



Padres Press Clips

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Padres notes: Wil Myers hits three homers; Kirby Yates gives up three runs

Kevin Acee

Wil Myers' wasn't thrilled with the fact his first career three-homer game came on a night the Padres got demolished 20-5 by the [Arizona Diamondbacks](#).

But then, nothing thrills Myers this season.

Myers has 12 of the Padres' past 33 RBIs and is 13-for-35 with three doubles, a triple, four home runs and four walks in those 10 games.

But even on this night, when he homered his first two times up, walked and then homered in the seventh inning before being pulled, there was no big-picture assessment forthcoming.

"Talking about whether you're hot or not, I just think right now I'm executing my plan a little better than normal," said Myers, who returned from the disabled list on June 21 and has played in just 25 games this season due to various injuries.

Myers is purposely [not getting ahead of himself or letting what is past affect the present](#), as it has in previous seasons when slumps perpetuated themselves.

In that respect, the important thing is not the result as much as the process. He knows the proper execution of the latter will create success in the former.

Asked if the fact Saturday's game was out of hand when he came up in the seventh inning allowed him to more aggressively swing for the fences, Myers explained the situation of a game cannot matter to him.

"The thing about this year and what I want to do with my at-bats (is) it's all about my approach," he said. "I never want to come off of it. Any time I come off that approach and try to do something different, I'm going to get out. I know that the only way for me to be successful is to have that plan and stick to that."

The Padres also got three home runs from Christian Villanueva on April 3 and are the only team with two players to hit three homers in a game this season. Boston's Mookie Betts has hit three homers in two games this season.

Myers is the eighth Padres player to accomplish the feat, joining Villanueva, Brett Boone, Ken Caminiti, Nate Colbert, Steve Finley (twice), Phil Nevin and Hunter Renfroe.

Unfortunate third

Kirby Yates pitched for the first time in a week and, in the lowest-leverage situation he had been in all season, was charged with as many runs in one-third of an inning Saturday (three) as he had been over the entirety of his previous 34 innings this season.

Yates, who had not allowed a run since May 31, came in solely for the work with the Padres down 16-5 at the start of the seventh inning.

It was his first work since pitching June 30 against the [Pirates](#), as he went on paternity leave Tuesday to attend the birth of his second child. He was re-activated Friday.

Yates walked the first batter he faced and then gave up an infield single that was arguably an error. He got a strikeout before another single and a walk brought home a run. Yates was replaced at that point, having thrown 24 pitches. Robbie Erlin allowed two more runs to score, both charged to Yates.

“It’s always tough when you spend basically four days in a hospital, and he hadn’t spent much time on a field recently,” manager Andy Green said. “... It’s frustrating for a guy who’s thrown the ball so well to end up giving up three runs in a game like that. It just adds to the frustration tonight.”

Yates’ ERA swelled from 0.79, lowest among any reliever with a least 15 innings this season, to 1.57.

Extra bases

- Jose Pirela, starting at second base for the first time in a week, was charged with one error and could justifiably been charged with two more. Said Green: “He has played up to this point in time better and better. He got out there for the first time in (a while) and he wasn’t sharp.” Pirela had started 65 of the Padres’ first 67 games, mostly at second base, but has been [part of a platoon recently](#) as others have played well and he has struggled offensively.
- Pirela went 2-for-4 with his third home run. After not hitting his first home runs until his 268th at-bat this season, Pirela has three homers in his past 55 at-bats. His .263 average is also tops on the team among those with at least 190 at-bats.
- The Padres must win Sunday to avoid losing their seventh consecutive series.

Chris Paddack dominant in Texas League debut

Jeff Sanders

Chris Paddack's Texas League debut didn't prove too much of a challenge, either.

The 22-year-old right-hander allowed only one hit, struck out five and won his first Double-A San Antonio start with six strong innings in a [7-2 win](#) over visiting Arkansas on Saturday night.

Pitching in front of nearly 80 family and friends, Paddack's lone hit allowed was a second-inning home run from **Joey Curletta**. Paddack (1-0, 1.50) walked one batter, too, before exiting with 53 of his 79 pitches landing in the strike zone.

In 11 post-Tommy John starts, Paddack – ranked No. 96 by MLB.com – is 5-1 with a 2.16 ERA, 88 strikeouts, five walks and an 0.84 WHIP in 58 1/3 innings.

Right-hander **Erik Johnson** (2.84) struck out three over two perfect innings.

Third baseman **Ty France** (.263) went 2-for-4 with a triple and three RBIs, second baseman **Peter Van Gansen** (.262) drove in three runs on three hits and designated hitter **Webster Rivas** (.298) went 3-for-4 with a double and three runs scored.

The Missions are 9-7 in the second half and 51-35 overall.

Edwards, Lopez hurting

Shortstop **Xavier Edwards**, the 38th overall pick in last month's draft, has been out of the lineup since June 26 with wrist soreness.

The 18-year-old Edwards is hitting .423/.515/.423 with one RBI, six steals, six walks and four strikeouts in seven games in the rookie-level Arizona League.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old infielder **Justin Lopez** landed on Fort Wayne's disabled list with a broken left thumb.

Lopez is hitting .224/.280/.358 with six homers, 25 RBIs and 80 strikeouts in 68 games in the Midwest League.

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ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

(Through Friday; min. 229 plate appearances, 68 innings)

- **Batting average:** .323 – OF Buddy Reed (A+)
- **On-base percentage:** .398 – 1B Josh Naylor (AA)

- **Homers:** 16 – C Austin Allen (AA)
- **Total bases:** 156 – SS Fernando Tatis Jr. (AA), Reed
- **RBIs:** 61 – C Brett Nicholas (AAA)
- **Steals:** 33 – Reed
- **Wins:** 8 – LHP Logan Allen (AA)
- **ERA:** 2.00 – LHP Osvaldo Hernandez (A)
- **WHIP:** 1.08 – RHP Luis Perdomo (AAA)
- **Saves:** 12 – LHP Brad Wieck (AA/AAA)
- **Strikeouts:** 102 – Allen
- **SO/W:** 9.67 – LHP Nick Margevicius (A)

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OTHER SATURDAY GAMES

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (49-40)

- **Chihuahuas 5, Salt Lake 4:** RF **Franmil Reyes** (.323) hit his 15th homer and his first since returning to the Pacific Coast League and LF **Forrestt Allday** (.305) drove in two runs on three hits. CF **Auston Bousfield** (.278) went 1-for-2 with an RBI, three walks, a run and his fifth steal. 3B **Dusty Coleman** (.174) hit his eighth homer. RHP **Phil Maton** (2.84) struck out two in the ninth to save his second game, capping four scoreless innings from the bullpen. RHP **Chris Huffman** (6.75) allowed four runs in five innings in the start. El Paso has won 15 of its last 18 games.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (8-9, 42-45)

