

February 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](http://www.rcbclub.com)

**Inside this Issue:**

2015 Uniforms	1
2015 Registration Fees	2
2015 Tournaments	2
Commons Cafe	2
Text Message Alerts	3
Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts	4
Featured Article — Nightmare Parents	5
Sponsor of the Month — Fuggetta Pools	6



# RCBC Newsletter

## 2015 RCBC Uniforms

Check out our new home uniform jersey - a two-button sublimated top made by Russell Athletic. Teams will also be sporting an alternate black top.

Wear your RCBC colors proud!



## Fee Balances

If you still have an outstanding balance on your 2015 RCBC registration fee, it is due now. Payment can be made via check made out to RCBC and mailed to 98 Tanglewood Drive, Staten Island, NY 10308 or via credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover). If paying by credit card, please use the authorization form on the RCBC website ([www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)). Uniforms will not be distributed until fees are paid in full.

If you have a balance on your apparel order, that must also be paid in full before any items are distributed.

Teams will be advised of any additional fees related to practices and league and/or tournament play by their coaches.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

## Tournament Update

Our 2015 tournament calendar kicks off with the Perfect Game Super25 Staten Island Classic on March 28-29. There will be 10U, 12U and 13U divisions. We will be hosting PG Super25 events through June, capping it off with the Northeast Super Qualifier tournament for ages 9U-13U. The winners here will receive a berth to the Perfect Game National Championship in Georgia or Florida.

Our summer schedule kicks off with the 18U Invitational Shoot For The Stars tournament for the 5th year running. This event features many elite teams and attracts a large number of college and professional scouts.

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

## RCBC Community Day At The Commons Cafe

The Commons Café at the Teleport will be hosting an RCBC Community Day on Saturday, March 7. All profits from sales between 11 am and 2 pm will be donated back to RCBC. We will also be distributing any helmets that were ordered on that day.

The Commons Café features incredible lunch fare including sandwiches, wraps, salads and one of the best burgers on Staten Island. So come on out for a great meal and help support your organization at the same time.



## **Text Message Alerts From RCBC**



As a reminder, RCBC has a text message alert system for important messages and announcements so members can receive them easily and quickly.

It is a self-subscription system so you must sign on initially to receive any subsequent messages. Its easy. Just text 84483 and enter RCBCINFO (all caps) in the message field. That's it!

Please take a moment to do this. You won't want to miss a thing.

Thanks for your attention.

Coach DeFendis

**Note:** Based upon your messaging plan, your cell phone carrier's text message rates may apply.



Coach Mike Lopiparo  
College Placement  
Coordinator  
Quality Control Coach

This month's baseball  
quote:

The great sportswriter  
Red Smith once said  
*"90 feet between home and  
first base is the most perfect  
invention ever!"*

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



## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

ARE YOU READY FOR  
SOME BASEBALL???????

Many times my players hear me shout out my daily chant "This is what America is all about—Blue Skies, Green Grass, BASEBALL, under the Sunshine of God!!!

It usually draws a laugh and a snide comment by everyone. Well...after the weather we have had...I think coaches and players would give plenty to see blue skies, green grass and sunshine. LOL

It's time for RCBC players to get serious. Freshmen should be looking to further develop this summer and make the major leap into becoming recruitable. It's a very important summer to get your skills in full gear. Freshmen should also be taking grades very seriously. Hopefully you got off to a solid academic start in high school. More later on this.

Sophomores will start getting looked at. The team that Frappe, myself and Sal Trancucci coached last summer had college recruiters showing up more frequently as the summer progressed. Seton Hall, Fordham, Stony Brook took serious notes on our players and Rick DeVito verbally agreed with Seton Hall. Sophomores should start writing letters to colleges. (See my article on writing letters.)

