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Fans prove it all night for tix

Series seats go quickly after vigil

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Any way you looked at it, it was a wrap.

Just hours after the Yankees wrapped up the American League Championship Series, a line of hundreds of die-hard fans wrapped around the team's venerable Bronx ballpark, hoping to buy tickets to see the Bombers in their fourth straight World Series appearance.

The line, which stretched more than two-thirds around Yankee Stadium, started forming even before the Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners there, 12-3, Monday night.

Once the tickets went on sale at 9:15 a.m. it took less than 3½ hours for them to sell out.

"I did great," said a smiling Vinnie Cimato. He and Bobby Munoz got to the Stadium at 3:45 p.m. Monday and became the first two on line.

"I got six tickets. It was definitely worth it," said Cimato.

Dan Arone of Yonkers, who bought eight tickets, agreed.

"I feel excellent," he said. "Of course it was worth it. My one true love in life is Yankee baseball."

Rick Cerrone, the Yankees' director of media relations, wasn't surprised the tickets went so fast, saying: "These things tend to sell out very quickly."

While most ticket buyers were extremely happy with their purchases, many complained that if they had left the line for any reason — even to go to the bathroom — police would have made them go to the end of the line.

"I'm not sure which will make me happier — getting tickets . . . or going to the bathroom," said 35-year-old bartender John Hermans.

In addition to hoping for a victory when the Yanks return to the Bronx from Phoenix on Tuesday, one young man — whose name is being withheld for now — said he plans to propose to his girlfriend of five years during the seventh-inning stretch.

"You think I'm kidding?" he asked. "I even got the receipt here for the diamond ring."

For security purposes, fans buying tickets at the Stadium yesterday were directed to leave their blankets, radios, backpacks or other small luggage items across the street in Macombs Dam Park.

The policy turned disastrous, however, when a Parks Department sanitation truck rolled up at about 8:30 a.m. and hauled away the pile of ticket buyers' possessions.

"As soon as we were informed people wanted to retrieve their possessions, we leaped to bring the truck back," said Parks Commissioner Henry Stern. "Seven or eight people reclaimed their things and went away pleased."

In a related development, Mayor Giuliani's office announced there will be a Yankee pep rally at 2 p.m. today on the steps of City Hall. Several Yankee players and manager Joe Torre are expected to attend.

Fans are welcome but will have to pass through City Hall's metal detectors to gain access to the plaza in front of the steps. Leave bags, cameras, umbrellas and any metal objects at home, officials advised.

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