



Padres Press Clips

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

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Padres keep rolling with rout of Braves

Kevin Acee

Andy Green wanted no part of talking before or after Monday's game about the [Padres](#) being tested or measured or in any way assessed by how they played against a good team now that they had beaten a couple bad teams.

Nonetheless, having proved last week that they were better than the two worst teams in the [National League](#), the Padres went out and clobbered the team with the NL's second-best record.

With solo home runs in four different innings and one inning in which they scored seven runs on four doubles, a triple and a single, they beat the [Atlanta Braves](#) 11-4.

"For me, it's another baseball game," Green said after one of his team's biggest offensive outputs of the season. "Any team in this league can beat you, and you can step up and beat any team. If you keep approaching them that way, you don't get too up or too down, too high or too low, you end up playing good baseball. Our guys did that today. They've been doing that over the last week-and-a-half or two weeks. That's all we're looking for right now."

The Padres are 6-2 on this homestand, having won three of four from the [Marlins](#) and two of three from the [Reds](#) before the [NL East](#)-leading Braves arrived at Petco Park for a three-game series.

They are closer to .500 than they have been since being 9-15 on April 23.

And with the first-place [Diamondbacks](#) losing Monday, the Padres (28-34) are just 4½ games out in the [NL West](#). The last time they were this close to the top of the division was this late in a season was June 23, 2015.

This surge may just be a temporary diversion in a season the Padres all along have fully expected to be mostly about discovering which of their current players merit being around when the organization expects to be good in a couple years.

"It's (about) going out, playing good baseball and trying to improve," Green said prior to the game. "... I try to focus on us growing and coming together as a team."

There is no denying, however, the team that talked a lot about just grinding in the season's first several weeks finds itself suddenly playing on a different level more often than not.

"We feel like we were tested early," [Eric Hosmer](#) said. "We had a pretty good schedule early on, playing a lot of teams that (led) divisions and were playing good baseball at the time. We felt like we held our own at that point. We just felt like we had to continue to do what we were doing, and it's starting to show, especially in this homestand."

The games against the Reds (21-39) and Marlins (20-39) were just the fourth and fifth series the Padres have played against teams that currently have losing records. Altogether, even with the Miami and Cincinnati millstones mixed in, the Padres' opponents are 10 games above .500.

Two things that have changed for the Padres – better starting pitching and more players contributing on offense – were on clear display Monday.

[Clayton Richard](#) (4-6) pitched through the seventh inning for the fifth time in six starts. His six hits and three runs allowed in seven innings Monday accounted for the 10th quality start by a Padres pitcher in the past 22 games. In that span, the Padres are 14-8, and their starting pitchers are 9-4.

The Padres were 14-26 in the season's first 40 games, as the rotation combined for just 11 quality starts and an 8-20 record.

As for offense, the Padres on Monday got home runs from four different players for the first time this season, and every starting position player had at least one hit for the second time this season.

"There's some power throughout the lineup right now," Green said. "... We're getting contributions up and down the lineup. It's not just constrained to a few guys right now."

Green won't be sucked into any talk of where his team is at or might be headed.

"It's (about) going out, playing good baseball and trying to improve," he said. "... I try to focus on us growing and coming together as a team."

Things continued to come together on the field for the Padres, who are 18-14 since May 1 after ending April at 10-20.

It came together quickly. And pretty much throughout the first six innings.

Hosmer, the Padres' second batter, crushed a fastball 433 feet to right-center to give the Padres a 1-0 lead.

Cory Spangenberg's homer to right made it 2-0 in the second inning.

The Braves (35-25) tied the game with two one-out singles and [Charlie Culberson](#)'s two-out double in the top of the fourth. They added another run in the sixth off Padres starter Clayton Richard (4-6), who went seven innings for the fifth time in his past six starts.

It didn't even come close to mattering that [Phil Hughes](#) allowed a run on three hits before recording his first out in the ninth inning.

The result was by that point a foregone conclusion.

Raffy Lopez's home run leading off the bottom of the fourth gave the Padres a lead they never surrendered. And a six-hit, two-walk, 11-batter, seven-run fifth inning chased Braves starter [Julio Teheran](#) (4-4) and the reliever (Luiz Gohara) who replaced him.

It was the Padres' biggest inning of the season. And when Franmil Reyes homered to lead off the sixth, they had tied their season high for home runs set 10 days earlier.

What does it mean? It means some things are working. At least for now.

"We're sticking with the process, trusting what we've been doing is going to pay off," Richard said. "It's a group of very hard-working individuals, and collectively it's starting to show. We're excited to come to the field every day, and its starting to show."

"(The Braves) are a really good team. They've proven that through the first two months of the season. So it's good to get out and jump on a team like that in the first game."

Day 1 draft tracker: Padres take Weathers, Edwards, Little

Jeff Sanders

The [Padres](#) concluded Day 1 of the draft by selecting [Texas Tech](#) outfielder **Grant Little** No. 74 overall, the pick acquired in the Phil Hughes trade.

The suggested slot value is \$812,000.

Little has paired 12 homers with 70 RBIs and a .380/.481/.676 batting line through 58 games at Texas Tech

In Monday's post-draft recap, Padres General Manager **A.J. Preller** offered this take on where Little ultimately ends up on the baseball diamond:

"Our scouts like the fact that he has played shortstop. He played high school basketball. He's an athlete. I think we've talked about, 'Could he play center field? Could he play left field?' That's what we're going to see here in pro baseball. He's a guy who's very versatile, he's athletic, he's got some twitch and some athleticism to him. He's made some tremendous catches in left field, some diving catches that have been on SportsCenter. From our standpoint, my guess is we'll start playing him in the outfield and we'll take a look at the infield as well and see what factors in for us.

MLB.com ranked Little the No. 128 prospect in the draft.

Here's that scouting report.

- "Left-hander Steven Gingery and right-hander Davis Martin were supposed to be the prime prospects at Texas Tech this year, but it's possible Little could go ahead of both of them unless his signability as a sophomore-eligible becomes an issue. Gingery had Tommy John surgery and Martin has been inconsistent, while Little has improved upon a strong freshman season. A team that believes Little can handle a more challenging position than left field could pop him in the third round. With Little's simple approach and advanced feel for hitting, he makes consistent hard contact to all fields from the right side of the plate. He has significantly increased his power output as a sophomore and has enough strength and bat speed to provide 30 doubles and 15 homers per season as a pro. He

manages the strike zone well and has solid speed on the basepaths. Little has spent most of his college career in left field because the Red Raiders have a superior defender in Cody Farhat in center. Some scouts think Little has the quickness to play center and would give him the chance to do so at the next level. Texas Tech tried him at shortstop in fall ball, and while his below-average arm wasn't a good fit there, he intrigues some evaluators as a possible second baseman.”

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PICK 38

Apparently, you can never have enough shortstops in a system.

With their second pick of the day (No. 38), the Padres drafted high school shortstop **Xavier Edwards** out of North Broward (Fla.) prep, their second Vanderbilt recruit of the day.

MLB.com ranked Edwards 28th in the draft class. MLB Network analyst **Dan O’Dowd** threw out a **Jimmy Rollins** comp after the pick was announced.

Preller offered this assessment:

“From our standpoint, it’s hard to find leadoff hitters. It’s hard to find guys that can make things happen at the top of the order, swing the bat, control the strike zone. He’s a guy that we had as one of the more advanced high school bats in terms of plate discipline, seeing pitches, doing the things you want to see from good leadoff hitters. For us, he’s an infielder. He’s a shortstop, he’ll go out and play shortstop. Like a lot of our young infielders, he’ll move around the infield a little bit in rookie ball, get a taste for left side and right side. But we see him as a middle infield, top of the order guy that’s got a dynamic skill set.”

Here are two scouting reports on a switch-hitting shortstop joining an organization already stocked with **Fernando Tatis Jr.**, **Gabriel Arias** and **Jordy Barley**, among others.

MLB.com

- “The home run ball returned with a vengeance in Major League Baseball in 2017, but that doesn't mean teams aren't still in need of the table-setters to get on base and run in front of the slugging run producers. When a hitter like Edwards also plays up the middle defensively, teams are definitely going to sit up and pay attention. While he is a bit undersized at 5-foot-10, Edwards' performance over the summer and into his senior season had many evaluators looking past that. His speed is his best tool, an easy plus that allows him to get down the line in a hurry from both sides of the plate and be a basestealing threat. He has a contact-oriented approach and uses all fields well, and while he's not likely to be a home run threat, he could grow into his frame for more extra-base pop with an Eric Young type of build. He has excellent actions and footwork at shortstop and has shown he has enough arm to stay on the left side of the infield. Assuming teams can look past his size, the one other hurdle might be his commitment to Vanderbilt. Edwards is a good student whose parents are educators, so he'll have to go early enough to bypass college, a distinct possibility.”

Baseball America

- “Pound for pound, Edwards might be the most skilled player in the class. The problem is that he's just 5-foot-10 and 155 pounds. A twitchy, switch-hitting infielder, Edwards possesses some of the quickest hands and footwork in the class, turning the double play from shortstop and second base with aplomb. A true, top of the scale runner, Edwards has more than enough range to handle shortstop, but scouts are mixed on whether he has the arm strength to stick at the position, with grades ranging from fringe-average to average. He makes the most of what he has, taking good angles on balls, cutting down ground and using his advanced footwork to put him in ideal throwing positions. He has the athleticism and instincts to make throws from multiple angles and a quick exchange. His speed also plays well on the bases, where he is an aggressive runner. He's been clocked regularly in the 3.9-second range from the lefthanded batter's box to first base--good enough for an 80-grade time--and his hand-eye coordination and quick, simple swing gives him great barrel control. He has good feel to hit from both sides of the plate and should hit for a high average when factoring in his speed, although his power is well below-average with little reason to project more. Power and size won't ever be in Edwards' favor, but he is a player who can impact the game on offense and

defense because of his speed and the chance to be an above-average defender at a premium position.”

The 38th pick is valued at \$1.88 million. The Padres will also pick 74th (\$812,200) before the conclusion of the first day of the draft.

