

# At 38, Can Winfield Still Play?

## After Full Season Layoff, Yankees Slugger Finds His Abilities Questioned

By TOM PEDULLA

NEW YORK—Dave Winfield arrived at the New York Yankees' spring training camp last year with his usual high hopes. There was no reason for him to feel otherwise.

He had batted .322 in 1988, the second-highest average of his career, had slammed more than 20 home runs for the 11th time and had driven in more than 100 runs for the seventh season. The only question about Winfield concerned what new heights he could attain.

The question about Winfield in spring training this year is one that has never been asked of him before: Can the 38-year-old Winfield still play?

Spring training for Winfield in 1989 never led to the regular season. After his arrival at camp, he discovered that the occasional back stiffness he had experienced the previous summer had flared into severe pain.

"We tried all kinds of treatments," Winfield recalled. "It wasn't coming around."

He found himself in pain every time he practiced.

"I was trying to go out there and shag," he said, "and I couldn't move toward the ball."

Winfield left the Yankees' spring training complex in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and flew to the West Coast to visit Dr. Robert Watkins, a noted back specialist. By that time, Winfield was losing feeling in his right leg and groin. The 6-6 outfielder feared for more than his career.

"Is it life threatening?" Winfield asked as soon as Watkins had completed the examination.

Winfield was assured it was not. At the same time, he was warned that the injury was serious.

"Dave had a severely herniated disk," Watkins said. "Almost the entire spinal canal was blocked."

The cause of the injury was normal "wear and tear," Watkins said. "Twisting is the most common cause."

Winfield hoped that surgery could be avoided, but quickly realized it could not.

"They tried to shoot dye up there and the dye wouldn't pass," he recalled.

Said Watkins, "It was imperative that he have surgery because of the blockage of the spinal canal."

Winfield entered Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood, Calif., and underwent a four-hour operation on March 24. Using a microscope to aid in the procedure, surgeons removed fragments of the herniated disk and relieved the pressure on the spinal nerve. The operation provided immediate relief from the pain.

"I was up walking the same day," Winfield said.

He realized, however, that his recovery would be a long process. And since Winfield had been virtually injury-free during his 16 major league seasons—he did a stint on the 15-day disabled list in 1982 and again in 1984—rehabilitation would be something totally new.



Dave Winfield hopes for a season that proves he can still play.

"It was a very sobering moment for Dave because he had always been an athlete with tremendous health," said Jeff Klein, the outfielder's agent since 1983. "It (the injury) wasn't something that came from being out of shape or overweight or not taking care of himself."

No one knew exactly how long the rehabilitation program at the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopedic Clinic would take.

"I guided it (the rehab program) in order to take a long look at things," said Watkins. "We were very cautious about him returning to play last year and I was against it. The rehabilitation program is a key to preventing a recurrence of the injury."

The first step in Winfield's recovery was to do nothing. He was ordered to rest for six weeks.

"They didn't want him to pick up a coffee cup," said his wife, Tonya.

Gradually, Winfield began different exercises designed to strengthen his back and teach him to protect the healing area. The same determination that had helped him become one of the game's premier players was his greatest ally in his recovery process.

"He did much better than I

**"I never said Dave Winfield was not important and did not give 100 percent. He's always played hard for me."**

**—George Steinbrenner**

thought he would," Tonya said. "He accepted it and set his mind on the goal, which was to get back to playing baseball."

Said Klein, "The thought of retiring never even crossed his mind. To Dave, this was just another challenge and the summer off reminded him how much he missed the game."

In July, Winfield sat in the stands at Anaheim Stadium for the All-Star Game, an event he had participated in for 12 consecutive seasons. He was accompanied by his wife and several of her relatives.

"The kids were confused for a minute," Tonya said. "They said, 'Why is Uncle Dave not on the field?'"

Winfield took his mind off missing the game by becoming an entertainer for the family members who had accompanied him.

"I gave them the play-by-play," Winfield said. "What to anticipate,

what different people were thinking about, pitchers, fielders, managers."

