



# Padres Press Clips

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## Richard loses no-hit bid in 7th but beats Fish

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

MIAMI -- Every five days, before he goes to sleep, [Clayton Richard](#) envisions his forthcoming start. And every five days when he does so, the veteran left-hander envisions becoming the first Padre in history to throw a no-hitter.

"The night before I pitch, I visualize the game," Richard said. "I don't visualize giving up any hits. I go to bed with that being my last thought. That's what I dream of."

The 10-year veteran never came closer than he did on Sunday afternoon at Marlins Park, where the Padres reeled off their fourth straight series victory with a 3-1 win.

But for Richard -- of all pitchers -- to break the Padres' 49-year drought, it was always going to take a dash of luck. Richard is a sinkerballer who pitches to contact and gets more ground balls, on average, than any other starter in the Majors. That luck deserted him in the seventh inning.

Richard had thrown 6 2/3 innings of no-hit ball when [Miguel Rojas](#) bounced a hard chopper through the middle. Just like that -- after Richard had emphatically dominated Miami's lineup all afternoon -- his chance at history was over. The Padres, who have already seen [Tyson Ross](#) and [Jordan Lyles](#) carry their no-hitters into the eighth this season, remain the only franchise without one.

"He's such a contact-oriented pitcher that those aren't really the guys that profile to get no-hitters very often," Padres manager Andy Green said. "You're hoping

no ball rolls through the hole, but there was no play anyone could've made on that one."

Richard didn't make history, but he was spectacular nonetheless. The lone run scored when [JT Riddle](#) followed Rojas with a single of his own. But Richard escaped the jam to complete seven excellent innings with five strikeouts, two hits and three walks. The Padres have now won nine of 12 and are 21-16 since the start of May.

"The confidence is really starting to ooze around here," said [Eric Hosmer](#), whose two-run homer in the sixth was the difference on the scoreboard.

Until Rojas' single, Padres defenders gobbled up everything that came their way. [Freddy Galvis](#) made a pair of excellent plays at short. Second baseman [Jose Pirela](#) executed two nice plays on the run, robbing Riddle and [Lewis Brinson](#). [Manuel Margot](#) tracked down a liner to the warning track in center.

There was nothing Pirela or Galvis could do on Rojas' single, however. The Marlins' third baseman scorched it at 105 mph. But because of its negative launch angle, [Statcast™](#) awarded the play a 43-percent hit probability.

"Bummer," Richard said of his first thought. "I wish I could've kicked it or done something to stop it. But it was a decent pitch. He put a pretty good swing on it. No regrets."

It wasn't to be. As the ball whirred past Richard, he pirouetted on the mound in a mixture of frustration and disappointment. The Padres' drought had reached 7,881 games.

## MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

**Renfroe gets it right:** [Hunter Renfroe](#)'s struggles against right-handed pitching feel like ancient history. Renfroe has torched right-handers lately, and he went 2-for-4 on Sunday. He doubled in the second inning before scoring the game's first run on Galvis' sacrifice fly. For some perspective: Renfroe was hitting .143/.226/.357 against righties before he landed on the disabled list with right elbow inflammation in April. He's hitting .458/.500/.750 in 26 plate appearances since.

**Hometown Hoz:** Hosmer grew up watching the Marlins at Pro Player Stadium. He was in attendance for Game 7 of the 1997 World Series when Edgar Renteria walked off the Indians. On Sunday, he created a nice memory for himself *against* his hometown team. Hosmer crushed a 3-2 fastball from Marlins starter [Jose Urena](#) just past the home run structure in left-center field. It was Hosmer's first career dinger against Miami.

## SOUND SMART

At 34 years and 271 days old, Richard was attempting to become the oldest pitcher to throw a no-hitter since Randy Johnson's perfect game against the Braves in May 2004. Only 13 pitchers at Richard's age or older have completed a no-hitter. The last four -- Johnson, David Cone, David Wells and Dennis Martinez -- were all perfect games.

## YOU GOTTA SEE THIS

[Christian Villanueva](#) has struggled defensively this season, but he was sharp on Sunday with Richard on the mound. Then, in the eighth, he made arguably his best play of the season.

The rookie third baseman ranged to his left and dove for [Starlin Castro's](#) grounder. Just as quickly, he rose to his feet and fired to first for the out. Padres reliever [Kirby Yates](#) clapped into his glove six times in appreciation.

"Christian Villanueva played the best third base he's played in a long time," Green said. "It was really good seeing him make some tough plays."

## HE SAID IT

"He's been an unbelievable teammate to me, a partner in trying to build this and get this to where we want to be. And he's an unbelievable teammate to every guy in there. ... He's exactly what you want for the young guys to see." -- *Green, on Richard*

## UP NEXT

[Jordan Lyles](#) needs to bounce back from his worst start of the season, in which he allowed eight runs and 11 hits over 4 1/3 innings against Atlanta. Otherwise, he has been solid since the Padres moved him into their rotation a month ago. Lyles takes the ball Monday in St. Louis with first pitch slated for 5:15 p.m. PT. The Cardinals counter with righty [Jack Flaherty](#).

## Hosmer knocks 1st HR vs. hometown Marlins

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

MIAMI -- The Marlins celebrated the 25th anniversary of their inaugural season this weekend, wearing their throwback teal uniforms and inviting a handful of franchise icons to Marlins Park for the festivities.

[Eric Hosmer](#) spent the majority of those 25 seasons as an avid Marlins fan growing up in South Florida. On Sunday, Hosmer spoiled the afternoon for Marlins fans everywhere.

The Padres' first baseman crushed an opposite-field two-run homer in the sixth inning off Miami right-hander [Jose Urena](#). It was his first homer in 13 career games against his boyhood team, and it would prove to be the difference in San Diego's [3-1 victory](#).

