

"Always remember,
if the mind leads, the body will follow!" -
Don Mattingly, 1996.

The Mattingly Reader

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The (Un) Official
Don Mattingly
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Don Officially Retires

It had to happen some day. After 14 great seasons with the New York Yankees, Don Mattingly officially retired. At 3:00 PM EST on January 22, 1997, a press conference was held at Yankee Stadium where the news was announced. After sitting out the 1996 baseball season which saw the New York Yankees return to the ranks of World Champions, Don Mattingly ended all speculation about whether or not he would return to baseball in 1997. Dressed in an elegant suit and accompanied by his wife, Kim, and their three sons, Don bid farewell to a game that has brought him and his fans so much happiness. Yankees owner, George Steinbrenner was in attendance along with current Yankees manager Joe Torre and former teammate David Cone. During his emotional speech, Don explained his decision and thanked the Yankees and their fans for all the support they had given him throughout his glorious career. At the end of the conference, Mr. Steinbrenner announced that the Yankees will retire Don's number 23, which went unworn in 1996, in a ceremony later in the year. In the end, Don listened to his heart and retired with dignity.

Don Mattingly Day at Yankee Stadium

On March 21, 1997, Don Mattingly Day at Yankee Stadium was officially announced. The ceremony to retire Don Mattingly's number 23 will take place on Sunday, August 31, 1997. A pre-game ceremony will honor Don as his number is permanently retired by the New York

Yankees. A plaque is expected to be added to the famous "Monument Park" that sits behind home plate. Thirteen other people have had their number retired by the Yankees. Besides Jackie Robinson's number 42 which was retired for all of Major League Baseball earlier this year, the last person to have his number retired was Reggie Jackson on August 14, 1993. Donnie joins



Don Mattingly in a classic pose.

an elite group of individuals including such legends as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, and Mickey Mantle. The pre-game ceremony is scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM EDT, with the game commencing immediately afterwards. It is strange that the ceremony will take place as the Yankees battle the Montreal Expos in an interleague game. After all, during Donnie's illustrious career there was no mixing of the two leagues. However, it is a day not to be missed.

"Hitting is enough of a problem without trying to explain how. To tell the truth, I don't know what I'm doing sometimes." - Don Mattingly, August, 1986.

Flashback: 1986

It was eleven years ago when Don Mattingly batted the highest of his career (.352). Although he lost the batting title to future teammate Wade Boggs, it was still a battle to the end. Although in many categories Don performed even better than he had the previous year when he was the league's MVP, he finished second to pitcher Roger Clemens...which further justifies that pitchers should not be eligible for this award! A New York Times poll half-way through the season found Mattingly to be the best player currently in the game. Don set Yankee records for doubles in a season with 53 and for hits in a season with 238. He also became only the fourth Yankee to play in all 162 games during the season. He became

the only Yankee to ever lead the league in fielding for three straight years at any position. His excellent fielding at first base won him his second consecutive Gold Glove Award. Don set two obscure Major League Records in 1986 and they both involved stolen bases! He holds the distinction of "Most At-Bats without a stolen base in a season" (677) and "Most At-Bats without attempting a stolen base in a season" (677)! Other records set this year include "Most sacrifice flies in a game" (3 on May 3, 1986) and "Most At-Bats by a left-hander in a season" (677). Overall, 1986 was another MVP caliber season, too bad the writers missed it!!

1986 REGULAR SEASON STATISTICS

G	AB	R	H	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	HBP	SB	SF	SH	AVG	OB%	SLG%
162	677	117	238	152	53	2	31	113	53	35	1	0	10	1	.352	.394	.573

Don Mattingly's Official Site on the Internet

Early in 1996, Don Mattingly signed an agreement with Digicom Consulting to launch his own World Wide Web Site on the internet. With that, *The Official Don Mattingly Web Site* was born! Throughout the year Don answered questions and held auctions that raised thousands for

various children's charities. Late last year, Don's site went offline because of some problems with the host of the Site. I am happy to say that in early June of this year those problems were worked out and his site has reopened. Check it out at: <http://www.donmattingly.com/>.

1986 AWARDS

- ✓ American League All Star Team
- ✓ Player of the Month, September
- ✓ New York Baseball Writers of America Association Player of the Year
- ✓ Associated Press All Star Team
- ✓ NY Daily News Player of the Month, May.
- ✓ Rawlings Gold Glove Award
- ✓ Sporting News Player of the Year
- ✓ Sporting News All Star Team
- ✓ Sporting News Silver Slugger Team
- ✓ Sporting News All Star Fielding Team

"*The Mattingly Reader*" is a product of Joseph Riccitelli, Jr. It is a newsletter for fans of Don Mattingly and the New York Yankees. It is in no way affiliated with Mr. Mattingly or the New York Yankees Baseball Club in any way.

