

Seattle ready for home opener

By **TIM BOOTH**
Associated Press

SEATTLE — For the second straight season, young Mariners right-hander Taijuan Walker will make his season debut against Oakland.

Almost any result will be better than Walker's first start against the A's to begin last year. He gave up nine earned runs, nine hits and didn't make it through the fourth inning.

"I definitely want to go out there and have a good outing against them, because last year they got me pretty well. I guess a little payback this time," Walker said.

The Mariners return to the Pacific Northwest on Friday night to kick off their home slate with a three-game series against the A's. Friday will include all pomp and circumstance of a traditional opening day — including new Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. throwing out the first pitch — plus some curiosity about this year's Mariners.

Can the power surge Seattle displayed in Texas, led by four home runs by Robinson Cano, continue at home?

The Mariners hit nine home runs in the three-game series in Texas, where Seattle won two of three games and likely should have swept. Cano was the instigator of the power surge, becoming just the 29th player in major league history to homer in each of the first three games of the season.

It'll be the task of Oakland lefty Eric Surkamp to try to slow the Mariners. Surkamp is replacing Felix



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Members of the grounds crew prepare the infield at the Seattle Mariners' ballpark, Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in Seattle. The team opens the home portion of their season against the Oakland Athletics on Friday.

Doubront, who suffered an elbow sprain in his final spring training start last week. He'll be

opposed by Walker, who finished last season with an 11-8 mark and a 4.56 ERA. The Mariners didn't want to overwork his arm so he didn't pitch in late September after reaching 169 innings.

Walker admitted at times last season to pitching with the worry of being sent to the minors if he struggled, but said he's more comfortable with his position this year.

"I feel pretty good where I'm at right now," Walker said. "I know (James) Paxton's down there waiting, and he's really good and any time he can come up here. I know I have to go out there and get my work in, and pretty much do my job and do what I can to help my teammates."

New Seattle manager Scott Servais said the key for Walker on Friday and throughout the season is going to be his secondary pitches and not always relying on his fastball.

"I think he will be juiced up, but I think you'll see

a really good fastball," Servais said. "The thing with Taijuan is the secondary stuff, can he harness it, can he get it in the strike zone and be the complete pitcher, and doesn't get locked into one pitch. I'm excited for him to get that opportunity and I think he's ready for it."

Friday will also be the home debut for Servais as manager. He won over many of his players and fans with a fiery display in Tuesday's win when he yelled and pointed at the Texas bench after Chris Iannetta was hit by a pitch.

"I know the city is excited, a lot of change, a lot of good vibe around our organization," Servais said. "Rightly so, and I think they're going to like watching us play."

Men's College Basketball

Gonzaga's Sabonis declares for NBA draft

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Gonzaga sophomore Domantas Sabonis will skip the rest of his college career and has declared for the NBA draft.

Sabonis, 19, said Thursday that he is exploring his future options without hiring an agent at this time.

The son of former NBA star Arvydas Sabonis, Domantas is Gonzaga's all-time leader in career field goal percentage at .632.

The 6-foot-11 forward was an honorable mention on AP's All-America list this season after averaging 17.6 points and 11.8 rebounds per game.

"This has been a very difficult decision for me because of the amazing two years I have had at Gonzaga," Sabonis said in a new release. "I want to thank the coaching staff, my teammates, and all of our great fans for making this such an incredible experience for me."

In just two seasons, he scored 1,002 points to become the 41st player in school history to score 1,000 points. He grabbed 694 rebounds.

"(Domantas) is as impressive of a person

and player as I've ever coached," coach Mark Few said. "He has an insatiable desire to get better."

In his two seasons with Gonzaga, the Bulldogs advanced to the Elite Eight in 2015 and the round of 16 this season.

The Bulldogs leaned heavily on Sabonis after a season-ending back injury to center Przemek Karnowski, and the native of Lithuania responded with a huge season.

