

MLB

Marte set for first full season as Mariners shortstop

By JOSE M. ROMERO
The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — Last spring, Ketel Marte wasn’t close to making Seattle’s opening day roster, optioned to Triple-A Tacoma just a few weeks into spring training.

A year and a lengthy major league stint later, Marte is set to begin the season as the starting shortstop for the Mariners. He’s already in the lineup with many other regulars for the exhibition opener Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Marte made his big league debut last July 31 after appearing in the MLB Futures Game for the World team and making the Pacific Coast League All-Star team. He finished the season with a .283 batting average in 57 games, and 19 of his 62 hits went for extra bases. He also played exclusively at shortstop from Aug. 15 to season’s end.

“The only thing I have to do is keep working hard like how I did to get here in past years. I just have to be consistent, humble and hope everything goes well,” Marte said in Spanish. “I learned to play in the minors. I learned that I can’t control the game, that if I carry humility with me day after day with how I work the success will come.”

There’s a confidence with Marte, too. He said he wasn’t surprised he made the majors at a young age.

“I worked for this. Things were going great last season,” Marte said. “If you work hard for some-



In this Feb. 26, 2016, file photo, Seattle Mariners’ Ketel Marte fields a ball during spring training in Peoria, Ariz. Marte showed enough last season that even the new Seattle Mariners coaching staff believed he could be their short-stop of the future.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

thing you hope for days like this. You have to have fun and not be stressed. Everyone wants to have a good experience so you have to make it fun.”

Marte also learned a great deal last season from teammate and second baseman Robinson Cano, also from the Dominican Republic. That relationship and work together has carried over into this spring on the back fields of the team complex.

Marte said every Dominican player who signs with the Mariners wants to be part of an infield combination with Cano, a hero in his native land.

“He’s shown me how to play at the highest level. Robbie Cano has helped me a lot and I’m really grateful for that,” Marte said. “It’s been fun for me and a great experience.”

Other Mariners veterans have helped Marte become a major leaguer.

“Above all, you have to learn from veteran players like Felix (Hernandez) and Nelson Cruz who are Latinos and are always trying to help,” Marte said. “What I’ve learned is how to control the game. Here you have to play controlled and take things smoothly.”

Marte’s offensive production has always been solid, with a .290 career minor-league batting average. He’s focused on his defense in spring training as he looks to hold onto his job in the big leagues.

“I have to try to improve that every day. Everybody knows I can hit,” Marte said. “I didn’t have much problem hitting at Triple-A, but I can get better.”

Cano said the second year is always tough for a young player because pitchers are now more familiar with Marte.

“He listens, and we’ve got a

bunch of guys here . he can get any kind of advice from guys who played this game seven, eight, nine years.” Cano said.

The Mariners’ decision-makers, too, seem more focused on how Marte will field his position.

“He’s got a chance to be an outstanding, dynamic player in this league. But a lot times you see it, players come up, they have that burst, they get off to a good start and then they take a tick backwards,” manager Scott Servais said. “He’s going to be really important to us on the defensive side as much as anything else. Offense comes and goes. He’s going to hit his hot streaks and cold streaks. But making the plays he’s supposed to make in the middle of our field is going to determine how his season is going.”

NOTES: The Mariners open spring training play against the San Diego Padres, their baseball complex neighbors. LHP James Paxton gets the start and is scheduled to go two innings or 35-40 pitches. ... OF-DH Cruz didn’t take part in Tuesday’s team workout and will be held out Wednesday due to mild knee soreness. Servais said it isn’t an issue. ... LHP Mike Montgomery will miss a few days after having a cyst removed from his neck via surgery this week. ... New Mariners Norichika Aoki (LF), Adam Lind (1B), Chris Iannetta (C) and Leonys Martin (CF) are in Wednesday’s lineup for their first games with the club.

ALL-CRC: Pendleton’s Smith is boys Player of Year

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the award and the teams’ recognition is a testament to all of the hours put in during the season.

“We don’t look for the awards, but it is nice to know that your efforts and work pay off,” he said. “It also sets a tone for the younger girls who are waiting on their shot.”

Pendleton had three selections, with sophomore forward Kalan McGlothan being the Bucks’ lone first team selection. Junior guard Haley Greb was named to the second team, as was sophomore guard Lauren Richards.

On the boys side, Pendleton junior guard Caden Smith raised his game during this past season, increasing is efficiency while still retaining his killer instinct on offense. For those efforts, Smith was selected as the boys Player of the Year, a selection that Bucks coach Kyle Tedder called a ‘pretty clear decision.’

