



Padres Press Clips

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Lucchesi gets hit, run, loss in Diamondbacks' 3-1 win over Padres

[Kevin Acee](#)

Joey Lucchesi was faced with runners at second and third before he had recorded two outs on Friday night.

By the time the next [Diamondbacks](#) batter reached base, Lucchesi had gotten his first major league hit and scored his first major league run.

Lucchesi would retire 14 straight batters – right up until he walked Arizona pitcher Zack Godley to start what ended up being a two-run sixth inning. After two singles, Lucchesi hit A.J. Pollock to bring home Godley.

Steven Souza's groundball off reliever Adam Cimber would score what stood as the decisive run in a 3-1 Diamondbacks victory.

Lucchesi, who took just 61 pitches to get through five innings, fell to 4-4 on the season as his ERA crept up a hundredth of a point to 3.27.

“Overall it was a solid outing for him today,” manager Andy Green said. “... He pitched himself into a situation. We gave him an opportunity to pitch himself out of it. He loaded the bases, then he hits a batter. I think it's clear at that point in time that his command is suffering.”

Friday was Lucchesi's fourth start since returning from a hip strain that had him on the disabled list from May 15 to June 20. It was his first time getting up and down that many times, as he had gone five innings in his most recent start.

“I felt very locked in,” Lucchesi said. “I thought I did very well except the last half. ... That was my mistake, walking Godley.”

On many teams, that would have been a mere plot twist, not the climactic chapter.

But as spectacular a spiral as it was, Lucchesi's sixth inning was merely a subplot in the ongoing horror story of the [Padres](#) offense.

Asked if his pitchers were showing the strain of repeatedly being in stressful situations, Green said, "It's tough. ... What it is, is you've got pitchers wanting to be perfect, because they know the margins are thin right now, and they're going absolutely everything they can to keeps us in games. And they did. When you play a good offensive ballclub, you give up three runs, you're giving your team a chance to win a baseball game."

The Padres won Thursday's series opener 6-3. The last time they have won two straight games was June 12 and 13, at which point they were four games under .500 and 5½ games out of first place. They have won just five times in the 20 games since then and, at 38-52, are 11½ games back.

A little more than halfway through a campaign in which progress is the aim, they are a game worse than they were 90 games into last season.

Friday night was the 36th time this season the Padres were held to two or fewer runs, second-most in the majors. They are 2-34 in those games.

Over the past 17 games, the Padres are averaging 2.2 runs in their 14 losses and 4.8 runs in their four victories. Friday was the eighth time in that span they scored two or fewer runs.

It was also the fifth time during this particularly fruitless stretch they had five or fewer hits in a game.

Against Godley (10-6), Padres hitters repeatedly chased breaking balls in the dirt. It's a lack of discipline they had seemed to overcome after struggling with it throughout much of the season's first couple months.

"That's been the story for us pretty much all year," Green said. "It's not out of lack of effort. You're just seeing guys not being able to lay off."

One of the hits the Padres did get Friday was Lucchesi's one-out grounder through the hole on the left side of the infield in the third inning. He went to third base on Travis Jankowski's single and scored on Carlos Asuaje's ground out.

The Padres would get two more hits and put two runners in scoring position with fewer than two outs after that inning. They would finish 0-for-5 with runners in scoring position.

The Diamondbacks added a run off Craig Stammen in the eighth inning.

As if that mattered.

"It's tough when you have a one-run lead and you're facing a tough lineup," [Eric Hosmer](#) said of the predicaments in which Lucchesi and other pitchers have been placed. "... Offensively we've got to do a better job of putting some more runs up."

A.J. Ellis shows what it takes for Padres

Kevin Acee

The term “veteran presence” is an intangible almost as ambiguous as it is often overused.

But if you think it might be either of those things when applied to [A.J. Ellis](#), then you have never seen him on the field five hours before a game running sprints across the outfield grass.

And you have never seen him watching video with a pitcher or another catcher or a coach or by himself for what seems like hours at a time.

And you have never seen the glare and had to get out of his way before getting run over. Nor have you been the teammate who is running late — at least by Ellis’ estimation — to a meeting.

And you haven’t noticed the dozens of pitches just off the plate that he’s watched go by.

Because those are the very clear reasons Ellis is with the Padres, the oldest person currently playing catcher in the major leagues and the very epitome of veteran presence.

“I’m hoping that by the end of the season everybody can take a little bit of what A.J. does and apply it to their game,” said first base coach [Skip Schumaker](#), who played with Ellis in 2013 with the Dodgers and was among those who lobbied for the Padres to sign him before [spring training](#). “I’m hoping by the end of the season everybody will understand what it takes to play in this league until you’re 37 years old. This is not an eyewash routine. This is not a routine to show you up. It is a preparation for when he does play.”

Whether Ellis' ethic and intensity takes hold on a wide scale and leads to lasting habits, it is making an impression and has at least infiltrated the routines of some of the younger Padres.

It would be impossible not to notice. And it doesn't hurt that, while playing as much or more than he has in any of the past four seasons, he is hitting with more success than he has since 2012.

"What he does to keep his body in shape and his mind fresh and young on a daily basis is really impressive," said 25-year-old starting catcher Austin Hedges. "Having him here is helping me a ton. Watching what he's doing and the success he's having on the field is pretty impressive. Just from the preparation standpoint. ... He shows up every day locked in, whether he's going to play or be on the bench helping me with scouting reports, just talking over guys."

Ellis has a switch that takes him from smiling nice guy to glowering gamer with an intensity that causes teammates to tease him about it — and also steer clear at times. But what locked in looks like more than anything is a guy who is almost only ever doing one of two things at the ballpark — working out physically or mentally or helping someone else do the same.

"He has the best pregame, the best day before a start I've seen in a long time," said hitting coach Matt Stairs, who played 19 seasons in the majors and is in his second season as a coach.

Stairs is also pleased to have a player who is pretty much the definition of one of his favorite terms.

"If you talk about a stubborn hitter, he is a stubborn hitter," Stairs said. "He has a game plan and sticks with it the whole time."

In 118 plate appearances (97 at-bats), Ellis is hitting .320 and has a .422 on-base percentage. There is not a player on the Padres with more than four plate appearances who is within 40 points of Ellis' batting average or within 60 points of his OBP.

Ellis' 118th plate appearance did not come until Aug. 24 last season, when he was with the Marlins. He has started 30 games behind the plate, putting him on pace for 55 starts, which would be his most since 2015.

Ellis is insightful and can be talkative about many topics, as long as that topic is not himself. About all he will allow on the subjects of his work ethic and contribution is that he is taking more care of his body.

"I just do more work in the training room, more work in the weight room, more stretching," he said. "I try to sleep better."

Coaches marveled from the time Ellis arrived in the spring at how malleable he was to suggestions, considering he'd been in the majors since 2008.

"The worst thing you can do is think you know everything," Ellis said.

The Padres are counting on his teaching being what has the lasting impact.

Padres notes: Yates' big week; Lucchesi's workload; roster moves

Kevin Acee

Padres relief pitcher Kirby Yates took some time off this week to welcome an expected addition to his family — a son, Kove, joining year-old daughter, Oaklee.

“There’s more to life than baseball,” Yates said Friday. “I’m really excited. I’m going to have my hands full for a while, but I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

Yates was activated off the paternity leave list Friday and was available to pitch against the Diamondbacks.

The 31-year-old right-hander could end up forgoing some expected time off a couple weeks from now.

Yates is increasingly thought to be the Padres’ likely All-Star selection after a first half in which he has a 0.79 ERA, lowest among all major league relievers who have pitched at least 15 innings.

“He’s as good as anybody in the big leagues,” Padres reliever Craig Stammen said. “And he’s on as good a run as anyone can be on.”

All-Star rosters will be announced Sunday.

A month ago, the presumptive Padre in the Midsummer Classic was closer **Brad Hand**. But the lefty has allowed runs in four of his past seven outings while **Yates hasn’t allowed a run since May 31** (14 innings) and has allowed just three runs in 34 total innings.

They have similar stories, both having been waiver claims by the Padres – Hand in April 2016 and Yates in April '17.

“I loved the story last year where it was Brad Hand, waiver claim to All-Star,” manager Andy Green said. “So if we repeat the story this year, I won’t be mad.”

