



# Padres Press Clips

Sunday, May 13, 2018

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# Eric Hosmer shows worth to Padres in game-winning hit, how he got there

Kevin Acee

This is what the [Padres](#) got him for — the idea being that one day a hit like he had in Saturday's 13<sup>th</sup> inning will actually make a difference in a season and the hope that what he's doing now will help get them to that point.

[Eric Hosmer](#)'s line drive double to right field on the first pitch he saw from Cardinals reliever Mike Mayers scored [Jordan Lyles](#) from second base and gave the Padres 2-1 victory.

"I don't really discriminate," manager Andy Green said. "I'll take it from anybody."

The double by Hosmer, who was hitless in his first five at-bats Saturday and had one hit in his 23 at-bats to that point in the six games in this homestand, was the first Padres hit in 10 at-bats with runners in scoring position in the game.

"It's great to see him do it," Green said. "He's been battling the last few days. He stays in the ground and doesn't quit. ... He's done this long enough and well enough that an 0-for-5 doesn't faze him."

Green implored his team in the dugout over the final few innings, "Somebody win us a game here."

It shouldn't have come as a surprise that it was Hosmer who finally did so — and not just because the Padres are hitting-challenged, especially of late in crucial situations.

It was Hosmer's first walk-off hit as a Padre but the ninth of his career. It was his 44<sup>th</sup> game-winning RBI since the start of the 2015 season, seventh-most in the majors in that span.

Including Hosmer's hit, the Padres are 3-for-22 with runners in scoring position in their three games against the Cardinals, 8-for-51 this homestand and 18-for-103 (.175) over their past 13 games.

Saturday, they failed to score after runners reached second base with fewer than two outs in the first, fourth, ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> innings.

“I don’t think we had very good at-bats most of the day,” Green said. “It wasn’t just those small situations.”

How Hosmer’s evening progressed is the latest example of why he is here now, signed to the richest contract in franchise history at least a year and probably two or three before the Padres expect to sniff the playoffs.

On a team full of young players who are feeling their way game-to-game, he is a living example of what hitting coach Matt Stairs preaches about learning and adjusting from one at-bat to the next. Several times this season, Hosmer has followed a dismal at-bat or multiple bad at-bats with a hit on a pitch he missed earlier.

“You try and flush out everything in this game as quick as possible,” Hosmer said. “You have to constantly be moving on.”

Hosmer had grounded out three times and flied out twice Saturday. His double came on the first pitch he saw from Mayers, a 95 mph fastball on the inner half.

“I felt I was putting some good swings just a little late in my previous at-bats throughout the night,” Hosmer said. “That’s one thing me and Stairsy have been working on — timing, when you think you’re early you can probably get it going a little earlier. That’s what I was telling myself — just be ready for his best fastball and don’t miss another good pitch.”

### Extra bases

- Christian Villanueva’s left knee was wrapped in ice after the game, but Green said he expected Villanueva to be “fine” for Sunday’s game. Still, it was always likely [Cory Spangenberg would start](#) against Cardinals right-hander [Adam Wainwright](#).
- Spangenberg, called up from Triple-A El Paso on Saturday, pinch-hit for Villanueva in the ninth inning and struck out bunting. Green, who called on

Spangenberg to bunt in that situation, said the bunt call was taken off during the at-bat and that Spangenberg tried with two strikes on his own.

- Adam Cimber threw a perfect 13<sup>th</sup> inning and improved to 2-1. The rookie has appeared in a team-high 19 games and thrown more relief innings (23 2/3) than any other Padre.
- While pointing out the availability of Robbie Erlin and Matt Strahm, both of whom can go multiple innings, as well as the back end of his bullpen (Craig Stammen, Kirby Yates and Brad Hand), Green said the Padres might be compelled to call up a pitcher after using six relievers Saturday.
- A.J. Ellis fouled off a 2-2 slider and then took two balls to draw a walk leading off the 13<sup>th</sup> inning. Ellis, who was replaced by Lyles as the runner at first base. Ellis is 5-for-8 with three doubles and the walk in his last nine plate appearances.
- Travis Jankowski singled and walked twice. He has reached base at least twice in seven of the eight games in which he has been the Padres' leadoff hitter.

# On day Padres celebrate past, Eric Hosmer's walk-off lifts Padres past Cardinals

**Kevin Acee**

One by one they were driven along the warning track from a gate in the left field corner to a spot along the first base line.

As the cheers went up for Wally Joyner and Jim Leyritz and Greg Vaughn, the widows of Tony Gwynn and [Kevin Towers](#), Ken Caminiti's daughter and finally Trevor Hoffman, there could be no mistaking the place the 1998 [Padres](#) have in the hearts of the team's fans.

"This is a tremendous fan base when you have a nice product," Joyner, the first baseman on the '98 [World Series](#) team, said later. "They'll rally around you, they'll get excited for you, they'll push you. ... We loved them, and they loved us. And I think it's been a 20-year lovefest."

Anyone in San Diego that fall – or during the team's run to the 1984 World Series – knows how cherished a winning Padres team is and always will be.

Even so – as many Cardinals fans sat watching the pregame festivities, perhaps with visions of one or more of their team's 11 championships dancing in their heads – a celebration of a team that made it to the World Series 20 years ago did serve to drive home the Padres' overwhelming dearth of success.

Playing in the orange, white and blue pinstriped uniforms of their late-90s predecessors, the current Padres beat the Cardinals 2-1 on a walk-off double down the right field line by [Eric Hosmer](#) in the 13th inning.

The winning run was scored by pitcher [Jordan Lyles](#), who was pinch-running for pinch-hitter A.J. Ellis, who had walked. Hosmer's hit, on the first pitch he saw from new Cardinals reliever Mike Mayers, was the Padres' first hit in 10 at-bats Saturday night with a runner in scoring position.

Before the pregame ceremony in which Towers was inducted into the team's Hall of Fame, Padres Executive Chairman Ron Fowler acknowledged the franchise's lack of commemoration-worthy accomplishments and turned it forward.

"Seeing all these guys, seeing how they're still tied together, it reinforces what we want," Fowler said. "We see them revel in it. It's fun. We're trying to get there. We feel our team is going to win sooner than later."

Hoffman, who serves as an adviser in the organization's baseball operations department, provided a perspective from both angles.

"That '98 team started that rebuild in '93," Hoffman said. "I'm not going to put a number on it, but I'd like to preach patience. I'm starting to hear more of an underlying tone of, 'Is the process going to hurry up?' ... I think we're on the right path. I think everyone understands you to go out and compete in the free agent market, that's probably not the way you're going to sustain anything. But by having a farm system that is deep, hopefully some of these guys do come out of a deep farm system."

