MLB

Mariners' Cano addresses criticism from ex-coach

By JOSE M. ROMERO
Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Robinson Cano didn't spend much time dwelling on the searing comments a former assistant coach made about him. He was home in the Dominican Republic, recovering from surgery to repair a sports hernia that he played through for the final two months of last season.

The Seattle Mariners' six-time All-Star second baseman addressed former assistant hitting coach Andy Van Slyke's offseason criticism of him on Thursday before the first full-squad workout of spring training.

"Honestly it didn't hurt me. Coming from a guy like him, it doesn't bother me at all because I know how I play," Cano said. "If you hear the comments, first he threw me under the bus and then he was like (saying) what's so great about myself. So you didn't know what he was trying to say. But Andy, I don't know, it doesn't even matter to me."

AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File

In this June 20, 2015, file photo, The Seattle Mariners' new hitting coach, Edgar Martinez, center, stands with assistant hitting coach Andy Van Slyke (43) and Robinson Cano outside the batting cage before the Mariners' baseball game against the Houston Astros, in Seattle.

Van Slyke, in an interview with a St. Louis radio station last November, labeled Cano the worst everyday No. 3 hitter he'd ever seen in the first half of a season. He said he played the worst defense at second base that the former big leaguer had seen in 20 years. He then backtracked and complimented Cano's throwing arm.

Van Slyke also said former Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon and hitting coach Howard Johnson were fired after the season because of Cano, who hit .238 with four home runs and 24 RBIs over the first 74 games.

"It's something as a player that you don't want to go through," Cano said.

He was much more productive after that, hitting .330 with 17 homers and 55 RBIs from July 1 on, much of that time while dealing with abdominal pain. His 179 hits led the Mariners in 2015, though his final average of .287 was the first time since 2008 he hit under .300.

Van Slyke's rant elicited an apology from the Mariners to Cano, he said, even though Van Slyke had since been let go along with the other coaches from the previous staff.

"I said I'm not going to waste my time and say anything back. I got a call from the Mariners that they were like apologizing because he said all that stuff," Cano said. "He was a guy that always talked to me. You guys saw that in the season. He says that. I don't know how come he said that everybody got fired because of me."

The Mariners have a new general manager, Jerry Dipoto, and manager, Scott Servais, along with many new faces among both staff and players. Cano said he's excited about all of the personnel changes.

"For a team to win you don't need big names, you just need the right pieces. I think that's what Jerry has done," Cano said. "I don't focus on the manager, because they know how to do their job. For me, it's more about getting to know teammates. I think Servais is going to do a great job."

As far as his return to full strength, Cano said he feels he's 98 percent there. He expects to feel tightness some mornings when he awakens, but that's a far cry from the pain he felt during the season that he said caused him to lose sleep.

"I'm the kind of guy that I don't like to look for excuses, and it was a hard time for me, only my family knows that," Cano said.

Cano looked quick in getting to ground balls and, with Dipoto and Servais watching, displayed a power stroke in batting practice Thursday, hitting several home runs.

NOTES: All players on the major league spring training roster were present and ready to work out on the first full-team day of camp, Servais said. He met with a core group of players on Wednesday to get feedback and ideas from them. "It's about April 4 when the bell rings there in Texas for us. Being healthy and ready to roll and are guys in a good spot mentally," Servais said.

New slide rules among changes in 2016

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Baseball made its call on the Chase Utley slide: out.

Major League Baseball and the players' union have banned rolling blocks to break up potential double plays, hoping to prevent a repeat of the takeout by Utley that broke the leg of New York Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada during last year's playoffs.

"From my understanding, we've been trying to work on this for a few years now," Utley said at the Los Angeles Dodgers' camp, "so I don't think one instance determined everything."

Maybe, but fans may see it another way — the Chase Utley Rule.

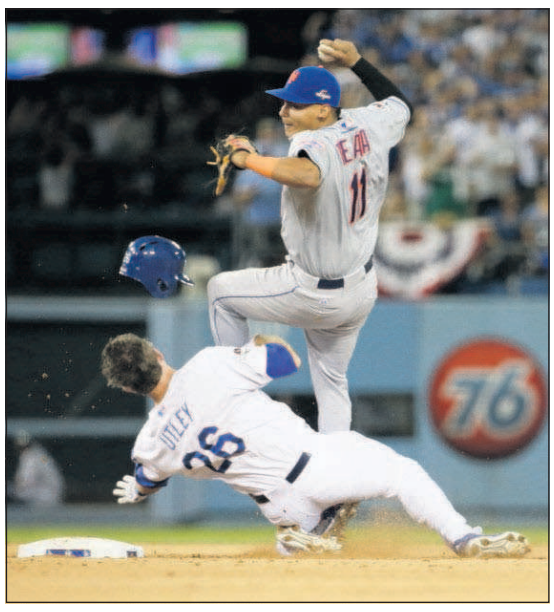
Under the change announced Thursday, a runner must attempt a "bona fide slide," defined as making contact with the ground ahead of the base, being in position to and trying to reach the base with a hand or foot, trying to remain on the base after the slide, and sliding within reach of the base without changing his path to initiate contact with a fielder.

