

MLB

Mariners prep for spring believing they can contend

By **TIM BOOTH**
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Jerry Dipoto did not go quietly into the Seattle Mariners offseason. The entire overhaul Dipoto embarked upon after taking over as the Mariners general manager was not subtle or quiet.

It was attention-grabbing, and as Dipoto said on Thursday during the Mariners' pre-spring training luncheon, successful.

"I think we did what we said we were going to do. And I feel very confident our game plan has been executed," Dipoto said. "Now we're going to find out as the season starts how good the game plan was."

The Mariners will arrive in Arizona in about three weeks with one of the more remodeled rosters in baseball, including 17 new additions to their 40-man roster that were with other clubs a year ago. The expectation is that the majority of those new acquisitions will be on the final 25-man roster when Seattle breaks camp in early April.

That means the early part of



(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Seattle Mariners manager Scott Servais talks to reporters Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 in Seattle during the team's annual briefing before the start of baseball spring training.

spring training will be as much about the Mariners getting to know one another as it will be about assessing what the talent is on the field. Dipoto didn't shy away from saying the roster he's created should be able to post a winning record in 2016.

"I believe this club is as well-suited as anybody in the (AL)

West. It's a tough division. ... We're going to start the season with the idea that we're going to get into the mid-80s. We've built the roster with the idea of getting into the mid-80s and if you can get into that 85-, 86-win zone and then let the chips fall where they may, it's amazing how frequently you're going to end up winning a

lot more games than that," Dipoto said. "It's all going to be about the culture we develop. We will make strategic mistakes, we will have injuries, every team does. What we cannot do is allow our culture to rattle."

The crux of Dipoto's offseason makeover was to create more athleticism and versatility for the Mariners, and to build a roster that played to the strengths of their home park, Safeco Field. That created changes in the outfield with the additions of Nori Aoki and Leonys Martin, and led to a complete rebuilding of the bullpen, with seven new additions from outside the organization likely to compete for spots as relievers.

The biggest competition may be for the final slots in Seattle's rotation with the expectation that Felix Hernandez, Hisashi Iwakuma and Wade Miley are assured spots. That leaves Taijuan Walker, James Paxton, Nathan Karns, Mike Montgomery and Vidal Nuno likely competing for the fourth and fifth spots.

There are also questions about reserve spots in the infield and who may end up being the right-handed

hitting complement to Adam Lind at first base. Dipoto confirmed the signing of former All-Star Gaby Sanchez to a minor league deal on Thursday. The intention is that he's part of that competition along with Jesus Montero and Seattle could add another player to the mix before the start of spring training.

"I like the versatility, I like the athleticism. I think to win you've got to pitch and to have good pitching you've got to defend and we got a lot better there, especially in our outfield defense," first-year manager Scott Servais said.

NOTES: Backup C Jesus Sucre will be out for six months after undergoing surgery on his right ankle this week. Sucre suffered a fractured fibula and severely sprained ankle playing in the Venezuelan Winter League. ... 2B Robinson Cano is fully recovered after undergoing offseason surgery to repair a sports hernia. Cano played through the injury for the final two months of the season. "It was his wishes to play through that. I don't think too many people could have played through what he played through," athletic trainer Rick Griffin said.

NFL

Las Vegas wants stadium for UNLV, possibly Raiders

By **MICHELLE RINDELS**
Associated Press

The billionaire owner of the Las Vegas Sands casino company wants to help build a domed stadium on the UNLV campus and is meeting with the owner of the Oakland Raiders, company officials said Thursday.

Sands spokesman Ron Reese said the casino company envisions a public-private partnership to build a \$1 billion, 65,000-seat stadium that could be shared by a professional team and UNLV. The Sands would likely partner with other investors and might seek to draw on public revenue sources, such as hotel room tax revenue earmarked for promoting tourism.

The Raiders have no lease for a stadium for next season after NFL owners earlier this month shot down their plans to move to the Los Angeles area.

The team is negotiating a short-term extension with officials in Oakland and Alameda County but is also looking for a permanent new home to replace the outdated Coliseum.

Sands owner Sheldon Adelson has scheduled a Friday meeting with Raiders owner Mark Davis. Reese didn't elaborate on the nature of their discussions and the Raiders declined comment.

Adelson's company includes the Venetian and Palazzo hotel-casinos on the Las Vegas Strip as well as casinos in Macau, Singapore and Pennsylvania.

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval commissioned a tourism infrastructure committee to screen ideas to attract more visitors and "nothing will move that needle like a new world-class stadium," Reese said in a statement about the development, which was first reported by Nevada political journalist Jon Ralston.

Oakland is trying to arrange a plan to build a new stadium at the Coliseum site but the city has no firm plans or funding in place, even with an additional \$100 million pledge from the NFL after the owners' vote earlier this month.

