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WEBSITE: <http://www.nctta.org/champs/2010>

****NEWS RELEASE****

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Baruch College Sophomore Brings Championship Experience from China to US

She may be only 20 years old, but already Baruch College's Jike Sun has competed in table tennis at the highest level in both China and now the US.

A sophomore at Baruch College, she is participating in her first College Table Tennis National Championships this year. But this is not the first time she is playing on such a big stage. She attended Beijing No. 2 Sports School, one of the best in the world. During that time, she also played on the Beijing club team, where they were the national champions along with teammate and world champion Yining Zhang.

After her career in China, she decided to attend school in the US. She first attended Cincinnati for a year and half, where she played tournaments and coached youth table tennis. Just this January, she transferred to Baruch College in New York City.

New York has offered her new opportunities. With the addition of Sun to the Baruch College team, the team was able to capture the New York City Division title and entered the Championships as the number 8 seed. At the same time, Sun found herself busier studying, coaching table tennis, and exploring the city.

Adjusting her game was a bit harder than adjusting to America. In China, she played almost exclusively with female players and was used to points with longer rallies. In the US, playing in coed tournaments meaning she had to adapt to the more aggressive play by male players, who often try to end the point quickly. "I have to focus more on the first few shots instead of finesse playing," says Sun.

In women's singles, Jike Sun advanced out of her preliminary round-robin group to the championship bracket but came up short against Ines Perhoc (Texas Wesleyan) in the round of 16, losing in straight games, 8, 6, 9. In the team event, she helped Baruch College to a 13th place finish. The first time school defeated better established teams like Washington and Florida State in the process.

Look for her to come back the next couple of year as a dark horse as she gets more accustomed to the American style of play.

About NCTTA

The National Collegiate Table Tennis Association (NCTTA) is a non-profit organization established exclusively for promoting the sport of table tennis at the college level. As the national governing body for college table tennis in the United States and Canada, NCTTA organizes intercollegiate competition throughout North America. **www.nctta.org**

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