



Padres Press Clips

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Padres' Clayton Richard shipped to Toronto for minor leaguer

Jeff Sanders

Clayton Richard's second stay in San Diego has officially come to an end.

The Padres traded the veteran left-hander and \$1.5 million on Sunday to the Blue Jays in exchange for minor league outfielder Connor Panas. Richard, 34, was designated for assignment when the Padres signed free agent Ian Kinsler to bounce between second and third base.

The 25-year-old Panas, a left-handed hitter, paired a .232/.296/.359 batting line with nine homers, 39 RBIs and four steals in 105 games in the Double-A Eastern League in 2018. He hit a career-high 18 homers a year earlier in the Florida State League and 16 the season before that in the Midwest League.

Panas — who was unprotected and not selected in the Rule 5 draft — was originally Toronto's ninth-round pick in 2015 out of Canisius.

Richard is due \$3 million in 2019 in the second year of a two-year deal. He was 7-11 with a 5.33 ERA, 108 strikeouts and a 1.38 WHIP in 158 2/3 innings before surgeries on both knees ended his campaign in September.

A year earlier, Richard threw two complete games but led the majors with 240 hits allowed.

Padres roster review: Joey Lucchesi

Jeff Sanders

Sizing up the [Padres'](#) 40-man roster, from A to Z, heading into the 2019 season:

JOEY LUCCHESI

- **Position(s):** Left-handed starting pitcher
- **2019 Opening Day age:** 25
- **Bats/throws:** L / L
- **Height/weight:** 6-foot-4 / 204 pounds
- **Acquired:** Fourth round in 2016 (Southeast Missouri State)
- **Contract status:** Made [MLB](#) debut in 2018 (league minimum was \$545,000); will not be arbitration-eligible until 2021 at the earliest.
- **Key stats:** 8-9, 4.08 ERA, 145 strikeouts, 43 walks, 1.29 WHIP, .254 opponent average (26 starts, 130 innings)

STAT TO NOTE

- **3.79** – The percent of curveballs thrown by Lucchesi in 2018 according to [BrooksBaseball.net](#), although Lucchesi blending his curve and change-up into a “churve” allows for plenty of variance when it comes to charting pitches. With Lucchesi throwing his fastball 64 percent of the time and a his change-up 32 percent of the time, the search for a usable third pitch is a big point in his development. Opponents slugged .500 against that curve, .475 against his four-seamer and .367 against his change-up.

TRENDING

- **Up** – Ranked ninth in the Padres system by [Baseball America](#) after the 2017 season, Lucchesi became the first pitcher from the 2016 draft class to make the

majors when **Dinelson Lamet's** elbow injury forced him to start the second game of the season. The only starts he missed after that was because of a right hip strain that cost him 32 games and a tune-up game during the all-star break. He ranked third among rookies in strikeouts, tied for fourth in starts, tied for fifth in wins and sixth in innings and, among all MLB pitchers with at least 25 starts and 130 innings, Lucchesi allowed fewer base-runners (172) than everyone outside **Chris Sale, Jordan Zimmerman** and **Clayton Kershaw** (170). The de facto ace of the Padres staff – they ranked last in the NL in ERA (5.09) – earned the yearlong stay after posting a 1.66 ERA through his first four starts and averaging a Padres-rotation-best 10.0 strikeouts per nine innings. Three times, he struck out nine batters in a game and his ERA was as low as 3.59 on Sept. 4 before allowing seven homers over his final four starts (6.86 ERA).

