



Padres Press Clips

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Hand named to NL All-Star squad

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- Two springs ago, the Padres took a chance on a struggling left-hander who had recently been designated for assignment by the Miami Marlins. They liked the potential in his breaking ball. They thought he might be a useful bullpen piece, if he could put it all together.

Twenty-seven months later, [Brad Hand](#) is a two-time All-Star.

"It's crazy," said Hand, who was named to the National League All-Star team Sunday for the second consecutive season. "Two years ago, I didn't know if I was even going to get a big league job once I got designated. I had no clue if any team was going to pick me up. You've just got to work hard, put your head down, keep moving forward. You never know what's going to happen. I was lucky to find a home here in San Diego."

Hand is certainly a deserving choice. He owns a 2.91 ERA and 64 strikeouts over 43 1/3 innings. Despite pitching for a last-place club, Hand's 24 saves are second in the National League.

But Hand acknowledged that he was both honored by the selection and disheartened that he won't be joined by right-hander [Kirby Yates](#). The Padres' setup man has posted a 1.57 ERA, albeit in seven fewer innings.

"I'm a little surprised to be honest," Hand said. "Kirby, he had a great first half. ... I definitely think he deserves it. The numbers he's put up this first half are ridiculous."

In reality, it was always going to be difficult for the Padres to send two relievers from the same bullpen. In the five seasons preceding Sunday's announcement, that happened only once in the National League. (Typically, when two relief pitchers are deserving, the closer is the default selection.)

"You're always hoping for a couple of guys on your team to make it," said Padres manager Andy Green. "Selfishly, we felt like Kirby was one of those guys we would've loved to see get his first All-Star nod. But to see Brad get his second, you start talking about guys who made two All-Star teams -- those aren't aberrations. Those are real dudes. He's been that. He's been outstanding for us. He anchors the bullpen."

In January, Hand inked a contract extension that keeps him under team control through 2021. Still, he's already drawing plenty of interest ahead of this month's non-waiver Trade Deadline. Rumors will swirl around him during All-Star festivities in Washington next week.

A year ago, Hand's trip to Marlins Park served as something of a redemption tour. He pitched a scoreless seventh inning for the NL, striking out [Robinson Cano](#) to end it.

Hand was cast aside by Miami in April 2016, and the Padres claimed him during the season's first week. He honed his slider into one of the game's most dominant weapons. Since his arrival,

Hand's 276 relief strikeouts rank second in the Majors. His 193 appearances are the third-most. He owns a 2.66 ERA and a 1.04 WHIP.

"There's something in life to being knocked down and having the audacity to get back up and attack," Green said. "When you're a waiver claim, you've been knocked down. When you've been cast aside by another organization, somebody's basically said, 'Hey, I don't believe in you.' You have to carry a belief in yourself to overcome things. That's the greatest thing he could take from that."

Fans can cast votes for the final player on each league's roster -- on computers, tablets and smartphones -- exclusively online as part of the [2018 Camping World MLB Final Vote](#), as well as via the MLB At Bat and MLB Ballpark mobile apps, until Thursday at 1 p.m. PT.

Then on Tuesday, July 17, while watching the 2018 All-Star Game presented by Mastercard live on FOX, fans can submit their choices for the Ted Williams Most Valuable Player Award presented by Chevrolet with the 2018 All-Star Game MLB.com MVP Vote.

The 89th Midsummer Classic, at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., will be televised nationally by FOX Sports; in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and RDS; and worldwide by partners in more than 180 countries. FOX Deportes will provide Spanish-language coverage in the United States, while ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide exclusive national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network, MLB.com and SiriusXM also will provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage.

Myers stays hot, slams game-winner in 16th

Margot adds first career 5-hit game

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

PHOENIX -- It's hard to blame [Wil Myers](#) for losing track of the count on Sunday afternoon in Arizona. Things were getting awfully weird at Chase Field.

When Myers strode to the plate, there were two outs in the *16th inning*. [Jeff Mathis](#) (yes, longtime catcher Jeff Mathis) was on the mound for the D-backs. After ball three, Myers flipped his bat and trotted toward first base before realizing his mistake.

He's probably pretty pleased he didn't walk.

Three pitches later, Myers demolished a monster home run over the right-center-field batter's eye. He flipped his bat emphatically this time, celebrating a game-winning dinger in a 4-3 San Diego victory. It was the longest Padres game this season at 5 hours and 31 minutes. It tied the longest game, in innings, in D-backs history.

"It's just a sigh of relief," Myers said afterward.

On Saturday night, Myers became the eighth player in Padres history to homer three times in a game. That was a mere footnote in an ugly 15-run loss. Sunday's heroics were much more meaningful -- even if they came against a 14-year veteran catcher.

"I'll tell you what: Mathis is probably the best position-player pitcher I've seen," Myers said. "After those first couple pitches, I was like, 'Man, I have to lock it in right here.' This guy's actually pitching. Credit to him for being OK."

Eight Padres relievers combined for 11 scoreless innings, punctuated by two frames from newly minted All-Star [Brad Hand](#). He allowed a leadoff double in the bottom of the 16th, but escaped the threat with a grounder to second that stranded the tying run at third base.

The Padres managed to keep the burden exclusively on their deep bullpen. The D-backs, meanwhile, veered off course in their pitching plans. After long-man [T.J. McFarland](#) ate four innings, [Zack Godley](#) -- who started on Friday night -- pitched the 15th. He escaped a two-on, two-out jam, paving the way for Mathis.

"It was a grind," said Padres manager Andy Green. "It was a war of attrition out there, and we had more arms in the tank than they did."

In part, that's because the Padres managed to chase Arizona ace [Zack Greinke](#) after 4 1/3 innings and 94 pitches.

"I liked the way the team grinded against Greinke," Green said. "You're talking about a Cy Young Award winner that you're getting out before five innings. That's going to lead to winning baseball."

Padres starter [Clayton Richard](#) wasn't all that sharp either, but he limited the D-backs to three runs in five innings. His streak of 11 straight six-inning starts came to an end when he was lifted for pinch-hitter [Jose Pirela](#) in the sixth.

Pirela swatted a game-tying single up the middle, and that would be the only offense for either side until the 16th. Two of the National League's best bullpens squared off, and they didn't disappoint.

"That's a ton of innings to ask out of your guys," Green said. "They rose up. They did what they needed to do."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Diaz delivers: [Miguel Diaz](#), who was recalled prior to Sunday's game, made quite the statement upon his return to the big leagues. The 23-year-old right-hander became the [second Padre in history](#) to record a four-strikeout frame in the bottom of the 11th. Diaz whiffed [Chris Owings](#) with the winning run on second base, but the ball got away, and Owings reached on the wild pitch. No matter. Diaz blew a 98-mph fastball past [Jon Jay](#) to end the threat. He joined [Luke Gregerson](#) (Oct. 4, 2009) as the only Padres to accomplish the feat.

