

The Mattingly Reader

November-December, 1997

Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome to the second issue! I honestly didn't think there would be one. Here's to many more!!

Don Mattingly Day

The Mattingly

Reader

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The (Un) Official
Don Mattingly
Tribute Site is the
official home of
"The Mattingly
Reader"

Visit us on the
World Wide Web at:

www.donniebaseball.com

Or E-Mail Me at:

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"Donnie Baseball Day", that's what the marquee atop the outside of Yankee Stadium read. No one wondered who was meant by that. Throughout his 14 year major league career, his play and general love for the game of baseball earned Donald Arthur Mattingly the nickname of "Donnie Baseball."

On a beautiful and sunny day the New York Yankees honored our beloved Hitman with a 45 minute ceremony before an inter-league game against the Montreal Expos.

Although the day started off on a somber note with the news of the passing of Princess Diana, it was soon brightened by the out-pouring of love and emotion that was bestowed upon the Captain, Don Mattingly.

The pre-game ceremony was filled with many highs. Many of Don's old



Don, Taylor and Kim Mattingly with the newly retired #23. Dave Righetti and Willie Randolph are in the background.

What do you give a man who has it all?

Giving gifts is hard, but it is even harder when the recipient already has everything he wants. The ultimate gift is a warm and loving family, of which Don Mattingly has already been blessed. But what else could a man possibly need.

Well, after 14 great seasons with the New York Yankees, Don found out exactly what else he could need. Among the many gifts bestowed upon the Yankee legend on Don Mattingly Day were five sets of golf clubs, two golf carts, a laptop computer, and two round trip tickets for him and Kim to any destination in Europe.

Besides the many plaques Don received on this day, he was also given a brand new GMC truck, which

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Don Mattingly: High School Superstar

By Bob Mellen

Did you know that before Don Mattingly had stepped into the batter's box in Yankee Stadium for the first time, he played for the Tigers. The Evansville, Indiana Memorial High School Tigers, that is. In his four years at Memorial, Don actually was a three-sport star. He played quarterback/defensive end in football, was an All-City point guard in basketball, and, of course, excelled in baseball, both at first base and as a pitcher!

In 1978, his junior year, Don led Memorial's baseball team to a 30-0 record and the state title, a 7-1 win over Blackford. Mattingly led Memorial that year in hitting (.494), runs (24), at-bats (77), hits (38), triples (5), home runs (3), RBI (29), and stolen bases (14).

In his senior season (1979), Don led Memorial to another perfect regular season (22-0) while hitting .597. Meanwhile, on the mound, Don was 7-0. Memo-

rial once again swept through the post-season, winning seven more games to reach the state final. But the Logansport Berries ended the Tigers' bid for a second straight title with a 6-5, 10-inning win. Memorial ended the season 29-1.

On June 5, 1979, while he was busy leading Memorial through the Indiana state playoffs, Don was selected by the Yankees in the 19th round of the baseball amateur draft. Although he had excellent statistics in high school, he was a late-round draft pick because most scouts thought he was going to choose college over baseball. One team took a chance on that, and on June 26 of that year, he signed his first professional contract with the Yankees.

Editor's Note: Bob has gone to Evansville many times to research the high school career of Donnie. I hope that he will be a regular contributor to this newsletter.

1978 Statistics From Reitz Memorial High School. (Junior Year)

AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	AVG.
24	38	3	5	3	29	14		.494

We Need Your Help!

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



Ideas Requests Needed

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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teammates and friends were on hand for the celebration. A plethora of gifts was then showered upon Donnie on this great day.

As a video retrospective of Don's career played on the scoreboard Don and his family made their way to Monument Park where Paul O'Neill and Wade Boggs helped Don unveil his newly retired number and bronze plaque.

It was then back to home

plate where Don stirred the crowds emotions with a stellar speech. He then disappeared into the dugout where he put on his familiar #23 jersey and made his way out to his home. . .first base. . .where he threw out the first ball.

