



Padres Press Clips

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Padres spring training primer: Rotation

Jeff Sanders

Pitchers and catchers will report to the [Padres' spring training](#) complex in Peoria, Ariz., on Wednesday, the official start of the 2019 campaign. To get you ready for Cactus League action and the upcoming season, we're taking a deep dive into each corner of the Padres' roster.

Today, the starting rotation:

2018 recap

San Diego's rotation ranked last in the NL in ERA (5.09) and innings (822) and second-to-last in homer-to-flyball rate (16.1 percent), strikeouts per nine innings (7.43) and homers per nine innings (1.34), a concerning development for an organization that traditionally pitches well. It didn't help losing presumptive ace **Dinelson Lamet** to Tommy John surgery before even throwing a regular season pitch or having the **Bryan Mitchell** experiment (5.42 ERA) flat-line before the All-Star break.

The farm system picked up much of the slack as rookies accounted for 67 starts, third most in the majors. LHP **Joey Lucchesi** headlined that group, leading Padres starting pitchers in strikeouts (145), ERA (4.08) and wins (8) and finishing second behind veteran **Clayton Richard** with 130 innings. **Eric Lauer** (4.34 ERA) had more bright spots than fellow rookies **Jacob Nix** (7.02 ERA) and **Brett Kennedy** (6.75 ERA), while RHPs **Tyson Ross** (4.45 ERA) and **Jordan Lyles** (4.29 ERA) shined at times — just not enough to yield anything on the trade market. Both veterans were waived in August as the Padres used the final weeks of the season to get a longer look at the likes of Kennedy, Nix and **Walker Lockett** (9.60 ERA).

As for former Rule 5 pick **Luis Perdomo**, 2018 proved a lost year as he battled through shoulder issues, posted 7.05 ERA over 44 2/3 innings and spent much of the year at Triple-A El Paso.

Current picture

Richard was designated for assignment and traded in December to clear the way for RHP **Garrett Richards'** arrival on a two-year, \$15.5 million deal. The one-time Angels ace, however, isn't expected to return from Tommy John until 2019 and Lamet won't return from his surgery until after the all-star break at the earliest, leaving the bulk of the 2019 starts to again fall to the kids.

In perhaps the most wide-open competition in camp, Lucchesi has a leg up after last year's solid debut and Lauer is in a good position, too, after recording a 1.07 ERA over his last five starts.

Beyond those two, plenty of eyes will be on top prospects **Chris Paddack**, **Logan Allen** and **Cal Quantrill** as they compete with the likes of Mitchell, Nix, Kennedy and Perdomo this spring.

LHP **Matt Strahm**, even further away from his 2017 knee surgery, is also expected to vie for a rotation job and LHP **Robbie Erlin**, though he was far better in the bullpen (2.05 ERA) than he was in the rotation (6.23 ERA), could also jump into the mix with a strong spring.

The team is also on the lookout for opportunities to use a wealth of minor league talent and assets in the big league outfield to upgrade the rotation.

On the farm

As assets go, starting pitching is the most viable currency in baseball and the Padres' farm system, ranked No. 1 in the game by ESPN this week, is rather rich these days. Of the organization's top-30 prospects as ranked by MLB.com, 13 are starting pitchers: LHP **MacKenzie Gore** (2), Paddack (5), LHP **Adrian Morejon** (6), RHP **Michel Baez** (7), Allen (8), RHP **Luis Patino** (9), LHP **Ryan Weathers** (10),

Quantrill (11), RHP **Anderson Espinoza** (12), Nix (14), RHP **Reggie Lawson** (21), RHP **Dylan Coleman**(26) and RHP **Pedro Avila** (29).

Paddack, Allen, Quantrill, Nix and Avila will all be in big league camp.

Padres' youth movement just around corner

Several top prospects likely to debut for San Diego in 2019

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com [@AJCassavell](#)

Feb. 7th, 2019

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres will throw some young players into the fire this season. It's the nature of their roster construction.