Mashin' Manny: [Manuel Margot](#) entered play Sunday hitting .229. A career-high five hits later, that marked had jumped by 14 points. Margot, whose previous best was three hits, went 5-for-6 with a walk, and he became the 12th player in franchise history to reach base six times in a game. Margot's biggest contribution was his sixth-inning double. He'd come around to score two batters later on Pirela's pinch-hit single.

PERDOMO IN A PINCH?

The Padres' relief corps was forced to eat six innings on Saturday after [Tyson Ross'](#) shortest start in three years. It threw 11 innings on Sunday. But, hey, that's better than 12.

Had Myers not gone deep in the 16th, [Luis Perdomo](#) -- who is slated to start on Monday against the Dodgers -- would've been called upon.

"We were going to win this baseball game with everybody if we had to," Green said. "I'm not sure who we would have started [on Monday]."

Perdomo did throw a few warm-up pitches in the right-field bullpen. Green said afterward he didn't think they were taxing enough to move Perdomo from his start. Still, it's probably likely that the Padres re-shuffle their bullpen with a roster move or two.

"We're going to have to get some reinforcements to make sure we're in good shape," Green said. "... We've got a lot to figure out in the next 24 hours."

SOUND SMART

Diaz is the third pitcher in recorded history to strike out four hitters in an extra inning. The last two were both Blue Jays. [Mike Bolsinger](#) did so last July 18 against the Red Sox, and [Steve Delabar](#) fanned four White Sox on Aug. 13, 2012.

HE SAID IT

"What's funny about baseball is my first five at-bats, I was 0-for-5, and I felt as good as I did

yesterday. That's the thing about baseball. You never know what's going to happen. You can feel great, play bad. You can feel bad, play great. You can never predict it. You just go out there and keep grinding." -- *Myers*

UP NEXT

Perdomo presumably gets the ball opposite [Clayton Kershaw](#) as the Padres open a four-game series against the Dodgers at Petco Park at 7:10 p.m. PT. Perdomo will be looking to build on his best start of the season Wednesday in Oakland. After 2 1/2 months in the Minors, Perdomo allowed two runs on four hits over 5 2/3 innings. He showcased a vastly improved changeup and used it to work out of quite a few jams.

Diaz makes Padres history in 2018 debut

Becomes franchise's second pitcher with 4 strikeouts in an inning

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

PHOENIX -- The Padres threw [Miguel Diaz](#) straight into the fire, as he returned to the big leagues for the first time this season. The 23-year-old right-hander kept his cool -- and made a bit of history in the process.

Diaz, who was recalled prior to Sunday's game, pitched two scoreless frames in the Padres' wild, 4-3, [16-inning victory](#) over the D-backs on Sunday afternoon. His 11th inning would prove particularly remarkable.

Diaz became the [second pitcher in Padres history](#) to notch four strikeouts in an inning, joining [Luke Gregerson](#), who accomplished the feat in October 2009. He's just the third player in recorded Major League history to post four Ks in an extra inning, joining Toronto's [Steve Delabar](#) (2012) and [Mike Bolsinger](#) (2017).

"I felt really good," Diaz said through a team interpreter. "I was just going out there trying to get the job done. I was coming into a tight situation with the game tied. I knew if any runs scored, that the game would be over, so I really just tried to calm myself down, attack and execute pitches."

Diaz had already recorded a pair of punchouts when [Chris Owings](#) came to the plate with the winning run on second base. He chased a curveball in the dirt for strike three, but the ball got away from catcher [Austin Hedges](#).

Owings reached safely on a wild pitch, bringing [Jon Jay](#) to the plate. The potential winning run advanced to third, but Diaz wouldn't flinch. He whiffed Jay on a 98-mph fastball.

"I had to dig deep and calm down the adrenaline and find a way to get outs," Diaz said.

It marked the first time this season that the Padres' Rule 5 efforts from a year ago have paid dividends.

Prior to the game, San Diego recalled Diaz from Double-A San Antonio. [Kazuhisa Makita](#), who threw 61 pitches in Saturday's loss, was optioned to Triple-A.

Diaz was the freshest Minor League arm currently on the 40-man roster. That was the reason for his callup, and given the beleaguered state of the Padres' bullpen, it proved a savvy decision.

The Padres are eager to see what Diaz has to offer with a little Minor League seasoning under his belt. After making the jump directly from Class A to the Majors last season, Diaz posted a 7.34 ERA in 31 appearances.

In 17 outings between Double and Triple-A, Diaz owns a 3.79 ERA this season, though he's walked 35 hitters in 54 2/3 innings.

"He's had a ton of life to his ball in the Minor Leagues this year," said Padres manager Andy Green said before the game. "He's had probably too many walks. But, there's a lot to like about him, and that's why we took him last year in the Rule 5."

In December 2016, general manager A.J. Preller maneuvered to land the top three picks in the Rule 5 Draft. He took Diaz first, followed by catcher [Luis Torrens](#) and infielder [Allen Cordoba](#). Per Rule 5 stipulations, all three had to remain on the big league roster for the duration of the season. They did, and the Padres became the first team since at least 2000 (and possibly ever) to carry three Rule 5 picks for an entire year.

Because of their big league service time, none of the three are technically considered prospects. Regardless, they're still viewed as integral pieces of the Padres' future. Diaz is the first of the group to return to the Majors.

The Padres feel Diaz could potentially fill a role similar to that of [Matt Strahm](#) -- a starter/reliever hybrid, who can work multiple innings and fill a number of different roles in the 'pen.

"He can play in that 3-4 inning relief role," Green said. "Long-term, he could potentially be a starter for us. ... He's got that kind of life and that juice in the arm and length as well. For him, it's about commanding the fastball. If he commands the fastball, he's going to have a bright future."

Noteworthy

- Outfielder [Matt Szczur](#) cleared waivers and has been outrighted to Triple-A El Paso. Serving mostly as a pinch-hitter/pinch-runner/defensive replacement, Szczur batted .187 in 84 plate appearances this season.

Wil Myers' homer matters this time, Padres down Diamondbacks in 16

[Kevin Acee](#)

[Wil Myers](#)' three home runs could not help the [Padres](#) on Saturday in a game they lost by 15 runs.

His one homer Sunday was enough.

