



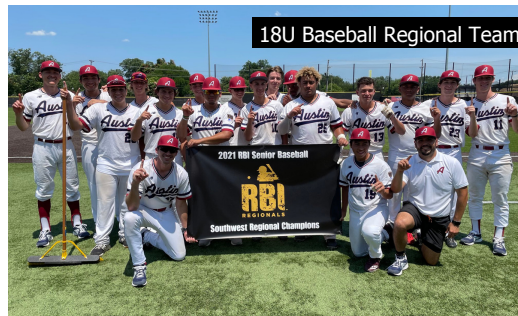
# Newsletter

## 2021 RBI Southwest Regional Recap

This July, RBI Austin attended Major League Baseball's RBI Southwest Regional Baseball and Softball Tournament at the Texas Rangers MLB Youth Academy at Mercy Street Sports Complex in West Dallas.

Teams from four organizations across the Southwest Region, including Houston Astros RBI, New Orleans RBI, Texas Rangers RBI, and RBI Austin, competed for the opportunity to earn an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2021 MLB RBI World Series in Vero Beach, Florida.

The Regional included 15U Baseball, 18U Baseball, and 18U Softball. All three RBI Austin teams represented Austin with



18U Baseball Regional Team

class and had an unforgettable experience at the Regional.

15U pitchers Pedro Taveras and Sion Benjamin led the way on the mound for RBI Austin, while Darius Stewart and Mathew Cedillo were the top performing hitters for the 15U team in Dallas, who was eliminated in pool play.

Softball pitcher Lori Duran Castillo led RBI Austin's softball team in the circle, Mia Gomez led the team defensively, and Anlycia Herrera was the top hitter for the Softball team, who was eliminated in pool play after a 4-1 loss to Texas Rangers RBI.

The biggest story in Dallas though was RBI Austin's 18U Baseball team. The 18U team went undefeated in pool play by defeating New Orleans RBI 11-7, Houston Astros RBI 7-6, and Texas Rangers RBI 6-1, earning a spot in Sunday's 18U Regional championship game.

This year's championship game was unlike

any other. After the game went to extra innings, Houston scored two runs in the top of the 9th to take a 5-3 lead and put RBI Austin on the brink of elimination.

But RBI Austin wasn't done yet. Greg Aguirre led off the bottom of the 9th with a single. Justin Strong and Mateo Del Riego also reached base to make it bases loaded and nobody out. Reed Burkett-Schneider then came through with a massive two-run single to tie the game 5-5. Houston intentionally walked Braylon Owens, making it bases load for Josh Cardenas. Cardenas drove an 0-2 pitch between the 3rd baseman and shortstop for a walkoff single, punching RBI Austin's ticket to the 2021 MLB RBI World Series in Vero Beach, Florida.

Next up for the RBI Austin 18U Baseball team is the RBI World Series hosted by Major League Baseball at the Jackie Robinson Training Complex in Vero Beach, Florida. As the RBI Southwest Regional champion, RBI Austin will compete against other RBI Regional champions from across the country.

Check out our full recap of the Regional, including video highlights at [www.rbiaustin.org/2021-regional-recap](http://www.rbiaustin.org/2021-regional-recap).



15U Baseball Regional Team



18U Softball Regional Team

# Former RBI Softball Players Return for Another Season - This Time As Coaches!



Left to right: Ciara, Celine, Natalie, Darelyn, and Lena pose for a coach photo earlier this season.

For more 2021 RBI Team photos, visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/rbiaustin](http://www.facebook.com/rbiaustin).

Meet Ciara, Celine, Natalie, Darelyn, and Lena. Prior to coaching for the 2021 RBI Softball league, these young women were proud players for the RBI 18U Nationals. We're proud to have them back in a leadership capacity this season. Here's how they went from RBI players to volunteer coaches.

After aging out of the RBI Softball program last fall, these lifelong friends were in search of a way to stay connected on the ballfield. Collectively, they reached out to their former RBI head coach and learned that there was a need for additional RBI softball coaches this season. According to Celine, current head coach for the 15U Softball Nationals, there was a resounding "Yes!" all around as she and her old teammates were pleased to accept the invitation to coach a team together. Little did they know, more would be required from them, but these shining stars were ready for a challenge. Long before joining the RBI Softball league, each of them were young leaders in the making.

Celine, Ciara, and Natalie grew up together playing select ball up until high school; then the three of them met Lena and Darelyn upon joining the RBI Softball league. They played together for three years – growing their friendship and becoming better ballplayers. Between hangouts, birthday parties, and games, they developed an undeniable

bond. This enabled them to navigate the good times and the bad times together, both on and off the field.

In spite of college, work, and all the responsibilities that come with their now adult lives, each of them returned home to fulfill their new volunteer coaching roles this season. So far, our 2021 15U Softball league has greatly benefited from it.

In the week before their first practice, this newly established coaching staff agreed to coach the 15U Softball Nationals and the 15U Softball Athletics. This decision blessed the 15U Softball league all around as forming another team, as opposed to managing one large one, would allow for more games and more playing time for current players.

With many years of playing experience under their belts and a deep, personal

connection, this fabulous five had already equipped themselves with the skills and the knowledge necessary to help lead both RBI Softball teams this summer.

We asked Celine what the response from parents has been, and here is what she had to say:

"The parents are truly grateful that we came out to volunteer...They're also glad to see the experience we bring as we coach their daughters."

This is great news, as each of these young women is able to share the importance of developing not only as an athlete and a teammate, but also as a friend. Our hope is that the example that they set on the ballfield this summer will inspire more young girls to aid in the transformation of their communities by becoming volunteer coaches in the years to come.



## SUMMER SERIES: BACK TO BASICS

This summer, our Jr. RBI players, coaches, and families are getting Back to Basics! Each week, we're walking through one of seven basic truths that help us solidify our gospel foundation through Scripture, prayer prompts, and thought-provoking questions. We are excited to see how the Lord uses this content in the hearts of our players, families, and volunteers. To keep up with where we are in the series, be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

**Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our 1200+ RBI Austin kids! We're excited about the second half of the season, and we can't wait to share more fun and inspiring stories with you.**

