

David Ortiz Press Conference 7-23-22

Craig Muder: David, can you tell us what you're feeling 24 hours before your Hall of Fame induction? What are your thoughts?

David Ortiz: Very excited. Good afternoon everybody. God bless you all. You know I get to hang out with a couple of Hall of Famers, pretty much all of them basically. They gave me this huge welcome and you know throughout my career, I get to know them pretty much and it's an honor.

CM: We're honored to have you here David.

Peter Abraham, Boston Globe: What does it mean to you to see Juan Marichal here the first American Hall of Famer and have you had a chance to talk to him since you've been here?

DO: Hey, what's up man? You know, he basically was the one who opened the door for Pedro, Vladdy and then myself so quite honored to have him around. You know, I call him a doctor. Because he's such a great human being and we all love him. And we appreciated the work that he had done throughout the years, especially beginning his career as a Dominican fellow. And so, I mean, every time I see him, I see him with a big smile, you know, and it's good to see him healthy also. And when I was blessed, just to know that he's around.

Question: (In Spanish).

DO: (Answer in Spanish).

Question: (In Spanish).

DO: (Answer in Spanish).

Question: David. Congratulations. What did the city of Boston mean to your career? Think back to 2003 coming here and what did Pedro Martinez mean to your career?

DO: Wow. Last night, was my compadre and Vladdy, I'm a house just having a good time and you know, whether or not you know, me and Pedro we go way back. We have so many memories together. And last night, he was basically giving me a speech telling me what to do tomorrow. How would I handle the business? You know, and, but the most important thing is you just don't want me to lose my focus. You know, you want me to be me.

Don't forget about where I come from. And just have fun. That's what it's all about. At the beginning is crazy, you know. Just that basically. Boston, my second home. I mean, I can talk about Boston all day. Boston. I got so many things that I can say about Boston. Boston embraced me. As much as Dominican Republic means something to me special Boston is very much up there.

Question: Your part of the same class with Tony Oliva and Jim Kaat. How happy are you for Tony because you've been waiting so long. And what's it like to be part of a class that's has so many Minnesota connections?

DO: Man, Tony always. Tony, and also Jim Kaat. This guy had been around for a long time. And you know, Tony, Tony was always there with us. Spending time telling us what to do. You know, he always wanted the best for us. So it's amazing. I'm very surprised, you know, that I'm gonna go into the Hall of

Fame. You know, exactly the same day that Tony and Mr. Jim Kaat. It's an honor. It's an honor, just to say we have a blast at the dinner, talking and remembering things. And also talking about Kirby who was a big mentor to me. I got to see so many of the Minnesota people that I deal with when I first got into the big league. And it was very emotional. But at the same time, always, you know, asking everyone because that's all I am.

Question: (In Spanish).

DO: (Answer in Spanish).

Question: You know looking back on your career there's a lot of Hall of Fame and inductions but there's so many of your teammates here from Pedro you mentioned but you know, Varitek, Damon, Lowell, Youkilis, all here to watch this with you this weekend. What does that mean to you and what especially to that '04 which you guys did that 86 year old curse, what did that all mean to you now looking back on it?

DO: Well, my teammates going back to my Minnesota days, all the way to Boston. All I can say, man, is that I try to always have my teammates' back. They feed me back with the same thing. That's why you're gonna see so many of them out there tomorrow. This is a fraternity that the same way it goes here in Cooperstown, we all just have a family that that you see going on here. We build it up on the field with our careers. You need to be a good teammate. You got to be able to let them know that you're always gonna be there for them. It's your second family, you know, it's that people that you hang out with as much as you do with family. So I always want to make sure that my teammates and everybody feel comfortable around me. Because it's not just about the time and the God given time that you get. It's about having the shoulders back and being able to do as a team. A lot of people come to me and be like, hey man, 2004, 2007, 2013, oh God, you had a great season. You did this, you did that and I'm like, Yes, I did it, but without my teammates I wouldn't have done any of it.

Question: (In Spanish).

DO: (Answer in Spanish).

CM: Thank you, David very much.

Thank you, one more thing: I'll see you tomorrow at the Latinfest. It's at the Ommegang brewery. We're going to have a great time as I said.