



Padres Press Clips

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Padres notes: Wil Myers acknowledges struggles at third

[Kevin Acee](#)

The [Padres](#) seem to be leaning toward moving [Wil Myers](#) around between positions next season, rather than his anchoring the left-most side of their infield.

But Myers, while acknowledging it has been ugly at times during his 21 games there, really wants to be a third baseman.

“I think I’m a third baseman,” he said early Saturday afternoon. “I want to play third base. I see some fans talking that I’m not playing very well over there. It’s true. I have not played very good third base. ... I know I can play third. That first game I went over there and made all the plays I needed to make.”

Thing is, Myers at present is discombobulated and even a little spooked at the hot corner.

Shortly before proving it in a rain-shortened 7-2 loss to the [Reds](#), he acknowledged it.

“When you get hit in the face by a ball, it really, really can wear on you,” Myers said.

He referred to the Aug. 22 incident in which a pregame practice session grounder took a bounce off the lip of the infield grass and left him with a black eye and a cut on his nose that had to be stitched. He did not play for two games. A week later, he was charged with three errors in a game (reduced to two by a scoring change).

“I think the one thing about being over there is not necessarily all the practice and not necessarily all the drills,” Myers said. “It’s becoming more sure of myself over there. One thing I’ve lost is being sure of myself over there. Getting hit in the face, having a couple errors after that, you start to think about it. The more I can play over there, get

used to the velocity, get used to the speed of the game, the better I'm going to get. Because I know I can make the plays over there; I've done it. But when you're unsure of yourself, it can be tough. That's what I'm working on right now."

Myers, who played outfield early in his career and first base the last two seasons before returning to outfield in the spring, has taken grounders and done other drills at third base virtually every day the past month-and-a-half. Recently, infield coach [Josh Johnson](#) has been hitting grounders at Myers even harder. It is the latest way in which the Padres are trying to get as close as possible to game-like circumstances in his training.

"I'm learning the right steps pre-pitch, right now," Myers said. "I'm ready for every single pitch, but I'm learning what it takes to take the right step, have the best step. As opposed to be able to just move, it's being ready to move in the right way."

Sure enough, a sizzling grounder by Brandon Dixon got on, up and past Myers in a hurry in Saturday's second inning. He had been backing up before the pitch, and that contributed to the ball short-hopping him.

"He got himself in that in-between spot where you get in trouble at third base where you get in between hops," manager Andy Green said.

Later in the inning, Myers didn't make an attempt to charge a bunt by [Matt Harvey](#) that loaded the bases, enabling a one-out sacrifice fly that might have ended the inning had Myers made the previous play. Three batters later, [Joey Votto](#) hit a grand slam that gave the Reds a 7-0 lead.

"It's tough in that moment (knowing whether) that (is) his ball or not," Green said. "He needs to err on the side of aggression and just go get that ball."

While Green wants Myers to remember he played first base the past two seasons and there were some hard-hit balls there, the manager is committed to this experiment.

"We thrust him in that spot," Green said. "We asked him to do that. He's getting a feel for what balls he's got to come get, what balls he has to stay back. That guy has never

played third base. There has to be some measure of patience and understanding he's figuring it out.

"We would probably see him as a guy who moves around a little bit. But right now this is a spot he needs to get comfortable learning if he's capable of doing it."

Myers believes he knows the answer, even if there is more to discover.

"There are certain things I'm learning right now, but I do see myself at third base," he said. "I can figure this thing out. The only thing is I can be more sure of myself. It's just going to take some time. I'm going to figure it out."

Extra bases

- Luis Perdomo pitched a scoreless sixth inning, allowing a walk in his first relief appearance since May 31, 2016. He had started 58 straight games.
- [Eric Hosmer](#) homered for the second game in a row – after going 14 games without one. His 15 homers are tied with Franmil Reyes for third most on the team.
- Manuel Margot walked! He had not done so since July 20, a span of 151 plate appearances. His batting average in that span was .267 and his on-base percentage was .258.
- Franmil Reyes singled and has hit safely in 15 of 17 games, going 18-for-49 (.367) over that stretch.
- Austin Hedges walked and tripled. He is batting .279/.330/.515 since July 1. That is the highest batting average and slugging percentage and eighth-highest on-base percentage among the 15 catchers who have had at least 150 at-bats in that span.
- Cory Spangenberg started for the first time since Aug. 26 and went 0-for-1 with a walk He has .371 on-base percentage over his past 16 starts.

