



Padres Press Clips

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Padres rally late, fall in extras as skid hits 7

By Katie Woo

SAN DIEGO -- It appears the Padres need a change of scenery, and a new month.

After returning from a two-win, four-loss road trip to kick off the latter end of the All-Star break, the Padres came back to Petco Park with hopes of rejuvenation and resilience against two of their National League West rivals. Instead, they didn't win a contest during the five-game homestand and stretched their losing streak to seven games after a 3-2 defeat against the Giants in 10 innings on Tuesday.

San Diego finished July with a 5-20 record and a .200 winning percentage, the second-worst month in franchise history.

It begs the question: what needs to change?

"It's the quality of the at-bats," manager Andy Green said. "Obviously we went through a stretch where the pitching wasn't sharp, but the pitching hasn't been our main issue throughout the course of the year. We just can't string together quality at-bats. That's been tough for us.

"Probably the hardest thing for us has been flushing previous days and not letting that carry-over effect, that hangover effect, not getting it done, impact the next day's at-bats," Green added. "As professionals at this level, we need to do a better job of flushing that, and showing up the next day with the expectation that we're going to be successful and win a baseball game."

For the second day in a row, it took extra innings to decide a winner, with the Giants taking control of Tuesday's game in the 10th. [Evan Longoria](#) led off the inning with a liner that oddly caromed off the right-field wall as he raced into third for a triple. Three batters later, [Brandon Crawford](#) drove in Longoria with an RBI single.

The Padres weren't able to recover. Green used two pinch-hitters back-to-back -- [A.J. Ellis](#) and [Hunter Renfroe](#). Ellis struck out looking and Renfroe popped up to second. [Manuel Margot](#) singled to left field, but [Wil Myers](#) tapped a slow comebacker to closer [Will Smith](#) and the game was over.

With the loss, the Padres are officially on pace to lose 100 games this season. They'll hope they can turn their destiny with the turn of a calendar page.

"When you've had a month like we've had, [the new month] is very important," said [Clayton Richard](#), who was tagged with a no-decision. "We have to understand what we did wrong, but we also have to move away from it and move more towards the direction we want to be going."

The Padres will have their work cut out for them to start off the new month. They'll enjoy an off-day Wednesday before embarking on a seven-day road trip. They'll face the Cubs and the Brewers, who currently own the two best records in the National League.

"We're going to see two teams that are fighting like crazy to make the playoffs," Green said. "We're going to see some really great arms on this road trip and we've got seven games. The goal is to go win a 'playoff series' and come out four out of seven, and try to treat the rest of the season in small sample sizes so you don't get overwhelmed."

Clayton unsatisfied

Richard cruised through the first 12 batters without allowing a hit, but ran into trouble in the fourth when the Giants tagged the lefty for three straight singles. He'd allow a run on [Gorkys Hernandez](#)'s sacrifice fly, but the bigger blow occurred on the first batter Richard faced in the fifth. [Andrew McCutchen](#) led off the inning with his 11th homer of the year, a solo shot into the Home Run Deck that travelled a Statcast-estimated 374 feet.

"When you come away on the losing end, it's not a good feeling," Richard said. "Unfortunately, we've been doing that more often than not lately."

Richard, who leads the team in innings pitched, was unable to reach the sixth inning for the third consecutive start. He finished the day with two runs on five hits through five frames. He walked three and struck out one.

Offensive woes

San Diego finally got a glimpse of what it thought its heart of the order would perform like in the beginning of the season, when [Eric Hosmer](#) drove in Myers for the very first time this year. Myers singled off Giants rookie starter [Dereck Rodriguez](#) in the first inning and Hosmer knocked him in one batter later when he lined a double to right field.

That was all the Padres' offense had against Rodriguez though, who steamrolled through a lackluster lineup for six scoreless innings after. San Diego mustered just one hit during that time -- a double by [Travis Jankowski](#) in the third. The Padres wouldn't record another hit or run until the eighth inning, when Jankowski singled off [Reyes Moronta](#) and [Jose Pirela](#) scored on Margot's fielder's choice.

"You can't expect a staff to hold a team down into extra innings every single day," Green said. "We had some good at-bats, we had some empty at-bats. We've just got to get a lot more constructive at-bats if we want to win baseball games."

HE SAID IT

"Whether it's positive or negative, you've got to flush out the day before and continue to move on, but at this point we just have to find a way to get it done. There's no special formula, special words you can say, you've just got to flat out go there and do it." -- Hosmer, on the Padres' recent struggles

UP NEXT

The Padres have a day off before heading to Chicago for a four-game series against the first-place Cubs at Wrigley Field starting Thursday. [Robbie Erlin](#) gets the nod and will face off against veteran [Mike Montgomery](#). It will be just the third start for Erlin this year -- he's 0-2 this season as a starter and has been tagged for a 14.14 ERA, giving up 12 runs in seven innings. He's been much more effective as a reliever though, posting a 2.05 ERA in 27 appearances. Game time is scheduled for 5:05 p.m. PT.

Padres may try Myers out at third base

Green: 'He's athletic enough for whatever we'd ask of him'

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- From the moment they acquired him in December 2014, the Padres have been enthralled by [Wil Myers](#)' athleticism. They've spent the past 3 1/2 seasons searching for the best ways to take advantage of it.

Here's a new one: third base.

The Padres have, indeed, held internal discussions about the possibility of using Myers as a third baseman, team sources said. For now, there are no imminent plans to get Myers game action at the hot corner. He might not seriously attack the position until the offseason or next Spring Training. But the team is proceeding with the hope that Myers could become a versatile option that could one day move back and forth regularly between the outfield and the infield.

During his Padres tenure, Myers has routinely taken reps at third base during batting practice, for no reason other than habit. He's done so multiple times over the past week, but this time with a bit more vigor -- and with infielders coach Josh Johnson offering instruction.

The experiment remains in its infancy, and neither Myers nor manager Andy Green readily acknowledged its existence. Should the learning curve prove too steep, it's entirely possible the Padres ditch the plan before it even begins.