- **Storm 12, Visalia 1:** LHP **Nick Margevicius** (1-0, 0.00) debuted in the California League with three strikeouts, four hits and walks allowed in six shutout innings in the white. RHP **Carter Capps** (1.59) allowed an unearned run in two innings. 2B **Chris Baker** (.235) went 3-for-4 with his second homer, three RBIs and two runs scored and C **Luis Torrens** (.273) and SS **Allen Cordoba** (.143) both drove in two runs on two hits, including a double each. LF **Buddy Reed** (.324) went 2-for-5 with a triple, an RBI and two runs scored. Cordoba also stole his second base.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (11-6, 43-43)

- **Bowling Green 5, TinCaps 4:** CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.285) finished a homer shy of the cycle, drove in two runs, scored twice and stole his 16th homer and RF **Tirso Ornelas** (.260) went 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI. LHP **Tom Cosgrove** (5.06) allowed three runs on five hits and two walks in three innings in the start.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (11-12)

- **Dust Devils 3, Everett 0:** LHP **Ramon Perez** (1-1, 2.29) struck out eight and allowed only four hits over 5 2/3 shutout innings in the win. 2B **Olivier Basabe** (.306) went 3-

for-4 with two doubles and three runs scored and 1B **Justin Paulsen** (.286) went 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and three runs scored.

ROOKIE AZL PADRES 1 (5-11)

- **Angels 9, Padres 4:** LHP **Omar Cruz** (0-1, 2.30) allowed six runs – three earned – in 3 2/3 innings in the loss and LHP **Omar Fernandez** (4.91) allowed three runs in 2 1/3 innings. CF **Jawuan Harris** (.182) doubled in two runs and stole his fifth base.

ROOKIE AZL PADRES 2 (7-9)

- **Giants 7, Padres 3:** 2B **Jordy Barley** (.219) hit his third homer and his second in the last four games, LF **Blinger Perez** (.261) doubled in two runs and DH **Jonny Homza** (.239) went 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. 3B **Sean Guilbe** (.333) went 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, a run and a stolen base in his pro debut. RHP **Dominic Taccolini** (18.00) allowed two runs on three hits in one inning in his first start of the year.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (18-13)

- **Padres 6, White Sox 0:** RHP **Eudi Asencio** (3-1, 5.11) struck out three and allowed two this and three walks in five shutout innings in the win. DH **Bryan Torres** (.200) and SS **Yeison Santana** (.265) both drove in a run on two hits.

Transactions

- INF **Kelvin Melean** was transferred from Lake Elsinore to Fort Wayne as Lopez hit Fort Wayne's disabled list.
- RHP **Kazuhisa Makita** was recalled by San Diego.

Ross' awful start leads to Diamondbacks rout of Padres

Kevin Acee

Tyson Ross' trade value appears to have plummeted even further than the Padres' offense.

The right-hander on Saturday night gave up eight runs in two innings to the Arizona Diamondbacks, who would score more runs than they ever had in a single game in a 20-5 rout of the Padres.

Padres outfielder Wil Myers hit three home runs, the first time he hit three in a game and the ninth time a Padres player has done so.

Christian Villanueva helped the Padres beat the Rockies with three homers on April 3.

Myers, who would also hit solo homers in the third and seventh innings, put the Padres up 2-0 in Saturday's first inning.

That lead disappeared quickly.

By the time Ross (5-7) was lifted after the second inning, it was 8-2.

He has allowed at least one run in five straight innings going back to the fourth inning of last Sunday's loss to the Pirates. Ross left that 7-5 loss after giving up a solo homer to lead off the sixth inning.

Ross had a 3.32 ERA (over 95 innings) entering that game. His ERA in the past two starts is 19.29 (in seven innings).

"The All-Star break is coming at a nice time — just one more start before the break," manager Andy Green said. "He's thrown some innings this year, but the (velocity) is there, the expectation for good outings is still there."

Ross threw just 49 innings last season in his comeback from thoracic outlet surgery and didn't pitch at all after opening day in 2016.

"Physically, I'm feeling great right now," Ross said. "Arm strength has been coming along the last few outings. As the season goes on, I'm starting to get back in shape. Tonight, I felt good out there. The results were horrible, but physically, I'm feeling good."

Ross' fastball was in the 90-92 mph range it has sat all season. It was his normally trusty slider, almost unhittable for stretches this season, that was failing him. He could not throw the pitch for a strike very often and also had it hit hard a few times.

"Typically, the slider is a pitch I get ahead in counts, put guys away late in counts, backdoor to lefties, it's always been a weapon for me to steal a strike," Ross said. "My release point is off. There's an adjustment to be made right now. I haven't had the ability to shape it the way I want and bury it when I need to the last few times out."

While the Padres have enjoyed the presence of the amiable and hard-working Ross and the influence he has had on younger pitchers, his real value is in what he could bring on the trade market,

It would be best for the team if he can show before the July 31 trade deadline that he is, indeed, strong and can be effective.

Ross' name surfaced as a trade possibility early, as the 31-year-old right-hander began the season with seven quality starts in his first 10 outings. That included his flirtation with a no-hitter here on April 20, when he did not allow a hit until there were two outs in the eighth inning.

Jon Jay doubled to start the game, and Ross walked the next two batters. A double, two singles a sacrifice fly rounded out a five-run first. Steven Souza hit a two-out, three-run homer on a slider too close to the center of the strike zone in the second.

Kazuhisa Makita replaced Ross in the third inning Saturday and on his first pitch allowed a home run to Nick Ahmed. The Diamondbacks would score twice more that inning and add four runs in the fourth. It was the first time they scored three or more runs in each of the first four innings of a game in their 20-plus seasons.

The Diamondbacks would add a run in the sixth, three in the seventh and another in the eighth, giving them runs in all but one inning and breaking the team record set in an 18-7 victory over the Dodgers on May 18, 2014.

"You've got to remember some of these," Green said. "But at the same time, I think you've got to realize it's one game. ... This day was painful, there's no doubt about it — painful for fans, painful for players, for us. But you have to look at it like tomorrow you have a chance to split a series against a first-place club. It's one loss, it's painful, we'll remember it and we'll also move on."

Padres' Eric Hosmer working to catch next wave

Kevin Acee

Sometimes his dad will get a text.

Something like this:

It's close.

And then, a day or two later:

It's clicking.

For all his success over eight major league seasons — a career .282/.342/.437 hitting line — [Eric Hosmer](#) has a propensity to get into funks at the plate. And he's so in tune with his swing that he can often feel when it's about to turn.

It can happen in a moment.

"It could be a swing," Hosmer said Friday night. "It could be a foul ball."

For now, the Padres wait.

"You know there is a day coming," Andy Green said, "where he's going to crush a baseball and feel good again really quickly."

The Padres highest-paid player, the man who instantaneously launched a culture shift in the clubhouse and who for large portions of this season has been the team's biggest run producer, is in a three-week slump that is among the most severe of his career.

Over his past 19 games, Hosmer is hitting .167/.217/.192 with two doubles and no home runs. He's had longer downturns but arguably never worse.

A 36-game stretch in 2016 and a 28-game stretch in 2014 could compare, though his power numbers were much better during those declines.

