



# Padres Press Clips

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# Padres roster review: Edward Olivares

Jeff Sanders

*Sizing up the Padres' 40-man roster, from A to Z, heading into the 2019 season:*

## EDWARD OLIVARES

- **Position(s):** Outfielder
- **2019 Opening Day age:** 23
- **Bats/throws:** R / R
- **Height/weight:** 6-foot-2 / 186 pounds
- **Acquired:** Via trade with Toronto in January 2018
- **Contract status:** Added to the 40-man roster in November 2018
- **Key stats (minors):** .277 avg., .321 OBP, .429 SLG, 12 HRs, 62 RBIs, 79 runs, 21 steals, 29 walks, 102 strikeouts (129 games, 531 at-bats)

## STAT TO NOTE

- **.815** – Olivares' OPS after the California League's all-star break. A mid-season all-star at high Single-A Lake Elsinore, he hit .302/.348/.467 with seven homers and 39 RBIs in 61 games to force the Padres to protect him from the Rule 5 draft this offseason.

## TRENDING

- **Idle** – Even while pairing career-highs in homers (17), RBIs (72) and steals (20), Olivares was stuck in the shadow of **Vladimir Guerrero Jr.** and **Bo Bichette** during his breakout campaign in 2017. The Padres, though, took notice and had him included in their return for **Yangervis Solarte** last winter. A so-so first half in his organizational debut (.695 OPS) did not keep him off the Cal League's all-star team. Olivares then took off in the second half (see above) and finished with a career-high 21 steals before continuing to produce this winter in the Dominican Republic. He hit .340/.404/.479 with two homers, three doubles, two triples and 14 RBIs in 29 games for Aragua. He was 5-for-6 on steal attempts, too. A plus defender, Olivares' potential profile as a power-speed guy has pushed him to No. 28 in MLB.com's top-30 Padres prospects list.

## 2019 OUTLOOK

- Added to the 40-man roster in November, Olivares will look to stay hot as he advances to the Double-A Texas League for the first time in his career. The Padres are stocked in outfield talent – in the majors and minors – but he could certainly hit his way onto the radar if he remains productive in the upper levels of the system.

## **PADRES POWER RANKINGS**

*(Currently 40 players on the 40-man roster; the list below reflects only the players reviewed thus far in the series)*

1. Wil Myers
2. Eric Hosmer
3. Austin Hedges
4. Manuel Margot
5. Francisco Mejia
6. Franchy Cordero
7. Joey Lucchesi
8. Ian Kinsler
9. Eric Lauer
10. Dinelson Lamet
11. Jose Castillo
12. Anderson Espinoza
13. Travis Jankowski
14. Robbie Erlin
15. Miguel Diaz
16. Jacob Nix
17. Phil Maton
18. Greg Garcia
19. Austin Allen
20. Pedro Avila
21. Edward Olivares
22. Bryan Mitchell
23. Brett Kennedy
24. Ty France
25. Javy Guerra

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### **Removed from the roster**

- Carlos Asuaje (claimed by the Rangers)

# Padres' Tatis, Cordero busy in winter playoffs

**Jeff Sanders**

For two Padres, winter ball in the Dominican Republic is stretching well into January.

**Franchy Cordero's** Escogido squad will continue round-robin playoff action Tuesday against **Fernando Tatis'** Estrellas team. The latter has enjoyed a more productive postseason.

Despite an 0-for-5 showing on Sunday that included three strikeouts, Tatis is hitting .273/.385/.523 with two homers, two triples, a double and six RBIs in 12 playoff games. Tatis' 23 total bases leads the field, while his four steals are two off the league lead this postseason.

Tatis has also struck out 11 times against six walks in the playoffs.

Ranked the game's No. 2 prospect by MLB.com, Tatis finished the regular winter season with three homers and a .263/.379/.488 batting line in 23 games for Estrellas, his first action since thumb surgery ended his season at Double-A San Antonio over the summer.

Tatis is expected to compete for the job at shortstop this spring, although it's unlikely he'll jump from Double-A to the majors without at least a pit stop at Triple-A El Paso.

