



# Padres Press Clips

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# Lauer tames Dodgers with 8-K near-shutout

Padres rookie gives up first run one out from going distance

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- Rookie left-hander [Eric Lauer](#) has given the Padres a lot to like during his first three months in the big leagues. One quality in particular should endear him to Padres fans: absolute dominance against the Dodgers.

Lauer has been excellent since the start of June, but he's never been better than he was on Tuesday night at Petco Park. Only [Max Muncy](#)'s homer with two outs in the ninth prevented Lauer from becoming the first San Diego rookie to pitch a shutout since Clay Hensley 12 years ago.

Still, Lauer allowed only four hits and set career highs with 8 2/3 innings and eight strikeouts. His fastball consistently hit 95 mph, and his combination of three offspeed pitches was near untouchable. In 14 2/3 frames against Los Angeles this year, only Muncy has scored a run.

"It's the Dodgers, man, nobody likes the Dodgers," Lauer said with a wry grin. "You want to get them more than any other team."

[Austin Hedges](#) and [Wil Myers](#) supplied the offense with a homer apiece. That was plenty of support for Lauer, who has turned things around in a big way over his last eight starts. He entered June with a 7.67 ERA. In those eight starts since, it's 2.17.

"I've kinda let loose more than anything," Lauer said. "I made a couple mechanical tweaks with my front side, but really just trying to get back to how I used to throw and not trying to press."

Before Tuesday's start, Lauer had never pitched into the seventh inning. He worked out of a two-on, two-out jam in the seventh by blowing a fastball by [Logan Forsythe](#). It seemed like a fitting cap on a career night.

And yet, before the eighth, Lauer practically skipped from the home dugout to the Petco Park mound. He retired the Dodgers 1-2-3 and got the first two outs in the ninth before Muncy took him deep.

That's when manager Andy Green finally emerged. After a brief conversation on the mound, Lauer's night was over. He exited to a standing ovation.

"I wanted it so bad," Lauer said of the shutout. "He came out and told me that, 'We're looking out for your future. You don't need this one out to potentially ruin that.' It was a smart move, and I appreciate that he's looking out for my future. But I still wanted it."

Shortly thereafter, [Kirby Yates](#) struck out [Matt Kemp](#) to end the game. But make no mistake, this was Lauer's night. His May struggles seem like they were an eternity ago.

"The more success you have at the big league level, the more you start to feel you belong here," Green said. "He's long past that. He knows he belongs."

## MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Austin power: Lauer and Dodgers starter [Rich Hill](#) matched zeros for four innings. The Padres

finally broke through against the lefty in the fifth. After two men reached base to start the frame, Hedges launched a booming three-run homer to the lowest level of the Western Metal Building in left field. The Padres' backstop appears to be turning a corner offensively, as he's 7-for-19 with a pair of homers this month.

"With how Lauer's pitching, you give him three runs there, that puts us in a good position to win the game," Hedges said.

Where there's a Wil: Three batters later, Myers joined the party. He launched a solo shot into the left-field seats, his sixth home run in the past four games. In the process, Myers became the first Padres hitter since [Alex Dickerson](#) in July 2016 to homer in four straight. The club record of six games, set by Graig Nettles in 1984, could be within reach.

- [Myers launches 6th HR over 4-game streak](#)

#### MARGOT STARS IN CENTER

Padres center fielder [Manuel Margot](#) has never been shy about expressing his desire to win a Gold Glove Award. He was Gold Glove-caliber on Tuesday night.

Margot made two highlight-reel catches late in the game to aid Lauer's complete-game bid. In the seventh, he ranged to his right on a [Justin Turner](#) liner and laid out for a diving grab. Margot covered 52 feet in just 3.5 seconds to do so, giving the play a catch probability of 37 percent according to [Statcast™](#).

An inning later, Margot broke in on a sinking [Chris Taylor](#) liner and slid to make the grab. Lauer, as he walked off the mound, took off his hat and pointed it in Margot's direction.

"Manny was sensational," Green said. "He made some catches that gave [Lauer] a chance to almost get a complete-game shutout."

#### LAUER PICKS AND ROLLS

Lauer's pickoff move has become a legitimate weapon. He recorded his ninth of the season on Tuesday after Muncy walked to lead off the second inning.

Muncy's lead was only a couple of steps, but Lauer combined quickness with deception and nailed him at first base. The nine pickoffs are the most by a pitcher before the All-Star break since [James Shields](#) had 10 in 2011. They're the most in a season by a rookie since Lauer's teammate, [Clayton Richard](#), had 11 in '09.

#### HE SAID IT

"He was beating us with the fastball and striking with the breaking ball when he needed to. Obviously, he's had our number." -- Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, on Lauer

#### UP NEXT

Fellow rookie left-hander [Joey Lucchesi](#) squares off with Dodgers righty [Kenta Maeda](#) in the third game of the four-game series at 7:10 PT Wednesday night. Lucchesi appears to be back to full strength after missing a month with a strained right hip. He owns a 1.26 ERA in his last three starts.

# Myers launches 6th HR over 4-game streak

By Katie Woo

SAN DIEGO -- After a sluggish return from the disabled list, [Wil Myers](#) is more than making up for lost time. He bashed his sixth home run in his last four games in a [4-1 Padres victory](#) over the Dodgers on Tuesday night at Petco Park.

Myers missed nearly eight weeks with an oblique strain he suffered on April 28, then he returned with a 4-for-23 slump following his June 21 activation. That slump is no more.

Myers hit three home runs against the D-backs on Saturday, added a 16th-inning game-winner in Sunday's series finale in Arizona and put the Padres on the scoreboard in the ninth inning on Monday.

Tuesday's homer was a solo shot that extended the streak to four games. It came on a 2-1 count against left-hander [Rich Hill](#) and traveled a [Statcast™](#)-estimated 382 feet. Myers has eight home runs on the season.

