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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

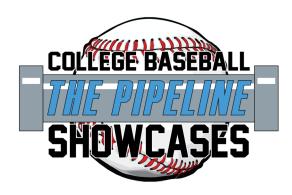
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RCBC GHIST

Monthly Newsletter

Pipeline Showcases Return In 2024



The Pipeline Showcase experience returns in 2024 with two exciting events. The first Showcase will be June 11-12 from 4-8 pm and the two-day full day event will take place August 13-14.

Last year's Showcases featured over 200 players and college coaches from over 35 schools representing D1, D2, D3 and Juco.

This year's Showcases will be even better, with more schools and additional metrics. RCBC players on teams 14U-17U will automatically get access to one of the events so stay tuned for more info.

"To get noticed, you've got to be in the Pipeline!"

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 "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 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. 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.



- Player package items have started to arrive and you should be receiving your jerseys soon. Please check right away to ensure your received all the correct sizes. If there are any issues with your order, please contact Marucci Customer Service at teamsales@maruccisports.com.
- Reminder that tournament fee payments are due based upon your team's payment schedule. For teams 10U-13U, your payments are due in two installments (February 15 and March 15). For teams 14U-17U, your payments are due in three installments (March 15, April 15 and May 15). You can set up your LeagueApps account for automatic credit card payment on the due dates. (Credit card payments will incur a transaction fee.) You can also pay by check (made out to RCBC), Venmo or cash.
- As the 2024 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 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. Please include the player's name, RCBC team, Instagram @ tag and a brief description of the activity. Note: While we strive to promote everyone, not everything submitted will automatically be selected for publication.



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Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - RCBC = 20 Years of Progress and Success

Quote of the Month - "If you build it, he will come." - Ray Kinsella (Field of Dreams)

"If you build it, he will come." Of course, millions of baseball fans remember Ray Kinsella saying that in the spectacular movie Field Of Dreams, starring Kevin Costner in 1989. The baseball field was in a cornfield in Iowa, the heartland of middle America.

Staten Island is not middle America. But it is a heartland of baseball in New York City. The smallest borough in the Big Apple has achieved superstar results in baseball. Its Little League programs advance to the LL World Series. A number of the SI high schools regularly win or challenge for the NYC Championships. Wagner and CSI are excellent college baseball programs.

Twenty years ago, Nick DeFendis built the RCBC baseball complex on Travis Ave., fulfilling his dream of having a baseball-type academy. I still remember visiting Nick when Field 1 was being constructed. Coach was knee-deep in mud, hoping he could get enough dirt to finish what would be his "Field of Dreams." We can now fast-forward two decades later. 2004 is now 2024. Coach DeFendis built it and guess what??? "He" has come. In this case, "He" is "They" have come. RCBC has four fields for the high schoolers and one field for the little leaguers. Thousands of players have worn an RCBC uniform in the two decades of the organization. Thousands of opposing players from all parts of the five boroughs, Long Island, upstate NY, New Jersey and other eastern states have tracked to



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Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - RCBC = 20 Years of Progress and Success (Cont'd)

Travis Ave. to complete in the hundreds of tourneys hosted by RCBC, or simply to play non-tourney contests vs. the large number of Richmond County teams. There is more. Nick is the founder, but when you have a partner with the coaching ability of George Quinn, along with the Quinn acumen off the field, success is assured. The all-around efforts of Jim Russo keep everything together. The collection of coaches, many with high school and college coaching experience, assure parents that their respective sons get first class instruction at RCBC. Also, a salute to the RCBC players over the past 20 years. Over 225 RCBC players have advanced to play college baseball at all the levels. Some have gone even further to compete in minor league ball. And Zack Granite reached the major leagues with another RCBC former star Anthony Prato, a step away. Finally, the RCBC Complex has been the site of numerous CHSAA and PSAL high school regular season and playoff contests at freshman, JV and Varsity levels and the Staten Island Tide won the championship game of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League at the complex. And several charity events have been held there as well.

To sum it up, in its 20 years, RCBC has had a tremendous impact on Staten Island. And...that should continue for many years to come!

2024 RCBC Uniforms Are Arriving



















Congratulations to the following RCBC Ghost players who were acknowledged by Perfect Game in their latest Class of 2024 Rankings.

Tomas Cestero - NJ Rank: 27; National Rank: Top 500

Jack Chavez - NJ Rank: 68; National Rank: Top 500

Joe Dionisio - NJ Rank: 98; National Rank: Top 1000

Leo Doyle - NY Rank: 105; National Rank: Top 1000

Peter Fopeano - NY Rank: 107; National Rank: Top 1000

Jake Giovannone - NY Rank: 108; National Rank: Top 1000

Nick Runfola - NY Rank: 113; National Rank: Top 1000

Anthony Salmonese - NY Rank: 145; National Rank: High Follow

Julian Montez - NJ Rank: 151; National Rank: High Follow

Dylan Swanson - NY Rank: 194; National Rank: High Follow

Michael Flashner - NY Rank: Follow; National Rank: Follow

Tyler Gaetano - NY Rank: Follow; National Rank: Follow

Congratulations to the following RCBC Ghost players who were acknowledged by Perfect Game in their latest Class of 2025 and 2026 Rankings released this month.