The San Diego rotation might feature five starters who weren't big leaguers on Opening Day 2018. By the end of the year, their regular infield might feature 21-year-old prospect **Luis Urias** at second and 20-year-old prospect **Fernando Tatis Jr.** at short. On top of that, there's no obvious Opening Day third baseman.

Even if the Padres make a major splash by landing **Manny Machado** or **Bryce Harper** in the next few weeks, their roster is still extremely short on experience. But they are quick to dispel the notion that 2019 might be another "development year."

"Let's get away from the development mindset at the big league level," said Padres manager Andy Green. "Let's focus on winning baseball games, whatever that takes. It doesn't mean development's not going to occur. But development best occurs when it's not the focal point, but winning's the focal point."

The idea of developing young talent while aiming for a turnaround at the Major League level isn't so far-fetched. There are quite a few recent success stories.

Remember the 2013 Royals? You probably don't. They were a mostly forgettable 86-win bunch that missed the playoffs. But as players from the sport's top farm system began to make an impact, they turned the trajectory of the franchise with those 86 wins. In each of the next two seasons, Kansas City won an American League pennant and in 2015, the World Series championship.

Over the past decade, there have been similar examples in Milwaukee, Houston and Atlanta. The Padres are looking for the same type of progress -- one in which the rebuilding process of the past few years begins to bear tangible results.

Gone are the days when general manager A.J. Preller stocked three Rule 5 players on the big league roster with the sole purpose of stashing them for the future. In fact, as things stand, it seems very possible that a starting-caliber outfielder could open the season in the Minor Leagues. The Padres currently have six outfielders on their roster who have spent time as starters over the past two seasons.

"You're creating competition, which is something we've pushed here in general the last few years," Preller said last month. "In that scenario, most likely, a really good Major League caliber player is not going to break with our club. Hopefully that brings out the best in all of those guys."

The competition will be fiercer at some positions than others. In the outfield, in the bullpen and at catcher, the Padres are deep. In the infield and in the rotation, they're thin.

But it's easy to envision those rotation and infield pieces falling into place as the year progresses. Urias and Tatis will probably anchor the middle of the diamond by June. Pitching prospects **Logan Allen**, Cal Quantrill and **Chris Paddack** are all expected to debut this summer.

The Padres insist they won't be asking that group of youngsters to develop. They'll be asking them to win.

"That vision has been there from the level above me, where we've always been looking at putting that team together to run from 2020 onward," Green said. "But we're going to try to make it happen this year, and we'll do everything we can to make that possible."

It might not result in a trip to the playoffs. But help from the sport's top farm system is on the way. If the 2019 Padres are remembered like the 2013 Royals one day, their season will have been a massive success.

Urias, Patino among biggest prospect bargains

By William Boor MLB.com @wboor

Feb. 7th, 2019

Lofty signing bonuses given to top Draft picks and international signees often garner plenty of headlines and attention, and deservedly so.

However, just because a prospect is handed a seven-figure bonus doesn't mean he's going to be a star. And just because a prospect isn't given a lucrative bonus, or selected in the top few rounds, doesn't preclude him from success either.

Those points may be obvious, and have been proven true countless times across all sports, and this year is no different. Look no further than the **Top 100 Prospects list**. While the average signing bonus among the players on the list was nearly \$3 million, with 17 of \$5 million or more (**Luis Robert**, who signed for \$26 million, tops the list), seven players signed for \$100,000 or less, including four players that received five-figure bonuses.

Sixto Sanchez is one of those players that didn't generate a ton of buzz right out of the gate -- he signed for just \$35,000 in 2015 -- but ultimately proved to be the key piece for the Phillies in acquiring **J.T. Realmuto** from the Marlins in February.

Injuries limited Sanchez to eight starts and 46 2/3 innings in 2018, but a healthy '19 should remind everyone how electric he can be. The 20-year-old throws both a two- and four-seam fastball, a changeup and a curveball that could develop into a plus strikeout pitch. Yes, the original plan was for Sanchez to pitch atop the Phillies rotation, but the goal of a farm system is to improve the Major League club, and Philadelphia's \$35,000 investment ultimately turned into Realmuto, an All-Star catcher.

