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MEDIA CLIPS – April 12, 2018

### Rockies ride 5-run 3<sup>rd</sup> after fracas with Padres

Daniel Kramer/ MLB.com | Apr. 11, 2018

DENVER -- The Rockies had been seeking an offensive awakening after losing four of their first five on their season-opening homestand. But they likely didn't think a breakout would manifest on the heels of their top run producer being ejected.

A benches- and bullpen-clearing fracas ensued after Padres starter **Luis Perdomo** threw behind Colorado third baseman **Nolan Arenado**, sparking an immediate five-run inning that the Rockies rode to a 6-4 win over the Padres on Wednesday.

Arenado was ejected for charging the mound after dodging an inside fastball from Perdomo on the first pitch in the bottom of the third. Perdomo, who wasn't seen throwing punches, was also ejected, as were Padres catcher **A.J. Ellis**, Rockies starter **German Marquez** and left fielder **Gerardo Parra**, who each threw fists.

The fracas was likely a follow-up to **Manuel Margot** taking a 95-mph fastball to his left ribs from Rockies reliever **Scott Oberg** in Tuesday's 5-2 Padres win. Though Oberg indicated no ill intent, approaching Padres third-base coach Glenn Hoffman indicating as much, Perdomo's intentions on Wednesday seemed clear.

The Rockies had been mired in an offensive rut since their home opener on Friday, hitting a collective .212 with just 14 runs in five games. Their lone win in that stretch manifested via a walk-off walk on Saturday.

"I'm just happy we won," Arenado said. "We got some runs, and that was good."

The fracas seemingly overshadowed a complete game from the Rockies in all phases. Their bench players -- first baseman **Ryan McMahon**, outfielder **Mike Tauchman** and **Pat Valaika**, who were a combined 3-for-55 entering Wednesday -- each reached base. Second baseman **DJ LeMahieu** collected a season-high three hits. Backup catcher **Tony Wolters**, who started, had a two-run single that led to three runs.

Marquez was lifted in the middle of what was developing as a promising start, particularly after giving up seven earned runs in Colorado's home opener on Friday. The high-velocity righty tossed three scoreless innings and struck out four of the 11 he faced, with three on his curveball.

"I was really throwing the ball well and felt like I could have gone deep into the game," Marquez said through an interpreter.

Needing essentially seven full innings from their bullpen, which was spotless Monday, the Padres turned to relievers **Buddy Baumann**, **Adam Cimber** and **Phil Maton**.

**Franchy Cordero** and **Eric Hosmer** homered for the Padres, but Rockies closer **Wade Davis** closed it out with a perfect ninth inning for his fifth save of the season.

## **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

**Benches clear:** Before Arenado could land a punch to a retreating Perdomo, both benches and bullpens had dispersed across the left side of the infield, primarily attempting to separate the two. Ellis and Parra were also in the middle of the heated exchange, as was Marquez. Perdomo later said the pitch wasn't intentional, though many players on both sides acknowledged that tensions were running high due to the multiple hit batsmen the past two games.

"Nolan reacted to a ball thrown behind his head," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "He reacted. I'm sure that he felt that that was intentional, and he wasn't going to have it."

Added Arenado: "I wasn't really expecting to get hit. I had a feeling they could probably do it to someone -- I didn't think it was going to be me."

Said Padres manager Andy Green: "They're pitching in aggressively. It's clearly part of the philosophy. We don't begrudge a team pitching in aggressively. We've done it as well. We've tried to come in more on guys. We've tried to come in on Nolan, knowing he's one of the best players in the National League."

**Rockies rally after Arenado departs:** Immediately after Arenado was ejected, the Rockies batted through the order en route to five runs that were enough to put the Padres away. **Ian Desmond** pinch-hit for Arenado, reached on a fielding error, swiping second base and scoring on a **Carlos Gonzalez** single to right. **Trevor Story** then walked, Tauchman -- who filled in for **Charlie Blackmon** the second day in a row -- moved the pair over with a sacrifice bunt. Valaika, who pinch-hit for Marquez and took over at third for Arenado, notched his first RBI of the year to cap the rally.

#### QUOTABLE

"We don't show up to the ballpark to create that kind of atmosphere. We understand that there are a lot of kids watching us play. There are a lot of kids who love No. 28 [Arenado], and that's the last thing they want to see. We're human beings and everyone reacts different. We all make mistakes, if you want to call it that way. But no matter what, we've always got each other. Nolan reacted that way, so of course we're going to support him." – *Gonzalez*

#### SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

LeMahieu's three-hit game was his 40th since the start of his NL batting title campaign season in 2016. Only one NL player has that many in that span: Blackmon, his teammate.

#### WHAT'S NEXT

The Rockies open a four-game series against the Nationals in Washington at 5:05 p.m. MT, with **Chad Bettis** making his third start of 2018. He leads Rockies starters with a 2.53 ERA after two outings, though he's yet to exceed 88 pitches. Colorado will face **Gio Gonzalez**, its fourth time facing a lefty in five games.

## Tempers erupt as Arenado charges mound

Five players ejected in finale of series with back-and-forth HBPs

Daniel Kramer/ MLB.com | Apr. 11, 2018

DENVER -- Lingering tension from Tuesday night's Padres-Rockies game clearly carried over into Colorado's **6-4** win on Wednesday, as a behind-the-back pitch from **Luis Perdomo** to **Nolan Arenado** started a benches- and bullpen-clearing scuffle, led by Arenado charging the mound.

Arenado dodged an inside fastball on the first pitch of the bottom of the third, then ran to the mound swinging at Perdomo, who avoided the jabs and tossed his glove in defense. Both clubs then stormed the field, mostly attempting to break up the fracas.

"I didn't like it. They thought they had to do something, but I had to do something too. That's kind of why I went out there," Arenado said.

