



# Padres Press Clips

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# Don't look now: More former Padres making big impact in playoffs

[Bryce Miller](#)

It's the season when [Padres](#) fans peek at the TV through bunched fingers, cringing at the faces they see in postseason dugouts.

In Los Angeles, [Dodgers](#) manager [Dave Roberts](#) is 3-for-3 on [NL West](#) titles and a season removed from coming up a game short in the [World Series](#). That's because Astros boss A.J. Hinch racked up that fourth win before him.

In Colorado, the [Rockies](#) reached the playoffs in back-to-back seasons for the first time ... in [Bud Black](#)'s first two seasons. Still fresh, the three World Series crowns [Bruce Bochy](#) scooped up with the [Giants](#).

The common denominator: They all used to be Padres.

What is the magic elixir guys pick up at the San Diego International Airport before boarding those out-bound flights? What turns 'L's into 'W's when zip codes change? Why is coverage of the playoffs a painful parade of the Padres' unfulfilled past?

It's easy, really. They had the tools to win. They had the talent to win. They were put in position to win.

Black looked like a genius when he inherited an order that features [Nolan Arenado](#), [Trevor Story](#) and [Charlie Blackmon](#). He became even smarter when lefty Kyle Freeland twirled 200 innings of 2.85 ERA baseball. Roberts seems to make all the right moves when the payroll hovers a box of bats short of \$200 million.

There's not much to second-guess with Hinch when he scribbles [Jose Altuve](#) onto a lineup card every day and watches [Justin Verlander](#), Dallas Keuchel and [Gerrit](#)

[Cole](#) jog to the mound. A manager tends to get super brainy when [George Springer](#) goes all-[Reggie Jackson](#) and hits five home runs in the World Series.

Which brings us to the Padres.

When the tools are there, winning generally is, too. The franchise has reached the postseason five times. Four of those came under Bochy, including the World Series run in 1998. When Bochy had players, Bochy won.

It's not that all those managers suddenly got smarter when they left the Padres. It's that all those managers landed in places locked and loaded to compete. The Giants (2), Dodgers (3), Astros (9) and Rockies (13) all sit in the top half of baseball for payroll, according to Spotrac. The Padres? They're 24<sup>th</sup>.

It's well documented that the Padres' investment, with both barrels, is aimed at a farm system that rocketed from near the bottom of baseball to the top in a little more than a year. The \$144-million deal with first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) is the big-club outlier, dwarfing the previous franchise record contract of Wil Myers.

Does anyone think, though, that Roberts, Hinch or Black would win with the team the Padres trotted onto the field this year? It's likely all of them would still finish 20 games back in the West.

Managers deserve credit for the clubhouse culture they create. That's more important, in the big picture, than some lefty-righty call in late-September. At their best, managers block distractions for stars and allowing them to do their thing in the most relaxed, focused way possible.

No one, though, wins without talent that performs in the biggest situations.

If and when the talent train delivers more of those game-changers — say, a guy like shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. and a couple proven starters — we'll start to understand what the Padres have or don't have in Andy Green.

That's impossible to measure when a team hands over 67 starts to rookie pitchers in one season.

So, Padres fans watch Hinch and Roberts and Black average more than 95 wins between them this season, because they're in the right place with the right people.

You know the thinking on managers is warped beyond belief when Cubs President Theo Epstein does little to mute whispers about not renewing the contract of [Joe Maddon](#) after next season. All Maddon has done is win the most games in baseball the last four seasons, make three trips to the League Championship Series and end a World Series drought that dated to 1908.

The Padres' current front office inherited an on-field mess, a clubhouse that hadn't caught a whiff of the postseason since 2006.

None of what we're seeing Padres alumni doing on TV translates to anything they could have or would have done if they stayed at Petco Park. It's just a healthy, if also painful, reminder of what it takes to win in baseball — regardless of the guy who shows up to the postgame news conferences.

[Don Mattingly](#) won three straight NL West titles with the Dodgers before shuffling off to Miami. There, Mattingly sagged to a combined 46 games under .500 in three seasons.

When it comes to managers, the where matters as much as the who.

# Inbox: Will Padres deal corner outfielder?

Beat reporter AJ Cassavell answers questions from San Diego fans

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com [@AJCassavell](#)

SAN DIEGO -- Lots to discuss as the Padres head toward the offseason. From the outfield logjam to the wide-open rotation race to the looming 40-man decisions, general manager A.J. Preller has quite a bit to sort out before Spring Training.

