

sport **rebecca tsui**



Did you know? Ko Lai-chak won a silver medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics in the men's doubles alongside Li Ching

Heep Yunn players show class spirit

School Challenge brings out the best in up-and-coming stars and raises interest in sport

Table Tennis

Heep Yunn School held a prize-presentation ceremony to reward its up-and-coming table tennis stars. It was the first school to complete the 2008/2009 Hang Seng Table Tennis Academy's School Challenge, which was launched last year to promote the sport among local students.

The academy was set up in 2001 with the aim of raising public interest in table tennis and trains young athletes and coaches.

Schools taking part in the School Challenge organise inter-class table tennis competitions. It is hoped the scheme can help discover potential stars who can go on to win international



KO LAI-CHAK (FAR RIGHT) AND NG WING-NAM TOOK PART IN PRACTICE SESSIONS WITH HEEP YUNN STUDENTS. PHOTO: REBECCA TSUI

tournaments and bring honour to Hong Kong.

Although the inaugural programme is yet to be completed due to the swine flu outbreak, it has generated plenty of excitement among young table tennis fans.

Last Friday, Heep Yunn

When we played, the rest of our classmates supported us by forming a cheering team

students gathered in the school hall to congratulate the winners of the inter-class competition.

They were also thrilled to meet Hong Kong's Olympics silver medallist Ko Lai-chak and former Heep Yunn star, Ng Wing-nam, at the prize-

giving ceremony. Ng, 17, turned professional two years ago.

The members of the Hong Kong table tennis team shared their experiences about life as sports stars with the students. They also guided some students through practice sessions at the ceremony.

Melody Wong Yuet-ling, 13, who played for one of the winning teams, said she liked the idea of inter-class competitions.

"I enjoyed the class spirit very much. When we played, the rest of our classmates supported us by forming a cheering team. The inter-class competition brought us closer together," she said.

Also, Melody was excited to participate in a training session with Ko. "He's really amazing," she said.

Five schools were picked for the first year of the programme. Besides Heep Yunn, the other schools were Diocesan Boys' School, Lam Tai Fai College, Pui Ching Middle School, and Pui Ching Primary School.

Organisers hope to include 10 schools for the 2009/2010 School Challenge.

athlete of the week

Each week we talk to HK's brightest and best



Name Fung Wing-see
School Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School
Grade Form Five
Sport Wushu

Achievements Wing-see, 16, made a name for herself at her international debut at the Asian Junior Wushu Championships in Singapore in 2005. She won gold medals in changquan and qiangshu respectively.

She is the most promising junior female wushu athlete in Hong Kong, and has topped many international competitions. She won gold in jianshu and gunshu at the World Junior Championships in 2006 and 2008 respectively. At the Asian Junior Wushu Championships, she won a jianshu

gold medal in 2007 and a daoshu gold medal this year.

She is a four-time winner of the Hong Kong Sports Institute's Outstanding Junior Athlete Awards.

Soundbite "When I was young, I was quite weak. I started wushu at the age of six to train my body.

"I love wushu because it keeps me healthy and it gives me a lot of satisfaction.

"My success at the Asian Junior Championships in Singapore put a lot of pressure on me. I won two gold medals and I want to keep up my good work. But the pressure also motivates me.

"Although I'm not representing Hong Kong at the East Asian Games, I'm more than happy to be a torchbearer. It's kind of an



FUNG WING-SEE SAYS WUSHU KEEPS HER STRONG. PHOTO: REBECCA TSUI

alternative way to take part in this massive event.

"I think I want to focus on this sport. Turning professional might be an option. Other than wushu, I don't know what else I can do."

From her coach "I have been coaching Wing-see for more than seven years. She is talented, hard-working, self-motivated and, most importantly, devoted. I really hope to see her achieve bigger things," said coach Wong Chi-kwong.

Ambitions "I hope I can win more gold medals at the World Junior Championships next year. It'll probably be my last time. Then I'd like to take part in the senior competitions and compete against stronger opponents."