For as hot as the slugger may currently be, he's keeping a pretty cool head about it.

"It's not about the results at this point," he said. "It's more about focusing on what you're doing at the plate and just sticking to the approach. You want to take the feeling out of it. Every time you go up to bat, you're trying to execute a plan."

Since coming off the DL, Myers has posted a .280 batting average with three doubles, one triple, seven homers and 14 RBIs.

He's the first Padres player to record a four-game homer streak since [Alex Dickerson](#) in July 2016. Graig Nettles owns the franchise record with a six-game streak in 1984.

# Yates OK with missing out on All-Star Game

Padres' dominant setup man will spend break with newborn son

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- [Kirby Yates](#) is not an All-Star, but the alternative isn't so bad.

The Padres' setup man was a serious candidate to be named to the National League squad when rosters were announced on Sunday. He missed out, with closer [Brad Hand](#) earning a nod as San Diego's lone representative.

Yates would've loved to be in Washington, D.C., for the Midsummer Classic next Tuesday. But last week his wife gave birth to their second child, a boy named Kove, and Yates is content to spend time being a dad.

"I get to spend three days my family -- my newborn, my daughter, my wife and my dog," Yates said with a smile. "It's not the worst thing that's ever happened to me."

Still, there was an obvious case for Yates, who has become one of the NL's top setup men. Hand even acknowledged that [he felt Yates should've gotten the nod](#). Yates owns a 1.53 ERA and has allowed just 22 hits in 35 1/3 innings while striking out 44.

"You never know how many opportunities you're going to get to make it," Yates said. "Obviously, this is the best I've ever been in the first half, so the opportunity is there. But there's a lot of guys in the same situation -- some guys who are more deserving than I am. If you put that into perspective, it was a longshot for me to make it. ... And Brad is more deserving than anyone in the league."

Yates' story is similar to that of Hand. Both were April waiver claims, Hand in 2016 and Yates a year later. Both reinvented themselves in San Diego with the help of a new pitch -- Hand's slider and Yates' splitter.

But right now, the general public seems acutely aware of Hand's ability. Yates, on the other hand, is still an unknown commodity.

"He's opening some eyes across the league," said Padres pitching coach Darren Balsley. "I'm sure there's other guys that are deserving. But he's been as good as anyone."

Balsley noted three reasons for Yates' success: an elite splitter, an elite fastball and an elite understanding for when to throw each. That's largely a product of the way Yates devours information and scouting reports, Balsley said.

As for Yates, he's quick to point out that his solid first half -- whether All-Star caliber or not -- isn't cause for celebration.

"Any time you have a sustained amount of success and put together a run where you're pitching pretty well is great," Yates said. "But the ultimate goal is to have these kind of numbers when you cross the finish line."

Lockett optioned after preserving 'pen

Right-hander [Walker Lockett](#) pitched in one game before he was optioned to Triple-A El Paso - and he was only at Petco Park for half of it.

Lockett's flight from El Paso was re-routed to Las Vegas on Monday. He didn't land in San Diego until 8:15 p.m. PT. By then, the Padres and Dodgers were already in the fourth inning. Lockett arrived at the park, suited up and pitched the final two frames of an 8-2 defeat. In the process, he helped save a Padres bullpen that was reeling from a 16-inning victory in Arizona on Sunday.

"In that clubhouse, he gained a ton of respect from just hopping off a plane and pitching and preserving a lot of guys' arms," manager Andy Green said.

Reyes recalled

With Lockett headed to El Paso, the Padres recalled outfielder [Franmil Reyes](#). In his first stint with the club this season, the 23-year-old rookie hit .228/.260/.457.

Reyes' arrival is an immediate fix that replenishes the Padres' bench. ([Cory Spangenberg](#) was optioned to clear space for Lockett, and the Padres played with three bench pieces on Monday night.) But there's little playing time available for Reyes, with [Wil Myers](#), [Manuel Margot](#), [Travis Jankowski](#) and [Hunter Renfroe](#) already sharing time in the outfield.

The Padres want Reyes getting regular at-bats. He's not missing out on any this week during the Triple-A All-Star break. But his time in the Majors could be limited.

"Four guys, it works really well," Green said of his outfield rotation. "Five guys, the pie gets sliced really thin. We like him a lot. We definitely don't want to see him sitting on the bench for the remainder of the baseball season. But he could play himself into more opportunity."

# Eric Lauer keeps rolling in win over Dodgers

[Jeff Sanders](#)

The All-Star break will provide four days off. The schedule the last three months of the season will offer 10 more. The desire to hold auditions for 2019 will almost assuredly alter the rotation a time or two or more.

Don't worry. There will be plenty of time to rest Eric Lauer down the stretch.

For now, the [Padres](#) are letting their 23-year-old rookie stretch his legs.

After all, Lauer's got quite a good thing going.

Backed by [Austin Hedges](#)' three-run homer and [Wil Myers](#)' sixth homer in four games, Lauer pitched into the ninth for the first time, piled up a career-high eight strikeouts and picked off yet another runner. In the end, only Max Muncy's two-out homer and a brief conversation on the mound with Padres manager Andy Green stood between Lauer and the first complete game of his young career.

"I wanted it so bad," Lauer said with a smile after scattering four hits and two walks in 8 2/3 innings in a 4-1 win over the [Dodgers](#) on Tuesday night. "It's one of those things where he came out and told me we're looking out for your future. You don't need this one out to potentially ruin that.

"I think it was a smart move and I appreciate that he's looking out for my future, but I still wanted it."

The Padre's third-year skipper wanted it for Lauer, too.

That's why he sent his young left-hander to the mound for one last frame even with 101 pitches already on his ledger.

