

March 2020

**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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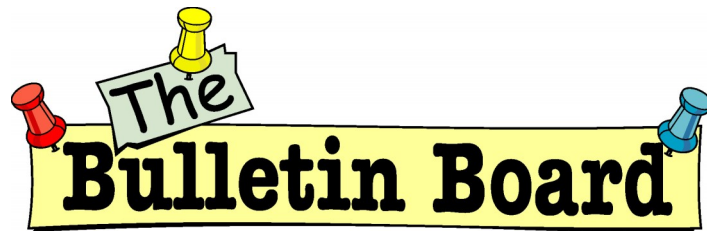
RCBC Newsletter

An Important Message From Coach DeFendis

Due to this unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic, all RCBC baseball activity remains suspended and the RC Complex remains closed until further notice. This includes both indoor and outdoor practices as well as participation in scrimmage, league and tournament games. Please follow the government's guidelines for practicing good hygiene and take all necessary precautions, especially social distancing if you must go out. The safety of our members is our number one priority right now.

I know that not having baseball in the spring feels very weird. I miss the preparation and I miss our players. But I'm hopeful that we'll get back to playing baseball again this season.

So the next time your coach says to you "play like it's the last game you'll ever play," listen to him. You never know! Stay safe everyone.

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 white tag 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

- Zoom RCBC Townhall Meeting Monday, March 30 at 7:30 pm.
- For teams 11U-17U on a payment plan schedule for their Tournament Fees, the next installment is scheduled for April 1. Please continue to make your payments as you can as we are hopeful to be back to baseball soon. If there are any changes in your tournament schedule, adjustments will be made. You can pay by credit card via your LeagueApps account or by check or cash. Checks should be made out to RCBC and mailed to 98 Tanglewood Drive, Staten Island, NY 10308. Do not mail cash.
- Please ensure that you are signed up to receive text message alerts from RCBC. You can do in two easy steps. Go to your LeagueApps account and enter your mobile number, then verify it to "Opt-In." We can't reach you with important announcements or information unless you sign on.
- Follow us on Facebook as we help you pass the idle time with info on MLB players past, baseball movies and online games.
- Send us your home baseball workout videos at 917-299-9211 and we'll post to our social media channels.

2020 Tournament Update

This year's tournament season is scheduled to kick off next month with the Perfect Game Northeast Spring Super Qualifiers on April 17 and April 24, however all spring tournaments are currently on hold. We are optimistic that our full schedule of summer and fall events will take place and tournament baseball will be back in full swing.



This year, all Perfect Game events held at the Richmond County Youth Complex will feature the DiamondKast online scoring system. With DiamondKast, you'll have access to:

- Live play-by-play on any device
- Box scores
- Pitching velocities
- Player and team stats
- Top leaderboards

You can purchase individually by the event (\$15 each) or buy an annual subscription for \$40 which entitles you to all PG events all year long. To sign on, go to www.perfectgame.org.

For more information on our events, visit our Tournament Website at www.rctournaments.com.

RC Complex Upgrades

Although baseball activity is on hold, we're continuing to make improvements to the Richmond County Youth Complex to enhance the playing experience and for spectator safety and comfort. We have completely leveled and reseeded all 5 fields resulting in superior playing surfaces. And we have upgraded all of our field maintenance equipment. Here are some additional items we are installing:



30 new picnic tables



New bleachers with canopies



Foul poles on all fields



New batting cage netting

An Important Message From Coach DeFendis

“What It Means To Be Part Of RCBC”

To RCBC Members: Before the season starts, I want to reiterate what it means to be part of the Richmond County Baseball Club.

As a member of RCBC, players, coaches and parents are expected to represent the organization in a professional manner at all times. This includes player-to-player, player-to-coach and parent-to-coach interactions as well as interactions with umpires, league/tournament officials and opposing teams.

We also expect you to look professional at all times. Although our 2020 jerseys are somewhat similar to prior year's, **ONLY** this year's jerseys should be worn during league or tournament games. This includes this year's hat as well. Too often last year we witnessed players on the field in mis-matched uniforms. For teams needing a third jersey, the alternate white jersey on the Marucci Locker Room is a terrific (and the only) option. Remember too that we have a royal blue batting helmet standard, and each helmet should feature our RC logo. Coaches, I'm counting on you to enforce this.