"This weekend was crazy," Hosmer said. "It was my first time driving myself to the stadium, and them using those old uniforms. All the guys coming out for the anniversary, those are all the guys I grew up watching -- Alex Fernandez, Benito Santiago, Juan Pierre, Cliff [Floyd], all those guys. It was really cool for me. I kind of turned back the clock this series, getting to see all those guys on the field."

Hosmer estimated he had approximately 50-60 friends and family members in attendance at Marlins Park. When his sixth-inning blast landed to the left of the home run structure in left-center field, they made their voices heard.

Hosmer broke into a smile around first base. When he crossed the plate, he raised his right hand toward the box where his immediate family was sitting.

"All I had to do was look up, and I was looking right at them," Hosmer said.

"That was a cool moment for me."

Even more special, Hosmer said, was the fact that this weekend marked the first time his parents were able to see him play in person in a Padres uniform.

"Back home, it means a lot, it definitely does," Hosmer said. "It definitely gives me a little more energy any time I get to come back home to Florida and play in front of them."

## Yates closing games depending on matchups

AJ Cassavell MLB.com

MIAMI -- By now, it's unofficially official: [Kirby Yates](#) is the Padres' part-time closer.

Make no mistake, [Brad Hand](#) is still the Padres' primary ninth-inning guy. But Saturday marked the third time in 10 games that Hand has pitched the eighth and recorded a hold. Yates finished all three of those games.

Since the start of the year, Padres manager Andy Green had spoken of his desire to flip his setup man and closer when the matchups dictated as much. Lately, he has gotten the chance to put it into action, and it has resulted in Padres victories all three times. Yates downplayed the switch.

"You're still trying to get three outs," Yates said. "When you pitch the eighth inning, it's as easy to fail in the eighth inning as it is in the ninth inning. Only difference is: You give up the lead in the ninth inning, the game's over."

It helps, of course, that both Hand and Yates are bona fide All-Star candidates and two of the best relief pitchers in the National League. In Sunday's [3-1 win](#) over the Marlins, Yates pitched the eighth and Hand the ninth. Both were dominant. Hand now owns a 1.89 ERA with 51 strikeouts in 33 1/3 innings. Yates had posted a 1.08 mark with 31 strikeouts in 25 frames.

They're also entirely different pitchers. Hand is a lefty who relies heavily on his breaking ball. Yates is a righty who hardly uses his breaking ball.

So what, exactly, dictates when Hand pitches the eighth and Yates the ninth? Take Saturday for example. The heart of the Marlins' order -- [J.T.](#)



[Realmuto](#), [Justin Bour](#) and [Brian Anderson](#) -- was due up in the eighth inning. Among those three, only Bour is a lefty. Green called on Hand anyway.

"It has to be a decided advantage," Green said of using Hand in the eighth.

"And it's not splits, because Kirby gets lefties out. It's profiles. J.T. Realmuto, for instance, is a guy that hasn't handled lefties this year, has hit righties very well and doesn't typically handle lefty spin. That's Brad Hand. Justin Bour is an elevated fastball hitter? Well, Kirby Yates is an elevated fastball pitcher. It's not just right versus left. It's a little bit more in depth than that."

There's a human element to it, too. Green had always planned on flipping Hand and Yates. But until Yates' recent run of success in the ninth, the Padres didn't know how he'd respond to pitching in the closer role.

In theory, as Yates said, three outs are three outs. In practice, any reliever will tell you it's not quite so simple in the ninth. Now that Yates has proven himself, Green might begin to employ the strategy a bit more frequently.

"There's value in having gotten it done," Green said. "And there's value for us as an organization that somebody else has done it. It's not just Brad. The last three outs -- they're different. Anybody that's stood on the mound and gotten the last three outs of a game knows there's a difference."

Yates, perhaps to his credit, has always insisted that the difference is negligible. Ultimately, that's probably a necessary mindset for success as a closer.

"You can come in the game in the sixth or seventh inning, two guys on, and you get out of it, and that's a more nerve-wracking situation than a clean inning -- and maybe more important," Yates said.

Of course, Yates can still enjoy being on the mound in the ninth when the game is decided.

"If you're a bullpen guy, that's what you should strive for," Yates said. "That's what you should want. You've got the ball in your hands to win the game."

## LHP Gore shows no rust in return from DL

Mike Rosenbaum MLB.com

No. 17 overall prospect MacKenzie Gore ([Padres' No. 2](#)) returned from the disabled list to fire two hitless innings with a walk and three strikeouts in Class A Fort Wayne's 15-0 rout of Lansing. The 19-year-old lefty threw 36 pitches, 24 for strikes, after missing the past month due to a blister on his left middle finger. It marked Gore's second trip to the disabled list for the issue this season. Pacing the TinCaps at the plate was [Esteury Ruiz](#) (No. 10), who scored a career-high five runs and went 3-for-4 with a home run, double and four RBIs.

## It's not hard to visualize the Padres finally ending their no-hit drought

Dennis Lin, *The Athletic*

MIAMI — Clayton Richard, a pitcher who has succeeded and prolonged his career because of his routines, offered a polite apology Sunday inside the visiting clubhouse at Marlins Park.

"Sorry, guys, I've got to take my vitamins."

After a swig of water, the Padres left-hander turned to face a group of reporters. A couple of minutes later, he revealed another habit: He had fallen asleep the previous night with potential glory on his mind.

"Before I go to bed, the night before I pitch, I visualize the game," Richard said. "I don't visualize giving up any hits, so I go to bed with that being my last thought. It's what I dream of. Clearly, I think about more things than just that. Us winning takes precedence over those individual type things, but to be a part of something like that would be really cool."

In Sunday's 3-1 victory over the Miami Marlins, Richard got half his wish.