In the 16th inning of a game that lasted five hours and 31 minutes, Myers blasted a full-count pitch from [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) catcher [Jeff Mathis](#) over the wall in center field for the deciding run in a 4-3 victory.

“To get beat pretty good yesterday and play a long, tough game today, to be able to come out on top is big,” Myers said. “It's just a sigh of relief to be able to come in here against a great team and be able to split on the road.”

[Brad Hand](#), who found out in the morning he would be the Padres' All-Star representative for the second straight year, earned the victory at the end of a game that spanned the early afternoon into the evening.

In navigating his second scoreless inning, Hand (2-4) got three outs after a double by Jake Lamb began the bottom of the 16th.

The Padres bullpen – all of it – strung together 11 scoreless innings in the stead of struggling starter [Clayton Richard](#), who allowed three runs on five hits, four walks and two hit batters.

“It was a war of attrition out there,” Padres manager Andy Green said. “And we had a little more arms in the tank than they did.”

Mathis, who caught the first 15 innings, retired the first two batters he faced as a pitcher in the 16th before Myers hit the ninth pitch he saw for his fourth home run in two days, the first three coming in a 20-5 loss.

“I’ll tell you what,” Myers said. “Mathis is probably the best position player pitcher I’ve seen. After those first couple pitches, I was like, ‘Man I have to lock it in right here. This guy’s actually pitching.’ Credit to him for being OK.”

Myers’ heroics ended a game the Padres seemed intent on squandering the way they had so many in the past. They had a runner on second base in four of the first six extra innings and finished 2-for-17 with runners in scoring position.

The victory was just the Padres’ second on this six-game trip and sixth in their past 22 games, and it avoided a seventh straight series loss.

The game also ended a stretch in which the Padres played 23 of 28 games on the road. After winning five of the first eight, the Padres won just four more times. They went 9-14 away from Petco Park, where on Monday they begin a seven-game homestand that will lead up to the All-Star break.

They’ll need to call up a pitcher or two at least for the start of a four-game series with the Dodgers. Three of the pitchers who threw Sunday also pitched the day before. And three others threw two innings apiece Sunday.

“We were going to win this baseball game with everybody if we had to,” said Green, who had Luis Perdomo, Monday’s scheduled starter, warming up late.

Even Richard threw in the bullpen during Sunday’s game.

After being lifted for pinch-hitter Jose Pirela, whose single in the top of the sixth inning scored Manuel Margot to tie the game 3-3, Richard went to the bullpen for some extra work.

“I was a fan longer than I was a pitcher today,” Richard said.

What he saw included every Padres position player getting in the game, as well as Saturday’s starting pitcher, [Tyson Ross](#), pinch-hitting.

Margot finished with five hits. [Eric Hosmer](#) and Austin Hedges also drove in runs.

“We were just trying to keep Joey Lucchesi out of it today,” Green said. “We were trying to get everybody else into it.”

Surprise! Brad Hand is Padres' All-Star again

[Kevin Acee](#)

It was expected. But then it wasn't.

"I'm a little surprised," [Brad Hand](#) said. "I mean, Kirby had a great first half. My last month wasn't so good. But I'm excited to represent the [Padres](#) for sure."

For the second straight year, Hand will be the Padres' lone All-Star.

There had been some thought set-up man Kirby Yates would get the honor, as he had until giving up three runs in a mop-up appearance Saturday, a 0.79 ERA that was lowest among any qualifying reliever in the majors.

"I definitely think he deserves it," Hand said. "The numbers he's put up this first half are ridiculous. It's one of those things, the eighth inning guys don't get that much credit. The closers are the ones who get it."

Manager Andy Green had been among those who increasingly foresaw a chance for Yates in recent days, though he acknowledged the rarity of a non-closer being tabbed.

"You're always hoping for a couple guys on your team to make it," Green said.

"Selfishly, we felt like Kirby is one of those guys who we would have loved to get his first All-Star nod. But to see Brad get his second – you start talking about guys who make two All-Star teams, those aren't aberrations. Those are real dudes. He's been that. He's been outstanding for us."

Hand's 24 saves are second in the [National League](#) to the 25 by Colorado's Wade Davis.

After blowing two saves and taking two losses in his first four appearances, Hand saved 20 games in 21 chances and posted a 1.44 ERA in 31 1/3 innings from April 6 to

June 13. In seven appearances from June 13-30, he allowed seven runs in seven innings. He pitched a scoreless ninth inning here Friday for his third consecutive successful save conversion and got the victory by closing out Sunday's 4-3, 16-inning victory with two scoreless innings.

"The first week-and-a-half of the season was rough," Hand said. "... After that, I had a good stretch. Then this last two weeks or so I went through another tough stretch. It's just part of baseball. If you look at three weeks of the season and get too caught up in it, you're going to have a bad year. It's a new month. You try to turn the page, move on and try to put together another good month."

It is the fourth time in eight years the Padres will be represented solely by their closer.

"Sometimes things change in the next couple weeks," Green said. "We're going to hold out hope Kirby might be one of those late adds as a bullpen arm. He's definitely pitched well enough to deserve that consideration."

The [All-Star Game](#) will be played Tuesday, July 17 at [Nationals Park](#) in Washington.

Some Padres have a lot to show — and now — if they still want to be Padres

[Kevin Acee](#)

Their long irrational nightmare is over.

The way it ended provides promise for the [Padres](#). At least for those who are capable of sticking around.

In the latter days of this stretch of 28 games that featured 23 contests on the road, multiple players were made to understand once again that their time in the big leagues could be dwindling if they didn't get back to doing as they were instructed.

There was a different manner — an edge, even — to the way manager Andy Green and some coaches interacted with a number of players throughout this six-game road trip that concluded with Sunday's 4-3 victory over the [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) in 16 innings.

It was similar to a tack Green had taken earlier in the season — one that prompted fairly widespread improvement for a period.

And the method was backed this time with the impetus of clear urgency, as the organization is intent on seeing some prospects play in the majors, perhaps as soon as shortly after the All-Star break.

For someone to come, someone has to go.

Green was not interested in talking about specifics when asked Sunday about the subtle-yet-serious shift in approach.

But neither did he deny the significance of his words from a day earlier when he lamented his team's horrid approach at the plate during Friday's 3-1 loss to Zack Godley and the Diamondbacks, which continued what has been a regression in plate discipline shown by a number of players.

"There are points in time you feel good about what is going on," Green said Saturday after the Padres lost for the 14th time in 18 games. "But a few weeks in a row now, we've found ourselves outside the strike zone entirely too much. We want to be aggressive as a team. We want to be aggressive in a defined space, though."

