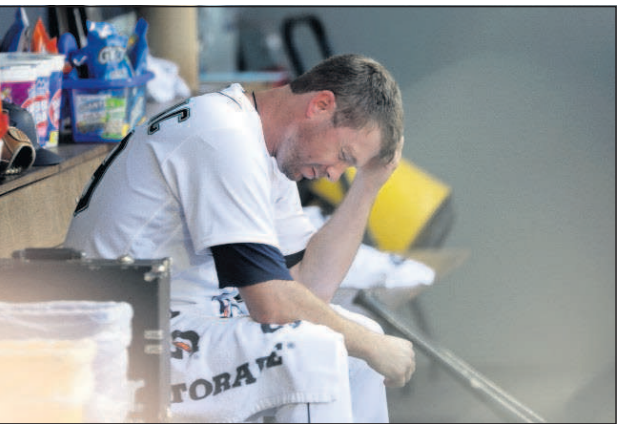




AP Photo/Elaine Thompson  
**Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Wade LeBlanc sits in the dugout after being relieved in the fifth inning.**

# MARINERS: LeBlanc’s worst outing of season

Continued from 1B

looking up at Houston in the AL West. After a five-game losing streak, the Astros rebounded to win the final two games of the series. Houston has a five-game cushion over both teams.

Gonzalez hit a solo home run off Wade LeBlanc (6-2) with two outs in the second inning and added a two-run shot in the fourth. Jake Marisnick, recalled from the minors before the game, added a two-run shot off LeBlanc and Max Stassi greeted reliever Nick Vincent with a three-run homer in the fifth to break the game open.

Gonzalez had the third multihomer game of his career after not hitting a longball since June 27 against Toronto.

“When you look at our team when we’re at our best, it is guys like Marwin and (Josh) Reddick. Stassi hit a big home run today. Jake comes up from the minor leagues and immediately produces,” Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. “This is a very deep team, and when you go through some stretches that you don’t play your best, you can kind of forget that this team is built pretty well.”

LeBlanc’s outing was his worst of the season as he was unable to locate his off-speed pitches down in the strike zone. The seven earned runs were the second-most allowed in his career as a starter and the three homers matched a career high. LeBlanc lost for the second time in his past four starts after win-

ning his first five decisions of the season.

Dallas Keuchel (9-9) improved to 6-1 in his past nine starts, throwing seven innings, allowing three runs and striking out two. He retired 11 straight at one point and 11 of the 21 outs he recorded came via the groundball.

The bottom of Seattle’s lineup pieced together four consecutive hits in the second, capped by RBI singles from Andrew Romine and Zach Vincej. But Seattle’s offense continued to lag and was otherwise limited to Nelson Cruz’s solo home run in the sixth, his 26th of the season.

“For us to get a series win here was big, but it’s not make or break,” Keuchel said. “We know we’re good enough to win this division. It’s just a matter of getting guys healthy.”

**ROSTER SHUFFLE:** Astros: Houston optioned OF Kyle Tucker to Triple-A Fresno to clear a roster spot for Marisnick. Marisnick was optioned to Fresno on July 13.

Mariners: Seattle optioned OF Ben Gamel and RHP Chasen Bradford to clear roster spots for the addition of Cameron Maybin and new reliever Adam Warren. Manager Scott Servais said while Gamel has been a better hitter, the decision was to keep Guillermo Heredia as the Mariners’ fourth outfielder because he provides more versatility. Servais said to expect more of a platoon in left field in the coming weeks between Heredia and Denard Span to take advantage of left-right matchups on the mound.

# NBA: Bookies have prospered without data

Continued from 1B

better way to curry favor with the NBA than ink a deal with the league.

According to Silver and MGM officials, the casino company is buying data. And the party line is that it’s important, despite the fact Vegas bookies have prospered for decades without any need for official league statistics. “I know the value of data,” MGM chairman and CEO James Murren said at a New York press conference with Silver. “To be able to have the official NBA data for sports bettors around the world is very valuable. I was willing to, and I’ve paid for that.”