At this point, the Padres continue to slog through a period where they are waiting for that fertile farm to produce. The current major league roster is a mix of a very few players who will definitely be here in 2020, several who are trying to secure spots for longer than this season and others that are essentially space holders and/or trade bait.

[Tyson Ross](#) continued to display his value as one of the latter, allowing one run in six innings. It was the seventh time in eight starts Ross has gone six innings.

He left with the game tied 1-1.

The Padres scored first for 13<sup>th</sup> time in 41 games this season – on a little good fortune and some hustle.

With one out in the second inning, Raffy Lopez reached when his check swing sent a dribbler down the third base line. He moved to third on [Freddy Galvis](#)' grounder to the grass on the right side. He may have been thrown out trying to take the extra base if not for first baseman Jose Martinez's throw to third going well wide. As the ball bounced to the wall up the left field line, Lopez raced home safely.

The Cardinals scored off Ross in his final inning after he hit the first batter, Paul DeJong, who scored on Martinez's double.

After scoring in the second inning, the Padres would not get another hit off starter [Michael Wacha](#) or the two relievers who followed him until Jose Pirela led off the ninth with a single against Bud Norris. Franchy Cordero followed with a walk before pinch-hitter Cory Spangenberg, Lopez and Galvis struck out in succession.

The Padres in the 10th again had a runner in scoring position with multiple outs to get him home – and failed.

Pinch-hitter Carlos Asuaje lined a one-out single to left field, and Travis Jankowski followed with an infield single. But Eric Hosmer hit a chopper that Cardinals third baseman [Jedd Gyorko](#) fielded on a high hop before stepping on third and throwing out Hosmer at first.

# Padres appreciate the moms that make what they do possible

**Kevin Acee**

Clayton Richard wouldn't still be playing.

He loves being a professional baseball player, enjoys immensely the competition and the camaraderie.

At 34, still pitching every fifth day and in the kind of shape that leaves teammates a decade younger in awe, Richard puts more effort into his craft than ever.

But the most important thing in his career, the thing he needs above all others in order to keep going is his wife, Ashley, who is so often the primary caregiver for their three young children.

"If she was not the mother she is, my playing days would be done," Richard said. "... She makes what I do possible. With children and our schedule, we can't be there like a traditional father. You need the support system she provides to raise the kids the right way.

"I'm super fortunate. I can't imagine if she was not as solid a mother as she is. It's incomprehensible the work they put in — the time, the effort and energy."

All around the Padres clubhouse one day this week, player after player stopped and shook his head and laughed and had trouble for at least a few moments expressing his admiration and gratitude on the subject of the mothers that raise their children.

"I have a good one," shortstop [Freddy Galvis](#) said of his wife, Ana Beatriz. "Without my wife, I couldn't do it. Having two little girls, my wife does everything."

You want to see humility in a professional athlete, talk to him about being a husband and dad watching his wife be a mom.



“The gifts she has,” reliever [Craig Stammen](#) said of his wife, Audrey. “She didn’t practice to be a mom. Like, there is no practice, yet she knows how to do it. She does it very elegantly, and she’s awesome. Her care for our son is way far greater than mine — on a minute-by-minute basis. I can lay him down and not think about him for an hour, and she’s constantly thinking of what the next move is and how to take care of him and keep him healthy.”

This doesn’t make ballplayers different from any other men. They’re merely expressing the astonishment of every man who has ever paid attention while his wife so naturally does something that takes so much.

What is relatively unique in this case is the all-consuming nature of these men’s jobs. To get to and succeed at the major league level takes the kind of commitment with which most people are unfamiliar.

To be sure, there are benefits to being a major league family.

But there are sacrifices that come when a career consumes so much of one parent’s time and requires that parent to be away from home so often.

“We’re in this together,” said Stammen, whose son was born during [spring training](#). “It’s not me just playing. We’re on the Padres. It’s not I’m on the Padres.”

Whether it’s after a bad game, during a rough stretch of games, the wife of a ballplayer is a counselor and security blanket.

“It’s just her consistency,” catcher A.J. Ellis said of his wife, Cindy, with whom he has two daughters and a son. “We’ve made this a partnership where we’re in this together. This is not my career, this is our career. I would not be able to sit here talking to you without what she’s done. The balance she provides in my life, being a mother, being a wife — the way we partner in this, how she encourages me and supports me, allows me to vent.”

Time is precious in a job where frequent separation is inherent. Sometimes it doesn’t feel like a family. Especially the players who have been married awhile and have

multiple kids. They marvel at the willingness and ability of their wives to take on the lifestyle and make it work.

Especially during long road trips, it is the parent at home that keeps the family together.

“I’m amazed what my wife does every day for us and for our family,” reliever Kirby Yates said. “... They’re moms. They take on a lot.”

Yates’ daughter, Oaklee Malia, is 10 months old, and another child is on the way. Sunday is Ashlee Yates’ first Mother’s Day as a mom.

It is when a child enters the family that the constant coming and going reaches a new level of trying.

“When you wake up and it’s getaway day and your baby is crying and you have to walk out the door and you’re not coming back for 10 days, it’s tough,” Yates said. “There’s not a whole lot you can do about it, but that’s the way it is. It takes a lot from her. ... They have to be in your corner, and they have to be willing to do it.”

When they do it well, it makes being away easier.

They do it too well sometimes.

“She’s got it,” Richard said. “Sometimes when I get home I get in the way of them, she does so well with them.”

# Padres notes: Cory Spangenberg, others to get looks; Carlos Asuaje knows how bad he's been

Kevin Acee

Cory Spangenberg is back in San Diego to play.

Timing, circumstances and relative production dictate that Spangenberg will get more playing time at third base than [Chase Headley](#) did.

Headley was designated for assignment on Saturday, and Spangenberg was recalled from Triple-A El Paso.

The 27-year-old Spangenberg is among the young players that have been in the organization for a number of years that is essentially being given one (possibly last) chance to prove they can be contributing members of a better [Padres](#) team.

The organization believes it will be better in a couple years, and it needs to find out which current members of its 40-man roster are good enough to stick.

“We’re prepared to continue looking at guys who are going to be here beyond this year or have the opportunity to be here beyond this year,” manager Andy Green said.

That includes Spangenberg, Travis Jankowski, Hunter Renfroe, Manuel Margot, Franchy Cordero and Austin Hedges.

Spangenberg was sent down on April 27 to get into a rhythm he couldn’t get into with the Padres. He did, compiling a .293/.328/.534 line in 61 plate appearances.

He also arrives at a time when [Christian Villanueva](#) is struggling.

Where Villanueva hit .338/.430/.730 with eight home runs in April, he entered Saturday's game against the Cardinals hitless in 29 at-bats since belting a home run his first time up in May.