At varying times and to varying degrees, [Hunter Renfroe](#), Christian Villanueva and [Manuel Margot](#), in particular, have struggled chasing pitches outside the zone – or at least outside their zone of probable success.

The Padres coaching staff wants those players to be part of the team's future, when it envisions being good. But for that to happen, they need to see consistently what has so far been fleeting improvement.

"To each individual it is probably something different," Green said Saturday. "I look at Travis Jankowski and Carlos Asuaje as guys who know what it means to be aggressive in a defined space, who are attacking pitches you want them to swing at. It's been a challenge for a lot of other guys to do that. The reality of winning baseball is you swing at strikes and take balls. That's decades old."

Over the next two games – yes, even in a 20-5 loss on Saturday – there were signs the talking-tos had an effect.

The Padres made Robbie Ray throw 96 pitches in 4 1/3 innings Saturday and Zack Greinke 94 pitches in 4 1/3 innings on Sunday. In doing so, the Padres collected 10 hits and seven walks off the two Arizona starters.

"That's going to lead to winning baseball," Green said after Sunday's game. "That's going to lead to more than three runs a lot more frequently."

In particular, Margot appeared to have gotten the message. After going 5-for-41 over the previous 11 games, he was 5-for-6 on Sunday.

“Very stubborn as a hitter,” Green said. “Swinging at the pitches he wants to swing at. His zone was a lot smaller than it had been.”

Stubborn hitters are what the Padres are trying to build. This is something that has been preached — a lot — since before [spring training](#) began.

The offense put together a stretch, at the very least from late May to mid-June where batters were seeing more pitches and getting on base far more than they had been. That included, as much or more than anyone else, Renfroe and Margot. But both had swing more freely and irresponsibly of late.

In an 18-game stretch beginning May 28, the Padres hit .261 as a team with a .321 on-base percentage. However, over the 18 games leading into Saturday those numbers were .225 and .290.

“I don’t necessarily think we’ve made strides in that area,” Green said Saturday. “And we need to make strides in that area. ... It’s just a reality. We talk about it. And we just talked about it as a team a bit ago. If you want to play winning baseball and you face Zack Godley, you don’t chase two-thirds of your pitches outside the strike zone. You just don’t win baseball games that way. It’s time to start stepping up and changing that profile. We’ve talked about it. We need action at this point.”

Raffy Lopez, Chihuahuas break out in win

Jeff Sanders

Contrary to his career arc, **Raffy Lopez's** glove had more impact in San Diego than his bat.

Back at Triple-A El Paso, the 30-year-old catcher got back to basics on Sunday.

Lopez hit his first home run since his demotion, a grand slam that capped the [Chihuahuas' 15-6 win](#) at Salt Lake.

Lopez also doubled and drove in five runs, lifting his batting line to .270/.331/.541 in 30 games in the [Pacific Coast League](#). Has eight homers after hitting only three while batting .180/.263/.290 in 34 games in the majors.

Forrest Allday (.323) went 4-for-6 with three doubles, two RBIs and three runs scored, **Dusty Coleman** (.188) went 3-for-3 with his ninth homer and **Javy Guerra** (.200) hit his eighth.

Right-hander **Colin Rea** (2-2, 6.30) walked six while allowing four runs on six hits in five innings. He struck out five in the win.

The Chihuahuas (50-40) have won 16 of 19 games heading into the all-star break.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (10-7, 52-35)

- [Missions 4, Arkansas 1](#): SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.291) doubled in three runs in four at-bats and DH **Josh Naylor** (.315) and CF **Michael Gettys** (.247) each had two hits. RHP **Cal Quantrill** (4.32) struck out three and allowed one run on four hits and four walks in 6 1/3 innings. RHP **Eric Yardley** (2-1, 2.77) turned in 1 2/3 scoreless innings and RHP **Andres Munoz** (0.00) worked around a walk to record his first save in a scoreless ninth.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (8-10, 42-46)

- **Visalia 6, Storm 1:** RHP **Emmanuel Ramirez** (4-3, 5.15) struck out eight and allowed six runs – four earned – on seven hits in five innings in the loss. 3B **Hudson Potts** (.268) went 2-for-4 and C **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.255) went 1-for-4 with a double.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (11-7, 43-44)

- **Bowling Green 4, TinCaps 3:** LHP **Aaron Leasher** (2.79) struck out five and allowed three runs on 11 hits and a walk in 4 1/3 innings in the start. LHP **Travis Radke** (1-4, 2.17) allowed the go-ahead run to score in the ninth. RF **Jack Suwinski** (.220) hit his fifth homer, 1B **Nick Feight** (.236) went 2-for-3 with two doubles and a run scored and LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.364) went 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (12-12)

- **Dust Devils 5, Everett 0:** RHP **Angel Acevedo** (2-1, 2.65) struck out four and scattered five hits and no walks over six shutout innings in the win. SS **Olivier Basabe** (.302) drove in two runs on his second homer), 3B **Kelvin Alarcon** (.216) went 1-for-3 with a triple, two RBIs, a walk and a run scored and RF **Aldemar Burgos** (.297) tripled twice and scored a run.

Transactions

- RHP **Miguel Diaz** was recalled from San Antonio to San Diego.
- RHP **Caleb Boushley** was transferred from Fort Wayne to El Paso.

His future as a Padre uncertain, closer Brad Hand receives another All-Star bid

By Dennis Lin

PHOENIX — Standing inside a cave-like room beneath Chase Field, Brad Hand wore the slightest hint of a smile as he spoke with the inflection of a man reciting a grocery list.

In other words, he sounded much like he always does. The Padres left-hander did not ascend to the upper echelon of major-league relievers because of colorful commentary or a tendency to skew toward extremes.

“He’s definitely right up there as one of the lowest-maintenance guys I’ve ever been around,” San Diego manager Andy Green said.

“I talk to Brad because I want to talk to Brad. I also know if I never spoke to Brad one day in my life, Brad would be just fine. He’d go out there and he’d dominate. He doesn’t need constant communication. He’s just going to go do his job to the best of his ability.”

Hand’s dependability earned him a second consecutive berth on the National League All-Star roster, which was unveiled during Sunday’s 16-inning, 4-3 victory over the Diamondbacks. The closer is the Padres’ lone inclusion for the second year in a row. The question of how much longer he remains with a last-place club is again hanging over July.

The path Hand traveled to arrive at this point — from the Marlins’ discard pile to waiver claim to coveted bullpen arm — has equipped him for this, too.