Many from both clubs indicated the fracas resulted from a sequence of three hit batsmen the past two games, including one to **Manuel Margot** that **sent him to the disabled list** with bruised ribs. Earlier in Wednesday's game, Rockies shortstop **Trevor Story** was hit by a two-seam fastball in a 1-1 count in the first, and Padres right fielder **Hunter Renfro** was hit on the hand with an 0-1 two-seamer in the second. Both were with two outs.

"They're clearly pitching aggressively inside," Padres manager Andy Green said. "[Scott] Oberg has hit two of our guys. [German] Marquez drilled Hunter today, so they're pitching aggressively inside. We've seen that repetitively. Our guys at some point in time are going to take up for each other, and we're going to pitch inside as well."

After the inside pitch, Arenado burst from the batter's box and wielded his right fist at Perdomo, who narrowly avoided a clean punch to the face, instead getting clipped in the back of the head. Rockies left fielder **Gerardo Parra** landed a punch on Padres catcher **A.J. Ellis**, and Rockies starter Marquez was seen throwing his fists.

Arenado, Parra, Perdomo, Ellis and Marquez were the only players ejected.

"I don't know how long -- hopefully it's not a long time -- but I expect something to be happening," Arenado said of the potential for a suspension.

The Padres had been pitching Arenado low and away the entire series, so when Perdomo threw toward Arenado's back, the Rockies' third baseman immediately charged.

Crew chief Brian Gorman said Perdomo was ejected for intentionally throwing at Arenado, though Perdomo declined any intention, saying the pitch "got away from me." Ellis was ejected for retaliating, per Gorman.

"Our job is to try and calm everything down, but you've got to eject the aggressors," Gorman said.

Added Ellis: "They just said I was part of instigating, but I think I was just out there doing what we were all doing. That's having each other's back and protecting each other."

Arenado was still steaming after the scuffle had subsided, with Rockies right fielder **Carlos Gonzalez** restraining him toward the dugout. Padres first baseman **Eric Hosmer**, a teammate of Arenado's from last year's World Baseball Classic, also approached Arenado without aggression, as did Padres bench coach Mark McGwire.

"My one concern was trying to protect Nolan," Gonzalez said. "I grabbed him and tried to push him toward home plate. Then [McGwire] approached him. There were some back-and-forth words, and it was pretty much the game thing. He was like, 'You hit a couple of our guys, what do you expect?'"

Oberg texted Margot after Tuesday's game and said Margot -- who was in such pain he didn't even attempt to take first base -- had acknowledged his apology positively. Oberg also said Hosmer approached him after the scuffle died down indicating Oberg wasn't the direct cause of the retaliation, but that the incident on Tuesday played a part.

"I think it just shows we have each other's backs," Hosmer said. "I think that's the main thing. You want to fight with your guys, especially coming on the road to a division opponent. You want to stick together."

"They've been pitching aggressively, and we've had some guys that have been hit," Ellis said. "We had a guy sent to the hospital last night. Two guys get hit on their hands in the past week against these guys. But to react like that and go out there, especially when he didn't even get hit and the ball was behind him, you go out there and make sure everybody's safe and you take care of your teammates."

Gorman said warnings weren't issued until after the scuffle because there wasn't clear intention on the other hit batters. Immediately after the fracas, the Rockies surged to a five-run frame to take a 5-0 lead en route to their sixth win in 13 games this year. These clubs have met seven times already this season, and have another three-game series at Coors Field in two weeks. Irritation was still high in the immediate aftermath, particularly given the competitive environment of two clubs who see each other 19 times within the National League West.

"You expect anything," Hosmer said. "Especially when you play guys in the division. We're all competitors and we're all trying to do everything we can to win ballgames and compete out there. There's a reason all these guys are at the top level, because of their competitiveness."

"We'll see," Arenado added. "I don't have the answers for that one."

## **Blackmon day to day with right quad tightness**

Rockies center fielder scratched Tuesday, held out Wednesday

**Daniel Kramer/ MLB.com | Apr. 11, 2018**

DENVER -- **Charlie Blackmon** dodged the disabled list over the weekend after leaving Saturday's game against the Braves with back tightness and missing Sunday's game. After playing Monday's opener against the Padres, the Rockies center fielder was scratched from Tuesday's lineup due to right quad tightness that flared up before batting practice, manager Bud Black said.

"We felt it was best to take him out of the lineup," Black said after Tuesday's game. "Hopefully it's day to day."

Blackmon also was held out Wednesday.

**Mike Tauchman** started in place of Blackmon in center both games, while **DJ LeMahieu** moved to the leadoff spot, as he did in Blackmon's stead over the weekend. It wasn't immediately clear how Blackmon sustained his latest injury. He did not take on-field batting practice with the Rockies' first group, as he normally does.

Blackmon was pulled ahead of the 10th inning of Saturday's game against the Braves with the back issue, but the Rockies said Sunday that sitting the slugging center fielder was more of a precaution than a concern. He went 1-for-3 in Monday's 7-6 loss to the Padres.

Blackmon, who signed a six-year, \$108 million contract April 4, is hitting .282/.391/.641 with four homers and six RBIs in 46 plate appearances through 10 games. His presence atop a formidable Colorado lineup that has struggled through its first 11 games has been valuable, particularly given that the Rockies' primary bench players -- Tauchman, first baseman **Ryan McMahon**, catcher **Tony Wolters** and infielder **Pat Valaika** -- are a combined 3-for-55 after McMahon, Valaika and Tauchman went 0-for-7 in Tuesday's 5-2 loss to the Padres.

Tauchman made the Rockies' Opening Day roster after an impressive spring, during which he hit .333/.397/.567 in 60 at-bats. He is 0-for-11 with six strikeouts.

## **Hoffman starts rehab**

**Jeff Hoffman** (right shoulder soreness) began his rehab assignment on Tuesday with Class A Advanced Lancaster. The right-hander allowed two earned runs on five hits, striking out two, over three innings against San Jose.

