



Padres Press Clips

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Perdomo stung by Dodgers' 5-run fourth

Righty gives Padres 7 innings, but bats struggle vs. Kershaw

By Katie Woo

SAN DIEGO -- Trouble comes in threes, as the old saying goes, and for [Luis Perdomo](#) and the Padres on Monday night, the majority of the trouble came via three doubles in one inning as the Dodgers clubbed their way to an 8-2 victory at Petco Park.

Los Angeles led off the fourth with five straight baserunners before Perdomo recorded an out. [Cody Bellinger](#) led off with a double and scored two batters later when [Yasmani Grandal](#) ripped a double of his own. [Chris Taylor](#) followed with an RBI single and [Andrew Toles](#) added a two-run two-bagger before racing home on [Joc Pederson's](#) fielder's choice grounder to cap the five-spot.

The barrage gave the Dodgers a comfy lead they wouldn't relinquish, as the Padres were held to two hits over six scoreless innings by [Clayton Kershaw](#) and dropped their 14th series opener at home this season.

"That inning was obviously the rough spot," manager Andy Green said. "I thought it got quick that inning."

Perdomo, making his second start since being recalled on July 4, nearly matched Kershaw's efficiency for the first three frames. He notched 1-2-3 first and third innings, and maneuvered through three hits and an intentional walk in a scoreless second, but his luck ran out in the fourth.

He finished having allowed six runs on 10 hits with three walks over seven innings.

"It's a little bit of a different mix than before, and there's moments where it's worked really well for him," Green said of Perdomo's adjustments. "There's a lot to like about the work he's put in. His effort's been great. He always wants to stay in. He knew what he was doing today, going seven innings for us."

After Sunday night's 16-inning affair vs. Arizona, San Diego opened this four-game series with a bullpen in dire need of rest and recovery, and Perdomo's seven innings provided just that.

"We needed that length badly, and he managed to give that to us," Green said. "When you play 16, the very next day turns out to be survival for your bullpen."

"To the outside world, that might not seem like a big deal. To those guys in that clubhouse that are exhausted from throwing that 16-inning game, that was a huge deal. His teammates will like that today."

There's room for improvement, but for a potential rotation candidate, Perdomo's newfound durability is a step in the right direction. In his four starts in April, Perdomo recorded just 14 innings. In his two starts since being recalled, he's accounted for 12 2/3.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Kershaw remains unsolved: The Dodgers' ace was in usual form as he dominated the Padres once more. The Dodgers have won the last 13 games Kershaw has started against San Diego, with the left-hander going 10-0 with a 0.89 ERA in a span that began in September 2013.

"Compared to how we've seen him on video the last couple times out, I thought he was sharper," Green said. "I thought he had depth to his cutter and life to his fastball. We're still struggling to solve him."

Myers homers again: [Wil Myers](#) bashed his seventh homer of the season in the bottom of the ninth inning to give San Diego its first run of the game. He also became the third player in club history to hit five home runs in a three-game span, joining Nate Colbert (1972) and Brian Giles (2007).

LOCKETT'S LATE ARRIVAL

The Padres called up right-hander Walter Lockett from Triple-A El Paso before the game, but Lockett didn't land in San Diego until 8:15 p.m. PT, over an hour after first pitch. The reliever had two delayed flights and a reroute before finally touching down in San Diego. Not long after arriving at the ballpark, he notched two innings of relief.

"It was a little bit of a victory getting here today," he said. "A couple delayed flights, but I made it in time for two innings."

In his first stint back with the club since June 1, Lockett allowed two runs on four hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

"No time to think," he said. "Just get ready, let's go."

UP NEXT

It's youth vs. experience on Tuesday at Petco Park as rookie [Eric Lauer](#) gets the nod against Dodgers veteran [Rich Hill](#) at 7:10 p.m. PT. Lauer is in the midst of a seven-start streak in which he has pitched at least five innings, and he yielded just one earned run over five innings against Arizona on Thursday.

Renfroe nails Turner with amazing throw

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- By now, the National League West should be on high alert: [Hunter Renfroe](#) has a cannon. [Justin Turner](#) got a harsh reminder on Monday night.

In the first inning of the Padres' [8-2 loss to the Dodgers](#) at Petco Park, Turner sprayed a would-be double in the direction of the right-field corner. Renfroe hustled toward the line and played the ball with his bare hand on one hop.

Then he pulled off the spectacular. Renfroe spun and uncorked a brilliant throw from the right-field wall to second base. It took one hop, and Turner was out by five feet.

"When he hit it, I knew I had a play," Renfroe said. "I was able to stop before I hit the wall and maintain my balance. Then I knew I needed a good throw."

Add it to the list of impressive throws from Renfroe over his three-year big league career. From the day he was drafted, his arm strength has never been in doubt -- though he has drawn some criticism for his accuracy. On Monday night, there were no issues on either front.

"He has the ability to have the best arm in the big leagues," said Padres first-base coach Skip Schumaker, who works with the team's outfielders. "It's just about being a little more accurate and knowing when to use it."

For some perspective on Renfroe's arm strength, he uncorked two other throws on Monday night that were clocked at 100 and 98.7 mph, respectively. The first came on [Chris Taylor's](#) RBI single in the fourth. ([Yasmani Grandal](#) didn't dare try to take an extra base.) The second came on [Chase Utley's](#) single in the seventh. [Andrew Toles](#) slid into third safely -- but only barely.

"He was playing with some fire," Schumaker said. "Tonight was a really good example of who he can be as a right fielder."

Last year, Renfroe's nine assists tied him with [Giancarlo Stanton](#) for the most by a right fielder in the NL. Monday's was his third this season.

As for the barehand, Renfroe noted the ball took an awkward bounce, causing him to adjust mid-play.

"I wouldn't have done that on anything but a ball that bounces straight up," Renfroe said. "It was maybe the only play I had."

Galvis proud to be MLB's active ironman

Padres' shortstop starts 256th straight game on Monday

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres played 16 innings and 5 1/2 hours in Arizona on Sunday. Sure enough, [Freddy Galvis](#) was right back in the starting lineup on Monday night. Why wouldn't he be? Freddy Galvis is always in the lineup.

