



# Padres Press Clips

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<b>Article</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Page</b>
Padres on the road again — and again and again	SD Union Tribune	Acee	2
Padres' home now means home runs are less rare, and that's a tradeoff	SD Union Tribune	Krasovic	5
Talking with ... Padres rookie outfielder Franmil Reyes	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	8
Fernando Tatis Jr. hits 11th homer with Missions	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	10
Padres 2018 draft: What they're saying	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	13
10 more strikeouts for Storm's Chris Paddack	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	14
Yates an under-the-radar All-Star pick	MLB.com	Cassavell	16
Trevor's Time now countdown to HOF induction	Padres.com	Center	18
Padres face tough road trips ahead	Padres.com	Center	19
#PadresOnDeck: Tatis Jr. Continues Torrid Streak with Homer at Double-A San Antonio	FriarWire	Center	20
This Day in Padres History—June 8	FriarWire	Center	22
#PadresOnDeck: Logan Allen, Guerra, Potts, Ornelas Named Padres' Players of the Week	FriarWire	Center	23
This Day in Padres History—June 7	FriarWire	Center	25
Susan G. Komen San Diego and the Padres to offer free mammograms at Petco Park	10news.com	Sheeran	26
Padres look to continue turnaround against Marlins	FOX Sports	STATS	27

# Padres on the road again — and again and again

Kevin Acee

Raffy Lopez is a 30-year-old rookie catcher with the [Padres](#) who has played 63 games in the major leagues and 534 games in the minors.

He has traveled like the rest of us.

His professional baseball career has mostly seen him toiling in cities like Boise and Des Moines and Knoxville and El Paso, drawing the dreaded “C” group on [Southwest Airlines](#) and staying in hotels with the air conditioning unit mounted and dripping outside the window.

“This is easier,” he said.

And it makes sense it would be.

Anyone who has traveled extensively for business — or even for pleasure — knows the difficulty of maintaining peak focus and performance while going from flight to hotel to flight to hotel and on and on in between trying to find a decent meal.

That is no less true — and probably truer — for a professional athlete, whose job requires a high level of physical and mental stamina.

Especially at the highest level.

“For me, one major league game feels like two to three minor league games — physically and mentally,” Lopez said. “I wouldn’t be the only one to say that. There is more pressure; there is more on the line. Way more thinking, way more information. The hitters are better. There is way more mental game-play going on. ... So when people are like, ‘Major Leaguers are spoiled,’ I say, ‘Yeah, that’s true. But I think it’s well deserved.’”

That said, it is important to get some details out of the way before we go too far down the road about how challenging this next month is going to be for the Padres.

“We pull right up to the plane, the plane has food, you’re not crammed in with two other people, you have a first class seat, you can relax,” infielder Cory Spangenberg said. “It’s not as much of a hassle traveling.”

These guys don’t take their shoes off for [TSA](#), because they don’t go through a TSA checkpoint. They don’t put their tray tables up for taxi and takeoff.

They stay at hotels most people won’t even drive past and that require a capital ‘T’ — as in, The Ritz-Carlton.

Their postgame spread in the visitors' clubhouse at least once this season was prime rib and lobster. It's never Arby's.

That makes what they are about to do easier. But far from easy.

Beginning with Friday's game against the [Marlins](#), the Padres will play 17 of their next 19 and 23 of their next 28 games on the road.

After Miami, it is on to St. Louis and Atlanta for the rest of a 10-game trip. They return home for two games and then head to San Francisco for four games before going to Texas for three. A day off and a three-game series at home is followed by two games in Oakland and four in Arizona.

### Padres travel from June 6 to July 8

Travel date	Arrival city	Games to be played	Distance in miles	
1. June 6	Miami	3	2,268	
2. June 10	St. Louis	3	1,058	
3. June 13	Atlanta	4	475	
<b>4. June 17</b>	<b>San Diego</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,894</b>	
5. June 20	San Francisco	4	455	
6. June 24	Dallas/Ft. Worth	3	1,470	
<b>7. June 27</b>	<b>San Diego</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,169</b>	
8. July 2	Oakland	2	447	Total distance to travel
9. July 4	Phoenix	4	639	
<b>10. July 8</b>	<b>San Diego</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>298</b>	

Sources: Padres; Mapzen; OpenStreetMap

SHAFFER GRUBB U-T

They will spend eight nights at home in the 32-night span between their departure from San Diego following Wednesday's game and their return from Arizona on July 8.

They're not thrilled.

"It's the worst I've seen," said reliever Craig Stammen, who is in his ninth major league season.

It wasn't said woefully. Just as a fact.

A [Major League Baseball](#) spokesman said in an e-mail the Padres' upcoming odyssey is "relatively uncommon but not unprecedented. It just happens sometimes when trying to make a schedule." The Padres do still have 10 home games in the month of June, which is not the fewest of any team in a calendar month this season.

But no other team will do anything like what the Padres will over a four-week period — three trips separated only by a two-game homestand (June 19-20) and a three-game homestand (June 29-July 1). That's five games in 32 days. (The closest might actually have been the Marlins, who just finished a stretch with trips of six and 10 games sandwiched around a three-game homestand.)

The Padres have been talking among themselves about this stretch since [spring training](#). At this point, they've reached the "it is what it is" stage of acceptance.

"You looked ahead and saw the different sections of the schedule and you have your moments to gripe and complain about it," catcher A.J. Ellis said. "But you get to the part where it's coming up and all you can do is put your head down and go."

Fact is, there is no telling how a team will react to a stretch like this.

There is no denying the flights and the time changes and the late-night arrivals mess with sleep patterns and the ability to hydrate properly and maintain a regular diet.

Getting to the hotel at midnight after a game on the East Coast doesn't feel that late. But getting up at 9 a.m. to have breakfast feels too early.

