



Padres Press Clips

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Padres get around to scoring, then Richard falters in loss to A's

Kevin Acee

It started poorly. It became ugly.

It got better, if only because it had to.

Then it devolved into, at least as baseball games go, disastrous.

The Padres failed at the plate and stumbled on the bases early, finally took a lead and then watched as their starting pitcher uncharacteristically melted down.

“Just a weird game,” [Travis Jankowski](#) said afterward.

The Oakland A's scored four runs before Clayton Richard got an out and five runs in all in the sixth inning and went on to win 6-2 over the Padres on Tuesday night.

It was the Padres' 12th loss in 15 games, a stretch in which they are batting .229 overall and .211 with runners in scoring position.

“We wasted opportunities, didn't capitalize on really good scoring opportunities,” Andy Green said.

Richard walked three batters but took just 55 pitches to get through five innings before walking two and allowing a single to load the bases at the start of the sixth.

“Too many three-ball counts throughout the game,” Richard said. “The defense picked me up early in the game. I let too many guys on with the walk. When you do that ... it's usually a recipe for bad baseball.”

[Jed Lowrie](#)'s double cleared the bases and gave the A's a 3-2 lead. Khris Davis followed with a single to score Lowrie.

Third baseman Christian Villanueva began his fourth double play of the night to erase Davis. If not for that, the inning would have been even worse, as the next batter, Mark Canha, homered.

A line drive to second baseman [Cory Spangenberg](#) ended the inning, which took Richard (7-8) 28 pitches to get through.

It was Richard's 11th straight start in which he lasted at least six innings. It was the most runs he has allowed in that stretch, though it comes on the heels of his giving up four runs in seven innings at Texas last week.

With a preposterous level of futility in the early innings, the Padres left themselves vulnerable to a comeback.

They had runners at the corners with no outs in the first inning but didn't score. They loaded the bases with no outs in the third inning and didn't score.

In the first, Jankowski stole second but failed to go to third on an overthrow that bounced into center field because he stumbled getting up after his slide. He went to third on the next pitch, but ended up stranded there when Manuel Margot was caught stealing and [Eric Hosmer](#) and [Wil Myers](#) struck out.

A Jankowski single followed a lead-off walk by [Freddy Galvis](#) and a single by Austin Hedges in the third. With the bases loaded, Margot bounced a ball back to pitcher Chris Bassitt, who threw home for the force. Hosmer followed with a grounder to first baseman [Matt Olson](#), who also threw home for an out. Myers struck out for the second time.

In between those fruitless forays, Spangenberg was doubled off first base to end the second inning, having gone too far on Jose Pirela's soft liner directly at Olson.

"Tough one on the bases in the first inning," Green said. "Third inning, bases loaded at the top of the order. ... The game takes a different tone if you score there."

The Padres went up 2-0 in the fifth when Jankowski singled for the third time and went to third base on a single by Margot. Hosmer's ground out to first base scored Jankowski, and Myers followed with a double to bring home Margot.

Myers would have one of the Padres' two hits in nine at-bats with runners in scoring position.

They have been so bad of late that they actually raised their team batting average during the 15-game span by three points and their average with runners in scoring position by a point on Tuesday.

"We did enough offensively to win," Richard said. "We did enough defensively to win. I did not do enough on the mound for us to win."

Padres notes: Villa's defense; Hand, Yates out; Margot's base blunders

Kevin Acee

Christian Villanueva started four of the Padres' five double plays on Tuesday, including one in the third inning in which he backhanded a bounce on a short-hop, stepped on third base and threw across the diamond to first to help Clayton Richard out a bases-loaded jam.

The night continued a defensive renaissance of sorts for the rookie third baseman – one that actually began at shortstop.

Coaches noticed Villanueva played more nimbly and quicker when he filled in late in games for Freddy Galvis, which Villanueva did twice late in May and again in the middle of June.

Anyone who watched much of the season's first half noticed that wasn't the case when Villanueva played his usual position.

Villanueva and infield coach Josh Johnson got together and watched video, the coach showing the rookie how he played more upright at shortstop and how that put him in better position pre-pitch, which gave him a better jump on balls.

"The work at shortstop, it's all about first step," Villanueva said through interpreter David Longley. "My first step there, I get up taller. It helps me read the ball. I feel like I've got more range, more movement. More agility side to side. ... We looked at the difference between short and third. At third, I was hunched over. I've taken that, and now I've got the rhythm."

The adjustment began to manifest a few weeks ago – the footwork leading to more fluidity in his legs, leading to better work with the glove.

"It's been natural for him," manager Andy Green said. "His hands are really good. He's never really had a problem with his hands. Sometimes he just gets stuck. When you get stuck with your legs, you put yourself in bad position with your hands."

Villanueva has not made an error in his past 25 games. Moreover, he has made some impressive plays on which he's had to go to his knees and/or spear a ball backhanded down the line. And he has made the routine plays, which might be most impressive of all, considering he made 10 errors in his first 40 games.

No one is getting a gold glove ready yet, but there is no denying Villanueva has become a reliable third baseman.

“He has the ability to be one of the best third basemen in the game,” Johnson said. “I think he’s got a chance. You compare the actions of his hands. ... He definitely works. There have definitely been some plays he’s made that have surprised me, plays where his athleticism is put to the test and he finishes the play. Villa is going to be all right.”

Down in the pen

Clayton Richard has earned the right to try to get himself out of trouble.

But Green also acknowledged he stayed with his veteran starting pitcher throughout a five-run fifth inning because he was down two important relievers.

Set-up man Kirby Yates is on paternity leave, and closer Brad Hand was in Iowa attending the memorial service for his grandmother, who passed away on June 23.

“With both of those guys out, you’re definitely looking to push your starter further,” Green said.

Hand was due to fly to Oakland on Tuesday night. Yates is expected to join the Padres in Arizona.

Tuesday was Richard’s 11th straight start in which he went at least six innings, the second-longest active streak in the majors.

Off and running?

[Manuel Margot](#) was caught attempting to steal second base with one out and a runner on third in the first inning. He has stolen six bases and has been caught seven times this season, a number of those coming when he’s run in questionable situations.

“We want to see Manny learn on the bases, and the only way Manny is going to learn on the bases is to turn him loose at times on the bases and let him make decisions at first base when he can run and can’t run,” Green said.

Margot is one of the faster runners in the majors, and the Padres believe he can be an elite base stealer. The problem Tuesday, according to Green, wasn’t with the situation but the timing.

“If he gets the time he wants, gets the break he wants, we want to turn him loose in those situations,” Green said. “He ran on more of a slide step (by the pitcher) on that pitch. He’s going to get better at that. I have all the confidence in the world he’s going to get better. It’s time to continue to improve at that.”

