



Padres Press Clips

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Ray's Ks help Diamondbacks past Padres

[Kevin Acee](#)

It ended up getting ugly.

But, really, Tuesday was just one of those nights.

One of those many nights this season when [Padres](#) batters chased too many pitches, did not get enough hits and struck out abundantly.

“It was one of those days,” Andy Green said, “you run into a pretty good pitcher.”

The Padres, who had won five of their previous seven games, were listless again well before the game got away from them late.

The result was a 6-0 loss to the [Arizona Diamondbacks](#), who had lost four straight and six of eight coming in and began the night 1½ games behind the [Rockies](#) and a half-game back of the Dodgers in the [National League West](#).

Diamondbacks starter Robbie Ray struck out 10 – his second-highest total of the season – before departing with one out in the seventh inning. Five of those whiffs came on breaking balls outside the strike zone.

“That’s the best we’ve seen from him all year,” [Eric Hosmer](#) said. “He had pretty good command of (his slider), lot of life on his fastball. There were some tough at-bats.”

The Padres would strike out three more times, their 22nd game this season with 13 or more strikeouts, second most in the major leagues.

After not reaching base off Ray (5-2) until Hosmer’s lead-off walk in the fifth and not getting a hit until Franmil Reyes’ two-out single in that inning, the Padres finished with just three hits in all. The other two: a single by Luis Urias in the sixth inning and

a double by [Austin Hedges](#) in the eighth, as their majors-low team batting average fell to .234.

That made the four runs the Diamondbacks scored off Robert Stock and Phil Maton with two outs in the seventh extraneous.

Padres starter Joey Lucchesi (7-8) was not ineffective in his five innings of work. He was, in fact, perfect in three of those innings. The Diamondbacks scored two runs on a walk, a triple and a sacrifice fly in succession with one out in the second inning.

He was lifted in the sixth inning for pinch-hitter Francisco Mejia, who in his Padres debut was the last of Ray's strikeout victims.

"I felt good," said Lucchesi, who threw 74 pitches. "But Andy wanted to get more runs."

Said Green: "Tough one. I thought Joey threw the ball well. ... Could easily have gone out there in the sixth and seventh, had plenty of pitches left, but behind, kind of a situational choice to take him out right there and try to score."

Stock, who had allowed two runs in 25 2/3 innings over his previous 16 appearances, retired the first five Diamondbacks he faced before a two-out single began a series of unfortunate events that included a run scoring on a passed ball and another when a ball leaked from Hedges' glove after he had tagged out a runner at home.

By that time, the way the night was already going, it didn't matter.

It was already one of those games.

Padres notes: Green avoids ejection; Ellis' season all but done; Reyes streaks on

[Kevin Acee](#)

Padres manager Andy Green knew he wasn't going to win a challenge regarding whether [Diamondbacks](#) runner [Daniel Descalso](#) had knocked a ball from catcher [Austin Hedges](#)' glove on a scoring play during Tuesday night's 6-0 loss.

But it being the seventh inning and not wanting to cede another run, Green likely was going to ask for a replay review.

He didn't get the chance, because he was told his allotted 30 seconds had run out.

Green walked from the visitor's dugout on the first base line to dispute that notion with crew chief Angel Hernandez, who was working third base. Green said he was not told time was running out, as is customary.

"Angel considered walking to my dugout to be touching third base," Green said. "I don't get that, it makes no sense on any level that he's offering me some sort of opportunity to hear his voice and make a decision when music is being played and he's yelling at me across the field. It's not the way it's supposed to work. I'm just looking for a little professionalism. That to me was not that."

Hernandez engaged only briefly with Green before returning to his position. It appeared Green had more to say and did make some remarks to home plate umpire Todd Tichenor before walking off the field.

"I've already had quite a few ejections, some from (Hernandez)," Green said. "I didn't feel like pressing that."

Green has been ejected eight times in his three seasons as manager, including three times this season., tied for fifth most in the majors. Hernandez's only ejection of Green came on June 29 game against the [Pirates](#).

Ellis island

A.J. Ellis is by some measures having his best season among the 10 he has played in the major leagues.

That season appears all but finished, as the back-up catcher has been relegated to a third fiddle with the promotion of top catching prospect Francisco Mejia.

Green said Mejia and Austin Hedges will split in the season's final month.

So what happens to Ellis?

"The unfair thing that happens a lot with veteran catchers in September," Green said.

Ellis, who at 37 is the oldest catcher in the majors, has not only been a sort of coach for Hedges, hitters and pitchers, but he has posted a career-high .291 batting average and a .389 on-base percentage that is second highest in his career and leads the Padres. Ellis has started 42 games, six more than he did in 2017 with the Marlins.

"He's been very good for us in a lot of capacities," Green said. "There is just not going to be a lot of opportunity for him to get on the field. Out of respect for him, we'll try to find ways to get him out there from time to time. It's very difficult. There's not a ton left for a third catcher."

