

January 2018

**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](mailto:jim@rcbclub.com).

Visit our website at:



**Inside this Issue:**

2018 Welcome	1
Communication Channels	2
2018 Lineup	3
Coaches Clinic	4
Rutgers Camp	5
Member Update	6
Coach Lope	7
Marucci Featured Item	8
Sponsor Of The Month	9



# RCBC Newsletter

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

IF YOU LOVE RCBC, WE ARE FAMILY

Happy New Year to all. My traditional start of the year welcome letter. 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 14 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 holding meetings and clinics with our coaches 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.

Coach Nick DeFendis

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

## RCBC Communication Channels

Welcome to the 2018 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 a 14 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

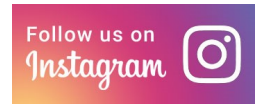
- Richmond County Baseball Club - [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)
- Richmond County Tournaments - [www.rctournaments.com](http://www.rctournaments.com)
- Richmond County Showcase Camps - [www.rcshowcasecamps.com](http://www.rcshowcasecamps.com)

**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/rcbc\\_theclub\\_/](http://www.instagram.com/rcbc_theclub_/)



**RCBC on YouTube**



**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 RCBC2018 in the message field.

Thank you again for your confidence and trust in Richmond County Baseball. We look forward to a great 2018 season.

## New Year Reminders

Your 2018 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.

Uniform orders must be submitted online by January 21.

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

You can purchase an excellent Marucci helmet via our online store at the RCBC member discount price.

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

## Our 2018 Lineup

In 2018, RCBC will feature 16 teams, ranging in age from 8 through 17. We also welcome several new coaches as well as many new players to the organization. Here's our lineup for 2018:

8U Nationals - Vinnie Nichilo  
 9U Americans - Shaun Sarnicola  
 9U Nationals - Joe Rubino  
 10U Americans - Chris Renna  
 10U Nationals - Mike Grippo  
 11U Nationals - Vinnie Pontieri  
 12U Americans - Paul Marco  
 12U Nationals - George Quinn  
 13U Nationals - George Quinn  
 14U Americans - Pete Malvasio  
 14U Nationals - John Giakas  
 15U Americans NJ - Daniel Rivera  
 15U Nationals - Frank Amadeo  
 16U Nationals - Nick DeFendis  
 17U Americans - Joe Stauffer  
 17U Nationals - Justin Doyle

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!



## Baseball Coaches Clinic

Richmond County Baseball sponsored a free baseball coaches clinic at the College of Staten Island last month with over 50 coaches participating from both RCBC as well as from outside the program.

The clinic addressed a number of important topics including practice planning, game strategy, position techniques and coach-player relationships. Guest presenters included Jim Carone (Wagner College), Kevin Leighton (Fordham University), Mike Mauro (CSI), and RCBC and local high school coaches Nick DeFendis (Moore), Mike Grippo (Tottenville) and Mike Hanrahan (Farrell).

“Our goal was to bring the coaching community closer together and share our knowledge of coaching” said Coach DeFendis. “The clinic is a useful tool to educate any coach at any level. The feedback we received validated that it was a productive and worthwhile experience for the coaches that attended.”







## Rutgers University Winter Clinic



Photos from the Rutgers Clinic on January 13 with over 25 participants.  
Another great opportunity for instruction and exposure that RCBC provides.  
Look for additional information regarding the rescheduled 2nd clinic date.



## RCBC Member Update



2018 will be an exciting year with the return of Monsignor Farrell High School Coach Mike Hanrahan to Richmond County Baseball. At RCBC, Mike will be responsible for player development, on-field practice planning and will assist with instruction for our high school age teams. Welcome back Coach Mike.

Congrats again to RCBC Coach Mike Grippo who takes over the Tottenville High School baseball program this year. For RCBC, Coach Grip will be head coach of the 10U Nationals team, assistant coach with the 17U Nationals, and will assist the high school age teams with college placement.



Congrats again to former RCBC standout Zack Granite who made his Major League Baseball debut in 2017, the first player from RCBC to do so. Zack is being honored this month at the annual NY Professional Baseball Hot Stove League dinner where he will receive their Rising Star Award. We look forward to more great things from the "Flash" in 2018.

Congratulations to RCBC and Moore CHS pitcher Marc Guglielmo who received a full scholarship to play Division 2 baseball at LIU Post. Way to go Gugs!





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## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

### In This Issue - Coach Lope Returns

Quote of the Month - Hall of Famer Rogers Hornsby once said "People ask what I do during winter. Well, I just stare out the window and wait for Spring Training!"

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*We are pleased to announce that Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts returns to the Newsletter this month and every month thereafter. Look forward to great information and advice on baseball in general as well as the college recruiting process from one of the great local experts in this field. Welcome back Coach Lope!*

Waiting for spring training. The way January has started, many baseball fans in the northeast are doing the same thing. LOL. Many people know me as Mike Lope. I coach at Xaverian High School. I also coached and recruited at St. Francis College and have worked at RCBC for a decade. And like other coaches, I've worked the summer baseball camps. Last year, I spent the year in the ACBL College League, and did not enjoy it. The league was against us but mostly I missed coaching high school baseball players.

I'm back at RCBC as a College Coordinator and to assist Nick getting our players recruited, and I'll also help in the Quality Control area. RCBC wants its players and parents to get the Top Rate treatment in all areas of the organization. My return will not ease nuclear tensions between President Trump and Kim Jong Un; will not lessen traffic on the Staten Island Expressway; and will not help the Jets reach a Super Bowl for the first time since the Rolling Stones were still young.

However, let's talk about recruiting. More than 200 players from RCBC have been recruited to colleges. Many excelled on the next level....some didn't, but the important thing for parents to know is RCBC commits a full effort to get your son recruited to a college that fits his playing ability and/or a school that meets his academic goals. This is done through developmental coaching, a large selection of tournaments well attended by college recruiters, numerous contacts that we have, and plenty of phone calls. We thoroughly get to know your son and his abilities. More than 60 players from RCBC have been recruited to Division 1 baseball at 26 different D1 colleges. The local schools have benefited. Good Division 2 schools and a Division 3 conference such as the NJAC that plays D1 caliber ball have grabbed RCBC players.

I will be telling you more about the recruiting process as time goes on. Feel free to email me anytime!!!!  
mikelope19@aol.com



# Marucci Featured Item

## Specialty Wood Bats

Available in your favorite colors

Marucci - The # 1 bat in Major League Baseball



The Clipper



The Cougar



The Eagle



The Falcon



The Lion



The Maverick



The Panther



The Pirate



The Raider



The Seagull



The Viking



The Warrior

Choose from 6 different pro models, 8 length options,  
7 weight options and personalized with your name.

Order yours now for the coming season.

Exclusively on the Marucci Online Store  
at [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com).



## Sponsor Of The Month

### DiBona & Scamardella Dental Studio



“You talk about putting a smile on someone’s face. That’s exactly what Dr. Scamardella and Dr. DiBona have done for me. After years of concern about cost and pain, I finally pulled the plug and decided to take care of my teeth.

I found Mark and Karen to be very professional and the people that help run their office are the friendliest staff I’ve ever experienced. They have the latest version of dental technology equipment and their methods are pain free. I high recommend you consider my friends Mark and Karen for your dental care and let them put a smile on your face”

- Coach Nick DeFendis

**Complete Dental Care You Can Trust**  
**646 Willowbrook Road, Staten Island, NY 10314**  
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