“It’s crazy,” Hand said before throwing two scoreless innings to collect the win in Sunday’s marathon game. “Two years ago, I didn’t know if I was even going to get a big-league job once I got designated [for assignment by Miami]. I had no clue if any team was going to pick me up. You’ve just got to work hard, put your head down and keep moving forward. You never know what’s going to happen. I was lucky to be able to find a home here in San Diego and a role in the bullpen.”

Hand and setup men Kirby Yates and Craig Stammen have performed well enough that all three are candidates to be moved by the July 31 trade deadline.

“They’re all wired right for that, Brad probably chief among them,” Green said. “He went through this all year last year, at least through the month of July. ... Guys that have bounced back from adversity in life tend to be able to handle bumps along the way better than guys who’ve never had the adversity that Brad and Craig and Kirby have had.”

Hand, one of the most unassuming players in baseball, said he was “a little surprised” by his All-Star selection. Yates, who, like Hand, came to the Padres as a waiver claim, is objectively having a more impressive season; before a three-run blip Saturday night, the right-hander was sporting a 0.79 ERA, lowest among all relievers with at least 30 innings.

The Padres will hold out hope that a spot opens on the NL roster before the July 17 event in Washington, D.C.

“Selfishly, we felt like Kirby was one of those guys that we would’ve loved to see get his first All-Star nod,” Green said.

“I definitely think he deserves it,” said Hand, whose ERA dropped to 2.91 on Sunday. “The numbers that he’s put up this first half are ridiculous. It’s just one of those things where the eighth-inning guys never get much credit but the closers are the ones that get it. But the eighth-inning guys are the guys ... that make the opportunities for the ninth-inning guys.”

Still, reputations count in this business, and over the past 2 1/2 years Hand has come to be known as one of the game’s most versatile and effective relievers. His 24 saves are tied for second in the NL. Entering Sunday, same-handed opponents had managed a .137 average and a .508 OPS. Ten times this season, he has recorded more than three outs.

“You start talking about guys who make two All-Star teams; those aren’t aberrations, those are real dudes,” Green said. “He’s been that, he’s been outstanding for us, anchors the bullpen and is as good as anybody in the game. His name’s thrown around all over the place because of the quality of pitcher he is.”

After a couple of rough appearances in the first week of the season, Hand lowered his ERA to 1.73 on June 21. His numbers have taken a hit with a recent stretch of uneven pitching.

“It’s just part of baseball,” Hand said. “If you look at three weeks of a season and get too caught up in it, you’re going to have a bad year. It’s a new month, you try to turn the page, move on and try to put together another good month.”

The possibility that Hand stays in San Diego beyond July is distinct. The Padres awarded him a three-year, \$19.75 million extension in January, clarifying his value on the trade market. General manager A.J. Preller has maintained a lofty asking price for the reliever, and opposing teams are reluctant to surrender top prospects.

Preller, of course, remains as unpredictable as Hand is unflappable. That said, many in the organization would be thrilled if the GM opts to retain the 28-year-old.

“I don’t think they extended Brad to just kind of make him look more attractive to the industry,” Padres executive and NL all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman [said Saturday](#). “I think they extended him because they wanted to give it a chance to have him at the back end [of the bullpen] when we’re really winning ballgames.”

Padres prospect Luis Urías might be the next little guy who can pack surprising pop

By Dustin Palmateer

Luis Urías didn't hit his first professional home run until April 19, 2016, his 119th game. True to his contact-hitting style, it was an inside-the-park round-tripper. His first outside-the-park home run came more than two months later, on June 25, in his 174th game.

Urías spent all of 2016 in the hitter-friendly locales of the California League and the Pacific Coast League (for just three games at the latter venue) and batted .333, bursting onto the prospect scene. But he connected for only six homers. Last season, at 20 years old, he got 526 plate appearances at Double-A San Antonio, collecting just a trio of homers. So far in 2018, Urías already has six dingers for Triple-A El Paso, but his .132 Isolated Power is still 23 points off the PCL's average. Further, his strikeout rate has ballooned to 20.2 percent against advanced pitching.

If it's not clear already, Urías is not a power hitter. Still, he's spent the last three seasons climbing the Padres' prospect lists on the strength of otherworldly bat-to-ball skills and improving infield defense. Just 5-foot-9, Urías didn't crack a national top-100 list until last winter, where he debuted as high as No. 32 (on Baseball America's list). Urías' carrying tools are the bat, which has led to an 11.1 percent minor-league strikeout rate and a .304 career batting average, and the glove, which has grown into a plus projection on the right side of the infield.

Given Urías' credentials, the question that could determine his ultimate value is an odd one: Will he hit for any power in the major leagues?

Well, maybe.

The Braves' Ozzie Albies is a lot like Urías. A 5-foot-8 second baseman, he was young for his leagues in the minors and hit just one home run through his first two pro seasons (an out-of-the-parker, just in case you're wondering). As a

prospect, Albies was the east coast’s version of Urías, with a dash of added flair.

After graduating to the majors in 2017, something happened. The diminutive infielder started hitting for power. Last year, in a 57-game debut, Albies cracked six homers and posted a career-best .170 ISO. He’s upped the ante this year, already homering 18 times in 87 games while adding an NL-leading 29 doubles.

Albies’ power spike isn’t a complete outlier, either.

Player	Height	MiLB K%	MiLB ISO	MLB K%	MLB ISO
Mookie Betts	5-9	10.4	.156	11.8	.212
Ozzie Albies	5-8	15.2	.120	15.5	.211
Francisco Lindor	5-11	14.0	.106	14.2	.197
José Ramírez	5-9	8.0	.107	11.0	.196
Luis Urías	5-9	11.1	.091	?	?

After the 2011 season, when [Baseball America](#) ranked Francisco Lindor as the 37th-best prospect in the game, its scouting report on him said he “perhaps could hit 10-15 homers per year in his prime.” In the three following years, BA didn’t change its power projection on Lindor, and it wasn’t alone. Going into the 2015 season, [Baseball Prospectus](#) tabbed Lindor’s below-average power as his main weakness.

After hitting just 21 of them in the minors, Lindor, just 24, hit his 23rd home run of the season on Monday night. We haven’t reached the All-Star break.

Give the prospect outlets a break, though. When they wrote about Lindor as a prospect, nothing had [happened to the baseball yet](#). The transformation of the ball sometime during the 2015 season changed the game in numerous ways. In one sense, *everyone* hits for more power. League home runs jumped by nearly 2,000 in a three-year stretch, from 4,186 in 2014 to 6,105 in 2017. Pitchers have focused more on strikeouts, while hitters have sold out for the long ball.

