



BILLY MARTIN
'It's more than hitting'

TED WILLIAMS
Six-time scoring leader

Martin's Remarks About Williams 'Weren't for Print'

By Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Billy Martin said Wednesday that he made certain remarks about Washington manager Ted Williams after Tuesday night's game but said he had not known the remarks were going to be printed.

"I'm controversial enough without having to pick fights with other managers," Martin said. "I say some things after games where I'm taking the local writers into my confidence and I'm not necessarily speaking for publication.

Martin said yesterday the remarks were not intended to be any reflection on Williams' job as manager. "Williams was a great hitter," Martin said. "In fact he had no peers. But I was just saying those things to point out there's more to this game than hitting."

Martin said it was "unfortunate" that the remarks were printed and that he was hoping "the whole thing would blow over with as little noise as possible."

Martin said he learned that the remarks had been published yesterday afternoon when he started receiving telephone calls from Boston sportswriters. The Associated Press sent the remarks over the national wire yesterday afternoon.

"This Williams thing is probably the worst thing that's happened to me in my entire baseball career. Williams' fans all over the country will be down on me. But I said it. It's too bad it came out but I'll have to live with it."

(Martin was quoted by a sportswriter as saying about Williams: "He was one of the worst players I ever saw. He didn't worry about the team, only about Ted Williams. He wore the same uniform for 15 years. It didn't even have to be laundered. He wouldn't slide to break up a double play. Never got his uniform dirty.")

(Williams, informed of the report, told The Associated Press he had not seen the story on Martin's comments, "so I won't say anything.")

(Williams did take exception, however, to Martin's remarks about his baserunning. He said: "I was on base an awful lot and I led the league in scoring six times, so I must have gone around second quite a bit. I must have done some sliding somewhere.")

(Twins owner Calvin Griffith said about the affair: "I'll wait until I have talked with Billy before I comment.")