

Kenji Johjima: Mariners new best hope

Contributed by Tom Hallberg
Tuesday, 25 April 2006

The Seattle Mariners have lost more than 90 games in each of the last two seasons, only five years after tying the all-time record for wins in a season with 116. The Mariners have been in a steady decline since that season as many of their players moved elsewhere or retired.

However, this season looks to be different as the Mariners have made key additions, and many of the prospects are beginning to put all of their skills together. They signed Kenji Johjima from Japan, and pitching prospects Rafael Soriano, Gil Meche, and Felix Hernandez have the potential to be the backbone of the pitching staff. In the outfield, the Mariners have Joe Borchard, Raul Ibanez, Ichiro, and Jeremy Reed. Ritchie Sexson, Yuniesky Betancourt, Jose Lopez and Adrian Beltre return around the infield.

Although the Mariners division rivals will all be tough this year, they have a good chance to contend for the top spot in the division.