Unfamiliar clubhouses and batting cages are not as comfortable as those in the home ballpark. Even five-star hotel beds aren't home beds. FaceTime with your 10-month-old daughter isn't the same as holding her.

For all that, though, teams often thrive on the road. It can be easier than being home. There are obligations other than baseball. Teammates spend more time together away from the ballpark.

"A lot of times it's when a team really comes together," Ellis said.

"It can definitely wear you down — the plane rides and all that," first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) said. "But it's a lot of good time to connect with teammates. ... A lot of connecting is more valuable off the field, especially when you change the scenery up and it's not all at a baseball field."

The Padres are 13-15 away from Petco Park, including their three-game series in Monterrey, Mexico, for which they were the "home" team. They are 16-20 at Petco. Until going 7-3 on the just-completed homestand, they were quite a bit better on the road.

"This team has really gelled well on the road," manager Andy Green said. "I'm not overly concerned about that. ... It's going to be a real challenge how much we play on the road coming up. But I think this team has bonded well with each other. They enjoy each other. They enjoy being together."

They'd better. They're going to be around each other even more than usual over the next month.

# Padres' home now means home runs are less rare, and that's a tradeoff

**Tom Krasovic**

Forgive me for joining the party late, but have you seen and heard what's happening downtown?

The East Village is hopping, in comparison to several years ago.

The baseball.

The actual baseball.

It's flying.

Spectators are scattering, birds are on red alert.

What for years was one of the big-league game's "let-them-hit-it" environments has become a more challenging place for pitchers. The stunning new reality: Petco Park of recent years is nearly a home-run bandbox by the standards of Petco National Park circa 2004-12. The place's home run factor this year of 1.068, per ESPN, is 14th in the big leagues and second in the ballpark's history to the park record of 1.085 set in 2015. (Anything higher than 1.00 favors the hitter; below 1.00 favors the pitcher.)

This is actually the fourth time in the past six seasons the home run factor has been above .935; from 2004-12 it was higher than .862 only once.

Merv Rettenmund coached [Padres](#) hitters in [Mission Valley](#) for most of the 1990s and for the third and fourth seasons after the move downtown.

He can scarcely believe it's the same place, alongside 19 Tony Gwynn Drive.

Before games, he sees baseballs zoom like golf balls, whether hit by big boppers or lower-rung hackers.

"I watch batting practice, and it's just a tremendous difference at the ballpark," Rettenmund said.

Two questions: Who spiked the punch? And with what?

No one can say for sure.

Ballpark historians say the ball has carried better at Petco since a giant video board went up beyond the left-field wall in 2015, the same year that yielded the venue's top home run factor.

Construction of two towering buildings, beyond left-center field, is also said to have coincided with better carry.

Of course, the actual baseballs, bats, and ballplayers are part of the fireworks as well.

And, right field is smaller and shorter-walled than before 2013.

Whatever the means, the end is better theater.

Comebacks are more possible, including at night when the marine layer hovers.

You can see the change in the pitchers.

They're less brazen. They have to fear the home run, even to the opposite field.

During nights years ago, if a hitter didn't demolish a pitch, he had no chance of a homer to right-center.

Rettenmund recalled that in the days of Old Petco, the Cardinals once loaded the bases for slugger [Albert Pujols](#). When Pujols walloped the pitch, it was so obviously a grand slam that the baserunners jogged and Pujols trotted.

Except, it went for a flyout.

Hang with 'em, Poojie. You've been Petco'd.

Barry Bonds was a Padres rival who played his home games in a pitcher's cocoon as well, near San Francisco Bay. Though he hit home runs to all fields at Petco, when asked about hitting there, Bonds described it as not baseball.

Sorry, pitchers. Those days are over.

Anyone who was a regular at Petco National couldn't have imagined the Pads allowing seven runs or more in a third of their home games, as they have through 39 games this year downtown. The 2010 team allowed that many in only six of 81 home games (7.4 percent).

Sure, talent matters.

The '10 Pads had a brilliant bullpen, one of the better one-through-seven relief corps in the sport over the past two decades (I'd take the current closer, Brad Hand, over '10 closer [Heath Bell](#), but Bell was dominant, too). Not only could those Pads count on [Luke Gregerson](#) and [Mike Adams](#) to build a bridge to Bell, several other relievers who included [Edward Mujica](#) and [Tim Stauffer](#) kept the other team from adding to its lead.

And the starting rotation enjoyed great health in 2010, the franchise's most recent winning season.

Still, Pads pitchers across the talent spectrum have it tougher at home now, than in the earlier years of Petco.

Here's what I see: The current staff needs better talent to cope with six months of New Petco. Already, the visiting team has scored 10 or more runs in four games (one game more than the staff total in 2010).

I'm no Professor Seam Head, but hiding or nurturing suspect pitchers is harder when flyballs are apt to go over the fence.

Here's a notion: Home run conditions in San Diego may be the best in the Pads' big-league history, if only because the stadium in Mission Valley tended to play fairly big.

Batting practice downtown, for sure, is more of a show these days. Hitters have become stronger and better at launching. At the same ballpark where Phil Nevin and Ryan Klesko used to fling helmets and shake their fists after deep flyouts, Pads hitters are trotting the bases and pointing to the heavens.

It's a tradeoff — but I'd suggest that maintaining a pitching staff over six months is the toughest chore most teams face.

Are the Pads set up to take advantage by 2020, their target season?

Evaluators with other clubs say no other team has a better group of pitching prospects. If the plan works out — and good luck will be needed, because pitching is so volatile — the Pads will have a staff of pitchers who won't need the old home-field advantage.

