

TSN Player of the Year

Don Mattingly

By MOSS KLEIN

NEW YORK—When Don Mattingly arrived at the New York Yankees spring training camp in Fort Lauderdale last February, he made it clear his sudden success in 1984 hadn't lulled him into thinking great seasons would come easy to him.

"I have to look past last year," said Mattingly, who had won the American League batting title with a .343 average while hitting 23 homers and driving in 110 runs in 1984, his first full major-league season. "I'm proud of what I did but I'm looking ahead, not back."

"I want to have another year like 1984 this season, then another next year and the year after. My goal is consistency. One good year doesn't mean you're a good player. I still have a lot to prove."

Then Mattingly went out and did some proving—and improving. His 1985 performance was even better than his 1984 heroics. He batted .324, hit 35 homers and drove in 145 runs, most in the majors.

He also led the majors with 48 doubles, led the American League with 370 total bases and 86 extra-base hits, was second in the league with 211 hits and a .567 slugging percentage and led A.L. first basemen with a .995 fielding percentage.

Those exploits earned the honor of THE SPORTING NEWS 1985 Major League Player of the Year for Mattingly, who was saluted during baseball's winter meetings in San Diego. He is only the third Yankee in the last 25 years to gain the prestigious award, following Roger Maris in 1961 and Ron Guidry in 1978. A panel of TSN baseball editors selected Mattingly over New York Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden, Kansas City pitcher Bret Saberhagen also received consideration.

Mattingly, continuing to conquer baseball worlds at the age of 24, was named TSN's American League Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. Since that award originated in 1948, the only A.L. players selected in consecutive years previously were Maris (1961 and 1962) and Minnesota's Harmon Killebrew (1969 and 1970).

Moving into elite company has become a routine achievement for Mattingly, whose first two full seasons have projected him into the ranks of the game's all-time greats. The 1985 season was actually Mattingly's third, but he spent more than two months of his rookie year in 1983 with Columbus (International), appearing in only 91 games with the Yankees.

Consider how Mattingly rates in a random sampling of 16 other all-time stars from several eras after they had completed two full seasons (in several cases, as with Mattingly, the two-year statistics don't include a player's initial season if significant minor-league service was involved. Age refers to the player's age at the end of his second full season):

	AB	H	R	HR	RBI	Avg	Age
Mattingly	1255	418	198	58	255	.333	24
Musial	1084	367	195	23	153	.339	22
Cobb	1186	400	185	9	224	.337	21
Williams	1126	378	265	54	258	.336	22
DiMaggio	1258	421	283	75	292	.335	22
Mays	1145	380	242	92	237	.332	24
F. Robinson	1183	363	219	67	158	.307	22
Gehrig	1009	308	208	36	175	.305	23
Mantle	1010	307	199	44	179	.304	22
Aaron	1070	320	163	40	175	.299	21
Brett	1091	324	133	13	136	.297	22
Rice	1145	338	167	47	187	.295	23
Banks	1189	339	168	63	196	.285	24
Murray	1221	347	166	54	183	.284	22
Yastr'ski	1229	346	170	30	174	.282	23
Rose	1139	309	165	10	75	.271	23
R. Jackson	1102	289	205	76	192	.262	23

Mattingly measures up impressively matched against that sampling of elite talent. Among the 17, he ranks second in hits, third in RBIs, fifth in batting average, sixth in homers and eighth in runs. The only others in the top eight in each of the five categories are Joe DiMaggio, who ranks first in hits, runs and RBIs; Willie Mays, the homer leader, and Ted Williams.

Mattingly leads Lou Gehrig and Mickey Mantle in every category except runs, leads Stan Musial in every department except batting average and is significantly ahead of the two-year totals of Hank Aaron, George Brett, Jim Rice, Ernie Banks, Eddie Murray, Carl Yastrzyski and Pete Rose.

Phil Niekro, the grand old knuckleballer who is a veteran of 22 major-league seasons, has watched Mattingly's rise the last two years and regards the "two full seasons factor" as the most remarkable aspect of Mattingly's emergence.

"He's a two-year man who simply dominates," said Niekro. "I've played with and against a lot of great players, but usually even the best of them take a longer time before they take over the way Mattingly has."

Mattingly's takeover in 1985 kept statisticians flipping feverishly through the record books.

His 145 RBIs were the most in the American League since Cleveland's Al Rosen had 145 in 1953 and the most by a Yankee since DiMaggio's 155 in 1948. The gap of 21 RBIs between Mattingly and runner-up Eddie Murray of Baltimore was the largest between 1-2 finishers in the A.L. since 1953, when Rosen had

30 more than Washington's Mickey Vernon. In the National League, the last gap larger than the Mattingly-Murray difference was in 1957, when Milwaukee's Aaron had 27 more than St. Louis' Del Ennis.

Mattingly, who struck out only 41 times in 652 at-bats, became the first player since Cincinnati's Ted Kluszewski in 1954 to drive in more than 140 runs and strike out fewer than 50 times. He became the first Yankee since Gehrig in 1934 to bat 320 or higher with 35 or more homers, 140 or more RBIs, 100 or more runs, 40 or more doubles and 200 or more hits.

Mattingly's totals last season in hits (211), doubles (48) and RBIs (145) were higher than Mantle's best totals in those departments. Mantle never had 200 hits or 40 doubles in a season (Mattingly has reached both levels two years in a row) and his RBI high was 130 in his Triple Crown year of 1956.

Mattingly became the first A.L. player to lead the major leagues in doubles in consecutive seasons since Tris Speaker did it from 1920-23. He became the first Yankee to collect 200 hits in consecutive seasons since DiMaggio in 1936 and 1937, and the first Yankee to lead the A.L. in RBIs since Maris in 1961.

And Mattingly, who was named the American League's Most Valuable Player by the Baseball Writers' Association of America in a landslide over Kansas City's Brett, insists there's room for improvement.

"I know my numbers were great," Mattingly said. "I never dreamed of putting those kind of numbers up. There's no way you can set a goal of 145 RBIs. But I know I can be better."

"I was disappointed with my batting average against left-handed pitchers (.288, a drop of 43 points from 1984). I should do better than that. My goal for next season is to improve



Don Mattingly . . . 'Still a lot to prove.'

against lefthanders and to be consistent. If I do what I'm capable of doing, the numbers will take care of themselves."

Although Mattingly was picked as the A.L.'s Gold Glove first baseman for '85, his numbers have succeeded in making him a classic example of a player whose high-powered offense overshadows his defense.

"People don't seem to realize what a great first baseman he is," said former Yankees manager Billy Martin. "He's the best I've seen."

Guidry, the senior Yankee, summed up his young teammate's future this way: "Mattingly is in a class by himself. To have done what he has done in two seasons is incredible. If he keeps doing this another five, six, seven years, he'll be remembered as one of the best who ever played. I don't know if he'll be another Gehrig, but he'll be as close as anybody else."

TSN Executive of the Year

John Schuerholz

By MIKE FISH

KANSAS CITY—When John Schuerholz boarded a bus carrying Kansas City Royals fans after the 1983 season, he was rudely hit with the barb: "It better be 'Boom Boom' Balboni, or it will be 'Bye Bye' Schuerholz."

Since that cold winter night, Schuerholz has been on a roll.

Everything the man touches turns to gold. Co-Owner Avron Fogelman calls him "one of the bright young men in baseball." And the Royals, the team he prudently pieced together, concluded the season as world champions.

Now Schuerholz can enjoy the last laugh. He has been selected THE SPORTING NEWS Executive of the Year in a vote of other baseball executives, edging out Toronto Blue Jays General Manager Pat Gillick.

"I never had a concern about what happened in 1983," Schuerholz said. "I thought the organization was going to work its way out of it. It is a good organization and has good people."

