



# Padres Press Clips

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

<b>Article</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Pg.</b>
Padres make a flurry of moves, but left side of the infield — and Wil Myers' status — still in flux	The Athletic	Lin	2
Padres distribute turkeys, give back	MLB.com	Cassavell	5
SD clears 40-man space with 3 deals; 4 DFA'd	MLB.com	Cassavell	7
Villanueva DFA'd; move to Japan looks likely	MLB.com	Cassavell	10
Padres make moves to add prospects to roster ... and they're not done	SD Union Tribune	Acee	12
Venezuelans Arias, Avila, Olivares Ranked Among Padres' Top-30 Prospects	FriarWire	Center	16
Three Trades of Pitchers-for-Prospects Helped the Padres Add Seven Prospects to the 40-man Roster	FriarWire	Center	18
#PadresOnDeck: 13 Players Start Winter Ball as Arizona Fall League Ends	FriarWire	Center	20
Padres Acquire Jason Vosler From Cubs For Rowan Wick	Baseball America	Glaser	23
Padres Trade Colten Brewer To Red Sox For Esteban Quiroz	Baseball America	Glaser	24
Padres Send Walker Lockett to Indians For Pitching Prospect	Baseball America	Glaser	25

# Padres make a flurry of moves, but left side of the infield — and Wil Myers' status — still in flux

By Dennis Lin

The Padres claimed a sizable portion of baseball's transactions page on Tuesday. They traded a trio of arms with dim futures inside the organization for a trio of minor-leaguers with sunnier prospects. They selected the contracts of a catcher, an infielder, an outfielder and four pitchers ahead of the deadline to set 40-man rosters. They balanced the scales by designating four other players for assignment.

Yet it was a voluntary exit, and the continued possibility of a more significant departure, that further illuminated the [blank canvas of San Diego's offseason](#). Third baseman Christian Villanueva, who technically was among those designated, will soon become an import of a team that plays its games an ocean away. According to sources, the Padres have agreed to sell his contract to the Yomiuri Giants of Nippon Professional Baseball. That seemingly would leave Wil Myers as an option at the hot corner, only no one seems to know if Myers himself will be at Petco Park come March 28.

Myers, who has led an itinerant career in terms of both position and organization, likely will remain the subject of trade speculation leading into next month's winter meetings. On Tuesday, at least one possible destination came to light. As first reported by *The Athletic's* Ken Rosenthal, the Padres and the Mariners have discussed an exchange that would send Myers north in return for shortstop Jean Segura and right-hander Mike Leake.

Sources say no deal involving Myers is close, and his contract presents a hurdle for interested clubs. But the discussions with Seattle advanced to the point that Leake, who wields a no-trade clause, was made aware. The Mariners also have approached the veteran about other potential landing spots. (Perhaps speaking to the lack of an imminent agreement, a source told Rosenthal that Segura, also in possession of veto power, had yet to be contacted about a trade to San Diego.)

The names discussed do provide a rough sketch for how a Myers trade could work:

- Myers, who turns 28 next month, is owed \$64 million over the next four seasons. (He also is due the last of his bonus payments, worth \$8.5 million, by late next year. The team that granted the contract often remains responsible for the signing bonus.)
- Segura, an American League All-Star in 2018, is on a relatively friendly contract that will guarantee him \$58 million over the next four seasons. For the Padres, adding a productive, 28-year-old shortstop and sliding top prospect Fernando Tatis Jr. to third base might be preferable to a combination of Tatis at short and whatever third baseman they could acquire. Segura also can play second base, though San Diego has high hopes for another prospect, Luis Urías, at that position.
- To help balance the financials, the Padres would take on Leake, a 31-year-old owed \$36 million over the next two seasons, with his former team in St. Louis responsible for \$9 million of that total. The Fallbrook native has been solid, if unspectacular, throughout his career, the kind of contributor the Padres' rotation presently lacks.
- In a deal devoid of cash considerations, the Padres would assume an additional \$21 million. Presumably, that figure and the names involved are negotiable. San Diego would want the money

to be closer to even in any Myers trade. The Mariners, recognizing the strength of the Padres' farm system, may want a younger player or two included in the return.

General manager A.J. Preller declined to comment Tuesday on the possibility of such a deal, but it has become increasingly clear that the Padres may opt to part ways with Myers. He possesses considerable talent, yet has struggled to find consistency. Few evaluators see him as a viable choice at third base, where he went through an uneven audition late last season. Most see him as part of the Padres' corner-outfield surplus, and with some creative structuring, Myers could be central in bringing back a satisfactory return. (Evaluators still have doubts regarding the potential of Hunter Renfroe and Franmil Reyes as everyday players.)

For the Mariners, Myers would represent an interesting acquisition amid a rebuild. While Segura is an [obvious trade candidate](#), especially after the James Paxton deal, GM Jerry Dipoto may not favor a complete teardown. Seattle has a need in left field, and some scouts feel Myers would be a better fit as a first baseman/designated hitter in the AL.

Meantime, the Padres are fielding a conspicuous hole on the left side of the infield, one they appear determined to address via trade or free agency. With Villanueva's departure, the only natural third baseman on the 40-man roster is Ty France, a prospect who was among Tuesday's additions.

"That's really for the next few weeks," Preller said. "I think we'll get through the winter meetings and hopefully get some more clarity after the winter meetings. With Ty France, we have an under-the-radar option that we'll talk about. And we'll keep looking at the market and seeing what other options and possibilities are out there."

A theoretical Segura-Tatis pairing is likely one of many ideas that have been explored. The Padres have insisted on Tatis' ability to supply above-average defense at shortstop, where he would retain the greatest value. They also will need someone else to play short, at least temporarily. Tatis, 19, is not expected to debut on Opening Day.

