

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Hudson Valley Renegades 16U

Submitted by Mark Sacchi

The Hudson Valley Renegades 16U team was formed in 2007 from a Little League All Star team in the Middletown-Walkkill area of upstate New York. The team, after going through some transformations, is now made up of fifteen players from Orange County New York. In the past four years the team has won four ECTB-USSA league championships, one New York State championship and was the 2009-2010 ECTB National Champions. They have won five tournaments, were runners-ups in three. The Renegades had impressive playoff appearances at Disney's Salute to Baseball in 2010 and placed second in the 2011 Treasure Coast Presidents Day Challenge in Vero Beach.

The Renegades record is 128 wins, 34 losses and three games tied (.775%).

The Renegades have played teams from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, California, Minnesota, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, and international teams from Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Canada with wins over all three.

With tournament wins in the 2009 Hudson Valley SummerSlam (Pine Bush, NY), 2009 ECTB 4th of July Bash (Mamakating, NY), and the 2009 Columbus Day Bash (Middletown, NY) coupled with an ECTB-USSA Spring and Fall league championship, the Renegades were ranked #1 in points for 2009-2010 in Elite Championship Tournament Baseball (ECTB) and were the National Champions.

A team is only as good as its coaches... and we have some great coaches. They put in their time for the kids and also for the love of the game. Although all of our coaches have sons who play on the team, they treat all the players the same between the lines, with no favoritism. Our coaches deserve all the credit for keeping this team a tight-knit group. The Hudson Valley Renegade Coaches are: Joe Endreson, Ralph Pepe, Randy Joyner, Cliff St. John and Rob (The Animal) Krotje. If it were not for all the hard work and dedication of these men, the team would never be what it is... a national powerhouse.

Our team depends on fundraising to get us to the best tournaments in the country. Our philosophy is "we can go to any tournament, it just takes some hard work." The team and the parents have all put in a significant amount of time and energy to get us there. At this time I would like to thank the parents for believing in the team and the organization's concept - also the many sponsors who have helped including the Hampton Inn Hotels, Courtyard By Marriott Hotels, McDonalds, Sharp, Michelangelo's Restaurant, Stop'N'Shop Supermarkets, Shop Rite Supermarkets, Anaconda Sports and the Tampa Bay Rays.

Our goal as an organization is to get our players to the next level, college, which means placing them in the best tournaments, where they can be scouted by potential college and pro Scouts. As long as we get them to where they want to go, we feel we have done our job as coaches.

During 2011, the Renegades are scheduled to play in many events including tournaments in Rehoboth Beach; Delaware Sports at The Beach; Aberdeen, Maryland at Ripken; Dallas, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Allentown, Pennsylvania; Hackensack, New Jersey; Vero Beach and Cocoa Beach, Florida.



Pat Joyner #17

Pat's positions are center-field, shortstop and pitcher. Pat, who is our leadoff batter, has speed to burn and is one of the faster athletes in the area. He creates havoc whenever he gets on base and is a fantastic, defensive centerfielder. Nothing really gets by him. Pat is a power hitter and also hits for average. It seems like every time you look around he is on base. Pat pitched a one-hitter in the Halloween bash in Allentown PA. Pat is in tenth grade and attends Middletown HS.



Ryan Hutton #2

Ryan's positions are outfield and pitcher. Ryan is a power hitting lefty who has wheels as well. Ryan pitched a no-hitter in February at the Treasure Coast Presidents Day Challenge and is in eleventh grade and attends Pine Bush HS.



Will Pray #20

Will's positions include catcher, first base, and outfield. Will is a good, all around athlete and is solid in the field making great plays look routine at first base. Will is a good opposite field hitter and brings it every time we take the field. Will is in tenth grade and attends Our Lady of Lourdes HS.

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Andrew Krotje #0

Andrew's positions are pitcher, third base and second base. Andrew is a real good all-around player. He is a coaches dream, will play anywhere you want him to play, and will do whatever you ask of him. Andrew has a lot of speed and we can depend on him to swipe a base when he gets on. Andrew is in tenth grade and attends Monticello HS.