Sanchez wasn't the cheapest prospect on the Top 100 Prospects list, but his return, for the Phillies, has already come to fruition.

Considering the players that get the big bucks often get most of the attention when they are signed and drafted, let's take some time to look at the other end of the spectrum. Here are the biggest steals on the Top 100 Prospects list.

Luis Urias, INF, Padres (No. 23) -- \$100,000

Urias -- along with Loaisiga, James and Jansen -- is one of four players on this list who has already reached the Majors. The 21-year-old hit .296/.398/.447 in 120 games with Triple-A El Paso last season before he was promoted to San Diego, where he appeared in only 12 games before a hamstring injury ended his season. Urias, who is among the best pure hitters on the Top 100 Prospects list, is currently penciled in as the Padres' Opening Day shortstop and is expected to be a big part of San Diego's future infield, along with Fernando Tatis Jr., who didn't make this list but could end up being quite a bargain as well after signing with the White Sox for \$700,000 and then being acquired by the Padres in exchange for James Shields.

Luis Patino, RHP, Padres (No. 48) -- \$130,000

Patino just completed his first year of full-season ball and was shut down in late August to limit his workload. So although there isn't a huge sample size yet, the Padres have to be feeling

good about signing him for just \$130,000. The right-hander racked up 98 strikeouts and held opponents to a .220 batting average over 83 1/3 innings in the Class A Midwest League last season. Patino, who holds his velocity deep into starts, has three plus pitches (fastball, curveball, slider) and a changeup that will likely improve with experience.

50 Moments — Rosanne Barr “Sings” The National Anthem, July 25, 1990

FriarWire

Feb 7

By Bill Center

To be honest, I wasn't really paying attention to **Roseanne Barr** as the comedian walked onto the field to sing the National Anthem between games of a doubleheader at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium on July 25, 1990.

I was covering the doubleheader for The San Diego Union and my attention was focused elsewhere when Barr started singing what became known as the “Barr-Mangled Banner.”

All that quickly changed when Barr began to sing on Working Women's Day.

It was a rendition that no one who was there will ever forget. And what happened in the next two minutes went national. It made all the news shows the following morning to the embarrassment of the Padres and Major League Baseball.

To discuss Barr's “National Anthem Massacre,” one must go back six weeks to June 14, 1990, when television producer **Tom Werner** and 10 partners purchased the Padres from **Joan Kroc**.

Werner's top-grossing productions were the Rosanne Show and the **Bill Cosby** Show. Shortly after he assumed control of the Padres, Werner was asked if any of his stars might find their way to a Padres' game. Soon, the possibility of Roseanne Barr singing the “National Anthem” was being discussed.

Werner later said it wasn't his idea. But he also rejected the idea of Barr singing “Take Me Out To The Ballgame,” rather than the National Anthem. And he held out for Barr singing it live rather than on tape.

Not only did Barr butcher the National Anthem, she capped her performance of off-key screeching by making an obscene gesture while spitting as she completed the performance. The crowd of 27,285—which included a smaller salute to the military—began booing early during Barr's rendition. And Barr covered her ears as the booing grew into an uproar by the end of her performance.

After the game that night, Padres leader Tony Gwynn said: “I thought it was a disgrace. When they said she was going to sing the national anthem I thought something like this was going to happen.”

Other players echoed the sentiment.

Barr had planned to “ham it up a bit.” But later she claimed that an echo on the public address system, no musical support and the booing from the crowd—that started with her first notes—threw her off-key.

Barr spoke to reporters briefly after she left the field and tried to make light of what happened. “I thought it was great,” she said. “I did well, I think. You can tell they wanted more.”

But the reaction was swift, national and fierce. President Bush called the performance “a disgrace.”

