



Padres Press Clips

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Article	Source	Author	Page
Padres notes: Bullpen makeover with velo trio; Yates' rest; Richard's struggles	SD Union Tribune	Acee	2
Reyes powers comeback as Padres avoid making history	SD Union Tribune	Acee	6
Padres notes: Brett Kennedy set for debut; Wil Myers progressing	SD Union Tribune	Acee	9
Austin Hedges get disciplined, offensive for Padres	SD Union Tribune	Acee	11
Brett Nicholas sends El Paso to 7th straight win	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	14
3 Padres OFs combine for 3 HRs, 10 RBIs in win	MLB.com	Cassavell	17
Padres plan to promote righty Nix this weekend	MLB.com	Cassavell	19
After dominating Triple-A, Kennedy set for debut	MLB.com	Cassavell	20
Villanueva's power among MLB's surprises	MLB.com	Justice	22
Myers' bone bruise raises questions	SD Padres	Center	25
Margot, Reyes rally Padres past Brewers 11-5	AP	AP	27
#PadresOnDeck: Cal Quantrill Sharp in Triple-A Debut; 2B Luis Urias Homers	FriarWire	Center	29
This Day in Padres History – 8/8	FriarWire	Center	33
Preview: Brewers vs. Padres	FOX Sports	AP	34

Padres notes: Bullpen makeover with velo trio; Yates' rest; Richard's struggles

[Kevin Acee](#)

The [Padres](#) bullpen is younger and drastically different than it was at the beginning of the season and even from what it was a few weeks ago.

What started as a group that derived its effectiveness from diversity now includes neither of the soft-throwing side-armers nor the lefty closer with the wicked slider but instead a trio of rookies whose fastballs regularly reside in the high-90s.

It wasn't until June that a Padres reliever broke 96 mph.

"We joked we were the slowest bullpen in the league," [Craig Stammen](#) said with a laugh.

No more.

When Trey Wingenter, in his major league debut, threw a pair of 98 mph fastballs past Christian Yelich in the ninth inning, the second on a swinging third strike, it was the first time this season a Padres pitcher other than Robert Stock hit that mark.

Stock earlier in Tuesday's 11-5 victory threw four pitches at 98 mph, bringing his season total to 44.

Jose Castillo hit a season high of 97.8 mph on Saturday in Chicago and regularly hits 95-96 mph.

“Our bullpen look has changed almost entirely from the beginning of the year,” manager Andy Green said. “It’s got more of a traditional bullpen look now with three real power guys in it. ... We’ve definitely changed. Either way, we’ve been successful in the bullpen with the other group, and I have no doubt we’ll be successful with this group too.”

The Padres bullpen ranks seventh in the majors in ERA (3.50), third in WHIP (1.19), fifth in strikeouts per nine innings (9.62) and second in innings pitched (441 2/3) this season.

“I don’t know that it’s in and of itself necessarily better,” Green said of the high-velocity arms his bullpen has added “It’s who the people are. These guys can pitch here.”

Said veteran Craig Stammen, who tops out between 91 and 92 mph and has relied on precision to forge his 2.41 ERA over a team-high 56 relief innings: “If you can pitch, you can pitch. It doesn’t matter how hard you throw.”

As if to accentuate that fact, Stock got the final strike of his scoreless eighth inning Tuesday on an 85 mph slider that had [Eric Thames](#) flailing without contact.

Where’s Kirby?

What would happen if a team got a new closer and never needed him to close?

That is essentially what has happened with the Padres and Kirby Yates, who took over the closer’s role when the Padres traded Brad Hand (along with Adam Cimber) to the Indians on July 9 for minor league catcher Francisco Mejia.

In the Padres’ 16 games since then, Yates has converted his only save opportunity and has pitched just four other times for a total of 5 2/3 innings.

He was up and ready to come in for another save try Tuesday before the Padres added two runs in the top of the ninth to take a six-run lead.

“I got my work in,” Yates said Tuesday night.

That's what he's been doing mostly – working in the bullpen and before games.

“You have to play catch with intent and be really locked in and make sure you feel right,” Yates said this weekend. “You try to stick to your routine, stay locked in your delivery and stay ready. ... The course of the season you're going to have bits where you're throwing five of seven days and then bits where you're not throwing much in seven days.”

After never going more than three days without pitching in a game from early April to the beginning of July, Yates threw a total of 79 pitches in four appearances over the 14 days between his save on July 23 in New York and his mop-up duty Sunday in Chicago.

Richard survives

What could be said about Clayton Richard through a good portion of this season is that he gave the Padres a chance to win.

On Tuesday, as the veteran pitcher's struggles stretched into a second month, his teammates gave him that chance.

Richard didn't end up with the win in the Padres' 7-5 come-from-behind victory over the Brewers. But he had a chance, and he most improbably didn't get the loss either.

After giving up a pair of two-run homers in the first inning, Richard lasted five innings and the Padres tied the game a batter after he was removed for a pinch-hitter and had the go-ahead run at third base before the inning ended.

“He managed to get through five,” Green said. “His stuff was up in the first inning. They were squaring him up. It was impressive to see him get through five, given that context and the way it started. He kept us in the ballgame and let us claw our way back.”

So the night ended better than it might have. But the Padres are still left with their 34-year-old left-hander struggling with his command and unable to keep runs off the board.

Richard has allowed 34 earned runs in his past eight starts, going just 42 innings in that span. That's a 7.29 ERA while not getting to the sixth inning in four of those eight starts after going at least that long in his previous nine.

Extra bases

- [Eric Hosmer](#) was 1-for-5 and is one game short of matching his season-high 14-game on-base streak. Hosmer is hitting .320 with a .404 on-base percentage in that span.
- [Manuel Margot](#)'s career-high five RBIs on Tuesday were the most by a Padres lead-off hitter since Damien Jackson had five RBIs on Aug. 22, 2000 against the Mets.
- All three of the Padres' starting outfielders (Franmil Reyes, Manuel Margot and Hunter Renfroe) hit home runs for the first time since [Carlos Quentin](#), [Will Venable](#) and [Chris Denorfia](#) did so on July 14, 2013 against San Francisco.

Reyes powers comeback as Padres avoid making history

[Kevin Acee](#)

Franmil Reyes was not among the [Padres](#)' collection of prospects that is the envy of baseball.

The then-22-year-old right fielder was even left unprotected before last year's Rule 5 draft, when any team could have added him to their major league roster for the pittance of \$100,000 paid to the Padres.

Too many holes in the big man's big swing and a giant hole in his glove left him a minor leaguer in a loaded system.

Now he's in his third stint as major leaguer and trying to remain one forever.

The 6-foot-5, 275-pound right fielder helped himself toward that end with what he did Tuesday night, going 3-for-3 with a home run and a game-deciding two-run double in an 11-5 win over the [Brewers](#), which gave the Padres a second consecutive victory for the first time since June.

"Franmil has been great since he's been back," manager Andy Green said. "It's fun watching him get some opportunity and run with it."

Reyes was matter-of-fact after his second straight game with a home run.

"It's not just take advantage," he said. "It's, 'Make it happen every single pitch, every single at-bat.' I have to give my 100 percent. I really want the opportunity to stay here. I want to make the space for myself."