Extra bases

- With a single in the fifth inning, Franmil Reyes ended Robbie Ray's no-hit bid and extended his own hitting streak to 10 games. With Hunter Renfroe going 0-for-4 (barely being beat out by a throw from Diamondbacks third baseman [Eduardo Escobar](#) in the ninth inning) to have his streak stopped at 11 games, Reyes assumes the longest current hitting streak in the [National League](#).

- [Eric Hosmer](#) went hitless for the third straight game, but he did get his fifth walk in those games. He is 0-for-7 with a .417 on-base percentage in the span.
- Austin Hedges' eighth-inning double gave him an extra-base hit in four of his past five games. It also extended his hitting streak to six games.
- With a single in the sixth inning, Luis Urias has reached base in all but one of his eight career games.
- Phil Maton did not retire any of the three batters he faced, allowed an inherited runner to score and was charged with an unearned run in the seventh inning. Tuesday was his team-leading 15th appearance in the Padres' past 30 games. Maton has a 5.17 ERA and 1.66 WHIP and has allowed four of eight inherited runners to score.

Updated: Padres call up catcher Francisco Mejia

[Kevin Acee](#)

On Monday, [Padres](#) manager Andy Green made an impassioned case that there was room on the Padres for both [Austin Hedges](#) and Francisco Mejia.

Tuesday, the Padres made it official that they are about to start finding out if that is the case.

The organization's No. 3 prospect, considered the top catcher in the minor leagues, was recalled from Triple-A El Paso and joined the team prior to Tuesday night's game against the [Diamondbacks](#).

"We're trying to win baseball games," Hedges said. "We've got a top-10 prospect. We've got a guy who can swing it, can play multiple positions. I think it's awesome."

Hedges started Tuesday's game. Mejia will make his first start Thursday in Cincinnati.

The 22-year-old started three straight games for Triple-A El Paso before being called up. The Padres wanted to give him a couple days to get acclimated and learn the pitching staff. He caught some bullpen sessions Tuesday at Chase Field.

The plan is for Mejia, 22, and Hedges, 25, to split time catching over the Padres' remaining 21 games.

"I couldn't be a bigger fan of Austin Hedges, couldn't love having somebody on the field and behind the plate more than I love having him out there," Green said Monday. "... There is room for two back there to be a great baseball team."

Mejia hit .328/.364/.582 in 31 games for El Paso after the Padres acquired him in a July 19 trade that sent relievers Brad Hand and Adam Cimber to the [Cleveland](#)

[Indians](#). His Triple-A line for the season between Columbus and El Paso was .293/.338/.471.

Mejia played 12 games for the Indians over the past two seasons. He has two singles and three walks in 18 major league plate appearances.

Befitting the Padres' preference that a player be excelling at the time he is called up, Mejia three homered in three of his final five games and had a .375 on-base percentage and 1.114 OPS in his last 16 games.

Hedges, revered by pitchers for his game-calling and defense, is hitting .239/.292/.422 this season. That includes a .275/.324/.500 run since the start of July, shortly after he returned from a five-week stay on the disabled list with an elbow strain. Since July 1, Hedges' batting average is the best of any big-league catcher with more than 150 at-bats. His on-base percentage ranks fifth and his slugging percentage second.

Green said the insertion of Mejia into what is expected to be an equal split of playing time "is not going to stunt Austin's ability to impact us in a real positive way."

Green said Hedges "has shown enough to show who he is." The opportunity to get Mejia used to the pitching staff and to see him perform at the major league level was important.

"These are valuable games for Francisco to get acclimated to our organization," Green said.

Hedges knew this was coming since Mejia was acquired.

"Any time you get an asset like that, they're obviously going to get an opportunity to play," he said. "If that means helping us win games, he's going to play, and we need him in the lineup. What that means – if it means catcher, third base, outfield, just finding a way to get his bat in the lineup."

While Mejia has played both outfield spots and third base and could do so for the Padres in the future, he has been solely catching in El Paso and is expected to play only behind the plate this month.

“We value that pitcher-catcher relationship dynamic a ton,” Green said. “We think that investment — by catching bullpens, by studying pitchers, by studying opponents, by throwing himself headlong into that process, it’s going to be much better than if he’s worrying about taking fly balls in left field or ground balls at third base. We’ll get there at some point in time if we think that’s best for us.”

It is virtually certain they will get there if both are on the roster next spring.

“Those things will take care of themselves,” Green said. “Both these guys will find a way on the baseball field if they play the way we think they can.”

Mejia had expressed frustration over not catching enough while in the Indians organization.

“It the position I’ve always played,” he said Tuesday. “It’s what I’ve done since I was 4- or 5-years-old. It’s been good to do what I know and get better at that. I’m excited to have that opportunity to come up here and hit and do what I’ve always done. ... I appreciate it a lot. It’s an opportunity not everyone gets. It’s a position I’ve always played. It’s where I feel comfortable.”

Of moving around, he said, “It depends on the situation. I got a lot of reps over there. I learned to play outfield. I played a lot of outfield games. Given the situation, if that’s what they needed, I know I could do it.”