Michael Marchese - NY Rank: 11; National Rank: Top 500

Anthony DePetro - NY Rank: 74; National Rank: Top 1000

Kenny Vazquez - NY Rank: 128; National Rank: High Follow

Nick Zarski - NY Rank: Follow; National Rank: Follow



Anthony Molinini - NY Rank: 30; National Rank Top 1000 Christian Gonzalez - NY Rank: Follow, National Rank: Follow Nicholas Pleszewicz - NY Rank: Follow; National Rank: Follow

Congratulations to the following RCBC Ghost players who were acknowledged by Perfect Game in their latest Class of 2027

Rankings released this month.



Gabe Lucca - NY Rank 5; National Rank: 267

Tyler Stern - NY Rank: 10; National Rank 397

Anthony Desposito - NY Rank: 21; National Rank: High Follow

Anthony Tepedino - NY Rank: 31; National Rank: High Follow

Vincent Silecchia - NY Rank: 34; National Rank: High Follow

Anthony Narciso - NJ Rank: Follow; National Rank: Follow



And from the latest Class of 2028 Rankings (11/2023)

Nicholas Bianco - NY Rank 11; National Rank: High Follow

Jackson Tucker had two hits including a home run as St. Johns University defeated the # 2 ranked University of Florida 9-5 in their season opener.



Anthony Manisero was named East Coast Conference Player Of The Week, batting .462 with 10 RBIs in Molloy College's three wins to start the season.



Former RCBC standout pitcher Ricky
DeVito (Texas Rangers organization)
stopped by to get some pre-season work
in with current RCBC catcher
Anthony DePetro prior to heading
off to spring training camp.
Best of luck in AA this year Ricky.





Former RCBC star Anthony Prato is in spring training camp with the Minnesota Twins where's he's played in several games so far, including a start at 3B vs. the Yankees where he lined a double off of Nestor Cortes.

Good luck this year Anthony.

Pace University Camp

18 RCBC players attended a one-day camp hosted by Pace University on their Pleasantville, NY campus. Pace (D2, NE-10 Conference champs) is known for their strong professional preparation and rigorous academics as well as its outstanding



athletic programs. Our boys got a great workout and got to meet Pace's top-notch baseball coaching staff. Their coaches have been regular attendees at our Showcases every year, and 2024's Pipeline events will be no exception. Check out some of the action during the camp.













RCBC Catching Clinic

RCBC hosted a free catching clinic for players ages 8 through 13 at the Mount Loretto indoor facility. 20 young catchers participated and received instruction from RCBC coaches and players including Kevin Rugg, Carmine Jichetti, Ricky and Jake Giovannone, Rob Agnetti, Vin Nichilo, and Joe Sorrentino. Proper development at the early ages is a big part of our program's success.



Is there a future Adley Rutschman or JT Realmuto in our mix? Look for info for another clinic in March.

SportsRecruits Rollout



We have rolled out SportsRecruits to all RCBC players on teams 14U-17U so they can take full advantage of the system over the span of their 4-year high school careers. We now have over 100 student/athletes on the platform. For new players, please get your Player Profile set up,

including picture, bio, athletic and academic info and videos as available. As you go forward, the college search tool and integrated messaging system will be invaluable tools to help you find the right school. Take advantage of their help and training webinars too which can be found via a link on the RCBC website.

Marucci Franchise Club Summit

RCBC Management attended the 8th annual Marucci Franchise Club Summit in 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 a great source of networking, staying informed, sharing ideas and most of all, building relationships with the best people in baseball." said Coach DeFendis who along with Jim Russo attended the meeting. Look for

some exciting new products coming out from Marucci, Victus, Lizard Skins and their latest acquisition Baum later this summer.



RCBC's Marucci sales rep Bradley Behrnes, Jim Russo, Marucci VP of Team Sales Kyle Achord and Coach DeFendis

Marucci Featured Item CAT X PUCK KNOB

Marucci introduces the biggest innovation in metal bats with the CAT X and CAT X CONNECT BBCOR puck knob bats.

These bats will redefine a player's hitting experience.

Now available on our Locker Room online store at special

RCBC Member discount pricing.







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



Marucci Featured Item Victus Vibe Pencil

Victus introduces the new Vibe Pencil bat. How cool is this!
Available in Hybrid BBCOR -3, plus -5, -8, -10, Junior Big Barrel -10, USA Bat -10 and Tee Ball -11. Now available on our Locker Room online store at special RCBC Member discount pricing.



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



Marucci Featured Item CAT X and Victus USA Bats

Gear up for Little League and tournament season. Check out the full lineup of Marucci CAT X and Victus USA Baseball certified bats on our Locker Room online store. CAT X models are available in one piece aluminum and two piece Connect. And Victus offers the cool looking Vibe and brand new Vibe Pencil in USA Bat models.



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