Said Yates: “That’s something I don’t control. Would it be awesome to make it? Of course. It’s kind of hard for me to put in words. It’s not guaranteed. It hasn’t happened yet.”

Ramping it up

Joey Lucchesi has made some changes – in-game and between starts.

He is throwing his curve slightly more in his past two starts than he was early, a subtle difference from his curve in the look it gives batters.

“It is a pitch that was always part of his arsenal,” Green said. “We probably got away from that because he was having so much success with his curve. We had him kind of get back to it. Even though it’s ending up in the same velo range, the look for a hitter is a different spin, so it might set up the curve for later in the at-bat.”

And in the days between his starts, Lucchesi has been working more diligently. Not that he wasn’t a hard worker, because that is one of the traits that got him to the major leagues after one full season in the minors. But the quick ascension has left him having to figure out some things on the fly.

In addition to altering his schedule, Lucchesi has taken to keeping notes about his throwing sessions. That’s something Padres veteran Clayton Richard has done for years.

“I realized it’s every five days instead of six like in the minors,” Lucchesi. “It’s just a little more. I made an adjustment to figure all the stuff out.”

Speaking of more work, the handcuffs are off Lucchesi on Friday in his fourth start back from the disabled list. He has worked from 51 to 70 to 85 pitches. He has not

allowed a run in his past two starts, giving up one hit in four innings May 25 against Texas and one runs in five innings Saturday against Pittsburgh.

“He’s free to go,” Green said. “This time, however he pitches will dictate how far he goes.”

Up and down

To make room for Yates and reliever [Phil Hughes](#), who was activated off the disabled list, the Padres optioned Kazuhisa Makita and Robert Stock to Triple-A El Paso.

They were called up June 24 to fortify an overworked bullpen.

“I fully expect to see both of them at some point in time,” Green said.

Makita, the submariner whose pitches vary from 55-58 mph up to 81-82 mph, has allowed one run on six hits and no walks in his past 7 2/3 innings over his past two call-ups. That came after he posted a 7.94 ERA and 1.47 WHIP over his first 17 innings.

“Execution is always big for him,” Green said. “With his velo range, he doesn’t have a ton of margin. When he puts the ball where he wants to put the baseball, he has the ability to get guys out.”

The hard-throwing Stock made his major league debut against the Giants on June 24. He allowed at least one baserunner in each of his four appearances but only one run in three innings of work.

“He threw the ball well,” Green said. “It’s a live fastball. Command is big for him as well. ... He’s got a huge velo difference between the fastball and slider that makes it tough for guys to hit. A lot to like.”

Extra bases

- [Jordan Lyles](#), on the DL since June 24 with elbow inflammation, is on track to throw a bullpen session Sunday. That likely does not portend a major-league start until after the All-Star break.
- [Wil Myers](#) is not in the lineup Friday, as Green eases him back from the DL, where he spent 53 days with oblique and back strains. Myers has played in 13 games since returning June 21. He was 10-for-31 while playing in the past eight games.
- [Carlos Asuaje](#), who was 2-for-2 with two walks on Thursday, is batting second and playing second base for the second straight day. Asuaje has reached base in six straight plate appearances and in nine of 11 since being recalled from Triple-A on Sunday.

Picking Padres' All-Star, and many others

Jeff Sanders

Two years ago, [Ned Yost](#) did the [Padres](#) a solid when he penciled [Wil Myers](#) — fresh off the best month of his career — into the starting lineup as the designated hitter for Petco Park's [All-Star Game](#).

No Padre, after all, came close to a top spot in fan balloting. In fact, no San Diego position player has been voted into the starting lineup since Tony Gwynn's six-year run to close the '90s. (Ken Caminiti also was voted into the lineup in 1997, while [Jake Peavy](#) was selected the starting pitcher in 2007.)

In fact, lately, more often than not, the Padre introduced on national TV hails from San Diego's bullpen and the last-place Friars' rep this year almost assuredly will be a reliever.

It just might not be the reliever you think announced Sunday as [Brad Hand](#) vs. Kirby Yates is as worthy a conversation as any you'll have this week if you're piecing together your own version of the NL and AL All-Star starters, plus.

We should know.

We've had them all.

Starting pitchers

- **NL:** With the game in Washington D.C., it would be an absolute crime if NL skipper **Dave Roberts** did not choose [Nationals](#) ace [Max Scherzer](#) as his starting pitcher. The [Dodgers](#)' own staff does not have any contenders and Scherzer leads NL starting pitchers in WAR (4.6, per [fangraphs.com](#)), innings (120 2/3), K/9 (12.98), Fielding Independent Pitching (2.22) and is third in ERA (2.16). Easy pick, Doc.

- **AL: A.J. Hinch's** decision, on the other hand, probably would have been far more difficult except that one of the candidates, his own ace **Justin Verlander**, is in line to pitch two days before the All-Star Game, which would make him ineligible despite a 9-4 record, 2.15 ERA and 154 strikeouts in 125 2/3 innings. That leaves **Yankees** ace **Luis Severino**, who leads the league in wins (13) and ERA (1.98).

Relievers

- **NL:** The saves leaderboard is an easy place to start, but Colorado's **Wade Davis'** 4.15 ERA ought to eliminate him because the bullpen is often a position that helps managers make sure every team is represented. That would make **Brad Hand** — with 24 saves, 13.28 K/9 and a 3.05 ERA — an easy representative of the Padres, but he is not their best reliever this year. That's **Kirby Yates**, who has an **MLB**-best 0.79 ERA among qualifiers and is worth more WAR — 1.0 to 0.6 — than the Padres' closer. As far as shoo-ins, expect Milwaukee's **Josh Hader** (44 2/3 IP, 16.7 K/9), the Dodgers' **Kenley Jansen** (23 saves, 2.21 ERA) and the Nationals' **Sean Doolittle** (1.49 ERA, 22 saves) to make the squad.
- **AL:** Here, the most valuable reliever (2.3 WAR) also leads the league with 34 saves — the **Mariners'** **Edwin Diaz**. Other names to expect include Oakland's **Blake Treinen** (0.84 ERA, 22 saves), New York's **Aroldis Chapman** (1.43 ERA, 24 saves) and Boston's **Craig Kimbrel** (2.02 ERA, 26 saves).

Catcher

- **NL:** What might be the Marlins' lone representative actually deserves to start in the game. **J.T. Realmuto** leads NL catchers in WAR (3.3) and weighted runs created-plus (146), is second in RBIs (40) and is the only NL catcher hitting better than .300. Of course, the **Cardinals'** **Yadier Molina** is also deserving of a last hurrah after pairing 13 homers with a .284/.326/.505 batting line to start the year.

- **AL: Wilson Ramos** leads qualifying catchers with an .808 OPS, is already up to 12 home runs in his first full season in Tampa Bay and leads AL catchers with 45 RBIs.

(Last ballot leaders: San Francisco's Buster Posey, Ramos)

First base

- **NL: Paul Goldschmidt** has come on strong to help fend off the Dodgers in the **NL West**, but Atlanta's **Freddie Freeman** deserves the nod for his overall consistency throughout the year. He's hitting .305/.397/.526 with 16 homers and 57 RBIs as the face of the **Braves'** early surprising run at an **NL East** title.
- **AL:** If you like homers, you'll pick Texas' **Joey Gallo** (21) or Oakland's **Matt Olson** (18). We, however, cannot ignore their flaws — Gallo with a .192 average and 36-percent K rate and Olson with a .236 average. Cleveland's **Yonder Alonso** (.257-12-47) is a safer if wholly unexciting choice from at least a winning team.

(Last ballot leaders: Freeman, Chicago's Jose Abreu)

Second base

- **NL:** The Braves' **Ozzie Albies** leads the league's second basemen in homers (18), runs scored (67) and is third in RBIs (50). Fan balloting is also pushing him toward the starting lineup, although **Scouter Gennett's** first-half (.331/.371/.527, 14 HRs, 57 RBIs) is more than worthy of a spot on the roster.
- **AL:** Houston's **Jose Altuve**, the reigning **AL MVP**, is contending for another batting title (.332) even if his power numbers (.476 slugging) are down from last year's campaign (.547). **Jed Lowrie's** career revival — 3.1 WAR, 14 HRs, 59 RBIs — would register a tick higher if the reigning World Champ's second baseman wasn't in the prime of his career.