# Talking with ... Padres rookie outfielder Franmil Reyes

**Jeff Sanders**

*At 6-foot-5 and 275 pounds, Franmil Reyes is an imposing figure in the batter's box. With six home runs in his last 13 games heading into the [Padres'](#) weekend series in Miami, the 22-year-old rookie's confidence is growing with every passing day in the majors.*

**Union-Tribune:** The way you think through in-game at-bats and make adjustments, Padres manager Andy Green has spoken highly of you in that regard. Have you always been that kind of hitter?**Reyes:** No. It started last year when I started making those adjustments. I tried to understand what type of player I was, what type of guy I was. I started looking for a pitch where I can do damage and I forget about the other pitches until I have two strikes. When I have two strikes, I have to cover my plate. Before two strikes, I have to look for a pitch where I can do damage. So that's what I've been doing.

**U-T:** What prompted that change?

**Reyes:** I had a hitting coach, he's now with the Dodgers. His name is Luis Ortiz. He talked to me during the season. I was doing pretty good in the beginning of the season at Double-A. Then he gave me that tip. I struggled for a little bit and then I figured out what he was telling me and I made the adjustment. I've been having success since then. ... I'm looking for a pitch to do damage, a pitch I can put a hard swing on it and try to make hard contact.

**U-T:** What was your approach before the change?

**Reyes:** I was just trying to put the ball in play. That's it. I never tried to hit the ball to a gap. Then I understood what type of guy I was. That's the player I am. Hit the ball to the gaps, try to get extra bases and RBIs.

**U-T:** You came up and you said this is the same game. "I'm going to play it the same way." How hard is it to actually do that under the bright lights and in front of big crowds for the first time? Was that something you had to calm yourself down about?

**Reyes:** For sure, there's a lot of fans out there. I got nervous. It's not just me. Everyone when they get their call-up to the big leagues gets nervous for a little bit until we do something cool in the game. That's when you start feeling better. It's an unbelievable feeling. When I was out there and I got the call-up, I said "I'm not going to be like this or I'm not going to be shy or nervous" until the last moment. When they called "Play ball," it's something that's an unbelievable feeling. I was really nervous.

**U-T:** So everything you said went right out the door.



**Reyes:** Yes, my knee was shaking a lot.

**U-T:** What was the moment when everything slowed down for you, when everything again seemed like second nature?

**Reyes:** So, one of the coaches, Johnny Washington, he told me every time you go up, if they see a guy walking to the plate, like shy, they're going to take advantage of it. If you go up there and you're like, "I am the caballo. I am the best. Throw the pitch over here. I'm going to do damage to you." And he throws a fastball and you make a hard swing, he's going to be scared. "Who's this guy? Wait, I have to do a little adjustment." That kind of fired me up. Every time I go to the plate I go with that mentality, like, "Come here, you're going to throw the pitch down there and I'm going to do damage to you. That's just amazing. I really thank J-Wash for that.

**U-T:** You've said previously that pitchers in the minors take one look at you and think, "Oh, no." You have to earn that here, don't you?

**Reyes:** Yes, the pitchers know how to pitch to hitters and they know what the hitters did the previous at-bat. They adjust to us. We have to adjust to them. I know that in the minors they don't (game plan) that much. They just go out there and do their best, play with their catcher and their coaches. Here, I swear the pitchers study the hitters.

**U-T:** And now you're studying. How much more do you study now than in the minors?

**Reyes:** I wasn't. Zero. I wasn't doing that in Triple-A until I got here. That was the first time I studied a pitcher. It's amazing. It's something I'll never forget and never stop doing.

**U-T:** What's the most important thing you've learned through studying a pitcher?

**Reyes:** Counts. How they pitch you in counts, how they pitch you with runners in scoring position. When I was down in the minors, with runners in scoring position, those pitchers throw us a lot of breaking balls and stuff to try to keep the runner on the bases. Here, there's a lot of pitchers that are really aggressive and will throw a fastball right down the middle that I never expected. These guys have better command than the guys over there. They know what they are doing.

**U-T:** What do you want to still get better at?

**Reyes:** Just keep my body in shape. I know that bat will be pretty good. I want to stay in shape. It will help me on defense and help me move better around the bases and do the best for my team.

# Fernando Tatis Jr. hits 11th homer with Missions

**Jeff Sanders**

The Texas League's player of the month for May is off to a good start in June.

A day after a four-hit game, **Fernando Tatis Jr.** drove in two runs on his 11<sup>th</sup> homer in [Double-A San Antonio's 8-2 loss](#) to visiting Midland.

The [Padres](#) shortstop prospect is hitting .279/.345/.513 with 31 extra-base hits, seven steals and 31 runs scored.

After fashioning a 1.054 OPS in 29 games in May, Tatis is 9-for-22 with a 1.026 OPS, two steals and five RBIs in six games to start June.

Tatis – ranked No. 1 in the system by both MLB.com and Baseball America – started the season with a .564 OPS in April.

Tatis' homer was the only extra-base hit for the Missions (37-22).

Left-hander **Jerry Keel** (4-2, 5.35) struck out five and allowed three runs on seven hits and two walks in six innings in the loss.

## TRIPLE-A EL PASO (29-32)

- [Omaha 6, Chihuahuas 5](#): RHP **Walker Lockett** (5.10) struck out seven and allowed two runs on four hits and a walk in six innings in his return to the PCL. RHP **Colten Brewer** (5.04) allowed two runs in two innings and RHP **Kazuhisa Makita** (0-1, 4.15) allowed two runs on three hits in 1/3 of an inning the loss. 1B **Allen Craig** (.265) hit his eighth homer and RF **Forrest Allday** (.360) drove in three runs on two hits. 2B **Luis Urias** (.254) went 0-for-3 with two walks and two strikeouts.

## HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (30-30)

- [Inland Empire 6, Storm 5](#): RHP **Pedro Avila** (3-4, 4.15) struck out five and allowed six runs on eight hits and two walks in seven innings in the loss. 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.245) singled in a pair of runs and 1B **Brad Zunica** (.236) went 2-for-4 with a triple and a run scored. LF **Buddy Reed** (.332) went 0-for-3 with two walks and his 27<sup>th</sup> steal. CF **Edward Olivares** (.258) went 1-for-4 with a triple, a walk, a run and his eighth steal.

## LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26-32)

- [South Bend 6, TinCaps 1](#): LHP **Tom Cosgrove** (1-3, 5.10) struck out six and allowed three runs on five hits and a walk in six innings. RHP **Diomar Lopez** (18.00) allowed three runs – two earned – on two hits and a walk in one inning. CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.275) went 2-for-4 and stole his 13<sup>th</sup> base and 2B **Esteury Ruiz** (.249) went 1-for-4 with his 18<sup>th</sup> steal.

## ROOKIE DSL PADRES (3-2)

- [Padres 6, Orioles 3](#): LHP **Manuel Partida** (0.00) struck out five and allowed one hit and three walks in 2 2/3 innings in the start. RHP **Edgar Martinez** (1-0, 0.00) turned in two scoreless innings in the win. 1B **Emmanuel Guerra** (.308) went 1-for-3 with a double, three RBIs, a walk and a run scored.

## Transaction

- INF **Deion Tansel**, acquired in the **Ryan Schimpf** trade, was transferred from extended [spring training](#) to San Antonio.

# Padres 2018 draft: What they're saying

Jeff Sanders

Over a dizzying three days, the [Padres](#) added 41 players – three catchers, eight infielders, five outfielders, eight left-handed pitchers and 17 righties – to a system that already ranks among the best in the game. Eighteen of those players, including 15 over the final 30 rounds, hail from high school programs. Twenty-three were college selections.

Our [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#) and [Day 3](#) trackers passed along notes on several of the additions. The Padres [raved about No. 7 overall pick Ryan Weathers](#). They discussed why multi-sport athletes ([they drafted several](#)) appeal to them. They acknowledged a loaded farm system [emboldened them to reach for tougher signs on Day 3](#) in particular.

Catch your breath yet?

Good.

Now's a perfect time – lunch on a Padres off-day – to review what the industry is saying about San Diego's haul.

First, [ESPN's Keith Law](#) provided the most detailed review of the Padres' selections (subscription required for the entire recap):

- Prep lefty **Ryan Weathers (1)** was one of the most polished high school arms in the draft, and he showed very well at the end of the spring once he was fully in baseball mode after taking his high school basketball team to the state Class A championship (and winning tournament MVP).
- **Xavier Edwards (1A)** is a plus runner with the actions for short, but his arm might push him to second or even to center field, while at the plate he has a short swing that should produce lots of contact but little power unless he gets his lower half more involved.
- **Grant Little (2A)** raked for [Texas Tech](#) in a down year for the [Big 12](#) as a whole, hitting .380/.480/.670 for the Red Raiders (though none of those numbers led the team). He's a left fielder with a pretty, right-handed swing, generating solid-average power from his hip rotation, though he tends to land a little open after his stride.
- Illinois State shortstop **Owen Miller (3)** probably doesn't stay at the position long-term, especially not with the 57 shortstops already in the Padres' system, but he has good feel to hit and cut his strikeout rate by almost half this spring, giving him upside as a multi-position infielder.
- [Missouri](#) State right-hander **Dylan Coleman (4)** has been up to 99 but has below-average command and control -- 59 walks in 102.2 innings is kind of a problem -- and his slider is hard but not plus, at least not when he starts. He's a clear candidate to move to the bullpen.

- **Dwanya Williams-Sutton (5)** is an intriguing buy-low guy. ... He has a big swing that generates plus raw power, and he's an above-average runner who profiles as an above-average right fielder.
- **Jawuan Harris (7)** played football and baseball at Rutgers, with plus speed and potentially plus defense in center, but he kind of can't hit (.246/.375/.387 this year, 27 percent strikeout rate) and there are real questions about his makeup.

Fangraphs.com provided their [own assessment of the Padres' selections](#):

- Tennessee prep LHP **Ryan Weathers (1)** is the son of [David Weathers](#). All three pitches and his command are above average despite a very short stride and maxed-out frame... Florida prep 2B **Xavier Edwards (CBA)** is an 80 runner who fits somewhere up the middle and has a long track record of hitting from both sides of the plate... Texas Tech 2B **Grant Little (CBB)** doesn't have a clear position and doesn't have loud tools but is average across the board with monster numbers... Missouri State RHP **Dylan Coleman (4)** is 6-foot-6 and has been up to 97 mph while showing a 55 slider, but he may ultimately end up in the pen... East Carolina RF **Dwanya Williams-Sutton (5)** is a solid athlete with big raw power and huge exit velos but just okay numbers... Rutgers CF **Jawuan Harris (7)** has above-average to plus tools across the board but 30 pitch recognition and limited reps due to football and a pot suspension... Texas Tech RHP **Jose Quezada (10)** is a senior sign who works 91-95 with a slider that's a 55 at times... Pennsylvania prep 2B **Sean Guilbe (12)** will stick in the dirt and has above-average power along with some feel to hit... Georgia 1B **Michael Curry (16)** has plus raw power and some hitability that gives him a chance to profile after moving full-time from catcher.

At MLB.com, their experts used their pre-draft top-200-prospects list to rank teams' drafts (200 points to No. 1, 199 points to No. 2 and so on). Whatever you think of that list, that's at least a logical system to [rank the Padres' draft](#) 20th out of 30 teams in the game. Their five top-200 draftees – Weathers (13), Edwards (28), Coleman (84), Harris (192) and **Sean Guilbe (155)** – added up to 606 points. The [Rays](#) paced the field with 1,184.

