



Padres Press Clips

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Padres notes: Mitchell's clock ticks; Reyes' bomb means something; Spangy absorbs inning

Kevin Acee

The only thing on the line when Bryan Mitchell entered Tuesday's game in the fifth inning was his continued employment with the [Padres](#).

The right-handed reliever, who began the season as a starter, could well be finished with the team that invested so much in him so short a time ago after he allowed five runs in the seventh inning of a 14-1 loss to the Braves.

"It's not anything I'm going to get into at this moment," manager Andy Green said when asked about Mitchell's status. "I want to check in on him and make sure he's feeling OK. Trying to get him to give us some innings for us today was a stretch after three days off. It wasn't like a full starter's days off. We ran him up over 60 pitches, so I want to make sure he's feeling OK."

Yes, Mitchell did take 67 pitches to get through 2 2/3 innings on Tuesday. He walked two, allowed five hits and now has a 7.08 ERA in 48 1/3 innings this season.

He threw 51 pitches in four innings on Friday.

Mitchell has allowed at least two runs in each of his five relief appearances. His ERA in those 16 1/3 innings out of the bullpen is 8.27.

And the bullpen was where he was sent to get better – to find the ability to attack the strike zone consistently and work his way through pressure situations without leaking runs.

Mitchell, 26, was acquired in a December trade that sent minor-league outfielder Jabari Blash to the Yankees and also brought back veteran third baseman [Chase Headley](#).

Headley batted .115 in 52 at-bats and provided veteran insight to a young team through the spring and first month-and-a-half of the season before being designated for assignment on May 12 and released the next week.

A DFA would seemingly be in Mitchell's future sooner than later as well, as he is out of minor league options.

Whatever sensitivity Green wants to apply, however he wants to protect his players, the Padres have indicated both in their recent assessments of Mitchell and in other moves they have made this season that such a performer cannot be long for a team with so many prospects to try out and/or get ready for better days.

Even as mop-up man, a pitcher who is a virtual lock to allow runs is taking up valuable space.

Never give up

Franmil Reyes' sixth home run of the season had no bearing on what was already a certain loss. But it won him respect.

Before the rookie left the dugout in the final half-inning of what was then a 14-0 game, Green told him, "Don't you ever give an at-bat away in the big leagues."

Reyes went out with two outs and sent a 2-0 fastball from Braves reliever Luke [Jackson](#) 455 feet through the air. The ball bounced off the sidewalk in front of the entrance to the Barkyard at the Park at the Park.

"It happens to most hitters, but the best in the game don't give at-bats away in a blowout game," Green said. "They take every one incredibly seriously. It was good to see him take that to heart."

Spangy absorbs an inning

With the need to preserve bullpen arms for an all-hands game Wednesday, Green called on infielder [Cory Spangenberg](#) to pitch the ninth.

Throwing pretty much exclusively in the mid-80s, touching 86 mph once, Spangenberg walked the first batter he faced and ended up allowing a run on two singles.

Effectively, he did his job.

“I knew the bullpen day was coming up,” he said. “I knew I had to go out there and throw strikes and eat an inning.”

Spangenberg, who had entered Tuesday’s game at second base in the sixth inning, was a closer in high school but had not pitched since then.

Matt Strahm starting to show stuff, will start Wednesday

Kevin Acee

So now we're seeing why the [Padres](#) got Matt Strahm and raved about him and think he might be part of their starting rotation next season.

The left-hander, who will start Wednesday against the Braves as the first of multiple Padres relievers who will patch together a game in place of the injured Joey Lucchesi, is working a string of 10 1/3 innings in which he is showing the upside of a mid-90s fastball and super-spun breaking pitches.

That work – allowing one run on four hits over nine appearances, including Monday night's perfect eighth inning – just put Strahm over 334 innings as a professional.

Wednesday's start, which will likely involve him throwing no more than the two innings he did May 27 in starting the Padres' last "bullpen" game, is just a tease for what the Padres expect of Strahm.

"He is a very intriguing arm who is still on the development (curve)," manager Andy Green said. "... He's got a lot of really good attributes. I believe it's a starting pitcher's mix."

Maybe it was the fact Strahm was drafted in 2012. Maybe it was that his major league debut for the [Royals](#) was in 2016. Maybe it was all the gushing Green did about him in [spring training](#).

It just seemed like we should expect more, sooner from Strahm, who the Padres got via trade last summer while he was still on crutches following patellar tendon surgery.

That was not a realistic expectation for a pitcher as inexperienced as Strahm and who 12 months ago had a surgery that requires 18 months to be fully past.

The fact is, Strahm is just 26 years old and, due to major elbow and knee surgeries, had pitched 56 2/3 innings in the majors and a total of 308 innings as a pro coming into this season.

That's just 80 more innings than rookie Joey Lucchesi and 102 more than rookie Eric Lauer, both drafted in 2016.

Strahm, who had Tommy John surgery in 2013, began this season on the disabled list due to continued discomfort in his left knee. It still bothers him enough he doesn't fully participate in conditioning drills and is sometimes not used even when his arm is rested.

So him being the starter Wednesday is merely a technical designation. The Padres have a long-term plan that is more expansive than what Strahm can do now.

"Coming off surgery," Green said, "it's not great to say, 'Go give me five or six innings.' "

Strahm is just learning how good he might be. Like many of this year's Padres, he is doing it at the highest level.

It's one reason he is content with his bullpen role.

"You get to sit down there with a group of guys and talk almost a whole game about pitching and how you attack hitters," Strahm said. "... I pick brains. I like sitting there talking pitching with eight or nine different pitchers."

Strahm is among the many pitchers who have benefited from talking with veteran Craig Stammen, who preaches and practices a simple philosophy of throwing early strikes.

The minuscule margin for error against big-league hitters can make any pitcher, especially young ones, try to be too fine.

When he walked Dodgers leadoff hitter Chris Taylor in his last start, it was the fifth time in seven outings he issued a free pass to the first batter he faced and his ninth walk in a total of 7 1/3 innings.

He figured out nibbling wasn't working – or necessary – and has not walked another batter and has allowed one hit in the five innings since.

“I'm just telling Raffy (Lopez), 'Give me as plate as you can and let my ball work,' “ Strahm said. “... You're learning at the top level here. In the minor leagues, you're facing guys that are still trying to get here instead of guys who are already here. You're going to learn from this.

“It helps you learn how to see your stuff plays. ... I might only have 300-some innings of professional ball under my belt, but at least it's against guys like (this) where I can see how my stuff plays. It's definitely an advantage for us less experienced guys to be able face guys like that.”

