



# Padres Press Clips

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# Padres part ways with Alex Dickerson; Kazuhisa Makita DFA'd

**Jeff Sanders**

Officially, the outfield picture in San Diego was too crowded for [Alex Dickerson](#).

The Poway High product on Friday elected free agency after the [Padres](#) outrighted the left fielder off the 40-man roster. Other moves included designating right-hander Kazuhisa Makita for assignment and reinstating outfielder [Franchy Cordero](#), right-hander Dinelson Lamet and left-hander [Clayton Richard](#) from the 60-day disabled list, giving the Padres a full 40-man roster on the eve of the start of free agency.

A left-handed bat who had a .257/.333/.455 batting line with 10 homers and 37 RBIs in 84 games as a rookie in 2016, Dickerson missed consecutive seasons with back and Tommy John surgeries. During his absence, [Wil Myers](#) from first base to left field (and to third base at the end of this season), Cordero and Franmil Reyes developed into intriguing starting options, Hunter Renfroe blossomed down the stretch of 2018 and Travis Jankowski proved himself as at least a quality fourth outfielder.

The Padres this offseason will entertain trading someone from that group, which also includes one-time top prospect Manuel Margot.

Dickerson's trade value, meanwhile, had taken a hit after the 28-year-old missed all of the last two seasons.

The 33-year-old Makita signed a two-year, \$3.9 million deal before last season to provide the Padres with an alternative look out of their bullpen. But the soft-tossing, submariner spent most of 2018 bouncing between Triple-A El Paso and the majors, where the Japanese import posted a 5.40 ERA in 35 innings.

Makita appeared in just two games in the majors in September as the Padres got a long look at several rookie relievers, perhaps foreshadowing plans to move away from the second-oldest reliever in the bullpen.

Surgeries to clean up both knees ended Richard's 2018 campaign. He is expected to be back to full strength for [spring training](#), when he'll compete for a rotation spot.

Cordero is also expected to return for the start of spring training from his procedure to remove a bone spur in his right (throwing) elbow, while Lamet's timeline — barring setbacks — likely places his return around the All-Star break.

Free agency opens Saturday, followed by the General Manager Meetings in Carlsbad next week and the Winter Meetings in Las Vegas in the second week in December.

# D-backs' Nick Ahmed takes Gold Glove over Padres' Freddy Galvis

**Jeff Sanders**

For a third straight year, [Freddy Galvis](#) will not convert his standing as a [Gold Glove](#) finalist into hardware.

The [Padres](#)' free agent shortstop lost out on the award handed out to the [National League](#)'s best defensive shortstop to Arizona's Nick Ahmed, whose first win snapped fellow finalist [Brandon Crawford](#)'s streak of three straight NL Gold Gloves.

Galvis, a finalist in three straight years, led all qualifying NL shortstops in 2018, with a .986 fielding percentage, edging Ahmed's .985 mark. Arizona's shortstop, however, paced the field with 21 defensive runs saved and was third in ultimate zone rating, compared to Galvis' seven defensive runs saved (T-5) and minus-4.4 ultimate zone rating (10<sup>th</sup>).

Ahmed also led all shortstops with a 13.1 rating in SABR's Defensive Index, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of a selection process that includes votes from managers and coaches. Galvis' 0.5 mark was ninth in the NL.

Padres left-hander [Clayton Richard](#) also lost out on a Gold Glove to Arizona's [Zack Greinke](#), who posted a 1.000 fielding percentage in 57 chances that easily trumped Richard's .932 mark in 44 chances.

