

May 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](mailto:jim@rcbclub.com).

Visit our website at:



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# RCBC Newsletter

## Summer Baseball Camp Dates Announced



Richmond County Baseball, in conjunction with  
Johnny D's 5 Tool Baseball Academy, announces our  
2014 summer baseball camp dates.

July 14-18 — Richmond County Youth Complex

July 21-25 — South Shore Little League

August 11-15 — Richmond County Youth Complex

Batting — Pitching — Fielding - Awards

9 am to 2 pm daily

Only \$225 per player per week

Multi-camp, team and sibling discounts available

For more information and to register, go to either  
[www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com) or [www.my5toolbaseball.com](http://www.my5toolbaseball.com)

or call 718-344-8118



RCBC dri-fit tee shirts and hoodies in 2XL in stock. Visit our online store at [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com) to order.



Please note that our Online Store will be closed from June 6 through June 22. All orders placed after June 5 will not be delivered until the end of the month.

## Tournament Update

In the 13U Lucky 13s wood bat tournament, the RCBC Americans defeated the RCBC Nationals in an overtime thriller. We hosted our 2nd Perfect Game Super25 event with the Long Island Tigers Navy capturing the 12U crown and the New Jersey Diamondbacks taking the 13U division. In the 14U Memorial Day USA Bash, the Zoned Redhawks Elite topped the RCBC Americans.

Upcoming tournaments at the complex include:

May 31-June 1 - 14U/16U Perfect Game Super25 Qualifier

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

June 13-15–12U/18U Shoot For The Stars

June 20-22 – 8U/15U Schools Over Spectacular

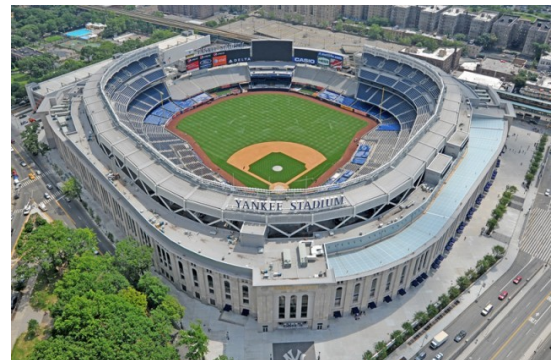
June 27-30 – 14U/16U Blue Chip Prospects Great American Classic

July 5-6 – 9U/11U/13U/17U Firecracker Classic

For the full tournament calendar, visit our tournament website at [www.rctournaments.com](http://www.rctournaments.com).



The NYC Borough Cup tournament starts in July. Many Staten Island teams have already signed up. The 12U and 13U/14U championship games will be played at Yankee Stadium on August 14. Go to [www.boroughcup.com](http://www.boroughcup.com) for more information.





## **RCBC 10U and 13U Nationals Take Diamond Nation Crown**

Coach Quinn's 10U and 13U Nationals both went undefeated in capturing the Williams Harley Davidson tournament championship at Diamond Nation. Kyle O'Hare (13U) and Chris Fields (10U) were named tournament MVPs.



## **10U Nationals Capture Bergen County Charity Classic Championship**

The 10U Nationals won their third tournament of the year in capturing the Bergen County Charity Classic tournament over the Memorial Day weekend. Coach Quinn's squad posted another perfect 5-0 record, scoring 48 runs while yielding only 9. This is the second time in two years the team has won this event.





Coach Mike Lopiparo  
College Placement  
Coordinator  
Quality Control Coach

### This month's baseball quote:

Joe DiMaggio once said  
*"When baseball is no longer  
fun—its no longer a game"*

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

I will be at RCBC all  
summer roving around.  
Come to me with any  
questions.



## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

### GO TO A COLLEGE THAT WANTS YOU (PART TWO)

In last month's article, I once again spoke about the importance of student-athletes choosing the right level of college baseball. If you play too far above your heads...you will sit the bench and become the 33rd player on a 25 man traveling squad.

Suddenly that beautiful high-level uniform doesn't look that snappy anymore. You'll hate going to practice and games. Your baseball self esteem will drop. There is always some D-1 talent in the area, of course, but the majority of players will play baseball at a lower Division-1, with the bulk of high schoolers taking the field at Division-2, Division-3 and sometimes, Junior College. Let's look at each level.