He averaged 19.7 points and 14.3 rebounds in Gonzaga's three games in this year's NCAA Tournament. It was the highest rebounding average of any player who appeared in at least two games.

Sabonis had 23 double-doubles this season and his 426 rebounds were the most by a Zags player since the program joined Division I in 1958.

Sabonis became the fifth Gonzaga player to leave school early, joining Paul Rogers (1997), Adam Morrison (2006), Austin Daye (2009) and Kelly Olynyk (2013). Morrison, Daye and Olynyk became first-round picks.

Gonzaga will also lose forward Kyle Wiltjer, who averaged 20.4 points, to graduation. And it is unclear if the 7-foot-1 Karnowski will try to return to the Zags or pursue professional opportunities.

Gonzaga completed the 2015-2016 season with a 28-8 overall record and a West Coast Conference championship.



Sabonis

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BASEBALL

Today
Hermiston at Parkrose, 4 p.m.
Pilot Rock vs. Sherman, 4 p.m.
Saturday
Weston-McEwen vs. Dufur (DH), 11 a.m.
Mac-Hi vs. Ontario (DH), Noon
Stanfield vs. Burns (DH), 2 p.m.
Umatilla at Vale (DH), 2 p.m.

PREP SOFTBALL

Today
Echo vs. Burns, 2 p.m.
Saturday
Heppner at Echo, 11 a.m.
Mac-Hi vs. Ontario (DH), Noon
Umatilla at Vale (DH), Noon
Weston-McEwen at Riverside (DH), 1 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Today
Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen, Irrigon, Ione, Echo, Stanfield at Umatilla, Noon
Saturday
Hermiston, Pendleton at Oregon City, 10 a.m.
Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock, Heppner, Helix, Echo at Stanfield Invite, 11 a.m.
Ione at Burns, Noon

PREP GOLF

Today
Heppner at John Day GC, 11 a.m.

PREP TENNIS

Today
Helix at Riverside, 4 p.m.
Ione at Mac-Hi, 4 p.m.
Stanfield at Sherman, 2 p.m.

PREP LACROSSE

Today
Hermiston vs. Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.

PREP RUGBY

Saturday
East Oregon (girls) vs. Valley, Noon
East Oregon (boys) vs. Clark County, 1:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH), 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Today
Eastern Oregon at Carroll (DH), 2/4 p.m.

Saturday

Eastern Oregon at Great Falls (DH), 11 a.m./1 p.m.
Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain (DH), 2/4 p.m.

Sunday

Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain (DH), Noon/2 p.m.

Basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Toronto	52	26	66.7	—
x-Boston	46	32	59.0	6
New York	31	48	39.2	21½
Brooklyn	21	57	26.9	31
Philadelphia	10	68	12.8	42

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	47	32	59.5	—
x-Miami	46	32	59.0	½
x-Charlotte	45	33	57.7	1½
Washington	38	40	48.7	8½
Orlando	33	45	42.3	13½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	56	23	70.9	—
Indiana	42	36	53.8	13½
Detroit	42	37	53.2	14
Chicago	39	40	49.4	17
Milwaukee	32	46	41.0	23½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	65	13	83.3	—
x-Memphis	42	36	53.8	23
Dallas	40	38	51.3	25
Houston	38	41	48.1	27½
New Orleans	29	49	37.2	36

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Oklahoma City	54	25	68.4	—
x-Portland	43	37	53.8	11½
Utah	39	39	50.0	14½
Denver	32	47	40.5	22
Minnesota	27	52	34.2	27

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Golden State	70	9	88.6	—
x-L.A. Clippers	50	28	64.1	19½
Sacramento	31	48	39.2	39
Phoenix	21	58	26.4	49
L.A. Lakers	16	62	20.5	53½

