

October 2015

**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 Captures 3rd Johnny Ray Title

Johnny Ray

Memorial Classic

Xaverian High School won the 2015 Johnny Ray Memorial Classic tournament, their 3rd championship in the 4 years of the tournament. The Clippers defeated St Joseph By The Sea 5-2 in the championship game to take the crown.



Thanks to the numerous volunteers, our sponsor Dicks Sporting Goods and the many businesses and families that bought sponsorship signs for making this year's event a tremendous success. If you're still interested in buying a field sign, go to www.rcbclub.com. Signs will remain posted at the Complex through the 2016 season.

RCBC Is Looking For New Players

Do you know of anyone interested in joining RCBC?

We are looking for new players for the 2016 season.

Ages 8-18

If you know of anyone interested, have them go to www.rcbclub.com and submit the Registration Interest form on the right hand side of the home page.

Winter Workouts

Look for information soon on our annual Winter Workouts at the College of Staten Island (CSI), starting in January.

Happy Halloween!



Tournament Update

In the Columbus Day Classic, the D1 Renegades won the 16U division while Full Count Baseball took the championship title in the 18U division. And in our final tournament of the year, the Perfect Game Super25 Staten Island Spooktacular, Staten Island Elite was victorious in the 11U division while the Southern Maryland Sting took the 15U crown.



This was a tremendous year for Richmond County Tournaments, and our biggest. We hosted over 50 events with over 160 teams from 8 states and Canada participating. And we



expanded our partnership with Perfect Game, introducing our facilities to a wider range of out-of-state teams, and providing elite competition for RCBC teams right in our own backyard. These visiting teams also provide a significant amount of revenue to the Staten Island business community.

Look for our 2016 tournament schedule coming out soon.

Let There Be Light

We recently re-connected and upgraded the lights on field 4 of the Richmond County Complex, giving us the ability to now play 60/90 baseball later in the day. To date, we have hosted several tournament championship games under the lights, including the Johnny Ray Memorial Classic and the PG Super25 Spooktacular. Look for additional improvements to the Complex over the off season.

Hick's Family Fundraiser



**Sunday,
Nov. 8th
7pm - 11pm**

LiGreci Staaten: 697 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY



Kevin Flynn

Actor, Comedian,
Me, Myself & Irene
Heartbreak Kid



Tom Van Horn

Last Comic Standing
Entertainment TV



Judson Laipply

Inspirational Comedial
and Creator of
Evolution Dance

**\$150.00 per person includes DJ, Live
Entertainment, Buffet and Full Open Bar
Chinese Auction and 50/50 Raffle**

Please Come and Show Your Support

Robert Carbone
917-497-7278

Steve Rogers
Cell: 917-584-4569 Firehouse: 212-570-4207
Email: FDNYSteveRogers@gmail.com

Bitty Benitez
718-753-6899



Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's
baseball quote:

Yankee Manager Casey
Stengel once said:

"They say Yogi Berra is funny. Well, he has a lovely wife and family, a beautiful home, money in the bank, and he plays golf with millionaires. What's so funny about that?"

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



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

AVOID THE GOING HOME ARGUMENT

Once in awhile I repeat myself, and on this topic I don't mind how many time I write about it. Your son just got 3 hits in 4 at bats. You get into the car and before you have exited the parking lot, and you say "What's wrong with you. How many times do I have to tell you to stop swinging at that high pitch? You could have gone 4 for 4!!!!"

Or, your son just tossed a complete game victory. And as you exit the parking lot you say "If you just listen to me on location, you wouldn't have walked 4 batters!!!!"

Usually these comments elicit a not so nice response from your son. It starts with annoyed answers, then on the drive home the shouting begins, and finally as you pull into your driveway your son exclaims "The heck with this. Do me a favor and stay home" or simply "I don't want to play anymore!!!!"

Baseball has a high rate of players who quit the game by their teenage years. Please don't help that statistic. DO NOT criticize your son after he has had a good game. Baseball is a difficult sport to succeed in. There are plenty of bad

days. Don't make your son's good game turn into aggravation.

Compliment him; tell him how well he did; tell him how proud you are of him. Let him enjoy the moment.

