



Bill Knudsen's Mariner Notebook-Issue #614: An Electronic Baseball (and occasionally other stuff) Newsletter

All stats provided by the Seattle Mariners PR Department, MLB and/or Stats Inc. Bill, a lifelong Mariner fan, sold Mariner Radio at KVI 570 Radio from 77-79, and helped set up the very first *Mariners Radio Network*. He also served as VP Mktg & Sales for the Seattle Mariners from 83-89. His company, KNUDSEN Direct Inc., served as a sales & marketing vendor for the Mariners, and 13 other MLB teams in the mid 90's, assisting the teams in its database marketing and season ticket & suite sales. And he concluded his commitment to baseball in Seattle by selling Mariners television for KSTW TV in 06-07. (The initial post for this newsletter was April 1st, 2008.)



\$297,000,000.00 of pure power!

CACTUS LEAGUE TIDBITS...

- Iron Man - Mike Zunino leads all catchers with 106.0 innings caught and 18 starts this spring.
- Lefty Showcase - Tyler Olson has not allowed an earned run in his 10 appearances (12.2 IP) while recording 15 strikeouts.
- HR Log - Seattle has 30 spring homers, by 16 players: Mike Zunino (7), Nelson Cruz (4), Kyle Seager (3), Brad Miller (2), Rickie Weeks (2), D.J. Peterson (1), Chris Taylor (1), Pat Kivlehan (1), Justin Ruggiano (1), Jordy Lara (1), Logan Morrison (1), Alex Jackson (1), Seth Smith (1), Robinson Canó (1), Jabari Henry (1) & Austin Wilson (1).

1,507 Miles from the Peoria Sports Complex to Safeco Field that the moving truck will cover in the next few days to haul equipment from spring training to Seattle for the regular season.



After his 1 on 1 pick up game with Michael Jordan, and his 100 ft cliff dive in the Bahama's into a huge well in Patriot QB, Tom Brady sent this pic out on twitter the other day. I think the date of this tweet was April 1st?

TURNSTILE...the Mariners are averaging 8,659 fans for 14 dates at Peoria Stadium this spring (121,230 total)...adding in the Padres mark of 102,368 (7,312 avg), Peoria Stadium is on pace to break their spring attendance record of 230,662 set in 2002 (currently at 223,598).



As we enter the 2015 season of Mariner Baseball I want to ask you to do something for me? When the ball is hit between 1st and shortstop, pay attention to the absolute magic of Mr. Cano. Because there is something going on here that is absolutely beautiful. It's like watching a well choreographed ballet in cleats. They called him "lazy" in NY. Hell, he ain't lazy, he's just better than anyone else. This is man with a god given gift.

The guy has unbelievable moves. The man uses the angles and dimensions of the field to HIS advantage. The man anticipates where the ball is going, before it gets there. The man doesn't take extra steps, or make extra moves. As goofy as this may sound, it's like watching *Obi Wan Kenobi* fighting with those light swords, with zero visibility.

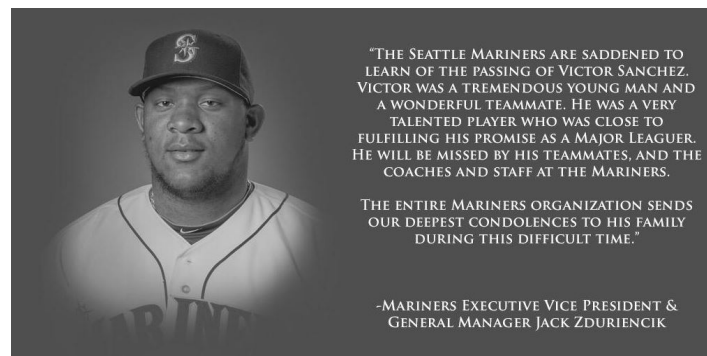
Look, we've had some talent at 2nd base. And I've seen em all...Joey Cora, Harold Reynolds, Julio Cruz, Jack Perconte, and our own human steroid, Bret Boone. But no one, absolutely no one, is in the same league as Robinson Cano. He takes extremely tough plays, and makes them look like nothing...glove tosses...behind the back tosses...stunning double plays....casual, almost leisurely moves, followed by absolute bullet's to 1st base.