More specifically, however, several contact-first hitters have been able to tap into unforeseen power without sacrificing much in contact rate, seemingly benefiting more from the juiced ball than the average player. Lindor and José Ramírez are on pace for — and I realize this is dangerous, even at this point of

the season — north of 40 home runs apiece. Mookie Betts should easily pass 30 for the second time in his career and could topple 40. Albies might reach 90 extra-base hits, which would be 11 more than Aaron Judge accumulated in his historic rookie campaign last year. José Altuve has gone conspicuously unmentioned, but that’s only because he spent the early portion of his major-league career in the dead-ball era; from 2015 on, like Lindor and the rest, he’s reached uncharted power levels, too.

Not *every* low-strikeout, low-power prospect has followed the same course, right? Curious, I looked at each hitting prospect inside Baseball America’s top 50 since 2015, noting their strikeout and power numbers in both the minors and the majors.

Group	Players	ISO in MiLB	ISO in MLB	Percentage Change
Sub-15% K rate, MiLB	6	.141	.175	+24.1
15-20% K rate, MiLB	10	.161	.180	+11.8
20-25% K rate, MiLB	12	.192	.198	+3.1
25%-plus K rate, MILB	9	.219	.209	-4.6

* *Players with a minimum of 300 big-league PAs included.*

It’s a small sample, but the results are clear: Contact-hitting prospects *have* seen a much bigger power gain than their power-hitting brethren. Among the group of 16 with minor-league strikeout rates under 20 percent, 10 have hit for more power in the majors than they did in their prospect days. Beyond Albies and Lindor, the biggest power gainers among low-strikeout players in the group considered, Carlos Correa (+35), Josh Bell (+25) and Max Kepler (+18) have all added more than 10 points of ISO in the majors. On the other hand, nobody in the 25 percent (and up) K rate group has hit for more power as a big leaguer.

Comparing Uriás to a group of rising MLB stars might seem like a stretch, but there’s more to it than simple pie-in-the-sky optimism. Baseball Prospectus uses player comps as the basis of PECOTA, its projection system. Betts and Lindor rank second and third on [Uriás’ comp list](#), respectively, with Ramírez coming in at 11 and Altuve 34 (only Albies is missing).

For further evidence of the similarities, here are clips from BA scouting reports on Albies (2016), Lindor (2015) and Urias (2018):

Albies: His superior hand-eye coordination and quick swing generate solid bat speed and consistent contact from both sides of the plate. He sprays hits to all fields and does a good job of keeping the ball out of the air. His strike-zone judgment is advanced, but his aggressiveness cuts into his on-base percentage.

Lindor: At the plate, he takes line-drive swings and makes consistent hard contact to all fields. He has outstanding hand-eye coordination and feel for the strike zone, which along with his speed allows his hit tool to play up.

Urías: Urías rarely expands his strike zone, forcing pitchers to come to him. When they do he uses his elite hand-eye coordination and a quick swing to drive all types of pitches on a line into the outfield. Though he doesn't elevate for home runs, he makes consistent hard contact with exit velocities in line with Yoán Moncada, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and other top prospects.

The same kind of reports can be found on Betts, Ramirez and Altuve, reaffirming Urías' inclusion in the club. Everything in the profiles is similar, from well below average height to good hand-eye coordination and improving defense to an expected minimal power output in the majors.

Of course, Urías might never reach the power levels of the Lindors of the world. For one, he hasn't hit for quite as much pop in the minors as the players he's being compared to here, despite playing in a couple of hitter-friendly locations (plus, he'll have to transfer his game to pitcher-friendly Petco Park in the majors). Further, while Urías has shown more power this season at Triple A, he has yet to display a true change in style; his fly ball rate hasn't approached 30 percent at any level, sitting at 24 percent this season.

Player	GB/FB in Low Minors	GB/FB in AA & AAA	Difference
Ozzie Albies	2.60	1.33	-1.27
Francisco Lindor	2.12	1.45	-0.67
José Ramírez	1.77	1.17	-0.60
Mookie Betts	1.41	1.04	-0.37
Luis Urías	1.64	2.16	0.52

While the other four guys showed a big increase in fly ball rate in the upper minors, Urías has done just the opposite. He *has* hit more line drives in Double A and Triple A, however, so he's actually hitting more air balls now than he did earlier in his career. Still, he hasn't tweaked the launch angle enough to get

the most out of that plus bat speed, at least not when it comes to translating it into consistent over-the-fence power.

Nevertheless, given the overall performance of similar players, a power spike could be on the horizon, so long as MLB doesn't deaden the baseball to pre-2015 levels. Urías has long been given a top-of-the-order profile, good for batting average, on-base percentage and solid glove work at the keystone. If he can find the right approach, he could add all that and some to the Padres, giving them even more than the scouting reports predicted. With a team wRC+ just three points higher than the last-place Royals so far this season, the Padres could use an unexpected source of power as much as any team.

Padres beat Diamondbacks in 16 innings behind Myers' homer

PHOENIX (AP) — [Wil Myers](#) homered for the fourth time in two days, connecting in the 16th inning off [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) catcher [Jeff Mathis](#) to send the [San Diego Padres](#) to a 4-3 victory Sunday.

Myers, who hit three home runs Saturday, clubbed a 3-2 pitch from Mathis over the right-field fence with two outs. Mathis (0-1) took the loss in his first pitching appearance since 2012 and third of his career. He moved to the mound after catching 15 innings.

The Diamondbacks used two starting pitchers out of necessity. [Zack Greinke](#) began the game and [Zack Godley](#) entered in extra innings.

[Manuel Margot](#) had a career-high five hits for the Padres and added a stolen base. All-Star closer [Brad Hand](#) (2-4) worked two innings for the win in a game that lasted 5 hours, 31 minutes.

Hand overcame a leadoff double in the 16th. The Padres won despite striking out 20 times and leaving 15 runners on base.

In his 400th career start — only three other active pitchers have reached that milestone — Greinke lasted just 4 1/3 innings, the shortest outing of the season for the Diamondbacks ace.

Greinke allowed two runs on six hits with three walks and five strikeouts. But he did contribute on offense.

After failing to execute a third-inning sacrifice that turned into a fielder's choice, he went to second on a hit-by-pitch and stole third base, taking over the major league lead for steals by a pitcher with his third of the season.

Greinke's three stolen bases is a season record for a Diamondbacks pitcher.

[Austin Hedges](#) singled in the fourth to tie the game at 2, the third consecutive hit in the inning after Greinke got the first two outs.

The Diamondbacks regained the lead in the bottom of the fourth when Mathis doubled in Ketel Marte with one out.

Padres starter [Clayton Richard](#) struggled through five innings, allowing three runs and five hits. He walked four, hit [Jon Jay](#) twice with pitches and threw a wild pitch.