He's in a crowded outfield that also features [Hunter Renfroe](#), who also homered for the second straight night, his two-run blasé extending the Padres' lead to 9-5 in the eighth inning.

Then there is center fielder Manuel Margot, who homered in the fifth and hit a bloop triple in the ninth to give him five RBIs.

The right-handed hitting Reyes started in place of left-handed [Travis Jankowski](#) even though the Padres were facing righty Chase Anderson.

Anderson's effectiveness is in his pitch mix and use of spin. Jankowski is batting .278 on fastballs and .195 on breaking pitches. Also, Anderson entered the game having allowed 14 home runs at [Miller Park](#), most of any Brewers pitcher this season.

“Franmil has a chance to hit one a long way at any point in time in this ballpark,” Green said before the game.

After the game, Green said, “Yeah, I start the guy that hit a homer the game before, hit it 477 feet. That’s genius.”

That decision at least helped overcome another crucial one that didn’t work out.

With runners at the corners, [Freddy Galvis](#)’ safety squeeze attempt resulted in Renfroe being thrown out at the plate for the second out of the seventh inning. The next batter was Reyes, who ripped a double to left-center field off All-Star Josh Hader that gave the Padres their first lead.

“I said, ‘This pitcher is one of the best in the big leagues right now,’ ” Reyes said. “I was just waiting for one pitch to do damage. I got it. I took advantage of it.”

The Padres have now won three of five and the two straight.

It had been 45 games since they put together even the minimum winning streak, a span that dates to June 13 when they left St. Louis having taken the final two games of a series against the [Cardinals](#).

The victory avoided another ignominious distinction for a team still barely on pace for a 99-loss season. The Padres’ record for games without back-to-back victories is 48, set in 1974.

To do so, they had to come back from a 4-0 deficit that came on a pair of two-run homers off starter Clayton Richard in the first inning.

After going down in order in the first and second, the Padres scored in the final seven innings, their longest such streak since June 24, 2016 at Cincinnati.

Richard ended up lasting five innings. Phil Maton got the first two outs of the sixth inning before being replaced by Matt Strahm, who got the win to improve to 3-3 because his three-pitch strikeout of [Eric Thames](#) preceded the Padres' two-run seventh.

Trey Wingenter pitched a perfect ninth inning in his major league debut, which included his blowing a 98 mph fastball over the bat of Christian Yelich for the second out.

Reyes, though, arguably made the biggest step on Tuesday.

He plodded around big-league camp for a while this spring and a torrid start in Triple-A got him his first call-up in mid-May.

There were highlights (six home runs in his first 59 at-bats) and lowlights (a total of 39 strikeouts in 92 at-bats and no homers in his final 33 at-bats). He was sent down June 20 with instructions to shorten his stride and speed up his hands.

“He’s such a smart guy,” Green said. “His mind really works. He immediately made that adjustment. That served him well. He’s getting to plus velocity now. That first time up that stuff was getting by him. You’re starting to see walks and higher quality at-bats. Franmil can hit, and I think everybody is starting to see that.”

Padres notes: Brett Kennedy set for debut; Wil Myers progressing

[Kevin Acee](#)

It had been clear for some time the [Padres](#) were on the verge of making Brett Kennedy a major leaguer.

But it was still a shock for Kennedy on Sunday when he was called into the office of El Paso Chihuahuas manager [Rod Barajas](#) and told he wouldn't be making his scheduled start the next day against the [Round Rock Express](#) and instead would be pitching Wednesday in Milwaukee.

"I don't think it's ever not going to be a surprise," Kennedy said Tuesday, on the eve of his major league debut. "For me, I was just pitching as good as I could and forcing their hand. I thought something might happen. But you're definitely caught off-guard by something this big in your life."

The 24-year-old right-hander, drafted in the 11th round in 2015, was 10-0 with a 2.72 ERA in Triple-A this season.

After a brief stay in his first major league camp this spring, he began his first Triple-A campaign with a new mindset.

"Just getting used to what you have to do at this level to get guys out," Kennedy said of his [spring training](#) experience. "... I think I tried to do a little bit too much. Then you go to Triple-A and you realize you don't have to change your game. Just work off what works.

"It was going out there and trying to give my team six or seven innings. In the past I was worried about stats and ERA and not giving up runs. I took kind of a broad perspective."

Kennedy, whose fastball generally runs from 90-93 mph, pitches to contact even more this season, relying on changing speeds and throwing all over the zone.

His strikeouts per nine innings were down (8.6 to 8.1), but so were his walks and hits per innings pitched (1.21 to 1.12) and his ERA (3.70 to 2.72). And that is not only making the jump from Double-A to Triple-A but from the pitcher-friendly Texas League to the hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League.

Kennedy will be the fourth starting pitcher to make his major league debut for the Padres this season. None of the others have made it out of the fifth inning, and they have combined for a 10.32 ERA. All three talked afterward about the difficulty of remaining calm and pitching as if it were any other game.

“I heard it’s definitely a difficult thing to do,” Kennedy said. “You’ve never been in that situation before. I’m going to try to simple it down to it’s me on the mound and a catcher. I’ve done that my whole life. ... Focus on what I can do and that’s go out there and compete. That’s what I want to do is compete. I love it.”

Extra bases

- Left fielder [Wil Myers](#) appears on track to return when he is eligible to come off the disabled list on Aug. 13. Myers, who went down Thursday with a bone bruise after fouling a pitch off his foot, is walking without a limp and expected to begin jogging Tuesday.
- Eric Lauer reported feeling good Tuesday after playing catch for the first time since being placed on the DL with a forearm strain on July 31. It is possible Lauer could return by the end of the week without making a rehab start.
- [Jordan Lyles](#), who pitched in 29 games for the Padres since they signed him last August, was claimed off waivers by the [Brewers](#) on Sunday and in uniform with his new team for the first time on Tuesday. Yet he is still with the Padres — staying at the same downtown hotel as his old team until he figures out other housing.

Analysis | Austin Hedges gets disciplined, offensive for Padres

[Kevin Acee](#)

Austin Hedges is what the [Padres](#) and their fans are looking for.

Whether he keeps up his recent offensive surge is important, but it is not the point right now.

That the Padres catcher is hitting — and why he's hitting — is among the signs the club and its followers need to see to make the rest of this season worthwhile.

A little less than a week after returning from a 49-game stay on the disabled list due to elbow tendinitis, Hedges began hitting as he never had before and many wondered if he ever would.

Since June 30, his .313 average ranks fifth among major league catchers with at least 70 plate appearances in that span. His .313 on-base percentage is fourth, and his .588 slugging percentage ranks second.

Hedges was hitting .180/.232/.292 on June 29 and had not in any of his previous 212 career games had a 24-game stretch like the one he takes into Tuesday night's series opener against the [Brewers](#).

It is how he is accomplishing his upturn that is startling — and significant.

Yes, Hedges changed his follow-through yet again and altered his stance to give himself a better base, the latter of which helps him see the ball better. But he said, "It's 90 percent mental. It's a decision."

The change is pretty basic — the easiest thing to say and, for many Padres batters, hardest thing to do.