Elsewhere Tuesday, the Padres turned over more than a few roster spots. Besides France, they added prospects Chris Paddack, Austin Allen, Anderson Espinoza, Pedro Avila, Edward Olivares and Gerardo Reyes. Paddack, Allen and Espinoza had been locks to be protected from selection in next month's Rule 5 draft. The Padres deemed France, Avila, Olivares and Reyes risks to be taken if left off the roster.

They opened three spots by trading expendable pitchers in Walker Lockett, Colten Brewer and Rowan Wick, shipping them to the Indians, Red Sox and Cubs. The returns: Ignacio Feliz, a 19-year-old arm with a fair amount of projection; Esteban Quiroz, a diminutive infielder with plate discipline and some punch; and Jason Vosler, another left-handed hitter. All three players were non-roster acquisitions.

The Padres still had to clear room and did so by designating pitcher Colin Rea and infielders Allen Córdoba, Cory Spangenberg and Villanueva for assignment. Those players were victims of a roster crunch that was absent in past years, when San Diego instead used the Rule 5 draft to raid other organization's overstocked systems.

"We wish we had a 50-man roster to protect some guys," Preller said.

Now, as the Padres' own system begins to mature, the rostered talent is improving. No trophies, of course, were handed out Tuesday. The club must develop big-league regulars, pursue external additions and construct a working mix for the future. Whether Myers will be part of that future is unknown.

Villanueva's forthcoming move across the Pacific surprised some observers. He was named National League Rookie of the Month for April. He clubbed the second-most home runs on the 2018 Padres and mashed against lefties.

But Villanueva struggled beginning in May, recorded a .299 on-base percentage and, like Myers, was not viewed as the long-term answer at third base. In the absence of notable trade interest, the Padres were willing to listen to offers from Japanese clubs. It's believed San Diego will receive about \$1 million for selling Villanueva's contract.

From Villanueva's perspective, the Yomiuri Giants offered an appealing opportunity. The infielder will make at least \$2 million next season, a source said, with the potential to earn more through incentives. Had he chosen to remain in the U.S., his salary would have been limited to the major-league minimum, and he would not have a guaranteed role in San Diego.

Recently, players such as Eric Thames and Miles Mikolas have experienced big-league success after lucrative stints in Asia.

## **Padres distribute turkeys, give back**

Club also raised close to \$3 million with cycling event

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

SAN DIEGO -- Generally speaking, November represents the start of the offseason in the baseball world. For the Padres' charitable efforts, it's anything but an offseason.

The organization uses the month of November -- and Thanksgiving week in particular -- to kick things up a notch in the community. Padres Pedal the Cause -- a one-day cycling event to raise money for cancer research -- is the crown jewel event of the team's efforts. It took place last weekend, featuring 2,513 participants, and is expected to raise close to \$3 million.

Then, on Monday, members of the team's front office and alumni group distributed Thanksgiving meals to underserved families in the San Diego area, in partnership with the San Diego Food Bank. Padres Hall of Famer Randy Jones and fellow former pitcher Brett Tomko doled out more than 600 turkeys to those families.

"It's such a great time of the year, and it makes all the difference in the world to these families," Jones said during a brief break from the turkey distribution. "You know it makes a difference to be able to give them the supplies to create a meal for the family and get together, it's pretty special."

That spirit of giving is slated to continue into December, when the Padres will again embark on their annual holiday caravan. They'll make various stops throughout the community over the next few weeks, giving back with various events in San Diego and the Baja region of Mexico.

"It's so important all the charitable work the Padres do," Jones said. "And the more it's needed, the more the Padres respond to the community. You can't help everybody, but those you do, it makes a difference in their lives, and that's what it's all about."

As for Padres Pedal the Cause, it's grown into one of San Diego's premier events over the past few years. This year's edition marked the sixth in the event's history, and the most successful.

The Padres have raised \$2.4 million, with a goal of surpassing \$3 million by Dec. 8. That's a significant uptick from last year's \$1.8 million, and it brings the six-year total to \$7.2 million and counting.

Proceeds are distributed among the Moores Cancer Center at UC San Diego Health, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, the Salk Institute and Rady Children's Hospital -- four local institutions with impeccable research track records.

San Diego mayor Kevin Faulconer and former Padre Tony Gwynn Jr. were among the participants in the event, which featured cycling routes of 25, 55, 88 and 100 miles.

"How do you not walk away from that event inspired?" Padres vice president of community affairs Tom Seidler said. "You hear from cancer survivors, families who have lost loved ones, then you combine that with the world-class cancer research being done right here. You try to

create an event that's best in class, we couldn't be more proud to have our name attached to it. This thing is going to grow."

It already has -- in a big way. So too have the Padres' community outreach efforts in San Diego. Those efforts are on display now, during the holiday season, more than ever.

"Part of being a Padre," Jones said, "is giving back to the community, giving back to the people of this city."

## SD clears 40-man space with 3 deals; 4 DFA'd

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Nov. 20th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres' youth movement, which recently turned a depleted farm system into the best in baseball, made a dent into the big league roster on Tuesday afternoon.

General manager A.J. Preller needed to clear space for seven prospects to be added to the 40-man roster, lest they be exposed to next month's **Rule 5 Draft**. He got creative in doing so, parting with a handful of veterans.

The Padres traded a trio of right-handers on Tuesday and designated four players for assignment, including **Christian Villanueva** and **Cory Spangenberg**.

They did so in order for the following seven prospects to be added to the 40-man roster:

- **RHP Chris Paddack** (Padres' **No. 5** prospect according to MLB Pipeline)
- **RHP Anderson Espinoza** (No. 12)
- **C Austin Allen** (No. 25)
- **OF Edward Olivares** (No. 28)
- **RHP Pedro Avila** (No. 29)
- **3B Ty France** (unranked)
- **RHP Gerardo Reyes** (unranked)

None of those players were particularly surprising additions. Their status on the 40-man means they won't be eligible to be picked in the Rule 5 Draft on Dec. 13 at the Winter Meetings in Las Vegas, where longtime Minor Leaguers can be selected by other clubs but must remain on the big league roster all season or be offered back to their original team.

