



Padres Press Clips

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Article	Source	Author	Page
Another full game Tuesday for unique Padres bullpen	SD Union Tribune	Acee	2
Cardinals' homers sink Lyles, Padres	SD Union Tribune	Acee	4
Padres notes: What Franmil Reyes must do; closing in on no-no?; Hedges rehab	SD Union Tribune	Acee	6
Brad Zunica hits ninth homer in Storm loss	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	8
Internet sensation from Encinitas marvels at Padres beer-soaked spotlight	SD Union Tribune	Miller	10
Padres' bats come up short in loss to Cards	MLB.com	Cassavell	13
'Bullpen games' will continue on Tuesday	MLB.com	Cassavell	16
Trevor's Time: Wildcat baseball	Padres.com	Center	18
Richard, Ross forming formidable 1-2 punch	Padres.com	Center	20
When asked to adjust, Manuel Margot rose to the Padres' challenge and found his stride	The Athletic	Lin	22
Cardinals power their way to 5-2 win over Padres with 3 HRs	Associated Press	AP	24
#PadresOnDeck: 7 from Storm Make California League All-Star Game; Baez Honored; Logan Allen to AA-San Antonio Disabled List	FriarWire	Center	27
This Day in Padres History—June 12	Friar Wire	Center	30
Padres-Cardinals Preview	FOX Sports	STATS	31
Takeaways from the Padres' 5-2 loss to the Cardinals	FOX Sports	Horvath	33

Another full game Tuesday for unique Padres bullpen

Kevin Acee

Cardinals, the [Padres](#) don't have a starting pitcher for your game on Tuesday.

What they do have are nine guys with very particular sets of skills. Skills they have acquired over careers of varying lengths. Skills that have made them a nightmare for teams like you.

OK, that might be a tad dramatic, [especially if read in a Liam Neeson voice](#).

But the Padres bullpen has been pretty good at what it has been asked to do twice recently and will be tasked with again in the middle game of their series here against the Cardinals.

"The bullpen is like a team within the team," Adam Cimber said. "It's a special ops group. It's fun when it's us against the other team."

Just last Wednesday, five relievers combined for nine innings in a 3-1 victory over the [Atlanta Braves](#). In a May 27 loss against the Dodgers, three relievers had allowed two runs through seven innings before Tyler Webb surrendered two two-run homers in the eighth inning.

Even with that, they have a 3.32 ERA in the two games. The Padres starting rotation has compiled a 4.98 ERA, a comparison of such disparate sample sizes that it is worthwhile only to show the relievers have filled in adequately.

And they like doing it.

"They're fun," said Matt Strahm, who has started both games and will do so again Tuesday. "You just go out there and pass it on to the next guy because you know they're going to do their job. And we enjoy it, because you look up and go 'Wow. We just did 27 outs.'"

The volume of relievers (presently nine, one more than many teams and two more than some) and the types of relievers (two pitchers who were recently starters and another couple that can easily go two or even three innings) are better situated than most teams to pull off the semi-frequent all-staff game.

They have also been helped lately by their four remaining starters – the bullpen games have been necessary because Joey Lucchesi has been on the disabled list with a hip strain since May 15 – generally going deeper in games.

While the Padres bullpen has thrown the fourth-most innings in the majors, its recent workload has been spread out more, as the Padres have 11 quality starts in the past 28 games after having 11 in their first 39. They've also had three off days in that span after having just three prior to that.

Manager Andy Green even thinks he could do a bullpen game again Sunday in Atlanta, as Lucchesi is making his first rehab start on Thursday and won't be ready to return by then. Having the following day off could help facilitate the move, but it will mostly depend on how he has to use his staff in the preceding games.

"There's enough coverage and enough innings out of that bullpen," Green said. "...I can see us easily getting through that off day without (calling up a pitcher from Triple-A). But if we need to, we're not going to hesitate."

As much as they enjoy the accomplishment of cobbling together a good game, the relievers aren't sure how sustainable it would be to go much beyond this week at this pace.

"Over the course of time it shows when relievers are overexposed or used a lot more," Craig Stammen said.

"It's fine every once in a while," Kirby Yates said. "It has to work out great. If you do that one day and the next day the starter came out early because he had a blister or something, now you're pouring a ton of innings on us. And then it's not like (the bullpen is) getting that third day off. Somebody is going to have to come in and finish the game. The workload would be way too hard to maintain."

Green, of course, doesn't want to have to do it. But he didn't deny the machinations have been at least slightly pleasurable.

"It's a lot of weapons," he said. "It's a lot of different weapons. I've kind of enjoyed it. How long you can maintain it, we'll wait and see."

Cardinals' homers sink Lyles, Padres

Kevin Acee

The [Padres](#) on Monday wanted [Jordan Lyles](#) to get back to the aggressive bullpen mentality that made him effective in his first few starts after he made the move into the rotation a little over a month ago.

Lyles responded by pounding the strike zone, getting ahead of almost every batter he faced.

“That’s a good sign of where a starter is going,” Lyles would say after what he also called a “weird” game.

His attack was met by a defensive offense from the [Cardinals](#).

Lyles’ pitch count swelled from the start, as he struggled to put batters away once he got to two strikes. The Cardinals fouled off pitch after pitch and put balls in play, finding holes with a few grounders and also legging out a couple infield hits.

A scoreless first inning took Lyles 29 pitches to navigate. Of those, 22 were strikes, and 10 of those were foul balls.

Even all that might have been OK had Lyles been able to stay away from another issue that has plagued him as a starter.

In five of his seven starts, he has at least once – and more often twice – made a mistake that got hit a long way.

On Monday, a pair of two-run homers – in the second inning by Jose Martinez and the fifth inning by [Marcell Ozuna](#) – put the Cardinals well on their way to a 5-2 victory in the opener of a three-game series at Busch Stadium.

For all he has done well since replacing Bryan Mitchell in the rotation, those were the eighth and ninth home runs Lyles (2-3) has allowed in 40 innings as a starter this season.

“The two home runs balls,” he lamented after throwing 102 pitches over six innings. “... It’s the mistakes. We had Ozuna, 0-2, 1-2. I tried to throw a curveball in the dirt, and I left it middle-middle. He teed off on it. Those are the ones that get you going. Those are the ones you want back.”

That curve failed all night to do its usual dive when needed most – or else the Cardinals wouldn’t let it, jumping on the pitch to at least extend their at-bats.

“They have a really good lineup, a lot of veteran guys who know what they’re doing,” Lyles said. “It was a battle to get through that lineup a couple times. ... It was a weird outing. I got ahead of

guys, and they battled. They squared the ball up. And when they did and didn't, they got the ball in the outfield.

"I was throwing some pretty good breaking balls that were going to catch some dirt, and they kept fouling them off. A positive about tonight is just getting ahead. ... From here on out, I'll try to work on more putout pitches."

For the Padres to have won, Lyles would have had to almost match the excellence of his second start back on May 15, when he took a perfect game through 7 1/3 innings.

The Padres, who came into Monday's game having won nine of 12 and averaging almost nine hits and more than six runs a game in that span, got four hits Monday.

The first of those was [Cory Spangenberg](#)'s home run that put them up 1-0 in the second inning.

Christian Villanueva and Raffy Lopez singled in the second as well, and that would be it for a while.

