



Padres Press Clips

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Article	Source	Author	Pg.
Padres claim Valhalla alum Greg Garcia, who's 'so excited' to be coming home	SD Union Tribune	Acee	2
Padres could try to sell Galvis on return to SD	MLB.com	Cassavell	4
Allen drives in two in Thursday's AFL action	MLB.com	Staff	6
These players could get qualifying offers today	MLB.com	Staff	10
Padres Claim Infielder Greg Garcia from Cardinals El Cajon native attended Valhalla High	FriarWire	Center	12
Padres claim Cardinals IF Greg Garcia off waivers	FOXSports.com	Staff	13
Lamet, Cordero added to Padres roster	SD Union Tribune	Acee	14

Padres claim Valhalla alum Greg Garcia, who's 'so excited' to be coming home

Kevin Acee

Good thing Greg Garcia wasn't driving up Route 395 when his agent called Thursday.

"If I was driving," he said, "we might not have made it."

As it was, when the lifelong San Diegan found out he'd been claimed off waivers by the [Padres](#), Garcia began hopping up and down on the passenger seat of the moving truck driven by his father, Dave, as they made their way to Lake Tahoe.

"My agent could barely contain his emotions, because he knew I was going to be so excited," Garcia said. "I just started jumping. I punched my dad a few times. He's probably going to have bruises on his arm. It's a very exciting moment for my family.

"This is honestly one of the top three days of my life. I am so excited about it. I feel so honored to play for the Padres, a team that wants me. ... It's a dream come true."

In Garcia, the grandson of former Indians and Angels manager Dave Garcia, the Padres obtained a utility infielder — and potentially took a step toward filling a temporary hole at shortstop.

The El Cajon native played at least parts of the past five seasons for the [St. Louis Cardinals](#), the team that drafted him in the seventh round in 2010 after he played collegiately at the University of Hawaii.

The 29-year-old Valhalla High alumnus has primarily played second and third base but has spent extensive time at shortstop.

"That's what I'm here to do — whatever they need," Garcia said.

The Padres could be in need of a stopgap at shortstop until top prospect Fernando Tatis Jr. is ready, which is expected to be some time in 2019. [Freddy Galvis](#), who started every game (157 at shortstop) for the Padres last season, is a free agent. He could return to the team but is expected to test the market first.

Garcia, who is arbitration eligible, hit just .221 with a .309 on-base percentage in 208 plate appearances last season, but the left-handed hitter is a .238/.356 hitter in 860 career plate appearances.

He spent all of the past two seasons and most of 2016 in the majors, batting .252/.359/.336 in 755 plate appearances.

“I have nothing but great respect for the Cardinals,” he said.

Earlier Thursday, the Padres announced they had traded catcher Raffy Lopez to the [Braves](#) for a player to be named later or cash considerations. Atlanta will be Lopez’s seventh major league organization. He batted .176/.265/.284 in 37 games for the Padres, the fourth team for which he has played in the majors. His departure cleared a spot on the 40-man roster.

Garcia was due to fly back to San Diego Thursday night after helping his father move some things to a new home in Tahoe. Home for Garcia and his wife, Hannah, is Santee. Five months ago, they welcomed their first child, a daughter named Olivia.

“It’s been a fun offseason,” Garcia said.

Padres could try to sell Galvis on return to SD

Club likes idea of SS bridging gap to Tatis, but veteran wants security

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Nov. 1st, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- The **Freddy Galvis** sweepstakes are nearly open. After six seasons with the Phillies and one with the Padres, Galvis will be eligible to sign anywhere on Friday at 2 p.m. PT.

Of course, "anywhere" could easily become a return to San Diego. There aren't many teams in need of a shortstop, and the Padres see a fit for Galvis as the starter at the beginning of next season, bridging the gap to **Fernando Tatis Jr.**, the organization's **No. 1 prospect** and the **No. 2 overall prospect** in baseball, according to MLB Pipeline.

