



Richmond County Baseball Club – 2020: The Year In Review

2020 was a year for the ages; one like we've never seen before! Despite the adversity we all faced, the Richmond County Baseball Club had a very successful year and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank you, our players, parents, coaches, staff members and supporters.

Celebrating completion of our 17th year, the RCBC baseball program continues to thrive as we had over 200 players on 13 teams ranging in age from 8 through 17. We welcomed two new teams to the program this year, the 8U Americans and the 14U Royals, as we continue to expand in several age groups. We are also welcoming new 9U, 10U, 11U and 14U teams for 2021.

While the spring season was on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we stayed in constant contact with our members and used the opportunity to interact virtually, which is becoming the new norm. "Zoom" entered our vocabulary and we hosted numerous online seminars on topics such as baseball instruction, baseball equipment, college recruiting with D1, D2 and D3 coaches, and former RCBC players who made it to the pros. We also used our Facebook page to entertain our members with information on great MLB players and teams of the past. The break also gave us the opportunity to do some upgrades at the RC Complex including the installation of new spectator stands and canopy structures, new field signs, painting throughout the complex as well as re-grading the infields. When the first pitch finally happened, the Complex never looked better!

Despite the shortened season, outstanding play was the order of the day again as we brought home 30 tournament championships and reached the championship game in 45 events. Kudos to our 14U Royals (5 wins), 11U Nationals (4 wins) and 8U Nationals, 11U Americans, 12U Nationals and 14U Nationals (3 wins each) who led the way. All of our teams made it to a championship game this year. Since 2014, RCBC teams have won 192 championships and reached the championship game in 300 events. No one gets to more championship games than RCBC. Additionally, our 14U Nationals and our 17U Nationals were both ranked in the Mid Atlantic Region as well as nationally by Perfect Game, the

nation's largest tournament venue. This was the 5th straight year we've had teams ranked by PG. Congratulations go out to all of our teams for their excellent play.

We had another outstanding class of "graduating seniors," and the number of players who have gone on to play at the collegiate level continues to grow, having earned millions of dollars in scholarship money. This year, we had college commits to St Johns, Stetson, NJ Institute of Technology, Wofford, Army, Post University, CSI, UMBC, Montclair State and Belmont Abbey. We also had 14 players who were nationally and regionally ranked by Perfect Game. And RCBC alum Zack Granite was in spring training with the NY Yankees and earned a spot on their 60 man major league squad.

We continued to host tournaments at the complex, and although the season didn't begin until late July, we still hosted 36 events.. Our tournaments continue to provide convenient and economical play for our teams, against some of the best competition from NYC, Long Island, New Jersey and beyond. We continued our partnership with Perfect Game, hosting a large number of sanctioned events for them along with the prestigious Northeast Super Qualifier tournament for the 7th year in a row. We were also the host site for many qualifying events run by the Perfect Game National Office. With the number of teams traveling to Staten Island for our events, we continue to provide significant economic benefit to local stores, restaurants and hotels.

We extended our partnership with Marucci Sports and accepted the opportunity to join their new exclusive Franchise Club. This new arrangement will allow us to incorporate the Marucci name in our branding to further enhance our regional and national presence. In addition to supplying us with outstanding uniforms, this partnership affords our members great discounts on Marucci gear and apparel. Products from Victus, one of the hottest equipment brands, were also added to our Locker Room online store. RCBC Management attended the 3rd annual Founders Club Summit where we provided input on future Marucci products and apparel. Marucci management also visited NY to discuss future plans and catch some tournament action at the complex. Unfortunately, the 2020 invite-only Marucci World Series in Baton Rouge, Louisiana was canceled this year due to the pandemic but it promises to be bigger and better in 2021.

We hosted our 8th annual College Showcase Camp, giving our players direct access to some of the best colleges in the area. This year, we had 80+ players and 20 outstanding schools in attendance. We also coordinated several mini-camps with Rutgers, Seton Hall and Molloy. We also organized a Fall Showcase League on the campus of Montclair State University to give our high school players additional playing time and college exposure. In collaboration with 5 Tool Baseball and LT Media, we continued to offer our players the opportunity to

create recruitment and highlight videos to help them market themselves to schools. We also continued to provide opportunities for players to advance their development year round, hosting Winter Workouts in both NY and NJ and the RC Complex was the host site for summer youth baseball camps in collaboration with 5 Tool Baseball.

Our elite coaching staff is second to none. With a coaching presence in several public and private high schools, we provide continuity in the development of our players across high school and summer travel baseball. In addition, Coach DeFendis was named Associate Scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates which will allow him to introduce local talent to that organization.

The RCBC website has now recorded over 415,000 visits and our social media reach includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and an RCBC You Tube channel. During the early part of the pandemic, many of our players and teams filmed their own workout videos which were posted on our You Tube channel. RCBC's Instagram now has 2,400 followers. We continued to publish our monthly Newsletter, providing another vehicle to showcase our accomplishments.

And, we continued our support for the community with our involvement with a number of local programs, fundraisers and businesses. Through the generosity of our members, we raised \$4,000 to provide food and supplies to hospital and nursing home workers during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. The RC Complex was also a haven for several local college and high school programs whose facilities were not available due to permit restrictions as a result of Covid-19.

We have a number of exciting activities planned for next year so stay tuned. 2021 is right around the corner! We want to wish you all a very happy holiday season and best wishes for a happy, prosperous and especially healthy New Year. Here's looking forward to another great season in 2021!

Nick and George

