



Padres Press Clips

Thursday, October 4, 2018

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Here are key FAQs about Padres' offseason

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com

SAN DIEGO -- An eventful 2018-19 offseason awaits the Padres and general manager A.J. Preller.

Here's a rundown of the most frequently asked questions, which addresses some key dates, deadlines and decisions that loom over the next five months.

Which players from the 2018 roster will become free agents this offseason?

The Padres only have two pending free agents: shortstop [Freddy Galvis](#) and catcher [A.J. Ellis](#). Both are candidates to return, though a reunion with Ellis seems unlikely given the two impressive young catchers -- [Austin Hedges](#) and [Francisco Mejia](#) -- already on the roster.

At which positions will the Padres be looking to add, via free agency or trades?

The Padres' biggest needs are in the starting rotation and, to a lesser degree, at shortstop. They could also look to add a big bat, particularly one that can play third base.

At shortstop, [Fernando Tatis Jr.](#) is waiting in the wings, but he is unlikely to crack the Opening Day roster. If the Padres were to reunite with Galvis, it's possible Tatis could shift to third base. That position presents a muddled situation, with [Wil Myers](#) having [struggled there defensively](#) and with [Christian Villanueva](#) coming off an up-and-down rookie season.

Will the Padres be active in the trade market?

Yes. They're in dire need of quality starters, and it's unlikely they pursue (and overpay for) any big names in a mediocre class of starting pitchers. There's a greater chance they look to deal from their loaded, top-ranked [farm system](#). At the non-waiver Trade Deadline this summer, the Padres were linked with [Chris Archer](#) and [Noah Syndergaard](#), among others. Don't be surprised if they're again connected to All-Star caliber arms.

At the Major League level, San Diego can deal from its corner outfield depth, with Myers, [Franmil Reyes](#) and [Hunter Renfroe](#) all candidates to be traded. And while the Padres are content to move forward with a Hedges/Mejia timeshare behind the plate, it's conceivable one of them could be moved if the offer is right.

Which players are eligible for arbitration this offseason?

The Padres have seven players eligible for arbitration, none of whom is in the final year of eligibility. Here's a look at those seven players. (Players returning to the arbitration process have their salaries listed.)

Second year: [Cory Spangenberg](#) (\$1.7 million), [Kirby Yates](#) (\$1.06 million), [Robbie Erlin](#) (\$650,000)

First year: [Bryan Mitchell](#), [Travis Jankowski](#), [Colin Rea](#), Hedges ([Super Two](#))

What does that mean for those players?

If the Padres tender contracts to those seven players, the two sides must either come to an

agreement on a 2019 salary, or they'll enter the arbitration process. Both sides would then submit suggested salary figures, and an independent arbiter would pick one of the two.

Most players are pre-arbitration for their first three years of service time, then arbitration-eligible for the last three. Hedges, however, qualifies for arbitration as a "Super Two," meaning he's one of the top 22 percent of two-year players. As things stand, that means he's slated for four years of arbitration.

When is the deadline to tender a contract to players?

The non-tender deadline is November 30 at 5 p.m. PT. Any players who are not tendered a contract will become free agents.

Will the Padres non-tender any players?

It certainly seems likely. The Padres have a full 40-man roster, plus four players who must come off the 60-day disabled list and five top-30 prospects who need to be added. They're only losing two free agents, so that leaves 47 players for 40 spots this winter -- and that's before any further roster additions.

Of course, after a 66-96 season, there are more than a few non-tender candidates.

When is the deadline to protect players from the Rule 5 Draft?

Certain Minor Leaguers who haven't been added to a 40-man roster are eligible to be selected in the Rule 5 Draft during the Winter Meetings. (If those players are selected by another team, they must remain in the Major Leagues for an entire season or be offered back to their original club.)

The deadline for prospects to be added to the 40-man roster -- thereby becoming protected from the Rule 5 Draft -- is November 20 at 5 p.m. PT.

Which prospects need to be added to the roster to be protected from the Rule 5 Draft?

Any players who were 18 years old or younger when they signed and have played at least five seasons of pro ball. Or any players who were 19 years old or older when they signed and have played at least four seasons of pro ball.

Among their top 30 prospects, the Padres have five players who would be eligible for the Rule 5 Draft unless they're added to the 40-man roster: Right-hander [Chris Paddack](#) (ranked No. 5 in the organization by MLB Pipeline), [Anderson Espinoza](#) (No. 12), Austin Allen (No. 25), [Edward Olivares](#) (No. 28) and [Pedro Avila](#) (No. 29).

Unranked prospects who would need to be protected include: Michael Gettys, [Hansel Rodriguez](#) and Ty France.

When are the Winter Meetings this year?

The Winter Meetings will take place December 9-13 in Las Vegas. The Rule 5 Draft, as always, is scheduled for the morning of the final day of those Meetings.