After Cardinals starter Jack Flaherty had retired 14 straight batters to get one out into the seventh inning, Spangenberg drew a walk and was the last batter to face Flaherty (3-2).

Reliever John Brebbia walked Villanueva and [Freddy Galvis](#) to load the bases before the threat fizzled when Lopez struck out and Jose Pirela, pinch-hitting for Lyles, did as well.

The Padres added a run in the eighth after Travis Jankowski led off with a double, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Hunter Renfroe's groundout. The Cardinals went back up by three in the bottom of the inning when [Jedd Gyorko](#) homered off [Phil Hughes](#).

"He battled," manager Andy Green said of Lyles. "I'm relatively pleased. ... He gave us an opportunity to win. We just didn't do much on offense."

Padres notes: What Franmil Reyes must do; closing in on no-no?; Hedges rehab

Kevin Acee

Franmil Reyes has been a pleasant surprise for the [Padres](#).

The 22-year-old right fielder was not one of their top prospects. He was limited in his defensive abilities, largely due to his gargantuan size. And as hard and as often as he hit baseballs, he chased a preponderance of bad pitches.

All of those things, to some extent, have changed this year.

And just when the Padres needed an outfielder due to an abundance of injuries last month, Reyes was fortunate enough to have been rendering Triple-A pitching helpless.

He was called up to make his major league debut on May 14 and initially struggled. He had two singles and six strikeouts in his first 18 at-bats.

Reyes drew his first walk and hit his first home run on May 21 in Washington, homered in three straight games the next week and in two straight last week.

In just 68 at-bats, Reyes is fourth on the team with six home runs. He had raised his average to .234 before this road trip by going 6-for-15 in a four-game hitting streak. An 0-for-9 series against the Marlins has him down to .221 with a .264 on-base percentage.

He is still striking out once every 2.4 at-bats and not hitting quite enough.

Reyes, who is batting cleanup Monday against the Cardinals, has shown an impressive acumen for making adjustments and absorbing input from coaches and veterans.

He will need to continue to grow and start to hit more in order to justify sticking with him in the outfield long-term – especially when Wil Myers returns and if Hunter Renfroe and/or Travis Jankowski continue to produce.

The 6-foot-5, 245-pound Reyes has spent a lot of time working on his flexibility, speed and defensive technique. A play he made running back to grab a fly ball in Miami on Friday is one he certainly wouldn't have made last year in Triple-A and perhaps wouldn't have made a month ago.

“He’s made some vast improvements last year to this year,” manager Andy Green said of Reyes’ defense. “We’re encouraged by that improvement. ... There’s a lot to like.”

“He’s going to have to hit. ... It’s can you continue to get on base and drive the ball out of the ballpark. If he does those things, (he’s) got a future in this game.”

Getting closer?

The Padres remain the only team in the majors to have never thrown a no-hitter.

But they are the only team in the majors to have comes as close as many times as they have this season.

There have been 27 starters to get through six innings without allowing a hit in a game this season. The Padres are the only team with three of those pitchers – [Tyson Ross](#) (7 2/3 innings on April 20), [Jordan Lyles](#) (7 1/3 on May 15) and [Clayton Richard](#) (6 2/3 innings on Sunday).

Maybe those are just a prelude to the real thing – after 7,881 games (and counting).

“Tyson was dominant that day, Jordan was extremely dominant his day,” Richard said. “We could definitely see that possibly happening (this year). Hopefully it does.”

Hedges rehab

Catcher Austin Hedges, on the disabled list since May 1 with elbow soreness, is expected to work out with Single-A Lake Elsinore on Monday night and begin a rehab assignment with the Storm on Tuesday.

Considering how long Hedges has been out, he likely won’t be activated until the Padres return to San Diego next week. The Padres pulled Hedges off a previous rehab assignment with Triple-A El Paso because the soreness in his elbow returned.

He has has been taking batting practice for about a week without setback. He has also been catching bullpens and throwing to second base for several days.

Brad Zunica hits ninth homer in Storm loss

Jeff Sanders

Quietly, **Brad Zunica** is heating up in the California League.

The 6-foot-6, 254-pound first baseman hit his ninth homer in [high Single-A Lake Elsinore's 8-7 loss](#) to visiting Rancho Cucamonga, continuing a surge following a slow start to the year.

A 15th-rounder in **A.J. Preller's** first draft in 2015, the 22-year-old Zunica posted a .629 OPS in April, a .730 OPS in May and was sitting on a 1.061 OPS through his first nine games in June. Monday's home run was his fifth since the start of the month.

In 2016, Zunica posted a .696 OPS his first full year in the system at low Single-A Fort Wayne. He upped that number to .864 while hitting a career-high 18 homers while repeating the level last year and entered Monday's game with a .751 OPS through 56 games in the California League.

Left fielder **Buddy Reed** (.338) went 3-for-4 with two RBIs and his 29 steal and right fielder **Nate Easley** (.248) doubled in two runs.

Right-hander **Michel Baez** (2.91) struck out six, allowed two runs on eight hits and a walk, and was in line to win before the bullpen allowed four runs in the ninth.

In other news, infielder **Allen Cordoba**, on the DL all year with a concussion sustained during an auto accident before [spring training](#), went 1-for-5 in his first game of the year. He served as the designated hitter.

The Storm are 32-32.

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (32-33)

- [Iowa 6, Chihuahuas 5 \(7\)](#): RHP **Luis Perdomo** (3.55) allowed five runs on eight hits and two walks in four innings in the start. LF **Shane Peterson** (.251) drove in two runs and 1B **Allen Craig** (.278), C **Brett Nicholas** (.295) and CF **Auston Bousfield** (.247) each had two hits. Bousfield's were both doubles.
- [Chihuahuas 3, Iowa 0 \(7\)](#): RHP **Robert Stock** (2.41) recorded his fifth save with a scoreless seventh after RHP **Seth Simmons** (1.69) started the game with four scoreless innings. RHP **Colten Brewer** (1-3, 4.67) struck out two over two scoreless innings. SS **Javy Guerra** (.199) drove in two runs on his seventh homer and 2B **Luis Urias** (.262) hit his first triple of the season.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (39-24)

- **Corpus Christi 6, Missions 4:** C **Webster Rivas** (.304) doubled in three runs and SS **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.282) and 3B **Ty France** (.267) both went 2-for-3 with a double, two walks and a strikeout. RHP **Phil Maton** (3.00) allowed a run on two hits and struck out a batter in a rehab inning. RHP **Lake Bachar** (0-3, 7.30) allowed four runs in 3 2/3 innings in the start.

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (28-34)

- **Lansing 4, TinCaps 2:** RHP **Mason Thompson** (3-2, 5.06) struck out three and allowed two runs on three hits and two walks in five innings. RF **Tirso Ornelas** (.267) went 2-for-4 with a run scored and 3B **Luis Almanzar** (.172) and DH **Nick Feight** (.211) each drove in a run.

ROOKIE DSL PADRES (5-3)

- **Padres 5, Blue Jays 2:** RHP **Efrain Contreras** (0.00) struck out five and allowed two hits and a walk over five shutout innings in the start. SS **Yeison Santana** (.258) went 1-for-3 with a triple, a walk and three RBIs and 2B **Luiz Paez** (.143) and RF **Adrian Antunez** (.238) each had two hits.