Cordero, too, is also returning from season-ending surgery as an eye-opening campaign in the majors was cut short by the bone spur in his throwing elbow.

Cordero leads the playoff field with 20 strikeouts and is hitting .200/.280/.333 in 11 games this postseason for Escogido.

He hit .232/.321/.384 with two homers and nine RBIs in 26 games in the regular winter season.

## Australian winter league

- OF **Michael Gettys** (San Antonio) hit his seventh homer Sunday for Adelaide and drove in three runs, giving him 32 in 32 games this winter. Gettys is hitting .310/.406/.621 with 34 strikeouts against 15 walks. His 72 total bases – which include three triples and a nine doubles – rank third in the circuit.
- SS **Jarryd Dale** (AZL) is hitting .206/.217/.279 with home homer and two doubles through 24 games with Melbourne.

## Venezuelan winter league

- In three playoff games for Magallanes, C **Luis Torrens** (Lake Elsinore) is 4-for-11 with five runs scored, a homer and two walks against one strikeout. He hit .325/.345/.398 in 26 games this winter.

### **Puerto Rican winter league**

- In two playoff games for Carolina, OF **Aldemar Burgos** (Fort Wayne) is 1-for-7 with a double and a run scored. He hit .276/.321/.439 with three homers and 12 RBIs in 28 games in the regular season.

## Can Hosmer post bounce-back season in '19?

First baseman has history of strong odd years following weaker even years

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Jan. 7th, 2019

*With Spring Training on the horizon, MLB.com is taking an in-depth look at the 2019 Padres, breaking the team down position-by-position. Today, we preview the San Diego first basemen.*

SAN DIEGO -- There are no questions surrounding *who* mans first base for the Padres in 2019. **Eric Hosmer** played 157 games there last year, and he has seven years remaining on his record-setting contract.

But there are quite a few questions surrounding what the Padres might get from their enigmatic first baseman in 2019. No doubt, Hosmer's debut season in San Diego was a disappointment. He posted a .253/.322/.398 slash line and accrued just 1.4 **Wins Above Replacement**.

But Hosmer has a history of bouncing back. In fact, he's currently in the midst of a wacky eight-season stretch. Since entering the league, Hosmer has posted an OPS+ of 118 or higher in every odd-numbered season. He's posted a mark below 102 in every even-numbered year. Check out these splits:

Odd-year Hosmer: .303/.359/.468, 12.6 WAR

Even-year Hosmer: .255/.318/.397, 2.9 WAR

One guy's a perennial All-Star. One guy isn't worth a win per season.

Of course, Hosmer's struggles shouldn't be written off as cyclical. But we'll get into the reasons behind those struggles in a second. First, here's a look at how the Padres figure to line up at first base next season:

**Projected starter:** Hosmer

**Potential backups:** **Wil Myers, Jose Pirela, Allen Craig, Josh Naylor, Austin Allen**

**Top-30 prospects:** No. 15 Naylor, No. 25 Allen

Hosmer's got the job, with any number of available backups. It's unlikely that Naylor or Allen crack the Opening Day roster, but they're options for later in the season. Allen has a small chance to make the roster as a third catcher -- which could line him up to spell Hosmer, if that's ever necessary. But it usually isn't. Hosmer has averaged 154 games per season since his first full year in 2012.

As for Hosmer's 2018 struggles, the culprit is pretty clear. No one in the Majors posted a lower average launch angle than his -1.3 mark, and his 60 percent ground-ball rate ranked second.

Hosmer's still hitting the ball hard, though his 88.8 mph average exit velocity last season was a drop of one mph from his career average. But when he hits it into the ground, he leaves himself

at the mercy of the opposing infielders. His 2019 success will likely hinge on his ability to get the ball into the air so he can drive it.

"I want to lift the ball, and I want to hit the ball to the opposite field," Hosmer said on the season's final day. "When I'm doing that, those are my strengths."

Hosmer has spent the offseason working in Florida, where hitting coach Johnny Washington has visited on more than one occasion. Manager Andy Green indicated Hosmer wouldn't be going through a major overhaul at the plate, but he did hint at some changes.