Reds slam Padres in rain

[Kevin Acee](#)

For the second time in two days – a span of five innings, about 18 hours apart – the Padres misplayed a bunt and then allowed a grand slam.

Saturday, in a game moved up an hour and then shortened to six innings by rain, the [Reds](#) needed just the second inning to score all their runs in a 7-2 victory at Great American Ball Park.

Six singles, one of them a bunt that pitcher [Robbie Erlin](#) let roll thinking third baseman [Wil Myers](#) would get it, preceded [Joey Votto](#)'s 392-foot home run to right field that made it 7-0.

Had Myers run up on the ball, it is conceivable just one run would have scored.

[Eric Hosmer](#)'s second homer in two games and his 15th of the season made it 7-2 in the fourth.

Water dripped from helmets, from the umbrellas among the few thousand hearty Ohioans and Kentuckians in the stands, from the dugout roof and from Pete Rose's nose on the statue in front of the ballpark.

Players wiped off their bats between pitches. New balls were introduced every time one hit the ground. The grounds crew applied clay to the mound and the base paths between innings.

Just a drizzle fell at the game's start, but it grew progressively persistent around the fourth inning. The warning track was full of puddles, and the infield dirt was becoming infield mud no matter how much the grounds crew did.

Immediately after Jose Pirela singled on a slow roller to second base with one out in the seventh inning, the umpires called the players from the field.

It was the Padres' first rain-shortened game since 2011, when they won an eight-inning game in Boston.

With heavy rain forecast until at least late morning and possibly into the afternoon, Sunday's first pitch was pushed back three hours to 1:10 PT.

The teams are trying to avoid having to reschedule to their only mutual workable off-day, which is Sept. 27.

"We would love, love, love to get these games in here the next couple days," Green said early Sunday afternoon.

Padres notes: Urias learning; Margot might not be

Kevin Acee

Just as Mejia Mania picked up, Urias Euphoria has quieted.

Rookie Luis Urias entered Friday's 12-6 loss to the [Reds](#) with two hits in his previous 22 at-bats.

"I don't feel like they're attacking him in a way that is going to cause him long-term trouble," Green said. "... I consider this a natural ebb and flow to the season. He's still putting balls in play for the most part. There's nothing unusual about a guy showing up in the big leagues and taking a while to get his feet underneath him. We like everything he's doing."

Urias finished the year in Triple-A with a .296 average and .398 on-base percentage after going .258/.369 his first 53 games. In Single-A in 2016, he hit .278/.318 in April before finishing at .333/.404.

He is trying to keep in mind that penchant for improvement at new levels.

"I've been learning a couple things, trying to keep calm," Urias said Friday afternoon. "I'm trying to do a good job. Sometimes they do great pitches that I sometimes cannot handle. I'm just trying to be positive. ... I'm trying to see it like the same. I know it's a big step. But I'm trying to be me and play my game. It's baseball. It's up and down. I'm just trying to work hard to get better, trying to learn and be positive."

After hitting second in his first nine games, through which he was batting .171/.250, Green bumped Urias up to lead-off on Friday. He singled in the eighth inning to finish 1-for-4.

Green also said the 21-year-old will get a day off soon.

Francisco Mejia, the 22-year-old catcher who homered twice Thursday in his first start for the Padres, singled and scored in the first inning Friday and finished 1-for-4 batting the No. 2 spot.

Manuel Mar-stop

After hitting an RBI double, [Manuel Margot](#) was thrown out attempting to steal third base in the fourth inning.

It was the 10th time he's been caught in 20 attempts this season.

The reasons for Friday's out were similar to the reasons for many of his failed attempts.

A bad route and a too-early slide were the recurring themes, and Margot has spent much time working on both over the past few months.

