

**Seamaster 2018 ITTF World Tour Platinum
Shinhan Open
17 July - 22 July 2018**

Flash Quotes

Day 4

Ryu Seung Min

“We have always strived to initiate North and South Unified team and it happened in Halmstad and here in Korea Open. This unified team must not be an event team or a one-time event. We will need to continuously work on forming the unified team. With great support from ITTF, The exchange of North and South Korea will make great contribution to the development of North and South Korea table tennis.

“We had a tripartite agreement with ITTF, North Korea, and South Korea on 21st. With the support from the ITTF Foundation, we all agree to form unified teams in Austria Open and Sweden Open.

“The unified team in Korea Open is a symbolic achievement and a historical moment for Korea. I hope this historical moment to be continued to the future. Also, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to ITTF for the great support to North and South Korea.”

Thomas Weikert

“The atmosphere here at the 2018 Korea Open in Daejeon has been amazing with sold-out crowd. Especially last night when unified Korean pair CHA and JANG played and won the Mixed Doubles Final, I'm sure many people watching had goosebumps.

It was a particularly touching moment for us, as the ITTF Foundation started this project in Halmstad and we have long-term plans for the unified teams, perhaps even for the Busan 2020 World Table Tennis Championships. As a first step, ITTF, DPR Korea Table Tennis Association and Korea Table Tennis Association have agreed that the unified mixed doubles pair will play at the World Tours in Austria and Sweden, with the aim of qualifying for the 2018 World Tour Grand Finals that will be held in Korea.

I would like to thank Mr Cho Yang Ho, President from KTTA for supporting the idea of the unified team at the Korea Open, and Mr Ryu Seungmin and Mr Park Do Cheon for their support in making this a reality.”

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Day 3

CHEN Meng after defeating Liu Shiwen (CHN) 4-2 in WS SF

Chen Meng

"I am very happy to have won this semifinals because it was a difficult match but it was a good chance to test myself."

"I didn't think too much about the final result. I keep trying to find ways to win the next point, winning point by point until i managed to turn the game around"

"I have played against Zhu Yuling several times, we will both play to our best tomorrow."

JANG Woojin & CHA Hyo Sim after defeating Wang Chuqing & SUN Yingsha (CHN) 3-1 in XD F

Jang Woojin

"I felt very nervous because this was a huge game and had a lot of attention in the news. I felt like we need to win this game and I am very happy we have done so. I never had much opportunities where I had goosebumps while playing table tennis but this was one of them, I would like to thank the fans for coming out to cheer for us. Thank you for the victory."

JANG Woojin (KOR) after defeating Jeong Sangeun (KOR) 4-3 in MS QF

JANG Woojin

"I'm uncomfortable. Because the match was not that good for me overall, even though won. I was careless. Frankly speaking, I tried to empty my mind, and it works only at first. But I got greedy after that 'I feel I want to win'. When I am losing, I could empty my mind and I tried to think 'get just one set'. "

"If I continued to play the way I did it was impossible for me to win. But, I could win because I believed in myself when I'm playing."

"It is something new to me. I can't believe I could make this. I'm good at now, but I can go down anytime, so I will try always to be a good player and training hard as usual."

"I met Jun Mizutani in 2016, and I won at that time. But, I don't know how the game will be going on, so I will do my best."

ZHU Yuling (CHN) after defeating SUH Hyowon (KOR) 4-0 in WS QF

ZHU Yuling

"I am very happy to have won my match. The atmosphere was really good and the fans were very enthusiastic. I want to thank them for coming out to watch the competition"

"SUH is one of the best choppers in the game and I have played with her on several occasion. Her mental strength on court is very strong.

"I actually like being here in Korea and hope to be able to play more in Korea"

Day 2

JANG Woojin (KOR) after defeating XU Xin (CHN) 4-1 in MS R16

JANG Woojin

"It was my first time I got supported by the enthusiastic spectators so I got nervous. When it comes to the important timing, Korean spectators supported and encouraged me a lot. I got the energy from them. On the other hand, the opponent might get burden relatively."

"XU Xin is the top ranking player. Even I lead the match, I couldn't feel I am leading. When I lead 3:1, I lost my concentration a bit but I tried not to mainly focus on the result. Besides of that, I made my mind up just focusing on every single moment. That is why I won this match."

LIU Shiwen (CHN) after defeating HASHIMOTO Honoka (JPN) 4-0 in WS R16

Liu Shiwen

"It was slightly easier than when I last played her. I was slightly more familiar with her game. The first game of today was still pretty tight but after winning it I was more relaxed."

