



Padres Press Clips

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Article	Source	Author	Page
Monterrey trip a homecoming for Padres' Villanueva	MLB.com	Cassavell	2
Villanueva returns home for Mexico Series the Padres	MLB.com	Sanchez	6
Tatis Jr. among top prospect performers	MLB.com	Mcklin	10
Strike out zone: Padres' woes at the plate continue, as they get no-hit by the Dodgers in Mexico	The Athletic	Palmateer	11
Four Dodgers pitchers no-hit Padres in Mexico	SD Union Tribune	Acee	15
It rains on Padres-Dodgers fiesta	SD Union Tribune	Acee	18
Andy Green is patient, but says changes coming if Padres can't improve	SD Union Tribune	Acee	22
Javy Guerra makes the big leagues for Padres	SD Union Tribune	Acee	26
Padres notes: Team eyes soon and later but not now for Luis Urias	SD Union Tribune	Acee	28
Austin Allen 'opening eyes' in Texas League	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	31
Dodgers open Mexico Series with combined no-hitter against Padres	Yahoo! Sports	Townsend	35
Dodgers Throw Combined No-Hitter vs. Padres	Sports Illustrated	Rollins	37
Christian Villanueva: Playing MLB game in Mexico 'dream come true'	AP	AP	38
What you need to know about Dodgers' rare combined no-hitter	ESPN	Staff	40
Walker Buehler, three relievers get Dodgers' first combined no-hitter	AP	AP	42
Dodgers hope to build on combined no-hitter vs. Padres	FOX Sports	Stats	45
#PadresOnDeck: Big Nights for Franmil Reyes, Fernando Tatis Jr., Luis Perdomo, Logan Allen	Friar Wire	Center	47
This Day in Padres History—May 5	Friar Wire	Center	50

Padres get no-hit in Mexico Series opener

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

MONTERREY, Mexico -- The Padres traveled a long way to face the Dodgers in Monterrey this weekend. They'll be waiting a little longer for their first hit of the Mexico Series.

Led by hard-throwing right-handed starter **Walker Buehler**, four Dodgers pitchers combined for a historic no-hitter Friday night, the first of its kind outside the United States or Canada, which led to a 4-0 Padres loss at the Estadio de Beisbol. Buehler struck out eight and walked three before **Tony Cingrani**, **Yimi Garcia** and **Adam Liberatore** completed the 12th combined no-no in history.

It was a bitter pill to swallow for the Padres, given the festive setting and the opponent -- a National League West rival they've been chasing in the standings for nearly a decade. More importantly, in the eyes of their skipper, it was another loss in which the strikeout woes persisted and the at-bats weren't up to par.

"It stings no matter what," Padres manager Andy Green said. "I really don't care about the setting or the opponent. I don't want to get no-hit. I don't want to get beat. It doesn't matter to me one bit who it is or where it is."

Buehler temporarily saw his command slip in the third inning when he issued consecutive walks. In a strange twist of fate, that may have kept his no-hit bid intact. With two men on base, the Dodgers were unable to shift third baseman **Kyle Farmer** to the right side of the infield against **Eric Hosmer**.

Sure enough, Hosmer hit a liner directly at Farmer, who snagged it out of mid-air and threw to second for a double play. That liner was undoubtedly the Padres' best chance against Buehler, who was otherwise flawless.

"Two different breaking balls he was throwing for strikes on both sides of the plate," said Hosmer. "He was throwing [his fastball] 98-99 mph. It's tough to give credit to the pitcher sometimes, but he threw a good game, and he had all of his pitches working to both sides of the plate. Sometimes you've got to tip your cap to their guy."

Los Angeles opened the scoring in the first inning before **Chris Taylor** and **Enrique Hernandez** launched back-to-back homers in the second. Padres starter **Joey Lucchesi** would settle in for five innings of three-run ball, but he was out-done by Buehler.

A rookie coming off Tommy John surgery, Buehler was removed after six innings and 93 pitches. Padres third baseman **Christian Villanueva** would lead off the seventh.

Before the game, Villanueva, the lone Mexican-born player on either roster, received a warm ovation from the Monterrey crowd. He had the best chance to put a dent in the no-no against the Dodgers bullpen. Villanueva, who has torched lefties all season, faced two of them. He hit a seventh-inning rocket to left that **Alex Verdugo** tracked down. Then with one out in the ninth, he popped up to left against Liberatore.

A batter later in the ninth, **Franchy Cordero** struck out swinging. The Dodgers, with their MLB-record 23rd no-hitter now complete, commenced their celebrations. The Padres, still awaiting their first no-no, retreated from a soggy dugout

"You don't like losing," Hosmer said. "It's not fun, especially being no-hit. ... We've got to continue to grind, continue to fight. This league is not going to get any easier, and people aren't going to feel bad for you."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Who's got it?: The Dodgers grabbed their early lead three batters into the game on what should've been a routine fly ball in the infield. With men on the corners and no one out, **Matt Kemp** skyed a popup just beyond second base. In a hazy dusk sky, second baseman **Jose Pirela** never picked up the ball, and it dropped between right fielder **Matt Szczur** and shortstop **Freddy Galvis** -- who also picked it up late.

Drenched: There was little Lucchesi could've done to salvage things Friday night. But given the buckets of rain falling, there's an easy justification for his early struggles. Lucchesi throws a pitch he calls the churve, which he grips deep in his palm like a changeup but spins like a curveball. In the early stages, he simply couldn't control that pitch. Perhaps that lack of control was what forced him to groove a pair of fastballs to Taylor and Hernandez. Play stopped briefly in the third inning, as the grounds crew worked on the pitcher's mound under torrential skies.

"That half inning it was borderline dangerous for a little bit," Green said. "That was very wet turf, and everybody was slipping all over the place. But that wasn't the issue tonight for us."

Lucchesi proceeded to allow one baserunner -- a **Tim Locastro** double -- from the third inning on.

CHANGES COMING?

No team in baseball has more strikeouts than the Padres, and they fanned 13 times on Friday night. If the San Diego offense is going to find a groove, it needs to limit those Ks, and nobody knows that better than Green.

"We've punched out way too much," Green said. "We're at a point in time with hitters here where your opportunity will pass you by if you don't make an adjustment and start putting the ball in play. The opportunity will start going to somebody else. We'll continue to churn if we can't get the job done."

But the Padres might simply be built to strike out. Sure, No. 3 prospect Luis Urias could get a big league callup soon. His strikeout rate remains very low. But a handful of youngsters -- namely Cordero, Villanueva, **Hunter Renfroe** and **Austin Hedges** -- have always whiffed at high rates.

The Padres remain committed to finding out which of those players could become pieces in their future (though Hedges and Renfroe are currently on the DL). Cordero, who walked twice Friday, has seemingly made some strides with his plate discipline.

"There's a lot of guys who have struck out their entire careers," Green said. "They show up to the Major Leagues with 30-percent strikeout rates, and you can hide behind the excuse that they're always going to strikeout or you can make some changes."

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Friday marked the second time in franchise history that the Padres have been held hitless on a combined effort from their opponent. On Sept. 11, 1991, Kent Mercker, Mark Wohlers and Alejandro Pena combined to lift Atlanta to a no-hitter in a 1-0 Braves victory.

HE SAID IT

"He had a great game. We've got to come up with something ... We've got to find a way. But you've got to put it in the past and come out tomorrow and have a good one." -
- Szczur, on Buehler

"Hosmer's ball doesn't get caught, you're talking an RBI and a different game. [Buehler] was effective and he threw hard, but I thought we put some good at-bats together. They just caught 'em." -- Padres catcher **Raffy Lopez**

UP NEXT

Padres right-hander **Bryan Mitchell** is looking for a bounce-back effort after his rough start to the season. He gets the ball at 4:10 p.m. PT on Saturday against Dodgers righty **Kenta Maeda**. Mitchell is winless in his first six starts for San Diego and allowed nine combined runs over his last two outings.