No one says you shouldn't have constructive criticism, but it shouldn't come that day. Wait a day, and your son might even say "How did I pop up in that at bat. Or how could I walk 4 batters." Simply put, let him give you the opening, and then offer some suggestions. But always remind him that he had an excellent game. If you son had a poor game....three strikeouts...an ineffective inning on the mound....some costly errors....again avoid the going home argument. He doesn't need salt in the wounds. Tell him not to worry. Again, the next day he might approach you on what went wrong.

See the next page for some more suggestions.

Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts (continued)

Some observations I saw this summer....either by an RCBC parent or an opposing parent.
DO NOT DO THESE AWFUL THINGS.

1. **Umpire Baiting** - Everyone will get on an umpire once in awhile. That's baseball. But don't be abusive. If you say something, make it short and sweet. Do not prolong it to where you attract attention and you get loud and sound like a child. You embarrass yourself, your son's team, and your son!!!!
2. **Respect The Coach** - If you son is taken out of a game....or isn't starting, **DO NOT** yell at the coach. **DO NOT** stare at the coach where he knows you're doing it. **DO NOT** confront the coach immediately when the game ends. **DO NOT** stick your head in the dugout for an immediate explanation. Don't loudly criticize a coaching move. Again, you will look bad. If you feel that your son was not treated fairly, use the RCBC 24 hour rule. Wait a day and either call up the coach or set up an appointment. Cooler heads prevail.
3. **Do Not Abuse Your Opponents** - I know sometimes you might react to opposing loud parents. But a parent shouldn't taunt another coach and especially opposing players. Show class. You will look bad doing this.
4. **Do Not Criticize Or Blame Teammates** - I saw a parent pacing and forth while his son was pitching. Loudly he was yelling to his son "Don't worry. Not your fault; your teammates can't field." No good. Don't ever yell at another player on your team and don't start pointing fingers. Again, it shows no class.

Finally....Remember This....a college coach looks at the whole package. If they see annoying parents or trouble-makers....guess what???? They will cross your son off their list. Unless he is Bryce Harper or Matt Harvey, colleges will find someone else. Baseball is played by a half million players on the high school level. Act stupid and you'll get bad results.

I appreciate any comments you have. I fully understand there are exceptions to these rules. In 25 years of coaching college, high school and sandlot, most situations have passed my way!!!!

Coach Lope

Featured Article - Details Matter

By Coach Nick DeFendis

The following article is taken from The Players Tribune about Mike Trout, centerfielder for the Los Angeles Angels, and addresses the incredible attention to detail the game of baseball requires and his love of the game. Thanks to Rob Amadeo for sharing.



"It all started with me trying to hit left-handed, even though I was righty. Playing wiffleball with my friends in Millville, NJ, I used to mess around and hit that way, because I loved Ken Griffey. I was trying to re-enact Junior's swing. It's the best left-handed swing in baseball history. I loved his approach at the plate, and the way home runs looked coming off his bat. So it didn't matter that I was right-handed. Kids growing up, that's the way you do it.

I've always tried to watch and learn. It may sound silly, but the smallest things matter. Baseball is so hard as it is. Life in the big leagues goes by so quickly. When you go out and you're not comfortable, it can affect your game. I'm incredibly lucky to have the kind of support I have, with people helping me with everything going into the game so I can focus on playing. I couldn't do it without them. Great teammates and coaches. I have the best trainers to work with, and even people designing equipment just for me.

I remember as a kid going to Champs or Finish Line once a season. I'd see the Griffey's on the shelf, and think how cool they were. You wanted to yank them off the shelf so fast. It's amazing and humbling to have my own cleat with Nike. For the third year in a row, they came to Millville, sat in a conference room with me, asking what I want and don't want in a shoe.



The Vapor Trout 1 was great, but I wanted the new one to be lighter. They take it apart, figure it out, and put it back together. The little details at the end are fun too. I'm a weather guy. Seriously. I've DM'd guys at The Weather Channel about storm models. So, they put a radar graphic on the shoe. I hunt, so there's a camo look. And they put a trout on the toe.

Featured Article - Details Matter (continued)**By Coach Nick DeFendis**

It's a strange experience to walk into a store and see your shoe on the shelves, kind of like the first time you can play as yourself in a video game. I remember turning on the TV last year and watching an amateur game of high school All-Americans and they were all wearing Nike Trouts. It's crazy to think that one day, someone may walk into a store looking for the shoe of one of those All-Americans, just like that All-American wanted my shoe, and I wanted those Griffey's. It's an amazing feeling to be part of that cycle.