When Galvis trotted to shortstop on Monday night against the Dodgers, it marked the 256th consecutive game in which he's played. It's not quite Cal Ripken Jr.'s record of 2,632 straight. But as of Monday night, Galvis' streak is the longest active in Major League Baseball.

The Royals gave shortstop [Alcides Escobar](#) the day off on Sunday afternoon, bringing his streak to an end at 421 games. Galvis was next in line.

"It means a lot," Galvis said. "I'm proud of my work ethic and being able to play every game. ... I want to play every single day. That's my mindset. I always want to be on the field."

At the plate, the season has been a grind for Galvis. He's hitting .236/.297/.336. But he's been excellent defensively, and his durability has been critical for an organization without a true backup shortstop.

"He's here early, he does whatever treatment he needs to do, he's in the weight room, he takes care of his body, and he eats well," said infielders coach Josh Johnson. "The guy knows how to do it. He's a pro. He takes every opportunity he can get to get better."

The Padres acquired Galvis from the Phillies following the Winter Meetings in December. They parted with pitching prospect [Enyel De Los Santos](#), who is slated to make his big league debut on Tuesday night. It's certainly fair to be skeptical of the Padres' decision to trade a prospect for a shortstop in the final year of his contract.

Still, there's no denying Galvis' positive effect on a young Padres clubhouse.

"He has a huge impact," Johnson said. "He's not talking the talk. He's walking the walk. Really, he's not saying anything. He leads by example. He's a pro. That's the easiest way I can put it."

Galvis has a number of theories as to why he's been so durable. Chief among them: diet, stretching, workouts, routine -- and perhaps a bit of luck.

As for the streak? He made a pact with himself to pursue an everyday role in the most literal sense. He hasn't missed a game since Oct. 1, 2016.

"When I came to the big leagues, I was a utility player for Jimmy Rollins and [Chase Utley](#) and Placido Polanco," Galvis said. "I'd always played baseball every day, since I was a little kid. Every game. If we had a game, I played it. In the Minor Leagues, too."

"Then I got to the big leagues, and I was sitting on the bench, and I was like, I don't want to be here. I want to be playing baseball on the field. When I got the opportunity to start playing every day in Philadelphia, I said, alright, I'm going to make the most of this. My mindset became: I want to play every day. That's what I love to do."

So how long does Galvis plan on holding the title as baseball's active ironman?

"My body is going to say," Galvis said. "But my mind is always going to want to play."

Spangenberg, Diaz optioned

Following Sunday's 16-inning victory in Phoenix, the Padres found themselves in dire need of bullpen help. That came with a somewhat surprising consequence.

Infielder [Cory Spangenberg](#) was optioned to Triple-A El Paso, clearing room for right-handers [Walker Lockett](#) and [Phil Maton](#) to be recalled. The Padres also optioned righty [Miguel Diaz](#), who was recalled prior to Sunday's game and pitched two scoreless frames -- including the second four-strikeout inning in franchise history.

Spangenberg is hitting .232/.264/.378 with six homers this season, but over the past month, he had turned things around a bit. He was hitting .279 and had been solid defensively.

"It's tough to send Cory Spangenberg down for another pitcher," Green said. "Those are the unfortunate ramifications of a 16-inning baseball game. Guys have to get optioned because you need some fresh arms."

Lockett is a starter for El Paso, and his presence in the Majors is mostly in case of emergency. The Padres' primary long men -- [Matt Strahm](#), [Robbie Erlin](#) and [Phil Hughes](#) -- have all pitched multiple innings in the past couple of days. Maton, meanwhile, could earn an extended stay with his performance. He has a 1.53 ERA in 17 games for the big league club this season.

Padres eye All-Star break for Lyles

[Jordan Lyles](#) threw his first bullpen session on Sunday, as he recovers from right elbow inflammation that has sidelined him since late June. The Padres are optimistic that Lyles could make a rehab start at one of their affiliates during the All-Star break next week.

Lyles is slated for another bullpen session on Wednesday at Petco Park, and it's possible he throws live batting practice before one of the weekend games against the Cubs. If all goes well, he'd be in line for a rehab outing after that.

In 21 appearances this season -- including eight starts -- Lyles has posted a 4.46 ERA. He's mixed some excellent outings with some shaky ones, but has been mostly solid since his move to the rotation in early May.

Again, Dodgers beat up on Padres' Luis Perdomo

Jeff Sanders

The [Dodgers](#) were there when [Luis Perdomo](#) made his debut two years ago as a wide-eyed Rule 5 pick. They were there in April when it was evident the 25-year-old hurler needed further minor league seasoning. They were there on Monday to deliver a rude welcoming in his return to Petco Park.

At least Perdomo was there to take it on the chin.

The [Padres](#) had no other choice.

His bullpen gassed after covering 17 innings the previous two games, Perdomo found a way to finish seven innings after coughing up five runs in the fourth, a not-insignificant consolation prize in an 8-2 loss that saw [Wil Myers](#)' fifth homer in three games follow more [Clayton Kershaw](#) mastery of the Padres.

“We needed length tonight very badly,” Padres manager Andy Green said. “He managed to give that to us. ... To the outside world that may not seem like a big deal but the guys in that clubhouse that are exhausted from that 16-inning game that was a huge deal to pick his teammates up like that today.”

In his second start since returning from Triple-A El Paso, Perdomo tied a season-high with 10 hits allowed, walked three batters and didn't strike out anyone in turning in a season-high 111 pitches (67 strikes).

The Dodgers hit Perdomo hard from the start, albeit with nothing to show for it until the fourth inning.

Hunter Renfroe's strike to second base after bare-handing Justin Turner's would-be double into the right-field corner gifted Perdomo a 1-2-3 first.

A double-play ball helped him avoid damage after yielding three second-inning hits.

There was no escaping the Dodgers' fourth-inning onslaught.

