



Padres Press Clips

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Astros top Padres on walk-off pop-up after Bryan Mitchell shows why he's starting

Kevin Acee

The ball went up, the ball went down.

The ball landed on the grass as [Eric Hosmer](#) bent over and put his hands on his knees and [A.J. Ellis](#) slowly placed his catcher's glove under his left arm, frozen in shock as the [Houston Astros](#) made a mad dash onto the field to mob Alex Bregman in celebration of his walk-off pop-up.

Those were the startling instants that ended the [Padres'](#) 1-0 loss in 10 innings Saturday night at Minute Maid Field.

Afterward, two of the most veteran players on the field for a young team would take blame, as the Padres were left to lament a terrible way to lose a terrific game.

With two outs, Padres reliever Phil Maton got Bregman to sky a ball about 30 feet in front of the plate to the first base side. Wisdom holds that is the first baseman's ball, as he is coming in.

Hosmer, however, was playing deep and had to charge in full speed. He put his head down halfway to where the ball would land, looked up and then overran the ball, which dropped five feet behind him as pinch-runner Derek Fisher raced around third and across the plate.

"That's my ball all the way," Hosmer said. "... I tried to run in and make up some ground. By the time I looked up, it was past me. It's on me. That's my ball."

Catcher A.J. Ellis, who pointed toward Hosmer almost immediately when the ball was launched off Bregman's bat and didn't move beyond home plate, took responsibility.

"It was in that no-man's land," he said. "... In hindsight, I should have more aggressively went for it and gave us another option out there. I put Hos in a bad position having to run full speed. Definitely something I should have went for, been out there in the mix. No excuse. You catch the ball. You've got to go want to catch the ball right there."

Said Hosmer: "No, that's too tough for a catcher to turn around and try to make that play."

The run ended a string of 15 scoreless innings tossed by Padres pitchers, and it sullied the excellent start by Bryan Mitchell.

In his second outing for the Padres, Mitchell showed why the team committed time and money to seeing what he could do given an opportunity as a starter.

After Mitchell left with two out in the sixth, [Craig Stammen](#) pitched 1 1/3, Kazuhisa Makita pitched a scoreless eighth, and [Robbie Erlin](#) threw a perfect ninth before [Brian McCann](#)'s leadoff single, a stolen base by pinch runner Derek Fisher and, with Maton in, Bregman's little-big fly in the 10th.

Mitchell, acquired in a trade with the [Yankees](#) that also brought third baseman [Chase Headley](#) and his \$13 million salary to San Diego, was to some the great conundrum of the spring, a guy with nine career starts over four seasons being handed a job in the Padres rotation.

The questions intensified and concern even crept into the minds of Padres decision makers after Mitchell pitched tentatively and allowed five runs in five innings in his Petco Park debut last week.

That was against the [Colorado Rockies](#), the [National League](#)'s best offense from a year ago. As he attempted to bounce back from that, in his way was the [American League](#)'s top offense in 2017.

Mitchell was almost all he could be for five innings, virtually everything he wasn't in his first start. He fearlessly spun his curve, hit spots down in the zone. He was dominant for stretches, got out of trouble in a few innings and worked through the Astros hellacious lineup almost three times.

"It was a struggle last time," manager Andy Green said. "This was a really good lineup he kept off-balance most of the day. ... He was attacking. You could sense it on the mound from the first pitch."

Mitchell (and the rest of the pitching staff's work) will be the Padres' lasting positive takeaway from the middle game of this series against the defending world champions.

More immediately, they will lament not only the pop-up single but their 14 strikeouts, three wasted leadoff doubles and the lack of a single hit in nine at-bats with a runner in scoring position.

"It's a tough way to lose," Hosmer said. "The way Mitchell threw the ball, the way our bullpen came in throwing the ball. I wish we could have manufactured a run to get those guys a win. It's a tough one. We're playing with these guys, we're in it the whole way. Tough to lose on that."

Extra bases

- Reliever Kirby Yates left after throwing one pitch in the eighth inning due to an injury to his right (push-off) ankle. Yates said the ankle has been bothering him since spring and he aggravated it playing catch before the game. He and Andy Green said his status will be day-to-day.
- Manuel Margot was dropped to ninth in the order, his first time out of the leadoff spot this season. Margot went 0-for-4 and is batting .121 in 33 at-bats. His replacement atop

the order was Jose Pirela, who had three hits Friday and came in batting .294. Pirela struck out four times and grounded out.

- Dinelson Lamet threw in the outfield for the third straight day, this time from an increased distance (almost 90 feet) and with more exertion previously. He is trying to work back from the elbow injury that forced him to leave his March 25 [spring training](#) start.
- Outfielder [Wil Myers](#) is improving but won't resume swinging a bat until the nerve discomfort near his right elbow is gone. The Padres appear to remain hopeful Myers will return from the disabled list when eligible, April 13.

Padres trying to beat Astros now, be Astros later

Kevin Acee

[Eric Hosmer](#) is the player around whom the [Padres](#) are building — the upbeat, talented leader the organization has placed as the cornerstone of its foundation.

If the Padres are to be who they think they are becoming, many of the players in their clubhouse now won't be there when the Padres are the team others are trying to emulate.

Hosmer will be.

And he can see the future as he lives in the present — especially when the Padres are playing the [Houston Astros](#), the team that went from worst to first in a manner the Padres (among others) are attempting to mirror.

“You look at a guy out there at shortstop and you can't help but think of Tatis,” Hosmer said, referring to the Astros' All-Star shortstop [Carlos Correa](#) and Fernando Tatis Jr., the Padres' top-ranked prospect. “You immediately start comparing them at that age. You think, ‘That's our Correa.’”

“Then you have Dallas Keuchel, who won a [Cy Young](#) coming up through (the Astros) organization. We have a guy in MacKenzie Gore. I've never seen him throw a pitch, but I've heard enough about him to believe he's the real deal. So it's only natural to start thinking of that stuff. Those guys are getting closer and closer, and if we get things straightened out up here, when those guys get ready, it will be a fun mesh.”

Hosmer, manager Andy Green and the rest of those wearing Padres uniforms made it clear they're here this weekend to win the games they are playing against the reigning [World Series](#) champions.

Green has made an unmistakable effort to downplay the significance of the opponent.