"It's stuff we've talked about repeatedly," Green said. "... He's safe once again if cleans those two elements up. Those have been the story for all of his base-stealing struggles."

Add to this instance Margot's ill-fated decision to go even after starting his lead-off a good three or four paces back of second base.

The Padres will allow Margot to continue to give him the green light with the belief his figuring it out on his own offers the most powerful growth opportunity.

"There is so much potential on the bases in there, and we're not realizing that potential," Green said. "He absolutely flies. Watch him run down the line. Watch him run in the outfield. We have a few more weeks to work on it in season, and then next year if it's not getting any better we're going to have to take a different route and shut it down entirely if we don't start taking some strides forward."

Big bunts

Green knew it was coming during the game.

But the manager took blame for not having his rookie pitcher and rookie second baseman – with a combined 17 days experience in the major leagues – prepared for Phil Ervin’s suicide squeeze in the sixth inning.

First baseman [Eric Hosmer](#), charging from the start, fielded the well-placed bunt – but too late to throw home. And when he turned to throw to first base, no one was there. Pitcher Rowan Wick had just gotten off the mound, and second baseman Luis Urias was standing on second base.

While Wick might have fielded the ball had he anticipated it, Urias should have been on first.

Then one batter later, Wick inexplicably let a bunt go by for a single that loaded the bases. Had both of those plays been executed by the Padres, the Reds would have scored just one run in the inning. Instead, the next batter, Scott Schebler hit a grand slam.

“Both of those bunts could have been his balls. ... It’s a tough, tough lesson for him that little bunts can lead to big innings. We definitely have a lot of young kids out there. We can’t use that as an excuse. ... I’ve got to take ownership for not setting us up to defend it better.”

Kennedy loses control

Brett Kennedy threw 10 strikes among his 17 pitches in a scoreless first inning, touching 91 mph and consistently hitting 90 with his fastball.

In the second inning, he was rarely above 90 and threw 10 strikes among 27 pitches. The last of his four walks came on four pitches.

“That second inning I just kind of lost it mechanically,” the rookie right-hander said. “... Sometimes when things happen like that it’s tough to just break in the middle of the inning. It’s definitely not a good feeling not being able to get through that. My mechanics weren’t there. It’s something I haven’t really dealt with before.”

Kennedy had walked eight batters in 25 innings in his first five major league starts. He took a 5.76 ERA into the game but was coming off six shutout innings Aug. 31 against the Rockies.

With the drop in velocity and sudden loss of command, Green wondered if there wasn't something ailing Kennedy.

"I'm feeling how I feel every week," Kennedy said. "Everything is OK. I think it was mechanical. The ball wasn't coming out of my hand with the same feeling it usually does."

Extra bases

- Hunter Renfroe averaged one home run every 33.8 at-bats through his first 55 games. (Five homers in 169 at-bats). In his 42 games since then, he is sending balls out of the park at a rate of one every 10 at-bats (16 in 160). His 418-foot home run in the third inning gave him the team lead with 21 this season, one more than Christian Villanueva.
- Hosmer singled in the first inning to extend his on-base streak to nine games and in the eighth inning hit his 14th home run of the season and his first since Aug. 21 (60 at-bats).
- Green successfully challenged two calls by first base umpire Chris Segal in the first two innings – getting a safe call overturned for the first out of the bottom of the first and an out call overturned to give Margot an infield single to start the top of the second.

Minors San Antonio, El Paso stay alive

Jeff Sanders

All of the sudden, Double-A San Antonio is a win away from advancing to the Texas League championship series.

In his Double-A debut, left-hander **Nick Margevicius** struck out eight over seven strong innings and Webster Rivas doubled home the go-ahead runs in a [3-1 win Saturday](#) to force decisive Game 5 on Sunday.

Missions right-hander **Chris Huffman** (1-1, 2.86) will face Corpus Christi left-hander **Brett Adcock** (4-2 3.49) at Whataburger Field.

Margevicius allowed one run on four hits and a walk in his first start above A-ball. He was an all-star in the Midwest League (5-5, 3.07) and went 5-3 with a 4.30 ERA in 58 2/3 innings in the California League before the promotion for the Missions' playoff series.