If the All-Star Game reminded Winfield how much he missed baseball, the rest of the season reminded the Yankees how much they missed Winfield.

The absence of the slugging right fielder contributed greatly to the Yankees' 74-87 record, their worst since 1967. The club was not above .500 after July 16 and gradually sank to a fifth-place finish in the weak American League East.

"I didn't like watching them that much," Winfield said. "It wasn't a pretty sight."

Winfield's absence was doubly crippling to the Yankees because they had traded their other key source of righthanded power, Jack Clark, to San Diego the previous October.

"That's like San Francisco losing (Kevin) Mitchell and (Will) Clark," said Yankees principal Owner George Steinbrenner. "We would never have let Clark go if we knew Winfield couldn't play. If there was one guy on the team I felt would be in there, it was Winfield."

Instead, Winfield was unable to run until five months after the operation. He was not permitted to pick up a bat until December and was told he couldn't take batting practice on a consistent basis until spring training this year.

"We held that (swinging a bat) to the very end because of the twisting," explained Watkins.

The surgeon is confident that Winfield's comeback will be successful.

"He's as dedicated and hard-working and sincere a guy as I've ever taken care of. He had a serious problem and he wasn't whimpering to anybody," Watkins said. "In terms of physical condition, he's in superb condition. I would say he's in better condition now than a few years ago. I'm sure of it."

Being in top shape has always been a priority for Winfield and the injury has served to reinforce that.

"I've worked harder than previously," he said. "It's been more concentrated."

Because the Yankees acquired right fielder Jesse Barfield from Toronto last April, Winfield is being asked to shift to left for the 1990 season. A winner of seven Gold Gloves, Winfield is prepared to accept the move, although he is less than thrilled about it.

"I know what kind of right fielder I am and have been," he said. "Nobody has won my position or outplayed me for my position and wouldn't. Dave Winfield knows right field. I know the angles, the throws, the fence."

"Going to left field in Yankee Stadium is a big difference. The sun is in your eyes, it's a different angle, a different corner."

The Yankees are more than happy to allow Winfield an adjustment period as long as he can return to fulltime duty in the outfield. On that point, Steinbrenner noted that doctors' reports were encouraging.





**Reggie Jackson**

By JOSEPH DURSO

NEW YORK—The Battle of New York is about to unfold on a manicured, windy spring-training field 1,100 miles from Broadway when Dave Winfield arrives for work with the Yankees and asks Reggie Jackson to move over.

But the opening rumbles were heard the other day in Manhattan while Winfield raced through a series of business meetings, clearing the decks for his debut as the richest baseball player in the world: \$1 million down plus \$1.4 million a year for the next 10 years plus cost-of-living raises. And the message he sent was clear: he is not awed by New York, and the Yankees did not make him rich—only richer.

"I'm not coming here cold like some country bumpkin looking at the tall buildings," Winfield said in between huddles with bankers and real estate people. "I don't feel I'm visiting here. I'm here."

"I was doing okay before. When I went to negotiate my contract, I had my mink. I wasn't begging. I already had my Mercedes, my raccoons and coyotes, and my diamonds."

Not bad for an opening salvo. But now, for David Mark Winfield: the time has come to put it all together, words and music. Having made financial history, it's the hour for making some baseball history. And he must make it in the town where the Yankees won 32 American League pennants and 22 World Series without him, and where Reggie Jackson became the "straw that stirs the drink."

"The word," Winfield said, assessing his situation in clinical terms, "is challenge. I accept it readily. I know they can either love you or hate you here. But I'd rather face the challenge every day than not have the opportunity every day."

"In San Diego, I was the dominant player: the captain, the leader, the attraction. But we never had a good team in seven years, never. I only played 11 games of consequence for San Diego: seven opening-day games and four All-Star Games."

"But people in New York ask, will it work out? That's it. People here don't really know if I can play baseball. It's like Bob Watson: He hit and he did it all in Houston. But when he came to the Yankees, he had to do it all over again to prove the point. As for me, we'll find out."