Padres not up to challenge this time in 14-1 loss to Braves

Kevin Acee

This is what the reality is for the [Padres](#).

For any major league team, to some extent, but for a team in transition especially.

There are fits and starts, some good games and probably a few more not so good. A handful of awful.

And so one night after the Padres hit and hit and hit (and pitched pretty well) in a victory over one of the [National League](#)'s top teams, that team did the same to them on Tuesday.

The [Braves](#) got well on their way to a 14-1 victory by roughing up Padres starter [Jordan Lyles](#) for eight runs and then piled on with five runs against Bryan Mitchell in the seventh inning and a final run against utility infielder [Cory Spangenberg](#) in the ninth.

The Padres, meanwhile, could hardly touch Sean Newcomb, getting three hits in six innings off the left-hander and then no more until Franmil Reyes' home run beyond the bullpens in left-center field with two outs in the ninth.

"It's one of those days on a baseball field; every single team over the course of the season has those," Padres manager Andy Green said. "We gave one to them yesterday. They gave it right back to us today. ... Those days aren't fun. But those are part of the season."

The looming matchups with Newcomb and the Braves' Wednesday starter Mike Foltynewicz were why, as the music still blared inside the Padres clubhouse following Monday night's 11-4 victory over the Braves, Green turned his attention immediately to what was ahead.

"We've got a heck of a challenge," Green said. "... I like that kind of test. I like us running up against guys who are going to be real tests the next two days."

The Braves had 11 hits and scored eight times before Lyles (2-2) was yanked with one out in the fifth.

“You don’t bring you’re ‘A’ game against a good lineup, you’re going to get exposed,” said Lyles, who had not allowed more than seven hits in his previous five starts. “I don’t feel like I had my good stuff. But I think it had more to do with the other side.”

The Braves, who rank in the top 10 in the majors in most offensive categories, did square up some mistakes but also what appeared to be some excellent pitches by Lyles.

“I can’t really point to any of them,” Lyles said. “I gave up so many hits tonight. They beat us up pretty good. ... They’re a good lineup. We kind of slowed them down last night. They came out with a force tonight.”

Meanwhile, the only force outside of Reyes’ 455-foot bomb and three singles that the Padres created was in their nine strikeouts and nine groundball outs, which included three double plays.

Not that they are the only offense to struggle against Newcomb, who improved to 7-1 – and 6-0 with a 1.32 ERA over his past seven starts.

Up next in Foltyniewicz is a pitcher coming off a shutout of the [Nationals](#) on Friday. He has allowed two earned runs in his past five starts (32 innings).

Knowing that was ahead was why Green said Monday he’ll let others “write the narrative” of his team, which had won six of its previous seven. It’s why he doesn’t get too engrossed in results from week to week and certainly not night to night.

And the propensity for games like Tuesday is also why [Tyson Ross](#) and Brad Hand and almost all hands, arms and bats remain in play if another team comes asking with enough in trade.

Green’s is the perspective that must be applied to the coming weeks, as the Padres continue assessing their current roster and start to affect upward movement in their

minor-league system – including calling up players from Triple-A (and possibly at least one pitcher from Double-A).

It is wisdom that comes, too, when a team mops up the final remnants of a mess with Spangenberg making his major league pitching debut because Green was preserving his bullpen for Wednesday's game, which will be worked entirely by Padres relievers as they once again fill the rotation spot of injured starter Joey Lucchesi.

“One of the things you never want to admit as manager is sometimes you have to kind of punt and focus on winning the next game,” Green said, “because if you burn through all your pitchers, it gets really tough to win the next game. We've got a lot of guys we were able to preserve for tomorrow. When you've got a bullpen day coming after a day like this, sometimes you just have to do that.”

Minors Padres place premium on athleticism in Day 2 of draft

Jeff Sanders

The [Padres](#)' seventh-round pick intercepted three passes last fall. Their third- and fourth-round picks set their high schools' scoring records on the hardwood floor. The scout who recommended Dwanya Williams-Sutton – the Padres' fifth-round pick – has a collection of dunk highlights from his prep days at North Carolina's Greenfield High School, where he was all-state in three sports.

Memo to this summer's travel ball warriors: Branch out.

"We seek those guys; I do personally," said Nick Brannon, the Padres' area scout for the Carolinas. "You're looking for guys who played different sports, who have different movements that help them in baseball. Because baseball has become a sport that's more and more skilled and the athletes seem to get better and make adjustments quicker than the non-athletes."

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MLB DRAFT | DAY 2

Padres selections

- Rd. 3 | SS Owen Miller (Illinois St.)
- Rd. 4 | RHP Dylan Coleman (Missouri St.)
- Rd. 5 | OF Dwanya Williams-Sutton (East Carolina St.)
- Rd. 6 | LHP Alexuan Vega (Leonides Morales Rodriguez HS, Puerto Rico)
- Rd. 7 | OF Jawuan Harris (Rutgers)
- Rd. 8 | RHP Steven Wilson (Santa Clara)
- Rd. 9 | 2B Luke Becker (Kentucky)
- Rd. 10 | RHP Jose Quezada (Texas Tech)

Day 3 coverage: Rounds 11-40 (9 a.m., MLB.com)

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The Padres have acquired quite few of the former through the first two days of the draft, including first-rounder Ryan Weathers, the son of a former major league pitcher, the first high school pitcher off the board and a decent basketball player in his own right in helping lead Tennessee's Loretto High School to a state title earlier this year.

Eight of the next nine picks hailed from the college ranks, including seven of their Day 2 selections. That group includes three right-handed pitchers (Missouri State's Dylan Coleman, Santa Clara's Steven Wilson and Texas Tech's Jose Quezada); two outfielders (East Carolina State's Williams-Sutton and Rutgers' Jawuan Harris), a shortstop (Illinois State's Owen Miller) and a second baseman (Luke Becker) with a wee hint of familiarity.

"It's a heck of a profile," manager Andy Green, a 24th-round pick out of Kentucky in 2000, quipped in the Padres dugout Tuesday afternoon. "Senior sign. University of Kentucky second baseman. Those guys turn into solid gold is what I've been told. We'll probably see him here by September would be my guess."

Well, no, not exactly.

Of course, the majority of the 2018 draft class to date figures to arrive much quicker than last year's, when the Padres opened the draft with six straight high school picks.

Their lone prep selection Tuesday was 17-year-old Alexuan Vega, a left-handed pitcher with only one year of true mound experience at Puerto Rico's Leonides Morales Rodriguez High School.

As for the rest of Tuesday's selections, many of their resumes extend well beyond the diamond.

