

July 2013

**Richmond County
Baseball Club**

1400 Travis Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10314

If you have any
interesting info or news
you would like included
in a future newsletter,
please email to
jim@rcbclub.com.

Visit our website at:

www.rcbclub.com

Inside this issue:

College and HS Showcase Camps	1
July Tournament Recap	2
14U Nationals Tourney Champs	2
Summer Camp Dates	2
Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts	3
Featured Article - Get Recruited	4
Sponsor of the Month – FJC Financial	5



RCBC Newsletter

Showcase Camps At RCBC – Still Spots Available

Reminder – special offer
for RCBC players - only
\$350 vs. the regular price
of \$495 for the College
Prospect Showcase Camp.
Coaches from Division I,
II and III schools will be
there, working on the
field and evaluating play-
ers. Two days of intense
workouts. Don't miss this
opportunity, even if you're
a fall 2013 high school
sophomore or junior.

Also, for September 2013
7th and 8th graders—the
High School Showcase
Camp featuring baseball
coaches from all the top
local public and private
high schools. Only \$99.

Sign up now!

College Prospect Showcase Camps August 20-21

High School Showcase Camps August 28

for more information please visit
RCSHOWCASECAMPS.COM



Visit the Online
Apparel Store on
the RCBC website



14U Nationals



Reminder
Dick's Sporting
Goods discount
coupons available to
all RCBC members.
Good for all of 2013.
Go to the RCBC
website to print.



Richmond County Tournaments

This month we hosted the School's Over Spectacular and Mid Summer Classic tournaments at the complex. The School's Over Spectacular featured our first 8U tournament with the NY Dynasty Nationals capturing the crown. The 15U division was won by the Queens Thunder on their first trip to our complex. The 16U Mid Summer Classic July 12-14 was our 2nd largest tournament so far this year. 20 elite teams participated with the South Jersey Sandsharks taking top honors.

Upcoming tournaments at the complex:

- 14U Slugfest (July 27-28)
- 11U/13U/15U Summer Sizzler (August 10-11)
- 12U/18U Battle of The Island II (August 17-18)
- 18U Labor Day Classic (August 31 — September 2)

For more information and to view the full tournament calendar, visit our tournament website at www.rctournaments.com.

14U Nationals Win Westchester Tournament

The 14U Nationals won the Westchester Baseball Academy tournament July 13-14, going 4-0 with 2 shutouts, including the final game, on their championship run. Coach Mike Grippo said it was a true team effort with great hitting and pitching and sparkling defense. Tournament MVP AJ Tabbanella picked up 2 of the wins on the mound and threw 8 shutout innings.

Summer Camps — Limited Spots Available

RCBC in conjunction with 5 Tool Baseball held the first of 3 summer camps July 15-19 at the complex. Hosted by Johnny DeFendis and his staff of professional coaches, the camps focus on all aspects of the game — hitting, fielding and pitching. 8-1 camper to coach ratio. Camper skill awards and fun and games too. There's still room available for the remaining 2 weeks — July 22-26 at South Shore Little League and August 12-16 at the complex. Only \$225 per week. Sibling, multi-camp and team discounts available. Go to www.my5toolbaseball.com or to the RCBC website for more information and to register.



Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball quote:

Former Dodgers' Executive Branch Rickey once said
"In baseball, having good legs is more important than having power or having an arm. Power is used only on offense. The arm is used only on defense. But good legs are important for BOTH offense and defense."

If you want to voice a comment on anything I write, email me at
mikelope19@aol.com



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

A KEY TO SUCCESS IN BASEBALL: THE "WHITE KNUCKLER" WIN

In all sports, winning close victories is vital. I feel in baseball, its even more important because you play more games and therefore there will be more tight contests. You can call it close games or nail-biters or whatever. I like to call these games "The White Knuckler."

I have some thoughts on what qualifies as a "White Knuckler." In some ways it's a glorified close game but I feel more goes into the white knuckler game.

First of all, it must be a game against a quality team, usually in a playoff situation or a contest that might mean first place, or advancing in a tournament or playoff. Winning a close game against a lousy team isn't a white knuckler; it may just mean you played terrible.

Second, I consider it a white knuckler contest when there's a two run or less difference in the score as the game heads into the 6th inning of a high school or sandlot 7 inning contest. In the major leagues or college, the white knuckler innings are the 7th inning on of a 9 inning game. Extra innings are a continuation of the white knuckler game.

Championship teams play well in the white knuckler innings. When you face a tough opponent, chances are the contest will be close, not a one-sided affair. Even the Yankees in their four championships in five years need white knuckler wins. An example is the 2000 Subway Series when the Yankees used the white knuckler to win the first and fifth games of the Fall Classic against the Mets. That was half of the four wins needed for the title.

