



Richmond County Baseball Club

2023: The Year In Review

2023 was another outstanding 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.

We celebrated our first year in collaboration with PRD Baseball Academy, one of the largest and fastest growing travel baseball programs on the east coast. Together we hosted the Ghost Island Invitational tournaments at both the beginning and end of the season, with just RCBC and PRD teams in friendly competition.

As we enter our 20th year of existence, the RCBC baseball program continues to thrive with over 200 players on 18 teams ranging in age from 8 through 17. We welcomed the 11U Nationals and Coach Rob Salafia and the 12U Americans and Coach John Prano in the fall, while the 8U Nationals under Coach Rob Reilly and 10U Americans under Coach Rob Agnetti will be joining us for the spring.

Outstanding play was the order of the day again as we brought home 27 tournament championships and reached the championship game in 42 events. Kudos to the 13U/14U Nationals (6 wins), 13U/14U Royals (4 wins, 5 runner up), 13U/14U Americans (4 wins, 3 runner up), 12U/13U Americans (3 wins, 1 runner up), 14U/15U Nationals (3 wins), 11U/12U Nationals (2 wins, 1 runner up) and 8U/9U Nationals (2 wins, 1 runner up) who led the way. Since 2014, RCBC teams have won 300 championships and reached the championship game in over 450 events. RCBC was also recognized by Perfect Game, ranking us # 81 nationally for most PG tournament titles, and # 112 for most PG tournament game victories. Congratulations to all of our teams for their excellent play.

In the annual Perfect Game team rankings, our 13U Americans were ranked # 2 in the Mid-Atlantic Region and # 44 in the Nation, our 11U Nationals were # 8 in the region and # 60 in

the nation, and our 15U Nationals were # 14 in the region and # 97 in the nation. In addition, our 17U Nationals and 12U Americans both received Honorable Mention in both the Mid-Atlantic Region and nationally. This was the 8th consecutive year we have had teams ranked by PG.

We also had numerous players recognized by Perfect Game in their annual state and national grad year rankings (2023 - 12, 2024 – 9, 2025 – 5, 2026 – 2, 2027 – 5, 2028 - 1) and 12 RCBC players were also selected to represent the Northeast and East Coast regions in the PG National All-State Games Championship in Texas.

The number of players who have gone on to play at the collegiate level continues to grow (over 235), having earned millions of dollars in scholarship money. This year, we celebrated with 14 players: Jack Chavez (Villanova), Tomas Cestero (Seton Hall), Leo Doyle (Wagner), Peter Fopeano and Dylan Swanson (Ramapo), Michael Flashner and Jake Giovannone (CSI), Anthony Fusco and Tyler Gaetano (FDU), James Bajana (NJCU), Gregory Harrison and John Papagni (Mount St. Mary), Nick Rogers (Mount St. Vincent) and Randy Davis (University of Rochester). Our alumni continue to shine on the big stage too with former RCBC and UConn standout Anthony Prato being called up to the Minnesota Twins' Triple A club where he batted .302 with a .991 OPS.

In 2023, we hosted 80 tournaments at the RC complex and surrounding Little Leagues, 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 PG sanctioned events along with the prestigious Northeast Super Qualifier for the 10th year in a row. The RC Complex was also the host site for the PG Northeast Showcase and PG Northeast State Games. 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. In addition to supplying us with outstanding uniforms, this partnership affords our members great discounts on Marucci gear and apparel. In addition to products from Victus and Lizard Skins, with Marucci's purchase of Baum Bats, their products will now be a permanent part of our Locker Room online store. RCBC Management attended the 6th annual Franchise Club Summit where we provided input on future Marucci products and apparel. Our 17U Nationals and 13U Americans also participated in the invite-only Marucci

World Series in Baton Rouge, Louisiana which gets bigger and more prestigious each year. Our local boys showed their stuff, with each team advancing to the playoff round.

This year we introduced The Pipeline Showcases, our 11th year hosting a college showcase event. This time we ran events in both June and August, giving over 200 players from both RCBC and PRD direct access to some of the best colleges in the area. In addition to skills metrics and scrimmage games, we offered participants written evaluations from a Northeast Crosschecker and personalized highlight videos in conjunction with SkillShow, the industry leader in that area. We continued to offer SportsRecruits, one of the nation's largest college recruiting platforms, to our high school age players, giving them the ability to share their profiles and videos directly with college coaches at all levels throughout the country.

We also continued to provide opportunities for players to advance their development during the off-season, hosting our annual Winter Workouts as well as providing our players with access to a number of on-campus college clinics and workouts.

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 includes high school coaches from St. Joseph By The Sea, Tottenville, Moore Catholic, Xaverian, Monsignor Farrell and Westfield (NJ). 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.

Coach DeFendis once again coached the Team Northeast squad which competed in the Perfect Game WWBA World Championship in Jupiter, Florida. This tournament-based team allows 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 this event is flooded with coaches, scouts and recruiters from colleges as well as MLB. Six RCBC players were represented on the Team Northeast squad this year. In local action, Coach Grippo led the Tottenville Varsity squad to the NYC Championship and Coach Quinn led the St. Joseph By The Sea HS Junior Varsity team to their 4th City Championship under him. Both teams featured a number of RCBC players.

We continued to make upgrades to the Richmond County Youth Complex to provide players and spectators with a better experience. We also renamed our Pressbox the Anthony Sutter Memorial Pressbox in honor of our long-time coach who passed away this year. This was our first season playing on the new infield on field 1 which received rave reviews as it's now one

of the finest grass infields in the northeast. This offseason we are resurfacing the infields on fields 2 and 4 as well as the parking lot.

The RCBC website has now recorded over 454,000 visits and our social media reach includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the RCBC YouTube channel. RCBC's Instagram now has over 3,600 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. We hosted a special memorial event in honor of Anthony Sutter when the new Pressbox sign was revealed. We also hosted the 2nd Jerry Lee Memorial High School tournament at the RC Complex, honoring the legacy of the long-time Staten Island Advance scribe and youth baseball enthusiast. Monsignor Farrell took home the honors for a second year in a row. And we extended our brand internationally, welcoming teams from France and Italy for friendly competition at the RC Complex.

We want to wish you all a very happy holiday season and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Here's looking forward to another great season in 2024 as we celebrate our 20th year of youth baseball development, achievement and advancement.

Nick and George

