



Padres Press Clips

Sunday, May 6, 2018

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Padres rebound from Bryan Mitchell to beat Dodgers

Kevin Acee

The Padres were sure to talk about improvements Bryan Mitchell made in his first six starts.

That's what a supportive organization does when there isn't something tangible to praise.

But whatever.

Manager Andy Green said again Saturday afternoon that results are what matter now. And Mitchell's results are getting worse, including his shortest outing of the season on Saturday.

The Padres came back from yet another hole in which Mitchell buried them, [Eric Hosmer's](#) two-run homer early and Raffy Lopez's two-run homer in the sixth inning helping lift them to a 7-4 victory over the [Dodgers](#).

In the short-term, coming off a game in which they were no-hit, that was nice.

This season, however, is about the bigger picture of finding out who can be a part of what the Padres (12-22) envision as a much more competitive future.

And so the real story out of Saturday, the middle game of the series at Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey, is that Mitchell has probably run his course as a starter – at least, to borrow a frequent Green phrase, at this point in time.

Some pitchers need more seasoning than others. The Padres recently sent Luis Perdomo down to Triple-A for struggles similar to Mitchell's – throwing strikes that aren't hit hard and bearing down at all times.

Green's patience was paper thin Saturday, as he walked to the mound to yank the struggling right-hander with one out in the third inning and the Padres down 3-2.

"You're given faith and latitude at the beginning as a starting pitcher," Green said. "We gave him a lot of opportunity to earn the right to stay on the mound. ... You get to the point where you have to make a decision for the sake of the team."

Green was speaking specifically of his choice to pull Mitchell Saturday. But he went on to say "We'll sit down and talk about" Mitchell's future with the Padres.

This was the second time the Padres won in Mitchell's seven starts. Both victories have come on nights they've scored far more runs than their season average.

Green was asked later how he could justify – to the rest of his team and everyone else – keeping Mitchell in the rotation while claiming to be trying to win.

“What I said was real,” Green answered. “We’re going to sit down and talk about it. He knows where he is – that he’s in that tenuous spot and we have to make a decision about what’s best for all of us.”

The Padres were inclined since acquiring the 26-year-old right-hander in a December trade to give Mitchell his first extended opportunity to be a starter. The worst-case scenario, as indicated by people in the organization, seemed like a minimum of nine starts to see what he could do.

That scenario has unfolded, worse than could have been imagined.

Green did not allow Mitchell to work through his issues Saturday.

Despite a tendency to fall behind Mitchell had gone into the sixth three times. But after 55 pitches, just 28 of them strikes, Mitchell was done on Saturday.

The Padres started the scoring Saturday when Travis Jankowski led off the bottom of the first with a triple and Hosmer lined the next pitch over the right field wall.

The Dodgers tied it in their next at-bat – on a leadoff homer by Matt Kemp and then a two-out walk and successive singles by pitcher Kenta Maeda and Chris Taylor.

Mitchell’s third walk of the game came with one out in the third. Cody Bellinger promptly stole second base and scored on Kemp’s single.

[Robbie Erlin](#), who could be in line to replace Mitchell in the rotation, replaced Mitchell and got through the fifth without further damage.

The Padres tied the game 3-3 on Franchy Cordero’s walk, Jose Pirela’s single and a sacrifice fly by [Freddy Galvis](#) in the fourth.

The Dodgers took a 4-3 lead in the sixth inning. With Adam Cimber in place of Erlin, Pederson doubled and Chase Utley walked. Kirby Yates was called on and walked pinch-hitter Breyvic Valera to load the bases and hit Chris Taylor to bring in the run.

Christian Villanueva reached base for the first time in this series in his home country by leading off the bottom of the sixth with a walk. Two batters later, Lopez pulled his first hit as a Padre over the wall in right field to make it 5-4.

Craig Stammen followed with two scoreless innings.

The Padres added two more runs on a walk and three singles in the eighth, and Brad Hand earned his eighth save with a scoreless ninth.

Yates got the victory for his good timing of being in the pitcher of record when the Padres went ahead.

Afterward, Mitchell was at as much of a loss as he had been after his previous outing, when he allowed four runs in 4 2/3 innings.

“I don’t know,” he said. “I’m just trying to do the best I can. I felt like I made a lot of good pitches. I felt great. That’s kind of what I’ve got right now.”