And nowhere to hide with the bullpen running on steam after turning in six innings Saturday and 11 more Sunday and call-up [Walker Lockett](#) still en route to Petco Park after having a flight out of Triple-A El Paso delayed and re-routed mid-air to Las Vegas.

"We were in bad shape there," Green said. "

So there Perdomo stood as the first five Dodgers reached. He remained on the mound when pitching coach [Darren Balsley](#) visited after Yasmani Grandal's double gave the Dodgers a 1-0 lead. He stood there still when Chris Taylor singled in another run, when Andrew Toles doubled home two more and when Jose Pirela's throw home on Joc Pederson's grounder to second sailed too high for catcher A.J. Ellis to apply the tag as a fifth run crossed the plate.

The way that inning unfolded, at least Perdomo was still standing on the mound in the seventh inning – the first sign of action in the Padres' bullpen – to spare the Padres' relief corps further wear and tear.

"I knew we were coming off a really long game," Perdomo said through an interpreter, and I wanted to get to the seventh or even later to help out our entire bullpen." He added: "I just took a positive mindset there and kept attacking because I knew nobody was coming in."

The only casualty outside the Padres' 17th loss in their last 23 games: Perdomo's resume.

After coming within an out of quality start in last week's return to the rotation in Oakland, Monday's effort pushed his 2018 ERA to 7.09.

His 9.23 ERA in 40 career innings against the Dodgers includes allowing six runs in an inning of relief in his major league debut in April 2016 and nine runs – seven earned – in three innings this April, a start that banished him to Triple-A El Paso for more than two months.

Outside Monday's fourth inning, Perdomo has allowed three runs in 11 2/3 innings since rejoining the rotation.

"You don't want to see him get quick," Green said of Monday's fourth inning. "WE had multiple mound visits in an attempt to slow it down. We sent A.J. (Ellis) out there. Darren went out there. We're trying to slow it down and get control. It went a little quick. After that inning, he settled in and threw a couple of really solid innings."

Lockett allowed two runs on four hits and a walk in two innings after Perdomo's exit.

Myers hit his homer in the ninth inning off Caleb Ferguson, becoming the third Padres to hit five home runs in a three-game span: three in Saturday's 20-5 loss to Arizona, the go-ahead blast in Sunday's 16-inning win and a solo shot in garbage time Monday after Kershaw's exit.

The Dodgers' ace struck out five and scattered two hits and a walk over six shutout innings to improve to 18-6 in 32 career starts (1.89 ERA) against the Padres. The effort also pushed his career innings total past 2,000 and lowered his ERA to 2.37, fourth-lowest since among pitchers who've accumulated that many innings since earned runs became an official stat (1912 in the NL and 1913 in the AL, according to ESPN Stats & Info).

"I thought he was sharper," Green said as he compared Monday's effort to recent video of Kershaw. "I thought he had depth to his cutter. He had more life on his fastball. He's been one of the best for a long time. We're still struggling to solve him."

Padres notes: Walker Lockett's travel day, another Wil Myers homer

Jeff Sanders

Padres manager Andy Green called [Walker Lockett](#)'s travel itinerary an adventurous day.

Talk about an understatement.

Lockett's original flight out of El Paso, Texas, was delayed. He was also re-routed to Las Vegas mid-air due to inclement weather in the Phoenix area. He landed in San Diego around 8:15 p.m. Monday. He was on a big league mound for the second time in his career within the hour.

"No time to think," Lockett said Monday night. "Just grip it and rip it."

Lockett followed [Luis Perdomo](#) with two innings. He struck out two and allowed two runs on four hits and a walk while throwing 26 of his 38 pitches for strikes, an effort that helped give the Padres' bullpen a breather after throwing 17 innings the previous two days.

"I was following the box score (while traveling)," Lockett said. "I figured I had a good chance to get into the game."

In his previous big league appearances, Lockett had allowed four runs on four hits and five walks in 3 2/3 innings in a start against the [Reds](#).

"I think I was able to command it a little bit better," Lockett said. "The adrenaline was going a little bit. Considering the circumstances I was happy with my stuff."

Myers, again

Wil Myers' ninth-inning homer was his fifth in the last three games. The only other Padres with as many home runs in a three-game span are Nate Colbert in 1972 and Brian Giles in 2007.

Myers has hit in eight of his last 10 games, going 14-for-37 (.378) with six homers, five multi-hit games and 13 RBIs.

“What I like about Wil where he is,” Green said, “is he is just very even-keel. He’s not getting high. He’s not getting low. He’s just going through the game and playing baseball and he’s gifted to do that.

Notable

- Since 1958, Perdomo's 9.23 career ERA against the Dodgers is the second-highest of any pitcher with at least five starts against Los Angeles. Former Padres minor league pitching coach **Glendon Rusch** has the highest at 10.95.
- Myers' 32 homers at Petco Park are tied for the fifth most by a Padre with **Jedd Gyorko**.

Minors One level at a time, Brett Kennedy blazing a trail to San Diego

Jeff Sanders

Each of his first two offseasons, Brett Kennedy worked out at Fordham University while finishing his degree in business management. The baseball program there, as storied as it is, has produced exactly one major leaguer in the last 27 years.

The [Padres](#)' own investment in an 11th-round pick out of the Atlantic 10 Conference program commanded a \$100,000 signing bonus that's been trumped several times as General Manager A.J. Preller stacked his farm system with multi-million-dollar signees, some of them as young as 17 years old.

More than most, the 23-year-old Kennedy has understood his place in the game.

He has not let it define him.

"People have always doubted me," Kennedy said. "It's nice to go out there and say I'm more than your average, run-of-the-mill pitcher."

Thing is, Kennedy lets his arm do his talking, and it's saying quite a lot about a pitcher who's never ranked among the organization's top prospects.

Not according to Baseball America.

Or MLB.com.

Or ESPN.

Or anyone.

Yet Kennedy has clawed his way onto a short list for big league auditions the second half of this season thanks in large part to continuing his one-level-at-a-time climb at

Triple-A El Paso with a 7-0 start that has punched his first-ever ticket to a mid-season all-star game alongside Chihuahuas teammate Luis Urias.