The five top-30 prospects listed above were always likely to be added to the roster. All five would've been projected as early Rule 5 selections if they were left exposed.

France and Reyes, too, would've been candidates to be taken. France hit 22 homers last season between Double-A and Triple-A, and he could compete for the job at third base after Villanueva's departure. Reyes, meanwhile, posted a 2.77 ERA and a 29-percent strikeout rate last year and could've easily been stashed in a rival's bullpen if left unprotected.

"There was a real chance he'd get taken if we left him unprotected," Preller said. "You don't want to see that kind of stuff, that kind of velo, from a guy with a lower slot, leave. He keeps getting more consistent. He was a guy we didn't want to risk losing in a Rule 5 situation."

Among the Padres prospects who will be available in next month's Rule 5 Draft are righties Hansel Rodriguez and Trevor Megill and outfielder Michael Gettys. Rodriguez, who was acquired for **Melvin Upton Jr.** in 2016, was recently shut down in the Arizona Fall League due to olecranon stress reaction issues in his elbow, though the club doesn't believe surgery will be required.

As for the seven players subtracted from the 40-man, here's a look at the moves Preller made to clear some space:

### **Right-hander Colten Brewer traded to Boston for infielder Esteban Quiroz**

Brewer found himself on the roster bubble in a crowded Padres bullpen. He might have cracked the 40-man if not for the trade. But the Padres like what they're getting in Quiroz, so they decided to deal Brewer, a high-spin right-hander who posted a 5.59 ERA in 11 big league appearances last year. Quiroz, a utility infielder, spent most of his career playing in Mexico, but he posted a .283/.406/.547 slash line in the Red Sox system last year, mostly at Double-A.

"He just hits," Preller said. "He hits everywhere he's been. We had a lot of eyes on him in the Fall League, a lot of people that saw him there. He was a guy that's continued to perform, and it's hard to find left-handed bats at the upper levels of the Minor Leagues that can take a walk and do damage."

### **Right-hander Walker Lockett traded to Cleveland for right-hander Ignacio Feliz**

Lockett was always a likely casualty of the roster crunch, and the Padres were pleased with their return for the 24-year-old right-hander. Feliz made 10 starts for the Indians in the Arizona Rookie League, and the 19-year-old posted a 3.00 ERA.

"It's a good arm at the lower levels of the Minor Leagues," Preller said. "We felt like he was a really good get, and he's another guy who we have time in our system to develop and grow and give him a chance to perform."

Lockett spent most of last season at Triple-A El Paso, but he made four big league appearances and allowed 16 runs in 15 innings.

### **Right-hander Rowan Wick traded to the Cubs for infielder Jason Vosler**

Wick, like Brewer, had a case to remain on the 40-man if he weren't dealt. But the Padres landed a high-upside infielder in Vosler, who slugged 23 homers between Double-A and Triple-A in the Cubs' system last year. He batted .251/.340/.467, while playing first, second and third base, and he'll go into camp with a chance to compete for a utility role on the Opening Day roster.

Wick, meanwhile, posted a 6.48 ERA over 10 appearances in his big league-debut season in 2018.

### **3B Villanueva, IF Spangenberg, RHP Colin Rea and SS Allen Cordoba designated for assignment**

Rea and Cordoba hardly qualify as surprises. Both dealt with serious injury issues in 2018. Cordoba, a former Rule 5 selection himself, missed the first half of the year with a concussion, and when he returned, he didn't play a game above Class A Advanced Lake Elsinore. Rea, meanwhile, hasn't been the same since his '16 Tommy John surgery, and he posted a 5.73 ERA in the Minors this year.



As for Villanueva, he appears destined for Japan. The Padres intend to sell his contract rights to a team in Japan, likely the Yomiuri Giants, according to sources. That move opens the Padres' third-base job even more. At this point, it's a near certainty they add another infielder this offseason.

Meanwhile, Spangenberg was due a raise in his second year of arbitration. In all likelihood, that was the driving force behind the Padres' decision to cut ties with him and not fellow infielders **Carlos Asuaje** and **Jose Pirela**. Preller, however, refuted that notion.

"We feel like we have other options and other possibilities that fit a little bit better, some younger players we're going to give opportunity to," Preller said. "He gets a fresh start and a chance to go outside and do something different. From a numbers standpoint, we just felt like we had other options we felt were better fits for our ballclub and our roster setup. It was a tough decision."

Spangenberg, the Padres' first-round Draft selection in 2011, batted .258/.318/.391 in five seasons with the club. But his on-base percentage dipped below .300 in '18, and there wasn't going to be much playing time available in '19 with infield prospects **Luis Urias** and **Fernando Tatis Jr.** eventually in the mix.

On the whole, the seven additions and subtractions mean the club's 40-man roster remains full. Further trades or signings of big league players would require other players be removed from the roster.

# Villanueva DFA'd; move to Japan looks likely

Third baseman won NL Rookie of the Month in April

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

Nov. 20th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres' wide-open third-base race took an unexpected turn on Tuesday afternoon.

[Christian Villanueva](#), the 27-year-old infielder who burst onto the scene with 20 homers and a .750 OPS in 2018, was designated for assignment, as part of a series of moves on Tuesday as the Padres cleared space on their 40-man roster. According to sources, Villanueva will have his contract sold to a team in Japan, most likely the Yomiuri Giants, and that move is expected to be finalized within the next couple days.

It's a surprising twist, given that Villanueva figured to be in the mix for a starting job at the hot corner next season. Evidently, the Japanese club approached the Padres with the possibility of working out a deal to acquire Villanueva, who had pushed for the opportunity.

The Padres negotiated with the Japanese team on a fee that would release his contract. Villanueva, meanwhile, negotiated his own contract separately with the club. Eventually all parties came to an agreement.

