



Padres Press Clips

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Padres reach terms with Mitchell, Garcia; tender four others eligible for arbitration

Kevin Acee

The [Padres](#) avoided arbitration with one player they just got and one player it is somewhat surprising they still have.

Their other four arbitration-eligible players were all tendered contracts.

The team agreed to one-year deals with infielder Greg Garcia and starting pitcher Bryan Mitchell, both of them for \$910,000.

[Robbie Erlin](#), [Austin Hedges](#), [Travis Jankowski](#) and Kirby Yates were all tendered contracts on Friday, the deadline to do so.

Garcia was claimed off waivers last month and is a front-runner to be a utility infielder this season. Mitchell, who struggled in his first seven starts last season, was demoted to the bullpen, spent 2½ months on the disabled list and then made four mostly solid starts in September, will compete for a spot in the rotation in [spring training](#).

The full value of their contracts is not guaranteed unless they are on the opening day roster.

Erlin, Hedges, Jankowski and Yates are headed to arbitration, provided they don't agree on contracts before their hearings in late January or early February.

Mitchell was projected to receive \$1.2 million and Garcia \$900,000 in arbitration, according to [mlbtraderumors.com](#).

Yates is in line for \$3 million, Hedges \$1.8 million, Jankowski \$1.4 million and Erlin \$1.1 million, the website projected.

Offseason leagues: Fernando Tatis hitting in DR, Gerardo Reyes scoreless in Mexico

Jeff Sanders

Fernando Tatis Jr. is well past last week's health scare.

The **Padres'** top prospect is riding a four-game hitting streak and has hits in seven of his last eight games in the Dominican Republic, lifting his batting line to .269/.377/.519 in his first 15 games since last summer's season-ending thumb surgery.

The 19-year-old Tatis exited a game last week after sustaining a hard tag to his shoulder while diving back to a base. But Tatis returned to Estrellas' lineup the following day and hasn't missed a beat.

Tatis has three home runs, seven RBIs and six steals in seven attempts this winter.

He finished the season in the Texas League in July with 16 homers, 16 steals, 43 RBIs and a .286/.355/.507 batting line at Double-A San Antonio.

He will be invited to a second straight big league camp this spring and will compete for a starting spot at shortstop.

ROUNDUP

Dominican winter league

- OF **Franchy Cordero** (San Diego) is hitting .308/.357/.462 with a homer, five RBIs and 21 strikeouts against five walks in 16 games for Escogido. Cordero is coming off season-ending elbow surgery after hitting seven homers in 30 games last year with the Padres.
- C **Francisco Mejia** (San Diego) is hitting .255/.245/.275 with five RBIs in 13 games with Estrellas. He has one extra-base hit, a double, and eight strikeouts against one walk.
- C **Webster Rivas** (San Antonio) is 2-for-21 with six strikeouts in 14 games with Cibao.

Australian winter league

- OF **Michael Gettys** (San Antonio) is tied for the league lead with four homers in 12 games for Adelaide, which includes three in one game. The 23-year-old Gettys, who is Rule 5-eligible after the Padres did not add him to the 40-man roster last month, is hitting .341/.391/.732 with 11 strikeouts against two walks.
- SS **Jarryd Dale** (AZL) is hitting .103/.206/.138 through his 12 games with Melbourne.

Venezuelan winter league

- C **Luis Torrens** (Lake Elsinore) is hitting .366/.366/.463 with four doubles and six RBIs through 13 games with Magallanes.
- SS **Gabriel Arias** (Fort Wayne) is back in action with La Guaira, scoring a run off the bench on Thursday and going 0-for-2 with a strikeout on Saturday. His hitting is .254/.323/.288 in 24 games.

Mexican winter league

- Added to the 40-man roster last month, RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (San Antonio) ended his stay with Obregon with 18 scoreless innings. He struck out 20, walked seven and allowed only nine hits in 19 relief appearances.

Puerto Rican winter league

- OF **Aldemar Burgos** (Fort Wayne) is hitting .333/.396/.500 with one homer, one triple, three doubles and six RBIs in 14 games for Carolina.
- RHP **Colby Blueberg** (El Paso) has a 4.32 ERA in 8 1/3 innings with Mayaguez. He has struck out five, walked five and allowed two homers.

