

April 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

RCBC Captures Ripken Easter Holiday Classic

The 11U Nationals started the season just like they ended the last one - with a tournament victory! This one at the Ripken Easter Holiday Classic tournament in Aberdeen, Maryland. Coach Quinn's squad went 5-0, including an 8-0 win over the Garrett Timber Rattlers in the championship game.



The 9U Nationals, playing in their first tournament as a team, also scored a victory in Maryland, winning their age division with an 8-4 victory over the White Marsh Warriors in the final contest.

Fee Balances



Remember that all tournament fee balances must be paid in full in April.

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). 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.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Tournament Update



Our 2015 tournament calendar kicked off with the Perfect Game Super25 13U Staten Island Holiday Classic on April 3-4 with the Middletown Warriors taking top honors. The following weekend saw team U.S. Elite winning out in the PG Super25 13U Staten

Island Rally. In the PG Super25 Staten Island Challenge, the Tri State Arsenal won the 10U division while the Jersey Storm took home the 14U championship. And in the PG Super25 Big Apple Classic, the Jersey Storm repeated as 14U champs, Go Wags won the 13U division and Rockland Elite the 12U. Although they didn't take top honors this time, RCBC teams made it to the championship game three times in the last two tournaments.

Our Perfect Game Super25 spring schedule continues with:

- May 2-3 - PG Super25 Staten Island Mayhem
- May 9-10 - PG Super25 Staten Island Mothers Day Classic
- May 16-17 - PG Super25 Staten Island Verrazano Classic
- May 23-25 - PG Super25 Staten Island Memorial Day Classic
- May 30-31 - PG Super25 Staten Island Showdown
- June 5-7 - PG Super25 Northeast Super Qualifier

Our summer schedule kicks off with the 18U Invitational Shoot For The Stars tournament for the 5th year running. 40 elite teams are expecting to compete. This event always attracts a large number of college and professional scouts.

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

RCBC Announces Partnership With **THE SERIES**



The Series was created to be the “ultimate baseball journey” for young athletes who are truly passionate about baseball. Every player wants to know how he rates compared to his peers and how he can become a better, more complete player. When a player works hard enough to rise above the crowd, he deserves an award that will become a lifetime memory. In its initial year, The Series will be comprised of 2 phases:

The Challenge - During these 2 day events, players will have the opportunity to compete against the best players in their age group in their territory for a chance to represent their home territory.

The Classic - For those players selected, a week-long celebration in Ft Myers, Florida, featuring interactive exhibits, skills competitions and the best baseball competition in the county.

RCBC will be hosting 5 Challenge dates where players can start their journey towards the ultimate prize:

- May 30-31 ~ 11U
- June 13-14 - 12U
- June 20-21 - 10U
- June 24-25 - 13U, 14U, 2016 Grads
- July 1-2 - 2015, 2017, 2018 Grads



Mike Trout - Los Angeles Angels



For more information on *The Series* and the registration links, visit www.rcbclub.com.



Coach Mike Lopiparo
College Placement
Coordinator
Quality Control Coach

This month's
baseball quote:

Hall of Famer
Rod Carew says

*"When you learn to believe
in yourself, there's no
telling how good you
can be."*

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



Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO GET RECRUITED

It's just about that time of year again. High school ball will be ending and it will ease into (without interruption) the summer season. For high schoolers who will be playing on the RCBC squads, that means tournaments at the RCBC complex and in New Jersey, Delaware, Georgia, etc. You get the point. It will be the showcase time of year, when RCBC players parade themselves like contestants in a Mr. America contest to get the attention of the judges. In this case, they are mostly college recruiters, with some pro scouts sprinkled in, who make judgments about your son that could see him reach his dream. But it's not easy. Let me repeat that. It's not easy. I have written this type of article more times than Knicks' losses, so you may have read it. Too bad...you will read it again. Baseball is repetition. Derek Jeter fielded thousands of grounders each year before a game for just under two decades. You can read a recruiting article again. I will write this in simple outline form.

1. Understand that it is difficult to get recruited. For every Anthony Prato and Anthony Scotti that have plenty of suitors, there are loads of players that struggle to get an offer. Almost 500,000 players compete as a high school freshman. But only 150,000 reach varsity baseball and just 50,000 play college baseball.
2. You are lucky to be at RCBC. We play an excellent schedule in fine tournaments where plenty of recruiters show up. An RCBC player can never say he hasn't been seen.
3. The RCBC staff of coaches (led by Nick DeFendis) have a carload of experience and extensive contacts. The RCBC credibility is good since the players are prepared well for college ball and succeed at a high rate when they're recruited. The recruiters come back for more and listen to what we have to say about a player.
4. But remember, college baseball, along with all college sports, has become a billion dollar business. College recruiters are doing a job. They don't recruit, and certainly don't offer a scholarship, unless the player is good. Yes they will listen

to us about a player, but that player better show what he can do.

5. When you go to a tournament, it is vital that you do something that attracts a recruiter's attention. Four games may be taking place at once, and if you don't catch an "eye," then you'll be just one of 80 players scampering around. Luckily, recruiters do flock to RCBC games more often than most other organizations.

6. A player MUST MUST MUST keep improving. Your Little League career may have been fabulous, but it has almost no affect on a recruiter. Recruiters and scouts are always wary of players who might be "peaking out." This happens in all sports and can occur at any time. Just check Yankees and Mets and Giants and Jets and Knicks' first round picks yearly. Plenty of busts. Going from one level to another requires a boost in talent.

7. A "peak out" can occur because of a number of factors. It can be size, it can be injury, it can be not working hard, it can be a player for which it came easy for them at an earlier level, not stepping it up when others start catching up to them.

8. RCBC practices are complete and intensive to keep a player sharp and improving.

9. VERY VERY VERY VERY IMPORTANT. A parent and his or her son MUST be realistic as to which level they can play college baseball. In college, you have Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Junior College (mostly because of grades) NAIA. And, each level has different levels. For example, in Division 1, teams in the ACC or SEC or Pac-12 are a different level than the MAAC, Northeast or Ivy League conferences. Even D-3, the NJAC is superior to other D-3 conferences.

10. Don't look for a level simply to brag that your son is at a higher level than others. Keep in mind that if a player doesn't belong at a certain level, either he will not be getting any offers, or may sit on the bench in college, something he probably never has had to do.

Anyway, enough for now. Email me at mikelope19@aol.com with any questions. More will be coming next month including writing effective letters or emails to college coaches.

Featured Article - Reaction - The Word Of The Month
By Coach Nick DeFendis

All baseball players handle failure differently. As I walk around the complex and visit each of the games that our players are competing in, I see some interesting behavior on the field and off the field.

“Reaction” - the word of the month. Your actions as a parent are very visible out there for everyone to view. I stress this because you can be the difference between your son receiving a scholarship offer or not. When a high school or college coach is attending a game to seek out talent, he is looking at the whole package. He’s looking at the player and the parents. Why you ask? Because he will be around you for four years and not only that, he will be paying for your son’s education. So behavior while attending the games is important. It can make the difference in the direction your son goes in with his baseball career.

Baseball is a ruthless game. It gets under your skin, it gets on your last nerve. It also teaches us lessons. What other sport not only keeps a stat as cruel as the error, but posts it on the scoreboard for everyone to see. That’s cruel. Also, players spend their entire lives perfecting their craft, yet the best in the world still fail 75% of the time. Its OK to fail; the game was designed that way. That’s why it such a great game and that’s why its not for everyone. You have to be strong-minded and have the ability to separate your emotions. Both as a player and as a parent.

See you at the complex!

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.

