's Singles Round of 16:

"We played against each other earlier in March and I lost to him then. Today, I had my mindset at the right place, and tried to put pressure on my opponent instead of having him putting the pressure on me."

"My goal here was to make the top 8, and not I have made it, I'm really happy with my performance."

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating Manav Vikash THAKKAR (IND) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Round of 16:

"Thakkar played really well in the first 2 games, and he made little mistakes, I had many unforced errors on the other hand. After that, I had to quickly adjust and reduce my errors made in order to win."

About the draw:

"I think I will likely meet Lin Yun-Ju in the semifinals, and that match will be crucial to me."

8 Oct 2018 (Day 2)

Tatiana KUKULKOVA (SVK) after defeating Amy WANG (USA) 4-3 in the Women's Singles Preliminary Round:

"It was a tough match and I'm so happy to be able to comeback from 1-3 to win the match, especially because she's higher ranked than me on the world ranking."

"I lost both my matches previously so I told myself that I need to win this. At 1-3 down, I kept telling myself that I have to win and I'm really happy that I made it."

Host representative Martin BENTANCOR (ARG) on playing on home soil:

"I had a very tough draw, but it feels really good playing at home, the home crowd was incredible, family, friend and table tennis people. So I'm very happy to be play here."

Marwa ALHODABY (EGY) after losing 0-4 to Archana Girish KAMATH (IND) in the Women's Singles Preliminary Round:

"I played good, but it wasn't my best performance, I wished I could do more yesterday and today. Unfortunately this time I wasn't able to qualify to the next round, but I hope to do better in future. I have to do my best in my next match, it will be a good thing to win a match in the groups, and in the mixed team, I hope we have a chance to take a medal."

"It's the best opportunity I have ever had to be able to participate, and I hope I can do my best."

Amin AHMADIAN (IRI) after defeating Manav Vikash THAKKAR (IND) 4-1 in the Men's Singles Preliminary Round:

"It was a very close match for me, so I'm very happy to win. My first match was tough, second match was tougher, I hope to win the next match and make the next round."

7 Oct 2018 (Day 1)

Benjamin GOULD (AUS) after defeating Rohit PAGARANI (BIZ) 4-0 in the Men's Singles Preliminary Round:

"I think this match I played really well, I still have some stuff to improve on, but my forehand & serves were working quite well in the match. I got over the nerves I had this morning, which really helps, I'm looking forward to some extra training tomorrow morning."

"I've been trying to have as many hits with players from different countries just to learn more from them and see how I can do better. Obviously that has paid off and I managed to win my second match, so I think I will continue doing that and see where that leads me."

Manav Vikash THAKKAR (IND) after defeating Medardas STANKEVICIUS (LTU) 4-2 in the Men's Singles Preliminary Round:

"It was a very good match, I was nervous at the start because it's such a mega event, it's the Youth Olympics and I was a bit scared and nervous, playing passively, but at 2-2, my coach motivated me a lot. Last 2 games I played very well, I was confident and aggressive, I played good strokes and had good placement and fortunately I won 4-2 eventually."

“India has been doing very well, obviously there is pressure to perform, but it’s more of good motivation because we have a good flow, I think try my best to perform and win medals for my country.”

Adriana DIAZ (PUR) after defeating Jamila LAURENTI (ITA) 4-1 in the Women’s Singles Preliminary Round:

“I’m very happy to be able to win my first match in the groups against Jamila, she’s also a very good player.”

“I hope to continue my form and play stronger at the Youth Olympics and aim for a medal. Keep supporting us!”

Matteo MUTTI (ITA) after defeating KIM Song Gun (PRK) 4-0 in the Men’s Singles Preliminary Round:

“I think I played very good, it’s our first time playing against each other, but I know he’s a strong player, so I have never thought that I could win so easily.”

Andreea DRAGOMAN (ROU) after defeating Esther ORIBAMISE (NGR) 4-0 in the Women’s Singles Preliminary Round:

“I think I played very well to win 4-0 in the match & without much difficulties, my serve was good. It’s a good start for this competition.”

“I hope to top my group in the preliminary round and then go as far as I can further into the tournament.”

SUN Yingsha (CHN) after defeating Zdena BLASKOVA (CZE) 4-0 in the Women’s Singles Preliminary Round:

“I think I prepared well & the match went normal for me. I’m used to the playing environment here now and I like the weather here in Argentina.”

“My goal here is of course to win Gold, my strongest opponent will be Miu Hirano. I think she’s currently at a higher level than me, having won several major seniors events, and is a Women’s World Cup Champion, but I will put in my 100% effort to challenge her and in every match to come at the Youth Olympics.”

“Every athlete is strong to be able to make it to the Youth Olympics and I have to be well prepared for every match and not let my guards down.”

Guilherme TEODORO (BRA) after defeating Rohit PAGARANI (BIZ) 4-0 in the Men’s Singles Preliminary Round:

“I played good today, and I think it was a easy match for me as my opponent this round is not as strong. Next match I will play against top seed Tomokazu Harimoto, so I will have to get myself well prepared for that.”

“My family is here in the crowd cheering for me this morning, it’s always good to have family close by to motivate.”

Tomokazu HARIMOTO (JPN) after defeating Benjamin GOULD (AUS) 4-0 in the Men’s Singles Preliminary Round:

“I was a little nervous at the start, but as the match progressed I relaxed and played better. I think I'll give myself 7/10 for my opening match.”

“We have been here for 5-6 days, I'm more used to the environment here, and have overcame the jetlag.”