Extra bases

- [Hunter Renfroe](#), who has 11 hits (four doubles, two home runs) in his past 30 at-bats, did not play Tuesday after emerging from Sunday’s game with a sore hamstring. Green said Renfroe “is going to be good to go” Wednesday, but he wanted to give him an extra day to rest.
- Travis Jankowski singled in his first three at-bats, finished 3-for-5 and is hitting .393 with a .469 on-base percentage over his past 10 games (33 plate appearances).

- Cory Spangenberg was 2-for-3 with a walk and is hitting .364/.391/.530 over his past 17 starts. He has a hit in 16 of those 17 games and two hits in eight games.

How the Padres found 'special' Dominican prospect in own backyard

Jeff Sanders

From **Adrian Morejon** (\$11 million) to **Jorge Ona** (\$7 million) to **Michel Baez** (\$3 million), some of the **Padres'** biggest fish have arrived under **Chris Kemp**'s tenure as international scouting director.

It's **Charlie Aquino**, a \$300,000 signee from this year's class, however, that might be his favorite.

"Yeah, it might be No. 1," Kemp said as he returned from the Padres' Dominican Republic Academy in Najayo, San Cristobal. "Just the way it all happened."

The story goes like this.

Last spring, Kemp and amateur scout **Jake Koenig** hung back in the Dominican Republic to continue working out with Cuban signee **Oswaldo Hernandez** while his paperwork got sorted out as the rest of the Padres' international prospects reported to camp.

They ran with him, trained with him, lifted with him.

In their down time, Kemp and Koenig resorted to what they do best.

"We just started scouting – hunting," Kemp said. "Just a couple gringos out scouting the local villages and the local trainers' games."

In Palenque, in the Padres' Dominican backyard, they came across a stringy, 6-foot-1 shortstop with a polished inside-out stroke.

Within five minutes of stumbling upon Aquino at a local buscon game, Kemp speaking with him on the field.

iHola!

¿Como estas?

¿De donde estas?

From that, Kemp began to learn that Aquino trained down the road from the Padres' Dominican facility, an area that produced **Franmil Reyes** and **Eguy Rosario**. He was related to **Henry**

Henry, a right-handed pitcher from the Padres' 2015 class. And he stood out on the field every time Kemp went back to watch.

"When you hit and you see a kid like Charlie bouncing around and you do a little homework," Kemp said, "'Oh, he's from here. Oh, he knows Henry. Oh, he trains here every morning.' You start piecing that together. It felt good."

So good that Kemp wanted his signing to stand out when the 2018-19 international signing window opened Monday.

Instead of trotting him and his family into their offices for "a basic" signing photo, Kemp brought the paperwork and a Padres jersey and hat to neighboring Palenque for a ceremony that included music and cake right on the field Aquino trained at.

The mayor turned out. So did firefighters, police officers, the village's children and local players.

It was an event that will stick with Kemp regardless of where Aquino winds up in the system.

"I love this kid," Kemp said. "He is a special person. Even if he doesn't make it to the big leagues he'll be around forever – a coach, a scout. I look at this guy as a brother and I wanted to do something special for him and to show respect for the town of Palenque."

In other international signing news, the Padres' still-growing 2018-19 class is up to nearly two dozen teenaged prospects, all of whom the Padres signed for \$300,000 or less during this last penalty year.

Two notables outside Aquino are Dominican shortstop **Euribel Angeles** (\$300,000) and Colombian right-hander **Francisco Lucumi**.

Angeles stood out during the tryout circuit because of "a fast bat" that produced two wood-bat home runs, as a 15-year-old, in a tryout game in front of General Manager **A.J. Preller** and special assistant **David Post**.

Lucumi, meanwhile, is a 6-foot-3, 180-pound "plus athlete" who was considered the No. 1 pitcher on Colombia's 15-and-under international team.

Morejon dealing with injury

Left-hander **Adrian Morejon** – ranked No. 6 in the organization and No. 42 overall – has been sidelined since the California League's All-Star break due to flexor soreness in his forearm.

The Padres have characterized the injury as a muscular issue and are exercising caution with the 19-year-old Cuban.

Morejon is expected to return before the end of the month.

Morejon is 4-4 with a 3.59 ERA, 66 strikeouts and a 1.25 WHIP in 57 2/3 innings at high Single-A Lake Elsinore.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (45-40)

- [Albuquerque 11, Chihuahuas 5](#): RHP **Colin Rea** (1-2, 6.00) struck out two and allowed six runs on nine hits and a walk in four innings. RHP **Phil Maton** (0.00) struck out three over two shutout innings, while LHP **Brad Wieck** (13.50) allowed four runs in 1/3 of an inning. CF **Forrestt Allday** (.255) doubled, hit his first homer and drove in two runs.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (6-6, 48-34)

- [Missions 7, Arkansas 6](#): LF **Josh Naylor** (.313) drove in three runs on two homers (12) and DH **Nick Schulz** (.061) drove in two runs on his first homer. 3B **Ty France** (.261) went 4-for-5 with a double and two runs scored. RHP **Lake Bachar** (1-4, 5.71) struck out seven and allowed two runs on five hits and a walk in five innings in relief in the win. RHP **Miguel Diaz** (2.40) allowed four runs – one earned – on five hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (4-9, 38-45)

- [Modesto 4, Storm 3 \(10\)](#): RHP **Michel Baez** (2.62) struck out seven and allowed two runs on seven hits and two walks in five innings in the start. 1B **Hudson Potts** (.259) went 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored and C **Luis Torrens** (.264) and RF **Nate Easley** (.249) each had two hits.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (9-4, 41-41)

- [TinCaps 2, Great Lakes 0](#): The Midwest League's ERA leader, LHP **Osvaldo Hernandez** (6-3, 2.00) struck out five and scattered six hits over six shutout innings. RHP **Austin Smith** (0.00) struck out two over two shutout innings and LHP **Travis Radke** (2.08) pitched a scoreless ninth for his 11th save.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (9-10)

- [Boise 7, Dust Devils 3](#): RHP **Henry Henry** (1-, 3.38) struck out eight and allowed five runs on seven hits and a walk in six innings in the loss. 2B **Luke Becker** (.200) went 2-for-4 with an RBI and **DH Mason House** (.171) went 1-for-2 with an RBI and two walks.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (15-12)

- [Blue Jays 8, Padres 6 \(11\)](#): RHP **Miguel Rondon** (1.73) struck out seven and allowed two runs – one earned – on four hits and no walks over six innings in the start. SS **Yeison Santana** (.244) went 3-for-5 with a triple, an RBI, a walk and a run scored. C **Brandon Valenzuela** (.262) went 1-for-5 with a double, two RBIs, a walk and a run scored.

Transactions

- RHP **Erik Johnson** was transferred from San Antonio to El Paso as RHP **Colten Brewer** was promoted to San Diego.
- RHP **Colby Blueberg** was transferred from Lake Elsinore to San Antonio.