Padres general manager A.J. Preller refused to comment on the specifics of the move when reached Tuesday evening.

"In talking to [Villanueva's] camp, they felt like there was a real opportunity for him in some different things that we felt we'd give him the chance to explore and we'd be supportive of, understanding that we were going to have to look at some other different options at third base," said Preller.

In his rookie season, Villanueva batted .236/.299/.450. He broke out with a brilliant April that earned him National League Rookie of the Month honors before regressing during the remainder of the season.

Villanueva was among a handful of candidates to open the 2019 season at third base for San Diego, all of whom have flaws. With Villanueva gone, it's now a near certainty the Padres look to add in their infield. As things stand, [Wil Myers](#) is probably the projected Opening Day third baseman, and he struggled mightily in his debut at the position in August and September.

"We're still looking at different fits, different options, going forward," Preller said. "On the roster, you have Wil, who we'll still keep looking at. ... We'll probably get through the Winter Meetings and have a clearer picture with where we're at third base, and more specifically with Wil."

Myers is an obvious candidate to be traded, and MLB Network Insider Ken Rosenthal reported Tuesday that the Padres have spoken with the Mariners about a potential deal. It's also very possible that the Padres move [Franmil Reyes](#) or [Hunter Renfroe](#), which would presumably clear space to allow Myers to shift back to a corner-outfield spot.

In any case, it seems unlikely that all three are in San Diego on Opening Day, meaning third base is probably vacant. Ty France was one of seven prospects added to the 40-man roster on Tuesday, and he'll compete for the job in Spring Training, as will Jason Vosler, who was acquired in a trade with the Cubs. The duo combined to hit 45 home runs in the upper levels of the Minor Leagues last season.

Still, it's far likelier the Padres add a third baseman via trade or free agency over the next month. They were almost certainly going to do so, even before Villanueva's departure. Now, it's a necessity.

# Padres make moves to add prospects to roster ... and they're not done

**Kevin Acee**

The Padres have ignited their offseason.

On Tuesday, the team made a flurry of moves to make room on their 40-man roster for seven minor league prospects – catcher Austin Allen, third baseman Ty France, outfielder Edward Olivares and right-handed pitchers Pedro Avila, Anderson Espinoza, Chris Paddack and Gerardo Reyes.

To pare the roster, the team traded away right-handed pitchers [Walker Lockett](#), Colten Brewer and Rowan Wick and designated pitcher [Colin Rea](#) and infielders [Allen Cordoba](#), [Cory Spangenberg](#) and [Christian Villanueva](#) for assignment.

That left the Padres with 40 players on their 40-man roster.

“Hopefully, we’ll have more days like this in the next few years,” Padres General Manager A.J. Preller said Tuesday night. “It’s starting to get where we have some depth in numbers and quality. That’s the way it should be. ... The seven guys we added, all those guys had a chance to be taken, and we wanted to make sure those guys remained Padres.”

The activity prior to Tuesday’s 5 p.m. deadline to clear space for the prospects, who had to be on the roster or be subject to next month’s Rule 5 draft, was likely just the start to a busy offseason for the Padres.

“The last few days, this has taken priority,” Preller said. “This was always on agenda the last few months, trying to evaluate your own. Now with the roster set, you continue to move on to some of the bigger picture questions we have to try to get answers to. That’s what the next month or so is about.”

The Padres seek a third baseman, at least one starting pitcher and a shortstop.

They also are entertaining other teams’ interest in corner outfielders Franmil Reyes and Hunter Renfroe, as well as catcher Austin Hedges.

And at least one team has initiated a pursuit of [Wil Myers](#).

A source said Tuesday that talks between the Padres and [Mariners](#) regarding Myers had cooled recently and no trade was close. But the potential deal, which was broached at the General Manager meetings earlier this month and would be a salary swap of sorts, could fill two of the Padres’ needs.

The talks have involved the Padres getting shortstop [Jean Segura](#) and right-handed starter [Mike Leake](#) from Seattle. The Mariners are actively shedding salary this offseason, and moving those two players is an aim toward that end.

Myers is signed through 2023 at a cost of at least \$72.5 million, but he is due to make a base salary of just \$3 million in 2019. Leake is due \$27 million from the Mariners over the next two seasons. Segura, whose contract is similar to Myers in that there is a team option for '23 with a \$1 million buyout, is owed at least \$60.4 million.

Segura, 28, could play shortstop until top prospect Fernando Tatis Jr. is ready. A .288/.328/.408 hitter over the past six seasons, Segura has also played second base.

The 31-year-old Leake, a Fallbrook High graduate, has thrown at least 167 2/3 innings each of the past eight seasons. Even if they acquired him, the Padres would seek another frontline starter.

Myers was signed to a big contract after his All-Star season in 2016. Since then, he has moved from first base back to the outfield and then, in August, to third base. Injuries limited him to 83 games in 2018, and he has hit .247/.325/.457 with 41 home runs over the past two seasons.

Perhaps most notable among Tuesday's departures was that the Padres have agreed to transfer Villanueva, who began his rookie season by hitting eight home runs in April and finished it on the disabled list, to the Hanshin [Tigers](#) in Japan.

Villanueva, whose 20 home runs were second-most on the Padres in 2018, was not seen as the long-term solution at third base. The Padres had worked for months to get something for the 27-year-old from Mexico.

Villanueva will make almost \$1 million in Japan, according to a source. Another source said last week that Villanueva had balked at going overseas, so consummating this move Tuesday was a victory as the Padres feverishly toiled to make room on the roster for prospects.

The Padres began their last-minute roster purge by trading Brewer, a reliever, to the Red Sox in exchange for minor league second baseman Esteban Quiroz.

Later came trades of Lockett, a starter, to the Indians for minor league pitcher Ignacio Feliz and Wick, a reliever, to the Cubs for minor league third baseman Jason Vosler.