Simply put, in Hedges' words: "Swinging at good pitches and taking bad pitches. Working counts. A lot of good at-bats."

Over those 24 games (89 plate appearances) since the last day of June, Hedges has a chase rate (swings at pitches outside the strike zone) of 29.8 percent, which is down almost seven percent from his first 28 games of the season.

If he were to sustain close to this sort of plate discipline over the course of a season, it would put him in the upper half of all major league hitters.

Hedges actually started having better at-bats earlier than this stretch, and his 31.6 chase rate is down markedly from last season's 37.9 percent.

Over these past 24 games, he has seen seven or more pitches in 11 plate appearances. He had three such at-bats in his first 28 games.

"Even if I get out, at least I'm up there grinding, sticking to what I'm looking for," he said. "Whether it's a strike or a ball, I'm not swinging at (an undesirable pitch) as much. It's allowing me to get more mistakes. It's been fun to grow like that."

Hitting coach Matt Stairs, who has largely declined to discuss hitters' apparent improvement until they sustain it for a month, believes Hedges is on a path for good.

"He's squaring the ball," Stairs said. "... There's a lot of little things he's very good at doing after we talk about them."

Hedges' season OBP has been at .299 or higher for the past four games — not a long time, nor as high as it should be. But when it climbed past .278 in July, it was the only time Hedges' OBP had been that high in his career besides when he went 1-for-3 in his first game of 2016.

Seeing whether Hedges' transformation sticks is among the things to look for over the season's final two months.

If it does, the Padres have one of those "good problems." They acquired Francisco Mejia, the top catching prospect in the minors, in a trade that sent relievers Adam

Cimber and Brad Hand to Cleveland last month. At the time, it was easy to label Mejia as the offensive catcher and Hedges as the defensive catcher.

How the Padres choose to work out their playing time — possibly having Mejia play games in the outfield and/or at third base at times — would be a welcome logistical challenge for a team that has for too long had too few such issues.

The Padres are on their way to a 12th straight season without reaching the playoffs, an eighth consecutive losing season and the second time in three years they will finish in last place in the [National League West](#).

Supposedly, there is an end in sight to this suffering.

A new kind of Padres team that not only wins but string together winning seasons and challenge for the team's first World Series title will likely be largely made up of players not here yet. The organization's riches lie in El Paso, San Antonio, Lake Elsinore, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Pasco, Wash., sites of their minor league affiliates.

But some of the players here now have to be a part of a winning major league product as well.

Finding out which ones is a big part of what the final two months of the 2018 season are about.

Hedges evidently got a jump on that about a month ago.

Minors Brett Nicholas sends El Paso to 7th straight win

[Jeff Sanders](#)

Brett Nicholas continues to make the most of his opportunity in the [Padres](#) system.

The 30-year-old catcher came off the bench Tuesday to single in two runs in the bottom of the ninth in [Triple-A El Paso's 7-6 walk-off win](#) over visiting Round Rock, El Paso's 12th win in its last 14 games and seventh in a row.

The two RBIs gave him a system-best 77 in 97 games since the Padres acquired him for a player to be named later or cash after he was outrighted of the Rangers' 40-man roster late in [spring training](#).

Nicholas is hitting .307/.363/.519 with 15 homers and 28 doubles. He played first base in Tuesday's win after **Forrestt Allday** (.291) exited after going 1-for-4 with a double and two runs scored.

Catcher **Francisco Mejia** (.341) went 0-for-4 with an RBI and designated hitter **Raffy Lopez** (.291), first baseman **Allen Craig** (.303) and shortstop **Javy Guerra** (.218) all collected two hits.

Left-hander **Jerry Keel** (3.60) started the game with three runs in five innings and left-hander **Brad Wieck** (2-0, 4.40) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

Right-hander **Kazuhisa Makita** (3.26) allowed three runs in 1 2/3 innings and right-hander **Rowan Wick** (2.30) allowed two hits in 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

El Paso is 65-49.

Morejon DL'd again

For the second time this half, left-hander **Adrian Morejon** has landed on high single-A Lake Elsinore's disabled list. The latest injury is a triceps injury that forced him out of the game in the second inning Sunday, his second Cal League appearance since returning from a muscular strain in his forearm.

Morejon will not throw over the next 10 days before building back up on a restricted pitch count.

With a little more than three weeks left to the season, it is unlikely that Morejon pitches again for the Storm.

Morejon, the sixth-ranked prospect in the system according to MLB.com, is 4-4 with a 3.30 ERA, 70 strikeouts and a 1.24 WHIP in 62 2/3 innings in the California League.

NWL All-Stars lose

Tri-City shortstop **Owen Miller** went 1-for-4 and drove in two runs as a starter in the [Northwest League's 13-10 loss](#) to the Pioneer League in a cross-circuit all-star game.

Second baseman **Olivier Basabe** (.000) also started the game and went 0-for-3 with an RBI, while right-hander **Henry Henry** allowed two runs on four hits while striking out three in the first inning.

Right-hander **Jordan Guerrero** allowed a run on a walk in his inning of work.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (22-22, 64-50)

- [Springfield 5, Missions 4](#): RHP **Lake Bachar** (2-6, 5.91) allowed five runs – three earned – on six hits and three walks in five innings in the start. RHP **Andres Munoz** (1.50) pitched a scoreless ninth. 1B Josh Naylor (.306) went 3-for-4 with two doubles and a walk and SS **Peter Van Gansen** (.263), 3B Ty France (.263) and 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.273) all had two hits.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (22-23, 56-59)

- **Visalia 4, Storm 2:** RHP **Bryan Mitchell** (0-2, 5.40) allowed three runs – two earned – on four hits and three walks in four innings in his second rehab start. RHP **Reggie Lawson** (4.74) followed with one run allowed in five innings. LF **Nate Easley** (.272) went 2-for-3 with two doubles, an RBI, a walk and a run scored.

ROOKIE AZL PADRES 1 (8-3, 18-21)

- **Giants 9, Padres 0 (7):** RHP **Jeferson Garcia** (3-2, 5.40) allowed eight runs – five earned – in four innings. DH **Nick Gatewood** (.269) went 1-for-3 with a double.
- **Padres 6, Giants 2 (7):** LHP **Omar Fernandez** (1-0, 3.86) allowed an unearned run in two innings in relief in the win after RHP **Dalton Erb** (2.88) allowed an unearned run in four innings in the start. 1B **Lee Solomon** (.327) went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI, C **Michael Cantu** (.262) went 2-for-4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored and 2B **Jarryd Dale** (.207) doubled in two runs. 3B **Luis Guzman** (.319) went 2-for-3 with a double and a run scored.

ROOKIE AZL PADRES 2 (5-5, 20-18)

- **Cubs 6, Padres 4:** LHP **Hazahel Quijada** (1-2, 3.06) allowed four runs – one earned – on one hit and three walks in 1 2/3 innings. 3B **Jonny Homza** (.242) went 3-for-4 with a double and two RBIs and C **Alison Quintero** (.276) went 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (30-26)

- **Padres 4, Orioles 1:** RHP **Sergio Carrizoza** (3-1, 2.43) struck out five over four shutout innings in the win and RHP **Jose Garcia** (1.85) saved his third game with two shutout innings. RF **Junior Perez** (.170) went 1-for-2 with an RBI and two walks.

