



FAST BREAK

CTK CYO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 5, 2021

Pastor: Father Robert Ketcham

Executive Director: John Newman

Assistant Director: Dennis Briordy

Executive Assistant: Michelle Mardiney

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Director's Message

It was quite a rollercoaster ride this winter as we went from the season that wasn't to the season that recovered. Initially it looked like the 2021 season would never get started due to the COVID crisis but at the midnight hour Father Rob gave us the green light to participate. It was a terrific and memorable season as all our teams had winning records and culminated with our 6th grade boys team winning the Nassau-Suffolk CYO Championship. I want to thank all the players and coaches for adhering to the COVID protocols which allowed us to complete the season without an incident. The restrictions are beginning to loosen and hopefully we will soon be able to allow some spectators into the gym.

The CTK CYO will be taking part in the CYO Summer League beginning in July and hopefully by September things will return to normal and we can start the girls and boys 2021-22 basketball seasons on schedule. We are looking to expand our programs for all age groups as we go forward into 2022. Anyone interested in joining our basketball or volleyball programs can contact **John Newman** at theace5120@aol.com

Girls Volleyball



The girls volleyball program got a late start but CTK CYO was able to place six teams in the Nassau-Suffolk 2021 CYO Volleyball League. Our two 8th grade teams are coached by Mike Orlando and Phillip Benardello. Our two 7th grade teams are coached by Jarrett Stein and Dom Palazzo. The 6th grade team is coached by Stephanie Viteritti and the High School team is coached by Donna Newman. The games started in late April and the regular season will end 6/13 with playoffs to follow. All the teams have gotten off to a quick start and are looking forward to participating in the playoff hunt. Home games are played on Saturdays at the CTK Gym. Check the CYO website cyoli.org for times and dates of the games.



Boys Divisions

Grades 4-8

5th grade-Coach Singer's team had a terrific first season in their inaugural CYO debut. They finished in 3rd place with a 5-3 record. The team was led by the stellar play of Brian Singer, Jake Landman, Sean Tracey and Brendan Byer. The team is looking forward to next year as they hope to continue their winning ways.

6th grade-Congratulations to Coach Brian Huber and his 6th grade team on winning the Nassau-Suffolk CYO 6th grade championship. The team finished the regular season at 7-1 atop their division. The team swept through the playoffs defeating St. Hedwig and St. Bernard in the preliminary rounds and St. Matthew in the finals. The team was led by slick ballhandlers Kingsley Wilson, James Huber and David O'Neil. The Ehlers cousins, Matt and Jon, provided the team with scoring punch and yeomans work under the backboards. The team was enjoyable to watch as they shared the basketball and played tough defense all year long.



2021 Nassau-Suffolk CYO Boys 6th Grade Champions

8th grade-Coach Brian McConaghy's 8th grade squad finished the regular season with a 4-4 third place finish. The team advanced to the playoffs and defeated a tough St. Lawrence team in sudden death overtime on a basket by Benny Hughes after getting a defensive stop to

advance to the finals against St. Elizabeth. The team fell short and lost to a quality St. Elizabeth team by the score of 49-36. The team was led by high scoring Benny Hughes, the steady ball handling of Brendan Ott and the tough hard play of James Pagano. Congratulations to all the boys and good luck as they enter high school in September.



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Girls Divisions

Grades 4-8

5th grade- Coach Newman's 5th grade squad had quite a remarkable turnaround this season. After winning only one game in 2020 the team rebounded in 2021 and finished in first place with a 6-2 regular season record. The team met archrival St. Raphael in the championship game and lost a hard fought game by the score of 18-10. The team was led by "Stellar" Ella Candel, Sophia Antonello, Gabriella Newman and Charlotte Bohn. The continued improvement of Sammy Dossantos and Lily Connolly added to the success of the team. Newcomers Emily Ellwood and Cara McBrien provided spark and scoring punch throughout the season. The team will be adding two more players next year Zoe Spector and Gianna Mora which will add much more depth to the team. The team will be participating in the CYO Summer league which begins in July.

6th grade-Coach Chris Gitz led the 6th grade team to a second place 5-3 regular season finish. The team played a hard nosed style of basketball all year long and was the team that nobody wanted to face in the playoffs. The team faced off against a very good St. Matthew's squad in the playoffs and lost a heartbreaker 15-10. The team has improved tremendously and is looking to go even further next year.

7th grade-Coach Solch's 7th grade team had an outstanding 2021 season. The team finished the regular season in a first place tie with St. Bernard with both teams finishing 7-1. The inside and outside combination of Alanna Svensson and Gianna Solch proved to be tough to handle for their opponents. After splitting the two regular season games with St. Bernard the two teams

found themselves squaring off again in the finals. It was an exciting game that went down to the final minutes but St. Bernard came away with the 20-16 victory. All the girls have put in a lot of time working on their game throughout the year and it clearly shows in their teams success. The team will be participating in the St. Patricks summer league and will continue to workout at CTK each week with Coach Newman.

