



Padres Press Clips

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Robbie Erlin, Padres avoid arbitration

Jeff Sanders

The Padres and [Robbie Erlin](#) have avoided arbitration for a second year. The 28-year-old left-hander will make \$1.45 million this year, up from \$650,000 in 2018 as he returned from Tommy John surgery.

The Padres have not confirmed the settlement.

Erlin was 4-7 with a 4.21 ERA, 88 strikeouts and a 1.14 WHIP in 109 innings, although he provided his best work out of the bullpen (2.05 ERA in 52 2/3 innings).

The Padres have jettisoned left-hander [Clayton Richard](#), but Erlin will have to impress in [spring training](#) to win a rotation job outright.

The team remains on the lookout for starting pitching, but is also expected to let its young arms – think prospects Chris Paddack, Logan Allen, Cal Quantrill and Michel Baez – fight for jobs alongside the likes of Joey Lucchesi, Eric Lauer, Matt Strahm, Bryan Mitchell and Luis Perdomo.

Other arbitration-eligible Padres include closer Kirby Yates, catcher [Austin Hedges](#) and outfielder [Travis Jankowski](#).

Friday is the deadline to exchange figures.

MLBTradeRumors.com projects Yates at \$3 million, Hedges at \$1.8 million and Jankowski at \$1.4 million.

Erlin was projected for \$1.1 million.

A Look at 3 More Promising Starting Pitchers — LHPs Keel, Hernandez and RHP Henry

FriarWire

Jan 9

By Bill Center

We wrapped our off-season reports with starting pitchers earlier this week and last Friday discussed three young starting pitchers — **Luis Patiño**, **Omar Cruz** and **Joey Cantillo** — who could one day be Padres starters during our series on Padres prospects.

This week, we'll look at six more young starting pitchers not currently on the [Padres' Top-30 prospects list](#), starting today with **Henry Henry**, **Osvaldo Hernandez** and **Jerry Keel**.

The trio in order of their advancement in the Padres' system:

— Jerry Keel split the 2018 season between Double-A San Antonio and Triple-A El Paso and figures to be with the Chihuahuas to start 2019. A native of Palmdale, the 6-foot-5, 240-pound left-hander was the Padres ninth-round pick in the 2015 draft out of California State University-Northridge.

After splitting the 2016 and 2017 seasons between being a starter and a reliever while pitching parts of both seasons between Single-A Fort Wayne, Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore and San Antonio, Keel started the 2018 season as a starter for the Missions before advancing to El Paso.

Collectively, Keel made 28 appearances (24 starts) with the Padres upper-echelon farm teams with a combined record of 10–4 with a 4.60 earned run average, a 1.42 WHIP and a .280 opponents' batting average. In 148 2/3 innings, Keel gave up 78 runs (76 earned) on 162 hits and 41 walks with 108 strikeouts.

He had 16 starts with San Antonio and was 4–1 with a 4.68 ERA in 12 appearances (eight starts) with the Chihuahuas, where he had a 1.42 WHIP and a .278 opponents' batting average.

— Osvaldo Hernandez, 20, was a member of the Padres 2017 international signing class out of Havana, Cuba. The 6-foot, 180-pound left-hander debuted in the United States shortly after his 18th birthday in 2017.

After pitching at the lowest three levels of the Padres system in his first professional season— recording 67 strikeouts in 52 innings (or an average of 11.6 strikeouts per nine innings)— Hernandez was only with Fort Wayne in 2018 where he led the Midwest League in ERA with a 1.81 mark.

Hernandez also had a 1.19 WHIP and a .254 opponents' batting average before being shot down after 109 2/3 innings. He had an 11–4 record with the TinCaps, allowing 34 runs (22 earned) on 104 hits and 27 walks with 94 strikeouts. He had a 3.5-to-one strikeout-to-walk ratio while averaging 7.7 strikeouts per nine innings. Hernandez gave up only 2.2 walks per nine innings.

— Henry Henry turned 20 last Dec. 17. The 6-foot-4, 178-pound right-hander from the Dominican Republic divided his 2018 season between Short-Season Single-A Tri-City and Fort Wayne.

Between the two teams, Henry went 5–4 with a 4.54 ERA in 18 games (13 starts) with a 1.37 WHIP and a .273 opponents' batting average. Overall, Henry had 55 strikeouts against 25 walks in 77 1/3 innings. He was 4–3 with a 3.32 ERA in 11 starts with Tri-City.

Chris Paddack Is Driven To Succeed

By [Jeff Sanders](#) on January 8, 2019

The Padres closed 2018 by trading veteran [Clayton Richard](#) to the Blue Jays for minor league outfielder [Connor Panas](#), further proof that the organization will lean on homegrown arms for the bulk of its starts in 2019.

While A.J. Preller remains on the lookout for a proven commodity—most likely on the trade market—the fourth-year general manager outlined plans for the rotation upon designating Richard for assignment in December as [Ian Kinsler](#) joined the roster.

"We expect this group to grow, with another group coming in behind them," Preller told the San Diego Union-Tribune.

The initial group in 2018 was led by lefthander [Joey Lucchesi](#), who finished his rookie campaign with 26 starts, one off Richard's team lead. Lucchesi finished August with a 3.59 ERA before slowing in the final month. Fellow rookie southpaw [Eric Lauer](#) finished his 23-game debut with a 1.07 ERA over his last five turns, presumably giving both a leg up in a rotation free-for-all this spring.

That competition will include [Bryan Mitchell](#), [Robbie Erlin](#), Luis Perdomo and rookies [Jacob Nix](#) and [Brett Kennedy](#), though the name to keep an eye this spring is one of the newest additions to the 40-man roster: [Chris Paddack](#).