Mitchell said he was surprised to be lifted so soon.

“As a competitor, yeah,” he said. “But I’ve also never managed a game in the big leagues and Robbie did a great job coming in behind me. Everyone after him did a great job keeping the game where it was at. So you can’t really second guess it. I wasn’t happy about it, but you have to move on.”

Where he goes from here? He doesn’t think anywhere but to the mound in five days.

Asked if he expected to make his next start, he said, “Yeah, I don’t know why I wouldn’t.”

Asked if he would be OK with a move to the bullpen, he said, “That’s not something I’m even contemplating right now.”

The Padres are doing the contemplating now.

El Paso's Franmil Reyes homers in fourth straight game

Jeff Sanders

Franmil Reyes' power surge continued Saturday night.

The hulking 22-year-old outfielder homered in his fourth straight game in [Triple-A El Paso's 4-1 loss](#) at Albuquerque, giving him an' organization-best 12th on the season.

Seven of those blasts have arrived in the last four games.

The 6-foot-5, 240-pound Reyes had logged three straight two-homer games and continued his tear with a three-hit effort Saturday, which included a double, a single and his fourth-inning homer off **Antonio Senzatela**.

Reyes is also riding a six-game hitting streak that has lifted his average from .250 to .327.

His 31 RBIs are also tops in the system.

A year ago, Reyes led all [Padres](#) minor leaguers with 25 homers and 102 RBIs.

Reyes is not ranked in the Padres system by Baseball America or MLB.com.

Right-hander **Chris Huffman** (2-2, 4.50) has allowed four runs in four innings.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (19-10)

- [Missions 9, Corpus Christi 8](#): 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.327) capped six-run, walk-off rally in the ninth with a grand slam, his second homer of the game. He also singled and drove in six runs in the game. DH **Forrestt Allday** (.258) went 2-for-3 with a run and an walk and SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.223) went 1-for-3 with two walks and a run scored. LHP **Matt Strahm** (1-0, 2.51) allowed a run in the ninth but wound up the winner after the Missions' ninth-inning rally. LHP **Jerry Keel** (5.01) allowed six runs in five innings in the start.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (11-19)

- [Modesto 2, Storm 1](#): RHP **Michel Baez** (3.75) struck out seven and allowed three hits and three walks over four shutout innings. RHP **Trevor Megill** (1-1, 3.24) struck out four but allowed a run over two innings in taking the loss. 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.280) went 1-for-3 with an RBI and CF **Edward Olivares** (.270) went 1-for-4 with a double.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (13-16)

- **Wisconsin 8, TinCaps 4:** 2B **Esteury Ruiz** (.277) went 3-for-5 with two triples, two RBIs and a run scored. CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.316) went 2-for-3 with an RBI, a walk and two runs scored and C **Juan Fernandez** (.269) went 2-for-4 with a run scored to extend his on-base streak to 18 games. LHP **Aaron Leasher** (1-2, 4.21) allowed four runs on nine hits and a walk in five innings in the loss.

Eric Lauer looks to make right moves in third start for Padres

Kevin Acee

Eric Lauer is a chess player, not a brawler.

“For us kind of guys, we have to be able to think through the game and understand how to beat people,” Lauer said, referring to pitchers whose fastballs don’t approach triple digits. “Our stuff won’t beat them straight up. We can’t tell the hitter, ‘Here’s the fastball, try to hit it.’ We have to pick and choose, open windows, find holes, find hitters’ weaknesses and use our strengths.

“It’s a chess match between two guys. It’s not two guys punching each other in the face. It’s one guy trying to punch you in the face and the other guy dodging and dodging and dodging – and then punching you in the face.”

Lauer has always known that is who he is. He just lost track for a while in his first start and then the first inning of his second start. Add to that the fact Padres catchers are still learning the rookie left-hander’s arsenal and repertoire.

And that progression is a reminder that this Padres season, which is about advancing as much as (more than) winning.

Lauer makes his third major league start Sunday, and to watch how he attacks and pivots against the Dodgers is one of the chief storylines as April has turned to May and the Padres are stirrups deep in bad baseball they are trying to make better baseball by taking little steps.

Lauer’s fastball runs between 91 and 93 mph.