“Yeah,” Green said of the Padres trying to pave a version of the Astros' path. “... It's not guaranteed, though. I'm sure with them throughout the years they were building there was always the question mark if they were going to get there. You only get there if you get better every single day and you take advantage of every single opportunity to improve. We have a long way to go. But yeah, you can take some inspiration when you come in here.”

The Padres' front office embarked on its current course before the Astros started winning, but there is no doubt General Manager A.J. Preller and his cohorts have been taking inspiration from Houston long before the Padres arrived here Thursday night.

Without knowing what Green had said, Astros General Manager Jeff Luhnow validated the Padres manager's contentions.

“There are quite a few teams doing a great job of developing young talent,” Luhnnow said. “The Padres have one of the best farm systems in all of baseball, if not the best. No doubt the future is bright, but none of it matters until those players get here, and the players start performing and the team starts winning.”

The Padres know that, which is why they are careful to attempt a balance when preaching patience with the process and optimism about the future.

Still, the team and its fans can be heartened by the Astros’ ascension and how the Padres do seem to be checking similar boxes.

Luhnnow chuckled when asked to recall when his organization was where the Padres are now — with almost all of the reasons for hope being manifest at the lower levels.

“We lost a lot of games in ‘12 and ‘13,” Luhnnow said, referring to seasons of 55-107 and 51-111. “But we were confident we were on the right track, because we knew the talent in the minor leagues was being developed properly. And it was elite talent like Correa, (Lance) McCullers, (George) Springer, (Alex) Bregman, that when they got here would not just be able to play but be able to flourish.”

The Astros won 70 games in ‘14, advanced to the postseason in ‘15, finished above .500 in ‘16 and won 101 games and the World Series in ‘17.

They’d come even farther than the Padres will have if San Diego is to hoist its first championship pennant.

No one in baseball likes the word “tanking,” but the fact is the Astros took money they were previously allocating to payroll, trying just to survive year to year and every once in a while possibly contend, and put it into the international market and stockpiling of draft picks.

Sound familiar?

“The team they built, in general they’re probably the first team that — I don’t want to say tanked; there are always life cycles of teams that go up and down,” Preller said. “But they picked first three years in a row. Teams are looking at that and asking if that is the model we need to follow.”

The Padres, seemingly now on an upward trajectory, did not reach the depths the Astros did.

The Astros had a life cycle, all right. They left themselves for dead before resurrecting spectacularly.

The Astros had been to the playoffs nine times since their inception (as the Colt .45s) in 1962. They had lost their lone World Series appearance, in 2005, in four games. That was also their most recent playoff appearance when Luhnnow was hired in 2011 after a 56-106 season.

“When you have a relatively poor farm system and a major league team that lost over 100 games, you have to figure out where you’re going to focus your resources,” Luhnnow said. “And we focused it on the draft, international, building our capabilities and building a young core. And fortunately things worked out for us, and we were able to bring that young core to the big

leagues, build around it and have success. It's been tried before; we're not trailblazers. But we were fortunate to have success doing it."

Yes, the [Boston Red Sox](#) and [Chicago Cubs](#) did something similar under Theo Epstein. And while the [Yankees](#) have a well-deserved reputation for spending big on free agents, many of the players from their championship teams were homegrown.

But those clubs are in unique situations given their immense resources. What the [Kansas City Royals](#) did to make back-to-back World Series, winning in 2015, and the Astros did in building to last season, is of special import to the Padres given their smaller market.

After losing at least 106 games each season from 2011-13, the Astros picked first three consecutive drafts. They also had the second choice in 2015.

Correa, who hit .315/.351/.550 last year, was the top pick in '12. Alex Bregman, .284/.352/.475 in '17, was the No. 2 overall pick in 2015. Those were hits.

The pitchers they chose No.1 in between — [Mark Appel](#) and Cathedral Catholic High's Brady Aiken — were misses.

"The biggest thing you take from them and the Cubs model is they made really good decisions," Preller said. "... They didn't hit on everything, but they hit on a lot of things, and when they hit, they hit big."

As Tatis and Luis Urias and a cadre of minor league pitchers continue to matriculate, the next step for the Padres is adding veterans that not only provide an example but help provide a lot of victories.

With second baseman [Jose Altuve](#) (signed out of Venezuela), Kuechel (seventh round, 2009) and others from the system starting to flourish, the Astros began to supplement. They traded for catcher/designated hitter Evan Gattis before the '15 season, catcher [Brian McCann](#) in '16 and starting pitcher [Justin Verlander](#) late last season. They had previously acquired outfielder [Marwin Gonzalez](#) as part of a trade stemming from the 2011 Rule 5 draft. They also traded for a number of relievers, signed [Carlos Beltran](#) in free agency before '17 and got a few pieces off waivers.

"It was fun when we finally started to trade for players that helped out the big-league team," Luhnnow said. "... When you're there and actually doing moves that are going to help you today, it's a satisfying feeling."

With Hosmer, the Padres have already taken the first of those final steps.

For the rest, they can only wait and continue to work — and for the next couple days watch the Astros.

Josh Naylor powers Missions' doubleheader sweep

Jeff Sanders

[Eric Hosmer](#) is the first baseman in San Diego for the foreseeable future, leaving Josh Naylor to experiment with play in left field this season.

His budding power could make it easier to find a spot in a lineup.

The organization's 16th-ranked prospect according to MLB.com, the 20-year-old Naylor hit his first two home runs of the season in a [6-2 win](#) and drove in three runs on two hits in a [5-3 victory](#) as Double-A San Antonio swept a doubleheader on Saturday at Arkansas.

Naylor is hitting .600/.583/1.300 with seven RBIs through the first three games of the season.

Saturday's afternoon game was his first career game in the outfield, while his two home runs matched his total in 42 games in the Texas League last year.

Naylor, to date, has 25 homers in 264 minor league games.

In the first game, left-hander Matt Strahm struck out six in two innings in a rehab start. He allowed a run on two hits and a walk – all in the first – and threw 29 of 47 pitches for strikes.

Right-hander Miguel Diaz (1-0, 3.86) followed with five strikeouts and a run allowed on two hits and three walks in 2 1/3 innings for the win.

In the second game, left-hander Logan Allen (1-0, 1.80) struck out six and allowed a run on one hit and four walks in his first Double-A start.

Austin Allen (.300) hit his second homer in the second game.

Fernando Tatis Jr. is 0-for-12 with three strikeouts in three games to start the season.