That's not such an easy proposition though. If Galvis returns, he's likely going to have at least a season and a half of overlap with Tatis. He was asked at season's end what mattered most in his free-agency search and instantly pointed to long-term security.

"I've been playing year by year," Galvis said last month. "I don't feel like I want to do that anymore. I want to get a few years, I want to get [security]. I have my family, I have two daughters, that's what I'm going to look for."

That's not a crazy ask for an excellent defensive shortstop who's been incredibly durable, even if, historically, he's been subpar offensively. Galvis hit .248/.299/.380 last season, starting all 162 games. He's Major League Baseball's active iron man, having played in 325 straight.

So he's looking for a multiyear deal. Does that mesh with the Padres' plans? That's where things get tricky.

It's hard to see Galvis fitting for three seasons, unless he's willing to take an annual discount. Tatis is envisioned by the organization as the shortstop of the future. Were Galvis to re-sign for two or three years, no question he'd find himself in a new role.

Let's play out the two scenarios.

What happens if the Padres sign Galvis?

- Galvis is the starting shortstop on Opening Day 2019, and he's the starting shortstop at least until Tatis arrives.
- Tatis might end up playing some third base in the Major Leagues, to go along with shortstop. Galvis' presence could afford the Padres a little bit more development time for Tatis in the Minors if he's struggling.
- Ultimately, Galvis evolves into something of a utility infielder, in which he spells starters at second, third and short regularly. (As a switch-hitting platoon option, he'd still be able to play somewhat regularly in that case.)

What happens if the Padres don't sign Galvis?

- They look externally for a different veteran shortstop who can bridge the gap to Tatis. But they aren't likely to spend excessively with Tatis waiting.
- **Javy Guerra** -- a defensive whiz, but a huge disappointment at the plate -- will get a chance to compete for the job in Spring Training (alongside whoever is brought in).
- Tatis will likely be promoted within the first month or two, and when he is, he'll almost certainly play shortstop exclusively.

Would the Padres like to have Galvis back? Sure sounds like it.

"We'll get more and more into details going forward regarding what the role is, what we're looking for, who the different players are that will fit," said general manager A.J. Preller. "... With Freddy, he did exactly what we thought when we made the deal, which was solidify a spot that had been a hole for us the last few years. He came in, played great defense, got big hits. It's the day-to-day grind, effort, leadership -- he has that as a steady performer. He's a winning person."

Ultimately, however, it could be out of the Padres' control. If another team is willing to offer Galvis more years, more dollars or a better role, Preller has Tatis waiting in the wings.

It's been 10 1/2 months since the Padres dealt for Galvis. They did so knowing that a 2019 reunion might be possible. Now it's decision time.

Noteworthy

- The Padres claimed utility infielder **Greg Garcia** off waivers from the Cardinals on Thursday. In parts of five big league seasons with St. Louis, Garcia has posted a .248/.356/.339 slash line. As a utility man with the ability to play shortstop, Garcia could fill a void as a backup infielder on the 2019 roster.
- The Padres dealt catcher **Raffy Lopez** to Atlanta for cash considerations or a player to be named. In 117 big league plate appearances last season, Lopez hit .176 with a .549 OPS. Lopez was always a candidate to be let go, given the impending roster crunch this month, when the Padres must add a handful of top prospects to the 40-man roster.

Allen drives in two in Thursday's AFL action

MLB.com

Nov. 1st, 2018

Here's a team-by-team breakdown of how all 30 teams' prospects fared in Arizona Fall League action on Thursday:

• **Gameday: Salt River 14, Glendale 3 | Surprise 5, Mesa 4 | Peoria 4, Scottsdale 2**

AL East

Blue Jays (Surprise)

Blue Jays **No. 9 prospect** Cavan Biggio went 1-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs, a walk and a run scored. It was his second homer of the Fall League season. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. (**No. 1 overall prospect**) went 0-for-5, going hitless for the second straight day. Zach Jackson pitched two hitless innings of relief, walking one and striking out two.

