



I WANT to dedicate this book to ALL my FRIENDS, Old, ~~Young~~ NEW, & ESPECIALLY young friends. PLEASE DON'T DO ALCOHOL & DRUGS. I NEVER did DRUGS but ALCOHOL HURT my CAREER TERRIBLY. People used to ASK who WAS BETTER? Willie, Mickey OR DUKE. I think you have to look at FINAL STATISTICS AND Willie WAS FAR AHEAD AT THE END. Guys who took good CARE of THEMSELVES - like Willie, HANK AARON, STAN MUSIAL, Ted Wills. JOE D. ETC. WERE the ONES AT the TOP in the FINAL stats. I did play in MORE GAMES AS A YANKEE (2401) THAN ANYONE but if I had ~~if~~ taken BETTER CARE of myself I could have done a lot better. I didn't EVEN TAKE CARE or do my RE-hab ON my LEGS like I WAS supposed to. I DRANK too much when I WAS playing from 1952, AFTER my Dad Died, till 1969. After I RETIRED in 69, I <sup>drank more & more</sup> BECAME AN ALCOHOLIC ~~(something)~~ (I'll ALWAYS be ASHAMED of.) So to EVERYONE out there especially Young PEOPLE, Little LEAGUERS etc "DON'T end up OVER the hill BEFORE you EVEN START to climb it." MAKES us ALL PROUD of you. DON'T DO DRUGS & ALCOHOL -

MIKE