Transactions

- LHP **Logan Allen** was placed on San Antonio's seven-day disabled list with an ankle injury. Allen is 8-2 with a 2.93 ERA, 80 strikeouts and a 1.17 WHIP in 73 2/3 innings with the Missions.

Internet sensation from Encinitas marvels at Padres beer-soaked spotlight

Bryce Miller

The marriage proposals from Australia alone reached 10, at last count. Music megastar Justin Timberlake labeled the moment “MVP status” on Instagram. The Catch-and-Chug, as it’s known to millions, made the front page of a newspaper in Milan and began trending on websites in Brazil.

A week after Gabby DiMarco clutched a foul ball in an \$11 cup of Sculpin and downed it during the [Padres’](#) game against the [Braves](#), she continues processing how the web lost its electronic marbles.

What happens when you’re tossed into today’s social media blender and the phone-surfing world hits puree?

“It’s been crazy,” DiMarco said.

Crazy is trying to fit in 10 errands in a day. Crazy is randomly running into a friend you haven’t seen in a decade. This has been a fit of global ga-ga, stretching from ABC News to Adelaide — from the New York Post to People.com.

A foul ball off the bat of Atlanta’s Ender Inciarte arced backward, toward Section 202 at Petco Park. DiMarco, of Encinitas, heard the ball go past her and “bounce off something,” and she thought it might hit her in the back of the head. Her eyes bulged, though, when she found the ball, after a fateful hop, wedged in her cup.

At the urging of nearby fans, including her father Stephen, she chugged it. Internet infamy, sealed.

“I’m going to keep it in that cup forever,” she said Monday. “I’m never taking it out. It’s a trophy.”

The fallout staggered DiMarco, a 23-year-old student at Cal State San Marcos. She watched her Instagram account go bonkers, rocketing from 800 followers to nearly 14,000.

USA Today’s “For The Win” feature exclaimed, “And that’s how it’s done.” A Fox station in Los Angeles labeled it “Snag of the Century.” The coverage stretched from MLB.com to Maxim. On Twitter, Budweiser swooned: “If you catch a ball in your beer, you have to finish it. She knows the rules. If anyone sees this girl, tell her she’s got tickets to a Padres game on us. (Beer included).”

Too late. DiMarco's already been contacted by local beer maker Ballast Point, no doubt thrilled to find out one of its brews played a small, hoppy part in Padres fan history.

DiMarco spends about two hours daily trying to keep up with the tsunami of responses to an odd, unlikely moment at the ballpark. She stopped counting all of those proposals.

"It's flattering, but kind of creepy, right?" she said.

The reaction of her boyfriend, DiMarco said with a laugh, has been swift.

"He was so nervous," she said. "He's like, 'You're going to break up with me. I can't compete with all these marriage proposals.' He's been treating me extra nice. He took me on a really cute date (Sunday) for sunset at a sushi restaurant in Del Mar."

DiMarco, it seems, is a roll-with-whatever-life-brings kind of woman. She worked at an orphanage in Thailand five years ago. She's sky-dived in San Diego. The writing and literature major's goal is "to help poetry make a comeback."

She's already penned a poem about her moment in baseball's beer-soaked spotlight.

Catching a ball in a cup

can sometimes feel like luck.

But really,

it is the possibility

that whatever you believe

Can become your reality

And the artistry of slamming a beer?

"It's Gab," said her mom, Lisa. "It's what she does. She's always in the moment. She makes people laugh and smile all the time."

The decision included a unique risk, DiMarco admitted.

"It was an IPA, so that's not easy," she said.

The catch, however, might have benefited from more than simply good fortune.

"My mom calls me a ninja," DiMarco said. "People used to throw things at me and I'd always catch it. I have crazy eye-hand coordination."

The untold story: It almost didn't happen.

“I haven’t actually told anybody this, but 10 minutes before it happened my dad said, ‘I want to go,’ ” she said. “I said, ‘One more beer.’ Two minutes later, the ball whizzes by me and it landed perfectly.

“It was totally a 1-in-a-million chance.”

DiMarco, a former gymnast, maintained a high bar, so to speak, when asked to evaluate her effort.

“I’m not going to give myself a perfect score, but maybe a 9,” she said. “Beer did spill.”

Still, she said, “I think it was the proudest moment of my dad’s life, honestly, just the way he looked at me. He’s like ‘wow, this is just everything.’ ”

More celebrity-induced suds appear to be in her future. DiMarco said Ballast Point indicated it was “getting its ducks in a row” when the company contacted her via social media.

Meanwhile, the pick-up lines continue.

“People are saying things like, ‘You love baseball, you can chug a beer and you write poetry? You really are the perfect woman,’ ” she said, sheepishly.

DiMarco’s cup hardly runneth over, though. She emptied it. Remember?

Padres' bats come up short in loss to Cards
Spangenberg's homer only offensive bright spot in series opener
By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell
Jun. 11th, 2018

ST. LOUIS -- In a wide-open National League West, the Padres have spent the past two or three weeks lingering on the periphery of the race -- not close enough to be considered contenders, but too close to be ruled out.

All along, the week of June 11 loomed. Trips to St. Louis and Atlanta -- contenders in superior divisions -- would serve as a barometer for where the Padres stood.

Litmus-test week is off to a slow start. The San Diego offense came up short in a 5-2 loss Monday night at Busch Stadium. Cardinals righty [Jack Flaherty](#) held the Padres' bats in check over 6 1/3 innings, allowing just a solo homer to [Cory Spangenberg](#). The bullpen did the rest.

For the Padres, right-hander [Jordan Lyles](#) wasn't particularly sharp, allowing 11 hits for the second straight outing. This time, however, Lyles managed to limit the damage a bit.

"He battled," Padres skipper Andy Green said. "I'm relatively pleased. Just two flat pitches that got hit out."

The Cardinals scored all four of their runs against Lyles on two-run homers, one from [Jose Martinez](#) in the third and one from [Marcell Ozuna](#) in the fifth. Lyles left a changeup over the middle to Martinez, then threw a curveball that didn't bite to Ozuna.

Other than that, Lyles was solid over six innings. But he labored for most of the night, as the Cardinals fouled off a number of his two-strike offerings. Among his 102 pitches, Lyles recorded only three swings and misses.

"It was a weird outing," Lyles said. "I got ahead of guys, and then they battled. They squared some balls up, but whether they did or didn't, they still put it in the outfield. So many scattered hits."

The Padres clawed one run closer in the eighth on [Hunter Renfroe](#)'s RBI groundout, but a familiar nemesis quickly negated that. [Jedd Gyorko](#)'s solo shot in the bottom of the frame reinstated the Cardinals' three-run lead. It was Gyorko's ninth home run in 15 games against his former club -- and his first big fly since he went deep in San Diego, precisely one month ago.

Gyorko's homer effectively signaled the end of the night. The Padres have won four straight series for the first time since 2015, and if they want to make it five, they'll need to win the next two games in St. Louis.

It's a tall task. But in three of those four series victories, they've rallied back from a Game 1 defeat. Then again, those three series were against the last-place Reds and Marlins (twice).

Perhaps understandably, the Padres are doing their best to downplay the importance of their week on the road.

"It's so cliché to say, but we play 162 games," Spangenberg said. "Every week's important. At the end of the year, sometimes teams miss out by a game. Every time we step on the field, it's important."