Villanueva is batting .368/.415/1.026 against left-handed pitchers but just .162/.271/.257 against righties. Since the start of last season, Spangenberg has a .279/.343/.448 line against right-handers.

“You're starting to get pieces you can put together in such a way you can put guys in position to succeed rather than go out and say this is going to be real challenge,” Green said. “We've done the ‘real challenge’ thing here over the last couple years, knowing this guy might not match up well but we still run him out there. It's probably been tougher on guys. We have the opportunity to get Cory out there in matchups that suit him.”

Spangenberg, who did not land in San Diego until mid-afternoon and did not start against Cardinals right-hander [Michael Wacha](#), can also fill in at second base and in the outfield.

### [Asuaje](#)'s awareness

Carlos Asuaje is hardly playing these days. And when he has, he hasn't been very good at the plate.

He has one hit in his past 23 at-bats, a stretch that dates dates back to April 24. Saturday marked one week since his last start at second base — after he started 21 of the Padres' first 22 games.

Late Friday night, Asuaje tweeted this:

I suck right now. No way around it. But I have faith that with hard work, discipline and support from the people around me, things will turn out for the best in the long run.

Asked about the tweet Saturday, Asuaje laughed and shrugged.

“It’s the truth,” he said. “I don’t want people to think I’m no aware of what is going on, sitting on the bench and doing nothing or being all right about it.”

On the contrary, Asuaje is in the batting cage as often as any player and frequently is on the field hours before the game running sprints with a weighted sled.

With Spangenberg up and Jose Pirela seeming to have pulled out of a slump, Asuaje’s playing time does not figure to increase.

# Padres' Chase Headley experiment is over

**Kevin Acee**

The [Padres](#) on Saturday moved away from one of their more notable offseason moves, ending their time with veteran third baseman [Chase Headley](#) by designating him for assignment.

[Cory Spangenberg](#) was recalled from Triple-A El Paso.

Headley, 34, was hitting .115 with a .233 on-base percentage in 58 plate appearances.

“Chase has been great to this organization for a long time,” manager Andy Green said.

“This has been a tough start to the season, and he got very limited opportunity. It got to the point where it was probably best for everyone involved to make that move. ...

Nothing but gratitude for the way he went about his job, the professionalism. He showed up every day, (he made) an investment in these guys. He was trying to make an impact every day.”

Headley had spoken in recent weeks of his being let go being a matter of time for an organization that is invested in seeing who among its young players can stick around for a time when the Padres envision being a contender.

Said Green: “We’re prepared to continue looking at guys who are going to be here beyond this year or have the opportunity to be here beyond this year.”

The Padres re-acquired Headley in a December trade that also brought them pitcher Bryan Mitchell.

The Padres took on Headley and his \$13 million salary largely to get Mitchell and put him in the starting rotation, an experiment that was abandoned last week after Mitchell posted a 6.47 ERA in seven starts. Mitchell went 5 2/3 innings Friday, allowing three runs in his first relief appearance.

The Padres had also hoped Headley would resemble the player that came into the season with a .344 career on-base percentage over 10 seasons and hit .273/.352/.406 for the Yankees in 2017.

The idea was Headley, who was drafted by the Padres and played for them from 2007 until he was traded to the Yankees in the middle of '14, would be able to help them on the field and in the clubhouse until a trade opportunity arose.

The DFA designation means there is now a seven-day window in which a trade could materialize or Headley will be placed on waivers.

The Padres decided at the end of [spring training](#) to go with rookie Christian Villanueva as their regular third baseman, and Headley struggled to adapt to his first time in a pinch-hitting role.

He did invest heavily in becoming a mentor to many players, as the Padres had hoped.

"I've learned more from him than any other teammate I've ever played with," outfielder Travis Jankowski said. "Obviously, he wasn't playing as much as he wanted to, but he was still a huge impact on this team."

## Minors

# Chris Paddack stellar again for Storm

**Jeff Sanders**

**Chris Paddack** is getting stronger by the start.

On the road back from Tommy John, the 22-year-old right-hander struck out a season-high 10 batters over six shutout innings, extending his scoreless inning streak to 16 to start the year in [high Single-A Lake Elsinore's 4-1 win](#) on Saturday night.

Paddack (2-0, 0.00) scattered two hits, didn't walk a batter and threw 57 of his 83 pitches for strikes.

Through three starts, Paddack – the return in the **Fernando Rodney** trade in 2016 – has struck out 26, walked one and allowed eight hits in 16 innings.

Paddack is currently ranked No. 22 in the system by MLB.com. He missed all of 2017 after undergoing Tommy John surgery shortly after the Padres acquired him.

Outfielder **Jorge Ona** (.252) made sure Saturday's effort was a win.

He went 2-for-4 and hit his second homer, while catcher **Marcus Greene Jr.** (.180) went doubled in two runs and walked in four plate appearances.

The Storm are 14-22.

### TRIPLE-A EL PASO (19-18)

- [Reno 2, Chihuahuas 1](#): RF **Franmil Reyes** (.346) went 1-for-2 with two walks and his 14<sup>th</sup> homer, tops in professional baseball. RHP **Jesse Scholtens** (0-1, 2.70) allowed two runs on five hits and a walk in 6 2/3 innings in his PCL debut. He struck out two.

### DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (25-10)



- [Missions 2, Frisco 1](#): The Missions won their 11<sup>th</sup> game in a row, thanks in large part to RHP **Lake Bachar** (0.00) throwing five shutout innings of one-hit ball in his Texas League debut. RHP **Trevor Megill** (1-0, 4.50) also made his debut, allowing one run in two innings for the win. 3B **Ty France** (.264) doubled in a run and 1B **Austin Allen** (.331) and C **Webster Rivas** (.353) each had two hits. DH **Fernando Tatis Jr.** (.224) went 1-for-4 with two strikeouts and a run scored.

## Transactions

- INF **Cory Spangenberg** was recalled to San Diego. To replace him, OF **Auston Bousfield** was transferred from San Antonio to El Paso.
- OF **Taylor Kohlwey** was transferred from Lake Elsinore to San Antonio.
- OF **Robbie Podorsky** was transferred from extended [spring training](#) to Lake Elsinore.

# Minors

## Franmil Reyes taking great strides with El Paso

**Jeff Sanders**

In November, when the deadline to add players to the 40-man roster arrived, **Franmil Reyes** holed up in his room awaiting a call like so many American amateurs do on draft day. Yes, a broken hamate bone in his wrist cut short his stay in the prospect-laden Arizona Fall League, but the 22-year-old outfielder was sure a breakthrough 2017 campaign – 25 homers and 102 RBIs, both tops in the system – had thrust him squarely in the [Padres](#)' long-term plans.

Reyes' emotions consumed him when the day passed without word from the Padres.