"He's definitely working to do some things that he's passionate about doing more consistently this year," Green said. "He's most excited, in my time talking to him, about having a normal offseason. Last season was anything but that, where he's getting paraded around in the free-agency game, and waiting to land in a place, and basically landed with us the first day of Spring Training."

General manager A.J. Preller echoed that sentiment.

"The first year here in San Diego [was] just a big change, a big difference," Preller said. "Signing the big contract, as much as you tell him, 'Be yourself, relax,' I think it's pretty natural that a guy's going to want to show up here and impress. ... He's going to learn from it, and we have a lot of faith that we're going to look up next year, and it's going to be an All-Star-caliber season for him, just because of the type of person he is."

The Padres better hope so. They've invested an awful lot in Hosmer, and they're looking for the odd-year version to become the everyday version.

## 1 question for each club before Spring Training

MLB.com

Jan. 7th, 2019

Believe it or not, we're only a little more than one month away from Spring Training. The onset of the new season continues to draw near, and at a rapid rate. Yet even with rosters beginning to manifest, goals taking a clearer scope and aspirations running high, there is still plenty to be sorted out this offseason.

There's at least one question each club is likely asking itself before beginning camp. MLB.com canvassed its 30 beat reporters to address those inquiries.

### **PADRES: What to do with Wil Myers?**

Three months into the offseason, there's still no clear plan for one of the Padres' best hitters. Myers spent the final month and a half of the 2018 season at third base, allowing **Hunter Renfroe** and **Franmil Reyes** to see regular time in the outfield.

The move made sense, with San Diego extremely deep in the corner outfield and extremely thin at third. But Myers' defense was shaky, to say the least. Over the next month and a half, the Padres need to decide whether third base is an available option for Myers. If it's not, they've got a problem on their hands -- too many outfielders and no starting third baseman.

Of course, it's still possible Myers is dealt this offseason. The Padres have six outfielders who have served in a starting role over the past two seasons. It's hard to envision all six on the roster at the start of camp. In that group, Myers seems likeliest to be traded.

-- *AJ Cassavell*



# Padres 2019 Rotation Undetermined, but the Future is Packed with Prospects

FriarWire

Jan 7

*By Bill Center*

We wrap up our position-by-position look at the Padres this week with a review of a starting pitchers—where there are major questions at the moment and high prospects for the future.

With the start of spring training less than six weeks away, the Padres have at least three openings in the 2019 rotation.

But seven of the top 10 on the [Padres' Top-30 prospects](#) lists are pitchers—and that doesn't include 2018 rookies **Joey Lucchesi** and **Eric Lauer**. Overall, 15 of the [Padres' Top-30 prospects](#) are pitchers—and the depth of starting pitchers extends well beyond that.

Here's a look at the Padres starting pitching starting with two picks from the 2016 Draft and extending throughout the minor leagues:

— Joey Lucchesi led the Padres with 145 strikeouts as a rookie in 2018 and was second in starts (26) and innings pitched (130). He had an 8–9 record with a 4.08 earned run average, a .254 opponents' batting average and a 1.29 WHIP (hits and walks per inning). A fourth-round selection, the 6-foot-5, 227-pound left-hander was the first pitcher from the 2016 Draft class to make their Major League debut. Lucchesi, 25, struck out 10 hitters per nine innings in 2018.

— Eric Lauer, 23, was a first-round pick (25th overall) in the 2016 Draft. The 6-foot-3, 227-pound left-hander was 6–7 with a 4.34 ERA, a .285 opponents' batting average and a 1.54 WHIP as a rookie with the Padres in 2018. He was the second pitcher from the 2016 Draft to make his Major League debut. He led the Major Leagues with 10 pickoffs in 2018, including at least one in five straight starts. Lauer averaged eight strikeouts per nine innings.

