

ICC's Rajul Sheth Named Table Tennis Coach of the Year



India Community Center table tennis coach Rajul Sheth flanked by top table tennis players Ariel Hsing (left) and Lily Zhang.

By a Staff Reporter

Table tennis coach Rajul Sheth, manager of sports and recreation programs at the India Community Center in Milpitas, Calif., has been named "2008 Developmental Coach of the Year" by USATT, the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based national organization regulating table tennis in the U.S.

The award is being presented, USATT said, "in recognition of (Sheth's) outstanding dedication to table tennis junior development" in the U.S. "Your 2008 coaching record and service to the sport in the Bay Area...demonstrates your passion and dedication to the sport and junior development," USATT added.

A former men's singles table tennis champion of Gujarat, Sheth is an International Table Tennis Federation-qualified international umpire.

He currently runs ICC's successful full-time table tennis club at a 10,500-sq.-ft. facility in the South Bay. His students performed exceptionally well at the 2008 U.S. Nationals in December.

Top players who trained at ICC in 2008 include: Ariel Hsing, 2008 U.S. Nationals women's singles finalist; Lily Zhang, 2009 U.S. junior and cadet girls champion; Sylvan Guo, a member of the 2009 U.S. junior girls team; and Krishnateja Avvari, winner of the under-10 boy's event at the 2008 U.S. Nationals.

"Ariel and Lily are very impressive and dedicated students to work with," Sheth said. "Both... train with us at ICC for more than 10-12 hours a week," he said, adding, "We are working hard to make sure all these young ICC students make it to the 2012 Olympics and of course a medal in 2016."

This summer, the ICC plans 10 weeks of full-day table tennis camps June 15- Aug. 28. Many former world champions, international coaches and top-ranked players will participate. Beginner and entry-level players will be coached from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and advanced players from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information visit: www.indiacc.org/tabletennis.