The Padres won their fourth consecutive series, drawing to within five games of .500 for the first time since mid-April. First baseman Eric Hosmer clubbed a two-run homer and participated in a sterling defensive effort. And, for the third time in less than two months, the Padres threatened to erase a nagging stain on their history.

With two out in the bottom of the seventh, Marlins third baseman Miguel Rojas made contact with a sinker on the outer edge of the strike zone. A ground ball, the most common result of an encounter with Richard, came off Rojas' bat. Ten other times, that had led to an out.

On this occasion, the ball bounded through the middle of the infield. Richard twirled and hopped in disappointment as he watched it travel into center field. After 6 2/3 innings, he had surrendered the Marlins' first hit of the day. The search for the Padres' first no-hitter would continue, 7,881 games and counting. "Bummer," Richard said, recalling his reaction. "I wish I could've kicked it or done something to stop it. It was a decent pitch, he put a pretty good swing on it. No regrets. We executed the pitch."

So it goes for Richard, the most grounder-prone pitcher among qualifying major-league starters.

"Bottom line, (Rojas) hit it into the ground," Padres catcher Raffy Lopez said. "That's what Clayton does."

This particular grounder, of course, trickled through an opening.

So it's gone for the Padres, still, after all these games, the only franchise without a no-hitter.

Yet this season has contained as many signs as ever that San Diego might be on the verge of ending a streak that's spanned almost a half-century.

Across the game, strikeout rates and average velocities are at all-time highs. The use of defensive shifts is pervasive. Offenses have discarded contact-oriented swings in favor of attempts at hitting the ball over both fielders and fences.

Twice in the past seven weeks, the Padres had taken a no-hit bid into the eighth inning. In between, they found themselves on the wrong end of a combined no-hitter in Monterrey, Mexico.

Tyson Ross, who rejoined the organization over the winter on a minor-league deal, nearly achieved a spotless transfer to the bullpen April 20 at Arizona.

Jordan Lyles, who signed for a mere \$1 million, came close May 15 at home against Colorado.

Although it ended before the eighth inning, Richard's bid might have been the unlikeliest.

Four years ago, following surgery to address thoracic outlet syndrome, Richard was not pitching at all. When he returned to the majors in 2015, he had reinvented himself as a sinkerballer with a lower arm slot. Now 34, he relies on movement over velocity. The fastest pitch he threw Sunday was clocked at 91 mph.

Typically, he produces bushels of grounders. Inevitably, more than a few will find holes.

That almost never happened this afternoon. Richard executed pitch after pitch against a woeful Marlins lineup. The lefty struck out five. He credited plays made by infielders Hosmer, José Pirela, Freddy Galvis and Christian Villanueva. He also praised Lopez, who'd been behind the plate for Lyles' run at history.

Richard was reminded of his rookie season, when he witnessed a perfect game thrown by Chicago White Sox teammate Mark Buehrle.

"That was one of the coolest things ever," Richard said. "He's not a guy who's going to strike out a lot of guys. He's going to throw strikes and keep guys off balance and stick to a plan. Watching that, seeing him pitch at such a high level, the defense really picked it up behind him. You see what it takes to do something special like that.

"Everyone gives a pitcher the accolades, but in reality, a no-hitter or a perfect game, it's a reflection of team defense. ... That's what's special about it, is the team plays at a very high level to get that accomplished."

In winning nine of their past 12 games, the Padres lately have done more of that. Richard, who yielded an RBI single after Rojas' hit and finished with seven innings of two-hit ball, has lowered his ERA from 6.21 to 4.40 over his past seven starts. More important, the Padres have witnessed recent progress from younger players such as Hunter Renfroe, who had two more hits against right-handers Sunday, and Manuel Margot, who similarly has tweaked his batting stance.

"I just think the confidence is really starting to ooze around here," said Hosmer, a South Florida native who played in front of dozens of family members and friends this weekend. "A lot of guys are confident in their preparation and taking it out into the game on the offensive and defensive side."

The strength of the Padres' schedule has eased. Their last 12 games included six against the Marlins and three against another last-place club, the Cincinnati Reds. The upcoming two series, at St. Louis and then at Atlanta, represent stiffer challenges.

In the meantime, the Padres can continue to entertain a hypothetical. Three times in the past seven weeks, they have come within a handful of outs of making history. Nearly 8,000 games may suggest otherwise, but the dream feels especially achievable in 2018.

"Tyson was dominant that day. Jordan was extremely dominant his day," Richard said. "You can definitely see that possibly happening. Hopefully it does."

## Richard flirts with history, Padres still achieve rarity with win over Marlins

[Kevin Acee](#)

[Clayton Richard](#)'s sinker sank and his slider slid, seemingly drawing the [Miami Marlins](#) batters into a trance.

The [Padres](#) infielders played defense as if hypnotized into a higher plane.

And for a little while, everyone in a Padres uniform and many watching or listening or following social media feeds while enjoying a Sunday afternoon in San Diego, was rapt at what might become history in a ballpark across the country.

"You dream about it," Richard said later. "I'm aware of it. ... It's one of those things you want to be a part of. If you're the one who does it, more the better."

Again, though, and not as close as it had come twice before this season and 20 other times since the franchise's inception in 1969, a no-hitter was lost in the latter part of what would end up a 3-1 Padres victory.

With two outs in the seventh inning, Marlins third baseman Miguel Rojas skimmed a fastball from Richard back over the mound, just to the right of Richard's foot and through to the outfield grass. Richard did a quick pirouette and thought, he would later say, "Bummer."

His 6 2/3 innings without a hit followed [Tyson Ross](#)' 7 2/3-inning hitless flirtation on April 20 in Arizona and [Jordan Lyles](#)' perfection through 7 1/3 innings on May 15 against the Rockies.