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (2-1)

- [Chihuahuas 8, Las Vegas 3](#): CF Franchy Cordero (.375) went 2-for-4 with a homer and a walk in his second rehab game, 2B [Javy Guerra](#) (.364) hit his second homer and 1B Brett Nicholas (.600) and RF Franmil Reyes (.273) both hit their first homers. SS Luis Urias (.444) went 2-for-3 with two walks. RHP Brett Kennedy (1-0, 1.50) struck out four and allowed two runs – one earned – on four hits and no walks in six innings.

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (1-2)

- **Stockton 2, Storm 0 (7):** LHP Adrian Morejon (0-1, 2.45) struck out five and allowed two runs – one earned – on four hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings. RHP Austin Smith (0.00) struck out four over 2 1/3 innings to close the game. DH Jorge Ona (.286) went 1-for-3 with a double, one of two Storm hits.
- **Stockton 2, Storm 1 (7):** RHP Reggie Lawson (1.80) struck out eight but allowed one run on three hits in five innings in a no-decision. RHP Gerardo Reyes (0-1, 5.40) walked three in allowing a run in 1 2/3 innings. 3B Hudson Potts (.333) went 2-for-2 with two doubles.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (0-2)

- **Lake County 9, TinCaps 3:** RHP Mason Thompson (0-1, 15.43) struck out five over 2 1/3 innings but allowed five runs – four earned – on two hits and four walks in the loss. RHP Adrian Martinez (8.10) struck out six while allowing three runs in 3 1/3 innings. SS Gabriel Arias (.286) went 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI, a walk and a run scored.

Padres notes: Lyles' transition, Hand's rebound, Hosmer's hope for a good home

Kevin Acee

For now, [Jordan Lyles](#) is just pitching.

“Still, I’m a little all over the place with the role,” Lyles said Friday night. “... I’m still going full throttle as long as I can. I just don’t know that that role, where we’re headed yet. But overall, I’m letting it go from the start.”

Lyles, a former first round-pick of the [Houston Astros](#) who has made 107 starts for the Astros, [Rockies](#) and [Padres](#), is coming out of the Padres bullpen this year with increased velocity and movement on his fastball and increased effectiveness.

In 6 1/3 innings over four appearances, he has allowed three hits and struck out eight.

His first appearance lasted an inning, his second two innings, his third came with two outs and runners on the corners and lasted just the one batter he got to ground out. Friday, against the team that drafted him 38th overall in 2008, Lyles pitched two perfect innings, striking out four.

For a guy with a career 5.38 ERA and 6.2 strikeouts per nine innings in his 182 previous career games, not allowing a run and fanning batters at a rate of 11.4 per nine is certainly considered improvement.

There can be an advantage to a starter – especially one with a four-pitch arsenal like Lyles – going to the pen, where he can pitch more freely without worrying about inflating a pitch count. But prior to this season’s still-miniscule sample size, Lyles’ numbers had been virtually no different when relieving or starting.

Something clicked this spring. After he made four starts, he was dialed down and targeted for the bullpen. He was a different pitcher, enough so that the team that signed him to a minor-league deal last summer after he’d been released by the Rockies and made him a starter, decided to keep him in their bullpen to start this season.

“He’s thrown the ball incredibly well since he’s gone to the bullpen for us,” manager Andy Green said. “As soon as we did that in [spring training](#), the first inning he threw, there was a level of aggression you could see. ... He’s got weapons. I feel really good about him and have ever since he’s been in the bullpen.”

It's possible Lyles has pitched so well that he's locked himself into the role for the time being. It seems clear where Lyles' heart is, but he has set that aside.

"I think I've done a good job of putting that aside mentally," Lyles said. "Whatever I want to do is not going to change what Andy wants me to do. I'm going to continue to do what I can as best I can. That will probably be something at the end of the season where I sit down and go over things, but right now I can't be selfish and think like that."

Re-Hand

Brad Hand has had some early-season struggles, taking the loss in two games when he allowed multiple runs in the ninth inning.

The first of those unsuccessful outings came on the second day of the season, when he was pitching for a second straight day. After throwing two innings (14 pitches) in the season opener, he came on for a save in the next game and was drilled for five runs (two earned) on four hits.

Turns out, that was truly the anomaly.

Hand is better as a redux.

He showed it again Friday in Houston, coming back a day after allowing three runs (none earned) on a hit and three walks in the ninth inning against Colorado. With a four-batter ninth against the Astros, Hand locked down his second save.

"You can't worry about what happened the (previous) day," Hand said. "You just have to come out and pitch today."

Hand knows how to do that.

He pitched on successive days 11 times in 2017 – and was almost always as good or better the second day. Overall, his ERA on the first day was 2.43 (11 1/3 innings) with a 3.1/1 strikeout-to-walk ratio. Over 13 innings in his 11 second-day appearances, he allowed one run, struck out 19 and walked one.

"I don't know what it is," Hand said. "I like to pitch. I feel more comfortable when I'm out there more frequently. It's just getting out on the mound, getting another chance, it helps me out."

Hand is probably not going to pitch Saturday, having thrown 47 pitches over the previous two days. But he did pitch a third straight day three times last season. He allowed a run in three innings in those instances, the run coming when he had thrown 42 pitches over the previous two days.

Changing a mentality

[Eric Hosmer](#) started Friday night's game having hit in 10 straight games at Minute Maid Park and possessing the highest batting average by any player against the Astros since 2012.

"Good hitter's park," said Hosmer, who went 2-for-4 to extend his streak and raise his career batting average to .353 in 119 at-bats against Houston.

But what Hosmer, who hits .383 at Minute Maid, most appreciates about the Astros' home field is the way it has evolved into one of the consistently fullest and loudest in the majors as the Astros have gone from one of the worst teams in the game to champions.

"One of things I was telling a lot of guys coming in is you'd come here a few years ago and the atmosphere would be kind of dead, not so alive," Hosmer said. "I was like, 'Just kind of soak in the atmosphere tonight and see how much a team can change a fan base.' I think that's going to be a good experience for us tonight."

Margot still not going

Manuel Margot got an infield single in Friday's fifth inning, when a hit near his hands struck the grass with top spin and he used his speed to reach safely.