“There's some value,” Green said, “to letting him experience the emotion of letting him go back out in the ninth inning and feeling what it's like to strive for a complete game.”

As such, a raucous Tuesday night crowd of 26,272 Petco Park provided a memorable soundtrack as Lauer popped out of the dugout to fetch three more outs against a division rival he'd already blanked over six innings in Mexico (“Nobody likes the Dodgers,” he said. “You want to get them a little more than other teams”).

Petco Park's entertainment staff marked Lauer's attempt at the first real milestone of his career with rock band Cake's “The Distance.”

Naturally, Lauer soaked it all in as he warmed up to face Kike Hernandez, [Justin Turner](#) and Muncy.

“When you're out there you notice everything, especially the song,” Lauer said. “It made me think about it – ‘Don't put that in my head too much. I still have to get three outs.’

“But it was cool to experience that.”

The first two hitters flied out to center and left, respectively.

The third, the left-handed Muncy, sent a 1-1 fastball to left, a drive that Lauer watched sail over the wall as he bent over with his hands on his knees.

Moments later a standing ovation greeted Lauer as he exited after a brief mound visit with Green.

“Where he is in the journey there wasn't going to be any opportunity to talk me into (staying in the game),” Green said after letting his rookie throw a season-high 115 pitches. “He definitely wanted to stay in. He definitely wanted one more hitter. He deserved the conversation on the mound rather than the point (to the bullpen) as I come out of the dugout.”

Kirby Yates took it from there, dialing up Matt Kemp's fourth strikeout of the game to finish off a victory that evened Lauer's record at 5-5 after a rough start to his first year in the majors.

Now, he's rolling.

"You're talking about a kid the first few times up who was having a hard time finding his footing," Green said. "He found his fastball, which has always been his primary weapon and you could see it jumping the whole night. ...

"It's got that sneaky kind of hot life to it that guys just don't get to a lot of times."

Which was the case Tuesday.

Seven of his eight strikeouts ended with Dodgers flailing at fastballs, including Kemp and [Logan Forsythe](#) three times each – most of them on four-seamers pushing 95 mph. Fifteen of his 65 heaters fetched whiffs.

"I consider myself a *kind* of power pitcher," Lauer said. "Not a power pitcher because power pitchers throw 95-plus every time. I pitch like a power pitcher and my off-speed stuff allows me to throw fastballs by guys at times.

"Today felt like I had control of four or five pitches."

Lauer's first mistake – a leadoff walk to Muncy in the second – was even erased via a pickoff, his major league-leading ninth this year.

Before Muncy's 21<sup>st</sup> blast of the season, the only hits Lauer allowed were Austin Barnes' one-out single in the third, Muncy's one-out single in the seventh and Cody Bellinger's shift-beating double that put runners on second and third in the seventh.

Forsythe's third strikeout – on three pitches – ended the seventh-inning threat. [Manuel Margot](#) also laid out to rob Turner of a single on a sinking liner to start that hectic seventh and made a diving catch in center to end the eighth as Lauer tipped his cap as he walked off the mound.

“(The defense) was unbelievable,” Lauer said. “That outfield works. There was some infield plays, man. Margot was unbelievable making unbelievable catches. I was super happy about that.”

In between, Lauer’s offense delivered much-needed support via two loud hits in the fourth inning: Hedges’ three-run homer off Dodgers left-hander Rich Hill (7 IP, 7Ks) and Myers’ ensuing two-out blast to open up a 4-0 lead.

It was the fourth straight game in which Myer had homered.

Lauer’s hot streak dates back a bit further.

After posting a 7.67 ERA through May, the former first-rounder’s longest big league outing to date lowered his ERA to 2.33 over his last eight starts, the last pushing his season total between the minors and majors to 92 2/3 innings.

Lauer threw 122 innings last year in his first full year in pro ball. He’s in line for one more start before the All-Star break – Sunday against the Cubs – but Tuesday’s bid for a complete game could alter the weekend plans.

“We’ll sit down and talk through what we want to do,” Green said. “We’ve been talking all season long about what we do with our young starting pitching. We’ll continue to have that conversation, but right now we’re thrilled with what he did and excited about the future every time he takes the mound.”

# Franmil Reyes returns as Walker Lockett optioned out

[Jeff Sanders](#)

As was the case when Franmil Reyes was returned to Triple-A El Paso last month, the [Padres](#) do not have enough at-bats to regularly feed five outfielders.

Reyes is back in San Diego anyway because [Cory Spangenberg](#), sans a DL move, cannot return for 10 days after Padres manager Andy Green opted to swap out the versatile utility man for relief depth that helped the Padres finish off Monday's 8-2 loss to the Dodgers.

A day later, one of those arms ([Walker Lockett](#)) was optioned back to El Paso as Reyes rejoined the roster, most likely as a short-term role player on a roster that already has three right-handed-hitting outfielders playing well.

"It's going to be tough to divvy up playing time in a way that gives (Franmil) this great opportunity right now," Green said. "We think Hunter (Renfroe) is doing some nice things. We think Manny (Margot) is doing some nice things. Travis (Jankowski) has been unbelievable against right-handed pitching and getting on base for us atop the order.

"And Wil (Myers) is Wil."

In 18 games since his return to the Pacific Coast League, Reyes – who turned 23 over the weekend – was hitting .294/.415/.397 with one homer, 11 RBIs and 14 walks against 20 strikeouts.

Reyes had six homers and eight RBIs to go with a .228/.260/.457 batting line in 29 games in his previous stint with the Padres. He struck out 39 times against four walks in that stint.

This time around, Reyes — who is available off the bench Tuesday — might only start one or two games before the All-Star break.

“At some point it becomes need-based at the big league level,” Green explained. “When we had to make the move to bring up pitching depth, Franmil became the logical choice to come back and get some at-bats and maybe impact and win a game.