I have never, ever used this word to describe a Mariner baseball player, but Robinson Cano is **a genius** at playing his position. And it's an honor to watch him do his thing every night.

Man crush, hell ya! God has given Cano a gift. And he has it in display every single game. I have lived in this city for 68 years, and he is the best pure athlete I have ever seen in this town. THE BEST! Its stunning.

DID YOU KNOW?...that Kyle Seager is making a start at third base for the 11th consecutive day?...Seager has started at least one game each day since March 22, and is tied for 5th amongst MLB third baseman with 104.0 innings played...Seager heads into the 2015 season with an active streak of 126 consecutive games played, the 6th-longest active Iron Man streak in MLB.

Victor Sanchez (1995-2015)



The Mariners lost a member of the family on Saturday night as Venezuelan prospect Victor Sanchez succumbed to injuries sustained in mid February. He was just 20 years old.

Victor may be gone, but not forgotten, as various members of the baseball family had their way of remembering him on a tough day.



For the record, Taijuan Walker has a slight shoe fetish!

What to bring north, what to leave in Arizona? Decisions? Decisions?



McClendon ready to help Mariners take next step: Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon is preparing for his 36th Opening Day in professional baseball, a fact that tells the second-year Seattle skipper one thing.

"I'm getting old," McClendon says with a chuckle.

But some things never get old for a baseball man and the anticipation of a new season stands high on that list. McClendon, 56, keeps a pretty even keel throughout the ups and downs of a 162-game season. Yet he's as

eager as everyone else involved with the Mariners to get the 2015 season underway and see how things unfold with a club that added some key pieces after missing the postseason by just one win last year.

"I think we laid a real nice foundation last year," McClendon said of his initial 87-75 season. "We made some really nice additions this year that should make this club better. We're excited about this season. The expectations are high and rightfully so. This is a good club.

"But the game is played between the lines, not on paper. We need to get it done on the field and certainly with our preparation, and I think our guys are going about that pretty good."

McClendon, who coached under Jim Leyland with the Tigers for eight years before joining the Mariners, has been part of some outstanding teams. The Tigers went to the playoffs four of those seasons and advanced to the World Series twice.

He knows what it takes to put together a championship-caliber club and he sees his Mariners taking necessary steps in that direction.

"I would say last spring we were learning how to win," he said. "This spring, we expect to win. That's a big difference."

McClendon knows that good players make good managers. He said a year ago he got a lot smarter when the Mariners signed Robinson Cano. And his IQ hiked a few more notches with the addition of Nelson Cruz this offseason. His offense now has some firepower to support a pitching staff with the lowest ERA in the American League last year.

The 3-4-5 trio of Cano, Cruz and Kyle Seager were all American League All-Stars last season. McClendon feels the midseason trade for leadoff man Austin Jackson and offseason acquisitions of Seth Smith, Justin Ruggiano and Rickie Weeks added veteran hitters and depth that was sorely lacking in 2014.

And putting Cruz in the middle of the lineup changes the entire dynamic.

"Nellie makes us better, no question about it," McClendon said. "He lengthens that lineup out, he gives protection to Robbie, he gives Seager more opportunities to drive in runs. We have guys dropped down a slot in the lineup, which is going to make us better and the lineup longer. The addition of Seth Smith, Ruggiano, Jackson for a full year ... it should be an exciting year for us."

In the middle of that push for Seattle's first playoff berth since 2001, McClendon will provide the guiding hand. He proved his first year to have a deft touch with the pitching staff. He brings an intensity that gets people's attention and a direct approach that lets his players know what is expected.

In his first year on the job, he proved to be an excellent match for a young Seattle squad that was beginning to blend in more veteran talent. This year, he's got more of the latter to work with and as a result, expectations are high.

Just how good could these Mariners be?

"If you're asking me how many wins we're going to have, I don't have an answer for that," he said earlier this spring. "Listen, we're good and barring injuries we're going to be very competitive. Where that's going to take us, I don't know. I don't think any team in baseball can tell you that. We're like everybody else, we know where we hope to be and if all goes well, we'll have a good chance to get there."