Owen Miller, a third-rounder in June, was also called up from A-ball and homered in Saturday afternoon's win.

Right-hander **Eric Yardley** recorded two outs in the eighth and left-hander **Travis Radke** struck out over 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the save.

Before a Game 4 win, **Buddy Reed** scored the winning run in the 11th inning in a [9-8 win](#) in the completion of a suspended game. He was on second base when play resumed Saturday afternoon, moved to third on Miller's groundout and scored ahead of a throw home on **Josh Naylor's** grounder to second base.

Reed was 1-for-3 with a triple, an RBI, two walks, two steals and three runs scored.

El Paso also stays alive

A four-run seventh catapulted Triple-A El Paso to a 4-2 win over host Fresno, forcing a decisive Game 5 on Sunday in the Pacific Coast League playoffs.

Right-hander **Colin Rea** allowed a run in 5 1/3 innings in the start and the El Paso bullpen combined for one run over 3 2/3 innings. Left-hander **Brad Wieck** earned the win with two strikeouts in 1 2/3 scoreless innings.

Brett Nicholas went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI and **Raffy Lopez**, **Dusty Coleman** and **Javy Guerra** all drove in runs in the seventh-inning rally.

Right-hander **Walker Lockett** will start Sunday's finale for El Paso. Fresno will counter with right-hander **Brock Dykxhoorn**.

Padres drop rain-shortened contest vs. Reds

7-run 2nd frame does in Erlin; Hosmer slugs 2-run blast

By Jeff Wallner

CINCINNATI -- Saturday's game time was moved up an hour due to the forecast for heavy rain later in the afternoon. [Robbie Erlin](#) said the earlier start didn't have an impact on his pregame preparation, but the result was another short outing for a Padres starter.

[Eric Hosmer](#) hit a two-run home run for the second straight game, but the Reds touched Erlin for seven runs in the second, including [Joey Votto](#)'s grand slam in a 7-2 rain-shortened loss at Great American Ball Park.

"It's frustrating," said Padres manager Andy Green. "One inning that we kind of mishandled gave them the win today. We had some good swings offensively and Hoz looked good, obviously, with the home run."

The decision was made Saturday morning to move the game time from 1:10 p.m. PT to 12:10 p.m. PT. Green was informed around noon, when he still was in the hotel. The players were informed shortly thereafter.

"They gave me plenty of time to do what I do," Erlin said. "Lack of both [command and location]. And it wasn't just one pitch in particular. Changeup was probably the best. Everything else was poorly executed."

For the second straight night, the Padres didn't execute a bunt on defense and it set the stage for a big inning for the Reds.

In the second with the Reds already up 1-0, pitcher [Matt Harvey](#) reached on a bunt to the left of the mound and third baseman [Wil Myers](#) was late coming in. Harvey would have been the second out, but instead, [Billy Hamilton](#) followed with a sacrifice fly.

"Wil's learning a new position. We thrust him into that spot, we asked him to do that," said Green.

Four batters after Harvey's bunt, Votto capped the rally with his fourth career grand slam, putting the Reds ahead 7-0.

"It was supposed to be a fastball down and away, and it was middle-up, maybe middle-in," Erlin said. "Probably the area to stay away from with him. Very poorly executed pitch. He's Joey Votto. He's going to do what he does with that."

Hosmer went deep off Harvey in the fourth inning for his 15th homer. He has homered in consecutive games for the second time this season and now is batting .333 (13-for-39) with a double and two homers in his career against the Reds.

San Diego loaded the bases in the fourth, and [Francisco Mejia](#), pinch-hitting for Erlin, just missed clearing the bases when his line drive landed a foot foul down the right-field line.

Then, on an 0-2 pitch, Mejia swung and was hit by the pitch, resulting in a strikeout. Harvey then fanned [Freddy Galvis](#) to end the threat.

"Couple inches away from Mejia getting a huge hit for us," Green said. "That kind of changes the complexion if that ball lands fair."

The rains came in the seventh inning and the game was called after a one-hour and 13-minute delay. Sunday's game was moved back from 10:10 a.m. PT to 1:10 p.m. PT to avoid the weather.