“We like him a lot. We don't want to see him sitting on the bench (here) the remainder of the baseball season. He could play himself into more and more opportunity.”

## Notable

- RHP **Bryan Mitchell** threw a bullpen for the first time since landing on the DL on June 20 (retro to June 17) with an elbow impingement. “It took a few days of throwing to really feel that get out of his elbow,” Green said. “This was the first time he got off the mound. I heard it went really well. I assume he’ll get off the mound again in three days. He’s looked strong to me. He’s worked out relatively hard since the injury. He’s looked good to me physically and they said he looked good off the mound.”
- RHP **Jordan Lyles** (elbow) will throw a bullpen Wednesday and could progress to live batting practice as soon as Saturday.

# Minors Ronald Bolanos strong again in Storm loss

Jeff Sanders

**Ronald Bolanos** continued a run of strong starts at high Single-A Lake Elsinore on Tuesday. He just didn't have much help.

The 21-year-old Cuban struck out five and allowed two runs – one earned – on two hits and four walks in six innings in the [Storm's 5-1 loss](#) to visiting Inland Empire.

Bolanos (3-6) has allowed two earned runs or fewer in four straight starts and five of six, lowering his ERA from 7.32 to 4.62.

Through 78 innings with the Storm (42-48), Bolanos has struck out 72, walked 33 and held opposing hitters to a .274 batting average.

Bolanos signed for \$2.25 million during the 2016-17 international period.

Right-hander **Carter Capps** (2.35) struck out one over two scoreless innings to close the game. He allowed two hits.

Designated hitter **Luis Torrens** (.275) and shortstop **Allen Cordoba** (.155) – both Rule 5 picks last year – both collected two hits.

## **ROOKIE AZL PADRES 1 (5-12)**

- [Rangers 10, Padres 1](#): RHP **Frank Lopez** (0-2, 5.54) allowed five runs – four earned – on five hits and three walks in 1 2/3 innings in the loss. 2B **Lee Solomon** (.282) went 2-for-4 and LF **Tyler Benson** (.130) went 1-for-3 with a triple and a run scored.

## **ROOKIE AZL PADRES 2 (8-9)**

- [Padres 5, Reds 4](#): LHP **Joey Cantillo** (0.50) struck out six and allowed a run on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings, the first earned run he has allowed in 18 innings. In that stretch, Cantillo has struck out 21, walked three and allowed 14 hits. LHP **Danny Sexton** (1-0, 0.66) struck out two over two scoreless innings in relief for the win. 2B **Tucupita Marcano** (.390) went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored and 1B **Jason Pineda** (.348) went 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored.

# Q&A: Ron Fowler isn't happy, still believes Padres will be better for struggle

[Kevin Acee](#)

Padres Executive Chairman Ron Fowler continues to trust the process.

But he clearly isn't pleased with the course of the 2018 season.

On Tuesday afternoon, he discussed how much he talked to A.J. Preller over the weekend, when more prospects will be up to the majors, Andy Green's job security, ticket prices and when he expects the Padres to be good.

## **How difficult it is for you to watch this process?**

As a fan, losing is not fun. I've been a fan far longer than I've been an owner. It's frustrating.

I now know how difficult this process is. I have a lot of respect for the people who can stay the course, which is what we're being challenged to do to get to where you want to be. One of the people in baseball I've come to respect is David Glass in Kansas City. He stayed the course far longer than I'm hoping we have to. But he basically said, "You have to get the right people, give them the opportunity to do what it is they can do and be patient as they go through the process."

## **Is some of that allowing the people who work for you to make mistakes?**

Yes. The journey requires you to make mistakes. The journey requires you to take risks. What's the cliché? That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger. There are some days I'm wondering whether I'm going to get stronger.

**Your intention is to be in that championship window for longer than a couple years, right?**

Yes. ... Given the significant number of international players that we have that are coming into the organization at a relatively young age and given our performance level at the various minor leagues, where we are almost uniformly the youngest teams in those leagues, I believe that affords us the opportunity to be stronger longer as we continue the waves (of talent) that A.J. talks about.

**A little more than halfway through the season your 39-54 record is one game worse than last season and two games worse than 2016. You don't measure progress at this point entirely on wins and losses, but—**

(Laughs.) I really appreciate you asking that question. I know very well what our record is and where we stand.

As I said, no one is happy with where we are this year. We've had some key injuries. We have not had the people on the field that we expected to be the difference makers together very often. But other teams have injuries, and they have been able to survive them far better than we have.

We knew our starting pitching would be a challenge, and it has been – notwithstanding we have two young guys who have come up and looked pretty good. Our relief corps has been aces, as they were last year. (Adam) Cimber has been a pleasant surprise. Shortstop, we have a true shortstop (in [Freddy Galvis](#)), defensively for sure. And (Eric) Hosmer, by the way, has been the leader we expected him to be on every front. He's on the schneid now. But he has provided leadership, he and Galvis.

But as a team we are not performing as well as we hoped to. Andy would agree with that. A.J. would agree with that. Peter (Seidler) and I would agree with that.

**How is this struggling part of the process?**

One of the things we're going through right now is giving some people a chance to prove they belong here. ... It's not a scientific process. It's sort of an artistic process. Right now, it's not very pretty.

**No position player on the major league roster came up through your developmental system as it is now, with changes in focus on plate discipline and that sort of thing. How significant is that?**

I'm hoping very significant. Because the messaging that is taking place at all levels, plate discipline is part of it. Look at some of our people that we expect to be here in the next season or two, at the outside. Their strikeouts are far less, their plate discipline is better, they're putting the ball in play approach is better, ergo their on-base percentage is better. We seem to be better on that in the minor leagues than we are in the major leagues. That's not a criticism. That's just a reality we are working on.

**How much of the games did you watch on Saturday and Sunday?**

All of it.