And that journey begins Monday when the Mariners host the Angels on Opening Day at Safeco Field. For more of McClendon's thoughts, watch the video interview at the top of the page.

MLB Power Ranking: Seattle rank 2014 / 20th

Seattle rank 2015 / 13th

The Seattle Mariners offense has been mediocre at best since the days of Bret Boone, John Olerud and Edgar Martinez, but it looks like it could be a legitimate weapon in 2015.

Adding slugger Nelson Cruz to slot between Robinson Cano and Kyle Seager was the big move, and while he probably won't hit 40 home runs again, even something like an .800 OPS and 25-30 long balls would be significant.

The team also shored up its corner outfield production with the additions of Seth Smith, Justin Ruggiano and Rickie Weeks. Add to that the continued progression of Mike Zunino and Brad Miller and a full season of Austin Jackson, and this looks like the best Seattle lineup in years.

Projected Starting Lineup

1. CF Austin Jackson
2. RF Seth Smith
3. 2B Robinson Cano
4. DH Nelson Cruz
5. 3B Kyle Seager
6. 1B Logan Morrison
7. C Mike Zunino
8. LF Dustin Ackley
9. SS Brad Miller

Remember when George Forman fought Muhammad Ali in the 1974 *Rumble in the Jungle*? Well, George was guaranteed \$5 million for that fight. And finished his boxing career 76-5.



Meanwhile, George signed up to be the spokesman for the George Forman Grill. His income, as a % of sales plus stock...\$137.5 million, of off 150 million sold.



Have you seen the Mike Zunino Fathers Day aprons the M's are giving away? Pretty cool, huh? Sure beats the crap out of those dumbass hat / beard things!



Here's the magic number for the 2015 season: 4! Lloyd McClendon calls it the "the magic number" for his 2015 Mariners. Consistently score four runs a game, the skipper says, and good things will happen.

Of course, there's nothing really magical about it. The facts spoke loud and clear last season. With one of baseball's best pitching staffs holding up its end of the bargain, the Mariners were monsters when they put four or more on the board.

In the 79 games when Seattle scored four-plus, they won 67 times (an .848 winning percentage). The Mariners' pitching was good enough that even when they scored just three runs, they went 12-10. So at three-plus runs a game, their record still was an imposing 79-22 (.782).

But McClendon's crew threw out way too many low-digit days. They were shut out a club-record 19 times and scored two or fewer runs in 61 games, third most of any American League team. Their record in that situation: 8-53 (.131).

So McClendon, in his second year as manager, takes a pretty simple view. Nudge the offensive improvement up enough to score four or more runs a game on a regular basis, and he'll take his chances.

"If you really look at our numbers last year when we were three-plus runs per game, we were pretty darn good," McClendon said. "With the additions we've made and the pitching staff we have now, if we can go out and score four a game, we're going to be a real competitive club."

Scoring more runs consistently is the key. The Mariners actually averaged 3.9 runs per game last year, thanks to some high-scoring contests that hiked that figure. It's the number of two-or-fewer tallies that is troublesome. And it all added up to a team that finished tied for 11th among the AL's 15 teams in total runs for the season.

That's a longstanding trend for Seattle. The Mariners were 12th in scoring in the AL in 2013 and dead last the previous four years. The last time Seattle ranked higher than seventh in the league in runs was '02.

McClendon believes this year will be different, thanks to the maturation of some of his young players like Kyle Seager, Dustin Ackley, Mike Zunino and Logan Morrison, and the addition of slugger Nelson Cruz as well as established veterans Seth Smith, Justin Ruggiano and Rickie Weeks to a club that brought in Robinson Cano the year before.

Even with Cano, however, the Mariners totaled just 10 more runs last season from 2013, thanks to some of the worst production in baseball from the Nos. 1, 2 and 4 spots in the lineup.

"We just didn't have enough firepower," McClendon said. "Our guys gave us everything they had, but we had a lot of young players trying to compete at the Major League level, learn their craft and be productive at the same time. And that's hard to do. Those guys have matured now, we've made some additions to the club and the combination of those two things should make us better."

And if better means putting four or more runs on the board more often, the Mariners should be able to improve on a club that went 87-75 last season and came just one victory shy of a playoff berth.

