

October 2014

**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

Xaverian Wins Johnny Ray Memorial Fall Classic

Fifteen elite high school teams competed this year in the 3rd annual Johnny Ray Memorial Fall Classic with 2012 champion Xaverian defeating 2013 champion Salesian 4-0 in the championship game. All tournament proceeds benefit the Johnny Ray Foundation which provides private high school tuition assistance to local families in financial need.



"This was our best tournament yet" said Coach DeFendis. "There was great competition, and we raised significant awareness for the Foundation. Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors —

Dick's Sporting Goods, LogoWear and Controlling The Game, who helped make the tournament a great success."



Coach DeFendis with Johnny Ray's parents Lori and Raul Morales. Johnny Ray Memorial

Winter Workouts At CSI

Keep an eye out for our 2015 Winter Workout schedule at the College of Staten Island (CSI).

2015 will mark our 8th year hosting these workouts which provide valuable off-season conditioning and development.

Sessions will run for 6 weeks on Saturday and Sunday (as determined by age groups) beginning in January.

Featuring:

- Hitting
- Fielding
- Pitching
- Drill Work
- Conditioning

Look for the registration link at www.rcbclub.com soon!

Tournament Update

In the Johnny Ray Memorial Fall High School Classic, Xaverian topped Salesian 4-0 in the championship game to take the title.

In the 18U Columbus Day Classic, we crowned co-champions, Gallagher Team Mizuno and 9ers Baseball and in the 15U Spooktacular, the Northern Valley Hurricanes emerged as champs.

This concludes our RCYC tournament schedule for 2014.

Look for our 2015 calendar coming out in November at www.rctournaments.com.

11U Nationals Finish Season On A Tear

The 11U Nationals captured their 2nd tournament title in the month of October, and 9th overall this season.

In the 12U division of the Diamond Nation Satellite Series in Basking Ridge, Coach Quinn's squad went 5-0, capping it off with an exciting 10-9 victory over the Bernardsville Mountaineers in the championship game.



And the following week back at Diamond Nation, the team again went 5-0, scoring an incredible 91 runs while yielding only 5, on their way to victory. Congratulations to Coach Quinn along with coaches Graboski, Palermo and Caterina and the 11U Nationals on an outstanding season.



Scenes From The 10 Year Anniversary Dinner Dance October 24

To view more pictures, go to www.rcbclub.com. Have pictures to share, email to info@rcbclub.com





Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball
quote:

One time Brooklyn Dodger
and NY Giants manager
Leo Durocher once said
*"Don't worry about
tomorrow when you can
make a managing move
today. It might rain
tomorrow."*

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



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

RICHMOND COUNTY BASEBALL CONCLUDES ITS FIRST DECADE

Ten years of RCBC history are now in the books. It seems like yesterday that Nick DeFendis was knee deep in mud, and searching for all the dirt he could find, as he was building the main field. It was beautifully built, and sandlot, high school and college teams have all played on Field 1. Now Fields 2 and 4, which were built for the softball leagues, both have brand new grass infields, outfield fences and renovated dugouts. Field 3 to follow this winter.

The most important part of Richmond County's growth would follow. Excellent players, many who would go on to play college baseball and some competing in the minor leagues, and outstanding coaches who have been a success in the college, high school and sandlot leagues. The coaches not only win plenty of games and tournaments, but are outstanding teachers who specialize in developing players. Many RCBC players are well prepared when they enter high school ball, and the older players are polished where they shine on their respective varsity teams.

RCBC Co-Executive Directors DeFendis and his partner George Quinn, who can build a museum with all the tournament championship trophies he's collected, like to have slogans on their players' shirts. Chairman Mao would have been proud. However, the slogans tell everyone what Richmond County Baseball is all about:

Prepare Relentlessly

We Play The Game, We Teach The Game

Commitment—Attitude—Dedication

Bleeding Blue

We Don't Make Excuses, We Make Adjustments

Hustle Beats Talent Every Time

In a way those slogans represent the Constitution of Richmond County Baseball.

