



Padres Press Clips

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Article	Source	Author	Page
Clayton Richard rocked in first of three scheduled April starts vs. Colorado	SD Union Tribune	Acee	2
Christian Villanueva takes step forward, but Padres third base race still in progress	SD Union Tribune	Acee	4
First pitch: Wil Myers (arm) to the DL	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	7
Beyond Tatis, Padres' system long on shortstop talent	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	11
Trevor Hoffman makes it to Cooperstown for visit, but of course trip isn't easy	SD Union Tribune	Bloom	13
Richard struggles early in loss to Rockies	MLB.com	Cassavell	15
Padres place Myers on DL with nerve irritation	MLB.com	Cassavell	17
Tracing history of Padres' eight 3-HR games	Padres.com	Center	19
Lin: What to watch in the Padres' farm system in 2018	The Athletic	Lin	21
Gray, Rockies shut down Villanueva and Padres in 5-2 win	Associated Press	AP	27
Padres' Wil Myers goes on 10-day DL; reliever Phil Maton recalled	Associated Press	AP	29
Triple-A El Paso Featuring a Blend of Prospects and Veterans in 2018	FriarWire	Center	30
This Day in Padres History—April 5	FriarWire	Center	32
Andy's Address, 4/4	FriarWire	Center	33
Rockies looking to take series in San Diego	FSSD.com	STATS	36

Clayton Richard rocked in first of three scheduled April starts vs. Colorado

Kevin Acee

The good news is [Clayton Richard](#) gets another shot at the [Colorado Rockies](#) soon.

Actually, if the rotation order holds, Richard will face the Rockies twice more in the next three weeks.

Alas, that could turn out to be the bad news.

Petco Park is where Richard had actually pitched to some success against the Rockies.

That changed Wednesday night, when for the first two innings the left-hander couldn't find the pinpoint location he often has — and that is required when facing the Rockies — allowing five runs on seven hits before settling in and surviving through the fifth.

It was the fifth time in six games the [Padres](#)' opponent scored first. The Padres have lost all five of those, this one 5-2.

“It's tough,” manager Andy Green said. “It takes some grit to win baseball games. Throughout the course of the season there's going to be outings where the starting pitcher gets down. You start with the mindset that you're always going to battle back, you're going to come back and win those games. It tends to be momentum based. You do it a few times, and your team starts to develop that identity. ... We haven't really mounted a furious comeback yet. I'd love to see our guys get over the hump that way.”

The Padres' only real offensive stirring came in the eighth inning, when they pieced together two runs on singles by Carlos Asuaje and [Hunter Renfroe](#), a Jose Pirela walk and a couple ground outs.

After his impeccable 83-pitch outing on opening day, when Richard allowed a run in seven innings, he threw 99 pitches Wednesday.

The next two times he faces the Rockies will be at Coors Field, where Richard has an 8.82 ERA in nine starts — quite a bit higher than the 2.08 ERA he had in 10 games against the Rockies at home entering Wednesday.

The Padres could alter their rotation in some way but have no plans to as of yet.

“It's just going back and watching the film and seeing if the executed pitches were hit or it was me making a mistake,” Richard said after the game. “Because if it's the executed exec pitc being

hit, I need to make an adjustment. Now, if I'm not executing, then I just have to do a better job executing."

Certainly, the Rockies will have similar challenges and advantages as the teams face each other seven more times by April 25.

But it is the Padres who are now 1-5 this season, and it is Richard against whom the Rockies triumvirate of [Nolan Arenado](#), [Charlie Blackmon](#) and [DJ LeMahieu](#) has a combined .460 career batting average after going 5-for-7 and scoring all five runs Wednesday.

It doesn't take being off by much to get roughed up by the [National League](#)'s top-hitting offense two years running.

"The first couple innings, stuff was mid-thigh as opposed to being at the knee," Richard said. "You give a good offensive club enough pitches like that, they can do damage."

Wednesday was the third of 10 games between the two teams this month. They will play a two-game series in May and then not again until late August.

"Why [MLB](#) chooses to do something like this," Green said, "it doesn't make a ton of sense."

Three sets of opponents will play each other that often prior to the end of the season's first full month, something that had only happened once before to this year.

The [Giants](#) and [Dodgers](#) and [Rays](#) and [Red Sox](#) will also play each other 10 times before April is over.

None will do it in the rapid succession that the Padres and Rockies will.

"I can't remember three times," Richard said earlier this week of facing the same opponent that often in three weeks. "It's really strange. But we'll be OK."

After the game he looked ahead thusly:

"It's another challenge. It's going to be a separate game. You can't let this game bleed into that game. We have something to go off from today. I have to understand I can look at today and use it as resource but not dwell on it and think today is going to happen in five days."

Christian Villanueva takes step forward, but Padres third base race still in progress

Kevin Acee

Christian Villanueva called his feat Tuesday night “luck,” the one that has now been accomplished just eight times in the Padres 7,819 games over 49-plus seasons.

He also used the word “dream” in talking about his three home runs to left field in a victory over the Rockies.

Indeed, Padres hitting coach Matt Stairs said later: “He had a hitter’s dream today – three pitches to hit and not missing one.”

A smiley 26-year-old who can converse in English but relies on a translator in interviews to make sure his words are properly conveyed, Villanueva exclaimed in English late Tuesday in response to the first question he was asked: “I can’t even explain.”

But there is an explanation.

Villanueva, who was once one of the Cubs’ top prospects but became expendable when the team drafted Kris Bryant, spent portions of recent years sidelined by significant leg injuries. He was healthy in 2017 and remained in San Diego to work out in the offseason for the first time after his September call-up intrigued the Padres.

He is perhaps the rare person that doesn’t elicit an eye roll – especially the day after hitting three homers of 390 feet or more – when he says he’s in the best shape of his life.

“You can see the results,” Villanueva said. “I feel good. I feel healthy. I’m hoping over the course of the year, we’ll continue to see that.”

Three home runs in a single night is not the point. Villanueva may never accomplish that again. Given that it was just the 583rd time someone hit three bombs in nearly a quarter-million major league games since 1876, the odds are good he won’t.

But what the rookie did is indicative of the power that so excites the Padres.

He hit four home runs in 32 at-bats in September and has three home runs in seven at-bats this year. That’s a homer every 5.6 at-bats for his young career.

His five-RBI, four run Tuesday, had him back in the lineup Wednesday.

It is the first time this season the same player has started at that spot for the Padres.

If not for Villanueva forcing a repeat start, it very well might have been [Cory Spangenberg](#)'s turn, which would have given Villanueva, Spangenberg and [Chase Headley](#) two starts apiece.

It's an unsustainable rotation, something manager Andy Green is relying on circumstance to sort out.

"It's tough," Green said. "Chase has a tremendous track record. In Chase, you know you get competitive, professional at-bats on a consistent basis. ... (Spangenberg) has got two home runs himself. He wants to play. Those are good things I'll take that problem. We'll sort it out in time."

These things do tend to take care of themselves, whether it's the way a team wants or not.

The Padres' desire to get Spangenberg in the lineup Wednesday was enabled when [Wil Myers](#) was placed on the 10-day disabled list with nerve irritation in his right arm. With the Rockies starting right-hander Jon Gray, Green sat [Hunter Renfroe](#), moved Jose Pirela over to right field and inserted Spangenberg in left.

"That's what you have to do when you're a utility player just be able to play any spot when they call on you," Spangenberg said. "... I think in my situation, because I've played multiple positions and play all over the field, it makes it a little easier for Greeny to fit me in."

Spangenberg, 27, played 766 innings at third base last season, 206 in left field and 42 at second.

Headley is locked at third. He has played first base, but [Eric Hosmer](#) is there.

Headley, 33-years-old and making \$13 million this year, was on the bench for a second straight night Wednesday.

"I just don't worry about stuff anymore," he said. "I really don't. Everything has always worked out. ... It does. If it doesn't, it doesn't. Then whatever happens, I'll be fine – whether it is pinch-hitting, whether they trade me, whether they release me, I'll be fine. I don't say that to mean I don't want to play or I can't play or I don't think I can help this team. I just don't worry about it. There is no benefit coming from that."

Headley was acquired in a December trade that also brought pitcher Bryan Mitchell to San Diego. The Padres have acknowledged they might trade him but have seemed increasingly comfortable with keeping him due not only to his ability to get on base but his willingness to share his vast experience in their young clubhouse.