Miller slugged .537 with six homers as a junior at Illinois State after setting his high school basketball team's career scoring record. Coleman did the same for his high school team before pushing his fastball up to 98 mph at Missouri State.

Harris, meanwhile, played both his primary sports in the last calendar year, intercepting three passes for the football team in the fall and swiping 22 bases while posting a .762 OPS during his junior year for the baseball team.

At East Carolina State, Williams-Sutton might have just been coming into his own on the diamond with a career-high .562 slugging percentage as a junior after initialing using baseball and soccer to stay in shape for basketball.

The 20-year-old outfielder would up all-state in all-three.

"His best days are ahead of him," Brannon said. "Great athlete with a good blend of tools and athleticism."

Minors Michel Baez's gem paces Storm shutout

Jeff Sanders

This is more like it.

Right-hander **Michel Baez** put his best foot forward Tuesday night at high Single-A Lake Elsinore, allowing just one hit and striking out eight over shutout innings in a [7-0 win at Inland Empire](#).

Baez (2-5, 2.84) didn't walk anyone and allowed his only in hit – a single – with one out in the fifth inning after retiring 13 straight hitters to open the game.

That batter was promptly erased on a double-play ball.

The next inning, Baez struck out the side to put the finishing touches on a game in which he threw 53 of his 81 pitches for strikes.

The six-inning start tied a season-high for Baez, who'd battled pitch-efficiency in the strike zone since a balky back delayed the start of his season until late April.

Baez had failed to complete five innings in half of his eight starts, although opposing hitters still have a .200 average against him.

Through 38 innings, Baez – ranked fifth in the [Padres](#) system by MLB.com – has struck out 35, walked 17 and allowed 28 hits.

Right-hander Phil Maton (lat) followed Baez with two strikeouts in the seventh to start his rehab assignment. Maton allowed two hits and a walk.

First baseman Brad Zunica (.235) drove in two runs on his seventh homer. Center fielder Edward Olivares (.260) drove in three runs on three hits and stole his seventh base and left fielder Buddy Reed (.338) singled in a pair of runs.

The Storm are 29-29.

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (28-31)

- **Omaha 6, Chihuahuas 5:** RHP **Luis Perdomo** (2.89) returned from his shoulder injury to strike out four and allowed two runs on five hits and a walk in five innings. RHP **Miguel Diaz** (0-2, 8.25) allowed four runs over the final three innings. RF **Forrestt Allday** (.353) went 3-for-5 with a double and a run scored and C **Brett Nicholas** (.297) went 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. DH **Carlos Asuaje** (.319) went 1-for-3 with a double, a walk and two runs scored. 2B **Luis Urias** (.258) went 0-for-5 with two strikeouts.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (36-21)

- **Missions 5, Midland 4:** RHP **Jacob Nix** (1-0, 0.00) struck out four over five scoreless innings, running his scoreless innings streak to nine since a healthy groin allowed him to finally start his season. LHP **Brad Wieck** (2.45) struck out two in a perfect ninth for his eighth save. CF **Michael Gettys** (.263) drove in two runs on his 10th homer, his fourth in the last five games. Gettys is riding a 12-game hitting streak. 3B **Ty France** (.267) drove in two runs on three hits, including two doubles, and C **Austin Allen** (.330) went 2-for-3 with two doubles and an RBI. SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.268), LF **Josh Naylor** (.317) and 2B **Peter Van Gansen** (.303) each had two hits.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (26-30)

- **South Bend 8, TinCaps 7 (12):** Errors led to LHP **Travis Radke** (0-2, 1.97) allowing three runs – one earned – in blowing the save over the final 1 2/3 innings after LHP **Aaron Leasher** (3.08) struck out eight over four shutout innings in relief. RHP **Mason Thompson** (5.82) struck out four and allowed four runs – three earned – in five innings in the start. C **Luis Campusano** (.297) went 2-for-4 with his third homer, two RBIs and a walk and CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.276), RF **Tirso Ornelas** (.273), DH **Justin Lopez** (.245), SS **Gabriel Arias** (.208) and 1B **Jalen Washington** (.248) all had two hits. 2B **Esteury Ruiz** (.254) swiped his 17th base.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (1-2)

- **Reds 5, Padres 2:** RHP **Carlos Guarate** (0.00) struck out five and allowed only one hit over three shutout innings in the start. SS **Yeison Santana** (.231) went 0-for-3 with two walks and an RBI and 3B **Vladimir Echavarria** (.250) went 0-for-1 with three walks and his first steal.

Transactions

- Perdomo came off El Paso's disabled list as RHP **Chris Huffman** was placed on the seven-day disabled list, retroactive to June 2. RHP **Jonathan Aro** was also reinstated from the disabled list.
- RHP **Eric Yardley** was transferred from El Paso to San Antonio.

Padres draft SS Miller in college-heavy Day 2

Illinois State standout hit .384 in junior-year season

By AJ Cassavell and Katie Woo

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres went college-heavy on Day 2 of the MLB Draft, using seven of their eight picks to select college players, including a trio of seniors late in the afternoon.

A day after [nabbing left-hander Ryan Weathers at No. 7](#), shortstop Xavier Edwards at 38 and outfielder Grant Little at 74, San Diego kicked things off Tuesday by selecting shortstop Owen Miller out of Illinois State.

The Draft concludes on Wednesday, with exclusive coverage of Rounds 11-40 beginning on MLB.com at noon ET. Here's a breakdown of all eight Padres selections on Day 2.

Round 3: SS Owen Miller, Illinois State

Miller succeeded [Paul DeJong](#) as Illinois State's shortstop in 2016. He played short in every inning of every game over those next three seasons. Head coach Bo Durkac managed them both.

"Owen was, in my opinion, a more complete hitter," Durkac said.

That's high praise, considering DeJong finished second in National League Rookie of the Year Award voting last season. Durkac noted that DeJong offered a bit more power. But Miller had a better all-fields approach and was a bit savvier at reaching base.

It's probably likelier that the 6-foot Miller ends up at second base. The Padres -- already loaded with middle-infield talent -- coveted his bat and his athleticism. Miller batted .384/.433/.537 during his junior season at Illinois State.

But his most spectacular feat came during summer ball in 2017. Playing for the Lakeshore Chinooks in the Northwoods League, Miller hit for the cycle twice in a span of three days. (The Padres have all of two cycles in their entire history.)

"He's as talented a pure hitter as anyone I've ever coached in 16 years," Durkac said. "... He's a good athlete and one of the more instinctive ballplayers."

Round 4: RHP Dylan Coleman, Missouri State

Two years ago, San Diego also took a fourth-rounder from a Missouri university with high strikeout numbers. It worked well in their favor, as [Joey Lucchesi](#) is now one of the top rookie pitchers in the Major Leagues.