For your age groups, as I just said, the white knuckler is a close game heading into the 6th inning against a good team. But the coach and players must succeed at certain skills to pull out the white knuckler. You must show poise and be clutch as a team to pull these games out. Plenty can happen in those last innings. You may have to rally from two runs down. But when you get the lead, you hold it. After all, the opposing team has talent. You may be winning by two runs in the late innings. If you blow the lead, does your team have the poise to rally back and regain the advantage and win the game?

A team that wins white knuckler games will make "impact" plays in the field. They will hit with men on base. The clutch team in the late innings will get out of jams. Teams that win white knucklers win that extra inning game when they are the visiting team. Two "NO-NOs" are walks and errors. When you give quality teams free base runners in those clutch situations you are asking for trouble. Also, these qualities are needed in games decided by the "California Rules" when the time limit has expired and you're in a sudden death type situation.

If you think back to many of your big wins or losses, you will realize the amount of close games you had in big games. Many times it isn't luck when teams pull out the white knuckler games on a regular basis. It is the teams whose players have the poise, focus and ability to perform in the clutch. They take advantage of the breaks that might occur. It's the coach that knows which moves to make that will achieve the close victory. No matter....

Championship teams learn how to win those White Knuckler games!

Featured Article – Most Common Ways Athletes Try To Get Recruited

By Coach DeFendis

1. Do Nothing

Some athletes simply hope that college coaches will just stumble upon them at a game or practice. They just sit around, don't research schools, and don't do any work to help themselves get their name out to college coaches or pro scouts. Keep in mind, unless you are LeBron James, Bryce Harper or some other can't miss recruit destined to be a top 5 draft pick, you're not going to get scholarship offers or opportunities using this method.

2. Mail Letters and Videos To Coaches

Some athletes will take the time to write letters, letting coaches know that you are interested in playing for them and that you feel you would be a great addition to their program. Providing them with the letter is one way to get your name out there and give yourself some exposure to college coaches. Keep in mind, most of these letters sit on desks waiting to be reviewed by administrative assistants or graduate assistants.

3. Call, Text and Email Coaches

Writing letters and mailing videos can be a little time consuming and old school. Instead, some athletes write emails, make phone calls, and send text messages to college coaches explaining their desire to play at the next level. Because it's easier and takes less time to email, call, and text coaches, it allows them to send more messages and provide more information than writing letters or mailing highlight reels. Keep in mind, coaches receive hundreds of calls, emails, and text messages every day and most coaches have spam filters that catch unsolicited emails.

4. Social Media

Social media is another way athletes are trying to get the attention of college coaches. Because social networks like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and others are so easy to join and have so many members (including some college coaches), athletes will try to use these platforms to communicate with coaches. Since social media is such a new technology, the rules that regulate the communication between recruits and coaches are still being formed and can allow for more interaction. Keep in mind, many coaches choose not to join social media platforms because fans, parents, and the general public can bombard them with messages.

5. "Do-It-Yourself" Websites

Just like social media, newer technology and the internet has helped grow "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) websites. These types of sites can be found in every type of industry including recruiting. It allows athletes to sign up and create online profiles where they can input all of their information. Many athletes use these profiling sites, hoping that college coaches will search for potential recruits online and discover them. Keep in mind, because the information can come from anywhere and anyone, college coaches cannot trust the information and may not use these websites.

6. Recruiting Services

Recruiting services are where athletes pay a 3rd party source to "evaluate" and recommend them to colleges. Athletes pay to have these companies package their information and email it to colleges in hopes of getting their name out to coaches. Keep in mind, there is an inherent conflict of interest with these services. Because athletes are paying them, recruiting services provide very optimistic and sometimes inaccurate evaluations.

7. Finally –The Right Way!

Be realistic. Evaluate yourself honestly. If you are a D1 player, you will know that in your heart. So be honest. Playing at a lower level is not as bad as you think. Some D2 and D3 programs are better than some D1 programs. Just look down south or right here in New Jersey in the N-Jac. Also, make sure you are working each day on getting better and getting the proper coaching. Getting recruited is not as easy as you think. Just ask any college player; he'll tell you. Work at your craft. The bottom line is you want to play college baseball and while doing, so get a good education. If anyone has any questions on recruiting, please email Coach Lope at mikelope19@aol.com or me at nick@rcbclub.com.

Thanks and keep working hard.
Coach DeFendis

Sponsor Of The Month

Each month, we feature a local business that has supported or provided valuable services to Richmond County Baseball. Please help support them back.

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES:



INVESTMENTS
LIFE & DISABILITY
INSURANCE
RETIREMENT PLANS
COLLEGE FUNDING
ESTATE PLANNING
SPECIAL NEEDS
PLANNING

"Financial Strategies for Life"

718-356-2575

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

WWW.FJCFINANCIAL.COM



ALL SECURITIES OFFERED THROUGH CHELSEA FINANCIAL SERVICES - MEMBER FINRA/SIPC