



Richmond County Baseball Club

2021: The Year In Review

2021 was a terrific year for the Richmond County Baseball Club and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank our players, parents, coaches, staff members, partners and supporters.

Celebrating completion of our 18th year, the RCBC baseball program continues to thrive as we had over 220 players on 16 teams ranging in age from 9 through 17. We welcomed several new teams and coaches to the program this year, including the 9U Royals, 10U Royals, 10U Americans, 11U Americans and 14U Nationals as we continue to expand in a number of age groups. We will also be welcoming our first 7U team in 2022.

Outstanding play was the order of the day again as we brought home 36 tournament championships and reached the championship game in 62 events (both all-time highs). Kudos to our 11U Americans (7 wins, 10 championship game appearances), 9U Nationals (6 wins, 15 appearances) and 13U Nationals (6 wins, 8 appearances) who led the way. Congrats too to the 9U Nationals and 11U Nationals who made it to the championship game of the NYC Borough Cup. Since 2014, RCBC teams have won 228 championships and reached the championship game in over 360 events. No one gets to more championship games than RCBC. Congratulations go out to all of our teams for their excellent play.

Our 15U Nationals were ranked # 22 in the Mid-Atlantic Region and received National Honorable Mention by Perfect Game, the nation's largest tournament venue. This was the 6th straight year we've had a team ranked by PG. And we had 12 players recognized by Perfect Game/Rawlings in their pre-season All American Team rankings.

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 celebrated with Nick Pomponio (Rowan University), Jack Ryan (Long Island University), PJ Craig (Rider University) and Zach Clausen (Farleigh Dickenson University) on their commitments.

In 2021, we hosted 47 tournaments at the RC complex, providing 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 8th year in a row. In collaboration with Marucci, we hosted the East Coast Invitational tournament which featured a Marucci bat demo day and product sales. 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 continued our partnership with Marucci Sports as a valuable member of their exclusive Franchise Club. This arrangement allows us to incorporate the Marucci name in our branding, further enhancing 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, are now a permanent part of our Locker Room online store. And Marucci recently announced the acquisition of Lizard Skins, the leading name in bat grips. RCBC Management attended the 4th annual Franchise 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. Three of our teams also participated in the invite-only Marucci World Series in Baton Rouge, Louisiana which gets bigger and more prestigious each year.

We hosted our 9th annual College Showcase Camp, giving our players direct access to some of the best colleges in the area. This year, we had over 80 players and 20+ outstanding schools in attendance. We also partnered with SportsRecruits, one of the nation's largest college recruiting platforms which allows our high school age players to share their profiles and videos directly with college coaches at all levels throughout the country. Several of our players were also invited to the exclusive Metro Scout Day where they had the opportunity to show off their skills in front of a large group of college recruiters.

We also continued to provide opportunities for players to advance their development during the off-season, hosting our annual Winter Workouts as well as partnering with Big 10 Rutgers University's baseball staff for an on-campus clinic.

Our elite coaching staff is second to none. With a coaching presence in a number of local public and private high schools, we provide continuity in the development of our players across high school and summer travel baseball. Our staff now includes high school coaches

from St. Joseph By The Sea, Tottenville, Moore Catholic, Xaverian and now Monsignor Farrell with the addition of Coach Ralph Monteforte to our program. In addition, Coach DeFendis continued in his role as an Associate Scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates which allows him to introduce local talent to that organization.

This year, both Coach DeFendis and Coach Quinn had the opportunity to coach Team Northeast squads competing in Perfect Game's premier out-of-state showcase events. These tournament-based teams allow our top players as well as elite players from throughout the region to compete against the nation's top talent. All eyes are on these players as the events are flooded with coaches, scouts and recruiters from colleges as well as MLB. Additionally, Coach Quinn led the St. Joseph By The Sea HS Junior Varsity squad, featuring a large number of RCBC players, to their 2nd City Championship under him.

We continued to make upgrades to the Richmond County Youth Complex to provide players and spectators with a better experience. We also turned over management of our concession stand to former RC groundskeeper Joe LaTona. The stand now features a wider variety of food and snack items. Sausage and peppers, anyone?

The RCBC website has now recorded 430,000 visits and our social media reach includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and an RCBC You Tube channel. RCBC's Instagram now has over 2,650 followers. We also continued to publish our monthly Newsletter, providing another vehicle to showcase our accomplishments.

And, as always, we continued our support for the community with our involvement with a number of local programs, fundraisers and businesses.

On a personal note, Coach DeFendis became a grandpa as daughter Nicole and husband Nick welcomed their new baby girl Grace.

We have a number of exciting activities planned for next year so stay tuned. 2022 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 2022!

Nick and George

