

Volume 23-2

February 2023

**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

In This Issue:

Social Media	1
Bulletin Board	2
Coach DeFendis	3
Coach Lope	4-5
Ghost	6
Invitational	
PG Rankings	7-8
PG Showcases	9-10
Franchise Club	11
Custom Bats	12
Marucci	13-14
Featured Items	

RCBC GHOST



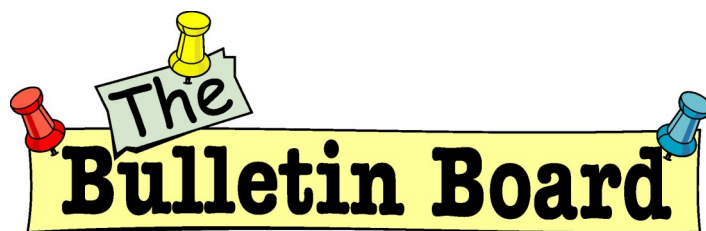
Monthly Newsletter

RCBC On Social Media



As the 2023 season is about to kick off, we want to remind all of our coaches, players and parents to take advantage of our social media channels to highlight our teams and our players. We have set up a special “in-box” for members to directly share their info, pictures and videos. These can include workouts, game action, rankings, awards and other achievements throughout the year. Parents/players can send to us at media@rcbclub.com or DM the RCBC Instagram account at [rcbc_theclub](https://www.instagram.com/rcbc_theclub). Please include the player’s name, RCBC team, Instagram @ tag and a brief description of the activity.

While our objective is to promote as much about our players as possible, please understand that not everything you submit will automatically be selected for publication.

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 yellow board, pinned to the top left with a red pushpin and to the top right with a blue pushpin.

The Bulletin Board

- Reminder for those teams for which we collect tournament fees that your first installment is due March 1. Payment can be made by credit card via your LeagueApps account, by check made out to RCBC, by cash or by Venmo to Nicholas-DEFENDIS. You can set up your LeagueApps account for automatic cc payment on the due dates via our payment plan option.
- Player package items have started to arrive and you should be receiving your jerseys soon. Please check right away to ensure you received all the correct sizes. If there are any issues with your order, please contact our Marucci customer service rep Maddie at teamsales@maruccisports.com.
- Reminder to keep your SportsRecruits profiles updated and start to add video and metrics as your high school season begins. Keep your academic data and test scores updated as well.
- The list of colleges coming to our June Pipeline Showcase continues to grow. St. Johns, Rutgers, Seton Hall, Villanova, Delaware, Stony Brook and NJIT are among the D1 schools attending in addition to many D2 and D3 programs. Look for updates on the Pipeline Instagram account.
- Some of our younger teams begin tournament play next month. Let's wish them the best of luck as we strive to achieve another record year of RCBC championships.

What It Means To Be Part Of RCBC Ghost

By Coach DeFendis

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 Ghost, 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.

Communication within the organization is important so please be sure to check your email regularly for updates and announcements. Also, make sure you “optin” 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. It takes 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 tournament fees. Payment plan options are available via your LeagueApps account. We also expect you to look professional at all times. Wear your new Marucci uniforms proudly. A reminder that members cannot design, buy or sell any RCBC-logo apparel independent of our Marucci Locker Room store. For teams wishing to have a third jersey, the alternate white jersey in the Locker Room is a terrific (and 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. 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.



mikelope19@aol.com

Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - Major League Baseball 2023: New Rules

Quote of the Month - NY Yankee great Lou Gehrig's advice to team captains: *"Lead by example!"*

The biggest complaint about MLB, especially by teens and younger adults, "It's boring, compared to the NFL, NBA and NHL." Old fogies like me like baseball, of course. My generation has a half century relationship with the game, dating back to trying to find a Mickey Mantle baseball card. However, that has changed as MLB popularity falls way behind the NFL in all age Americans and the NBA with the younger Americans.