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

Slide rules: Among the game's first 50 hitters, none walked. Then in the top of the seventh, three consecutive Padres walked. Trailing by three, San Diego twice brought the go-ahead run to the plate. And twice, that go-ahead run struck out swinging on a [John Brebbia](#) slider outside the zone. [Raffy Lopez](#) went down first, then pinch-hitter [Jose Pirela](#) couldn't hold up on a check swing, ending the threat.

Spangen-blast: Spangenberg's homer was a rocket down the right-field line at 108 mph off the bat. [Christian Villanueva](#) followed with a 107-mph laser off the left-field wall, but he was held to a single. Flaherty was on the ropes, but with two on and two out, Lyles grounded to third. It was the first of 14 straight Padres Flaherty would retire.

ADVENTURES OF FRAN

Make no mistake, the Padres called up [Franmil Reyes](#) from Triple-A El Paso last month because of his bat. The lumbering 6-foot-5 outfielder hits mammoth home runs, but he's a serious question mark defensively.

In the fourth inning Monday, Reyes misplayed a looping single from Flaherty into two extra bases for the Cardinals' pitcher. Reyes over-aggressively charged the baseball on an ill-advised attempt to throw out Flaherty at first base. It skittered past him, and Flaherty ended up on third.

"If you're going to take that kind of risk, you need to pick that ball up," Green said.

Fellow outfielder [Franchy Cordero](#) is eyeing a return from his forearm strain later this month. When he's back, the Padres will again have a glut of outfielders. Reyes, who is hitting .208/.250/.458 in 76 plate appearances, is a candidate to be sent to Triple-A El Paso.

Green also spoke about Reyes' marked defensive improvement before the game. Monday's misplay aside, Reyes has made strides -- enough so that his bat could make him a useful piece, Green said.

"I've always said you've got to do at least two out of three things if you're going to be a productive big leaguer," Green said. "You've got to get on base, you've got to hit the ball out of the ballpark, you've got to defend the field. If you do two out of those three things, you're going to be good. If you do all three of those things, you're going to be great. He's made strides on the defensive end. ... Now it's, 'Hey, can you get on base, and can you drive the ball out of the ballpark?' If you do those things, you've got a future in this game."

UP NEXT

For the third time in three weeks, the Padres are slated for a bullpen game in [Joey Lucchesi's](#) absence. And for the third time, it's [Matt Strahm](#) getting the ball first on Tuesday night. First

pitch is slated for 5:15 p.m. PT, and the Cardinals will counter with right-hander **Miles Mikolas** -- a one-time Padres reliever who reinvented himself during three seasons in Japan and has become one of the Majors' best strike-throwers.

'Bullpen games' will continue on Tuesday

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Jun. 11th, 2018

ST. LOUIS -- If the Padres had it their way, **Joey Lucchesi** would be a healthy and thriving member of their starting rotation.

But while they wait for the rookie left-hander to return from his right hip strain, they're content to make do with a bullpen game every fifth day. The strategy has worked thus far, and the extra burden on the pitching staff has been non-existent.

Manager Andy Green is poised to turn to his nine-man 'pen once again on Tuesday against the Cardinals. And once again **Matt Strahm** will get the ball first.

"It speaks to the ability to spread the workload among nine different guys," Green said. "... It's a lot of weapons, a lot of different choices. I've enjoyed it. How long can you maintain it? We'll wait and see."

The Padres plan to maintain it at least through Tuesday and probably on Sunday in Atlanta as well. Lucchesi is slated to begin his rehab assignment Thursday, meaning he won't be back until next week -- at the earliest.

"We weren't trying to make this happen, but it's a product of our environment," Green said before the **Padres' 5-2 loss**. "It makes sense for us to continue on this path at least for the foreseeable future, but you can't even call it a path because anything could happen at any moment that forces you to deviate. We could go 18 innings tonight, and you're changing it."

Green's reality is this: A pitching staff has 45 innings to eat every five games (barring extras). If Strahm works three innings as a de facto starter, he's also available for a couple more in between those starts.

It's not traditional. But he's handling approximately the same workload.

"I don't know what the normal expectation level of a fifth starter is," Green said. "But my guess is around five innings. ... I've got four guys in that bullpen with the expectation of three innings at the drop of a hat."

Robbie Erlin and **Bryan Mitchell** have experience in the rotation, but they've struggled as starters this season. Instead, they're resigned to multi-inning assignments late in games.

"They're all used to the amount of rest they're getting, and they're used to the amount of innings they're getting in the games," pitching coach Darren Balsley said. "The only thing they're not used to is pitching when they have. They may be in different innings than they're used to."

The Padres employed their bullpen-day strategy against Atlanta this past Wednesday. They mixed and matched five different arms en route to a 3-1 win. In Los Angeles last month, they held the Dodgers to two runs over seven innings before **Tyler Webb** -- pitching because the Padres trailed -- allowed four runs.

In neither case did the game place a noticeable strain on the Padres' deep bullpen.

"We're not going to put anybody in the position where they're throwing more innings than they're used to," Balsley said. "We want to make sure they have enough rest."

Said Green: "If we felt stretched by it, we felt like somebody was put in jeopardy because of it, we'd amend the plan in a heartbeat. We'd bring [a starter] up to fill that hole. But we're working through it in a way we feel gives us the best opportunity to win baseball games."

Hedges set for rehab

Padres catcher [Austin Hedges](#) reported Monday to Class A Advanced Lake Elsinore, where he went through a workout and took batting practice. He's expected to begin his second rehab assignment on Tuesday, as he looks to return from right elbow tendinitis.

Last month, Hedges had his rehab stint halted when he experienced a flare-up of the injury. The Padres' catcher hasn't played since April 30, and was batting just .173/.235/.293 at the time.

Reports: Padres sign Draft duo

The Padres agreed to a deal with third-round Draft choice Owen Miller on Monday, according to MLB Network's Jon Heyman. They also inked high-upside 16th-rounder Michael Curry, per MLB Pipeline's Jim Callis.

Miller's signing bonus is unknown. He succeeded [Paul DeJong](#) as Illinois State's shortstop and played every inning of every game there over the past three seasons, while batting .384/.433/.537 during his junior year.

"Owen was, in my opinion, a more complete hitter," Illinois State coach Bo Durkac said earlier this month, comparing Miller with DeJong.

Curry, meanwhile, batted .322/.395/.532 with 13 homers in his junior season at Georgia. His signing bonus is worth \$125,000 -- the maximum amount that does not count against the overall bonus pool.

Trevor's Time: Wildcat baseball

Hoffman first started thinking of pitching while playing SS at Arizona

By Bill Center San Diego Padres

6:38 AM ET

Although Trevor Hoffman didn't start making the transition from shortstop to pitcher until 1991 while playing in the Cincinnati Reds' Minor League system, the seed had been planted two years earlier.

"I started thinking about pitching while I was at the University of Arizona," the Hall of Fame closer said recently.

As a sophomore in 1988, Hoffman earned All-Pac-12 Conference honors as a shortstop and led the conference in hitting with a .377 mark -- which was 35 points higher than another future Major Leaguer named J.T. Snow.

But Hoffman's junior season wasn't going quite as smoothly. He hit .280 and missed some time with an injury.

"I didn't know if I was going to be drafted as a player," Hoffman said recently. "But I knew I wanted to keep playing, so I started thinking about ways to keep playing after college ... of doing something different to sign as a free agent if I needed to."

