

Griffey settles down with Seattle

■ **BASEBALL:** The Mariners' star signed a record four-year contract extension for \$34 million

SEATTLE (AP) — Ken Griffey Jr. became baseball's highest paid player Wednesday. Now he wants to play on a winner.

"I've always told the Mariners it's not a matter of the money," Griffey said in a conference call from Orlando, Fla. "I've always wanted to be on a winning team, to have something to shoot for in September and early October."

In the meantime, he can take solace in a four-year contract extension worth \$34 million.

The contract for the Seattle center fielder has an average annual value of \$8.5 million, topping the \$7.29 million annual average of the six-year deal Barry Bonds signed with San Francisco in 1992.

"I'm going to be the same baseball player I've always been," Griffey said. "I'm not going to change. I'm always going to smile."

The extension starts with the 1997 season, meaning Griffey will be under contract with Mariners through the 2000 season.

"I cannot tell you how excited the Mariners organization is

to have the best player in baseball under contract through the turn of the century," Mariners president Chuck Armstrong said.

Griffey also gets a signing bonus of \$2.5 million. In 1997, he will be paid \$7.25 million; in 1998, \$7.75 million; in 1999, \$8.25 million; and in 2000, \$8.25 million.

He is also eligible for a number of other bonuses, including \$100,000 if he is named World Series MVP.

"This certainly is a great day for Seattle," Armstrong said. "What this means is Kenny will be in center field for the Mariners when our ballpark opens in 1999."

Griffey, 26, appeared in 72 games last season, batting .258 with 17 home runs and 42 RBI. He missed 73 games after fracturing his left wrist May 26.

For his seven-year career, Griffey has a .302 lifetime average with a Mariners-record 189 home runs and 585 RBI in 917 games. He was selected to the starting lineup in each of the last six All-Star Games. Before signing the new contract, Griffey had complained about Seattle's cold, damp winters and noted he was building a family home on a golf course near Orlando, Fla.

"I like Seattle, the fans and

all," he said earlier in the month. "But being here [in Florida] where we can go outdoors to hang all the time, every day, is great."

He left Seattle in December and put his house in suburban Issaquah on the market.

The Mariners reached post-season play for the first time last season, losing to the Cleveland Indians in the second round of the playoffs after beating the New York Yankees.

Faced with a player payroll of \$35 million in 1996, the Mariners traded first baseman Tino Martinez, third baseman Mike Blowers and reliever Jeff Nelson.

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

"The guys they're bringing in may be good players, but we just don't know how it will all fit together. It's like we're starting over. The Mariners are always starting over and that gets old."

On Wednesday, he put a little different spin on it.

"You're always going to be upset when guys like those type of players leave," Griffey said. "With the players we got in return, we're going to be all right."

Women in Sports day gets national attention

■ **SPORTS:** The University celebrates with a kids' two-for-one deal at tonight's women's game

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

When most people think of sports, they think of a bunch of sweaty men running up and down a field or court, trying to gain some glory. But today the nation will be focusing on another aspect of sports — women in sports.

Today is the 10th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Across the nation, teams and fans will be celebrating female athletes.

According to Dana Lomsky, the marketing and promoting assistant of intercollegiate athletics at Oregon, the celebration is intended to get women interested in the field of sports.

"Basically, it is to encourage girls at a young age to get involved in sports," Lomsky said.

In Washington D.C., a march and rally will take place to honor women in sports. An annual award will be given to one outstanding female athlete. Past winners include Mary Lou Retton, Martina Navratilova and Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

At the University, the day will

be celebrated at the women's basketball game against UCLA. Kids can get in free to the game with a two-for-one coupon from Bi-Mart.

Although this year's theme is "Take a Girl to the Game," Lomsky said that Oregon wants to show everyone what women in sports can do, so boys are included in the free admission to the game.

Oregon women's basketball head coach Jody Runge was pleased with the progression of women in sports in the last 10 years.

"I think that the recognition of women in sports is very significant," Runge said. "I think one of the most significant things when I first came to this job was that parents, fathers in particular, would mention to me was that they would bring their daughters to the game and they would say, 'Dad, there is a girl coaching that team.' That empowers them with the idea that they can do those things or that they can aspire to be this type of basketball player."

Runge also said that it wasn't lack of physical ability that kept women's sports behind men's sports, it was lack of opportunity.

"I think that it's just recognizing the fact that the more opportunities that young women get, the more successful they are going to be at things."

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Thursday, Feb. 1, 1996

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
It's a great time for travel. Something that is going on at a distance from you ultimately affects you. A family member puts you in a bad mood.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
It is time to sit down and take a good, long look at your finances. Make sure you're aware of the financial opportunities coming your way. Your money-making power increases.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
It's a time of rewards for you for all your hard work on the job. Finally, you feel your accomplishments mean something. Beware, though, of someone who could be looking to trip you up.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
The accent is on travel and communications. Your charisma makes you positively magnetic. Take advantage of the moment to find solutions for prickly problems.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
Mixing business with pleasure, generally a bad idea, works for you. Make sure you take full advantage. A family member finds it difficult to understand you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
You do your best work on the home front. However, those around you feel you're being too domineering. An acquaintance tries to tell you a tall tale, but you know better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
Romance is accentuated, provided that you can find some time to be alone with that special someone. Your creativity is accentuated, and you begin a new project. Spend some time in the evening attending to financial mat-

ters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
Your patience wears thin in the morning as you find yourself waiting for someone who never shows up. You should have known better. Find a new friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You're not really comfortable with your role at center stage. However, others are looking to you for leadership. Your intuition guides you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Stay away from someone who wants to include you in a matchmaking scheme. Whether the recipient or an accomplice, you can't win on this one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Don't let what's happening on the home front affect you at work. Co-workers don't deserve to be the objects of your wrath. Try to take surprising changes in stride.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
You can reach agreements easily. However, it's always a wise idea to read the fine print before signing on the dotted line. Leisure beckons during evening hours.

YOU BORN TODAY are positively dizzying to those around you. People who meet you often feel as though they've encountered a hurricane. When you finally do stop to rest, you fall asleep almost instantly. In your early years, you encounter some financial difficulties, but you can overcome them with hard work and perseverance. You are more concerned early on with a job that is secure and well-paying rather than personally fulfilling.

Birthdate of: Reynolds Price, writer; Sherman Hemsley, actor; Hildegard, entertainer.

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Doonesbury by GARRY TRUDEAU

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UH-HUH.

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WE'RE VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS—

I CAN IMAGINE. LISTEN, I GOT BUCHANAN COOLING HIS HEELS OUT THERE—