— **Matt Strahm**, 27, could be one of three or four left-handers in the Padres' 2019 rotation. The 6-foot-3, 185-pound left-hander made five starts—in bullpen games—among his 41 appearances for the Padres in 2018 after missing most of the 2017 season following knee surgery. Acquired from Kansas City in 2017 as part of a six-player trade, Strahm was 3–4 last season with a 2.05 ERA, a .178 opponents' batting average and a 0.98 WHIP in 61 1/3 innings. Rival hitters

batted .073 against Strahm with runners in scoring position. He averaged 10.1 strikeouts per nine innings with a 3.3-to-1 strikeouts-to-walks ratio.

— **Bryan Mitchell**, who turns 28 in April, struggled in the first half of his first season with the Padres, posting a 6.47 ERA in his first seven starts with a 7.08 ERA through June 5 when he went on the disabled list. But the 6-foot-2, 206-pounder returned in September, regained command of his featured curve and posted a 2.19 ERA in 24 2/3 innings over four starts to move back into consideration for a starter's spot.

— **Robbie Erlin** pitched 109 innings in 39 games (12 starts) in 2018 after having "Tommy John" surgery in 2016 and missing all of 2017. Erlin, 28, is projected more in a long role in the bullpen for 2019. The 5-foot-11, 202-pounder Erlin had a .471 ERA, a .267 opponents' batting average and a 1.14 WHIP in 2018. But he had a 6.23 ERA as a starter compared to a 2.05 ERA as a reliever. Erlin walked only 12 hitters in 109 innings and had a 7.3-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

— **Luis Perdomo** could be facing a final chance at the age of 25. The right-handed sinker-ball pitcher was 1–6 with a 7.05 ERA in 12 games (10 starts last year). The 6-foot-1 Perdomo has an 18–27 record and a 5.40 ERA in 76 games (59 starts) as a Padre.

— **Jacob Nix** remains the [Padres' No. 14 prospect](#) although he made nine Major League starts last season as a 22-year-old. The 6-foot-3, 233-pound right-hander had a 7.02 ERA with the Padres with a .304 opponents' batting average and a 1.50 WHIP. Before being promoted to the Padres, Nix had a 1.84 ERA and a 0.90 WHIP in 10 starts with Double-A San Antonio and Triple-A El Paso.

— **Brett Kennedy**, 24, had a 6.75 ERA and a 1.8 WHIP in six starts with the Padres last season. However, the 6-foot-1, 215-pounder was 10–0 with a 2.72 ERA and a 1.12 WHIP for El Paso (and a Triple-A Pacific Coast League All-Star) before being promoted.

— **Dinelson Lamet** didn't pitch in 2018 after having Tommy John elbow reconstruction surgery last spring and won't be available until later this season. But the 6-foot-3, 220-pound native of the Dominican Republic was 7–8 with a 4.57 ERA, a .210 opponents' batting average and a 1.24 WHIP in 21 starts as a rookie in 2017 when he averaged 10.9 strikeouts per nine innings.

#### *Closest to the Major Leagues:*

— **Chris Paddack**, who turns 23 Jan. 8, is the [Padres' fifth-ranked prospect](#) by MLB Pipeline and [ranked No. 50 in all the minor leagues](#). After having "Tommy John" surgery in 2016, Paddack missed the entire 2017 season. In 2018, the 6-foot-4, 195-pound right-hander put up some incredible stats with Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore and San Antonio before being shut down when he hit his innings limit. Overall, Paddack had a 7–3 record and a 2.10 ERA in 17 starts with a 0.82 WHIP and a .204 opponents' batting average. He also had 120 strikeouts against eight walks in 90 innings — for marks of 12 strikeouts per nine innings and a 15-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio.

— **Logan Allen**, 22, was the Double-A Texas League Pitcher of the Year in 2018 before finishing the season with five starts at Triple-A. Overall, the 6-foot-3, 200-pound left-hander was 14–6 in 2018 with a 2.54 ERA in 148 2/3 innings over 25 games (24 starts). He had a 1.08 WHIP and a .205 opponents' batting average with 151 strikeouts in 148 2/3 innings. He is ranked the [Padres' No8 prospect](#) and [No90 throughout the minor leagues](#).