2019 OUTLOOK

- As up in the air as the 2019 rotation is, Padres manager **Andy Green** said at the winter meetings that Lucchesi's 2018 campaign gives him a leg-up in the upcoming competition for innings. Lucchesi can improve his stock even further with more length (he averaged five innings per start) and better numbers the second (.758 OPS) and third time through the order (.958 OPS), which he could accomplish with the development of a third pitch (see above) and again approaching mid-90s velocity as he did in the minors (Lucchesi largely sat 90-91 mph in 2018). He'll get every chance to start the season in the rotation. How long he stays depends on how he stacks up against a horde of prospect arms on the cusp of competing for big league jobs,

PADRES POWER RANKINGS

(Currently 40 players on the 40-man roster)

1. [Eric Hosmer](#)
2. [Austin Hedges](#)
3. [Franchy Cordero](#)
4. [Joey Lucchesi](#)

5. Ian Kinsler
6. Eric Lauer
7. Dinelson Lamet
8. Jose Castillo
9. Anderson Espinoza
10. Travis Jankowski
11. Robbie Erlin
12. Miguel Diaz
13. Greg Garcia
14. Austin Allen
15. Pedro Avila
16. Brett Kennedy
17. Ty France
18. Javy Guerra

Removed from the roster

- Carlos Asuaje (claimed by the [Rangers](#))

4 key needs for Padres before Spring Training

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Dec. 30th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- By A.J. Preller's lofty standards, it's been a very slow offseason.

The Padres' general manager added **Ian Kinsler** and **Garrett Richards** in December, and he made a handful of Minor League transactions. But he's done little else this winter, and the San Diego roster still has quite a few question marks.

With the calendar set to turn to 2019, here's a to-do list for Preller and the Padres before pitchers and catchers report to Peoria on Feb. 13:

1. Find an infielder

Could be a shortstop. Could be a third baseman. Could be someone who plays both spots. But the Padres need to solidify the left side of their infield, and Kinsler alone does not do the trick.

Sure, the 36-year-old veteran will get some reps at third during Spring Training. Plus, when he plays second, his presence will allow for **Luis Urias** to slide to shortstop. That still leaves one opening. And the club would rather not count on **Ty France** and **Greg Garcia** to fill it.

Of course, any addition the Padres make in their infield comes with the caveat that **Fernando Tatis Jr.** could arrive before June. The game's **top-ranked shortstop prospect**, according to MLB Pipeline, would force Urias back to second base (and Kinsler into a fight for playing time at third). But the Padres still need to find a plan for third base and/or shortstop before Tatis' arrival.

2. Design a roadmap for Wil Myers

In his four seasons in San Diego, Myers has moved from center field to first base to left field and, most recently, to third base. What's the plan for 2019? That's anyone's guess.

Myers is one of a handful of Padres outfielders on the trade block. But right now it seems likely he remains in San Diego. (The organization feels as though it'd be selling low on Myers after an injury-plagued 2018 campaign in which he never got rolling.) Assuming he returns, the Padres want to have a defined plan for Myers entering camp. He'd either be a full-time outfielder, a full-time third baseman or a hybrid between the two.

Third base is currently the Padres' weakest offensive position, and left field is arguably their deepest spot. But it's not as simple as slotting Myers at third and calling it a day. He struggled immensely there last season.

It's possible Myers bounces back with a full offseason's worth of work at third base. It's also possible the Padres ask Myers to bounce between the two spots, giving them greater lineup flexibility. But it seems most likely that San Diego (and the rest of the league) views Myers as an outfielder -- in which case the Friars simply have too many of them.

3. Trade an outfielder

The Padres currently have six outfielders who have played meaningful starting roles in the last two seasons. It's hard to envision all six entering camp with the club, though Preller was quick to point out that he'd be just fine with doing so.

"You're creating competition, which is something we've pushed here in general the last few years," Preller said. "... Hopefully that would bring out the best in all of those guys."

If Myers ends up in the outfield, that gives San Diego three slugging, right-handed-hitting corner outfielders in **Franmil Reyes**, **Hunter Renfroe** and Myers. They have the lefty **Franchy Cordero**, who could regularly spell the starters at all three spots (including **Manuel Margot** in center field). And **Travis Jankowski** is a perfect speed-and-defense bench option.

Depth clearly isn't an issue. And that would seemingly leave Myers, Renfroe and Reyes on the block. With Reyes coming off surgery to address a torn meniscus in his right knee, his trade stock might be down, leaving Renfroe and Myers as the two most likely options to be moved.

