

# Cuban Pride

Team executives honored at Cuban Sports Hall of Fame

By Ken Derry

**Y**ankees executive vice president/chief international officer Felix M. Lopez, Jr. was inducted into the Cuban Sports Hall of Fame in Miami on Feb. 13. Yankees director of Latino affairs Manuel García was also recognized.

“Baseball is a passion for the Cuban people here in Miami,” Lopez said. “Events like this show the Yankees’ goodwill and that the Yankees are present in promoting our great game.”

The luncheon was held at the Big Five Club, a historical hotspot for the Cuban people of Miami. In attendance was City of Miami Mayor Tomas P. Regalado, who said the hall

of fame was very close to his heart. Other notable honorees in attendance included Felo Ramírez, who received the Ford C. Frick Award in 2001 from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York; and former All-Stars Tony Oliva, Bert Campaneris, Cookie Rojas, and Tony Taylor.

“My parents are from the island of Cuba, and sports is such an important part of our culture,” García said. “To be here in the center of the Miami exile movement outside of the island, it’s an honor for me. It’s very important for [the Yankees] to be present at all these wonderful events in front of the different groups that make up the Hispanic community, which is one of our biggest fan bases.” ❧



[FROM L]: GARCÍA, PEPE CAMPOS, ESPN DEPORTES, OLIVA, LOPEZ, CAMPANERIS, BERNARDO SOTO, RADIO PAZ AND EDUARDO GONZÁLEZ RUBIO, UNIVISION RADIO