Hoffman will need multiple Minor League starts to build up his workload to a starter's level after being shut down following two Cactus League starts. Over 23 games last year, including 16 starts, Hoffman went 6-5 with a 5.89 ERA, after he had

posted a 2.25 ERA over his first six outings. He threw batting practice last Thursday in Scottsdale, Ariz., and progressed through his throwing program on Sunday with coaches and trainers present.

## **The boiling point at mile-high altitude? For the Rockies' Nolan Arenado, it's 96 mph, high and tight**

The tension began building on Tuesday when Manuel Margot was drilled in the ninth inning, sending him to the disabled list

**Nick Groke/ The Athletic | Apr. 12, 2018**

DENVER — The second-worst pitch Luis Perdomo threw Wednesday afternoon was his glove, when he chucked it at Nolan Arenado's face and sailed it to the backstop. The melee that followed was just as wild — punches and towels and bodies and arms flew around the yard like popcorn in the wind.

A getaway day game accelerated from zero to savage in the third inning at Coors Field when the Rockies and Padres cleared their benches in an extended brawl that sent five ejected players to an early shower. What was a dry and feckless Rockies homestand ended with some pep, and Colorado finally found a way to defeat the Padres 6-4.

"I was not very happy," Arenado said.

The tension did not arrive suddenly. The two National League West rivals are scheduled for 10 games in 24 days over the first month of the season, with another three-game stand at Coors Field later this month. And already within the past nine days, six batters were hit by pitches.

Padres manager Andy Green claimed the Rockies were pitching too aggressively inside. The Rockies claimed innocence. When Arenado came to bat in the third inning, the Padres thought it was time to send a message. Perdomo's first pitch, a 96-mph fastball, went up and in and out, flying behind Arenado's back. That was his worst pitch, a message that missed its target. San Diego catcher A.J. Ellis never moved his glove to chase the ball.

Arenado slammed his helmet and charged the mound. His overhand punch at Perdomo missed when the pitcher ducked and weaved.

Benches clear, punches thrown in Padres-Rockies game with Nolan Arenado and Luis Perdomo in the center of it.

"The guy was throwing 93-94. And that was the hardest pitch he threw all day," Carlos Gonzalez said. "It was 96 close to his head."

Arenado, Colorado's all-star third baseman, and Perdomo, San Diego's starter, were tossed immediately. Rockies left fielder Gerardo Parra landed a punch to the face of Ellis, who retaliated. They both got a heave-ho. And Colorado starter German Márquez, not content to sit idly by, came in to throw a towel at nobody in particular. His was the final ejection. Suspensions will surely follow. Parra might get bit the hardest. His was the only punch that landed. Arenado and Márquez said they expect punishment, too.



“Getting thrown at, 96 inside, you know? It's frustrating,” Arenado said. “I wasn't expecting to get hit. I had a feeling that they could probably do it to someone. I didn't think it would be me. But it was.”

An explanation came to Arenado in the heated moment. Gonzalez rushed from the on-deck circle to corral his teammate, dragging him back toward home plate. Mark McGwire, the Padres' bench coach, helped hold Arenado back. McGwire told him Perdomo's pitch was the result of three specific pitches.

“He said we hit a couple guys, and he was like, 'What do you expect? Of course, we're going to send a message,' ” Gonzalez said.

Rockies reliever Scott Oberg sent Padres center fielder Manuel Margot to the hospital Tuesday night after tagging him in the ribs with a 95-mph fastball. Oberg had hit Christian Villanueva with a pitch last week, too. Márquez on Wednesday hit Padres right fielder Hunter Renfroe in the hand with a pitch in the second inning.

Margot on Wednesday was put on the Padres' 10-day disabled list. Oberg, the night before, tracked down Margot's phone number to send him an apology by text message. His pitch was not intentional, he said. The Padres did not disagree. But it did not alleviate their anger.

“They keep drilling our guys repetitively. At some point in time, you hope people do something about it,” Green said.

Said Colorado manager Bud Black: “I could sense something. When you're down on the field, you can hear some frustration from the other dugout at times. And I sensed that from their side.”

Black tried to focus on his team's second victory in six days, keyed by a five-run third inning that immediately followed the brouhaha. “Let's talk about the game,” he said. “Big hit by Tony (Wolters). Good to see Mac (rookie Ryan McMahon) get a knock.”

Good try. But the brawl might linger. The Padres return to Denver on April 23. And the Rockies face a difficult stretch before then, with a seven-game road trip starting Thursday, at Washington and Pittsburgh, then a three-game home series against the Cubs.

In Colorado's clubhouse early Wednesday evening, after Arenado tried as he might not to say too much, his teammates prodded him with jokes, telling him how good his hair looked while charging the mound. Arenado, though, could not say for sure this was the last of the strain between the Rockies and Padres.

“I don't know,” Arenado said. “We'll see. I don't have the answer to that one.”

## **Rockies, Padres brawl at Coors Field after Luis Perdomo throws at Nolan Arenado**

The tension began building on Tuesday when Manuel Margot was drilled in the ninth inning, sending him to the disabled list

**Kyle Newman/ The Denver Post | Apr. 12, 2018**

DENVER — The A feud simmering below the surface burst into full view Wednesday afternoon at Coors Field after San Diego starting pitcher Luis Perdomo threw behind Nolan Arenado to start the third inning. Arenado tossed his bat and charged the mound while Perdomo threw his glove at Arenado as the benches and bullpens cleared.

Five players were ejected in the aftermath — Perdomo and Padres catcher A.J. Ellis as well as the Rockies' Arenado, German Marquez and Gerardo Parra — with suspensions expected to be announced by the weekend.