People also will find out if Dave Winfield can play the money game and the celebrity game. Every month for the next 10 years, he will receive a check for more than \$116,000. Every day during the baseball season, he will be reminded of it.

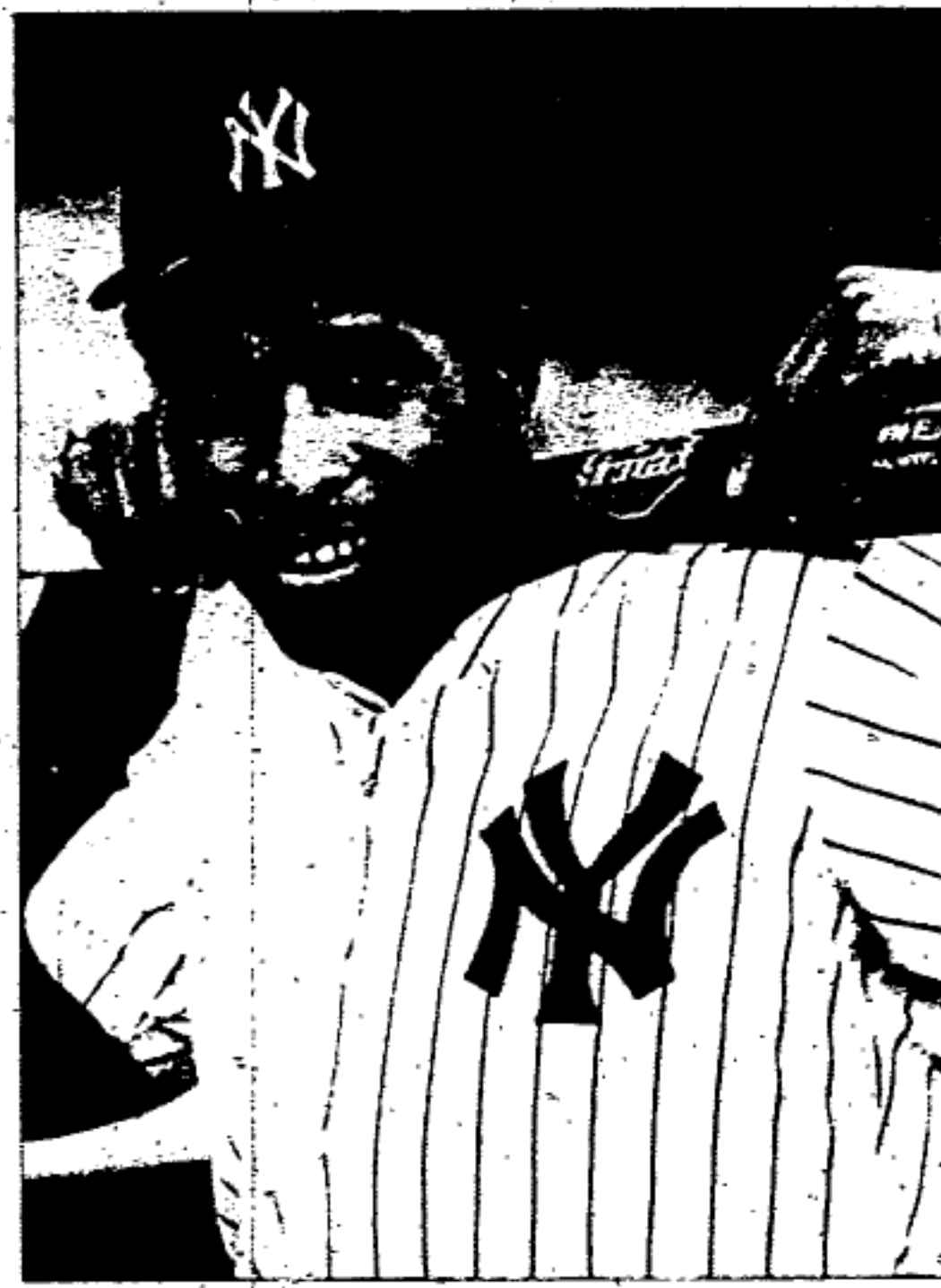
He will play near Jackson in the outfield. He will probably bat in front of Jackson or behind him in the lineup. He will compete with Jackson in the locker room, in the public eye and in the cast on stage for the ultimate rank: No. 1 man on the New York Yankees.