Padres notes: Richard's efficient run; Hughes, Mitchell progress; slump numbers

Kevin Acee

The [Padres](#) have won just three of their past 14 games and were swept by the A's two weeks ago in San Diego.

They at least know [Clayton Richard](#) will give them a chance to win Tuesday.

The 34-year-old left-hander has gone at least six innings in 10 straight starts, the second-longest active streak in the majors behind [Max Scherzer](#)'s 16 straight. Richard has a 3.25 ERA in that span, having allowed three or fewer runs in eight of the 10 starts. He is 6-3, and the Padres have won seven of the 10.

Beyond that, having rookies Eric Lauer and Joey Lucchesi on short leashes and a couple injuries to starters have required much manipulation of the staff. Richard has been a big reason the Padres have been able to survive without making even more roster moves.

"Clayton has been huge for us," manager Andy Green said. "With the way our rotation has been set up – with a couple young guys and also times we just use a bullpen day – you need somebody to take down those innings. Clayton has been really good at doing it in an efficient and winning manner."

Richard, who went six innings just twice and had a 6.21 ERA in his first seven starts this season, underwent a [change in his delivery](#). The change has helped refine the command on which the sinkerballer relies.

But one word Green used explains as much as anything how Richard has thrown 69 1/3 innings over the past 10 games.

Efficiency.

His 14 pitches per inning in the 10-game stretch are second fewest in the majors behind the [Mariners](#)' (and Fallbrook High's) [Mike Leake](#)'s 13.9. Richard's 3.65 pitches per batter are also second, behind the [Royals](#)' Jason Hammel's 3.46.

"He's always been efficient," Green said. "He ran through a phase earlier in the season when he was adjusting his (arm) slot that he lost some of that efficiency."

Richard's strike rate is up from 60 percent in his first seven starts to 65 percent over the past 10. He is getting ground balls at a far higher rate (63.4 percent versus 51.6 percent). And while he is far from a strikeout pitcher, relying instead on getting weak contact, he is striking out 1.33 batters per inning versus 1.17 at the beginning of the season.

Pitchers progress

Tuesday afternoon was busier than even is normal for the Padres pitching coaches, as they watched two relievers trying to come back from injury.

First, pitching coach [Darren Balsley](#) and bullpen coach Doug Bochtler watched as [Phil Hughes](#) threw a simulated game at Oakland Coliseum, throwing about 25 pitches.

"That, I feel, is the final step in coming back," said Hughes, who is on the DL with a strained rhomboid, a muscle between the shoulder blades, which he injured on his second-to-last pitch in a two-inning outing on June 20.

"It was something I probably could have taken a few days and been OK," he said. "But to be on the safe side, it made sense to make sure I got it right and took those steps to come back."

Hughes has allowed 12 hits and six runs in 8 2/3 innings since he was acquired in a May 27 trade. He allowed seven of those hits and four of the runs in four mop-up innings over his two most recent appearances. He threw two hitless innings in his two appearances before that.

"I still feel like I'm making some positive steps," said Hughes, who had surgeries for thoracic outlet syndrome in 2016 and '17. "I'm anxious to get back and continue that."

Balsley and Bochtler later watched as Bryan Mitchell played long toss in the outfield. Mitchell then did dry work off the bullpen mound.

Mitchell expects to throw a live bullpen later this week. He said he had been dealing with the elbow impingement "for a while." The right-hander has allowed 15 runs in 16 1/3 innings since being demoted to the bullpen in early May. He was placed on the DL on June 20, 15 days after last pitching.

"I think I just needed a little rest," he said. "It's going along really good."

Extra bases

- The Padres are hitting .226/.289/.322 over their past 14 games. Those numbers rank 26th, 27th and 29th in [MLB](#) in that span (since June 16). They are averaging 2.8 runs per game (29th) in this stretch.
- They are 21-for-100 with runners in scoring position in the 14 games. The .210 average ranks 25th. In the 16 games that preceded this stretch, they were 39-for-118. The .331 average led the majors. Their record over the past 14 games: 3-11; Over the previous 16 games: 11-5.
- As the Padres have slumped, [Hunter Renfroe](#) (.340) and Cory Spangenberg (.325) are the only players with more than 40 plate appearances and an OBP above .288 over the 14-

game stretch. Renfroe (.522) and Manuel Margot (.438) are the only players with 35-plus at-bats and a slugging percentage above .389.

Luis Perdomo returns to Padres

Kevin Acee

Luis Perdomo is back with the Padres, set to fill in for Jordan Lyles and possibly show he belongs for good.

Perdomo spent the past 2½ months with Triple-A El Paso after beginning the season with a 8.36 ERA in four starts for the Padres.

The stay in the minors provided what the Padres hoped – a chance to refine his mechanics and his mentality away from the pressure and pace of the major leagues.

“I was able to have a bit more focus down there,” said Perdomo, who is with the team but will not be activated until Wednesday prior to his afternoon start in place of the injured Lyles. “... I didn’t really get mad about being sent down. I took it as a chance to work. I took it as an opportunity to get better. ... Everything was out of whack. I was leaving a lot of pitches in the middle. I wasn’t able to control or command my pitches. That’s what I worked on most.”

Perdomo, who missed two weeks dealing with a shoulder ailment while in El Paso, posted a 3.10 ERA in 11 starts for the Chihuahuas. He struck out 58 and walked 16 in 69 2/3 innings. He had 17 strikeouts and nine walks in 14 innings with the Padres.

After having the third-highest groundball rate in the majors last season (61.8 percent), that rate shrank to 38.8 percent this season. That wouldn’t even rank in the top 60 so far this season.

Perdomo’s groundball rate was at 55.6 percent for El Paso.

“He did a lot of really good things,” manager Andy Green said. “We don’t know how this opportunity is going to play out for him. He could be here for the rest of the baseball season. That’s highly possible. If he is, we all love that. We all believe in him. We believe what he’s got when he attacks the strike zone is very, very effective.”

This was Perdomo’s first time in Triple-A and his first minor league stint since 2015.

Perdomo, signed out of the Dominican Republic by the Cardinals in 2010, was selected by the Rockies in the 2015 Rule 5 draft and subsequently traded to the Padres. Having never pitched above Single-A, he spent the next two seasons in the majors, amassing a 5.16 ERA in 64 games (49 starts).

A lively fastball and sinker made him effective. However, he had a tendency to lose focus within innings, allowing a poor start to slip away or a good start to turn bad.

The Padres charged the 25-year-old right-hander with being more precise and consistent, and he did well enough to make the rotation out of the spring.

But four starts in, he was allowing 2.50 walks and hits per inning before being optioned on April 19. In Triple-A, he had a 1.08 WHIP.

“It’s maintaining that focus up here,” Perdomo said, “It’s taking the little things I was doing down there and making sure I’m doing them every day.”

