

1. What is a recent (within the past one to two years) mistake the Mariners organization has made, and why do you consider it a mistake?

I think a mistake the Mariners have made with the past two years was not going into rebuilding mode sooner. Looking at the 2018 batting stats of the Mariners on [baseball-reference.com](http://baseball-reference.com), only one player aged 25 or lower had an at-bat for the Mariners all season. This is important to look at because when rebuilding a professional baseball team, it's important to bring in young players with lots of potential to develop their skills and make them better athletes. Fortunately that one player under 25 on the 2018 team grew to seven players who were 25 or younger on the 2019 team.

With 36 year old Nelson Cruz and 34 year old Robinson Cano on the roster at the end of 2017, and bringing in 34 year old Denard Span for the 2018 season, that time would have been better spent shopping trades for Cano and Cruz and bringing in prospects and picks to begin a rebuild. It's good the front office traded Cano and Cruz, however I think it was a year too late. The Cano trade was also too costly with sending 23 year old Edwin Diaz, a bright spot on an otherwise lackluster bullpen, to the Mets. I think Diaz could have been kept and used as a jumping off point for bringing in young relief pitchers to rebuild the pitching staff.

The Mariners went into rebuild mode a year later than they probably should have. Not enough focus was put on developing young players with bringing in veteran players in the twilights of their careers in 2018. However, from what I've read about the Mariners' young players and their minor league affiliates, it seems like the future is bright. Bringing in lots of top prospects for the Mariners to develop in their farm system is a step in the right direction for future success.

2. Propose a rule change MLB could make that would make baseball more fun.

I think making extra innings into a home run derby could be a very fun change for the MLB to instate. Imagine hockey shootouts or soccer free kicks, but with a home run derby at the end of a game to decide the winner. Have a position player go out to the mound with a bucket of balls to be the pitcher (can add net for protection if needed). This will give added unpredictability of balls not being thrown down the middle for batters. Each player in the lineup at the end of the game gets 5 swings and it turns into a shootout of sorts. Aside from being fun, this would allow players to rest at the end of the game and have some fun with their teammates. This might also prevent the 18+ inning games that have happened a few times in recent years, like the Brewers-Mets game that lasted 18 innings running for 5 hours and 22 minutes on May 4th 2019, depleting the bullpen and exhausting fans.