"I wish I could have kicked it or done something to stop it," Richard said.



He was speaking of the ball but could also have been referring to the streak of 7,881 games without a no-hitter that leaves the Padres as the only major-league team without one.

The 34-year-old lefty, whose career was reborn two summers ago when he rejoined the Padres, goes through games seemingly unaffected by anything. As in every other start, he had shown virtually no emotion Sunday.

That didn't mean he didn't want this badly.

Richard literally dreams about pitching a no-hitter.

"Yeah, of course," he said with a laugh. "Probably every five days. Before I go to bed the night before I pitch, I visualize a game. I don't visualize giving up any hits. I got to bed, and that is my last thought. It's what I dream of.

"Clearly, I think of more than that. Us winning games takes precedent over individual-type things like that. But to be part of something like that would be really cool."

While Sunday did not end up being historic, it had been a while since the Padres had done what their victory accomplished.

Powered by the outing from Richard (5-6), a number of nice plays by the always-reliable [Freddy Galvis](#) at shortstop, the sometimes-shaky Christian Villanueva at third base and the often-awkward Jose Pirela at second, [Eric Hosmer](#)'s two-run homer and two perfect innings from relievers Kirby Yates and Brad Hand to close it out, the Padres won a fourth straight series for the first time since August 2015.

Before this run – three of four against the Marlins, two of three against the [Reds](#) and two of three against the [Braves](#) at home and two of three here this weekend – the Padres had won just four of the season’s first 17 series.

“It’s nice to win a series,” manager Andy Green said. “At the end of the year they don’t ask how many you won in a row. ... Our guys are playing good baseball right now. The next two series are going to be a real test – very good teams competing for division leads. We have to go beat them on their turf.”

The Padres’ 10-game trip continues with three in St. Louis starting Monday and then four in Atlanta.

The Padres split a four-game series with the [Cardinals](#) at Petco Park last month.

Victories in the final two games of that series began a stretch in which the Padres have won 17 of their past 27 games.

They were 10-20 at the end of April and are now 31-36, within five games of .500 for the first time since they were 8-13 on April 20 and this close to break-even this late in a season for the first time since 2015.

“I just think the confidence is really starting to ooze out here,” Hosmer said. “A lot of guys are confident in the preparation and taking it out to the game. It’s a lot of fun to see these guys play the game, especially these young guys having a game plan and going out and executing it. It’s really fun to watch.”

After being shut out in the series opener here Friday, almost everything went right for the Padres over the weekend.

After sealing Saturday's victory with a run he scored following a two out double in the eighth inning, Hunter Renfroe again doubled and scored (on Galvis' sacrifice fly) to give the Padres a 1-0 lead in the second inning Sunday.

Travis Jankowski led off the sixth inning with a single, and Hosmer's 413-foot shot to left-center field, his seventh homer of the season, gave the Padres a 3-0 lead.

Richard, who would surrender a run-scoring single before getting out of the seventh, not only won Sunday's game but helped preserve a Padres bullpen that is likely going to be asked to cover another game on Tuesday in place of injured starter Joey Lucchesi.

It was the seventh straight start Richard went six or more innings.

"For him to come out and do that was big for us," Green said. "He gave us a chance to win another series."

And came closer than most to doing much more.

## Padres notes: Hosmer homercoming; remarkable Richard, Renfroe

### Kevin Acee

As [Eric Hosmer](#)'s sixth-inning home run rattled around within the lime green walls beyond center field, a group of about 50 people in adjacent suites along the first base line made as much noise as there had been all day at Marlins Park.

Hosmer rounded first base and smiled as he glanced back over his shoulder toward the suites he rented for family members & friends this weekend. And when he crossed home plate, his two-run homer having given the [Padres](#) a 3-0 lead in a game they would win 3-1, he pointed to the group.

"Obviously, my family means a lot to me," said Hosmer, whose blast Sunday was his seventh homer of the season. "It's the first time my parents got to see me play in a Padres uniform. ... It means a lot. It definitely does. It definitely gives me a little more energy any time I come back to Florida and get to play in front of them."

Hosmer grew up in nearby Cooper City and still lives in South Florida. As players usually do when the team plays in their hometown, he stayed in his own house this weekend.

Adding to the nostalgia, the Marlins wore the team's 90s-era teal pinstriped uniforms and had several of the franchise's best players back for ceremonies commemorating their 1993 inception.

Hosmer laughed and acknowledged it would have been even better to have homered at Pro Player Stadium, where the Marlins played when he was a kid cheering for them.

“It was crazy, the first time driving myself to the stadium,” said Hosmer, who is 20-for-45 over the past 12 games. “Them using the old uniforms, all the guys coming back for the 25th anniversary. Those are the guys I grew up watching – Alex Fernandez, Benito Santiago, [Juan Pierre](#), Cliff (Floyd), all those guys. It was really cool for me. It kind of turned back the clock for me.”

Hosmer has at least one hit in all seven games he’s played against the Marlins, but Sunday was his first home run against them. This weekend was his first time playing at Marlins Park.

### Extra bases

- With Sunday’s victory, [Clayton Richard](#) won for the fourth time in his past six starts and the 56<sup>th</sup> time in 162 starts with the Padres. The 56 victories broke a tie with Bruce Hurst for second all-time among Padres left-handers. Randy Jones’ 92 wins are most by a Padres left-hander and second to righty Eric Show’s 100. Richard ranks eighth overall with Andy Hawkins (60) next up.
- Richard and Marlins starter Jose Urena are the model for pace of play. Sunday’s game lasted just two hours, 20 minutes. It was the fastest game at Marlins Park this year. The Marlins’ quickest game on the road this season was a 2:20 affair May 30 at Petco Park in a game started by Richard and Urena that the Padres won 3-2. The two games are tied as the Padres’ quickest of the season as well.
- Jose Pirela extended his hitting streak to seven games, the longest active streak on the team. He also pushed his season total to 257 at-bats without a home run, most in the majors. Dating to last season, his 287 at-bats without a home run are second-most behind Tampa Bay’s Mallex Smith (306).