Here's a look at all of Sunday's Gold Glove winners:

## **Pitchers**

- AL – Dallas Keuchel (Hou)
- NL – Zack Greinke (Ari)

## Catchers

- AL – Salvador Perez (KC)
- NL – [Yadier Molina](#)

## First basemen

- AL – [Matt Olson](#) (Oak)
- NL – Anthony Rizzo (ChC)

## Second basemen

- AL – [Ian Kinsler](#) (Bos)
- NL – [DJ LeMahieu](#) (Col)

## Third baseman

- AL – Matt Chapman (Oak)
- NL – [Nolan Arenado](#) (Col)

## Shortstops

- AL – Andrelton Simmons (LAA)
- NL – Nick Ahmed (Ari)

## Left fielders

- AL – [Alex Gordon](#) (KC)
- NL – Corey Dickerson (Pit)

## Center fielders

- AL – [Jackie Bradley Jr.](#) (Bos)

- NL – Ender Inciarte (Atl)

## **Right fielders**

- AL – Mookie Betts (Bos)
- NL – Nick Markakis (Atl)

# Offseason leagues: Buddy Reed the MVP of Fall Stars Game

**Jeff Sanders**

**Buddy Reed**, again, is enjoying his winter.

The [Padres](#)' 23-year-old prospect earned MVP honors in Saturday's Arizona Fall League Fall-Stars Game, tying the game in the bottom of the ninth with a triple and scoring the game-winning run in the West's 7-6 win.

Reed went 1-for-3 with two strikeouts off the bench after earning the invitation by pairing a .375/.423/.500 batting line with five steals, 11 runs and four RBIs in 12 games in the Arizona Fall League, a finishing school of sorts for the game's top prospects.

Reed choked up for his game-tying triple to center off Rockies pitching prospect **Justin Lawrence**. The [Royals](#)' **Meibrys Vilorio** then singled home Reed to win the game.

"The Fall League, as a whole, is an awesome experience, playing with the top prospect in every organization," [Reed told MLB.com](#). "Then coming to the (Fall Stars) Game, you get to see guys like Vlad (Guerrero Jr.), Justin Lawrence in the bottom of the ninth, guys that throw hard and that can do a lot with the bat. It's awesome and I had a great time."

A second round pick in 2016, Reed rose to his current status – MLB.com ranks him No. 13 in the Padres system – after hitting .271/.319/.435, hitting 13 homers and swiping 51 bases as he rose from high Single-A Lake Elsinore to Double-A San Antonio.

In actuality, Reed's breakout 2018 campaign is a continuation of his stay in the in the Australian winter league last year, when he hit 10 homers, swiped five bases and hit .326/.363/.659 in 31 games for Canberra.

Right-hander **Miguel Diaz** also appeared in the game, striking out a batter and allowing a hit in the fourth inning.

Diaz has a 3.86 ERA, a 1.29 WHIP and 11 strikeouts in four starts (14 IP) with Peoria.

## ROUNDUP

### Arizona Fall League

- The Peoria Javelinas, which include the Padres prospects, have won six straight and have a seven-game lead in the West Division. 3B **Hudson Potts** (San Antonio) is second on the team with 12 RBIs and is hitting .224/.328/.397 with a pair of homers.
- C **Austin Allen** (El Paso) has homered twice and driven in 11 runs while hitting .268/.354/.488 in 11 games.
- RHP **Dauris Valdez** (San Antonio) has 11 strikeouts, a 1.38 WHIP and a 3.38 ERA in eight innings in the back of Peoria's bullpen. Valdez has two saves.
- LHP **Travis Radke** (San Antonio) has a 2.25 ERA, a 1.50 WHIP and 15 strikeouts in 12 innings.

### Venezuelan winter league

- OF **Edward Olivares** (Lake Elsinore) is hitting .350/.418/.500 with two homers, four steals and 10 RBIs in 16 games for Aragua.
- RHP **Pedro Avila** (Lake Elsinore) has fanned 18 and scattered 10 hits and three walks in 15 1/3 innings, allowing one run in his three starts for Margarita.
- SS **Gabrial Aras** (Fort Wayne) is hitting .293/.383/.293 with two steals and four runs scored in 14 games for La Guaira.



## Dominican winter league

- OF **Franmil Reyes** (San Diego) has started his stint with Escogido, homering, driving in a pair and batting .313/.421/.563 through his first five games.
- RHP **Eric Yardley** (El Paso) has allowed one run in 9 1/3 innings for Cibao, striking out five and walking five. He has allowed nine hits.

