



Padres Press Clips

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Mitchell bounces back, Reyes keeps bombing as Padres beat D'backs

[Kevin Acee](#)

Bryan Mitchell knew it. Everyone knew it.

There was no reason to pretend it was not the way it was.

“He’s pitching for future opportunity,” [Padres](#) manager Andy Green said before Monday’s game against Arizona. “To present it any other way would be misleading. This month is his chance to work his way back into being part of our future plan.”

Mitchell — shockingly to virtually anyone who watched his first seven starts and then five more relief appearances earlier this season — took a big step toward doing just that in his first start in nearly three months.

And Franmil Reyes, with a display of power that is stunning but at this point also expected, did his part with home runs in his first two at-bats.

Together, they did the bulk of the lifting in the Padres’ 6-2 Labor Day night victory over the [Diamondbacks](#) at [Chase Field](#).

“For us to walk out of the ballpark with a win after he gave us five strong innings,” Green said. “That’s a good thing.”

Reyes’ three-run homer just right of center field in the second inning gave the Padres a 3-1 lead, and his solo shot just left of center in the fourth inning extended the lead to 4-1.

The 23-year-old rookie right fielder, who reached on an error in the sixth inning before being lifted as part of a double switch, has six home runs in his past 25 at-bats and 15 in his 180 at-bats this season.

“He’s crushing baseballs,” Green said. “He looks really comfortable in the batter’s box.”

Mitchell finally looked likewise on the mound.

In getting his first victory (against three losses) in his first appearance off the disabled list, Mitchell was more efficient and effective than he had been in any of his first seven Padres starts.

Even without his best weapon, the curve, at its sharpest, it was almost evident why the Padres essentially invested \$13.5 million in Mitchell and handed him a starting job.

“I know nothing is guaranteed at this point,” Mitchell said. “But it’s definitely a good stepping stone moving forward. Tonight felt really good. After the way the season has gone for me, I needed that one.”

He allowed a run on two singles, a walk and a wild pitch in the first inning and then did not allow another hit and retired 12 of the final 14 batters he faced.

The 84 pitches he threw included 55 strikes.

His first seven starts, all at the beginning of the season, saw him allow 23 earned runs in just 32 innings. He allowed at least one run in half the 30 full innings he pitched as a starter before Monday, demonstrating an inability to work out of trouble.

Monday, with an improved two-seam fastball that acts similar to a slider helping make up for the limp curve, Mitchell escaped after walking the lead-off batter in the fourth and fifth innings.

“I just tried to take things one pitch at a time and not let things speed up,” he said.

Mitchell was pulled from a May 5 start against the Dodgers after he allowed three runs in 2 1/3 innings. The 27-year-old right-hander, acquired in a trade with the Yankees in December that also brought since-released [Chase Headley](#) to San Diego in exchange for minor-league outfielder Jabari Blash, was demoted to the bullpen two

days later. He surrendered 15 earned runs in 16 1/3 innings over his five relief appearances.

In all through those first 12 appearances, Mitchell allowed an average of 2.03 walks and hits per inning, which ranks as highest among the 358 major league pitchers who have thrown at least 40 innings this season.

Mitchell, who said the elbow impingement that put him on the disabled list June 20 had been bothering him for just a few weeks, returned with a shortened arm stroke on his delivery. He also developed a cutter to add to his mid-90s fastball and curveball during his bullpen sessions and seven rehab starts while on the DL.

“Overall,” Green said, “where he’s come from and where he was today, it was a good outing.”

After not making anything of having a runner in scoring position in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings, the Padres added two runs in the eighth inning on a walk and three singles. The last of those was Austin Hedges’ bases-loaded grounder up the middle that drove in Wil Hosmer and Wil Myers.

Meanwhile, Padres pitchers survived lead-off walks in three straight innings — Mitchell in the fourth and fifth, Trey Wingenter in the sixth.

Wingenter walked [Eduardo Escobar](#) and struck out [Paul Goldschmidt](#) before being replaced by Jose Castillo, who got an out on a ground ball and a foul pop-up.

[Daniel Descalso](#) led off the seventh with a single before Castillo set down the next three batters. The Diamondbacks got their second run on back-to-back doubles by Escobar and Paul Goldschmidt off Craig Stammen. Kirby Yates, back from a three-game stay on the bereavement list, pitched a scoreless ninth.

And at the end of the night, it seems the Padres have six starting pitchers.

They have mapped out a scenario in which the other five get at least four starts over the team’s final 22 games. That conceivably leaves three starts for Mitchell. Depending on performance and health of all concerned, it is also possible Mitchell,

Brett Kennedy and/or Robbie Erlin could skip start and even conceivably throw out of the bullpen in between.

“We have our rotation mapped out for the month,” Green said Monday afternoon. “(Mitchell) has the opportunity to be in that plan. That said, we might not consistently go 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 ... We might at some point in time choose to alter that, still giving guys adequate rest and in most cases more than normal rest. He might be a guy that at times is bumped for other guys.”

That likely won't be this turn through the rotation.

“He did a solid job,” Green said. “We want him to continue to build on it.”

Padres notes: Reyes' disciplined power; Perdomo's return to pen

[Kevin Acee](#)

Franmil Reyes' rare ability was summed up in two at-bats Monday night.