"Once im on court I don't think about my injury. Everyone is entitled to falling ill or getting injured in the midst of training. What I can do is just to make sure it does not get worse."

"I don't expect too much of this competition. I will be happy winning each game as it comes."

LEE Sangsu & PAK Shin Hyok after defeating LIANG Jingkun & YAN An (CHN) 3-2 in MD QF

Lee Sangsu

"We played very well at first, but we did(played) safely in the middle of the game. So, the Chinese players started playing more aggressively. After 2:2 set score, Coaches advised us that you can do play more aggressively even we can be lose. Then we played like coached said, and it lead us to the win."

"I think I am good at offense, and Sinhyok Park has good basic skills and movement too. So, It was our strategy that he make a chance for me to attack, and I did. And the strategy was successful. Our advantages is that we have good movement. So, when the play is going long play, we did very well, I think.."

HARIMOTO Tomokazu (JPN) after defeating Jeoung Youngsik (KOR) 4-1 in MS R32

Harimoto Tomokazu

"I was a little nervous at the beginning but towards the end I managed to calmed down."

"After one month, playing my first game it makes me a little nervous. After Japan open, I prepared as usual, practicing everyday. The defensive side of my game still isn't very good"

JANG Woojin & CHA Hyo Sim after beating CHENG I-Ching & CHEN Chien-An (TPE) in the XD SF

Jang Woojin

"We were trailing 2-1, but I thought our team had an advantage in the 2nd and 4th game. I was nervous, but it was not that worried. I thought that if we won the 2nd and 4th game, then the match will be in our favor."

"I was nervous, but excited. Whatever the result of game is, I will concentrate on the each moment and I will do my best to win."

We have been getting used to each other for during practicing. We will practice as well as we can and analyze the opposing team. Our coaching staffs is good and it is very helpful practicing together with the North Korean players. All these things brought us to the finals."

"I never think about losing as a player. We have reached the finals, playing well together and have confidence, so I think we are not going to be lose."

Day 1

DING Ning (CHN) after defeating YU Fu (POR) 4-1 in WS R32

Ding Ning

"It is the first singles match, I think nothing special occurred. At the start I found my rhythm and was playing well but after taking the lead I felt I got a bit impatient in my play. I kept trying to finish the match and was rushing my shots"

"Definitely, afterall I just started my tournament and have been to much competition lately so every time I get to play it is like getting more experience to try to do well in every match."

"I didn't play much last year and missed several competition so if my body allows I would want to play as much as possible. Only during a competitive match will I be able to really master by technique and play."

Jang Woojin & CHA Hyo Sim after defeating WONG Chun Ting and DOO Hoi Kem (HKG) 3-1 in XD R16

Jang Woojin

"At first I was quite nervous and did do as well as I hoped. Hyo Sim encouraged me helped by taking the lead. It helped me relax and I managed to play better after that. It was nice playing with her as a team."

SUH Hyowon & KIM Song I after losing to WANG Manyu and ZHU Yuling (CHN) 3-2 in WD R16

SUH Hyowon

"My partner is one of the top players in the world and won a medal at the Olympics so its is a very good opportunity to play with her here in Korea. If the is an opportunity to play with her again, I will do my best."

"I felt a lack of confidence but she helped me overcome it, at every point we communicated with each other and overall even though we lost, I don't mind because we will improve and have an opportunity to play together again"

"If we get to play together in future, I hope we do better and achieve our goals in the competition."

Qualifications Day 2

JEOUNG Youngsik (KOR) after defeating PENG Wang-Wei (TPE) 4-1 in MS Pre

JEOUNG Youngsik

“Personally I prefer to have the supporters cheering for me while I am playing a match. As a National player, I think all national players have issues (with injury) during the competitions but it should not hinder us. We have a lot of matches left in the competition, icing the shoulder is a way of avoiding injury”

“I would like to tell my supporters that I appreciate the support and it encourages me to achieve my goals!”

ZHANG Jike after defeating DESAI Harmeet (IND) 4-2 in MS Pre:

ZHANG Jike

“My form doesn't really matter, what is important is that I treat every match seriously. There are more people in the arena thus it is rather noisy, maybe for myself, I will need to focus and make adjustments accordingly. Afterall, every opponent have their strengths. If like in the previous game I find myself behind, I will just need to calm down and not get to excited.”

SUH Hyowon (KOR) & KIM Song I (PRK) after defeating KIM Olga & KIM Regina (UZB) 3-0 in WD Pre:

SUH Hyowon

“Although we only practiced on the first day of Korea open and before this game, we played well together. Our communication is very good too. I told Song-I, “let’s give it our all”, and she did it in the game.”