DID YOU KNOW?...that Felix Hernandez led the league in ERA (2.14), opponent batting average (.200) and WHIP (0.915), while also ranking 2nd in innings pitched (236.0) and 4th in strikeouts (248)?...the All-Star game starting pitcher recorded the lowest ERA by an AL pitcher since Pedro Martinez (1.74) in 2000.

3-4-5...the Mariners projected 3-4-5 hitters - Robinson Canó, Nelson Cruz, Kyle Seager - have put together a solid preseason combining to bat .321 (43x134) with 14 extra-base hits (2B - 7, HR - 7) and 26 RBI...here is a look at their spring stat line:

Player	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SLG	OBP	OPS
Canó	.364	44	8	16	5	0	1	7	.545	.378	.923
Cruz	.318	44	6	14	0	0	3	8	.523	.407	.930
Seager	.283	46	8	13	2	0	3	11	.522	.379	.901



Zunino's taking charge! Mike Zunino has caught more games and innings than any catcher in the Cactus League this spring, but Mariners manager Lloyd McClendon says both the 24-year-old and his pitching staff are benefiting from the early work load.

"He came in in great shape and there's some things we wanted to see him do this spring, and he's starting to do them," McClendon said on Tuesday. "Taking charge of the staff, running that staff, getting them to do the things he needs them to do to be successful during the course of a game. Sometimes you have to pull the whip out. He's done all those things. I think it's taken him the whole six weeks to get all of that out of the staff. That's why he's played as much as he's played."

Zunino, who turned 24 last week, continues to impress both at the plate and behind it. The third overall selection in the 2012 First-Year Player Draft has hit seven home runs, second to the Cubs' Kris Bryant among all Major Leaguers this spring, and has the highest slugging percentage in either the Cactus or Grapefruit League at .896.

A year ago, Zunino hit two home runs and batted .239 with five RBIs and a .478 slugging percentage in 46 Cactus League at-bats. Going into Tuesday's game against the Indians, Zunino was batting .354 and also leading the team with 13 RBIs in 48 at-bats.

McClendon said the youngster will get Wednesday's game off before the entire team is off on Thursday prior to Seattle's final two Cactus League games. The skipper said his young catcher has made huge strides and handled the heavy load without issue.

"I don't think he was ready to do it last year. He was trying to get his feet wet his first full year in the big leagues as well," McClendon said. "I think

he's learned this stuff. He knows he can be successful in this league and the maturation process has brought him to this point in his career.

"He's been on the fast track from the start and he hasn't disappointed. It's mind blowing, if you really think about it, to think how far he's come so fast."



I guess I am not the only guy who put his money where his mouth is?

The oddsmakers in Las Vegas are just as excited about the Seattle Mariners as most fans are — perhaps even more so, as longtime M's devotees have been conditioned over the past decade to expect little from their baseball team.



Yet 2015 holds much promise for the Mariners, featuring the likes of Robinson Cano, Nelson Cruz and Fernando Rodney to go along with stars such as Felix Hernandez, Kyle Seager and Hisashi Iwakuma. After missing the playoffs by just one game last season, the M's are projected by nearly all MLB pundits to make a run for their first postseason appearance since 2001.

In fact, some folks are even talking World Series — and have been all spring.

New figures from MyTopSportsbooks.com on Tuesday gave the Mariners 15-to-1 odds to win the World Series this year. Those were the sixth-best odds in the MLB, trailing the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs (both at 14-to-1), Boston Red Sox (13-to-1), Los Angeles Angels (11-to-1), Los Angeles Dodgers (7-to-1) and Washington Nationals (4-to-1).

MyTopSportsbooks also thinks Cano has the best odds — tied with Angels star Mike Trout at 2-to-1 — to win the American League MVP award.

And Hernandez is the favorite to win this season's A.L. Cy Young Award after getting snubbed last year. Hernandez's odds were 2-to-1, with the Cleveland Indians' Corey Kluber (7-to-2) and Chicago White Sox's Chris Sale (5-to-2) trailing, according to MyTopSportsbooks.