Quiroz, 26, hit .299/.413/.598 with seven home runs and five doubles in 87 at-bats in Double-A last season. Feliz, who is just 19, has spent the last two seasons playing at the rookie level. Vosler, 25, hit .251/.330/.467 with 23 home runs between Double-A and Triple-A in 2018.

Brewer, a 26-year-old right-hander, pitched mostly in Triple-A this past season.

He allowed six earned runs in 9 2/3 innings in the majors, but all of those runs came in two appearances (two-thirds of an inning). He was intriguing to the Padres, but an oblique strain sidelined him for more than a month in the summer, and their abundance of relief pitching made him expendable.

Lockett was an even more certain casualty of the Padres' roster crunch.

The 24-year-old right-hander had a 9.69 ERA and allowed 2.077 walks and hits per innings pitched in three starts (13 innings).

Like Brewer and Lockett, Wick made his major league debut in 2018. He has arguably the highest ceiling of the three, posting 11 scoreless outings among his 13 appearances for the Padres this season.

The Rule 5 draft, in which teams can poach certain minor league players not on another club's 40-man rosters, will be held Dec. 13.

A player selected in the Rule 5 draft must spend the next season on the 25-man roster or be offered back to his original club.

The change in the Padres has yet to manifest on the field in the major leagues.

But hope that a build from within will yield those results one day soon is seen in the organization's lower levels.

So stocked is the system perceived to be that the Padres, in direct contrast to recent offseasons, had to make difficult decisions this month about who to keep and who to risk losing.

In recent years, the Padres were seekers in the Rule 5 draft.

They acquired four players in the 2015 Rule 5 draft and in '16 got three more.

That '16 trio – Cordoba, [Miguel Diaz](#) and Luis Torrens – spent the entire '17 campaign in the majors. Diaz is considered a key part of the bullpen going forward.

The 2015 haul provided [Luis Perdomo](#) and Jabari Blash. Perdomo also remains with the Padres, while Blash was traded last winter.

Last season, the Padres left Franmil Reyes unprotected in advance of the Rule 5 draft. The outfielder, who was recovering from a hand injury last offseason, went on to hit .280/.340/.498 with 16 home runs in 87 games for the Padres this past season.

There is little doubt other clubs are coming after Padres prospects this year. The team's minor league system is ranked tops in baseball by MLB.com and Baseball America.

There was no doubt the Padres were protecting Paddock, who had a 2.10 ERA and 0.82 WHIP between Single-A and Double-A last season. The 22-year-old right-hander is expected to pitch in the majors for the Padres this season and is seen as a potential top-of-the-rotation starter in the future. He is ranked fifth among Padres prospects and 35<sup>th</sup> overall by MLB.com.

Espinoza was also a lock. The organization's No.1 prospect at the start of 2017, he underwent Tommy John surgery that summer and did not pitch in '18. The 20-year-old righty is still considered the Padres' 12<sup>th</sup>-best prospect.

Avila, 21, struck out 142 in 130 2/3 innings at Single-A last season and is ranked as the Padres' No.29 prospect by MLB.com. Reyes, 25, had a 2.77 ERA and 69 strikeouts in 55 1/3 innings between Single-A and Double-A last season.

Allen, who is the Padres 25<sup>th</sup>-ranked prospect, hit .290/.351/.506 with 22 home runs at Double-A. France, playing at Double-A and Triple-A, tied Allen for the organizational lead in homers.

The 22-year-old Olivares hit .277/.321/.429 in Single-A last season and is the Padres' 28<sup>th</sup>-ranked prospect, per MLB.com.

# Venezuelans Arias, Avila, Olivares Ranked Among Padres' Top-30 Prospects

*By Bill Center*

The Padres three [Top-30 prospects](#) from Venezuela returned home this winter to play in the Venezuelan Winter League.

Eighteen-year-old **Gabriel Arias**, the [Padres' N<sup>o</sup>20 prospect](#) according to MLB Pipeline, is playing for La Guaira.

**Edward Olivares**, 22, the [Padres' N<sup>o</sup>28 prospect](#), is playing center field for Aragua.

Right-hander **Pedro Avila**, 21, the [Padres' N<sup>o</sup>29 prospect](#), is starting for Margarita.

Olivares and Avila were added to the Padres' 40-man roster Tuesday. Arias hasn't reached the time when he needs to be protected from the Rule 5 draft.

A closer look at the three Venezuelans ranked about the Padres' top prospects.

— Arias was a member of the Padres' talented 2016 international signing class. At the time, he was rated the N<sup>o</sup>4 prospect in the class. The 6-foot-1, 200-pound native of Aragua can play third base as well as shortstop. Arias spent the 2018 season at Single-A Fort Wayne where he was one of the younger players in the Midwest League and 3 1/3 years below the league's average age. Arias hit .240 for the TinCaps with a .302 on-base percentage and a .352 slugging percentage for a .654 OPS. Arias had 27 doubles, three triples, six homers and 55 RBIs in 124 games. Arias is hitting .263 in 22 games in Venezuela with a .333 on-base percentage.

— Olivares, 22, is a native of Caracas. He was acquired from Toronto last Jan. 6 in the trade that sent third baseman **Yangervis Solarte** to the Blue Jays. The 6-foot-2, 186-pound Olivares is currently hitting .340 in Venezuela with a .404 on-base percentage and a .479 slugging percentage for a .883 OPS. He has three doubles, two triples, two homers, 14 RBIs, 14 runs scored, nine walks and five steals in 26 games. Olivares spent his entire first season with the Padres at Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore, where he had a slash line of .277/.321/.429/.750. In 129 games and 575 plate appearances for the Storm, Olivares had 25 doubles, 10 triples, 12 homers, 21 steals 79 runs scored and 62 RBIs.