**Why didn't you find something better to do?**

I have taken on it. A.J. and I corresponded a lot between the start of the game on Saturday and the end of the game on Sunday. I have a lot of questions. I've been a student of the game for a long time. If I was a student of the game, A.J. has his PhD. I know enough to maybe be dangerous. But I ask him questions. What about this? What about that? Am I seeing what you're seeing? We have some very good dialogue on it.

**So not to make too much out of one game or even the struggles lately, but what don't you like about what you've seen?**

Let me focus on what I do like. They never quit. They play hard when we're down 20 to whatever. They didn't give up. There were reasons to give up.

And the next day we had performances like (Austin) Hedges, who caught a game that was unbelievable for 16 fricking innings. These guys had every reason to be tired, but

they came in and played, and we won that game in 16 innings after being humiliated the night before.

Our discipline didn't show very well either day. And some of the things we need to improve, needed to improve. Our defense on Saturday night was not very good. Our pitching was not great, but our defense was not great either.

But when I'm watching a game like that, you're looking for individual commitment, to make sure their head is still in it. As disappointing as Saturday was, I think Sunday our manager and our players performed better than the other team. That's why we won. Andy managed a better game, our players kept on keeping on.

### **What do you expect from the rest of the season?**

I expect that the offense is going to improve as we hopefully don't have the injuries we have had and guys can play more frequently and we get a more focused lineup for at least six of the eight regular positions. I'm expecting to see some new people pitching who it will be interesting to see how strong they are. So both position player and pitchers, I think we'll see some of the people up here. It will be up to A.J. when that happens, not me. But I'm looking for people to prove they belong here, and some of the new people coming up to prove they belong here going forward.

### **Even many fans who have bought into the way you're trying to build a championship team still wonder why they should invest in the team now – buying tickets, merchandise. Can you understand that?**

Definitely. It's not much fun right now. We're not having fun. Growing up is not easy. We're trying to grow up into a team that can compete with the better teams in the league.

### **Can you explain how you can justify the ticket prices while the team is so substandard?**

First of all, our ticket prices are some of the lowest prices in the league. And we have not taken prices up, nor will we until we are performing better than we are.

Unlike football, in baseball you draft and develop. And it takes longer. So this process of bringing in free agents and such ... doesn't work. We tried that at one point. We then went to where our focus was going to be all along, which is drafting and developing.

What percentage are we through the process? I'm hoping we're at least 50-plus percent through. But those of us who follow the minor leagues know we have some players down there that are quite good and competing effectively at a young age. We're hoping they're here sooner versus later. We'll still stay with our '20/'21 dates. We look at Philadelphia and Atlanta and Milwaukee, and we realize it's not a straight line. It's more of a hockey stick, where all of a sudden you get better. That's what keeps me going.

**When we talk about mistakes that happen as you build this into what you hope models the [Royals](#), the Astros, the Cubs, one thing that comes to mind is the [Chase Headley](#)-Bryan Mitchell trade? How does ownership absorb that and be OK with trying that and it not working?**

The rationale that was used to make those decisions was sound. The execution of that rationale didn't work. We could probably be sitting here with those people still having active roles with the team. But I don't think it's in the best interest of what we're trying to build to have that. Let's give someone else the ability to see what they can do.

**You clearly have entrusted Andy Green with being the manager to guide this team into the next phase. What would have to happen for that to change?**

I think that's an unfair question right now. I think A.J. and I both believe we've got to give him better players. I think he's getting as much out of the guys we have as he can. However – and this is a big however – you need to have the same guys playing together for a greater period of time before you can really judge your capabilities. I would say Andy is probably as frustrated as anybody – maybe more so, since he lives it every day. He's our guy. We think we're all growing. As I said earlier, what doesn't

kill you makes you strong. I think we're gaining on it in terms of our ability to compete and make the city proud.

**You seem to have almost limitless patience sometimes, but—**

No. People internally know I don't have endless patience. I will tell you, the people I work with here, we have fun. But there are some days that – plain and simple, losing sucks. OK? Over this losing spell, it hasn't been fun.

# ‘It’s the Dodgers, man’: Eric Lauer shines in near complete-game shutout

[By Dennis Lin](#)

Eric Lauer had not completed more than six innings once before his 15th start in the majors. His debut, at Coors Field, included a grand slam by the fifth batter he faced. After a June 8 performance in Miami, he conveyed what he had learned while offering a reminder of his innocence.

“I don’t want to use a swear word,” Lauer said that night, “but you can’t half-ass a pitch. You’ve got to be behind it 100 percent.”

On Tuesday, the 23-year-old rookie sprouted in front of the Padres’ eyes. Much of a bipartisan crowd at Petco Park fêted him with a standing ovation. He did not yield a run until his final pitch, coming within two strikes of a complete-game shutout.

His fastball, which he hurled 65 times amid 115 pitches, evoked an R-rated reaction.

“He has a fucking weird heater,” Cody Bellinger said. “It’s hard to hit. You see it. Then you swing and it’s by you.”

The Padres’ 4-1 win over the Dodgers satiated the home fans for a number of reasons. Victories and individual progress have been in limited supply for a rebuilding team. Wil Myers’ sixth home run in four games and Austin Hedges’ second in five provided cause for encouragement. Manuel Margot sprinted across the center-field turf for a pair of catches Jerry Coleman would have loved.

And then there was Lauer, who went eight outs longer than he’d ever gone and, afterward, showed an advanced appreciation for the moment. Through 15 big-league starts, the left-hander owns a 4.40 ERA. Through two starts against the closest division rival, that number is 0.61.

“It’s the Dodgers, man,” Lauer said. “Nobody likes the Dodgers. You want to get them more than any other team.”

