

October 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

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RCBC Newsletter

2nd Annual Johnny Ray Memorial Fall Classic

The 2nd annual Johnny Ray Memorial Fall Classic tournament was held at the complex October 4-6. 12 elite high school programs participated with Salesian defeating Xavier in an exciting championship game. All proceeds from the tournament benefited the Johnny Ray Foundation which provides financial assistance to local athletes and their families in need.



Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the tournament a success. This includes RCBC staff and umpires. Thanks also to our sponsors—The Staten Island Yankees, Dick's Sporting Goods and LogoWear. If anyone is interested in making a donation to the Johnny Ray Foundation, please contact Coach DeFendis at nick@rcbclub.com or 917-299-9211.



SUPER APPAREL SALE

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the RCBC website



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available to all
RCBC members.
Good for all of 2013.
Go to the RCBC
website to print.

Richmond County Tournaments

This month we hosted our final two tournaments of 2013—the 18U Columbus Day Classic and the 15U Spooktacular.

In the Columbus Day Classic, the RCBC Nationals went 5-0 to capture the championship crown, including impressive wins over the Long Island Tigers and Tri State Arsenal Showcase team in the semi-finals and finals. Matt Levy threw a 2 hit shutout to notch an important win in the pool play round.

In the Spooktacular, the Diamond Jacks Super 15s defeated the Long Island Titans White 7-6 in an exciting championship game.

Look for our 2014 tournament schedule which will be available in November. For more information, visit our tournament website at www.rctournaments.com.

Coming Soon

- Off season workouts for individuals and teams - hitting, pitching, catching, conditioning
- Winter workouts at CSI
- 2014 Patriot League
- 2014 Tournament schedule
- 2014 Showcase Camps

Look for information soon on the Richmond County websites and via member emails.

www.rcbclub.com

www.rcpatriotleague.com

www.rctournaments.com

www.rcshowcascamps.com



Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball quote:

Former Dodger Manager
Tommy Lasorda once said:

*"There are three types of
baseball players: those who
make it happen, those who
watch it happen, and those
who have no clue what's
happening."*

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



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

HOW COACHES CAN REACH OUT TO PARENTS (PART 1)

Trust me. I'm not a coach with sure-fire solutions on how to totally deal with parents. I'm far from being a "know-it-all" on that quicksand area. I had my share of sour comments directed at me by parents on my 2012 team! Coach-parent relations can be as volatile as the U.S. troubles with Iran (lol). But it's a subject that all of us rational and hopefully level-headed coaches have to deal with on an annual basis! After all, coaches want a peaceful summer and parents want what's best for their sons or daughters.

Since I do coach. Since I discuss (as do all coaches) this topic with my peers. Since I try to read up on this issue and since I've spoken to parents (not always in friendly tones) about the trials and tribulations on coach relations with mom and dad. I have drawn up some conclusions from my readings and my discussions and my realities. Nothing here are new theories, but it's what I hear and read most often.

1. TRUST - The word I read and hear the most. Parents want to feel they can trust the coach. It's important for a coach to let parents know when their son comes to a team what the immediate thoughts are about the player's ability and what is the best the coach expects from the player. In numerous articles, coaches are urged to let a player know if their expectations of the player are lowered

and what he needs to do to get back in good standing. This lets the player explain to his parents what the latest situation is.

2. PLAN A COMMUNICATION STRATEGY - Coaches are urged to have a list of the most common issues that can occur with parents. And...the coaches are urged to have ways to deal with the issues. Basically, how to explain your philosophies. The most common coach-parent issues brought up are: scheduling, playing time and their son's role, injuries, wins and losses (every parent wants a team equivalent to the 1998 Yankees!), your style of play, parental second guessing on strategy, parents who trash coaches and sometimes other players to other parents, and fan behavior in general. There are many more issues. Coaches are urged to have ready answers and have guidelines to deal with problems.

3. 24 HOUR RULE — At Richmond County, one rule we have is a 24 Hour Rule for parents and coaches. This allows both sides to take time out to rethink the dispute that one or the other has. The 24 Hour Rule leads to level heads in many cases. Coaches and parents don't want to blurt out comments they might regret saying in the long run.

This topic will be continued in the November Newsletter. If you have any comments, please email me at mikelope19@aol.com.

Featured Article – The Successful Student-Athlete

By Coach Nick Defendis

What does it take to be a successful student-athlete in college?

