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Constantino's Legends enjoy tremendous growth

Jean DePlacido The Salem News

Dave Costantino struggled to find the right career path after graduating from Endicott College 10 years ago, but in the end he followed his dream and started Legends Baseball. From humble beginnings without a facility and only four travel teams, it has grown in leaps and bounds in just seven years to 16 teams and a great new facility in Middleton.

The former Salem High standout recently added his own baseball league along with online recruiting, and is now expanding to include softball. This summer has been the best ever with six teams winning New England championships, and they will be heading to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to compete in the nationals.

Rusty Tucker (pitching coordinator) coached 10U, Dave Costantino 12U, Eli Munkholm 12U Division 2, Eric Costantino 13U, Mike Costantino 14U, and Ryan Leahy (director of college prospects) 17U NE champs. All of the coaches are from Salem except Tucker, who lives in Gloucester. Former Endicott assistant coach Bryan Lafata is counted on to organize the trips and everything else connected with the program.

“I always knew with our staff and the way we run our baseball program we would be very successful, but never like this,” said Dave Costantino, who is married with two young twin sons. “We added New England Elite Baseball League with 180 teams this year, and Scout Me Online.

“Our success comes from surrounding our program with the best possible coaches and instructors. Adding Melissa Dubai to run our travel and college prospects softball program takes us to the next level. I never expected Legends to get as big as we are now, and I strongly believe in two years our softball program will be where our baseball is now.”

Dave’s right hand man is brother Mike, who also believes the time was right to launch softball because of the number of phone calls they’ve been getting asking when they were going to do softball, too. Dubai, a former star at Boston University, is an assistant coach at Brandeis.

“Melissa is young with lots of energy, and she is a very good teacher of the game,” said Mike Costantino, who is the travel program director. We will hold tryouts in August and start training in November. Watching my two younger brothers coach and knowing I had so much to do with their success puts a smile on my face. It seems like only yesterday when I was coaching Dave at Endicott. He has put a lot of time in over the past seven years, and I am very proud of what he has accomplished. All three of us are very passionate about baseball, and I feel like we have put together the best possible program.

“After our games we sit down and go over each play to make sure we are all on the same page. Adding Tucker and Leahy, two former pro players, has helped our training in the offseason. And it paid off with the six New England champions.”