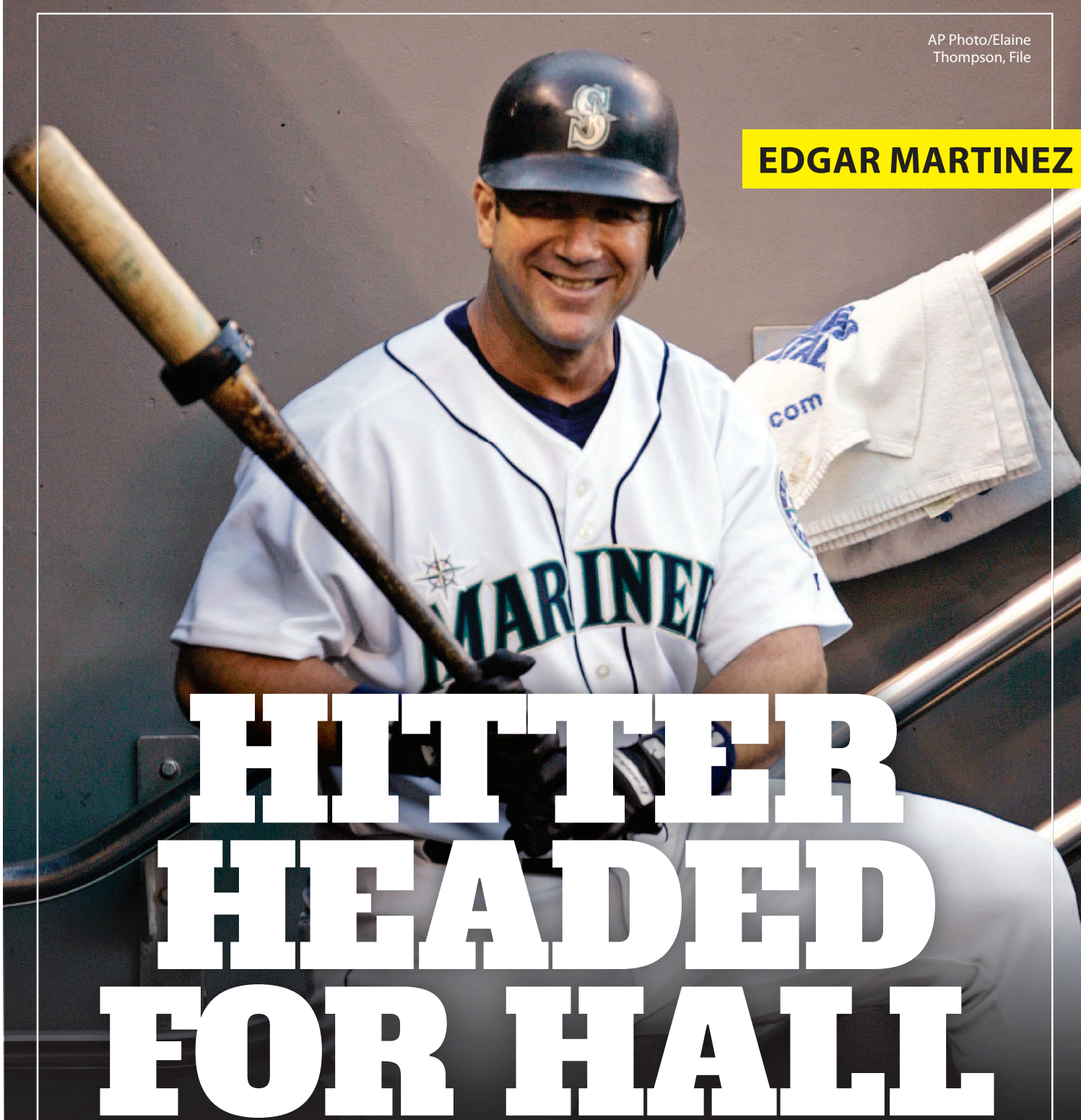


EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

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AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File

EDGAR MARTINEZ

HITTER HEADED FOR HALL

Edgar voted into Hall of Fame in final year of eligibility;
Rivera becomes first unanimous selection

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In his final chance to be voted into the Hall of Fame by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, Edgar Martinez came up clutch.

Martinez, who played his entire professional career with the Seattle Mariners, was selected to the Hall with 363 votes — 85.4 percent of the 425 ballots cast.

He joined Mariano Rivera, Mike Mussina and the late Roy Halladay at the top of the 2019 ballot. Rivera received all 425 votes in balloting announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, making him the first unanimous selection. Ken Griffey Jr. held the mark for top percentage at 99.32 when he was on 437 of 440 ballots two years ago.