“He was solid for us all year long, but really settled down during league play,” Tedder said. “He led us in scoring, led us in minutes and at times was a man amongst boys. He earned everything this year with his hard work this summer.”

Smith averaged 22 points per game this season, and increased his shooting percentages across the board. He nailed 54 percent on field goals this season, 43 percent from 3-point range, and boosted his free throw shooting from 64 percent last year to 82 percent this year. It is the third-straight season of making the all-league team roster for Smith, as he was



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

In this Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 file photo, Pendleton’s Caden Smith shoots the ball over The Dalles’ Colin Noonan in the Bucks’ 83-48 win against the Riverhawks in Pendleton.

a first team member in 2015 and a second team member in 2014.

Pendleton was also represented on the all-league teams by senior James Bradt on the first team, and seniors Daniel Adams and Mekhi Foreman on second team. While none of those players bring spectacular ability, Tedder said the recognition is a reward for the guys’ hard

work on and off the court throughout the season.

“James is our garbage man, he does all the little things well and scores consistently,” he said. “Daniel started out the year penciled in as our eighth or ninth man in the rotation and earned his way up and proved himself as a shooter. And Mekhi really turned it on during league and was

our best guard defensively, bringing energy every night off the bench.”

With the Buckaroos winning the CRC, Tedder was also named as the league’s Coach of the Year in just his first year at the helm, an honor that he said shines light on everyone that surrounds him. “I don’t get this award with out the team,” he said. “I was very fortunate to have been put in a great opportunity this year, and had a good staff around me as well.”

Hermiston was represented on the boys rosters with junior Chance Flores and senior Austin Naillon both being named to the first team and sophomore DayShawn Neal selected to the second team. This is the second-straight year Naillon has been recognized on the postseason team, as he was a second team member in 2015.

BOYS

Player of the Year: Caden Smith, junior, Pendleton
Coach of the Year: Kyle Tedder, Pendleton
First Team
Caden Smith, senior, Pendleton
James Bradt, senior, Pendleton
Chance Flores, junior, Hermiston
Austin Naillon, senior, Hermiston
Dakota Murr, sophomore, The Dalles
Parker Kennedy, senior, Hood River
Second Team
DayShawn Neal, sophomore, Hermiston
Daniel Adams, senior, Pendleton
Mekhi Foreman, senior, Pendleton
Collin Noonan, senior, The Dalles
Tyronne Stinzi, senior, Hood River Valley
Noah Noteboom, senior, Hood River Valley
Dallas Buckley, senior, Hood River Valley

GIRLS

Player of the Year: Jansen Edmiston & Sara Ramirez, senior, Hermiston
Coach of the Year: Steve Hoffert, Hermiston
First Team
Sara Ramirez, senior, Hermiston
Jansen Edmiston, senior, Hermiston
Maddy Juul, sophomore, Hermiston
Brooke McCall, junior, The Dalles
Iliana Telles, junior, The Dalles
Kalan McGlothan, sophomore, Pendleton
Second Team
Kynzee Padilla, junior, Hermiston
Haley Greb, junior, Pendleton
Lauren Richards, sophomore, Pendleton
Lori Cimmiyotti, senior, The Dalles
Marie Bloomster, senior, Hood River Valley

Girls Basketball

Knights, Eagles get first crack at state

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

The last game the Condon/Wheeler Knights played at Baker High School was a loss to the North Douglas Warriors in last season’s third-place contest.

The Knights open their fifth-straight final bracket in Baker City today with a rematch of that 58-40 loss.

“Both teams have quite a bit of tournament experience,” said Condon/Wheeler coach Kevin Gramson of the handful of players on each roster that appeared in their last meeting.

Gramson’s No. 6 Knights actually hold a slight edge in the experience category, but he said it’ll take more than that to get past the No. 3 Warriors.

“I think this’ll be the best team that we’ve seen this year,” he said. “I think the key for us is to show up and play confident and not let any nerves seep into the equation.”

Should the Knights be able to avoid their nerves, they’ll next need to focus on the North Douglas trio of center Jhana Lane (6-foot-2) and guards Dani Baker (5-11) and Kalli Frieze.

“They like to stay in the half court and play kind of the half-court power game,” Gramson said. “Typically we haven’t been in the run-and-gun and have been slowing things down so we’re comfortable with that.”

“We’re going to stick to our man-to-man (defense) and see if we can match up, and if we can’t then we’ll adjust on the fly.”

The Knights tip off at 6:30 p.m. to open the lower half of the bracket, but won’t be the first local team in

action today.