The money MGM paid isn’t much in the grand scheme of things, a few million a year over three years, according to reports. But if the NBA can convince other sports betting operations to sign up it could turn into a steady chunk of extra income for the league.

Not exactly the 1 percent of gross income the NBA was seeking from states considering legalizing sports betting, but that effort was going nowhere. In signing a deal to provide unspecified data to casinos, the league gets to profit from betting without getting hands terribly soiled with the actual messiness of it.

And new money is new money. “This is a whole new

world for us,” Silver said. It’s hard to imagine that it was just a dozen or so years ago when the NFL refused to run an ad promoting Las Vegas on the Super Bowl, using the farcical argument that any association with gambling could ruin the league.

With the Supreme Court decision in May opening the door for legalized sports betting across the country, though, all bets are off. Instead of treating sports books like threats, the leagues are looking at them to boost profits.

What they see should have been apparent years ago: Americans want to be able to place a wager or two on their favorite teams, and they don’t feel there’s anything immoral about it.

In a perfect world, the bookies would go at it alone. They wouldn’t partner with the leagues that spent years trying to destroy them.

But for MGM, at least, it’s a marriage of convenience. The casino giant is betting the NBA will help spread its brand, and maybe even pave the way for an NBA team in Las Vegas in the near future.

And that’s a bet that just might pay off.

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# Hall of Fame game opens NFL preseason

By BARRY WILNER  
AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio — Ray Lewis and Brian Urlacher, two of the NFL’s greatest linebackers, enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame this week. When their teams meet in Thursday night’s preseason opener, the game could very well honor them by being a defensive battle.

On one hand, the Chicago Bears are installing a new offense under first-year coach Matt Nagy. On the other side, few if any of the Baltimore Ravens’ starters at the offensive skill positions are likely to get much action.

So if this winds up 10-9 or something similar, well, the smiles on the faces of Lewis and Urlacher might get a bit broader.

Nagy has a second-year quarterback, Mitchell Trubisky, who will be taking his first major steps running the new scheme Nagy brought from Kansas City. He seems unconcerned that the second overall pick in the 2017 draft will be overmatched — even though Trubisky has been an interception machine in practices.

“Our guys have picked up everything that we’ve asked them to do,” Nagy said. “There have been mistakes, but they’re way ahead of the learning curve. So that’s exciting and it tells me that once we get to the regular season we can do more than I initially thought. But we will be growing throughout the season.”

And the preseason. As for the Ravens, don’t look for Joe Flacco in this one. The Hall of Fame game is an extra exhibition outing for the participants, and provides an opportunity for Baltimore coach John Harbaugh and his staff to look at first-round draft pick Lamar Jackson and veteran Robert Griffin III , who is attempting a comeback after not playing last year.

“We have that set,” Har-



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File  
**In this Feb. 3, 2013, file photo, Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy as he celebrates with free safety Ed Reed after the Ravens defeated the San Francisco 49ers 34-31 in the NFL football Super Bowl 47 in New Orleans.**

baugh said of the QB plans for Thursday night. “I never really talk about that. We just go do it. But we have the quarterback rotation set, and then we’ll organize the rest of it ... There’ll be some guys who won’t play in that game, probably you might guess the guys who haven’t practiced as much that first week.”

Some other things to watch in the Hall of Fame game:

A FIFTH GAME: The extra preseason contest usually gives low draftees, non-draftees and guys trying to catch on an additional chance to show their stuff. This isn’t much different from the final exhibition game, when starters generally sit and others get a last chance to make a roster.

“When you have that extra game, the benefit is it gives you more reps for your players,” Nagy said. “The negative is there’s health risks, right? So people can get hurt. There’s a fine balance of both of those and being able to understand which way you want to go,

and right now I feel like our plan as a coaching staff for who we want to play and don’t want to play, I feel really good about it.”

