



Padres Press Clips

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

<u>Article</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Joey Lucchesi gets first victory, Padres beat Rockies again	SD Union Tribune	Acee	2
Freddy Galvis might not be one-and-done for Padres	SD Union Tribune	Acee	5
Two plays show who Padres rookie Joey Lucchesi is, will be	SD Union Tribune	Acee	7
MacKenzie Gore's TinCaps debut 'something to build off'	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	9
Padres fielding youngest affiliates, says Baseball America	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	12
Ex-Padres target Ohtani, like Ichiro in '01, is fooling skeptics	SD Union Tribune	Krasovic	13
Renfroe's big blast powers Padres to series win	MLB.com	Perkins	16
At hitter-friendly Coors, Lucchesi notches 1st win	MLB.com	Perkins	19
Margot hit by pitch, leaves game in 9th inning	MLB.com	Perkins	21
Quantrill among top prospect performers	MLB.com	Boor	22
Padres' Perdomo hopes to keep Rockies reeling	FOX	Stats	22
Lucchesi gets first win as Padres beat Rockies 5-2	AP	AP	24
Padres don't expect Wil Myers to return from DL on Friday	ESPN	ESPN	27
Andy's Address, 4/10	FriarWire	Center	28

Joey Lucchesi gets first victory, Padres beat Rockies again

Kevin Acee

Altitude? What altitude?

“I thought it was going to be freezing,” Joey Lucchesi said late Tuesday night, following his first cold beer shower and then his first warm shower after a major league victory.

No, the altitude that wears out so many pitchers that visit Coors Field.

“I didn’t really mind,” Lucchesi said. “I didn’t really ask about it. I just came here and said I do my job.”

As dry as the air a mile high, that is Joey Lucchesi.

The [Padres](#) rookie threw into the seventh inning, allowed just two unearned runs and struck out eight [Colorado Rockies](#).

“It’s fun to watch that kid pitch,” manager Andy Green said. “... He competes. He’s not afraid. He throws his pitches with conviction.”

[Hunter Renfroe](#)’s three-run homer in the seventh inning put Lucchesi in line for the victory, and four relievers, including Brad Hand earning his second save in two nights, finished out a 5-2 victory that ensured the Padres will win their first series of the season.

Coors Field is not where one comes expecting a pitchers’ duel.

But Lucchesi and Rockies starter [Tyler Anderson](#) were largely baffling for a combined 12 innings Tuesday.

Especially Lucchesi. And it already seems clear that is what can be expected of the 24-year-old lefty.

“You just love the demeanor more than anything else,” Green said. “I think that’s what you end up believing in. He is focused, he is locked in. If something goes bad, it doesn’t bother him. And that in itself is incredibly valuable. But the stuff

really plays, too. The deception is there, it's uncomfortable at-bats. ... All those things add up to a really good-looking young pitcher."

The horror of Coors Field has somewhat diminished, an in-house humidifier working to counter the dry air and, moreover, pitchers having become accustomed to the challenges of pitching a mile high.

Still, the air remains thin, plays tricks with some pitches and carries some hits. And the immense dimensions designed to keep more balls in play make the outfield seem as vast as the plains.

Throw in the fact that the Rockies generally can hit anywhere they play, and pitching here often messes with the minds of visiting pitchers.

Nothing seems to mess with Lucchesi, who was not expected to begin the season with the Padres. But here he is, the first pitcher from the 2016 draft to make the big leagues.

He simply pitches.

Lucchesi went after the Rockies, the [National League](#)'s best-hitting team two years running. Of his 82 pitches, 56 were strikes.

He also overcame his own mistake, a first-inning throwing error being perhaps all that kept him from not allowing a run.

After striking out [DJ LeMahieu](#), Lucchesi got [Chris Iannetta](#) to ground back to the mound. Lucchesi easily fielded the ball and took an extra couple steps toward first base before throwing the ball into the dirt and on a bounce past first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#).

Lucchesi then struck out [Nolan Arenado](#), but [Trevor Story](#) sent a misplaced fastball up in the zone into the right field seats.

"I thought, 'That was a bad pitch,'" Lucchesi said. "I was trying to go low and away. ... I realized I needed to focus up and hit my spots, and that's what I did."

Right away.

He retired seven straight and nine of the next 10. Then, singles to start the fourth and fifth innings were negated by double-play grounders.

A perfect sixth featured Lucchesi's seventh and eight strikeouts of the night. That was also when a Rockies batter worked Lucchesi to three balls in a count for just the second time.

Lucchesi was going so well that manager Andy Green had him go up as the seventh inning's lead-off batter.

Lucchesi grounded out, and Manuel Margot — who would leave the game after getting hit in the ribs by a 95-mph fastball in the ninth inning and underwent postgame X-rays — hit a fly ball that was caught in center field.

Then Jose Pirela and Hosmer singled, and Renfroe slammed the first pitch he saw on a line to the stands.

