



# TITAN TIMES

A Publication of the Brooklyn Titans  
*Quality out-of-school time programming for working families*

## Calendar of Events

**April 4,**  
 Baseball Season  
 Opening Day

**May 17, 12 - 6pm**  
 Football Jamboree  
 Games, Food & Fun  
 Titan Practice Field  
 Corner of Bay &  
 Court Street  
 Red Hook, Brooklyn

**June 26, 6 - 9pm**  
 Baseball Banquet  
 Location TBA

**June 27, 10am - 2pm**  
 First Football Practice  
 Titan Practice Field  
 Corner of Bay &  
 Court Street  
 Red Hook, Brooklyn

**Football Registration  
 Has Started!**  
 Check the website for  
 more information.

**This Publication is  
 Available for  
 Download on Our  
 Website at  
 BrooklynTitans.org**

## Titan Divas Win National Championship



**Divas After Florida Victory**

The Titan Divas 12 & under step team are the 2008 American Youth Cheer National Step Champions. After winning the city title, the

Divas traveled to Orlando, Florida where they competed in the American Youth Cheer National Championship tournament. The competition was held at the Amway arena, home of the Orlando Magic, and was simulcast on the Internet. The Divas impressed the judges with an innovative and energetic show, employing costumes, props and a whole lot of attitude. The three-day trip

*(Continued on page 2)*

## It's Back to The Future for Titans

January 1, 2009, the Titan program returned to its original independent not-for-profit status after 3 years of operating in partnership with another not-for-profit organization. The Titans now operate under Titan Youth Development Corp. ("TYDC"), the not-for-profit formed in 2004 to house the football and cheerleading programs, which started in 2003.

## Football Banquet Huge Success

On Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the Brooklyn Titans held their fifth annual Celebration of Excellence commemorating the 2008 tackle football and cheerleading season. The event had over 200 in attendance and was held at the Masonic Temple in historic Fort Greene.



**Keynote Speaker Cedric Jones Accepts Honorarium**

The keynote speaker for the event was Mr. Cedric Jones, a 9 year veteran of the NFL's



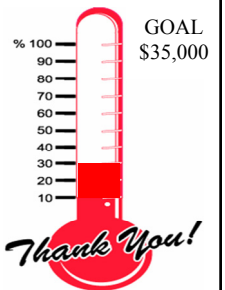
New England Patriots. After leaving the Patriots, Mr. Jones spent 11 years as an executive with the NFL and is currently the Athletic Director for the New York Athletic Club.

Mr. Jones roused the crowd

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## Fundraising

None of our work is done without the generous support of our families and community partners, and this year the fundraising goal for our operating budget is \$35,000. We have a very



*(Continued on page 3)*

## CONTACT US

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**Titan Youth Development** known in the community as **The Brooklyn Titans** is an independent, South Brooklyn Based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation founded in 2004, and serving the communities of Red Hook, Park Slope, Gowanus, Sunset Park, Bedford Stuyvesant, Fort Green, Carroll Gardens and Prospect Heights.

**Our Mission** is to provide year around, affordable out-of-school-time programming for youth between the ages of 5 and 14 that promotes academic achievement, physical health, personal discipline and good citizenship.

**It Is Our Policy and Our Commitment** that no child be denied the opportunity to participate based on inability to pay.

### Titans Recognize Long Time Supporter



Steve Lefkowitz Presented Appreciation Award by Coach Bill.

The Titans recognized Mr. Steve Lefkowitz as its first Gold Donor, presenting him with the Titans own version of the Heisman Trophy. The trophy features a hand painted replica of the Titan uniform emblazoned with Mr. Lefkowitz' high school football jersey number (#48).

Mr. Lefkowitz has supported the football team for the last 4 years, contributing in excess of \$20,000, and was instrumental in assisting the Titans in raising the funds necessary to send the 12 & Under football team to Florida in 2007 to compete in the National Championship Tournament.

Mr. Lefkowitz is the President of CI Capital Partners, a successful Manhattan-based private equity fund. Steve is a graduate of Northwestern University and the Kellogg School of Management. Steve sits on the boards of a number of not for profits and is active in a variety of philanthropic activities.