"We're not in any way, shape or form committed to moving Wil anywhere," said Green. "We do believe he has the athleticism to move around the field. Where that leads us, in time, we don't know. But there's guys everywhere bouncing around the field, opening up holes for other players. It's usually guys with extreme athleticism. He's got extreme athleticism. We're not committed to anything with him other than left field right now. But he's athletic enough for whatever we'd ask of him."

Eventually, they're going to ask for a more serious look at third -- a move which Myers says he'd be open to.

"If that were to be the case, I do enjoy those types of challenges," Myers said, offering a knowing grin. "Playing that type of position, I am, at heart, an infielder. I enjoy playing on the dirt. If it came up where that was a thing that added value to the team, then I would want to do it."

It's easy to see why such a move would make sense. The Padres don't yet have a solidified long-term option at third base. Rookie [Christian Villanueva](#) has struggled mightily since winning National League Rookie of the Month honors in April. Unless the Padres were to move [top](#) prospect [Fernando Tatis Jr.](#) from short to third, they don't have a ready-made candidate in the Minors either.

That said, San Diego isn't viewing Myers as an option to become its third baseman of the future. Rather, he's seen as a useful athlete who could mix third base and left field together to create

some lineup flexibility. For an easy example, a couple of Padres officials pointed to the Cubs and the way they've used [Ian Happ](#), [Kris Bryant](#) and [Ben Zobrist](#) between the infield and outfield to create flexibility. That type of usage allows for other less versatile players to see time.

Versatility has always been in Myers' arsenal. He spent the past two seasons playing first base. Then, the Padres signed [Eric Hosmer](#) to an eight-year deal, which prompted a move for Myers back to the outfield, where he spent his first three big league seasons.

Myers spent his first two seasons as a catcher in the Royals' system before moving to the outfield. In 2012, however, he played 15 games at third base for Triple-A Omaha. In fact, when Myers was drafted by Kansas City in '09, he was committed to play third base at South Carolina.

A decade later, the position remains tantalizingly out in front of him. Of course, Myers has already been through one failed positional experiment -- his 2015 stint in center field.

He was solid at first base in 2016 but struggled mightily there in '17. Clearly, Myers' bat is his most potent weapon. He's hitting .278/.322/.527 this season (although he missed two months with back and oblique injuries).

This season, Myers has seemingly found a home in left field, where he's been worth five [defensive runs saved](#). But the Padres aren't at all concerned about asking Myers to tackle another position. Quite the contrary, in fact. They feel Myers is at his best when he's tasked with such a challenge. They worry he might grow disinterested in left.

Myers -- always antsy for as much involvement as possible -- echoed that sentiment. He'd clearly be on board with a move, even if he's not ready to acknowledge one as imminent.

"When you do something repetitively, it can get boring at times, and it's fun to move around, play different positions," Myers said. "I've really enjoyed my time in left. I've taken a lot of pride in playing it well. But any time you change things up, move around, it's pretty fun. If [playing third base] can help up win, it's something I would definitely be interested in."

Padres hold onto arms as Deadline passes

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- The non-waiver Trade Deadline has come and gone. [Tyson Ross](#), [Kirby Yates](#) and [Craig Stammen](#) are still with the Padres. [Chris Archer](#) -- a front-line starter linked repetitively to San Diego over the past few weeks -- is bound for Pittsburgh.

Ultimately, the Padres' roster looked the same on Tuesday evening as it did on Tuesday morning -- and the two weeks before that.

"It was an active week, active day in terms of discussion," general manager A.J. Preller said. "Ultimately things just didn't line up."

Two days after the All-Star Game, San Diego pulled off one of the summer's biggest deals, sending [Brad Hand](#) and [Adam Cimber](#) to Cleveland for baseball's [top catching](#) prospect, [Francisco Mejia](#).

But the Padres were quiet after that. Stammen is under team control through 2019 and Yates through '20, and both are expected to be commodities this offseason. Ross meanwhile, will be a free agent. He has expressed a desire to return to San Diego, where he has twice revived his career.

"The nice part, for us, after talking to a lot of different teams, is seeing the way our players are valued," Preller said. "We felt like this particular time, this particular Deadline, there wasn't a deal to connect on. We felt maybe it'd be better down the road."

'A seat at the table'

All along, Archer's fit with the Padres raised eyebrows. San Diego sits 25 games below .500. Surely a front-line arm like Archer would bring more value to a contending club?

That turned out to be precisely the case. Preller didn't meet Tampa Bay's lofty asking price -- a package of prospects, plus big leaguers. Still, the Padres have made it clear they're going to be aggressive in their pursuit of quality big league talent -- so long as it's controllable. They have the farm system chops, after all.

"You saw it here in the past month: When established players are potentially moved, we're going to be part of those discussions," Preller said. "We have players that other teams like. Part of the evaluation process will be: at what time do we want to potentially move guys from our organization to get more established players?"

"We like a lot of the depth and quality we've built up in the Minor League system. It's going to be part of making us a winning organization. We'll evaluate again in the offseason. But I think you've started to see in the last six months or so that we've at least had a seat at the table."

Bullpen's back

Stammen brought his putter with him to the Padres' clubhouse on Tuesday morning. Setting his phone to the side, he made an impromptu putting green and passed the time that way, as rumors swirled.

Yates, meanwhile, prepared for Tuesday's game the same way he always does -- though he was forced to respond to a few curious texts from friends and family members. "You guys know just as much as I do, so I can't help you," he told them.

Among the players on the Padres' active roster, Stammen and Yates received the most attention. It's easy to see why. Stammen owns a 2.58 ERA in 47 appearances. Yates has a 1.52 mark in 42 games. Both would clearly fit nicely in a postseason-bound bullpen. But the Padres set a high asking price on the duo, and as the Deadline approached it became obvious that price wasn't going to be met.