This summer is Showtime for the juniors. You are officially on the Broadway stage. You can get offers that will shape your baseball and educational future. EVERY GAME COUNTS. You never know who is watching. College recruiters have plenty of spies. It can be an opposing coach, an umpire, even a fan who is trusted by the coach. Any one of them can tip off a recruiter about a talented player he spots. If

you are planning NOT to give your best, NOT to hustle; if you're planning to argue with your coach or your teammates or the other team; if you plan to embarrass RCBC in any way, well then (excuse my French), STAY THE HELL HOME!!!! YOU WILL HURT YOURSELF, YOUR TEAM AND RCBC. If you do well, it can be one of the happiest and biggest moments of your life....getting the chance to play college baseball!!!!

Unfortunately, college baseball scholarships fall far below what is given in football and basketball. Plus a college baseball roster has 30 players. Therefore, almost all players will need academic help to pay what is becoming a hefty college bill. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOUR JUNIOR YEAR TO START BECOMING A STUDENT. Start well in high school. Grades and a solid SAT score equals \$\$\$\$\$. College recruiters look carefully at academics. It can help a college pay for a player. It also sends a message to a recruiter as to whether a player will do well or flunk out when he reaches college.

Parents....stay on top of your son academically. Make sure he is doing his homework and studying for tests. Be sure he gets help for the SAT. The last thing I think a parent should ever think is....my son will get a full baseball scholarship. You will need to be packaged. Please read what I have written about getting recruited. I coached at a Division I college and know about getting recruited. Call me or email me with any questions about recruiting. And soon we will have Blue Skies, Green Grass, and BASEBALL, under the Sunshine of God!!!! Stay warm.

## **Featured Article - What Makes A Nightmare Sports Parent**

### **By Coach Nick DeFendis**

As the players get ready to start the 2015 season, I thought this, and my next article, would help parents prepare as well.

Hundreds of college athletes were asked to think back: "What is your worst memory from playing youth baseball." Their overwhelming response: "The ride home from games with my parents."

The vast majority of parents that make rides home from games miserable for their children do so inadvertently. They aren't stereotypical horrendous sports parents, the ones who scream at umpires, loudly second guess coaches or berate their children. They are well-intentioned folks who can't help but initiate conversation about the game before the sweat has dried on their son's uniform. In the moments after a game, win or lose, kids desire distance. They make a rapid transition from athlete back to child. And they'd prefer if their parents transitioned from spectator, or in many instances from coach, back to mom and dad.

#### **5 Signs of a Nightmare Sports Parent**

Nearly 75% of kids who play organized sports quit by age 13. Some find that their skill level hits a plateau and the game is no longer fun. Other simply discover other interests. But too many promising young athletes turn away from the game because their parents become insufferable. As a baseball parent, this is what you don't want to become:

- > Overemphasizing sports at the expense of sportsmanship - The best athletes keep their emotions in check and perform at an even keel, win or lose. Parents demonstrative in showing displeasure during a contest are sending the wrong message. Encouragement is crucial, especially when things aren't going well on the field.
- > Having different goals than your child - Jot down a list of what you want for your son during the season; have your son do the same. Vastly different lists are a red flag. Kids generally want to have fun, enjoy time with their friends, improve their skills and win. Parents often believe their son's role on the team is larger than what the player knows it to be.
- > Treating your child differently after a loss than a win - Almost all parents love their children the same regardless of the outcome of the game. Yet often their behavior conveys something else. Many players feel that their value as a person was tied to playing time or winning.
- > Undermining the coach - Young players need a single instructional voice during games. That voice has to be the coach. Kids who listen to their parents yelling instruction from the stands or even glancing at their parents for approval from the field are distracted and can't perform at a peak level. Second guessing the coach on the ride home is just as insidious.
- > Living your own athletic dream through your child - A sure sign is the parent taking credit when the player has done well. "We worked on that swing for weeks in the driveway," or "you did it just like I showed you." Another symptom is when the outcome of a game means more to a parent than to the player. If you as a parent are still depressed by a loss when the player is already off playing with friends, remind yourself that it's not your career and you have zero control over the outcome.

Please look inside yourselves to see if you are one of those parents.

In next month's Newsletter: What Makes A Great Sports Parent



## Sponsor Of The Month

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