8th grade-Coach Mike Orlando led his team to a 5-3 second place reguar season finish. The team met a powerful Sacred Heart in the championship and lost by the score of 29-11. Congratulations to the girls on another winning season and good luck as you move on to high school in September.



K-1 Clinic/Developmental League

The K-1 Clinic- The K-1 Clinic had 20 boys and girls participating this year under the watchful eye of Coach Jim Ramsay. The clinic started on 11/21 and was finished on Saturday 2/13. The clinic was such a success that we had an additional five week session beginning 2/27.

Due to the COVID-19 situation this years clinic had to implement safety precautions to protect our participants and their parents. Every parent was required to stay with their child and monitor their behavior in addition to actively joining in exercises with them when called upon to do so. Social distancing, temperature monitoring and the wearing of masks during the clinic was mandatory. There was no sharing of equipment and each participant was required to use their own basketball that was given to them. Basic fundamental skills were emphasized throughout the clinic and were performed in a safe atmosphere.



I would like to thank Coach Ramsay for his outstanding work at the clinic and the parents for their cooperation in helping to keep the clinic running smoothly and safely.

The 2021-22 K-1 Clinic that will be coached by Brian McConaghy is scheduled to start 11/13/21 and will be held on Saturday mornings. The 2021-22 Grade 2-3 development program will be coached by Jim Ramsay and is scheduled to start 11/13/21 and will also be held on Saturday mornings. For further information about either program contact Brian McConaghy at b_mcConaghy@yahoo.com or Jim Ramsay at c21ramsay@aol.com

Individual Instruction

Coach Newman has been holding individual and group instruction for both boys and girls throughout the year. This past season he held group workouts for the 7th grade girls, 4th grade boys, 5th grade boys and 2nd and third grade boys and girls. Individual Instruction participants (boys and girls) currently range from 1st graders to 11th graders. Each session is approximately one hour in length consisting of fundamental drills involving ball handling, shooting, dribbling, one on one moves, agility and conditioning. Anyone interested in improving their game is urged to contact Coach Newman @ theace5120@aol.com to set up a session.



Congratulations to former CTK participant Jayden Kealey on his selection to the Newsday 2021 All Long Island Boys Basketball team.

I was first introduced to Jayden as he was completing the 7th grade. He was playing on a team with my son Travis in Ronkonkoma and it was clear to me at that time that he had never been coached and lacked some basic fundamental skills. The thing that struck me most about Jayden immediately was his willingness to learn and to accept coaching. He possessed the most valuable attribute a player can have and that is "coachability". What is coachability? It is the desire to get better and the willingness to listen to coaching in order to reach one's maximum potential. I saw something in Jayden that made me believe that he could become a really good player and that what he needed was some guidance and direction in how to apply himself.



Jayden Kealey All Long Island 2021

I brought him on to the Spartans basketball team that competed in the Sports Arena and that was his first opportunity to play with both Spencer

Malloy and my son Travis Newman. Playing with both of those boys was a great experience for Jayden as it set the bar for him to aspire to. Later Jayden played in the CTK HS League as an 8th and 9th grader against the older boys and it was clear at that point he was getting better and better each week.



Jayden Kealey battles Travis Newman for a rebound @ CTK HS League 2017

Jayden's continued improvement began to catch the eye of other teams and coaches and he was soon being asked to play with other teams.

Jayden kept improving and he was now playing on the Commack Falcons coached by Daren Macchio and Pete Cammaratta. He would play alongside Spencer Malloy and Travis Newman in addition to Blaise Cammaratta who a few years later would lead Commack HS to a historic season. The Falcons competed in the Sports Arena League and in local tournaments and did very well. Jayden had now become an important part of the success the team was experiencing and was well on his way to becoming an impact player.



Commack Falcons Sports Arena Champions 2018

Jayden started his high school basketball career at Connetquot HS and by sophomore year was a leading member on the varsity. He moved to Center Moriches where he became a leading player on their 2019-20 championship team. Jayden continued to play on multiple teams and his game just kept getting better culminating in his 2021 selection as an All County player.

Jayden's meteoric rise to success is a model that everyone should pay attention to. He clearly was not one of the better players when he was in the 7th grade. However through sheer desire and determination he turned himself into one of the finest high school basketball players on Long Island five years later. Jayden was one of my favorite players to have coached. On behalf of all of the Commack Basketball and CTK CYO community people I want to congratulate Jayden and wish him best of luck as he moves forward upon graduation from Center Moriches HS.

CTK CYO now has our own Dr. Dish shooting machine. This machine streamlines shooting workouts and makes practice time much more efficient. In a 45 minute shooting workout the machine is capable of having a single shooter

shoot over 700 shots. Coach Newman will be holding shooting workouts for anyone that is interested in improving their shooting skill. For information contact Coach John Newman at theace5120@aol.com

Pictured below are former Commack High School Varsity Basketball player Travis Newman and Coach Newman with the new Dr. Dish shooting machine.