Maybe finding a way to get on base was the continuation of something for the Padres leadoff hitter. Maybe not, in that he grounded out his final two times up and is now hitting .138 with a .219 on-base percentage. That's the fourth-lowest average and OBP among all players with at least 20 plate appearances in the leadoff spot.

Before Friday's game, Green expressed hope Margot's homer in the ninth inning the previous day would help catapult the center fielder out of a slump that prompted Green to rest him one day in the seven-game homestand that started the season.

"A lot hinges on him for us," Green said. "... We need him to go for us to be good."

Extra bases

- Christian Villanueva struck out the first two times he got up Friday night, running a hitless streak since his three-homer night to eight at-bats (five strikeouts). He then singled in the fifth inning, was hit on the wrist in the seventh and drove in Hosmer with a double in the ninth.
- Freddy Galvis was 2-for-3 with a walk on Friday to up his average to .370 and on-base percentage to .469, both team highs.
- Austin Hedges entered Friday's game in an 0-for-12 slide and a .056 batting average overall. He doubled and scored in the fifth inning.

Ugly ending proves the revamped Padres can't change the narrative overnight

By Dennis Lin

HOUSTON — FungoMan, a programmable machine that launches baseballs at a variety of angles, was a familiar sight at the Peoria Sports Complex throughout spring training. The catchers in camp spent many mornings tracking balls against the high Arizona sky, preparing for the inevitable task of corralling a popup in the vicinity of home plate.

After the Padres complete their current road trip, they may want to wheel out the machine at Petco Park. They may also want to involve players at multiple positions in reinforcing the importance of one of the sport's most mundane events.

A misplay more commonly seen in Little League reduced the Padres to a national punchline on Saturday at Minute Maid Park. They have occupied that role on numerous occasions, but no one anticipated a game-ending snafu featuring two offseason additions who were brought in to help alter the narrative.

With two outs and a runner on second in the bottom of the 10th inning of a scoreless game, Houston Astros third baseman Alex Bregman lifted a high popup between the plate and first base, near the line. Padres reliever Phil Maton pointed skyward and took a step off the mound. Padres catcher A.J. Ellis pointed skyward, too, before stepping in front of home plate. Neither player strayed from where he stood until it was too late.

Eric Hosmer, meanwhile, hurried in from first base. He had been playing farther back than usual, guarding against the possibility of a hard grounder. As he rushed forward, he glanced toward home. No one else had made a move. Hosmer looked back up as he continued running.

Abruptly, he slammed on the brakes. He threw his glove hand in the air, realizing the futility of the attempt.

He had overrun the ball. It dropped onto the grass behind him for a walk-off, popup, infield single. Hosmer placed his hands on his knees. The Padres trudged off the field as pyrotechnics were unleashed at the home of the defending World Series champs, who spilled onto the field in the wake of a silly, 1-0 victory.

For the home fans, some of whom might already be slightly inebriated, it felt a bit like a postseason celebration.

In that moment, the Padres, who have not experienced the playoffs since 2006, looked as far away as ever. A couple of respected additions cannot change the narrative overnight. On this night, they failed in their quest.

Afterward, both men agreed that the popup was not the pitcher's responsibility. Both attempted to absorb the blame.

Ellis, a veteran of 10-plus seasons: "In hindsight, I should've more aggressively went for it and gave us another option out there. I kind of put Hos in a bad position, having him come in running full speed. Looking back, I should've been out there in the mix and waited for him to call me off on that one."

Hosmer, the owner of four Gold Gloves: "Nah, that's the first baseman's ball. It's too tough for a catcher to turn around and try to make that play. I've got to maybe come in a little more controlled, not as hard."

Probably could've had a little more time to maybe run in with my head up. Just overran it and, like I said, it's on me."

Andy Green, the manager of a team interested in competing sooner than later: "When a ball goes up, you've got to ... go get it. Everybody was looking at the other guy at that point in time. All I really saw in that second was Eric looking at A.J. I wasn't looking at A.J.; I was looking at Eric.

"It just looked like two guys looking for the other guy to catch it. It's a disappointing end to a heck of a fight."

Regardless of whose fault it was, the Padres squandered this game in more ways than the final, embarrassing gaffe. They pitched 9 2/3 nearly scoreless innings against a good offense. They also went 0-for-9 with runners in scoring position. Injury preceded insult when setup man Kirby Yates exited after one pitch, having re-aggravated a tender right ankle.

Now the Padres are 2-7 with a run differential of minus-9. They have not suffered a blowout loss, a frequent occurrence a season ago. In theory, the presence of veterans such as Hosmer and Ellis should lessen the possibility. On Friday, they scored a 4-1 upset on the Astros' turf. Ellis demonstrated familiar poise when fielding a question about the bizarre and crushing nature of Saturday's walk-off.

"We played really well today," Ellis said. "We pitched really well. We just couldn't hit situationally probably the way we should have. But keep playing the way we've been playing against these quality opponents we've been playing, the wins will start coming.

"Baseball games end in a lot of different funny ways — replay challenges and wild pitches and hit batsmen. I've been in a walk-off balk before. In baseball, you come to the ballpark and you see something different every day."

On Saturday, it was two veterans failing to secure a simple popup, the latest unfortunate, self-inflicted event for a franchise that has seen too many of them.

Padres don't point fingers after tough loss

Hosmer, Ellis both take blame on missed infield popup that leads to extra-inning defeat

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Apr. 7th, 2018

HOUSTON -- With two outs in the 10th and the winning run on second base Saturday night, Padres reliever [Phil Maton](#) got the routine popup he wanted.

Somehow, some way, there would be no 11th inning.

Astros third baseman [Alex Bregman](#) skyed Maton's full-count fastball to the right side of the infield, about 35 feet up the first-base line. Padres first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) -- playing deep to prevent a game-winning grounder from sneaking through -- broke toward home. Catcher [A.J. Ellis](#), meanwhile, never left his position behind the plate.

About halfway into his route, Hosmer sensed trouble and looked homeward for help. Realizing he had none, he continued his full sprint toward the baseball. He pulled up, only to find that he had overrun the path of the ball by about five feet. It plopped tantalizingly beyond Hosmer's outstretched glove. The Astros, who had walked off with an improbable 1-0 victory, mobbed [Derek Fisher](#) around home plate. Hosmer could only sink his head.

"That's my ball all the way," Hosmer said. "I just overran it, put my head down, tried to run in and make up some ground. By the time I looked up, it was past me. It's on me. It's my ball. I'll be ready to go [Sunday]."