And not as much for the result — a three-run homer in the second inning and a solo shot in the fourth inning of the [Padres](#)' 6-2 victory over the Diamondbacks — as for the process.

The first homer came off a 90 mph two-seam fastball from Zack Godley on the innermost edge of the plate that the right-handed Reyes caught just a little up the barrel and still sent 401 feet barely to the right of straightaway center field.

“I think the fastball beat him; he still muscles it to right,” manager Andy Green marveled. “When you can mishit balls out of the ballpark ...”

The second was a 423-foot shot on an 80 mph curve ball hung in the middle of the zone that Reyes was waiting for — after watching a Godley curve tail well out of the strike zone to get into a full count.

“I looked at the report and I see he was using his curve ball a lot, so I was aware of that,” Reyes said. “His curve ball, he throws a lot of times just to make you chase, and I was just aware of that. I saw that curve ball 2-2. Clearly, I see it was a ball. That prepared me for the next one.”

The power demonstrated on the first homer, despite the nature of the pitch and the contact is almost unparalleled. And as for what the second homer showed, well, the discipline the big 23-year-old rookie has developed over his three stints in the major leagues since his initial call-up in mid-May borders on the astounding.

Reyes hit one home run, struck out 12 times and walked twice in in his first 32 major league plate appearances. He has 14 homers, 49 strikeouts and 12 walks in his past 162 plate appearances.

“He’s going to be a consistent performer,” Green said. “He has the ability to drive the ball out of the ballpark. ... He understands the game. He thinks the game. He’s hungry to be a great hitter. ... He’s going to continue to make adjustments quicker than other guys.”

When he was called up for a third turn in the majors at the beginning of August, Reyes wondered aloud to teammate Manuel Margot about the future.

“I said, ‘Manny, imagine if I finish with 20 homers,’ ” Reyes recalled Monday night. “He said, ‘If you finish with 20 everybody is going to be like, ‘Wow.’ ”

Count Reyes, who is 6-foot-5 and 275 pounds, among those somewhat surprised.

He has hit nine home runs in those 27 games (76 at-bats) since the August 4 recall and six homers in his past 25 at-bats.

He homered in three of his first four games back in August and then went 14 games without one before his recent tear. Reyes credits a talking-to by the team’s hitting coaches late last month that got him to stop swinging for the fences.

“I was just off a little bit (in) the approach I took,” he said. “But I get back to it. ... Now, without trying, you reach the goal you put in your mind.”

The second-inning home run was Reyes' first three-run homer. He has two 2-run homers. The other dozen have been solo shots.

Bullpen relief

[Luis Perdomo](#) and Kirby Yates being back on the Padres roster alleviates the pressure that has been placed on some other relievers of late.

While Yates steps back into his usual role at the back end of the bullpen following a three-game stay on the bereavement list, Perdomo's next appearance will be out of the 'pen – after 56 starts dating to mid-2016.

Perdomo simply did not do well enough in his nine starts this season (7.94 ERA, 2.04 WHIP) to retain his job. Plus, the Padres don't have room in a crowded rotation and need help in the bullpen.

“We're finally getting to the point we have a big enough bullpen we don't have to push certain guys as hard as we have for a while,” manager Andy Green said.

Green has used Phil Maton 14 times and Robert Stock 13 times since July 31, as he has aimed to protect, in particular, rookies Jose Castillo and Trey Wingenter.

Extra bases

- After three strikeouts, Hunter Renfroe singled to lead off the eighth inning and extend his hitting streak to 11 games.
- [Eric Hosmer](#) is 0-for-4 with four walks in the past two games.
- [Freddy Galvis](#) went hitless for the first time in eight games batting lead-off. Galvis is 11-for-37 in the No.1 spot after his 0-for-5 night Monday.
- The Padres on Monday scored six runs on just seven hits, the first time they have had that many runs on that few hits since a 6-5 victory over the Dodgers on Sept. 2, 2017.

Padres' Wil Myers apologizes, explains venting about Andy Green

[Kevin Acee](#)

What had been quiet clubhouse grousing — not unusual for any team, especially one in the situation in which the [Padres](#) find themselves — became public Monday.

It left [Wil Myers](#) embarrassed and remorseful, and opened some of the Padres' internal workings that they work hard to protect.

Comments Myers made on a live stream of him playing a video game with at least one teammate revealed his frustration at having to practice fundamentals this late in the season and complaining about manager Andy Green.

“We’re doing cutoff and relays tomorrow at 3 o’clock in September,” Myers said, laughing. “... Oh my god, bro. It’s so miserable, it’s insane. Andy could not be any worse than he is right now.”

Quickly, [Carlos Asuaje](#), who is currently in Triple-A, said, “Dude, I’m streaming this.”

Another unidentified person on the live stream said something before Myers said, “What did you say, Carl?”

Asuaje replied, “I’m streaming.”

Myers said, “Huh.”

That was followed by others on the line laughing profusely.

While the incident occurred last week, it made the rounds on the Internet on Sunday, and Green and others in the Padres' organization became aware of it Monday.

“When I saw it on Twitter my stomach dropped — to realize that type of thing was out there,” Myers said Monday afternoon before the Padres opened a two-game series against the Diamondbacks here. “I’m incredibly sorry. It’s something I never want out there. It’s something I can’t say. Being an older guy on the team, that’s something I can’t say, even if it’s in private. ... I’m terribly sorry about it. Obviously you can’t complain about drills, especially when you’re trying to get better.”

