

February 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:



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# RCBC Newsletter

## RCBC Celebrates Our 10 Year Anniversary

2014 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Richmond County Baseball Club. From our humble beginnings, we've grown into the premier youth baseball program in the area.

This year, the organization will field 16 teams from ages 9 through 18 (that's over 200 players!). We've also grown our tournament series, and we'll host over 50 events in 2014. This will be the second year of our spring and summer Patriot League as well as our College and High School Showcase Camps. And we'll continue to run our traditional camps and clinics including our Winter Workouts at CSI, our summer baseball camps (in collaboration with Johnny D's 5 Tool Baseball), our 60/90 Boot Camp and group batting classes.

In ten years, we've also seen a lot of progress to the Richmond County Youth Complex. We now boast 5 well-manicured all natural grass fields, 4 batting cages and bullpens, a concession stand and shaded picnic area, and we'll be introducing an expanded onsite pro shop in addition to our online apparel store.

And last but not least, we're proud of the growth and success of many of our players. Over 140 RCBC alumni have gone on to receive college scholarships valued at over \$14 million, and 9 players have been drafted by Major League Baseball.

Thank you all for being a big part of our success!

**COMMONS CAFE**

Saturday, March 15

11 am–2 pm

2 Teleport Drive

EAT GOOD

DO GOOD



If you missed out on ordering any of the special apparel packages, you can still purchase single items from our regular inventory via our Online Apparel Store.

Just go to [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com) and click on the link on the Main Menu.

**Fundraising Event At The Commons Cafe**

The Commons Café at the Teleport will be hosting an RCBC day on Saturday, March 15 from 11 am to 2 pm. On that date, all proceeds will be donated back to RCBC to help with improvements to our complex. The Commons Café is sponsored by the Nicotra Group whose Foundation supports local charities and organizations. The Café features incredible lunch fare including sandwiches, wraps, salads and one of the best burgers on Staten Island. So mark your calendars and come on out for a great meal and help support your organization at the same time. When entering the Teleport, look for the bright yellow building on your right.

**Showcase Camp Dates Announced**

This year's College Showcase Camp for high school juniors and seniors will be held on August 20-21 at the Richmond County Youth Complex. The camp will feature college coaches from Division I, II and III schools in uniform, running the drills and evaluating the players. Last year, we had over 25 colleges in attendance and this year we anticipate even more.

The camp will be a two day event— with workouts and drills on day 1 and scrimmage games with college umpires on day 2. The cost is \$399 for the two days however RCBC members will receive a special discounted price. So sign up early as spots are limited.

For 7th graders, our High School Showcase Camp featuring all of the local public and private schools will be held on August 28.

For additional information, visit our Showcase Camp website at [www.rcshowcasecamps.com](http://www.rcshowcasecamps.com). Here you will find the registration link as well as photos, a video and a list of attending schools from last year's camp.

### RCBC Communication Channels

As we begin the 2014 season, its important that you stay in touch with all that's going on at Richmond County Baseball. As a reminder, here are all the ways we reach out to our members:

- Email - Emails are set out to members via our vendor Constant Contact to communicate announcements and upcoming events. Please make sure we have your correct email address. If you are not receiving our emails or want to add an email address, contact [jim@rcbclub.com](mailto:jim@rcbclub.com).
- Our websites (bookmark and check regularly):
  - Richmond County Baseball Club — [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)
  - Richmond County Tournaments — [www.rctournaments.com](http://www.rctournaments.com)
  - Richmond County Patriot League — [www.rcpatriotleague.com](http://www.rcpatriotleague.com)
  - Richmond County Showcase Camps — [www.rcshowcasecamps.com](http://www.rcshowcasecamps.com)
- Our Facebook pages:
  - Richmond County Baseball Club — [www.facebook.com/rcbaseball](http://www.facebook.com/rcbaseball)
  - Richmond County Tournaments — [www.facebook.com/rctournaments](http://www.facebook.com/rctournaments)
- Coach DeFendis on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ndefendis](http://www.twitter.com/ndefendis)
- Our monthly Newsletter - Published each month and emailed to all members and posted on the RCBC website under RCBC In The News.
- Text Message Alerts - Important messages sent directly to your cell phone using the *RainedOut* messaging system. To subscribe, text 84483 and enter RCBCINFO in the message field. Note: your cell phone carrier's text message rates may apply.

STAY IN TOUCH, STAY INFORMED

## Sell Advertising Space—Earn \$

Are you interested in helping sell advertising space at the Richmond County Youth Complex? Call on local merchants you know and offer them an inexpensive way to get their name out to thousands of potential customers.

The Richmond County Youth Complex plays host to multiple tournaments, leagues, camps and showcases throughout the year, drawing thousands of visitors from Staten Island, Brooklyn, Long Island, New Jersey and beyond.

