## Seattle ready for home opener

By TIM BOOTH Associated Press

SEATTLE — For the second straight season, Mariners rightvoung Walker Taijuan hander 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 threegame 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



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.

pretty good

where I'm at

right now,"

Walker said.

(James)

Paxton's

down there

know

really

"I

Doubront, h o suffered elbow an sprain in final his 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

**MLB** 

Oakland

Athletics

(1-3)



• Today, 7:10 p.m. at Safeco Field · TV: Root Sports

waiting, and he's good and any time he can come up here. I know I have

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

to go out there and get my

work in, and pretty much do

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

relying on his fastball.

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.

19, Sabonis, said that he is Thursday



Sabonis

.632.

his future options without hiring an agent this time. The son

B A star Arvydas Sabonis, Domantas is Gonzaga's all-time leader in career field goal percentage at

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 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 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.

34-35-69

34-35-69

34-36-70

34-36—70 34-36—70 37-34—71 36-35—71 35-36—71 36-35—71 34-37—71

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### **Local Slate**

PREP BASEBALL Today ston 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

PREPTRACK & FIELD Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen, Irrigon, Ione, Echo, Stanfield at Umatilla, Noon

Hermiston, Pendleton at Oregon City. Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock, Heppner, Helix, Echo at Stanfield Invite, 11 a.m.

Ione at Burns, Noon

PREP GOLF Heppner at John Day GC, 11 a.m.

Saturday

**PREPTENNIS** 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 n.m.

PRFP RUGBY Saturday

East Oregon (girls) vs. Valley, Noon East Oregon (boys) vs. Clark County,

**COLLEGE BASEBALL** 

Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin (DH),

**COLLEGE SOFTBALL** Eastern Oregon at Carroll (DH), 2/4 p.m. a.m./1 p.m.

Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain (DH),
2/4 p.m.

Sunday

Noon/2 p.m Basketball

EASTERN CON Atlantic Division			
	w	L Pct	GB
y-Toronto	52	26 .667	_
x-Boston	46	32 .590	6
New York	31	48 .392 2	211/2
Brooklyn	21	57 .269	31
Philadelphia	10	68 .128	42
Southeast Divi	sion		
	w	L Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	47	32 .595	_
x-Miami	46	32 590	1/2

	**		QD.
x-Atlanta	47	32 .595	_
x-Miami	46	32 .590	1/2
x-Charlotte	45	33 .577	1 1/2
Washington	38	40 .487	81/2
Orlando	33	45 .423	131/2
Central Division			
	W	L Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	56	23 .709	_

v-San Antonio	65	13	.833	_
	W		Pct	GB
Southwest Div	ision			
WESTERN CON	IFERE!	NCE		
Milwaukee	32			231/2
Chicago	39		.494	
Detroit	42	37	.532	14
Indiana	42	36	.538	131/2
y-Cleveland	56	23	./09	_

42 36 .538 23

x-Memphis

Dallas	40	38	.513	25
Houston	38	41	.481	271/2
New Orleans	29	49	.372	36
Northwest Divis	ion			
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Oklahoma City	54	25	.684	_
x-Portland	43	37	.538	111/2
Utah	39	39	.500	141/2
Denver	32	47	.405	22
Minnaenta	27	52	3/12	27

Pacific Division y-Golden State 9 .886 — 28 .641 19½ x-L.A. Clippers 48 .392 58 .266

y-clinched division Thursday's Games
Phoenix 124 Housto Phoenix 124, Houston 115 Miami 106, Chicago 98

x-clinched playoff spot

Atlanta 95, Toronto 87 Eastern Oregon at Great Falls (DH), 11 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. Yakima Valley at Blue Mountain (DH),

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	
Fast Division	

East Division			
	w	L Pct	GB
Baltimore	3 2 2 2 1	01.000	
New York	2	1 .667	1
Tampa Bay	2	2 .500	11/2
Toronto	2	2 .500	11/2
Boston		1 .500	11/2
Central Division			
Datasia	W	L Pct	GB
Detroit	2 3 1	01.000	_
Chicago Cleveland	ئ 1	1 .750 1 .500	1
Kansas City	1	1 .500	1
Minnesota	0	3 .000	21/2
West Division	U	3 .000	272
West Division	w	L Pct	GB
Seattle		1 .667	_
Houston	2	2 .333	1
Los Angeles	1	2 .333	1
Oakland	1	3 .250	11/2
Texas	1	3 .250	11/2
NATIONAL LEA	GUE		
East Division			
	w	L Pct	GB
Washington	2	1 .667	_
New York	1	1 .500	1/2
Miami	1	2 .333	1
Atlanta	0	2 .000	11/2
Philadelphia	0	3 .000	2
Central Division			
	w	L Pct	GB

