

November 2019

**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)

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# RCBC Newsletter

## RCBC Extends Relationship With Marucci

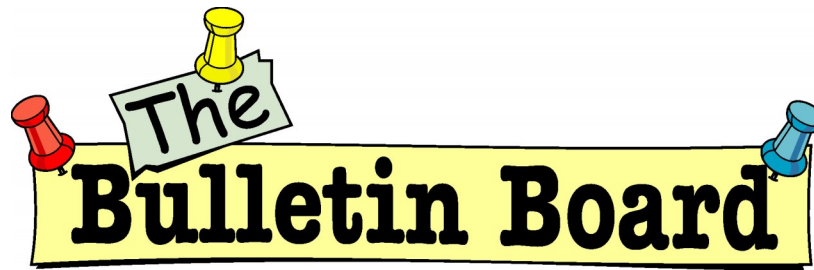
RCBC and Marucci Sports formally announced that they were extending the partnership between the two organizations.

“The Richmond County Baseball Club is excited to extend our relationship with Marucci Sports and continue as a member of their exclusive Founders Club.” said Executive Director Nick DeFendis. “The relationship provides our program with great Marucci uniforms, apparel and equipment as well as the opportunity to participate in special events like the Marucci World Series. We look forward to this partnership for many years to come.”

“We are thrilled to continue our relationship with RCBC” said Vice President of Marucci Team Sales Kyle Achord. “They have a great group of people who care about their organization’s players. RCBC has also built a strong tournament platform by running outstanding events in NY and the Northeast. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue working with RCBC.”



**marucci**  
OFFICIAL PARTNER

A graphic of a yellow bulletin board with a black border. The words "The Bulletin Board" are written on it in a bold, black, serif font. "The" is on a small, tilted piece of paper pinned to the top left with a yellow pushpin. "Bulletin Board" is on the main board, pinned to the top left with a red pushpin and to the top right with a blue pushpin.

## The Bulletin Board

- We announced the launch of the new Marucci Locker Room online store, replacing the Order My Gear (OMG) site. The new store will provide a better user experience and faster turnaround. Check out some great stocking stuffer ideas on page 16.
- For any interested players who missed the 7U-12U fall tryouts, submit the Registration Interest form on the RCBC website. We'll let you know when any additional tryouts for spring 2020 are scheduled.
- The Rutgers University Clinic for ages 13U-17U is scheduled for November 30 (see details on page 8).
- Tryouts for ages 13U-17U for both NY and NJ teams are scheduled for November 30 (see details on page 9).
- Our annual Winter Workouts at the College of Staten Island for ages 7U-12U start in January (see details on page 10).
- This month, we salute our 2019 college commits (see Coach Lope's article on pages 13-15).

## Tournament Update



We announced our 2020 spring/summer tournament schedule this month, featuring PG Super 25 Regional Qualifiers and PG sanctioned tournaments hosted by both RCBC and the PG National Office. 2020 PG events will all feature *DiamondKast* which provides live game scoring and data and statistics integration within the PG team and player profiles. We are also planning a number of RCBC-sponsored events.

Visit [www.rctournaments.com](http://www.rctournaments.com) for more information on our events and our 2020 schedule.

Following are the 2020 age guidelines for tournament eligibility.

2020 SPRING/SUMMER AGE CHART													
Date of Birth	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
January	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	
February	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	
March	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	
April	7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U	
May		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
June		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
July		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
August		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
September		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
October		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
November		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U
December		7U	8U	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U	15U	16U	17U	18U

## National Letter Of Intent (NLI) Signing Day For RCBC Members



Mark Scamardella  
Bryant University



Lukas Torres  
Wagner College



## National Letter Of Intent (NLI) Signing Day For RCBC Members



Michael Ragona  
St. Thomas Aquinas

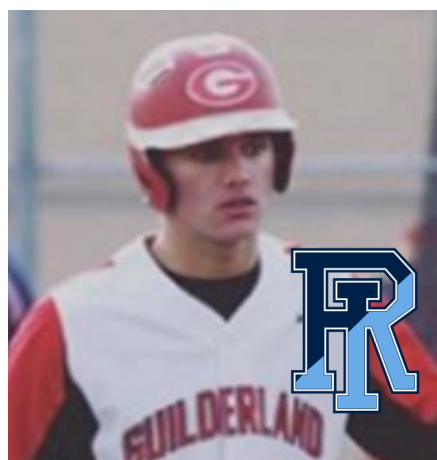


Dominick Ruisi  
College of Staten Island

## RCBC College Commits During 2019



Anthony Manisero  
Matthew Gonchar  
Molloy College



Brenden Harris  
Rhode Island



Jackson Tucker  
St. Johns



Vincent Nichilo  
Pace



Jake Babuschak  
Sacred Heart  
Anthony Esposito  
FDU





## **RCBC Member Update**

Welcome home Zack!  
Best of luck with the Yankees



**BREAKING NEWS**

**YANKEES SIGN OF ZACK GRANITE  
TO A MINOR LEAGUE DEAL AND  
WILL BRING HIM TO SPRING  
TRAINING WITH A CHANCE TO MAKE  
THE BIG LEAGUE TEAM.**