That honor goes to the No. 4 Nixyaawii Golden Eagles, which take on the No. 5 Adrian Antelopes at 3:15 p.m.

Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern’s current group has never played in the state bracket at Baker City, but has enjoyed plenty of success on that same court during their district tournament.

“We played well there, and shot the ball extremely well on that rim in districts,” he said.

That fact, along with team’s general disposition, has the players exuding calm as they prepare for the first Nixyaawii girls state game since 2011.

“We’re bringing a group of kids that until this year hadn’t gotten to a state playoff game,” Maddern said. “They seemed calm (in practice). They’ve always been, all year, a loose group. I’ve had to get on them at times to focus a little bit.

“I’m probably more nervous than they are.”

As for Adrian, Maddern said the Eagles need to take care of the ball because the Antelopes thrive on the fast break, and their shooting percentages plummet in their half court sets.

“They’ve got three really good guards and they like to press, trap and create turnovers,” he said. “We’re basically facing the best defensive team that we’ve seen all year.”

Maddern said the team will rely on guard Mary Stewart to break the press, then hope to use an advantage in the posts to break down the Antelopes.

Winners from today’s games get a day of rest before Friday’s semifinals.

BUCKS: Haley Greb leads game with 19 points

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“They come after you the whole and game and we couldn’t handle it,” Gomez said.

Pendleton’s Haley Greb had some success getting the ball in the hoop with a game-high 19 points, but next on the team in scoring was Cece Hoffman with nine.

Liberty had four players reach double digits led by Kenzie Pimentel’s 17 points.

The loss ended Pendleton’s season two games short of a return to the final bracket, but Gomez said she was happy with the progression of a squad that opened the year with no

returning starters.

“We definitely peaked and got better at the end of the season from where we started,” she said. “It’s a great group of girls and we had a lot of fun.”

The Bucks will have more to start from next season.

Hoffman and Shelby Greb were their only seniors.

PHS (9-16) 14 4 18 14 — 50
LHS (13-11) 16 18 23 10 — 67
PENDLETON — H. Greb 19, C. Hoffman 9, M. Davies 6, T. Fell 5, L. Richards 5, J. Lemberger 3, K. Bradt 2, K. McGlothan 1, S. Greb, R. Gentner, E. Nirschl, H. Porter.
LIBERTY — Ka. Pimentel 17, J. Thomas 13, A. Grenfell 11, A. Gallegos 11, E. Maki 6, Ka. Pimentel 4, K. Margera 3, C. Smerherman 2, B. Romeo, K. Neumeier, M. Jobe, C. Estocapio, M. Williams.
3-pointers — PHS 3, LHS 6. Free throws — PHS 21-28, LHS 7-11. Fouls — PHS 14, LHS 19. Fouled out — E. Maki (LHS).

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate	
BOYS PREP BASKETBALL	
Today	
5A play-in: La Salle at Hermiston, 6 p.m.	
Thursday	
1A Quarterfinals: Nixyaawii vs. Hosanna Christian (at Baker High School), 6:30 p.m.	
2A Quarterfinals: Heppner vs. Bandon (at Pendleton Convention Center), 6:30 p.m.	
Friday	
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD	
Heppner vs. TBD (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD	
Saturday	
5A first round: TBD at Pendleton, TBD	
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD	
Heppner vs. TBD (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD	
GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL	
Today	
1A Quarterfinals: Nixyaawii vs. Adrian (at Baker High School), 3:15 p.m.	
1A Quarterfinals: Condon/Wheeler vs. North Douglas (at Baker High School), 6:30 p.m.	
Thursday	
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD	
Condon/Wheeler vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD	
3A Quarterfinals: Umatilla vs. Dayton (at North Bend High School), 1:30 p.m.	
Friday	
5A first round: TBD at Hermiston, TBD	
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD	
Condon/Wheeler vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD	
Umatilla vs. TBD (at Marshfield High School), TBD	
Basketball	