Elsewhere in the Padres clubhouse the burden was shared.

"No excuse, you go out there, you catch the ball," Ellis said. "... Looking back, I should've been out there in the mix, waiting for him to call me off."

Added Padres manager Andy Green: "It just looked like two guys that were looking for the other guy to catch it. It's a disappointing end to a heck of a fight."

The Padres kept the Astros scoreless for nine innings on Saturday night after limiting them to one run on Friday. This time, it was right-hander [Bryan Mitchell](#) who set aside his rough Padres debut for 5 2/3 innings of scoreless baseball.

Mitchell didn't have pinpoint command, but he forced the Astros hitters into some very weak contact. He allowed just three hits -- all of them singles.

"That's a really good lineup he kept off-balance all day," Green said.

The Padres had their share of chances. Three times they opened an inning with a double, and two more times the leadoff man reached base. But Astros right-hander [Gerrit Cole](#) made

certain those runners never touched the plate. With his seven shutout innings, Cole became the first pitcher in franchise history to record 11 strikeouts in each of his first two starts for the club.

Mitchell turned the ball over to a dominant Padres bullpen, which wouldn't falter until the 10th when Evan Gattis snuck a slow chopper through the shift. Fisher pinch-ran for Gattis and swiped second base, but Robbie Erlin retired the next two hitters, setting the stage for Maton vs. Bregman.

Bregman worked the count full, laying off a 2-2 slider that might have caught the outside corner. When Bregman got underneath a 3-2 fastball, Maton appeared to have mitigated the call. Four seconds later, the ball touched the grass, and Fisher jubilantly scampered home.

"The way Mitchell threw the ball, the way our bullpen threw the ball ... it's just tough to lose on that," Hosmer said.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Leave 'em loaded: Mitchell cruised through four innings on 42 pitches, before running into trouble in the fifth. Nonetheless, he gutted his way through a 30-pitch frame, leaving the bases loaded when he got Bregman to fly to right field.

"A lot of encouraging things to build on for him," Ellis said. "Really proud of the way he battled."

Baserunning blunders: The Padres ran into outs on the bases after two of their leadoff doubles Saturday night. Cory Spangenberg was off on contact when Manuel Margot hit a fourth-inning chopper to third base, and Spangenberg was tagged out after being hung up between third and home. Then in the ninth, Christian Villanueva broke toward third base on a relatively routine grounder to Bregman. Instead of throwing to first, Bregman merely turned toward Villanueva and applied the tag, removing a runner from scoring position.

QUOTABLE

"It just needs to be caught. If somebody takes authority over there, it's probably the easier play coming in than it is backpedaling as a catcher." -- Green, when asked whose responsibility the 10th-inning popup was

SOUND SMART WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Freddy Galvis salvaged his season-opening on-base streak with an eighth-inning walk. He's reached in all nine games to start the year, the longest such streak by a Padre since Justin Upton's 10-gamer in 2015. Tony Gwynn owns the franchise record by reaching in 28 consecutive games to start the 1999 season (though technically he shares it with Bobby Brown's 1983 run, though Brown didn't appear that year until a midseason callup).

MITEL REPLAY OF THE DAY

Fisher was initially called out trying to steal second in the bottom of the 10th inning. But Astros manager AJ Hinch challenged the call, and replays showed that Fisher's foot hit the base just before Carlos Asuaje applied the tag.

YATES DAY-TO-DAY

Padres right-hander Kirby Yates exited the game in the ninth with a right ankle injury. He's

been battling nagging ankle trouble since Spring Training, but it worsened on Saturday, and he was removed after one pitch. The club is hopeful that Yates will avoid a stint on the disabled list.

WHAT'S NEXT

Tyson Ross gutted his way to six innings of three-run ball in his Padres return on Tuesday. He'll face the Astros at 11:10 a.m. PT on Sunday. There are still question marks surrounding Ross, however. The veteran right-hander will need to find a way to miss more bats. He recorded two strikeouts and only three swings and misses against Colorado.

Mitchell keeps potent Astros' lineup off-balance

Padres' righty silences defending champs for 5 2/3 innings before giving way to 'pen

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Apr. 7th, 2018

HOUSTON -- The Padres didn't get the version of [Bryan Mitchell](#) they envisioned when they traded for him in December. But they'll certainly take the effort from the 26-year-old right hander on Saturday night against the defending champs.

Mitchell was excellent over 5 2/3 scoreless frames in the Padres' [heartbreaking 1-0 loss](#) to Houston in 10 innings. The game ended when a routine popup fell just beyond the outstretched glove of [Eric Hosmer](#). But without Mitchell's effort, there isn't a 10th inning in the first place.

For the second consecutive start, Mitchell struggled to command his potentially elite curveball -- the pitch that enticed the Padres enough to swing a deal with the Yankees at the Winter Meetings.

But after he allowed five runs in five innings to Colorado on Monday, Mitchell paired his curve with excellent command of his two-seam fastball on Saturday. He recorded only one strikeout, but almost all of Houston's contact was weak, and he allowed only three hits.

"He really did a good job attacking the strike zone," catcher [A.J. Ellis](#) said. "That's a really good hitting team over there. He had them pretty off-balance. They weren't taking too many quality swings off him.

"He sprinkled in enough curveballs to slow them down even more. A lot of encouraging things to build on for him. Really proud of the way he battled through a game against the defending champs."

Mitchell needed just 42 pitches to get through four innings before he found himself in a jam in the fifth. He loaded the bases with a two-out walk to [George Springer](#), but on the 30th pitch of the frame, he got [Alex Bregman](#) to fly out to right.

Mitchell tired a bit in the sixth, departing with two on and two outs after a pair of walks. Righty reliever [Craig Stammen](#) escaped the threat, and the second-longest scoreless outing of Mitchell's career was final. He allowed only two batted balls struck harder than 95 mph.

"Especially early on, the first few innings, he was really driving that fastball down in the outer lane," Padres manager Andy Green said. "Last time when we gave him that target, he wasn't hitting it. ... That's a really good lineup he kept off-balance all day."

Yates leaves after 1 pitch with ankle injury

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Apr. 7th, 2018

HOUSTON -- Padres right-hander Kirby Yates exited San Diego's 1-0, 10th-inning loss to the Astros on Saturday after one pitch with an ailing right ankle.