The Padres' first run had come with two outs as well, as back-to-back doubles by Margot and Pirela got the Padres to 2-1 in the third inning. Austin Hedges' solo home run to start the fifth tied the game.

After the Padres took the lead in the top of the seventh, Arenado's triple off the wall in right field and Story's walk started the bottom half of the inning and ended Lucchesi's night.

Kazuhisa Makita was called on, and with two strikeouts and a pop-up he stranded both runners.

Lucchesi had thrown five scoreless innings against the Rockies five days earlier in San Diego and ran his streak without allowing an earned run to 11 innings.

This was, by far, an easier outing.

The final three innings of the first start, though, had shown Lucchesi what he could do, as he set down the final 10 Rockies he faced, six on strikeouts.

"It's working out pretty well, I guess," he said. "I just have to stay humble, keep grinding, working to improve every day. ... All in all, yeah, it's a good feeling."

Freddy Galvis might not be one-and-done for Padres

Kevin Acee

When the [Padres](#) acquired [Freddy Galvis](#) in December, they alluded to the possibility that he might not be just a one-year stopgap at shortstop.

Even with Fernando Tatis Jr., the organization's No. 1 prospect, having wowed in [spring training](#) and likely no more than a year away from the major leagues, it's been easy to see in the first two weeks of the season why the Padres are considering making Galvis a part of their future.

Watching a player make routine plays isn't normally something to celebrate. But the Padres have suffered with aging, out-of-position and/or sub-par shortstops for several seasons.

Galvis has made all the easy plays, and he has made several difficult plays look easy.

As something of a bonus, the switch-hitting Galvis entered Tuesday's game leading the Padres in batting average (.351), on-base percentage (.455) and slugging percentage (.514). He also immediately took a leadership role with young Latin players in spring training. On Tuesday in the visitors' clubhouse at Coors Field, for instance, he spent nearly an hour watching film and giving advice to Manuel Margot.

Galvis' defensive dependability was highlighted a number of times in Monday's victory over the [Rockies](#) when his sure-handedness ended four innings. Two of those plays were not spectacular, but they were tricky. It's what he's been doing time and again.

"That's the key — all the time," said [Clayton Richard](#), the Padres' starting pitcher Monday. "When you have someone like that that brings consistent defense at a very high level, it alters the course of a game."

It's not just Padres pitchers' words that illustrate their fondness for Galvis. It's the looks of sheer relief and gratitude at the mention of his name.

“It’s really nice to have him back there,” reliever [Craig Stammen](#) said. “He’s making a lot of plays for me. As a ground-ball pitcher, my success is entirely tied to how well he plays his position.”

A number of Padres pitchers are inclined to induce ground balls. In fact, the 147 grounders forced by Padres pitchers lead the majors.

“I love this pitching staff,” Galvis said. “Everybody can give me a lot of work. I like to be part of the game. That’s what they do, and I love it.”

Primarily a shortstop, Tatis also has played third base in the minors and likely will continue to get reps there. He could play the position for the Padres before moving over when Galvis moves on.

For now, Galvis feels appreciated by the Padres, a comfort that has grown but was also immediate. Padres Vice President Don Welke was with the Phillies in 2006 and signed Galvis out of Venezuela.

“It’s a team that sees me with different eyes and really believes in the work I do,” said Galvis, who is playing on a one-year, \$6.85 million deal. “There’s some guys who have known me since I was 16 years old, so they know pretty much everything about me. So if they try to give me an opportunity, for sure I will listen.”

Maybe it won’t happen, but it is certainly among the scenarios that the Padres’ brass continues to mull.

“We were open-minded when we made the acquisition,” General Manager A.J. Preller said. “He’s got one year of club control. We were open at the time to see where it took us down the road. At 28 years old, he’s a guy who fits in short-term and potentially long-term. That’s what this year will be about.”

Two plays show who Padres rookie Joey Lucchesi is, will be

Kevin Acee

Almost everything Joey Lucchesi did Tuesday night was impressive, especially for a 24-year-old making his third major league start.

He struck out eight, allowed just four hits and two unearned runs and took just 82 pitches to get into the seventh inning. He got to three balls in just three counts and threw 56 strikes overall in a 5-2 victory over the Colorado Rockies, [earning his first big-league win](#).

Lucchesi has a deceptive windup, is accurate with his fastball and a pitch he calls a “churve” that has helped him to 15 strikeouts in his past 10 innings.

It is his unflappability, though, that has gotten him this far this fast – to the majors quicker than any other pitcher drafted in 2016 – and figures to serve him well going forward.

That nerve and ability to put troubles behind him were illustrated perhaps most succinctly and clearly in two plays Tuesday.

The first was an error in the first inning, in which he simply chunked an easy throw to first base.

Two batters later, [Trevor Story](#) hit a two-out, two-run homer.

Lucchesi recovered from that by retiring seven straight and nine of the next 10 batters he faced.

“I knew there was a lot of game left,” he said. “So I just locked it in and gave my team a chance to win.”

Further, what he did in the fifth inning, making an athletic grab of a hard grounder and turning and throwing to second base to start a double play, was eye-opening.