The Padres drafted prep left-hander **Ryan Weathers**, also a Vanderbilt recruit, in the first round. Read about him [here](#).

FIRST ROUND

Again, the Padres have plucked the first left-hander off draft boards.

With the seventh overall selection, the Padres have selected high school left-hander **Ryan Weathers** – son of former big league pitcher **David Weathers** – to add to one of the game’s best farm systems.

The 18-year-old Weathers is a 6-foot-2, 210-pound left-handed pitcher who was named the Gatorade Tennessee Baseball Player of the Year after his senior year at Loretto High School.

There, he went 10-0 with an 0.09 ERA, 148 strikeouts, 24 hits and 10 walks allowed in 76 innings. He also hit .434 with five homers, 26 RBIs and 14 steals.

Weathers – who is committed to Vanderbilt – led his high school team to a state championship as a junior and won a gold medal with Team USA at the 2017 U-18 World Cup in Canada.

Area scout **Tyler Stubblefield** made the recommendation.

The pick comes with a suggested slot value of \$5.23 million.

Left-hander **Mackenzie Gore** signed for \$6.7 million as last year’s No. 3 overall pick, a Padres record for a drafted player.

The top of the draft played out like this before the Padres selected Weathers seventh overall:

1. [Tigers](#) | RHP Casey Mize (Auburn)

2. Giants | C Joey Bart (Georgia Tech)
3. Phillies | 3B Alec Bohm (Wichita State)
4. White Sox | 2B Nick Madrigal (Oregon State)
5. [Reds](#) | 3B Jonathan India (Florida)
6. Mets | OF Jarred Kelenic (Waukesha West (Wis.))

The last time the Padres drafted seventh they selected left-hander [Max Fried](#) in 2012 (he was later traded to the Braves in the [Justin Upton](#) deal).

Here's two scouting reports:

MLB.com

- *Loretto (Tenn.) High produced Johnny Jones, the No. 5 overall pick in the 1967 Draft, and David Weathers, who pitched 19 years in the Majors. Weathers' son Ryan has the potential to be better than both of them as a lefty with the pitches and polish to work in the front half of a big league rotation. He set a Tennessee high school tournament record with 28 strikeouts last spring, including 12 in a shutout in the Class A championship game, and turned in two scoreless outings for Team USA as it won the 18-and-under World Cup in September. While Weathers lacks a true out pitch, he has three solid offerings and mixes them well. His fastball sits at 90-93 mph and tops out at 95, playing above its velocity with a high spin rate that gives it deceptive riding life. His upper-70s curveball usually features good depth and he possesses an advanced changeup for a teenager. Weathers has a sound delivery and repeats it well, throwing strikes with ease. He's a good athlete who does the little things well and could contribute as a two-way player at Vanderbilt if he doesn't turn pro. He gets his athleticism from both sides of his family, as his mother, Kelli Davis Weathers, was an All-America basketball player at Belmont."*

Baseball America

- *"The son of 19-year major league veteran David Weathers, Ryan is an advanced lefthanded pitcher out of Tennessee who offers a high floor for a prep arm. Weathers has three pitches that are at least average with a fastball, curveball and*

changeup. Scouts had to wait for a chance to see him this spring as Weathers is also a high-level basketball player and helped lead Lorretto High to its first ever state championship this season. When he did take the mound, Weathers pitched with a low-90s fastball that got up to 95 mph at its best with a curveball that appeared to be a tick better than it was last summer. Some scouts have put a 60-grade on the mid-70s breaking ball this spring after it was more 50-55 during the showcase circuit and with USA Baseball's 18U team. He can also turn to an average changeup when he needs it as well. Weathers spots all of his pitches effectively--some evaluators believe he can develop future plus command--and his fastball plays up with heavy sinking action as well. With major league bloodlines and a well-rounded arsenal, Weathers figures to be a middle of the first-round pick, though he'll need to maintain his body as he develops."

RECENT PADRES FIRST-ROUND HISTORY

- 2017 | No. 3, LHP MacKenzie Gore (Currently: Fort Wayne DL)
- 2016 | No. 8, RHP Cal Quantrill (Currently: Double-A rotation)
- 2016 | No. 24, SS Hudson Potts (Currently: Lake Elsinore third baseman)
- 2016 | No. 25, LHP Eric Lauer (Currently: San Diego rotation)
- 2015 | Did not have a first-round pick (James Shields)
- 2014 | No. 13, SS Trea Turner (Currently: [Nationals](#) shortstop; [Wil Myers](#) trade)
- 2013 | No. 13, OF Hunter Renfroe (Currently: San Diego bench)
- 2012 | No. 7, LHP Max Fried (Currently: Braves bullpen; Justin Upton trade)
- 2012 | No. 33, RHP [Zach Eflin](#) (Currently: [Phillies](#) rotation; Matt Kemp trade)
- 2012 | No. 44, OF Travis Jankowski (Currently: San Diego outfield)
- 2012 | No. 55, RHP [Walker Weickel](#) (Currently: [Rangers](#) system; released)
- 2011 | No. 10, 2B Cory Spangenberg (Currently: San Diego bench)
- 2011 | No. 25, RHP [Joe Ross](#) (Currently: [Nationals](#) disabled list; Wil Myers trade)
- 2011 | No. 48, RHP Michael Kelly (Currently: [Orioles](#) system; minor league free agent)
- 2011 | No. 54, C [Brett Austin](#) (Currently: [White Sox](#) system; did not sign)
- 2011 | No. 58, SS [Jace Peterson](#) (Currently: [Orioles](#) bench; Justin Upton trade)
- 2010 | No. 9, RHP Karsten Whitson (Currently: out of baseball; did not sign)
- 2009 | No. 3, OF Donovan Tate (Currently: out of baseball; minor league free agent)

- 2008 | No. 23, 1B Allan Dykstra (Currently: out of baseball; Eddie Kunz trade)
- 2008 | No. 42, OF Jaff Decker (Currently: Nationals system; Alex Dickerson trade)
- 2008 | No. 46, 3B Logan Forsythe (Currently: Dodgers infield; Jesse Hahn trade)

Padres notes: outfield ideally crowded; Margot balling; Hedges close

Kevin Acee

It appears that it is finally happening, though not quite like they thought just yet.

Even with [Wil Myers](#) and [Franchy Cordero](#) on the disabled list, though, the [Padres](#) outfield is actually becoming a place where playing time is at a premium and a rising tide might just lift all ships. (It might even cause one or more of them to be shipped off).

“We’re still not there where we’re overly crowded,” manager Andy Green said Monday afternoon. “... I’m excited about getting healthy, if we ever manage to get there. It (will be) a good problem to have.”

Myers, out since April 29 with muscle strains in his oblique and back, could be another month from returning. But Cordero (forearm strain) could rejoin the team as soon as later this week.

And even just that would create the traffic control challenge the Padres anticipated in [spring training](#).

The Padres have had at least one outfielder on the DL every day this season and have had two on the DL for all but 11 of their 62 games. Green on Monday against the Braves used his 20th different combination in the outfield – [Hunter Renfroe](#) in left field, [Travis Jankowski](#) in center and [Franmil Reyes](#) in right.

He looks forward to even more mixing and matching.

Green has talked since spring training about the luxury of resting players and being able to protect them against unfavorable match-ups, a benefit the Padres have not had in his tenure. That means not running Jankowski out against too many left-handers and perhaps giving Renfroe a day down against a tough righty.

“It’s not a problem for me,” Green said. “And it’s not a problem for all first-division clubs, because they’re all looking at players that deserve to be on the field more consistently than they are.”

At least of late, that can be said of the Padres outfield.

The team has been winning – and at least in part due to the production of its regular outfielders.

Entering Monday night's game:

- Travis Jankowski was batting .302 with a .368 on-base percentage since being called up on April 29.
- Hunter Renfroe had seven hits in 14 at-bats since being activated off the disabled list on May 28. That included his grand slam Sunday.
- [Manuel Margot](#) was batting .321 with a .457 on-base percentage since May 23.
- Franmil Reyes was batting .294/.351/.647 with four home runs over his past 10 games.

All of the Padres' outfielders have acknowledged at one time or another since the start of spring training the abundance of their members and that they know they need to perform not just to get playing time but to stay on the roster.

The recent returns indicate the competition might be helping.

"It does if it's a guy who really wants it," said Jankowski. "If it's a guy who wants to go out and fight his butt off, he's going to rise with it. ... If it's a guy who doesn't want to go through some tough times to get to better times, he might sink."

And if this group actually does continue to perform near its recent level and is eventually rejoined by Myers and Cordero, who also perform as expected, then something will have to be done about that.

"I look at it as if we're all playing well then I'm sure there are some outfielders on other teams that aren't playing well," Jankowski said. "So as much as we all love San Diego, all love the town, the fans, the team, if it's best for our careers to go to another team, that's what is best for our career. ... If San Diego is willing to give up a good outfielder, I'm sure they're getting something in return."

Margot balling

For all the tinkering Margot has done (and had done) with his swing and batting stance and approach at the plate, for the increasingly frequent line drives and base hits and extra-base hits, there is one thing that is beginning to happen that must continue.

“The walks are huge for Manny,” Green said. “To move back to the top of the order, which is where we envision him being in the long run, the walks are going to have to be a part of it. Plate discipline is going to have to be a part of it.”

Margot has walked seven times in his past 28 plate appearances, which span eight games. That rate (1-in-4) is a marked improvement over his anemic walker-per-11.5 plate appearances in his first 39 games (139 plate appearances).

He has raised his batting average nine points (to .213) and his on-base percentage 28 points (to .278) in that stretch. Not coincidentally, he has struck out just three times in those eight games. He was striking out once every 4.2 at-bats in his first 39 games.

Among Margot’s three walks in Sunday’s victory was an intentional pass. But he also earned a crucial base on balls in the fifth inning.

After getting up 3-0 on three fastballs low and away, Margot took a high fastball, swung and missed at a 97 mph fastball in about the same spot and then fouled off three more 97 mph fastballs near the letters before the ninth pitch from [Reds](#) pitcher [Luis Castillo](#)’s sailed high and inside.

“Those are ... very encouraging signs to see,” Green said. “He’s clearly seeing the ball well. He’s still battling, but he’s battling hard.”