The quartet will be enshrined in Cooperstown along with Today's Game Era Committee selections Harold Baines and Lee Smith on July 21.

Martinez was a .312 hitter over 18 seasons with Seattle. He got 85.4 percent in his 10th and final try on the writers' ballot. He and Baines will join 2014 inductee Frank Thomas as the only Hall of Famers to play the majority of their games



AP Photo/Bill Kostroun, File

Mariano Rivera, a closer for the New York Yankees, delivers the ball during the 2013 season in New York.

at designated hitter. David Ortiz will be eligible in 2022.

"I think the fact that Harold Baines and me got in this year is going to help the future of the DH for years to come," Martinez said.

Martinez was among the game's steadiest hitters throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, winning two batting titles and hitting 309 homers.

A late bloomer from Puerto Rico, Martinez never played more

than 100 games in the majors until he was 27. He broke in as a third baseman before becoming a full-time DH at 32, a role he held until retiring at 41 in 2004. MLB's yearly award for the top DH is named in his honor.

Martinez's classmates certainly couldn't get him out. The slugger was 11 for 19 (.579) lifetime against Rivera, 23 for 75 (.307) with five

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PREP ROUNDUP

Ione boys score first Big Sky League victory

East Oregonian

After dropping the past 16 consecutive games, the Ione boys finally took home a win — their first in the Big Sky League, and second for the season overall.

The Cardinals turned away their visitors from Mitchell/Spray 54-48 on Tuesday night.

Hunter Padberg led the way with 22 points and 16 rebounds, 15 of which were off the Loggers' glass.

Taylor Rollins followed with 17 points and six rebounds.

The Cardinals (2-16, 1-10 BSL) host Dufur on Friday.

Boys hoops

MAC-HI 60, ELGIN 36 — Alexis Pio hit 12 points in Mac-Hi's nonleague road game on Tuesday.

Alexis Perez followed with 10 points, and Deraegan Stevens had nine.

The Pioneers (11-6, 2-1 GOL) pick up the Greater Oregon League again on Saturday, when they host Baker.

IRRIGON 55, RIVERSIDE 49 — Keith Fleming poured in 19 points to improve Irrigon to a 2-4 Eastern Oregon League record on Tuesday.

Riverside held an early 24-3 lead before Irrigon rallied to outscore them 21-9 in the second and kept the Pirates under 10 points per quarter in the second half.

Francisco Barajas had a game-high 21 points for Riverside, followed by Cristian Rea with 10. Ben Coria-Flores chipped in an additional 10 points for the Knights.

Irrigon (8-11, 2-4 EOL) hosts Umatilla on Thursday, and Riverside (9-10, 3-2 EOL) travels to the Vikings' territory on Friday.

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George nets 36, Westbrook 29 as Thunder tops Blazers 123-114

By MURRAY EVANS
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Paul George had 36 points and eight rebounds, Russell Westbrook had a triple-double of 29 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 123-114 on Tuesday night.

Steven Adams and Terrance Ferguson each added 14 points for Oklahoma City, which snapped a three-game losing streak to Portland at Chesapeake Energy Arena. After a stretch of losing five of six games, the Thunder have won three straight and moved back into third place in the fluid Western Conference standings.

Damian Lillard had 34 points and eight assists, and C.J. McCollum scored 31 for Portland, which had a three-game winning streak snapped. Jusuf Nurkic had 22 points and 15 rebounds.

Except for McCollum, who went 7 of 12 from 3-point range, the Blazers struggled from behind the arc, going 10 for 36. Oklahoma City hit 11 of 23 3-point attempts.

McCollum's seventh 3-pointer, with 5:07 left, pulled Portland within 109-106, but George keyed a game-sealing run by the Thunder, hitting four free throws and then stealing a pass intended for Jusuf

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SPORTS SHORTS

Williams upset at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Serena Williams was one point — just one — from quite a comeback victory in the Australian Open quarterfinals when she turned her left ankle.

Everything unraveled from there.

In a startling reversal and result, Williams wasted four match points along the way to dropping the last six games of a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 loss to No. 7 seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic at Melbourne Park on Wednesday.

"I was almost in the locker room," said Plis-

kova, who trailed 5-1 in the third set, "but now I'm standing here as the winner."

So instead of Williams moving closer to an eighth championship at the Australian Open and record-tying 24th Grand Slam title overall, it is Pliskova who will continue her pursuit of her first major trophy.

In the semifinals, Pliskova will face No. 4-seeded Naomi Osaka, who advanced by beating No. 6 Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-1 earlier Wednesday.



AP Photo/Andy Brownbill