While others wrote the Royals off after a 1983 disaster that was a combination of age and a drug problem, Schuerholz was one who kept talking about how good things would be in the not-too-distant future. But there was speculation that his job was on the line.

So Schuerholz orchestrated the most substantial overhaul in franchise history. The Royals won the American League West title in 1984, a year after the club had suffered through its only losing record in a full season during the last decade. This year, the club walked off with its first world title. The resurgence was partially credited to additions before the 1984 season of Jorge Orta, Joe Beckwith and Steve Balboni in trades and the development of farm products Bret Saberhagen, Mark Gubicza, Darryl Motley and Pat Sheridan.

Still, that team won only 84 games and received so many unexpected key performances that you had to wonder if that was an overachieving club that really was a long way from solid. Schuerholz failed last off-season to land free agents Rick Sutcliffe and Andre Thornton, but he did acquire veteran catcher Jim Sundberg to nurse his young pitching staff.

And with the club desperate for an offensive fix early last season, Schuerholz acquired left fielder Lonnie Smith, who had shown he could hit .300 and steal bases. Smith's performance was below what the Royals no doubt expected, but it's doubtful they could have captured the division title without him.

To acquire Smith and make room for him on their roster by releasing pitcher Larry Gura, who had a guaranteed contract, the Royals made a commitment of roughly \$3 million over two years.

"We're committed to championship baseball," Schuerholz said. "And, in this day and age, you have to make some decisions that are tough to make from a financial standpoint."

Schuerholz, 44, was also a key negotiator in so-called lifetime contracts within the past two years for George Brett, Willie



John Schuerholz (left) talks things over with Manager Dick Howser.

Wilson and Dan Quisenberry. Co-Owners Fogelman and Ewing Kauffman rewarded him with a similar contract last May.

"I am very pleased with the contract in every aspect," Schuerholz said. "Mostly, I am pleased with the commitment those people have made to me, that Mr. Kauffman and Mr. Fogelman have said to John Schuerholz, 'We want you to be the captain of this ship.'"

The contract basically runs for 15 years, after which Schuerholz will be 59. A salary is set for the first seven years, with financial considerations to be determined at a later date for the final years. Schuerholz said the Royals have the ability to extend his contract after the year 2000, if he remains in baseball.

A graduate of Towson State University, Schuerholz began his baseball career as an assistant to the minor league and scouting departments of the Baltimore Orioles in 1967.

He joined the Royals as an administrative assistant in August of 1968, the summer before the team played its first game. He was promoted to assistant farm director in 1970 and became farm director in 1973, moving to director of scouting and player development the next year.

"Most people in this business who are fortunate enough to have success have to make a few moves in order to get themselves where I find myself," Schuerholz said. "I want to be here. I like it here. I have a lot of my blood and sweat in this organization. This is a great organization, an organization full of good people that I feel I was partly responsible for accumulating and developing."

Tigers-Chisox Feud Heats Up

DETROIT—It started with Disco Demolition night in 1979 at Comiskey Park, the White Sox having to forfeit the second game of a doubleheader because of unplayable conditions.

After all, it's not every day a mountain of disco records is blown up in center field as entertainment between games.

Ever since that night, however, the Detroit Tigers almost can count on something extraordinary happening against the White Sox—either a highlight or lowlight of the season, but extraordinary all the same.

In 1980, Al Cowens precipitated a brawl when he hit a routine grounder to short, then charged Chisox relief pitcher Ed Farmer at the mound instead of heading to first base. Farmer had broken Cowens' jaw with a pitch the year before, and this was Cowens' way of getting even.

In 1981, the two teams met only twice, uneventfully, because of the strike.

But the pace resumed in 1982, so to speak, with Chicago's LaMarr Hoyt admitting he threw in retaliation at Alan Trammell because "Trammell is the one guy (Tigers Manager Sparky Anderson) can least afford to lose. Besides, throwing at guys is Sparky's game—always has been."

The incident also brought forth an exchange of insults, with Detroit coach Dick Tracewski calling the White Sox' Tony LaRussa a "punk manager" and LaRussa countering by calling Tracewski a "weasel."

In 1983, there was more frustration than bad blood as Milt Wilcox came within an out of a perfect game at Comiskey Park, only to see White Sox pinch-hitter Jerry Hairston break it up with a two-out single in the ninth.

Jack Morris went one step further this April, however, when he pitched a no-hitter against the White Sox in Chicago. The White Sox countered just before the All-Star break by sweeping three games from the Tigers in a series at Comiskey Park that featured three roof-clearing home runs—by Greg Luzinski and Ron Kittle of the White Sox and Ruppert Jones of the Tigers.

All that led up to the latest incident, which took place during a 7-1 Detroit victory at Tiger Stadium on July 16, the latest in the Bad Blood Series between the Tigers and White Sox.

It happened in the eighth when Lance Parrish was hit by a Britt Burns pitch that plate umpire Ted Hendry considered intentional.

"It's my judgment Burns was throwing at him," said Hendry. "That's an automatic ejection."

Parrish felt he was being thrown at because Glenn Abbott hit Chicago's Carlton Fisk in the back with a pitch in the sixth.

"I'm positive it was intentional," said Parrish. "I really believe Tony LaRussa tells his pitchers to throw at people."

Said LaRussa, "I'm not here to make friends with the other side. If they want to throw inside, we'll throw inside."

"I'll be by the batting cage if Parrish wants to find me," LaRussa added, "but I'm not going to say anything to a guy who's big enough to throw me into the stands."

As Parrish walked to first base, yelling at Burns as he went, LaRussa came out of the White Sox' dugout barking at Parrish.

"I don't think I've ever liked LaRussa," said Parrish. "I should have punched him in the mouth. They ought to throw him out of baseball. He tells his pitchers to throw at people—I really believe that—like he's some sort of tough guy."