Extra bases

- Christian Villanueva was not in Monday’s lineup a day after fouling a ball of his left ankle for the second time in four games. Green said Villanueva was available to pinch-hit.
- Catcher Austin Hedges, whose rehab assignment was shut down last week after he experienced pain in his right elbow, has worked more each day over the past several days and appears on track to resume his rehab stint later this week.
- Reliever Phil Maton will begin a rehab assignment with Single-A Lake Elsinore on Tuesday.

Padres notes: Richard chops Braves; Hosmer homers; Strahm set to start

Kevin Acee

The [Atlanta Braves](#) had in the previous nine games beaten [Chris Sale](#) and [Stephen Strasburg](#).

Moreover, they have spent much of this season feasting on left-handed pitchers – their .278 batting average and .345 on-base percentage against lefties ranking second in the majors and their .462 slugging percentage and 25 homers against lefties ranking third.

[Clayton Richard](#) went right after them – with a little help from his friends.

“It helps when you get a big lead,” Richard said after allowing three runs on six hits over seven innings in the [Padres’](#) 11-4 victory Monday night. “Even when a team is that dominant against lefties, the odds are they’re going to get out. So you make them put the ball in play. That’s what you have to do all the time but especially when the offense is as good as it was tonight.”

But even before the Padres scored seven runs in the fifth inning to spot Richard a 10-2 lead, he was challenging the Braves’ potent lineup with his sinker and slider.

“That’s the cool thing about Clayton,” catcher Raffy Lopez said. “He’s like, ‘Here’s my stuff. Hit it.’ He knows if he does that, that’s when he’s going to get the quick outs, the ground ball outs. He does a good job sticking with who he is.”

Richard got through the first inning in nine pitches, the second in 13 and the third in 17 before a two-run fourth got him off track.

He was at 65 pitches after the fifth inning but took just 44 more to get through his final three.

It was the fifth time in six starts he lasted at least seven innings and the sixth straight start in which he went at least six. In his first seven starts, Richard went six innings just twice and seven only on opening day.

The process of making a slight but significant mechanical change ([detailed here](#)) began in mid-April and manifested in the form of results beginning in mid-May.

In those past six starts, Richard is 3-2 with a 3.32 ERA, 0.92 WHIP and 4.9 strikeouts for every walk. Opposing batters are hitting .210 against him, and his average of 7 1/3 innings per start is best in the league in that stretch.

In his first seven starts, Richard went 1-4 with a 6.21 ERA, 1.73 WHIP and 1.6 strikeout-to-walk ratio. Batters hit .298 against him, and he averaged 5/13 innings per start.

“This is who he is,” manager Andy Green said of the 34-year-old Richard, who led the Padres with 197 1/3 innings last season. “We knew he was this guy. As the first month went, he was trying to find himself. It just took him a little time this year. He’s definitely found his groove now.”

Quality = victory

The quality start – at least six innings, no more than three earned runs allowed – is often discounted as a statistic.

But the Padres can attest to its value.

Their rotation has delivered 10 quality starts in the past 22 games, a span in which the Padres are 14-8. In the previous 40 games, the Padres had just 11 quality starts and were 14-26 as a team.

For the season, the Padres are 16-5 when they get a quality start.

Actually, the entirety of major league baseball demonstrates the importance of the quality start. All but one of the 16 teams with at least 25 quality starts has a winning overall record.

“Teams that do that, for the most part have success,” Richard said. “We’re focused on that as a staff – to get as deep as we can in games. A rested bullpen is usually a good bullpen.”

[Hosmer](#) homers

Eric Hosmer broke a 69 at-bat homer-less streak by sending the third pitch he saw in the first inning 433 feet to the party deck beyond the right-center field wall.

Hosmer, who went 50 at-bats at the start of the season before his first Padres home run, has a history of home runs in bunches and then none for several games. Last season, when he tied a career high with 25 homers for the [Royals](#), he still had stretches of 61, 58 and 77 at-bats without a home run.

“You just grind and then ride it while you’re hot,” Hosmer said.

Maybe more homers are coming soon, because he is certainly hot.

Hosmer also hit his [National League](#)-leading 18th double on Monday and has at least two hits in six of the past seven games. He’s batting .556/.600/.741 in that span. He has raised his batting average 37 points (to .293) and on-base percentage 29 points (to .379).

Spangy bounceback

[Cory Spangenberg](#) spent two weeks in Triple-A getting his swing together and has played only sporadically since returning on May 12.

Of late, it had appeared as if another demotion to El Paso might not be too far away.

Over a five-game stretch (through his first three times up Sunday against the [Reds](#)), Spangenberg had struck out seven times in 10 at-bats.

Then he homered in the eighth inning of Sunday’s victory and followed that with a second-inning homer in his first at-bat Monday. The fill-in third baseman also had an RBI triple in the fifth inning.

“It’s good to see Cory Spangenberg get going,” Green said. “He’s worked so incredibly hard.”

Spangenberg was starting in place of Christian Villanueva, who sat with a bruised left ankle.

Extra bases

- Left-hander Matt Strahm's one inning Monday was almost certainly a tune-up for a start on Wednesday. To fill in for Joey Lucchesi (hip strain), the Padres will go with a bullpen game, same as they did May 27 against the Dodgers. Strahm started that day and went two scoreless innings. Since allowing three runs in his season debut off the disabled list on May 7, Strahm has surrendered one run in 10 1/3 innings (eight games).
- When Jose Pirela hit an inning-ending fly ball to right field with the bases loaded in the third on Monday, it was his major league-leading 234th at-bat this season without a home run. But it was also a rarity, in that he didn't come through with runners in scoring position. With a two-out double in the fifth inning, Pirela improved his batting average with runners in scoring position this season to .294, second on the team to Hosmer's .347. Pirela's batting average with runners in scoring position with two outs is .375, second to Manuel Margot's .429 (in 10 fewer at-bats in that situation).
- Lopez hit his first home run since May 10 (46 at-bats) and also hit two singles for a career-high three hits.
- Rookie Franmil Reyes' home run to lead off the sixth inning was his fifth of the season — and fourth in his past seven games (25 at-bats).

Fernando Tatis Jr. named Texas League player of the month

Jeff Sanders

OK, maybe Fernando Tatis Jr. can talk *now*. Just a little.

The [Padres'](#) shortstop on Tuesday was named the Texas League's player of the month for May, a reward for putting a dismal April completely in his rear-view mirror.

At Double-A San Antonio, the 19-year-old Tatis led the Texas League in runs (30), extra-base hits (21) and total bases (78) and tied for the circuit lead with 12 doubles. He also paired a .336/.414/.639 batting line with seven homers, 16 RBIs and five steals in 29 games in May after a slow April (.556 OPS) raised eyebrows.

The Padres' top-ranked prospect and one of the top prospects in the game, Tatis even responded to one person on Twitter:

["We talk in September."](#)

After a blistering May, Tatis leads the Texas League in runs scored (48), is tied with teammate Austin Allen for the league lead with 29 extra-base hits and tied for fourth with 10 homers.

Tatis is hitting .264/.335/.493 through 56 games.

A day earlier, Logan Allen and Jason Jester shared Texas League pitchers of the week honors after [sharing last week's no-hitter](#), the 13th in Missions' history.

The left-handed Allen struck out seven despite walking five over seven innings and Jester struck out two over the final two frames.

Prep baseball all-star game to follow pros at Petco Park

John Maffei

The best high school players in San Diego will get a chance Wednesday to play in Petco Park, where the pros ply their trade.

After decades without a prep baseball all-star game, the [Padres](#) have jumped in and are promoting Padres High School All-Star Night.

The nine-inning game, featuring 48 players in an East vs. West format, will be played after the Padres' 12:40 p.m. game against the [Atlanta Braves](#).

An eight-person [home run derby](#) will start 60 minutes after the final out of the Padres' game, with the all-stars playing immediately after.

Pro scouts contend that this wasn't the best local draft class, but there are no fewer than 30 players in the game who have college scholarships.

"Down the road, people who are going to that game Wednesday will say 'I remember seeing him,'" said one pro scout, who spoke on the condition that he not be named.

"There are an awful lot of good players in that game, but they need three years of college to grow and mature. I think you'll see a lot of these guys get drafted out of college."

Four players in the game have committed to San Diego State: shortstop Michael Paredes (San Diego), catcher Deron Johnson (Poway), left-handed pitcher Brian Leonhardt (Eastlake) and lefty Kobby Lopez (Imperial).

Two players plan to attend USD: outfielder Kingston Liniak (Mission Hills) and right-hander Jack Dolak (St. Augustine).

"Our team played in Petco Park this season, and it was a blast," Liniak said. "To get a second chance to play there, a chance to be on the field with the best players in the county, will be pretty special."

There are no rules about playing time or pitch limits, but it's doubtful that any pitcher will throw more than two innings.

The West features right-hander Joey Magrisi (Torrey Pines). The East has righty Grant Holman (Eastlake).

Magrisi finished the season 12-0 with a 0.75 ERA. In 93 innings, he allowed just 50 hits and walked 12 with 130 strikeouts. He's committed to [Cal State Fullerton](#).

"I'm excited about this game," Magrisi said. "It'll be fun to play, but also fun to hang with the best players in the county."

Magrisi, who pitched a San Diego Section record 542/3 consecutive scoreless innings this season, was 28-6 in his three-year varsity career.

Holman finished the 2018 season 9-1 with a 0.98 ERA. He's committed to Cal, where he hopes to hit as well as pitch. In three varsity seasons at Eastlake, Holman was 29-1.

La Costa Canyon pitcher Keaton Carattini is committed to Michigan. He attracted the interest of former Michigan All-American and Angels lefty Jim Abbott, who drove down from Orange County near the end of the season to see Magrisi and Carattini face each other.

"I wanted Jim to come down and see Magrisi," said Torrey Pines coach Kirk McCaskill, a teammate of Abbott's on the Angels. "He was kind of sitting on the fence, but when I told him Carattini was going to Michigan, Jim jumped in his car."

"These are the kind of players that are going to be in this all-star game — players that major leaguers want to see."