Thursday's Games

Phoenix 124, Houston 115
Miami 106, Chicago 98

Atlanta 95, Toronto 87

Minnesota 105, Sacramento 97
Golden State 112, San Antonio 101

Today's Games

New York at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 4 p.m.
Indiana at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 4:30 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Memphis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Denver, 6 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 6 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	3	0	100.0	—
New York	2	1	66.7	1
Tampa Bay	2	2	50.0	1½
Toronto	2	2	50.0	1½
Boston	1	1	50.0	2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	2	0	100.0	—
Chicago	3	1	75.0	—
Cleveland	1	1	50.0	1
Kansas City	1	1	50.0	1
Minnesota	0	3	0.0	2½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	2	1	66.7	—
Houston	1	2	33.3	1
Los Angeles	1	2	33.3	1
Oakland	1	2	33.3	1½
Texas	1	3	25.0	1½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	2	1	66.7	—
New York	1	1	50.0	½
Miami	1	2	33.3	1
Atlanta	0	2	0.0	1½
Philadelphia	0	3	0.0	2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	3	0	100.0	—
Cincinnati	3	0	100.0	—
Pittsburgh	3	0	100.0	—
Milwaukee	1	2	33.3	2
St. Louis	0	3	0.0	3

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	3	1	75.0	—
San Francisco	3	1	75.0	—
Colorado	2	1	66.7	½
Arizona	1	3	25.0	2
San Diego	0	3	0.0	2½

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Thursday's Games

Chicago White Sox 6, Oakland 1
N.Y. Yankees 8, Houston 5
Boston at Cleveland, p.p.d., rain
Baltimore 4, Minnesota 2
L.A. Angels 4, Texas 3

Today's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Severino 0-0) at Detroit (Zimmermann 0-0), 10:08 a.m.
Cleveland (Salazar 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Danks 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Archer 0-1) at Baltimore (Tillman 0-0), 4:05 p.m.
Boston (Kelly 0-0) at Toronto (Stroman 1-0), 4:07 p.m.

Houston (Feldman 0-0) at Milwaukee (Anderson 0-0), 5:10 p.m.
Minnesota (E. Santana 0-0) at Kansas City (Ventura 0-0), 5:15 p.m.
Texas (Griffin 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 0-0), 7:05 p.m.
Oakland (Surkamp 0-0) at Seattle (T.Walker 0-0), 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Thursday's Games

Cincinnati 10, Philadelphia 6
Miami 6, Washington 4
San Francisco 12, L.A. Dodgers 6
Chicago Cubs 14, Arizona 6

Friday's Games
Philadelphia (Eickhoff 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 0-0), 10:10 a.m.
San Diego (Rea 0-0) at Colorado (Lyles 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Liriano 1-0) at Cincinnati (Simon 0-0), 1:10 p.m.
St. Louis (J.Garcia 0-0) at Atlanta (Wisler 0-0), 1:35 p.m.

Houston (Feldman 0-0) at Milwaukee (Anderson 0-0), 5:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hammel 0-0) at Arizona (Ray 0-0), 6:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Stripling 0-0) at San Francisco (M.Cain 0-0), 7:15 p.m.

Hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Florida	81	46	26	9	101	234	201
x-Tampa Bay	81	46	30	5	97	225	196
Detroit	81	41	29	11	93	209	221
Boston	81	42	30	9	93	239	224
Ottawa	81	37	35	9	83	230	246
Montreal	81	37	38	6	80	216	234
Buffalo	80	34	35	11	79	196	215
Toronto	81	29	41	11	69	197	241

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Washington	80	55	17	8	118	247	190
x-Pittsburgh	81	48	25	8	104	244	200
x-N.Y. Islanders	80	45	26	9	99	227	207
x-N.Y. Rangers	81	45	27	9	99	233	215
Philadelphia	80	39	27	14	92	206	215
Carolina	81	35	30	16	86	196	221
New Jersey	81	37	36	8	82	179	207
Columbus	80	32	40	8	72	210	247

WESTERN CONFERENCE