"If you're wired to get 10 years in the big leagues, you're not wired to roll over and hand someone your job," Green said of Headley. "It's not natural. You're wired to fight, want to be out there and never quit, never surrender, never think someone else is better than you. What he's been is an unbelievable teammate – invested in Villa, invested in Spangy, invested in everybody else in our collective success. I think as a manager, you're grateful for that type of person."

Said Headley: “I really do enjoy seeing guys grow and make adjustments and learn. That’s just real. It’s true. So one way or the other I’ll be fine.”

For now, Wednesday was a manifestation of what Green has told all three players — that on-field production will produce playing time.

Villanueva obviously heard Green when, during the spring, the manager said he would be on the roster.

“The opportunity is going to be there to play games early on,” Green relayed to Villanueva. “How much you get to play, that’s largely predicated on how well you swing the bat. You go out there and swing the bat really well, those opportunities are going to keep coming for you.”

Green put it in perspective before Wednesday’s game.

“I think all of us came into the season with the hope that somebody would rise up,” he said. “It’s a pretty loud statement yesterday, but the season is built on more than just three swings of the bat. I want him to continue to step up and earn his opportunity. He does that, it’s going to keep coming his way.”

Extra bases

- Matt Szczur replaced Manny Margot in center field Wednesday. Margot is off to a 2-for-20 start at the plate. Said Green: “He hasn’t found his rhythm with the bat. He looks a little in-between. Sometimes just stepping back for a day while the game is going on slows it down for you.”
- Outfielder Franchy Cordero, whose excellent spring was stalled by a groin injury on March 15, has been working out and taking batting practice at Petco Park. Over the past two days, he has launched batting practice homers into the tall shrub near the batter’s eye in left-center field and onto the second deck of the Sun Diego Beach party deck in right-center. He will likely begin a rehab assignment in Triple-A soon. The Triple-A season begins Thursday.
- Few may have noticed, but Villanueva’s curtain call after his third homer Tuesday actually came as Rockies pitcher Antonio Senzatela was delivering a pitch to the next hitter, [Freddy Galvis](#). Said Galvis: “I didn’t know what to do. I just decided to take the pitch, wait for it. It was an awesome moment.”

First pitch: Wil Myers (arm) to the DL

Jeff Sanders

Wil Myers will need more than a day or two to get back in the lineup this time.

The [Padres](#) on Wednesday placed their 27-year-old outfielder on the 10-day disabled list with right arm irritation. The expectation is that a minimal stay on the shelf will allow both that injury and the back tightness that's dogged Myers in recent weeks to calm down enough to allow him a healthy finish to the season.

"It's nice to let things rest," Myers said. "I can get my arm right. I can get my back right. Then when I come back, I'm fully healthy and full refreshed."

Myers was pulled from Monday's game – after he hit his first homer of the season – with what was believed to be a muscular issue in his right triceps. Upon a closer look with an arm specialist, Myers said he learned that an out-of-place nerve made him feel as if "a lightning bolt" was shooting through his arm on throws and during his swing.

Myers also missed one game in [spring training](#) with a sore arm that cropped up during outfield throwing drills. He said Wednesday that the current arm issue was not related to transitioning from first base to the outfield – to accommodate [Eric Hosmer](#)'s arrival – as he missed a game last year with a similar injury.

"I don't know exactly how this happened," said Myers, who had started 303 games the last two years at first base. "I just know one throw and a couple swings I had really set it off. This has nothing to do with because I'm throwing now in the outfield. It's just a fluke thing. I had it last year. This has nothing to do with the outfield."

Myers hopes his current stay on the disabled list is short enough to avoid a minor league rehab stint. He is eligible to return April 13.

In the meantime, Myers will take a few days off from throwing and swinging but plans to track pitches – velocity and spin – during down time that will also allow him to rest his back.

Before the arm injury popped up, Myers was pulled during the second game of the season with a tightness in his lower back and missed Saturday's game altogether.

"I think what's best is to give it a few days to get back to where it needs to go," said Myers, who is 3-for-12 with a homer to start 2018. "It's early in the season. I feel like for me if I can get these days to get this right, to get my back right, to finish the last 148-49 games completely healthy is the right move."

The roster move

To replace Myers on the roster, the Padres recalled right-hander **Phil Maton** from Triple-A El Paso.

The 25-year-old went 3-2 with a 4.19 ERA, 46 strikeouts and a 1.28 WHIP in 43 innings last year out of the bullpen. Ironing out his splits – 1.57 ERA at home and 7.20 on the road – is a focus as he rejoins the roster for his sophomore season, he said.

Minor league rotations

The minor league season starts on Thursday for the full-season affiliates in Fort Wayne, Lake Elsinore, San Antonio and El Paso. Here are how those teams' rotations – in order – will start the season (Fort Wayne and Lake Elsinore are again in six-man rotations to help managed workloads).

- **Triple-A El Paso:** LHP Eric Lauer, RHP Walker Lockett, RHP Brett Kennedy, RHP Chris Huffman, RHP Kyle Lloyd.
- **Double-A San Antonio:** RHP Cal Quantrill, LHP Logan Allen, RHP Miguel Diaz, LHP Jerry Keel, RHP Jesse Scholtens.
- **High Single-A Lake Elsinore:** RHP Lake Bachar, LHP Adrian Morejon, RHP Reggie Lawson, RHP Pedro Avila, RHP Ronald Bolanos, RHP Emmanuel Ramirez.
- **Low Single-A Fort Wayne:** LHP Nick Margevicius, LHP Aaron Leasher, RHP Mason Thompson, LHP Osvaldo Hernandez, LHP Tom Cosgrove, LHP MacKenzie Gore.

Extra bases

- CF **Manuel Margot** is out of the lineup for the first time this season. Padres manager **Andy Green** characterized it as “just a day to breathe.” Margot is 2-for-20 with three walk and four strikeouts to start the season. In his place – and without Myers available – **Jose Pirela** was in right field as the leadoff hitter and **Matt Szczur** received his first start of the year (center field, No. 7 seven spot).
- CF **Franchy Cordero** (groin) could go out on a rehab assignment soon now that the minor league season begins Thursday.

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PITCHING MATCHUP | Rockies at Padres

Game 3: 7:10 p.m. Wednesday

Rockies RHP Jon Gray (0-1, 6.75 ERA)

- He allowed three runs on six hits and three walks in four innings in his season debut against the Diamondbacks. Gray was 2-0 with a 2.65 ERA, 22 strikeouts and a 1.06 WHIP in three starts (17 IP) last year against the Padres.

Padres LHP Clayton Richard (0-0, 1.29 ERA)

- The 34-year-old vet limited the opposition to a run in seven innings on opening day. In 2017, Richard allowed 17 earned runs in 22 2/3 innings (6.75 ERA) over four starts

against Colorado – but only three earned runs during his two Petco Park starts against the Rockies (2.08 ERA).

On deck

- **Thursday:** Rockies LHP Tyler Anderson (0-0, 27.00) vs. Padres LHP Joey Lucchesi (0-0, 5.79), 12:40 p.m.

Beyond Tatis, Padres' system long on shortstop talent

Jeff Sanders

Fernando Tatis Jr. — unquestionably, the top shortstop prospect in the [Padres'](#) farm system and one of the top prospects in the game — will start the season at Double-A San Antonio. In an organization suddenly revitalized up the middle, who ranks behind the 19-year-old phenom depends on who you ask.

Just don't ask Kevin Hooper.

“It's like picking between my kids right there,” the Padres' minor league infield coordinator said this spring. “We have a lot of guys with a chance to do some special things.”

That list starts with the 19-year-old Tatis, who, at 6-foot-3 and 185 pounds, could one day outgrow the position. Behind him, 18-year-old Gabriel Arias is ranked No. 11 in the organization by MLB.com, Javier Guerra is at the very least a defensive wizard at Triple-A El Paso who is already on the 40-man roster and several other teenagers are in the early stages of their climbs, from Luis Almanzar to Jordy Barley to Justin Lopez.

Lake Elsinore manager [Edwin Rodriguez](#) helped groom one of the game's best in Cleveland when [Francisco Lindor](#) was in his clubhouse. The Padres, in his mind, are in as good a spot as any system he's been around.

