

Youth Table Tennis Report

Winter 2008

Hello Table Tennis Players!

Welcome to 2008 and our winter season!

For those of you who have already played in our tournaments, we hope that you enjoyed them. For those who haven't, we have an exciting line-up of upcoming events – including the Mayor's Cup, which will be held on April 12th. Please inform your parents of the date of this exciting event.

Between now and the end of the school year our coaches will be working hard to teach you new skills – ready position, third ball attack, the loop and footwork.

In addition to learning the rules, it is our goal is to push each of you to a new level where you can enjoy and appreciate our sport!

We look forward to seeing you in class!

AYTTO Coaches

Coach's Corner:

Additional activities and learning materials



Our coaches can now provide you with the following:

Fat Cat Table Tennis Club – AYTTO has formed a special relationship for Saturday and Sunday morning table tennis with Fat Cat Table Tennis Club. This club is located on 75 Christopher Street in New York City.

Table Tennis on TV: Table Tennis is a very popular sport in Germany and is on TV often there. The following website captures TV broadcasts of some of the world's best players. It is updated often. Enjoy!
<http://www.dttl.tv/>

Internet Websites: There are several websites that post great table tennis videos and information. Two of the best are: www.ittf.com, the website for the International Table Tennis Federation, and www.tabletennis.about.com, an informative Website for coaches and learning our sport.



American Youth Table Tennis Organization

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AYTTO Saturday Academy - The successful Saturday Academy at IS 126 on 80 Catherine Street in Manhattan will resume on January 26th from 1:30-2:30. This free program is open to all AYTTO students interested in learning more from us. Students participating in the Saturday Academy will have the opportunity to compete against players from other cities and states.

2008 Mayor's Cup – AYTTO in partnership with the New York City Sports Commission will run the Mayor's Cup for Table Tennis on April 12th.

The Online Coach – AYTTO's coaches are available online to answer any questions you may have. Their email address is coach@aytto.org.

Please visit www.aytto.org or speak to your coach about any of these activities or learning materials.



Fat Cat – AYTTO School Team Challenge

By Ben Nisbet

A contingent of twenty IS 126 students stomp down the stairs and into the basement of the 75 Christopher Street building. It is 9:30 AM on 12/4/07 and they are all ready to play table tennis. The Fat Cat Club, though, is dark and completely empty. Silence.

Suddenly, lights flick on, illuminating a gigantic room packed with chess, billiard, Scrabble, shuffleboard tables, a music room and, eight brand new table tennis tables. With the lights still flickering, the IS 126 team scrambles to the tables to practice. It is a big day!

By 11:00 AM over sixty students and their parents crowd around Fat Cat's Table Tennis tables watching the teams compete. The sport is captivating - the strategy, concentration, spin and speed. Meanwhile in the back corner of the Fat Cat Club, IS 126's school band is auditioning. The familiar sound of past and present music mixes with the constant ping of table tennis balls. It's a youth table tennis tournament and a musical talent show wrapped up into one event! The participants are having a great time.

Behind the noise and the excitement stands a smiling Noah Konsaurus, owner of the Fat Cat Club. "this is perfect," he explained. "We love to see all these young adults so engaged and excited. Fat Cat is pleased to provide the youth here with the opportunity to meet, socialize and interact." Ann Marie DeFalco, Chairperson of the South Bridge Parent & Youth Association commented "Table Tennis, like other sports, helps children develop motor, organizational, and sequencing skills. It helps with academics as well. My son Blaise was waiting all week to play in this event."

"Table tennis is an interactive sport socially, physically and mentally", explained Roger Brown. "It is one thing to learn the skills in practice, it is quite another to link them into a game strategy that scores points from an equally skilled opponent. Peeru Pirzada agreed. "Fat Cat provides an ideal location for these kids. They are learning valuable lessons here."

There were many exciting matches throughout the event. Results were as follows:

Event:	1 st	2 nd
High School Girls -	Newark High	Bard HS
High School Boys -	Newark High	Flushing High
Middle School (co-ed)	PS 126	Newark MS

A special thanks to the Fat Cat Club for donating table time and musical instruments. It was a great day for all.

For more information on the Fat Cat Club or on future table tennis events and tournaments at Fat Cat, visit www.aytto.org. Ben Nisbet, is the Director of AYTTO.



IS 126 Middle School Team and runner up Newark Team
Photo by Roger Brown

Calendar of Events NEW

- Fat Cat School Challenge, Manhattan, NY. www.aytto.org, 2/9.
- Brooklyn Open, Brooklyn, NY. www.btclub.com, 2/17
- 8th Open FIT Championships, New York City, NY, www.lilyyip.com, 3/29-3/30.
- Mayor's Cup Table Tennis Tournament, New York City, NY. www.aytto.org, 4/12.
- World Table Tennis Championships, Zagreb, Croatia, www.itf.com, 5/21-5/27.

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.