Lauer's dominance on July 10 did not emerge from nowhere. Across the seven preceding starts, he had lowered his ERA by nearly three full runs. Increasing comfort with his surroundings helped. So did conviction in a repertoire that enabled the 2016 first-rounder to sail through the minor leagues.

A formula for success has surfaced. It does not require overpowering velocity. And yet, Lauer's four-seam fastball averaged 92.5 mph on Tuesday, according to Statcast. He touched 95 mph on multiple occasions. An 88-90 mph cutter, which he has [differentiated from his slider](#), effectively served as another fastball, except with more movement.

"I've kind of let loose more than anything," said Lauer, who shelved his changeup for the night, going instead to an occasional curveball. "A couple mechanical tweaks with my front side, and really just trying to get back to how I used to throw and not trying to press too much. Just letting loose."

"He found his fastball," manager Andy Green said. "You could see it jumping tonight. ... It's got that sneaky kind of hop life to it. Guys just don't get to it a lot of times. He threw just enough off-speed [pitches] to keep them off balance."

"He's basically got three different breaking balls," said Hedges, who caught Lauer's finest start. "I think all that off-speed makes his fastball play up more than it already does."

Lauer's final 95 mph reading arrived in the top of the ninth, an opportunity Green permitted for educational purposes. Through eight innings, the lefty had breezed by on 101 pitches. Had he stopped there, he would have been the first Padres rookie to throw eight or more scoreless innings since Clay Hensley in 2006.

Green, seeing a fastball that was still hopping, green-lit a chance at the shutout.

"There's some value in letting him experience the emotion, in going back out for the ninth inning and feeling what it feels like to strive for a complete game," the manager said. "He knows those feelings, and hopefully those feelings push him the next time he's back out there."

In 8 2/3 innings, Lauer surrendered only four hits and two walks. He struck out eight batters, a new record in his young career, and added to his major-league lead with his ninth pickoff. And though Max Muncy's two-out homer ended his night, he had still come further than any teammate; when Lauer took the mound

in the ninth, he became the first Padres starter to do so this season. He left reluctantly.

“I wanted [a complete game] so bad,” Lauer said. “[Green] came out and told me that ‘We’re looking out for your future. You don’t need this one out to potentially ruin that.’ I think it was a smart move, and I appreciate that he’s looking out for my future. But I still wanted it.”

The Padres now must make a decision about the immediate future. Club officials have espoused the value of preventing overuse with young starters, particularly Lauer and fellow rookie Joey Lucchesi. Rather than push Lauer in Sunday’s first-half finale, the team could opt to build in additional rest around the All-Star break.

An extended breather could be in his long-term interests. Then again, a test against the Cubs could prove equally beneficial. After all, Lauer’s development has gained unprecedented momentum.

“After catching him in spring training and getting to know him as a teammate and a person and a pitcher, I had really high expectations of him,” Hedges said. “He’s a competitor, he works and he pitches. And I think that’s what he showed tonight. He knows how to pitch.”

# Rookie Lauer leads Padres to 4-1 win against Dodgers

Associated Press

NEW YORK -- [San Diego Padres](#) rookie left-hander [Eric Lauer](#) popped out of the dugout for the ninth inning and was greeted by Cake's "The Distance" on the PA, as well as the heart of the [Los Angeles Dodgers'](#) order.

"When you're out there you notice everything, especially the song," Lauer said. "It made me think about it. I was kind of like, 'Don't put that in my head too much. I still have to get three outs.'"

Lauer didn't quite go the distance, coming within one out of his first career complete game before allowing [Max Muncy](#)'s home run. Manager Andy Green decided the 115-pitch performance was enough. [Kirby Yates](#) came on and struck out All-Star [Matt Kemp](#) to seal the Padres' 4-1 victory Tuesday night.

Green said he wanted Lauer to experience the emotion of going out for the ninth. After Muncy's home run, Green said Lauer at least deserved a conversation before the manager decided that the rookie, backed by home runs by [Wil Myers](#) and [Austin Hedges](#), had done enough.

"He knows those feelings. Hopefully those feelings push him the next time he's out there. One more out to get the next time. Can't leave that out in front of you. I thought he was great all the way through," Green said.

"It was cool to experience that," Lauer said. "I haven't experienced it yet. It was my first time so hopefully I'll get to experience it more. ... That's big for a starting pitcher. You don't get there too often. To know what's going to happen, how it will feel, it will start to feel like just another inning, hopefully."

Lauer (5-5) took a three-hit shutout into the ninth inning after having thrown 101 pitches. He got [Enrique Hernandez](#) to fly out to center and [Justin Turner](#) to fly out to deep left before Muncy drove a 1-1 pitch into the seats in left, his 21st.

Lauer, 23, said almost getting the complete game ranked just behind the no-hitter he threw at Kent State in 2016, just a few weeks before the Padres took with him with the 26th pick overall in the amateur draft.

"A little more satisfying," he said. "I feel like I had really good command of all my pitches and it's the first time I really had four, five pitches working. I don't think I threw a changeup today, but it was still in the back of my mind that I had it available."

Lauer struck out a career-high eight and walked two in winning consecutive starts for the first time. He also had his ninth pickoff of the season, nabbing Muncy in the second after a leadoff walk.

"The fastball velo was up a couple ticks than it normally is," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said about Lauer. "He was beating us with the fastball. I thought there were some well-hit balls tonight. ... Munce put a good swing late. But we really didn't threaten all night."

Lauer improved to 2-0 against Los Angeles.

"It's the Dodgers, man," he said. "Nobody likes the Dodgers. You want to get them a little more than any other team. I've been fortunate to do good against them so far. Hopefully I can keep it rolling against them," he said.

Myers homered for the sixth time in four games and Hedges had a three-run shot.