Lucchesi simply doesn't get flustered.

“That happens to a ton of guys,” manager Andy Green said. “You see that a lot with young guys. They make an error in the first inning and they don’t turn around and throw a perfect feed later on in the game to the guy at second base to turn a double that was crucial. He did that.”

Lucchesi sounded like a 10-year veteran when he explained his ability to turn the page.

“I think it’s a learning thing that you go through if you play this game your whole life,” he said. “If you’re going to get upset, it’s just going to hurt you more.”

This is what has the [Padres](#) most inclined to believe what they see in Lucchesi is what they will always get.

“You have to enjoy watching him pitch,” Green said. “It should be exciting for fans to see him on the mound and watch him take steps forward and compete. He’s going to have some rough ones in him as time unfolds. But there’s a lot in him, there’s a lot of good things there.”

Mackenzie Gore's TinCaps debut 'something to build off'

Jeff Sanders

Mackenzie Gore might very well develop into a stopper one day. For now, the [Padres'](#) top pitching prospect is just getting started in full-season ball.

The 19-year-old Gore struck out four but lamented the two runs he yielded after low Single-A Fort Wayne gave him a lead in [Lansing's 6-5 victory on Tuesday](#), the young Tincaps' sixth straight defeat to start the season. Gore threw 42 of his 66 pitches for strikes, surrendered five hits and walked a batter in three innings of work.

"Command wasn't great today," Gore told reporters in Fort Wayne, Ind., after the game (see embedded video below). "We scored two runs in the second. I've got to be able to put up a zero in the third. Especially (because) we've been struggling a little bit. I lay that on me. You know, we get up, I've got to be able to put up a zero and keep momentum (with us)."

Last year's No. 3 overall pick, Gore had allowed two infield singles and a walk through two innings when Lansing strung together three straight hits to open the third inning, including a two-run double that tied the game.

Jeisson Rosario's relayed throw to third base cut that hitter down. Gore retired the following two hitters before giving way to his bullpen.

The organization's top pitching prospect and one of the top prospects in the game, Gore had allowed more than three hits in just one of his appearances in the rookie-level Arizona League last summer. He struck out 34 batters over 21 1/3 innings (1.27 ERA) in that circuit and was the talk of camp on the minor league side of the Padres' [spring training](#) complex in Peoria, Ariz.

Fort Wayne manager Anthony Contreras considered Gore's debut a solid building block for his first full year in the organization.

"I thought he threw the ball well for his first time out," Contreras told reporters. "In his eyes, I'm going to guess he (thought he) could have probably done better. But that's the expectation from all of us and from him. We want him to go out and dominate and compete. I thought he did a fairly good job for his first time out

there. I think his command was maybe not as sharp as he wanted it, but he made some pitches. The fastball looked good. The curveball was there at times. But for his first outing, I think it was something to build off.”

Gore reported no issues with the blisters that hindered him at times in camp. Asked about some of the plays that could have been made behind him on Tuesday – three of the hits he allowed didn’t leave the infield – Gore shifted the focus to his work on the mound.

“That’s your job,” he said. “I walked a guy today. That’s my fault. If someone makes a mistake, I’ve got to be able to pick them up. I just have to keep on competing. My job when I’m on the mound is to give us a chance to win.”

Left-hander Travis Radke (0-1, 9.00) allowed four runs – three earned – on four hits and two walks in three innings. He struck out six, while right-hander Caleb Boushley (0.00) struck out two over three perfect innings.

Catcher Luis Campusano (.231) and shortstop Gabriel Arias (.300) each had two hits, while Arias scored three runs and committed his third error of the season. Both of Arias’ hits were doubles.

TinCaps' MacKenzie Gore full interview on 4/10/18

TinCaps manager Anthony Contreras full interview on 4/10/18

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (4-2)

- [Salt Lake 14, Chihuahuas 1](#): LHP Eric Lauer (1-1, 4.50) allowed four runs on three hits – including a homer to former Chihuahuas Jabari Blash – in six innings in the loss. He struck out three and walked two. RHP Trey Wingenter (40.50) allowed six runs – five earned – while only recording one out in the seventh and RHP Eric Yardley (13.50) allowed four runs in 1 2/3 innings. SS [Javy Guerra](#) (.400) went 2-for-4 with a double and his team-leading sixth RBI. CF Franchy Cordero (.412) went 1-for-3 with a stolen base to continue his rehab stint.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (4-2)

- [NW Arkansas 4, Missions 0](#): RHP Cal Quantrill (0-1, 1.86) was a tough-luck loser, striking out seven and allowing one run on three hits and three walks in six strong innings. Quantrill threw 62 of his 91 pitches for strikes. LHP Jose Castillo (6.75) allowed two runs on one hit and three walks in the eighth inning. C Webster Rivas (.333) went 2-for-3 to pick up two of San Antonio's five hits. SS Fernando Tatis Jr. (.154) struck out twice in an 0-for-4 day, while 1B Josh Naylor (.417) went 0-for-3 with a walk and a strikeout.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (2-4)

- [Storm 8, Visalia 4](#): 2B Eguy Rosario (.273) hit his first two homers of the season and) 1B Brad Zunica (.211) and CF Edward Olivares (.238) both hit their first home run. Olivares, Zunica, Rosario, DH Jorge Ona (.227) and RF Buddy Reed (.167) each had two hits. RHP Emmanuel Ramirez (1-0, 3.86) struck out five and allowed three runs on two hits and a walk in seven innings in the start.

