



# Padres Press Clips

Friday, January 26, 2018

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# Padres to unveil Trevor Hoffman statue at Petco Park this summer

**Dennis Lin**

Cooperstown won't be the only place where Trevor Hoffman soon finds himself in the company of Tony Gwynn.

Sometime around July 29, when Hoffman officially joins "Mr. Padre" in the Hall of Fame, the [Padres](#) intend to unveil a bronze statue of their former closer at Petco Park. Hoffman was elected Wednesday as a member of the 2018 class, and this summer's statue reveal will continue an observance of his forthcoming induction.

The exact location remains to be announced, but the [National League's](#) all-time saves leader will be immortalized not far from the pre-existing bronze statue of Gwynn beyond the outfield walls.

"It will be consistent in character with the Tony Gwynn statue," Padres Executive Chairman Ron Fowler told the Union-Tribune. "Both those guys are high-water marks for Padres as players."

In 2007, eight days before his own induction, Gwynn applauded as a 9½-foot behemoth, cast in his likeness, debuted at Petco Park. More than a decade later, the statue stands as a San Diego landmark and an homage to the late outfielder.

William Behrends, who depicted Gwynn in mid-swing, has lent his craftsmanship again. The sculptor will capture Hoffman mid-windup, complete with the right-hander's familiar high leg kick.

During a news conference Thursday in New York City, Hoffman saluted his former teammate of 8½ seasons, a teammate he will follow into Cooperstown six months from now.

"I know I was a pitcher, but to watch (Gwynn) command a city, command a locker room, I was just a little brother watching," Hoffman said. "So to ultimately have the opportunity, I'm pinching myself. It's something that I don't think has even really set in."

[As part of an expanded slate of promotions](#), the Padres have planned a Hoffman replica statue giveaway for their Aug. 19 home game against Arizona.

"Obviously, he and Tony have achieved iconic status while playing for the Padres in San Diego," Fowler said. "And, more importantly, they were great human beings."

# Padres to celebrate Hoffman's Hall of Fame induction, '98 team with 2018 promotions

**Dennis Lin**

In conjunction with Trevor Hoffman's upcoming induction to the Hall of Fame and the 20th anniversary of their last pennant-winning club, the Padres have revamped and upgraded their promotional lineup for the 2018 season.

Perhaps most notably, the team will reintroduce bobbleheads as a common giveaway. Multiple versions commemorating Hoffman, who heads to Cooperstown in late July, are on the calendar.

While the aforementioned celebrations offer the Padres an opening to experiment, the larger array of options also comes in response to fan feedback, Executive Chairman Ron Fowler said.

The Padres have shied away from bobblehead promotions in recent years, sparking discontent from some Petco Park attendees. Others have voiced broader frustrations with the team's off-field attempts to entice crowds. Last season, giveaway items, most of which were wearables, were widely panned as unimaginative.

"We were roundly criticized for our 2017 promotions," Fowler said. "And we went to work. ... As we planned for 2018, we decided it was very much worth celebrating, and it would be even more fun celebrating if Trevor was elected into the Hall of Fame."

Hoffman will be inducted July 29, and the Padres hope to maintain fan interest at Petco before and after the ceremony.

The team will give away a commemorative set of bobbleheads over a four-game series against St. Louis from May 10-13. Four stars from the 1998 [National League Championship](#) team — Tony Gwynn, Ken Caminiti, Hoffman and Greg Vaughn — will be represented.

Each bobblehead is inspired by significant moments from 20 years ago — for instance, Gwynn homering in the [World Series](#), or Caminiti diving to make a catch.

Players of that caliber have been rare for the franchise, perhaps explaining the Padres' past reluctance to embrace the bobblehead craze.

"We have maybe fewer iconic people in this organization — it's a younger one than some — but '98, in our mind, is worth celebrating," Fowler said.