"I didn't want to go anywhere, still don't want to get traded," Yates said. "I like it here. I want to stay here, be a part of this movement that sticks around the next few years. ... I'm happy to still be a Padre."

Hall of Fame-worthy Deadline

Years from now, there won't be any tales of a franchise-altering trade that Preller pulled off from Cooperstown, N.Y. That's where the Padres' front office set up shop over the past five days, as Trevor Hoffman was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The baseball operations team executed most of its Deadline work from a hotel just outside Cooperstown, where they rented a pair of adjoining suites as a base for any and all trade discussions.

"It was a unique experience and pretty special," Preller said. "It had probably more of a Winter Meetings feel to it, but it was kind of a nice change of pace."

Lauer placed on DL with forearm strain

Green: 'We don't think it's anything serious'

By Katie Woo

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres have placed rookie left-hander [Eric Lauer](#) on the 10-day disabled list with a left forearm strain, which he sustained after Monday's extra-inning loss to the Giants.

Lauer was pinch-hit for in Monday's game after five innings, where he surrendered three runs on seven hits on 101 pitches. The move is precautionary, according to manager Andy Green, who noted that the team was planning on giving Lauer rest in August anyway.

"We don't think it's anything serious," Green said. "It's one of those things in most cases pitchers try to pitch through, but we always planned on giving him a rest at some point in time this season. With that forearm tightness, this just seemed like the right time to rest him."

Lauer has faced forearm tightness periodically throughout his baseball career, but it has yet to keep him out for an extended period of time. He will miss at least one start in the rotation, but the Padres are optimistic his time on the disabled list will be short.

"We're not going to try to put an artificial timeline on him," Green said. "The hope is he's back relatively quickly, but we'll be sure he gets some rest as well."

The Padres have kept Lauer on a short leash this year, with Green emphasizing the importance of the lefty's youth and preserving his arm. The 23-year-old owns a 5.30 ERA over 18 starts, averaging 4 2/3 innings per start.

Still, he remains a hopeful lock for the future of the Padres' rotation and the club would prefer to play it safe than sorry.

"We're not overly alarmed by it, but at the same time he's young and we always intended to rest him," Green said. "If he's got some tightness we're going to take that opportunity to rest him."

Worth noting

- The Padres recalled right-hander [Walker Lockett](#) from Triple-A El Paso as the corresponding roster move in place of Lauer. It's Lockett's third stint with the big league club and he will serve primarily as bullpen support. He's appeared in two games (one start) for the Padres this season and allowed two earned runs on four hits in two innings in his only relief appearance.

- [Bryan Mitchell](#) will begin his rehab assignment in Lake Elsinore on Thursday, with Green noting that he'll throw either four innings or 50 pitches, depending on what comes first. There has been talk about giving Mitchell another opportunity as a starting pitcher, and with [Luis Perdomo](#) and now Lauer on the disabled list, the option is becoming much more plausible.

"He's been out for a little while, so we'll definitely try to extend him a bit," Green said. "We'll get him back up for hopefully an opportunity in the rotation."

Padres sink to new low as skid hits seven games

[Jeff Sanders](#)

Wil Myers measured his lead at first base as Dereck Rodriguez pumped a first-pitch, 91-mph four-seamer in on [Eric Hosmer](#)'s hands. The [Padres](#) first baseman, the most expensive transaction in franchise history, got his bat head out front, lifted the offering in the air and yanked it into the right-field corner, sending Myers around second, through third and across the plate for the first run of a Tuesday matinee at Petco Park.

In a 3-2 loss to the Giants in 10 innings, Hosmer's first-inning swing was notable for all the wrong reasons.

It could not lift the Padres out of the second-worst month in franchise history.

It could not stop a seven-game losing streak, the longest of the season.

It could not have been the first time Hosmer had driven in Myers all year ... could it?

It was.

"That's what we expected to be our lifeblood throughout the course of the year," Padres manager Andy Green said. "Coming into the season we expected those guys to be in the middle of a lot of stuff for us. I still fully expect that. That's a surprise for me to hear that that's the case."

Then again, maybe it's not *that* surprising.

Myers missed 62 games with arm, back and oblique injuries.

A productive return to form coincided with a Hosmer tailspin that saw the \$144 million addition produce a .170/.200/.215 batting line in a 32-game stretch that

ended Saturday. Much of that came during a 5-20 July that stands above only August 1969 (5-22) among the most dreadful months in Padres history.

What's more, this week's 0-5 stay at Petco Park was also only the fourth time the Padres went winless in a homestand at least five games long and sitting a season-worst 26 games under .500 has them on pace to lose 100 games for the second time since 1974.

The only silver lining is that a new month awaits when the Padres and their Myers-Hosmer pairing when they land in Chicago to start a seven-game trip Thursday against the playoff-hopeful Cubs and Brewers.

"You can't ever predict baseball," said Myers, who has an .898 OPS since returning from his second DL stint. "You can't ever truly be surprised when things happen in baseball. In a year or two it could be the exact opposite. That's just the way baseball goes sometimes. Right now, we're not really matching up together, but there's still two months to play and there's still 200 at-bats out there.

"Me and him could click at any point and really get going."

At least individually, Hosmer is beginning to click.

He's hit in a season-high eight straight games and his first-inning double marked his first extra-base hit since homering July 14. He leads the team with 158 total bases, but acknowledges that a lineup that ranks last in the NL in scoring could trend upward if he and Myers could find a way to get on the same page.

"It's real important, especially being in the middle of the lineup," Hosmer said.

"There's a lot of speed in front of us, so it sets (up) a big opportunity for us to cash in and I think those are the opportunities we need to make the most of."

As far as hitting with runners in scoring position the last two days in particular, the Padres made exactly nothing out of several chances.

They went 0-for-9 in Monday's 12-inning loss and 0-for-7 Tuesday, wasting 12 innings of two-run ball from the their new-look bullpen.