Padres fielding youngest affiliates, says Baseball America

Jeff Sanders

Under A.J. Preller, the Padres have prided themselves on challenging their young prospects. Turns out, their full-season affiliates are the youngest in baseball to start 2018.

Baseball America's review of every player in every league on an active roster has revealed that all four San Diego affiliates are younger than their respective leagues' average and a full 0.8 years young than average.

Having the four youngest players in two leagues is one reason:

- Midwest League (low Single-A Fort Wayne): Justin Lopez (17.9), Tirso Ornelas (18.1), Gabriel Arias (18.1) and Jeisson Rosario (18.4);
- California League (high Single-A Lake Elsinore): Eguy Rosario (18.6), Adrian Morejon (19.1), Hudson Potts (19.4) and Kelvin Melean (19.6).

The Padres are also have three of the five youngest players in the Double-A Texas League – Fernando Tatis Jr. (20.8), Josh Naylor (20.8) and Logan Allen (20.9) – and the second-youngest player in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League in Luis Urias (20.8).

Urias is also the fifth-youngest player on a Triple-A roster, while Tatis is the youngest player in the Texas League and the second-youngest player on a Double-A roster.

“I think all the guys who go out are good-character guys,” the 19-year-old Potts told the San Diego Union-Tribune last week. “I think we're all mature for our age. You'll see it throughout the year that we're all mentally strong and up to the task.”

Ex-Padres target Ohtani, like Ichiro in '01, is fooling skeptics

Tom Krasovic

Shohei Ohtani is overrated.

Worse yet, he belongs in the minors. The [Yankees](#) are lucky he joined the Angels out there on the West Coast.

So said some media pundits — notably and with cocksure certainty, [two New York provocateurs](#) — while the Japanese baseball star Ohtani struggled in the Cactus League, just a few weeks into his training for his debut season in the American big leagues.

Wild pitch, over the backstop.

Ohtani has shown he belongs, as both a pitcher and a slugger. Two weeks into the season — the real season — he has set the baseball world on a finger and spun it, Globetrotter-style.

I've served up many dumb opinions about ballplayers. Years ago, I wrote the [San Francisco Giants](#) should deal their top pitching prospect for a big-league slugger.

The kid was [Madison Bumgarner](#).

The Ohtani skepticism, though, had a strange effect on me. The more of it I read and heard, the more bullish I became about Ohtani having a good April.

I wondered if Ohtani was pulling an Ichiro.

When Ichiro prepared for his first season in the U.S. big leagues, he looked overmatched at times. He seemed less than confident.

There was, however, a story behind the story.

Al Martin was one of Ichiro's teammates then with the Seattle Mariners.

Months after the 2001 season began, when Ichiro was devouring the [American League](#) as a nominal rookie, Al laughed about the perception Ichiro had a rather spotty [spring training](#) for someone so acclaimed.

“He was setting everyone up,” Al told me.

As Al described it, Ichiro held back a great deal of his considerable talent in the exhibitions. If not a complete ruse, the tepid performances were somewhat calculated — a conclusion Martin would reach one afternoon when Ichiro and he had a batting session together, in private.

“He hit like five home runs in a row,” Al said.

Martin laughed, saying Ichiro duped the baseball world.

I thought of a stoic fictional character, Chief, in the movie (and book) “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” Believed to be incapable of speaking, he drops a line on [Jack Nicholson](#)’s character, stunning him.

Inspiring a giddy reaction, Ichiro’s private hitting display was to Martin what [Chief uttering “Juicy Fruit”](#) was to Nicholson’s R.P. McMurphy.

Martin was known to tell a tall tale or two. He may have embellished his take on Ichiro. Yet, as Ichiro made the March critics look like dummies, the story rang true.

He amassed 242 hits that season, while batting .350. A suspect in the Cactus League, he became MVP of the American League.

Cerebral as well as sharp-eyed, Ichiro would impress [Tony La Russa](#) as the most baseball-smart person on the planet.

Ichiro was 27 that March. He’d won seven batting titles in “Puro Yakyū,” Japan’s “Professional Baseball” league.

Ohtani, 23, arrived to even more fanfare.

Before he reported to Arizona, I’d like to think Ichiro counseled Ohtani. Until the games count, why put on a show?

[Padres](#) disadvantage

While their inability to use him regularly as a designated hitter seemingly worked against the Padres in their pursuit of Ohtani, it was believed that a number of

former Japanese players who worked for the team would give them an advantage, if only by happenstance.