Interestingly, while the M's now have last year's home run leader in Cruz, he is not expected to repeat such a feat this season. It's likely that the expansive Safeco Field, where it is far more difficult to hit home runs than many major-league stadiums, contributed to Cruz's not being listed among the favorites to lead the MLB in homers this year.

Best starts in Mariners history...

9. (Tied) 1984

April record: 12-11

Rookie first baseman Alvin Davis came up huge in 1984, hitting .369 with seven home runs and 17 RBIs through April. He'd go on to play in the 1984 All-Star Game and win American League Rookie of the Year, but it wasn't enough to make Seattle a winner. The M's finished 74-88, fifth in the A.L. West.

8. 1995

April record: 3-1

The 1995 Mariners played only four games in April during the strike-shortened 144-game season, but that April was the beginning of great things for the team. Led by Edgar Martinez and featuring players like Randy Johnson and Tino Martinez – not to mention Ken Griffey Jr. and Jay

Buhner – the M's won 79 games, making the first playoff appearance in team history.

7. 2000

April record: 13-10

The 2000 Mariners attempted to prove there was life after Griffey, and by winning 91 games and earning the club's first wild card playoff berth, they did just that. A loaded lineup led the way, headed by Alex Rodriguez, who hit .316 with 41 home runs and 132 RBIs in his last season in Seattle.

6. 2009

April record: 13-9

Bolstered by the return of Ken Griffey Jr. 10 years after his departure – and more importantly a 19-win season from Felix Hernandez – the 2009 Mariners enjoyed a bounce-back season in their first campaign under GM Jack Zduriencik and manager Don Wakamatsu. The team won 85 games but fell back to Earth in 2010, losing 101 games.

5. 1996

April record: 15-10

The 1996 team continued its hot finish from the previous season. Led by the big four of Griffey, Martinez, Rodriguez and Buhner – all of whom had more than 100 RBIs – the M's finished 85-76, just missing the playoffs.

4. 1997

April record: 16-11

After another hot start, the Mariners got back to the playoffs in 1997. A dominant pitching trio of Randy Johnson, Jeff Fassero and Jamie Moyer combined for 53 wins, while unheralded players like Russ Davis (above) filled key roles for the squad en route to a 92-win season.

3. 2003

April record: 17-10

The last great Seattle team rode a monster year from second baseman Brett Boone – 35 home runs, 117 RBIs – in manager Bob Melvin’s first season to jump out to a great start and win 93 games. But that wasn’t enough to make the playoffs, and the M’s haven’t come close since.

2. 2002

April record: 18-8

Southpaw Jamie Moyer was “only” 39 in 2002, when he got off to a 3-1 start to help the Mariners jump out to the front of A.L. West. Strong seasons from Ichiro, Boone and John Olerud helped the team win 93 contests, but it wasn’t enough for the team to make it to the postseason.

1. 2001

April record: 20-5

Ichiro hit the ground running in his very first major league season, hitting .338 for the months of March and April. He never looked back from his strong start – leading MLB in batting for the season – and neither did the greatest M’s team of all-time, as it went on to win a MLB record-tying 116 games and advance to the American League Division Series.



He was a nice young man. But to my eye, he was way over matched in the big leagues. Looking bewildered all the time, as he took off his cap and wiped the sweat from his forehead, over and over and over again. Mariners right-hander Erasmo Ramirez was traded to Tampa Bay on Tuesday for left-hander Mike Montgomery as Seattle acquired a former first-round Draft pick in return for a pitcher who was out of Minor League options.

Ramirez, 24, was one of Seattle's top pitching prospects in 2012, when he was first called up, and he's started 35 games for the Mariners over the past three years. But he has struggled with consistency the past two seasons.

Montgomery also was a well-regarded prospect for the Royals as a first-round selection in 2008 as a prep pitcher out of California. The 25-year-old was dealt to the Rays in 2013 as part of the Wil Myers-James Shields blockbuster and has yet to reach the Majors.

Montgomery was on the Rays' 40-man roster and still in Major League camp competing for a relief role. He has one Minor League option remaining.

The 6-foot-4, 200-pound Montgomery was 10-5 with a 4.29 ERA in 25 starts for Triple-A Durham last year, where he was a mid-season All-Star and helped lead the Bulls to the International League Championship Series for the second consecutive season.