## Mexican winter league

- RHP **Chris Huffman** (El Paso) has allowed one run over his last 9 2/3 innings for Caneros de los Mochis, lowering his ERA to 3.32 over four starts (21 2/3 IP). He has struck out 14 and walked nine.
- RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (San Antonio) has eight strikeouts over 7 2/3 scoreless innings for Obregon.
- RHP **Adrian Martinez** (Fort Wayne) has allowed four runs in his first 6 2/3 innings for Mexicali, his hometown team.

# Padres third base prospect Hudson Potts built to advance

Kevin Acee

The fourth-youngest player in the Arizona Fall League went 1-for-4 with a crucial ninth-inning walk and committed an error in the Peoria Javelinas opener last month.

The next day, he went 1-for-5 with a double and another error. By week's end, he had struck out three times and his average was down to .154.

So, basically, the kid the Padres consider a likely crucial contributor on a championship team in the not-distant future, was continuing to learn.

“There’s always good and bad,” Hudson Potts said, same as he says everything else, politely and as if it didn’t really need to be said at all. “To get better and move up you’ve just got to take what you learn at each level and implement it all.”

Potts, who is navigating a fairly fast track through the minors, especially considering his age, is one of those guys for whom it is all pretty simple.

Not simple as in easy, as if work were not a component of his success. Simply straightforward.

Take the time early in 2017, when Potts, then just 18 years old and a couple months into his first full professional season, was batting below .220 with more than 70 strikeouts and fewer than 10 walks for low-A Fort Wayne.

TinCaps hitting coach Doug Banks, who had been Potts’ coach the previous summer in both rookie leagues in which Potts played, approached the young third baseman and said his numbers suggested his approach needed tweaking.

Potts looked at him and said, “I’m good.”

A shocked Banks accepted the answer and walked away.

Later, he told Potts he understood the dynamic between them, that they’d known each other a while but also “When a coach comes up to you and says you have 70-something strikeouts to seven walks, you can’t say, ‘I’m good.’ Because you’re not.”

In that he knew Potts meant no disrespect, it was easy for Banks to take the interaction for what it was.

“It was just like one of those things where you’re like, ‘This guy trusts himself,’ ” Banks said. “At the same time, he made the adjustments with hand placement and approach and being more disciplined.”

From the middle of June through the end of that season (298 plate appearances), Potts hit .280/.322/.530 with 17 home runs and 15 doubles.

After four hits (two homers) in eight at-bats in major league spring training games, he began the 2018 season blazing at Single-A Lake Elsinore and ended up hitting .281/.350/.498 with 17 homers and 35 doubles for the Storm before a mid-August promotion to Double-A.

After walking just 23 times in 522 plate appearances at Fort Wayne, the Padres challenged Potts to walk more, and so he walked 47 times in 542 plate appearances this past season.

Potts did struggle in his limited time at San Antonio (.154/.258/231 with two homers in 89 plate appearances) and as of Friday was hitting .224/.328/.397 with two homers, four doubles, 20 strikeouts and nine walks in 15 games for the Javelinas.

It’s all part of the evolution for a player who turned 20 on Sunday and is [ranked by MLB.com as the organization’s 11th-best position player in the minors](#).

The six-team Fall League has players from all 30 major league organizations, most of whom have spent far more time above Single-A than Potts. Many have Triple-A seasons behind them, and a few have played in the majors.

Potts has been among the youngest players at every level since the Padres made him the 24<sup>th</sup> overall pick in the 2016 draft.

He was the seventh-youngest player at the start of the '17 Midwest League campaign and last year was the third-youngest player to begin play in the California League. At the time of his arrival in Double-A, Potts was nearly five years younger than the average position player in the Texas League.

“I never think about that,” he said. “People always bring it up. I’m not making any excuses because of that. My expectations are to work as hard as I can, take everything I learn, see what I can pick up from other guys in other organizations.”

It is only when speaking offhandedly about a specific facet of the game that he says, “I learn from my teammates. They’re older guys.”

Potts’ relative youth belies the intangibles he possesses — the types of instincts and natural actions the Padres and other teams believe are intrinsic in many championship ballplayers.