[Jordan Lyles](#) followed five workmanlike innings from [Clayton Richard](#) with two perfect frames, Robert Stock pitched into and out of a bases-loaded, no-out situation in the eighth and Kirby Yates got around a leadoff walk in the ninth.

In the 10th, Phil Maton paid dearly for [Evan Longoria](#)'s bad-luck bouncing triple when [Brandon Crawford](#) singled with two outs for the go-ahead run.

“Our pitching did more than enough today,” Green said. “They gave us the opportunity to win. You can't expect a staff to hold a team down into extra innings every single day.”

Richard's two runs allowed in five innings lowered the rotation's ERA to 7.12 this month, still the worst mark by a Padres starting staff in a month in the Petco Park era.

Again, at least a new month awaits in Chicago.

“When you have a month like we've had, that's very important,” Richard said. “We have to understand what we did wrong. We also have to move away from it, move more toward the direction we want to be going and that's winning baseball games and doing the things it takes to win baseball games.

“That's what we'll do.”

Minors Colin Rea strikes out 10 in El Paso loss

[Jeff Sanders](#)

In his comeback from Tommy John surgery, [Colin Rea](#) has endured his share of rough days.

Monday was a good day. A really good day.

The 28-year-old right-hander struck out a season-high 10 over five scoreless innings in [Triple-A El Paso's 2-0 loss](#) at Oklahoma City, Rea's best start yet this season.

Rea scattered two hits and two walks in the start, lowering his ERA to 6.19. He has allowed three or fewer earned runs in six of his 14 appearances this year. He has allowed five or more runs in seven appearances.

In 60 1/3 innings split between Double-A San Antonio and Triple-A El Paso, Rea has struck out 57, walked 28 and allowed a .312 batting average to opposing hitters.

Right-hander **Kazuhisa Makita** (2.30) followed with two scoreless innings before right-hander **Erik Johnson** (0-2, 9.00) allowed two runs in the eighth.

Luis Urias (.265) went 0-for-4 with a strikeout and **Franmil Reyes** (.327) went 1-for-4 with three strikeouts.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (63-44)

- [Corpus Christi 3, Missions 0](#): LHP **Logan Allen** (10-5, 2.62) struck out four and allowed two runs on five hits and a walk in six innings in a tough-luck loss. RHP **Miguel Diaz** (2.10) allowed a run in two innings. CF **Buddy Reed** and DH **Nick Schulz** both singled for the Missions' only hits in the game.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (48-57)

- **Bowling Green 1, TinCaps 0:** LHP Ben Sheckler (1-3, 3.39) struck out three and allowed a run on three hits and a walk in five innings in the loss. CF Jeisson Rosario (.280) and DH Luis Almanzar (.177) both singled for Fort Wayne's only hits.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (21-24)

- **Boise 11, Dust Devils 10:** RHP **Cole Bellinger** (1-4, 6.96) allowed eight runs in two innings in the loss. 1B **Luis Asuncion** (.275) hit his fourth homer and C **Blake Hunt** (.246) drove in three runs on three hits.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (25-23)

- **D-backs 5, Padres 4 (10):** SS **Bryan Torres** (.232) went 3-for-5 with two RBIs and 2B **Luis Paez** (.216) and 3B **Victor Nova** (.222) each had two hits. RHP **Mauricio Rodriguez** (2.27) allowed an unearned run on four hits and four walks in five innings.

Note

- The Padres two rookie-level Arizona League teams were suspended due to wind and power.

Forearm tightness sends Eric Lauer to DL

Jeff Sanders

The [Padres](#) always intended to rest **Eric Lauer**, already only 18 innings shy of matching his career-high, by finding spots to rest their 23-year-old rookie. The forearm tightness that Lauer reported after Monday's start provided ample reason to do that via a trip to the 10-day disabled list.

"I don't think we're overly alarmed by it," Padres manager **Andy Green** said Tuesday morning. "At the same time, he's young and we always intended to rest him. He's got some tightness. We're going to take this opportunity to rest him."

Lauer reported the tightness after allowing three runs in five innings in a 5-3 loss to Giants in 12 innings Monday night. He visited with Dr. **Catherine Robertson** on Monday night, again Tuesday and did not report any red flags from the testing. An MRI was not ordered.

Lauer said he had pitched through similar tightness at varying points in college and since joining the organization as a first-round pick in 2016. He is 5-7 with a 5.30 ERA, 75 strikeouts and a 1.71 WHIP in 18 starts (86 2/3 innings) since he was recalled from Triple-A El Paso for his first big league duty.

"I've had it before," Lauer said. "That first year in a five-man rotation, a little more high-stress innings, I think it hit me a little harder than usual. It's nothing I'm concerned about or anything."

In his place, right-hander **Walker Lockett** was recalled from El Paso to help cover the bullpen.

Green said the team will discuss who takes Lauer's next turn in the rotation after Tuesday's trade deadline passed.

One option is having Tuesday's starter, **Clayton Richard**, continue on regular rest for Sunday's start. Off-days on Wednesday and Monday will provide further flexibility as the Padres decide just how to move forward with the rotation in the short-term.

Yates, Stammen happy to stay put at deadline

Jeff Sanders

Craig Stammen's plan was to get lost in his routine. During day games, that usually means there's a putter in the 34-year-old reliever's hands at some point before on-field stretching. Across the clubhouse, new closer **Kirby Yates** was "parachuting" into rounds of Fortnite on a tablet as he often did with **Brad Hand** before he was shipped to Cleveland.

Tuesday's trade deadline was approaching quickly.

Neither remaining trade target allowed it to consume them.

They didn't see the point — and in the end they kept their suitcase packed for the road trip to Chicago and not some rumored destination.

"I have a job to do here when I show up to the clubhouse," the 31-year-old Yates said after throwing a scoreless ninth in the **Padres'** extra-inning loss to the Giants. "I owe it to my teammates. I owe it to everybody else. There's a job to be done. You stick to your routine and go about your day the same way. Whatever happens, happens but I think it all worked out and I'm happy to still be here."