An umpire can call both the runner and batter out for a violation. Baserunners may not elevate or kick a leg above the fielder's knee or throw his arm or upper body.

A runner who makes a permissible slide cannot be charged with interference, even if he makes contact with a fielder.

Going forward, takeout slides and neighborhood plays — where a middle infielder fails to touch second base — will be subject to video review. In the past, the neighborhood play wasn't covered by instant replay.

Baseball and the union also agreed to limit mound visits by managers and pitching coaches to 30 seconds and to cut the countdown clock for between-innings breaks by 20 seconds, to 2:05 for most games and 2:25 for nationally televised matchups.



In this Oct. 10, 2015, file photo, New York Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada, goes over the top of Los Angeles Dodgers' Chase Utley who broke up a double play during the seventh inning in Game 2 of baseball's National League Division Series, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

COACHES FIRED: School investigating claims

Continued from 1B

the Santa Fe Indian School's boys team last season. They came as a pair of high-profile hires for having developed their daughters Shoni and Jude's early playing skills on the Umatilla Indian reservation, Hermiston High School and Franklin High School in Portland, where Moses also coached.

Both played at Louisville and Shoni was an Atlanta Dream first-round draft pick, where she re-introduced "rez ball" — a fast-paced, off-the-cuff style of play on reservations — to the NCAA. In her first WNBA season, she became the league's first rookie All-Star Game's MVP.

She hasn't commented publicly on her parent's dispute stemming from last week's game. But she did appear in a *Santa Fe New Mexican* photo sitting near her parents at another game between the Santa Fe Indian School and St. Michael's on Wednesday.

At that game, Rick Schimmel stood in the stands wearing a T-shirt with words scrawled on the back saying "All land is native land, even 'your' court."

The Santa Fe Indian School's athletic department said in the New Mexican on Thursday that it was investigating the allegations of racially charged remarks at the game.

PENDLETON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS
SECOND ANNUAL
SPRING SYMPOSIUM
RED LION HOTEL
APRIL 5, 2016
12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LISA SMITH
7-TOUCH MARKETING
WWW.7-TOUCHMARKETING.COM

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SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Saturday
Lost River at Heppner (2A first round), 2 p.m.
Kennedy at Irrigon (2A first round), 5 p.m.
Riverside at Dayton (3A first round), 7 p.m.
Triad at Nixyaawii (1A second round), TBD

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today
Blanchet Catholic at Umatilla (3A first round), 6 p.m.
Irrigon at Kennedy (2A first round), 6 p.m.
Weston-McEwen at Lost River (2A first round), 6 p.m.
Mac-Hi at Valley Catholic (4A first round), 6 p.m.
Elkton at Condon/Wheeler (1A second round), 6:30 p.m.
Arlington at Country Christian (1A second round), 7 p.m.
Siletz Valley vs. Nixyaawii (at Pendleton, 1A second round), 7 p.m.

Saturday
Helix at Rogue Valley Adventist (1A second round), 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

Today
OSAA State Wrestling Tournament (at Portland), TBA

Saturday
OSAA State Wrestling Tournament (at Portland), TBA

COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday
Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley, 4 p.m.

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Today
Eastern Oregon at Oregon Tech (CCC Semifinal), 7 p.m.

Saturday
Blue Mountain at Treasure Valley, 2 p.m.

Basketball

NCAA

Men's Top 25

Thursday's Games
No. 15 Duke 80, Florida St. 65
No. 18 Indiana 74, Illinois 47
No. 22 Utah 81, Arizona St. 46
No. 24 SMU 69, Memphis 62

Today's Games
No games scheduled

Women's Top 25

Thursday's Games
No. 2 Notre Dame 71, Clemson 52
No. 3 South Carolina 66, Ole Miss 45
No. 6 Maryland 83, Wisconsin 77
No. 10 Louisville 79, No. 17 Miami 51
No. 11 Texas A&M 57, Auburn 49
No. 12 Florida St. 56, NC St. 52
No. 15 Kentucky 69, No. 24 Missouri 59
No. 16 Mississippi St. 66, Vanderbilt 61
No. 18 Syracuse 71, Boston College 56