## **Rutgers Clinic**



### **Rutgers Instructional Camp Special Offer for RCBC Members 13U-17U**

**Saturday, November 30, 2019  
9 am to 12 pm**

**Work out with the Rutgers University baseball coaching staff on their New Jersey campus. Meet new Rutgers Head Coach Steve Owens who, via his relationship with Coach DeFendis, is excited to see the talent RCBC has to offer. Don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity to train with and get exposure to a Big 10 school.**



**Limited spots available - only \$55 per player**

**Register at [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)**



## NY And NJ Team Tryouts Announced For 13U-17U



**BIG**

### Richmond County Baseball Club Announces Tryouts For 13U-17U at Rutgers Instructional Camp

**Saturday, November 30, 2019  
9 am to 12 pm**

**An exclusive opportunity to tryout for the elite  
RCBC baseball program and also work out with  
the Rutgers University baseball coaching staff  
on their New Jersey campus.**

**Join the # 1 competitive travel and player  
development organization in the area.**

**Train with and get exposure to a Big 10 school.**



**RCBC alumnus  
Dan DiGeorgio**

**Only \$55 per player**

**Register at  
[www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)**



**RCBC Alumnus  
Gus Sosa**

## Winter Workouts At CSI For 7U-12U



### Richmond County Baseball WINTER WORKOUTS Ages 7U-12U

**Only \$220 per player for 7 weeks of instruction.**

**Get a head start on the 2020 season with our professionally-run workouts where we offer the most in-depth instruction and baseball skills training.**

**All sessions will be held at the College Of Staten Island (CSI) Sports & Recreation Center, 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314.**

**All sessions  
will be from  
1:30 pm to 4 pm  
on the following  
Sunday dates**

#### Dates

**January 5  
January 12  
January 26  
February 2  
February 9  
February 16  
February 23**

**Register at [www.rcbclub.com](http://www.rcbclub.com)**

**All participants will receive a complementary tee shirt. Include your shirt size when registering.**

## 5 Tool Winter Camp For 6U-8U



# 5 TOOL WINTER CAMP



Learn the fundamentals of fielding, catching, throwing and hitting in a fun, positive environment. Classes are designed to transition young athletes to adjust to kid pitch style baseball.

### ***We will teach:***

**STRIKE ZONE   PITCH RECOGNITION   FOOT WORK   GLOVE WORK**

★ Ages 6-8 ★  
All skill levels  
Sunday 11:00-12:15  
Begins December 1



Players Receive 5 Weeks of Instruction  
75min Weekly  
Max Participants 12  
\$250.00 Per Player

[www.my5toolbaseball.com](http://www.my5toolbaseball.com)  
718-344-8118



## **Featured Article — By Coach Nick DeFendis**

### ***The Line-Up Card***

Take control over who controls the power of the pen!!!

Players, you all know that feeling when you're walking up to the line-up card...unsure whether or not you're playing...

Parents, I'm sure you are experiencing a similar feeling before the game...looking to pick up any signs to help you determine whether or not your son is playing...

Either way, I know that walking up to the line-up card and not seeing your name (or not seeing your son running out on the field) really stinks! We've all been there at one time or another so I'm certainly not going to try and convince you that it feels great by any means...

HOWEVER, I am going to challenge you to look at this tragedy differently. You ready?

Imagine thirteen of your best friends are all in one room. Now imagine you need to RANK them from one to nine, so everyone will know how you feel about them! But worse yet, some of them won't even get a ranking! How tough is that? How awkward is that? Is that a good feeling?

No it's not! But that's what coaches have to go through EVERY time they fill out a line-up card (which is often!). It's certainly not easy to rank people, especially ones that you have a relationship with and care about.

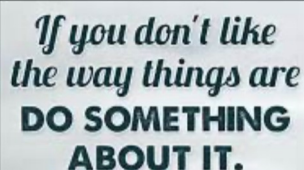
Here's the tough reality...this is LIFE. Not everyone gets to play shortstop. Not everyone gets to hit in the 3 hole. Just like everyone doesn't get to be the boss at work. There are a limited amount of spots at the top in all aspects of life.

