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FANS OUT AT HOME FOR SERIES

ONLY 735 YANK TIX FOR SALE

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By JEREMY OLSHAI and LAURIE KAMEHS

Last updated: 3:16 pm
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Message to October-dreaming Yankee fans: The World Series is already 99 percent sold out -- unless, perhaps, you want to spend a ridiculous \$23,000 on a ticket.

Only 735 tickets out of Yankee Stadium's 50,235 seats per game will be available to the general public if the team wins the pennant next month, the Bronx Bombers said.

Since the Yankees' 37,000 season-ticket holders get first dibs, and Major League Baseball mandates another 12,500 seats be set aside for players, executives and corporate sponsors, average fans will have no choice but to turn to the secondary market.

In fact, thousands of World Series tickets are already for sale on Stubhub.com for anywhere between \$100 and an astounding \$23,000.

When the Yankees won the pennant in 1996, by comparison, legions of diehard fans camped out in The Bronx for the 15,000 seats made available to the public for each of the World Series games.

That number has dwindled to under 5,000 per game in recent years, but the smaller capacity of the new ballpark made opening the box office almost unnecessary, a spokeswoman said.

Although no one disputes that season-ticket holders deserve first crack -- especially given the exorbitant licensing fees many laid out this year at the new ballpark -- fans say it's unfair the playoffs have become off-limits to the average Joe.

"Wow, 735 -- that's more like a mid-size company -- it's just not fair," said Stephanie Eisenberg, 25, a financial analyst from the Upper East Side.

With those odds, said Kristina Lucarelli, a fan from the East Village, "I'd have a better chance of getting struck by lightning than scoring a World Series ticket.

"Instead, I'll have to buy a lottery ticket and hope I win enough to buy a seat at the World Series."

It's too early to tell how many season-ticket holders are going to sell their ducats to make back some of the money they shelled out this year, said Joellen Ferrer, a spokeswoman for Stubhub.

But although the Yanks have yet to sell a playoff ticket, season-ticket holders are already unloading them in anticipation on Stubhub. Currently, division series games are selling for an average of \$147, championship series for just over \$200, and the World Series for \$1,000 a ticket, Ferrer said.

Don Vaccaro, CEO of reseller Ticket Network, said, "There is going to be a glut of tickets -- especially for the first round of the playoffs."

Season-ticket holders, many of whom are getting a discount on playoff seats from the team to make up for some of the exorbitant fees they paid during the regular season, will "try to unload them in the division series," Vaccaro said.

"But if many follow suit, they could end up going for even less than face



Craig Thomas

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value."


If the Yankees make the World Series, Vaccaro said, "You are going to see tickets selling for triple face value -- with the highest increases coming from the cheaper seats."


jeremy.olshan@nypost.com


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 **Bruce the Shark** wrote:
This isn't the 70's. All these tickets will be going on sale at Stubhub, etc, and most will go at face value from those season ticket holders just trying to unload them.
9/2/2009 10:56 PM EDT
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 **EJ** wrote:
Why people continue to patronize Yankee Stadium is beyond me.
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 **RR Fields** wrote:
What a dumb story. The Yankees can't beat Boston or LA Angels in a series, so there's no point of this story. CC can't get it done in the playoffs, Burnett is falling apaert, FatHead Joba will be winded after 80 pitches by that point, and suddenly 40 year old Pettite is the #1 starter... not a recipe for success against two teams that are in their heads.
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 **MS10999** wrote:
Hey, buying championships comes at a price....
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 **AaronSlick51** wrote:
I am sure glad I attended the 1978 ALCS and WVS at Yankee Stadium #2, all weekend games. Upper deck reserved seats purchased by mail for \$8 and \$12 each, respectively. And I was not rich and privileged, just a young platform customer service rep in a bank. Have a nice winter, los Mets fans, all eight of you.
9/2/2009 12:38 PM EDT
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 **DK51** wrote:
TheEmuSays...,
You need to watch your mouth.
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 **RC rights** wrote:
It's ok. The New York Yankee Organization will need every penny they can get after investing all of that crazy money! It will also benefit the city if the Yankees pull it off this year. If they don't, there will be much to be said about their investment practices.
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 **Queen of Mean** wrote:
Don't worry they won't make it to the series!!!
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 **It's not that hard to understand** wrote:
Hey Lorenzo,
Sorry your Mets are so pathetic this year, but at least you can get cheap seats to Citi Field.....at least thru September.
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