With their fifth pick of the 2018 Draft, the Padres selected Coleman, a 6-foot-6, 215 pound junior out of Missouri State.

Coleman is coming off of a 10-2 season in which he collected 129 strikeouts, the 14th highest in the nation. He served as Missouri State's ace and notched 102 2/3 innings this season. His best

pitch is his fastball, which topped out at 98 mph this season, according to MLB Pipeline's scouting report.

Round 5: OF Dwanya Williams-Sutton, East Carolina

Hand injuries have limited Williams-Sutton in his tenure at East Carolina. His at-bats were limited during his sophomore and junior seasons there.

But the Padres drafted Williams-Sutton based on his tools and his potential. He's got plenty. In his junior season at East Carolina, he batted .331/.479/.562 with seven homers and 18 steals.

Williams-Sutton was taken by Cincinnati in 26th round of the 2015 Draft, but he didn't sign.

Round 6: LHP Alexuan Vega, Leonides Morales Rodriguez High School (Puerto Rico)

A left-hander from Puerto Rico, Vega owns a very good slider, which makes up for his lower velocity. Still, the Padres are hopeful that the 6-foot-2, 160-pounder grows into his lanky frame and can add a few ticks to his upper-80s fastball.

Vega is verbally committed to Miami Dade college.

Round 7: OF Jawuan Harris, Rutgers

Harris was named to the All-Big Ten freshman football team as a wide receiver in 2016 when he hauled in 39 receptions for 481 yards and three touchdowns. In '17, he moved to defensive back where he tied the team lead with three picks.

Harris almost certainly won't get to play his redshirt junior football season. Since the beginning of the year, Harris hasn't worked with the football program, as he has begun to turn his focus to baseball full-time.

Harris struggled a bit in his junior baseball season, hitting just .246 with two homers, but he swiped 22 bags. Still, there's optimism that Harris' elite athleticism will shine through if and when his focus turns to baseball.

"I think there's a curiosity about him -- what if he just specialized in one sport?" Rutgers baseball coach Joe Litterio told NJ.com. "I think that's something we'll find out, I guess."

Round 8: RHP Steven Wilson, Santa Clara

A sturdy, 6-foot-4 right-hander, Wilson appeared in 16 games for Santa Clara, posting a 3.07 ERA over 44 innings.

Wilson, a six-year senior, missed the entire 2017 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery. San Diego has gambled with Tommy John recoveries in Drafts of the past, with the most recent being in '16 with first-round pick Cal Quantrill and third-rounder Mason Thompson.

High risk? Possibly. High reward? We'll see.

Round 9: 2B Luke Becker, Kentucky

A four-year senior second baseman from the University of Kentucky? The Padres already have one of those: manager Andy Green.

The San Diego skipper still owns the all-time hits record at Kentucky. But Becker put up his share of impressive offensive numbers. He reached base at a .410 clip during his senior season.

Becker's story is also one of survival. He was inside a grain elevator during an explosion this past December and was thrown 20 feet in the blast. But Becker escaped with only relatively minimal burns. Six months later, he's a Padres Draft pick.

Round 10: RHP Jose Quezada, Texas Tech

Quezada made 19 relief appearances during his senior season at Texas Tech, posting a 1.99 ERA over 31 2/3 innings. He struck out 38.

Quezada is also the third consecutive college senior taken by the Padres to end Day 2 of the Draft. That could be a prelude of what's to come on Day 3.

Traditionally, college seniors sign for less than their slot's assigned value. That might leave general manager A.J. Preller and Co. with enough financial flexibility to take a bigger name late in the Draft -- even one with signability questions.

Lyles can't contain Atlanta in lopsided loss

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- For the most part, [Jordan Lyles](#) has been solid since the Padres moved him into their starting rotation a month ago. Lyles helped stabilize a pitching staff full of question marks, and entering play Tuesday, San Diego had won each of his last four starts.

With that in mind, the Padres can only hope that Tuesday's showing against Atlanta was a blip. Because things got ugly -- and fast -- for the 27-year-old right-hander.

The Braves tagged Lyles for eight runs over 4 1/3 innings in a 14-1 loss for the Padres at Petco Park. He recorded only one strikeout and allowed 11 hits, including four for extra bases in a five-run fifth.

"When you don't bring your 'A game' against a good lineup, you're going to get exposed," Lyles said. "I don't feel like I had my good stuff, but I think it has more to do with the other side over there."

The Padres are preparing for a bullpen game on Wednesday, and it's worth wondering whether Lyles would've received a quicker hook otherwise.

"The strategy was to win a baseball game, but once you get down four, five or eight in our case, one of the things you never want to admit as a manager is sometimes you have to punt and focus on winning the next game," manager Andy Green said. "If you burn through all your pitchers, that gets really hard."

[Bryan Mitchell](#) bore the brunt of it for the next 2 2/3 innings. He surrendered five runs on five hits.

When the Padres traded for Mitchell during the offseason, they were hopeful he could develop into a useful rotation piece. Instead, he owns a 7.08 ERA, and it's worth wondering how much longer San Diego might keep a roster spot for him.

[Freddie Freeman](#) did the most damage for Atlanta, going 4-for-4 and finishing a triple shy of the cycle. [Dansby Swanson](#) and [Nick Markakis](#) homered as well.

"Good hitters make good swings on bad pitches," Lyles said.

[Phil Hughes](#) worked the eighth, and [Cory Spangenberg](#) -- yes, the infielder -- allowed one run in the ninth. All things considered, the Padres (who entered play having won six of seven) managed to maintain a fresh bullpen -- Mitchell and Hughes aside -- for Wednesday's series finale.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Freeman takes flight: Lyles' high-octane curveball has been his best pitch this season. But these days, Freeman can hit just about anything. He turned around a solid curveball from Lyles and sent it into the deck area beyond the right-center-field fence, giving the Braves a 2-0 lead in the third.

"Freeman hit a pitch that not many people hit," Green said. "That was one of those life-sucking pitches. When a guy hits *that* pitch, you feel that."

Hot corner: All eight of the runs charged to Lyles were earned, but his defense didn't do him many favors. Most notably, [Christian Villanueva](#) turned a sharp ground ball into a two-run double in the top of the fourth. With the Padres trailing, 4-0, at the time, Green brought his infield in. [Charlie Culberson](#) hit a one-hopper that caromed off Villanueva's glove and into left field, scoring two and opening the floodgates.