— Avila, 21, is also a native of Caracas. He was acquired from Washington in a trade for catcher **Derek Norris**. Like Olivares, the 5-foot-11, 170-pound Avila spent the entire 2018 season with Lake Elsinore, where he was 7–9 with a 4.27 earned run average, a 1.45 WHIP (hits and walks divided by innings pitched) and a .270 opponents batting average in 24 appearances (20 starts). He had 142 strikeouts in 130 2/3 innings. In 2017, Avila was 7–1 with a 3.05 ERA and a 1.04 WHIP in 14 starts at Fort Wayne, where he also had 117 strikeouts in 85 2/3 innings before advancing to Lake Elsinore. In Venezuela this off-season, Avila has a 0.89 ERA, an identical 0.89 WHIP and a .211 opponents' batting average over 20 1/3 innings in six starts. He also has 25 strikeouts—or an average of 11.1 strikeouts per nine innings.

Avila and Olivares figure to open the 2019 season at Double-A Amarillo, although a jump to Triple-A El Paso is possible. Arias figures to start the season at Lake Elsinore.

# Three Trades of Pitchers—for— Prospects Helped the Padres Add Seven Prospects to the 40— man Roster

*By Bill Center*

Baseball's annual roster-setting date in advance of December's Rule 5 draft is one of the more stressful days on the game's calendar.

Teams must first decide how many prospects they wish to protect. Then they must find ways to create a matching number of openings on the 40-man roster.

The Padres, who opened “decision day” with a full 40-man roster, were one of the busiest teams Monday as they created spots for seven prospects—including five of their [Top-30 prospects](#).

There were some surprises. The Padres designated third baseman **Christian Villanueva** and infielder **Cory Spangenberg** for assignment. Villanueva, 27, set a Mexican national record for homers by a rookie (20) last season. Spangenberg, 27, was the 10th overall pick of the 2011 draft and a left-handed hitter who had a .258 average and a .709 OPS in 387 career games.

The Padres also designated right-handed pitcher **Colin Rea** and infielder **Allen Córdoba** for assignment.

But the day opened with the Padres trading away three right-handed pitchers from the 40-man roster for three prospects, two of whom didn't need to be protected—a move that added three more prospects to the organizational depth chart as well as opening up three roster spots. The trades reduced the number of players on the 40-man roster to 37 and made it easier to make the needed 33 number later in the day.

Here's a closer look at the trades that started the Padres' Tuesday actions:

— Reliever **Rowan Wick** was traded to the Chicago Cubs for infielder **Jason Vosler**: The 6-foot-2, 205-pound Vosler was the Cubs' 16th-round pick in the 2014 draft. The 25-year-old

hit .251 with a .330 on-base percentage and a .467 slugging percentage for a .797 OPS between Double-A and Triple-A last season. The left-handed hitter had a total of 29 homers, two triples, 23 homers and 93 RBIs between AA and AAA. He will be eligible to be taken in the Rule 5 draft. Vosler was a member of the mid-season Southern League All-Star team. Wick had a 6.48 earned run average over 10 appearances for the Padres last season.

— Reliever **Colten Brewer** was traded to Boston for second baseman **Esteban Quiroz**: The 26-year-old Quiroz was signed by the Red Sox last year after playing seven seasons in his native Mexico. The 5-foot-7, 175-pound left-handed hitter hit .299 with a .413 on-base percentage and a .598 slugging percentage for a 1.011 OPS in 24 games with Double-A Portland, Me., last summer. A native of Sonora, Quiroz was named a 2017 Mexican League Mid-Season All-Star for hitting .293 with a .428 on-base percentage and 11 homers in 287 at-bats with Yucatán. Quiroz played for Mexico in the 2017 World Baseball Classic, going 4-for-6 in three games with a team-leading two home runs, five RBIs and five runs scored. Brewer had a 5.59 ERA in 11 appearances covering 9 2/3 innings for the Padres last year.

— Starter **Walker Lockett** was traded to Cleveland for right-handed pitcher **Ignacio Feliz**: A 19-year-old, right-handed of the Dominican Republic, Feliz had a 5–3 record with a 3.00 ERA in 10 games in the Arizona Rookie League last summer. He also had a 1.07 WHIP and a .207 opponents' batting average with 54 strikeouts in 45 innings. Lockett was 0–3 with a 9.60 ERA in four games (three starts) in three different stints with the Padres last season. He allowed 16 runs on 22 hits and 10 walks in 15 innings. Four of the hits were home runs.

Wick and Brewer joined the Padres as minor league free agents during the 2017–2018 off-season. Lockett was the Padres' fourth-round pick in the 2012 draft.

The three trades and four DFAs created the room needed for the Padres to add seven prospects to the 40-man roster.

Added to the 40-man from the [Padres' Top-30](#) list are right-handed pitcher **Chris Paddack** (the [Nº5 prospect](#)), right-handed pitcher **Anderson Espinoza** ([Nº11](#)), catcher **Austin Allen** ([Nº25](#)), outfielder **Edward Olivares** ([Nº28](#)) and right-handed pitcher **Pedro Avila** ([Nº29](#)).

Also added were third baseman **Ty France** (a product of San Diego State) and right-handed reliever **Gerardo Reyes**.

# #PadresOnDeck: 13 Players Start Winter Ball as Arizona Fall League Ends

Franmil Reyes off to .444 start and Fernando Tatis Jr. has 2 homers

*By Bill Center*

As the Arizona Fall League was winding down last week with four Padres prospects contributing to second straight title for the Peoria Javelinas, 13 other members of the Padres organization were making their debuts in winter leagues.

Major Leaguers **Manuel Margot**, **Christian Villanueva** and **Franchy Cordero** all started winter league play last week along with leading prospects **Fernando Tatis Jr.** and **Francisco Mejía**.

Also starting off-season action were prospects **Aldemar Burgos**, **Colby Blueberg**, **Jarryd Dale**, **Michael Gettys**, **Justin Lopez**, **Kelvin Melean**, **Tirso Ornelas** and **Jeisson Rosario**.