"Dave Winfield is my utility player," Manager Gene Michael quipped at the New York baseball writers' dinner. "He plays anyplace—anyplace he wants."

The Yankees greeted Winfield this winter like a hero, and why not? He executed the most clamorous walk in free-agent history, leaving the Padres at the age of 29 and auctioning his services for the biggest bundle on record. For an established star like Jackson, who has created World Series legends for the Yankees, all this figured to strengthen the team and skyrocket the salary scale.

# The Battle Of New York

Vs.



**Dave Winfield**

Now the signing and the ceremony are past, and the time arrives to make it work. And there's the question, hanging over the Yankees as they gather for another spring: Is New York big enough for both Jackson and Winfield?

Winfield, 6 feet 6 inches tall, crisp and cool, considered the question in his suite in the Summit Hotel in Manhattan as he whirled through his final day of business transactions before taking a roundabout route to Florida.

Before he could answer, he was beaten to the punch by his agent, Al Frohman, 54 years old, 5 feet 4 inches short, somewhat ruffled, somewhat weary and indisputably emotional.

"Reggie has his way," Frohman said, leaping to the mark, "and that's his privilege. Dave has his own way. This city had Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth and John McGraw at the same time. New York has always harbored the key. It's strictly an attitude of getting along."

Winfield, sounding diplomatic but again not shrinking, then gave his own answer:

"New York is tremendously big, big enough for Reggie and me both. I don't see any hard in-fighting or animosity. I don't want to skirt the issue. But let me contribute to the team first."

Make no mistake: the situation is sticky, despite the brave words, and money makes it so. Dave Winfield did not sign for just a little more than Reggie Jackson; he signed for twice as much. And Jackson promptly made it clear to George Steinbrenner, chief dispenser of Yankee gold, that Winfield's treasure was now the model. So there they stand, only four years after Steinbrenner courted Reggie in the town's fine restaurants and paraded him through the midtown streets to stoke the ego of the man who became the Yankee honcho of the 1970s.

Now it's the 1980s, and here comes Dave Winfield with all that class, all that respect, all that money. After playing at the University of Minnesota, he was drafted by the Padres in baseball, the Vikings in football and both the Utah Stars and Atlanta Hawks in basketball. Eight years later, he again makes history with the granddaddy of contracts. But now the battle begins for the passion and the purse of New York, where Reggie reigns.

"When I became an athlete," Winfield said, tracing his route, "I became a businessman. I've known for a long time that this was the place to be. New York is the greatest."

"I felt it in 1973, when we were here in the NIT, our basketball team. We were playing Alabama or somebody in Madison Square Garden. Then suddenly Walt Frazier walked into the arena and stole the show, just by walking in. I thought: 'This is their man. They storm for him. Walt Frazier owns this town. This is the stage.'"

"When I started coming here with the Padres, I got the same feeling. In 1979, we were playing the Mets in Shea Stadium and the scoreboard announced the results of the All-Star voting. I had the most votes, and I got a standing ovation. You identify with that."

"Then, when I came to New York back before the free agent draft in November, I went to the Garden one night for a basketball game and bought some ice cream. But the vendor recognized me and wouldn't take the money. The guy just threw me the ice cream and said: 'Remember the Mets on Thursday.' Then a kid shouted: 'Either the Mets or the Yankees, but come here.'"

"I know fans are fickle, and there's no amount of money

worth the abuse the media can hand out here. You can make a guy or break a guy. In San Diego, when it got bad, I didn't read the newspapers for a while. Here, it's a challenge, and I accept it."