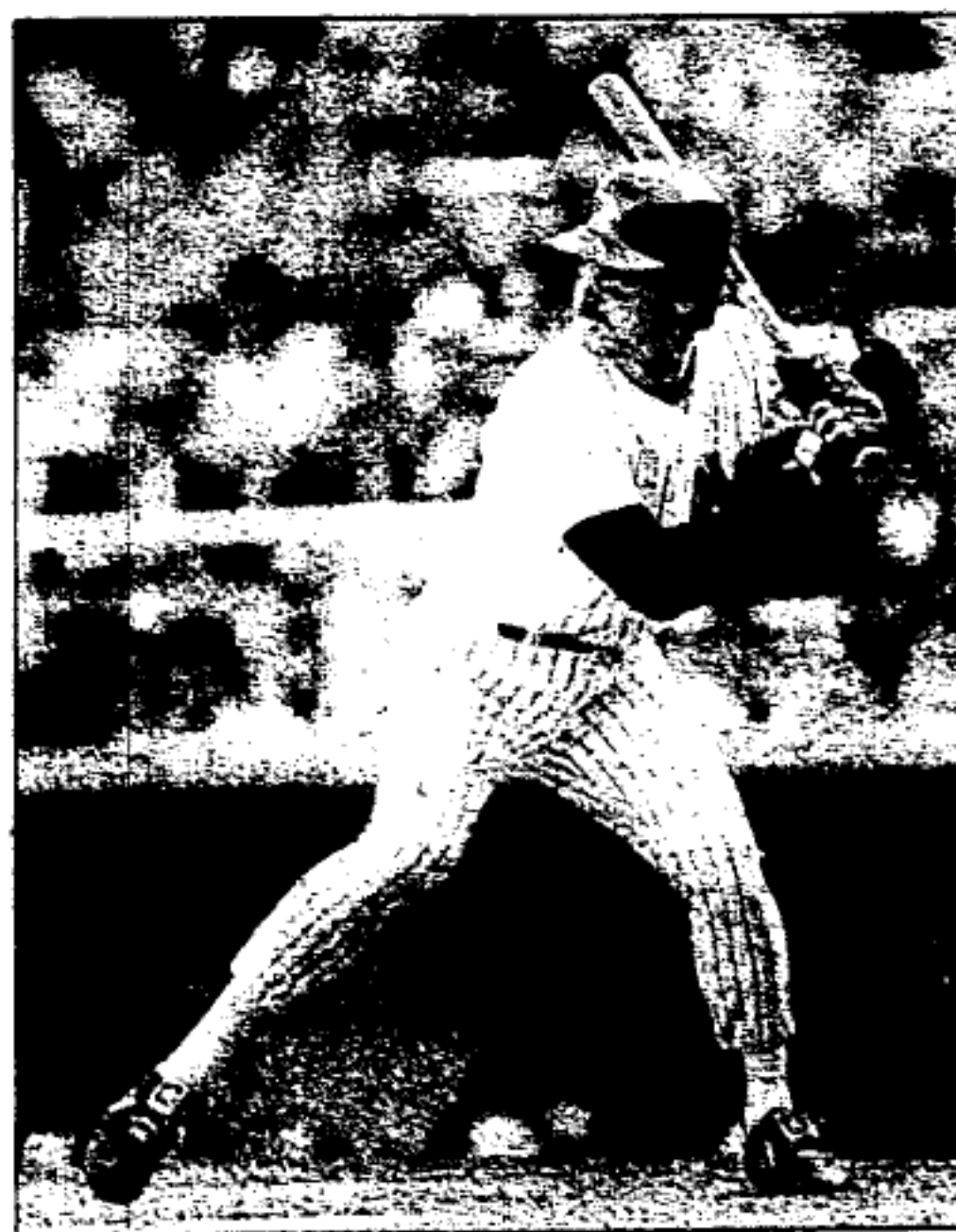
"I told him, 'There's no way we were throwing at Fisk.' He said, 'Oh, yes, you were.' I lost a lot of respect right there for him. I think he better stay as far away from me as he can."

Said LaRussa, "I don't care what Parrish believes. He's not my catcher. There are a lot of guys who used to pitch for me. You can talk to anybody. I don't order guys to throw at players. But there's no doubt in my mind that the pitch which hit Fisk came from the bench, the pitching coach or the catcher. Fisk is as important to our club as Parrish is to theirs."

And so it goes between the White Sox and Tigers, baseball's version of the Hatfields and McCoy's.

Tiger Tales: Trammell reported daily progress in his throwing shoulder after being the first Tiger to go on the disabled list this season. Trammell was due back July 24. He was sidelined with tendinitis. . . . Abbott pitched a five-hitter and beat the White Sox, 7-1, in his first start after returning from Evansville. It was the Tigers' first complete game in a month. . . . The bullpen gave up just one run in 14½ innings against Minnesota as the Tigers won three of four games. . . . John Grubb and Dave Bergman hit pinch-hit home runs in consecutive games against the Twins. Grubb and Bergman have combined for five pinch-hit home runs this season.

TOM GAGE



The most consistent Yankee in 1984 has been Don Mattingly.



Mattingly Quickly Becoming a Star

NEW YORK—When the New York Yankees were struggling during the first half of the season, Don Mattingly was hitting consistently, hustling on every play, driving in runs and playing first base as if he had a Gold Glove in his future.

When the Yankees began showing signs of a turnaround in the second half, Mattingly was still hitting, still hustling, still driving in runs and still playing superbly at first base.

For the Yankees, the season has been a bit of a paradox. The 500 level has proved elusive, but several individuals have excelled. Pitcher Phil Niekro, right fielder Dave Winfield, second baseman Willie Randolph, catcher Butch Wynegar, designated hitter Don Baylor and reliever Dave Righetti are having outstanding seasons. But the most consistent player, and the most promising in terms of the Yankees' future, has been Mattingly.

Mattingly, a 23-year-old lefthanded hitter who wasn't even considered a regular when the season started, has given the Yankees the first baseman for whom they've been searching since Chris Chambliss was traded after the 1979 season.

"I knew he was going to be good, and I knew it wouldn't take too long," said Manager Yogi Berra, who initially had planned to use Mattingly as a part-time outfielder and part-time first baseman this season. "But I didn't expect him to be this good this soon."

Neither, in fact, did Mattingly. "I always had confidence that I could hit in the 300 range," he said, "and I figured I could drive in a decent number of runs. But I thought I'd hit a maximum of 10 to 15 homers."

Through 89 games, Mattingly was batting .341 with 12 homers and 57 runs batted in. He has readjusted his goals to include a batting average "well above .300 and 100 RBIs."

Mattingly is gaining respect around the American League as a hitter who uses the entire ball park, with many of his hits coming on opposite-field slaps to left.

"The young man doesn't seem to have any holes as a hitter," Detroit Manager Sparky Anderson said of Mattingly. "He's one of the most impressive hitters I've seen in a long time. And he plays first base as well as anybody."

The indications of future stardom were evident last season, when Mattingly graduated from four minor-league seasons that produced a cumulative .333 batting average and joined the Yankees to stay in June.

Former manager Billy Martin, who among other things has been recognized as an outstanding judge of young talent, began playing Mattingly in the outfield, pushing Steve Kemp to the bench. Mattingly, far more experienced as a first baseman, worked hard and became a good outfielder. He kept his batting average in the .300 range before finishing his 91-game rookie season at .283.

Mattingly credits a large part of his success this season to a productive off-season. He played for Caguas in the Puerto Rican Winter League, won the batting title with a .368 average and worked at improving his hitting against left-handers.

Mattingly always has been a worker. At Memorial High in Evansville, Ind., he was the star of a team that won 59 consecutive games and was recruited by several college baseball

powers. But most scouts were discouraged by his lack of speed, and in the June 1979 amateur draft he wasn't selected until the 19th round. The Yankees were prodded into picking him by scout Jax Robertson, who now works for Detroit.

"I had a good feeling about his potential as a hitter," Robertson said recently. "He's a bright guy, a competitor. There are guys who have had more potential and didn't make it. Don made himself a good player."

In the four seasons after the trade of Chambliss, the Yankees' roll call of first basemen included Bob Watson, Jim Spencer, John Mayberry, Steve Balboni, Lee Mazzilli, Dave Collins, Butch Hobson, Roy Smalley and Ken Griffey. All that time, Mattingly was in the minors, waiting his turn.

"It was a little frustrating when they kept bringing in veterans," said Mattingly, who never batted lower than .314 in the minors. "But my attitude was that if I kept having good years in the minors, I'd eventually make it to the majors. If the Yankees didn't want me, some other team would trade for me."

The Yanks in recent years had established a pattern of trading minor-league players who emerged as stars. But Mattingly, much to their relief, became one who didn't get away.

Yankee Doodles: The Yankees bolted from the All-Star break with six consecutive victories, their longest winning streak of the season. . . . A five-game sweep against the Kansas City Royals marked the first time the Yankees had swept a five-game series since June 1973 against Detroit. . . . Yankees pitchers allowed a total of six runs in the five games, only four in the last 42 innings. . . . Rookie third baseman Mike Pagliarulo, called up from Columbus (International) on July 7, hit his first major-league home run on July 13 against Kansas City rookie Bret Saberhagen. Pagliarulo, who quickly became a favorite of the fans because of his fine defensive play, returned to his locker after the game to find a magnum of champagne, courtesy of Owner George Steinbrenner. . . . Jay Howell was settling in as the club's No. 2 reliever behind Dave Righetti. Howell had 67 strikeouts in 56 innings. . . . In his first three starts after being acquired from Philadelphia, Marty Bystrom had a 2-0 record and a 2.37 earned-run average. . . . The uniform numbers worn by Roger Maris (9) and the late Elston Howard (32) were retired on July 21 during Old Timers Day ceremonies. They became the 10th and 11th Yanks to be honored in that fashion. Previous Yanks whose numbers were retired are Babe Ruth (3), Lou Gehrig (4), Joe DiMaggio (5), Mickey Mantle (7), Bill Dickey and Yogi Berra (8), Thurman Munson (15), Whitey Ford (16) and Casey Stengel (37).