4. Add to the rotation

The Padres' interest in **Chris Archer** at the Trade Deadline was legitimate. Their interest in **Noah Syndergaard** earlier this offseason was, too. They've got a deep group of prospects (and, as mentioned above, some high-upside outfielders) to deal from. They'd like to find a front-of-the-rotation-caliber starter, provided he's got a few years of team control remaining.

That might not happen this offseason, with the Mets seemingly backing off of their willingness to move Syndergaard. But it's also unlikely that the Padres stand pat. They're very much a part of trade talks for the Yankees' **Sonny Gray**, and they're going to be active in searching for a free-agent bargain, too.

The makings of their 2020 rotation are coming into focus. **Dinelson Lamet** and Richards are due back from Tommy John surgery this year. **Eric Lauer** and **Joey Lucchesi** might progress after solid rookie seasons in '18. Big-name prospects like **Logan Allen** and **Chris Paddack** could arrive on the scene. The Padres want an anchor for that bunch, and if they can land that anchor one year early -- all the better.

Padres send Richard to Toronto for prospect

By Chad Thornburg MLB.com

Dec. 30th, 2018

The Blue Jays on Sunday acquired left-hander **Clayton Richard** and cash considerations from the Padres in exchange for outfielder Connor Panas.

Richard, 35, was **designated for assignment** by San Diego last week to clear space on the roster for **Ian Kinsler**. The Padres will cover half of Richard's remaining \$3 million salary, according to MLB.com's AJ Cassavell.

Richard, whose 60.3 ground-ball rate is tops in the National League over the past four seasons, went 7-1 with a 5.33 ERA in 27 starts for the Padres in 2018. The club brought Richard back for a second stint in August 2016 after he was released by the Cubs, then it re-signed him that offseason.

Richard is now the front-runner for the final spot in the Blue Jays' starting rotation behind **Marcus Stroman**, **Aaron Sanchez**, **Ryan Borucki** and the recently signed **Matt Shoemaker**. Richard could, however, face competition from rookies **Sean Reid-Foley**, **Thomas Pannone** and **Trent Thornton**.

If Richard doesn't claim a rotation spot, the veteran could be an option for the bullpen with **Tim Mayza** as the only left-hander on Toronto's 40-man roster. Richard has primarily been a starter throughout his 10-year Major League career, but he's made 65 relief appearances, most of them coming with the Cubs from 2015-16.

Panas, 25, spent the 2018 season with Double-A New Hampshire. He hit .232/.296/.359 with 16 doubles, nine home runs and 39 RBIs in 105 games. The Blue Jays selected the Toronto native in the ninth round of the 2015 MLB Draft.

To make room for Richard on the 40-man roster, the Blue Jays designated right-hander **Oliver Drake** for assignment. It's the eighth time he's been DFA'd since the start of the 2017 season. Drake played for five different clubs in 2018, and he pitched in two games with Toronto in July. He passed through the Twins and Rays organizations before he rejoined the Blue Jays when they claimed him off waivers from Tampa Bay in late November.

Reyes had one of the best debuts in 2018

Statcast highlights what was special about these 1st-year players

By Andrew Simon MLB.com [@AndrewSimonMLB](#)

Dec. 27th, 2018

As **prospects** work their way through the Minor Leagues, we hear a lot about tools. One guy possesses huge power, another can run like the wind, and a third shows off a cannon for an arm.

When those prospects finally arrive in the Majors, the tools come to life before our eyes, and we can finally watch them blast 450-foot home runs, race around the bases, or throw a runner out at the plate.

There were many position players who gave fans an exciting first look at their standout skills in 2018. **Statcast™**, which tracks every movement on the field, was there to capture, quantify and contextualize.

Here is a look at 10 players who debuted in MLB this past season, and the stats that show why they bear watching moving forward. (Players are listed in descending order of games played in 2018).

Franmil Reyes, RF, Padres

Key stat: 477-foot max HR distance

Reyes is listed at 6-foot-5, 275 pounds, and he looks every bit of it. Unsurprisingly, then, he can hit the ball a long ways when he makes solid contact. On Aug. 5 at Wrigley Field, Reyes did just that, crushing a **Jon Lester** pitch over the center-field batters eye and nearly off a TV camera perched above it. Projected at 477 feet, it was the **seventh-longest homer** of 2018. Reyes also hit two others at least 440 feet, and was one of nine players to homer multiple times with an exit velocity of 114 mph or higher.