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TRIPLE-A ALL-STAR GAME

- **When:** 4 p.m. Wednesday ([MLB](#) Network)
- **Where:** Huntington Park, Columbus, Ohio
- **El Paso Chihuahuas in the game:** RHP Brett Kennedy, 2B Luis Urias

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The really good stuff is in the details.

In 66 1/3 innings in environments brutal on pitchers resumes, Kennedy is holding opposing hitters to a .232 average, is fourth in WHIP (1.15) and ERA (2.58) among [Pacific Coast League](#) pitchers with as many innings and has allowed one or fewer runs in nine of his first 12 starts above Double-A.

Along the way, it's Kennedy's intangibles that have stood out more than anything.

"He's aggressive and he's mean when he pitches," Padres minor league pitching coordinator Eric Junge said. "He's a believer in what he's got and he's had a lot of success thus far in his minor league career."

What he's got is a curveball he's throwing for the first time in his career to add to the slider and change-up his throws off a heavily-used fastball.

Yet outside the results, Kennedy's four-seamer is not special in any distinguishable metric.

It sits 92-94 mph. It doesn't tip the scale in either direction in spin rate. It doesn't leave his hand with at-bat-changing extension.

It just *works*.

“It’s tough to put your finger on why it’s an effective pitch,” Junge said. “There’s got to be some deception to it because hitters, one step at a time, aren’t squaring it up.”

In that vein, Kennedy’s explanation is as good as any.

“I feel like my fastball plays harder than it is,” he said. “I would say I’ve got good control of it. I like to attack with it and if I have a chance to put a guy away with a fastball up it’s definitely been a good pitch for me.”

Indeed.

Kennedy fanned 147 batters in 142 innings in A-ball in his first full year as a pro, struck out 134 more last year while spending the entire year at Double-A San Antonio and has struck out 61 thus far in the Pacific Coast League, although he’s tapered his usage from about 80 percent early in his career to a little above 60 percent now.

Along the way, his hit rate has dropped from 9.1 per nine innings to 8.5 last year to 7.9 this year as he moved from a fringe prospect in a pitching-rich system – think Michel Baez, MacKenzie Gore, Cal Quantrill and Adrian Morejon – to a legitimate option for a big league rotation that’s already handed out quite a few innings to Kennedy’s system-mates.

Joey Lucchesi was the first man up this year.

Eric Lauer has stuck after digesting some difficult lessons.

Might Kennedy – against all the odds stacked against him – be next?

Maybe.

His focus, of course, remains on his current place in the game.

“If the chance is there, I’m going to take it,” Kennedy said. “Right now my job is to get hitters out in Triple-A and that’s all I’m thinking about.”

Padres try to find power balance

Kevin Acee

His bat didn't move as Hunter Renfroe watched a belt-high 92 mph fastball just off the center of the plate.

"Sometimes you let your pitch go by," he said.

It does happen. But it shouldn't be happening as often as it is for the Padres.

That pitch during Renfroe's at-bat in the ninth inning Sunday, which ended in a strikeout, was wholly illustrative of one of the issues with the Padres offense this season.

There has been a power outage.

The easiest and most pervasive explanation for the downturn in home runs is that three of the Padres' top home run producers from last year have been on the disabled list for significant portions of this season.

And certainly, Wil Myers hitting four home runs in the past two days absolutely supports that notion.

Myers, whose team-leading 16 homers were one more than Renfroe had through 90 games last season, has played in just 26 games this year due to various ailments. Renfroe spent 35 games on the DL. And Austin Hedges, who had homered 13 times at this point a year ago, was shelved for 49 games this season.

The Padres played 24 games in May without any of the trio available and a total of 46 games without Hedges and Myers.

Myers has six homers this season, Renfroe five and Hedges three. Between them, that is 30 fewer than this time last year.

“Of course the numbers are going to be down,” hitting coach Matt Stairs. “I think a lot of it has to do with that.”

But there is more.

Whatever positives have emerged and whatever myriad struggles are contributing to their ongoing inability to score enough runs on a given night, a pronounced lack of homers is a primary cause in the meagerness of the Padres’ attack.

The team’s 78 homers through 92 games is 28 percent off its pace from 2017 and ranks fourth from the bottom among major league teams this season.

“Sure, if you’re driving balls out of the ballpark you have a more efficient offense,” manager Andy Green said this weekend. “It’s been tougher for us to score this year.”

By that, he means it’s been a more arduous task.

The reality is that even having hit 31 fewer home runs, the Padres have scored seven more runs this season than they had through 92 games last season.

Even given a recent stretch in which they are batting .193 in such situations, the Padres are far better this season with runners in scoring position — their .253 average ranking 13th in the majors versus .229 and 28th after 92 games last season.

So given the fact they have a staff ERA that is almost half a point lower and are being outscored by .73 fewer runs per game than at the same point last season, it is not unreasonable to think an extra home run here or there would have meant at least a few more victories.

The stark difference in how the Padres have to manufacture runs this season is illustrated by the fact they have had an on-base percentage of .339 or higher in every one of their 39 victories this season. They had achieved 21 of their 40 victories at this point last season while having an OBP below .339.

And that is somewhat indicative of the problem.

It shouldn’t be, might not always be.

But it is now, because some Padres hitters are treating plate discipline and power as mutually exclusive when the two should absolutely work together.

“Hitting for power is being a stubborn hitter and waiting for your pitch,” Stairs said.

However, a swing is required. A swing that connects.

Sometimes, as in Renfroe’s at-bat Sunday, Padres players are being too patient.

“We want them to be aggressive with pitches in their strike zone,” Green said. “We want them to drive pitches in their strike zone. We want them to take powerful swings at pitches in their strike zone. Where you don’t find power is aggressive swings at pitches in the dirt and aggressive swings at pitches over your head. That’s not where power is found. It’s found when you’re aggressively attacking your zone.

“As you refine that, there is often times passivity that accompanies it early on until guys get comfortable understanding we want (them) to be really aggressive and we want them to be really aggressive in (their) zone. I’m certain there have been times guys have taken pitches they probably could have driven because they’re trying to be selective. In the long run, I think its going to serve us well.”