Fowler: Andy Green will manage Padres in 2019

Kevin Acee

Ron Fowler was taken aback by the question.

“Yes,” the [Padres](#)’ executive chairman said haltingly Tuesday afternoon, “he’ll be the manager next year.”

Andy Green, who last August signed a contract extension that runs through 2021, is the man the organization tabbed to navigate the rough waters of a building process and the man they think will steer them to a championship.

“I’m mystified,” Fowler said. “I don’t know of anything that is going on that would give any indication that’s he’s not (going to be manager after this season). It’s troublesome. We have not said anything that would indicate there is a problem. We understand how frustrating it is right now.”

The Padres are 55-85 and virtually assured of finishing last in the [National League West](#). By many statistical measures, their record chief among those, they have regressed. Their on-base percentage and batting average have also slid from last year.

Those in the front office have indicated for some time they understand regression is a part of growth.

And there have been some noticeable improvements, especially in the past couple months, in some players the organization deems key to their future. Those include outfielders Travis Jankowski, Manuel Margot Hunter Renfroe and Franmil Reyes, as well as catcher Austin Hedges.

The Padres have had 15 players make their major league debuts this season, second most in the majors. More than one-third of their games (53) have been started by rookie pitchers. That is third most in the majors.

The question to Fowler came a day after the public airing of [comments made by veteran player Wil Myers](#) complaining about the team doing basic drills late in the season.

Green's focus on learning with a young team is something Fowler finds necessary and commendable.

"I think he's emphasized the fundamentals," Fowler said. "He's worked with the players to try to get them to improve, to understand the message we have in the entire system, which is plate discipline, putting the ball in play and a different approach with two strikes.

"It's very difficult to deliver that message at the major league level. ... But that's, in fact, what our organization is all about. The issues you see with baseball in terms of strikeouts and home runs — that's not Padres baseball. I don't care if that's the way it is everywhere else. We don't want that."

The Padres were 68-94 and 71-91 in Green's first two seasons as their manager.

Minors El Paso continuing PCL title run without Urias, Mejia

[Jeff Sanders](#)

As he trotted around the bases Friday night for the first time as a major leaguer, Luis Urias suppressed his smile until after crossing home plate. He'd high-fived [Wil Myers](#) and [Travis Jankowski](#) and slapped hands with [Eric Hosmer](#). But the 21-year-old second baseman could no longer contain the emotion after the hulking Franmil Reyes, at the top step of the Petco Park dugout, embraced Urias before he disappeared into a sea of congratulations.

Make no mistake about this.

Luis Urias is exactly where he wants to be.

He is, however, a bit conflicted at times, as a tweet later that night revealed.

Triple-A El Paso, en route to a franchise-record 82 wins this year, won its 17th straight game at home on Ty France's walk-off double the night Urias hit his first big league homer. The 21-year-old second baseman had been in a Chihuahuas' uniform for the previous 16 consecutive wins at Southwest University Park.

The three gasp emojis followed by three fire emojis that accompanied a retweeted video of France's heroics spoke volumes.

"I'm pretty excited about that team," Urias said Sunday morning. "I played the whole year down there. All the teammates that I have down there, that made me feel ..."

Urias broke off before refocusing his train of thought.

“I’m happy to be here, but I’m glad they kept doing their thing they’ve been doing the whole season. When I saw the streak continued, I felt good.”

That streak stopped Saturday night.

El Paso is hoping to start a new one Wednesday when it hosts Fresno for the start of the [Pacific Coast League](#) playoffs, a run that begins without two of the [Padres](#)’ top prospects. Urias was called up after the Chihuahuas clinched a berth in late August and catcher Francisco Mejia joined the Padres on Tuesday in Phoenix, leaving El Paso’s lineup quite a bit lighter — Mejia is ranked No. 21 and Urias No. 22 on MLB.com’s top-100 list — as it looks to win a second league title in the last three years.

“I have a lot of friends down there, a lot of good teammates,” Urias said. “I’ll be watching the results.”

A look at both Padres affiliates’ best-of-five playoff series:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO

- **Record:** 82-57, 1st in PCL Pacific Southern Division
- **Opponent:** Fresno (82, 57, 1st in PCL Pacific Northern Division)
- **The replacements:** Even without Urias and Mejia, the Chihuahuas appear plenty deep enough to sustain a run for a second PCL championship in the last three years. 2B **Carlos Asuaje**’s .849 OPS in 47 games in the PCL is four points better than Urias’, while catchers **Brett Nicholas** (.839 OPS) and **Raffy Lopez** (.817 OPS) aren’t drastic drop-offs from Mejia’s blistering start (.946) following his arrival in the **Brad Hand** trade. Nicholas’ 83 RBIs in 117 games lead the team and his 16 homers are tied with Reyes for the most on the roster.
- **Arms race:** Having started games in the 2016 PCL championship run, RHP **Walker Lockett** (5-9, 4.73) draws the opening start. The rotation is further buoyed by LHP **Logan Allen** (4-0, 1.63) continuing his breakthrough campaign with El Paso and RHP **Cal Quantrill** (3-1, 3.48) taking a step forward after a disappointing stay in the Texas League (6-5, 5.15). In the

bullpen — with RHPs **Robert Stock**, **Trey Wingenter** and **Rowan Wick** and LHP **Jose Castillo** — assuming full-time jobs in the majors, RHP **Colten Brewer** (3-4, 3.75) and LHP **Brad Wieck** (3-0, 3.44) are the chief pieces in the back of the bullpen.