“This is the first time I've been in an organization that has so much depth at shortstop and it's a premium position,” said Rodriguez, the Marlins' big league manager from 2010-2011. “Other organizations are always looking for arms and shortstops and the San Diego Padres are in a very good position because of that.”

General Manager A.J. Preller inherited some shortstop prospects, including Ruddy Giron, who is moving back to the position in his third trip through the California League. The Padres' fourth-year executive spent like crazy to add others.

His first full international signing period brought Venezuelans Kelvin Melean (Lake Elsinore) and Reinaldo Ilarraza (Fort Wayne) into the fold. The [Craig Kimbrel](#) traded yielded, among others, Guerra (El Paso). The Padres will pay half of [James Shields'](#) salary for another year because they insisted on receiving Tatis (San Antonio) from the [White Sox](#).

Then there's the lot that arrived an unprecedented spending spree that saw the checks surpass \$80 million, including overage taxes: Almanzar (extended [spring training](#)) signed for \$4 million, Arias (Fort Wayne) for \$1.9 million, Lopez (Fort Wayne) for \$1.2 million and Barley (extended spring training) for \$1 million.

Of that group, Arias' aptitude shined bright enough to warrant an assignment to low Single-A Fort Wayne last year as a 17-year-old (.524 OPS). He's returning to the Midwest League to start 2018 after pairing his first five professional homers with a .271/.310/.486 batting line in 29 games this winter in Australia, the latest evidence that Arias' tool belt includes quite a bit more than plus arm strength and good hands and footwork.

"He's got some big-time power," Hooper said of Arias. "He's got some juice in the power department. The bat is definitely going to catch up to the glove."

Tatis' did last year, when he – like Arias is this year – started his first full pro season as an 18-year-old in the Midwest League. He held his own in the early goings, a light switch went off and by year's end Tatis was on Double-A San Antonio's playoff roster after hitting .278/.379/.498 with 22 homers and 32 steals across both levels.

Afterward, Baseball America bumped Tatis all the way to No. 9 in its top-100 prospect list. MLB.com ranked him eighth. [ESPN](#) is higher than anyone with its No. 3 ranking.

"When I see Tatis," ESPN scouting guru Keith Law said, "I think he's a great athlete. I think the swing works. I think the only question I have – I wouldn't call it a concern – is with that frame, his body could go a lot of different ways. There are people who think he can stay at shortstop. He's certainly got the actions, the arm and the hands to be a shortstop. He might get so big that he could move to third or potentially even right field."

Law drew a comparison to Manny Machado, who at 6-foot-3 and 185 pounds is attempting to return to shortstop in his Age 25 season with the Orioles.

Tatis, who turned 19 in January, is already 6-foot-3 and 185 pounds.

While the Padres certainly can't do anything about where those numbers end up by the time Tatis is an established major leaguer, they're asking him to put himself in a position to remain at shortstop. Among the items on his checklist as he starts the season in the Texas League is finding a consistent release point for his plus arm, improving his body balance as he fields balls, widening his base and – as much as anything – maintaining pre-pitch preparation on *every* pitch.

"He's rangy as it is," Hooper said. "He can gain even more range by knowing who's on the mound, knowing the hitter. That's only going to get better as he matures."

Hooper added: "He's in good shape. He's athletic. He can really run and that's what we walk about a lot. As long as he stays athletic, I want to keep him at shortstop as long as we can."

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WHERE THEY'RE STARTING

The Padres' full-season affiliates start their seasons Thursday. Here's a look where MLB.com's top-30 Padres prospects are starting their seasons.

TRIPLE-A EL PASO

- 2B Luis Urias (No. 3), LHP Eric Lauer (No. 13), RHP Trey Wingenter (No. 21)

DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO

- SS Fernando Tatis Jr. (No. 1), RHP Cal Quantrill (No. 4), LHP Logan Allen (No. 8), 1B Josh Naylor (No. 16), C Austin Allen (No. 29), OF Michael Gettys (No. 30).

HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE

- LHP Adrian Morejon (No. 6), 3B Hudson Potts (No. 17), OF Jorge Ona (No. 18), OF Edward Olivares (No. 20), RHP Pedro Avila (No. 26), RHP David Bednar (No. 28).

LHP Adrian Morejon (No. 6), 3B Hudson Potts (No. 17), OF Jorge Ona (No. 18), OF Edward Olivares (No. 20), RHP Pedro Avila (No. 26), RHP David Bednar (No. 28).

LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE

- LHP MacKenzie Gore (No. 2), SS Gabriel Arias (No. 11), 2B Esteury Ruiz (No. 12), OF Tirso Ornelas (No. 15), OF Jeisson Rosario (No. 19), C Luis Campusano (No. 24), RHP Mason Thompson (No. 25).

EXTENDED SPRING TRAINING

- RHP Michel Baez (No. 5, back), RHP Anderson Espinoza (No. 7, elbow), RHP Jacob Nix (No. 14, groin), RHP Andres Munoz (No. 22), RHP Chris Paddack (No. 23, elbow), 3B/SS Luis Almanzar (No. 27).

Note: LHP Joey Lucchesi (No. 9) is in San Diego's rotation. OF Franchy Cordero (No. 10) is on the [MLB](#) disabled list (groin).

Trevor Hoffman makes it to Cooperstown for visit, but of course trip isn't easy

Barry M. Bloom

It took Trevor Hoffman three tries on the writer's ballot before his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. So, it would figure his first trip since then to the red-brick museum on upper Main Street in this hamlet of 1,852 would be just as arduous.

The former [Padres](#) closer and his wife, Tracy, flew nonstop from San Diego to Philadelphia on Tuesday only to be told their connecting flight to nearby Albany, N.Y., had been canceled. There were no other connections. They were also told there would be a four-hour wait for their luggage at the airport.

Carrying just the clothes on their back, they rented a car and arrived here in the wee hours of Wednesday morning, in time for his pre-induction orientation tour of the hallowed building.

"First of all, I need to apologize for my attire," said Hoffman, wearing a University of Pacific pullover in honor of his son, Wyatt, an infielder in that school's baseball program. "Our bags haven't quite caught up with our travel detail."

By the time the tour ended through two floors of exhibits and then the Hoffmans spent an hour in the oxygen-controlled archives looking at choice items that aren't on display in the museum, their bags had yet to depart Philadelphia. They are on their way from here to Boston to visit another son, Quinn, a pitcher who's recovering from shoulder surgery and is attending Harvard.

No matter. After swinging the bat Tony Gwynn used to knock out his 3,000th hit and trying on an over-sized catcher's mitt used by Baltimore's Gus Triandos to catch knuckleballer Hoyt Wilhelm — a fellow Hall of Famer — Hoffman declared he was duly impressed by the entire experience.

"This is awesome," said the [National League](#)'s all-time leader with 601 saves, 552 of them in 16 seasons for the Padres. "I'm like a kid in a candy store. It's a very moving experience."

He was also asked to sign the spot in the plaque room where his own plaque will ultimately hang between former Commissioner [Bud Selig](#) and Jack Morris. And the treats are just beginning.

Hoffman will be inducted July 29 in a ceremony behind the Clark Sports Center. He'll be joined by Vladimir Guerrero, [Chipper Jones](#), [Jim Thome](#), Morris and Alan Trammell, a San Diego native who played his entire 20-year career at shortstop for the [Tigers](#).

Hoffman will join the late Gwynn and Dave Winfield as the only players to be inducted into the Hall with the Padres insignia on their plaques. There are 226 Major League players in the Hall, 128 elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America (including all three Padres).

Hoffman's now Mr. San Diego, joining the guy known as Mr. Padre. Like the late Gwynn, Hoffman wasn't born in San Diego. Gwynn was from Los Angeles and grew up in Long Beach. Hoffman and his family are from Anaheim.

Both were adopted with open arms, Gwynn after he arrived to play basketball and baseball at San Diego State and was subsequently drafted by the Padres; Hoffman after the June 24, 1993, trade with the Marlins that sent Gary Sheffield to Florida.

"It's incredible to be part of the community," said Hoffman, now a senior adviser of baseball operations on and off the field for the Padres. "I've certainly enjoyed living in San Diego, playing in San Diego and the fans there have supported me from Day 1. I can't thank them enough for that support."

