



# Padres Press Clips

Friday, January 4, 2019

<b>Article</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Pg.</b>
Padres roster review: Wil Myers	SD Union Tribune	Sanders	2
Edwards is Padres' fastest prospect	MLB.com	Callis/Mayo/Rosenbaum	6
#PadresOnDeck: Friar Flamethrowers Light Up Radar Guns	FriarWire	Lafferty	7

# Padres roster review: Wil Myers

Jeff Sanders

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

## WIL MYERS

- **Position(s):** Outfielder, third base, first base
- **2019 Opening Day age:** 28
- **Bats/throws:** R / R
- **Height/weight:** 6-foot-3 / 205 pounds
- **Acquired:** Via trade with Tampa Bay Rays in December 2014
- **Contract status:** Including the last portion of his signing bonus, Myers is due \$11.5 million in 2019; his contract will also pay him \$20 million per season from 2020 through 2022 and guarantee him a \$1 million buyout for 2023 if the Padres do not pick up a \$20 million option.
- **Key stats:** .253 avg., .318 OBP, .446 SLG, 11 HRs, 39 RBIs, 39 runs, 13 steals, 30 walks, 94 strikeouts (83 games, 312 at-bats)

## STAT TO NOTE

- **113.8** – The average number of games played per season to date during Myers' four-year stay in San Diego. Myers played in just 60 games due to wrist injuries in 2015, essentially played all of 2016 and 2017 and then was limited to 83 games in 2018 due to a right arm nerve irritation, an achy back, a strained left oblique and a left foot contusion/bone bruise.

## TRENDING

- **Down** – For a season, Myers owned the richest contract in franchise history, a six-year, \$83 million extension earned on the power of an all-star campaign as a first baseman after his first full healthy season in 2016. But Myers’ second-half slide that year extended into 2017, the Padres signed a new first baseman (**Eric Hosmer**) to another rich contract (\$144 million) and Myers was entertaining yet another position switch when the full squad reported last spring. He’d already moved from a corner spot to center field when he became a Padre. He settled in a first base only to move back to a corner outfield spot in 2018, where he held his own in action limited by injuries (see above). The downtime allowed the Padres to get extended looks at **Franmil Reyes** and a reinvented **Hunter Renfroe**, whose improvements compelled the Padres to see what Myers looked like at third base upon returning from his last DL stint. At times, Myers was serviceable. At times – like a two-error game on Aug. 30 – he looked lost, which is to be expected of a player learning the position on the fly at the major league level. He’s even said the ball he took off the face during batting practice reps at third base in August affected him. The bigger concern, however, is that Myers regressed at the plate, logging the lowest on-base percentage and slugging percentage of his Padres tenure, although the impact of the position changes and ability to stay healthy cannot be understated as far as Myers’ 2018 is concerned. He logged a .931 OPS in July, the only month in which he accumulated more than 100 plate appearances.

## 2019 OUTLOOK

- It’s January and Myers remains a man without a position. The Padres have moved on from **Christian Villanueva** at third base, but have not signed an upgrade over the Myers experiment. All the Padres outfielders – Reyes, Renfroe, **Manuel Margot**, **Franchy Cordero** and **Travis Jankowski** – remain in the outfield and free agent signee **Ian Kinsler** is expected, at the moment, to open the season as the second baseman as **Luis Urias** holds down shortstop until **Fernando Tatis Jr.** arrives. That might leave Myers to third base – or an uber-utility role – although a trade could significantly alter plans. Myers, too, could be traded off the roster at some point in 2019 as he was

already rumored to be moving earlier this offseason in **Jean Segura** talks with the Mariners (Segura was ultimately moved to the Phillies).

•

## PADRES POWER RANKINGS

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

ADVERTISING

[inRead invented by Teads](#)

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

---

## Removed from the roster

- [Carlos Asuaje](#) (claimed by the Rangers)

# Edwards is Padres' fastest prospect

By Jim Callis, Jonathan Mayo and Mike Rosenbaum MLB.com

When MLB Pipeline identified [each farm system's top power-hitting prospect](#) in November, 28 of the 30 sluggers were featured on our organization Top 30 Prospects lists. That came as no surprise, as power is a highly valued commodity.