For every sign you sell, a percentage of the advertising fee will be rebated to you or credited towards your 2014 registration fees. See the rate card below.

SIGN LOCATION	SIZE	1 YEAR RATE	3 YEAR RATE
Field Backstop Fence	8' wide x 8' high	\$1,500	\$3,750
Outfield Fence - Main Field	12' wide x 8' high	\$1,000	\$2,500
Dugout - Main Field	12' wide x 2' high	\$1,000	\$2,500
Outside Fence (facing Travis Ave.)	8' wide x 4' high	\$750	\$1,875
Billboard - corner of Travis and South Aves	16' wide x 3' high	\$3,000	\$7,500

Note: All of the above rates include website advertising

Parking Lot Fence	8' wide x 4' high	\$500	\$1,250
Website Banner Ad Only (3 websites)	468 x 60	\$100	N/A

Go to [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com) to download the advertising agreement for the merchant to fill out. Make sure you include your name so you receive credit. If you have any questions, contact Pete at 917-922-3345 or Anthony at 917-685-1602.



Coach Mike Lopiparo  
College Placement  
Coordinator  
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball quote:

Former Yankee outfielder  
Bernie Williams said  
*"Yankee Stadium may be the  
House That Ruth Built, but  
Derek Jeter redecorated it."*

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



## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

### HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

I know—I know, I'm a month and a half late. However, to me, the official baseball opening is after the Super Bowl. It's certainly a Happy New Year for the Richmond County Baseball organization! This is the 10th anniversary for the best sandlot organization in New York and among the elite programs across the Eastern seaboard. RCBC Executive Director Nick DeFendis has come a long way from being knee-deep in mud as he built the main field at the complex while still looking for more dirt to be delivered. Now RCBC has 5 fields of which 4 look brand new with the constant improvements being done to them, especially last year when fields 2 and 4 were grassed. The complex has added new batting cages, a shaded place to relax and eat lunch and a memorial plaque in memory of Johnny Ray. The RCBC complex has become the place to be on Staten Island... CHSAA playoff games have been held there as have the ACBL championship.

Coach DeFendis started with just one team...he called them the "Dirty Dozen." It was more like the Talented Dozen. That team helped set the pace for what RCBC would be all about. They were talented, they won, and most of all, they got recruited. Catcher Frank Esposito, who coaches now at RCBC and gives lessons at 5 Tool, got recruited by Seton Hall and helped them to a Big East title. Shortstop Rich Cuyleo would go to Marist and came close to being drafted. Joe Conforti would move on to Wagner

College to play centerfield while righthander AJ Pirozzi would also pitch for the NEC team. Tom Visciano would sign with Seton Hall while TJ Greig would be a conference Player of the Year at Molloy College. There was more.

What makes RCBC special is its consistency. Nothing fancy; just hard work by its players who are first class in their ability to absorb the teachings of a top-rated coaching staff. RCBC gets talented players no doubt, but the first rate coaches are able to polish and develop players to where they will be recruited and excel at the next level. RCBC players play star quality baseball with star studded behavior. Our organization is welcomed with "open arms" to tournaments because a) the tourney directors know recruiters crave over RCBC players and b) a Richmond County player is a class act. An RCBC player hustles to his position...behaves with umpires...and plays team ball. Last year at a tournament final at RCBC, a visiting team walked off the field over an umpire's call. Their players and mostly their coaches carried on and on. Anyone seeing that display should be thankful their son plays at RCBC where that would never happen.

Richmond County celebrates its 10th anniversary on a high note. Well over 100 players have advanced to the college level and some have been drafted by MLB. Every aspect of RCBC has grown positively over the decade. The players from our past have established a tradition that helps the current RCBC players. The reputation they earned has brought scouts and recruiters to watch our players. Let's hope today's Richmond County stars make it better for the RCBC talent in the next decade!

## Featured Article – Getting Ready For A New Season

By Coach Nick Defendis

Getting ready for a new season!!! With the smart player and team guy.

As I prepare for the upcoming season, my focus is on my players and how I can get them to play at the next level. Throughout my years of coaching, I had many different type of players. These two types have always been my favorites.

### THE SMART PLAYER

He may not be the most talented on the team, but he can excel with his brains and knowledge of the game. Most important, he understands instinctively what the coach is thinking and can stay ahead of game situations. To motivate the smart player, I like to make him part of our brain trust, let him participate in planning for an opponent and have him more involved with our philosophy. As a result, the smart player becomes a liaison between the coaches and his teammates, another tool for helping motivate and communicate with the players.

The smart player does the little things. For example, he may move two steps to his left after seeing a hitter hit two foul balls down the right-field line. The hitter then hits a ball up the middle that the shortstop can get to only because he made the adjustment according to the hitter's foul balls and tendency to swing late.