(Last ballot leaders: Albies, Altuve)

Third base

- **NL:** Another down year (by his standards) and issues with injuries will leave USD's **Kris Bryant** off the roster for a second year in a row. Good thing for the NL that **Nolan Arenado's** production is as reliable as anything in the game: He's tops among NL third baseman in WAR (3.7), homers (22), RBIs (63) and OPS (.997).
- **AL:** Cleveland's **Jose Ramirez** and his .998 OPS, 24 homers, 56 RBIs and 17 steals is the obvious choice. The runner-up, Houston's **Alex Bregman**, has nothing to feel bad about (.891 OPS, 16 homers, 54 RBIs).

(Last ballot leaders: Arenado, Ramirez)

Shortstop

- **NL:** This one will hurt — with a NL-shortstop-best 3.2 WAR, 11 homers, 22 steals and a respectable .784 OPS, former Padres prospect **Trea Turner** should start for the hometown Nationals (hey, at least Myers did the same in 2016 for the Padres as a DH).
- **AL:** It made all kinds of sense for DC/Baltimore fans to vote **Manny Machado** (.939 OPS, 21 HRs, 59 RBIs, 3.0 WAR), but the Indians' **Francisco Lindor** is a better defender and having a slightly better season (.948 OPS, 23 homers, 55 RBIs, 5.1 WAR).

(Last ballot leaders: San Francisco's Brandon Crawford; Machado)

Outfield

- **NL:** And this will really sting in San Diego — **Matt Kemp** returns to an All-Star roster as a Dodger after starting this comeback season with a .911 OPS, tops among NL outfielders, 15 homers and 55 RBIs. Fans are also right to give so much love to Atlanta's **Nick Markakis** (58 RBIs leads NL outfielders), but based on production, the Mets' **Brandon Nimmo** (2.6 WAR, .910 OPS, 12

HRs) is a far better choice than **Bryce Harper** (1.3 WAR, .213 BA, .836 OPS, 21 HRs), even if the game is at Harper's field.

- **AL:** No arguing with the fans here. The Angels' **Mike Trout** leads everyone in WAR (6.3), Boston's **Mookie Betts** leads everyone in OPS (1.101) and the Yankees' best player (**Aaron Judge**) is defending last year's home run title with a .974 OPS and 24 homers to start 2018.

(Last ballot leaders: Markakis, Kemp, Harper; Betts, Trout, Judge)

Designated hitter

- **NL:** **Max Muncy** (wait, who?) does it all for the Dodgers, so no reason to crow if Roberts taps him as his starting DH. The 27-year-old is hitting .280/.419/.640 with 20 homers and 38 RBIs as perhaps one of baseball's best stories.
- **AL:** Since leaving Detroit, Boston's **J.D. Martinez** has hit 55 homers in 145 games. His 26 this year are the most in the majors.

Padres round out 2018 draft class

Jeff Sanders

The Padres have rounded their 2018 draft class by agreeing to terms with prep second baseman Sean Guilbe (12th round), prep right-hander Nick Thwait (15th round) and Seton Hall left-hander Cullen Dana (30th round).

Guilbe signed for \$300,000, Thwait for \$450,000 and Dana for \$150,000 — all above-slot deals. The recommended bonus for players signed outside the top-10 rounds is \$125,000.

With Ryan Weathers, the No. 7 overall pick, agreeing to a \$5.23 million slot deal on Sunday, the Padres have signed 29 of the 41 players selected in last month's draft.

Including undrafted free agents, the Padres have signed three catchers, six infielders, five outfielders, nine right-handed pitchers and eight left-handed pitchers.

The 2018 class consists of 22 college players and nine high-schoolers.

Of the last three to sign, Guilbe has the highest profile: He was ranked No. 155 in MLB.com's pre-draft prospect list. He was committed to Tennessee.

More from MLB.com on the 6-foot-1, right-handed-hitting infielder from Berks Catholic (Pa.) High School:

- *“He has legitimate right-handed power coming from a strong, athletic body. He's more strength over bat speed with a bit of an uphill swing, something he'll likely need to shorten to ensure he taps into that raw pop consistently at the next level. A below-average runner, there are some questions about his ability to stay at the hot corner because of his hands and lack of range. He is fairly physically mature. There were several teams looking at Guilbe in the top five rounds. Those are the teams that believe his bat will translate and he'll*

hit enough to make his power a plus tool and make it worthwhile to lure him away from his University of Tennessee commitment.”

Thwaites is a 6-foot-2, 195-pound pitcher who went 4-1 with an 0.87 ERA and 74 strikeouts in 40 innings at Fort Recovery (Ohio) High School according to this [story](#). He was committed to Kent State.

The 20-year-old Dana was 5-3 with 76 strikeouts in 73 innings as a sophomore at Seton Hall.

Robbie Podorsky getting along fine in Midwest League

Jeff Sanders

A late-round pick from 2017 is making some serious hay of late.

Continuing an eye-opening stay in the Midwest League, outfielder **Robbie Podorsky** reached base four more times in [low Single-A Fort Wayne's 6-1](#) loss on Friday to host Bowling Green.

Podorsky's lone hit in five plate appearances was an RBI single. The 23-year-old also walked three times, lifting his batting line to .344/.395/.468 in 39 games with Fort Wayne (11-5, 43-42).

A 25th-round pick last year out of McNeese State, Podorsky has 19 steals, six doubles, five triples and a home run.

Podorsky is hitting .463 over his last 10 games.

Center fielder **Jeisson Rosario** (.277) went 3-for-5 with a double.

Right-hander **Mason** Thompson (6-5, 5.05) struck out seven and allowed four runs – three earned – on six hits in five innings in the loss.

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (48-40)

- [Chihuahuas 7, Salt Lake 3](#): 1B **Allen Craig** (.297) went 2-for-5 with five RBIs, which included a grand slam for his 10th homer. LF **Forrestt Allday** (.292) went 3-for-3 with a triple, a walk, two runs and his fourth steal and 2B **Luis Urias** (.281) went 1-for-1 with a double, three walks and a run scored.

LHP **Jerry Keel** (1-0, 4.50) allowed three runs in six innings for the win and RHP **Robert Stock** (1.78) struck out two over two scoreless innings.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (8-7, 50-35)

- **NW Arkansas 3, Missions 2:** C **Austin Allen** (.307) went 2-for-4 assumed the system lead with his 16th homer and LF **Josh Naylor** (.316) and 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.266) each had two hits. LHP **Logan Allen** (8-4, 2.78) struck out seven but allowed all three runs in the first inning. Allen finished with four hits and two walks allowed over six innings.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (7-9, 41-45)

- **Storm 9, Visalia 7:** LF **Buddy Reed** (.323) tripled and hit his 12th homer in three at-bats before he was ejected after he was called out on strikes in the fifth inning. 2B **Kelvin Melean** (.263) and DH **Luis Torrens** (.269) both drove in two runs on two hits. RHP **Reggie Lawson** (3.39) struck out five and allowed seven runs on six hits and three walks in five innings in the start.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (10-12)

- **Dust Devils 7, Spokane 2:** 2B **Olivier Basabe** (.267) went 3-for-5 with a double, an RBI and a run scored and 3B **Luke Becker** (.288), SS **Owen Miller** (.341) and C **Blake Hunt** (.274) each had two hits. RHP **Sam Keating** (2-2, 4.24) allowed two runs on two hits and three walks in 5 1/3 innings in the win.

ROOKIE AZL PADRES 1 (5-10)

- **Brewers 7, Padres 3:** RHP **Edwuin Bencomo** (3.86) allowed three runs on three hits and two walks in 4 2/3 innings in the start. 1B **Lee Solomon** (.267), 2B **Jarryd Dale** (.239) and RF **Greg Lambert** (.333) each had two hits.

ROOKIE AZL PADRES 2 (7-8)

- **Angels 5, Padres 1:** RHP **Jean Cosme** (9.00) struck out three over two scoreless innings in his second start back from Tommy John surgery. CF **Hunter Jarmon** (.222) went 3-for-4 and 2B **Luis Roman** (.250) went 2-for-4 with a walk and a run scored.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (17-13)

- **D-backs 4, Padres 1:** LHP **Manuel Partida** (1-1, 2.10) struck out five and allowed four runs – three earned – on six hits and two walks in five innings in the loss. SS **Bryan Torres** (.188) collected two of the Padres' three hits.