REYES GOES (VERY, VERY) DEEP

It was little consolation, but Padres right fielder [Franmil Reyes](#) crushed a mammoth home run to one of the deepest parts of Petco Park in the bottom of the ninth. He turned around a 92-mph fastball from Braves reliever [Luke Jackson](#) and sent it over the bullpens in left-center field. According to [Statcast™](#), it carried a projected 455 feet -- the second-longest homer at Petco Park this season, trailing only [Franchy Cordero](#)'s 459-foot blast on April 28 against the Mets.

As he worked his way through the Padres' system, Reyes became known for his prodigious power. He's putting it on full display in his first month in the Majors. But perhaps of equal importance: The 22-year-old Reyes has shown a maturity in the batter's box typically reserved for veteran hitters.

"He crushed it," Green said. "I went up to him right before his at-bat and said, 'Don't you ever give an at-bat away in the big leagues.' It's really easy to do that over the course of a season, and it happens to most hitters. But the best in the game don't give at-bats away in blowout games. They take everything incredibly seriously. It was good to see him take that to heart."

SPANGENBERG TAKES THE MOUND

Once upon a time, Spangenberg was a closer for Abington Heights High School in Scranton, Pa. But the 27-year-old second and third baseman hadn't taken the mound in a competitive situation since.

All in all, it was an impressive showing. Spangenberg's fastball averaged 84 mph -- and it even hit 88 at one point during the inning.

"If he had told me he could throw 85-88, I would've called him a bold-faced liar," Padres outfielder [Travis Jankowski](#) joked.

In Spangenberg's eyes, he merely had a job to do.

"I knew the bullpen day was coming up," he said. "I knew I just had to go out there and literally throw strikes and eat an inning."

UP NEXT

In [Joey Lucchesi](#)'s continued absence, the Padres are expected to use a handful of relievers to fill the void -- as they did in a May 27 loss in Los Angeles. [Matt Strahm](#) takes the ball first, while Atlanta counters with [Mike Foltynewicz](#). First pitch is slated for 12:40 p.m. PT.

Padres stick with bullpen day on Lucchesi's turn

Strahm to get ball first for matinee vs. Braves

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- Who's pitching for the Padres on Wednesday? The better question might be: Who isn't?

For the second time in a 10-day span, the Padres will use a bullpen day to fill [Joey Lucchesi](#)'s place in the starting rotation, with [Matt Strahm](#) getting the ball first. (Lucchesi is fighting his way back from a right hip strain and faced hitters at the team's complex in Peoria, Ariz., on Tuesday for the first time.)

The Padres certainly have enough fresh arms. They've carried a nine-man bullpen since Friday, when starter [Walker Lockett](#) was optioned to Triple-A El Paso. Plus, left-hander [Clayton Richard](#) ate seven innings on Monday night.

"Our starters have been really good, and guys haven't been pitching a whole lot of innings," righty [Craig Stammen](#) said. "A bullpen day pretty much gives everyone the chance to pitch and be sharp for the next series."

Thursday's off-day is key. The Padres can pitch their relievers in short bursts without taxing the bullpen too heavily.

"When Andy informed me I was going to start that game, he just told me, 'Give me everything you've got for as long as you've got,'" Strahm said of his start against the Dodgers. "That's what I did, and after two innings we went to the next guy. ... If I'm the one starting, I'd do my starting routine. But once I get on the mound, it's as if I'm relieving, because that's what I'm built up for right now -- attack, attack, attack."

There's something of an added benefit for the Padres, who boast a diverse array of options in their bullpen. On Wednesday, they'll be able to choose their pitchers based almost exclusively on matchups.

"It's tough for them to set a lineup when we're going to mix and match," Stammen said. "But for us, nothing changes. You've got to get the guys out, whoever they put in the lineup."

Injury updates

- Catcher [Austin Hedges](#) took batting practice with the team as he recovers from right elbow tendinitis. Hedges had his first rehab stint shut down last month, but he could begin another one in the near future. The Padres are still hopeful for his return at some point in June.
- Righty reliever [Phil Maton](#) made a rehab appearance at Class A Advanced Lake Elsinore on Tuesday night, his first since he sustained a right lat strain three weeks ago. He loaded the bases on two hits and a walk, but managed to escape while striking out two.
- After Lucchesi faces hitters, he's likely destined for a rehab start -- which could rule him out for his next turn through the rotation, too. After Wednesday, the next opening in the Padres' rotation would come June 12 in St. Louis.

Freeman, Swanson, Markakis homer as Braves rout Padres 14-1

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- [Freddie Freeman](#) was a triple shy of the cycle when Atlanta manager Brian Snitker took out his first baseman because the Braves were beating the [San Diego Padres](#) so badly.

Freeman was OK with the move, because otherwise he would have faced Padres infielder [Cory Spangenberg](#), who pitched the ninth inning of the Braves' 14-1 blowout win.

"He asked me to come out of the game last night and I said no; he asked me to come out today and I said OK," Freeman said. "I'm kind of glad. I don't think I've ever gotten a hit off a position player, so my last at-bat would have been in that situation."

Freeman homered and had four hits, and [Dansby Swanson](#) and [Nick Markakis](#) also went deep. [Sean Newcomb](#) and Luke Jackson combined on a four-hitter for the NL East leaders, who unloaded with 18 hits one night after losing the series opener 11-4.

The Padres, last in the NL West, were denied their first four-game winning streak of the season.

Newcomb (7-1) allowed only three singles in six innings, and each time the baserunner was erased on a double play. He struck out three and walked four.

"It was good to get some zeros going early in the start, keep pounding the zone," Newcomb said. "I wasn't really where I wanted to be command-wise today but I still did a good job of mixing it up and getting some off-speed in there for strikes when I needed to, keeping them off balance."

Newcomb won his seventh straight decision.

"Every time he goes on the mound you feel pretty confident we're going to get the win that day," Freeman said. "He's been lights-out for a long time and hopefully that continues. He seems to go out there and throw shutout innings every single time he goes out there. What he did tonight was pretty special."

Jackson almost got through three hitless innings of relief before allowing rookie [Franmil Reyes](#)' monster homer with two outs in the ninth, his sixth. Reyes' shot, estimated at 455 feet, landed near the back of the Braves' bullpen in center field and bounced out of the ballpark. Jackson walked two and struck out five in earning his first save.

Spangenberg made his first big league pitching appearance, giving up one run on two hits and a walk.

Freeman's first three hits were off [Jordan Lyles](#) (2-2). The slugger hit an RBI double to right field with two outs in the first and a solo homer to right-center with two outs in the third, his 10th.

Freeman also doubled to left-center leading off the fifth and scored on [Kurt Suzuki](#)'s one-out double that started a five-run rally.