Hosmer is hitting .261/.335/.412 for the season. It was .290/.370/.480 on the morning of June 14.

This run follows a pattern.

Leading up to this stretch, Hosmer hit:

- .404/.443/.614 in 15 games from May 29-June 13

- .188/.281/.360 in 23 games from May 4-28
- .500/.618/.846 in seven games from April 23-May 2
- .094/.171/.188 in eight games from April 12-22
- .362/.434/.574 in 12 games from March 30-April 11

(He began the season by going 0-for-4 on opening day.)

Like virtually all major leaguers, Hosmer has endured peaks and valleys throughout several seasons.

“I think it’s something everybody goes through throughout the years,” Hosmer said. “Each season is kind of different. I’ve had some where I’ve started out good and kind of tailed off at the end and vice versa and back and forth all year.”

Hosmer won’t say it, but hitting coach Matt Stairs has acknowledged Hosmer being on an island in the Padres’ lineup for much of the season has likely affected the player on whom expectations are the greatest.

And while Hosmer would not acknowledge it, Green indicated his star player is pressing at times.

“He’s grinding,” Green said. “He’s fighting hard. Some of that manifests in over-aggression trying to get the hit at times.”

Hosmer spends virtually every minute of the several hours leading up to first pitch working in the cage, watching video of himself or the opposing pitchers and talking about hitting with coaches and teammates. There appears to be no pattern shift between his times of famine and periods of plenty. And he said his work this season is no different than past years.

“I continue to prepare the way I’ve always prepared,” he said. “... I’m just going through a really bad stretch right now. I think the main thing is you trust in the full season and you trust in your work and your preparation that it will be there in the end.”

That is the faith the Padres possess as Hosmer works through a stretch in which he has 20 strikeouts and five walks in 83 plate appearances.

Of the 58 balls he has put in play in the past 19 games, just 18 have been hit hard as measured by FanGraphs.

In the 15 games prior to this skid, during which he hit .404/.443/.614, Hosmer put 44 balls in play. He hit 29 of those hard.

“He just hasn’t squared up a lot of hits lately,” Green said. “You’re just waiting for that one ball that’s crushed the other way. That’s the thought in my head. As soon as he does that, he’s going to be rolling again. He’s just running through a stretch that’s tough right now. ... Guys who have hit their whole lives, they always hit. Eric is going to hit.”

It could happen at any time.

“It’s just a swing you’re looking for,” Hosmer said. “And then try to ride that wave as long as you can.”

Padres notes: Green monitors trade rumors; Ellis-Ross pairing; Pirela's platoon

Kevin Acee

When [Padres](#) manager Andy Green mentions he read or heard something in the media, it is almost always with the caveat that someone told him about it or showed it to him.

But there are circumstances in which Green will seek information preemptively — such as this time of year, as the [Major League Baseball](#) trade deadline approaches.

“That’s one of the times I really pay attention to what’s being said,” he said, “because it impacts guys’ minds and mentalities inside the clubhouse.”

Green is back to monitoring the rumors and realities as the three pitchers at the back end of his bullpen are possible trade targets. However, he isn’t all that concerned about the effect on the psyches of [Brad Hand](#), [Craig Stammen](#) or Kirby Yates.

“They’re all even-keeled, they’re all a strong unit,” Green said. “And one of the greatest things you can say about somebody in life is these are guys who have achieved and they’ve been knocked down, and then they’ve risen back up and achieved again.

“Guys who have bounced back from adversity in life tend to be able to handle bumps along the way better than guys who have never had the adversity that Brad, Craig and Kirby have had.”

Hand was claimed off waivers by the Padres in April 2016 and Yates in April 2017. Stammen was signed by the Padres before last season after he spent all of the ’16 season in the minors coming back from flexor tendon surgery.

Pirela platoon

Jose Pirela, who started 65 of the Padres’ first 67 games, is in the lineup Saturday against the [Diamondbacks](#) for just the second time this week and the 15th time in the past 34 games.

He is batting .194 with a .239 on-base percentage in that span, which along with the success [Cory Spangenberg](#) has had in about the same stretch and [Carlos Asuaje](#)’s recall from Triple-A has created a playing time crunch at second base.

Spangenberg also plays third base and has started eight times there in place of Christian Villanueva and made eight starts at second base since June 4.

“You’ve got four guys that are playing two positions, and you’re trying to figure out how to balance that consistently,” Green said. “... We’ll watch how that emerges, and those guys can claim that opportunity that is out in front of them.”

Pirela, who is at second Saturday, was the designated hitter in Oakland. His last start at second base was June 30.

The right-handed hitter was the choice Saturday over the left-handed Spangenberg and Asuaje, as the Padres are facing a tough left-handed starter in Robbie Ray.

Ellis-Ross together again

A.J. Ellis is catching Tyson Ross for the fourth straight time.

With [Austin Hedges](#) due to get one day off this weekend – either Saturday night or Sunday afternoon – the decision to pair Ellis with Ross is more about who Green prefers Hedges catch.

“I like the energy that Austin has brought, especially with the young guys (Eric) Lauer and (Joey) Lucchesi,” Green said. “Not that A.J. hasn’t brought that energy. I just like that pairing. And Austin catches the low pitch about as well as anybody in baseball that comes with the sinker with Clayton (Richard). So that pairing is really nice as well.”

Hedges caught Ross’ start here in April, when he did not allow a hit for 7 2/3 innings.

Maki back

Kazuhisa Makita essentially got off one flight in Salt Lake City and boarded another one headed back to Phoenix.

A day after being optioned to Triple-A El Paso, Makita was recalled Saturday when Jose Castillo was placed on the disabled list with a hamstring strain.

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Talking with ... Padres reliever Jose Castillo

Jeff Sanders

Seven years ago, Jose Castillo was a 16-year-old Venezuelan who signed with the [Rays](#) for \$1.55 million, the fourth-largest bonus in the 2011-2012 international class. Today, the 22-year-old rookie — who landed on the DL on Saturday with a hamstring strain — is making good on his promise as a late-inning option in the [Padres](#) bullpen. (Editor's note: David Longley interpreted this conversation).

Union-Tribune: How did the deal with the Rays come together for you in Venezuela?

Castillo: Leading up to that bonus, I wasn't honestly a huge prospect. I think a lot of the stuff and the velocity started coming the few months before July 2 that year. ... I ended up toward the top of that class where before I was ranked in the 20-somethings. Leading up to the bonus, I think a lot of it was hard work and preparing for that day.

U-T: That's a lot of money for a 16-year-old kid to receive. What did that do for you and your family?

Castillo: It was good. We're definitely a humble family. I don't think we in any shape or form started to believe we were more than we were. I think we bought the things that we needed and continued to live our lives.

U-T: Tell us a little bit about your background in baseball.

Castillo: It came mostly from my uncle, Jose Tovar, who actually passed away (in late June to cancer). He's the one who taught me almost everything. I definitely owe being here to him.

U-T: It can be a difficult transition when American high school kids transition into pro ball — being on their own for the first time. What was your journey like from Venezuela to pro ball in the United States?