Villanueva returns home for Mexico Series

April's NL Rookie of the Month was born in Guadalajara
Jesse Sanchez MLB.com

All Padres third baseman **Christian Villanueva** ever wanted was a chance to show he belonged in the Major Leagues and make his family and friends back in Mexico proud.

Villanueva's dream had been slowed by injuries, but he never gave up. At one point, he was blocked at third base by **Adrian Beltre** in Texas, and later by **Kris Bryant** in Chicago, but he didn't quit. Now, the rookie from Guadalajara has found a home in San Diego, and he's returning to his country as a rising star.

This weekend, Villanueva will be the lone Mexico-born starter on the field during the three-game series between the Padres and Dodgers at Estadio Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico.

Villanueva is having a breakout season -- earning the **National League Rookie of the Month Award** for the month of April -- and can't wait for the games to begin.

"Personally, I'm anxious and maybe a little nervous, but I know it's going to be fun and I'm so happy we are able to bring the best baseball in the world to Mexico," Villanueva said in Spanish. "I always give 100 percent, but there's going to be something special and an extra energy playing in front of your people and representing Mexico on a big stage. I can't even imagine what it is going to be like."

The games mark the third regular-season series to be played in the city, and the first regular-season games in Mexico since the Padres and the Rockies played in MLB's first international Opening Day in 1999 in Monterrey. The Padres also played a three-game series against the Mets in the city in '96.

"We are excited," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Obviously, the relationship with the Mexican fan base with the Padres and the Dodgers, it makes sense. We are trying to

get through this series [against the D-backs], but once we do that, I know our guys will be looking forward to getting down to Monterrey."

On Friday, Rockies mascot Dinger and Twins mascot TC Bear will visit children at the Centro de Rehabilitacion Infantil Teleton in Coahuila. Then on Saturday, MLB, the Dodgers and Padres will dedicate the refurbishments made to the computer center at the Club de Niños y Niñas de Nuevo León. MLB and the Sultanes de Monterrey will play host to a Play Ball event at Estadio Monterrey on Monday. A Little League game will follow.

The series is the Dodgers' fourth trip to Mexico, and the first for regular-season games following preseason contests against the Mexico City Red Devils in 1964, the Brewers in '91 and the Mets in 2003.

Major League teams most recently visited Mexico in March 2016, when the Padres and Astros played two exhibition games in Mexico City. There was also a qualifying round for the '17 World Baseball Classic in Mexicali in March 2016. Guadalajara later played host to Pool D of the Classic a year later.

"Being a Mexican, it's emotional for me, but also special for the Padres, my team," said Padres Spanish broadcaster Eduardo Ortega, who is in his 32nd season with San Diego. "I've been fortunate enough to call Padres baseball games in Spanish in Canada, in China in Beijing, Hawaii in '97. ... But this particular trip is, I think, the most important for me. It just means so much to bring Major League Baseball [to Mexico]."

This season, there were 11 players born in Mexico on Opening Day rosters and inactive lists, a group made up of Villanueva, Philadelphia's **Victor Arano**, Arizona's **Jorge De La Rosa** and **Fernando Salas**, Toronto's **Marco Estrada**, **Roberto Osuna** and **Jaime Garcia**, White Sox pitchers **Miguel Gonzalez** and **Joakim Soria**, Dodgers pitcher **Julio Urias** and Boston's **Hector Velazquez**.

On the amateur side, more than 60 prospects from Mexico have signed during the current international signing period. Last year, MLB opened an office in Mexico City and

an academy in Culiacan for players ages 13-17 as part of a partnership with the Sinaloan state government.

"Major League Baseball is exposing the game to people outside of the country, and I think that's a very positive thing and I'm very supportive," said Dodgers Hall of Fame Spanish broadcaster Jaime Jarrin, who famously served as Fernando Valenzuela's interpreter during the 1980s. "I vividly remember being there with Koufax and Drysdale in 1964 and with everyone in 1991. Those trips were great, very nice, and I'm sure this will be great, too."

The Dodgers' history with Monterrey spans more than half a century. In 2009, the club played host to members of the 1957 Little League World Series championship team from Monterrey, the first Mexican team to win the LLWS, at Dodger Stadium. More than 50 years earlier, the Mexican Little Leaguers spent the day at Ebbets Field with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Overall, there have been 19 Mexico-born players to suit up for the Dodgers, with the most famous being Valenzuela, who will throw out the first pitch for Friday's series opener. The Padres have had 23 players born in Mexico play at least one game for them. More could be on the way.

Padres infielder Luis Urias, the club's **No. 3 prospect**, is from Sonora, Mexico. The Dodgers' **No. 2 prospect Alex Verdugo**, who is of Mexican descent and played for Team Mexico in the 2017 Classic, was called up from Triple-A last week.

"It's going to be a really special experience, because my family is going to come out and enjoy it with me," Verdugo said. "Playing for Team Mexico, the fans supported me and I felt like I showed well and played well, so they were definitely cheering me on. I'm looking forward to going back there and hearing them cheer us on."

Villanueva is looking forward to making his own mark in Monterrey. He'll be carrying his father, Jesus, and brother, Eduardo, both of whom died before they could see him play in the Major Leagues, in his heart.

"This is something I will never forget, and I hope the people receive me well because I am representing them and everyone in my family who inspired me," Villanueva said.

"This is also for my young son. My dreams are coming true and he is living them with me. He might not recognize it, but one day he can look at what his father did and be proud.

Tatis Jr. among top prospect performers

Oliver Macklin MLB.com

The evening began with six teams' No. 1 prospects -- including four of the top 11 players on the **Top 100 Prospects** list -- crushing home runs, highlighted by the Yankees' **Gleyber Torres** hitting his first big league long ball. **Francisco Mejia** (Indians), **Eloy Jimenez** (White Sox), **Keston Hiura** (Brewers), **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (Padres) and **Austin Hays** (Orioles) all went deep for their respective Minor League clubs as well.

Tatis, **Padres' top prospect**, crushed his sixth home run of the year -- and third in his past four games -- for Double-A San Antonio. MLB's No. 8 overall prospect has racked up nine hits in his past four games and has 24 total bases over that span following a slow start to the year.

Strike out zone: Padres' woes at the plate continue, as they get no-hit by the Dodgers in Mexico

By Dennis Lin

A low-slung room at Estadio de Béisbol Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico provided the stage for Padres manager Andy Green to discuss a historic visit and, at one point, a historic pace. In a pregame press conference, San Diego's skipper predicted that third baseman Christian Villanueva's [return to his homeland](#) would draw numerous fans sympathetic to the Padres' cause. Then a reporter based in Mexico requested a comment about strikeouts.

Thirty-two games in, the Padres were sitting on 324 of them. No team has ever struck out more times in a season than the Brewers in 2017, who, in compiling 1,571 whiffs and 86 wins, reinforced a trend: Modern-day teams, even successful ones, have learned to live with the strikeout. The 2018 Padres may have charted a course for 1,640 strikeouts, but making enough hard contact and drawing enough walks could mitigate the problem.

Green acknowledged that problem. He also supplied a caveat: Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler, the 23-year-old rookie capable of throwing 100 mph and who started Friday night's game, tends to strike people out (19 strikeouts in 16 innings).

"We have our hands full to put balls in play," Green said, "and we think if we do that we'll be very good."

Thirty-three games in, however, the Padres have not been very good. An 11-22 record points to the complete opposite. The most damning evidence arrived Friday night in Major League Baseball's first regular-season game in Mexico since 1999. Fans south of the border now know San Diego as more than a team prone to striking out.

In the 4-0 loss, a heavily pro-Dodgers crowd watched the Padres finish on the wrong end of the 298th no-hitter in major-league history, the 12th combined no-hitter ever and the first no-hitter in a regular-season game not played in the U.S. or Canada. The Padres drew five walks, struck out in 13 of their 26 at-bats and made the least of the ones in

which they put the ball in play. An international showcase already drenched by rain was further marred by an unsightly performance from the club designated as the home team.