Lyles, who landed on the DL on June 24 with elbow inflammation, played catch again prior to Tuesday’s game against the A’s.

“We’ll judge how he feels today and then make a determination about when he moves on to pitching off a mound,” Green said. “It’s a day-to-day thing right now, with each step being plotted after his previous one.”

What the Padres do to make room for Perdomo could depend on how they are compelled to use their bullpen in Tuesday night’s game.

The team recalled right-handed reliever Colten Brewer from Triple-A on Tuesday to take the place of Kirby Yates, who was placed on paternity leave to be present at the birth of his second child

Tuesday’s move leaves the Padres without one of their high-leverage relievers.

Yates has not allowed a run in his past 14 innings.

“Any time you lose a guy like that for even a few days, it’s tough,” Green said. “But it’s for good reason. ... We’re excited, as the extended family. We’re happy he could be there.”

Brewer made his major league debut on April 12, allowing four runs in two-thirds of an inning against the Giants. The next day, he was optioned back to Triple-A, where he has a 4.50 ERA and 1.19 WHIP in 36 innings.

Padres' top pick hopes to follow dad's path

Ryan Weathers' father, David, pitched for 19 seasons in big leagues

By Katie Woo MLB.com

5:38 AMPDT

For San Diego Padres first-round pick Ryan Weathers, the journey to the big leagues started when he was just three years old.

Weathers, [the seventh overall pick](#) in the 2018 MLB Draft, is also the son of former big league reliever David Weathers, and Ryan spent nearly every day of his childhood at the ballpark with his dad.

"Every day I was sitting there, I was watching [my dad] play and do his thing," Ryan said.

David Weathers' Major League career spanned nearly two decades with nine teams, with his most notable accomplishment being winning a World Series championship with the New York Yankees in 1996. He recalled first bringing Ryan to games during his last season with the Mets in 2004, but David believes his five years in the Reds organization near the end of his career as the time that impacted Ryan the most.

"His mother has a teaching certificate, so she would home school him until the season was over," David said. "He got to go as much as he wanted. I do believe that's helped develop his mannerisms. He would sit in the cages and watch [Joey Votto](#) and [Brandon Phillips](#) for hours.

"He'd sit right next to our hitting coach. He'd sit and watch the whole ballgame. I think all of those things just led to him seeing this is how you go about your business if you want be the type of player in the league."

The observations have seemed to pay off, as the 17-year-old left-hander signed with the Padres on Sunday afternoon. [He was introduced](#) at Petco Park on Monday, with dad sitting proudly in the front row.

"Most dads wouldn't take their kids to the ballpark every day," Ryan said. "He sacrificed that. He let me hit, and he hit me groundballs every day, even on days where his arm was hanging down."

Ryan and David's relationship blossomed because of baseball, but it is rooted on the mutual love and respect they have for each other. David said that despite his lengthy list of big league experiences, he never told Ryan what to do, no matter the size of the situation. The decision to sign with San Diego over attending Vanderbilt was Ryan's to make, just like the pitches he threw and the game-time choices he made as a player.

"I've never called pitches for him," David said. "I wanted him to learn himself. I never went to him, but once he got beat up good enough when he was younger, he would say, 'Dad, what am I doing wrong?' Then we would fix it."

"We both have that level of respect for each other," Ryan said. "He's told me since Day 1 that at 17 years old, he always thought I was a better pitcher than him. Coming from a 19-year big

league veteran, that's a big deal for me. It's a big confidence booster when somebody tells you that."

Ryan posted a phenomenal senior year for Loretto High School in Tennessee -- the same high school David attended and now coaches for -- that notched him the honor of Gatorade's National High School Player of the Year. Ryan went 11-0 his senior season, allowing just one run over 76 innings and struck out 148 en route to leading his high school to the state title. He pitched nine shutout innings that game, but the storybook ending would fall just short, as Loretto would lose in 12 innings.

"That state championship, he's so much better at it than I am," David said with a laugh. "The other day in the car I said, 'Ryan, I think about that state championship every day.' He goes, 'Dad, let it go.'"

However, David made sure there was still a defining moment for the end of an era when he surprised his son at school with the Gatorade trophy.

"Since I've been 3 years old, I've wanted to do what my dad was doing," Ryan said. "To finally be able to start that and get going is a big deal for him and me. When he gave me that Gatorade trophy, that was a big deal for both of us, because finally all the fruits of us -- all the time we put in -- finally started to show out."

Now David and Ryan's story will turn to a new chapter, but David is ready for Ryan to shine on his own. For Ryan, it's bittersweet.

"It's been a lot of fun," he said. "It kind of sucks that our ride is over with him being my coach, but he's handing me over to some good coaches here in San Diego, and I look forward to getting started."

Ryan will report to San Diego's team complex in Peoria, Ariz., later in the week to start his own career in professional baseball. His biggest goal? To pitch in the World Series, just like his dad.

Padres can't cash in on chances in loss to A's
By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell
Jul. 3rd, 2018

OAKLAND -- For four innings Tuesday night, the Padres had chances to score and didn't. In the fifth inning, they scored twice, and had chances to tack on -- but didn't.

All those runs the Padres didn't score? They loomed large in a 6-2 loss in Oakland. The A's scored five times in the sixth inning, leaving the Padres to rue those opportunities -- a handful of which withered away out of their own doing.

Travis Jankowski stumbled around second base in the first, and was stranded at third. Manuel Margot was thrown out on a questionable steal attempt in the same inning.

In the second, Cory Spangenberg was doubled off on a line drive. In the fifth, Eric Hosmer was ruled out on an RBI grounder for stepping on the ankle of A's pitcher Chris Bassitt instead of the first-base bag.

"It was just a weird night," said Jankowski. "There was a lot of stuff going on on the bases."

It was equal parts bad luck and bad baserunning, and it took Bassitt off the hook. The Padres took the lead on Hosmer's groundout. Wil Myers' ensuing RBI double made it 2-0. But they probably should've been comfortably ahead when Clayton Richard took the hill for the sixth inning at Oakland Coliseum.

"The game takes on a different tone if you score [those runs]," said Padres manager Andy Green. "Clayton maybe doesn't try to be so fine. ... If it's a five-run game at that point, he's probably attacking more aggressively."

"He was completely in control of that baseball game for five innings," Green said. "Absolutely dominant, one of those that feels like he's going to go nine. The first four guys get on in the sixth and the game changes really quickly."

Richard ran his streak of six-inning starts to 11 games, but barely. He surrendered five walks, his most in a start since May 6, 2017, against the Dodgers. Two of the free passes came in the sixth as he loaded the bases with no one out.

Jed Lowrie unloaded them with a three-run double into the left-field corner. Two more runs scored in the frame, and Richard finished having allowed five runs on six hits with only two strikeouts.

