



AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi

Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Taijuan Walker pitches against the Los Angeles Angels in the first inning of a spring training baseball game Monday in Peoria, Ariz.

Zunino's bat, Walker's arm lead Mariners over Angels

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Mike Zunino homered and doubled, Taijuan Walker pitched seven impressive innings and the Seattle Mariners beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-3 Monday.

Robinson Cano added his first spring homer for the Mariners and is hitting .364 in exhibition play.

The Angels and Mariners fielded lineups consisting mainly of the players who are likely to start on opening day next Monday when Los Angeles visits Seattle.

Zunino's seven home runs and 13 RBIs lead Seattle this spring. The catcher is batting .354.

Zunino got a playful, palms-down "easy does it" sign from ace Felix Hernandez in the clubhouse after driving in three runs.

"I feel like the approach is much different," Zunino said. "Last year I was just up there swinging and hoping to get something to hit. This year there's more of a mental approach to it. It's been a good learning experience I've had this spring."

Walker's scoreless streak ended at 19 innings when Matt Joyce homered in the second. That was the only run off Walker, who retired his final 17 batters.

Walker gave up three hits, walked none and struck out five. "I didn't try to do too much," Walker said. "I feel really good with all my pitches."

Mariners outfielder Seth Smith and the opening-day pitchers were the lone missing players from who's expected to be on the field next week.

"At some point you've got to get these guys out there and they've got to play deep into games," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We want to get our guys together for sure and see how this lineup will work."

The Angels scored twice in the ninth off Mariners lefty Charlie Furbush, who will be in the Seattle bullpen this season.

Tribute to fallen teammate

The death of 20-year-old Mariners pitching prospect Victor Sanchez is still heavy on the minds of players and staff within the organization. Sanchez died Saturday in Venezuela from injuries suffered in a boating accident last month.

A makeshift memorial set up by minor league staff appeared outside the front door to the team's spring training head-



AP Photo/Lenny Ignelzi

Seattle Mariners' Mike Zunino rips a two-run double against the Los Angeles Angels in the fourth inning.

quarters on Monday. Sanchez's jersey was hung, adorned with candles, a ball and glove and a photo of him pitching. A bat was placed against the wall on one side and another photo of Sanchez on the other.

Transaction

The Mariners released veteran pitcher Kevin Correia and have reassigned him to minor league camp. That leaves 28 players on the roster, and with the starting rotation all but set, the only decisions to be made are who makes the major league club out of the bullpen and what to do with injured infielder Chris Taylor, who will be out another month or so with a broken wrist.

Starting time

Angels: Monday's starter Nick Tropeano isn't likely to open the season in the majors, but he could be an option at some point during the season. He allowed four runs on seven hits, striking out three and walking one in six innings.

"Nick took a huge step forward. That's the command in the counts we were talking about," Scioscia said. "Really just a couple of pitches he didn't get."

Mariners: Walker won't be one of the Mariners' starters who will pitch in the season-opening series in Seattle, but he's on the Angels' radar.

"I'm glad we got to see him. He's good, no doubt," Scioscia said. "They've got a really good starting rotation and he's one piece of it."

Walker gained some confidence facing Angels regulars.

"Hopefully I get to face them during the season. It was good to see what they have," Walker said.

Blazers clinch playoff spot

PORTLAND (AP) — A playoff spot secured, next up for the Portland Trail Blazers is the Northwest Division title.

The Trail Blazers haven't won the division since 2008-09, when they shared it with the Denver Nuggets. Portland's last outright title came in the 1991-92 season.

"I'm not even sure the last time we even won a division title," All-Star guard Damian Lillard said. "I'm sure it's been tough having OKC around. If any year there was a great opportunity, it's this year. We just need to keep playing, focus on ourselves, and everything will work out like it's supposed to."

The Blazers clinched a playoff berth Monday night with a 109-86 victory over the Phoenix Suns. The victory cut the Blazers' magic number for winning the division to two.

Lillard scored 19 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 17 points and seven rebounds. The Blazers rested all of their starters in the fourth quarter after building a 92-65 lead. Portland led by as many as 31 points.

The Suns have lost four straight, and while they are mathematically still in the playoff picture, the chances are dwindling. Phoenix plays six of its last eight games on the road.

Gerald Green and T.J. Warren came off the bench to score 13 points. Eric Bledsoe added 12 in the Suns' seventh loss by 20 or more points this season. "We played hard but they're a good team," Bledsoe said. "At the end of the day, that's why they're in the position they're in, trying to fight for a high seed."

The Blazers also clinched the season series against the Suns for the first time since the 2010-11 season, winning 3-1.

Phoenix was without guard Brandon Knight, who tweaked his sprained left ankle in a 109-97 loss at home to Oklahoma City on Sunday night. Knight had just returned after missing eight games because of the injury.

The Suns were further hurt in the second half when center Alex Len left the game after a collision with Portland center Chris Kaman. The Suns said afterward that X-rays showed Len had a broken nose.

Portland was coming off a 120-114 victory at home over Denver on Saturday.

The Suns jumped in front 15-8 early in the game, but Nicolas Batum's long jumper and 3-pointer pulled Portland ahead 21-17 and the Blazers led 31-22 after the first quarter.

Robin Lopez's tip put the Blazers ahead 53-37, but Green punctuated the first half with a dunk for the Suns to close within 55-49.