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STARS

What: Padres High School All-Star Night

Where: Petco Park

When: Wednesday, after the Braves-Padres 12:40 p.m. game

Tickets: \$14 upper infield, \$20 field pavilion, \$25 Toyota terrace reserved. All tickets include admission to the Braves-Padres game, or Padres games on July 1, Aug. 30, Sept. 18 or Sept. 30.

Parking: \$5 if arriving after the Padres game

ALL-STAR GAME ROSTERS

WEST

Name | School | Year | Position | Commitment

Joey Magrisi | Torrey Pines | Sr. | RHP | Cal State Fullerton

Mac Bingham | Torrey Pines | Jr. | OF | USC

[Victor Martinez](#) | San Marcos | Sr. | C | Stanford

Kade Kretzschmar | San Marcos | Sr. | OF | Dartmouth

Spencer Jones | La Costa Canyon | Jr. | 1B-LHP | Vanderbilt

Keaton Carattini | La Costa Canyon | Sr. | RHP | Michigan

Kingston Liniak | Mission Hills | Sr. | OF | USD

Jon Clark | Mission Hills | Sr. | RHP

Nathan Barraza | Mission Hills | So. | 3B

Jack Dolak | St. Augustine | Sr. | RHP | USD

Angelo Peraza | St. Augustine | So. | C

Kevin Lyons | Westview | Sr. | RHP | UC Santa Barbara

Austin Mowrey | La Jolla Country Day | Sr. | 3B | Columbia

Devin Padua | Madison | Sr. | 2B-SS | Cal State San Marcos

Michael Paredes | San Diego | Sr. | SS-RHP | San Diego State

Michael Campagna | Francis Parker | Sr. | C

James Shimashita | Madison | Sr. | OF-LHP | San Jose State

Adam Lovato | Madison | Sr. | OF | Cal State San Marcos

Ivan Luna | Vista | Sr. | 1B-LHP | Fresno State

Cole Colleran | Canyon Crest | So. | OF-LHP

Brady Hoff | Fallbrook | Fr. | OF-LHP

Stephen Klenske | Sage Creek | Jr. | RHP-1B

Mitchell Sardo | Point Loma | Sr. | RHP

Jacob Allred | Cathedral Catholic | Sr. | OF | Arizona

Coaches: Robert Lovato (Madison), Rielly Embrey (Del Norte), Justin Machado (La Costa Canyon), Jeff Dufek (San Marcos), Dennis Pugh (Mission Bay).

EAST

Name | School | Year | Position | Commitment

Randy Abshier | Otay Ranch | Sr. | LHP | Arizona

Chris Lopez | Otay Ranch | Sr. | 3B

Robert Brodel | Brawley | Sr. | SS-RHP

Dayton Dooney | Poway | Sr. | SS | Arizona

Deron Johnson | Poway | Sr. | C

Kevin Van Linge | Poway | Sr. | 2B

Derek Diamond | Ramona | Jr. | RHP-3B | Stanford

Bryce Roe | Ramona | Sr. | RHP-OF | New Mexico State

Tristan Stacy | Ramona | Sr. | OF | New Mexico State

Jake Fenn | Granite Hills | Sr. | 1B | Nevada

Sean McGrew | Granite Hills | Sr. | 2B

Trevor Hazelhurst | Granite Hills | Sr. | LHP-OF | Nevada

Grant Holman | Eastlake | Sr. | RHP-1B | Cal
Brian Leonhardt | Eastlake | Sr. | LHP-1B | San Diego State
Micah Pietila-Wiggs | Eastlake | Sr. | OF
Kobby Lopez | Imperial | Sr. | LHP
Garret Nielsen | Christian | Sr. | OF | Cal
Zach Owens | Helix | Sr. | C | Azusa Pacific
Brandon Peterson | Helix | Sr. | OF | San Jose State
Alonzo Richardson | Helix | So. | SS/RHP
Mason Pelio | Rancho Bernardo | Sr. | RHP-OF | [Boston College](#)
Nick Seamons | Rancho Bernardo | Sr. | RHP-OF | Nevada
D'Artagnan Van Dusen | Lincoln | Sr. | OF
Coaches: James Davis (Granite Hills), Bob Parry (Poway), Cole Holland (Helix), Jordan Abruzzo (Grossmont).

Padres or Chargers? Did San Diegans subsidize the wrong sports team?

[Tom Krasovic](#)

Happy Election Day.

Related, several readers [have asked me](#) a ballot-box question over the past several years.

Did San Diegans pick the wrong sports team to subsidize?

I understand why you'd ask.

The [Padres](#) have yet to win a playoff series since San Diegans voted 20 years ago to fund a downtown ballpark largely with public money.

Pads ownership and its proxies never promised playoff victories and return trips to the [World Series](#), yet did imply that a new ballpark would better the odds on the field.

Leading up to the ballpark vote, the Pads were coming off their second trip to the playoffs in three years.

They'd beaten two very good teams, Houston and Atlanta, to get to the 1998 World Series. People were hungry for more pennant races and more October baseball. When the ballpark opened in 2004, it made sense to think the Pads could get back into the playoffs now and again, and reach a World Series.

The Pads started out with four winners, but since 2008 have made a habit of falling well short of playoff contention.

During the current stretch of nine losing seasons in 10 years, some folks have wondered if the Pads had held up their end of the 1998 vote.

On the field, they haven't.

The team is in the middle of two franchise-long droughts for futility: Nineteen years without winning a playoff series anywhere or winning a playoff game in San Diego, despite that in the 1970s and 1980s, the West was one team bigger than it is now. And

back then, there was no wild-card berth. Now there are two in each league, allowing teams to reach the playoffs without winning the division.

I never heard the Spanoses raise this issue, but at [Chargers](#) Park there was an underlying tone circa 2009-13, when the franchise was wrapping up perhaps the best decade of either franchise, that the Pads weren't providing a great return on the subsidy.

I've also heard from Chargers fans who say the on-field futility of the Pads in their spectacular ballpark made it harder for the Chargers to convince voters two years ago that a downtown stadium would improve their chances of reaching the Super Bowl.

I'd suggest a different way of looking at it.

Set aside each franchise's respective strengths and weakness. Give both a C-minus for on-field performance, historically.

Instead, focus on the industries.

Let's keep it simple.

Baseball teams play 81 home games.

Football teams play eight home games plus two exhibition games.

Yet, NFL football venues are more expensive to build than [MLB](#) ballparks.

So, it's pretty clear that the Pads had an edge just due to their sport.

Though architects are coming up with ways to allow a football stadium to house a variety of events, a baseball park starts out way ahead. And, the Pads have increasingly found ways to rent out Petco Park.

That football teams play so few games is a major obstacle to the subsidy penciling out, says Stanford economist Roger Noll.

"It is the singularly worst investment that a local community can make, is to build a pro football stadium," Noll [said earlier this year](#).

You may suggest that the Pads and the Chargers were both deserving of a massive venue subsidy, or that neither one was deserving, or that a new arena would've been a better option, or that the intangibles of having a major-league sports franchise are greater than economists can quantify. You may be able to make a good case for any of these points. You may suggest that City Hall could've brokered a better deal on the Padres' ballpark funding.

Those are all different topics.

In regards to sports facility initiatives in 1998 and 2016, if you want to match one against the other, the basic math suggests San Diego voters made the better choice.

Padres nab lefty Weathers, then SS Edwards

San Diego wraps up Day 1 with OF Little at No. 74

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- For the third straight year, the Padres spent their top 10 Draft choice on a pitcher. For the second straight year, it's a high school lefty.

With the seventh overall pick in Monday's Draft, San Diego selected left-hander Ryan Weathers out of Loretto (Tenn.) High School. Weathers, a Vanderbilt commit, owns a three-pitch mix featuring a low-90s fastball and an above-average curveball and changeup. He's the son of 19-year big league reliever David Weathers.

With their next two picks on Day 1, the Padres selected high school shortstop Xavier Edwards from Florida and college outfielder Grant Little from Texas Tech. The Draft continues on Tuesday with Rounds 3-10. The MLB.com preview show begins at 9:30 a.m. PT, with exclusive coverage beginning at 10 a.m. PT.

As for Weathers, he allowed just one run in 76 innings during his senior season while striking out 148. He finished the season 11-0 and was named the Gatorade National High School Player of the Year, as well as Gatorade's Player of the Year in Tennessee.

"One of the best high school pitchers in the country this year, and another premium lefty that we add to our system," said general manager A.J. Preller.

"He's just a very natural kid that is extremely confident and a fierce competitor," scouting director Mark Conner said.

Weathers features similarities to each of the Padres' past two top Draft choices. In 2017 they selected MacKenzie Gore, a high school left-hander out of North Carolina with similarly ridiculous numbers. In '16 they took college pitcher Cal Quantrill, whose father, Paul, also spent time in the big leagues. Both Quantrill and Gore rank among MLB Pipeline's top 40 prospects.

Also a standout hitter, the 6-foot-2, 210-pound Weathers batted .434 with five homers in his senior season. But his future is on the mound. He led Loretto to a state championship

as a junior in 2017, striking out 12 and posting a shutout in the title game. Then he helped lead Team USA to gold at the U-18 World Cup with a pair of scoreless starts.

Weathers nearly led Loretto to another title as a senior. He pitched nine scoreless frames and struck out 11 in the Class A state championship game against Columbia academy. Trouble is: the game went 12 innings. Loretto lost, 1-0.

"It was one of the better high school games you could see," Preller mused.

Both Preller and Conner were on hand to see Weathers fall just shy of a second consecutive championship. It was the last chance for the Padres to watch him in a game setting after a long scouting process that began when area scout Tyler Stubblefield recommended him.

"He showed us everything we had seen in scouting him over the last few years, honestly," Preller said. "In a big spot, big moment, he was composed, competitive, threw a ton of strikes."

Preller expressed little concern about the signability of any of his top three picks. The Padres have \$10,462,200 to spend on their selections in the top 10 rounds (plus any bonus greater than \$125,000 later in the Draft). That's the seventh-largest pool in baseball. The recommended value for Weathers' seventh slot in the Draft is \$5.23 million.