Padres roster review: Austin Allen

Jeff Sanders

Sizing up the Padres' 40-man roster, from A to Z, heading into the 2019 season:

AUSTIN ALLEN

- **Position(s):** Catcher, first base
- **2019 Opening Day age:** 25
- **Bats/throws:** L/R
- **Height/weight:** 6-foot-2 / 220 pounds
- **Acquired:** Fourth round in 2015 (Florida Tech)
- **Contract status:** Added to the 40-man roster in November 2018
- **Key stats:** .290 avg., .351 OBP, .506 SLG, 22 HRs, 56 RBIs, 59 runs, 0 steals, 37 walks, 97 strikeouts (119 games, 451 ABs)

STAT TO NOTE

- **.773** – Allen's slugging percentage in April at Double-A San Antonio, when he was named the [Texas League's player of the month](#). Allen hit eight of his 22 homers in April.

TRENDING

- **Up** – The first NCAA Division II player selected in the 2015 draft, Allen's collegiate background wasn't his only question mark as he transitioned to pro ball. A 6-foot-2 catcher who pushed 245 pounds his first year in the Padres system isn't exactly a good bet to stick behind the plate, especially if he's only slugging .425 as he did his first full year at Fort Wayne. But Allen – who trains in the offseason with Indians superstar **Francisco Lindor** – has [dedicated himself to his health, nutrition and flexibility the last three years in the organization](#). He's down more than 20 pounds in weight, as agile as ever and his hitting is better for it. The left-handed bat has 44 homers over the last two seasons, slugged a career-best .506 in 2018 in the Texas League and, between his first invite to big league camp, the regular season and his stay in the Arizona Fall League, caught more innings than he ever has. Allen was even an all-AFL selection at catcher after leading all backstops with a .779 OPS this offseason and throwing out 28.6 percent of base-stealers. He remains a bat-first catcher but the Padres thought enough of his improvement behind the plate to add him to the 40-man roster last month, protecting him from the Rule 5 draft despite big league depth at the position.

2019 OUTLOOK

- Allen spent all of 2017 at high Single-A Lake Elsinore and all of 2018 at Double-A San Antonio. That would put him in line for a full year at Triple-A El Paso, although his plans are dependent on what happens with the Padres' catchers – **Austin Hedges** and **Francisco Mejia** – in San Diego. Given their big league catchers' skill-set, it's unlikely that Allen would make the club as a third backstop, leaving him the opportunity to improve his value – to the Padres or another team in the trade market – with potential video-game like numbers in the hitting-friendly Pacific Coast League in 2019.

PADRES POWER RANKINGS

(Currently 40 players on the 40-man roster)

1. Austin Allen

Friars tender deals to all 6 arb-eligible players

Mitchell, Garcia also agree on salaries for 2019

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Nov. 30th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres took the suspense out of their decisions on Friday when they cut ties with **Alex Dickerson** and **Cory Spangenberg** earlier this month. As a result, the non-tender deadline came and went without any surprises in San Diego.

All six arbitration-eligible Padres were tendered a contract by Friday evening's cutoff. That list includes **Bryan Mitchell**, the only player of the bunch who was even remotely a candidate to be let go.

Mitchell struggled in 2018, and he missed two months with an elbow injury. But ultimately, his strong September -- during which he posted a 2.19 ERA over four starts -- earned him a shot at the '19 rotation.

In fact, Mitchell and the Padres came to an agreement on his salary for the 2019 season, which was reported as \$910,000 by MLB Network Insider Jon Heyman. San Diego also agreed with infielder **Greg Garcia** for the same amount.

That leaves **Austin Hedges**, **Travis Jankowski**, **Kirby Yates** and **Robbie Erlin** as the only Padres who still must come to an agreement with the club. They have a couple of months to negotiate a salary.

If a deal isn't struck by Jan. 11, both sides will submit a proposed salary for the 2019 season. But even then, they'd still have a few weeks to settle before a scheduled hearing. If they can't, an independent arbiter would decide between the two proposals.

The Padres haven't had an arbitration case reach a hearing during general manager A.J. Preller's tenure -- and not since **Andrew Cashner** won his in 2014.

The team's decision to tender contracts doesn't necessarily guarantee those players a spot on the Opening Day roster (though Hedges, Erlin, Jankowski and Yates are probably locks). The arbitration salary only becomes guaranteed if the player is on the 25-man roster when the season begins.

This applies to Mitchell in particular. He'll be part of a tight race for starting spots, one that currently features about 10 different pitchers. Were he to miss out on the rotation, he is out of Minor League options. (Though if the Padres were to cut ties with Mitchell or any of the other five this spring, they'd still be owed pro-rated termination pay.)

#PadresOnDeck: Gettys, Carter, House Went from High School Outfielders to Padres Prospects

Nov 30

By Bill Center

Drafting players out of high school presents a bigger gamble for Major League clubs than drafting a player who has matured with three seasons of college ball.

But three interesting outfielders in the Padres system went straight to pro ball from high school—**Michael Gettys**, **Tre Carter** and **Mason House**. House and Carter might still be in college while Gettys, the senior of the trio, could be leaving the Padres system next month.