Here is in the back of a bullpen of a team that just completed a 5-20 July, the second-worst month in franchise history.

A trade could have plopped either into the thick of a playoff race, but neither Yates nor Stammen ever indicated they were anything but invested in the long-term plan in San Diego.

Stammen is under contract through next year and Yates will not reach free agency until 2021

“I’m an older player that has experience playing in the playoffs and being on good teams,” Stammen said. “I’ve also been on bad teams that two or three years down the road turned into a really good team. Hopefully I can share some of those experiences, talk to the guys and show the guys what it’s like to be a true professional and show up every day and know what possibly could exist in the future.”

Notable

- RHP **Bryan Mitchell** will start a rehab assignment Thursday with high Single-A Lake Elsinore. He is expect to throw four innings and/or 50 pitches. He is expected to need more than one before rejoining the Padres, either in the bullpen or in the rotation.

Padres were not willing to part with Paddack, Patino

[Kevin Acee](#)

As soon as the [Padres](#) traded [Brad Hand](#) and Adam Cimber on July 19, the phone calls increased.

The ringing slowed but never stopped, and it picked up in recent days.

But General Manager A.J. Preller remained firm and ended up standing pat as the non-waiver trade deadline passed Tuesday.

The reality was always that the Padres were not willing to deal any of their most coveted prospects, a commitment to staying the course that eventually extinguished their most serious trade discussions.

Those were with the [Tampa Bay Rays](#) regarding starting pitcher [Chris Archer](#), and the Padres rejected name after name the Rays dropped in myriad combinations.

Ultimately, the Rays were focused on right-handed pitching prospects Chris Paddack and Luis Patino, and they also wanted catcher [Austin Hedges](#) and right fielder [Hunter Renfroe](#) from the major league roster.

The Padres were willing to invest in a move akin to signing [Eric Hosmer](#) – a veteran player to help mold a young roster and presumably make the team better along the way to being a contender. But given their belief they are two years from contending, the asking price for Archer was deemed too high too soon.

While their farm appears to have produced plentiful fruit – and in some cases maybe even a little sooner than expected – the prospects are not burning a hole in the Padres' pockets.

Said Preller: “We looked at all kinds of deals in the last month — understanding big picture-wise, plan-wise, it’s all about making sure we have a team that can be a contender year in and year out, and we’re not going to do anything to mortgage that.”

The Padres still want a front-line veteran starter sooner than later to anchor a rotation they believe will within two to three years be among the major leagues’ best but also possibly the major leagues’ youngest.

Archer, who will be 30 at the end of September, was seen as someone who would be a positive influence as he also improved the on-field product along the way. But the Padres did not envision him as any better than middle of their rotation in a few years.

Preller declined to discuss specifics of any potential deals.

The [Pittsburgh Pirates](#) acquired Archer on Tuesday in exchange for their former top-ranked prospect, [Austin Meadows](#), along with pitcher Tyler Glasnow and a player to be named later.

The Padres’ most serious conversations in recent days seemed to center on their remaining back-end relief pitchers, Kirby Yates and Craig Stammen. But Preller did not drop his asking price, and the right-handers remain in San Diego for now.

“It’s hard to make deals,” Preller said. “It’s hard to line up.”

Starting pitcher [Tyson Ross](#) at one point this weekend seemed headed to the [Brewers](#). But, given his impending free agency, it was as part of a package with [Luis Perdomo](#). That deal died when Perdomo went on the disabled list with a shoulder strain Saturday.

“There were definitely situations we could have lined up with a bunch of different deals,” Preller said. “In number of cases it wasn’t a direction we wanted to go. ... We had some things that were interesting in the last week and the last few days. We just couldn’t make something happen.”

So after all the actual talks and even more outside speculation, the Padres' net gain in July was Francisco Mejia, considered the top catching prospect in the minor leagues and inserted at Triple-A El Paso after being acquired for Hand and Cimber.

However, there is a decent chance they will be active in August in trades that require players to pass through waivers. In a system based on a team's standing, the Padres' [National League](#)-worst record will at least serve them well in that regard.

Moreover, the Padres will likely have players claimed off waivers. If so, they may work some trades.

They certainly expect to be active in the offseason. To that end, the lead-up to this seeming letdown was not a waste.

“Discussions were productive,” Preller said. “We found a lot about what other clubs are thinking. ... It's always pretty fluid in terms of one discussion can find out more information. ... We can set targets in the offseason based on all the information we found out in the last month. I'd expect some of the conversations we had to pay off. I definitely think all the work the our scouts did will pay off.”

Despite a lack of trades at the deadline, the Padres could get creative in the near future

[By Dennis Lin](#)

The Padres lurched past Tuesday's non-waiver trade deadline without striking a second deal. Twelve days after Brad Hand and Adam Cimber departed for Cleveland, the team's top remaining candidates to go — Kirby Yates, Craig Stammen and Tyson Ross — were still in familiar uniforms for a series finale against San Francisco. They proceeded to witness their team's 20th defeat in 25 games.

July, the second-worst month in franchise history by winning percentage, illuminated the yawning chasm that separates San Diego from respectability. The Padres plummeted to 26 games under .500. They eked out runs and surrendered bushels of them. They devised novel ways to stumble, such as a botched squeeze attempt during Monday's extra-inning loss to the Giants.

Swaths of the fan base are questioning the managerial ability of Andy Green, but a lack of talent, according to rival evaluators, continues to be the overriding problem. Green's seat may have grown warmer this season, as the Padres have failed to demonstrate much individual or collective progress. Still, ownership has broadcast confidence in the third-year manager, reasoning that he has yet to work with anything approaching a full arsenal.

So the organization's rebuild churns on beneath an ugly exterior. The Padres possess arguably the best farm system in the game. Major League Baseball does not award trophies for such distinctions, but a vast collection of projectable minor-leaguers can open new and interesting pathways. While the Padres opted to hold Yates, Stammen and Ross, another non-deal hinted at an ability to get creative.