Renfroe’s on-base percentage has fallen 14 points in the past five games and, at .315, is still 84 points higher than at this time last season. He has changed his batting stance and his approach with two strikes. His chase rate on pitches outside the zone is down.

He is trying to be a more complete hitter.

“One of the deals is I’m trying to work more on my line drive approaches,” he said. “And I think I’ve done pretty well at that. I hit a line drive, and if it goes out, it goes out. I want my misses to be home runs. I want the ones I get to be line drives to the middle of the field.”

Of marrying discipline and power, he did acknowledge, “There is a happy medium I can get to.”

As a whole this season, Padres hitters are seeing more pitches, chasing fewer bad ones and getting on base more.

“Are we sitting in our zone all the time?” Stairs asked. “No. We’re getting better. ... We’re having better at-bats and grinding at-bats. But we haven’t had the power. How many times do we get pitches to hit and we miss them? That has to do with it.”

With Myers back and if Renfroe can return to a semblance of how he was hitting in June – when over a stretch of 90 plate appearances he hit .288/.367/.475 with nine doubles and two homers – the Padres expect to get a more regular lineup going.

Green said he believes “more intermittent playing time than he’s used to” has affected Renfroe. And as part of an answer about Renfroe’s diminished power, Green said, “He’s had some higher quality at-bats that we are pleased with.”

Of Sunday’s at-bat by Renfroe, Green said, “We want him to be aggressive in his zone.”

Now that everyone is back, that’s what it will take.

Minors Futures Game-bound Buddy Reed promoted to San Antonio

Jeff Sanders

Buddy Reed will make a pit-stop before heading to Washington D.C., for Sunday's [All-Star Futures Game](#): Double-A San Antonio.

The 23-year-old Reed, a switch-hitting outfielder, has been promoted to the Texas League after a stellar half-season in the California League, where he led the circuit with 33 stolen bases, was tied for the lead with a .324 batting average and second with 173 total bases.

All told, Reed — a 2016 second-rounder who is joining top prospects **Fernando Tatis Jr.** and **Luis Urias** as the [Padres](#)' representatives in Sunday's All-Star Futures Game — has 12 homers, 47 RBIs and 54 runs to go with a .324/.371/.549 batting line in 79 games in a breakthrough season at high Single-A Lake Elsinore.

The resume this year includes an all-star selection, a player of the month nod in April and two player of the week selections.

Reed was unranked in the Padres system by both Baseball America and MLB.com after hitting .234/.290/.396 with six homers and 12 steals in 88 games last year at low Single-A Fort Wayne.

To make room for Reed in San Antonio, outfielder **Rod Boykin** is returning to Lake Elsinore after hitting .214/.287/.317 with four homers, 23 RBIs and eight steals in 67 games with the Missions.

Monday's game in San Antonio was rained out and the Missions are off Tuesday, delaying Reed's Texas League debut until Wednesday in Frisco at the earliest.

Allday honored

Triple-A El Paso outfielder **Forrestt Allday** was named the [Pacific Coast League's](#) player of the week after recording 18 hits in seven games, second most in a single PCL week since the start of 2017.

Allday had a 1.690 OPS, scored 12 runs and recorded a PCL-best eight extra bases hits (five doubles, one triple, two homers).

Allday also stole four bases and rove in eight runs.

MONDAY'S GAMES

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (8-11, 42-47)

- [Inland Empire 6, Storm 3](#): RHP **Michel Baez** (2-6, 3.21) struck out three and allowed five runs on seven hits and two walks in 3 1/3 innings in the start. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.246) went 2-for-3 with his 11th homer and two RBIs and C **Luis Torrens** (.272) went 2-for-4 with two doubles and two runs scored. CF **Rod Boykin** (.000) went 0-for-5 with three strikeouts.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (11-8, 43-45)

- [Bowling Green 6, TinCaps 1](#): LHP **MacKenzie Gore** (1-3, 4.06) struck out three and allowed two runs on three hits, two walks and a hit batter in five innings. He threw 46 of his 77 pitches for strikes. LHP **Oswaldo Hernandez** (2.25) followed with four runs – three earned – allowed over the last four innings. C **Luis Campusano** (.276) went 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI and 2B **Kelvin Melan**(.500) went 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and a run scored.

SHORT-SEASON TRI-CITY (13-12)

- **Dust Devils 5, Everett 1:** RHP **Henry Henry** (2-1, 3.08) struck out seven and allowed one run on three hits and a walk in five innings in the start. SS **Owen Miller** (.344) went 3-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a walk and 2B **Luke Becker** (.245) tripled, knocked in a run and scored a run in four at-bats.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (19-13)

- **Padres 5, White Sox 3:** LHP **Jose Garcia** (0.6) saved his second game with four strikeouts over two perfect innings after RHP **Miguel Rondon** (2.25) allowed three runs in six innings in the start. RF **Christian Heredia** (.238) hit his third homer and 2B **Luis Paez** (.218) went 1-for-3 with a double and a walk.

Padres notes: Maton, Lockett up; Hosmer's solo BP

Kevin Acee

The Padres were compelled to call up two pitchers from Triple-A on Monday after requiring 17 innings from their bullpen over the previous two games.

The promotion of right-handers Phil Maton and [Walker Lockett](#) meant sending down two players who probably didn't merit a demotion at this point – infielder [Cory Spangenberg](#) to Triple-A El Paso and reliever [Miguel Diaz](#) to Double-A San Antonio.

Diaz struck out five batters in two scoreless innings Sunday afternoon after being recalled from San Antonio earlier in the day. Spangenberg has hit .295/.326/.432 over his past 27 games.

“We had to get fresher in the bullpen,” said Green, who used all eight of his relievers in Sunday's 4-3 16-inning victory. “That's unfortunate sometimes. Miguel Diaz was obviously outstanding for us. It's tough to send a guy out after that. It's tough to send Cory Spangenberg out, as well, for another pitcher. Those are the unfortunate ramifications of 16-inning baseball games.”