When is baseball back?

Pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training on February 13 with the first full-squad arriving five days later. The Padres open their Cactus League slate on February 23 against the

Mariners. Then, they'll open the [2019 regular season](#) on March 28 against the Giants at Petco Park.

Biggest changes on final Top 100 Prospects list

By Jonathan Mayo MLB.com [@JonathanMayo](#)

Oct. 3rd, 2018

The result of that audit is our final market correction. We were pretty aggressive this time, after making [moderate changes in May](#) and [larger corrections in June](#), with changes up and down the list. This should put us in good shape to watch the Arizona Fall League and head into the offseason ready to tackle the Top 100 again early in 2019.

The Top 15

↑ Alex Kirilloff, OF, Twins (No. 30 to No. 10)

All the 2018 Futures Gamer did was finish with a .348/.392/.578 line to go along with 20 homers and 101 RBIs across two levels of Class A ball after missing 2017 due to Tommy John surgery.

↑ Wander Franco, SS, Rays (No. 40 to No. 14)

Signed in July 2017, Franco had one of the most stirring professional, and United States, debuts in recent memory, making the Rookie-level Appalachian League look easy with a .351/.418/.587 line with 11 homers and 57 RBIs in 61 games.

Risers

↑ Joey Bart, C, Giants (No. 35 to No. 23)

He had one of the better pro debuts of any 2018 first-rounder, with a .294/.364/.588 line, 13 homers and 40 RBIs, mostly in the short-season Northwest League while also throwing out 39 percent of potential basestealers.

↑ Dylan Cease, RHP, White Sox (No. 44 to No. 25)

[MLB Pipeline's Pitcher of the Year](#), Cease actually produced better numbers once he reached Double-A and finished the year with a 2.40 ERA, .189 batting average against and an 11.6 K/9 rate.

↑ [Chris Paddack](#), RHP, Padres (No. 47 to No. 35)

Unranked at the start of the 2018 season, Paddack put the Tommy John surgery that cost him all of the 2017 season behind him and reached Double-A, posting an astounding 120/8 K/9 ratio over 90 IP.

↑ [Touki Toussaint](#), RHP, Braves (No. 73 to No. 40)

Toussaint ended any talk of him needing to become a reliever in 2018, going from Double-A all the way to making a major impact on a playoff-bound team in Atlanta and striking out 10.8/9 in two Minor League stops.

↑ Michael Chavis, 3B, Red Sox (No. 96 to No. 69)

Chavis shook off an 80-game suspension and resumed swinging the bat extremely well, reaching Triple-A while hitting close to .300 and slugging .538 over 46 total games.

↑ **Nolan Gorman, 3B, Cardinals (No. 97 to No. 73)**

The high schooler taken No. 19 overall in this year's draft jumped on the fast track by reaching full-season ball in his summer debut, slugging .570 and launching 17 homers in just 63 games.

New Additions

↑ **Gavin Lux, SS, Dodgers (Unranked to No. 82)**

The 2016 first-rounder is way ahead of the curve, reaching Double-A at age 20 after hitting a combined .324/.399/.514 across two levels, finishing with 15 homers and 13 steals.

↑ **Luis Patino, RHP, Padres (Unranked to No. 83)**

After a tremendous pro debut that saw him pitch his way from the Dominican Summer League to the Arizona League in 2017, Patino raised his profile even more by heading to full-season ball in May and posting a 2.16 ERA and 10.6 K/9 rate at age 18.

↑ **Nolan Jones, 3B, Indians (Unranked to No. 85)**

The left-handed hitting third baseman made the most of his full-season debut, hitting across two levels of Class A ball and finishing with a .283/.405/.466 line and 19 homers.

↑ **Josh James, RHP, Astros (Unranked to No. 95)**

After four seasons of so-so results, James took off in 2018 with a 3.23 ERA, .191 BAA and a 13.5 K/9 rate in the Minors before making a big contribution to Houston's playoff push.

↑ **Bryse Wilson, RHP, Braves (Unranked to No. 96)**

No one is talking about him relieving now, not after 143 strikeouts and just 36 walks in 125 2/3 Minor League innings across three levels that resulted in a big league callup.

↑ **Taylor Widener, RHP, D-backs (Unranked to No. 97)**

The Yankees might regret the trade that sent [Brandon Drury](#) to New York, especially after Widener finished second in the Minors with 176 strikeouts and posted a 2.75 ERA and .197 BAA in Double-A.

Fallers

↓ **Luis Robert, OF, White Sox (No. 25 to No. 44)**

The toolsy outfielder missed much of the 2018 season due to a left thumb injury and never really got going in the Carolina League, posting a .625 OPS in 32 games at that level.

↓ **Nick Madrigal, 2B, White Sox (No. 32 to No. 49)**

Yes, he hit (.303 in 155 ABs) and didn't strike out (five) as expected, but the lack of extra-base authority (40 of his 47 hits were singles) and likely second base only profile concerns some.

