ESCOBAR VISITS RICHARDSON ELEMENTARY

On Friday, June 3, Twins infielder Eduardo Escobar visited students at Richardson Elementary School in North St. Paul. After walking the hallways of the school and visiting some classrooms, Escobar stood in front of an assembly of over 200 third through fifth grade students. Like he did at his visit to Aurora Charter School last month, Escobar told the students about the importance of staying in school and pursuing personal dreams. A dozen students took turns taking the stage and asking Eduardo questions in both English and Spanish. “He was inspirational,” said one fifth grader. “To see a man who looks and sounds like me makes me feel like I can do anything.”

Eduardo looks forward to seeing a handful of the kids at Target Field when they attend a game in August.

TWIN WIVES ORGANIZATION DONATES “BIRTHDAY BAGS” TO FAMILIES IN NEED

On Monday, June 13, the Twins Wives Organization donated over 200 “birthday bags” to Neighborhood House in St. Paul. The bags, assembled by Twins players and their wives the weekend prior, were filled with at least 20 items each. Surprises include stickers, coloring books, crayons, temporary tattoos, stuffed animals, and other toys. They will be distributed to underprivileged families for giving children on their birthdays. Nancy Brady, Neighborhood House’s president, expressed her gratitude for the organization’s help “granting the birthday wishes” of local youth. The wives plan to give 200-250 additional bags to other local organizations.

TONY OLIVA CELEBRATES INDUCTION INTO NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM’S “HALL OF GAME”

Twins legend Tony Oliva received the honor this month of being inducted into the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum’s “Hall of Game.” Since 2014, this award has been presented to former Major Leaguers who were believed to have performed in the “Spirit and signature style of the Negro Leagues,” as noted by Negro Leagues Baseball Museum President Bob Kendrick. Oliva has spent 24 years with the Twins as a player and coach. He collected a total of 1,917 hits, 220 home runs, and 3 batting titles during his 15-year career as a Twins outfielder. The induction officially occurred on Saturday, June 11 in Kansas City. Congratulations, Tony!

URBAN VENTURES HOLDS SIEMPRE PADRES GRADUATION CEREMONY

On June 15, the Twins participated in the Siempre Padres graduation ceremony (a part of Urban Ventures) in South Minneapolis. The graduating class, comprised of economically, ideologically, and socially diverse families from Latin American countries, completed 20 weeks of topic-centered classes and peer-led small groups. Urban Ventures works to break the cycle of poverty by empowering families to take control of their futures, and Siempre Padres is a program that offers holistic support to Latino families. The courses offered by these programs equipped families with practical life tools and a supportive network. Miguel Ramos, Director of Diversity Marketing for the Twins, also gave a motivational speech to graduates at the event.

SPOTLIGHT PLAYER OF THE MONTH

FERNANDO ABAD

• Born: December 17, 1985 in La Romana, Dominican Republic
• Position: Pitcher
• Height: 6’1”
• Weight: 220
• Bats: Left
• Throws: Left
• MLB Debut: July 28, 2010

Fernando Abad, signed by the Twins through 2016, came to us from Oakland where he appeared in 62 games in 2015. Abad has pitched 25 innings in 30 appearances for the Twins, throwing 23 strikeouts. He earned his first career save on June 23 versus Philadelphia, pitching 1.2 perfect innings. In addition to Oakland, Abad also played for both Houston (2010-12) and Washington (2015).