

Daily

Sports

Point/Counterpoint: Is the Pro Bowl worth watching?

by Jorge Eckardt,

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It's Pro Bowl week again! Yes, the one week a year where all football fans really just want to watch the Super Bowl, but instead they get a meaningless game between players whose teams were not good enough to get to the big game. This raises the question: Is the Pro Bowl worth watching? Matt Severino and Jorge Eckardt debate.

Eckardt: The Pro Bowl is absolutely worth watching, and not just that, but the entire week of festivities leading up to the game is worth our attention. It gives fans of teams who didn't make the Super Bowl to enjoy the excellence of their star players one last time before there's no football for half a year. It showcases the best of the best as they go toe-to-toe in not only a whole football game but also skill challenges, obstacle courses and dodgeball. We get to watch quarterbacks go head-to-head with wide receivers and linebackers like they did last year in the precision passing challenge, where we learned that Adam Thielen is a more accurate passer than Andrew Luck and that Von Miller can't throw a football to save his life. We learned in the hands challenge that Thielen not only can throw but has sticky hands and that Mitch Trubisky is, well, not great. In dodgeball, we saw just how shifty Saquon Barkley really is, but the 5-on-1 was just too much to overcome. And, above all, we learned that Jamal Adams is just the best at tackling mascots. The Pro Bowl and everything surrounding it is just plain fun. It's a great experience for the fans that are down there and fun to watch on TV if you can't make it. If you want to laugh and enjoy some lighthearted fun by world-class athletes, then the Pro Bowl is right up your alley.

Severino: The NFL isn't the only professional sports league to struggle to make their all-star game relevant and worthy of fan interest. The truth is, however, the Pro-Bowl is by far the worst of the group and needs major changes to be implemented. The



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) runs out of the pocket against the Tennessee Titans during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, in Baltimore. Jackson, the likely MVP, will participate in the 2020 Pro Bowl. PHOTO BY JULIO CORTEZ, AP PHOTO

worst part about the event is the timing and there is no good way to fix this issue. By late January, players have been in season for six months and many decide to not participate because of it. All of the other leagues have their respective game held in the middle of the season, making it a great opportunity for players to rest up and let loose for a few days. The week before the Super Bowl is not the time to do this. Many players are nursing injuries and opt to sit out, damaging the events marketability and overall appeal.

Another issue with the Pro Bowl is that there is nothing new and exciting to follow on a yearly basis. The same venues are recycled again and again and the format has never been revisited.

The AFC vs NFC matchup is only appealing so many times

and truthfully, nobody wants to visit Orlando every winter. And we have yet to address the game itself. Football is loved because of its physical nature. While nobody wants to get hurt, eliminating this element of the sport has ruined the game. You are practically watching grown men play schoolyard football. The attempts to add other competitions such as dodgeball have been refreshing but not enough to make the Pro Bowl worth watching, let alone attending.

Eckardt: Yes, the game itself is rather easy-going, but while that is normally looked at as a negative I think it actually adds to the atmosphere of the event. These players have just played at minimum a 16-game season, and for those who made the playoffs even longer. No one needs them

to be flying around the field trying to hurt each other, because that doesn't benefit anyone. All that the fans really need is some fun, friendly competition like the backyard football that you mentioned. I'm excited about watching Tre'Davious White and Stefon Gilmore go up against Michael Thomas and Davante Adams, and it'll be fun to see Lamar Jackson show off and try to pick apart the NFC Defense. And, it gives lesser-known but great players a chance to show how good they are on a national stage. Last year, we got to see Kansas City Chiefs and former UConn fullback tear up the game, catching three passes for 92 yards, just three short of the game-lead. It also gives players an opportunity to play different positions and even on different sides of the

ball, with Jalen Ramsey having a reception and Alvin Kamara, Michael Thomas, Mike Evans, Jarvis Landry, Keenan Allen and JuJu Smith-Schuster all getting snaps on defense. That's something you won't see in an actual game, which is the perfect reason why this game is so fun to watch. It's different. It's light-hearted. It's fun. It's everything that an All-Star game should be, you really don't need anything more.