However, one Japanese journalist tells me, the opposite was true.

This person's sense was that Ohtani, while meaning no one any disrespect, wasn't looking for fellow countrymen to be a presence with his American team.

Renfroe's big blast powers Padres to series win

Owen Perkins Special to MLB.com

DENVER -- [Hunter Renfroe](#) took command of Tuesday night's game against the Rockies, flashing leather to steal a hit early and blasting a decisive three-run home run to lift the Padres to a 5-2 win.

With two outs in the seventh inning, Renfroe drove the first pitch he saw from Rockies reliever [Bryan Shaw](#) Statcast-projected 385 feet over the right-field wall to break a 2-2 tie in a well-pitched game. It was the first homer of the season for Renfroe, who entered the game hitting .179 with one RBI and was in an 0-for-12 slump leading into the at-bat. The runs were the first allowed in seven appearances for Shaw.

"He had rough ABs against the lefty [starting pitcher [Tyler Anderson](#)] today, and that was a great swing on Shaw," Padres manager Andy Green said. "He had a single off Shaw at home, I remember, and then yesterday, he had about a seven-pitch at-bat where he swung through a fastball [and struck out in the eighth]. I felt like he was just on it, just missed it. He got that pitch again, and he didn't miss it today."

Renfroe made his mark earlier in the game with his glove, robbing [DJ LeMahieu](#) of a hit in the third. Renfroe charged hard for a fast-sinking liner to right, dove forward and caught it for the second out of the inning.

Padres starter [Joey Lucchesi](#), the club's [No. 9 prospect](#) per MLB Pipeline, notched his first big league win in his third career game. The left-hander allowed two unearned runs on four hits over six-plus innings, striking out eight and lowering his ERA to 1.72. It was his first quality start, and he was the seventh pitcher in Padres history to allow no earned runs in at least six innings at Coors Field.

The Padres won their second straight game, clinching the series with the Rockies and doubling their season win total.

Colorado's only offense came in the first inning, when Lucchesi made a throwing error on a [Chris Iannetta](#) grounder to let him reach first, then later gave up a two-run homer to [Trevor Story](#).

"I think it's like a learning thing that you go through if you play this [game] your whole life," Lucchesi said. "If you're going to get upset, it's just going to hurt you more. I knew I had an error in the first inning, so a lot of game left. I just locked it in and gave my team a chance to win."

Lucchesi has 15 strikeouts in 11 innings against the Rockies, who he pitched five scoreless frames against last Thursday.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Hosmer reaches on backhand bobble: With two outs in the top of the seventh, [Pat Valaika](#) muffed an infield grounder to first hit by [Eric Hosmer](#), which positioned Renfroe to hit his go-ahead, three-run homer on the next pitch. Hosmer's infield single extended the inning and prevented the Rockies from escaping to keep the game tied.

Makita makes it look easy: The Rockies appeared to be on the verge of an immediate rally in the seventh, but they ran into deceptive Padres reliever [Kazuhisa Makita](#). With runners on second and third and no outs, Makita retired [Ian Desmond](#), [Gerardo Parra](#) and Valaika to end the inning. It was the only time the Rockies had runners in scoring position.

"Maki was outstanding," Green said. "It's fun to watch when he comes in that situation, and you've got guys at first and third. I had the interpreter come to the mound and tell him, 'Hey, that guy at third, let him score and just get everybody else out.' He didn't listen to me. He didn't let him score. It was a thrill to watch him execute that."

QUOTABLE

"I'm not really the guy that throws hard, so I'm pleased to see that keeping the batters off-balance is working." -- Makita, through an interpreter, on how his submarine-style arsenal is playing against big league hitters

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

With a fourth-inning single, [Freddy Galvis](#) has reached base safely in each of his first 12 games with San Diego. That's the longest active on-base streak to start the 2018 season in MLB.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Padres hand the ball to [Luis Perdomo](#) for Wednesday's series finale at

Colorado at 12:10 p.m. PT, hoping to see him carry over momentum from his five innings of one-run ball in a win against the Astros on Saturday. His slider was in great form, as he allowed four hits and three walks, while striking out four, at Houston.

At hitter-friendly Coors, Lucchesi notches 1st win

Padres left-hander strikes out eight over six-plus strong innings

By Owen Perkins Special to MLB.com

DENVER -- In its 24th season as one of MLB's top hitters' havens, Coors Field has wreaked havoc on many confident pitchers' demeanors. Not 24-year-old Padres rookie left-hander [Joey Lucchesi](#), who made his third career start in Tuesday's [5-2 win over the Rockies](#) and pitched six strong innings to earn his first big league win.

"Feels awesome, feels great," said Lucchesi, the Padres' [No. 9 prospect](#) per MLB Pipeline. "I had a beer shower downstairs. Pretty cold."

After striking out [DJ LeMahieu](#) to open the first, Lucchesi had a throwing error to first base on a [Chris Iannetta](#) comebacker to the mound, letting him reach safely. Lucchesi struck out [Nolan Arenado](#), but missed his spot to [Trevor Story](#), giving up a two-run homer to right field.