Transactions

- SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.**, 2B **Luis Urias** and CF **Buddy Reed** were named to the **All-Star Futures Game**. Read about that [here](#).
- RHP **Jonathan Aro** was placed on El Paso's seven-day disabled list and RHP **Erik Johnson** was transferred to San Antonio was RHPs **Kazuhisa Makita** and **Robert Stock** were optioned back to El Paso.
- RHP **Colby Blueberg** was transferred from San Antonio to Lake Elsinore.
- RHP **Dylan Coleman** was transferred from Tri-City to Fort Wayne.

Padres' bats can't crack Godley, D-backs' code

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

PHOENIX -- [Joey Lucchesi](#) returned from the disabled list two weeks ago, but the Padres truly unleashed the rookie left-hander on Friday night.

After he was limited in each of his last three outings, Lucchesi was given the green light Friday night in a 3-1 loss to the D-backs at Chase Field. For five innings, he was excellent. The sixth told a different story.

Lucchesi walked opposing pitcher [Zack Godley](#) to lead off the frame. After a pair of singles, he threw a fastball that grazed [A.J. Pollock's](#) jersey, tying the game. His night was done, and Arizona would score once more on [Steven Souza Jr.'s](#) RBI groundout. The Padres' slumping offense couldn't claw its way back.

"You get into the sixth inning, his pitch count's low, you want to see him attack that inning," said Padres manager Andy Green. "The thing that hurts him is the walk to Godley. Outside of that, it was a very good day for him."

Lucchesi wasn't particularly poor in the sixth, but he struggled with damage control. He struck out five in the first five innings and allowed one hit, expertly mixing his curve and his changeup. In the sixth, that putaway pitch never came.

"My mistake was walking Godley," Lucchesi lamented afterward.

The result was a bit unfair on Lucchesi, who has posted 1.26 ERA in his past three starts. He appears to have found the same groove that earned him notoriety in April and May as one of the National League's top rookies.

But he's been something of a different pitcher since his return, adding curveballs to his typical fastball/changeup mix. The Padres feel Lucchesi's extra offspeed offering might help make him a more complete pitcher. He's throwing his curve for strikes early in counts and his changeup -- which has curveball tendencies and is often referred to as a "churve" -- as his putaway pitch.

The Padres are adamant in their belief that Lucchesi can be an important part of their rotation going forward. Once again, he showed he's capable on Friday night.

But the Padres offense did little to support him. That's become something of a recurring theme.

"You've got pitchers who want to be perfect because they know the margins are thin right now," said Green. "They're doing absolutely everything they can to keep us in games. And they did. When you play a good offensive ballclub and you give up three runs, you give your team a chance to win a baseball game."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Not as easy as 1-2-3: The Padres called for righty sidearmer [Adam Cimber](#) in relief of Lucchesi with the bases loaded in a tie game in the sixth. Cimber got Souza to bounce into the comebacker he wanted. But he couldn't handle the short hop, and the ball skittered away toward

first base. Cimber chased it down in time to get Souza. But there would be no 1-2-3 double play, and the D-backs took a 2-1 lead.

Shaky Stammen: [Craig Stammen](#) has filled a number of roles in the Padres' bullpen this season, and he's done all of them well. But Friday night, he labored when asked for a second frame. [Nick Ahmed](#) led off the eighth inning with a double, and he scored when Souza snuck a grounder through the left side. Stammen loaded the bases with two outs, before [Robbie Erlin](#) entered to retire [Chris Owings](#), keeping the Padres within striking distance.

SLUMPING HOZ

It's been a particularly tough road trip for [Eric Hosmer](#). The Padres first baseman is 0-for-15 in four games against Oakland and Arizona, and his average dropped to .261 on Friday night.

A month ago, that mark hovered around .300. But Hosmer has simply pounded too many baseballs into the ground lately. His 69 percent ground ball rate is the highest mark in the Majors in the last 30 days.

"He's grinding," said Green. "He's fighting hard. Some of that manifests in some overaggression, trying to get that hit at times. He just hasn't squared up a lot of baseballs here lately. You're just waiting for that one ball that's crushed the other way. There's a thought in my head that as soon as he does that, he's going to get rolling again. He's just running through a stretch that's tough right now."

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

Few would mistake Lucchesi for a "pitcher who rakes," given his awkward stance at the plate and some of his baserunning antics. But he notched his first career hit in the top of the third inning on Friday. Lucchesi smacked an 0-1 cutter from Godley to the opposite field with one out in the third. Later in the frame, he'd score the Padres' only run on [Carlos Asuaje](#)'s RBI groundout.

UP NEXT

The last time he took the mound at Chase Field, [Tyson Ross](#) carried a no-hitter into the eighth inning. He'll be looking for more of the same on Saturday at 7:10 p.m. PT. Ross struggled against Pittsburgh in his last time out. But he's been the anchor to the Padres' rotation this season -- and possibly a trade chip ahead of this month's Trade Deadline. The D-backs counter with left-hander [Robbie Ray](#).

Tatis Jr., Urias, Reed make Futures Game roster

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

PHOENIX -- Three years ago, in A.J. Preller's first Futures Game as general manager, the Padres sent one prospect to the All-Star festivities in Cincinnati. Right-hander [Colin Rea](#) was the organization's only representative, and he recorded two outs in the ninth inning of a blowout.

If the lack of options in 2015 was an indication of the dire state of the Padres' farm system, the reverse holds true this summer. The system is loaded. Friday's announcement of the rosters for the Sirius XM Futures Game proves as much.

Three Padres prospects will head to D.C. next weekend for the Futures Game, which takes place Sunday at 1 p.m. PT on MLB Network. Shortstop [Fernando Tatis Jr.](#) and second baseman Luis Urias will represent the World team, while Buddy Reed will don the U.S. jersey.

"When you look at our first year that a lot of us were over here in 2015, we got one player," said Padres farm director Sam Geaney. "We're pleased with where the system is now. Any time you get three, it's a big deal. It's a very competitive game. The group at MLB takes it seriously [with] which players they want to showcase.

"We're very proud of these three guys, but we feel fortunate that so many guys of ours have had strong years and you could make some strong cases for other guys as well."

Tatis and Urias -- ranked as the [No. 3 and 29 overall prospects](#) in baseball -- are two of the game's most heralded youngsters. Their inclusion qualified as something of a no-brainer. Both have the potential to arrive in San Diego before the season is over.

Reed, meanwhile, was a surprise choice. But he's certainly earned it. In 77 games for Class A Advanced Lake Elsinore, Reed is hitting .319/.368/.528 with 33 steals and 11 homers. He's been one of the most complete players in the Padres' system this year.

"Potentially, it could be a coming out party for him," Geaney said. "We've known and been hoping he would take some of these strides forward. Ultimately, it's a testament to him and the work he's put in. He probably did not enter the year with as high of a profile as the other guys we talk about. But the Futures Game should be a pretty cool stage for more people to learn about Buddy Reed."

Urias is hitting .279/.388/.410 at Triple-A El Paso this year, and it's widely believed he'll be called up in the second half of the season.

Tatis, meanwhile, got off to a slow start for Double-A San Antonio. But he's turned things around in a big way. After posting a .177 batting average in April, Tatis is hitting .339 with 12 homers since.

"It feels great, man," Tatis said of his inclusion in the Futures Game during an interview on MLB Central on Friday morning. "I'm really happy right now that my family is going to be able to see me go and play over there and have a good time in a big league park."

Papa Yates returns

Right-hander [Kirby Yates](#) returned from the paternity list on Friday after welcoming his son Kove earlier this week. Kove is Yates' second child. His wife gave birth to a daughter, Oaklee, last year.

Yates hasn't been shy when discussing the perspective his kids brought to his life. It's no coincidence, he says, that he's posted his best two seasons as a professional in the past two years.

Now, Yates could be on the verge of being selected to his first All-Star Game. He's posted a 0.79 ERA in 34 innings this season with 41 strikeouts.

"Would it be awesome to make it? Of course," Yates said. "But it's out of my control. I'll just focus on doing what I've been doing."

Hughes returns; Stock, Makita optioned

Along with Yates, right-hander [Phil Hughes](#) re-joined the Padres' bullpen. He's been on the disabled list for two weeks with a rhomboid strain in his back. In 14 appearances this season between the Twins and Padres, Hughes owns a 6.53 ERA.