The extent of the injury remains unclear, and Yates will be re-evaluated before Sunday's game, but the Padres are hopeful Yates will avoid a stint on the disabled list.

Yates had become the Padres' primary setup man, and he's off to an excellent start to his 2018 campaign. In four appearances, Yates hasn't allowed a run while striking out five over 3 2/3 innings. He sustained the injury during Spring Training, but it worsened prior to Saturday's game.

"I just tweaked it today, and it's kind of fresh, and it just didn't feel good," Yates said. "It's been pretty good and manageable from Spring Training until now."

Yates threw one pitch to Alex Bregman in the top of the ninth inning -- an 89 mph fastball for a right-hander who lives in the mid-90s. Padres manager Andy Green sprung quickly from the top step of the dugout, and Yates was removed without much discussion.

"It's my push-off foot, so just trying to load up and get after it is a little different," Yates said.

A waiver claim from the Angels last season, Yates posted a 3.72 ERA with 87 strikeouts in 55 2/3 innings last year. It's not the first time he's felt the effects of a bum ankle. But this time it was serious enough to warrant his removal.

"It's just a bad ankle," Yates said. "I've sprained it a lot in my life. It's not completely healed, and it's something I'm going to have to deal with."

Right-hander Kazuhisa Makita replaced Yates and allowed a single to Bregman before striking out Jose Altuve and getting Carlos Correa to line into an inning-ending double play.

Strong start to '18 earns Lyles increased role

Padres manager says righty reliever will appear in more late-and-close situations

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Apr. 7th, 2018

HOUSTON -- [Jordan Lyles](#) is pitching his way into an increased role in the Padres' bullpen.

The 27-year-old right-hander signed a one-year deal during the offseason and entered camp as a rotation candidate. Instead, Lyles is carving himself a niche as a reliever. He's faced 23 batters in four appearances. Three have hits, one has walked, eight have struck out and only one has hit the ball harder than 95 mph against Lyles.

On Saturday, Padres manager Andy Green indicated that Lyles will begin seeing increased time in late-and-close situations. On Friday night, Lyles pitched the sixth and seventh innings of a two-run game against his former team. He was perfect, striking out four Astros along the way.

"You see the way he's thrown the ball in the bullpen, and there's reason to believe he can be a dominant reliever," Green said. "He's showing he can do that."

Since Lyles' move to the bullpen, he's seen a significant uptick in his velocity. He's throwing his fastball at an average of 94.4 mph this year. In his five starts for the Padres last season, he averaged 92.9 mph. The velocity on his changeup, curveball and slider have also increased by about one tick apiece.

It's not as though Lyles has simply ramped things up for one inning either. In four appearances, he's filled four different roles -- lengths of: one-third, one, two and three innings.

"I'm still throwing full throttle as long as I can," Lyles said. "I just don't know with that role, where we're headed yet. But overall, I'm just letting it go from the start."

Lyles signed as a starter, before struggling during the spring in that capacity. If he's still eyeing a starter's role, he's not letting it show.

"I've done a good job of putting that aside, mentally," Lyles said. "Whatever I want to do isn't going to change what Andy wants me to do. So I'm going to do whatever I can, the best that I can."

Injury updates

- Padres right fielder [Wil Myers](#) has yet to resume throwing or hitting as he recovers from nerve irritation in his throwing arm. But he indicated that the resulting triceps soreness is almost entirely gone. Myers said he could resume baseball activity in Colorado next week, but that would be "at the earliest."

- Right-hander [Dinelson Lamet](#) played catch for the third consecutive day, this time from 90 feet. Lamet has been slowly building arm strength as he recovers from a flexor strain in his right elbow.
- Outfielder [Alex Dickerson](#) had successful Tommy John surgery on his left elbow last week, as scheduled. Said Green when asked for a timetable: "We're very hopeful at the start of next year he's ready to go."
- Left-hander [Matt Strahm](#) struck out six over two innings in his first rehab appearance for Double-A San Antonio, though he allowed a leadoff home run and another hit. The Padres are still deciding whether they'd like to stretch Strahm into a starting pitcher or use him in the 'pen. But they'll likely give him chances to do both in the Minors as he builds strength in his surgically repaired left knee.

Naylor leads Missions to pair of wins

By Mike Rosenbaum MLB.com

Apr. 7th, 2018

Josh Naylor powered Double-A San Antonio to a pair of wins on Saturday as he combined for four hits and seven RBIs in the Missions' doubleheader sweep of Arkansas.

The **Padres' No. 16 prospect** began his day with a pair of home runs, hitting two-run shots in the fifth and seventh innings to lead San Antonio past the Travelers, 6-2, in the opener. Making Naylor's performance all the more significant was that he started the game in left field -- the first non-first-base start in his career (216 games).

Naylor returned to his primary position in the nightcap and proceeded to collect two more hits, highlighted by a two-run double in the top of the seventh inning that proved to be the difference in a 5-3 Missions win. He later scored on a wild pitch, capping a 2-for-3, three-RBI game.

Naylor, 20, has enjoyed a promising start to his season, tallying six hits (in 10 at-bats) and seven RBIs in three games. His two home runs are as many as he accrued in the Texas League last season, when he batted .250/.320/.346 over 42 games with the Missions.

Padres 1B Hosmer overruns popup in 10th, Astros win 1-0

Associated Press

HOUSTON -- Four-time Gold Glove first baseman [Eric Hosmer](#) charged in, called off the other infielders, and camped out to catch an inning-ending popup.

Before the ball even hit the ground, he knew he'd screwed up.

Hosmer overran the towering popup, allowing the ball to fall without being touched and giving the [Houston Astros](#) a bizarre 1-0 win over the [San Diego Padres](#) on Saturday.

"Just overran it," Hosmer said. "I put my head down trying to make up some ground. By the time I looked up, it was past me. It's on me."

A single by [Brian McCann](#) and a steal by pinch runner [Derek Fisher](#) -- ruled safe after a video review flipped the call -- set up the unusual ending.

[Alex Bregman](#) hit the pop, and Hosmer, signed to a rich free agent deal by the Padres this offseason, ran in to make the play.

But with reliever [Phil Maton](#) and third baseman [Christian Villanueva](#) staying out of the way, Hosmer suddenly realized he was in trouble and had no chance to catch it. The ball plopped onto the grass a few feet behind him, between the plate, mound and first base.