"I thought the umpires handled it well," Green said. "It was raining the entire time we were out there. But, it wasn't dangerous at any point. It was starting to come down at that point and we needed to get guys off the field."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

For the second straight game, a bunt hit helped spark a big inning for Cincinnati, and Green was left to lament his team's bunt defense. Harvey's second-inning bunt to the left of the mound resulted in an infield hit. Later, a grand slam by Votto capped a seven-run inning.

"That bunt play for us is something we've got to get right," Green said. "[Myers] has to err on the side of aggression right there and go get the baseball. You have to take the out the offense gives you. That's two nights in a row for us."

UP NEXT

The Padres play the finale of a four-game series at Great American Ball Park at 1:10 p.m. PT on Sunday. [Jacob Nix](#) is scheduled to make his sixth start of the season and first against the Reds. He'll be looking to rebound from his last outing when he gave up a career-high-tying five runs in a 7-3 loss to the Rockies. [Tyler Mahle](#) will make his first start for the Reds since August 2.

MLBPAA hosts Legends for Youth at Petco Park

By Katie Woo

SAN DIEGO -- Baseball fanatics of all ages were out in full force Saturday morning at Petco Park, as the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association teamed up with the San Diego Padres and Fanatics to host their Legends for Youth baseball clinic.

Five former Major League players -- Calvin Pickering, Allen Dykstra, [Jon Leicester](#), [Anthony Slama](#) and Cole Liniak -- helped host a free clinic where baseball fundamentals of hitting, fielding and baserunning were emphasized. MLBPAA's Legends for Youth host 185 baseball clinics each year, impacting nearly 18,000 children around the world. The MLBPAA has reached children nationally across America and has also spread internationally to countries such as Australia, China, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Venezuela. The organization has three goals: to inspire and educate youth, raise money for charity events and to promote the game of baseball.

"I think in this case, the event hits all three of our mission statements," special event manager Devon Thrasher said. "The biggest part is that it doesn't only give back to the kids, but it really gets our former players back involved with the game that gave them so much for so long."

Pickering -- who played five seasons in the big leagues, most notably with the Orioles and Royals -- tends to agree.

"It's fun coming out and giving back," he said. "I've been playing this game for a long time. It's fun to give my hand and work with these kids. This is our future and it's awesome."

"It's just special to give back to the community and teach them the game of baseball," Liniak, who played two seasons with the Cubs, added. "I'd really like for this game to explode in the United States like it's been exploding in Latin America."

Saturday's event seemed to have a surge of popularity as over 90 kids participated. After two hours of drills, they were all treated to an autograph and giveaway session from the former players.

"They [the former players] love instructing, this is what they do now," Thrasher said. "You're a former player much longer than you are a current player, and for them to be able to pass along their skills to their next generation is really awesome."

Padres-Reds Sunday start time pushed back

MLB.com

Sunday's Reds/Padres game is now slated to start at 4:10PM EST.

The game time adjustment is being made based on weather models showing our best possible window to get tomorrow's game in. The game will be carried live on all normal broadcast channels at the adjusted start time. Gates to the ballpark will open today at 2:10 PM for Season Ticket Members and 2:40 PM for the general public. All promotions and giveaways scheduled for tomorrow's game will remain as scheduled.

Fans unable to attend the later game time tomorrow may exchange their ticket to any remaining 2018 season game, subject to availability. Tickets must be exchanged in person at Great American Ball Park - hours are Monday through Friday 9am-5pm and two hours before any weekend game until the end of the 6th inning.

Fans holding Diamond Club, Fox Sports Club or the Handlebar for today's game can exchange their ticket for a Scout Seat or any non-premium ticket to any remaining 2018 game subject to availability.

Renfroe's game picked up since All-Star break

Notes on rookie contributors, Mejía/Hedges, Reyes, Margot, Hosmer, Galvis

By Bill Center | San Diego Padres

Hunter Renfroe has homered each of the past two nights in Cincinnati.

He has hit safely in 13 of his last 14 games, going 19-for-58 (.345) with three doubles, nine homers, 18 RBIs and 14 runs scored. During the run, Renfroe had a career-best 11-game hitting streak.