Castillo: I started at the Rays' complex in Venezuela and when I got to the U.S. it was a bit hard. It really hits you because you're away from home for the first time and you have to adjust. That's what happens, though. You adjust and you end up adapting to the lifestyle.

U-T: How many bags did you pack when you left for the U.S. for the first time?

Castillo: I left with one and came back with three.

U-T: What sorts of extra things did you end up bringing back?

Castillo: Clothes and shoes.

U-T: How did you get along being without your family and being so young in the States?

Castillo: It's hard – too hard. At least that's what I'd say. When you come to the U.S., when you sign at that age, you end up turning into a man for better or worse. You have to for the well being of the family. Some people who can't handle that pressure don't end up making it. It's a lot to bear. You really just have to focus on those things, especially with how things are in our country. I wanted to be able to that for my family.

U-T: Who could you lean on for support?

Castillo: I talked to my uncle every now and then. I tried to always stay in touch with my parents and my siblings and talk to them. They always made me feel good. Made me feel like I was back at home.

U-T: What kind of moment was your time in the [World Baseball Classic](#) last year for your family?

Castillo: It was something that was unexpected so I think that made it fun. It was unexpected for everyone, but I took advantage of it and got the most out of it and really had fun with it. It was for me. It was for my family. It was for my friends and all the people where I'm from. It was a really, really nice experience.

U-T: You hadn't pitched above A-ball when you were asked to face Christian Yelich and [Nolan Arenado](#) in a tough spot. What was your state of mind when you stepped on the mound that night at Petco Park?

Castillo: Honestly, I didn't know who was who. I was coming up and I was trying to treat everyone like another hitter and do what I do to get outs and make good pitches.

U-T: What sort of confidence did you gain from striking them both out?

Castillo: I think it helped, especially after I found out who they were and the quality of players they were. That definitely built up my confidence and my determination, knowing I had the ability to do that. It's pushed me even more to get to where I am now.

U-T: The international kids that signed this week are as young as 16 years old. They're hoping to get to where you are now. What advice would you give them?

Castillo: I'd say keep working and work hard. Know that there are going to be difficult moments in your career, like there always are in baseball. Also, the bonus doesn't make the player. It's something nice for Latin American players to be able to help your family, but you can't believe you're already a big leaguer and you can't believe that this is going to be all, end all. It's a compliment when someone recognizes your talent, but it's the work and it's the time and effort you put in that's going to make you a baseball player.

Myers' 3 homers not enough in lopsided loss
Ross tagged for 8 runs in shortest start of season
By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell
12:25 AM PDT

PHOENIX -- For the past week, [Wil Myers](#) has been red-hot at the plate, and for the past week, the Padres have found themselves unable to capitalize. Saturday night told that story better than any other.

The slugging left fielder tallied his first career three-homer game and the ninth in franchise history. Yet the Padres were thoroughly outplayed in a 20-5 loss to the D-backs at Chase Field. In the process, Myers earned himself a bit of history he probably wished he weren't a part of.

[View Full Game Coverage](#)

Myers became the first player in Major League history to go deep three times in a game his team lost by double figures. Starter [Tyson Ross](#) was roughed up early, the San Diego bullpen was hit hard late, and the defense did no favors to a beleaguered pitching staff that allowed 20 runs for the third time in franchise history.

"We'd like to win that game right there," Myers said. "But you want to take some positives out of this, really look at it and kind of enjoy [the three homers] for a little bit. It's back at it tomorrow. ... We have a chance to split a series on the road against a first-place team tomorrow. That's the way we've got to come back in here and think about it."

Myers joined third baseman [Christian Villanueva](#) as Padres who have hit three home runs in a game this season. Only the Red Sox also have two such performances this year -- and both came from [Mookie Betts](#).

"Wil had really good at-bats all day," said manager Andy Green. "He'd change it for a win in a heartbeat."

At the time, Myers' first home run seemed like an important jolt for a slumping Padres offense. He demolished a 3-2 fastball from D-backs starter [Robbie Ray](#) into the left-field bullpen. San Diego led, 2-0.

But when Myers' turn came around again in the third, the deficit was already six. Ross had allowed eight runs over two innings -- his shortest start since he lasted two frames precisely three years ago against Pittsburgh.

Myers took Ray deep again in the third. He was walked in the fifth before he went to the opposite field against [Jorge De La Rosa](#) in the seventh. After missing two months with various injuries, Myers is clearly making up for lost time. His three homers upped his season total five.

All the while, the bullpen floundered. [Kazuhisa Makita](#) followed Ross by allowing seven runs in two innings. The Padres trailed, 15-4, after four. The oft-reliable [Kirby Yates](#) -- an All-Star candidate ahead of Sunday's announcement -- allowed three runs in the seventh.

It was the latest defeat in a rough stretch for San Diego, which is 4-15 since clawing within four games of .500 on June 15.

"It stings," Green said. "This stretch stings. People care. We want to be playing better baseball than we're playing right now. But I still think the way to look at this game is that it's a loss, and we've got a chance to split a series tomorrow."

Ross regressing

All season, Ross has been the anchor to the Padres' rotation. He's been their most reliable starter, and he'd recently begun to generate trade buzz ahead of this month's Deadline.

On Saturday night, Ross veered way off course. After some lesser struggles last Sunday against Pittsburgh, Ross has seen his ERA climb from 3.32 to 4.41 in his last two outings. The biggest concern: Ross' devastating putaway slider hasn't been putting hitters away lately.

"I just haven't had a good slider going over the last three or four outings, really," Ross said. "... It's always been a weapon for me to steal a strike. My release point is off, and there's an adjustment to be made right now."

Green posited that Ross might be running into a bit of fatigue and that he'll benefit from the forthcoming All-Star break. He's already doubled his innings total from last season when he was coming off surgery to address thoracic outlet syndrome. In 2016, Ross made just one start before he was shut down with a shoulder ailment.

Ross dismissed the notion, adding that he's felt fine physically.

"I've got four days to recover and make an adjustment," Ross said. "I've got an important bullpen [session] coming up with [pitching coach Darren Balsley] to try to make that adjustment and take it to the next start."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Shaky at second: Myers staked Ross to a 2-0 lead in the first, but it wouldn't last long. The D-backs got on the board when second baseman [Jose Pirela](#) fielded a bouncer up the middle but flipped wide of [Freddy Galvis](#) on a force play. Pirela would make a run-scoring error in the third, and he bobbled a transfer on a potential double-play ball in the fourth. He did his best to make up for the mistakes by launching a solo home run in the fourth, but the damage was done.

Can't stop the bleeding: Trailing, 8-3, the Padres needed some quality length from Makita in relief. He couldn't provide it. [Nick Ahmed](#) took him deep in the third. [Paul Goldschmidt](#) did the same in the fourth. In total, Makita allowed seven runs (five earned) on five hits and two walks. It was a disheartening setback for the 33-year-old rookie, who was recalled prior to the game when [Jose Castillo](#) landed on the disabled list. After seven very effective seasons with the Seibu Lions in Japan, Makita has struggled with his foray into the Majors. His ERA jumped to 7.09 on Saturday night.