Winfield has what you would call an extravagant track record in accepting challenges. At Minnesota, he won 13 games and lost only one as a pitcher in his senior year, hit more than 400 as an outfielder and was voted the most valuable player in the College World Series. He also starred on the basketball team and, although he skipped football, he still was drafted as a tight end by the Vikings.

"Football was out of the question," he remembered. "It just wasn't my game. I contemplated pro basketball but, from the time I was a little boy and people asked me what I wanted to be, I always said a professional baseball player."

That was fine with the Padres, who promptly picked him in the amateur draft and ticketed him straight to San Diego with no detour to the minor leagues.

"Two days after I signed," he said, "I was in a uniform in center field. It was strange because I'd always been an American League fan, growing up in St. Paul and following the Twins. You know, Harmon Killebrew and Zoilo Versalles, they were my guys."

The first three times he went to bat in the National League, he grounded out. The fourth time, he drilled one to third base and the ball knocked the glove from the third baseman's hand. He outran a high throw to first, and had his first hit in the big leagues. The next day, he went 3-for-4 with a home run, and then hit safely in four more games for a streak of six.

No dice. Life isn't that simple. After that, the hot rookie took an 0-for-21 collar, and "they sat me down." So for a while, he ran up some big telephone bills calling his mother and brother back in St. Paul, agonizing over the long and short of life in the bigs.

But he survived that challenge, too. He finished that brief summer with 39 hits in 56 games, became a regular the following year, hit 20 home runs and agonized no more. That was in 1974, two years before the free agent revolution. At about the same time, something else happened to Winfield. He met Albert S. Frohman, a onetime musician and kosher-food caterer from New York, and a remarkably close relationship took shape, player and agent, almost father and son.

"In 1977," Frohman said, describing a milestone on their road to riches, "David's contract was up for renewal, and we figured we were going from \$47,000 to \$100,000. But people said, 'Don't rock the boat.' He could've become a free agent then. We finally asked for three years at \$525,000. They offered three at \$500,000, and said, 'Not a penny more.' We signed for four years at \$1.4 million."

"A long time ago," Winfield said, "Al told my mother: 'Your son will be making millions.' We knew we'd be dealing in millions."

Now they are in New York, dealing in many millions. "Now," Winfield said, "I've got to put all this behind me and play ball. But I can do it. The reason for a lot of my success as an athlete is that I could separate things in my mind and body. It's an old philosophy: separate your home from your work. And I'll start doing it now."

"New York is a Mecca," Frohman intoned. "It's a Mecca."

Also a gold mine, and maybe soon a battlefield.



# Kong Kills Writers With Kindness

By JACK LANG

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Dave Kingman, sounding like a magna cum laude graduate of Dale Carnegie's courses on "How to Win Friends and Influence People," greeted the New York press corps like long lost friends. Well, not exactly friends. More like enemies he's prepared to live with.

Kingman shocked his new bosses as well as his old friends in the typewriter jockey corps by not only holding a friendly press conference his first day back in a New York Mets uniform, but by also promising to get along with the scribes.

Not only that, when he walked into a crowded press room, he asked New York writers to raise their hands and then went about tossing them small boxes which included ballpoint pens with the engraving "3-4-81 D.K."

"It's just a little thought," Kingman said, "to let you be reminded of this day—that I'm trying. I'll try and get along with you if you try and get along with me. I'm starting over. I'll be happy to cooperate fully with the New York press in any way I can. I'll try again if you will."

But even as he spoke, Kingman got in a slight dig. "I'm going slowly," he gibed, "so you can get all this right."

Kingman did have one ground rule. "You can ask me any questions about baseball and I want you to report things exactly as you see them, good or bad. But my private life is my own. Stay out of my private life."

Kingman said he does not seek publicity but it comes to him anyway.

"I don't care to have my name in the headlines," he suggested. "But everybody knows my name because of the adverse publicity I've received."