Severino: The intent of the Pro Bowl is to have the best players in the league doing what they all do best on the field in a single game. Because of the system currently in place, it would be in the best interest of the league to start looking at other possible options to make the event more intriguing. I think what the NBA did a few years back with picking captains was one of the best decisions a professional sports league made regarding their all-star game in a long time. You could televise the draft and have the top vote-getters picking their friends and players they would most like to be on their team. Another direction the league could go would be to do multiple teams. It is clear that the conference matchup clearly isn't working. I think some kind of bracket of four smaller teams would be a great way to freshen up the Pro Bowl game. Other small improvements could also greatly benefit the event. Offering a cash prize or donation to the players on the winning team to a charity of their choice would give players an incentive to compete at a somewhat high level, at least something close to what is on display every week across the league. Moving the location of the game could also help. Every year the MLB and NBA move the game to a new city or region, drawing fans who hadn't gotten the chance to attend the previous year. With this, there would be a chance for new uniforms and helmets to be introduced, something that the NFL has refused to capitalize on in years past. It wouldn't take a complete rework, but for the Pro Bowl to become something that the average sports fan is interested in following, something has to be done.

Hey Seanny J: Kemba finally beat LeBron!

by Sean Janos

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It took Kemba Walker 29 tries, but after nine and a half seasons, one of UConn's heroes finally beat the best basketball player to walk the planet.

James was 28-0 versus Walker until Monday night, which was second only to Michael Jordan's 30-0 versus Sherman Douglas in terms of best head-to-head records of all time. Those games stretch among James' time with the Heat, Cavaliers and Lakers, while Walker played for just the Charlotte Bobcats and Hornets franchise.

The more important takeaway from this game is that the Celtics blew the 34-9 Lakers (first in the Western Conference) out of the water, 139-107.

Boston's stars played an immaculate game. Jayson Tatum shot an excellent 10-for-18, drain-



Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker (8) drives to the basket past Los Angeles Lakers guard Kentavious Caldwell-Pope (1) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday, Jan. 20, 2020. PHOTO BY CHARLES KRUPA/AP

ing five 3-pointers on his way to 27 points in just 29 minutes. Walker and Jaylen Brown each scored 20 and combined for 13 assists, while Gordon Hayward added 16 points, six rebounds and five assists. Even Enes Kanter had 18 and 11!

The Lakers' stars, on the other hand, not only didn't play that well, but didn't play much at all. Anthony Davis played only 23 minutes, which was the same as Kyle Kuzma and Avery Bradley, and one fewer minute than Danny Green. James led the team

with just 29 minutes played. Davis and James each average 34.8 minutes played this season.

Though James was able to piece together a decent game (15 points, 13 assists and seven rebounds), Davis had just nine points on 3-of-7 shooting. He and James were

outscored by 24 and 21 points while on the floor, respectively.

Davis' decreased minutes is a culmination of many factors. He picked up two quick fouls early in the first quarter, which allowed Boston to recover from a 8-0 deficit. Plus, this was his first game back from a bum injury in almost two weeks.

The Lakers were on the second game of a brutal 5-game road trip that includes games in Houston and Philadelphia. Perhaps they decided to give their stars a lot of rest and concede the game without tipping off their game plan to a team they may anticipate facing in the NBA Finals. Boston led by as many as 29 in the third quarter, so head coach LeBron Ja-I mean Frank Vogel could've decided to pull the plug early.

After the game, Celtics' coach Brad Stevens told ESPN, "The less he [Davis] plays, the better for everybody else."

THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS

Football



Women's Basketball
7 p.m.
XL Center

vs.  

Men's Basketball
9 p.m.
Houston, Texas

vs.  

Women's Hockey
6 p.m.
Freitas Ice Forum

NUMBER OF THE DAY

1

After the Boston Celtics defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 139-107, UConn alum Kemba Walker moved to 1-28 all-time versus LeBron James.