After avoiding the bean ball, Arenado chased a backpedaling Perdomo to the third base side of the mound as players rushed the field. The all-star took swings at Perdomo. The fight took about 15 minutes to subside, but Arenado, restrained by teammate Carlos Gonzales near the Rockies dugout, was as visibly angry as he left the dugout as the hometown fans have ever seen him.

"It is what it is," Arenado said postgame. "I didn't like it — they thought they had to do something, but I had to do something too — that's kind of why I went out there."

Tension between the teams rose in the ninth inning of Tuesday night's game, when the Padres' Manuel Margot was plunked by a 95-mph fastball from Rockies reliever Scott Oberg. Margot had to be helped off the field and was later placed on the 10-day disabled list with bruised ribs. (Oberg reached out to Margot after the game to reiterate the pitch was unintentional.)

Wednesday, Perdomo hit Trevor Story with a fastball in the first inning which was followed by Marquez beaming Hunter Renfroe in the second, also with two out. By the time Perdomo threw a shoulder high fastball behind Arenado with the first pitch of the third, things had reached a boiling point.

"Oberg's hit two of our guys (this year), Marquez drilled Hunter today — so they're pitching aggressively inside, and we've seen that repetitively," Padres manager Andy Green said. "Our guys, at some point in time, are going to take up for each other and pitch inside as well."

When play resumed, the Rockies offense was suddenly reinvigorated, and scored five runs with the help of some sloppy Padres' defense. That proved enough in a 6-4 victory.

Once suspensions are handed down, the Rockies will have to play short of a full 25-man roster considering discipline for on-field altercations does not allow clubs to replace suspended players. But the team is unlikely to be without more than one suspended player at a time, as the appeals for Arenado, Marquez and Parra might be staggered.

"I'm sure the league will look at it, make their assessment and we will do what we need to do on our end," Rockies manager Bud Black said.

Colorado takes on San Diego at Coors Field again for a three-game series from April 23-25. Will the feud be over by then?

"We'll see," Arenado said. "I don't have the answers for that one."

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*Hit by pitches in seven Rockies vs. Padres games this year:*

April 2 — A.J. Ellis (Chad Bettis)

April 3 — Christian Villanueva (Scott Oberg)

April 4 — Jose Pirela (Jon Gray)

April 10 — Manuel Margot (Oberg)

April 11 — Trevor Story (Luis Perdomo), Hunter Renfroe (German Marquez)

**Charlie Blackmon sits for second straight day in series finale against San Diego; trip to disabled list unlikely**

After being scratched yesterday due to quad tightness, the all-star centerfielder won't be in the lineup again at Coors Field

**Kyle Newman/ The Denver Post | Apr. 11, 2018**

DENVER — Rockies centerfielder **Charlie Blackmon** sits for Wednesday afternoon's series finale against San Diego, the second straight game the all-star won't play after being scratched on Tuesday due to quad tightness.

Blackmon worked with Rockies athletic trainer Keith Dugger on the field for about 30 minutes during pregame as Colorado looks to avoid the sweep, going through an array of stretches and warmups for his legs.

Mike Tauchman will once again fill in for Blackmon in centerfield.

The disabled list is unlikely for Blackmon, who is set to miss his third game this year. He didn't play on Sunday against Atlanta due to back spasms.

## **The Morning After: German Marquez's ejection following three dominant innings leaves more to be desired for the Rockies right-hander**

Marquez was one of three Rockies players ejected from Wednesday's game at Coors Field due to brawl with San Diego

**Kyle Newman/ The Denver Post | Apr. 12, 2018**

German Marquez looked sharp through three scoreless innings on Wednesday at Coors Field, throwing 31 of 39 pitches for strikes while allowing just one hit and striking out four.

But his outing was cut short by an ejection for the right-hander's role in the **third inning, benches-clearing fight** in which Marquez shoved his way into the scrum and threw a towel in the face of a Padres player.

"No doubt (I'm frustrated)," Marquez said postgame. "I was really throwing the ball well and felt like I could have gone deep into the game."

The Rockies will have to wait until next week to see if Marquez (0-1, 4.97 ERA), who was previously **blasted for seven runs by Atlanta** in the home opener, is finding his rhythm as Wednesday's first few innings indicated.

### **Here are five other takeaways from the game:**

**No. 1:** With a **6-4 win over San Diego**, the Rockies snapped their first three-game losing streak of the year to improve to 6-7 — still their worst start to a season since going 5-8 to open 2009. But they avoided the sweep, and there is traction to be had heading into a seven-game road trip.

**No. 2:** Last year, the Rockies led all of baseball by hitting .284 with two outs and runners in scoring position. They haven't been nearly as clutch in that scenario through 13 games in 2018, hitting a collective .143 to rank second-to-last in the MLB.

**No. 3:** A pair of role players made their impact felt in Wednesday's lineup. **Ryan McMahon made his second start** at first base and recorded his first hit this year, going 1-for-3 with a walk, while Tony Wolters played catcher and was 1-for-4 with a pair of RBIs.

**No. 4:** Following the brawl, Ian Desmond finished Nolan Arenado's at-bat in the third. Later, Pat Valaika hit for German Marquez and then Tyler Anderson — the Rockies' starting pitcher on Tuesday who sports a .076 career average — hit for Gerardo Parra, striking out in four pitches.

**No. 5:** The Colorado bullpen put up another strong showing. After No. 6 starter Antonio Senzatela came in for Marquez and allowed two runs in three innings, **Adam Ottavino**, Jake McGee and Wade Davis held the Padres at bay. Davis recorded his fifth save.

## **Rockies beat Padres in brawl-marred game at Coors Field**

Colorado's big hits were an RBI single by Carlos Gonzalez and a two-run single by catcher Tony Wolters

**Patrick Saunders/ The Denver Post | Apr. 11, 2018**

After batters were plunked, punches were thrown, players were tossed and the dust finally cleared, the Rockies emerged with a much-needed 6-4 victory over San Diego Wednesday afternoon at Coors Field.