Edwards goes in Comp A round

The Padres' top-ranked farm system is deep across the board. But nowhere is that depth more prevalent than in the middle infield.

Add another shortstop to the list.

Edwards, like Weathers, is a Vanderbilt commit. He batted .406/.532/.646 with a pair of homers during his senior season at North Broward High School in Florida, but his best tools are his speed and defense.

"It's something I dreamed about for years, since I first picked up a baseball," Edwards said. "Everyone dreams about playing in the big leagues. This is the first step to making that dream come true. For sure, I'm excited to be a Padre."

A 5-foot-10 switch-hitter, Edwards is known as a line-drive bat and a serious stolen-base threat (though he doesn't project to grow into much power). Defensively, his quick hands -- and quick movements in general -- set him apart.

"He's a guy that we had as one of the more advanced high school bats in terms of plate discipline, seeing pitches, doing the things you want to see from good leadoff hitters," Preller said. "We see him as a middle-infield, top-of-the-order guy that's got a dynamic skill set."

Edwards' slot is valued at \$1,878,300.

Little forever linked to Hughes

The Padres forfeited their second-round pick when they signed [Eric Hosmer](#) to an eight-year deal during the offseason. But last week, Preller [swung a trade](#) to add a third selection on Day 1.

With that pick -- acquired from the Twins, along with righty reliever [Phil Hughes](#) -- the Padres landed Little in the competitive balance round B. It seems likeliest that Little will play the outfield, but the Padres will give him reps in the infield as well. He played some shortstop at Texas Tech.

As a Draft-eligible sophomore, Little batted .380 with 12 home runs. His slot value is \$812,200.

That extra money could come in handy when the Padres begin the process of signing these selections over the coming weeks.

"Having the extra pick definitely gave Mark and the group some additional options -- not only having the pick to make the selection, but also the money associated with it," Preller said. "It's definitely an exercise in trying to mix and match and figure out how to make your money work for you. From our standpoint, we viewed it as not just a little addition. It was something that was going to give us some flexibility to maybe get some players we may not have had access to."

Padres power up with 4 HRs, 7-run 5th vs. ATL

Jack Magruder Special to MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- [Eric Hosmer](#) knows all about the emotions the MLB Draft engenders, especially the night before.

"You definitely don't get much sleep," said Hosmer, the third player taken in the 2008 Draft by Kansas City. "There is so much excitement to find out where you are going to end up."

One day short of the 10th anniversary of his selection, Hosmer had another of the kind of games that scouts saw coming.

Hosmer contributed a homer, a double and three RBIs as the Padres continued to make Petco Park look about the size of a doggy bed with an 11-4 victory over National League East-leading Atlanta in the first game of a three-game series on Monday.

The Padres had a season-high nine extra-base hits and tied a season high with four homers, all with the bases empty.

"It's just timely hitting," Hosmer said. "We are getting those big hits with guys in scoring position, those big two-out hits with guys on. We've done a really good job of capitalizing on that."

The Padres have won three in a row and six of seven for the first time since June 18-25, 2016, in a suddenly very tight NL West.

In so doing, they have scored 47 runs in the last seven games, with at least six runs in each of the last three.

"We feel like we were tested early," Hosmer said. "We had a pretty good schedule, playing some teams that were ahead in divisions and playing some good baseball at the time. We felt like we held our own at that time, and we just felt like we had to keep doing what were doing from an offensive standpoint. I think we've been doing a good job of that, especially in this homestand."

Hosmer picked on an 82-mph changeup to homer in the first inning off [Julio Teheran](#), and he doubled in a two runs in a seven-run fifth inning off three Atlanta pitchers to blow open the game. He has 16 hits in his last 31 at-bats over seven games, with six multihit games, to raise his slash line to .293/.379/.477.

"Just sticking with everything," he said. "Just sticking with my approach and sticking with my game plan. Just trusting that it will be there in the long run. It's been working out this past homestand. Just trying to keep sticking to that plan."

[Hunter Renfroe](#), [Travis Jankowski](#) and [Jose Pirela](#) doubled, [Cory Spangenberg](#) tripled, and Spangenberg, [Raffy Lopez](#) and [Franmil Reyes](#) homered. Reyes has four homers in the last six games.

"Everybody did something really positive," manager Andy Green said.

Pirela walked and Renfroe doubled to open the fifth inning before the Padres scored all their runs with two outs, starting with [Freddy Galvis](#)' sacrifice fly. Spangenberg tripled, Lopez singled and [Clayton Richard](#) walked before consecutive doubles by Jankowski, Hosmer and Pirela.

"A lot of fun," Hosmer said of the way the Padres passed the baton in the fifth, forcing two pitching changes. "Especially the first game of the series, to dig into their bullpen early, we all know how good that bullpen is, so it is big for us to dig in there the first game. Hopefully that can show up in the later games of the series."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Richard keeps 'pen rested: With the Padres scheduled for a bullpen day on Wednesday, Richard did his best to keep the relievers fresh by going seven innings, although that is nothing new. He has pitched at least seven innings in five of his last six starts. This one may have had a little more significance, as it was his first victory in 10 games against Atlanta.

"It's huge," Richard said. "It changes the game. You go from making sure you are executing pitches to making sure you are throwing strikes. It's fun to have those types of games."

Richard has made five consecutive quality starts at Petco, giving up 15 runs in 44 innings for a 3.06 ERA.

Raffy's work paying off: Lopez has spent hours in the cages and video room working to keep his lower body in line as he attacks a pitch. It started in the Los Angeles series, and during games he wasn't playing, he would go into the batting cage and take some swings.

He had an RBI single to end a 2-for 29 skid on Sunday, and three hits -- including a homer -- on Monday.

"I think it is starting to click," Lopez said. "Just because I was hitting what I was hitting, I wasn't going up there thinking I couldn't hit. But when your body is doing something for so long, you have to work on it to fix it."

HE SAID IT

"It was as fun of an inning we have had from an offensive perspective all year. There were a lot of hard-hit baseballs all over the yard, balls hit the other way." -- *Green, on the seven-run fifth*

UP NEXT

Tuesday starter [Jordan Lyles](#) has been on a nice run since joining the rotation on May 10, going 2-1 with a 3.64 ERA in five starts covering 29 2/3 innings. His peripherals during that stretch have been notable -- 31 strikeouts and nine walks -- and he has been nails at home, giving up two earned runs on seven hits in 14 1/3 innings. [Sean Newcomb](#) will take the hill for the Braves. First pitch is at 7:10 p.m. PT.

Plethora of outfielders 'a good problem to have'

Renfroe heating up as Cordero nears return

Bill Center San Diego Padres

Bill Center, longtime sportswriter for U-T San Diego, is an employee of the Padres.

Hunter Renfroe's decisive pinch-hit grand slam in Sunday's 6-3 win over the Reds at Petco Park came hours after manager Andy Green discussed the difficulties and logistics of finding enough playing time for his two right-handed-hitting outfielders -- Renfroe and **Franmil Reyes**.

Green calls it a "good problem."

"We went six straight days with Franmil at one point and he homered in three of those before he had a rougher day and got a day off after that," said Green. "Hunter needs to get back out there the way he's swung the bat. It's a good problem to have."

Since returning from his rehab assignment with Triple-A El Paso, Renfroe is 7-for-14 with two doubles, a homer, seven RBIs, three runs scored and two walks.

But the rookie Reyes was 2-for-4 Sunday and is 10-for-34 with four homers, six RBIs, seven runs scored and three walks since May 21.

And Green's good problem only figures to get "gooder."

Franchy Cordero (right forearm strain) figures to return soon from the disabled list to give Green a second left-handed platoon option, pairing Cordero with **Travis Jankowski**. And **Wil Myers**, who opened the season in right field, should return sometime in early July from an extended time on the disabled list with a left oblique strain. And remember, the Padres also have the versatile **Matt Szczur** as a reserve outfielder.

If finding time for four starting outfielders is a "good problem to have," wait until there are six or seven to choose from.

News and notes

- First baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) was 3-for-4 Sunday. It was his third three-hit game in his past six contests and his fifth multihit game over that span. Hosmer has hit safely in six of his past seven games, going 14-for-27 (.519) with a double, five RBIs and four runs scored -- raising his batting average from .257 to .289.
- The Padres are 9-3 in [Tyson Ross](#)' 12 starts this season. Over his past five outings, Ross has allowed nine earned runs on 26 hits and 10 walks with 25 strikeouts in 29 innings for a 2.79 ERA and a 1.24 WHIP.
- With lefty [Brad Hand](#) pitching the eighth on Sunday to face tough Reds left-handed-hitters [Joey Votto](#) and [Scooter Gennett](#), right-hander [Kirby Yates](#) became the first member of the Padres other than Hand to earn a save this season.
- Jankowski is known for his bunt hits, but shortstop [Freddy Galvis](#) leads the Padres this season with three bunt singles. Galvis has reached base in 10 of his past 11 games, with 10 hits and four walks for a .326 on-base percentage.

Taking a closer look at the Padres' overarching draft philosophy

By Dustin Palmateer

It's still too early to evaluate just how good the A.J. Preller-led Padres are at drafting and developing. There are a few no-doubt hits (like Joey Lucchesi and Phil Maton) and at least one glaring miss (Austin Smith), but we won't be able to fully evaluate these recent drafts for at least a couple more years.

What we can do, though, is try to pick up a few trends about the Padres' overarching drafting philosophy. What kind of players are they looking for? How are they working within MLB's spending rules? Here, we search for clues about the Padres' thought process as they go into the 2018 amateur draft.

Long Live the Pitcher

In the first 10 rounds of the last three drafts, 21 out of the Padres' 33 picks have been used on pitchers, including each of their top three picks over that period (Smith, Cal Quantrill, and MacKenzie Gore). Of the 21 pitchers, 13 were righties and 14 were drafted out of college.

The Padres have seemingly gained a reputation for drafting high-velocity pitchers, but it hasn't necessarily followed in practice. Using information from [Baseball America's scouting reports](#), I recorded the sitting velocity for each pitcher taken by the Padres in the first 10 rounds. Out of the group, only one, Jordan Guerrero, sat 95 mph or higher at the time of the draft. A whopping 17 of them earned 'low-90s' or lower marks, including everyone in the 2017 class — even the highly-touted Gore, who was taken third overall.