And going back farther, the 26-year-old corner outfielder has hit .277 (43-for-155) since the All-Star break with seven doubles, 14 homers, 20 runs scored and 33 RBIs in 36 games. He has a .594 slugging percentage for a .895 OPS.

Also worth noting, Renfroe has cut down his strikeout rate to one every four at-bats since the break.

"Hunter is swinging the bat really well right now," Padres manager Andy Green said recently. "He's swinging the bat really well against right-handers (12 of his last 14 homers have been against right-handed pitchers). He's had a lot of really good at-bats against them."

"He's turned some fastballs around. He's doing a nice job using the whole field. His two-strike approach has changed for me. He's trying to make a lot of the adjustments we've asked him to make. There's a lot to like, especially over the last month."

The Padres other right-handed-hitting corner outfielder - rookie Franmil Reyes - is also on a run.

He has hit safely in 14 of his last 16 games - a run that included a career-best 10-game hitting streak. During the run, Reyes has gone 17-for-46 (.370) with two doubles, six homers, nine runs scored and 10 RBIs with six walks for a .442 on-base percentage and a .804 slugging percentage for a 1.246 OPS.

Meanwhile, although center fielder Manuel Margot has picked up his offense recently, Green said there are no plans to return him to the top of the order this season.

"We want to leave him alone where he is right now," Green said recently. "It's been a long enough season to say let's leave him down there where the pressure is off him, where he doesn't feel like he has to do something special. He's taken walks down there better. He's driven the ball down there better. He's driven in runs better down there."

"I don't want to read too much into it. I think it's one of those things that will wash away next year. But it's definitely played that way this year."

Margot has hit .317 (13-for-41) with three doubles, a homer, three RBIs and four runs scored

since Aug. 24 while hitting at the bottom of the order.

NOTEBOOK:

--The Padres are 6-4 over their last 10 games with rookies figuring prominently in every win - RHP Jacob Nix (Aug. 28); LHP Joey Lucchesi, 2B Luis Urías (Aug. 29); LHP Eric Lauer, RHP Robert Stock and RF Franmil Reyes (Aug. 30); RHP Brett Kennedy, Urías and Reyes (Aug. 31); Reyes (Sept. 3), and C Francisco Mejía, Lauer and LHP José Castillo (Sept. 6).

--Mejía's two-homer, four-RBI game in his first start at catcher for the Padres Thursday had some fans immediately jumping on the "Mejía at catcher" bandwagon. But Austin Hedges is 7-for-22 (.318) during an active six-game hitting streak with two doubles, four RBIs and three runs scored. Hedges has seven homers in his last 32 games while raising his batting average from .225 to .240.

--1B Eric Hosmer's two run homer Friday night was his 14th of the season and his first since Aug. 21. His three-RBI game was his fifth of the season, but his first since June 4.

--SS Freddy Galvis is 2-for-15 over his last four games with nine strikeouts, including two, three-strikeout games.

Votto hits slam, Reds get rain-shortened 7-2 win over Padres

Associated Press

CINCINNATI -- [Joey Votto](#) ended the second-longest homer drought of his career with yet another Reds grand slam.

Votto homered for the first time in two months on Saturday, connecting for Cincinnati's 11th slam -- one shy of the NL record -- and the Reds beat the [San Diego Padres](#) 7-2 in a game called because of rain in the top of the seventh inning.

The game started an hour early because of a foreboding forecast and was played in a steady rain that intensified with one out in the top of the seventh.

Votto connected off [Robbie Erlin](#) (3-6) during a seven-run second inning for his first homer since July 9. Votto had gone 36 games without a homer, not counting his long ball in the All-Star Game. He spent time on the disabled list with a sore knee during the span.

After hitting 36 homers last season, Votto has only 10.

"I didn't know it was two months," interim manager Jim Riggleman said. "I knew he'd been stuck on nine for a while."

It was Votto's second grand slam this season and the fourth of his career. [Scott Schebler](#)'s slam during a 12-6 win on Friday night set a franchise record of 10 in a season. The NL mark is 12 and the major league record is 14.

