

## Sport / UFC

## TABLE TENNIS

## Louis hits top spot in table tennis ranking list

By PAUL GITTIN

TEN-YEAR-OLD Louis Cheung-Turner has attained the number one spot in the U10 Boys Table Tennis England's national ranking list.

The Great Crosby Catholic Primary School pupil has secured sufficient ranking points by competing and achieving success in many table tennis tournaments throughout the country.

Louis has even ventured into Europe having recently returned from competing in an international tournament held in Hungary's capital, Budapest.

Louis first started playing at the age of eight when his previous school, St John's Catholic Primary School in Kirkdale introduced table tennis as part of their after-school activities.



Louis Cheung-Turner

St John's table tennis coach, Paul Gittins, said: "As soon as Louis picked up a bat, his potential was obvious.

"It's amazing that it all began at an after-school club.

"You have to applaud St John's Primary School for embracing the sport which has now led to the school having its own table tennis club and resulted in one of its youngsters becoming number one in England."

Louis's ability also caught the eye of British Para Table Tennis National Team coach and ex-England table tennis player, and former world champion, Andrew Rushton, who is also head coach at Halton Talent Development Centre, where Louis now trains three times a week. The Liverpool star also plays regularly in the Liverpool Junior League representing St John's TTC and in the National Cadet & Junior League representing Halton TTC.

# UFC to make its Liverpool debut

LOCAL BOY TILL THRILLED TO BE HEADLINING ARENA SHOW



Darren Till

By JOE RIMMER

ECHO Reporter

joe.rimmer@liverpool.com  
@joerimmer88



THE UFC has confirmed that it will come to Liverpool for the first time on May 27.

There has long been talk that the world's premier mixed martial arts organisation would hold an event on the banks of the Mersey, and they have confirmed that Darren Till will headline an event at the ECHO Arena later in the spring.

Till trains at Wavertree's Team Kaobon and has established himself as a

top contender in the UFC's welterweight division.

He knocked out veteran Donald Cerrone in Poland last year and has been linked with fights against Steven 'Wonderboy' Thompson among others. The unbeaten fighter has long spoken of his desire to headline a show in his home city.

Till said: "I can't believe UFC is finally coming to Liverpool and I'm going to be headlining ECHO Arena.

"My name is going to be remembered in 200 years time for being part of this historical event and I can't even describe how much that means to me."

David Shaw, UFC senior vice-presi-

dent international & content, said: "The stars really aligned for the Octagon to touch down in Liverpool. We have seen such phenomenal demand from fans in the region for a live event.

"Pair that with having such a rising, local star in Darren Till, it made absolute sense to bring our first live event to this historic combat sports city in 2018."

UFC has already confirmed two middleweight bouts. England's Tom Breese makes his highly-anticipated return to action, stepping up to 185lbs to meet Australia's Daniel Kelly, while Canadian fan-favourite Elias Theodorou faces Trevor Smith.

There is also the possibility of UFC call-ups for Cage Warriors stars Paddy Pimblett, Molly McCann and Chris Fishgold, and UFC welterweight Danny Roberts would also likely be interested in taking part.

Cage Warriors have enjoyed huge success with events in Liverpool and have also spoken about the possibility of returning to the city later this year.

■ Tickets to UFC FIGHT NIGHT: LIVERPOOL go on general sale on Friday, April 13, at 10am via the ECHO Arena box office. UFC Newsletter subscribers can access tickets from Thursday, April 12, at 10am while UFC Fight Club members can secure theirs from 10am on April 11.

## We'll learn from defeat, insists Wolfenden

### BADMINTON

LIVERPOOL badminton ace Tom Wolfenden says he will learn from defeat after bowing out of the YONEX All England Open 2018 on the first day.

Wolfenden and doubles

partner Peter Briggs were drawn against Danish pairing Mathias Christiansen and David Daugaard in Birmingham but went down 21-19 21-15.

The two had previously met at the Spanish International in 2016, the Danes also

prevailing on that occasion.

"We knew it was going to be a hard game coming into the match," said the 24-year-old from Maghull.

"We've played that pair before and we've seen them on the world tour so we knew it would be a tough battle.

"We'll go and talk to our coaches, watch the match later and see what went wrong, what went right, and then just look to keep moving forward and keep progressing.

"I think we just have to believe in our ability and keep

working hard, keep learning, we can learn all the time.

■ The world's best badminton players are in Birmingham for the YONEX All England (14-18 March). For tickets, TV schedule results and reaction visit the official website [allenglandbadminton.com](http://allenglandbadminton.com)