Montgomery was rated by MLB.com as one of the Top 50 overall prospects in baseball as recently as the 2012 season and he was ranked the Rays' No. 27 prospect this season.

Montgomery was used as a reliever for the first time this spring. He pitched six games out of the bullpen for the Rays in Grapefruit League action, posting a 2.38 ERA with three earned runs, two walks and nine strikeouts in 11 1/3 innings.

Ramirez put up a 3.36 ERA in 16 games, including eight starts, with Seattle as a 22-year-old rookie in 2012 and opened '13 in the starting rotation. He

went 5-3 with a 4.98 ERA in 14 games (13 starts) that year, then was 1-6 with a 5.26 ERA in 17 games (14 starts) last season.

The Mariners had no opening for Ramirez in their deep rotation and bullpen this spring and risked losing the Nicaraguan hurler if they sent him to the Minors since he was out of options and thus would have been exposed to waivers.

Ramirez's departure leaves the Mariners with five starters in camp -- Felix Hernandez, Hisashi Iwakuma, James Paxton, J.A. Happ and Taijuan Walker.

The Rays have been hit with several injuries in their rotation and have been seeking starting help.



Tyler Olson is the last man standing in the competition for the last bullpen spot. Let's see what he brings to the table. The final 25-man roster is slowly taking shape. All of the position players are accounted for and the rotation has been set. The final thing to figure out is the last spot in the bullpen. Erasmo Ramirez was traded away last night and I expect new acquisition, Mike Montgomery, to start the year in the minors. Carson Smith hasn't had a great Spring Training and he and Joe Saunders were just recently optioned to the minors. That leaves Tyler Olson as the last man standing. He'll serve as the second-lefty and long-man out of the pen.

Olson was born and raised in Spokane, Washington and played college ball at Gonzaga. He was drafted in the seventh-round in the 2013 draft and spent his first season in Single-A Everett, splitting time between the bullpen and the rotation. Last year, he started the year in Single-A High Desert and was able to post a 3.13 ERA and a 2.83 FIP in five starts, an impressive feat considering the hitter-friendly environment. He was promoted to Double-A Jackson where he made 22 starts and posted an impressive walk rate (just 4.7%), an ERA of 3.52, and a FIP of 3.19.

This spring, Olson has pitched 12 2/3 innings over ten appearances, has yet to give up a walk, and has struck out almost a third of the batters he's faced. He's impressed with his ability to throw strikes early and often and looks like he's capable of maintaining his excellent control when he makes the jump to the majors. Olson throws four pitches with a sidearm delivery that provides a bit of deception when facing lefties. And that's where he should excel.

Let's take a look at Olson's arsenal and see what he's working with.

Note: data was pulled from Baseball Savant's PITCHf/x database. Brooks Baseball has been giving wonky PITCHf/x data this spring as we found out when I examined Taijuan's new slider. I had to go into the data to manually clarify Olson's changeup (it was being classified as a slider) and to reclassify some of his sliders as curveballs. This data covers just six of his ten appearances (where PITCHf/x data was available) but should give us a decent representative sample. To the data!

Pitch	No. Thrown	Frequency	Velocity	px H Mov	px V Mov
Cutter	29	46.0%	88.88	0.58	5.35
Changeup	5	7.9%	82.76	5.49	-0.34
Slider	23	36.5%	76.31	-11.75	0.40
Curveball	6	9.5%	74.1	-10.92	-5.04

Olson mainly relies on his cutter and his slider and will mix in his changeup and curveball to righties. His slider and curveball have some extreme horizontal movement and they're thrown at similar velocities. When looking at the video, it seemed like he often dropped his release point when throwing his slider to get a flatter trajectory—a true frisbee slider.

What do each of his pitches actually look like? Olson's most impressive appearance this spring was on March 9 when he struck out the side against the Indians, cutting down Jason Kipnis, Yan Gomes, and Michael Brantley. I've compiled representative pitches from that outing (plus a curveball from his appearance on March 29).

Cutter

Olson gets Brantley to chase a cutter low and away for strike three. The most surprising thing is Brantley swings behind this 89 mph pitch. The velocity differential between Olson's cutter and his breaking stuff is significant enough that the batter has to keep the 75 mph slider or curve in the back of his mind. That should let his cutter play up above what would be mediocre velocity.