One of the options was transforming himself from a shortstop to a pitcher. After all, his arm was strong, so he started watching two Wildcat pitchers who would ultimately reach the Major Leagues -- Scott Erickson and Lance Dickson.

"I started watching them to see what they did, mostly Erickson," said Hoffman. "He was a great example. Scott worked hard. He worked really hard. Running. Training. I watched how he prepared himself."

"Honestly, when I started pitching, I copied a lot of things I picked up from Erickson about preparing your mind and body. Running gave him this strong lower body and I saw how it helped him pitch. That became a very important example of how it should be done."

"I started thinking about pitching when I was a sophomore at Arizona. I hadn't pitched since Little League, but I thought about it because I could throw hard."

An honored defensive shortstop at Arizona, Hoffman will become the first Wildcat inducted into the National Hall of Fame on July 29 -- of course as one of the premier closers in the history of Major League pitching.

The fact that Hoffman even made it to the University of Arizona was something of a miracle.

As an infielder, he was not recruited out of high school. But he blossomed at Cypress College, where he grew three inches and earned All-Empire League honors. It was Cypress coach Scott Pickler who championed Hoffman with famed Arizona head coach Jerry Kindall.

But there were two hurdles to clear in Tucson.

At first, Arizona balked at giving Hoffman a scholarship, because he had lost that kidney as an infant. Hoffman convinced Arizona that the kidney he lost was on the right side and not exposed to pitchers as a right-handed hitter.

"They bought that argument," said Hoffman.

But the bigger problem was the competition. Arizona had also recruited second-round and third-round Draft picks out of high school as shortstops.

"The second-round pick didn't come to Arizona," said Hoffman.

And Hoffman won the "Fall Hustle Award" during early Wildcat practices to earn the job.

After two seasons at Arizona, Hoffman was taken in the 11th round (290th overall) of the 1989 Draft by the Cincinnati Reds as a shortstop.

Richard, Ross forming formidable 1-2 punch
By Bill Center San Diego Padres
Jun. 11th, 2018

Clayton Richard has a 4-1 record in his last six starts and the Padres are 5-1.

Over his last seven starts, Richard is 4-2 with a 3.04 ERA. He has allowed 17 runs on 35 hits and 10 walks with 39 strikeouts for a 0.89 WHIP.

The win Sunday against the Marlins, where he didn't allow a hit for the first 6 2/3 innings, was Richard's 56th as a Padre, moving him into sole possession of eighth on the Padres' all-time list and No. 2 as a left-hander behind only Randy Jones (92).

Since May 12, the Padres are 11-1 in games started by Richard (5-1) and Tyson Ross (6-0).

Sunday also continued Richard's strong run against teams from outside the West. In eight starts outside the division, Richard has a 2.64 ERA and a 0.93 WHIP -- allowing 17 runs on 43 hits and 11 walks with 43 strikeouts in 58 innings.

In six starts against National League West rivals -- only one of which came since Richard began his hot run - the 34-year-old left-hander has a 7.80 ERA and a 1.867 WHIP -- giving up 27 runs (26 earned) on 37 hits and 19 walks with 28 strikeouts in 30 innings.

Richard's WHIP outside the division is almost exactly half of what it is inside the division. And eight of the nine homers he has allowed were against teams inside the division.

NOTEBOOK

- The Padres won a fourth straight series in Miami to pull to within five games of .500 at 31-36. The last time they won four straight series was 2015. The last time they were within five games of .500 this season was on April 20 when they were 8-13. Now for an even stranger won-loss statistic - The Padres are 22-19 since April 27. But they are only 1-12 in series openers during that span . . . meaning they are 21-7 after the opener of their last 13 series.
- **Eric Hosmer** hit a decisive two-run homer in Miami Sunday. Since May 28, Hosmer has hit safely in 10 of 13 games, going 21-for-49 (.429) with three doubles, two homers, 10 RBIs and eight runs scored. The run includes eight multi-hit games, including three, three-hit games. The surge has raised Hosmer's batting average 36 points to .292.
- **Hunter Renfroe** is 12-for-32 (.375) since returning from the disabled list May 28 with five doubles, a pinch-hit grand slam homer, seven RBIs and seven runs scored with five walks - for a .459 on-base percentage and a .625 slugging percentage for a 1.084 OPS. His batting average has climbed from .200 to .268.
- **Jose Pirela** has an active six-game hitting streak, going 8-for-25 (.320) with a double, a RBI and three runs scored. He has hit safely in eight of his last nine games, going 12-for-40 (.300) with two doubles, three walks, two RBIs and six runs scored.

- **Manuel Margot** is 4-for-12 in a four-game hitting streak. Since May 23, Margot is 13-for-43 (.302) with five doubles, five RBIs and eight walks for a .412 on-base percentage and a .830 OPS.

When asked to adjust, Manuel Margot rose to the Padres' challenge and found his stride

By Dennis Lin Jun 11, 2018

ST. LOUIS — The Padres are pleased with the center fielder residing near the Mendoza Line. Context is particularly useful in the case of Manuel Margot.

Margot is 23 years young, in the thick of his second full major-league season, and beginning to prove the adaptability that could solidify his future in San Diego. He has experienced the definition of a sophomore slump, but that does not fully convey what has been taking place inside the batter's box.

"Manny's worked as hard as anybody midseason I've ever seen in trying to do some things differently mechanically," Padres manager Andy Green said.

More than two months into this Padres season, the most precocious player on the roster is carrying a .217/.281/.320 slash line. He has gone from leading off on Opening Day to settling near the bottom of the lineup. If the season ended now, his overall lack of production would rank among the top disappointments of 2018.

Yet a downturn may have been inevitable. For years, Margot's talent had allowed him to excel in spite of a suspect approach at the plate. He'd developed a routine in which he lifted his front leg before driving his foot into the ground. Such pre-swing aggressiveness, combined with big-league pitchers' increasing familiarity with Margot, would leave him unable to consistently do damage.

"Manny has a tendency to get his head out in front of center, which forces him to drag or slice the barrel [of the bat] a lot of times instead of hitting behind the baseball," Green said.

Matt Stairs, the Padres' first-year hitting coach, detected the flaw even before he boarded a flight to San Diego in October.

"In my interview, I said he has to change his stance," Stairs, who played 19 seasons in the majors, said. "There's too much 'collapse.' ... It was a leg lift where he lifts it up and the hip stays open and he crashes hard on his front side and never stays behind the baseball."

Stairs' diagnosis aligned with what the Padres had noticed. The trick was finding the right time to broach the subject. Margot had delivered an auspicious rookie campaign in 2017, hitting .263/.313/.409 and leading the team in Wins Above Replacement.

"You don't come in immediately and revamp a swing when somebody shows up in the big leagues," Green said. "You let them compete and see what they do, and you give subtle adjustments here and there."

"I think in giving it time, you also allow the player's mind to get to a point where he goes, 'Man, I need to make a change.' And that's really powerful. Rather than just, 'Hey, man, you've got to change,' and he doesn't know why."

An underwhelming start provided sufficient reason. Margot hit .159/.245/.250 over 11 games before a pitch collided with his ribs, sending him to the disabled list. After he remained ineffective upon his return, he was dropped from first in the batting order to eighth.