### Divas Win National Step Title



Champion Divas Sport Jackets & Trophies at Banquet

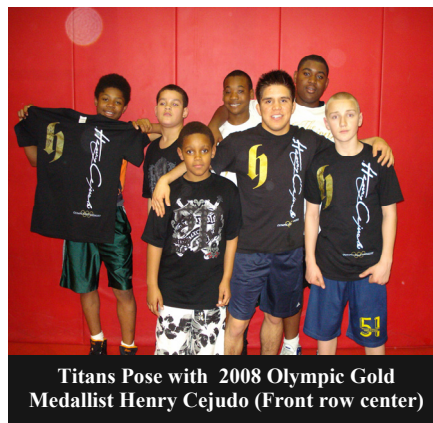
(Continued from page 1) was a once in a lifetime experience for the 13 member Titan team. The girls built close and deep relationships that have endured well beyond their return from Florida. The trip was

made possible through the fundraising efforts of the girls, support from the Titan Parent Committee, and donations from local businesses and individuals.

Please join us in congratulating the coaches: Kim Croker, Shaquan Thompson, Kizzie Gonzales, Vanessa Lucas, and Melanie Lesley; team members: Dania Alexander, Sabrina Escoto, Diamond Fernandez, Tia Hill, Sade Jemmott, Stacey Jemmott, Kiera Matos, Sierra Mattocks, Latianna Miller, Jessenia Rios, Jillian Solomon, Ashley Stewart, and Keturah Williams; and the Little Divas who assisted with the performance: Stephanie Brown, Jada Lesley & Royell Douglass.

### Titans Kick off Wrestling Season with 2008 Olympic Gold Medallist Henry Cejudo

The Titan Wrestling program enters its second season with a mix of experienced and novice wrestlers.



Titans Pose with 2008 Olympic Gold Medallist Henry Cejudo (Front row center)

Among the experienced mat men, the Titans return Devin Rose, who placed 2nd in the City in his weight class in 2008, and Tre Solomon, who earned 4th place honors. The Titans will field a team of 17 wrestlers for 2009.

At a clinic in Manhattan, the Titan wrestlers had the opportunity to meet and train with 2008 Olympic Wrestling Gold Medallist Henry Cejudo. Cejudo is the youngest American to ever win an Olympic Gold Medal in wrestling, and inspired the wrestlers with his story of overcoming a tough upbringing to reach his dream of winning Olympic Gold.

### Baseball Season In Full Swing

#### Titans Field 5 Baseball Teams & Its First Girls Softball Team



The Titans are playing the 2009 season under the banner of the 78th Precinct in the Prospect Park Baseball League. The

**Titans have won 6 league**

**championships in the last 3 years** in the Prospect Park League, and return several veteran players at all levels. The Titans will field 6 teams, serving approximately 75 to 90 youth. Teams include: 8 & Under, 10 & Under, 12 & under, 13 & Under, 14 & Under, and a girls 12 & under softball team.

This year, the Titans will also be competing in the Red Hook Baseball League, partnering with the Red Hook Justice Center and local constituents to help expand baseball in Red Hook.



## Fundraising & Donations

*(Continued from page 1)*

aggressive agenda that includes expanding our programming, increasing the number of youth we serve, and identifying a small office to house our administrative activities.

### **Field of Dreams & Center of Hope**

Starting in 2009, the Titans are undertaking a capital campaign to have our field renovated and to establish a permanent center to house our programs.

Renovating our field is expected to cost \$2-3 million, and we are seeking support from local public officials and other foundation sources for

support. We are also in negotiations with several parties to establish our center, and expect to have a plan in place by the fall. The support we have received from our families and the various foundations and corporations with whom we've worked has been breathtaking. We anticipate a lot of good things for 2009!

**Visit our website at  
www.BrooklynTitans.Org  
to make monetary donations  
and see some of the equipment  
and technology the Titans are  
seeking to have donated.**

## Titans Set to Launch Titan Academy Summer Program

Summer 2009, the Titans are holding its first summer camp. The camp will be held in Park Slope and offer an innovative program combining intensive academics and athletics. The camp will accept up to 20 rising 8th and 9th graders and up to 20 rising 6th and 7th graders.

The program will run in 2, 3 week sessions, beginning on July 6th and running through August 14th. The camp curriculum will consist of 3 hours per day of math and English, one hour of public speaking, and 3 hours of athletics.

Titan Academy will be a results-oriented program designed to improve academic and athletic performance as well as build overall physical health. Participants will be given a comprehensive before and after assessment of academic competence and physical health.

The camp will accept the first 40 applicants, with preference given to youth participating in other Titan programs, and youth staying for both sessions.