MOSS KLEIN



Jackson Replaces Lamp as Short Man

TORONTO—The Toronto Blue Jays had a new rotation—in the bullpen, that is—when play resumed after the All-Star break. Roy Lee Jackson replaced disappointing Dennis Lamp as the designated short man in the relief corps.

In the first game after the break, Doyle Alexander ran into trouble with a 4-1 lead in the bottom of the seventh inning in Oakland, and Manager Bobby Cox summoned Lamp. But Lamp gave up a single to Mike Davis and walked Rickey Henderson. Then lefthander Jimmy Key took over and gave up a single to Dwayne Murphy. Finally, Jackson came on to face Dave Kingman, and, after a passed ball by catcher Buck Martinez permitted Henderson to score the go-ahead run, Kingman homered to put the game out of reach.

"We were trying to save Roy Lee for the eighth and ninth," Cox explained later. "Right now, he is throwing the best of anybody in the bullpen."

The next game, Jackson pitched two innings to lock up a 6-3 victory as Luis Leal became the Jays' first 10-game winner. In the finale of the four-game series, Jackson got the last four outs in another 6-3 decision. Those two saves gave him seven for the season.

Lamp, the designated short man most of the first half, was leading the Jays in saves with eight, but he had none since May 23. That's why Cox handed the ball to Jackson.

One day after Leal got his 10th victory, Dave Stieb joined him as a 10-game winner with a 2-1 decision over the A's. In the final game at Oakland, Jim Clancy got his first road victory of the season. He pitched seven shutout innings before yielding a three-run homer to Kingman and then giving way to Jackson.

The Jays broke out the heavy artillery to support Clancy. Damaso Garcia, Willie Upshaw and Cliff Johnson homered in the same inning and Johnson later hit his second round-tripper of the game.

Upshaw's homer, his 14th, was his first in three weeks. He had struggled through a 15-game spin in which he went 5-for-57.

Jays Chatter: Third base coach Jimmy Williams was working with designated hitter Willie Aikens on sliding. Aikens twice has been tagged out at home plate when he didn't slide. . . . The Jays were blanked for only the second time this season when California's Jim Slaton stopped them, 3-0, on a two-hitter. The loser was Jim Gott, who had spun a two-hit shutout against the Angels in Toronto. . . . Garcia's 10-game hitting streak was snapped by Slaton. Garcia had to leave the game with one at-bat after he was drilled by a Slaton pitch. Garcia was leading

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Bernazard's Bat OK'd in Probe

CLEVELAND—This has been a bizarre season for Tony Bernazard, and it's only June.

In spring training, Bernazard was forced to fight for his starting job after the Cleveland Indians' front office decided that collegian Cory Snyder, who had never played a day in the minor leagues, should be given a chance to become the regular at second base.



Only Snyder's inexperience kept Bernazard in the lineup. In addition to trying to cope with a new position, Snyder was unable to adjust immediately to big-league pitching. But Bernazard didn't help himself by hitting .164 in Arizona.

Once the real season began, Bernazard became a big gun in the Tribe attack. But on May 8, Bernazard was banished to the bench despite hitting .317 and leading the team with three home runs. Julio Franco moved from short to second, and newly acquired Johnnie LeMaster was installed at short.

Indians President Peter Bavasi halted that experiment eight games later, when it became clear an improved defense could not compensate for LeMaster's weaknesses at the plate. Bernazard returned to second and Franco to short.

But normalcy remained only a rumor to Bernazard, because on May 22 he became embroiled in a new controversy involving a bat he had borrowed from Franco. Upon driving a two-run double to the center-field wall in Cleveland, Bernazard was accused of using an illegal bat. Milwaukee Brewers Manager George Bamberger played the game under protest.

The protest was dropped when Milwaukee rallied for a 6-5 victory, but the allegations against Bernazard lingered until American League President Bobby Brown could determine whether the bat had been tampered with. Two days later, Brown ordered the bat to be split open. Nothing was discovered inside except wood.

"The only thing they found in that bat were a lot of hits," Bernazard said with a grin, then got serious. "I didn't like it one bit. They were messing around with my image. I'm a clean guy, and I set a good example for my three kids. And after spending all those hours in the weight room, do you think I would waste my time with a corked bat?"

Bamberger and Milwaukee catcher Charlie Moore admitted that their charges were based mostly on gossip among other players.

"I have no idea whether the bat is or isn't legal," Bamberger said after the game. "The only thing is that we've heard stories about the ball jumping off Bernazard's bat and landing in the center-field seats when guys like Jim Rice can't do it. But I really have no idea. Maybe I'm not giving him enough credit. I do know that there are a lot of corked bats around the league."

Said Moore, "We heard rumors about him and guys from other teams, so we picked a situation where he drove in two runs. The bat didn't look corked to me, though, and I've seen corked bats. But if he was using one, then we caught him. I told the ump to have it checked because we had nothing to lose."

Since the bat belonged to Franco, he was irate to be accused indirectly of wrongdoing.

"If I get hold of the bat, I will break it open for them so they can see it," he said. "There is no cork in that bat."

Tribe Manager Pat Corrales also showed his displeasure at being forced to defend his players against allegations of cheating. With a stony glare, he said, "Nobody on this club uses a trick bat."

Through all of his travails, Bernazard was hitting .288 while driving in 14 runs, scoring 16 and hitting four homers to share the team lead with Brook Jacoby.

Smoke Signals: In a 25-game span, Jacoby hit .354 with three homers and 16 runs batted in, raising his average from .190 to .288. . . . When Bert Blyleven posted the 49th shutout of his career, an 8-0 decision over Milwaukee May 27, it tied him for 20th on the all-time list with Luis Tiant, Don Drysdale, Ferguson Jenkins and Early Wynn. . . . Vern Rhee continued to miss starts because of nagging injuries. No sooner had he returned to the rotation after recuperating from a pinched nerve in his neck than he was sidelined with a rib injury. . . . In a 21-game span through May 24, Cleveland relievers posted a 2.11 earned-run average in 68½ innings, yet gained just one save to go with a 2-3 record.

SHELDON OCKER



Though Tony Bernazard was forced to fight for a starting job and then was involved in a controversy over an alleged illegal bat, he has managed to keep his cool at the plate, hitting .288.

from now, I'll look back and say, '1984 was a great season.' But for now, I'm putting last year out of my mind and concentrating on this year. I don't want to become known as a one-year star who never again matched the one great season. I want to have another great year and another after that. Until I do it for a few years, then I can't say I'm a proven star."

Last year, Mattingly was named THE SPORTING NEWS American League Player of the Year. He won the batting title with a .343 mark, hit 23 homers, drove in 110 runs and led the league with 207 hits and 44 doubles. After a slow start this season, caused primarily by a knee injury that sidelined him for most of spring training, Mattingly was trying to prove he wasn't a one-season flash.

In his first 39 games, before being sidelined for two games because of a pulled groin, Mattingly was batting .319 with 38 runs batted in, the most in the major leagues. He was batting .417 with runners in scoring position, was leading the league with 14 doubles and was among the league leaders in hits, extra-base hits and total bases.