Fowler expressed mild surprise at the backlash against last season's promotions: "It was consistent with what we had done in previous years. ... We took it to heart, did extensive research and obviously ended up with a more aggressive promotional schedule."

Hoffman is an obvious focus. The Padres will offer three commemorative items recreating indelible memories from the closer's career: a 500th save bobblehead, another bobblehead for his number retirement ceremony and a No. 51 flag.

In August, after Hoffman returns from induction, the Padres will continue the celebration with a replica jersey, a table book, a Cooperstown replica plaque and a replica of a Hoffman statue that will be unveiled at Petco Park this summer. Those giveaways will become available over a four-game series against Arizona from Aug. 16-19.

The Padres will continue or expand certain fan giveaways and theme nights that have proven popular in the past, such as hoodies and after-game fireworks, while other regular promotions will debut.

Full information on the 2018 promotional lineup can be found at [padres.com/promotions](http://padres.com/promotions), beginning at 10 a.m. Friday. A list of items relating to the 1998 season and Hoffman's career is below:

### **'98 NL Championship Commemorative Bobbleheads presented by Sycuan Casino**

- May 10: Tony Gwynn '98 NL Championship Commemorative Bobblehead
- May 11: Ken Caminiti '98 Championship Commemorative Bobblehead
- May 12: Trevor Hoffman '98 Championship Commemorative Bobblehead
- May 13: Greg Vaughn '98 Championship Commemorative Bobblehead

### **Trevor Hoffman Commemorative Giveaways**

- June 30: Hoffman 500th Save Commemorative Bobblehead
- July 28: Hoffman #51 Retirement Commemorative Bobblehead
- July 29: Hoffman #51 Commemorative Flag (first 15,000 fans)

### **Trevor Hoffman Hall of Fame Celebration**

- August 16: Hoffman Replica Jersey
- August 17: Hoffman Table Book
- August 18: Hoffman Cooperstown Replica Plaque
- August 19: Hoffman Replica Statue

# Padres roster review: Brad Wieck

Jeff Sanders

*Sizing up the Padres' 40-man roster, from A to Z, heading into the 2018 season.*

## BRAD WIECK

- **Position:** Left-handed pitcher
- **2018 Opening Day age:** 26
- **Bats/throws:** L/L
- **Height/weight:** 6-foot-9 / 255 pounds
- **Acquired:** From the Mets in March 2015 trade
- **Contract status:** Added to the 40-man roster in November 2017; has yet to make major league debut
- **Key stats (R/AA/AAA):** 2-1, 3.96 ERA, 7 saves, 61 Ks, 23 BBs, 1.42 WHIP, .221 opponent avg., 38 2/3 innings (41 games)

## STAT TO NOTE

- **14.2** – Strikeouts per nine innings across three levels in 2017, a career-high. That number reached 15.0 per nine innings in his 30 2/3 innings at Double-A San Antonio. In 249 innings in the minors, Wieck is averaging 12.0 strikeouts per nine innings.

## TRENDING

- **Up** – The player to be named later in the **Alex Torres** trade, Wieck was originally the Mets' seventh-round pick out of Oklahoma City University in 2014. He arrived in 2015 and posted a 1.17 ERA in 61 1/3 innings in his first full year in the organization in 2016, striking out 93 as he moved from high Single-A Lake Elsinore to Double-A San Antonio for the first time. The breakout year earned Wieck a spot in the Arizona Fall League. Despite a 6.57 ERA in 12 1/3 innings there, Wieck was invited to big league camp the following spring and advanced to Triple-A El Paso in 2017. He struggled in the Pacific Coast League (8 ER in 7 IP) and missed a chunk of the season to a hamstring injury, but showed enough progress for the Padres to protect him from the Rule 5 Draft this past November. Wieck was also more effective against right-handers (.169 opponent average) than left-handers in 2017 and fetched more than three outs in six relief appearances, so the Padres' interest in him eclipses that of a LOOGY.