SOUND SMART

Myers is the second Padre to homer three times in a game against Arizona. [Hunter](#)

Renfroe also did so last Sept. 20 at Petco Park. The first two of Renfroe's home runs also came against Ray.

HE SAID IT

"Everybody will come back in here tomorrow ready to play. I don't think anything like this will linger." -- Myers

UP NEXT

Clayton Richard gets the ball for the series finale opposite Arizona ace Zack Greinke with first pitch slated for 1:10 p.m. PT. Richard has worked at least six innings in each of his last 11 starts, but he labored to get there on Tuesday against Oakland when he walked five and allowed five runs. The Majors' leader in ground-ball rate, Richard's 15 double-play grounders are one shy of the Major League lead.

Padres take patient approach to Hedges' bat
Defensive star has struggled at plate, but turnaround may be near
By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell
Jul. 7th, 2018

PHOENIX -- [Austin Hedges](#) is a defense-first catcher. Always has been, always will be.

In practically every facet, Hedges is one of the game's elite backstops. Since his 2015 callup, he ranks among the league leaders in framing and caught-stealing percentage. He's widely regarded as an excellent game caller and blocker.

"He's as valuable as there is in Major League Baseball with his glove on his hand," said Padres manager Andy Green.

Hedges wears that defense-first label with pride. But he'd probably prefer if the gap between his glove and his bat weren't so large.

At the plate, 2018 has been a struggle for Hedges. He missed eight weeks with right elbow tendinitis. He's hitting just .200 with a .599 OPS.

Lately, it appears Hedges could be turning a corner. He has hits in each of his last three games, including a laser home run on Thursday night. It's arguably his best offensive stretch this season. Hedges would like for it to become the norm.

"I believe I can be a great offensive catcher," Hedges said. "I can help the team win at the plate. I want to be the whole package. I want to be able to contribute offensively and defensively."

The Padres seem much less concerned with Hedges' offense. They think he's poised to turn things, and they're going help him do so.

But if he doesn't? No big deal, say the Padres. He's still bringing more value than anyone else with his defense -- at a position where defense is valued above all others.

"We're patient on the offensive side, because we see the value on the defensive side," Green said.

That value is very difficult to quantify. The most important aspect is Hedges' framing abilities. The subtleness with which he receives pitches means that his pitchers' strikes remain strikes and their balls become strikes.

According to Baseball Prospectus, Hedges finished second in framing runs last season. He's 10th this year, despite having missed half his team's games. Green had an apt analogy for the impact of those numbers.

"All you've got to look at is what happens when you change counts," Green said. "Guys in 2-0, 3-1 counts become Mark McGwire in '98. 1-2 or 0-2, and they're the equivalent of me. The question is: Who do you want to face?"

"[Hedges] is getting you pitches all the time and turning counts in your favor. He's effectively turning hitters into guys like me instead of Mark McGwire."

McGwire -- now the Padres' bench coach -- is one of the greatest home run hitters in the sport's history. Green finished his four-year career with an OPS+ of 79.

"You can affect the game every single pitch," Hedges said. "That's something that definitely helps take your mind off the offense sometimes. You can flush that at-bat. I might have gotten out, I might be having a rough time at the plate, but I can go out, I can help my pitching staff. I can call a good game. I can block. I can receive. I can do all these things that can help us win."

For all those reasons, the Padres remain as convinced as ever that Hedges is their catcher of the future, even if his offense continues to stall.

But they're also convinced that Hedges' offense will pick up. It's not uncommon for a young catcher to struggle offensively before a breakthrough later in his career. [Yadier Molina](#) is the most obvious example. Hedges' backup, [A.J. Ellis](#), took a similar path.

"That's been a very consistent theme for us," Green said. "Hedges is still 25. There's a lot of good stuff out in front of him offensively."

Makita returns, Castillo to DL

The Padres placed lefty reliever [Jose Castillo](#) on the disabled list Saturday with a right hamstring strain. Castillo, who owns a 2.84 ERA in 13 appearances, will be out through the All-Star break, and potentially longer, Green said.

That cleared the way for submarine-style righty [Kazuhisa Makita](#) to be recalled from Triple-A El Paso -- a day after he had been optioned there. Makita arrived in Salt Lake City on Friday night just in time for the game. He didn't pitch, and moments after it had finished, Makita received a phone call while he was eating dinner. He was headed back to the big leagues.

It's been a roller-coaster season for the 33-year-old rookie, who spent the past seven seasons with the Seibu Lions in Japan. He was optioned in late May when his ERA jumped to 6.55. But he's posted three scoreless big league outings since he was initially recalled two weeks ago.

Twenty-Something: Tyson Ross and the Padres hit new low in Arizona

By Dennis Lin

PHOENIX — For the umpteenth consecutive year, the Padres have been compelled to extract individual successes from collective failures. Saturday's game at Chase Field supplied an obvious case: For the 578th time since 1908, the dawn of the Baseball-Reference Play Index era, a player swatted three or more home runs.

Yet everything else that occurred in a 20-5 lashing by the Diamondbacks was enough to turn Wil Myers' career night into a lonely footnote.

The Padres outfielder became the first player since 1900 to hit three home runs on the wrong end of a double-digit loss. San Diego's Tyson Ross, who yielded seven runs in his previous start, surrendered an eight-spot in a cameo that further depressed his trade value. And after he needed 64 pitches to complete two innings, four relievers combined to throw 137 pitches.

Not even Kirby Yates, a candidate to make his first All-Star team, was immune to the dreck. The right-hander, pitching for the first time since his return from paternity leave, permitted three runs in one-third of an inning. His ERA nearly doubled, from 0.79 to 1.57.

The Diamondbacks' 20 runs represented a new franchise record, and the most against the Padres since a 20-1 lashing at Coors Field in 2005. Only once has San Diego absorbed more damage; in a 1977 meeting, the Chicago Cubs crushed them, 23-6.

More than four decades after that blowout, the Padres have won just 12 playoff games. They have not advanced to the postseason since 2006.

Games like Saturday's can make a return to October feel as distant as ever. Less than 1,000 miles to the east, Chris Paddack threw six innings of one-hit ball in his Double-A debut. But prospects remain nothing more than prospects until they prove their big-league worthiness.

In the meantime, one wonders what kind of environment awaits the organization's brightest young talents. The Padres, for all their talk of incremental improvement, are 38-53, two games worse than they were this time last season. The roster will need upgrades in most areas before it is fit for contention.

If the season ended today, the Padres would hold the sixth overall selection in the 2019 draft. They picked seventh last month, when they were still on something of a roll.

Now, after five consecutive series wins, they have dropped six straight series. A loss in Sunday's finale would make it seven. Preventing that will require the ability to forget an embarrassment.

"Some guys take it harder than others; some guys let it roll off," said Myers, who has seven extra-base hits in his last seven games, surging while the rest of the lineup has sputtered. "Everybody's got their way of dealing with it. I know everybody will come back in here tomorrow ready to play. I don't think anything like this will linger."