“It stings no matter what,” Green said. “I really don’t care about the setting or the opponent. I don’t want to get no-hit, I don’t want to get beat. It doesn’t matter to me one bit who it is or where it is. To me, a 4-3 loss stings just as much as this one. You have to play better baseball.”

Yet being no-hit qualifies as an encapsulation of the Padres’ most pressing weakness. They do not get on base enough. They do not make enough contact. They have not made enough collective improvements. San Diego could wait until prospects such as outfielder Jeisson Rosario, who is sitting on a .465 on-base percentage, advances to the majors, however, Rosario is an 18-year-old playing in Low A. There is no guarantee that he or others like him will make it.

“You’ve got guys who are trying to make the adjustments and individually become better and trying to become an established big-league [player],” said first baseman Eric Hosmer, the offseason signee who, unsurprisingly, gets on base more often than any of his teammates (.389 OBP). “At the same time, we’re trying to make adjustments as a team as well. That’s the biggest part. That’s the hardest thing about this game, is coming up here, solidifying your spot and trying to have a game plan as a team and really sticking to it. We see improvement from certain guys. We just need to do a better job putting it together day in and day out.”

Players who have demonstrated noticeable improvement include outfielder Franchy Cordero, who walked twice Friday, and Villanueva, who lined out twice and got under a ball in the bottom of the ninth. The list beyond that is thin.

“It’s well-known that we’ve punched out way too much,” Green said. “We’re at a point in time with hitters here where your opportunity will pass you by if you don’t make an adjustment and start putting the ball in play. The opportunity will start going to somebody else. We’ll continue to churn if we can’t get the job done. There’s a lot of confidence in the guys in that room. It’s time. It’s time to step up and put balls in play. It’s time to step up and compete.

“You’ve got to have a positive mindset that you find the good things that your team does well. What Franchy’s doing is positive. What Christian is doing is positive. Hos is heating up considerably. He’s having better and better at-bats. Us as a collective whole, especially against plus velocity, we’ve not made the adjustment necessary for us to be a successful baseball team.”

Buehler (2-0), one of the more electric young arms in the game, made that plainly evident for six innings, throwing 93 pitches and striking out eight. After he departed, lefty Tony Cingrani walked two batters in the seventh, but still managed to keep the no-no intact. Relievers Yimi García and Adam Liberatore each struck out a pair in the 8th and 9th innings respectively, sealing the Padres’ fate.

“We had a good game plan,” Hosmer said. “Buehler did a good job really executing his pitches. There were two different breaking balls he throws on both sides of the plate. He throws 97 to 98 mph. So it’s tough to give credit to the pitcher sometimes. But he threw a pretty good game.”

“Some guys had some good at-bats today,” added Green. “The overall quality wasn’t great. The reality is, Walker Buehler is going to punch people out. He’s done it his whole life. He’s had a very high strikeout rate, not just against the San Diego Padres but against everyone he faces.... It’s just happening way too consistently for us.”

The no-hitter was the first suffered by the Padres since a fading Tim Lincecum embarrassed them at AT&T Park on July 25, 2014. It was the first absorbed by San Diego since Green was named manager on October 29, 2015.

A little more than two seasons into his tenure, Green has endured the early stages of a rebuilding process and consistently operates with overmatched lineups. He also has replaced a hitting coach, firing Alan Zinter and bringing in Matt Stairs, hoping that the latter’s success with a young Phillies offense will translate on the other side of the country.

So far, it has not happened with enough frequency. Injuries have also not helped. The Padres could use someone like second-base prospect Luis Urías, one of the best pure hitters in the minors. But Urías, who recently returned from a hamstring tweak, stayed in

the minors Friday. Instead, San Diego used a 26th roster spot, allowed for this series, on shortstop prospect Javy Guerra. Pinch-hitting, Guerra looked at strike three to end his first major-league at-bat.

“There’s a lot of guys who have struck out their entire careers,” Green said. “They show up to the major leagues with 30-percent strikeout rates, and you can hide behind the excuse that they’re always going to strike out or you can make some changes.”

Those changes, the Padres hope, will be internal. There are external ones they may have to make sooner than later, Urías’ continued advancement being one example.

If they keep this up, at some point they will have to consider even broader changes.

Four Dodgers pitchers no-hit Padres in Mexico

Kevin Acee

Maybe someday, somewhere a [Padres](#) pitcher will throw a no-hitter.

Perhaps it will be one of their many young prospects that rises through the minor leagues and ends a drought that has reached 7,847 games and leaves the Padres as the only major league team without one.

For now, they can only wait – and be no-hit, as they were by four Dodgers pitchers on Friday night in Mexico.

At a sold out Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey, the Dodgers won 4-0 in the first no-hitter to be thrown in any of the 15 regular season games played outside the United States or Canada.

See, the Dodgers, who have won five straight [National League West](#) titles and went to the [World Series](#) last year, have a number of excellent prospects as well.

Their top-ranked prospect is Walker Buehler. He made his third major league start Friday.

The right-hander with the jumpy fastball that reaches 98 mph made it through six innings without allowing a hit.

And then three more Dodgers pitchers completed the no-hitter in a 4-0 victory.

It was about the worst possible outcome on the international stage – as if that mattered in the midst of a miserable season still in its relative infancy.

“It stings no matter what,” manager Andy Green said. “I really don’t care about the setting or the opponent. I don’t want to get no-hit, I don’t want to get beat. It doesn’t matter to me one bit who it is or where it is. ... For me, the resolve remains regardless of

who beat you or how it happened. To me, a 4-3 loss stings just as much as this one. You have to play better baseball.”

Padres players agreed.

“It’s always a bad thing,” Matt Szczur said. “I don’t think it’s any different. It’s a tough break. It’s never any good when you get no-hit.”

[Tony Cingrani](#) entered in the seventh and walked [Franchy Cordero](#) and Raffy Lopez before getting two outs. Yimi Garcia, recalled from Triple-A this week and pitching in his first major league game since 2016, pitched the eighth. Adam [Liberatore](#) pitched the ninth.

The crowd, largely sedate throughout the night, rose to its feet after Liberatore got a second, two-out strike on Cordero. A cheer went up as Cordero swing under a high fastball.

That’s what Padres hitters did all night, chase fastballs near or above the top of the strike zone.

It was the Dodgers’ 23rd no-hitter, most by any team, but their first completed by more than one man.

It was the 10th no-hitter thrown against the Padres, who two weeks ago came close to getting their first when [Tyson Ross](#) made it 7 2/3 innings without allowing a hit on April 20 in Arizona. He and Brad Hand combined for a one-hitter.

The Padres certainly did not put on the show they had hoped in the opener of a three-game series in front of a sold out Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey.

Rookie left-hander Joey Lucchesi, who entered the game with a 3-1 record and 2.78 ERA, allowed three runs in the first two innings – including the back-to-back solo home runs Chris Taylor and Enrique Hernandez hit through the rain in the second.

What had reached a downpour mostly stopped around the fourth inning, just as it seemed the Padres might get a reprieve.

Instead, Buehler kept rolling. Clearly interested in his long-term health, Dodgers manager Dave Roberts pulled him after the sixth. It was Buehler's longest outing as a professional – majors or minors. He had thrown more than the 93 pitches he did Friday but had never gone more than 5 1/3 innings.

The Padres believe they have a number of young prospects who will make a difference for them some day.

This infusion of young talent, largely concentrated at the Single-A and Double-A levels of the minor leagues, comprises the bulk of the organization's plan to be playoff contenders.

So the payoff is likely a ways off.

But the Padres saw firsthand what it might look like – and, once again, how far they have to go.

"We had some hard hit balls," [Eric Hosmer](#) said. "That's not good enough in this league. You've got to figure out a way to get it done."

Maybe. Someday.

It rains on Padres-Dodgers fiesta

Kevin Acee

Members of both teams stood along the baselines as the managers and starters were announced and emerged from the dugout between four stanchions that spit sparks into the air.

Los [Padres](#) de San Diego.

Ahhhhndeeeee Greeeeen.