Up until early Monday, the Padres were viewed among the favorites to land Chris Archer from Tampa Bay. Their inclusion was curious, a bottom-feeder flanked by contenders in a high-profile bidding war. Yet Archer's three

remaining years of control, combined with his track record in the American League East, appealed to a team seeking long-term upgrades across the field.

“I think having those guys who can take the ball and win a game on their own, that’s definitely one way to start to climb in the standings,” said general manager A.J. Preller, who, adhering to usual policy, declined to comment on specific trade targets.

“Any time you’re talking about guys who can pitch at the front of your rotation, you always want to be part of those conversations. It’s hard to find impact frontline starters, and we feel like we have guys on our big-league club and guys in the farm system that have a chance to grow into that. But I don’t think any team is going to say, ‘We have enough frontline pitching and don’t need another one, especially someone that’s established in the big leagues.’”

In the end, there were more fervent suitors. The Pirates on Tuesday surrendered two premium young talents — Tyler Glasnow and Austin Meadows — and a player to be named to acquire Archer, 29. Pittsburgh began the day having won 13 of 16, only 3 1/2 games back in the National League wild-card race.

The Padres, meanwhile, look a long way from competence, and team officials have acknowledged that a playoff run before 2020 is unlikely. Tuesday’s 3-2 defeat by the Giants put them on pace for 100 losses, something that has not happened in a quarter-century. Given Archer’s age and doubts surrounding his ability to truly anchor a rotation, the Padres passed on relinquishing some of their own top talent.

The Padres never came close to aligning with the Rays’ demands, sources said. Tampa Bay, which inquired about catcher Austin Hedges and outfielder Hunter Renfroe, also requested at least one elite prospect. Despite the numbers in their system, the Padres declined to part with what they saw as future impact.

San Diego’s involvement, however, signaled a continuing push into new territory. With a war chest of prospects at their disposal, the Padres have reached a point where they [can be a factor whenever the most-coveted players become available](#). The scope of possibilities isn’t limited to controllable assets.

According to sources familiar with the organization’s thinking, weeks before the Orioles traded Manny Machado to the Dodgers, the Padres inquired about the superstar infielder with a specific idea in mind: On the remote chance they acquired Machado, they could flip him prior to the non-waiver deadline for

another bounty of young talent, and thus reconfigure a portion of their system to their liking.

The Padres, if they had executed such a plan, might have waited a few series before spinning Machado off to another team. At the time, they were still hovering near .500. But since Machado will reach free agency at the end of this season, the intent would have quickly become clear.

As with Archer, a more motivated contestant prevailed over the rest of the field; Los Angeles gave up five players for a few months of Machado's services. Still, the concept spoke to Preller's willingness to go outside the box.

In a similar case, San Diego and Cincinnati discussed a potential deal for All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman after the 2015 season, according to sources. The Padres subsequently would have flipped Chapman as they began their rebuild following a failed push for contention. San Diego backed out of the talks immediately after news surfaced regarding Chapman's involvement in an alleged domestic violence incident, and the Reds later dealt Chapman to the Yankees.

Nearly three years later, the Padres' front office remains open to taking chances on the trade market. And a system that could produce surpluses, particularly on the mound, contains ample currency for deals.

"In the last six months or so, when established players have been moved, we're at least part of the discussions," Preller said. "Other teams seemingly like some of the guys we have in our system, so in the last few months we have a seat at the table and are at least able to participate in those conversations."

Simultaneously, the quality and depth found across Padres affiliates encouraged Preller to retain Yates, who is under control through 2020, and Stammen, who is in the first season of a two-year deal. While Ross' value had fallen after a stretch of uneven starts, the team never found the returns it sought for the two relievers.

"Honestly, I didn't think anything was going to happen. The way things were unfolding, I felt like there was way too many bullpen arms that were going to go before me," Yates, 31, said after Tuesday's deadline.

He later added: "I want to be part of the next thing. I want to be part of this when [the Padres] start turning it around."

Despite Yates' wishes, the trade of Hand and Cimber — which netted top catching prospect Francisco Mejía — reaffirmed that Preller will wait for what he deems the best deal. Yates is expected to be a prime trade candidate again this winter and, if he isn't moved then, next summer.

It was more surprising that the Padres kept Stammen past the deadline. At 34, he does not figure into the franchise's long-term plans, but the proposed offers from other teams apparently were not compelling.

“There were things that we felt like we potentially may line up on, but we weren't looking to make a deal just to make a deal,” Preller said. “We understand that we're not at the top part of the standings and we have to consider every possible way to get better. ... If we're going to move certain guys — and the bullpen's been a big strength for us all year — it's got to be [for] guys that we feel like are going to play an impactful role for us in the coming years. We just didn't quite get to that spot.”

The Padres got there with Mejía, in the latest trade that conformed to the actions of a seller. Yet, sometime in the not-so-distant future, officials both within and outside the organization anticipate a major play in the other direction. A top farm system does not guarantee success, but it certainly provides an abundance of options.

“We feel like we have guys in the system who are going to be part of the solution,” Preller said. “But we're also realistic in understanding that the trade front will be another area that, as we look to turn this thing around, we want to take full advantage of and at least see what's out there.”

Still in his teens, Padres prospect Luis Patiño has surged and surprised

[By Emily Waldon](#)

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — It was nearing the end of the day for Padres international scouting director Chris Kemp.

Kemp, who took his role with the Padres in 2014, was no stranger to the international showcase circuit, but that spring in 2016, after a full day of watching a doubleheader in Cartagena, Colombia, he was ready to call it a day.

“It was late in the process,” Kemp said. “Most of the [international] class was already tied up or committed for the most part. I was going to watch players for 2017, working a year in advance. There was a doubleheader for players for 2017, and after the first game, it was pretty shitty. I was like, ‘Damn it. There’s nothing here.’ It was just one of those days.”

