

Youth Table Tennis Report

Summer 2008

Hello Everyone!

We had a great time teaching you during the school year and we wish you all a great summer!

For those of you interested in playing more table tennis and learning some new tactics, we have partnered with IS 126 in Manhattan to offer you a continuation of exciting tennis instruction.

This academy will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between 9 and 12 noon. Space is limited so please register now.

In addition to Table Tennis at IS 126, AYTTO has partnered with Sports & Arts In Schools Foundation to offer a min-clinic at PS 20 in Manhattan from June 30th to July 3rd from 1:30 to 4:30. Any student wishing to know more about the sport of table tennis is invited to attend.

Can't make either one of these programs? That is ok! We will see you back again in the Fall. Please stay tuned to the television during the month of August to watch the 2008 Olympic Games. Table Tennis is an Olympic Sport and will be shown on Television this summer!

AYTTO Coaches



Coach's Corner

Timing is a critical component in table tennis. As a beginner, one must learn to strike the ball at the top of the bounce slightly in front of your body.

One must practice in order to develop good timing. The Chinese have developed a system in which one can quickly improve timing. It is called Multi-Ball. In Multi-Ball the coach is assigned to rapidly feed balls out of a box, thereby allowing students to frequently strike many balls over a short period of time.

During our clinics and programs this summer, we will be introducing multi-ball in our instruction.



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Support, Donations, Sponsorship, Volunteers

AYTTO's mission is to teach young people the sport of Table Tennis. We work in schools and at selected youth centers in New York City.

Our teaching philosophy incorporates life skills, such as leadership, respect, and focus.

We are a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, and we seek your support for our activities --- from donations of used equipment to corporate sponsorship. Your assistance will enable us to significantly expand our activities in reaching a broader youth market

For further information, please contact Ben Nisbet at 917-686-1911.





The Junior Olympic Games

By Jim Bergman

Table tennis, the world's largest participation sport with over 40 million active players, is about to take center stage in a country where it has long reigned as the national pastime, much like baseball in America.

From August 13 to 23, at the XXIX Beijing Summer Olympics in China, 172 table tennis competitors representing 56 sovereign nations will compete for medals in four categories — men's and women's singles and national team play—in a newly-constructed, ultra-modern 8,000-seat Peking University gymnasium in China's capital city of the last 850 years.

How popular is table tennis in China? Two-time men's singles world champion Wang Liqin gets almost as much press attention as Yao Min, the Houston Rocket NBA star center and the country's undisputed national sports hero. Liqin's romance with a Chinese movie actress is a very hot topic in China's press and broadcast media. Television coverage of the Olympics table tennis matches will be primetime viewing for countless millions of Chinese viewers.

China has dominated Olympic competition since table tennis debuted at the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, Korea, winning 16 of the 20 gold medals awarded. Surprisingly, no Chinese player has yet won what many consider to be table tennis' equivalent of boxing's heavyweight championship—the Olympic gold medal for men's singles. China hopes that one of its three top world-ranked players—Wang Hao, Ma Lin and Wang Liqin—will end the draught at this year's Beijing Games. South Korea's Ryu Seung Min, Germany's Timo Boll and Belarus' Vladimir Samsonov are expected to provide some stiff competition.

The United States will be represented by four Chinese-Americans born and trained in China: Gao Jun and Wang Chen, who qualified by virtue of their top 20 International Table Tennis Federation world ranking, and Crystal Huang and David Zhuang, who qualified by winning events at the North American Olympic Trials in Canada. Of the three US women competitors, Gao Jun is believed to have the best chance of upsetting the dominant Chinese threesome.

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Men's and Women's national team competitions will replace the men's and women's doubles competition at this year's Summer Games. While the U.S. women players qualified to compete at the Olympics, the U.S. men did not. Canada will represent the North American continent in the men's team event.

NBC Universal and its seven networks—NBC, USA, MSNBC, CNBC, Oxygen, Telemundo and Universal HD—will provide 3200 hours of total coverage, a thousand hours more than the combined coverage for every televised Summer Olympics in U.S. history. That includes 2,200 hours of live streaming broadband video, the first live online Olympic coverage ever available in USA.

Coverage of table tennis matches will be extensive. In addition, the entire men's and women's soccer and basketball tournaments will be available on NBCU specialty channels. To check out the TV schedule and sign up for broadband video coverage, go to www.nbcolmypics.com.

2008 Mayor's Cup



On April 12th, elementary, middle school and high school table tennis teams from every borough in New York City converged on IS 126 to compete in New York City Mayor's Cup for Table Tennis.

For some this was their first table tennis event, while for others this was an a chance to showcase newly learned skills. For all it was an opportunity to meet others and to have a great time. A special thanks to New York City Sports Commission for sponsoring this prestigious event. The team tournament results are as follows:

Elementary Team: Winner PS 64M Blue; Finalist - PS 64M Red
Middle School Team: Winner PS 211K; Finalist - Tompkins Square MS
High School Team: Winner Flushing HS; Finalist Millennium HS.

For individual results please visit – www.aytto.org

A special thanks to the referees, organizers, and volunteers for making this a great event.