[Charlie Culberson](#) hit a two-run double and Swanson followed with a two-run homer, his sixth, to give Atlanta an 8-0 lead.

"It was just a great response to last night," Swanson said. "Last night they did it to us and it was nice to be able to come out and string a lot of at-bats together. I think you could really see the momentum shift in our direction early in the game and I think that's a huge response on our end."

The Braves scored five more runs in the seventh off [Bryan Mitchell](#). The big hit was Markakis' three-run homer, his eighth.

Lyles allowed eight runs and 11 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

"If you don't bring your `A' game against a good lineup you're going to get exposed," Lyles said. "I don't feel like I had my good stuff but I think it has more to do with the other side over there. A lot of guys who like to attack and they got their pitches early.

"They got some pitches that they wanted. I can't really point to any of them because I gave up so many hits tonight. Just one of those you've got to sweep under the rug."

NICE CATCH

One of the highlights of the night was when a woman caught a foul ball in her beer cup and then chugged the beer.

UP NEXT

Braves: RHP [Mike Foltynewicz](#) (5-3, 2.22 ERA) is scheduled to pitch the series finale Wednesday afternoon. He's 1-0 with a 6.67 ERA in two career starts against San Diego.

Padres: LHP [Matt Strahm](#) (1-2, 2.92) is scheduled to start a "bullpen" game that will feature several other relievers.

Padres to use unknown bullpen starter vs. Braves

STATS

SAN DIEGO — The Atlanta Braves and [San Diego Padres](#) meet in the rubber-match of a three-game series at Petco Park Wednesday afternoon and the pitching matchup doesn't appear balanced.

Starting for the Braves will be right-hander Mike Foltynewicz, who is one of the hottest pitchers in the National League. Starting for the Padres will be the bullpen.

For the second time in 11 days, the Padres will have a "bullpen start." And for the fourth time this season, the Padres will be starting a pitcher from their bullpen. The situation became even stranger Tuesday night when Padres manager Andy Green couldn't identify the name of Wednesday's starter during his post-game media session.

All he would say is that the Padres won't be promoting a pitcher from the minor leagues for a spot start. They tried that five days ago and [Walker Lockett](#) gave up four runs on four hits and five walks in 3 2/3 innings. Lockett was returned to Triple-A El Paso the following day.

Just over 14 hours before the start of Wednesday's game, the Padres announced [Matt Strahm](#) would start Wednesday afternoon's rubber match. It will be the second time that Strahm has opened a "bullpen game." On May 27, he started against the Dodgers but went only two scoreless innings.

Strahm doesn't figure to go much deeper Wednesday. But if there is a silver lining for the Padres is that seven members of their nine-man bullpen are available. And the Padres bullpen is rated the fourth-best in the National League with a 3.35 earned run average.

"Thursday's off day makes Wednesday a little easier on us," Green said before the Padres were routed 14-1 Tuesday night. "In general, if you limit most guys to one inning today, they'll all be available to be used tomorrow. When you are talking about nine guys, you're in good shape."

Left-hander [Robbie Erlin](#) figures to be the long man behind Strahm. [Adam Cimber](#) and [Jose Castillo](#) also figure to see action, unless the Padres are in position to win. Then it will be the "leverage trio" of [Kirby Yates](#), [Craig Stammen](#) and [Brad Hand](#).

But the bigger question is — does it even matter who is pitching for the Padres.

Foltynewicz has the fourth-lowest ERA in the National League at 2.22. And that's only a small part of the picture of Foltynewicz's breakout season. Before this season, Foltynewicz never had an ERA lower than 4.31. Last year's ERA was 4.79.

The 6-foot-4, 200-pound Foltyniewicz is coming off a complete-game, two-hit shutout. He is 3-1 with a 0.56 ERA over his last five starts — allowing four runs (two earned) on 17 hits with 13 walks and 37 strikeouts in 37 innings.

On the year, Foltyniewicz has worked 69 innings in 12 starts, giving up 21 runs (17 earned) on 50 hits and 30 walks with 80 strikeouts with a 1.159 WHIP. In addition to ranking fourth in ERA, Foltyniewicz ranks among the National League leaders in road ERA (second, 1.87), opponents' batting average (third, .200), strikeouts (fifth) and strikeouts per nine innings (ninth, 10.4).

He has made two earlier starts against the Padres and is 1-0 with a 6.17 ERA.

Takeaways from the Padres' 14-1 loss to the Braves

John Horvath

FOX Sports San Diego

SAN DIEGO— [Sean Newcomb](#) pitched six shutout innings and the [Braves](#) offense took it to [Padres](#) pitching, beating the home team 14-1 in front of 21,049 at Petco Park.

[Atlanta](#) improved to 36-25 while San Diego fell to 28-35.

Takeaways

Newcomb dominates

LHP Sean Newcomb entered Tuesday night's start having won six consecutive starts. He was also coming off a May in which he went 5-0 with a 1.54 ERA, and had not allowed a home run in 36 innings.

The 24-year-old continued the good vibes against the Padres.

Although he allowed some loud contact early on, Newcomb improved as the game went on. He ended up shutting out the Padres over six solid innings, allowing only three hits and three walks. The southpaw struck out four and induced three double plays on the evening.

With the performance, Newcomb improved to 7-1 on the season. The former Angels farmhand induced 10 whiffs and recorded 16 called strikes in his 95 pitches.

Lyles struggles

For as good as Newcomb was, Padres starter [Jordan Lyles](#) did little to match him.

It was clear from the get-go that Lyles did not have his best stuff, and that stuff clearly got less and less effective as the game wore on.

Three batters into his start, he had already given up two doubles and a run. After a scoreless second inning (which was his only inning of that variety in his start), the 27-year-old allowed a [Freddie Freeman](#) home run in the third and an RBI single by [Dansby Swanson](#) in the fourth.

After going only 2-for-8 with runners in scoring position off Lyles in the game's first four innings, Atlanta finally broke the game open in the top of the fifth. Freddie Freeman led off the inning with a double, which was his third extra base hit of the game. The next hitter, [Nick Markakis](#), hit a hard ground ball to first base for the first out of the inning.

It would be the last out that Lyles would record.

[Kurt Suzuki](#) followed with an RBI double. [Ender Inciarte](#) worked a walk. [Charlie Culberson](#) hit a double that ricocheted off [Christian Villanueva](#)'s glove, scoring two.

Dansby Swanson delivered the final blow, cranking a towering two-run home run to make the score 8-0.

“Those guys over there, they can swing the bat. Freeman and Markakis are about as tough an out as anyone in the game right now,” manager Andy Green stated after the game.