“A big part of it is making the fastball look faster with off-speed stuff,” he said. “I have to have a solid mix. That’s why I’ve learned to throw four pitches for strikes, so I can do that.”

Yet, he threw the four-seamer 10 straight times to open his debut in Colorado on April 24. In all, he threw it almost 70 percent of the time that night, allowing six runs in his three innings. Further, in that game he threw his cutter (which runs about 87 mph) another 23 percent of the time. He threw three curves and three change-ups among his 74 pitches.

Even after talking with catchers [Austin Hedges](#) and A.J. Ellis and agreeing they needed to go with more of a mix, Lauer and Hedges were caught up in the fastball, and the Giants got him for three first-inning runs Monday in San Francisco.

Lauer allowed three more hits, walked a couple but did finished his night with four scoreless innings.

He did it by increasing his change-up percentage from 4.1 in Colorado to 19.3 against the Giants and his curve percentage from 4.1 to 6.8.

“Seeing how (innings) two through five went, it was kind of like, ‘Why can’t I just do that from the get-go instead of letting them see fastballs from the beginning and let them hit it? Why can’t I give them the solid mix to begin with?’ ” he said. “That’s probably going to be the way we go next time.”

Lauer did mix in a couple more off-speed pitches in the first inning, and the Giants attacked some decent offerings. That’s where he’s learning a another facet of pitching at this level.

“A couple of them were in good spots, but there might not have been that little extra zip behind them, might not have been that extra life,” Lauer said. “A couple of them there were, but hitters at this level will hit good pitches sometimes. ... I thought I was making competitive pitches, and they were just getting hit. To myself I was like, ‘That’s just baseball. It’s going to happen.’ Then when I went out in the second I said, ‘What more can I do to get them off the fastball?’ ”

Padres bounce back to even Mexico Series

Homers by Lopez, Hosmer paired with a strong bullpen performance notch win for SD

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

May 5th, 2018

MONTERREY, Mexico -- The Padres wasted no time putting Friday's Dodgers no-hitter in their rearview mirror. With their first two swings on Saturday, they held a two-run lead.

But the night's biggest hack came in the sixth, courtesy of newly promoted Padres catcher **Raffy Lopez**. With San Diego trailing by one, Lopez sent a booming two-run home run into the right-field bullpen. The Padres bullpen did the rest, icing a 7-4 victory with 6 2/3 innings of one-run ball to even the Mexico Series at the Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey.

"That home run was awesome," said Lopez, who picked up his first two Padres hits on Saturday night. "Right off the bat, I had an idea it was going. The situation in the game, I just wanted to perform, not only for myself but for my teammates and for the Padres."

Lopez's dinger was the exclamation point on a bounceback performance for the offense. **Travis Jankowski** led off the game with a triple, and **Eric Hosmer** followed with a line-drive two-run shot.

"You come off a game like yesterday, you want to get on the board as quickly as possible," said Padres manager Andy Green. "You can't get on the board much quicker than that."

Still, the Padres trailed entering the bottom of the sixth, after further struggles from righty starter **Bryan Mitchell**. **Christian Villanueva** led off the frame with a walk before right-hander **Josh Fields** attempted to come up and in with a fastball. Lopez demolished it. The ball landed in the glove of righty reliever **Craig Stammen**, who was warming up.

"I went from pitching down one to pitching up one, just like that," Stammen said.

Two innings later, after **Franchy Cordero**'s leadoff walk, Lopez's single helped spark a two-run rally. He advanced to third on **Chase Headley**'s pinch-hit RBI single and scored on **Carlos Asuaje**'s one-out single. Asuaje's hit snapped his personal 0-for-20 skid.

The offensive outburst made up for another rough outing from Mitchell. He allowed two runs in the second -- including a **Matt Kemp** solo homer -- and another in the third. Mitchell, among the Major League leaders in walks, has struggled with his control for the past month, and manager Andy Green wasn't particularly tolerant of those struggles on Saturday evening.

Green yanked Mitchell after just 2 1/3 innings and 55 pitches, only 28 of them for strikes. Mitchell's status in the rotation remains tenuous, but his bullpen bailed him out in a big way on Saturday night.