Maton, who has a 1.86 WHIP in 17 2/3 innings with the Padres this season, posted a sub-1.00 WHIP in his six appearances (6 1/3 innings) in Triple-A since being optioned on May 24.

Lockett is up for the second time after allowing four runs in 3 2/3 inning in his big-league debut on June 1 against Cincinnati.

By his lonesome

After the 5½-hour game Sunday, the Padres scrapped on-field batting practice prior to Monday's game against the Dodgers.

Except one player.

As hitting coach Matt Stairs watched, [Eric Hosmer](#) hit pitches thrown by Green.

The Padres first baseman is batting .159/.204/.193 over the past 21 games.

“We wanted to let some guys breathe a little bit,” Green said. “He wanted to get some work in.”

Padres draft pick Grant Little loves life in center field, but that may not be his permanent home

[By Dennis Lin](#)

Eight days before the June draft, the Padres traded minor-league catcher Janigson Villalobos to the Twins for veteran pitcher Phil Hughes, about \$15 million in cash and a competitive-balance selection.

The motivation for the deal was obvious. While the money involved will go toward defraying the considerable cost of Hughes' contract, the draft pick expanded San Diego's bonus pool by \$812,200, added flexibility that was put to use. Despite drafting at No. 7, the Padres wound up committing the sixth-largest total in bonuses.

But what about the pick itself? What did the Padres gain in Grant Little, the 74th overall selection?

As with any new draftee, the answer will take years to unpack. Yet there is immediate intrigue surrounding the Texas Tech product, especially in regard to where he will settle in the field.

Since joining short-season Tri-City, Little has started four games in center field and two in left (while hitting .364/.385/.409 with a walk and two strikeouts). He spent the majority of his Red Raiders career at the latter position, but there were more than a few signs that his horizons could broaden in pro ball.

The above highlight is one of many Little submitted over the course of two seasons at Texas Tech, which included a deep run into the College World Series last month. Little, a draft-eligible sophomore, inherited athleticism from his father, a former guard at Baylor University. Two uncles and a cousin of Little's also played college basketball.

Little was a two-time all-state guard at Midland Christian High School in Texas. He arrived in Lubbock as a shortstop before a fringy arm prompted the Red Raiders to shift him to the outfield. On offense, he demonstrated an advanced bat, hitting .354/.437/.566 across his two seasons.

“Our scouts like the fact that he’s played shortstop,” Padres general manager A.J. Preller said last month. “We’ve talked about, could he play center field? Could he play left field? That’s what we’re going to see here in pro baseball.

“He’s a guy who’s very versatile, he’s athletic, he’s got some twitch and obviously athleticism to him. He’s made some tremendous catches in left field, some diving catches that have been on SportsCenter. My guess is we’ll start playing him in the outfield and we’ll take a look at the infield as well and see what factors in for us.”

In a recent conversation with *The Athletic*, Little discussed the process of being drafted, his preference on defense, and more.

Did you have an idea the Padres would draft you?

It goes back to high school, really. They were one of the teams that were on me, so I’ve always had a connection with them. About later in the spring, me and one of their scouts, Matt Schaffner, started talking a lot more. Then we started talking more towards draft day, and I found out at about pick 64, 65 that pick 74 I was going to be taken by them. ... I honestly would rather just not have known, because it was, like, 10 minutes in between those 10 picks, so I was a wreck for about 10 minutes.

Texas Tech reliever Jose Quezada was also drafted by the Padres (in the 10th round). Is it nice to have a college teammate in the same organization?

It’s going to be fun. Me and Jose were actually roommates in Lubbock. It’ll be fun to have him out here in Tri-Cities whenever he gets out here.

How was the experience of playing in the College World Series?

It was something that lived up to all the hype that it gets. Everybody talks about playing in it, how great it is, but you don’t really know until you actually do it. Luckily, we were blessed enough to get that chance, and it’s something I’ll always remember. The atmosphere and just the people of Omaha, they love baseball. And getting to play in front of 20,000-plus, it was just surreal.

How would you describe your playing style?

I think I’m an offensive outfielder who’s athletic and can play multiple positions if needed. And I can hit.

What position on the field do you like the most?

I prefer center field. I love it out there.

What do you think sticking in center can do for your profile as a prospect?

I think if your center fielder can hit, that gives your team a little bit of an advantage, as opposed to somebody out there who can just run down balls. I feel like I can do both at a high level. I feel like that will just add more value to me.

What has the organization told you so far?

As of right now, I think they want me to stick in center, but that can change. That's what I prefer to do, is to play center. But it's whatever the team needs, so I'm here for whatever the Padres need me to do.

Do you have experience at second base?

Not really, but if I work at it, I feel like I'll be just fine.

Has your basketball background helped you make some of the highlight catches that have put you on SportsCenter?

Yeah, I guess basketball just taught me body control. To be able to make those catches, you have to have some body control. I guess basketball and football; I played football, I played receiver. I guess those two kind of helped me in that aspect of the game of making those catches.

Can you dunk?

I dunked in a game once in high school. In the offseason at Tech, our weight room is right next to the rec (center), so we just walk over and play basketball. When I get my legs underneath me in the offseason, I can dunk pretty easily. But if you ask me to dunk right now, I probably couldn't.

Was there ever a point when you thought you would pursue a professional career in basketball?

Junior high and early high school, I thought I was going to play basketball. I was pretty tall for my age, so I thought I'd grow a little more. But I didn't. I thought it'd probably be best for me to stick to baseball, and I think I made the right choice.

You had a power uptick between your freshman and sophomore years. [Little went from slugging .476 with two home runs to slugging .642 with 12 homers.] What do you attribute that to?

I give credit to my summer coach from this past summer, Joey Gomes from the Healdsburg Prune Packers. [*Gomes is the older brother of former major-league outfielder Jonny Gomes*]. He pretty much just taught me that hitting home runs, you don't have to be the biggest guy or the strongest guy.

It's just a skill, hitting the ball on the right part of the ball, in the right part of the zone. I worked on that going into this past fall, I started elevating some balls and I got stronger in the weight room. Some of the doubles that I hit my freshman year ended up going out of the park my sophomore year. So I give all the credit to him.