Around this time, Stairs informed Margot of the need for more than a simple tweak.

“The biggest thing for him was to try to get him on his backside hitting-wise,” Stairs said. “We’ve been really working on, one, lowering his hands, less movement with his hands. And two, it was to realize it’s a leg push, not a leg lift. So you’re pushing off your front leg to get weight on your backside. It’s negative energy going backwards, positive energy going towards the baseball.”

Stairs said Margot responded positively to the recommendations, but the hitting coach knew change would not occur overnight. “The way he’s attacking the baseball,” Stairs said, “you figure: What, 16 years, he’s been that way?”

Tangible reform arrived on May 23 in the nation’s capital. An 0-for-3 showing two games earlier had sunk Margot’s average to .189. After receiving a day off, the center fielder unveiled an altered batting stance in the Padres’ series finale at Washington.

Noticeably, he had eliminated most of his pre-pitch waggle, instead resting his bat on his shoulder. He also appeared to have toned down his leg lift.

The result? Margot went 2-for-4. Then he logged a hit in each of the next two games. Since May 23, he is 13-for-43 (.302) with five doubles, eight walks and nine strikeouts. His hard-contact rate during that span is 44.1 percent, up from 31.1 percent.

The most promising development has been Margot’s recent success with same-handed pitchers. Before the finale at Nationals Park, he was a career .241/.284/.364 hitter against righties. Over the last 17 games, with less movement in his swing, he’s gone 11-for-33 (.333) with three doubles and six walks. His pitch recognition, Stairs said, is markedly improved.

“I’ve been fortunate to have some decent success in the past, and really this is the first time I’ve ever had to do something like this,” Margot said through an interpreter. “My main goal is to help the team, and if that means making some adjustments, analyzing my swing, that’s what I’m trying to do.”

“He was all-in and started working his ass off in Washington,” Stairs said. “...He got rid of a bad habit pretty quick.”

“There’s still work out in front of him, but the way he’s embraced it, how coachable he’s been, how he understands why he needs to do it, he’s doing a nice job getting after it,” Green said. “The process is moving quicker than I would’ve expected. This is a tough place to make an adjustment like that.”

Indeed, the Padres have allowed Margot to learn from a prolonged slump without a breather in Triple A. The club has previously optioned two other outfielders, Hunter Renfroe and Travis Jankowski, to El Paso. While those temporary demotions produced encouraging results, a positional surplus — along with the fact that Renfroe and Jankowski are slightly older — could lead to a trade this summer.

Margot, still only 23, likely isn’t going anywhere.

“We saw some value ultimately in the guys [Margot] was going to work with long-term here,” Green said. “And if he was able to compete as he worked through it, it was worth keeping him here. If he struggled to compete while he was going through the change, then we could’ve potentially gone the other direction. But he’s done a nice job. ... You can hear it, the way the baseball’s come off the bat. You can see it, the way the ball’s traveled. He’s behind the baseball. It’s been fun to watch.”

Cardinals power their way to 5-2 win over Padres with 3 HRs

9:10 PM

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS -- June is shaping up as a good month for St. Louis first baseman [Jose Martinez](#). Martinez and [Marcell Ozuna](#) hit two-run homers, rookie [Jack Flaherty](#) pitched into the seventh inning, and the Cardinals beat the [San Diego Padres](#) 5-2 on Monday night.

Martinez has five homers over his last five games. He had his NL-leading 10th three-hit game of the season and has reached base safely in each of his last 11 games.

"When those moments come to you, it's great," said Martinez, who is hitting .531 in his last nine games. "Everything feels right at the plate. You have to ride with it, you know.

"Baseball is full of ups and downs. I'm hot right now."

[Jedd Gyorko](#) added a one-out home run in the eighth.

The Cardinals have won 13 of their last 18 games against the Padres, who have dropped 46 of their last 62 games in St. Louis.

Flaherty (3-2) pitched 6 1/3 innings, his second-longest outing this season. He allowed one run and three hits with a walk and six strikeouts.

"He works hard all the time," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "He was great. He did a nice job. He mixed up speeds on everything. He got on base a couple of times and ran hard. He was working on one of our most humid nights so far.

"This was a test in many ways. We needed a solid start and he answered. He was very good today."

It was a bounce-back effort for Flaherty, who took an 11-3 loss in his previous start against Miami. Flaherty, 22, has pitched five or more innings in all eight starts this season.

Flaherty retired 14 consecutive batters before issuing a one-walk in the seventh. [John Brebbia](#) relieved and walked the bases loaded before getting two strikeouts to end the threat.

"I was throwing with more conviction tonight," Flaherty said. "Last time out, I said I didn't really execute well. I was throwing everything with intent. I was using conviction with every single pitch. I was just going out and trying to attack."

San Diego manager Andy Green was impressed with Flaherty.

"He had a good mix. A live fastball. They should be really excited about him," Green said. "I know they are. He's got a good slider whenever he wants to go to it. It's hard to sit on a particular pitch. He located well. He beat a lot of our guys."

[Bud Norris](#) earned his 13th save in 15 chances.

[Jordan Lyles](#) (2-3) gave up 11 hits and four runs in six innings.

St. Louis went ahead 2-1 in the third when Martinez homered into the right-field bleachers after [Tommy Pham](#) led off with a single.

After Martinez singled for his third hit in the fifth, Ozuna followed with a drive into the left-field bleachers on an 0-2 breaking pitch left over the plate, giving the Cardinals a 4-1 advantage. It was Ozuna's fourth homer in his last nine games.

"The two home run balls, pitches I want back," Lyles said. "Two good hitters, balls over the plate but other than that, there were just so many hits scattered throughout. A lot of balls hit hard, some weren't but one though nine, they've got a good lineup. That was a battle to get through that lineup a few times."

Cory Spangenberg hit a line-drive homer into the right-field seats with one out in the second, giving San Diego a 1-0 lead.

The Padres added a run in the eighth when [Travis Jankowski](#) hit a ground-rule double, took third on a wild pitch and scored on a ground out.

SIGNING

The Cardinals signed first-round draft pick (19th overall) Nolan Gorman, of Sandra Day O'Connor High School in Phoenix. After Gorman, 18, signed at Busch Stadium, he worked out with the club and took batting practice. The left-handed hitting third baseman will forgo the University of Arizona and play at Johnson City, the Cardinals' rookie level affiliate in the Appalachian League.

TRAINERS ROOM

Padres: C [Austin Hedges](#) (right elbow tendinitis) has been out since May 1. He took batting practice Monday at Class A Lake Elsinore, where he will begin his rehab assignment Tuesday.

Cardinals: SS [Paul DeJong](#) (left hand fracture) will be looked at by a doctor Thursday, Cardinals president John Mozeliak said. The Cardinals expect DeJong back at the end of June. Mozeliak said the Cardinals are hopeful to get RHP [Greg Holland](#) (right hip impingement) and RHP [Matt Bowman](#) (right hand finger blisters) back later this week.

UP NEXT

Padres: LHP [Matt Strahm](#) (1-2, 3.07) is projected to be the starter. In his two previous starts this season, Strahm did not earn a decision, going two innings in one game and 2 1/3 in the other.

Cardinals: RHP [Miles Mikolas](#) (7-1, 2.27) pitched 6 2/3 innings in a 2-1 win over his former team on May 10 in San Diego. He allowed one unearned run over seven innings in his last start against

Miami. He is one of just three NL pitchers who to issue fewer walks (nine) than games started this season.