All in all, Lyles went 4 1/3 innings, giving up 11 hits and eight earned runs. He only recorded one strikeout on the night.

Mitchell does little to provide relief

Bryan Mitchell came on in relief of Lyles and allowed five hits and five earned runs in 2 2/3 innings. He continues to struggle in his new mop-up role and has only one outing this season in which he has not allowed a run (April 7).

Braves offense explodes

Each position player in the starting lineup for the Braves besides center fielder Ender Inciarte recorded at least one base hit tonight.

Freddie Freeman led the way with a 4-for-4 day. The first baseman, whose hitting streak was snapped at 16 games yesterday, doubled in the 1st, homered in the 3rd, doubled and singled in the 5th, and walked in the 7th.

Not far behind was SS Dansby Swanson, who went 3-for-4 with a home run, two singles, and a walk.

Nick Markakis (2-for-5, HR), Kurt Suzuki (3-for-6, 2 RBI), and Charlie Culberson (2-for-5, 2 RBIs) also recorded multi-hit games.

Reyes crushes pitch

With two outs in the ninth, [Franmil Reyes](#) crushed a 455-foot solo shot over both bullpens in left-center field. It was the fourth longest blast in Petco Park history.

“He crushed it,” Green stated after the game. “I went up to him before the bottom of the inning and told him to not give an at-bat away. The best in the game do not give at-bats away in blowout games. They take every one incredibly seriously.”

It was good to see him take that to heart and hit a long one,” he continued.

Spangenberg pitches

With a planned bullpen day on Wednesday for the Padres, manager Andy Green went to infielder [Cory Spangenberg](#) to pitch the ninth.

It was the first time a position player had toed the rubber for the Padres since Erick Aybar on June 8 of last year.

Spangenberg allowed one run and two hits in the inning.

2018 Draft Day Two: Padres Start Day with Illinois State SS Pick in Round Three

Follow along and learn more about the Padres' selections in the 2018 MLB Draft

By Justin Lafferty

After taking three high-impact players on Day 1, including a lefty ace with big league pedigree, the Padres are back for Day 2 of the 2018 MLB Draft. Plenty of talent is still available. Follow along and learn more about the next crop of Padres On Deck.

Round 3, №84 overall

Owen Miller, SS, Illinois State

The Illinois State single-season hits leader, **Owen Miller** is the Padres' second shortstop selection of the draft.

Miller batted a team-best .384 for the Redbirds this season, getting on base at a .433 clip. He also led the team in stolen bases, with 8.

Brian Sakowski, the National Scouting Supervisor of Perfect Game USA, is a fan of Miller's ability.

Much like previous draft picks **Ryan Weathers** and **Grant Little**, Miller was also a standout on his high school basketball team.

Round 4, №111 overall

Dylan Coleman, RHP, Missouri State

Coleman is the №84-ranked draft prospect by MLB Pipeline, so the Padres received good value for the №111 pick.

Coleman's best pitch is his fastball, which touches 98 mph, but sits in the mid-90s. MLB Pipeline gives the heater a 60 grade, with a 55 slider and 50 curveball to complement it.

Here's more from Pipeline's assessment:

"He can pitch at 92–94 mph with a fastball that has reached 98 mph and features some run and sink, and he can back it up with a sharp mid-80s slider."

As the Friday night starter (college baseball's equivalent of the №1) for the Bears, Coleman went 10–2 with a 3.77 ERA. He finished 14th in the country with 129 strikeouts.

And yes, Coleman was also a star basketball player in high school, breaking Potosi High School's 45-year-old record for scoring.

Round 5, №141 overall

Dwanya Williams-Sutton, OF, East Carolina

With their 5th round pick, the Padres chose speedy outfielder Dwanya Williams-Sutton. He hit .331 for the East Carolina Pirates, stealing a team-best 18 bags and hitting 7 home runs. Williams-Sutton led the team with a .477 on-base percentage this season.

He also plays his position well.

Round 6, №171 overall

Alexuan Vega, LHP, Leonides Morales Rodriguez HS (Puerto Rico)

The Padres are drafting Vega as a pitcher, but he has also played outfield at his high school in Puerto Rico. In October, [Perfect Game clocked his fastball at 91 mph](#), and he made the [2018 Rawlings-Perfect Game Pre-Season All-American List in the Canada/Puerto Rico region](#).

Round 7, №201 overall

Jawuan Harris, OF, Rutgers

A.J. Preller is targeting multi-sport athletes in this year's draft, with a bevy of former high school basketball stars already selected. **Jawuan Harris**, the centerfielder for Rutgers, was also a receiver and safety for the school's football team.

Harris has a wide receiver's speed, as MLB Pipeline grades his run tool as a 70. He stole a team-high 22 bases for the Scarlet Knights this season.

More from [MLB Pipeline's assessment of Harris](#):

"A two-sport standout who has played both wide receiver and safety for the Rutgers football team, Harris has been a three-year starter on the baseball field as well, giving scouts a toolsy, if a bit more raw, collegiate performer to consider. Harris' athleticism certainly plays on the field. He has plus-speed that allows him to steal a ton of bases and cover a lot of ground in the outfield, where he has the chance to be an above-average defender with an average arm."

Round 8, №231 overall

Steven Wilson, RHP, Santa Clara

Wilson appeared in 16 games for the Broncos last season (9 starts). He won 4 games, saved 4 games and compiled a 3.07 ERA. Wilson also fanned 58 batters in 44 innings as a redshirt senior this season.

Wilson missed the 2016–17 season recovering from Tommy John Surgery, but has bounced back nicely as a versatile pitcher.

Round 9, №261 overall

Luke Becker, 2B, Kentucky

A pick sure to make manager **Andy Green** smile, Becker is a second baseman from the University of Kentucky. The switch-hitting Becker hit .286 for the Wildcats, flashing speed with a pair of triples and 10 stolen bases, tied for the team best.

Becker moved from third base to second base this season and was lauded by his coaches as a professional hitter.

In December, while working on his family farm over Christmas break, Becker survived an explosion.

Round 10, №291 overall

Jose Quezada, RHP, Texas Tech

Quezada, a reliever for Texas Tech, held opponents to a .139 batting average this season. He struck out 38 batters in 31.2 innings, recording a pair of saves while going 4–2 in 19 appearances.

Quezada is a native of Chihuahua, Mexico. He becomes the second Texas Tech draftee this year by the Padres, following Grant Little.

Applauding the Padres' "Process" When It Comes to Draft Picks

By Bill Center

On the surface, **Mark Conner** was discussing LHP **Ryan Weathers**, the Padres' first-round pick in the 2018 edition of baseball's annual amateur draft.