But we'll start this week's review with a wrap up of the Arizona Fall League where right-handed pitcher **Miguel Diaz**, designated hitter **Austin Allen**, third baseman **Hudson Potts** and outfielder **Buddy Reed** all started in the Peoria Javelinas 3–2 win last Saturday in the AFL championship game.

Peoria, which draws prospects from the Padres and four other Major League teams, became the first team to win back-to-back AFL title in a decade.

Diaz allowed two runs (one earned) on three hits and two walks with five strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings. Allen was 1-for-3 with a walk, Reed was 1-for-4 with a walk and Potts was 0-for-4 with a walk.

Reed, 23, the [Padres' No.13 prospect](#) according to MLB Pipeline, finished with a .333 average in the Arizona Fall League with a .397 on-base percentage and a .485 slugging percentage for a

an .882 OPS. Reed had five doubles, a triple and a homer with five steals and 13 runs scored in 17 games.

Allen, 24, the [Padres' No25 prospect](#), hit .263 with a .358 on-base percentage and a .421 slugging percentage for a .779 OPS. He had three doubles and two homers for 13 RBIs in 15 games. Potts, 20, the [Padres' No23 prospect](#), had a slash line of .228/.330/.367/.697 with five doubles, two homers and 13 RBIs. He also drew 11 walks in 21 games.

Diaz finished with a 2–1 record and a 4.87 earned run average in six starts during the regular season. He had a 1.43 WHIP and a .253 opponents' batting average with 19 strikeouts in 20 1/3 innings.

Left-hander **Travis Radke** was the Padres' most active reliever in the AFL. He worked 16 innings over seven appearances with a 2.81 ERA, a 1.38 WHIP and a .242 opponents batting average with 17 walks. Right-hander **Dauris Valdez** was 1–0 with a 4.50 ERA, a 1.40 WHIP and a .250 opponents' batting average with 15 strikeouts in 10, one-inning appearances. Right-hander **Blake Rogers** joined Peoria in the second half and had a 1.23 ERA, a 1.09 WHIP and a .240 batting average with seven strikeouts in 7 1/3 innings over six appearances.

Right fielder **Franmil Reyes** is off to the fastest start among players on the Padres' Major League roster in winter ball. The 23-year-old is 20-for-45 after 13 games for Escogido in the Dominican Republic with two doubles and three homers with six walks for a slash line of .444/.510/.689/1.199.

Cordero is 5-for-21 with a home run in his first five games as Cordero's teammate at Escogido. Margot is 2-for-8 in his first two games with Este in the Dominican Republic. **Jeisson Rosario** is 0-for-3 as a pinch-hitter for Licey in the Dominican Republic.

Tatis, 19, the [Padres' No1 prospect](#), has two homers and four RBIs in four games for Estrellas in the Dominican Republic. He is 3-for-13 with two walks and two steals for a slash line of .231/.412/.692/1.104. Mejía, 21, the [Padres' No3 prospect](#), is off to a 5-for-15 start with Estrellas as Tatis' teammate.

The only other member of the Padres family active in the Dominican Republic is right-handed reliever **Eric Yardley**, who is 0–1 with a 3.38 ERA over 13 1/3 innings in 14 appearances with Cibao. He has a 1.50 WHIP.

Villanueva made his winter league debut as teammates of right-handed reliever **Gerardo Reyes** and Ornelas with Obregon of the Mexican Pacific League last week. Villanueva is 6-for-32 after nine games with a double, a homer and four RBIs. Ornelas is 0-for-3 as a pinch-hitter.

Reyes continues his strong off-season in Mexico. In 13 innings over 14 appearances, Reyes has a 0.00 ERA, a 0.92 WHIP and a .163 opponents' batting average. He has allowed no runs on seven hits and five walks with 16 strikeouts.

Gettys, Lopez, Melean and Dale all opened the season last weekend in the Australian Baseball League. Gettys is off to a 4-for-13 start with a double, a homer and three RBIs for Adelaide. Lopez (3-for-11) and Melean (2-for-12) are rotating between shortstop and second base for Canberra. Dale is off to a 3-for-9 start with a double and two RBIs for Melbourne.

Burgos and Blueberg started play with the opener of the Roberto Clemente League season in Puerto Rico. Burgos is 5-for-15 with a double and three runs scored after four games with Carolinas. Right-handed reliever Blueberg has a save over three scoreless innings in two outings with Mayaguez.

Three [Top-30 prospects](#) continue play in Venezuela.

Shortstop **Gabriel Arias**, 18, the [Padres' No.20 prospect](#), is hitting .263 with a .333 on-base percentage in 22 games with La Guaira. Outfielder **Edward Olivares**, 22, the [Padres' No.28 prospect](#), is hitting .340 with a .404 on-base percentage and a .479 slugging percentage for a .883 OPS for Aragua. Olivares has three doubles, two triples, two homers, nine walks and five steals with 14 RBIs and 14 runs scored in 26 games.

Right-handed starter **Pedro Avila**, 21, the [Padres' No.29 prospect](#), is 1–0 with a 0.89 ERA, a 0.89 WHIP and a .211 opponents' batting average in four starts for Margarita. He has given up three runs (two earned) on 15 hits and three walks with 25 strikeouts in 20 1/3 innings.

## Padres Acquire Jason Vosler From Cubs For Rowan Wick

By [Kyle Glaser](#) on November 20, 2018

The Padres made three trades on Tuesday in advance of the 40-man roster deadline, first sending reliever [Colten Brewer](#) to the Red Sox and righthander [Walker Lockett](#) to the Indians.

For their third deal, they traded righthanded reliever [Rowan Wick](#) to the Cubs in exchange for infielder [Jason Vosler](#), a move that doesn't actually have a 40-man effect.