Certain things about being a big leaguer will always remind me how lucky I am to be here. I used to get one pair of cleats every season. Now I swap them out every couple of weeks. (Unless I've got some hits in them. Then they stay. Same with the bat, gloves, and anything else. And if I'm in a slump, it all goes. Like a lot of players, I'm a little superstitious.) That feeling that comes from hitting home runs is the best in the world. The ball coming off the bat, and the sound you hear from the crowd. It's pretty cool.

To be successful at the Major League level, you have to understand who you're playing against. Details matter. Take Max Scherzer. He can throw it 100 miles an hour, and his arm angle makes it tough to pick up his offspeed pitches. The first time I faced him was during a day game in Detroit. It was so tough to pick anything up. He struck me out twice....but I did manage to hit a solo shot. Nothing Felix Hernandez throws is straight. Nasty stuff. Certain pitchers fall into patterns. Maybe it's fastball-fastball-slider-change. Guys like Clayton Kershaw and Zack Greinke never do. They change their sequence every at bat, mixing pitches and throwing them all for strikes. And if you can get to first against Kershaw, now you have to deal with his pickoff move, which may be the best in the game. You don't know if he's going home or coming to first, because he doesn't give anything away and his timing is perfect. But whether it's Kershaw or other pitchers around the league, you have to study and learn to read guys. If he moves his shoulder or leans back just a little bit. Finding those patterns they might not know they have, then seeing that first move. That's the key to getting a good jump.

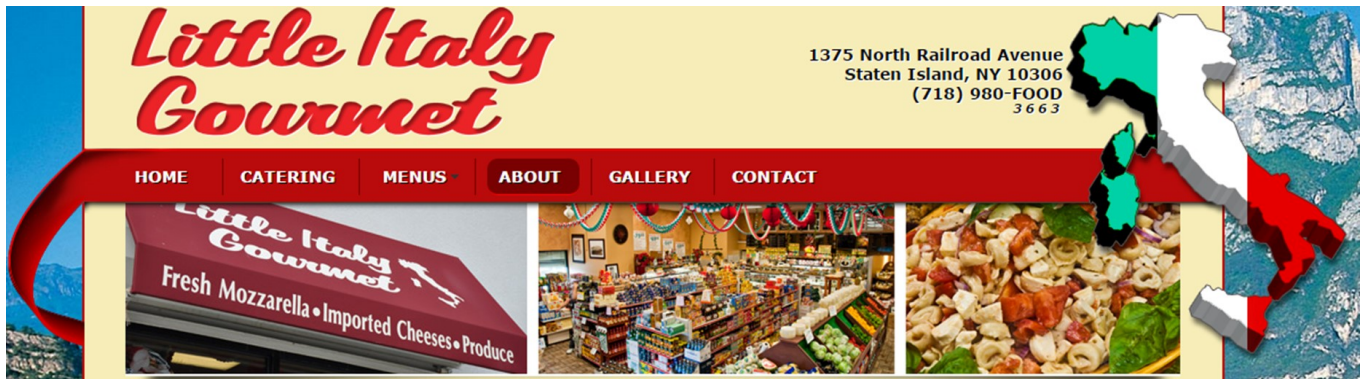
Because whether you're a big leaguer or a kid imitating one in the backyard hitting wiffleballs with your friends, we're all just trying to get the details right in the game we love."

Mike Trout



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.



Little Italy Gourmet is a family owned and operated business.

The Cruciata family takes pride in their work and treats each customer as if they were a part of the family. Satisfaction is their #1 priority. Joe and his family have been in the Italian Specialty and Food business for over 25 years. Their recipes have been passed down throughout the generations.

One of your favorites will definitely be the hand rolled fresh mozzarella made daily on premises. Little Italy Gourmet, currently located in New Dorp, offers a full line of imported Italian specialty products such as pastas, olive oils, beverages and more.

We also have a full line of groceries, produce and for your convenience, a self and full service meat department as well as a deli which features hot and cold foods prepared on a daily basis.

Catering is available for all occasions, and we also offer daily lunch specials. This family owned Italian Specialty Store is the answer to your every need.

We look forward to serving you and your family delicious food and Italian specialties prepared with love, from our family to yours!

Open 7 days a week

Monday–Saturday - 8 am to 7 pm

Sunday - 8 am to 4 pm

www.littleitalygourmetnyc.com