Now the Rockies, 6-7, head to Washington for a four-game series beginning Thursday against the powerful Nationals.

A third-inning brawl resulted in the ejections of star third baseman Nolan Arenado, left fielder Gerardo Parra and starting pitcher German Marquez, but Colorado managed to squeeze out the victory to avoid a three-game sweep. The Padres have not swept a series in Denver since 2011.

Colorado, seemingly sparked by the fracas, scored five runs in the third. The big hits were an RBI single by Carlos Gonzalez and a two-run, bases-loaded single by catcher Tony Wolters, who emerged from a deep, early-season slump. The Padres roared back for three runs in the sixth off of right-hander Antonio Senzatela, who had replaced Marquez. Franchy Cordero led off the inning with a solo homer to center.

Colorado hiked its lead to 6-3 in the bottom of the frame on Ian Desmond's sacrifice fly to score DJ LeMahieu, who led off with a double and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Senzatela. LeMahieu, hitting leadoff in place of the injured Charlie Blackmon (right quadriceps strain), went 3-for-5, hiking his average to .308.

A solo homer in the eighth by San Diego's Eric Hosmer, who plastered a center-cut fastball from left-hander Jake McGee, cut the lead to 6-4. Closer Wade Davis pitched a perfect ninth, with two strikeouts, to record his fifth overall save, his first at Coors Field.

### **Looking ahead**

Rockies RHP Chad Bettis (1-0, 2.53 ERA) at Nationals LHP Gio Gonzalez (1-0, 1.59), 5:05 p.m. Thursday; ATTRM, 850 AM

The Rockies begin a four-game series against the pitching-rich Nationals with Bettis on the mound. He doesn't have the overpowering stuff of teammates Jon Gray or German Marquez, but he's been Colorado's most consistent starter in the early going and the club has won both of his starts. Bettis is 1-0 with a 4.00 ERA in two starts at Nationals Ballpark, and 1-0 with a 4.26 ERA in four appearances vs. Washington. Gonzalez pitched 5 1/3 innings in a no-decision Saturday against the Mets, allowing one run on six hits and three walks while striking out six. It was his second consecutive start in which he allowed just a single run. The 32-year-old lefty recorded a 2.96 ERA in 201 innings last year.

**Friday:** Rockies LHP Kyle Freeland (0-2, 5.56) at Nationals RHP Tanner Roark (1-0, 4.50), 5:05 p.m., ATTRM

**Saturday:** Rockies RHP Jon Gray (1-2, 5.63) at Nationals RHP Max Scherzer (2-1, 0.90), 11:05 a.m., ATTRM

**Sunday:** Rockies LHP Tyler Anderson (0-0, 5.65) at Nationals RHP Stephen Strasburg (2-1, 2.21), 11:35 a.m., ATTRM



## **Rockies 6, Padres 4: A big inning and a brawl**

Arenado was among the ejections in today's Rockies win

**Eric Garcia McKinley/ Purple Row | Apr. 11, 2018**

Five players were ejected and the Rockies scored five runs in an eventful bottom of the third Wednesday afternoon, which the Rockies eventually won 6-4. San Diego Pitcher pitcher Luis Perdomo threw a pitch behind Nolan Arenado, apparently in retaliation for a hit by pitch from yesterday's game. Arenado took some exception to that and charged the mound, inducing a bench clearing brawl. In addition to Arenado and Perdomo, Germán Márquez, Gerardo Parra, and AJ Ellis got tossed. Arenado took a swing at Perdomo, though he didn't land it. That's relevant information because whether or not he landed the punch will probably determine the length of his inevitable suspension.

There's more

The brawl wasn't the only event in the bottom of the third. That long half-inning also included two errors, two walks, hits by Pat Valaika (!) and Tony Wolters (!!), five runs, and a pinch hit appearance by Tyler Anderson.

While the Rockies scored six runs, the offense didn't exactly come alive. Ian Desmond reached on an error and eventually scored, and Wolters cleared three runs with the help of an error. The Padres allowed three earned runs. There's still work to do, and now the challenge is even greater as the Rockies head to the road.

Looking ahead

The Rockies begin a four game series against the Nationals tomorrow in Washington D.C. Chad Bettis will face Gio González in the first game, which begins at 5:05 MT.

### **Colorado Rockies: High-priced Ian Desmond turning into a bust**

First and third, nobody out. The Colorado Rockies need a good inning to climb back into the game. They have their highest paid player at the plate. He hits a shallow fly ball to right field and the runner at third is unable to tag up. Two batters later, the Rockies are back in the dugout having scored zero runs.

**Aaron Hurt/ RoxPile | Apr. 11, 2018**

What was just described was the seventh inning of Tuesday night's game against the San Diego Padres as the Rockies were down 5-2 (the same score by which they would eventually lose the game). The batter at the plate was no other than \$22 million man **Ian Desmond**.

There is plenty of blame to go around for the Rockies' rough start to this young season but I am going to single out Desmond. Sorry, but Tuesday night's game was maddening to watch and when you are the highest paid player on a team, there needs to be some accountability.

Let's first start with the positives. He is leading the team with eight RBI and is tied for second in home runs with three. He has also been very adequate on defense, showing off his athleticism as he has been platooning his services between left field and first base.

Now the negatives. Desmond was in the midst of 1-for-24 slump during the last seven games, including an 0-for-2 outing on Wednesday when he stepped into the lineup after a brawl broke out. He is third on the team in strikeouts and is striking out 28% of the time. To go along with the strikeouts, he has only drawn one walk. This has led to a sickening .209/.222/.442 split.

To make matters worse, heading into the finale with the Padres, Desmond was fourth in the National League in groundball/flyout ratio at 3.8. This has led him into grounding out into three double plays, which was tied for second in the National League heading into Wednesday's game. For someone who will play half of their games in Coors Field, this is unacceptable.