## 2018 OUTLOOK

- The tallest pitcher on the 40-man roster, Wieck's height allows him to get extra angle and extension on a fastball that can touch 97 mph. He also throws a slider and change-up, providing the Padres with another interesting left-handed arm for this spring's camp battle. He's behind the likes of left-handers **Buddy Baumann** and **Kyle McGrath** on the depth chart, but figures to show up at Petco Park sooner rather than later once he proves himself at Triple-A El Paso. Of course, a standout camp could fast-forward that timeline.

## PADRES POWER RANKINGS

*(Currently 40 players on 40-man roster)*

1. Wil Myers
2. Brad Hand
3. Manuel Margot
4. Austin Hedges
5. Chase Headley
6. Freddy Galvis
7. Jose Pirela
8. Dinelson Lamet
9. Hunter Renfroe
10. Cory Spangenberg
11. Luis Perdomo
12. Clayton Richard
13. Bryan Mitchell
14. Carlos Asuaje
15. Franchy Cordero
16. Travis Jankowski
17. Alex Dickerson
18. Carter Capps
19. Colin Rea
20. Robbie Erlin
21. Matt Strahm
22. Craig Stammen
23. Matt Szczur
24. Kyle McGrath
25. Walker Lockett
26. Colten Brewer
27. Kazuhisa Makita
28. Christian Villanueva
29. Jose Torres
30. Buddy Baumann
31. Brad Wieck
32. Jose Castillo
33. Phil Maton
34. Jordan Lyles
35. Javier Guerra
36. Rocky Gale

- 37. Miguel Diaz
- 38. Luis Torrens
- 39. Allen Cordoba

**Traded away:** Jabari Blash

# Hoffman follows Trammell's HOF example

Padres closer motivated by former Tigers great's competitive spirit

By Todd Zolecki MLB.com @ToddZolecki

Jan. 25th, 2018

NEW YORK -- Trevor Hoffman sat at the dais on Thursday afternoon with Jim Thome, Chipper Jones and Vladimir Guerrero.

They talked about their careers. They talked about the moments they learned they had been elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and what those life-altering moments meant to them. The foursome will be inducted on July 29 in Cooperstown. Alan Trammell and Jack Morris will join them after being elected by the Modern Baseball Era Committee in December.

Hoffman spoke about Trammell following the media conference at the St. Regis Hotel. Trammell grew up in San Diego, where he starred in baseball and basketball at Kearney High School. After a successful career with the Tigers, he served as the Padres' first-base coach from 2000-02, when Hoffman was in the middle of his storied 18-year career.

"I couldn't get over his energy," Hoffman said. "I couldn't get over his tenacity to win, his competitive spirit. It's something I took to heart, and it rubbed off."

Hoffman and Trammell remained close over the years. They were on the same December flight from San Diego to Florida for the Winter Meetings, when Trammell got the call that he finally made the Hall of Fame.

Trammell never got elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, so he had to handle more than a decade of disappointment. It took Hoffmann three years to reach the 75-percent threshold needed for election. He fell just five votes shy last year.

"I certainly was impressed with his press conference [in December] and the humility and the grace that he showed," Hoffman said. "Going through this process, I couldn't imagine going through this process 15 years and not have that call come through. And then ultimately to have it happen through the [Modern Baseball Era] Committee, the way he spoke of it. He was still comfortable with his career. He never doubted the player that he was. He never held a grudge about the process. I think he's a great example of what it means to have class, to be a true professional. I think Detroit was lucky to have him for 20 years. It shows."

Hoffman said he has texted back and forth with Trammell since he was elected on Wednesday.

"He's been just a great resource of enthusiasm," Hoffman said.

Hoffman got the call because he is one of the best relief pitchers in baseball history, saving 601 games. He shared some of those memories on Thursday. Hoffman talked about grinding through the Minor Leagues. He talked about how he never thought too much about making the Hall of Fame. After all, he watched Tony Gwynn play every day for years. Hoffman never considered himself on that level.