Just as Kemp was preparing to return to his hotel, it was announced that one more pitcher was slated to throw a bullpen in between games — an undersized right-hander, 150 pounds soaking wet — by the name of Luis Patiño.

“Dude comes over the loudspeaker and he’s basically saying this kid’s gonna throw a bullpen in between games. I wasn’t down there to see him,” Kemp recalled. “I talked to our area scout and he’s like, ‘Yeah, this kid. He’s like 84-86 mph, a converted shortstop, good athlete. Let’s just hang around and watch him.’ Okay, cool.

“There’s probably three or four cross-checkers there, and he proceeded to pitch at 84 to 87 but had a really loose arm,” Kemp continued. “He had a really athletic delivery. And then shortly after that, that was it. We got the deal done that day and we agreed to sign him on July 2.”

Patiño, a self-professed soccer enthusiast, was introduced to the game of baseball by his grandfather at age 3, carrying on a longtime family tradition.

“The most important person in my career was my grandfather because my father didn’t live with me at that time,” Patiño said. “My grandfather always went to the practices and the games. He always was there for me.”

Patiño's uncle and his father both played baseball within the city. His father was a left-handed pitcher who played for only a year, while his uncle played for nearly seven. Although Patiño had influences from a pitching and positional standpoint, he didn't begin pitching regularly until he was a teenager.

"I played shortstop and center field, but, I played pitcher when the team needed me," Patiño said. "I remember the first time I pitched for a real game with my team in Colombia. I was 13 years old. I would throw on Saturday and Sunday and played shortstop all year. I knew that being a pitcher was my position when I was 15, maybe 16. I always preferred to play shortstop, but I like pitching now. It's good for me."

Despite his successes on the mound, Patiño still catches himself thinking back to times when he had an opportunity to hit. Does he miss it?

"A little bit," Patiño grinned sheepishly. "Sometimes when the team gets an opportunity for the pitcher to hit, I enjoy that. I remember the last time I did because I hit a home run. It was amazing because I had three or four years not hitting. Yeah, I miss it."

Patiño's decision to shift to pitching positioned him to catch the attention of Kemp and his staff that day during the showcase in Cartagena.

Starting out at the Padres' complex in the Dominican Republic, Patiño already had a leg up on the transition process into a new organization. The 17-year-old had already been studying English for seven years in Colombia before signing with the Padres.

Patiño spent just 20 days in the Dominican before earning a promotion to the Arizona Rookie League last June. Over 16 innings in the Dominican Summer League, he struck out 8.4 per nine innings with a 1.69 ERA and an 0.81 WHIP prior to his stateside promotion.

Upping his workload to 40 innings in Arizona, Patiño embraced the challenge, raising his strikeouts to 9.6 per nine innings with a 2.48 ERA and 3.6 walks per nine.

"Without mincing words, he's one of our strongest workers," Padres director of player development Sam Geaney said. "He loves the game. He's very driven. He wants to be really, really good. Just the work ethic and the desire, and he is constantly getting better."

Since arriving with Class-A Fort Wayne in May, Patiño's progression has surpassed all expectations set by Kemp and the rest of the Padres organization. The 18-year-old has grown three inches and added an additional 30 pounds of muscle since his time in Arizona.

"The process for me is working hard every day, drinking protein and to lift better in the gym when I practice," Patiño said. "I work hard, I run and I do everything that my teammates give me. ... I went to Arizona for work because I needed to put on pounds, so I worked hard and got the results now."

Although Kemp liked the projection he saw back in Cartagena, he's as dumbfounded as anyone while witnessing the expedited progress of Patiño.

"Hell, I didn't think that would do that until he was 20, 21," Kemp said, laughing. "Now you're gonna sit here and tell me this 18-year-old kid is looking like Anderson Espinoza or a top-100 prospect in the game and he's 94 to 97 mph and doing all this awesome stuff?"

Kemp laughed again. "It's crazy," he said.

Fort Wayne pitching coach Burt Hooton isn't pushing to make any major adjustments to Patiño's regimen just yet.

"This league is good for him... It's a good competition," Hooton said. "For the most part, he's pitching against guys that are two or three years older than him, and a lot of them have college experience, some of them have professional experience, that he doesn't have yet."

As Patiño has matured, his arsenal has stayed fairly similar, featuring a four-pitch mix, including a two-seam and four-seam fastball, curve, slider and changeup that have continued to evolve since the showcase in 2016.

"He showed the makings of a soft curveball and had a little slider that needed work," said Kemp, who also serves as the Padres' field coordinator.

"Obviously, the fastball was up to 87 and you're like, 'Okay. Dream on that.' He used to play shortstop, so you knew the arm was fresh. He hasn't pitched a ton. As a scout, you had a gut feeling. You see a million guys that throw 84 to 87 mph, but just the way he did it. The way he carried himself was a little different."

Along with his accelerated velocity, which has topped out at 98 mph in recent weeks, Patiño has added a new facet to his continuously morphing profile: an accentuated leg kick, reminiscent of Dontrelle Willis.

“The benefit to my delivery is that it’s more controlled with [the leg kick],” Patiño said. “When I do the high leg, my heart is the same time with the leg, so I think it’s what I do now because the delivery helps me in this. This is a good skill for me, you know?”

In fact, Patiño has drawn comparisons to a teammate and one of his closest friends, Padres top pitching prospect MacKenzie Gore.

“[MacKenzie] always helps me with my curveball because my curveball, I needed work on that,” Patiño said. “When I throw with him, he gives me advice for the curveball and same for me when he throws a slider. His best pitch is a curveball and my best pitch is a slider. So, we have a good relationship and I think it’s good for us.”

Despite Patiño’s advanced English, Gore was also instrumental in helping him adapt to life in the States.

“I remember last year when I went to Arizona for the first time, the first guy who taught me English is MacKenzie,” Patiño said, grinning. “He’s a good friend for me because when he talk with me, he helps me.

“When I say something bad, he says, ‘No, this is not good. Say that.’ So, thank you Mac,” Patiño laughed. “He always helps me and now, I talk with him better than last year.”