"I felt bad," Reyes recalled. "I was upset. I cried. I'm not going to lie. Then my mom told me don't be upset. She told me to go out and prove that you're ready."

A healthy Reyes is doing just that.

With the Padres, too, who might be breathing a sigh of relief after he passed through the Rule 5 draft unclaimed by another organization.

His 13 homers in the hitter-friendly Pacific Coast League are tied with [Nationals](#) prospect **Juan Soto** for the most in professional baseball. While eight arrived during a five-game homer streak, perhaps Reyes' greatest strides are in an overall approach that's added up to a 1.160 OPS through his first 34 games with Triple-A El Paso.

He's walking at a career-best 12 percent, his .430 on-base percentage is more than 100 points higher than it was last year and his strikeout rate is down from 23.7 percent last year to 20.4 percent.

“He just doesn’t swing at a whole lot of bad pitches,” Chihuahuas manager **Rod Barajas** said. “For any power hitter, in order for you to hit for a high average, high on-base percentage, you have to hit the pitches that are supposed to be hit. You can’t chase out of the strike zone. He’s not chasing out of the strike zone.”

At 6-foot-5 and 240 pounds, Reyes’ swing is naturally long to the baseball.

There would be a pronounced uppercut, too, if he wasn’t adamant about staying upright in the box and on top of the baseball.

Clearly, Reyes doesn’t need to do much else to get the ball to carry over a fence.

“I’ve been working on staying on top of the baseball since 2016,” he said. “Because before that I was trying to hit the ball as hard as I could and I couldn’t hit it. I would strike out a lot. I’m just trying to put the ball in play now and put the ball on the barrel every time.”

## AROUND THE FARM

- **San Antonio (AA): SS Fernando Tatis Jr.** is hitting .265/.390/.603 with five homers and 12 RBIs in 17 games since moving to the leadoff spot. “The reason I did that,” Missions manager **Phillip Wellman** said, “was to change his mindset. If you’re leading off, your job is to get on base. Ever since then he’s been drawing walks. I think he understands the presence he has when he does get on base. He creates some havoc.”
- **Lake Elsinore (A+): RHP Michel Baez** is 0-3 with a 3.24 ERA in four starts since starting the Storm rotation. He has struck out 16, walked 10 and held opposing hitters to a .215 batting average.
- **Fort Wayne (A): 2B Esteury Ruiz** (.267/.333/.475) leads the TinCaps with five homers and 57 total bases and is second with eight steals.

## ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

*(Through Friday; min. 97 plate appearances, 28 innings)*

- **Batting average:** .366 – 1B Josh Naylor (AA)
- **On-base percentage:** .452 – Naylor
- **Homers:** 13 – OF Franmil Reyes (AAA)
- **Total bases:** 91 – Reyes
- **RBIs:** 36 – Reyes
- **Steals:** 15 – OF Buddy Reed (A+)
- **Wins:** 5 – LHP Logan Allen (AA)
- **ERA:** 1.91 – RHP Lake Bachar (A+)
- **WHIP:** 0.79 – RHP Jesse Scholtens (AA)
- **Saves:** 5 – LHP Jose Castillo (AA)
- **Strikeouts:** 45 – LHP Logan Allen (AA), Scholtens
- **SO/W:** 6.43 – Scholtens

## FRIDAY'S GAMES

### TRIPLE-A EL PASO (19-17)

- **Tacoma 8, Chihuahuas 3:** RHP **Chris Huffman** (2-3 5.30) allowed five runs on seven hits and four walks in 3 1/3 innings. SS **Javy Guerra** (.223) went 1-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. C **Brett Nicholas** (.302), DH **Franmil Reyes** (.344) and 1B **Allen Craig** (.221) also each had a double.

### DOUBLE-A SAN ANTONIO (24-10)

- **Missions 5, Frisco 4:** 2B **Peter Van Gansen** (.319) finished a homer shy of the cycle as San Antonio's win streak hit 10. RF **Auston Bousfield** (.250) went 1-for-3 with a triple and two RBIs and DH **Josh Naylor** (.366) and 1B **Kyle Overstreet** (.301) each had two hits. LHP **Jerry Keel** (2-0, 5.12) allowed four runs in 6 1/3 innings in the win.

### HIGH SINGLE-A LAKE ELSINORE (13-22)

- [Modesto 3, Storm 1](#): RHP **Michel Baez** (0-3, 3.24) allowed two runs – one earned – on two hits and two walks in 4 2/3 innings in the loss. He threw 50 of his 86 pitches for strikes. LF **Buddy Reed** (.321) went 2-for-5 with two doubles and CF **Edward Olivares** (.284) went 2-for-4 with a double.

#### LOW SINGLE-A FORT WAYNE (14-21)

- [Kane County 6, TinCaps 5 \(12\)](#): 2B **Esteury Ruiz** (.267) went 2-for-5 with a double and three RBIs and C **Luis Campusano** (.261) went 2-for-5 with a run scored. LHP **Aaron Leasher** (3.31) allowed an unearned run in seven innings in a no-decision.

#### Transactions

- RHP **Brett Kennedy** landed on El Paso's seven-day disabled list with a minor ankle injury. RHP **Jesse Scholtens** was transferred from San Antonio to replace him on the roster.
- LHP **Dillon Overton** was also transferred from San Antonio to El Paso, while RHP **Michael Mariot** was released.
- RHP **Trevor Megill** was transferred from Lake Elsinore to San Antonio.

# Padres end Chase Headley experiment after trade gone awry

[By Dennis Lin](#)

Chase Headley's locker at Petco Park sat empty on Saturday. Officially, it no longer belongs to him. The void resembled what the Padres have received in the deal that brought him back to San Diego.

The Padres have designated Headley, once a franchise cornerstone, for assignment. Whether they end up trading the veteran third baseman or, more likely, releasing him — Headley's \$13 million salary and .115/.233/.135 slash line make a waiver claim unlikely — the move was a pill that had to be swallowed.

"This has been a tough start to the season for him, and he got very limited opportunity," Padres manager Andy Green said before Eric Hosmer ripped a walk-off double in a 2-1, 13-inning victory over St. Louis. "But it just got to the point where it'd probably be best for everybody involved to go ahead and make that change."

The week had begun with a separate, if related, decision. On Monday, the Padres demoted right-hander Bryan Mitchell, who had been acquired from the Yankees alongside Headley, to the bullpen following a series of wild starts. And while Mitchell is under club control for three more seasons, deals like the one that brought him to San Diego do not inspire confidence.

The Cardinals' presence at Petco Park this weekend has reminded fans yet again of the trade that sent infielder Jedd Gyorko to St. Louis. On Saturday, a night after going 3-for-4 with a home run, Gyorko endured the rare performance in which he did not pummel his former team.