"I don't set any statistical goals," he said. "My only goal is consistency. It took me awhile to get going this year because of all the time I missed in spring training. I really didn't feel comfortable at the plate for the first three or four weeks. But now I'm hitting the ball hard, driving the ball, and as long as I'm doing that, the numbers will come."

Last year, Mattingly said his batting average didn't surprise him nearly as much as his 23 homers. He was a .332 hitter in five minor-league seasons but never hit more than 12 homers in a season. Now, he said, "I feel I'll hit in the 25-homer range. But the RBI total is the most important number to me."

Mattingly's performance last season obviously attracted the attention of A.L. pitchers, but he said he wasn't being pitched any differently this year.

"Maybe in certain situations, when first base is open, the pitchers aren't giving me anything too good to hit," Mattingly said. "But, basically, I'm getting the same pitches. With our lineup, they can't afford to walk me because then (Dave) Winfield and (Don) Baylor are coming up."

Mattingly's hitting moved into high gear after Billy Martin replaced Yogi Berra as manager 16 games into the season. In Martin's first 23 games, Mattingly hit .347 with five homers and 31 RBIs. That came as no surprise to Martin.

"Don't forget I'm the guy who started playing him," said Martin, who spotted Mattingly's talent when he was the manager in 1983 and Mattingly was a rookie. "I played him and benched Steve Kemp, and everybody was criticizing me. Kemp was an established hitter with a big contract. But I never cared how much a guy was making. I saw Mattingly hit, and I knew I had to have him in the lineup."

Mattingly hit .283 in 91 games as a rookie before surging to the top last year. He's determined to stay at the top and feels

that 1984 will turn out to be only the first in a long line of impressive seasons.

Yankee Doodles: Ron Guldry's first eight decisions included a 1-2 record at Yankee Stadium and a 4-1 record on the road. Last year, he had an 8-2 record at home and a 2-0 mark on the road. During Martin's four terms as manager, Guldry has a 67-22 record, a .753 winning percentage. Under other managers, his record is 70-43, a .619 percentage. "He's had his best years under me, and I've had my best years with him," said Martin. . . . The homer Dave Righetti gave up to Oakland's Dwayne Murphy on May 27 was the first round-tripper allowed by the lefty reliever in 33 innings this season.

When Martin called on Bob Shirley to pitch the ninth inning against Oakland on May 26, with the Yankees leading, 13-1, it marked Shirley's first appearance since April 30. "I wasn't getting discouraged," said Shirley, who retired the side in the ninth on eight pitches as he increased his workload under Martin to two innings in 24 games. "But I think what got me in the game was something that started about nine months ago—Rich Bordin's wife expecting a baby." Bordin had been excused by Martin so he could go to San Francisco, where his wife was about to give birth to their first child. . . . Martin had allowed catcher Butch Wynegar to miss a game against California one week earlier after his wife gave birth to a boy in New Jersey. "We're going to have to do something about this," said Martin jokingly after Bordin left. "We'll have to put in a rule that players' wives can only have babies in the off-season."

Through 41 games, the Yanks had a 16-5 record when Dale Berra was the starting third baseman and a 5-15 mark when Mike Pagliarulo started at third. . . . Willie Randolph's homer against Oakland's Bill Krueger on May 26 was his first in 471 at-bats. His last had been a game-winning blast against Boston's Bob Stanley at Fenway Park on June 14, 1984. "Every once in a while, I can hit one," said Randolph, who has 30 homers in his 10-year career. "I really got a charge out of this one. For me, it was a perfect swing." . . . Rookie Rex Hudler played five innings at first base May 27, the first time he had played the position since Little League. "I had a great time," said Hudler, who played second, shortstop and third in seven minor-league seasons. "I was a little nervous in the first inning, but then I got the hang of it. Whenever they hit a grounder, I just kept thinking, 'OK, now get to the bag and catch the throw.'"

MOSS KLEIN



Lemon's Sour Streak Finally May Be Over

DETROIT—The Detroit Tigers thought enough of Chet Lemon to make sure he'll be around until 1992, which is how long his contract runs. But Lemon, the Tigers, the popcorn vendors and just about everyone else had begun to wonder if it would take that long for him to hit his first 1985 home run.

That's an exaggeration, of course, but it took Lemon until May 25 to find the seats for the first time this year—a drought of alarming length both to him and the Tigers. Lemon connected for a two-run shot in Seattle, a home run that proved to be the difference in a 3-2 victory—the third consecutive one-run triumph by Detroit as it salvaged its longest trip of the season with a 6-6 mark.

As he watched the ball land in the left-field seats of the Kingdome, Lemon muttered to himself, "It's about time."

Lemon didn't ogle the home run. He didn't stand and admire the feat, but he did take his time sauntering down to first base—not in any way showing up rookie pitcher Karl Best, but using whatever time might be available to savor the moment.

After all, the wait can seem like forever.

"You bet it can," said Lemon, who didn't hold back any of the relief he was feeling. "That home run felt so good. It was all I could do to contain the joy I felt."

With the Tigers' offense sputtering for much of the season, Lemon knew that much of the disappointment involved him. He had no home runs and only 12 runs batted in, far below the 10 homers and 36 RBIs he had by the end of May a year ago.

"They expect me to drive the ball. I know that," he said. "They expect me to hit at least 20 home runs a year, and I expect that, too. But I was hitting so much to right field early in the year that I got complacent about pulling the ball. I enjoyed hitting to right, but enough was enough. That was a long dry spell for me. It was a combination of not getting good pitches to hit and not hitting the good pitches I was getting. Look at it from the pitcher's point of view. Why give a guy a good pitch to hit when he's swinging at everything anyway?"

"So I had to pause and say, 'thank you,' for letting me get that first one out of the way."

If Manager Sparky Anderson knows Lemon, and he believes he does, then one homer quickly could lead to more. "He's streaky that way," said Anderson, "but I know how much better he's got to be feeling. I think Chet was thinking about not having a home run yet. That's a lot of games without one."

"We're getting a lot of hits," Anderson added. "Batting average isn't the problem, but we're not producing anything. Our pitchers can't work from a lead, and that changes the entire

(Continued on Page 18, Column 1)



Mattingly Proving 1984 Wasn't a Fluke

NEW YORK—Don Baylor walked past Don Mattingly's locker after a game at Yankee Stadium recently, shook his head and said: "The kid's at it again."

"What I did last year was great," said Mattingly, the New York Yankees' first baseman. "But last year is history. Years

N.L. PLAYER, PITCHER: Cubs Make a Sweep With Sandberg and Sutcliffe

By JOE GODDARD

CHICAGO—Sandberg and Sutcliffe. Sutcliffe and Sandberg. They're interchangeable. Mention both in Chicago and you've said it all.

Fans of the Chicago Cubs rejoiced this season as the pair helped lead baseball's oldest continuous franchise to its first title in 39 years.

A .265 hitter in his first two major-league seasons, Sandberg exploded in 1984 with these figures: a .314 batting average, a league-high 114 runs, 36 doubles, 19 triples, 19 home runs, 84 RBIs and 32 stolen bases, plus defensive domination at second base, with only six miscues and 62 straight errorless games.

Obtained from Cleveland just before the June 15 trade deadline, Sutcliffe reeled off a 16-1 record and tied a club mark for consecutive wins (14). He also became only the fourth pitcher in history to win 20 while pitching for teams in different leagues. He was 4-5 with the Indians.

For their individual efforts in a remarkable team turnaround (fifth place in 1983 to first in the National League East), THE SPORTING NEWS recognizes them as National League Player and Pitcher of the Year.

"In my heart, I know those two deserve everything they get," Manager Jim Frey said.