One person who refused comment was Werner. He wouldn’t come out of his box to meet reporters waiting outside the door. The Padres did offer an official statement: “The Padres understand that many people were concerned about Roseanne Barr’s rendition of the national anthem. She was doing the best she could under the circumstances of the audio delay, and she certainly meant no disrespect for the national anthem.”

Top 50 Moments (in chronological order):

1. National League votes to expand into Montreal and San Diego (May 27, 1968)
2. Padres stocked with players in National League expansion draft (Oct. 14, 1968)
3. Padres win their Major League debut (April 8, 1969)
4. Clay Kirby removed from a no-hitter (July 21, 1970)
5. Nate Colbert’s five-homer, 13-RBI doubleheader in Atlanta (Aug. 1, 1972)
6. 1973, the year San Diego nearly lost the Padres
7. Ray Kroc buys the Padres (Jan. 25, 1974)
8. Ray Kroc grabs the microphone during his first home game as the Padres owner (April 9, 1974)
9. Randy Jones National League Cy Young Award (1976)
10. Shortstop Ozzie Smith’s greatest defensive play in Padres’ history (April 20, 1978)

11. Padres host 1978 All-Star Game (July 11, 1978)
12. Gaylord Perry wins 1978 National League Cy Young Award
13. The “re-hatching” of the San Diego Chicken (June 29, 1979)
14. 1984 Padres-Braves brawl in Atlanta (Aug. 12, 1984)
15. More than 12,000 fans greet Padres as they return home from two losses in Chicago in 1984 National League Championship Series (Oct. 3, 1984)
16. Steve Garvey’s series-tying, walk-off homer in Game 4 of the 1984 National League Championship Series
17. Padres win their first National League title (Oct. 7, 1984)
18. Benito Santiago’s 34-game hitting streak to finish a strong finish to N.L. Rookie of the Year season
19. Roseanne Barr butchers The National Anthem (July 25, 1990)

Top 50 Individual Seasons

№35—Trevor Hoffman’s 2006 season almost matched his record-setting, 1998 campaign

FriarWire

Feb 7

By Bill Center

Inarguably, **Trevor Hoffman**’s best season was 1998 when he set career-bests with 53 saves and a 1.48 earned run average.

But when you look at the numbers, Hoffman’s 2006 season is a close second.

Not only did he post a 2.14 ERA and lead the National League with 46 saves (the second-highest total of his career), he finished second in the voting for the National League Cy Young Award and 10th in the voting for the National League Most Valuable Player Award.

In 1998, Hoffman also finished second in the Cy Young voting and seventh in the MVP balloting.

Tom Glavine beat out Hoffman for the Cy Young in 1998 because some voters left the Padres closer off the ballot. In 2006, Hoffman finished second to division rival **Brandon Webb** of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Hoffman’s 2006 season ranks №35 on my list of the Top-50 individual seasons in Padres’ history.

Hoffman made 65 appearances in 2006 as the Padres won a second straight National League West title. He finished 50 games. For the season, Hoffman worked 63 innings. He gave up 16 runs (15 earned) on 48 hits and 13 walks for a 0.968 WHIP. He also had 50 strikeouts.

The off-season between the 2005–2006 campaigns was tough for Hoffman, who had become a free agent.

Although the Cleveland Indians were in pursuit of Hoffman, the closer eventually signed a two-year, \$13.5 million contract with the Padres that included a club option for the 2008 season.

“It came down to me making a decision for my family and not disrupting what we have,” said Hoffman upon deciding to stay with the Padres.

Hoffman converted all but five of his save opportunities in 2006, although he also blew the save opportunity in the All-Star Game and took the loss.

Hoffman reached two notable milestones in 2006:

— On Aug. 20, Hoffman made his 776th appearance with the Padres, breaking the record of appearances with a single team by Pittsburgh Pirates reliever **Elroy Face**.

— On Sept. 24, in the Padres last home game of the season, Hoffman recorded his 479th career save, passing Lee Smith as the all-time Major League leader in saves.