- [Hunter Renfroe](#) went 2-for-4 with a double and scored the Padres' first run Sunday. He is 12-for-32 since returning from the disabled list on May 28. Despite having the team's eighth-most at-bats in that span, Renfroe has the most doubles (five), is tied for the second-most hits and second-most RBI (seven) and third-most runs (seven).

## Revisiting a Padres' draft-and-farm hype train

Tom Krasovic

*Quick hits on the [Padres](#), and baseball's amateur draft.*

1. NFL men say wait four years to judge a football draft.
2. Give baseball six or seven years, if not longer, because many draftees just finished high school.
3. Rather than read much into the recent Padres draft — the fourth under General Manager A.J. Preller — let's dig into what a distant draft in fact has served up and also what the much-lauded farm system delivered. In 2011-12, like now, the Pads were much-praised for their farm system and recent drafting although the current group is said to have more potential star power.
4. Analyst Keith Law of ESPN is a former [Blue Jays](#) executive who lauded the Pads' youth moment back then.
5. Law ranked San Diego's farm system No. 1 in 2012.
6. He wrote: "Without [Anthony Rizzo](#), they no longer have a top-25 prospect in their system, but in terms of total future value of players likely to play significant roles in the big leagues, they're ahead of everyone else... there are so many prospects here with high floors, players who would be top-10 or top-five in other systems but are 11-20 here (such as Robbie Erlin or [Edinson Rincon](#)), that they are *well-positioned to compete even with modest major league payrolls during the next five to six years.*" (My italics).
7. What did Law mean by "compete" in the big leagues?
8. I doubt he had in mind the Pads going the next six seasons without finishing .500 or better or getting close to the playoff race. The reality is, that's how it played out from 2012-17.
- 9.

10. In early 2012, the Pads' most-recent draft class impressed Law, too.
11. "Some of these players, especially from the 2011 draft, will develop into stars," he wrote.
- 12.
13. The Pads' class has yet to produce a star. And, it lags the classes of three of four West rivals.
- 14.
15. I think catcher [Austin Hedges](#), drafted in the second round then, still has a not-insignificant chance to become an All-Star.
16. Hedges is a sensational catcher. Full stop. His hitting (plus an elbow injury) has set him back, but there's time for Hedges, who'll be 26 in August, to develop into a C-minus hitter. And, that would cut it.
17. The Pads paid Hedges well above [MLB](#)'s draft slot to get him to forgo a scholarship to UCLA.
18. In the same draft that Law graded so highly, the Pads went above slot to sign first-round draftee [Joe Ross](#), selected an athletic infielder in [Jace Peterson](#) with a supplemental first-round pick, and got to pick 10th, taking [Cory Spangenberg](#)([Francisco Lindor](#), a shortstop from Puerto Rico, was the targeted first choice but went eighth to the Indians).
19. So, the results, so far, have been lukewarm or less. The Pads' 2011 draft has yielded a total of 4.8 win shares in the big leagues, per Baseball-Reference.
- 20.
21. The rival Giants, picking 29<sup>th</sup> eight months after winning the 2010 [World Series](#), drafted an advanced middle infielder, [Joe Panik](#), who has produced 7.2 win shares for them. The [Rockies](#) have received 6.8 win shares from shortstop [Trevor Story](#), who went 45<sup>th</sup>. With 5.0 shares, teammate and



pitcher [Tyler Anderson](#), who went 20th, has more win shares than any Pads draftee of 2011 (no disrespect to Anderson, 28, but I'd rather have Hedges).

22.

23. By no means was Law — no one's idea of a Pads shill or ever a fanboy draftnik/farm booster — alone in touting the Pads' youth movement.

24.

25. FanGraphs, an analytics site, also rated the 2012 San Diego farm system first. "This is an organization on the upswing," it wrote.

26.

27. Kevin Goldstein of the analytics site Baseball Prospectus also placed San Diego's farm system first entering the 2012 season.

28.

29. Goldstein would join the scouting department of the [Astros](#), whose youth movement powered their drive to the franchise's World Series title last year.

30.

31. Goldstein wrote of the '12 Pads farm: "They might lack that one marquee name, but no system in baseball can boast of having as many players at the upper levels who project as average or better big leaguers."

32.

33. Baseball America was clapping hands as well, listing the Pads third overall. "Scoring runs is a problem in Petco Park, but the Padres hope they have the makings of a formidable offense in 1B [Yonder Alonso](#), OF [Rymer Liriano](#), C Yasmani Grandal, 2B Cory Spangenberg and 3B [Jedd Gyorko](#). "Most scouts regarded last year's second-round pick, C Austin Hedges, as the best high school defensive catcher in years."

34.

35. Disclaimer: I wrote for Baseball America in 2011.

36.