OSAA	
2A state tournament schedules (at Pendleton Convention Center/Pendleton High School)	
BOYS	
Thursday	
G1: #5 Imber vs. #4 Western Mennonite, 1:30 p.m.	
G2: #9 Kennedy vs. #1 Regis, 3:15 p.m.	
G3: #6 Bandon vs. #3 Heppner, 6:30 p.m.	
G4: #7 Burns vs. #2 Vernonia, 8:15 p.m.	
Friday	
G5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser (at Pendleton HS), 9 a.m.	
G6: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser (at Pendleton HS), 10:45 a.m.	
G7: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3:15 p.m.	
G8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 8:15 p.m.	
Saturday	
G9: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 10:45 a.m.	
G10: Game 7 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 3:15 p.m.	
G11: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 8:30 p.m.	
GIRLS	
Thursday (at Pendleton High School)	
G1: #9 Bonanza vs. #1 Kennedy, 1:30 p.m.	
G2: #12 Imbler vs. #4 Western Mennonite, 3:15 p.m.	
G3: #6 Grant Union vs. #3 Burns, 6:30 p.m.	
G4: #7 Lost River vs. #2 Monroe, 8:15 p.m.	
Friday	
G5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 9 a.m.	
G6: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 10:45 a.m.	
G7: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 1:30 p.m.	
G8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 6:30 p.m.	
Saturday	
G9: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 9 a.m.	
G10: Game 7 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 1:30 p.m.	
G11: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 6:30 p.m.	

NCAA	
Men's Top 25 Tuesday's Games	
No. 3 Villanova 83, DePaul 62	
No. 4 Virginia 64, Clemson 57	
No. 6 Oklahoma 73, No. 19 Baylor 71	
No. 11 Louisville 56, Georgia Tech 53	
No. 12 Indiana 81, No. 16 Iowa 78	
No. 15 Purdue 81, Nebraska 62	
No. 17 Duke, Wake Forest 71	
No. 20 Texas A&M 81, Auburn 63	
No. 22 Kentucky 88, Florida 79	
Today's Games	
No. 2 Michigan St. at Rutgers, 4 p.m.	
No. 7 Miami at Notre Dame, 4 p.m.	
Texas Tech at No. 10 West Virginia, 4 p.m.	
No. 9 Oregon at UCLA, 6 p.m.	
Women's Top 25 Tuesday's Games	
No. 24 Oklahoma 70, Texas Tech 60	
No. 22 West Virginia 82, Iowa St. 57	
No. 22 Colorado St. 68, Fresno St. 55	
NBA Eastern Conference Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
Toronto	39 19 .672 —
Boston	36 25 .590 4½
New York	25 37 .403 16
Brooklyn	17 44 .278 23½
Philadelphia	8 52 .133 32
Southeast Division	
	W L Pct GB
Miami	34 26 .567 —
Atlanta	33 28 .541 1½
Charlotte	31 28 .525 2½
Washington	29 30 .492 4½
Orlando	26 33 .441 7½
Western Conference Central Division	
	W L Pct GB
Cleveland	42 17 .712 —
Indiana	31 29 .517 11½
Detroit	31 29 .517 11½
Chicago	30 29 .508 12
Milwaukee	25 35 .417 17½
Western Conference Southwest Division	
	W L Pct GB
San Antonio	50 9 .847 —
Memphis	35 24 .593 15
Dallas	33 28 .541 18
Houston	29 31 .483 21½

New Orleans	23	35	.397	26½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	42	18	.700	—
Portland	33	28	.541	9½
Utah	28	31	.475	13½
Denver	23	37	.383	19
Minnesota	19	41	.317	23
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Golden State	54	5	.915	—
L.A. Clippers	39	20	.661	14½
Sacramento	24	34	.414	29
Phoenix	15	45	.250	39
L.A. Lakers	12	49	.197	42
x-clinched playoff spot				
Tuesday's Games				
Charlotte 126, Phoenix 92				
Miami 129, Chicago 111				
Portland 104, New York 85				
Dallas 121, Orlando 106				
L.A. Lakers 107, Brooklyn 101				
Golden State 109, Atlanta 105 (OT)				
Today's Games				
Charlotte at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.				
Chicago at Orlando, 4 p.m.				
Utah at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.				
Portland at Boston, 4:30 p.m.				
Washington at Minnesota, 5 p.m.				
Indiana at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.				
Detroit at San Antonio, 5 p.m.				
Sacramento at Memphis, 5 p.m.				
New Orleans at Houston, 5 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Denver, 6 p.m.				
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.				

Hockey

NHL				
Tuesday's Games				
St. Louis 4, Ottawa 3, SO				
Boston 2, Calgary 1				
Carolina 3, New Jersey 1				
Edmonton 2, Buffalo 1, OT				
Washington 3, Pittsburgh 2				
Nashville 5, Dallas 3				
Minnesota 6, Colorado 3				
Florida 3, Winnipeg 2				
N.Y. Islanders 3, Vancouver 2				
Today's Games				
Toronto at Washington, 4 p.m.				
Chicago at Detroit, 5 p.m.				
Montreal at Anaheim, 7 p.m.				