↓ **Leody Taveras, OF, Rangers (No. 42 to No. 54)**

He's still very young and full of tools, but he hasn't started putting up numbers yet, finishing his Carolina League season with a .644 OPS, albeit as a teenager.

↓ **Franklin Perez, RHP, Tigers (No. 49 to No. 67)**

Excitement for his Tigers debut, after coming over late last year in the [Justin Verlander](#) trade,

was erased when first a lat strain, then a shoulder issue, kept him from the mound for all but 19 1/3 innings all season.

↓ **Cristian Pache, OF, Braves (No. 54 to No. 68)**

Always blessed with speed and outstanding defense, Pache's bat looked like it was taking a step forward in the Florida State League, but cooled considerably with a promotion up a level.

↓ **[Luiz Gohara](#), LHP, Braves (No. 58 to No. 78)**

The lefty continued to miss bats in the Minors (9.2 K/9), but he also gave up 9.2 hits/9 en route to a 4.81 ERA and didn't fare any better in Atlanta (5.91 ERA in 19 2/3 total IP).

↓ **Alex Faedo, RHP, Tigers (No. 65 to No. 79)**

The 2017 first-rounder pitched his way to Double-A midseason, but struggled there as he made some adjustments to his delivery, losing command both in and out of the strike zone while his stuff ticked down as a result.

↓ **Jon Duplantier, RHP, D-backs (No. 66 to No. 80)**

After a breakout 2017 season, concerns about durability that followed him in college came back when he missed nearly two months with biceps tendinitis.

↓ **Albert Abreu, RHP, Yankees (No. 74 to No. 85)**

An appendectomy certainly didn't help, but while Abreu still missed bats (9.2 K/9), he continued to struggle with his command (4.0 K/9) en route to a 5.20 combined ERA.

↓ **Brandon Marsh, OF, Angels (No. 78 to No. 98)**

He did start to put his raw tools into play across two levels of Class A ball and did a nice job of drawing walks, but his 158 K's in 127 games is concerning.

↓ **Peter Lambert, RHP, Rockies (No. 83 to No. 99)**

A command and control over pure stuff guy, Lambert did well by pitching his way to Triple-A at age 21, but he struggled there (5.04 ERA, .320 BAA in 11 starts) and his inability to miss bats (6.4 K/9) might limit his ceiling.

↓ **[Kolby Allard](#), LHP, Braves (No. 87 to No. 100)**

The southpaw continued to succeed in the Minors (2.72 ERA in Triple-A at age 20), but his lack of swing-and-miss stuff also limits his ceiling and his rough, albeit brief, big league debut didn't help.

Off the list

↓ **[Will Smith](#), C, Dodgers (No. 69 to unranked)**

While he did hit 19 homers in 73 Double-A games in 2018, Smith was exposed upon reaching Triple-A (.425 OPS in 87 ABs) and continued to strike out at a high rate (112 K's in 98 games).

↓ **Nick Gordon, SS/2B, Twins (No. 71 to unranked)**

Always one to play above his individual tools, Gordon hit his way from Double- to Triple-A, where he promptly stopped hitting, with a .544 OPS in 99 International League games.

↓ **Monte Harrison, OF, Marlins (No. 75 to unranked)**

The tools are very much still there, as evidenced by his 19 homers and 28 steals, but he also led the Minors in strikeouts (215), leading to an alarming 36.9 strikeout percentage.

↓ **Kyle Lewis, OF, Mariners (No. 79 to unranked)**

Lewis' knee kept him out of action until May and he did make his way to Double-A for the first time, but he also only hit a combined .244 with a .711 OPS.

↓ **Anthony Alford, OF, Blue Jays (No. 88 to unranked)**

On the plus side, the speedy outfielder made it back up to Toronto, but injuries slowed him again and he hit just .238/.314/.339 in 112 Triple-A games this year.

↓ **Shane Baz, RHP, Rays (No. 92 to unranked)**

He did pitch better after his trade to the Rays from the Pirates and missed bats overall (10.1 K/9), but he also struggled with command (5.0 BB/9) and finished with a 4.47 ERA in the Appy League.

Midwest League Top 20 Prospects

No. 1 prospect Royce Lewis (Photo by Paul Gierhart)

Updated on: 10/3/2018

1. 1



Royce Lewis

Cedar Rapids (Twins)SS

Notes:

Age: 19. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 188. **Drafted:** HS - San Juan Capistrano, Calif., 2017 (1).

The No. 1 pick in the 2017 draft lived up to expectation by showing plus tools across the board. He ranked among the MWL leaders in batting average (.315), stolen bases (22) and doubles (23) at the time of his promotion to the high Class A Florida State League in mid-July, even though he had been slowed by knee tendinitis.