"Just too many three-ball counts, and I put too many guys on with the walk," Richard said. "When you do that, especially when you're not striking guys out. It's usually a recipe for bad baseball on the pitching end."

That said, Richard was only truly on the ropes one time. The A's capitalized. The Padres never did.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Loaded no more: In the third inning, the Padres simply couldn't get the run across. They loaded the bases for the heart of their order. But Margot and Hosmer grounded into forceouts at the plate, before Myers went down swinging to end the threat.

Tiring Richard: Richard only threw 83 pitches, but he was clearly unraveling in the sixth. [Khris Davis](#) plated Lowrie with an RBI single, bringing [Matt Olson](#) to the plate. Meanwhile, right-hander [Adam Cimber](#) was loose in the bullpen. The lefty Olson was going to be Richard's final batter -- until Olson bounced into a double play. With the bases empty, Green stuck with Richard. That decision backfired. [Mark Canha](#) blasted an 0-2 fastball into the left-field seats, giving the A's a 5-2 lead.

MANNY ON THE RUN

No one questions the speed of Margot. But the Padres center fielder has yet to harness that elite tool and become a stolen-base threat. He's attempted 13 steals this season, and he's been thrown out on seven of them. That's the lowest success rate in the Majors among players with at least 10 attempts.

"He's going to get better than that," Green said. "We have all the confidence in the world he's going to get better at that. It's time to continue to improve."

Margot's first-inning caught-stealing was particularly costly. Jankowski -- who went 3-for-4 -- opened the frame with a single. He swiped second and could've gone to third but stumbled as he tried to get up. After a wild pitch and a Margot walk, the Padres had men on the corners and one out. Then Margot took off. He was out by a wide margin.

"We want to see Manny learn on the bases," Green said. "The only way Manny's going to learn on the bases is to turn him loose, at times, and let him make decisions at first base as to when he can run and when he can't run. That was the one aggressive mistake I saw on the bases today."

SHORT BULLPEN

The Padres were already without righty setup man [Kirby Yates](#), who was placed on paternity leave earlier in the day. After the game, Green revealed lefty closer [Brad Hand](#) was also absent as he attended to a personal family matter. Hand is expected back for Wednesday's game, and Yates should rejoin the club Friday in Arizona.

Meanwhile, right-hander [Colten Brewer](#) pitched a scoreless eighth inning Tuesday night. Brewer was recalled Tuesday to take Yates' place. He's a candidate to be optioned back to Triple-A when the team recalls [Luis Perdomo](#) to start Wednesday.

SOUND SMART

In their last 20 series openers, the Padres are 1-19. Green has downplayed the significance of that stat, but it's still one of the more perplexing numbers surrounding the Padres this season.

HE SAID IT

"When you lose, you get frustrated. That's what happened. We did enough offensively to win. We did enough defensively to win. I did not do enough on the mound to win." -- Richard, on showing his frustration in the sixth inning

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

The Padres finally broke through in the fifth when Hosmer bounced a slow chopper up the first-base line to score Jankowski. Olson looked home at first, but he wisely chose to flip to Bassitt instead. Bassitt dropped the ball -- and for good reason. Hosmer had stepped squarely on Bassitt's ankle instead of the bag.

Bassitt -- who sustained a large gash on his shin and was removed later in the inning -- picked up the baseball and tagged Hosmer. He was initially ruled safe, but a replay review overturned that call.

"Hoz just tried to get to the base, stepped on his ankle," Green said. "I could see immediately he didn't touch the base. I was hoping they didn't see it and hoping he got back to the base without a tag. When they went to tag him, I knew we were in trouble."

UP NEXT

The Padres plan to recall right-hander Perdomo on Wednesday to make his first start since April. Perdomo's season started poorly, and he was demoted to Triple-A after four outings. But he bounced back nicely and earned his way back to the big leagues with a 3.10 ERA in 11 starts for El Paso. Left-hander **Sean Manaea** starts opposite Perdomo with first pitch slated for 1:05 p.m. PT.

Padres to recall Perdomo for finale start vs. A's
By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell
Jul. 3rd, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- **Luis Perdomo** did everything asked of him at Triple-A El Paso. After being demoted in April, Perdomo posted a 3.10 ERA in 11 starts in the hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League.

His performance merited a callup. All he needed was an opportunity. That opportunity will come Wednesday afternoon in Oakland.

The Padres will recall Perdomo to start against the A's on Wednesday in the rotation place left vacant by **Jordan Lyles** (elbow inflammation). Lyles has been out since June 23, but the Padres used two off-days to skip his turn in the rotation last time through.

Perdomo's season got off to a dreadful start with the big league club. He posted an 8.36 ERA in four Major League starts, allowing 26 hits in 14 innings. The 25-year-old ground-ball specialist was allowing far too much hard contact and far too many line drives.

"My mechanics, more than anything, everything was out of whack," Perdomo said. "I was leaving a lot of pitches in the middle. I wasn't able to control or command my pitches, and that's what I worked on most."

Perdomo, who arrived in Oakland on Tuesday, appears to have solved some of those issues. He missed a couple starts due to shoulder soreness, but has been strong since he returned.

"I didn't really get mad about the send-down," Perdomo said. "I took it as a chance to work. I went down there and kept doing what I need to do and took it as an opportunity to get better, and that's why I'm here."

A former Rule 5 Draft selection, Perdomo had never pitched in a Minor League game higher than Class A until this season. As a rookie in 2016, he impressed after being given a starting role in the second half.

Perdomo won a rotation spot the following spring, but he never built on that early success. He'll get another chance on Wednesday afternoon, and if he runs with it, his stay could be a prolonged one.

"We don't know how this opportunity is going to play out for him," said Padres manager Andy Green. "He could very well be here for the rest of the baseball season. That's highly possible for him. If he is, we all love that. We all believe in him. He's a guy who, when he attacks the strike zone, is very, very effective."

Yates to paternity list

Right-hander **Kirby Yates** was placed on the paternity list Tuesday, and the Padres recalled right-hander **Colten Brewer** in his place.

Brewer has posted a 4.50 ERA in 27 appearances for El Paso this season. In one big league outing, he allowed four runs in two-thirds of an inning against the Giants in April.

Yates is expected to return Friday in Arizona. Until then, his presence will be sorely missed. The 31-year-old setup man is an All-Star candidate and has posted a 0.79 ERA in 34 innings this season.

Padres sign 16 internationally

The Padres are still under penalty for their 2016-17 international spending spree, meaning they can't spend more than \$300,000 on any individual free agent. But they were busy, nonetheless, when the signing period opened Monday.

According to MLB.com's Jesse Sanchez, the Padres inked 16 players -- nine from the Dominican Republic, six from Venezuela and one from Colombia.

For the complete list and further updates on the newly opened 2018-19 signing period, you can [follow along here](#).