#PadresOnDeck: 7 from Storm Make California League All-Star Game; Baez Honored; Logan Allen to AA-San Antonio Disabled List

By Bill Center

Monday was filled with news in the Padres' farm system.

For openers, seven members of the Lake Elsinore Storm will play for the Southern Division in the Advanced Single-A California League All-Star Game. The Storm representatives will be outfielders **Buddy Reed** and **Edward Olivares**; third baseman Hudson Potts; right-handed starting pitchers **Chris Paddack** and **Reggie Lawson**; left-handed starter **Adrian Morejon**, and right-handed reliever **Elliot Ashbeck**.

The Storm announced Paddack will not play as the Padres limit the workload of the pitcher returning from 2016 "Tommy John" elbow reconstruction surgery.

Also on Monday, 6-foot-8 eight-hander **Michel Baez** was named the California League Pitcher of the Week for allowed only one hit and no walks with eight strikeouts over six scoreless in his only start last week. The 22-year-old Cuban then started Monday night for the Storm and allowed two runs on eight hits and a walk with six strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings. Baez has a 2.91 earned run average on the season.

Meanwhile, left-handed starter **Logan Allen** (8-2, 2.93 ERA) was placed on the seven-day disabled list with Double-A San Antonio with an ankle injury.

Turning to Monday's Top-30 prospect performances:

— Pinch-hitter/second baseman **Luis Urías**, 21, the [Padres' third-ranked prospect by MLB Pipeline](#), was 2-for-4 with a triple in a doubleheader with Triple-A El Paso to raise his batting average to .262.

— Shortstop **Fernando Tatis Jr.**, 19, the Padres' top prospect, was 2-for-3 for San Antonio with a double, two walks and two runs scored to raise his batting average to .284.

— Olivares, 22, the [Padres' No17 prospect](#), was 2-for-5 with a double and two runs scored and is hitting .268.

— Right fielder **Tirso Ornelas**, 18, the [Padres' No12 prospect](#), was 2-for-4 with a run scored to raise his batting average to .267 for Single-A Fort Wayne.

— Right-handed starter **Mason Thompson**, 20, the [Padres' No22 prospect](#), allowed two runs on three hits and two walks with three strikeouts and is now 4-4 with a 5.59 ERA for Fort Wayne.

Top performances from other prospects:

— Reed was 3-for-4 for Lake Elsinore with a sacrifice fly, his league-leading 29th stolen base and two RBIs while raising his batting average to .338. First baseman **Brad Zunica** (.240) hit a two-run homer (his ninth) in three at-bats for the Storm with a hit-by-pitcher and two runs scored.

— Right-handed starter **Seth Simmons** (1.69 ERA) allowed no runs on two hits and three walks with a strikeout in four scoreless innings for El Paso.

— Third baseman **Ty France** (.267) was 2-for-3 with a double, two walks and a run scored for San Antonio.

Also, **Allen Córdoba**, who has been sidelined since the start of spring training with a concussion, was 1-for-5 in his first game of the season as the designated hitter at Lake Elsinore.

Around the Farm:

TRIPLE-A EL PASO (32-33): Chihuahuas 3-5, IOWA 0-6—RHP **Luis Perdomo** (3.55 ERA) started the first game of the doubleheader and allowed five runs on eight hits and two walks with three strikeouts in four innings. RHP **Miguel Diaz** (0-3, 8.10) followed and allowed a run on two walks with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings to take the loss. LHP **Kyle McGrath** (3.91) had a strikeout in two-thirds of a perfect inning. RHP **Colten Brewer** (1-3, 4.67) followed Simmons in the second game and issued a walk with two strikeouts in two otherwise perfect innings for the win. RHP **Robert Stock** (2.41) issued a walk with a strikeout in a hitless, scoreless ninth to get his fifth save. Behind Urías, 1B **Allen Craig** (.263) was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk, a RBI and a run scored. CF **Auston Bousfield** (.240) had two doubles in six at-bats with a walk, a RBI and a run scored. LF **Shane Peterson** (.255) was 2-for-5 with two RBIs and a run scored. C **Brett Nicholas** (.295) was 2-for-4. 1B-3B **Diego Goris** (.273) was 2-for-6 with a double and a RBI. 2B **Carlos Asuaje** (.318) was 1-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored. SS **Javy Guerra** (.199) had a two-run homer in six at-bats. C **A.J. Kennedy** (.107) had a double in three at-bats with a run scored. RF **Forrestt Allday** (.263) had a double in six at-bats with a walk and a RBI.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (39-24): CORPUS CHRISTI 6, Missions 4—C **Webster Rivas** (.304) had a double in four at-bats with three RBIs. LF **Josh Naylor** (.319) was 1-for-4 with a run scored. 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.272) was 1-for-4 with a walk. CF **Michael**

Gettys (.254) was 0-for-3 with a walk, a stolen base and a RBI. Starting RHP **Lake Bachar** (0-3, 7.30 ERA) allowed four runs on five hits and a walk with three strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings to suffer the loss. RHP **Trevor Frank** (3.00) allowed a run on a hit and a walk in 1 1/3 innings. RHP **Phil Maton** (3.00) allowed a run on two hits with a strikeout in an inning on his rehab assignment. RHP **Gerardo Reyes** (2.77) had a strikeout in two perfect innings.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (32-32): Rancho Cucamonga 8, STORM 7—Ashbeck (2.58 ERA) followed Baez and allowed two runs on three hits and a walk with two strikeouts in 1 2/3 innings. RHP **Blake Rogers**(3.38) allowed two runs (one earned) on three hits and a walk with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings. RHP **Colby Blueberg** (2-1, 3.18) allowed two runs on four hits with two strikeouts in two-thirds of an inning to take the loss. Potts (.267) was 1-for-5 with a run scored and a RBI in support of Reed, Zunica, Olivares and Córdoba. RF **Nate Easley** (.248) had a double in four at-bats with two RBIs and a run scored. SS **Kelvin Melean** (.250) had a double in four at-bats with a run scored.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (28-34): Lansing 4, TIN CAPS 2—LHP **Ben Sheckler** (3.92 ERA) followed Thompson and gave up two hits and a walk with a strikeout in two scoreless innings. RHP **Evan Miller** (1.40) gave up two runs on four hits with a strikeout in two innings. 2B **Esteury Ruiz** (.261) backed Ornelas, going 1-for-4 with a run scored. 1B **Luis Campusano** (.287) was 1-for-3 and was also hit by a pitch. LF **Jack Suwinski** (.221) was 1-for-3. DH **Nick Feight** (.211) was 1-for-4 with a RBI.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (5-3): Padres 5, BLUE JAYS 2—Starting RHP **Efrain Contreras** (0.00) allowed two hits and a walk with five strikeouts in five scoreless innings. SS **Yeisson Santana** (.258) was 1-for-4 with three RBIs. 2B **Luis Paez** (.143) was 2-for-5 with a double and two runs scored.

This Day in Padres History—

June 12

By Bill Center

June 12, 1970—Pittsburgh’s **Dock Ellis** throws the first no-hitter against the Padres in 2–0 Pirates win at San Diego Stadium.