Scouts project Lewis to be a potential .300 hitter with plus power and plus speed, which makes him a potential 20-20 threat. Defensively, he should stick at shortstop with enough range, anticipation, hands and actions to be an above-average defender. His arm grades as above-average.

Lewis also embraced his role as an on-field leader. As a potential middle-of-the-lineup hitter who can play a premium defensive position, he's one of the best overall prospects in the game.

2018 Stats

.315/.368/.485

295 AB, 9 HR, 53 RBI, 24 BB, 49 SO

2. 2



MacKenzie Gore

Fort Wayne (Padres)LHP

Notes:

Age: 19. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 191.
Drafted: HS - Whiteville, N.C., 2017 (1).

Blisters derailed much of Gore's first full pro season. The BA High School Player of the Year in 2017 made just three starts in the first two months and didn't pitch into the fifth inning until July. Even when he was on the mound, he didn't always have his best stuff because of his finger issues. He allowed a hit per inning, but he showed advanced control and kept the ball in the ballpark.

Evaluators were impressed with Gore's feel for pitching and his stuff. His plus fastball sat in the low 90s and touched 95. Gore's curveball and slider both are plus at their best. Like many young pitchers, he struggles to spin both consistently on the same night. Some nights he had an impressive slider and on others he has a better curve. His excellent athleticism helps him have above-average command within the strike zone.

Gore's season was a little disappointing statistically, but he remains among the highest-ceiling minor league starters because he throws four average or better pitches and owns potentially plus control and command.

2018 Stats

2-5, 4.45 ERA

61 IP, 61 H, 18 BB, 74 SO

3. 3



Alex Kirilloff

Cedar Rapids (Twins)OF

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 195.

Drafted: HS - Pittsburgh, 2016 (1).

A promotion to high Class A Fort Myers in mid-July kept Kirilloff from winning the MWL batting title, but his .330 average and his .607 slugging percentage were the best by any player in the league with 250 or more plate appearances. He showed no ill effects from the year-long layoff he endured recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Kirilloff has a chance to be a special hitter. He was the MWL's best power hitter, but he also proved tough to strike out with whiffs in roughly 17 percent of plate appearances.

Kirilloff's opposite-field power impressed managers around the league. Nine of his 13 home runs in the MWL went to left field. The combination of barrel control, raw power and athleticism give him the chance to be a plus hitter with plus power.

He should be an average defender in right field.

2018 Stats

.333/.391/.607

252 AB, 13 HR, 56 RBI, 24 BB, 47 SO

4. 4



Brendan McKay

Bowling Green (Rays)LHP/1B

Notes:

Age: 22. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 6-2. **WT:** 212.

Drafted: Louisville, 2017 (1).

As a pitcher, McKay quickly demonstrated that he was too advanced for MWL hitters. The lefthander toyed with lineups, spotting a plus mid-90s fastball with plus command as well as a plus cutter. His slider and curveball sometimes seem to get in each other's way, but each has at least average potential.

McKay looked similarly advanced as a hitter but much less imposing. He showed a better knowledge of the strike zone than most MWL umpires, but he didn't do much with pitches in the zone. Scouts thought his approach was too passive and he was seen as a fringe prospect as a hitter.

McKay's ceiling as a mid-rotation starter will continue to push him up the ladder, which makes it harder for him to catch up as a hitter.

2018 Pitching Stats

2-0, 1.09 ERA

25 IP, 8 H, 2 BB, 40 SO

2018 Hitting Stats

.254/.484/.333

63 AB, 1 HR, 16 RBI, 28 BB, 13 SO

5. 5



Hunter Greene

Dayton (Reds)RHP

Notes:

Age: 19. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 215.
Drafted: HS - Sherman Oaks, Calif., 2017 (1).

Greene's season started and ended terribly. In between, he showed the promise expected from the No. 2 overall pick in 2017. In April, Greene was tagged with a 14.63 ERA in eight innings. Then his season ended in late July with an injured elbow ligament.

Greene made significant progress as a pitcher. His athleticism and arm strength are apparent. He easily reached triple digits with regularity. The steady improvement of his potentially plus slider and average changeup helped him find success.

Greene has the potential to be a front-of-the-rotation starter thanks to his blazing fastball, promising slider and changeup and usable curveball. His elbow injury is a complicating factor, but the Reds hopes he can rehab the injury.

2018 Stats
3-7, 4.48 ERA
68 IP, 66 H, 23 BB, 89 SO

6. 6



Matt Manning

West Michigan (Tigers)RHP

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 190.
Drafted: HS - Sacramento, 2016 (1).

Manning dominated in his second stint in the MWL. His 12.3 strikeouts per nine innings ranked first among all league starters with 50 or more innings.