- **Adjusting:** 3B **Ty France** led the system with 236 total bases, hitting five of his career-high 22 homers in 25 games since he was promoted from Double-A San Antonio. The San Diego State product hit .287/.382/.532 in 25 games in the PCL after hitting .263/.349/.448 in the Texas League.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO

- **Record:** 71-67, 2nd in Texas League South Division
- **Opponent:** Corpus Christi (82-56, 1st in Texas League South Division)
- **Life after Tatis:** While teams in the Texas League play for first- and second-half titles, the Missions' 2018 season can be divided before and after SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.**'s season ending thumb injury. The Missions were 57-39 when Tatis exited after injuring his thumb on July 19 and 14-28 without him. The Missions finished 1½ games behind Corpus Christi in the first-half race and last in the division in the second half (29-39).
- **Shut down:** RHP **Chris Paddock** was even better in the Texas League (3-2, 1.91 ERA) than he was in the California League (4-1, 2.24), but the organization ended his season after he threw 90 spectacular innings (120-to-8 strikeout-to-walk ratio) in his first post-Tommy John action.
- **Growing pains:** RHP **Michel Baez**, who draws the playoff opener, is 0-3 with a 7.36 ERA in four starts after his promotion out of the California League (4-7, 2.91). OF **Buddy Reed** leads the system with 51 steals but has a .461 OPS in 43 games with the Missions after a .921 mark in the Cal League put him in the [All-Star Futures Game](#). 3B **Hudson Potts** has a .489 OPS in 22 games in the Texas League after posting a .847 OPS in the Cal League.
- **Hot, hot, hot:** RHP **Andres Munoz**, who has touched 103 mph, might be the most exciting prospect on the team. The 19-year-old is 2-1 with an 0.95 ERA, seven saves and a 19-to-11 strikeout-to-walk ratio in 19 innings in San Antonio's bullpen.

- **Colder finishes:** C **Austin Allen** and 1B/OF **Josh Naylor** lead the team with 22 and 17 homers, respectively, but the duo combined for 15 of those blasts in the first month of the season.

Lucchesi solid, but Padres shut out in loss

By AJ Cassavell

PHOENIX -- The Padres envision a truly wide-open rotation race next spring. There isn't a single pitcher on the staff who has secured a place in the 2019 starting five. But [Joey Lucchesi](#) -- on the strength of his late-season surge -- has clearly become the best bet to earn a spot.

The rookie left-hander was sharp again Tuesday night, though he was outdone by D-backs lefty [Robbie Ray](#), who blanked San Diego for 6 1/3 innings in a 6-0 Arizona victory. The Padres, as they've done too often this season, frequently chased breaking pitches out of the zone, as Ray racked up 10 strikeouts.

The ineffective offense was the only reason Lucchesi didn't last longer than five innings. Manager Andy Green pinch-hit for Lucchesi after only 74 pitches, with his team trailing, 2-0, in the sixth. Arizona scored its first two runs in the second, when [Nick Ahmed](#) hit an RBI triple and scored one batter later on a [Ketel Marte](#) sacrifice fly. Lucchesi allowed little else.

"He's doing a really nice job," Green said. "We're not going to conjecture about what next year looks like right now. But we're pleased with his rookie season, and we'll continue to challenge him in areas we want him to grow in."

Lucchesi has allowed two or fewer runs in five of his last six starts, and his ERA sits at 3.59 -- the lowest for a Padres rookie with at least 100 innings in seven years. He struck out six and allowed three hits and a walk before his early departure.

"It's very important [to finish strong]," Lucchesi said. "This is the life I live for. I want to leave a good impression for everyone. I want to perform for all my teammates and coaches. I just want to be that dude."

That dude?

"I want to be the guy where it's: 'All right, this guy's pitching, we've got a really good chance to win today,'" Lucchesi said. "I want to be *that* dude."

Lucchesi had retired 10 of the last 11 D-backs hitters when Green called for [newly promoted](#) prospect [Francisco Mejia](#) to pinch-hit in the sixth. Mejia struck out, whiffing on three breaking pitches outside the strike zone.

But Mejia wasn't the only over-aggressive Padres hitter. Ray struck out seven of the first 10 batters he faced and didn't allow a hit until [Franmil Reyes](#)' two-out single in the fifth.

Reyes extended his hitting streak to 10 games, the longest of his career and the longest active streak in the National League after fellow Padres outfielder [Hunter Renfroe](#) had his streak snapped at 11 with an 0-for-4 showing.

[Luis Urias](#) also singled against Ray, and [Austin Hedges](#) smashed a long double in the eighth off [Archie Bradley](#). But the San Diego offense didn't muster much else, and the D-backs padded their lead with a four-run seventh.

