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**Martin** Continued from page 1A

driving while intoxicated, said Boone County Sheriff Anthony Ruffa.

Efforts to revive Martin at Wilson Memorial Hospital failed and he died there about 1 1/2 hours after several injuries and possible head injuries, a hospital spokesman said. Ruffa was listed in serious condition.

An autopsy is scheduled to be performed on Martin today.

Martin was a member of the New York Yankees baseball dynasty of the 1950s and led the franchise to new successes in the 1970s as manager. He also managed teams in Detroit, Texas and Oakland.

"It's like being part of my own family," said Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, who five times named and fired Martin. "I was just with him last Wednesday when he came down to establish 2,000 underprivileged kids in Tampa. Billy said this meant so much to him because he never had anything like this when he was a kid."

Martin managed the 1969 Twins to a 77-65 record and the AL West crown. That team included Rod Carew, Harmon Killebrew and Tony Oliva.

Carew said Martin will be remembered "as one of the greatest managers in the game on the field. That's where his expertise was. He taught me how to think about plays and how to think about the game and not making the same mistake twice."

Tom More, the Twins' longtime director of public relations, recalled Martin's first association with the team, as a player in 1961. "He was at the end of the line as a player. His rage was gone in the field. He recognized that and wanted to get into the other (coaching) end. Even then, his ultimate goal was to be manager of the Yankees."

Martin went to spring training with the Twins in 1961, but was released when the team signed Bernie Allen to play second base. Martin became a scout for the Twins, then in 1963 a coach under manager Sam Rice.

"Calvin Griffith wanted to shake up the coaching staff, so they brought Billy in and changed the whole coaching staff around," Rice said.

The Twins won their first American League pennant that year and Zoilo Versalles was named the league's most valuable player. "I think they would tell you that Billy made Zoilo the MVP that year," Rice said.

In 1966, the Pacific Coast League team in Denver made Martin its manager. He did well enough to win a chance managing the Twins, Rice said.

Calvin Griffith, who hired Martin as manager but didn't rehire him, said Martin "was a firecracker and he had baseball intellect. He knew how to take chances, how to gamble on a play... He had ballplayers playing over their heads — that's his coach influence he had on them."

Despite the divisional win, there was friction between Martin and the front office. There was a fit fight with the team's traveling secretary in a hotel lobby, and Martin lost his job.

"I have sheep, cattle, ducks, geese and a few horses," he said. "I like it because we also have an 80-acre lake. I do everything. I raise pheasants and turn them loose."

In his career as a major-league manager, Martin had 1,236 victories and 1,018 losses in 16 seasons. He led the Detroit Tigers to an AL East title in 1970. He led the Yankees to AL pennants in 1976 and 1977 and the Oakland Athletics to an AL West title in 1979.

Griffith denies firing Martin. "I never did fire him. He told Sid Hartman that he didn't have a job. I said if he feels that way, he didn't have a job. If he couldn't find that way, then I didn't want him around."

More said Martin "was a joy for me to work with. He wanted to line his couch with the media when he went to New York, but when he was our manager, he understood they had a job to do. And in that one year with Minnesota, he was the best manager that you and I will ever see. He instinctively made all the right moves."

Martin was first hired to manage the Yankees in 1975. His latest firing was June 23, 1988, when he was replaced by Lee Foaia, the man he replaced the previous season. Steinbrenner kept Martin on as a consultant.

Head of Farmer Joe DiMaggio played his final season with the Yankees in 1950, Martin's rookie year. "He was a dear friend and I will miss him," DiMaggio said. "He was a great little guy."

He was little but combative, and his cupcake off the field chased his career. He got into a fight in a topless bar. Six weeks later he was fired by Steinbrenner.

Martin's long fight list included a 1961 knock-out of Twins pitcher Dave Boswell, while Martin was manager.

But in a 1978 interview in the Minneapolis Star, during a hunting and fishing trip to Minnesota, Martin insisted he was more than a hothead.

"I think my image is such that nobody would ever believe me if I did describe myself," he said. "My image is like I'm a gentleman, a hothead, real temperamental..."

But he actually was "no different than anybody else who wanted to get ahead," he said. "Down deep, there's a real soft person... I just think that if you're going to go into anything, you can't go into it halfway. You've got to go into it with your whole heart."

And he said he had no regrets. "Yeah, if I got tomorrow, it was worth it. I'm lucky. I happen to be playing a game I was in love with ever since I was a little kid."

Born Alfred Mansel Martin, he played second base for the Yankees from 1950 to 1957, including five World Series championships.

Yogi Berra, a former teammate and a friend for 40 years, said Martin was "a hotheaded, hot-headed. He also was a 'very gentle man,' Berra said, until he was a manager.

"If somebody rubbed wrong against him, he'd punch 'em in the nose no sooner than took at him. But he was a great man, a kind-hearted man, and he loved baseball."

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Martin had been living since 1988 with his wife on a large farm in Port Cass. In an interview in July, Martin said he was enjoying life out of baseball's spotlight.

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