The excuse-makers will say that the season is still early ... but how many games need to be played before this no longer an excuse? Looking at Desmond's career numbers, this is who he is. He was fortunate enough to dupe the Rockies into giving him a five-year, \$70 million contract after one good season in Texas in 2016.

Colorado General Manager Jeff Bridich has made some great moves in his short tenure but as of right now Desmond has been a bust. Unfortunately, due to his contract, Desmond is stuck in Denver for the next four years.

## Colorado Rockies: Combat At Coors: Inside the bench-clearing brawl between Colorado and San Diego

Jake Shapiro/ RoxPile | Apr. 11, 2018

DENVER – When does an action justify a reaction?

For the San Diego Padres, who happen to play baseball but did not play much of it on Wednesday, their magic count for an action to justify a reaction is three.

Padres bench coach Mark McGwire grabbed Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado by the gullet with his right hand and held up his left hand with three outstretched fingers.

Whilst yelling McGwire was referencing three instances, a magic amount in baseball. The tally it takes to send a batter packing, if you do that three times then you get to hit. McGwire's three was in reference to the amount of players the Padres felt the Arenado-led Rockies have hit over the past week.

The Rockies and Padres are in the midst of playing 10 games within the first month of the season. In the clubs' first meeting, veteran San Deigo catcher A.J. Ellis was plunked by the veteran Chad Bettis, and it was unintentional. A day later, Padres' rookie third baseman Christian Villanueva was hit by Rockies' reliever Scott Oberg between smashing his second and third home runs in a slugging assault.

Now, this may have been the first strike in McGwire's book... or it wasn't because Villanueva scored the go-ahead run later in the inning. Either way, the evidence can point you to a conclusion for whichever team you favor.

In the third matchup—still in San Deigo, just a day later again—Rockies ace Jon Gray plunked Padres fifth-year outfielder Jose Pirela in the middle innings of a five-run game. The finale of the four-gamer saw no beanballs.

Three days against other opponents and then the teams were in Denver. The first night and fifth matchup in eight days saw no bad blood. In matchup six, the blood was spit from Manuel Margot's mouth as he lied in excessive pain as an ear whistling 95 mph fastball from Oberg bruised his ribs. One Rockie said off the record that he understood why they were upset, their guy was spitting blood and is now on the DL.

Oberg said he by no means meant that intentionally, going as far to text Margot an apology.

For McGwire, this was strike two.

On Wednesday, in their seventh matchup in little more than a week, tensions exploded into a full-blown brouhaha.

Trevor Story was beamed with two outs in the first inning by Padres starter Luis Perdomo. The Rockies matched in the next half frame, as starter German Marquez tagged Hunter Renfroe. Again with two outs.

Strike three.

There was no waiting in the bottom half of the third. The Padres promptly plunked Arenado. Perdomo unleashed his hardest fastball—96—behind the back of the superstar.

In McGwire's world, he views the three separate Rockies actions as deliberate, in the sinister matter of risking his player's health. To him, manager Andy Green and Perdomo that justifies the reaction gunning for Arenado.

In Arenado's world, the belligerent act in itself was enough to justify a reaction.

"I thought they wanted to do something and I had to do something too," he said. "I had a feeling they might do that to someone, I didn't know it would be me."

He charged the mound to inflict some of the same harm that Perdomo had intended for him.

Arenado skipped in vengeance, Perdomo's glove flew to protect himself.

Arenado threw a blistering right-handed hook that grazed the occiput of the fleeing Perdomo.

The benches cleared. Some came out to protect teammates, others to cause harm to rivals; if necessary.

"I was in the on-deck circle, by the time I reached the mound I was surrounded by Padres, my one concern was trying to protect him (Arenado) the whole time," Rockies outfielder Carlos Gonzalez said. "Even if you have to take or throw or a few punches I was out there for my teammate."

On the other side, so too was Ellis.

"As I was trying to be a peacemaker and put that to an end, some of their players took offense to my attempt to create peace," A.J. Ellis told Dennis Lin *The Athletic*. "Apparently, I'm not Switzerland."

Ellis felt blindsided by fiery Colorado outfielder Gerardo Parra.

"I protect my team, even more for our best player," Parra said. "Nolan's our best one."

Parra was seen jumping over the shoves and eventually connected on a left-handed jab to Ellis' jaw.

Ellis was barely held back as Ian Desmond hugged his chest and anchored his belt.

Arenado was lost on the southern front where Gonzalez held him.

"I pushed him back and Mark (McGwire) approached him," CarGo said." There was a back and forth. He said we hit a couple of guys and 'what do you expect of course we were going to send a message.'"

That's when the All-Star McGwire viciously held up those three fingers in the face of the All-Star Arenado.

For Major League Baseball, every action taken by Arenado, Parra, Marquez justifies the reaction of a suspension. Or, at least that's what the three players assume.

What we learned in the Padres-Rockies brawl is how far a player will go to protect a teammate or himself. Sometimes actions cross lines that force the ire via a reaction from the opposition. And, that boys—well—they'll be boys.

"We all react differently," CarGo said.

The Rockies bats reacted by awakening for the first time in days, crossing six en route to winning just the second game in the finale of a six-game homestand.

The Padres are back in Denver in 11 days.

## **Benches-clearing brawl helps push Rockies to victory in series finale vs. Padres**

**Aniello Piro/ Mile High Sports | Apr. 11, 2018**

The Colorado Rockies may have found a spark during Wednesday afternoon's matinee against National League West rival San Diego. The ejection of All-Star third basemen **Nolan Arenado** helped jumpstart the Rockies in a 6-4 victory to wrap up their first homestand of 2018 on a winning note.

Tensions were high entering the ballgame after the Padres announced that outfielder **Manuel Margot** had been placed on the 10-day disabled list due to bruising in his ribs, which stems from a hit-by-pitch from Colorado pitcher **Scott Oberg** in the ninth inning of San Diego's 5-2 victory Tuesday night.