Sources: Padres in trade talks for Kluber

By Jon Paul Morosi MLB.com [@jonmorosi](#)

Dec. 26th, 2018

The Dodgers **have been linked** to **Corey Kluber** in trade talks as much as any other suitor this offseason. But another National League West club has emerged as a strong contender to land Cleveland's two-time Cy Young Award winner.

The Padres and Indians are engaged in discussions about a trade that would send Kluber to San Diego, sources told MLB.com, although one person with knowledge of the talks does not believe the Padres have eclipsed the Dodgers as favorites to land Kluber -- yet.

The Padres can offer what the Indians may need to justify moving Kluber: Major League talent. One source said Cleveland's return in the deal could include one or more from a group of three young Major Leaguers: outfielders **Manuel Margot** and **Hunter Renfroe** and catcher **Austin Hedges**.

Cleveland likely would obtain at least one prospect as well, although shortstop **Fernando Tatis Jr.** and lefty MacKenzie Gore (San Diego's **top two prospects**) are not expected to be involved in a Kluber deal.

The Indians and Padres have a good working relationship, which led to Cleveland's acquisition of relievers **Brad Hand** and **Adam Cimber** in July.

The Padres also have spoken with the Blue Jays about trading for **Marcus Stroman**, but it appears there's more momentum in San Diego's talks involving Kluber.

Kluber, 32, was originally selected by the Padres in the fourth round of the 2007 MLB Draft out of Stetson University. He was sent to Cleveland on July 31, 2010, in a three-team trade with the Cardinals and Indians that brought outfielder Ryan Ludwick to San Diego.

In addition to the Padres and Dodgers, the Phillies, Brewers and Reds are showing continued interest in Kluber, sources say.

Reyes among names you learned in 2018

By Will Leitch MLB.com [@williamfleitch](#)

Dec. 26th, 2018

Remember that, at one point, you had no idea how to pronounce "Cespedes," or "Goldschmidt," or "Andrelton," or "Yelich." At one brief moment in your life, you actually thought, "There's a baseball player named *Trout*? Is he related to Steve?" Our baseball stars are household names now, but they weren't always. One year, they just *emerged*.

As we look back at 2018 during the final days of the year, we thought it might be fun and instructive to look back at the 10 players who, at this time last year, few but the most die-hard of baseball fans knew the names of ... and now are a part of our baseball history forever. All it takes is one year to etch their names in our minds forever. Here are 10 players who did that etching in 2018.

(And sorry, even though he was a rookie, we're not counting **Shohei Ohtani**. We all knew who

Franmil Reyes

The Padres have a ton of young talent working its way toward the Majors, but one of their more intriguing players is one of their most pleasant to watch, the massive slab of humanity that is Reyes. He showed off some truly monstrous power in 2018, hitting the ball as far as any in the game, and he's only 23 years old: Wait until he *really* grows into his body. He missed the end of the year with a knee injury, but he will be healthy in time for Spring Training. Petco Park isn't the best place to hit homers, but no park can contain this guy.

Blue Jays acquire left-hander Clayton Richard from Padres

3:11 PM PT
ESPN

The [Toronto Blue Jays](#) acquired left-hander [Clayton Richard](#) and cash considerations from the [San Diego Padres](#) on Sunday, it was announced.

Toronto will send minor league outfielder Connor Panas to San Diego.

Richard, 35, was designated for assignment last week by the Padres. He was 7-11 with a 5.33 ERA in 27 starts last season.

To make room for Richard on the roster, right-hander [Oliver Drake](#) was designated for assignment by the Blue Jays.

#PadresOnDeck: First-round Selection Ryan Weathers Leads Three Promising, High-Pick Pitchers from the 2018 Draft

[FriarWire](#) Follow

Dec 28

By Bill Center

Starting with **Ryan Weathers**, three of the Padres first seven picks in last June's draft were pitchers who quickly made their debuts at the lower echelons of the Padres' farm system.

