

The Mattingly Reader

Welcome to
the Fifth
issue!!!

After A
Summer of
fun at Walt
Disney World, I am
ready to resume
publication!

NOVEMBER '98-FEBRUARY '99

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

A Letter To Don Mattingly

The Mattingly
Reader
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East Haven, CT
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Publisher

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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:

JoeMoose@donniebaseball.com

Dear Don:

I was about 14 yrs old the first time that I saw you playing for the Yankess. That was 13 yrs ago and you immediately became my favorite ball player, and you will always be. You were my favorite, not only for the talents that you displayed on field, but off as well. You made it very easy for so many baseball fans to like you with winning such titles as batting champ, gold glove awards etc. I also admire you because you went in every game and gave it your all every time. You didn't cry and complain publicly when things didn't go your way. Basically you were of very good character, and as team captain a very good role model.

I also want to say a personnel thank you to you because a couple of years ago in about 1991 or 92 I had written a letter to you and sent it to Yankee Stadium. I was inspired to write the letter because there was this one game that the fans in New York booed you. This made me irate, I had to write to you and tell you how wrong they were at quickly forgetting all the great things that you had done. Well the letter was much deeper. Anyway, a few weeks after I sent the letter I recieved an autographed photo of you with a thank you letter. I still have them!

Now I don't know if you were able to personally read the letter, which I pray you did, but the fact that I got a response and a photo is almost just as nice. When I finally have children I can tell them all about number 23, how he was baseball's diamond on first base. My only bad feeling is that you were not with the Yankees at the world series. No one



Don Mattingly and Fan, John Spressler, at a card show in Atlantic City, NJ. June 13, 1998

deserved it more. Thank you for the memories. May God continue to bless you and your family.

Chimay Williamson
New York, NY

EDITOR'S NOTES

Do you have a Don Mattingly memory? Did you ever meet Don Mattingly? Do you have a photo of you with Don Mattingly?

I would love to publish it! Drop me an email or a letter and I be glad to work it into the newsletter. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter...I can't do it without you!

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

Letter To Don Mattingly	1
Memories Of Donnie Baseball	2
Fan Letters	4

Memories Of Donnie Baseball

By **Richard Raccio** (slyjunior@snet.net)

On February 6, 1993, my friend, Joseph Riccitelli Jr., and I got to fulfill our lifelong dream.

We had tickets to the 1993 New York Yankees Fan Festival at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City. It was a cold day as we took the hour and a half drive. We got to it early, but it didn't open until 9 am, so we just waited in line. Little did we know what was going to happen! We had no idea who was going to appear, as the players who participate change every day.

While we were waiting, there was a window adjacent to the Javits Center so we went over to see what was going on. We saw that they were putting up the names of the players that were appearing that day. The one player that I wanted to see had his name put up last...Don Mattingly!

Seeing his name caused quite a stir in the crowd, and for us it was a chance to see our favorite player who's career we grew up following since 1983!

The doors opened up at 9 am and everybody rushed to Don Mattingly's line...and so did we! Little did we know that we were going to have to wait a long time to get up to him, but for us it was worth the wait! We didn't care if we didn't get any other player's autograph...as long as we got Donnie's!

The line was moving real slow, but we kept occupied by talking with other fans that were in line with us. There must have been about 1000-1500 people in line waiting for Don, as the line wrapped around a few times! Then, about 11:30 it was my turn to get his autograph.

Continued on Page 3



The (Un) Official Don Mattingly Tribute Site

'82

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'95



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: *Joe-*

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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Don't Delay...get your's today.

“Memories of Donnie Baseball” Continued

Then at about 11:30 it was my turn to get his autograph. I gave him a baseball to sign and he signed it for me as well as my friends baseball. I said hello to him and told him that I have been a big fan of his. He said that was nice to know, he has so many fans. I said thank you to him and wished him well during the upcoming 1993 season. He said thanks and then it was my friends turn, and he took some pictures of him.

I got what I wanted. I didn't care about the rest of the fanfest, but I stayed and got lots of autographs of other players and bought some Don Mattingly cards and other collectibles. It was a day me and my friend will never forget. I am the second biggest Don Mattingly fan! My friend is the number 1 biggest Mattingly fan...after all, he writes this newsletter and the checklist and runs his Mattingly web site!

I collect everything I can with Mattingly on it...books, stickers, any oddball items. Basically anything with his name or photo on it. I have over 1600 different mattingly items, while my friend has over 2000 different Mattinglys. We are always trying to get our hands on as many items as we can, but there are so many of his collectibles it is hard to get every

one of them.

Then on Sunday, August 31, 1997, the New York Yankees retired Don Mattinglys # 23 uniform. Me and some of my friends were sitting in the left field stands about 25 to 30 feet away from Monument Park.

It was a great ceremony of former teammates and current yankee players honoring a great player who gave his all. He gave 110% all the time until his back gave out, and after the 1995 season he walked away from the game that he loved and retired.

He received a great deal of gifts and other momentos, then he went out to monument park where they unveiled his plaque among the other great Yankee legends, such as Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig and others. It was there that they unveiled his retired #23. The crowd was chanting “Donnie Baseball” and we gave him numerous standing ovations, one after another, until the ceremony was over. He then came out to throw out the first pitch of the scheduled game, the Montreal Expos vs the New York Yankees!

He came out of the dugout with uniform shirt #23 on wearing a

Yankees hat and his first baseman's glove on his right hand. He tossed the first pitch of the game from first base to home plate, then he left the field to a standing ovation and more chants of “Donnie Baseball.”

Even after the game me and my friend went and tried to buy anything that they were selling about this special occasion. Commemorative tickets, pennants, patches, shirts, magazines, whatever they had. I will never forget this occasion.

My name is Richard A. Racio, Jr., a lifelong Don Mattingly fan...forever! I'll never forget #23. Thanks Don!! My friend, as I have said before, is Joseph Riccitelli, Jr. and he writes this very newsletter that you are reading. We have been best friends for over 20 years, and will continue to be forever

Editor's Note: As Rich has mentioned, we have been friends forever...I thank him for finally agreeing to write something for this column! I hope to hear from others who wish to tell me their Mattingly memories!

[HTTP://WWW.DONNIEBASEBALL.COM](http://www.donniebaseball.com)

“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, the New York Yankees Baseball Club, or Major League Baseball in any way.

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{Make Checks payable to Joseph Riccitelli, Jr.}

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The Official Don Mattingly Site (<http://www.don-mattingly.com/>)

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

Fan Letters

Hey Joe -

Welcome back - I missed you and your updates to your website! I can't wait to see what you have in store for us now that you're back. It's been a great Yankee season, hasn't it? I'm just loving it!!

How was your job at Walt Disney World? I bet you had a great time! Like I said, it's great to have you back and reply when you get a chance...I know you're busy with College and everything!

Bob De Nova
(ny7yanks@aol.com)
Sept. 4, 1998

Hello Joseph,

I want to thank you for creating a nice website for us Donnie fans.

Dave
(yankeelegend23@webtv.net)
Sept. 29, 1998

Joe...The Web Site keeps getting better and better. It is an impressive salute to a silent champion! Thanks for all you've done in this tribute. Keep Up the great work.

Ron
(rong@primeretail.com)
April 24, 1998

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