When it comes to baseball equipment, we strongly encourage you when purchasing items to consider Marucci first via our Locker Room online store, where RCBC members always get a discount.

An Important Message From Coach DeFendis (cont'd)

Communication within the organization is important so please be sure to check your email regularly for updates and announcements. Also, make sure you “opt-in” for text messages via your LeagueApps account. And follow our Facebook page (rcbaseball) and Instagram account (rcbc_theclub_).

We also want to make sure everyone is aware of the time and effort we put into keeping the Richmond County Youth Complex a tremendous place to practice and play. Please clean up your space after watching your son's games and follow the complex's rules regarding gate fees, smoking, pets and outside food.

Finally, it take a significant investment to run a program like ours so please pay your dues and travel expenses on time. We don't like to hassle you for payments, but we cannot tie up the funds needed to maintain the program and complex because we are financing your expenses. For your convenience, LeagueApps offers credit card payment plan options which were never available before.

Coach Quinn and I want to thank you again for being a part of our great organization and we wish you all the best of luck this year.



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Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - Monday, June 29, 2020

Quote of the Month - TV Reporter and Sports Author George Will once said *"Baseball, it is said, is only a game. And if that's true, the Grand Canyon is just a hole in Arizona."*

It's time to Dream. To wipe any Tears...To Smile...The Worst is over...America is rising after a war-type crisis. Hopefully, your family and friends are now healthy. Let's think about the days when Baseball re-enters our life. I feel like Dreaming.

It is Monday, June 29...three months from now. School has ended and Summer has begun. Its 78 degrees with a sun-drenched blue sky. It's 10:30 am as I stroll into the RCBC Complex for an 11 am practice with Nick DeFendis and our 16 year olds. Nick is watering and raking Field 1. And as he usually does, Coach is on the tractor going around in circles like a Merry-Go-Round at 6 Flags.

As I get closer to the Field 1 entrance, I hear another tractor going non-stop. Cutting the grass on Field 4 and eventually Field 2 is George Quinn. As is usually the case, we make quick eye contact and a quicker non-verbal wave.

To my right as I walk in is Field 5 for the younger age groups. A team has already been practicing for an hour in the bright sunshine. I think it's Mike Grippo shouting directives to his 12 year olds with the assistance from the friendly disposition of Ron Graboski.



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Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - Monday, June 29, 2020

(Continued)

As the day progresses, more teams will eventually appear at RCBC to practice or if it's later in the day, perhaps John Giakas' 17 year old group will play a visiting New Jersey team. The variety of discussion between the coaches and their respective teams can be heard as you walk by the field like a stage whisper. Who is playing at Diamond Nation on the weekend; who are the RCBC teams taking part in a tournament at the Complex? Which teams are finalizing details for an upcoming trip that begins usually the Independence week. As the practices intensify, you hear the succession of ringing sounds off the respective bats from the batting cage or even the fields. Whatever, the players are sweating...getting lectured...being taught and having fun. Of course, Jim Russo who coordinates and coordinates arrives in time to field the awaiting barrage of questions and favors that shoot at him like a series of Mike Trout line drives.

I am not an overly religious person. But with the hours of idle time myself and a load of others now have, I truly PRAY that Monday, June 29, 2020 is what I'm dreaming it will be at the Richmond County Baseball Complex!!!!

Marucci Locker Room Featured Item

New Duraspeed 3 Batting Helmet And Jaw Guard



Three layer protection system made up of an impact grade ABS shell, high density absorption foam and contour comfort foam.

Six sleek ventilation portals for increased air flow.

Laminated, moisture-wicking liner and fully wrapped ear pads keep you cool, dry and comfortable.

Satin paint finish.

Pre-drilled 3 holes on either side for the Jaw Extension Guard.

Meets NOCSAE standards and SEI certified.

Duraspeed Jaw Extension Guard

Made of impact grade ABS material and high density and impact absorbing foam for maximum jaw and face protection.

Available in right or left.



Exclusively on the Marucci Locker Room online store at www.rcbclub.com at special RCBC Member pricing



Marucci Locker Room Featured Item

Alternate White Jersey

Perfect for practice or games to complement your RC uniform



Available to RCBC members at a special discount price.

Exclusively on the Marucci Online Store at www.rcbclub.com.