Evaluators are impressed with Manning's athleticism, delivery and extension. His fastball sits in the low 90s and touches 95 mph with late carry. He paired his fastball with a sharp-breaking curveball that flashes plus. He improved his changeup, but it's still fringe-average. If Manning can improve his fringe-average control, he has mid-rotation potential.

2018 Stats
3-3, 3.40 ERA
56 IP, 47 H, 28 BB, 76 SO

7. 7



Ronaldo Hernandez

Bowling Green (Rays)C

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 185.

Signed: Colombia, 2014.

Will Benson's 22 home runs narrowly edged Hernandez for the MWL title, but the Colombian native was among the best sluggers in the league. He finished in the top three in the league in home runs, slugging percentage (.494) and home run rate (one every 19.3 at-bats).

Hernandez, a former third baseman, is still a work in progress behind the plate, but evaluators see the tools and skills to be an everyday catcher with a chance to also be a middle-of-the-order bat.

Hernandez has plus power, an advanced understanding of how to hit and a plus-plus arm. He loses focus at times behind the plate - his 19 passed balls were easily worst in the league - but the tools are there for him to be at least an average defender. He threw out 36 percent of basestealers.

2018 Stats

.284/.339/.494

405 AB, 21 HR, 79 RBI, 31 BB, 69 SO

8. 8



Jeter Downs

Dayton (Reds)2B/SS

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 180.

Drafted: HS - Miami Gardens, Fla., 2017 (1s).

A shortstop named Jeter carries lofty expectations, but Downs started making his own name with an impressive season.

Downs is a bat-first middle infielder who has a plus hit tool to go with developing power. He has a quiet stance, starting from a narrow base and using a modest load. Defensively, scouts are skeptical that he will have the range to stay at shortstop.

Downs played more second base than shortstop with the Dragons in 2018, and that likely is his long-term home. His above-average arm would fit at third base, too. Downs is an above-average athlete with plus speed.

2018 Stats

.257/.351/.402

455 AB, 13 HR, 47 RBI, 52 BB, 103 SO

9. 9



Elehuris Montero

Peoria (Cardinals)3B

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-3. **WT:** 195.

Signed: Dominican Republic, 2014.

Montero's special hand-eye coordination stands out. He led the MWL in batting average (.322), slugging (.529) and OPS (.910) and became the Cardinals' first Midwest League MVP since Albert Pujols in 2000.

Montero shows plus raw power in batting practice. He pulls the ball for home runs, but he hits plenty of doubles to right field and should eventually develop all-fields home run power. He is vulnerable to a pitcher with a plan, but his hand-eye coordination, bat speed and barrel control give him a chance to develop into a plus hitter with plus power.

Montero is a below-average defender at third base who may have to slide to first base eventually unless he works his way to fringe status by taking thousands of ground balls.

2018 Stats

.322/.381/.529

382 AB, 15 HR, 69 RBI, 33 BB, 81 SO

10. 10



Luis Patino

Fort Wayne (Padres)RHP

Notes:

Age: 18. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 192.

Signed: Colombia, 2016.

Despite being short for a righthanded starter, which often worries scouts, Patino wowed evaluators with excellent stuff and easy velocity. Patino's 2.16 ERA and 10.6 strikeouts per nine innings would have led the MWL if he had qualified.

At his best, Patino was unhittable. He went five or more no-hit innings three times. Righthanders hit a microscopic .140/.190/.173 against him.

Patino's fastball, which sat in the mid-90s and touched 98 mph, was one of the best in the league. He keeps hitters off balance by elevating his fastball and sinking it below the zone. His slider and curveball both have plus potential. His high-80s slider has good shape and plenty of power.

His changeup flashes above-average with sink and fade.

2018 Stats

6-3, 2.16 ERA

83 IP, 65 H, 24 BB, 98 SO

11. 11



Vidal Brujan

Bowling Green (Rays)2B

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** S-R. **HT:** 5-9. **WT:** 155. **Signed:** Dominican Republic, 2014.

Brujan finished second in the Midwest League with a .313 batting average, third in on-base percentage (.395), third in runs scored (86) and fifth in steals (43) despite an early August promotion to the Florida State League.

Brujan is an excellent hitter from the left side, where he has sneaky power (he slugged .516 as a lefty with all nine of his home runs in 2018) to get with excellent bat-to-ball skills. As a righthanded hitter, he's much more of a slap hitter with well below-average power, but his plus-plus speed makes him capable of beating out infield hits when he pulls the ball on the ground. That speed is also useful on the basepaths. He finished second in the minors overall with 55 steals.

2018 Stats

.313/.395/.427

377 AB, 5 HR, 41 RBI, 48 BB, 53 SO

12. 12



Miguel Amaya

South Bend (Cubs)C

Notes:

Age: 19. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 185. **Signed:** Panama, 2015.