Erlin went three innings and gave up eight hits and seven runs, all in the second inning. He struggled to control his pitches in the rain.

"It wasn't just one pitch in particular, it was all of them," Erlin said.

[Matt Harvey](#) (7-8) allowed [Eric Hosmer](#)'s two-run homer and escaped a bases-loaded threat in the fourth. He fanned 10 in six innings, his highest strikeout total since he fanned 10 at San Diego on May 8, 2016, and his ERA rose to 4.87.

"You're working on your routine and then your coach calls and says the game's an hour and a half earlier," Harvey said. "It was shocking, but you have to go out and deal with it."

The teams were willing to move up the start time to squeeze in a game with unrelenting rain in the forecast through Sunday. A rainout would force the Padres to fly back from San Francisco on Sept. 27 for a makeup game between last-place teams, and then fly home to finish the season.

Sunday's game was pushed back three hours to 4:10 p.m., when rain is forecast to ease.

"We would love, love, love to get these games in here the next couple days," manager Andy Green said. "I think we're all in the same boat here. I think everybody was willing to jump to give us that chance."

The teams were coming off little rest. The Reds' 12-6 win ended at 12:09 a.m. on Saturday because of a 2-hour, 37-minute rain delay.

SLAM STUFF

The 1997 Braves and 2000 Cardinals hit 12 grand slams in a season, sharing the NL record. The 2000 Athletics and 2006 Indians hit 14 for the major league record. ... The Reds' 11 grand slams have been hit by Votto (two), [Adam Duvall](#)(two), [Scooter Gennett](#), [Eugenio Suarez](#), [Jesse Winker](#), starting pitcher [Anthony DeSclafani](#), reliever Todd Lorenzen, [Jose Peraza](#) and Schebler.

NO IFS, ANDS OR BUNTS ABOUT IT

For the second game in a row, the Padres' inability to field a bunt cost them. Harvey bunted on a sacrifice attempt in the second inning, but third baseman [Wil Myers](#) didn't charge the ball, turning it into a single that set up Votto's grand slam. The Padres misplayed two bunts on Friday night during the 12-6 loss.

"Wil's learning a brand new position," Green said. "This guy's never played third base. There has to be some measure of patience and understanding."

WALK THIS WAY

Votto drew his 100th walk of the season. It's his sixth season with at least 100 walks, tying Joe Morgan's club record.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Reds: Scooter Gennett was out of the lineup with a sore right thigh. He missed Thursday's game and went 0 for 5 on Friday.

UP NEXT

Padres: [Jacob Nix](#) (2-3) is to make his sixth career start. He gave up five runs -- matching his career high -- during a 7-3 loss to Colorado last Sunday.

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#PadresOnDeck: El Paso Wins Behind Cal Quantrill, Relievers, Allen Craig

By Bill Center

Both Padres affiliates in post-season play advanced to a fourth day Friday night, although only one won.

Behind the three hit shutout pitching of right-handed starter **Cal Quantrill** and four relievers, Triple-A El Paso scored a 2–0 win at Fresno with both runs coming on a first-inning, two-run double by designated hitter **Allen Craig**. The Chihuahuas still trail 2–1 in the best-of-five, Pacific Coast League Pacific Conference Championship Series that resumes Saturday night in Fresno.

Meantime, the third game of the best-of-five Double-A Texas League Southern Division Championship Series was suspended by unplayable grounds in the bottom of the 11th at San Antonio with the game tied at 8–8.

When play resumes Saturday afternoon, Missions' center fielder **Buddy Reed** will be on second with no one out. If San Antonio wins the suspended game, the fourth game of the series will be played Saturday afternoon. If Corpus Christi wins either game, the Hooks win the series.

Returning to Fresno, Quantrill allowed two hits and a walk with seven strikeouts over six innings to earn the win.

Left-hander **Kyle McGrath** (0.00 earned run average) followed and issued a walk in two-thirds of an inning. Right-hander **T.J. Weir** (0.00 ERA) got the final out in the seventh. Right-hander **Kazuhisa**

Makita allowed a hit and a walk in the first two-thirds of the eighth inning.