As he walked off the field I still could not absorb the fact that he will never again scoop up a tough grounder or get that clutch hit when the Yankees are down by a run.

The only hero that I will ever

have has rode off into the sunset leaving a trail of memories that will last me a lifetime.

I wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours and I can only hope that one day there will be another like you. It would be a travesty if the children of today were deprived of a hero.

I'm glad I wasn't!

Don's Official Site: Revamped And Better Than

Don's Official Web Site (<http://www.donmattingly.com>) has been a great source of information for all his fans on the Internet. Not only that, but it has allowed us access to him in ways that were impossible during his playing days. Don regularly answered questions and posted previously unseen photos on his site for over a year and a half.

Then, on October 24, 1997, his site unexpectedly went offline after about 3 weeks of inactivity. The last update was on September 29, and then nothing until it's that fateful day when the announcement was made.

Anyone visiting his site that morning was greeted with the message, "Sorry, the site is off-line." The number to one of Don's business partner's, Ray Schulte, was also there. All calls to this number were

answered by an answering machine.

Later in the afternoon, the page was updated again, this time Ray Schulte's phone number was removed.. The site was updated once again that evening. This time the news was even more disturbing as it said "Don has decided to discontinue his web site." This news was very dispressing to several of his fans online and, only after much investigation was the truth uncovered. Cool Classifieds, which was a partner in the site with Don decided that it wasn't making enough money and pulled out. This caused the site to be taken offline as it's future was being decided.

The following days included changes to the title page almost daily, while in the background the other pages were being redesigned.

Then, On November 6, the new

site was opened. The address changed to <http://www.donmattingly.com/> and new areas of the site include a live chat area, where fans can talk with one another and with Donnie!

Don and his partner, Gary Barr, promise regular updates and more frequent contact with his fans. Don always enjoyed his presence online and his focus for this new site is not to make money, but to stay in touch with his fans on a regular basis. From what we have seen so far it looks like that is exactly what is happening.

I commend both Don and Gary for the wonderful work they have done so far and I wish them the best of luck in the future. Here's to a long and prosperous presence online!

Quiz Number One Answers & Winner!!

- 1- What year did Mattingly make his Major League Debut? **1982**
- 2- What is Don Mattingly's middle name? **Arthur**
- 3- What year did Don win the MVP Award? **1985**
- 4- How many times did Don make the American League All Star Team? **Six**

Thank you to all who entered, but we can only have one winner. Congratulations to David A Weitzer <snoopy@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu>. He has won a one year subscription!

SEE BACK PAGE FOR QUIZ #2



"I Don't Know What I Did to Deserve This"

Those were the words Don Mattingly said during his heartfelt and tearful speech on Don Mattingly Day. He may not know what he did to deserve the adulation that was bestowed upon him that warm Sunday afternoon on the 31st of August, but everyone in attendance did. They were all here to say "thank you" to a man who gave them pleasure in parts of 14 seasons as a New York Yankee. He was the reason why us Yankee fans never gave up, even during the lean years of the early nineties. He truly is a "Yankee Legend Forever!"

What follows is a complete transcript of Don Mattingly's speech that day:

**(INTRODUCTION BY YANKEES' ANNOUNCER,
MICHAEL KAY)**

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you.

(APPLAUSE AND CHANTS OF 'DONNIE BASEBALL')

Thank you all. I don't know if I'm going to be able to express myself very well here today. And there's lots of people that I want to thank and I'll start off with the Lord, our God. He has blessed our family. . . I don't know why. . . but thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

I'd also like to thank Mr. Steinbrenner, and the entire Yankee organization.

(APPLAUSE AND SOME 'BOOS' FOR MR. STEINBRENNER)

The respect that Mr. Steinbrenner and the whole organization has showed me the past two years has been very much appreciated.

(APPLAUSE)

I would also like to thank the sponsors, it's hard to explain all this to. . . but, thanks!

(APPLAUSE)

None of this would be possible without unbelievable teammates over the years, coaches and managers. . . to all of them I'm thankful. They've been great teachers for me. I hope I've left something for them.