Changeup

Olson gets Gomes swinging on this changeup low and away. This pitch breaks away from righties but the velocity differential between it and his fastball isn't ideal—just 6 mph. If he's able to keep this pitch down, it should serve as a decent change of pace against opposite-handed batters.

Slider

This is Olson's bread and butter pitch. Kipnis flails wildly at the pitch and has no chance to make contact. This slider reminds me of Charlie Furbush's slider. It's thrown at a similar velocity, from a similar angle, and is death on lefties. You can see the lower arm angle on this pitch compared to his other three pitches. This is something major league batters will pick up on, but because of his delivery and the pitch's movement, he might be able to get away with it against lefties.

Curveball

Olson will also mix in a curveball against both righties and lefties. Its velocity is almost the same as his slider but with an extra five inches of vertical drop. He won't get many whiffs with this pitch—it's used to give the batter a different look when they're expecting a slider.

At first glance, Tyler Olson looks like he should be a capable LOOGY and will probably also serve as the long-man as well. His slider and cutter will

make him a nightmare to face as a lefty and his change and curve should keep righties honest. The Mariners will have to add him to the 40-man roster, but with David Rollins' suspension, there's an open spot. If Olson falters, Mike Montgomery has looked promising as a reliever this spring and could see time with the major league club this year. Making the jump from Double-A to the majors won't be easy but the confidence gained from Olson's impressive spring and his feel for pitching will help him tremendously.

Player	Pos.	Age	Exp.	Contract	Terms	Avg. Salary	Expires
Robinson Cano	2B	32	9.153	10 yr	\$240,000,000	\$24,000,000	2024
Felix Hernandez	SP	28	9.06	7 yr	\$175,000,000	\$25,000,000	2020
Kyle Seager	3B	27	3.085	7 yr	\$100,000,000	\$14,285,714	2023
Nelson Cruz	LF	34	7.082	4 yr	\$57,000,000	\$14,250,000	2019
Hisashi Iwakuma	SP	33	3	2 yr	\$14,000,000	\$7,000,000	2016
Fernando Rodney	RP	38	11.1372	2 yr	\$14,000,000	\$7,000,000	2016
Seth Smith	LF	32	6.119	2 yr	\$13,000,000	\$6,500,000	2018
Austin Jackson	CF	28	5	1 yr	\$7,700,000	\$7,700,000	2016
Willie Bloomquist	2B	37	12.0292	2 yr	\$5,800,000	\$2,900,000	2016
J.A. Happ	SP	32	6.047	1 yr	\$5,400,000	\$5,400,000	2016
Logan Morrison	1B	27	4.069	1 yr	\$2,725,000	\$2,725,000	-
Dustin Ackley	LF	27	3.087	1 yr	\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000	-
Justin Ruggiano	RF	32	4.019	1 yr	\$2,505,000	\$2,505,000	-
Rickie Weeks	2B	32	9.131	1 yr	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	2016
Tom Wilhelmsen	RP	31	3.091	1 yr	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	-
Charlie Furbush	RP	28	3.121	1 yr	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	-
Ji-Man Choi	1B	23		1 yr	\$500,000	\$500,000	-
Yoervis Medina	RP	26	2	1 yr	-	-	-
Danny Farquhar	RP	28	1.158	1 yr	-	-	-
Brad Miller	SS	25	1.094	1 yr	-	-	-
Mike Zunino	C	24	1.111	1 yr	-	-	-
James Paxton	SP	26	1.027	1 yr	-	-	-
Taijuan Walker	SP	22	.142	1 yr	-	-	-
John Hicks	C	25		1 yr	-	-	-
Dominic Leone	RP		1	1 yr	-	-	-
Edgar Olmos	RP	24	.016	1 yr	-	-	-

Player	Pos.	Age	Exp.	Contract Terms	Avg. Salary Expires	
David Rollins	RP	25		1 yr -	-	-
Jesus Sucre	C	26	.169	1 yr -	-	-
Chris Taylor	SS	24	.067	1 yr -	-	-
Mike Montgomery	SP	25		1 yr -	-	-