Myers made no excuses in his apology to Green on Monday.

“He came in immediately today, apologized, took ownership,” Green said. “He said he didn’t feel that way. He didn’t get into, ‘I was venting.’ ... There were no excuses. He just took ownership.”

Green said he understood and was not surprised players would be displeased with some recent events.

The latest was the drill the Padres did Thursday in which they worked on relays — specifically pitchers backing up bases. There were four instances recently in which young pitchers did not back up third or home, the last coming Aug. 26 in Los Angeles. Not only was it clear those pitchers needed the reminder, a manager sometimes creates an environment of accountability by making veterans participate in drills. Veterans are then compelled to police younger players.

“We have different vantage points,” Green said. “He is focused on himself, playing well. Mine is focused on 25 guys, and we’re trying to get guys better now. Sometimes we ask everybody to be part of something so everybody can learn.”

The reality is some players have figuratively raised eyebrows at multiple instances of the team being coached hard this season. Coaches Mark McGwire and [Skip Schumaker](#) are especially intense. Green acknowledged in July he and his staff were ratcheting up their approach with certain players who needed it.

The Padres are in a transitional period in which many young players are essentially learning on the fly while in the major leagues. It is not uncommon to see small groups of players or individuals on the field before games — notably more than most of their opponents.

“There are times they might say some stuff you ... you can’t take it personally,” outfielder Travis Jankowski said recently. “If they get on you it’s because they know you’re better than what you’re doing. They know this piece of information is going to get you to the next level, it’s going to get the team to the playoffs, keep the organization growing. I think the guys understand that, knowing every one of these coaches have your best interest in mind.”

The fact is, too, Myers and Green have grown close over the past three seasons. Last year, Myers was in Green’s office virtually every day as the manager attempted to help Myers grow individually and as a clubhouse presence.

“That’s the thing,” Myers said with a chuckle. “Andy is not the worst; he’s not the worst he’s ever been. I love Andy. I love playing for him. He’s a guy who has taught me a lot of things in this game. At times you get in a mood where you get frustrated at times (with) what’s going with the team or individually. You say some things you shouldn’t say in a conversation you think is private.

“But the reality is we’re in 2018 and things get streamed at times you don’t know. I’m incredibly sorry about that — to Andy, my teammates the fans. This is a distraction we don’t need.”

As a way of illustrating that he related to Myers’ frustration, Green relayed a story from his time in Triple-A playing under manager Chip Hale, for whom he would later work as a third base coach when Hale managed the Diamondbacks.

“Chip Hale probably impacted my career more positively than any other coach or manager I had,” Green said. “I remember complaining like crazy to teammates when he made me go out in August to do (fielding practice) and turn double plays with pitchers in 120 degrees in Tucson. I didn’t understand. I was upset and frustrated. ... That makes me just like everyone else. We look at our boss at some point in time and say, ‘Why are you doing this?’ ”

Padres look for earlier emphasis on pitchers bunting

[Kevin Acee](#)

Jacob Nix's flailing failures to get down two sacrifice bunts Sunday underscored a problem the [Padres](#) have — one they were already working to remedy at the major league level and prevent with work in the minor leagues.

“These guys didn't get 30 to 40 at-bats and multiple years of batting practice,” Andy Green said of Nix and other rookie starters who have essentially flown through the minor leagues. “We have to find a way to make it more important in A-ball for these guys that are on an accelerated growth path.”

That preparedness at the plate has been a casualty of the rapid ascension of the Padres' current group of young starting pitchers.

With the team anticipating a bunch of other top pitching prospects matriculating to the majors in the coming seasons, that means more time set aside for training on bunting in [spring training](#) and at Tri-City and Fort Wayne and Lake Elsinore.

Pitchers in the minor leagues don't bat in games until reaching Double-A. Even then, they don't get to the plate in games against [American League](#) affiliates.

Joey Lucchesi and Eric Lauer, the first pitchers from the 2016 draft to make the majors, had a combined 13 plate appearances when they made their big-league debuts in April. Nix, drafted in 2015, had five when he was called up earlier this month.

What Nix, a 22-year-old rookie right-hander, did on the mound Sunday was not nearly as superb as his 8 1/3 innings of one-run ball in his previous start, as he allowed five runs over six-plus innings. Still, it had its merits.

What Nix did at the plate was deemed unacceptable, and Green was perturbed enough to bring it up unprompted.

“He’s got a long way to go with a bat in his hands,” Green said. “If he wants to be a good major league pitcher, like serious, you’ve got to be able to get a bunt down. If you want to pitch here for a long time, be a winning pitcher, those things are necessary. It becomes very hard to stick with a guy in the sixth or seventh inning if he can’t stick his nose in there and get a bunt down. The challenge is real for him.”

Nix’s failures arguably cost the Padres at least one run in a game they lost 7-3 to the [Rockies](#) on Sunday.

The Padres led by a run and had A.J. Ellis at first base with less than two outs for both of Nix’s at-bats. Both times, Nix went down in a manner best described as meekly.

His first time up, Nix pulled back on a ball, watched a strike, pulled back on a fastball inside and fouled off a pitch below the zone. His fourth-inning at-bat was more hopeless, as he swung at and missed a low pitch and then tepidly offered bunt attempts at a pitch low in the zone and another one outside.