"When we had our talks in spring training, I felt Ryne was at the right age, had the right physique and the right amount of experience to start hitting for power.

"I've talked to a lot of players who couldn't make the adjust-

ment from being a contact hitter to driving the ball, but Ryne picked it up right away."

As for Sutcliffe, Frey said, "He's like the guy on a mission. He's out to prove something."

"You have to admire the way he goes about it. He has a 92 (miles an hour) fastball and all the other pitches, but I think the quality everyone talks about is his competitive nature. He wants to do well so badly. A lot of pitchers have good stuff, but he has that extra ingredient."

Unlike many pitchers, Sutcliffe enjoyed Wrigley Field, despite its pinched power-alley dimensions.

"I know what that park can do to ERAs, but earned-run average doesn't concern me anymore. I'll take a 10-9 win with the 1-0's, just so long as we win," said Sutcliffe.

Sutcliffe enjoyed Wrigley Field for another reason: "I like it 'cause I get to hit there, too. I'll take my RBI chances with Leon Durham, Jody Davis and the rest."

Rick led Cubs pitchers with a .250 average and six RBIs.

Sutcliffe figured he had only three bad outings:

A 7-1 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers, the team that traded him after the 1981 season ("I was too excited. I had waited three years. I was so jacked up I didn't have anything on the ball"), a 13-11 victory at Cincinnati ("The guys gave me seven runs in the first inning and I didn't know what to do with it"), and the 6-3 loss to the Padres at San Diego in the fifth game of the playoffs ("It was my loss, no one else's").

His teammates easily forgave his few failings. "On this team,

I compare him to Lefty (Steve Carlton)," Larry Bowa said. "The feeling when you take the field is, if you get one or two runs, you've got a chance of winning. He always gave us that feeling."

One or two runs a game is about all Sutcliffe gave after the All-Star break. Before the playoff defeat, he was 12-0 with a 2.76 ERA. He allowed no more than two earned runs in 10 of 16 games.

Sandberg had few slumps in his surprising season. Except for the dying weeks, when he was trying to become the first player ever to collect 200 hits, 20 doubles, 20 triples, 20 homers and 20 stolen bases, he was a model of consistency.

He gained 200 hits one day before the final game of the season by ripping a double and three singles. A rained-out contest that wasn't made up and a strong wind blowing in during the last game may have prevented the player his teammates call "Kid Natural" from achieving one more triple and one more homer to reach 20 in each category.

"I'm happy. I have no regrets," Sandberg said.

The Philadelphia Phillies have regrets. Of the many trades they made with the Cubs to launch the Cubs' meteoric rise to the top, the only one President Bill Giles regrets is Sandberg's.

"The other trades, I'd do again, but not Sandberg," he said of passing Bowa, Gary Matthews, Bob Dernier and Keith Moreland on to the Cubs.

As Baltimore Orioles scout Jim Russo said, "If there is such a thing as a '10' among ball players, Sandberg is it."

A.L. PLAYER: Yankees' Don Mattingly Is Only Going to Get Better

By MOSS KLEIN

NEW YORK—When it came down to the last day of the season, the batting-title duel with teammate Dave Winfield riding on every at-bat, Don Mattingly simply added a fitting final chapter to his 1984 saga.

The New York Yankees first baseman collected four hits against the Detroit Tigers at Yankee Stadium, not only winning the American League batting title but earning additional respect from veteran observers.

"Getting four hits in that situation, that shows me some class there," said Detroit Manager Sparky Anderson. "I'd say that Mr. Mattingly is going to be heard from for a long time in this game. That kid is something special."

Something special is the way to describe Mattingly's 1984 season. In his first full year in the major leagues, he rose from a player without a regular position to THE SPORTING NEWS American League Player of the Year.

When the season began, Mattingly was regarded as the Yankees' swing man. Manager Yogi Berra, trying to find room in the lineup for his veterans, knew that Mattingly, who batted 283 as a part-timer with the Yankees in 1983, could play first base, left field and right field.

In the first four games of the season, Mattingly was a late-innings replacement for since-retired Lou Piniella in left field and had a total of four at-bats.

That arrangement quickly changed. Berra decided that the young man with the quick bat had to have a daily place in the lineup. Months later, the manager even honored Mattingly in

his unique style by making him the subject of the latest "Yogiism." When asked in mid-September if Mattingly had exceeded his expectations, Berra said: "Not only that, he's done better."

The newest Pride of the Yankees led the league with a .343 batting average, 207 hits and 44 doubles, hit 23 homers, drove in 110 runs, fifth in the league, and was second to Chicago's Harold Baines with a .537 slugging percentage.

Incidentally, on a roster packed with high-priced talent, Mattingly worked for relatively low wages. He earned \$130,000 in 1984. That figure consisted of \$80,000 in salary and a \$50,000 bonus for appearing in over 110 games.

Mattingly combined with Winfield (.340 average, 19 homers, 100 RBIs) to give the Yankees a memorable one-two punch. And their batting-title competition captured national attention. They occupied the top two spots beginning July 13 and in the final three weeks often exchanged the lead during games.

Mattingly made himself at home in the hallowed tradition of the Yankees' record books. He became the first Yankee to win a batting title since Mickey Mantle in 1956, had the most hits by a Yankee since Bobby Richardson's 209 in 1962, the most doubles since Red Rolfe's 46 in 1939.

And he became the first Yankee to bat .340 or higher, hit 20

or more homers, 40 or more doubles and drive in 100 or more runs in a season since Joe DiMaggio in 1941. Only two other Yankees reached those four levels in a season: Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

While his hitting attracted the most attention, Mattingly's defense at first base indicated there will be many Gold Gloves in his future. And his teammates spoke mostly about Mattingly's hustle, desire and heart.

"He's one of those few players you actually feel honored to be in the same locker room with," said catcher Rick Cerone.

"Sometimes it's hard to believe he's 23 years old and this is his first full season," said veteran Don Baylor, the Yankees' designated hitter.

Mattingly, the Yankees' 19th-round selection in the June, 1979 amateur draft, was discovered by Jax Robertson, now a scout for the Tigers. Robertson, who watched him play for Evansville Memorial High, took a liking to the 18-year-old Mattingly while other scouts dismissed him because of lack of speed.

"I had a real good gut feeling about his potential with the bat," said Robertson. "He's a bright guy, a competitor. There are guys who have had more potential and didn't make it. Don made himself a good player."

A.L. PITCHER: Tigers' Hernandez Was Nearly Perfect

By TOM GAGE

DETROIT—The day Willie Hernandez arrived in spring training with the Detroit Tigers, an exhibition game was in progress. The Tigers were playing St. Louis, and Cardinals Manager Whitey Herzog had already given his impression of the trade in which the Tigers got Hernandez from the Philadelphia Phillies.

"If Sparky doesn't win a pennant now," said Herzog, "they should fire him. That's what I think of Hernandez. I'm glad to see him out of the National League."

Herzog was kidding, and then again, he wasn't. He wasn't serious about Sparky Anderson being dismissed as manager if the Tigers didn't win, but he did treasure the talent of Hernandez. And so do the Tigers, now that they have a world championship under their belt and Hernandez has been named THE SPORTING NEWS American League Pitcher of the Year. He was selected for the award by TSN editors.

It didn't take long for the Tigers to know they had traded for someone special when they made the deal last March, in which they sent outfielder Glenn Wilson and catcher-first baseman John Wockenfuss to Philadelphia for Hernandez and first baseman Dave Bergman.

Bergman gave the Tigers needed depth, and the lefthanded Hernandez provided instant reliability in the Detroit bullpen.