Orioles (Glendale)

Steve Wilkerson went 2-for-4 with an RBI, while Orioles **No. 12 prospect** Ryan McKenna went 0-for-4 with a run and a walk from the leadoff spot. Jay Flaa pitched two innings of relief, allowing one run on two hits. Tyler Erwin faced the last batter of the game, retiring him on two pitches.

Rays (Peoria)

Rays No. 7 prospect Ronaldo Hernandez went 1-for-4 with a single. No. 9 prospect **Lucius Fox** turned in a 2-for-4 performance with two singles and a run scored, upping his AFL average to .333 with an .829 OPS. And right-hander Brandon Lawson started the game, tossing three scoreless innings, giving up one hit, walking one and striking out three.

Red Sox (Mesa)

Red Sox **No. 10 prospect** Josh Ockimey went 2-for-4 with a pair of singles and a run scored. Bobby Dalbec (No. 6) went 0-for-4 with a walk. **Josh Taylor** pitched a scoreless inning of relief, allowing two hits and striking out two.

Yankees (Glendale)

Jordan Foley got the start for the Desert Dogs and took the loss, allowing four earned runs in 3 1/3 innings. Foley gave up three hits, walked four and struck out five. Kyle Zurak pitched an inning of relief, allowing three earned runs on four hits and two walks with one strikeout. Yankees No. 16 prospect **Thairo Estrada** went 0-for-5. Steven Sensley went 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI.

AL Central

Indians (Glendale)

Jared Robinson pitched 1 2/3 innings of relief, allowing four earned runs on four hits and one walk with one strikeout.

Royals (Surprise)

Royals **No. 26 prospect** Scott Blewett got the start for the Saguaros and improved to 3-0 in the

AFL, allowing three earned runs in four innings. Blewett gave up seven hits, walked three and struck out two. Khalil Lee (No. 2) went 0-for-4, while Nick Heath went 1-for-5 with a single and a run scored.

Tigers (Mesa)

Tigers No. 8 prospect **Daz Cameron** went 2-for-5 with triple and a run scored from the leadoff spot. John Schreiber pitched a perfect inning of relief, striking out one.

Twins (Salt River)

Griffin Jax got the start for the Rafterers and notched his first AFL win, allowing three earned runs on four hits in four innings. Jax walked four and struck out three. **Adam Bray** pitched two scoreless innings of relief, allowing one hit with two walks and one strikeout. Hector Lujan pitched a scoreless frame, walking one and striking out one. Jaylin Davis went 0-for-5 with two strikeouts.

White Sox (Glendale)

White Sox **No. 4 prospect** Luis Robert (No. 44 overall) went 2-for-3 with an RBI, a walk, two runs scored and two stolen bases. He is batting .341 in the Fall League.

AL West

A's (Mesa)

A's **No. 18 prospect** Eli White hit his first home run of the Fall League season, going 1-for-4 with two RBIs, a walk and a run scored. He is batting .356 in the AFL. Luis Barrera went 1-for-2 with an RBI, a walk and a stolen base.

Angels (Mesa)

Angels **No. 4 prospect** Jahmai Jones went 3-for-5 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Roberto Baldoquin went 0-for-3 with a walk. **Jesus Castillo** (No. 12) got the start for the Solar Sox and took the loss, allowing five earned runs in 4 2/3 innings. Castillo gave up eight hits, walked two and struck out one. Brett Hanewich pitched one-third of an inning in relief, walking two but not giving up a run.

Astros (Scottsdale)

Abraham Toro, **Houston's No. 21 prospect**, had a rough night at the plate with an 0-for-4 line. He's hitting .326 with an .893 OPS during AFL play. Right-hander J.B. Bukauskas started and threw five innings, allowing one run on four hits, walking one and striking out four.

Mariners (Peoria)

Mariners' No. 20 prospect Ian Miller was just 1-for-4 at the plate, but also scored a run. Chris Mariscal went 1-for-3 and is now hitting .444 through seven games in the Fall League.

Rangers (Surprise)

Joe Kuzia pitched two innings of relief, giving up one unearned run on two hits while walking one and striking out one.

