

Griffey contemplates future outside Seattle

■ **BASEBALL:** The Mariner's star centerfielder is thinking about leaving the team after his contract expires

SEATTLE (AP) — Ken Griffey Jr. is pondering whether he wants to remain a Seattle Mariner in the last year of a four-year, \$24 million contract.

"I'm not sure when I'll figure it out; probably in a couple of weeks," he said. "I know what I'm leaning toward. ... I'm pretty sure now, but not certain."

At least one factor in the decision is Seattle's chilly, wet climate, Griffey told The Seattle Times in a telephone interview from Florida.

"What's making the decision tough is being here," Griffey said. "I like Seattle, the fans and all. But being here, where we can go outdoors to hang all the time

every day, is great.

"I've only been back (to Seattle) one day since we left Dec. 18. Our house in Issaquah (a Seattle suburb) will go up for sale in about a week and a half."

The Mariners and Griffey's agent, Brian Goldberg, have had several discussions about extending the all-star outfielder's contract.

Griffey indicated he expects to receive \$8 million to \$9 million a year for a four-year extension, and Goldberg said the Mariners are "very much in the ballpark financially."

But the Mariners made off-season personnel moves that may have affected Griffey's opinion of the team.

"I hated to see us break up a good team and good bunch of guys," Griffey said. "I care a lot about who I play with. It hasn't helped to see Tino (Martinez) and Blow (Mike Blowers) go, or Nellie (Jeff Nelson)."

DeYoung: Changes will help baseball

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a boost to the game. I am sure that if the Mariners hadn't been able to make it that far, nobody in Seattle would have watched. Nobody on the West Coast cares to watch the Baltimore play the Boston in the playoffs.

That was one step ahead for baseball, and interleague play is definitely another. I cannot wait until the 1997 season when I can watch the Oakland Athletics play the San Francisco Giants. I would rather watch that game than the A's versus the New York Yankees. There is no rivalry there. But wait until the Los Angeles Dodgers play the California Angels, or when it's the New York Mets versus the New York Yankees, or the White Sox play the Cubs in the battle of Chicago. Don't those games sound more interesting?

During the first season, the interleague play will only be 15 or 16 games, which is probably just enough to be interesting. Any more might cause problems with standings or the playoffs, but any less wouldn't be worth it.

The skeptics believe that these owners are doing it for the money. They think that baseball shouldn't be changed, that it will take away from division races and it will be unfair to teams if it counts in the standings. But these purists need to take a reality check — if baseball stays the same, these old fogies will be the only ones watching the games.

Sure, the owners may benefit financially by the new play structure, but why is that so bad? Maybe if the owners have more income, they won't complain about going bankrupt and

would be able to build better teams.

And the division races shouldn't be affected if the games are played early in the season. I doubt the owners will have Atlanta playing Milwaukee in late September.

Standings and the divisional races won't be hurt, anyway. What is the difference between an American League Central team playing an A.L. East team and an A.L. Central team playing a National League East team? There is none.

Some people are concerned about the designated hitter position. But that is another obvious answer — use the DH when the A.L. team is the home team and make the pitchers bat when the game is in a N.L. ballpark. That is how it works in the World Series.

The World Series is another sore spot for the skeptics who don't want to see interleague play. They think that the World Series will be less exciting if the two teams have already played each other during the season. Does this make the Championship Series any less exciting? Did people not watch the Mariners and the Indians battle it out last year because they played 16 games during the season?

No. Mariner fever was alive and well in October and it will, probably carry over come April.

Baseball is not being ruined, it's being renewed. No matter what you think of interleague play, it is going to become a reality. And it's about time.

Andrea DeYoung, a sophomore majoring in Journalism, is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald.

CORRECTION

In the Jan. 22 edition of the ODE, a photograph featuring sophomore wrestler Jeremy Ensrud was mistakenly run with a women's basketball story, while the women's basketball photograph featuring Courtney Kanegae was run with the wrestling story. The Emerald regrets the error.

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RECYCLE

Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1996

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(March 21 to April 19)

You need to take a clearer look on that project you've been pursuing. Perhaps it isn't as simple to execute as you originally thought. At night, a friend seeks your advice.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)

An situation arises during the morning that could lead to unexpected travel for you. Watch those expenses, since they could add up quickly. Work is difficult, but the rewards are worth it.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)

Time on your own helps you make serious progress at work. Don't allow annoying distractions, such as trivial phone calls, to disturb your concentration. At night, you make a wonderful impression.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)

As the old expression goes: If you want the job done right, do it yourself. Behind-the-scenes moves are to your advantage.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)

Talks with advisers advance your financial interests. A friend trusts you with a surprising secret. At night, you are at your inventive best.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Be willing to acknowledge when you reach an impasse and need some help. A co-worker is delighted to come to your rescue. Domestic life is accented once the sun sets.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You can communicate well what it is you're trying to get done at work. It's a good time to begin any projects of a creative nature. Return important phone calls.

SCORPIO

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Becky, Oops! I forgot about the glitch! Let's try fixing it again.

Brian,

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by GARRY TRUDEAU