Robbie Erlin worked 2 2/3 innings of scoreless ball, escaping a fifth-inning jam in which he allowed a leadoff double. **Adam Cimber** gave up a run in the sixth, but **Kirby Yates** put out the fire of a bases-loaded situation by getting **Alex Verdugo** to bounce to short.

Stammen pitched scoreless ball in the seventh and eighth, before **Brad Hand** struck out the side in the ninth.

"We treated today kind of like a Game 7, it felt like," Stammen said. "The starter came out early, and it's: All hands on deck, let's try to win this game after a tough loss last night."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Doubled up: Erlin entered a dicey situation in the top of the third with a run already home and Kemp on first base. He got **Joc Pederson** to pop to shallow left, where **Jose Pirela** made a running catch, then threw on the run to double Kemp off of first base.

Split-second decision: With men on the corners and one out in the fourth, Dodgers left fielder Verdugo made a brilliant sliding catch in foul territory on **Freddy Galvis**' popup. He might have been better served to let the ball drop. Cordero, on third base at the time, raced home with the tying run.

SOUND SMART

Lopez's homer was the fifth of his career. The 30-year-old journeyman hit four with Toronto last season. Among his five home runs, Lopez has now gone deep in three different countries.

HE SAID IT

"He's so eager to do something great, because this means so much to him. He's probably over-amped, over-aggressive. If he just lets the game come to him tomorrow, he's going to have a ton of success." -- Green, on the Mexican-born Villanueva, who remains hitless in the Mexico Series

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

The Dodgers took the lead in the top of the sixth when Yates plunked **Chris Taylor** in the left hand. The Padres challenged the ruling, arguing that the baseball hit the knob of the bat and not Taylor. It sure ricocheted as though it had struck wood. But replays were inconclusive, and the call stood.

UP NEXT

Padres No. 12 prospect **Eric Lauer** faces the Dodgers in the Mexico Series finale with first pitch set for 1:10 p.m. PT on Sunday. Los Angeles counters with **Ross Stripling**. Lauer will be making his third big league start, looking to rebound from a couple rough outings. Meanwhile, shortstop prospect **Javy Guerra**, called up Friday, is expected to make his first start for the Padres.

Mitchell's rotation spot may be in jeopardy

Another rough start calls right-hander's role into question

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

May 5th, 2018

MONTERREY, Mexico -- **Bryan Mitchell's** leash as a starting pitcher is getting shorter. Whether it's run out entirely remains to be seen.

The 27-year-old right-hander was removed after 2 1/3 innings in Saturday night's 7-4 Padres victory over the Dodgers in Monterrey. Mitchell threw 55 pitches, only 28 for strikes, and had allowed three runs before manager Andy Green rose from the dugout to call on his bullpen.

Following his last start, Mitchell was seemingly put on notice. Green implied that Mitchell's performance needed to improve for his place in the rotation to remain secure.

"Going forward, we'll sit down and talk about it," Green said after Saturday's start, offering no guarantees for Mitchell's next outing.

Mitchell, meanwhile, fully expects to take the ball Thursday in San Diego.

"I don't know why I wouldn't," he said.

Mitchell is out of options, meaning he can't be sent to the Minors without first being exposed to waivers. If he were to lose his place in the rotation, he could be bullpen-bound instead.

When asked if he'd accept such a role, Mitchell responded, "That's not something I'm even contemplating right now."

Mitchell worked a sharp first inning, striking out two Dodgers without allowing a hit. He came unraveled in the second, when **Matt Kemp** launched a monster home run to straightaway center field.

Four of the next five batters reached base against Mitchell, and he was lucky to escape with minimal damage, courtesy of a **Chase Utley** double-play ball.

After retiring the leadoff man in the third, Mitchell issued his 26th walk -- second most in the Majors -- then Kemp followed with a single. After a quick meeting on the mound with catcher **Raffy Lopez**, Green sprung from the top step of the dugout.

"You're given faith and latitude in the beginning as a starting pitcher," Green said. "We gave him a lot of opportunity up to this point in time to earn the right to stay on the mound. For me, it's the two-out walks and a walk an inning. You get to the point where you've got to make a decision for the sake of the team. We want some guys that are going to pound the strike zone."

The bullpen did just that, bailing Mitchell out with 6 2/3 innings of one-run ball.