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Céspedes Family BBQ

@CespedesBBQ

Larry Walker needs to get in if only to complete the Backyard Baseball 2001 intro infield alongside Hall of Famers Chipper Jones and Stephanie Morgan

Steve Perrault

@Steve_Perrault

I'm still trying to hunt down the 3 clowns that didn't vote for Griffey but would love to send a gift basket to the person that left Jeter off the ballot

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Sports

Photo of the Day | That feeling when you beat a team by 50-plus



The Huskies smile during a 92-34 win against the Tulsa Golden Hurricanes in Gampel Pavilion. The team celebrated Husky Heritage and Kids Day with the vintage Husky Logo on their warmups. Their next home game is on Thursday, Jan. 23 against Tennessee at the XL Center. PHOTO BY ERIC WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Around the American Men's Basketball: Houston replaces Wichita State in the polls

by Danny Barletta

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In Monday's new AP poll, the American Athletic Conference still had two ranked teams, but only one was the same as the previous week. Memphis moved up two spots to No. 20 after a light week during which they handled Cincinnati easily 60-49 in their lone game. However, Wichita State, the previous week's No. 16 team, was nowhere to be found.

Instead, Houston made its first appearance in the poll this season, clocking in at No. 25 after beating the Shockers 65-54 on Saturday. Fabian White, Jr. led the way for the Cougars in that game with 14 points, five rebounds and two blocks. Wichita State really struggled, shooting just 30% from the field and committing 14 turnovers. This loss, paired with the 65-53 loss to Temple earlier in the week, dropped Wichita State from the rankings completely and moved their conference record to 3-2 after starting undefeated.

Temple followed up their big win over Wichita State with a 16-point loss to SMU on Saturday. SMU has been a surprisingly decent team so far this season with a 13-4 overall record. Also on Saturday, Tulsa defeated



Houston forward Fabian White Jr. (35) battles for a rebound with Wichita State forward Jaime Echenique (21) during NCAA college basketball game action Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, in Wichita, Kan. PHOTO BY BO RADER, THE WICHITA EAGLE VIA AP

Tulane 67-54 for their third consecutive conference win.

Tulane is tied with Houston at the top of the AAC standings with a 4-1 record, and they are the only team to beat the Cougars in conference play so far. The Golden Hurricane faces its toughest opponent yet when Memphis comes to town on Wednesday.

Cincinnati rebounded from its Thursday loss to Memphis with a monster 82-57 win over East Carolina on Sunday, moving their conference record to 4-2. Tre Scott recorded a double-double in that game with 16 points and 11 rebounds, while Jarron Cumberland added 13 points and seven assists.

Finally, UCF edged out USF 55-54 in the War on I-4 on Saturday, moving USF to the cellar of the conference standings with a 1-4 record. The Knights were down five points with just two minutes to go in the game, but they rallied to score six unanswered thanks to a couple of costly fouls by the Bulls. UCF got strong contributions from Dazon Ingram with 11 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Some good AAC games to look out for this week include Tulsa vs. Memphis on Wednesday, UConn vs. Houston on Thursday and UCF vs. Wichita State on Saturday, all of which can be seen on ESPNU.

WALKER MOVES TO 1-28 ALL-TIME VS. LEBRON WITH WIN

WALKER, cont. from p. 12

There's no doubt this was a great win by the Celtics on their home floor over a great team, but I don't think it was as big of a statement game as people may think. It's true that with Walker, Tatum, Brown and Hayward all hitting shots at the same time, the Celtics are nearly impossible to guard. Plus with the defensive prowess of Marcus Smart off the bench, they're also very tough to score on. But in the playoffs, when the likes of James and Davis are playing upwards of 40 minutes each game, things are very different.

I trust that Stevens has a plan for the lethal James and Davis combo that has taken the league by storm this season, and though the box score may look like he did, he hasn't had to use it yet. Maybe when these teams face each other in Los Angeles next month, we'll see a more competitive game.



UConn in the NBA: Huskies hoping to end strong heading into All-Star Break

by Conner Gilson

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We are officially halfway through the NBA's regular season, and thus far there have been a lot of surprise performances from teams and players throughout the league. Some things, however, never change, like Kemba Walker putting up points night in and night out, and Andre Drummond leading the league in rebounds. Now 41 games into the 2019-20 season, let's check in with UConn's NBA alumni.

Kemba Walker, Boston Celtics:

In his first year on a new team, Walker is sporting the best shooting percentage (45%) of his career while also leading the Celtics in points (22) and assists (5) per game, right in line with his career averages. Kemba is in the prime of his career, and finally has a supporting cast with young studs like Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum that he never experienced in Charlotte, so it's no surprise that he is thriving. So far in January, Walker's production has remained top-notch despite carrying a much lighter load offensively. The star point guard is putting up a stat line of 20/4/4,



Indiana Pacers' Jeremy Lamb, right, tries to work around Minnesota Timberwolves' Shabazz Napier in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, in Minneapolis. PHOTO BY JIM MONE, AP

eight with half of the season's games still to play, and Drummond should be locked in for his third All-Star appearance.