Kershaw dominates Padres in Dodgers' 8-2 win

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- [Clayton Kershaw](#) is feeling fit again and that's a bad sign for the [Los Angeles Dodgers'](#) rivals heading into the season's second half.

The left-hander pitched six scoreless innings, and [Cody Bellinger](#) and [Justin Turner](#) each had three hits as the Dodgers beat the [San Diego Padres](#) 8-2 Monday night.

"I think we are getting pretty close," Kershaw said. "It was a good day and it was definitely a step in the right direction. My pitch count got up early, but for the most part I made some good pitches when I needed to."

Kershaw (3-4) improved his career mark to 18-6 against San Diego as the Dodgers moved a half-game behind the idle [Arizona Diamondbacks](#) for the National League West lead. Los Angeles won for the 33rd time in 48 contests.

The Padres were handcuffed by Kershaw as they managed but a pair of singles and a walk against the Dodgers' ace as they lost a game he started for the 13th consecutive time. Kershaw was sharp from the onset, recording his five strikeouts in the first four innings. San Diego never had two baserunners aboard in the same inning and had just one in scoring position during his outing.

"I thought compared to how we've seen him on video the last couple of times out, I thought he was shaper," Padres manager Andy Green said. "He's been one of the best for a long time...we are still struggling to solve him."

[Luis Perdomo](#) (1-3) gave up six runs, 10 hits and three walks -- one intentional -- over seven innings in his second start since being recalled from Triple-A El Paso.

The Padres, who got a home run from [Wil Myers](#) in the ninth, lost for the sixth time in eight games. It was Myers' fifth homer in three games.

Kershaw, who has had two stints on the disabled list this year, won his second straight start in throwing 89 pitches, his most since May 1. Monday's impressive outing gave Kershaw his first road win of the season and came on the heels of him tossing six innings in a win over the Pirates.

"It was really good," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said of Kershaw's performance. "He was in rhythm and sync in his delivery and I think that's the best I've seen his slider, and his fastball command was great."

The Dodgers broke the game open in the fourth inning, scoring five runs after sending eight batters to the plate.

Bellinger opened with an opposite-field double, [Matt Kemp](#) walked and [Yasmani Grandal](#) hit a double to drive in Bellinger. [Chris Taylor](#)'s RBI single made it 2-0 and Andrew Toles stroked a two-run double off the base of the left-field fence.

Toles, called up from Triple-A Oklahoma City before the game with [Yasiel Puig](#)(oblique) going on the disabled list, scored from third on [Joc Pederson](#)'s grounder to stalk Kershaw to a 5-0 lead. Perdomo wiggled from a jam in the second as the Dodgers had two singles, a double and a walk. But Kemp hit into a double play and Kershaw grounded out to end the threat.

KERSHAW 2K

Kershaw eclipsed the 2,000-inning mark in his career in the third inning of Monday's game. Kershaw, a three-time Cy Young Award winner, is the 13th Dodger in franchise history and 11th active pitcher to reach that milestone.

"I should have done it a lot sooner but I kept getting hurt," Kershaw said. "It sounds like a lot of innings. Hopefully I got a few more left."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Dodgers: RF Puig (right oblique) was placed on the 10-day disabled list. Manager Dave Roberts said Puig will be out for an extended period of time.

Padres: RHP [Jordan Lyles](#) (right elbow) threw a bullpen session on Sunday and is slated for another one on Wednesday.

UP NEXT

Dodgers: LHP [Rich Hill](#) (2-3), who is coming off a win over the Pirates, starts the middle game of the four-game series. Hill has a career mark of 4-3 with a 3.18 ERA in eight starts against the Padres.

Padres: LHP [Eric Lauer](#) (4-5) has settled down after a rocking April-May in which he posted a 7.67 ERA in seven starts. Over six outings in June, Lauer had a 2.76 ERA. Lauer threw six scoreless innings and earned his first career win when beating the Dodgers on May 6.

#PadresOnDeck: Tatis Jr. Leads Seven Top-30 Prospects on Padres' Player of the Month Honor Roll

By Bill Center

Shortstop **Fernando Tatis Jr.**—rated the Padres' top prospect and [No. 3 overall in the minor leagues by MLB Pipeline](#)—heads the Padres on Deck minor league Players of the Month for a second straight month.

Tatis is one of seven Padres' Top-30 prospects on the Players of the Month honor roll.

Joining Tatis Jr. from the [Top-30](#) are, in order: right-handed starter **Chris Paddock** (No. 8), left-handed starter **Logan Allen** (No. 9), right-handed starter **Jacob Nix** (No. 12), outfielder **Tirso Ornelas** (No. 13), third baseman **Hudson Potts** (No. 15) and right-handed starter **Luis Patiño** (No. 24).

The Padres' Players of the Month for June:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO:

Player: First Baseman **Allen Craig**—The 33-year-old former Major Leaguer signed with the Padres in January. He hit .360 in June (27-for-75) with four doubles, three homers, eight walks, 19 RBIs and 15 runs scored for a .417 on-base percentage and a .533 slugging percentage for a .950 OPS.

Pitcher: Right-hander **Brett Kennedy**—The 23-year-old product of Fordham University was the Padres' 11th-round pick in the 2015 draft. He returned from the disabled list to post a 3–0 record in four June

starts with a 2.42 earned run average, a .226 opponents' batting average and a 1.03 WHIP.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO

Player: Shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr.— Since hitting .177 in April, the youngest player (19) in the Texas League has hit .333 over the past two months with 11 homers. He hit .330 in June (30-for-91) with four doubles, a triple, four homers, 13 walks (.413 on-base percentage), 10 RBIs, eight steals for a .941 OPS.