37. So, when Peter Seidler and Ron Fowler took over ownership of the Pads' franchise in August 2012, they also inherited a universally praised farm system.
38. The purpose of a farm system is to help build major league success. The Pads are still trying get that done under Fowler, Seidler and Preller, who came aboard in August 2014.
39. The timing was good for Fowler-Seidler on the macro level as well. Since June 2012, industry rule changes have improved the opportunities of the Pads and franchises of their ilk to build a strong farm system.
40. The Pads, starting in 2012, were given a "competitive balance draft" pick near the top of the draft. They didn't do anything to earn it. From 2012-16, teams among the 10 lowest-revenue clubs and the 10 smallest markets got an extra pick. The current CBA extended the practice.
41. Clubs drafting in the "competitive-balance rounds" also got more international bonus pool money. The international amateur market, remember, is where Preller has expertise and where the Seidler-Fowler group has been at its most aggressive.
42. Improving the Pads' odds further, high-end draft picks became more valuable under the two labor pacts spanning 2012-21 because the amount a team could spend on a draft class was effectively capped, and the draft spending pool for each team was linked to its draft slot. So, if a team lost more games, it had more money to invest into a draft.
43. In other words, incentives for non-contender to stay out of the middle lane went up.
44. One great thing about touting ballplayers who are prospects is that another prospect is always coming along, and if a touted prospect doesn't pan out, it can be blamed on something other than the evaluation, sometimes for valid reason. Injuries, perhaps. Or the big-league manager, a hitting coach, impatience, bad luck.

45. As for the Pads' recent draft, two scouts surveyed praised Xavier Edwards, a shortstop. He went 38<sup>th</sup> out of North Broward (Fla.) prep.
46. One scout didn't like the pitching delivery of top Padres draftee Ryan Weathers, who went seventh, but I don't sense the Pads (or another scout) had any worries.

## MacKenzie Gore returns in Fort Wayne blowout win

Jeff Sanders

MacKenzie Gore returned to action Sunday afternoon. It was a good first step.

The left-handed pitching prospect, considered among the tops in the game, twirled two scoreless innings in [low Single-A Fort Wayne's 15-0 win](#). Gore, 19, struck out three, hit a batter and walked a batter while throwing 24 of his 36 pitches for strikes.

Gore recorded all three of his strikeouts in the first inning, stranding his walk. In the second, Gore – whose fastball sat 93-95 mph – picked off the batter he hit.

It was Gore's first appearance since May 14. He'd been on Fort Wayne's disabled list a second time due to blisters on his pitching hand.

Gore is 0-1 with an 8.10 ERA, 13 strikeouts, three walks and 15 hits allowed in 10 innings to start the year in the Midwest League.

All-Star left-hander **Aaron Leasher** (3-3, 2.76) followed Gore with six strikeouts over six shutout innings.

**Esteury Ruiz** (.261) went 3-for-5, hit his sixth homer, doubled, drove in four runs and scored five.

**Justin Lopez** (.244) and **Gabriel Arias** (.216) both drove in two runs on three hits and catcher **Juan Fernandez** (.230) went 3-for-5 with two doubles and two runs scored.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (39-23)

- **Corpus Christi 8, Missions 2:** RHP **Jason Jester** (2-1, 4.45) allowed seven runs in 1 1/3 innings after RHP **Jacob Nix** (0.63) allowed a run in 5 1/3 innings. Nix struck out four and scattered two hits and a walk. RHP **Erik Johnson** (2.25) struck out two over 1 1/3 innings. LF **Josh Naylor** (.320) hit his 10<sup>th</sup> homer and CF **Michael Gettys** (.257) went 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored.

#### HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (32-31)

- **Storm 7, Lancaster 1:** RHP **Ronald Bolanos** (2-3, 6.41) struck out eight and allowed a run on six hits and no walks in seven innings. RHP **Emmanuel Ramirez** (4.68) turned in two scoreless innings. DH **Luis Torrens** (.283) hit his fourth homer, doubled and drove in three runs and 3B **Hudson Potts** (.268) went 2-for-4 with his 10<sup>th</sup> homer and three runs. C **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.266) went 3-for-5 with a double and two RBIs.

#### Transactions

- To make room for Gore's activation, RHP **Diomar Lopez** was transferred from Fort Wayne to extended [spring training](#).

## Richard takes no-hit try into 7th, Padres beat Marlins 3-1

AP

MIAMI -- Sure, [Clayton Richard](#) has thought about throwing the first no-hitter in Padres' history.

He gave it good try Sunday.

Richard became the latest San Diego pitcher to flirt with a no-hitter, losing his bid with two outs in the seventh inning during a 3-1 win over the [Miami Marlins](#). "You look at ifs, whats, and maybes, it's not worth it," Richard said. "It's part of the game."

The Padres are the only team in the majors that has never pitched a no-hitter. They have played 7,881 games since starting out in 1969.

"I'm aware of it, I dream about it," said Richard, who has been with the Padres for parts of eight seasons. "It's one of those things that you want to be a part of and if you're the one that does it, it's even better."

Richard (5-6) took a shutout into the seventh, but [Miguel Rojas](#) grounded a clean single up the middle to spoil Richard's no-hit try.

"Bummer," Richards said. "I wish I could have kicked it or done something to stop it. It was a decent pitch, he put a pretty good swing on it, and did enough to get through the infield. No regrets. I executed the pitch."

[JT Riddle](#) followed with an RBI single for the Marlins' only two hits of the game. "I thought we chased a lot of balls down, a lot of easy outs," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said. "Obviously these guys know (how Richard pitches) so his movement was probably pretty good today."

San Diego has come close to a no-hitter a few times this season.

Last month, [Jordan Lyles](#) was perfect for 7 1/3 innings until Colorado's [Trevor Story](#) singled. In April, [Tyson Ross](#) didn't give up a hit until Arizona's Christian Walker doubled on a ball misplayed by center fielder [Franchy Cordero](#).

Richard gave up two hits in seven innings, striking out five and walking three.

"He got quick outs, that's what he does," Marlins outfielder [Cameron Maybin](#) said. "He works fast. He pounds the strike zone. He had some good stuff going today."

The 34-year-old lefty tied for the NL lead in losses last year with 15, but turned in another sharp performance, giving him seven consecutive starts pitching at least six innings.

