

August 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 Summer Camps A Success

Over 100 happy campers participated in our two Summer Baseball Camps in collaboration with Johnny D's 5 Tool Baseball. The campers got instruction in hitting, fielding and pitching, had fun with skills contests and beat the heat with a slip-n-slide.



We also hosted our 2nd annual Future College Prospect Showcase Camp with 50 eager players and 20 college coaches in attendance. Players got first hand exposure to many great local college programs and their recruiters who helped them get a better understanding of what takes to play at the collegiate level.



Fall RCBC Apparel

Fall is right around the corner. Now's the time to order your RCBC cold weather apparel



Visit our Online Store on the RCBC website

www.rcbclub.com

Tournament Update

In the 14U Slugfest, the Caribbean All Stars defeated the RCBC Americans for the championship. In the following weekend's Summer Slam, the Jersey City Saints won the 9U division while the RCBC Americans took the title in 13U. The Summer Sizzler saw the Aces defeat the RCBC Prospects in 15U while the DB Razorbacks took the 16U crown. And in the 14U Battle of the Island, the Bergen Blue Crew triumphed over the RCBC Nationals.

Upcoming tournaments at the complex include:

- August 30-31 - 15U/16U Perfect Game Super25 Qualifier
- September 6-7 - 14U Back to School Spectacular
- September 13-14 - 11U/13U Transition Tournament
- September 20-22 - 10U/11U/12U/13U/17U Perfect Game Super25 Qualifier
- September 27-28 - 10U/13U September Showdown
- October 4-6 - 3rd Annual Johnny Ray Memorial Fall Classic for High School Baseball Programs

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

Welcome Our 3 Newest RCBC Teams

The fall season welcomes RCBC's 3 newest teams:

10U Americans coached by Chris Capaldo

13U Raiders coached by Tom Gulotta

13U Royals coached by Justin Doyle

Please extend your warmest welcome to the players and their families. Just more examples of why Richmond County Baseball is the place to be.

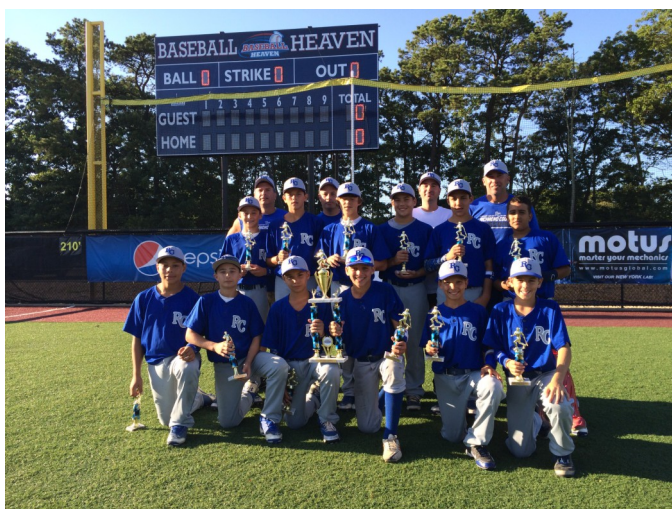
Raiders Win First Two Tournaments At RCBC

One of RCBC's newest teams, the 12U Raiders, won their inaugural tournament, the Bronx Cheer Bash, at Sports At The Beach (Delaware). Coach Tom Gulotta's squad went 5-1, scoring 87 runs, including 27 home runs led by Vincent Wagner (7) and Anthony Oliva (6). John Rosario had some timely hits and Joe Palermo picked up a complete game win in the semi-finals, while also going 12 for 18 with 3 home runs in the tournament.

In the championship game vs. the Altoona Reds, the Staten Islanders were down 4-0 in the 2nd inning before scoring 8 runs in the 3rd on their way to a 5 inning 16-8 mercy win led by Wagner's grand slam. Anthony Abbruzzese shined defensively throughout the tournament and Anthony Oliva was named tournament MVP.