3 Padres OFs combine for 3 HRs, 10 RBIs in win

Reyes, Margot and Renfroe all go deep to lead Padres' offense

By AJ Cassavell

MILWAUKEE -- The Padres' long-term outfield plans are still wide open. Tuesday night offered quite the audition.

[Franmil Reyes](#), [Manuel Margot](#) and [Hunter Renfroe](#) all went deep in an 11-5 victory over the Brewers at Miller Park. The trio combined to go 8-for-14 with 10 RBIs, and San Diego's 11th run scored when Margot motored home on a throwing error following an RBI triple in the ninth.

While [Wil Myers](#) battles a left foot contusion, Reyes, Margot and Renfroe will continue to have a chance to earn more playing time -- both now and in the future. Thus far, they've seized upon that opportunity.

"It's fun," Padres manager Andy Green said. "You want to see those guys rise up."

Reyes reached base in all four of his plate appearances, notching a career-high three hits. He homered in the fourth, but his loudest contribution was a go-ahead two-run double in the seventh against Brewers All-Star reliever [Josh Hader](#).

"This pitcher is one of the best in the big leagues right now," said Reyes, whose go-ahead double came off the bat at 108 mph and went to left-center field. "I was just waiting for one pitch to do damage. I got it. I took advantage of it."

Renfroe, who went 2-for-6, extended the Padres' lead to 9-5 in the eighth with a two-run homer into the left-field seats. Margot went 3-for-5 with a career-high five RBIs, which included a solo homer in the fifth and a game-tying sacrifice fly in the sixth.

Margot scored on a "Little League home run" in the ninth when he tripled over the head of left fielder [Christian Yelich](#) and scored when [Jonathan Schoop](#) made a wild throw to third on the cutoff. It marked the seventh consecutive inning in which San Diego scored.

The Padres have long believed that Margot could be their center fielder of the future, which he continues to look like he could be. For Reyes, Renfroe and [Travis Jankowski](#), however, it could be a three-player battle for one spot when Myers returns.

"You just want to see them compete to win baseball games and have fun," Green said. "It'll figure itself out in time. Obviously, they're sitting there with opportunity right now, and you want to see them take advantage of it."

Starter [Clayton Richard](#) allowed four runs in the first, giving up two-run homers to [Jesus Aguilar](#) and [Mike Moustakas](#). But Richard settled in for five innings, allowing only one more run.

Richard wasn't his sharpest, allowing seven hits and striking out three. But five Padres relievers combined to toss four scoreless frames as the offense continued to pad its lead.

"At some point in time, everybody had a big at-bat that put us in a position to come back and win that baseball game," Green said.

EASY AS 1-2-3

Right-hander [Trey Wingenter](#) made his big league debut with a six-run lead in the bottom of the ninth. But he wasn't exactly handed a soft landing.

Wingenter faced a trio of National League All-Stars in [Lorenzo Cain](#), Yelich and [Jesus Aguilar](#). The 6-foot-7 righty retired them in order, getting Cain to fly out to center, Yelich to strike out swinging and Aguilar to ground out to first base.

"I was just trying to control it, keep the ball from going to the backstop" Wingenter said.

Wingenter posted a 3.45 ERA in 40 games for Triple-A El Paso this season. With [Brad Hand](#), [Adam Cimber](#) and [Jordan Lyles](#) no longer in the Padres' bullpen, Wingenter is expected to get an extended look during the season's final two months.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

[Freddy Galvis](#) is making dazzling plays nearly every night. On Tuesday, he made one in the seventh, after the Padres had just taken a two-run lead on Reyes' double.

Cain led off by sending a grounder toward the hole between third and shortstop. Galvis ranged three steps to his right, then made a sliding backhanded stop. From his knees, he made a perfect throw to first, getting Cain by half a step.

Is there anything Galvis does with his glove that surprises Green anymore?

"No, not really," Green said. "I suppose if he made an error, it would. But he didn't do that."

HE SAID IT

"I know I deserve to be here. I feel comfortable right now, really comfortable." -- *Reyes, on his maturation in the big leagues*

UP NEXT

Right-hander Brett Kennedy makes his long-awaited big league debut when the series against the Brewers continues at 5:10 p.m. PT on Wednesday. In a loaded San Diego farm system, Kennedy isn't a top-30 prospect, but he's been dominant in the hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League this season, where he went 10-0 with a 2.72 ERA in 16 starts. Kennedy will oppose former Padres right-hander [Jhoulys Chacin](#), who starts for the Brewers.

Padres plan to promote righty Nix this weekend

The club's No. 14 prospect has 1.84 ERA in Minors this season

By AJ Cassavell

MILWAUKEE -- The Padres' second-half youth movement is in full-swing, and it appears right-hander Jacob Nix will be the next to move up to the big leagues.

San Diego is expected to promote Nix later this week, MLB.com has learned. The club has not yet confirmed the move. It seems likely Nix starts against the Phillies this weekend at Petco Park, after posting a 1.84 ERA between Double-A San Antonio and Triple-A El Paso this season.

Nix is the Padres' [No. 14 prospect](#) per MLB Pipeline. Given the club's highly-ranked farm system, evaluators are confident Nix would fall in the top 10 on most other clubs.

The 22-year-old righty was a third-round pick in the 2015 Draft. On Saturday, he pitched six scoreless innings in his only start for El Paso this season. He posted a 2.05 ERA in nine outings for San Antonio.

The move isn't particularly surprising. When the Padres allowed [Tyson Ross](#) and [Jordan Lyles](#) to be claimed off waivers over the weekend, they made it clear that they'd be turning to their young pitchers. Right-hander Brett Kennedy had his contract selected on Tuesday and will make his big league debut on Wednesday against Milwaukee.

Nix was one of several prospects who needed to be added to the 40-man roster by December or risk being taken in the Rule 5 Draft. The Padres figured they should get an early look at the right-hander.

It's unclear how long Nix's first big league opportunity will last, with [Eric Lauer](#) working his way back from left forearm tightness. Nix's performance could affect that decision.

After dominating Triple-A, Kennedy set for debut

Righty went 10-0 with 2.72 ERA for El Paso, will start vs. Brewers on Wednesday

By AJ Cassavell

MILWAUKEE -- In a loaded Padres farm system, right-hander Brett Kennedy wasn't a top-30 prospect. He was an 11th-round pick -- No. 327 overall in the 2015 Draft -- as a senior out of Fordham University. He turned 24 on Saturday and still hasn't garnered much national attention.

But make no mistake: Kennedy earned his way to the big leagues. And if he keeps pitching well, he'll earn the right to stay.

Kennedy will make his Major League debut Wednesday night, when he starts the second game of the Padres' three-game series against the Brewers in Milwaukee. Kennedy went 10-0 at Triple-A El Paso this season, posting a 2.72 ERA over 16 starts in the extremely hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League.

"For me, it was just about pitching as well as I could at Triple-A and forcing their hand," Kennedy said.