The thought of retaliation was discussed amongst media members at Coors Field ahead of the ballgame, with the expectation being that the Rockies were prepared should something develop throughout the game.

The Rockies utilized another non-traditional lineup Wednesday, which included **DJ LeMahieu** hitting leadoff, **Gerardo Parra** batting second, and both **Ryan McMahon** and **Mike Tauchman** getting starts. **Charlie Blackmon** missed his second consecutive game with a quadriceps injury.

LeMahieu and Para both reached base in the opening inning for the Rockies, and **Trevor Story** was hit by a pitch to give Colorado bases-loaded opportunity to open the ballgame, which they failed to capitalize on.

After a clean second inning and top half of the third inning, Arenado led off the bottom half of the third for the Rockies only to be greeted by a 96-mph pitch from Padres starter **Luis Perdomo** that nearly hit him. The pitch, which appeared to be intentional, prompted Arenado to slam his helmet down and storm the mound. Perdomo threw his glove at a charging Arenado and a benches-clearing brawl ensued. The fracas resulted in a stoppage of play and five ejections.

Arenado, starting pitcher **German Marquez**, and Parra were all ejected for their role in the brawl. Perdomo and Padres catcher **A.J. Ellis** were also tossed for their involvement in the incident.

Suspensions could be on the horizon considering the obscene and disruptive nature of what transpired.

Although the fight was ugly, it helped propel the Rockies to a much-needed victory.

Following the ejections, the Rockies went on to plate five runs on three hits in the inning. **Ian Desmond**, who pinch hit for Arenado once he was ejected, reached base after a throwing error by third baseman **Cory Spangenberg**. From there, Desmond stole second and scored on an RBI single from **Carlos Gonzalez**. After walks to Story and McMahon and a sacrifice from Tauchman, the bases were loaded for **Tony Wolters**. The catcher hit a single to center, scoring three runs

aided in part to an error from center fielder **Franchy Cordero**. Pat Valiakka followed with an RBI single to score Wolters and put the Rockies ahead 5-0.

The fourth and fifth innings were clean for both sides, but the Padres got on the board in the sixth when Cordero hit a solo home run to lead off the inning. After that, Hosmer and Pirela both reached base with Hosmer scoring on a fielder's choice and Pirela following him on a passed ball to cut the Rockies' lead to 5-3.

The Rockies got a run back in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by Desmond to score LeMahieu who led off the inning with a double and advanced to third base on a sacrifice bunt from pitcher **Antonio Senzatela**.

**Eric Hosmer** hit a home run in the eighth inning to make the score 6-4, but the Rockies bullpen was able to lock things down after that, which included a clean ninth inning from **Wade Davis** to solidify the victory and earn Davis his fifth save in six tries.

Marquez was sharp on the mound prior to his ejection as he logged three innings, allowing just one hit while striking out four batters. Senzatela (1-1, 9.39) did a solid job filling in for Marquez as he went three innings, allowing four hits and two runs to earn the win. **Adam Ottavino** also had a nice outing which included a pair of strikeouts in his lone inning of work.

**NEXT UP:** The Rockies travel to Washington D.C. to take on the Nationals in a four-game set starting Thursday night. **Chad Bettis** (1-0, 2.53) will square off against **Gio Gonzalez** (1-0, 1.59) with first pitch set for 5:05 p.m. MDT.

## **Basebrawl: Arenado charges mound, Rockies beat Padres 6-4**

**Pat Graham/ Associated Press | Apr. 11, 2018**

DENVER — Rockies star Nolan Arenado charged the mound after a fastball from Luis Perdomo sailed behind him, setting off a heated brawl that resulted in five ejections during a testy game in which Colorado beat the San Diego Padres 6-4 on Wednesday.

Perdomo flung his glove at the rushing Arenado and missed. The big-hitting Arenado then threw a couple of huge punches at the backpedaling Perdomo, but didn't land anything squarely.

Arenado's reaction in the third woke up the slumbering Colorado bats, with the Rockies scoring five times in the inning to take a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

The tension between these two NL West teams started boiling a night earlier at Coors Field when Padres outfielder Manuel Margot got hit in the ribs by a pitch, putting him on the disabled list. The problems festered early on in the series finale, with Colorado's Trevor Story being plunked in the first and San Diego's Hunter Renfroe in the second.

That set the stage for Arenado, who didn't take kindly to a pitch that nearly grazed his back. He immediately stormed after Perdomo, who threw his glove in self-defense. Arenado kept trying to punch the pitcher as the benches cleared and the relievers sprinted in from the bullpen.

An incensed Arenado began screaming at Padres catcher A.J. Ellis, leading to San Diego bench coach Mark McGwire holding the All-Star third baseman back. Rockies starter German Marquez got involved by throwing a towel and Colorado outfielder Gerardo Parra looked as if he threw a punch.

Once order was finally restored, the umpires met for several minutes before ejecting Perdomo, Ellis, Arenado, Marquez and Parra.

Colorado erupted soon after the melee, sending nine hitters to the plate with most of the damage off reliever Buddy Baumann (0-1) when he took over for Perdomo. The big play was Tony Wolters' bases-loaded, two-run single that center fielder Franchy Cordero misplayed to allow another run to score.

Cordero atoned with a solo homer as part of San Diego's three-run the sixth. Eric Hosmer hit his first homer as a member of the Padres in the eighth.

Antonio Senzatela (1-1) struggled over three innings while filling in for Marquez. Wade Davis pitched a perfect ninth for his fifth save as the Rockies finished the homestand 2-4.



## **TRAINER'S ROOM**

Padres: Manager Andy Green said the hope is that Margot's ribs feel better in four or five days and he can take some swings. ... Cordero (groin) was reinstated Wednesday from the DL after a rehab assignment at Triple-A El Paso.

