

January 2016

**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:



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# RCBC Newsletter

IF YOU LOVE BASEBALL, WE ARE FRIENDS....

IF YOU LOVE RCBC, WE ARE FAMILY

Baseball and family....they go together like a 6-4-3 double play win to end a championship game.

FAMILY: A group consisting of parents and children living together in a household.

RCBC: A group consisting of coaches and players living together at the baseball field.

At Richmond County Baseball, the message we want to deliver each and every day is "we are family." That phrase goes both ways - it starts at the program level and ends at the families that play for us. What I'm trying to say is it's a two way street. Without the cooperation from the players and their families, we just become another ball club.

This year marks 12 years as a program. We want to continue to get better each year and to do that, we need the full cooperation of our families. We ask you to support our ideas, to cooperate with your son's coach and to make the season a fun filled and great experience.

We are teaching our coaches to be better coaches. We are holding meetings and clinics with the coaches once a month to help them become better coaches and mentors.

We are creating better competition for our teams by partnering with Perfect Game and hosting tournaments here on Staten Island; offering teams from all around the county to come here to play at RCBC.

George and I can't wait to give out fresh new uniforms. We can't wait to get out on the field and start coaching. We can't wait to start grooming the fields. It's what we love to do and we are looking forward to doing it. Get excited; baseball season is just around the corner.

I'll leave you with this message.....there comes a point when teammates become friends and when friends become FAMILY.

Thanks, Coach DeFendis

*"Every day is a new way for you to make a difference"*

## New Year Reminders

Your 2016 registration fee is due now. If paying by check, make out to RCBC and mail to 98 Tanglewood Drive, Staten Island, NY 10308. If paying by credit card, use the authorization form on the RCBC website.

Your coach will also advise you regarding any additional tournament or league registration fees.

Reminder that RCBC has a batting helmet standard. All helmets must be royal blue and carry the RC decal.

If you didn't order during registration, a limited quantity will be available during our annual Community Day at the Commons Café. This year's date is Saturday, March 12.

Players can also purchase their own as long as it conforms to our standard. RC decals will be supplied.

## Our 2016 Lineup

In 2016, RCBC will feature 18 teams, ranging in age from 8 through 18. We also welcome several new coaches as well as many new players to the organization. Here's our lineup for 2016:

8U Nationals - Joe Rubino  
 9U Nationals - Chris Raimondi  
 10U Americans - Paul Marco  
 10U Nationals - George Quinn  
 11U Nationals - Rob Salafia  
 12U Americans - Sal Pluchino  
 12U Nationals - George Quinn  
 12U Royals - Steve Scarfone  
 13U Americans - Vinnie Pontieri  
 13U Nationals - Gerard Bruzzese  
 14U Americans - Nick Armenia  
 14U Nationals - Mike Grippo  
 14U Royals - Justin Doyle  
 15U Americans - Joe Stauffer  
 15U Nationals - Frank Esposito  
 17U Americans - Frank Amadeo  
 17U Nationals - Nick DeFendis  
 18U Nationals - To Be Announced

Please extend a warm welcome to the new coaches, players and their families. Just more examples of why Richmond County Baseball is the place to be!



## RCBC Communication Channels

Welcome to the 2016 season of the Richmond County Baseball Club, the finest developmental and competitive youth baseball program in the area. You are part of an elite group of players and families, and an 11 year tradition of teamwork, sportsmanship and excellence on the ball field. Here are all the ways you can stay in touch with what's going on in our program.

**Email** - Emails are sent out to members via our vendor Constant Contact to communicate announcements and upcoming events. Please make sure we have your correct email address. If you want to add an additional email address, contact [jim@rcbclub.com](mailto:jim@rcbclub.com).

**Our websites** - bookmark and check regularly

- Richmond County Baseball Club - [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)
- Richmond County Tournaments - [www.rctournaments.com](http://www.rctournaments.com)
- Richmond County Patriot League - [www.rcpatriotleague.com](http://www.rcpatriotleague.com)
- Richmond County Showcase Camps - [www.rcshowcasecamps.com](http://www.rcshowcasecamps.com)

**Our Facebook pages** -

- Richmond County Baseball Club - [www.facebook.com/rcbaseball](http://www.facebook.com/rcbaseball)
- Richmond County Tournaments - [www.facebook.com/rctournaments](http://www.facebook.com/rctournaments)



**RCBC on Instagram** - [www.instagram.com/rcbaseballclub](http://www.instagram.com/rcbaseballclub)



**Coach DeFendis on Twitter** - [www.twitter.com/nickdefendis](http://www.twitter.com/nickdefendis)



**Our monthly Newsletter** - Published each month and emailed to all members and posted on the RCBC website under RCBC In The News.

**Text message alerts** - Important messages sent directly to your cell phone using the *RainedOut* messaging system. To subscribe, text 84483 and enter RCBCINFO in the message field.

Thank you again for your confidence and trust in Richmond County Baseball. We look forward to a great 2016 season.

### **New Uniforms For 2016**

RCBC teams will be sporting new uniforms from Russell Athletic this year. All teams will get a royal blue jersey paired with gray pants. The older teams will also receive a white jersey as well as additional alternate top. The younger teams will also get an alternate jersey. These new uniforms reflect both a stylish and professional look. Wear your RCBC colors proud!





Coach Mike Lopiparo  
College Placement  
Coordinator  
Quality Control Coach

This month's  
baseball quote:

An RCBC Coach  
once said that:

*"This is what America is all  
about - blue sky - green grass  
-and baseball - under the  
sunshine of God."*

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



## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

2016 is here and that means we are a couple of months away from baseball outdoors. I am writing this while almost a couple of feet of snow is piling up in the tri-state area and the only baseball is on the MLB network.