Richard escaped jams in the third and fourth with defensive help. Margot dove to take a potential run-scoring hit away from [Steven Souza Jr.](#) in the third, and the Padres turned a double play with the bases loaded to end the fourth.

Arizona's [A.J. Pollock](#) was ejected for the second time in his career in the fifth after arguing a called third strike.

The Padres tied it at 3 on pinch-hitter [Jose Pirela](#)'s two-out single in the sixth to drive in Margot.

ALL-STAR NODS

Diamondbacks first baseman [Paul Goldschmidt](#) and starting pitcher [Patrick Corbin](#) made the NL All-Star team. Goldschmidt was chosen for the sixth consecutive year and set a club record for most selections. Hand was San Diego's lone representative.

MAKING MOVES

The Padres recalled right-hander [Miguel Diaz](#) from Double-A San Antonio and sent pitcher [Kazuhisa Makita](#) to Triple-A El Paso.

Diaz pitched a scoreless 11th inning, recording four strikeouts to become the second Padres pitcher in club history to do so. He threw a wild pitch on one that allowed [Chris Owings](#) to reach base.

Also, outfielder [Matt Szczur](#) cleared waivers and was outrighted to El Paso.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Diamondbacks: RHP [Clay Buchholz](#) (oblique strain) is scheduled for a bullpen session Tuesday.

UP NEXT

Padres: Return home to start a four-game series with the Los Angeles Dodgers. RHP [Luis Perdomo](#) (1-2) pitches Monday's opener.

Diamondbacks: After a day off, Arizona opens a three-game series Tuesday at Colorado with Corbin (6-3) scheduled to pitch the opener.

#PadresOnDeck: Paddack, Margevicius Star in First Starts with New Teams

By Bill Center

Chris Paddack and **Nick Margevicius**, two, 22-year-old pitchers with excellent strikeout-to-walk ratio who were promoted earlier this week in the Padres' farm system, starred for their new teams Saturday night.

Right-hander Paddack, who is ranked the [Padres' No.8 prospect by MLB Pipeline](#) as well as being the [No.96 prospect in all the minor leagues](#), allowed one run on a hit (a home run) and a walk with five strikeouts in six innings to pick up the win in his first start for Double-A San Antonio. The 6-foot-4, 195-pound Paddack had been 4–1 with a 2.24 earned run average with 83 strikeouts against only four walks in 52 1/3 innings for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore before his promotion.

Left-hander Margevicius allowed no runs on four hits and two walks with three strikeouts in six innings to win his debut for Lake Elsinore. The 6-foot-5, 220-pound Margevicius had been 5–5 with a 3.07 ERA in 13 starts for Single-A Fort Wayne, where he had 87 strikeouts against nine walks in 76 1/3 innings.

Other notable performances in the Padres' system Saturday night:

— Center fielder **Jeisson Rosario**, the [Padres' No.17 prospect](#), was 3-for-4 with a double, a triple, a stolen base, two RBIs and two runs scored to raise his batting average to .285 for Fort Wayne.

— Right fielder **Tirso Ornelas**, the Padres No. 13 prospect, was 3-for-4 with a double and a RBI to raise his average at Fort Wayne to .260.

— Second baseman **Peter Van Gansen** (.298) was 3-for-3 with a double, three RBIs and a run scored for San Antonio. Designated hitter **Webster Rivas** (.298) was also 3-for-4 with a double, but had three runs scored instead of the RBIs. Third baseman **Ty France** (.263) was 2-for-4 for the Missions with a triple, a stolen base and three RBIs.

There were a total of seven three-hit games in the Padres system Saturday.

Additionally: Left fielder **Forrestt Allday** (.305) was 3-for-5 with two RBIs and a stolen base for Triple-A El Paso; Infielder **Chris Baker** (.235) was 3-for-4 with a homer, three RBIs and two runs scored for Lake Elsinore, and second baseman **Olivier Basabe** (.306) was 3-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs for Short-Season Single-A Tri-City.

Eighteen-year-old infielder **Justin Lopez** suffered a broken thumb and was placed on Fort Wayne's disabled list. **Kelvin Melean**, 19, was transferred from Lake Elsinore to take Lopez's spot on the TinCaps' roster.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (49–40): Chihuahuas 5, SALT LAKE 4—The surging Chihuahuas rallied to score their 15th win in the last 18 games. RF **Franmil Reyes** (.323) was 1-for-4 with his 15th homer and a walk. 3B **Dusty Coleman** (.174) also hit a solo homer in four at-bats. DH **Brett Nicholas** (.297) backed Allday, going 2-for-5 with a double and a run scored. CF **Auston Bousfield** (.278) was 1-for-3 with three walks, a RBI and a run scored. 1B **Allen Craig** (.296) was 1-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. C **Raffy Lopez** (.264) was 1-for-4 with a walk. SS **Javy Guerra** (.196) was 1-for-4. 2B Luis Urias (.280) was 1-for-5. Starting RHP **Chris Huffman** (6.75 ERA) allowed four runs on six hits and two walks with three strikeouts in five innings. RHP **Trey**

Wingenter (3.65) issued a walk in an otherwise perfect inning. LHP **Kyle McGrath** (3.67) allowed a hit in two-thirds of a scoreless inning. RHP **Rowan Wick** (1–0, 0.00) had a strikeout in 1 1/3 perfect innings. RHP **Phil Maton**(2.84) struck out two in a perfect inning for his second save.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (9–7, 51–35): MISSIONS 7, Arkansas 2—RHP **Erik Johnson** (2.84 ERSA) followed Paddock and struck out three in two perfect innings. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (3.24) allowed a run on a hit and a walk with two strikeouts in the ninth. SS **Matthew Batten** (.295) backed Van Gansen, Rivas and France, going 1-for-3 with two walks, two steals and a run scored. CF **Michael Gettys** (.243) had a double in four at-bats.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (8–9, 42–45): STORM 12, Visalia 1—RHP **Colby Blueberg** (1.76 ERA) followed Paddock and allowed a hit with two strikeouts in an inning. RHP **Carter Capps** (1.59) allowed an unearned run on two hits with a strikeout in the ninth. C **Luis Torrens** (.273) was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk, a walk, a sacrifice fly and two RBIs. LF **Buddy Reed**(.324) was 2-for-5 with a triple, a RBI and two runs scored. SS **Allen Córdoba**(.143) was 2-for-2 with a double, a steal, two RBIs and a run scored. RF **Nate Easley** (.265) had a double and triple in four at-bats with a RBI and two runs scored. 1B **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.256) was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, a RBI and two runs scored. CF **Edward Olivares** (.274) had a double in five at-bats with a RBI and a run scored. 3B-2B **Eguy Rosario** (.255) had a double in four at-bats with a walk and a run scored. DH **Jorge Oña** (.237) was 10-for-5 with a double and a run scored.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (11–6, 43–43): Bowling Green 5, TIN CAPS 4—SS **Gabriel Arias** (.217) backed Jeisson Rosario and Ornelas, going 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. 3B **Luis Almanzar** (.178) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.360) and DH **Juan Fernandez** (.244) were each 1-for-4. Starting LHP **Tom Cosgrove** (5.06 ERA) allowed three runs on five hits and two walks with two strikeouts in three innings. LHP **Ben Sheckler** (3.29) allowed