Division-3 - The level of Division-3 baseball continues to get better. You get the combination of getting a quality education with playing a solid brand of baseball. Former Richmond County star Keith Heller (Poly Prep) attended Amherst, a top D-3 school. He is now playing outfield for a top Boston Red Sox farm team. In Staten Island, CSI is a fine program with many former high school stars, at a great tuition price. In Brooklyn, St. Joseph's has built an excellent program. Plus its an excellent academic institution. Another RCBC alumni, Joe Santigate is playing baseball at D-3 power Wheaton. Go to the NCAA website and check the Division-3 standings. I know Division-3 doesn't give athletic scholarships, BUT....if you have a good average in school as well as good SAT scores, which many Richmond County players do, then these schools will package you nicely. Also, many D-3 schools have fine-looking baseball facilities. Check out the New Jersey Athletic Conference such as Yogi Berra Stadium in Montclair or Ramapo.

Division-2 - Richmond County has always sent many of its players to Division-2 schools. Angelo Navetta will be attending Molloy College, a place where former RCBC star TJ

Greig captured the Conference Player Of The Year award. Nick Goncha is currently starring there after playing at RCBC. Paul Piccolino will be hitting and pitching for Pace University. Steve Withers will play his baseball at Adelphi while Nick Puccarelli will be making his great catches for St. Thomas Aquinas. The Division-2 conferences in this area have become excellent college baseball places. The CAC, East Coast, Northeast 10 and PSAC all have had local talent from NYC. Division-2 schools can offer athletic money and scholarship packages. RCBC has an excellent relationship with the D-2 schools in the tri-state area and why not....pitcher Dylon McNamara, an Adelphi star who played for RCBC, got drafted in 2012.

Division-1 - Of course Richmond County has had its top level D-1 players. In fact, Rob Dadona will take his all-city skills to the Seton Hall program that has had RCBC talent like Frank Esposito and Zach Granite. Tyler Sciacca, Ed Medina, Jimmy Brennan among others, have played for high level D-1. RCBC has sent players to Wagner such as Nick DiLeo, Anthony Battaglia, Nick Pavia and Alex Amadeo. John Giakas is currently at FDU. Just be careful with D-1. Make sure the college comes after YOU. The Northeast Conference, MAAC and Ivy League are some of the places, a bit below the Big East, that players in this area can be comfortable playing at.

Junior College - Anthony Giakas will attend Rockland Community College in the fall. Brookdale and Gloucester have also taken RCBC players. DO NOT be so quick to dismiss junior colleges. If a player doesn't get to the college he wants or thought he deserved; or if a player has marginal grades, he can attend a junior college to see if his play and/or grades improve. A number of junior colleges have a fine core curriculum if a student applies himself. Rockland CC is excellent. We could go on forever. Email me with any questions at mikelope19@aol.com.



## Featured Article — So You Want To Be A Professional Baseball Player? (Part 1)

By Coach Nick DeFendis

Perhaps every young man who's put on a baseball uniform has had a dream to become a major league baseball player. It is the pinnacle of success in this great game and you couldn't reproach anyone for having that dream. We all need our dreams but this article is about reality, the experience of day in and day out baseball. There is a road young players must take to become major league ball players. And it is a long and difficult one.

Let's look at what it takes to go through a minor league season. Many people don't realize the demands placed on players in the minor leagues. We are going to examine what players who have made it to high A Ball (specifically the Florida State League) experience.

After the excitement has worn off, they come face to face with the real challenge of professional baseball—the daily mental and physical grind. Day after day in which games eventually run seamlessly together. Most of the players are unprepared for the long hours and days of learning, practicing and playing.; and failing. These are players who were top dogs before. They were used to hitting .450 in high school or .400 in college. The pitchers blew the ball by everybody in high school. They all had .0-something ERAs. No more. Now the hitters only hit .270 and many pitchers get rocked. And there is little time to rest, to reflect, to relax. The days are endless and the grind goes on and on.

The hitters are facing top pitching prospects day in and day out. They're hitting against 92 mph fastballs and devastating breaking pitches—with wood bats. What's that old joke? "Dear Mom, having fun, hitting the ball really well." A month later she gets another letter "Dear Mom, they're throwing curve balls—be home soon."

Every college had easy games on its schedule. There are no patsies in the Florida State League. Every team has its rosters filled with outstanding players. The players play 140 games from April to September. Not counting the occasional rainout, they may get 10 Sundays off. People with real jobs don't work that much. Many college players are unprepared for the rigors of a minor league season. They now play more games in one season than they did in two seasons in college. High school players play maybe a 30 game schedule in the spring and then another 40 in the summer. And while these new minor leaguers are learning their craft, they have to confront failure every day. That can mentally wear a player down after awhile. It can be difficult to adjust. And you can add the daily stress of each player trying to do his best, knowing that there is always someone behind him that could move up to take his place.

I will continue this article in next month's Newsletter.  
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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