"I thought that was a bad pitch," Lucchesi said. "I was trying to go low and away, and I cut it middle-up. I realized that I needed to focus up and hit my spots, and that's what I did."

Lucchesi retired seven in a row after Story's homer, and he didn't let another runner past first. The left-hander allowed four hits and a walk, while striking out eight over six-plus innings.

"It's fun to watch him pitch," manager Andy Green said. "He competes, he's not afraid, throws his pitches with conviction and stays incredibly focused the whole game."

It was Lucchesi's maturity that impressed Green the most, especially his ability to recover after a rocky first inning.

"It happens to a ton of guys who make an error in the first inning," Green said. "You see that a lot with younger guys. They make an error, and they don't turn around and make a perfect feed later on in the game to turn a double play that

was crucial. He did. He did those things very well. You have to enjoy watching him pitch. He's pretty exceptional."

And Lucchesi impressed the opposing Rockies as well.

"He's a little bit funky," Colorado manager Bud Black said. "There's some deception to his delivery. He kept the ball away from us. He made us reach a little bit. He's got a good curveball from a guy who's tall, has a higher arm slot, a fastball with angle, a good hook with angle and a change. And he threw strikes.

Pitching his first game at hitter-friendly Coors Field, Lucchesi said he treated the game like any other.

"I thought it was going to be really freezing, but luckily, my day was a bit warmer than yesterday," Lucchesi said. "I didn't ask about it. I just came here and said, 'I'm going to do my job.' The balls were more slippery than usual, and I needed to get rosin every other pitch, it felt like. It helped out with my grip, and I was able to hit my spots."

The combination of Lucchesi's stuff and confidence on the mound is making an impression on teammates and rivals alike.

"You just love the demeanor more than anything else," Green said. "That's what you end up believing in. He just keeps focused. He's locked in. If something goes bad, it doesn't bother him. That in itself is incredibly valuable, but the stuff really plays, too. The deception's there. It's uncomfortable at-bats. It's awkward for guys. All those things add up to a good-looking young pitcher."

Margot hit by pitch, leaves game in 9th inning

Owen Perkins Special to MLB.com

DENVER -- Padres center fielder [Manuel Margot](#) was hit by a pitch from Rockies reliever [Scott Oberg](#) in the top of the ninth inning during Tuesday night's [5-2 win](#), resulting in Margot exiting the game.

"He's getting checked out right now," manager Andy Green said after the game. "It caught him pretty flush in the ribs and stung him pretty good. We're hopeful he's feeling a bit better pretty soon."

Oberg's 2-2 pitch seemed to catch the right-handed Margot squarely in his rib cage, hitting him on his left side and sneaking in under his elbow. Margot fell to the ground in pain, and after a visit from the trainer, Green took him out of the game.

Green said Margot was scheduled to undergo X-rays to determine if any serious injury occurred.

"It'll be some time before we have anything authoritative," Green said.

Margot went 1-for-4 with a double and a run scored prior to his exit. He was replaced by pinch-runner [Matt Szczur](#).

Padres' Perdomo hopes to keep Rockies reeling

STATS

Apr 11, 2018 at 1:28a ET

DENVER — The [San Diego Padres](#) will send Luis Perdomo to the mound Wednesday, hoping he can overcome his minimal but dismal history at Coors Field and that they can sweep the slumping [Colorado Rockies](#).

Perdomo (1-1, 6.00 ERA) will be opposed by [German Marquez](#) (0-1, 6.52), who will be trying to rebound from a poor start in the Rockies' home opener Friday.

In the Padres' 5-2 victory Tuesday night, rookie left-hander Joey Lucchesi made his third career start — first on the road — and pitched well for the second straight start against the Rockies. He gave up a two-run, first-inning homer to [Trevor Story](#), a batter he would have avoided facing had Lucchesi not made a bad throw on a routine play in the inning.

The Rockies, who have lost three straight games, are 1-4 on their homestand that ends Wednesday. They have scored 14 runs in those five games and are 4-for-27 with runners in scoring position, including 0-for-3 on Tuesday, and are hitting .227 overall.

“When your offense is going, you have five, six, seven guys swinging the bat well out of your 12 or 13 position players,” Rockies manager Bud Black said. “We have maybe a couple. So with that, there’s not going to be a lot of production ... Again, it’s real early, but no matter what time of the year it shows up.”

[Ryan McMahon](#), [Mike Tauchman](#) and [Pat Valaika](#), the Rockies' three primary bench players, are a combined 1-for-45 with 19 strikeouts. First baseman McMahon, a left-handed hitter, is expected to make his second start of the season Wednesday against the right-handed Perdomo.

Perdomo is 0-4 with a 6.68 ERA in seven games (five starts) against the Rockies and 0-1 with a 8.00 ERA in three games (one start) at Coors Field. The start was last July 17, when Perdomo gave up seven runs (five earned) on six hits and three walks in 2 1/3 innings.