NL East

Braves (Peoria)

Braves' No. 6 prospect Cristian Pache tripled and drove in a pair of runs to help lead Peoria to a win. Braxton Davidson, who homered four times over the prior two games, went 0-for-4. **More »**

Marlins (Salt River)

Marlins No. 2 prospect **Monte Harrison** went 3-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and two walks, raising his AFL average to .353. Kyle Keller pitched a scoreless inning of relief, allowing one hit.

Mets (Scottsdale)

Mets No. 11 prospect Desmond Lindsay played center field and went 1-for-3 with a pair of strikeouts. Overall, he's hitting .348 with a 1.158 OPS during AFL play. Right-hander **Stephen Nogosek**, New York's No. 24 prospect, surrendered three runs (two earned) on three hits over one relief innings, walking one and striking out two.

Nationals (Salt River)

Nationals **No. 7 prospect** Daniel Johnson went 3-for-4 with a walk and four runs scored. He also stole a pair of bases. Carter Kieboom (No. 2) went 0-for-4 with two walks.

Phillies (Scottsdale)

Right fielder Austin Listi went 2-for-3 with a triple and a walk, while first baseman Darick Hall belted a two-run homer in the ninth inning, finishing 1-for-4 in the game.

NL Central

Brewers (Peoria)

Jon Olczak struck out five over two scoreless innings, while Daniel Brown gave up two runs on two hits in his lone frame.

Cardinals (Surprise)

It was a productive day for Cardinals prospects, led by **Lane Thomas'** 3-for-5 performance. Andy Young went 2-for-4 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base, while Jeremy Martinez went 1-for-2 with two walks. **Conner Greene** (St. Louis' **No. 27 prospect**) picked up his first save in the Fall League, pitching a scoreless inning with one hit allowed.

Cubs (Mesa)

P.J. Higgins went 1-for-3 with a single and a walk, while Cubs **No. 16 prospect** D.J. Wilson went 0-for-4. **Manuel Rondon** pitched two scoreless innings of relief, allowing one hit, walking one and striking out two.

Pirates (Surprise)

Pirates **No. 16 prospect** Will Craig hit his third home run of the AFL season, going 2-for-4 with three RBIs, a walk and a run scored. Cole Tucker (No. 5) went 1-for-5 with a single from the leadoff spot. **More »**

Reds (Scottsdale)

Reds' No. 8 prospect Shed Long went 0-for-3. Alfredo Rodriguez (No. 23) went 0-for-4 and Taylor Trammell (No. 2) went 1-for-4. Mark Kolozsvary also went 0-for-3. On the mound, Wyatt

Strahan, Ty Boyles and Alex Power combined to throw three scoreless innings, with each striking out a pair in their lone inning of work.

NL West

D-backs (Salt River)

It was a huge day for D-backs prospects as four of their hitters combined for 12 of the Rafter's 14 RBIs. Drew Ellis (Arizona's **No. 9 prospect**) went 3-for-4 with a double, a home run, four RBIs and three runs scored. Jazz Chisholm (No. 3) went 3-for-6 with a double, a homer, four RBIs, three runs scored and a stolen base. Daulton Varsho (No. 5) went 2-for-6 with three RBIs and a run scored. Dominic Miroglio (No. 30) went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored. Pavin Smith (No. 4) went 0-for-5 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Kevin Ginkel pitched a perfect ninth inning, striking out the side. **More »**

Dodgers (Glendale)

It was a rough day for Dodgers prospects as Keibert Ruiz (Los Angeles' **No. 2 prospect**), Errol Robinson (No. 20), Jared Walker and Cody Thomas combined to go 1-for-12. Ruiz singled, while Robinson, Walker and Thomas combined for four walks. Nolan Long pitched two-thirds of an inning in relief, allowing two earned runs on three hits.

Giants (Scottsdale)

Matt Winn went 0-for-3.