— **Cal Quantrill**, who turns 24 on Feb. 10, was the Padres first pick (eighth overall) in the 2016 draft. He is ranked the Padres' No11 prospect. The 6-foot-3, 205-pound right-hander had a 4.80 ERA, a 1.47 WHIP and a .290 opponents' batting average last season between San Antonio and El Paso, although he game picked up when he was promoted to Triple-A (3.48 ERA in six starts. Like Paddack and Logan Allen, Quantrill could make his Major League debut this season.

*Other Padres starting prospects ranked among their Top-30 prospects:*

— **MacKenzie Gore**, who turns 20 on Feb. 24, is ranked the [Padres' No2 prospect](#) behind shortstop **Fernando Tatis Jr.** The 6-foot-3, 190-pound Gore was the Padres first-round pick (third overall) in the 2017 Draft. He is ranked the [No11 prospect in all of the minor leagues](#). Gore spent his second pro season at Single-A Fort Wayne, where he had a 4.45 ERA in 16 starts with a 1.30 WHIP and a .260 opponents' batting average.

— **Adrian Morejon**, who turns 20 on Feb. 27, was 4–4 in 13 starts in an injury-interrupted season at Lake Elsinore in 2018 with a 1.27 WHIP and a .241 opponents' batting average. The 6-foot, 175-pound left-hander signed with the Padres out of Cuba in 2016. Morejon is ranked the [Padres' No6 prospect](#) and [No51 among all minor leaguers](#).

— **Michel Baez**, who turns 23 on Jan. 23, is ranked the [Padres' No7 prospect](#) and is ranked the [No64 prospect among all minor leaguers](#). The 6-foot-8, 210-pound Cuban right-hander had a 3.69 ERA in 21 starts between Lake Elsinore and San Antonio last season. He had a 1.33 WHIP and a .242 opponents' batting average. He had 113 strikeouts in 105 innings.

— **Luis Patiño**, 19, is the [Padres' No9 prospect](#). The 6-foot, 170-pound native of Colombia was 6–3 with a 2.16 ERA, a 1.07 WHIP and a .220 opponents' batting average with Fort Wayne last season as the youngest starting pitcher in the Midwest League. He had 98 strikeouts in 83 1/3 innings.

— **Ryan Weathers** was the Padres' first-round pick (seventh overall) in last June's draft and is ranked the [Padres' No10 prospect](#). The 6-foot-1, 200-pound left-hander turned 19 last Dec. 17. After debuting in the Arizona Rookie League, Weathers finished his first pro season with three starts at Single-A Fort Wayne. He had A combined 3.44 ERA with a 1.18 WHIP over 18 1/3 innings.

— **Anderson Espinoza** hasn't pitched since the end of 2016 after having "Tommy John" elbow reconstruction surgery. But the 6-foot-Venezuelan is still 20 and is ranked the [Padres' N<sup>o</sup>12 prospect](#).

— **Reggie Lawson**, 21, was the 71st overall pick in the 2016 Draft out of Victorville High. The 6-foot-4, 205-pounder turned 21 near the end of the 2018 season, during which he went 8–5 with a 4.69 ERA in 24 games (22 starts). The [Padres' N<sup>o</sup>21 prospect](#) also had a 1.55 WHIP with 117 strikeouts in 117 innings.

— **Pedro Avila**, who turns 22 on Jan 14, is the [Padres' N<sup>o</sup>29 prospect](#). The 5-foot-11, 190-pound native of Venezuela spent the entire 2018 season with Lake Elsinore, where he was 7–9 with a 4.27 ERA, a 1.45 WHIP and a .270 opponents batting average in 24 games (20 starts). He had 142 strikeouts in 130 1/3 innings.

The list doesn't end there. Other starting pitchers to watch in the Padres system include **Joey Cantillo, Omar Cruz, Henry Henry, Osvaldo Hernandez, Jerry Keel, Tom Cosgrove, Nick Margevicius, Aaron Leasher, Mason Thompson, Jesse Scholtens, Emmanuel Ramirez** and **Miguel Diaz**.