Expect the Padres to take plenty of pitchers early in this year's draft, just don't be surprised if a handful of them don't light up the radar gun.

High School or College?

Using the same group of players, the Padres have actually leaned toward selecting college players early, grabbing them at a 60.6 percent clip. But they've prioritized precious bonus pool dollars toward younger prep players.

In terms of signing bonus payouts, the high schoolers have nearly doubled college players over the first 10 rounds. It's not just the Gore effect, either. Among the 13 high school

players taken by the Padres, *seven* of them have signed for \$1 million or more; just three of the 20 college draftees have reached that mark.

The same trend has generally continued later in the draft. Last year, the Padres signed two players after the 10th round for more than \$300,000, and both — Cody's brother Cole Bellinger and Joey Cantillo — were high school hurlers. In each of the two previous drafts for San Diego, the highest bonus figure after round 10 went to a high school player.

The Under-Slot Gambit

Like many teams, the Padres have perfected the art of the under-slot signing bonus, a strategy that has allowed them to funnel extra dough toward other picks. Under the current CBA, each team gets a specified amount of signing bonus funds based on their picks in the first 10 rounds. Going over that threshold by more than five percent triggers stiff penalties, like the loss of a future draft pick — no team has tried it thus far.

Instead, teams have occasionally used early picks on college seniors, selecting them much higher than the scouting consensus would suggest. The Padres have turned this trick in each draft under Preller. Since 2015, their five cheapest signings (all college seniors) have inked deals for a *total* of \$26,000. In each case, the money saved on those picks went to over-slot signings at various points in the draft.

In 2016, the Padres took another college senior in the fourth round in Lucchesi. Unlike the others, Lucchesi, who led the nation in strikeouts for Southeast Missouri State, commanded \$100,000 on his own, but that number was still more than \$400,000 under the slot value for that pick. That saved pool money helped reel in over-slot high school arms like Reggie Lawson and Mason Thompson, a duo who signed for more than \$2 million over their combined slot figures that year.

It's not just college seniors who sign under-slot deals. In that same 2016 draft, the [Padres reached for](#) Hudson Potts with the 24th overall pick. Then a 17-year-old shortstop, Potts was expected to go later in the draft, so the Padres were able to coax him away from college for only \$1 million (the slot figure for that pick was \$2,191,200).

Lucchesi and Potts represent two of the sharpest picks for Preller's Padres. Both were signed for under-slot deals, helping the Padres accomplish draft goals elsewhere. Both have also turned into good picks on their own merits, however, with Lucchesi already succeeding in the majors and Potts performing well as a 19-year-old third baseman at High-A Lake Elsinore.

After [a recent trade with the Twins](#) that returned a Competitive Balance Round draft pick, the Padres now have four picks in the top 84 and a healthy \$10,462,200 signing bonus pool. If history tells us anything, expect them to lean hard into pitching early, grabbing an arm where another team might take a safer college bat. Further, look for the more important picks — like the seventh overall one — and a good chunk of the Padres' bonus pool money to go to high schoolers. Lastly, don't forget about the under-slot plays, where the Padres will almost surely look to save money on a few early picks.

Then again, remember that it's the Padres we're talking about, a team that's occasionally known to laugh in the face of anyone trying to predict what they'll do next. In short, it's the draft — look out for anything.

Padres snag Tenn. prep left-hander Ryan Weathers with No. 7 overall pick

By Dennis Lin

Phil Hughes, the trade acquisition that will allow the Padres to spend an additional \$812,200 on amateur talent, jogged in from the bullpen late Monday. The right-hander surrendered a run on three consecutive hits before retiring the next three batters. The lack of a clean ninth inning did not mean much in a broader sense.

Before the Padres rolled to an 11-4 victory over the Atlanta Braves, they revealed their first selection, seventh overall, in the 2018 draft: Loretto (Tenn.) High School left-hander Ryan Weathers. During the blowout, they made two more decisions with the future in mind.

At pick No. 38, they claimed North Broward (Fla.) Prep shortstop Xavier Edwards. To close the draft's opening day, they spent the 74th pick on Texas Tech outfielder Grant Little.

A little more than a week ago, San Diego did not hold the 74th pick. Then general manager A.J. Preller [swung a trade](#) with the Minnesota Twins that would add over \$7 million in salary owed to Hughes — and expand scouting director Mark Conner's draft bonus pool by \$812,200.

The ripple effects apparently were felt Monday. That should extend into Tuesday and perhaps Wednesday, when the draft concludes.

"As you get into the draft now, the way it works with the top 10 rounds and the slot money associated with each pick, it's definitely an exercise in trying to mix and match and figuring out how to make your money work for you," Preller said. "We viewed [acquiring the 74th selection] as something that was going to give us a little flexibility to maybe get some players that we may not have had access to with maybe that 38th pick or the next pick at 74. It gave us the ability to at least consider and talk about those guys, and hopefully it's money well-spent."

The exact distribution, in regard to San Diego's top three selections and beyond, remains to be determined. On Monday, the Padres seemed content to have landed a pro-ready high school pitcher, a fellow Vanderbilt commit with speed to burn, and a versatile college bat.

Weathers, the son of former major-league pitcher David Weathers, is the second Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year drafted by the Padres in as many years. Last June, it was MacKenzie Gore at pick No. 3.

Like Gore, Weathers obliterated his high school competition; as a senior, he logged a 0.09 ERA and 148 strikeouts in 76 innings. Also similar to Gore, he appears capable of a relatively quick rise through the lower levels of the minors.

“He’s a guy we’re very excited to select,” Preller said. “A lot of time and effort went into scouting him. He’s a guy that we think is one of the best high school pitchers in the country this year and another premium lefty that we add to our system.”

The seventh pick carries a slot value of \$5,226,500. There is widespread speculation that the Padres will sign Weathers to an under-slot bonus. Had San Diego not taken Weathers, some believe he might have slid a short distance down the first round.

Yet the possibility also exists that the Padres preferred Weathers’ combination of stuff, poise and pedigree over packages offered by similarly rated players.

Two years ago, Conner factored lineage into another first-round choice: Cal Quantrill, son of one-time Padres reliever Paul Quantrill.

“He grew up in a clubhouse and he grew up seeing the lifestyle,” Conner said of Weathers. “He’s getting life experience that maybe other guys that don’t have the bloodlines of the major-league fathers, he has a little bit more of an advantage with.”

According to Baseball America, Weathers “has three pitches that are at least average with a fastball, curveball and changeup.”

USA Baseball’s Matt Blood, the program director for the national U18 team, [provided this assessment](#) to The Athletic’s Max Bultman: “Most advanced and pro-ball-ready (high school) pitcher in the country. He’s a really good athlete. Mr. Baseball and (plays) basketball. ... He’s 93-97 with a good slider and changeup. Throws strikes, fields his position, hits. He’s a great competitor, demeanor. He’s really, really, really good. And he’s ready for pro baseball right now.”

The Padres used their first competitive-balance pick on Edwards, whom some teams viewed as a first-round talent but shied away from due to the perceived strength of his Vanderbilt pledge. Edwards, a plus runner, projects as a potential table-setter with enough arm to possibly remain at shortstop.

The slot value of the 38th pick is \$1,878,300. The Padres could go above that to sign Edwards.

“It’s hard to find leadoff hitters,” Preller said. “He’s a guy that we had as one of the more advanced high school bats in terms of plate discipline, seeing pitches, doing the things you want to see from good leadoff hitters. ... We see him as a middle-infield, top-of-the-order guy that’s got a dynamic skill set.”

Little, a draft-eligible sophomore, is still in the process of winding down his amateur career; Texas Tech has advanced to the super regional round of the NCAA tournament. Little has hit .380 and homered 12 times this season. In the field, he has demonstrated multi-positional ability.

“Our scouts like the fact that he’s played shortstop,” Preller said. “He played high school basketball. He’s an athlete. I think we’ve talked about, could he play center field? Could he play left field? That’s what we’re going to see here in pro baseball. He’s a guy who’s very versatile. He’s got some twitch and obviously athleticism to him. ... My guess is we’ll start playing him in the outfield and we’ll take a look at the infield as well and see what factors in for us.”

Big 5th inning powers Padres to 11-4 win over Braves

AP

SAN DIEGO (AP) — [Cory Spangenberg](#) homered and tripled, [Raffy Lopez](#) had a homer among his career-high three hits and [Eric Hosmer](#) and [Franmil Reyes](#) also went deep to lead the [San Diego Padres](#) over the NL East-leading [Atlanta Braves](#) 11-4 on Monday night.

[Clayton Richard](#) (4-6) pitched seven strong innings for the Padres, who have won six of seven and remain in last place in the NL West.

Nine of the Padres' 13 hits were for extra bases.

The Padres sent 11 batters to the plate in the fifth, scoring seven runs on a triple, four doubles, a single, two walks and a sacrifice fly. Spangenberg tripled in a run, Hosmer doubled in two and [Travis Jankowski](#) and [Jose Pirela](#) each had an RBI double. Lopez hit an RBI single and [Freddy Galvis](#) hit a sac fly.

Braves starter [Julio Teheran](#) walked Pirela opening the fifth and then was visited for the second time in the game by the team trainer. He then came out with an undisclosed injury. [Luiz Gohara](#) came on and allowed six runs and six hits.

Teheran (4-4) allowed four runs and five hits, walked three and struck out two.

Teheran gave three homers. Hosmer went deep in the first, his seventh, and Spangenberg connected with one out in the second, his fourth. Lopez led off the fourth with his third.

Reyes homered off [Peter Moylan](#) leading off the sixth, his fifth.

Richard allowed three runs and six hits, struck out five and walked two. He gave up a two-run double to [Charlie Culberson](#) an RBI single to [Ender Inciarte](#).

OH WELL

Braves first base coach Eric Young tried to throw a foul ball into the crowd in the third inning but didn't throw it hard enough to get it over the new extended netting at Petco

Park. His second try came up short, too, so the smiling coach instead rolled it to a bat boy.