The following weekend saw the boys capture the "Make A Wish" All Star Summer Sendoff at Baseball Heaven, going 4-1 against some tough Long Island competition. In the championship game, Vincent Wagner dominated a strong Hanks Yanks Elite team who was



previously undefeated and un-scored upon. Wagner pitched a complete game in the 4-1 victory, getting the final out with the bases loaded. Batting standouts included Wagner, Joe Palermo and Greg DiGiario, who along with Vin Nichilo, contributed strong pitching performances as well. Cameron Love made some big plays defensively.



Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball quote:

Pat Kelly, a very religious
player, once told his
manager Earl Weaver
*"Mr. Weaver, you need to
walk with the Lord."*
Weaver, a Hall of Fame
manager answered
*"Pat, I'd rather walk with
the bases loaded."*

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



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

RCBC COLLEGE SHOWCASE A SUCCESS...AGAIN

Year two of the Richmond County Baseball Club College Showcase is over. And, as Mets announcer Howie Rose says when the team wins "You can put it in the books!" Once again, the Showcase accomplished its main purpose. Have some top-flight college coaches look at the players who came to the event, evaluate them, and also recruit them. What makes this showcase different is that the college coaches run the event. Players saw how a college practice is done with efficient organization and impeccable teaching skills. RCBC Executive Director Nick DeFendis is the person who thought up the idea. "Not only do the players get to show their skills to a college coach in hopes of getting recruited," says DeFendis, "but the players are also given valuable instruction in all areas of the game."

I won't name all two dozen coaches in attendance except to say they represent the top schools in the metropolitan area. I will name one coach in attendance...Phil Cundari of Seton Hall. The reason is that he already has two RCBC players verbally committed to the Big East power. Earlier this summer, Anthony Scotti of Xavierian and Chris Villa of St. Joseph By The Sea, both stars on DeFendis' 17U squad, agreed to take the scholarship offer from Seton Hall. That continues the great relationship the Pirates have with Richmond County. Just last year, former RCBC centerfielder Zach Granite was drafted by the Minnesota Twins after completing his junior season with Seton Hall.

Plenty of the players that attended the Showcase were looked at by the colleges present. The coaches were, once again, impressed as to how well the RCBC players

have been coached. It is worth it for an RCBC player to attend this annual event. Why??? Because the RCBC coaches are in attendance to talk with the colleges. DeFendis and Tim McLoughlin were representing the 17U squad, while the 16U coaches Anthony "Frap" Ferrante, Mike Lopiparo and Sal Trancucci were also on hand. By having the coaches present, they can fully tell the colleges everything they want to know about the players. They can also recommend players who they feel certain colleges would like. Not every player fits every college. Also, even the players outside RCBC, and there was an increase in that department, got help from the RCBC coaches who alerted colleges to players they would be interested in. Every player received individual attention. Players are urged to contact colleges who seemed interested. In an earlier Newsletter, I wrote an article on knowing the level you can play at in college, but more importantly, showing how to write a letter to a coach. Get to work!!! Don't be lazy!!! This is your future we are talking about!!! The Staten Island Advance recently wrote about Scotti and Villa committing to Seton Hall. They also have done a story on RCBC pitching coach Tim McLoughlin, and the heart-warming story of how he has overcome the problems he had because of chewing tobacco. RCBC attracted huge attention by college recruiters this summer. If you weren't sure which field an RCBC team was playing on, especially at Diamond Nation, just check to see where the crowd of scouts and recruiters were gathered. Of course it helps to have Scotti and Villa, and especially Anthony Prato of Poly Prep, who is one of the most sought after players in America!

Featured Article — So You Want To Be A Professional Baseball Player? (Part 4)

By Coach Nick DeFendis

This is a continuation of the article from last month's Newsletter.

As the players take infield, the pitchers take up backup positions in foul territory at third base and behind the plate. They begin their infield drill with "infield in" and progress to "one and cover," double plays, long backhands and slow rollers. It is similar to most pre-game infield drills but on some days they may do a little more work on one aspect or another. The players worked very hard on fielding technique, throwing accuracy and velocity. Everyone hustled and game speed was observed at all times.