The Raiders have an option to move to Inglewood with the Rams at their new stadium if the Chargers decide to stay in San Diego.

Davis also has looked at San Antonio and could look into moving to San Diego if the Chargers leave and he can negotiate a new stadium deal with officials there.

Las Vegas has been overlooked by professional sports franchises because it is home to legalized sports betting.

But Reese said Las Vegas now draws more revenue from non-gambling entertainment than betting and fears of match-fixing are outdated.

"This town is about so much more than gaming at this point," Reese said. "We think that stigma is a thing of the past."

UNLV officials sounded an optimistic tone about a potential partnership, but noted that nothing was final. The school recently purchased 42 acres near the urban campus and close to the Las Vegas Strip.

UNLV has longed to build a stadium closer to campus than where the Rebels now play at Sam Boyd Stadium, nearly nine miles away.

"If a public-private partnership can be formed that includes the development of a new special events stadium with little or no cost to UNLV — and we have access to use the facility — then it would be of great value to us," UNLV president Len Jessup said in a statement.

NFL

Manning not discussing retirement plans as Super Bowl approaches

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — What's whispered into Bill Belichick's ear stays in Bill Belichick's ear.

Peyton Manning may have told him, "This might be my last rodeo," but he's not telling anyone else anything about his thoughts on retirement.

NFL Network cameras caught an intriguing exchange between Denver's quarterback and New England's coach after Denver's 20-18 win over the Patriots in the AFC championship game on Sunday.

Manning didn't want to talk about the eavesdropped exchange on Thursday, however.

He joked, "I don't know if it's been confirmed or not, you know? What happened to private conversations on the 50-yard line? I guess they just don't exist anymore. So, no confirmation on that whatsoever. ... We're on to Carolina."

The Broncos (14-4) face the Panthers (17-1) in Super Bowl 50 on Feb. 7.

What Manning said to Belichick is apparently more than he's told his own coach regarding his thoughts on retirement as this 18th and very trying season comes to a conclusion.

"He hasn't said anything to me," Gary Kubiak said. "I know he's enjoying the playoffs and enjoying this opportunity with this football team. I can't speak for him. He'll have to answer those questions. But I know it's special to have him back in the huddle leading the way and I'm just very proud of his work getting back to be in this position."

Manning's favorite target, receiver Demaryius Thomas, said



(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning throws during practice at the team's headquarters on Thursday in Englewood, Colo.

Manning hasn't said anything to his teammates, either.

"Not at all. We're assuming," Thomas said. "You never know with him. He hasn't said anything, so I really don't know what he's going to do."

Manning, who regained his starting job this month after missing the Broncos' final seven starts while dealing with a torn plantar fascia near his left heel, was so loose Thursday that his news conference at times resembled a stand-up routine at a comedy club.

Asked about the Panthers' propensity for fast starts and the need to keep up with Carolina, Manning said: "As you watch the game unfold, you see the scoreboard and it's 7-0, it's 14-0, it's like the guy singing the national anthem is still on the field, you know, the game hasn't started yet."

At one point, Manning was asked for his recollections of Panthers owner Jerry Richardson in the league's labor negotiations, and Manning said he didn't have

a good answer for the reporter although, "labor negotiations are pretty boring if I can recall. There's one word for you."

Another question was about the four consecutive years a dual-threat QB has played in the Super Bowl and the 50-year streak of a pocket passer playing in the big game.

"That is 100 percent for you guys to decide," Manning said when asked if there were indeed two different types of QBs now. "... I guess the only thing I'll say is it seems like every year they say the pocket passer is a dying breed. I kept saying, 'I hope that's not true. I will be out of a job and my brother will be pretty close behind me.'"

Kubiak said he'll lean on his leaders next week in San Francisco to make sure the team stays focused on football. Asked what his role was in that plan, Manning said, "Set the curfew, basically."

"I threw out 9," he said. "That didn't get a lot of positive views."