UP NEXT

Braves: LHP [Sean Newcomb](#) (6-1, 2.73) is scheduled to start Tuesday night. He beat San Diego 3-0 last year, allowing six hits in six innings while striking out eight.

Padres: RHP [Jordan Lyles](#) (2-1, 3.65) is set to make his sixth start. It will be his most since making since making 10 with Colorado in 2015.

Takeaways from the Padres' 11-4 win over the Braves

John Horvath FOX Sports San Diego

SAN DIEGO— [Clayton Richard](#) pitched seven strong innings and the [Padres](#) pulled away with a seven-run fifth inning to defeat the [Braves](#) 11-4 on Monday evening at Petco Park.

San Diego improved to 28-34 while [Atlanta](#) fell to 35-25.

Takeaways

Offense explodes

The Padres offense had a coming out party on Monday in the series opener against the Braves. Each position player in the lineup recorded at least one base hit. Each position player besides left-fielder [Hunter Renfroe](#) recorded an RBI. The Padres also had three solo home runs in the game's first four innings before breaking the game open in the 5th.

In the bottom of the first, first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) got the home run bonanza started with a no-doubt home run over the right-center field fence. The home run traveled 433 feet and was hit so well that, upon contact, the outfielders did not even give it a look.

In the next inning, [Cory Spangenberg](#) hit his second home run in as many at-bats with a 385-foot shot into the right field bleachers.

After [Charlie Culberson](#) tied the game up for the Braves with a two-run double down the first base line in the fourth, it took two pitches for the Padres to take the lead back. Leading off the inning, [Raffy Lopez](#) hit a towering, 418-foot blast to put the home team ahead for good.

Then came the bottom of the fifth..

The bottom of the fifth began as big innings often do. After popping out in two previous at-bats, [Jose Pirela](#) worked a walk off starter [Julio Teheran](#), who was promptly removed from the game with an undisclosed injury. Taking the place of Teheran was left-handed pitcher Luis Gohara.

San Diego treated the reliever rudely.

Known for his ability to demolish lefties, Renfroe greeted Gohara with a double down the left-field line to move Pirela to third.

After [Franmil Reyes](#) grounded out, [Freddy Galvis](#) drove Pirela home with a sacrifice fly to make the score 4-2. It would be the last out that Gohara would be able to get.

Following the Galvis sac fly, the Padres went triple-single-walk-double-double-double to knock the rookie left-hander out of the game and take a 10-2 lead. In that six hitter span, Cory Spangenberg, Raffy Lopez, [Travis Jankowski](#), Eric Hosmer, and Jose Pirela all recorded RBI hits.

Franmil Reyes answered a Braves run in the top of the sixth with a solo shot in the bottom half of the inning. It was the powerful outfielder's 5th home run of the season.

The Padres wound up with nine extra base hits on the evening. That mark is a season-high.

Clayton Richard continues to be rock- solid

Clayton Richard entered Monday night's game against the Braves with a 2.66 ERA against teams outside of the NL West.

He continued his mastery tonight.

Richard went seven innings, allowing six hits and three earned runs. He struck out five and walked two, throwing 75 of 109 pitches for strikes.

When he was staked to a big lead in the 5th, the 34-year-old kept pounding the strike zone and inducing ground ball outs. Richard got 13 ground ball outs on the evening. He has now pitched at least six innings in six consecutive starts, which is the longest active streak in the major leagues.

An impressive performance earned him his 55th win as a Padre. That mark ties him with Bruce Hurt for the second-most wins by a lefty in franchise history.

With a bullpen game approaching on Wednesday, Andy Green needed Richard to provide a lengthy outing. The savvy vet came through.

RISP success

In the first eight games of this 10-game homestand, the Padres are hitting 21-for-58 (.362) with runners in scoring position.

Hos stays hot

Eric Hosmer is riding a 16-for-31 stretch in his last eight games. His 2-for-4 evening was his 23rd multi-hit game, which leads the club.

Padres snag Ryan Weathers seventh overall in 2018 Draft

FOX Sports San Diego

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Padres selected left-handed pitcher Ryan Weathers from Loretto High School (Tenn.) with the seventh overall pick in MLB’s 2018 First-Year Player Draft, Executive Vice President/General Manager A.J. Preller and Director of Amateur Scouting Mark Conner announced today.

Recommended by Padres Area Scout Tyler Stubblefield, Weathers, 18, went 10-0 with a 0.09 ERA and 148 strikeouts in 76.0 innings pitched as a senior in 2018, allowing just 24 hits and 10 walks while earning 2018 Gatorade’s Tennessee Baseball High School Player of the Year honors. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound left-hander also hit .434 at the plate with nine doubles, five home runs, 31 runs scored, 26 RBI and 13 stolen bases with a .559 OBP and .747 SLG %. The son of 19-year major league veteran pitcher David Weathers, Ryan led the Mustangs to the Class A Tennessee state championship as a junior in 2017, setting a Tennessee high school tournament record with 28 strikeouts. He also won a gold medal with Team USA at the 2017 U-18 World Cup in Canada, posting two scoreless outings.

Padres select prep SS Xavier Edwards with 38th overall selection

John Horvath

FOX Sports San Diego

SAN DIEGO— With the 38th overall pick, the [San Diego Padres](#) have selected prep SS Xavier Edwards out of Coconut Creek, Florida.

The 5'10", 155-pound shortstop was the 28th best prospect on MLB.com's top 200 draft prospects list.

In his senior year of high school, Edwards hit .406 with a .532 on-base percentage. He also wreaked havoc on the basepaths, scoring 43 runs and stealing 24 bases.

[This is what the evaluators at MLB.com had to say about the 18-year-old:](#)

"While he is a bit undersized at 5-foot-10, Edwards' performance over the summer and into his senior season had many evaluators looking past that. His speed is his best tool, an easy plus that allows him to get down the line in a hurry from both sides of the plate and be a basestealing threat. He has a contact-oriented approach and uses all fields well, and while he's not likely to be a home run threat, he could grow into his frame for more extra-base pop with an Eric Young type of build. He has excellent actions and footwork at shortstop and has shown he has enough arm to stay on the left side of the infield."

Edwards, a switch-hitter, does have a college commitment to Vanderbilt.

Padres seeking first four-game winning streak

STATS

Fox Sports, Stats

SAN DIEGO — For the fourth time this season, the [Padres](#) Monday night extended a winning streak to three straight games, pounding out nine extra-base hits — including four solo homers — in an 11-4 victory over Atlanta at Petco Park.

Not once have the Padres won four straight. And not once have they won every series of a homestand.

Which brings us to Tuesday night's second game of a three-game series.

The Padres will send right-hander [Jordan Lyles](#) out for a sixth start since he was promoted from the bullpen. Lyles is 2-1 as a starter with a 3.64 ERA. The Braves are countering with left-hander Sean Newcomb (6-1, 2.73 ERA).

The Padres will be counting on Lyles to give them that elusive fourth straight win and a third straight series win since Wednesday afternoon's series finale will be a "bullpen" start for the Padres. Padres manager Andy Green has identified Wednesday's starter — but the best options are [Robbie Erlin](#) and [Bryan Mitchell](#).

Meanwhile, Monday's outcome had impact on both teams.

Atlanta's lead over Washington in the National League East was reduced to a single game.

Meanwhile, the Padres pulled to within six games of .500 (28-34) for the first time since April 23. And they are only 4 1/2 games behind Arizona in the National League West.

Green said he isn't thinking about where the Padres are right now in the National League West race.

"We're seeing some positive things, but this is about continuing to grind all season long . . . keeping things up beat when you are down and finding things to work on when you are

doing well. For us, the focus is on the Braves right now. When you start looking at the arms they're using against us, they're really good."

And one of the best is Newcomb, who turns 25 on June 12.

Newcomb has the 10th-best ERA in the National League and is tied for fifth in wins. He is also riding a six-game winning streak, which is tied for the third longest in the National League this season. Newcomb also ranks among the league leaders in several other categories — like seventh in opponents' batting average (.204), sixth in road ERA (2.06), third in winning percentage (.857) and fourth in walks issued (30).

The 30 walks in 67 innings appears to be the one flaw in Newcomb's game.

The first-round pick of the Angels (15th overall) in 2014, the 6-foot-5, 255-pound Newcomb was 5-0 in May with a 1.54 ERA in six starts. He allowed six runs on 19 hits and 16 walks with 30 strikeouts in 35 innings.

Newcomb faced the Padres once before, holding them to no runs on six hits and a walk with eight strikeouts last June 27 at Petco Park.

All five of Lyles starts came in May. As a starter, the 27-year-old Lyles has allowed 12 runs on 26 hits and nine walks with 31 strikeouts in 29 2/3 innings. In his second start on May 15 against Colorado at Petco Park, Lyles was perfect for 7 1/3 innings.

Lyles has faced Atlanta three times (two starts) in his career with no decisions and a 2.84 ERA. He's given up four runs on 14 hits and three walks with 11 strikeouts in 12 2/3 innings.

Triple Play: For Quinn Hoffman, baseball is the family business.

by ERICK TRICKEY

QUINN HOFFMAN, a Harvard freshman on a 13-game hitting streak, stepped up to home plate at Fenway Park.

Batting second in the 2017 Beanpot baseball championship against Boston College, he looked out at the pitcher's mound, where his father, Trevor Hoffman, had pitched in the 1999 All-Star Game. Beyond the mound, the shortstop was standing where his uncle, Glenn, had played with the Red Sox from 1980 to 1987.

Now, with the first pitch, it was his turn. "I was just able to get a good pitch, and put a good swing on it," he recalls, "and I didn't realize I was going to be able to hit it out." The ball shot off Hoffman's bat, over left field, toward Fenway's Green Monster—and cleared the 37-foot wall for his first college home run.

"To be in a place so special to Boston, and to be able to hit a bomb there, is something pretty special," he recalls. "I was running around the bases with a smile on my face, like I was in Little League again."

The son and nephew of major-league ballplayers earned his own reputation as a standout last season. Hoffman, the Crimson's starting second baseman, hit .288 across a team-high 41 games played. He was named Ivy League Rookie of the Week in March and twice made the league Honor Roll in April. "He's arguably one of the better middle infielders in the area, in the Northeast," says the Crimson's coach, Bill Decker. "He's got electric feet."