Ereeeeeec Hosemer.

Mexican hero Fernando Valenzuela threw the ceremonial first pitch to Padres third baseman [Christian Villanueva](#), the only Mexican-born player participating in this three-game series.

And then a sold out Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey got quiet.

Maybe the rain had something to do with it. Maybe it was a lack of familiarity with the teams. Maybe it was the Padres not making the game very entertaining or competitive from the start. (They didn't have a hit off [Dodgers](#) rookie Walker Buehler through five innings).

Whatever it was, the anticipated fiesta did not break out in the stands on Friday.

Players had looked forward to what they were told would be a wild scene typical at games played in Latin American countries.

"It's going to be fun," Villanueva said at a pregame press conference attended mostly by Mexican media. "The way that baseball is played here in Latin America, people love the game. It's a big, big part of their lives. For the American players, I think they're going to love it."

This series – the third time one has been played in Mexico, all in Monterrey and all featuring the Padres – is part of [Major League Baseball](#)'s effort to not only market in this country but perhaps be an impetus for more Mexican players. Commissioner Rob Manfred has also said MLB would like to expand to 32 teams and a franchise in Mexico is a possibility.

Villanueva, who was born in Guadalajara, is one of just eight Mexican players on active major league rosters (with four more on the disabled list).

“It would be amazing for me to be an example for the kids, just like it was for Vinny Castilla and Fernando Valenzuela,” said Villanueva, who on Wednesday was named the [National League](#) Rookie of the Month. “It’s a really big responsibility, but I’m happy to give it my best.”

The fans certainly showed up.

All three games are sold out. A trail of cars three wide was wrapped around the road that lined the stadium as Joey Lucchesi threw the first pitch.

It was an L.A. crowd, after all. The newly renovated stadium, home to the Mexican League’s Sultanes de Monterrey, was packed by the third inning.

As the game started, a group of fans along the first base side who had made the trip from San Diego chanted “Let’s Go Padres.” They would ramp it up as the Padres batted in the fifth inning.

They were in the minority. By far. Dodgers jerseys outnumbered Padres jerseys, probably 100 to 1.

The Dodgers are the second-most popular team in Mexico, according to MLB. The Padres rank eighth.

The Dodgers’ popularity among Mexicans owes to Valenzuela, as well as their on-field success and decades of wooing the Mexican community in Los Angeles.

Valenzuela threw out the first pitch prior to a series here against the Mets in 1996. He also went out and got the win in that game pitching for the Padres.

On Friday, he wore a Dodgers jersey over his dress shirt and tie as he threw a strike from the bottom of the mound to Villanueva. The two met between the plate and mound and shared hug and posed for photos.

After that pitch from the beloved “El Toro,” and aside from the enthusiastic public address announcements, the crowd was quieter than a Wednesday at Petco Park with the [Twins](#) in town.

A lone vuvuzela blew sporadically. There was one quick “Let’s go Dodgers” chant.

Fans bought plastic rain ponchos as the rain began to fall during the first inning and continued with increasing force. Lightning flashed nearby as the forecasted tormenta electrica finally appeared, if only briefly.

Perhaps an earlier game Saturday night (and a day game Sunday) will intensify the festivities.

The ballpark is pretty much where Padres players are looking for their experience south of the border. For most, their taste of the local flavor will not extend to the culinary offerings.

“I had no veggies – burger, cheese bun,” Travis Jankowski said. “I’m not pushing the limits here. I have a tough time keeping weight on as it is during the season.”

Several players said they stuck to American fare. Manager Andy Green ate sampled from a spread laid out for the team after their arrival early Thursday evening.

“I couldn’t pronounce most of it,” he said. “But it was good.”

A group of a half-dozen players ventured to a steak house across the street, where they didn't order Tequila but were given some anyway. The reviews were highly positive on the meal, which included octopus and a few other things they couldn't identify.

"There were some communication issues," [Chase Headley](#) said. "But it worked out."

Andy Green is patient, but says changes coming if Padres can't improve

Kevin Acee

Andy Green still believes he can spin enough silver linings into gold.

But, man, it is frustrating.

“You can only take so many moral victories out of a baseball game,” the [Padres](#) manager said Friday night. “You’ve got to continue to play better.”

That sentiment punctuated a listing of the good things a number of his players are doing, some of them the same positives he has enumerated before and after several games in a season that has started as poorly as any this millennium.

“You’ve got to have a positive mindset that you find the good things that your team does well,” he said.

His belief in that philosophy is unabated even as the Padres fell to 11-22 following their 4-0 loss Friday night, their worst start since having that same record 33 games into the 2012 season.

The preponderance of losing is why being no-hit by four Dodgers pitchers was practically seen as an asterisk in the Padres clubhouse afterward.

“Is frustrating any time you lose,” first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) said. “Add on top of that there were no hits.”

The Padres stink at hitting so far this season. Getting no-hit at some point was practically inevitable at the rate they’ve been going — not even putting the ball in play a third of their at-bats. They’ve got bigger problems than a single game even if that game was a culmination of their awesome awfulness.

Many of their young players are trying to figure out on the fly how to be major leaguers, which makes it tough to be a good team.

Green, other coaches and veteran players have spoken many times about “team at-bats” and situational awareness. It’s one thing to have a plan before a game, to which it has actually been shown in recent games Padres hitters are largely adhering. It’s another to make adjustments in a game, to figure out a pitcher and understand a game’s flow. And every game, for 162 of them, there are ebbs, shifts and alterations.

“Just figure yourself out,” Hosmer said when asked what has to happen offensively. “Figure out what kind of team you are. Figure out offensively what type of team we are, what our approach is going to be. That’s the thing that from day to day can be an adjustment.

“If there’s certain times a guy who is throwing the ball like (Friday) night, maybe you have to do some more things on the bases and get things rolling. Maybe you’ve got to try to lay some down, play some small ball. Vice versa, you’re swinging the bats well you know you’re going to do less.

“It’s identifying yourself as an offense first is always the key part. It’s a game of adjustments. That’s the hardest part is continuing the adjustments, creating a game plan and really sticking to it when you’re out there and the lights are on. ... I think that’s the main thing for younger guys to recognize what type of game it is, which way the game is trending and trying to make something happen from that point on.”

Until then, they lose.

A loss Saturday against the Dodgers, who they have been outscored by 34-14 and have not beaten in four games this season, would give the Padres their worst 34-game start since 2003. To get worse than that mark – to get even close – it would be necessary to go back to 1994, when the Padres did not win their 12th game until after their 32nd loss.

At least that '94 team had Tony Gwynn, who was hitting .394 when the season ended with a players' strike. Gwynn struck out 19 times in 419 at-bats that year, or once every 22 at-bats.

The Padres are striking out a little less often than once every three at-bats (3.3). That's on track for the most ever in a major league season.

That, for all his patience with a team that wasn't built to win very often this year because the organization is building to win in a few years and for many years, Green appears unable to abide much longer.

"It's well-known that we've punched out way too much," he said after the Padres went down on strikes 13 times Friday. "We're at a point in time with hitters here where your opportunity will pass you by if you don't make an adjustment and start putting the ball in play. The opportunity will start going to somebody else. We'll continue to churn if we can't get the job done.

"There's a lot of confidence in the guys in that room. But it's time. It's time to step up and put balls in play. It's time to step up and compete. Some guys had some good at-bats today. The overall quality wasn't great. ... You're going to run into days where you don't panic when you strike out 10 or 12 times. It's just happening way too consistently for us."

It's unclear where Green and General Manager A.J. Preller would turn for changes, though the time appears nigh for Luis Urias to be called up from Triple-A.

And, to be clear, Green will not abandon his own approach. One night, one week, one month does not change his expectations for now or the future.

"The needle is moving in key areas," Green said a few days ago in reference to some young players showing more discipline at the plate and on the bases. "I have no expectation of anybody on the outside to care about that. They care about winning baseball games – and rightfully so. That's what the job is. We're not in that right now. We have to take responsibility for that. But when you're trying to build something special, you

have to move the things that eventually move the win-loss record in the full term and not just in the short term.”