Shabazz Napier, Minnesota Timberwolves

It's Shabazz time in Minnesota, as the Timberwolves finally traded away veteran Jeff Teague to the Atlanta Hawks. This means Napier is the full-time starter, the first such occasion in his career, after serving primarily as a backup since entering the league in 2014. As a result, Shabazz is playing the most minutes per game in his career (23) and is averaging nine points and career-bests in assists (4.6) and rebounds (2.5). The Timberwolves have struggled to start the new year, but since becoming a starter, Napier is putting up 11 points and six assists per game, giving hope that the team can turn it around. Efficiency remains a problem for the point guard, who is shooting just 38% on the year, but if he can adjust, the Timberwolves could have an underrated trio of Napier, Wiggins and Karl-Anthony Towns leading the way for the next few years.

See LAMB, p. 9

with strong performances coming against the top-seeded Lakers and Bucks. Despite this, Boston currently sits at No. 4 in the Eastern Conference and are struggling as of late, going 4-6 in their last 10 games. But with Walker leading the pack, they are sure to pick things back up with the All-Star break just a couple weeks away.

Andre Drummond, Detroit Pistons:

For the majority of the season

thus far, Drummond has been at the forefront of trade talks, with fans and analysts alike saying his talent is being wasted in Detroit and it is time for him to move on. As of late though, these talks have diminished a bit and the All-Star center has settled into what is turning into another strong campaign, tying his career high in points (17.3) per game and racking up a league-leading 15.7 rebounds per game. While the Pistons are

on a downward trend, sitting at No. 9 in the Eastern Conference, Drummond has been putting together some of his best basketball of late, averaging 14.5 points, 14 rebounds, 3.8 assists and an incredible combined 5.3 steals and blocks per game over the last week. With the improved play of Derrick Rose this season and Drummond being one of the most consistent big men in the league, the Pistons could make a push into the top

Column: The Astros didn't just cheat the other teams, they cheated the fans

by Jorge Eckardt

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When I was about 8 or 9 years old, I went to see the Mets play the Nationals in Washington D.C., and we had passes to watch batting practice on the field from the warning track behind home plate. At one point, Mets first baseman Carlos Beltran, who was playing catch with one of his teammates, threw one a bit wild and it got away from his partner. I immediately ran onto the field to grab it with the intention of throwing it back, and when I bent down to grab it and looked up, I was greeted by his partner, Carlos Beltran, standing above me smiling. I handed him the ball, he took it and then gave it right back to me. It's one of my favorite sports memories, and now, it's sullied forever.

Yes, the Astros very well could have cheated the Red Sox, Yankees and Dodgers out of the postseason. While there's no way to know if they still would have won without cheating, the fact of the matter is it wasn't a fair fight.

The Astros probably ruined at least a handful of player's careers with this system. Who knows how many players fighting for a roster spot lost one because the Astros batters knew what pitch they were going to throw. Twitter user Stephen Josiah (@StephenJosiah13) pointed this out in relation to a home run George Springer hit off Mets pitcher Chris Flexen, where you can clearly hear the trash can scheme in use.

"Ugh the look on Flexen's face," Josiah wrote. "His entire body language. This is a pitcher on the true fringes of Major League Baseball getting cheated. Horrible."

Even for players not in danger of losing a roster spot, like Clayton Kershaw and Yu Darvish among others, they still hurt their reputations resulting in months if not years of jokes and ridicule that not many,



In this Nov. 4, 2019, file photo, Carlos Beltran laughs with general manager Brodie Van Wagenen (not pictured) at the start of a news conference at Citi Field in New York. Beltran is out as manager of the Mets as a result of his involvement in the Astros sign stealing scandal. PHOTO BY SETH WENIG, AP PHOTO

including myself, are exempt from. Who knows how the career trajectory of those two players would have changed if they didn't lose games 5 and 7 in the 2017 World Series? That's not to mention all the pitchers who gave up big hits and even lost games because Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman, George Springer, Carlos Correa, Brian McCann, Carlos Beltran or any of the other players on the team knew what they were going to throw them.