Gwynn was inducted along with Cal Ripken Jr. in 2007. He died of parotid cancer at 54 in 2014. His shadow was a huge one hanging over the proceedings Wednesday and will be again in July. A crowd of 82,000 — the largest in history — attended the Gwynn-Ripken ceremony.

Hall officials are anticipating about 50,000 for this Hall of Fame weekend. And like the Gwynn induction, when an estimated 25,000 came east from San Diego, they are again anticipating a huge influx of Padres fans.

Aside from holding Gwynn's bat and the baseball shoes Gwynn wore on Aug. 6, 1989, in Montreal when he singled for his 3,000th hit, Hoffman stood beneath Gwynn's plaque and rubbed his head for good luck.

"I remember the first time I met him in the clubhouse at [Qualcomm Stadium](#)," Hoffman said. "He was gregarious and welcomed me. The team was in the middle of a fire sale, in another transition, and he didn't have to do that. He was a great teammate. The way he showed you how to go about your work. He was detail-oriented. He was unlike anybody I've ever come across."

Those were the highlights. He visited exhibits in honor of Babe Ruth, [Cy Young](#) and Hank Aaron. He saw the caps on display he wore for his 600th career save with the [Brewers](#) and No. 500 with the Padres. The No. 51 home white jersey he wore for his 500th was in the archives, stained with the dust and dirt from a game and a career well-played.

Asked about what had impressed him most about the tour, Hoffman pointed to these words from the Cyclone, who registered an incredible career-record 511 wins and 749 complete games:

"A man who isn't willing to work from dreary morn to weary eve shouldn't think about becoming a pitcher."

In the end, Hoffman was all of that and more. And on Wednesday, that weary road took him here.

Richard struggles early in loss to Rockies

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Apr. 4th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- It's hard to win baseball games if you're playing catch-up, and the Padres have spent most of the past week doing exactly that. San Diego has played six games this season and has fallen behind at some point during the first three innings in all six of them.

On Wednesday against the Rockies, left-hander **Clayton Richard** allowed five runs in the opening two frames of the Padres' 5-2 loss, their fifth in six games. Richard settled down nicely from there, and the San Diego bullpen was sharp. But the Padres couldn't touch Rockies ace **Jon Gray**, who allowed four hits over seven scoreless innings.

"He has a really good fastball and a good slider that looks like his fastball, comes out of the same plane," said Padres left fielder **Cory Spangenberg**, who had two of those hits. "It's tough."

It was precisely the kind of effort the Padres have been searching for from their rotation this season. Through six games, San Diego starters have combined to allow 22 runs in 31 2/3 innings -- a 6.25 ERA.

The Rockies posed a familiar challenge to Richard, who struggled against them last season. **Charlie Blackmon** -- fresh off signing a six-year contract with Colorado earlier in the day -- started rallies in the first and second innings with a pair of singles. **Nolan Arenado** and **Trevor Story** had RBI doubles in the first, and **Ian Desmond** plated two with a single in the second.

"Those guys are good, and we didn't pitch them very well [early]," Padres manager Andy Green said. "After that, I thought [Richard] settled in pretty nicely. The damage was done."

Richard went five innings and struck out six. But he also walked three and allowed eight hits -- including six balls in play at 100 mph or harder. After the game, Richard lamented his inability to keep the ball down in the strike zone.

"When you give a good offensive club enough pitches like that, they're going to hurt you," Richard said.

After Richard's exit, the Padres got 1-2-3 innings from sidearmers **Adam Cimber** and **Kazuhi a Makita**, sandwiched around two scoreless frames from **Robbie Erlin**. San Diego plated two runs in the eighth after Gray's exit, the first of which scored on an error by reliever **Jake McGee**, who couldn't corral a throw while covering first base.

The Rockies then called on **Bryan Shaw** to face pinch-hitter **Hunter Renfroe**, who smacked an RBI single to center field on Shaw's first pitch. In limited playing time this year, Renfroe is 3-for-10 with three walks and a pair of extra-base hits.

"He's had a really good start to the season," Green said. "Coming off the bench is new for him. That's not what he's accustomed to doing, but there's never been a complaint for him, and he's played well."

However, Shaw stifled the rally by getting Spangenberg to pop out, and Rockies closer **Wade Davis** slammed the door in the ninth.

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED

What's the story?: With two men in scoring position in the first, Rockies shortstop Story came to the plate with **Carlos Gonzalez** on deck. The lefty Richard opted not to pitch around the right-handed-hitting Story. Instead, Richard hung a first-pitch slider to Story who popped a two-run double into the left-field corner, giving the Rockies a 3-0 lead.

Stranded in the sixth: The Padres put two men on base in the bottom of the sixth, the first time they did so. Facing the middle of the Padres' order, Gray responded nicely. He struck out **Eric Hosmer** with a 90-mph slider, then got **Christian Villanueva** -- who homered three times on Tuesday night -- to pop up to the catcher.

QUOTABLE

"You can't let this game bleed into that game. We have something to go off of from today. I understand that I can look at today and use it as a resource, but not dwell on it and think today's going to happen in five days. It's a new game. I'll attack it accordingly." -- **Richard, who is in line to face the Rockies two more times this month**

SPANGENBERG'S NEW ROLE

Villanueva became the first Padres player to start consecutive games at third base this year. He went 0-for-3 before being double-switched out of the game for **Chase Headley**, who went 0-for-2.

The Padres are still deciding how to divvy up playing time at the hot corner. Spangenberg is squarely in that mix. But on Wednesday, he played left field for the first time this year, including Spring Training. Green's effort to get Spangenberg's left-handed bat in the lineup paid off.

"Usually you want to be in one set position," said Spangenberg, who is 4-for-12 with two homers. "But in my situation, the more positions I can play, the more opportunities I'm going to get."

WHAT'S NEXT

Left-hander **Joey Lucchesi**, the Padres' **No. 9 prospect**, was solid over 4 2/3 innings in his big league debut. Now, he's looking to build on that start. Lucchesi -- owner of one of the game's quirkiest and most deceptive windups -- will face the Rockies on Thursday at 12:40 p.m. PT.

Padres place Myers on DL with nerve irritation

Outfielder not expected to miss more than 10-day minimum

By AJ Cassavell MLB.com @AJCassavell

Apr. 4th, 2018

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres placed outfielder **Wil Myers** on the disabled list with nerve irritation in his right arm before Wednesday's game against the Rockies at Petco Park, though they're optimistic he'll return after the minimum 10-day stint.

Myers left Monday's game with arm pain that originated in his right triceps. He underwent X-rays after the game that revealed no structural damage. The following day, he was evaluated by an arm specialist and diagnosed with the nerve irritation.

"It's pretty uncomfortable to throw, pretty uncomfortable to hit," Myers said. "So right now, what's best is to give it a few days to get it back to where it needs to go."

Myers has been told that rest is the best path to recovery. He won't swing or throw for about a week, and if all goes according to plan, he'll resume baseball activity then.

"It's early in the season," Myers said. "If I can use these days to get this right, get my back right, to finish the last 148 games completely healthy, it's the right move."

Manager Andy Green considered keeping Myers on the roster, with a three-game series in Houston this weekend. Myers is likely to resume hitting before he resumes throwing, and he could've been used as a designated hitter.

Instead, the long-term view took precedence.

"It's probably best **to put him on the DL for a little bit and understand that ... you can bring him back in nine days,**" Green said. "That's what I'm operating under the assumption of."

"But I've said it already this year: I'm done trying to project that stuff, because it's proved unfruitful. You just don't know. I'm hearing optimistic things."

Myers missed Saturday's game with lower back tightness, an injury that has since subsided. When he returned Monday, the arm ailment arose during batting practice. At the time, it wasn't serious enough for Myers to ask out of that game's lineup.

But the injury worsened when Myers made two throws to the infield. In the fifth inning, Myers' discomfort became plainly visible in right field, as he held his throwing arm at an angle over his chest. The pain isn't so obvious now, he says.

"It is getting better," Myers said. "Today is better than yesterday, yesterday is better than the day before. For me, if I can continue to build up and get better each day, that's a victory."

Many in the organization view this as a critical year for Myers, who has shown flashes of excellence with the Padres, but has too often fallen into prolonged slumps at the plate. He was off to a nice start with two hits Friday and a homer in the first inning Monday.

"You never want to go on the DL, especially this early in the season," Myers said. "I worked super hard to get ready for this season. Any time you go on the DL, it's never fun. I do feel good with where I'm at mentally -- go through this, get right, come back strong, finish the season."