After outfield-infield, the coaches put the players through 15 minutes of some fundamentals such as lead-offs or 1st and 3rd baserunning, double plays or run downs. At about 4:30, the portable batting cage is rolled out and they take batting practice. They break into three groups with the catchers hitting first. That way, the catchers can go down to the bullpens with the scheduled pitchers. In the first hitting round they do situational hitting. With a runner on 1st, 2 bunts, 1 hit and run, 1 hit behind the runner and one "get in" from third base. The hitter then gets 5 swings to hit to the opposite field. The hitter then becomes the baserunner. They hit several more rounds with a decreasing number of pitched balls.

When the outfielders are not hitting, they are in the outfield "breaking" on every batted ball. This is not just shagging ball time. They break 2 or 3 steps toward every ball whether they catch it or not. This how outfielders develop their tracking skills. They learn to see how every ball acts off every type of swing and they learn how to get a "jump" on the ball.

When the infielders are not hitting, they take ground ball fungoes from the coaches. The shortstop and first baseman take ground balls from the third base side fungo coach. The second and third basemen take ground balls from the first base side fungo coach. This is done that way so that the infielders can take balls that are the same approximate angle as they would come off a hitter's bat; so their footwork and throwing angles are the same. The pitchers that are not throwing a bullpen stand on the warning track in the outfield and shag deep fly balls. They take batting practice until about 6:15. Then they go into the locker room to get dressed into their game uniforms.

They take the field at about 6:30, do some individual stretching and light throwing, a base stealing drill with one of the coaches acting as the pitcher and then get in some dry swings to get loose and fortify their hitting mechanics. The pitcher throws his bullpen at about 6:40. They establish command of their pitches one at a time, fastball first. They throw 1/2 from the stretch and the pitching coach watches every pitch they throw. Then they get a drink of water and play baseball.

The games begin at 7 pm and last until 9:30-9:45. Whew, their day is over right? Wrong! After the game, the players pay a visit to their strength and conditioning coach for an hour of lifting in the weight room. The players must also get in their specialty drills, such as catchers blocking balls in the dirt or hitters taking extra batting practice. When do they do that? They have to find the extra time. These drills are outside the everyday routine but they must find the time to do them.

So the next time you go to a minor league game and the home team commits 4 errors and makes a few mental mistakes, show a little tolerance. These young men are learning their craft and failing is an integral part of learning. Tip your hat to these guys and show them some respect. They earn it every day.

I hope you enjoyed this article - 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.

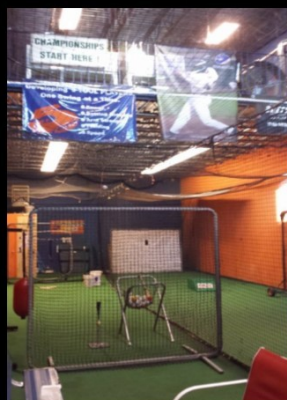
Gear up for fall baseball at The Cages!!



- ⇒ PRIVATE 1:1 LESSONS
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- ⇒ CAGE RENTAL
- ⇒ CAMPS/ CLINICS
- ⇒ TEAM TRAINING PROGRAMS

Batting Cages

30 Minutes.....\$15 (max 4 Players)	60 Minutes..... \$40 (team 2 cages)
60 Minutes.....\$25 (max 4 Players)	1 1/2 Hrs.\$60 (team 2 Cages)
	2 hrs. \$80 (team 2 Cages)



Johnny D's 5 Tool Baseball provides the perfect foundation for any team's training. Sharpen team skills and improve your game by reserving your cage now. Work on hitting, pitching, or overall skills development.

Come experience what it's like to face a live pitcher the pro batter virtual experience allows you to experience live pitches. A great tool to help hitters increase their timing, balance & overall mechanics. Private Team instructors also available!

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