



AP Photo/Reed Saxon
Los Angeles Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka reads a passage from “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho as talks about the acquisition of LeBron James and other free agents at a news conference.

GM Pelinka: Lakers landing LeBron is “ultimate validation”

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Rob Pelinka says the Los Angeles Lakers aren’t trying to beat the Golden State Warriors at their own game. Instead, they’re building a team around LeBron James to do something different. Pelinka spoke publicly Wednesday for the first time since the Lakers’ remarkable offseason overhaul began, and the irrepressibly optimistic former agent radiated excitement about the future for a team that hasn’t made the playoffs in five seasons. “To get the commitment from LeBron James to come to the Lakers for four years was really the culmination of everything we’ve been working towards,” Pelinka said. “When LeBron chose to come here, it was the ultimate validation for the moves we’ve made and what we’ve been building since we started.” The longest postseason drought in franchise history could be finished after James chose the Lakers in free agency. The club also added veterans Rajon Rondo, JaVale McGee and

Lance Stephenson alongside their young core while parting ways with Julius Randle and Brook Lopez, among others. Pelinka and top executive Magic Johnson hope the result is a sturdy, defense-minded team with enough up-tempo offense to trouble the Warriors, the Houston Rockets and every other contender for the title. “I think to try to play the Warriors at their own game is a trap,” Pelinka said. “No one is going to beat them at their own game, so that is why we wanted to add these elements of defense and toughness and depth and try to look at areas where we will have an advantage.” Pelinka said the Lakers focused their free agency recruitment efforts on versatile, playoff-tested talents who can score and defend, instead of looking for elite players with only one specialty. He hopes the result will be a flexible, dangerous team under coach Luke Walton — and a different look around James, whose Cleveland Cavaliers teams often looked like a collection of perimeter shooters whose deficiencies were exposed by Golden State and others.

Aguilar, Segura win online vote for final All-Star spots

Associated Press

Milwaukee Brewers first baseman Jesus Aguilar and Seattle Mariners shortstop Jean Segura have won the final two roster spots for next week’s All-Star Game in Washington. Major League Baseball released the results of online balloting for the last slot in each league Wednesday night, with Aguilar drawing 20.2 million votes to secure his first All-Star selection. His total was the second-highest in the history of the All-Star Final Vote, trailing only Justin Turner’s 20.8 million votes last year. The 28-year-old Venezuelan was tied for the National League lead with 23 home runs and becomes the fourth Milwaukee player headed to the game. Brewers outfielders Lorenzo Cain and Christian Yelich had already been



AP Photo/Alex Gallardo
Seattle Mariners’ Dee Gordon wears a “Send Segura” t-shirt, as part of a team campaign to have fans vote for Jean Segura to the All-Star game, during warmups before a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif.

chosen, along with reliever Josh Hader. Segura snagged the last American League spot with

slugger Giancarlo Stanton, Minnesota Twins outfielder Eddie Rosario and Los Angeles Angels shortstop Andrelton Simmons. The 28-year-old Seattle shortstop was batting .329 and ranked second in the majors with 116 hits. He will join Mariners teammates Nelson Cruz, Edwin Diaz and Mitch Haniger at the All-Star Game. Segura, who made the NL All-Star squad in 2013 with Milwaukee, is the first Seattle player to win the fan voting for the final spot. San Francisco Giants first baseman Brandon Belt finished second in the NL balloting, followed by Max Muncy of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Trea Turner of the Washington Nationals and Matt Carpenter of the St. Louis Cardinals.

MARINERS: Freitas hits his first home run of season

Continued from 1B



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong
Seattle Mariners’ David Freitas celebrates his home run during the third inning of the team’s baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday in Anaheim, Calif.

lead in the third, Segura doubled leading off the fourth and Mitch Haniger was hit by a pitch. After a wild pitch from Barria put both runners in scoring position, Nelson Cruz delivered a two-run single for a 3-0 lead. Cruz, selected to the AL All-Star team this week, has 20 extra-base hits over his last 39 games. **TRAINER’S ROOM** Mariners: C Mike Zunino (bruised left ankle) should be ready to return to the active roster after the All-Star break, according to manager Scott Servais, and has already started throwing again but is not yet running. ... RHP Erasmo Ramirez (right lat strain) threw a 25-pitch bullpen at Class A Everett and will advance to 40 pitches before starting a

minor league rehab assignment. ... RHP Dan Altavilla (right elbow flexor strain) has started to play catch but is not yet throwing from a mound. Angels: RHP Garrett Richards was diagnosed with damage to his ulnar collateral ligament and was

placed on the 10-day disabled list. Richards will decide on surgery or a more conservative rehabilitation process. ... RHP Shohei Ohtani (elbow), already back on the active roster as a designated hitter, will be re-evaluated July 19 in an exam that could determine if he can begin the rehab process to make a return to the mound. **UP NEXT** Mariners LHP James Paxton (8-3, 3.49 ERA) will pitch Thursday on normal rest, moving into the rotation spot left unoccupied when RHP Felix Hernandez (back soreness) went on the 10-day DL. Angels LHP Tyler Skaggs (6-5, 2.64), who had a 0.84 ERA over 32 innings in five June starts, is expected to come off the DL after recovering from a groin strain.

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