SHAKY IN THE SEVENTH

Despite their offensive woes, the Padres stayed close for most of the game. But they came unglued with two outs in the seventh.

Marte reached on an infield single, then went to second on an errant pickoff throw. He stole third (on which [Wil Myers](#) was late covering the bag), and he scored on a passed ball, making it 3-0.

It only got worse from there. Later in the frame, [A.J. Pollock](#) smashed a single to left, and Renfroe came up throwing. He delivered a one-hop strike to Hedges, who appeared to tag [Daniel Descalso](#) as he slid into home. But the ball skittered out of Hedges' glove, and he was charged with an error.

Descalso and [Paul Goldschmidt](#) also drove in runs in the frame, extending the D-backs lead to 6-0.

WITHOUT FURTHER REVIEW

Green was particularly displeased with crew chief Angel Hernandez after Pollock's RBI single in the seventh. The Padres considered reviewing the play, in case Descalso had swatted the ball out of Hedges' glove. But Hernandez denied them the opportunity, noting that their allotted 30 seconds had expired.

"We didn't think that was going to get overturned," Green said. "The way that works is when you signal within 10 seconds, at around 30 seconds they're supposed to walk to your dugout and say, 'Hey, we need a decision.' Angel considered it walking to my dugout by touching third base.

"I don't get that at all. It makes no sense on any level that he's offering me some sort of opportunity to hear his voice and make a decision. Music's being played, and he's yelling at me across the field. That's not the way it's supposed to work. I'm just looking for a little professionalism. That, to me, was not that."

Green stormed onto the field and argued for a brief moment, but he wasn't ejected.

YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

[Robert Stock](#) became the first Padres reliever to enter a game using Chase Field's bullpen cart, which was unveiled before this season. For the most part, Stock has been solid this year, but he allowed three runs (two earned) in 1 2/3 innings.

UP NEXT

In his return from a left forearm strain last week, [Eric Lauer](#) (5-7, 5.01 ERA) pitched five no-hit innings against the Rockies before he was removed after 81 pitches. He'll be given a longer leash on Thursday, when the Padres open a four-game series against the Reds at Great American Ball Park at 3:40 p.m. PT. Mejia is expected to make his first start behind the plate for the Padres after he was promoted from Triple-A. [Luis Castillo](#) (8-11, 4.83) will start for Cincinnati.

Padres promote top catching prospect Mejia

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres have taken to using metaphors when they refer to the prospects in their loaded, top-ranked farm system.

"Hot talent lava."

"Waves of talent."

Whatever the geologic trope, the point is this: There's a lot of young talent in the organization. And it's going to arrive en masse over the next few seasons.

Francisco Mejia -- the **top-ranked catching prospect** according to MLB Pipeline and **No. 21 overall** -- is the latest to join the fray.

Mejia, 22, was promoted from Triple-A El Paso ahead of Tuesday's game in Arizona. He made his Padres debut when he pinch-hit and struck out during the sixth inning of a **6-0 loss to the D-backs**. He is expected to receive his first start on Thursday in Cincinnati after an off-day Wednesday.

Mejia came to the Padres in July in the deal that sent relievers **Brad Hand** and **Adam Cimber** to Cleveland. He's been on fire since, batting .328/.364/.582 with seven homers in 31 games for Triple-A El Paso (whose regular season ended Monday).

That's merely a continuation of the rest of Mejia's Minor League career. His claim to fame is a 50-game hitting streak during the 2016 season. He batted .293 in six Minor League seasons.

"He's hit everywhere he's been his entire life," Padres manager Andy Green said. "He's got unique bat-to-ball skills and an ability to put all sorts of pitches in play."

In 18 big league plate appearances for Cleveland over two seasons, Mejia tallied two hits and three walks. He's yet to hit his first home run.

Of course, the Padres already have an effective catcher in **Austin Hedges**, who has posted a .714 OPS this season while serving as one of the best behind the plate. The Padres have played Hedges on a near-everyday basis over the past month, knowing that Mejia would be arriving to ease the workload in September.

"There's room for two back there to be a great baseball team," Green said. "You're probably looking at split time through the month of September."

That's the short-term view. Hedges was the game's top catching prospect not long ago, and he just turned 26. It's worth wondering whether there's actually room for both next season and beyond, as the Padres look to open their window for contention in the National League West.

But there's a ready-made solution if San Diego wants to keep both. Mejia spent time at third base and in the outfield in the Indians' organization. The Padres felt as though the push toward versatility stunted Mejia's growth as a catcher. They shifted him behind the plate full-time upon his arrival in El Paso.

"His catching became second fiddle to his ability to play left field," Green said. "We're not looking to do that with him at this point in time. That doesn't mean that in the future we won't ask him to bounce around the field. That might happen."

"It would always depend on the situation," Mejia said. "But I got a lot of reps in the outfield. ... Given the situation, if that's what they needed, then I know I could do it."