And it certainly makes more sense than arbitrarily assigning letter grades to a haul that will take at least a good two or three years to judge.

Especially when you haven't studied the players like each war room has.

How could you?

That didn't stop two different Bleacher Report assessments (two?!?) from giving the Padres at [B-plus](#) and a [B-minus](#) for their haul or SB Nation from assigning a [B-plus](#) to their efforts.

What's it all mean?

Check back in 2021.

# 10 more strikeouts for Storm's Chris Paddack

**Jeff Sanders**

**Chris Paddack** is back on track.

Not that anyone believed his last two starts was anything but a momentary hiccup.

The **Padres'** fast-rising prospect struck out 10 more batters over 5 2/3 shutout innings on Wednesday in **high Single-A Lake Elsinore's 4-3 win** in 11 innings at Inland Empire.

Paddack scattered three hits and didn't walk anyone, lowering his ERA to 1.93 through his first 37 1/3 innings since Tommy John surgery. Over that span, Paddack has fanned 61 batters, walked just two, hit two and allowed 27 hits.

All eight runs he has allowed came over his previous two starts.

Paddack is ranked No. 21 in the Padres system by MLB.com.

Right-hander **Colby Blueberg** earned the win with six strikeouts and a run allowed in 2 1/3 innings in relief.

**Chris Baker** (.148) went 1-for-4 and drove in two runs on his first homer and **Luis Torrens** (.268) and **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.247) each had two hits.

**Buddy Reed** (.336) went 1-for-4 with two walks and two steals, giving him a system-best 26 on the season.

## TRIPLE-A EL PASO (29-31)

- **Chihuahuas 3, Omaha 2:** 3B **Luis Urias** (.257) hit his sixth homer, the go-ahead blast in the win. DH **Allen Craig** (.263) drove in two runs on his seventh homer and LF **Shane Peterson** (.267) went 3-for-4 with a triple. RHP **Seth Simmons** (2.25) struck out four and allowed two runs on three hits and two walks in six innings in the start. RHP **Robert Stock** (2.87) pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save.

## DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (37-21)

- **Missions 10, Midland 0:** LHP **Logan Allen** (8-2, 2.93), in his first post-no-hitter start, struck out four over seven shutout innings. He walked only one and scattered four hits. SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.280) went 4-for-5 with a double, three RBIs, three runs scored and his seventh steal and 3B **Ty France** (.270) drove in three runs on two hits. 2B **Matthew Batten** (.417) went 4-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

## **LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26-31)**

- **South Bend 7, TinCaps 0:** LHP **Nick Margevicius** (4-3, 3.16) struck out eight, but allowed six runs – five earned – on nine hits and no walks in six innings in the loss. On offense, the TinCaps were no-hit by seven innings from **Rollie Lacy** and two innings from **Ben Hecht**.

## **ROOKIE DSL PADRES (2-2)**

- **Padres 4, Reds 0:** RHP **Mauricio Rodriguez** (0.00) allowed one hit and struck out five over four innings, RHP **Jesus Cisneros** (1-0, 0.00) struck out four over two hitless innings and RHP **Efrain Contreras** (0.00) struck out five over three hitless innings. CF **Junior Perez** (.214) went 1-for-4 with a double and two RBIs.

Yates an under-the-radar All-Star pick  
By A.J. Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell  
Jun. 7th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- The big names headed to this year's Midsummer Classic? You already know them.

But with 68 spots to fill on two rosters, the **All-Star Game** always features its share of upstarts. They're as much a staple of the event as the superstars.

That should be especially true in the National League West this season, where a handful of those stars have either struggled (think **Cody Bellinger**, **Evan Longoria**, pre-June **Paul Goldschmidt**) or succumbed to injury (**Clayton Kershaw**, **Corey Seager**, **Wil Myers**).

Sure, **Buster Posey** and **Nolan Arenado** are probably headed to D.C. But the NL West could also see a handful of under-the-radar candidates emerge. Here's a look at one from each team.

D-backs: **Daniel Descalso**

The case for him: With the D-backs beset by injuries, Descalso has played all over the diamond, seeing time at third, second, first and left field. (He also pitched a scoreless 2/3 of an inning during a blowout loss to save the bullpen.)

At the plate, Descalso has been just as versatile, having started games at every position in the batting order but ninth. He owns a career-best 132 OPS+ and has seven homers in 178 plate appearances. He's been big in some clutch spots for the D-backs as well.

Descalso's name isn't on the ballot, and that's just as well. If he keeps up his solid start to the 2018 season and is good enough to earn an All-Star berth, it would only be fitting for him to come off the bench in a utility role.

Dodgers: **Ross Stripling**

The case for him: On a pitching staff with **Clayton Kershaw**, **Kenley Jansen**, **Rich Hill**, **Alex Wood** and even Rookie of the Year Award candidate **Walker Buehler**, it's Ross Stripling who leads the Dodgers, including position players, in **fWAR** at 1.9.

Stripling has appeared in 18 games, making seven starts, and he has posted a 1.52 ERA. His pace appears somewhat sustainable, too, as he owns a 1.99 FIP and 66 strikeouts over 53 1/3 innings.

No one questions the star power on the reigning NL champs. But when they struggled to start the season, Stripling's performance in the bullpen went a long way toward keeping them afloat. Now that he's transitioned to the rotation, the Dodgers are making a charge at the division lead.

Giants: **Tony Watson**

The case for him: Watson has been the steady left-handed presence the Giants so desperately needed at the back end of their bullpen in previous seasons.



He has posted a 2.25 ERA with 31 strikeouts over 28 innings. But perhaps most importantly, he's been a calming presence in a bullpen that's desperately needed one over the past two seasons.

Watson suffered consecutive poor outings in Pittsburgh early last month, but otherwise he's been excellent this year. Watson was an All-Star for Pittsburgh in 2014. Four years later, he might be headed back to the Midsummer Classic.