When the incident involving the bucket of ice water he threw on a Chicago writer last year was breached, Kingman smiled.

"The publicity I got from that was unbelievable. I'll admit I'm an agitator. I love practical jokes. But in a fun way. Not in a vindictive way."

Chicago writers covering the White Sox in nearby Sarasota attended the press conference and Kingman was cordial to them. But he refused flatly to answer any questions about his two-year feud with the press corps in Chicago.

Kingman's arrival was greeted joyously by his new teammates. Said Lee Mazzilli: "I know one thing. We're going to score some runs."

Manager Joe Torre added, "Dave gives us the game-breaking power we've been lacking. This is the best offensive team we've had since I became the manager."

Said General Manager Frank Cashen: "I surveyed all the power hitters who might be available and Dave Kingman was my No. 1 priority. This deal has been on and off for six months."

It was amazing to see the confidence suddenly begun to



Dave Kingman took the happy approach as he arrived in the Mets St. Petersburg, Fla., camp and

shared a laugh with Manager Joe Torre (right) and GM Frank Cashen.

ooze from the Mets following the deal that sent popular, hard-working Steve Henderson to the Cubs for Kingman. Even the fact that Kingman might not be up to par physically and may force drastic revisions in Torre's lineup did not dampen the enthusiasm.

The feeling expressed by players and fans was that at long last, the club had done something constructive. Winter signings of free agents Dave Roberts, Rusty Staub and Mike Cuddage, plus deals that brought Bob Bailor and Randy Jones, were sort of ho-hummed in New York.

Now the Mets have reacquired a bat that might produce some vitally needed home runs. Said Cashen: "Our home run total two years ago was 74 and last year it was 61. I knew our primary need was power. I think we got it."

Said catcher John Stearns: "The important thing is to get Kingman and Staub to play a minimum of 120 games." Stearns, by the way, is still nursing a damaged right index finger and is worried about whether he'll be able to throw properly by the time the season arrives.

"If we could get Staub and Kingman 500 at-bats apiece, we could score runs," Mazzilli chipped in. "Hey, we've got three guys at the top of the lineup—Mookie Wilson, Frank Taveras and myself—who are capable of stealing 30, 40, 50 bases. Now we've got some guys to drive us in."

"Just having Dave in the No. 4 spot," said Torre, "is bound to help Mazzilli. He led the club with walks last year because they pitched him carefully. They won't be able to do that this year with Kingman behind him."

Kingman, who was as glad to get out of Chicago as the

Cubs apparently were delighted to be rid of him, advised Torre by phone even before his arrival that he may not be able to play the outfield.

Kingman injured his right shoulder on a play at home plate last May and played in only 81 games after spending a good part of the year on the disabled list.

"He says he has flexibility in the shoulder but has not exercised it," Torre reported. "I may have to play him at first base and move Rusty to the outfield. Probably left field. I'm thinking of Rusty in left, Mazzilli in center and Wilson in right. Joel Youngblood? I'll probably move him to third base."

**Metscellaneous:** No one was happier to see Kingman in a Mets uniform than Neil Allen, who developed a nasty habit of serving up home run balls to Dave. "My ERA has to drop by at least two points," the happy reliever chuckled. Kingman will wear No. 5 until Scott Holman, who now wears his old 26, is shipped out. Kingman indicates he'll change his lifestyle now that he's back in Gotham. He led a hermit existence in Connecticut in his first tour with the club. Now he says he is seeking a pad in swinging midtown Manhattan. Just call him Downtown Dave.

The Mets intend to give sinkerball pitcher Billy Smith a chance to be the No. 5 starter. He was drafted out of the Houston chain and has had a chance to pitch in the big leagues. Rookie catcher Lloyd McClendon was the first serious casualty. He suffered a fractured left arm when Rick Sweet accidentally hit him with a bat.

# Yank Millionaires March In Like Lion, Lamb

By PHIL PEPE

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—The first coming of a New York Yankees millionaire was routine, matter-of-fact, quiet. The second coming of a Yankee millionaire was an explosion, a happening.