Today's Games
No. 7 Oregon State at No. 13 Stanford, 8 p.m.
No. 9 Arizona State at USC, 6 p.m.
Arizona at No. 14 UCLA, 8 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	18	.679	—
Boston	34	25	.576	5½
New York	24	35	.407	15½
Brooklyn	16	42	.276	23
Philadelphia	8	49	.140	30½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	32	25	.561	—
Atlanta	31	27	.534	1½
Charlotte	29	27	.518	2½
Washington	26	30	.464	5½
Orlando	25	31	.446	6½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	41	15	.732	—
Indiana	31	26	.544	10½
Chicago	30	26	.536	11
Detroit	29	29	.500	13
Milwaukee	24	34	.414	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	49	9	.845	—
Memphis	33	23	.589	15
Dallas	30	28	.517	19
Houston	29	29	.500	20
New Orleans	23	34	.404	25½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	41	17	.707	—
Portland	30	28	.517	11
Utah	28	29	.491	12½
Denver	23	35	.397	18
Minnesota	18	40	.310	23

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	52	5	.912	—
L.A. Clippers	37	20	.649	15
Sacramento	24	32	.429	27½
Phoenix	14	44	.241	38½
L.A. Lakers	11	48	.186	42

Thursday's Games
Golden State 130, Orlando 114
Boston 112, Milwaukee 107
New Orleans 123, Oklahoma City 119
Brooklyn 116, Phoenix 106
Houston 119, Portland 105
San Antonio 96, Utah 78

Today's Games
Charlotte at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Cleveland at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Orlando at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Chicago at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 7 p.m.
Memphis at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	60	35	18	7	77	167	139
Tampa Bay	60	34	22	4	72	165	149
Boston	61	33	22	6	72	190	170
Detroit	61	30	20	11	71	153	158
Ottawa	62	29	27	6	64	179	192
Montreal	61	29	27	5	63	167	168
Buffalo	61	24	30	7	55	144	167
Toronto	59	21	28	10	52	145	176

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	59	44	11	4	92	197	137
N.Y. Rangers	61	35	20	6	76	175	156
N.Y. Islanders	59	33	19	7	73	170	146
Pittsburgh	59	30	21	8	68	155	156
New Jersey	62	30	25	7	67	139	149
Carolina	62	28	24	10	66	152	164
Philadelphia	60	27	22	11	65	148	163
Columbus	62	25	29	8	58	162	191

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	62	38	18	6	82	202	178
Chicago	63	38	20	5	81	177	151
St. Louis	63	35	19	9	79	157	152
Nashville	62	30	21	11	71	162	158
Colorado	63	32	27	4	68	169	176
Minnesota	61	27	24	10	64	159	155
Winnipeg	60	26	30	4	56	158	179

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	60	36	20	4	76	161	139
Anaheim	59	32	19	8	72	147	141
San Jose	59	32	21	6	70	177	161
Vancouver	60	24	24	12	60	147	171
Arizona	61	27	28	6	60	166	188
Calgary	60	26	30	4	56	162	184
Edmonton	62	22	34	6	50	152	190

Thursday's Games
Philadelphia 3, Minnesota 2
Columbus 6, New Jersey 1
Toronto 3, Carolina 1
Florida 3, Arizona 2
N.Y. Rangers 2, St. Louis 1
Nashville 3, Chicago 1
Winnipeg 6, Dallas 3
N.Y. Islanders 2, Calgary 1, OT
Vancouver 5, Ottawa 3
Los Angeles 2, Edmonton 1

Friday's Games
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 4 p.m.
Boston at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Edmonton at Anaheim, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

Golf

PGA Honda Classic

At PGA National Resort and Spa, The Champion
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Purse: $6.1 million
Yardage: 7,140; Par 70 (35-35)

First Round

Thursday

Sergio Garcia	31-34—65	-5
Michael Thompson	31-34—65	-5
William McGirt	32-34—66	-4
Rickie Fowler	32-34—66	-4
George McNeill	32-35—67	-3
Shane Lowry	34-33—67	-3
David Lingmerth	32-35—67	-3
Jimmy Walker	34-33—67	-3
Justin Hicks	33-34—67	-3
Jason Dufner	35-33—68	-2
Si Woo Kim	37-31—68	-2
Adam Hadwin	33-35—68	-2
Erik Compton	33-35—68	-2
Sean O'Hair	34-35—69	-1
Justin Thomas	33-36—69	-1
Phil Mickelson	37-32—69	-1
Paul Casey	34-35—69	-1
Sam Saunders	31-38—69	-1
Ollie Schniederjans	34-35—69	-1
Greg Owen	35-34—69	-1
Darron Stiles	33-36—69	-1
Vijay Singh	33-36—69	-1
Cameron Tringale	34-36—70	E
Scott Brown	35-35—70	E
Brendon de Jonge	37-33—70	E
Stuart Appleby	35-35—70	E
Smylie Kaufman	34-36—70	E
Adam Scott	34-36—70	E
Russell Knox	35-35—70	E
Brooks Koepka	36-34—70	E