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today
Riverside at Nyssa, 6 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 6 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Culver at Weston-McEwen, 4 p.m.
Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 6 p.m.
Arlington at South Wasco, 7:30 p.m.
Sherman at Lone, 7:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Horizon Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Echo at Pine Eagle, 7:30 p.m.
Wallowa at Helix, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Umatilla at Nyssa, 3:30 p.m.
Riverside at Vale, 3:30 p.m.
Culver at Pilot Rock, 4 p.m.
Ontario at Mac-Hi, 4:30 p.m.
Heppner at Stanfield, 5:30 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 5:30 p.m.
Mitchell/Spray at Arlington, 5:30 p.m.
lone at Condon/Wheeler, 5:30 p.m.
Joseph at Echo, 5:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Powder Valley, 5:30 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today
Stanfield at Pilot Rock, 3 p.m.
Riverside at Nyssa, 5 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale, 5 p.m.
Culver at Weston-McEwen, 5:30 p.m.
Arlington at South Wasco, 6 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Horizon Christian, 6 p.m.
Sherman at Lone, 6 p.m.
Wallowa at Helix, 6 p.m.
Echo at Pine Eagle, 6 p.m.
Mitchell at The Dalles, 7 p.m.
Hood River at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Riverside at Vale, 2 p.m.
Culver at Pilot Rock, 2:30 p.m.
Ontario at Mac-Hi, 3 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 3 p.m.
Heppner at Stanfield, 4 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Irrigon, 4 p.m.
Mitchell/Spray at Arlington, 4 p.m.
lone at Condon/Wheeler, 4 p.m.
Joseph at Echo, 4 p.m.
Nixyaawii at Powder Valley, 4 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Today
Mountain View at Pendleton, 6 p.m.
Bonanza at Irrigon, 6 p.m.
Saturday
Mac-Hi, Riverside, Heppner, Irrigon at BEO Invite, 10 a.m.

PREP SWIMMING

Saturday
Pendleton, Hermiston at La Grande, Noon

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Today
Eastern Oregon at Evergreen State, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Northwest (WA), 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Today
Eastern Oregon at Evergreen State, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
Treasure Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Northwest (WA), 5:30 p.m.

Prep standings

BOYS BASKETBALL

Columbia River Conference (5A)
Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Pendleton 2-0 9-6 894 821 8
Hermiston 1-1 8-910511065 20
Hood River 1-12-12 816 944 32
The Dalles 0-23-13 8431251 30

Greater Oregon League (4A)

Ovr.Conf. PS PARnk
Baker 3-09-1010061053 22
Mac-Hi 1-16-13 789 896 28
La Grande 1-1 5-7 615 570 31
Ontario 0-35-11 853 981 36

Eastern Oregon League (3A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Nyssa 4-09-10 952 945 15
Riverside 3-17-10 739 728 25
Umatilla 1-39-10 937 977 24
Hood River at Hermiston, 7 p.m.
Irrigon at Heppner, 7:30 p.m.

Columbia Basin Conference (2A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Heppner 5-015-1 917 706 2
Stanfield 4-112-41039 826 13
Irrigon 3-212-5 958 712 9
Wes-McE. 2-3 7-9 821 878 26
Pilot Rock 1-47-12 817 926 31
Culver 0-55-12 687 947 41

Big Sky League (1A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Sherman 7-013-41154 884 4
S. Wasco 5-214-3 925 599 5
Dufur 4-2 7-7 787 721 23
Horizon Chr.4-3 7-9 748 816 12
Con./Whe. 3-4 7-9 714 814 32
lone 2-53-12 446 821 44
Arlington 1-67-11 599 806 49
Mitchell 1-66-10 789 791 41

Old Oregon League (1A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Nixyaawii 7-017-11334 857 3

Powder Val. 6-113-3 931 602 8
Joseph 4-2 8-7 663 663 25
Echo 4-36-12 797 952 42
Wallowa 2-53-12 487 743 40
Pine Eagle 1-62-13 511 851 50
Helix 0-72-15 511 875 63

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Columbia River Conference (5A)
Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Hermiston 1-013-3 886 709 6
Pendleton 1-06-10 783 787 20
The Dalles 0-1 8-7 691 627 19
Hood River 0-13-11 479 683 32

Greater Oregon League (4A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
La Grande 2-013-4 997 773 6
Baker 2-1 9-9 781 854 14
Mac-Hi 1-111-7 715 721 23
Ontario 0-32-12 401 663 31

Eastern Oregon League (3A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Umatilla 4-015-4 886 615 10
Nyssa 2-211-7 766 857 15
Vale 2-10-8 752 706 19
Riverside 0-43-13 468 691 31

Columbia Basin Conference (2A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Wes.-McE. 5-0 9-8 747 668 11
Pilot Rock 4-113-6 887 729 9
Culver 2-310-7 659 556 29
Stanfield 2-3 7-9 610 598 30
Irrigon 2-36-10 619 623 23
Heppner 0-52-14 425 680 36

Big Sky League (1A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Con./Whe. 6-115-2 771 543 6
lone 6-1 9-6 646 648 19
Arlington 5-212-6 771 579 26
S. Wasco 3-4 8-8 535 615 31
Horizon Chr. 3-46-10 483 653 36
Sherman 3-43-12 504 742 45
Dufur 2-53-12 522 704 44
Mitchell 0-73-13 491 646 59

Old Oregon League (1A)