After a 1-for-5 showing, Gyorko is 22-for-45 with eight home runs against the Padres. More relevant, the third baseman is batting .348/.466/.652 after swatting 50 home runs across the last two seasons. This season, San Diego is paying \$2.5 million of his \$9 million salary.

That type of compensation encouraged the Padres to part with him in December 2015. Their rebuild was beginning and general manager A.J. Preller sought financial flexibility over the remainder of Gyorko's contract. As well, the infielder was coming off a season in which he hit .247/.297/.397 and spent time in Triple A.

Then, the reasoning behind the exchange seemed sound. The return, however, proved disappointing.

Veteran outfielder Jon Jay missed much of his one season in San Diego with a forearm fracture. The Padres will remain partly on the hook for Gyorko, with a \$5

million obligation next year. And, as the 29-year-old continues to impress, the Padres continue to seek a long-term solution at third base.

Christian Villanueva's torrid start relegated Headley to spot duty, but the rookie has gone hitless in his last 36 at-bats while playing shaky defense. Cory Spangenberg, who was recalled from Triple-A El Paso on Saturday, has hit .190/.230/.345 amid sporadic big-league at-bats. Prospect Hudson Potts is holding his own in High A, but at 19 he has significant development ahead of him.

"I think the jury's still out," Green said. "...We're prepared to continue to look at guys who are going to be here beyond this year for us or have the opportunity to be here beyond the year."

Headley, who fit neither category, had suspected his removal from the 40-man roster was imminent. He received only 60 plate appearances across the Padres' first 40 games, and struck out in a third of them. He handled an untenable situation with expected class. Less-experienced players spoke in glowing terms about his clubhouse presence.

"I was kind of talking to the younger guys about that earlier today, to look at his career and the type of player he was and then how things worked out here, the way Villa took off but how he was a big part of Villa's development early on in the season," Hosmer said. "And how he was teaching all these guys how to prepare, just little things to look for. ... I was proud to be his teammate. He's as pro as they come."

In a performance-based business, however, the Padres' December trade swiftly devolved into a pair of scrapped experiments. Mitchell, whom the club prioritized in the deal, might someday become an effective major-league starter, but his track record does not offer great promise. In 37 2/3 innings this season, he has issued 29 walks.

Headley, effectively the cost of adding Mitchell, will hope to latch on elsewhere. His diminished skills could make another opportunity difficult to secure. Meanwhile, a third baseman dealt away in January has continued to produce; Yangervis Solarte is hitting .253/.329/.486 with nine home runs for Toronto.

While Preller's farm system is teeming with high-ceiling talent, multiple rival officials have commented that his trades for established major leaguers remain in question. An ill-advised push before the 2015 season has been well-documented. The deals involving Gyorko and Mitchell so far have been duds.

Still, the reasoning behind those transactions was understandable. Gyorko has exceeded expectations with the Cardinals. The Padres eschewed pricier free agents for a look at a controllable starter in Mitchell; few could have predicted the depths of his struggles. Solarte turned 30 last summer and brought back an interesting outfield prospect.

Preller has demonstrated a keen eye in similar trades. Getting right-hander Chris Paddock for a 39-year-old Fernando Rodney is just one example. (Paddock, who

threw six shutout innings Saturday for High-A Lake Elsinore, has yet to yield a run in three starts since returning from Tommy John surgery.)

Yet, if they are to contend in the not-too-distant future, the Padres eventually will have to swap more than a few minor leaguers for established major leaguers. Preller's eye at this level will be further tested. On that front, the jury's still out.



# Hoz's walk-off 2B sends Padres past Cards in 13

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres brought [Eric Hosmer](#) to San Diego so he could deliver in big moments. It took 13 innings, but Hosmer delivered in a big way on Saturday night.

Hosmer -- 0-for-5 through the first 12 frames -- turned on the first pitch he saw from Cardinals reliever [Mike Mayers](#) and sent a line-drive double into the right-field corner. He tossed his helmet in the air, as the Padres walked off with a 2-1 victory, their first in their last eight extra-inning games.

"I was telling myself, 'Be ready for his best fastball,'" Hosmer said. "'Don't miss another good pitch.'"

He got Mayers' best fastball, a 95-mph heater just off the inside corner. And he didn't miss it.

Backup catcher [A.J. Ellis](#) opened the frame by working a leadoff walk off [John Brebbia](#) (increasing his on-base percentage this season to .417). Ellis was the final position player off the bench, and he isn't exactly known for his wheels. So right-hander [Jordan Lyles](#), who started the series opener, entered as a pinch-runner.

Lyles advanced to second base on a passed ball before scoring the winning run on Hosmer's ninth career walk-off hit and his first with the Padres.

"That's every starting pitcher's dream," Lyles said. "Obviously you're watching and seeing our bench clear out a little bit. ... I put two and two together."

The Padres put two men on base in the ninth and 10th innings, too, but both times they came away empty-handed. Hosmer bounced into an inning-ending double play in the 10th to fall to 0-for-5.

"He's done this long enough and well enough that an 0-for-5 doesn't faze him," said Padres manager Andy Green. "That's a big swing. We're about out of arms at that point."

The San Diego offense was bailed out by yet another excellent effort from the bullpen -- after yet another excellent start from [Tyson Ross](#).

The Padres took a flier on Ross in December, hoping the veteran right-hander might add some depth to a shaky group of starting pitchers. A month and a half into the season, it's hard to envision what their rotation would look like without him.

On the whole, San Diego's starting pitching has struggled mightily this season. Ross, meanwhile, has been a bright spot. He worked six innings of one-run ball on Saturday, allowing only three hits while striking out seven. In the process, Ross lowered his ERA to 3.40, and he's now fanned 53 hitters in 47 2/3 innings.

"Tyson really threw the ball well," Hosmer said. "Our bullpen did a phenomenal job. ... It just feels good to be on top of this one. It was getting to the point where everybody wanted to go home."

### **MOMENTS THAT MATTERED**

**To bunt or not to bunt:** The Padres put two men on base in the bottom of the ninth, when [Cory Spangenberg](#) was called upon to pinch-hit for [Christian Villanueva](#). Green asked Spangenberg to bunt. But after the count ran to two strikes, the Padres took the sign off. Spangenberg attempted to get the bunt down anyway. He fouled it back for a strikeout, and the next two Padres hitters would punch out as well, sending the game to extras.

**Lopez motors home:** Of all people, it was catcher [Raffy Lopez](#) who created a run on the basepaths in the bottom of the second inning. After Lopez's one-out single, [Freddy Galvis](#) hit a grounder to second, where [Greg Garcia](#) made an excellent diving play and threw to first. Lopez went first-to-third on the grounder, then scored when the ensuing throw from first baseman [Jose Martinez](#) sailed up the third-base line.