But as you listened to the Padres Director of Amateur Scouting, it became clear that Conner was discussing more than Weathers. He was discussing the process . . . the Padres' process of drafting, which has helped the Padres to become the top minor league system in baseball.

"There are very small differences in players at the top of the draft," said Conner. "The decisions are tough. There is a lot of debate."

Which brought Conner back to Weathers and why the Padres selected the son of former Major League pitcher David Weathers over other players ranked higher by crib sheets.

"Ryan is from a baseball family," explained Conner. "He grew up in the clubhouse. It's a life experience. It helps him understand baseball and prepare."

That's one of the things that made Weathers stand out from the other names at the top of the Padres' list.

"How you get there on a player is all about the process," said General Manager **A.J. Preller**.

That process is scout, scout, scout. And analyze.

I was taken with the discussion of the Padres' second pick—shortstop **Xavier Edwards**. He's 5-foot-10 and 155 pounds. The Padres drafted him with an eye on him becoming a lead-off hitter.

"It's hard to find lead-off hitters in the draft," said Conner, echoing thoughts I've heard from scouts over the years.

Why?

Because most draft-caliber players are not hitting in the lead-off position on their high school and college teams. They are hitting in the three and four spots because they are usually heads-and-shoulders above their teammates.

But as Conner talked on about Edwards and his bat control, the picture became clearer. So did the picture of the Padres' process.

Preller has put together a scouting department through the eyes of a former scout. Observe, observe, observe. Look well beyond what you first see. Get to know the player as well as the skills.

As Preller was talking about Weathers Monday night, I was reminded about one of the things the General Manager said about **Joey Lucchesi** after taking the left-hander in the fourth round in 2016.

“We liked the potential of his stuff developing,” said Preller. “And we like his conviction to being as good as he can possibly be. It’s beyond desire.”

In other words, the Padres look beyond the stuff.

Andy's Address, 6/5

Andy Addresses Kentucky second baseman, Wednesday's starter, Lyles, injuries

By Bill Center

There was good news on the injury front Tuesday and **Andy Green** was not quite ready to identify the Padres' starter on Wednesday.

One development, however, brought a big smile to the face of the Padres' manager.

In the ninth round, the Padres' selected 5-foot-11, switching-hitting senior second baseman **Luke Becker** from the University of Kentucky. In 2000, a middle infielder from the University of Kentucky named Andy Green was drafted in the 24th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"It's a heck of a profile," Green said of Becker. "Senior, University of Kentucky, second baseman. Those guys turn into solid gold is what I've been told. I've never met him before, but you'll probably see him here by September. That would be my guess if I have any pull."

Green's daily media session opened with a question about which member of the Padres' bullpen would be starting Wednesday afternoon's series and homestand finale at Petco Park.

"I don't know yet. That's the honest truth," said Green when asked about Wednesday's starter. "We're not exactly sure how we'll play it. I'll watch this game and choose to use guys based on our best way to win this baseball game and get through it. And then we'll take a look at who we want to start tomorrow."

"**Jordan Lyles** going deep (Tuesday night) would be great. But we don't want him in that thought process. We want him attacking. If it's five innings, great. If it turns out to be seven or eight, we'll be happy with that, too. We just definitely want him going after this game very aggressively from the get-go."

"Thursday's off day makes it a little easier on us. In general, if you limit most guys to one inning today, they'll all be available to be used tomorrow. When you are talking about nine guys, you're in good shape. I'm not saying everyone will be used in one-inning stints today, but that gives us some options going into tomorrow. If we choose

to use one guy for four or five innings today, then everyone else will be available tomorrow.”

Green discussed Lyles, who allowed two runs over seven innings in his last start and has a 3.64 earned run average in five starts since being promoted from the bullpen.

“I think we were pleased with the results in his last start,” said Green. “We know there is so much inside of him that can be great. When he’s on the attack, he’s really, really good. He got the results the last time around. The way he pitched the first two or three times in the rotation, when he wasn’t worried about how deep he got into the baseball game, he was really good.”

“It will be our job to continue to push him in that direction. We feel great about what he has done. It’s a tough lineup he has to attack today.”

After seeing the Padres get nine extra-base hits—including four solo homers—Monday night in an 11–4 romp over the Braves, Green noted the Padres will be facing two of the National League’s two hottest pitchers in the final two games of the season—left-hander **Sean Newcomb** (Tuesday night) and right-hander **Mike Foltynewicz** (Wednesday afternoon).

“A lot of guys took really good swings yesterday,” said Green. “It just wasn’t the home run swings. In the next two days, we’re facing two of the hottest pitchers in the National League.”

Green then had considerable good news about players on the Padres’ lengthy disabled list.

Catcher **Austin Hedges**—“He is feeling good,” said Green. “He is taking batting practice with the team today. He hit off the tee early yesterday and looked really good swinging the bat and said he felt really good. That’s encouraging for us. Hopefully he’s going to get out and start a rehab assignment relatively soon. We’re still trying to nail down the particulars of that.”

Right-handed reliever **Phil Maton**—“Phil is throwing today in Lake Elsinore,” said Green. “I expect him to have more than one outing in his rehab assignment to make sure he feels good and is ready to go for us.”

Left-handed starter **Joey Lucchesi**—“He is facing live hitters in Arizona today,” said Green. “We’ll see how he responds today and make a determination about what the

next step is, but he'll probably need a rehab start. But it might be another session of facing live hitters first. Hopefully not. Hopefully, he'll be ready to go out."

Third baseman **Christian Villanueva** returned to the lineup Tuesday night after missing a game following two foul balls off his left ankle in a span of three games. "He's good," said Green. "He's beaten himself up. We're going to have to get him a full catcher's shin guard and make sure he doesn't hurt himself anymore. When he sees a lefty, he wants to make sure you're not keeping himself out of the lineup."

Green discussed two other right-handed hitter.

"**Franmil Reyes** has settled in at the big league level," said Green. "He knows he belongs and is feeling confident.

"**Eric Hosmer** is going to do what he does and run through stretches like this where he is white hot. And when he's not white hot, he's going to find ways to be productive and help us win games. This has just been a really nice stretch and I'm looking for this stretch to continue on for a long time."

This Day in Padres History— June 6

By Bill Center

June 6, 1972—Padres draft left-handed pitcher **Randy Jones** in the fifth round out of Chapman University.

June 6, 2007—**Trevor Hoffman** becomes the first closer to reach 500 saves in a 5–3 win over the Dodgers at Petco Park.

June 6, 2015—Right fielder **Matt Kemp** was 3-for-4 with a home run and five RBIs in a 9–7 Padres win in Milwaukee.