Brian Cotto #1

Brian's positions are pitcher and outfield. Brian was injury plagued last season but when he's on the field, he makes things happen. Brian is an original member of The Renegades Team that started in 2007 and is in tenth grade and attends Goshen HS.



Hunter Dolshun #00

Hunter's positions are catcher and third base. He is our #3 hitter and hits for power and average. Hunter has a 1.97 pop time on the throw down to second base. Hunter tried out and made The North Atlantic Region team for the Team USA tryouts in Cary NC. He is in tenth grade and attends Warwick High School.



Khalil Guadalupe #11

Khalil's position is first and third base, and he recently joined our team. Khalil is a power hitter who won a Homerun derby in 2010 and had a great tournament at the Treasure Coast President's Day tournament in Vero Beach Florida. Khalil is in ninth grade and attends Monticello HS.



Jake Kinley #13

Jake plays any infield and outfield positions and is a great utility player. Jake hits for power and has a lot of speed. He is a scholar athlete who is in ninth grade and attends S.S. Seward Institute.



Brian Paccione #15

Brian's positions are first base, third base and pitcher. Brian, who solidified our rotation, is a weapon every time he takes the mound. He has great stuff and is very intimidating to opposing batters and is solid defensively in the field. Brian had great showings in tournaments including Disney's Salute to Baseball International tournament in 2010. Brian is in tenth grade and attends Middletown HS.



Rafael Pasols #5

Rafael's positions are shortstop and second base. Rafael (or Ralph as he likes to go by) is the glue in the middle infield. He plays a tight shortstop and second base with great range. Ralph is our #2 hitter and is in eleventh grade and attends Middletown HS.



DJ Mendenhall #51

DJ's positions are pitcher and first base. DJ is another pitcher in our starting rotation and has great stuff with a nice mixture of pitches opposing batters find him very difficult to hit off. DJ, who can place the ball anywhere on the field, is one of our best

hitters and always a tough out. He is in tenth grade and attends Warwick HS.

Morgan Endreson #22

Morgan's positions are pitcher, first base and second base. Morgan, another member of the original team, is the glue of our team. He is solid anywhere you play him and is in our starting rotation. Morgan was chosen to be listed as a member of the 2007 honor roll of Little League Baseball in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. He is presently a high honor student in eleventh grade and attends Pine Bush High School.



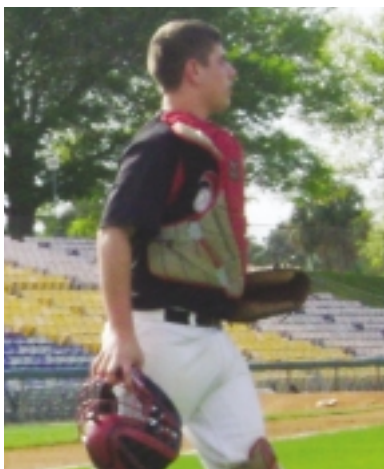
Ryan St. John #62

Ryan's positions are pitcher and third base. Ryan, who is the ace of our staff, simply always puts out a great effort whenever he takes the mound. When Ryan is on the mound, we as a team expect to win. He pitched two complete games at the Treasure Coast Presidents Day Challenge allowing no earned runs and three hits in the two games. Ryan was one of the main reasons we were runner up in the tournament. He is in tenth grade and attends Burke Catholic HS.



Vincenzo Pepe #31

Vincenzo's positions are catcher and second base, Vincenzo, the last of the original team, is a solid part of our team. He works great with our pitches and calls a great game. His bat is always alive and he always has a smile on his face. Vincenzo is in tenth grade and attends Chapel Field Christian HS.



Ash Joyner #4

Ash's positions are Catcher and third base. Ash, who is the youngest on the team, has been a great addition and is a spark plug for the team. He is in ninth grade and attends Middletown HS.