It's that improvement, though, that he must see and can't accept not seeing.

Javy Guerra makes the big leagues for Padres

Kevin Acee

Shortstop [Javy Guerra](#), not long ago considered one of the cornerstones of a fledgling [Padres](#) building process, has slid down the organization's prospect rankings.

But at least Guerra has made the major leagues.

The Padres on Friday added the 22-year-old to their active roster, an allowance given them and the Dodgers for their series in Mexico this weekend.

Guerra was acquired along with [Manuel Margot](#), [Carlos Asuaje](#) and Logan Allen in the November 2015 trade that sent [Craig Kimbrel](#) to the [Red Sox](#).

He was ranked by [MLB Pipeline](#) as the Padres' No.2 prospect prior to the 2016 season. He is not ranked in their top 30 anymore, a result of his minor league struggles and the organization's influx of young talent.

Guerra has a .244/.296/.511 batting line at Triple-A El Paso this season. He does have five home runs, three doubles and three triples in 90 at-bats.

He batted .222/.266/.349 between Single-A and Double-A last season.

The Padres did not call up their fourth-ranked prospect, Mexican Luis Urias, who is batting .298/.416/.417 because he is just returning from a hamstring strain — and also because he is on pretty much the exact opposite track from Guerra.

Urias is expected to be called up at some point this season, and the Padres want him getting everyday at-bats.

Guerra is expected to start one of the weekend games in place of [Freddy Galvis](#). The veteran has started every game and has been nursing a balky hamstring.

Cory Spangenberg was sent down Sunday to play every day and is expected to be back soon if he can hit consistently.

Guerra, Spangenberg and Urias are the only position players on the Padres' 40-man roster who are not on the disabled list or already on the team.

Padres notes: Team eyes soon and later but not now for Luis Urias

Kevin Acee

Luis Urias will play for the [Padres](#) this season.

Perhaps soon.

But it won't be here this weekend in the Padres' series against the Dodgers, disappointing his countrymen — and his manager.

“From a personal standpoint, I'd love nothing more than to give a kid his major league debut in his home country,” Andy Green said Friday. “From a timing standing, he'd missed pretty much the previous week. It was tough thing to bring him at that point in time. He played just a few games, looked good. But timing wise, it didn't line up.”

Urias, who is from Magdalena de Kino, Mexico, tweaked his hamstring April 25 playing for Triple-A El Paso. He actually missed just three days and has a .438/591/.625 hitting line in his five games since returning. The organization's third-ranked prospect has a .298/.416/.417 line in 101 plate appearances this season.

Also playing into the decision was the fact that Urias, 20, is being prepped to make his debut sooner than later and is expected to stay once he arrives. This would have been a temporary call-up.

“He's a guy whose name has come up on numerous occasions already this season (regarding) possibly joining us,” Green said. “We're excited for is future. From my seat, I'd love to welcome him here as soon as everybody else is ready to bring him.”

In advance of Urias playing (mostly second base) every day in the majors, the Padres want him playing every day in the minors.

So for this weekend, using an exemption allowing them to add an extra position player to their active roster, the Padres called up [Javy Guerra](#). The 22-year-old will likely make his

major league debut starting in place of [Freddy Galvis](#) at shortstop in one of the weekend games.

“At some point in time Freddy has to get off his feet,” Green said.

Galvis has grabbed the back of his leg on the multiple occasions after running to first base. He initially tweaked his hamstring on April 18.

“Freddy is fine,” Green said. “He says he can play through everything.”

Galvis is the only shortstop on the roster and is the only Padre to play every inning this season. Green planned to move Christian Villanueva over from third base during lopsided games but was unable to do so in some recent blowouts because the hamstring injury that caused Villanueva to miss three games last week is still tender.

So this provides the perfect opportunity.

Guerra came to the Padres with Manual Margot, Carlos Asuaje and Logan Allen in the November 2015 trade that sent [Craig Kimbrel](#) to Boston.

He was the Padres’ second-ranked prospect that spring. But the Padres infusion of young talent and his own struggles have conspired to drop Guerra off the [list of the organization’s top 30 prospects](#).

“It’s been difficult,” Guerra said of the past few years. “It’s a hard sport.”

Guerra has a .244/.296/.511 batting line at Triple-A El Paso this season. He does have five home runs, three doubles and three triples in 90 at-bats. He batted .222/.266/.349 between Single-A and Double-A last season.

He will certainly take the opportunity this series provides.

“Right now I can’t believe it,” he said. “I will wait until I hit or something. ... I’ll take it wherever it was going to be. It’s crazy. I never thought I’d be here.”

Hedges update

It was determined that catcher Austin Hedges did not require an MRI on his elbow, and the Padres are proceeding with the original tendinitis diagnosis after he was examined in San Diego on Wednesday.

They will reevaluate their catcher's status in a week to 10 days.

"If it doesn't feel great at that point in time we'll talk about imaging," Green said.

Hedges has joined Wil Myers (oblique) and Hunter Renfroe (arm) at the team's Peoria, Ariz., complex for rehab.

Austin Allen 'opening eyes' in Texas League

Jeff Sanders

The questions began to pile up the moment the [Padres](#) made catcher **Austin Allen** the first Division II player selected in the 2015 draft.

Would his left-handed bat handle the jump to pro ball? Could he throw quickly enough to second base? Was Allen – at “a bad 230 pounds,” as he put it – going to be flexible enough to remain a catcher long-term?

The 24-year-old Allen took it upon himself to answer the last question a month before reporting for his first big league camp via a video sent over his phone to catching coordinator **Ryley Westman**: From a standstill, Allen dropped slowly into a front split until he was about an inch or two off the ground.

It was as if Allen answered one question with one of his own:

Is that flexible enough for you?

“His work ethic and want-to factor is off the charts,” General Manager **A.J. Preller** said. “Every year in the offseason you give him a challenge and he comes back and he’s done that and exceeded it. All his work is paying off. He’s opening some eyes in Double-A, for sure.”

Especially with that bat.

As the Texas League’s Player of the Month, Allen finished April leading the circuit in doubles (12), home runs (eight), extra-base hits (20), total bases (68), slugging percentage (.773) and OPS (1.195).

The stellar start to 2018 comes as Allen continues to refine his game behind the plate.

While his attention to game-planning has ticked up after **Austin Hedges** and **A.J. Ellis** took him under his wing this spring, Allen's biggest strides stem from transforming his body upon entering pro ball.

The work began with offseason workouts in Florida alongside the likes of **Francisco Lindor** and **Derek Dietrich** after his draft year. He's also improved his nutrition to better distribute the 220 pounds he's now carrying on his 6-foot-2 frame.

Double-A San Antonio manager **Phillip Wellman** certainly noticed the difference as he regularly shows sub-2-second throws to second base, the result of focusing on hip flexibility and efficiency toward second base on throws the last two years in the system.

"I think he truly understands what his priority is during the game – to take care of the pitcher," Wellman said. "It hasn't affected his bat, but I think investing more time in defense than he ever has and changing his body over the past year has been tremendous."

It's all part of Allen's plan to stick at catcher long-term.

"As a catcher you have to be flexible," Allen said. "That was one of my big focuses going into the offseason – losing body fat and making sure my weight stays in check, especially in my hips and my core and my glutes. That's going to benefit me as a bigger catcher, help me get lower and help with durability, stamina and endurance. That was a big focus they wanted me to have this offseason and I was all in."

AROUND THE FARM

- **El Paso (AAA):** OF **Franmil Reyes** logged a third straight two-homer game on Friday. He is hitting .311/.400/.680 through his first 28 games in the Pacific Coast League.
- **San Antonio (AA):** SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** upped his homer total to six with his third blast in his last four games. He is hitting .220/.273/.475 through 29 games in the Texas League.