Kennedy is the beneficiary of the Padres' decision to cut ties with [Tyson Ross](#) and [Jordan Lyles](#), who were claimed off waivers by the Cardinals and Brewers, respectively, on Sunday. Neither factored into the organization's long-term plans.

Kennedy might, so it was time to take a look. The Padres' so-called "rotation of the future" is still wide open. There's not a single pitcher on the staff with a guaranteed place.

"He's got sitting out in front of him the opportunity to pitch in the big leagues," Padres manager Andy Green said. "We didn't bring him up with the anticipation of one outing, and that's it. We brought him up with the anticipation of: 'Let's see what you can do here.'"

"He's earned that right. You don't see many guys with [2.72] ERAs in the PCL. You don't see guys that have won pretty much every game they've pitched this year in the PCL."

In some ways, Kennedy's arrival felt like a long time coming. The Padres' rotation struggled in July. It was a matter of time before the club turned over the bulk of its starting opportunities to its youngsters.

To his credit, Kennedy didn't view it that way.

"You look at things and try to worry about what you can control," Kennedy said. "What I could control is going out there and pitching. Every day I went out and tried to become the best pitcher I could. That's something I still have to do."

"The Padres have a plan for everyone. For me, they had a plan. If now is when they wanted me, then now I want to go out there and help the team win."

Injury updates

- Left fielder **Wil Myers** (left foot contusion) is expected to begin running on Wednesday. Myers is out of the walking boot he wore during the weekend and is walking with no noticeable limp, Green said. The Padres are optimistic Myers could return next week, but that remains up in the air until Myers begins running at full speed.
- Left-hander **Eric Lauer** (left forearm tightness) played catch on Monday, and the Padres are close to mapping out a progression for him to return to the mound. Lauer was placed on the disabled list last week.

Villanueva's power among MLB's surprises

By Richard Justice

This isn't about what we expected to happen. This is about the things that have surprised or stood out. Some of it is players. Some of it is teams. All in all, it's a reminder that baseball seasons never ever play out the way we think, and that's the beauty of the thing.

Here we go with 30 teams and 30 things we didn't see coming:

NL EAST

Braves -- [Ronald Acuna Jr.](#) is as good as advertised. Not just good, but scary good. At all of 20 years old, Major League Baseball is not supposed to look this easy. Acuna is part of what has made this season a magical ride for the Braves.

Marlins -- [Brian Anderson](#) showed the Marlins enough at the end of last season to jump onto their radar. But they never expected he would be this good. His 109 hits before the All-Star break tied Rocco Baldelli for the second-most by an MLB rookie since 2003.

Mets -- [Jacob deGrom](#) has been arguably the National League's best pitcher this season, and that's the only predictable part of his story. Here's what no one could have seen coming: Despite allowing fewer than three earned runs 17 times and more than three just once, he has a 5-7 record.

Nationals -- [Juan Soto](#) was 19 years old and had played eight games above Class A when he was summoned to the Majors on May 20. Soto homered in his second game and hit .342 in his first month. He has barely slowed down since.

Phillies -- We knew it would happen. The Phillies had hired too many smart people and had too many good Drafts for it not to go down. We just didn't think it would happen after three seasons in which no team had lost more games. If it's about pitching, the Phillies have a terrific chance to win the NL East for the first time since 2011. They've got the third-best ERA in the NL (and best in the East).

NL CENTRAL

Brewers -- [Jesus Aguilar](#) is that breakout player who keeps scouts and executive awake nights attempting to project how a little-used player would project over 162 games.

Cardinals -- The Cardinals have played their best baseball of the season at a time when only one member of their starting rotation is older than 25 years old. They've got a 23-year-old ([Dakota Hudson](#)) and a 21-year-old ([Jordan Hicks](#)) in the bullpen. Regardless of how this season plays out, the future is bright for the Cardinals.

Cubs -- [Javier Baez](#) had long since established himself as a catalyst type of player when this season began. At times, his energy overcame some holes in this game. This season has established himself as a legitimate star and a cornerstone player.

Pirates -- Manager Clint Hurdle accomplished what only the really good skippers do. That is, he kept his team together and focused on pushing ahead in the worst of times. From a 40-48 start, the Pirates have won 17 of 25 since -- the best record in the NL in that timespan -- as the Pirates try to play themselves into the thick of the postseason conversation.

Reds -- [Eugenio Suarez](#) had a breakout season in 2017 with 26 home runs and an .828 OPS. Then, he did something some of us did not see coming: He got better. His OPS is up more than 100 points and he has already matched his homer total from last season.

NL WEST

D-backs -- [Clay Buchholz](#) has had a career rebirth at 33. In 10 starts since joining the D-backs' rotation on May 20 -- and then missing a month with a strained left oblique -- he has allowed more than three runs once.

Dodgers -- [Matt Kemp](#) returned to the Dodgers last offseason but was expected to be traded before he got on the field. Instead, he surprised almost everyone with an All-Star-caliber season.

Giants -- [Dereck Rodriguez](#)'s debut on May 29 was notable for his being the son of Hall of Famer Ivan Rodriguez. In 13 appearances since, he has shown that he's going to have a bright and shiny career of his own.

Padres -- [Christian Villanueva](#) has 20 of San Diego's 99 home runs and has more than established himself as one of the pillars on which the roster can be built in the years ahead.

Rockies -- [Trevor Story](#) burst onto the scene in 2016 with 27 home runs and a .341 OBP. He then struggled enough in '17 that some surely wondered if that rookie season had been a fluke. This year, he played his way onto the NL All-Star team and has kept his production going at a high level.

AL EAST

Blue Jays -- [Lourdes Gurriel Jr.](#) is usually mentioned behind some of the more famous members of the Toronto [Minor League system](#) (Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Bo Bichette, Cavan Biggio). But he was the first to make the Majors this summer and has been everything the Blue Jays hoped he'd be.

Orioles -- [Adam Jones](#) surprised some by vetoing a trade to the Phillies at the non-waiver Trade Deadline even though it was a chance to return to the postseason. If the Orioles would like to re-sign him for 2019 and beyond, he seems willing to be the role model and leader he was for the previous rebuild.

Rays -- That crazy pitching thing works. Since the Rays began opening some games with relievers and playing mix-and-match for nine innings, their 3.55 ERA is the third-best in the American League.

Red Sox -- Sometimes, perfection. That's the story of the 2018 Red Sox, who began Tuesday on a pace to win 113 games, which would be the most since the ['01 Mariners won an AL-record 116](#). Their offense is good. So is their pitching. Their rookie manager, Alex Cora, has been excellent. Any other questions?

Yankees -- [Gleyber Torres](#) was not overhyped, which is saying plenty considering that greatness had been bestowed on him when he was a teenager. He made his MLB debut on April 22, and until the last couple of weeks he hadn't really had anything approaching a meaningful slump.

AL CENTRAL

Indians -- [Trevor Bauer](#) is having the season forecast for him since he was the third overall pick of the 2011 Draft. He's leading the AL in innings and is ranked in the top 10 in almost every relevant category, including 11.6 strikeouts per nine innings.