Renfroe, Myers, Hosmer beginning to click
Yates making strong case for All-Star berth
By Bill Center San Diego Padres
Jul. 3rd, 2018

During Spring Training, the Padres had hopes of [Hunter Renfroe](#) developing into a bat to complement [Eric Hosmer](#) and [Wil Myers](#).

Two trips to the disabled list by Myers -- with the second lasting 49 games with an oblique strain -- injured the Padres' offense. But very recently, it appears the Padres are developing three threats in their lineup.

Renfroe is hitting .400 (12-for-30) over his past eight games with four doubles, two homers, four RBIs and three runs scored. He has also drawn two walks for a .438 on-base percentage and a .733 slugging percentage for a 1.171 OPS since June 23.

Myers is 7-for-21 (.333) in his last five games since June 26 with two doubles and a home run with four RBIs and four runs scored.

Hosmer is 6-for-20 (.300) over his last five games.

NOTEBOOK

- RHP [Kirby Yates](#) has not allowed a run over his last 12 outings, with his ERA falling to 0.79 from 1.35. During the run, Yates has given up six hits and three walks while striking out 20 in 14 innings. In addition to a 0.00 ERA, that's a 0.64 WHIP and 12.9 strikeouts per nine innings. Kirby has allowed a single run in just three of his 34 appearances this season.
- C [A.J. Ellis](#) is riding a 13-game on-base streak. He has gone 12-for-36 (.333) during the streak with nine walks for a .467 on-base percentage. He has two doubles, a home run, nine RBIs and six runs scored during the streak.
- LHP [Joey Lucchesi](#)'s win Saturday night was his first since April 28. In his last two starts, Lucchesi has allowed no runs on two hits and six walks with nine strikeouts over nine innings to lower his ERA to 3.26.
- There's been a little problem at the top of the order in the past week. CF [Manuel Margot](#) has one hit and one walk in his last 18 plate appearances. OF [Travis Jankowski](#) is 1-for-9 with two walks in his last four games.

Jed Lowrie's three-run double rallies A's past Padres 6-2

9:37 PM PT
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. -- [Jed Lowrie](#) loves the feeling of coming through with a clutch hit late to lift his team, and he just keeps showing a knack for it.

He is a big reason the A's are rarely out of games even when down by a couple of runs.

The Oakland second baseman delivered his 12th game-winning RBI after filling in beautifully at third base during [Matt Chapman](#)'s absence, hitting a three-run double in the decisive sixth to help rally the Athletics past the [San Diego Padres](#) 6-2 on Tuesday night.

If that's not enough to make Lowrie an All-Star for the first time in an 11-year career and at age 34, manager Bob Melvin might just throw his hands up in disbelief.

"It would be the icing on the cake. I feel like I've been close a couple times and haven't been there," Lowrie said. "So that would be something I would always be able to say."

[Mark Canha](#) added a solo homer in the sixth and [Chad Pinder](#) connected in the seventh. The A's finally got to San Diego starter [Clayton Richard](#) (7-8). Pinder walked to start the sixth as the first five hitters reached base. [Khris Davis](#) followed Lowrie's double with a run-scoring single before Canha's 11th home run, after a double play.

[Emilio Pagan](#) (2-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win in relief of A's starter [Chris Bassitt](#). Chapman went 0 for 3 in his return from the disabled list after missing 16 games with a recurring right hand injury that began bothering him during the offseason. He had played in 149 straight games before the DL stint.

[Wil Myers](#) hit a run-scoring double in the fifth right after [Eric Hosmer](#)'s RBI groundout got the Padres on the board.

Bassitt, who has just one win in five starts since being called up last month, escaped jams in the first and third innings as the Padres stranded five baserunners. The A's made a pair of forceouts at home in the third, including first baseman [Matt Olson](#)'s nifty throw after a backhanded stop. Myers' double chased Bassitt. He was tagged for two runs on seven hits in 4 2/3 innings, struck out six and walked three.

Richard allowed five runs and six hits, walked a season-high five batters over six innings and struck out two in his second straight defeat.

"Defense picked me up early in the game but that's the story of it was just too many three-ball counts and then put too many guys on with the walk," Richard said.

Oakland, which had its six-game winning streak snapped Sunday by Cleveland, won for the 13th time in 16 games despite grounding into five double plays.

"As much as any team I've ever had, at least at this point, there's no panic when we're down," the skipper said.

Leadoff hitter [Travis Jankowski](#) had three hits for San Diego, which will conclude the short two-game series Wednesday having played 23 of its last 28 away from Petco Park.

BIG MAC HONORED

Padres bench coach Mark McGwire, a former A's slugger who spent his first 11 1/2 big league seasons in the East Bay before being traded to the Cardinals in 1997, was honored before the game as part of Oakland's 50th anniversary season festivities in a ceremony at home plate with team President Dave Kaval. Big Mac received his green No. 25 commemorative A's jersey and the Bash Brother tipped his cap to the cheering crowd.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: RHP [Jordan Lyles](#), scratched in the bottom of the first inning June 23 just before his scheduled start and on the DL with inflammation in his pitching elbow, played catch with the relievers and depending how he felt afterward the Padres would decide when he is ready to throw off a mound. ... The Padres placed RHP [Kirby Yates](#) on the paternity list and recalled RHP Colten Brewer from Triple-A El Paso.

Athletics: RHP [Trevor Cahill](#), who has an impingement in his throwing elbow, pitched in the Arizona League and is likely to make another rehab appearance Sunday or Monday before potentially joining the A's in Houston early next week. ... RHP [Daniel Mengden](#) (sprained right foot) threw a bullpen session and if all was OK by Wednesday the A's planned to send him to Triple-A Nashville for a rehab assignment. ... Oakland optioned INF [Franklin Barreto](#) to Nashville to clear roster room for Chapman's return.

UP NEXT

Padres: RHP Luis Perdomo (1-2, 8.36 ERA), a taxi squad player, will be called up Wednesday to make his fifth start of 2018.

Athletics: LHP [Sean Manaea](#) (8-6, 3.38) is coming off a masterful June during which he went 3-0 with a 2.84 ERA in five starts.

#PadresOnDeck: Tatis Jr. Hits Third Homer in Three Games; Eguy Rosario Homers Twice; Olivares Has Three Hits, Three RBIs

By Bill Center

[Top Padres' prospect Fernando Tatis Jr.](#) hit his 15th homer and stole his 14th base for Double-A San Antonio Monday night.

Tatis, rated the [third-best prospect in the minor leagues by MLB Pipeline](#), was 1-for-4 with three RBIs. The 19-year-old also drew a walk. He is hitting .284.

Tatis was not the only hitter homering in the Padres system Monday.

— Second baseman **Eguy Rosario** (.257) had two homers in five at-bats for five RBIs for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore.