"I knew he was going to be good," said Anderson. "I told everyone we had traded for a premier relief pitcher, but I didn't know he was going to be this good. You can't get better than perfect. I've never seen a pitcher with such a percentage of success. Without him, we wouldn't have done what we did."

Armed with a screwball that tails away from righthanded

hitters, negating the usual lefty-righty strategy that most managers employ with pitchers and hitters in the late innings, Hernandez posted a 9-3 record and a 1.92 earned-run average. More importantly, he had 32 saves in 33 save situations.

The only save he missed came September 28 in New York, 10 days after the Tigers had clinched the American League East Division title. Hernandez entered a game against the Yankees with a one-run lead, one out and runners on first and third. He retired both batters he faced, but one of the outs was a sacrifice fly that tied the score. The Tigers eventually won in 12 innings, but his streak of perfection was over.

"You still can't pitch any better than he did all season," said Tigers pitching coach Roger Craig. "I don't know when you'll see a pitcher put this kind of season together again."

Hernandez always had confidence in his talent, but the extent of his success this season astounded him. In his first seven seasons in the majors, Hernandez had recorded a total of 27 saves, with a high of 10 in 1982 for the Chicago Cubs.

"I never think about awards before," said the 28-year-old Puerto Rican. "Just to be considered, to have people talking about me like that, is a nice feeling. But I don't think it'll change me back home."

"I don't want people thinking I'm coming down from the sky. I must go back to Puerto Rico as me, Willie."

Hernandez set a Detroit club record with 80 appearances. If anything, he could have pitched more.

"The worst I felt all year is when I got too much rest," he said. "Three days of not pitching and I don't feel so good. I told the boss when I reported last March, 'I like to pitch, I like to win. I can rest in November.'"

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BASEBALL'S INDISPENSABLES

Which Player on Each Major League Team Would Be the Most Difficult to Replace?

A.L. EAST

DETROIT TIGERS



Alan Trammell

They won without Lance Parrish last year. Now they hope they can win without Kirk Gibson. But the Detroit Tigers know without whom it would be the most difficult to win.

Alan Trammell.

Without their shortstop, the Tigers would have a hole in the middle of their defense and a void in the cleanup spot, plus they'd lose the clubhouse contributions of a player who has stepped easily into the role of leader.

"If anything, the departures of other players have helped Trammell take on the responsibility of being looked up to," said Tigers first baseman-designated hitter Darrell Evans. "I don't know what else a leader is than a player who is expected to perform in a certain way and does."

Trammell's contributions start on the field. He has batted .300 or higher in four of the last eight years and won Rawlings Gold Glove Awards in 1980, '81, '83 and '84. He's also made the transition from being a pesky No. 2 hitter, expected to advance runners, to cleanup, where the assignment is driving in runs. Last year, he had career highs of 28 homers and 105 runs batted in.

"When you are talking about today's great players, he has to be included," said Tigers Manager Sparky Anderson. "There isn't anything Trammell doesn't do well."

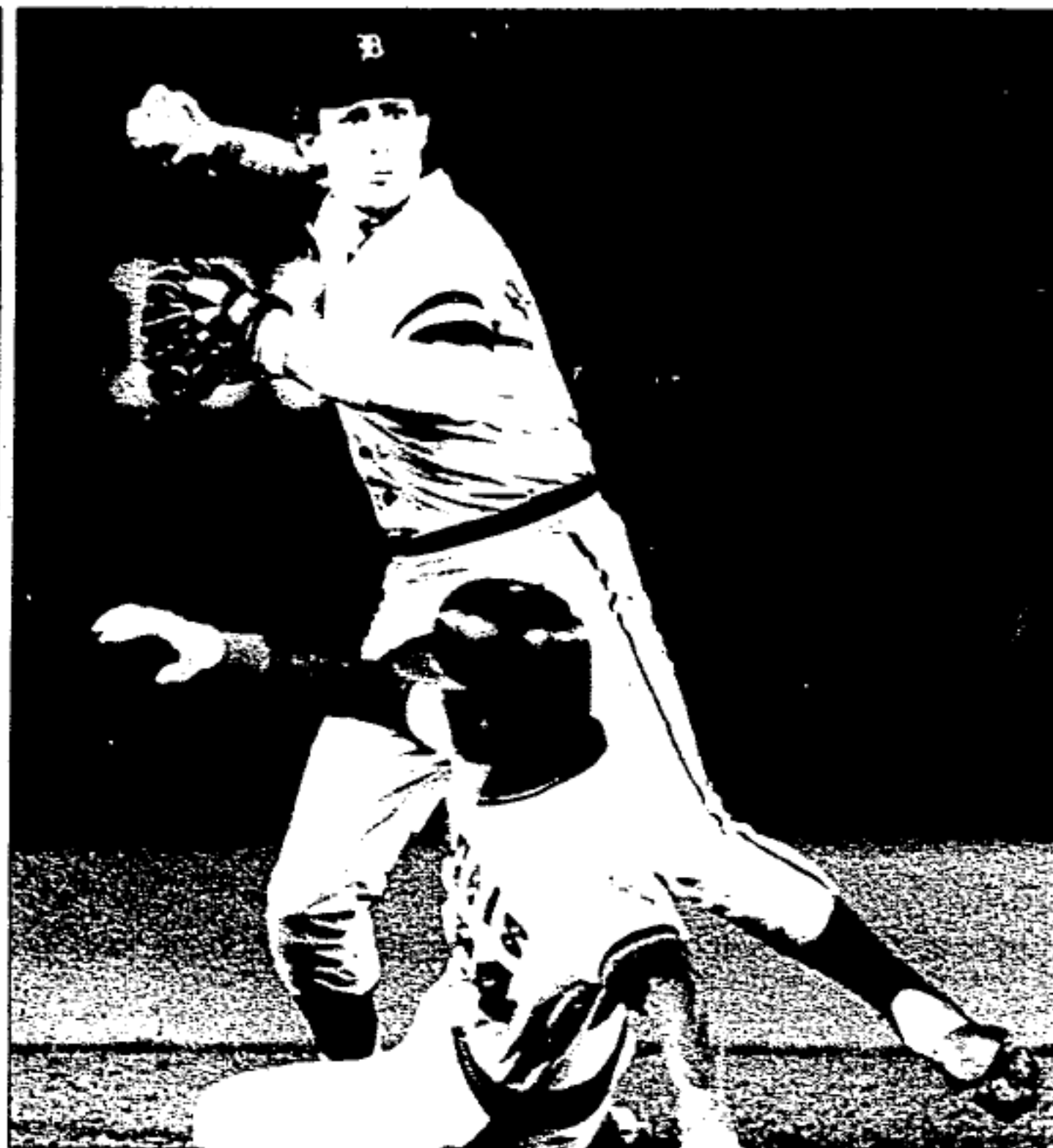
"Since I've been here, I've watched him grow and mature into a totally different player. But you have to remember that he was just a kid back then. He's a man now."

Trammell, 30, has never lost his boyish enthusiasm for baseball, however, nor his wide-eyed determination to improve.

"I've never seen a player who pushes himself to reach higher plateaus the way he does," said Evans. "As far as I'm concerned, he was the American League's MVP (last year)."

"Trammell reacts in such a positive way to responsibility. Some players don't want it, but he has made it look like a natural process."

It wasn't that Trammell shunned responsibility earlier in his career, but there were others, such as Parrish, who personified leadership more. When Parrish became a free



Despite all the offense he's given the Tigers, defense is the cornerstone of shortstop Alan Trammell's career.

agent after the 1986 season and signed with the Phillies, Trammell stepped into his role as cleanup hitter and his shoes as a leader.

"It's not something I consciously think about," said Trammell. "Leadership is much more what you do than what you say. I know they count on me, but I also know that I'm one to be counted on. I like the feeling that they can depend on me."