Saturday will have ramifications, of course, and not just for a weary bullpen. Ross' downturn after two strong months has been especially ill-timed. Only a few more starts separate the right-hander from the July 31 trade deadline, and opposing clubs will wield his recent history like a cudgel.

The former All-Star pitched only once in 2016, underwent surgery for thoracic outlet syndrome and gritted through a career-worst 2017. His struggles over the last couple of performances overshadow the fact that he has maintained his fastball velocity.

“My arm strength has been coming along the last few outings,” said Ross, whose ERA jumped from 3.78 to 4.41. “As the season goes on, I’m starting to get back in shape. Tonight, I felt good out there. The results were horrible, but physically, I’m feeling good.”

Ross linked the disparity to a release point that has wavered. His slider, he acknowledged, has lately been ineffective.

“There’s an adjustment to be made right now,” said Ross, who had recorded a 3.32 . “I haven’t had the ability to shape it the way I want and bury it when I need to the last few times out.”

Ross at least can lean on the experience of eight-plus seasons in the majors. The Padres have reason to hope for a course correction.

The organization cannot hold the same level of confidence with Kazuhisa Makita. In relief of Ross, the Japanese submariner conceded seven runs, five earned, over two innings. His defense did him no favors. Neither did the stream of 80 mph heaters that lacked both velocity and precision.

“It’s a challenge,” Padres manager Andy Green said. “He lives up in the zone with the fastball, and when he misses just a little bit down those fastballs are getting hit. He’s got a small margin [for error], and executing is what it really comes down to for him.

“He can get it done. It just hasn’t happened at this point.”

Makita, 33, left Japan in the offseason for his first major-league opportunity. In 23 appearances, his novelty act has already grown stale. His ERA soared to 7.09 on Saturday, and he seemed on the verge of being optioned to Triple A for the second time in three days (Makita flew to join El Paso on Friday, only to be immediately recalled when José Castillo pulled a hamstring). That volume of movement is more typical of roster filler, not a reliever who signed a two-year, \$3.8 million deal.

His struggles offer a reminder that the Padres, given the present stakes, are still in an experimental phase. Success stories such as Yates and Brad Hand have been accompanied by whiffs. To date, Makita and the trade that netted Bryan Mitchell and Chase Headley look like the latter. The development of minor-leaguers remains paramount, as does the performance of a few key regulars.

“The thing about this year and what I want to do with my at-bats, it’s all about my approach,” said Myers, who joined third baseman Christian Villanueva as the second Padre to log a three-homer game this season. “I never want to come off of it. ... I just think right now I’m executing my plan a little better than normal.”

A 15-run defeat, though, will challenge anyone’s ability to maintain perspective.

“You’ve got to remember some of these, but at the same time I think you’ve got to realize it’s one game,” Green said. “Tomorrow you get a chance to get a series split against a first-place ball club. I think that’s the way you have to look at days like this. This day was painful, there’s no doubt about it. Painful for fans, painful for players, for us. ... It’s one loss, it’s painful, we’ll remember it and we’ll also move on.”

In the bigger picture, the Padres continue to meander through another rebuilding season. The collective successes have again been limited. On Saturday, despite it being a birthday for Green and third base coach Glenn Hoffman, there was no cause for celebration.

Diamondbacks set franchise record with 20-5 rout of Padres

9:16 AM PT
Associated Press

PHOENIX -- Five home runs, 18 hits, 20 runs.

The [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) have never had a better offensive night than they did Saturday against the [San Diego Padres](#).

[David Peralta](#) drove in three runs and matched his career best with five hits as the Diamondbacks set a single-game franchise scoring record with a 20-5 rout of the Padres.

"It wasn't just a good night for me," Peralta said. "It was a good night for everybody."

[Wil Myers](#) became the third Padres player to homer three times in a game, but San Diego was blown out in its 16th loss in 21 games.

"This day was painful, there is no doubt about it," Padres manager Andy Green said. "This day was painful for fans, painful for players, for us. But you have to look at it like tomorrow you have a chance to split the series against a first-place club. It is one loss. It is a painful one. We will remember it, but we will also move on."

[Paul Goldschmidt](#), [Steven Souza Jr.](#), [Alex Avila](#), [Nick Ahmed](#) and [Ketel Marte](#) homered for the Diamondbacks, who broke the team scoring record set in an 18-7 victory over the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) on May 17, 2014.

Goldschmidt, Ahmed and Avila also each had three RBIs.

"I don't even know where to start, to tell you the truth," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said. "You set a franchise record for runs scored in a game, you know that you've done something pretty special."

The romp kept the Diamondbacks a game ahead of the Dodgers in the National League West.

Arizona jumped on [Tyson Ross](#) for eight runs in the first two innings and was up 15-4 after four, scoring at least three runs in four consecutive innings for the first time in franchise history. Ross (5-7) lasted only two innings, giving up eight runs and seven hits.

"Days like today happen," he said. "It was a rough one for me out there."

Ross has given up 15 runs in seven innings in his past two outings.

Goldschmidt's three-run shot off reliever [Kazuhisa Makita](#) was the slugger's 20th homer of the season, the sixth time in his career he has homered 20 times in a season. Souza's homer off Ross was his first of the season. Avila, just off the disabled list, had two RBI singles to go with his fourth homer of the season.

Despite the huge early lead, [Robbie Ray](#) did not last long enough to get the victory. In his third start since coming off the disabled list, Ray gave up four runs, including three homers, and four hits, walking four in 4 1/3 innings. He left after throwing 96 pitches.

Lovullo said he pulled Ray because of the high pitch count, even though it deprived the left-hander of a victory.

"I know he was frustrated. He was growling at me when I took him out of the game, so I know he wanted the win," Lovullo said. "That's great, but I have to separate some things at times and his health is obviously the most important thing."

Ray said it was "very frustrating" to not get through the fifth inning despite such a big lead.

[Randall Delgado](#) (1-0), in his first appearance of the season, gave up one hit in 1 2/3 innings to get the victory. Delgado had spent the season on the disabled list because of a strained left oblique before being activated Friday.

Myers had the second three-homer game by a Padre this season. [Christian Villanueva](#) did it against the [Colorado Rockies](#) on April 3. [Jose Pirela](#) also homered off Ray on Saturday.

The Padres led 2-0 two batters into the game after [Manuel Margot](#)'s leadoff walk and Myers' home run. But the Diamondbacks batted around to score five in their half of the first.

The Diamondbacks had dropped six of seven before beating San Diego twice in a row. Arizona is 3-6 on a homestand that ends Sunday.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: LHP [Jose Castillo](#) was put on the 10-day DL, retroactive to Friday, because of a right hamstring strain. Makita was recalled from Triple-A El Paso.

Diamondbacks: Avila (strained right hamstring) was activated from the 10-day DL, and RHP [Silvino Bracho](#) was optioned to Triple-A Reno.

