

Latino Pride

Yankees help borough celebrate Bronx Dominican Parade Week

By Nathan Maciborski

Approximately 30 percent of the more than 700,000 Latinos living in the Bronx are of Dominican descent. The borough's fastest-growing ethnic group was able to celebrate its heritage at the end of July with Bronx Dominican Parade Week, and the Yankees were happy to participate.

The organization sponsored five Bronx Dominican Parade scholarship recipients as part of a program created to encourage students to stay in school, and on July 25, the club welcomed the recipients to Yankee Stadium. Diorvic Gonzalez, Vincent Subervi, Stephanie Vasquez and Delmira Gonzalez, all of Lehman College, and Johanky Reyes of Bronx Community College were recognized on the field in a pregame ceremony. After posing for a photo with Yankees bench coach Tony Peña and second baseman Robinson Cano, the five students were invited to enjoy the game against the Oakland A's from one of the Stadium's luxury suites.

"It was amazing," said Diorvic Gonzalez, 18, a Manhattan

resident studying political science at Lehman. "It was a great opportunity to walk down onto the field and meet Tony Peña and Robinson Cano like I did, and I'm very grateful [for the] scholarship money because it does help a lot."

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Bronx Dominican Parade, which draws participants and revelers from the Dominican Republic annually. With Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. proclaiming it Bronx Dominican Parade Week, the 2009 celebration reached new heights, culminating with the July 26 parade along the Grand Concourse. The parade featured more than 50 groups and 2,000 marchers.

"The Bronx Dominican Parade has become an institution in our community, having celebrated its 20th anniversary this year," said Yankees director of Latino affairs Manuel García. "For this reason, the Yankees are proud to be able to participate in such an exciting cultural event and are already looking forward to next year." ✎



[FROM L]: FELIPE FEBLES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BRONX DOMINICAN PARADE, YANKEES BENCH COACH TONY PEÑA, SECOND BASEMAN ROBINSON CANO AND ROSA AYALA, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BRONX DOMINICAN PARADE, HELP RECOGNIZE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS DURING AN ON-FIELD CEREMONY PRIOR TO THE YANKEES GAME ON JULY 25.