

# THE SHOW BEFORE THE SHOW

On the 'set' of the YES Network program *Homegrown*, **Deivi Garcia** proves that he's ready for his close-up

BY JON SCHWARTZ

The most sought-after piece of merchandise in the Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders clubhouse features the logo of the television show *Homegrown: The Path to Pinstripes*. It makes some sense when you consider how many different uniforms the RailRiders wear (on this weekend alone, they'll dress in different jerseys for each of the three games). The one constant seems to be the coveted *Homegrown* swag.

The players, it seems, have no problems serving as walking billboards for the YES Network program, which wraps its third season this month. And that's appropriate; after all, the show is essentially a long-running advertisement for the guys, themselves.

"I wanted to show the hard work," says Blayne Scheer, who pitched the idea for a program documenting life in the high-minors four years ago and has produced every episode in the show's run. "No one sees what you guys are doing," she told the players. "I want fans to get to know you. They don't know that you're here at 10 in the morning for a 7 o'clock game."

So, Scheer is like Santa Claus with her bags of clothing. And when she's not outfitting the guys in the room, Scheer — along with her crew of two cameramen and an audio engineer — is telling their stories. She's a confidante, an adviser, even sometimes a friend. She's there when they struggle and when they break through, when they finally get the call to the big leagues and when they maybe return a few days later. In the three years she has been producing the show, Scheer has seen guys such as Gleyber Torres and Gio Urshela leave the nest for good, but she has also seen the Scranton Shuttle in full effect; Clint Frazier was featured in the first-ever episode, and he's still trying to get back to the Bronx permanently. Tyler Wade, Chance Adams, Mike Ford, Stephen Tarpley ... the list of recurring regulars coming back to her "studio" is longer than any minor leaguer wants to consider.

If it creates a strange balance, then that's life. The obvious comps for a show such as *Homegrown* are unavoidable — think HBO's *Hard Knocks*, Amazon's *All or Nothing* or (on shoots when Scheer gets particularly lucky) any location of *Real Housewives* — and they crop up constantly. "I watched the first episode of *Hard Knocks* last night; it reminded me of this," RailRiders first baseman Ryan McBroom tells