To clear room for Hughes and Yates, the Padres optioned righties Robert Stock and [Kazuhisa Makita](#) to Triple-A El Paso. In his first stint in the Majors, Stock struck out five and allowed one earned run over three innings.

Makita, meanwhile, didn't allow a run over three appearances in his return to the bigs. He had posted a 6.55 ERA in 19 games before he was demoted in late May.

"It could be a week, it could be two weeks, but sometime soon, I'd expect to see both of them [back]," manager Andy Green said. "Phil Maton falls into that camp as well. They're guys we consider big league relievers who are just in that up-down part of their careers right now."

Noteworthy

- Righty starter [Jordan Lyles](#) is scheduled to throw a bullpen session on Sunday, his first since he was placed on the disabled list last month with right elbow inflammation. It appears unlikely Lyles will re-join the team before the All-Star break.
- The Padres had originally planned to limit [Eric Lauer](#)'s workload by giving him extra rest before and after the All-Star break. Given Lauer's recent performance -- the rookie left-hander owns a 2.63 ERA since the start of June -- they might no longer do so.

"Yesterday, he looked as strong as he's looked at any point in time this season," Green said. "... You want to watch with your eyes, as much as you do with your plan. Our eyes right now are saying his arm's alive, and it looks pretty good. If that means pushing a break back to another time when it looks like he's fatiguing, we might do that."

- The Padres finalized their 2018 Draft signings Friday, agreeing to a \$150,000 bonus with 30th-round pick Cullen Dana, a left-hander from Seton Hall, according to MLB Pipeline's Jim Callis. In total, the Padres signed 29 picks ahead of Friday's Deadline to do so -- including each of their first 13 selections.

Q&A: Trevor Hoffman dishes on his playing days, Padres prospects and an upcoming date in Cooperstown

By Dennis Lin

Trevor Hoffman will perform on a major stage this month. The setting will include a picturesque body of water, a sizable crowd and Atlanta Braves great John Smoltz, among other participants.

A year ago, Hoffman did not make the cut.

He finished 40 spots behind Mark Mulder and 48 ahead of Charles Barkley.

In theory, next week's American Century Championship celebrity golf tournament, held on the banks of Lake Tahoe, will offer three carefree rounds of leisure.

"I don't know," Hoffman laughed. "We'll see. That 17th hole has a lot of people on it."

Nothing, of course, can compare with what awaits the former Padres closer at the end of the month. On July 29, Hoffman will be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

"I think it's going to be everything and more that I've heard about," Hoffman said.

With the milestone day looming, Hoffman spoke with *The Athletic* about his preparation, his continuing role with the Padres and his thoughts on some modern-day developments. This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.

Did you practice visualization during your playing career?

I would basically try and remember a most recent pitch that I liked, whether it was fastball, changeup, certain count, right-handed hitter, left-handed hitter. I would just kind of close my eyes in the bullpen and try and see what it looked like coming out of my hand, see what it looked like crossing the plate, and ultimately what my body felt like doing it. To an extent, that was my visualization. If I really needed to get locked back in or I was having a hard

time executing, I had a CD that would have a particular pitch of what I would throw. It would just repeat, it would go over and over and over, so I would be able to get my visualization done that way.

Have you visualized standing on that stage and giving your speech?

I don't know if I can put all the pieces together. That could trip me up, with Hall of Famers behind me, and family and friends, and then tens of thousands of people in front. At that point in time, with all eyes on you, it might be a little overpowering. But I'm trying to put myself in that situation and trust the practicing I'm doing with my speech and how to maybe get through some emotional times. I'm definitely in the process of doing that, you're right.

People have been constantly asking you about the day, but how much time do you spend thinking about it when no one else is around?

It's pretty much there 24/7. There will be times when I'll kind of lose myself in people coming over and some activities that I'm doing, but then I'll kind of revert back. My mind will start to wander and think about what's on the docket, and obviously that's there. So just kind of thinking if I have all my I's dotted and T's crossed and being ready to go here in a couple weeks.

It's kind of been that way for a while, too. I'll wake up in the middle of the night with an idea and try to put down some notes and things I might want to try to accomplish or say. Then it becomes pretty consuming. You're almost to the point where you have a hard time going back to sleep, because my mind's kind of racing in excitement thinking about it.

What's the status of your speech?

I'd say it's 97 percent done. Just in terms of grammatical stuff, I probably need to tighten up and make sure that it flows the way I want it to.

It's my story. It wasn't going to be that hard to write. It's just a matter of giving it some time for certain ideas to pop in my head, give it some traction and see if it ultimately sticks to the whiteboard. Otherwise, I could've written this thing in February, but you kind of want to make sure you don't forget anything.

What will it mean to have your brother (and Padres third base coach) Glenn at the ceremony?

I'm excited. He's going to be bicoastal here for a little bit. He's going to be coming from New York (where the Padres will play the Mets) and back to San

Diego to pick up the family and back to Cooperstown and back to San Diego for the rest of the homestand. It's awesome that the Padres are giving him that time off and he's obviously been a big part of my career, so for him to be there is pretty special.

What's your oldest brother Greg doing these days?

He was a special education teacher, and he has since retired from that. He's kind of doing a lot of stuff, working out and taking care of himself, and some travel basketball stuff he's involved in and some local high school basketball stuff he still keeps his hands in.

As you prepare for Cooperstown, any lessons your brothers taught you that come to mind?

They've offered help as far as "anything we can do for you," but "just be yourself and go out and deliver what you've got put down." Having been able to watch other people's stuff, it's going to be pretty cool. Obviously, it's going to be a big moment, a crowning achievement, but it's going to be fun to talk about a lot of people that helped me get there.

You've been a senior advisor in the Padres' front office for a few years now. You've had some special commitments this year, but has your role evolved much?

Yeah, a few more commitments in San Diego. It's kind of kept me close to Petco Park, in town. But to kind of see our international involvement two years ago and how that's shaping up in our minor-league system and how some of the drafts have gone over the last couple of years, you're starting to see some of the things that you hear about.

My role has personally been the same. I try to get out and see some of the guys play and compete and work up the ranks. It's fun to do that. It's fun to be part of the community stuff and marketing stuff here in San Diego. The many hats that I wear keep me busy, and I'm certainly pumped to be a part of it all.

How does the depth of the farm system compare with anything you've seen?

I think we flooded it a little bit, no doubt. With the Futures Game coming up and having Mr. (Luis) Urias and Mr. (Fernando) Tatis on the World side and

Buddy (Reed) on the American side, I think it's kind of cool that we're represented with three people. That doesn't usually happen.

A lot of our talent is in the lower levels. Not to say there isn't talent at the higher levels, but some of the kids that people don't really talk about are in Lake Elsinore and Fort Wayne. And that's kind of where it needs to be. You need to be deep, you need to build traction with waves of kids, and we'll see how some of them turn out.

Have you gotten a chance since spring training to talk with many of the pitchers in the system?

No, not really. I spoke a little bit with the San Antonio crew when I went through there. Logan (Allen) was doing good, and Cal (Quantrill) was starting to click. It was cool to see how they got off and rolling. Hopefully, I can get back out after some of the stuff slows down and see (Chris) Paddock at that level. I know he had a lot of success in Elsinore, and I'm happy that he's bounced back from his (Tommy John surgery). I'd like to see him live. And hopefully Mr. (MacKenzie) Gore gets a chance to get closer to our backyard so people can go out and see him.

Nowadays, the organization emphasizes things like strikeout rates and more advanced metrics. Are those things you would've liked to have available when you were pitching?

I would never say that it couldn't help. I think we've seen how analytics can help shape certain guys. Kirby (Yates) is shying away from his slider and having more usage with his splitter. Obviously, how Brad (Hand) has become a perennial All-Star. Craig (Stammen) has obviously settled in with us. And some of that stuff could be attributed to analytics.

Me personally, I tried to simplify and feel what the next pitch was meant to be. It wasn't like running through algorithms in a sense or what particular pitch was specific to maybe this situation. It was, how did I get here? What did the guy see to get to two strikes? What did the guy see to get to two balls, or how did he offer at it? I *felt* the game a little bit more than maybe we talk about these days. Again, it's all about executing the pitch at hand. Bottom line, it's performance-driven. You have to get outs.

What do you think of "openers" and the way bullpen usage has evolved?