Vosler needed to be added by the Cubs to avoid becoming Rule 5 draft eligible, and the Padres promptly added him to their 40-man upon acquiring him.

### Padres acquire:

**[Jason Vosler](#), 3B**

**Age:** 24

Vosler ranked as the Cubs No. 25 prospect entering 2018 and put together his second straight 20-home run season, batting .251 with 23 homers, 93 RBIs and a .797 OPS between Double-A Tennessee and Triple-A Iowa. The lefthanded-hitting Vosler is an aggressive player with feel to leverage the ball with a middle-to-pull approach. His aggressiveness results in high strikeout totals, but he makes impact contact when he connects. Vosler is a solid defender with a good arm at third base, and he's played a little bit of second and first base as well, although he's not as comfortable there. Vosler provides the Padres some needed lefthanded power, and has a chance to get reps at third base with the Padres currently lacking a viable 2019 option there.

### Cubs acquire:

**[Rowan Wick](#), RHP**

**Age:** 26

Wick spent his first three pro seasons as a catcher/outfielder before converting to pitching in 2015 and becoming a hard-throwing reliever. He made his ML debut last season. Wick's fastball sits 95 mph and touches 98, and he pairs it with a hard slider that ranges from 89-91 mph. He even has a curveball that comes in hot, reaching 85 mph although generally sitting in the high 70s. Wick doesn't quite have command of his power arsenal, resulting in too many pitches out of the strike zone in the minors and too many pitches over the heart of the plate in the majors. If he can harness his power stuff, he has a chance to be a valuable bullpen piece.

# Padres Trade Colten Brewer To Red Sox For Esteban Quiroz

By [Kyle Glaser](#) on November 20, 2018

The Padres had [40-man roster spots to clear](#) and a need for players who can get on base. On Tuesday afternoon, they swung a trade that accomplished both goals.

The Padres traded righthanded reliever [Colten Brewer](#) to the Red Sox for 26-year-old second baseman [Esteban Quiroz](#) roughly six hours before the 40-man roster deadline. Brewer vacates one roster spot the Padres needed to clear while giving the Red Sox, who had six available spots on their 40-man roster, a reliever with big league experience.

## RED SOX ACQUIRE

[Colten Brewer](#), RHP

Age: 25

Originally a fourth-round pick of the Pirates in 2011, Brewer signed with the Padres last offseason and pitched well at Triple-A El Paso before making his big league debut, posting a 5.59 ERA in 11 appearances with the Padres. Brewer has swing-and-miss stuff but lacks control. His 92-94 mph cutter and low-80s, power curveball are both swing-and-miss pitches when he spots them, but he often leaves them over the plate to get hit. If the Red Sox can improve his control, he has a chance to settle into a bullpen spot.

## PADRES ACQUIRE:

[Esteban Quiroz](#), 2B

Age: 26

Quiroz is a 5-foot-7 veteran of the Mexican League who the Red Sox signed last November. Though short, the stocky lefthanded hitter packs serious thump for a little guy. He swings hard, squares up fastballs and consistently sends long flies to the right-center field gap. He hit a double and two home runs in three games for Mexico at the 2017 World Baseball Classic, hit five doubles and seven home runs in 24 games at Double-A Portland in 2018 and just had three doubles and two home runs in 14 games for Mesa in the Arizona Fall League, putting together an overall .267/.452/.511 slash line.

Quiroz manages the strike zone expertly, recording nearly as many walks as strikeouts at almost every level. While his big swing doesn't yield high averages, he gets on base and makes impact contact from the left side—two traits the Padres need. Quiroz projects to share time with fellow Mexican and 2017 WBC teammate Luis Urias at second base, and he has some previous experience playing shortstop as well.



# Padres Send Walker Lockett to Indians For Pitching Prospect

By [Kyle Glaser](#) on November 20, 2018

The Padres' busy day continued with another trade in advance of the 40-man roster deadline.

Needing to clear roster spots for the seven prospects they would eventually add to their 40-man, the Padres traded righthander [Walker Lockett](#) to the Indians for minor league righthander [Ignacio Feliz](#).

The Indians made for a perfect trade partner with 40-man roster spots open and few prospects who needed to be added. They were a popular destination for teams looking to trade 40-man players, acquiring [Jordan Luplow](#) and [Max Moroff](#) from the Pirates last week and righthander [Chih-Wei Hu](#) from the Rays on Monday.

## Indians acquire:

[Walker Lockett](#), RHP

Age: 24

A fourth-round pick in 2012, Lockett battled injuries and immaturity and found himself yet to pitch above low Class A four seasons into his pro career. He righted the ship and ascended rapidly the last two years, culminating in his major league debut in 2018. Lockett is a big 6-foot-5 sinkerballer who relies on inducing grounders to make it through his starts. His 92-95 mph sinker does most of the work, and he'll mix in a hard upper 80s changeup to get grounders too. He also has a low 80s curveball. Because Lockett doesn't have any swing-and-miss stuff, he'll avoid the strike zone too much at times and issue too many walks. He also has been hittable when he doesn't get his sinker down enough. Lockett will be still just 24 on Opening Day, and has a chance to become a groundball specialist at the back of the rotation or out of the bullpen with some refinement.

## Padres acquire:

[Ignacio Feliz](#), RHP

Age: 19

Feliz signed with the Indians for \$85,000 out of the Dominican Republic in 2016 and immediately emerged as a sleeper in the class. A converted third baseman, the 6-foot-1, 180 pound Feliz sat 88-89 mph and touched 92 mph in the Rookie-level Arizona League this year, showing the loose arm and athleticism to project more velocity. He shows feel for his breaking ball and is adding power and sharpness to it, with plenty of room to continue growing as he becomes more accustomed to pitching. Feliz went 5-3, 3.00 with 54 strikeouts and 14 walks in the AZL this year, and is another promising young arm the Padres can add to the lower levels of the system.