Partly to blame is baseball's inability to market its stars like other sports do. Mike Trout is considered one of the sport's superstars, but he is basically invisible. But a big problem is baseball has become boring. Many MLB games are 3 1/2 hours, an exercise in boredom. Lots of strikeouts and idle time. I don't know about you, but I would rather watch a high school, RCBC, Little League or college game over a Major League game. MLB television ratings are as microscopic as ever.

MLB executives have finally tried to attack the problem by putting THREE NEW RULE CHANGES into effect. What is your opinion?

PITCH TIMER: Pitchers will have just 15 seconds between pitches with the bases empty. With at least one runner aboard, the pitcher gets 5 more seconds (20) to release the ball. A pitcher may disengage the rubber twice per plate appearance. A batter receives just one timeout during the at-bat.



mikelope19@aol.com

Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - Major League Baseball 2023:
New Rules

(Continued)

DEFENSIVE SHIFT RESTRICTIONS: This has been an ongoing debate. Of course, if batters would hit to the opposite field, the shift would be ruined. But God forbid MLB players learn to hit. Two fielders **MUST** be positioned on each side of 2nd base when the pitch is delivered. All four infielders must have both feet in front of the grass on delivery. There cannot be a four outfield alignment.

BIGGER BASES: I've actually wanted to see this at the younger levels. It was always a worry that a runner could injure the first baseman, especially by stepping on his ankle. Anyway, the size of the bases will increase from a 15 inch square to an 18 inch square. The bigger bases are expected to reduce injuries and increase stolen base attempts in hopes of more excitement. Plus only two pickoff throws allowed in hope of keeping things moving.

The new rules were tested in the minor leagues. The result, a 26 minute reduction in games. Good, but not great. But it's a start.

One thing that disturbed me was a statement that claimed Dave Kingman (MLB 1971-1986) represented the modern baseball player: .235 batting average...35 homers...81 RBIs and 160 strikeouts. Ugh, that would make anyone want to start making changes.

RCBC/PRD To Host Ghost Invitational Tournament



RCBC and PRD will kick off the tournament season with a special tournament at the Richmond County Youth Complex on April 7-8 titled the Ghost Invitational. This exclusive event for RCBC and PRD will feature teams in ages 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U

as we celebrate the partnership between our two organizations.

Marucci will be on hand for a Demo Day to allow players to try out some of their new equipment.

The event will also serve as a tribute to our colleague Anthony Sutter who passed away earlier this year. A special ceremony and dedication will take place at 10 am on Friday, April 7. All fans are encouraged to attend to support the event (there will be NO gate fees). Tournament tee shirts will be available for purchase with proceeds benefitting the Sutter family.



12 RCBC Players Named In PG Class Of 2023 Rankings



In the recently released updated Perfect Game Class of 2023 Rankings, RCBC scored with 12 players from our 17U Nationals making the list.

Congratulations boys!

Robert Rispoli	NY Rank 44	National Rank Top 500
Kasey Gilman	NY Rank 60	National Rank Top 500
Joseph Mennella	NY Rank 112	National Rank Top 1000
Michael Palermo	NY Rank 123	National Rank Top 1000
Andrew DeAngelis	NY Rank 145	National Rank Top 1000
Anthony Marsillo	NY Rank 242	National Rank High Follow
Nicholas Silvestro	NY Rank 270	National Rank High Follow
Joseph Gaggi	NY Rank Follow	National Rank Follow
Christian Ganim	NY Rank Follow	National Rank Follow
Aaron Goldstein	NY Rank Follow	National Rank Follow
John Papagni	NY Rank Follow	National Rank Follow
Michael Sutter	NY Rank Follow	National Rank Follow

PC CLASS OF 24 RANKINGS

Tomas Cestero	NJ Rank 50	National Rank Top 500
Joseph Dionisio	NJ Rank 85	National Rank Top 1000
Anthony Salmonese	NY Rank 95	National Rank High Follow
Nick Runfola	NY Rank 124	National Rank High Follow
Dylan Swanson	NY Rank 153	National Rank High Follow





 Jake Alfano NJ Rank Follow National Rank Follow

 Nicholas Zarski NY Rank Follow National Rank Follow



Anthony Molinini

NY Rank 12

National Rank Top 1000

Congratulations to all.