The departures of Parrish and Gibson, who signed a free agent contract with the Dodgers in February, have left their impressions on the Tigers. There are those who feel no player is indispensable, regardless of whether he hits home runs or throws strikes.

"Babe Ruth is dead and so is Cy Young," said Tigers pitcher Jack Morris. "But I think there is a major misconception of what we've done without Parrish. Yes, we won without him, but we would have been runaway winners with him."

Trammell, however, feels "there are certain players you can't lose for lengthy amounts of time." And the Tigers, in turn, feel Trammell is such a player.

"I know when he was worried about his shoulder," said Anderson, "it gave him an uncertainty which affected the way he played, and that didn't exactly make us a better team."

Trammell's career seemed to be taking a turn for the worse when he hit only .258 in 1985. He tried to conceal his concern, but a sore throwing arm troubled him.

It was a turning point for Trammell, a pivotal year for his confidence. There was no guarantee his arm would ever be as strong as Trammell wanted it to be and, despite all the offense he's given the Tigers, his defense is the cornerstone of his career.

"My defense was what got me to the majors," said Trammell. "A lot of people back then thought I would be all field and no hit, or very little hit."

Trammell's arm improved, his confidence was restored and the power of non-worry soon took hold.

"It's refreshing, especially in the off-season, to know there's no injury that nags at you," said Trammell. "It makes all the difference in your mental approach to your job."

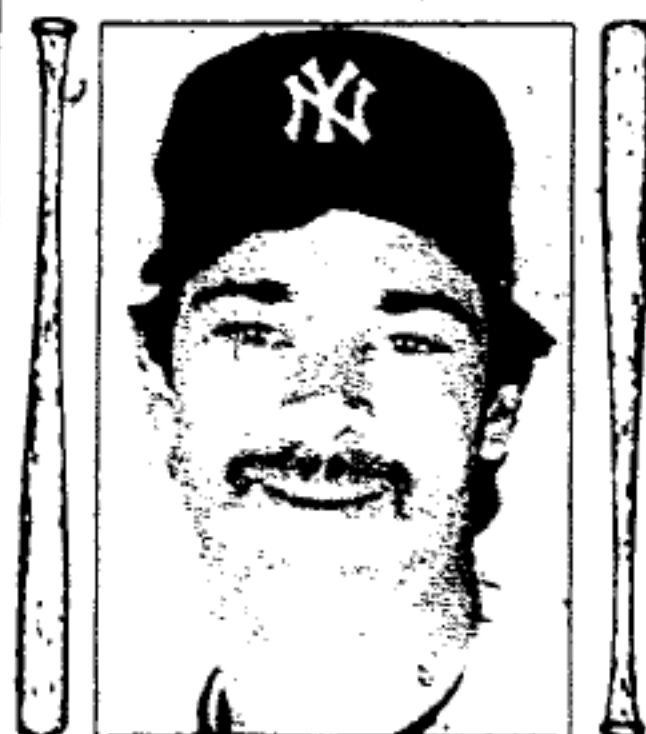
But that's the past. Trammell emerged from fretful times with the determination Evans spoke about and the overall contributions that continue to impress his manager. Not only that, but Trammell wants to play his entire career for the Tigers.

"That's my dream," he said. "I have no intention of going anywhere."

Detroit couldn't be happier.

TOM GAGE

NEW YORK YANKEES



Don Mattingly

Mike Pagliarulo was asked to contemplate a New York Yankees lineup without Don Mattingly.

"I don't know," said the Yankees third baseman. "It's kinda scary, isn't it?"

"I can only think back to two years ago when we played the Red Sox the last weekend of the season and (Wade) Boggs was hurt for them. We beat them four straight, but it wasn't the same. Their lineup just didn't have the same mix to it. Everything kind of falls into place for them when Boggs is in there. It's the same as what Donnie means to our lineup."

It is the measure of the man that Mattingly can be viewed as an indispensable man in a lineup that includes Rickey Henderson, Jack Clark and Dave Winfield.

Certainly, Clark demonstrated how indispensable he was in his three years as the lone long-ball threat in the run-and-gun lineup of the St. Louis Cardinals. Henderson, with his sheer all-around offensive might as a running catalyst and home run threat, makes the Yankees go. And Winfield, who followed up five consecutive seasons of at least 100 runs batted in with 97 in 1987, would surely leave a gaping hole if he was removed from the offense.

So what sets Mattingly apart in this galaxy of stars?

"I don't know if there is anything," Mattingly said modestly. "I don't look at myself as being indispensable—not because I can't do those things other guys do. It's just that there are so many players here who are vital. What I do give this team, I think, is consistency. I'm one of those guys you can count on every day during the course of the season, and you need that."

Mattingly is the consummate hit man, a .331 hitter for his 4½ seasons in the majors. But he's also had more than 100 RBIs in four straight seasons, 30 or more homers in each of the last three seasons and he led the American League in doubles from 1984 to 1986.

Then there is Mattingly's defense. He's won three Rawlings Gold Glove Awards and last year led A.L. first basemen in fielding percentage for the fourth consecutive season.

"It's not just a matter of making fewer errors, it's the way Donnie plays first base," said Pagliarulo. "Nobody gets to as many pop flies down the line as he does. Nobody makes the play in the hole as often and as smoothly as he does. Nobody plays as heads-up out there as he does."

Mattingly, who takes considerable pride in being a complete player, credits Quinton Merkle, his high school coach back home in Evansville, Ind., for teaching him the fundamentals.

"It amazed me when I first turned pro to see how many guys didn't know how to play this game," Mattingly said. "I mean these were top draft picks, taken way ahead of me. They had great tools, yeah, but they didn't know how to play. I mean, I thought everybody knew how to play. When I got out of high school, I knew the fundamentals, the hit-

and-run, hitting the cutoff man, all those things. I was taught well."

"I've always been taught that defense is as important as hitting. When I played the outfield, I couldn't run, but I learned how to get a good jump on the ball to compensate for that. You try to make all the plays you can make."

There is no aspect of the game in which Mattingly has not excelled, including long-ball hitting. Last year, he equalled one major league record by homering in eight straight games and broke another by hitting six grand slams.

In his first four complete seasons (at least 110 games), Mattingly hit 119 homers and drove in 483 runs. By comparison, Babe Ruth had 177 homers and 521 RBIs, Lou Gehrig 110 homers and 492 RBIs, Joe DiMaggio 137 homers and 558 RBIs, and Mickey Mantle 108 homers and 380 RBIs in their first four full seasons.

"The fact is," said Pagliarulo, "there are dangerous hitters in this game, but only because they hit the ball out of the ball park. In Donnie's case, the danger with him is everywhere. I know this, if he's taken an 0-for-5 in a game, I know he's the guy I want up there at the plate with the game on the line in the ninth inning."

BILL MADDEN

TORONTO BLUE JAYS



Ernie Whitt

It is circumstances rather than statistics that make catcher Ernie Whitt the Toronto Blue Jays' most indispensable player.

It would be difficult to replace George Bell, the American League's Most Valuable Player last year. But the Blue Jays have a flock of young outfield prospects and could always platoon a couple of veterans as designated hitter.

Shortstop Tony Fernandez is another top performer because of his Gold Glove defense, his hitting (.310 and .322 the last two years) and his base stealing. But at least young Manny Lee would be a quality replacement.

Reliever Tom Henke led the A.L. with 34 saves last season, but he's the stopper in a well-stocked bullpen.

But the loss of the 35-year-old Whitt, even for a couple of key series, could spell disaster. Plain and simple, the Jays lack an experienced righthanded-hitting catcher to platoon with him.

Toronto began spring training with less catching experience than