Today we look at the fastest players in each system, and only 16 of them currently reside on our various team Top 30s. Why? That's because pure speedsters can be lacking in offensive upside because they don't have much power or consistency with their hitting ability.

There are exceptions, of course. Blazing-fast outfielders [Victor Robles](#) (Nationals), Luis Robert (White Sox) and Cristian Pache (Braves) all made [MLB Pipeline's Top 100 Prospects list](#) because of their ability to impact a game in a variety of ways.

Even if they don't possess all-around talent, the players below still could make their presence felt at the big league level. Dave Roberts helped end an 86-year World Series championship drought in Boston with a timely stolen base, and [Terrance Gore](#) scored the winning run in the 2015 Fall Classic.

## **Padres: Xavier Edwards, SS, [\(SD No. 18\)](#)**

The Padres' system is loaded with burners (Buddy Reed, [Esteury Ruiz](#), Robbie Podorsky and Juwuan Harris all come to mind), though those within the organization pegged Edwards, the club's Competitive Balance Round A (No. 38 overall) pick last June, as the fastest. His speed is an easy plus-plus tool, one that allows him to get down the line in a hurry from both sides of the plate -- he posts 80-grade home-to-first times as a LHH -- and impacts the game on the basepaths. During his 45-game pro debut across two levels, Edwards stole successfully in all but one of his 23 attempts.

**Likely 2019 level:** Class A Fort Wayne

# #PadresOnDeck: Friar Flamethrowers Light Up Radar Guns

Padres organization tied for most 100–mph pitchers in MiLB

*By Justin Lafferty*

While the number of minor league pitchers throwing 100 mph or more decreased across baseball last season, the Padres organization actually experienced an uptick in high-velocity hurlers.

According to [Baseball America](#), the Padres had five minor leaguers record a pitch of at least 100 mph in 2018: **Andres Muñoz, Gerardo Reyes, Robert Stock, Dauris Valdez** and **Trey Wingenter**. That figure is tied with the Rangers for the most in baseball.

Last year, the [Padres had 4 farmhands reach 100](#) on the radar gun: Muñoz, Reyes, Wingenter and **Miguel Diaz**.

Throughout the minor leagues, the total of pitchers who threw 100 mph dipped from 81 in 2017 to 62 in 2018. The Majors experienced a slight decrease as well, from 40 to 36.

“To make the list, we have to have credible reporting from a scout, a coach or a club official who has logged the velocity with a radar gun, TrackMan or a similar verification,” wrote **J.J. Cooper** of Baseball America. “We will add to this list if we receive further credible reports, but even if we get a few more additions, this year will have the fewest 100 mph pitchers in the minors in the past three seasons.”

Two of the Padres' hard-throwing pitchers (Stock and Wingenter) made their MLB debuts last season and appear primed for big roles in 2019. Another (Muñoz) ranks [No.22 on MLB Pipeline's Padres prospects list](#).

Stock finished 2018 as one of the more reliable arms in the Padres bullpen, appearing in 32 games with an ERA of 2.50 and a K/9 total of 8.6. The Padres are even flirting with the idea of [giving Stock a chance to start](#). Wingenter fanned 27 batters in 19 innings.

Muñoz, who will turn 20 on Jan. 16, was dominant for Double-A San Antonio in 2018. In 24.2 innings (mostly with the Missions), Muñoz allowed just two earned runs, for a combined ERA of 0.73. He didn't give up an earned run until his final appearance of the year.

Reyes, 25, split last season between Advanced Single-A Lake Elsinore and Double-A San Antonio. He struck out 49 batsmen in 39 innings at the Double-A level, but has been even more impressive in winter ball. In 19 games for the Yaquis de Obregon of the Mexican Pacific League, Reyes racked up 20 strikeouts and has yet to surrender a run.

Valdez, who stands a towering 6'8", spent all of 2018 with Lake Elsinore, fanning 76 in 53.1 innings for the Storm. The 25-year-old Dominican Republic native also recorded 13 saves in 15 opportunities.