After a poor first start, Perdomo rebounded at Houston and won 4-1 on Friday, allowing one run on four hits and three walks in five innings with four strikeouts.

“He was much better just all the way around,” Padres manager Andy Green said. “Execution, intent, body language, competitiveness. You just felt he was going to go out there and give you absolutely everything he had. Pitched to both sides of the plate really well. He didn’t have that sinking, darting fastball that he’s probably not going to have here either, but he was driving pitches to his spots. And that’ll have to be the approach he takes here tomorrow.

“You show up in this ballpark and you’re relying on a sinker, that’s probably the No. 1 pitch that’s impacted by playing at altitude. Guys that drive sinkers down in the zone, they’re just going to have to be precise in their spots. If he follows the recipe he had last game, he’s going to have a really good start tomorrow.”

Marquez’s fastball command was poor Friday when he gave up seven runs on seven hits and six walks (two intentional) in 4 2/3 innings with two strikeouts and lost 8-3 to the Atlanta Braves. In five games (three starts) against the Padres, Marquez is 2-1 with a 6.30 ERA. In two games (one start) against them at Coors Field, Marquez is 1-0 with a 3.52 ERA.

Black said a well-pitched game is often a way for a team to find its way out of a hitting slump. But the Rockies got that from starter [Tyler Anderson](#) on Tuesday (two runs allowed in six innings) and were unable to capitalize as reliever Brian Shaw gave up a three-run homer to Hunter Renfroe in the seventh while the Colorado offense continued to misfire.

“We just haven’t been doing what we’re capable of doing throughout the whole game,” Story said. “It’s hard to say what it is, but we’ll get it clicking.”

Lucchesi gets first win as Padres beat Rockies 5-2

AP

DENVER -- One bad pitch at Coors Field could have rattled Padres rookie [Joey Lucchesi](#). It didn't, and he settled down to pitch a gem for his first major league win.

Lucchesi overcame an early error and home run to dominate until the seventh inning, [Hunter Renfroe](#) hit a go-ahead homer and San Diego beat the [Colorado Rockies](#) 5-2 on Tuesday night.

Renfroe's three-run shot in the seventh backed Lucchesi's strong outing and gave the Padres their first series victory of the season.

"It feels awesome," said Lucchesi, who was given a beer shower by his teammates after the game. "It feels great."

Lucchesi (1-0) shut down Colorado in his third career start. He struck out eight and allowed two unearned runs before leaving two batters into the seventh.

"It was fun to watch that kid pitch. He was really good," San Diego manager Andy Green said. "I was hoping to get him through the seventh inning. Up to that point he hadn't shown any signs of wearing down at all. He looked strong. All day very good after that blip in the first inning."

[Austin Hedges](#) also homered, [Jose Pirela](#) had three hits and [Brad Hand](#) pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Padres outfielder [Manuel Margot](#) left in the ninth inning after getting hit in the ribs by [Scott Oberg](#)'s fastball. Green said he was getting checked out but there was no immediate update on his status.

"Obviously caught him flush in the ribs and stung him pretty good," Green said. "We're hopeful he's feeling a little bit better pretty soon."

Renfroe hit the first pitch from reliever Brian Shaw (1-1) with two out in the seventh. It was his first homer of the season and came after a pair of two-out singles. It also gave the outfielder a little payback after Shaw struck him out on a cutter in a seven-pitch at-bat Monday.

"Same pitch he swung through yesterday," Shaw said. "Obviously, today he got it."

[Trevor Story](#)'s two-run homer in the first -- his third of the season -- came one out after [Chris Iannetta](#) reached on an error by Lucchesi. The rookie left-hander found a groove after that, retiring 16 of the next 18 batters and erasing the two runners with double plays. He left after [Nolan Arenado](#) led off the seventh with a triple off the scoreboard in right and Story walked.

"Went out in the first inning and felt great, felt loose, as I should be," Lucchesi said. "I had one bad pitch and recuperated and was able to get the job done."

[Kazuhisa Makita](#) came on and stranded both runners with a flyout, a strikeout and a foul out.

Colorado has lost three straight despite another strong outing from [Tyler Anderson](#). The left-hander was effective over six innings but remains without a decision through three starts. He pitched six shutout innings last week in San Diego, and the Padres managed just two runs off him Tuesday before he left for a pinch-hitter.

"Other than those two walks, for the most part I was in the strike zone a lot, which is always good," Anderson said.

Pirela had an RBI double in the third and Hedges hit a leadoff homer in the fifth that tied it at 2.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: 1B [Wil Myers](#) (right arm issue) is not expected to return from the 10-day DL when he is eligible Friday. Green said Myers will have to swing a bat for a few days and may go on a rehab assignment before returning.

Rockies: CF [Charlie Blackmon](#) was scratched from the lineup with tightness in his right quad. Blackmon left Saturday's game in the 10th inning with a back issue and sat out Sunday's game as a precaution. [Mike Tauchman](#) played center field in Blackmon's absence.