#### Padres: Kirby Yates

The case for him: You've probably heard this story before: The Padres claimed a slumping reliever off waivers, then he developed a new pitch and became one of the sport's top arms en route to being named an All-Star. It's precisely what happened to **Brad Hand**, who took part in the 2017 Midsummer Classic. Yates could soon follow in his footsteps.

Since his arrival in San Diego last April, Yates has developed a devastating splitter, and he's turned into one of the NL's best setup men. In 23 innings this season, Yates has posted a 1.17 ERA and 28 strikeouts.

Hand remains an excellent candidate for an All-Star berth. Now he's got company within his own bullpen.

#### Rockies: DJ LeMahieu

The case for him: Inasmuch as a two-time All-Star and a former batting champ can be under-the-radar, LeMahieu could sneak back into the conversation if he comes back strong from the left-thumb injury that sidelined him for two weeks.

There are early signs that he might. Entering play Thursday, LeMahieu was 7-for-24 since his return. He's got ground to make up -- especially given his somewhat pedestrian 100 wRC+. But LeMahieu has proven himself capable of doing that, and there could be space on the bench at second base.

Strangely enough, LeMahieu's downfall might be his inability to hit at Coors Field. He's posted a .995 OPS on the road this season, which is more than 350 points higher than his home mark of .631.

Trevor's Time now countdown to HOF induction  
By Bill Center San Diego Padres  
8:29 AM ET

Time to break out your personal copy of Hells Bells.

The countdown to Trevor Hoffman going into the Hall of Fame has started, and we'll be counting down the final "51" days with the Padre nation.

Each day leading up to Hoffman's July 29 induction ceremony in Cooperstown will feature a different snippet from the life of the Padres' legendary closer.

We're going to take a look at Trevor's early life, travel with him from high school through the University of Arizona, chronicle his transition from shortstop to pitcher and chart the course that brought him to San Diego.

Then we're going to stop at many great moments of his career -- revisiting milestone saves as well as recalling those saves that carved a special spot in Hoffman's memory.

Each day, we'll take a different look at Hoffman. It's more than saves. It's what made him a beloved member of the Padres by his teammates and a favorite of all San Diegans.

Ride with us as we follow the path that led Trevor Hoffman to the Hall of Fame while counting down the days to his induction.

Padres face tough road trips ahead  
Notes on Spangenberg, Renfroe, Reyes, Pirela  
By Bill Center San Diego Padres  
Jun. 7th, 2018

Coming off their most successful homestand of the season, the Padres Friday embark upon something that can only be called a journey.

Seventeen of the Padres next 19 games are on the road - a 10-game road trip followed by two home games against the Oakland A's (June 19-20) followed by seven more games on the road. The journey opens with a series in Miami, St. Louis and then back east to Atlanta before returning home.

The Padres have actually played better away from Petco Park this season (13-15) than in their downtown home (16-20). My compilation of their "home" record includes the three games in Monterrey, Mexico, that are officially regarded as Padres home games.

In another strange twist to the Padres season . . .

Before defeating Atlanta Monday night, the Padres had lost the opening game in 11 straight series dating back to April 27. But their overall record since April 27 is 20-17.

#### NOTEBOOK:

--INF Cory Spangenberg is having quite a week. Since Sunday, Spangenberg is 5-for-14 (.357) with his first two triples of the season, two homers, four RBIs and four runs scored for a 1.071 slugging percentage and a 2.142 OPS. And in addition to playing second and third, Spangenberg also pitched an inning Tuesday night against Atlanta - allowing a run on two hits and a walk in an inning. He homered in consecutive games for the second time this season. Spangenberg has hit safely in 10 of 12 career games against Atlanta.

--OF Hunter Renfroe is 9-for-25 (.360) in nine games since coming off the disabled list with three doubles, a home run, seven RBIs and five runs scored. He has also drawn four walks for a .448 on-base percentage and a .600 slugging percentage for a 1.048 OPS.

--RF Franmil Reyes has five homers in his last eight games while going 9-for-26 (.346) with six RBI and seven runs scored. During the run, he has also drawn two walks for a .393 on-base percentage, a .923 slugging percentage and a 1.316 OPS.

--2B Jose Pirela is 4-for 12 in a three-game hitting streak against Atlanta with his 16th double, a RBI and two runs scored. He is tied for sixth in the National League in doubles.

# #PadresOnDeck: Tatis Jr. Continues Torrid Streak with Homer at Double-A San Antonio

*By Bill Center*

**Fernando Tatis Jr.** continued his hot hitting over the last five weeks Thursday night when he hit a two-run homer for Double-A San Antonio.

It was the 11th homer of the season for Tatis Jr., 19, who is ranked the Padres' [No. 1 prospect](#)—and [sixth overall in the minor leagues](#)—by MLB Pipeline. It is also his eighth homer since the start of May for Tatis Jr., who has hit .347 since the end of April.

Tatis Jr. (.277) was 1-for-4 Thursday night and is hitting .350 over the past 10 games.

— Center fielder **Jeisson Rosario**, 18, the [Padres No. 17 prospect](#), was 2-for-4 with a stolen base for Single-A Fort Wayne Thursday night to raise his batting average to .275.