Right-hander **Gerardo Reyes**, who was promoted from San Antonio to fill out the Chihuahuas bullpen for the playoffs, entered the game and allowed only a walk in 1 1/3 innings to complete the shutout and earn the save.

Craig doubled home **Forrestt Allday** and **Carlos Asuaje** in the first for the game's only runs.

Craig (.333) was 1-for-2 with a walk and the two-run double. Asuaje (.455) was 3-for-4 with a run scored. Allday (.267) was 2-for-5 with a run scored. Third baseman **Ty France** (.583) had a double in three at-bats with a walk. Shortstop **Javy Guerra** (.154) was 1-for-4.

At San Antonio, the Missions (who are down 0–2 in the series) rallied from an 8–1 deficit with the bullpen holding Corpus Christi scoreless over the next seven innings after Hooks hitters hit five homers in the first four innings.

Right-handed San Antonio starter **Jesse Scholtens** gave up four homers and seven runs on eight hits and a walk with four strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings. Right-hander **Lake Bachar** allowed a solo homer among two hits with six strikeouts in 3 1/3 innings.

Right-hander **David Bednar** issued a walk with a strikeout in an otherwise perfect eighth. Right-hander **Andres Munoz** allowed a hit with a strikeout in two scoreless innings. Right-hander **Jason Jester** struck out one in a perfect 11th.

Second baseman **Peter Van Gansen** (.286) was 2-for-4 with a double, a walk, two runs scored and a RBI. Reed (.200) had a triple in three at-bats with two walks, two stolen bases, a sacrifice bunt, a RBI and two runs scored.

Left fielder **Josh Naylor** (.167) was 1-for-4 with a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Designated hitter **Austin Allen** (.300) was 1-for-3 with a walk, a RBI and a run scored. CF **Michael Gettys** (.000) was 0-for-5 with a stolen base and a run scored. SS **Owen Miller** (.182) and first baseman **Kyle Overstreet**(.182) were each 1-for-4 with a walk.

Reds slug their way past Padres in rain-shortened game

AP

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joey Votto ended his two-month homer drought with Cincinnati's 11th grand slam — one shy of the NL record — and the [Reds](#) beat the [San Diego Padres](#) 7-2 on Saturday in a game called because of rain in the top of the seventh inning.

The game started an hour early because of a foreboding forecast and was played in a steady rain that intensified with one out in the top of the seventh.

Votto connected off Robbie Erlin (3-6) during a seven-run second inning, his first homer since July 9 — the second-longest drought of his career. Votto had gone 36 games without a homer, not counting his long ball in the All-Star Game. He spent time on the disabled list with a sore knee during the span.

It was Votto's second grand slam this season and the fourth of his career. [Scott Schebler](#)'s slam during a 12-6 win on Friday night set a franchise record of 10 in a season. The NL mark is 12 and the major league record is 14.

Erlin went three innings and gave up eight hits and seven runs, all in the second inning.

Matt Harvey (7-8) allowed [Eric Hosmer](#)'s two-run homer and escaped a bases-loaded threat in the fourth. He fanned 10 in six innings, his highest strikeout total since he fanned 10 at San Diego on May 8, 2016, and his ERA rose to 4.87.

The teams were willing to move up the start time to squeeze in a game with unrelenting rain in the forecast through Sunday. A rainout would force the Padres to fly back from San Francisco on Sept. 27 for a makeup game between last-place teams, and then fly home to finish the season.

Sunday's game was pushed back three hours to 4:10 p.m., when rain is forecast to ease.

"We would love, love, love to get these games in here the next couple days," manager Andy Green said. "I think we're all in the same boat here. I think everybody was willing to jump to give us that chance."

The teams were coming off little rest. The Reds' 12-6 win ended at 12:09 a.m. on Saturday because of a 2-hour, 37-minute rain delay. Green had given his players a later reporting time for Saturday's game, so the biggest challenge was contacting all the players to get to the ballpark earlier than planned.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Reds: Scooter Gennett was out of the lineup with a sore right thigh. He missed Thursday's game and went 0 for 5 on Friday.

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