"As a competitor, yeah, I am surprised," Mitchell said of Green's quick hook. "But I've also never managed a game in the big leagues, either. Robbie [Erlin] did a great job coming in behind me, and everyone after him did a great job keeping the game where it was. You can't really second-guess it. As a competitor, I wasn't happy about it, but you've got to move on."

Whether he moves on in the rotation or in the bullpen -- that's TBD.

MLB teams up with Boys & Girls Club of Mexico

Jansen, Margot lend hand in dedicating computer center refurbishments

By Jesse Sanchez MLB.com @JesseSanchezMLB

May 5th, 2018

MONTERREY, Mexico -- Dreams came true on the corner of San Diego and San Vicente in the San Miguel neighborhood on Saturday.

As part of a partnership between Major League Baseball and the Boys and Girls Club of Mexico, representatives from the two organizations along with Dodgers pitcher [Kenley Jansen](#), Padres outfielder [Manuel Margot](#), Mexican pitching legend Fernando Valenzuela, and Hall of Fame Dodgers Spanish-language broadcaster Jaime Jarrin dedicated refurbishments to the computer center at the Club de Ninos y Ninas de Nuevo Leon, located in the Escobedo municipality.

"This is our second Boys & Girls Club that we are doing outside of the United States, the second in Mexico, and the clubs here work very closely with the Boys & Girls Club of America, our official charity, to make sure the programs here mirror their counterparts in the United States," said Tom Brasuell, vice president of community affairs for MLB. "We want to see kids learn, play and grow. We want them to learn baseball, but we also want them to succeed in the classroom as well."

The club in San Miguel, which is modeled after Boys & Clubs of America, serves more than 400 children daily. The center will feature new computers, printers, and interactive blackboards.

"You just want to have a positive influence on the children," Jansen said. "I really enjoy being here with them and inspiring them because I was a kid once, too. It was nice see the kids supporting us and having fun with it, but it was about them and providing a place where boys and girls can learn."

Jarrin served as the master of ceremonies for the event, which was held in the facility's library. Brasuell reinforced Major League Baseball's commitment to serving communities on and off the field and Valenzuela shared a few inspirational words. Jorge Garcia Segovia, president of Boys & Girls Clubs of Mexico, and Monica Sanchez, the Executive Director of the organization, were also in attendance.

"I think it's important to give back to all people and not to forget people that have always supported you," Valenzuela said. "What I always try to tell kids is to combine education and sports, because education is a really important part of life. Yes, in sports you can have a career, but you never know when that career will end. You focus on studying and that can help your entire life."

Eduardo Ortega, the Padres' Spanish-language broadcaster, and Alanna Rizzo, the Dodgers reporter for SportsNet L.A., were also among the guests present. Jansen and Margot participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony and later signed caps and baseballs for the children. They were among the last to leave the building when the ceremony was over.

"This is real world, being with the kids and giving back to the community," said Ortega, who is from Mexico and is in 32nd season with the Padres. "To serve the kids, give them these types of

spaces is something that makes the communities much better. What Major League Baseball is doing through these initiatives is something the entire world must do to help the children of the future."

Padres ride collective effort, but their patience with Bryan Mitchell is wearing thin

By Dennis Lin May 6, 2018

MONTERREY, Mexico — Bryan Mitchell threw his 55th pitch of the night over the inner half of the plate, watched Matt Kemp shoot an RBI single into left-center and, in a momentary expression of bewilderment, turned both of his palms skyward.

“It was kind of like, ‘Man, I hit my spot there,’” Mitchell said. “He’s just seeing the ball well right now.”

Through six starts with the Padres, Mitchell had hit his spot only on occasion. The right-hander had logged a 6.07 ERA and averaged close to a walk per inning. He had completed six innings in one game but failed to do so in the other five. He teetered on the brink of losing the job the Padres guaranteed him before he threw a regular-season pitch.

So, as his struggles persisted Saturday at Estadio de Béisbol Monterrey, Padres manager Andy Green decided he had seen enough. Mitchell, who yielded a four-pitch walk and a stolen base before Kemp’s single, did not throw a 56th pitch. Green beelined from the dugout to the mound with one out in the top of the third inning and the Padres trailing by one run.

“You get to a point,” Green said, “where you have to make a decision for the sake of the team.”