— Third baseman **Diego Goris** (.270) was 3-for-4 with a homer, three RBIs and two runs scored for Triple-A El Paso.

Center fielder **Edward Olivares**, 22, the [Padres' No. 18 prospect](#), was 3-for-4 with two triples, a sacrifice fly, three RBIs and three runs scored for Lake Elsinore.

There were three notable pitching performances Monday:

— Right-hander **Chris Huffman** (3-4, 6.71 earned run average) allowed a run on four hits and a walk with five strikeouts in five innings for El Paso.

— Right-hander **Emmanuel Ramirez** (4-2, 4.93 ERA) allowed a run on four hits and a walk with two strikeouts for Lake Elsinore.

— Left-hander **Aaron Leasher** (5-3, 2.59 ERA) allowed a run on seven hits and a walk with five strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings for Single-A Fort Wayne.,

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (45–39): CHIHUAHUAS 6, Albuquerque 1—CF **Forrest Allday** (.245) was 2-for-4 with a hit-by-pitcher, two stolen bases and a run scored. 1B **Allen Craig** (.300) was 2-for-4 with a double, a hit-by-pitcher, two RBIs and a run scored. 2B **Luis Urías** (.274) was 1-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. C **Raffy Lopez** (.281) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. SS **Javy Guerra** (.195) was 1-for-4. RHP **Jonathan Aro** (4.15 ERA) followed Huffman and allowed a walk with two strikeouts in two otherwise scoreless innings. LHP **Kyle McGrath** (3.03) allowed a hit in two scoreless innings.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (5–6, 47–34): ARKANSAS 8, Missions 3—DH **Matthew Batten** (.340) backed Tatis Jr., going 2-for-4 with a run scored. LF **Josh Naylor** (.311) was 1-for-4 with a walk. 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.261) was 1-for-4. Starting RHP **Cal Quantrill** (6–4, 4.52 ERA) allowed eight runs (four earned) on eight hits and two walks with six strikeouts in four innings. RHP **T.J. Weir** (3.60) allowed two hits with two strikeouts in two scoreless innings. RHP **Andres Munoz** (0.00) issued a walk with a strikeout in a hitless, scoreless inning. RHP **Eric Yardley** (3.22) allowed a hit in a scoreless inning.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (4–8, 38–44): Storm 10, MODESTO 5—RHP **Ron Capps** followed Ramirez and allowed a run on a hit and a walk with a strikeout in his debut with the Storm. RHP **Dauris Valdez** (5.01 ERA) allowed two runs (one earned) on three hits with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (2.20) allowed a run on a hit and two walks with a strikeout in an inning. LF **Buddy Reed** (.328) backed **Eguy Rosario** and Olivares, going 2-for-5 with a RBI. SS **Chris Baker** (.214) was 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. RF **Nate Easley** (.241) was 1-for-3 with a walk, a RBI and two runs scored. C **Luis Torrens** (.261) had a double and a run scored in four at-bats. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.242) was 1-for-4.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (8–4, 40–41): TinCaps 11, GREAT LAKES 3—RHP **Caleb Boushley** (2.51 ERA) allowed a run on hits with four strikeouts in two innings. RHP **Evan Miller** (1.73) allowed a run on three hits and a walk with a strikeout in 1 2/3 innings. LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.352) was 3-for-5 with a double, a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. DH **Juan Fernandez** (.237) was 3-for-5 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. C **Luis Campusano** (.289) was 2-for-6 with two RBIs and two runs scored. 2B **Esteury Ruiz** (.250) was 2-for-5 with a double, two stolen bases, two RBIs and two runs scored. 1B **Jalen Washington** (.241) was 1-for-3 with a walk, a hit-by-pitcher and two runs scored. RF **Jack Suwinski** (.224) was 1-for-3 with two walks and two runs scored.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (9–9): Boise 4, DUST DEVILS 2—SS **Owen Miller** (.315) had a double in four at-bats with a run scored and a RBI. CF **Grant Little** (.375) was 1-for-4 with a double and a RBI. DH **Michael Curry** (.288) and RF **Aldemar Burgos** (.315) were both 1-for-4. 3B **Kelvin Alarcon** (.233) was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Starting RHP **Angel Acevedo** (1–1, 4.09 ERA) allowed four runs on five hits and two walks in five innings to suffer the loss. RHP **Korey Anderson** (0.00) allowed two hits and a walk with five strikeouts in 2 2/3 scoreless innings. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** (0.00) allowed a hit with three strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (15–11): Orioles 6, PADRES 5 (10 innings)—DH **Luis Paez** (.242) was 2-for-5 with a triple and two runs scored. C **Brandon**

Valenzuela (.266) was 2-for-4 with a walk and a RBI. 1B **Emmanuel Guerra** (.235) was 2-for-5 with a double, a triple and a RBI. RF **Cristian Heredia** (.234) was 2-for-5 with a double, a RBI and a run scored. Starting RHP **Eudi Asencio** (6.41 ERA) allowed four runs on four hits and a walk with five strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings.

ARIZONA ROOKIE PADRES:

PADRES-1 (5-7): DODGERS 6, Padres 5—Rehabbing SS **Ruddy Giron** (.409) was 3-for-5 with a RBI and two runs scored. RF **Agustin Ruiz** (.234) had two doubles in four at-bats with two RBIs. 1B **Greg Lambert** (.400) was 2-for-5. 2B **Lee Solomon** (.231) was 1-for-3 with a double, two walks and two runs scored. Starting RHP **Jean Cosme** allowed three runs on four hits in an inning to take the loss in his 2018 debut. LHP **Omar Fernandez** (3.12) allowed a hit with two strikeouts in two scoreless innings.

PADRES-2 (6-6): PADRES 10, Giants 3—2B **Jordy Barley** (.167) was 2-for-3 and was hit twice by a pitch with two runs scored. SS **Tucupita Marcano** (.381) was 2-for-4 with a triple, a sacrifice fly, three RBIs and a run scored. DH **Elvis Sabala** (.304) had a double in three at-bats with a sacrifice fly and three RBIs. C **Alison Quintero** (.333) was 2-for-4 with a walk and two runs scored. 3B **Jonny Homza** (.243) was 1-for-4 with a walk. OF **Yordi Francisco** (.333) was 1-for-3 with two walks. Starting LHP **Joey Cantillo** (0.00 ERA) allowed four hits with four strikeouts in 4 1/3 scoreless innings. RHP **Jeferson Garcia** (6.30) allowed three runs (two earned) on four hits and a walk with four strikeouts in four innings.

Andy's Address, 7/3

Andy Addresses Perdomo's return, Yates paternity leave, offensive strategy in power failure

By Bill Center

Needing to find a starting pitcher for the afternoon game at Oakland on July 4, the Padres will recall right-hander **Luis Perdomo**, 25, from Triple-A El Paso.