Myers, who has played in only 28 games this season due to injuries, has heated up after a second stint on the disabled list. He hit three home runs Saturday in a 20-5 loss at Arizona, hit another in the 16th inning on Sunday to give the Padres a 4-3 win over the Diamondbacks, and then homered in the ninth inning of an 8-2 loss to [Clayton Kershaw](#) and the Dodgers on Monday night.

His homer Tuesday night, to left-center on a 2-1 pitch off [Rich Hill](#), (2-4), was his eighth overall. Hedges hit his fourth of the season earlier in the inning, off the Western Metal Supply Co. brick warehouse in the left field corner at Petco Park on a 1-2 pitch. [Jose Pirela](#) drew a leadoff walk and [Freddy Galvis](#) singled ahead of Hedges' homer.

[Eric Hosmer](#) just missed homering in the third, when center fielder [Cody Bellinger](#) leaped to make the catch at the fence.

Hill allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings, struck out seven and walked one.

"I'm tired of losing. I hate losing," Hill said. "When you have good stuff and, unfortunately things just don't go your way, I mean, obviously that's the game, but it just (stinks) to lose. Something that really eats at me."

The teams finished the game in a quick 2 hours, 18 minutes.

Padres center fielder [Manuel Margot](#) made a nice diving catch of Justin Turner's fly ball in the seventh and then made a sliding catch of [Chris Taylor](#)'s sinking liner to end the eighth.

UP NEXT

Dodgers: RHP Kenta Maeda (5-5, 3.24), the scheduled starter for the third game in the four-game series, is 4-3 with a 4.70 ERA in 10 career starts against San Diego.

Padres: Rookie LHP [Joey Lucchesi](#) (4-4, 3.27) is 1-1 with a 1.26 ERA in his last three starts.

# Andy's Address, 7/10

Andy Addresses Lockett's brief but important stay, the return of Franmil Reyes, Eric Lauer, Wil Myers

*By Bill Center*

Right-handed pitcher **Walker Lockett** spent less than 24 hours with the Padres before he was optioned back to Triple-A El Paso Tuesday at the same time outfielder **Franmil Reyes** was recalled from the Chihuahuas.

But manager **Andy Green** spoke in depth Tuesday afternoon about the importance of Lockett's two-inning outing Monday night after he spent most of the day getting to Petco Park. Lockett's effort — along with **Luis Perdomo**'s seven-inning start — meant the Padres' over-worked bullpen got a full day off after working 17 innings in the two previous games.

“I don't think Lockett naturally would have appreciated what he did because you don't see it in the perspective,” said Green during his pre-game media session. “But I saw **Eric Hosmer** walk over and talk to him and Perdomo for what they did yesterday. “Luis got extended beyond normally what he would have in that situation.”

“I saw multiple other players go over there and every coach was talking about it after the game. I talked to him about it today when we sent him down. In that clubhouse, Walker gained a ton of respect . . . just hopping off the plane and pitching and preserving a lot of guys' arms so we could continue on today and be at fuller strength and have an opportunity to win today's game.”

“Sometimes what you did the day before is designed to help you win the next day. And what he did yesterday helps all of us out a ton. He gave us two outstanding innings. Hopefully he gets it now. It's not easily done,

getting off the plane to pitch. Sometimes there are extenuating circumstances and you can't do anything about it. Planes get diverted in the air."

"Somehow Monday, he's headed to a connecting flight in Phoenix. Then he's in Las Vegas, then San Diego and in a Major League baseball game. We primed him. He was told 'you're going to throw right when you get here and we need you badly.'"

Because the Padres optioned **Cory Spangenberg** to El Paso Monday while adding Lockett, they had a three-man bench Monday. So they recalled Reyes Tuesday. Reyes, 22, was earlier with the Padres from May 14 to June 21. Reyes was a logical choice to return because El Paso is off through Thursday for the Pacific Coast League All-Star break and Spangenberg is ineligible to return until after the Major League All-Star break.

"We brought Franmil Reyes in to even the bench out a little bit," said Green. "We got the bench back to four guys. He'll get a pinch-hit opportunity today if the need arises. He'll be available to start some games as well. When he went down, we talked about continuing to work on the defensive side and grinding out at-bats on the offensive side."

"He did a lot of really good things up here and also showed some areas where he can work on. He's going to be in the mix playing some. We basically have five outfielders out there right now. It's going to be tough to divvy up playing time in a way to give him this great opportunity right now."

"I think **Hunter (Renfroe)** is doing some nice things, **Manny (Margot)** is doing some nice things. **Travis (Jankowski)** has been unbelievable against right-handed pitching, getting on base for us at the top of the order and setting a tone for us. Wil's Wil. He's going to take one more game off before the All-Star break if he is feeling good. Maybe two."

“There’s not going to be a ton of starts out there the way I see these next six days. He could get some big at-bats and double-switch in. We’ll get him out there when we get a chance to. At some point, you do things on a need basis at the big league level. When we had to make the move yesterday to bring up pitching depth, Franmil became the logical choice.”

“For this short time before the All-Star break, no one feels this is going to hurt him. With four outfielders, it works really well. With five outfielders and four being right-handed hitters, the pie is sliced really thin. We like him a lot and definitely don’t want to see him sitting on the bench for the remainder of the baseball season. But he could play himself into more and more opportunity here as well.”

Green discussed Myers, who Monday night became only the third Padre to hit five homers in a three-game span.

“He’s always going to be a light-hearted, fun-loving guy,” Green said of Myers. “We love him that way. We don’t want him to change that at all. What he’s done really well is ride through the game, the highs and the lows and maintain the consistency of who he is. All the work he’s put in is paying off for him right now. He’s always had stretches where he’s looked as good as anyone in baseball. I love the way he’s walking through this stretch right now and not get too high or too low.”

Green then turned to left-handed rookie pitchers **Eric Lauer** and **Joey Lucchesi**, who, respectively, are starting games Nos. 2 and 3 against the Dodgers.