(APPLAUSE)

Mom and Dad, thank you. You've always been there for us, for all our kids. Thanks.

(APPLAUSE)

I'd also like to thank Kim's mother and father. They've been just like parents to me. They're always there for us. Thanks again.

(APPLAUSE)

There's also a lot of people I know that have traveled from home, family and friends, and I appreciate them making the effort to get here.

(APPLAUSE)

Kim, you have been the rock that holds me up all these years. Kim doesn't get the attention or respect that she deserves for raising these boys. She does a great job, she's helped me out, she's pushed me in times when I've been down or things have been going wrong. Baby you'll understand, but your appreciation for what you did for me is. . . I love you!

(APPLAUSE)

And to the fans of New York City...

(APPLAUSE)

And for Yankee fans all over this country. Again, I don't know what I did to deserve this.

(APPLAUSE)

But your treatment of me over the years has been phenomenal and I will never forget the support and love I've taken home from so many of you. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

And that plaque in centerfield means more to me than you'll ever know. I'm so proud to have been able to play my entire career, and be just a small part, of this great organization.

(APPLAUSE)

You've treated Kim, the boys and myself like family since we arrived here in 1982. And I didn't think I'd ever be able to say this coming from a small town in Indiana, not that small, but when we come to New York we feel like it's home.

(APPLAUSE)

I've tried to give you all a hundred percent of myself everytime I walked out on the field. I try to keep it pure, I try to keep it simple, and just play great baseball for you over the years. I hope you appreciated it.

(APPLAUSE)

And today as you leave, I'd like to leave three thoughts that I took on the field with me. Before every game I would say these statements, and a special man taught these in high school. Very simple: 'I'm in God's hands, God be with me then who can be against me and I can do all things through God who helps me.' I love you all. . . God bless you all. Thank you for everything you've ever did for us. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

**(TINA TURNER'S "SIMPLY THE BEST" IS
BROADCAST THROUGH THE STADIUM'S
SPEAKERS AS DON WALKS OFF THE FIELD
AND INTO THE DUGOUT.)**

THE MATTINGLY
GUIDE

The most complete Don Mattingly Checklist/Priceguide of cards and other collectibles is now available. EVERY Don Mattingly card and collectible from 1979-1997 is included, over 2800 items and over 60 pages. It is published twice a year so the list and prices are up-to-date. A 2 issue subscription is only \$14.00. That represents a \$12.00 savings over the former 1 issue price of \$13.00. or you can get one issue for \$8.00 . Send payment to:

The Mattingly Guide
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Don't Delay...get your's
today!

This issue of "The Mattingly Reader" was made with the following software:

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Retired Number Plaque

DON MATTINGLY



UNIFORM NUMBER RETIRED: 1997

**"DONNIE BASEBALL" WAS ONE OF HIS ERA'S
OUTSTANDING HITTERS AND RANKS AMONG
THE PREMIERE DEFENSIVE PLAYERS OF ALL
TIME. HIS DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP
MADE HIM ONE OF THE MOST ADMIRED AND
RESPECTED PLAYERS IN THE GAME
AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE YANKEES
FOR 12 SEASONS.**

Monument Park Plaque

DONALD ARTHUR MATTINGLY

**"DONNIE BASEBALL"
1982-1995**

AMERICAN LEAGUE BATTING CHAMPION 1984	
AMERICAN LEAGUE MVP (145 RBI)	1985
NINE-TIME TIME GOLD GLOVE WINNER	
SIX-TIME TIME AMERICAN LEAGUE ALL-STAR	
SET RECORD FOR MOST GRAND SLAMS IN A SEASON (6)	1987
MAJOR LEAGUE RECORD FOR MOST HOME RUNS IN SEVEN CONSECUTIVE GAMES (9) AND EIGHT CONSECUTIVE GAMES (10)	1987
10TH PLAYER IN TEAM HISTORY TO BE NAMED CAPTAIN	1991

**A HUMBLE MAN OF GRACE AND DIGNITY.
A CAPTAIN WHO LED BY EXAMPLE.
PROUD OF THE PINSTRIPE LEGEND
AND DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.
A YANKEE FOREVER.**

**DEDICATED BY
THE NEW YORK YANKEES
AUGUST 31, 1997**

Don Mattingly: Hall of Fame Material?