I'm not a big fan of it. I still like to see starters go deeper in ballgames, where you don't shuttle people in and out of your bullpen based off of overuse, to an extent. But we've seen bullpen days, we've seen bullpen pieces start games. I even hope that the starter doesn't go away in the sense that you just build a bunch of two- and three-inning guys throughout your minor-league system and you just rotate them as you need them.

To me, that's not the way the game was meant to be played. I like the way Houston's set up their rotation and they'll have pieces in the 'pen that they can utilize. I think you kind of get used to whatever your canvas looks like. If we ask starters to again get deep into ballgames and start finishing seven, eight, nine, and we can still fill the back end, maybe we'll have an adjustment back to that.

With the trade deadline coming up, there's plenty of talk about pieces in the Padres' bullpen. A lot of people are of the belief that you can always find good relievers in San Diego, but there's also an argument that you need proven arms to compete in the near future. How do you view the situation?

I think it's going to be a frenzy, no doubt about it. Guys are going to get a lot of attention because of the work they've put in the last two years. I don't think they extended Brad to just kind of make him look more attractive to the industry. I think they extended him because they wanted to give it a chance to have him at the back end when we're really winning ballgames and talking about wins at the top of the division.

I'd like to see us keep everybody, to be honest with you. I think competition's good. It breeds confidence in everybody. To kind of get to the point where we're loaded up and there's competition for innings at the big-league level, that's a good thing.

Lucchesi solid for Padres, but Diamondbacks edge San Diego 3-1

PHOENIX (AP) — [Zack Godley](#) followed one of his worst outings of the season with perhaps his best. Perfect timing for Arizona, too.

Godley pitched six effective innings in his 10th win, helping the [Diamondbacks](#) beat the [San Diego Padres](#) 3-1 on Friday night.

Arizona improved to 2-6 on its 10-game homestand and regained sole possession of first place in the NL West from the Los Angeles Dodgers, who lost 3-2 to the Angels.

Godley (10-6) allowed one run and four hits while improving to 5-1 in his last six starts. He was rocked for seven runs in four innings in a loss to San Francisco in his last outing.

“The way this game works you kind of have to let it go and move on,” Godley said. “Baseball is a short-memory sport.”

Asked what was working, he said: “my curve and my defense.”

Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said Godley’s command was “as good as I can remember.”

“There’s been a couple of games so far this year where he has had outings like that,” Lovullo said. “But today’s was one of the better ones that I’ve seen in a long time.”

[Steven Souza Jr.](#) drove in two runs with a single and fielder’s choice in his second game back from the disabled list. Souza has played in just 17 games this season due to a right pectoral injury.

[Joey Lucchesi](#) (4-4) retired 14 in a row before Arizona scored twice in the sixth. Lucchesi went 5 1/3 innings, allowing two runs and three hits with two strikeouts, one walk and two hit batters.

He grazed [A.J. Pollock](#) with a pitch with the bases loaded to bring in the tying run.

[Nick Ahmed](#) doubled, singled and scored twice for the Diamondbacks. [Brad Boxberger](#) threw a perfect ninth for his 21st save in 25 tries.

The Padres have lost 14 of 18.

Lucchesi's first big league hit helped the Padres take the lead in the third. The rookie singled to left, advanced to third on [Travis Jankowski](#)'s long single to the right-field corner and scored when Carlos Asuaje grounded out.

The Diamondbacks threatened in the first when [David Peralta](#) was hit by a pitch and [Paul Goldschmidt](#) lashed a ground-rule double that bounced into the Arizona bullpen. But they came up empty when Pollock grounded out and Souza struck out looking.

Arizona didn't get another baserunner until Godley drew a leadoff walk in the sixth. The Diamondbacks loaded the bases with one-out singles by Ahmed and Goldschmidt and Lucchesi hit Pollock to bring in the tying run.

That was it for Lucchesi. Reliever [Adam Cimber](#) bobbled Souza's slow grounder and still got the out at first, but Ahmed scored and the Diamondbacks led 2-1.

"He threw the ball well," Padres manager Andy Green said of Lucchesi. "We didn't do too much for him offensively. You get to that sixth inning, his pitch count is low. You want to see him attack that inning. The thing that hurts him is the walk to Godley. Outside of that I think it was a very good day for him."

Ahmed led off the eighth with a double and scored on Souza's two-out single.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: RHP [Phil Hughes](#) (right rhomboid strain) was reinstated from the 10-day disabled list and RHP [Kirby Yates](#) returned from paternity leave. RHPs [Kazuhisa Makita](#) and [Robert Stock](#) were optioned to Triple-A El Paso.

Diamondbacks: RHP [Randall Delgado](#) (strained left oblique) was reinstated from the 60-day DL. RHP [Fernando Salas](#) was designated for assignment.

NOT SIGNING

California high school shortstop Matt McLain, Arizona's first-round pick and the 25th overall player taken in the draft, informed the Diamondbacks he will not sign with them and will instead enroll at UCLA. The Diamondbacks will get a compensatory pick, the 27th overall, next year.

UP NEXT

Arizona LHP [Robbie Ray](#) (3-1, 4.89 ERA) makes his third start since returning from the disabled list and San Diego counters with RHP Tyler Ross (5-6, 3.89 ERA) on Saturday night in the third game of the four-game series.

This high draft pick is already slugging big numbers for the Tri-City Dust Devils

BY ANNIE FOWLER

PASCO, WA

Grant Little has only been with the Tri-City Dust Devils for a week, but he already feels at home. The gorgeous sunsets at Gesa Stadium in Pasco have helped the transition.

"I had no idea where this place was," Little said. "It's beautiful. The sky looks like West Texas."

The San Diego Padres drafted the outfielder with the 74th overall pick in last month's Major League Baseball draft, but they had to wait for him to finish the season with Texas Tech before they could sign and assign him within their system.

A native of Midland, Texas, Little and Texas Tech advanced to the College World Series, where they were eliminated by Florida on June 21. He signed with the Padres a week later.

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"I had a couple of days to go home and see family," he said. "Then I went to San Diego for a physical, then here.

"I'm excited to finally play baseball. I had a few days off — I had an itch."

Little was a bonus pick

Typically, there is no trading of draft picks in MLB. The one exception are picks in the competitive balance rounds — compensatory picks awarded to teams that lose high-value free agents.

That's where San Diego got its mitts on Little.

A week before the draft, the Padres traded minor leaguer Janigson Villalobos to the Minnesota Twins for pricey veteran pitcher Phil Hughes, cash and a Competitive Balance Round B draft pick between the second and third rounds.

The Padres used the slot to draft Little with their third pick on the first day of the draft.

"I thought there was a chance I could be drafted on the first day," said Little, the highest draft pick from Texas Tech since 2012 (Barrett Barnes, 45th).

"Somewhere around 55-65. I'm not going to complain."

The right choice

Little grew up playing basketball and baseball for Midland Christian High School. He was a two-time all-state player in both sports, but he ultimately chose baseball over the sport that put the family on the map.

His dad, Mike, who is 6-foot-4, played basketball at Baylor University and was a two-year captain for the Bears.

His uncle, Richard Little (6-3), played basketball at Texas Tech, and was one of the premier players in Red Raiders history.

Another uncle, David Little (6-7), played hoops at Oklahoma, where he was named one of the 15 members of the All-Century Team in 2007. He was drafted by the Denver Nuggets in the third round of the 1983 NBA Draft.

But at 6-1, Grant knew baseball was a better option.

"I felt like I couldn't make a living playing basketball," he said. "It was the best decision."

Texas Tech was the only major scholarship offered to Little, and he jumped at the chance to stay close to home.

After an outstanding redshirt freshman season with the Red Raiders, Little upped his game this season, hitting .370 with 12 home runs, 25 doubles and 80 RBIs in 65 starts. He had nine RBIs in one game — only the third Texas Tech player to accomplish the feat.

Though he had two more years of college eligibility, Little choose to sign with the Padres. The signing bonus slotted for where he was drafted is \$812,200.

"You dream about playing pro ball since you were a kid," Little said. "You get drafted that high, it's not a hard decision to make. I thought it was the right time to take the next step. I felt I was ready mentally and physically."

On the field

Little mainly played left field for Texas Tech, but his heart is in center field.

"There's more action in center field," he said.

He's gotten to play both for the Dust Devils, and College World Series fans may remember a highlight-reel catch at the wall in left against Florida.