It was actually a scene reminiscent of some intense bunting practice with pitchers the previous afternoon, wherein bullpen coach Doug Bochtler fired difficult-to-handle pitches from about 45 feet. The drill was meant to more closely simulate game-like pitches than regular bunting practice.

“It’s something I do take seriously every day,” Nix said. “... It’s different when it’s coming from a pitcher as opposed to batting practice. It’s just different. He’s throwing 93 with tail. It’s coming in on your hands. It’s pretty tough. It’s about reps and getting comfortable with it.”

There are times Green pushes his young players and times he is all about understanding the learning curve. He was both on Sunday with Nix.

A couple minutes after putting him on blast, Green said, “There are two sides to every coin. Disappointed without a doubt. The other side is Jacob Nix had five minor league at-bats.”

Said Nix: “I have to find a way to get comfortable in the box again. ... Even when I was younger, I didn't bunt because I had pop. I hit the ball gap to gap. I'm trying to figure out the whole bunting game, the small game. I'm just going to buckle down and take it more seriously. I don't know if maybe I can find someone who wants to throw it from the mound, come out early. If they have a bullpen, maybe I can stand in and actually see it out of hand and just practice seeing it more. I just have to get more reps.”

In his nine plate appearances, Nix has struck out seven times and grounded out twice.

The Padres' 17 sacrifice bunts by their pitchers rank third-to-last in the [National League](#).

“It costs us,” Green said. “Teams see the way we handle the bat, and they're so far down our throat right now, we don't even have an opportunity to get it done. That's something we have to get on earlier in the process.”

Staff writer Jeff Sanders contributed to this report.

Minors Tom Cosgrove strong, but TinCaps' playoff push fizzles

Jeff Sanders

Tom Cosgrove did all he could to pitch low Single-A Fort Wayne into the postseason Monday.

The TinCaps' effort came up short.

Cosgrove struck out seven over seven strong innings before West Michigan walked off with a [3-2 win in the 10th inning over the visiting TinCaps](#).

Anthony Pereira's game-winning sacrifice fly in the 10th was charged to right-hander **Evan Miller**, who allowed two runs in 1 1/3 innings in the loss.

Left-hander **Dan Dallas** (3.00) pitched a scoreless eighth after Cosgrove – a 12th-round pick in 2017 out of Manhattan – allowed a run on seven hits and a walk in the start.

Cosgrove was 3-6 with a 3.71 ERA, 122 strikeouts and a 1.40 WHIP in 116 1/3 innings.

Esteury Ruiz (.253) collected three hits and swiped his 49th base and left fielder **Jack Suwinski** (.255) went 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored.

Fort Wayne finished its second 64-74 overall and 32-37 in the second half.

West Michigan won the Eastern Division's second-half wild card.

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (82-57)

- **Tacoma 5, Chihuahuas 4:** RHP **Colin Rea** (5.08) struck out five and allowed four runs – three earned – on six hits and two walks in five innings in the start. RHP **Carter Capps** (1-1, 1.00) allowed an unearned run in the seventh to take the loss. LF **Shane Peterson** (.286) went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs and RF **Forrestt Allday** (.281) and DH **Francisco Mejia** (.328) both had two hits. El Paso will begin a best-of-five playoff series Wednesday at home against Fresno.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (29-39, 71-67)

- **Corpus Christi 8, Missions 1:** RHP **Jason Jester** (2-4, 4.33) allowed five runs in one-third of an innings after RHP **Chris Huffman** (2.86) allowed a run in five innings in the start. SS **Matthew Batten** (.260) went 2-for-2 with an RBI, a walk and his 11th steal. RHP **Michel Baez** will start Wednesday's playoff opener at Corpus Christi.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (34-36, 68-72)

- **Storm 6, Lancaster 5:** RHP **Reggie Lawson** (8-5, 4.69) struck out six and allowed three runs on three hits and five walks in five innings in the win. 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.239) went 4-for-5 with two runs and his ninth steal and 1B **Brad Zunica** hit his 17th homer and drove in three runs on three hit. The Storm did not qualify for the playoffs.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (17-21, 35-41)

- **Everett 8, Dust Devils 3:** RHP **Manny Guzman** (1-1, 6.14) allowed six runs – five earned – in 2 1/3 innings. 1B **Justin Paulsen** (.230) singled and hit his fifth homer, 3B **Luke Becker** (.206) went 3-for-3 with two RBIs and a walk and C **Alison Quintero** (.286) had two hits. Tri-City did not make the playoffs.

Mitchell handles D-backs in return from DL

Right-hander allows one run in five innings; Reyes homers twice

By AJ Cassavell

PHOENIX -- [Bryan Mitchell](#) returned to the Padres' rotation on Monday with newfound opportunity sitting squarely in front of him.

Forget the early-season struggles, in which Mitchell saw his ERA soar above 7 after the right-hander was a pivotal piece in a December trade with the Yankees. Here was Mitchell, given another chance to earn his place in the San Diego rotation after missing three months with a right elbow impingement.

It will take more than one impressive outing for Mitchell to win a long-term place. But on Monday night, at least, he earned further opportunity. Mitchell pitched five innings of one-run ball in the Padres' 6-2 victory over the D-backs at Chase Field.

