

March 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

RCBC Day Held At The Commons Cafe

On March 15, the Commons Café at the Teleport hosted RCBC Day with all proceeds being donated back to the organization. The Commons Café is run by the Nicotra Group whose Foundation provides funds to many local charities and organizations.



There was a great turnout with many members stopping by to pick up their helmets and enjoy some lunch. The Commons Café burger seemed to be the most popular item of the day.



Thanks again to everyone that came to show their support for RCBC and helped with our fundraising efforts. All proceeds from the day will be put towards improvements to our complex.



Opening Day
March Mayhem
Tournament
March 29/30



All teams will
have the
opportunity to
become the #1
team in their
region and
represent that
region in the
Perfect Game
Super25
National
Championship

Tournament Season Begins March 29

Is spring finally here? The busy RCBC tournament calendar kicks off on March 29/30 with the 14U March Mayhem tournament. Upcoming tournaments at the complex include:

April 5/6 - 9U/13U April Fools Follies

April 26/27 - 13U Lucky 13s Wood Bat

May 10/11 - 10U/13U Mothers Day Showdown

May 24/26 - 11U/12U/14U/15U Memorial Day USA Bash

For the full tournament calendar, visit our tournament website at www.rctournaments.com.

RCBC To Host Perfect Game Super25 Tournaments

Richmond County Baseball announced that it will be the host site and Staten Island Director for Perfect Game Super25 Mid-Atlantic Region Qualifier Tournaments as well as their Northeast Super Regional. Hosting these games will provide exposure to our facility to a larger audience of travel teams, and will allow RCBC teams to play competitive tournament baseball at the highest level right in our own backyard. Scheduled tournament dates are:

April 12/13 - 12U/13U Qualifier

April 26/27 - 10U Qualifier

May 3/4 - 11U/13U Qualifier

May 31/June 1 - 14U/16U Qualifier

June 6/8 - 9U/10U/11U/12U/13U Northeast Super Regional

Additional Perfect Game tournaments will be scheduled in the fall.

For more information on Perfect Game, visit www.perfectgame.org.



RCBC Joins The Borough Cup As Charter Member and Host Site For The Staten Island Regional Tournaments

Beginning in July, the Borough Cup is a comprehensive youth baseball tournament that will crown not only the best team in each individual borough, but the best teams in all of New York City. All local teams from any of the 5 boroughs are welcome to sign up for any of the 5 age divisions—9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13/14U. Each borough will crown an individual champion in each age group. Each borough champion will then play a round robin championship round against each other with the top 2 teams playing for the title Best of the Boroughs.

The Borough Cup is sponsored by the NYC All Stars Sports Group, created by NY Mets Hall of Famer John Franco, WFAN radio host Craig Carton and Brooklyn Cyclones Gary Perone. Representing Major League Baseball, Mark Teixeira (NY Yankees) and Curtis Granderson (NY Mets) have signed on as ambassadors to the tournament.

RCBC Executive Director Nick DeFendis stated *“The Borough Cup is a great opportunity for youth baseball programs throughout NYC to compete and showcase their talents. Having borough-pride is an added incentive for players to bring their A game, first to win their individual borough competition and then to compete against the other boroughs for the ultimate title. Richmond County Baseball is excited to be a part of it.”*

Staten Island Borough President Jim Oddo added *“I am obsessed with the game of baseball so I absolutely love the idea of the Borough Cup. This competition will achieve so much. It will energize youth baseball across the city, it will allow young people from different neighborhoods across the five boroughs to interact; it will enhance and increase the chance to hone in on those life lessons the game teaches and which these young athletes will carry with them off the field; and lastly, it will show all of New York City that when you talk youth baseball in this town, you are talking Staten Island. To Borough Presidents Diaz, Brewer, Adams and Katz, it’s a round ball and a round bat but you’ve got to hit the ball squarely. Come get some!”*

For more information, visit the Borough Cup website at www.boroughcup.com.

New Member Dri-Fit Shirts Are Here

We've added a new dri-fit tee shirt to our online apparel collection. Members can now show their colors in a cool and comfortable moisture-wicking shirt, available in both royal blue and gray. Sizes Youth Medium through Adult XXL. Just go to the Online Store link on the Main Menu of the RCBC website (www.rcbclub.com).



Registration Fees

As a reminder, all RCBC fees are due now. This includes your initial registration fee, your tournament/league fees and any apparel that you ordered. You can pay by check made out to RCBC and mailed to 98 Tanglewood Drive, Staten Island, NY 10308 or by credit card. Please use the authorization form on the Home Page of the RCBC website. If you are unsure of your balance, please email krista@rcbclub.com.

Due to our insurance and policy restrictions, all registration fees must be paid before we issue any player his uniform. In addition, no apparel will be distributed until paid for. Please conform to this request to avoid any complications. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Coach DeFendis

Coach Quinn



Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball quote:

Former Yankee skipper Bob Lemon once said *"Everyone needs a good family and good friends—however if you're a manager, a good bullpen may be the most important need!!!!"*

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



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

BUILDING COACH-PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

If I had to compare the coach-parent relationship, it's a lot like a President's dealings with the media. Coaches aren't thrilled having to deal with parents, but it has to be done. Conversely, parents are constantly commenting about their son's or daughter's coaches. President Obama, two different George Bushs, Clinton, Carter, Ford, Nixon, etc. etc. etc. have had their duals with the media. So have coaches and parents!!! Both sometimes walk away muttering unprintable comments. LOL