The 6-foot-4 Texas high school righthander struck out 120 batters in 90 minor league innings while recording a 2.10 ERA in 17 starts, which included a second-half run at Double-A San Antonio. Paddack, who missed 22 months while recovering from Tommy John surgery, spent time this offseason getting used to his future home in San Diego.

Padres manager [Andy Green](#) came away impressed with the 23-year-old Paddack.

"It's really nice to see a young pitcher as motivated as him, as driven as him," Green said at the Winter Meetings, "and someone who is thinking through all the obstacles he's going to see when he puts a major league uniform on for the first time."

One obstacle for the Padres is blueprinting a plan to increase Paddack's workload. He doubled his previous innings total in 2018 and has thrown just 178 in four pro seasons, making him a long shot to open the season in the majors unless it's in some sort hybrid role.

Pitchers and catchers report to the big league camp in Peoria, Ariz., on Feb. 13. The first full workout is scheduled for Feb. 18.

FATHER FIGURES

— A little more than a month after electing free agency following an outright assignment to Triple-A El Paso, outfielder [Alex Dickerson](#) rejoined the Padres on a minor league deal. He is a non-roster invitee to big league camp, along with first basemen [Allen Craig](#) and [Aderlin Rodriguez](#), lefties [Ryan](#)

[Bollinger](#) and [Dietrich Enns](#), righty [Tyler Higgins](#), third baseman [Seth Mejias-Brean](#) and outfielder [Jacob Scavuzzo](#).

The Padres have yet to announce which players from their farm system will be invited to spring training.

Hosmer to play softball to help CA fire victims

MLB players, celebrities to take part in California Strong event Sunday

By Adam McCalvy MLB.com [@AdamMcCalvy](#)

Jan. 9th, 2019

MILWAUKEE -- What started as a series of text messages has grown into a star-studded event overlooking the Pacific Ocean on Sunday, when National League MVP Award winner **Christian Yelich** and some famous friends will gather for a good cause.

Yelich is one of the organizers of the California Strong Celebrity Softball Game at Pepperdine University to raise funds for Californians impacted by dual tragedies in the fall -- the Oct. 7 shooting at a bar in Thousand Oaks, Calif., followed by wildfires, including the Woolsey Fire, which burned swaths of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

The fire displaced Yelich, his 2018 Brewers teammates **Ryan Braun** and **Mike Moustakas**, and Mike Attanasio, the son of the team's owner. In the aftermath, the quartet started a text chain to share what little information was available about their homes. It quickly morphed into a brainstorming session about raising funds to help others rebuild.

"We were talking about, 'Hey, we need to do something to help. We need to give back,'" Yelich said. "We didn't know exactly what that was going to be or how we were going to do it."

The result was their "California Strong" campaign in conjunction with the YMCA of Southeast Ventura County. The men started a fundraising campaign, which had netted nearly \$450,000 in donations as of this week. They sold T-shirts and other memorabilia over the holidays to raise more funds, and they organized a charity auction.

On Sunday, they will gather with other sports and entertainment celebrities for a softball game at Pepperdine, where Braun and Moustakas have worked out in the winter. Other Major League players slated to appear include Justin Turner and **Joc Pederson** of the Dodgers, **Eric Hosmer** of the Padres, **Tyler Skaggs** of the Angels and **Jack Flaherty** of the Cardinals. Two NFL quarterbacks will be there: Yelich's good friend, Baker Mayfield of the Browns, and L.A. Rams quarterback Jared Goff, who will be fresh off his team's Saturday night playoff game against the Cowboys. Actor Jamie Foxx is also participating in the event.

Braun's Malibu neighbor, NBA Hall of Famer Reggie Miller, will take part, as will celebrities including Adam Sandler, Rainn Wilson, Rob Riggle, Patrick Schwarzenegger and Charlie Sheen.

General admission and VIP tickets are available for purchase by visiting www.ca-strong.com.

All proceeds from the game will go directly to victims, organizers say.

"We got so lucky," said Attanasio, who saw video of the fire approaching his home. "The hillside across the street was burning, but somehow the wind didn't blow the embers across the street. We were really fortunate.

"Ryan and Christian were right there [in the immediate wake of the fires] and were saying how awful it was, and how many people had been displaced. Their thought immediately was, 'How can we help?'"

Attanasio, a graduate of MIT, took a leading role in helping the players partner with the YMCA, which had the fundraising infrastructure in place to get the most help to residents in need.

"We thought it was more important to take the time to set something up that was built for the long run," Attanasio said. "I think if we had launched a little sooner, we could have raised a little more awareness at the start. But we really wanted to do it the right way and have something with staying power. ... We've got a great process for assessing application for relief funds."

"If something else happens, which is inevitable in this state, we will be ready immediately to provide relief, and the guys will use their platforms to raise awareness. We'll be ready. It's a really great long-term solution for these tragic events and anything that happens in the future."

The plan, Attanasio said, was to distribute the first relief checks at Sunday's event.

"We're going to have to practice here a little bit," Yelich said Wednesday on MLB Network's "Intentional Talk," just before the players took some swings at Easton's hitting facility. "There's going to be high expectations, and it's not going to go well for everybody. There's definitely going to be some swings and misses from Major Leaguers out there, guaranteed."

If there is any embarrassment, it's for a good cause.

"There's been a lot of great people who have come out and wanted to support it, and we're really excited for Sunday," Yelich said. "It's great to see the support. We started this thing, but everybody has gotten behind it and really taken it upon themselves to help people out in a time of need. It's great to see, and a credit to the community and people from all over the country."