Let's dive right into your questions on those subjects.

**If the Padres determine [Wil Myers](#) isn't a third baseman, what are the odds a corner outfielder is traded, and who is likeliest to be traded?**

**-- Steven, San Diego**

The first part of the question is the important part. The Padres might not be ready to give up on Myers at third base. They feel as though he could greatly benefit from an offseason's worth of work. Myers, after all, only had a couple weeks of pregame drills at the position before he started playing there full time.

That said, his time there wasn't particularly pretty. And if Myers can't play third, there's a pretty good chance the Padres would deal one of their three corner guys -- Myers, [Franmil Reyes](#) or [Hunter Renfroe](#). I'd put the odds somewhere between 50-75 percent. Sure, depth is important, but the Padres seem to have plenty of that, with the lefty-hitting [Franchy Cordero](#) returning from elbow surgery. With Cordero back, there's probably not much reason to carry three righty-slugging corner outfielders.

So who's likeliest to be traded? I'd put the odds on Renfroe and Myers as relatively even. After Renfroe's breakout season, his value's probably pretty high, and he could easily be part of a package to acquire a top-tier pitcher. It's close, but Reyes is probably the best bet to stay. The Padres are very high on him, and there might be a gulf between their valuation of him and the rest of the league's.

**What will the 40-man roster look like on Dec. 4?**

**-- Rick, La Mesa, Calif.**

This probably isn't the space to go man-for-man on the Padres' 40-man roster. But, suffice to say, there will be changes. The club needs to add a handful of prospects to the 40-man by Nov. 30, so they can be protected from the Rule 5 Draft. To do so, there will almost certainly be a few players non-tendered by the Nov. 20 deadline. Here's my best guess at the additions and subtractions:

**Who the Padres might add:** [Prospects Chris Paddack](#) (No. 5), [Anderson Espinoza](#) (No. 11) and Austin Allen (No. 25) will be added to the roster, without question. [Edward Olivares](#) (No. 28), [Pedro Avila](#) (No. 29) might be added, too. I'd guess Michael Gettys, [Hansel](#)

[Rodriguez](#) and Ty France will remain unprotected. There might be a free agent or two signed by then as well.

**Who the Padres might subtract:** There are a number of candidates to be removed from the roster. [Alex Dickerson](#), who is coming off back surgery, is one. [Luis Torrens](#) and [Allen Cordoba](#), former Rule 5 Draft picks, are as well. It's a good bet that one or more of the Padres' utility infielders -- [Jose Pirela](#), [Carlos Asuaje](#) or [Cory Spangenberg](#) -- will be removed from the 40-man in some way. After that, there are at least three fringe pitchers who could be subtracted.

**What surprise pitcher will make the rotation next year?**

-- **Kevin, Escondido, Calif.**

I wouldn't count on any Opening Day rotation surprises next year -- barring a major trade. But we could easily see something similar to 2018, when [Eric Lauer](#) and [Joey Lucchesi](#) arrived well ahead of schedule. No. 8 prospect [Logan Allen](#) fits a similar mold, and don't be surprised if he's pitching in San Diego early next season.

Discounting Allen's arrival, it's doubtful we see a surprise. [Matt Strahm](#), who will look to transition to a starting role after an excellent season in the 'pen, doesn't qualify. I'd guess Lauer, Lucchesi and Strahm are the early favorites.

After that, it's probably a competition for two places from among [Jacob Nix](#), [Brett Kennedy](#), [Robbie Erlin](#), [Clayton Richard](#), [Bryan Mitchell](#) and any other starters the Padres might sign in free agency.

**Which catcher is out?**

-- **@SonnyPhono**

**[A.J. Ellis](#).**

Look, I know this question was referring to [Austin Hedges](#) vs. [Francisco Mejia](#). But at this point, I'd guess they will both be with San Diego come Spring Training. Good young catchers are very hard to find. The Padres feel as though they have two of them. They're not going to trade one unless they're blown away by an offer.

There's a way to find time for both -- especially if an outfielder is dealt and Mejia transitions to a corner-outfield spot, part-time. In that case, Hedges could play 110 games or so behind the plate, and Mejia could play the rest, while also getting time in left field as well.

So, yeah, as things stand, A.J. Ellis -- a pending free agent -- is probably the only catcher out.