"He was really good," Padres manager Andy Green said. "You start to think about that in the fifth or sixth if the possibility really exists. He's such a contact-oriented pitcher that those aren't the guys who really profile in no-hitters very often."

"But you're hoping no ball rolls through," he said. "There was no play anybody could have made on that one. So at least it's not one of those where a guy is going home after the play thinking I could have made a diving play on it," he said.

[Brad Hand](#) pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances, closing a game that took 2 hours, 24 minutes.

[Eric Hosmer](#) hit a two-run homer as the last-place Padres won a fourth consecutive series for the first time since August 2015. Hosmer hit his eighth home run and went 5 for 12 in the three-game set in front of family and friends, including about 60 on Sunday.

"It means a lot, it definitely does," Hosmer said. "It definitely gives me a little more energy every time I come home to Florida and get to play in front of them."

[Jose Urena](#) (1-8) allowed three runs and six hits in six innings.

## MARLINS ALUMNI SOFTBALL GAME

Kurt Abbott hit two home runs for Team Teal in a 10-4 win over Team Black in a Marlins alumni softball game as part of the weekend's 25th anniversary festivities before the game.

A number of players from the franchise's World Series championship teams in 1997 and 2003 were on hand, including Livan Hernandez, Edgar Renteria, Mike Lowell and [Luis Castillo](#).

"Those were all of the guys I grew up watching -- Alex Fernandez, Benito Santiago, Juan Pierre, Cliff (Floyd), so it was really cool for me to kind of turn back the clock for me this series and get to see all of those out there on the field," Hosmer said.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Marlins: RHP [Dan Straily](#) took a line drive from Hosmer off the chest in Saturday's game, and X-rays were negative. The plan is he will be able to make his next start on Thursday against San Francisco. "I think so," Mattingly said. "We still have four more days. Unless he felt he was going to hurt something and couldn't extend when he throws his bullpen, I think we're in pretty good shape." ... 1B/OF Garrett Cooper (wrist) has been taking batting practice as he works his way back to the team. "He's progressing, I don't think he's that far away from starting rehab games," Mattingly said.

## UP NEXT



Padres: RHP Jordan Lyles (2-2, 4.70 ERA) will face the Cardinals on Monday to begin a three-game series in St. Louis.

Marlins: LHP Wei-Yen Chen (1-3, 5.86) will take the mound Monday to begin a four-game series with the Giants.

## Takeaways from the Padres' 3-1 victory over the Marlins

Horvath, FSSD

MIAMI– [Clayton Richard](#) took a no-hit bid into the 7th inning and [Eric Hosmer](#) went 2-for-4 with a home run, leading the [Padres](#) to a 3-1 win over the Marlins at Marlins Park on Sunday afternoon.

San Diego improved to 31-36 while Miami fell to 23-42.

### *Takeaways*

#### **Clayton Richard flirts with no-no**

Clayton Richard was his vintage self on Sunday afternoon at Marlins Park.

For a little while, it seemed like his outing might be a historic one. He fired 6 2/3 hit-less innings before Marlins third baseman Miguel Rojas grounded a single up the middle. According to baseball savant, the ball off the bat of Rojas had only a 39% hit probability.... But it was hit in the perfect spot.

[Tyson Ross](#) also lost a no-hit bid this season on a fly ball that had a 99% catch probability.

"He's such a contact-oriented pitcher," reflected Green after the game. "Those aren't really the guys that profile to get no hitters very often, but you're hoping no balls roll through a hole. There was no play anyone could make on that one."

Even though he did not get the prize of being the first Padres pitcher to throw a no-hitter, the 34-year-old threw seven strong innings, allowing only two hits and one earned run. He walked two and struck out five, throwing 55 of 94 pitches for

strikes. Richard induced 11 ground ball outs on the day as well as 13 swinging strikes.

“For him to come out and do that today was big for us,” Green continued. “He gave the bullpen a blow, and our guys are in good shape for possibly another bullpen day in the next couple of days.”

Clayton Richard has now tossed at least six innings in seven consecutive starts, which is the longest active streak among left-handers in the major leagues. In that seven-start span, Richard has a 3.04 ERA and has held opponents to a minuscule .194 batting average.

### **Flashing the leather**

San Diego played arguably their best game of the season on defense to back Richard and the pitching staff. More specifically, the Padres left side of the infield played a big role in the win. Shortstop Freddy Galvis made a couple of key plays to back his starter.

Third baseman Christian Villanueva, whose defense has been iffy at times this season, made the highlight-reel play of the game in the 8th. The Mexico native robbed Starlin Castro of a leadoff single with a sparkling diving play.

“I thought Christian Villanueva played the best third base he’s played in a long time,” complimented Green.

### **Hosmer keeps the good times rolling**

Eric Hosmer entered Sunday’s game hitting 12-for-23 in six games against the Marlins in 2018.

In front of friends and family members, he continued to be a thorn in the side of the Fish.

In the fourth, Hosmer laced an 111-mph single to right field for a base hit. Then, in the sixth, Hosmer hit an opposite-field, two-run home run that ended up being the difference in the game. The home run traveled 413 feet and was Hosmer's first home run in his hometown of Miami.

The victory continued a developing trend for San Diego. When Hosmer hits, the Padres usually win. Entering play, Hosmer was hitting .385 in wins and only .212 in losses.

### **Renfroe hits as well**

Hunter Renfroe continued an impressive return from the DL with a 2-for-4 afternoon. He also scored the first run of the day for the Friars in the second inning.

"He's doing great," said Green. "Love where he's at. He is swinging at strikes and taking good passes."

### **Hand/Yates or Yates/Hand**

On Saturday, Andy Green played matchups and went [Brad Hand](#) in the 8th and Kirby Yates in the 9th to secure the victory.

