



Bat Boy Helps Newsletter

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The Yankees Field A Dream For The Youth

A Field of Dreams was created into a reality for up to forty youths from the Starlight Foundation and the Manhattan Youth Baseballers. With a huge assist from Yankee V. P. Felix Lopez and special assistant Ray Negron, a huge homerun was hit for all the participants. MYBB's Head of Community Affairs, Esperanza Ramirez, worked the phones to get the project started. With the help of lawyer Andrew J. Perel and the guidance of Robert Hoffman, founder of MYBB, the youths had an experience that will last forever.

You always start in the minors before you get to the majors, and day one was just that. The Yankees introduced the guests to their farm, The Hinds Complex. Intervention Coordinator Ron Dock took charge by speaking to the group before letting his comrades, Hitting Coordinator James Rowson, who along with some of his pupils, minor leaguer's, Tim Battle, D. J. Mitchell and Andres Perez



showed them how it's done the professional way. They broke down everyone's swing in the batting cage and gave them fielding tips that will better their game.



The next day the group found its way to Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg where Negron gave them a personal tour of the Ted Williams Hall of Fame. The youths were in awe of the displays. They were even more stunned to be on the actual field, where they ran the bases and sat in the dugout. They also enjoyed a couple of Yankee games. They rooted for their Bronx Bombers against the Philadelphia Phillies and marveled at the intimacy of Steinbrenner Field. Even rival superstar player Ryan Howard, got caught up in their visit, as he stopped by the stands to say hi.

The next day was the icing on the cake as the youths were met by Yankees Pitcher Joba Chamberlain, and his father Harlan, at the Steinbrenner Complex. Both encouraged them never to give up on their dreams. Even pitchers Humberto Sanchez and Damaso Marte showed up. They signed autographs and posed for pictures.



Another surprise appearance was Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson, who encouraged the youngsters and had them participate in a Q and A session.



Everyone roared when Negron introduced The Yankee Mascot, who had his special friend with him, Yankees ace CC Sabathia. Sabathia took a timeout from his busy schedule to read Negron's new book, One Last Time- Goodbye to Yankee Stadium, to each youth who held a donated copy. After signing autographs and posing for photos, CC took his newfound friends on a tour of the Yankees locker room. To describe the event as priceless is an understatement.

It was like living out a dream for these future leaders and they all rewarded Sabathia with one big group hug. For The Yankees Organization, it's their way of giving back, but for the forty lucky ones, it was a dream come true.

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