UP NEXT

[Zack Greinke](#) (9-5, 3.36 ERA), 4-0 with a 1.73 ERA in his past four starts, takes the mound for Arizona and LHP [Clayton Richard](#) (7-8, 4.46) goes for the Padres on Sunday.

This Day in Padres History—

July 8

By Bill Center

July 8, 1972—First baseman **Nate Colbert** is 4-for-5 with a homer and five RBIs in the Padres' 8-5 win at Philadelphia.

July 8, 1976—Left-hander **Randy Jones** sets a National League record by posting his 16th win before the All-Star break in a 6-3 win over the Cubs at Wrigley Field. Jones is 16-3 with a 2.53 earned run average.

July 8, 1978—Right-hander **Eric Rasmussen** allows three hits and three walks with three strikeouts on a complete-game shutout in the Padres' 7-0 win at Atlanta.

July 8, 1980—Padre **Dave Winfield** drives in the go-ahead run with a ground out as the National League defeats the American League 4-2 in the All-Star Game.

July 8, 1985—Center fielder **Kevin McReynolds** is 3-for-5 with four RBIs and two runs scored and misses the cycle by a single in the Padres 8-4 win over the Cubs at Wrigley Field.

#PadresOnDeck: Allen Craig's Slam, LHP Jerry Keel's Strong Debut Pace Surging Triple-A El Paso

By Bill Center

First baseman **Allen Craig** hit a grand slam homer and drive in five runs and left-handed starter **Jerry Keel** won his first start at Triple-A as El Paso rallied to score a 7–3 win at Salt Lake for its 11th win in the past 14 games.

Craig (.297) was 2-for-5. Keel gave up three runs on eight hits and three walks with three strikeouts in six innings.

Top performances from [Padres' Top-30 prospects](#):

— Second baseman **Luis Urías**, 21, the [Padres' No.3 prospect](#), had a double in his only at-bat with three walks, a sacrifice bunt and a run score to raise his average at El Paso to .281.

— Left-handed starter **Logan Allen**, 21, the [Padres' No.9 prospect according to MLB Pipeline](#), allowed three runs on four hits and two walks with seven strikeouts at Double-A San Antonio to fall to 8–4 with a 2.78 earned run average.

— Catcher **Austin Allen**, the [Padres' No.27 prospect](#), was 2-for-4 for San Antonio with a home run to raise his batting average to .307.

— Left fielder **Josh Naylor**, 21, the [Padres' No.14 prospect](#), was 2-for-3 with two walks and a RBI with the Missions and is hitting .316.

— Center fielder **Jeisson Rosario**, 18, the [Padres' No.17 prospect](#), was 3-for-5 with a double to raise his batting average with Single-A Fort Wayne to .277.

Top efforts outside the Top-30 list:

— Left fielder **Buddy Reed**, 23, (.323) had a triple and a homer in three at-bats for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore.

— Catcher **Luis Torrens**, 22, (.269) was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored for Lake Elsinore.

In moves Friday, right-handed pitchers **Seth Simmons** and **Jonathan Arowere** were placed on the seven-day disable list by El Paso. Right-handed pitcher **Dylan Coleman**, the Padres' fourth-round pick in last month's draft, was promoted from Short-Season Single-A Tri-City to Fort Wayne.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (48–40): Chihuahuas 7, SALT LAKE 3—LF **Forrestt Allday** (.292) backed Craig and Urias, going 3-for-3 with a triple, a walk, a stolen base and two runs scored. CF **Auston Bousfield** (.276) had a double in four at-bats with a run scored. SS **Javy Guerra** (.195) was 0-for-2 with two walks and a run scored. RHP **Colten Brewer** (4.26 ERA) followed Keel and issued a walk with a strikeout in an otherwise perfect inning. RHP **Robert Stock** (1.78) struck out two in two perfect innings.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (8–7, 50–35): Northwest Arkansas 3, MISSIONS 2—RHP **Eric Yardley** (2.96) followed **Logan Allen** and allowed a hit with two strikeouts in two scoreless innings. RHP **Jason Jester** (4.21) allowed two hits with three strikeouts in a scoreless inning. 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.266) backed **Austin Allen** and Naylor, with two doubles in four at-bats. CF **Michael Gettys** (.243) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. RF **Nick Schulz** (.143) was 1-for-3 with a walk. DH **Webster Rivas** (.282) was 1-for-4.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (7–9, 41–45): STORM 9, Visalia 7—RHP **Reggie Lawson** (3.39 ERA) allowed seven runs on six hits and three walks with five strikeouts in five innings. LHP **Cody Tyler** (1–0, 2.25) allowed a hit with two strikeouts in two scoreless innings to get the win. RHP **David Bednar** (3.86) allowed a hit with a strikeout in two scoreless innings to get his sixth save. C **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.254) was 2-for-4 with a RBI and two runs scored in support of Reed and Torrens. 2B **Kelvin Melean** (.263) was 2-for-4 with a sacrifice, two RBIs and a run scored. CF **Edward Olivares** (.275) was 1-for-3 with a stolen base, two hit-by-pitches, a run scored and a RBI. LF **Nate Easley** (.260) was 1-for-2 with a double, a RBI and a run scored. SS **Allen Córdoba** (.115) was 1-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.245) was 1-for-3 with a hit-by-pitch and a run scored. RF **Jorge Oña** (.238) was 1-for-4.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (11–5, 43–42): Bowling Green 6, TIN CAPS 1—Starting RHP **Mason Thompson** (6–5, 5.05 ERA) allowed four runs (three earned) on six hits with seven strikeouts in five innings to take the loss. LHP **Fred Schlichholz** (4.64) allowed two runs (one earned) on three hits with a strikeout in two innings. RHP **Austin Smith** (0.00) allowed a hit and two walks in two scoreless innings. 1B **Nick Feight** (.217) backed **Jeisson Rosario**, going 2-for-4. LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.363) was 1-for-2 with three walks and a RBI. C **Jalen Washington** (.240) was 0-for-2 with two walks and a run scored.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (10–12): Dust Devils 7, SPOKANE 2—Starting RHP **Sam Keating** (2–2, 4.24 ERA) allowed two runs on two hits and three walks with three strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings to get the win. RHP **Diomar Lopez** (1.35) allowed an unearned run on two hits with three strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings. RHP **Korey Anderson** (0.00) allowed a hit with a strikeout in a scoreless inning. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** (0.00) struck out one in a perfect inning. 2B **Olivier Basabe** (.267) was 3-for-5 with a double, a RBI and a run scored. 3B **Luke Becker** (.222) was 2-for-3 with two walks, a RBI and a run scored. SS **Owen Miller** (.341) was 2-for-5. 1B **Justin Paulsen** (.261) was 1-for-3 with two walks and two runs scored. CF **Grant Little** (.364) was 1-for-4 with a RBI.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (17–13): DIAMONDBACKS 4, Padres 1—SS **Bryan Torres** (.188) was 2-for-4. Starting LHP **Manuel Partida**(1–1, 2.10 ERA) allowed four runs (three earned) on six hits and two walks with five strikeouts in five innings. RHP **Edgar Martinez** (1.53) allowed a hit and a walk with two strikeouts in three scoreless innings.

