

# TEEN BASEBALL MECCA

*River Islands books 30 tournaments*

By: Dennis Wyatt



There are already 30 weekend baseball tournaments scheduled for 2019 involving teams with players between 13 and 18 years of age at The Islander Field.

The field will be lighted as well.

The soccer fields immediately to the south have lights and grass in place. A common parking lot will be built between the two sports facilities.

Both sports facilities underscore Cambay Group's relentless commitment to create and build a strong family-orientated community. The firm's willingness to open its pocketbooks to launch the highly successfully and highly regarded River Islands Tech Academy charter school that's located near the soccer fields' site is another indication of that commitment.

The addition of The Islander will give San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties its sixth quality regulation baseball field. Besides the minor league Banner Islands facility in Stockton and John Thurman Field in Modesto that have fixed seating of 4,200 and 4,000 respectively, there is the former home of the Ports at Stockton's Billy Hebert Field that seats 3,800. The Islander will have more fixed seating than either Delta College or the University of the Pacific.

River Islands has contracted with well-established and successful youth programs in the Bay Area to establish leagues, stage clinics, and organize tournaments at the baseball and soccer fields.

Don Johns — president and heads coach of the Danville-based Hoots Baseball Club that has produced an American Legion National Championship team and a Connie Mack World Series Finalists — will oversee the baseball program. The Danville-based Mustangs Soccer Club led by John Doyle will oversee the soccer programs at River Islands. Doyle's storied playing history includes the Olympics, historic firsts for the United States in the World Cup, and a distinguished Major Soccer League career that included five years as the San Jose Earthquakes team captain as well as a stint as general manager.

The field — part of the 11,000-home planned River Island at Lathrop community — is well under construction. The field is in place as well as the initial 500 bench and stadium style seating. The footprint for two large dugouts are ready to be completed.

Crews will soon start construction on food services that will be run by the operators of the Boat House at River Islands as well as restrooms and other space. Patio-style seating will be created on a deck now going in place on either side of the announcer's booth.

The state-of-the-art scoreboard will have a sound system that distributes sound in such a manner that everyone in the stadium will hear at the same level. A grassy area will be developed for "seating" on the island side slope of the levee much like Banner Island Baseball Park in Stockton beyond where the outfield fences will be installed.

The plaza at the front entrance is being designed in such a manner that it will be able to have use for community activities such as the farmers market that River Islands launched this year.

Both the baseball and soccer programs will be open to youth in the area such as from other parts of Lathrop, Manteca, and Tracy as well as River Islands.