Royals -- [Whit Merrifield](#) is still a member of the Royals, which qualifies as a significant surprise. Given his versatility -- at least five starts at five positions -- and his .803 OPS entering Tuesday, he seemed to be the kind of player who would bring multiple prospects in a trade. Instead, Royals GM Dayton Moore makes it clear he'd like Merrifield to be part of this rebuild.

Tigers -- [Jeimer Candelario](#) has had stretches when he has looked like a future All-Star third baseman. At other times, he has struggled mightily, and that's the point of a season like this one, when the Tigers have remained focus on 2019 and beyond, determined to give youngsters like Candelario the freedom to grow and learn.

Twins -- [Jake Cave](#) was acquired from the Yankees late in Spring Training and has taken advantage of regular playing time in center field. Entering Tuesday, he was hitting .306 with seven doubles, two triples and two home runs since July 1.

White Sox -- [Carlos Rodon](#)'s return from Tommy John surgery has gone smoothly. Since making his first start of the season on June 9, he has crafted a 2.94 ERA and allowed more than two earned runs only twice.

AL WEST

Angels -- [Mike Trout](#) did the very thing that seemed almost impossible. Already recognized as the best player in the game, he has gotten even better in 2018, with career highs in OPS, OBP and OPS+. His 20 intentional walks are the most in baseball.

Astros -- [Alex Bregman](#) had 19 home runs and an .827 OPS in his first full MLB season in 2017. If some thought that might be his ceiling, he has gotten significantly better in '18, having already passed his career high in home runs and earning All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award honors.

Athletics -- The A's needed 73 games just to get above .500 for good. And then they took off and appear to be cruising toward their first postseason appearance in four years. Their 33-10 record since June 16 (before Tuesday) is the best in baseball.

Mariners -- [Edwin Diaz](#) is doing an excellent imitation of a young Mariano Rivera. He has appeared in 55 games and made good on 42 of 45 save chances. In 25 of his 41 saves, he faced the minimum three batters in a one-inning appearance.

Rangers -- [Rougned Odor](#) has established himself as the emotional leader of the Rangers during a season in which he has upgraded his game across the board.

Myers' bone bruise raises questions

Notes on Hosmer, Margot, Hedges, Renfroe

By Bill Center | San Diego Padres

Bill Center, longtime sportswriter for U-T San Diego, is an employee of the Padres.

Without question, the scariest injury in baseball involves the ulnar collateral ligament in a pitcher's elbow. The hint of "Tommy John" surgery to anyone gives me chills.

But there is another injury that has always thrown me for a loss.

That is the "bone bruise."

I've seen players return quickly from bone bruises. I've seen others miss almost half of a season. I've learned that bone bruises might be the hardest injury to project a return.

Right now, Padres' left fielder Wil Myers is on the 10-day disabled list with a bone bruise of his left foot. He suffered the contusion/bone bruise August 2 when he fouled a ball off his left foot.

Here's hoping Myers returns August 13.

But I am concerned for several reasons.

The left foot is weight bearing. Myers can't return until the foot can bear the load of his body under baseball activities. Can that amount of healing take place in 10 days? Yes. But will it?

And this is Myers' third trip to the disabled list this season. He missed 16 games in April with a nerve issue in the tricep of his left arm. Then he missed 49 games with a left oblique strain, another type of injury that only time can heal.

I'd love to see Myers back by mid-August, but I don't think it's something that can be counted upon. Bone bruises mystify me. They defy a traditional healing process.

Meanwhile, Myers was having a strange run dating back to June 7, the night he hit three homers in Arizona.

Starting with his three-homer game, Myers went 23-for-91 to the time of his injury with seven doubles, seven homers, five walks, 11 runs scored and 19 RBIs over 20 games for a slash line of .253/.292/.560/.852.

The batting average and on-base percentages were low while the slugging percentage and OPS were respectable.

The most puzzling statistic was 33 strikeouts in those 91 at-bats - meaning Myers was striking out 36 percent of the time. He struck out at least once in 13 straight games with one game of four strikeouts and two of three. Over the 20 games, he had 13 games with two or more strikeouts.

NOTEBOOK:

--1B Eric Hosmer's nine-game hitting streak ended last Friday. But he has hit safely in 11 of the last 12 games and 14 of the last 17. Since July 14, Hosmer has gone 20-for-68 (.294) with a double, a triple and a home run with six walks, 10 runs scored and seven RBIs. He has a .351 on-base percentage and a .382 slugging percentage for a .733 OPS. Hosmer's home run on July 14 was his first since June 12. He has six extra-base hits in his last 42 games.

--CF Manuel Margot has raised his batting average from .229 to .253 since July 7. Over his last 21 games, Margot has gone 27-for-81 (.333) with four doubles, a triple and a home run with five walks. He has 14 runs scored and seven RBIs during the run.

--C Austin Hedges is hitting .324 (11-for-34) over his last 10 games with two doubles, four home runs, seven runs scored and seven RBIs. During the run, Hedges has a .378 on-base percentage and a .735 slugging percentage for a 1.113 OPS.

--RF Hunter Renfroe had a double and his ninth home run in a modest, four-game hitting streak at Wrigley Field. He went 5-for-15 during the Padres' visit to Chicago.

Margot, Reyes rally Padres past Brewers 11-5

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE -- San Diego rookie [Franmil Reyes](#) is getting less of a kick at the plate these days. The Padres are OK with that.

Reyes homered for the second straight game and doubled in the go-ahead runs off All-Star [Josh Hader](#) as the Padres overcome an early deficit and beat the [Milwaukee Brewers](#) 11-5 Tuesday night.

[Manuel Margot](#) homered, tripled, singled and drove in five runs for San Diego. Reyes, called up Saturday after two earlier stints with the Padres, also added a single.

"When we sent him down, we talked about cutting down the leg kick and shortening things up," Padres manager Andy Green said of Reyes. "He's such a smart guy. His mind really works and he immediately made that adjustment and I think it's served him well."

[Jesus Aguilar](#) and [Mike Moustakas](#) staked Milwaukee to a 4-0 first-inning lead with a pair of two-run homers -- Aguilar's team-best 27th and Moustakas' 22nd and second as a Brewer.

Padres starter [Clayton Richard](#) settled down and allowed just one run over the next four innings. [Phil Maton](#), [Matt Strahm](#), [Craig Stammen](#), [Robert Stock](#) and [Trey Wingenter](#) combined for five scoreless innings of relief.

"His stuff was up in the first inning and they were squaring it up, so it was impressive to see him get through five, given that context the way it started," Green said of Richard. "He kept us in the ballgame and let us claw our way back."

Strahm (3-3) struck out the only batter he faced in the sixth for the victory.

Margot hit a two-run single in the third, a solo homer in the fifth and a tying sacrifice fly in the sixth. He had an RBI triple in the ninth and continued home on a throwing error for the final run.

Reyes, who had a solo homer in the fourth, doubled in two runs with two outs in the seventh off Hader (4-1) to give the Padres their first lead at 7-5.

Reyes said the adjustment in his stance has helped his hitting.

"It was not easy because it had been part of me since I was a little kid," said Reyes, who hit a 477-foot homer in Sunday's 10-6 win over the Cubs. "The leg kick was part of me every time. When I got here to the big leagues, I could see the difference of the pitchers, they are really tough. The leg kick up here was not helping me, so when I went down there, I made adjustment. Now I feel great at the plate."