“We had a discussion for some signals on where to serve and receive. At first there were some difficulties because she uses different word for “Signs” in North Korea. But now we are very familiar with it now and can understand easily.”

“At first, we were nervous, because it was our first match. But later, we were relaxed, and then start discussing on how to manage our game.”

“I wanted to participate in double match, so it is a great honor if I participate with her again, because she is a gold medalist and I learn a lot from her. This Korea Open is our first double team, I wanted to pass qualifications and now, we want to progress step by step.”

ANGLES Enzo (FRA) after defeating HO Kwan Kit (HKG) 4-1 in MS Pre:

ANGLES Enzo

“ I feel great, I played against him 2 months ago and did not win against him but I knew I always had a chance if I played well.”

“I will take it easy because my leg is a little bit injured but I it is good to be in the next round and I will prepare well.”

Qualifications Day 1 - 17 July 2018

GU Yuting (CHN) after defeating SHIN Yubin (KOR) 4-1 in WS Pre

GU Yuting

"I felt that she restricted my game and I was a little flustered. Afterall, this was the first match of the competition.

"When I was feeling anxious I was slightly affected by the cheering fans but once I was in the zone I didnt really hear them."

"I have played several competition so I don't feel too affected by my nerves. I hope that i can make the Grand Finals again this year by doing well in all the Opens."

JEOUNG Youngsik (KOR) after defeating LEE Chia-Sheng (TPE) 4-0 in MS Pre

JEOUNG Youngsik

"This is the first time I am filled with this much excitement since I participated in the open tournament from 2008. I like this relationship with players from North Korea and I feel a positive influence from them as well as the combined Korean cheering squad. The combined Korean cheering squad always cheers enthusiastically for the unified team."

"My condition last year was bad, so I tried to focus on my conditioning and training. I'm preparing well for this Korea Open, and I hope to win again this year"

"We have encouraged each other. First time we met, there was an awkward silence between us, but now we are talking about technique and joking with each other too. We are supporting each other now."

"This is Korea Open and we are unified team now. We are supporting together and the combined Korean cheering squad is with cheering enthusiastically too. We are going to do all we can, and as well as we can, I hope someone will win amongst the players of the unified team."

FANG Bo (CHN) after defeating CHO Eonrae (KOR) 4-2 in MS Pre

FANG Bo

"I felt that I played quite well overall, my movement and aggressiveness on court was quite good."

“The difference playing abroad and at home is still rather big. There is some difficulty adjusting fast enough but it is part of the game, I just need to rally myself while playing”

CHEN Chien-An (TPE) after defeating KIM Hyong Jin (PRK) 4-2 in MS Pre:

CHEN Chien-An

“Today is the first day of competition and I haven't hit top form yet. I felt some pressure going into the match as my opponent is a strong player as well but I adjusted as the game went on to win the match.”

“I watched some of his competition matches over the past two days but haven't really seen him play much so I still had to make adjustments on court because I am not used to his style of play.”

ZHANG Jike (CHN) after defeating KIM Byunghyeon (KOR) 4-1 in MS Pre:

ZHANG Jike

“I thought overall I played well even though we were playing in the second hall. We normally practice in the main hall and there are some difference.”

“Every match now is new to me as I am not familiar with my opponents. I just need to prepare well for my match tomorrow”

ZHOU Qihao (CHN) after defeating TANAKA Yuta (JPN) 4-2 in MS Pre:

ZHOU Qihao

“I always start well and got a 3-0 head start. In the 4th and 5th game I let my guard down a little and was a somewhat flustered which made me unable to react properly to some of the shots.

“I felt some pressure being the first to take the court and still need to get use to the environment.

LAMBIET Florent (BEL) after defeating SEO Hongchan (KOR) 4-1 in MS Pre:

LAMBIET Florent

"It's the first match of the competition, I feel good and started well which help. I lost the second set which was a little bit hard because I was playing well but let him come back. In the end I managed to win the match"

"The crowd was cheering loudly for him and it helped him but I was focused on the match and it didn't affect me"

PARK Ganghyeon (KOR) after losing 4-2 to HAM Yu Song (PRK) in MS Pre:

PARK Ganghyeon (KOR)

"First of all, this is my first time playing against a North Korean player. During the match I just focused on the match, but my physical ability was not as strong as my opponent and mentally I was a little unready which was why I lost the match"

"I am very honoured to play against a North Korean player. During the match, I learn alot from my opponent but i did my best against him so i felt that it was a wonderful experience for me."