O-LINE QUESTIONS: Both teams have to find answers regarding their blockers. Baltimore has one of the best in the league in right guard Marshal Yanda, but he’s coming off an injury-ravaged 2017 in which he made it into two games.

“That’s why they call it training camp,” Ravens OL coach Joe D’Alessandris said. “You have an idea of who are going to be your so-called projected players and starters, but that could change overnight. The same thing could happen during the season.”

Considering how stationary Flacco can be, Baltimore needs to solve the offensive line issues quickly if he is its starter.

Trubisky at least can move around, and there’s no question he will be the Bears’ first-stringer. Guard Kyle Long’s assortment of health issues doesn’t help in the quest to solidify the line.

HOMECOMING: This is sort of a homecoming for Trubisky. He played at North Carolina but is from this area (Mentor, Ohio).

“I’m excited. The Hall of Fame game is a great opportunity for this team, and it’s a unique place to place,” he said. “Just going back to the Hall of Fame, I’ll have some family coming to the game. It’ll be great to see some family, and it’s an exciting time for this team.”

NATIONAL ANTHEM: With the NFL’s new policy on protocol during the national anthem in limbo as both the league and union discuss it, nothing really has changed from last season. Demonstrations by the players aimed toward awareness of social injustice could occur Thursday night.

BETTING LINE: With legal betting on NFL games in some states, there actually is a line on this game: Baltimore by 2½ points. How the oddsmakers got there is anyone’s guess considering there are 90 players on each roster and many of them will get on the field.

# REDSHIRT: Coaches map out early who will play

Continued from 1B

teams need a redshirt plan.

Even before incoming recruits step on campus, coaches start mapping out who is likely to play and who will probably sit. Sometimes the depth chart makes that decision. In other cases, player performance forces the issue.

The evaluation process is constant, but former UCLA coach Jim Mora said by the start of the season the staff has identified the players who will play, those who will redshirt and what players were on the bubble.

“But you had to stay fluid because of things that could can happen during the season,” said Mora, who will join ESPN as a studio analyst this season.

That is still the case, but now that fluidity is more

manageable.

Stanford coach David Shaw said in 2014 the coaches had decided to red-shirt Harrison Phillips, who turned into one of the most productive defensive linemen in school history. Injuries forced them to reconsider. The injured veterans returned after two games, but Phillips kept playing rather than returning to the practice squad.

On the flip side, Shaw said, defensive back Paulson Adebo was ready to play by the end of last season but coaches decided it was not worth losing a year of eligibility.

Expect coaches to take the wraps off plenty of young players during bowl season. Teams often have an eye toward the next season when preparing for a bowl game. Add in the recent

trend of some established players skipping the postseason to prepare for the NFL draft process, and the ability to tap into the freshman class without regret in the bowl game becomes even more useful.

Baylor coach Matt Rhule, whose team is coming off a 1-11 season, said the new rule is a godsend for the rebuilding Bears. He expects every freshman to play.

“To me, that changes your preparation. That changes your mind-set. When you know you’re going to play, there’s a whole ‘nother level of pressure,” Rhule said. “I think it will boost their morale. I remember the first time I got in at Penn State. I got in for, like, eight plays at the end of the game against Temple. I thought I was Lawrence Taylor walking off that field. All that work,

all that stuff was finally worth it.”

Penn State’s James Franklin, with a team expected to contend in the Big Ten, said he expects to take a more conservative approach with his freshmen.

“We’re not just going to play guys because we can now,” Franklin said. “They still got to earn that right. If not, we’ll save it until later in the season in case we get in a situation where we need a body.”

Players, no surprise, are all for more opportunities to play.

“If I could go back, I would have wanted to play those four games,” Mississippi State senior defensive end Gerri Green, who redshirted as a freshman. “Game speed is faster than practice speed.”