Settling in with Fort Wayne, Patiño is handling an increased workload. While it should come as no surprise, his production continues to exceed expectations.

Pumping out 10.7 strikeouts per nine innings over 56 1/3 innings, Patiño has posted an eye-catching 2.23 FIP and a 2.08 ERA through his work in the Midwest League.

Recently named the No. 12 prospect in the Padres system by MLB Pipeline, Patiño isn’t rushing the process, but the drive to be the best has him on pace to be a serious impact arm in San Diego’s future.

“The biggest teaching tool is experience. He doesn’t have a lot of that yet, and that’s what he’s here to get,” Hooton said. “He’s 18 years old, he pitches beyond his years.”

While there is always talk of projecting where a pitcher will land, Kemp has learned quickly that Patiño isn't an easy one to label.

“With what he's done so far? I don't know if you can put a cap on this guy,” Kemp said. “If you told me, ‘Hey, he could be a No. 1 starter,’ I'd believe you. I don't know. I don't even really want to limit him.”

While it isn't entirely certain how quickly Patiño will move through the system, Kemp and the Padres have made it clear they plan to let Patiño and his effervescent personality dictate the pace of progression.

“I didn't know it was gonna be as special as it's turned in to,” Kemp said. “As a scout on the market, you get short looks, short bursts and you gotta make quick decisions. But I knew it immediately after he reported to the complex after we signed him. You knew it was different. You knew it was special.”

Crawford, Rodriguez key Giants' 3-2 win vs Padres in 10

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- If he keeps pitching this well, Derek Rodriguez will be in the discussion for the NL Rookie of the Year Award.

"That would be one thing that my dad never got, so that would be nice," Rodriguez, the son of Hall of Famer Ivan Rodriguez, said after pitching seven strong innings in the [San Francisco Giants'](#) 3-2, 10-inning victory against the staggering [San Diego Padres](#) on Tuesday.

[Brandon Crawford](#) singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the 10th inning and [Andrew McCutchen](#) homered for the Giants, who swept the two-game series and won their third straight game.

Rodriguez was in line for his sixth victory against one loss before [Reyes Moronta](#) allowed the Padres to tie it at 2 in the eighth on [Manuel Margot's](#) RBI grounder.

Rodriguez held San Diego to one run and three hits while striking out a career-high seven and walking three. It was the second time in 10 big league starts that he went seven innings.

Rodriguez settled down after allowing [Wil Myers'](#) single and [Eric Hosmer's](#) RBI double with two outs in the first. The Padres got a runner as far as second only one other time against Rodriguez. He gave the Giants a solid effort a day after they had to go 13 innings to beat the Padres.

Rodriguez threw 112 pitches.

"I just went out there and pitched my game. They asked me in the top of the seventh if I felt good and I did and I went out there for the seventh," he said. "I don't think I've ever thrown that many pitches in my life. That was a good one."

Manager Bruce Bochy marveled about how reliable Rodriguez has been since making his big league debut on May 29. His 2.59 ERA ranks first among NL rookie pitchers.

"It's a shame we couldn't get a win for him with that effort," Bochy said. "But we had some tough luck. The first five innings we hit the ball hard but didn't have much to show for it. He kept it close."

The Padres lost their seventh straight, dropped to 2-9 since the All-Star break and lost for the 14th time in 16 games. San Diego finished July at 5-20, their second worst month by percentage in club history.

"It's been a struggle," Padres manager Andy Green said. "Those guys in there are giving absolutely everything they've got. I think the harder thing for us has been flushing the previous days and not letting that carry-over effect, kind of the hangover effect, of not getting it done,

impact the next day's at-bats. It's human nature. As professionals at this level we got to do a better job flushing that, leaving that behind."

[Evan Longoria](#) tripled leading off the 10th against [Phil Maton](#) (0-2) and scored on Crawford's single to right.

[Tony Watson](#) (4-4) pitched a perfect ninth for the win, and [Will Smith](#) pitched the 10th for his sixth save.

McCutchen homered to right leading off the fifth versus lefty [Clayton Richard](#), his 11th. [Gorkys Hernandez](#) hit a sacrifice fly in the fourth.

Richard allowed two runs and five hits in five innings, walked three and struck out one.

Green said the pitching staff kept the team in the game.

"Can't expect a staff to hold a team down into extra innings every single day and give the opportunity to keep coming back," he said. "We've just got to string together a lot more constructive at-bats if we want to win baseball games."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: Placed rookie LHP [Eric Lauer](#) on the 10-day disabled list with a strained left forearm and recalled RHP Walker Lockett from Triple-A El-Paso.

STILL HERE

Reliever [Kirby Yates](#), who pitched the ninth, had been one of a trio of Padres pitchers rumored to be on the trade block. None of them were moved.

"I mean, honestly I didn't think anything was going to happen," Yates said. "I want to be part of this movement that sticks around for the next few years."

UP NEXT

Giants: LHP [Madison Bumgarner](#) (3-4, 3.06) is scheduled to start the opener of a four-game series at Arizona on Thursday night.

Padres: LHP [Robbie Erlin](#) (1-3, 3.47) is scheduled to start the opener of a four-game series at the [Chicago Cubs](#) on Thursday night. He replaces [Luis Perdomo](#), who went on the disabled list with a shoulder injury Saturday.

Padres lose to Giants in extra innings

AP

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Brandon Crawford singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the 10th inning and the San Francisco Giants got seven strong innings from rookie right-hander Dereck Rodriguez in a 3-2 victory over San Diego on Tuesday, the Padres' seventh straight loss.

Andrew McCutchen homered for the Giants, who swept the two-game series and won their third straight game.

San Diego dropped to 2-9 since the All-Star break and lost for the 14th time in 16 games. San Diego is 5-20 in July.

Evan Longoria tripled leading off the 10th against Phil Maton (0-2) and scored on Crawford's single to right.

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