- **Lake Elsinore (A+):** RHP **Chris Paddack** returned from his 2016 Tommy John surgery with seven strikeouts over six shutout innings of three-hit ball this week. It was his first appearance in the California League.
- **Fort Wayne (A):** INF **Justin Lopez**, the youngest player in the Midwest League at 17, hit his first home run this week. He is hitting .218/.279/.346 through 21 games.

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

(Through Friday; min. 75 plate appearances, 21 innings)

- **Batting average:** .372 – 1B Josh Naylor (AA)
- **On-base percentage:** .465 – CF Jeisson Rosario (A)
- **Homers:** 11 – OF Franmil Reyes (AAA)
- **Total bases:** 74 – C Austin Allen (AA), Naylor
- **RBIs:** 30 – Reyes
- **Steals:** 14 – OF Buddy Reed (A+)
- **Wins:** 4 – LHP Logan Allen (AA)
- **ERA:** 1.44 – RHP Reggie Lawson (A+)
- **WHIP:** 0.87 – RHP [Luis Perdomo](#) (AAA)
- **Saves:** 2 – Three tied
- **Strikeouts:** 37 – RHP Jesse Scholtens (AA)
- **SOW:** 6.2 – Scholtens

==

FRIDAY'S GAMES

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (18-11)

- [Chihuahuas 7, El Paso 1](#): RHP **Luis Perdomo** (2-1, 3.13) turned in a complete game, striking out six and allowing one run on three hits and two walks in nine

innings. In addition to Reyes' two-homer game, 2B **Cory Spangenberg** (.276) hit his first homer and 1B **Allen Craig** (.220) hit his third.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (18-10)

- **Missions 6, Frisco 1**: LHP **Logan Allen** (4-1, 2.78) struck out six over seven innings of one-run ball in which he scattered four hits and a walk. Tatis (.220) struck out three times but went 2-for-5 with the homer and a double. 1B **Josh Naylor** (.372) doubled in three runs and C **Austin Allen** (.340) went 2-for-4.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (11-18)

- **Storm 9, Modesto 7**: 3B **Hudson Potts** (.252) hit his sixth homer and 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.278) hit his third. C **Luis Torrens** (.273) went 3-for-3 with a double, an RBI, two walks and a run scored. RHP **Ronald Bolanos** (8.50) started the game with five runs – four earned – allowed in 4 2/3 innings.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (13-15)

- **Wisconsin 6, TinCaps 3**: DH **Juan Fernandez** (.254) went 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored to extend his on-base streak to 17 games. C **Luis Campusano** (.278) went 2-for-4 with two runs scored. RHP **Emmanuel Ramirez** (1-1, 1.59) struck out seven and allowed two runs in six innings in the loss.

Transactions

- INF **Matt Batten** was transferred from extended [spring training](#) to El Paso as SS **Javier Guerra** was recalled for the Mexico Series.

Dodgers open Mexico Series with combined no-hitter against Padres

Mark Townsend

Yahoo! Sports

The Los Angeles Dodgers won't receive many headlines despite their special achievement Friday night in Monterrey, Mexico. Albert Pujols will get most of those after [delivering his milestone 3,000th career hit](#) in Seattle. But it was a significant night nonetheless as four pitchers combined to throw a no-hitter in their 4-0 win against the San Diego Padres in the Mexico Series opener.

Rookie Walker Buehler, who was making only his third career start, did the heavy lifting. He fired six hitless innings, a couple of which came during a downpour. He also needed 93 pitches, which was not a pace manager Dave Roberts was comfortable with. Roberts elected not to extend the 2015 first round pick, pulling him in favor of his bullpen.

Unlike multiple previous occasions where [Roberts was forced to defend pulling a pitcher in the middle of a no-hitter or perfect game](#) that ultimately fell apart, this time it worked out.

Veteran left-hander Tony Cingrani pitched the seventh inning, allowing one runner to reach on a walk. He also came the closest to allowing a hit when Matt Szczur's blooper landed just foul. Right-hander Yimi Garcia set San Diego down in order in the eighth inning. In the ninth, it wasn't Kenley Jansen who got the call because he'd pitched in three straight games. Roberts instead turned to lefty Adam Liberatore, who finished the job with a spotless frame.

The no-hitter was the 23rd in Dodgers franchise history, and the 13th since the team moved to Los Angeles. Despite that storied history, it was the first combined no-hitter by a Dodgers team.

It's the second no-hitter in MLB this season. Sean Maenea of the Oakland Athletics pitching the first against the Red Sox on April 22. It's the 12th combined no-hitter in MLB history, and the first since six Seattle Mariners pitchers no-hit the Dodgers on June 8, 2012.

Dodgers Throw Combined No-Hitter vs. Padres

KHADRICE ROLLINS , SI

Dodgers starter Walker Buehler got through six innings without allowing a hit against the Padres, reliever Tony Cingrani got through the seventh inning without allowing a hit and Yimi Garcia got through the eighth inning without giving up a hit. Adam Liberatore completed the combined no-hitter with a perfect ninth inning.

Los Angeles beat San Diego 4-0.

Friday's start was just the third of Walker's career. He entered the game 1-0 on the season with a 1.80 ERA and 11 strikeouts in 10 innings.

He had eight strikeouts and three walks and threw 93 pitches on the night.

In the seventh inning Walker was pulled for Cingrani, who had two walks and a strikeout in the frame. Garcia had two strikeouts in the eighth to keep the no-hitter in tact.

In the ninth, Liberatore had two strikeouts and a flyout as he completed the game. You can watch the final out below:

For the night, the team had 13 strikeouts and five walks.

The last time the Dodgers had a no-hitter was June 18, 2014 when Clayton Kershaw tossed one against the Rockies.

The Dodgers have the most no-hitters for any franchise in MLB with 23, while the Padres are still the only franchise to never throw a no-hitter.

Christian Villanueva: Playing MLB game in Mexico 'dream come true'

AP

MONTERREY, Mexico -- San Diego third baseman [Christian Villanueva](#) will become just the third Mexican to play a regular-season major league baseball game on home soil when the [Padres](#) begin a weekend series against the Dodgers on Friday.

The 26-year-old from Guadalajara leads major league rookies in home runs with nine and RBIs with 20 heading into a three-game series against the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#), the first regular-season games in Mexico since 1999.

"I'm very happy with all the achievements that I'm getting," he said Friday. "Playing in Mexico, it's another dream come true. Being in my country and to represent the [San Diego Padres](#) and all of my country is great."

After missing the 2016 season with a broken leg while playing for the [Chicago Cubs](#) organization, Villanueva joined the Padres that December. The death of his brother last year motivated Villanueva to reach the big leagues, a goal he achieved last September.

"Breaking my leg motivated me. I thought that I was not going to make it, but the hard work and consistency brought me to the majors," Villanueva said. "I've never thought that I was going to be as successful so soon, and I'm very thankful with the Padres organization because they believed in me. I needed this chance, and I'm trying to take advantage of it."

He hit three homers against Colorado on April 3 in his second start this season.

"I'm enjoying my game and trying to keep it simple," he said. "I don't want to get too high on myself because I know how hard it was to get to the majors, so I want to keep working to stay here."

Villanueva will join Fernando Valenzuela and Vinny Castilla as the only Mexicans to play a regular-season big league game on home soil. Valenzuela started for the Padres against the [New York Mets](#) in 1996 and Castilla played for Colorado against San Diego in 1999. Villaneuva was expecting around 100 family and friends for the weekend series. "For me it's an honor to come here after barely 50 games in the big leagues, and I take it as a blessing," Villanueva said.

He has not spoken to Valenzuela or Castilla but has been in contact with [Adrian Gonzalez](#), who plays for the Mets and is the last Mexican star to play in the majors. "Adrian sent me a signed ball and wished me success, and I've been in contact with him through his brother Edgar, asking him for advice," Villanueva said. "I want to know how a person as successful as he has [been] is able to handle so much. For me it's being difficult with all the media attention."