### **VILLANUEVA BANGED UP**

Villanueva's month-long slump continued on Saturday night, when he went 0-for-3 to run his hitless drought to 36 at-bats. More concerning: He collided hard with the short wall in foul territory while chasing after a popup at third base in the eighth inning.

Villanueva appeared to be favoring his left knee as he laid on the ground momentarily. But he remained in the game after being looked at by a team trainer. An inning later, Villanueva was removed for Spangenberg as a pinch-hitter, but Green confirmed the move was strategic, rather than injury-related.

"His knee's fine," Green said. "He got it checked out, no X-rays necessary or anything. He just hit it pretty solidly against that wall."

### **YOU GOTTA SEE THIS**

Even by its absurdly high standards, Brad Hand's slider was electric on Saturday night -- particularly in the top of the ninth against [Harrison Bader](#). Hand threw three straight sliders to Bader, who chased the first (in the dirt) and the second (on the inside corner). Then the lefty painted a filthy back-door slider on the outside corner to end the inning.

### **HE SAID IT**

"You go back to the start of that inning, that's a really professional at-bat off the bench from A.J. Ellis. That's the kind of at-bat that wins baseball games." --Green, on Ellis' leadoff walk

## UP NEXT

Veteran left-hander [Clayton Richard](#) gets the ball at 1:10 p.m. PT Sunday, and he'll be looking to reverse a trend in which the Padres have lost each of his last four starts. He's never lost in seven career starts against the Cardinals, who counter with right-hander [Adam Wainwright](#). It'll be the first start for Wainwright since he hit the disabled list in mid-April with an elbow injury.

# Late GM Towers enters Padres Hall of Fame

By AJ Cassavell

SAN DIEGO -- The Padres have spent the past three days toasting the 20th anniversary of their 1998 club -- a team that won 98 games, a National League pennant and is widely regarded as the best in franchise history. On Saturday, they bestowed a considerable honor on "the architect" of that squad, late general manager Kevin Towers, who died in January.

Towers, who served as GM from 1995-2009 and presided over four of the franchise's five NL West titles, was posthumously inducted into the Padres Hall of Fame in a moving pregame ceremony Saturday night.

Towers' wife, Kelley, delivered the ceremonial first pitch after speeches from executive chairman Ron Fowler, radio broadcaster Ted Leitner and former Padres Trevor Hoffman and Wally Joyner. Kelley and Fowler unveiled a plaque honoring Towers, which will reside in the Padres Hall of Fame beyond left field at Petco Park.

"He was a great friend, a great competitor, he fought for success," said Joyner, who was dealt to the Padres in 1995 as one of the first major moves Towers made as GM. "He got the best out of you. It's rare to hear anyone praise a general manager that either released him or traded him. And I don't know of anybody in those two categories that doesn't think highly of Kevin Towers."

During his speech, Hoffman recounted the story of Towers entering a meeting during his time as general manager. An intern sat in the corner of the room, and Towers insisted that the intern join the group at the table, knowing that, as Hoffman recalled, "Everyone would be better off for it." That intern was Theo Epstein.

Hoffman later recounted Towers celebrating the 1998 pennant like he was "one of the boys."

"He truly enjoyed the fruits of his labor," Hoffman said. "I don't know what it's like to put together a ballclub. But to see it get to the World Series, he wasn't shy about his emotions, he wasn't shy about his feelings. He truly enjoyed that moment, and he earned it."

Approximately 20 members of that team were on hand Saturday night for pregame festivities. Each rode into the ballpark in the bed of a truck before lining up along the first-base line for a video tribute.

They donned 1998 throwback jerseys -- as did the current Padres for their game against the Cardinals. Those jerseys featured a patch on the left sleeve with the Towers' initials, along with those of Rob Picciolo, the franchise's longest-serving coach who also passed away in January. San Diego will continue to wear that patch on its throwback jerseys for the remainder of the year.

Towers is the 15th inductee into the Padres Hall of Fame, elected by the team's front office in collaboration with San Diego's chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He became the fourth executive among that storied group, joining Ray Kroc, Buzzie Bavasi and Jack McKeon.

At the podium, Fowler was quick to point out the meaning behind Towers being honored at Petco Park.

"The Padres have a lot to be thankful for in the success of Kevin's teams," Fowler said. "In many ways, as the architect of the 1998 ballclub, you could say that Kevin Towers helped get Petco Park built."

Before his career as general manager, Towers spent seven seasons as a pitcher in the Padres' Minor League system. He became a scout after his retirement -- and eventually became the club's director of scouting.

Following his career with the Padres, Towers spent parts of five seasons as GM of the D-backs, where he helped orchestrate yet another NL West title in 2011. He was diagnosed with a rare form of thyroid cancer in '16 and passed away on Jan. 30, at 56.

# Towers was so much to so many

## Former general manager enters Padres Hall of Fame Saturday

By Bill Center | San Diego Padres

When Kevin Towers fell in love with something, he became obsessed.

And I mean that in nicest possible way.

Baseball, the Padres, Kelley, English bulldogs, wine, friends.

Kevin Towers never went into anything half-way.

He plunged . . . with all his heart as well as his energy. Kevin Towers was all in when it came to life.

The letter midway between "K" and "T" is P. Passionate. That was Kevin Towers. P is also for the Padres. And "K.T." loved the Padres.

"I don't know exactly how it lined up that I landed with the Padres," Towers once told me. "But I landed in the right place."

Towers was so many things to so many people. And when he met any person - and I mean any - there was a smile on his face.

I remember one late spring training night in Phoenix years ago. I was working very late on a project for the San Diego Union-Tribune. Towers was working late because he liked working late. Our paths crossed.

"Breakfast?" said Towers. "Sure," I responded.

And we headed to a Waffle House in not the greatest area of Phoenix. Towers immediately headed to the counter, sat down, struck up a conversation with both the waitress and two plumbers sitting to his left who had just returned from a late-night emergency.

Soon everyone was laughing.

That was the Towers I knew.

Fine wines and Waffle Houses. Passionate and caring. A great sense of humor and a temper. He had an ego. He also had the great ability to listen. He met everyone with a

smile. And he was as good as his handshake. Always and forever.

My personal favorite encounter involved David Wells. It told you so many things about Towers, the man of his word, the evaluator of talent and the negotiator.

It was before the 2004 season and my wife and I were dining out. I looked across the room and saw Towers at a table with the famed pitcher, who happened to be a free agent. The following day, I called Towers to ask him about the meeting with Wells.

Towers was totally up front. He told me the Padres were close to signing Wells. But if word got out about the negotiations, the Yankees would jump in and offer the pitcher a contract the Padres couldn't match. Towers promised me if I didn't write about the meeting, he'd call me the second the deal was done.