So instead of worrying or complaining about it, do something about it! Ask your coach what you need to do to get on that line-up card...then do it!

Either way, coaches aren't out to get you, they just have an unpopular job! Think about ranking your BFFs next time you're ticked about your spot or lack there of on the line-up card.

It's normal to be upset about not playing. I'm not saying don't be a little upset about it in the moment. However, I am challenging you to DO something about it!

Complaining doesn't solve problems. Neither does pointing the finger. Take action. Be accountable for yourself. Change the line-up card. Be obsessed.



*If you don't like  
the way things are*  
**DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT.**



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## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - RCBC's College Bound Class

Quote of the Month - Vince Lombardi once said: *"Sports doesn't build character, it reveals it."*

Richmond County Baseball in 2019 can proudly point to the large number of players who will continue to be student-athletes at the next level. Hard work by our players, coupled with the excellent coaching and recruiting advice they received at RCBC yielded fine results. A number of our high school graduates will be hitting or pitching a baseball next year plus (hopefully) compiling a GPA higher than their batting average or earned run average. Please hold your applause until the end:

BRENDEN HARRIS played for the 17U squad at RCBC. Talk about dedication. Harris would travel from Albany to play for Justin Doyle's team. The shortstop was also the star when Coach DeFendis took his Team Northeast Select squad to the Perfect Game tournament in Jupiter, Florida. Harris has signed to play at the UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, a Division1 program. LUKAS TORRES also played on our 17U team. Last year, the speedy centerfielder verbally agreed to Division 1 WAGNER COLLEGE. Now his signature is on the scholarship for the Staten Island school.

The next player we are proud of is MARK SCAMARDELLA, also a member of the 17 year olds. Mark has signed to play at BRYANT COLLEGE, a Division 1 school in the NEC.



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## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

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(Continued)

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The RCBC Division 1 parade continues with ANTHONY ESPOSITO who played on Coach Dan Rivera's New Jersey squad. Esposito will be playing at FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON, also of the NEC. The star catcher is following in the footsteps of his dad Dean who starred at D1 Wagner almost 30 years ago. JAKE BABUSCHAK also pitched for our New Jersey team. Jake agreed to a scholarship to SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, also an NEC school. And then there is JACKSON TUCKER, the star centerfielder for our 16U team. Yes he is only a junior. But after sorting through a bunch of Division 1 offers, Jackson has verbally agreed to play for ST. JOHNS UNIVERSITY in the Big East Conference.

A number of RCBC players will attend some fine Division 2 colleges!!! MICHAEL RAGONA will play for ST. THOMAS AQUINAS in Rockland County, a very successful program. Ragona is a gold glove centerfielder. Also, heading upstate is VIN NICHILLO. The slick fielding infielder will bring his skills to PACE UNIVERSITY. DOM RUISI will take his blazing fastball to the COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, which has moved to the Division 2 level.





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## Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

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(Continued)

A pair of RCBC players will be heading to Rockville Center and MOLLOY COLLEGE. They are top flight outfielder ANTHONY MANISERO and 2nd baseman MATT GONCHAR, who follows brother Nick who starred at Molloy. Catcher GUS SOSA, who was drafted by the TORONTO BLUE JAYS, decided to take a Division 1 offer from RUTGERS UNIVERSITY of the Big 10. Speaking of the Richmond County Minor League front, three of our players began their Minor League Pro Baseball careers. ANTHONY PRATO batted .270 with a pair of homers for the MINNESOTA TWINS' farm team. The shortstop was a 7th round choice. RICKY DEVITO was chosen by the ATLANTA BRAVES in the 8th round. The hard throwing DeVito was Pitcher Of The Month in August for his farm team. And PAT DEMARCO had to enjoy his season. The centerfielder helped VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY capture the College World Series. Then Pat is taken by the NY YANKEES and plays in front of family and friends at the Ballpark at St. George.

Ending this article on an even better note is ZACK GRANITE, now a YANKEE, who has tasted Major League Baseball with MINNESOTA. This year, with the TEXAS RANGERS' Triple-A Nashville team, the centerfielder and one of the best RCBC players ever, won the team MVP award, batting .290 with 25 stolen bases. A GREAT SEASON FOR RICHMOND COUNTY BASEBALL!!!!

## Marucci Featured Items



Purchase on the Marucci Online Store  
at special RCBC member pricing



## From Our Family To Yours



**Nick, George and the entire RCBC family**