In a 7-4 victory, four Padres relievers combined to hold the Los Angeles Dodgers to one run over the final 6 2/3 innings. Travis Jankowski tripled leading off the bottom of the first, Eric Hosmer followed with a home run, Raffy Lopez launched his first homer (in the sixth) with San Diego, and the Padres produced four runs against the Dodgers’ bullpen. The collective output lessened the sting of the previous night, when the Padres were no-hit for the 10th time in franchise history — on an international stage, no less.

Yet Mitchell’s early exit and the question of what comes next loomed over the proceedings. In the moments after the game, Green did not commit to giving Mitchell an eighth start. On most other teams, a pitcher with a 6.47 ERA and a league-high 26 walks would not warrant it. The Padres, even at 12-22, may be on the verge of ending the Bryan Mitchell Experiment, at least for a while.

“We’ll sit down and talk about it,” Green said. “It wasn’t a sharp outing. There’s no other way to cover it.”

One wonders whether there should have been more discussion several months ago. In December, the Padres dealt Jabari Blash, who had gained a reputation as a Quad-A outfielder, to the New York Yankees for Chase Headley and Mitchell. San Diego gained a young starter who will remain under club control through 2021. It also assumed the burden of the remaining \$13 million on Headley’s contract.

Mitchell, who turned 27 in April, had posted poor numbers in the majors but never benefited from regular opportunity. The Padres sought to test the potential in his right arm with a role in their rotation. Mitchell’s lack of minor league options secured his place on the opening-day roster.

The returns have been more than disappointing. Headley lost his job to Christian Villanueva and now appears solely as a substitute. The veteran third baseman has acknowledged the difficulty of the transition

— after hitting a single in a third consecutive pinch-hit at-bat, Headley is 6 for 41 — while maintaining his trademark professionalism.

Late Saturday, Mitchell did not seem ready to concede his current assignment, even as a reassignment felt imminent.

“I’m not used to coming out of games that early,” he said. “...Robbie [Erlin] did a great job coming in behind me, and everyone after him, they did a great job keeping the game where it was at. So can’t really second-guess it. But as a competitor, I wasn’t happy about it. I’ve got to move on.”

“I felt like I made a lot of good pitches tonight, I felt great. ... Every time I take the mound, I have the mentality I’m going to give everything I can for 100 pitches or a typical starter’s start.”

Yet that benchmark is unfamiliar; Mitchell has not reached the century mark in any of his 15 major league starts.

Of his 55 pitches Saturday, only 28 were strikes. He retired three of four batters in the first, but he also encountered a familiar bugaboo: the two-out walk. In the top of the second, Kemp greeted him with a leadoff home run. Mitchell issued another two-out walk, this one coming around to score.

“He has flashes of brilliance,” Green said, “and then there’s a batter where the focus wanes and he just doesn’t execute.”

Padres relievers mostly did on Saturday, from Erlin, a candidate to replace Mitchell in the rotation, to Brad Hand, who recovered from a leadoff single to strike out three Dodgers and collect the save. They largely lived in the strike zone, something Mitchell has failed to do.

Another starter, Luis Perdomo, also struggled early this season before being optioned to Triple A, an avenue that does not exist for Mitchell. There is the possibility of moving to the bullpen, though Mitchell did not sound particularly open to the idea.

“That’s not something I’m even contemplating right now,” he said.

Asked whether he expected to make another start, Mitchell did not hesitate.

“Yeah,” he said. “I don’t know why I wouldn’t.”

Hosmer homers as Padres beat Dodgers

7-4

8:55 PM PT
Associated Press

MONTERREY, Mexico -- The [San Diego Padres](#) rebounded nicely from Los Angeles' combined no-hitter, using two-run homers by [Eric Hosmer](#) and [Raffy Lopez](#) to beat the Dodgers 7-4 on Saturday night in the first major league series in Mexico since 1999.

A day after the first no-hitter ever outside the U.S. or Canada, [Travis Jankowski](#) killed off the first with a triple for San Diego's first hit of the series. Hosmer then hit a drive over the wall in right against [Kenta Maeda](#).

"It's big for us, after a day like yesterday you want to start fast," Padres manager Andy Green said. "Then the bullpen gave us the opportunity to come back a couple of times."