Left-handed starter Weathers and right-handed reliever **Dylan Coleman** immediately were ranked among the Padres' top 30 prospects and each finished the season with Single-A Fort Wayne. Left-handed starter **Alexuan Vega** spent his entire first professional summer in the Arizona Rookie League.

A closer look at the first three pitchers taken by the Padres in the 2018 Draft by order of their selection:

— Ryan Weathers was the Padres' first-round pick in the 2018 Draft and the seventh overall selection. He is currently ranked the [Padres' No. 9 prospect by MLB Pipeline](#).

The son of former Major League pitcher David Weathers, Ryan was drafted out of Loretto (Tenn.) High. The 6-foot-1, 200-pound Weathers turned 19 on Dec. 17.

Ryan Weathers was named the Gatorade National High School Player of the Year for the 2018 season. He posted a 10–0 record and a 0.09 earned run average for Loretto High with 148 strikeouts in 76 innings—or 17 ½ per nine innings. In his last two high school seasons, Weathers was 18–0 with a 0.10 ERA and 259 strikeouts in 125 innings—or 18.65 strikeouts per nine innings.

Then 18-year-old Weathers made his professional debut in the Arizona Rookie League and had a 3.86 ERA, a 1.179 WHIP and a .211 opponents' batting average in four starts. He completed his

first professional season with three starts at Fort Wayne where he had a 3.00 ERA with a 1.33 WHIP over nine innings.

Weathers worked a total of 18 1/3 innings in seven starts in his first pro summer with a 3.44 ERA, a 1.25 WHIP and a .247 opponents' batting average. He had 18 strikeouts against four walks while allowing 19 hits.

— Dylan Coleman made 18 relief appearances in his first pro season between Short-Season Single-A Tri-City and Fort Wayne.

The 22-year-old Coleman was the Padres' fourth-round pick out of Missouri State University. The 6-foot-5, 215-pound right-hander is a native of Potosi, Mo., and played at Potosi High. He is ranked the [Padres' No.26 prospect](#).

Coleman was promoted to Fort Wayne after just five games with the Dust Devils in the Northwest League. With the TinCaps, Coleman had a 3.24 ERA, a 1.38 WHIP and a .226 opponents' batting average for the TinCaps with 22 strikeouts in just 16 2/3 innings—or 11.9 per nine innings.

Overall, Coleman had a 3.18 ERA, a 1.37 WHIP and a .238 opponents' batting average in 2018 with 29 strikeouts (11.5 per nine innings) against 11 walks and 20 hits in 22 2/3 innings.

— Alexuan Vega was selected with the Padres' sixth-round pick out of Leonides Morales High in Lajas, Puerto Rico. The 6-foot-2, 160-pound Vega is 19 years old.

Vega spent his first professional summer in the Arizona Rookie League, where he made seven appearances (six starts). Vega had a 10.80 ERA, a 2.00 WHIP and a .283 opponents' batting average in 15 innings. He struggled a bit with command, issuing 13 walks with 13 strikeouts in 15 innings.

Blue Jays acquire left-hander Richard from Padres

The Associated Press Dec 30, 2018, 2:58 PM

TORONTO (AP) -- The [Toronto Blue Jays](#) acquired left-handed pitcher [Clayton Richard](#) and cash considerations from the [San Diego Padres](#) on Sunday for Canadian outfielder Connor Panas.

The 35-year-old Richard was 7-11 with a 5.33 earned-run average in 27 starts for San Diego last season. He is 68-79 with a 4.46 ERA in 10 seasons in the majors with the Padres and [Chicago White Sox](#) and [Cubs](#), with a National League-best 60.3 ground-ball percentage over the last four years.

The 25-year-old Panas hit .232 with nine home runs, and 39 RBIs in 105 games last season for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats in the Class AA Eastern League. The left-handed hitter from Toronto was selected by the Blue Jays in the ninth round of the 2015 draft.