What you need to know about Dodgers' rare combined no-hitter

ESPN

The first major league game played in Mexico since 1999 took a historic turn Friday night as the Los Angeles Dodgers completed the first combined no-hitter in franchise history with Walker Buehler, [Tony Cingrani](#), [Yimi Garcia](#) and [Adam Liberatore](#) all getting in on the fun in the 4-0 victory. Here's what you need to know about the unusual accomplishment.

We have our second no-hitter of 2018, although it's courtesy of the much less sexy combined no-hitter. Four Dodgers pitchers threw the 23rd no-hitter in Dodgers history and the 12th combined no-no in MLB history. It's also the 10th time the Padres have been no-hit — the most of any team since their first season in 1969.

Friday night's no-hitter is the second of 2018, coming almost two weeks after [Sean Manaea](#) no-hit the Red Sox on April 22. There was only one no-hitter last season as well as in 2016, making this the first with multiple no-hitters since 2015, when there were seven.

The previous Dodgers no-hitter prior to Friday came from [Clayton Kershaw](#) on June 18, 2014 vs. the Rockies. Each of the past four Dodgers no-hitters ended on a strikeout with Adam Liberatore getting [Franchy Cordero](#) for the last out of Friday's game. The Dodgers have now thrown 23 no-hitters, most of any team in MLB history.

While this was the Dodgers' first combined no-hitter, the Padres had been combined no-hit once before -- by the Braves on Sept. 11, 1991. The last combined no-no in the majors before Friday night came Sept. 1, 2014, when [Cole Hamels](#), [Ken Giles](#), [Jake Diekman](#) and Jonathan Papelbon all helped the Phillies no-hit the Braves.

The Padres have been no-hit 10 times since the franchise's first season in 1969, most in MLB. Prior to Friday, San Diego was most recently no-hit on June 25, 2014, by Tim Lincecum.

There had never been a no-hitter thrown on the same day a player got 3,000 hits before the Dodgers no-hitter came soon after [Albert Pujols](#) joined the 3,000-hit club. Last season, Edinson Vólquez threw a no-hitter for the Marlins on June 3, 2017 -- the same day Pujols hit his 600th career home run.

The no-hitter was the first in MLB history thrown outside of the United States or Canada along with being the first to come in a ballpark that is not home to a major league team.

Walker Buehler, three relievers get Dodgers' first combined no-hitter

AP

MONTERREY, Mexico -- The Dodgers have the most no-hitters in the majors -- and now the most in Mexico, too.

Rookie Walker Buehler and a trio of Los Angeles relievers combined for the franchise's 23rd no-hitter in a 4-0 victory over the [San Diego Padres](#) in the opener of a neutral-site series Friday night.

It was the first combined no-hitter in Dodgers history.

Mexico had waited since 1999 to host a regular-season big league game, and it got a historic one: the first no-hitter ever outside the U.S. or Canada and the 12th combined no-hitter in major league history.

"It was awesome," Buehler said. "It's one of those things, to pitch in a place like this, an atmosphere like this. It was awesome."

A crowd of 21,536 at Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey saw Buehler stay steady despite early rain and go six innings. In only his third start in the majors, he went six innings before [Tony Cingrani](#), [Yimi Garcia](#) and [Adam Liberatore](#) closed it out.

Buehler, a 23-year-old taken in the first round of the 2015 amateur draft, struck out eight and walked three. After 93 pitches, the highly touted right-hander was pulled. Cingrani walked two in the seventh, but the lefty kept the bid intact.

"It's probably one of the toughest conversations I ever had. I wanted to keep going," Buehler said. "But they made the choice, and the guys finished out, and it was cool."

Buehler overcame wet conditions -- the hardest rain fell in the second inning

"I threw one in high school, but I gave up two runs in the first inning, so that one doesn't really count," Buehler said.

Garcia struck out two in a perfect eighth and Liberatore threw a 1-2-3 ninth, striking out [Franchy Cordero](#) to end it with the Dodgers' 146th pitch.

That ended a festive night that began with a ceremonial first pitch thrown by Dodgers great Fernando Valenzuela, who became a star in the U.S. and Mexico and set off "Fernandomania" when he became a fan favorite in the 1980s.

Valenzuela pitched a no-hitter against St. Louis at Dodger Stadium on June 29, 1990, the same night Oakland's Dave Stewart pitched a no-hitter at Toronto -- one of five in Canada, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The Dodgers threw this no-hitter on the same night [Albert Pujols](#) of the [Los Angeles Angels](#) got his 3,000th hit in a game at Seattle. When Pujols hit his 600th home run at home against Minnesota last June 3, Miami's Edinson Volquez pitched a no-hitter at home against Arizona.

These dual accomplishments evoked memories of the day in 1985, too, when Rod Carew got his 3,000th hit and Tom Seaver won his 300th game.

And the team with the most no-hitters in major league history -- Boston is second with 18 -- accomplished the feat against the only franchise that hasn't pitched any.

This series was part of Major League Baseball's push to internationalize the sport. No doubt, souvenirs from this game will wind up in the Hall of Fame

Buehler's highest pitch count in the majors is 94 pitches, reached in his previous outing against San Francisco.

"It's one of those where you're pretty angry to come out, but the bullpen, the guys that we have, I trust it in their hands, too," he said. "And it worked out."

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts isn't afraid to pull a young pitcher during a no-hitter. He removed then-rookie [Ross Stripling](#) from a bid against San Francisco with one out in the eighth inning in 2016. Reliever [Chris Hatcher](#) allowed a home run to the next batter.

This one worked out better for Roberts, giving baseball its second no-hitter of the season. Oakland left-hander [Sean Manaea](#) threw the first against Boston on April 21. [Joey Lucchesi](#) (3-2) allowed three runs and five hits as the last-place Padres dropped to 11-22.

[Matt Kemp](#) had an RBI single on a popup to the shortstop in the first inning, and [Chris Taylor](#) and [Enrique Hernandez](#) hit consecutive homers in the second. [Alex Verdugo](#) singled in a run in the sixth against [Adam Cimber](#).

"This is the fourth time that I get to see a no-hitter, but the first one that I'm on the good end of it," Hernandez said. "Walker was electric, and the relievers did a great job. It's not an easy feat. It's a night that no one is going to forget."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Dodgers: RHP Julio Urias made the trip to Mexico. The 21-year-old had surgery last June to repair the left anterior capsule in his pitching shoulder, and his return was projected at 12-to-14 months. Roberts said Urias' return will not be until the second half of the season.

UP NEXT

The Monterrey series continues with Dodgers RHP [Kenta Maeda](#) (2-2, 3.76 ERA) opposing RHP [Bryan Mitchell](#) (0-3, 6.07) on Saturday.

Dodgers hope to build on combined no-hitter vs. Padres

FOX Sports, Stats

[Kenta Maeda](#) has a tough act to follow.

Maeda starts against the [Padres](#) Saturday night as the two Southern California National League rivals play the middle game of their three-game series in Monterrey, Mexico.

The 30-year-old right-hander will be pitching for the [Dodgers](#) a night after [Walker Buehler](#) and relievers [Tony Cingrani](#), [Yimi Garcia](#) and [Adam Liberatore](#) pitched the first combined no-hitter in Dodgers history. Buehler went six innings and the reliever each worked one, combining for 13 strikeouts and five walks for the 24th no-hitter pitched in Dodgers history.

Now it is Maeda's turn.

And while the Padres have been struggling on offense, Maeda hasn't exactly been lights on the mound for the Dodgers. Maeda is 2-2 this season with a 3.76 ERA in six games (five starts). He has allowed 14 runs (11 earned) on 29 hits and 10 walks with 34 strikeouts in 26 1/3 innings.

But he does have a win against the Padres, even though he yielded four runs on eight hits and two walks with 10 strikeouts back on April 18 at Petco Park. The Dodgers won that game 13-4 and are 4-0 against the Padres this season while out-scoring the Padres 34-10.

During his career, Maeda has had less success against the Padres than other teams he's faced. Overall, Maeda has a 31-19 record with a 3.80 ERA and a .237 opponents' batting average since coming to the United States in 2016.