The Padres recalled right-hander **Phil Maton** from Triple-A El Paso to take Myers' place on the roster.

Worth noting

- **Following his three-homer performance** Tuesday night, **Christian Villanueva** became the first Padres third baseman to start back-to-back games this season. He's been locked into a battle for playing time with **Chase Headley** and **Cory Spangenberg**. (Spangenberg was also in the lineup Wednesday, playing left field for the first time this year, including Spring Training.)

Green sounded as though he plans to give Villanueva regular opportunities at third base, as long as he continues to earn it.

"That's a pretty loud statement yesterday, but the season is built on more than just one day and three swings of the bat," Green said. "I want to see him continue to step up and earn his opportunity. If he does that, it'll keep coming his way."

- **Outfielder Franchy Cordero** is with the big league club as he continues to recover from a groin strain that sidelined him at the end of Spring Training. He's running and taking batting practice in San Diego, and he could begin a rehab assignment as early as this weekend. It's unclear where Cordero -- a roster tossup before his injury this spring -- will begin the season when healthy.

- **Catcher Austin Hedges** returned to the lineup after missing two games with tightness in his upper back. With a day game scheduled for Thursday, it's possible Hedges will be out of the lineup then.

Tracing history of Padres' eight 3-HR games

Villanueva's career night had 3 HRs, 4 runs scored, 5 RBIs

By Bill Center San Diego Padres

Apr. 4th, 2018

Christian Villanueva's three-homer game Tuesday night against the Colorado Rockies was the eighth in the history of the Padres, but only the second in the 15 seasons at Petco Park.

The first three-homer game at Petco Park was by **Hunter Renfro** against Arizona last Sept. 20. That was also the first three-homer game by a Padres rookie. Villanueva's was the second.

For the game, Villanueva was 3-for-3 with three homers and a hit-by-pitch for four runs scored and five RBIs. He had a 1.000 on base percentage and a 4.000 slugging percentage for a 5.000 OPS.

First baseman Nate Colbert was the first Padres player to have a three-run homer game on Aug. 1, 1972, in the second game of a doubleheader in Atlanta. That was the record-setting doubleheader for Colbert in which he tied Stan Musial's Major League record of five homers in a doubleheader and set a then Major League record for 13 RBIs in a doubleheader.

Center fielder Steve Finley is the only Padre to have two, three-homer games. The first was May 19, 1997 at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. The second came five weeks later on June 23 at San Francisco. It was nearly 25 seasons between Colbert's three homer game and the first of Finley's two.

Third baseman Ken Caminiti had a three-homer game at Dodger Stadium on July 12, 1998. Second baseman Bret Boone had three homers in a 10-inning game at Cincinnati on June 23, 2000. And Phil Nevin had a three-homer game against Colorado on Oct. 6, 2001, at Qualcomm Stadium.

NOTEBOOK

- **Villanueva has played nine games at Petco Park in his brief Major League career and has six homers.** In five games against the Rockies, the 26-year-old third baseman is 7-for-13 with five homers and 10 RBIs. In his first 14 Major League games, Villanueva is 14-for-39 (.359) with a double, seven homers, 12 RBIs and nine runs scored. He has a .375 on-base percentage and a .923 slugging percentage for a 1.298 OPS. Villanueva was once a top prospect with the Rangers and the Cubs before he missed the entire 2016 season with a fractured right fibula. The Padres signed him as a Minor League free agent on Dec. 12, 2016.
- **Freddy Galvis** has hit safely in four of the season's first five games (6-for-18) with a home run and five RBIs. He is hitting .333 with a .429 on-base percentage and a .500 slugging percentage for a .929 OPS.
- **Relievers Craig Stammen** and **Kirby Yates** have yet to allow a run in three appearances apiece. Both worked a perfect inning Tuesday night against the Rockies. Stammen has worked three perfect innings with two strikeouts. Yates has allowed a hit and a walk with three strikeouts in 2 2/3 innings.

- **Clayton Richard** makes his second start of the 2018 season Wednesday night against the Rockies at Petco Park. A year ago, the left-hander allowed five hits and two walks with five strikeouts over eight scoreless innings as the Padres defeated the Dodgers in Los Angeles. He was the first Padres pitcher to pitch eight or more scoreless innings since 2014 and the first left-hander to accomplish the feat since he did it against the Dodgers on Sept. 21, 2010.

Lin: What to watch in the Padres' farm system in 2018

By Dennis Lin

Spring training concluded more than a week ago. Opening Day is a memory. The Padres are 1-5, already struggling to tread water.

Yet the organization continues to churn below the surface. After an offseason in which the farm system received immense hype, Opening Day has arrived for a quartet of full-season affiliates. Triple-A El Paso, Double-A San Antonio, High-A Lake Elsinore and Low-A Fort Wayne will play their first games Thursday.

The Padres' collection of minor-league talent may be the deepest in the sport. It is not, however, the most seasoned. This developmental year will largely be about what occurs at the lower levels of the system.

For the first time, much of a heralded crop of international prospects will attempt to traverse an entire season in the U.S. Other talented, inexperienced players will try to do the same. A few blue-chippers could impact the big-league product before 2019.

Each affiliate will field names worth following. Below, *The Athletic* provides some highlights, including MLB Pipeline's prospect rankings in parentheses.

Triple A — El Paso Chihuahuas

2017 record: 73-69

Manager: Rod Barajas

In the estimation of many, Luis Urías (3) could hold his own against major-league pitching today. The second baseman has submitted ample evidence that he is one of the minors' best pure hitters. He requires only finishing touches before an inevitable call-up. Baserunning is Urías' primary area for improvement, but he will never be a burner in the mode of Jose Altuve, his favorite player.

A possible replacement in case of injury to Padres shortstop Freddy Galvis, Urías will average a couple starts per week on the left side of the infield. More of El Paso's shortstop opportunities will go to Javy Guerra, a defensive showstopper whose bat has continued to lag.

On the pitching front, left-hander Eric Lauer (13) nearly remained in the Padres' big-league camp the entire spring. With San Diego's rotation off to a shaky start, the 2016 draftee could make his way to Petco Park sooner than later.

The remainder of El Paso's roster includes several players who might be called up at a moment's notice. Outfielder Travis Jankowski and catcher Raffy Lopez are two such examples. Buddy Baumann, Colten Brewer, Kyle McGrath and Trey Wingenter (21) figure to reinforce the Padres' bullpen at various points throughout the season. After injuring his groin late in spring, outfielder Franchy Cordero (10) could begin a rehab assignment with El Paso this week.

Pitchers

- Jonathan Aro
- Buddy Baumann

- Colten Brewer
- Chris Huffman
- Brett Kennedy
- Eric Lauer
- Kyle Lloyd
- Walker Lockett
- Michael Mariot
- Kyle McGrath
- Trey Wingenter
- Eric Yardley

Catchers

- Raffy Lopez
- Stephen McGee

Infielders

- Dusty Coleman
- Allen Craig
- Diego Goris
- Javy Guerra
- Luis Urías

Outfielders

- Travis Jankowski
- Shane Peterson
- Franmil Reyes
- Nick Schulz

Double A — San Antonio Missions

2017 record: 78-62

Manager: Phillip Wellman

The headlines touted an imminent arrival in the big leagues, but, by the Padres' and his own standards, potential superstar Fernando Tatis Jr. (1) didn't have a spectacular spring. To be fair, the shortstop turned 19 in January. The Padres will continue to preach patience while recognizing that Tatis has the tools and the aptitude to force a tough decision by September.

With Eric Hosmer in San Diego, the Padres have begun introducing first-base prospect Josh Naylor (16) to left field, and he'll get some looks there this summer. In the outfield, Michael Gettys (30) and Rod Boykin are superior athletes who need significant refinement to become major-league contributors. Catcher Austin Allen (29) will receive occasional reps at first base.

San Antonio's rotation features 2016 first-rounder Cal Quantrill (4), a former Tommy John patient who will attempt to catch up to 2017 teammates Joey Lucchesi (9) and Lauer; Lucchesi reached the majors

early this season, while Lauer is not far behind. Logan Allen (8) wields multiple solid weapons, and Miguel Diaz, a 2016 Rule 5 draftee with plus velocity, also will start for the Missions.