Usually I talk about college recruiting. But I would like to start by talking about high school. RCBC has a large number of players in our lower age division and parents start to think about high school when their son reaches 11 years old. That thinking increases with intensity in each of the next two to three years. It's a decision that has a huge effect on your son's academic and baseball future. High school is the bridge between primary and middle school and college. In baseball, it's the bridge between Little League and early sandlot to eventually college baseball. This is sort of a starting point high school checklist for parents.

The three types of schools you're thinking about are public school, catholic school and private school. The early thinking is how important is academics and how important is baseball to your family. Academics is always more vital, BUT if your son is

an excellent or very good player, you will look at the high school baseball program.

1. You will look at these baseball factors:

Reputation - How good has the program been over the last decade. 10 years is a good gauge. How serious is baseball taken there and how successful has the program been. Have any relatives or good friends' sons gone there. What is their opinion.

Coaching - Does the program have coaches that can help develop players...make them better...get them ready for the next level. Do the freshman and JV coaches get players prepared for varsity. Does the varsity coach get players ready for the college level. Has the school changed the coaches, especially varsity. Has the change helped or hurt the program's success.

College Reputation - Do college baseball recruiters go to that high school to get players on a regular basis. At St. Francis College where I recruited, I would go back to high schools that had given me good players in previous years.

Schedule - If you're a good player, make sure the high school plays a tough overall schedule.

Check to see what former players say about their experience there.

### **Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts (continued)**

2. Academics - Of course, academics are important. But I think most high schools offer excellent to OK academics. It's good to look for high schools that offer plenty of college credit courses. Your son can enter college with 9 to 18 college credits. That can save you money. Choose a high school that your son can handle. A high school baseball program gets college academic money for good grades. It is a big part of the baseball recruiting process since less athletic scholarships are given in baseball than in football or basketball. You like your son to be challenged, but not to the point where his grade average suffers greatly or he fails enough classes to be ineligible to play. Make sure your son can handle an honors program.

3. Money - Public schools are free. Catholic and Private schools aren't. You need to see what your son can get from the high academically or financial aid. This is a decision each family needs to make...BUT it's important you stay on top of your son's grades throughout the primary and middle school levels. Reading is important. To me, reading is the most important subject because if you can't understand, you won't do well in many subjects!!! Good grades and excellent entrance exam marks can mean money at the next level. If your son doesn't read well, it can cost him. Check carefully what his reading score is throughout his school years.

4. Friends - This can be an issue. Some parents don't want their son with his friends. Sometimes your son demands it. You can make a case both ways. You don't want your son to NOT go to a solid baseball and/or academic school simply because his friends are going elsewhere. Remember, high school is a bridge and on the other side of that bridge is college and you don't want your son to lose an excellent opportunity. On the other hand, I wouldn't keep my son away from his friends if the ONLY reason is to keep him from his friends. Think this one through.

Finally, playing at RCBC takes pressure off the decision. Why???? Because our organization does EVERYTHING possible to get your son recruited. Wherever your son plays in high school, if he plays summer ball at Richmond County, we will showcase his skills through practices and numerous tournaments where a load of college recruiters attend. Plus, the RCBC college contacts and the RCBC success rate at sending recruits to play college baseball give us the upper hand in contacting recruiters to see our stars play!

I'm sure I have left things out in the high school decision making process. But this is a starting point. In fact, if any parents think I left anything out, or anyone has any comments on what I wrote, please email me at [mikelope19@aol.com](mailto:mikelope19@aol.com)

## Show Your Support For NYC Councilman (50th District, SI) STEVEN MATTEO



Councilman Matteo has been a huge supporter of youth baseball on Staten Island and has sponsored many initiatives to help increase participation in and improve the enjoyment of the game.

I will be hosting a special fundraiser to assist Councilman Matteo with his upcoming re-election campaign.

Please join me for a cocktail reception on Tuesday, March 8 between 6-8 pm at Max's Esca Restaurant, 1559 Richmond Road

Suggested minimum donation if attending is \$100-\$175

If you cannot attend and wish to contribute, please make your check payable to "Matteo 2017" and mail to my attention, 98 Tanglewood Drive, Staten Island, NY 10308. Complete the form on the next page and include with your check.

Thanks for your support. Coach DeFendis

"Contributions are not tax deductible for income tax purposes. State law prohibits making a contribution in someone else's name, reimbursing someone for a contribution made in your name, being reimbursed for a contribution made in your name, or claiming to have made a contribution when a loan is made. Maximum permissible contribution is \$2,750. NYC Campaign Finance rules do not permit corporate, partnership or LLC checks. Donations will be matched 6-1, up to \$175."



**Contribution Card**  
**Matteo 2017**

For Committee Use Only

Statement #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Transaction ID: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please Make Checks Payable to: Matteo 2017***

☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Cash in the Amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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I understand that State law requires that a contribution be in my name and be from my own funds. I hereby affirm that this contribution is being made from my personal funds, is not being reimbursed in any manner, and is not being made as a loan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contributor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Contribution

Mail To: Matteo 2017  
256 Wardwell Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10314

Maximum Contribution \$2750

Personal checks only please. No Corporation, Partnership or LLC Checks Permitted

If a contributor has business dealings with the City as defined in the Campaign Finance Act, such contributor may contribute only up to \$250 for city council.

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