Lopez's first homer of the season erased a 4-3 Los Angeles lead in the sixth, and [Chase Headley](#) and [Carlos Asuaje](#) contributed RBI singles in the eighth against [Daniel Hudson](#).

"It's fun to get out there and win, that's what is all about, I just had a blast," Lopez said. "The homer was awesome."

On Friday night, [Walker Buehler](#) and three relievers posted the 12th combined no-hitter in major league history, leading the Dodgers to a 4-0 victory.

San Diego (12-22) ended a two-game losing streak.

[Kirby Yates](#) (2-0) got two outs for the win, and [Brad Hand](#) worked the ninth for his eighth save. [Chris Taylor](#) reached on a leadoff single before Hand struck out the side.

[Josh Fields](#) (2-1) allowed Lopez's homer.

After Hosmer provided an early lead for San Diego, Los Angeles responded with three straight runs. [Matt Kemp](#) homered in the Dodgers' two-run second and singled in [Cody Bellinger](#) in the third.

Los Angeles added another run in the sixth when Taylor was hit by a pitch from Yates with the bases loaded, forcing in [Joc Pederson](#) to make it 4-3.

UP NEXT

The Dodgers send right-hander [Ross Stripling](#) (0-1) to the mound for the series finale. Left-hander [Eric Lauer](#) pitches for the Padres on Sunday.

Andy's Address, 5/5

Andy Addresses No-Hitter, Field Conditions, Mitchell, Ornelas

By Bill Center

The Padres were no-hit for the 10th time in franchise history Friday—and for the first time during **Andy Green's** reign as manager.

Green Saturday discussed the no-hitter and Dodger manager **Dave Roberts'** decision to remove the rookie **Walker Buehler** after six innings. He also discussed the field condition during the first game of the weekend series in Monterrey, Mexico.

“I would never presume to tell another manager how to handle his players,” Green said of Roberts' decision to pull Buehler. “I will say that when I agree, I'll let you know that and that was obvious what he was going to do yesterday with Buehler. Walker is a valued member of their organization and we would do the same thing were **Joey Lucchesi** or **Eric Lauer** in that situation.

“We did earlier in the year give **Tyson Ross** a shot at something special. He's in a much different situation. You want guys to do really special things, you want players to do outstanding things. In Tyson's case, it was a no brainer to me. If I was sitting in the same situation last night and it was Joey Lucchesi, he would have come out of the game as well.”

Of the field conditions, Green said:

“I think we were minutes away, if the rains had persisted, of stopping that game altogether,” said Green “I don't think the field could have taken much more. There were a few times that I let the umpires know that I thought Joey was in a little bit of jeopardy in that one inning.”

“Right when he finished that third inning, it stopped basically and when Buehler went back on the mound it was calm. In the third inning, it got a bit tenuous. But I'm not taking Joey out of that game and bringing someone else in. I'm going to address the umpires to make a judgement call at that point in time. If we feel it gets to that point, it's tough to pull a guy and put another guy out there.”

Green discussed any possible hangover from Friday night's no-hitter going into Saturday's game (evidently there wasn't since **Travis Jankowski** tripled to open the game and **Eric Hosmer** followed with a home run).

“You take what you can from a game and you leave the rest behind,” said Green. “You take some positives and you take some things to build on. That was the first time seeing Walker Buehler. The next time around, you can talk all you want about somebody having an elite fastball. The reality is your players have to make an adjustment and get out there and get on top of it.”

“We’re aware of the quality of his fastball. It is one thing to be aware of it and it’s another thing to be in the box and see it. I don’t see a hangover effect from a tough game. We’ve obviously had plenty of tough games this year and I don’t see these guys carrying that over to the next day. I see them showing up ready to play.”

Green was asked about the struggles of Saturday’s starting pitcher, **Bryan Mitchell**, who entered the game with a 0–3 record and a 6.07 earned run average. Although Mitchell got out of the first without allowing a run, he had allowed three runs on five hits and three walks in just 2 1/3 innings when he was pulled.

“For us, regardless of where his standing is in the rotation, we need a good start from him,” Green said before the game. “There’s been some positives to glean from his recent starts. It’s time for results. We’ve talked about that. He feels that. He understands that implicitly even if he doesn’t say that.”