RCBC Players Named Top Prospects At PG Showcases



Congratulations to the following RCBC players who were named Top Prospects at the PG Indoor Showcases held in February. The following evaluations were provided by the PG Scouts.

Leo Doyle (2024, OF)

Doyle has added notable strength since our last look and certainly showed it off in multiple ways during the event. He recorded a 7.17 second sixty-yard dash time, produced accurate throws up to 88 mph during drills and showed his strength by producing a 91 mph exit velocity. Offensively, he offers an intriguing overall hit tool with sound barrel skills and even more power potential with the added strength.

Peter Fopeano (2024, 3B)

Fopeano ran a 4.84 sixty and showed nice athletic actions on the left side of the infield. He swung the bat very well in game action and lined a couple of firm base hits with an all fields approach.

RCBC Players Named Top Prospects At PG Showcases



Jake Giovannone (2024, C)

Giovannone aced the catching drill, using a quick exchange and release that he repeated very well to make very accurate and strong throws. His right-handed swing was short with lots of hard mid infield barrel contact.

Dylan Swanson (2024, SS/P)

What Swanson lacks in size at 5-8/150 he makes up for in twitchy athleticism. He's a very polished second baseman with all the actions and surprised a bit on the mound with an 83 mph fastball to go with a sharp low 70's curveball and strikes with both pitches.

Anthony Molinini (2026, SS)

Molinini is a very polished player both offensively and defensively for a freshman and is a very good bet to keep improving as he matures. Along with his middle infield skills, the most impressive part of his game was that he is a switch-hitter with real bat speed and barrel skills from both sides of the plate.

Marucci Franchise Club Meeting



RCBC attended the 6th annual Marucci Franchise Club Summit in Baton Rouge, Louisiana this month. Representatives from all of the Franchise Club



organizations from throughout the county attend this annual event to get an advance look and provide input into Marucci's new products and apparel. The group also shares ideas on

how their programs operate and how to best utilize the relationship with Marucci. "It's always great to meet face-to-face with our colleagues at Marucci as well as our fellow Franchise Club members," said RCBC's Jim Russo who attended the meeting. Look for some exciting new products coming out from Marucci, Victus and Lizard Skins later this season.

RCBC's Jim Russo along with our Marucci Sales Rep Bradley Behrnes (left) and Marucci's VP of Team Sales Kyle Achord (right).



RCBC Custom Marucci Bats

RCBC position players on teams 15U Americans, 15U Nationals, 16U Nationals and 17U Nationals will soon be receiving their custom Marucci bats. Our teams will be swinging the #1 bat in MLB while now proudly displaying our colors and branding this season.



Marucci Featured Item

RCBC Ghost Logo Performance Shirts

Now available in both royal blue and black. Look for them under the Uniform Items section (with numbers for players) and RCBC Custom Fan Apparel section (without numbers for fans) in the Locker Room.



For all your equipment needs, visit our Marucci Locker Room online store where RCBC members always get a discount.



Marucci Featured Item

February Deal Of The Month



50% OFF BATTING GLOVES

A close-up photo of a person's hands wearing white Marucci batting gloves with blue accents. They are holding a baseball bat. The background is blurred.

YOUR GAME IS ONLY AS GOOD AS YOUR CONTROL.

SAVE NOW ON THE
BREEZE, CREST, MEDALLION,
AND 2020 SIGNATURE BATTING GLOVES.



For all your equipment needs, visit our Marucci Locker Room online store where RCBC members always get a discount.