*Around the Farm:*

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (29–32): OMAHA 6, Chihuahuas 5—Starting RHP **Walker Lockett** (5.10 earned run average) allowed two runs on four hits and a walk with seven strikeouts in six innings. RHP **Colten Brewer** (5.04) allowed two runs on three hits and a walk with four strikeouts in two innings. RHP **Kazuhisa Makita** (0–1, 4.15) gave up two runs on three hits in one-third of an inning to take the loss. RF **Forrestt Allday** (.360) was 2-for-5 with three RBIs. CF **Auston Bousfield** (.233) was 2-for-4 with a stolen base and two runs scored. 1B **Allen Craig** (.265) was 1-for-3 with a home run and a walk.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (37–22): Midland 8, MISSIONS 2—DH **Matthew Batten** (.429) backed Tatis Jr. and was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. C **Austin Allen** (.329) and 3B **Ty France** (.270) were each 1-for-4. Starting LHP **Jerry Keel** (4–2, 5.35 ERA) allowed three runs on seven hits and two walks with five strikeouts in six innings. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (3.27) allowed three unearned runs on three walks and no hits in one-third of an inning. RHP **Trevor Frank** (2.53) allowed two runs on four hits and a walk with three strikeouts in 2 2/3 innings.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (30–30): INLAND EMPIRE 6, Storm 5— Starting RHP **Pedro Avila** (3–4, 4.15 ERA) allowed six runs on eight hits and two walks with five strikeouts in seven innings to take the loss. RHP **Emmanuel Ramirez** (4.99) struck out two in a perfect inning. C **Luis Torrens** (.269) had a triple in three at-bats with two walks. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.236) was 2-for-4 with a triple and a run scored. SS **Chris Baker** (.161) and RF **Greg Lambert** (.143) were each 1-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored. 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.245) was 1-for-5 with two RBIs. CF **Edward Olivares** (.258) had a triple in four at-bats with a walk and a stolen base with a run scored. LF **Buddy Reed** (.332) was 0-for-3 with two walks and his 27th steal. 3B **Hudson Potts** (.254) was 1-for-4.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26–32): SOUTH BEND 6, TinCaps 1— LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.333) backed **Jeisson Rosario** and as 1-for-4 with a RBI and a stolen base. 1B **Nick Feight** (.091) had a double in three at-bats with a walk. 3B **Esteury Ruiz** (.249) was 1-for-4 with a stolen base. Starting LHP **Tom Cosgrove** (1–3, 5.10 ERA) allowed three runs on five hits and a walk with six strikeouts in six innings. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** (3.79) allowed a hit with three strikeouts in an inning. RHP **Diomar Lopez** (18.00) allowed three runs (two earned) on two hits and a walk with two strikeouts in an inning.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (3–2): Padres 6, ORIOLES 3—1B **Emmanuel Partida** (.308) was 1-for-3 with a double, three RBIs and a run scored. 3B **Victor Nova** (.273) was 2-for-4 with a double, a stolen base and a RBI. Starting LHP **Manuel Partida** allowed a hit and three walks with five strikeouts in 2 2/3 innings.

# This Day in Padres History—

## June 8

*By Bill Center*

*June 8, 1984*—Left-hander **Tim Lollar** pitches a complete-game, four-hit shutout and goes 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs with the bat as the Padres defeat the Reds 6–0 at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium.

*June 8, 1986*—Left-hander **Mark Thurmond** holds Atlanta to one run on three hits and a walk in a complete game and goes 2-for-4 with a double and drives in all four Padres runs in a 4–1 win at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium.

# #PadresOnDeck: Logan Allen, Guerra, Potts, Ornelas Named Padres' Players of the Week

*By Bill Center*

Double-A pitcher **Logan Allen**, who last Thursday worked the first seven innings of the first no-hitter in the Texas League this season, leads this week's Padres On Deck Players of the Week.

The left-handed Allen and right-handed reliever **Jason Jester**, who retired all six hitters he faced to finish the no-hitter at Tulsa, were named the Texas League co-Pitchers of the Week.

Allen is joined on the Padres' May 28-June 3 honor roll by Triple-A El Paso shortstop **Javy Guerra** and [Padres' Top-30 prospects Hudson Potts](#) and **Tirso Ornelas**.

*The Padres On Deck Players of the Week:*

Shortstop **Javy Guerra** (Triple-A El Paso)—With the bat, Guerra, 22, had a six-game hitting streak and was 8-for-26 for the week with two doubles, two walks and two RBIs. He hit .308 for the week with a .357 on-base percentage and a .385 slugging percentage for a .742 OPS. But he also dazzled Chihuahuas' fans during the week with his sterling defense at shortstop. Guerra spent three games with the Padres in Monterrey, Mexico, last month.

Left-handed starter **Logan Allen** (Double-A San Antonio)—Allen, who turned 21 on May 23, worked the first seven innings of the combined no-hitter with Jester and had seven strikeouts while issuing five walks. He was also 1-for-3 at the plate with a run scored. Allen, ranked the Padres' No. 8 prospect, leads the Texas League in wins (seven), strikeouts (76) and innings pitched (66 1/3) and is fourth with a 3.24 earned run average.

Third baseman **Hudson Potts** (Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore)—One of three Padres' first-round draft picks in 2016, the 19-year-old Potts was 9-for-27 last week (.333) with four doubles, two home runs, seven runs scored and six RBIs with three walks. The Padres' 15th-ranked prospect had a .414 on-base percentage and a .703 slugging percentage for a 1.117 OPS for the week. Potts is hitting .263 with nine homers and 23 RBIs.

Outfielder **Tirso Ornelas** (Single-A Fort Wayne)—The 18-year-old native of Tijuana makes this honor roll for the second time in three weeks. The Padres' No. 13 prospect was 7-for-19 last week (.368) with a double, two home runs, three walks, two stolen bases, three runs scored and seven RBIs. Ornelas had a .455 on-base percentage last week with a .737 slugging percentage for a 1.191 OPS. Ornelas is hitting .271 with eight doubles, two triples and five homers.



# This Day in Padres History—

## June 7

*By Bill Center*

*June 7, 1972*—**Clay Kirby** allows eight hits over 13 shutout innings but Pittsburgh defeats the Padres 1–0 in 18 innings at San Diego Stadium.