Rockies: OF Charlie Blackmon was out of the lineup for a second straight game with tightness in his right quad. "I'm feeling pretty good," Blackmon said before the game.

## **OH, BROTHER**

The younger brother of Arenado hit a grand slam Tuesday night to lead Double-A Richmond over Colorado's affiliate, the Hartford Yard Goats. It was the first homer at the Double-A level for Jonah Arenado, a 16th-round pick by San Francisco in 2013.

## **UP NEXT**

Padres: Open a four-game series against San Francisco. RHP Bryan Mitchell (0-1, 4.22 ERA) goes for San Diego, while the Giants will throw RHP Chris Stratton (0-1, 4.35).

Rockies: Travel to Washington for a four-game set against Washington, with RHP Chad Bettis (1-0, 2.53) starting the opening game.

## **Basebrawl: Arenado charges mound, Rockies beat Padres 6-4**

**Pat Graham/ Associated Press | Apr. 11, 2018**

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Rockies standout Nolan Arenado charged the mound after a fastball from San Diego starter Luis Perdomo sailed behind him, setting off a wild brawl that resulted in five ejections Wednesday during a testy series at Coors Field.

Perdomo tossed his glove at a furious Arenado, and the big-hitting third baseman started throwing punches at the pitcher in the third inning. The benches cleared and relievers ran in from the bullpen. Arenado yelled at Padres catcher A.J. Ellis near the San Diego dugout and had to be held back, with Padres bench coach Mark McGwire helping keep them separated.

Just when the melee seemed to be winding down, Rockies starter German Marquez appeared to toss a towel toward the Padres, and Rockies outfielder Gerardo Parra appeared to throw a punch . That briefly heated things back up.

The night before, Rockies reliever Scott Oberg hit San Diego center fielder Manuel Margot in the ribs. Margot was placed on the 10-day disabled list on Wednesday. Before the game, Rockies manager Bud Black said Oberg had reached out to Margot to explain his side.

The feud carried over to the series finale, when Rockies shortstop Trevor Story was hit in the first inning by Perdomo and Padres right fielder Hunter Renfroe was plunked by Marquez in the second.

On the first pitch in the third, Arenado leaned out of the way to avoid the ball hitting him in the back and immediately took off for the mound. Perdomo tried to ward off Arenado by tossing his glove, but it sailed over the Gold Glove third baseman's head.

Once order was finally restored, the umpires met for several minutes before ejecting Perdomo, Ellis, Arenado, Marquez and Parra.

The fight seemed to fire up the Rockies, who scored five runs in the inning to take a 5-0 lead. The Rockies have been struggling on offense this season.

## Rockies' Nolan Arenado sparks brawl by charging Padres' Luis Perdomo

ESPN News Services | Apr. 11, 2018

DENVER -- **Colorado Rockies** standout **Nolan Arenado** charged the mound after a fastball from **San Diego Padres** starter **Luis Perdomo** sailed behind him, setting off a wild brawl that resulted in five ejections Wednesday during a testy series at Coors Field.

Perdomo tossed his glove at a furious Arenado, and the big-hitting third baseman started throwing punches at the pitcher in the third inning. The benches cleared and relievers ran in from the bullpen. Arenado yelled at Padres catcher **A.J. Ellis** near the San Diego dugout and had to be held back, with Padres bench coach Mark McGwire helping keep them separated.

"They thought they had to do something," said Arenado, who expects to be suspended. "I thought I had to do something, too. That's kind of why I went out there."

Just when the melee seemed to be winding down, Rockies starter **German Marquez** appeared to toss a towel toward the Padres, and Rockies outfielder **Gerardo Parra** appeared to throw a punch. That briefly heated things back up.

Once order was finally restored, the umpires met for several minutes before ejecting Perdomo, Ellis, Arenado, Marquez and Parra.

"Our job is to try and calm everything down, but you've got to eject the aggressors," crew chief Brian Gorman said. Ellis struggled to understand the situation.

"To react like that and go out there, especially when he didn't even get hit -- the ball was behind him," Ellis said. "Nolan goes out and at that point it's about having each other's back. You take care of your brothers and teammates."

The night before, Rockies reliever **Scott Oberg** hit San Diego center fielder **Manuel Margot** in the ribs. Margot was placed on the 10-day disabled list on Wednesday. Before the game, Rockies manager Bud Black said Oberg had reached out to Margot to explain his side.

Padres manager Andy Green wasn't impressed.

"Our guys are out there competing, trying to win baseball games, and it's been kind of where we've been all season long, pitching aggressively inside at times and they're clearly pitching aggressively inside," Green said. "I think Oberg has hit two of our guys. Marquez drilled Hunter today, so they're pitching aggressively inside. We've seen that repetitively and our guys at some point in time are going to stick up for each other and we're going to pitch inside as well."

The feud carried over to the series finale, when Rockies shortstop **Trevor Story** was hit in the first inning by Perdomo and Padres right fielder **Hunter Renfroe** was plunked by Marquez in the second.

On the first pitch in the third, Arenado leaned out of the way to avoid the ball hitting him in the back and immediately took off for the mound. Perdomo tried to ward off Arenado by tossing his glove, but it sailed over the Gold Glove third baseman's head.

"We've tried to come in more on Nolan knowing he's one of the absolute best players in the National League, and we've come in aggressively at times," Green said.

He later added: "I mean, if they keep drilling our guys repetitively, at some point in time you hope people do something about it. But it's definitely been a situation where we've been hit a few times here early in the season by the Rockies."

The fight seemed to fire up the Rockies, who scored five runs in the inning to take a 5-0 lead and went on to win 6-4. The Rockies have been struggling on offense this season.

"We won today and that's all that mattered," Arenado said.

This might not be the end of this feud, either. The two teams play again in Denver starting on April 23.

"I don't have the answer to that one," Arenado said. "We'll see."