SCORING DROUGHT

Arenado has averaged 131 RBI over the last three seasons but has just six after 12 games. Manager Bud Black said he isn't worried about his star player's production.

"I know at the end of the year the number's will be there," Black said. "They are pitching him tough for sure. I saw that from Day One. The opposing pitching has been stingy with giving him pitches to hit."

Arenado has been productive still. He singled and tripled Tuesday and is hitting .318 in the first 12 games.

GOING ROGUE

When Makita came on in the seventh, Green's plan was to concede the run from third and get a double play to limit the damage.

"I had the interpreter come to the mound and basically told him, 'Hey, that guy at third, let him score,' Green said. "'Let's get everyone else out.' He didn't listen to me."

Makita tried to follow Green's orders but instead got out of the frame unscathed.

"I tried to get the double play but it is what it is," Makita said.

UP NEXT

The Padres will send RHP [Luis Perdomo](#) (1-1, 6.00 ERA) against Colorado RHP [German Marquez](#) (0-1, 6.52) in the series finale Wednesday. Perdomo will make his eighth career start against the Rockies while Marquez will face San Diego for the first time.

Padres don't expect Wil Myers to return from DL on Friday

ESPN

The [San Diego Padres](#) don't expect outfielder [Wil Myers](#) back from the disabled list when he is eligible to return Friday.

Myers, who was placed on the 10-day DL on April 3, still is dealing with nerve irritation in his right arm and had not resumed swinging a bat as of Monday.

"I don't expect him to come off right at 10 days," Padres manager Andy Green told reporters Monday, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. "He's going to have to swing a bat for a few days. The longer it gets, the more likely a rehab assignment becomes as well. ... We're hoping. It's not coming as quickly as we'd like it to."

Myers also has not started throwing yet, and the Padres want him to be able to throw from the outfield without discomfort before activating him from the DL.

Myers, 27, had three hits, including a home run, in 12 at-bats this season before heading to the DL.

Andy's Address, 4/10

Andy Addresses Lucchesi, pitching at Coors Field, ground balls

By Bill Center

As he spoke at Coors Field before Tuesday night's game against the Rockies, Padres manager Andy Green said he expected rookie left-handed starter Joey Lucchesi to turn in a strong start against the Rockies.

"I think we expect Joey to pitch well today," Green said before the game. "I think he expects to pitch well. I think he locks in. You never know exactly what people's pitches do until they pitch here. Joey doesn't rely on the sinker. Spin pitches, depending on who's they are, tend to work here. So I think what Joey does should play just fine here."

Lucchesi's final line: Six-plus innings pitched, four hits, two runs, no earned runs, one walk, eight strikeouts.

Oh . . . and his first win in the Major Leagues.

"I think we saw Lucchesi settle in during his last start," continued Green before the game. "The last three innings (in his second start) were who is his . . . what I saw of him in the minors, what I saw in spring training. He pitched to his strengths."

"That's the real encouragement for him right now is . . . some guys show up in the big leagues and pitch to a scouting report right away and some people have real strengths and they can pitch to those strengths and trust that those are going to work and use those before they try to game-plan too much. I think Joey falls into that category. So we want to see him try to do that."

Before the game, Green revisited the two-run homer at the fence Monday night that the Padres' believed was fan interference. Their appeal was denied by the review umpires in New York and Green was ejected—for the sixth time as Padres manager—for questioning the appeal decision.

“I still stand by what I saw and what I said last night in the sense that I can clearly see on the cameras upstairs that the (fan’s) fingers touch the baseball after glove is clearly on the field,” said Green. “Right there, it is pretty simple. Anything that happens on top the fence is not an issue. It’s what happens on the field of play. His fingers were on the field of play. Were they way over on the field of play? No, not in my interpretation, but my interperation doesn’t rule the day.”

Padres pitchers are producing ground balls at the third-highest rate in the Major Leagues and Green discussed what that means.

“Every pitching staff wants to get the ball on the ground if you’re not punching guys out,” said Green. “You want weak contact. Ground balls tend to be a little weaker contact than line drives. Extreme pitchers work . . . usually the extreme pitchers (fly balls, ground balls, strikeouts) work.”

“Clayton (Richard), (Luis) Perdomo and Bryan Mitchell threw a lot of ground balls the last times out. We’re kind of built that way, which is why it’s nice having Freddy (Galvis) at shortstop as a stabilizing force there.”

“Perdomo is a ground ball pitcher. If you ask him to pitch at the top of the zone the way you ask certain closers in the big league to do, it probably wouldn’t go very well for him. That doesn’t mean he can’t go up there at times, but it’s no secret that he’s going to have success at the bottom end of the zone.”

“Mitchell’s strikeouts are down, yes . . . it’s something. I’d like to see the walks down. I was very pleased with his last outing because he was driving fastballs down in the zone and he was getting weak contact against a very good lineup (Houston). The strikeouts are going to come back for him. He has too good stuff not to punch guys out at times, but as long as he’s driving that fastball down in the zone he’s going to have some success.”