Dave Winfield reported for his first day as a Yankee on February 27, as scheduled. Reggie Jackson arrived four days later, two days later than expected, which didn't sit well with team Owner George Steinbrenner.

It was not a case of Reggie feeling he would be upstaged by Winfield, but he had told Steinbrenner he had some commitments and some personal things to take care of, and that he would be late. Steinbrenner said it was his understanding that being late meant not reporting with the rest of the squad on February 27.

Jackson said it was his understanding that since the Basic Agreement stipulates that no player can be forced to report later than March 1, then he would not need permission to come in after February 27. If Steinbrenner was giving him permission to be late, Jackson reasoned, it had to mean after March 1.

No way, said Steinbrenner, and he slapped Reggie with a fine of \$2,500 a day, his approximate daily pay based on a 200-day year. By the time Jackson reported two days late, the tab had gone to \$5,000.

A year ago, when he also reported two days late, Jackson was fined \$500 a day. He turned that into a positive action by matching his fine and donating the total of \$2,000 to New York City's high school athletic program.

This time, Reggie said, he would file a grievance if the fine sticks and Steinbrenner insisted that the fine would stick.

"I realize there's a little inflation," Jackson said, "but 500 percent?"

Jackson said he knew all along he would not be in camp

on March 1 and tried to make that clear to Steinbrenner, who would not listen. Reggie was quoted as saying Steinbrenner gave him "a hell of an inference that it would be okay to be late. But you know George, sometimes he gets to the point where it is no discussion at all, where you can't get a word in."

Steinbrenner insists there was never any inference. "That's a ploy on his part," the owner said. "Reggie is telling the truth when he says he couldn't get a word in. I was raking him over on that point. Time and time again I said March 1. When he talked about being late, I said 'Reggie, how could you even ask that?'"

By contrast to Jackson, Winfield came in like a lamb his first day as a Yankee. He moved in smoothly, blending unobtrusively with the rest of his new teammates, causing attention only because of his size (6-6, 220 pounds), his new wealth and his first day in pinstripes.

In his first day, he had trouble hitting the ball out of the batting cage, but pointed out, "There will be no cage when the season starts."

Winfield wore No. 31 and a size 7½ batting helmet that is the largest worn by a Yankee in years, but Winfield does not have a big head, even if he has more than his share of confidence in his ability.


It was inevitable that Winfield would be asked about his relationship with Jackson, who seems to need the spotlight, to thrive on attention and recognition. That's fine with big Dave.

"I didn't have a spotlight in San Diego," he said. "And I didn't come here to take the spotlight. If you do well, you want the spotlight. If you don't you don't want it."

**Yankee Doodles:** Rudy May became the first casualty of the spring when he underwent minor surgery for removal of substances from his urinary tract. He missed five days. The Yankees got all 40 roster players under contract by signing Greg Cochran and Juan Espino and invoking the

renewal clause in pitcher Chris Welsh's contract. Frito-Lay, the Yankees' radio sponsor, has initiated a program in which it will donate \$50 to the Sloan-Kettering cancer clinic for every run the team scores in 1981, with a minimum contribution of \$50,000. Last year, the Yankees scored 820 runs.

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"Dave Winfield is a very proud athlete," Steinbrenner said. "I think if any athlete has a chance to come back from an injury like that, Dave Winfield will do it."

What? Were these words of praise from Steinbrenner, the man who once dubbed Winfield "Mr. May"?

"The 'Mr. May' remark was made in the heat of the moment," Steinbrenner said. "I never said Dave Winfield was not important and did not give you 100 percent. He's always played hard for me."

"I have nothing but hope for him. We need him. We need his leadership and his playing ability."

Need often makes for unexpected allies.

As for Winfield, he looks to the examples of Joe Montana of the San Francisco 49ers and Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics—both of whom have battled back from injury—for encouragement in his own comeback effort.