	2 .000	
0	3 .000	
w	L Pct	(
3	01.000	
3	01.000	
3	01.000	
1	2 .333	
0	3 .000	
	<b>W</b> 3 3 1	0 3.000 <b>W L Pct</b> 3 01.000 3 01.000 3 01.000 1 2.333

Milwaukee	1	2 .333	2
St. Louis	0	3 .000	3
West Division			
	W	L Pct	GB
Los Angeles	3	1 .750	_
San Francisco	3	1 .750	_
Colorado	2	1 .667	1/2
Arizona	1	3 .250	2
San Diogo	Λ	3 000	216

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE American Leadur Thursday's Games Chicago White Sox 6, Oakland 1 N.Y.Yankees 8, Houston 5 Boston at Cleveland, ppd., 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. 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
(Ventur 0, 1), 5:15 p.m.

(Ventura 0-0), 5:15 p.m. Texas (Griffin 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Shoe-maker 0-0), 7:05 p.m. Oakland (Surkamp 0-0) at Seattle (T.Walk-

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.

Sillino (-0), 1:0,7il.
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
Metropolita	n D	ivis	ion				

#### L OT Pts GF GA 17 8 118 247 190 z-Washington80 55 z-vvasningtons 35 48 25 x-N.Y. Islanders8045 26 x-N.Y. Rangers8145 27 Philadelphia 80 39 27 Carolina 81 35 30 New Jersey 81 37 36 8 104 244 200 9 99 227 207 9 99 233 215 14 92 206 215 16 86 196 221 8 82 179 207 8 72 210 247 WESTERN CONFERENCE GP W L OT Pts GF GA x-Dallas 81 49 23 9 107 264 228 x-St. Louis 81 49 23 9 107 223 196

x-Chicago	81	47	26	8	102	231	204
x-Nashville	81	41	26	14	96	226	212
x-Minnesota	81	38	32	11	87	215	204
Colorado	81	39	38	4	82	213	235
Winnipeg	81	34	39	8	76	211	236
<b>Pacific Divis</b>	sion						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Los Angele			<b>L</b> 28			<b>GF</b> 222	
	es81	48	_	5	101		191
x-Los Angele	es81 80	48	28	5 11	101 99	222	191 189

81 34 40

7 75 229 259

13 73 187 240 7 69 200 241

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

z-clinched conference Thursday's Games

Calgary

Boston 5, Detroit 2 Tampa Bay 4, New Jersey 2 N.Y. Islanders 4, N.Y. Rangers 1 Toronto 4, Philadelphia 3, OT Pittsburgh 4, Washington 3, OT Pittsburgh 4, Washington 3, OT Montreal 4, Carolina 2 Ottawa 3, Florida 1 Nashville 3, Arizona 2, OT St. Louis 2, Chicago 1, OT Dallas 4, Colorado 2

Calgary 7, Vancouver 3 Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 1 Winnipeg 5, San Jose 4 Today's Games Columbus at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

#### Golf

The Masters Tournament At Augusta National Golf Club Augusta, Ga. Purse: TBA (Last year: \$10 million) Yardage: 7,435; Par: 72 (36-36) First Round

Thursday Jordan Spieth Danny Lee Shane Lowry

Ian Poulter lan Poulter Soren Kjeldsen Sergio Garcia Billy Horschel Scott Piercy Danny Willett Rory McIlroy Kevin Streelman Charley Hoffmar Lee Westwood Emiliano Grillo Hideki Matsuyama Matthew Fitzpatrick Brandt Snedeker Jimmy Walker

Justin Rose

#### Soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE Orlando City 2 Montreal 2 8 6 5 5 5 Montreal 2 Philadelphia 2 New York City FC 1 Chicago Toronto FC New York D.C. United Columbus

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Т	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	3	1	1	10	8	6
Sporting K.C.	. 3	1	0	9	5	3
Real Salt Lak	e2	0	2	8	8	6
Los Angeles	2	1	1	7	7	3
Colorado	2	1	1	7	3	2
Vancouver	2	2	1	7	6	6
San Jose	2	1	1	7	5	5
Houston	1	2	1	4	11	8
Portland	1	2	1	4	6	9
Seattle	1	3	0	3	3	5
NOTE: Three	poi	nts f	or vi	ctory	, on	e poin
for tie.						

Today's Games
Orlando City at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Toronto FC at New England, 1 p.m.
Columbus at Montreal, 1 p.m.
Vancouver at D.C. United, 2:30 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at New York, 4 p.m.
San Jose at FC Dallas, 6 p.m.
Colorado at Real Salt Lake, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games

Seattle at Houston, 1 p.m. Chicago at New York City FC, 4 p.m. Portland at Los Angeles, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

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