On Sunday, the skipper played matchups once again. Kirby Yates was brought on in the 8th to retire three right-handed hitters at the top of the Marlins batting order. He did so with two strikeouts and the help of a diving stop by Christian Villanueva.

Brad Hand only needed eight pitches to fire a perfect ninth and secure his 19th save of the season.

### **Four straight series wins**

The Padres have won four consecutive series for the first time since 2015.

## This Day in Padres History—June 11

*By Bill Center*

*June 11, 1975*—Jim “Tuba Man” Eakle and McNamara’s Band returns to San Diego Stadium to serenade Padres fans during a 3–1 win over Montreal.

*June 11, 2004*—Center fielder **Jay Payton** ties a franchise record with 10 putouts by an outfielder in a 10–2 victory over the Mets at Shea Stadium.

## #PadresOnDeck: Gore, Nix Pace Pitching Efforts; Esteury Ruiz Leads Top-30 Hitters

*By Bill Center*

Left-hander **MacKenzie Gore** led a quartet of strong pitching performances in the Padres' farm system Sunday while **Esteury Ruiz** led a string of productive hitting efforts by the franchise's Top-30 prospects.

Gore, 19, ranked the [Padres' No2 prospect by MLB Pipeline](#), came off the disabled list with a blister and threw two hitless innings for Single-A Fort Wayne. He issued one walk (and picked that hitter off) and struck out three. This was the second time this season that Gore, who has an 8.10 earned run average, returned from an extended time on the disabled list due to a blister on his pitching hand.

Left-hander **Aaron Leasher**, 21, followed Gore and allowed four hits and three walks with six strikeouts over six scoreless innings to improve to 3–3 and lower his ERA to 2.76.

Other notable pitching performances:

— Right-hander **Jacob Nix**, 22, the Padres' 11th-ranked prospect, allowed one run on two hits and five walks with four strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings for Double-A San Antonio. Nix, who opened the season on the disabled list with a groin injury suffered while in the Padres' Major League camp during spring training, has a 0.63 ERA in three starts since returning, allowing six hits in 14 1/3 innings.

— Right-hander **Ronald Bolaños**, 21, allowed one run on six hits and no walks with eight strikeouts for Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore. The Cuban import is 2–3 with a 6.41 ERA for the Storm.

Turning to the Top-30 hitters:

— Infielder **Esteury Ruiz**, 19, the Padres' 10th-ranked prospect, was one of four players with three hits for Fort Wayne Sunday. Ruiz (.261) was 3-for-5 with a double, his sixth homer, a walk, four RBIs and five runs scored.

— Shortstop **Gabriel Arias**, 18, the [Padres' No9 prospect](#), was 3-for-5 with a double and two RBIs. He is hitting .216.

— Third baseman **Hudson Potts**, 19, the [Padres' No14 prospect](#), was 2-for-4 with his 10th HR and three runs for Lake Elsinore, where he raised his average to .268.

— Left fielder **Josh Naylor**, 20, hit his 10th homer for San Antonio. Naylor, the [Padres' No13 prospect](#), was 1-for-4. He is hitting .320 for the Missions and leads the Texas League with 51 RBIs.

— Other leading hitting performances Sunday:

— Catcher **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.266) was 3-for-5 with a double and two RBIs for Lake Elsinore. Catcher **Luis Torrens** (.283), who was the DH for the Storm Sunday, was 2-for-5 with three RBIs and a run scored.

— Second baseman **Justin Lopez**, 18, was 3-for-3 for Fort Wayne with a sacrifice fly, a walk two RBIs and a run scored to raise his batting average to .244. Catcher **Juan Fernandez** (.230) was 3-for-5 with two doubles and two runs scored.

*Around the Farm:*



TRIPLE-A EL PASO (31–32): The Chihuahuas were rained out at Iowa and will play two, seven-inning games Monday as a makeup doubleheader.

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (39–23): CORPUS CHRISTI 8, Missions 2—CF **Michael Gettys** (.257) backed Naylor and was 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored. 3B **Ty France** (.262) was 1-for-4. RHP **Jason Jester** (2–1, 4.45 ERA) followed Nix and allowed seven runs on six hits and a walk with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 innings to take the loss. RHP **Erik Johnson** (2.25) allowed two hits with two strikeouts in 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

ADVANCED SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (32–31): Storm 7, LANCASTER 1—RHP **Emmanuel Ramirez** (4.68 ERA) followed Bolaños and allowed two hits and a walk with a strikeouts in two scoreless innings. LF **Nate Easley** (.248) backed Potts, Greene and Torrens, going 2-for-5 with a triple and a run scored. 1B **Brad Zunica** (.238) was also 2-for-5 with a run scored. 2B **Eguy Rosario** (.245) was 1-for-4 with a walk. SS **Chris Baker** (.200) had a RBI double in five at-bats. CF **Edward Olivares** (.266) had a triple in six at-bats.

SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (28–33): TIN CAPS 15, Lansing 0—All nine hitters in the Fort Wayne lineup had at least one hit. CF **Jeisson Rosario** (.282) backed the four TinCaps with three hits, going 2-for-5 with a walk, a RBI and two runs scored. 1B **Jalen Washington** (.259) was 2-for-4 with a BB, a RBI and two runs scored. LF **Robbie Podorsky** (.303) had a double in five at-bats with a walk, a RBI and two runs scored. LF **Jack Suwinski** (.219) had a triple in five at-bats with a RBI and a run scored. 3B **Luis Almanzar** (.179) was 1-for-5 with a RBI. RHP **Jordan Guerrero** (3.60 ERA) followed Gore and Leasher with a strikeout in a perfect inning to complete the four-hit shutout.

DOMINICAN SUMMER LEAGUE PADRES (4–3): The DSL doesn't play on Sundays.