"To watch him command a city, command a locker room, I was just a little brother watching that," Hoffman said. "I'm pinching myself. It's something that I don't think has really set in."

# Hoffman trade in '93 worked out well for Padres

Legendary closer racked up 601 saves in Hall of Fame career

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Jan. 25th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- Randy Smith wasn't even a month into his tenure as Padres general manager when he received the directive from above to move Gary Sheffield.

It was June 1993, and Smith quickly set to work on finding a trade partner. On June 24, Sheffield and left-hander Rich Rodriguez were shipped to the Marlins for a pair of prospects and a scrawny 25-year-old right-hander named Trevor Hoffman, who had debuted earlier in the season.

"Quality for quality," Smith said in describing the deal at the time. Some scoffed at the notion, having viewed Sheffield's departure primarily as a salary dump. Smith had the last laugh.

Twenty-five years later, Hoffman is headed for the Hall of Fame. The legendary closer was elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Wednesday, having received 79.9 percent of the vote.

"What he became really changed the organization and the future of the franchise," Smith said. "He's a Hall of Famer in every sense of the word."

Even Smith couldn't have predicted the success Hoffman was bound for. In 18 big league seasons, the right-hander amassed 601 saves, second only to Mariano Rivera, along with a 2.87 ERA and a 25.8 percent strikeout rate.

At the time, Smith believed he was acquiring a useful bullpen piece. He did not know he had landed one of the best relief pitchers to ever take the mound.

"It became really obvious Florida was going to be our dance partner with Sheffield," Smith said. "... Before we even started talking with them, [Hoffman] was the first name we identified as a guy we wanted. We went back and forth quite a bit, and we were able to get Hoffs in the deal. Obviously, nobody thought he'd be a Hall of Famer. We thought he'd be a guy who could pitch late in the game and provide good relief for us. But he certainly exceeded our expectations."

During his election media conference on Wednesday, Hoffman thanked Smith for "taking a shot on me." He also reflected on the trade, with a quarter century's worth of hindsight.

"I remember it [happening] really fast," Hoffman said. "I remember being tapped on the shoulder, and they said, 'We're going to pack up your locker. You don't have a lot of stuff that's good. And we're going to be sending you to San Diego.'"

Initially, Hoffman said he felt overwhelmed by the prospect of a trade. It was his brothers who calmly reminded him he'd be playing ball in Southern California, a short drive from where he grew up in Orange County.

"You think, 'OK, I'm going to be in one spot for 15 years,' and I just thought it was going to be in Florida," Hoffman said. "But I'm thankful it was in San Diego. It's awesome that it happened the way it did."

As for Smith, not many general managers can claim they acquired a future Hall of Famer as a rookie. Smith did so in his first month on the job.

"It's actually pretty special to me, although I thought he was a first-ballot guy," Smith said. "We were waiting, maybe not quite as anxiously as he was, but pretty close to it, just because he's such a great guy."

"You get a guy in his first year in the big leagues, and he goes on to be an All-Star and one of the greatest closers of all time, there's certainly some professional satisfaction. But I'm happier for him. ... He's really a guy who's truly deserving of it, from who he is, his work ethic and obviously how he performed on the field."

# Thoughts on Hoffman's trip to Cooperstown

Closer deserves his spot among baseball's greatest

By Bill Center Padres.com

Jan. 25th, 2018

Trevor Hoffman got it ... all of it.

And he checked all the boxes.

The numbers alone gained him entry into the Hall of Fame. But there is -- and always was -- so much to Hoffman beyond the numbers. He even helped change the game.

The first thing I do each year when I receive my Hall of Fame ballot is conduct my "impact test." Did this player impact the game?

Trevor Hoffman impacted baseball -- and he impacted it well beyond 601 saves.

There were closers long before Hoffman. And many of those closers worked more than one inning ...

