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Yanks Provide Rallying Point

City Hall event honors both team and NY

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STAFF WRITER

"New York, New York" — both the city and the Yankees — was the theme of the World Series rally yesterday outside City Hall.

The event, attended by about 1,000 people who had to go through security screening, was as much for fans of the city as it was for fans of the Yankees.

"Go for 27, Go for USA, Go for NYC," said posters draped from lampposts around City Hall.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said that despite the terror attacks "we have to make sure we keep our heads up very, very high and march forward with our lives."

Yankee skipper Joe Torre said the attacks were a devastating blow to his team, and the resilience of New York inspired the players to get back into the game during the run for the pennant.

The rally is "good for New York," said John Amato, a firefighter from Engine Co. 68 in the Bronx who was on the scene of the World Trade Center attacks. "It's good for the families. It's good to see a lot of people out here living their lives as normal as possible."



Mayor Rudolph Giuliani puts on a firefighter's helmet bearing the Yankees logo at a City Hall pep rally to kick off the World Series, while manager Joe Torre wears a Fire Department hat in tribute.

Newsday Photo / J. Conrad Williams Jr.

Just blocks away from the World Trade Center tragedy, the smell of burning was noticeable at the rally. But the festive atmosphere was reinforced by the presence of the fire truck that would be first to respond to an emergency at Yankee Stadium, complete with its pinstripe detailing.

A hot-dog eating contest, traditionally considered a predictor of the series outcome, was won by the eaters on a "Yankee" team that scarfed down one-and-a-half more meaty snacks than those eating for the "Diamondbacks."

Those results may be good news for the mayor, who later wagered a dinner, a case of beer and some Junior's cheesecake if the Diamondbacks win. But if the Yankees win, Giuliani is asking for a horse from Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain to become part of the mounted unit of the city Police Department. Giuliani also is asking for dinner for two at Vincent's Restaurant in Phoenix and a year of free golf at one of that city's best golf courses.

Staff writer Curtis Taylor contributed to this story.

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