Mattingly gets a perfect score in rankings

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees' Don Mattingly, widely regarded as the best player in baseball. is the first to receive a perfect score in statistical rankings used to determine compensation for free-agent

The New York Yankees first baseman received a perfect 1.000 in the Elias Sports Bureau rankings, which were established seven years ago as part of the settlement of the players' strike.

The rankings are based on performance in at least five categories over a two-year period. After being ranked by position, players are divided into five groups: outfielders, first basemen and designated hitters; second basemen, third basemen and shortstops; catchers; starting pitchers; and relievers.

Mattingly received a perfect score because he was top-ranked in every category used to evaluate first basemen - plate appearances, batting average, on-base percentage, home runs and runs batted in.

The best, or lowest, score before this year was the 1.400 Mattingly received last year and Eddie Murray. of Baltimore, received in 1984.

"It's nice to see that, but you have to put it in perspective," Mattingly said Wednesday of the rankings. "They've only been doing these rankings for seven years and baseball has been going for 100. But you like to be ranked first amongst your peers.'

PHILADELPHIA - Any doubts about Mike

"He wants to play one more year, probably

Schmidt last season completed a six-year con-

tract worth \$2.13 million annually. In the past, he

has said he expects a raise and will retire if the

Schmidt has until Nov. 10 to file for free agency,

and Giles said he hopes to have a deal before the

Schmidt playing another year have been erased.

Phillies President Bill Giles said yesterday.

two," Giles said. "It's just a matter of dollars."

By RALPH BERNSTEIN

Phillies fail to deliver.

AP Sports Writer

'It's nice to see that. but you have to put it in perspective.'

-Don Mattingly

The runner-up in this year's American League rankings was Baltimore shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. at 3.143. The top-rated player in the National League was Philadelphia third basemen Mike Schmidt with 2.429.

Schmidt has been the top-rated NL third basemen every year the rankings have been compiled. The only other player to be No. 1 at his position all seven years is New York Mets catcher Gary Carter.

Mattingly has been the top-ranked AL first basemen for three consecutive years, while Ripken led AL shortstops for the fourth straight time. Texas designated hitter Larry Parrish was the only other player in the league to repeat as No. 1 at his

"It's especially rewarding being ranked among all the other first baseman because first base is one of the top positions in baseball right now." Mattingly said at a dinner at which he was honored by the Boys Club of New York. "You're talking about Jack Clark, Kent Hrbek, the (Wally) Joyn- California second basemen Johnny ers, Willie Upshaw, Darrell Evans. Ray, Boston third basemen Wade



New York Yankees first baseman Don Mattingly received a perfect score in the Elias Sports Bureau's statistical rankings yesterday.

great first baseman. There are so Bell and Toronto catcher Ernie Whitt. many good first basemen in the league, it's a compliment to be categorized with these fellows.

Other top-rated AL players were reliever.

Giles said Schmidt and his agent have not

indicated whether they will declare for free agen-

cy before completion of negotiations with the

Giles said he will meet with Schmidt's agent,

Arthur Rosenberg, in Florida next Tuesday and

Wednesday, but he said he doubted they will reach

an agreement next week. He declined to reveal the

"I don't know how close we are on dollars,"

"Right now we're talking theory," Giles said.

"The kind of deal. Whether the second year is

"I'd just as soon they don't," Giles said.

Giles said. "Neither side has made an offer.

exact location of the meetings.

Boston's Roger Clemens was the highest-ranked starting pitcher and Toronto's Mark Eichhorn was the top

phy of Atlanta was the highest-You're talking about some pretty Boggs, Toronto outfielder George ranked outfielder for the fifth straight Schmidt definitely plans to play in 1988

Schmidt has said, and Giles at one point agreed,

In discussing the possibility of arbitration as last

that the contract might best be solved in arbitra-

Phillies had much of a case to deny him a raise.

he might look good in a New York Mets' uniform.

Later he said he wanted to finish his career where

The NL All-Star third baseman now has 530

career home runs, just four behind Jimmy Foxx

he started, in Philadelphia.

Schmidt, with tongue in cheek, once suggested

In the National League, Dale Mur-

year. Three players - Mets first basemen Keith Hernandez, Chicago second basemen Ryne Sandberg and St. Louis shortstop Ozzie Smith were No. 1 at their positions for the fourth year in a row.

Houston's Mike Scott was the NL's top-rated starting pitcher, while Todd Worrell of St. Louis was the No. 1

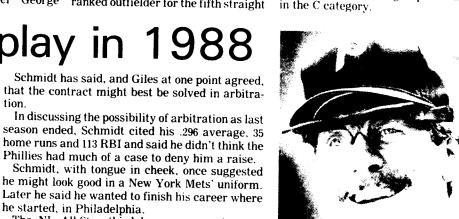
Free agents are divided into groups which determine the compensation their former teams will receive if the players sign with another club. The teams are compensated with additional draft choices in the June amateur

A players are in the top 30 percent of the ranking statistics. B players in the top 30 to 50 percent and C players between 50 and 60 percent. Teams losing A players would receive the most compensation.

Five members of the World Series champion Minnesota Twins were among 29 possible free agents placed in the A group. They are pitchers Bert Blyleven, Juan Berenguer and Jeff Reardon, third basemen Gary Gaetti and designated hitter Don Baylor.

Detroit is the only other team with more than two A players eligible for free agency. The Tigers have three A players - catcher Mike Heath and pitchers Jack Morris and Frank Tan-

Seventeen potential free agents were placed in the B group and nine in the C category.



AP Laserphoto

Mike Schmidt

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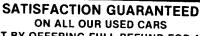






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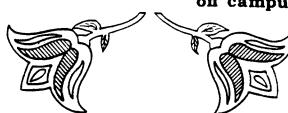
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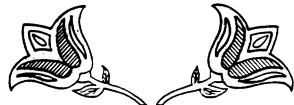
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