## SCOREBOARD

### Golf

| Oregon Senior Open Invitational  |                    |        |    |        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|----|--------|
| Wildhorse Golf Course, Pendleton |                    |        |    |        |
| Round 2, Wednesday               |                    |        |    |        |
| Place                            | name               | To par | R1 | R2 Grs |
| 1                                | Hanson, Erik (a)   | -12    | 67 | 65 132 |
| T2                               | Kerns, Mike (a)    | -9     | 67 | 68 135 |
| T2                               | Coston, Jeff       | -9     | 68 | 67 135 |
| T4                               | Keating, Mark      | -8     | 67 | 69 136 |
| T4                               | Gibbons, Rob       | -8     | 70 | 66 136 |
| T4                               | Sovay, Tom         | -8     | 68 | 68 136 |
| T7                               | Krieger, Scott     | -7     | 66 | 71 137 |
| T7                               | O'Donnell, Pat (a) | -7     | 69 | 68 137 |
| T9                               | Bomar, Billy       | -6     | 70 | 68 138 |
| T9                               | Brandes, Tom (a)   | -6     | 66 | 72 138 |
| T9                               | Carranza, Joe      | -6     | 64 | 74 138 |
| T9                               | Mack Jr., George   | -6     | 70 | 68 138 |
| T13                              | Gove, Mike         | -5     | 69 | 70 139 |
| T13                              | Stull, Steve       | -5     | 69 | 70 139 |
| T15                              | Pike, Jim          | -4     | 70 | 70 140 |
| T16                              | Blare, Mark (a)    | -3     | 72 | 69 141 |
| T16                              | Burnett, Kevin (a) | -3     | 69 | 72 141 |
| T16                              | Marsh, Jeff        | -3     | 68 | 73 141 |
| T16                              | Taylor, Denny (a)  | -3     | 72 | 69 141 |
| T16                              | Gardner, Mark      | -3     | 69 | 72 141 |
| T16                              | Morton, Timothy    | -3     | 71 | 70 141 |
| T22                              | Haney, Fred        | -2     | 77 | 65 142 |
| T22                              | Repass, Chris      | -2     | 71 | 71 142 |
| T24                              | Patton, Byron (a)  | -1     | 69 | 74 143 |
| T24                              | Bishop, Kevin      | -1     | 70 | 73 143 |
| T24                              | Early, Michael     | -1     | 72 | 71 143 |
| T24                              | Senatra, Mike (a)  | -1     | 72 | 71 143 |
| T28                              | Bobillot, Dave     | E      | 74 | 70 144 |
| T28                              | DeShaw, Kelly      | E      | 72 | 72 144 |
| T28                              | Milne, Chuck       | E      | 69 | 75 144 |
| T28                              | DeLong, Mike       | E      | 68 | 76 144 |
| T28                              | Sutton, Jay (a)    | E      | 72 | 72 144 |
| T28                              | Wright, Jeff (a)   | E      | 74 | 70 144 |

### Baseball

| American League  |    |     |      |     |
|------------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| East Division    | W  | L   | Pct  | GB  |
| Boston           | 75 | 34  | .688 | —   |
| New York         | 68 | 38  | .642 | 5½  |
| Tampa Bay        | 55 | 53  | .509 | 19½ |
| Toronto          | 48 | 59  | .449 | 26  |
| Baltimore        | 33 | 75  | .306 | 41½ |
| Central Division |    |     |      |     |
| W                | L  | Pct | GB   |     |
| Cleveland        | 59 | 48  | .551 | —   |
| Minnesota        | 49 | 58  | .458 | 10  |
| Detroit          | 47 | 62  | .431 | 13  |
| Chicago          | 37 | 70  | .346 | 22  |
| Kansas City      | 34 | 73  | .318 | 25  |
| West Division    |    |     |      |     |
| W                | L  | Pct | GB   |     |