Fisher scored without a throw on what was scored as a single.

"That's one of the good things about this team -- we don't take anything for granted," Bregman said. "He was busting his butt from second base. He could have easily jogged and said whatever, but that's not how we play here. We play hard and Derek did a great job."

Bregman had flung his bat aside in disgust after popping up with a full count and two outs.

"I thought that I had just missed it and I should've crushed it," Bregman said.

Last October at the same park, Bregman lined a single that scored the pinch-running Fisher from second in the 10th inning to lift Houston over the [Los Angeles Dodgers](#) in Game 5 of the World Series.

"That's been a pretty good combo for us," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "I'd rather win the game a little earlier, but there's some comfort when Bregman is up to bat and Fisher is on second."

[Chris Devenski](#) (1-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win. [Robbie Erlin](#) (0-1) took the loss.

[Gerrit Cole](#) struck out 11 in seven sharp innings for Houston, giving up five hits and walking none. Since being acquired by the champion Astros, he has given up one run in 14 innings and fanned 22, a franchise record for the most strikeouts through the first two starts.

The Padres struggled to make contact with Cole's offspeed pitches. For a second straight start, Cole had at least 20 swinging strikes. In his Astros debut against the Rangers, he had a career-high 21 swinging strikes and had 20 on Saturday night against San Diego.

"I thought the curveball was good, but sometimes the slider was better than the curveball," Cole said. "We had both sides of the plate with the fastball, which is kind of what sets everything up."

Padres starter [Bryan Mitchell](#) worked around six walks in 5 2/3 innings, allowing three hits. The Astros loaded the bases in the fifth, but Bregman flied out to end the threat.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: Reliever [Kirby Yates](#) exited the game with ankle discomfort after throwing just one pitch in the eighth. ... RHP [Dinelson Lamet](#) played catch up to 90 feet and will likely do the same again on Sunday as he continues to make progress in his recovery from elbow soreness that started in late March.

Astros: Houston activated RP [James Hoyt](#) from the disabled list and optioned him to Triple-A Fresno. ... 1B [Yuli Gurriel](#), on the disabled list after breaking his hand in February, was given an off day but will play the next three games on his rehabilitation assignment with Double-A Corpus Christi.

THEY SAID IT

Hinch on the bizarre nature of the game's ending: "If you see enough games, I guess you see everything. I had never really seen that before. That wasn't very predictable."

UP NEXT

Padres: [Tyson Ross](#) (1-0, 4.50 ERA) will start for San Diego in the final game of the three-game set. He earned a win in an 8-4 victory over Colorado this week.

Astros: [Charlie Morton](#) (1-0, 0.00) allowed just three hits and two walks in a strong season debut where he blanked the Orioles in six innings. He's 5-1 with a 2.34 ERA in eight starts against San Diego.

Naylor Homers Twice, Drives in 7; Cordero Hits 1 of 4 Homers by El Paso

By Bill Center

Josh Naylor, who played in left as well as first base, went 4-for-6 with a two home runs, a double and a walk for seven RBIs and three runs scored as Double-A San Antonio swept a doubleheader at Arkansas Saturday.

Naylor, 20, the [Padres' 16th-ranked prospect by the MLB Pipeline](#), hit two of the six homers in the Padres system Saturday night.

Several Padres on rehab assignments also had notable nights.

Outfielder **Franchy Cordero** was 2-for-4 with a homer and a walk for Triple-A El Paso. And left-handed pitcher **Matt Strahm** allowed a run on two hits and a walk with six strikeouts in two innings for San Antonio.

Left-handed starter **Logan Allen**, 20, the [Padres' eighth-ranked prospect](#), allowed a run on a hit and four walks with six strikeouts in five innings to pick up one of San Antonio's wins Saturday night.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (2-1): Chihuahuas 8, LAS VEGAS 3—Cordero was one of four Chihuahuas with homers. Recently-acquired catcher **Brett Nicholas** start at first and went 3-for-5 with a homer and three runs scored. 2B **Javy Guerra** was 2-for-4 with his second homer, a walk and two RBIs. RF **Franmil Reyes** was 2-for-3 with a homer, two walks and two runs scored. SS **Luis Urías** was 2-for-3 with two walks. Starting RHP **Brett Kennedy** allowed two runs (one earned) on four hits with four strikeouts in six innings to get the win. Kennedy was also 1-for-3 with a RBI. RHP **Eric Yardley** issued two walks with a strikeout in a hitless, scoreless inning. RHP **Trey Wingenter** allowed a run on a hit with two strikeouts in an inning. LHP **Kyle McGrath** struck out two in a perfect inning.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (2-1): Missions 6-5, ARKANSAS 2-3 — DH-C **Austin Allen** was 2-for-8 with a double and his second homer to back Naylor. CF **Michael Gettys** was 2-for-3 with a stolen base and two RBIs in the opener. CF **Auston Bousfield** was 2-for-2 with a walk and a run scored in the second game. 1B-DH **Kyle Overstreet** was 2-for-6 with a double and a run scored. RF **Forrestt Allday** was 2-for-7 with a walk and a run scored. RHP **Miguel Diaz** followed Strahm in the first game and allowed a run on two hits and three walks with five strikeouts in 2 1/3 innings to get credit for the win. RHP **Jose Castillo** allowed a hit with three strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings. RHP **Robert Stock** allowed a hit with a strikeout in a scoreless inning. RHP **Rowan Wick** followed Allen in the second game and allowed a hit and two walks with a strikeout in an inning. LHP **Brad Wieck** allowed two unearned runs on three hits with a strikeout in an inning.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (1-2): STOCKTON 2-2, Storm 0-1 — Lake Elsinore got only seven hits in 14 innings in the doubleheader loss. 3B **Hudson Potts** was 2-for-5 with two doubles and a hit-by-pitch as the only Lake Elsinore player with two hits. LHP **Adrian Morejon** started the first game and took the loss, allowing two runs (one earned) on four hits and three walks with five strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings. RHP **Austin Smith** allowed two hits with four strikeouts in 2 1/3 innings. RHP **Reggie Lawson** started the second game and allowed one run on three hits and no walks with five strikeouts. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** was charged with a run on three walks and no hits with a strikeout in 1 2.3 innings to suffer the loss. RHP **Blake Rogers** walked the only two hitters he faced to force in the decisive run.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (0-2): Lake County 9, TIN CAPS 3: SS **Gabriel Arias** was 2-for-3 with a double and a walk for a RBI and a run scored as Fort Wayne lost its home opener. RF **Tre Carter** was 1-for-3 with a RBI. C **Luis Campusano** had a RBI double in four at-bats. LF **Jack Suwinski** had a double in four at-bats with a run scored. Starting RHP **Mason Thompson** allowed five runs (four earned) on two hits and four walks with five strikeouts in 2 1/3 innings. RHP **Adrian Martinez** allowed three runs on five hits and two walks with six strikeouts in 3 1/3 innings. RHP **Joe Galindo** allowed an unearned run on a walk with a strikeout in 2 1/3 hitless innings. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** allowed a hit and a walk with a strikeout in a scoreless inning.