a run on three hits in three innings. RHP **Evan Miller** (3–3, 2.23) allowed a run on three hits with two strikeouts in two innings to take the loss. LHP **Travis Radke** (2.03) struck out one in a perfect inning.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (11–12): DUST DEVILS 3, Everett 0—Starting LHP **Ramon Perez** (1–1, 2.29 ERA) gave up four hits and no walks with eight strikeouts in 5 2/3 scoreless innings. RHP **Spencer Kulman** (0.00) allowed a hit with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 scoreless innings. RHP **Wen-Hua Sung** (7.36) allowed a hit and a walk with three strikeouts in an inning. RHP **Gabe Mosser** (1.69) pitched a perfect inning to complete the shutout and earn his first save. 1B **Justin Paulsen** (.286) backed Basabe, going 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and scored all three runs. DH **Luke Becker** (.245) was 2-for-4 with a triple. CF **Aldemar Burgos** (.286) and C **Blake Hunt** (.273) were each 1-for-4.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (18–13): PADRES 6, White Sox 0—Starting RHP **Eudi Asencio** (3–1, 5.11 ERA) allowed two hits and three walks with three strikeouts in five scoreless innings to get the win. SS **Yeison Santana** (.265) was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored. DH Bryan Torres (.200) was 2-for-5 with a RBI. RF **Cristian Heredia** (.238) was 2-for-5.

ARIZONA ROOKIE PADRES:

PADRES-1 (5–11): ANGELS 9, Padres 4—CF **Jawuan Harris** (.182) had a double in five at-bats with a stolen base and two RBIs. RF **Agustin Ruiz** (.213) had a triple in four at-bats with a walk and two runs scored. DH **Nick Gatewood** (.284) had a double in four at-bats with a walk and a run scored. Starting LHP **Omar Cruz** (2.30 ERA) allowed six runs (three earned) on seven hits and two walks with two strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings to take the loss. RHP **Carlos Belen** (3.60) allowed a hit and a walk with three strikeouts in a scoreless inning.

PADRES-2 (7–9): GIANTS 7, Padres 3—2B **Jordy Barley** (.219) homered in three at-bats. LF **Blinger Perez** (.261) had a double in

three at-bats with a walk and two RBIs. DH **Jonny Homza** (.239) was 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. 2B **Sean Guilbe** was 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored in his pro debut. Starting RHP **Dominic Taccolini** allowed two runs on three hits with two strikeouts in his one-inning 2018 debut.

Road-weary Padres return home to face Dodgers

FSSD, Stats

SAN DIEGO — The [San Diego Padres](#) return to Petco Park Monday to start a homestand.

Not a two-day drive through to drop off the laundry or a three-game visit. No, this is a real homestand — seven straight games in downtown San Diego against the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) in the opener of a four-game series on Monday and followed by a three-game series with the Chicago Cubs to reach the All-Star break.

The Padres flew to San Diego from Phoenix Sunday night, ending a run that saw them play 23 of 28 games on the road over a 32-day period. Even two of their four days off were on the road. And as a final slap, the Padres' return home was delayed another two hours by Sunday's 16-inning series finale against the Diamondbacks in Arizona.

At least they won that game 4-3 on [Wil Myers](#)' home run.

The Padres went 10-18 over their odyssey. And when they were home, they lost four of five.

"I've never seen a schedule quite like this," Padres manager Andy Green said recently. "They certainly didn't do us any favors."

And the schedule makers didn't make it much easier on the Padres as they return home. They open by facing Dodgers left-handed ace [Clayton Kershaw](#).

This will be Kershaw's first start against the Padres this season. But he has had great success against the Padres and particularly at Petco Park in the past.

Kershaw has made 32 starts in his career against the Padres. He has a 17-6 record with a 1.94 earned run average, a 0.99 WHIP and a .189 opponents' batting average against the Padres. Overall, in 208 2/3 innings against the Padres, Kershaw has 222 strikeouts against 67 walks.

Although the majority of Kershaw's starts against the Padres have been at Dodger Stadium, he is 7-2 with a 1.72 ERA, a 0.91 WHIP and a .174 opponents' batting average in 13 starts at Petco Park.

Kershaw is 2-4 this season with a 2.86 ERA in 11 starts, having lost more than three weeks after going on the disabled list following his May 31 start with biceps tendinitis.

In three starts since his return, Kershaw is 2-0 and has allowed five runs on 13 hits and a walk with 12 strikeouts in 14 innings.

Kershaw will be pitching after the Dodgers scored eight runs in losing two of three to the Los Angeles Angels. [Yasiel Puig](#) homered in Sunday's 4-3 loss but also exited with a strained right oblique and is expected to be placed on the disabled list.

"I don't know how long I'm going to be out," Puig told reporters. "On the first swing, I felt something but not too much. On the second swing I try to get to that fastball and try to hit it in front and that's when I feel it.

Puig's teammates will attempt to get their sixth win in eight games by facing San Diego right-hander [Luis Perdomo](#) (1-3, 6.86 ERA).

Perdomo was recalled from Triple-A El Paso last week and allowed two runs on four hits and four walks with three strikeouts in 5 2/3 innings in Oakland. That was his first start for the Padres since April 18.

April 18 was also the last time he faced the Dodgers. He allowed nine runs (seven earned) on 10 hits and two walks in three innings that day to earn his demotion to Triple-A.

Perdomo, 25, a Rule 5 acquisition via trade by the Padres in 2015, has had almost no success against the Dodgers. Perdomo is 1-5 in his career against the Dodgers with a 9.55 ERA in eight games (five starts). The Dodgers have 55 hits in 33 innings against Perdomo, who has a 2.061 WHIP and a .369 opponents' batting average against the Dodgers.

Perdomo made 11 starts with El Paso before his recall and posted a 6-2 record and a 3.10 ERA.