I came across this article in a coaching magazine offering the seemingly one-millionth attempt to bridge the gap between the two sides. Eight tips are suggested for coaches to improve their dealings with parents:

1. HAVE A PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION PLAN IN PLACE — Have a plan to deal with the most common coach-parent issues. These include schedule, playing time, injuries, the team's won-loss record, strategy (better known as second guessing), fan behavior, parent complaints about coaches who yell. Decide ahead of time what your position is on many of these issues. Have guidelines for parents and players (Code of Conduct).
2. COMMUNICATE THIS PLAN TO YOUR PARENTS — Hold a parents meeting to tell them your plan once its in place. Do it verbally and in writing so there is no miscommunication.
3. BUILD A SOLID LEVEL OF TRUST—The best way to do this is to have parents know that the coach has their son's or daughter's best interests at heart. Be fair with playing time. Avoid favorites. Avoid politics. Work hard at improving and developing a player. All this helps build trust.

4. PARENTS SHOULD KNOW THAT THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A TEAM'S SUCCESS — The use of social media can always let parents know what is happening. Coaches should ask parents to watch their son's discipline and academics off the field. If parents can help with a trip or getting you equipment of a playing field, working the concession stand, fundraising or arranging a team dinner, let them know you appreciate it and thank them for helping.

5. BE CLEAR AND CONCISE IN PARENT MEETINGS — Know what you're going to say in a meeting. Keep it polite, but don't make the meeting too long. The more said can lead to a better chance of conflict. Also, keep a record of parent meetings so there is no misinterpretation.

6. BE APPROACHABLE IN A WAY THAT GETS RESPECT — You don't want to be the parent's best friend, but be willing to discuss a player with their parents.

7. HAVE A SOLUTION-BASED APPROACH WHEN DEALING WITH AN ISSUE — Rather than linger with a problem and what caused it, quickly look for a solution. Whether it be with a parental complaint or a team issue, look to solve it quickly so it doesn't interfere with your session.

8. AGREE TO DISAGREE — Coaches and parents will have disagreements that lead to stubbornness. The coaches will not change their position and the parents will also stand firm. Sometimes its best to avoid an argument or an all-season feud by just agreeing to disagree. As long as the parent doesn't disrespect the coach and visa-versa, this might sometimes be the best solution.

Let's face it. There have been more coach-parent peace treaty proposals than in the Middle East!!!! Just try to make an effort to avoid conflict where the player is caught in the middle and can't.

Featured Article — 2014 Marks The 10 Year Anniversary of RCBC

By Coach Nick DeFendis

2014 marks the 10 year anniversary of the Richmond County Baseball Club. It's amazing how much success we have had since our inception. To give you a little history, the program started with a team of 12 players at the age of 14. All who went on to play high school baseball and then in college. When the idea of starting a baseball program popped into my head, it never occurred to me how much work it would take to create a program that would eventually be recognized on a nation level.

Over the 10 years, I ran into a lot of dead ends, but somehow I was able to overcome them. The goal was to have a home for our players to go to train on a daily basis. When the opportunity came for me to build the fields at the old ASA complex, I jumped all over it. The first order of business was to change the name to the Richmond County Youth Complex. Most of my family and friends thought I was nuts, but I was determined to succeed. 53 acres of undeveloped land with no money. I lost my dad a couple of years earlier. I always wanted to make him proud of me so I set out to make a dream a reality. Every accomplishment over the years I believe he had a hand in. Things just started to fall into place. Staten Island businesses were offering their services, wanting to help in any way possible, from construction to landscaping and everything in between. Seeds were getting planted and one by one, fields were growing.

Being surrounded by quality people was a huge part of my rapid success, as little by little, my dream started to come to life. At the time, George Quinn was coaching a 12 year old team and wanted to get involved in the program. I'm glad he did. John Franco's son JJ was also on that team. John had just retired and was George's assistant coach. Quality...that's the only way I can describe them both. My dream became their dream and they were committed to help get this program on the map. Their support and dedication to this program has helped me through every obstacle. Jim Oddo and Steve Matteo, who are now Borough President and District 50 Councilman, were a great help. Both sat with me and helped me put together a business plan which we followed like the bible. Five phases of timely projects were put in place and one by one, they came to life.

The Staten Island baseball community was watching and teams started to see what we had going on. Soon everyone wanted in. We were careful of who we let in because we wanted to be different. The goal was to have quality over quantity. It was not to be "just another little league;" it was to be a respected, competitive travel Baseball Club. Today we are recognized in many parts of the United States. We have a program that is respected, and still growing. We added tournaments, high school and college showcases, leagues and plenty of charity events at our complex. We have established a foundation to assist players financially to attend private high school. We are totally involved in the community. Staten Island is now benefitting from all of our efforts. Local businesses are seeing more traffic in their stores, hotels are booking reservations from all over the tri-state area and restaurants are offering discounts to dine. As we move forward, we are partnering with other organizations to bring more nationally recognized baseball events to the Island. The Borough Cup and Perfect Game Super25 are two events that will bring hundreds of baseball teams of all ages to the Island to showcase their talents. With these events, we will be able to help aid the little league programs on the Island with revenue through the use of their fields and their concession stands.

I am very thankful to all our coaches, staff and members for your loyal support. In next month's addition, I will have a article recognizing our coaching staff and how valuable each of them are to the program. Have a great summer of baseball at Richmond County this year.

Stay tuned.
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.

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