"I'm just trying to take things one start at a time," said Mitchell. "I know nothing's guaranteed at this point. But it's definitely a good stepping stone moving forward. Tonight felt really good after the way the season's gone for me. I needed that one."

[Franmil Reyes](#) provided the early offense, powering up for his [first career multi-homer game](#) with a three-run shot in the second and a solo blast in the fourth. Reyes' first homer of the night came after D-backs starter [Zack Godley](#) had walked [Eric Hosmer](#) and [Wil Myers](#). Godley then came inside with a fastball and jammed Reyes.

"He still muscles it out to right-center," said Padres manager Andy Green, practically speaking in disbelief. "There's not a lot of guys that can do that. When you can mis-hit balls out of the ballpark, you start to get in a category with very few hitters in the big leagues."

[Austin Hedges](#) tacked on a two-run single in the eighth, and the bullpen did enough to make a winner out of Mitchell, who threw 55 of his 83 pitches for strikes and really couldn't harness his curveball (typically his best pitch).

"It wasn't as sharp as I would've liked," Mitchell said. "But I was throwing it enough to keep them off the fastball."

Mitchell threw his heater at a 70-percent clip, and the fastball-heavy diet worked to great success. Arizona hitters squared him up in the first inning, when he allowed his only run on a [Steven Souza Jr.](#) single, but rarely did so after that.

"Especially with the two-seamer tonight, it's definitely an eye-opener moving forward," Mitchell said. "Just be aggressive with that in the zone, get some plate and not try and be too fine with things."

Mitchell's rotation place remains tenuous. The Padres' six-man staff features four rookies, and the organization is still very interested in watching them over the season's final four weeks.

In that regard, the schedule doesn't fall kindly. San Diego has five off-days remaining. Keeping a six-man rotation could mean wide gaps between outings for starting pitchers.

"If they have six or seven days off in between, it's not going to hurt them at this point in the season," said Green. "I don't think we have a huge plan to alter this rotation. [Mitchell] did a solid job today, and we want him to continue to build off it."

YATES RETURNS WITH SCORELESS NINTH

The Padres reinstated closer [Kirby Yates](#) from the bereavement list prior to Monday's game. There was no save situation Monday night, but Yates worked a scoreless ninth anyway, punching out [Ketel Marte](#) and [Jon Jay](#) on his trademark splitter to end the game.

Yates was one of two roster moves the Padres made on Monday. They also activated righty [Luis Perdomo](#) (right-shoulder strain) from the disabled list, bringing their active roster to 28 players. Perdomo is expected to pitch out of the bullpen.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

Rookie left-hander [Jose Castillo](#) has been excellent since his June callup, and he was particularly effective on Monday night. Castillo worked 1 2/3 scoreless innings in relief, lowering his ERA to 2.76 in 29 1/3 innings this season. His outing was highlighted by a filthy back-foot slider to strike out pinch-hitter [Christian Walker](#) in the seventh. The pitched trailed so far inside that Walker swung over it and fell to his right knee in doing so.

RENFROE KEEPS RAKING

Hunter Renfroe's red-hot August has spilled into September. The Padres left fielder struck out in his first three at-bats Monday, but he lined a 112-mph rocket to left field in the eighth inning, extending his hitting streak to a career-high 11 games. Since the beginning of August, Renfroe is hitting .305 with 11 home runs.

HE SAID IT

"It was tough to sit for three months. But luckily over the last month I was pitching every five days [on a rehab assignment]. I got six starts in, so I ironed out a couple little things and got into a decent rhythm." -- *Mitchell*

UP NEXT

Left-hander [Joey Lucchesi](#) takes the ball Tuesday for the second of the Padres' two games in Arizona this week. He's looking to build on an excellent showing against Seattle in which he allowed one run over 6 2/3 innings and 108 pitches -- both career highs. Left-hander [Robbie Ray](#) takes the ball for the D-backs with first pitch slated for 6:40 p.m. PT.

Reyes goes yard twice for 1st multi-HR game

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- [Franmil Reyes](#) is making a statement. It's about as loud as the homers he hits.

There's no obvious long-term place in the Padres' outfield for the 23-year-old. But there certainly will be if he stays red-hot like he is right now.

In Monday night's [6-2 Padres victory](#) over Arizona, Reyes crushed home runs in each of his first two at-bats against D-backs starter [Zack Godley](#). It's his first career two-homer game, and Reyes is now hitting .407 with six homers during his nine-game hitting streak.

"He's smart, he understands the game, he thinks the game," Padres manager Andy Green said. "He's going to continue to grow because of that. He's hungry to be a great hitter."

The Padres put two men aboard in the second inning when Godley tried to come inside on Reyes with a fastball. Reyes inside-outed the ball and still cleared the right-center field fence.

"He still muscles it out to right-center," said Green. "There's not a lot of guys that can do that. When you can mis-hit balls out of the ballpark, you start to get in a category with very few hitters in the big leagues."

Reyes offered a sheepish grin when asked how he managed to get that particular pitch out of the yard to that part of the park.

"You guys cannot be surprised," he said. "You know my power."

In the fourth, Godley hung a 3-2 curveball that Reyes sent over the left-center-field fence. He has 15 homers this season for the Padres, on top of the 16 he hit for Triple-A El Paso.