Then we take some of our smart players on the bench and have them watch the opposing coaches to pick up their signs. We have often picked up the pitching coach's signs and were able to call every pitch for the hitter. After the game, we bring this code breaking to the attention of the entire team. We make a big deal of this—as if this player had produced the game-winning hit. We make him proud of his contribution.

We have players who have natural skills and intelligence that classify them as smart players, but many times we teach them to be smart. A shortstop and second baseman who fake turning a double play when the opposing team runs a hit-and-run can turn a fly ball to right field into a double play. We have to teach them how to do this. When they fake the double play, they are trying to get the runner to slide, which can lead to an easy double play.

Then there's the.....

### THE TEAM PLAYER

This is the player you love and appreciate, the one who puts himself last and the team first, a throwback to another era. Just being part of the team is enough for him, and he'll look for ways to help the team whether he's in the lineup or on the bench. Seldom these days is this type of player the star of the team. Our star players tend to be coddled, and their personality seems to lean more toward the selfish type because of this coddling. Much like the smart player, the team player will benefit from you making him feel that he is an important part of the process no matter what his playing level. You want him to keep expressing his team-oriented approach, helping the team stay positive and picking up teammates when they're down, and you hope that his attitude proves contagious. A team player like this is a tremendous asset.

My mission in the offseason is to find these players and make them my captains .  
Just a few more weeks and then we're at the complex!

Coach D



## 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.

We are pleased to announce that Dick's Sporting Goods will continue their sponsorship of RCBC and extend their discount coupons throughout 2014.

Visit their convenient location at 2505 Richmond Ave.

Richmond County Baseball  
Valid 12/01/2013 - 12/31/2014



TAKE **10% OFF**

**A BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL  
ACCESSORY OR TRAINING  
ACCESSORY ITEM**

Limit one item per coupon, per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, team discount or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for gift cards, licenses or previously purchased merchandise. Coupon valid on in-store purchases only. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Returns or exchanges where a ScoreCard Reward or other discount was applied may result in an adjusted refund amount. Excludes Under Armour, Nike Pro Combat and championship merchandise. Some additional exclusions may apply. See store for details.



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Richmond County Baseball  
Valid 12/01/2013 - 12/31/2014



TAKE **10% OFF**

**A BASEBALL OR  
SOFTBALL BAT**

Limit one item per coupon, per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, team discount or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for gift cards, licenses or previously purchased merchandise. Coupon valid on in-store purchases only. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Returns or exchanges where a ScoreCard Reward or other discount was applied may result in an adjusted refund amount. Some exclusions may apply. See store for details.



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Richmond County Baseball  
Valid 12/01/2013 - 12/31/2014



TAKE **10% OFF**

**A PAIR OF BASEBALL OR  
SOFTBALL CLEATS**

Limit one item per coupon, per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, team discount or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for gift cards, licenses or previously purchased merchandise. Coupon valid on in-store purchases only. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Returns or exchanges where a ScoreCard Reward or other discount was applied may result in an adjusted refund amount. Some exclusions may apply. See store for details.



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Richmond County Baseball  
Valid 12/01/2013 - 12/31/2014



TAKE **10% OFF**

**A BASEBALL OR  
SOFTBALL GLOVE**

Limit one item per coupon, per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, team discount or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for gift cards, licenses or previously purchased merchandise. Coupon valid on in-store purchases only. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Returns or exchanges where a ScoreCard Reward or other discount was applied may result in an adjusted refund amount. Some exclusions may apply. See store for details.



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Richmond County Baseball  
Valid 12/01/2013 - 12/31/2014



TAKE **10% OFF**

**ANY REGULAR-PRICE JUG  
OR WATER BOTTLE**

Regular-price items have 99 endings. Limit one item per coupon, per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, team discount or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for gift cards, licenses or previously purchased merchandise. Coupon valid on in-store purchases only. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Returns or exchanges where a ScoreCard Reward or other discount was applied may result in an adjusted refund amount. Excludes Under Armour and Yell. Some additional exclusions may apply. See store for details.



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Richmond County Baseball  
Valid 12/01/2013 - 12/31/2014



TAKE **15% OFF**

**A BASEBALL OR  
SOFTBALL APPAREL ITEM**

Limit one item per coupon, per customer. Cannot be combined with any other offers, coupons, team discount or Guaranteed In-Stock markdown, or used for gift cards, licenses or previously purchased merchandise. Coupon valid on in-store purchases only. No reproductions or rain checks accepted. Returns or exchanges where a ScoreCard Reward or other discount was applied may result in an adjusted refund amount. Excludes Under Armour, Nike Pro Combat, championship merchandise and Jordan and Legend Tee. Some additional exclusions may apply. See store for details.



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