*June 7, 1974*—**Dave Freisleben** pitches a complete-game, six-hit shutout and **Dave Winfield** hits a solo homer as the Padres defeat St. Louis 1–0 at San Diego Stadium.

*June 7, 1985*—Center fielder **Kevin McReynolds** goes 7-for-10 as the Padres sweep a doubleheader in Cincinnati.

*June 7, 1997*—**Tony Gwynn** becomes the third Padre with 100 career homers. No. 100 comes off Houston's **Donne Wall** at Qualcomm Stadium.

*June 7, 1998*—Center fielder **Steve Finley** is 4-for-5 with three doubles and five RBIs in the Padres 17–8 interleague win over the Rangers in Texas.

*June 7, 2009*—A three-run, pinch-hit homer by **David Eckstein** caps a five-run ninth as the Padres tie Arizona 6–6 to force extra innings. But the Diamondbacks score three in the 18th to win 9–6 at Petco Park.

*June 7, 2010*—**Adrian Gonzalez** hits two home runs as the Padres score a 3–1 win in Philadelphia.

# Susan G. Komen San Diego and the Padres to offer free mammograms at Petco Park

Maureen Sheeran

10:16 PM, Jun 7, 2018

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) – Susan G. Komen San Diego and the San Diego Padres will offer free mammograms at Petco Park on Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To qualify for a mammogram, women must be uninsured, under-insured or have a low income.

Women over 40 years old must have had their last mammogram at least one full year ago. Women under 40 who are experiencing symptoms are also eligible.

Every day, six women in San Diego are diagnosed with breast cancer, according to Komen San Diego. One woman in the county dies from the disease daily, the organization said.

Friday's event marks the second year Komen San Diego has partnered with the Padres to offer the free X-rays.

At last year's event, 71 women were screened. Fourteen women had abnormal findings and were referred for further diagnostic testing and follow-up care.

According to the [CDC](#), mammograms are the best way to detect breast cancer early, when it is easier to treat and before symptoms become noticeable.

## Details:

**Cost:** FREE to those who qualify

**When:** Friday, June 8, 2018, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Petco Park, Park at the Park. Enter via the East Village Gate on 10th Ave. at K Street

**Parking:** Free, first-come, first-serve parking in the Lexus Premier Lot (on the corner of Park Blvd. and Imperial Ave.)

# Padres look to continue turnaround against Marlins

STATS Jun 7, 2018 at 10:32p ET

MIAMI — The [San Diego Padres](#) and [Miami Marlins](#) are rebuilding.

The Padres' effort is starting to pay off.

They have won three straight series for the first time in 11 months. Their bullpen's 3.29 ERA ranks seventh in the majors. And, after a 10-20 start, they are 19-15 since May 1.

"Everyone is playing the game the right way," Padres shortstop [Freddy Galvis](#) told the media. "Everyone is doing their homework. The pitching has been good. The bullpen has been awesome. We're trying to be a winning team."

That effort will continue Friday night when the Padres visit Marlins Park to open a three-game series. The host Padres swept three games from the Marlins last week.

On Friday, the Padres will start rookie [Eric Lauer](#) (2-3, 6.82 ERA) against Miami's Caleb Smith (4-6, 4.03) in a battle of young left-handers.

Lauer, a 2016 first-round pick out of Kent State, will be making his ninth major-league start.

Smith, drafted by the New York Yankees in the 14th round in 2013 out of Sam Houston State, broke into the majors last season and will be making his 15th big-league start.

Lauer, whose fastball averages 90 mph, has yet to post consecutive solid starts. He is coming off a good performance against the Cincinnati Reds, allowing one run in five innings. In his previous outing, he allowed five runs in 2 1/3 innings, and that has been his hot-and-cold trend all year.

The Padres are 2-6 when he starts.

Smith, whose fastball averages 93 mph, has been better of late, going 4-3 with a 3.03 ERA in his past seven starts. He has been inconsistent overall, although not as much as Lauer.

For the season, Smith is averaging 11.0 strikeouts and 4.2 walks per nine innings, and both of those ratios rank among the 11-best (strikeouts) and 11-worst (walks) in the majors.

Batters are hitting .101 against his slider, which ranks him second in the majors among qualified starters while using that pitch.

Smith, of course, is hoping the Marlins can hit the ball the way they did this week in taking two of three games from the host St. Louis Cardinals. The Cards won the Thursday finale 4-1 after Miami pounded a season-high 17 hits Wednesday in an 11-3 victory.

"It sounds simple," said Marlins left fielder [Derek Dietrich](#), who went 4-for-5 on Wednesday with three RBIs, "but I'm ready to take my best swing every time up."

As for this weekend's matchup, there are similarities between the teams. The Marlins haven't made the playoffs since 2003. The Padres haven't reached the postseason since 2006.

Some of the key members of the Padres' rebuild are first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#), a 28-year-old South Floridian who signed an eight-year, \$144 million contract this past offseason; and left fielder [Wil Myers](#), who is on the disabled list until likely July and has only played 10 games this year.

Myers, 27, hit 58 combined homers the past two years.

Padres center fielder [Manuel Margot](#), 23, is a terrific athlete who is off to a slow start with a .212 batting average and a .595 OPS. He stole 17 bases last year, posted a .721 OPS and finished sixth in the Rookie of the Year balloting.

Another Padres' building block is right fielder [Hunter Renfroe](#), 26, who has a cannon arm and belted 26 homers in 122 games last year.

On the Marlins side, their daily lineup is comprised of players all in their 20s, led by catcher [J.T. Realmuto](#), who is having an All-Star season.

The 27-year-old Realmuto is regarded by many as the fastest catcher in the majors, and he also has a strong arm defensively. He leads the Marlins in triples with three, in batting average (.311) and OPS (.911). If those batting average and OPS figures hold up, they would be career highs.