Pitcher: Right-hander Jacob Nix— The 6-foot-3, 233-pound, 22-year-old was 1–1 with a 1.48 ERA in four starts in June after missing the first part of the season with a groin injury suffered in spring training while in the Padres' camp. He also had a .148 opponents' batting average and 0.74 WHIP in June.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE

Player: Third baseman Hudson Potts— The 19-year-old played alongside Tatis last season at low-A Fort Wayne. He was 24-for-89 in June with 10 doubles, five homers, 12 walks, 18 RBIs and 19 runs scored. The 2016, first-round draft pick had a .270/.365/.551/.916 slash line for the month.

Pitcher: Right-hander Chris Paddack— In three June starts, the 22-year-old alum of “Tommy John” surgery allowed one run on nine hits and two walks with 28 strikeouts in 14 2/3 innings for a 0.61 ERA, 0.75 WHIP and .170 opponents' batting average. Overall, he has 83 strikeouts against four walks in 52 1/3 innings.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE

Player: Outfielder Tirso Ornelas— The 18-year-old Tijuana native was 19-for-75 in June with 15 walks and had a 26-game on-base streak. He

also had three doubles, a triple and four homers during the month for 15 RBIs and 12 runs scored with a slash line of .244/.375/.462/.837.

Pitcher: Right-handed starter **Luis Patiño**—The 18-year-old native of Colombia had a 1.54 ERA in five starts in June. He gave up six runs (four earned) on 18 hits and five walks with 30 strikeouts in 23 1/3 innings during June with a 0.99 WHIP and a .205 opponents' batting average.

SHORT-SEASON SINGLE-A TRI-CITY

Player: Catcher **Blake Hunt**—The 69th overall pick from the 2017 draft was 14-for-42 in June with 12 walks, a league-leading 11 runs scored and four RBIs. Hunt, 19, ranks second in the Northwest League with a .333 batting average and a .491 on-base percentage for a .825 OPS.

Pitcher: Left-handed reliever **Dan Dallas**—The seventh-round pick in the 2016 draft, the 6-foot-2, 180-pound 20-year-old allowed one run on seven hits and four walks with 17 strikeouts in 10 2/3 innings out of the Dust Devils' bullpen in June for a 0.84 ERA, 1.03 WHIP and .200 opponents' batting average.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE

Player: Infielder **Vladimir Echavarria**—The 18-year-old from the Dominican Republic hit only .241 (13-for-54) last month, but had 25 walks in 79 plate appearances for a .506 on-base percentage. He had three doubles, a triple and a home run for 15 runs scored and nine RBIs with a .895 OPS.

Pitcher: Left-hander **Manuel Partida**—The 17-year-old native of Mexico made five appearances in June (four starts) and allowed three runs on 13 hits and five walks with 24 strikeouts in 20 2/3 innings. He had a 1.31 ERA with a 0.87 WHIP and an opponents' batting average of .176.

ARIZONA ROOKIE LEAGUE

Player: Corner infielder **Jason Pineda**—After the first two weeks of the season, the 18-year-old native of the Bronx, N.Y., leads the league in batting average (.450), on-base percentage (.540) and OPS (1.265) and is second with a .725 slugging percentage. He is 18-for-40 and that includes hitting for the cycle.

Pitcher: Left-handed starter **Joey Cantillo**—The 6-foot-4, 22-pound, 18-year-old, 16th-round pick of the 2017 draft out of Kailua, Hawaii, has allowed two unearned runs over 9 1/3 innings in his first two starts. He has allowed three hits and three walks with 11 strikeouts for a 0.64 WHIP and .100 opponents' batting average.

Padres look to bounce back against Dodgers

STATS

SAN DIEGO — Since the [Padres](#) entered the National League as an expansion team in 1969, their neighbors to the north have regularly used San Diego as a stepping stone to success in the National League West.

Overall, the [Dodgers](#) have a one-sided, 457-391-1 edge in the “rivalry,” including Monday night’s 8-2 victory in the opener of a four-game series at Petco Park. Last season, the Dodgers were 13-6 against the Padres en route to a 104-58 record and the National League West title.

This season, the Dodgers are 7-3 against the Padres. And the Dodgers could move into the division lead Tuesday night with a second straight win over San Diego combined with an Arizona loss.

Tuesday night’s game will feature a match of left-handers — the Dodgers going with veteran [Rich Hill](#) (2-3, 4.56 earned run average) against Padres rookie [Eric Lauer](#) (4-5, 4.84 ERA).

While Hill has a longer history of strong starts against the Padres, Lauer’s best start as a Padre came against the Dodgers in his third major league outing on May 6 in Monterrey, Mexico. Lauer shut out the Dodgers on seven hits and a walk over six innings to pick up his first major league win in the Padres’ 3-0 victory.

Lauer entered that game with a 10.13 ERA. And while he was hit hard in three of his next four starts, Lauer has rapidly developed as a starter since.

After posting a 7.67 ERA in April and May, Lauer has posted a 2.76 ERA in seven starts since the start of June. The 4.91 drop in ERA is the best improvement among all major league pitchers with at least 25 innings. Over his last seven starts, the 23-year-old Lauer — the 25th overall pick in the 2016 draft, has gone 3-2 while allowing 15 runs (11 earned) on 43 hits and 14 walks with 28 strikeouts in 37 2/3 innings.

“The difference is conviction,” Padres manager Andy Green said recently. “He knows he belongs. He knows if he makes good pitches, he can get major league hitters out.”

Hill has known about conviction for some time now — particularly against the Padres.

Tuesday night will be Hill’s ninth career start against the Padres. Over the first eight, he has gone 4-3 with a 3.18 ERA while limiting Padres hitters to a .184 opponents’ batting average. Over 45 1/3 innings against the Padres, Hill has averaged 11.12 strikeouts per nine innings while posting a 1.06 WHIP.

Hill will be facing the Padres for the first time in 2018. In his last outing against the Padres last Sept. 27, Hill worked seven scoreless innings. He allowed two hits and no walks while striking out 10.

Hill has made 10 starts for the Dodgers this season, but has worked only 47 1/3 innings. He has given up 25 runs (24 earned) on 48 hits and 17 walks with 51 strikeouts. Opponents have a .261 batting average against Hill this season with nine home runs. And while he is averaging 9.7 strikeouts per nine innings, his WHIP is an unusually high, for him, 1.37.