But where he's most likely to shine right away is at the plate.

"I like the one-on-one battles," Little said. "I'm more of an offensive player, but I'm no slouch in the outfield either."

In his first five games for Tri-City, Little is hitting .389 (7 for 18) with a double, four RBIs and two stolen bases. Keep that up, and chances are he won't be around the Tri-Cities for long.

"Obviously, the goal is to make it to the big leagues as fast as possible," Little said.

#PadresOnDeck: Top-30 Prospects Urías, Logan Allen, Olivares, Thompson Top Padres' Weekly Honor Roll

By Bill Center

Two position players and two pitchers from the Padres' Top-30 prospect list and three younger players at the lower levels of the system are the Padres On Deck Players of the Week for June 25-July 1.

The Players of the Week from [MLB Pipeline's Top-30 prospect list](#) in order of their rankings are N^o3 **Luis Urías**, N^o8 **Logan Allen**, N^o17 **Edward Olivares** and N^o23 **Mason Thompson**.

The Players of the Week from the lower levels are shortstop **Owen Miller**, corner infielder **Jason Pineda** and left-handed pitcher **Manuel Partida**.

The Padres On Deck Players of the Week:

Infielder Luis Urías (Triple-A El Paso) — Ranked the N^o31 prospect in all the minor leagues, Urías, 21, finished the week on a nine-game hitting streak (14-for-38). He was 11-for-28 last week with a double and six walks with seven runs scored and four RBIs for .393 batting average, a .500 on-base percentage, and a .429 slugging percentage for a .929 OPS. Urías, who is hitting .274, was voted to the Pacific Coast League All-Star team last week.

Left-handed starter Logan Allen (Double-A San Antonio) — The MLB Pipeline added the 21-year-old Allen to its Top-100 national prospect list last week at the No. 100 spot. In his lone start last week, Allen allowed one run on four hits and a walk with 10 strikeouts in seven innings. He was a member of the South Team in the Texas League All-Star team, but didn't pitch. On the season, Allen is 8–3 with a 2.66 earned run average and a 1.10 WHIP.

Center fielder Edward Olivares (Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore) — The Venezuelan is on a 10-game hitting streak — 16-for-42 (.381 with two RBIs and six runs scored) — since he went 1-for-2 in the California League All-Star Game. He was .11-for-25 (.440) last week with a double, a home run, two RBIs and two runs scored for a .560 slugging percentage and a 1.000 OPS. Olivares, 22, was acquired from Toronto in January for **Yangervis Solarte**.

Right-handed starter Mason Thompson (Single-A Fort Wayne) — The 6-foot-7, 190-pound 20-year-old was 2–0 over a pair of starts last week, giving up four runs on six hits and three walks with 16 strikeouts in 10 1/3 innings. The Padres' third-round pick in the 2016 draft out of Round Rock, Tex., is 6–4 with a 5.02 ERA in 15 games (14 starts this season). He also has a 1.40 WHIP and a .235 opponents' batting average with 67 strikeouts in 66 1/3 innings.

Shortstop Owen Miller (Short-Season Single-A Tri-City) — The 84th overall pick as the Padres' third round pick out of Illinois State in the draft earlier this month, the 21-year-old Miller was 11-for-31 last week (.355) with four runs scored and three RBIs. Miller is hitting .319 after 69 professional at-bats and leads the Northwest League in hits (22) while being tied for second in homers (two) and fourth in batting average and OPS (.814).

Left-handed pitcher Manuel Partida (Single-A Dominican Summer League) — Like Urías, the 17-year-old Partida is a native of Mexico. In two starts last week, the 6-foot-1, 175-pound Partida was 1–0 and

allowed no runs on three hits and a walk with 12 strikeouts in 11 innings for a 0.36 WHIP. On the season, Partida has a 1.31 ERA, a 0.87 WHIP and a .176 opponents' batting average with 24 strikeouts against five walks in 20 2/3 innings.

Corner infielder Jason Pineda (Arizona Rookie League) — A 17th-round selection in the 2017 draft out of Monroe High in Bronx, N.Y., the 18-year-old Pineda was 12-for-22 last week with five doubles, a triple, a home run, five runs scored and eight RBIs with three walks for an amazing slash line of .545/.600/1.045/1.645. He hit for the cycle June 25 and also had a three-hit games with two doubles.

#PadresOnDeck: Tatis Jr. Has 5 Hits in DH

Kennedy, Avila, Patiño Spin Gems; Potts, Ruiz Continue on the Offensive

By Bill Center Performance and movement were the key words in the Padres system Thursday.

Let's start with honors:

Shortstop **Fernando Tatis Jr.**, 19, (Double-A San Antonio) and second baseman **Luis Urías**, 21, (Triple-A El Paso) were named to represent the Padres on the World Team in the All-Star Futures Game July 15 in Washington, D.C. Outfielder **Buddy Reed** (Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore) will play on Team USA.

Turning to movement: Right-handed starter **Chris Paddack**, 22, was promoted from Lake Elsinore (where he had a 2.24 earned run average and 0.90 WHIP with 83 strikeouts and only four walks in 52 1/3 innings) to San Antonio. Paddack is the [Padres' eighth-ranked prospect by MLB Pipeline](#) and [No. 96 among all minor league players](#).

Other moves complementing that move saw left-handed starter **Jerry Keel** (6–3, 4.55 ERA) advance from San Antonio to Lake Elsinore and left-handed starter **Nick Margevicius** (5–5, 3.07 ERA) advance from Single-A Fort Wayne to Lake Elsinore.

Turning to Thursday's top performers:

— Tatis Jr., the [Padres' top-ranked prospect](#), was 5-for-8 with two runs scored to raise his batting average to .291 in a San Antonio doubleheader sweep that saw both games end as walk-off wins.

— Third baseman **Esteury Ruiz**, 19, the [Padres' N^o11 prospect](#), was 3-for-5 with two stolen bases (32 on the season) and three runs scored for Fort Wayne, where he is now hitting .265.

— Third baseman **Hudson Potts**, 19, the [Padres' N^o15 prospect](#), had a hand in both Lake Elsinore runs, going 2-for-3 with a double, a RBI and a run scored to raise his batting average to .268.

— Right-handed starter **Pedro Avila**, 21, the [Padres' N^o23 prospect](#), allowed one run on seven hits and a walk with seven strikeouts for Lake Elsinore to improve to 4–6 while lowering his ERA to 4.05.

— Right-hander **Luis Patiño**, 18, the [Padres' N^o24 prospect](#), allowed an unearned run on no hits and three walks with eight strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings to lower his ERA with Fort Wayne to 2.55.

— Right-hander **Brett Kennedy** (7–0, 2.58 ERA) allowed no runs on six hits and a walk with two strikeouts over seven inning for El Paso.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (47–40): Chihuahuas 3, SALT LAKE 2 — El Paso won for the 13th time in 16 games to open up a two-game lead in the Pacific Coast League Pacific Southern Division. RHP **Jonathan Aro** (4.05 ERA) followed Kennedy and allowed a hit with a strikeout in a scoreless inning. RHP **Phil Maton** (3.38) allowed two runs on three hits and a walk with a strikeout in a one-third of an inning. LHP **Brad Wieck** (11.25) retired the only two hitters he faced for his second save. DH **Franmil Reyes** (.332) was 2-for-5 with a RBI and a double. 2B **Uriás** (.279) was 1-for-4 with a walk and a RBI. SS **Javy Guerra** (.197) had a triple in four at-bats with a RBI and a run scored. CF **Auston**