Padres (Peoria)

Padres' No. 25 prospect Austin Allen drove in a pair of runs as part of his 1-for-3 effort. Buddy Reed (No. 13) finished 1-for-4 with a double. Hudson Potts (No. 23) went 0-for-3. Travis Radke was lights out on the mound yielding just one hit over three scoreless innings.

Rockies (Salt River)

No Rockies prospects played on Thursday.

These players could get qualifying offers today

MLB.com

Teams have until 5 p.m. ET to extend their prospective free agents a qualifying offer -- a one-year contract worth \$17.9 million (the amount is the mean salary of MLB's 125 highest-paid players).

Players who receive a qualifying offer have 10 days to accept or reject it. That deadline is Nov. 12, at 5 p.m. ET.

The qualifying offer system has been in place since the 2012-13 offseason. In the six previous offseasons with this system in place, there have been 73 qualifying offers issued, and only five (**Brett Anderson**, **Jeremy Hellickson**, **Neil Walker**, **Colby Rasmus** and **Matt Wieters**) have accepted them.

The rules regarding Draft pick compensation for signing players who rejected QOs changed a bit with the implementation of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement prior to the 2017 season, and the penalties for signing such players are less strict. A complete breakdown of those rules is at the bottom of this story and **can also be found here**.

Below is a list of free agents who are considered candidates to receive a qualifying offer. Players who are traded during the season or who have received a qualifying offer before are not eligible to receive one. Some notable players who fit these categories are as follows:

Not eligible due to trades

Manny Machado, **Andrew McCutchen**, **Zach Britton**, **Nathan Eovaldi**, **Josh Donaldson**, **Matt Harvey**, **Brian Dozier**, **J.A. Happ**, **Wilson Ramos**

Not eligible due to previous qualifying offers

Nelson Cruz, **Walker**, **David Robertson**, **Daniel Murphy** (who was traded this year anyway)

We will be updating this list as we get news on qualifying offers. For players who do receive qualifying offers, we will include the level of Draft pick compensation that their previous club could receive if they sign elsewhere.

Notable players eligible for qualifying offers

A's: **Jed Lowrie**, 2B; **Jonathan Lucroy**, C

Astros: **Dallas Keuchel**, LHP; **Charlie Morton**, RHP; **Marwin Gonzalez**, UTIL; **Evan Gattis**, DH

Braves: **Nick Markakis**, OF

Brewers: **Wade Miley**, LHP

D-backs: **Patrick Corbin**, LHP; **A.J. Pollock**, OF; **Daniel Descalso**, INF

Dodgers: **Yasmani Grandal**, C; **Hyun-Jin Ryu**, LHP

Giants: **Hunter Pence**, OF

Indians: **Andrew Miller**, LHP; **Michael Brantley**, OF; **Cody Allen**, RHP; **Lonnie Chisenhall**, OF

Nationals: **Bryce Harper**, OF

Padres: **Freddy Galvis**, SS

Rangers: Adrian Beltre, 3B

Red Sox: Craig Kimbrel, RHP; **Joe Kelly**, RHP

Rockies: Adam Ottavino, RHP; **DJ LeMahieu**, 2B, **Carlos Gonzalez**, OF

Orioles: Adam Jones, OF

Yankees: CC Sabathia, LHP

Not expected to receive qualifying offer

Cardinals: Bud Norris, RHP

Cubs: Justin Wilson, LHP

Qualifying-offer rules explained

Under the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement, if a team made a qualifying offer to a player and he signed elsewhere, it would get a supplemental first-round Draft pick (right after the end of the first round). That has all changed.

Under the new rules, if the team that loses the free agent is a revenue-sharing recipient, based on its revenues and market size, then the selection -- if and only if the lost player signs for at least \$50 million -- will be awarded a pick between the first round and Competitive Balance Round A of the 2019 MLB Draft. If the player signs for less than \$50 million, the compensation pick for those teams would come after Competitive Balance Round B, which follows the second round.

The following 16 teams currently qualify for these picks: A's, Braves, Brewers, D-backs, Indians, Mariners, Marlins, Orioles, Padres, Pirates, Rays, Reds, Rockies, Royals, Tigers and Twins.