“It’s time for results. It’s time to go out and compete and attack from the first inning on. He’s had some first-inning issues. It’s one of those things where our club has been behind consistently in the first. It’s going to be big for us to go out and get a scoreless first inning from him today.”

Green was asked about the impact of bench coach **Mark McGwire**.

“Mark McGwire is as accomplished a baseball player as you’re going to find,” said Green. “There are guys who gravitate toward him, that learn from him. He’s one of those guys who played so long and so well, that you would think he would have a thousand things to say and he does.”

“But he lets guys ask him. He is very humble that way. When guys approach him, they usually find really good information. He’s very impactful for us. We absolutely love him. I think the world of him.”

After much talk Friday about the two most prominent Mexican natives—**Christian Villanueva** and Triple-A El Paso second baseman **Luis Urías**—in the Padres family, Green was asked to discuss **Tirso Ornelas**, the 18-year-old Tijuana native who is the Padres’ No 14-ranked prospect by MLB Pipeline.

“He’s with our (Single-A) Fort Wayne club right now,” said Green. “I’ve seen a lot of his at-bats throughout the course of the season. I watched him in spring and we brought him over to some big league games. He’s big (6-foot-3, 200 pounds), he’s physical. He runs better than you’d expect him to.”

“In my estimation, he’s one of our top outfield prospects. He’s got power, but he also has plate discipline. He walked at a 17 percent clip in the minor leagues last year in his first year of baseball. That doesn’t happen very often. It’s a lot easier to have that skill set intrinsic to you than to have it implanted into you. It’s wonderful to see a guy get signed and do that and do that very well. We’re very excited about him for the future.”

Padres seek series win in Mexico vs. Dodgers

STATS

May 6, 2018 at 12:45a ET

The 2018 Major League championship of Mexico will be decided Sunday afternoon as the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) meet the [San Diego Padres](#) in the rubber match of a three-game series in Monterrey.

The Padres rebounded with a 7-4 win on Saturday night after being no-hit by Dodgers starter [Walker Buehler](#) and three relievers Friday night.

Rookie left-hander [Eric Lauer](#) will start for the Padres in Sunday's decisive game of the series.

The Dodgers will counter with [Ross Stripling](#), who is replacing [Rich Hill](#). Hill was slated to come off the disabled list but was scratched from Sunday's start.

Saturday marked the Padres' first win against the Dodgers this season after four straight losses.

Lauer will be making his third Major League start Sunday while facing the Dodgers for the first time. He is 0-1 with a 10.13 ERA in his first two starts. He has allowed 10 runs (nine earned) on 13 hits and six walks with 10 strikeouts in eight innings.

However, he finished his most recent start against the Giants in San Francisco with four straight scoreless innings after giving up three runs in the first.

"The way he came out of his second start against the Giants was very encouraging," said Padres manager Andy Green of Lauer. "I think he gained a lot of confidence after a rough start."

In his Major League debut in very cold conditions at Coors Field in Colorado on April 24, Lauer gave up seven runs (six earned) on six hits and four walks in just three innings.

Lauer, 22, was the third of the Padres three first-round picks (25th overall) in the 2016 draft out of Kent State University where he was named college baseball's Pitcher of the Year off a 10-2 record and 0.69 ERA.

Lauer advanced from rookie ball to Single-A Fort Wayne in his first professional summer and split the 2017 season almost evenly between Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore and Double-A San Antonio, going a combined 6-8 with a 3.30 ERA in 22

games (21 starts). He was 2-1 with a 3.00 ERA in three starts for Triple-A El Paso this April before being promoted to the Padres.

In less than two minor league seasons, Lauer has made 37 appearances at every level in the Padres system.

The 38-year-old Hill has been on the disabled list since April 14 with a cracked fingernail on the middle finger of his pitching hand. Hill has a history of blister problems on his pitching hand and with humid conditions scheduled for Sunday, the Dodgers opted to scratch him.

Stripling is 0-1 with a 2.33 ERA in 12 appearances this season. He made his only start on April 30 at Arizona Stripling allowed four runs and eight hits in four innings.

Stripling is 1-3 with a 5.06 ERA in seven career appearances against the Padres.

With the three games in Monterrey actually being the Padres home games, the Dodgers will play in San Diego only one more time this season for a four-game series July 9-12.