AP Photo/John Locher  
**Las Vegas Aces center Kelsey Bone, right, photo Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Wednesday in Las Vegas.**

|             |    |    |      |     |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Houston     | 69 | 41 | .627 | —   |
| Seattle     | 63 | 45 | .583 | 5   |
| Oakland     | 64 | 46 | .582 | 5   |
| Los Angeles | 54 | 55 | .495 | 14½ |
| Texas       | 46 | 63 | .422 | 22½ |

5-1), 5:05 p.m.  
Toronto (TBD) at Seattle (Hernandez 8-9), 7:10 p.m.

| National League  |    |     |      |     |
|------------------|----|-----|------|-----|
| East Division    | W  | L   | Pct  | GB  |
| Philadelphia     | 59 | 48  | .551 | —   |
| Atlanta          | 57 | 47  | .548 | ½   |
| Washington       | 54 | 53  | .505 | 5   |
| Miami            | 46 | 63  | .422 | 14  |
| New York         | 44 | 61  | .419 | 14  |
| Central Division |    |     |      |     |
| W                | L  | Pct | GB   |     |
| Chicago          | 62 | 45  | .579 | —   |
| Milwaukee        | 63 | 47  | .573 | ½   |
| Pittsburgh       | 56 | 53  | .514 | 7   |
| St. Louis        | 55 | 53  | .509 | 7½  |
| Cincinnati       | 48 | 60  | .444 | 14½ |
| West Division    |    |     |      |     |
| W                | L  | Pct | GB   |     |
| Arizona          | 60 | 49  | .550 | —   |
| Los Angeles      | 60 | 49  | .550 | —   |
| Colorado         | 58 | 49  | .542 | 1   |
| San Francisco    | 55 | 54  | .505 | 5   |

|           |    |    |      |     |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| San Diego | 42 | 68 | .382 | 18½ |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|

**Wednesday's Games**  
Miami at Atlanta, p.p.d.  
Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 3  
Detroit 7, Cincinnati 4  
Chicago Cubs 9, Pittsburgh 2  
St. Louis 6, Colorado 3  
L.A. Dodgers 6, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings  
**Thursday's Games**  
Colorado (Senzatela 4-3) at St. Louis (Mikolas 11-3), 10:15 a.m.  
Cincinnati (Mahle 7-8) at Washington (Scherzer 14-5), 4:05 p.m.  
Miami (Lopez 2-2) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 6-9), 4:05 p.m.  
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 7-7) at N.Y. Mets (Vargas 2-6), 4:10 p.m.  
San Diego (Erin 1-3) at Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 3-4), 5:05 p.m.  
Milwaukee (Chacin 10-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 4-5), 6:00 p.m.  
San Francisco (Bumgarner 3-4) at Arizona (Greinke 12-5), 6:40 p.m.

### Basketball

| WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |      |    |
|-------------------------|----|----|------|----|
|                         | W  | L  | Pct  | GB |
| Atlanta                 | 16 | 10 | .615 | —  |
| Washington              | 15 | 11 | .577 | 1  |
| Connecticut             | 15 | 12 | .556 | 1½ |
| Chicago                 | 10 | 17 | .370 | 6½ |
| New York                | 7  | 19 | .269 | 9  |
| Indiana                 | 3  | 23 | .115 | 13 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE      |    |    |      |    |
|                         | W  | L  | Pct  | GB |
| Seattle                 | 20 | 7  | .741 | —  |
| Minnesota               | 15 | 10 | .600 | 4  |
| Los Angeles             | 15 | 11 | .577 | 4½ |
| Phoenix                 | 16 | 12 | .571 | 4½ |
| Dallas                  | 14 | 12 | .538 | 5½ |
| Las Vegas               | 12 | 14 | .462 | 7½ |

**Wednesday's Games**  
Connecticut 92, New York 77  
Phoenix 104, Las Vegas 93  
Thursday's Games  
Dallas at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.  
**Friday's Games**  
Las Vegas at Washington, 4 p.m.  
Chicago at Atlanta, 4 p.m.  
Minnesota at Seattle, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
Indiana at New York, noon