It is about being a student-athlete. Two words - student and athlete. You can be a minor league baseball player and be an athlete. You can go hoop it up at the rec center and be an athlete. It does not mean they will be a successful college student-athlete or even get into college. Sure, it's a major indicator of the ability to have athletic success at the next level, but there are so many other factors that you have to think about as you go through the recruiting process.

1. What are your time management skills? On a regular basis, it is critical you manage your time well. You have to be disciplined from the very start. Time management skills are critical.
2. Can you handle the fact that when you play at the college level, everyone is good and suddenly you may feel like a 9th grader again. After signing you, your college coach will hug you and promptly leave to recruit someone better than you. College athletes, especially at the high levels, is intense. That's a good thing. It prepares you for life and the curve balls ahead. This isn't T ball where everyone gets a hug and a trophy. College coaches take a lot of pride in what they do and they care deeply about their programs and traditions. Be ready to match that or consider going to college as a regular student and doing club or intramural sports. Going from being high school "king athlete" to suddenly facing a 22 year old 5th year senior demoralizes some players.
3. What choices will you make? What choices will you make on a daily basis regarding the people you surround yourself with and what you are doing on a regular basis to become a better person? Are you going to mess around on Facebook or are you going to get your academic responsibilities done?
4. Do you get that this is about using your God-given athletic skills to receive a top education and to become an "Athleader" where you go on and help others as a leader? If you have people and coaches telling you that you have the chance to be a professional in your sport, then it is fine to pursue the pro dream, but for 98% of you, it is about getting an education, learning how to network and developing the life skills that will make the next 40 years of your life successful.
5. Do you understand the meaning of the word Commitment? Being a true college student-athlete means commitment. Many young people today do not understand the word commitment. Some don't have a clue. Sadly, more and more are getting into the entitlement era. To quote Lou Holtz: *"Nowadays, people only worry about their rights and privileges; 40 years ago they worried about their obligations and responsibilities."*
6. Do you have the fire within? Here's a great saying: If what you did yesterday seems important, then you haven't done anything today. You have to have the academics, character and athletic ability, but having the fire within and the ability to keep it stoked is critical. Having the fire within does not always mean you are like Tim Tebow, whose fire is clearly evident. It can mean a burning determination within to be the best you can possibly be regarding peak performance, teamwork and helping others. It means you are committed to excellence. That is the fire within.

There are many things to consider before becoming a true student-athlete at the next level. These are six important ones, but there are many more. Many parents and athletes are not aware of some of the most important facts, and therefore fail in the process. That is why it is important to talk with a college scout, a former athlete or coach, to thoroughly go over these things. Do not be what so many families are when it comes to getting scholarships for their young people at college - they are unknowingly passive participants in the recruiting process because they don't know what to do and when to do it.

Coach's Corner — The Lineup

Contributed By Coach Frank Amadeo

The lead-off hitter is the Arsonist - He starts the fire

The 2 hitter is the Bodyguard - He's all about sacrifice

The 3 hitter is the Variety Show - He has many talents

The 4 hitter is the Car Pool - He's driving everybody home

The 5 hitter is the Gambler - He's all or nothing

6 through 8 are the Gumps - You never know what you're gonna get

The 9 hitter is the VP - If the 1 hitter goes down, he takes the lead

This represents a whimsical way of looking at your role in the batting order, but it belies a larger philosophical way of approaching your at bats. First you have to understand that roles may shift as the game progresses which is why you'll hear coaches preach about situational hitting. It is important to understand this and be an intelligent, versatile hitter every time you come to the plate. You could be the 6 hitter but you're leading off this inning.

Another example would be today you are the lead-off hitter but you're up in the third inning with no outs and men on first and third. You don't want a double play ball and you know the pitcher is going to come after you because he does not want to load the bases. Obviously you want a hit but you are looking for something you can drive deep enough to at least get that run home from third while avoiding the double play.

Understanding what your job is before getting in the box is important to put the team in position to score that inning. What makes a good hitter is knowing what you are looking to do in any given situation.

Enjoy, Coach Frank

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.



Support your favorite local sports team and help a great cause.

Purchase apparel from any of the following LogoWear online shops by November 14 and 10% of the proceeds will be donated to the Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund which provides financial aid to the continuing Hurricane Sandy Staten Island recovery effort.

www.gmenshirts.com

www.ganggreenshirts.com

www.brooklynbbshirts.com