Mejia's versatility could allow the Padres to use both him and Hedges in the same lineup on certain days. On others, Mejia's presence should ease the burden on Hedges, at the sport's most demanding position.

Hedges has made it clear he doesn't feel burdened by the workload, and he'd prefer to rank among the MLB leaders in games caught. But he's also open to splitting time with Mejia.

"I believe in this team, and I want this team to win," Hedges said. "Whatever that takes, I'm going to support anything that happens. Given that, I want to play every day. I want to play 130, 140 games, and I'll make that very clear."

"Whether that means he's catching the other ones and playing another position, or if our best way of winning is something else, then I'll be for that, too. But I believe in my abilities in myself being an everyday catcher."

As for the rest of the system, the Padres have nine players ranked in MLB Pipeline's [Top 100 Prospects](#) -- the most in baseball. Second baseman [Luis Urias](#) (No. 22) was promoted last week.

Shortstop [Fernando Tatis Jr.](#) (No. 2) is out for the year with a broken bone in his left thumb, but he'll probably arrive sometime early next year. Starters [Chris Paddack](#) (No. 48) and [Logan Allen](#) (No. 85) are expected next season as well.

Behind them, lefty MacKenzie Gore (No. 11), lefty Adrian Morejon (No. 49), righty Michel Baez (No. 60) and lefty Ryan Weathers (No. 99) are on the horizon, with a handful of others in a system that's widely believed to be as deep as it is top-heavy.

The waves (or lava) aren't going to stop anytime soon.

Richard nominated for Clemente Award

By Daniel Kramer

Throughout his distinguished Hall of Fame career, Roberto Clemente was perhaps just as known for his prowess on the baseball diamond as he was for his philanthropical efforts off it. And today, the award recognizing the player who best represents the game through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy and positive contributions bears Clemente's name.

Every year, each club nominates a player to be considered for the Roberto Clemente Award, and the 30 nominees were announced by Major League Baseball on Tuesday. Many of this year's nominees have been actively involved in their local community and abroad with initiatives that have focused on awareness and fundraising for the fight against childhood cancer and other illnesses, education for young people and Hurricane Maria relief among other efforts.

Each of the 30 nominees will be honored by their respective clubs, including many on Wednesday as part of Roberto Clemente Day ceremonies, a league-wide initiative that has been in place since 2002. As part of the celebrations, the Roberto Clemente Day logo will appear on the bases and official dugout lineup cards, and a special tribute video will play. Clubs that are on the road will recognize their nominee on a subsequent homestand. The league-wide winner of the Clemente Award will be announced during the World Series.

Here are the 30 nominees:

Arizona Diamondbacks -- [Paul Goldschmidt](#)
Atlanta Braves -- [Kurt Suzuki](#)
Baltimore Orioles -- [Chris Davis](#)
Boston Red Sox -- [Brock Holt](#)
Chicago Cubs -- [Jon Lester](#)
Chicago White Sox -- [Jose Abreu](#)
Cincinnati Reds -- [Tucker Barnhart](#)
Cleveland Indians -- [Carlos Carrasco](#)
Colorado Rockies -- [Ian Desmond](#)
Detroit Tigers -- [Michael Fulmer](#)
Houston Astros -- [Charlie Morton](#)
Kansas City Royals -- [Danny Duffy](#)
Los Angeles Angels -- [Andrew Heaney](#)
Los Angeles Dodgers -- [Justin Turner](#)
Miami Marlins -- [Martin Prado](#)
Milwaukee Brewers -- [Corey Knebel](#)
Minnesota Twins -- [Joe Mauer](#)
New York Mets -- [Steven Matz](#)
New York Yankees -- [CC Sabathia](#)
Oakland Athletics -- [Chad Pinder](#)
Philadelphia Phillies -- [Rhys Hoskins](#)
Pittsburgh Pirates -- [Jameson Taillon](#)
St. Louis Cardinals -- [Yadier Molina](#)
San Diego Padres -- [Clayton Richard](#)

San Francisco Giants -- [Buster Posey](#)
Seattle Mariners -- [Nelson Cruz](#)
Tampa Bay Rays -- [Mallex Smith](#)
Texas Rangers -- [Cole Hamels](#)*
Toronto Blue Jays -- [Kevin Pillar](#)
Washington Nationals -- [Ryan Zimmerman](#)

**Hamels remains the Rangers' nominee despite being traded to the Cubs on July 27*

The league-wide winner of the Clemente Award will be selected by a blue ribbon panel that includes Commissioner Rob Manfred, Clemente's late wife and current MLB Goodwill Ambassador, Vera Clemente, as well as representatives from MLB-affiliated networks and MLB.com. Fans can also vote for the winner at mlb.com/clemente21, with the winner of that tally counting as one vote among those cast by the blue-ribbon panel.

"I am very proud of the great philanthropic efforts of our players," Manfred said in a statement. "Through wide-ranging work and actions, these 30 nominees honor Roberto Clemente's legacy of being exemplary community ambassadors. Roberto's unwavering humanitarian spirit continues to inspire our players and fans and serves as a positive example for future generations."