Andy's Address, 4/8

Andy Addresses Saturday's loss, Jordan Lyles and the bullpen and Pirela at second

By Bill Center

After Saturday night's 1-0 loss in Houston on a misplayed infield pop-up in the bottom of the 10th, Padres manager **Andy Green** said: "That was a disappointing end to a great fight" and "one of those unfortunate things that happen."

Earlier, Green discussed the Padres bullpen and specifically the way **Jordan Lyles** pitched Friday night as part of his scoreless, early-season start.

"The big one for us has been Jordan Lyles," said Green. "When you look at that guy and see the way he's throwing the ball in the bullpen and there's reason to believe that he could be a dominant reliever. He's showing that he can do that. Add one more of those guys in the mix in leverage situations and it helps immensely, especially if you try to rattle off a whole lot of wins in a row."

"You need more than two or three guys that you're handing the ball to in key situations. For him to give us that sixth and seventh innings was huge Friday."

"The great thing about him and if **Matt Strahm** comes back and pitches out of the bullpen, guys like that can be two to three-inning leverage relievers, which isn't something that we've really had. **Craig Stammen** can give you two innings. **Kirby (Yates)** you're probably stretching if you're looking for two . . . he can give you one-plus a lot. **Brad (Hand)** has the ability to give you two, but then you start not being able to use him consistently if you start asking for two out of him.

"I think if you get two or three guys that you like a lot in leverage who give you multiple innings it's good. I think **(Kazuhisa) Makita** can definitely give you two innings, When you can see a guy rolling like Lyles was yesterday and you can say, 'Hey, go back out there and give me a second inning.' It's easier in the American League because you're not contending with double switches and the need to get somebody out. It'd be big for us is we had two or three of those guys who could give us multiple innings and keep us in ballgames and keep us ahead in ballgames."

Green also discussed the performances of Kirby Yates, who left Saturday night's game after one pitch due to a sore ankle, and Brad Hand.

“You could kind of see Kirby (Yates)’s velo back where it’s always been,” said Green. “The at-bat of **(Jose) Altuve** I thought was outstanding, dotted on the outside corner in that at-bat. I haven’t had any concerns about Brad. Friday was kind of classic Brad, you get him back a second time in two days and the velocity starts to go up a little bit and the stuff starts to get sharper. So it’s good to see that.”

Green said the Padres still intend to have **Jose Pirela** makes some starts at second against-left-handed pitchers, but said it was impossible to do it now due to injuries.

“We haven’t walked away from the plan to have Pirela play some second,” said Green. “It’s just been a product of who has been healthy and who has been available. He’s definitely going to do that. We’ve kind of left him settle into an outfield role here at this time.”

“If **Franchy (Cordero)** comes back sooner, I don’t know if that really forces Pirela into the infield but that’s a left-handed bat you’re trying to get out there. You’re only starting Franchy against righties. You’re not taking **(Carlos) Asuaje** out against righties to put Pirela in. It’s really like when **Wil (Myers)** and **Hunter (Renfroe)** and **Manny (Margot)** are all out there when it makes sense to move Jose into second and we don’t have that right now. When Wil is back, Jose will start taking ground balls at second.”

This Day in Padres History—

April 8

By Bill Center

April 8, 1969—The Padres defeat Houston 2–1 before 23,370 at San Diego Stadium in the franchise’s first game as a National League expansion team. Third baseman **Ed Spiezio** has the double honor of getting the first hit and the first home run in Padres history with fifth-inning drive into the left-field stands. Right-hander **Dick Selma** strikes out 12 while allowing five hits in a complete game.

April 8, 1971—**Willie Mays** of the San Francisco Giants homers against the Padres in a third straight game at San Diego Stadium.

April 8, 1986—**Dave Dravecky** allows three hits and a walk while pitching a complete-game shutout, out-dueling Dodgers ace **Orel Hershiser** in a 1–0 Padres victory at Dodger Stadium.

April 8, 1994—Right-hander **Scott Sanders** and closer **Trevor Hoffman** combine on a two-hit shutout and third baseman **Keith Lockhart** hits two solo homers as the Padres defeat the Marlins 4–0 at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. Sanders allows two hits and two walks with six strikeouts in 7 1/3 innings.

April 8, 1996—The Swinging Friar returns as the Padres mascot after an absence of 11 seasons as the Padres defeat the Marlins 9–2 in the home opener at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium.

April 8, 2001—Right fielder **Mike Darr** has four hits and **Phil Nevin** is 3-for-5 with a home run and five RBIs as the Padres defeat the Rockies 11–3 at Coors Field.

April 8, 2002—Right-hander **Brian Lawrence** allows four hits and a walk against four strikeouts in a complete-game shutout as the Padres defeat Arizona 8–0 at Coors Field.

April 8, 2004—The Padres defeat San Francisco 4–3 in 10 innings before 41,400 in the first game played at Petco Park. Petco Park firsts—Point Loma High grad **David Wells** has the honor of throwing the first pitch. Padres right fielder **Brian Giles** singles in the bottom of the first for the first hit at Petco Park. Shortstop **Kahlil Greene** scores the ballpark’s first run in the third. Reliever **Eddie Oropesa** credited with the first win.

April 8, 2012—**Chase Headley** hits a grand slam homer in the eighth as the Padres defeat the Dodgers 8–4 at Petco Park.

April 8, 2017—Center fielder **Manuel Margot** becomes the first rookie to homer twice in a home opener and second baseman **Yangervis Solarte** drives in four runs as the Padres defeat San Francisco 7–6 before 43,441 at Petco Park.