I believe Donnie should make the Hall! I may be partial, being a lifelong Yankee fan and growing up watching Donnie Baseball, he was (and is) my favorite all-time player. That aside, he still deserves induction.

I agree with what Mr. Steinbrenner said on the day Don announced his retirement, "Don Mattingly belongs there and if he doesn't make the Hall of Fame, they ought to do away with the Hall of Fame."

Not only was he the rock of the Yankees for almost 14 seasons, but he helped Yankee fans remain proud even as "our" team finish at or near the bottom in the early '90s. He was a true captain and an even greater ballplayer.

Let's look at some numbers. ANY position in baseball is tough. . .including first base. Don has the SECOND highest fielding percentage at first base, trailing only Steve Garvey by mere hundredths of a percentage point. That is quite an accomplishment.

Compared to two Hall of Fame first basemen, George Kelly (1915-32) and Frank Chance (1898- 1914). . .Donnie has played in more games, had more at-bats, scored more runs, had more doubles, home runs, runs batted in, a higher batting average and a higher slugging percentage than both of them! They are both in the Hall, so why would Donnie be excluded?

Not only that but Donnie has more hits than the following Hall of Famers: Tony Lazzari, Yogi Berra, Bill Dickey and 27 OTHERS!! He also has a higher batting average than approximately 35 Hall of Famers (including Mays and Mantle!).

Granted many of them had more home runs, but Mattingly was never a power hitter in the minors...so his brief reign of power in the mid 80s was a surprise to anyone who followed his career. Just because his back gave out, doesn't mean his heart did.

He was more of a class player than Reggie Jackson was. Reggie was bold, brash and outspoken and never became the leader he wanted to be. Mattingly was quiet, reserved and more of a leader than he ever dreamed of being. His legacy lives on. . .Bernie Williams and Derek Jeter cite Mattingly as a guiding force that helped them progress into the stars that they are. Even Cal Ripken Jr. and Kirby Puckett (another great career that was cut all too short) commend Mattingly as one of the greats of the game.

He was a true baseball ambassador who brought so many fans to the game and made the game a little brighter and more respectful to those outside the sport. The game lost one of it's best when he retired and there are not to many of them left.

It would be a true travesty if the Hall did not recognize Don's greatness. Let's hope they don't make the same mistake they made with the Scooter, Phil Rizzuto!

"Gifts" continued from page one.

already displayed the logo for the Mattingly's *Diamond Five Ranch* in Indiana. On the back of the truck was a special limited edition "Don Mattingly Arcade Game." Not to be outdone, Kim was presented with a brand new red convertible.

After more gifts, like a 50" television and cameras and rings for all three of Don's sons, a special "23 Career" ring was presented to Don by his successor, Tino Martinez. . .a symbolic "passing of the torch."

Later, Bernie Williams presented



Don with a "23" pendant and Kim with a bouquet of 23 roses.

Despite the many gifts, Don seemed more pleased with the love that the crowd gave him. The heartfelt applause gave him more happiness than any gift could ever. Any doubts in his mind about whether or not he was appreciated were erased on this glorious day. He truly was a Hero!

What else could a man ask for?

RANDOM QUOTE: "I never heard of Gehrig before I came here. And I always thought Babe Ruth was a cartoon character. I really did. I mean, I wasn't born until 1961, and I grew up in Indiana." - Don Mattingly, 1985.