This scandal is huge. It's probably even bigger than steroids, because one could argue that every team probably was participating in that one. No, here, it's just one or two (the 2018 Red Sox still have a lot of questions surrounding them) teams that we know of that cheated.

But if you've been following this scandal, what I'm saying is

nothing new. What isn't really being talked about is the impact this scandal has on the fans. After all, the fans make the game, if there were no fans, the players who cheated wouldn't be making millions of dollars a year. This scandal really isn't a "scandal" at all; it's much worse than that. This is a stain on the history of baseball. This is a black mark that can never be erased. What the players who participated in this scheme did is nothing short of disrespectful to all the people who support them.

Let's take it back to the second half of 2017. On Aug. 25, Hurricane Harvey made landfall. The Category 4 hurricane caused at least 88 deaths and \$125 million in damage according to World-Vision.org, and the city of Houston was one of the hardest hit.

Just two months later, the As-

tro's were playing in the World Series. At the time, it felt like it was meant to be. The city of Houston needed a win, and if you were anything but a Dodgers fan, it was hard to root against them.

I personally pulled for them hard. I had additional reasons, like a dislike for the Dodgers stemming from the 2015 NLDS and wanting to root for former UConn star George Springer, but rooting for the city of Houston, not even the team itself, seemed like the right thing to do.

Their Game 7 win was the culmination of the perfect storyline – a city, that had just been knocked down by mother nature, rising up, rallying behind their team and becoming world champions.

Publications like The Washington Post, ESPN, The New York Times, BBC, CNN and users all over Twitter wrote about how much playing in the World Series and eventually winning it meant to the city.

Now, the 2017 World Series will be remembered for something much different. Instead of being remembered for triumph in the wake of tragedy like it should be, it will be remembered for a garbage can and a video camera. Even though it might not be an official one, it will forever have an asterisk.

And, unfortunately, it doesn't stop there. The players, who just a few months ago were admired not only for their excellence on the diamond but also for their impact on the community, are looked at – rightfully so – as cheaters.

I started this column off with a personal story for a reason: I wanted to illustrate how wide-ranging the effect this, for lack of a better word, scandal, really is. It extends far past the players and the teams. It reaches all corners of the baseball world.

For more of the story visit DAILYCAMPUS.COM

LAMB COOLING OFF, PACERS ARE NOT

LAMB, cont. from p. 10

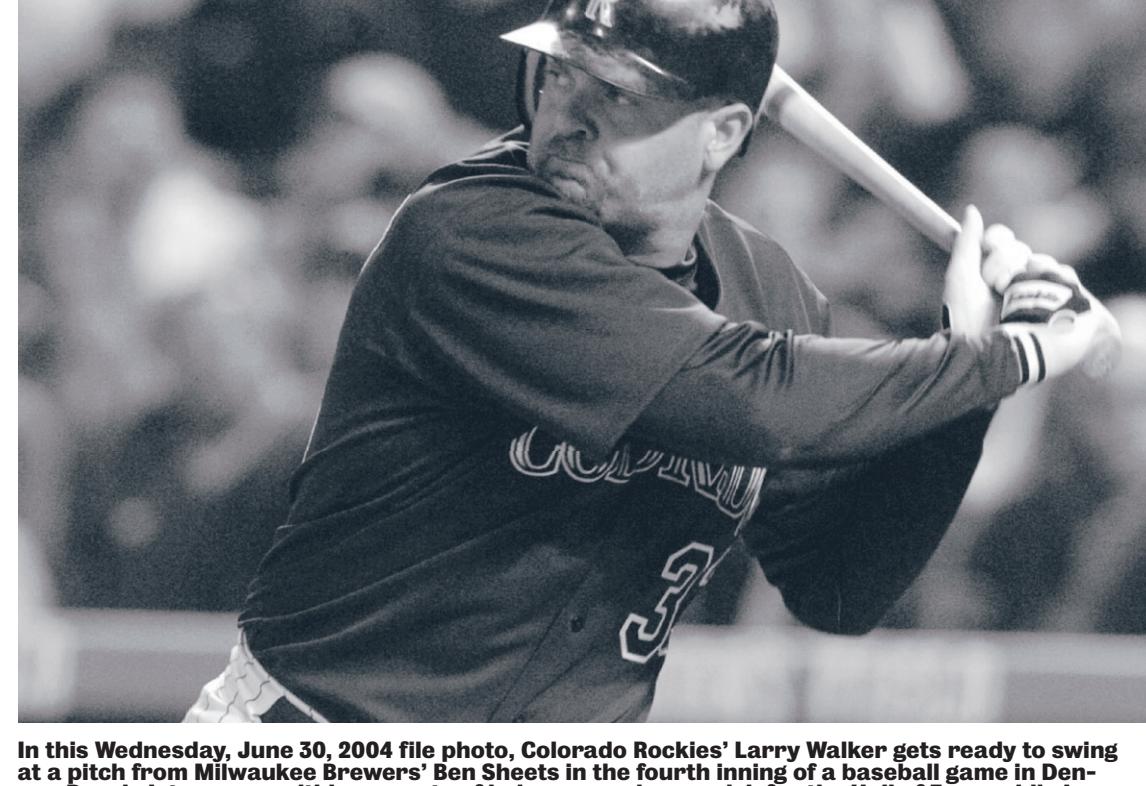
Jeremy Lamb, Indiana Pacers:

Lamb and the Pacers started this year red hot, and while the Pacers have continued that success, their starting shooting guard has come back down to earth. In his eighth season in the NBA, Lamb is averaging 13 points and five rebounds per game, both below his averages from last season. His dip in production has not hurt the Pacers, however, as the incredible play of new signee Malcolm Brogdon as well as rising star Domantas Sabonis have Indiana placed at No. 6 in the Eastern Conference, just 2.5 games out of the No. 2 spot. With Victor Oladipo set to return from his knee injury that sidelined him for over a year next week, Lamb will likely return to the bench. This may work in the shooting guard's favor however, as he will be at liberty to run the second unit, where he has been known to perform better. Expect a strong second half of the season for Lamb serving as the main source of points off the bench.

Rudy Gay, San Antonio Spurs:

Gay, along with the Spurs, are having a surprising first half to the season. And not in a good way. The forward still serves as the first or second man off the bench for Popovich's team, but he is playing just 23 minutes a game (the second lowest total of his career) en route to just 10.7 points per game, a career worst. On a per-minute basis Gay's numbers still look alright, with his 5.8 rebounds and 1.8 assists hovering around his career averages, but he is not the same player he was just a couple seasons ago and neither are the Spurs. San Antonio sits at No. 9 in the Western Conference and are at risk of ending their NBA-best 22 consecutive playoff streak. They are in a heated contest for the No. 8 seed, however, sitting just half a game behind the Ja Morant-led Grizzlies. With Gay, what you see is what you get in terms of production. He will score at a decent clip and grab some rebounds, but he'll need to do a little more to help out his team in the season's second half.

Jeter 1 vote shy of unanimous, Walker also elected to Hall



In this Wednesday, June 30, 2004 file photo, Colorado Rockies' Larry Walker gets ready to swing at a pitch from Milwaukee Brewers' Ben Sheets in the fourth inning of a baseball game in Denver. Derek Jeter came within one vote of being a unanimous pick for the Hall of Fame while Larry Walker also earned baseball's highest honor on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020. PHOTO BY DAVID ZALUBOWSKI, AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Known for two decades as No. 2, Derek Jeter is now linked to the number 1 — as in, who was the lone Hall of Fame voter who didn't put a check mark next to his name?

Jeter came within one vote of being a unanimous pick, falling just shy of the standard set when longtime New York Yankees teammate Mariano Rivera became the first unanimous selection last year. Larry Walker also earned baseball's highest honor Tuesday in his last chance on the ballot.

For now, the identity and motivation of the non-conformist remains a mystery.

"Well, I look at all the votes that I got," Jeter said. "Trying to get that many people to agree on something is pretty difficult to do. So that's not something that's on my mind."

Longtime shortstop and captain of the Yankees, Jeter appeared on 396 of 397 ballots cast by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. His 99.7% moved above Ken Griffey Jr. (99.3%) for the second-highest share.