It was of little consequence but highly interesting to note that twice in a game here, when Potts crossed home plate after the third out had been made by a teammate, he beat the bat boy to picking up the bat left behind by that teammate and carried it back to the dugout. It was an odd site in a game where players virtually always leave bats, shin guards, elbow guards and helmets to be picked up by others.

“He pays attention to detail,” Banks said. “He treats people very well.”

While he hadn’t noticed the gesture by Potts that week, Banks recalled instances that demonstrated even more a selfless leadership style, such as the time another player in Fort Wayne was upset about being in the second hitting group for batting practice and Banks asked Potts to switch, which he did without any questioning.

“It’s a rarity to find players that are 17 years old, first-round pick, that comes in and is very humble, driven, coachable, does what you ask, picks up his teammates and does everything the right way,” Banks said. “... He understands how to treat people. I would actually like to see a little more edge. I want to see that come out the next

couple years. It's in there. He's just a very respectful kid. He's humble. He needs to understand, 'You can raise it up, man, and people won't think you're a bad guy, because people know who you are.' ”

It's meaningful to Potts to be that guy.

“Your talent on the field will get the trust from your teammates, but being a good person, that starts off the field too,” he said. “It all comes together. You see it in the minor league season. Beginning of the season, maybe some people are newer, not familiar. But then you start hanging around outside the field and in the locker room, you become buddies, and it correlates to the field. It's super important.”

It is these character traits, along with the manifestations of the adjustments he has been able to make to continue succeed at the plate, that have the Padres believing Potts will contribute sooner than later to a major league team that wins more than it loses.

“You know what you're getting every day,” Banks said. “... You don't know if he had a bad day or a great day. That's a true testament of somebody who is going to play for a while.”

# Padres' Reed wins MVP of Fall Stars Game

No. 13 prospect hits game-tying triple, scores winning run

By William Boor MLB.com

SURPRISE, Ariz. -- Buddy Reed's breakout season was derailed a bit when he was promoted to Double-A, but the outfielder got back on track in Arizona, where he has starred offensively.

Reed has been hitting well in the Arizona Fall League and, despite striking out in his first two at-bats of the Fall Stars Game on Saturday at Surprise Stadium, the Padres' [No. 13 prospect](#) came through with a game-tying triple in the bottom of the ninth, scored the game-winning run and was named the MVP after the West won, 7-6.

"It was down and a little out," Reed said of the pitch he hit for a triple. "I put a good swing on it, Justin [Lawrence] pitched his butt off. I had to choke up because he's a little uncomfortable for me, just throwing 98 to 100 [mph] with sink. So I just choked up and tried to put a good swing on it."

Reed lined an RBI triple to center field that Luis Barrera appeared to have a play on, but the Athletics' prospect crashed into the wall and was unable to make the play.

"I thought it was a homer," Reed said. "Obviously it wasn't, but I just wanted to put a good swing on it."

One batter later, [Meibrys Vilorio](#) brought Reed home with a walk-off single.

The MVP Award comes in the middle of what has been an impressive AFL season for Reed.

Reed, a 2016 second-round pick, has hit .375 through 12 games in Arizona and had multi-hit efforts in three of his past four games prior to the Fall Stars Game.

While Reed's fall has been impressive, his season was inconsistent. After slashing .324/.371/.549 through 79 games with Class A Advanced Lake Elsinore, Reed was promoted to Double-A San Antonio, where he hit .179/.227/.235 to finish the season.

Reed has noted that his approach got away from him a bit in Double-A.

"The Fall League, as a whole, is an awesome experience, playing with the top prospect in every organization," Reed said. "Then coming to the [Fall Stars] Game, you get to see guys like Vlad [Guerrero Jr.], Justin Lawrence in the bottom of the ninth, guys that throw hard and that can do a lot with the bat. It's awesome and I had a great time."

# Padres designate Makita, outright Dickerson

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- It's officially roster-crunch month for the Padres, and the first dominoes fell on Friday.

The club had four players who needed to be reinstated from the 60-day disabled list and only two roster places available. So the Padres designated right-hander [Kazuhisa Makita](#) for assignment, and they outrighted outfielder [Alex Dickerson](#), who has elected free agency.