A closer look at the trio in order of their drafts:

— Michael Gettys was the Padres' second-round pick in the 2014 Draft out of Georgia's Gainesville High. Now 23, the 6-foot-1, 203-pound Gettys is eligible for next month's Rule 5 draft. But remember, **Franmil Reyes** was unselected in last year's Rule 5 draft as outfielders are often passed over.

Gettys is formerly a [Top-30 Padres prospect](#) and was high as No. 10 in the organization going into the 2016 season. He is considered among the top defensive outfielders in the Padres organization with an excellent arm.

Gettys last season hit .230 with 22 doubles, three triples, 15 homers, 53 RBIs and 17 stolen bases in 125 games with Double-A San Antonio. He had a .290 on-base percentage and a .399 slugging percentage for a .689 OPS. His problem continues to be contact. He had 160 strikeouts against 31 walks in 431 at-bats in 2018.

Gettys hit .254 with a .329 on-base percentage and a .431 slugging percentage for a .760 OPS with Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore in 2017 when he had 22 doubles, four triples, 17 homers, 51 RBIs and 22 steals in 116 games. But he also had 191 strikeouts in 457 at-bats.

Gettys big jump came in 2016 when he split the season almost evenly between Single-A Fort Wayne and Lake Elsinore with near-identical results at both places with a combined slash line

of .305/.363/.442/.804. He had 23 doubles, five triples, 12 homers, 60 RBIs and 33 steals against 146 strikeouts in 505 at-bats.

He is currently playing with Adelaide in the Australian Baseball League where he has four homers and 10 RBIs in nine games. He is hitting .314 with a .786 slugging percentage for a 1.119 OPS.

— Tre Carter, 21, was the Padres' 11th-round pick in the 2016 Draft out of a Tennessee high school. The 6-foot-2, 181-pound center fielder is also considered one of the top defensive outfielders in the Padres' system.

In 98 games between Short-Season Single-A Tri-City and Fort Wayne this summer, the left-handed-hitting Carter batted .211 with a .293 on-base percentage and a .600 OPS. He had seven doubles, five triples, five homers, 30 RBIs and 13 bases. Like Gettys, Carter has also struggled with contact. He struck out 99 times (while drawing 38 walks) in 370 plate appearances in 2018.

— Mason House, 20, was the Padres' third-round pick—and the 78th player taken overall—in the 2017 draft out of Whitehouse High in Tyler, Tex. House would be in his sophomore season in college.

The 6-foot-3, 190-pounder split the 2018 season between the Arizona Rookie League and Tri-City, hitting a combined .191 with five doubles, two triples, five homers and 16 RBIs. But he also drew 22 walks in 164 plate appearances for a .311 on-base percentage.

If he clears the Rule 5 draft, Gettys figures to start the season at Triple-A El Paso or Double-A Amarillo. Carter and House are both candidates for Fort Wayne.

Coming off elbow surgery, Richards says he's joining Padres

BERNIE WILSON (AP Sports Writer)
The Associated Press
Nov 29, 2018, 9:19 PM

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Free agent pitcher Garrett Richards says on Twitter that he's joining the rebuilding [San Diego Padres](#).

Multiple reports indicate the right-hander has agreed to a two-year contract worth about \$15 million. Richards had reconstructive elbow surgery in July while with the [Los Angeles Angels](#).

Neither the Padres nor Richards' agency would confirm the deal Thursday night.

The move apparently is with an eye toward 2020, when the Padres expect to be competitive.

"Today I had to make one of the toughest decisions of my career," the 30-year-old Richards tweeted. "The emotions I'm feeling are bittersweet. While we're excited to start a new chapter as a Padre, it's not easy to say goodbye to the only team I've know."

Richards was 5-4 with a 3.66 ERA last year before having surgery. He was 45-38 with a 3.54 ERA with the Angels since 2011.

Mitchell, Garcia agree to \$910,000 deals with Padres

The Associated Press
Nov 30, 2018, 7:48 PM

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Right-hander [Bryan Mitchell](#) and infielder [Greg Garcia](#) both agreed to \$910,000, one-year contracts with the [San Diego Padres](#) on Friday.

The 27-year-old Mitchell was 2-4 with a 5.42 ERA in 11 starts and five relief appearances for the Padres, who acquired him from the [Yankees](#) last December. He made seven starts, was sent to the bullpen, went on the disabled list for 2+ months because of a right elbow impingement, then had four starts in September.

Garcia, 29, is from San Diego's El Cajon suburb and was claimed off waivers from St. Louis on Nov. 1. He hit .221 with three homers and 15 RBIs in 181 at-bats for the Cardinals this year.