“Lauer has an inquisitive mind,” said Green “He talks to **Clayton (Richard)** and **Tyson (Ross)** all the time and learns from them. The players who are going to be here the longest adapt to changes. At the same time, he knows his strength which is the fastball and his ability to get it in on hitters and get it by hitters. His last game was the most life he’s had on the fastball, which was great to see. He threw a lot of them and he threw a lot of them really well.”

“I feel Lucchesi is fully back (from his time on the disabled list). The first outing was obviously rough. After that, the last three have been really good. I would have loved to see him get into the seventh inning the other day, he got into the sixth. We can see him extending now and getting deeper into all games. It’s all going to be predicated on results now, how he looks on the mound, how he feels on the mound. There’s no restrictions on him at all right now, just go pitch.”

# Lauer narrowly misses complete game, dominates in 4-1 win

AP

Jul 11, 2018 at 1:29a ET

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rookie left-hander [Eric Lauer](#) came within one out of his first career complete game before allowing Max Muncy's home run, and [Wil Myers](#) homered for the sixth time in four games to lead the [San Diego Padres](#) over the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) 4-1 on Tuesday night.

[Austin Hedges](#) had a three-run shot for the Padres.

Lauer (5-5) took a three-hit shutout into the ninth inning, facing the heart of the Dodgers' order after having thrown 101 pitches. He got Enrique Hernandez to fly out to center and Justin Turner to fly out to deep left before Muncy drove a 1-1 pitch into the seats in left, his 21st.

After throwing 115 pitches, Lauer made way for [Kirby Yates](#), who struck out All-Star Matt Kemp to end it. Kemp struck out four times.

Lauer struck out a career-high eight and walked two in winning consecutive starts for the first time.

Myers, who has played in only 28 games this season due to injuries, has heated up after a second stint on the disabled list. He hit three home runs Saturday in a 20-5 loss at Arizona, hit another in the 16th inning on Sunday to give the Padres a 4-3 win over the Diamondbacks, and then homered in the ninth inning of an 8-2 loss to Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers on Monday night.

His homer Tuesday night, to left-center on a 2-1 pitch off Rich Hill (2-4), was his eighth overall.

Hedges hit his fourth of the season earlier in the inning, off the Western Metal Supply Co. brick warehouse in the left field corner at Petco Park on a 1-2 pitch. [Jose Pirela](#) drew a leadoff walk and [Freddy Galvis](#) singled ahead of Hedges' homer.

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#### UP NEXT

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Padres: Rookie LHP [Joey Lucchesi](#) (4-4, 3.27) is 1-1 with a 1.26 ERA in his last three starts.

# Padres' Lucchesi gets his shot at Dodgers

## STATS

Jul 11, 2018 at 2:41a ET

SAN DIEGO — Now the question becomes, how can [Joey Lucchesi](#) top that?

The friendly competition between the [San Diego Padres'](#) two rookie left-handed starting pitchers — Lucchesi and [Eric Lauer](#) — heated up a notch at Petco Park Tuesday night when Lauer came within an out of becoming the first Padres rookie to throw a complete-game shutout since Clay Hensley in 2006.

Alas, the Dodgers' Max Muncy homered with two outs in the ninth to spoil the shutout as well as Lauer's bid to throw the Padres' first complete game of the season.

But Lauer evened his record at 5-5 while lowering his ERA to 4.40 while going 2 2/3 innings deeper into a game than he had gone in any of his first 14 major league starts.

Now it is Lucchesi's turn to face the Dodgers Wednesday night in the third game of the four-game series. Thus far, Lucchesi is 4-4 on the season with a 3.27 ERA in 13 starts.

Just like Lauer on Tuesday night, Lucchesi will be facing the Southern California rival Dodgers for the second time in his rookie season. But Lucchesi will have to go a ways to match Lauer's success against the Padres' neighbors to the north.

Lauer, who, like Lucchesi, was a product of the 2016 draft, has pitched 14 2/3 innings against the Dodgers, allowing one run on 11 hits and three walks with 13 strikeouts.

Lucchesi gave up three runs on five hits and three walks over five innings on May 4 in Monterrey, Mexico — the night the Padres were no-hit by Walker Buehler and three Dodger relievers.

Wednesday night, Lucchesi will be opposed by Dodgers right-hander Kenta Maeda (5-5, 3.24 ERA), who last faced the Padres on May 5 in Mexico, allowing three runs on four hits over five innings. On that night, Maeda did not factor in the decision in a game won by the Padres 7-4.

Overall, Maeda is 4-3 with a 4.78 ERA in 11 career appearances (10 starts) against the Padres. The Padres have hit .327 against Maeda, who has 66 strikeouts against 12 walks in 52 2/3 innings against the Padres.

Maeda will be making his 17th appearance and 16th start of the 2018 season Wednesday night. He has allowed 33 runs (29 earned) on 70 hits and 31 walks with 98 strikeouts in 80 2/3 innings. Opposing hitters are batting .230 against Maeda, who has a 1.24 WHIP while averaging 10.85 strikeouts per nine innings. Maeda's most recent outing was Friday against the Angels in Anaheim, where he allowed a run on three hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Lucchesi, who returned June 20 from a five-week stint on the disabled list with a strained glute muscle, has allowed two runs on five hits and seven walks with 14 strikeouts over 14 1/3 innings in his last three starts.

"I feel Lucchesi is fully back (from his time on the disabled list)," Padres manager Andy Green said Tuesday. "The first outing back was obviously rough. After that, the last three have been really good. I would have loved to see him get into the seventh inning the other day, he got into the sixth.

"We can see him extending now and getting deeper into all games. It's all going to be predicated on results now, how he looks on the mound, how he feels on the mound. There's no restrictions on him at all right now, just go pitch."