This was a very good year for catchers in the Midwest League. Between Hernandez, Amaya, Ryan Jeffers, Hendrik Clementina and Luis Campusano, the league was full of intriguing young catchers. Amaya was among the most interesting.

Amaya took a big step forward this year with his power, as he hit nine home runs and slugged .500 in the first half of the season before wearing down in the second half. Amaya does chase out of the strike zone too often and needs to improve his ability to recognize breaking balls, but he has future average or even above-average power.

Defensively, Amaya has an above-average arm, is a calm receiver who has a chance to be at least an average defender. Considering his age and tools, he has a chance to be the rare catcher who contributes both offensively and defensively.

2018 Stats

.256/.349/.403

414 AB, 12 HR, 52 RBI, 50 BB, 91 SO

13. 13



Moises Gomez

Bowling Green (Rays)LF

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 200. **Signed:** Venezuela, 2015.

Scouts came away from watching Bowling Green extremely impressed with the team's large number of potential big league regulars. Gomez was arguably the highest-ceiling prospect of all of the position players, although there is plenty of risk for a prospect with big power but poor defense and swing-and-miss issues.

Gomez finished first in the league in doubles (34), second in slugging percentage (.503), fourth in home runs (19) and first in extra-base hits (60). Scouts like Gomez's bat path, but his swing is clearly

geared for power as he coils with a big timing step before exploding into a powerful but sometimes lengthy swing.

Gomez's defense will require plenty of work. He has below-average range thanks to struggles tracking fly balls and poor routes and his average arm works best in left field. While lacking defensive prowess, evaluators view the offensive minded outfielder as an everyday option in the future. Rival managers have also given high praise to Gomez for being a guy that plays the game the right way and with a lot of enthusiasm.

2018 Stats

.280/.328/.503

471 AB, 19 HR, 82 RBI, 34 BB, 137 SO

14. 14



Lazaro Armenteros

Beloit (Athletics)OF

Notes:

Age: 19. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 182. **Signed:** Cuba, 2016.

Armenteros' first exposure to full season ball was a successful one. He missed most of June with a trip to the disabled list for a knee injury, but otherwise was healthy and productive. Armenteros' athleticism draws attention, and that translates into some quality tools such as power.

Evaluators cited Armenteros' power as some of the best in the league, earning plus-plus raw power grades. His profile is clearly power over hit, but he has shown some developing plate discipline (although 10 hit-by-pitches helped his on-base percentage as well) that gives him a chance to be an average hitter as well.

Armenteros is already limited to left field - he didn't play one game in center or right field all year. But his bat should be productive enough to make a corner-only profile work.

2018 Stats

.277/.374/.401

292 AB, 8 HR, 39 RBI, 36 BB, 115 SO

15. 15



Kevin Smith

Lansing (Blue Jays)SS

Notes:

Age: 22. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-1. **WT:** 188. **Drafted:** College-- Maryland, 2017 (4)

In college, Smith was a low-average hitter who did drive the ball enough to be a useful shortstop. But he's fixed and improved his swing since, as what was once a long and loopy swing is now shorter and more conducive to hitting. Smith was simply too advanced for the Midwest League and the Blue Jays promoted him to the Florida State League in late May.

Although not seen as a flashy player, Smith's profile features a lot to like. He has demonstrated a much-improved hit tool, and he has average power as well. Smith has a blue collar feel to the way he plays and features the intangibles that scouts love to see.

Scouts see Smith as more of a well-rounded player with few big weaknesses, although he also lacks plus tools. Smith projects as an average defender at shortstop who can be an above-average second or third baseman.

2018 Stats

.302/.358/.528

523 AB, 25 HR, 93 RBI, 40 BB, 121 SO

16. 16



Esteury Ruiz

Fort Wayne (Padres)2B

Notes:

Age: 19. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-0. **WT:** 169. **Signed:** Dominican Republic, 2015.

Multiple scouts compared Ruiz's body and profile to Alfonso Soriano, which is a pretty lofty comparison for a teenager. The Padres acquired Ruiz from the Royals at the trade deadline in July 2017. In his first exposure to full-season ball, he showed solid average power to go with aggressive baserunning that made his average speed play up significantly.

Ruiz's 49 stolen bases led the league and he was successful on 81 percent of attempts. But scouts were even more impressed with his developing hit and power potential. Ruiz's swing is geared to produce plenty of contact (especially once he improves his pitch recognition). His long arms helps him get to average power right now with more power potential to come.

He is a solid defender at second base and slid over to third base on occasion. Ruiz's mix of average and above-average tools makes Ruiz a potentially well-rounded middle infielder.

2018 Stats

.253/.324/.403

439 AB, 12 HR, 53 RBI, 38 BB, 141 SO

17. 17



Johan Oviedo

Peoria (Cardinals)RHP

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** R-R. **HT:** 6-6. **WT:** 210. **Signed:** Cuba, 2016.