Perhaps equally impressive was the 2-2 curveball that Reyes laid off, which ended up just off the plate. Reyes noted that he'd dissected film on Godley and expected the curve in that spot, enabling him to take. (Sitting curveball is also why Reyes went to the opposite field with Godley's second-inning fastball.)

Reyes' surge coincides with a similar hot streak for [Hunter Renfroe](#), who has seemingly solidified his place in the Padres' outfield. With [Wil Myers](#), [Manuel Margot](#), [Franchy Cordero](#) and [Travis Jankowski](#) also serving as long-term outfield options, Reyes is going to have to earn every bit of playing time he gets.

Right now, he's doing precisely that.

Wil Myers contrite over online remarks on Green

By AJ Cassavell

PHOENIX -- Padres slugger [Wil Myers](#) has apologized for an online video in which he's heard criticizing manager Andy Green for holding extra defensive drills before a game last week.

In the video, which has since been deleted, second baseman [Carlos Asuaje](#) -- currently with Triple-A El Paso -- is streaming himself as he plays Fortnite, a popular video game. Myers' voice is also heard in the stream.

"The Padres are doing cutoff and relays tomorrow at 3 o'clock -- in *September*, dude," Myers is heard saying.

He continued: "Oh my god. It's so miserable, man. It's insane. Andy could not be any worse than he is right now."

"Dude," Asuaje interjects, "I'm streaming this."

Before their games on Thursday and Friday against Colorado, the Padres went through an assortment of fielding drills, which included cutoffs and relays. The drills, typically reserved for Spring Training, were an effort for a young team to hone its fundamentals after some recent mishaps.

Green and Myers met to discuss the incident Monday morning, and Myers expressed remorse.

"I love Andy, and I love playing for him," Myers said. "He's a guy that has taught me a lot in this game. At times, you get into a mood where you get frustrated, no matter what's going on with a team or individually, and you say some things you shouldn't say in a conversation that you think's private. The reality is, now we're in 2018. ... I'm incredibly sorry, obviously to Andy, to my teammates, to the fans. This is a distraction we don't need."

Both Green and Myers said the incident was quashed by their meeting. Green understood Myers' words were never meant for public consumption. In a long season, Green said, players often gripe privately about extra work. Who, Green added, hasn't complained about being assigned extra work by his or her boss?

"There were no excuses," Green said. "There was just ownership and an apology. There was, on my end, an understanding I've done the same thing to my boss at some point in time in my life. It just wasn't 2018, where everything's recorded or streamed live."

Myers' comments came after the Padres were swept in Los Angeles on Aug. 24-26. Green scheduled team defensive drills prior to last week's series against the Rockies -- a way to address a handful of recent fundamental breakdowns.

"For us, we're pretty determined to create some accountability and standards, and sometimes that asks for certain drills to be done at certain times of the year, even if it's not pleasant or fun or normal to do them at that time of year," Green said.

When Myers first saw the video of his comments on Twitter, he said, "My stomach dropped."

"I can't say those types of things, even if it is in private," Myers said. "Obviously, I'm terribly sorry about it. You can't complain about drills, especially when you're trying to get better. It was not even necessarily about the drill or Andy himself. That was just coming off being swept in L.A., and there was some frustration there."

Green, who played 11 professional seasons as a utility infielder, can relate to that.

"Chip Hale probably impacted my career more positively than any other professional coach or manager I've had," Green said. "I remember specifically complaining like crazy to teammates when he made me go out in August to do PFPs and turn double plays with pitchers in 120-degree weather in Tucson. I didn't understand that."

"I was upset, I was frustrated. I didn't want to do that. I complained. Does that make me the worst person in the world? No. It makes me just like pretty much everybody else that looked at their boss at some point in time and said, 'Why are you making me do this?' I think we've all done that."

Myers was in the lineup against Arizona on Monday, batting fifth.

Three weeks ago, Myers moved from the outfield to third base, where he's played every game since. Ultimately, the Padres have plans for him to become a versatile roster piece who can shift between third and the outfield, where he's spent most of his six-year career.

"He came in immediately today, apologized, took ownership, and at the end of the day, I love Wil," Green said. "Wil's worked incredibly hard to learn how to play third base. He's putting in work. He's not afraid of the work."

"We have different vantage points. His is focused on himself playing well. Mine is focused on the whole 25 guys -- or 28 guys, whatever. Sometimes we ask for everybody to be a part of something so some people can improve on it."

Thus far, it's been a struggle for Myers at third base, where he's committed five errors in 16 games -- though that was perhaps to be expected, considering the demands of the position. Myers is hitting .254/.310/.462 in 61 games this season, as he's spent time on the DL with arm, oblique and foot injuries.

Green is in his third season as manager of the Padres, who are 54-85 this year.

Reyes homers twice, Padres knock off Diamondbacks 6-2

Associated Press

PHOENIX -- [Bryan Mitchell](#)'s strong return to San Diego's rotation and a big boost from [Franmil Reyes](#)' bat put Arizona in a deeper hole in the NL West.

Reyes homered twice and had four RBI, Mitchell pitched five effective innings in his return from the DL and the Padres knocked off the playoff-contending Diamondbacks 6-2 Monday night.

"I just tried to take one pitch at a time and not really let things speed up," said Mitchell, who earned his first win since April 12, 2017. "It had been a while so that first inning was kind of different, but we were able to get out with one run, limit the damage there. I definitely settled in after that."