The 16, 17 and 18 year old teams had outstanding summer seasons at RCBC. John Giakas and Frank DelGeorge kept the 18 year olds motivated in the hot weather. Not an easy task considering the players are committed to college and might have preferred celebrating their achievements at the Jersey Shore or on a cruise. Coach DeFendis' 17 year olds went south of the Mississippi River to lose only one game in Tennessee and Georgia. Third baseman Anthony Scotti, catcher Chris Villa and pitcher Matt Ponsiglione all agreed to go to Seton Hall University, one of the best Division I programs in the East. Anthony Rupp will take his 88 mph fastball to LIU. Shortstop Anthony Prato is leaning towards the University of Connecticut. The 16 year olds, coached by Anthony "Frappie" Ferrante, Sal Trancucci and yours truly, posted a 33-13 record. By the Toms River tournament, colleges were hugely interested in shortstop Danny DiGeorgio, centerfielder Lou Mandile and pitcher Ricky DeVito.

Finally, the annual Johnny Ray Memorial Tournament attracted 15 teams. Xaverian beat Salesian in the final. Umpires gave a lot of themselves. St Joe By The Sea coach Gordon Rugg once again supplied the food. Coach DeFendis held the ceremony with Johnny Ray's parents on hand.

One decade at RCBC is over. But with the outstanding young talent ready to come of age, the next 10 years look great!

Featured Article – How Do I Get Noticed?

By Coach Nick DeFendis

One of the most commonly asked questions is “how do I get noticed” by college coaches or pro scouts. The first step in that process has been taken care of - you ask the question. The next steps are not as easy. Its time to get to work!

If a player or his family believes the old tired saying “If you’re good enough, they will find you,” then you might just be ending your player’s baseball career at the high school level. If a player is one of the top 100 high school players in the country, “they” will find you. If a player is a 6’4” 200 pound left-handed pitcher throwing 85+ mph, “they” will find you. If a player is a member of one of the elite high school programs in the country, “they” may find you. The same is true if he plays on one of the best summer travel teams in the county (Richmond County Baseball Club). But what if he is a good player, but not one of the stars on those teams? Then he would have to have a “career day” when “they” are in the stands watching another player.


The first thing that a student-athlete desiring to play college baseball must do is “Research.” I know this may be foreign to many players, but unfortunately, there has not been a program developed by *PlayStation* for all this information. You need to develop a plan of action. As the saying goes - “Anything worth having is worth fighting for.”

- Create your recruiting time line
- Gain information on recruiting tips...for players and parents
- Send letters of introduction to college coaches (see Coach Lope’s Baseball Thoughts on the website for more information on writing letters to colleges).
- Ask your high school and summer team coach to send letters for you
- Send high school, summer and fall season schedules to college coaches
- Play on the best summer baseball team (RCBC)
- Attend specific showcases
- Attend a college summer camp; one during the Christmas holidays too if affordable by your family
- Attend a quality showcase for high school players only
- Take the standardized college tests (ACT/SAT). Most students need to take these more than once.
- Get with your high school guidance counselor and register with the NCAA Clearinghouse

There is a “bunch” of work involved in the college search. Then when you add in the element of playing a sport, the amount of work more than doubles! A player, his coaches and his family need to be pro-active in the recruiting hunt. If you wait, you may be forced to start your slow pitch softball career earlier than you should have.

Do Your Homework!

Winter Hitting Classes



IT'S WHAT YOU DO **BEFORE**
THE **SEASON** STARTS THAT MAKES A
CHAMPION!

Johnny D's 5 Tool Baseball

WINTER HITTING CLASS

WITH

Frank Esposito
Tyler Sciacca
George Quinn
Nick Defendis

**COST PER
PLAYER:
\$299**

5

6 WEEKS OF PROFESSIONAL HITTING INSTRUCTION
DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET WITH THIS ONE WE HAVE LIMITED SPOTS!

⇒ **4 PLAYERS PER GROUP**
⇒ **2 INSTRUCTORS PER GROUP**
⇒ **4 HITTING STATIONS PER GROUP**

BALANCE - STANCE - BAT PATH - BAT SPEED - APPROACH - STRIKE ZONE

The Winter Hitting Class is an 6 week hitting program designed to improve a hitter's mental and physical attributes by increasing their level of understanding and skill. While attending the Winter Hitting class, the hitter will gain the knowledge to improve their vision, timing, approach, and swing mechanics. The hitters will also be introduced to key elements in improving the often overlooked but vitally important mental game.

Johnny D's 5 Tool Baseball * 32 Carlin Street SI NY

Sign up at www.rcbclub.com or www.my5toolbaseball.com

For more information, contact Krista at 718-344-8118