On first meeting, Hoffman seems quiet, but that's just because he speaks with an even tone. Soon it becomes obvious that he's eager and chatty about baseball, a quick talker with precise thoughts about his game, who acknowledges the unusual opportunities his family has given him without boasting or self-effacement. "He's competitive, but he doesn't do it with a growl," Decker says. "He's got that little confident look, not overconfidence."

This January 24, from Harvard's Bubble, the winter athletic practice dome inflated within the Stadium, Hoffman called his parents on FaceTime so he could witness a moment his family had awaited for years. Trevor Hoffman, the San Diego Padres' closer for 15 seasons and the first major-league pitcher to record 600 saves, was elected to the National

Baseball Hall of Fame. In July, Quinn will travel to Cooperstown, New York, with some teammates and possibly some coaches, to see his father inducted into baseball's pantheon. "It's everything he's worked for," Quinn says. "That's the top of the game. That's the peak, the pinnacle."

A SHORTSHOP in high school, Hoffman switched to second base last season because senior Drew Reid held the starting job at short. "When you're a shortstop, you're more fluid, and throwing the baseball is more one motion," he says. "As a second baseman, you have more time. You don't have to be as fast with your throws, so you're able to be more relaxed."

The change also helped Hoffman focus more on batting, which paid off in his 14-game hitting streak, from April 1 to 19, culminating in his 2-for-2 performance at the plate in the rain-shortened [Beanpot game](#) (which Harvard lost to Boston College, 3-2, in four and a half innings). Hoffman says his timing and his mental game each played a role. "My foot was down early. I was seeing the pitches really well. Things started to click," he recalls. "Midway through the season, I was able to forget my bad at-bats and remember the good ones."

Playing for Harvard, Hoffman is starting to fulfill the promise he showed very early, growing up in a major-league-ball-playing family. "I was given a ball, and I was given a bat, when I was...I can't even remember," he says. "It was handed down to me. It's kind of in my blood."

When he was six, his dad took him to the Padres' Petco Park, and, trusting his skills, left him in the outfield during batting practice. Someone hit a line drive that came straight toward him. His father "freaked out," Hoffman recounts. "I don't remember it—he tells me the story about it—but I guess I caught it."

Even as a kid, Hoffman knew he wanted to play his uncle's old position. "I've always wanted to be a shortstop," he says. "I kept playing infield, enjoyed it, being able to get my uniform dirty and dive." He watched his dad's teammates play short and second base, soaking up their mechanics, their footwork, their arm action, how they turned double plays. Meanwhile, he watched his father—a bullpen leader famous for entering games in

late innings to AC/DC's "Hells Bells"—lead by example with his work ethic. "[He'd be] showing guys, 'Hey, we're getting up early, going to work out, going to run,'" he recalls.

Trevor Hoffman pitched for the Padres from 1993 to 2008, then ended his career with two seasons in Milwaukee. His older brother, Glenn, has been the Padres' third base coach since 2006. While in high school, Quinn spent a couple of weekends a year with his uncle at the Padres' spring training in Peoria, Arizona, shagging fly balls during batting practice and taking part in infield drills. "He gave me a couple tips here and there: try to stay underneath the ball, be quick with your feet, let your hands do the work," Hoffman recalls.

He was a standout as the shortstop at Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego. His senior year, he was team captain and most valuable player. With younger brother Wyatt starting next to him at second base, the team won the California Interscholastic Federation's San Diego Section Championship, the top accomplishment for a high-school team in the metro area. The Padres picked him in the thirty-sixth round of the 2016 draft (a move the *San Diego Union-Tribune* described as a "courtesy" to his father). "As a kid you dream of getting drafted by a pro team," he says. "It was surreal. I was in shock. I was also committed to Harvard, so I couldn't go wrong with my decision."

The sophomore sociology major wants to follow his dad and uncle into professional baseball, either on the field or off. "If I'm not able to play," he says, "I'd like to do something that involves baseball, inside the game."

Meanwhile, he's been recovering from off-season shoulder surgery, undergoing twice-weekly physical therapy. As of press time, he was hoping to return to the Crimson lineup sometime this spring. When he does, he'll likely become the starting shortstop. "As soon as he's healthy, we become a better ball club," says Decker.

By Justin Lafferty

Round 1: Pick №7 overall

Ryan Weathers, LHP, Loretto HS (TN)

For the second year in a row, the Padres have used their top draft pick on a high school lefty with nasty stuff. Weathers, 18, is the son of longtime MLB veteran **David Weathers**. Just like last year's №3 overall pick **MacKenzie Gore**, Weathers was the Gatorade National Player of the Year.

Also like Gore, Weathers put up video game-like numbers for Loretto High School in Tennessee, going 10–0 with a 0.09 ERA this season. He fanned 148 batters in 76 innings, while also hitting at a .434 clip for the Mustangs.

Experts love Weathers' makeup, along with his mid-90s fastball, curveball and exceptional changeup.

Here's what they're saying about Weathers.

[MLB Pipeline:](#)

“He set a Tennessee high school tournament record with 28 strikeouts last spring, including 12 in a shutout in the Class A championship game, and turned in two scoreless outings for Team USA as it won the 18-and-under World Cup in September.

Weathers has a sound delivery and repeats it well, throwing strikes with ease. He's a good athlete who does the little things well and could contribute as a two-way player at Vanderbilt if he doesn't turn pro. He gets his athleticism from both sides of his family, as his mother, **Kelli Davis Weathers**, was an All-America basketball player at Belmont.”

[MLB's draft and prospect expert Jim Callis:](#)

“He is one of the two best left-handers in this Draft, along with Phoenix high schooler **Matthew Liberatore**. Weathers has solid pitches — a riding 90–95 mph fastball, a hard curveball and an advanced changeup. The son of 19-year big leaguer **David Weathers**, Ryan has a good delivery, repeats it well and has deceptive athleticism.”

John Sickels, [Minor League Ball](#):

“So what we have here is an athletic guy with three pitches who knows how to use them, with guts and big league bloodlines. High school pitchers are an inherently risky demographic but Weathers looks safer than most. He’ll certainly be a first-rounder. And as an aside, he’s my favorite high school pitcher in the draft.”

Competitive Balance Round A: №38 overall

Xavier Edwards, SS, North Broward Prep (FL)

With their second pick on Monday, the Padres selected toolsy shortstop **Xavier Edwards** — their second consecutive high school selection.

The switch-hitter hit .406 for the North Broward Prep Eagles this season, with a .532 on base percentage. He also swiped 24 bases this year.

The 28th-ranked prospect by MLB Pipeline, Edwards’ calling card is his speed, to which Pipeline gives a 70 grade. He could be the Padres’ tablesetter of the future.

Here’s what else MLB Pipeline evaluators have written about Edwards:

“While he is a bit undersized at 5-foot-10, Edwards’ performance over the summer and into his senior season had many evaluators looking past that. His speed is his best tool, an easy plus that allows him to get down the line in a hurry from both sides of the plate and be a basestealing threat. He has a contact-oriented approach and uses all fields well, and while he’s not likely to be a home run threat, he could grow into his frame for more extra-

base pop with an Eric Young type of build. He has excellent actions and footwork at shortstop and has shown he has enough arm to stay on the left side of the infield.”

Baseball America Executive Editor **JJ Cooper**:

[MLB.com](#) reporter **Mark Feinsand**:

John Sickels, [Minor League Ball](#):

“Edwards was born August 9th, 1999. Attending North Broward Prep, he is a plus-makeup, high-intelligence player committed to Vanderbilt and will probably have to go on day one of the draft to pass up college. He has the tools to do so, beginning with blazing speed, 70-grade at least with some 80-grades. This isn’t just pure speed: he knows how to use properly and could be a truly devastating baserunner, an ideal leadoff hitter if he gets on base enough.”

This Day in Padres History — June 5

By Bill Center

June 5, 1973 — The Padres draft outfielder **Dave Winfield** from the University of Minnesota with the fourth overall pick of the first round. Winfield reports directly to the Padres and never spends a day in the minor leagues.

June 5, 1974 — Padres select Brown University shortstop **Bill Almon** as the first overall pick of the amateur draft.

June 5, 1984 — Right-hander **Andy Hawkins** pitches a complete-game, three hit-shutout with four walks as the Padres defeat Houston 3–0 for a fifth straight win to pull to within a half-game of the National League West lead.

June 5, 2004 — **Ismael Valdez** allows four hits and no walks while striking out four in a complete-game shutout as the Padres defeat the Brewers 4–0 at Petco Park.

#PadresOnDeck: No-hitter Combo Logan Allen/Jason Jester Honored by AA-Texas League

By Bill Center

Left-handed starter **Logan Allen** and right-handed reliever **Jason Jester** were named co-Pitchers of the Week by the Double-A Texas League Monday for combining on the league's first no-hitter of the season last Thursday for San Antonio.

Allen, who turned 21 on May 23, is the [Padres' eighth-ranked prospect by MLB Pipeline](#).

Allen issued five walks while striking out seven. Jester retired all six hitters he faced with two strikeouts over the final two innings.

Allen has a 7–2 record with a 3.24 earned run average for San Antonio. He leads the Texas League in wins, innings pitched (66 2/3) and strikeouts (76) and is sixth in ERA. Jester, 27, has a 1.93 ERA.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (28–30): The Chihuahuas were off Monday.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (35–21): The Missions were off Monday.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (28–29): The Storm was off Monday.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26–29): The TinCaps were off Monday.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (1–1): Padres 11, WHITE SOX 2–3B **Vladimir Echavarria** (.286) was 2-for-4 with a double, a walk and four RBIs. C **Brandon Valenzuela** (.500) was 2-for-5 with a walk and two runs scored. 1B **Emmanuel Guerra** (.375) was 2-for-5 with a double and two runs scored. SS **Yeison Santana** (.300) was 1-for-5 with a triple and two RBIs. Starting RHP **Miguel Rondon** allowed a hit and a walk with two strikeouts over four scoreless innings.