The Clemente Award was renamed in 1973 to honor the 15-time All-Star shortly after his tragic death on New Year's Eve months prior during a plane crash while attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. The award was previously called the "Commissioner's Award" and was established in 1971.

Ray fans 10, Arizona beats Padres 6-0, ends 4-game skid

Associated Press

PHOENIX -- Up six runs and trying to end their longest losing streak since late June-early July, [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) manager Torey Lovullo wanted to make sure a win was in the bag.

So Lovullo, after starter [Robbie Ray](#) pitched 6 1/3 scoreless innings, had his top two setup man work an inning each to close out the [San Diego Padres](#) 6-0 Tuesday night.

"It didn't make a lot of sense, I know it was 6-0," Lovullo said. "We needed to win this game, and those are the guys that have been doing it all year long, and I just felt the importance of winning right now."

Ray struck out 10 and pitched two-hit ball as the Diamondbacks ended a four-game losing streak.

The Diamondbacks' skid had knocked them out of the NL West lead.

Ray (5-2) got his first win at Chase Field since March 30, his first game of 2018 -- he'd been 0-1 in his previous six starts at home. He won back-to-back starts for the first time since last September and is 5-0 in his last eight starts against the Padres.

"It was huge to come out today and get the win," Ray said. "My fastball command was about as good as it's been all year.

"It just feels effortless. Every pitch has a purpose," Ray added.

[Joey Lucchesi](#) (7-8) gave up two runs and three hits in five innings. He's winless in five career starts against Arizona.

[Nick Ahmed](#) hit an RBI triple and scored on [Ketel Marte](#)'s sacrifice fly for a 2-0 lead in the second.

"I left one fastball in the middle for Ahmed, which allowed the triple," Lucchesi said. "After that I told myself calm down. I made an adjustment and kept it to two runs the rest of the game."

Ray hasn't been consistently sharp this season, but he cruised through the first four innings without allowing a runner and striking out seven. Ray got help from a diving catch in center field by [A.J. Pollock](#), which took a hit away from [Luis Urias](#).

The Padres got their first hit of the game, a single from [Franmil Reyes](#), with two outs in the fifth. They had runners on the corners in the sixth with two outs, but Ray struck out [Hunter Renfroe](#) to end the inning.

Marte manufactured a run on his own after infield single in the Diamondbacks' four-run seventh. Reliever [Robert Stock](#) threw wildly on a pickoff attempt to allow Marte to get to second base, and Marte stole third. He scored on a passed ball, and pinch-hitter [Daniel Descalso](#) had an RBI single.

"It was nice to push across some more runs and put the game away," Descalso said. "To bounce back the way we did, very clean game, pitched the ball well, hit the ball well."

The Diamondbacks got another run when Padres catcher [Austin Hedges](#) couldn't hold on to the ball after tagging Descalso trying to score on Pollock's sharp single. [Paul Goldschmidt](#) added an RBI single.

ISSUE WITH UMP

Padres manager Andy Green came out of the dugout to discuss the call at home involving Descalso and Hedges, who was charged with a missed catch error. But before he could ask for a replay review, he was told time had run out on him to do so.

The manager felt third base umpire Angel Hernandez, the crew chief, didn't make a good effort to approach Green to see if he wanted a review.

"The way that works is you signal within 10 seconds, around 30 seconds someone is supposed to walk to your dugout and say `We need a decision,'" Green said. "Makes no sense on any level but he is offering me some sort of opportunity to hear his voice when music is being played and he is yelling at me across the field. That is not the way it's supposed to work. I am just looking for a little professionalism and to me that was not that."

DIAMONDBACKS MOVES

The Diamondbacks recalled INF [Ildemaro Vargas](#) from Triple-A Reno and RH reliever [Matt Andriese](#) from Single-A Visalia before Tuesday's game. Andriese had been with the Diamondbacks until Aug. 28 after he was picked up in a trade with Tampa Bay. ... Starting pitcher Zack Godley, who worked in Monday's game, was placed on the paternity list to return home for the birth of his first child.

MEJIA DEBUTS

The Padres called up catcher [Francisco Mejia](#) from Triple-A El Paso before Tuesday's game. Mejia, considered one of San Diego's top prospects, struck out as pinch-hitter in his San Diego debut.

UP NEXT

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#PadresOnDeck: C Francisco Mejía, 2B Esteury Ruiz Finish Strong as Regular Minor League Seasons End

By Bill Center

Single-A Fort Wayne failed to reach the Midwest League playoffs for only the second time in 10 seasons Monday on the final day of the regular season when West Michigan scored twice in the bottom of the 10th to score a 3–2, walk-off win over the TinCaps and claim the last wildcard berth.

Fort Wayne had several outstanding performances.

— Second baseman **Esteury Ruiz**, 19, the [Padres' No.17 prospect](#), was 3-for-4 with a stolen base to finish the season with a .253 batting average and 49 steals.

— Left fielder **Jack Suwinski**, 20, was 2-for-4 with a run scored and a RBI to finish with a .255 average.