Robert Stock opened eyes in spring training as a non-roster invitee. Brad Wieck, too, could be a candidate for the Padres' bullpen before the end of the year.

Pitchers

- Logan Allen
- Colby Blueberg
- José Castillo
- Miguel Díaz
- Jason Jester
- Jerry Keel
- Dillon Overton
- Cal Quantrill
- Jesse Scholtens
- Robert Stock
- T.J. Weir
- Rowan Wick
- Brad Wieck

Catchers

- Austin Allen
- Webster Rivas

Infielders

- Ty France
- Josh Naylor
- Kyle Overstreet
- River Stevens
- Fernando Tatis Jr.
- Peter Van Gansen

Outfielders

- Forrestt Allday
- Auston Bousfield
- Rod Boykin
- Michael Gettys

High A — Lake Elsinore Storm

2017 record: 64-76

Manager: Edwin Rodríguez

Super-agent Scott Boras represents a number of the system's brightest talents, including MacKenzie Gore (2), Michel Baez (5), Jorge Oña (18) and Luis Patiño. Boras' utterance of "hot talent lava" has become a source of derision, but few would dismiss his eye for upside.

Boras and more impartial observers believe he could have a gem in left-handed starter Adrian Morejon (6), the prize of the Padres' \$78 million international class two years ago. The Cuban's advanced approach and array of plus pitches should continue to serve him well, even in the hitter-friendly California League. Morejon will headline a rotation that contains other intriguing options, such as Reggie Lawson and Pedro Avila (26). Meanwhile, reliever David Bednar (28) has high-leverage upside.

Third baseman Hudson Potts (17) acquitted himself well in Cactus League cameos, and the Padres intend to find out whether he can build off a successful spring and an impressive second half in Low A. Potts' development is of particular interest to an organization lacking depth at the hot corner, though a bounty of shortstops could lead to more options down the road.

Oña, another well-regarded prospect from Cuba, had a decent stateside debut, but he battled injuries and the Padres hope to see more sock from the imposing outfielder. Edward Olivares (20), the return for Yangervis Solarte, boasts an intriguing package of tools.

After going through the Rule 5 experience last season with the Padres, Luis Torrens will receive sorely-needed playing time three levels below Petco Park. Shortstop Kelvin Melean, on the other hand, will be playing far beyond his experience; the organization couldn't find an immediate fit for the 2015 international signee in Low A, so it will challenge him in Lake Elsinore, if only for a few weeks.

Pitchers

- Elliot Ashbeck
- Pedro Avila
- Lake Bachar
- David Bednar
- Ronald Bolaños
- Reggie Lawson
- Adrian Morejon
- Emmanuel Ramirez
- Gerardo Reyes
- Hansel Rodriguez
- Blake Rogers
- Austin Smith
- Dauris Valdez

Catchers

- Marcus Greene Jr.
- Luis Torrens

Infielders

- Nate Easley
- Ruddy Giron
- Kelvin Melean
- Hudson Potts
- Eguy Rosario

- Brad Zunica

Outfielders

- Taylor Kohlwey
- Edward Olivares
- Jorge Oña
- Buddy Reed

Low A — Fort Wayne TinCaps

2017 record: 68-72

Manager: Anthony Contreras

For the second consecutive season, the TinCaps will field the Midwest League's most precocious roster. For the second consecutive season, Parkview Field will be home to one of baseball's elite prospects.

Somewhat unlike Tatis, who vaulted himself into that stratosphere after a slow start to 2017, Gore will begin his first full season under national scrutiny. The Padres' No. 1 draft pick from last June cruised through the Arizona Rookie League before wowing scouts this spring. Many evaluators already consider him the best left-handed pitching prospect in baseball, and he might soon cement himself as the best pitching prospect — period.

Gore has dealt with some blisters since last summer — perhaps due to the climatic adjustment from North Carolina to Arizona — but they haven't seemed to slow him much. His time in the Midwest League could be brief.

Even if he moves on before long, the TinCaps will continue to trot out a glut of talent. Another starting pitcher, Mason Thompson (25), possesses considerable upside of his own, and will attempt to distance himself from an injury-marred 2017. Luis Campusano (24), the top catcher in last year's draft, will spend time behind the plate and at first base.

Fort Wayne's middle infielders could get occasional reps at both corners; the Padres perceive little downside in exposing teenage prospects to different spots on the field. Shortstops Gabriel Arias (11) and Justin Lopez, potential ace defenders, will alternate between their primary position and third base. The wiry-strong Esteury Ruiz (12) will man second.

Jeisson Rosario (19), yet another gifted athlete, is the main option in center field, but Tre Carter and Tirso Ornelas can handle themselves there as well. Ornelas (15), a 6-foot-4 specimen who moves strikingly well, is a favorite of more than a few scouts.

Pitchers

- Tom Cosgrove
- Joe Galindo
- MacKenzie Gore
- Jordan Guerrero
- Henry Henry
- Osvaldo Hernandez
- Aaron Leasher
- Nick Margevicius
- Adrian Martinez

- Fred Schlichtholz
- Ben Sheckler
- Will Stillman
- Mason Thompson

Catchers

- Luis Campusano
- Juan Fernandez
- Jalen Washington

Infielders

- Gabriel Arias
- Carlos Belen
- Reinaldo Ibarra
- Justin Lopez
- Esteury Ruiz

Outfielders

- Tre Carter
- Tirso Ornelas
- Jeisson Rosario
- Jack Suwinski

Notables in extended spring training:

- Michel Baez was delayed in camp by a lower-back issue. The right-hander is expected to join Lake Elsinore in late April. After dominating in Fort Wayne last season, he could be a quick mover.
- Another starter, Chris Paddack (23), also is on track to pitch for the Storm by May. Paddack underwent Tommy John surgery in 2016. During the spring, the right-hander showed his changeup remains one of the best in the minors.
- Andres Muñoz (22) was the youngest player in last year's Arizona Fall League, showcasing a lightning-quick right arm and late-inning ceiling. But the reliever did not pitch this spring because of elbow trouble. He is not a candidate for surgery, and could begin a throwing program later this month.
- Right-hander Anderson Espinoza (7) underwent Tommy John surgery last July. Espinoza has been throwing on flat ground. He might pitch in the Arizona Instructional League this fall.
- Right-hander Jacob Nix (14) was slowed by a groin injury during the spring. He could head to San Antonio in the not-too-distant future.
- Despite the Padres' embarrassment of arms, right-hander Luis Patiño could join the ranks of their highly-ranked. The 2016 international signee utilizes four pitches, including a fastball that reaches the upper 90s. He is capable of pitching in Fort Wayne right now, but the Padres likely will delay his debut until mid-May, so as to allow him to compete deep into the season.
- Shortstop/third baseman Luis Almanzar (27) is another prospect starting the season in extended. He struggled in short-season ball last year, though that was before he turned 18.

Gray, Rockies shut down Villanueva and Padres in 5-2 win

11:04 PM PT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- [Jon Gray](#) bounced back nicely from an opening day loss. He did it crisply, too.

Gray pitched seven scoreless innings, [Trevor Story](#) and [Ian Desmond](#) each had a big two-run hit and the [Colorado Rockies](#) beat the [San Diego Padres](#) 5-2 on Wednesday night.

Gray (1-1) shut down the Padres a night after they won 8-4 behind rookie [Christian Villanueva](#)'s three home runs and five RBI. Gray retired Villanueva in three straight at-bats, including a strikeout. The right-hander struck out seven and walked none before three relievers finished up.

The combined six-hitter took just 2 hours, 41 minutes, and neither team used a mound visit.

Gray got on a roll and worked quickly.

"When things are working really fast, if you're getting guys out on one or two pitches, I mean, the inning can be over like that," he said. "You don't even know it. It's a lot of fresh, good pitches in your mind that you just made, and it's a lot easier to make the next one like that."

Gray allowed only two baserunners through the first five innings.

It was a much better outing than on opening day, when he gave up three runs and six hits in four innings during a loss at Arizona.

"Jon bounced back, for sure," Rockies manager Bud Black. "Stayed pretty poised throughout the game within his delivery. Fastball had life, good slider. I liked the fact that the curveball came into play as the game went on. He needs that. We've talked a lot about the velocity variance. That was big for him."

[Cory Spangenberg](#) had two of the Padres' four hits off Gray.