"When you look at Bird and Montana and think about what they have going for them . . . they're not only skilled but experienced and knowledgeable about the game," Winfield said. "They know why they're successful. They know the techniques of the game."

"I know how to play the game. They say Bo knows football. Winfield knows baseball. I can say that."

No one is about to question him on that point. In the 10-year period preceding last season, Winfield paced all major leaguers with 1,017 runs batted in, two more than Philadelphia Phillies great Mike Schmidt collected in that time. Winfield has 1,438 career RBIs and 357 home runs. He needs only four homers and 99 RBIs to match the totals of another great righthanded hitter who starred for the Yankees, Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio.

The Hall of Fame, incidentally, is one of the elements that drives Winfield. It is possible he has done enough already to reach Cooperstown. But if he can return and put together a few more big years, all doubt will be erased.

"I don't know how people perceive it," Winfield said of his career. "I've tried to be a dominant, premier player at my position for a long time and people have acknowledged that. But it's not up to

me. It's up to other people to decide."

There are things besides induction into the Hall of Fame that spur Winfield. The lure of returning to the All-Star Game after a year away, the possibility of adding to his line of Gold Gloves and the hope that he can return to the World Series drive him, the latter perhaps most of all.

Said Winfield, "I've played too

hard to always come up short."

The Yankees last reached the World Series in 1981, Winfield's first season in the Bronx after leaving San Diego and signing a 10-year contract as a free agent. Winfield failed miserably in the Series, producing one hit in 22 at-bats, and the Los Angeles Dodgers triumphed in six games.

This could be Winfield's last shot at glory with the Yankees. His 10-

year contract expires at the end of the season and the Yankees say the extent of Winfield's recovery will determine their interest in him. Front office officials from other teams also will be observing him closely.

So back to the question: Can Winfield still play?

"I'll sign two more times," Winfield boldly predicted. "That's a (three-year contract) and a two, or

a three and a one with an option . . . watch."

Despite the injury, his age, and the long layoff, Winfield is certain he will reassert himself and regain his place near the top of the game.

"People forget quickly, they really do," Winfield said. "There are new stars and new heroes every day, but it's going to be hard to forget me when I come back. I'm going to be a big force."

**F**OR BABE RUTH, IT WAS 1927. For Joe DiMaggio, it was 1941. For Willie Mays, it was 1954. For Roger Maris, it was 1961. For Kevin Mitchell, it was 1989. For CBS, the Dream Season will be 1990.

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Winfield, winner of seven Gold Gloves, is being asked to switch to left field from right for the 1990 season.



CBS SPORTS '90 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL BROADCAST SCHEDULE	
DATE	GAME
Saturday, April 14	Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh Los Angeles at Houston
Saturday, April 21	Montreal at New York Mets California at Minnesota
Saturday, June 16	Boston at Baltimore San Diego at Los Angeles
Saturday, June 23	St. Louis at Chicago Cubs San Francisco at Houston
Saturday, June 30	Oakland at Toronto
Saturday, July 7	Chicago Cubs at San Francisco Minnesota at NY Yankees
Tuesday, July 10	All Star Game Wrigley Field, Chicago
Saturday, July 14	Kansas City at Boston San Diego at Pittsburgh
Saturday, July 21	San Francisco at Chicago Cubs Philadelphia at Cincinnati
Saturday, July 28	St. Louis at New York Mets Baltimore at Kansas City
Saturday, Aug. 4	Los Angeles at San Francisco New York Mets at St. Louis
Saturday, Aug. 11	NY Yankees at Oakland Texas at Chicago White Sox
Sunday, Aug. 12	NY Yankees at Oakland
Saturday, Aug. 18	California at Boston Kansas City at Milwaukee
Saturday, Aug. 25	NY Mets at Los Angeles Boston at Toronto
Saturday, Sept. 22	Wild Card
Saturday, Sept. 29	Wild Card

- ★ American League Championship Series
- ★ National League Championship Series
- ★ World Series

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