I agreed. Why? Because I knew Towers to be a man of his word. Several nights later, Towers called. The Padres had signed Wells. He told me to write it, but not to quote him until the deal was officially announced the following day. I wrote it. The U-T had a scoop - that was quickly denied elsewhere.

Then the official announcement was made. And the terms were exactly what Towers told me they were.

That was another facet of Towers. Deadly honest.

Media members who asked Towers a question got a straight answer. And a smile. Towers was one of the few baseball executives who actually enjoyed the give-and-take with the media. He encouraged it.

"Writers see a lot of things I sometimes don't," Towers once told me.

I felt that hard to believe, because Towers had useable knowledge of so many things that became his passions.

Remember those plumbers. Towers started talking about the battle he and a friend of his had gotten into with a grease trap in Jacksonville, Oregon, when he was a teenager. The plumbers were in stitches. Vintage Towers.

Today we remember "K.T."

Towers posthumously becomes the 15th man inducted into the Padres Hall of Fame Saturday during services that begin at Petco Park shortly after 5 p.m. The ceremonies are a part of the 20th anniversary salute to the Padres 1998 National League championship team.

Some have called Towers the "architect" of that team. Others have called him "the glue."

Probably both terms are correct and more.

But the 1998 team is only a portion of Towers' legacy in San Diego.

He was a member of the Padres for half of his 56 years as a minor league player, a scout, the scouting director and the general manager - a post he filled from 1995 to 2009. And yes, no man served in that post longer . . . and had more success.

Four of Towers' 15 teams won National League West titles . . . with that one National League pennant.

Sadly, Kevin Towers passed away this past Jan. 30, following a 14-month fight against anaplastic thyroid cancer. He fought longer and harder than most his physicians felt possible. And he fought it out of the spotlight with only his closest family and friends knowing the true depth of his plight.

The room we call life isn't quite as happy - or loud - without Kevin Towers. Since his death, I've met so many people who crossed paths with "K.T." All had smiles on their faces.

And I remember those two plumbers at the Waffle House. One asked Towers what he did. Towers matter-of-factly replied, "I'm the general manager of the San Diego Padres."

As we departed the Waffle House, I told Kevin I didn't think the plumber believed him.

"He will soon enough," said Towers. "And soon enough counts."



# Padres designate Headley for assignment

By AJ Cassavell

**SAN DIEGO --** [Chase Headley](#)'s second stint with the Padres turned out to be a short one.

The Padres designated Headley for assignment ahead of Saturday's game against the Cardinals, recalling utility man [Cory Spangenberg](#) in his place.

The veteran third baseman had gotten off to a .115/.233/.135 start to the season. With the emergence of [Christian Villanueva](#), Headley's playing time was limited almost exclusively to pinch-hit at-bats.

"He got very limited opportunity, and it just got to the point where it was probably best for everybody involved to go ahead and make that change," said Padres manager Andy Green. "Nothing but gratitude for the way he went about his job and the professionalism he showed every day."

When a player's contract is [designated for assignment](#) -- often abbreviated "DFA" -- that player is immediately removed from his club's 40-man roster, and 25-man roster if he was on that as well. Within seven days of the transaction (it was previously 10 days), the player must either be traded, released or placed on irrevocable outright waivers.

The Padres acquired Headley in a December trade with the Yankees that also landed them [Bryan Mitchell](#). They remain on the hook for the remainder of Headley's \$13 million salary in 2018, unless he is claimed off waivers by another club -- which is unlikely.

In 12 big league seasons, Headley batted .263/.342/.399 with 130 homers. His 2012 campaign - - in which he led the National League with 115 RBIs -- is one of the best by a Padres hitter in recent memory. His 19.2 fWAR ranks seventh in franchise history.

"He was a pro all the way through," Green said.

Headley was dealt to the Yankees prior to the 2014 non-waiver Trade Deadline, when he was a pending free agent. He re-upped with New York for four years before he was dealt back to San Diego this past December. Many in baseball viewed that move as a salary dump by the Yankees. The Padres took on Headley's contract largely because they envisioned big things for Mitchell -- who has mostly struggled thus far.

The future is uncertain for Headley, who turned 34 on Wednesday. He posted a .273/.352/.406 slash line as recently as last season and played regularly in the Yankees postseason run. But his woeful start to the '18 campaign left him without any playing time in San Diego.

"We were invested in seeing Christian play on a pretty consistent basis," Green said of Villanueva, the reigning NL Rookie of the Month. "Christian obviously took that opportunity in April and ran with it."

The lefty-hitting Spangenberg figures to provide much more versatility off the bench. He can play third, second and left field, and he's expected to start against certain right-handers. Spangenberg batted .196/.237/.357 in 21 games for the Padres this season before he was optioned to El Paso in late April.

"I could see him over at second base at times, some real double-switch possibilities," Green said. "His versatility has been missed, and his bat. When he gets going, he can hit. Hopefully we can keep him in a really good rhythm here."

Spangenberg batted .293/.328/.534 in 13 games at Triple-A.

# Hosmer's 13th-inning double lifts Padres to 2-1 win vs Cards

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO -- After more than four hours and another double-digit strikeout performance by the [San Diego Padres](#), [Eric Hosmer](#) was ready to call it a night.

Hosmer hit an RBI double down the right-field line on the first pitch from [Mike Mayers](#) with no outs in the 13th inning to give the San Diego Padres a 2-1 victory against the [St. Louis Cardinals](#) on Saturday night.

A few steps out of the batter's box, Hosmer, San Diego's \$144 million man, tossed aside his batting helmet aside in celebration.

"It just feels good to be on top of this one. Everybody was ready to go home," Hosmer said.

[John Brebbia](#) (1-0) had thrown two perfect innings for the Cardinals before walking [A.J. Ellis](#) to open the 13th. Ellis was replaced by pinch-runner [Jordan Lyles](#), a starting pitcher, who advanced to second on a passed ball. [Travis Jankowski](#) walked and the Cardinals brought on Mayers to face Hosmer.

Hosmer was 0 for 5 at that point.

"I was telling myself to be ready for his best fastball," he said, "and don't miss another good pitch."

That's what he got, a fastball on the inner half.

"It's great to see him do it," manager Andy Green said.

[Adam Cimber](#) (2-1) pitched a perfect 13th for the win.

"One of those days, one of those tough ones where we just couldn't get anything going," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said.

The Cardinals had a chance to take the lead in the 11th. [Jedd Gyorko](#), a former Padres player, hit a leadoff single to center and took third when [Greg Garcia](#), who went to high school in suburban El Cajon, singled to right with two outs before Maton retired [Kolten Wong](#). Other than that, there weren't many chances in extra innings, "not without two outs," Matheny said. "Nothing to be able to move a guy over or play some small ball and try to get guys moving. They did what they had to do and our guys did a nice job, too, keeping us in it."