Oviedo's introduction to the Midwest League was a brutal one. The Cuban native was greeted by a 40 degree day with a steady wind. He recorded only one out as he was chased after he walked five batters of the six batters he faced. All five scored to crater his ERA for a month.

The righthander quickly settled down from that inauspicious debut to prove to be a durable starter for Peoria. He led the league in walks allowed (79), but also was second best in opponent's batting average (.238). Like many 20-year-old pitchers, he's not all that consistent yet, but he did make steady improvement. He cut his ERA by nearly three runs from the first half (5.82) to the second half (3.02) while also improving his walk rate and holding hitters to a .212 average against in the second half of the season.

Oviedo's velocity waxed and waned, but even at his worst he had an average fastball and he often sat 93-94 and touched 96. Similarly, he'll follow a well-below-average curve with one that is plus. His changeup is more consistently an above-average pitch with some scouts projecting it as a future plus offering.

2018 Stats

10-10, 4.22 ERA

121.2 IP, 108 H, 79 BB, 118 SO

18. 18



Akil Baddoo

Cedar Rapids (Twins)OF

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** L-L. **HT:** 5-11. **WT:** 195. **Drafted:** HS - Salem, Conyers, GA., 2016 (CBB)

Most toolsy young hitters with power and speed have to figure out the strike zone later on. Their

hand-eye coordination and power leads to over-aggressiveness that they have to tamp down as they mature.

Baddoo has power and plus speed, but his best attribute is an advanced understanding of the strike zone that allows him to draw walks and work himself into favorable counts. Baddoo ranked fourth in the league with 74 walks and he also led the league with 11 triples.

Baddoo missed some time early with a hamstring injury, but showed no ill effects upon returning to action. He's a work in progress in center field, but he's shown significant improvement in the consistency of his routes. His swing is also more consistent.

2018 Stats

.243/.351/.419

437 AB, 11 HR, 40 RBI, 74 BB, 124 SO

19. 19



Nolan Jones

Lake County (Indians)3B

Notes:

Age: 20. **B-T:** L-R. **HT:** 6-4. **WT:** 185. **Drafted:** HS - Bensalem, PA., 2016 (2)

Jones was one of the best hitters and sluggers in the Midwest League in 2018. While it was his teammate Will Benson that led the league with 22 home runs, it was Jones who managed to combine power - he was fourth in the league in home run rate with one home run every 20 at-bats - and hitting ability. Jones was fourth in the league with a .393 on-base percentage.

At the plate, Jones shows all-fields power and does not succumb to the temptation to expand his zone to try to hit pitcher's pitches. He projects as an above-average to plus hitter with plus power.

Defensively, Jones has made steady improvement at third base. He reads balls well off the bat and has cleaned up his footwork.

2018 Stats

.279/.393/.464

323 AB, 16 HR, 49 RBI, 63 BB, 97 SO

20. 20



Patrick Sandoval

Quad Cities (Astros)LHP

Notes:

Age: 21. **B-T:** L-L. **Ht.:** 6-3. **Wt.:** 190. **Drafted:** HS - Mission Viejo, CA., 2015 (11)

Sandoval's wild 2018 season began with 71 excellent innings with Quad Cities. He was quickly promoted to high Class A Buies Creek, was traded to the Angels for Martin Maldonado in late July and finished the season in Double-A.

Sandoval impressed with his ability to mix four solid pitches, which generally left him two steps ahead of inexperienced low Class A hitters. Sandoval works in and out and sinks his 88-94 mph fastball, but hitters can rarely sit on the heater as he is comfortable using his changeup in almost any count. His change generates potential plus grades while his slider and changeup both flash above-average as well.

Sandoval misses bats and has the ability to mix and locate his varied arsenal with present fringe-average control giving him a solid chance to be a future No. 4 starter.

2018 Stats

7-1, 2.49 ERA

65 IP, 58 H, 11 BB, 71 SO

NLDS at a glance: Rockies vs. Brewers

Jeff Sanders

COLORADO ROCKIES vs. MILWAUKEE BREWERS

SCHEDULE

- **Thursday:** Rockies RHP **Antonio Senzatela** (6-6, 4.38) at Brewers RHP **Brandon Woodruff** (3-0, 3.61), 2:07 p.m. (FS1)
- **Friday:** Rockies TBA at Brewers RHP **Jhoulys Chacin** (15-8, 3.50), 1:15 p.m. (FS1)
- **Sunday:** Brewers at Rockies, 1:37 p.m. (MLBN)
- **Monday:** Brewers at Rockies, TBA* (FSN)
- **Wednesday:** Rockies at Brewers, TBA* (FSN)

*--If necessary

WHAT TO KNOW

- **Records:** Rockies 91-72 (2nd in **NL West**); Brewers 96-67 (1st in **NL Central**)
- **Head-to-head:** The Brewers won five of seven in the regular season, include two of three at Coors Field in early August.
- **Recent playoff history:** A year after losing a one-game wild-card playoff, the Rockies are in the division series for the first time since 2009. The Brewers are in the playoffs for the first time since losing in six games to the Cardinals in 2011.
- **Matchup to watch:** Rockies SS **Trevor Story** hit seven of his career-high 37 homers in seven games against the Brewers (.333/.387/1.222), more than any

other team this year. He doubled in his only plate appearance against LHP **Josh Hader**, one of three hits that the Brewers' super bullpen weapon has allowed in 13 plate appearances against current Rockies hitters.