[Hunter Renfroe](#)'s 10th homer, a two-run shot in the eighth, made it 9-5.

After two scoreless innings, the Padres scored in each of the next seven innings. Brewers starter [Chase Anderson](#) couldn't hold the early lead, allowing four runs on five hits and four walks in 4 2/3 innings.

"You've got to put up a zero, and we weren't able to put up any zeros tonight," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "I think the big inning was with Josh -- you put up a zero there and maybe we can change things around. But after that we made some mistakes and they took advantage of it, both pitching and defensively."

WINGENTER DEBUT: Right-hander Trey Wingenter pitched a perfect ninth inning in his major league debut, retiring three All Stars. Wingenter struck out [Lorenzo Cain](#) and then retired [Christian Yelich](#) and Aguilar. "Envisioning is not even close, not even on the same planet, as what I'm feeling right now," Wingenter said.

PADRES MOVES: RHP Brett Kennedy was selected from Triple-A El Paso and is scheduled to make his debut Wednesday at Milwaukee. Kennedy was 10-0 with 2.72 ERA in 16 starts at El Paso. "We didn't bring him up for one outing and that's it; we bought him up with that anticipation of 'let's see what you can do here,'" manager Andy Green said. "He's earned that right. You don't see too many 2 ERA's in the PCL. You won't see guys who have won pretty much every game they've pitched in the PCL. He's earned the right to pitch here."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: OF [Wil Myers](#), on the 10-day DL (left foot contusion/bone bruise) is improving. "He's moving around. Hopefully he's jogging tomorrow," manager Andy Green said "He's walking much better now, no noticeable limp, and he says he's feeling better so hopefully it's just those 10 days and he'll be ready to go." Myers was injured Thursday night when he fouled a ball off his foot.

Brewers: RHP [Zach Davies](#)' rehab went well Monday at Triple-A Colorado Springs, allowing one run on five hits in 4 2/3 innings, throwing 79 pitches. He is expected to make at least one more rehab start. "We're 70 days into a DL stint and before that, he was out another three weeks, so he's missed a good 90 days worth of mound time," manager Craig Counsell said. "Just getting him back on the mound every five days is important."

UP NEXT

Padres: Brett Kennedy, called up Tuesday, makes his debut. The 24-year-old right-hander was 10-0 at El Paso, including winning seven consecutive starts before a no-decision his last time out. He's allowed two runs or fewer in 12 of his 16 starts.

Brewers: RHP [Jhoulys Chacin](#) (10-4, 3.89) makes his team-leading 25th start. In his last start, Chacin allowed nine runs on five hits with four walks in 4 1/3 innings in a 21-5 loss to the Dodgers. He is 6-2 with a 3.44 ERA in 15 career games against San Diego.

#PadresOnDeck: RHP Cal Quantrill Sharp in Triple-A Debut; 2B Luis Urías homers

By Bill Center

Right-handed starter **Cal Quantrill** allowed two runs over six innings in his Triple-A debut Monday night and **Luis Urías** homered and scored three runs as El Paso won a sixth straight game.

Quantrill, 23, the Padres' first pick (eighth overall) in the 2016 draft and their [No. 10 prospect on MLB Pipeline rankings](#), gave up seven hits and no walks with four strikeouts in his first outing with the Chihuahuas after being promoted from Double-A San Antonio.

Urías, 21, the [Padres' No. 4 prospect](#) and the [23rd-ranked prospect throughout the minor leagues](#), was 2-for-3 with a double, a homer and a walk. He drove in two runs and scored two runs while raising his batting average to .275.

El Paso now holds a 3 1/2-game lead in its bid for a fourth straight Pacific Coast League Pacific Southern Division title.

Meanwhile, shortstop **Owen Miller** and second baseman **Olivier Basabe** will form the starting doubleplay combination Tuesday night for the Northwest League in the Short-Season Single-A All-Star Game against the Pioneer League in Grand Junction, Colo. Also on the Northwest League team will be Dust Devil pitchers **Henry Henry, Jordan Guerrero** and **Dan Dallas**.

Other Top-30 prospects with good games on Monday night's limited schedule:

— Shortstop **Gabriel Arias**, 18, the [Padres' N^o20 prospect](#), had two doubles in three at-bats for Single-A Fort Wayne with a RBI and a run scored. Arias has raised his batting average to .231.

— Right-handed starter **Luis Patiño**, 18, the [Padres' N^o12 prospect](#), allowed two runs (one earned) on three hits and a walk with eight strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings for Fort Wayne to lower his earned run average to 2.43.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (64–49): CHIHUAHUAS 10, Round Rock 3— RHP **Eric Yardley** followed Quantrill and allowed a run on two hits and a walk with two strikeouts in three innings. SS **Javy Guerra** (.214) backed Urías and was 3-for-5 with a triple, a RBI and a run scored. RF **Forrest Allday** (.291) was 2-for-5 with a walk, a RBI and two runs scored. DH **Raffy Lopez** (.282) was 1-for-3 with two walks, two RBIs and a run scored. 3B **Dusty Coleman** (.186) was 2-for-5 with a run scored. CF **Auston Bousfield** (.253) had a double in three at-bats with two walks, two RBIs and two runs scored. C **Francisco Mejía** (.378) was 1-for-3 with two walks and a run scored. 1B **Brett Nicholas** (.305) was 1-for-5 with two RBIs.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (22–21, 64–49): The Missions were off Monday night.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (22–22, 56–58): The Storm was off Monday night.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (19–24, 51–61): Lansing 5, FORT WAYNE 4 (rain-shortened to seven innings)—RHP **Jose Quezada** (4.70 ERA) followed Patiño and allowed two unearned runs on two hits and a walk with a strikeout in two-thirds of an inning. RHP **Dylan Coleman** (1–1, 0.84) allowed an unearned run on a hit with two strikeouts in an inning to take the loss. 3B **Kelvin Melean** (.264) backed Arias, going 2-for-3 with a double and a RBI. RF **Jack Suwinski** (.220) was 1-for-2 with a

walk, a RBI and a run scored. 1B **Nick Feight** (.206) was 1-for-3 with a double, a RBI and a run scored. C **Jalen Washington** (.238) was 1-for-3 with a stolen base. DH **Aldemar Burgos**(.219) was 1-for-3. CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.277) had a double in four at-bats with a run scored.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (5–8, 23–28): The Dust Devils were off for the Northwest League All-Star break.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (29–26): Padres 6, Orioles 5—CF **Junior Perez** (.166) was 3-for-4 with two doubles, a walk and two runs scored. 1B **Brandon Valenzuela** (.259) was 2-for-4 with a solo homer and a walk. SS **Bryan Torres** (.229) was 2-for-5 with a RBI. Starting LHP **Manuel Partida** (2.55 ERA) allowed a hit and two walks with three strikeouts in four scoreless innings.