But against the Padres, Maeda is 4-3 with a 4.72 ERA and a .253 opponents' batting average in 10 games (nine starts). He does have 59 strikeouts in 47 2/3 innings against the Padres with a 1.175 WHIP.

Maeda could have one thing working for him Saturday afternoon in Mexico — that being Padres starting pitcher [Bryan Mitchell](#).

Mitchell has been one of the Padres' biggest disappointments in a disappointing start (11-22) to the season.

Last Dec. 12, the Padres completed an unusual deal with the Yankees to acquire Mitchell for their rotation. To get Mitchell, the Padres had to take on third baseman [Chase Headley](#) and his \$13 million contract. But the Padres not only projected Mitchell to be a starter — they projected him to be one of the top three starters in the rotation.

After six starts, however, Mitchell is 0-3 with a 6.07 ERA — and the Padres are 1-5 in the 26-year-old right-hander's starts.

In his most recent start, Mitchell allowed four runs on five hits in 4 2/3 innings against the [Mets](#). After that outing, Padres manager Andy Green used much the same “performance-driven sport” comments that he used to describe [Luis Perdomo's](#) outings before the right-hander was demoted to Triple-A El Paso.

Mitchell is out of options, which would likely make demotion impossible. But he has pitched out of the bullpen before. And Perdomo just allowed one run on three hits and two walks in a complete-game victory Friday night.

Mitchell must do better to keep his spot in the rotation. He has worked only 30 2/3 innings in his five starts. In those 30 2/3 innings, he has given up 33 hits and 23 walks and four home runs — including one to [Matt Kemp](#) in his start against the Dodgers.

#PadresOnDeck: Big Nights for Franmil Reyes, Fernando Tatis Jr., Luis Perdomo, Logan Allen

By Bill Center

Franmil Reyes and **Fernando Tatis Jr.** continued their torrid hitting Friday night while pitchers **Logan Allen** and **Luis Perdomo** turned in excellent performances in the Padres' minor league system.

Reyes, the 22-year-old, 6-foot-5, 275-pound outfielder with Triple-A El Paso, hit two homers for the Chihuahuas in a third straight game. Reyes was 3-for-4 with a walk and three RBIs. He is now hitting .311 and leads the Pacific Coast League with 11 homers.

Shortstop Tatis, 19, was 2-for-5 Friday with a double and a homer for Double-A San Antonio. Over his last four games, the [Padres' No1 prospect](#) has gone 10-for-23 with four doubles, a triple and three homers for eight RBIs and eight runs scored—raising his batting average to .220.

Left-hander Logan Allen, 20, who was the Texas League's Pitcher of the Week last week, allowed one run on four hits and a walk with six strikeouts over seven innings for San Antonio. The [Padres' No7 prospect](#) is now 4–1 on the season with a 2.78 earned run average.

The right-handed Perdomo allowed a run on three hits and two walks with six strikeouts in a complete-game victory for Triple-A El Paso. In three starts since being demoted to El Paso, Perdomo, who turns 25 on May 9, is 2–1 with a 3.13 ERA.

Other top results from the minor leagues Friday:

— Second baseman **Cory Spangenberg** (.276) was 3-for-5 with a homer, two RBIs and a stolen base for El Paso.

— First baseman **Josh Naylor**, 20, was 1-for-5 with a double and three RBIs for San Antonio. The [Padres' No. 15 prospect](#) is now hitting .372. Catcher **Austin Allen** (.340), the [Padres' No. 28 prospect](#), was 2-for-4.

— Outfielder **Buddy Reed**, the California League's Player of the Month for April, was 2-for-6 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore. He is hitting .355.

— Catcher **Luis Campusano** (.278), the [Padres' No. 23 prospect](#), was 2-for-4 with two runs scored for Single-A Fort Wayne.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (18–11): Chihuahuas 7, ALBUQUERQUE 1—1B **Allen Craig** (.220) backed Reyes and Spangenberg, going 2-for-4 with his third home run and two RBIs. LF **Dusty Coleman** (.171) was 1-for-1 with a double, a RBI, a run scored, two walks and a hit-by-pitcher. SS **Luis Urías** (.287), the Padres' No. 3 prospect, was 0-for-3 with two walks and a run scored.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (18–10): Missions 6, FRISCO 1—RHP **Eric Yardley** (3.86 ERA) followed Logan Allen and allowed two hits in a scoreless inning. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (0.00) allowed a walk in an otherwise perfect inning with two strikeouts. Tatis, Austin Allen and Naylor had plenty of support. DH **Kyle Overstreet** (.286) was 2-for-4 with a stolen base, a RBI and a run scored. 2B **River Stevens** (.293) was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a steal. RF **Auston Bousfield** (.242) was 1-for-3 with a walk, a steal and two runs scored.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (11–18): Modesto 9, STORM 7—2B **Eguy Rosario** (.278) backed Reed with a double and a homer in five at-bats. C **Luis Torrens** (.273) was 3-for-3 with a double, two walks, a RBI and a run scored. RF **Jorge Oña** (.283) was 2-for-5 with a double, SS **Kelvin Melean** (.246) was 2-for-5 with two RBIs.

3B **Hudson Potts** (.252) hit his sixth homer in five at-bats. CF **Edward Olivares** (.271) was 1-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. Starting RHP **Ronald Bolanos** (8.50 ERA) allowed five runs (four earned) on seven hits and two walks with four strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings. RHP **Blake Rogers** (4.41) allowed two runs on two hits with a strikeout in 1 1/3 innings. RHP **Austin Smith** (0–1, 5.63) allowed two runs (one earned) on a hit and two walks with a strikeout in two innings to take the loss RHP **Elliot Ashbeck** (2.37) issued a walk with two strikeouts in an otherwise perfect inning.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (13–15): Wisconsin 6, TIN CAPS 3—Starting RHP **Emmanuel Ramirez** (1–1, 1.59 ERA) allowed two runs on six hits and a walk with seven strikeouts over six innings, but suffered the loss. RHP **Adrian Martinez** (8.79) gave up four runs on six hits and three walks with three strikeouts in two innings. RHP **Caleb Boushley** (3.29) struck out one in a perfect inning. DH **Juan Fernandez** (.254) backed Campusano, going 2-for-4 with a double, a RBI and a run scored. RF **Tirso Ornelas** (.284) was 2-for-4. LF **Jack Suwinski** (.243) was 1-for-3 with a RBI and a walk.

This Day in Padres History—May 5

By Bill Center

May 5, 1972—Right-hander **Steve Arlin** allows four hits and five walks with seven strikeouts in a complete game shutout as the Padres defeat the Mets 6–0 in New York.

May 5, 1978—The Padres tie the franchise record with four triples in a game in a 2–1 win at St. Louis. Shortstop **Ozzie Smith** has two triples in a three-hit performance and outfielders **Gene Richards** and **Oscar Gamble** both triple in the third inning. The Padres haven't had four triples in a game since.

May 5, 1979—**Dave Winfield** goes 3-for-4 with a pair of two-run homers as the Padres defeat Montreal 6–5 at San Diego Stadium.

May 5, 1998—First baseman **Wally Joyner** drives in five runs with a double and a grand slam homer as the Padres defeat the Brewers 13–4 in Milwaukee.

May 5, 2003—The first seats are installed in the bowl at Petco Park.

May 5, 2005—Right fielder **Brian Giles** is 4-for-5 with a homer and five RBIs as the Padres defeat the Cardinals 8–3 in St. Louis.

May 5, 2006 –The Padres defeat the Cubs 1–0 on second baseman **Josh Barfield's** walk-off single in the bottom of the 11th at Petco Park. Right-handed starter **Chan Ho Park** allows two hits over the first nine innings and combines with **Trevor Hoffman**, **Alan Embree** and **Scott Cassidy** on a four-hit shutout.

May 5, 2009—Right fielder **Brian Giles** scores the game's first run as the Padres lead-off hitter in the first then drives home the game-winner with a walk-off double in the 10th as the Padres defeat Colorado 2–1 at Petco Park.