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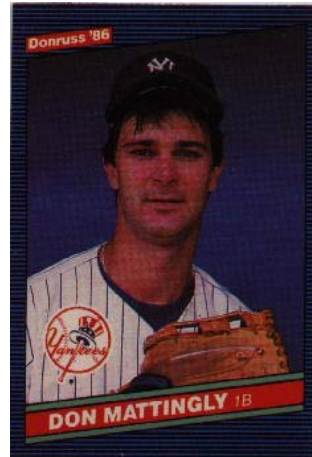
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1986 was not only a great year for Don on the field, but it was also a bonanza for Mattingly collectors. Not only were the "Big Three" (Topps/Fleer/Donruss) producing various card sets, but a newcomer introduced us to a whole new world. Sportflics introduced its unique design where a different photo was seen when you tilted the cards. This set included not one, but 8 cards that pictured Mattingly. Also new this year was a company called "Star Company", which produced sets which pictured just one player. Don was honored with a regular set, a glossy coated set, and a sticker set! Another company, Renata Galasso, also dedicated a set to Mattingly. Unlike Star Company, they lasted only one year on the market. But the 30 card set they produced is creative. Nine of the cards, when turned on their backs,



1986 Donruss #173

form a puzzle that features Donnie. A company called Broder started its production this year with a set that included 5 Mattingly cards. These were high quality professional photos that caused an uproar in the industry because they were "unlicensed", which meant that the players weren't getting any royalties from the sale of the product. A new type of card was found on baseball gloves. Franklin Sports Industries started attaching glove tags which featured players that they had signed contracts with. Don was featured on several versions of the tag, most of which are now hard to find in mint condition as they were usually ripped off the glove. In total, over 250 different cards, items, and magazines featured Don Mattingly during 1986. See the checklist/priceguide for a complete list of all Mattingly collectibles.

W e N e e d Y o u r H e l p !

Would you like to help *The Mattingly Reader*? Just send in your articles, photos, and anything else that you may have.

Did you see a Mattingly article in your local newspaper? Or how about a new Mattingly sighting on the Internet? All items are welcome and encouraged. Submissions become the property of *The Mattingly Reader* and cannot be returned. All contributors will be recognized for their assistance!

Send your contributions to the postal address located elsewhere or e-mail them to me at:
JoeMoose@ix.netcom.com

I d e a s / R e q u e s t s N e e d e d

What would you like to see in each issue of *The Mattingly Reader*? Remember this is YOUR newsletter so send in all your ideas and requests. All submissions become the property of *The Mattingly Reader* and cannot be returned.

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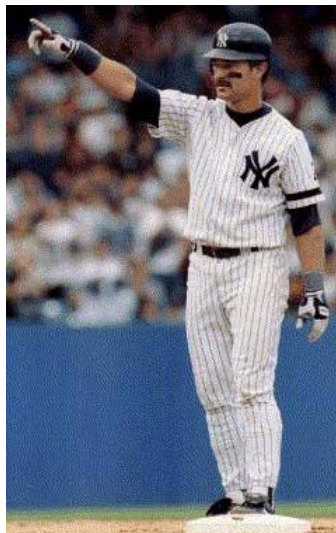
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The Official Don Mattingly Site (<http://www.donmattingly.com/>)

The (Un) Official Don Mattingly Tribute Site (<http://www2.netcom.com/~joemoose/donnie.html>)

The Don Mattingly Trivia Quiz
Newsletter Edition #1

Welcome to the first edition of the Don Mattingly Trivia Quiz - Newsletter Edition. This works the same way as the online version, which is available at The (Un) Official Don Mattingly Tribute Site. Just answer the questions and send in your guesses. I will choose one winner from all the correct answers and send them a Don Mattingly prize! All entries become the property of *The Mattingly Reader* and will not be returned. Don't forget to include your mailing address or I will not be able to send your prize. Enter as often as you like, but only one entry per envelope.



QUIZ # 1

- 1- What year did Mattingly make his Major League Debut?
- 2- What is Don Mattingly's middle name?
- 3- What year did Don win the MVP Award?
- 4- How many times did Don make the American League All Star Team?

Mail your entries to:

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Attn: Newsletter Quiz #1

Or email your answers to:

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