Conf.Ovr. PS PARnk
Nixyaawii 7-017-1 978 564 4
Helix 5-113-4 734 613 5
Powder Val. 5-210-7 811 592 25
Joseph 3-4 8-8 719 607 32
Echo 2-59-10 742 664 28
Pine Eagle 1-61-14 295 765 48
Wallowa 0-71-15 260 818 54

Football

NFL

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 31
At Honolulu

Team Rice vs. Team Irvin, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 7
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Denver vs. Carolina, 3:30 p.m. (CBS)

Basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
Toronto **W** **L** **Pct** **GB**
Boston 31 15 674 —
New York 26 21 553 5½
Brooklyn 22 26 408 10
Philadelphia 12 34 261 19
Charlotte 7 40 149 24½

Southwest Division

W **L** **Pct** **GB**
Atlanta 27 21 563 —
Miami 25 21 543 1
Charlotte 22 24 478 4
Washington 20 24 455 5
Orlando 20 24 455 5

Central Division

W **L** **Pct** **GB**
Cleveland 32 12 727 —
Chicago 26 19 578 6½
Detroit 25 21 543 8
Indiana 24 22 522 9
Milwaukee 20 28 417 14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

West Division
W **L** **Pct** **GB**
San Antonio 39 7 848 —
Memphis 27 20 544 12½
Dallas 26 22 542 14
Houston 25 23 521 15
New Orleans 17 28 378 21½

Northwest Division

W **L** **Pct** **GB**
Oklahoma City 35 13 729 —
Portland 21 26 447 13½
Utah 20 25 444 13½
Denver 18 29 383 16½
Minnesota 14 33 298 20½

Pacific Division

W **L** **Pct** **GB**
Golden State 42 4 913 —
L.A. Clippers 30 16 652 12
Sacramento 20 26 435 22
Phoenix 14 33 298 28½
L.A. Lakers 9 39 188 34

Thursday's Games

Indiana 111, Atlanta 92
Denver 117, Washington 113
New Orleans 114, Sacramento 105
Memphis 103, Milwaukee 83
Toronto 103, New York 93

Today's Games

Chicago 114, L.A. Lakers 91
Orlando at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New York, 4:30 p.m.

Miami at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
Brooklyn at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at Portland, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA

Men's Top 25

Thursday
3. Iowa (16-4) lost to No. 8 Maryland 74-68. Next: vs. Northwestern, Sunday.
8. Maryland (18-3) beat No. 3 Iowa 74-68. Next: at Ohio State, Sunday.
12. Michigan State (18-4) beat Northwestern 76-45. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday.
18. Arizona (16-5) lost to No. 23 Oregon 83-75. Next: vs. Oregon State, Saturday.
23. Oregon (17-4) beat No. 18 Arizona 83-75. Next: at Arizona State, Sunday.
25. Notre Dame (14-6) lost to Syracuse 81-66. Next: vs. Wake Forest, Sunday.

Women's Top 25

Thursday
2. South Carolina (20-0) beat Mississippi 81-62. Next: at No. 10 Texas A&M, Sunday.
3. Notre Dame (20-1) beat Georgia Tech 54-42. Next: at Duke, Monday.
7. Ohio State (16-4) beat Northwestern 76-73. Next: at Illinois, Monday.
10. Texas A&M (15-5) beat Alabama 59-56. Next: vs. No. 2 South Carolina, Sunday.
11. Florida State (17-4) beat Wake Forest 96-55. Next: vs. Virginia Tech, Sunday.
12. Kentucky (15-4) lost to Vanderbilt 71-69. Next: at Florida, Sunday.
13. Mississippi State (18-4) beat No. 19 Tennessee 65-63, OT. Next: at Arkansas, Sunday.
22. Missouri (17-4) beat LSU 52-46. Next: at Mississippi, Sunday.

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
GP **W** **L** **OT** **Pts** **GF** **GA**
Florida 49 29 15 5 63 135 108
Tampa Bay 49 27 18 4 58 130 117
Detroit 49 25 16 8 58 122 124
Boston 49 26 18 5 57 147 131
Montreal 50 24 22 4 52 136 134
Ottawa 50 23 21 6 52 139 155
Buffalo 50 20 26 4 44 114 136
Toronto 48 17 22 9 43 114 134

Metropolitan Division

GP **W** **L** **OT** **Pts** **GF** **GA**
Washington 47 35 8 4 74 158 104
N.Y. Rangers 49 27 17 5 59 142 129
N.Y. Islanders 47 25 16 6 56 130 118
Pittsburgh 48 24 17 7 55 143 120
New Jersey 50 25 20 5 55 114 118
Carolina 51 23 20 8 54 123 135
Philadelphia 47 21 18 8 50 109 127
Columbus 51 19 27 5 43 113 163

WESTERN CONFERENCE