Hall of Famers like one-time Padres Rich "Goose" Gossage and Rollie Fingers.

But the game was changing as Hoffman was coming into his prime. Managers and front-office executives wanted closers who could go out game after game and nail down the win by getting the final three outs. They're still looking for those pitchers.

Thing is, there aren't a lot of closers who have a history of doing that daily task for an extended period of time. Being a closer is physically demanding psychological warfare.

That is example one of what made Trevor Hoffman special. Example one of many.

I could go on forever in this piece. I've watched Hoffman -- as well as other closers -- for five decades now. And I've long thought Trevor Hoffman was special ... and not just because he closed out 552 wins for the Padres.

He was special for a lot of reasons.

Let me insert a disclaimer here. I thought Trevor Hoffman was a Hall of Famer long before he was voted into the Hall of Fame on his third try. I'm a fan of the person as well as the player.

I did not expect that he'd enter the Hall of Fame on the first ballot as Tony Gwynn did with near-record backing. I was disappointed that he fell five votes shy last year. And I am elated he went in this year.

There is nothing wrong with being a third-ballot Hall of Famer. As one, Trevor Hoffman is in the company of Joe DiMaggio, Mel Ott, Barry Larkin and former Padres Cy Young Award winner Gaylord Perry.

Let's be clear here. Hoffman overcame a lot of resistance.

There is sizeable portion of the electing Baseball Writers' Association of America who staunchly believe specialists -- meaning closers and designated hitters -- do not deserve entry into the Hall of Fame. My guess is that some 10 percent of the electorate share that view. It's why designated hitter Edgar Martinez is still waiting after nine years on the ballot.

There is a portion of the electorate who believe no one from the PED era should ever make the Hall of Fame. There is a smaller corner who believe no one should ever again be elected to Cooperstown. One ballot this year was returned blank. Another listed only two votes for players from the writer's hometown.

Some writers from American League cities openly said the Yankees' Mariano Rivera should be the next closer into the Hall of Fame -- although he isn't eligible for consideration until next December's ballot.

And, this fact hurts more than all the others, some members of the East Coast electorate have little knowledge of who Trevor Hoffman really is and what he did.

So Hoffman's 79.9 percent score means he had an almost perfect score with writers open to him. Which brings me back to Trevor Hoffman and examples of why he is Hall of Fame worthy.

Great performance ... check. He was the first closer to 500 and 600 saves with a career-long 88.8 percent conversion rate. His 6.99 hits per nine innings and 9.36 strikeouts per nine innings are the best marks ever by a reliever.

Long career ... check. He pitched 18 seasons in the Major Leagues, including 15 1/2 with the Padres. He had 40 or more saves in nine seasons.

Resilience ... check. He began his professional career as a shortstop. When that dream fizzled Hoffman, with the support of others, rebuilt himself as a pitcher although he hadn't been on the mound since Little League. And when injuries twice robbed him of the top end of his fastball, he developed the changeup that became his signature pitch.

Leadership ... check. It's hard for any reliever to be a clubhouse leader, but ask anyone who passed through the Padres' clubhouse who was in charge. It was Trevor Hoffman who set the example with the rare ability to make people laugh as well as perform at times of extreme pressure.

Community ... check. He's done so much for San Diego and charitable programs around the area. And on his biggest day on Wednesday, he pulled all San Diegans in and invited them to share his moment. Greatest thing, that was sincere.

Family ... check. It started with parents Ed and Mikki with brothers Greg and Glenn keeping young Trevor on track. Spend a little time with their three sons and you easily see the influence of Tracy and Trevor.

Those are but a few of thousands of examples I could offer. Which brings me full circle to the top. Trevor Hoffman gets it.

He knows who he is and what he has done. He knows what it has taken and who was there with him along the way, including fans as well as teammates. He sees the big picture. Trevor Hoffman -- Hall of Fame.