Perdomo was 6–2 with a 3.10 earned run average in 11 starts for the Chihuahuas. He allowed 59 hits and 16 walks with 58 strikeouts in 69 2/3 innings. He was 1–2 with a 8.36 ERA with the Padres before being optioned to El Paso on April 19.

“We feel good about some of the things he’s done since he’s been down there,” Padres manager **Andy Green** said before Tuesday night’s 6–2 loss to the A’s. “We needed to bring a starter back at this point in time. It’s a long stretch of 12 games and **Jordan (Lyles)** is not ready to go yet.”

“So Perdomo is our guy. We’re excited to have him back. He’s going to continue to sink the baseball like he has before. He’s been exploring some different quadrants of the zone more than he did before. We’re excited to have him back. He’s gone down and worked really hard. Those are good numbers for the Pacific Coast League. He’s worked really hard down there.”

“We don’t know how this opportunity is going to play out for him. He did a lot of really good things in El Paso. He could very well be here the rest of the baseball season. It’s highly possible. And if he is, we all love that. We believe in him. We believe in what he’s got when he attacks the strike zone is very, very effective. He’s worked very hard on his secondary, too.”

Meanwhile, Lyles, who threw Tuesday, remains day-to-day according to Green. “I haven’t heard how his catch went today,” said Green. “We’ll judge how he feels today and make a determination as to when he moves on to pitch off the mound. Each step is plotted after the previous one.”

The Padres did make a bullpen move Tuesday, placing right-hander **Kirby Yates** on paternity leave and recalling right-hander **Colten Brewer** from El Paso.

“Yates been outstanding for us,” said Green. “He’s closed for us as times. He’s pitched pivotal innings for us all season long. He’s got a sub-one ERA and is punching out the world. Any time you lose a guy like that even for a few days, it’s tough. But it’s for a good reason. I know him and

his wife are excited about the new addition to their family. We're excited as part of his extended family."

Left-hander **Clayton Richard** took the loss Tuesday night, although he did extend his streak of completing at least six innings to an 11th straight game.

"Clayton has been huge for us," said Green. "With the way our rotation is set up with a couple of younger guys, then also times when we use a bullpen day, you need somebody to take down those innings. And Clayton has been really good at doing it and efficient in a winning manner. We needed every last one of the innings Clayton has given us."

Green then discussed the Padres drop in homers from a year ago and what that has meant to his club's offensive efforts.

"We've had guys who have been hurt who were going to be the source of our power," said Green. "It takes guys who have had injuries a little while to find it. **(Wil) Myers** was going to be one of our major power threats and we've missed him for the majority of the year. **Hunter Renfro** was going to be a big power threat for us and we lost him for a significant period of time."

"Neither one of those guys has really found their power groove. We thought **(Eric) Hosmer** would hit 20 home runs and I don't think he's far off that pace. The home runs we got from **Manuel Margot** last year haven't been there thus far this season. He's been hitting the ball harder over the last month, but he hasn't hit the ball out of the ballpark."

"**Christian Villanueva** picked up a lot of the slack early on . . . love the home run. It's been tougher for us to score this year. If you're driving the ball out of the ballpark you have a more efficient offense. I really liked the at-bats last game. I think we had five or six walks. We saw a ton of pitches and worked counts. I like that trend and I want to see it continue."

"If we hit a few balls out of the ballpark, I'd like that, too. We want guys to be aggressive in their zone. Selectivity doesn't mean letting good pitches go by. We want guys to be very aggressive in the strike zone. We want guys to drive pitches in the strike zone. Where you don't find power is on aggressive swings on pitches in the dirt and aggressive swings on pitches over your head. That's not where power is found. Sometimes the first pitch of an at-bat is going to be the best you get to hit. We don't want passivity. We want guys driving their pitch."

"Getting to the bullpen used to be the conventional wisdom. There's not a hunger to get to middle relief guys anymore. They're not soft anymore, they're really good. A decade ago, there were 85–89 mph guys throwing in the middle relief roles. That's 95 to 99 now. You're not hungry to get there. So if the starter is giving you pitches to hit, be aggressive on the pitch. What you don't want to do is chase him on the periphery of the zone and outside the zone."

Padres look to slow down Lowrie, A's

STATS Jul 4, 2018 at 3:01a ET

OAKLAND, Calif. — The [San Diego Padres](#) will attempt to cool down [Jed Lowrie](#) and the [Oakland Athletics](#) with a pitcher being promoted from the minor leagues when the clubs complete a two-game interleague series Wednesday afternoon.

Right-hander [Luis Perdomo](#) (1-2, 8.36 ERA), who has pitched well at Triple-A El Paso after a disastrous April for the Padres, is expected to be added to the 25-man major-league roster in time to duel A's left-hander [Sean Manaea](#) (8-6, 3.38).

Oakland improved to 3-0 in its head-to-head meetings with San Diego this season with a come-from-behind, 6-2 victory Tuesday night in the series opener.

Lowrie had the big blow of the game, a three-run double as part of a five-run sixth inning that allowed the A's to turn a 2-0 deficit into a 5-2 lead.

The big hit came in Lowrie's return to his natural position, second base, after he had made 14 starts at third base while [Matt Chapman](#) was out with a hand injury.

Chapman was reinstated from the disabled list Tuesday and went 0-for-3.

A's manager Bob Melvin pushed Lowrie for the American League All-Star team even before Tuesday's heroics, hoping his time at third base caught the eye of those who will be selecting the club's reserves.

"In those games, you never know where they go, and versatility could play a part," Melvin said. "So I think the fact he played so well at third base might even increase his chances to make the All-Star team."

Lowrie is tied for third in the American League in RBIs with 59 and tied for sixth in doubles with 25.

He had three hits, including two home runs, and four RBIs when the A's swept a pair from the Padres in San Diego last month.

The A's have been on a roll since, winning 13 of their last 16 games to improve to a season-best-tying eight games over .500 (47-39).

Tuesday's victory raised their interleague record to 6-2 this season.

Perdomo has faced neither Lowrie nor the A's in his three-year career.

An eight-game winner in 2017, he began the season in the majors, but couldn't get into the fifth inning in three of his four April starts before being sent to Triple A.

The 25-year-old seemed to regain his form there, going 6-2 with a 3.10 ERA in 11 starts, earning another shot at the bigs.

Perdomo has pitched in nine interleague games (eight starts) and compiled a 4-2 record and 5.63 ERA.

Manaea, meanwhile, is coming off a brilliant June at the big-league level, going 3-0 with a 2.84 ERA in five starts.

He won each of his last three starts to finish the month as one of four American Leaguers to go 3-0, joining Toronto's [J.A. Happ](#), Baltimore's [Dylan Bundy](#) and Cleveland's [Shane Bieber](#).

Manaea has never faced the Padres, but does have nine starts of interleague experience, having gone 2-5 with a 4.47 ERA.