[Jake McGee](#) allowed a hit and two San Diego runs in the eighth, one of them unearned due to his error. [Bryan Shaw](#) gave up an RBI single to [Hunter Renfroe](#), but [Wade Davis](#) closed in the ninth for his third save.

The Rockies hit [Clayton Richard](#) (0-1) hard in scoring all their runs in the first two innings. Story's broken-bat, two-run double that bounced over the left-field wall highlighted the three-run first, when the Rockies also got an RBI double from [Nolan Arenado](#).

Desmond's two-run single with the bases loaded highlighted the second. Arenado was thrown out by [Matt Szczur](#) trying to go from first to third on the play. Pitching with the lead helped Gray.

"He's a pretty good front-runner," Black said. "I like that. Like in a horse race, man. If you get the lead as a horse, sometimes you finish it. I'll keep an eye on Jon, but hopefully he's a good front-runner -- catches the lead and keeps going."

Padres manager Andy Green said Gray "didn't create many opportunities to score early on. There's been times when we've gotten to him and times we've had a lot of trouble with him. He's kind of had that history for them where he's out there in some outings and he's absolutely dominant and he's had other outings where we get to him. Today was one of those days we just didn't get pressure on him early."

Richard, who tossed seven strong innings against Milwaukee on opening day, allowed five runs and eight hits in five innings. He struck out six and walked three.

"It wasn't terrible but wasn't great," Richard said. "A little bit of a spray the first couple innings. Then unfortunately the balls that were in play were either hit hard enough on the ground or broken bat that was a double down the line."

QUOTABLE

"You look at those first three guys in their lineup," Green said, referring to [Charlie Blackmon](#), [DJ LeMahieu](#) and [Arenado](#). "They've got two guys who are as good as anybody in baseball at the top and they've got another guy who's won the batting title. You want to beat those guys. You've got to keep those three guys off base and that was our challenge the first two innings. Those three guys did the bulk of the damage and that's usually the case with their offense."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: OF [Wil Myers](#) was placed on the 10-day disabled list with nerve irritation in his right arm. Myers also missed time this season with a sore back. RHP [Phil Maton](#) was recalled from Triple-A El Paso to take his roster spot.

UP NEXT

Rockies: LHP [Tyler Anderson](#) starts the series finale Thursday afternoon. He allowed seven runs over 2 1/3 innings last Friday, including five in the first inning, but didn't factor into the decision in a 9-8 loss at Arizona.

Padres: Rookie LHP [Joey Lucchesi](#) makes his second start. He gave up three runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings during his major league debut Friday night.

Padres' Wil Myers goes on 10-day DL; reliever Phil Maton recalled

6:30 PM PT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- The [Padres](#) have placed outfielder [Wil Myers](#) on the 10-day disabled list with nerve irritation in his right arm.

To take his roster spot, the Padres recalled right-handed reliever [Phil Maton](#) from Triple-A El Paso on Wednesday.

Myers is hitting .250 with one homer and one RBI in three games. He moved back to the outfield this season to make room for [Eric Hosmer](#) at first base.

Myers also missed time this season with a back injury.

Triple-A El Paso Featuring a Blend of Prospects and Veterans in 2018

By Bill Center

Triple-A El Paso seeks a fourth straight Pacific Coast League title this season with a blend of prospects and veterans.

The Chihuahuas will have three of the [Padres' Top-30 prospects](#)—second baseman **Luis Urías** (ranked the third-best prospect in the Padres' system by the MLB Pipeline), left-handed starting pitcher **Eric Lauer** (Nº13) and right-handed reliever **Trey Wingenter** (Nº21).

El Paso, which won the PCL title in 2016, will also have nine players with Major League experience, including late Padres spring training cut **Travis Jankowski**. Nine of the Chihuahuas are on the Padres' 40-man roster and the same number played in El Paso during the 2017 season.

In addition to Jankowski, who has hit .230 with a .310 on-base percentage and 36 stolen bases in part of three seasons with the Padres, infielder **Dusty Coleman**, catcher **Raffy Lopez**, starting pitcher **Kyle Lloyd** and relief pitchers **Buddy Baumann** and **Kyle McGrath**, have also spent times with the Padres.

Coleman hit .227 with four homers in 66 at-bats with the Padres last season. Baumann has a 2.96 earned run average in 34 appearances over parts of two seasons with the Padres. McGrath appeared in three of the Padres first four games this season. Lopez was also on the Padres' Opening Day roster. Lloyd made one start got the Padres last season.

In addition to being ranked the Padres' Nº3 prospect by MLB.com, the 20-year-old Urías is ranked the 36th-best overall prospect in the minor leagues by the MLB Pipeline as well as the Nº2 second baseman.

Urías hit .296 with a Texas League-leading .398 on-base percentage for the Double-A Missions last season. For his fourth straight professional season, Urías had more walks (68) than strikeouts (65). In 2016, Urías was both the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year in the Advanced Single-A California League while hitting .330 with a .397 on-base percentage. In a

cameo three-game with the Chihuahuas shortly after turning 19, Urías went 4-for-9 with a homer and five walks.

Lauer, 22, was one of three first-round picks the Padres had in the 2016 draft. He split last season between Lake Elsinore and San Antonio. He had a 2.79 ERA in 12 starts at Lake Elsinore and had a 3.93 ERA in 10 appearances (nine starts) with the Missions.

The 6-foot-7, 235-pound Wingenter, who turns 24 on April 15, had a 2.45 ERA and 20 saves in 49 appearances for San Antonio last season. He had 64 strikeouts in 47 2/3 innings.

There are several other interesting players opening the season in El Paso.

Padres' manager **Andy Green** is a fan of Lopez's left-handed bat. Six-foot-5, 240-pound right fielder **Franmil Reyes** led the Padres organization with 25 homers and 102 RBIs with San Antonio last season. **Allen Craig**, 33, has a .276 average with 100 homers and 427 RBIs over 534 Major League games with St. Louis and Boston.

Rod Barajas returns to manage the Chihuahuas. Also returning are pitching coach **Bronswell Patrick** and hitting coach **Morgan Burkhart**. **Lance Burkhart** joins the El Paso staff as fielding coach.

The Triple-A El Paso Opening Day roster:

Right-handed pitchers (9)—**Jonathan Aro**, **Colten Brewer**, **Chris Huffman** (starter), **Brett Kennedy** (starter), Kyle Lloyd (starter), **Walker Lockett** (starter), **Michael Mariot**, Trey Wingenter and **Eric Yardley**.

Left-handed pitchers (3)—Buddy Baumann, Eric Lauer (starter), Kyle McGrath.

Catchers (2)—Raffy Lopez, **Stephen McGee**.

Infielders (5)—Dusty Coleman (third baseman-shortstop), Allen Craig (first baseman), **Diego Goris**, **Javy Guerra** (shortstop), Luis Urías (second baseman).

Outfielders (4)—Travis Jankowski, **Shane Peterson**, Franmil Reyes, **Nick Schulz**.

This Day in Padres History—

April 5

By Bill Center

April 5, 1968—A crowd of 18,462 sees the first baseball game played in San Diego Stadium, a Major League exhibition between the San Francisco Giants and Cleveland Indians. The original dimensions of the ballpark were 330 feet from home to both foul poles, 375 feet to the power alleys and 420 feet to center with the outfield lined by a 17-foot wall.

April 5, 1981—The Padres acquire left-handed pitcher **Dave Dravecky** from Pittsburgh for a minor leaguer.

April 5, 1983—Shortstop **Garry Templeton** is 3-for-4 with four RBIs and three runs scored and third baseman **Luis Salazar** has four hits as the Padres open the season with a wild 16–13 win over the Giants at Candlestick Park.

April 5, 1997—Left-handed starter **Sterling Hitchcock** and closer **Trevor Hoffman** combine on the 18th one-hitter in Padres history in a 4–1 Padres win in San Diego. The Phillies only hit is a sixth-inning double off Hitchcock.

April 5, 2003—Right-handers **Brian Lawrence** and **Jesse Orosco** combine on a four-hit shutout as the Padres defeat the Dodgers 3–0 at Qualcomm Stadium.

April 5, 2004—**Phil Nevin's** grand slam leads the Padres to an 8–2 win over the Dodgers at Dodger Stadium.

April 5, 2008—Right-hander **Jake Peavy** allows one run on two hits and a walk with eight strikeouts in a complete game as the Padres defeat the Dodgers 4–1 at Petco Park.