Mackenzie Gore Learns From Trying Season

By [Jeff Sanders](#) on November 30, 2018

[Mackenzie Gore's](#) first full year of pro ball ended the way it began—on the disabled list. The 19-year-old lefthander missed time in April after his first start at low Class A Wayne and again in May because of a bothersome blister on his middle finger, and his season came to an end in August because of an issue with a fingernail.

In between, the Padres were plenty pleased with Gore's progress, especially the grit he showed in a trying season.

Gore rarely had his A-grade stuff. The DL stints never let him stretch his legs. He never asked off the mound.

Those are all plusses in the development of the No. 3 overall pick from the 2017 draft out of Whiteville (N.C.) High.

"Mac is a very competitive young man," farm director Sam Geaney said. "He definitely would have liked to have taken the ball more, but I think there are definitely some positives when he was out there.

"I thought he threw the baseball very well at times, punched guys out and didn't walk guys. He missed some time with his injuries, but all these things are part of each player's journey."

Gore's numbers were significantly off the pace he set in the Rookie-level Arizona League the previous summer, when he posted a 1.27 ERA, struck out 34 in 21.1 innings and limited opposing hitters to a .184 average.

In 2018, his strikeout rate trended down from 14.3 per nine innings to 11.0, his WHIP ticked up from 0.98 to 1.30 and his ERA ballooned to 4.45. Opponents hit .260.

Gore's highlights included winning his first professional game, striking out 10 in a five-inning start and spinning six shutout innings on July 4.

His fingernail issue—reportedly unrelated to the blister but on the same finger—ended his season in late August.

"I never wanted to make excuses about it," Gore said. "In my head I wanted to just figure out what was going on. I never wanted to say (my struggles) were because of my blister, but by the last start it was almost to the point where we couldn't beat our head against the wall and we just had to call it quits."

Sorting out the blister/fingernail issue is Job No. 1 as Gore prepares for his third year in the organization. His personal checklist is a bit longer after experiencing the roughest stretch of his baseball career.

"I've got a lot to work on," Gore said. "I have to get a lot better. Pitching-wise, I have to get better in every aspect I can—my command, holding runners, everything. I have to get bigger and stronger and come into spring training ready to go."

Baseball America Prospect Report – August 21, 2018

Did the Rays and Cardinals get the prep steals of the draft? And can anyone find a way to get Wander Franco out?

FATHER FIGURES

- The Padres added seven prospects to the 40-man roster in November ahead of the Rule 5 draft: righthanders [Chris Paddack](#), [Anderson Espinoza](#), [Pedro Avila](#) and Gerardo Reyes, outfielder [Edward Olivares](#), catcher [Austin Allen](#) and third baseman [Ty France](#).
- Early offseason roster casualties include two one-time prospects inherited by general manager A.J. Preller. Third baseman [Cory Spangenberg](#) and righthander [Colin Rea](#) were both released.

Padres Avoid Free Agency With 6 Players

Friars tender contracts to 4, sign 2 to 1-year deals

By [Derek Togerson](#)

Published Nov 30, 2018 at 5:57 PM

The Padres had until Friday evening to decide whether or not to tender contracts to their six arbitration-eligible players. Good news for Friars fans:

None of them are going anywhere.

San Diego signed pitcher Bryan Mitchell and infielder Greg Garcia (a Valhalla High School alum) to 1-year contracts and tendered contracts to catcher Austin Hedges, outfielder Travis Jankowski, and pitchers Kirby Yates and Robbie Erlin.

The latter four still have the chance to work out a contract with the team. If that doesn't work out the team and the player will submit an offer to a neutral mediator who then decides where the happy medium is.

Mitchell was acquired in a trade with the Yankees and struggled mightily. He was shut down for a few months with a sore elbow. He came back at the end of the year and showed improved command that probably saved his spot on the 2019 roster. Garcia came over in an off-season trade with the Cardinals. They were both entering their first year of arbitration eligibility.

Yates turned into an All-Star-caliber reliever and took over closer duties after Brad Hand was traded to Cleveland mid-season. Erlin was ineffective as a starting pitcher but for the most part threw well in a long relief role. Jankowski earned playing time with improved plate discipline and solid late-inning defense.

And then we have Hedges. One of the top-5 defensive catchers in baseball, Austin had his best offensive season in 2018 with a .711 OPS in 91 games. But he'll never be the kind of threat with the bat that fellow backstop Francisco Mejia (the return from the Hand deal) is.

Hedges is going to be the subject of trade talks heading into, and perhaps after, the MLB Winter Meetings in Las Vegas in December. His name has been mentioned often in any possible deal for Mets ace Noah Syndergaard.