Mitchell (1-3) was sharp in his first start off the DL due to a right elbow impingement, holding the Diamondbacks to a run on two hits -- all in the first inning.

Reyes hit a three-run homer off [Zack Godley](#) (14-8) in the second inning and a solo shot off the right-hander in the fourth. [Austin Hedges](#) added a two-run single in the eighth inning for the Padres, who have won five of seven.

Reyes had his first career multihomer game and has homered in five of the past nine games to extend his hitting streak to nine games.

"He looks really confident in the batter's box," Padres manager Andy Reid said. "I can't really think of anybody in big league baseball who has as much pop or more pop than him."

[Steven Souza Jr.](#) had a run-scoring single in the first inning and [Paul Goldschmidt](#) an RBI double in the eighth for Arizona. The Diamondbacks were limited to five hits in their fourth loss in five games, dropping two games behind Colorado in the NL West.

"This is a group of guys that have done it before. They have done it this year at times," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. "It obviously hasn't been as consistent as we have seen it. The same theme I have been talking about. Grind it out, keep getting after it, stay with the process. If it is not there for you, hand it off to the next guy."

The Diamondbacks returned to the desert after a difficult trip to Southern California. Arizona entered a four-game series with the Dodgers atop the division and left a game back after Los Angeles won three of four. All three losses came when the Dodgers rallied late, including [Matt Kemp](#)'s two walk-off hits off [Archie Bradley](#).

The Diamondbacks found themselves needing to rally after Godley walked the first two batters of the second inning and Reyes followed with a three-run homer to the pool deck in right-center to put San Diego up 3-1.

Godley gave up two hits for the second straight start, but both were home runs. He allowed four runs and struck out six in five innings.

"I felt like I made really, really good pitches," Godley said. "I made two bad pitches on the night. Both of them I paid for."

LOPEZ RECALLED

The Diamondbacks recalled RHP Yoan Lopez from Double-A Jackson and transferred 3B Jake Lamb to the 60-day disabled list. Arizona signed Lopez to an \$8.27 million bonus coming out of Cuba in 2015, but he spent four seasons in the minors and at one time considered leaving baseball. The 25-year-old was 2-5 with 12 saves and led Southern League relievers in opponent average at .174. Lamb had season-ending left shoulder surgery last month.

PADRES MOVES

San Diego reinstated RHP [Luis Perdomo](#) (right shoulder) from the 10-day disabled list and RHP [Kirby Yates](#) from the bereavement list. Both will work in the Padres' bullpen.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Diamondbacks: Catcher [Alex Avila](#) had a foul ball bounce off the dirt and hit him in the throat in the third inning, but stayed in the game before being replaced by a pinch hitter in the seventh.

UP NEXT

Diamondbacks LHP [Robbie Ray](#) has allowed three runs or less his past five starts heading into Tuesday's game against the Padres. San Diego LHP [Joey Lucchesi](#) is winless in four career starts against the Diamondbacks with a 7.71 ERA.

Padres' Wil Myers apologizes for comments critical of manager Andy Green

ESPN

[San Diego Padres](#) outfielder [Wil Myers](#) apologized on Monday for recent comments that were critical of extra drills commissioned by manager Andy Green.

In video that began circulating Sunday on social media, Myers's voice can be heard on Padres minor leaguer Carlos Asuaje's live stream of the video game Fortnite.

"The Padres are doing cutoff and relays tomorrow at 3 o'clock -- in September, dude," Myers can be heard saying, according to MLB.com. Myers also said: "Oh my god. It's so miserable, man. It's insane. Andy could not be any worse than he is right now." On Monday, Myers told reporters that he was sorry for his remarks.

"I love Andy, and I love playing for him," Myers said. "He's a guy that has taught me a lot in this game. At times, you get into a mood where you get frustrated, no matter what's going on with a team or individually, and you say some things you shouldn't say in a conversation that you think's private.

"The reality is, now we're in 2018. ... I'm incredibly sorry, obviously to Andy, to my teammates, to the fans. This is a distraction we don't need."

Green said he considered the incident forgotten.

"He came in immediately today, apologized, took ownership, and at the end of the day, I love Wil," Green said. "We have different vantage points. His is focused on himself playing well. Mine is focused on the whole 25 guys -- or 28 guys, whatever. Sometimes we ask for everybody to be a part of something so some people can improve on it."

#PadresOnDeck: AAA–El Paso C Francisco Mejía Homers in 4– hit Game

San Antonio reaches Double–A Texas
League playoffs

By Bill Center

Catcher **Francisco Mejía** continued his hot hitting for Triple-A El Paso, going 4-for-5 Sunday with his seventh homer in 30 games since joining the Chihuahuas.

Mejía, ranked the [Padres' No.3 prospect by MLB Pipeline](#), had three RBIs and three runs scored. He has 23 RBIs for El Paso with a .322 batting average.

There were a number of excellent performances in the Padres system Sunday.

But before we review those, Double-A San Antonio qualified for the Texas League playoffs Sunday, joining Triple-A El Paso in post-season play. And Single-A Fort Wayne will play at Western Michigan Monday in the final day of the minor league regular season with the winner going to the Midwest League playoffs.