April 5, 2012—Center fielder **Cameron Maybin** hits a 445-foot homer—tied for the 12th-longest ever at Petco Park—but the Padres lose 5–3 to the Dodger.

April 5, 2015—Padres acquire right-handed closer **Craig Kimbrel** and outfielder **Melvin Upton Jr.** from Atlanta for outfielders **Cameron Maybin** and **Carlos Quentin**, right-handed pitcher **Matt Wisler**, **Jordan Paroubek** and a draft pick.

Andy's Address, 4/4

Andy Addresses Myers trip to the disabled list, Richard, etc.

By Bill Center

Before Wednesday's third game of the Rockies series, the Padres placed right fielder **Wil Myers** on the 10-day disabled list with a nerve issue in his right arm and promoted right-handed reliever **Phil Maton** from Triple-A El Paso to return to an eight-man bullpen.

Andy Green discussed the move during his pre-game media conference.

"It's going to take Wil a little bit of time," said Green of the decision to place Myers on the 10-day disabled list. "That's what I've basically been told, time."

"It was one of those things to my understanding that we could have sat here and waited day-to-day and maybe in Houston on one of those days he could have been ready as the designated hitter and maybe a few days after that he's ready to play in the field. But at that point, it's probably best to put him on the disabled list for a little bit and basically understand that's it's a nine-day assignment at that point in time."

"You can bring him back in nine days. That's the assumption I'm operating under, but like I've already said a number of times, I'm done trying to project that stuff because you just don't know. I'm hearing optimistic things."

Green said that had the old 15-day disabled list still been the rule, the Padres would probably have waited a few days to make a decision on Myers. The 10-day disabled list went into effect last season. "We would have waited a few more days for sure," said Green.

Myers also discussed his injury, which a specialist described as a nerve and not triceps muscle.

"It's best just to give it a few days to get it back to where it needs to go," said Myers. "It's early in the season. If I can use these days to get this right, to get my back right to finish the last 148, 149 games completely healthy then it's the right move."

Myers missed one game last year due to the nerve.

“I don’t see this being more than five or six days before I’m back doing things,” continued Myers. “So I think taking time to get completely healthy, taking the time to be completely right is the best thing for me and the right move for the team.”

“Nothing with my back had anything to do with my arm. From what I understand, the nerve in my arm came out of place. It was a pain I really did not like. Hopefully, we’ll never have it happen again. It is getting better. We talking about doing no rehab games and returning in nine days. This has nothing to do with the outfield, first felt it swinging the bat. Nice to let two things (back and arm nerve) rest at the same time.”

Green discussed Tuesday night’s hero **Christian Villanueva** and the third baseman’s three-homer game—only the eighth three-homer game in Padres’ history.

“He was always thought of as a real prospect,” Green said of Villanueva. “The Cubs were very happy with him and then he got supplanted by **(Kris) Bryant** and everybody understands why that happens. There are 29 other third basemen in the game that come in a notch below Bryant, so that’s not a knock on Villanueva to be behind absolutely the best third baseman in the game.”

“But he went through his minor league career and like a lot of us, when someone jumps in front of in line for something we thought was ours we don’t always handle it great. I think Christian went through a stretch where he didn’t handle it the best and then coming back off the injury (broken leg in 2016).”

“Since he’s been in a Padres, uniform, he’s been great. He swung the bat really well in El Paso last year. He came up here and obviously crushed baseballs in a very short sample last September. When he came into this season, the message I had for him was ‘You get what you earn . . . the opportunity was going to be there to play some games early on. How much you get to play is largely going to be predicated on how well you swing the bat. You go out there and swing the bat really well, there’s going to be opportunities keep coming for you.’”

“There’s power in earning what you get and not just you showed up in spring and played well and here’s your job. There’s power in the feeling you get when you can say: ‘Hey he didn’t give me anything. I stepped up and earned this. Starting two days in a row is because of what I did yesterday. And getting an opportunity tomorrow is because of what I did today.’”

“I think there are a lot of guys who had to fight and scratch and paw. And there’s power in that feeling of accomplishment you get when you step up and earn something and you earn something over veteran players who have really good track records and done really good things in the game. You don’t want to rob someone of that by handing them something.”

Green spoke about Wednesday night’s starting pitcher—**Clayton Richard**—and the Rockies .384 batting average against Richard in 2017.

“He’s thrown the ball well here,” Green said of Richard. “I know **Nolan Arenado** has been tough for him. Outside of that, he’s got a lot of confidence about the guys he faces in the order. He can get those guys out especially here at Petco.”

“Also, when you dive into his numbers, I crushed him a couple times last year by asking him to go out there and suck up innings when we needed somebody to be just an unbelievable teammate. He stayed out there when his stuff wasn’t good and was left out there to die basically and he’s such a good guy that he never complained.”

“Clayton understands how much that helped the team in those moments. I don’t want to read too much into what someone’s career ERA is against a certain team. Across the board, I think he matches up well with the Rockies. We’re going to have to go at Arenado a little bit differently if we’re going to have success against him. In general, I think his stuff matches up against the guys he’s going to see today.”

Rockies looking to take series in San Diego

STATS

Apr 5, 2018 at 2:38a ET

SAN DIEGO — All that stands between the [Colorado Rockies](#) and a winning road trip to open the season is [San Diego Padres](#) left-handed starter [Joey Lucchesi](#).

Colorado defeated the Padres for the second time in three games at Petco Park Wednesday night to reach the .500 mark on their seven-game trip to Arizona and San Diego to open the season. A win Thursday afternoon would give the Rockies a 4-3 record going into Friday afternoon's home opener against the Atlanta Braves at Coors Field.

Starting for the Rockies Thursday against Lucchesi will be left-hander [Tyler Anderson](#), who was greeted rudely by Arizona last Friday night in Phoenix.

Anderson (0-0, 27.00 ERA) allowed five first-inning runs in his 2018 debut and departed after 2 1/3 innings, allowing seven runs on five hits and four walks.

"Feel wasn't great," Anderson said according to the Denver Post. "There were a ton of balls. And on top of that, I was falling behind and trying to make pitches that were too tight, trying to be too fine with things, instead of being aggressive in the zone early and often."

Meanwhile, Lucchesi, who was inserted into the Padres' starting rotation after No. 2 starter [Dinelson Lamet](#) departed his last spring training start with elbow problems, allowed three runs on seven hits and no walks in 4 2/3 innings last Friday night against the Milwaukee Brewers at Petco Park.

"He settled in nicely after a tough start," manager Andy Green said of the Padres' fourth-round pick from the 2016. "He's an interesting study. Nothing seems to bother him."

Lucchesi (0-0, 5.79 ERA) is 6-foot-5 and 227 pounds. But the thing that sets him apart from other pitchers is his idiosyncratic delivery, which has a series of starts and stops leading into a high leg kick. "Funky" is a word that has been used to describe Lucchesi's delivery.

Of all the starters the Padres selected in the 2016 draft — including first-round picks Cal Quantrill and Eric Lauer — Lucchesi was the first to reach the major leagues. The 24-year-old product out of Southwest Missouri State split last season between Class A Lake Elsinore and Double-A San Antonio, where he finished with a 1.79 earned run average in 10 games (nine starts). Lucchesi had a total of 148 strikeouts in 139 innings last season.

This will be his first appearance against Colorado.

Unlike most Rockies starting pitchers over the years, the 6-foot-4, 210-pound Anderson has had much better fortunes in the rarified air of Coors Field in Denver than on the road.

Anderson has a 8-5 record with a 3.39 ERA in 20 career appearances (19 starts) at Coors Field. Opposing hitters are batting only .267 against Anderson at home.

But his road record is 3-7 with a 5.72 ERA in 17 games (16 starts). Opposing hitters are batting .281 against Anderson on the road.

Overall, Anderson is 1-1 with a 2.00 ERA in three career starts against the Padres — allowing four runs on 14 hits and three walks with 15 strikeouts in 18 innings. His career WHIP against the Padres is 0.94.

But in his only start at Petco Park — on Sept. 21 last year — Anderson gave up three runs on six hits and a walk in 5 2/3 innings. In two career starts against the Padres at Coors Field, Anderson has allowed one run on eight hits and two walks with nine strikeouts in 12 1/3 innings — an 0.73 ERA.