The Padres had two chances to win it late. They had runners on first and second with one out in the 10th before Hosmer grounded into a double play.

In the ninth, they had runners on first and second with no outs before [Bud Norris](#) struck out the side. Pinch-hitter Cory Spangenberg struck out when he bunted foul for strike three and Norris then got [Raffy Lopez](#) and [Freddy Galvis](#) swinging. The Padres struck out 14 times.

"I don't think we had really good at-bats most of the day," Green said. "The strikeouts continue to plague us at times and we had that situation where we didn't get the bunt down and we struck out a couple times after that, high fastballs in the zone we continue to chase. But for me, it's a resilient team today to come away with the win."

[Tyson Ross](#) and [Michael Wacha](#) were locked in a pitching duel through six innings, with each starter allowing one run on three hits.

Ross had held the Cardinals scoreless on two singles until the sixth, when [Jose Martinez](#) doubled in [Paul DeJong](#) with the tying run. DeJong was hit by a pitch to open the inning.

The Padres got their run off Wacha in the second when Raffy Lopez singled with two outs, advanced on Freddy Galvis' ground out and scored on first baseman Martinez's errant throw trying to get Lopez at third.

Ross struck out seven and walked two. Wacha struck out five and walked one.

## HONORING KT

As part of a weekend honoring the 1998 NL champion Padres, the late Kevin Towers was inducted into the team's hall of fame. Towers was general manager from 1995 to 2009 and built four division winners, including the '98 team that reached the World Series before being swept by the [New York Yankees](#). Towers died of a rare form of thyroid cancer on Jan. 30 at age 56. Towers also built a division winner with Arizona.

## TRAINER'S ROOM

Padres: 3B [Christian Villanueva](#) slammed into the low wall and tumbled into the netting chasing a foul ball by [Dexter Fowler](#) with two outs in the eighth inning. He was shaken up but remained in the game. Villanueva was pinch-hit for by Spangenberg in the ninth.

## UP NEXT

Cardinals: RHP [Adam Wainwright](#) (1-2, 3.45) is scheduled to start the series finale Sunday. He made a rehab start with Double-A Springfield on Monday while recovering from an inflamed right elbow. He closed out all three St. Louis wins in the 2006 division series against San Diego, including a save in Game 2.

Padres: LHP [Clayton Richard](#) (1-5, 5.72) pitched a season-high eight innings of three-hit ball and struck out eight in his last start, Tuesday night against Washington, but took his fourth straight loss.

# Wainwright returns from DL as Cardinals face Padres

## STATS

SAN DIEGO — The [Cardinals](#) are calling [Adam Wainwright](#) off the disabled list Sunday in a bid to win a third contest in a four-game series against the [Padres](#) at Petco Park.

Wainwright has been on the disabled list since April 20 with inflammation in his right elbow. He made a rehab start Monday with Double-A Springfield and threw a bullpen session Thursday in San Diego.

St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said Saturday that the Cardinals would proceed cautiously with Wainwright. But he was also optimistic that some tweaks to Wainwright's delivery could be beneficial in reducing the strain on the elbow that was surgically cleaned up last fall.

"Adam's been working on some things to try and make it feel right and work right," Matheny said of Wainwright's elbow. "We've had good reports with what we saw with him at Springfield. He was moving the ball around, keeping guys off balance and locating the ball where he wanted to.

"I think he's as adaptable as he is a fierce competitor. We just had to take time so we could make sure he was ready to go. Especially when you have the disabled list you are talking about. If it wasn't right and you try to go to him and you could be starting that all over again. That just doesn't make sense. So we need to be patient."

Wainwright was 1-2 with a 3.45 ERA when he went on the disabled list after only three starts. He had pitched only 15 2/3 innings in those three starts, allowing seven runs (six earned) on 16 hits and eight walks with 12 strikeouts. Opposing hitters were batting .267 against Wainwright.

The 6-foot-7, 220-pound right-hander has always had success against the Padres, although he hasn't faced San Diego since the 2016 season.

Wainwright is 6-3 in his career against the Padres with a 2.07 ERA and a .238 opponents' batting average. He has gone 74 innings against the Padres in 13 games (10 starts) — allowing 65 hits and 14 walks for a 1.07 WHIP. His ERA against the Padres is the second lowest among active starters to Clayton Kershaw's 1.94.

But all of Wainwright's numbers against the Padres aren't that positive. He is only 1-3 against the Padres at Petco Park, where he has a 2.63 ERA. And he hasn't recorded a win against the Padres since Aug. 17, 2014, in St. Louis.

Wainwright will be opposed by Padres left-hander [Clayton Richard](#).

Richard is 1-5 this season with a 5.72 ERA and has lost four straight decisions. The Padres are 2-6 in Richard's eight starts.

But Richard has pitched better outside of the National League West. He held the Washington Nationals to three runs on seven hits and no walks with eight strikeouts over eight innings Tuesday — his longest outing the of the season and his best performance since Opening Day.

Richard is 4-0 with a 3.02 ERA in seven career starts against the Cardinals. He is 3-0 with a 0.95 ERA in his three starts against the Cardinals at Petco Park.

## **This Day in Padres History—May 13**

*By Bill Center*

*May 13, 1969*—Padres suffer a 19–0 loss to the Cubs at Wrigley Field in Chicago in what is still tied for the worst loss in franchise history. To add insult to injury, **Dick Selma**, who started the Padres first game earlier that season before being traded, pitches a complete-game, three-hit shutout for the Cubs.

*May 13, 1972*—Left-hander **Fred Norman** allows four hits and two walks with two strikeouts in a complete-game shutout as the Padres defeat the Expos 5–0 in Montreal.

*May 13, 1996*—Catcher **Brian Johnson** is 2-for-3 with a double, a sacrifice fly and four RBIs as the Padres defeat the New York Mets 5–2 at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium.

*May 13, 2006*—Catcher **Mike Piazza** hits a three-run, ninth-inning homer off Cubs closer **Ryan Dempster** to give the Padres a 4–3 win over the Cubs at Wrigley Field. It is the Padres seventh straight win on the road.

*May 13, 2007*—Right-handers **Justin Germano**, **Scott Linebrink** and **Trevor Hoffman** combine on a three-hit shutout as the Padres defeat St. Louis 3–0 at Petco Park.

*May 13, 2010*—Right-hander **Mat Latos** gives up only a sixth-inning single to reserve catcher **Eli Whiteside** in a complete-game, one-hit shutout in a 1–0 Padres win at San Francisco.

*May 13, 2011*—Center fielder **Cameron Maybin** is 4-for-4 with two homers and three RBIs in a 12–7 loss at Colorado.