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Football is #1 with New York Jets player Mark Gastineau, whose hobby is collecting Indian artifacts.

Football players' hobbies

Last month major leaguer Bo Jackson said he was going to play football this year as a hobby. He plans to join the Los Angeles Raiders after the Kansas City Royals finish their baseball season.

Most pro football players don't consider their sport a hobby. But some of them do have other hobbies:

- Reggie Williams, Cincinnati linebacker, likes to raise Great Danes.
- Walter Payton, Chicago running back, collects antique cars.
- Reggie White, Philadelphia nose tackle, does impressions of famous people, such as Muhammad Ali, Rodney Dangerfield, Clint Eastwood and Elvis Presley.
- Mark Gastineau, New York Jets defensive lineman, collects American Indian art in Arizona.
- Mike Horan, Denver punter, works in the off-season designing unmanned radar equipment for airplanes.

- Steve McMichael, Chicago defensive tackle, likes to hunt rattlesnakes.
- Al Toon, New York Jets wide

receiver, enjoys ballet. Last year he was invited to audition for the American Ballet Theatre.



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Chicago's Walter Payton, the NFL's all-time leading rusher with 16,193 yards, likes to collect antique cars.

Super slugger ties record

New York Yankee's first baseman Don Mattingly claimed he wasn't thinking about home runs when he stepped up to the plate. Mattingly, who had a slow start this baseball season, tied the major league record of homering in eight straight games.

Back injuries kept Mattingly on the bench for 18 games and before the streak, there had only been eight Mattingly homers this season. Once Mattingly broke the American League home run streak of six, baseball fans were going crazy while he was staying cool.

Mattingly, 26, told the press after his seventh consecutive home run game, "I just want to help the club. I haven't hit a home run trying to hit one. They just seem to be happening. I don't know why."

Once Mattingly was close to breaking the record set by Pittsburgh Pirate Dale Long 31 years ago, he was swinging to hit the ball into the seats. But his streak finally came to an end. Mattingly said he is proud to share the record with Long and added he wouldn't mind hitting another streak. "I'd like to do this again. I like this."



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The Hall of Fame wants the bat, a 32-ounce Louisville Slugger, that tied the record, but Mattingly won't hand it over until it's broken.

Spectacular sports



Darcy Cruikshank watches her putt drop into the cup.

Darcy Cruikshank, 11, (left) from Portland, Oregon, won the Oregon Junior Championship title in the girls' pee wee division. She beat Molly Nealy from Grants Pass, Oregon, one up in the match-play tourney.

Brothers Nick and Tony Purler from Wentzville, Missouri, were both awarded gold medals at the National Junior Olympic Wrestling Championships because they would not wrestle each other for the 105.5 pound Greco-Roman title.

Sisters Vicki and Vera Jenkins from Arizona, placed first and second respectively in the 13-14 girls' 3,000-meter race walk at The Athletics Congress national track meet in Philadelphia.

Scott Bell, 12, of Carmel, Indiana, won eight gold medals in swimming at the White River Park State Games. He also took home a silver and bronze medal.

The U.S. girls' softball team beat China 1-0 to score America's first-ever, first-place finish in the Junior Girls Softball World Championship. The tournament was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Competing in the 13-14 age group of the pentathlon, Ricardo Aguirre of Seattle, Washington, set a national record with 3,166 points. He won three of the five pentathlon events at The Athletics Congress national meet.