When a player's contract is **designated for assignment** -- often abbreviated "DFA" -- that player is immediately removed from his club's 40-man roster, and 25-man roster if he was on that as well. Within seven days of the transaction (it was previously 10 days), the player must either be traded, released or placed on irrevocable outright waivers.

Makita posted a 5.40 ERA over 35 big league innings in 2018, his first season in the Majors after spending seven in Japan. The Padres signed the submarine-style right-hander to a two-year deal last offseason. Given that he still has \$1.9 million remaining on that contract, it's unlikely that an opposing team would claim him.

Dickerson, meanwhile, showed plenty of promise during his rookie 2016 campaign when he batted .257/.333/.455 with 10 homers. But his career has been completely derailed by injuries. He missed the '17 campaign after back surgery, and he missed the '18 season because of Tommy John surgery.

San Diego needed to reinstate Dickerson and three others from the 60-day DL on Friday, prompting the two cuts. [Franchy Cordero](#) (right elbow surgery), [Clayton Richard](#) (knee surgeries) and [Dinelson Lamet](#) (Tommy John surgery) all were activated off the 60-day DL.

The Padres -- who traded catcher [Raffy Lopez](#) to Atlanta, then claimed infielder [Greg Garcia](#) from St. Louis on Thursday -- still have a full 40-man roster. Only [A.J. Ellis](#) and [Freddy Galvis](#) became free agents after the World Series.

Friday's moves were the first in what figures to be an eventful month for the makeup of the Padres' roster. Two more November deadlines loom.

A handful of prospects must be added to the 40-man this offseason, and if they aren't selected for the roster by Nov. 20, they'll be exposed to the Rule 5 Draft at December's Winter Meetings.

Among the team's [Top 30 Prospects](#), right-handers [Chris Paddack](#) (No. 5) and [Anderson Espinoza](#) (No. 12), along with catcher Austin Allen (No. 25), are locks to be added. Outfielder [Edward Olivares](#) (No. 28) and righty [Pedro Avila](#) (No. 29) could join them, and there are three or four unranked prospects in the mix as well.

The Padres might need to clear a half-dozen roster places before Nov. 20 in order to make room for those youngsters. Then on Nov. 30, they'll hit the non-tender deadline.

On a team that won 66 games last season, there are more than a few non-tender candidates, and trimming the roster should be a relatively straightforward exercise, given the on-field struggles. But it's still critically important the Padres don't miss on these forthcoming decisions. Doing so would allow a potentially useful piece to leave for nothing in return.



# El Cajon Native Greg Garcia Excited for Return to San Diego

## Padres claim homegrown infielder off waivers from Cardinals

*By Justin Lafferty*

The newest San Diego Padre won't have to travel far for a home-cooked meal. Infielder **Greg Garcia**, claimed Thursday off waivers from the St. Louis Cardinals, grew up in El Cajon and is a 2007 alumnus of Valhalla High.

“This is honestly one of the top three days of my life,” [Garcia told \*The San Diego Union-Tribune\*](#). I am so excited about it. I feel so honored to play for the Padres, a team that wants me. ... It's a dream come true.”

In five years with the Cardinals, the 29-year-old Garcia appeared at second base, third base and shortstop. He has a career .248 average, with a .356 on-base percentage. The left-handed batter led the Cardinals in pinch-hit appearances last season, with 64.

“That's what I'm here to do—whatever they need,” Garcia told the U-T.

Garcia discovered the news while he and his father, Dave, were driving to Lake Tahoe.

“My agent could barely contain his emotions, because he knew I was going to be so excited,” Garcia told the U-T. “I just started jumping. I punched my dad a few times. He's probably going to have bruises on his arm. It's a very exciting moment for my family.”

Garcia was a seventh-round draft pick by the Cardinals in 2010, out of the University of Hawaii. At Valhalla, Garcia lettered in baseball for three years and was a two-time All-CIF selection. He is the grandson of **Dave Garcia**, who managed the California Angels in 1977 and 1978, and the Cleveland Indians from 1979 to 1982. He also served as the [Padres' third base coach from 1970 to 1973](#).