Batum hit a 3-pointer that capped a 17-4 run to open the



AP Photo/Craig MitchellDyer

Portland Trail Blazers center Meyers Leonard, right, passes away from Phoenix Suns guard Reggie Bullock, left, during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Portland Monday. The Trail Blazers beat the Suns 109-86.

second half and pushed Portland's lead to 72-53. The Blazers outscored the Suns 37-16 in the third quarter.

"We came out lackadaisical," Suns coach Jeff Hornacek said. "No intensity, no real emotion. That's your chance. You come out in that third quarter and make it a little tough on them, then maybe the tide turns."

Batum finished with 16 points, including four 3-pointers.

Following the game, the reaction in Portland's locker room was muted. Lillard said Aldridge commented, "I'm happy I'm going to the playoffs with y'all," but that was about it.

"I mean, it wasn't like it was earth-shattering," coach Terry Stotts said. "Honestly, our goal is beyond just to make the playoffs. ... It's nice to clinch a spot, but we've still got a few games to go that are important to us."

It is Portland's 31st playoff appearance in franchise history. The Blazers (48-25) moved within a half-game of the Clippers (49-25) for the fourth-best record in the Western Conference and home-court advantage in the first round.



AP Photo/Craig MitchellDyer

Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge scores against the Phoenix Suns during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Portland.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — Astoria at Rainier, 4:30 p.m.; Estacada at Seaside (2), 4 p.m.; Delphian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Seaside at Estacada, 5 p.m.; Delphian at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.

Girls Golf — Seaside at Catlin Gabel, 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Baseball — North Marion at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.; Tillamook at Warrenton, 3:30 p.m.

Softball — North Marion at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.

Track — Astoria at Valley Catholic, 3:30 p.m.; Scappoose/Tillamook at

Seaside, 3:30 p.m.; Warrenton at Portland Christian, 3:30 p.m.

Boys Golf — Astoria at Scappoose, 2 p.m.; Valley Catholic at Seaside, 1 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball — Seaside at Corbett, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Corbett at Seaside, 5 p.m.

Track — Northwest League Relays, TBA

FRIDAY

Baseball — Knappa at Delphian (2), 3 p.m.

Softball — Astoria at R.A. Long, 4 p.m.; Knappa at Delphian (2), 3 p.m.

Girls Golf — Tillamook Scramble, 9 a.m.; Seaside at Ridgeview, 1:30 p.m.

Cards rally for 9-4 softball win

CORBETT — Astoria led 2-1 going into the bottom of the fourth inning, but the Corbett Cardinals scored eight runs in their next three at-bats, on their way to a 9-4 win over the Lady Fishermen in a non-league softball game Monday.

The Lady Fish had nine hits on the day, which included a pair of doubles for both Abi Danen and Miranda Dietrichs. Libby DiBartolomeo also had a single and a double for Astoria, which hosts North Marion Wednesday, then plays at R.A. Long Friday.



Early Childhood Health & Education Clinic For Clatsop County Kids

SIGN UP TODAY!

FREE For all 3-5 year olds, regardless of income

April 14, 2015

The Astoria Armory
1636 Exchange St., Astoria

April 22, 2015

Seaside Convention Center
415 First Avenue, Seaside

Early screening is an important step to successful learning.

Your child will receive the following exams and screenings:

~ Physical ~ Hearing ~ School Readiness ~ Speech
~ Nutrition ~ Vision ~ Dental ~ Immunization

Call your local elementary school or Head Start center for an appointment by April 7 for the Astoria clinic or April 15 for the Seaside clinic.

Limited transportation help is available upon request. se habla espanol.

Sponsors are NW Early Learning Council, NW Educational Service District and Clatsop Kinder Ready. Major health & education groups of Clatsop County are partnering to make this clinic possible.



John Carter Cash



John McEuen

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

A Tribute to the Carter Family

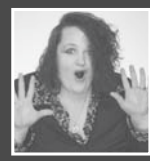
Featuring John McEuen & John Carter Cash

Saturday, April 18, 7:30 pm Tickets: \$30 - \$35



BREW IT ON, LAUGH IT OFF!

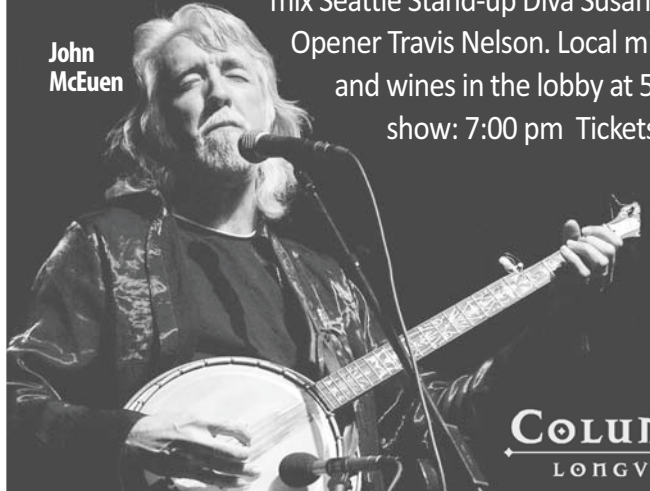
Final 3rd Fridays adds stand up to the Micro Brew mix Seattle Stand-up Diva Susan Jones and Opener Travis Nelson. Local micro brews and wines in the lobby at 5:30 pm, show: 7:00 pm Tickets: \$15



Susan Jones



Travis Nelson



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