ARIZONA ROOKIE PADRES:

PADRES-1 (5–10): Angels 5, PADRES 2—2B **Luis Roman** (.250) was 2-for-4 with a walk, a stolen base and a run scored. Starting RHP **Jean Cosme** (9.00 ERA) allowed two hits with three strikeouts in two scoreless innings. LHP **Gabriel Morales** (2.35) allowed a hit and two walks with four strikeouts in four scoreless innings.

PADRES-2 (7–8): BREWERS 7, Padres 3—1B **Lee Solomon** (.267) was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored. 2B **Jarryd Dale** (.239) was 2-for-4 with a double. C **Gilberto Vizcarra** (.175) was 1-for-3 with a walk and a RBI. RF **Greg Lambert** (.333) was 2-for-4 with a double. Starting RHP **Edwain Bencomo**(3.86 ERA) allowed three runs on three hits and two walks with two strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings.

Wil Myers hit three homers in a game ... and the Padres lost by 15 runs

It is by far the most lopsided loss in a three-homer game in modern history
by [Mike Axisa](#)

Saturday was a very good day for the [Arizona Diamondbacks](#). The D-Backs throttled the [San Diego Padres](#) and scored a franchise-record 20 runs en route to their third win in the last five games ([ARI 20, SD 5](#)).

And although his team lost, Padres outfielder [Wil Myers](#) had a good game personally. He hit three home runs and drove in four of his team's five runs. It was the first three-homer game in his career and only his sixth multi-homer game, which surprised me. Here is video of Myers' career day at the plate. Various injuries have limited him to only 25 games this season, so these were his third, fourth, and fifth home runs of 2018:

"I just think right now I'm executing my plan a little better than normal," Myers said to reporters, [including Kevin Acee of the San Diego Union Tribune](#), following Saturday's game. "I never want to come off of it. Any time I come off that approach and try to do something different, I'm going to get out. I know that the only way for me to be successful is to have that plan and stick to that."

Unfortunately for Myers, his teammates turned his three-home run game into dubious history. The 20-5 loss is by far the most lopsided loss in a three-home run game in history. Here are the largest losses in a three-homer game:

1. **July 7, 2018:** Wil Myers, Padres (20-5 loss to D-Backs)
2. **Aug. 9, 2001:** Sammy Sosa, [Cubs](#) (14-5 loss to [Rockies](#))
3. **April 24, 1947:** Johnny Mize, [Giants](#) (14-5 loss to [Braves](#))
4. **Aug. 13, 1932:** Bill Terry, Giants (18-9 loss to [Dodgers](#))
5. Several tied with eight-run losses

Prior to Saturday, no team had ever lost by as many as 10 runs when one of their players hit three home runs. The Padres managed to lose by 15. Ouch.

Diamondbacks hope to keep pounding Padres

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PHOENIX — With [Steven Souza Jr.](#) and [A.J. Pollock](#) ready and able, the [Diamondbacks](#) have plenty of possible outfield combinations moving forward, which enables manager Torey Lovullo to stretch his imagination. Consider it stretched.

In three games since Souza returned from the disabled list to join Pollock, [David Peralta](#) and [Jon Jay](#), the Diamondbacks have had three starting different looks. If they all work as well as they did in a 20-5 victory over San Diego on Saturday, they will be in good shape.

Souza Jr. hit his first Arizona homer Saturday after missing most of the season with a strained pectoral muscle, one of five homers when the Diamondbacks had a franchise-high in runs with a season-high 18 hits in the third game of the four-game series.

Arizona right-hander [Zack Greinke](#) will attempt to secure a series win when he opposes [Clayton Richard](#) at Chase Field on Sunday, when the All-Star teams will be announced.

Jay made his first start of the season in center field since joining the Diamondbacks in early June to give Pollock a day off, and the Lovullo's options also include infielder/outfielder [Chris Owings](#). They will grow when [Jarrod Dyson](#) returns from the disabled list.

"I'm having some very creative thoughts with generating some lineups," Lovullo said. "There is going to be a nice rotation once everybody is back. They are all going to play. What the exact numbers are every 10 days, I don't know at this point.

"I want to maximize opportunities to score runs, so I am going to pay attention to a lot of the matchups, a lot of the numbers, a lot of the projections. A lot of the things that I look at presently to make sure I am maximizing every opportunity to go out and put up numbers. It's going to be a challenge, but it's going to be a fun challenge. It's going to be a situation that I'll have to pay very close attention to."

Nominal left fielder Peralta got a day off against [Padres](#) lefty [Eric Lauer](#) on Thursday and Jay got the next day off against lefty [Joey Lucchesi](#), with Peralta returning to the leadoff spot he had occupied before Jay was acquired from Kansas City on June 7.

Souza has made all three of his starts in right field since his return and Pollock has all of his starts this season in center, positions each will occupy when they are in the lineup.

The outfield abundance gives Lovullo the ability to work off days into the equation, something he believes in. [Paul Goldschmidt](#) (155) and [Jake Lamb](#) (149) were the only Diamondbacks to play more than 140 games in their 93-win 2017 season.

“I feel like one of the reasons we were go good at the end of last year was because we were able to do what we are doing now, giving guys days off and spelling guys with quality backups,” Lovullo said.

“This is going to give us the opportunity to stay healthy for the rest of the season.”

Like Arizona in the outfield, San Diego has excess talent at second base and third base, where four players —[Jose Pirela](#), [Cory Spangenberg](#), [Carlos Asuaje](#) and [Christian Villanueva](#) — are battling for time. Pirela homered Saturday in his first start at second since June 30.

“You have four guys that are playing two positions, and you’re trying to figure out how to balance that consistently,” San Diego manager Andy Green said. “We’ll watch how that emerges, and those guys can claim that opportunity that is out in front of them.”

Greinke, 9-5 with a 3.36 ERA, has won his last four starts while giving up only five runs in 26 innings, with 22 strikeouts and only three walks. He is 6-1 since the start of June and is 10-2 with a 2.07 ERA in 19 career starts against the Padres. He has allowed two or fewer runs in 17 of those starts.

“The tempo and the rhythm between pitches is consistent and quick,” Lovullo said. “He is driving downhill fastballs on both sides of the plate. He has thrown breaking pitches into different areas at any time.

“There are so many different things that he does every year that he is now doing right in front of us that equal success. Fastball command would probably be the best thing. He establishes his fastball command and works off of that. Has a great sense, an incredible sense, of when and where to throw pitches.”

Richard, 7-8 with a 4.46 ERA, has lost his last two decisions, breaking a four-game winning streak that included road starts at Miami, Atlanta and San Francisco. He lost at Arizona on April 21 but has beaten the Diamondbacks more than anyone else in his career, going 10-6 with a 4.14 ERA in 189 starts. He is 4-4 with a 6.12 ERA in nine starts at Chase Field.