Jeter was listed on all 219 ballots made public by Ryan Thibodaux's vote tracker before the announcement. The BBWAA will release additional ballots on Feb. 4 of writers who chose a public listing.

"Everyone told me it was a foregone conclusion. I didn't buy it. So it was not a relaxing day. There was a lot of anxiety," Jeter said. "I was nervous, sitting around waiting for a phone call is something that is completely out of your control."

Walker got 304 votes, six above the 75% needed and up from 54.6% last year. He was making

his 10th and final appearance on the BBWAA ballot and tweeted earlier in the day "I believe I'm going to come up a little short today" after checking the vote tracker and projecting he would finish at 73.3%.

As the announcement time approached, Walker had just about given up.

"I had it when they're going to call, a roundabout time, and that time had come and gone," he said. "And there was two minutes after that when the call actually came."

When Walker's phone rang, he uttered a profanity and then: "Oh my God!" He answered, and BBWAA secretary-treasurer Jack O'Connell was on the line.

"You didn't come up short this year. You passed the 75% threshold, and welcome to the Hall of Fame," Walker remembered O'Connell telling him.

Pitcher Curt Schilling was third with 278 votes (70%) in his eighth ballot appearance, an increase from 60.9% but still 20 votes shy. The steroids-tainted pair of Roger Clemens (61%) and Barry Bonds (60.7%) both showed slight increases in their eighth tries. Clemens rose from 59.5% last year and Bonds from 59.1%.

Jeter and Walker will be inducted on July 26 at the Hall in Cooperstown along with catcher Ted Simmons and former players' association head Marvin Miller, who were voted in last month by the Hall's Modern Era Committee.

Ballot holdovers could benefit next year, when the most prominent first-time eligibles are Torii Hunter and Mark Buehrle. The 2022 ballot will include David Ortiz and Alex Rodriguez, who served a season-long suspension in 2014 for violations of the drug program and baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

Slick-fielding shortstop Omar Vizquel could be a riser after getting 52.6% in his third year on the ballot. The 11-time Gold Glove winner with 2,877 hits has seven more years to earn 75%. Other potential movers include third baseman Scott Rolen (35.5%), reliever Billy Wagner (31.7%) and slugger Gary Sheffield (30.5%).

The 397 total votes cast were the fewest since 1985.

A five-time World Series champion, Jeter became a face of baseball as he starred in the nation's largest media market from 1995-2014. He was the AL Rookie of the Year in 1996 as the Yankees won the World Series for the first time since 1978, then led New York to three straight titles from 1998-2000, the only team to accomplish the feat since the 1972-74 Oakland Athletics.

The rebuilt Yankees added their 27th title in 2009.

Still, Jeter's resume lacked a coda.

"I had a great relationship and still do with Reggie Jackson," Jeter said. "And Reggie used to constantly remind me when he came to the park, he'd always tell me, 'You're not a Hall of Famer yet.'"

Jeter defined himself by moments more than numbers: his unexpected backhand flip from foul territory to throw out Oakland's Jeremy Giambi in the 2001 AL Division Series; his Mr. November home run in the 10th inning that won Game 4 of the 2001 World Series; his face-first leap into the stands after catching a 12th-inning popup by Boston's Trot Nixon in 2004; his home run into the left-field bleachers for his 3,000th hit as part of a career-best 5-for-5 game in 2011; his ninth-inning walkoff single in his final home game in 2014; his last at-bat single three days later that lifted his career average to .310.

Drafted sixth overall in 1992 after he was spotted by Yankees scout Dick Groch as a high school junior a year earlier, Jeter was bypassed by Houston (Phil Nevin), Cleveland (Paul Shuey), Montreal (B.J. Wallace), Baltimore (Jeffrey Hammonds) and Cincinnati (Chad Mottola). He debuted for the Yankees on May 29, 1995, and was installed at shortstop the following spring training by new manager Joe Torre.

Jeter became a 14-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glove winner despite defensive metrics that were maligned. He was appointed captain by owner George Steinbrenner in June 2003, filling a position that had been open since Don Mattingly's retirement after the 1995 season. He finished with 3,465 hits, 260 homers, 358 stolen bases and 1,311 RBIs, earning \$266 million from the Yankees.