The 2006 season marked the 11th time that Hoffman recorded 30 or more saves and the Major League-record eighth time he reached the 40-save plateau. He would post a ninth, 40-save season in 2007 and finish his career with 14 seasons of 30 or more saves.

Hoffman capped the 2006 season by being named the Roloids Reliever of the Year for the second time and the Sporting News' National League Reliever of the Year for the third time.

Hoffman would pitch only two more seasons for the Padres, leaving as a free agent for Milwaukee in 2008 after the three-year contract he signed following 2005 expired.

Hoffman recorded 552 of his 601 career saves as a Padre. In 2018, he entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., as a Padre.

Top 50 Individual Seasons:

35. RHP Trevor Hoffman (2006)

36. 1B-C Gene Tenace (1979)

37. CF Kevin McReynolds (1984)

38. LHP Dave Roberts (1971)

39. RHP Clay Kirby (1972)

40. 1B Adrian Gonzalez (2010)

41. 1B Phil Nevin (2004)
42. RF Tony Gwynn (1995)
43. RF Dave Winfield (1978)
44. 2B Alan Wiggins (1984)
45. RHP Andy Hawkins (1985)
46. INF-OF Bip Roberts (1990)
47. RHP Heath Bell (2010)
48. RHP Trevor Hoffman (1999)
49. RF Brian Giles (2005)
50. 2B Mark Loretta (2003)

Ballpark swag: San Diego Padres announce 2019 giveaways, promotions

Posted: 12:13 PM, Feb 07, 2019

By: Mark Saunders

SAN DIEGO (KGTV) — Giveaways and promotions have become just as traditional at the ballpark as peanuts and crackerjacks.

Thursday, the San Diego Padres revealed their planned giveaways and promotions for the upcoming 2019 season. Many of the bobblehead and beach-themed items fans have come to enjoy will return, as well as special "fests" at the park.

Themed games also return to the park, including their own special giveaways with a themed game ticket purchases.

Of the notable swag this year, the Swingin' Friar is on full display as the team celebrates its 50th anniversary. Swingin' Friar bobbleheads, towels, ponchos, and hats are all on the docket this season. Other anniversary themed items include Tony Gwynn and Trevor Hoffman replica jerseys, and San Diego Chicken bobbleheads, which are sure to go quickly.

Fan favorites also return in the form of beach towels, bucket hats, hoodies, and "Padres & Puppies" calendars!

(It looks like [grain beetle beach hats](#) didn't make it this year.)

Here's a quick look at some of our favorite promotions, giveaways, and themed games for this season:

Promotions

Multiple games this season: Beerfest

Multiple games this season: KidsFest at the Park

Multiple games this season: CocktailFest

Multiple games this season: Winefest

Multiple games this season: Party in the Park

Giveaways

March 30: 50th anniversary Swingin' Friar bobblehead

March 31: Padres & Puppies calendars

April 20: Swinging' Friar Poncho fleece blanket

May 5: Kids Play Ball set

June 29: 50th Anniversary Gwynn & Hoffman replica jerseys

Themed-games

May 3 - 5: Nurse Appreciation Weekend

May 31: 80's Night

June 31 - July 3: 4th of July Celebration

July 29: Christmas in July

Aug. 23: Star Wars Night

There's plenty more to check out across the season. For a full list of the Padres' promotions, giveaways, and themed games, visit the team's [website here](#).

Padres announce giveaways, start selling tickets for next season

POSTED 4:27 PM, FEBRUARY 7, 2019, BY [FOX 5 DIGITAL TEAM](#)

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Padres single-game tickets for the 2019-20 season are now on sale, and the team has also released its lineup of promotional giveaways and special events.

Giveaway items include a Swingin' Friar bobblehead, Tony Gwynn and Trevor Hoffman Replica Jerseys, and a Padres bucket hat.

Party in the Park will continue every Friday home game, with pregame happy hours hosted in Park at the Park just outside the stadium. Sundays will continue to serve as Military Appreciation Day.