ARIZONA ROOKIE PADRES:

PADRES-1 (7–2, 17–20): Diamondbacks 11, PADRES 6—1B **Lee Solomon**(.321) was 3-for-5 with two doubles, a RBI and three runs scored. DH **Nick Gatewood** (.290) was 2-for-5 with a homer and two RBIs. CF **Jawuan Harris**(.190) was 1-for-4 with a RBI. C **Michael Cantu** (.237) had a RBI double in three at-bats. RF **Agustin Ruiz** (.262) was 2-for-4 with a sacrifice fly and a run scored. SS **Xavier Edwards** (.389) was 1-for-5 with a run scored. 3B **Carlos Luis** (.284) was 1-for-3 with two walks. Starting RHP **Luarbert Arias** (2–4, 4.02 ERA) allowed six runs on eight hits and a walk with two strikeouts in 2 1/3 innings to take the loss. RHP **Luis Eusebio** (6.49) allowed five runs on four hits and three walks with two strikeouts in three innings. RHP **Jake Sims**(7.84) allowed a hit and a walk with four strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings. RHP **Starlin Cordero** (6.14) allowed a hit and two walks with four strikeouts in two scoreless innings.

PADRES-2 (5–4, 20–17): Padres 14, ATHLETICS 9 (10 innings)—2B-SS **Tucupita Marcano** (.393) was 2-for-3 with a double, three walks, a stolen base and four runs scored. 1B **Jason Pineda** (.240) was 1-for-4 with a homer, a sacrifice fly and four RBIs. RF **Yordi Francisco** (.282)

was 2-for-6 with a homer, a stolen base and three runs scored. DH **Blinger Perez** (.259) was 2-for-5 with two RBIs and a run scored. C **Luis Roman** (.232) was 2-for-4 with a double, two walks, two RBIs and a run scored. CF-2B **Sean Guilbe** (.268) was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and two walks. CF **Angel Solarte** (.247) was 1-for-3 with a run scored. LF **Mason House** (.265) was 1-for-6 with a run scored. SS **Jordy Barley** (.200) was 1-for-4. Starting RHP **Michell Miliano** (11.09 ERA) allowed three runs on a hit and five walks with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings. RHP **Vijay Miller** (6.75) allowed three runs on two hits and a walk with a strikeout in 1 2/3 innings. LHP **Noel Vela** (5.04) allowed a run on two hits and three walks with seven strikeouts in three innings. RHP **Dominic Taccolini** (7.71) allowed a run on three hits with two strikeouts in two innings. RHP **Felix Minjarez** (4-0, 2.29) allowed an unearned run on two hits with three strikeouts in two innings to get credit for the win.

This Day in Padres History—8/8

By Bill Center

Aug. 8, 1897—Bay View Park opens at the corner of 25th Street and Newton Avenue. It is called “one of the handsomest ballparks in the state.”

Aug. 8, 1973—Right-hander **Bill Greif** throws a complete-game, two-hit shutout and catcher **Fred Kendall** hits a three-run homer in the Padres 3–0 win over St. Louis at San Diego Stadium. Greif issues a walk and strikes out five.

Aug. 8, 2002—Left fielder **Ron Gant** is 3-for-5 with a triple and a homer for four RBIs as the Padres defeat Philadelphia 7–4 at Qualcomm Stadium.

Aug. 8, 2003—**Jake Peavy**, **Jay Witasick** and **Rod Beck** combine on a seven-hit, 12-inning shutout and center fielder **Mark Kotsay** drives home the only run with a walk-off double as the Padres defeat the Reds 1–0 at Qualcomm Stadium.

Aug. 8, 2012—Left-hander **Clayton Richard** pitches a complete-game, five-hit shutout as the Padres defeat the Cubs 2–0 at Petco Park. Richard issues two walks with five strikeouts.

Preview: Brewers vs. Padres

AP

MILWAUKEE — Baseball has an odd sense of timing.

Two days after he was claimed off waivers from the [San Diego Padres](#), [Jordan Lyles](#) joined his new team, the [Milwaukee Brewers](#), Tuesday night as they opened a three-game series against the very same Padres.

“It’s still a little weird to me,” admitted Lyles, who added that he’s staying in the same hotel this week as his former teammates. “It was a shock to me the other day when I found out. ... But I’m looking forward to having the opportunity that I have here in Milwaukee. I’m very excited to join this team.”

Lyles didn’t pitch Tuesday night but one of the youngsters called up when he and Ross were put on waivers did as Trey Wingenter worked a scoreless ninth inning in San Diego’s 11-5 victory. He’ll be followed Wednesday when Brett Kennedy gets his first career start as the Padres face the Brewers in the second game of the series at Miller Park.

Kennedy, a 24-year-old right-hander, has dominated the Triple-A Pacific Coast League this season, going 10-0 with a 2.72 ERA and struck out 80 batters while holding them to a .233 average in 89 1/3 innings.

“You don’t see too many 2 ERA’s in the PCL,” Padres manager Andy Green said. “You won’t see guys who have won pretty much every game they’ve pitched in the PCL. He’s earned the right to pitch here. It’s a very good offensive club he’s going to face for his first major league outing but we believe in him and we believe he has enough to attack guys and beat guys.”

Kennedy was San Diego’s 11th-round pick in the 2015 Draft and earned his first invitation to big league camp this past spring, after going 8-11 with a 3.70 mark for Double-A San Antonio this season. He opened the year with El Paso and now, with the Padres, building for the future, Kennedy is finally getting his chance.

“I was just pitching as good as I could and forcing their hand,” Kennedy told the San Diego Union-Tribune. “I thought something might happen. But you’re definitely caught off-guard by something this big in your life.”

He joins a Padres team that’s riding a little bit of a hot streak after going through a miserable 5-20 July. The Padres split a four-game set with the National League Central-leading Cubs over the weekend at Wrigley Field and slugged three home

runs Monday in the series opener against Milwaukee — the second-place team in the Central and current NL wild card leader.

“It’s a good challenge for us,” Green said of opening the month against the NL’s top two squads. “The guys have really embraced it. Obviously, we’re coming off a rough month but I felt really good about the four games in Chicago. For us, we need to show up to beat anybody. We’ve got to play really well.”

Along with Lyles, the Padres will see another familiar face in Brewers starter [Jhoulys Chacin](#), who went 13-10 with a 3.89 ERA for San Diego last season then landed a two-year, \$15.5 million deal with the Brewers in January.

That signing has turned out to be one of the best deals of the winter as Chacin has gone 10-4 with a 3.89 ERA though 24 starts this season including a 4-2 mark and 3.46 ERA in nine starts at Miller Park.

Chacin pitched a rare dud his last time out, allowing a season-high nine runs (eight earned) on five hits and four walks over 4 1/3 innings in a 25-7 loss at Dodger Stadium. Prior to that drubbing, Chacin was 4-0 with a 2.52 ERA in his previous six starts, allowing more than two runs once during that stretch.

“I just couldn’t make pitches when I had to,” Chacín said after the Dodgers game. “You know, it could have gone a different way, especially the 3-2 to Grandal. I felt I made a good pitch to get him out, but it didn’t happen. But anyways, I couldn’t make a good pitch to the next guy to get at least an out.

“It was one of those games that nothing goes your way.”

Chacin has faced the Padres once already this season. He took a no-decision after allowing four runs on seven hits and lasted 3 1/3 innings in his first start of the season March 30.