— Left-handed starter **Tom Cosgrove**, 22, allowed one run on seven hits and a walk with seven strikeouts over seven innings to lower his final earned run average to 3.71.

Other notable performances Sunday:

— Catcher **Francisco Mejía**, the [Padres' No.3 prospect according to MLB Pipeline](#), continued his strong finish for Triple-A El Paso, going 2-for-4 with a double and two runs scored. Mejía was 8-for-14 over the final three games of the Pacific Coast League season with a double, a triple, two homers, with five RBIs and six runs scored to finish with a .328 batting average.

— Second baseman **Eguy Rosario**, 19, was 4-for-5 with a stolen base and two runs scored for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore to finish with a .239 batting average. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.251) was 3-for-4 with his 17th homer and three RBIs.

— Third-second baseman **Luke Becker** (.206) was 3-for-3 with two RBIs for Short-Season Single-A Tri-City.

— Starting right-hander **Chris Huffman** (2.86 ERA) allowed a run on three hits and a walk with a strikeout in five innings.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (82–57): Tacoma 5, CHIHUAHUAS 4— LF **Shane Patterson** (.286) backed Mejía going 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs. RF **Forrestt Allday** (.281) was 2-for-4 with a RBI and a stolen base. C **Brett Nicholas** (.291) had a double in four at-bats with a run scored. 3B Ty France (.287) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. SS **Javy Guerra** (.223) was 0-for-3 with a walk and a stolen base. Starting RHP **Colin Rea** (5.08 ERA) allowed four runs (three earned) on six hits and two walks with five strikeouts in five innings. LHP **Brad Wieck** (3.44) allowed a hit with two strikeouts in a scoreless inning. RHP **Carter Capps** (1–1, 1.00) allowed an unearned run on a hit and a walk with a strikeout in an inning to take the loss. RHPs **T.J. Weir**(3.57) and **Kazuhisa Makita** (3.76) each worked a perfect inning.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (29–39, 71–67): Corpus Christi 8, MISSIONS 1—SS **Matthew Batten** (.260) was 2-for-2 with a RBI, a stolen base, a walk and a RBI. DH **Josh Naylor** (.297) was 1-for-2.

CF **Michael Gettys** (.230) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. CF **Buddy Reed** (.179) was 1-for-4. RHP **Jason Jester**(2-4, 4.33 ERA) allowed five runs on five hits and a walk in one-third of an inning to take the loss. LHP **Travis Radke** (3.18) allowed two runs on five hits and two walks with two strikeouts in 3 1/3 innings. RHP **Colby Blueberg**(3.91) allowed two runs (one earned) on a hit and two walks with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (34-36, 68-72): STORM 6, Lancaster 5—LF **Michael Curry** (.375) was 2-for-4 with a RBI in his second game with the Storm. CF **Edward Olivares** (.277) was 0-for-3 with a sacrifice fly. 3B **Luis Guzman** (.150) and RF **Rod Boykin** (.203) each had a double in four at-bats with a run scored. SS **Chris Baker** (.248) was 0-for-4 with a run scored and a sacrifice fly. C **A.J. Kennedy** (.205) was 1-for-3 with a walk. Starting RHP **Reggie Lawson** (8-5, 4.69 ERA) allowed three runs on three hits and five walks with six strikeouts in five innings to get the win. RHP **Korey Anderson**(4.05) worked two perfect innings. LHP **Cody Tyler** (4.05) allowed two runs on four hits in two-thirds of an inning. RHP **Blake Rogers** (4.81) retired the only hitter he faced. RHP **Tom Colletti** (0.00) struck out one in a perfect inning to get his first save.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (32-37, 64-74): WEST MICHIGAN 3, TinCaps 2 (10 innings)—LHP **Dan Dallas** (3.00) followed Cosgrove and allowed a hit and a walk in a scoreless innings. RHP **Evan Miller** (5-6, 2.54 ERA) allowed two runs (one earned) on a hit and two walks with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings to take the loss. SS **Gabriel Arias** (.240) backed Ruiz and Suwinski, going 1-for-4.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY (17-21, 35-41): EVERETT 8, Dust Devils 3—1B **Justin Paulsen** (.230) backed Becker, going 2-for-5 with a run scored and a RBI. C **Alison Quintero** (.286) was 2-for-5. LF **Tyler Benson**(.188) was 1-for-3 with a RBI. DH **Nick Gatewood** (.190) was 1-for-5. Starting RHP **Manny Guzman** (1-1, 6.14 ERA) allowed six runs (five earned) on four hits and two walks with a strikeout in 2 1/3 innings to take the loss. RHP **Joe Galindo** (2.28) allowed two runs on two hits and three walks with a strikeout in two-

thirds of an inning. RHP **Efrain Contreras** (0.00) allowed a hit and a walk with three strikeouts in three scoreless innings. RHP **Wen-Hua Sung** (10.80) allowed a hit with three strikeouts in two scoreless innings.

Robbie Ray shuts down Padres bats, leads DBacks to 6-0 win

AP

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