" Reflections on Donnie Baseball" By Mark Scherwin (MScherwin@aol.com)

I've been a die-hard Yankee fan since 1958. I have followed Don Mattingly since he broke in with the Yankees. I can remember listening to Art Rust Jr., a sports jock on NY radio long before WFAN, talk about this "can't miss" rookie, Don Mattingly. I was picking up Topps rookies early on in 1984 at .25 per card. I don't know what it was, but I guess I needed someone to root for having already lost Mantle and Murcer as my two favorite Yankees. Funny that all three have the letter "M" in their last name. Donnie wore his pinstripes with much pride. No matter what the Yankees as a team did, he was always giving the fans a great performance on the field. A real class act.

Although he was my favorite, it was something he did off the field that really turned me on to this man. My next door neighbor's son had Muscular Dystrophy and was quickly losing the battle. The "Make a Wish Foundation" set up for this child to visit the Yankee clubhouse and meet with the players. Of course his favorite was Don Mattingly. I remember giving him a few of my cards so that he could possibly get Don to sign one or two. Well, that day Donnie spent about ten minutes speaking with him, taking pictures and signing those cards. This child came home and had an endless smile on his face. I

had not seen him so happy in a long time. He really was so moved that he was speechless. Unfortunately, he died about a year later, but for a small moment Don had given this child something to hold on for.

From that moment forward, baseball to me was Don Mattingly. I stopped collecting all other cards. I fervently collected Mattingly cards and today have over 57,000 of his cards and am still going strong. My wife thinks I'm nuts and wants to know what is the reason for wanting so many of his cards? I don't have a reason other than my other cards mean nothing to me so I trade them even up for Don's cards.

What difference does it make that I have 1,500 1987 Topps All-Star Don Mattingly cards? Maybe someday, I'll wallpaper one room with just these cards.

Being at Yankee Stadium on August 31, 1997 for Don's retirement celebration was a time of great joy and sadness for me. Joy that the Yankee organization saw fit to honor a true Yankee hero, and sadness that I would never get to see him start another 3-6-3 double play or charge a bunt or turn on a

fastball like none before him.

When the fans started chanting 'DONNIE BASEBALL, DONNIE BASEBALL', I must say that I had to wipe away more than a tear or two. An era has ended and I don't believe I'm young enough to find myself another true hero to follow. My thoughts also went back to that day he gave of himself to my neighbor's son and what that meant for the child.

Don was a true baseball hero. He treated the game with much respect. He has fans all over the country as attested by the popularity of his baseball cards. People question whether he will make the Hall of Fame. Who cares? As far as I'm concerned, he's already in my Hall of Fame. . .no five year waiting period here. . .right smack between Mr Mantle and Mr. Murcer.

Editor's Note: Mark and I have communicated through email for quite awhile. We finally had the pleasure of meeting at Yankee Stadium prior to the start of Don Mattingly Day!

"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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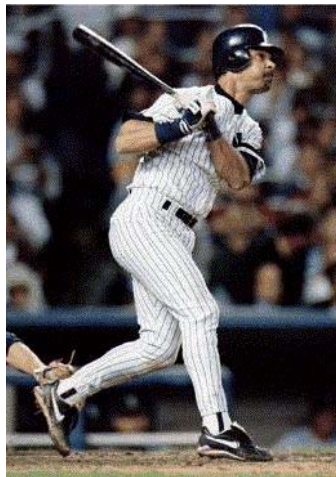
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The (Un) Official Don Mattingly Tribute Site (<http://www.donniebaseball.com/>)

The Don Mattingly Trivia Quiz
Newsletter Edition # 2

Welcome to the second 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 you your prize. Only one entry is necessary, entering more than once will NOT increase your chances to win,



QUIZ # 2

- 1- How many grand slams did Don Mattingly hit in his career?
- 2- What was the name of Don Mattingly's restaurant in Evansville, Indiana?
- 3- What year did Don Mattingly win the Southern League's MVP Award?
- 4- In What year was Don Mattingly named Captain of the New York Yankees?

Mail your entries to:

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Attn: Newsletter Quiz #2

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JoeMoose@ix.netcom.com

See Page 3 for last month's winner and answers.

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