June 12, 1976—**Dave Freisleben** pitches seven hitless innings before Philadelphia’s **Garry Maddox** singles to lead off the eighth. The right-hander allows one run on three hits and five walks over 10 innings, but the Padres lose 3–2 in the 15th at San Diego Stadium.

June 12, 1982—Left-hander **Chris Welsh** throws a complete-game, four-hit shutout as the Padres defeat Houston 4–0 at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium.

June 12, 1986—The Padres acquire infielder **Randy Ready** from Milwaukee for **Tim Pyznarski**.

June 12, 1987—Right-hander **Ed Whitson** allows four hits in a complete-game shutout in the Padres’ 5–0 win at San Francisco.

June 12, 2002—Right-hander **Brian Lawrence** becomes the 36th pitcher in Major League history to throw an “immaculate inning,” striking out the side on nine pitches in the third inning of the Padres’ 2–0 interleague win at Baltimore. Only one of the nine pitches was taken for a called strike. Lawrence allows five hits and a walk with seven strikeouts in eight shutout innings.

Padres-Cardinals Preview

STATS Jun 12, 2018 at 12:08p ET

Few hitters in baseball are hotter than Jose Martinez over the last nine games.

The [San Diego Padres](#) found out the hard way Monday night when Martinez went 3 for 4 and homered for the fifth time in five games, a two-run blast that gave the St. Louis Cardinals the lead for good in a 5-2 verdict.

It's safe to say that San Diego will work carefully to Martinez Tuesday night at Busch Stadium when the teams meet in the middle game of their three-game series.

Dating back to June 2, Martinez is 17 of 32, a .531 average. He has five homers and 11 RBIs, along with an OPS of nearly 1.700.

"When I swing at good pitches and go deep into the count, you're going to see the ball come off the bat," Martinez said to FS Midwest after Monday night's game. "Every once in a while, you're going to make an out, but I'm feeling good right now."

And why shouldn't he?

The guy who was dismissed by three big league organizations and was playing in the Frontier League as late as 2014 is currently batting .327 with 10 homers and 42 RBI. He's on a pace to drive in more than 100 runs and owns a .905 OPS for the season.

While Martinez is a project defensively at first base, his bat more than offsets his occasional defensive gaffes.

"Jose has been so hot all season long," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "It's been impressive to watch."

So has the pitching of Miles Mikolas (7-1, 2.27), who has pitched at an All-Star level. Mikolas cruised to a 4-1 win Thursday over Miami, permitting just one unearned run over seven innings on three hits and a walk. He whiffed five.

The former Padre farmhand will try for his second win in just over a month against his old team. He earned a 2-1 victory on May 10 at Petco Park, permitting only five hits and a run over 6 2/3 innings with a walk and four strikeouts.

San Diego (31-37) will counter with its bullpen.

Manager Andy Green will start left-hander [Matt Strahm](#) (1-2, 3.07) for the second time in a week with four or five other arms ready to back him up. With rookie left-hander [Joey Lucchesi](#) on the 10-day DL, the Padres' lack of MLB-ready starting pitching has led to the bullpen acting as their de facto fifth starter.

Strahm last pitched on Wednesday against Atlanta, going the first 2 1/3 innings in a 3-1 San Diego win and allowing a Freddie Freeman homer while fanning two. He tossed a scoreless inning in his only career outing against the Cardinals (36-28).

Green will at least have the luxury of a rested bullpen after needing just two pitchers to cover Monday night's 24 outs. That means if he can tag-team his way into the late innings with a lead, St. Louis will probably have to deal with lefty [Brad Hand](#), who has become one of baseball's top closers with 19 saves in 21 chances.

"It's a lot of weapons, a lot of different choices," Green said of his deep bullpen. "How long can you maintain it? We'll wait and see."

Takeaways from the Padres' 5-2 loss to the Cardinals

John Horvath FOX Sports San Diego Jun 11, 2018 at 11:57p ET

ST. LOUIS— Jose Martinez and [Marcell Ozuna](#) hit two-run home runs, [Jedd Gyorko](#) added in a solo shot, and [Jack Flaherty](#) pitched 6 1/3 innings of one-run ball, leading the [Cardinals](#) to a 5-2 win over the [Padres](#) on Monday evening.

St. Louis improved to 36-28 while San Diego fell to 31-37.

Takeaways

Lyles fails to get into groove

Jordan Lyles struggled on Monday, allowing 11 hits and four earned runs in six innings of work. His four runs allowed came via two home runs.

In the third, Jose Martinez hit a two-run home run to center field to give the Cardinals a 2-1 lead. Then, in the fifth, Marcell Ozuna crushed a 422-foot home run off of Lyles, accounting for the third and fourth runs of the night for the Cards.

Both Martinez (3-for-3) and Ozuna (2-for-3) had big games against the Padres right-hander. [Yadier Molina](#) and [Yairo Munoz](#) also recorded multi-hit performances.

“He (Lyles) battled. I am relatively pleased,” manager Andy Green stated. “He threw two flat pitches that were hit out. He gave us a opportunity to win, we just did not do much on offense.”

“For the most part, Jordan did a solid job for us today.”

For Lyles, he continues to struggle since May 15, when he took a perfect game into the 8th against the Colorado Rockies. He now has an 8.46 ERA in five starts since then, allowing 42 hits and eight home runs in 27 2/3 innings pitched.

The 27-year-old has given up 11 hits in back-to-back outings.

If there is a positive from Lyles' performance, it is that he was able to give the Padres six innings. With Andy Green planning another bullpen game on Tuesday, his length preserved a few arms in the bullpen. Only Lyles and [Phil Hughes](#) pitched on the evening.

Flaherty impresses

Jack Flaherty ran into some trouble in the second inning on Monday, allowing a home run to [Cory Spangenberg](#) and singles by both [Christian Villanueva](#) and [Raffy Lopez](#). He was able to get out of the inning with only one run allowed.

Following the aforementioned single by Lopez, Flaherty got into a groove and dominated. He retired 14 hitters in a row before walking Spangenberg in the top of the seventh, which ended his day at 98 pitches. The talented 22-year-old went 6 1/3 innings, allowing only three hits and one earned run. He struck out six and walked one, inducing 14 swinging strikes.

“They (the Cardinals) should be really excited about him,” Green said.

The former first round draft pick is now 3-2 with a 2.96 ERA in eight starts this season.

Villanueva reaches three times

Christian Villanueva reached base three times against the Cardinals. In the second, he lined a sharply-hit ball off the left field wall for a single. The ball was hit so hard that left fielder Marcell Ozuna was able to get it back into the infield quickly, holding Villanueva at first base with a long single.

In the seventh, the Mexico native worked an impressive eight pitch walk as part of a rally which loaded the bases. He ended up being stranded at second.

He reached for a third time in the ninth when a [Bud Norris](#) fastball clipped him in the elbow.

RISP struggles

The Padres entered play with the second best batting average in the National League with runners in scoring position (.264). They were unable to record a hit with a runner there on Monday, going 0-for-6.

The best chance that San Diego had to capitalize on the RISP success was in the seventh, when back-to-back-to-back walks loaded the bases with one out. However, Raffy Lopez and [Jose Pirela](#) both went down swinging to end the threat.

Strahm to start tomorrow

Manager Andy Green announced after the game that Matt Strahm will start for the Padres tomorrow. It is expected to be a bullpen game.