Bousfield (.276) had a triple and a run scored in four at-bats. RF **Forrestt Allday** (.273) was 1-for-3 with a walk, a hit-by-pitcher and a run scored. C **Raffy Lopez** (.265) and 3B **Diego Goris** (.261) were each 1-for-4.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (8–6, 50–34): MISSIONS 4–4, Northwest Arkansas 3–3—RF **Nick Schulz** (.128) backed Tatis Jr., going 3-for-6 with a homer, two walks and four RBIs. LF-1B **Josh Naylor** was 2-for-5 with two walks and a run scored. DH-3B **Ty France** (.264) was 3-for-8 with a RBI and two runs scored. DH **Taylor Kohlwey** (.235) and LF **Rod Boykin** (.216) were each 2-for-4. C-1B **Webster Rivas** (.283) was 2-for-7. 2B **Peter Van Gansen** (.255) was 1-for-3. DH **Kyle Overstreet** (.265) was 1-for-5 with a walk. C **Austin Allen** (.305) was 1-for-4. 2B **Matthew Batten** (.309) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. RHP **Jesse Scholtens** (2.67 ERA) started the first game and allowed three runs on six hits and a walk with six strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings. LHP **Andres Munoz** (1–0, 0.00) issued a walk with a strikeout in 1 1/3 otherwise perfect innings to get the win. RHP **T.J. Weir** (3.29) started the second game and allowed a run on three hits with two strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings. RHP **Trevor Frank** (2.21) issued a walk with a strikeout in 2 1/3 hitless, scoreless innings. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** allowed two unearned runs on three hits with three strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings. RHP **Colby Blueberg** (1–0, 4.32) issued a walk with two strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings to get credit for the win.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (6–9, 40–45): STORM 2, Visalia 1—RHP **Dauris Valdez** (4.76 ERA) followed Avila and issued a walk with two strikeouts in an otherwise perfect 1 2/3 innings. RHP **Elliot Ashbeck** (1.94) allowed two hits with a strikeout in a scoreless inning for his third save. 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.255) backed Potts, going 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. C **Luis Torrens** (.265) was 1-for-3 with a RBI. SS **Allen Córdoba** (.105) had a triple in three at-bats. RF **Nate Easley** (.257) was 1-for-3.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (11–4, 43–41): TIN CAPS 6, Great Lakes 5 (10 innings)—Fort Wayne scored a walk-off win to win a fourth straight game. They have won 11 of the last 13 to take the second-half lead in the

Midwest League's East Division. RHP **Caleb Boushley** (2.38 ERA) followed Patiño and allowed an unearned run on a hit with a strikeout in 2 1/3 innings. RHP **Evan Miller** (3–2, 2.11) allowed three runs (two earned) on two hits and a walk with three strikeouts in two innings to get the win. RF **Tirso Ornelas** (.257) backed Ruiz, going 2-for-4 with a sacrifice fly, two RBIs and a run scored. CF **Robbie Podorsky** (.361) was 2-for-4 with a walk, a stolen base and two runs scored. C **Juan Fernandez** (.244) was 2-for-4 with a walk. 2B **Justin Lopez** (.225) was 1-for-3 with two walks and a RBI.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (9–12): SPOKANE 3, Dust Devils 1—SS **Owen Miller** (.338) was 3-for-3 with a double. LF **Grant Little** (.389) was 1-for-3 with a run scored. 1B **Justin Paulsen** (.256) was 1-for-4. Starting RHP **Cole Bellinger** (1–2, 4.24 ERA) allowed two runs (one earned) on two hits and a walk with nine strikeouts in six innings. RHP **Jonathan Guzman** (5.63) allowed a run on a hit and a walk in an inning. RHP **Dylan Coleman** (3.00) allowed two hits in a scoreless inning.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (17–12): PADRES 9, Diamondbacks 5—RF **Cristian Heredia** (.239) was 2-for-5 with a double and four RBIs. SS **Yeison Santana** (.255) was 0-for-1 with two walks, two runs scored and two sacrifice flies. 2B **Victor Nova** (.250) was 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Starting RHP **Mauricio Rodriguez** (1–1, 1.63 ERA) allowed four runs (one earned) on six hits with five strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings to earn the win. LHP **Jose Garcia** (0.71) allowed a hit with three strikeouts in 2 1/3 scoreless innings.

ARIZONA ROOKIE PADRES:

PADRES-1 (5–9): CUBS 3, Padres 1—3B **Carlos Luis** (.275) was 3-for-4. CF **Jawuan Harris** (.200) was 2-for-4 with a double and a stolen base. RHP **Luarbert Arias** (2.77 ERA) allowed a run on three hits and a walk with two strikeouts in five innings. RHP **Tom Colletti** (1.93) allowed two hits with two strikeouts in two scoreless innings.

PADRES-2 (7-7): PADRES 5, Rangers 3-2B **Tucupita Marcano** (.385) was 2-for-4 with a RBI. SS **Jordy Barley** (.228) was 1-for-3 with two steals, a sacrifice fly and a run scored. 3B **Elvis Sabala** (.321) was 1-for-3 with two runs scored. RF **Payton Smith** (.105) had a double in two at-bats with a walk, a RBI and a run scored. C **Alison Quintero** (.325) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Starting LHP **Noel Vela** (5.00) allowed a run on four hits with five strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings. LHP **Trent Shelton** (2-0, 0.00) allowed two hits with six strikeouts in 3 1/3 scoreless innings. LHP **Danny Sexton** (0.77) pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

Ray, Ross battle in third game of Padres-Diamondbacks series

FSSD, Stats

PHOENIX — The [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) were not expecting perfection from closer [Brad Boxberger](#), even though members of their front office had seen exactly that several years before.

Boxberger, back in the closer's role, converted his 21st save opportunity in Arizona's 3-1 victory over San Diego in the second game of a four-game series Friday. He is fifth in the league in saves, and his 84 percent conversion rate ranks near the top among his peers.

He came to Arizona after an eye-popping eyeball test. Boxberger is having the sort of success that general manager Mike Hazen and manager Torey Lovullo might have envisioned when they acquired him in a deal with Tampa Bay over the winter.

It is the sort of work they saw first-hand while in Boston during Boxberger's 41-save season with the Rays in 2015. Boxberger faced the Red Sox 11 times that season and was just about flawless. He did not allow a run while going 2-0 with six saves. He gave up five hits, all singles, and three walks while striking out 17 in 10 1/3 innings. Opposing hitters' slash line: .143/.143/.211.

The D-backs felt they acquired him at just the right time this offseason, after he spent the previous two seasons working through adductor, oblique and flexor muscle injuries.

"We felt he was on the up elevator when it came to health," said Lovullo, the bench coach in Boston from 2013-16. "We knew a healthy Brad Boxberger is going to be a very, very good closer for us."

Like Fernando Rodney last season, Boxberger has a fastball/changeup repertoire, a combination that has enabled him to log 41 strikeouts in 31 1/3 innings. Unlike Rodney, there is less drama.

"I've seen it very good," Lovullo said, "and I've seen it in live action on major league fields and I've heard major league hitters come back to the dugout talking about it. I know it creates a lot of discomfort for hitters."

Arizona left-hander [Robbie Ray](#) is scheduled to oppose San Diego right-hander Tyson Ross in the third game of the series Saturday night.

“There is nothing like those last three outs in the game,” Boxberger said “There is a lot of stuff that can happen. It is just a matter of being able to control that situation. Whatever happens, to be able to control it and shut the game down.

“The more time you do something, the more comfortable you get at it. Pitching in any back-end situation is going to have its high leverage and stress situations. It is just a matter of keeping a level head and manage your ability to get the hitter out.”

San Diego won the first game of the series with Wil Myers getting two hits and driving in two runs, but Myers was given a start off Friday after playing 13 consecutive games following his return from the disabled list June 21. He missed 47 games with a strained muscle in his side.

Myers is hitting .261 with a homer and eight RBIs since his return, and he has four two-hit games in his last eight. He homered last Saturday, tripled Thursday and also has three walks in the last four games.

“He’s getting more and more comfortable,” San Diego manager Andy Green said. “The 3-2 walks he had (in Oakland on Wednesday) were really good signs. They were battle at-bats, and the confidence to take close borderline pitches, that they are balls. I think when guys see the ball well, they eventually start hitting the ball well. He’s had good swings periodically. He hasn’t been in his groove or his rhythm. He’s been solid. We are waiting for him to be spectacular.”

Ray, 3-1 with a 4.89 ERA, will make his third start since returning from an oblique injury. He gave up six runs and nine hits in five innings to St. Louis in his only loss Monday. The Cardinals scored four runs in the first inning.

“They were swinging early,” said Ray, who hinted that he might have been tipping his pitches. “I don’t know if they had something that they saw. I just have to do a better job.”

Ray is 4-4 with a 3.98 ERA in nine career starts against the Padres.

Ross (5-6, 3.78 ERA) took a no-hitter into the eighth inning of his start April 20 at Chase Field, a game the Padres won but in which he did not receive a decision. He is 4-3 with a 2.52 ERA in 14 career appearances, including 13 starts, against Arizona.