



Richmond County Baseball Club

2022: The Year In Review

2022 was another outstanding year for the Richmond County Baseball Club and we wanted to take this opportunity to thank our players, parents, coaches, staff members, partners and supporters.

Our biggest news was the recent announcement of our collaboration with PRD Baseball Academy, one of the largest and fastest growing travel baseball programs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. This partnership will help foster our program's growth in NYC, Long Island, Westchester and northern NJ and will enhance our ability to provide additional opportunities for our players in the areas of training, development, college exposure and access to premier national events. Going forward, RCBC teams will be named RCBC Ghost to align the branding of the two organizations.

As we celebrate completion of our 19th year in 2022, the RCBC baseball program continued to thrive as we had over 200 players on 14 teams ranging in age from 7 through 17. We welcomed several new teams and coaches to the program this year, including the 7U Royals and Coach Scott Porto and the 13U Royals and Coach Paul Myers. Several additional teams in various age groups are planned for 2023.

Outstanding play was the order of the day again as we brought home a record 38 tournament championships and reached the championship game in 60 events. Kudos to the 12U/13U Nationals (8 wins, 3 runner up), 10U/11U Nationals (8 wins, 1 runner up), 14U/15U Nationals (5 wins, 4 runner up), 12U/13U Americans (5 wins, 2 runner up) and 7U/8U Nationals (3 wins, 3 runner up) who led the way. Since 2014, RCBC teams have won 266 championships and reached the championship game in over 420 events. No one gets to more championship games than RCBC. Congratulations go out to all of our teams for their excellent play.

Our 14U Nationals were ranked # 9 in the Mid-Atlantic Region and # 96 in the Nation by Perfect Game, the nation's largest tournament venue. In addition, our 17U Nationals, 12U Americans and 10U Nationals all received Honorable Mention in both the Mid-Atlantic Region and Nationally. This was the 7th consecutive year we've had teams ranked by PG. And we had 20 players recognized by Perfect Game in their year-end state and national rankings as well as 10 players named to the Perfect

Game/Rawlings All American teams. Two RCBC players were also selected to represent Team Northeast in the PG All-State Games Championship in Georgia.

The number of players who have gone on to play at the collegiate level continues to grow, having earned millions of dollars in scholarship money. This year, we celebrated with Rob Rispoli (University of Connecticut), Kasey Gilman (Princeton University), Joseph Mennella (Hofstra University), Tomas Cestero (Seton Hall University), Anthony Marsillo (Molloy College), Michael Palermo (College of Staten Island), Owen Callahan (Ithaca College) and Andrew DeAngelis (Post University) on their commitments.

Our alumni continue to shine on the big stage with two players (Gus Sosa, Carlos Torres) selected in the 2022 MLB Draft. And former standout Danny DiGeorgio, in his final season at Rutgers, earned All Big 10 and 3rd Team All American honors as well as being a finalist for the Brooks Wallace Award given to the top college shortstop.

In 2022, we hosted 75 tournaments at the RC complex and surrounding Little Leagues, providing convenient and economical play for our teams, against some of the best competition from NYC, Long Island, New Jersey and beyond. We continued our partnership with Perfect Game, hosting a large number of sanctioned events for them along with the prestigious Northeast Super Qualifier tournament for the 9th year in a row. The RC Complex was also the host site for the PG Northeast Showcase and PG Northeast State Games. With the number of teams traveling to Staten Island for our events, we continue to provide significant economic benefit to local stores, restaurants and hotels.

We continued our partnership with Marucci Sports as a valuable member of their exclusive Franchise Club. In addition to supplying us with outstanding uniforms, this partnership affords our members great discounts on Marucci gear and apparel. Products from Victus and Lizard Skins are now a permanent part of our Locker Room online store. RCBC Management attended the 5th annual Franchise Club Summit where we provided input on future Marucci products and apparel. Our 17U Nationals also participated in the invite-only Marucci World Series in Baton Rouge, Louisiana which gets bigger and more prestigious each year. Our local boys showed their stuff, once again advancing to the playoffs and defeating a tough Marucci Elite Texas squad.

We hosted our 10th annual College Showcase Camp, giving our players direct access to some of the best colleges in the area. This year, we had almost 100 players and 20+ outstanding schools in attendance. We integrated SportsRecruits, one of the nation's largest college recruiting platforms, into our recruiting process, allowing our high school age players to share their profiles and videos directly with college coaches at all levels throughout the country. And we recently announced a new Showcase experience called The Pipeline with events scheduled for June and August 2023.

We also continued to provide opportunities for players to advance their development during the off-season, hosting our annual Winter Workouts as well as partnering with Big 10 Rutgers University and Big East Seton Hall University for on-campus clinics.

Our elite coaching staff is second to none. With a coaching presence in a number of local public and private high schools, we provide continuity in the development of our players across high school and summer travel baseball. Our staff now includes high school coaches from St. Joseph By The Sea, Tottenville, Moore Catholic, Xaverian, Monsignor Farrell and now Westfield (NJ). In addition, Coach DeFendis continued in his role as an Associate Scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates which allows him to introduce local talent to that organization.

Coach DeFendis once again coached the PG Team Northeast squad which competed in the Perfect Game WWBA World Championship in Jupiter, Florida. This tournament-based team allows our top players as well as elite players from throughout the region to compete against the nation's top talent. All eyes are on these players as this event is flooded with coaches, scouts and recruiters from colleges as well as MLB. Five RCBC players were represented on the Team Northeast squad this year. RCBC was also well represented on the Monsignor Farrell HS varsity squad that made it to the NYC Championship and Coach Quinn led the St. Joseph By The Sea HS Junior Varsity squad, featuring a large number of RCBC players, to their 3rd City Championship under him.

We continued to make upgrades to the Richmond County Youth Complex to provide players and spectators with a better experience. Many areas of the complex received a fresh paint update prior to the season. A new 35 foot flagpole was also installed, proudly displaying the Stars and Stripes above the Complex. And we just completed installation of a new infield on field 1 which included re-leveling and new sod. It's now one of the finest grass infields in the northeast.

The RCBC website has now recorded over 440,000 visits and our social media reach includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and an RCBC You Tube channel. RCBC's Instagram now has almost 3,000 followers. We also continued to publish our monthly Newsletter, providing another vehicle to showcase our accomplishments.

And, as always, we continued our support for the community with our involvement with a number of local programs, fundraisers and businesses. We also hosted the first ever Jerry Lee Memorial High School tournament at the RC Complex, honoring the legacy of the long-time Staten Island Advance scribe and youth baseball enthusiast.

We have a number of exciting activities planned for next year so stay tuned. 2023 is right around the corner! We want to wish you all a very happy holiday season and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Here's looking forward to another great season in 2023!

Nick and George