In delivering the camp, the Titans are collaborating with recognized leaders in their respective fields: Sylvan Learning Center, will provide the academic curriculum for the camp; and E3



Sports, a sports training company will provide speed & strength training as well as a curriculum on proper nutrition. The 2009 camp is a pilot program, and will be expanded in 2010.



**Titan Academy will be a results oriented program designed to improve academic & athletic performance...**

### **Titans Partner with Red Hook Initiative to Offer FREE Tutoring**

The Titans are partnering with Red Hook Initiative to offer FREE tutoring and test prep for youth participating in the Titan program. Tutoring will take place 5 days per week on in Red Hook for the remainder of the school year. Sessions will be conducted by Ricky Santana, a Hunter college student majoring in elementary education, studying to become a teacher.



## The Good News

### **Titans Partner with Good Shepherd Services**

The Titans have entered into a space sharing agreement with the Good Shepherd Beacon program at PS 15 in Red Hook. The agreement gives us use of gym and meeting space. We are currently using the space for baseball, softball and wrestling.



### **Titans Receive Independence Community Foundation Grant**

The Titans received a seed grant from Independence Community Foundation to support its baseball and girls softball programs. The grant will be used to purchase equipment. Independence Community Bank has been a long-time supporter of the Titan program.



### **Argo Financial and Martha Butler Support Our Kids**

We were awarded a matching grant of \$3,000 from the Argo Group, thanks to the generous donation of \$2,000 from Titan parent Martha Butler. Thanks Martha and Argo for the help!



### **Titans Awarded Partnership for Parks Grant**

The Titans were awarded a \$2,000 grant to support its 7 and under football and cheerleading program. This is our second grant from Partnership for Parks. The initial grant provided the funds to start the 7 & under program.



### **News and Comics Pledges Support**

Local small business owned by Mr. Osama Ahmed and located at 69 9th St, became a bronze level sponsor, pledging \$500 to \$2,500 to support the kids in the Titan program. Mr. Ahmed has supported the Titans for the last 2 years.

## A Night To Remember



(Continued from page 1)

with a message of hope, perseverance and the importance of following your dreams, recounting the story of his own unlikely ascension from a working class family in the south to becoming an All-American at Duke University, earning his degree, being drafted by the NFL

and having a successful 9 year career with the Patriots.

After his address, Mr. Jones was presented with a personalized, "Titan Heisman" featuring his number & team uniform with a plaque commemorating his college and professional career.

### Titans Cheer Team Partners with Power Play



The cheer program has partnered with PowerPlay, a Park Slope based gymnastic facility, located at 432 3rd avenue, to provide state-of-the-art cheer instruction for the 2009 Titan Cheer Team. The girls will be training 2 days per week through the spring.

## Message From The President



2008 was an eventful year for the Titan Program: we fielded our first

step/cheer team won a city championship and traveled to Florida where they captured a National Step Championship!

wrestling team; our baseball program grew 50%, expanding to 9 teams and over 120 participants; and we more than doubled our cheer program expanding to over 40 girls.

In addition to our success on the field, the Titans saw an unprecedented number of youth from the program get accepted to top high schools around the city. All in all, I'd say we had a very good year.

Along the way, we had more than a little success

- 2 Prospect Park baseball championships;
- 2 of our wrestlers placed among the top 5 in the city;
- Our 13 and under football team placed second in the city; and
- Our 12 and under girls

Still, 2008 also saw the Titans end a 3 year partnership with Camp Friendship. While the change has been unfortunate in some aspects, we have emerged stronger than before, due to the commitment and dedication of our families and the resilience of our organization.

As we embark on our new

path, we are setting an aggressive agenda for the future. For 2009, the Titans are fielding our first ever girls softball team, running our first ever summer camp, embarking on a capital campaign to have our football field renovated, and seeking funds to develop a youth center to house our operations.

As we strive to provide an environment of high expectations for the youth in our program, we must also be committed to providing our youth with the resources and support they need to succeed. To those whom much is given, much is expected. So too, should it be that from those whom much is expected, much should be provided.

In the coming months and

years, it is our commitment, to provide nothing short of our best efforts to offer our youth world class resources as we strive to promote their success in the classroom, on the field and in the community.

—Coach Bill

### Who We Serve

Youth Served: 300

Ethnicity  
 Black 75%  
 Hispanic 15%  
 White 10%

Gender  
 Male 75%  
 Female 25%

Ages: 5 to 14

Communities: Red Hook, Bed Stuy, Ft. Greene, Gowanus, Park Slope, Sunset Park, Carroll Gardens, Prospect Heights.