First, a look at some top pitching performances Sunday:

- Right-handed pitcher **Cal Quantrill**, 23, the [Padres' No.10 prospect](#), allowed one run on six hits and no walks with three strikeouts in five innings to pick up the win for El Paso Sunday. He is 3–1 with a 3.48 earned run average since being promoted to El Paso from San Antonio.
- Starting left-hander **Ryan Weathers**, 18, the Padres' first-round pick (seventh overall) in this past June's draft and already the [team's ninth-ranked prospect](#), allowed a run on three hits and no walks or strikeouts in three innings for Single-A Fort Wayne to keep his ERA at 3.00.
- Right-handed reliever **Gabe Mosser** (1–1, 0.00 ERA) allowed an unearned run on three hits and a walk with five strikeouts over five innings for Fort Wayne to suffer the loss.
- Starting right-hander **Jesse Scholtens**, 24, (3.00 ERA) allowed no runs on two hits and two walks with five strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings for San Antonio.
- Right-hander reliever **Caleb Boushley**, 24, (1–1, 3.09 ERA) pitched five shutout innings in a spot start for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore, allowing on three hits and no walks with five strikeouts in five innings to earn the win for the Storm.
- Right-handed starter **Adrian Martinez**, 21, (4–5, 6.00 ERA) allowed a run on four hits and a walk with three strikeouts in five innings for Short-Season Single-A Tri-City to earn his first win.

Turning to other hitters:

- Second baseman **Carlos Asuaje** (.322) was 3-for-4 for the Chihuahuas Sunday, going 3-for-5 with a double, a RBI and a run scored.

— Center fielder **Edward Olivares**, 22, the [Padres' No.28 prospect](#), was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a run scored for Lake Elsinore to raise his batting average to .278.

— Center fielder **Jeisson Rosario**, 18, was 2-for-4 with a double for Fort Wayne to raise his batting average to .273.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (82–56): CHIHUAHUAS 9, Tacoma 4—El Paso extended its single-season win total. RHP **Carter Capps** (1.13 ERA) followed Quantrill and issued a walk with a strikeout in an otherwise perfect inning. LHP **Jerry Keel** (.4.68) allowed three runs on six hits and a walk with a strikeout in two innings. RHP **Kyle Lloyd** (5.59) struck out one in a perfect ninth. 3B **Ty France** (.289) backed Mejía and Asuaje, going 2-for-4 with a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. RF **Auston Bousfield** (.239) was 2-for-4 with a walk and two runs scored. CF **Dusty Coleman** (.205) was 2-for-4 with a double and a RBI. SS **Javy Guerra** (.225) had a double in four at-bats with a run scored. 1B **Brett Nicholas** (.292) was 1-for-5 with a RBI. DH **Allen Craig** (.296) was 2-for-5.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (29–38, 71–66): Corpus Christi 2, SAN ANTONIO 0—The Hooks win gave Corpus Christi the title in both halves of the Texas League's Southern Division season and moved San Antonio into the playoffs with the second-best overall record. The best-of-5 Southern Division Championship Series starts Wednesday in Corpus Christi. RHP **Seth Simmons** (1–1, 3.00) followed Quantrill and allowed two runs on four hits and a walk with a strikeout in two innings to suffer the loss. RHP **Eric Yardley**(3.43) worked a perfect two-thirds of an inning. LF **Josh Naylor** (.297) and 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.273) were each 1-for-3 with a walk. C **Austin Allen**(.292) and 2B **Peter Van Gansen** (.255) were each 1-for-4.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (33–36, 67–72): STORM 4, Lancaster 2—SS **Eguy Rosario** (.232) backed Olivares, going 2-for-3

with a walk. C **Luis Torrens** (.280) was 1-for-4 with two RBIs. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.246) was 1-for-4 with a RBI. LF **Hunter Jarmon** (.214) was 1-for-3 with a run scored. 3B **Luis Guzman** (.139) was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. 2B **Chris Baker** (.252) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. LHP **Ben Sheckler** (10.36 ERA) followed Boushley and allowed two runs on five hits and a walk with two strikeouts in 2 1/3 innings. RHP **David Bednar** (2.73) allowed two hits with four strikeouts in 1 2/3 scoreless innings to earn his 10th save.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (32–36, 64–73): WEST MICHIGAN 2, Tin Caps 1–2B **Kelvin Melean** (.247) was 0-for-3 with a hit-by-pitch and scored a run. LF **Jack Suwinski** (.253) was 0-for-4 with a RBI. 3B **Owen Miller** (.353), DH **Esteury Ruiz** (.249) and C **Michael Cantu** (.214) were all 1-for-4.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (17–20, 35–40): Dust Devils 5, EVERETT 3—LF **Luis Asuncion** (.245) was 2-for-4 with a homer and three RBIs. SS **Xavier Edwards** (.273) was 2-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. 2B **Kelvin Alarcon** (.179) was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and a stolen base. DH **Blake Hunt** (.271) had a double in three at-bats with a run scored. CF **Tre Carter** (.223) was 1-for-4 with a RBI. 3B **Luke Becker** (.191) was 1-for-4. CF **Angel Solarte** (.273) was 1-for-5 with a run scored. RHP **Spencer Kulman** (3.25) followed Martinez and allowed two runs on four hits with three strikeouts in 2 2/3 innings. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** (0.00) struck out two in a perfect 1 1/3 innings for his eighth save.

Reyes homers twice, Mitchell earns first win as Padres beat DBacks 6-2

AP

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