If the team that loses the player does not receive revenue sharing and did not exceed the luxury-tax salary threshold the previous season, its compensatory pick will come after Competitive Balance Round B. The value of the player's contract doesn't matter in this case. The 12 clubs that fall into this category are the Angels, Astros, Blue Jays, Cardinals, Cubs, Dodgers, Giants, Mets, Phillies, Rangers, White Sox and Yankees.

If the team that loses the player went over the luxury-tax threshold, the compensation pick will be placed after the fourth round has been completed (as with the previous scenario, it doesn't matter how much the player signs for). The two clubs in this group are the Nationals and Red Sox.

Padres Claim Infielder Greg Garcia from Cardinals

El Cajon native attended Valhalla High

By Bill Center

Greg Garcia is coming home.

The Padres Thursday claimed the versatile, 29-year-old infielder off waivers from the St. Louis Cardinals.

Garcia is a native of El Cajon and graduated from Valhalla High. He is the grandson of the late **Dave Garcia**, a former Major League manager, coach and scout. Dave Garcia was a Padres' coach from 1970–73.

Greg Garcia was a seventh-round pick of the Cardinals in the 2010 Draft out of the University of Hawaii. He made his Major League debut with St. Louis on April 28, 2014.

He played 409 games for the Cardinals over the past five seasons at second base, shortstop, third base and as a pinch-hitter. He also pitched an inning last season.

He hit .221 last season in 181 at-bats over 114 games. He had a .309 on-base percentage.

Garcia is a .248 career hitter in 725 at-bats with a .356 on-base percentage and a .339 slugging percentage for a .696 OPS. He has 32 doubles, two triples and 10 homers for 57 RBIs. He has drawn 106 walks in 860 career plate appearances against 169 strikeouts.

During his career, Greg Garcia has appeared in 105 games at second, 91 at third and 72 at second—giving the Padres a versatile reserve infielder who can play short.

Padres claim Cardinals IF Greg Garcia off waivers

FOX Sports Midwest Nov 1, 2018 at 5:15p ET

St. Louis Cardinals super sub Greg Garcia has been claimed off waivers by the San Diego Padres.

Garcia, 29, has been a valuable contributor, mostly off the bench, for the Cardinals since he made his major league debut in 2014. He stepped in as needed at second base, third base and shortstop and as a pinch hitter.

Garcia batted .221 in 114 games and 181 at-bats for St. Louis in 2018. He is a .248 career hitter in 725 at-bats.

The left-handed hitter was good at working counts to get on base. His on-base percentage last season was .309, almost 100 points above his batting average. The same is true of his career OBP of .356, 108 points above his batting average.

In 147 career at-bats as a pinch hitter, Garcia hit .252 (.374 OBP) with two of his career 10 home runs and 12 of his career 57 RBIs.

Lamet, Cordero added to Padres roster

Kevin Acee

The [Padres](#) have made their first two significant – albeit expected – roster moves of the offseason.

The team reinstated pitcher Dinelson Lamet and outfielder [Franchy Cordero](#) from the 60-day disabled list.

The pair takes the place of catcher [A.J. Ellis](#) and shortstop [Freddy Galvis](#), who officially became free agents on Monday, the day after the World Series ended.

The team has until Friday to add its other two players on the 60-day DL, pitcher [Clayton Richard](#) and outfielder [Alex Dickerson](#), to the 40-man roster. That will require dropping two players – without the convenience afforded the free agency of Ellis and Galvis.

Lamet missed all of 2018 after injuring his elbow in the [spring training](#) finale and undergoing Tommy John surgery. The Padres expect him back around midseason.

Cordero went on the DL at the end of May and had surgery to remove bone spurs in his elbow. He will be ready for spring training.

Richard had arthroscopic surgery on both knees after going on the DL in September. Dickerson has actually missed the past two seasons, the most recent one following Tommy John surgery.

The Padres also must add several minor leaguers to the 40-man roster by Nov. 20 in order to [protect them from the Rule 5 draft](#).