- **Health check:** Three Brewers on the DL – RHP **Jimmy Nelson** (shoulder surgery), LHP **Brent Suter** (Tommy John) and C **Stephen Vogt** (shoulder surgery) – are out for the year. In Colorado, LHP **Mike Dunn** (shoulder) and CF **Yonathan Diaz** (shoulder) are also out for the year.

SAN DIEGO CONNECTIONS

- Brewers bench coach **Pat Murphy** was the interim manager when the **Padres** fired **Bud Black** in 2015. Black has since managed the Rockies to back-to-back playoff appearances. Former Padres RHP **Jordan Lyles** was claimed on waivers by the Brewers in August. Rockies C **Tony Wolters** of Rancho Buena Vista HS punched Colorado's ticket to the NLDS via a 13th-inning, run-scoring single.

For Vista's Tony Wolters, big moment arrives in Rockies' wild-card win

Jeff Sanders

Left knee surgery ended Tony Wolters' 2015 campaign. He was waived the following spring. He'd already bounced from the middle infield to behind the plate in search of a path forward. He'd waited 12 innings to get into his first postseason game Tuesday night.

Indeed, Wolters had been well-versed in patience when [Kyle Hendricks](#)' 1-2 change-up fluttered toward the outside corner of the plate.

The ensuing hit made the Rancho Buena Vista High product an unlikely hero as the [Colorado Rockies](#) punched their ticket to the [National League Division Series](#).

"That was," Wolters told reporters after his 13th-inning RBI single gave the Rockies a 2-1 win over the Cubs, "probably the biggest hit I've ever had, that's for sure."

Of course, that sort of thing is easy to catalogue at this stage in Wolters' career.

The 26-year-old converted catcher had played in 228 games since the Rockies rescued him off the [Indians](#)' discard pile. He did not appear in last year's wild-card game and closed this season in an 0-for-15 rut.

He had not collected a hit since Sept. 10. His .170 batting average over 74 games this year was fifth-lowest in the majors among players with at least 180 plate appearances.

Yet there was Wolters in the 13th inning looking to extend a two-out rally with runners on the corners.

“These guys keep me confident,” Wolters said. “They’re my brothers and they’re my support group. They’re my second family. This game can kick your butt sometimes. There’s a lot of adversity, but ... I’m not ever going to let that take me down.”

Wolters watched a first-pitch change-up called a strike. He missed the next. After laying off a high fastball, Wolters punched a groundball through the middle of the infield to plate [Trevor Story](#) as the go-ahead run.

At first base, Wolters – a defensive replacement an inning earlier – smiled through clenched teeth as he clapped his hands emphatically.

It was a look that Leo Fletes, Wolters’ high school coach at Rancho Buena Vista, had come to know well, particularly as Wolters led RBV to a CIF championship berth as a junior.

The two exchanged texts after Tuesday’s game.

“It just took you back to the high school days when he was so clutch,” said Fletes, now an assistant principal at La Costa Canyon High School. “One of the conversations we had last night was, ‘Tony, that swing, that base-hit was so reminiscent of what you did at RBV. That’s what got you to where you are.’”

“Wherever you are, you dial back and go back to your roots.”

The Indians’ third-round pick in 2010, Wolters had committed to USD when he opted to go pro.

That career started as a shortstop in a system loaded with up-the-middle talent ([Francisco Lindor](#) was drafted a year after Wolters), [continued behind the plate at Terry Francona’s suggestion in the spring of 2013](#) and was stalled two years later as he underwent surgery to repair the lateral and medial ligaments in his left knee.

Three years into his stay as the Rockies’ backup catcher, Wolters finally has a career-defining moment.

His current teammates couldn’t be happier for him.

“Tony's like everybody's little brother,” Rockies manager [Bud Black](#) said Tuesday night. “He's the guy that – the guy that everybody looks out for and sort of just keeps their eye on because Tony can sort of run astray a little bit. But they love him. They love Tony because Tony I mean truly cares about each and every one of those guys and those guys feel that. He's a great teammate. He's unselfish. He just cares about the Rockies. Which is awesome. And those guys feel his genuine feeling about this team and about each and every game trying to win the game and it's great when those types of players respond and do something like this.

“I mean it's the little brother, man, doing something great and they love it.”