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TOUCHING BASE: Newest Yankee multimillionaire Jason Giambi gets a warm welcome from his instant No. 1 fan, Mayor Giuliani, at City Hall yesterday. N.Y. Post: Jim Alcorn

Rudy in 'key' pitch to new Yank hero

By DAVID SEIFMAN
City Hall Bureau Chief

He's made the trek to the Stadium. He popped up on David Letterman, reciting the famous "Top 10" list.

But it wasn't until Jason Giambi made the obligatory visit to City Hill yesterday that he could officially accept his title as the Yankees' newest star slugger.

Mayor Giuliani, looking like a kid at a Toys 'R' Us sale, beamed as Giambi stepped to the podium in the Blue Room and spotted a Key to the City being palmed by the mayor.

"You don't get it yet," Giuliani admonished as Giambi made a reaching motion.

Reporters and mayoral aides roared.

"I've given this four times to Yankee teams that have won the World Championship," Hizzoner said.

"You know what I'm looking forward to in October? A Boston Red Sox fan handing this to you."

Although Giambi is newly arrived from California, he seemed to get the reference to Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg, a Boston native and furtive Sox fan.

The left-handed-hitting slugger described his whirlwind courtship — and the avalanche of publicity surrounding a $120 million, seven-year deal — as "incredible."

Equally amazing, said Giambi, was the phone call he received from Giuliani urging him to relocate from Oakland.

"This is the busiest man in the world right now ... For him to take time to pick up the phone and call ... that's an incredible thing," Giambi said.

Despite the impact of the income tax here on his eight-figure salary, Giambi said he intends to become a Big Apple resident.

"Oh, definitely," he declared. "I'm coming right into the jungle. I've living here. I'm living in the city. There's no doubt."

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